

PACKSADDLE PENRYN CORNWALL

Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal & Walkover Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 160428

Packsaddle, Penryn, Cornwall

Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal & Walkover Survey

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Simon Manaton
APG Architecture

Summary

This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and walkover survey undertaken on land at Packsaddle, Penryn, Cornwall. This work was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Simon Manaton of APG Architecture, in order to inform future use of the site.

No archaeological works have taken place in the immediately vicinity of the site, but across the valley to the south at the Tremough University Campus excavations over the last two decades have revealed a complex and significant relict Prehistoric landscape. The site itself lies in an area of medieval settlement and fieldsystems.

The walkover documented that the northern part of the site has been heavily terraced, by up to 5m in places, which would have removed any archaeological features or artefactual remains. The central part of the site has been built up and thus archaeological features, if they were present, would have been deeply buried. The southern and western parts of the site appear to follow the natural slope of the former field, but even these show evidence of ground disturbance and tipping.

No archaeological earthworks or other remains were observed, and despite the proximity of Tremough the levels of disturbance would indicate the archaeological potential of the site is low.



April 2016

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1.0 Introduction

Location:	Packsaddle
Parish:	Penryn
County:	Cornwall
NGR:	Centred on SW 77351 35131
Planning no.	Pre-planning
SWARCH ref.	PPS16

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and walkover survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Packsaddle, Penryn, Cornwall (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Simon Manaton of APG Architecture (the Agent) on behalf of Andy Fudge of Cherry Homes (South West) LLP (the Client) in order to identify any archaeological remains that might be affected by any future use of the site.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The site is located north-east of Penryn, on the south-facing slopes of the narrow valley running up to Treliever Cross, at an altitude of c.80m AOD. The site lies on the edge of Penryn, with a parish road and the local Kingdom Hall immediately to the south. The Tremough Estate and the Cornwall Campus of the University of Exeter are located across the valley to the south.

The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the hornfelsed slates and siltstones of the Mylor Slate Formation (BGS 2016).

1.3 Historical Background

The site is located on the northern fringes of Penryn, immediately to the north-east of the Tremough Estate and on the edge of the historic ecclesiastical parish of Mabe. Tremough formed part of the Bishop of Exeter's manor of Treliever in 1066, and in 1208-13 *Tremoh* comprised two fiscal holdings of an acre and a half-acre Cornish. It was the seat of a family of the same name, descending by uncertain means to the Bloyes family of Penryn. It was sold in 1703 to John Worth Esq. (Sheriff of Cornwall in 1711) who created a deer park and constructed a mansion. This house is described as having fallen into ruins by 1817, and was extensively rebuilt in the second half of the 19th century by the Shilson family (see Jones & Lawson-Jones 2001; Gossip & Jones 2007). From 1870, William Shilson cultivated a nationally important rhododendron collection at the site.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The Historic Landscape Characterisation records the area as *Post-Medieval Farmland*, although the morphology of the adjacent fields suggest that they may be rationalisation of earlier enclosures. Approximately 250m to the south-west of the site geophysical survey revealed a large, rectilinear enclosure of late Iron Age/early Romano-British date at Tremough (MCO46489). Archaeological investigations at Tremough and at Penryn College have revealed an extensive relict landscape containing Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, and early medieval remains of regional importance (see Gossip 2008; 2011; Gossip & Jones 2007; 2009-10; Jones, Gossip & Quinnell 2015; Morris 2011; SWARCH *forthcoming*).

1.5 Methodology

This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice. The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (ClfA 2014) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2012).



Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated).

2.0 Desk-Based Assessment and Cartographic Analysis

2.1 Documentary History

The site lies immediately to the north-east of the medieval and post-medieval settlement and dwelling at Tremough. The history and development of Tremough has already been traced in some detail as part of the works preceding the construction and development of the Combined Universities of Cornwall Tremough Campus (see Jones & Lawson-Jones 2001), so only a synopsis of that information is presented here and the reader is directed to that publication for further information.

