



West Northwood, Cornwall  
Archaeological Excavations 2017

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017RO61



# **West Northwood, Cornwall**

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
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The Project Manager was Andy Jones, who directed the field project. The archaeological excavation was supervised by Anna Lawson-Jones. The site survey was carried out by Peter Rose and Konstanze Rahn. The geochemical sampling was undertaken by Chris Carey and Akshaya Tharmasekaran, University of Brighton.

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## Freedom of Information Act

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Cover illustration:

*Roundhouse 1 under excavation in July 2017.*

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## Abbreviations

|      |  |
|------|--|
| CAU  | Cornwall Archaeological Unit                                 |
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists                       |
| HER  | Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record |
| MCO  | Monument number in Cornwall HER                              |
| NGR  | National Grid Reference                                      |
| OD   | Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn       |
| OS   | Ordnance Survey  |

## Summary

In 2017 archaeological investigations were carried out over a two week period at West Northwood Farm on Bodmin Moor. The project was undertaken to gain further information about an enclosed settlement by undertaking a survey and excavating one of the roundhouses. During the course of the project, roundhouse 1 and a slot through the enclosure bank were excavated and a survey of the settlement as a whole was carried out. Excavation of the roundhouse revealed that there were two distinct phases. The first comprised a stone-walled roundhouse with a south facing doorway and the second involved the insertion of an opposing entrance through the north wall. The floor was very heavily disturbed or 'poached', probably by the feet of animals which had been kept within the roundhouse. The later activity is dated by the discovery of ceramics to the later Iron Age / Roman period.

The roundhouse was located within a D-shaped enclosure, within which were a number of other structures. To the south of the enclosure is a large roundhouse or possibly a ring cairn, the only Scheduled Monument at West Northwood. To the north, and beyond West Northwood lies the open moorland, which contains one of the largest and best preserved prehistoric landscapes in southern Britain. Previous archaeological recording on the Moor has included the large-scale Bodmin Moor Survey. Modern excavation of prehistoric settlements is, however, limited to excavations carried out at Leskernick in the 1990s and the reopening of old excavation trenches at Rough Tor in 2006.

This report outlines the details of the 2017 fieldwork project and provides initial conclusions. Recommendations are made for the analysis and publication of the site. Appendices at the end of the report provide information about the project archive. The format of the report follows the *Cornish Archaeology* template, since the site will eventually be published in that journal. The key results are as follows:

### *Roundhouse 1*

The excavation of roundhouse 1, a stone-walled roundhouse with a south facing entrance, revealed a structure approximately 10m in diameter. There were few internal features and the house had been remodelled and thoroughly disturbed by later activity. A secondary entrance had been inserted through the northern part of the wall and there was evidence for animal activity in the form of 'poaching' into the floor which extended into the interior from the north entrance. Although the floor had mostly been removed, traces of clay surfaces were identified. An internal sub-dividing wall may also have been inserted during this phase, and it is suggested the secondary phase of the roundhouse may have been associated with its reuse as an animal byre or pen. Disturbance also occurred to the site in later periods as much of the walling had tumbled into the interior. One of the large unstratified blocks of stone had started to be shaped, possibly into a millstone. This is likely to have occurred in the post-medieval period. All of the broadly diagnostic pottery recovered from the roundhouse was of Late Iron Age and / or Roman date. The primary phase of the building is undated; however, on morphological grounds a Middle Bronze Age date is likely.

### *Settlement*

The plane table survey recorded a small D-shaped enclosure containing the excavated roundhouse and another two definite roundhouses. In addition, four possible roundhouses / structures were recorded. Roundhouse 9 lies outside the enclosure 8 to the south east. A post-medieval mine leat runs east-west across the lower part of the enclosure. A trench through the northern section of the enclosure bank revealed that it had been constructed upon an old land surface and that it was a substantial stone-faced bank. There was no trace of the possible external ditch which appeared to be present to the north of the cutting. No finds were recovered and there was no direct stratigraphical relationship with roundhouse 2 which lay to the immediate south. The date of the enclosure is therefore uncertain, however, the spatial relationship between the roundhouses and the enclosure suggest broad contemporaneity.





## **Archaeological Excavations at West Northwood Farm, Bodmin Moor 2017**

*In 2017 archaeological investigations were carried out over a two week period at West Northwood Farm on Bodmin Moor. The project was undertaken to gain further information about an enclosed settlement by undertaking a survey and excavating one of the roundhouses. During the course of the project, roundhouse 1 and a slot through the enclosure bank were excavated and a survey of the settlement as a whole was carried out. Excavation of the roundhouse revealed that there were two distinct phases. The first comprised a stone-walled roundhouse with a south facing doorway and the second involved the insertion of an opposing entrance through the north wall. The floor was very heavily disturbed or 'poached', probably by the feet of animals which had been kept within the roundhouse. The later activity is dated by the discovery of ceramics to the later Iron Age / Roman period.*

In June / July 2017, Cornwall Archaeological Unit undertook a two week excavation as part of the 'Dig, Eat and Sing' community project. The project had been organised by Nick and Jenny Hart, along with Martin Eddy and members of the St Neot Local Historians committee, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund who funded the project.

The project had three major objectives. The first was to make the first detailed survey record of the settlement, including all of the roundhouses, the enclosure and walling. This was necessary to help better understand the wider context of the excavation and would be useful for establishing the condition of the site, guiding its management needs and informing future designation.

The second objective was to undertake a training excavation to investigate one of the unscheduled roundhouses. Investigation of this structure was carried out to provide much needed secure dating for roundhouse occupation on Bodmin Moor, as well as yielding evidence for the activities which took place within the structure. Throughout the excavations geochemical samples were taken to ascertain whether the house had been used for metalworking. The excavation also provided an opportunity to train local volunteers and members of the Cornwall Archaeological Society in the techniques of archaeological fieldwork.

The third objective related to the relationship between the components within the settlement. The investigated roundhouse (named roundhouse 1) was selected because it appeared to be a well-defined free standing structure. A second trench was opened up through the enclosure bank to the immediate north of roundhouse 2, where it appeared to be attached to the enclosure. The aim was to gain information about the chronology of the settlement and the relationship between the roundhouses and the enclosure.

This archive level report details the results from the 2017 excavations prior to analysis being undertaken and provides recommendations for the final stage of analysis and publication in the journal *Cornish Archaeology*.

## **Location and background**

The prehistoric settlement is situated within privately owned and partially tree-covered rough ground to the north of the landowners' house (SX 20189 69752). It is set on the north side of an east-west aligned valley to the north of West Northwood Farm, within an area of approximately 1.4 hectares (Fig 1).

The historic landscape character of the area in which the settlement is set has been identified as being Anciently Enclosed Land (Cornwall County Council 1996), although it lies near the zones of open Upland Rough Ground and Recently Enclosed Land which characterise much of the higher lying land to the north. However, in spite of being enclosed by field walls, the steep sloping aspect of the land makes it more akin to Upland Rough Ground than Anciently Enclosed Land. Indeed, it is probably the sloping

aspect of the topography which has led to the site surviving as an upstanding settlement.

The settlement is comprised of three to four roundhouses, which appear to be single units that have been terraced in to the hillslope, and another three or four possible roundhouses / structures (see Appendix 6). All but one of the roundhouses are situated within a D-shaped enclosure 8 with dimensions of 37m east-west by approximately 43m north-south (Figs 2 and 4). It is, however, uncertain what the chronological relationships between the enclosure walling and the roundhouses are. The enclosure could predate, post-date or be broadly contemporary with the laying out of the roundhouses. There are indications that there was an external ditch around the enclosure, especially on the uphill northern side where there is also a possible narrow entrance, and there is a wider break in the eastern side, which may represent an original entranceway. Neither entrance has, however, been excavated. The western side of the enclosure is attached to a stone field wall which forms the property boundary. It is possible that this wall and the parallel eastern field boundary are in fact of prehistoric origin and have become incorporated into the later medieval field system (Appendix 6).

Later, post-prehistoric activity is also evident in the immediate area. A leat associated with an adjacent post-medieval tin mine ran east-west across the enclosure, narrowly missing the southern side of roundhouse 1. Later disturbance to the wall of the roundhouse was also caused by an unstratified roughly trimmed large block of granite, which is likely to have come from the wall. This block may have been intended to be used as a millstone, or for use in the mine or in the farm to the south. Despite these disturbances the site preservation appeared to be good.

Despite the apparently good level of preservation, none of the roundhouses within the settlement were Scheduled and only one, site 9, a large roundhouse or possible ring cairn lying to the south, is a Scheduled Monument (CO957) (Appendix 6). This is a substantial structure encircled by a low bank faced with large granite blocks. None of the other features are designated and the settlement was not covered by the extensive Bodmin Moor survey, which recorded the Bronze Age field systems and settlements across the open moorland (Johnson and Rose 1994) but not those in enclosed land. In addition, tree and vegetation cover has meant that the site has until recently not been detectable from the air and it has therefore not been mapped in detail by the National Mapping Programme.

## Archaeological results

The excavations in 2017 included the excavation of a 5m by 1m long trench through the bank 501, which formed the upstanding element of enclosure, 8 and roundhouse 1, the largest within enclosure 8, which was located on the eastern side of the settlement area.

The roundhouses, the enclosure in which they are set and the surrounding area were surveyed using a plane table. The numbering system used by the survey was adopted by the excavation team (for example, enclosure 8 and roundhouse 1).

The excavated areas were entirely hand-dug and all the stratified artefacts were plotted, given small find numbers and located on the site plans.

In the following descriptions of excavated features context numbers for cut features (pits, ditches, gullies) are shown in square brackets, for example [112], and layers, fills and deposits in round brackets, (102). Structures are numbered without brackets; for example, roundhouse 1.

### *Roundhouse 1 (Figs 5 and 6)*

Roundhouse 1 is located on the eastern side of the settlement. Prior to excavation it appeared to be a single unit which was levelled into the slope (Fig 3). The structure appeared to be well-sealed beneath hill-wash and the southern downhill part of its wall

was entirely buried. The upslope, northern portion of the wall included substantial granite boulders, which protruded through the turf-line. The approximate diameter of the roundhouse appeared to be around 7.5m, although excavation revealed that the external diameter was approximately 10m.

Because the roundhouse appeared to be buried beneath hill-wash it was anticipated that there would be a good level of preservation within the building, and it was hoped that there would be an intact floor suitable for environmental and geochemical sampling. A 10m by 15m excavation area was set up over the roundhouse. The southern side of the trench was extended by 1m to enable the investigation of the south facing entrance into the building. A central 0.5m wide east-west baulk was established for stratigraphical and sampling purposes, and this was removed at the end of the excavation. The stone-walling which defined the roundhouse was fully revealed but only displaced stones were removed and *in situ* walling was not excavated. Nonetheless, the excavation did involve the total exposure and planning of the surviving wall.

The following section describes the site stratigraphy from top to bottom.

The whole of the excavation area was covered by layer (100), which was formed of decomposed vegetation and humic dark brown soil, ranging from 0.1m to 0.21m thick. A number of artefacts were recovered from this layer, including sherds of Iron Age / Roman period pottery, several of which were from the junction of layer (100) with wall 103, the roundhouse wall. Beneath this was layer (101), a dark, reddish brown gritty loam, with granite fragments. This layer covered the excavation area and 103, the wall of roundhouse 1. It was between 0.1m to 0.27m thick and is likely to be a colluvial deposit, which post-dated the occupation of the roundhouse. Many of the artefacts came from the base of this layer, close to the junction with (105). The finds included pottery of Iron Age / Roman period date, a slate spindle whorl, a stone rubber, stone muller, a lap-stone and several residual flints. A notable concentration of the finds occurred on the outside of wall 103 towards the western end of the trench (Fig 5).

Below (101) on the outside of the roundhouse was layer (105), the natural subsoil, a compact orangey brown granitic clay, known locally as 'rab'. Iron staining, possibly derived from a decayed iron object was found embedded in the top of the natural beyond the eastern side of the house.

Within the roundhouse, layer (100) sealed (102) (Fig 6). Layer (102) was the main infill deposit within the roundhouse and was up to 0.2m thick. It was a dark greyish black, loamy silt, a colluvial deposit which had washed downslope into the house. The northern and western part of the layer was very stony as it contained tumbled granite blocks from the wall of the roundhouse. It also contained patches or lenses of light silty clay. Several artefacts were recovered from the layer including sherds of Iron Age or Roman period pottery.

