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Circus Field, Old Town Road St Mary's, Isles of Scilly

STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPACT

Charlie Johns | Report No 2024/4 | 24 February 2024

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| <i>Circus Field, Old Town Road</i> | |
| St Mary's, Isles of Scilly | |
| Statement of Archaeological Potential and Impact | |
| Client | Ken Jones, Community 1 st Cornwall |
| Author | Charlie Johns |
| Status | Final |
| Date | 24 February 2024 |

Acknowledgements

The study was commissioned by Ken Jones, Community 1st Cornwall and managed by Angela Warwick, Director of Situ8 Ltd, Planning Consultancy. Licensed copies of Ordnance Survey mapping were provided by Will Partridge of the Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record. The photograph of the scheduled cairn was provided by Katharine Sawyer and other photographs of the site were taken by James Faulconbridge.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Charlie Johns, Heritage Specialist, and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Charlie Johns is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCI(A no. 381)

Font cover: *The Scheduled Cairn in 2009 (photo: © Katharine Sawyer).*

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1 Summary

Community 1st Cornwall has commissioned this Statement of Archaeological Potential and Impact to support a planning application for a temporary storage area and site compound associated with the proposed extension to St Mary's Hospital.

The proposed storage area and compound is situated in a field known as 'Circus Field', lying to the south west of the Old Town Road at northern Peninnis (NGR 90820 10305) – 'the site'.

This study only concerns the potential direct impacts of the proposed development on the above- and below-ground archaeology of the site. The potential impacts on the setting of heritage assets in the wider area is the subject of a separate Heritage Impact Assessment.

There is one Scheduled Monument (SM), situated in the southern part of the site – *Platform cairn on northern Peninnis Head, 200m ESE of Buzza Tower* (NHLE 1009284). The position of the monument is indicated by a slight mound. There are no recorded undesignated heritage assets within the site.

It is proposed to use only the northern part of the site for the storage area and the compound. The ground surface will be protected with trackway matting, either composite or metal. Heras fencing will be used to enclose the storage area and compound. Therefore, this assessment concludes that the proposed temporary use will not have any physical (direct) impact on the SM or any potential buried heritage assets.

However, it is proposed to remove the existing north-west and south-east corners of the field – Cornish hedges – and create new temporary entrances and access. Although the sections of hedge will be rebuilt re-using stone from the original walls, this will have a minor negative impact on the historic farmed environment.

To avoid potential accidental damage to the Scheduled Monument it is recommended that an exclusion zone of 5m should be established around the circumference of the scheduled area of the cairn. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required setting out how the contractor will implement and monitor the exclusion zone and how vehicle movements will be managed to avoid harm being caused to the SM. The contractor could nominate a Heritage Champion who will be responsible ensuring that no damage is caused to the SM.

In view of their historic value, archaeological recording during removal of the sections of the existing Cornish hedges should be considered.



Figure 1 Location map, St Mary's.

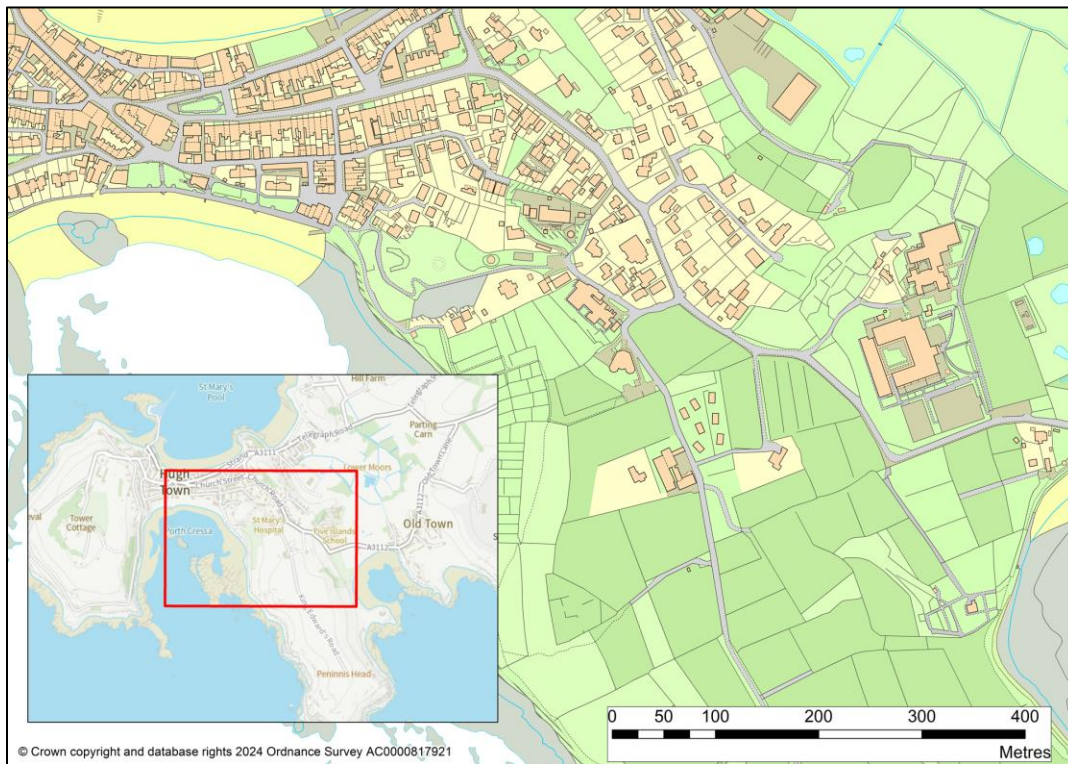


Figure 2 Location map, the site is outlined in blue.

