

# MARVER CHALETS MAWGAN PORTH CORNWALL

Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal  
& Archaeological Evaluation



The Old Dairy  
Hacche Lane Business Park  
Pathfields Business Park  
South Molton  
Devon  
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555  
Email: [mail@swarch.net](mailto:mail@swarch.net)

Report No.: 241115  
Date: 24/11/2015  
Authors: B. Morris  
S. Walls

Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

**Marver Chalets  
Mawgan Porth  
Cornwall**

**Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal  
& Archaeological Evaluation**

*For*

Ian Shorthouse

*of*

Bromley Estates Ltd. (the Agent)

*By*



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**Fieldwork:** Dr Bryn Morris; Dr Samuel Walls  
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## Summary

*This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, part of preparatory works undertaken to inform a proposed redevelopment of the site.*

*The site lies within an area of windblown sand on the northern slopes of the valley of the River Menalhyl, within the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (List Entry No.1003087) that also encloses three early medieval buildings (Houses 1-3) and an associated cemetery. The structures were excavated in the 1950s and 1970s, and this is the type-site for early medieval grass-marked ('bar-lug') pottery; publication was, however, delayed until 1997. In the early 1960s part of the site was developed: four holiday chalets with associated landscaping were constructed at the eastern end of the Scheduled area. The planning permission, still active 50 years later, included provision for a further two chalets adjacent to House 2.*

*In accordance with an SMC and project design, five evaluation trenches were opened across the site in order to establish the presence and condition of any archaeological remains that might survive. Trenches #3 and #5 contained clean windblown sand to a depth of over 2m. The stratigraphy in Trenches #2 and #4 was marked layers and lenses of redeposited sand from the excavations of the 1950s. The ground between the chalets and House 2, targeted by Trenches #1a and #1b, proved to be much less disturbed. Here the windblown sands contained a number of features, but many of these appear relatively recent and finds were limited to the occasional mussel shell. This is in stark contrast to the finds-rich middens excavated in the 1950s. At the base of the sequence in Trench #1 was a compact buried soil that contained a few waste flint flakes, and is presumably of Prehistoric (Bronze Age) date.*

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David Hughes and Peter Luxford (Taw and Torridge Metal Detector Club)  
Mr. D. Barker and Mr. B. Lightfoot (owners of the neighbouring properties)

## 1.0 Introduction

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**Location:** Marver Chalets  
**Parish:** St Mawgan-in-Pydar  
**County:** Cornwall  
**NGR:** SX85156725

### 1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, St Mawgan-in-Pydar, Cornwall (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Ian Shorthouse of Bromley Estates Ltd. (the Agent) as part of preparatory works undertaken to inform a proposed redevelopment of the site. Marver Chalets stand within the eastern part of a Scheduled area covering three early medieval houses and an associated cemetery, excavated in the 1950s and 1970s.

### 1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The site lies on the south-facing slopes of the valley of the River Menalhyl at a height of c.14m AOD (see Figure 1), within the Vale of Lanherne. The site lies close to the point where the Menalhyl discharges onto the beach within an area of windblown sand. These sands conceal a compacted buried soil, which in turn overlies the mudstones and siltstones ('shillet') of the Meadfoot Group (BGS 2015).

### 1.3 Historical Background

Mawgan porth ('porth') was part of the manor of Lanherne, and is listed in a manorial extent of 1451-64, held by John Porth for 1 acre Cornish in socage. It appears again in the fragmentary rental of 1480, held by the heirs of Ralph Porth, and again in the extent of 1499, as held by John Couswam for 1 acre Cornish in socage, and, John Coulyng and Ralph Porth for 1 acre Cornish.

### 1.4 Archaeological Background

The site lies within a Scheduled area (List Entry No.1003087) containing the remains of three early medieval houses and an undated (but assumed to be contemporary) cemetery. A skeleton was reported from the garden of an adjacent house in 1934, with trial trenching in 1948, and area excavations in 1950-52, 1954 and 1974 occurring in response to development threats. The cemetery consisted of a group of 17 slab graves ('long cists') and included the graves of eight children. The settlement was comprised of three courtyard houses, with a principal long house with provision for both human and animal habitation on one side of an open courtyard surrounded by ancillary structures. Traces of earlier structures were identified in and around the settlement. The site is dated by a single coin find (c.990-995), and the quantity of early medieval grass-marked ('bar-lug') pottery recovered from the site has made it a type-site for the period. However, full publication only occurred in 1997 (Bruce-Mitford 1997).

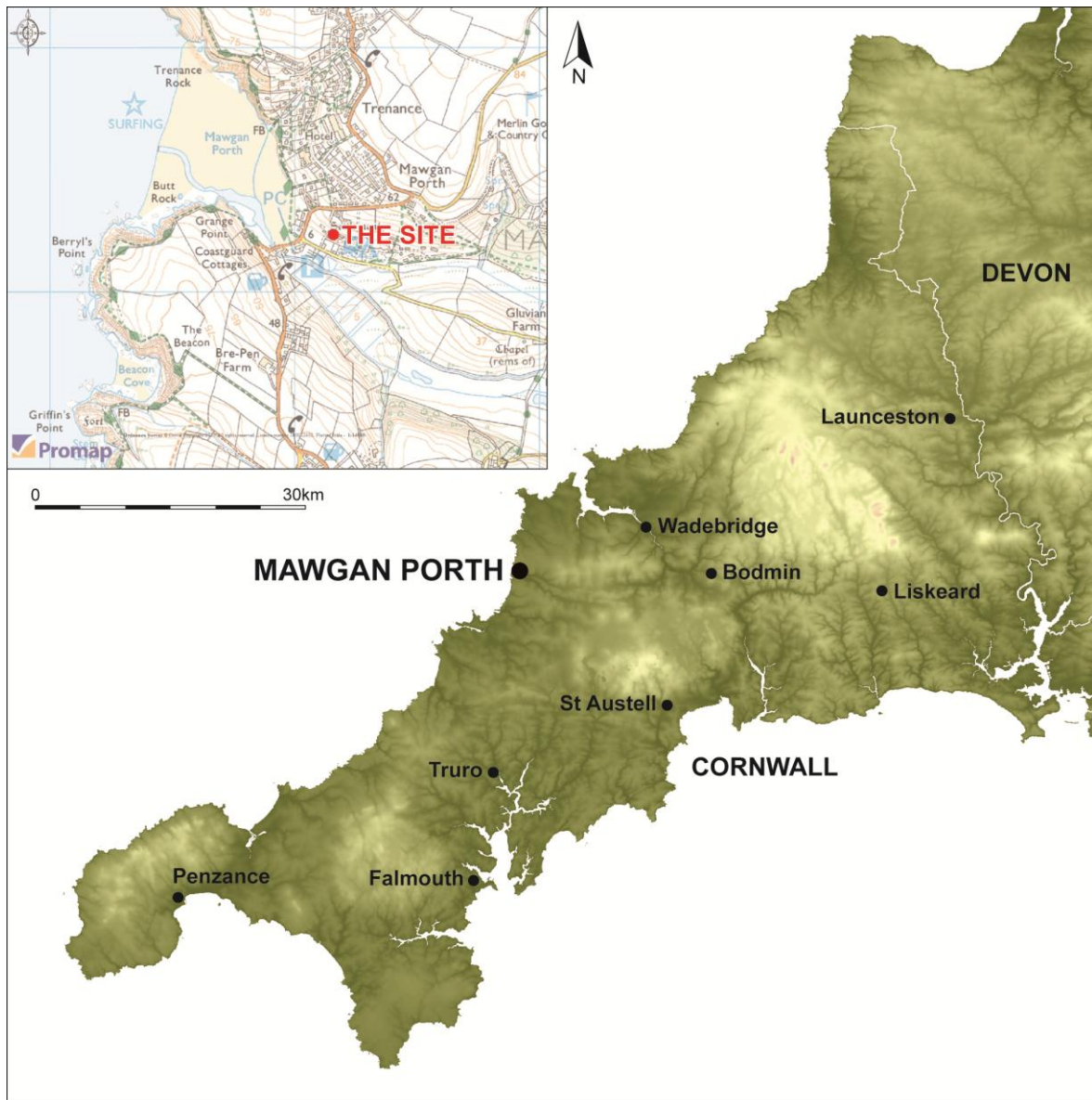


Figure 1: Site location.

## 1.5 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Project Design (PD) devised in consultation with Nick Russell, Historic England (see Appendix 1), and in line with Scheduled Monument Consent (see Appendix 2).

The archaeological evaluation took place from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Six short evaluation trenches, each either 0.6m or 1.8m wide, were excavated to the depth of the *in situ* weathered natural (where possible) using a toothless grading bucket under careful archaeological supervision. The exposed archaeological deposits were then recorded by hand in accordance with the PD and ClfA guidelines. The trench locations (Figure 2) were determined in collaboration with Nick Russell, Historic England.

Bulk samples and a monolith tin were taken from the site; these will be subject to appropriate processing and the results of any analyses detailed in a technical appendix to follow this report.

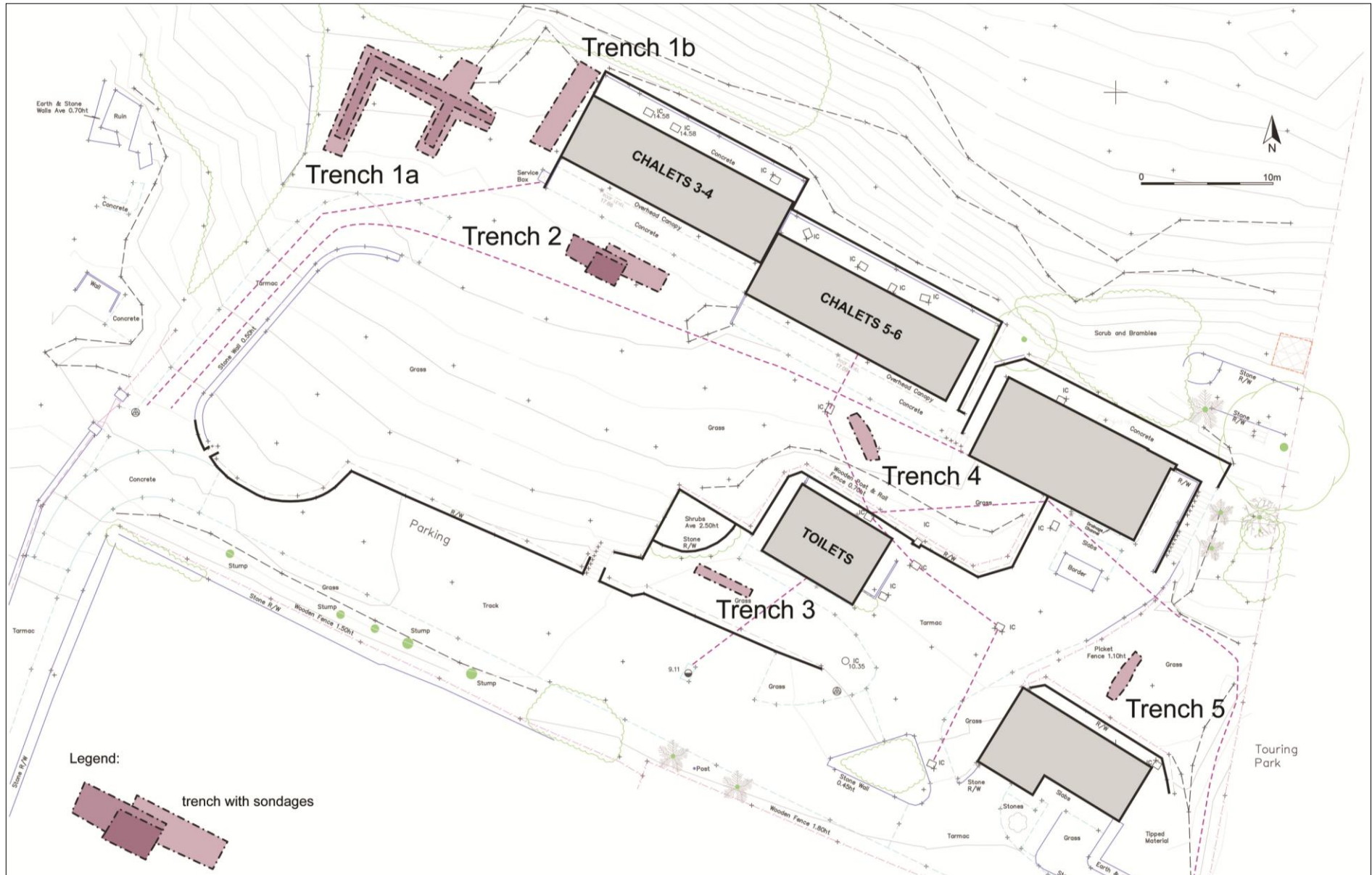


Figure 2: Site plan showing the trench locations, based on the supplied topographic survey for the site.