The place-name *Tremough* appears to mean “the estate of the swine” (Padel 1985, 167, 223), and is first documented in 1208-13 when it is used to refer to two unequal fiscal units of one acre and one half acre Cornish. In 1066 it formed part of the Bishop of Exeter’s manor of Treliiever, perhaps one of the thirty unnamed villein tenements mentioned in the Domesday Book (Thorn & Thorn 1979, 2). It is likely that, as a *tre* settlement, its origins actually lie further back in the early medieval period, as the archaeological evidence might now begin to show (see below).

It is assumed that the historic estate at Tremough, centred on the extant house, was largely bounded by natural topographical features and gave rise to a family of the same name. Its early recorded history is bound up with that of the estate immediately to the west – Carnsew – which was also one of the Bishop of Exeter’s holdings. Nicholas de Tremough was one of four leading parishioners noted in 1309, but Walter de Carnsew was their spokesman, and the documentary history indicates the Carnsews were expanding their holdings partly at the expense of the Tremoughs. Indeed, the Tremough family are not certainly linked to the settlement after 1538, which by 1571 was held by Sampson Roswarn.

That part of the holding held by Sampson Roswarn came by uncertain descent to the Bloyes family and was sold by two brothers – Roger and John – to John Worth in 1703. It is unclear whether the Bloyes family or John Worth was responsible for reuniting the several parts of the Tremough estate, which was still held from the manor of Carnsew in the early 18th century.

John Worth was the son of a Penryn merchant and rose to become High Sheriff in 1711. He is also likely to be responsible for rebuilding the house and arranging a polite landscape around it. The extravagances of his son left the estate heavily mortgaged and, following the deaths of John Worth junior and his daughter Bridget, it was sold in c.1775 to one Robert Crow.

Robert Crow appears to have bought the estate as an investment, as it was the residence of his steward Stephen Johns as late as 1798. The house briefly (1799-1802) housed Mr Benjamin Barwis’s Tremough Academy for 25 boys, before the Academy moved to alternative accommodation in Penryn. Subsequent descriptions of the house in the 1820s indicate it was much decayed.

The estate was sold in 1827 to John Tilly, a former naval officer and Packet captain from Falmouth. He was an enthusiastic agricultural improver, and may have been responsible for rationalising some of the field boundaries on the farm. His family (post 1840) is also probably responsible for the new barton farm and walled garden.

The estate was sold again in 1858 to Benjamin Samson, an industrialist whose money ultimately came from the profits of the Kennal Vale gunpowder works. Further additions – perhaps the lodge and the glass houses in the walled garden – were also made. The estate was bequeathed to his friend and solicitor William Shilson, who was responsible for the Italian garden and extensively

renovating the interior of the house. He was also responsible for at least eight new greenhouses, built to service his interest in the propagation of rhododendrons, which formed a nationally important collection.

The estate was let to tenants 1896-1926, mainly from military or naval backgrounds, and sold to the last tenant, Mountiford Longfield, who held it until 1943. It was purchased by the Order of 'les Filles de la Croix', who opened a convent school there on 16th September 1943. The convent school survived until 1998, when part of the Falmouth College of Art relocated to the site. From 2002, Tremough became the main campus of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC), and considerable, extensive and ongoing construction work commenced.

2.2 Cartographic Evidence

2.2.1 The 1811 Ordnance Surveyor's Draft Map

The earliest useful map is the 1811 OS surveyor's draft map (Figure 2). The layout of the fields as shown on these draft maps is usually representative rather than accurate, but does show the area around the site as fully enclosed by the early 19th century. The draft maps are a more reliable guide to farms and settlements – most of which are named – and thus is it significant that the farmstead at Packsaddle is *not* shown. Further down the valley a *blowing house* (i.e. smelting) is indicated.



Figure 2: Extract from the 1811 OS surveyor's draft map (BL) (the approximate location of the site is indicated).

2.2.2 The c.1840 Mabe Tithe Map

The tithe map (Figure 3) shows the site to form part of a field whose boundaries can still be traced today. The boundary of the Tremough Estate can clearly be seen to the south and south-west. No buildings are shown on the site, which forms one part of a larger field, one of several attached to the farmstead later dubbed Packsaddle.

