

LAND off ANTRON HILL MABE BURNTHOUSE MABE CORNWALL

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment and Rapid Walkover Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 170911



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Land off Antron Hill, Mabe Burnthouse, Mabe, Cornwall

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment & Walkover Survey

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Report Version 01

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Coral Curtis of Grassroots Planning Ltd.
On behalf of South West Strategic Developments

Summary

This report presents the results of a desk-based assessment and limited walkover survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Antron Hill, Mabe Burnthouse, Cornwall, on behalf of Coral Curtis of Grassroots Planning Ltd. (the Agent) for South West Strategic Developments (the Client) to support a planning application.

The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the modern settlement of Mabe Burnthouse. This settlement originated in the 18th century on a crossroads on the Penryn to Marazion Turnpike, coalescing around a tollhouse (Antron Gate); however, the bulk of the settlement is 20th century in date, expanding massively in the 1960s-70s as a satellite of Falmouth. In the 19th century the fields were attached to the settlement of Antron (Anter), first documented in c.1200, and it seems likely it formed part of a common open field system enclosed during the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Antron appears to have been parcel of the Manor of Carnsew, and was a farming hamlet of multiple tenements.

The site is heavily overgrown, limiting the effectiveness of the walkover survey and rendering a geophysical survey all but impossible. However, the site is located mid-slope above a deep valley, in a similar topographical location to the extensively excavated landscape around CUC Tremough campus. Significant multi-period remains dating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods have been excavated at Tremough, demonstrating that the archaeological potential of this landscape is considerable but effective mitigation can be undertaken.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Location:	Land off Antron Hill
Parish:	Mabe
County:	Cornwall
NGR:	SW 76504 33951
Planning no.	PA17/05495
SWARCH ref.	MBA17

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Coral Curtis of Grassroots Planning Ltd. (the Agent) on behalf of South West Strategic Developments (the Client) to undertake a desk-based assessment and walkover survey on land off Antron Hill, Mabe Burnthouse, Cornwall, as part of a planning submission. This work was undertaken in accordance with ClfA guidelines.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed site is located to the west of Penryn on an east-facing slope overlooking the College Reservoir at an altitude of c.110-125m AOD (see Figure 1). The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty loamy soils of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie the granite bedrock of the Carnmenellis Intrusion (BGS 2017).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Mabe formerly lay in the Deanery and east division of the Hundred of Kerrier (Lysons 1814). The isolated church at Mabe (MCO6372) is located c.1.6km to the south; Mabe Burnthouse developed at an important crossroads on the Penryn to Marazion Turnpike and stifled the development of the traditional Cornish churchtown settlement. The church is dedicated to St Laudus, first recorded as *de sancto laudo* in 1201, becoming *Lavabe* by 1524 (MCO15600); the church is on the site of a *lann* or early Christian enclosure.

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within fields characterised by the Cornwall and Scilly HLC as *medieval farmland*, forming part of the category *Anciently Enclosed Land* (AEL). AEL forms the agricultural heartland of Cornwall with farming settlements documented prior to AD1600. No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site itself, but archaeological work undertaken in the wider area – at Penvose Farm, Tremough University Campus, Higher Treliever Road, Penryn College, and along Bickland Water Road – have uncovered extensive evidence for the multi-period use of this landscape (CAU 2001; 2007; 2008; 2011; 2012; Gossip & Jones 2008; Jones *et al.* 2015; Cotswold Archaeology 2017; SWARCH 2015; 2016a; 2016b; 2017a; 2017b; *forthcoming*).

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with recognised best practice; the desk-based assessment follows the guidance 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).

