

Royal British Legion Legion Lane, Tywardreath Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
The Royal British Legion

cotswold2-315792
CA Project: 880227
CA Report: 17582

October 2017



Royal British Legion
Legion Lane, Tywardreath
Cornwall

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	4 October 2017	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans
B	14 November 2017	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Curator review	Revised Curator details in paras. 1.2 and 1.3m, in line with Curator comments	Derek Evans

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Royal British Legion
Location:	Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall
NGR:	208730 054357
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	26 June – 3 July 2017
Planning Reference:	Cornwall Council PA17/02630
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	RBL17

In June and July 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of the Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall.

The watching brief recorded the granite and limestone-built foundations of a late post-medieval/modern building in the southern part of the site. This building corresponds in location with a structure first shown on the 1839 tithe map. Associated internal floor surfaces and a posthole were also recorded.

The walls forming the western end of the building were of later construction than those in the rest of the structure, reflecting the shortening of this end of the building documented on later 19th century and early 20th century mapping.

There were clear indications that the stone foundations had been retained and reused when the buildings at the site were remodelled and further extended during the 1960s.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June and July 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of the Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall (centred at NGR: 208730 054357; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for the Royal British Legion.
- 1.2 Cornwall Council has granted outline planning permission for residential development of the site (ref: PA17/02630). Condition 3 of this planning permission requires a programme of archaeological work. The scope of this archaeological watching brief was defined in subsequent consultation with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment), Cornwall Council (SDOHE).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by the SDOHE. The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 Prior to the current redevelopment, the site was occupied by the derelict former Royal British Legion club building and associated parking/yards.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Meadfoot Group slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Devonian Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site has been the previous subject of a desk-based heritage statement and impact assessment (Silverlake Design Ltd 2017). The following text is summarised from this source.

- 2.2 The Domesday Survey (1086) recorded the settlement of 'Tiwardrai,' possibly meaning 'house on the strand or shore'. The village form is characteristic of a churchtown, with routes radiating out from its distinctive oval core.
- 2.3 As nearby mines flourished during the early 1800s, Tywardreath expanded dramatically. Legion Lane leads from the heart of the village, and was developed pre-1840.
- 2.4 The 1839 tithe map shows the watching brief site as occupied by cottages and gardens. By the time of the 1881 Ordnance Survey map, some of the buildings in the western part of the plot had been removed, although a range along the lane frontage survived. This range is shown on the c. 1913 District Valuation map, when it was identified as house and other buildings.
- 2.5 The site was acquired by the Royal British Legion in 1931. The club is identified on the 1935 OS map, by which time the building range appears to have been extended to the north-west. The buildings were remodelled and further extended during the 1960s.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 As defined in the WSI (CA 2017), the aim of the archaeological watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological remains/deposits impacted by the proposed development were subject to preservation by record to a level commensurate with their significance.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive development groundworks, including areas of ground reduction and the excavation of new foundation/service trenches (T1–T6, Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 CA will make arrangements with the Royal Cornwall Museum for the deposition of the site archive. A digital archive (comprising digital photographs and other relevant born-digital data) will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 4.4 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised light brownish yellow clay with frequent siltstone inclusions. It was generally revealed at a depth of 0.25m–0.45m below the present ground level (bpgl), although it lay 0.7m bpgl at the higher ground in the north-eastern part of the site (T1). A surviving buried subsoil layer overlay the natural substrate in T1 and T2, but in all other trenches the natural substrate was overlain directly by modern made ground.
- 5.3 A series of building foundations was recorded in the southern part of the site (walls 106/204 and 107). These foundations were constructed of mortar-bonded granite and limestone blocks. They passed through T1 and T2, but were also visible at the ground surface for the majority of their lengths. They formed a rectangular building measuring 27.5m in length and 5.5m in width, with its long axis aligned east-north-east/west-south-west. The foundations were cut into the surviving subsoil layer in T1 and T2.
- 5.4 The western end of the building was formed by walls 300/400 and 304/404, which passed through T3 and T4 and were also visible at the ground surface. These walls were apparently later in date than the other wall foundations, being constructed of stone, brick and cement. They were cut into the truncated natural substrate in T3 and T4.
- 5.5 Posthole 206 was identified within the centre of the building (T2). This posthole was 0.5m in diameter and contained modern CBM in its single fill (207). Remnants of internal granite floor surfaces 205 and 208 were also identified in T2. Surface 205

was lain directly onto the natural substrate; surface 208 was lying atop clay bedding deposit 209.

