

# Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record Site Recording form



<b>Site Name:</b> Land rear of Marlborough Lodge, Silverdale Road, Falmouth, Cornwall	<b>Planning Ref:</b> PA17/02543
<b>Grid ref (10-fig):</b> SW 79988 31888	<b>OS Map No:</b> OSGB36
<b>Parish:</b> Falmouth	<b>OASIS Ref:</b> Southwes1_288054
<b>Site Type:</b> Domestic garden	
<b>Period:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Century and Modern	<b>Form:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording event

**Description:** Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Alec Evans (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of three dwellings on land at the rear of Marlborough Lodge, Silverdale Road, Falmouth, Cornwall. The work was carried out by S. Walls on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in accordance with a WSI (Balmord 2017) drawn up in consultation with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer, Historic Environment (SDOHE) Cornwall Council.

The site is located within the parish of Falmouth, c.1km south-west of the town centre. The site consists of a rectangular garden located to the south-east of Marlborough Lodge at a height of c.7m AOD. The ground rises gently to the east, west and north. The soils are the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlay sedimentary bedrock of the Breccia formation (BGS 2017). The site lies adjacent to a private access drive, which joins Silverdale Road to the north. Marlborough Lodge is associated with the nearby Marlborough House, which was constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (c.1810) and built by Packer Captain John Bull. The proposal site is depicted on the 1840 tithe map and later OS maps as having formerly contained a yard of buildings, which in the tithe apportionment are described as *House, Garden, Yard and Tan Yard*.

The groundworks comprised the strip of two roughly rectangular areas, Area A, measuring c.15m×10m, and Area B, measuring c.14m×6m. Excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to the depth of weathered natural, up to 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), a mid brown firm silt-clay c.0.15m thick; overlying lower topsoil (101), a yellow-brown soft-friable silt-clay up to c.0.2m thick and petering out to the south; and the natural (102), a yellow gritty silt-clay with occasional small sub-angular stones.

The excavations revealed the very truncated remains of parts of the former buildings which had stood on the site, these typically survived only as single courses of stone or brick, but in general had been almost completely truncated. To the north of Area A, the footings of a stone wall {109} bonded with a yellow clay-silt, proved to survive to a much greater height, up to c.0.45m high. It was cut into the natural and was 0.24m thick; orientated east-west, appearing to turn at its eastern end to the north and beyond the limit of excavation. Only the top of the wall was exposed for the most part, as it survived below the formation level. It appeared that this wall had perhaps been re-used as a retaining wall/garden wall when the plot was levelled, with the gardens to the north seemingly raised and the development area terraced almost flat, probably in the very early 20<sup>th</sup> century. To the north, and abutting the wall, was a deposit of dark brown silt (111) with common brick, pantile, stone rubble and rare iron slag. This was also only exposed in plan, and presumably represents a demolition deposit. The required formation level meant that for about half of Area A, the natural was not exposed, although the excavation of a sondage suggests that what would have presumably once been the yard area had been dug away by cut [107] and backfilled with demolition material consisting of a grey-yellow gritty silt (110) with abundant stone fragments, and occasional brick, pantile and corrugated iron fragments. Flanking the cut for the former yard two brick pads {105} and {107} were exposed, suggesting the former presence of a shippon along the yard's north-east side. The cut of a shallow drain [103] ran along the east (inside) of these pads, and extended to the north for a further 3.3m beyond {105} to the location of where a further pad was probably once located.

Area B exposed the remains of a further building, although this had been even more severely truncated than seen in Area A. To the east of the area was a 0.9m wide stone wall footing {112}, orientated north-south and aligned with brick pads {106} and {105} in Area A. Footing {112} survived only as a slight grey-yellow linear discolouration in the natural with only three sub-angular stones surviving to indicate that it was likely a wall. To the west of footing {112}, but (no longer) adjoining/abutting was evidence of the partial footings for a two roomed stone building formed from {113} and {114}, the surviving single course of footings were 0.65m wide walls of sub-angular stone bonded with a yellow silt-clay. Wall {114} appears to abut wall {113} so may represent a second phase of build. The two rooms of the building were defined by shallow (0.04m deep) deposits of grey-brown gritty silt-clay (116) and (117). The building had been completely truncated to the east.

It was decided that there would be limited/no value in monitoring the third plot, as it was solely within the former yard area, which had been shown in Area A to be completely disturbed, and the required formation level was to be within this disturbance.

**Finds:** A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site. Topsoil (100) finds consisted of: 15x sherds (804g) of flowerpot; 16x sherds (149g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares; 4x sherds (251g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century refined redwares; 3x fragments of pantile (315g); 1x oyster shell (14g); 1x shard (2g) window glass; 1x white plastic plant label (8g); and 2x fragment (81g) of cut animal bone.

Drain fill (104) produced: 2x clay pipe stem fragments (3g); 2x Fe nails (308g); 2x sherds (5g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares.

Deposit (116) produced 2x sherds (6g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares; 1x cut animal bone (42g); 1x fragment of pantie (19g); 3x clay pipe stem fragments (7g); 1x Fe slag/clinker (407g).

