Zircon LA-ICPMS Geochronology of the Cornubian Batholith, SW England

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This thesis titled
Zircon LA-ICPMS Geochronology of the Cornubian Batholith, SW England

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ABSTRACT

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Available U–Pb age data for the Cornubian Batholith of SW England is based almost entirely on monazite and xenotime, and very little zircon U–Pb age data has been published. As a result, no zircon inheritance data are available for the batholith, by which the nature of the unexposed basement of the Rhenohercynian Zone in SW England might be constrained.

Zircon LA-ICPMS data for the Cornubian Batholith provides Concordia ages (Bodmin Moor granite: 316 ± 4 Ma, Carnmenellis granite: 313 ± 3 Ma, Dartmoor granite: ~ 310 Ma, St. Austell granite: 305 ± 5 Ma, and Land's End granite: 300 ± 5 Ma) that are consistently 20–30 Ma older than previously published emplacement ages for the batholith and unrealistic in terms of geologic relative age relationships. Several of the batholith's granite plutons contain a component of late-Devonian inheritance that may record rift-related, lower crustal melting or arc-related magmatism associated with subduction of the Rheic Ocean. In addition, the older granites likely contain Mesoproterozoic inheritance, although the highly discordant nature of the Mesoproterozoic ages precludes their use in assigning an affinity to the Rhenohercynian basement in SW England. Submitted for publication in *Tectonophysics* as “Neace, E.R., Nance, R.D., Murphy, J.B., Lancaster, P., Shail, R.K. (2016). Zircon LA-ICPMS geochronology of the Cornubian Batholith, SW England.”

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Orla Doodle. Thank you for all your love and unending support. Best dog ever.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

SW England is host to a variety of Palaeozoic igneous and metasedimentary rocks, the complex tectonic history of which is related to the Devonian-Carboniferous closure of the Rheic Ocean (e.g., Floyd et al., 1993; Leveridge & Hartley, 2006; Shail & Leveridge, 2009). Assigned to the European Rhenohercynian Zone (Fig. 1a), these rocks are thought to represent the northern (Avalonian) margin of the Rheic Ocean and their deformation reflects the Variscan collision between Gondwana and Laurussia (e.g., Nance et al., 2010). The Cornubian Batholith, one of the largest granite bodies in the United Kingdom, was emplaced into these deformed Devonian and Carboniferous rocks following the cessation of Variscan convergence. It underlies much of the counties of Cornwall and Devon, and crops out in six major plutons and a larger number of smaller, satellite bodies that extend at least 250 km WSW from Dartmoor to west of the Isles of Scilly (Edmonds et al., 1975; Floyd, et al., 1993).

The Cornubian Batholith and adjacent country rocks host a variety of magmatic-hydrothermal mineral deposits that have been exploited since antiquity (e.g., Penhallurick, 1986), primarily for tin and copper, but also tungsten, arsenic, zinc, silver, cobalt, lead and other metals (Dines, 1956; Le Boutillier, 2003). The area is frequently used as a model for magmatic-hydrothermal vein mineralization (e.g., Dewey, 1925; Hosking, 1950, 1962; Hawkes, 1974; Moore, 1975; Darbyshire & Shepherd, 1985; Jackson et al., 1989) and has contributed significantly to the understanding of ore forming processes.

The batholith is considered to have been emplaced during the Early Permian based on both Rb/Sr data (Darbyshire & Shepherd, 1985) and the U–Pb ages of monazite

and xenotime (Chesley et al., 1993; Chen et al., 1993). However, because the granites are S-type and were produced by melting of a source with a significant sedimentary component, these early U–Pb isotopic studies largely avoided analyzing zircons, since they were expected to contain a major inherited component. As a result, little is known of the zircon geochronology of the batholith and no data is available on the nature of its crustal source as revealed by zircon inheritance.

Presented here are the results of a new U–Pb LA-ICPMS study of igneous zircons from each of the five major mainland plutons of the Cornubian Batholith and a discussion of the implications of these data for the age and inheritance of the batholith.

Figure 1: Modified from Pownall et al. (2012). Geological setting of the Cornubian granites within the European Variscides. (A) The Variscan belt of Europe during the Early Carboniferous, modified from Matte (1986) and Franke (1989). (B) Map of the Cornubian granites in the Western Rhenohercynian of SW England, after Shail and Leveridge (2009).

CHAPTER 2: REGIONAL SETTING

The geology of SW England is dominated by Devonian and Carboniferous sedimentary strata and minor rift-related volcanic units that together constitute a passive margin succession within the European Rhenohercynian zone (Holder & Leveridge, 1986; Matte, 2001; Shail & Leveridge, 2009; Nance et al., 2010; Strachan et al., 2014). This zone, which is thought to be floored by Avalonian crust (Franke, 2000; Matte, 2001; Landing 2004), extends from the Bohemian massif of central Europe (Franke, 1989), westwards through SW England (Floyd, 1993; Shail & Leveridge, 2009) around the Ibero-Armorican arc to lithologically similar rocks in the South Portuguese Zone of southern Iberia that are traditionally correlated with those of SW England (Andrews, 1982; Matte, 1986; Franke, 1989; Eden & Andrews, 1990; Floyd et al., 1993; von Raumer et al., 2003; Braid et al., 2012).

In SW England, the succession was likely developed in a marginal basin on the northern flank of the Rheic Ocean (e.g., Shail & Leveridge, 2009), and was deformed and metamorphosed at low- to medium-grade during the late Devonian-early Carboniferous when closure of the Rheic Ocean, as a result of its subduction beneath Avalonia (e.g., Quesada, 1998; Nance et al., 2010; Braid et al., 2011), led to the development of a north-vergent Variscan fold-thrust belt (Edmonds et al., 1975; Shackleton et al., 1982; Franke, 1989). The succession is overthrust by the ca. 397 Ma (Clark et al., 1998) Lizard ophiolite to the south, and is post-tectonically intruded by the early Permian (ca. 274-294 Ma; Chen et al., 1993; Chesley et al., 1993) plutons of the Cornubian Batholith, the generation and emplacement of which was contemporaneous with extensional

reactivation of the Rheohercynian suture (Holder & Leveridge, 1994; Shail & Wilkinson, 1994; Shail & Alexander, 1997; Shail et al., 2003; Shail & Leveridge, 2009).

Cornubian Batholith

The most voluminous igneous rocks of SW England are the granites of the Cornubian Batholith. These underlie the counties of Devon and Cornwall and form part of a single, post-orogenic batholith within the external zone of the Variscan fold-thrust belt (Floyd et al, 1993; Le Boutillier, 2003). The batholith is exposed as an ENE-trending array of plutons that extends at least 250 km and includes (from east to west) the granites of Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor, St. Austell, Carnmenellis, Land's End and the Isles of Scilly (Chen et al., 1993; Chesley et al., 1993) (Fig. 1b). The plutons crosscut the metasedimentary rocks of the Rheohercynian passive margin succession following their deformation during Variscan convergence (Exeley & Stone, 1982; Chappell & Hine, 2006). The youngest deformed strata are Pennsylvanian (Moscovian) approximately 311-315 Ma in age.

The batholith is traditionally interpreted to be the product of crustal thickening caused by the collision of Gondwana and Laurussia (Floyd et al, 1993), which closed the Rheic Ocean and led to the formation of Pangaea (Nance et al., 2010). A predominantly lower crustal source for the peraluminous granites is supported by initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of 0.710-0.716 and ϵ_{Nd} values that range from -4.7 to -7.1 (Darbyshire & Shepherd, 1994); a minor mantle component is suggested by ϵ_{Nd} data, enclave compositions (Stimac et al., 1995) and the spatial association of the batholith with coeval lamprophyres (Leat et al., 1987; Thorpe, 1987; Dupuis et al., 2015). The basement underlying the

batholith is unexposed, but is widely considered to be Avalonian (Franke, 1989; von Raumer et al., 2003) and part of the lower plate relative to the SE-dipping Rhenohercynian / Rheic suture imaged on offshore deep seismic reflection profiles (Shail & Leveridge, 2009).

More recent work indicates that Early Permian granite emplacement and mineralization primarily occurred during the latter stages of a regional NNW-SSE extensional regime (D_3) that succeeded Variscan convergence in the latest Carboniferous (Alexander & Shail, 1995, 1996; Shail & Alexander, 1997; Shail & Leveridge, 2009). Extensional reactivation of the Rhenohercynian suture brought about exhumation of the lower plate (SW England) and was accompanied by mantle partial melting. The resultant underplating and/or lower crustal emplacement of lamprophyric and basaltic magmas into an already hot lower crust was sufficient to initiate substantial crustal partial melting (Shail & Wilkinson, 1994; Shail et al., 2003). Charoy (1986) concluded that anatexis occurred by partial melting of pelitic rocks at approximately 7-8 kbar and 800 °C in the lower or intermediate crust.

Based on gravity modeling, the batholith has a tabular shape originally estimated to be ~13.5 km thick (Willis-Richards & Jackson, 1989). More recently, the thickness has been revised to 5-8 km for the Bodmin Moor, St. Austell and Carnmenellis granites and 10 km for the Dartmoor granite (Taylor, 2007), resulting in an estimated batholith volume of 40,000 km³ (Williamson et al., 2010).

The batholith has been extensively studied in connection with fractionated, high-grade, high heat-flow granitic terranes and as a model for tin mineralization and late-stage alteration associated with acidic magmatism (Floyd et al., 1993). It has been heavily

mineralized as the result of hydrothermal activity (Dines, 1986; Floyd et al, 1993; Chen et al., 1993), producing many mineral ores that have been extensively mined for millennia (Penhallurick, 1986).

Available age data for the Cornubian Batholith includes Rb/Sr geochronology by Darbyshire & Shepherd (1985, 1987), and U–Pb and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating by Chesley et al. (1993), Chen et al. (1993). Based on Rb/Sr data, Darbyshire & Shepherd (1985) placed granite emplacement at ca. 290–280 Ma. Chesley et al. (1993), using U–Pb on monazite and xenotime, and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ on muscovite and biotite, obtained emplacement ages of ca. 275–300 Ma. Chen et al. (1993) obtained similar results using U–Pb on monazite and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ on muscovite and biotite. Their data, along with Clark et al. (1994) suggested that the emplacement of the plutons of the Cornubian Batholith was diachronous and ranged in age from 293.1 ± 1.3 Ma (Carnmenellis granite) to 275 ± 1.4 Ma (Land's End granite). Published zircon age data is limited to three discordant $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range 276–281 Ma from the St. Austell granite (Chesley et al., 1993).

