

St. Mawes Castle St. Mawes Cornwall

Archaeological Supervision and Recording



for
English Heritage

CA Project: EX0012
CA Report: EX0012_1

April 2019



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	St. Mawes Castle
Location:	St. Mawes, Cornwall
NGR:	184109 032757
Type:	Archaeological supervision and recording
Date:	20 March 2019
SMC:	S00211808
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum
Site Code:	MACA19

In March 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological supervision and recording during the excavation of a new electrical duct trench at St. Mawes Castle, Cornwall.

The archaeological supervision and recording identified no significant archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The natural substrate was immediately overlain by a redeposited natural made ground layer, indicating that the ground in this area of the site has been truncated. This will have had an impact on any archaeological remains which may once have been present in the monitored area.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological supervision and recording at St. Mawes Castle, Cornwall (centred at NGR: 184109 032757; Fig. 1). This work was undertaken for English Heritage.
- 1.2 The supervision and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of new electrical supply services. It was undertaken in response to conditions attached to Scheduled Monument Consent for the works (ref: S00211808) issued by Historic England.
- 1.3 The supervision was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Historic England. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 St Mawes Castle lies at the south-western end of St Mawes. It is situated on the Roseland Peninsula, on a broad headland flanking the eastern side of the Carrick Roads (the mouth of the River Fal). The monitored service route was installed to the immediate north-east of the castle buildings (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site is mapped as Portscatho Formation sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the Devonian Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following text presents a brief summary archaeological background. A full archaeological background is included in the WSI (CA 2017).
- 2.2 St Mawes Castle is a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (List Entry Number: 1013807). St Mawes Castle, gatehouse, blockhouse, magazine and outer defences are also Grade I Listed (List Entry Number: 1136705).

- 2.3 St Mawes Castle was one of a number of coastal artillery fortresses commissioned by Henry VIII between 1539 and 1545 to counter the threat of invasion from France and Spain. The main fortification was built by Thomas Treffry of Fowey in 1540–2. An earlier blockhouse is situated below the castle (likely constructed in 1538 and incorporated in the castle's curtilage). The castle is entered through an outer guardhouse or lodge on the building's north-eastern side.
- 2.4 The castle underwent various phases of modification from the 17th to 20th centuries, including the construction of successive phases of gun batteries on the slopes of the headland around the castle. The most extensive post-Tudor phase of modification was the construction of the Grand Sea Battery in 1853. These works included the partial backfilling and reduction of the Tudor blockhouse and construction of a stone rampart and parapet, possibly along the course of a Tudor parapet.
- 2.5 The Fortress Falmouth conservation plan (Linzey 2000) mentions no features relating to the castle or its wider associated environs close to the area of the monitored groundworks, with the exception of an early 20th century WC and washhouse (now demolished) at the location of the present toilet block.

Previous archaeological works

- 2.6 There have been several previous programmes of archaeological monitoring and recording during limited excavations for services and access improvements. These works recorded made ground and modern waste layers, as well as modern structures and services (full details given in WSI; CA 2017).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the supervision results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks with the Scheduled area of the site, comprising the excavation of a trench for the installation of an electrical duct (Fig. 2). The originally-proposed route of the trench was widened slightly to facilitate the repair of a waste water service pipe damaged during excavation, and was altered slightly to bypass a manhole. The locations/extents of both of these amendments to the route are visible on Figure 2.
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The project archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Exeter. CA will make arrangements for the deposition of the archive with the Royal Cornwall Museum.
- 4.4 A summary of information from this project, set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Natural substrate 103 comprised firm yellowish-grey silty clay with shillet inclusions/outcrops. It was identified at a depth of 0.17m–0.5m below the present ground level.
- 5.2 North-north-west/south-south-east aligned wall 104 (Figs. 2 and 3) was identified towards the centre of the trench. This wall was constructed of red bricks with shallow frogging; this would suggest a date of construction no earlier than the early 19th century (post-c. 1830). The wall survived to a single course of bricks in height, and was two bricks wide. It was laid directly onto the natural substrate.
- 5.3 Wall 104 and the natural substrate were overlain by made ground 102, which was an average of 0.16m in thickness and comprised redeposited natural with occasional brick inclusions. Deposit 102 was overlain in turn by of topsoil 101, which was an average of 0.34m in thickness.

- 5.4 Several modern services and a modern wall were cut through the topsoil; further made ground deposits (100 and 105) were associated with these. The eastern end of the trench was covered by surface 106, which was part of a driveway.
- 5.5 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological supervision and recording identified no significant archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.
- 6.2 The presence of a redeposited natural made ground deposit immediately overlying the natural substrate indicates that the ground in this area of the site has been truncated, and this will have had an impact on any archaeological remains which may once have been present in the monitored area. The made ground layer seals a 19th century brick wall and contains brick fragments, indicating that this truncation occurred in the 19th or 20th centuries.
- 6.3 The present results are in line with those from previous phases of archaeological monitoring at the site (see *Archaeological background*, above), which recorded a series of made ground deposits and no archaeological features.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Clarke. This report was written by Paul Clarke. The report illustrations were prepared by Marta Perlinska. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 13 March 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *St Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Supervision and Recording*

Linzey, R. 2000 *Fortress Falmouth – A conservation plan for the historic defences of Falmouth Haven*

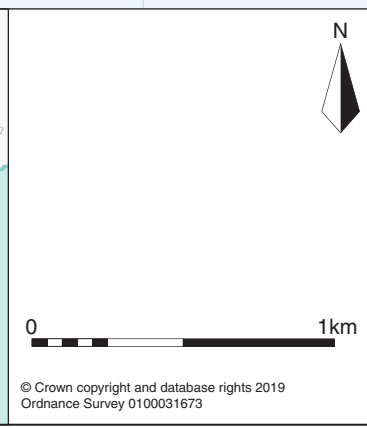
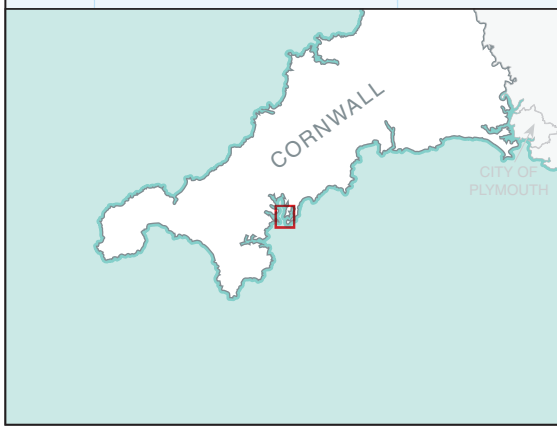
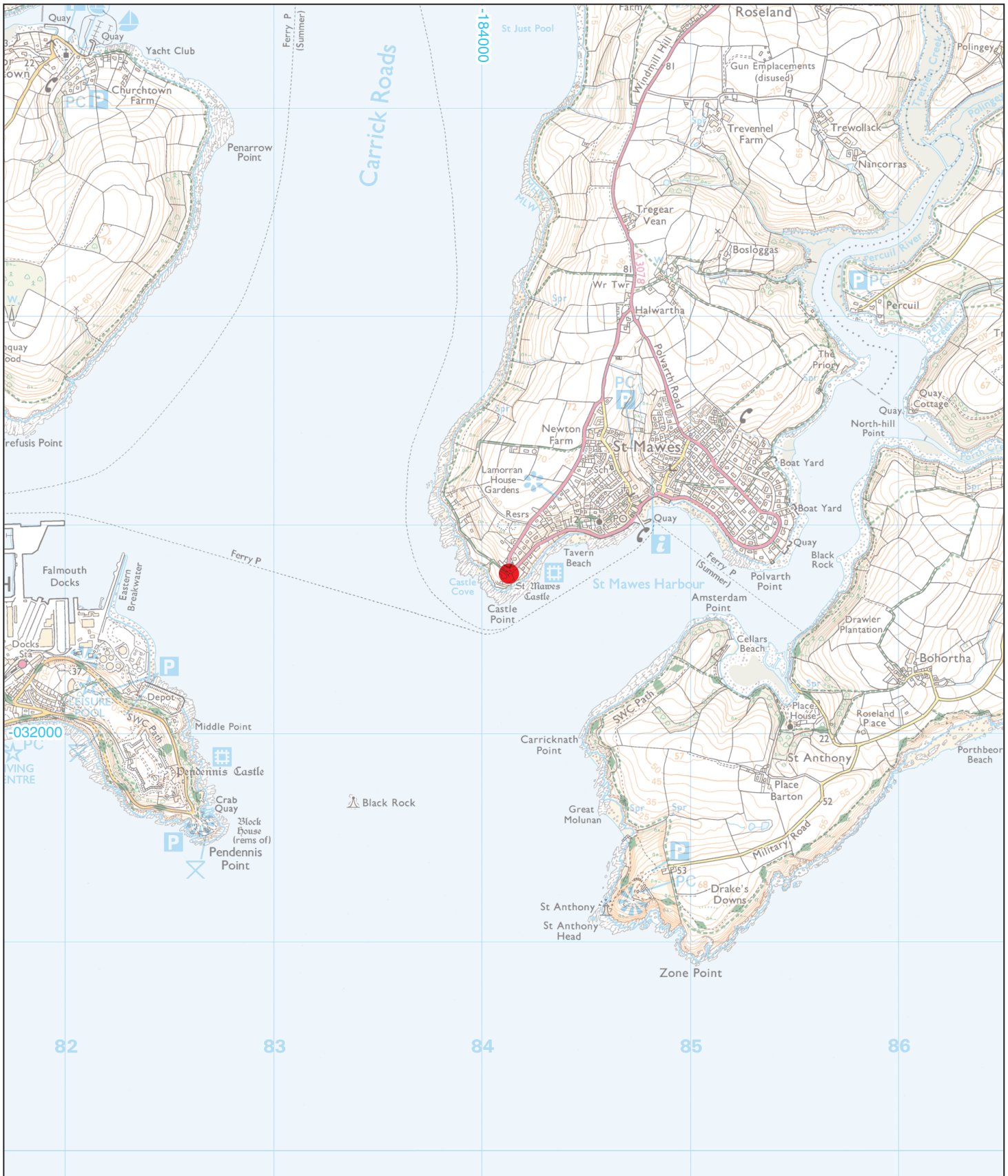