2 Introduction

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In February 2023, Charlie Johns, Heritage Specialist, was commissioned by Ken Jones of Community 1st Cornwall to prepare a Statement of Archaeological Potential and Impact to support a planning application for a temporary storage area and site compound in the field known as the 'Circus Field' during construction of a new integrated health and social care facility at St Mary's Hospital, Hospital Lane, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LQ.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 Policy and Guidance

This report takes account of various relevant aspects of national and local planning policies and guidance including:

- Government guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) – specifically policies for 'conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (paragraphs 184-202) (see Appendix 1).
- The Isles of Scilly Local Plan (2015–2030).
- 'A Heritage and Cultural Strategy for the Isles of Scilly' (2004) and 'Historic Environment Historic Topic Paper: Enhancing the historic environment of the Isles of Scilly' (2017)', this supports the Local Plan 2015-2030 and sets out a positive strategy for the protection of the islands important historic environment.
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).
- The Hedgerow Regulations (1997).

2.2.2 Scope

This study only concerns the potential direct impacts of the proposed development on the above and below ground archaeology of the Circus Field, henceforth referred to as 'the site'. The effects of the proposed development on the setting of designated and undesignated heritage assets in the wider area the subject of a separate Heritage Impact Assessment.

2.2.3 Aims

The primary aims of this study are to assess the following:

- The resource of identified heritage assets, both designated and non-designated, relevant to the site.
- The significance of the identified and potential heritage assets and resource within the site.
- The impacts of the proposal upon the significance of heritage assets and the settings of designated heritage assets within the site.
- Appropriate measures for mitigating impacts upon the heritage assets and resource within the site.

2.2.4 Desk-based assessment

This study was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's (Cifa) guidance on undertaking desk-based assessment (Cifa 2020).

2.2.5 Significance

Determination of the significance of heritage assets has followed guidance issued by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2008. The following criteria have been used to measure significance:

- Evidential – ‘the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical – ‘derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present’.
- Aesthetic – ‘derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place’.
- Communal- ‘derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory’.

2.2.6 Sources

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and study area and the structures and features that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER).
- The National Heritage List for England (a searchable database of designated heritage assets, excluding conservation areas).
- Accessible GIS data.

- Early maps, records, and photographs (see Section 7.1).
- Published histories and 'grey literature' (see Section 7.2).

2.2.8 Site visit

The author is familiar with the area and at this stage it was not considered necessary to make a site visit. Photographs of the site were taken by Katharine Sawyer and James Faulconbridge for use in this report.

2.3 AUTHOR

The author of this report is Charlie Johns BA (Hons), MCIFA. Formerly a Senior Archaeologist with Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), I was the Unit's archaeologist for the Isles of Scilly from 2002 to 2018. Notable projects include the Bryher sword and mirror burial in 1999 (Johns 2002-3; Mays *et al* 2023); the Lyonesse Project, a study of ancient sea level rise in the islands (Charman *et al* 2016); and compilation of the Scilly Historic Environment Research Framework (Johns 2019).



Figure 3 The pigeon coop and rough stone enclosure near the western boundary (photo: James Faulconbridge).



Figure 4 The scheduled platform cairn in February 2024 (photo: Katharine Sawyer)

3 Location, setting and geology.

St Mary's, the largest of the Isles of Scilly, is located in the centre of the archipelago. The main part of the island is roughly circular, measuring approximately 3km north to south and 2.5km east to west, with promontories extending from this at Peninnis in the south and the Garrison in the south-west. It rises to a maximum height of 49m above sea level at Telegraph.

The island has a varied topography with the main settlement at Hugh Town on a low-lying sandy isthmus between the main part of the island and the Garrison. The interior is mainly undulating agricultural land with two areas of pools and marshland; the coast includes both rocky stretches with heathland above and sandy areas with dunes.

The proposed site, known as the 'Circus Field', is approximately 0.42ha in area and lies immediately to the west of Old Town Road (NGR 90820 10305) at the summit of the northern end of the broad ridge forming Peninnis Head. To the north west is St Mary's Hospital and to the south west the Health Centre.

The field is currently down to pasture (semi-improved). Photographs taken in 2009, when horses grazed it, show that the grass was close-cropped at that time. There is an existing gateway in the south-west corner. There are a couple of sheds and a disused pigeon coop within a rough, rectangular stone enclosure midway along the western field boundary (Fig 3). The scheduled platform cairn (NHLE 1009284) is situated in the south-west quadrant of the site, the diameter of the scheduled area is 18m (Figures 4, 6 and 10).

The geology of St Mary's is granite, with weathered periglacial head, known locally as *ram*, covering the lower hill slopes and valley floors; the geology supports soils suitable for cultivation and pasture (Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1975, Isles of Scilly, Sheets 357 and 358).

4 The Heritage Resource

This section presents a summary of the historical development of the site, provides detail of designated and non-designated heritage assets that have been identified, identifies potential heritage assets that may lie within the site, and reports on previous archaeological and historical work in the study area.

4.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The study area is characterised as 'Farmland: anciently enclosed land (prehistoric to early post-medieval)' by the Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment (Figure 5; Land Use Consultants 1996).

