

BRIDGE ROAD MOTORS BRIDGE ROAD ST AUSTELL CORNWALL

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



SOUTH WEST ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. REPORT NO. 181101



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BRIDGE ROAD MOTORS, BRIDGE ROAD, ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

By J. Bampton
Report Version: **FINAL**

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Alan Leather Associates Ltd (the Agent)
On behalf of Ian Carter Construction Ltd (the Client)

Summary

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land at Bridge Road Motors, Bridge Road, St Austell, Cornwall, during groundworks associated with a residential development.

The site was ostensibly developed with structures in the early-mid 19th century and after relative continuity with some expansion until the early/mid-20th century. The site was redeveloped in the 1960s and the 1970s.

The archaeological monitoring and recording identified 19th century and later made-ground layers and a possible earlier made-ground deposit. Features associated with 20th century developments to the site, probably after the demolition- and levelling of 19th century structures were encountered and an undated palaeochannel was identified running across the site.

There were no significant archaeological features or deposits on site and it is probable there were no earlier deposits on the site or if there had been then these may have been fully truncated during historic phases of groundworks.



November 2018

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	BRIDGE ROAD MOTORS, BRIDGE ROAD
PARISH:	ST AUSTELL
COUNTY:	CORNWALL
NGR:	SX 00932 52306
PLANNING NO.	PA17/01920
SWARCH REF.	ABR17

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Alan Leather Associates Ltd (the Agent) on behalf of Ian Carter Construction Ltd (the Client) to undertake a desk-based appraisal, archaeological evaluation trenching, monitoring and recording and for related off-site analysis and reporting of groundworks associated with the construction of a residential development at Bridge Road Motors, Bridge Road, St Austell, Cornwall. This work was carried out in accordance with best practice and ClfA guidelines and in concordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with the local planning authority and the Senior Development Officer Historic Environment (SDOHE).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bridge Road Motors is in the south-west part of St Austell as it exists today, but within the historic core of the town, c.470m west-south-west of the 15th century (12th century or earlier origins) Holy Trinity church. The site is on a relatively level piece of land in a commercially developed part of the town with roads along its north-east and south-east boundaries 20th century commercial and domestic bungalows beyond its north-west boundary and the St Austell River along its south-west border. The site is at a height of c.40m AOD.

Although the site is within the unsurveyed urban/industrial limits of St Austell, the predominant soils of this area are the well drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the Hornfelsed Slate and Hornfelsed Sandstone of the Trendrean Mudstone Formation (BGS 2018).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bridge Road Motors is located in the western part of St Austell and the site has, in recent years, been used as a car repair garage. No previous archaeological works have been conducted on the site. The settlement of St Austell was first recorded in 1145 as 'Ecclesiam de Austol', derived from the name of a Breton saint (MCO16829). Bridge Road Motors lies in an area characterised in the Cornwall Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as *Settlement: Older Core (pre 1907)*. Immediately adjacent to the site is the Grade II listed Old Bridge (MCO9712), part of the turnpike road between Truro and London, thought to date to the late 16th or 17th century. The garage backs onto the St Austell River, opposite two late 18th century Grade II listed cottages (nos. 4 and 5 River Walk; MCO34185 and MCO34187). The buildings on the site appear to have changed considerably from the 1840 tithe map which shows buildings located closer to Bridge Road than the current building. The 1839 Tithe apportionment lists the site as owned by Sir Joseph Sawle Graves; leased to Henry Veale and occupied by Henry and others as dwelling houses and gardens. The buildings depicted on the tithe map appear to have changed little in the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Edition maps. Supporting cartographic sources can be seen in Appendix 3.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a WSI (Balmond 2017), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CifA 2015) and best practice. The archaeological works in this instance aims to determine the presence or absence-, extent, date, condition and complexity of archaeological remains within the site and to ensure the preservation by record of any encountered archaeological deposits or remains in accordance with current industry standards and best practice.