When layers (100), (101) and (102) were removed it was found that roundhouse 1 measured approximately 7.5m internally and 10m externally. The wall of the roundhouse was 103. Where better preserved on the eastern side, this stood to a height of over 0.5m high (Fig 7). The western and northern part of the wall circuit was more disturbed and many stones had become displaced from it. The intact sections of wall 103 were left *in situ* and were not excavated. However, removal of the overlying layers revealed that it had been set upon a cut into the natural hillslope and was comprised of granite blocks which were up to 0.5m wide by 1m long. Where well-preserved, especially on the eastern side, the wall was found to be up to 1.4m wide and was double-skinned, with vertical set stones and large coarse-grained granite blocks on the outside, which held a rubble and firm reddish brown soil matrix core in place (Fig 8). Several sherds of Iron Age or Roman period pottery and a flint were recovered from the top of the wall. Two breaks in the wall circuit, interpreted as entranceways, were recorded. The first, which measured approximately 2m wide, was located on the southern, downhill side of the structure (Fig 9). The walling was quite disturbed in this

part of the site and there was much displaced stone, but a large flat stone, potentially marking the threshold, was located in the middle of this area. This entrance is considered to be the primary doorway. Two cut features were also located here. On the left hand side of the entrance was a large steep-sided pit or posthole [112], which measured 0.8m in diameter and 0.5m deep. It was filled by (111), a dark greyish brown gritty silty clay. To the right of the entrance was [115], a cut or socket which was set within wall 103. It measured 0.4m by 0.25m wide and 0.24m deep. The upper part of the feature was visible as a void in the wall. It did, however, contain fill (116), a soft dark silty loam with occasional stones, which contrasted strongly with the surrounding matrix of wall 103. The dark soft fill may have been a rotted timber, and the surrounding stones packing for a post. The socket may have been an integral part of wall 103, possibly holding an upright post, which was part of the post-ring or the doorway.

The second entrance was located on the north side of the roundhouse, and was opposite the southern entrance (Fig 10). It was narrower, c 0.8m wide and there was a good deal of displaced stone to the immediate south of it. This entrance is considered to be a secondary insertion through the wall circuit.

Within the interior of roundhouse 1, layer (102) covered the natural and a number of deposits. Layer (109) extended into the building as a c 0.5m to 2.4m wide band from the northern entrance to the middle of the interior of the roundhouse (Fig 10). This deposit comprised a dark greyish brown deposit of gritty clay soil with a large number of granite stones which had been displaced from wall 103. Much of the layer was left *in situ*, but where investigated it was found to be uneven and in most places appeared to have been trampled into the floor of the roundhouse. This layer is likely to represent animal trampling and have resulted from livestock movement from the north entrance into the roundhouse. A small quantity of pottery was recovered from this layer, which appears to be of Roman period date.

Several discrete patches of surviving flooring / occupation deposits were also uncovered. Layer (107) was a small, 0.1m thick spread of material located close to the wall in the north east part of the roundhouse. It comprised a compact, greyish silty clay and may represent an isolated remnant of a laid floor.

Between (107) and (109), was layer (108). This was a very thin layer of orangey brown, firm gritty clay. It was embedded into the top of the natural subsoil (105) and may represent the last remnant of a floor but it was little more than a skim (Fig 12).

Layer (110) was located to the south of the bulk and beyond the northern extent of (109). It consisted of a gritty, mid greyish brown firm clay loam, from which came occasional flecks of charcoal and a few sherds of Iron Age / Roman period pottery. It was relatively stone-free, although a few larger displaced stones from the roundhouse wall were embedded into the top of it. The layer was under 0.07m thick and may have represented a floor or a spread of occupation-related material.

A final deposit (113) was recorded in the north east part of the roundhouse. It was a small dark linear stain, measuring 0.18m long by 0.02m wide, which was pressed into (105). Initially thought to be a feature, excavation revealed that it was probably a decayed root.

The only internal feature was wall 114, a north east-south west aligned feature, found in the south east quadrant of the roundhouse, that ran from wall 103 in the southern entrance area for a length of approximately 5.4m (Figs 11 and 13). The wall was not excavated but it was up to 0.25m high by 0.6m wide and was comprised of flat laid granite blocks which were up to 0.3m across. It seems likely that it was a later insertion into the roundhouse and was either designed to partition space within the structure or to reinforce wall 103. If the wall was associated with the later use of the building then it may have been broadly contemporary with the insertion of the north entrance. This is supported by the fact that the space enclosed by wall 114 was widest at its northern end and tapered towards the south. The function of this feature is

uncertain, it is possible that the space was associated with the stalling of animals or perhaps with the rebuilding of the roundhouse (see below).

Outside the roundhouse, two features were identified. Wall 104 was located to the east of roundhouse (Fig 5). It was built of large granite blocks up to 0.4m across, with small stones between them. A dark reddish brown silty clay loam matrix was recorded between the stones. The wall was up to 1m wide and was recorded for a length 1.8m before it disappeared under the eastern edge of excavation. The wall was not excavated but it appeared to sit within a cut. Its relationship with roundhouse 1 is uncertain as there was a gap of 0.7m between wall 103 and 104 and no artefacts were recovered from it.

A second 0.6m-0.8m wide curvilinear wall, 106, was located approximately 1.6m to the west of the roundhouse (Fig 5). It was only just caught in the excavation area and was comprised of granite stones of around 0.3m-0.4m across with a few much larger pieces. It is likely to be part of structure 5, which was identified by the site survey (Appendix 6), and perhaps had an internal diameter of around 4m. Again, there were no artefacts with which to date the wall, and its chronological relationship with roundhouse 1 is uncertain.

#### *Section through the enclosure 5, bank 501*

Enclosure 8 was defined by a bank 501 with a possible external ditch, which was most evident as a depression on the northern and eastern sides. A north-south 5m long by 1m wide slot, extending from the northern wall of roundhouse 2 through the enclosure bank 501 and beyond, was excavated to identify any external ditch (Figs 13 and 14). The uppermost deposit was again layer (100), the dark peaty loam, which in this area was up to 0.14m thick. Layer (500) was a dark brown peaty soil, which was located at the northern end of the trench and extended as far as bank 501. This layer was up to 0.11m thick and was recorded for a length of 1.95m. It was rooty and contained occasional granite stones. It had clearly formed against the bank and therefore post-dated its construction. Beneath (500) was layer (504), a near black gritty natural peat accumulation up to 0.08m thick, which in turn sealed (505), a more substantive deposit. This layer was up to 0.25m thick and was a mottled brown deposit containing redeposited rubble and granite stones. It seems probable that this material was derived from bank 501. Layer (505), a greyish black loamy peat was located at the base of the section. It was up to 0.1m thick and ran under the bank 501. This layer was identified as an old land surface. It directly overlies the orangey brown natural 'rab' subsoil, which in this trench was numbered (507). A slot for samples was excavated into the bottom of bank 501, where it was found that (506) was better-preserved (up to 0.21m thick) and there were also traces of a turf-line, and the layer was numbered (510).

Layer (502) was located at the southern end of the trench and filled the 1.3m wide space between the northern wall of roundhouse 2 and bank 501. This layer was up to 0.22m thick and was a dark near black peaty soil which contained frequent small granite stones, which may have been either derived from the bank or the wall of the roundhouse. As with layer (500), the layer post-dated the construction of the bank. Roundhouse 2 wall 503 was only exposed at the southern end of the trench, where it was found to comprise granite blocks, the largest of which was vertically set. Where captured in the section the wall measured 0.4m wide by 0.8m high. Layer (502) covered (508), a thin 0.04m thick layer of loamy peat which is likely to represent a natural soil formation. It in turn sealed (509); a 0.1m thick deposit of greyish brown clay loam which might represent redeposited material from bank 501. Layer (509) was above the natural subsoil, (507).

Bank 501 itself was, apart from the slot which was excavated for sampling purposes, not excavated and was left *in situ*. It was approximately 0.5m high by 2.5m wide and faced on either side with granite stones, some of which were vertically set and up to 0.25m long, and others which had been laid flat and were smaller. The core of the bank consisted of a reddish brown firm peaty loam.

No trace of an external ditch was exposed in the excavated trench, although it is possible that one exists further to the east of the excavated slot through the bank (especially in the area close to the entrance), where there is a marked depression which runs along the outside of the bank. It is certainly the case that the earthy core of the bank must have been excavated from somewhere, and a ditch would provide a convenient source of material. Unfortunately, there was no evidence for the relationship between bank 501 and 503, the wall of roundhouse 2. They were more than 1m apart and the gap between them was filled by material which post-dated both the bank and the roundhouse.

No archaeological features were encountered in the excavated trench and no diagnostic artefacts were recovered to provide any relative dating: the only find was a possible shaped slate from layer (504). However, the buried soil horizon (506) / (510) sealed beneath the bank suggests that the bank had been constructed before the onset of peat accumulation, and the same is likely to have been true for the roundhouses. This, together with the spatial relationship between the roundhouses and the bank, is indicative of broad contemporaneity, although it is not possible to say which came first.

## Conclusions/discussion

The archaeological investigations at West Northwood Farm in 2017 led to new information about the character of the enclosed settlement. The date for the construction of roundhouse 1 was not ascertained but on morphological comparisons with other stone wall upland structures, it is likely to have been built during the Middle Bronze Age (see below). Importantly, pottery from roundhouse 1 suggests that it was reoccupied during the later Iron Age / Roman period.

### *Before the settlement*

Several pieces of worked flint were recovered during the course of the excavation. A number of these pieces were finely worked and are of probable Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (c 3000-2000 cal BC). All were recovered from later contexts, and are therefore residual; however, they do indicate that there was activity in the area before the roundhouses were constructed. Another potentially early element is roundhouse 9, which is located to the south east of enclosure 8. It is unexcavated and may be a roundhouse, however, the walling includes a lot of large boulder sized stones, and it is possible that it is an earlier Bronze Age ring cairn.

### *Roundhouse 1*

With an external diameter of approximately 10m, roundhouse 1 falls towards the upper size range of the stone-walled roundhouses found on the Moor (Johnson and Rose 1994, 55; Bender *et al* 2007, 402-3), and it is the largest of the four identified houses within the enclosure.

The method of construction of the wall is broadly comparable with the recently excavated Bronze Age roundhouses at Stannon Down (St Breward), Bosiliack (Madron) and Leskernick (Altarnun) (Mercer 1970; Jones and Quinnell 2011; Jones 2013; Bender *et al* 2007, 400), where double-skinned walls were infilled with smaller stones and / or soil. This construction technique would have strengthened the walls and have been a good means of insulating the house. The south facing position of the original entrance is also typical of the other houses both in Cornwall and across southern Britain generally (see for example, Bender *et al* 2007, 405; Jones and Taylor 2010, 66; Ladle and Woodward 2009, 365).

In the entrance area was a large slab which may have formed a threshold to mark the doorway into the structure. The remaining floor within the roundhouse was heavily disturbed by tumbled stones from wall 103 and a layer of trampling (109), which extended down slope into the central part of the roundhouse. Where this disturbance had not occurred, the natural subsoil (105) was covered by patchy clay layers, which are likely to represent remnant laid floor surfaces. These comprised a small patch of

compacted clay layer (107), a more extensive thin skim of redeposited clay (108) and clayey layer (110). Layers (107) and (108) can reasonably be interpreted as the surviving remnants of a clay floor. The same may be true of (110), although it was flecked with charcoal and produced a couple of pottery sherds, and it is therefore possible that it was an occupation horizon, rather than a laid floor. Other excavated roundhouses in Cornwall have produced evidence for laid floors: on Bodmin Moor, a redeposited clay rab floor layer was found inside Stannon Down house site 3 (Jones 2004–5) as well as within two of the re-evaluated roundhouses at Rough Tor (St Breward) (Thompson and Birbeck 2009–10). To the west, on the Penwith moors, Bosiliack houses 1, 2 and 3 all produced evidence for rab floors (Jones and Quinnell 2011; Jones 2013) and other roundhouses in Penwith, such as those at Trewey (Zennor) and Sperris (Towednack) (Dudley 1941; 1957) appear to have had rab floors. Although these latter examples were identified by the excavator as being *in situ* natural subsoil, it is likely that they too were laid floors comprising redeposited rab. Likewise, recent excavations of lowland Middle Bronze Age hollow-set houses at Tremough (Penryn) and Trevalga (Trevalga) (Jones *et al* 2015, 37; Jones and Quinnell 2014, 33) have revealed evidence for clay floors. Unfortunately, the floor layer in roundhouse 1 was extensively disturbed due to subsequent activity, and was consequently very patchy and poorly preserved. Nonetheless, the laying of a floor is significant as it suggests that in its first phase the building was perhaps occupied as a dwelling.

Roundhouse 1 contained no internal features and there was no evidence of an internal post-ring or a hearth. Two postholes, however, were located in the area of the southern entranceway. Feature [112], may have held a door post, and the same may have been true of socket [115], although the latter feature was situated within the wall and may be part of a post-ring. Given the poor condition of much of the wall circuit, and the fact it was not excavated, it is possible that further post sockets existed within the wall of roundhouse 1. Although post-rings are often found within the interior of upland roundhouses, such as Leskernick, house 39 (Bender *et al* 2007) and most lowland roundhouses (Nowakowski 1991; Jones and Taylor 2010, 9–21), there are numerous examples of upland Bronze Age houses which do not have an internal post-ring, including Stannon Down site 3, Bosiliack house 3 and on Dartmoor, Heatree hut circle 2 (Jones 2004–5; 2013; Quinnell 1991). At Callestick (Jones 1998–9) the posts supporting the roof of the roundhouse had, like roundhouse 1 socket [115], certainly been set within the wall.