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Made ground	Mid brownish grey compacted silty clay with common shillet and rare plastic		0.62+
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable sandy silt		0.34
1	102	Layer	Made ground	Mid yellowish grey friable silty clay with common shillet and occasional brick		0.16
1	103	Layer	Natural substrate	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with common shillet. Solid shillet bedrock to the east		-
1	104	Wall	Wall	Frogged red brick (227x108x68mm) in header on east and west faces. Bonded with clay. One course only with single brick beneath	0.24	0.12
1	105	Layer	Made ground	Loose shillet		0.5+
1	106	Layer	Pathway	Mid grey compacted sandy silt with common angular pebbles		0.18

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	St. Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall: Archaeological Supervision and Recording	
Short description	<p>In March 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological supervision and recording during the excavation of a new electrical duct trench at St. Mawes Castle, Cornwall.</p> <p>The archaeological supervision and recording identified no significant archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The natural substrate was immediately overlain by a redeposited natural made ground layer, indicating that the ground in this area of the site has been truncated. This will have had an impact on any archaeological remains which may once have been present in the monitored area.</p>	
Project dates	20 March 2019	
Project type	Archaeological Supervision and Recording	
Previous work	Watching Brief (CAU 1990) Watching Brief (CAU 1996) Building Recording (CAU 1999) Test pits (CAU 2001) Watching Brief (CAU 2006) Watching Brief (HES 2006) Watching Brief (HES 2007) Watching Brief (CAU 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St. Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall	
Study area (m ² /ha)	c. 15m ²	
Site co-ordinates	184109 032757	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Paul Clarke	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Royal Cornwall Museum	N/A
Paper	Royal Cornwall Museum	Trench record sheet, context sheets; photographic register; sample register
Digital	ADS	Report; photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2019 <i>St. Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall: Archaeological Supervision and Recording</i> CA typescript report EX0012_1		



Cotswold Archaeology

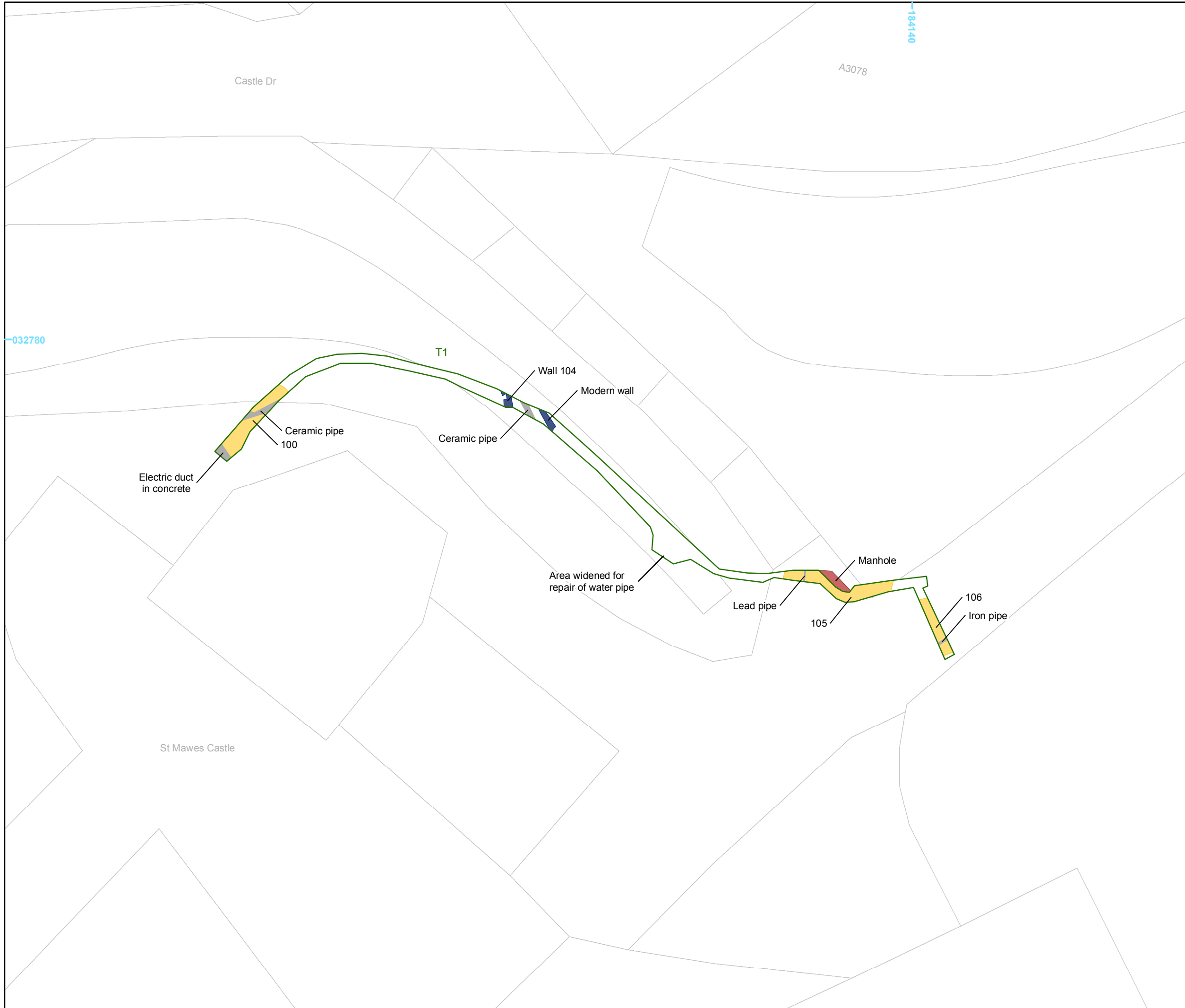
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PROJECT TITLE
 St. Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall

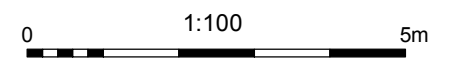
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	MP	PROJECT NO.	EX0012	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	29/03/19	1
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Watching brief area
- Wall
- Deposit
- Modern service
- Manhole



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PROJECT TITLE
St Mawes Castle, St Mawes, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing monitored groundworks

DRAWN BY	MP	PROJECT NO	EX0012	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/05/2019	2
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:100	



Wall 104, looking east (0.3m scale)



Trench 1 western end, looking south-west



Trench 1 middle portion with wall 104 in the foreground, looking west



Trench 1 middle portion, looking north-west



Trench 1 eastern end, looking south-east



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PROJECT TITLE

St. Mawes Castle, St. Mawes, Cornwall

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: photographs

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	MP	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	EX0012	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	DJB	<i>DATE</i>	25/04/2019	4
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	DE	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	NA	

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