## 2.0 Desk-Based Appraisal

The site lies at the mouth of the Menalhyl river valley (the Vale of Lanherne), within an area of rough ground/sand dunes located above the beach at Mawgan Porth. This area belonged to the Manor of Lanherne, the seat of the notable Arundell family, who held it from the 14<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Lanherne was a Domesday manor held by the Bishop of Exeter, paying geld for one hide but worth three, and with land for 10 ploughs. 'Porth' first appears in the Lanherne manorial extent of 1451-64 as a free tenancy, held by John Porth, for 1 acre Cornish in socage (Fox & Padel 2000, 32).

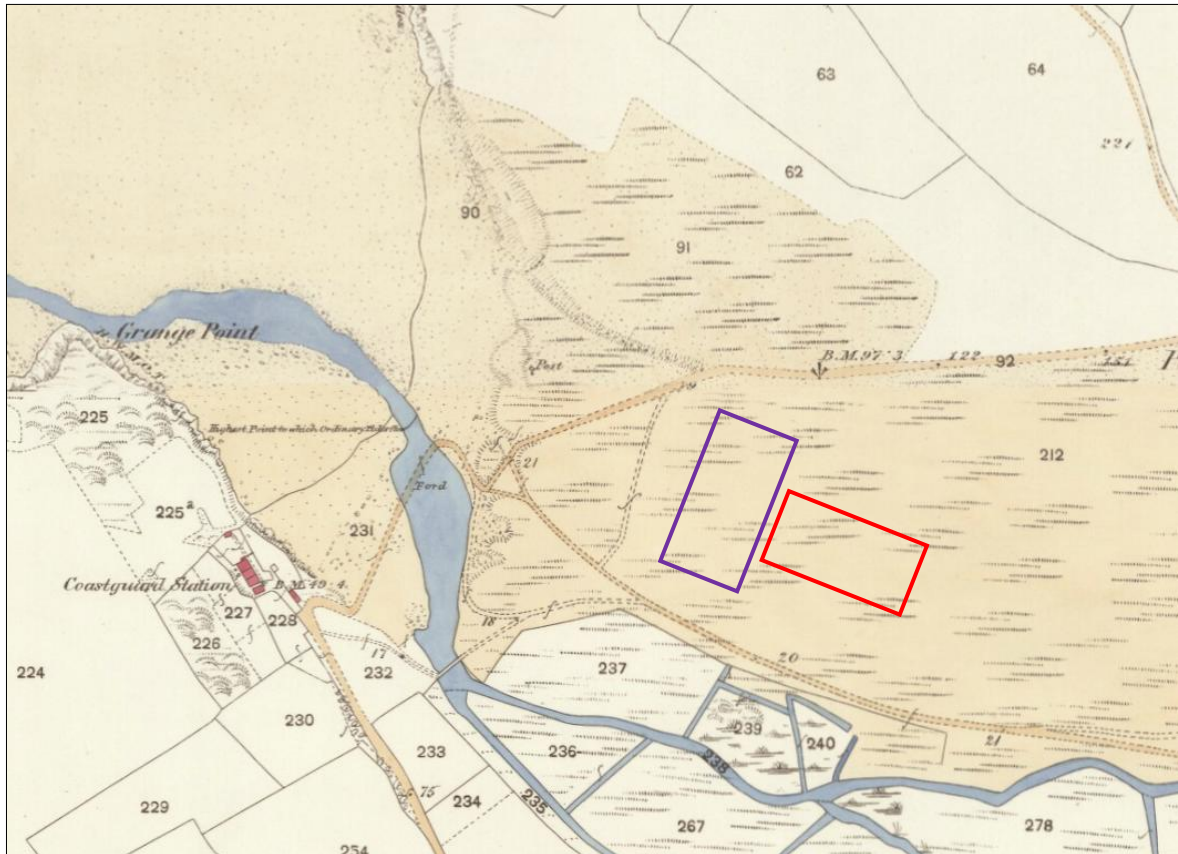


Figure 3: Extract from the 1880 OS 25" map (Sheets XXXII.1 and XXXII.5). The site of Marver Chalets is shown outlined in red, the excavated settlement and cemetery in purple.

The area of the dunes is shown as unenclosed until the 1960s. The development of Mawgan Porth as a holiday destination started in the early 1920s, when Trenance Farm was sold to a small collective (Claude Hankey, surveyor; Mr Adams, accountant; Mr and Mrs Williams, hoteliers; and Mr O'Reilly, barrister and investor) who founded a company called Trenance Ltd. to develop the area. By 1930, 16 dwellings had been built, and it was in the context of these developments that the cemetery was discovered. The pace of development slowed in the later 1930s, but the advent of the Second World War and the presence of the RAF at St Eval ensured local businesses survived the war. Steel barricades were erected across the beach, a blockhouse constructed at the bridge, and the sandhills mined and protected with barbed wire (Newquay Voice 16.06.2004). Following the war developed proceeded apace, with further holiday-related construction and infrastructure. Historic images of the site taken during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century show it as well-maintained grassland; the low shrubs and scrubby vegetation that now characterise the upper parts of the slope must therefore be a post-1960 development.

The OS map of 1963 shows the extent of development to the north around Trenance, and the caravan park to the east is clearly delineated. On the 1974 OS map Marver Chalets, Odd Spot, The Shack and Edgley (now St Roche) are depicted and the area is shown as partly enclosed. On these later maps the excavated early-medieval settlement is also clearly marked.

The excavation on the site was initiated by the discovery of the skeleton in the 1934 test pits, and the test trenches in 1948 were opened by the George Wilmott which uncovered the remains of the stone structures, and recovered the only dating material for the site: a single coin of Æthelred II (990-995) struck at Lydford. In advance of proposed development, Rupert Bruce-Mitford was selected to undertake a series of excavations across the site. In 1951 and 1952 Mawgan Porth was the principal field school for the University of London's Archaeological Society, and as many as 100 people were employed across the site. A further short season was undertaken with volunteers in 1954 to complete work on House 2. In 1974 House 3 was excavated by Ernest Greenfield, in advance of a putting green, part of the mini-golf course that now wraps around Houses 1 and 2 to the south and west. The site was eventually posthumously published in 1997, three years after Bruce-Mitford's death (Bruce-Mitford 1997; Ashbee 1998-9). No work, it would appear, took place in advance of the construction in c.1964 of the Marver Chalets.

With specific relevance to investigations at Marver Chalets is the way in which spoil from the excavations in the 1950s was handled. It is assumed the site was abandoned because it was inundated by wind-blow sand, which covered parts of the site – particularly the cemetery – to a considerable depth. To facilitate the removal of this material a light railway with trucks, obtained from a china clay plant depot at Indian Queens, was used to transport the excavated material from the site to a spoil tip to the east. Two of the houses are still exposed, and the trenches remained open for some time after the excavation, implying spoil was never returned to the site.

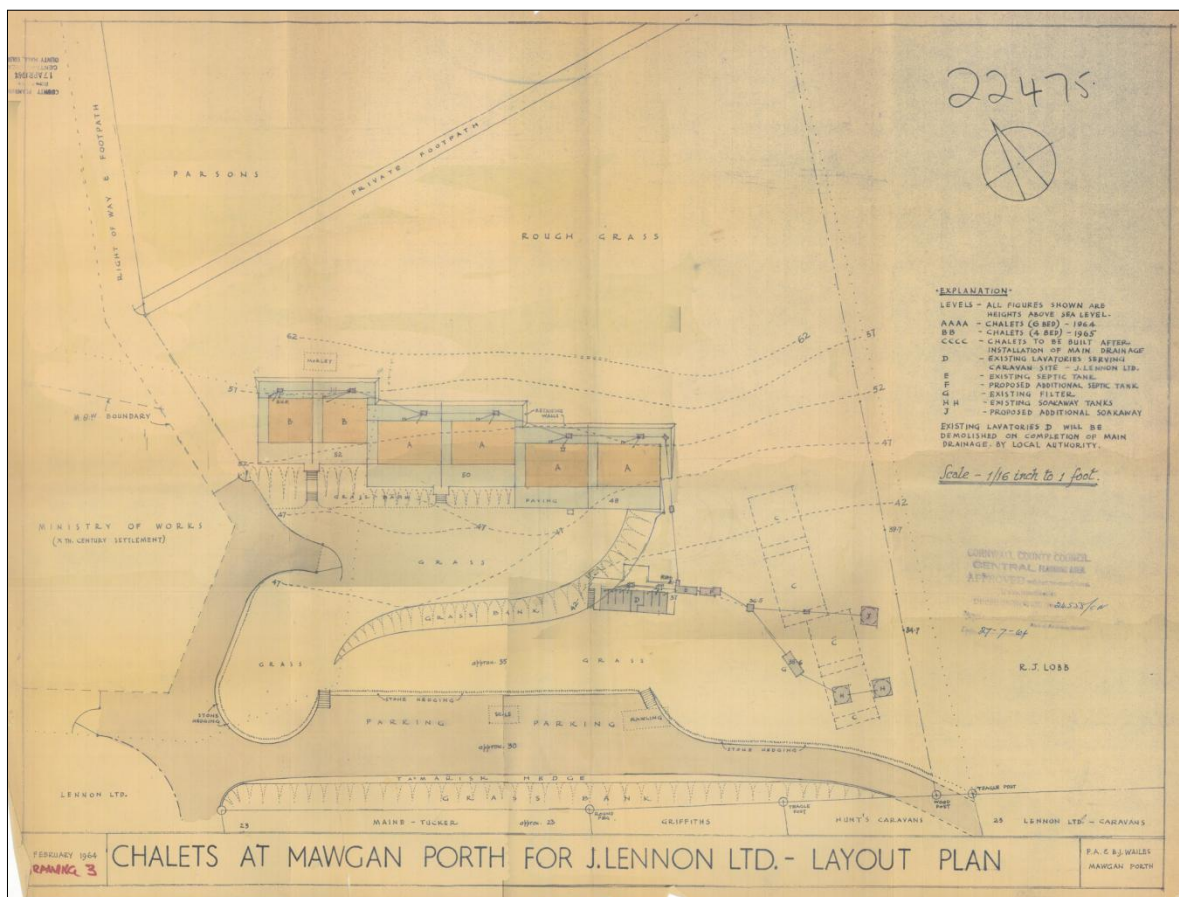


Figure 4: The original plans for the Marver Chalets; in the event, only four of the six chalets were built, and the landscaping only partly followed through (source: Agent).

Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

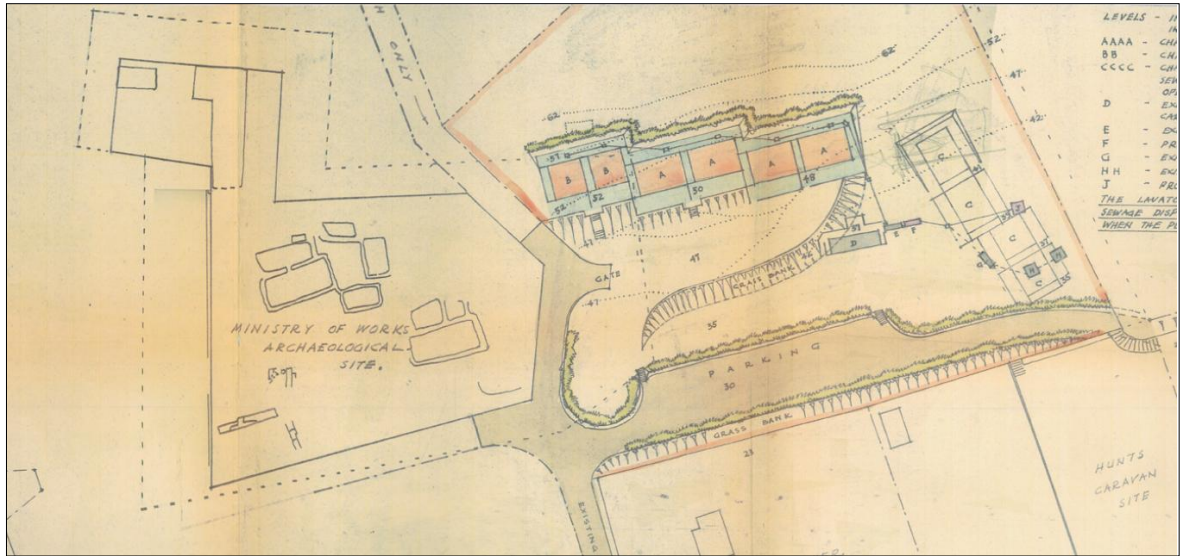


Figure 5: The original plans for the Marver Chalets, showing the site in relation to the excavated site (source: Agent). The chalets marked 'B' were not constructed, although the platform for them was partially cut into the hillside.

## 3.0 Results of the Archaeological Evaluation

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### 3.1 Introduction to the Evaluation

Trench locations (Figure 2) were determined in relation to the topography of the site and the proximity of the excavated early medieval settlement. Historic England commented on the proposed trench locations, and an agreed trench plan was drawn up (see Appendices 1-2). In the event, Trenches #2 and #4 had to be moved slightly to avoid modern services (water and gas), and Trenches #3-#5 were opened with a narrow (0.6m) grading bucket due to limited space.

In general terms, the thickness of wind-blown and redeposited sand was always in excess of 1m, even at the back of the terrace cut back for chalets 3-4. In Trenches #2-#5 the buried surface and shillet bedrock was not exposed as the sides of the trenches were too unstable to proceed beyond c.2m in depth. The buried soil was exposed in Trenches #1a and #1b, with a maximum depth of sand of c.2.25m. These trenches were opened with a 1.8m wide grading bucket, and the deeper parts stepped and trenched with a 0.4m wide grading bucket. The sand in Trenches #1a, #1b and #2 was firmer than that of the other trenches, but still suffered from collapse.

The evaluation uncovered a small number of possible features in Trenches #1a, #1b and #2, but the few finds were largely modern (discarded), the features themselves appeared to be cut from the modern surface, or they were devoid of finds. The buried soil at the base of the profile produced three waste flakes of pebble flint, and hint at a Prehistoric date for the formation of the dune system.

More detailed context descriptions can be found in Appendix 4, and a complete list of finds in Appendix 5. A complete set of supporting photographs can be found in Appendix 6.

#### 3.1.1 Trench #1a

Trench #1a was located between Trench #1b and House 2, on the western edge of the site and within the footprint of Chalets #1-2. Trench #1a comprised two north-south trenches linked by a single east-west trench, the stratigraphy of which was fairly complicated. The topsoil (100) on the western side of the area was very stony, and appeared to comprise a mixed spread of pebbly hardcore. This sealed pit [123], which spanned the trench at its south-eastern end; this pit was at least 1.1m across and contained several fills (124) (125) (126). Pit [123] cut a buried soil (122) up to 0.22m thick, which would have been at the surface during the excavations in the 1950s. At the eastern end of the trench the topsoil (100) also sealed a thin (0.1m) layer of clean pale yellow sand (114).

Layer (122) sealed a layer of pale yellow sand (101) 0.18-0.2m thick. On the western side this sealed a wide shallow pit or terrace [128] up to 5m long and up to 0.85m deep. It was filled by a homogenous mid brown slightly silty sand (129); the top of this feature produced a piece of galvanised sheet metal (discarded). This pit/terrace cut layer (102), a fine light brown slightly silty-sand up to 0.16m thick; this is a stabilisation layer within the profile. Layer (102) sealed two features: pit [123] at the eastern end of the trench, 0.4m across and 0.26m deep and containing several fills (117) (118) (119), and pit [120] in the centre of the trench. Pit [120] was c.1.4x2.0m across and 0.46m deep, with a broad concave profile; it contained a single fill (121), a homogenous mid brown slightly silty sand with occasional mussel shell. These features cut layer (103), a layer of fine clean slightly reddish-yellow sand c.0.15m thick. Layer (103) sealed a second pit [130] on the western side, observed in the south-western corner of the trench and partly truncated by pit/terrace [128]. Pit [130] contained a single fill (131), a slightly yellowish-brown sandy loam with occasional quartz.

Layer (103) overlay a thick (0.6-0.8m) deposit of clean pale yellow sand. This in turn sealed a layer of firm slightly reddish-yellow sand (105) 0.2m thick; this appears to be a stabilisation layer in the profile. On the western side this overlay a band of clean yellow sand (127) 0.1m thick, which sealed a stiff maroon-brown clay-silt buried soil (106) up to 0.2m thick. This directly overlay the shillet bedrock, and three waste flint flakes were recovered from this layer.

#### 3.1.2 Trench #1b

Trench #1b lay immediately to the west, and parallel to, Chalet #3. Beneath the disturbed topsoil (100) lay a layer of pale yellow sand (101) 0.42m thick. This had been cut by a wide (2.8m) concave pit [108] 0.66m deep containing several fills (109) (110) (111); no finds were recovered but this feature appeared to be relatively modern. Layer (101) overlay a thin (0.06m) layer of light brown silty sand (102), which in turn overlay layer (103), a fine clean slightly reddish-yellow sand 0.16m thick. This sealed a layer of pale yellow sand (104) that increased in thickness downslope to 0.66m thick. This overlay a firm moist buff reddish-yellow sand 0.2m thick, and a small thin (0.04m) area of concreted sand (107) in the south-eastern corner of the trench. These overlay a stiff maroon-brown clay-silt buried soil (106) up to 0.2m thick, which directly overlay the shillet bedrock.

#### 3.1.3 Trench #2

Trench #2 lay in front of Chalet #3; it was shifted slightly to avoid two drains and a waterpipe. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4-0.6m below ground level, and to c.1.9m below ground level in a central section. Beneath the topsoil (300) lay a thick (1.26m) layer composed of redeposited pale yellow, olive-yellow, dark grey and brown sands in a complex series of thin lenses and tipping lines. This sloped down to the west over a thick (0.66m) layer of pale olive-yellow sand which also contained slight narrow lenses of grey sand. These overlay a thin (0.04m) discrete band of moist grey slightly gritty, slightly silty sand (203) containing occasional charcoal fragments. This may represent a stabilisation layer or compressed topsoil. On the eastern side of the trench this directly overlay a second discrete band of moist grey slightly gritty, slightly silty sand (206); this layer was slightly thicker (0.06-0.14m) but did itself comprise two darker discrete lenses separated by a very thin (5mm) intermittent band of yellow sand. Towards the southern side of the trench these two layers were separated by a layer of coarse yellow sand (205) up to 0.32m thick. Below (206) was a layer of firm olive-yellow sand (204) 0.2m thick that graded into (207), an unknown depth (0.62m+) of firm light olive-yellow sand. The character of layers (201) and (202) would indicate they contain redeposited material from the 1950s excavations to the west, and that (203) and (206) represent the dune surface in 1950. A sediment monolith was taken from this profile.

#### 3.1.4 Trench #3

Trench #3 was located just to the south and west of the toilet block, with stone retaining walls to the north and south. Beneath the topsoil (300) lay a pale loose sand (301); this proved very unstable and could not be investigated safely. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2m+, recorded and immediately backfilled. A single rim sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the spoil. The loose nature of the sand and the topography of the site strongly suggest all of this material is redeposited.

#### 3.1.5 Trench #4

Trench #4 was located on sloping ground between Chalet #6 and the toilet block. Beneath the topsoil (400) was a thick (0.46m+) deposit of pale yellow sand containing occasional lenses of dark grey and brown sand. This overlay a thin (0.1m) layer of redeposited bluish-grey shillet (402). This in turn overlay a thin layer (0.1m) of pale yellow sand (403) and a clear geyish-brown stabilisation layer (404) 0.15m thick. This layer appeared to be truncated on the eastern side, but there was no clear cut. Layer (404) sealed an unknown depth of firm pale olive-yellow medium sand. This sequence was cut [406] on its southern side (appearing in section at the south-eastern end) by the

service trench for the gas main; fill (407) comprised redeposited shillet, the basal soil as observed in Trenches #1 and #2, and sand. At the base of the sequence in Context (401) the base of a large late 19<sup>th</sup> century two-tone stoneware flagon was recovered, together with two corroded iron objects. Layer (404) probably represents the original ground surface, truncated and buried by redeposited material from elsewhere on the site.

#### 3.1.6 Trench #5

Trench #5 was located in the garden at the eastern end of the property. Beneath the topsoil (500) lay a pale loose sand (501); this proved very unstable and could not be investigated safely. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2m+, recorded and immediately backfilled. There were no finds. The loose nature of the sand and the topography of the site strongly suggest all of this material is redeposited.

### 3.2 Finds

Very few finds were recovered from the evaluation. Three mussel shells from context (121) were noted in Trench #1a, and the buried soil (106) produced three (20g) waste flakes of pebble flint. A notched slate (670g) and a single 1936 shilling were recovered from the spoil heaps. There were no finds in Trench #1b. A single piece (8g) of light clinker was recovered from context (203) in Trench #2, and a single (1g) bone fragment from (201). A single rim sherd (30g) of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century Lostwithiel-type pottery was recovered from the spoil around Trench #3. Context (401) in Trench #4 produced a substantial part of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century two-tone stoneware flagon (3 sherds, 2851g), two pieces of corroded iron (2 fragments, 150g) and a complete glass meat-paste jar. (121g). There were no finds from Trench #5.

Given the proximity of the site to House 2, and the fact the excavation spoil heap was sectioned in Trenches #2 and #4, the lack of early medieval material is surprising and noteworthy. It points to a genuine absence of contemporary features, and a remarkable thoroughness on the part of the original excavators.

### 3.3 Scientific Analyses

A number of bulk samples were taken from several contexts in Trench #1a, and a monolith sample was taken in Trench #2 (see Appendix 6). These will be subject to appropriate analyses, and a technical appendix will be issued in due course to accompany this stratigraphic report. The monolith tin was collected from a vertical section, and this sample appears to be associated with levels dating to the 1950s or later and as such will not be processed.

The bulk samples that were taken were approximately 30 litres in size. They were taken from single contexts, consisting of well-drained deposits, and according to Historic England guidance (English Heritage, 2011). The majority of the sample taken from the buried soil (106) will be wet-sieved using an appropriate mesh size (250 or 300 microns and for the residue 0.5mm), and the flot examined for molluscs and charcoal, as well as any other small finds. Finds over 2mm will be recovered with the naked eye, by a suitably experienced member of the team. The flot and finds will be sent to the appropriate specialists (identified in the WSI) for analysis.

A small sample c.5 cubic cm of the basal soil sample (106) will be sent to a pollen specialist to do an assessment so we can see whether pollen survives in a condition and concentration suitable for further analysis. The other bulk samples from the site are not thought to contain informative environmental remains, coming from much later, and largely disturbed deposits. Half of the total of each of the samples taken will be processed, and, depending on the outcome, the remainder will either be processed or discarded accordingly.