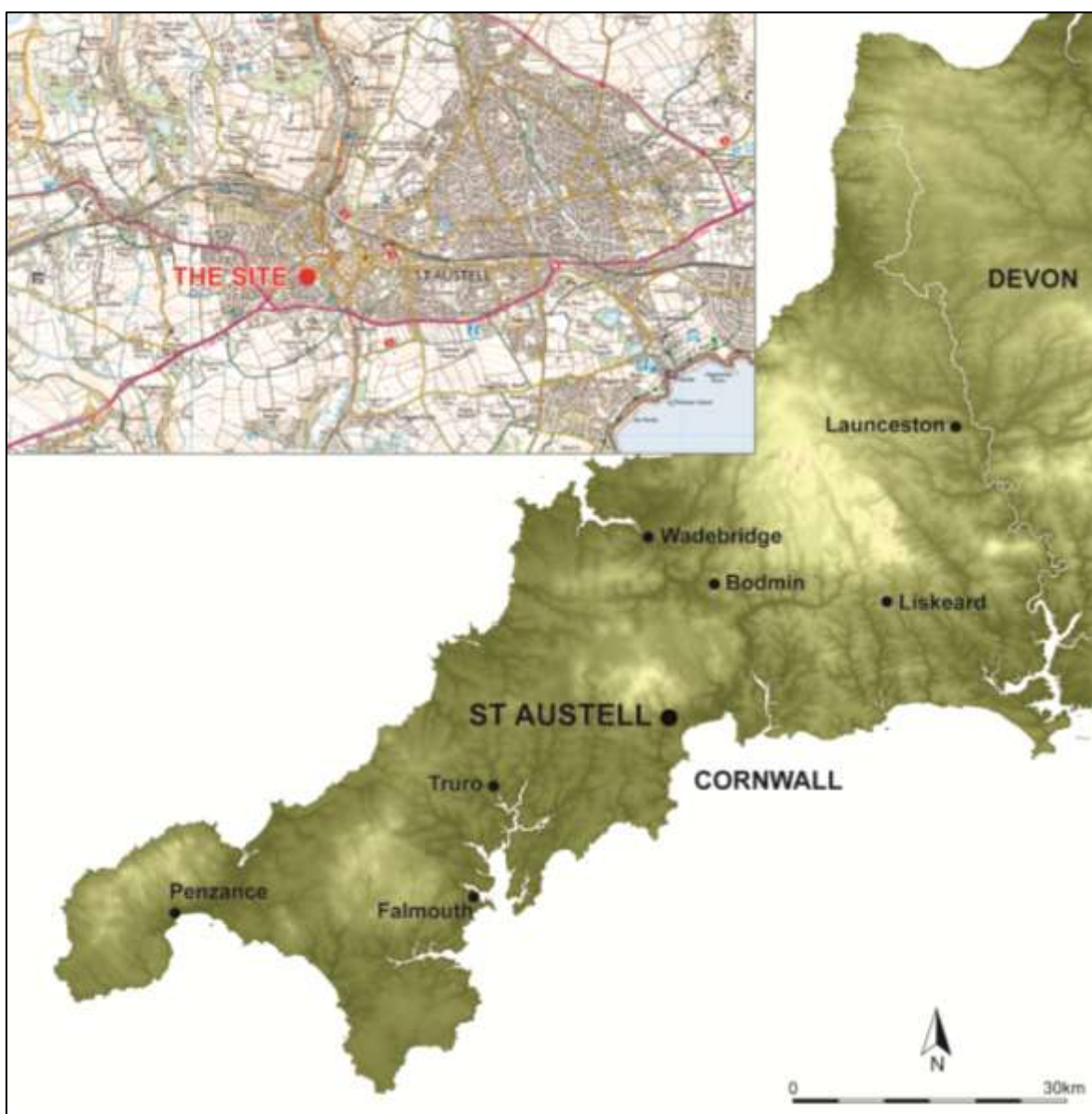


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Three areas within the site boundary were evaluated via excavation and trenching; an area c.25m×13m and a trench 24m×1.80m across the footprint of the proposed development and historic building plots; and a c.5m×1.80m trench in the north-east corner of the site. The work took place over April and May 2018. A modern garage had been demolished and modern floors broken and crushed for site hardcore prior to the monitoring and recording. Excavation was conducted under archaeological supervision using a wheeled mechanical excavator to the level of weathered natural. Archaeological features and deposits that were revealed were cleaned and excavated by hand.

