

# THE BEACHFRONT MAWGAN PORTH MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR CORNWALL

Heritage Assessment



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 210222



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# The Beachfront, Mawgan Porth, Mawgan-In-Pydar, Cornwall

## Heritage Assessment

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Report Version: FINAL

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for A Private Client

### SUMMARY

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*South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to produce a heritage assessment for land at the Beachfront, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall. This work was undertaken on behalf of a private client as part of a proposed planning application for the construction of 16 open market residential units (14 new and 2 replacement), and 4 replacement commercial units. A desk-based assessment and site visit has been undertaken.*

*In terms of heritage value, all the buildings on the site were constructed during the 20th century. The Bridge Café and the garage (B1) were constructed in 1934. B2 appears to have been built in the early 1950s; the large windows at the front are shown in the historic photographs and thus it may have been intended as a shop from the outset. B3 and B4 were built before 1972. B1 then appears to have been rebuilt and raised to two storeys, but on the same footprint, to form the current shop with domestic use above. There may be some limited evidential value (the possibility that mid-20<sup>th</sup> century fixtures or fittings may survive in the bungalow), and some communal and aesthetic value, but the principal value is historical (narrative). B1 was built, together with the Bridge Café, to cater to the tourists that began to frequent the area in ever-greater numbers from the 1930s.*

*The other consideration is how development here would affect any buried archaeological deposits. The installation of the fuel tanks will have damaged or destroyed archaeological levels and features located between the B3276 and the former garage, and potentially contaminated the adjacent stratigraphy. The site is only c.70m away from the excavated early medieval structures within the associated SAM, but it is unlikely there were contemporary buildings here given its position and vulnerability to flooding. However, peat deposits have been identified beneath the sand of the beach and these were exposed, sampled, and dated in 2016; unusually, the peat was Late Roman in date (2nd-4th century AD) (Grant et al. 2019, 341-2). Similar deposits may be present at depth below Site A. Geo-technical investigations will likely determine the presence of these peats if they exist within the limits of the site.*

*Lastly, the proximity of the SAM is of material consideration. This significant site was excavated in the 1950s and in 1974, the first phase by the eminent archaeologist Rupert Bruce-Mitford. The recent excavations at Marver Chalets have demonstrated the occupied zone extended further to the south and east, and consisted of shallow terraces cut into the sand rather than stone-walled structures. The site has strong historic (narrative and associational) value, and any development would need to be sensitive to its appearance and setting, however it is very unlikely that the proposed will be any less sympathetic than what will be replaced. Given the nature and scale of the proposed development any impact is considered to be **negligible**.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE CLIENT, FOR ACCESS  
 CORNWALL COUNCIL HER

## PROJECT CREDITS

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	THE BEACHFRONT, MAWGAN PORTH
<b>PARISH:</b>	MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR
<b>COUNTY:</b>	CORNWALL
<b>CENTROID NGR:</b>	SW 84989 67174
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION:</b>	PRE-APPLICATION
<b>SWARCH REF:</b>	MPBF21
<b>OASIS REF:</b>	SOUTHWES1-414091

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client to assess a plot of land containing a series of linked 20<sup>th</sup> century structures in advance of a planning application for potential future development for the construction of 16 open market residential units (14 new and 2 replacement), and 4 replacement commercial units.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies at the southern end of Mawgan Porth, with the B3276 running along the northern boundary of the site and the River Menalhyl running along the southern boundary. To the north-west lies the beach, and in all other directions, the landscape beyond the village is a patchwork of agricultural enclosures. The site lies in the level valley base at a height of c.6m AOD. The soils of this area are classified as the shallow well drained loamy soils over rock of the Powys Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie mudstones, siltstones, and sandstones of the Bovisand Formation (BGS 2020).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies to the south of the beach, near the mouth of the River Menalhyl. This area belonged to the Manor of Lanherne, the seat of the notable Arundell family, who held it from the 14<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Lanherne was a Domesday manor held by the Bishop of Exeter, paying geld for one hide but worth three, and with land for 10 ploughs. 'Porth' first appears in the Lanherne manorial extent of 1451-64 as a free tenancy, held by John Porth, for 1 acre Cornish in socage (Fox & Padel 2000).

A number of archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric to modern periods are located around Mawgan Porth including a prehistoric submerged forest on the beach at Mawgan Porth to the west of the site and prehistoric burials and an enclosure at Gluvian to the south east of the site. The 18<sup>th</sup> century St Columb canal is located to the north east. The archaeological importance of the wider area was first established in 1934 when a skeleton was reported from the garden of an adjacent house (Hirst & Keith 1936). Trial trenching occurred in 1948 and area excavations were carried out in 1950-52, 1954 and finally in 1974, all largely in response to development threats. An early medieval settlement (now a scheduled monument) with a (presumed) contemporary cemetery was recorded. The cemetery consisted of a group of 17 slab graves ('long cists') and included the graves of eight children. The settlement was comprised of three courtyard houses, with a principal long house with provision for both human and animal habitation on one side of an open courtyard surrounded by ancillary structures. Traces of earlier structures were identified in and around the settlement. The site is dated by a single coin find (c.990-995), and the quantity of early medieval grass-marked ('bar-lug') pottery recovered from the site has made it a type-site for the period. However, full publication only occurred in 1997 (Bruce-Mitford 1997). It is

possible the settlement was abandoned in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a result of sand dune encroachment.