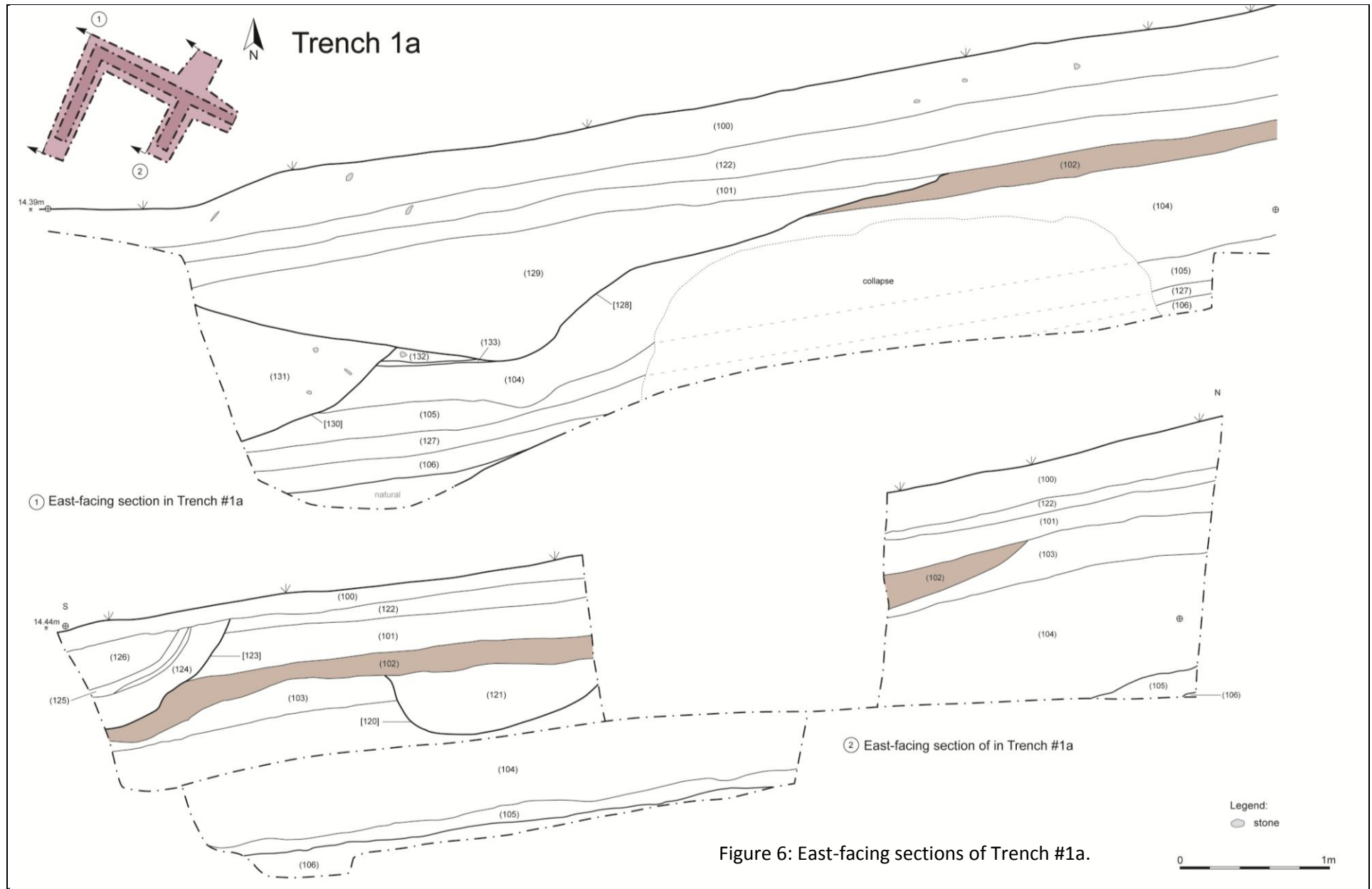


Figure 6: East-facing sections of Trench #1a.

Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

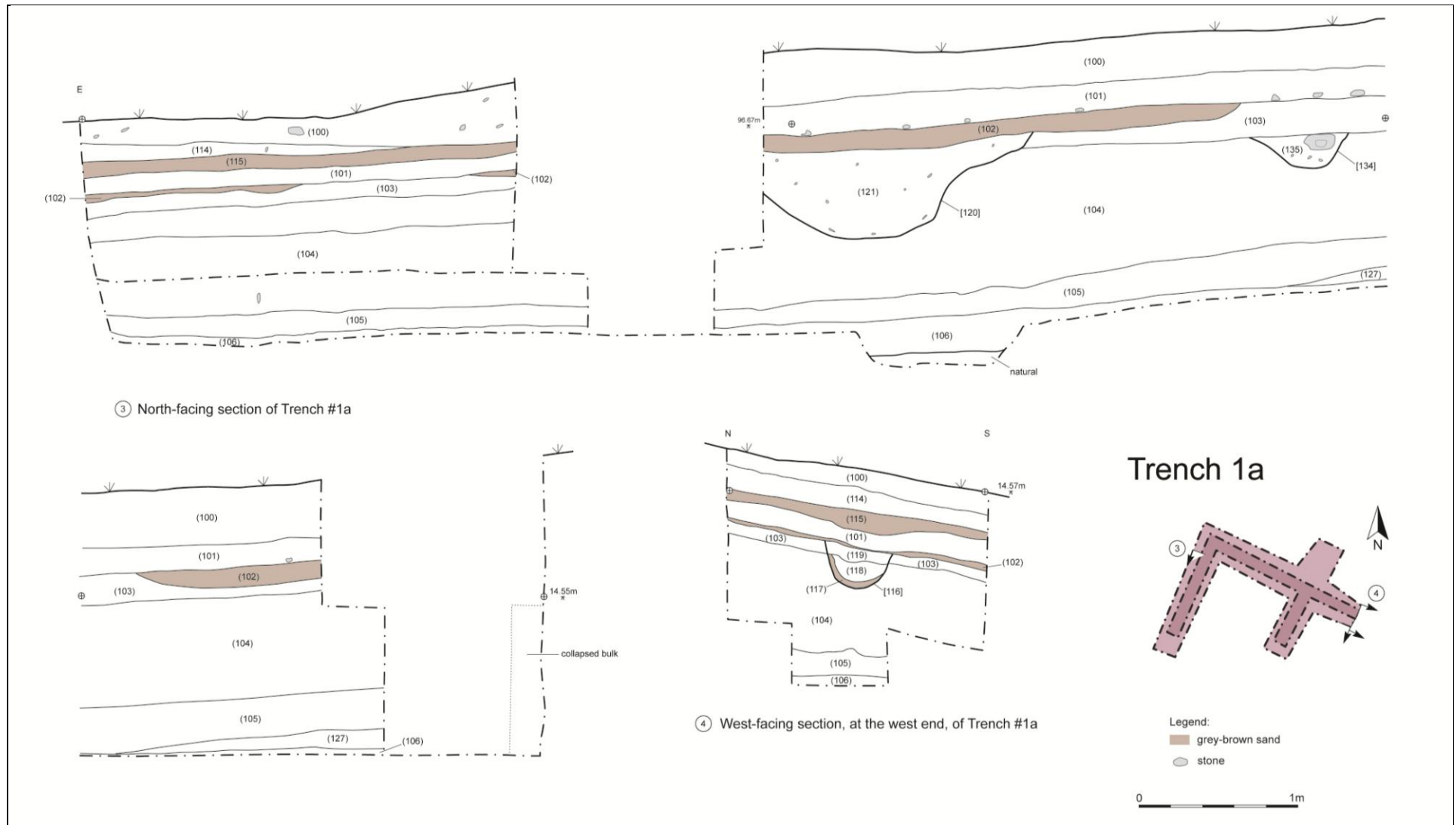
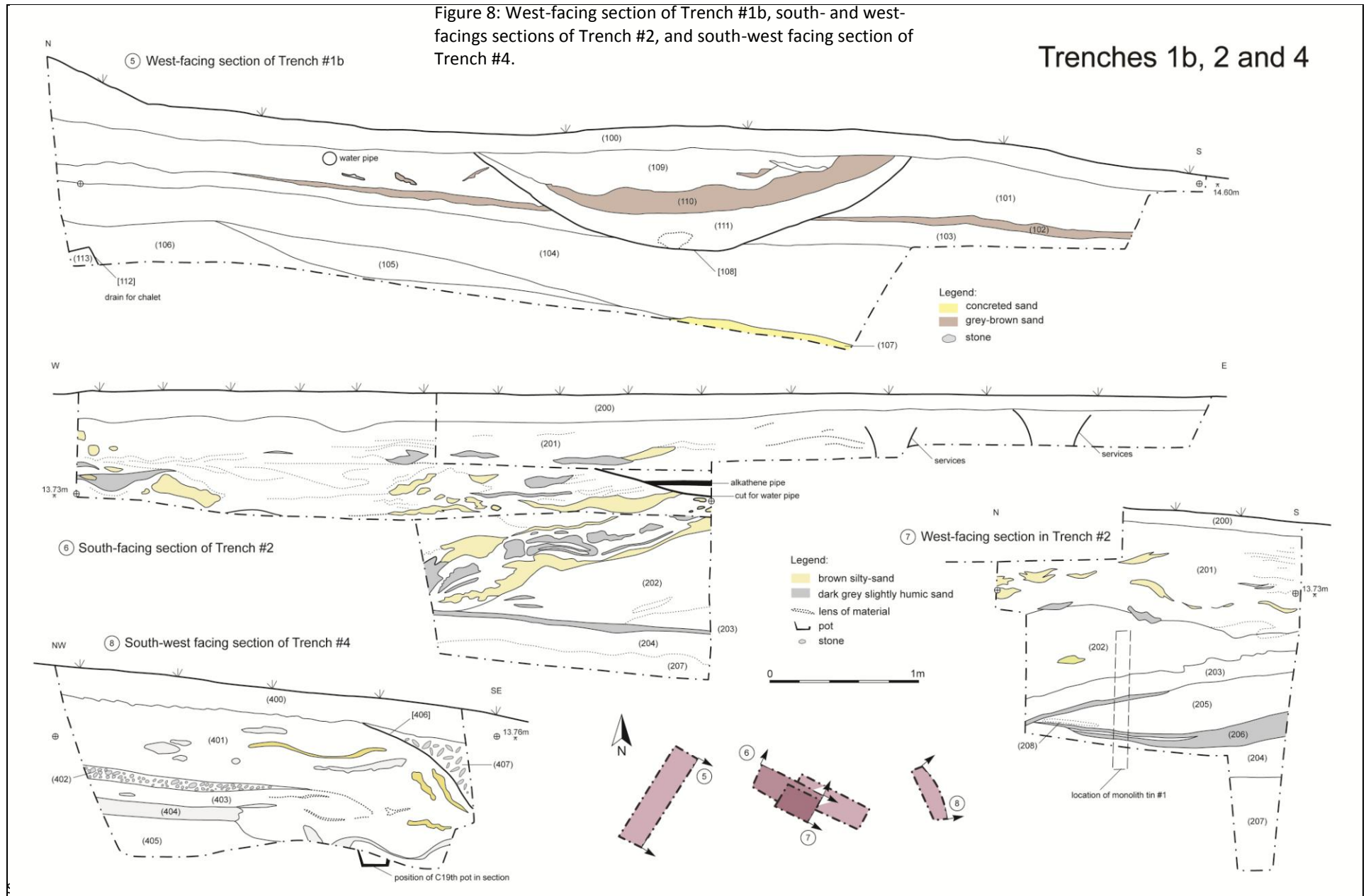


Figure 7: North- and west-facing sections of Trench #1a.



Figure 8: West-facing section of Trench #1b, south- and west-facings sections of Trench #2, and south-west facing section of Trench #4.

# Trenches 1b, 2 and 4



## 4.0 Discussion and Conclusion

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### 4.1 Discussion

The site lies within an area of windblown sand on the northern slopes of the valley of the River Menalhyl, within the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (List Entry No.1003087) that also encloses three early medieval buildings (Houses 1-3) and an associated cemetery. The structures were excavated in the 1950s and 1970s, and Mawgan Porth is the type-site for early medieval grass-marked ('bar-lug') pottery; however, it was only fully published in 1997. In the 1960s four chalets were constructed at the eastern end of the Scheduled area (although the site was Scheduled in 1957) with associated landscaping, with 'permission' for a further two chalets adjacent to House 2.

In accordance with the SMC (Appendix 2) and project design (Appendix 1) six evaluation trenches were opened across the site in order to establish the presence and condition of any archaeological remains that might survive. Trenches #3 and #5 contained clean windblown sand to a depth of over 2m. The stratigraphy in Trenches #2 and #4 was marked by layers and lenses of redeposited sand from the excavations of the 1950s. The ground between the chalets and House 2, targeted by Trenches #1a and #1b, proved to be much less disturbed. Here the windblown sands contained a number of features, but many of these appear relatively recent and finds were limited to the occasional mussel shell. This is in stark contrast to the finds-rich middens excavated in the 1950s. At the base of the sequence in Trenches #1a and 1b was a compact buried soil that contained a few waste flint flakes, and is presumably of Prehistoric (Bronze Age) date.