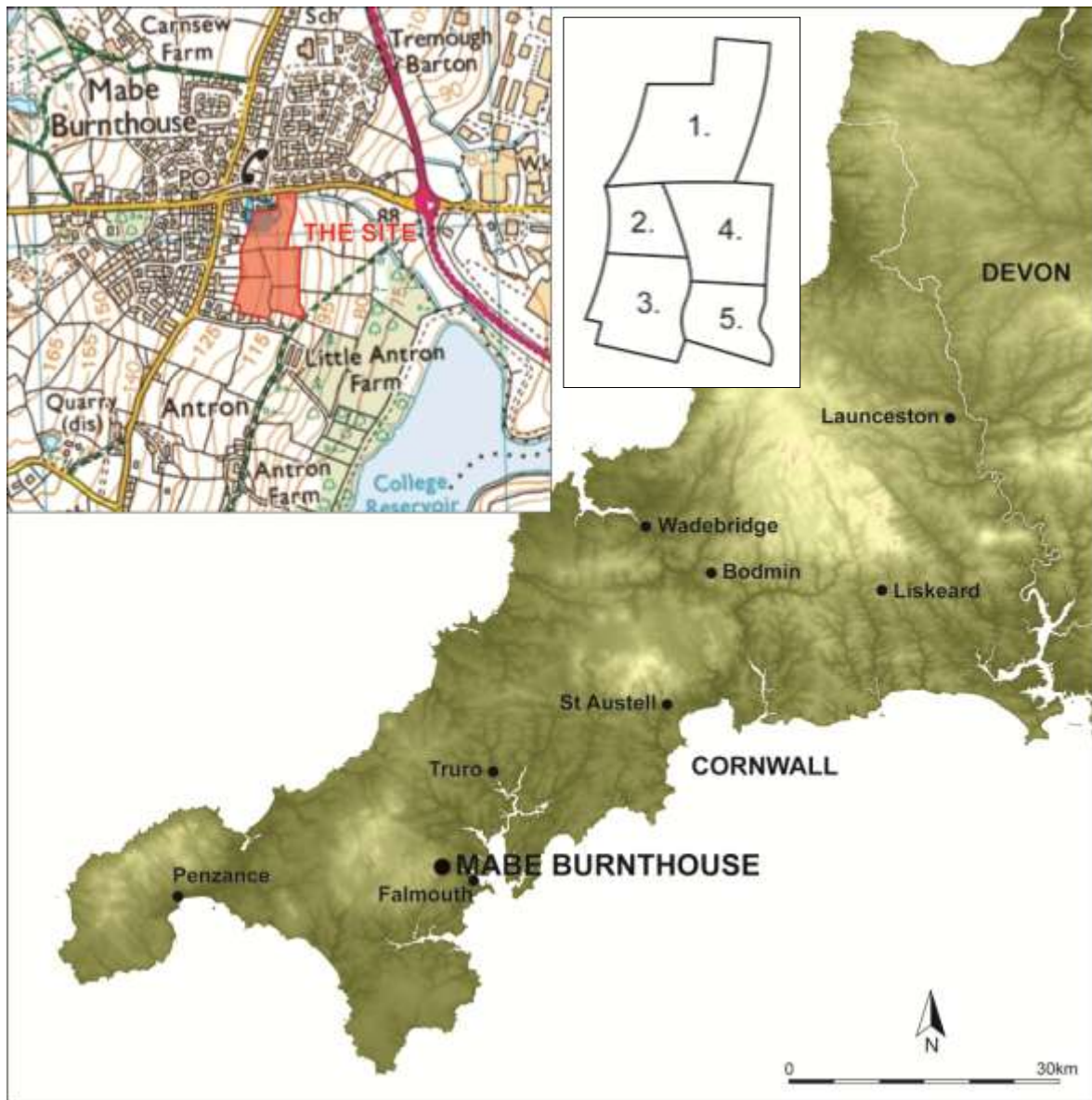


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE PROPOSED SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The proposed site is located within the parish of Mabe in the Deanery and east division of the Hundred of Kerrier. The settlement of Mabe Burnthouse is located some distance from the parish church, and grew up around the Turnpike road junction at the expense of the traditional Cornish churchtown settlement. It is referred to as *Mabe Burnthouse* on Ordnance Survey maps from the 1960s onwards; prior to this it was just identified as *Burnthouse*, with the church labelled as *Mabe*.

The parish church is dedicated to St Laudus, a 6th century bishop from Normandy (Watts 2010), and is reputed to be on the site of a *lann* or early Christian enclosure. It is first documented as *de sancto laudo* in 1201, becoming *Lavabe* by 1524 (MCO15600). There are a number of early settlements around Mabe Burnthouse. The lost settlement of Trehembrys was first recorded in 1314 and was last recorded in 1621; it was probably located to the west of Mabe Burnthouse (MCO17402). Nanturrian to the east is first recorded in 1307 (MCO15863), and the manor of Tremough is first recorded in 1208 (MCO17548).

The 1839 Mabe tithe map shows Mabe Burnthouse as *Antron Gate*. The road leading up from Penryn was the 1761 turnpike to Marazion; the single small building shown at this junction on the 1811 OS draft map (below) was probably a tollhouse. Antron is the name of the farming hamlet located to the south-west; this formerly comprised a series of tenements farming a fairly extensive area, implying it was originally manorial or sub-manorial in status. The 1841 census contains numerous records for Antron, but only one (the Andrews family) specifically for *Antrongate*.

The 1839 tithe apportionment indicates that the fields comprising the site and surrounding areas were owned and tenanted by members of the Spargo family. There are two farms named Spargo just north of the parish church, indicating that this family has a long association with the area. The site itself was owned by the family of William Hosken, and the pattern of landholding in the area is relatively complex. This is probably due to the proximity of Penryn and Falmouth. There are a number of 17th century references to ownership of (part of) Antron by John Carnsew (e.g. CRO: HX/116; HX/265), making it likely Antron formed part of the medieval Manor of Carnsew. The Cornwall and Scilly HER notes the earliest reference to Antron dates to 1265, but there is a quitclaim to lands in Mabe dating to c.1200 that includes *Anter* (Antron) between Osiva, the sister of Robert de Halape, and her *nepos* (nephew or grandson) Oliver.

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1 THE 1811 ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT

The Ordnance Survey surveyors draft map labels the Church of St Laudus as *Mabe*. A single farmstead or dwelling at the road junction is *Burnthouse*. The development site is shown to incorporate four large fields; however, field boundaries as depicted on the draft maps are usually indicative rather than accurate.

2.2.2 THE 1839 MABE TITHE MAP

The earliest detailed cartographic source available to this study is the 1839 Mabe tithe map. This shows two cottages with outbuildings at Antron Gate, one of which is described as an *Inn, Stables Etc* (on the site of the current New Inn). The site covers parts of four semi-regular sub-rectangular fields; these all formed part of a tenement attached to Antron, and, unlike the other fields, these are not named in the apportionment. Field no.221 is recorded as *Cross Field*, perhaps indicating a

roadside cross; field no.230 is recorded as *Engine Meadow*, which could refer to either an agricultural (e.g. horse) engine, or possibly extractive mining. Both fields, however, lie outside the site boundary. The fields themselves are likely to be 17th or 18th century sub-divisions of earlier, larger fields; the dominant field boundary between field no.214 and nos.215/217 is likely to be one of these earlier field boundaries. The multiplicity of the tenements here, together with the pattern and layout of the fields, would suggest the fields were enclosed in blocks from a common open field system attached to Antron. The most notable feature of this map is the small circular enclosure (no.367 *Little Round*) located at *Turnameer* c.350m to the west, set within a much larger circular enclosure. The smaller field is noted on the HER as a possible round (MCO8880), but the scale of the outer enclosure (5.5ha) is significant (e.g. Castle-an-Dinas is only c.4.7ha); if genuine, this would be an enclosed settlement on a par with sites like Gear Farm (c.6ha) in St Martin-in-Meneage (Edwards & Kirkham 2008).



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1811 SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (BL).



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1839 MABE (CRO); THE SITE IS INDICATED IN RED, THE ENCLOSURE AT *TURNAMEER* IN YELLOW.

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1839 MABE TITHE APPORTIONMENT; THE FIELDS CONTAINING THE SITE ARE INDICATED.