The early medieval settlement is the closest scheduled monument to the development site, being c.50m to the north of the proposed development site boundary. The post-medieval coastguard station and a submerged prehistoric forest lie just across the river mouth, to the west of the site. There are no conservation areas or registered parks and gardens within 1km of the proposed site. A number of small-scale archaeological investigations have been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. These works include a 0.09ha geophysical survey on land bordering the eastern edge of the SAM (NGR: SW852672). This identified geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin thought likely to represent the remains of settlement activity, similar to those already excavated and exposed on the miniature golf course (Marsh & Wright 2010). However, no intrusive works were undertaken to confirm this hypothesis. Two test pits were dug in the field immediately to the north of Odd Spot (NGR: SW851673) and revealed an extensive depth of windblown sand (c.2m) covering a buried soil (Gould 2001). More recently the site of the Odd Spot bungalow has been subject to archaeological monitoring, which has again revealed a substantial depth of sand (between 1.5-2m deep), but no significant archaeological features or finds, although the author tentatively suggests that 20th century activity on the site could have destroyed any (Gossip 2016).

Archaeological evaluation on the Marver Chalets site uncovered evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of waste flint flakes but few other finds were recovered (Morris and Walls 2015). In 2020 Monitoring carried out during the redevelopment of the Marver Chalets site found one inhumation burial and the partial remains of an early medieval house and other platforms within the western area of the site (closest to the known early medieval settlement) (Webb 2021 forthcoming). A heritage assessment was carried out by SWARCH in 2021 (Walls, 2021) at a site a short distance to the north of the SAM.