Similarly, the lack of a hearth within roundhouse 1 is consistent with several other excavated upland roundhouse sites on Bodmin Moor, Penwith and Dartmoor (for example, Mercer 1970; Wainwright and Smith 1980; Jones 2013). This might imply that upland houses were occupied on a seasonal basis, or that cooking and other activities were undertaken on fires or hearths which were situated outside.

#### *The wider settlement*

Roundhouse 1 was situated within the D-shaped enclosure 8 which also encircled at least three other roundhouses (2, 3 and 4) and two possible roundhouses (6 and 7). A possible structure, 5 was also identified by the survey and partially uncovered in the western end of the excavation trench, as wall 106. This building would be much smaller than roundhouse 1, and it may be a later period dwelling or an ancillary building. Another wall, 104 was uncovered at the eastern end of the excavation trench but its function, association and dating are unknown. It may have been part of a structure, a field wall, or a dividing wall within the enclosure, although as it was set within a cut a structural purpose is perhaps most likely. Because of depth of hill-wash it is possible that other buried structures exist within the enclosure. Overall, there is little obvious organization of space, as for example is found at Shaugh Moor, where the houses are arranged around the perimeter of the enclosure with entrances which face into the central space (Smith and Wainwright 1980). By contrast, the original entrance of roundhouse 1 faced away from the interior and the space within enclosure 8 seems to have been quite full, with the only apparently empty area being located close to the

eastern entrance. This may, however, be due to the multi-phased nature of occupation within enclosure 8 and not all of the structures need be contemporary with one another.

The date of enclosure 8 is currently uncertain. The enclosed space, 37m by 43m, is small and the bank (and ditch) too slight for an Iron Age / Roman period round (Quinnell 2004, 211–14) and, given that the bank was constructed over an intact Old Land Surface, it predates the formation of the peat, which is likely to have developed by the end of Bronze Age. It is also uncertain which element, the houses or the enclosure, came first. If roundhouse 9 is contemporary with the enclosed roundhouses, then it is possible that enclosure 8 was a later addition and a decision may have been made not to enclose it. Alternatively, roundhouse 9 may be much earlier, for example if it is in actual fact a ring cairn, and the other roundhouses broadly contemporary with the enclosure. The survey also hinted that there are surviving elements of a prehistoric field system. If this were the case, it is possible that the enclosure may have been an integral part of the pattern of later prehistoric land management on the Moor. Again, there is currently little in the way of secure dating, although most prehistoric field systems on Bodmin Moor, West Penwith and Dartmoor are believed to date to the Middle Bronze Age (c 1500–1100 cal BC) (Fleming 1988; Johnson and Rose 1994; Nowakowski 2016).

Enclosure 8 was, however, clearly non-defensive as the bank was less than 1m high and the excavated portion lacked any evidence for holding a palisade slot. Any ditch appears to be discontinuous, is unlikely to be very deep, and it is likely to have been dug to provide material for the bank. The enclosure may therefore reasonably be suggested to have been constructed to be stock-proof, and depending on the time of year, intended to keep animals in or out of the enclosed settlement area. This interpretation would also fit with the disturbance found in the floor of roundhouse 1, which is likely to have been caused by animals, which might have been stalled inside it.

If the enclosure is interpreted as being stock-proof, then it could be argued to have parallels with enclosures that are of Middle Bronze Age date. Across Bodmin Moor there are examples of roundhouses being associated with enclosures, as at Blackator and Brockaburrow (Johnson and Rose 1994, 56–9). There is, however, little evidence for formal organization of space and the majority of Bronze Age enclosures on Bodmin Moor tend to be irregular in shape, with conjoined houses, which sometimes cluster like a 'string of beads' around their perimeters. There are very few examples of the well-defined single enclosures or pounds with houses set inside them, which are found elsewhere (*ibid*, 59).

In West Penwith there are two examples of roundhouses being set within well-defined enclosures which are comparable with West Northwood. At Bodrifty, several roundhouses were situated within a D-shaped enclosure (Dudley 1956; Nowakowski 2016). In common with West Northwood, the roundhouses at Bodrifty were multi-phased (see below) and there were traces of other structures and walling. The Bodrifty enclosure was, however, much larger, measuring approximately 120m by 90m, and it is also uncertain which element, the roundhouses or the enclosure, came first. A second D-shaped enclosure is found on Mulfra Hill (Madron). This enclosure is much smaller than Bodrifty and West Northwood, measuring approximately 30m by 20m. Although unexcavated, it appears to contain just a single roundhouse, an ancillary building, and a single smaller structure. The Mulfra Hill enclosure is also very much integrated within the field system which surrounds it (Nowakowski 2016). The enclosure at West Northwood may also have been located within a field system but unlike Mulfra Hill, which appears to have been a single family farmstead, it contained several buildings and may have served a wider community.

Dartmoor has the largest number of Bronze Age enclosures or pounds; there are some 250 recorded examples (Butler 1997, 73). Their shape and size varies, although they are usually single circuits of walling enclosing a circular or oval space. Most Dartmoor pounds contain just two or three roundhouses (*ibid*, 98), although some examples,



such as Grimspound and Shaugh Moor, have roundhouses around the interior perimeter of the enclosure. Modern excavation of these sites is very limited, however, Shaugh Moor appears to have been used or reused over a considerable period of time (see below).

### *Reusing roundhouses*

In common with several other investigated Bronze Age moorland roundhouses and structures, there was also evidence that roundhouse 1 was reused at a later period of time.

At Roundhouse 1 the remodelling involved the insertion of a new entranceway through the north side of wall 103 and the construction of an internal wall 114. This rearrangement of the roundhouse appears to have coincided with a great deal of disturbance to the floor, which is interpreted as caused by the hooves of animals. The later phase of activity within the roundhouse is associated with pottery which appears to be of later Iron Age / Roman period date. Interestingly, the majority of the ceramics came from outside the roundhouse and there was a concentration of pottery sherds at the west end of the trench. It is possible that in this later phase the roundhouse was not inhabited as a domestic residence, but was being used to stall animals. The pottery beside it might have been derived from an adjacent structure and human occupation may have been located elsewhere in the enclosure.

These findings are very significant because on upland areas, such as Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor, identified Iron Age and Roman period settlements are exceptionally scarce (Johnson and Rose 1994, 74–5; Quinnell 1994), and in the past it has been argued that the upland areas of the south west region were largely abandoned (for example, Burgess 1980).

This picture is, however, unlikely to be correct. Excavations at Gold Park on Dartmoor have revealed that some roundhouses continued to be constructed on the moors during the Iron Age (Gibson 1992) and, as at roundhouse 1, more recent investigation of Bronze Age houses and structures across the south west have revealed subsequent phases of occupation.

Modern excavations of roundhouses on Bodmin Moor have, however, been few and far between. Nonetheless, there are hints that roundhouse 1 may fit into a wider pattern of reoccupation which is being identified across the uplands of the south-west peninsula. For example, on Bodmin Moor Early Iron Age pottery and a blue glass bead of Middle Iron Age date were recovered from a roundhouse at Garrow Tor (Silvester 1979; Guido 1978, 61–2) and at Stannon Down a post-built structure within an Early Bronze Age ring cairn was radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age, and Iron Age pottery and spindle whorls recovered (Jones 2004–5). Likewise, the radiocarbon dating of Leskernick roundhouses 1 and 23 (Bender *et al* 2007, 88–9) have, like roundhouse 1, revealed evidence for Iron Age activity within them.

Within Cornwall, there is rather fuller evidence for the later occupation of older structures in West Penwith. Recent excavation at Bosiliack and reassessment of excavation archives has revealed that first millennium cal BC reoccupation of Bronze Age roundhouses appears to have been a frequent occurrence (Jones 2013; Jones and Quinnell 2011). At Bosiliack, the first millennium cal BC radiocarbon determinations from house 1 and house 3, and the small amount of Iron Age pottery from within house 1 suggests that at least two of the buildings within the Middle Bronze Age settlement had complex histories of reuse over several centuries (Jones 2013). Nine roundhouses were investigated within the settlement at Bodrifty. Some of these houses stood over ruins of older roundhouses and Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from several of them. However, a number of the roundhouses contained Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and spindle whorls (Dudley 1956; Nowakowski 2016). Similarly, a recent rapid reassessment of the ceramics from the 1950s excavation at Wicca Round (Jones and Quinnell 2011) shows Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware, as well as probable Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery and a few sherds which are almost certainly of

Middle Iron Age date (Dudley 1957, 81 and plate 4). The nearby roundhouse settlement at Sperris Croft also produced a few sherds of pottery that are probably Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in date (Jones and Quinnell 2011). It is therefore probable that the settlements in Penwith excavated in the 1950s, which were initially dated to the Middle Bronze Age, were all reoccupied at a much later point in time, and this is likely to be true of other upland roundhouses across the Penwith Moors.

Moving eastward, on Dartmoor, Late Bronze Age or Iron Age ceramics have been found within earlier Bronze Age roundhouses at Foales Arrishes (Radford 1952), Kestor (Fox 1954) and Shaugh Moor (Wainwright and Smith 1980). At Kestor, the large roundhouse inside a pound was found to contain Iron Age pottery (Fox 1954, 48–9) and Hut 2 at Dean Moor (Fox 1957) produced iron slag which could be Iron Age. Recent excavations of a roundhouse at Teigncombe showed Early Iron Age pottery associated with the reuse of a Middle Bronze Age roundhouse (Gerrard 2016). In addition to artefacts, radiocarbon determinations from Shaugh Moor house 19 and structure 804 demonstrated occupations of the later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods (Wainwright and Smith 1980). This widespread evidence suggests that on Dartmoor, roundhouses which were originally of Middle Bronze Age date were often reoccupied in the Iron Age.

The later Iron Age / Roman period occupation within roundhouse 1 is therefore very significant in providing firm evidence for activity on Bodmin Moor in the later Iron Age / Roman period. Given that comparatively few upland Bronze Age roundhouses have been excavated, and fewer still radiocarbon dated, it seems likely that many more roundhouses across the south west peninsula were reused in the Iron Age. The lack of archaeological excavation has resulted in an absence of visibility, and the apparent paucity of occupation of Bodmin Moor in the first millennium BC / AD is actually illusory.

## Recommendations

This report is a summary of the results at the archive level and therefore only provides a snapshot of the results as they currently stand. Further detail about the site and its dating will be ascertained through a programme of analysis and publication in the peer reviewed journal *Cornish Archaeology*.

Identified tasks for the analysis stage include the following:

- Study of the ceramics is required to help define the scale of activity by defining the minimum number of vessels as well as refining their span within the later Iron Age / Roman period. The petrology of the clay should be established to see if local deposits were being utilized.
- Analysis of the worked stone is needed to help identify the range of activities they were associated with, and establish their petrology, so that the sources they were obtained from are pinpointed.
- The flints need to be studied so that their chronology and sourcing (beach or nodular) is refined.
- The charcoal from the samples should be analysed so that the range of wood *taxa* is established. This will enrich knowledge of the local environment and woodland management practices, etc. Short-lived wood species suitable for radiocarbon dating should also be identified.
- Suitable charcoal and / or ceramic residues should be submitted for radiocarbon dating. These should come from key contexts which will help resolve the site / ceramic chronology, and may include material from the roundhouse floor, structure features or ceramics found in secure layers.

The final publication will be produced in light of the results from the analysis. It will include the following:

- Introduction and background.
- Results from the survey.
- Results from the excavations, including a revised stratigraphical section.
- Specialist artefactual analysis: pottery, stone and flint.
- Charcoal analysis.
- Analysis of geochemical samples.
- Radiocarbon dating results.
- Discussion in light of findings from analyses.
- Illustrations to include: location map, site survey, roundhouse excavation plan, sections through roundhouse and enclosure bank, selected artefacts, illustrative photographs.