Number	Landowner	Tenant	Field Name	Cultivation
Antron				
206	Josiah Fox Esquire	James Spargo	Gilberts Croft	Arable
207			Middle Field	Arable
208			Well Field	Arable
221			Cross Field	Arable
229			Great Park-an-Bush	Arable
230			Engine Meadow	Arable
210	Representatives of William Hosken	William Spargo	Part of Turnpike Road	-
212			Inn, Stables etc.	-
213			-	Arable
214			-	Arable
215			-	Arable
216			-	Arable
217			-	Arable
231	James Spargo	James Spargo and Tenants	Close	Arable
232			House and Garden	-
385	William Tucker	William Spargo	House Outhouses etc.	-

2.2.3 HISTORIC ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

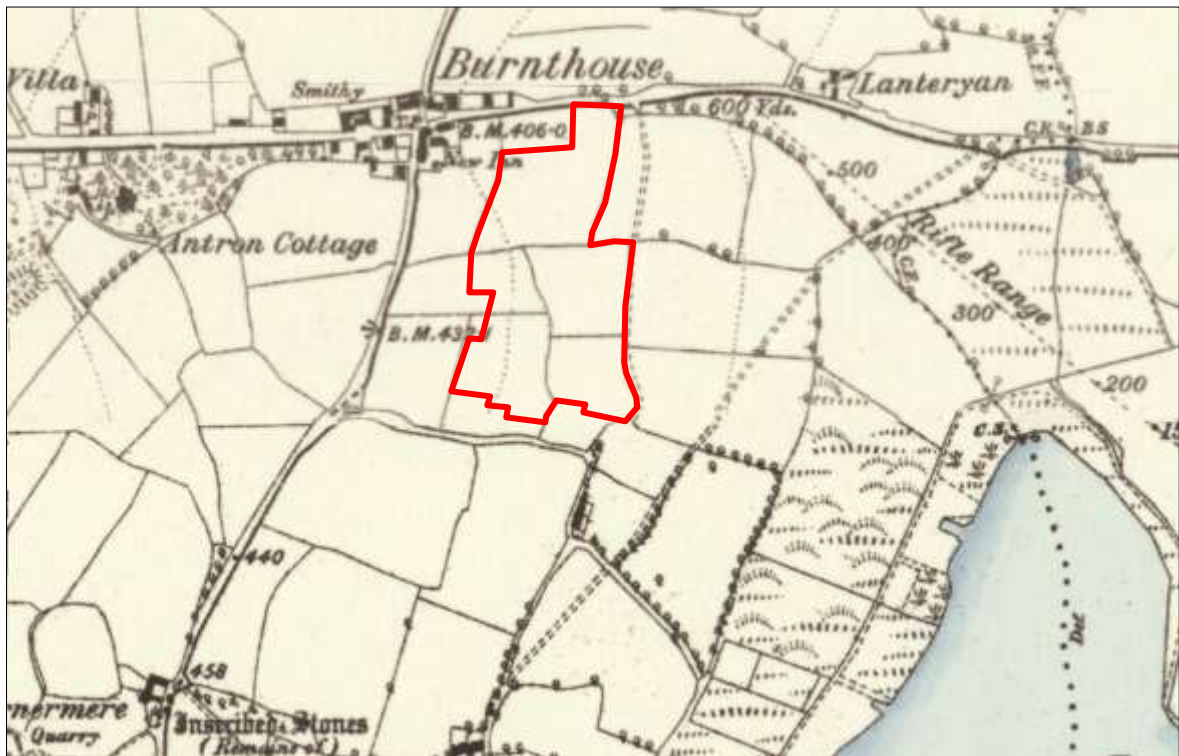


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1878 6" SCALE OS MAP (CRO); THE SITE IS INDICATED.

The layout of the fields in the 1878 1st edition OS map is almost identical to that of the tithe map, with the exception of some internal subdivision. The settlement at Antron Gate is labelled Burnthouse and a number of additional buildings are shown. A series of other changes had occurred in the wider landscape: the College Reservoir had been constructed by 1847 (CAU 2005, 28), quarrying to the west of Burnthouse and at Turnermere is well-advanced, and a rifle range is depicted extending to the south-east from Burnthouse. The round and its larger outer enclosure are still evident, as is the label *Inscribed Stones (remains of)*. Very little change had occurred by 1906, although the settlement at Burnthouse had expanded to the west and the rifle range is no longer shown. By 1938 (OS 3rd revision published c.1945, not illustrated), new housing is shown to the north and south of Burnthouse, and by 1962x63 most of the houses flanking Carnsew Road, Church Road and Antron Lane had been built, as well as Coronation Cottages. The gardens of two

houses (now *Highfield* and *Thornaby*) are shown to extend across Field 2. By 1972×75 these gardens were shortened and the current boundary of Field 2 established. During the later 1960s four new housing estates were constructed (Cunningham Park, Carnsew Close, Gweal Darras and Antron Way), quintupling the size of the village. However, during the 19th and 20th century the five fields that comprise the proposed site do not appear to have been subject to any form of significant development.

