

# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

## Site Recording form



Site Name: Land off Hilgrove Road, Newquay, Cornwall	
Grid ref (10-fig): 82129 62085	OS Map No: SW 39
Parish: Newquay	
Site Type: (Major) Residential Development	
Period: Post-medieval - modern	Form:
<p>Description: Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Hilgrove Road, Newquay, Cornwall (Figure 1) at the request of Mike Old of Verto Homes (the Client) ahead of the proposed works relating to planning application PA15/08522. This work was undertaken by P. Webb on 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in accordance with a project design (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns of Cornwall Council (SDOHE). Four 30m and one 40m evaluation trenches c.1.80m wide were excavated (see Figure 1). This work followed on – and avoided – geotechnical investigations carried out in 2015 (Ian Farmer Associates 2015).</p> <p>Newquay is a seaside resort and fishing port on the North Atlantic coast of Cornwall, approximately 20 miles west of Bodmin and 12 miles north of Truro. The site comprises an area c.0.7ha in extent on the northern edge of the town, to the south of the sea-front and immediately east of Hilgrove Road. The development area is currently a gently sloping area of wasteland behind the hotels of Narrowcliff Road at an altitude of c.39m AOD. The bedrock of the area is the mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group (BGS 2016), though the overlying soils have not been recorded (SSEW1983). Within 100m to the north of the site lies a large group of Bronze Age barrows, of which only three are now extant, whilst cropmark evidence suggests Iron Age or Romano-British rounds to the east, south and west of the site. The surrounding area also contains evidence of a Medieval field system. Approximately 150m south-east of the site are two circular features which may relate to Second World War military structure, identified from aerial photography. Historic OS maps indicate that a mine shaft may exist within the boundary of the site.</p> <p>The archaeological trenching demonstrated a stratigraphic sequence of predominantly modern tarmac surfaces and made ground 0.15-0.30m thick, though with a loose-friable brown-grey silt topsoil 0.03-0.15m thick across the northern and western limits of the site. These deposits overlaid friable mid-brown silt subsoil layers and the natural, a soft yellow silt-clay and shillet. Two features were identified, a linear ditch [206] and a large pit, [308]. Ditch [206] was located towards the southern end of Trench #2, was slightly curvilinear in plan and measured 0.8m wide x 0.10-0.25m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides and concave base. It was filled by (207) and (208), grey- and yellow-brown soft silt-clays. Pit [308], located at the southern end of Trench #3 was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 9.5m north to south x 7m east to west and was carefully excavated by machine in accordance with the RAMS for the site. It was excavated to a depth of 2.60m with a moderately steep southern side. The bulk of the feature was backfilled with a dump of loose/unstable greyish-yellow-brown silt with frequent angular stone with upper bands of shillet and silt (309).</p> <p>Three flint flakes (42g) and one sherd of post-medieval coarseware (8g) were recovered from the topsoil layers across the site, whilst three flint flakes and blades (17g) were recovered from the subsoil of Trench #5.</p> <p>The linear ditch [206] is undated and is likely to reflect a former boundary. The size and character of the pit in Trench #3 indicates the presence of a historic mining investigation pit identified in the geotechnical report (Ian Farmer Associates 2015). The recovery of flint flakes and blades from the site indicates that prehistoric activity, likely related to the nearby barrows, occurred within the vicinity of the site.</p> <p><b>References</b>  <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2016: <i>Hilgrove Mews, Newquay, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report.  <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2015: <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>  <b>Ian Farmer Associates (1998) Limited</b> 2015: <i>Land at Hilgrove Road, Newquay TR7 2QY: Ground Investigation Report</i>.  <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	

Please post or email completed forms to:  
**Strategic Historic Environment Service,**  
**Cornwall Council**  
**Pydar House, Pydar Street, Truro TR1 1XU**  
[her@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:her@cornwall.gov.uk)

