

St Mary's Hospital, Hospital Lane, Hugh Town, St Mary's, Isles Of Scilly TR21 0LQ

Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological recording during groundworks for construction of a new integrated health and social care facility

Client: Community 1st Cornwall Limited
Client contact: Angela Warwick, Situ8 Planning Consultancy
Planning Application Number: P/24/006/FUL

1 Project background

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Charlie Johns, Heritage Specialist, for archaeological recording during groundworks for construction of a new integrated health and social care facility at St Mary's Hospital, Hospital Lane, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LQ. The content of this WSI has been discussed with Lisa Walton, Chief Planning Officer, Council of the Isles of Scilly, and Peter Dudley, Senior Archaeologist, Cornwall Council. It sets out the minimum requirements to discharge the anticipated condition for archaeological recording when the application is decided.

A) The development shall proceed in accordance with the WSI prepared by Charlie Johns (Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological recording during groundworks for a new extension to the hospital, dated 21/02/2024) that has been approved and submitted to the Planning Authority in support of this planning application. The WSI includes an assessment of significance and research questions, and

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

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

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

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

2 Site location and description



Fig 1 Location map with the strip, map, sample (SMS) area outlined in blue (Blue Sky Architects/Capra Architects).

St Mary's Hospital is located on the south side of Hospital Lane, situated on the high ground to the south east of Hugh Town, overlooking St Mary's Sound and Porthcressa beach, just off the road to Old Town beyond Buzza Hill (Fig 1). The application site is a long rectangular field located to the south west of the Hospital centred at NGR SV 90715 10315 at a height of

approximately 30m mOD (Fig 1). The field is some 0.17 ha in area and slopes towards the south west.

Graeme Spence's 1792 map of St Mary's shows that the process of enclosure had begun on the south side of Buzza Hill with two large rectangular crofts. By the time of the c1880 OS survey the site formed part of a larger field which was sub-divided after the c1907 OS survey. The site is characterised as 'Farmland: modern enclosures (post-1908), excluding bulb strips' in the Isles of Scilly Historic Landscape Assessment (Land Use Consultants 1996).

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

3 Archaeological and historical background

The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER) records that several designated heritage assets are located in the vicinity of the application site. There are two scheduled monuments, *Round cairn with funerary chamber on Buzza Hill, 45m west of the Buzza Tower, St Mary's* (NHLE 1010174) situated approximately 100m north west of the application site and *Platform cairn on northern Peninnis Head, 200m ESE of Buzza Tower* (NHLE 1009284), situated some 65m ESE of the application site. Further afield is *the Iron Age to Romano-British fogou on Northern Peninnis Head, 170m south of Carn Gwavel Farm, St Mary's* (NHLE 1020142), 250m south east of the application site and the suite of scheduled monuments on Peninnis Head 500m – 1km south east of the application site. The Grade II Listed Buzza Tower (NHLE1291886) is situated some 55m north east of the application site.

In addition the HER records a number of undesignated heritage assets in the vicinity of the application site, the site of a bronze Age cairn on Buzza Hill, excavated by William Borlase in the 18th century (MCO30227), 55m north west of the application site. A Bronze Age agate bead was found in the garden of Pilot's Retreat (now Starlings) in 1970 (MCO31088) and two flint thumb-nail scrapers and two hammer stones were found at Pernold in the 1960s (MCO31081), respectively 120m and 150m to the north east. There were finds of Romano-British pottery and a possible prehistoric post-holed stone on Buzza Hill in the 1950s to the 110m north west (MCO53363) – although the HER entry is confused about the location of these finds. In addition there are a number of prehistoric and Romano-British sites exposed in the cliff face at Porthcressa 250m to the south west. There is also a disused post-medieval quarry and the site of a 20th-century electricity generating plant about 30m to the north west (MCO64382).

An interesting undesignated heritage asset, not currently recorded in the HER, is a square stone with a square hole thought to be medieval in date and originally from St Maudut's chapel in Hugh Town. Troutbeck (c1792) recorded that it was then on St Mary's Quay, apparently it was subsequently stored on Rat Island and has now been placed in front of the Health centre.

4 Archaeological potential

In the Early Bronze Age the application site would have been heathland within the setting of a ceremonial landscape associated with the cairns on Buzza Hill and on northern Peninnis Head. Later prehistoric or Romano-British settlements and cist graves are more likely to have been situated at a lower contour above Porthcressa or Old Town Bay rather than on an exposed hilltop.

In 2012/13, a watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a campsite at Peninnis Farm, 100m south east of the application site and 35m south of the scheduled cairn NHLE 1009284. The topsoil was 0.3m-0.4m deep with the natural substrate (*ram*) underlying it. The only finds were a total of eight sherds of 19th or 20th century glazed pottery (Sawyer 2013).

