

LAND OFF TREVARRICK ROAD ST. AUSTELL CORNWALL

Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring & Recording



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 170623

Land off Trevarrick Road, St. Austell, Cornwall Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

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Report Version 01
23rd June 2017

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Steve and Tricia Juleff (The Clients)

Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Land off Trevarrick Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, on behalf of Mr Steve Juleff (the Client). This work was undertaken in advance of, and during, the development of the site, in the fulfilment of a planning condition and follows on from an earlier appraisal of the site undertaken by SWARCH (2016).

The preservation and condition of the structures on the site made it difficult to be conclusive regarding function and phasing, but it is clear that a major reorganisation of the site took place between 1840 and 1878x81. Building 4, which may have been built prior to 1840, was clearly of some quality, with good stonework and dressed granite quoins. The other structures were less well built implying subsequent investment was less for display and more for function. The site had been terraced into the slope and no earlier archaeological features were noted during the monitoring.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND OFF TREVARRICK ROAD
PARISH:	ST. AUSTELL
COUNTY:	CORNWALL
NGR:	SX 00669 52421
SWARCH REF:	ATR17
PLANNING APPLICATION:	PA16/09743

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Steve and Tricia Juleff (The Client) to undertake historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Land off Trevarrick Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. This work was undertaken in advance of, and during, the development of the site, and follows in from an earlier appraisal of the site (SWARCH 2016).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located west of St Austell town centre within the Trevarrick area, on an east-facing slope overlooking the St Austell River at an altitude of c.65m AOD (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are listed by SSEW as urban, but were probably once the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the hornfelsed slates and sandstones of the Meadfoot Group (BGS 2016).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site contains a series of conjoined outbuildings that were once belonged to Trevarrick House and an adjacent farm, both in the ownership of the magistrate and JP Robert Gould Lakes (1813-1900). He also created the extensive gardens around Trevarrick House, now lost beneath housing associated with the 20th century expansion of St Austell. The Lakes family appear to have been of humble origins, listed as dyers who happened to own a tenement at Trevarrick in the 17th century. Trevarrick itself is first recorded in the 14th century. An estate map of 1776 shows the proposed site as lying on the eastern edge of three narrow strip fields. A desk-based assessment and walkover survey carried out by SWARCH (SWARCH 2016) identified the upstanding remains of farmbuildings that appeared to be 19th century in date. The site was heavily overgrown at the time of the survey, prompting a recommendation for further recording.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The recording work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2017) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (SDOHE). The additional building recording and archaeological monitoring were conducted by Dr Bryn Morris and Emily Wapshott in June 2017 and follows the guidance outlined in: ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014, Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Processes* (2016)) and ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