CHAPTER 3: METHODS

Approximately 10 kg of rock were collected from each of the five mainland plutons (Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor, St. Austell, Carnmenellis and Land's End) of the Cornubian Batholith from the Merrivale, DeLank, Luxulyan, Rosemanowes, and Castle-an-Dinas quarries, respectively (see Figs. 2, 3 a-e, 4), and prepared at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Thin sections for each pluton were made by Geoff Long of the University of Portsmouth, then photographed and point-counted at 0.3 mm intervals using a Nikon Labophot2 petrographic microscope at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky, USA.

Zircons were separated from each sample using traditional methods. After jaw-crushing in Portsmouth, the 400–75 μm size fraction was collected using a disk mill and sieve at the British Geological Survey, Nottingham, UK. Further processing through a Wilfley table (Fig. 5a), Frantz magnetic separator (Fig. 5b) and LST Fastfloat heavy liquid separation (Fig. 5b) isolated the heavy mineral fraction. Zircons were then hand-picked, mounted into epoxy, and polished to half-height. Each grain was examined in cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging using a JEOL JSM-6060LV scanning electron microscope to identify relevant growth zoning and contaminating features (e.g., cracks or inclusions; Figs. 7, 11, 17, 21, 26). U–Pb ages were measured by laser ablation quadrupole inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-Q-ICP-MS) at the University of Portsmouth following Jeffries et al. (2003), using an Agilent 7500cs coupled to a New Wave Research UP-213 Nd:YAG laser. A 30 μm spot was rastered along a 45–60 μm line. Laser ablation of zircon grains were performed by Penelope Lancaster of the University of Portsmouth. Grains were analyzed using the ribbon

method to avoid any analytical bias towards ‘nice’ grains (e.g., Mange & Maurer, 1992). The amount of ^{204}Pb in these analyses was below the detection limit, and no common Pb correction was undertaken.

Ratios were calculated using an in-house spreadsheet based on LamTool (Košler et al., 2008), normalized to GJ-1; all uncertainties were propagated in quadrature. Average $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios for GJ-1 were 0.09760 ± 0.00197 and 0.06013 ± 0.00145 ($n=174$, 2SD), respectively, consistent with published values (Jackson et al., 2004). Plešovice, normally measured as the internal standard, was used up shortly before the analyses in this work were undertaken, necessitating the use of GJ-1 as internal standard as well. The resulting $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios were 0.09749 ± 0.00193 and 0.06009 ± 0.00145 ($n=65$, 2SD), respectively. In the 11 days prior to this work, analysis of Plešovice as the internal standard yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios of 0.05457 ± 0.00270 ($n=93$, 95%) and 0.05342 ± 0.00203 ($n=93$, 2SD), respectively, consistent with published values (Sláma et al., 2008).

Figure 2: Map of the sample collection sites for each of the five granites.

Figure 3: Images of outcrops of each quarry. A) Merrivale Quarry, Dartmoor. B) DeLank Quarry, Bodmin Moor. C) Luxulyan Quarry, St Austell. D) Rosemanowes Quarry, Carnmenellis. E) Castle an Dinas Quarry, Land's End.

Figure 4: Images of sample collecting at A) Rosemanowes Quarry, Carnmenellis, and B) Castle an Dinas Quarry, Land's End.

Figure 5: A) Wilfley Table used for separating minerals by density. B) Sample preparation lab.

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

U–Pb data are presented in Tables 1–5 and plotted on Concordia diagrams in Figs. 8, 12, 13, 18, 22, 27. Concordia ages were calculated from concordant (calculated concordance between 80–120%) rim and whole grain analyses, interpreted to record the same growth zone event. A Concordia age for the Dartmoor sample could not be calculated due to an insufficient number of concordant rim analyses. Instead, all data from this sample are plotted to indicate the overall discordant array which intersects the Concordia curve at ~310 Ma.

The Land's End sample was of a fine-grained muscovite-biotite granite. In thin-section, several instances of oxidation were noted and nearly all feldspar grains were heavily sericitised. Chlorite was also present, probably replacing biotite. No evidence of substantial weathering or alteration was noted in the thin sections for any of the other four plutons. The Carnmenellis, Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor, and St. Austell granite thin sections were all of coarse-grained megacrystic biotite granite, which is consistent with other mineralogical studies of the Cornubian Batholith (Hawkes & Dangerfield, 1978; Dangerfield & Hawkes, 1981). The large grain sizes of these four plutons resulted in count totals below 2000, the lowest count being 334 for St Austell, which may not have produced an accurate modal percentage or classification for these granites. Biotite megacrysts as large as 5 mm as well as quartz and potassium feldspar megacrysts as large as 6 mm in the form of perthite were present for St. Austell. Megacrysts were slightly smaller for the Carnmenellis, Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor slides, at < 5 mm. The grains for each of these four plutons were mostly euhedral. A few opaque minerals were found

in each of the thin-sections, with the highest modal percentage of 0.74% for St. Austell and the lowest modal percentage of 0.12% for Bodmin Moor.

Dartmoor Granite

Sample EN13DM-MV is a megacrystic biotite granite from Merrivale Quarry (Ordnance Survey grid reference SX 546751) and comprises K-feldspar (22.5%), quartz (39.5%), plagioclase (albite 20.3%), biotite (9.8%), muscovite (6.6%), and accessory sphene, apatite, and zircon. A total of 42 zircon grains were analyzed. Figure 6 displays thin section photos of biotite with halos of radiation damage from zircon grains. Under cathodoluminescence these proved to be euhedral or subhedral fragments (most >200 μm in length) with well-defined igneous zoning (Fig. 7). These grains yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range ca. 468-297 Ma (Ordovician-Permian), but all are highly discordant (Table 1). A Concordia plot was not generated because insufficient analyses fitted the criteria for inclusion. This may reflect some disturbance of the granite, evidenced by the dark, unzoned rims of the zircon grains from this sample under CL (Fig. 7), as well as the large number of discordant grains. A Tera-Wasserburg plot of the data (Fig. 8) suggests a crystallization age of ca. 310 Ma. Figure 9 is a scatter plot of the Th/U ratios and the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages for the Dartmoor granite. Th/U ratios for the Dartmoor granite range from 0.05 – 0.7 (Fig. 9).

Figure 6: Thin section photos of the Dartmoor granite at 4x magnification. Notice the dark areas of radiation damage within the biotite. A) Plane-polarized light. B) Cross-polarized light.

Figure 7: SEM images of typical igneous zircons from the Dartmoor granite of the Cornubian Batholith and resulting data. Ellipses indicate analytical locations and % disc indicates discordance at $> 10\%$.

Figure 8: Tera Wasserburg plot of igneous zircon ages from the Dartmoor granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 9: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Dartmoor granite

Table 1

Laser ablation ICPMS U–Pb-Th data and calculated ages for zircons from the Dartmoor granite, Cornwall