Geotechnical investigations for the current site indicate a similar stratigraphy of topsoil to depth of 0.4-0.6m above very dense, orangish-brown, slightly clayey, very gravelly, fine to coarse sand (*ram*) (Wheal Jane Consultancy 2024).

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

Consequently the potential of the application site is for archaeological discoveries is assessed as 'Moderate'.

5 Assessment of significance

Any features that might be revealed which are with associated the Bronze Age ceremonial landscape on Buzza Hill and northern Peninnis Head are potentially of National significance, any other features or finds are likely to be of Local significance.

6 Research questions

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

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

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

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

7 Aims and Objectives

The site-specific aims for the archaeological recording are to:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.

- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- Establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- Provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered.
- Report on the findings to an appropriate level.

8 Methodology

The recording will involve the following phases of work:

1. Desk-based study .
2. A watching brief during topsoil stripping
3. Watching briefs during excavation of strip foundation trenches.
3. Archiving and Analysis.
4. Report production.
5. Archive deposition.

8.1 Desk-based study

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

8.2 Watching brief during topsoil strip

Charlie Johns BA, MCIfA, is the project archaeologist. The initial topsoil strip, to a depth of 300mm within the footings of the two buildings, is estimated to take about five days. It is very unlikely that any archaeological remains will be revealed at that level as any surviving archaeological features will be cut into the surface natural substrate (weathered periglacial head, known locally as *ram*) which the draft geotechnical report indicates is at depth of 500mm – 600mm in the area of the new buildings. There is, however, potential for some unstratified finds to be recovered from the excavated spoil. It is therefore proposed that the archaeological contractor will supervise the first day of the soil strip and then return at the end to inspect the site and spoil for finds.

8.3 Watching briefs during excavation of the strip foundation trenches.

Mechanical stripping of the topsoil and subsoil in the strip foundation trenches for the buildings will be supervised by the project archaeologist. The strips will be up to 1m wide. A toothless ditching bucket will be used for the removal of any overburden until the first archaeological horizon is exposed. This will then be hand-cleaned and recorded as appropriate. Any surviving remains which will be disturbed or destroyed by the development will be archaeologically excavated and recorded.