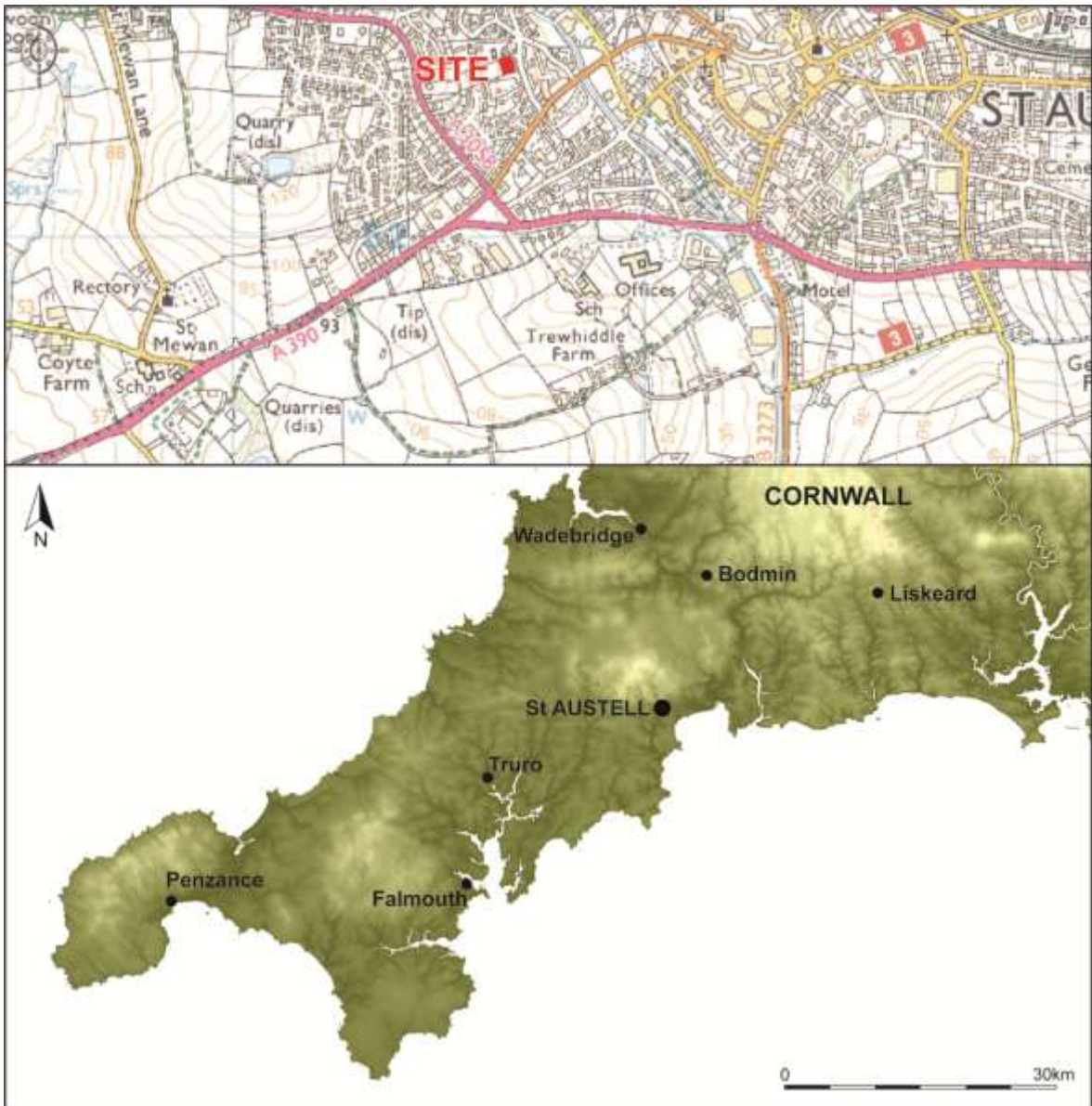


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP. THE SITE IS INDICATED.

2.0 DESK-BASED APPRAISAL

A full desk-based assessment was carried out by SWARCH in 2016. In summary, the proposed site is located the formerly extensive ancient parish of St Austell; the closest settlement of any antiquity is Trevarrick, first documented in 1332 as *Trevarthek*, perhaps meaning ‘high estate’ (Padel 1985). The plot is located within the former open strip fields attached to a medieval hamlet at Trevarrick, itself a parcel of the Manor of Tregrehan. It was owned by the prominent 19th century Lakes family. Robert Gould Lakes was a magistrate and JP, and he created the extensive polite landscape that surrounded Trevarrick House and extended to the south almost as far as the turnpike road. The proposed site contains part of the mowhay and some of the outbuildings associated with the House, and also the farmbuildings attached to the adjacent farm.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1878x1881 OS 1:25" SCALE MAP, PUBLISHED IN 1881 (CORNWALL SHEET L.8). THE SITE IS INDICATED. THE GLASSHOUSES AND POLITE GARDENS ATTACHED TO TREVARRICK HOUSE (RIGHT) AND MILLS (TOP RIGHT) ARE VISIBLE.

