

**Sainsbury's Site
Higher Trenant Road
Wadebridge
Cornwall**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Kier Group

On behalf of

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd

CA Project: 4808
CA Report: 14279

June 2014

Sainsbury's Site
Higher Trenant Road
Wadebridge
Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4808
CA Report: 14279

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date	24 April 2016
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date	10 May 2016
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	4
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2–3).....	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
5. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
 Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1250)
 Fig. 3 Sections (1:20) and photographs of Cornish hedges 2001 and 2004

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Sainsbury's Site
Location:	Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall
NGR:	SX 00020 72896
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	31 March– 25 April 2014
Planning Reference:	PA11/03414
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Royal Cornwall Museum
Site Code:	TRW 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a new food store and petrol filling station at Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

A section through two known Cornish hedges were recorded during their removal. Otherwise no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March and April 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Kier Group, on behalf of Sainsbury's Superstores Ltd, at Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall (centred on NGR: SX 00020 72896; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the development of a new food store and petrol filling station (Planning ref: PA11/03414). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by WYG (2014) and approved by Cornwall Council (CC) acting on the advice of Phil Copleston, Planning Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The development site was approximately 2ha in extent, located on the north-east edge of Wadebridge (Fig. 2). The site lay at approximately 50m AOD and comprised County Council offices and pasture land bounded by the B3314 to the west, the A389 to the north and east and by Higher Trenant Road to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Trevoze Slate Formation and Rosenum Formation (undifferentiated) Slate and Siltstone of the Devonian era with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2014). Slate bedrock was observed across the area of groundworks.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Several prehistoric burial cairns are known from the uplands around Wadebridge and a number of Iron Age and Romano-British field systems have been identified in the wider area, indicative of substantial prehistoric presence in this part of Cornwall, although there are no records of any prehistoric activity within the development area (WYG 2014). The presence of Cornish hedges within the development site attested

to a wider series of enclosures, although the pattern of this system has been difficult to ascertain due to the impact of modern development.

Archaeological objectives

1.7 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- to monitor the removal of the Cornish hedges and record sections through them;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (WYG 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the installation of temporary service drainage (Area 1), the removal of the Cornish hedge (Area 2), the construction of a site compound (Area 3) and haul-road (Area 5) and the excavation of a subterranean basement for the new food store (Areas 4 and 6) (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.10 The site archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited with Royal Museum Cornwall. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2–3)

2.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of slate and siltstone, was revealed in the observed areas at a typical depth of 0.55m below present ground level. This was overlain by a colluvial layer, typically 0.24m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by

0.23m of silty clay subsoil. A sandy silt topsoil, typically 0.18m in thickness, overlay the subsoil.

- 2.2 At the north of the development area east/west aligned Cornish hedge 2001 and north/south aligned Cornish hedge 2004 appeared to form the south and west sides of a rectilinear enclosure (Fig. 2). Hedge 2001 was formed from an earthen bank, 2002, comprising tabular and sub-rounded slate and siltstone within a silty clay matrix. A pitched slate revetment was only recorded on its northern face (Fig. 3, section AA).
- 2.3 Hedge 2004 had a similar earth and rubble core, though different deposits were distinguishable within it (2004, 2005 and 2006), see Fig. 3, section BB. Large slates were pressed into the upper core deposit, 2004, in order to form stone revetments on both the east and west faces of the hedge. To the north of the recorded section the slates were laid in a herring-bone pattern. No dating material was recovered from the sections of either hedge.
- 2.2 No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that the known prehistoric activity in the wider landscape does not extend into the development site, or that previous groundworks have led to their truncation/removal.
- 3.2 The Cornish hedges recorded at the north of the site are a relic of a field system that pre-dated the layout of modern Wadebridge.