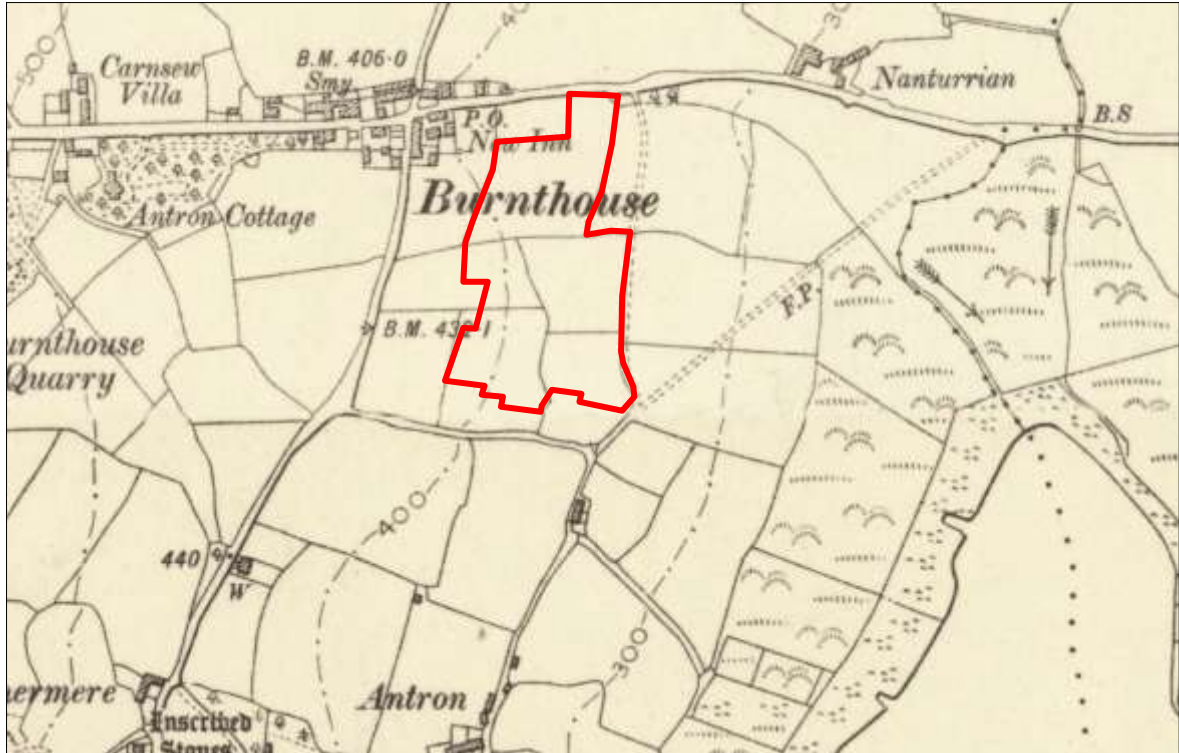


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1906 6" SCALE OS 2ND EDITION MAP (CRO); THE SITE IS INDICATED.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site, or in the immediate area; however, extensive archaeological interventions have been undertaken at Penvose Farm (SWARCH 2016b; 2017a), the Tremough CUC Campus (Gossip & Jones 2007; Jones *et al.* 2015; CAU 2001; 2008; 2011; 2012; Cotswold Archaeology 2017), Higher Treliever Road (SWARCH *forthcoming*), Penryn College (CAU 2007), and along Budock Water Road (e.g. SWARCH 2015; 2016a; 2017b). This work has identified and excavated significant Neolithic, Beaker, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, early medieval and medieval remains (see Figure 6), and there is the potential for comparable features and deposits to be present on this site.

3.1.1 PREHISTORIC TO EARLY MEDIEVAL 4000BC – AD1065

The Cornwall and Scilly HER records a series of Prehistoric monuments within 1km of the development site. There are Iron Age enclosures (rounds) at Carnsew (MCO7771) and Turnermere Farm (MCO8880). Excavations at Tremough Campus and Higher Treliever Road uncovered Neolithic Pits, a Beaker cremation burial, five early Bronze Age timber circles, six Middle Bronze Age sunken-featured roundhouses, one with significant evidence for early bronze working, a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure, fragments of an Iron Age fieldsystem, two Romano-British enclosures, an early medieval structure, and post-medieval pits and field boundaries. Excavations at Penryn College uncovered late Neolithic pits and Iron Age/Romano-British postholes and curvilinear ditches thought to be an enclosed settlement (ECO2159; Gossip 2007). A cropmark thought to be a mound is visible on aerial photographs to the north of the proposed development site (MCO33889). A coin of Tetricus I (AD271-4) has been reported from c.650m to the north-west (CORN-64B367). As discussed (above), a late Prehistoric and/or Romano-British round is located c.350m to the south-west at Turnermere Farm (MCO8880), within a possible enclosure 5.5ha in extent.

3.1.2 MEDIEVAL AD1066 - AD1540

The tenurial and ecclesiastical framework of Cornwall was established during the early medieval period, and many farming settlements are likely to have their origins in this period. Most of the farms in this area, however, are first documented in the medieval period: Tremough AD1208 (MCO17548), Trehembrys AD1314 (MCO17402), Nanturrian AD1307 (MCO15863), Antron c.AD1200 (MCO13283), Carnsew AD1309 (MCO13833), Kernick AD1284 (MCO15113) and Trenoweth AD1314 (MCO17629). Relict field boundaries are recorded at Carnsew (MCO33905), Antron (MCO33888), Penryn (MCO33906), and a medieval watermeadow at Tremough Barton (MCO33907). Medieval ridge and furrow has been identified on aerial photographs at Penryn (MCO33890).

3.1.3 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AD1540 – PRESENT

A demolished toll house is recorded at Treliever Cross (MCO52544), with another recorded at the crossroads in Mabe Burnthouse (MCO52558); it is unclear whether the present building contains historic fabric relating to this structure. The tollhouse was located (at *Antron Gate*) on the route of the Falmouth to Marazion Turnpike (MCO52544). Tremough House, now part of the Combined Universities Campus, was constructed in the early to mid 18th century (MCO52981). A Non-Conformist chapel was constructed at Trenoweth Vean (MCO32466), and a smithy is also recorded in Mabe Burnthouse (MCO9164). There are a number of quarries recorded in the area, including Carnsew (MCO9009) and Burnthouse (MCO33887). Two inscribed stones thought to be of relatively recent date are recorded at Turnermere Farm (MCO7198). A probable 18th century goosehouse is recorded at Trenoweth Farm (MCO56230; MCO56231) along with a post-medieval school (MCO 52999). A series of metal finds have been recorded in fields to the north of Mabe Burnthouse by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These include a silver Elizabeth I sixpence (131534), parts of spurs and sword belt (181475; 407591), a gold Henry VIII half crown (140980)

and part of a silver coin of Carlos III (407654). There are a number of Grade II post-medieval Listed buildings within 1km of the development area: Carnsew Farmhouse (DCO6475), Tremough House and Garden Walls (DCO7411; DCO6604), Tremough Cottages (DCO7412), Kernick Lodge (DCO4634), Kernick House (DCO5410), Antron Farmhouse and associated buildings (DCO7408; 6585; 6478; 6584; 6479) and Trenoweth goose house (DCO7105).