- 5.6 Mortar and surviving elements of concrete construction were visible in places on the upper surfaces of the stone wall foundations, indicating that they had been reused as the foundations of the later building at the site.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief recorded the granite and limestone-built foundations of a late post-medieval/modern building in the southern part of the site. This building corresponds in location with a structure first shown on the 1839 tithe map. Associated internal floor surfaces and a posthole were also recorded.
- 6.2 The walls forming the western end of the building were of later construction than those in the rest of the structure, reflecting the shortening of this end of the building documented on later 19th century and early 20th century mapping.
- 6.3 There were clear indications (mortar, surviving elements of concrete construction) that the stone foundations had been retained and reused when the buildings at the site were remodelled and further extended during the 1960s.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The watching brief fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana and Christina Tapply. This report was written by Paul Clarke. The report illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 20 June 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Silverlake Design Ltd 2017 *Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment: Legion Lane, Tywardreath*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1; depth 1.45m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
100	Layer	Modern demolition layer	Mid grey clay with frequent gravel and modern rubble.	0.15
101	Layer	Buried garden soil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal	0.1
102	Layer	Buried topsoil	Light brown silty clay	0.3
103	Layer	Subsoil	Light reddish brown silty clay	0.15
104	Natural	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow clay with frequent siltstone	
105	Cut	Construction cut for foundation 106	Steep sides and flat base; same as 203	
106	Foundation	Stone footing for 19th century building	Stone footing; same as 204	
107	Wall	Modern wall	Stone wall abutting wall 204. Internal wall in historic building. 0.64m wide	

Trench 2; depth 0.8m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
200	Layer	Modern demolition layer	Loose mid grey sand with fragments of concrete, modern material and rubble	0.6
201	Layer	Subsoil	Light brownish red silty clay	0.15
202	Layer	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow clay with frequent siltstone	
203	Cut	Construction cut for wall 204	Steep sides and flat base; same as 105	0.45
204	Wall	North wall of historic building	NE/SW aligned wall of granite and limestone blocks (max. 0.5m x 0.45m x 0.3m)	0.57
205	Surface	Floor surface of historic building	Granite blocks laid horizontally onto the base of cut [203]. Abuts wall 204	0.2
206	Cut	Post hole	Circular cut with steep sides and concave base	0.2
207	Fill	Fill of post hole 206	Mid brown silty clay with modern CBM	0.2
208	Surface	Surface	Granite blocks laid horizontally	0.15
209	Surface	Bedding deposit for surface 208	Clay	0.07

Trench 3; depth 0.95m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
300	Wall	Modern wall	Roughly coarsed wall of brick, stone, concrete and granite	0.45
301	Layer	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow silty clay with frequent siltstone	
302	Layer	Surface	Asphalt	0.05
303	Layer	Made ground	Light grey sandy clay with asphalt, slate and brick fragments	0.35
304	Wall	Wall	Wall of brick, granite and slate, located next to wall [300]. 0.47m wide	0.4
305	Layer	Foundation/floor surface	Limestone	0.08