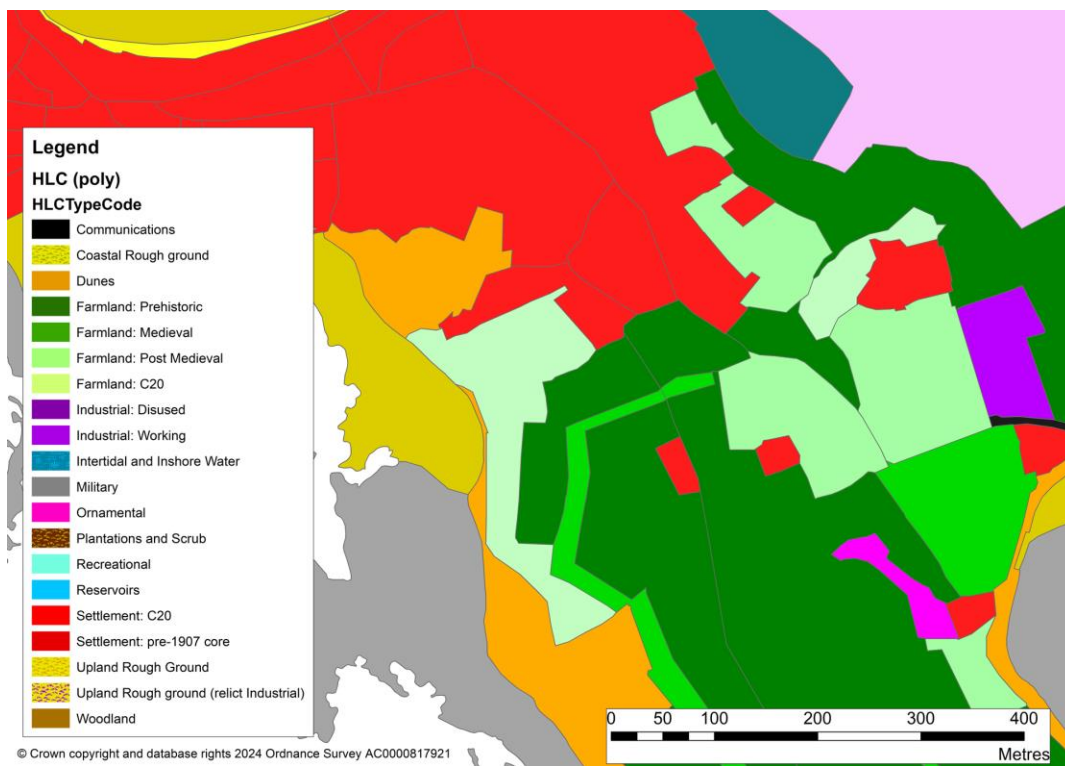


Figure 5 Historic Landscape Character of the area.

3.3 DESIGNATIONS

3.3.1 Conservation Area

In 1975 the islands were designated as a Conservation Area, under Section 277(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 imposes a duty on Local Authorities to designate as conservation areas “any areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. This duty extends to publishing proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas. Since its designation in 1975 no comprehensive appraisal of the Isles of Scilly Conservation Area has been undertaken. In 2015 the Local Planning Authority (LPA) consulted on a Draft Conservation Area Character Statement for the Isles of Scilly as a Supplementary Planning Document.

3.3.2 National Landscape and Heritage Coast

In 1976 the islands were designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – renamed The Isles of Scilly National Landscape in 2023 - and defined as a Heritage Coast. The quality of the environment of Scilly for designation as an AONB was first recognised in a report of the National Parks Committee in July 1947 (the Hobhouse Report).

The Heritage Coast definition protects 64 km² of coastline around the islands which is 23 km² of foreshore, cliff and dune environments. The management of the heritage coast was originally undertaken by a non-governmental organization, The Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust. It is now managed by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust through the Isles of Scilly National Landscape Partnership and Management Plan, which is updated every five years. The Conservation Area, National Landscape and Heritage Coast all overlap and cover all of the islands and the heritage coast occupies a substantial portion of the Isles of Scilly National Landscape.

3.3.3 Archaeological Constraint Areas (ACA)

The Isles of Scilly Archaeological Constraint Maps were compiled in 1995 by CAU with funding from English Heritage and the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The maps indicate the location of recorded archaeological and historic sites and structures to be used to make an initial assessment of the impact of any proposed development on these remains. They are non-statutory and were intended to serve as a graphic aid to planning officers and others dealing with the management of the environment.

The site comprises the King Edward's Road, Hugh Town, Archaeological Constraint Area (Figure 6).

