

# ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR CORNWALL

Heritage Assessment



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 210114



[www.swarch.net](http://www.swarch.net)

Tel. 01769 573555

Tel. 01872 223164

## St Roche, Mawgan Porth, Mawgan-in-Pydar, Cornwall

### Heritage Assessment, including site visit

---

By F. Balmond and S. Walls  
Report Version FINAL  
Draft Issued: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Finalised: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Work undertaken by SWARCH for  
A private client (The Client)

#### SUMMARY

---

*South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to produce a heritage assessment for land at St Roche, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall. This work was undertaken on behalf of a private client as part of a proposed planning application for the erection of six holiday accommodation units. A desk-based assessment and site visit has been undertaken.*

*Sites from the prehistoric to modern periods are documented in the landscape around the proposed development site 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 archaeological importance of the area immediately adjacent to the proposed development site was first established in 1934 when a skeleton was reported from the garden of an adjacent house (Hirst & Keith 1936). Trial trenching took place 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'). 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. Archaeological monitoring during works at the Marver Chalets site in 2019-2020 encountered one further inhumation burial, part of an early medieval house, and evidence for other terraces, along with a couple of prehistoric pits (Webb forthcoming).*

*The proposals are low density, and a low visual impact being terraced into the slope which will minimise the long-term impact on the setting and views of the nearby Scheduled Monument and wider landscape. The development will have significant below-ground impacts and archaeological mitigation will be required as part of any proposed development of the site, as it is located in an area of high archaeologically potential and sensitivity.*

*A site inspection was made in January 2021. The site retains a c.1930s house (St Roche) to the west, which has been terraced into the slope, but is otherwise largely open waste ground at present. There are no known designated or undesignated heritage assets on the site and nothing of interest was noted in the walkover.*

---



South West Archaeology Ltd. shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project. The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of South West Archaeology Ltd. and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information available at the time of production.

## CONTENTS

---

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	3
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i>	4
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	4
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 SITE LOCATION	7
<b>2.0 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 HISTORICAL TIMELINE	8
2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	8
2.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	11
2.4 LIDAR	13
2.5 HER DATA	13
<b>3.0 WALKOVER SITE ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	20
3.2 PROPOSALS	21
3.3 CONSIDERATION OF IMPACT	21
<b>4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1 CONCLUSIONS	23
<b>5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>24</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

---

*COVER PLATE: THE SITE VIEWED FROM THE WEST (SWARCH 2020).*

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.	7
FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1810 SURVEYORS DRAFT MAP (BL).	9
FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1840 TITHE MAP (TNA).	9
FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1880 FIRST EDITION 25" OS MAP (NLS).	10
FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1905 SECOND EDITION 25" OS MAP (NLS).	11
FIGURE 6: MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE SITE (© 2020 INFOTERRA LTD AND BLUESKY).	12
FIGURE 7: MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE SITE (© 2020 GOOGLE EARTH).	12
FIGURE 8: LIDAR 1M DTM DATA PROCESSED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.	13
FIGURE 9: MAP SHOWING HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED IN THE CORNWALL HER.	14
FIGURE 10: MAP SHOWING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK RECORDED WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED BY THE HER	18
FIGURE 11: VIEW OF MAWGAN PORTH FROM PUBLIC FOOTPATH TO THE WEST, THE EXISTING HOUSE IS ARROWED.	20
FIGURE 12: PLAN SHOWING KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE.	22

## TABLES

---

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1840 TITHE APPORTIONMENT FOR MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR.	10
TABLE 2: DETAILS OF THE HERITAGE ASSETS SHOWN ON FIGURE 9 (CSHER)	14
TABLE 3: DETAILS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK SHOWN ON FIGURE 10 (CSHER)	18

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

THE CLIENT  
CORNWALL COUNCIL HER

## PROJECT CREDITS

---

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
DESK-BASED RESEARCH: FAYE BALMOND, MCIFA  
SITE VISIT: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
REPORT: FAYE BALMOND MCIFA, DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA  
EDITING: DR. SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

---

<b>LOCATION:</b>	ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH
<b>PARISH:</b>	MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR
<b>COUNTY:</b>	CORNWALL
<b>NGR:</b>	SW 85236 67313
<b>PLANNING APPLICATION:</b>	N/A
<b>SWARCH REF:</b>	MPSR20

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client (the Client) to undertake an assessment of land at St Roche, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall and produce a heritage assessment. This work was undertaken as part of a proposed planning application for six holiday accommodation units and to place the site in its historical and archaeological context.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the southern area of the settlement of Mawgan Porth, just to the south of the B3276, which runs through Mawgan Porth, linking it to Trenance and Trevarrian. It sits on south western facing slopes at a height of c.25-35m AOD. The river Menalhyl is located to the south of the site and the beach at Mawgan Porth lies to the west. The site lies within an area assessed by Cornwall Council as being of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and forms part of the Mawgan Porth to Newquay County Wildlife Site. The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Landscape Characterisation classifies the area of land on which the site sits as partly 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement and partly recreational use, a result of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century tourism. The soils of this area are windblown sands which overlie the mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Bovisand Formation with superficial deposits of blown sand (BGS 2021).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the parish of Mawgan-in-Pydar in the deanery and west division of the hundred of Kirrier. Historically it 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, 32).