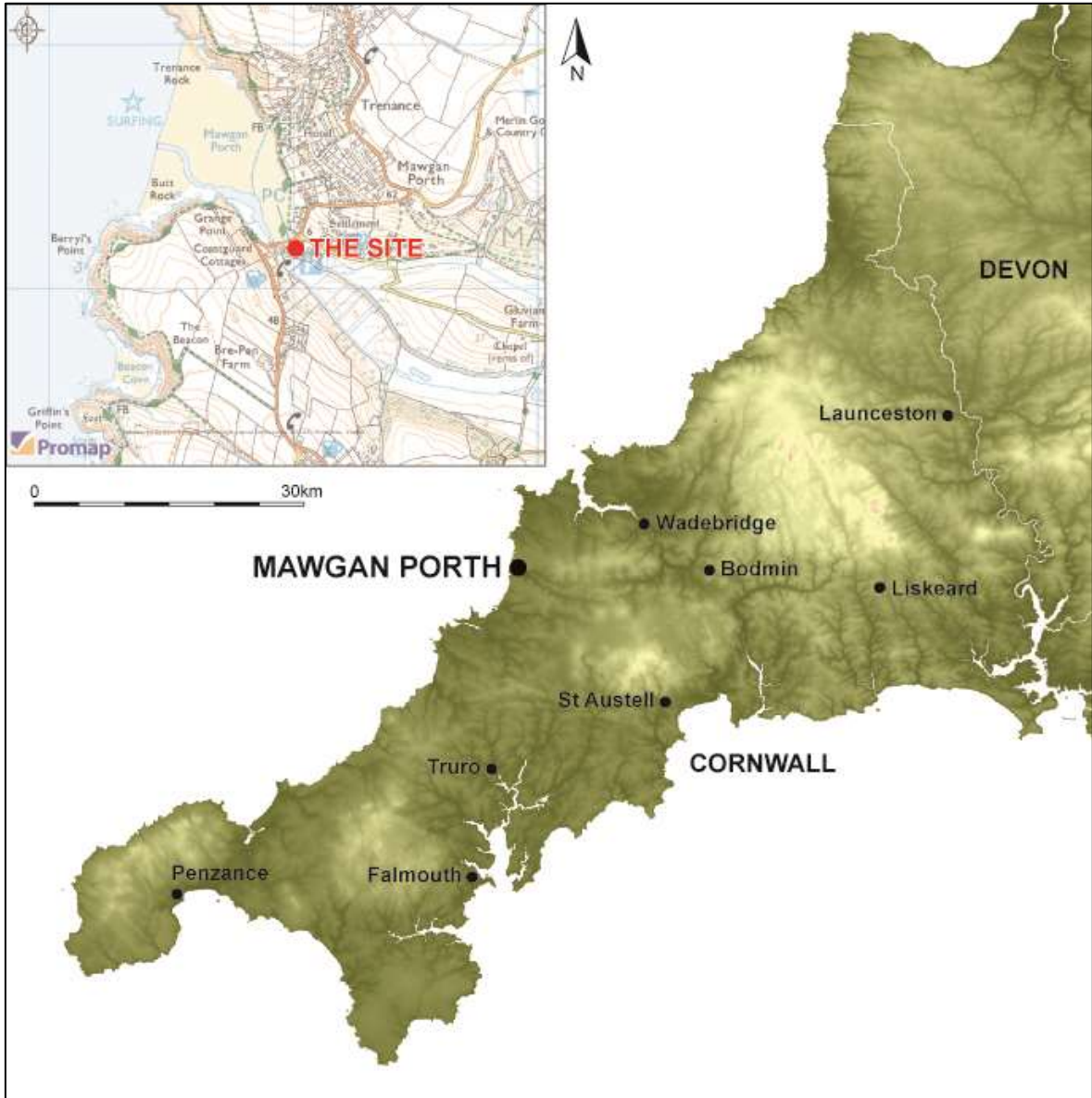


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

## 2.0 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

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### 2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Some documentary records relating to the manor Lanherne are held at Kresen Kernow. These include rental records or surveys of the manor dated to 1460 which refers to John Porth and his holding of 1 Cornish Acre in Porth (AR/2/1337/4) and a record of the appointment of attorneys to receive seisin for the manor of Lanherne dated 1457 (AR/20/20). Kresen Kernow also holds a 1951 map of Porth Farm, based on the 1840 tithe map showing the lands owned and worked by William Paynter with subsequent field name and road layout changes (AD2753/P/307). A number of deeds and leases relating to Porth are also held and may contain information about the proposed development site (LR/217). The 1840 Mawgan-in-Pydar Tithe Map shows that the proposed development site lies on land cultivated as pasture at this date (Plot 29c, Sandy Marver), within the holding of Porth. Porth appears to have been partly in the ownership of the poor of St Columb and William Paynter but according to the 1841 census was occupied only by William Paynter and his wife Mary at this date, along with three servants. The 1851 census continues to record only one residence at Porth, occupied by the Paynter's and two servants. The 1861 census records William Paynter as a farmer of 150 acres employing 1 labourer and 2 boys. The 1871 census shows William Paynter (now retired farmer) and his wife as having moved; probably to one of the cottages near the coastguard station west of Porth and Michael Cayzer and his family are documented as farming Porth. They continue as its residents until after the 1911 census.

The excavation of the early medieval settlement site at Mawgan Porth, to the north of the proposed development site, was initiated by the discovery of a skeleton in test pits dug in 1934 and test trenches in 1948 were opened by the George Wilmott which uncovered the remains of stone structures, and recovered the only dating material for the site: a single coin of Æthelred II (990-995) struck at Lydford. In advance of proposed development, Rupert Bruce-Mitford was selected to undertake a series of excavations across the site. In 1951 and 1952 Mawgan Porth was the principal field school for the University of London's Archaeological Society, and as many as 100 people were employed across the site. A further short season was undertaken with volunteers in 1954 to complete work on House 2. In 1974 House 3 was excavated by Ernest Greenfield, in advance of a putting green, part of the mini-golf course that now wraps around Houses 1 and 2 to the south and west. The site was eventually posthumously published in 1997, three years after Bruce-Mitford's death (Bruce-Mitford 1997; Ashbee 1998-9). No work, it would appear, took place in advance of the construction in c.1964 of the Marver Chalets, but has been undertaken during the redevelopment of this site in 2020 (Webb and Walls 2021 forthcoming).

### 2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The first map available to this study is the 1810 Surveyors Draft map for St Columb Major (Figure 2) which shows Mawgan Porth as an area of enclosed agricultural land with dispersed settlements and unenclosed land closer to the beach, including the proposed site. Porth Farm is named Porth Barn on this map suggesting the farm may have been small or largely undeveloped at this date. The St Columb canal is labelled as Old Canal on this map, indicating its discontinued use by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. No properties are shown immediately around the beach area at Mawgan Porth; the closest is at New Porth, on the south side of the river.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1810 SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP (BL). THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1840 TITHE APPORTIONMENT FOR MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR. PLOTS WITHIN THE RED LINE BOUNDARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN.

Plot No	Owner	Occupier	Name	Cultivation
Porth				
29	William Paynter and Poor of St Columb	William Paynter	Sandy Marver	Pasture
29a				
29b				
29c				
Gluvian				
597	Phillip Mill	Phillip Mill	Little Moor	Pasture
598			Moor	Pasture
Trevarrian				
599	Frederick May	Nicholas May	Cundys Moor	Pasture
653	Richard Parkyn	Isaac Parkyn	Moor	Marsh
655	Roger Kendell	John Parkyn	Hawkeys Moor	Marsh





FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1840 TITHE MAP (TNA). THE SITE IS INDICATED.

The 1840 Mawgan-in-Pydar Tithe Map (Figure 3) shows that the proposed development site lies on land cultivated as pasture at this date, within the holding of Porth. Porth appears to have been partly in the ownership of the poor of St Columb and William Paynter but according to the 1841 census was occupied only by William Paynter at this date. Some canalisation and management of the river Menalhyl for agricultural purposes is indicated to the north of the proposed development site on this map.

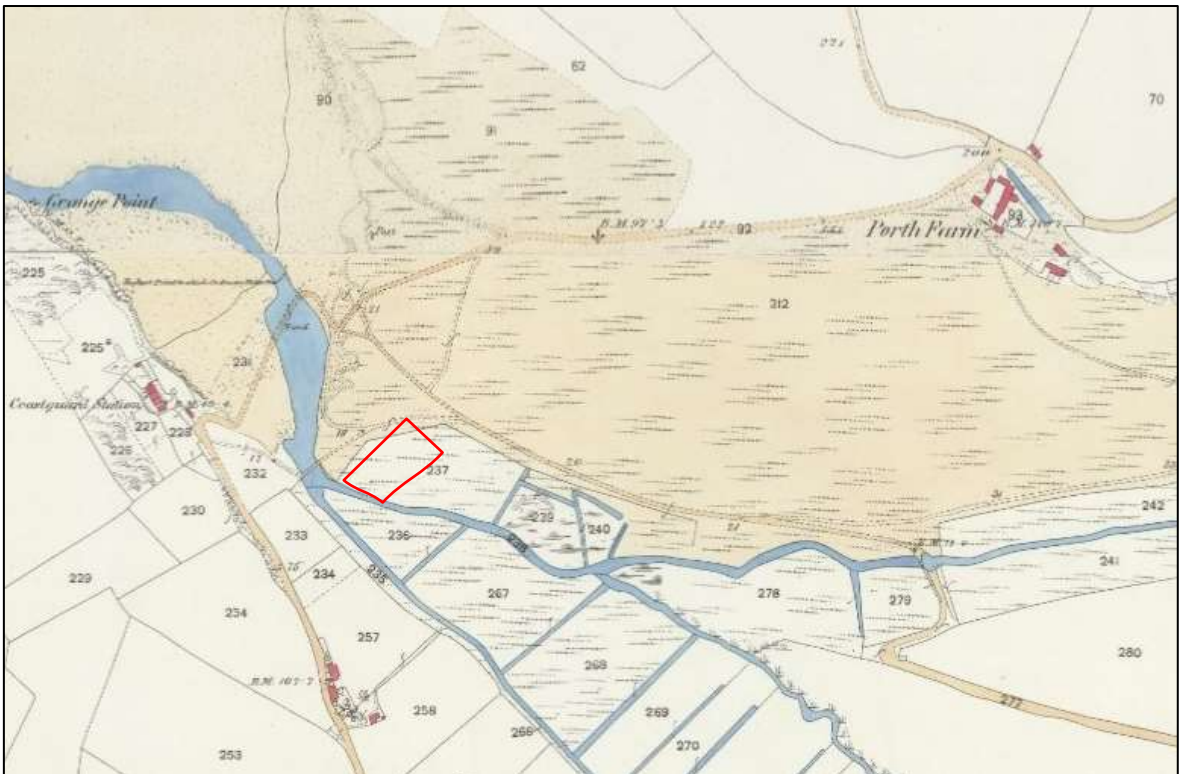


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1880 FIRST EDITION 25'' OS MAP (NLS).

The 1880 Ordnance Survey (OS) 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (Figure 4) shows the rough boundary of the site laid out, although no structures are evident within the enclosure at this time. The pattern of irrigation channels running along the field boundaries of the land to the south and east of the site seems further developed by this time, with the road seemingly more permanent than the dotted track of the tithe map.



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1905 SECOND EDITION 25" OS MAP (NLS).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of 1906 (Figure 5) indicates little change had occurred on the site since the 1880s. The river crossing to the west has been brought much closer, and now runs along the same route as the road running along the north and west boundaries of the site today.

Historic mapping from the 1960s (not depicted) shows the buildings along the western edge of the site. A few buildings have been constructed to the north, east and south, but the settlement of Mawgan Porth, was still fairly dispersed up until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### 2.3 HER DATA

The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) records a number of sites within a 1km radius of the proposed development site. No assets are recorded on the site, although two modern non-designated heritage assets are noted in close proximity to the site, a signpost (MCO55530) and the site of a demolished pillbox (MCO43115). There is a single scheduled monument (Mawgan Porth early medieval settlement and cemetery) and one Grade II listed building (Gluvian Farmhouse) within 1km of the proposed development site.

Within the wider landscape prehistoric sites are recorded to the north and south (possible rounds MCO8683 and MCO8775), to the west (submarine forest MCO44970) and a larger concentration of sites to the south east including a possible round (MCO7974), Bronze Age burial (MCO25947), lithic scatter (MCO6655) and enclosure (MCO21577). A large number of early medieval sites are

to the north-east of the proposed development site boundary, related to the early medieval settlement and cemetery discovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement at Trenance also dates to the medieval period (MCO17556) as does a chapel at Gluvian, to the south east of the site (MCO9946). Further medieval period sites are recorded at Trevarrian (field system MCO25919) and Beacon Cove (medieval beacon MCO4029). To the north east of the proposed site a number of post medieval sites are recorded including Porth Farm (MCO16466), St Columb canal (MCO51929), a post medieval quarry (MCO25958). Post medieval quarries are also recorded at Trenance (MCO25954), Trevarrian (MCO25957), Beacon Cove (MCO46580) and Berryls Point (MCO25956). A 19<sup>th</sup> century lookout is recorded at Berryls Cove (MCO46581). A number of modern (WWII) defences are recorded at Trenance including at battery (MCO29961) and additional extant pillboxes (MCO43116; MCO43117).