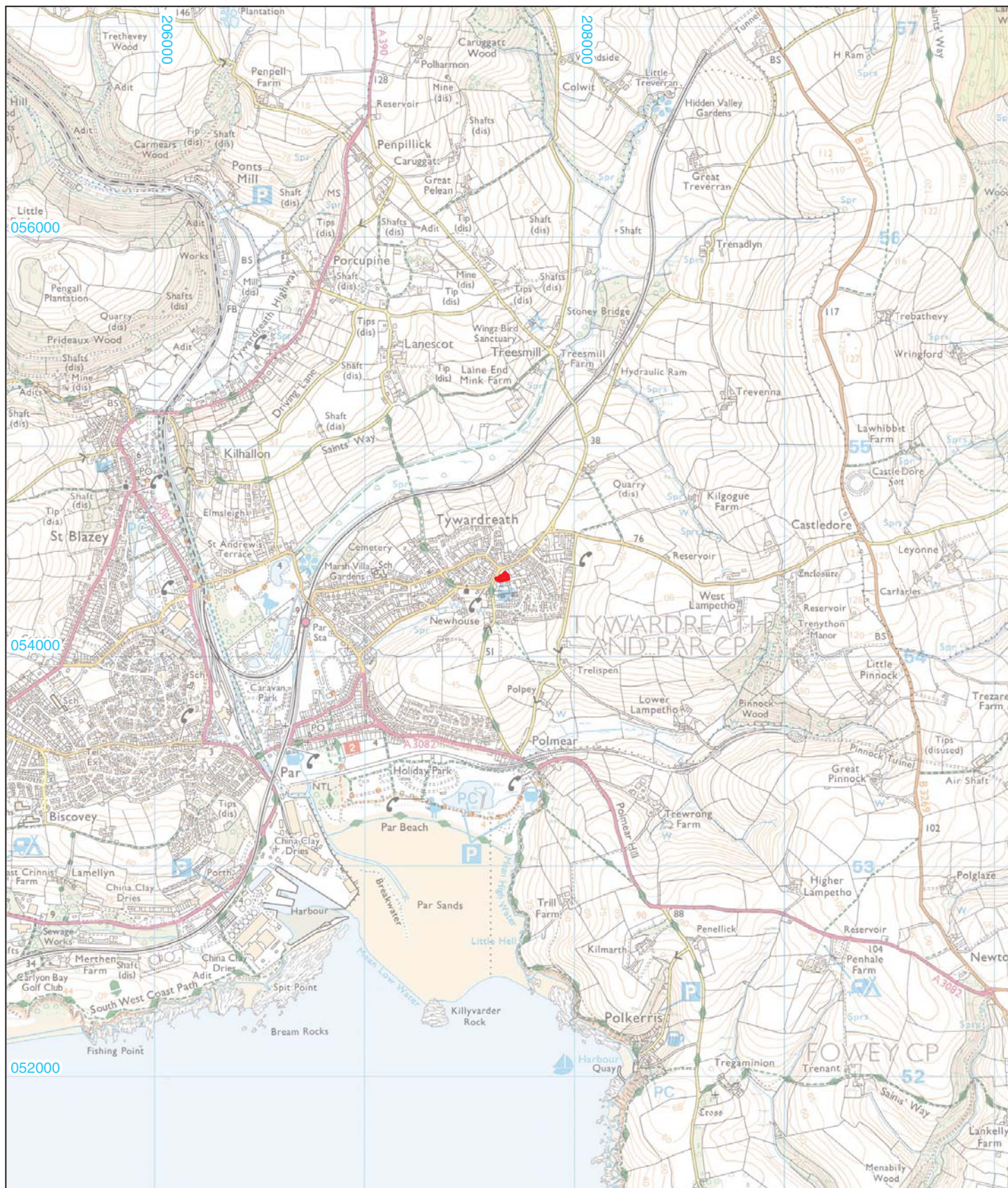
Trench 4; depth 0.9m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
400	Wall	Wall	Wall of brick, stone and cement	0.35
401	Layer	Made ground	Dark grey sandy clay with asphalt/cinders	0.05
402	Layer	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow silty clay with frequent siltstone	
403	Wall	Wall	Limestone wall; same as 304	

Trench 5; depth 1.2m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
500	Layer	Made ground	Loose light grey sandy clay	0.25
501	Layer	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow silty clay with frequent siltstone	