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 area immediately adjacent to the proposed development site 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 less than 1m south of the proposed development site boundary. The nearest listed building is the Grade II Gluvian Farmhouse, c.860m to the south east. 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). This area comprises part of the proposed development site. Again no further works were undertaken on this site. 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 to the south in 2015 uncovered evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of waste flint flakes but few other finds were recovered (Morris and Walls 2015). 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).

#### 1.4 SITE LOCATION

The site is located c.2.4km to the north west of St Mawgan and c.5km to the north east of Newquay. It sits to the south of the B3276 which runs through Mawgan Porth (Figure 1).

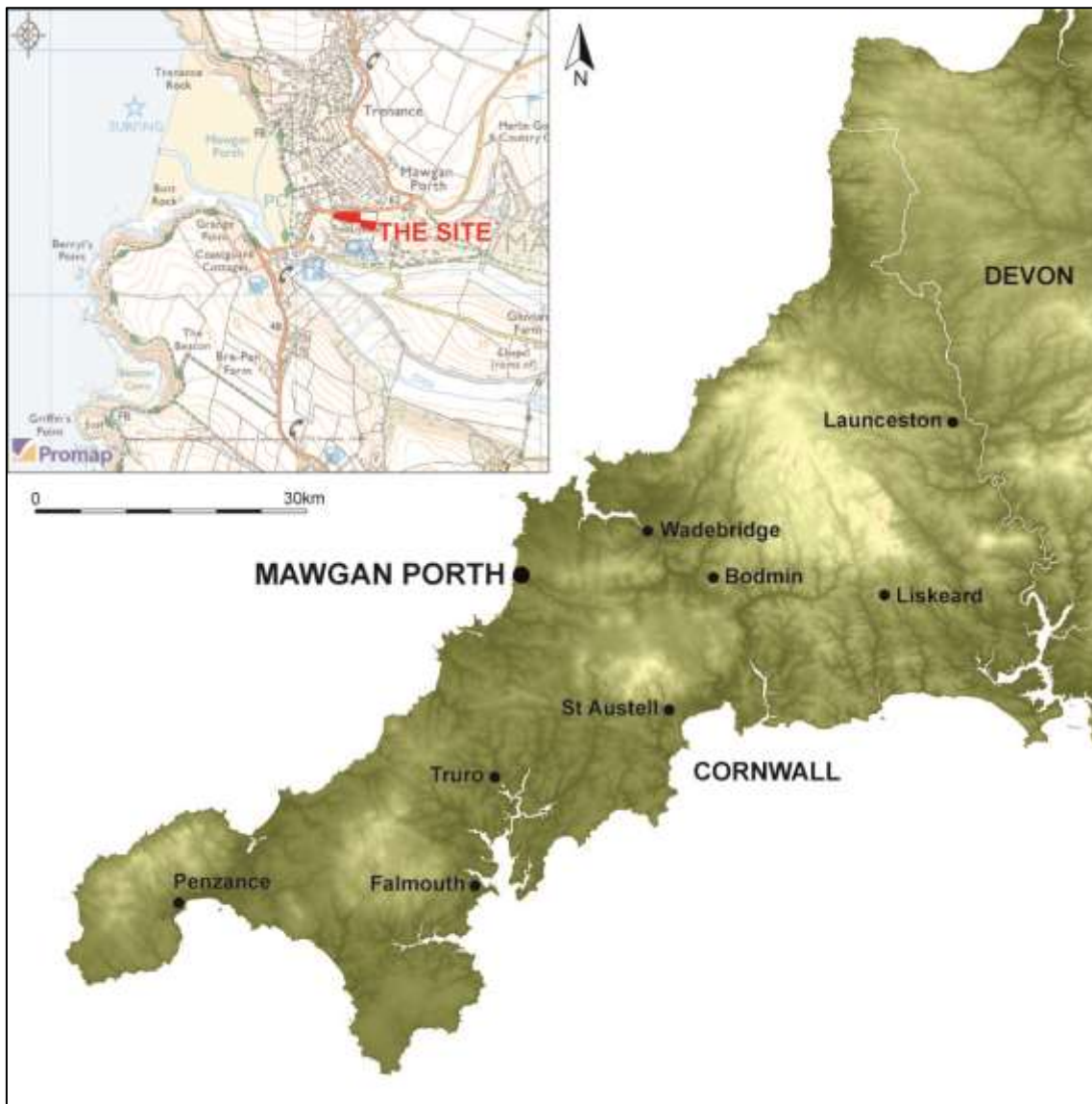


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

## 2.0 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

---

### 2.1 HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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, 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 west 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, to the south of the proposed development site.

Two photographs held by Kresen Kernow and available to view online show Mawgan Porth in the 1950s and clearly shows the area of the proposed development with the properties St Roche (then known as Edgley) and Old Spot constructed by this date. A small structure also appears to be visible to the west of St Roche. The angle of the photographs doesn't permit views of 'The Shack' so it is unclear from the photograph whether that property was constructed by this date. The properties have defined garden areas surrounding them but much of the land around appears undeveloped at this date (AD252/23/5; AD252/23/6).

### 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. 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.

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 south of the proposed development site on this map.