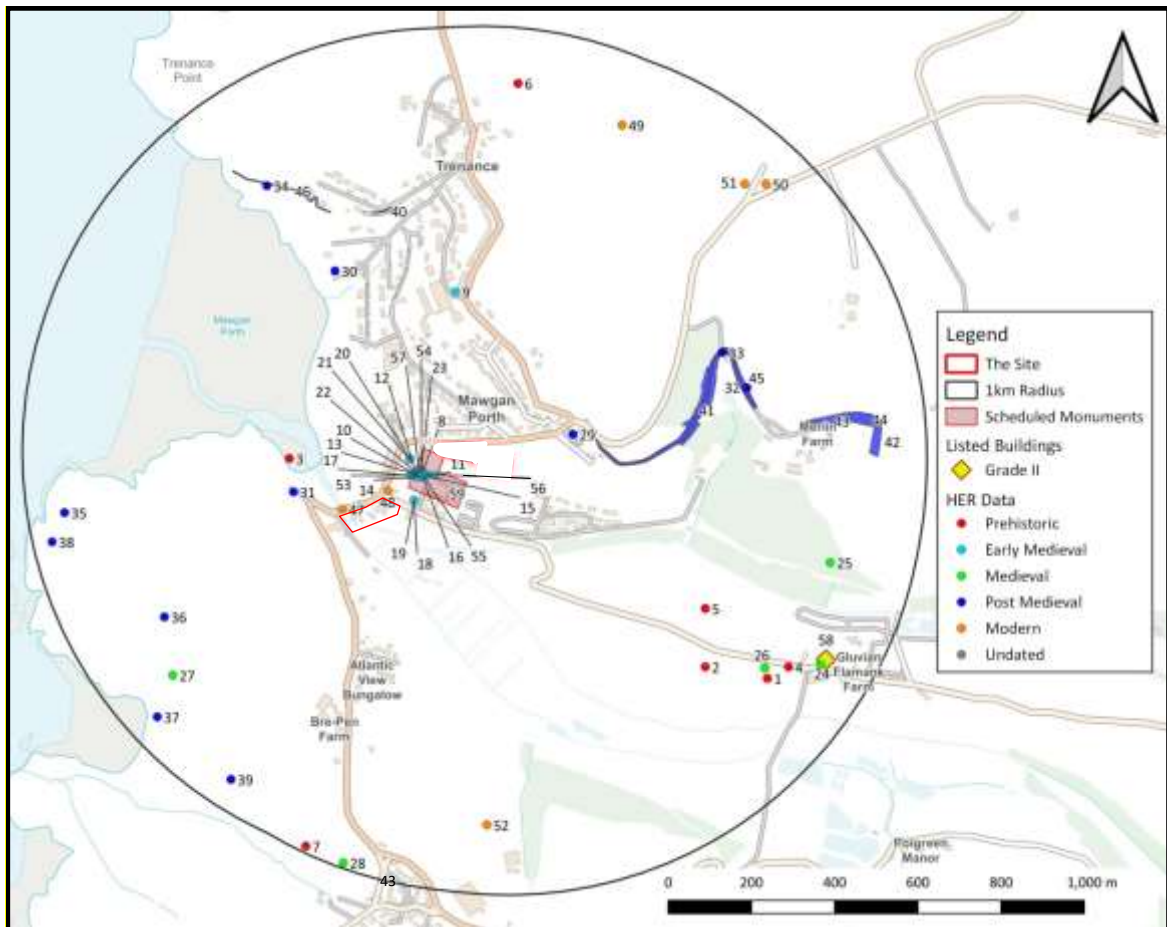


FIGURE 6: MAP SHOWING HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED IN THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD. CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT [AND DATABASE RIGHT] (2020). CONTAINS, OR IS BASED UPON, ENGLISH HERITAGE'S NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST FOR ENGLAND DATA © ENGLISH HERITAGE. THE APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION IS INDICATED.

TABLE 2: DETAILS OF THE HERITAGE ASSETS SHOWN ON FIGURE 9 (CSHER)

No	MonUID	Name	Form	Summary
1	MCO21577	GLUVIAN - Prehistoric enclosure, Medieval enclosure	EXTANT STRUCTURE	Subrectangular univallate enclosure, 30m by 20m, visible on aerial photographs.
2	MCO25947	GLUVIAN - Prehistoric burial, Bronze Age burial	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
3	MCO44970	MAWGAN PORTH - Prehistoric submarine forest	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	A submerged forest has been recorded on the S side of Mawgan Porth beach.

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4	MCO6655	GLUVIAN - Prehistoric lithic scatter	FIND	
5	MCO7974	GLUVIAN - Iron Age round, Romano British round	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The field-name 'Higher Pendeen' suggests the site of a round but there are no remains.
6	MCO8683	TRENANCE - Iron Age round, Romano British round	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The field-name 'Round Meadow' suggests the site of a round but there are no remains.
7	MCO8775	TREVARRIAN - Iron Age round, Romano British round	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The field-names 'Carbanon Close' and 'Carbarow Close' suggest the site of a round. A raised area in one field may represent the west half of the round.
8	MCO15632	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval settlement	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A small early medieval village with associated burial ground, consisting of a complex of three, or possibly four units.
9	MCO17556	TRENANCE - Early Medieval settlement, Medieval settlement	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The settlement of Trenance is first recorded in 1277 when it is spelt "Trenans".
10	MCO25985	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval occupation site	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
11	MCO25986	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval building	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
12	MCO25987	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval longhouse	EXTANT STRUCTURE	Longhouse within the main, excavated courtyard complex at Mawgan Porth settlement.
13	MCO25988	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval kennels, Medieval kennels	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	A roofed recess in the NW corner of the yard, at floor level and between two walls, in the main excavated building complex at Mawgan Porth settlement, was interpreted by the excavator as a kennel.
14	MCO25989	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval building	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
15	MCO25990	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval building	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
16	MCO25991	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval longhouse	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
17	MCO25992	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval building	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
18	MCO25993	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval building	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
19	MCO25994	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval midden	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	A midden containing shells, bone, potter is recorded at Mawgan Porth.
20	MCO25995	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval cemetery	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
21	MCO25996	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval inhumation	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
22	MCO970	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval findspot	FIND	
23	MCO971	MAWGAN PORTH - Early Medieval findspot	FIND	
24	MCO14535	GLUVIAN - Medieval settlement	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The settlement of Gluvian is first recorded in 1650 when it is spelt "Gliwian".
25	MCO29965	GLUVIAN - Medieval hollow way	EXTANT STRUCTURE	

