



Site Name: Land south of the Harlyn Inn, Harlyn Bay, St. Merryn, Cornwall	
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 87914 75239	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St. Merryn	
Site Type: Residential	
Period: Modern	Form:
<p>Description: Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of James Gelston (the Client) to determine the archaeological impact of a proposed residential development on land south of the Harlyn Inn, Harlyn, St. Merryn, Cornwall. The work was carried out by P. Webb on 26th September 2016 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up in consultation with Phil Copleston and Sean Taylor, Senior Development Officers (Historic Environment) (SDOHE), Cornwall Council.</p> <p>Harlyn is located approximately 3.5km west of Padstow in the parish of St. Merryn, on the north Cornwall coast (see Figure 1). The site is situated on residential land, to the south of the Harlyn Inn, and forms a roughly rectangular parcel of land on a south-east facing hillside overlooking Harlyn Bay, at a height of c.10-15m AOD on the south-eastern fringes the settlement. The soils in this area are the shallow well drained loamy soils over rock of the Powys Association bordering the well drained fine loamy soils over slate or slate rubble of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the slate and siltstone of the Trevese Slate Formation and Rosenum Formation, with superficial deposits of head clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2016).</p> <p>The place-name <i>Harlyn</i> is derived from the Cornish <i>ar</i> and <i>lyn</i> meaning 'beside the bay', though more literal translations suggest 'beside the pool' (Padel 1985). The barton of Harlyn, dating to the 17th century, in the hundred and deanery of Pyder, formerly belonged to the Tregewe, Michel, and Peter families (Lysons 1814), though an earlier settlement was located at what is now Higher Harlyn, to the south of the bay, and is first recorded in 1208. Much of the current settlement of Harlyn is 18th century or later. Archaeological excavations show the site as being within an important prehistoric landscape along the coast with a Bronze Age/Iron Age roundhouse (MCO19614) to the north, numerous inhumation burials (MCO25841, 25890, 2774, 2775, 2777, 27927, 57953) to the north-west and barrows (MCO2773) to the north-east. Further inland, much of the landscape is dominated by medieval settlement and agricultural field systems.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the excavation of four approximately 30m trenches, totalling c.120m, by 360 degree tracked excavator with 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to a depth of between c.0.30m and 1.20m, the top of clean sand deposits (figure 2). Further sondages were excavated to a depth of up to c.1.9m in the middle and at each end of trenches 2, 3 and 4 (figure 3), with a single sondage at the southern end of trench 1. These were excavated in an attempt to establish the depth of sand deposits, though bedrock was not reached in any of the trenches. The stratigraphy of the site comprised: topsoil, mid-dark grey-brown loose silt-sand c.0.1-0.2m thick; overlying a lower topsoil, mid-light grey-brown sand c.0.1-0.3m thick; clean yellow sand c.0.3-0.4m thick; stabilisation layer, mid red-brown soft-loose silt-sand c.0.3-1m thick; clean yellow sand c.0.1m thick; and a further stabilisation layer, mid red-brown soft-loose silt-sand. The north and north-east portion of the site (north end of trench 1 and east end of trench 2) showed evidence of modern disturbance with dirty sand layers and modern dump deposits below the topsoil layers, and burying a soil layer, dark brown compacted sand with common tree root disturbance c.0.35m thick. No features of archaeological interest were identified, and no finds were recovered during the excavation.</p> <p>The results of the evaluation show that there are significant depths of sand covering the entire site and that the lower, northern and north-eastern parts of the site show signs of modern disturbance, likely associated with the construction of various residential properties in the immediate vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Bibliography British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 27.09.2016]. Lysons, D. & Lysons, S. 1814: <i>Magna Britannia Volume 3: Cornwall</i> Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>. Padel, O. 1985: <i>Cornish Place-Name Elements</i></p>	
Land Use (Area): Residential	Land Use (Site): Residential
Date of Site Visit: 26 th September 2016	
Recorder's name, address and phone number: Peter Webb. South West Archaeology. The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH. 01769 537555. Email: mail@swarch.net	

