

Sea View, McFarland's Down, St Mary's, Isles Of Scilly TR21 ONS

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief

Client: Fran and Dale Clark

Planning refs: P/22/006/FUL, P/22/005/FUL, P/22/004/FUL

1 Project background

Planning applications P/22/006/FUL, P/22/005/FUL and P/22/004/FUL for demolition of an existing bungalow and construction of new dwellings with associated infrastructure at Sea View, McFarland's Down, St Mary's, Isles Of Scilly TR21 ONS have been approved subject to the following archaeological recording condition (condition no. C9)

A) No demolition or development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

B) No demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Note: The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed.

Reason: This is a pre-commencement condition that requires details that were not submitted as part of the application but are required to fully understand the impact upon the Islands archaeological, historic and built environment, to be submitted and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This is to ensure those characteristics which contribute to the status of the Isles of Scilly as a Conservation Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coast are preserved or enhanced. In accordance with the requirements of Policy SS2 and OE3 of the Isles of Scilly Local Plan (2015-2030).

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Charlie Johns, Heritage Specialist, for an archaeological watching brief at Sea View, McFarland’s Down, St Mary’s, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0NS which sets out the minimum requirements to discharge Condition C9 of planning consent under application numbers P/22/006/FUL, P/22/005/FUL and P/22/004/FUL.

2 Site location and description

McFarland’s Down is situated in the north of St Mary’s at about 45m above sea level. Sea View is located near the southern end of a linear development of houses dating to the mid- and late 20th century at NGR SV 91265 12201 (Fig 1).

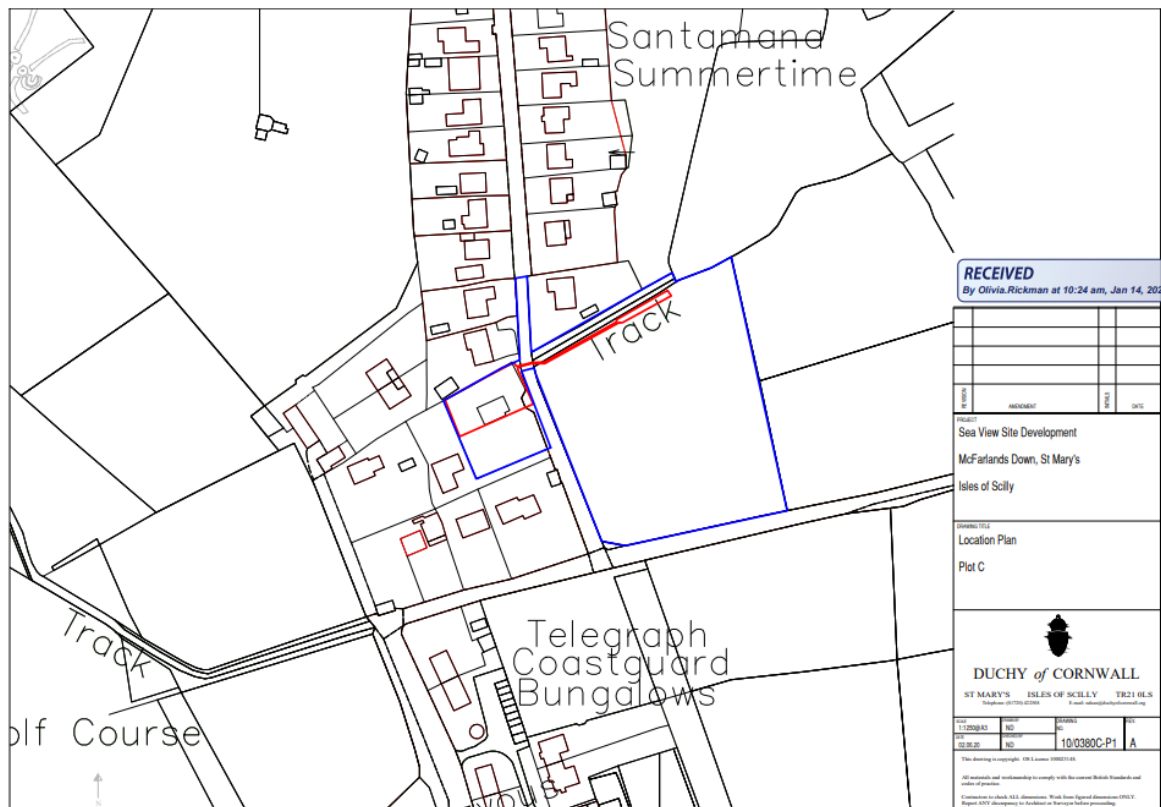


Fig 1 Location map with the line of the service trench marked in red.

