

Land off Tresawls Road  
Gloweth Barton  
Truro  
Cornwall

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Norman Rourke Pryme Ltd

CA Project: 880094  
CA Report: 160160

March 2016



Land off Tresawls Road  
 Gloweth Barton  
 Truro  
 Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 880094  
 CA Report: 16160



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A	23 March 2016	Martin Gillard	Laurent Coleman	Internal review		Derek Evans

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton
<b>Location:</b>	Truro, Cornwall
<b>NGR:</b>	SW 7973 4498
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	7-8 March 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Currently held by Cotswold Archaeology
<b>Site Code:</b>	TRD 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2016 at land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall. A total of nine trenches and seven test pits were excavated.

The evaluation found no features or remains of archaeological significance. Considerable quantities of redeposited natural had been deposited over much of the site, particularly to the east where it was at least 1.6m thick.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Norman Rourke Pryme Ltd at land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall (centred on NGR: SW 7973 4498; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to be made for residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions with Charles Johns, Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) - Archaeologist, Cornwall Council (CC). A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2016) and approved by Charles Johns. The approved WSI is appended to this report (Appendix D). This WSI was guided in its composition by *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Charles Johns, including a site visit on 8 March 2016.

### **The site**

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.67ha in extent and currently comprises two disused agricultural fields, a range of agricultural buildings with an associated concrete yard, and a farmhouse and garden. The site is located on a south-facing slope and is bounded to the north by the A390 (Tresawls Road) and to the south, east and west by residential development.
- 1.4 The site slopes down from approximately 80m AOD in the north to approximately 73m AOD along the southern boundary.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Porthtowan Formation, mudstone and sandstone, dating to the Devonian period (BGS 2016).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site has previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment, historic building assessment and walkover survey (South West Archaeology 2013) and the salient points are outlined below.

### ***Prehistoric (pre AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)***

2.2 While no prehistoric remains are known within the site itself, the wider landscape was utilised during this period. Prehistoric barrows are known to the north of the site at Gloweth Barrow (HER ref. 19247) and Chyvelah Barrow (HER ref. 19230) and to the north-east of the site at Trelish Hospital (HER ref. 19231). A possible Iron Age and/or Roman enclosed settlement (HER ref. 9011) is located at Little Gloweth (South West Archaeology 2013, 12).

### ***Early medieval (AD 410–AD 1066) and medieval (AD 1066–AD1539)***

2.3 Medieval activity is known from the area and the site lies within the general location of the former medieval settlement of *Gleuweth* (HER ref. 19268). This settlement is known only from documentary sources. Similarly, documentary evidence suggests the presence of a medieval chapel (HER ref. 9012) and field system (HER ref. 9042) at Higher and Lower Besore to the south-west of the site (South West Archaeology 2013, 12).

### ***Post-medieval (AD1539-AD1800) and modern (AD1801-present)***

2.4 The extant complex of post-medieval farm buildings would appear to date to the 19th century. The chall barn and the horse engine house, in the northern part of the complex, appear to represent the earliest elements (South West Archaeology 2013, 25).

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. The information gathered will enable Cornwall Council to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict

between heritage conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a series of trial trenches (all c. 1.8m in width) across the area of proposed built development (no trenching was therefore undertaken in the south-eastern part of the site where only landscaping is proposed). The works comprised the excavation of five trenches measuring 10m in length (Trenches 4-7 and 9) and four trenches measuring 15m in length (Trenches 1, 3, 8 and 10). In addition, seven test pits, each c. 3m in length, were excavated on the lines of three of the proposed trenches (Trenches 11 - 13). These test pits replaced trenches where the natural substrate was overlain by thick deposits of redeposited natural. Trench 2 could not be excavated due to the proximity of the standing building and underground services. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate (except in Trenches 11 – 13, see below), whichever was encountered first. Site records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited when an appropriate facility becomes available. The artefacts are not of sufficient importance for subsequent deposition. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural substrate comprised clay silt with abundant angular stone fragments and was identified at 0.25m below present ground level (bpgl) in Trench 5 and between 0.6m and 1.2m in Trenches 3, 4 and 6 - 10. In Trenches 11, 12 and 13 the natural substrate was not identified at the safe limit of excavation (1.2m to 1.6m).
- 5.3 In Trenches 3 - 5 and 8 (in the western part of the site), the natural substrate was overlain by weathered natural measuring 0.15m to 0.6m in thickness. Made ground deposits (comprising redeposited natural and between 0.3m and at least 1.6m in thickness) were identified in Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 9 - 13. These deposits were overlain by brick rubble deposits in Trenches 1 and 3.
- 5.4 A modern concrete floor was identified in Trench 9 and in Trench 5 the weathered natural was overlain by the make-up layer for the modern yard surface. Elsewhere the redeposited and/or weathered natural deposits were overlain by topsoil deposits measuring between 0.05m and 0.4m in thickness.
- 5.5 The evaluation identified no features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from one deposit (901; demolition rubble). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern period. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric.