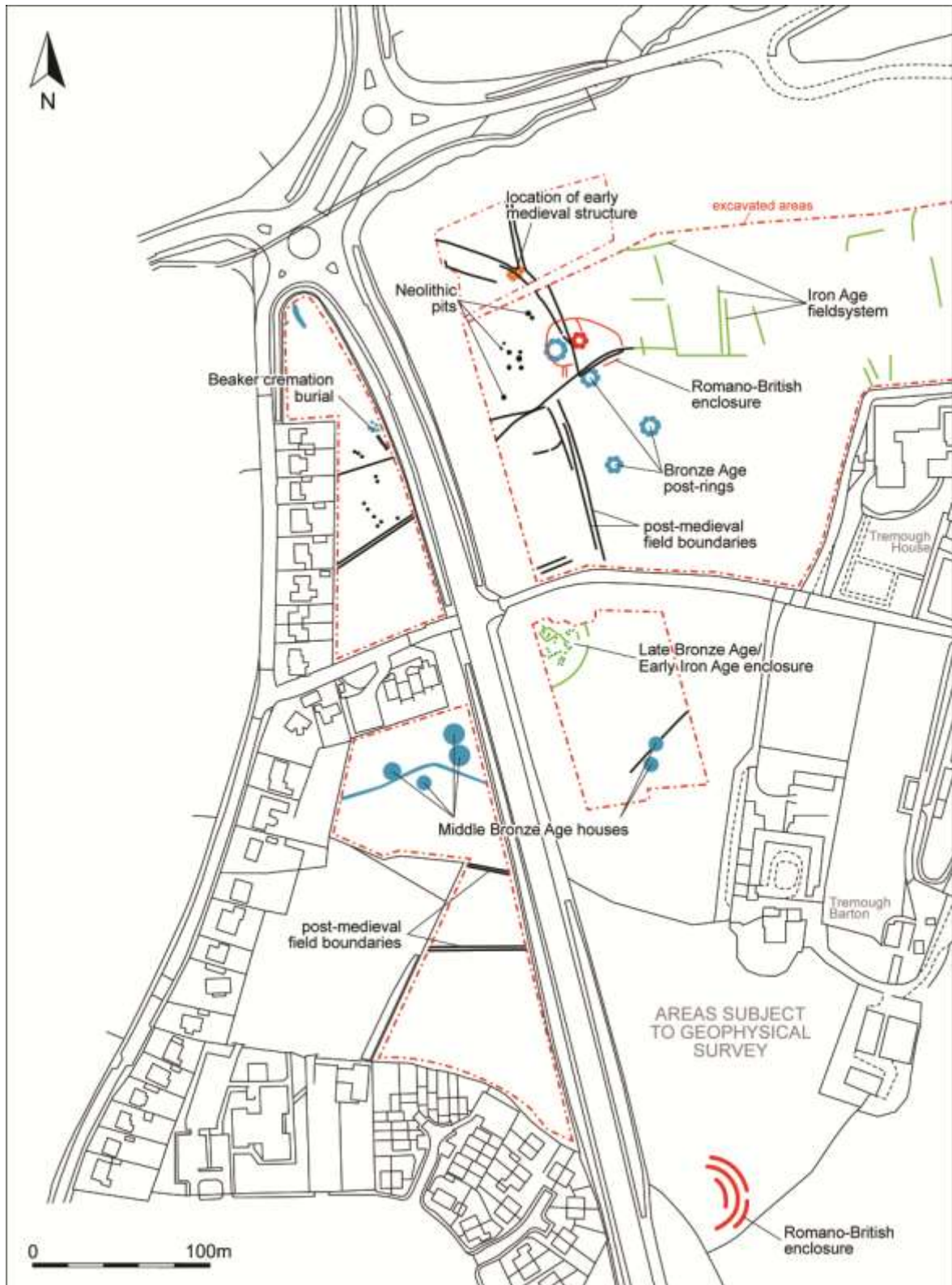


FIGURE 6: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE AT TREMOUGH/HIGHER TRELIEVER ROAD.