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

The 1880 Ordnance Survey First Edition map (Figure 4) shows the development site to sit within undeveloped land close to Porth Farm; some of the buildings of which appear to have altered slightly from the tithe map. The road layout also appears to have been altered from that shown on the tithe map with the road to the north of the proposed site curving to the south and a fork to the north added further west of that shown on the tithe. A footpath cutting off the corner across the area of land on which the proposed development site sits is also shown, to the east of the proposed site. Evidence for water management in the channels and pond to the south and east of the proposed site is visible on this map. A coastguard station is clearly marked although the buildings which comprise it, and the cottages to the south east were evident on the 1840 tithe map.

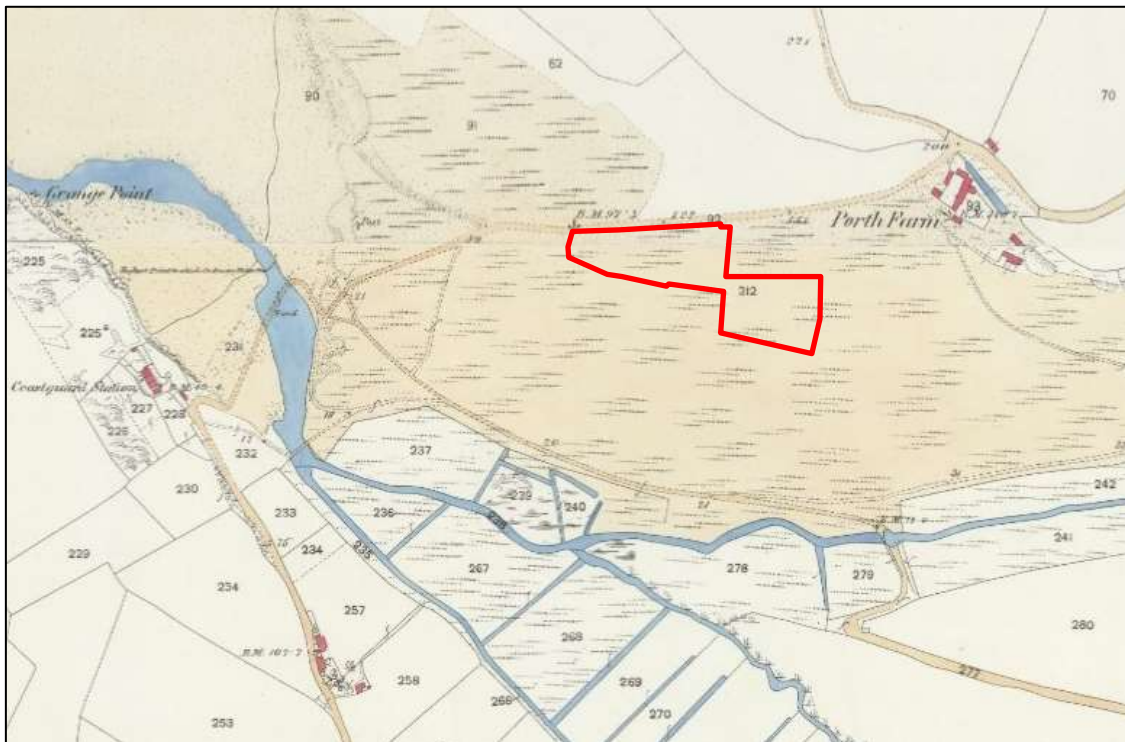


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1880 FIRST EDITION 25" OS MAP (NLS). THE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY AS SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT IS INDICATED

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 (Figure 5) suggests no change occurred on the proposed development site between this date and the First Edition map. The mouth of the river Menalhyl appears to have been altered with the pond no longer labelled and the bridge over the river moved south of the location indicated on the First Edition map.

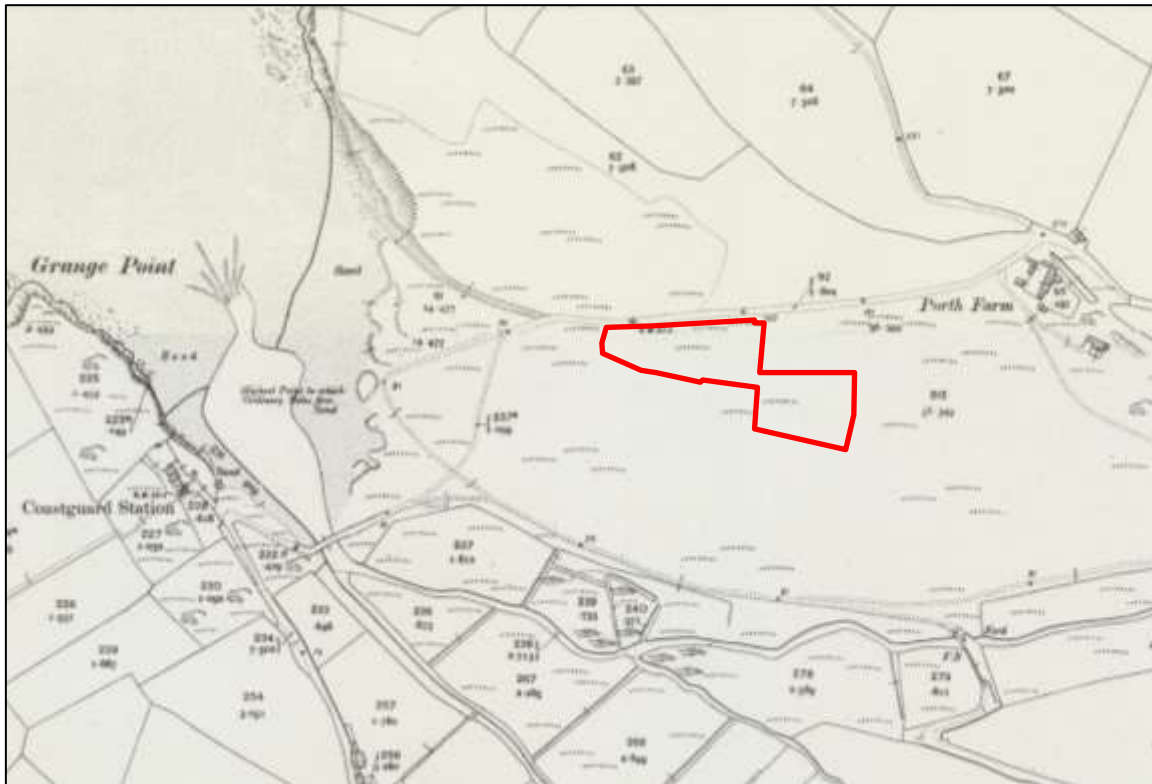


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1905 SECOND EDITION 25" OS MAP (NLS). THE APPROXIMATE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY AS SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT IS INDICATED.

Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1960s and 70s (not depicted) shows that the amount of development at Mawgan Porth increased significantly between the 1900s and 1960s, with dispersed properties established across the settlement by this date. The early medieval settlement, discovered in the 1930s is also shown on later Ordnance Survey mapping. Around the proposed development site itself, Edgley or St Roche was evidently constructed prior to the 1960s as was Odd Spot (although more recently rebuilt). The mapping suggests The Shack may have been added between 1963 and 1972. A small square structure is evident to the east of The Shack, on the eastern side of an access track into the caravan site located south of the proposed development site, from the north. By the 1970s Mawgan Porth was clearly developing as a holiday destination with Porth Farm having become Porth Farm Holiday Cottages, Mawgan Porth Holiday Park, a caravan park and Marver Chalets developed to the south and south east of the proposed development site.

### 2.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Modern aerial photography for the site (Figures 6 and 7) shows the land around the site prior to the redevelopment of Odd Spot and Marver Chalets (2001 photo; Figure 6) and after these redevelopments have occurred (2020 photo; Figure 7). The 2001 photograph appears to show an area on the eastern side of the proposed development site possibly being used as a car parking area or temporary campsite. The track to the caravan site past The Shack appears to be a footpath beyond this property and although the square structure shown on the 1972 map to the east of this track appears not to be extant there is an area of rubble in its approximate location, within the eastern part of the proposed development site. The small building shown to the east of St Roche is evident on this photograph. The Shack appears to have a larger footprint than that shown on the 1972 Ordnance Survey map, suggesting it has been extended or rebuilt by 2001.



FIGURE 6: MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE SITE (© 2020 INFOTERRA LTD AND BLUESKY). THE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY AS SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT IS INDICATED

The 2020 aerial photograph (Figure 7) shows the site after rebuilding of Odd Spot and during works on Marver Chalets. The outlines of the standing remains of the early medieval settlement can be clearly seen to the south west of the proposed development site boundary.



FIGURE 7: MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE SITE (© 2020 GOOGLE EARTH). THE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY AS SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT IS INDICATED

## 2.4 LiDAR

The processed LiDAR Digital terrain modelling (DTM) data available for the site is illustrated below (Figure 8). DTM attempts to remove any vegetation coverage to present the ground surface however the LiDAR data for this site has a 1m sampling interval and is therefore unlikely to highlight small features on the ground. The LiDAR data shows areas of terracing across the proposed development site, in particular around the buildings of St Roche, Odd Spot and The Shack, although the area occupied by cars in the 2001 aerial photograph in the eastern area of the proposed site also appears to have been extensively terraced. Archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development has encountered significant depths of windblown sand overlying archaeological layers, sometimes to depths of c.1.8m or greater. It is therefore likely that any archaeological remains underlying the proposed development site may have experienced limited truncation, despite evidence of modern terracing across the site.

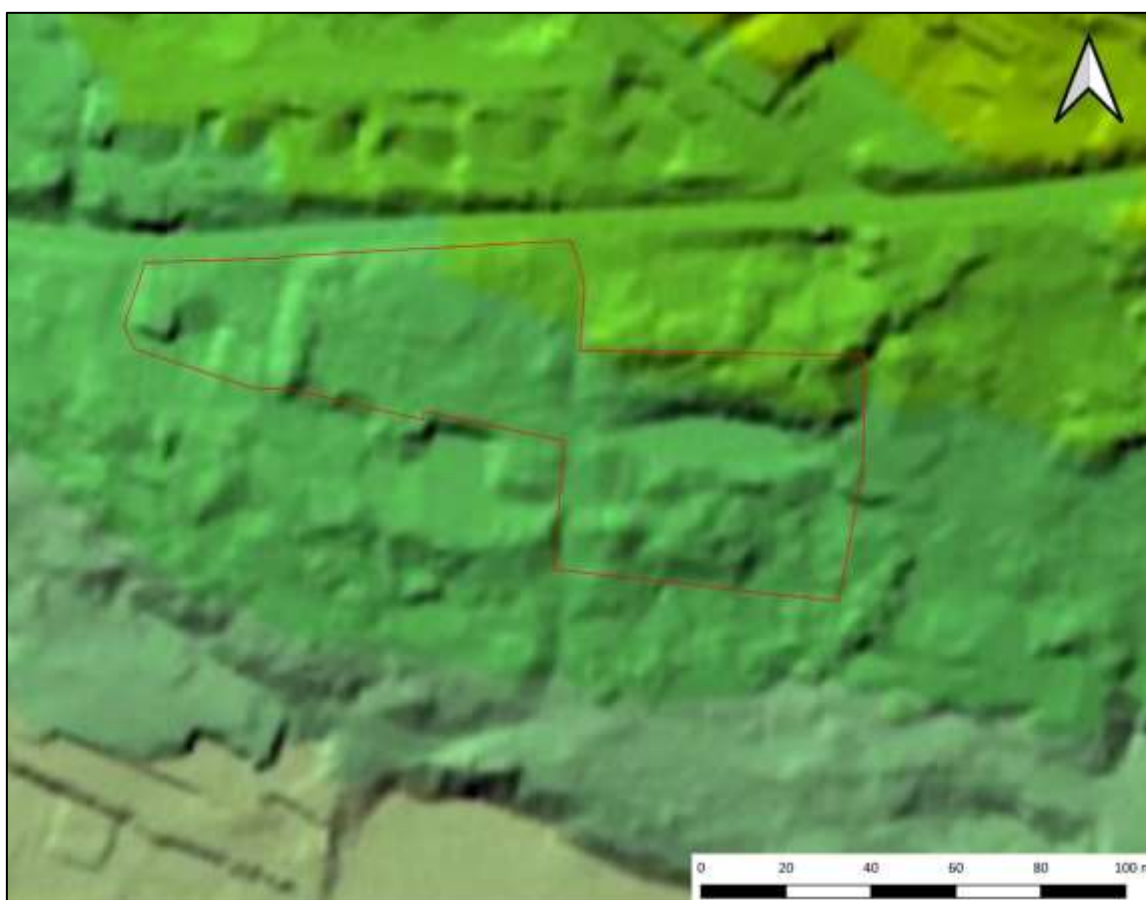


FIGURE 8: LIDAR 1M DTM DATA PROCESSED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. THE APPROXIMATE DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY AS SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT IS INDICATED. CONTAINS PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION LICENCED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE.

## 2.5 HER DATA

The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) records a number of sites within a 1km radius 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 located just to the south west 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 pillboxes (MCO43116; MCO43117). There is one scheduled monument (Mawgan Porth early medieval settlement and cemetery) and one Grade II listed building (Gluvian Farmhouse) within 1km of the proposed development site