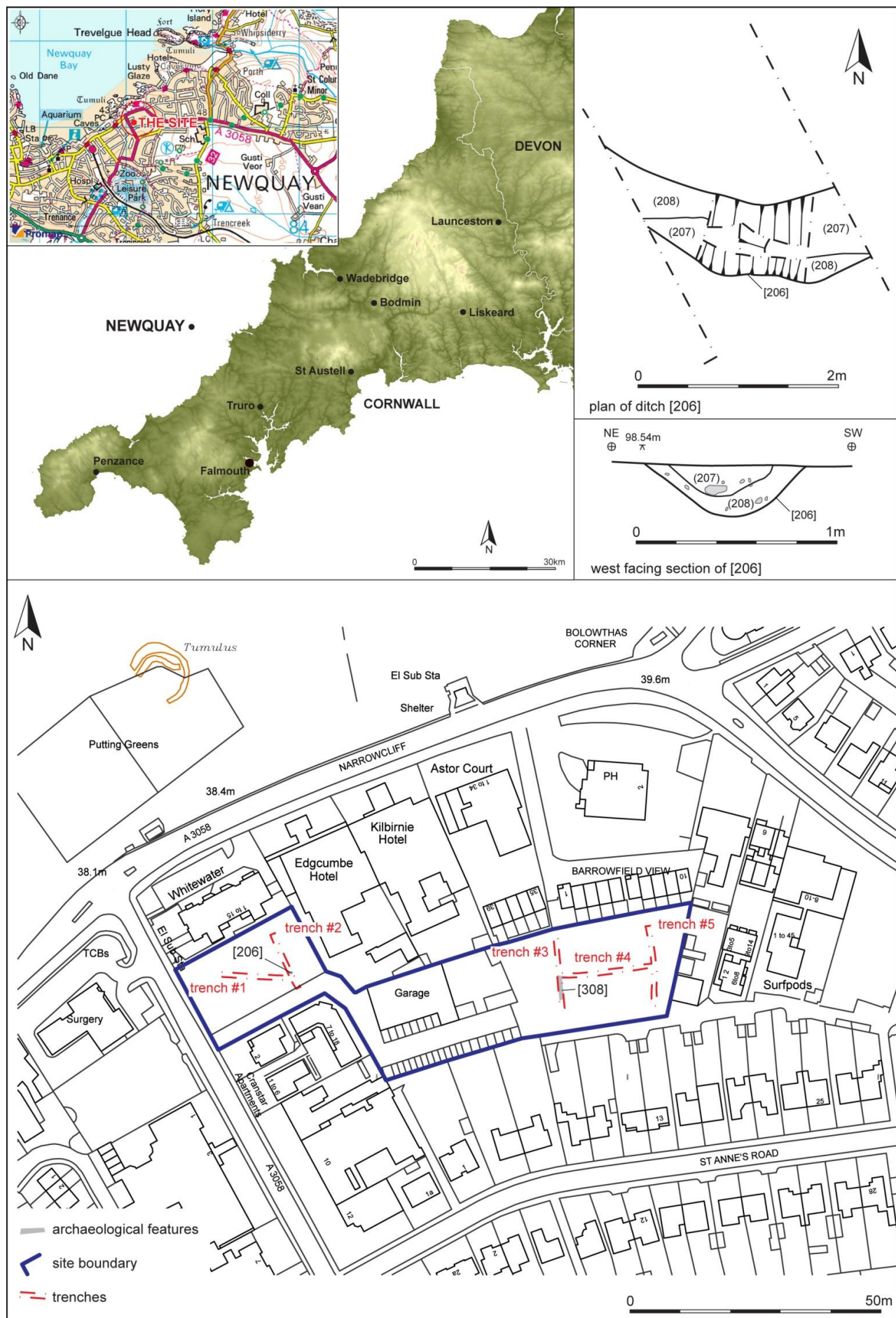


Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated in red), plans and sections. Levels based on arbitrary TBM of 100m AOD.





Figure 2: Post-excavation view of [206]; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 3: Post-excavation view of [308]; viewed from the south-east (1m and 2m scales).

Land Use (Area): Settlement

Land Use (Site): Residential

Date of Site Visit: 14-16/06/2016

Recorder's name, address and phone number: P. Webb, South West Archaeology Ltd, The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton Devon, EX36 3HL; 01769 573555