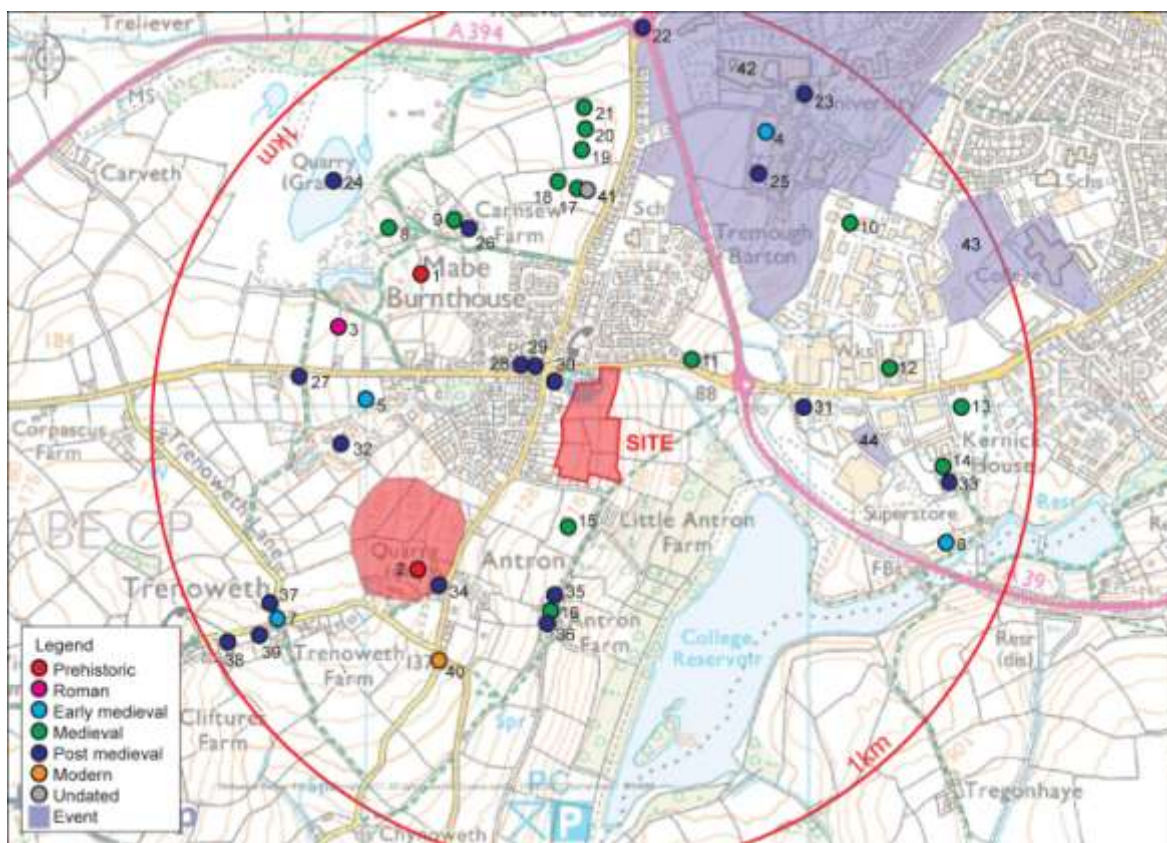


FIGURE 7: MAP SHOWING HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN THE LOCAL AREA (SOURCE: CORNWALL & SCILLY HER).

TABLE 2: ENTRIES FROM THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HER (SOURCE: CORNWALL AND SCILLY HER).

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
1	MCO7771	Iron Age round, Romano-British round	Extant Structure	A roughly oval enclosure 68x62m with a possible north-facing entrance; faint cropmarks of a possible internal enclosure 25m across.
2	MCO8880	Iron Age round, Romano-British round	Extant Structure	A round and outer sub-circular enclosure, part of which survives as depressions in the field. Possibly sits within a large sub-circular enclosure (discussed above).
3	CORN-64B367	Roman coin	Findspot	Copper alloy radiate (Tetricus I) AD274.
4	MCO17548	Early medieval settlement, medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	Settlement and manor of Tremough first recorded 1208-1213.
5	MCO17402	Early medieval settlement, medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	Settlement of Trehembrys first recorded in 1314, last recorded in 1621.
6	MCO33898	Early medieval quarry	Extant Structure	A small quarry, recorded on the c1880 OS map; earthworks are visible on aerial photographs.
7	MCO17629	Early medieval settlement, medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement of Trenoweth first recorded in 1314.
8	MCO33905	Medieval field boundary, undated field boundary	Cropmark	The levelled remains of field boundaries; visible on aerial photographs taken in 1966.
9	MCO13833	Medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement of Carnsew first recorded in 1309.
10	MCO33907	Medieval water meadow, post-medieval water meadow	Cropmark	Parallel linear ditches are visible on aerial photographs.
11	MCO15863	Medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement of Nanturrian first recorded in 1307.
12	MCO33890	Medieval ridge and furrow	Demolished Structure	The remains of a medieval ridge and furrow field system are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1950.
13	MCO33906	Medieval field boundary	Cropmark	A bank and ditched linear feature is visible on aerial photographs, running across the northern end of the Cricket Ground at Kernick Road, Penryn.
14	MCO15113	Medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement of Kernick first recorded in 1284.
15	MCO33888	Medieval field boundary, post-medieval field	Cropmark	Perpendicular banked field boundaries visible on aerial photographs taken in 1967.