2.2.3 First, Second and Revised Edition Ordnance Survey Maps

The 1st edition OS map of 1888 (Figure 4) indicates that there had been no change to the field containing the proposed site. To the north of the site the field boundaries appear unchanged, although an 'Old Quarry' is labelled in the field immediately to the north east, with three associated buildings. To the south of the site the landscape also appears fairly consistent with the tithe map.



Figure 3: Extract from the c.1840 Mabe tithe map; the approximate location of the site is indicated.

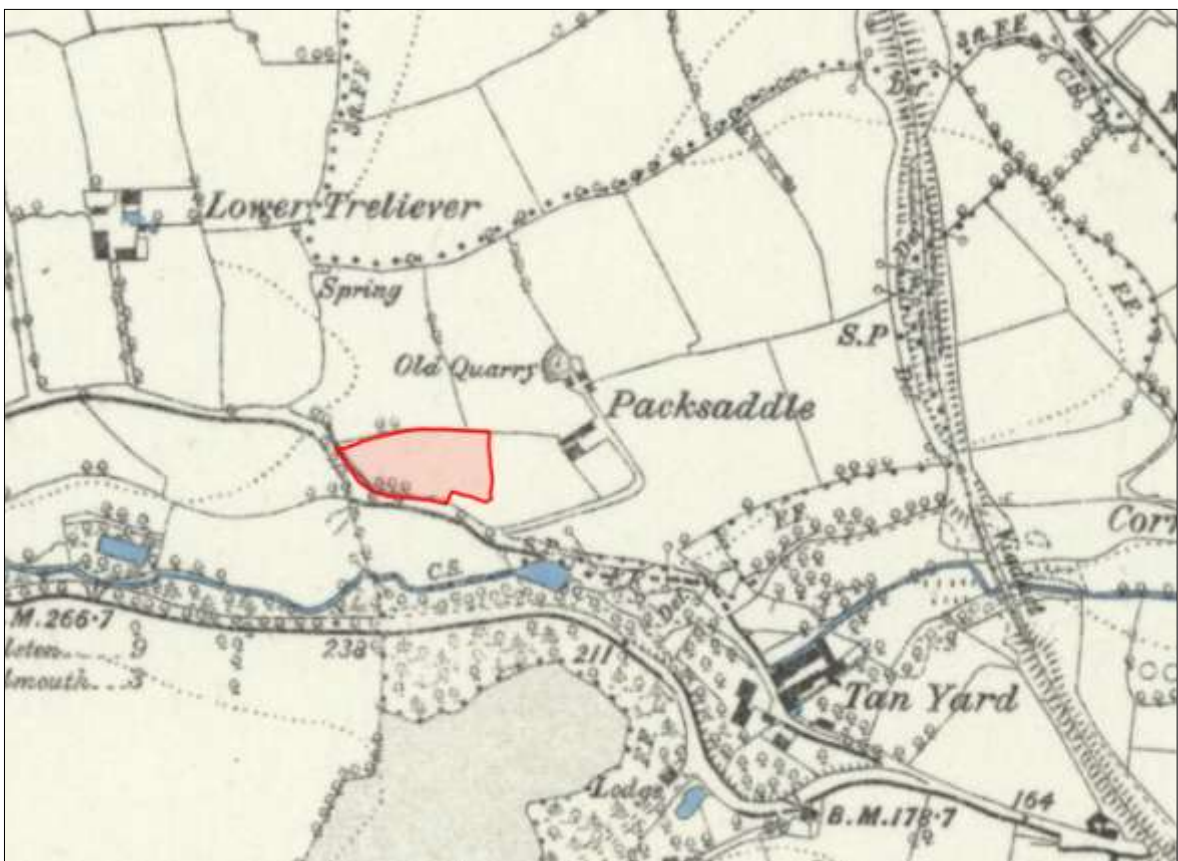


Figure 4: Extract from the 1888 1st edition OS map (CRO) (the location of the site is indicated).

