

Mr Chris Barlow

Budock Vean Golf and Country House Hotel, Falmouth, Cornwall

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SW 7630 2761

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

May 1998

[Mr Chris Barlow]

Budock Vean Golf and Country House Hotel, Falmouth, Cornwall

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

[NGR SW 7630 2761]

Prepared by: G Laws AIFA

Date: May 1998

Checked by: A Dodd BA

Date: May 1998

Approved by: M R Roberts BA MIFA

Date: May 1998

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

[May 1998]

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a proposed staff accommodation block north-west of Budock Vean Hotel, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall on behalf of Mr Chris Barlow, Managing Director. No significant features were located but there was evidence for 19th-century landscaping and levelling for the present use of the site as a car park.

1. INTRODUCTION

On 28 April 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation west of Budock Vean Hotel (grid ref SW 7623 2759), on behalf of the proprietor Mr Chris Barlow, in respect of a planning application for the construction of a staff accommodation block. The County Archaeological Service had indicated that the site lies in an area of archaeological potential and requested a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with PPG16. A Brief was issued for the archaeological work which detailed work during construction. However, after discussion with Cornwall County Archaeological Service it was agreed that an evaluation should be carried out. The OAU was invited to carry out the work in accordance with a specification produced by the OAU and approved by Cornwall County Archaeological Service.

Granville Laws who carried out the evaluation would like to thank the staff of the Budock Vean Hotel, especially Chris Barlow (Managing Director) and Neil Beech (Manager) for their hospitality and assistance. Thanks are due to John Gould and Steve Hartgroves from Cornwall County Archaeological Service for their advice.

1.1 Geology and topography

The site lies to the north-west of the Hotel at a height of 43 m O.D. and covers an area of 0.05 hectares. It is currently used as a car park. The underlying geology identified in the evaluation was shattered granite with pockets of clay.

1.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Brief produced by Cornwall County Archaeological Service included an appraisal of the background of the site which may be summarised as follows.

For topographic reasons the site may include the remains of a prehistoric defended settlement or Round. In Henderson's 'History of the Parish of Constantine' a reference is made to *Little Park an Geor* at Budock Vean in 1649. This is Cornish for "field with the fort" and indicates that there is such a site in the parish. The site lies on a south-facing slope which is a favoured situation for Rounds.

Two fields are indicated as the site of a medieval chapel; the Tithe award of 1840 shows Chapel Close to the north-west of the farm buildings while the O.S. maps of 1880 and 1907 show the chapel in the field to the south of this. The site of the proposed development lies between them so it was considered likely that remains associated with the chapel or a cemetery might be encountered. Human remains are recorded by the O.S. in the vicinity of the small wood near what is now the hotel; in 1820 Gilbert reported that the site of the burial ground at Budock Vean was in use as a mowhay or hayrick field.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 2.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits
- 2.3 To make available the results of the investigation

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

Three evaluation trenches each measuring 5 m by 1 m were excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. This represents a 15% sample of the area which was deemed necessary as it is difficult to predict the precise locations of burials.

3.2 Fieldwork and recording

The trenches were excavated by a small tracked excavator and the spoil closely monitored for archaeological finds.

The trenches were hand cleaned and recorded in plan and section. A colour and black and white photographic record was made. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992)

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a brown-grey silt loam and the underlying geology was shattered granite with pockets of clay (locally called shillet).

4.2 Presentation of results

The three trenches were closely grouped and contained a similar sequence of deposits. Two layers contained finds; 302 and 305. The finds were modern bricks and metal objects.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trench 1

The clay and granite natural (104) was reached at a depth of 0.4 m from the present surface (43.82 m O.D.) and was overlain by a layer of disturbed subsoil (103). This was sealed in turn by sand (102) and topsoil (101). The topsoil was capped by peagrut forming the present car park surface (100). Layers 101 and 102 represent levelling for the car park.

5.2 Trench 2

The clay and granite natural (202) was reached at a depth of 0.27 m from the present surface (43.21 m O.D.) and was overlain by a layer of grey brown silt (201) a disturbed subsoil similar to 103. This was sealed in turn by pea-grit forming the present car park surface (200).