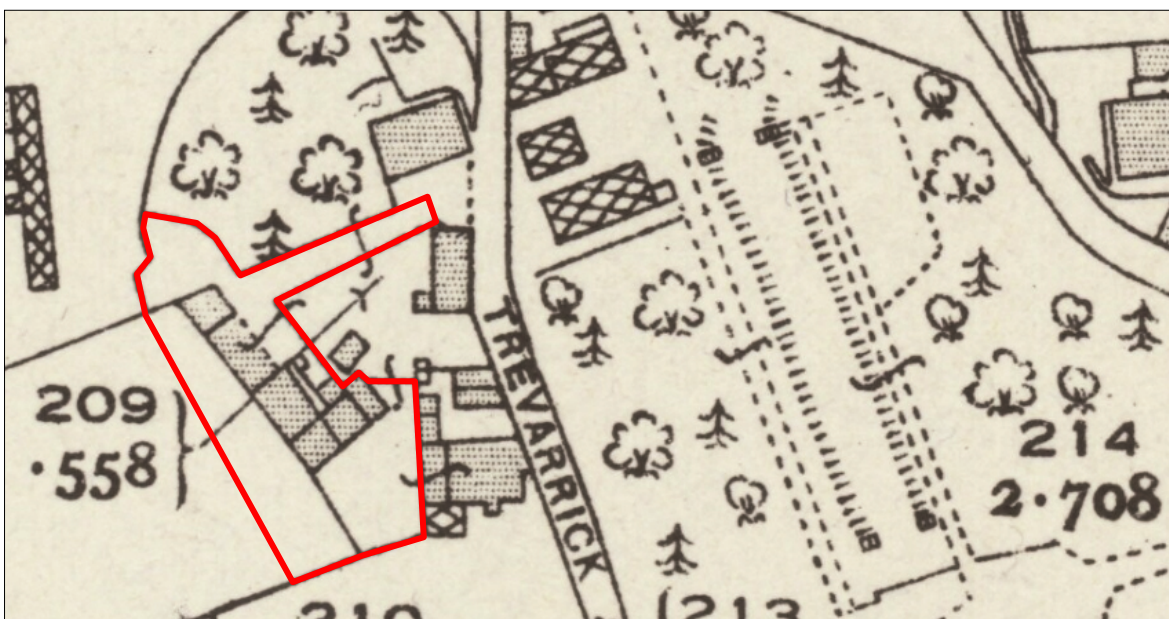


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1932x1933 OS 1:25" SCALE MAP, PUBLISHED IN 1934 (CORNWALL SHEET L.8). THIS IS THE LAYOUT OF THE SITE AS OBSERVED IN 2016x17. THE HISTORIC FARM BUILDINGS ARE INDICATED.

3.0 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is accessed via a short narrow lane leading off Trevarrick Road, and covers an area approximately 800m² in extent. The original walkover survey was undertaken when the site was largely concealed by undergrowth (buddleia, brambles etc.); the follow-up survey was undertaken following the clearance of vegetation by machine. This made identifying the structures easier, but there was still an issue with ivy concealing features, and the fact the floors of the structures were buried beneath up to c.1m of rubble.

The site is bounded by modern wooden fences to the north-west, west and south-west, a thin hedge and the back wall of B6 to the south, the gable of no.38 Trevarrick Road to the south-east, and a thin hedge and stone wall to the east. The site itself now includes part of the field to the rear (west) of the original farmyard, and the buildings are terraced into the slope by up to 1m.

The upstanding remains of the structures shown on the historic OS maps are very apparent: the rear (west) walls of B1-B2 stands to an internal height of 2.5m, with a stone-built stair to first floor with adjacent wall standing to eaves height with guttering (c.4m); this part of the wall was demolished immediately as it was very precarious. Most of the walls were less well preserved and stood to a height of only c.1m. In the descriptions below, numbers in square brackets [2] refer to Figure 5.

