



<b>Site Name:</b> Land west of Healthy Gate, Stamford Hill, Poughill	
<b>Grid ref (10-fig):</b> SS 22683 06832	<b>OS Map No:</b> OSGB36
<b>Parish:</b> Bude-Stratton	
<b>Site Type:</b> Residential	
<b>Period:</b> Modern	<b>Form:</b>
<p><b>Description:</b> A brief heritage impact assessment, metal-detector survey and archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Andrew and Lisa Vines (the Clients) prior to and during groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential dwelling on land west of Healthy Gate, Stamford Hill, Stratton, Cornwall. The metal detector survey was carried out by D. Cording on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 using a CTX3030 Minelab metal detector; the monitoring was carried out by B. Morris and P. Webb on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The site is located on the west-facing slopes of the valley of the River Neet (or Strat) at c.75mAOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy or silty soils of the Manod Association, bordering the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>The site lies to the west of Stamford Hill on the north-western edge of Stratton, and thus falls within the Registered Battlefield. The battle took place in May 1643, when a Parliamentarian army of 5,600 men led by the Earl of Stamford advanced into Cornwall and camped at Stamford Hill. A force of only 3,000 Royalists under Sir Ralph Hopton attacked and defeated Stamford the following day, killing 300 and taking 1700 prisoner. The remains of an Iron Age/Romano-British round (SAM 1005449) that lie c.200m north-east were re-used as a battery position. The metal-detector survey identified a number of modern metal artefacts, including keys, nails, tags, coins etc. but no artefacts dating to the Civil War period.</p> <p>Topsoil up to 0.3m thick was stripped from a sub-rectangular area across the middle of the site measuring c.27×21m. The subsoil was removed, and a deep terrace created, for the L-shaped footprint of the building; this measured c.15×12m. The stratigraphic sequence as revealed consisted of redeposited topsoil (001), a mid brown friable silt, overlying a lower topsoil (002), a compact mid brown friable silt up to 0.22m thick; subsoil (003), a mid olive-brown soft-friable slightly clay-silt up to 0.26m thick, overlay the natural (016), a soft yellow clay-silt with occasional sub-angular stone. The depth of these layers was greatest towards the downslope (western) side, and it is clear material had been dumped in this area from the adjacent housing development.</p> <p>Four features were identified during the monitoring: postholes [004], [008], and [012]; and drain [014]. All three postholes were sub-rectangular in plan, measuring between 0.46-0.58m × 0.24-0.60m and up to 0.24m deep, containing fills of re-deposited subsoil, overlain by a lime-rich packing layer and upper fills of mid brown-grey soft clay. These features cut the buried topsoil (002) and appear relatively recent. Drain [014] crossed the site from north to south; it was 0.3m wide and was full of sub-angular to sub-rounded stones.</p> <p>In terms of the impact on the Registered Battlefield, there are several larger early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses on this side of Stamford Hill, and this development takes place within the large garden formerly attached to one of these properties. It represents an incremental change within a largely suburban landscape, and does constitute <i>harm</i> in terms of the Historic England guidance on assessing setting (2015); however, that harm is muted by the small scale of the development, the fact that it is set within the existing built-up environment, and screening is provided by mature trees around the property. On that basis the impact is <i>negative/minor</i> at worst, and <i>negligible</i> for most of the battlefield.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> The monitoring identified a series of modern features. These include a soakaway drain and postholes from a garden structure; almost all the finds were modern in date.</p>	
<b>Land Use (Area):</b> Residential	<b>Land Use (Site):</b> Residential
<b>Date of Site Visit:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	
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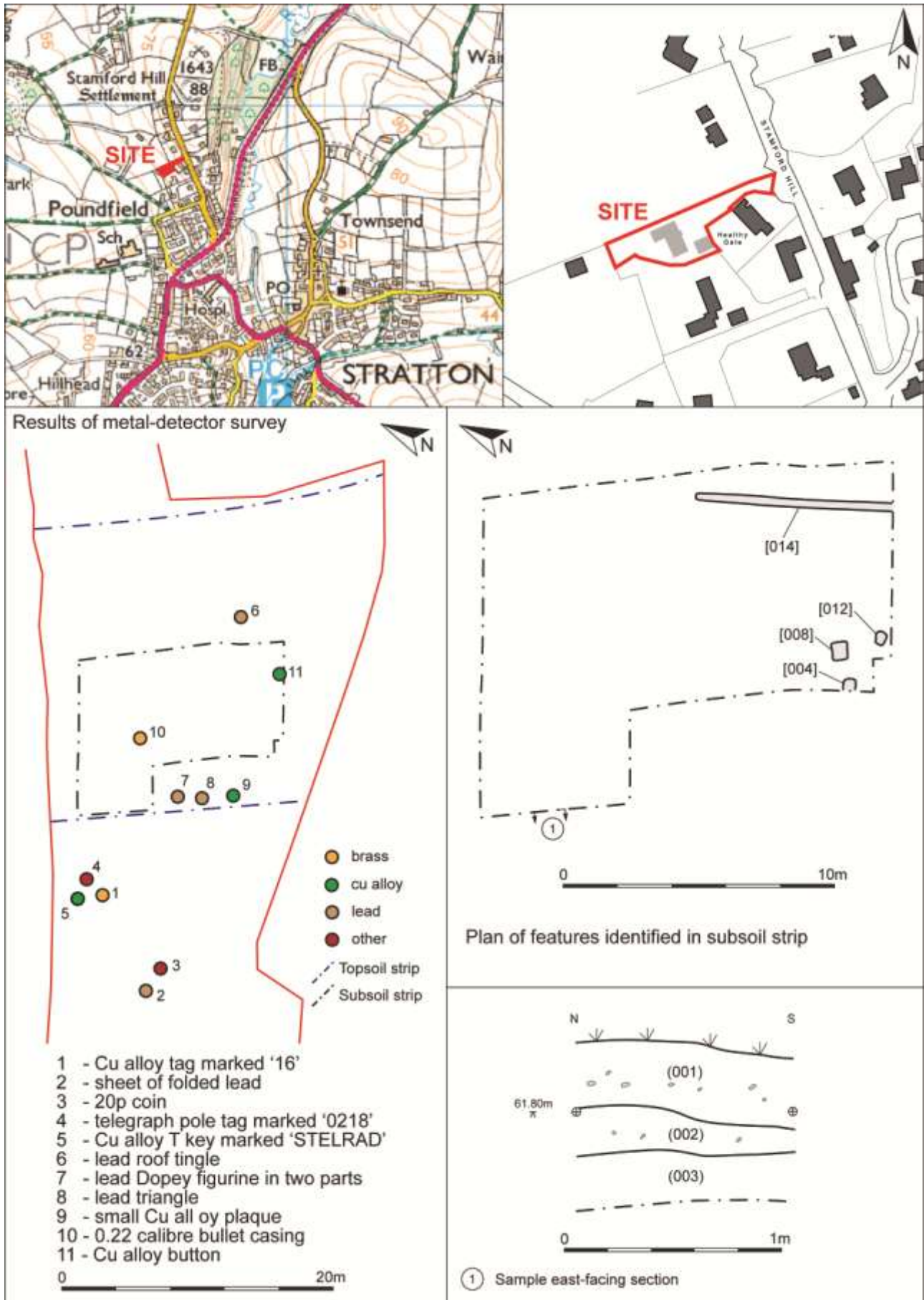


Figure 1: Site location, site plans and representative section through deposits.



Figure 2: The site strip, viewed from the north-east (scale 1m & 2m).



Figure 3: Selection of metal finds from the survey (scale in cm).