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## Project archive

The CAU project number is **PR146687**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \Sites\Sites W\West Northwood farm roundhouse

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.U-Z\West Northwood excavation

Electronic drawings: Sites\Sites W\West Northwood farm roundhouse\CAD

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-296319



*Figure 2 West Northwood enclosure and roundhouses from the air.*



*Figure 3 Roundhouse 1 prior to excavation from the air.*

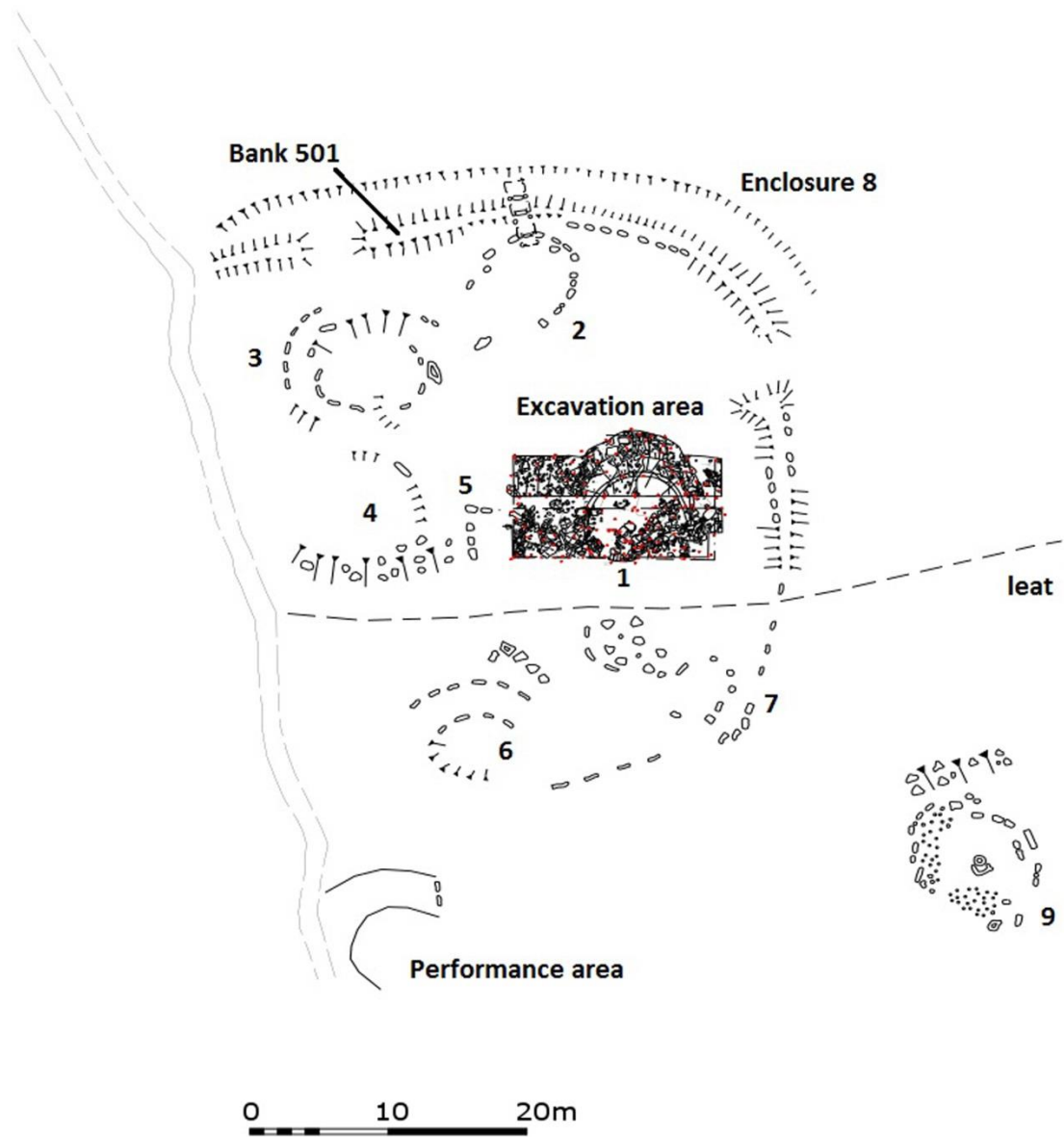


Figure 4 Enclosure 8 and excavation area (Numbers follow that of the site survey, see Appendix 6).

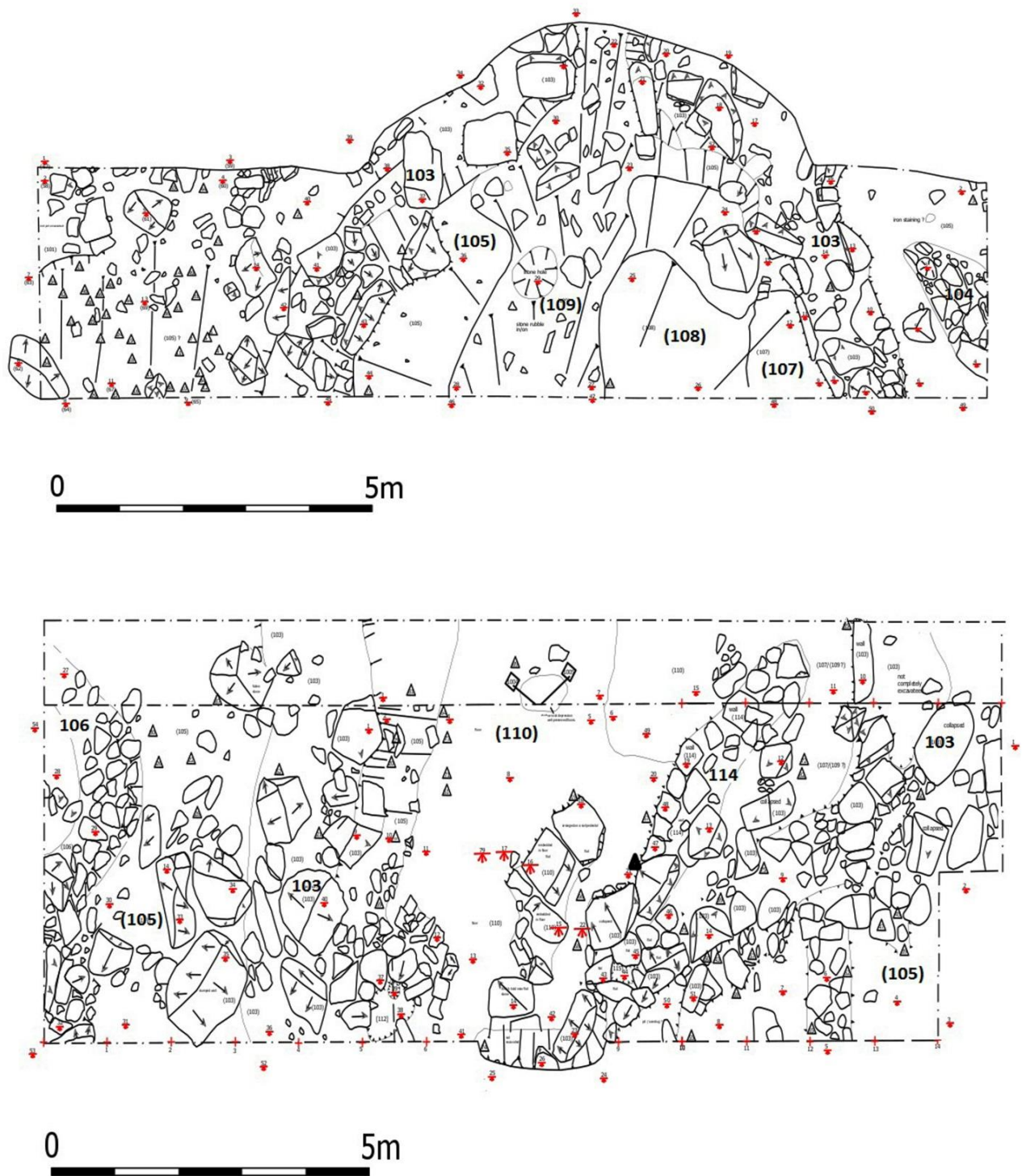


Figure 5 Plan of roundhouse 1 northern half (top) and southern half (bottom). Triangles indicate the location of Small Finds, and red symbols the position of levels taken.

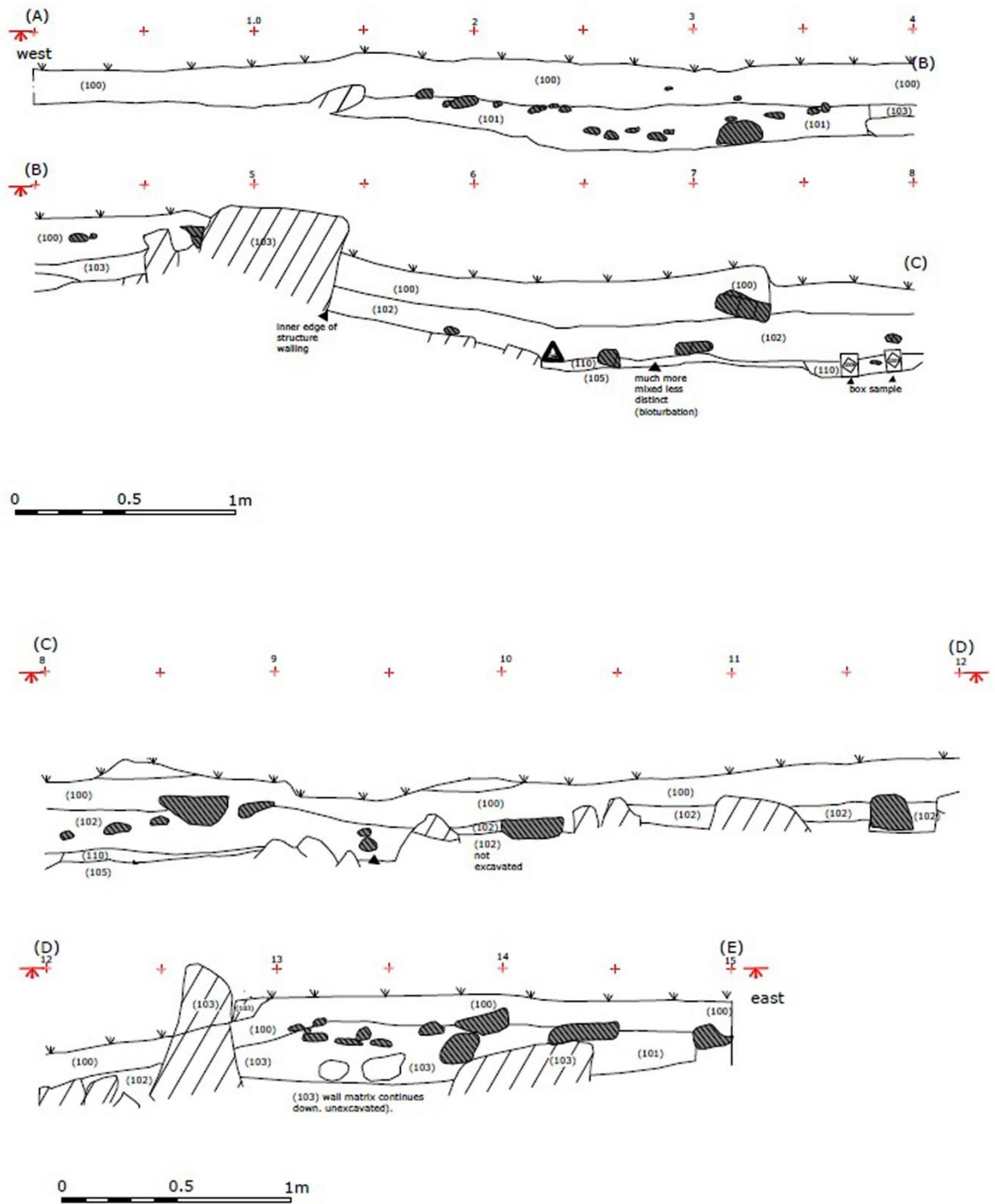


Figure 6 South facing section across roundhouse 1 western end (top) and eastern end (bottom).





Figure 7 Post excavation photograph of roundhouse 1 taken from the north.



Figure 8 Photograph of roundhouse 1 showing the eastern well-preserved section of wall 103. Note larger stones used for the faces and the rubble and earth core.