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
		boundary		
16	MCO13283	Medieval settlement	Documentary Evidence	The settlement of Antron first recorded in c.1200.
17	CORN-B92756	Post-medieval spur	Findspot	Copper alloy spur rowel.
18	CORN-B62E31	Post-medieval sword fitting	Findspot	Copper alloy hooked sword belt mount C16th.
19	CORN-B97730	Post-medieval coin	Findspot	Late C18th Spanish silver coin fragment ('piece of eight').
20	CORN-3706A0	Post-medieval coin	Findspot	Gold halfcrown of Henry VIII dated 1526x44.
21	CORN-A80C47	Post-medieval coin	Findspot	Silver sixpence of Elizabeth I dated 1568.
22	MCO52544	Post-medieval toll house	Demolished Structure	The site of a toll house at Treliever Cross; formed part of the Falmouth to Marazion Turnpike Road of 1760.
23	MCO52981/DC O7411	Post-medieval house, modern religious house, modern school	Extant Structure	Built early to mid 18th century; reused as convent and school, now part of Exeter University, Penryn Campus; Grade II listed building.
24	MCO9009	Post-medieval quarry	Documentary Evidence	Three granite quarries are recorded on the c1880 OS map with a smithy to the east.
25	DCO7412	Post-medieval farm buildings	Extant Structure	Tremough Barton Farmhouse and mid-late 19th century farm buildings, Grade II listed buildings.
26	DCO6475	Post-medieval farmhouse, including adjoining front garden wall	Extant Structure	17th century or earlier farmhouse extended in the 19th century, partly rebuilt in the 20th century. Grade II listed building.
27	MCO32466	Post-medieval Nonconformist chapel	Extant Structure	Post Medieval Nonconformist chapel.
28	MCO9164	Post-medieval blacksmiths workshop	Documentary Evidence	A smithy is recorded on the c1880 OS map.
29	DCO6587	Post-medieval house	Extant Structure	Early 19th century house; Grade II listed building.
30	MCO52558	Post-medieval toll house	Extant Structure	A toll house stood at this location; it is not clear if the present building is the original toll house, although it appears to be of the right age.
31	MCO41737	Post-medieval artefact scatter	Find	Artefact scatter recovered during the construction of the A39 between November 1992 and March 1993.
32	MCO33887	Post-medieval quarry	Extant Structure	The quarry is recorded on the c1880 OS map and on the 2007 OS Mastermap.
33	DCO5410	Post-medieval country house, attached wall and outbuilding	Extant Structure	Early 19th century small country house, wall and outbuilding; Grade II listed building.
34	MCO7198	Post-medieval inscribed stone	Extant Structure	Two inscribed stones, thought to be of recent date and incised with possible local quarrymen's marks.
35	DCO6585	Post-medieval farmhouse and buildings	Extant Structure	18th and early-mid 19th century farmhouse and adjoining former probable service wing, barn and stables (now converted to a house).
36	DCO7408	Post-medieval farmhouse	Extant Structure	17th century farmhouse, remodelled in the 18th century. Grade II listed building.
	DCO6584	Post-medieval barn and stable	Extant Structure	Early-mid 19 th century barn and stable immediately north-west of farmhouse. Grade II listed building.
	DCO6478	Post-medieval house	Extant Structure	Late 18 th /early 19 th century small house 30m north of farmhouse. Grade II listed building.
37	MCO56230	18th century goosehole	Extant Structure	A probable goose-house dating to the 18th century, 60m north of Trenoweth Farmhouse. Granite rubble with granite dressings.
38	MCO52999	Post-medieval school	Extant Structure	School, recorded on the 1880 and 1907 OS maps.
39	MCO56231/DC O6606	18th century goosehole	Extant Structure	A probable goose-house dating to the 18th century, 20m west of Trenoweth Farmhouse. Granite rubble with granite dressings. Grade II listed building.
40	MCO55774	Modern signpost	Extant Structure	A metal, possibly aluminium, fingerpost.
41	MCO33889	Undated mound	Cropmark	A small round mound is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs.
42	ECO438	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Assessment and evaluation at Tremough, CUC Campus.
	ECO439	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Assessment at Tremough, CUC Campus.
	ECO632	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Excavation and systematic fieldwalking at Tremough Access Road.
	ECO806	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Monitoring at Tremough, Soakaway (2002).
	ECO822	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Major Excavation at Tremough (2002).
	ECO1579	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Monitoring of Tremough Phase 2a.
	ECO1663	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Tremough 'Fort' evaluation and minor excavation.
	ECO1926	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Monitoring at Tremough, Penryn. Trial pits (2002).
	ECO1989	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Tremough monitoring.
	ECO2044	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Excavation and watching brief at Tremough. Phase 2 (2003).
	ECO2167	Event - Survey	Event Record	Tremough Phase 2 Geophysical Survey.

No.	HER No.	Name	Record	Description
	ECO2392	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Assessment at CUC Tremough.
	ECO2409	Event - Survey	Event Record	Geophysical survey of Tremough Campus.
	ECO2415	Event - Survey	Event Record	Geophysical survey of Tremough, CUC Campus.
	ECO2640	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Tremough assessment, analysis and publication.
	ECO2842	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Excavation and monitoring at Tremough, PAC Building.
	ECO2904	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Tremough, Phase 3 evaluation.
	ECO3340	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Monitoring at Tremough TIC.
	ECO3778	Event - Intervention	Event Record	Environmental sampling, excavation and monitoring at Tremough AIR building and Car park 4.
43	ECO2159	Post-excavation	Event Record	Penryn College Post-excavation project.
44	ECO3933	Event - Interpretation	Event Record	Assessment of land north of Kernick Farm, Annear Road, Penryn, Cornwall

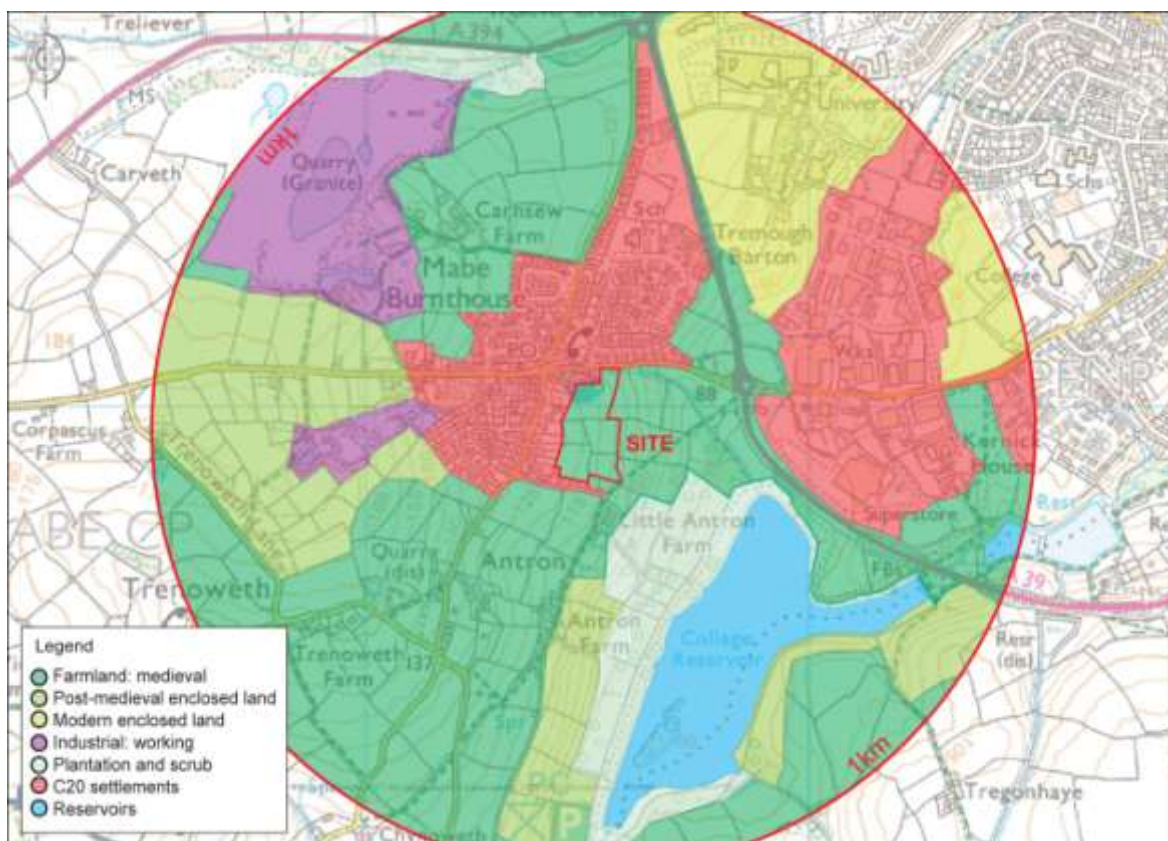


FIGURE 8: MAP SHOWING THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA (SOURCE: CORNWALL AND SCILLY HLC, MODIFIED FOR RECENT DEVELOPMENT).