5.3 Trench 3

The clay and granite natural (307) was reached at a depth of 0.44 m from the present surface (43.37 m O.D.) and was overlain by a layer of disturbed subsoil (306). This was sealed in turn by a layer of modern build-up (305) from which modern brick was recovered. A dump of building debris (304) included slate and brick mixed with redeposited natural. This dump was cut by a soakaway (303) which was filled by a mid yellowish brown silt clay (302) containing concrete and brick. This was sealed by a brown grey gravelly silt loam (301) was capped by pea-grit forming the present car park surface (300).

5.4 Finds

The only finds were brick and metal objects of modern date. These were retained.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

No significant deposits were located in the three trenches. A modern soakaway was the only feature recorded. The date of the disturbed subsoil (130, 201 and 306) is unknown, but seems likely to represent recent terracing for the car park.

References

Wilkinson D (ed) 1992 OAU Fieldwork Recording Manual

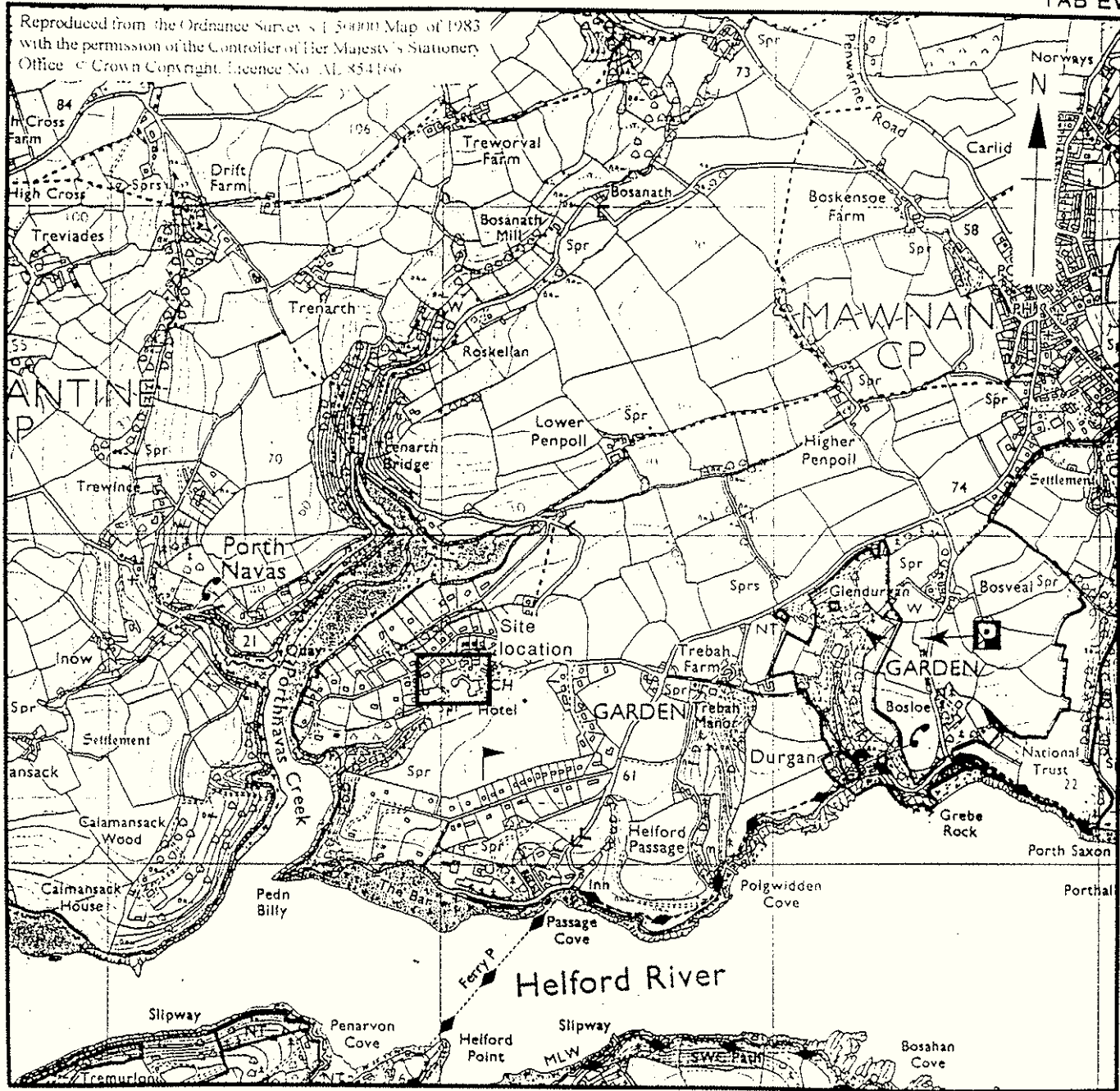
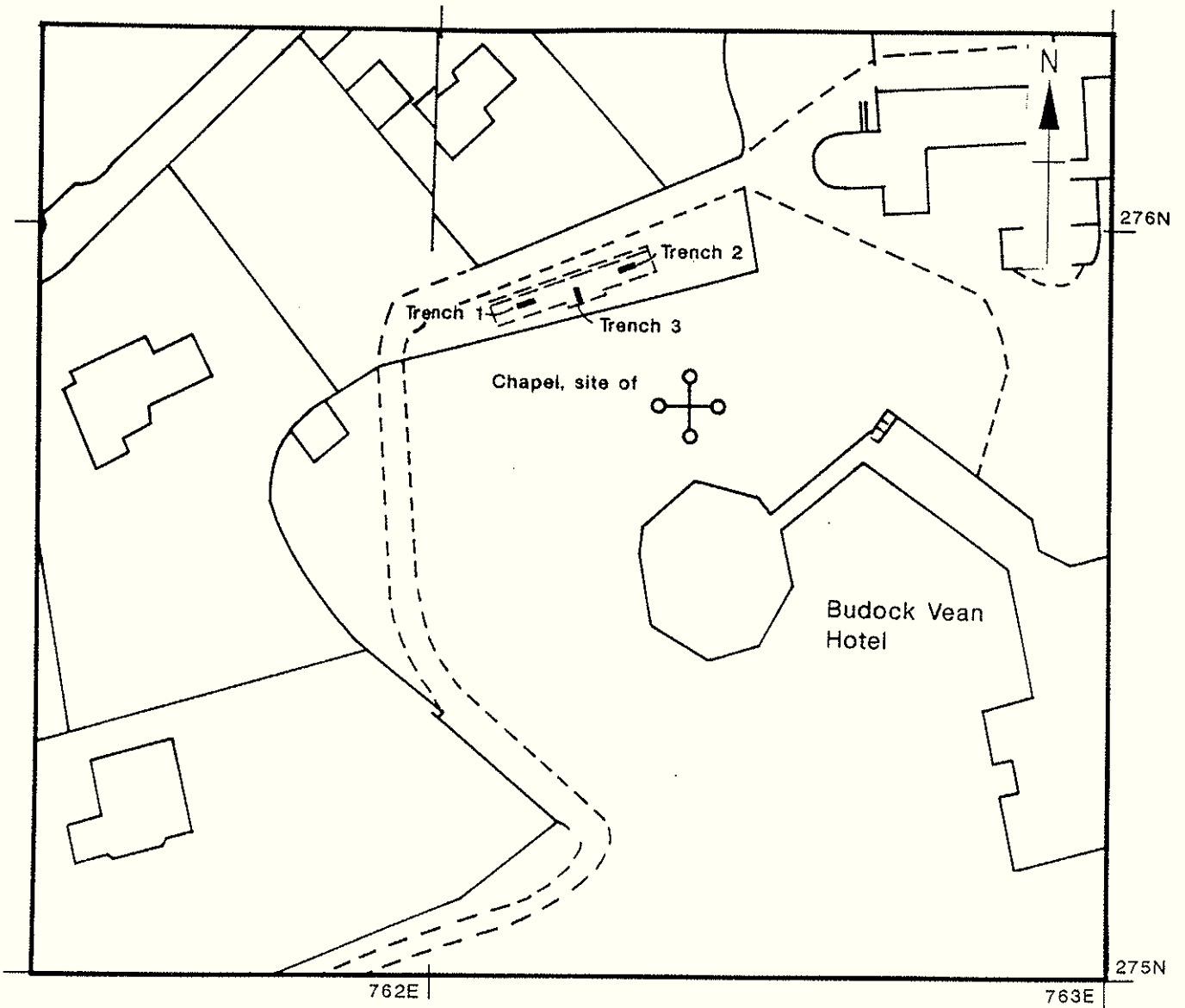