Amongst the features noted in Trench 1, the stratigraphic sequence suggests that Pits [120], [130] and [134] are located beneath the 1950s soil horizon, and cut into the top of the wind-blown sand deposits. It is unclear if these features are of any great age or if they are directly related with the settlement site; however they did not contain the substantial quantities of finds, shells, etc as noted during the 1950s excavations.

### 4.2 Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation demonstrated the depth of 20<sup>th</sup> century or disturbed deposits that overlie a large proportion of the central and eastern part of the site. These are likely to be associated with the spoil heap(s) from the archaeological excavation of the three early medieval houses to the west of the Marver Chalets site. Below these deposits is the 1950s soil horizon, which seals deposits of windblown sand. Trenches #3 and #5 would suggest the spoil heaps did not extend across the eastern and southern part of this site, and that below the topsoil deposits wind-blown sand of c.2m+ in depth can be expected.

The evaluation investigated a substantial proportion of the footprint of Chalets 1-2 and no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The buried Prehistoric soil horizon is clearly of interest, but lies at c.1.8-2m+ below present ground level. A number of pits cutting into the wind-blown sand horizons were noted, particularly in Trench #1a, but these were essentially sterile, in stark contrast to the excavated midden pits to the west. These may relate to activity around the early medieval settlement; equally, they may be totally unrelated.

## 5.0 Bibliography & References

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## Appendix 1

### PROJECT DESIGN FOR DESK-BASED APPRAISAL, WALKOVER SURVEY AND EVALUATION TRENCHING ON LAND AT MARVER CHALETS, MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, CORNWALL.

**Location:** Land at Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth  
**Parish:** Mawgan-in-Pydar  
**County:** Cornwall  
**NGR:** SW 8515 6725  
**Proposal:** Replacement of chalets and addition of two units.  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Ian Shorthouse of Bromley Estates Ltd (the Agent). It sets out the methodology for a desk-based appraisal, walkover survey and evaluation trenching to be undertaken in advance of the application for planning for the above development and for related off site analysis and reporting. The PD and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in line with best practice and in consultation with Nick Russell of Historic England. All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken. A copy of the Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) conditions can be found in Appendix 2. The SMC expires on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Marver Chalets site overlies the eastern part of the Scheduled early medieval settlement and associated burial ground, 250m west of Lanerick (UID CO 530). The Listing details are as follows:

*"The monument includes an early medieval settlement at Mawgan Porth, situated close to the mouth of the estuary, on the northern bank of the River Menalhyl. The settlement was first discovered in 1934 when trial excavation holes were dug to inspect the subsoil prior to building work. The trial pits uncovered walls and a burial. In 1949, further building proposals prompted a second trial excavation which confirmed the existence of a settlement and produced an Aethelred II coin of 990 - 995. This prompted a major Ministry of Works excavation from 1950 - 54. The excavations uncovered the remains of part of a settlement of at least four farm houses, although only two and part of a third were examined and a portion of the associated contemporary burial ground. At least two of the rectangular buildings were arranged around a courtyard with a third to the south west and a fourth to the north east which was not fully excavated. At least one of the dwellings was of the long house type with a byre and living quarters under one roof. The houses had been constructed on platforms cut into the slope and had drystone walls of 0.7m thick standing to a maximum of 2.1m high, with slab lined recesses in the walls. The roofs were supported by timber uprights. The floors consisted of trodden black soil containing domestic detritus. At least one building was built over an earlier structure. The settlement dated from 850 to at least 1050 AD and appeared to have been abandoned because of encroaching sand. The limits of the burial ground were established to the south, east and west but not to the north. Some 23 graves were excavated, with a further estimated 28 unexcavated in the surrounding area. It is possible that further burials will be found to the north. The graves were aligned east to west with all but three placed in coffins or stone lined long cists. There was one fully crouched burial and a high proportion of children were found to have been interred. A later burial, not in a cist, is thought to have been a shipwrecked sailor. Finds included 'strike-a-lights', rubbing stones, bone implements and pottery (now at the British Museum), but very few metal objects. Both the settlement and cemetery are known to extend beyond the present scheduled area although the full extent is not known. It is expected that a chapel also will survive in the wider area. These are preserved as buried features. The excavated buildings are still visible, although the excavated graves have been backfilled."*

The proposed development has the potential to impact on the remains of the settlement.

#### 3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

3.1.1 Undertake a desk-based appraisal of the site;

3.1.2 Undertake a walkover survey of the site;

3.1.1 To assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits and to provide a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource with recommendations for those areas where further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies may be required.

3.1.3 To analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

3.1.4 Produce a report containing the results of the desk-based research, walkover and evaluation trenching;

#### 4.0 METHOD

4.1 Desk-based Assessment:

## Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

- The programme of work shall include desk-based research to place the development site into its historic and archaeological context. This will include examination of material currently held in the Cornwall Record Office and examination of available cartographic sources.
- 4.2 Photographs and survey drawings to a scale and quality to be agreed in writing shall be prepared of the monument before the start and after completion of the works and a set of the prints [together with copies on disc if in digital format]/ negatives/ drawings shall be sent to Nick Russell at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- 4.3 Walkover survey:  
The site will be examined for evidence of archaeological remains i.e. unrecorded earthworks or artefactual material identified in the topsoil.
- 4.4 Evaluation Excavations:  
Six evaluation trenches will be dug on site, located according to the potential below ground impact of the development, as identified from the proposed plans and the site walkover (Fig. 1). The trenches will cover approximately 60m in total. The evaluation trenches will be opened by 360 degree tracked excavator with toothless bucket, but any archaeological features exposed would be excavated by hand by the site archaeologist to the depth of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the Scheduled Area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent. The excavation shall be backfilled within one month (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of the completion of the excavation, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England, following the consent of Nick Russell to carry out backfilling.
- 4.4.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 2014 and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2014*.
- 4.4.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts, including the use of a metal detector, if necessary.
- 4.4.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to ClfA guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. Where digital imagery is the sole photographic record, archivable prints will be prepared by a photographic laboratory.
- 4.4.4 Any masonry remains exposed in the course of the excavation shall either be backfilled within three months (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of the completion of the excavation or, if they are to be the subject of subsequent consolidation and display, shall be protected from the elements until such time as further scheduled monument consent has been obtained and consolidation works commence, all such protection works to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State who will be advised by Historic England.
- 4.4.5 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:
- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
  - ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
  - iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length, with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature, and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.
  - iv) One long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.
- Should the above % excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in line with best practice.
- 4.4.6 Artefacts will be bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained. Following post-excavation analysis and recording, further material may be discarded, subject to consultation with the appropriate specialists and the receiving Museum;
- 4.4.7 In the event of structural, faunal or skeletal remains being uncovered, Nick Russell shall be informed immediately.
- 4.4.8 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.4.9 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002).
- 4.4.10 Human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

- 4.4.11 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Historic England will be informed and works may have to be halted. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.4.12 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the relevant authorities will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the local authority and the client/applicant will be held to determine the appropriate response.
- 4.5 Should suitable deposits be exposed (e.g. palaeoenvironmental), then scientific assessment/analysis/dating techniques will be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon. Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002* and if necessary with reference to and with advice from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.
- 4.6 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.7 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.
- 4.7.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
- 4.7.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.

## **5.0 REPORTING**

- 5.1 The type of report produced will be determined by the results. If a full report is produced it will include the following elements:
- 5.1.1 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
- 5.1.2 A copy of this PD;
- 5.1.3 A summary of the project's background;
- 5.1.4 A description and illustration of the site location;
- 5.1.5 A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
- 5.1.6 Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- 5.1.7 A summary of the project's results;
- 5.1.8 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- 5.1.9 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- 5.1.10 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
- 5.1.11 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 5.1.12 A consideration of the evidence within its wider context;
- 5.1.13 Specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken.
- 5.2 A report shall be sent to Historic England and Cornwall Historic Environment Record (Fal Building, New County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY) within 3 months (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of completion of the excavation. Within 5 years of completion of the excavation a full site archive (and assessment) shall be prepared and deposited in the County Historic Environment Record and a final report of the excavation (and analysis) shall be prepared and made available for publication in a vehicle acceptable to the Secretary of State advised by Historic England. The National Monuments Record shall also be invited to receive copies of both archive and report.
- 5.3 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations*) database under reference Southwes1-225329 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork.

## **6.0 FURTHER WORK**

Should the results of this Assessment indicate a need for further archaeological works to be undertaken this may need to be completed before validation of the Planning Application in order to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable decision on the application, in accordance with the guidelines contained within paragraph 141 of paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). This work would be subject to a separate Project Design.

## **7.0 ARCHIVE**

- 7.1 On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)(<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/>).
- 7.2 7.2.1 The archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards of the Royal Cornwall Museum (RCM), and in a timely fashion.

- 7.2.3 If the RCM wishes to retain the hardcopy paper archive, it will be deposited with the rest of the material archive under the same accession number. Should the RCM decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to the Cornwall Record Office (CRO). If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed.
- 7.3 SWARCH will, on behalf of the RCM obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in the material archive to the receiving museum.
- 7.4 If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.
- 7.5 SWARCH will notify the case officer upon the completion of deposition of the material (finds) archive with the museum.
- 7.6 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and supplied to the client or agent to be submitted to the LPA, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form completed.
- 7.7 The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report.

#### **8.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY PROTECTED SPECIES**

Even where groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of SWARCH personnel, it remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

#### **9.0 PERSONNEL & MONITORING**

- 9.1 The project will be managed by Dr. Samuel Walls (the SMC holder); the desk-based appraisal, walkover and evaluation trenching will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience. Details of those carrying out the fieldwork and a summary of their experience will be supplied to Nick Russell prior to the commencement of the works. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

Natalie Boyd

South West Archaeology

The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfield Business Park, South Molton, Devon EX36 3LH Telephone: 01769 573555  
email:mail@swarch.net

#### **List of specialists**

##### **Building recording**

Richard Parker 11 Toronto Road, St James, Exeter. EX4 6LE. Tel: 07763 248241

##### **Conservation**

Alison Hopper Bishop Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation Service [a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk)  
Richard and Helena Jaeschke 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD [mrshjaeschke@email.msn.com](mailto:mrshjaeschke@email.msn.com)  
Tel: 01271 830891

**Curatorial** Thomas Cadbury Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

##### **Bone**

**Human & Animal** Wendy Howard Department of Archaeology, Laver Building, University of Exeter, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4QE [w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk) Tel: 01392 269330

##### **Lithics**

Martin Tingle Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ [martin@mtingle.freemove.co.uk](mailto:martin@mtingle.freemove.co.uk)

##### **Palaeoenvironmental/Organic**

Wood identification Dana Challinor Tel: 01869 810150 [dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk)  
Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones [juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Pollen analysis Ralph Fyfe Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

##### **Pottery**

Prehistoric Henrietta Quinnell 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214  
Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB Tel: (0191) 454 4093 [alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk)  
Early Medieval Imogen Wood, 49 Rosebery Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6LT [pots.imogen.wood@gmail.com](mailto:pots.imogen.wood@gmail.com)  
Medieval John Allen 22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154 [john.p.allan@btinternet.com](mailto:john.p.allan@btinternet.com)  
Post Medieval Graham Langman Exeter, EX1 2UF Tel: 01392 215900 email: [su1429@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su1429@eclipse.co.uk)

## Appendix 2 Scheduled Monument Consent

Dr Samuel Walls  
South West Archaeology Ltd  
The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park  
Pathfields Business Park  
South Molton  
Devon  
EX36 3LH

Direct Dial: 0117 9750671

Our ref: S00121129

4 November 2015

Dear Dr Walls

### **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works**

#### **Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**MAWGAN PORTH EARLY MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT AND ASSOCIATED BURIAL GROUND, 250M WEST OF LANERICK, MAWGAN PORTH, CORNWALL**

**Scheduled Monument No: SM CO 530, HA 1003087**

**Our ref: S00121129**

#### **Application on behalf of South West Archaeology Ltd**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 6 October 2015 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the opening of 6 evaluation trenches. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- Application form;
- Trench Plan;
- Project Design.