3 Archaeological background

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) records that a number of known heritage assets are located close to the application sites of P/22/004/FUL, P/22/005/FUL and P/22/006/FUL. These include a prehistoric cupped-marked stone incorporated into a field boundary but probably moved from elsewhere in the area (MCO58413; to the 150m south east), the site of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age standing stone near Telegraph Tower (MCO31547), a prehistoric cupped-stone near Pungies Lane (MCO57051; 250m to the south east) and 220m to the north east, the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age standing stone known as 'Long Rock' (MCO30796).

4 Archaeological potential

The proposed site layout plans for P/22/004/FUL, P/22/005/FUL and P/22/006/FUL show that a soakaway trench and a septic tank pit for the new properties will be dug in the field immediately to the east of McFarland's Down Lane (Fig 1). Ground disturbance here has the potential as the potential to reveal buried archaeological features due to the concentration of prehistoric sites in the area.

5 Assessment of significance

Any archaeological features revealed or finds recovered during the excavation of the service trench are likely to be of Local significance.

6 Research questions

The proposed archaeological recording has the potential to contribute to the following research aims of the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Research Framework (Johns 2019).

Research Aim 12: Widen our understanding of Scillonian material culture of all periods.

Research Aim 20: Improve our understanding of prehistoric and Romano-British settlements, monuments and landscapes.

Research Aim 22: Improve our understanding of medieval and later settlements, buildings and landscapes.

7 Aims and Objectives

The site-specific aims for the archaeological watching brief are to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered;
- establish the nature of the activity on the site;
- identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site;
- provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered; and
- report on the findings to an appropriate level.

8 Methodology

The recording will involve the following phases of work:

1. Desk-based study
2. Archaeological watching brief during any groundworks
3. Analysis and archiving
4. Report production
5. Archive deposition

8.1 Desk-based study

Prior to the commencement of on-site works, the project archaeologist will familiarise themselves with the site by examining the information held in the Cornwall & Scilly HER, on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area, and in any relevant publications.

8.2 Archaeological fieldwork

The project archaeologist will be present during all groundworks associated with the development, unless circumstances dictate a different approach. If work is carried out by machine, where possible a toothless ditching bucket will be used for the removal of any overburden until the first archaeological horizon is exposed. This will then be hand-cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Any surviving remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development will be archaeologically excavated and recorded. Any significant features or layers identified in plan or section will be recorded using the following methodology:

- (a) each feature or layer will be assigned a context number from a continuous block of context numbers and recorded on a standard *pro forma* context sheet, where possible noting the location, extent, nature, character and stratigraphic relationships of any archaeological evidence revealed;
- (b) location will be plotted onto a 1:100 plan (drawn in 4H pencil on gridded drafting film);
- (c) if appropriate the feature/layer will be planned at 1:20 scale or recorded in section at 1:10 scale (unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate); (d) scaled digital colour photographs will be taken. In the case of detailed photographs, a north arrow will be included, where appropriate. A photographic register detailing the feature number, location, direction of shot and other relevant information will be drawn up.
- (e) all finds, where appropriate, will be retained and placed in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the site code (MDS 23) and context number if appropriate. They will be removed from the site for processing and conservation where necessary, in preparation for analysis and archiving.
- (f) in the event that objects containing precious metal(s) are encountered, the coroner will be informed as per the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

- (g) should any such remains be found, the presumption is that they will be excavated, removed and treated in accordance with current guidance from Historic England and the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) (APABE 2015; APABE 2017; Historic England 2018) (or conforming with the principles of the guidance where that relates to burials of the historic era and where remains found are of prehistoric date).
- If human remains are discovered within an archaeological context on the site, the client, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Historic England will be informed.
 - The relevant Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to disturbing the remains or their burial soil, if possible.
 - Any consents or licenses required will be obtained for the client by the archaeological contractor.
 - If human remains are uncovered, which are not to be preserved *in situ* (see below) they will be excavated with due reverence. Methodology used will follow published guidance (APABE 2015; APABE 2017; Historic England 2018); while the presumption of non-disturbance of such remains in the 2017 publication has been reviewed, the standards set out there for their excavation (Annex 53, points 221-225) will apply.
 - If human remains are to be retained *in situ*, a clear plan, agreed with the client, the LPA and Historic England, will be developed to determine how their preservation will be achieved in line with the principles of Historic England's guidance on preserving archaeological remains (2016).
 - Human remains will not be exposed to public view, the site being adequately. The project archaeologist will ensure respectful treatment, stratigraphic excavation, accurate location and detailed context recording of all remains
 - • In the event that human remains are found the project archaeologist will be guided by an osteoarchaeologist.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief will be followed in the execution of the project.

