

**SPINDRIFT
HARLYN BAY
ST MERRYN
CORNWALL**

Heritage Assessment



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 201118



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES &
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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Spindrift, Harlyn Bay, St Merryn, Cornwall

Heritage Assessment

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for
A Private Client (The Client)

Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to produce a heritage assessment for Spindrift, Harlyn Bay, St Merryn, Cornwall. This work was undertaken on behalf of a Private Client as part of a planning submission for a single plot residential development.

The site forms part of the Barton of Harlyn, the seat of the Tregewe family which became extinct in the male line around the reign of Henry VIII. It passed by marriage to the Michel family and in 1632 to Thomas Peter Esq. of Treator in Padstow (Lysons 1814). The site lies opposite an Iron Age cemetery and Bronze Age round house, a Scheduled Monument excavated in 1900 and 1976 which uncovered the remains of c.110 inhumation burials. A number of prehistoric burials have been discovered in the 20th and 21st centuries as a result of cliff falls from cliffs on the western side of Harlyn Beach. A number of other prehistoric features including settlements and barrows are recorded in the wider landscape. Excavations along the line of a sewage pipeline in the 1990s uncovered the remains of features dating to the Bronze Age close to Sandy Lane (Exeter Archaeology 1997).

The tithe map and apportionment for St Merryn record the site as part of a large arable field named Undertown, owned by the Peter family who held the Barton of Harlyn. By the later 19th century it had become part of Harlyn Warren which it remained until developed for residential use in the 1960s-70s. It lies on land classified as 20th century settlement by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Photographs dating from the construction of Spindrift in 1971 suggest that the site has been heavily landscaped. There is absolutely no evidence that the Iron Age cemetery continues into the limits of the site, although this possibility cannot be entirely discounted. However, the presence of Bronze Age and undated (presumed prehistoric) features in the excavation of the sewer to the north of the site means that the potential for prehistoric archaeology cannot be completely ruled out.

Given the proximity of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity it is anticipated that an archaeological condition, to allow for archaeological monitoring and recording of the works will be required.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE CLIENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	SPINDRIFT
PARISH:	ST MERRY
COUNTY:	CORNWALL
NGR:	SW87713 75267
PLANNING APPLICATION:	PA20/06919
SWARCH REF:	MHBS20
OASIS No:	SOUTHWES1-413113

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client (the Client) to undertake an assessment of land at Spindrift, Harlyn Bay and produce a heritage assessment. This work was undertaken as part of a planning submission for the construction of one house and to place the site in its historical and archaeological context.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within Harlyn, a small coastal settlement on the North Cornwall Coast fronting onto Harlyn Bay, located between the settlements of Trevone and Constantine Bay. It is located c. 3.8km west of Padstow and c.1.3 km north of St Merryn. The site is sited just inland of Harlyn Beach and is accessed off Sandy Lane. It lies at a height of c. 15m AOD. The soils of this area are windblown sands which overlie the slates and siltstones of the Trevoze Slate Formation and Rosenum Formation with superficial deposits of blown sand (BGS 2020).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Harlyn Bay lies in the parish of St Merryn, in the hundred and deanery of Pydar. The closest Domesday manor was Padstow, held by the Canons of St Petroc, Bodmin both before and after the Conquest. Lysons records that the Barton of Harlyn or Arlyn was the seat of the Tregewe family which became extinct in the male line around the reign of Henry VIII. It passed by marriage to the Michel family and in 1632 to Thomas Peter Esq. of Treator in Padstow (Lysons 1814). The site lies opposite an Iron Age cemetery and Bronze Age round house, a Scheduled Monument excavated in 1900 and 1976 which uncovered the remains of c.110 inhumation burials. A number of prehistoric burials have been discovered in the 20th and 21st centuries as a result of cliff falls from cliffs on the western side of Harlyn Beach. A number of other prehistoric features including settlements and barrows are recorded in the wider landscape. Excavations along the line of a sewage pipeline in the 1990s uncovered the remains of features dating to the Bronze Age close to Sandy Lane (Exeter Archaeology 1997).