Three modern features were encountered across the site that cut various deposits of made-ground. A spread of material conforms to a probable palaeochannel within the natural. Apart from an undated, probable 20th century made-ground deposit and a possible earlier, but still post-medieval made-ground deposit, all of the made-ground deposits and features on the site were modern/20th century in date. The natural was comprised of river gravels and sand. A full context list with context descriptions can be seen in Appendix 1; a complete finds list in Appendix 2; and supporting photographs in Appendix 4.

2.2 DEPOSIT MODEL

The site was overlaid with layers of concrete or crushed rubble and concrete deposits, (1000), which overlaid a series of levelling made-grounds, (100), (1001), (1002) and (1003) that consisted of mixtures of brownish yellow rubble, sand and gravel; these overlaid a darker made-ground, (101), (1004), which in-turn overlaid more brownish-yellow made-grounds, (1005), (1006), (1007) and (1008). These overlaid stony trenches that contained modern finds, one of which cut made-ground (1009) which contained a possible hand-made brick fragment. These made-grounds were typically 1m thick in total and overlaid the Natural, which was comprised of sand and rounded stones; probable river bed deposits. The made-grounds, particularly the dark made-ground, (1001)/(1004) was thickest in the south corner of the site and thinnest in the north of the site, suggesting that the ground had had to be made-up more in the south of the site than the north. Running approximately north-west by south-east, parallel to the adjacent river, was a probable palaeochannel that contained a dark sandy and rounded pebble deposit. It was overlain by made-ground (1008), which roughly levelled the hollow of this palaeochannel up to the level of the natural. Apart from a single sherd of medieval pottery recovered from spoil from the made-ground deposits, all the finds on the site, recovered from the made-grounds were 19th or 20th century in date.

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

2.3.1 TRENCH [1013]

Trench [1013] was a linear feature aligned approximately north-west by south-east located in the south-west half of the 24m long evaluation trench. It had vertical sides and a flattish base, although the relatively loose natural made its profile less regular. It cut Made-Ground (1009), was 0.70m wide and over 0.30m deep with a single fill, (1014), which contained a modern tile fragment. It was overlain by Made-Ground (1005).

2.3.2 POSTHOLE [1015]

Posthole [1014] was an oval feature beside Trench [1013]. It cut Made-Ground (1009), was c.0.70m in diameter and c.0.44m deep with a single fill, (1014), which was overlain by Made-Ground 91005).

2.3.3 TRENCH [1017]

Trench [1017] was a linear feature aligned approximately north-west by south-east located at the north-east end of the 24m long evaluation trench. It had vertical sides but was not fully excavated. It cut Natural (1012), was 0.85m wide with a single fill, (1018), which contained a modern tile fragment. It was overlain by Made-Ground (1006).

2.3.4 SPREAD (1010)

Spread (1010) was a deposit within a palaeochannel aligned north-west by south-east. It was c.5.40m wide and c.0.28m deep and was comprised of silty-sand and rounded stones.

2.3.5 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR FEATURES

A removed concrete footing was also identified at the south-west end of the 24m long evaluation trench. It was aligned north-east by south-west and was associated with the recently demolished garage building.



FIGURE 2: TRENCH [1013] AND POSTHOLE [1015]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