Dartmoor																						
	Concentrations				Ratios								Ages									
Samples	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ Ma	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ Ma	Disc. %	
DM G1.2	6880	304	678	0.1	0.0588	0.0011	0.048	0.001	0.358	0.010	0.021	0.001	560.8	10.9	301.3	6.9	310.6	8.3	419.5	23.8	46.3	
DM G108.1	348	15	50	0.1	0.0566	0.0008	0.047	0.001	0.356	0.007	0.021	0.001	475.1	6.8	297.0	3.2	309.6	5.8	413.5	23.0	37.5	
DM G109.1	541	36	97	0.2	0.1196	0.0025	0.060	0.001	0.936	0.026	0.113	0.005	1950.8	40.4	375.7	5.7	670.8	18.4	2167.4	101.8	80.7	
DM G113.1	447	31	61	0.1	0.1403	0.0033	0.057	0.001	1.051	0.030	0.162	0.008	2231.4	52.8	355.6	5.0	729.4	20.9	3029.3	154.9	84.1	
DM G116.1	422	52	150	0.4	0.2600	0.0047	0.075	0.001	2.576	0.074	0.190	0.009	3246.7	58.6	468.5	8.3	1293.7	37.1	3517.9	159.0	85.6	
DM G12.1	1017	44	81	0.1	0.0534	0.0007	0.047	0.001	0.320	0.005	0.014	0.001	346.2	4.8	297.3	4.4	281.8	4.4	286.1	15.5	14.1	
DM G12.2	958	45	106	0.1	0.0545	0.0006	0.051	0.001	0.356	0.005	0.019	0.001	390.1	4.5	321.3	3.6	309.0	4.2	387.6	19.4	17.6	
DM G121.1	309	28	156	0.5	0.2022	0.0046	0.062	0.001	1.722	0.055	0.115	0.008	2844.1	64.1	387.1	6.2	1016.7	32.8	2200.9	154.0	86.4	
DM G122.1	827	38	149	0.2	0.0680	0.0009	0.047	0.000	0.415	0.007	0.028	0.001	868.8	11.2	298.8	3.0	352.5	5.6	567.5	24.0	65.6	
DM G129.1	560	27	61	0.1	0.0657	0.0011	0.051	0.001	0.434	0.009	0.038	0.002	798.1	13.7	323.5	3.3	365.7	7.5	758.5	40.5	59.5	
DM G19.1	2047	101	100	0.0	0.0828	0.0014	0.052	0.001	0.565	0.012	0.140	0.008	1263.7	20.7	326.5	4.0	454.7	9.5	2655.7	144.1	74.2	
DM G225.1	739	42	84	0.1	0.1036	0.0016	0.053	0.001	0.710	0.013	0.109	0.005	1689.0	25.5	333.0	4.1	544.7	10.2	2095.6	94.0	80.3	
DM G226.2	615	31	121	0.2	0.0746	0.0011	0.050	0.001	0.484	0.008	0.034	0.002	1058.0	15.2	317.3	4.0	401.0	6.5	671.1	32.1	70.0	
DM G229.1	207	13	118	0.6	0.1321	0.0026	0.054	0.001	0.972	0.025	0.043	0.002	2125.6	41.5	338.1	4.0	689.6	17.5	848.5	38.5	84.1	
DM G230.1	503	27	120	0.2	0.0830	0.0016	0.052	0.001	0.557	0.012	0.045	0.002	1269.7	25.0	326.3	4.5	449.8	9.6	889.4	48.6	74.3	
DM G260.1	390	40	120	0.3	0.2397	0.0061	0.062	0.001	1.969	0.058	0.161	0.009	3117.9	79.9	385.2	5.8	1105.0	32.7	3018.4	165.5	87.6	
DM G313.1	473	25	118	0.2	0.0807	0.0014	0.051	0.001	0.534	0.013	0.037	0.002	1213.9	21.6	323.1	4.8	434.7	10.8	739.9	32.2	73.4	
DM G318.1	632	37	78	0.1	0.1103	0.0022	0.054	0.001	0.755	0.018	0.111	0.005	1804.6	35.8	339.6	4.0	571.2	13.6	2127.9	92.4	81.2	
DM G324.1	1269	62	106	0.1	0.0581	0.0008	0.053	0.001	0.374	0.007	0.027	0.001	531.9	7.5	330.7	4.8	322.4	5.9	536.2	22.4	37.8	
DM G325.1	1417	70	134	0.1	0.0649	0.0010	0.052	0.001	0.418	0.008	0.041	0.002	771.4	11.7	329.2	4.4	354.9	6.6	811.3	38.1	57.3	
DM G331.1	375	22	110	0.3	0.1035	0.0022	0.054	0.001	0.746	0.021	0.049	0.002	1688.2	36.5	341.9	4.2	566.0	15.6	961.8	44.7	79.7	
DM G335.1	414	22	86	0.2	0.0755	0.0017	0.054	0.001	0.531	0.014	0.038	0.002	1081.0	24.0	336.2	5.9	432.6	11.8	746.4	41.3	68.9	
DM G336.1	191	12	140	0.7	0.1305	0.0028	0.051	0.001	0.928	0.024	0.030	0.002	2105.1	45.1	323.1	4.3	666.7	17.0	605.5	44.2	84.7	
DM G337.1	652	40	116	0.2	0.1190	0.0025	0.053	0.001	0.813	0.020	0.090	0.007	1941.7	41.3	335.4	4.3	603.9	15.1	1739.9	132.1	82.7	
DM G338.1	571	29	80	0.1	0.0779	0.0017	0.051	0.001	0.508	0.012	0.046	0.004	1145.4	25.3	322.6	4.3	417.0	9.7	909.7	71.8	71.8	
DM G340.1	401	22	51	0.1	0.1066	0.0028	0.051	0.001	0.702	0.019	0.104	0.008	1742.6	45.2	318.0	4.2	539.9	14.8	2005.3	155.7	81.8	
DM G343.1	725	36	72	0.1	0.0799	0.0018	0.050	0.001	0.519	0.013	0.061	0.005	1195.4	26.9	317.5	6.0	424.4	10.2	1195.0	90.7	73.4	
DM G350.1	215	12	70	0.3	0.1143	0.0030	0.052	0.001	0.819	0.027	0.048	0.004	1869.2	49.3	327.5	5.4	607.5	20.2	956.6	70.4	82.5	
DM G356.1	698	33	48	0.1	0.0568	0.0010	0.051	0.001	0.358	0.007	0.024	0.002	483.0	8.5	322.4	4.5	310.7	6.1	469.7	39.6	33.2	
DM G357.1	588	30	83	0.1	0.0675	0.0013	0.052	0.001	0.450	0.010	0.036	0.003	853.9	16.0	327.8	5.0	377.1	8.4	712.2	56.7	61.6	
DM G4.2	2755	157	379	0.1	0.0794	0.0017	0.056	0.001	0.557	0.016	0.049	0.003	1182.4	25.9	352.4	7.5	449.3	12.6	964.9	57.9	70.2	
DM G470.1	320	19	227	0.7	0.1141	0.0031	0.051	0.001	0.765	0.030	0.028	0.002	1866.0	51.3	322.1	7.4	577.1	22.5	565.1	45.2	82.7	
DM G470a.1	269	12	80	0.3	0.0646	0.0013	0.047	0.001	0.415	0.015	0.021	0.002	761.1	15.4	297.1	6.0	352.3	12.7	413.1	33.7	61.0	
DM G471.1	665	40	275	0.4	0.1009	0.0027	0.055	0.001	0.715	0.028	0.039	0.003	1641.4	44.0	346.0	6.7	547.8	21.3	772.0	64.3	78.9	
DM G474.1	399	19	103	0.3	0.0544	0.0007	0.050	0.001	0.353	0.010	0.017	0.001	386.9	5.1	315.9	6.1	306.9	9.0	350.6	27.8	18.3	
DM G479.1	720	40	77	0.1	0.0970	0.0024	0.055	0.001	0.677	0.027	0.116	0.012	1566.8	38.9	344.3	8.5	524.7	21.3	2216.4	233.8	78.0	
DM G483.1	309	14	209	0.7	0.0582	0.0012	0.045	0.001	0.356	0.012	0.014	0.001	535.7	10.7	286.6	6.2	309.4	10.3	282.6	22.2	46.5	
DM G483.2	1192	60	106	0.1	0.0760	0.0013	0.052	0.001	0.506	0.016	0.063	0.005	1095.2	18.5	325.7	6.0	415.5	13.0	1233.8	100.3	70.3	
DM G485.2	1096	52	69	0.1	0.0550	0.0007	0.052	0.001	0.362	0.010	0.023	0.002	412.8	5.0	327.3	6.0	313.6	8.9	458.9	38.7	20.7	
DM G5.1	1560	133	372	0.2	0.2360	0.0090	0.068	0.002	2.254	0.123	0.130	0.008	3093.3	117.6	422.7	11.3	1198.1	65.2	2475.3	153.7	86.3	
DM G8.1	3830	198	707	0.2	0.0710	0.0017	0.053	0.001	0.474	0.014	0.035	0.002	956.0	23.2	330.3	7.1	393.8	11.7	699.6	42.0	65.5	
DM G97.2	1104	54	111	0.1	0.0694	0.0008	0.051	0.001	0.454	0.006	0.048	0.002	909.6	11.0	322.7	3.6	380.1	5.3	953.3	45.6	64.5	

Bodmin Moor Granite

Sample EN13BM-DL is a megacrystic biotite granite from the DeLank Quarry (OS grid reference SX 101753) and comprises K-feldspar (20.6 %), quartz (42.3 %), plagioclase (albite 18.2 %), biotite (11.9 %), muscovite (6.9 %), and accessory apatite, with some sericite replacement of albite. A total of 44 zircon grains were analyzed. Figure 10 displays thin section photos where darkened halos within biotite indicate the presence of radioactive zircon grains. Under cathodoluminescence these proved to be euhedral and elongate, with lengths ranging from $<100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $>200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and well-defined igneous zonation (Fig. 11). These grains yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range ca. 413-294 Ma (Devonian-Permian), but most are highly discordant (Table 2). Five concordant grains yielded a Concordia age of $316\pm 4\text{ Ma}$, which is taken as the best estimate for the age of crystallization (Fig. 13). Four concordant zircons with Concordia age of $371.5 \pm 12\text{ Ma}$ are interpreted to be inherited (Fig. 12). Figure 14 is a scatter plot of the Th/U ratios and the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages of the Bodmin Moor granite. Figure 15 is a scatter plot of this data that excludes an extreme Th/U outlier to present a better general representation of this data for the Bodmin Moor granite. Th/U ratios for the Bodmin Moor granite range from 0.1 – 27.5 (Figs. 14, 15).

Figure 10: Thin section photos of the Bodmin Moor granite at 4x magnification. Note the dark area of radiation damage within the biotite at the top of the pictures. A) Plane-polarized light. B) Cross-polarized light.

Figure 11: SEM images of typical igneous zircons from the Bodmin Moor granite of the Cornubian Batholith and resulting data. Ellipses indicate analytical locations and % disc indicates discordance at $> 10\%$.

Figure 12: Tera Wasserburg plot of the older (inherited) igneous zircon ages from the Bodmin Moor granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 13: Tera Wasserburg plot of the younger igneous zircon ages from the Bodmin Moor granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 14: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Bodmin Moor granite.

Figure 15: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Bodmin Moor granite, excluding an extreme Th/U outlier.

Table 2

Laser ablation ICPMS U–Pb-Th data and calculated ages for zircons from the Bodmin Moor granite, Cornwall.