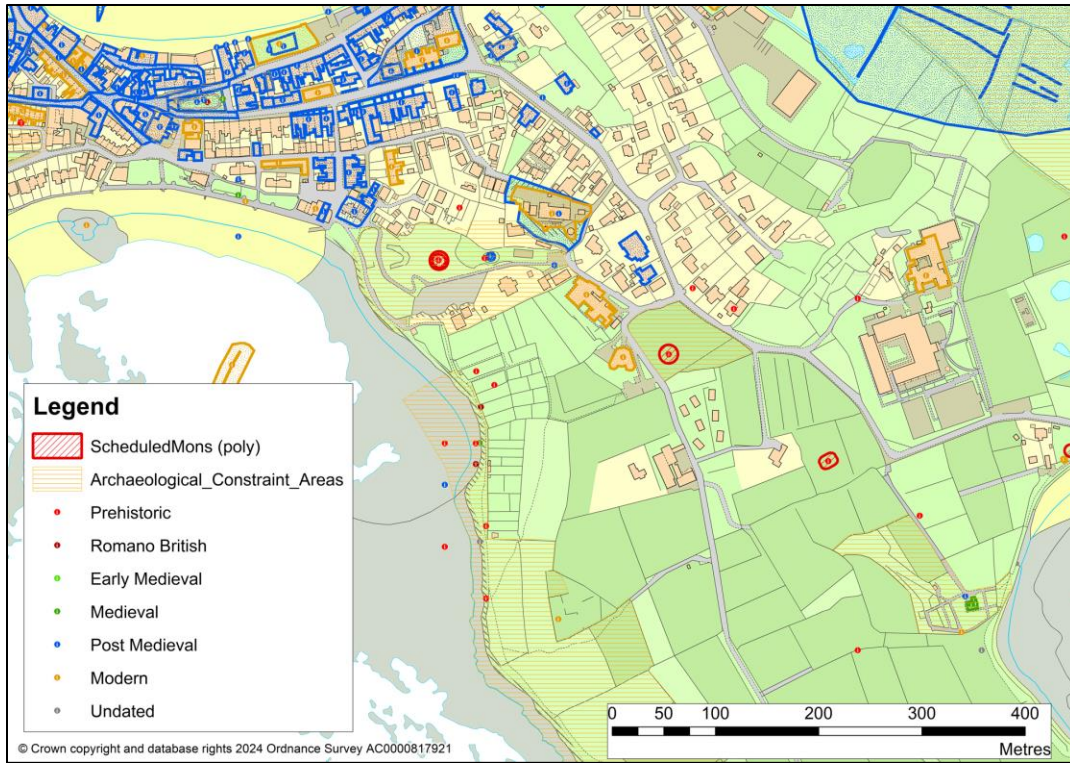


Figure 6 Heritage assets within the site and wider vicinity.

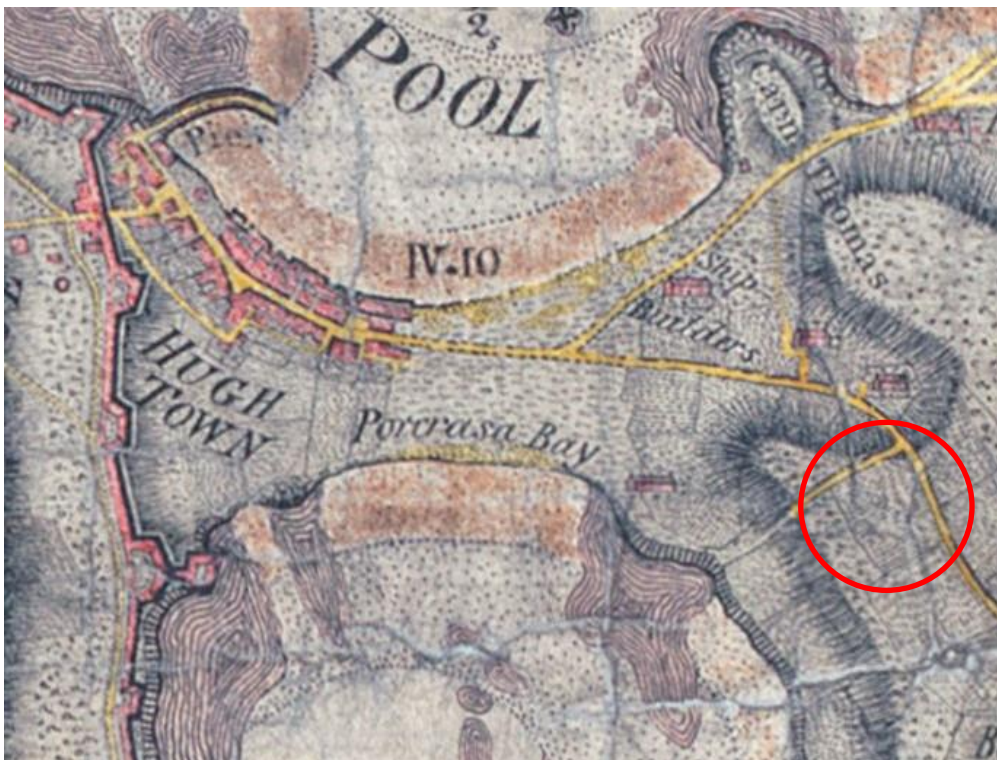


Figure 7 Detail from Graeme Spence's 1792 chart (sourced from the UKHO, Taunton).

3.3.4 Scheduled Monuments

There is one Scheduled Monument (SM) within the site – *Platform cairn on northern Peninnis Head, 200m ESE of Buzza Tower* (NHLE 1009284).

Platform cairns are funerary monuments of Early Bronze Age date (c2000–1500 BC), constructed as low flat-topped mounds of stone rubble, up to 40m in external diameter though usually considerably smaller, covering single or multiple burials. Some examples have other features, including peripheral banks and internal mounds constructed on the platform. A kerb of slabs or edge-set stones sometimes bounds the edge of the platform, and a peripheral bank or mound if present. Platform cairns can occur as isolated monuments, in small groups or in cairn cemeteries. In cemeteries they are normally found alongside cairns of other types. Platform cairns form a significant proportion of the 387 surviving cairns on the Isles of Scilly; this is unusual in comparison with the mainland. All surviving examples on the Isles of Scilly are considered worthy of protection.