*Figure 9 Photograph of roundhouse 1 showing the southern entrance area. Note the flat 'threshold' stone in foreground and socket [115] to the right within wall [103].*



*Figure 10 Photograph of the north entrance into roundhouse 1. Note the spread of tumbled stone and trampling (109) extending into the interior of roundhouse 1.*

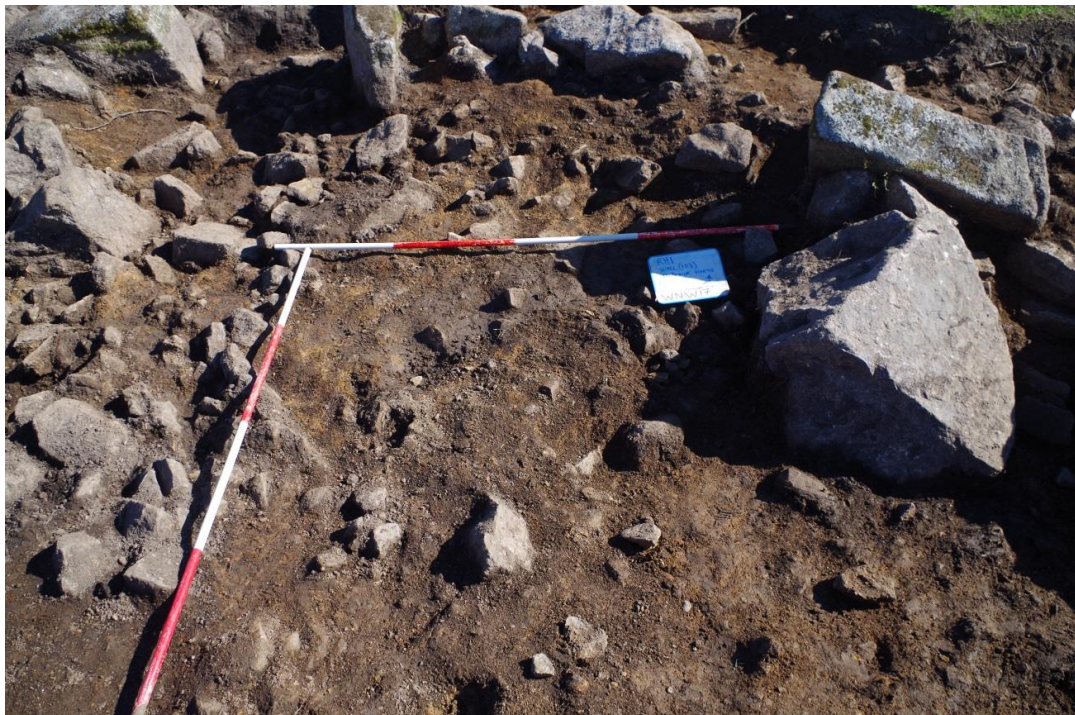


Figure 11 Photograph of floor layer (108) in the north east quadrant. Note stony trampled area (109) to left of the ranging rod.



Figure 12 Photograph of wall 114 from the south. Note wall 103 in background.

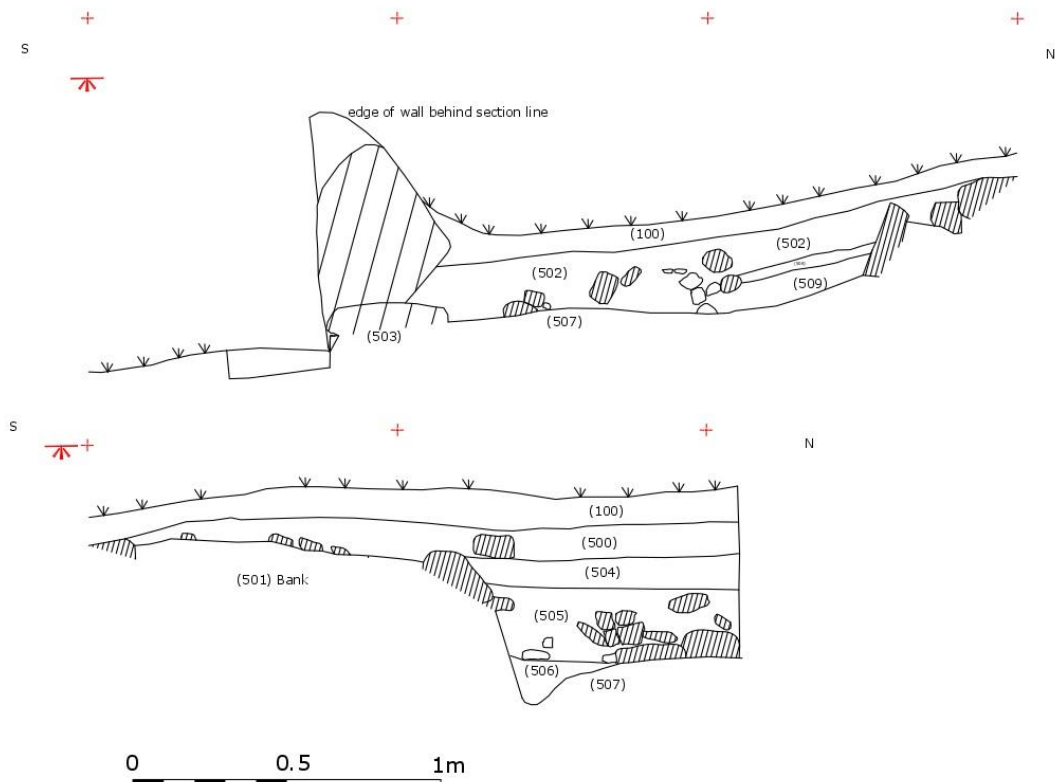


Figure 13 East facing section through bank 501.



Figure 14 Photograph of bank 501 taken from east, showing stone facing.

## Appendix 1: Table of contexts

| Context number        | Type (cut, build, deposit) | Context description  | Finds  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| (100)                 | Deposit/layer              | 0.1m–0.21m deep. Dark, greyish brown, loose, peaty, loam. Frequent small stones and some roots. Peaty, loamy turf layer covering site. Rooty.  | Pottery, lime, stone.                                      |
| (101)                 | Deposit/layer              | 0.1m–0.27m thick. Dark, reddish brown, firm, gritty loam. High distribution of granite fragments, rare amounts of charcoal, frequent roots. Layer of colluvium soil below (100). Soil outside and over wall of Roundhouse 1.   | Slate, flint, stone, pottery, quartz, charcoal, quartzite. |
| (102)                 | Deposit/layer              | 0.2m thick. Dark, greyish black, firm, plastic, loamy, silt. Granite fragments and rocks. Infill within Roundhouse 1. Loamy silt, colluvium deposit inside Roundhouse 1. Under turf layer, very stony at North end with large amounts of 'tumble' from wall – Sometimes clayey.  | Stone, pottery, burnt clay, flint.                         |
| 103                   | Build/wall                 | Approximately 1.4m wide, 0.5m + high. Granite wall of Roundhouse 1 – set into the slope. The granite blocks vary in size, but are up to 1m long by 0.5m wide. The wall, where preserved, is double faced with large blocks on the outside – flat faced vertically set slabs on the inside (especially on the eastern side). On north and west side much of the wall displaced down slope. There appears to be a later entrance forced through the northern part of the wall. Soil matrix between the stones is a firm reddish brown, with smaller stone packing. Includes an original entrance in the south. | Pottery, stone, charcoal, flint.                           |
| 104                   | Build/wall                 | Granite wall footing comprised of large blocks of stone up to 0.4m across. Set within an unexcavated cut. Dark reddish brown, firm, silty, clay loam matrix.   |  |
| (105) – same as (507) | Deposit/layer              | Natural, orangey brown, compact clay.  | Iron staining.   |
| 106                   | Build/wall                 | Overall the width of the wall is 0.6 to 0.8m wide. Granite wall made up of blocks around 0.3m to 0.4m with occasional much larger ones located at the west end of the trench. Although unexcavated, it is likely to belong to a sub-circular c 4m internal diameter structure, extending beyond the trench. It is potentially of IA / RB date. Probably part of survey structure 5.  |  |
| (107)                 | Deposit/layer              | 0.1m (max) thick. Mid, greyish, compact,   |  |

| Context number | Type (cut, build, deposit) | Context description   | Finds              |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
|                |                            | silty clay. Frequent grits. Possible remnant floor layer located close to wall near to north of the baulk. Compact, greyish clay. Likely to be a surviving patch of clay that has survived later trampling. Appeared quite deep in northern baulk section, but not seen in plan on northern side of excavated structure.        |                    |
| (108)          | Deposit/layer              | Very thin mid, orangey, brown, firm, gritty, clay. Frequent grits. Mottled, trampled layer crushed into natural (105).  |                    |
| (109)          | Deposit/layer              | 0.05m + (not fully excavated). Dark, greyish brown, firm, silty clay – 75% of which is composed of granite. The granite stones are roughly 0.1m to 0.4m across, the spread of stones running downslope in a line from the north entrance. Possible cattle trample into the building.  | Pottery, charcoal. |
| (110)          | Deposit/layer              | 0.07m deep (max). Mid greyish grey/black, plastic, firm clay. Occasional small stones. Some larger overlying tumble. Possible prepared surface – patchy survival.   | Pottery.           |
| (111)          | Fill/deposit               | 0.5m deep, 0.8m wide from north to south. Dark, greyish brown, firm/compact, gritty, silty clay. 10% of which comprised of small grit and occasional charcoal flecks.   |                    |
| [112]          | Cut/pit                    | 0.5m deep, 0.8m wide from north to south. Steep-sided, round pit with very flat base. Located right up against the wall (103). Filled by (111). A socket (deeper part of) was found in the northern end.  |                    |
| (113)          | Deposit /organic           | Linear stain measuring 0.18m long by 0.02m wide. Black and compact. An organic stain was sampled – probable root.   |                    |
| 114            | Deposit /build.            | 0.25m high – not fully excavated. Granite, wall comprised of flat granite slabs on the inside of the roundhouse wall (103). This indicates a possible later insertion / subdivision of probable earlier roundhouse 1.   |                    |
| [115]          | Cut/Socket hole.           | 0.4m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.24m in depth. Amorphous rectangular, steep sided, flat based, east west orientated, clearly visible. Probable socket hole associated with southern entrance to Roundhouse 1. The cut formed a part of wall (103) fabric and may well have been an integral / original feature of the wall. |                    |
| (116)          | Deposit/fill.              | 0.40m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.24m in depth. Dark, blackish brown, soft, plastic, silty loam. Occasional stones. The fill was soft and soil-rich, contrasting strongly with surrounding (103) matrix. No finds (but the  |                    |

| Context number      | Type (cut, build, deposit) | Context description  | Findings |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--|----------|
|                     |                            | softness suggests a rotted <i>in situ</i> post)? The small stones suggest packing.   |          |
| (500)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.11m. Dark, brownish black, plastic, peaty with frequent rocks. A dark, peaty layer located at the north end of the section cut through the bank (501) as well as Roundhouse 2.   |          |
| 501                 | Bank                       | 0.5m high. Mid, reddish brown, firm, peaty loam and stone face. Stone-faced on either side. Bank on northern and west side of settlement with possible external ditch (500) large stones on north and south sides with earthen core. |          |
| (502)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.22m deep. Dark, brownish black, firm, silty peat. Rocks and small fragments of stones were revealed. A layer of peaty material was found to have built up over the north side of bank (501).                                       |          |
| 503                 | Build/Wall                 | Up to 0.8m high – not fully excavated. Granite wall of Roundhouse 2 exposed at the southern end of the trench.   |          |
| (504)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.08m deep. Dark, black, firm, gritty peat. It comprised 10% grit with roots and slate. Natural peat was found to have accumulated on the north side of bank (501).  | Slate    |
| (505)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.1m deep. Mid, reddish brown, gritty (frequent grit). Very mottled brown layer with rab and roots in the matrix – redeposited soil from the bank soil.  |          |
| (506) same as (510) | Deposit/layer              | 0.21m deep. Dark, greyish black, firm, plastic, loamy peat and slightly gritty. It runs under bank (101) and is a thin layer of soil probably remnant palaeosoil old land surface.   |          |
| (507) same as (105) | Deposit/layer              | Not fully excavated. Mid, orangey brown, compact, granite clay. The context yielded large blocks of granite. It is granite 'rab' subsoil.  |          |
| (508)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.04m deep. Dark, greyish black, firm, silty loam, peat. Comprising 10% grit, occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional roots. Layer of peaty soil on south side of bank (501) over (509).  |          |
| (509)               | Deposit/layer              | 0.1m deep. Dark, greyish brown, firm, clay loam. Comprising 10% grit with occasional roots. The subsoil layer overlays the natural on south side of bank (501) located in the space between roundhouse wall (503).                   |          |
| (510) same as (506) | Deposit/layer              | 0.21m thick. The sample intervention block being 0.4m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.3m in depth. Brown, grey, silty clay with traces of sand and old land surface under   |          |

| Context number | Type (cut, build, deposit) | Context description  | Finds |
|----------------|----------------------------|--|-------|
|                |                            | bank. Turf-line visible at intersection with bottom of bank. |       |