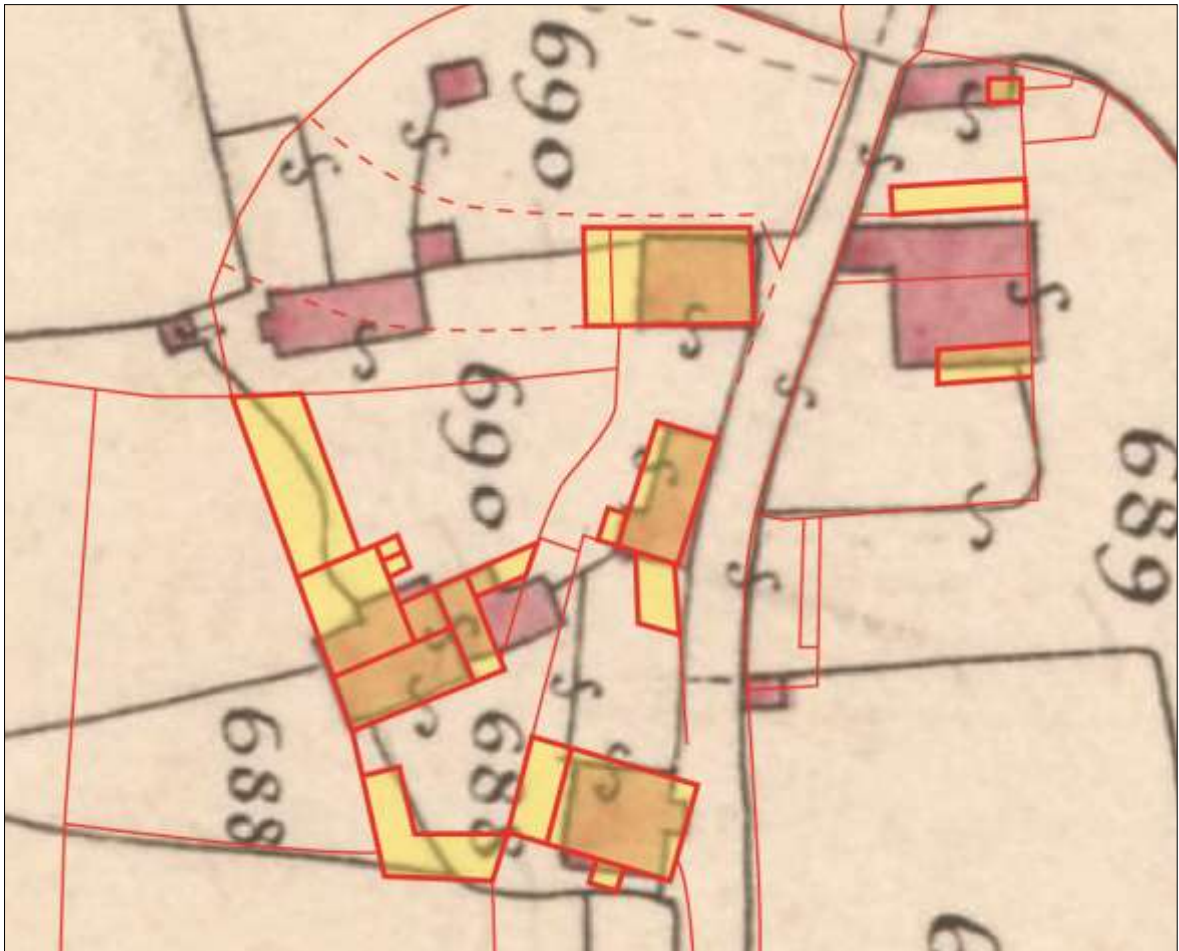







FIGURE 4: COMPOSITE MAP SHOWING THE LAYOUT OF THE SITE IN 1878 OVERLAID ON THE 1840 ST AUSTELL TITHE MAP.

LEGEND

-  blocked opening
-  brick
-  concrete
-  slate
-  stone

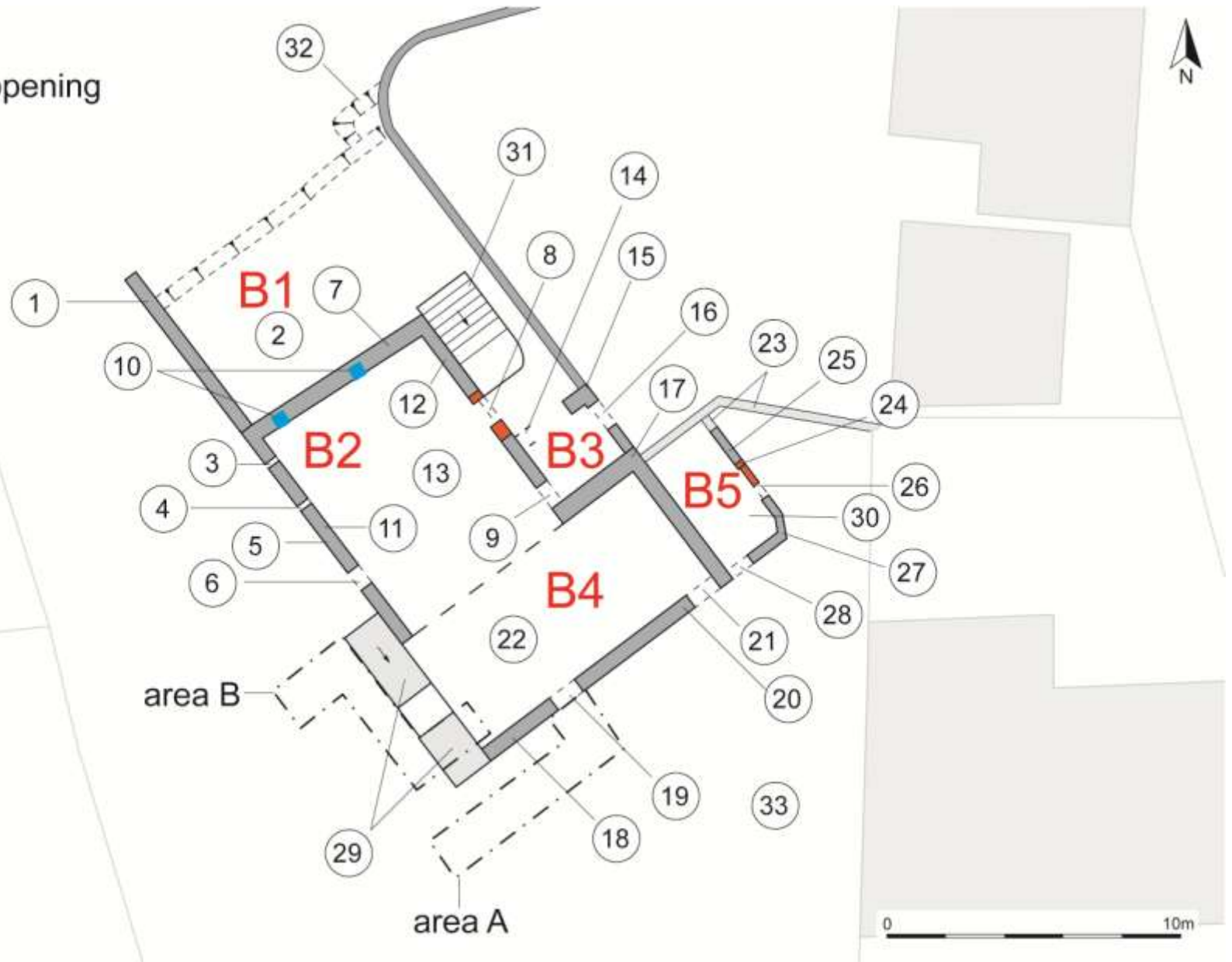


FIGURE 5: SITE PLAN SHOWING DETAIL OF BUILDING RECORDING.