4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard, Sian Reynish, Rebecca Riley and Jay Wood. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 25 June 2014

WYG 2014 *Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge: Archaeological Mitigation Written Scheme of Investigation*

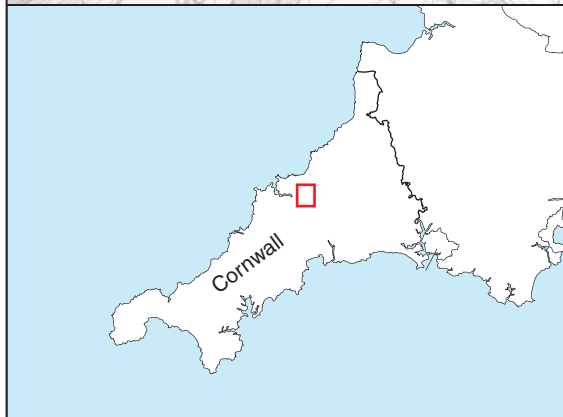


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay. Common slate and gravel	11	0.5	0.24
1	1001	Layer	Subsoil	Mid pink-brown silty clay. Common slate and gravel	11	0.5	0.24
1	1002	Layer	Natural	Yellow and grey slate			
2	2000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1000			0.2
2	2001	Structure	Hedge	Pitched slate revetment on north side of hedge	6	0.4	0.9
2	2002	Structure	Hedge bank	Rubble and earth core. Tabular and sub-rounded slates in mid orange-brown silty clay	6	1.5	0.8
2	2003	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 2000			0.2
2	2004	Structure	Hedge bank	Upper deposit: mid orange-brown silty clay with large revetment stones	2	1	0.78
2	2005	Structure	Hedge bank	2nd deposit: light orange-brown silty clay. Common small slates	2	0.9	0.14
2	2006	Structure	Hedge bank	Lower deposit: slate fragments in light orange-brown sandy silt	2	0.8	0.26
2	2007	Deposit	Topsoil	Same as 2000, to east of hedge bank 2004	2	0.8	0.24
2	2008	Deposit	Bank material	Same as 2004. Collapsed bank material to east of hedge bank 2004	2	0.8	0.14
3	3000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1000	6	7.5	0.1
3	3001	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 1001	6	7.5	0.22
3	3002	Layer	Colluvium	Mid red-brown silty clay. Frequent slate fragments	6	7.5	0.3
3	3003	Layer	Natural	Same as 1002			
4	4000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1000	3	2.7	0.2
4	4001	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 1001	3	2.7	0.22
4	4002	Layer	Colluvium	Same as 3002	3	2.7	0.2
4	4003	Layer	Natural	Same as 1002			
5	5000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1000	9	6	0.24
5	5001	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 1001	9	6	0.25
5	5002	Layer	Colluvium	Same as 3002	9	6	0.22
5	5003	Layer	Natural	Same as 1002			
6	6000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 1000	8	8	0.15
6	6001	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 1001	8	8	0.2
6	6002	Layer	Colluvium	Same as 3002	8	8	0.23
6	6003	Layer	Natural	Same as 1002			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Sainsbury's Site, Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a new food store and petrol filling station at Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall.</p> <p>A section through two known Cornish hedges were recorded during their removal. Otherwise no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	31 March– 25 April 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall	
Study area	c. 2ha	
Site co-ordinates	SX 00020 72896	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cornwall Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WYG	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum	Context sheets, site drawings etc
Digital	Royal Cornwall Museum	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Sainsbury's Site, Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14279		