## Appendix 2: Finds Tables

| Small Find no. | Context no. | No. of pieces | Artefact type | Box no. | Description  |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------|--|
| 1              | (101)       | 1             | Slate         | Box 1   | Spindle whorl (x1- slate / killas, complete).  |
| 2              | (101)       | 1             | Flint         | Box 1   | Waste flake (x1 piece).  |
| 3              | (101)       | 1             | Stone         | Box 2   | A smooth, broken, granite hammer stone (x1).   |
| 4              | (101)       | 11            | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x10 small, x1 large body sherds).   |
| 5              | (101)       | 9             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x3 large body sherds, x6 small body sherds) and charcoal (x1 piece).            |
| 6              | (101)       | 1             | Stone         | Box 2   | A stone rubber (x1).   |
| 7              | (101)       | 9             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x7 body sherds, x2 base sherds).  |
| 8              | (101)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 rim/body sherd).   |
| 9              | (101)       | 7             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 large body sherd, x4 small body sherds, x1 base sherd, x1 body sherd).       |
| 10             | (101)       | 2             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 small body sherd, x1 large body sherd).                                      |
| 11             | (101)       | 4             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds - one of which containing residue, x1 rim sherd, x1 base sherd). |
| 12             | (101)       | 2             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds - one of which has traces of residue).                           |
| 13             | (101)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA Pot (x1 body sherd - line decoration).  |
| 14             | (101)       | 1             | Stone         | Box 2   | Broken, smoothed lap-stone (x1 piece).   |
| 15             | (101)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 rim sherd).  |
| 16             | (101)       | 1             | Stone         | Box 2   | With some smooth edges (x1 broken).  |
| 16             | (101)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd-potential residue).   |
| 17             | (101)       | 2             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 rim sherd, x1 base sherd).   |
| 18             | (101)       | 2             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x2 large body sherds) and charcoal (x4 pieces).                                 |
| 19             | (101)       | 3             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x3 body sherds).  |
| 20             | (100)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (Over wall) (x1 body sherd).   |
| 21             | (100)       | 1             | Flint         | Box 1   | 'Slug' like scraper (Over wall) (x1 piece)   |
| 22             | (101)       | 2             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd with potential residue, x1 rim sherd).                            |
| 23             | (100)       | 1             | Pottery       | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (Over wall) (x1 body sherd).   |



| <b>Small Find no.</b> | <b>Context no.</b> | <b>No. of pieces</b> | <b>Artefact type</b> | <b>Box no.</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 24                    | (101)              | 4                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds, x2 body/rim sherds with residue)                               |
| 25                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (Over wall) (x1 body sherd).  |
| 26                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | Stones (x1 mostly burnt – granite, x1 quartz crystal – fragment).                         |
| 27                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 large base sherd, x1 small body sherd - both containing traces of residue). |
| 28                    | (101)              | 1                    | Flint                | Box 1          | Broken broad blade (x1).  |
| 29                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds).   |
| 30                    | (101)              | 1                    | Slate                | Box 2          | Notched slate (x1).   |
| 31                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 base/body sherd, x1 rim).   |
| 32                    | (101)              | 3                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 base sherds with residue, x1 line decorated body sherd).                    |
| 33                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds – traces of residue).   |
| 34                    | (101)              | 3                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 large base sherds, x1 small body sherd).                                    |
| 35                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 36                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | Chipped, shaped, one side smoothed, quarter circle – granite (x1) Imported?               |
| 37                    | (102)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | Relatively smoothed, broken, flat stone from inside roundhouse 1 (x1).                    |
| 38                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd, x1 rim/body sherd, x1 small sherd).                             |
| 39                    | (100)              | 7                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x7 body sherds).   |
| 40                    | (100)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd with residue).   |
| 41                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A vaguely smooth, broken stone (x1).  |
| 42                    | (101)              | 1                    | Flint                | Box 1          | A knife (x1).   |
| 43                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 large body sherd, x1 small body sherd).                                     |
| 44                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 45                    | (101)              | 3                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 large body sherds – with traces of residue, x1 small body sherd)            |
| 46                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd)   |
| 47                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | Prehistoric Pot (x2 body sherds)  |
| 48                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB (x1 body sherd).  |
| 48                    | (101)              | 1                    | Quartz               | Box 1          | Large quartz crystal (x1).  |
| 49                    | (101)              | 3                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 base x2 body sherds).   |
| 50                    | (101)              | 4                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB (x2 large rim sherds, x2 body sherds).  |
| 51                    | (101)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB (x1 body sherd – with residue) and charcoal (x1 piece).                             |

| <b>Small Find no.</b> | <b>Context no.</b> | <b>No. of pieces</b> | <b>Artefact type</b> | <b>Box no.</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 52                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 53                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd – traces of residue).  |
| 54                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A slightly burnt, vaguely smoothed – piece of granite (x1).   |
| 55                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | Smooth, broken, burnt stone (x1).   |
| 56                    | (101)              | 1                    | Charcoal             | Box 1          | Charcoal.   |
| 57                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 58                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 59                    | =                  | =                    | =                    | =              | <u>NUMBER NOT USED.</u>   |
| 60                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | An amorphous, dark red, fine-grained, hard stone (x1) Imported?                                     |
| 61                    | (101)              | 1                    | Quartzite            | Box 1          | A split quartzite pebble (x1).  |
| 62                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A broken, smooth granite piece (X1).  |
| 63                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A vaguely smooth, broken granite piece, heated? (x1).   |
| 64                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A burnt, flat, broken granite slab, with burning on one side, possible dished surface. Anvil? (x1). |
| 65                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 rim/body sherd).  |
| 66                    | (102)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 67                    | (102)              | 3                    | Burnt Clay           | Box 1          | IA/RB (x3 friable amorphous lumps – unwashed).  |
| 68                    | (102)              | 1                    | Flint                | Box 1          | A scraper (x1).   |
| 69                    | (102)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 70                    | (102)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x2 body sherds).   |
| 71                    | (110)              | 2                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 large rim sherd, x1 small body sherd).  |
| 72                    | 103                | 4                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x4 body sherds).   |
| 73                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 74                    | (100)              | 1                    | Slate                | Box 2          | A large shaped piece of slate (x1).   |
| 75                    | 103                | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 76                    | 103                | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 77                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 small body sherd).  |
| 78                    | (101)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd, with line decoration).  |
| 79                    | (110)              | 1                    | Pottery              | Box 1          | IA/RB (Top of (110), x1 rim sherd, x1 body sherd).  |
| 80                    | (101)              | 1                    | Stone                | Box 2          | A broken stone muller (x1).   |

| Small Find no. | Context no.  | No. of pieces | Artefact type  | Box no. | Description   |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---|
| 81             | 103          | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | A large triangular sectioned smooth (x1) Imported?  |
| 82             | 103          | 1             | Flint          | Box 1   | A waste flake (x1).   |
| 83             | (102)        | 3             | Pottery        | Box 1   | IA/RB pot (x2 rim sherds, x1 body sherd - residue).   |
| 84             | (101)        | 1             | Pottery        | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 body sherd).  |
| 85             | (101)        | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | Granite piece with a tear-shaped cross section, surface pitting indicating hammer stone use (x1). |
| <u>86</u>      | <u>(101)</u> | =             | <u>Pottery</u> | =       | <u>MISSING</u>  |
| 87             | (101)        | 6             | Pottery        | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x3 large body sherds, x3 small body sherds).   |
| 88             | 103          | 3             | Pottery        | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x3 body sherds).   |
| 89             | (109)        | 1             | Pottery        | Box 1   | IA/RB Pot (x1 rim sherd).   |
| -              | (100)        | 1             | Lime           | Box 1   | A lump of lime (x1).  |
| -              | (100)        | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | A burnt, broken piece of granite with, some smooth edges (x1).                                    |
| -              | (100)        | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | A smoothed, flat, broken stone (x1).  |
| -              | (100)        | 1             | Pebble         | Box 1   | A pebble (x1) Imported?   |
| -              | (101)        | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | A broken, smooth piece of granite (x1).   |
| -              | (101)        | 1             | Quartzite      | Box 1   | A quartz lump (x1).   |
| -              | (101)        | x3 bags       | Charcoal       | Box 1   | Charcoal.   |
| -              | 103          | x3 bags       | Charcoal       | Box 1   | Charcoal.   |
| -              | (105)        | 1             | Iron staining  | Box 1   | A small sample of iron staining lying over and pressed into (105).                                |
| -              | (504)        | 1             | Slate          | Box 2   | A shaped slate? (x1).   |
| -              | U/S          | 1             | Slate          | Box 2   | A slate 'pot lid', near complete (x1).  |
| -              | U/S          | 1             | Slate          | Box 2   | A large slate disc, near complete (x1).   |
| -              | U/S          | 1             | Slate          | Box 2   | A small slate curvilinear, chipped edged, one side broken (x1).                                   |
| -              | U/S          | 2             | Slate          | Box 2   | A small shaped and notched piece (x1) and a larger, broken, shaped, slate disc (x1).              |
| -              | U/S          | 1             | Stone          | Box 2   | (Roundhouse 1) (x1 gabbro) Imported?  |

## Finds totals table

|                | Flint | Stone | Slate | Quartz Crystal | Quartzite | Charcoal | Burnt Clay | Pottery | Lime | Iron Staining | TOTALS                        |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------|------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| No. of SF no's | 6     | 16    | 3     | 1              | 1         | 1        | 1          | 58      | 0    | 0             | 87 (+ 1 missing, 1 not used). |
| No. of pieces  | 6     | 16    | 3     | 1              | 1         | 9 bags   | 3          | 143     | 1    | 1 bag         | 174 (+ 10 bags).              |

## Appendix 3: List of samples

| Sample number | Context number | Quantity/ Category       | Description   |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1000          | (111)          | Bulk                     | 30 litres, 3 bags, hand-dug from pit [112], sampled for dating purposes, the conditions were dry with no contamination. The context was a fill.   |
| 1001          | (107)/(109)    | Column                   | Hand-dug, sampled for floor soil micromorphology and the conditions were good, with no modern materials or other deposits. The context type was floor deposit (infill). A sample of floor plus infill was taken from the exposed section.                                     |
| 1002          | (102)/(109)    | Column / Deposits        | Hand-dug, sampling the infill and underlying floor for soil micromorphology, the conditions were dry. No modern materials were found and no other deposits. The provisional date is Bronze Age or Iron Age. Column sample of floor + infill/trample for soil micromorphology. |
| 1003          |                | Bulk                     | 5 litres, 1 bag, hand-dug, sampled for dating and the conditions were dry and some rocks were yielded. A black deposit was taken from the threshold of the area.  |
| 1004          | (110)          | Column / Deposit / Floor | Hand-dug, texture – clay silt, sampled for dating and soil micromorphology, same as (107), the provisional date being Bronze Age, the conditions were good, with no yielding of modern materials or any other deposits.   |
| 1005          | (110)          | Column / Deposit         | The material was a clay/silt floor, the same as (107), hand-dug, sampled for dating purpose and soil micromorphology, the conditions were good, with no modern materials yielded and no other deposits were discovered.   |
| 1006          | (110)          | Bulk                     | Hand-dug, sampled for dating / environmental purposes and obtaining charcoal and plant macros, the  |

|      |             |                     |  |
|------|-------------|---------------------|--|
|      |             |                     | conditions were dry, no modern materials were obtained and no other deposits were yielded. Floor layer bulk sample was taken from south of Roundhouse of which the floor is much better preserved. 4, 10 litre bags taken.   |
| 1007 | 103         | Bulk                | 5 litres, 0.5 bags, hand-dug, sampled for environmental / dating purposes and plant macro / obtaining charcoal, the conditions were dry, with no modern materials and no other deposits. The sample was taken from the bottom of the wall where there was a dark stain – later being determined as a root. |
| 1008 | (510)/(501) | Column / Palaeosoil | The material was palaeosoil, silt clay, same as (506) hand-dug, thin section of palaeosoil and bank material sampling purpose. The conditions were good with no degree of contamination, no modern materials or other deposits were obtained. Column sample for palaeosoil / bank natural.                 |

## Appendix 4: List of drawings

| Graphic no. | Plan / section | Description   | Context no.   |
|-------------|----------------|---|---|
| 1           | Plan, 1:20     | Trench plan.  | (500), 501, (502), RH2 walling 503                                      |
| 2           | Section, 1:10  | E facing section through enclosure wall and N edge of roundhouse 2.<br>(see drawing 16) | (100), (500), 501, (502), 503, (504), (505), (506), (507), (508), (509) |
| 3           | Plan, 1:20     | N and NE plan of roundhouse 1.  | 103, 104, (105), (107), (108), (109)                                    |
| 4           | Plan, 1:20     | NW quadrant of main excavation, to W of roundhouse 1.                                   | (101), 103, (105)   |
| 5           | Section, 1:10  | W half of N facing baulk section through roundhouse 1.                                  | (100), (101), (102), (103), 107, (108), (109)                           |
| 6           | Plan, 1:20     | Geochemical samples overlay for plan 3.   | (103, (105), (108), (109)   |
| 7           | Section, 1:10  | E half of N facing baulk section through roundhouse 1.                                  | (100), (101), (102), (103), (105), (109)                                |
| 8           | Section, 1:10  | E end of N facing baulk section through roundhouse 1.                                   | (100), (101), 106   |
| 9           | Plan, 1:20     | S and SW part of roundhouse 1, plus E side of roundhouse wall 106.                      | 103, (105), 106, (110), [112] / (111), 114, [115] / (116)               |

|    |               |   |   |
|----|---------------|---|---|
| 10 | Profile, 1:10 | N-S profile through pit [112].  | (105), [112]                                |
| 11 | Plan, 1:20    | Geochemical samples overlay for plan 9.   | 103, (109), (110)                           |
| 12 | Plan, 1:20    | Trench plan.  | (501), 503, (507)                           |
| 13 | Section, 1:10 | W half of S facing baulk/ section across roundhouse 1.                            | (100), (101), (102), 103, (105), (110), 114 |
| 14 | Plan, 1:20    | SE quadrant of main excavation showing SE roundhouse 1 wall.                      | 103, (105)?, (107)/(109)?, (110), 114       |
| 15 | Section, 1:10 | E half of S facing baulk/ section across roundhouse 1.                            | (100), (101), (102), 103, (105), (110)      |
| 16 | Section, 1:10 | N end of E facing section of trench showing section extension.<br>(see drawing 2) | (100), (501), (506), (510)                  |
| 17 | Profile       | N-S levelled profile through roundhouse 1.  | Roundhouse 1.                               |