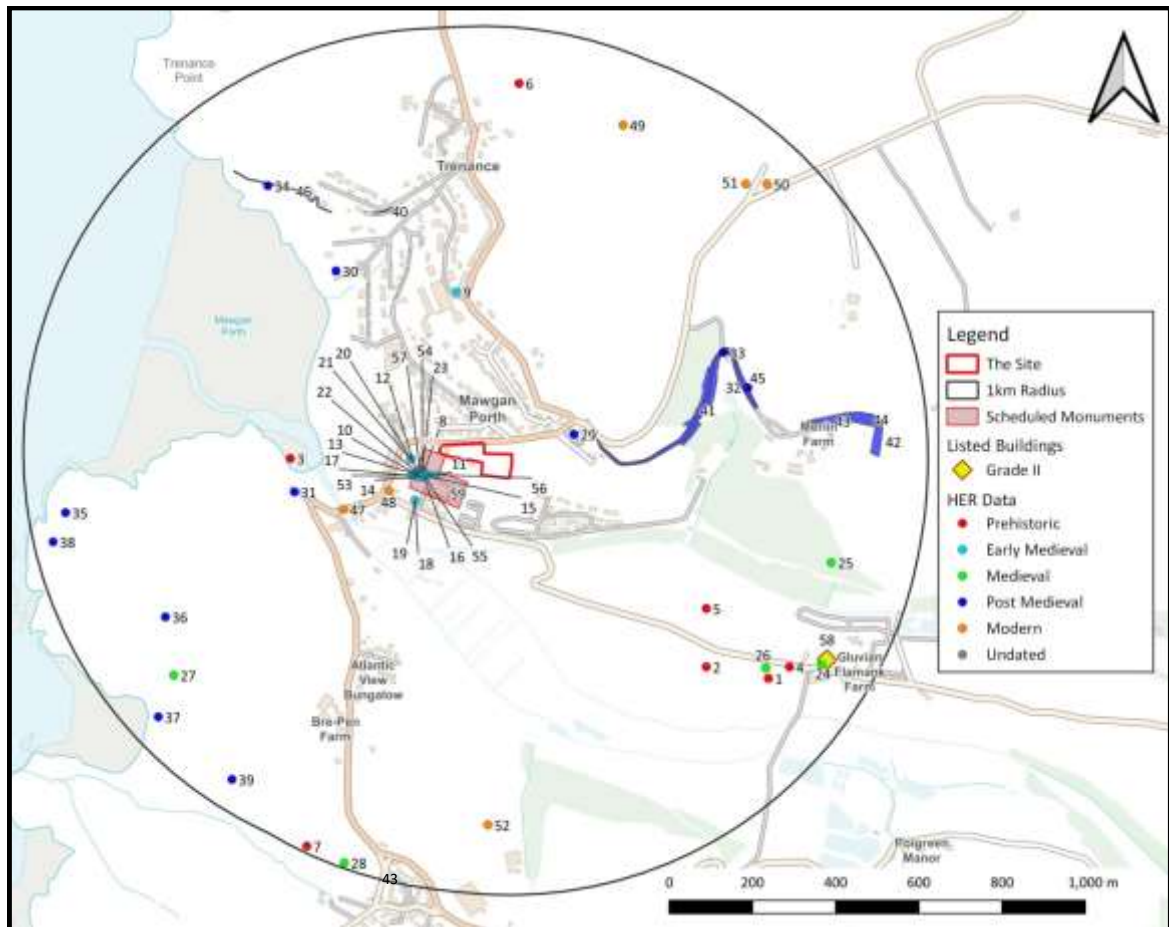


FIGURE 9: MAP SHOWING HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED IN THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD. CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT [AND DATABASE RIGHT] (2020). CONTAINS, OR IS BASED UPON, ENGLISH HERITAGE'S NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST FOR ENGLAND DATA © ENGLISH HERITAGE. THE 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.

ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, CORNWALL

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	

ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, CORNWALL

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	



ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, CORNWALL

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

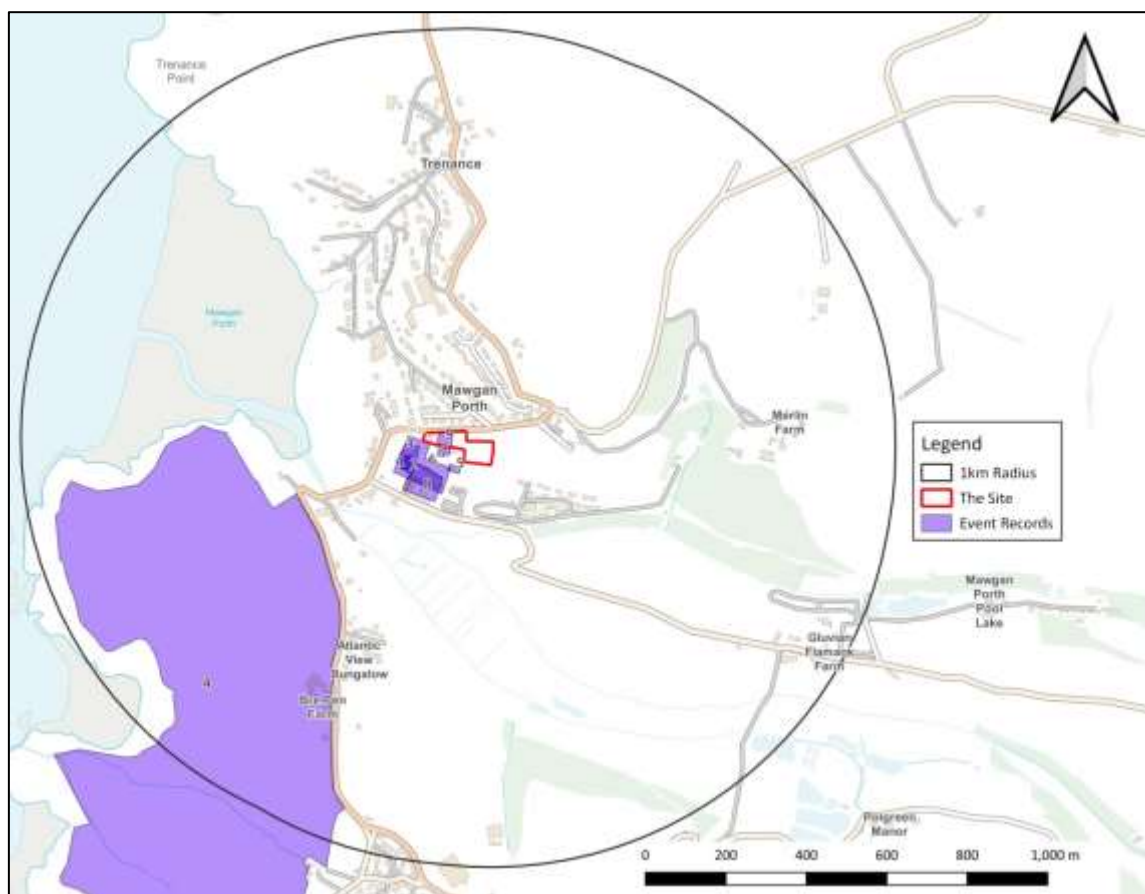


FIGURE 10: MAP SHOWING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK RECORDED WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE RECORDED BY THE CORNWALL AND SCILLY HER. CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT [AND DATABASE RIGHT] (2020)

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 bungalow at Odd Spot, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall.

ST ROCHE MAWGAN PORTH, MAWGAN-IN-PYDAR, 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 WALKOVER SITE ASSESSMENT

---

#### 3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The St Roche site is located immediately south of the B3267, accessed from a shared (with Odd Spot) curving tarmac drive to the west. This drive is located outside of the proposal site. A further (older) tarmac drive leading to Odd Spot is located to the east of the St Roche Bungalow and garden. There is also then a further tarmac drive further to the east, which gives access to The Shack.