Nothing was found during the construction of Spindrift or the other houses in 1960s-70s or during swimming pool constructions. However, it does not seem that any of these works would have been subject to any requirement for archaeological supervision, although does perhaps suggest burials may not continue into this area.

The tithe map and apportionment for St Merryn record the site as part of a large arable field named Undertown, owned by the Peter family who held the Barton of Harlyn. By the later 19th century it had become part of Harlyn Warren which is remained until developed for residential use in the 1960s-70s.

The site lies on land classified as 20th century settlement by the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Landscape Characterisation. A post medieval rectangular stone walled enclosure is identified within the vicinity of the tennis court to the north of 'Spindrift', identified from 1940s RAF aerial photography but of uncertain purpose, however this was the formerly the location of a pair of tennis courts. It is noted as being built over, in part by the present tennis court. The closest designated heritage asset to the site is the Scheduled Iron Age cemetery opposite the site. There are a Grade II Listed structures c. 385m to the west of the site at Hesselwood Cottage and the gate piers of Harlyn House; the Grade II* Listed Harlyn House lies c.500m to the west.

1.4 SITE LOCATION

The site lies within Harlyn, a small coastal settlement on the North Cornwall Coast fronting onto Harlyn Bay (Figure 1). It is located c. 3.8km west of Padstow and c.1.3 km north of St Meryn.