There are very few changes evidenced on the 2nd and Revised edition OS maps of 1908 and 1945. All of the field boundaries survive. These maps do, however, show the growth and spread of Penryn.



Figure 5: Extract from the 1908 OS 2nd edition map (CRO) (the location of the site is indicated).

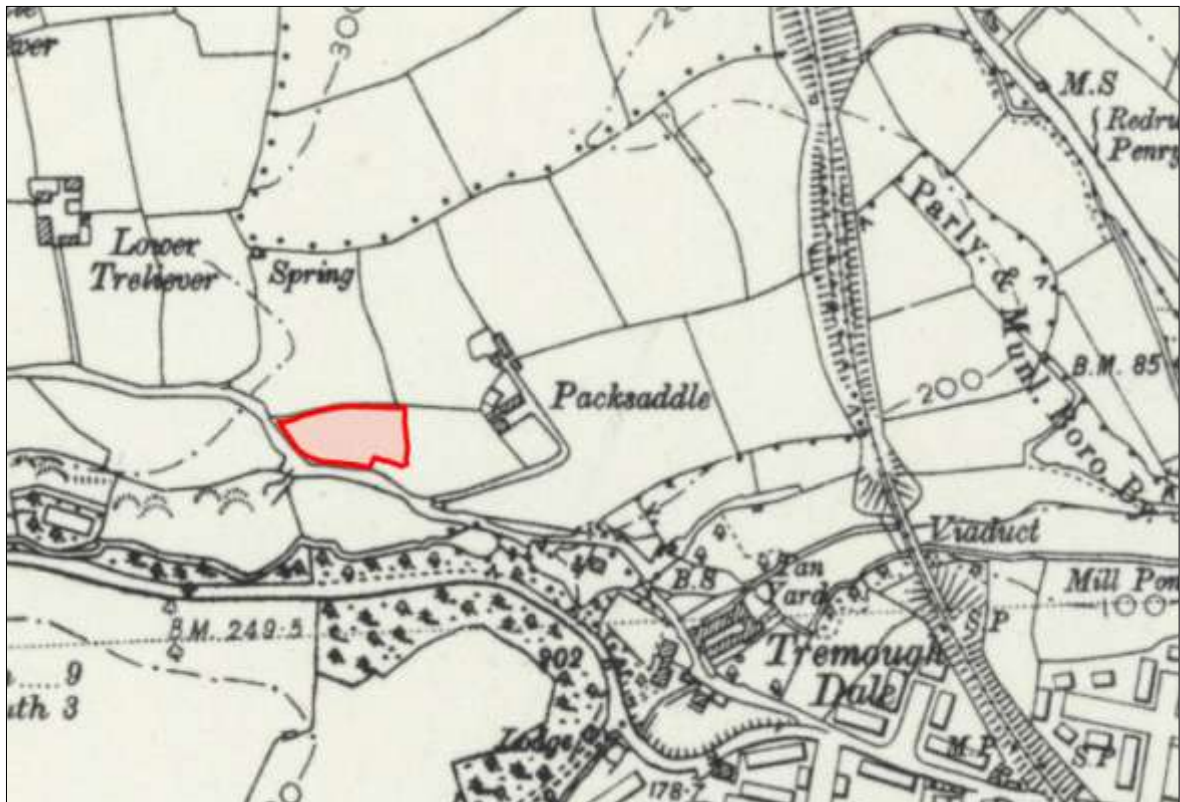


Figure 6: Extract from the 1945 Revised OS map (CRO) (the location of the site is indicated).

3.0 Archaeological Background

3.1 Baseline Data

During the early 21st century there have been a large number of archaeological excavations carried out south and south-west of the proposed site, largely arising due to the development of the Tremough University Campus. Packsaddle lies immediately to the north of the Tremough Estate boundary, and approximately 250m from a large sub-rectangular enclosure of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date identified by geophysical survey. Development across areas further to the south and south-west have demonstrated the survival of a relict Prehistoric landscape of surprising complexity and regional importance (see Gossip 2008; Gossip & Jones 2007; 2009-10; Jones, Gossip & Quinnell 2015; Morris 2011; SWARCH *forthcoming*). The Cornwall HER contains a fairly complete record of the known sites, finds and events in the general vicinity of the site (see Figure 7 and Table 1).