Bodmin Moor																					
Samples	Concentrations				Ratios								Ages								
	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ Ma	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ Ma	Disc. %
BM lg G1.1	101	7	197	2.0	0.0586	0.0013	0.058	0.001	0.470	0.011	0.018	0.001	554.1	12.6	366.1	5.3	391.4	9.4	366.0	12.1	33.9
BM lg G11.1	396	31	197	0.5	0.1136	0.0016	0.066	0.001	0.981	0.017	0.057	0.003	1857.3	27.0	411.2	5.2	694.0	11.8	1129.0	55.6	77.9
BM lg G16.1	140	11	254	1.8	0.0809	0.0016	0.062	0.001	0.705	0.017	0.021	0.001	1218.3	24.3	386.8	5.1	541.6	12.9	428.9	14.3	68.2
BM lg G17.1	238	11	68	0.3	0.0545	0.0008	0.050	0.000	0.372	0.006	0.017	0.001	393.1	5.9	314.4	3.0	321.0	4.9	334.9	11.9	20.0
BM lg G21.1	1570	78	80	0.1	0.0681	0.0016	0.053	0.001	0.447	0.011	0.076	0.005	871.6	21.0	332.0	3.9	375.3	9.5	1477.5	100.3	61.9
BM lg G26.1	364	20	104	0.3	0.0538	0.0007	0.059	0.001	0.426	0.007	0.018	0.001	362.2	4.7	369.9	4.2	360.3	6.0	351.1	11.6	-2.1
BM lg G29.1	229	10	55	0.2	0.0527	0.0010	0.047	0.001	0.339	0.007	0.014	0.001	313.9	6.0	294.5	3.4	296.5	6.4	290.8	11.5	6.2
BM lg G31.1	98	5	40	0.4	0.0597	0.0018	0.058	0.001	0.505	0.020	0.021	0.001	592.0	17.4	365.4	8.7	415.1	16.7	423.1	28.7	38.3
BM lg G34.1	882	58	550	0.6	0.0584	0.0008	0.066	0.001	0.498	0.006	0.020	0.001	544.8	7.4	412.9	7.6	410.1	5.3	402.9	24.5	24.2
BM lg G40.1	109	7	31	0.3	0.0606	0.0015	0.065	0.001	0.552	0.018	0.026	0.003	625.7	15.3	404.7	7.9	446.1	14.3	515.5	50.9	35.3
BM lg G44.1	124	7	101	0.8	0.0559	0.0012	0.058	0.001	0.455	0.012	0.017	0.001	448.7	9.6	362.3	7.0	380.5	10.4	349.5	21.3	19.3
BM lg G46.1	207	15	199	1.0	0.0803	0.0015	0.065	0.001	0.712	0.017	0.027	0.002	1205.2	23.0	405.8	7.8	546.2	13.2	533.1	34.4	66.3
BM lg G63.1	980	49	109	0.1	0.0549	0.0007	0.056	0.001	0.380	0.007	0.030	0.003	409.9	5.5	350.6	7.4	327.0	5.8	607.0	51.1	14.5
BM lg G66.1	1337	81	83	0.1	0.1448	0.0044	0.055	0.001	1.022	0.035	0.278	0.016	2285.0	69.9	343.5	6.0	714.9	24.8	4955.0	282.8	85.0
BM lg G7.1	440	21	63	0.1	0.0701	0.0016	0.049	0.001	0.444	0.012	0.039	0.002	930.4	20.7	309.2	4.2	373.2	9.7	764.4	44.6	66.8
BM lg G71.1	1689	419	46464	27.5	0.0708	0.0010	0.051	0.001	0.462	0.007	0.013	0.001	952.6	13.7	320.5	5.1	385.9	5.6	268.1	13.6	66.4
BM lg G73.1	77	4	44	0.6	0.0752	0.0020	0.056	0.001	0.595	0.023	0.024	0.001	1074.2	28.5	353.2	7.4	474.2	18.7	484.0	28.2	67.1
BM lg G76.1	300	15	52	0.2	0.0560	0.0008	0.051	0.001	0.381	0.006	0.018	0.001	453.3	6.6	321.9	5.1	327.6	5.2	357.5	19.9	29.0
BM lg G8.1	59	5	136	2.3	0.0559	0.0013	0.063	0.001	0.524	0.014	0.018	0.001	449.4	10.1	393.5	4.2	427.8	11.8	365.3	12.3	12.4
BM lg G81.1	1433	76	450	0.3	0.0834	0.0021	0.053	0.001	0.547	0.014	0.035	0.003	1278.0	32.5	330.6	6.1	443.1	11.4	694.4	54.2	74.1
BM sm G125.1	86	6	94	1.1	0.0555	0.0013	0.062	0.001	0.500	0.015	0.017	0.001	432.6	10.2	386.6	5.8	411.5	12.0	344.1	16.8	10.6
BM sm G152.1	35	3	64	1.8	0.0648	0.0025	0.061	0.001	0.607	0.039	0.017	0.001	768.3	29.1	382.3	7.0	481.9	31.1	350.0	18.4	50.2
BM sm G167.1	204	11	43	0.2	0.0618	0.0011	0.054	0.001	0.456	0.011	0.024	0.001	667.7	12.1	338.1	6.1	381.3	9.4	477.7	28.9	49.4
BM sm G168.1	1375	66	71	0.1	0.0603	0.0008	0.054	0.001	0.414	0.009	0.029	0.002	615.7	8.3	341.0	6.1	351.7	7.3	579.9	31.9	44.6
BM sm G170.1	368	18	101	0.3	0.0514	0.0009	0.051	0.001	0.340	0.007	0.015	0.001	257.9	4.3	318.4	4.5	297.3	5.9	294.4	14.5	-23.5
BM sm G172.1	509	25	219	0.4	0.0519	0.0008	0.051	0.001	0.337	0.006	0.015	0.001	279.4	4.1	322.5	4.8	294.6	5.3	293.1	14.2	-15.4
BM sm G177.1	238	11	88	0.4	0.0527	0.0010	0.047	0.001	0.349	0.009	0.015	0.001	316.5	5.9	298.9	5.0	303.6	7.6	303.2	16.0	5.5
BM sm G178.1	397	24	94	0.2	0.0684	0.0012	0.060	0.001	0.557	0.015	0.034	0.002	880.3	15.9	378.1	7.0	449.5	12.0	684.6	41.1	57.0
BM sm G183.1	258	12	123	0.5	0.0548	0.0009	0.048	0.001	0.349	0.008	0.017	0.001	402.4	6.7	299.2	4.8	304.3	6.6	332.5	19.7	25.6
BM sm G188.1	234	15	109	0.5	0.0657	0.0012	0.062	0.001	0.558	0.013	0.025	0.001	798.3	14.9	387.5	5.7	450.4	10.5	504.1	21.5	51.5
BM sm G190.1	445	21	87	0.2	0.0520	0.0009	0.050	0.001	0.338	0.008	0.015	0.001	285.0	5.1	313.2	5.6	295.7	6.8	303.5	13.5	-9.9
BM sm G193.1	720	35	105	0.1	0.0596	0.0011	0.052	0.001	0.396	0.010	0.023	0.001	589.0	10.6	327.9	4.6	338.5	8.1	456.1	25.7	44.3
BM sm G194.1	108	6	29	0.3	0.0715	0.0020	0.058	0.001	0.557	0.016	0.025	0.001	973.1	27.3	366.2	6.1	449.7	13.0	498.7	24.2	62.4
BM sm G207.1	356	17	84	0.2	0.0524	0.0009	0.051	0.001	0.347	0.007	0.015	0.001	304.5	5.0	318.1	4.3	302.4	5.9	293.3	13.0	-4.5
BM sm G208.1	612	31	100	0.2	0.0661	0.0012	0.052	0.001	0.438	0.010	0.030	0.001	808.4	14.2	327.2	4.8	369.0	8.3	594.2	26.8	59.5
BM sm G210.1	70	4	58	0.8	0.0569	0.0017	0.061	0.001	0.480	0.015	0.019	0.001	487.3	14.4	382.4	5.6	398.0	12.5	382.9	16.7	21.5
BM sm G211.1	905	42	129	0.1	0.0572	0.0009	0.051	0.001	0.366	0.008	0.021	0.001	501.0	7.8	318.4	4.9	316.5	6.9	426.5	20.1	36.4
BM sm G216.1	180	8	29	0.2	0.0544	0.0011	0.049	0.001	0.362	0.008	0.015	0.001	386.0	7.7	311.4	4.6	313.6	7.1	304.5	29.0	19.3
BM sm G218.1	98	6	28	0.3	0.0542	0.0013	0.065	0.001	0.493	0.014	0.019	0.002	378.4	8.9	407.5	6.7	407.0	11.4	374.0	35.6	-7.7
BM sm G235.1	393	20	91	0.2	0.0577	0.0010	0.054	0.001	0.407	0.010	0.019	0.002	517.8	9.4	336.9	5.5	346.5	8.8	389.0	38.3	34.9
BM sm G240.1	500	29	73	0.1	0.0989	0.0022	0.056	0.001	0.710	0.018	0.087	0.008	1603.1	35.5	353.6	6.2	544.7	13.9	1679.5	160.8	77.9
BM sm G243.1	643	31	60	0.1	0.0532	0.0009	0.054	0.001	0.357	0.007	0.016	0.002	339.2	5.4	336.2	5.5	310.2	6.5	328.6	30.6	0.9
BM sm G245.1	740	36	101	0.1	0.0577	0.0009	0.053	0.001	0.385	0.008	0.019	0.002	517.1	7.8	331.7	5.3	330.8	6.9	371.2	35.0	35.9
BM sm G90.1	393	19	111	0.3	0.0530	0.0007	0.051	0.001	0.358	0.006	0.016	0.001	329.0	4.6	320.4	5.0	310.9	5.3	312.8	15.3	2.6

St Austell Granite

Sample EN13SA-LUX is a megacrystic biotite granite from the Luxulyan Quarry (OS grid reference SX 053590) and comprises K-feldspar (12.9 %), quartz (43.7 %), plagioclase (albite 17.7 %), biotite (11.7 %), muscovite (6.3 %), and accessory apatite, zircon, sphene, cordierite, and chlorite with some sericite replacement of albite. A total of 56 zircon grains were analyzed. Figure 16 displays photos of biotite in thin section with similar dark halos of radiation damage from radioactive zircons seen in Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. Under cathodoluminescence these proved to be elongate euhedral crystals and blocky euhedral grains, ranging in length from <100 μm to >300 μm with clear igneous zonation (Fig. 17). These grains yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range ca. 344-242 Ma (Carboniferous - Triassic), but are mostly highly discordant (Table 3). Nine concordant grains yielded a Concordia age of 305 ± 5 Ma (Fig. 18), which is taken as the best estimate for the age of crystallization. Figure 19 is a scatter plot of the Th/U ratios plotted against the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages. Th/U ratios for the St Austell granite range from 0.04 – 2.3 (Fig. 19).

Figure 16: Thin section photos of the St Austell granite at 4x magnitude. Notice the dark areas of radiation damage within the biotite. A) Plane-polarized light. B) Cross-polarized light.

Figure 17: SEM images of typical igneous zircons from the St Austell granite of the Cornubian Batholith and resulting data. Ellipses indicate analytical locations and % disc indicates discordance at $> 10\%$.

Figure 18: Tera Wasserburg plot of igneous zircon ages from the St Austell granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 19: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the St Austell granite.

Table 3

Laser ablation ICPMS U–Pb–Th data and calculated ages for zircons from the St. Austell granite, Devon.

