



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

## Historic Environment Record, Historic Environment Service, Environment & Heritage, Cornwall Council

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Site Name: Land at Carnsew Road, Hayle, Cornwall

Grid ref (10-fig): SW 55581 37201

OS Map No:

Parish: Hayle

Site Type: Residential developments (Planning Application PA13/11638)

Period: Post-medieval and Modern

Form: Archaeological monitoring & recording

**Description:** Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Terry Kennedy of 3MS Construction Ltd (The Agent) to undertake archaeological monitoring during groundworks related to the construction of a residential development on land at Carnsew Road, Hayle, Cornwall (Figure 1). The results from the monitoring are included within this report. The excavations did not intrude onto any archaeological features, or significant archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits.

The monitoring was undertaken by Peter Webb on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with Phil Copleston, Cornwall Council Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) (SDOHE).

**Background:** Located next to the estuary of the River Hayle on the north coast of Cornwall, Hayle has been a focus for settlement and trade dating back to at least the Bronze Age. During the industrial revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries Hayle developed into an industrial port serving Cornwall's mining industry. During this period two foundries were built at either end of the town – Copperhouse Foundry and Harvey's Foundry. Harvey's, located in close proximity to the site, was producing the largest steam engines ever built and exporting them worldwide. Hayle was a thriving port into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The town is part of the UNESCO Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

An HER search revealed that within 100m to the south of the proposed development site is MCO40, recorded in the Cornwall Council HER as the mutilated remains of a hillfort, partly destroyed by farming, railway cutting and landscaping for an ornamental park. Within 200m to the north is evidence of a Prehistoric submerged forest (MCO44973). These indicate that there is the potential for the survival of Prehistoric occupation, as well as the Medieval and Post-Medieval phases of Hayle's development. This latter activity can be seen immediately east of the proposed development site with the Grade II Listed former Harvey's timber store and drying shed. To the north of this there is documentary evidence for the Medieval settlement of Carnsew (MCO13834). To the north of the proposal site is a Post-Medieval lime kiln (MCO7238) and Post-Medieval Quay (MCO33224). There are many other recorded sites nearby associated with the town's Post-Medieval industrial background.

The underlying geology is comprised of mudstone and sandstone of Porthowan Formation (BGS 2015), overlain by well-drained fine loamy soils of Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983).

**Results:** The main site comprised a square area (30m x 30m) which had been cleared of upstanding remains prior to the monitoring (Figure 1). To the east of this, a further rectangular area (c.45m x 10m) still retained standing buildings which were demolished during the course of the visit. Two trenches were excavated to locate modern services (Trenches 01 and 02), and three as geotechnical pits (Trenches 03-05) (see Figure 2). Excavation was carried out by a tracked 360° mechanical digger using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision in accordance with the WSI.

The trenches were stripped of modern demolition rubble (100); a mid grey-brown friable-loose silt with abundant stone and brick fragments (c.0.20m thick). This overlaid former topsoil (101); a dark brown friable clay-silt-loam (c.0.20m thick). Trench 01, orientated approximately east-west and measuring c.30m x 2m was excavated to a depth of 0.4m onto re-deposited natural (104). This trench revealed the cut of a modern service trench [102] running along the southern edge of the site. Trench 02, orientated south-west to north-east measured 30m x 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. It identified a series of ceramic drains [110], [112], [114] and associated drainage cut [108]. The three geotechnical pits; Trench 03 orientated north-west to south-east, Trench 04 orientated north-east to south-west, and Trench 05 orientated north-west to south-east all measured c.5m x 2m and were excavated to depths between 1.5m and 2.5m. They all identified deposits of made-ground (104); mid-dark brown friable silt clay

with common sub-angular stone mixed with red-brown soft silt clay with common sub-angular stone (c.0.20-0.30m thick), and (116); blue-grey loose gritty clay-sand (c.0.15-0.20m thick). These overlay a series of layers, including (117); dark grey-brown loose-friable silt (c.0.12-0.18m thick), (118); mid grey-yellow-brown loose-friable silt (c.0.01-0.08m thick), (119); dark brown-black loose ashy silt with common iron slag deposits, which probably formed waste deposits associated with the former industrial use of the site. These deposits could be seen to spread across the full Carnsew Road site. These industrial layers overlay natural clays (120), (121) and sands (122) (see Figures 3-5).



Figure 1: Site location.

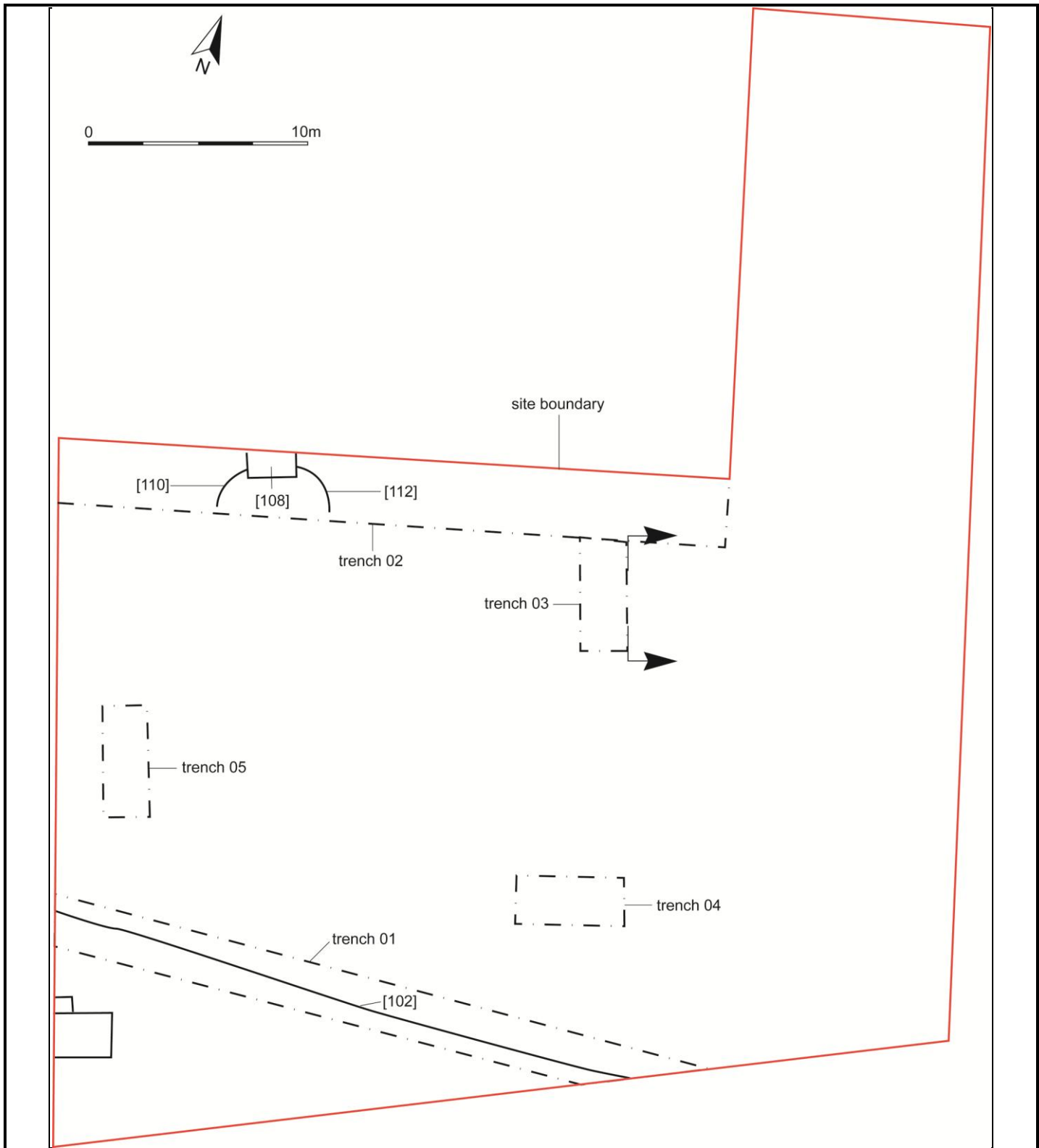


Figure 2: Plan of excavated areas.

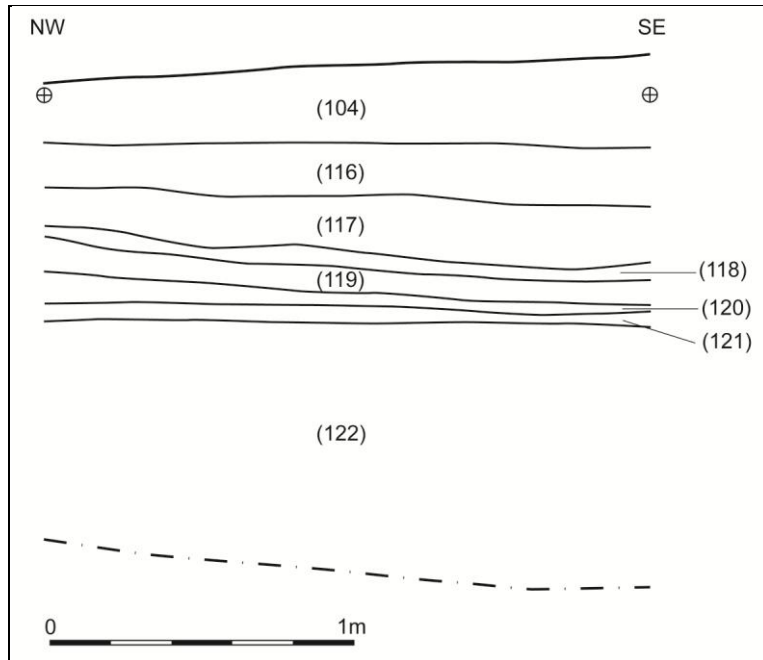


Figure 3: South-west facing section of Trench 03.



Figure 4: North-west facing section of Trench 04 showing probable industrial waste layers (dark brown contexts), looking south-east (2m scale).



Figure 5: North-east facing section of Trench 05 showing probable industrial waste layers (dark brown contexts) spread across site; looking south-west (2m scale).

#### Bibliography

**Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983:** *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.*

**British Geological Survey 2015:** *Geology of Britain Viewer.*

[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) [accessed 03.12.2014].

Land Use (Area): Residential and commercial

Land Use (Site): Residential

Date of Site Visit: 07/01/15

Recorder's name, address and phone number:

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