3.1 BUILDING RECORDING

3.1.1 BUILDING 1

Only the rear wall [1] of B1 survived; this was of mixed stone rubble construction bonded with a lime mortar, surviving to a height of c.2m. The walls were of poorly-sorted heterogeneous stone rubble laid in clear courses; this wall appeared to abut the wall of B2. The northern half of this structure had been demolished, and internal floor levels raised [2], to facilitate access to the rear of the property. In the north-east corner [32] concrete blocks had been used to create a short flight of steps.



FIGURE 6: THE SURVIVING WEST WALL OF B1; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.

3.1.2 BUILDING 2

The west, north and east walls of B2 were of poorly-sorted stone rubble with poor quoins bonded with a white lime mortar [7]. The building appears to have been open to B4 to the south. The external face of the west wall [5] was of slightly better quality and contained larger but less regular stone blocks. The internal face of the west wall [11] appears to have been plastered; the internal face of the east wall appears to have been plastered and whitewashed [12]. The west wall, which survived to a height of c.1.6m, contained a series of openings, all of which had been crudely blocked in stone. To the north was a former window opening [3], with a ventilation slit [4] and a blocked doorway [6] to the south; the window and doorway featured granite quoins. The east wall featured two doorways; the northern doorway [8] was partly blocked by the external stairs, and the opening was crudely extended to the south; both sides of this doorway were blocked or rebuilt in pale pink and white brick. This was later blocked with two large granite slabs set vertically like orthostats. The second doorway was crudely blocked in stone rubble [9]. Where this wall was supported by the external steps it survived up to original eaves height (c.4m) and a section of cast-iron guttering and downspout were noted *in situ*. The internal floor level was buried by up to c.1m of rubble [13], with a spread of thin blue roof slate with single peg holes noted towards the northern end [10]. Abutting the external north-east corner of B2 was a set of stairs to the first floor level [31], built of large and poorly-constructed heterogeneous stone blocks

bonded with a lime mortar with a stone rubble core. The treads of the steps were comprised of single granite slabs 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m wide and 0.25m thick.



FIGURE 7: THE INTERIOR OF B2; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



FIGURE 8: THE GRANITE STEPS LEADING UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR OF B2; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.

3.1.3 BUILDING 3

B3 was a tiny single room formed in the angle of the walls of B2 and B4. The north wall of B3 was of clay-bonded stone rubble construction and had partly collapsed [14][15]. The east wall of B3 may have been clay-bonded and featured a wide doorway [16] blocked with stone; the blocking contained some concrete block. The floors of B3 were covered by stone rubble.



FIGURE 9: B3, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

3.1.4 BUILDING 4

The west and east walls of B4 were largely concealed by rubble. The north and south walls were of good quality, constructed of large angular slatestone slabs laid in courses with minimal mortar [18]. The corners and reveals featured dressed squared granite quoins [17]. The south wall stood to a height of c.1.6m with a clear lean to the south [20]; excavation determined there were no foundations. There were two openings in the south wall. The first doorway was just off-centre [19], with good granite quoins and a fallen granite lintel that featured incised lines designed to mimic voussoirs. The quoins featured pintle holes, presumably for hinges. The second doorway [21] was at the eastern end and featured granite quoins only to the western reveal. The internal area was buried beneath c.1m of rubble [22]; removal of the rubble revealed the internal face of the south wall featured a thick layer of whitewash, and produced several cast iron hoppers and downspouts. Excavation determined the floor was of concrete overlying the natural, and the lack of scarring would suggest this was the original floor surface. Abutting B4 to the west was the remains of a concrete ramp leading to a flat platform [29] with retaining walls of concrete block. To the south of B4 is a terraced yard area surfaced with tarmac scalping.

3.1.5 BUILDING 5

B5 was constructed abutting B4. The north wall is a late subdivision of the site from the garden of the adjoining property, and is built of rendered concrete block [23]. The east and south wall of B5 is of stone rubble bonded with a white lime mortar [25]; the south-east corner has been awkwardly cut back at an angle [27]. There is doorway in the south wall [28], and a blocked doorway in the east wall; the original reveal featured brick quoins [24], and was narrowed in brick and then blocked in stone [26]. The internal space is largely filled with rubble [30].