	St. Austell																				
	Concentrations				Ratios								Ages								
Samples	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ Ma	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ Ma	Disc. %
SA Ig G138.1	433	21	232	0.5	0.0496	0.0012	0.0481	0.0008	0.3285	0.0091	0.0089	0.0005	176.9	4.1	302.6	4.8	288.4	8.0	179.9	10.4	-71.1
SA Ig G131.1	1008	46	64	0.1	0.0502	0.0010	0.0494	0.0007	0.3184	0.0075	0.0111	0.0007	203.2	4.1	310.6	4.6	280.7	6.6	222.2	14.1	-52.8
SA Ig G76.1	530	25	34	0.1	0.0508	0.0009	0.0507	0.0007	0.3384	0.0064	0.0129	0.0011	232.1	4.1	318.8	4.3	296.0	5.6	258.5	21.7	-37.4
SA Ig G104.1	2355	112	125	0.1	0.0524	0.0008	0.0523	0.0009	0.3496	0.0055	0.0136	0.0011	303.8	4.7	328.5	5.7	304.4	4.8	273.6	22.4	-8.2
SA sm G31.1	471	23	64	0.1	0.0527	0.0009	0.0532	0.0007	0.3324	0.0054	0.0152	0.0006	315.4	5.2	334.1	4.7	291.4	4.7	303.9	12.2	-6.0
SA Ig G107.1	572	27	172	0.3	0.0523	0.0009	0.0498	0.0008	0.3469	0.0058	0.0123	0.0010	297.6	5.2	313.4	5.3	302.4	5.1	247.4	19.1	-5.3
SA sm G17.1	252	12	118	0.5	0.0524	0.0012	0.0493	0.0006	0.3561	0.0087	0.0144	0.0004	303.1	6.7	310.2	4.1	309.3	7.5	289.0	9.0	-2.4
SA sm G57.1	129	6	78	0.6	0.0526	0.0015	0.0490	0.0008	0.3548	0.0094	0.0150	0.0006	313.5	8.7	308.2	5.0	308.3	8.2	300.7	11.9	1.7
SA sm G66.1	251	12	83	0.3	0.0531	0.0011	0.0504	0.0008	0.3591	0.0070	0.0152	0.0012	334.7	7.0	317.0	4.9	311.6	6.1	304.1	24.4	5.3
SA sm G68.1	365	18	170	0.5	0.0532	0.0010	0.0506	0.0008	0.3572	0.0069	0.0140	0.0011	336.3	6.5	318.1	4.7	310.1	6.0	281.4	21.8	5.4
SA sm G13.2	333	16	105	0.3	0.0531	0.0010	0.0495	0.0007	0.3403	0.0070	0.0144	0.0005	334.2	6.5	311.4	4.4	297.4	6.2	288.2	10.4	6.8
SA sm G40.1	342	17	52	0.2	0.0540	0.0009	0.0541	0.0007	0.3703	0.0071	0.0191	0.0008	370.7	6.4	339.4	4.3	319.9	6.1	381.8	15.8	8.5
SA Ig G140.1	949	42	137	0.1	0.0530	0.0011	0.0471	0.0006	0.3328	0.0077	0.0113	0.0007	327.8	6.8	296.8	4.1	284.8	6.8	227.4	13.5	9.4
SA Ig G119.1	538	24	287	0.5	0.0528	0.0011	0.0461	0.0007	0.3358	0.0085	0.0098	0.0006	320.9	7.0	290.6	4.2	294.0	7.4	196.6	11.1	9.5
SA Ig G82.1	337	19	680	2.0	0.0530	0.0010	0.0470	0.0005	0.3523	0.0063	0.0115	0.0008	329.0	6.2	296.3	3.0	306.5	5.5	231.1	17.0	9.9
SA Ig G114.1	584	24	138	0.2	0.0525	0.0014	0.0437	0.0008	0.3173	0.0091	0.0088	0.0006	307.7	8.0	275.8	4.9	279.9	8.1	177.3	12.1	10.4
SA Ig G111.1	491	27	1033	2.1	0.0531	0.0012	0.0469	0.0007	0.3456	0.0089	0.0109	0.0006	334.9	7.4	295.7	4.3	301.4	7.8	218.5	12.2	11.7
SA Ig G110.1	736	34	200	0.3	0.0537	0.0010	0.0490	0.0008	0.3479	0.0063	0.0126	0.0010	358.2	6.6	308.5	4.9	303.1	5.5	253.9	19.6	13.9
SA Ig G100.1	306	17	621	2.0	0.0539	0.0012	0.0469	0.0009	0.3485	0.0079	0.0115	0.0009	366.1	8.0	295.3	5.6	303.6	6.9	231.9	17.3	19.3
SA Ig G96.1	606	31	773	1.3	0.0546	0.0010	0.0492	0.0008	0.3551	0.0062	0.0109	0.0008	395.7	7.2	309.4	5.3	308.6	5.4	219.9	16.5	21.8
SA Ig G90.1	251	14	535	2.1	0.0542	0.0012	0.0460	0.0005	0.3398	0.0068	0.0116	0.0008	378.6	8.1	289.8	3.1	297.1	6.0	233.1	16.9	23.5
SA Ig G86.1	307	15	163	0.5	0.0549	0.0012	0.0489	0.0005	0.3675	0.0077	0.0123	0.0009	408.2	8.6	307.6	2.9	317.8	6.7	248.0	18.7	24.6
SA sm G28.1	174	8	34	0.2	0.0552	0.0013	0.0497	0.0008	0.3678	0.0091	0.0185	0.0009	422.0	10.2	312.6	5.2	318.0	7.9	370.8	18.6	25.9
SA Ig G83.1	425	20	349	0.8	0.0553	0.0010	0.0472	0.0004	0.3523	0.0057	0.0110	0.0008	424.4	7.8	297.4	2.7	306.5	5.0	221.6	16.3	29.9
SA Ig G100.2	2405	99	107	0.0	0.0550	0.0009	0.0458	0.0009	0.3196	0.0054	0.0193	0.0016	413.4	6.7	288.6	5.8	281.6	4.7	386.2	31.5	30.2
SA sm G52.1	511	28	113	0.2	0.0571	0.0010	0.0549	0.0009	0.3708	0.0061	0.0310	0.0023	495.9	9.0	344.3	5.5	320.3	5.3	616.7	46.7	30.6
SA sm G74.1	55	3	62	1.1	0.0562	0.0022	0.0497	0.0009	0.4025	0.0196	0.0127	0.0010	460.1	18.4	312.7	5.8	343.5	16.7	255.1	20.4	32.0
SA Ig G77.1	372	20	574	1.5	0.0564	0.0012	0.0482	0.0006	0.3679	0.0072	0.0135	0.0010	470.0	10.0	303.6	3.7	318.1	6.2	271.8	20.1	35.4
SA sm G71.1	464	23	164	0.4	0.0576	0.0010	0.0526	0.0008	0.3949	0.0072	0.0193	0.0017	513.7	9.3	330.3	4.9	337.9	6.2	385.8	33.7	35.7
SA Ig G143.1	3089	125	274	0.1	0.0555	0.0013	0.0428	0.0007	0.2952	0.0072	0.0171	0.0011	434.4	9.9	270.5	4.2	262.6	6.4	343.2	22.1	37.7
SA sm G14.1	136	6	41	0.3	0.0564	0.0020	0.0447	0.0007	0.3423	0.0118	0.0113	0.0008	466.3	16.3	281.9	4.6	298.9	10.3	227.8	16.6	39.6
SA Ig G128.1	338	17	488	1.4	0.0565	0.0014	0.0450	0.0007	0.3533	0.0099	0.0079	0.0005	471.7	11.8	284.0	4.1	307.2	8.6	158.5	9.3	39.8
SA Ig G122.1	985	45	449	0.5	0.0572	0.0015	0.0472	0.0007	0.3561	0.0104	0.0095	0.0006	500.0	12.9	297.2	4.7	309.3	9.1	190.9	12.0	40.6
SA Ig G79.1	525	25	158	0.3	0.0581	0.0010	0.0495	0.0006	0.3894	0.0058	0.0192	0.0015	533.4	8.7	311.7	3.6	333.9	5.0	384.7	29.1	41.6
SA Ig G109.1	268	13	278	1.0	0.0574	0.0013	0.0465	0.0008	0.3723	0.0087	0.0120	0.0009	508.7	11.6	293.1	5.3	321.4	7.5	240.7	18.1	42.4
SA sm G4.1	139	8	266	1.9	0.0574	0.0015	0.0459	0.0007	0.3591	0.0106	0.0144	0.0004	506.7	13.5	289.2	4.5	311.5	9.2	289.9	7.8	42.9
SA Ig G116.1	1316	63	1167	0.9	0.0581	0.0012	0.0460	0.0007	0.3511	0.0086	0.0099	0.0006	533.5	11.3	290.1	4.2	305.6	7.5	198.8	11.3	45.6
SA Ig G99.1	423	24	971	2.3	0.0587	0.0012	0.0469	0.0008	0.3767	0.0077	0.0112	0.0008	557.0	11.7	295.5	5.0	324.6	6.7	224.2	16.7	46.9
SA Ig G91.1	535	26	464	0.9	0.0593	0.0011	0.0468	0.0006	0.3679	0.0057	0.0134	0.0010	576.8	10.4	294.6	3.9	318.1	4.9	269.5	19.7	48.9
SA sm G15.1	63	4	105	1.7	0.0609	0.0026	0.0516	0.0009	0.4422	0.0207	0.0154	0.0005	636.5	27.6	324.4	5.9	371.8	17.4	309.1	10.1	49.0
SA sm G5.1	158	8	130	0.8	0.0609	0.0018	0.0484	0.0009	0.4032	0.0133	0.0182	0.0007	636.2	18.4	304.4	5.5	343.9	11.3	365.3	13.7	52.2
SA Ig G127.1	459	25	649	1.4	0.0614	0.0017	0.0475	0.0007	0.4091	0.0128	0.0117	0.0007	651.8	18.1	298.9	4.6	348.2	10.9	234.5	13.8	54.1
SA sm G29.1	250	12	82	0.3	0.0633	0.0014	0.0510	0.0008	0.4330	0.0124	0.0205	0.0008	717.6	15.7	320.7	4.9	365.3	10.4	409.6	16.3	55.3
SA Ig G141.1	364	16	205	0.6	0.0627	0.0021	0.0446	0.0008	0.3847	0.0151	0.0107	0.0007	698.4	23.2	281.5	4.9	330.5	13.0	214.3	13.4	59.7
SA sm G35.1	241	11	85	0.4	0.0639	0.0018	0.0460	0.0008	0.3883												

Carmmenellis Granite

Sample EN13CARN-ROSE is a megacrystic biotite granite from the Rosemanowes Quarry (OS grid reference SW 735346) and comprises K-feldspar (25.8 %), quartz (34.7 %), plagioclase (albite 24.4 %), biotite (6.5 %), muscovite (4.8 %), and accessory apatite, zircon, and sphene with some sericite replacement of albite. A total of 43 zircon grains were analyzed. Figure 20 also presents thin section photos that display halos of radiation damage within biotite. Figure 20c is a 40x photo of a zircon grain in cross-section where the halo can be clearly seen. Cathodoluminescence showed these to be elongate and blocky euhedral grains with sizes ranging from <100 μm to >300 μm and clear igneous zoning (Fig. 21). All but two of these grains yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range ca. 573 - 285 Ma (Neoproterozoic - Permian), but most are highly discordant (Table 4). Two grains yielded much older $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages of ca. 928 and 1631 Ma, indicating inheritance. Eight concordant grains yielded a Concordia age of 313 ± 3 Ma (Fig. 22), which is taken as the best estimate for the age of crystallization. Th/U ratios for the Carmmenellis granite range from 0.01 – 1.7 (Figs. 23, 24). Figure 23 includes the zircons that are interpreted to be inherited to display all of the data used for the Carmmenellis granite. Figure 24 excludes the two inherited ages so that the relationship of the grains not interpreted as inheritance can be seen more clearly.