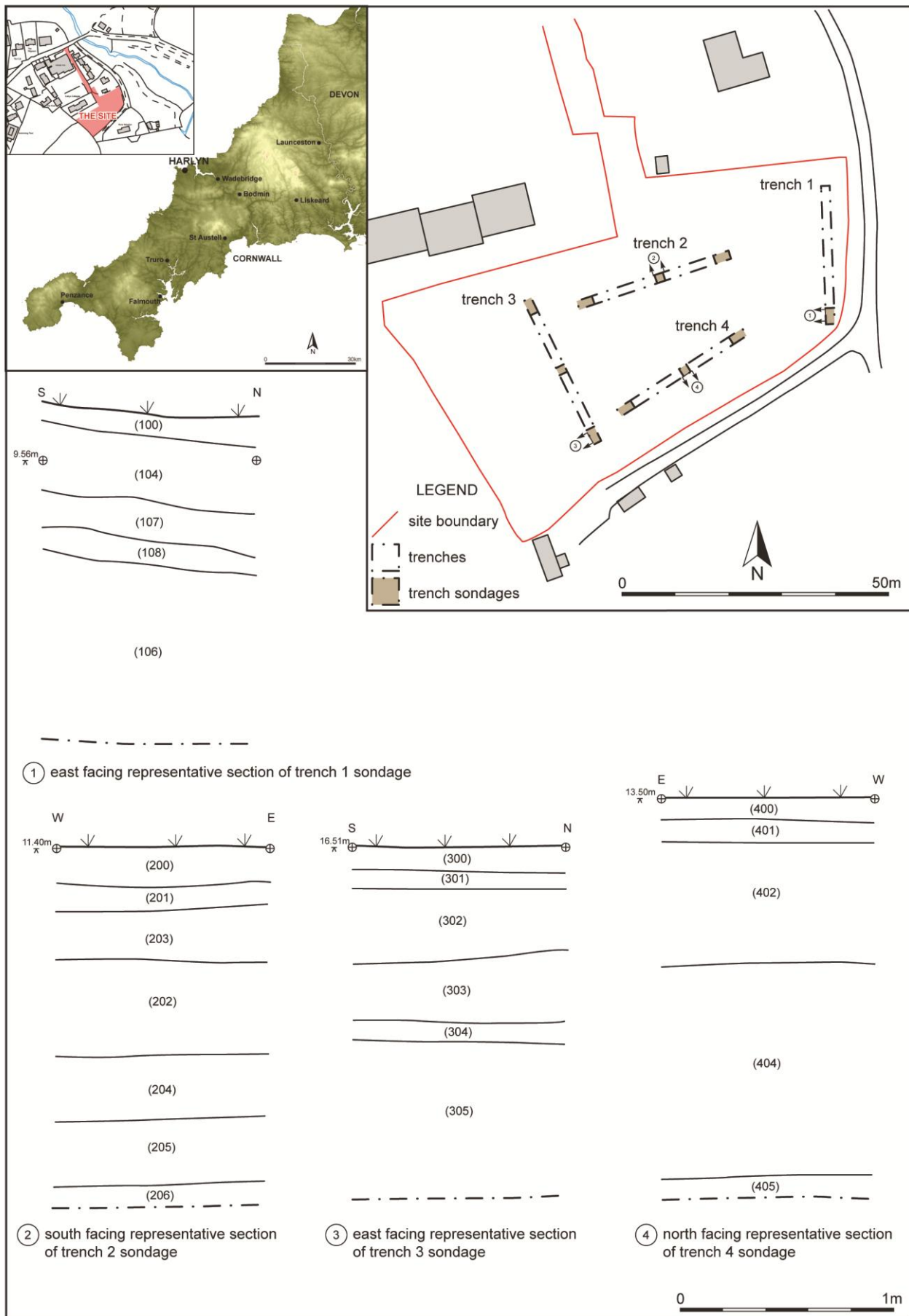


Figure 1: Site location; trench plan; and representative sections.



Figure 2: Trench 1 post-excavation; viewed from the east (1m and 2m scales).



Figure 3: North facing section of sondage at east end of trench 4; viewed from the north (2m scale).