This platform cairn on northern Peninnis Head has survived substantially intact with only minor disturbance evident from an antiquarian excavation and the modern cable trench. The prominent location of this cairn and its relationship with the other broadly contemporary cairns and field systems on and around Peninnis Head demonstrates well the nature of funerary activity and the organisation of land use during the Bronze Age.

The platform cairn survives with a turf-covered circular mound of heaped rubble, 10m in diameter, straddling a slight crest on the spine of the ridge such that the mound is 0.6m high from the south-west side and 0.3m from the north-east, rising to a flattened upper surface 4m in diameter. A row of three large slabs, each 1.2m long and 0.5m wide, considered to derive from an unrecorded antiquarian excavation at the cairn, lie parallel to each other embedded in the turf from 1m beyond the western perimeter of the cairn, with a further slab partly exposed to their south.

Beyond this monument, further broadly contemporary cairns are located on the crest of the ridge from 750m to the SSE at the southern end of Peninnis Head, with prehistoric field systems fringing the lower slopes. Two broadly contemporary chambered cairns, of which one still survives, occupied the summit of Buzza Hill, 200m to the WNW, the north-westward extension of the ridge containing this monument. Until modern development, these cairns were intervisible with this monument. The electricity cable and its service trench are excluded from the scheduling but the ground beneath is included.

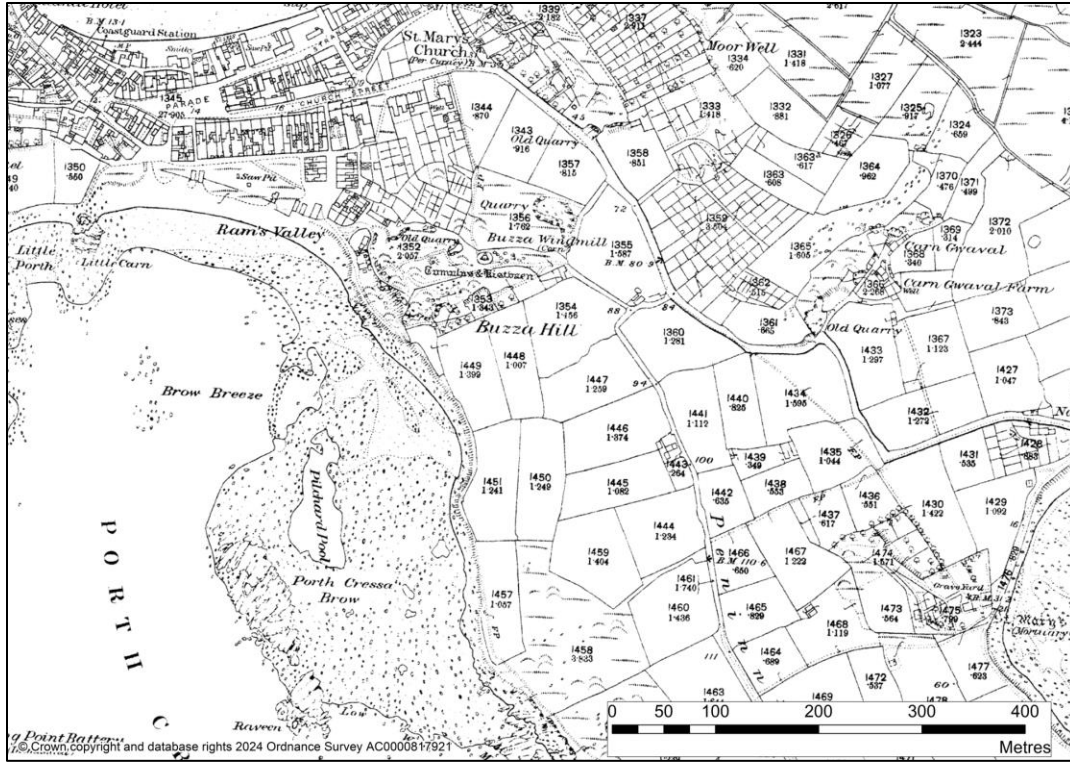


Figure 8 Detail from the c1880 OS map.