- site boundary
- ownership boundary

0 1km

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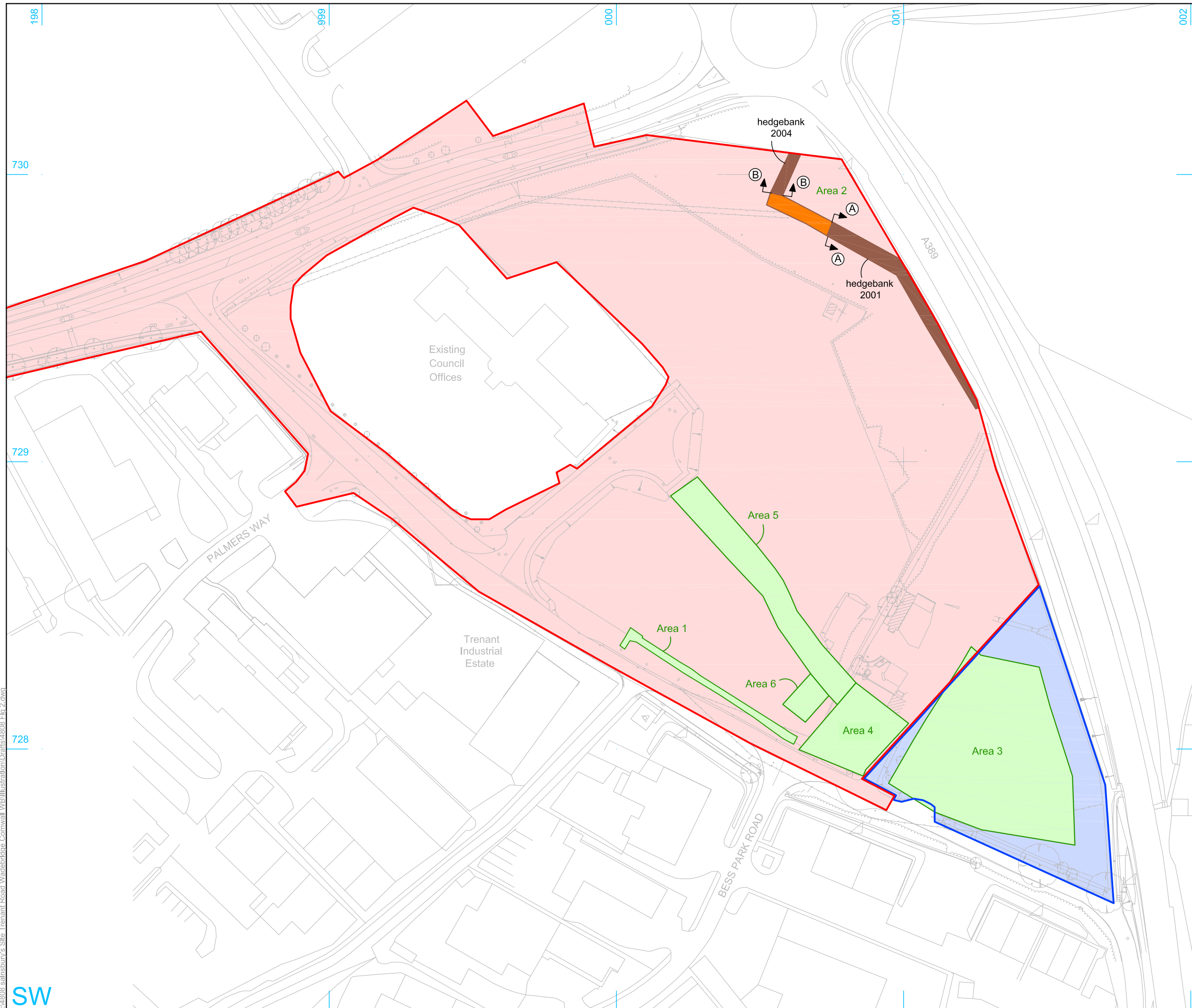
PROJECT TITLE

Sainsbury's Site, Higher Trenant Road
Wadebridge, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	4808	DATE	08-07-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- ▬ site
- ▬ observed groundworks
- ▬ ownership boundary
- ▬ hedgebank
- ▬ excavated hedgebank



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PROJECT TITLE
 Sainsbury's Site, Higher Trenant Road
 Wadebridge, Cornwall

