

Site Name: Land at Cucurrian Farm, Ludgvan, Cornwall	Planning Ref: PA19/09766
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 5092 34508	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: Ludgvan	OASIS Ref: Southwes1_392823
Site Type: Agricultural land (pastoral)	
Period: Undated / Modern	Form: Archaeological monitoring and recording event
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a sand school on land at Cucurrian Farm, Ludgvan, Cornwall. The work was carried out by P. Webb between 5th and 7th May 2020 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with the LPA.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 115m to the south-east of Cucurrian Farm, on the steep south-west facing slope of the Red River valley, at a height of between 105m and 110m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty loams of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the granites of the Land's End Intrusion (BGS 2020). The site forms part of agricultural land, currently used as pasture. The site is within an area characterised by the Historic Landscape Characterisation as <i>farmland: prehistoric</i>, the modern landscape having been adapted from Bronze Age and late prehistoric fields. Settlement is first recorded at <i>Caerkeryon</i> in 1375, the name derived from the Cornish <i>caer</i> meaning 'fort', and indicating the nearby presence of a late prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure nearby. The Historic Environment Record indicates that the site lies on the south-western edge of an area containing a number of prehistoric sites, including: an Iron Age or Romano-British round (MCO7907) from which the medieval settlement (MCO14204) gets its name; prehistoric barrows (MCO51004, MCO51006, MCO51010, MCO51014) to the north-east; enclosures and droveway at Cargease (MCO51009, MCO51017, MCO51006); and enclosures to the east (MCO7725, MCO51017, MCO51019), north (MCO50924, MCO50992); and south-east (MCO50994, MCO51002).</p> <p>The groundworks comprised the strip of a roughly rectangular area orientated approximately north-west to south-east, measuring 45m×30m. Excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision to the depth of weathered natural, up to 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), mid slightly grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay c.0.30m thick; overlying subsoil (101), a mid orange-yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt up to 0.28m thick (not present in the highest north-east corner); and the natural (102), mid brown-yellow friable-soft gritty silt-clay with granite.</p> <p>The only features that were identified related to the hedgebank north-western boundary to the site, and were recorded following widening of the access gateway to the site. Ditch [103] was identified on the south-eastern side of the hedgebank, on a north-east to south-west alignment measuring 2.10m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained a single fill (104), mid grey-brown slightly friable-soft silt-clay with occasional granite fragment inclusions. The hedgebank itself, {115}, was aligned approximately north-east to south-west, measuring 1.90m wide at the base (0.50m wide at the top) and 1.10m high with steep sloping sides. It was constructed in three layers: a compacted base deposit (108), of mid slightly orange-brown friable silt with granite inclusions 0.25m thick; overlain by main build (107), mid slightly orange-brown friable-soft silt with granite inclusions 0.60m thick; and topped by (106), loose mid slightly grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay up to 0.15m thick. The hedgebank had been faced by large irregular granite blocks.</p> <p>Finds: A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site, from topsoil (100) and ditch fill (104). Topsoil (100) included: 9 sherds (111g) cornish post-medieval coarsewares; 1 sherd (11g) 19th century stoneware; and 10 sherds (15g) of white refined wares. Ditch fill (103) included 1 sherd (1g) of post-medieval white refined earthenware.</p> <p>Conclusion: No features of archaeological interest were identified during the works, the finds and stratigraphy indicating a build-up of soils associated with the post-medieval and modern agricultural use of the area.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2017: <i>Land South of Cucurrian Farm, Cucurrian, Ludgvan, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH Report No. LVC20WSiv2. British Geological Survey 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Agricultural	Land Use (Site): Agricultural to become leisure
Date of Site Visit: 05-07/05/20	
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 01769 573555	

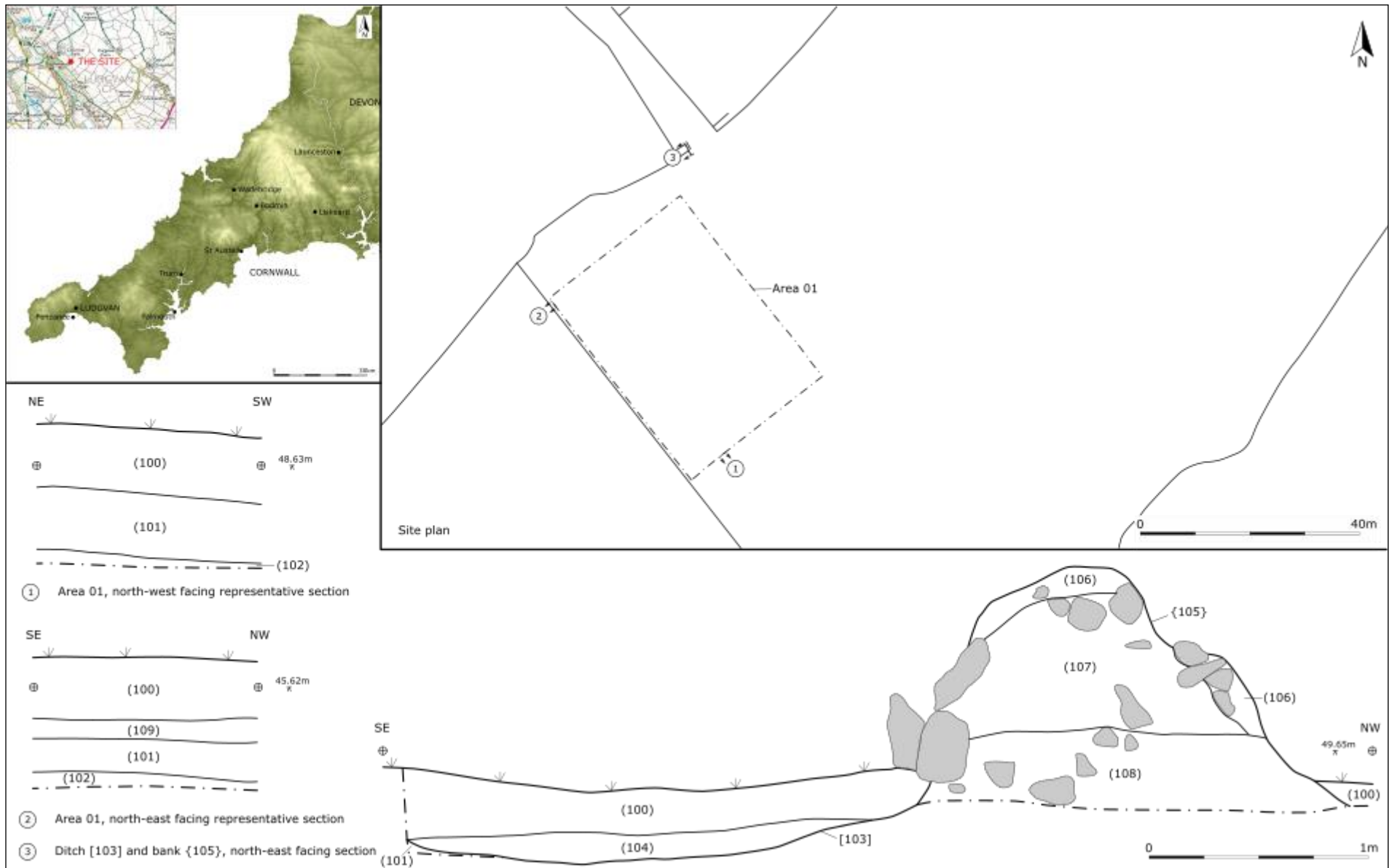


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTIONS. LEVELS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50M AOD.



FIGURE 2: AREA 01 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: DITCH [103] AND HEDGEBANK {105}, NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).