**Conclusion:** The archaeological monitoring indicates that the site has been subject to a very high level of truncation, and that only limited parts of the former tannery/farm buildings survive on the site. Survival appears to be better to the north, whilst the area of the former yard, and that to the south has suffered the most severe truncation. Despite the site's use as a tannery very little archaeological evidence of its function was identified, in total 3x cut animal bones were recovered. This probably indicates a limited scale/duration for the tannery, and that waste products may have been buried elsewhere, presumably to the south or east of the site.

**Bibliography:**

**Balmond, F.** 2017: Marlborough Lodge, Silverdale Road, Falmouth, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation. SWARCH WSI No. FSR17WSIv1.

**British Geological Survey** 2017: *Geology of Britain Viewer*. [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) [accessed 02.10.2017].

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

**Walls, S. and Balmond, F.** 2017: *Land to Rear of Marlborough Lodge, Silverdale Road, Falmouth: Results of a Historical Visual Impact Assessment*. SWARCH report no. 170510

**Land Use (Area):** Settlement

**Land Use (Site):** Domestic garden to become Domestic Property

**Date of Site Visit:** 25/07/17

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

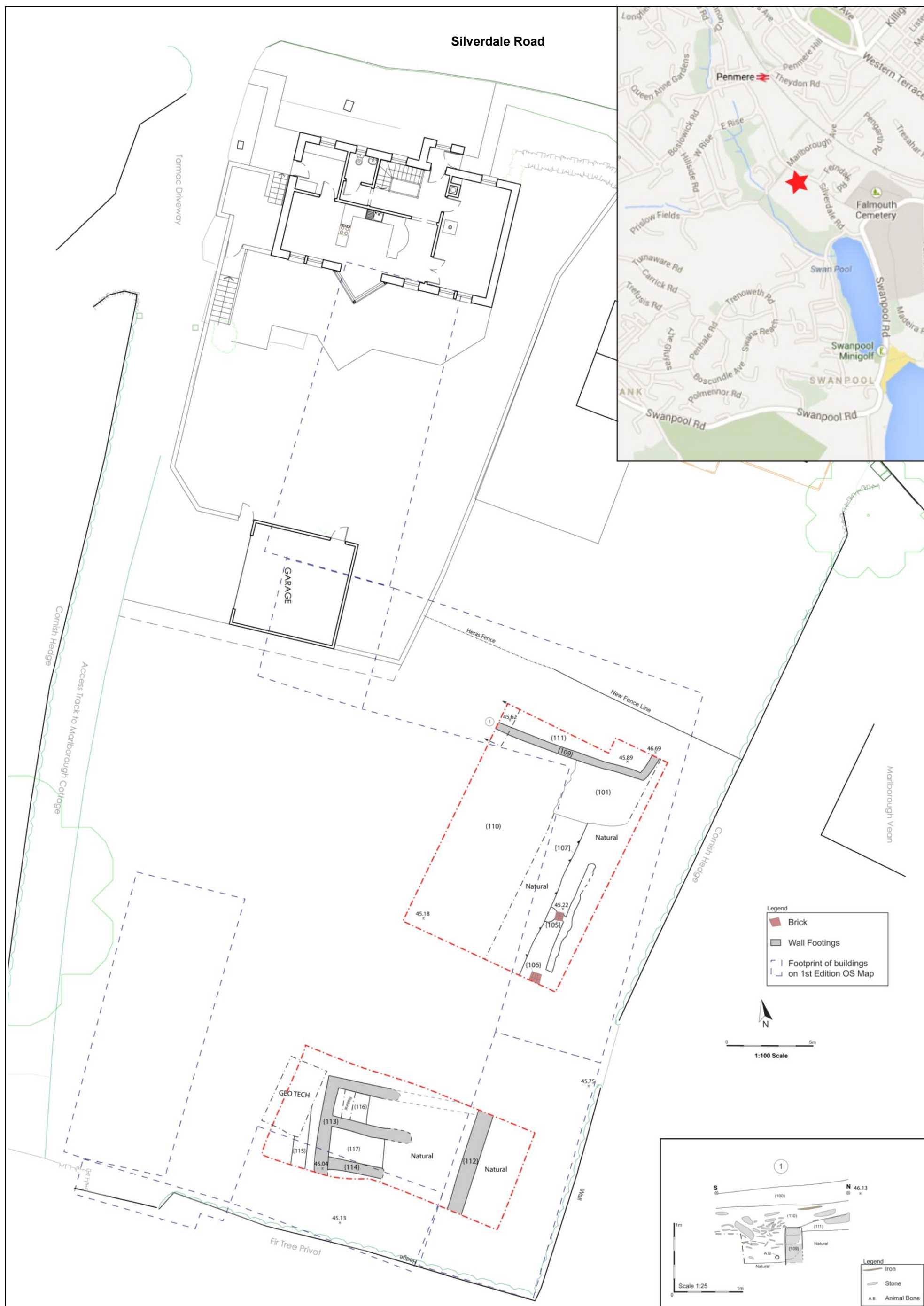


Figure 1: Site location, plan and sample section. Levels based on an arbitrary TBM of 45m AOD.





Figure 2: Area A section through footing {109}; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 3: Area B, wall footings {113} and {114}; viewed from the south (1m scale).