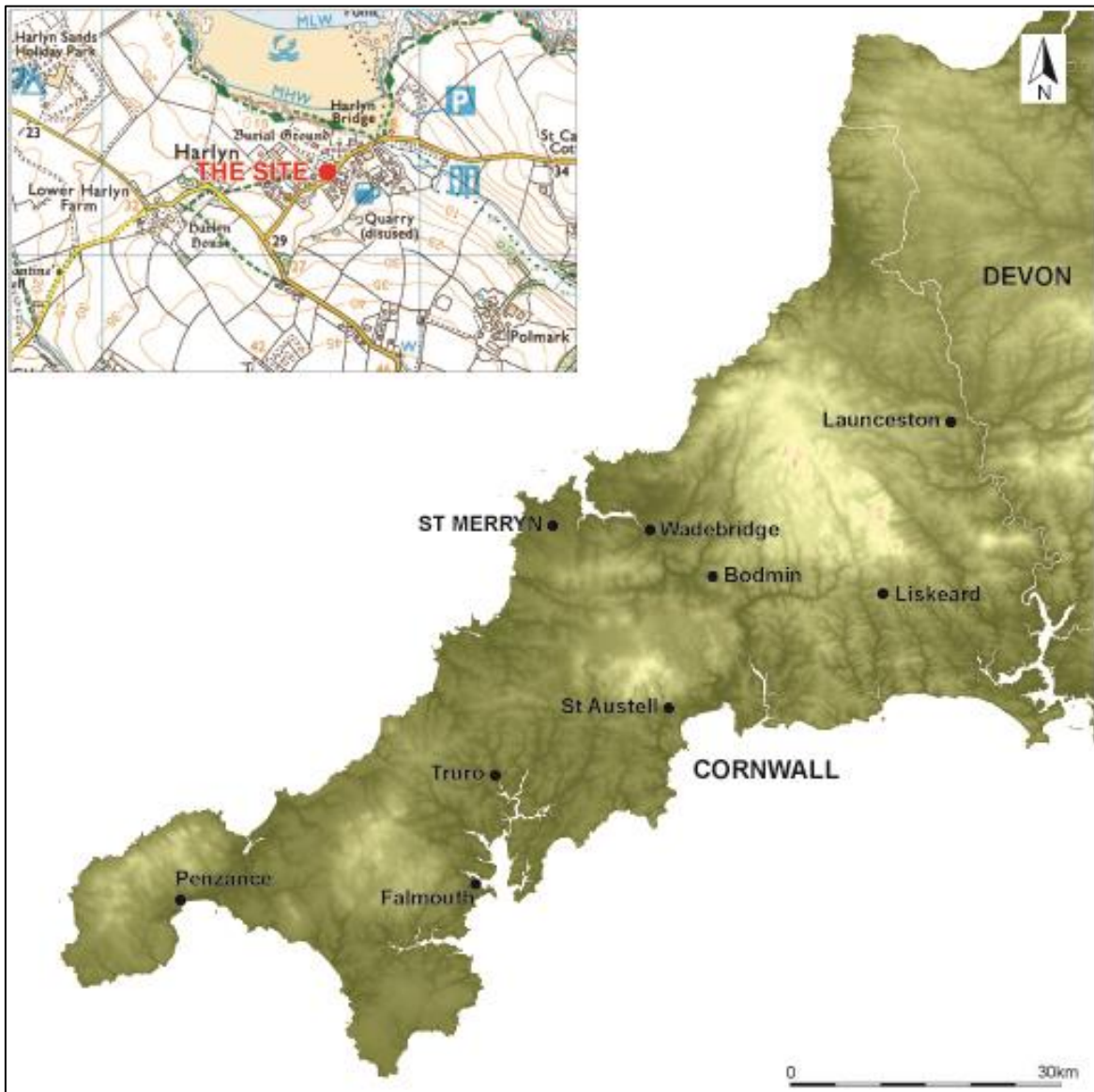


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

2.0 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

2.1 DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

A number of documents pertaining to the Peter family are held in the archives at Kresen Kernow, including deeds and details of properties which may relate to their ownership of this site (e.g. AD1097; TF/2043; CL/1/271/2/1).

The census data for 1841 shows that Henry Hawken Jr (aged 25) lived with his wife Jane and 3 month old son Henry in Harlyn. Four households in total are recorded in Harlyn at the date of this census, two headed by 'Henry Hawken's', another by Joseph Calloway and the final one by Richard Salter. Both the Henry Hawken's and Joseph Calloway are recorded as farmers and are recorded in the tithe apportionment as being occupiers of some of the land around the proposed site. As no properties are shown on the tithe map at the location of the modern settlement of Harlyn, it is assumed that all of these households were located either at or just to the north of Harlyn House, around the present Hesselwood/Harlyn Cottages. Census data from 1861 indicated Henry Hawken and his family moved to farm at Polmark and that Harlyn House was not occupied by the Peter family but by the Hellyar family. It appears that John Peter sold Harlyn House and its 1,300 acre estate to the Hellyar's in 1856 as he had no heir to inherit the property (Country Life 2020). They continued to own the property until the 1940s. Lower Harlyn is also referred to in the 1861 census, distinguishing it from Higher Harlyn to the south. The 1911 census shows the beginnings of the growth of Harlyn as a settlement with a number of properties recorded with the occupants often originating from beyond Cornwall, with several recorded as being born outside the United Kingdom. The 1939 England and Wales Register highlights the expansion of Harlyn Bay by this date with c.10 properties listed in this area.

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The surveyors draft map for Padstow (Figure 2) shows little development at Harlyn in the early 19th century, the properties shown are away from the coast. The main residence appears to be Harlyn House. Harlyn Bay is named Perleze Bay at this date. No development can be seen in the location of the proposed site.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1808 SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP (BL). THE APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION IS INDICATED

The 1841 St Merryn tithe map (Figure 3) shows the site as part of a large open field belonging to John Henry Thomas Peter as part of Lower Harlyn and occupied by Henry Hawken. It is named Undertown and is recorded as under arable cultivation at the date of the tithe survey. The Padstow road evidently cuts through the north eastern part of the plot, which is shown with the same plot number. No development is evident in the area of the site, with the only properties limited to those shown on the earlier surveyors draft map.

