



Site Name: Land adjacent to Bramble Moor, Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Cornwall		Planning Ref: PA18/05183
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 66016 45396	OS Map No: OSGB	
Parish: Portreath	OASIS Ref: southwes1-418887	
Site Type: Residential development		
Period: Modern	Form: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Event	
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a Private Client (The Client), on land adjacent to Bramble Moor, Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Cornwall, following the completion of the construction of a new dwelling. This work was undertaken by S. Walls on the 19th May 2021 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2021) and with reference to CIFA and Cornwall Council guidelines.</p> <p>The site is located on the northern edge of the settlement of Portreath, on the steep valley slopes of the Red River Valley, and is situated on the north side of Sunnyvale Road, east of the harbour. The site lies to the east of Bramble Moor at a height of c. 20m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association where they border the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the mudstone and sandstone of the Porthtowan Formation, part of the Gramscato Group with superficial alluvial deposits at the base of the river valley (BGS 2021).</p> <p>There are documentary references to a harbour at Portreath from the late 15th century, though the surviving remains of the harbour walls and pier date to two phases of construction in the 18th century. As a result of the (re)built harbour the settlement developed largely in the 19th century, a tramway constructed linking the harbour to mines to the east early in the century, a later incline railway facilitated connections to mines to the south and south-east. By the late 19th century, the failure of the St Day Mine led to the dismantling of the tramway, the Hayle Railway and harbour surviving as industrial infrastructure until the end of the Second World War, after which time the settlement became a largely mixed residential and holiday village. The site is situated on the northern edge of the former tramway and adjacent to an historic quarry.</p> <p>The only part of the site that remained open, was subject to a small trench, c.0.8m x 1.2m, to determine the deposit model and identify the likelihood for any archaeological remains having been present.</p> <p>The stratigraphy consisted of a concrete surface (0.08m thick), which overlay a mid reddish-brown topsoil (0.1m thick). The topsoil directly overlay the weathered natural, the upper 0.08m appeared to be slightly weathered or disturbed, which is perhaps to be expected given the shallow nature of deposits on the site.</p> <p>No finds were recovered, and no archaeological features or deposits encountered.</p> <p>It appears unlikely that any archaeological deposits or features were lost by the development, and the site is clearly terraced back into the cliff face (see Figure 3), with a small amount of modern made ground to the front of the plot having been raised presumably to accommodate the garden to Bramble Moor when this was constructed.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2021: <i>Land adjacent to Bramble Moor, Sunnyvale Road, Portreath, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation – Archaeological Monitoring</i>. SWARCH WSI No. PB21WSlv1 BGS (British Geological Survey) 2021: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html SSEW (Soil Survey of England and Wales) 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i>.</p>		
Land Use (Area): Garage	Land Use (Site): Residential	
Date of Site Visit: 4 th February 2021		
Recorder's name, address and phone number: Dr. S. H. Walls, MCifA South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH;		01769 573555 or 01872 223164

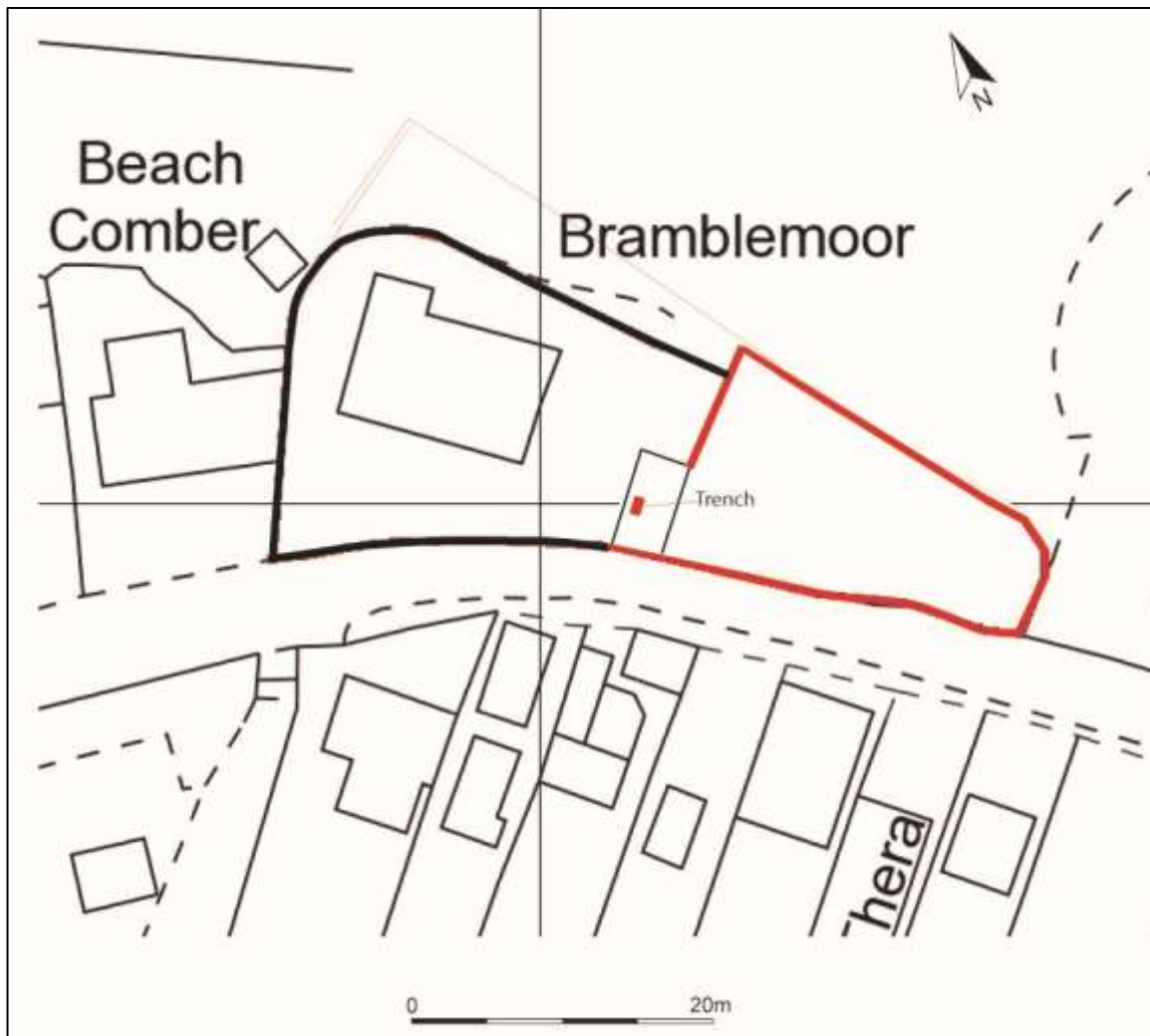


FIGURE 1: PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF THE MONITORED EXCAVATIONS.



FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED TRENCH, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SITE PHOTO FROM DURING CONSTRUCTION, SHOWING THE CLIFF FACE; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.