

Methodist Church and Land East
of Methodist Church
Carne Hill
St Dennis
Cornwall

Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording

REPORT

January 2019





**Methodist Church & Land East of Methodist Church
Carne Hill
St Dennis
Cornwall**


for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/18/CSC

Carne Hill Methodist Church

WSI

Prepared by Richard McConnell, Director
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Approved by Dr Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager
Signed 
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Issue 01

PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref. N/A
Planning Application ref. PA17/05026 & PA17/05442
Local Planning Authority Cornwall Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref. N/A
Historic Environment Record ref. TBC
Collecting Museum Royal Cornwall Museum
Museum accession code N/A
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Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording in 2018 as part of a re-development proposal at the Methodist Church, Carne Hill, St Dennis, Cornwall. The project involved the demolition of the existing church and construction of a new church/community building. A report for the historic building recording was submitted in October 2018. This report relates to the archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks for the new community building.

Until recently, the Site comprised a late 19th century non-conformist church and Sunday School, which although de-listed from Grade II status in 1999, was of local historic interest and recognised as non-designated heritage assets. Within a 500m radius of the Site, there is one Scheduled Monument and a Grade II Listed building – an early medieval cross and church of St Dennis, situated on the hill to the north of the Site. The area also contains non-designated assets relating to the prehistoric and medieval use of the hilltop, and the Site is notably close to two Bronze Age burial mounds.*

Despite the potential for prehistoric activity in particular, groundwork excavations for the new community building did not expose any archaeological features or deposits and no finds were observed or collected.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording in 2018 as part of a re-development proposal at the Methodist Church, Carne Hill, St Dennis, Cornwall (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project involved the demolition of the existing church and construction of a new church/community building. The work was commissioned by Mr Christopher Jones, Architect on behalf of Carne Hill Methodist Church.

1.2 In a consultation response dated 16 February 2018 from Historic Environment Planning (HEP) (West Majors) it was requested that historic building recording be carried out prior to demolition of the church, and that archaeological monitoring and recording should be undertaken during development groundworks for the new community building. This stated:

"We have consulted the Cornwall & Scilly HER & studied the submitted HIA**. We note that the Methodist Chapel was formerly a Grade II Listed building but was de-listed in 1999 because there are better examples of the type in the area. The Chapel appears to have been built by the 1880s and the associated Sunday school was built in 1893. Although they are not Listed buildings, the Chapel and Sunday school are of considerable local historic interest and considered worthy of recording prior to works (a Historic Buildings Record). We also consider it prudent that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the early stages of groundworks because the site is situated between known heritage assets of a number of periods and is notably close to two Bronze Age burial mounds and it is therefore possible that similar archaeological features or deposit may be present within the proposal site."*

*Historic Environment Record

**Heritage Impact Assessment carried out by C1 in August 2017 (Randall 2017).

1.3 The historic building recording requirement was formalised in condition 4 and the archaeological monitoring and recording in condition 12 of the Grant of Conditional Planning Permission (PA17/05026 and PA17/05026 respectively). The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (DCLG 2018) and Policy 24 of the *Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies 2010-2030* (adopted 2016).

1.4 The full programme of archaeological works comprised five elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; historic building recording; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production; and archive preparation and deposition. The WSI was approved by the HEP on 24 May 2018 and the historic building recording was carried out in the same month. A report on the results of this survey was submitted to the HEP on 31 October 2018 (Green, 2018). Archaeological monitoring and recording took place on 1 November 2018. This report and subsequent archive deposition represent the final element of the programme of works for this development.

2. The Site

2.1 The Site is on the northern edge of St Dennis, situated c. 8km to the north-west of St Austell, and occupies a broadly triangular plot (centred on SW 195148 58140), covering an area of c. 0.43ha. The Site is bounded to the north-west by open land, on the north-east by Church Road, and the south by the Carne Hill road, both of which are lined with residential housing.

2.2 The Site is situated on sloping ground at c. 193m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on the south side rising to c. 198m in the north. The recorded geology for the Site is St Austell Intrusion - Granite (BGS, 2017). The soils are described as very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface (CSAIS, 2017).

2.3 A detailed historic background is provided in the HIA (Randall 2017) and the conclusions briefly summarised here. The late Victorian non-conformist chapel and associated Sunday School, now demolished, occupied the south-west portion of the Site, and the only recorded heritage asset on the Site. This was formerly designated as a Grade II Listed building but was de-listed nearly 20 years ago and subsequently regarded as of local importance only and a non-designated heritage asset.

- 2.4 The Site is situated c. 150m downslope from the summit of Carne Hill on which St Dennis Church and an early medieval cross are located. Two Bronze Age barrows were situated immediately to the north-east of the Site, on the opposite side of Church Road. There are also earlier medieval, medieval and post-medieval assets, as well as a number of post-medieval Grade II Listed buildings, to the south-west, south and west of the Site, associated with the village of St Dennis and other small settlements.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

- 3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there are any prehistoric remains, perhaps associated with the two nearby Bronze Age burial mounds or other known heritage assets in the environs

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology employed is summarised below.
- 4.2 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present.
- 4.3 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site was recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles are recorded was based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the investigation was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images.