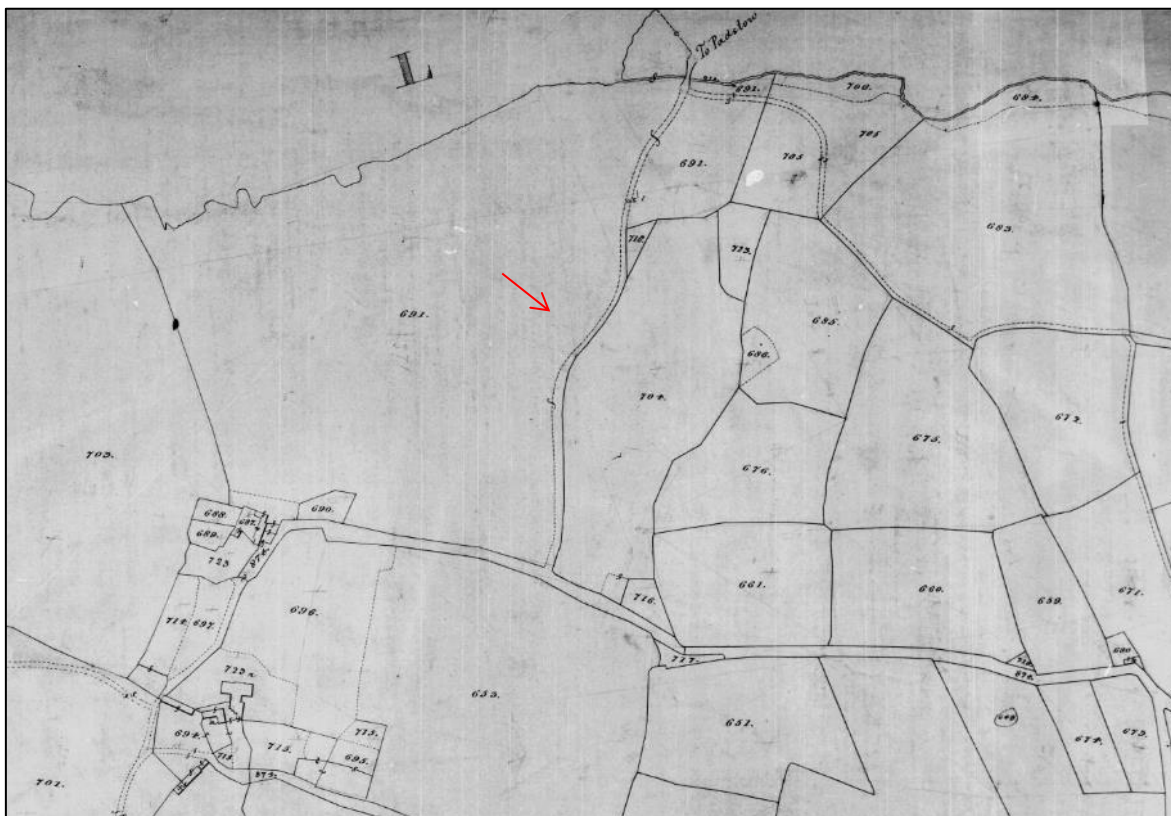


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1841 TITHE MAP (TNA). THE APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION IS INDICATED

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1841 TITHE APPORTIONMENT FOR ST MERRY.

Plot	Owner	Occupier	Name	Cultivation
Lower Harlyn				
690	John Henry	Henry Hawken	Calves Meadow	Arable
691	Thomas Peter		Undertown	Arable
Harlyn				
704	John Henry	Joseph Calloway	Under Town	Arable
716	Thomas Peter	Himself	Plantation	Wood

The Ordnance Survey First Edition map (Figure 4) shows the site as part of Harlyn Warren, clearly no longer under arable cultivation by this date. The main settlement of Harlyn is still located around Harlyn House. Harlyn Bay is named on this map.

