

Land at Gabbons Nursery, Round Ring, Penryn, Cornwall

(SW 7840 3510)

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

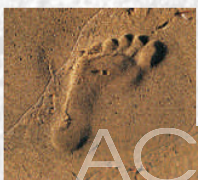
Planning ref. Cornwall Council NR/07/00107/SCHED1

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On behalf of:
Persimmon Homes South West Ltd

Document No: ACD203/2/0

Date: October 2012



AC archaeology

Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Penryn, Kerrier	National Grid Reference NGR SW 7840 3510	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at Gabbons Nursery, Round Ring, Penryn, Cornwall: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: NR/07/00107/SCHED1	Recipient museum: Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro	
OASIS ID: 135722	Museum Accession no: TRURI 2012.29	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD203	Dates fieldwork undertaken: November 2010	

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with a residential development on land at Gabbons Nursery, Round Ring, Penryn, Cornwall (Fig. 1). It was required as a condition to planning permission as advised by Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service. The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes South West Ltd. The site covers an area of approximately 3.2 hectares and is located on the northern edge of the town of Penryn within the ancient parish of St Gluvias. The site is located on ground that slopes down to the south between c. 66m and 45m aOD.

The site is located adjacent to an area of 20th-century expansion, within land characterised by medieval strip fields. The historic core is located further to the south which was created as a planned town during the 13th century by the Bishop of Exeter, Bishop Brewer. Approximately 100m to the southeast of the site is the location of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British 'round' settlement (C&SHER ref. 18530). Another possible 'round' settlement is recorded approximately 230m to the northwest (C&SHER ref. 55900).

Results

The monitored groundworks consisted of the reduction of the ground level across the southern part of the development area by up to 1m for house platforms and the stripping of a roadway (Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 2). This took place within the southern part of the development area away from the disturbance areas caused by the nursery greenhouses. The deposits exposed consisted of 0.2m medium-dark greyish brown, moist silt clay topsoil with common slate inclusions (100). Below this was 0.1m deep layer of re-deposited natural of medium yellow brown, moist silt clay with common slate inclusions (101). Below this were several colluvium deposits; upper colluvium layer (102), consisting of 0.3m deep dark brown, moist silt clay with common slate and sparse charcoal inclusions; a middle colluvium layer (103) consisting of 0.2m deep medium brown, moist silt clay with common slate inclusions, and a lower colluvium deposit, (104) consisting of 0.3m deep light orange-brown, moist silt clay with common slate inclusions. This overlay the natural subsoil that was present at a depth of c.1m and consisted of orange-yellow silt clay with very common weathered slate.

A large amount of modern disturbance was encountered across the site due to the insertion of services of various types that were associated with the former nursery.

The finds

The finds recovered have been washed, quantified and assessed are the results are located in Table 1.

Context	Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Clay Pipe		Animal Bone		Fired Clay		Slag		Glass	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Wt	No	Wt	No	No	Wt
Unstrat.	4	79	8	119	2	5							1	71
103			15	183	4	13	5	73	1	5	1	13		
104	3	80	8	46	1	1								
Totals	7	159	31	345	7	19	5	73	1	5	1	13	1	71

Table 1: Finds quantification by material type

Pottery

The assemblage consists of a total of 39 sherds of pottery weighing a total of 482g. Seven of these sherds are medieval in date and consist of a Lostwithiel type, micaceous, unglazed handmade ware in the form of mostly body sherds from cooking or storage vessels, one of the sherds has an exterior residue. These pieces date to c. 1200-1400. The rest of the pottery assemblage, a total of 31 sherds (345g) consists of post-medieval pottery including North Devon Grit Tempered coarse ware and two sherds of Bristol/Staffordshire yellow earthenware with comb decoration with a pie-crust rim from context (103). There are also several pieces of South Somerset coarse ware and one sherd of delft ware with blue and yellow painted decoration from an unstratified context. There are also several other types of post-medieval pottery including Staffordshire grey and white stone wares and industrial white wares as well. The post-medieval pottery within the assemblage has a date range between c. 18th century and 20th century.

The other finds

The assemblage also consists of one piece of glass from the base of a green bottle from an unstratified context dating to c. 19th-20th centuries. There are also 5 pieces of animal bone from context (103) which appear to be from a range of domestic animals including cattle, sheep and pig. Context (103) also produced one piece of a slag, brick and also a piece of fired clay which is probably part of a handmade brick. All contexts produced fragments of plain clay pipe stem ranging in date from 18th–20th century.

It seems likely that the pieces of medieval pottery are residual within the colluvium and has ended up in the colluvium deposits through movement from further uphill.

Conclusions

No *in situ* archaeological features or deposits were uncovered and there was a large amount of ground disturbance due to the services associated with the former nursery. Thick deposits of post-medieval colluvium were present across the site overlying natural subsoil. The lowest layer of colluvium contained a small assemblage of residual medieval pottery which, along with further unstratified sherds, may have derived from earlier agricultural activity.

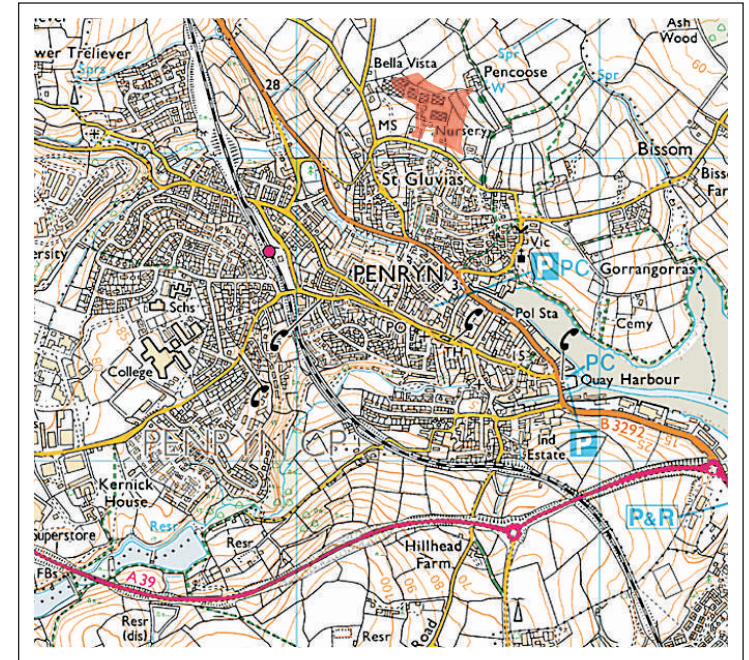
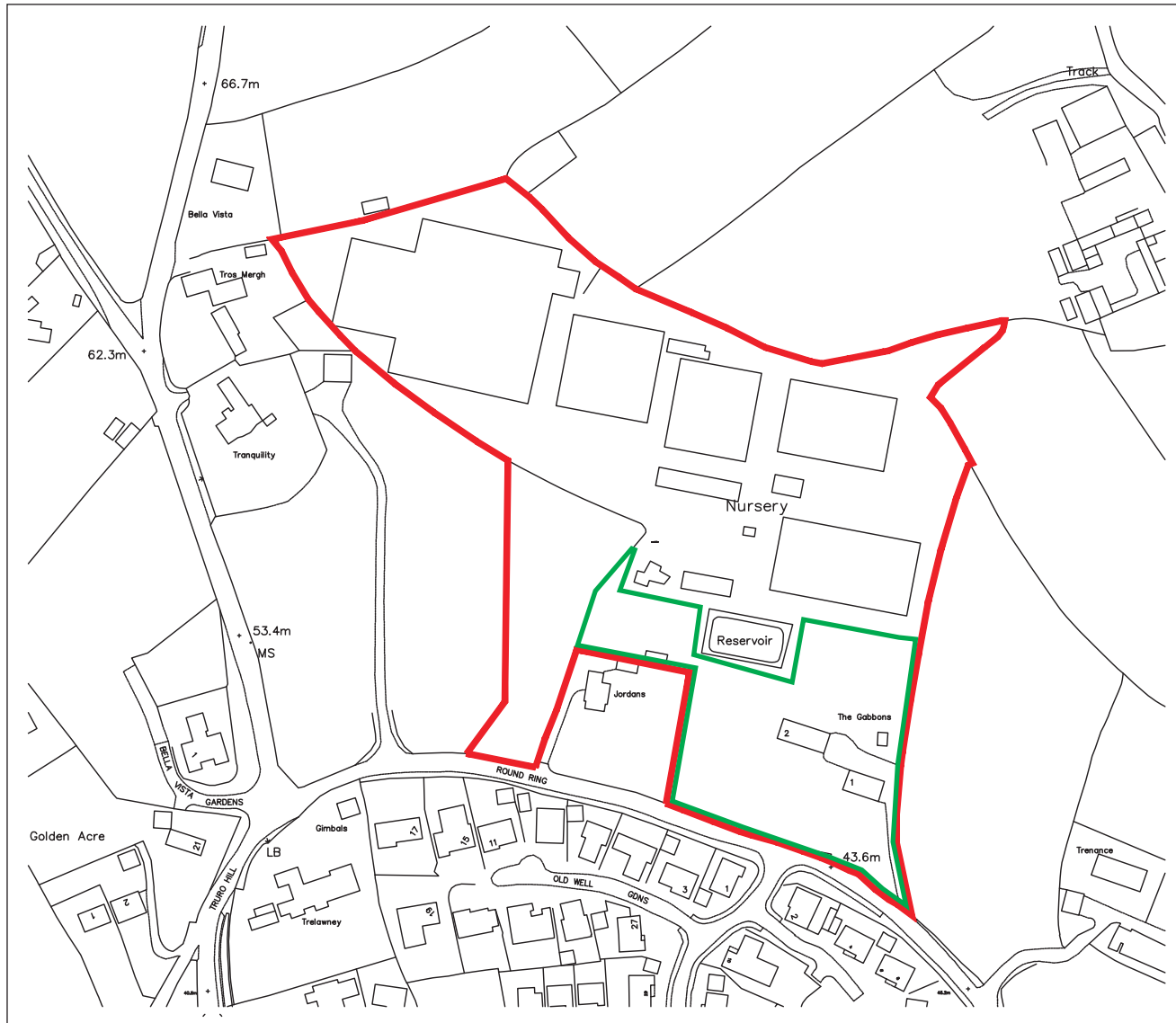
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Kerry Kerr-Peterson

Date sent to HER:

18 October 2012



SW

78

79



- Development area
- Watching brief area



PROJECT

Gabbons Nursery, Penryn

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and observations



Plate 1: South facing representative section. Scale 1m



Plate 2: General view of site from the southeast

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