3.1.6 ARCHITECTURAL SPOLIA

A few architectural fragments were noted around the site, namely a granite quoin cut down from a millstone, and a fragment of granite windowsill.



FIGURE 10: THE WESTERN DOORWAY [19] IN THE SOUTH WALL OF B4, WITH SHAPED LINTEL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).

3.2 FUNCTION AND PHASING OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The exact function of B1-5 is difficult to reconstruct from the available evidence. B1 was an open-fronted structure, so was presumably either a cartshed or a lincage. The external steps to B2 would suggest a granary at first-floor level, but as the steps were added later this would not have been the original function. The quality of the stonework for B4 would suggest a structure built partly for show, and perhaps coeval with the rebuilding of Trevarrick House; the original approach (as evident on the tithe map) was from the south-east, and thus this would have been the presentation elevation. That being the case, we might speculate this was a stable.

In terms of phasing, the walls of B1, B5 and the steps about the walls of B2 and B4, indicating that they are later. However, the survival and condition of all the structures on the site, and the vegetation that covers them, makes further discussion of phasing based on observed relationships difficult. The buildings appear to have been slighted, probably in the latter half of the 20th century. The south wall of B4 lacks foundations and leans out at a noticeable angle, and it was probably deemed unsafe and demolished.

A comparison of the 1840 tithe map and the 1881 OS map would suggest B4 was built before the other structures on the site, but that B3 may also incorporate elements of the earlier buildings on the site. It is clear the whole settlement was reorganised sometime between 1840 and 1878x81 (see Figure 4), and the remains of most of the structures currently on the site were built during that period in a series of sub-phases.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Archaeological monitoring took place the 21st June 2017; the weather was fine and sunny. A mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket was used to dig the foundations for a new house; this entailed removing the rubble backfill from the southern part of B4 and demolishing its wall (details incorporated into the discussion above). The site had been terraced into the slope, and the stiff yellow clayey natural was observed just below the tarmac yard surface, and beneath a layer of made ground (building rubble) to the west. No earlier archaeological features were observed.



FIGURE 11: THE EXCAVATION OF THE FOUNDATIONS WEST OF B4; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The remains of the historic structures at Trevarrick were recorded prior to groundworks taking place, which were subject to archaeological monitoring. The preservation and condition of the structures on the site made it difficult to be conclusive regarding function and phasing, but it is clear that a major reorganisation of the site took place between 1840 and 1878. Building 4, which may have been built prior to 1840, was clearly of some quality, with good stonework and dressed granite quoins. The other structures were less well built implying subsequent investment was less for display and more for function. The site had been terraced into the slope and no earlier archaeological features were noted during the monitoring.

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APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING JPEGs



A selection of the slates recovered from B2 (scale 1m).



A granite quoin cut down from a millstone.



Fragment of granite windowsill.

Building 1



B1: the surviving west wall of B1; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B1: as above, the northern (truncated) end; viewed from the west (scale 2m).



B1: as above, the southern end that formerly abutted the corner of B2; viewed from the south (scale 2m).

Building 2



B2: The west wall of B2; viewed from the north (scale 2m).



B2: partly-blocked opening (window?) at the northern end of the west wall; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B2: the blocked ventilation slit in the west wall; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B2: the blocked door at the southern end of the west wall; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B2: the interior of B2, showing the dump of roof slate; viewed from the east.