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be archaeological evaluation necessary to assess the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits in order to provide information to underpin decisions on the management of the monument, changes in its land use, or development proposals.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Nick Russell at Historic England (29 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4ND; Tel: 0117 975 1308) in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) The specification of work for which consent is granted shall be executed in full.
- (c) Photographs and survey drawings to a scale and quality to be agreed in writing shall be prepared of the monument before the start and after completion of the works and a set of the prints [together with copies on disc if in digital format]/ negatives/ drawings shall be sent to Nick Russell at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (d) This consent may only be implemented by Dr S Walls, South West Archaeology Ltd.
- (e) Where consent is transferable to future owners, Historic England shall be notified of land disposal upon completion of the sale.
- (f) The consented works shall be undertaken under the overall archaeological supervision of Nick Russell, Historic England, who must be given at least 4 weeks' written notice of the work (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) together with a timetable for it and essential documentation such as site plans and specifications.
- (g) No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.
- (h) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (i) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to



Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

result in ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.

- (j) Any ground disturbance works to which this consent relates shall be carried out under the detailed archaeological supervision of Dr S Walls, South West Archaeology Ltd, or his nominated representative who shall be given 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement and timetable of work. No works shall commence until Dr S Walls has confirmed in writing to Historic England that they are willing and able to carry out the agreed supervision.
- (k) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out only by Dr S Walls and his nominated excavation team.
- (l) This consent shall cease to have effect on 15 October 2018.
- (m) Not less than one month's written notice of the location and commencement of the excavation shall be given to Nick Russell and Ann Preston-Jones, Historic England, and also E Trevarthen, Cornwall Council HER.
- (n) The excavation shall be backfilled within one month (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of the completion of the excavation, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England.
- (o) Any masonry remains exposed in the course of the excavation shall either be backfilled within three months (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of the completion of the excavation or, if they are to be the subject of subsequent consolidation and display, shall be protected from the elements until such time as further scheduled monument consent has been obtained and consolidation works commence, all such protection works to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State who will be advised by Historic England.
- (p) A summary excavation report shall be sent to Historic England and Cornwall Historic Environment Record (Fal Building, New County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY) within 3 months (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of completion of the excavation. Within 5 years of completion of the excavation a full site archive (and assessment) shall be prepared and deposited in the County Historic Environment Record and a final report of the excavation (and analysis) shall be prepared and made available for publication in a vehicle acceptable to the Secretary of State advised by Historic England. The National Monuments Record shall also be invited to receive copies of both archive and report.
- (q) The specification/ research design/ project design (including analysis, post-excavation and publication proposals) for which consent is granted shall be executed in full, unless variations have been agreed under the terms of condition 1.
- (r) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Nick Russell at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (s) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.
- (t) In the event of structural, faunal or skeletal remains being uncovered, Nick Russell shall be informed immediately.
- (u) Should remains of national importance be uncovered it may be necessary to halt works pending consideration by Historic England.
- (v) No trenches shall be backfilled without the express clearance of Nick Russell.
- (w) A list of site staff and site experience to be provided prior to commencement of works.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely



**Nick Russell**

Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: [nick.russell@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:nick.russell@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

cc A Preston-Jones, Historic England;

E Trevarthen and P Copleston, Cornwall Council.

## Appendix 3 Scheduled Monument Text

### Mawgan Porth early medieval settlement and associated burial ground, 250m west of Lanerick List Entry Summary

**Name:** Mawgan Porth early medieval settlement and associated burial ground, 250m west of Lanerick

**List entry Number:** 1003087

**Location:**

**County:**

**District:** Cornwall

**District Type:** Unitary Authority

**Parish:** Mawgan-in-Pydar

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** Not applicable to this List entry.

This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. As these are some of our oldest designation records they do not have all the information held electronically that our modernised records contain. Therefore, the original date of scheduling is not available electronically. The date of scheduling may be noted in our paper records, please contact us for further information.

**Date first scheduled:** 24-Dec-1957

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Legacy System:** RSM - OCN

**UID:** CO 530

**Reasons for Designation:** Early medieval settlements (400-1100 AD) survive very rarely and as with those of later date include close groupings of dwellings, ancillary buildings and one or more adjacent small plots which served as kitchen gardens or stock pens. These components are arranged within the settlement around internal yards and trackways which led from the settlement to its associated fields, pasture and water supply. Occasionally such trackways show evidence for cobbling or paving. Long houses were the dominant type of farmhouse in upland settlements of south-west England between the 10th and 16th centuries. Rectangular in plan, usually with rubble or boulder outer walls and their long axis orientated downslope, the interiors of long houses were divided into two separate functional areas, an upslope domestic room and a downslope stock byre, known in south-west England as a shippon. Ancillary buildings were generally separated from the farmhouse itself and these additional structures served as barns, fuel or equipment stores and occasionally contained ovens and corn-drying kilns. Well-preserved deserted sites are rare and in the case of Mawgan Porth its associated cemetery is also intact. Because it appears to have been engulfed by encroaching sand it has not been successively built on in the intervening periods and so survives particularly well. Although partially excavated, it still contains a great deal of further archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction, development, longevity, abandonment, farming practices, trade, domestic arrangements, religious development, social organisation, health and welfare of the inhabitants and its overall landscape context. It remains one of the most important sites of its type in Cornwall and England.

#### History

**Details:** The monument includes an early medieval settlement at Mawgan Porth, situated close to the mouth of the estuary, on the northern bank of the River Menalhyl. The settlement was first discovered in 1934 when trial excavation holes were dug to inspect the subsoil prior to building work. The trial pits uncovered walls and a burial. In 1949, further building proposals prompted a second trial excavation which confirmed the existence of a settlement and produced an Aethelred II coin of 990 - 995. This prompted a major Ministry of Works excavation from 1950 - 54. The excavations uncovered the remains of part of a settlement of at least four farm houses, although only two and part of a third were examined and a portion of the associated contemporary burial ground. At least two of the rectangular buildings were arranged around a courtyard with a third to the south west and a fourth to the north east which was not fully excavated. At least one of the dwellings was of the long house type with a byre and living quarters under one roof. The houses had been constructed on platforms cut into the slope and had drystone walls of 0.7m thick standing to a maximum of 2.1m high, with slab lined recesses in the walls. The roofs were supported by timber uprights. The floors consisted of trodden black soil containing domestic detritus. At least one building was built over an earlier structure. The settlement dated from 850 to at least 1050 AD and appeared to have been abandoned because of encroaching sand. The limits of the burial ground were established to the south, east and west but not to the north. Some 23 graves were excavated, with a further estimated 28 unexcavated in the surrounding area. It is possible that further burials will be found to the north. The graves were aligned east to west with all but three placed in coffins or stone lined long cists. There was one fully

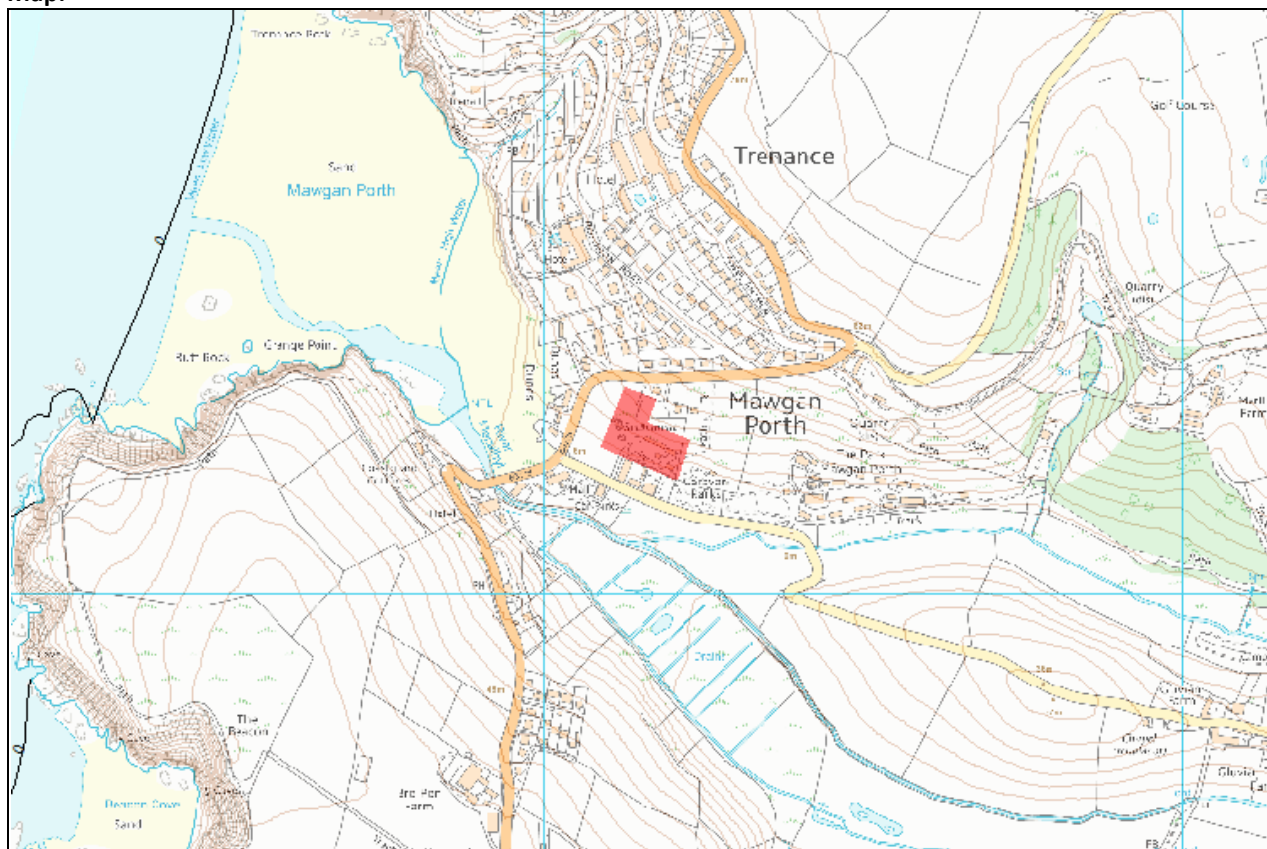
## Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

crouched burial and a high proportion of children were found to have been interred. A later burial, not in a cist, is thought to have been a shipwrecked sailor. Finds included 'strike-a-lights', rubbing stones, bone implements and pottery (now at the British Museum), but very few metal objects. Both the settlement and cemetery are known to extend beyond the present scheduled area although the full extent is not known. It is expected that a chapel also will survive in the wider area. These are preserved as buried features. The excavated buildings are still visible, although the excavated graves have been backfilled.