## Appendix 5: List of photographs

| File no. | Image no. | Description   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| 100_2706 | 46        | Looking N along enclosure trench.                                 |
| "        | 47        | "   |
| "        | 48        | Looking S along enclosure trench.                                 |
| "        | 49        | "   |
| "        | 50        | Looking N through later N roundhouse 1 entrance.                  |
| "        | 51        | "   |
| 101_2906 | 52        | N end of trench through enclosure bank.                           |
| "        | 53        | Enclosure wall in plan.   |
| "        | 54        | "   |
| "        | 55        | S side of enclosure wall.   |
| "        | 56        | S end of enclosure trench.  |
| "        | 57        | "   |
| "        | 58        | Looking S along enclosure trench.                                 |
| "        | 59        | "   |
| "        | 60        | Looking N at enclosure bank.                                      |
| "        | 61        | "   |
| "        | 62        | Looking N along trench showing roundhouse 2 stones in foreground. |
| "        | 63        | "   |
| 102_0407 | 64        | Looking W across N half of excavated roundhouse 1.                |
| "        | 65        | "   |
| "        | 66        | Working shots looking W across roundhouse 1.                      |
| "        | 67        | "   |

|          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| "        | 68  | Working shots looking S across roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 69  | Working shot looking E across N half of roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 70  | Working shot looking E across S half of roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 71  | Looking W across excavated N half of roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 72  | "  |
| "        | 73  | Looking SW across roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 74  | Looking S across roundhouse 1.   |
| 103_0507 | 75  | Looking N across roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 76  | "  |
| "        | 77  | "  |
| "        | 78  | Looking NE across roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 79  | "  |
| "        | 80  | "  |
| "        | 81  | "  |
| "        | 82  | "  |
| "        | 83  | "  |
| "        | 84  | Looking S across roundhouse 1 – S half.  |
| "        | 85  | "  |
| "        | 86  | Looking S across roundhouse 1. Entrance in foreground.   |
| "        | 87  | "  |
| "        | 88  | NE side of roundhouse showing walls 103 and 104.   |
| "        | 89  | Looking S across E half of roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 90  | Looking S across central part of roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 91  | "  |
| "        | 92  | "  |
| "        | 93  | Looking SE across W side of roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 94  | "  |
| "        | 95  | "  |
| "        | 96  | "  |
| "        | 97  | Looking SE across roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 98  | "  |
| "        | 99  | "  |
| "        | 100 | "  |
| "        | 101 | BLURRED  |
| "        | 102 | Looking N through roundhouse 1 N entrance.   |
| "        | 103 | Close up of possible iron staining (113).  |
| "        | 104 | "  |
| "        | 105 | "  |
| "        | 106 | "  |
| 104_0607 | 107 | Close up of pit [112].   |
| "        | 108 | "  |
| 105_0707 | 109 | Looking N across S half of roundhouse 1 showing floor (110) and threshold stone in foreground. |
| "        | 110 | "  |

|          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| "        | 111 | "  |
| "        | 112 | "  |
| "        | 113 | Looking N across E side of roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 114 | "  |
| "        | 115 | Baulk in process of being removed on E side of roundhouse - wall 103.  |
| "        | 116 | "  |
| "        | 117 | Looking N at SE quadrant flooring / occupation layer (110).  |
| "        | 118 | "  |
| "        | 119 | Removal of baulk in central part of roundhouse 1, showing floor / occupation layer (110) - looking N.                                |
| "        | 120 | "  |
| "        | 121 | Baulk removal on W side of roundhouse 1, showing wall 103, looking N.  |
| "        | 122 | "  |
| "        | 123 | Looking N across W part/side of roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 124 | "  |
| "        | 125 | Looking N across extreme W side of excavation, showing curvilinear walling 106.  |
| "        | 126 | "  |
| 106_0807 | 127 | Looking N across roundhouse 1 from the entrance, showing socket hole [115] in right foreground.                                      |
| "        | 128 | "  |
| "        | 129 | "  |
| "        | 130 | "  |
| "        | 131 | "  |
| "        | 132 | Looking NNW across roundhouse 1, showing jumbled intersection of walling 103 and 114 in foreground.                                  |
| "        | 133 | "  |
| "        | 134 | "  |
| "        | 135 | Looking NE across roundhouse 1, showing threshold stone in foreground, wall 103, wall 114 on right side and later northern entrance. |
| "        | 136 | "  |
| "        | 137 | "  |
| "        | 138 | Looking S across roundhouse 1.   |
| "        | 139 | "  |
| "        | 140 | "  |
| "        | 141 | "  |
| "        | 142 | Looking SW across roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 143 | "  |
| "        | 144 | "  |
| "        | 145 | Looking SE across roundhouse 1.  |
| "        | 146 | "  |
| "        | 147 | Looking S through N entrance towards S entrance.   |



|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| " | 148 | "   |
| " | 149 | "   |
| " | 150 | "   |
| " | 151 | Close up of N entrance – looking N.   |
| " | 152 | "   |
| " | 153 | Looking NW across internal S roundhouse 1 floor (110).  |
| " | 154 | "   |
| " | 155 | Looking E across roundhouse 1.  |
| " | 156 | "   |
| " | 157 | "   |
| " | 158 | "   |
| " | 159 | Looking W across roundhouse 1, showing walling 103, etc.  |
| " | 160 | "   |
| " | 161 | Looking NNE across internal E side of roundhouse 1, showing walls 103 and 114.  |
| " | 162 | "   |
| " | 163 | "   |
| " | 164 | "   |
| " | 165 | Wall 114 and wall 103, looking N.   |
| " | 166 | "   |
| " | 167 | Looking SW across wall 106 – showing related structure's stonework beyond the edge of excavation.                           |
| " | 168 | "   |
| " | 169 | Looking E across wall 106 – showing unexcavated internal area of associated structure.                                      |
| " | 170 | "   |
| " | 171 | Looking N across roundhouse 1.  |
| " | 172 | "   |
| " | 173 | "   |
| " | 174 | "   |
| " | 175 | "   |
| " | 176 | Looking S across roundhouse 1 at end of Open Day – nice post excavation view. Shots with people at edge of site – Open Day. |
| " | 177 | "   |
| " | 178 | "   |
| " | 179 | "   |
| " | 180 | "   |
| " | 181 | "   |
| " | 182 | "   |
| " | 183 | "   |
| " | 184 | Looking E across roundhouse 1 – on Open Day.  |
| " | 185 | "   |
| " | 186 | Looking W across roundhouse 1 - on Open Day.  |
| " | 187 | "   |

## Appendix 6: A note on the archaeological survey of a prehistoric enclosure and settlement

Peter Rose

### Survey background

The survey was undertaken as part of St Neot's 'Dig, Eat and Sing' community project at West Northwood Farm, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which focuses on the excavation of a prehistoric roundhouse. The purpose of the survey was to map the enclosed prehistoric settlement of which the roundhouse is a part, so as to set the excavation and the roundhouse into its context (and also to tie the excavation into the Ordnance Survey mapping).

The survey was at 1:500 scale using plane table, alidade and tapes and used a single east-west baseline, from which further survey stations were positioned. It covered a little under 1 hectare in area – the northern part of the field above West Northwood Farm, on a south-facing hillside. The lower part of the field is steeply sloping, mostly covered with scrub (for example, hawthorns, sycamore, brambles and bracken) and was not surveyed. Some tracks winding up through this lower area have been created in recent years, and in places there are lines of boulders cleared from the tracks; also a small semi-circular performance area with tiered stone seating has been constructed. The middle part of the field, containing the prehistoric settlement, is less steeply sloping and is mostly open, with low grass, much of which had recently been trimmed to make the archaeological sites more visible. The slope begins to level off in the upper part of the field, which is under longer grasses and reeds. There are extensive views southwards from the northern half of the field (250m above sea level), and Berry Castle is prominent to the south-south-west. The ground continues to rise, more gently, north of the field.

The survey was undertaken by Konstanze Rahn and Peter Rose with assistance from Nick Hart and Akshaya Tharmasekaran, between 28 June and 3 July 2017.

### Summary of results

The survey recorded a small prehistoric enclosure (8) containing three definite roundhouses (1, 2 and 3), one of which is the excavated roundhouse, and another four possible roundhouses or structures (4–7). Another roundhouse lies outside the enclosure to the south east (9). A mine leat (11) runs east-west across the lower part of the enclosure.

The enclosed settlement had previously been noted in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER; reference MCO20506). The separate roundhouse (9) is recorded in the HER as MCO20505 and is a scheduled monument (list no 1005444).

### Survey inventory

**1 Roundhouse** – excavated roundhouse (on E side of the enclosure) SX 2017 6976

The survey plan shows the inner face of the roundhouse, as exposed at the time of survey – day 4 of the excavation. The house is strongly levelled into the slope and the inner face and wall includes substantial boulders. The excavation has revealed an outer face to the house wall on the E side. The diameter is approximately 7.5m. The outline of the excavation grid is also shown on the survey plan. (Excavation reference number: 'roundhouse 1'.)

**2 Roundhouse** (at N edge of the enclosure) SX 2017 6978

This is a platform levelled slightly into the slope but it is most noticeable as part of a circle of stones-on-edge, representing the inner facing stones of the house wall. The SW side is incomplete. The stones are mostly less than 0.25m high, but one on the N is 0.75m. The internal diameter is 6.6m, NW-SE. An excavation trench has been cut

across the N wall and the adjoining enclosure bank, showing small stones here in the face of the house wall. (Excavation reference number: 'roundhouse 2'.)

Just E of the roundhouse a slight scarp on a SW-NE line (not surveyed), containing a single visible stone, might hint at the position of another structure.

**3 Roundhouse** (at NW corner of the enclosure) SX 2015 6977

This house is defined mostly as a platform levelled into the slope, with a scarp on the uphill (N) side, approximately 0.4m-0.5m high. There are two probable inner facing stones on the NW at the top of the scarp, with a low bank forming the wall of the house here. The S side is suggested by a slight change in slope or very low bank, with the feel of stoniness beneath the turf. A slight hollow on this side might be an entrance. The internal diameter is approximately 6m/7m.

**4 Possible roundhouse** (on W side of the enclosure, below 3) SX 2015 6976

A slightly levelled area, with a scarp on the N and E, and two stones which might be part of the house wall. Below to the S, and extending a little to the E, is a more substantial but irregular stony bank and scarp, which may be associated.

**5 Probable structure** (centre of enclosure, W of roundhouse 1) SX 2016 6975

A rectilinear structure suggested by two lines of single stones, forming the W and N sides only, approximately 4m by 4m. (A continuation to the E has been exposed in the excavation area.)

**6 Possible roundhouse** (in SW part of the enclosure) SX 2016 6974

A possible but doubtful roundhouse, being apparent mostly as a possible platform on the slope, with an ill-defined scarp on the uphill side and a possible edge on the S, where the ground may dip slightly back into the platformed area.

**7 Possible roundhouse** (at SE of the enclosure) SX 2018 6974

This is suggested by an arc of individual stones (approximately 3.8m across NW-SE and 5m NE-SW). Stones on the SE side may be the inner and outer faces of a wall 2m wide, but alternatively this may be the remains of the line of the enclosure bank (8). NW of the possible structure is a turf-covered spread or bank of irregularly placed boulders; it is unclear whether this is natural or perhaps clearance (or it may be associated with roundhouse 1, which is directly to the N of it). It is possible that the NW edge of structure 7 is part of this spread rather than being part of a structure.

**8 Enclosure** (HER ref MCO20506) SX 2016 6976

The enclosure is roughly D-shaped and measures 37m E-W and approximately 43m N-S, internally. Within it are three definite roundhouses (1, 2 and 3) and four possible roundhouses or structures (4, 5, 6 and 7).