Trench 6; depth 0.95m				
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
600	Layer	Modern surface	Tarmac	0.1
601	Layer	Made ground	Light grey sandy clay with tarmac fragments	0.25
602	Layer	Natural substrate	Light brownish yellow silty clay with frequent siltstone	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall	
Short description	<p>In June and July 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at the site of the Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall.</p> <p>The watching brief recorded the granite and limestone-built foundations of a late post-medieval/modern building in the southern part of the site. This building corresponds in location with a structure first shown on the 1839 tithe map. Associated internal floor surfaces and a posthole were also recorded.</p> <p>The walls forming the western end of the building were of later construction than those in the rest of the structure, reflecting the shortening of this end of the building documented on later 19th century and early 20th century mapping.</p> <p>There were clear indications that the stone foundations had been retained and reused when the buildings at the site were remodelled and further extended during the 1960s.</p>	
Project dates	26 June–3 July 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall	
Study area (m ² /ha)	<500m ²	
Site co-ordinates	208730 054357	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum	Trench sheets; context sheets; registers
Digital	The Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Born-digital data and scans of site paper record
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2017 <i>Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report 17582		



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PROJECT TITLE

Royal British Legion, Legion Lane,
Tywardreath, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

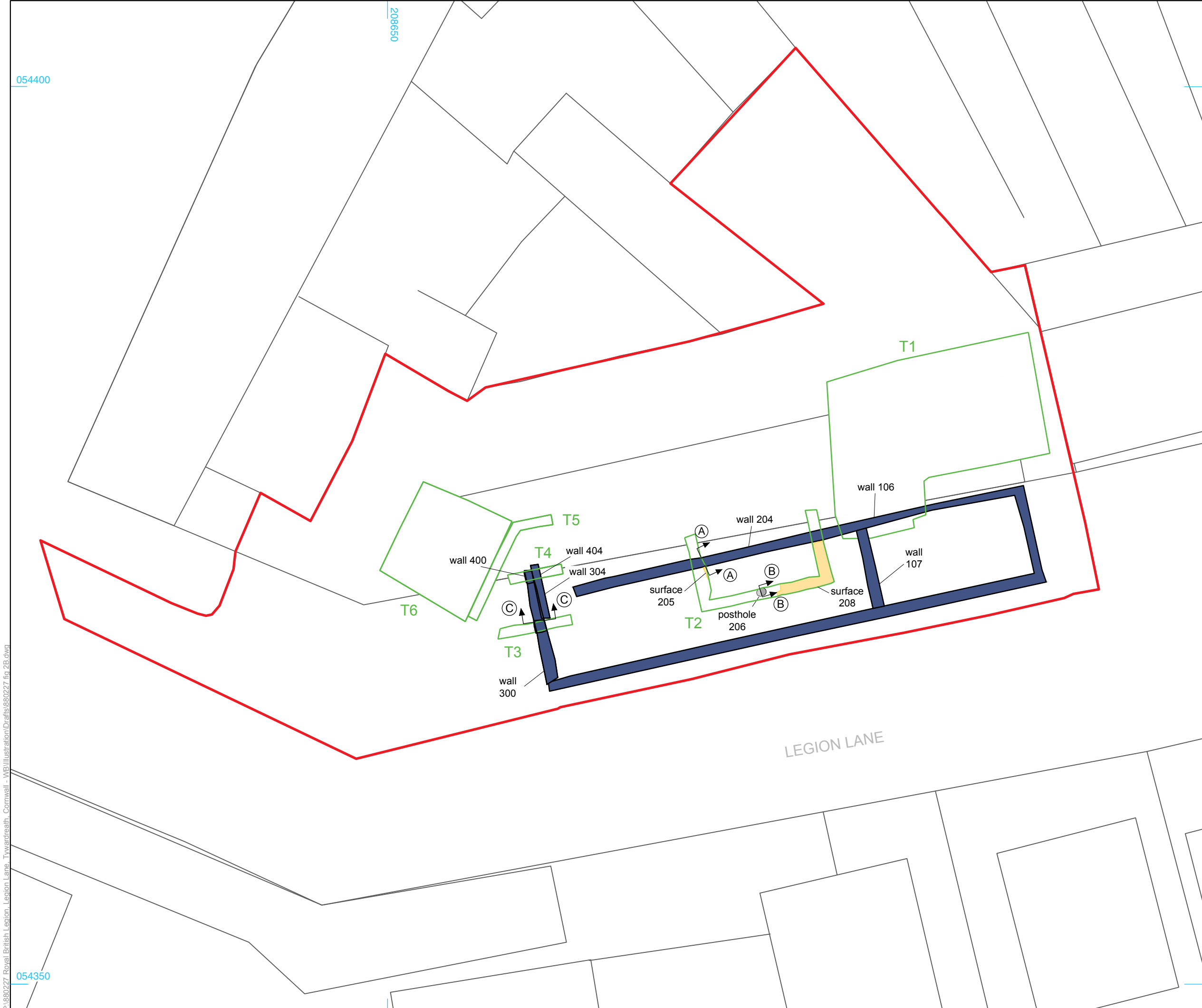
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DATE 04/08/2017
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



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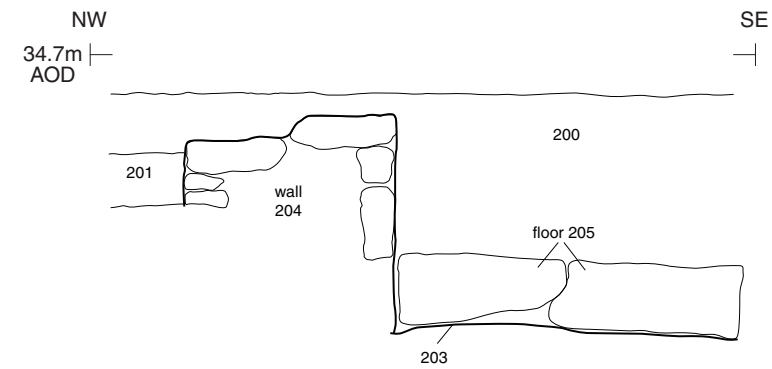
PROJECT TITLE
Royal British Legion, Legion Lane, Tywardreath, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing monitored groundworks and archaeological features

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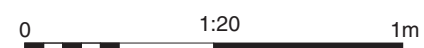
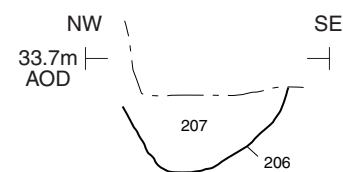
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Section AA



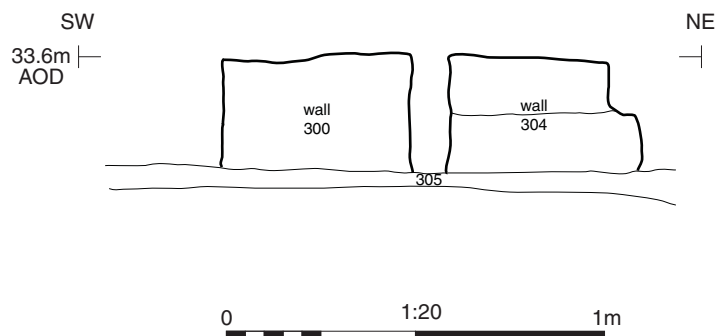
Wall 204 and floor 205, looking north-west (scale 0.4m)

Section BB



Posthole 206 and floor 208, looking north-east (scale 0.4m)

Section CC



Wall 304, looking south-west (scale 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Royal British Legion, Legion Lane,
Tywardreath, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY DE SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

4



Trench 1, looking south-west



North-west facing section of Trench 4 (scale 1m)



North-west facing section of Trench 5 (scale 1m)



South-west facing section of Trench 6



Wall 106, looking north-east (scale 0.3m)

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