**Sources:** HER: PastScape Monument No:-429174

**National Grid Reference:** SW 85156 67257

**Map:**



Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

Appendix 4  
Context List

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/THICKNESS	SPOT DATE	
<b>TRENCH #1</b>					
(100)	<i>Topsoil</i>	Turf, topsoil and rubble layer, c. 0.2-0.4m thick; layer of dark grey-brown slightly silty sand; common roots, occasional to common sub-angular stones including gravel; also, concrete and modern plastic (e.g. JCB grease); occasional lenses of yellow sand.	Overlies (101)	c. 0.2-0.4m	C20
(101)	<i>Layer</i>	A soft and loose layer of fine yellow sand, very disturbed and mixed with lenses of topsoil to the east towards chalets; common small sub-angular stones and quartz at the base of the deposit.	Overlies (102); overlain by (122) and (100)	c. 0.18-0.2m	C20
(102)	<i>Layer</i>	A fine and soft slightly silty-sand, light brown, very few inclusions; rare small (>50mm diameter) sub-angular stones.	Overlies (121) and (103); overlain by (101)	c. 0.2m	C20
(103)	<i>Layer</i>	A layer of fine clean slightly reddish-yellow sand.	Overlies (104); overlain by (102); cut by [120]	c. 0.15m	
(104)	<i>Layer</i>	A thick layer (c. 0.35-0.45m) of very soft and homogenous light yellow sand, with very few inclusions; very rare sub-angular stones (>50mm diameter).	Overlies (105); overlain by (103)	c. 0.35-0.4m	Post-med
(105)	<i>Layer</i>	Layer of reddish-yellow sand, c. 0.1m thick, fine but quite firm (compared to (104)), very clean.	Overlies (100); overlain by (104)	c. 0.1m	
(106)	<i>Layer</i>	A compact moist slightly maroon-brown silty-clay loam; common small sub-angular stones including quartz (>80mm diameter); occasional charcoal flecks.	Overlies natural; overlain by (105) and (127)	c. 0.15-0.25m	BA
(107)	<i>Layer</i>	A layer of hard/concreted greyish-yellow sand; presumed a lens of sand compacted or consolidated through unknown action – could be human or natural.	Overlies (106); overlain by (104)	c. 0.05m	Med?
[108]	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of modern pit with a concave profile, c. 3m wide and 0.8m deep	Cuts (101); filled by (111), (110) and (109)	0.8m	C20
(109)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [108]; mixed yellow sand with lenses of greyish-brown slightly silty sand.	Fill of [108]; overlies (110); overlain by (100)	0.33m	C20
(110)	<i>Fill</i>	Middle fill of [108]; a greyish-brown slightly silty sand; occasional small sub-angular stones (>60mm diameter).	Fill of [108]; overlies (111); overlain by (109)	0.22m	C20
(111)	<i>Fill</i>	Basal fill of [108]; soft slightly reddish-yellow sand; rare lumps of compact maroon-brown clay-silt loam (i.e. redeposited buried soil (106)).	Fill of [108]; overlain by (110), overlies (101)	0.25m	C20
(112)	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of modern drain extending into Trench #1b from direction of other chalets.	Filled by (113)	0.2m	C20
(113)	<i>Fill</i>	Very wet fill, with plastic noted; appears to be moled?	Fill of [112]; overlain by (104)	0.2m	C20
(114)	<i>Layer</i>	A fine yellow sand with occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded stones (>60mm diameter).	Overlies (115); overlain by (100)	0.1m	C20
(115)	<i>Layer</i>	A layer of buried soil; greyish-brown slightly silty sand; occasional to rare sub-angular stones (>60mm diameter); same as (122).	Overlies (101); overlain by (114); same as (122)	0.12m	C20
[116]	<i>Cut</i>	U-shaped cut observed in section, c. 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep.	Cuts (103); filled by (117), (118) and (119)	0.25m	C20?
(117)	<i>Fill</i>	Basal fill of [116]; dark greyish-brown slightly silty sand.	Fill of [116]; overlain by (118)	0.05m	Med?
(118)	<i>Fill</i>	Middle fill of [116]; fine yellow sand.	Fill of [116]; overlies (117); overlain by (119),	0.12m	Med?
(119)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [116]; mixed reddish-yellow to grey sand.	Fill of [116]; overlies (118), overlain by (102)	0.08m	Med?
[120]	<i>Cut</i>	A cut of large pit c. 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep with steep concave sides and gently concave base.	Filled by (121)	0.4m	Med?
(121)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [120]; mid-brown slightly silty-sand; very occasional to rare small stones (>50mm diameter).	Fill of [120]	0.4m	Med?

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(122)	<i>Layer</i>	A layer of clean dark grey silty sand, very fine and homogenous; buried soil horizon, covered in the 1960s when chalet and access route were constructed.	Overlies (101); cut by [123]	c. 0.2-0.3m	C20
[123]	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of pit with concave profile, partly exposed in section below the turf cutting the topsoil (122).	Cuts (122); filled by (124), (125) and (126)	0.62m	C20
(124)	<i>Fill</i>	Basal fill of [123]; greyish-brown and mixed yellow sandy-silt with rare sub-angular stones.	Fill of [123]; overlain by (125)	0.25m	C20
(125)	<i>Fill</i>	Middle fill of [123]; dark grey-brown topsoil with rubble (gravel, stones etc).	Fill of [123]; overlies (124); overlain by (126)	0.12m	C20
(126)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [123]; soft and loose mixed yellow sand; occasional sub-angular gravel.	Fill of [123]; overlies (125); overlain by (100)	0.34m	C20
(127)	<i>Layer</i>	A fairly compact but fine layer of clean yellow sand c. 0.1m thick; overlies the Prehistoric buried soil (106).	Overlies (106); overlain by (105),	c. 0.1m	BA
[128]	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of a large pit/platform c. 5m wide and 0.8m deep exposed in the western part of Trench #1a; gently-sloping profile that steepens towards base at its northern edge; slightly concaved base; cuts horizon (102).	Cuts (102); filled by [129]	c. 0.8m	C20?
(129)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [128]; mid-brown slightly silty-sand; very homogenous and soft.	Fill of [128]	c. 0.8m	C20?
[130]	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of pit/platform, only c. 1.1m exposed in section, up to 0.8m deep but appears to be deepening; gently-sloping profile.	Cuts (132); filled by (131)	0.8m	Med?
(131)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [130]; slightly yellowish-brown sandy loam; occasional sub-angular stones, including quartz (>70mm diameter).	Fill of [130]; cut by [128]	0.8m	Med?
(132)	<i>Layer</i>	A fine and soft yellow sand; occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded stones (>60mm diameter); cut by pit [130] and truncated further by later pit/platform [128].	Overlies (133); cut by [130] and [128]	0.1m	Med?
(133)	<i>Layer</i>	A very thin horizon of slate fragments within a greyish maroon-brown sandy matrix.	Overlies (104); overlain by (132)	0.05m	Med?
[134]	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of a small pit/narrow linear seen in section, c. 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep; steep sloping sides and flat base.	Cuts (104); filled by (135)	0.1m	Med?
(135)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [134]; a dark greyish-brown slightly silty-sand; occasional to common small sub-angular stones (>50mm diameter); one large sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz fragment (>100mm diameter) noted.	Fill of [134]; overlain by (103)	0.1m	Med?
<b>TRENCH #2</b>					
(200)	<i>Topsoil</i>	Topsoil and turf with a total thickness of 0.2m with turf forming c. 0.1m of that; thickness decreases to east; dark brown or black slightly sticky/humic sand with fibrous roots (landscaping?); occasional small sub-angular stones, 20-30mm across.	Overlies (201)	0.2m	C20
(201)	<i>Layer</i>	Thick deposit of very heterogeneous sandy material in numerous distinct layers/tipping lines; lenses include: fine yellow sand, fine olive sand, dense brown sand (with a distinctly 'lumpy' texture) and dark grey/humic sand; together, these deposits are fairly firm (for sand); these layers are discontinuous and essentially haphazard; deposit slopes down sharply from east to west, maximum observed thickness is 1.26m; these are tipping lines within the spoil heaps associated with the 1950s excavation, different elements correspond to different contexts being excavated at any one time.	Overlies (202); overlain by (200),	Max. 1.26m	C20
(202)	<i>Layer</i>	Thick deposit of pale loose yellow coarse sand; appears to form a distinct 'dune' to the east of the trench; however, it seems to be simply a large dump of clean sand forming part of (201); thickness tails off to west, at its thickest it is 0.66m thick.	Overlies (203); overlain by (201)	0.66m	C20
(203)	<i>Layer</i>	Thin (0.05m) layer of firm moist (slight silt content) grey humic sand, possible stabilisation layer; occasional charcoal fragments (<10mm) noted; appears to grade into (204), and (204) is darker as its interface with (203); rides up over a deposit of clean sand (205) to the south-east; to the east the base of (202) is marked by a band of olive-coloured sand up to 0.2m thick – a leached zone?	Overlies (205); overlain by (202)	0.05m	C20
(204)	<i>Layer</i>	Layer of medium sand at the base of (203) and (206), grading from olive to mid yellow at depth (trending into (207)); representing a leached horizon from the humic content above.	Overlies (207); overlain by (206)	0.28m	Pre-C20
(205)	<i>Layer</i>	Deposit of clean yellow sand, between dark humic layers (203) and (206).	Overlies (208); overlain by (203)	0.32m	Pre-C20
(206)	<i>Layer</i>	Band(s) of dark humic sand between (203) and (205) – possible stabilisation layer? – dark grey humic slightly silty sand, moist, clear banding, with a very thin, almost intermittent light yellow band of sand sandwiched	Overlies (204); overlain by (208)	Max. 0.15m	Pre-C20

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		between two well-defined dark bands; the sharp distinction breaks down to the south-east, into a more diffuse and thicker band; up to 0.5m thick; narrow, well-defined bands are individually 0.04m thick; occasional charcoal.			
(207)	Layer	Thick deposit of damp slightly mid buff brown yellow medium sand, more compact with depth; fewer snail shells than (202); over 0.64m (observed) thick; this may be the original dune surface, buried by later deposits.	Overlain by (204)	0.64m+	Med
(208)	Layer	Thin lens of light greenish-grey sand 0.04m thick, with very limited extant; clean.	Overlies (206); overlain by (205)	0.04m	Pre-C20
<b>TRENCH #3</b>					
(300)	Layer	Turf and topsoil; black or very dark grey humic sand with stones.	Overlies (301)	0.2m	C20
(301)	Layer	Fine soft loose pale yellow wind-blown sand; probably redeposited.	Overlain by (300)	2m+	C20
<b>TRENCH #4</b>					
(400)	Topsoil	Turf and topsoil; black or very dark grey humic sand with stones.	Overlies (401)	0.18m	C20
(401)	Layer	Deposit of dumped sand; largely pale yellow soft sand, but with lenses of dark grey and compact/firm brown sand – i.e. lenses of material within a spoil heap, loose and unconsolidated; large 19 <sup>th</sup> century two-tone stoneware flagon at base of excavated section and metal (fe) object – can or possibly car wing mirror; may sit within a cut.	Overlies (402); overlain by (400)	0.46-0.86m	C20
(402)	Layer	Deposit of grey mixed shillet; composed of rough angular but soft shillet stones 40-60mm across in a grey moist matrix; appears to tip downslope.	Overlies (403); overlain by (401)	0.1m	C20
(403)	Layer	Layer of fine yellow sand.	Overlies (404); overlain by (402)	0.1m	C20
(404)	Layer	Dark grey slightly moist humic slightly silty sand; looks like a stabilisation layer, or original turf line, within the sand profile.	Overlies (405); overlain by (403)	0.1m	Pre C20
(405)	Layer	Base of excavated trench; a layer of dense light olive-yellow medium sand (probably the original land surface, with stabilisation layer (404) above); at least 0.28m thick.	Overlain by (404)	0.28m+	Pre C20
[406]	Cut	Cut for gas main, located to south of trench; at least 1.0m wide and 0.8m+ deep.	Cuts (401); filled by (407)	0.8m+	C20
(407)	Fill	Fill of [406]; unconsolidated mixed stone rubble/scree (sub-rounded stones 40-80mm across) and re-deposited stiff brown soil (i.e. cut is to or beyond the base of the sand profile).	Fill of [406]; overlain by (401)	0.8m+	C20
<b>TRENCH #5</b>					
(500)	Layer	Turf and topsoil; black or very dark grey humic sand with stones; a second thin stabilisation layer visible c.0.2m down through the profile.	Overlies (501)	0.2m	C20
(501)	Layer	Fine soft loose pale yellow wind-blown sand; probably redeposited.	Overlain by (500)	2m+	C20