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26	MCO9946	GLUVIAN - Medieval chapel	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A ruined building at Gluvian thought to be the remains of a chapel.
27	MCO4029	BEACON COVE - Medieval beacon, Post Medieval beacon	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A clifftop to the north west of Trevarrian is named The Beacon on OS maps, and below is Beacon Cove, suggesting the site of a beacon.
28	MCO25919	TREVARRIAN - Medieval field system, Post Medieval field system	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	An extensive area of fields to the north and west of Trevarrian were shown on the Tithe Award map
29	MCO16466	PORTH FARM - Post Medieval settlement	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The settlement of Porth Farm is recorded on Martyn's map as "Barn".
30	MCO25954	TRENANCE - Post Medieval quarry	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
31	MCO25955	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval coastguard station	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
32	MCO25958	MORELAND - Post Medieval quarry	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	
33	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
34	MCO51928	TRENANCE POINT - Post Medieval canal	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The northern terminus of the St Columb canal.
35	MCO25956	BERRYLS POINT - Post Medieval quarry	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
36	MCO30019	BERRYLS POINT - Post Medieval defence	EXTANT STRUCTURE	WW2 installation, possibly associated with St Mawgan or St Eval airfields, visible on air photographs
37	MCO46580	BEACON COVE - Post Medieval extractive pit	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A.K. Hamilton-Jenkin identified an iron lode exposed in Beacon Cove 'where it had been developed by an adit and adjacent shaft' .
38	MCO46581	BERRYLS POINT - C19 lookout, boundary marker	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A lookout post at Berryll's Point is shown on the OS 2nd Edition 1:2500 map of c1907 along with a flagstaff (F.S. on the map) used for signalling, and a series of seven granite markers of which only one survives in situ.
39	MCO25957	TREVARRIAN - Post Medieval quarry	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	
40	MCO51928	TRENANCE POINT - Post Medieval canal	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The northern terminus of the St Columb canal.
41	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
42	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
43	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
44	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
45	MCO51929	MAWGAN PORTH - Post Medieval canal	EXTANT STRUCTURE	The line of the St Columb canal of c1777.
46	MCO51928	TRENANCE POINT - Post Medieval canal	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	The northern terminus of the St Columb canal.
47	MCO43115	MAWGAN BEACH - Modern pillbox	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	

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48	MCO55530	MAWGAN PORTH - Modern signpost	EXTANT BUILDING	A cast iron fingerpost, possibly Visick type 1, survives on the east side of the B3276.
49	MCO29961	TRENANCE - Modern battery	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
50	MCO43116	MAWGAN PORTH - Modern pillbox	EXTANT STRUCTURE	One of two pillboxes on either side of a 'green lane' leading to St Eval Airfield.
51	MCO43117	MAWGAN PORTH - Modern pillbox	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
52	MCO42873	TREVARRIAN - Modern auxiliary hide	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	This was the Operational Base for the St Mawgan Auxiliary Unit.
53	MCO10694	MAWGAN PORTH - Undated garden	EXTANT STRUCTURE	A possible garden to the west of the longhouse in the main excavated building complex at Mawgan Porth.
54	MCO10860	MAWGAN PORTH - Undated house	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
55	MCO10861	MAWGAN PORTH - Undated house	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
56	MCO10862	MAWGAN PORTH - Undated house	EXTANT STRUCTURE	
57	MCO21693	MAWGAN PORTH - Undated enclosure	DEMOLISHED STRUCTURE	Traces of a pen or enclosure fenced by double lines of wattles were found immediately south-west of the longhouse in the main excavated building complex.
58	1137388	GLUVIAN FARMHOUSE		Grade II Listed
59	1003087	Mawgan Porth early medieval settlement and associated burial ground, 250m west of Lanerick		SAM

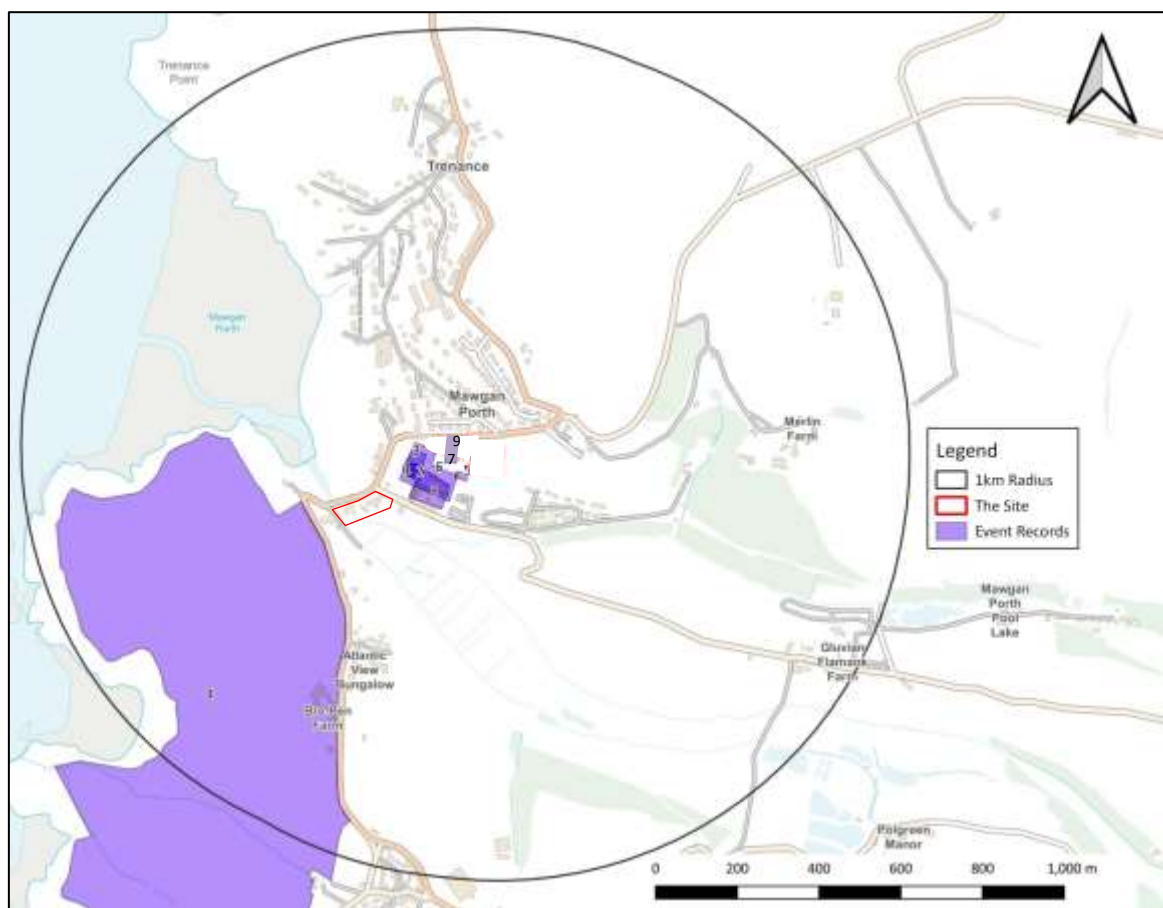


FIGURE 7: MAP SHOWING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK RECORDED WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED BY THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HER. CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT [AND DATABASE RIGHT] (2020)

TABLE 3: DETAILS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK SHOWN ON FIGURE 10 (CSHER)

No	Event ID	Type	Name	Summary
1	ECO1309	Excavation	Mawgan Porth	Summary of excavations of the early medieval settlement recorded in JRIC 83, Vol XXIV, 1936
2	ECO1374	Excavation	Mawgan Porth	Excavations carried out at the early medieval settlement at Mawgan Porth
3	ECO1957	Management Works	Scheduled Monument Management: Mawgan Porth	Management works were undertaken in 2002 to clear vegetation from two of the courtyard house complexes, infill earlier excavation trenches and assess the condition of the monument
4	ECO220	Assessment; Historic Landscape Characterisation; Site Survey	Bre-Pen, Mawgan Porth	Rapid archaeological survey of Bre-pen carried out for the National Trust by Cornwall Archaeological Unit in 1998.
5	ECO3638	Geophysical Survey	Mawgan Porth, Cornwall	Geophysical survey carried out on land to the south of The Shack. This identified geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin thought likely to represent the remains of settlement activity, similar to those already excavated and exposed on the miniature golf course (Marsh & Wright 2010)
6	ECO4122	Assessment	Mawgan Porth, Odd Spot assessment	Cornwall Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological assessment in 2014 to inform the development of pre-planning proposals for the replacement of a bungalow called Odd Spot, at Mawgan Porth, Cornwall
7	ECO5017	Watching Brief	Odd Spot, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall	Cornwall Archaeological Unit carried out a programme of archaeological recording in 2016 in advance of the re-development of a former

THE BEACHFRONT, MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, CORNWALL

				bungalow at Odd Spot, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall. Excavation of the development area revealed deep sand deposits and weathered natural subsoil. No archaeological deposits were revealed.
8	ECO5030	Evaluation	Marver Chalets	Archaeological Evaluation at Marver Chalets in 2015 by SWARCH
9	ECO796	Evaluation	Mawgan Porth, Newquay, Cornwall	Two test pits were dug in the field immediately to the north of Odd Spot (NGR: SW851673) and revealed an extensive depth of windblown sand (c.2m) covering a buried soil (Gould 2001).



### 3.0 SITE ASSESSMENT

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#### 3.1 WALKOVER SURVEY

The site is located at the base of the valley of the River Menalhyl, close to the mouth of the river where it crosses the B3276 and discharges across the beach into the sea. The base of the valley here is flat, with the original floor of the valley buried beneath superficial alluvial deposits capped with wind-blown sands.

The site (Site A) consists of an irregular polygonal area defined to the rear (east and south) by walls of concrete block but open to the B3276 to the north and west. The site contains a series of linked 20<sup>th</sup> century structures. The original building (B1) is almost central to the plot, with two further buildings (B2-3) to the east and single-storey service structures in the rear yard. The site also features a structure built hard against the southern boundary (B4). B1 was a petrol station with garage and B2 was an attached shop and dwelling. B3 and B4 are later additions. The petrol station forecourt featured a canopy until after 2009.