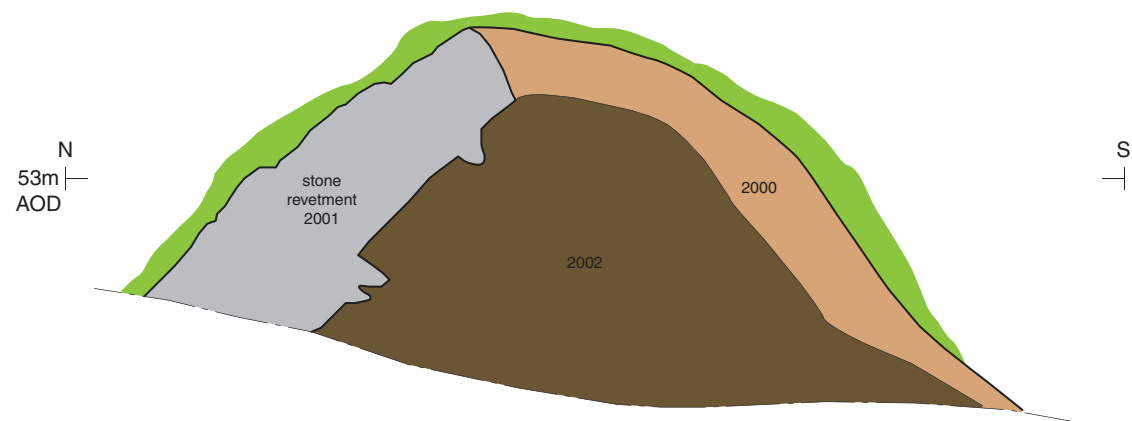
FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO. 4808	DATE 08-07-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	2
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:1250	

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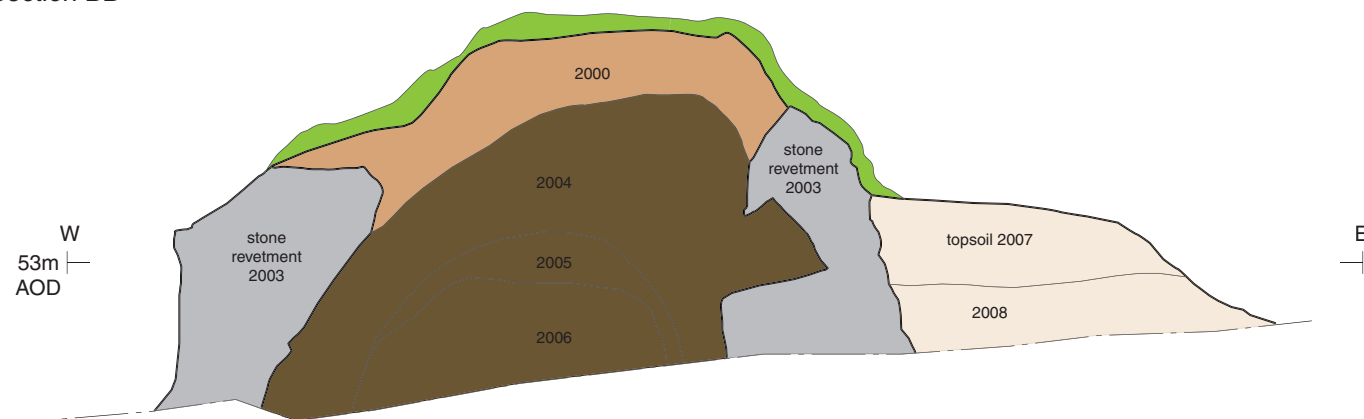
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Section AA



Hedge 2001, looking east (scale 1m)

Section BB



Hedge 2004, looking north-east (scale 1m)

- foliage
- topsoil
- turf
- pitched stone
- earth core



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PROJECT TITLE
**Sainsbury's Site, Higher Trenant Road
 Wadebridge, Cornwall**

FIGURE TITLE
**Sections and photographs of Cornish
 hedges**

PROJECT NO. 4808 DATE 08/07/2014 FIGURE NO.
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