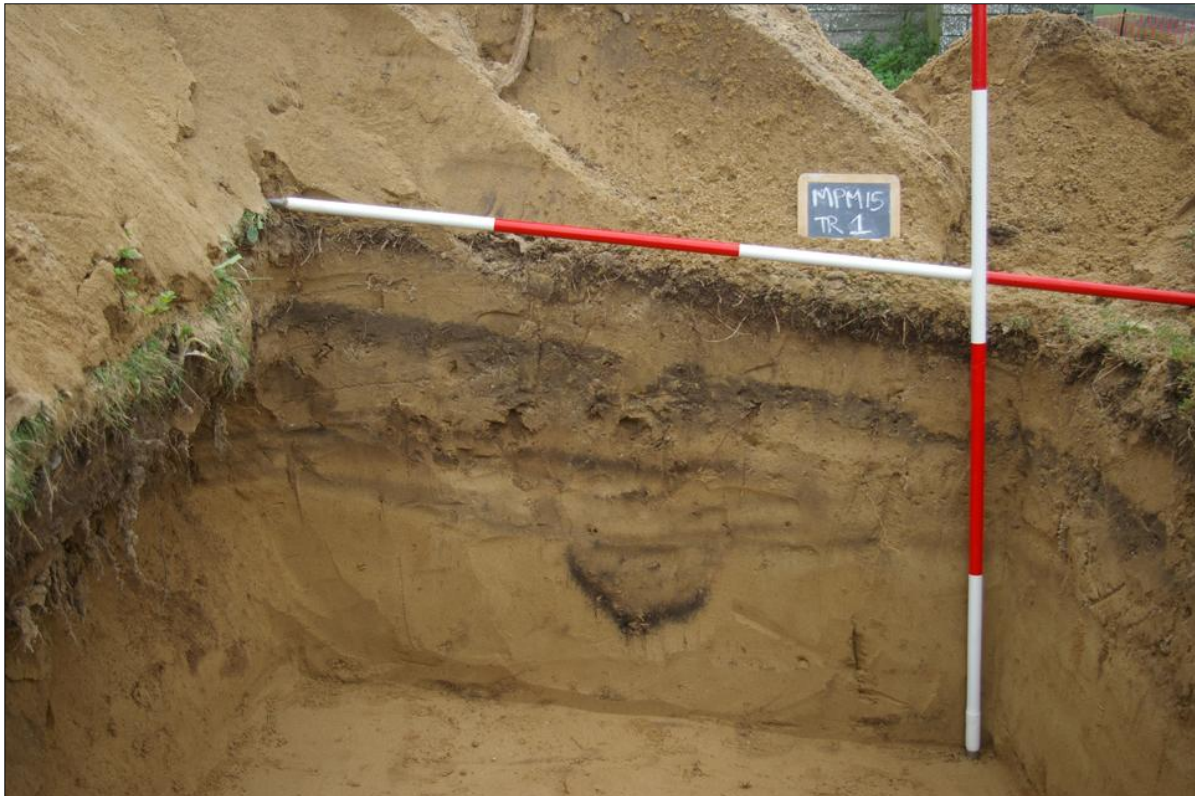
Appendix 5  
Finds List

Context	Notes	POTTERY			OTHER			DATE
		Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
TR1a	Unstrat				1	670	Notched slate	Prehistoric?
					1	2	1936 George V sixpence	C20
(106)	TR1a				3	20	Waste flakes from pebble flint	Prehistoric
(107)	TR1b				1	204	Sand accretion	?
TR2	Unstrat				1	7	Bone	?
(203)	TR2				1	8g	Charcoal	?
TR3	Unstrat	1	30	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> century Lostwithiel	1	<1	Bone	C13-C14
(402)	TR4	3	2851	C19 two-tone stoneware flagon	4	150	Fe Objects	C19
					1	121	Glass meat paste jar	C20
		4	2881		14	1175		

Appendix 6  
Sample List

Sample Number	Context	Volume (Litres)	Notes	DATE
1	(106)	20	Buried soil horizon within Trench 1	Prehistoric?
2	(121)	25	Fill of a pit [120], a brown sand, possible midden, 3 mussel shells were noted, but no finds recovered.	Medieval or later
3	(129)	15	Fill of Pit [128], a large pit, which cuts a stabilised layer (i.e. former dune surface), implies probably modern in date.	Modern?
4	(202) (203) (208) (206) (204)	Monolith Tin – 0.75m long	Taken through various stabilisation layers, presumably former dune surface horizons.	Medieval or later

Appendix 7  
Baseline Photographs

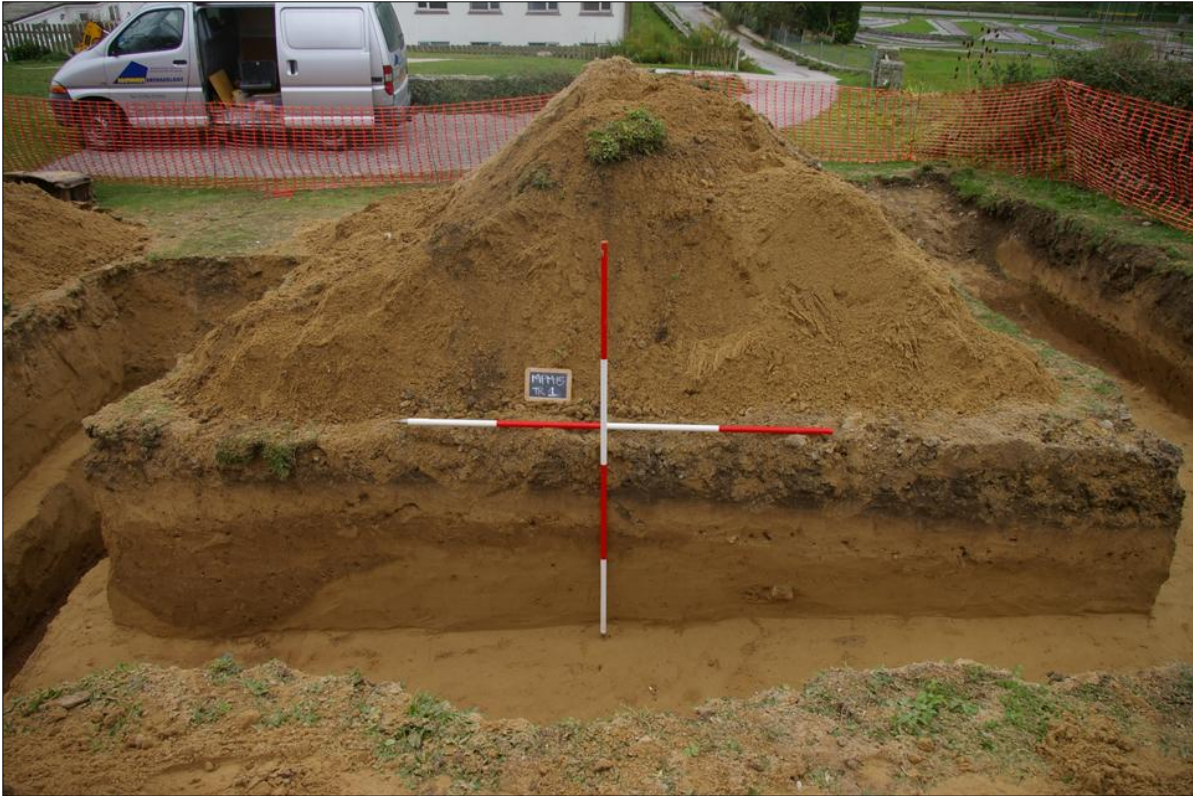


West-facing elevation of Trench #1a; feature [116] viewed from the west (2m scale).



The eastern arms of Trench #1a, viewed from the north-west (2m scale).





The north-facing section of Trench #1a, with pit [120] to the left of centre; viewed from the north (2m scale).



Left: The east-west arm of Trench #1a, viewed from the west (2m scale).



Right: The eastern north-south arm of Trench #1a, with sondage to the level of (106); viewed from the south (2m scale).



East-facing section of Trench #1a, showing pit [120] right of centre (2m scale).



Detail of the above (2m scale).



The east-facing section of Trench #1a, viewed from the east-south-east (2m scale).



Left: The western north-south arm of Trench #1a, viewed from the south (2m scale).



Right: As above, showing an area of sand (104) marked by a concentration of small snail shells (2m scale).



The eastern arms of Trench #1a, viewed from the north-west, with sondage to the level of (106) (2m scale).



The east-facing section of Trench #1a, viewed from the south-east (2m scale).



The north-facing section of Trench #1a, excavated to the level of (106); viewed from the north (2m scale).



Left: The western north-south arm of Trench #1a, excavated to the level of (106), viewed from the north (2m scale).



Right: The east-west arm of Trench #1a, excavated to the level of (106), viewed from the west (2m scale).



Trench #1b, excavated to shillet (top) and soil (106); viewed from the south (2m scale).



The west-facing section of Trench #1b, with feature [108]; viewed from the west (2m scale).



As above.



Concretion (107) at the south-east corner and base of Trench #1b, viewed from the west (0.4m scale).



Left: Trench #2, viewed from the east (2m scale).



Right: Trench #2, viewed from the west (2m scale).





The south-facing section and base of Trench #2 at the western end, viewed from the south (2m scale).



The south-facing section of Trench #2, the deeper central section of the trench; viewed from the south (2m scale).



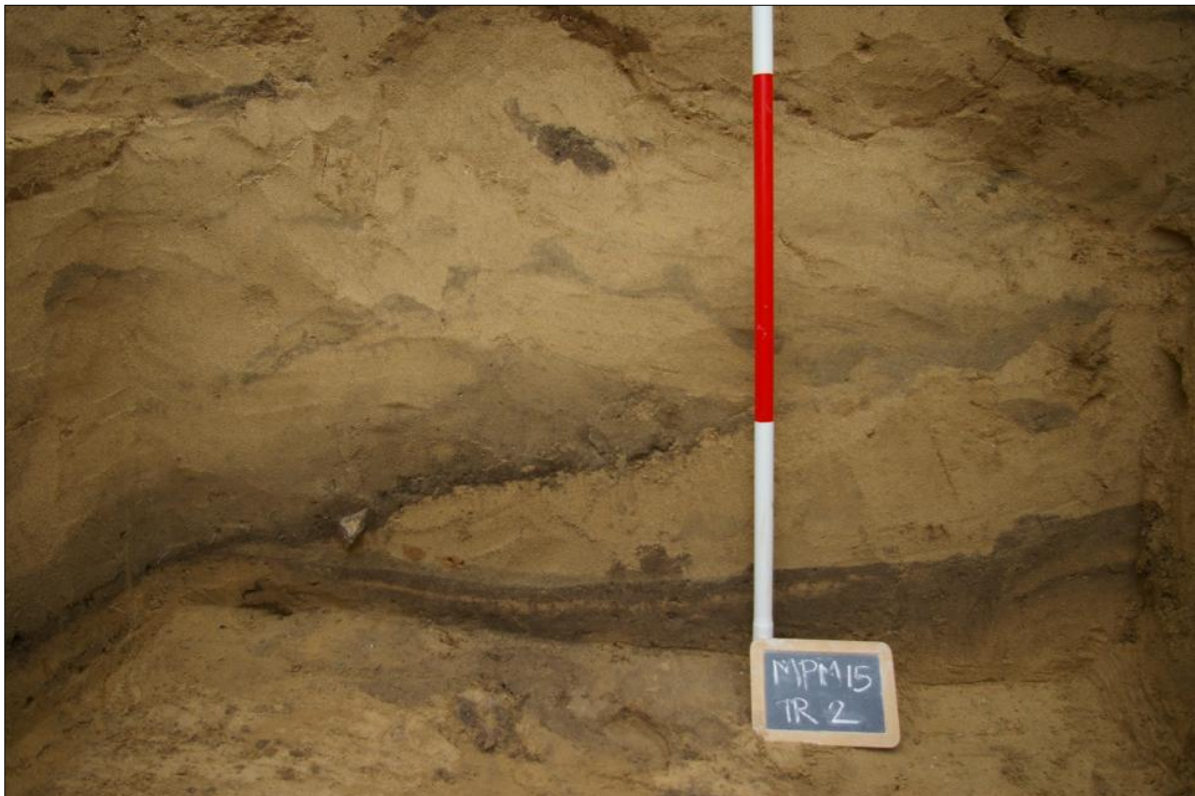
As above, viewed from the south-east (2m scale).



As above.



Trench #2, the base of the deeper sondage, showing [205]; viewed from the west (2m scale).



The west-facing section of the sondage in Trench #2, showing the two stabilisation layers; viewed from the west (2m scale).



Detail of the above.



Detail of the base of Trench #2, viewed from the south-west (2m scale).



Trench #3 under excavation, the sides were too unstable to remove the digger bucket; viewed from the east (2m scale).



The revised location of Trench #4, viewed from the north-west.



As above, viewed from the south-east.



The south-west facing section of Trench #4, viewed from the south (2m scale).



The west-facing section of Trench #5, viewed from the west (2m scale).



Trench #5, viewed from the north (2m scale).



The Old Dairy  
Hacche Lane Business Park  
Pathfields Business Park  
South Molton  
Devon  
EX36 3LH

Tel: 01769 573555  
Email: [mail@swarch.net](mailto:mail@swarch.net)