The Historic England Science Advisor for the South-West will be consulted for advice, if necessary.

Finds work, sampling, etc will be guided by the CIfA Guidelines for Finds Work and the Historic England Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy, Environmental Archaeology and Geoarchaeology.

If significant archaeological deposits are exposed all works will cease and a meeting will be convened with the client and the LPA to discuss the most appropriate way forward.

8.3 Analysis and archiving

During this phase the results of the fieldwork will be collated for archiving. This may involve the following tasks:

- washing or other cleaning of finds;
- marking of pottery and other finds with the site code and context number;
- indexing site drawings and photographs; and
- identification of finds, with the assistance of specialists CAU and/or elsewhere, if appropriate (details of specialist consultants are included in Appendices B and C).

8.4 Report production

A report presenting the results of the archaeological recording will be produced within a time period, not exceeding six months, to be agreed between the client, the LPA, the Isles of Scilly Museum and Charlie Johns.

The report will have the following contents:

- a concise non-technical summary of the project results
- the aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation
- the results of the historic building recording with details of significant features annotated on existing measured external elevations and floor plans if appropriate.
- a discussion of archaeological findings in terms of both the site-specific aims and the desk based research
- a location map, a drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological recording, and copies of any archaeological plans and sections. All plans will be tied to the Ordnance Survey national grid
- all specialist reports and assessments
- a summary of the archive contents and date of deposition
- a context register with brief descriptions will be included as an appendix
- a copy of the approved WSI will be included as an appendices.

The LPA will advise, within four weeks of receipt of the report, whether full publication in an appropriate journal is required. (A contingency for this will be included in the estimate for the work.)

A digital copy of the report in PDF format will be submitted to the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record.

Digital copies, or hard copies if preferred, will be provided to the LPA and the Historic England Archive in Swindon.

A record of the investigation will also be set up on the Historic England/ADS online index (OASIS).

8.5 Archive deposition

A site archive will be prepared, in accordance with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015), upon completion of the project.

The Isles of Scilly Museum have agreed to accept the archive, which will include a copy of the written report. This will be deposited within two months of the completion of the full report.

Confirmation of the deposition of the archive and a summary of its contents will be supplied to the LPA.

9 Monitoring

Groundworks will not commence until written approval for this WSI has been received from the LPA'. Notification of the proposed start of work will be given to the LPA in writing, if possible, at least one week in advance.

Work is anticipated to start in summer 2022, and the LPA will be kept regularly informed of progress: prior to that. Any variations to this WSI will be agreed with the LPA, normally in writing, prior to them being carried out.

10 Copyright

Copyright of all material gathered as a result of the project will be reserved to the client and Charlie Johns. Existing copyrights of external sources will be acknowledged where required. Use of the material will be granted to the client.

11 Project staff

Charlie Johns BA, MCIfA, is the archaeological contractor for the project. He is a heritage specialist based in Cornwall. A c.v. of his relevant qualifications and experience is at Appendix A of this document. If any archaeological finds or features come to light for which he does not have the necessary resources, he will contact Dr Andy Jones at Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, for advice and assistance.

Details of Cornwall Archaeological Unit are included in Appendix B and the external specialists, who have agreed to provide contingency support for the work outlined in the WSI, are included in Appendix C.

12 Health and safety statement

Prior to on-site work commencing a general Risk Assessment and a specific Covid-19 Risk Assessment will be carried out and liaison with the contractors will be undertaken to ensure a safe system of work in relation to the archaeological recording.

13 References

APABE. 2015. *Large Burial Grounds Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects*, APABE

APABE, 2017. *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*, APABE

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Historic England, 2001. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy

Historic England, 2002. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Environmental Archaeology

Historic England, 2004. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Geoarchaeology

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide

Historic England, 2018. *The Role of the Human Osteoarchaeologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*, Historic England, Swindon

Johns, C, 2019. *Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Research Framework Updated Resource Assessment and Research Agenda 2019*, Truro (Cornwall Archaeological Unit)

Charlie Johns

Heritage Specialist

20 February 2023

Appendix A: Curriculum Vitae for Charlie Johns BA, MCIfA

I am a self-employed heritage specialist. I have undertaken archaeological work in Scilly since 1991 and I was CAU's Senior Archaeologist for the islands between 2002 and 2018. I have extensive experience of conducting archaeological excavations and watching briefs.

