

## 8 Archaeological Potential

A Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in the Smallacombe Bottom area, NW of Mary Tavy; there is potential for further evidence of prehistoric activity anywhere within the conservation area.

Although there was a manor of Tavi recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), no distinction is made in the record between Mary & Peter Tavy until 1270. So Mary Tavy was certainly in existence by this date and its medieval origins are confirmed by the 14th century fabric in the parish church. The fields opposite the church have a curvilinear form, suggestive of the medieval period. Other areas which may have potential for medieval deposits are around Dowerland Farm and possibly Blackdown, which has traces of curvilinear fields. The course of the historically important King Way can still be traced throughout the village and out onto Blackdown. There is documentary and place name evidence which indicates that this ancient route between Okehampton and Tavistock has at least thirteenth century origins.

The greatest potential is of course the industrial archaeology, which might be found almost anywhere in the conservation area. As well as mine shafts and their associated above-ground features, there will be buildings, processing areas and other mining infra structure such as leats, wheelpits, flat-rod systems and so on. There has been significant loss of the archaeology relating to Wheal Friendship in the past and what continues to survive should be conserved.



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Fig 44: Part of King Way