### *Pottery: post-medieval/modern*

- 6.2 A total of three sherds (158g) was recorded in demolition rubble layer 901. The average sherd weight is high, at 53g, indicating a low degree of fragmentation. In terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation, condition is very good.



- 6.3 A rimsherd from a plate or shallow dish in transfer-printed Pearlware is dateable to the late 18th to mid 19th centuries. Of mid 19th to mid 20th century date are two bodysherds in 'Late' English stoneware.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation. It would appear that nearby prehistoric and medieval activity (Southwest Archaeology 2013, 12) either did not extend into the evaluation area or that all evidence of any such activity it has been removed by later activity.

### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 8.2 In the western part of the site, Trench 1 contained a considerable depth of modern redeposited material, possibly used to infill low, wet ground in this area. The presence of modern rubble, a concrete floor (Trench 9) and rich, garden soil (Trench 8) in the central part of the site corroborates the evidence of historic mapping that there were other buildings and paddocks/small fields in this area in the 19th century (Southwest Archaeology 2013, 14).
- 8.3 Trenches 11 – 13 and previous Ground Investigation (GI) works (Ian Farmer 2015) identified substantial quantities of redeposited natural substrate in the eastern part of the site. In this area the GI works identified weathered natural at c. 2.4m to 2.6m bpgl (Ian Farmer 2015, 7-8 and Appendix 2). This material may be the product of quarrying activity in this part of the site, either the upcast of waste material or subsequent infilling of quarry works. This field is referred to as 'Quarry Close' in the Tithe Map of around 1840 and an 'Old Quarry' is marked immediately to the south of the site on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Southwest Archaeology 2013, 10-12).
- 8.4 The modern yard surface (with associated make up layer) between the existing farm buildings was identified directly overlying the natural substrate in Trench 5. This may suggest that the yard and associated buildings had been terraced into the hillside and any archaeological remains which may have been present would have been truncated.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Gillard, assisted by Victoria Parsons and Edoardo Vigo. The report was written by Martin Gillard. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Martin Gillard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

## 10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 22 January 2016

Cotswold Archaeology 2016 *Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall*  
*Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Ian Farmer Associates 2015 *Gloweth Barton: Ground Investigation Report C60609*

South West Archaeology 2013 *Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall; Results of a Desk-based Assessment, Historic Building Assessment and Walkover Survey Report No. 130424*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Brown grey clay silt	15	1.8	0.2	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	Light brown grey sand silt	15	1.8	0.15	
1	102	Layer		redeposited material	Grey brown clay silt, angular stone very common	15	1.8	0.25	
1	103	Layer		redeposited material	Grey brown clay silt, broken brick abundant	7	1	0.3	
1	104	Layer		redeposited material	Grey brown silt clay with some broken brick and angular stone	<10	<1.8		
1	105	Layer		redeposited material	Dark grey brown silt clay, some angular stone	<10	<1.8		
2	--	--	--	--	Trench not dug	--	--	--	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	Brown grey clay silt	15	1.8	0.2	
3	301	Layer		redeposited material	Grey brown clay silt, broken brick abundant	3	1.8	0.3	
3	302	Layer		subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt, some angular stone	15	1.8	0.2	
3	303	Layer		natural	Grey brown sand silt, common sub angular stone	15	1.8		
4	400	Layer		topsoil	Light orange brown silt sand	10	1.8	0.3	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	Light pink orange clay silt, very common angular stone	15	1.8	0.3	
4	402	Layer		natural	Light grey pink clay silt, abundant angular stone	15	1.8		
5	500	Layer		Concrete yard	Concrete surface	10	1.8	0.15	
5	501	Layer		hardcore	Light grey loose silt sand and stone	10	1.8	0.19	
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Orange brown clay silt, very common angular stone	10	1.8	0.38	
5	503	Layer		natural	Light yellow brown clay silt, abundant angular stone	10	1.8		
6	600	Layer		topsoil	mid orange brown silt sand	10	1.8	0.25	
6	601	Layer		subsoil	Light brown orange clay silt, very common angular stone	15	1.8	0.6	
6	602	Layer		natural	Light white pink clay silt, abundant angular stone	15	1.8		
7	700	Layer		topsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	10	1.8	0.1	
7	701	Layer		redeposited material	Bands of orange brown, white grey and orange pink clay silt with very common angular stone	10	1.8	1.2	
7	702	Layer		natural	Grey white silt clay, abundant angular stone	10	1.8		
8	800	Layer		topsoil	grey brown sand silt	5	1.8	0.3	
8	801	Layer		topsoil	Dark black brown sand silt	10	1.8	0.5	
8	802	Layer		subsoil	Brown grey sand silt	2	1.8	0.3	
8	803	Layer		Natural	Pink grey sand silt, abundant angular stone	15	1.8		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt	10	1.8	0.05	
9	901	Layer		Demolition rubble	White brown sand silt, very common stone, concrete, brick	10	1.8	0.3	PM/mod
9	902	Layer		?buried soil	dark brown clay silt	4.7	1.8		
9	903	Layer		redeposited material	Light pink orange clay silt, common angular stone	5.3	1.8		