Projects in Scilly include: the Bryher sword and mirror burial excavation in 1999 (Johns 2002–3), the Isles of Scilly Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey; the off-islands quays refurbishment in 2007; Dolphin Town Playing Field archaeological recording in 2003 (Taylor and Johns 2009-10); St Agnes Affordable Housing archaeological recording in 2009/10 (Taylor and Johns forthcoming); the Lyonesse Project (Charman *et al* 2016); Heritage at Risk services for the Council of the Isles of Scilly and Historic England (2016–18), the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Research Framework (Johns 2019). Recent projects include a photographic survey of intertidal features at Crab's Ledge and Bathinghouse Porth, Tresco and research into St Nicholas' Priory, Tresco. I am currently providing archaeological advice for the Isles of Scilly Coastal Adaptation Project. I helped to establish islands' Community Archaeology Group in March 2014.

I am a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (no 381).

Publications relating to Scilly

Mays, S, Parker, G, **Johns, C**, Sawyer, K, Reich, D, Buikstra, and Hale, K, in preparation. Sex identification of a Late Iron Age sword and mirror cist burial from Hillside Farm, Bryher, Isles of Scilly, England

Barnett, R L, Charman D J, **Johns, C**, Ward, S, Bevan, A, Bradley, S L, Camidge, K, Fyfe, R M, Gehrels, W R, Gehrels, M J, Jackie Hatton, J, Khan, N S, Marshall, P S, Maezumi, Y, Mills, M, Mulville, J, Perez, M, Roberts, HM, Scourse, J D, Shepherd, F, and Stevens, T, 2020. Nonlinear landscape and cultural response to sea-level rise, *Science Advances*, **6**, 1–10

Taylor, S R and **Johns, C**, forthcoming. A Late Bronze Age Settlement at Higher Town, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol*

Johns, C, Ratcliffe, A, and Young, A, 2021. Archaeological Recording during the 1996 Coast Protection Scheme at Porth Killier, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly, in AM Jones and G Kirkham (eds), *Later Prehistoric Settlement in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly: evidence from five excavations*, Oxford, 9-64

Neal, D S, and **Johns, C**, 2018. Excavations at East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly, 1970–71, *Cornish Archaeol*, **57**, 33–72

Thomas, C, and **Johns, C**, 2018. Excavations on Teän, Isles of Scilly, 1956, in A M Jones and H Quinnell (eds), *Charles Thomas: An Intellectual Adventurer in Archaeology*, Oxford (Archaeopress), 101–46

Johns, C, and Marshall, P. 2018. The Past as key to the future: reconstructing past sea levels on the Isles of Scilly and projecting how the island landscape might change in the future, in *Historic England Research (online)*, **8**

- Johns, C**, and Taylor S, 2016. Excavation of a Porthcressa-type cist grave at Churchtown Farm, St Martin's, 2013, *Cornish Archaeol*, **55**,
- Charman, D, **Johns, C**, Camidge, K, Marshall, P, Mills, S, Mulville, J, Roberts, H M, and Stevens, T, 2016 *The Lyonesse Project: a study of the historic coastal and marine environment of the Isles of Scilly*, Truro (Cornwall Archaeological Unit and Historic England)
- Johns, C**, and Quinnell, H, 2015. An assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery and stonework from Parting Carn, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol*, **54**, 183-192
- Thorpe, C M, and **Johns, C**, 2014. Some unusual pottery from Bryher, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol*, **53**, 239-244
- Johns, C**, and Quinnell, H, 2014. Two Nested Bronze Age Vessels from St Agnes, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol*, **53**, 171-182
- Dennis, I, Mulville, J and **Johns, C**, 2013. New evidence for Mesolithic occupation and environments in the isles of Scilly, *PAST*, **72**, 14–6
- Johns, C**, 2011. Ancient Scilly: the last 25 years, *Cornish Archaeol*, **50**, 187–196
- Mulville, J, and **Johns, C**, 2010 New Rock Art and Old Forests on the Isles of Scilly. *PAST*, **64**, 12–3
- Taylor, S R, and **Johns, C**, 2009–10. Archaeological recording of a multi-period site at Dolphin Town, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 1999-2003, *Cornish Archaeol*, **48–49**, 99–125
- Johns, C**, and Mulville, J, 2007. Drowned landscapes past and future: The Isles of Scilly, *The Archaeologist*, 66, 36–7
- Johns, C**, 2005. Scilly in prehistory, in J D Scourse, ed, 2005, *The Isles of Scilly Field Guide*, Bangor (Quaternary Research Association)
- Johns, C**, 2003. *An Iron Age sword and mirror burial from Bryher*, St Mary's (Isles of Scilly Museum Publications)
- Ratcliffe, J, and **Johns, C**, 2003. *Scilly's Archaeological Heritage*, Truro (Twelveheads press)
- Johns, C**, 2002–3. An Iron Age sword and mirror burial from Bryher, Isles of Scilly, *Cornish Archaeol* **41–42**, 1–79