Figure 20: Thin section photos of the Carnmenellis granite. Note the dark areas of radiation damage within the biotite. A) Plane-polarized light at 10x magnitude. B) Cross-polarized light at 10x magnitude. C) A zircon in cross-section, cross-polarized light at 40x magnitude.

Figure 21: SEM images of typical igneous zircons from the Carnmenellis granite of the Cornubian Batholith and resulting data. Ellipses indicate analytical locations and % disc indicates discordance at $> 10\%$.

Figure 22: Tera Wasserburg plot of igneous zircon ages from the Carnmenellis granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 23: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Carmmenellis granite.

Figure 24: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Carmmenellis granite with inherited ages excluded.

Table 4

Laser ablation ICPMS U–Pb-Th data and calculated ages for zircons from the Carnmenellis granite, Cornwall.

Carmenellis																					
Samples	Concentrations				Ratios								Ages								
	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ Ma	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ Ma	Disc. %
CARN lg G14.1	1053	58	16	0.0	0.0545	0.0010	0.0599	0.0008	0.3651	0.0082	0.0569	0.0077	391.4	7.2	374.7	5.3	316.0	7.1	1119.4	151.2	4.2
CARN lg G12.2	843	46	24	0.0	0.0567	0.0013	0.0559	0.0009	0.3794	0.0091	0.0307	0.0030	478.0	10.7	350.4	5.6	326.6	7.9	610.5	59.2	26.7
CARN lg G15.3	281	13	17	0.1	0.0523	0.0011	0.0518	0.0007	0.3655	0.0094	0.0155	0.0014	299.2	6.6	325.9	4.6	316.3	8.1	311.0	28.1	-8.9
CARN lg G22.2	493	27	62	0.1	0.0639	0.0010	0.0541	0.0008	0.4242	0.0081	0.0476	0.0031	739.4	12.1	339.6	4.9	359.1	6.9	940.5	61.6	54.1
CARN lg G17.2	1041	56	133	0.1	0.0591	0.0010	0.0576	0.0007	0.3805	0.0076	0.0256	0.0022	572.0	10.1	360.9	4.3	327.4	6.5	511.2	43.0	36.9
CARN lg G2.1	440	22	59	0.1	0.0574	0.0008	0.0536	0.0008	0.3720	0.0079	0.0232	0.0010	507.0	7.0	336.5	4.8	321.1	6.9	464.5	20.9	33.6
CARN lg G18.1	198	9	33	0.2	0.0621	0.0016	0.0475	0.0014	0.3872	0.0116	0.0304	0.0020	679.0	18.0	299.0	9.1	332.3	10.0	604.7	39.7	56.0
CARN sm G132.1	430	22	74	0.2	0.0528	0.0007	0.0549	0.0008	0.3479	0.0066	0.0165	0.0013	320.1	4.1	344.6	5.0	303.1	5.8	330.6	27.0	-7.7
CARN sm G34.1	230	11	40	0.2	0.0515	0.0008	0.0498	0.0005	0.3510	0.0067	0.0146	0.0005	262.2	4.0	313.2	3.5	305.5	5.8	293.8	9.1	-19.4
CARN lg G18.2	193	9	36	0.2	0.0696	0.0016	0.0469	0.0007	0.4427	0.0118	0.0213	0.0008	915.6	20.4	295.7	4.7	372.1	9.9	426.4	16.6	67.7
CARN sm G127.1	113	7	22	0.2	0.0595	0.0012	0.0635	0.0009	0.5094	0.0146	0.0257	0.0022	585.2	11.8	396.8	5.6	418.0	12.0	513.8	43.6	32.2
CARN sm G126.1	165	8	34	0.2	0.0556	0.0012	0.0484	0.0007	0.3647	0.0100	0.0188	0.0016	435.5	9.3	304.9	4.1	315.8	8.7	377.1	31.7	30.0
CARN lg G19.1	185	9	39	0.2	0.0531	0.0010	0.0499	0.0006	0.3689	0.0091	0.0193	0.0007	331.9	6.2	313.9	3.9	318.8	7.8	386.4	14.8	5.4
CARN sm G123.1	178	8	39	0.2	0.0521	0.0010	0.0493	0.0007	0.3469	0.0084	0.0154	0.0013	289.1	5.5	310.1	4.3	302.4	7.3	308.6	26.0	-7.3
CARN sm G136.1	315	15	71	0.2	0.0543	0.0008	0.0501	0.0006	0.3540	0.0073	0.0157	0.0013	382.6	5.8	315.2	4.0	307.7	6.3	314.7	25.9	17.6
CARN sm G137.1	290	14	66	0.2	0.0518	0.0008	0.0495	0.0007	0.3302	0.0075	0.0146	0.0012	277.8	4.4	311.5	4.2	289.7	6.6	293.6	24.7	-12.1
CARN lg G10.2	231	11	56	0.2	0.0634	0.0013	0.0477	0.0006	0.4126	0.0094	0.0222	0.0010	720.5	14.3	300.3	3.8	350.8	8.0	442.9	20.2	58.3
CARN sm G42.1	244	11	60	0.2	0.0590	0.0010	0.0486	0.0005	0.3908	0.0086	0.0187	0.0013	568.8	9.8	305.6	3.4	334.9	7.4	373.7	25.1	46.3
CARN sm G128.1	481	25	120	0.2	0.0551	0.0007	0.0540	0.0007	0.3575	0.0070	0.0164	0.0013	415.6	5.4	339.2	4.6	310.4	6.0	328.8	26.7	18.4
CARN sm G147.1	455	24	120	0.3	0.0571	0.0007	0.0532	0.0008	0.3652	0.0070	0.0171	0.0014	495.0	6.2	334.2	5.0	316.1	6.1	342.4	28.6	32.5
CARN lg G7.1	197	9	52	0.3	0.0548	0.0011	0.0487	0.0007	0.3667	0.0092	0.0178	0.0007	404.3	7.8	306.3	4.7	317.2	7.9	357.6	14.5	24.2
CARN sm G28.1	200	9	53	0.3	0.0526	0.0008	0.0492	0.0006	0.3591	0.0075	0.0142	0.0004	312.4	5.0	309.6	3.7	311.6	6.5	285.5	8.0	0.9
CARN sm G36.1	469	25	126	0.3	0.0591	0.0009	0.0551	0.0007	0.3913	0.0082	0.0226	0.0015	570.1	8.9	346.1	4.6	335.3	7.0	451.4	30.4	39.3
CARN lg G9.1	211	10	57	0.3	0.0525	0.0011	0.0505	0.0007	0.3607	0.0087	0.0150	0.0006	307.4	6.4	317.4	4.4	312.7	7.5	301.6	12.2	-3.3
CARN lg G16.1	240	11	69	0.3	0.0536	0.0013	0.0478	0.0007	0.3598	0.0093	0.0134	0.0011	353.5	8.3	301.3	4.1	312.1	8.1	269.6	22.0	14.8
CARN sm G125.1	237	12	78	0.3	0.0519	0.0008	0.0505	0.0007	0.3624	0.0082	0.0167	0.0014	280.5	4.3	317.6	4.6	314.0	7.1	334.3	27.3	-13.2
CARN lg G3.1	137	7	45	0.3	0.0562	0.0018	0.0566	0.0013	0.4249	0.0177	0.0181	0.0009	460.3	14.5	355.2	8.0	359.6	15.0	363.4	17.6	22.8
CARN sm G35.1	739	48	255	0.3	0.1061	0.0021	0.0595	0.0009	0.7084	0.0173	0.0567	0.0017	1734.0	34.7	372.3	5.6	543.8	13.3	1115.6	33.0	78.5
CARN sm G138.1	172	8	61	0.4	0.0674	0.0014	0.0488	0.0007	0.4478	0.0119	0.0232	0.0019	850.2	17.6	307.4	4.4	375.7	10.0	464.2	38.9	63.8
CARN lg G11.1	279	16	108	0.4	0.0728	0.0018	0.0547	0.0011	0.5444	0.0149	0.0272	0.0022	1008.1	25.6	343.1	6.7	441.3	12.1	541.9	44.4	66.0
CARN sm G61.1	465	26	187	0.4	0.0638	0.0010	0.0562	0.0007	0.4011	0.0085	0.0227	0.0015	733.5	11.7	352.5	4.1	342.5	7.2	452.8	30.0	51.9
CARN sm G38.1	58	17	26	0.4	0.1096	0.0015	0.2879	0.0035	4.4426	0.1173	0.0846	0.0055	1792.9	24.3	1631.3	19.8	1720.3	45.4	1641.4	106.0	9.0
CARN lg G15.2	279	17	147	0.5	0.0565	0.0012	0.0607	0.0008	0.4715	0.0110	0.0164	0.0013	472.2	9.8	380.0	5.2	392.2	9.1	329.2	26.2	19.5
CARN lg G4.1	336	22	219	0.6	0.0721	0.0014	0.0622	0.0011	0.5919	0.0131	0.0244	0.0010	987.9	19.4	389.2	6.8	472.1	10.4	486.3	19.2	60.6
CARN sm G141.1	106	18	77	0.7	0.0926	0.0016	0.1548	0.0021	1.9756	0.0476	0.0680	0.0056	1478.9	26.1	928.1	12.6	1107.2	26.7	1329.2	108.8	37.2
CARN lg G5.1	302	21	221	0.7	0.0566	0.0009	0.0677	0.0010	0.5199	0.0107	0.0198	0.0007	474.6	7.6	422.2	6.4	425.1	8.7	396.1	13.2	11.0
CARN lg G8.1	209	10	165	0.8	0.0692	0.0017	0.0452	0.0009	0.4341	0.0123	0.0165	0.0007	903.3	22.1	284.9	5.6	366.1	10.4	330.8	13.1	68.5
CARN lg G20.1	25	2	20	0.8	0.0795	0.0039	0.0929	0.0017	0.9755	0.0398	0.0386	0.0020	1183.8	58.5	572.6	10.5	691.3	28.2	765.1	40.2	51.6
CARN lg G15.1	83	5	70	0.8	0.0545	0.0016	0.0627	0.0010	0.4912	0.0172	0.0162	0.0013	391.2	11.8	392.1	6.0	405.8	14.2	325.2	26.6	-0.2
CARN sm G39.1	88	4	77	0.9	0.0519	0.0014	0.0475	0.0006	0.3369	0.0099	0.0143	0.0009	280.3	7.3	299.2	3.8	294.8	8.7	286.9	18.8	-6.7
CARN sm G56.1	84	5	88	1.0	0.0852	0.0023	0.0512	0.0008	0.6040	0.0186	0.0249	0.0016	1321.2	35.0	322.1	5.2	479.8	14.8	497.6	32.8	75.6
CARN sm G37.1	104	6	109	1.0	0.0689	0.0020	0.0494	0.0007	0.4769	0.0171	0.0173	0.0011	895.4	25.8	311.0	4.4	396.0	14.2	347.4	23.0	65.3
CARN sm G142.1	199	12	341	1.7	0.0609	0.0018	0.0480	0.0009	0.3933	0.0143	0.0164	0.0014	634.6	18.5	302.0	5.5	336.7	12.3	329.3	27.4	52.4