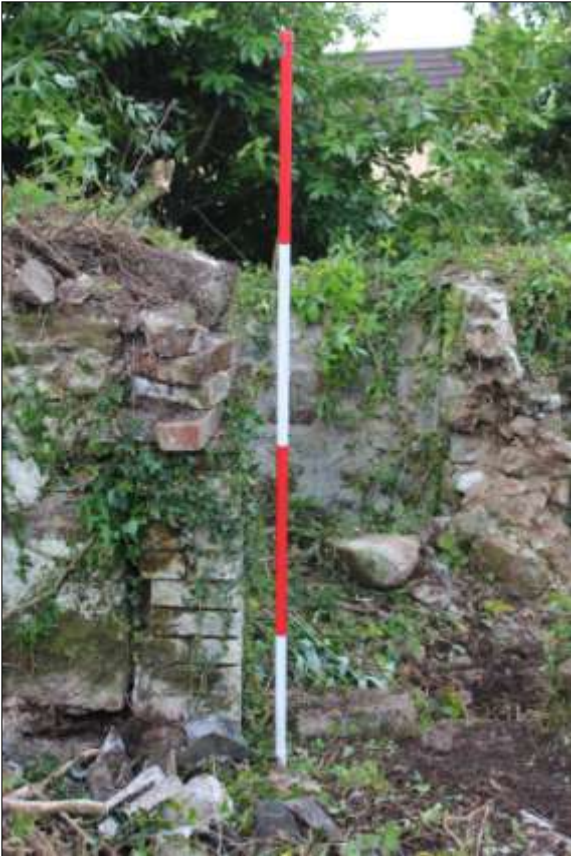
B2: The interior of B2; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



B2: The interior of B2, east wall and steps; viewed from the south (scale 2m).



B2: the east wall of B2; viewed from the north-west (scale 2m).



B2: the brick reveal to the north door in the east wall; viewed from the west (scale 2m).



B2: the brick reveal to the north door in the east wall, and blocking with granite slabs; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B2: the curving block of masonry that supports the stair on the east side of B2; viewed from the south.



B2: the north-east angle of B2 showing the inner face plastered and whitewashed; viewed from the west.



LEFT: B2: the north-east angle of B2 prior to demolition of the first-floor wall; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).
RIGHT: B2: The north-east angle of B2 and granite steps prior to demotion of the first-floor wall; viewed from the north (scale 2m).



B2: the north-east corner of B2 at first-floor level, with cast-iron guttering indicated; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B2: the top granite tread of the steps; viewed from the south (scale 2m).



B2: the north wall of B2; viewed from the north-east.

Building 3



B3: the east wall of B2 where it forms the wall of B3; viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).



B3: viewed from the north-west (scale 2m).



B3: the east wall of B3; viewed from the west (scale 2m).

Building 4



B4: the rubble-filled interior of B4; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



B4: the south wall of B4; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



B4: the western doorway in the south wall of B4; viewed from the south (scale 2m).



B4: detail of the granite lintel scored to imitate individual voussoirs (scale 2m).



B4: the south wall of B4; viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



B4: the eastern doorway in the south wall of B4: viewed from the south (scale 2m).



B4: the interior of B4 after the removal of the rubble infill, showing the western doorway in the south wall and the concrete floor; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



B4: the south-west corner of B4 after the removal of the rubble infill but before demolition; viewed from the south-east.



B4: as above; viewed from the west (scale 2m).



B4: The east side of the western doorway in the south wall of B4, showing the width and profile of the wall, pindle holes, and scar for doorframe; viewed from the west (scale 2m).



B4: the remains of the concrete ramp and platform to the west of B4; viewed from the west (scale 2m).

Building 5



B5: viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



B5: the east wall of B5; viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



B5: as above, detail of the brick and stone blocking; viewed from the east (scale 2m).

Monitoring



Area B: section through the west wall of B4, showing the rubble deposits to either side; viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



Area B; viewed from the east (scale 2m).



Area B: the dogleg foundation trench to the west of B4; viewed from the south.



Area B: viewed from the south (scale 2m).



As above, detail of the deposits in the west-facing section; viewed from the south (scale 2m).



LEFT: Area A: viewed from the east (scale 2m).

RIGHT: Area A: the south-east corner of the trench; viewed from the north (scale 2m).



Area A: south-facing section showing yard surfaces; viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).



B4: the demolition of the south wall; viewed from the south-east.



B4: as above, showing the lack of foundations; viewed from the south-east.



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