The enclosure bank is turf-covered and generally 3m wide and 0.3m-0.5m high, with, in places, upright stones forming the faces of a wall within the bank. There is a good stretch of inner face on the NE of the enclosure, and on the E side there are stretches of both inner and outer faces of a wall 1.5m wide. Where exposed by the excavation trench N of roundhouse 2, the wall is 1.5m wide with an earth core.

The S course of the enclosure bank is eroded, incomplete and uncertain but is suggested by a change in slope and occasional boulders. Part of possible roundhouse 7 may be a continuation of the enclosure wall, rather than a house wall.

Along the outside of the northern perimeter of the enclosure bank is what appears to be a 3m wide ditch, defined by a slightly lower, reed filled area (though this was not apparent in the trench N of roundhouse 2).

The line of the W side of the enclosure is apparently fossilised by the present field boundary, which kinks where it joins the enclosure to N and S. Although it is possible that the enclosure continued further to the west (and an unsurveyed scarp visible in the

grass field to the west, roughly on the line of the S side, might suggest this) it looks more likely, from its shape, that the plan surveyed is the full extent of the enclosure.

The location of the entrance to the enclosure is not known. There are two breaks, in the NW and in the E, but neither needs be original. A stone on the N side of the E break might be a gatepost, and a slight stony scarp (not surveyed) running E from the S side of the entrance may be associated. However, a bulge on the inside of the bank S of the entrance may suggest that the bank has been broken through here and the material cleared to the side of the bank.

**9 Roundhouse** (Scheduled Monument list no 1005444: 'hut circle 160 yds (150m) N of West Northwood Farm'; HER ref MCO20505) SX 2020 6973

This site is outside the enclosure, about 20m to the SE. Levelled strongly into the slope, it is defined by a ring or wall of boulder-sized stones. Facing-stones of the wall are visible in places. An inner face is visible on the NE and N, with stones on edge on the NE but large boulders, some perhaps coursed, on the N, where the wall is highest. There are also tumbled boulders on this side. There is an outer face of stones on edge on the W, E and partly on the N. The wall is 1.8m wide. On the W the bank is largely a spread of large tumbled boulders, and the position of the inner face is not clear. The S side is also a spread of boulders. The wall is 0.75m–1.0m high on the N, but is otherwise less than 0.5m high. The overall diameter E–W is 9.5m. The estimated internal diameter is 6m E–W and 7m N–S. There is no clear entrance, but SW or SE are possible. There is a boulder just south of centre of the circle, and in the centre is an oak tree, the branches of which extend across and beyond the circle at about head height. The combination of the tree and the circle, together with mosses, lichens and ferns, makes for a dramatic and enchanting effect.

It is possible that the site is a ring cairn rather than a house (Andy Jones, pers comm), though it may be noted that it is similar in size to the houses in the enclosure, is levelled into the slope like them, and the walling of boulders is not unlike that of roundhouse 1.

Immediately above the circle to the N is an 8m long scarp or bank of large boulders, looking irregularly placed, perhaps an area of clearance. (The area N of this appears relatively level, and might be associated.)

**10 Possible structure** SX 2020 6976

This is 25m E of the enclosure in an area where recent cutting of the grass has revealed a number of stones and possible lines of stones. The feature is suggested by an arc of individual stones, but does not appear to be levelled into the slope and is probably natural.

**11 Leat** SX 2014 6975 – SX 2022 6976

This is formed by a bank on the downhill side, approximately 1m wide and 0.15m–0.3m high, with a ditch to the north of it around 1.0m–1.5m wide and 0.15m deep. The line is obscured by scrub to the E and by spoil from the excavation next to roundhouse 1. There is also a break in the line just SW of roundhouse 1 and a line of boulders here, S of the leat, may possibly have been displaced from it.

The National Mapping Programme layer on the Cornwall Council mapping website shows the leat continuing W towards the buildings of Northwood Mine, but not to the E.

**12 Performance area ('Maen Hendas')** SX 2015 6972

A small semi-circular amphitheatre created in recent years with tiered seating of granite boulders.

**13, 14, 15 Field walls**

The maintained field walls on the W and E sides of the field (13 and 15) are 'stone faced walls', or Cornish hedges, typically 1.2m–1.5m wide and 1.1m–1.3m high, with a

ditch on the inside (typically around 2m wide). The E wall has a fence along its W side and the W wall has a fence along its top. As noted above, part of the W wall appears to fossilise the W side of enclosure 8.

The N boundary (14) appears to have been superseded by the post and wire fence running along its N side. The E half of the boundary is a stone faced wall but the W half is mostly lower and more of a bank. There is a ditch along the N side.

Parts of the E wall, 15, particularly to the S, mark the edge of a field system E of the survey area which might be prehistoric in origin. This is suggested by the lines of removed boundaries, running along the contour, plotted from aerial photographs as part of the National Mapping Programme (Cornwall Council online mapping site) (beyond the present survey area). The S boundary is extant as a field boundary (SX 2024 6972) and this can be seen as a wall running along the top of a large stony scarp or lynchet, reminiscent of the later prehistoric field systems in West Penwith.

Earthworks of small enclosures in the NW of the eastern field (SX 2023 6977; outside the survey area) are suggestive of a settlement, though the HER records a small quarry here (MCO37161).

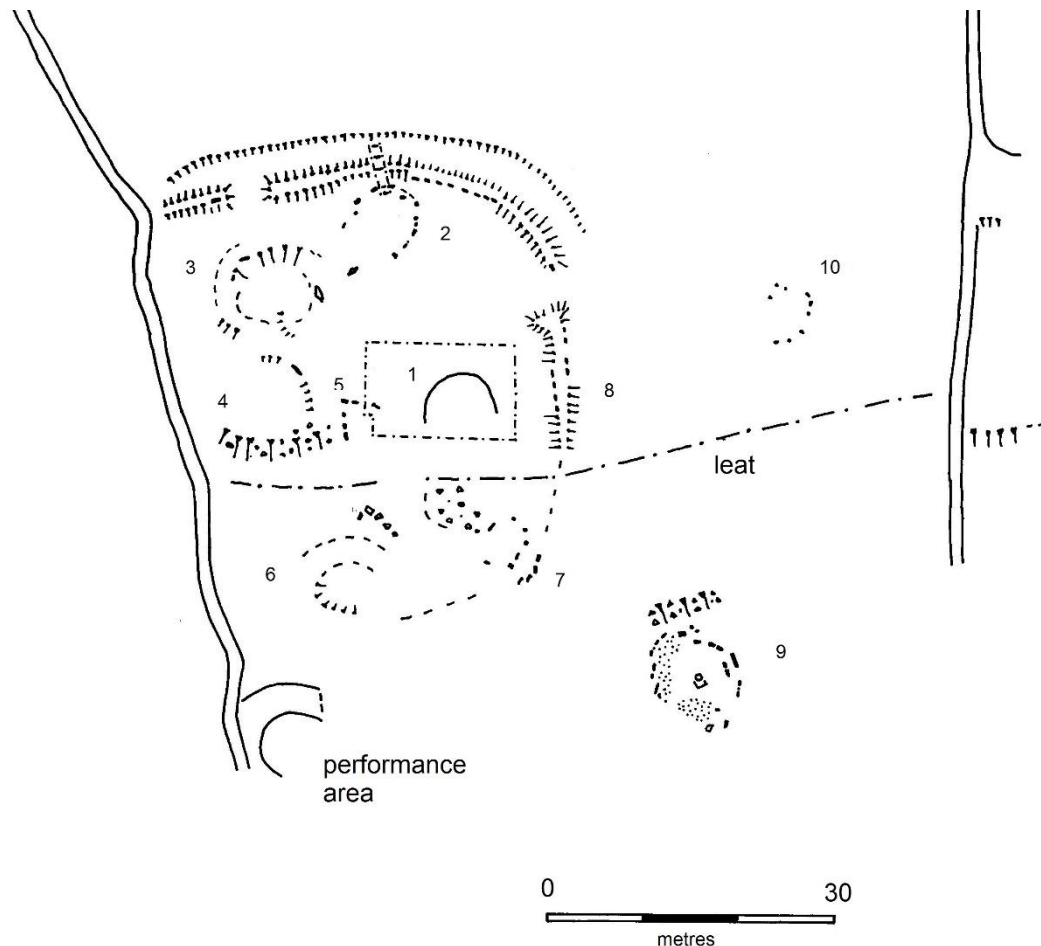


Fig 1 Extract from drawn-up survey plan.



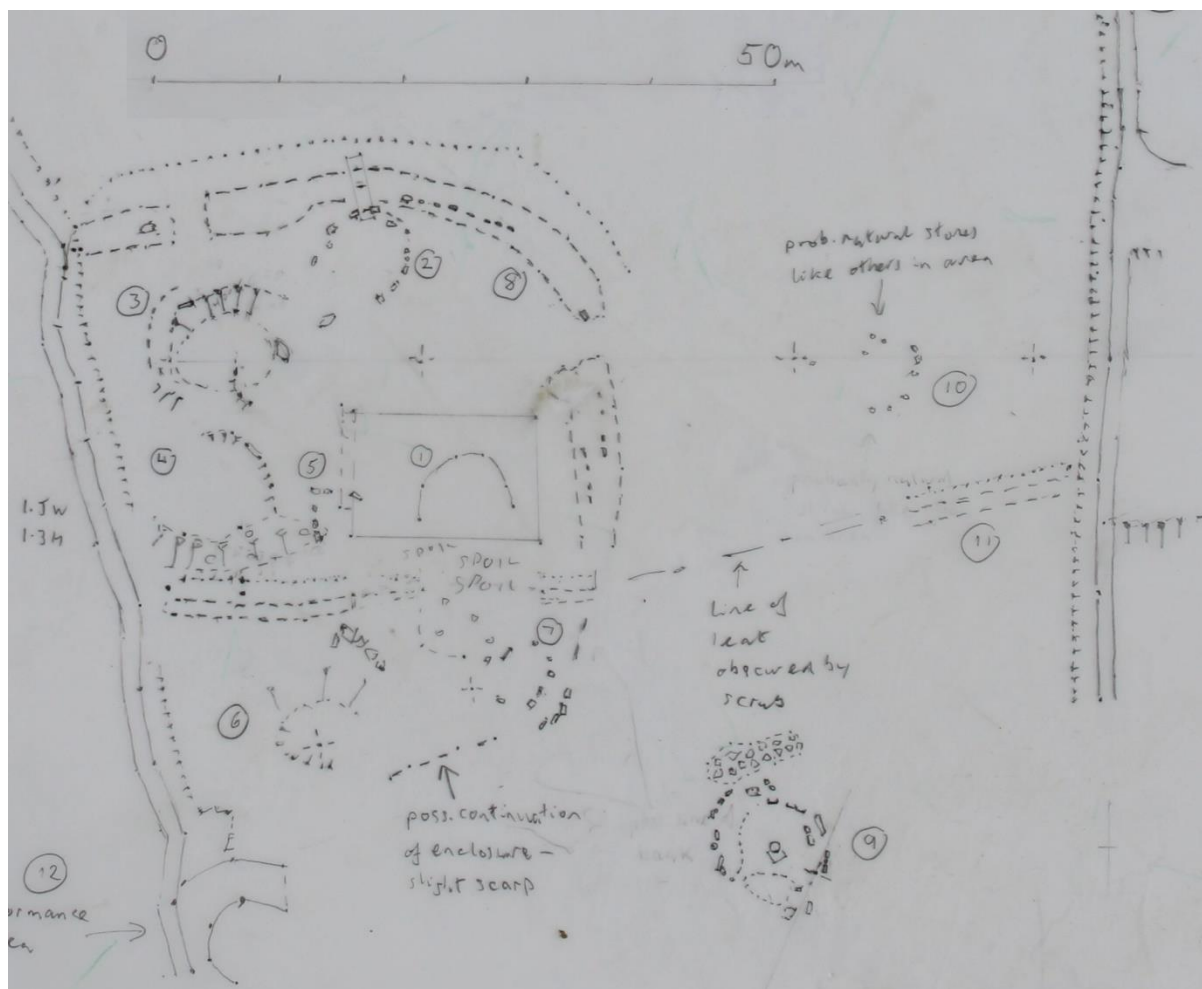


Fig 3 Field drawing extract showing detail of settlement.



Fig 4 Roundhouse 1 in May 2017, before excavation, looking south west. The leat (11) can be seen immediately beyond the roundhouse.



*Fig 5 Roundhouse 2, looking north east, July 2017.*



*Fig 6 Roundhouse, 3, July 2017.*





*Fig 7 Walling on east side of enclosure, 8, looking north; July 2017.*



*Fig 8 Northern bank of enclosure, 8, looking east; May 2017.*



Fig 9 Roundhouse, 9, looking north west, July 2017 (scheduled monument).



Fig 10 Possible roundhouse, 7, looking north east.



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