9	904	Layer		Natural	Light orange pink clay silt, very common angular stone	10	1.8		
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	Light yellow brown clay silt	15	1.8	0.3	
10	1001	Layer		redeposited material	Light yellow brown clay silt with common angular stone	15	1.8	0.5	
10	1002	Layer		natural	Light yellow brown clay silt with abundant angular stone; mid brown clay silt bands	15	1.8		
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	Light yellow brown clay silt	3.6m x 2	1.8	0.4	
11	1101	Layer		redeposited material	Bands of light yellow brown and brown pink clay silt with very common angular stone	3.6m x 2	1.8	>1.2	
12	1200	Layer		topsoil	grey brown sand silt	3.0m x 3	1.8	0.4	
12	1201	Layer		redeposited material	Bands of light yellow brown and brown pink clay silt with very common angular stone	3.0m x 2	1.8	>1.0	
13	1300	Layer		topsoil	grey brown sand silt	3.0m x 3	1.8	0.4	
13	1301	Layer		redeposited material	Bands of light yellow brown and brown pink clay silt with very common angular stone	3.0m x 2	1.8	>1.2	

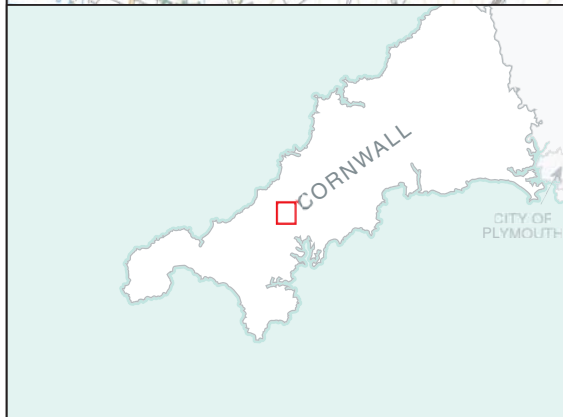
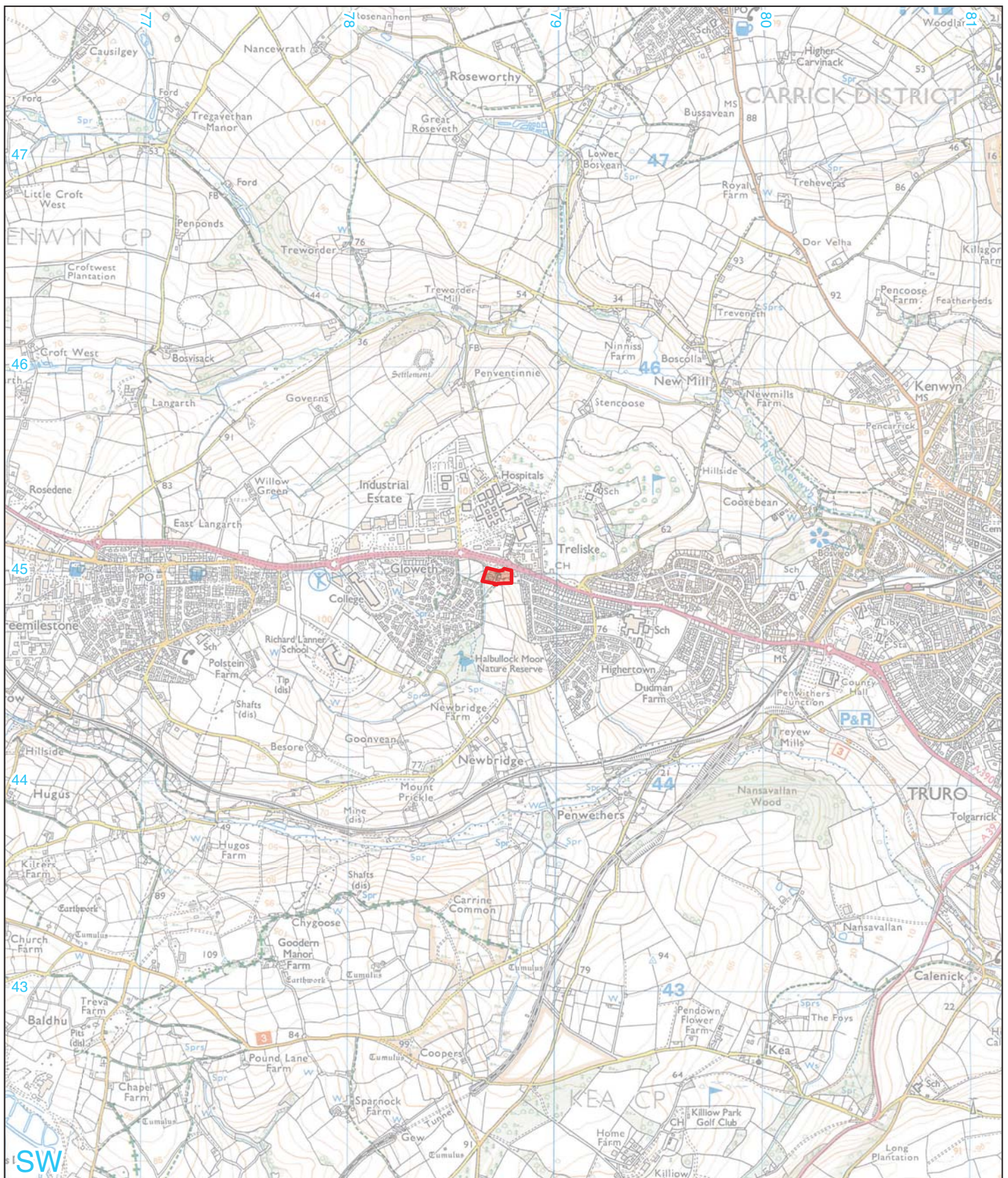
## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
9001	Post-medieval/ modern pottery Modern pottery	Transfer-printed Pearlware	TPPE	1	9	MC19-MC20
		'Late' English stoneware	LESW	2	149	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2016 at land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall. A total of nine trenches and seven test pits was excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation found no features or remains of archaeological significance. Considerable quantities of redeposited natural had been deposited over much of the site, particularly to the east where it was at least 1.6m thick.</p>	
Project dates	March 7-8, 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk based assessment (SWArch 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Gloweth Barton, Tresawls Road, Truro, Cornwall	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SW 7973 4498	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	--	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Martin Gillard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report <b>16160</b></p>		

## **APPENDIX D: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land of Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton  
 Truro, Cornwall

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	SO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	880094	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	LM	<b>DATE</b>	15/03/2016	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	LC	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- evaluation trench (not excavated)
- modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton, Truro, Cornwall

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	SO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	880094	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	LM	<b>DATE</b>	15/03/2016	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	LC	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:500	

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44920  
 SW





3



4

3 Trench 1 section, looking east (scale 1m)

4 Trench 9, looking north-east (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton  
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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 1 and 9: photographs

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	880094	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	LC	SCALE@A4	N/A	



5



6

5 Trench 12 section, looking north-east (scale 1m)

6 Trench 5, looking west (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Tresawls Road, Gloweth Barton  
 Truro, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 12 and 5: photographs

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CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	15/03/2016	<b>5 &amp; 6</b>
APPROVED BY	LC	SCALE@A4	N/A	

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