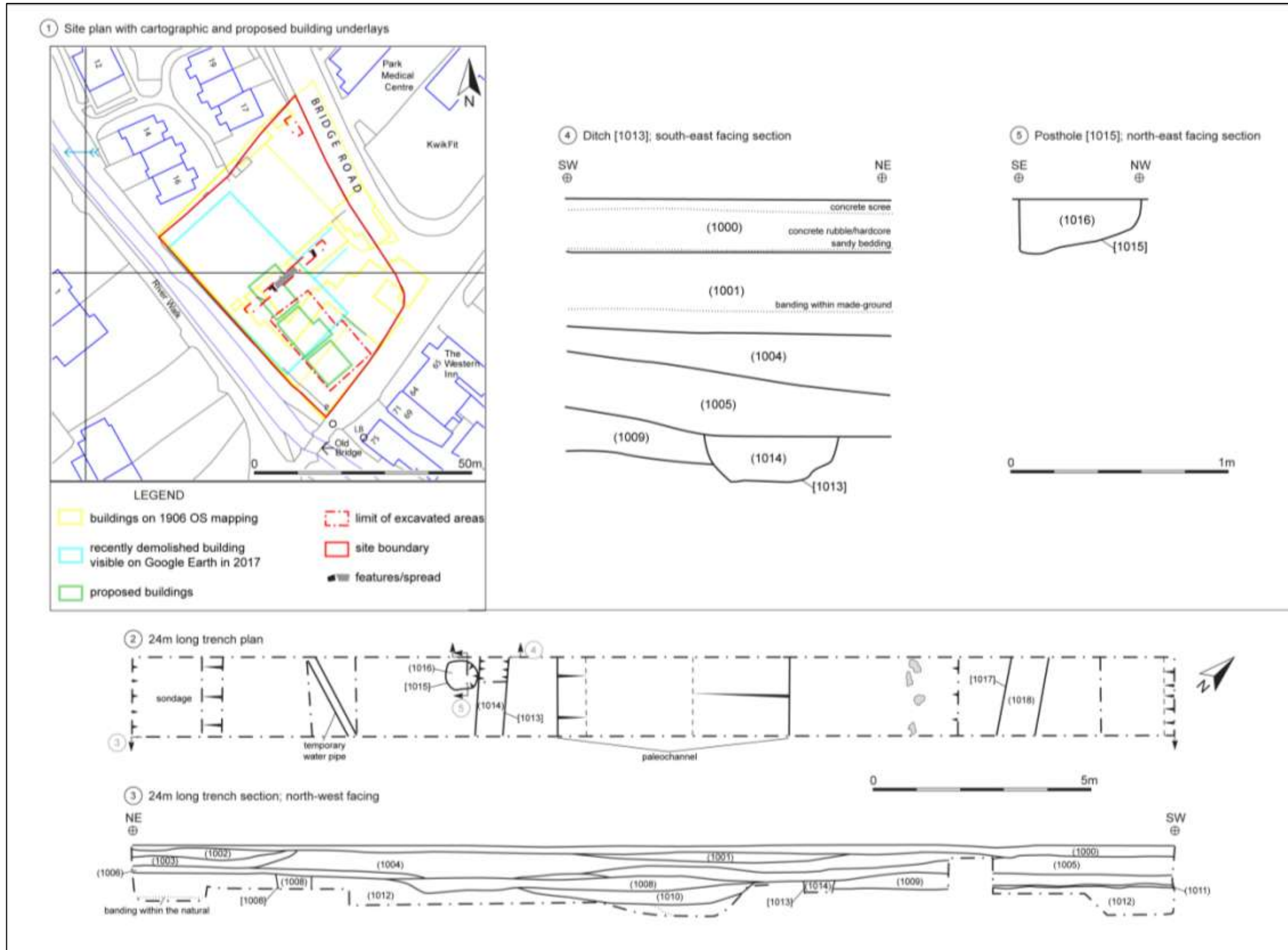


FIGURE 3: SITE DRAWINGS INCLUDING; SITE PLAN, LOCATIONS OF EXCAVATED AREAS, 24M LONG TRENCH PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS.

2.4 FINDS

Very few finds were recovered from the site. Two modern trenches, [1013] and [1017], contained ×3 fragments (67g) of 20th century tile. ×43 sherds (718g) of pottery were recovered from layers of 20th century made-ground and included a single sherd (2g) of medieval coarseware; the rest being 19th-20th century. Fragments of animal bone, tile, brick, clay pipe, glass and slag were also recovered from the site. The deepest stratified finds were ×3 fragments (135g) of possibly hand-made brick, which could be 16th-19th century, although probably in the latter half of this date range, which was recovered from Made-Ground (1009).

The small quantity of early finds suggests that the site had not been significantly used or developed prior to the 19th century or that any earlier remains had been completely removed/truncated when the site was levelled for development in the 18th century and later.

A full finds concordance can be seen in Appendix 2.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

3.1 DISCUSSION

The excavation revealed features that predominantly correspond to 20th century features or groundworks on the site. An undated palaeochannel runs across the site and a made-ground layer that is possibly associated with the 19th century development of the site was identified. All other features; made-ground, trenches and a posthole are associated with 20th century developments of the site. Made-ground layers directly overlaid the natural and palaeochannel deposit, indicative of some level of landscaping associated with the levelling of the site.