The extant B1 is a rectangular two-storey structure with a shallow pitched roof of plain brown concrete tiles. The walls are rendered and painted white and all the windows and doors appear to be uPVC. To the front (north-west) side there is a single-storey projection with a flat roof; this serves as a balcony/access to the first floor, with a set of timber steps to the south-east side.

The north-east elevation of the single-storey projection has two wide openings (partly blocked), a window, and a door. There is a plain plat band with a shallow stepped gable above and, to the centre of the elevation below the plat band, a small square window set within a diamond-shaped arrangement of projecting bricks. This is a very plain design that echoes that of pre-War Art Deco petrol station forecourts. The ground floor is currently in use as a village store, with little to indicate a former function. Between B1 and the road are a pair of rectangular planters with rounded corners and beyond this there is a wide rectangular section of raised pavement with rounded corners. On this raised pavement are two square planters, and on the ground between the two is the scar for the old petrol sign.

B2 adjoins B1 to the north-east, a former bungalow under a pitched half-hipped roof of asbestos slates. It is also rendered and painted, with a central front door flanked by large windows. A skylight would suggest a loft conversion. The ground-floor interior is currently used as a shop, with little to indicate its former use. B3 adjoins B2 to the north-east and comprises a single storey building with a flat roof, with large shop windows facing onto the road. The visible walls are clad in timber although likely to be of concrete block.

B4 is a two-storey building of concrete block and timber cladding under a shallow pitched roof. There are toilets on the ground floor, while steps rise to address a small first-floor café.

All these structures appear on the 1972 1:2500 scale OS map, but only B1 and B2 are shown on historic photos dating to c.1955, and only B1 is shown on a photograph dated to 1950x51 (Figure 8). In those early photographs B1 is shown as single storey with a hipped roof and a large door (i.e. to fit a contemporary bus) in the south-west gable, and buses are shown parked to the rear. The Art Deco frontage is not clearly apparent in those photographs; instead, a sloping roof with a central dormer is shown, beneath which were six windows and a central door. It would appear the stepped gable and flat roof is a later modification, and that several of the windows were knocked through to create the façade visible today. The raised planters are located where the petrol pumps formerly stood. One consistent thing between these early images and the current buildings is the raised area of pavement against the road.



FIGURE 8: POSTCARD FROM 1955 SHOWING THE SITE AND ITS BUILDINGS (AS INDICATED); FROM THE FRANCIS FRITH COLLECTION.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

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In terms of heritage value, all the buildings on the site were constructed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Bridge Café and the garage (B1) were constructed in 1934 (*St Mawgan-in-Pydar, a 10 year parish plan 2007-2017*). B2 appears to have been built in the early 1950s; the large windows at the front are shown in the historic photographs and thus it may have been intended as a shop from the outset. B3 and B4 were built before 1972. B1 then appears to have been rebuilt and raised to two storeys, but on the same footprint, to form the current shop with domestic use above.

There may be some limited evidential value (the possibility that mid-20<sup>th</sup> century fixtures or fittings may survive in the bungalow), and some communal and aesthetic value, but the principal value is historical (narrative). B1 was built, together with the Bridge Café, to cater to the tourists that began to frequent the area in ever-greater numbers from the 1930s.

The other consideration is how development here would affect any buried archaeological deposits. The installation of the fuel tanks will have damaged or destroyed archaeological levels and features located between the B3276 and the former garage, and potentially contaminated the adjacent stratigraphy. The site is only c.70m away from the excavated early medieval structures within the associated SAM, but it is unlikely there were contemporary buildings here given its position and vulnerability to flooding. However, peat deposits have been identified beneath the sand of the beach and these were exposed, sampled, and dated in 2016; unusually, the peat was Late Roman in date (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD) (Grant *et al.* 2019, 341-2). Similar deposits may be present at depth below Site A. Geo-technical investigations will likely determine the presence of these peats if they exist within the limits of the site.

Lastly, the proximity of the SAM is of material consideration. This significant site was excavated in the 1950s and in 1974, the first phase by the eminent archaeologist Rupert Bruce-Mitford. The recent excavations at Marver Chalets have demonstrated the occupied zone extended further to the south and east, and consisted of shallow terraces cut into the sand rather than stone-walled structures. The site has strong historic (narrative and associational) value, and any development would need to be sensitive to its appearance and setting. Given the nature and scale of the proposed development any impact is likely to be **negligible**, especially given the nature of the site currently and the existing modern impacts.

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



1. THE SITE VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



2. THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT ON THE MINI GOLF SITE, WITH THE NEWLY RE-CONSTRUCTED MARVER CHALETs.



3. EARLY MEDIEVAL BUILDING REMAINS WITH THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT AND MINI-GOLF SITE, VIEWED FROM THE EAST.



4. EARLY MEDIEVAL BUILDING REMAINS WITH THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT AND MINI-GOLF SITE, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



5. THE SITE VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



6. AS ABOVE.



7. AS ABOVE, FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



8. BUILDING 3, FROM THE NORTH.





9. BUILDINGS 3-2, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



10. BUILDING 2, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



11. BUILDING 1, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



12. BUILDING 2, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



13. BUILDING 1, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



14. BUILDING 1, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



15. BUILDING 1, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



16. BUILDING 1, VIEWED FROM THE WEST, WITH MARVER CHALETs IN THE BACKGROUND.



17. BUILDING 4, VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



18. THE SITE, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.



19. THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.



20. THE SITE VIEWED FROM THE EAST.



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