Appendix B: Cornwall Archaeological Unit

If necessary, a suitably experienced field archaeologist from Cornwall Archaeological Unit may be subcontracted to assist with the archaeological recording. Details of their qualifications/experience will be provided to the LPA's archaeological adviser in that eventuality.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) is part of Cornwall Council. CAU employs 20 project staff with a broad range of expertise, undertaking around 120 projects each year.

CAU is committed to conserving and enhancing the distinctiveness of the historic environment and heritage of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by providing clients with a number of services including:

- Conservation works to sites and monuments.
- Conservation surveys and management plans.
- Historic landscape characterisation.
- Town surveys for conservation and regeneration
- Historic building surveys and analysis.
- Maritime and coastal zone assessments.
- Air photo mapping.
- Excavations and watching briefs.
- Assessments and evaluations.
- Post-excavation analysis and publication.
- Outreach: exhibitions, publication, presentations.

CAU is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and follows their Standards and Code of Conduct.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

Appendix C: Specialists

Carl Thorpe BSc will undertake initial finds processing, identification and cataloguing and has carried out similar work for Scillonian projects over the last two decades including the Isles of Scilly Electrification Project (Ratcliffe 1991), the Bryher cist burial, Tresco Playing Field and the off-island quays refurbishment.

Joanna Higgins BSc: Joanna is an osteologist who has worked as a consultant in this specialism on projects for CAU, including the Romano-British cist burial at Churchtown Farm, St Martin's (Johns and Taylor 2015).

John Allan MPhil: Medieval/post-medieval pottery specialist: John is the leading authority on medieval and post-medieval pottery in south-west England and author of many publications. He will carry out the pottery assessment and analysis in the event of significant medieval or post-medieval pottery being recovered.

Henrietta Quinnell BA, MIFA, FSA: Prehistoric, Roman, post-Roman pottery: Henrietta is a freelance pottery specialist and the leading authority on prehistoric pottery in the south-west. She will carry out the pottery assessment and analysis in the event of prehistoric pottery being recovered.

Dana Challinor MA, MSc: Freelance Charcoal Specialist: Dana's main area of expertise is charcoal analysis and wood species identification, but she also has experience with charred plant remains. She has produced numerous assessment and evaluation reports, as well as reports for publication in journal and monograph formats and was formerly Head of the Environmental Department at Oxford Archaeology. She will undertake assessment and analysis of any suitable charcoal samples, including identification of samples suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Ralph Fyfe, PhD: Palynologist: Ralph is lecturer in environmental change in the School of Geography at the University of Plymouth. He has carried out numerous archaeological evaluations for a variety of organisations, including English Heritage, County Councils, National Parks and Archaeological Consultancies and will undertake assessment and analysis of pollen samples if required.

Claire Ingrem PhD: Animal bone specialist: Claire is an experienced freelance animal bone specialist who will carry out assessment and analysis of animal bone if required.

Julie Jones BA: Archaeobotanist: An experienced freelance archaeobotanical specialist based in Bristol, Julie has carried out palaeoenvironmental assessments and analyses for numerous HES projects.

Laura Ratcliffe, BSc: Conservationist: Laura was formerly based at the Royal Cornwall Museum where she is the museum's Collections Manager and is now the lead on the Penwith Landscape Partnership. Laura will carry out the assessment and conservation of pottery and metalwork on a freelance basis if required.

Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory: Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC): Samples for radiocarbon dating will be sent to SUERC.