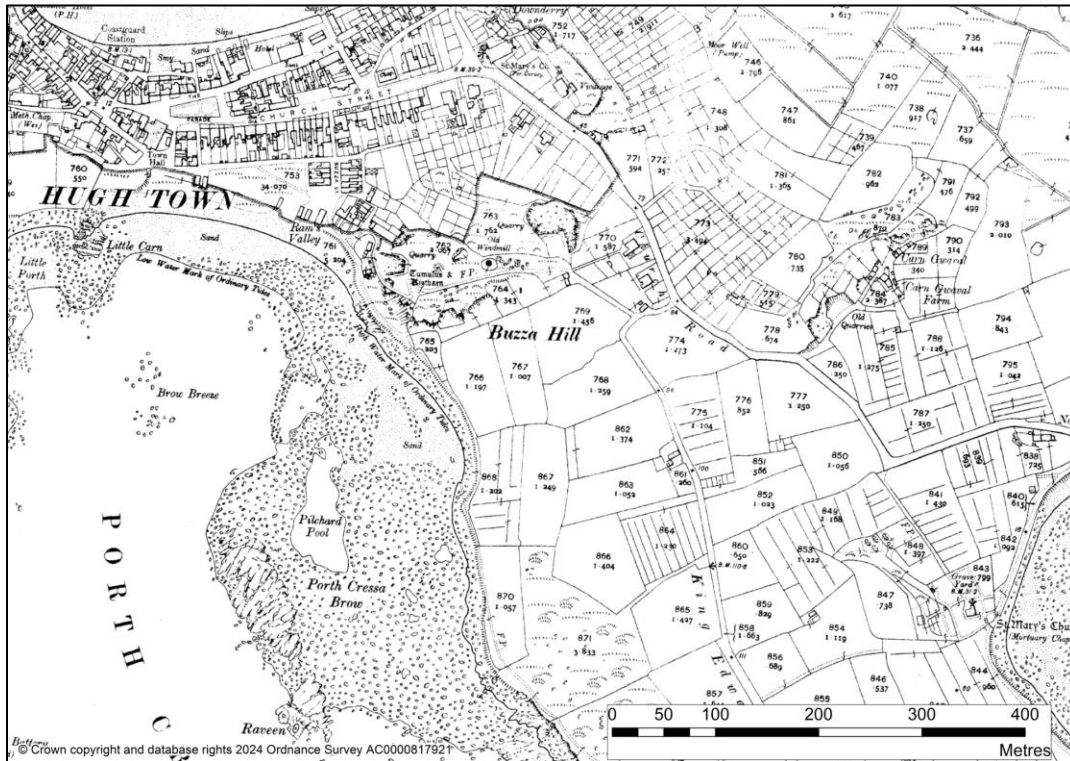


Figure 9 Detail from the c1907 OS map.

3.3.5 Listed Buildings

There are no Listed Buildings within the site.

3.3.6 Undesignated heritage assets

There are no recorded undesignated heritage assets recorded within the site.

3.4 CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

3.4.1 Prehistoric (c10,000 BC–AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–410)

In the Early Bronze Age, the site would have been heathland, and a component ceremonial landscape associated the scheduled cairn (NHLE 1009284) and with the cairns on Buzza Hill (NHLE 1010174 and MCO30227). A Bronze Age agate bead was found in the garden of Pilot's Retreat (now Starlings) in 1970 (MCO31088) and two flint thumb-nail scrapers and two hammer stones were found at Pernold in the 1960s (MCO31081).

Later prehistoric or Romano-British settlements and cist graves are more likely to have been situated at a lower contour above Porthcressa or Old Town Bay rather than on an exposed hilltop. There are a number of prehistoric and Romano-British sites exposed in the cliff face at Porthcressa 250m to the south west. In addition, the HER records finds of Romano-British pottery and a possible prehistoric post-holed stone on Buzza Hill in the 1950s (MCO53363) – although the HER entry is confused about the location of these finds, and they are more likely to have come from the allotment gardens at Porthcressa.

Further afield is *the Iron Age to Romano-British fogou on Northern Peninnis Head, 170m south of Carn Gwavel Farm, St Mary's* (NHLE 1020142), approximately 200 south east of the site and the suite of scheduled monuments on Peninnis Head some 775m – 1km south east of the site.

3.4.2 Medieval, post-medieval and modern (AD 410–present day)

During the medieval and early post-medieval periods, the site would have been heathland – rough ground used for seasonal grazing.

A chart of 1792 by Graeme Spence, a maritime surveyor for the Royal Navy, shows that the site was enclosed within a large rectangular croft (Figure 7).

The c1880 and c1907 OS maps show that the site had assumed its present form (Figures 8 and 9). It is likely that the eastern, northern and western field boundaries, which are Cornish hedges, date from the mid-19th century. The southern boundary, a post and wire fence, reflects a more modern sub-division of the field shown on these maps.

An interesting undesignated heritage asset, not currently recorded in the HER, is a square stone with a square hole thought to be medieval in date and originally from

St Maudut's chapel in Hugh Town. Troutbeck (c1792) recorded that it was then on St Mary's Quay, apparently it was subsequently stored on Rat Island and has now been placed in front of the Health centre.

Grade II Listed Buzza Tower (NHLE1291886) is situated some 160m north east of the application site. This was originally a windmill, constructed in 1821 on the site of the Bronze Age kerbed cairn excavated by William Borlase in 1752. It was restored and extended in 1911 in commemoration of a visit by King Edward VII. There is also a disused post-medieval quarry and the site of a 20th-century electricity generating plant about 132m to the north west (MCO64382).

4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Comparatively few archaeological finds have been reported in the vicinity of the site. No finds of archaeological interest were reported during the construction of the Hospital in 1939 or the Health Centre in 1999, although there was no formal recording in place.

No recent archaeological investigation appears to have taken place on the site or within area except for a watching brief during groundworks for a campsite at Peninnis Farm, 35m south of the scheduled cairn (NHLE 1009284). No archaeological features were recorded, the topsoil was 0.3m-0.4m deep with the natural substrate (known locally as *ram*) underlying it. The only finds were a total of eight sherds of 19th or 20th century glazed pottery (Sawyer 2013).

4 Assessment of Significance

4.1 BASIS FOR ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE

'Significance' is 'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting' (NPPF 2021).

