



Site Name: Land off St. Mewan Lane, St Mewan, Cornwall	Planning reference: PA15/08809
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 99715 52511	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: St Mewan	OASIS Ref.: Southwes1_270976.
Site Type: Archaeological strip, map and recording in advance of residential development	
Period: Undated / Modern	Form: Archaeological strip, map and recording event

Description: Archaeological strip, map and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Jane Hamlyn of Atelier 3 (the Agent) on behalf of Mike Jeffs of Gilbert & Goode (the Client) prior to groundworks associated with the residential development of land off St. Mewan Lane, Trewoon, St Mewan, Cornwall. The work was carried out by P. Webb between 21st and 24th June 2017 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, and follows on from a desk-based assessment and walkover survey carried out in 2015 (Bampton & Hosegood 2015).

The site is located to the east of St. Mewan Lane on the southern outskirts of the village of Trewoon, itself to the west of St. Austell. The site comprises a single rectangular field on the western side of a gently-sloping hillside at a height of between 85m and 95m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils over slate of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the Hornsfield slate and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group (BGS 2017). The site lies in an area of Medieval Farmland, part of the Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL) designation. No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site itself, though monitoring to the north at Carne Hill (Kirkham 2011), and geophysical survey and evaluation trenching to the south at Coyte Farm (Thacker 2012) have identified historic field systems and Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.

The site strip comprised the excavation of a roughly rectangular area orientated approximately east by west, measuring 140mx45m. Excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to the depth of weathered natural, between 0.30m and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (001), dark brown soft friable silt-clay c.0.20-0.35m deep; overlying a lower topsoil/old plough soil (002), mid brown friable-soft silt-clay c.0.10-0.35m thick; a patchy subsoil (003), mid orange-brown soft friable clay-silt up to 0.10m thick; and the natural yellow-orange-brown compacted silt-clay with frequent shillet.

Six features were identified: ditches [004], and [006]; probable ditches [009], and [011]; pit [023]; and post-hole [026]. Ditch [004], aligned north-north-east by south-south-west, measured 38+m x 0.55m and was 0.18m deep with steep sides and flat base. It contained a single fill: (005), mid brown soft clay. Ditch [006], aligned east by west, measured 40+m x 1m x 0.70m deep with near vertical sides and flat base. It contained two fills: (007), (008), mid brown and yellow-brown soft silt-clays, the basal fill having common sub-angular stone. Possible ditches [009], and [011] did not survive below lower plough soil (002), only being identified in the north site section. Feature [009] measured 0.60m wide x 0.20m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill: (010), mid slightly grey-brown clay-silt. Feature [011] measured 0.30m wide x 0.12m deep with steep to near vertical sides and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill: (012), mid slightly grey-brown clay silt.

Pit [023] was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.55m in diameter x 0.56m deep with near vertical to moderate sloping sides. It contained two fills: (024), (025), grey-brown soft clays. Post-hole [026] was an irregular sub-oval in plan, measuring up to 0.50m in diameter x 0.08m deep with moderate to shallow sloping sides and concave base. It contained two fills: (027), (028), grey-brown soft clays, the lower fill containing charcoal flecks.

An additional series of east to west aligned features, appearing intermittently across the site, and measuring up to 0.50m wide and up to 0.10m deep with shallow sloping sides and concave bases. All were filled with lower plough soil (002) and are likely to reflect the historic or modern ploughing of the site.

Find: A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered from the sites topsoil (001). It included: 33 sherds (176g) of 19th century white refined earthenware; 4 sherds (107g) of 19th-20th century English stoneware; 1 sherd (12g) of 19th-20th century industrial ware; 3 sherds (100g) of flowerpot; 1 sherd (9g) of 18th century calcareous pottery; 9 fragments (55g) of modern bottle glass; and 1 fragment (8g) of animal bone. All finds were subsequently discarded.

Conclusion: All of the features remain undated, though given the position of possible ditches [009], and [011], these are likely to form the remains of a post-medieval field boundary identified on historic mapping. Ditches [004], and [006] run perpendicular to each other and may form part of the same undated field-system, though [004] is more sinuous and survives only to a shallower

depth. This potential field-system lies on a slightly alternative alignment to the existing field-system, and may therefore predate it. Its alignment is also similar to that identified in the geophysical survey at Coyte Farm, and it is likely to form part of this system.

Bibliography:

Bampton, J. & Hosegood, V. 2015: *Land off St. Mewan Lane, Trewoon, St. Mewan, Cornwall: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment & Walkover Survey*. SWARCH Report No. 150216.

Boyd, N. 2016: *Land off St. Mewan Lane, Trewoon, St. Mewan, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation*. SWARCH Report No. SMT16WSlv1.

British Geological Survey 2016: *Geology of Britain Viewer*. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 29.06.2017].

Kirkham, G. 2011: *Land at Carne Hill, Trewoon, St. Mewan, Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CAU Report No. 2011R062.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*.

Thacker, G. 2012: *Coyte Farm St. Austell: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. OA Job No. 5449.

Land Use (Area): Settlement

Land Use (Site): Agricultural to become Domestic Property

Date of Site Visit: 21-24/06/17

Recorder's name, address and phone number: P. Webb, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH

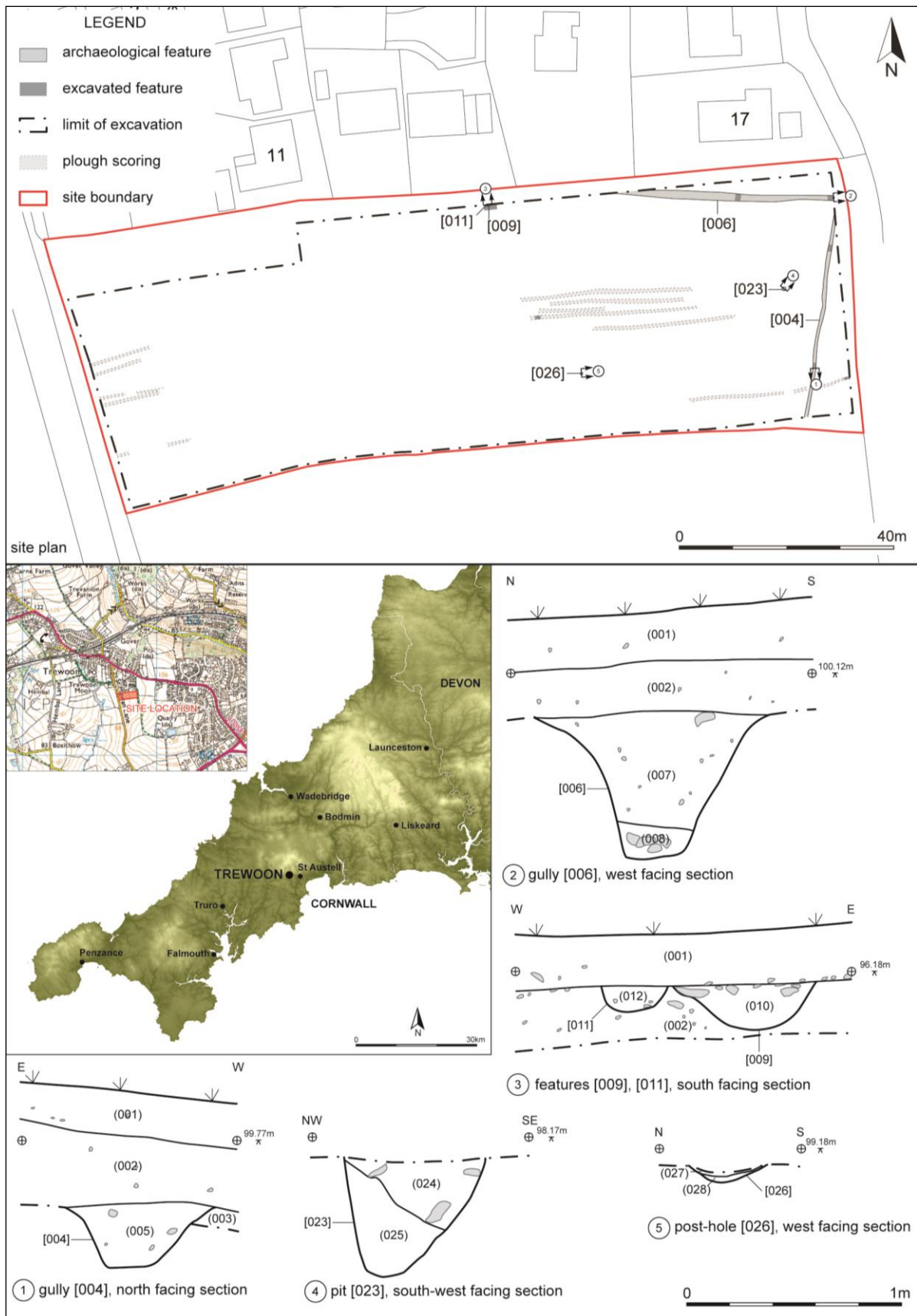


Figure 1: Site location, plan and sections. Levels based on an arbitrary TBM of 100m AOD.



Figure 2: East end of site strip, showing ditch [004]; viewed from the south (1m & 2m scales).

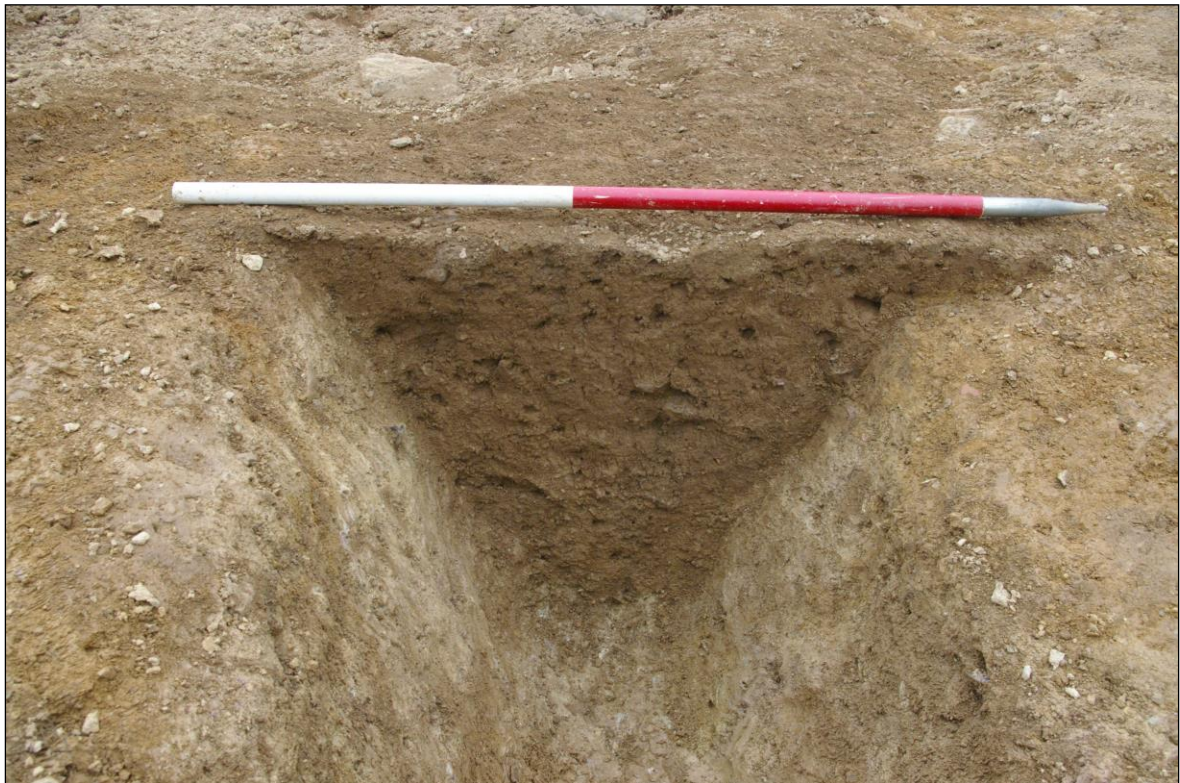


Figure 3: Ditch [006], west facing section; viewed from the west (1m scale).