Structures are depicted on the site in c.1840 tithe map and they show relative continuity, although with some expansion through to the mid 1930's. By 1969 an *Electrical Servicing Works* is depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping; and by the late 1970's a large single structure that was part of the recently demolished garage had been built. Based on the finds across the deposits and features, the layers and trenches identified during monitoring and recording were presumably associated with these later 20th century developments.

An excavated area and small trenches across the site indicated that the whole site had been subject to levelling and made-ground deposits, although to a lesser depth in the north corner of the site. Given the proximity of the river and presence of palaeochannels and river deposits, the site may not have been particularly suitable for development in earlier periods. It may be that the site was not developed until after the construction of the late 16th/17th century turnpike road associated with the adjacent bridge.

3.2 CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring and recording identified several features associated with 20th century developments to the site, probably after the demolition- and levelling of 19th century structures. An undated palaeochannel was identified running across the site.

There were no significant archaeological features or deposits on site and it is probable there were no earlier deposits on the site or if there had been then these may have been fully truncated during historic groundworks.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Cornwall Council Interactive Map 2018: *HER and HLC* <https://map.cornwall.gov.uk>

British Library (BL)

Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Draft map for the Grampound area, 1811

Cornwall Record Office (CRO)

St Austell tithe map and apportionment, c.1840

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25 Inch Map, 1907

BRIDGE ROAD MOTORS, BRIDGE ROAD, ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION		RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
(100)	Made-Ground	Rubble and sand make-up layer beneath modern floor surface across area of demolished garage and larger excavated area	Overlaid (101)	c.0.50m	-
(101)	Made-Ground	A dark silty-sand with stone, heterogeneous made-ground with frequent small angular stones <40mm diameter, moderate sub-rounded cobbles 100-120mm dia. with brick and salt-glazed sewer pipe fragments	Overlaid (102); Overlain by (100)	c.0.50m	-
(102)	Natural	Coarse, poorly sorted river gravels	Overlain by (101)	Below c.1m	-
(1000)	Floor level	Concrete floor and bedding hardcore rubble	Overlaid (1001)(1002)	0.23m	C20
(1001)	Made-Ground	Mid grey-blue rubble, the made-grounds generally contain angular rock/debris that is not derived from the adjacent river bed	Overlaid (1004); Overlain by (1000)	c.0.20m	C20
(1002)	Made-Ground	Mid grey-blue rubble	Overlaid (1003); Overlain by (1001)	c.0.25m	C20
(1003)	Made-Ground	Light brown-yellow, compact-friable clay and mudstone	Overlaid (1004); Overlain by (1002)	c.0.20m	C20
(1004)	Made-Ground	Dark grey mixed rubble and sediments	Overlaid (1005)(1006); Overlain by (1001)(1003)	<0.55m	C20
(1005)	Made-Ground	Light brown-yellow, compact-friable clay and mudstone, rather dirty/mixed deposit (as 1003)	Overlaid (1014); Overlain by (1004)	0.35m	C20
(1006)	Made-Ground	Dark brown-grey, friable sandy-silt, dirty contaminated (hydro-carbons/fuel) layer	Overlaid (1008); Overlain by (1004)	c.0.13-0.30m	C20
(1007)	Made-Ground	Lens of (1006)	Overlaid (1008); Overlain by (1005)	c.0.11m	C20
(1008)	Made-Ground	Light brown-yellow, compact-friable clay and mudstone (as 1003)	Overlaid (1010); Overlain by (1004)	c.0.30m	-
(1009)	Made-Ground	Light brown-yellow, compact-friable clay and mudstone (as 1003)	Overlaid (1011); Cut by [1013][1015]	0.16-0.38m	C16-C19
(1010)	Paleochannel	Dark grey silty-sand with rounded stones, paleochannel deposit; aligns with known paleochannels in the area (Personal Correspondence)	Overlaid (1012); Overlain by (1008)	c.0.28m	-
(1011)	River deposit	Mid-light white-grey, friable-loose silty-sand, a fine upper sandy layer to river bed, moderate river stone <300mm dia.	Overlaid (1012); Overlain by (1009)	c.0.10m	-
(1012)	Natural	Sands and gravels associated with river deposits/bed	Overlain by (1010)(1011); Cut by [1017]	Below 0.97-1.20m	-
[1013]	Cut of Trench	Linear, aligned south-east by north-west, vertical sides, flattish base, 1 fill, c.0.70m wide	Cut (1009); Contained (1014)	<0.30+m	C20
(1014)	Fill of Trench	Light brown-yellow shale and frequent very light yellow-grey silty-sand	Fill of [1013]; overlain by (1005)	<0.30+m	C20
[1015]	Cut of Posthole	Oval, <0.70m wide, vertical sides, flattish/sloped base, 1 fill, 0.24m deep excavated to base but visible through above made-ground layers	Cut (1009); Contained (1016)	c.0.44m	- Post-medieval
(1016)	Fill of Posthole	Dark blackish-grey, friable silty-sand with occasional yellow stone from made-ground	Fill of [1015]; overlain by (1005)	c.0.44m	-
[1017]	Cut of Trench	Linear, aligned approximately south-east by north-west, vertical sides, not fully excavated, 1 fill	Cut (1012); Contained (1018)	0.30+m	C20
(1018)	Fill of Trench	Light yellow-grey, loose-friable rounded stony fill within a matrix of silty-sand	Fill of [1017]; overlain by (1006)	0.30+m	C20