3.1.1 Prehistoric 4000BC - AD43

The evidence for Prehistoric activity and occupation in the immediate area is particularly plentiful. Excavations by CAU and SWARCH beneath and adjacent to the Tremough Campus, and at Penryn College, have revealed Neolithic pits, early Bronze Age Beaker burials, six Middle Bronze Age sunken-featured roundhouses, five Bronze Age timber circles or roundhouses, a rare late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosed settlement, a triple-ditched circular enclosure of Prehistoric or early Romano-British date, a large sub-rectangular enclosure of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (see Figure 7), and traces of an Iron Age fieldsystem. Even for Cornwall, this represents an unusually high density of significant archaeological features.

3.1.2 Romano-British AD43 - AD410

The excavations at Tremough included a C-shaped enclosure with an unusual post-built structure at the centre, dating from the late 2nd to 4th century AD. The final fills of the triple-ditched enclosure and large sub-rectangular enclosure also produced early Roman pottery, indicating that they were still visible as earthworks at that date.

3.1.3 Early Medieval AD410 - AD1066

Documentary and place-name evidence would suggest Tremough and Treliever are early medieval in origin. Excavations at Tremough identified a post-built structure associated with Bar-lug pottery dating to the 7th-10th century (Gossip 2011). Bar-lug pottery is itself hardly common, and its association with a structure of this type is almost unknown. Many of the settlements – particularly those associated with the place-name elements *lan* and *tre* – were established during this period, as was the ecclesiastical geography.

3.1.4 Medieval AD1066 - AD1540

The fieldsystem in this area was broadly established during the medieval period, as was the settlement pattern. Penryn was established by the Bishops of Exeter in the 13th century, and the College at Glasney in Penryn was an importance social and economic actor in the local area. Monitoring carried out at sites in Penryn has recorded medieval finds.

3.1.5 Post-Medieval AD1540-

A number of post-medieval sites have been identified by the HER in this area, but its coverage is not particularly comprehensive. Those the east of the site relate to the railway, opened in 1863. To the west, they relate to the post-medieval toll houses along the road and quarrying activity. To the south and south-west, the sites are mostly Listed buildings and sites relating to industry.

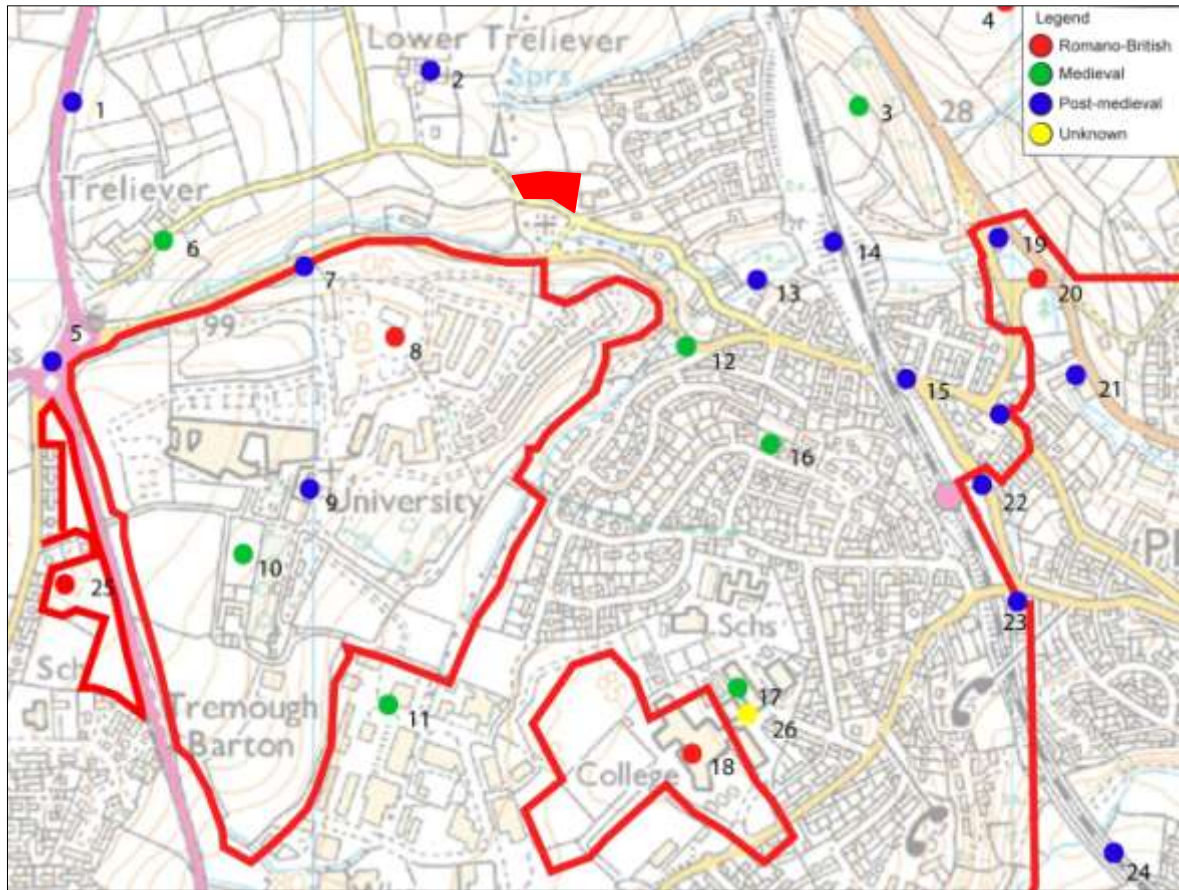


Figure 7: Nearby heritage assets (source: Cornwall HER) (the site is indicated).

No.	Mon ID.	Name	Record	Info
1	MCO55274	Treliever – post-medieval milestone	Milestone	The site of a milestone ‘Truro 7½ Helston 9’ is recorded on the east side of the A39, NW of Treliever. It is possibly lost.
2	MCO54035	Lower Treliever settlement	Settlement	The settlement of Treliever is first recorded in 1086, now divided into Lower Treliever and Higher Treliever.
3	MCO34646	Medieval field boundary	Cropmark	The fieldsystem to the north of Penryn, between Brown’s Hill Road and the railway, is considered likely to be of medieval origin.
4	MCO34582	Bellvue Round	Cropmark	A curvilinear banked enclosure, 40m by 35m, is visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs.
5	MCO52544	Treliever Cross Toll House	Demolished Structure	The site of a toll house at Treliever Cross which formed part of the Falmouth to Marazion turnpike road of 1760.
6	MCO14965	Treliever early medieval settlement	Settlement	The settlement of Treliever is first recorded in 1086, when it is spelt ‘Trelivel’.
7	MCO55273	Treliever – post-medieval milestone	Documentary Evidence	A milestone is recorded on the south side of this road. SE of Treliever ‘Helston 9 Falmouth 3’.
8	MCO46489	Tremough – Prehistoric enclosure	Sub surface deposit	Geophysical survey revealed the outlines of a large rectilinear enclosure on a hilltop site in the grounds of Tremough House.
9	MCO52981	Tremough – post-medieval house, modern religious house, modern school	Extant Structure	Tremough House. Early to Mid C18th. Built for John Worth. Re-used as Convent and School. Recently reused as part of Exeter University’s Combined Campus in Cornwall with new build in grounds to north and north east c.2000.
10	MCO17548	Tremough – early medieval settlement, medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement and manor of Tremough is first recorded in 1208-1213.
11	MCO33907	Tremough Barton – medieval water meadow, post-medieval water meadow	Cropmark	Parallel linear ditches are visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs along the western side of Tremough Barton.

12	MCO54063	Medieval blowing house	Documentary Evidence	'Blowing House' is recorded at this approximate location on the 1 st Edition OS map c.1809, but it is not recorded on subsequent OS maps.
13	MCO29021	Post-medieval tannery	Documentary Evidence	A tan yard near Penryn is recorded at this location on the 1 st Edition 1:2500 OS map c.1880 and from the modern OS Mastermap it appears that the buildings have been lost.
14	MCO54779	Post-medieval railway viaduct	Extant Structure	The piers of the Cornwall Railway timber viaduct of 1863.
15	MCO54780	Treliever Road – post-medieval railway bridge	Extant Structure	A bridge carrying the line of the Cornwall Railway over the public road.
16	MCO21295	Penryn – medieval fieldsystem	Documentary Evidence	A strip field system is visible on aerial photographs on the east side of Penryn.
17	MCO33886	Penryn – historic field boundary	Cropmark	A bank and ditched field boundary, visible as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1950, now lies under Penryn School.
18	MCO56834	Penryn College – Neolithic pits	Excavated Feature	A group of pits of Neolithic date were revealed during excavation at Penryn College, Penryn.
19	MCO29022	Penryn – post-medieval corn mill	Documentary Evidence	A corn mill to the north of Penryn is recorded on the Tithe map of 1844, redeveloped in 1930. The site is now occupied by flats.
20	MCO41886	Penryn – Neolithic findspot	Find	Stone finds recovered from fields to the north-east of Penryn.
21	MCO28994	Penryn – post-medieval corn mill	Documentary Evidence	A corn mill in Penryn is recorded on the tithe map of 1844 when it was occupied by G. Grade.
22	MCO54781	Penryn – post-medieval railway station	Extant Structure	Penryn railway station was rebuilt by the GWR in the 1920s.
23	MCO54782	Kernick Road – post-medieval railway bridge	Extant Structure	A bridge carrying the public road over the line of the Cornwall Railway.
24	MCO45806	College Wood – post-medieval railway viaduct	Extant Structure	Masonry piers of the original Cornwall Railway timber viaduct of 1863.
25	Unlisted	Mabe	Excavated Features	Archaeological excavation of remains of four Middle Bronze Age roundhouses and Beaker period cremations.
26	MCO54388	Penryn – modern school	Extant Structure	County Secondary School. Built 1961, by County architect F. K. Hicklin.

Table 1: Table of nearby heritage assets (source: Cornwall HER)

3.2 Walkover Survey

The site of the proposed development was inspected by E. Wapshott in April 2016, and any features of archaeological significance noted, described and photographed (see Appendix 1).

The site lies at the western end of a field with irregular curving boundaries, located immediately to the north of Packsaddle Hill, on the north-western outskirts of Penryn. The site lies on a south-facing slope, on the north side of a valley. Across the valley to the south is the Tremough University Campus.

A narrow lane ('Packsaddle Hill') runs along the southern and western boundary of the site, and is flanked by mature hedgebanks topped with mature trees. South of this road there is a large gravelled yard and Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall. East of the site there is a large mid 20th century bungalow and an early 20th century house and garage/barn. Access to these buildings appears to be via the concrete driveway that runs along the northern boundary of the site. To the north-west are the fields and farmyard of Lower Treliever Farm.

There is a single gateway onto the lane in the south-west corner of the field, with curving walls of dressed granite blocks bonded with cement flanking a wide gateway with a cattle grid. The walls have a distinctive local vernacular appearance, more typically associated with mine sites in the area, but appear recent in date. The gates are of modern timber. A wide concrete track runs along the northern boundary of the site, and is terraced 4-5m into the slope. At the back of the terrace

is a tall exposed rock face with a fence above, with a plantation of trees in the fields beyond. The road is flanked by a line of street lamps. A review of readily-available aerial photographs shows the interior of the site to be covered in trees of mixed species, and more mature than the plantation to the north. The aerial photography would suggest this area was allowed to become heavily overgrown between 2006 and 2009, with the driveway becoming barely visible; by 2013 the area has been completely cleared.



Figure 8: View along the driveway in the north of the site, with former street lighting; from the west.



Figure 9: The southern slopes of the platform, showing the dense vegetation; from the south-west.

In the centre of the site, the ground has been built up to the base of the terraced slope, forming a level central platform. This platform has a very steep slope on its southern side; this is retained by a concrete wall with drains to the east, and by a shallow concrete curb to the north and west. This area is wholly overgrown by dense scrub and brambles, making it very difficult to discern the nature of the ground surface. However, the relatively-modern terracing would suggest the original ground surface and any archaeological deposits are deeply buried.

To the south and along the western side the natural slope of the site appears to have survived. The grass here was long and scrubby, with weeds, rushes and lilies, indicating it is poorly drained and/or that garden waste containing live plants/seeds has been dumped here. The surface of the field is very uneven, with evidence of tipped rubbish and spoil. There are several clear dumps of rubble and building demolition waste against the western hedgebank.

Views out from the field are largely restricted by trees to the north and west, but are more open towards the town to the east. There are clear views above the tree line to the University Campus buildings. Rising ground with trees and hedgebanks to the west blocks views through to Lower Treliiever Farm and beyond.

3.3 Archaeological Potential

As should be apparent from the description, no earthworks or significant archaeological features were noted during the site inspection. If they are present, archaeological deposits could only survive beneath the raised platform and on the southern and western parts of the site. Given the proximity of the regionally-importance relict Prehistoric landscape at Tremough, and the fact that Packsaddle sits on a south-facing slope, it is not improbable that Prehistoric or Romano-British remains may be present. However, it is unlikely they would be of comparable complexity or importance, and the site has already been subject to considerable ground disturbance. Thus the archaeological potential of the site is deemed to be *low*.

4.0 Conclusion

Archaeological work carried out in and around Penryn over the last two decades has revealed a complex multi-period landscape of regional importance. Structures and finds assemblages dating to the Prehistoric period are particularly well represented. The site itself lies in an area of medieval settlement and fields, so evidence relating to this period could be expected.

However, the walkover survey demonstrates that the northern part of the site has been heavily terraced, by up to 5m in places, and this would have removed any archaeological features or artefactual remains in this area. The central part of the site has been built up and – should archaeological features be present – they would have been deeply buried. The southern and western parts of the field appear to follow the natural slope of the former field, and thus there is some potential, but even here there has been disturbance/tipping, and no archaeological earthworks or other remains were observed.

In summary, despite the presence of the regionally-importance relict Prehistoric landscape at Tremough, the valley slopes at Packsaddle are unlikely to conceal archaeological deposits of comparable complexity or importance, and have already been subject to considerable ground disturbance. Therefore the archaeological potential of the site is deemed to be *low*.

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Mabe Tithe Map c.1840

APPENDIX 1: BASELINE PHOTOGRAPHS



View down Packsaddle Hill from the entrance to the site; from the north-west.



View up Packsaddle Hill from the entrance to the site; from the south-south-east.



The entrance to the site, off Packsaddle Hill, showing the wide splayed opening and concrete road; from the west.



The northern boundary of the site, showing how the upper northern half of the site has been steeply terraced into the slope to make a driveway to the houses to the east; from the west-south-west.



The western side of the site, showing the historic curving hedgebank with mature trees; from the north.



The southern boundary of the site, showing the curving historic hedgebank and the waterlogged areas with rushes and lilies; from the west.



View through the southern hedgebank across the road to the bottom of the valley; from the north.



View along the southern boundary of the site to the west, where the natural slope of the hillside has survived and the ground appears less disturbed; from the east.



View across one of the large flat concrete areas, with the street lighting visible; from the west.



The dense undergrowth at the centre of the site; from the north-north-west.



View from the central platform, showing the uneven and disturbed ground and the dense undergrowth; from the east.



View across the level platform, looking down into the valley, showing how it has raised the ground level above that of the mature trees along the lane; from the north.



View of the houses to the east, accessed via the road crossing the site; from the west.



The sloping driveway leading to one of the houses, giving an indication of the natural slope on the site; from the north.



As above; from the north-west.



The concrete wall with drainage that has been installed to retain the made ground; from the north-east.



The northern half of the site, showing the terracing; from the east.



View across the site to the University Campus buildings across the valley; from the north-east.



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