3.2 LiDAR SURVEY AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

A review of readily-available aerial photography for the site would indicate that much of the interior is covered with dense scrubby vegetation and/or bracken with brambles. The extent of the coverage has varied over time, with Field 1 shown largely free of scrub in 2009. Aerial photographs from 2017 show the interior accessible from the New Inn car park, and vehicle tracks penetrating the interior. It is likely that fly-tipping has or is taking place on the site, based on the limited observations of the walkover survey (below). Nothing further could be gleaned from these aerial photographs. The poor image quality of the LiDAR data for the site (Figure 9) reflects the density of the scrub, and can add little to the discussion.



FIGURE 9: IMAGE BASED ON 0.25M DTM LIDAR DATA FOR THE SITE (INDICATED). PROCESSED USING QGIS VER2.18.2, TERRAIN ANALYSIS/SLOPE, VERTICAL EXAGGERATION 3.0. DATA: © ENVIRONMENT AGENCY COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2017; CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2017.

3.3 WALKOVER SURVEY

The site was inspected on the 2nd August 2017 by B. Morris; the weather was wet, with persistent light rain. The site is covered with areas of dense scrub and bracken with brambles; only that part adjacent to Coronation Cottages was (barely) accessible. However, the following observations can be made.

Firstly, at the north-eastern tip of the site (the only point of access from the public road), a dry streambed was observed running parallel to Antron Hill. The course of the stream curves to the south where it runs through a masonry water management system, with a possible sluice or culvert with pipe below; a large granite slab bridges the sluice. The historic OS maps show a stream immediately to the east, and it is likely that when this watercourse flows, it drops down to join this watercourse. It is possible this streambed corresponds to a lost field boundary superseded when the turnpike road was constructed. A little further in, and to the rear of the Coronation Cottages, dumped domestic rubbish was noted in the undergrowth

Secondly, the hedgebanks along the western side of the site are faced with poorly-sorted granite stones. The hedgebank running south from Antron Hill is up to 1.4m high and 1.4m wide; the facing stones are laid on edge in very rough courses. The hedgebank further to the south is different in character and much more substantial, being up to 2m tall on the downslope side, and the base is formed of large granite orthostats up to 0.8m tall.

The scrub vegetation on the side, where noted, appeared to consist of blackthorn with sycamore, with an understorey of brambles and bracken. The hedge boundaries sported a number of mature sycamore trees.



FIGURE 10: VIEW ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SITE FROM CORONATION COTTAGES; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH, LOOKING SOUTH.

3.4 HISTORIC FIELD BOUNDARIES

As noted (above), the hedgebank between Field 1 and Fields 2 and 4 is a *dominant boundary*, in that it separates and defines two distinct blocks of fields. The hedgebank along the eastern side of Fields 4 and 5 is flanked by a trackway that once linked the medieval settlements of Antron and Nanturrian. This hedgebank was over 2m high on its downslope side and incorporated large (up to 0.8m high) granite orthostats along the base. If possible, these boundaries should be retained within the designed scheme, and breaches recorded archaeologically.

3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The results of the extensive fieldwork undertaken at Penvose Farm, Higher Treliever Road and Tremough would strongly suggest the archaeological potential of this site is *high*. Like Antron Hill, all these sites are located mid-slope on south-east facing hillsides above steep valleys. However, the current state of the site presents a severe impediment to archaeological risk management, making non-intrusive prospection techniques (i.e. geophysical survey) more difficult to undertake.

3.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Providing scrub clearance can be undertaken with a minimum of actual ground disturbance, it should be possible initiate a staged programme of archaeological investigation: 1. geophysical (gradiometer) survey; 2. targeted evaluation trenching; and 3. open area excavation (strip-map-sample-record) or watching brief, as dictated by the results of Stages 1-2.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the modern settlement of Mabe Burnthouse. This settlement originated in the 18th century on a crossroads on the Penryn to Marazion Turnpike, coalescing around a tollhouse (*Antron Gate*); however, the bulk of the settlement is 20th century in date, expanding massively in the 1960s-70s as a satellite of Falmouth. In the 19th century the fields were attached to the settlement of Antron (*Anter*), first documented in c.1200, and it seems likely it formed part of a common open field system enclosed during the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Antron appears to have been part of the Manor of Carnsew, and was a farming hamlet of multiple tenements.

The site is heavily overgrown, limiting the effectiveness of the walkover survey and rendering a geophysical survey all but impossible. However, the site is located mid-slope above a deep valley, in a similar topographical location to the extensively excavated landscape around CUC Tremough campus. Significant multi-period remains dating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods have been excavated at Tremough, demonstrating that the archaeological potential of this landscape is considerable.

We would recommend initiating a staged programme of archaeological investigation informed by an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation following the granting of planning permission and the clearance of scrub from the site.

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APPENDIX 1: BASELINE PHOTOGRAPHS



View up Antron Hill from the east, looking toward the north-east corner of the site (trees); viewed from the east-north-east, looking west-south-west.



The dry streambed and masonry water management system; viewed from the west, looking east.



As above, showing where the stream runs through a ?sluice; viewed from the south, looking north.



View of the eastern hedgebank of the site from the adjacent field; viewed from the north, looking south.



Detail of the eastern hedgebank, showing the granite orthostats to the base; viewed from the south-east, looking north-west.



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