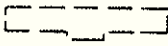
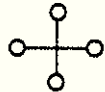


Figure 1 Location of site

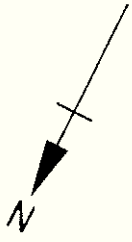


-  Evaluation trenches
-  Building footprint
-  Location of possible Medieval Chapel

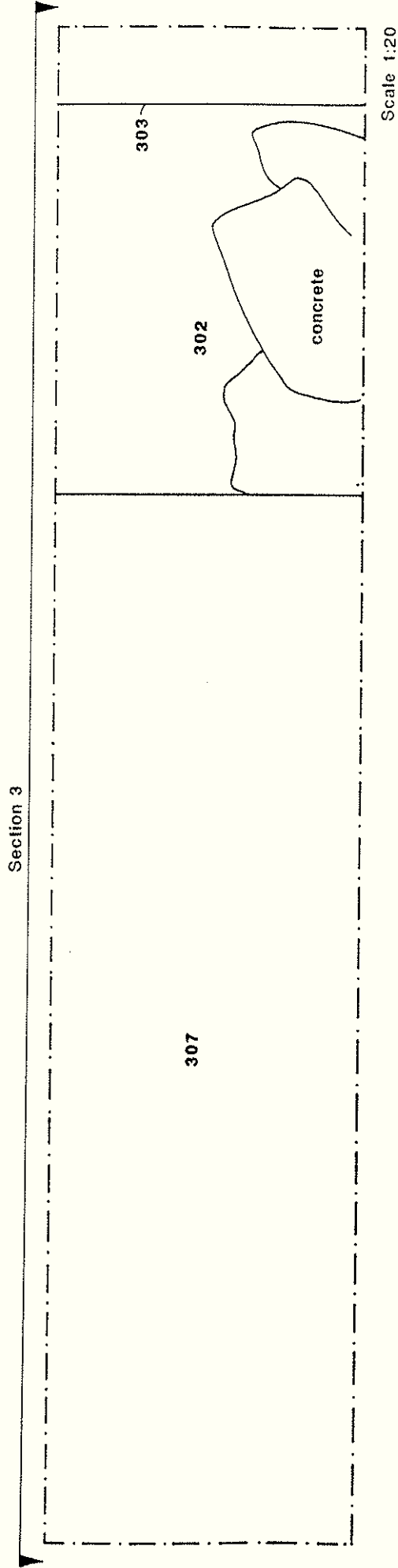
Scale 1:5000

Figure 2 Trench Locations

FAB EV



Plan 4



Section 3

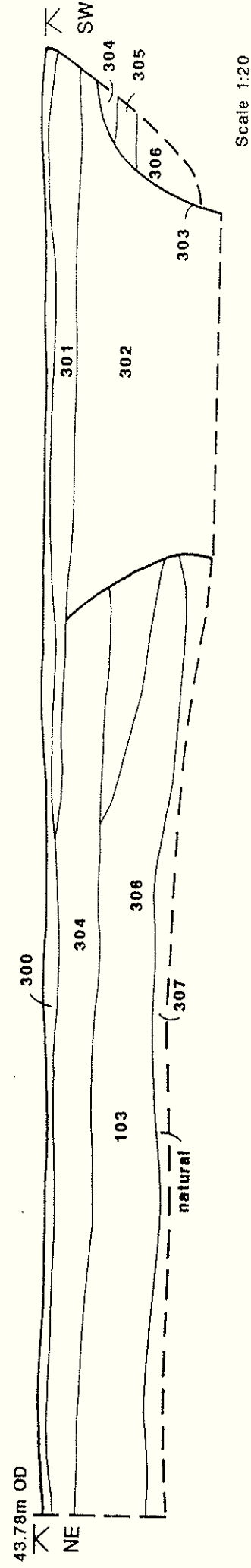


Figure 3 Trench 3, Plan 3 and Section 3



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: oau-oxford.demon.co.uk



Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES