



Looe Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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Looe, Cornwall

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the town of Looe in Cornwall. Two sites were involved: the Lammana Chapel and nearby Monks House on the mainland (centred on NGR 225113 052209), and St Michael's Chapel on Looe Island (centred on NGR 225675 051437).

The evaluation produced no definitive evidence for prehistoric activity on either site, although a large stone, apparently deliberately buried within the grounds of Island House on Looe Island may have been a prehistoric standing stone that had been demolished during 19th century landscaping.

Two ditches on the island produced Romano-British pottery, and one also contained a small hoard of eight late Roman coins. While the latter ditch seems to be fairly securely dated on this basis, the second ditch could have been later in date, and could form part of an enclosure, perhaps early Christian in date, previously recorded around the summit of the island.

A small priory occupied by monks from Glastonbury Abbey is known to have existed on Looe Island from c. 1200 AD. A 'church' is referred to in a document of 1239, but the building in question is generally called a 'chapel', and is now known as St Michael's Chapel. It still existed at the time of the Chantry Commissions of 1546-8, but its final date of demolition is unknown. The evaluation confirmed that the chapel was of two-celled construction (nave and chancel) and built in a single phase, although at least one buttress was added in the 13th century. An inhumation grave was uncovered which would have lain beneath the chancel arch; this had been disturbed, probably during an antiquarian episode in the late 18th century when, it is recorded, a 'remarkably large human skeleton' was discovered. A second inhumation burial, and a possible stone-lined cist grave, were found outside the southern wall of the chapel. Neither of these were investigated further, nor were they securely dated, although 15th/16th century pottery came from the upper fill of the inhumation grave.

The mainland site, which was also once owned by Glastonbury Abbey, had been excavated by C.K. Croft Andrew in the 1930s; he traced the ground plan of the Lammana Chapel and exposed two inhumation burials. He also investigated Monks House. The results of his excavations were published and re-evaluated in 1994. The Time Team evaluation confirmed the ground plan of the chapel as a two-celled building with a southern porch and a secondary, northern entrance. There were some indications of a rood screen in front of the chancel arch. One disturbed inhumation burial was found beneath the chancel arch, and traces of two other possible graves, as well as a stone-lined possible reliquary. Bone from the disturbed inhumation burial provided a 13th century radiocarbon date.

The foundation date of the Lammana Chapel remains unknown. Croft Andrew considered it to pre-date the Norman conquest, but the pottery dating on which this was based has since been revised, and it is likely to have been 12th century in origin.

No further dating evidence was found during the Time Team evaluation for the foundation, but the inhumation burial shows that the chapel was in use in the 13th century. The evaluation also showed that, *contra* Croft Andrew, the two-celled chapel comprising nave and chancel was of a single phase in construction, although it confirmed his assertion that the southern porch was a later addition.

The evidence points to the Lammana Chapel post-dating the island chapel in construction. It is probably no coincidence that both chapels are at the same elevation, and the Lammana Chapel may have been deliberately situated to provide a sight-line to the island, which might explain its use of somewhat unsuitable topography, and the deviation from the standard east-west orientation.

At Monks House, the south-western wall was exposed, and enabled a revision of Croft Andrew's stated dimensions of the building. No traces of associated buildings were found. Croft Andrew's finds indicated use of this building in the 13th to 14th century, and finds from the Time Team evaluation are of similar date.

The Time Team evaluation has provided useful evidence with which to augment Croft Andrew's findings, and have established connections between the mainland and island chapels. Little firm dating evidence was recovered, but the radiocarbon date obtained from a burial in the Lammana Chapel is important in establishing the period of use of the chapel, and the limited examination of the human remains from both chapels provides evidence for the individuals buried there. A short summary of the results of the evaluation, and their implications for Croft Andrew's findings, is recommended, for publication in *Cornish Archaeology*.

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Emma Wood and Ruth Green of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston (Bristol University). The on-site recording and finds processing was co-ordinated by Naomi Hall and Steve Thompson, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland, Raksha Dave, Kerry Ely, Tracey Smith and Matt Williams assisted by Fiona Fleming, Charlie Johns, Imogen Wood, Nigel Thomas, Peter Dudley and Sean Taylor.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson and Naomi Hall with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Jacqueline McKinley (human bone) and Jessica Grimm (animal bone). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the town of Looe in Cornwall (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 Looe is located approximately 11km south of Liskeard at the mouth of the Looe River in Cornwall. The evaluation involved the investigation of two areas; Site A (Monks House) was on the mainland in an area known as Hannafore, to the west of the town overlooking Portnadler Bay and centred on NGR 225113, 52209. Site B was on the small island off Hannafore Point within Portnadler Bay, known as St. George's or Looe Island, and centred on NGR 225675, 51437.

1.2.2 Both Sites are in the District of Caradon, in the Civil Parish of Looe and the Ecclesiastical Parish of Talland.

1.2.3 Site A on the mainland is within an area of pasture, located at a height of approximately 21m aOD and rising sharply to the north into an area of scrub land. The chapel site is located near but not at the summit of the hill, on a south-east facing rock ledge at a height of 45.92m aOD, sloping slightly from the north-west to the south-east. A revetment wall runs immediately behind the chapel site, which used to support a cart track. The Monks House site extends to the south-west from an extant wall incorporated into the eastern boundary of Monks House (**Figure 5, Plate 8**) and slopes slightly to the south-east.

1.2.4 St. George's or Looe Island measures approximately 490m long by 257m wide and rises to a height of approximately 45m aOD. It is currently owned by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

1.2.5 The underlying geology of both sites comprises grey-green, blue slaty mudstone with subordinate siltstone; this Devonian slate is known locally as 'shillet'.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric to Romano-British

1.3.1 The National Monuments Record (NMR) includes a number of prehistoric sites considered of national importance and so designated as Scheduled

Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within a 10km radius of Looe, including the stone circle near Stonetown Farm, Dunloe (NMR No.CO94, NGR 223585, 58309), the round barrows south of Wilton Mill (NMR No. CO409, NGR 220028, 54411), Mabel barrow (NMR No. CO106, NGR) and the round barrow at Bin Down (NMR No. CO231, NGR 227540, 57645).

1.3.2 On the northern side of Looe Island (approximately NGR 225613, 051521) is a standing stone of possible prehistoric date.

1.3.3 A number of late prehistoric or Romano-British finds have been made in the vicinity of the two sites, including a large bronze ingot found by divers south of Looe Island, which has led a number of people to suggest the island is possibly *Ictis*, the tin trading island seen by Pytheas in the 4th century BC and recalled by Diodorus Siculus in the 1st century BC (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/search/fr.cfm?rcn=NMR_NATINV-889812&CFID=196413&CFTOKEN=47263542):

1.3.4 *'The inhabitants of that part of Britain which is called Belerion are very fond of strangers and from their intercourse with foreign merchants are civilised in their manner of life. They prepare the tin, working very carefully the earth in which it is produced. The ground is rocky but it contains earthy veins, the produce of which is ground down, smelted and purified. They beat the metal into masses shaped like astragali [knuckle-bones] and carry it off to a certain island off Britain called Ictis. During the ebb of the tide the intervening space is left dry and they carry over to the island the tin in abundance in their wagons'* (Diodorus Siculus, *The Library of History*, Book V Chapter 22). The consensus is that Ictis refers to St. Michaels' Mount.

Post-Romano-British

1.3.5 Finds of late and post-Romano-British date include fragments of B1 amphora from the Aegean recovered from Looe Island (Todd 1983 122). The place name '*Lamma*' contains the Cornish place-name elements '*lann*' and '*manach*', meaning '*the early Christian enclosure or monastery of the monk*' (Padel 1985).

Medieval

1.3.6 The following information is taken from the project design (Videotext Communications 2008), with reference to the Cornwall and Scilly Historical Environment Record (CSHER) and Orme and Orme (2003).

1.3.7 *Lamma* was used in reference both to the chapel on the mainland and to the island, although it appears that the name originally applied to the island only, and developed from the early Christian '*lann*' possibly located there. *Lamma* first appears in documentary records in 1144, when Pope Lucius II confirmed it as one of the possessions of Glastonbury Abbey, a confirmation repeated by Pope Alexander III in 1163. A Charter issued by Hasculf de Soligny between 1199 and 1220 states that the abbey acquired *Lamma* as the result of a grant given by his predecessors – the date and persons responsible are not mentioned. By his charter, Hasculf granted Glastonbury '*the whole island of St Michael of Lamma with all its appurtenances and lands and tithes, which they hold ... by the gift of my predecessors*'. The witnesses to the charter include Helias, '*prior of the place*', and his fellow monk John.

- 1.3.8 Hasculf's grant reveals that a small priory occupied by two Glastonbury monks existed on the island of Lammana by about 1200. This evidence is supported by a report of the Bishop of Ely and two other clergy that the patronage of the priory of Lammana belonged to the monks of Glastonbury Abbey – a report made soon after 1202, when it was commissioned by Pope Innocent III.
- 1.3.9 An undated charter from the mid 13th century states that a Glastonbury tenant, Robert de Colerne, held property in return for providing a horse to carry monks from the abbey to Lammana. The priory site on the island must have contained a place of worship dedicated to St Michael with buildings to house the monks. References call it a '*church*' (ecclesia) in a judgement by a church court in 1239 and in an undated grant by Richard, earl of Cornwall (1227-72), but it is usually described in documents as a chapel.
- 1.3.10 A church implies a foundation and territory independent of any other ecclesiastical unit, and the island appears to have lain outside the neighbouring mainland parish of Talland.
- 1.3.11 The priory enjoyed certain holdings and rights on the mainland of Cornwall. These were said, in 1289, to include a messuage and a carucate of land '*in Lammana*', apparently on the adjoining coastland, south-west of Looe.
- 1.3.12 Why did the priory come into being, and what were its functions? The lords of Portlooe may have wished to have monks at hand to organise worship and pray for them, as other Cornish aristocracy had at Minster and Tregony. The mention of baptism in 1238, together with later references to the clergy of Lammana ministering to the dwellers in the demesne of Portlooe, make it possible that some pastoral work was done from the priory, although Benedictine monks like those at Glastonbury were not normally active in this respect. Since Lammana's revenues were small, and the abbey had no other churches or lands in Cornwall, one of the main tasks of the monks on the island may have been to minister to pilgrims visiting its chapel.
- 1.3.13 It has been suggested that an attempt may have been made to develop a cult of St Michael on Looe Island in the 12th century, when the chapel was transferred to the mainland because '*people who through devotion would have wanted to visit the chapel on St Michael's Day often lost their lives in the stormy sea*'. The mainland chapel had monastic buildings associated with it, which were built down the hill in a sheltered spot, but little evidence later than 1290 exists for this. William Worcester, who visited Cornwall in 1478, noted the names of several places where St Michael was honoured – Lammana was not amongst them.
- 1.3.14 The fate of the Looe Island chapel is known. Glastonbury records state that Abbot Michael of Amesbury (1235-53) '*put Lammana in Cornwall to farm and assigned it to the sacristy*'. There was still a monastic presence on the island in 1277 when the abbot of Glastonbury sued persons who had broken into the '*cell*' at Lammana and had assaulted his monk, William de Bolevill. During the 1280s the abbey decided to withdraw from Lammana – the patronage of the island chapel and its lands and possessions were sold to Ralph Bloyou on behalf of Walter of Treverbyn, the lord of the manor of Portlooe. The sale took effect on the 24th June 1289.

- 1.3.15 On taking over the property Walter presented a secular chaplain, named Andrew, to the bishop of Exeter for institution as rector of Lammana, presumably of both the island and mainland chapels and their rights and territories. The chapels now lay in the jurisdiction of the parish church of Talland. Andrew appears to have been successfully accepted as rector as he is mentioned as *'portionary'* of the chapel of Lammana in 1297.
- 1.3.16 In 1291 the income of the chapel was valued at 30s. The income was still modest in 1546-8 when the chantry commissions of Henry VIII and Edward VI reported the income as £4. In 1546 the commission found that the benefice existed to support a priest celebrating divine service in the chapel on the island, but reported that there were no ornaments or goods belonging to the chapel because *'the service in the chapel hath of late (been) discontinued'*.
- 1.3.17 John Leland, in his first journey to the county in about 1536, referred to the island as *'St Nicholas Isle'* making no mention of a chapel there or on the mainland. In 1539 the building is shown on a map of the south coast of Cornwall as a little edifice one storey high, without a tower.
- 1.3.18 In 1548 the commission stated that the priest, David Hynkley, ministered at the mainland chapel to 70 adult people from three nearby townships on five or six occasions in the year, including Easter Sunday when he gave them communion. Nevertheless the crown dissolved the benefice and seized the endowments in 1548 and awarded Hynkley a pension. In August of 1548 the *'island of Lamane'* and the chapel and lands belonging to it were sold to Thomas Bell, knight, of Gloucester and Richard Duke, esquire, of London.
- 1.3.19 The chapel on the mainland is now referred to as the Lammana Chapel and the chapel on Looe Island as St. Michael's.
- Post-Medieval and Modern*
- 1.3.20 The two houses (Island House and Smuggler's Cottage) on Looe Island are believed to have been constructed in the 19th century when much of the island was extensively farmed and very few trees grew (Dunn 2005, 22-23).
- 1.3.21 During the Second World War Looe Island was for a time renamed as *'H.M.S St. George'*, following the dropping of a probable parachute mine which resulted in a large crater in the summit. It was believed the island was mistaken for an Allied ship. The incident was recorded in *The Cornish Times* under the headline *'H.M.S St. George. Nazi Airman's Direct Hit Off Looe – Another "Success" for the Luftwaffe'*. The article continued *'H.M.S St. George is still riding peacefully at her anchorage in Looe Bay, after being bombed recently by a Nazi air-raider in what would seem to have been an attempt to sink her. Although St. George has occupied the same berth for millennia, and is as well-known to inhabitants and visitors to Looe as the palms of their hands, no one has determined to what particular class of battleship she belongs, indeed all are familiar with the shapely hulk lying seaward of Hannafore as Looe Island (or, cartographically St. Georges Island)'* (The Cornish Times 01/12/1940).
- 1.3.22 In 1964 Looe Island was bought by sisters Evelyn and Roselyn Atkins and was kept as a private residence before being bequeathed to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust 2000. It is run as a nature reserve.

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

Site A: The Mainland, the Lammana Chapel and Monks House

- 1.4.1 Excavations by C.K. Croft Andrew over three days in 1935 and three weeks in 1936 were initially a result of the threat of land sale and thereby the destruction of the chapel and other priory remains. However, after Croft Andrew reported the results of his 1935 excavations the chapel was reserved from the land to be sold and the sale fell through. He then returned the next year for a more thorough investigation, one he did not consider finished (Olson 1994, 97).
- 1.4.2 The 1935 excavation mostly focused on tracing the main footprint of the chapel but Croft Andrew did clear at least the northern part of the chancel down to its slate paving. However, he reported to the Duchy Land Steward that '*exercising great self-control, I refrained, so far as possible, from disturbing the chapel interior*'. There was no pottery encountered during this excavation, finds being confined to slate roof tiles, a ceramic ridge tile fragment and '*a few broken bones*' (Olson 1994, 101).
- 1.4.3 The 1936 excavation comprised a combination of trenches along with the clearance of the chapel interior as a number of 'quadrants' (**Figure 2A**). While precise dimensions for many of the trenches are not known it seems that the vast majority of the interior was cleared to a level similar to that of the bedrock on the northern side, and that trenches were placed along the exterior of most of the walls.
- 1.4.4 Croft Andrew wrote in his report to the Royal Institution of Cornwall (RIC) of two '*burials which I was reluctantly obliged to uncover*'. One was located in the south-east corner of the nave and the other by the south wall of the chancel (**Figure 2A**). Croft Andrew located the skull of the first burial 0.30m east from the chancel arch wall and 0.68m under the earth floor. He also noted the end of the grave cut being 0.48m from the chancel arch wall, which would indicate that the burial ran beneath the chancel arch wall and into the chancel. This discovery prompted him to dig a 0.90m wide trench from the south-east corner of the chancel alongside the southern wall. This led to the uncovering of another burial of which he described the skull and the location of leg bones (Olson 1994, 107). The completeness of the skeletal remains is not clear. A sketch in his notebook, traced in 1972, shows three burials, the two full east – west aligned inhumations and one skull. This is confirmed by a note in the *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries* (Croft Andrew 1938-9, 331-2) where he described his discovery of a 'head burial' in the south-east part of the chancel, of a skull set upright on its mandible.
- 1.4.5 A small amount of Romano-Cornish pottery and one small abraded sherd of samian were recovered during the excavation, but were probably residual. These were found concentrated in the southern area of the site. Two of the Romano-Cornish sherds were located in the southern half of the chancel area; although the depth is uncertain the date of discovery suggests that they may have been beneath the depth of the chancel floor. The samian sherd was found with the burial by the south wall of the chancel. Some fragments of chert-tempered ware, with a likely date span of 11th to the beginning of the 13th century, were found within what Croft Andrew described as a sealed deposit. Nine joining sherds of a chert-tempered cooking pot appear to have been found beneath the layers of debris from the

chapel (Olson 1994, 107-108, 116). These represent the earliest dating from the site that is not likely to be residual.

1.4.6 The rest of the pottery falls into four main date ranges: Stuffle fabrics (13th to 14th century), the earlier sherds of which may overlap the dating period for the chert-tempered ware; a number of 15th to 16th century wares, dominated by St Germans type, but also including a cucurbit (distilling vessel) in Lostwithiel-type ware and a chafing dish in imported Saintonge ware; five sherds of 16th/17th century date; and five sherds that are 18th century or later. Vessel types found seem mostly to be associated with use and storage of liquids. Both these and the chafing dish may well have been used for religious ceremonies rather than for normal domestic functions (O' Mahoney 1994).

1.4.7 Some of the slates recovered from the excavation were re-used to build a wall immediately to the west of the chapel and a buttress westward from the section of wall found to the north of the chancel. It appears that Croft Andrew also reconstructed and consolidated some of the walls (Olson 1994, 106, 110).

Site B: Looe Island, St. Michael's Chapel

1.4.8 No modern archaeological excavation has taken place on the island, although a number of records have been made about the state of preservation of the chapel site.

1.4.9 In 1823 T.L. Bond recorded of Looe Island that '*on the top of it are the remains of some building, which goes by the name of the Chapel. Some years since a remarkably large human skeleton was found in it*' (Bond 1823, 29). The human remains are likely to be the same individual that was found in c. 1783 (Dunn 2005, 24).

1.4.10 Todd states that 'the most obvious group of remains of early occupation lies on the summit of the central knoll. One or more structures here have been despoiled of their stone, perhaps in relatively recent times to construct the little Customs cottage and dwellings of the later nineteenth century. The site is heavily overgrown and no building plans can be distinguished. Two well carved fragments of engaged columns in fine grained sandstone suggest a structure of some pretension. On the northern side a broad ditch appears to surround the summit, perhaps indicating an early enclosed site. If this enclosing work ran continuously around the summit it would have embraced a rough oval measuring 25 metres in length and 15 metres wide' (Todd 1983, 122).

1.4.11 The Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (CSHER) identified the enclosure from an RAF aerial photograph of 1946 (photo ref. CPE/UK1794 12 OCT 46 4025-6) which shows an enclosure '*lying 23m to the south-east of the site of St. George's Chapel. The enclosure is curvilinear, 16m east-west by 7.5m north south and probably defined by a wall or a stony bank. The feature is of uncertain date and function*' (CSHER PRN 57328).

1.4.12 In 2003 a geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd on the areas of lawn to the south of Island House, on behalf of an American treasure hunter who had a copy of '*an authentically old-looking treasure map*' of the island with an 'X' on it. The Atkins sisters were given the map by a Cumbrian clergyman who claimed it had been in his family for several

generations (Dunn 2005, 70). A single geophysical anomaly appeared of interest, and on excavation a large stone slab was identified.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2008), providing full details of the research aims and methods.

2.1.2 In summary, the aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Of particular interest was the establishment of the date of foundation for both the chapels, how they may have related to each other and the location of any associated buildings.

3 METHODS

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

3.2.1 Nine trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to investigate standing earthworks (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.2.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.2.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.2.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

- 3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil. A permeable membrane was laid over the deposits within Trench 2 before backfilling.
- 3.2.7 A unique Site code (TTL 08) was agreed prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 28th – 31st May 2008. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2007), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Details of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out in two areas using a combination of magnetic and resistance survey (**Figure 1**).

Area 1-The Mainland

- 4.2.2 The magnetic survey (**Figure 1A**) identified an area of increased magnetic response (A) in the northeast of the survey is in the approximate vicinity of Monks House, and may be related to this monastic building.
- 4.2.3 In the south-west of the area, three ditches (B) are evident. These may reflect a possible monastic boundary or a former field division. Ditches elsewhere, such as (C) could also be given the same interpretation.
- 4.2.4 Other potential archaeological anomalies have been identified throughout the data which may be related to the monastic site; interpretation is difficult due to the lack of clarity and the surrounding natural responses. The data are dominated by some strong magnetic responses, particularly those at (D) which are likely to reflect the local igneous geology of the area. Other swathes of natural responses have been identified. These responses have made any interpretation difficult as the potential archaeology will have been masked by these strong anomalies. A ferrous response (E), according to a local habitant, was the location of a naval gun platform. A curving ferrous response can be seen running through the south/south-east of the data, this may reflect metalling of the current footpath or a pipe/cable buried in a trench containing a highly magnetic fill. Other ferrous responses are likely to be of a modern origin.
- 4.2.5 The resistance survey over Monks House (**Figure 1B**) revealed an area of high resistance (1), which is likely to be rubble associated with the building. A handful of trends (2), both linear and curvilinear, may be of interest and associated with the house; possibly indicating garden features, although they may relate to natural features.

- 4.2.6 A band of low resistance corresponds to the curving ferrous anomaly as seen in the magnetic data.

Area 2 - The Island

- 4.2.7 An area was surveyed using resistance over the remains of St Michael's Chapel (**Figure 1D**), but due to the overgrowth, topography and the small size of the survey area the interpretation is difficult. There are some areas of high resistance, on an east-west alignment, that are likely to be the remains of the chapel. Other high and low readings are due to the topography. Due to the nature of the site the survey could not be extended.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Site A: The Mainland

- 4.3.1 The mainland site consisted of two main areas of investigation, the Lammana Chapel and Monks House, both previously investigated by Croft Andrew in the 1930s. Trenches 2, 4 and 8 were positioned on the chapel and Trench 6 at Monks House (**Figure 1A**). Although the chapel is not precisely east – west aligned (being rather east-north-east – west-south-west), in the following discussion, except where the contrary is made explicit, the chapel will be treated as if it is east – west aligned.

Lammana Chapel: Trenches 2, 4 and 8 (**Figure 2**)

- 4.3.2 Difficulties encountered at the chapel site concerned the fact that both the depth of archaeology exposed by Croft Andrew, and the amount of rebuilding or consolidation that he performed subsequent to his excavation, were unknown.

Trench 2

- 4.3.3 Trench 2 started as a narrow trench stretching from the north to the south walls of the chapel, at the junction between the nave and the chancel. It was later extended to both the east and the west in response to the archaeology encountered, and was eventually joined to Trench 4.

- 4.3.4 After removal of the topsoil, the first features encountered were the south chapel wall (227/228) and the apparent southern chancel arch wall (206). Wall (206), however, proved to be only one to two courses high and while clearly deliberately laid seemed to lack any clear structure (**Figure 3, Plate 1**). Its position, however, did correspond to the wall that Croft Andrew describes as *'a very inferior screen wall' having 'no foundations, its bottom courses being laid on the floor'* (Olson 1994, 114). It is also uncertain how much of the southern wall (227/228) was original. In an attempt to establish the depth that the 1936 excavation reached, the trench was extended eastwards along the south wall in the hope of locating the slate chancel floor exposed by Croft Andrew.

- 4.3.5 It is known that after Croft Andrew's excavations the chapel site was left open (Olson 1994, 96). Trench 2 revealed no obvious edges of excavation for any of Croft Andrew's trenches, but it seems as though he at least cleared the interior to a reasonably flat level. He describes the nave area floor as *'at first of living rock, left in a very rough state, but having its chinks and crannies filled with gravel and earth to form a reasonably smooth surface. This surface however was not horizontal, but sloped gently from the north-west to the south-east'* (Olson 1994, 112).

- 4.3.6 This depth of clearance is borne out by a contemporary photograph of the western part of the nave. In the north-west corner of the nave the level of the 'living rock' in the vicinity of the postholes is 45.12m aOD. This is 0.40m above the surviving top of the south chapel wall (227/228). This wall is also 0.22m below the highest point on the slate chancel floor (222). All this suggests that Croft Andrew may not have cleared much below the first few courses of the southern wall as it now stands.
- 4.3.7 Beneath the topsoil in the southern part of Trench 2 was a series of deposits, some of which contained evidence for the sorting of coarse components, consistent with the gradual movement of material downslope. This suggests that the present topsoil had accumulated post-1936, but that the lower deposits were relatively undisturbed.
- 4.3.8 Two sondages were dug on either side of wall (206) up against the southern wall line. In the extreme south-east corner of the trench in the section edge was a narrow cut (208) filled with material (209) that could not be easily distinguished from the topsoil. It is thought that this is the location of Croft Andrew's inhumation within the chancel area. In the preserved section beneath (206), overlain by some rough slate rubble, a similarly profiled cut was also observed. This, however, appeared to be a different feature - the cut (229) was considered to be the burial found in 1936 that appeared to run under the screen wall. The depth appears to be relatively shallow, but it is not inconsistent with Croft Andrew's quoted measurements.
- 4.3.9 Wall (206) was not keyed into wall (228) at all. The deposits beneath it were also slightly more mixed than those seen at the trench edge, in particular the rough slate rubble that appeared to be the only foundation for (206). It is possible, therefore, that (206) is in fact a later rebuild by Croft Andrew of the southern portion of the chancel arch wall, probably to mark its position. This idea is supported by its absence in one of Croft Andrew's site illustrations. An area of slightly projecting stones from the northern face of (228), which would have provided the keying in for the chancel arch wall, is neither bonded to (206) nor does it occupy precisely the same position. This area is significantly wider than (206), is of the same width as wall (207) (the corresponding northern wall for the chancel), and extends to the below the base of (206).
- 4.3.10 At a later point in the excavation, human skeletal remains were found in the sondage to the west of (206). At this point the wall was removed in order to expose and excavate grave (216).
- 4.3.11 Wall (207), bedded onto a rough slate rubble levelling layer (239), was much better constructed than (206), consisting of rough slate facing slabs with a rubble core. Butting up to this a small portion of the slate chancel floor (222) described by Croft Andrew was revealed (**Figure 5, Plate 10**, centre left).
- 4.3.12 A number of stones were subsequently removed from wall (227/228), in order to clarify the construction and phasing of this wall. The majority of those removed were on the southern face and represented collapse, tumble or reconstruction under the direction of Croft Andrew. A photograph of the excavated area of the north-east chancel area shows a workman placing stones to mark the western face of the east wall as well as loose slates piled up on the walls. Removal of the loose and displaced stone work revealed that there was an area of reconstruction (234) that overlay the chancel wall

(228). This was distinctive from the original wall in that it contained a greater percentage of sediment between the slates, which appears to have been used as a deliberate bonding agent. The joints between the slates were also larger, the facing slabs of the original chapel walls being of more skilled construction and better coursed.

- 4.3.13 Projecting from the southern edge of the southern chapel wall were substantial stepped footings. This is likely to be a purely practical construction technique owing to the topography of the site, i.e. wide footings bracing the south wall against the slope. The south wall also extends down to a greater depth on its southern face, suggesting that it was built into the slope of the hill. The northern face shows a much finer, vertical face. Here, the distinction between walls (227) and (228) could be seen, separated by a narrow gap that extended only partially into the wall (**Figure 5, Plate 10**, background). This distinction could not be seen in the southern face. The void lies directly to the west of the presumed position of the chancel arch wall, and may be connected to the construction of a rood screen.
- 4.3.14 The southern wall of the nave (227) was of almost identical construction to the southern chancel wall (228) and on the same alignment. Croft Andrew, however, was certain that these walls represented two separate building phases. Certainly the footings of (228) do extend slightly further south and the northern face appears to be slightly battered rather than strictly vertical as (227), but no stratigraphic relationship between these two walls could be established during the excavation.
- 4.3.15 Banked up against wall (227) and (228) were deposits (202) and (240), the former containing a greater percentage of slate fragments. One of these two deposits may represent Croft Andrew's 'earth floor'. There was no trace of any construction cut through (202) or (240) for walls (227) or (228) and the slightly battered profile of (228) argues against these walls being built into these deposits. This is crucial to the stratigraphic sequence since it places at least two graves, (216) and (232) (see below), before the construction of these walls.
- 4.3.16 The base of wall (227) was fractionally deeper than (228), but both appeared to be bedded on deposit (213)/(241). Beneath this was deposit (242), through which graves (216) and (232) were cut (**Figure 3, Plate 2**).
- 4.3.17 Grave cut (216) was neither east – west aligned, nor did it share the same alignment as the southern wall, being rather south-east – north-west aligned. Five large slate slabs corresponded with an area of disturbance (220) within the grave cut. As one *in situ* upright slate slab was found at the foot end of the grave, and there are indications of uprights at both head and feet of the other graves, it is believed that these slates may represent disturbed uprights from the head end of grave (216). The lower half of the inhumation (217) within the grave was in relatively good condition. It was of an adult male laid supine with his feet to the north-east. Above the level of the pelvis, however, the bones had been disturbed by the later cut. Much of the bone had been deliberately redeposited at the base of this cut, but some of the bones had been removed (**Figure 2B**). Bone from this grave was sampled for radiocarbon dating, yielding a date of 1200-1280 cal. AD (UBA-9759, 799±23 BP).