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Notes	POTTERY			OTHER			DATE
		Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
Unstratified from site demolition/preparation	From demolition spoil	11	511	Post-medieval North Devon Gravel Tempered (NDGT), possibly a single vessel	1	3	Burnt animal bone	C20
		28	179	C19-C20 industrial wares	1	47	Pale blue glass pill bottle	
		1	2	Stoneware cup base, possibly C19 or later	1	11	Ribbed window pane glass	
		1	23	Redware with yellow internal glaze	1	2	Dark green vessel glass	
		1	2	Medieval coarseware	1	651	Brick, stamped 'GIBB-'	
					2	234	Roof tile	
					1	10	Slag	
					1	23	Undiagnostic slate	
			3	8	Clay pipe stem			
(1005)	Made-Ground				1	6	Brick	C19-C20
(1006)	Made-Ground	1	1	White Refined Earthen Ware (WRE), Grey Transfer Print (GTP)				C20
(1009)	Made-Ground				3	135	Brick, large stone inclusions, possibly hand-made	C16-C19
(1014)	Fill of Trench				1	4	Modern tile, C20	C20
(1018)	Fill of Trench				2	63	C20 stoneware tile, grey sandy grout	C20
	TOTALS	43	718		18	1197		

APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE



FIGURE 4: EXTRACT OF THE 1811 ORDNANCE SURVEY (OS) SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (BL).



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM C.1840 ST AUSTELL TITHE MAP (CRO); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED IN RED.



FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 2ND REVISION 25" MAP OF 1907 (CRO); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED IN RED.

APPENDIX 4: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



FIGURE 7: SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM THE FAR SIDE OF THE 'OLD BRIDGE'; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



FIGURE 8: SITE SHOT FROM THE NORTH CORNER OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



FIGURE 9: SECTION OF LARGE EXCAVATED AREA, MID-EXCITATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 10: LARGE EXCAVATED AREA; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 11: 24M LONG TRENCH SAMPLE SECTION AT THE SOUTH-WEST END OF THE TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 12: POSTHOLE [1015]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 13: REMOVED CONCRETE FOOTING BENEATH TEMPORARY WATER PIPE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 14: PALAEOCHANNEL/SPREAD (1010); VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 15: PALAEOCHANNEL/SPREAD (1010); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 16: 24M LONG TRENCH, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 17: THE 'OLD BRIDGE' TO THE SOUTH OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



FIGURE 18: SOUTH-WEST EDGE OF THE SITE, BESIDE THE RIVER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



FIGURE 19: 24M LONG TRENCH, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M AND 2 M SCALES).



FIGURE 20: LONG TRENCH SECTION SHOT, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 21: LONG TRENCH SECTION SHOT, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 22: SMALL TRENCH IN THE NORTH CORNER OF THE SITE, IMAGE ROTATED 90° COUNTER CLOCKWISE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



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