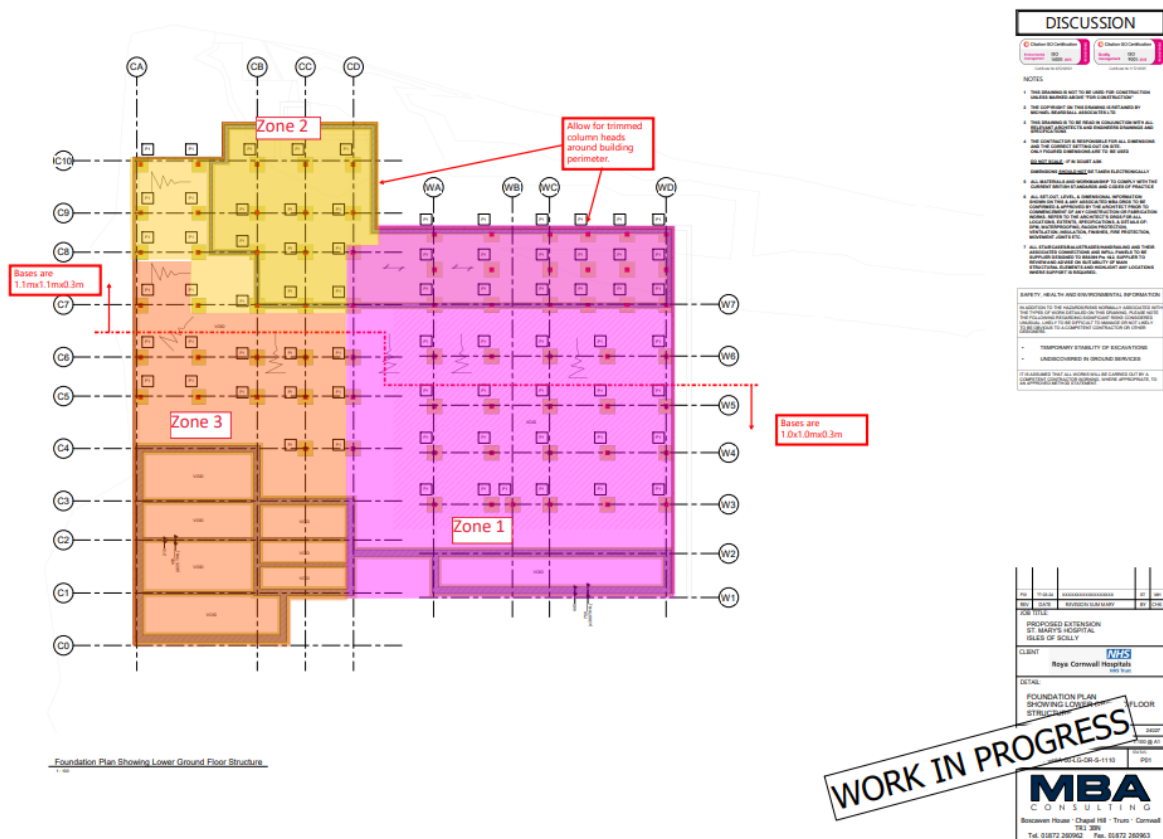


Fig 2 Location of the foundation trenches (draft).

Any significant features or layers identified in plan or section will be recorded using the following methodology:

- Each feature or layer will be assigned a context number from a continuous block of context numbers and recorded on a standard *pro forma* context sheet, where possible noting the location, extent, nature, character and stratigraphic relationships of any archaeological evidence revealed;
- Location will be plotted onto a 1:100 plan (drawn in 4H pencil on gridded drafting film);
- If appropriate the feature/layer will be planned at 1:20 scale or recorded in section at 1:10 scale (unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate); (d) scaled digital colour photographs will be taken. In the case of detailed photographs, a north arrow will be included, where appropriate. A photographic register detailing the feature number, location, direction of shot and other relevant information will be drawn up.
- All finds will be retained and placed in sealable plastic bags which will be labelled immediately with the site code (SMH 24) and context number. On completion of the investigations they will be removed from the site for processing and conservation where necessary, in preparation for assessment analysis and archiving.
- Modern (post-1900) finds may be disposed of at the cataloguing stage following consultation with named finds specialists (see below Appendix C) and the Isles

of Scilly Museum (see below section 8.5). It is anticipated that all other finds will be processed and stored in standard archive boxes and deposited with the Isles of Scilly Museum (see below section 8.5) but this process will be informed by the named specialists and in consultation with the Museum

- (f) Archaeological features will be sampled in the following proportions: 10% for linears, 50% for larger pits, etc., and 100% for smaller features. The sampling procedure will depend on the significance and date of the feature. If required on site, we will liaise with our environmental specialist, Ralph Fyfe, to ascertain the sampling strategy. The HE Science Officer will be consulted where further support is required. 70cl rubble bags will be used for larger samples, the samples will be double-bagged, labels with the site code, context number and sample number will be placed in the inner bag and tied to the outer bag. The site code, context number will be written on the outer bag with an indelible marker. Self-seal bags of an appropriate size will be used for smaller samples, double-bagged and labelled.
- (g) There are no flotation facilities available on the islands. If there are only a few small samples the archaeologists may be able take them back to Cornwall on Skybus. If the weight of the samples exceeds the hand luggage allowance they will be placed in large crate on a palette and transported to St Mary's Quay from whence they will be conveyed as freight to Penzance on one of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company's vessels. They will be collected from Penzance Quay by the project archaeologist in a hired van (or a haulier depending on the weight of the samples) and conveyed to CAU's flotation facility at Tehidy Park. There they will be wet sieved by a CAU team member. The dried flots will be bagged and labelled and sent to the plant macrofossil specialist (Julie Jones) for assessment.
- (h) If significant archaeological features or deposits are exposed all works will cease and a Teams meeting will be convened with the client and the LPA to discuss the most appropriate way forward.
- (i) In the event that objects containing precious metal(s) or significant finds are encountered, the coroner will be informed as per the provisions of the Treasure Act 2022.
- (j) Should any such remains be found, the presumption is that they will be excavated, removed and treated in accordance with current guidance from Historic England and the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) (APABE 2015; APABE 2017; Historic England 2018) (or conforming with the principles of the guidance where that relates to burials of the historic era and where remains found are of prehistoric date).
 - If human remains are discovered within an archaeological context on the site, the client, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Historic England will be informed.
 - The relevant Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to disturbing the remains or their burial soil, if possible.

- Any consents or licenses required will be obtained for the client by the archaeological contractor.
- If human remains are uncovered, which are not to be preserved *in situ* (see below) they will be excavated with due reverence. Methodology used will follow published guidance (APABE 2015; APABE 2017; Historic England 2018); while the presumption of non-disturbance of such remains in the 2017 publication has been reviewed, the standards set out there for their excavation (Annex 53, points 221-225) will apply.
- If human remains are to be retained *in situ*, a clear plan, agreed with the client, the LPA and Historic England, will be developed to determine how their preservation will be achieved in line with the principles of Historic England's guidance on preserving archaeological remains (2016).
- Human remains will not be exposed to public view, the site being adequately. The project archaeologist will ensure respectful treatment, stratigraphic excavation, accurate location and detailed context recording of all remains
- In the event that human remains are found the project archaeologist will be guided by an osteoarchaeologist.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation (2023) will be followed in the execution of the project.