The Ordnance Survey Second Edition (Figure 5) post-dates the discovery of the Iron Age cemetery in Harlyn and shows this as an earthwork. A museum building and refreshment house are both labelled along with a single property named Tresillian, between Harlyn House and the emerging coastal settlement of Harlyn. The proposed development site is still a part of Harlyn Warren at this date.

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FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1880 FIRST EDITION 6" OS MAP. THE APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION IS INDICATED



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1905 SECOND EDITION 25" OS MAP. THE APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION IS INDICATED.

Later historic Ordnance Survey maps (not illustrated) show the gradual development of Harlyn as a settlement through the 1930s-1970s, becoming more recognisable to the modern settlement by the early 1970s. The property 'Spindrift', the boundary of which the proposed development site sits within, was constructed between 1963 and 1972, at which point Harlyn Warren was reduced to only a small triangular area at its former north western extent.

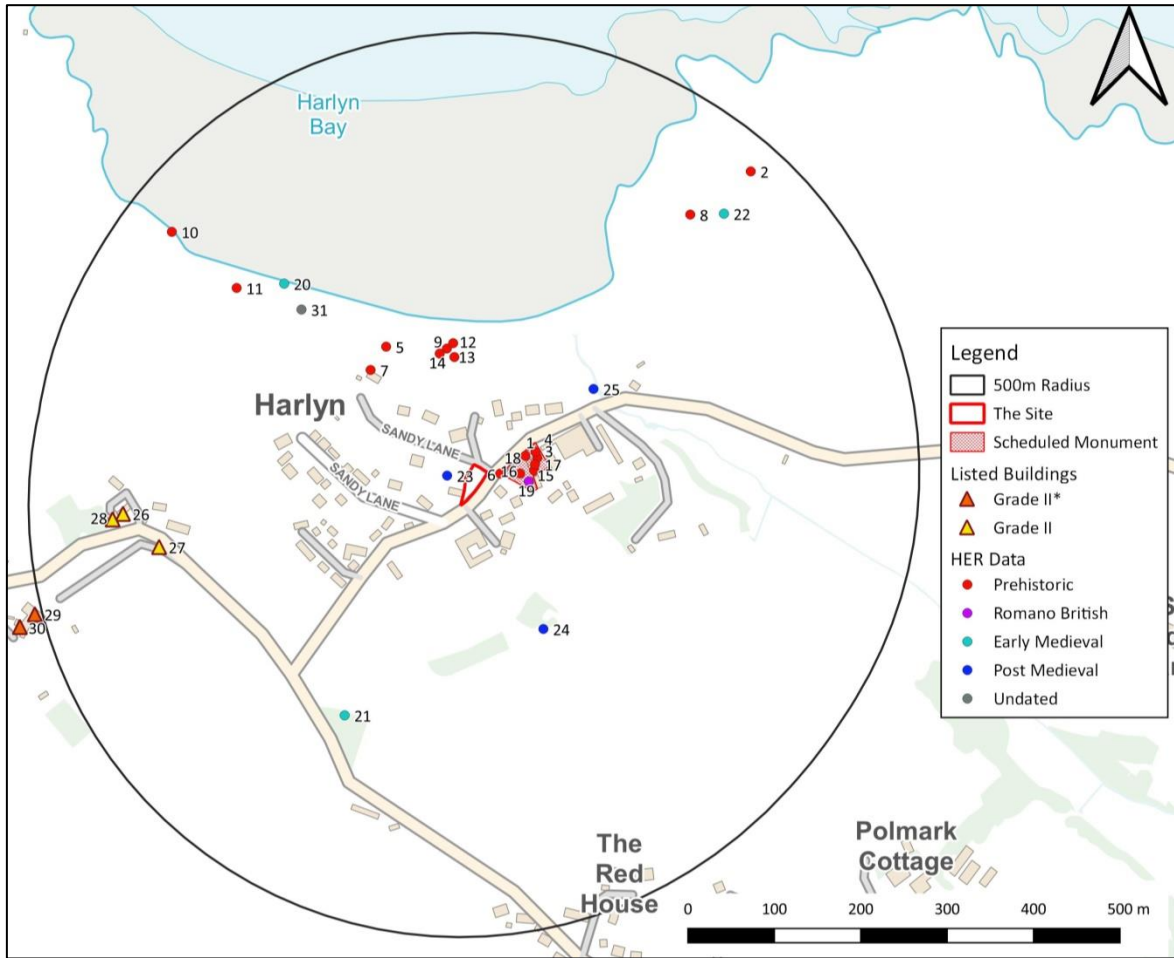


FIGURE 6: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES RECORDED IN THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HER AND HISTORIC ENGLAND DATABASES WITHIN 500M OF THE SITE (CHER& HE) © HISTORIC ENGLAND 2020. CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2020

TABLE 2: DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES SHOWN IN FIGURE 6. (CHER&HE)

No.	HER No.	Name	Summary
1	MCO19614	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age round house (domestic), Iron Age round house (domestic)	A curving wall revealed by excavations at Harlyn Bay and interpreted as a round house or ritual structure was C14 dated to the MBA.
2	MCO21024	HARLYN - Prehistoric field system, Medieval field system	
3	MCO25835	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age round house (domestic), Iron Age cemetery	An Iron Age cemetery with over 100 graves, part of a walled structure and lots of artefacts were revealed by excavations at Harlyn Bay in 1900 and 1976
4	MCO25836	HARLYN BAY - Iron Age cist, Iron Age cemetery	In 1900, about 130 graves were excavated in the Iron Age cemetery at Harlyn Bay.
5	MCO25841	HARLYN BAY - Prehistoric cist	A slate coffin was revealed by a cliff fall in 1954.
6	MCO25845	HARLYN BAY - Iron Age midden	
7	MCO25890	HARLYN BAY - Prehistoric inhumation	
8	MCO2773	HARLYN - Bronze Age barrow	A round barrow, visible on air photographs as a crop mark ring ditch enclosure.
9	MCO2774	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age barrow	The internal structure of a barrow, containing two urns and a dagger, was revealed following a cliff fall in 1890.

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10	MCO2775	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age barrow	A Bronze Age urn inverted over a cremation, revealed following a cliff fall in 1901.
11	MCO2777	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age cist	A small urn revealed by a cliff fall in 1985.
12	MCO2778	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age cist	An exposed cist consisting of a shallow pit lined with cobble sized quartz pebbles and containing a cremation.
13	MCO27927	HARLYN BAY - Bronze Age cist	A cist containing an urn with cremated bone, quartz pebbles and a small bronze pendant eroding from a cliff at Harlyn Bay were recorded in 1990.
14	MCO57953	HARLYN BAY - Prehistoric cist burial	Slate-lined cist containing human bones including skull and long bones, exposed by cliff fall in March 2014.
15	MCO703	HARLYN BAY - Iron Age findspot	Metalwork including brooches, pins, rings and bracelets of iron and copper alloy were found during the excavations of the Iron Age cemetery at Harlyn Bay in 1900.
16	MCO704	HARLYN BAY - Iron Age findspot	Spindle whorls, bracelets, a slate blade and two needles, shell, ochre, flint and animal bone artefacts were found in the 1900 excavation at Harlyn Bay .
17	MCO705	HARLYN BAY - Iron Age findspot, Romano British findspot	IA/RB sherds found in the excavation of the Iron Age cemetery at Harlyn Bay, inc. SW decorated wares, may have come from a cooking midden.
18	1006685	Prehistoric inhumation cemetery at Harlyn	Scheduled Monument
19	MCO702	HARLYN BAY - Romano British findspot	A possible La Tene iii brooch from Harlyn Bay cemetery implies that the site continued in use until the middle of the 1st century AD.
20	MCO25860	HARLYN WARREN - Early Medieval rabbit warren	
21	MCO25868	HARLYN - Early Medieval well	
22	MCO45629	HARLYN - Early Medieval field system	
23	MCO21604	HARLYN - Post Medieval enclosure	Rectangular stone-walled enclosure, 35m by 30m, with NW entrance, visible on RAF aerial photographs. Note this is likely to be a pair of tennis courts, replaced in c.1970 by the present tennis court.
24	MCO25864	HARLYN - Post Medieval quarry	
25	MCO44940	HARLYN BAY - Post Medieval wreck	In April 2004, the remains of a ship exposed on the west side of the stream below Harlyn Bridge were removed by NDCD on safety grounds
26	1289384	HOUSE DIRECTLY TO NORTH EAST OF HESSELWOOD COTTAGE	Grade II Listed
27	1212761	GATE PIERS AT ENTRANCE TO DRIVE EAST OF HARLYN HOUSE	Grade II Listed
28	1212762	HESSELWOOD COTTAGE	Grade II Listed
29	1212748	HARLYN HOUSE	Grade II* Listed
30	1212749	DOVECOTE IMMEDIATELY TO NORTH WEST OF HARLYN HOUSE	Grade II* Listed
31	MCO25842	HARLYN BAY - Undated inhumation	

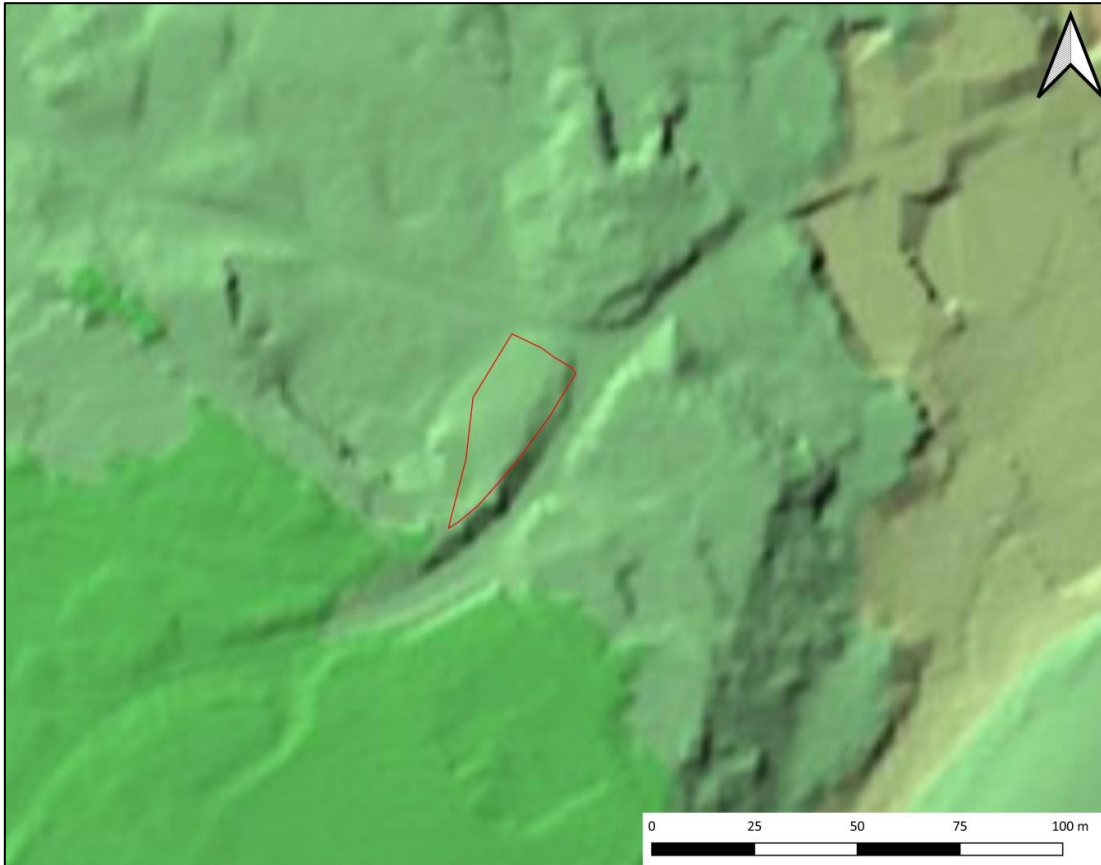


FIGURE 7: 1M DTM LIDAR IMAGE OF THE SITE. THE APPROXIMATE SITE BOUNDARY IS INDICATED. CONTAINS PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE V3.0.

