

BRANNEL SCHOOL, ST STEPHEN IN BRANNEL, CORNWALL

(NGR SW 94262 52814)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

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On behalf of:
Kier Western

Document No: ACD377/1/0

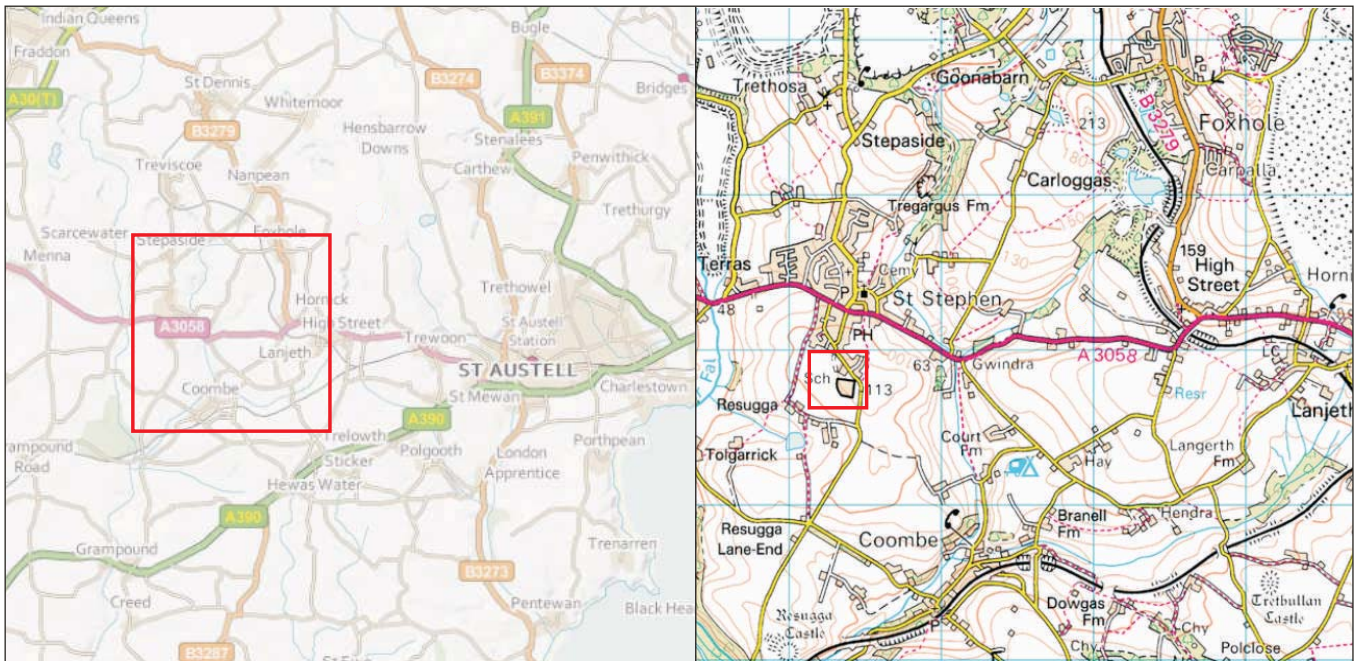
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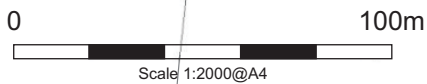
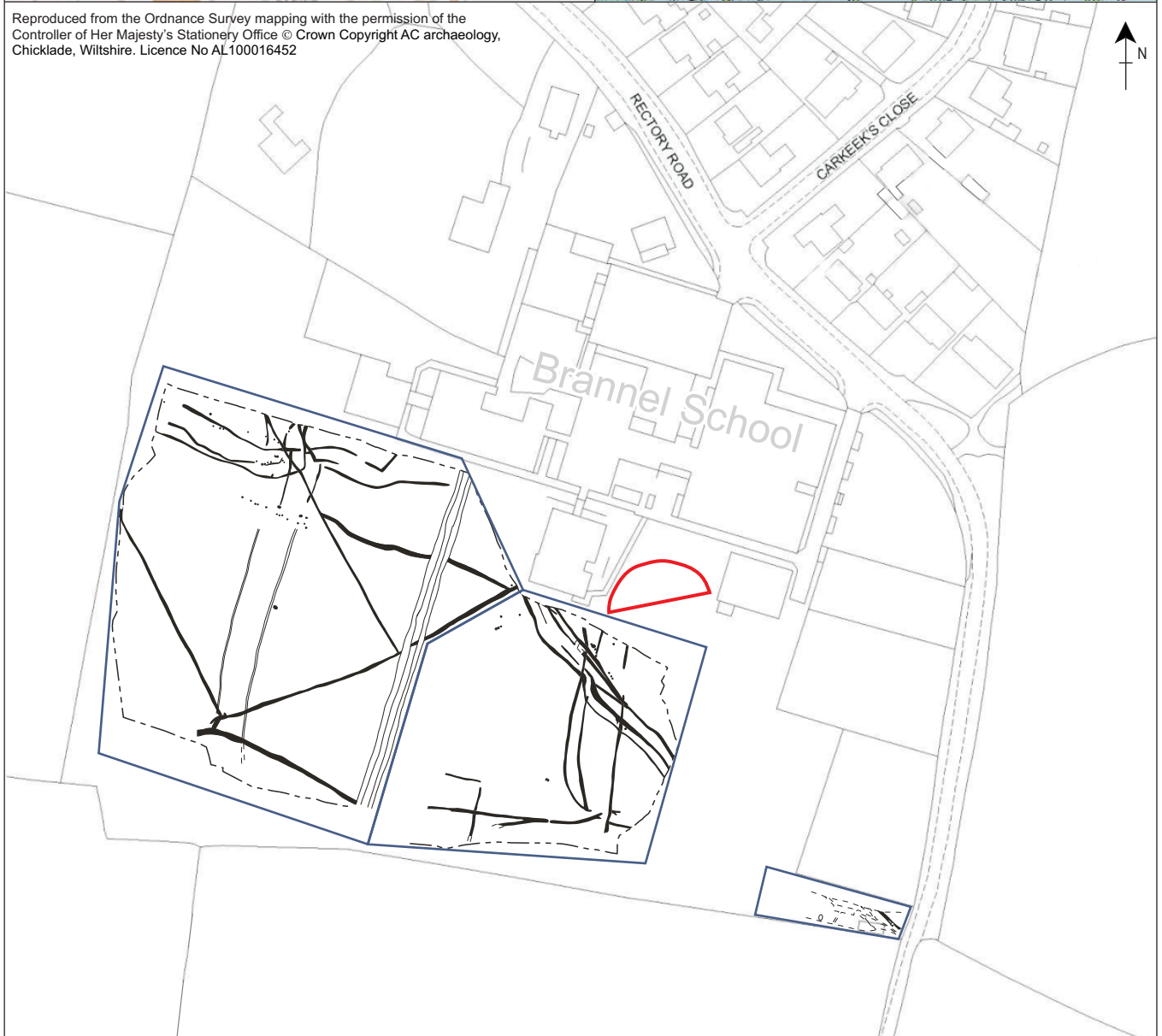
archaeology



Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: St Stephen in Brannel	National Grid Reference SW 94262 52814	Number:
Subject: Brannel School, St Stephen in Brannel, Cornwall: Results of an Archaeological watching brief		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: 09/01080	Recipient museum: Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro	
OASIS ID: 140032	Museum Accession no: TRURI:2010.7	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD 377	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19/10/2011 and 1/11/11	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1)</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a parcel of land at Brannel School, St Stephen in Brannel by AC archaeology. The work was commissioned by Kier Western, and formed the second stage of archaeological mitigation associated with the demolition of the existing building, and the construction of a new school within its grounds. The first phase of mitigation was an excavation within the footprint of the new school that was carried out by Exeter Archaeology in 2010 (Jones and Salvatore 2011). This excavation revealed a number of ditches representing boundaries of successive field systems dating from at least the early Iron Age if not earlier. Pottery evidence was consistent with some activity in the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, with most of the field system ditches belonging to the Middle Iron Age. No conclusive settlement evidence in the form, for example, of roundhouses was observed. A single pit containing early Bronze Age 'Beaker' pottery was also identified.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The watching brief was carried out in an area between the Exeter Archaeology excavation and the old school building, on land that had formerly been a lawn containing a small pond. The area had been used as a spoil heap during the initial groundworks and lay outside the area of the Exeter Archaeology's formal excavation. It was to form part of the landscaped grounds of the new school.</p> <p>The area measured c.370m² and following removal of the spoil heap was stripped using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket working under constant archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The deposit sequence comprised 0.10m of mid brown clayey-sand topsoil and 0.30m of mid-red brown subsoil onto natural subsoil. No archaeological deposits or features were exposed, and no finds collected.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed within the exposed area, and that the watching brief has established that groundworks associated with landscaping did not impact upon any archaeological features or deposits. No evidence was found for the ditches excavated to the south in 2010, and, given the different in soil sequence between this area and the Exeter Archaeology excavation, it is likely that that when the old school was constructed this part of the site had been more heavily landscaped than the playing fields.</p> <p>Source Consulted</p> <p>Jones, P. and Pamment-Salvatore, J. 2011 <i>Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at Brannel School, St Stephen in Brannel, Cornwall</i>, Exeter Archaeology Report Number 11.60.</p>		
Recorder: P. Jones, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 4 January 2013	



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-  AC Archaeology watching brief
-  Exeter Archaeology excavation areas

PROJECT

Brannel School, St Stephen, Cornwall

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site



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