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

Finds work, sampling, etc will be guided by the CIfA Guidelines for Finds Work and the Historic England Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy (2015), Environmental Archaeology (2011) (and Geoarchaeology (2015)).

8.4 Archiving and analysis

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

- Washing or other cleaning of finds.
- Marking of pottery and other finds with the site code and context number.
- Bagging the finds.
- Flotation of samples, drying and bagging the flots.
- Indexing site drawings and photographs; and
- Identification of finds etc, with the assistance of specialists CAU and/or elsewhere, if appropriate (details of specialist consultants are included in Appendices B and C).

8.5 Report production

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

The report will have the following contents:

- a concise non-technical summary of the project results

- the aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation
- a discussion of archaeological findings in terms of both the site-specific aims and the desk based research
- a location map, a drawing showing those areas examined as part of the archaeological recording, and copies of any archaeological plans and sections. All plans will be tied to the Ordnance Survey national grid
- all specialist reports and assessments
- a summary of the archive contents and date of deposition
- a context register with brief descriptions will be included as an appendix
- a copy of the approved WSI will be included as an appendices.

The OASIS and if taken, ADS reference number will be included in the report. And if the site and its finds prove to be significant, the accession number provided by the museum.

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

8.6 Archive deposition and report distribution

The Isles of Scilly Museum has been contacted, as specified in Section 2 of the Museum's 'Archaeological Deposition Policy' (2023) and a 'Notification of Fieldwork' form has been completed and sent to the Museum.

If significant archaeological findings are made (i.e., finds and features which have the potential to improve our understanding of Scilly's historic environment) the archive will be collated according to Section 9 of the Museum's 'Archaeological Deposition Policy' and deposited within two months of the completion of the final report.

As specified as specified in Section 8 of the Museum's 'Archaeological Deposition Policy' the project's digital archives will be transferred to a Trusted Digital Repository (the Archaeology Data Service) to ensure preservation and accessibility.

If the results of the watching brief do not merit the retention of finds or a paper archive the post-excavation archive report (lodged with the HER via OASIS – the Historic England / Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online index of archaeological investigations) and the OASIS record are considered to be the appropriate archive outputs. The LPA and the Museum will advise on this on receipt of a draft report. The Museum will be consulted before any finds are discarded.

The Isles of Scilly Museum Association will be sent a digital of the final report. Digital copies, or hard copies if preferred, will be provided to the LPA.

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

9 Monitoring

Groundworks will not commence until written approval for this WSI has been received from the LPA. Work is anticipated to start on 22 April 2024 and the LPA will be kept regularly informed of progress: prior to that. Any variations to this WSI will be agreed with the LPA, normally in writing, prior to them being carried out.

9.1 Monitoring points

- Email notification of the start of fieldwork (minimum 1 week notice)
- Email notification of the completion of fieldwork (and a discussion about reporting) and handover of site to the developer.
- Email notification that the finds have been deposited within the accessioning museum

10 Copyright

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

11 Project staff

Charlie Johns BA, MCIfA, is the archaeological contractor for the project. He is a heritage specialist based in Cornwall. A CV of his relevant qualifications and experience is at Appendix A of this document.

Details of the external specialists, who will provide contingency support for the work outlined in the WSI, are included in Appendix B.

12 Health and safety statement

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

13 References

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Charlie Johns
Heritage Specialist
5th April 2024

Appendix A: Curriculum Vitae for Charlie Johns BA, MCIfA

I am a self-employed heritage specialist. I have undertaken archaeological work in Scilly since 1991 and I was CAU's Senior Archaeologist for the islands between 2002 and 2018. I have extensive experience of conducting archaeological excavations and watching briefs. I am a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (no 381).

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

I am a Trustee of the Museum of Cornish Life, Helston; a committee member of Helston Old Cornwall Society and Honorary Editor of *Cornish Archaeology*, the annual journal of the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

Publications relating to Scilly

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

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Appendix B: Specialists

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

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

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

Imogen Wood PhD, MCIfA: Early medieval pottery: Imogen is a ceramic and petrographic specialist, based in Exeter and working in the South West of England. She specialise in the pottery of the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and early medieval periods from Cornwall and Devon and also cover the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

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

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

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

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

Julie Jones BA: Archaeobotanist: An experienced freelance archaeobotanical specialist

based in Bristol, Julie has carried out palaeoenvironmental assessments and analyses for numerous HES projects.

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

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