5. Results

- 5.1 The deposits encountered during the investigation are described below. Context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1-004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1-002). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described below with their Munsell hue and reference, e.g. brownish yellow (10YR 3/1).
- 5.2 Monitoring of development groundworks comprised the machine excavation of foundation trenches for both external and internal walls relating to the new community building. The depth of excavations varied between 1.10m and 1.20m from a slightly reduced ground surface and generally 0.40m wide.
- 5.3 Perhaps not surprisingly, the deposit sequence was similar across the footprint of the new building. This comprised a soft, very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay topsoil (101), 0.20m-0.40m thick, with frequent angular blocky granite fragments (<0.20m) above a soft, brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) silty clay (101) with frequent

angular to blocky granite fragments (<0.50m). Due to the mixed nature of the deposit, it was not possible to positively ascribe (101) as a natural colluvial deposit or disturbed ground.

- 5.4 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the course of monitoring.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No finds were observed or collected as part of the investigation.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Paper/digital archive

- 7.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 7.3 In this instance, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 7.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage, but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.
- 7.5 In this instance, there is no artefact/ecofact archive.

Dissemination: report

- 7.6 Copies of this report will be submitted to the following:
- client and/or agent
 - the HEP so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
 - the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

Dissemination: publication

- 7.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

8. Discussion

- 8.1 Despite the potential for prehistoric activity in particular, groundwork excavations for the new community building did not expose any archaeological features or deposits and no finds were observed or collected.

9. Bibliography

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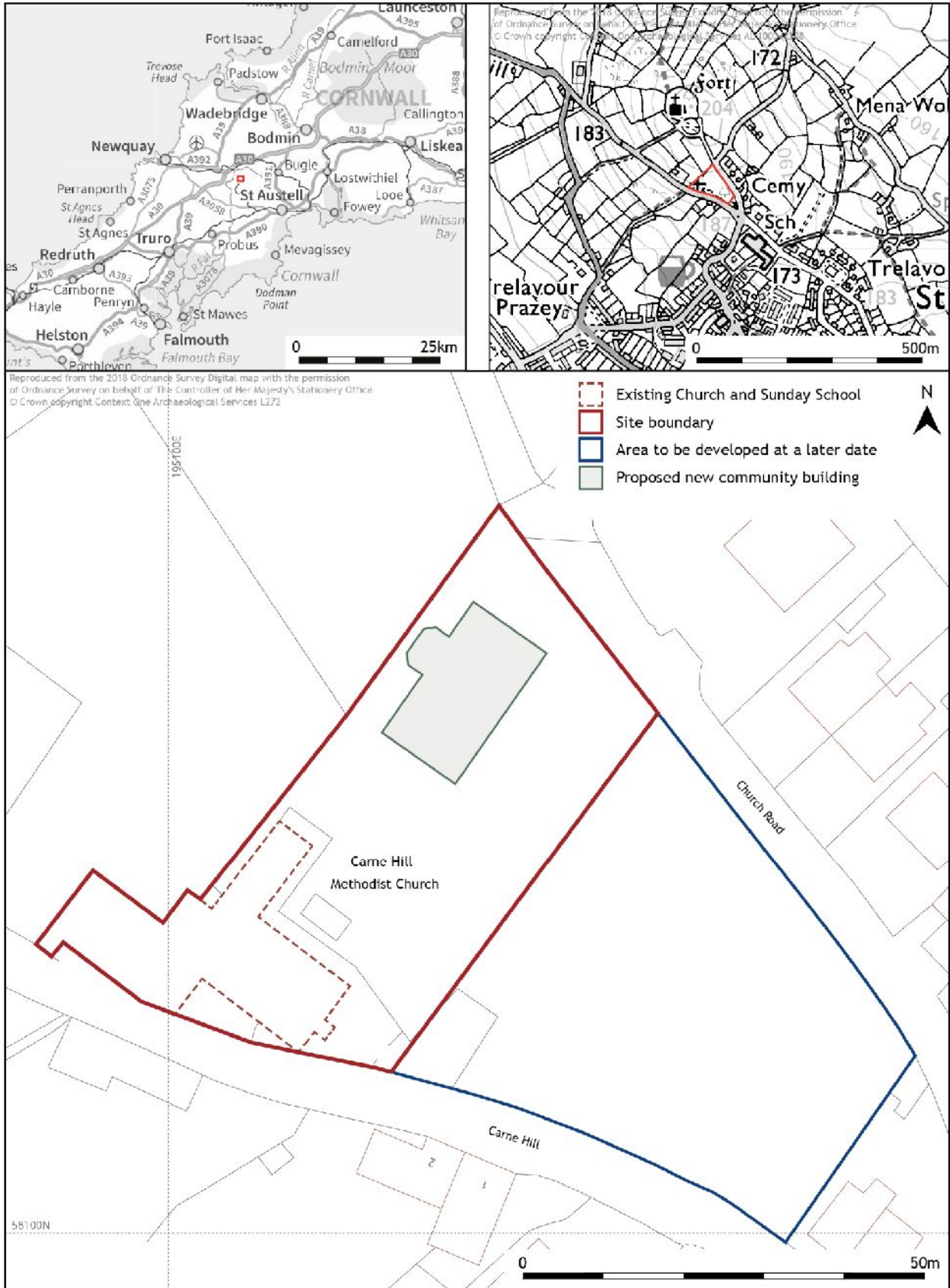


Figure 1. Site setting showing former location of Methodist church and footprint of new community building



Plate 1. General view across the site during foundation excavations from north-east



Plate 2. Site of the former Methodist chapel shortly after demolition from east



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