The existing House on the site, appears in wider views and from the adjacent B3267 to be a simple bungalow, but is in fact a two-storey c.1930s structure substantially terraced into the slope with a large tarmac parking area to the south of the house. The garden and house have been well maintained.

The majority of the rest of the site is in contrast heavily overgrown and other than the driveways largely inaccessible, except for a clearing in the gorse and scrub to the east, which has signage suggesting that was/is used as a picnic area for the campsite to the south, to which a currently padlocked footpath leads.

The overgrown remains of a small shed or other structure, were just visible near the northern boundary to the north of the Shack. It is unclear what this structure is or was.

The site is seemingly largely built upon or within windblown sands, and the topography of the hillside, makes it appear that there is a slight terrace which on which The Shack, Odd Spot and the Site are all located, this may have been created during their construction, with sand moved downslope, creating a slight bank/raise in the hillslope, before falling more steeply to Marver Chalets and Magic Cove to the south.



FIGURE 11: VIEW OF MAWGAN PORTH FROM PUBLIC FOOTPATH TO THE WEST, THE EXISTING HOUSE IS ARROWED (SWARCH 2020).

### 3.2 PROPOSALS

A series of six earth shelters will be installed on the site, with the existing house to be demolished. These structures will be built into the hillside and will be largely invisible in all views. The visual impacts of the development upon the setting of the scheduled monument is not therefore a major concern, although keeping the build-line at the same height or higher than the existing buildings of Odd Spot and The Shack is a good design decision.

During the development, the groundworks are likely to be substantial and as such will likely disturb any archaeological or paleo-environmental remains/evidence which may survive on site. The site is also located in very close proximity to significant archaeological remains and the possibility of the cemetery or an associated chapel/church or other settlement features extending into the limits of the site cannot be discounted, and as such, a programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation will be required during the development.

### 3.3 CONSIDERATION OF IMPACT

The earth shelters will not be particularly visible from the nearby scheduled monument, and in wider views the existing buildings, primarily Odd Spot, will remain more visible modern impacts than the proposed development. Maintaining the wild sand-dune scrub appearance in places on the site and particularly to the south of the site will be preferential in any final appearance, to maintain a semi-wild and soft setting to the Scheduled Monument.

During the development works there will be a period of time when there will be significant visual and aural disruption impacting on the setting of the scheduled monument, but this will only be temporary.

Overall, the impact of the development on the scheduled settlement site and wider landscape is considered to be negative/minor to negligible. The development of a small number of earth shelters on the site is considered to be appropriate given extant housing and developments site between the site and the Scheduled Monument. There is the potential for harm to any surviving archaeology on the site during construction, but this can be managed and mitigated if required. The archaeological potential is largely undetermined however there is significant archaeology to the immediate south, although equally nothing was uncovered during monitoring works for the construction of Odd Spot, which is in closer proximity to the Site.