- 4.3.18 On the same alignment and extending into the eastern edge of the trench was feature (232), interpreted as a second grave on the basis of similarity to (216), although only a small part was exposed. An *in situ* upright slate slab marked the south-west end of the cut.
- 4.3.19 A sub-rectangular cut (215) was sealed by layer (240) – one of the possible floor layers. The cut was lined with upright slate slabs (211) and covered by horizontal slates (210). This feature (group 235) was judged to be too small to be a cist grave but is believed instead to have been a reliquary (**Figure 3, Plate 3**). It was positioned directly under the centre of the presumed chancel arch and aligned roughly in line with the chapel. It was cut through deposit (225). No remains were found within it. As bone preservation within grave (216) was good, it can be assumed that either no bone was ever present in (235) or that they were removed at some stage after deposition. There was an area of disturbance (236) at the east end of the feature that may relate to the revisiting of the feature, but a direct stratigraphic relationship could not be established.
- 4.3.20 Between (235) and (216) was another feature (224). It was not excavated, but its similarity of form and alignment to (216) suggests that it was another burial. There was an upright slab at the east end, as well as upright slabs along the north-west edge. This feature cut through deposits (225) and (242).
- 4.3.21 On the northern side of (224) was a sub-oval mass of clay and slate slabs (223), interpreted as a possible post-pad. Its location beneath what is assumed to be the span of the chancel arch, but slightly off centre, is curious. There is no corresponding pad to the north but here the bedrock rises and may have fulfilled the same function. Stratigraphically it is unclear whether (223) is an earlier feature, perhaps unconnected with the chapel layout, or whether it relates to the construction of the chancel arch, perhaps as a temporary support for scaffolding.
- 4.3.22 On the eastern edge of the trench a small section of possible wall was seen (226) (**Figure 5, Plate 12**, centre). Due to the small extent revealed it was not possible to confirm whether this represents an east – west wall, or a small portion of a north – south wall. It does, however, seem to be slightly misaligned with the chapel walls. It may belong to an earlier phase, although the construction is identical to the other chapel walls.
- 4.3.23 Deposit (225) was compact and typically comprised a high proportion of slate slabs and fragments generally lying horizontally. It was exposed in the central area of the trench. It is rough but fairly level, and is likely to have formed a surface, perhaps providing a firm bedding for an overlying earth floor. Its relationship to (242) was not established.
- 4.3.24 On the fairly level outcrop of bedrock found in the north-west part of the trench was an area of mortar (205) was uncovered. The mortar was of almost identical composition to the mortar found adhering to the walls, including the inclusion of crushed slate. Embedded in this material was a very small and fairly abraded piece of pottery, dated to the 13th century. This small deposit may have been intended to even out some of the unevenness of the underlying bedrock. Overlying (205) was deposit (204), superficially identical to the 1930s backfill (202), but photographs from the excavation do not show the mortar deposit, nor is it mentioned in Olson's report (1994). Deposit (204), then, appears to have been undisturbed.

- 4.3.25 In the extreme northern end of the trench a small portion of an east – west aligned wall was seen (238). The full width and height of this was not exposed. This appears to be the ‘rough kerbing’ as located by Croft Andrew in Trench L in 1936 which was one of a number of indications that he had suggesting further buildings might lie to the north.
- 4.3.26 In common with Croft Andrew’s excavation occasional water worn pebbles were found with the deposits, generally white or pale yellow in colour. However since an anthropogenic origin could not be proved they were not retained.
- Trench 4
- 4.3.27 Trench 4 was sited along the northern wall of the nave, and targeted on the postholes and northern entrance identified by Croft Andrew. It was later extended to the east and joined Trench 2 (**Figure 5, Plate 9 & 11**).
- 4.3.28 Underneath the topsoil was a deposit (402) rich in slate rubble, banked up against the chapel wall (409). Originally thought to be backfill from the 1930s excavation, it became clear that Croft Andrew left the western end of the chapel largely exposed and unbackfilled. The bulk of (402) is, therefore, composed of tumble and weathered material from the walls and surrounding hillside.
- 4.3.29 The north-west corner of the chapel was seen to be formed from a single wall (409). This slate-built wall was founded directly on the slate bedrock. Just to the east of the northern entrance bedrock rises up and wall (409) butts up against it.
- 4.3.30 Small patches of lime mortar on the southern face of wall (409) acted as plastering over the stones. The use of mortar was noted by Croft Andrew in both the 1935 and the 1936 excavation (Olson 1994, 101, 104-106) and his site photographs show large areas of white mortar on the southern face of (409), much more extensive that what is now visible.
- 4.3.31 Some 2.7m from the north-west corner was an entrance way (**Figure 3, Plate 4**). Mortar plastering was found on the internal faces of the doorway. Excavation revealed two steps leading north through wall (409), although photographs from the 1936 excavation show a lower step (since lost), a higher step (not uncovered) forming a small landing, and then three steps leading westwards.
- 4.3.32 The bedrock (403) is very uneven In the north-west corner. Within this area Croft Andrew located two postholes (although it is uncertain whether he actually excavated them). These were rediscovered ((405) and (407)) and found to be on nearly the same alignment as wall (409); they were cut directly into the bedrock.
- 4.3.33 Almost directly in line with the western edge of the doorway the bedrock was cut into two level platforms with a sloping step of bedrock between them. The lower platform in particular has been cut smooth and level and shows some traces of wear. The upper ‘step’ projects for just under 0.5m south of wall (409), then slopes downwards. The lower platform is defined at the western end by a south - north groove (410) cut into the bedrock. The function of these 'steps' is unclear, but they may merely have offered easier access to the northern entrance.

- 4.3.34 It does not seem that Croft Andrew dug this deep in this area of the trench. While he definitely encountered the slightly higher bedrock outcropping around postholes (405) and (407), photographs of the nave area show material still overlying the lower bedrock platform. Deposit (404), then, must be regarded as undisturbed and may represent a levelling or rough flooring layer. Alternatively, since roof slates were recovered from the corresponding deposit (204) in Trench 2, it may relate to the collapse and abandonment of the structure.

Trench 8

- 4.3.35 Trench 8 was located at the junction of the western porch wall with the southern wall of the nave, in order to confirm Croft Andrew's assertion that the porch was a later phase of the chapel.
- 4.3.36 Removal of topsoil and wall tumble revealed that although the porch wall (803) was of similar construction to the chapel wall (804) it was definitely built later, with a clear butt joint up against (804).
- 4.3.37 Projecting in front of wall (804) was a wide, stepped footing (805) (**Figure 3, Plate 6**). This is similar to what was encountered in Trench 2 and appears to be of the same build as (804).
- 4.3.38 Some faint traces of lime mortar, used as a plaster, could be seen on the internal face of wall (803), similar to the material used on the internal face of wall (409).

Monks House: Trench 6 (Figure 4)

- 4.3.39 Trench 6 was placed in an attempt to locate the western wall of Monks House, which Croft Andrew identified in his 1936 excavation. The geophysical survey produced anomalies, but none could be interpreted as wall lines.
- 4.3.40 Removal of turf and topsoil, a thin shillet-rich hillwash deposit (602) and colluvium layer (604) revealed *in situ* archaeology.
- 4.3.41 The earliest observed layer was a natural colluvial deposit (606), cut by (608), the footings trench for the western wall of Monks House. The western wall (605) (**Figure 5, Plate 7**), which was the same thickness as the extant eastern wall, was butted on its western (external) side by a possible occupation/activity trample layer (603), containing pottery dating to the later medieval period (14th or 15th century).
- 4.3.42 Wall (605) was partially overlain by post-demolition deposit (607) which also filled part of the interior of the building.

Site B: Looe Island

- 4.3.43 Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 9 were located on or around the summit of the island and targeted upon the site of the proposed chapel. Trench 5 was located in the garden to the south of Island House.

Trench 1 (Figure 7)

- 4.3.44 Trench 1 was positioned over some clearly defined earthworks at the summit of the island, diagonally across the presumed chapel.

- 4.3.45 Removal of the topsoil revealed a series of post-demolition accumulation deposits - (102), (103), (108), (109) and (114). These deposits which sealed *in situ* archaeology.
- 4.3.46 Stratigraphically the earliest feature within the trench was the construction cut (125) for the northern chapel wall. This cut buried ground surface (124) on the northern side of the building, and the highest point of the natural geology (111/122) had been levelled off to create a flat building surface.
- 4.3.47 A number of structural elements of the chapel were recorded, although these had been heavily disturbed by the robbing of the stonework. The northern wall (107) lay within construction cut (125). The wall had been built up against the natural outcrop, and had been stepped to add stability (**Figure 8, Plate 15**).
- 4.3.48 Bonded on to the southern side of (107) was chancel arch respond (118) (**Figure 8, Plate 16**). It was clear that the northern wall and the respond had been constructed in the same phase as the outer edge of (107) projected out at this point, creating a substantial buttress to counterbalance the respond arch. The continuation of the northern wall into the chancel was not observed within the trench. Both (107) and (118) were covered with a layer of plaster or render.
- 4.3.49 At the eastern end of the trench 1 were the remains of the eastern wall of the chancel (112). To the north of (112) and lying directly upon the natural bedrock was mortar spread (126), interpreted as the remains of the wall bedding layer, and butting against the outside of (112) was possible flagged surface (113).
- 4.3.50 A number of small patches of mortar (110) were observed within the interior of the chapel, lying directly upon the natural bedrock, which were either the remains of a mortar floor, or the bedding layer for a flagged or tiled surface.
- 4.3.51 Within the centre of the chapel, directly beneath the probable chancel arch, was grave (115) containing skeleton (116) (**Figure 8, Plate 17**). The grave was only partially excavated, but the individual was identified as an adult male, aligned east-west. The grave backfill (117) contained pottery dating to c. AD 1280; once this backfill had been removed it became clear that the grave had already been excavated and that the cranium and the right femur of the individual had been removed. This is most likely to have been due to antiquarian activity, and may have occurred following the partial collapse of the chapel and robbing of stonework. After the disturbance, the grave was covered with layer (105), possibly the remains of original grave backfill, and this was sealed beneath a deliberate layer of flat granite stones (104).

Trench 3 (Figure 7)

- 4.3.52 Trench 3 was located over a hollow, possibly the remains of a feature dug into the earthwork remains of the chapel.
- 4.3.53 Removal of the current turf and topsoil (301) and layer (302) revealed a sub circular feature (304) cutting layer (320) and backfilled with (303), this was proved to be of modern date will be discussed below.
- 4.3.54 Possibly the earliest archaeological deposit within the trench was layer (307), a possible external surface or trample layer which accumulated during

the construction of the chapel. No construction cut was observed for the chapel wall, but (307) appears to predate the construction. The north-east corner of the chapel was revealed, comprising walls (310) (the continuation of wall (107) in Trench 1) and (311) (**Figure 8, Plate 18**). The junction of the two walls had been destroyed a later feature (304).

- 4.3.55 Butted on to the western side of wall (311) was buttress (312) (**Figure 8, Plate 19**), clearly a later addition as it was separated from (311) by accumulation deposit (314), probably deposited during the lifetime of the chapel. This deposit contained a large rim sherd of medieval Stuffle ware pottery, dating to the 13th or 14th century.
- 4.3.56 On the western side of wall (311) and south of buttress (312) was a possible flagged surface (318), very similar to flagged surface (113) in Trench 1. The chapel may have been surrounded by a paved area, at least at the western and eastern ends.
- 4.3.57 Two probable graves, (308) and (315), were observed outside the chapel. Grave (308) cut (307) and had been cut through by later feature (304); this grave was not investigated, but the upper fill contained 15th/16th century pottery sherds. Grave (315) appeared to have been cut through paved surface (318), but it was only partially revealed. It appeared to be a stone-lined cist grave, with vertical upright stones and capping stones (**Figure 8, Plate 18**, top left).
- 4.3.58 Either during the lifetime of the chapel, or following the abandonment, layer (319) accumulated on the outside of wall (311) and buttress (312) and sealed paved surface (318) and the slab covering grave (315). This deposit was sealed in turn beneath a post-demolition accumulation deposit (320).
- 4.3.59 Deposit (320) was cut by (304), dug for the placing a flag pole and Ordnance Survey Triangulation Station, shown on the 1882 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map of the island.

Trench 5 (Figure 6, Plate 13)

- 4.3.60 Trench 5 was sited to investigate the geophysical anomaly and large stone slab revealed during the hunt for treasure in 2003, on the upper of two lawn terraces to the south of Island House.
- 4.3.61 Removal of the turf and topsoil of the garden lawn revealed the exploratory hole of the treasure hunter (511). The trench was then widened and three layers of redeposited natural revealed, (502), (503) and (504). These deliberate deposits were the result of the levelling of the area to create a flat garden landscape.
- 4.3.62 A colluvial layer (505) overlying a lower natural layer (506) was sealed beneath (504), and cutting (505) was a large irregular shaped feature (510) which contained stone slab (509). This was a deliberately cut feature slightly larger than the stone slab, clearly dug to deliberately bury the stone. No carvings were observed on the stone and no dating material was recovered from either (508) or (509), the backfill deposits over the stone. No evidence of a standing socket for the stone was observed.

Trench 7 (Figure 6, Plate 14)

- 4.3.63 Trench 7 investigated an earthwork hollow located approximately 40m to the south of the main chapel site. This was clearly part of a ditch curving around to the north-east and west, recorded in the CSHER as PRN 57328.
- 4.3.64 Under the topsoil, two parallel ditches were revealed, cutting the natural basal geology (702). Pottery recovered from (703) was dated to the Iron Age or Romano-British period. The smaller ditch (705) contained pottery dating to the late 3rd to early 4th century AD and a coin hoard of eight Roman coins with a similar date range.

Trench 9 (Figure 7)

- 4.3.65 Trench 9 was sited across an east-west earthwork, to see whether it marked the southern wall of the chapel.
- 4.3.66 A thick layer of broken roofing slates and granite (902) was exposed below the topsoil. This post-demolition infilling deposit sealed two graves, (905) and (909). Grave (905) was partially exposed (**Figure 8, Plate 20**) and contained the skull and left humerus of skeleton (906), overlain by backfill (907). Grave (909) comprised a cist grave that had partially collapsed; it contained purple slate uprights (904) and covering slab (903).
- 4.3.67 The natural shillet bedrock was observed at the base of the trench but in section it was clear that (905) and (909) had cut through (908), a possible buried ground surface.
- 4.3.68 The graves were located on the outside of the chapel, but the southern wall was not observed.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from seven of the nine trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trenches 5 or 9); the assemblage overall is small, with most of the material concentrated in Trenches 1-3. The assemblage ranges in date from Iron Age to modern.
- 5.1.2 Many of the finds recovered came from post-demolition layers in Trenches 1 and 3, from topsoil contexts in all trenches, and from 1930s backfill and other contexts relating to modern disturbance. In other words, very little material was recovered from what may be *in situ* contexts.
- 5.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, metalwork). All finds data are currently held on an Access database, which forms part of the project archive.
- 5.1.4 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular

reference to the construction and use of the Lammana Chapel on the mainland and St Michael's Chapel on Looe Island.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage includes material of Iron Age/Romano-British, Medieval and post-medieval date.

Iron Age/Romano-British

5.2.2 Three ware types are represented amongst this chronological group: gabbroic wares (16 sherds), and Black Burnished ware of south Devon (seven sherds) and south-east Dorset type (three sherds). Most sherds came from Trench 7.

5.2.3 The gabbroic wares are of Iron Age origin, and show little development through the Roman period. It is possible that some of the sherds seen here are of pre-conquest date; one rim sherd from a slack-shouldered jar from ditch (705) is certainly Iron Age. There is also one dish rim from ditch (703), and a dropped-flange bowl from ditch (705). The Black Burnished wares of south Devon origin are distinguished by the abundance of granitic inclusions, including prominent mica flakes; the only diagnostic sherd here is an everted jar rim from ditch (705). The only three sherds of south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (all undiagnostic) also came from this context.

Medieval

5.2.4 The medieval wares are probably all of at least relatively local manufacture. All are at least slightly micaceous, and most fall within the broad ware tradition of 'granitic-derived wares' found along the south coast of Cornwall and Devon. Within this tradition, the Site lies roughly midway between two potential sources: St Germans and Lostwithiel. Wares from the former source have not as yet been successfully characterised, but do include calcareous wares; three sherds from the Site containing fine shelly inclusions are likely to originate from this source (from Trench 3 topsoil and the upper fill of possible grave (308)), and are probably 15th or 16th century in date. Lostwithiel wares are distinctive through their use of white mica; probable examples here were seen in grave (308), and their date is also thought to be 15th or 16th century.