Land's End Granite

Sample EN13LE-CAD is a fine-grained biotite-muscovite granite from the Castle-an-Dinas Quarry (OS grid reference SW 484343) and comprises K-feldspar (23.7 %), quartz (38.8 %), plagioclase (albite 22.6 %), biotite (7.1 %), muscovite (6.8 %) and accessory zircon, sphene, cordierite and chlorite, with significant sericite replacement of feldspar. The sample yielded only 5 zircon grains. Under cathodoluminescence (Fig. 26) these zircons proved to be small, elongated euhedral grains as well as larger, blocky euhedral grains with sizes ranging between 100 μm and 200 μm . Igneous zoning is clearly defined in the larger grains. These grains yielded $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages in the range ca. 334-294 Ma (Carboniferous - Permian), but most are highly discordant (Table 5). Three concordant grains yielded a Concordia age of 300 ± 5 Ma (Fig. 27), which is taken as the best estimate for the age of crystallization. Figure 25 presents thin section photos of the Land's End granite, though no halos of radiation damage were found within the thin section. Figure 28 is a scatter plot of the Th/U ratios and the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages for the Land's End granite, although the small number of analyses for this granite may not be entirely representative of the zircon population Th/U ratios for the Land's End granite range from 0.1 – 0.4 (Fig. 28).

Figure 25: Thin section photos of the Land's End granite at 10x magnitude. No halos of radiation damage or zircons were visible, represented by the halo-free biotite in the bottom center. A) Plane-polarized light. B) Cross-polarized light.

Figure 26: SEM images of typical igneous zircons from the Land's End granite of the Cornubian Batholith and resulting data. Ellipses indicate analytical locations and % disc indicates discordance at $> 10\%$.

Figure 27: Tera Wasserburg plot of igneous zircon ages from the Land's End granite of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 28: Scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ Ages for the Land's End granite.

Table 5

Laser ablation ICPMS U–Pb–Th data and calculated ages for zircons from the Land’s End granite, Cornwall.

Land's End																				
Samples	Concentrations				Ratios								Ages							
	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1σ Ma	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1σ Ma	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²³² Th	1σ Ma
LE sm G22.1	727	37	322	0.4	0.0644	0.0012	0.0532	0.0011	0.4257	0.0103	0.0150	0.0014	754.1	14.6	334.4	6.8	360.1	8.7	301.8	28.5
LE 1g G15.1	813	37	111	0.1	0.0548	0.0007	0.0483	0.0006	0.3330	0.0059	0.0155	0.0006	406.0	5.3	304.3	4.0	291.8	5.2	311.5	12.2
LE 1g G14.1	371	17	35	0.1	0.0540	0.0008	0.0476	0.0006	0.3431	0.0070	0.0143	0.0006	370.8	5.8	299.9	3.8	299.5	6.1	287.7	11.6
LE 1g G4.1	332	15	29	0.1	0.0524	0.0009	0.0475	0.0006	0.3318	0.0072	0.0167	0.0007	304.9	5.1	299.3	3.6	291.0	6.3	334.8	14.3
LE sm G15.1	732	33	178	0.2	0.0721	0.0014	0.0468	0.0009	0.4258	0.0089	0.0233	0.0022	988.3	19.0	294.5	5.6	360.2	7.5	464.7	44.1

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

Comparison with TIMS U–Pb monazite/xenotime data

In Figure 13, the LA-ICPMS U–Pb zircon ages from this study are presented as relative age probability plots in order to summarize the results and highlight variations between the five plutons. The age data are then compared to the TIMS U–Pb monazite and xenotime ages from identical or similar locations reported by Chen et al. (1993) and Chesley et al. (1993) are summarized in Table 6 and Figure 30. There is generally a very close agreement between the TIMS U–Pb monazite and xenotime ages for the Carnmenellis, Land's End and St Austell plutons in these independent earlier studies. In addition, the $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ muscovite and biotite cooling ages across these and other plutons of the Cornubian Batholith were shown by both studies to be consistently 3–5 Ma younger than the corresponding U–Pb monazite/xenotime magmatic ages (Chen et al., 1993; Chesley et al., 1993). The U–Pb monazite age of 281 Ma for the Bodmin Moor granite reported by Chen et al. (1993) is anomalously young (less than the corresponding muscovite cooling age), and the 291 Ma U–Pb monazite age of Chesley et al. (1993) is considered more reliable.

Based on the U–Pb zircon Tera-Wasserburg plots (Figs. 8, 12, 13, 18, 22, 27) the five mainland plutons of the batholith are, in order of decreasing age, Bodmin Moor (316 ± 4 Ma, MWSD = 1.2), Carnmenellis (313 ± 3 Ma, MWSD = 0.88), Dartmoor (approx. 310 Ma), St. Austell (305 ± 5 Ma, MSWD = 2.1), and Land's End (300 ± 5 Ma, MWSD = 1.3). The U–Pb zircon data support the U–Pb monazite and xenotime data of Chen et al. (1993) and Chesley et al. (1993) in suggesting that emplacement of the Cornubian Batholith occurred diachronously. However, whilst there is little evidence of inheritance

in the data used to construct the Concordia plots – only those zircon analyses showing no indication of common Pb contamination and no sign of Pb loss being included – the zircon ages are consistently 20-30 Ma older than the corresponding U–Pb monazite ages (Fig. 30). The discrepancy between the zircon and monazite age data is a systematic one in that both data sets indicate the Land's End pluton to be the youngest of the five, and the Bodmin Moor and Carnmenellis plutons to be the oldest.

A possible explanation for this age discrepancy is the lower closure temperature of monazite ($\geq 750^{\circ}\text{C}$; Dahl, 1997) versus that of zircon ($\geq 900^{\circ}\text{C}$; Dahl, 1997), which might be expected to produce monazite ages that are slightly younger than the zircon ages from the same granitic body because of the greater length of time required for the monazites to cool to their closure temperature. However, such an explanation would require the magma to have had an unreasonably long crustal residence time of 20-25 Ma.

In many other studies, zircon and monazite ages from the same granite agree within analytical uncertainties (e.g., Kusiak et al., 2014). Indeed, Chesley et al. (1993) presented U–Pb analyses for three zircon fractions from the St Austell granite that indicated broadly similar ages (278-284 Ma) to those of monazites from the same sample (282 Ma). Nevertheless, all of these zircons were discordant and their $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages ranged between 307-292 Ma, which Chesley et al. (1993) interpreted to be a consequence of the inheritance of pre-granite Pb. It is also probable that minor pre-granite Pb inheritance is responsible for the anomalously old U–Pb zircon Concordia age data reported here.

The older emplacement ages can certainly be discounted on geological grounds. Outcrop relations across SW England indicate that emplacement of the Cornubian

Batholith post-dated structures developed during both Variscan convergence and the initial stages of post-Variscan extensional reactivation of major thrust faults (Alexander & Shail, 1995; 1996; Shail & Alexander, 1997; Shail & Leveridge, 2009). The LA-ICPMS U–Pb zircon ages of the oldest (ca. 313–316 Ma) plutons overlap or slightly pre-date the depositional age (ca. 311–315 Ma) of the youngest (Moscovian) metasedimentary strata (Bude Formation) in the Culm Basin that was intruded by the batholith. These strata could not undergo Variscan convergence-related deformation (resulting in 6–8 km of tectonic burial), followed by post-Variscan extension and exhumation prior to granite emplacement on a timescale that would render such zircon ages realistic. The Crediton Graben, locally developed upon the exhumed Culm Basin, is infilled by a latest Carboniferous–Early Permian red-bed succession containing lamprophyre lavas towards their bases dated at 290.8 ± 0.8 Ma (Edwards et al., 1997), that are a robust indicator of the earliest post-Variscan magmatism in the region (e.g., Dupuis et al., 2015).

Figure 13 displays the major tectonic and structural events that are directly related to the emplacement of the Cornubian Batholith (i.e., the closure of the Rheic Ocean and the resultant Variscan orogeny, the obduction of the Lizard Ophiolite, extension and reactivation of the Rhenohercynian Suture). The highest age probability for all of the granites except Land’s End occurs before the period of extension that preceded granite emplacement, during the closure of the Rheic Ocean, therefore these ages cannot represent the age of emplacement for the granites.

Figure 29: Age distribution plot for each of the five major plutons of the Cornubian Batholith. The shaded vertical bars represent the tectonic events directly related to the structural geology of SW England, the Variscan orogeny and the emplacement of the Cornubian Batholith.

Figure 30: Comparison of LA-ICPMS U–Pb zircon ages (this study) with those from TIMS U–Pb monazite / xenotime (Chesley et al., 1993; Chen et al., 1993).