4.1.1 Cultural heritage value

Significance means the sum of the cultural heritage values of a place as set out in Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' (English Heritage 2008). Cultural heritage value has many aspects, including:

- Evidential value (includes archaeological value) — the potential of a place to yield primary information about past human activity. This means that there is potential, but its full extent is not yet known, e.g., below-ground archaeology before it is excavated. Once excavated it becomes historic, as we know what it can tell us about the past. In a building, an example might be when there is potential to uncover a blocked doorway hidden by plaster. Once discovered it would become historic.
- Historical value — the ways in which it can provide direct links to past people, events and aspects of life. This can be broken down into 'illustrative' and 'associative value.' Historic is an example of how the site works and what that tells us about the time.
- Aesthetic value (includes architectural value) — the ways in which people respond to a place through sensory and intellectual experience of it. This can be designed or fortuitous – the outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.
- Communal value — the meanings of a place for the people who identify with it, and communities for whom it is part of their collective memory. Tends to be a more recent history rather than historic e.g., recent social history and current art connections etc.

In addition, the historic environment is a cultural heritage resource shared by communities characterised not just by geographical location but also by common interests and values. As such, emphasis may be placed upon important consequential benefits or potential, for example as an educational, recreational, or economic resource, which the historic environment provides.

The seamlessly linked cultural and natural strands of the historic environment are a vital part of everyone's heritage, held in stewardship for the benefit of future generations.

4.1.3 Degrees of Significance

- **Outstanding Significance:** elements of the place which are of key national or international significance, as among the best (or the only surviving example) of an important type of monument, or outstanding representatives of important social or cultural phenomena, or are of very major regional or local significance.
- **Considerable Significance:** elements which constitute good and representative examples of an important class of monument (or the only example locally), or have a particular significance through association, although surviving examples may be relatively common on a national scale, or which make major contributions to the overall significance of the monument.
- **Moderate Significance:** elements which contribute to the character and understanding of the place, or which provide an historical or cultural context for features of individually greater significance.
- **Low Significance:** elements which are of individually low value in general terms or have little or no significance in promoting understanding or appreciation of the place, without being actually intrusive.
- **Uncertain Significance:** elements which have potential to be significant (e.g., buried archaeological remains) but where it is not possible to be certain on the evidence currently available.
- **Intrusive:** items which detract visually from or which obscure understanding of significant elements or values of the place. Recommendations may be made on removal or other methods of mitigation.

4.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.2.1 Evidential Value

The scheduled platform cairn is, by definition, a site of National Importance. Any features that might be associated the Bronze Age ceremonial landscape on Buzza Hill and northern Peninnis Head are potentially of National Importance, any other features or finds are likely to be of Local Importance. Therefore, the evidential value of the site is assessed as being of **Considerable Significance**

4.2.2 Historical value

The site illustrates the ongoing enclosure of heathland in the post-medieval period and is associated with the historic expansion of Hugh Town, so its historical value is assessed as being of **Moderate Significance**.

Field boundaries are a characteristic feature of Scilly's farmed landscape. As well as having landscape value the boundaries are of historic importance, both for showing how the landscape has changed and developed and for their archaeological potential; some have prehistoric origins. The islands' walling techniques are distinct from those of the mainland and in some respects differ

from island to island, although there are broad similarities in the suite of boundary types. With the progressive loss of traditional dry-stone walling skills, some field boundaries are losing their traditional character (Kirkham *et al* 2011).

The eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the site, which probably date to the mid-19th century, are Cornish Hedges (stone-faced earth banks). These fall outside the purview of the Hedgerow Regs at present (<https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/cornish-hedges> but this is something Cornwall Council's Hedge Group they are working on. They stress the importance of hedgerows in the landscape, '*We are taking the stand that all hedges are important though as they all make a valuable contribution to Landscape, heritage, biodiversity, carbon capture, flood alleviation etc*'.

4.2.3 Aesthetic value

The whole of the Isles of Scilly has been designated as a National Landscape because of its outstanding natural beauty. The aesthetic quality of the site, however, has been compromised by miscellaneous surrounding modern development. Therefore, the aesthetic value of the site is assessed as being of **Moderate Significance**.

4.2.4 Communal value

The site is known as the 'Circus Field' because a travelling circus visited St Mary's in April 1964 and set up their tent here. The event is still remembered fondly by islanders of a certain age.

It seems that in the early 1980s an Upland Sandpiper, a rare American wader, appeared on St Mary's and took up residence in the field. It was assumed that it hadn't seen a human being before as it had no fear and people started feeding it worms which it ate. Quite a few birdwatchers visited the islands to look at it. It left after a week, but some local birdwatchers know the field as 'The Upland Sandpiper Field'.

The communal value of the site is assessed as being of **Moderate Significance**.