5.2.5 The precursor to the later medieval Lostwithiel wares is seen here in several examples of Stuffle-type ware, including a large jar rim from layer (314), identical to one previously recorded from Lammana and dated as 13th or 14th century (O'Mahoney 1994, fig. 20, 5). Also present are a few sherds of chert-tempered and sandy wares, none diagnostic. All medieval sherds came from either Trench 1 or Trench 3.

Post-Medieval

5.2.6 Post-medieval wares are presented by three sherds of Staffordshire-type (or, in this instance, more probably Bristol-type) slipwares, and two modern refined whitewares. All sherds came from topsoil or post-demolition deposits in Trenches 1 and 3.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Mortar

5.3.1 All of the CBM recovered comprises fragments of roof tile in micaceous fabrics. One is certainly from a ridge tile (post-demolition deposit 108), while

others could be either from peg or ridge tiles. All are likely to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

- 5.3.2 Building material is also present in the form of mortar. Most of this material came from post-demolition deposits in Trenches 1 and 3, or from topsoil or 1930s backfill material in Trenches 2 and 8.

5.4 Stone

- 5.4.1 Most of the stone recovered comprises building material, and this category is largely made up of slate roofing material. Fragments came from a very similar range of contexts to the mortar (see above) – topsoil and post-demolition contexts in Trenches 1 and 3, and 1930s backfill in Trenches 2 and 8.

- 5.4.2 Two fragments from squared ashlar blocks, with visible toolmarks, came from Trench 1, one from post-demolition deposit (102), and one from layer (105). Both are in a similar igneous rock, either diorite or dolerite.

- 5.4.3 A small piece of slate (presumably from a roofing tile) has been deliberately trimmed to a disc of 70mm diameter. This came from ditch (705), and was associated with Romano-British pottery.

5.5 Coins

- 5.5.1 A small hoard of eight late Roman coins was recovered. These were all recovered from layer 706, the fill of 705, a shallow ditch. All eight coins date to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD.

- 5.5.2 Seven of the eight are radiate *antoniniani* of the late 3rd century AD. The earliest of these is an *antoninianus* of Valerian I struck between AD 253 and 260. Five coins are Barbarous Radiates – contemporary copies of officially struck coins. Such copies were probably struck to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain and to supply sufficient small change for the provinces needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are not uncommon as site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins. The latest of the *antoniniani* dates from the reign of the British usurper Allectus (AD 293 – 296).

- 5.5.3 The latest coin in the hoard is a ‘camp gate’ issue of the House of Constantine, minted between AD 324 – 330. The presence of this coin within the small hoard indicates that it was buried in the first half of the 4th century AD. The presence of seven radiate *antoniniani* in a hoard this late clearly indicates that coins of this date continued to circulate in the 4th century, despite the reform of the coinage under the Emperor Diocletian. Many of these issues – in particular the Barbarous Radiates - are heavily worn, supporting the suggestion that they had been in circulation for some time prior to their deposition.

5.6 Metalwork

- 5.6.1 Apart from coins, the metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, iron and other metal (the latter is a modern bottle top). The three copper alloy objects

comprise a rosette shaped mount, a 17th century trapezoidal buckle, and a modern cartridge case. All these came from topsoil contexts.

- 5.6.2 The ironwork includes a gin trap from post-demolition deposit (114), various short lengths of wire and cable (all modern, from topsoil and World War II-related contexts), and nails.

5.7 Human Bone

- 5.7.1 Human bone from three contexts was subject to assessment. All represented redeposited bone from Trenches 1 and 3 on the island site. The remains of two *in situ* inhumation burials, one in Trench 1 on Looe Island and one in Trench 2 on the mainland, were not lifted but assessed on site by the writer.

Redeposited bone

- 5.7.2 The redeposited bone was subject to a rapid scan to assess its condition, demographic data and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments were based on standard ageing and sexing methods (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for bone preservation according with McKinley (2004, fig 6). Stature estimates according with Trotter and Gleser (1952, 1958). A summary of the results from the post-excavation assessment is presented in **Table 2**.

- 5.7.3 The redeposited bone is all abraded and weathered, with old breaks and, in some cases, heavily fragmented. This suggest the bone was subject to several episodes of disturbance and redeposition, some possibly being left exposed to the elements for a period of time. The observed condition is commensurate with this bone representing the remains previously disturbed and described by antiquarian excavators. The *in situ* bone was in fairly good condition though slightly crushed by the weight of the overlying deposits, and the upper part of the skeleton had been cut through by a later foundation associated with the chapel. Some of the disturbed bone had not been redeposited within the hastily dug charnel pit (220).

- 5.7.4 A minimum of one individual, an adult male, was represented by the redeposited bone from the island site. There was no duplication of fragments, and although one femur (105) appears much more robust than other and may indicate a second individual, it could simply signify differential stresses exerted on the left and right sides of the lower limbs.

- 5.7.5 Slight pathological lesions were observed in the redeposited bone in the form of enthesophytes (new bone at the tendon/ligament insertions) on the femur shaft, indicative of repeated physical stress to the thigh muscles.

In situ burials

- 5.7.6 The *in situ* remains of burial (217) from the mainland chapel site represented those of an adult, c. 35-55 yr., probably male, with an estimated stature of c. 1.64m (5 feet 4½ inches). A humerus from this individual was lifted and sampled for radiocarbon dating, and produced a date of 1200-1280 cal. AD (UBA-9759, 799±23 BP).

- 5.7.7 The skeleton within grave (115) from the island chapel was only partially excavated due to time restraints, and no remains were removed from the grave. Individual clearly adult and probably male and about 1.66m tall (5 feet

5 inches). The remains were in good condition, but the grave had been opened and the cranium (but not the mandible) and the right femur removed by antiquarian activity.

5.8 Animal Bone

- 5.8.1 A total of 118 mammal and bird bones was hand-recovered at the site. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, so totals may vary from the raw fragment counts given in **Table 1**. Most of the material comes from robber trenches, the topsoil or disturbances from World War II. In addition, contexts (114), (202), (213) and (802) showed (heavy) bioturbation, and the material from these contexts is therefore not securely dated.
- 5.8.2 Bone preservation was excellent on the site. This resulted in a total of 92% of bones identifiable to species. At 3%, the number of loose teeth is low, probably a direct result from the low proportion of mammal bones. No gnawing marks were observed and no bones were burnt.
- 5.8.3 The material included horse (n=1), cattle (n=5), sheep/goat (n=13), pig (n=1), bird (n=19) and rabbit (n=69). No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. Bird species present include a large gull, songbird, woodpigeon, chicken and goose. Rabbit remains of all ages were present in contexts 102, 114, 301 and 303. As bioturbation was frequently noted on the site it is unlikely that these remains represent food waste. It is likely that the remains of gull and songbird belong to the natural background fauna (i.e. specimens that naturally died on the site), rather than species exploited for food.
- 5.8.4 One object from the topsoil in Trench 3 is a sagittally split and sawn-off *processus spinosus* of a thoracic cattle vertebra.

5.9 Other Finds

- 5.9.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of clay pipe (all plain stems), glass (all modern bottle), ironworking slag and marine shell (limpet and mussel).

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

- 6.1.1 There were no environmental samples taken during the course of this evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Prehistoric

- 7.1.1 No definitive evidence of prehistoric activity or finds was identified on Looe Island. The large buried granite slab in the garden of Island House (Trench 5) could be prehistoric in date, perhaps originally a standing stone, although its burial is likely to have occurred much later, perhaps during landscaping of the gardens in the 19th century. There is another standing stone on the

island, on the northern side, which could also be prehistoric. The evidence, however, remains uncertain.

7.1.2 No prehistoric material was recovered from the mainland site.

7.2 Iron Age/Romano-British

7.2.1 A number of Romano-British finds have been made on and around Looe Island (see **Section 1.3**), but no features of Romano-British date had been identified until the current programme of works.

7.2.2 Two ditches in Trench 7 contained pottery with a potential date range spanning the Iron Age/Romano-British period, and a small hoard of eight late 3rd to early 4th century AD Roman coins. The ditches may not, however, both be of Iron Age/Romano-British date.

7.2.3 The larger of the two ditches was clearly part of the pear-shaped enclosure identified by Todd (1983, 122) as *'a broad ditch' which 'appears to surround the summit, perhaps indicating an early enclosed site'*. It has been suggested that this enclosure was the *'lann'* or *'early Christian enclosure'* (Padel 1985) which gave rise to the name *'Lamma'*. The enclosure appears not to have been defensive, due to its shallow nature, but formed part of a conceptual barrier between the secular and the ecclesiastical also known as a *'vallum monasteria'*.

7.2.4 The smaller ditch, which contained the late Roman coin hoard, may have been a precursor to this enclosure ditch; the Iron Age/Romano-British pottery in the latter may therefore be residual. Alternatively, it is possible (though less likely) that the enclosure ditch was excavated in the Romano-British period and that it was still in use into the early Christian period. Due to the shallow depth of the topsoil, infilling of the ditches through natural accumulation could have occurred over quite some period of time.

7.2.5 The location of the enclosure is typical of Cornish early Celtic Christian sites with *'lann'* place-name elements, as these sites are *'typically in isolated positions away from established centres of population and administration rather than at their centre...one explanation may be that some at least developed on the sites of earlier cemeteries (indicated, for instance by the presence of inscribed stones) for which a marginal situation might have been preferred that then became normative'* (Yorke 2006, 175). It is therefore possible that the pear-shaped enclosure formed a cemetery boundary, which later became the part of the chapel *'lann'*.

7.2.6 No additional Romano-British material was recovered from the mainland chapel site. The pottery found by Croft Andrew was residual material and there are no indications of any features from which it might originally have been derived.

7.2.7 No dateable material was recovered to provide evidence of early Celtic Christian structures, either on Looe Island or by the mainland chapel.

7.3 Medieval and Later: the Chapels

7.3.1 Both of the chapels were originally dedicated to St Michael. The biblical angel Michael was of special significance to the early Christians (Manser

2004, 208-9). Sites in the British Isles dedicated to St. Michael date from the Saxon period. St Michael the archangel became linked in the Christian tradition to intercession for the dead (Daniel 12, 1-3) and escorting the soul to judgment, and hence to an association with cemetery chapels <http://www.answers.com/topic/michael>. There is also a strong link with hilltop shrines. The positioning of the two chapels can therefore be seen as a continuation of the tradition of hilltop sites dedicated to Michael.

- 7.3.2 The construction of the chapel on the mainland by at least 1289 is believed to have taken place as a result of the number of pilgrims attempting to reach the island chapel on St Michael's Day (29th September) in hazardous conditions. Access in the past, however, may have been much easier. The autumn equinox on the 23rd of September is marked by a large spring tide with the low neap tide following approximately seven days after <http://www.pol.ac.uk/home/insight/tidefaq.html#8>. This would coincide with Michaelmas and it may well be that the pilgrims then walked across a natural causeway to the island chapel. Examination of the aerial photographs of the island showed that as the waves and tide (heading north) reach the island they are forced around on the west and eastern sides, and as they meet to the north of the island any sediment being carried would be deposited, resulting in the build up of material and the creation of a natural causeway.
- 7.3.3 Recent investigation into sea-level changes in West Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and South Devon have shown that there has been a rise in sea level over the past 2000 years of around 1-1.5m (Massey *et al.* 2008, 429, fig 8). With tidal deposition of material and the creation of a causeway, access to the island by foot at low tide would have been a real possibility.
- 7.3.4 The formation of the causeway would have been dependent on repeated relatively gentle tides depositing sediment over some period of time as a single storm force event could undo all the natural accumulation and destroy the causeway. Thus as the sea level began to rise the island would have become more isolated, the perfect setting for an ascetic religious community.
- 7.3.5 The two chapels are at the same elevation to within a metre. This seems to have been deliberate. The island chapel as the original foundation would have been situated at the crest of the hill. The later mainland chapel was carefully situated at the same height even though this involved the labour intensive construction of a level building platform on the steep slope. The intention must have been to maintain a clear sightline between the two chapels, although this is now obscured by trees (**Figure 3, Plate 5**). There has also been speculation that the two chapels may have acted as sea marks (Olson 1994, 114). If aligned they give a trajectory passing to the west of The Ranneys, a dangerous line of rocks. Further marks would have been needed for the north-eastward passage into Looe Harbour. Two landmarks currently lie to the north-west of the chapels and two further marks lie to the south-west; it likely that in the past a network of such marks was used to navigate around this dangerous stretch of coast. The use of chapels or churches as sea marks or beacons is not uncommon, especially along the English Channel (Worth 1881, 207-9).

St Michael's Chapel

- 7.3.6 A single major phase of chapel construction was observed on the summit of Looe Island, with some evidence of later consolidation and strengthening of the building by the addition of buttresses. There was no evidence, however, of an earlier structure as had been initially thought.
- 7.3.7 The chapel had been heavily robbed of stonework and only the northern wall (Trench 1) and the north-west corner (Trench 3) were identified with any confidence. The south-eastern corner (Trench 1) was possibly identified but this was not clear. Nor was the southern wall revealed, and so the full dimensions of the building could not be ascertained. The proposed dimensions are derived from the extrapolated wall lines, when seen in relationship to grave (115), which, it is suggested, was located centrally within the chapel under the chancel arch (**Figure 7**). If this is the case, then the internal width of the chapel was approximately 6.9m. As only the one corner of the chapel was clearly observed (the north-west), the length of the chapel has been tentatively interpreted as approximately 13m.
- 7.3.8 Attempts to identify the southern wall were made by the excavation of Trench 9, but a possible cist grave and inhumation burial were revealed instead. These were considered to lie outside the southern wall, which would fit with the proposed dimensions of the building.
- 7.3.9 The building was composed of a nave and chancel and appeared to have been built in a single phase. Early chapels often consisted of a single nave which was later enlarged by the addition of a chancel and the removal of the original eastern wall. Here, the northern wall and chancel arch respond were clearly contemporaneous. No dating evidence for the initial construction of the chapel was recovered.
- 7.3.10 A later phase of activity consisted of the addition of a buttress at the north-western corner of the chapel, perhaps at the same time as the addition of supporting stonework placed on the western side of the chancel arch respond. A large, unabraded pottery sherd of Stuffle Park ware, dated as 13th or 14th century, was found in an accumulation deposit between the chapel wall and the western buttress. This would fit with the architectural style of this right-angled buttress, which was used up to the middle of the 13th century, when the style changed to diagonally set buttresses.
- 7.3.11 It is possible that these additional works occurred following the sale of the chapel by Glastonbury Abbey to the lord of the manor of Portlooe in 1289. The chapel may have fallen into a state of disrepair prior to the sale, and been consolidated following the appointment of Andrew as the '*portionary*' or secular chaplain in 1297.
- 7.3.12 The burial beneath the chancel arch had been previously disturbed, resulting in the removal of the cranium and right femur, although it is not certain when this took place. Pottery from the backfill, which could have derived from deposits disturbed either during the initial grave digging or during the (presumed antiquarian) investigation of grave, is of 13th century date, but cannot be used to date the burial. The disturbance to the grave is most likely to correspond to the episode in c. 1783 recorded by Dunn (2005, 24), when a 'remarkably large' skeleton was uncovered. The grave was subsequently backfilled again and covered by a layer of capping stones.

- 7.3.13 No dating evidence was obtained from the graves outside the chapel and it is unclear whether they pre- or post-date the building. The proximity to the chapel wall, however, may imply that they post-date the building.
- 7.3.14 The sale of the island by Burthogg Mayow of Bray in Cornwall to Benjamin Salmon is described in an indenture dated June 1730, and describes the property as 'all houses, buildings, edifices, lands (containing by estimation 20 acres of land)' (Dunn 2005, 29-30). This indicates the presence of structures on the island at this point, but no secure date for the demolition of the chapel can be ascertained.
- 7.3.15 The 1882 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map of the island shows a flagstaff and Ordnance Survey Triangulation Station on the summit of the island located within the earthworks labelled as 'St. George's Chapel (site of)'. Trench 3 located this position.

Lammana Chapel

- 7.3.16 Crucially, the evaluation of the mainland site showed that Croft Andrew was right to believe that there are still a number of unanswered questions about the chapel and Monks House. Significantly, it was demonstrated that the chapel still contains a number of undisturbed deposits, particularly on the southern side. Although not confirmed by the evaluation, it is suggested by Olson (1994, 100, 113) that only the northern half of the chancel was cleared in the 1930s, apart from a trench along the southern wall. Croft Andrew himself, however, notes that the chancel area had been previously disturbed (Olson 1994, 106). There is, therefore, some potential that any further work on the chapel site could answer questions of phasing and dating.
- 7.3.17 The chapel was found not to correspond to the traditional east – west alignment but rather to be east-north-east – west-south-west aligned. This is a result of the topography of the site and perhaps also the desire to create a sightline to the island chapel. The evaluation confirmed the ground-plan outlined by Croft Andrew of a two-celled slate building with a southern porch. The internal dimensions of the chancel are around 4.10m by 4.77m, and this was separated from the nave by a chancel arch. There were also some indications of the presence of a rood screen directly in front of the chancel arch. The internal dimensions of the nave are around 4.25m by 8.26m. The intervention in Trench 8 confirmed Croft Andrew's assertion that the porch was a later addition. The internal dimensions of the porch are around 2.44m by 2.80m.
- 7.3.18 The date of foundation of Lammana chapel is unknown, but it is generally presumed to post-date the St Michael's chapel on the island. The latter is known to have been in existence from before the mid-12th century but the precise date of its foundation is still unknown (see above). The fact that it is not listed in Domesday Book does not necessarily preclude a pre-conquest date as not all churches were recorded (Butler 1976, 18). The radiocarbon date obtained from burial (216) shows the mainland chapel to have been in existence in the 13th century, while the pottery found by Croft-Andrew suggests it is possibly 12th century in origin.
- 7.3.19 It seems that the chapel was dissolved after the Commissions visit of 1548, despite local protest (Lewis 1935, 22-5). On maps dating to 1539 and 1588 only the island chapel is shown, but both maps are naval in their focus and

subject matter. The inclusion of the island chapel may therefore be due to its prominent position, and the exclusion of the mainland chapel may not imply its destruction. Indeed we know from the Commission records of 1548 that the mainland chapel had 60 attendees, profits of 2s and 6oz of plate and jewels whereas the island chapel, visited two years previously, had no plate or jewels and services '*hath of late discontinued*' (Snell 1953, 47-8).

- 7.3.20 Although most commentators consider Lammana chapel to be the secondary foundation, there is a minority that consider Lammana to have been the earlier site (e.g. Keast 1987, 7). Croft Andrew hoped to prove a pre-conquest date for the chapel and ultimately that it could be proved to be Celtic. However, the vessel that he dated as from 400-1400AD and that '*tends to prove that the chapel existed some centuries before the Norman Conquest*' (Keast 1987, 8) is now identified as 12th century chert-tempered ware. Equally, the '*unmortared masonry*' is not, as he suggested, indicative of a pre-Norman structure, and the jamb stone that he paralleled to Irish oratories is paralleled by early 13th century examples (Olson 1994, 101). The positioning of the Lammana chapel is the strongest indication that it post-dates the island chapel. There is no evidence to support a period of use of the chapel before its ownership by Glastonbury Abbey.
- 7.3.21 Burial within the area of the nave was a relatively uncommon practice in the Anglo-Saxon period but was a practice that later increased in popularity (Rodwell 1989, 157). There appears to have been an early prohibition on burial within the 'liturgical fabric of the church' (Biddle 1976, 69). Important burials, however, were interred in the chancel from an early period, and it is common to see a number of inter-cutting burials, particularly in the most significant positions (Rodwell 1989, 157-8). The burials at Lammana, although on slightly different alignments, do seem to respect each other. There are, however, interments on two levels. Burials (216) and (242) both clearly pre-dated the construction of a chancel arch. The radiocarbon date from skeleton (217) gives this construction a *terminus post quem* in the 13th century. Croft Andrew's findings also suggest that the higher burials pre-dated the chancel division. Moreover, the chancel arch appears to have been contemporaneous with the south wall of the chancel (228).
- 7.3.22 The location of the burials is curious because it implies that either there was no chancel division, or that it was further east or west. If it was to the east there is a relatively small gap between (216) and (232) where it could have been located, and it would have to have related to an earlier south wall. Also, that would position the majority of burials within the nave. Perhaps if the wall was further west it need not have been the chancel division at all, but the original eastern extent of the chapel, placing all the burials outside the building. This would, however, place it further west than the end of the nave wall, although this does not necessarily rule out the possibility as this projecting end could have acted as a buttress. There is a third possibility; the evidence to support it is slight, but it is worth considering. This is that grave (216), and the linear band of deposits (225) and (226), represent an earlier building on a profoundly different alignment. This would be more in tune with the contours of the hill, but further divergent from the desired east – west alignment.
- 7.3.23 Croft Andrew was adamant that the chancel was a later addition (Keast 1987, 7). This is supported by the burials from the Time Team trench but also by the burial that he located that apparently ran beneath the chancel

arch wall. Croft Andrew considered the chancel to date from 1150-1250. While this was probably influenced by his idea that the 'Glastonbury work' was a later phase of the chapel, his conclusion is supported by the chert-tempered pottery found by him beneath the south-east corner stone. He considered a window in the east wall to be a later, 14th century insertion and that it predated the painted wall plaster that he found (Olson 1994, 114).

- 7.3.24 The void or gap between (227) and (228) in the northern face appears to have been left deliberately and is the likely position of a wood screen to support a rood (tableau of the crucifixion). This would therefore have been contemporary with the construction of the chancel arch.
- 7.3.25 The two post-holes and the rock-cut groove exposed in Trench 4 remain enigmatic. Do they belong to earlier (or later) timber structures? Croft Andrew considered the post-holes to relate to a gallery accessed by the external north-west steps (Olson 1994, 114). However, with no dating or stratigraphic evidence to suggest a position in the chronology, the most that can be said is that the post-holes appear to correlate well with the existing alignment of the nave and that the rock-cut groove lines up with the western edge of the north door.
- 7.3.26 The monastic presence and use of the chapel ceased with the license to alienate the property, granted in 1239 and acted upon in the late 13th century (Lewis 1935, 15-16). Despite the efforts of the Priory of Launceston, which owned the parish of Talland, to subsume Lammana under its jurisdiction, the ownership was granted to Walter of Treverbyn and a free Chapelry was established (Lewis 1935, 16-17). It could therefore be expected that the character of worship might alter after this date, and that the chapel fulfilled the function of a parish church rather than a pilgrimage site. The porch of a church is used during the ceremonies of baptism, matrimony and burial and so the construction of the porch might be linked to its more general use by the local people.
- 7.3.27 Croft Andrew believed that a small buttress on the external face of the western wall was designed to support a bell gable (Olson 1994, 114). Since this area was not uncovered, little can be added to support or deny this assertion, except that a bell was not one of the valuables listed by Chantry Commission in 1548.
- 7.3.28 Croft Andrew found several areas of masonry which he believed belonged to buildings to the north of the chapel, running under the cart track embankment (Olson 1994, 98, 103, 114). This embankment still exists today behind a screen of bushes; apart from confirming the position of one of these walls (238) no more is known. He also believed that a further building and burials lay to the east (Olson 1994, 111).
- 7.3.29 North entrances are traditionally linked to the devil and are often known as the devil's door (<http://www2.prestel.co.uk/aspen/sussex/devil.html#main5>). In normal circumstances it is therefore unlikely that it would have served as the main entrance to a chapel. Despite the satanic connection, however, the topography of the site appears to have dictated that the ancillary buildings for the chapel were situated to the north rather than to the south as is more usual.

- 7.3.30 Croft Andrew saw the higher ledge of bedrock on the northern side of the nave as acting as a bench and claimed to have found a corresponding ledge on the southern side built of loose stones (Olson 1994, 113). This parallels similar features found at St Ia's Chapel, Troon (Olson 1994, 125-6). Alternatively, this could simply be a result of the builders levelling only the central area of the chapel.
- 7.3.31 Croft Andrew found indications that stone from the northern wall was robbed after the infilling of the chancel with earth: *'he reports large plates of plaster remained in position, held by the earth body inside the chancel'* (Olson 1994, 106). He also noted disturbance of the chancel area (Olson 1994, 106). There were a small number of later pottery sherds, 16th century and onwards (O' Mahoney 1994), but the relatively small number of these does not suggest any period of sustained use of the site after it ceased to be a chapel.

Monks House

- 7.3.32 The excavation on the site of Monks House confirmed the presence of the south-western wall, although it did indicate that Croft Andrew's stated length of Monks House as 16.7m (Olson 1994, 114) is incorrect. The building appears to be closer to 15m long.
- 7.3.33 Croft Andrew's finds from the building were mainly confined to the period 13th-14th century while the few datable finds from Trench 6 were of mixed 13th/14th and later medieval date.
- 7.3.34 No evidence of any other structures to the immediate south-west of the building were found, although the area excavated was small. It seems likely that there would have been a number of buildings forming the priory during its pilgrimage heyday. Accommodation for the monks was probably situated adjacent to the chapel, but presumably hospitality would have been offered to both pilgrims and visitors and there may also have been buildings associated with the management of the land.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1.1 The Time Team evaluation has provided useful evidence with which to augment Croft Andrew's findings from the 1930s, and have established connections between the mainland and island chapels. Little firm dating evidence was recovered, but the radiocarbon date obtained from a burial in the mainland chapel is important in establishing the period of use of the chapel, and the limited examination of the human remains from both chapels provides evidence for the individuals buried there. A short publication, summarising the results of the evaluation, and their implications for Croft Andrew's findings, is recommended, for publication in *Cornish Archaeology*.

9 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 68734 and site code TTL08. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum, under the

Accession Codes TRURI 2008.37 (Looe Island) and TRURI 2008.38 (mainland site).

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	Total
Pottery	4/26	1/3	19/195	-	13/38	24/201	-	61/463
<i>Iron Age/Romano-British</i>	-	1/3	1/11	-	-	24/201	-	26/215
<i>Medieval</i>	3/21	-	13/164	-	13/38	-	-	39/223
<i>Post-Medieval</i>	1/5	-	5/20	-	-	-	-	6/25
Ceramic Building Material	1/62	2/99	1/96	-	-	-	-	4/257
Mortar	32/2141	50/840	30/819	-	-	-	11/483	123/4283
Clay Pipe	7/13	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/13
Stone	15/9100	9/4659	5/865	1/639	-	1/110	11/1130	42/16503
Glass	-	-	14/713	1/321	-	-	-	15/1034
Slag	1/1	10/239	-	-	-	-	-	11/240
Metal	9	4	22	19	-	8	2	64
<i>Coins</i>	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
<i>Iron</i>	9	4	21	18	-	-	-	52
<i>Other Metal</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Worked Bone	-	-	1/10	-	-	-	-	1/10
Human Bone	31/373	-	1/4	-	-	-	-	32/377
Animal Bone	59/161	4/7	57/90	-	15/128	-	1/2	136/388
Shell	6/25	-	3/20	-	-	-	-	9/45

Table 2: Summary of results from assessment of redeposited human bone

context	deposit type	quantification	age/sex	pathology
105	redep. backfill grave 115 (antiquarian digging)	c. 30 frags. s.a.u.l.	min. 1 adult >18 yr. male	enthesophytes – femur shaft
114	redep. (post demolition deposit)	6 frags. s.u.l.	min. 1 adult ??male	
303	redep. in modern cut 204	1 frag. l.	adult	

KEY: s. – skull, a. – axial skeleton, u. – upper limb, l. – lower limb (skeletal areas represented). Details of *in situ* burials are included in the main report (section 5.7).

Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1		Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 9.6x3.7m max		Max. depth: 1.10m	Ground level: 45.88 - 44.85 m aOD
context	description	depth bgl	
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of area of grass and scrub, mid brown silty loam with rare small slate (shillet) inclusions	
102	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition and robbing deposit. Mid brown silty loam with common small fragments of shillet, roofing slate and mortar fragments. Deposit infilling the centre of the chapel, reworked and disturbed following the robbing and removal of useable stone work. Sealed beneath (101) and overlies (103), (104), (106), (108) and (109).	
103	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition accumulation and dumping deposit. Mid brown silty loam with abundant small shillet fragments and larger smashed roofing slate fragments and mortar/plaster pieces. Deposit concentrated at the eastern end of Trench 1 below (102) and overlies (113), flagged surface which butts wall (112). Mix of un-recyclable material sealing demolished building.	
104	<i>Layer</i>	Deliberately laid layer of sub-rounded large flattish water-worn granite stones and occasional large shillet stones, revealed directly below (102), which seals (105). Stones have been deliberately placed to seal layer (105), which overlies disturbed burial (115). Following the antiquarian investigation of (115) and the backfilling of the grave with (117), (105) was deposited and then sealed by capping stones (104) potentially to protect the burial.	
105	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown loose friable silty loam with occasional small shillet inclusions. Thin deposit sealing (117) the backfill of grave (115). Material is potentially derived from (117) as the grave had been already investigated, and (105) is possibly the left over material of (117) that could not be backfilled. (105) is sealed by deliberate stone layer (104).	
106	<i>Structure</i>	Later dry-stone wall constructed of large unworked granite blocks, lies physically upon the natural (111/122), but stratigraphically post-dates (110), and the demolition of the chapel. The wall is possibly part of a later phase of activity on the summit of the island. Date unknown.	
107	<i>Structure</i>	Northern wall of chapel nave, 1.90m long by 0.80m wide with an internal height of 0.40m and external height of 0.95m; wall constructed upon natural outcrop that slopes away to north - more substantial on its outer face to prevent collapse. Wall has been stepped on outer face to create a more substantial foundation; total structure width is 1.40m. Recorded as six courses of roughly shaped granite blocks and occasional shillet slabs. The wall is bonded to the respond foundation (118) for the chancel arch, and at this point the external (northern) side of (107) flares out to act as a buttress. This appears to indicate the nave, respond and chancel are potentially of the same phase, and also that the mid-yellow brown silty clay mortar and bedding material is the same. The inner (southern) face of the wall is covered in plaster/render layer (120).	
108	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition deposit within the centre of the building. Mid brown-grey silty loam, with common to abundant small shillet fragments. Overlies (110). Mix of stonework and broken roofing slates, deposited following the removal of useable stonework from the walls.	
109	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition deposit outside building on northern side. Mid grey-brown silty loam, with common small shillet fragments and larger granite slabs. Deposit partially overlies wall (107). Mix of stonework and broken roofing slates, deposited following the removal of useable	

		stonework from the wall (107).	
110	<i>Layer/ Surface</i>	Mid grey-white compact mortar layer. Located directly on natural shillet bedrock (111/122), very similar to plaster on walls (107) and (118), and similar to mortar layer (205) in Trench 2 on the Mainland Chapel site. (110) either mortar floor or bedding layer for a flagged or tiled floor, now robbed.	0.05m
111	<i>Natural</i>	Light blue-grey natural basal geology, upper Devonian slate, a grey mudstone ('shillet'. Chapel constructed on a natural outcrop which drops steeply away to the north. Equivalent to (122).	-
112	<i>Structure</i>	Eastern wall of chapel, heavily robbed, 1.04m long by 0.60m wide and 0.12m high. Large flat stone located to south of main body of wall and potentially also part of wall, but unclear due to robbing. Only a single course of granite was observed, with rare shillet slabs.	0.12m high
113	<i>Surface</i>	Possible flagged surface/external courtyard located to the east of wall (112), flat granite stones, with rare shillet that appears to butt (112). Potentially similar to (318) in Trench 3.	-
114	<i>Layer</i>	Highly mixed and bioturbated deposit directly below (101), and very similar to (102) and (103). Very mixed mid brown and light yellow-brown loose silty loam. Post-demolition deposit which seals (118).	0.20m thick
115	Grave	Cut of roughly east-west aligned grave for inhumation burial, 2.08m long by 0.90m wide at the western head end and 0.40m wide at the eastern feet end (extrapolated), and 0.25m deep and cut into the natural bedrock (111/122). (115) contains skeleton (116) and backfill (117). Grave previously partially excavated by antiquarian activity.	0.25m deep
116	<i>Skeleton</i>	Skeleton within grave (115); adult male. Only partially excavated due to time and no remains removed from the grave. Extended and supine individual, with head at western end of grave, feet fully extended and toes pointed. Arms folded up and hands crossed across the chest, as in prayer. Remains in good condition, but grave had been opened and the cranium (but not mandible) and the right femur removed by antiquarian activity.	-
117	<i>Layer</i>	Grave backfill that seals skeleton (116) within grave (115). Mid brown friable silty loam with rare small shillet inclusions. This is likely to have been the original grave backfill, but as grave had already been opened this material is redeposited.	0.25m thick
118	<i>Structure</i>	Stone respond for the chancel arch bonded on to the southern side of the north wall of the chapel, 0.70m long by 0.80m wide and 0.24m high. Constructed of large granite blocks with a light to mid brown silty clay mortar. Partially faced with internal plaster/render (121).	0.24m high
119	<i>VOID</i>	VOID	VOID
120	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey-white plaster/ render on the internal face of wall (107), the chapel nave wall. Very similar to (110).	-
121	<i>Layer</i>	Light grey-white plaster/ render on the internal face of chancel arch respond (118), the chapel nave wall. Very similar to (110).	-
122	<i>Natural</i>	Light blue-grey natural basal geology, upper Devonian slate, a grey mudstone ('shillet'). The chapel is constructed upon a natural outcrop that drops steeply away to the north. Equivalent to (111).	-
123	<i>Structure</i>	Irregular-shaped rubble structure, 0.95m long by 0.60m wide and 0.24m high. Mix of light blue-grey shillet and roughly shaped granite blocks in a light to mid yellow-brown silty clay bedding. Structure butting the junction between wall (107) and respond (118), and appears to be a second phase internal strengthening buttress.	0.24m high
124	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown silty loam with very rare small shillet inclusions. Potentially the original ground surface, cut through by construction cut (125) for wall (107), visible in sondage excavated on the northern side of (107). Physically sealed by (109).	0.30m thick
125	Cut	Construction cut for footings trench for wall (107), which cuts through (124) and cuts natural bedrock inside the chapel. Full	0.10m+ deep

		depth of footing not investigated. This cut also levelled off the natural outcrop to create a level construction surface.	
126	Layer	Mid to light yellow-brown silty clay layer. Remains of bedding deposit located to the north of wall (112), continuation of the eastern wall of chapel to the north. Situated directly upon the natural bedrock.	0.03m thick

TRENCH 2		Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 8.25x3.28m		Max. depth: 0.90m	
		Ground level: 45.05-44.88m aOD	
context	description	Depth bgl	
201	Topsoil	Modern topsoil, under turf. Mid brown clay; includes backfilled material from 1930s excavation. 40% slate fragments, angular, <1-10cm. Heavily bioturbated, friable. Overlies (202).	
202	Layer	Backfilled material from 1930s excavation. Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-15cm; occasional mortar flecks and fragments. Moderately friable, fairly homogeneous, heavily bioturbated.	
203	Natural	Natural geology. Grey slate bedrock (shillet). Bedded east – west.	
204	Layer	Material undisturbed during 1930s excavation, overlying mortar surface (205). Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-12cm. Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Similar to (404).	
205	Layer	Mortar surface. Very pale yellow lime mortar, contains finely crushed slate; same as fragments found in (202). Directly bedded onto natural bedrock (203). Small abraded piece of pottery found embedded into the mortar, <1cm ² , dated to 13 th century. Not removed; deposit left <i>in situ</i> .	
206	Structure	Slate built wall, north – south aligned. Constructed of thin, unshaped slate slabs (length 20-25cm, width 8-14cm, depth <1-3cm), 1-2 courses high. Slightly mis-aligned to southern wall of chancel (228), but alignment corresponds to that of (207). No clear facing or core, very poor construction; 0.43m wide. Thought to be a re-construction of the southern side of the chancel arch wall by Croft Andrew, perhaps to reflect a wall he excavated. Overlies (202).	
207	Structure	Slate built wall, north – south aligned. Constructed of roughly shaped slate facing slabs (length 18-42cm, width 8-22cm, depth 1-3cm) with a slate rubble core. Only one course remaining; dry stone; 0.84m wide. Slightly mis-aligned to southern wall of chancel (228), but alignment corresponds to that of (206). Overlies (239). Left <i>in situ</i> .	
208	Cut	Shape in plan not seen. Visible in west-facing section of the southern end of the trench. Steep sides, flat base. Thought to correspond to Croft Andrew's excavation of a grave cut in the 1930s. Filled with (209).	
209	Deposit	Fill of (208). Backfill of Croft Andrew's excavation. Mid brown clay. 30% slate fragments, angular, <1-20cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly compact; some bioturbation.	
210	Structure	Horizontally laid, unshaped slate slabs forming capping stones of reliquary. Slabs 26-40cm long, 8-20cm wide and 1-3cm deep. Overlies (211).	
211	Structure	Upright, roughly cut slate slabs forming the lining of the reliquary. Length of slabs 20-42cm, width 4-6cm, depth 14-26cm. Overlies (214). Left <i>in situ</i> .	
212	Deposit	Material accumulated within the reliquary, thought to have trickled in rather than deliberate event, so stratigraphically later than capping stones (210). Alternatively it could be backfill from when the reliquary was revisited. Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-8cm. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous.	
213	Layer	Levelling deposit. Mid brown clay; 40% slate, angular, 2-12cm; occasional mortar flecks and fragments. Moderately compact, slightly	

		mixed; some bioturbation. Identical to (242). Overlies (242).	
214	<i>Deposit</i>	Base mostly composed of natural bedrock and slate rubble; some stones have been added to level and support the uprights (211). Above (215).	0.04m deep
215	Cut	Cut of reliquary, east – west aligned. 1.00m long, 0.40m wide. Filled with (210), (211), (212) and (214). Sub-rectangular cut, slightly warped by pressure of the material around it. Contained a slate-lined and capped structure. Appears to be cut through (225). Disturbed at the east end by cut (236). Overlies (225)	0.27m deep
216	Cut	Sub-rectangular grave cut. Filled with (217) and (218). North-east - south-west aligned. 2.02m long, 0.53m wide. Contained adult inhumation. Steep straight sides, slightly concave base. Later disturbed (after decomposition) by cut (220).	0.36m deep
217	<i>Skeleton</i>	Adult inhumation burial, probably male. Supine, extended. Head to the north-east, feet to the south-west. 45% in situ, 20% (from the pelvis upwards) disturbed and redeposited. Not all of the skull vault is present and possibly only one arm represented. All breaks old but not especially worn. Estimated stature 1.64m. Fragment of redeposited humerus taken for dating. Rest of the skeleton left <i>in situ</i> .	0.11m deep
218	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill. Mid brown clay; 40% slate fragments, angular, <1-6cm. Loose friable deposit; some bioturbation. Includes deliberately placed upright slate slab at foot end of the grave (25cm long, 8cm wide, 18cm deep). Cut by (220). Overlies (217).	0.36m deep
219	<i>Deposit</i>	Distinct area of five roughly shaped slate slabs (length 14-36cm, width 6-24cm, depth 1-3cm), one horizontal and four pitched at angle. Corresponds with area of disturbance within the grave cut (216). Thought to be remains of upright/headstone (corresponding to the footstone found <i>in situ</i>) disturbed by cut (220). Overlies (221)	0.24m deep
220	Cut	Area of disturbance at head end of grave (216). Slightly irregular, sub-oval cut, concave steep sides, concave base. Cuts (218).	0.36m deep
221	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill. Mid brown clay; 40% slate fragments, angular, <1-6cm. Loose friable deposit; some bioturbation. Contained redeposited, disarticulated human bone from skeleton (217). While some elements of the skeleton appear to have been removed others have been deliberately redeposited at the base of the cut.	0.36m deep
222	<i>Structure</i>	Floor of chancel. Horizontally laid rectangular slate slabs (length 25-29cm, width 10-32cm, depth 1-2cm). Butts up against chancel arch wall (207). Left <i>in situ</i> .	0.02m deep
223	<i>Structure</i>	Possible post-pad. Sub-oval plinth, left <i>in situ</i> . 75% unshaped slate slabs (length 15-52cm, width 11-16cm, depth 1-3cm) set in compact mid brown clay with occasional iron oxide mottling. Overlies (225).	0.0.8m high
224	Cut	Possible grave cut. East-west aligned, sub-rectangular. Some upright slate slabs seen at east end and on northern edge, suggesting possible slate lining. May have been some horizontal capping stones, but slate slabs encountered seem to be too short. Unexcavated. Filled with (231). Cuts (225) and (242).	-
225	<i>Layer</i>	Possible flooring. Mid grey brown clay; 80% slate, angular, generally horizontally laid, length 8-22cm, width 5-14cm, depth 1-3cm. Compact. Cut by graves (216) and (224), reliquary (215), overlain by post-pad (223) and wall (226).	0.0.8m deep
226	<i>Structure</i>	Small portion of slate wall seen in eastern edge of trench. Slate blocks (length 20-30cm, width 17-25cm, depth 4-9cm). Dry stone, irregular jointing. Probably north – south aligned. Full width unknown. Overlies (225), deposit (242) apparently butts up against it.	0.28m high
227	<i>Structure</i>	South wall of nave. Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing, east – west aligned. Rough slate slabs (length 10-34cm, width 16-30cm, depth 1-8cm) and slate rubble core. Projecting foundations/footings on southern side. 1.8m wide including footings. Left <i>in situ</i> .	0.46m high

228	Structure	South wall of chancel. Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing, east – west aligned. Rough slate slabs (length 8-32cm, width 16-32cm, depth 1-9cm) and slate rubble core. Projecting foundations/footings on southern side. 1.46m wide including footings. Left <i>in situ</i> .	0.37m high
229	Cut	Shape in plan not seen. Visible in section beneath (206). Steep sides, flat base. Thought to correspond to Croft Andrew's excavation of a grave cut in the 1930s. Filled with (230).	0.25m deep
230	Deposit	Fill of (229). Backfill of Croft-Andrew's excavation. Mid brown clay. 30% slate fragments, angular, <1-20cm. Fairly compact; some bioturbation.	0.25m deep
231	Deposit	Deliberate backfill. Mid brown clay; 30% slate fragments, angular, <1-3cm. Compact. Contained possible upright stones around edge of the cut. Unexcavated. Fill of (224).	-
232	Cut	Possible grave cut, filled with (233). Only western end seen, same alignment as (216) but further east. Upright slab at ?head end. 0.78m wide. No human remains found in excavated portion.	0.23+m deep
233	Deposit	Deliberate backfill of (232). Mid brown clay; 10% slate fragments, angular, <1-68m. Loose friable deposit; some bioturbation. Includes deliberately placed upright slate slab at foot end of the grave (26cm long, 5cm wide, 32cm deep).	0.23+m deep
234	Structure	Rebuild/consolidation of southern chancel wall by Croft-Andrew in 1930s. Slate built dry stone wall. Roughly shaped slate slabs (length 12-40cm, width 18-22cm, depth 1-5cm), irregular jointing. Slate rubble core. Material thought to derive from the original walls. Overlies (228).	0.26m high
235	Group	Group number for possible reliquary. Composed of (210), (211), (212), (214) and (215). No traces of bone were found in the feature which is too small to be a cist grave. As bone preservation should be good it seems likely that the contents were removed, possibly when disturbance (236) occurred.	-
236	Cut	Slightly irregular, sub-oval cut, moderate concave sides, slightly shallower on southern edge. Concave base. Filled with (237). Area of disturbance on eastern side of reliquary (235). Appears to be overlain by the capping stones for the reliquary. Thought to be later than (215) but this cannot be proved stratigraphically. Likely to be disturbance associated with revisiting of reliquary.	0.18m deep
237	Deposit	Fill of (236). Possible deliberate backfill. Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-8cm. Moderately loose, slightly mixed. Slate rubble concentrated at the top of the deposit.	0.18m deep
238	Structure	East – west aligned slate built wall. Slate blocks (length 20-28cm, width 8-28cm, depth 4-8cm), irregular jointing, dry stone. Only partially seen in northern edge of trench. Left <i>in situ</i> .	0.08m high
239	Layer	Levelling for the construction of (207). Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-12cm. Moderately friable, fairly homogeneous. Heavily bioturbated. Overlies natural bedrock (203).	0.14m deep
240	Layer	Levelling deposit. Mid brown clay; 20% slate, angular, <1-10cm. Moderately compact, slightly mixed; some bioturbation. Overlies (241).	0.15m deep
241	Layer	Identical to (213). Overlies (242).	0.21m deep
242	Layer	Levelling deposit. Mid brown clay; 15% slate, angular, 1-8cm. Moderately compact, slightly mixed; some bioturbation. Cut by (232).	0.20m+ deep

TRENCH 3		Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 3.36 x 1.5m		Max. depth:	0.65m
		Ground level:	45.89 m aOD
context	description	depth bgl	
301	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of area of grass and scrub, mid brown silty loam with rare small slate (shillet) inclusions	
		0-0.15m	

302	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown-grey silty loam, post-demolition accumulation mixed with WWII disturbed material.	0.31m thick
303	<i>Layer</i>	Mixed mid brown and light yellow-grey silty loam, upper modern fill of (304), hollow associated with WWII telegraphing installation.	0.50m thick
304	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of sub-circular, steep, concave-sided feature, 1.10m long by 0.95m wide and at least 0.60m deep. Visible as hollow in ground prior to opening of trench, cuts through demolition material (320), for lacing of flag pole and OS Triangulation Station (as on 1882 OS 1:2,500 map). Contains two iron girder uprights (305) to hold flag pole and slate levelling deposit (306). Cut had removed corner of junction of northern wall (310) and western wall (311).	0.62m deep
305	<i>Structure</i>	Two iron girder uprights to hold WWII telegraphing equipment.	-
306	<i>Layer</i>	Levelling layer of shillet slabs.	-
307	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown silty clay layer, a possible external surface/trample to the north of wall (310) and cut by possible grave (308)	-
308	<i>Grave</i>	Cut of possible grave truncated by later feature (304). Surviving to 0.60m long by 0.40m wide, only the foot end remains. Grave not investigated and so nothing confirmed. Contains single fill (309).	-
309	<i>Layer</i>	Upper fill of possible grave (308), dark brown silty loam, not investigated, and cut though by (304).	-
310	<i>Structure</i>	Northern wall of chapel, equivalent to (107) in Trench 1, 1.40m long by 0.80m wide and 0.54m high. Constructed of six courses of large unworked granite blocks in mid brown silty clay bedding agent, bonded at western end to northern end of east-west wall (311). Butted by external buttress (312).	0.54m high
311	<i>Structure</i>	Western chapel wall, 2.20m long by 0.80m wide and 0.50m high. Constructed of six courses of unworked granite blocks in mid brown silty clay bedding agent. Bonded at northern end to west end of (310) and butted on western side by buttress (312).	0.50m high
312	<i>Structure</i>	East-west aligned block of masonry butting western elevation of (311). 0.80m long by 0.90m wide and 0.54m high. Constructed of five courses of unworked granite blocks in a mid brown silty clay bedding agent.	0.54m high
313	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition accumulation deposit to the west of, and outside wall (311). Overlies buttress (312) and possible courtyard surface (318).	0.60m thick
314	<i>Layer</i>	Deposit located between butting wall (311) and buttress (312). Accumulated in lifetime of chapel, prior to addition of buttress (312). Mid brown silty clay; contained large rim sherd of mid 13 th century Bunning's Park Stuffle ware pottery, dating c. AD 1240-60.	0.05m thick
315	<i>Grave</i>	Cut of possible stone-lined grave/cist. Only partially revealed in section and plan; 0.30m long by 0.30m wide. Constructed of two parallel upright stones (316) lining grave, and sealed with capping stones (317). Grave not excavated and no human remains observed. Unclear but possibly cut through flagged external surface (318).	-
316	<i>Structure</i>	Upright stone lining of possible cist grave, not investigated but overlain by (317).	-
317	<i>Structure</i>	Capping stones for possible cist grave (315) overlie (316).	-
318	<i>Surface</i>	Possible external flagged surface on the western side of wall (311), similar to (113) in Trench 1 and cut through by (315). Not investigated.	-
319	<i>Layer</i>	Possible topsoil accumulation, mid to dark brown silty loam material external of (311) and overlies (317) and (318).	0.14m thick.
320	<i>Layer</i>	Post-demolition accumulation deposit, mix of stonework and broken roofing slates, mid to dark brown-grey silty loam, seals (319). Cut by (304).	

TRENCH 4			Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 7.00x2.10m		Max. depth: 0.54m	Ground level: 46.29-45.34m aOD	
context	description		depth bgl	
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil, under turf. Mid brown clay. Includes backfilled material from 1930s excavation and naturally deposited material. 40% slate fragments, angular, <1-10cm. Heavily bioturbated, friable. Overlies (402).	0.00-0.10m bgl	
402	<i>Layer</i>	Tumble and backfilled material from 1930s excavation. Pale brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-15cm; occasional mortar flecks and fragments. Moderately friable, fairly homogeneous; heavily bioturbated.	<0.40m deep	
403	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Grey slate bedrock (shillet). Bedded east – west.	0.04m+ bgl	
404	<i>Layer</i>	Material undisturbed by Croft-Andrew, levelling. Overlies bedrock (403). Similar to (204). Dark brown clay; 40% slate fragments, angular, <1-12cm. Fairly friable; fairly homogeneous; bioturbated.	0.04m deep	
405	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of post-hole, west of (407). Small but deeply cut, sub-circular in plan with steep sides. 0.19m wide, 0.26m long. Evidence of tool marks on sides; cut into slate bedrock (403). Located and identified by Croft Andrew. Appears to be on same alignment as rock-cut groove (410).	0.22m deep	
406	<i>Deposit</i>	Believed to be backfill from 1930s excavation. Mid grey-brown clay; 5% slate fragments, angular, <1-8cm. Fairly homogeneous, reasonably compact; some bioturbation. Very similar to (408).	0.22m deep	
407	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of post-hole, east of (405). Small but deeply cut, sub-circular in plan with steep sides. 0.19m wide, 0.23m long. Evidence of tool marks on sides. Cut into slate bedrock (403). Located and identified by Croft Andrew. Appears to be on same alignment as rock-cut groove (410).	0.17m deep	
408	<i>Deposit</i>	Believed to be backfill from 1930s excavation. Mid grey-brown clay; 10% slate fragments, angular, <1-10cm. Fairly homogeneous; reasonably compact; some bioturbation. Very similar to (406).	0.17m deep	
409	<i>Structure</i>	North and west wall of nave; one build. Situated on the slate bedrock (403), level of lowest course undulates in response to this. Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing. Rough slate slabs (length 8-76cm, width unknown, depth 1-8cm) and slate rubble core. Corner slabs interleaved. Some traces of plaster/mortar (white lime mortar with crushed slate fragments) on the internal southern face and internal faces of doorway. Possible entrance and steps in northern wall. Precise width unclear, approximately 1m. Left <i>in situ</i> .	0.86m high	
410	<i>Cut</i>	Groove cut into natural slate bedrock (403). North – south aligned with possible return along the west – east faulting of the bedrock. Possibly associated with post-holes (405) and (407). Steep, concave sides, slightly concave base.	0.07m deep	

TRENCH 5			Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 1.9m x 1.4m		Max. depth: 0.90m	Ground level: 11.04m aOD	
context	description		depth bgl	
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of garden lawn, mid brown silty loam with rare small shillet inclusions. Seals (502).	0-0.15m	
502	<i>Layer</i>	Mid slightly orange-brown compact clay silt with abundant small shillet inclusions. Redeposited natural acting as garden levelling deposit, on upper terrace of garden. Material removed from the lower terrace. Seals (503) and cut by (511).	0.25m thick	
503	<i>Layer</i>	Mid slightly orange-brown clay silt with abundant small shillet inclusions. Redeposited natural acting as garden levelling deposit, on upper terrace of garden. Material removed from the lower terrace. Sealed by (502) and seals (504).	0.10m thick	
504	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown-orange clay silt, redeposited natural, garden terracing.	0.10m thick	

505	<i>Natural</i>	Natural colluvium deposit. Mid brown-orange compact silty clay, cut by (510).	0.12m thick
506	<i>Natural</i>	Natural colluvium deposit, mid yellow-orange silty clay with abundant shillet inclusions. Below (505).	0.18m thick
507	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown clay silt backfill deposit within (510), overlies (308).	-
508	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown-orange compact silty clay backfill deposit within (510) and overlies buried standing stone (509).	-
509	<i>Structure</i>	Large stone slab deliberately buried within pit (510) and covered with (508) and (507). 1.32m long by 0.66m wide and 0.35m thick (lying flat). Possibly a standing stone deliberately buried, but no standing socket observed. No evidence of carving, so likely to be prehistoric in date and not early Christian? Not lifted.	-
510	Cut	Deliberate cut of pit to bury standing stone (509). Irregular in shape, but it mirrors shape of stone; 1.80m long and 0.90+ wide and 0.40m deep. Cuts through (505). Possibly 19th century in date or later and cut during landscaping of the gardens around Island House.	0.40m deep.
511	Cut	Cut of modern investigation pit into geophysical anomaly, following investigation into the island by an American treasure-hunter. Pit removed by Trench 5.	-
512	<i>Fill</i>	Mixed backfill deposit within (511). Completely removed.	-

TRENCH 6		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 5.40x1.20m		Max. depth: 0.64m	
		Ground level: 20.68-20.74m aOD	
context	description	depth bgl	
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field, mid grey-brown friable silty loam, with very small shillet inclusions. Overlies (302).	
602	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey silty clay deposit with common to abundant shillet fragments. Initially believed to be pathway or roof collapse, but seals (604), and is therefore more likely to be hill-wash deposit, natural movement of material down slope.	
603	<i>Layer</i>	Possible occupation/activity layer situated on western side of wall (605), which butts (605) and is covered by (604). Mid reddish-brown silty clay with very small shillet inclusions and charcoal and pottery.	
604	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown silty loam deposit with occasional small shillet inclusions, probable hill wash deposit, which post-dates the abandonment and demolition of Croft Andrew's 'Monks House'. Overlies occupation/activity layer (603) and butts wall (603).	
605	<i>Structure</i>	NNW SSE wall, 1.35m long by 0.96m wide and 0.35m high. Constructed of at least 12 courses of c. 0.03m thick slabs of shillet (0.28m by 0.25m in size). Western wall of the 'Monks House' and aligned parallel to extant eastern wall that now forms part of the boundary wall of the garden.	
606	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown silty loam, probable natural accumulation, hill-wash deposit cut through by (608), the construction cut for wall (605).	
607	<i>Layer</i>	Large-scale rubble deposit, mid grey-brown silty loam with abundant large shillet slabs. Material derived from the demolition of wall (605), sealing the remains of the wall.	
608	Cut	Construction cut for the footings trench for wall (605), cuts (606).	

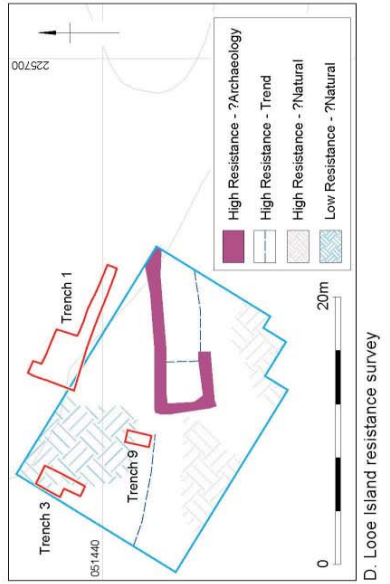
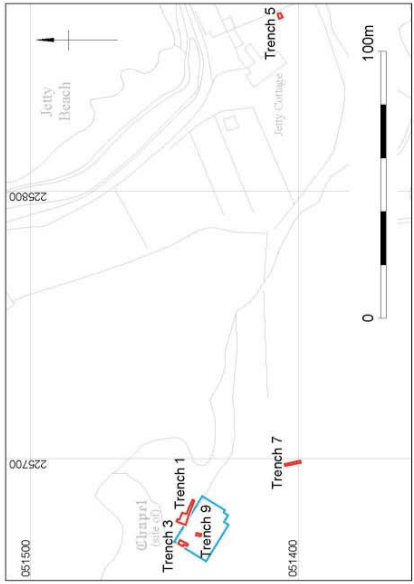
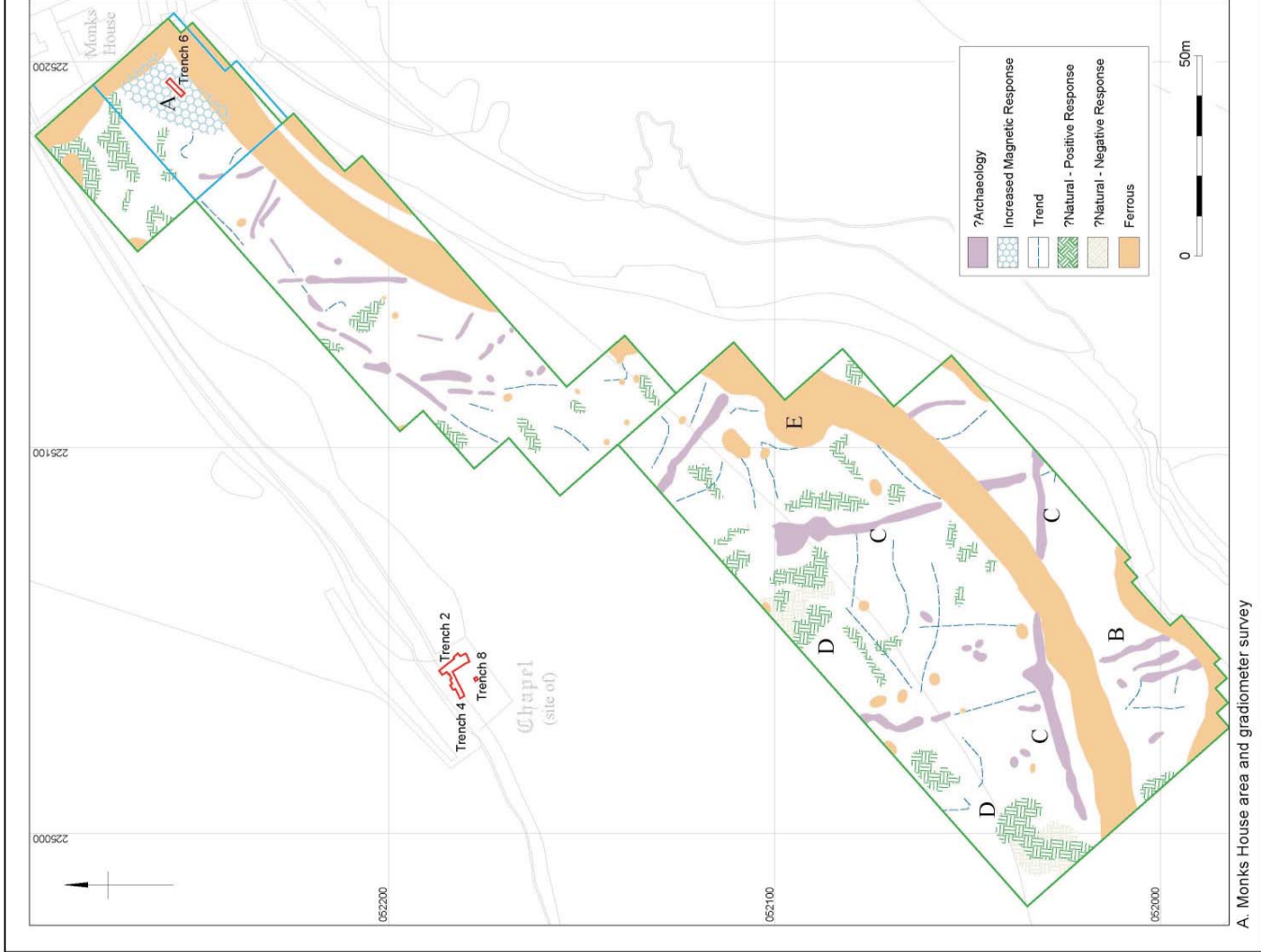
TRENCH 7		Type:	Hand Dug
Dimensions: 5.95 x 0.75m		Max. depth: 0.76m	
		Ground level: 41.8m aOD	
context	description	depth bgl	
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of area of grassland and scrub. Mid reddish-brown silty loam, with occasional shillet inclusions.	
702	<i>Natural</i>	Light blue-grey natural basal geology, upper Devonian slate, a grey	

		mudstone ('shillet').	
703	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of east-west ditch identified on 1946 aerial photograph and LIDAR survey as part of a pear shaped enclosure; located on the ground by Stewart Ainsworth. Still visible as earthwork. Possibly part of the same enclosure observed by Todd in 1983. Recorded as roughly linear, but known to curve, with concave varied sides and a concave base, and cutting directly into the natural bedrock. Measures 0.76m long by 2.20m wide and 0.36m deep. Filled with (704).	0.36m deep.
704	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown silty loam fill of (703), natural accumulation of material within the ditch, topsoil derived.	0.36m thick
705	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of smaller ditch aligned parallel to (703), recorded as linear, with concave sides and a concave base, and measuring 0.70m long by 1m wide and 0.24m deep.	0.24m deep
706	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown silty loam fill of (705), naturally derived deposit.	0.24m thick
707	<i>Layer</i>	Spread of rubble located to the south of (705). Mid grey-brown silty loam with common to abundant granite stones. Nature of deposit unclear as not investigated.	-

TRENCH 8		Type:	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 0.84x0.81m		Max. depth: 0.57m	
		Ground level: 45.23-44.57m aOD	
context	description	depth bgl	
801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil, under turf. Mid brown clay; 20% slate fragments, angular, <1-4cm. Heavily bioturbated, friable. Overlies (802).	
802	<i>Layer</i>	Combination of tumble and backfill from the 1930s excavation. Mid brown clay; 60% slate fragments, angular, <1-20cm. Moderately friable; heavily bioturbated.	
803	<i>Structure</i>	West wall of porch. Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing. Roughly shaped slate slabs (length 6-33cm, width unknown, depth 1-5cm) and slate rubble core. North - south aligned. Some traces of plaster /mortar (white lime mortar with crushed slate fragments) on the internal eastern face. Butts up against main chapel wall south wall (804). Left <i>in situ</i> .	
804	<i>Structure</i>	Western end of south chapel wall. Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing. Roughly shaped slate slabs (length 12-35cm, width unknown, depth 2-8cm) and slate rubble core. West - east aligned. Butted by wall (803). Left <i>in situ</i> . Projecting foundations (805) are believed to relate to this wall.	
805	<i>Structure</i>	Projecting footings/foundation related to wall (804). Slate built, dry stone, irregular jointing. Roughly shaped slate slabs, angular 4-38cm. Left <i>in situ</i> .	
806	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow-brown clay. <1% slate, angular, <1-6cm. Fairly compact. Some bioturbation. Not fully excavated.	

TRENCH 9		Type:	Hand Dug
Dimensions: 1.8 x 0.90m		Max. depth:	
		Ground level: 45.24m aOD	
context	description	depth bgl	
901	<i>Topsoil</i>	Current topsoil and turf of area of grassland and scrub. Mid brown silty loam with shillet inclusions.	
902	<i>Layer</i>	Mid grey-brown loose silty loam with common fragments of shillet, and larger granite stones. Mix of roof and wall collapse which overlies grave slab (903) and grave backfill (907).	
903	<i>Structure</i>	Purple shillet slab, probable covering slab for a cist grave. Appears that the covering slab has slumped into the interior of the grave (909) and vertical upright stone lining (904) is visible. Following creation of extrapolated plan of chapel it is possible that structure is part of	

		southern chapel wall, but rest of chapel built from granite with no shillet, so unlikely (903) is part of the chapel.	
904	<i>Structure</i>	Stone upright, shillet lining of grave (909), overlain by (903) which has slumped. Not investigated further.	-
905	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of east-west grave, partially exposed; 0.80m long by 0.50m wide. Contains skeleton (906) and backfill (907). Not excavated.	-
906	<i>Skeleton</i>	Within grave (905). Only partially exposed, part of the skull and the left humerus visible. Posture likely to be supine.	-
907	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown silty loam, relatively stone free backfill of (905).	-
908	<i>Layer</i>	Mid brown silty loam with relatively stone free layer, possibly cut through by (905) and (909), possible old ground surface.	
909	<i>Cut</i>	Arbitrary grave cut assigned to stone lining (904) and capping stones (903). Interpreted as a cist grave.	-
910	<i>Natural</i>	Light blue-grey natural basal geology, upper Devonian slate, a grey mudstone ('shillet').	



The Site

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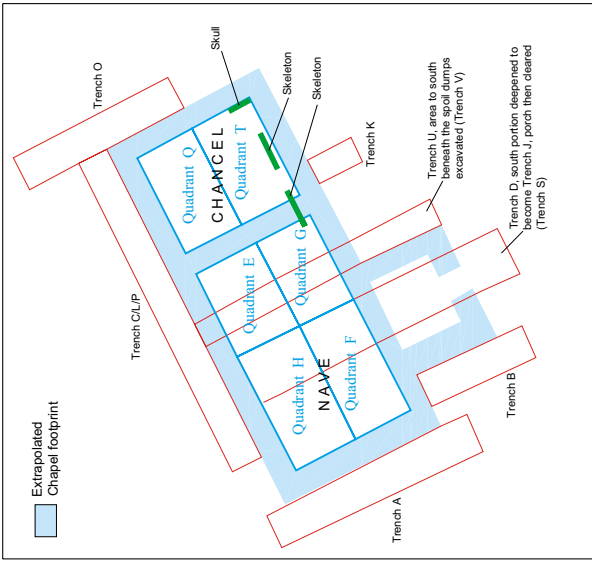
Figure 1 The site, trenches and geophysical survey areas



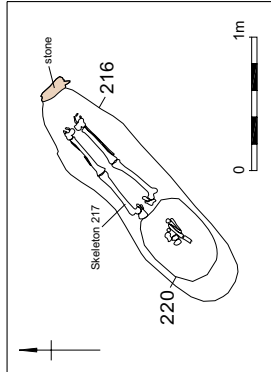
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	Evaluation trench		Wall stone
	Extrapolated Chapel footprint		Earthwork
	Mortar		Bedrock



A. Approximate location of Croft Andrew's excavations (after Olson 1994)



B. Grave 216 with skeleton 217



Plate 1: Walls 206, 227 and 228 (view from the north-west)



Plate 2: Grave 216, presumed grave 232 in the background (view from south-west)



Plate 3: Cist/reliquary 235 pre (A) and post-excavation (B) (view from the west)



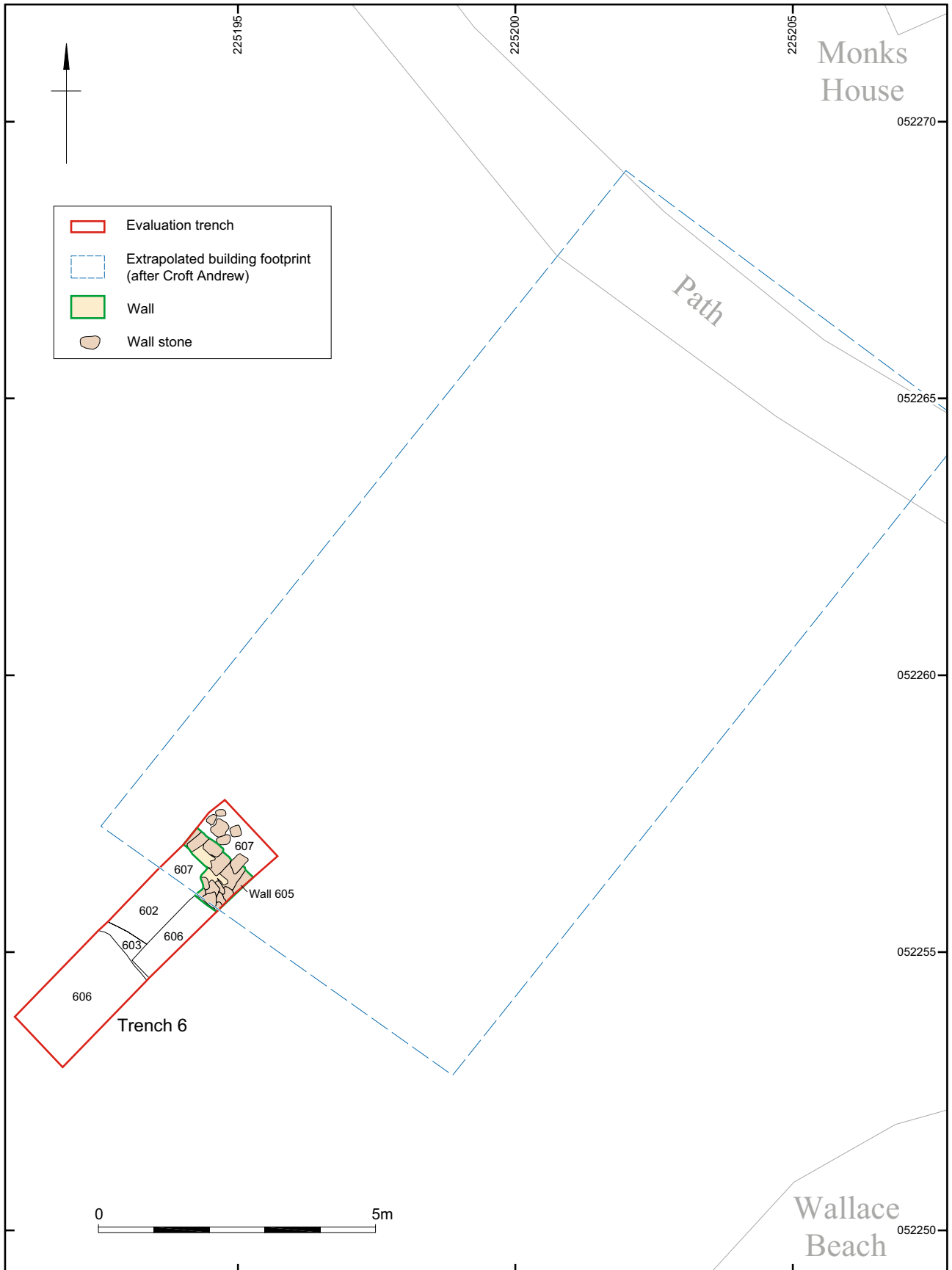
Plate 4: Northern entrance 409 (view from south-east)



Plate 5: View from mainland chapel to the island (view from north-west)



Plate 6: Trench 8 (view from north-east)



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Monks House: Trench 6

Figure 4



Plate 7: Trench 6 (view from the north-east)



Plate 8: Standing remains of north-east wall of the Monks House



Plate 9: Trenches 2 and 4 (view from the west)



Plate 10: Trench 2 (view from north-west)



Plate 11: Trenches 2 and 4 (view from south-west)



Plate 12: Trench 2 (view from the south-east)

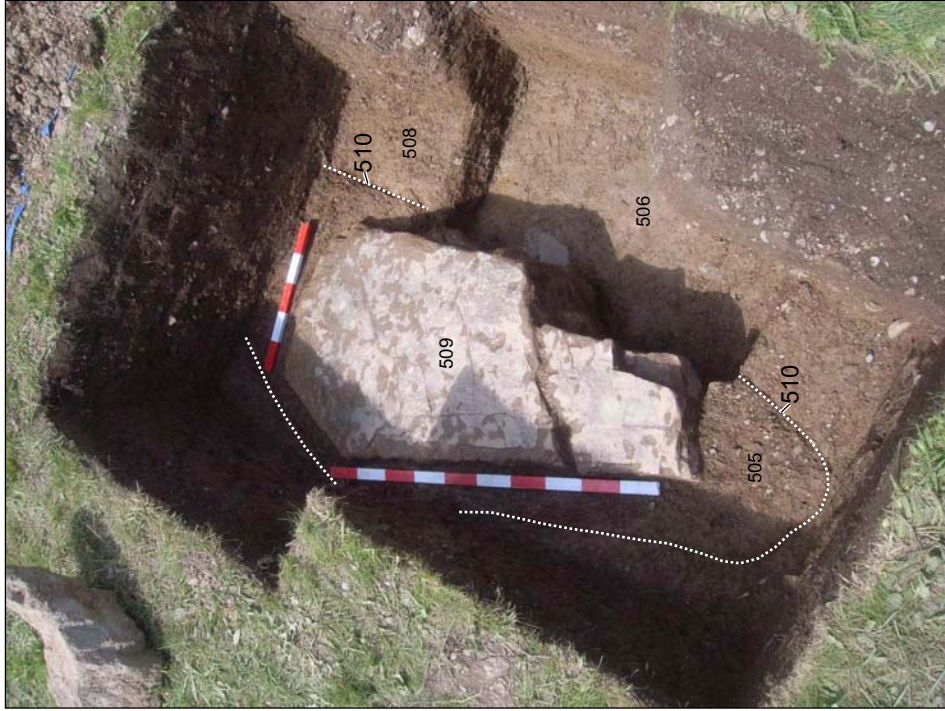
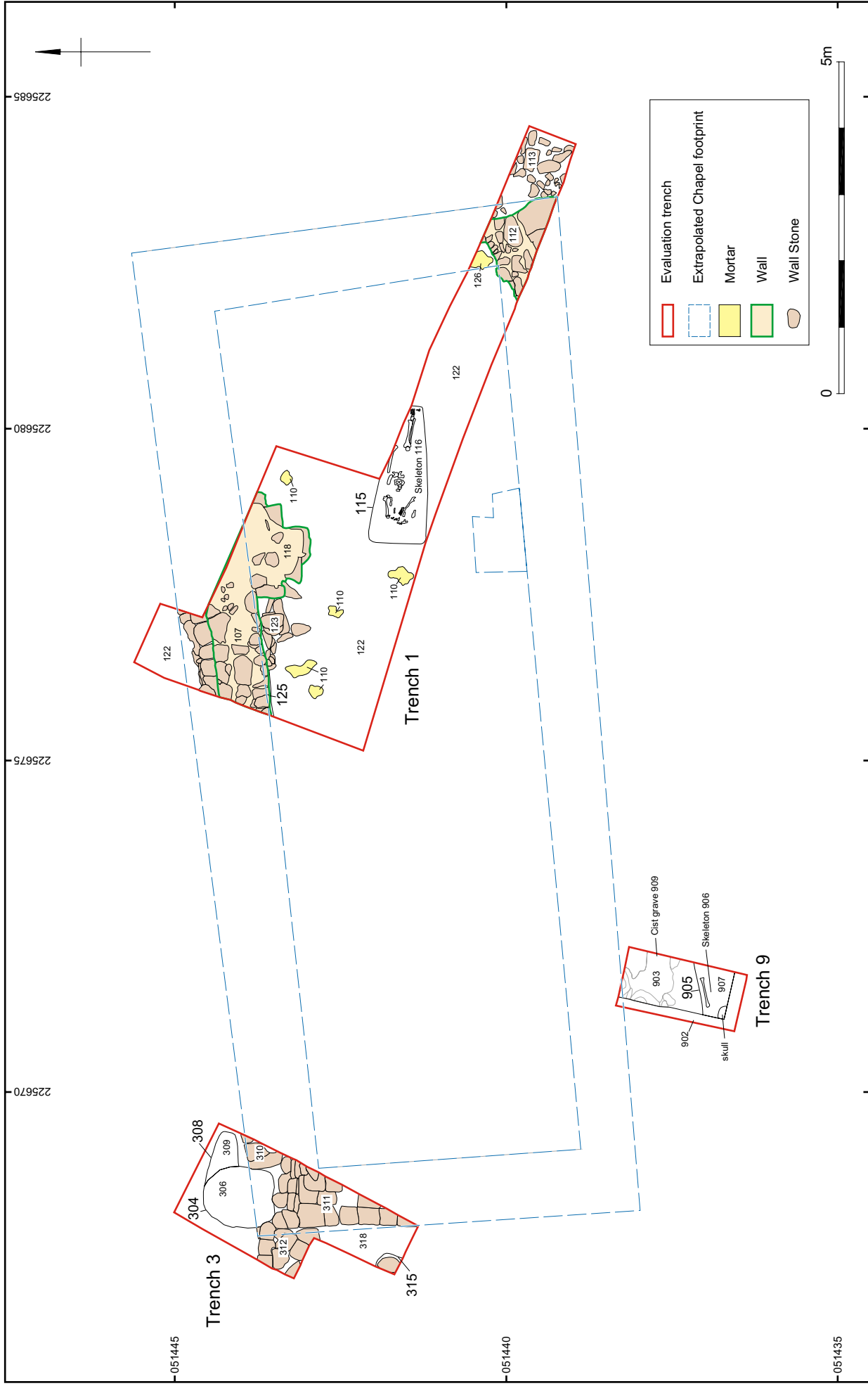


Plate 13: Trench 5 (view from east)



Plate 14: Trench 7 (view from north)

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St Michael's Chapel: Trenches 1, 3 and 9

Figure 7



Plate 15: Trench 1 east-facing section of structure 107



Plate 16: Trench 1 (view from south)



Plate 17: Grave 115 with skeleton 116 in Trench 1



Plate 18: Trench 3 (view from east)



Plate 19: Trench 3 (view from east)



Plate 20: Trench 9 (view from west)



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