2.3 SITE WALKOVER

The site was visited on 12th November 2020, in sunny, dry conditions. The proposal site is currently lawned, with a hedge and very slight (0.2m high) bank flanking the public road to the east.

The site slopes moderately from south to north and appears to have been built up and exaggerated given the surrounding topography. The site is approximately 1m higher than the public road to the east, whilst the private access drive to the north is terraced slightly into the slope. The private drive overlies the mains sewer and was subject to an archaeological watching brief during its construction in the 1990s.



FIGURE 8: PROPOSED SITE, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH WEST

A large septic tank, drains and other services have been cut in the lawned area to the west and likely extending into the proposal site, serving the existing property (Spindrift). A tennis court has been terraced into the sand to the west of the site, utilising in part the footprint of a small rectangular enclosure visible on historic aerial photographs and marked on the HER (MCO21604).



FIGURE 9: DETAIL OF SEPTIC TANK AND SERVICES WITHIN THE PROPOSED SITE, FROM THE SOUTH

The site is clearly covered in windblown and landscaped sands, which are likely to be up to 3-3.5m deep to the south of the site given the modern landscaping. There is potential that these seal archaeological features and deposits, although these may have been subject to some degree of truncation and or loss.

It was possible to replicate a similar photograph to a shot taken in 1971 during the construction of Spindrift, (see Figures 8 and 9). The same gate and access road are visible in both photos, and this clearly demonstrates the build-up of the lawned area, and landscaping which has previously taken place over the proposal site.



FIGURE 10: PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE TAKEN IN 1971 DURING LANDSCAPING WORKS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SPINDRIFT.



FIGURE 11: PROPOSED SITE VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH REPLICATING IMAGE TAKEN IN 1971 DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF SPINDRIFT (FIGURE 8) DEMONSTRATING EXTENT OF LANDSCAPING WORKS UNDERTAKEN ON THE SITE.



FIGURE 12: SITE VIEWED FROM THE PUBLIC ROAD, FROM THE NORTH-EAST.

2.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is no evidence that the Iron Age cemetery continues into the limits of the Site, although this possibility cannot be discounted. However, the presence of Bronze Age and other undated (presumed prehistoric) features in the excavation of the sewer to the north of the site (Exeter Archaeology 1997), suggests that further evidence of other prehistoric activity could exist.

Given the proximity of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity there remains archaeological potential despite the modern landscaping, and it is anticipated that an archaeological condition, to allow for archaeological monitoring and recording of the works will be required.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The site forms part of the Barton of Harlyn, the seat of the Tregewe family which became extinct in the male line around the reign of Henry VIII. It passed by marriage to the Michel family and in 1632 to Thomas Peter Esq. of Treator in Padstow (Lysons 1814). The site lies opposite an Iron Age cemetery and Bronze Age round house, a Scheduled Monument excavated in 1900 and 1976 which uncovered the remains of c.110 inhumation burials. A number of prehistoric burials have been discovered in the 20th and 21st centuries as a result of cliff falls from cliffs on the western side of Harlyn Beach. A number of other prehistoric features including settlements and barrows are recorded in the wider landscape. Excavations along the line of a sewage pipeline in the 1990s uncovered the remains of features dating to the Bronze Age close to Sandy Lane (Exeter Archaeology 1997).

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Given the proximity of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity it is anticipated that an archaeological condition, to allow for archaeological monitoring and recording of the works will be required.

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