5 Assessment of Potential Impacts

5.1 DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

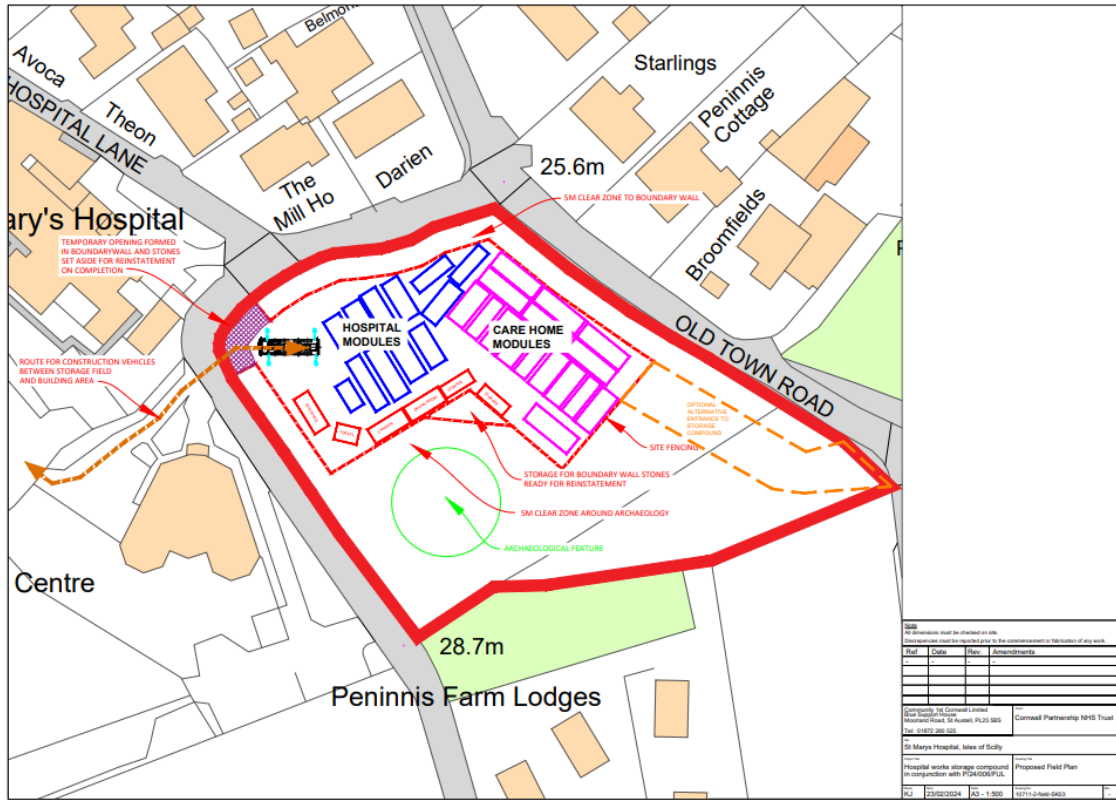


Figure 10 Plan of the proposed access, storage area and site compound. The scheduled platform cairn is hatched in red.

It is proposed to use only the northern half of the site for storage and the site compound (Figure 10). The north-west and south-east corners of the site – Cornish hedges – will be removed and new entrances and access created. The sections of Cornish hedge would be replaced within three months of leaving the site, using stone from the existing walls.

The ground surface will be protected with trackway matting, either composite or metal (Figure 11). There will be 28 storage modules measuring up to 3.6m wide by 8m long and 3m high. (Figure 12).



Figure 11 Example of the type of ground surface matting which will be used..



Figure 12 Example of the type of storage modules which will be used.

5.2 CRITERIA FOR GRADING OF HARM

The impacts of development on the historic environment may include positive as well as adverse effects. For the purposes of assessment these are evaluated on an eight-point scale:

Positive/Substantial Benefit

Positive/Moderate Benefit

Positive/Minor Benefit

Neutral

Negative/Negligible (Less than Substantial) Harm

Negative/Minor (Less than Substantial) Harm

Negative/Moderate (Less than Substantial) Harm

Negative/Substantial Harm

The additional **Negative/Unknown** used where an adverse impact is predicted or **Positive/Unknown** where a beneficial impact is predicted but where, at the present state of knowledge, its degree cannot be evaluated satisfactorily.

The assessment also distinguishes where possible between permanent and temporary effects, or between those that are reversible or irreversible, as appropriate, in the application of the scale of impacts.

To ensure that the judgements given in this report are as clear as possible this assessment uses the following definitions to develop a five-step grading of harm.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Substantial Harm | | The change seriously affects a key element contributing to the significance of the asset, going to the heart of its significance. |
| Moderate (Less than Substantial) Harm | | A major element of the heritage value of the asset is harmed whilst retaining enough value to justify identification as a heritage asset. |
| Minor (Less than Substantial) Harm | | Some heritage values are harmed but these do not contribute a major element of the significance or its asset, and/or the change is offset of by enhancement or revelation of other heritage values. |
| Negligible (Less than Substantial Harm) | | Minor negative harm to the heritage values of a place that are neither substantive or primary to its overall significance. |
| Neutral | | No harm to the heritage values of the asset. |

5.2 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL PHYSICAL (DIRECT) IMPACTS

There will be no ground disturbance to the site. The ground surface will be protected with trackway matting, either composite or metal. The site will be enclosed with Heras fencing. Therefore, potential direct impacts are assessed as Neutral.

However, there is potential for inadvertent direct impacts to the Scheduled Monument by vehicular traffic which could cause Minor to Substantial Harm.

Creation of new entrances in the north-western and south-eastern corners of the site will entail the removal of sections of the existing Cornish hedges. The direct impact is assessed as being Minor (Less than Substantial Harm).

6 Options

This section offers options to reduce or mitigate adverse impacts on the historic resource which may result from the temporary use of the field for storage and site compound. These options are provided for guidance and the actual requirements for archaeological recording will be set by the LPA.

To avoid inadvertent damage to the Scheduled Monument it is recommended that an exclusion zone of 5m should be established around the circumference of the scheduled area of the platform cairn.

A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) may be required setting out how the contractor will implement and monitor the exclusion zone and how vehicle movements will be managed to avoid harm being caused to the SM. The contractor could nominate a Heritage Champion who will be responsible ensuring that no accidental damage is caused to the SM.

In view of their historic value, archaeological recording during removal of the sections of the existing Cornish hedges should be considered.

7 References

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7.3 WEBSITES

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> Online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings



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