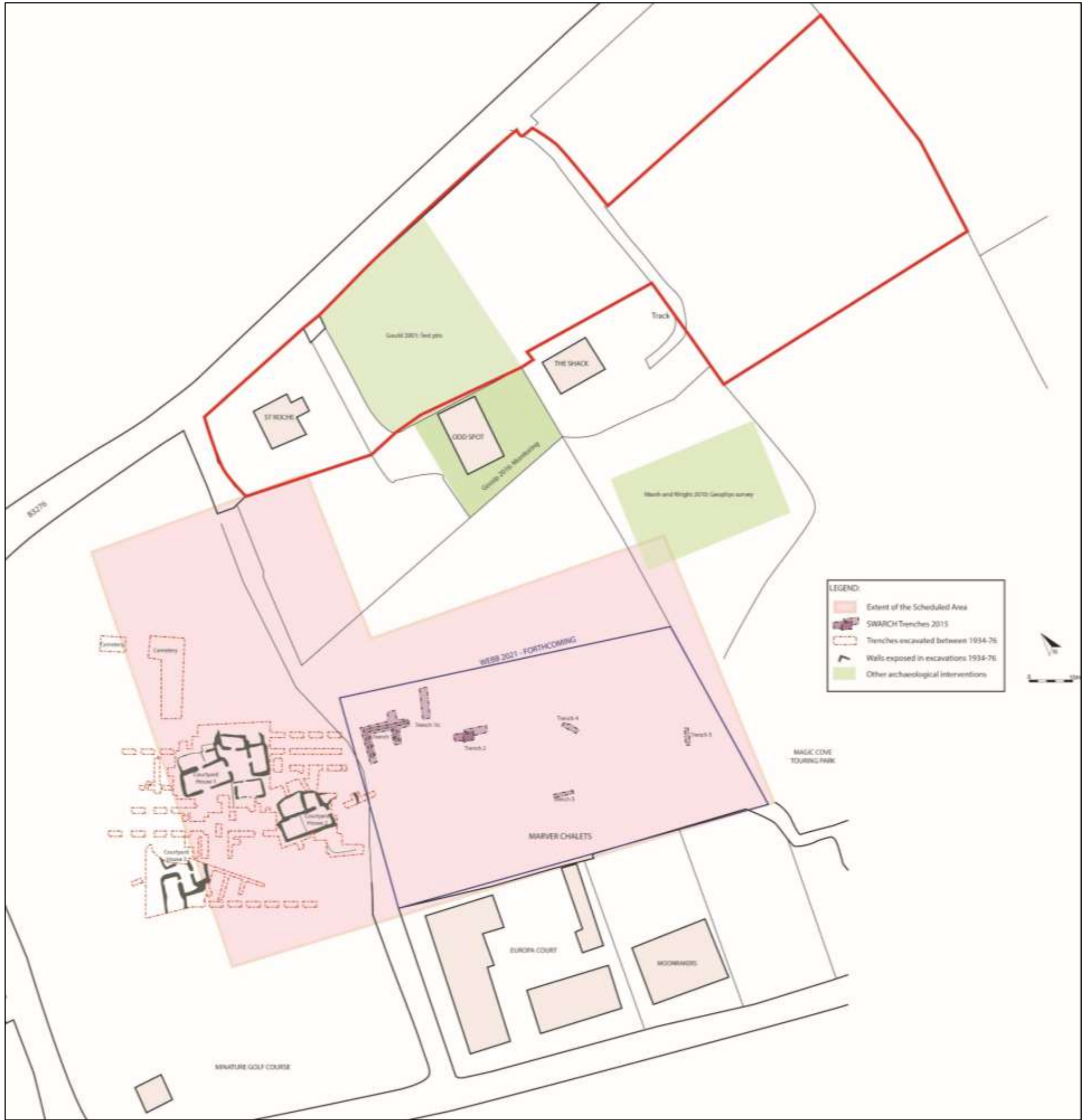


FIGURE 12: PLAN SHOWING KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

---

### 4.1 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development site lies within the parish of Mawgan-in-Pydar, historically part of the Manor of Lanherne, a Domesday Manor held by the Bishop of Exeter and later 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. '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, 32). The proposed development area formed part of the holding of Porth Farm at the 1840 tithe survey.

Sites from the prehistoric to modern periods are documented in the landscape around the proposed development site 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. Fieldwork at the Marver Chalets site to the south west encountered waste flint flakes of prehistoric date (Morris and Walls 2015). The archaeological importance of the area immediately adjacent to the proposed development site was first established in 1934 when a skeleton was reported from the garden of an adjacent house (Hirst & Keith 1936). Trial trenching took place 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. Archaeological monitoring during works at the Marver Chalets site encountered one further inhumation burial and part of an early medieval house (Webb forthcoming).

A site inspection was made in January 2021. The site retains a c.1930s house (St Roche) to the west, which has been terraced into the slope, but is otherwise largely open waste ground at present. There are no known designated or undesignated heritage assets on the site and nothing of interest was noted in the walkover.

The proposals are low density, and a low visual impact being terraced into the slope which will minimise the long-term impact on the setting and views of the nearby Scheduled Monument and wider landscape. The development will have significant below-ground impacts and archaeological mitigation will be required as part of any proposed development of the site, as it is located in an area of high archaeologically potential and sensitivity.

## 5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

### *Published Sources:*

- Ashbee, P.** 1998-9: 'Mawgan Porth Remembered', *Cornish Archaeology* 37-8, 224-31
- Bruce-Mitford, R.** 1997: *Mawgan Porth: a settlement of the late Saxon period on the north Cornish Coast. Excavations 1949-52, 1954, and 1974.* English Heritage Archaeological Report 13.
- English Heritage** 2012: *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context.*
- Fox, H.S.A & Padel, O.J.** (eds.) 2000: The Cornish Lands of the Arundells of Lanherne, fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, in *Devon and Cornwall Record Society vol 41.*
- Gossip, J.** 2016: Archaeological Monitoring at Odd Spot by Cornwall Archaeological Unit.
- Gould, J.** 2001: *Note of test pitting* in information file at Historic Environment Service, SW86NE36/ECO796
- Hirst, F.C. & Keith, Sir A.** 1936: Supposed Iron Age Burial at Mawgan Porth, *J Roy Inst Cornwall* 24.4, 319-27
- Lysons, D. & Lysons, S.** 1814: *Magna Britannia: Volume 3, Cornwall.* T. Cadell & W. Davies, London.
- Marsh, B. & Wright, A.** 2010: *Mawgan Porth, Cornwall: Geophysical Survey Report* by Stratascan for Bristol and Regional Archaeological Services.
- Morris, B. and Walls, S.** 2015: *Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall: Results of a desk based appraisal and archaeological evaluation.* South West Archaeology Report.
- Preston-Jones, A.** 2014: *Odd Spot, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall: Archaeological Assessment* by Cornwall Archaeological Unit Report: 2014R083
- Soil Survey of England and Wales** 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.*

### *Websites:*

- BGS British Geological Survey** 2021: *Geology of Britain Viewer.*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)
- The Genealogist** 2020: Census and tithe maps (from PRO) <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

### *Unpublished Sources:*

- Webb, P.** 2021 Forthcoming: *Marver Chalets, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording.* South West Archaeology Report.



THE OLD DAIRY  
HACCHE LANE BUSINESS PARK  
PATHFIELDS BUSINESS PARK  
SOUTH MOLTON  
DEVON  
EX36 3LH

01769 573555

01872 223164

[MAIL@SWARCH.NET](mailto:MAIL@SWARCH.NET)