



# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record Site Recording form



Site Name: Land at School Hill, Mevagissey, Cornwall	
Grid ref (10-fig): 20145 45649	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: Mevagissey	
Site Type: Groundworks in advance of residential development	
Period: Modern	Form: Monitoring and Recording event
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Ben Warren of Mitchell Architects (the Agent) on behalf of Shaun Mitchell of Mitchell Property Developments (the Client) during groundworks associated with the residential development of land adjacent to School Hill, Mevagissey, Cornwall. The work was carried out by E. Wapshott between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) (SDOHE), Cornwall Council, and follows on from a desk-based assessment and walkover survey carried out in 2011 (Morris 2012).</p> <p>The site is located on the north-eastern edge of the modern village of Mevagissey, and comprises the western portions of two fields, flanking the eastern side of School Hill. These fields lie on one side of a narrow ridge orientated roughly north-south that extends down to the harbour. The site is fairly level (at c.75m AOD), though the land to the east slopes steeply downhill (to c.60m AOD) (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are the shallow well-drained loamy soils over rock of the Powys Association (Soil Survey 1983), overlying the interbedded sandstones and slaty mudstones of the Porthscatho Formation (BGS 2016). The site lies within a broad zone designated under the Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation as Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL). No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site itself, but geophysical survey in advance of the proposed Mevagissey bypass revealed anomalies that may correspond to archaeological features.</p> <p>The area subject to monitoring (see Figure 1) comprised the excavation of two roughly rectangular area measuring 62mx34m (Area 1) and 48mx30m (Area 2). Excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to a depth of c.0.60m, this being the depth of weathered natural. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil, dark brown-grey friable loam-silt-clay c.0.30-0.45m deep (deeper to the east); overlying subsoil, mid red-brown soft-friable clay-silt c.0.15m deep; and the natural, blue-grey shillet within yellow-brown silt-clay.</p> <p>The site was bounded to the west by a 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century rubble-stone wall with thick lime mortar standing to between 1.52m and 3m above ground level and measuring 0.38m wide; the remaining boundaries being earth mound hedgebanks. In the north-west corner of Area 2 stood a single modern shed constructed from corrugated sheeting on concrete base, built against the north hedgebank boundary.</p> <p>A single mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century linear water drainage pipe [103] on an approximate north to south alignment, measuring 0.60-1.10m wide and containing a single fill (104), re-deposited yellow-brown silt-clay natural was identified in Area 1, with an associated stone and concrete built pump-house in the south-west corner.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were noted.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2016: <i>Land at School Hill, Mevagissey, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH Report No. MSH16WSlv1. <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> [accessed 28.11.2016]. <b>Morris, B.</b> 2012: <i>Land at School Hill, Mevagissey, Cornwall: Result of a Desk-Based Cartographic Assessment &amp; Walkover Survey</i>. SWARCH Report No. 120113. <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Settlement	Land Use (Site): Domestic Property
Date of Site Visit: 07-10/11/16	
Recorder's name, address and phone number: E.Wapshott, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH	

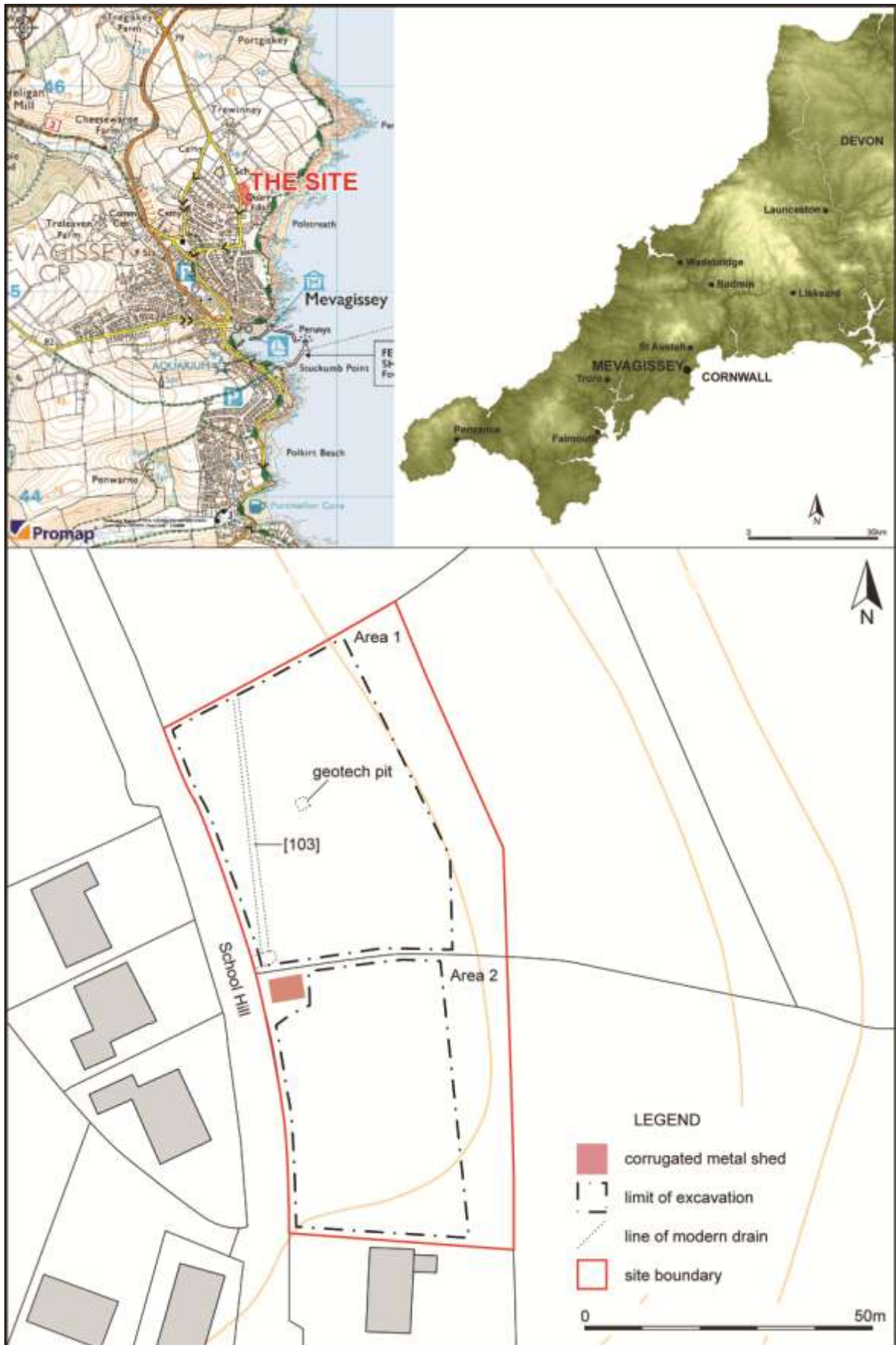


Figure 1: Site location and plan.



Figure 2: Area 1, post-excitation; viewed from the south (2m scale).



Figure 3: Area 2, post-excitation; viewed from the south (2m scale).