Table 6

Comparison of LA-ICPMS U–Pb zircon ages (this study) with those from TIMS U–Pb monazite / xenotime (Chesley et al., 1993; Chen et al., 1993).

Method	LA-ICPMS - this study				TIMS - Chesley et al. (1993)				TIMS - Chen et al. (1993)			
Pluton	Age	2 σ	Min	Location	Age	2 σ	Min	Location	Age	2 σ	Min	Location
Bodmin Moor Granite (BMG)	316	4	Zr	De Lank	291.4	0.8	Mz	Brockabarrow Common	281.4	0.6	Mz	De Lank
St Austell Granite (SAG)	305	5	Zr	Luxulyan	281.8	0.4	Mz	Luxulyan (n=3)	280.3	0.8	Mz	Luxulyan
Carnmenellis Granite (CG)	313	3	Zr	Rosemanowes	294.0	1.0	Mz	Bosahan	293.7	0.8	Mz	Carnsew
Land's End Granite (LEG)	300	5	Zr	Castle-an-Dinas	279.2	0.6	Xe	Castle-an-Dinas	277.0	0.6	Mz	Castle-an-Dinas

Pb207/U235 ages quoted throughout

Zircon inheritance in the Cornubian Batholith

It is surprising that the U–Pb analyses of zircons from the Cornubian Batholith, taken as a whole, provide so little evidence of pre-Permian inheritance. The reason for this paucity of older zircons is uncertain since it is unlikely that entire age populations were missed by our sampling and all indications point to the Cornubian Batholith biotite granites as having been produced by melting of a source with an overwhelming crustal component (e.g. Charoy, 1986; Darbyshire & Shepherd, 1994; Chappell & Hine, 2006). Miller et al. (2003) have suggested that inheritance-poor granites are indicative of high-temperature (>800 °C) magma generation and suggest a magma source that may have been undersaturated with zircon. They also noted that completely inheritance-free granites are always metaluminous or weakly peraluminous, whereas a few of those with minor inherited zircon and the majority of those with significant inherited zircon are strongly peraluminous. Table 6 presents the whole-rock geochemistry data of Stone (2000) for inner and outer granite samples of the Bodmin Moor and Carnmenellis granites. Stone (2000) defines the boundary between the inner and outer granites as the point where $t\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{MgO} = 1.8 \text{ wt\%}$. These data are used to calculate the variable M in the equation for zircon solubility established by Watson & Harrison (1983):

$$\left(\ln D_{\text{Zr}}^{\text{zircon/melt}} = \{-3.8 - [0.85(M - 1)]\} + \frac{12900}{T} \right), \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

where M is a cation ratio accounting for the dependence of zircon solubility upon SiO_2 and peraluminosity of the melt:

$$M = \left(\frac{\text{Na} + \text{K} + 2\text{Ca}}{\text{Al} \cdot \text{Si}} \right), \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

where T is temperature in degrees kelvin. Using this data and solving for T (e.g., Miller et

al., 2003):

$$T_{Zr} = \left(\frac{12900}{2.95 + 0.85M + \ln\left(\frac{496000}{Zr_{melt}}\right)} \right) \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

the geothermometer for zircon saturation temperatures in the Bodmin Moor and Carnmenellis granites were calculated (see Table 7) resulting in T_{Zr} temperatures of 727 – 775 °C. According to Miller et al. (2003), T_{Zr} values of 730-780 °C should represent granites with a strong inherited zircon component.

However, zircon inheritance is not entirely absent. A few strongly discordant zircon grains give Mesoproterozoic $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages, although these give no indication as to the nature of the basement and whether or not it has Avalonian affinities. Nance et al. (2015) discuss the possibility that the underlying, unexposed basement of SW England could be a correlative of the Meguma terrane rather than the traditionally assigned Avalon terrane (Franke, 2000; Matte, 2001; Landing 2004; Shail & Leveridge, 2009). While the two discordant Mesoproterozoic ages from this study alone cannot be used to make any suggestion about the nature of the unexposed basement, a few studies have been conducted which provide small slivers of insight into the basement of SW England. Schofield et al. (2010) also regressed one highly discordant zircon age with a Mesoproterozoic upper limit age of 1648 Ma in the Stanner Hanter complex (Wales, UK). Sandeman et al. (2000) conducted U–Pb analysis of the Kennack Gneiss (which intrudes the Lizard ophiolite to the east of the Cornubian Batholith) that resulted in a Concordia upper intercept of 2012 ± 13 Ma and a lower intercept of 376.4 ± 1.7 Ma. They interpreted the lower intercept as representing the age of emplacement of the Kennack Gneiss, and suggested that the upper intercept might correspond to the

approximate age of the ancient source of the melt. Their Concordia results were produced from four zircon grains, one highly discordant grain providing a Mesoproterozoic $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 1389.2 Ma. Although all of these Mesoproterozoic ages are highly discordant, they document the presence of ancient crustal material in each of these bodies.

Some of the granites, in particular the older plutons, contain a significant component of late Devonian (Frasnian/Famennian) inherited zircons. This is most clearly evident in the 372 ± 12 Ma (MWSD = 1.2) age of the older Concordia plot from the Bodmin Moor granite (Fig. 12). The source of this late Devonian inheritance is problematic since the only exposed igneous rocks of this age in SW England are mafic and thought to be rift-related (Merriman et al., 2000; Shail & Leveridge, 2009), and so are unlikely to contain zircons. It is possible, however, that the zircons were formed during partial melting of the lower continental crust during this rifting event. However, another potential source of late Devonian zircons would be the arc-related plutons associated with the subduction of the Rheic Ocean beneath Avalonia (e.g., Nance et al., 2010; Braid et al., 2011; Quesada, 1998). These are not exposed in SW England, but occur immediately south of the Rhenohercynian Zone farther east, in the Mid-German Crystalline Rise (Zeh et al., 2001), and farther west, in the South Portuguese Zone of southern Iberia (Braid et al., 2010). Upper Devonian granitoid clasts derived from the equivalent of the Mid-German Crystalline Rise occur in the proximal southerly derived Gramscatho Basin succession immediately north of the Lizard Ophiolite (Dörr et al., 1999), although it is difficult to envisage how such material would be incorporated into the continental crust of the lower plate. It is also possible that the late Devonian ages are

artifacts of contamination. For example, there is some indication of disturbance within the Dartmoor granite, evidenced by the presence of unzoned rims on zircon grains and highly discordant age data that may suggest common Pb contamination. But these features are not strongly evident in the other granites.

Th/U ratios in zircon can be used as an indicator of the environment in which zircon grew (Rubatto, 2002; Kirkland et al., 2015). Low Th/U ratios (< 0.1) within zircon can be an indication of metamorphic rather than magmatic growth (Rubatto, 2002), while relatively high Th/U ratios may indicate high-grade metamorphism (Wan et al., 2011). Significant lack of zoning within zircon can also indicate metamorphic growth. The Dartmoor granite showed poor zoning under cathodoluminescence, and in seven analyses Th/U ratios were less than 0.1. It is well known that the Cornubian Batholith has been hydrothermally altered, such that metamorphic minerals might be expected to produce ages that are younger than the age of crystallization. Yet the estimated age of 310 Ma for the Dartmoor granite presented here is 30 Ma older than the ~ 280 Ma ages reported by Chen et al. (1993) and Chesley et al. (1993). The Bodmin Moor granite has Th/U ratios that range between 0.1 – 2.3, with an outlier of 27.5. The St. Austell, Carnmenellis, and Land's End granites respectively record five, three, and two analyses with Th/U ratios of less than 0.1. The Land's End granite produced the only scatter plot of Th/U ratios vs. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages (Figs. 9, 14, 15, 19, 23, 24, 28) with an R^2 value greater than 0.5, and only the Bodmin Moor plot that excludes an outlier (Fig. 15) has an R^2 value greater than 0.01. However, the high R^2 value of the Land's End granite may be the result of the limited number of analyses, with only 5 data points, and so may not be an accurate representation of a relationship, or lack thereof, between the Th/U ratios and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$.

Table 7

Average chemical analyses of the Bodmin Moor and Carnmenellis granites, from Stone (2000). Calculations for M and T calculated using equations from Watson & Harrison (1983) and Miller et al. (2003).

	Bodmin Moor Outer	Bodmin Moor Inner	Carnmenellis Outer	Carnmenellis Inner
wt %				
SiO₂	71.31	71.73	72.11	72.84
TiO₂	0.24	0.14	0.24	0.18
Al₂O₃	15.14	14.79	15.04	14.64
Fe₂O₃	1.93	1.32	1.60	1.47
MgO	0.40	0.24	0.43	0.39
CaO	0.75	0.56	0.92	0.68
Na₂O	2.79	2.81	3.06	3.19
K₂O	5.42	5.41	5.12	4.95
Zr (ppm)	88.00	57.00	109.00	74.00
M =	1.04	1.03	1.10	1.08
T_{Zr} (°C) =	761.25	727.29	775.10	744.38

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS

LA-ICPMS U–Pb zircon ages for the Cornubian Batholith match previously published age data in suggesting that the Bodmin Moor and Carnmenellis granites are the oldest plutons while the Land’s End granite is the youngest, and that emplacement of the batholith was diachronous. However, the zircon ages are consistently 20–30 Ma older than previously published U–Pb monazite data (Chen et al., 1993; Chesley et al., 1993). Cross-cutting relations with structures within the batholith’s Devonian–Carboniferous host rocks indicate that the zircon data provide unrealistic emplacement ages.

U–Pb analysis of zircons from the Cornubian Batholith provide little evidence of pre-Permian inheritance. The reasons for this scarcity are uncertain, although inheritance is not entirely absent. Several plutons contain a component of late Devonian inheritance, the source of which is problematic since the only exposed igneous rocks of Devonian age in SW England are mafic and are considered to be rift-related (Merriman et al., 2000; Shail & Leveridge, 2009). The inheritance may record lower crustal melting during this rifting event, or may be linked to arc-related magmatism that has been associated with subduction of the Rheic Ocean elsewhere in the Rhenohercynian Zone.

These data also include a few grains with Mesoproterozoic $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages, although these are too discordant to be used to assess the nature of the basement and whether or not it is of Avalonian affinity. However, together with other studies in southern Britain that have produced highly discordant Mesoproterozoic zircon ages they do indicate the presence of an ancient crustal component in the igneous rocks of SW England.

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