



# **Millpool Farm barn, Goldsithney, Cornwall**

## **Historic Building Record**



**Historic Environment Projects**



Report No

2011R048

Report Name

Millpool Farm barn, Goldsithney, Cornwall  
Historic Building Record

Report Author

Eric Berry

Event Type

--	--	--	--

Client Organisation

Client Contact

Mr Simon Laity

Monuments (MonUID)

--	--	--	--	--	--

Fieldwork dates (From) (To)

15.03.2011

15.03.2011

(Created By)

(Create Date)

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Millpool Farm, Goldsithney

(Town - for urban sites)

(Postcode)

(Easting) X co-ord

SW 57346

(Northing) Y co-ord

30428

## List of Figures

- Fig 1 Location map
- Fig 2 Modern landline map
- Fig 3 c1880 OS map
- Fig 4 c1907 OS map
- Fig 5 Aerial Photograph 2005
- Fig 6 Floor plans
- Fig 7 Front (SE) elevation (note wide doorway to ground-floor left of barn partly blocked)
- Fig 8 Barn NE end with granite steps leading to loft doorway
- Fig 9 Rear of barn and pigsties from west (note 'bridge' in foreground)
- Fig 10 Barn interior ground floor from west
- Fig 11 Barn loft from south-west
- Fig 12 Barn roof NW slope SW end from SE
- Fig 13 Barn original central rear window
- Fig 14 Pigsty interior from south-west
- Fig 15 Pigsties roof from underneath



Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists

## **Summary**

The subject buildings at Millpool farm have been assessed in response to a planning condition. They comprise a 2-storey barn and an attached single-storey pigsty, both built probably very late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The barn appears to have had originally a wagon house and stables (or shippon) on the ground floor and a fodder and bedding store above. The pigsty has evidence for two former pens and a former swill kitchen.

## **Project background**

Planning consent has been granted by Cornwall Council for conversion of a redundant farm building at Millpool Farm, Goldsithney, to residential use. This consent (ref PA08/01817/F) is subject to several conditions, of which Condition 12 states:

No development shall take place in the site until the applicant has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority in consultation with the County Archaeologist.

Although no brief was produced by the planning authority the usual requirements in such instances is a descriptive and photographic survey, the equivalent of a Level 2 historic building survey (English Heritage 2006). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted and approved. The WSI sets out the intended works, the methodology employed and the arrangements for project monitoring. Historic Environment Projects was contacted by Tim Pickett, on behalf of the owner, and an estimate of costs was prepared. This was subsequently agreed by the owner. Historic Environment Projects was subsequently contacted by the owners with a view to achieving this recording. This report sets out the results.

## **Aims and objectives**

The principal aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of the origins and historic development of the subject farm building. The objective is to obtain an archaeological record of the site prior to alterations.

## **Working methods**

The study is equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2 survey (see English Heritage 2006). It comprised a brief resume of historic material, followed by a descriptive and photographic survey.

### **Pre-fieldwork**

Rapid desk-based research was carried out, including historic cartographic evidence from large scale OS editions (c1880 and c1907) and information from Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Record.

### **Fieldwork: description**

Brief analysis of the building fabric was undertaken on site recorded as notes on vernacular building record forms and notes on sketch drawings.

### **Fieldwork: photographic recording**

A photographic survey was carried out. This included a film of black and white photographs using a 35mm SLR camera fitted with suitable lenses including shift lenses and mounted on a tripod. Colour photographs were taken with digital SLR cameras with resolutions of 10 and 12 megapixels. A scale bar was included in all pictures where physically possible.

### **Post-fieldwork**

The film photographs were processed by a commercial photographic laboratory that provided traditional negatives. Post-processing of digital photographs was carried out using Adobe Photoshop Elements software. A selection of these images has been used to illustrate this report, the images compressed to a printable standard.

All other project materials were prepared for long term storage. This short report summarises the results of the study.

## **Location and setting**

Millpool is a small settlement that includes two old farmsteads, one on each side of a winding country lane. The farmsteads are located on low-lying ground with arable farmland sloping up to a gradual slope on either side of the valley bottom that they occupy. A 'bridge' (over a culvert) takes surface water under the road west of the subject buildings (see Fig 9). Millpool Farm is located at the south-east side of the lane. An older former smithy lies to the north-east of the subject buildings and the farmhouse lies to the south-east of the subject buildings.

Millpool lies within the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

## **Building Description**

### **Building type**

The subject building comprises two components: the 2-storey part is a former wagon store and probable stables (or possible shippon) on the ground floor, with a fodder and bedding loft above; the single-storey part is a former (2-pen) pigsty with swill kitchen at one end.

### **Date evidence**

The subject building is first shown on the c1907 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS 25 inch map, and based on constructional and stylistic detail it appears to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Materials**

The principal building material for the walls is well selected and semi-coursed granitic elvan rubble bedded in earth mortar. Granite is used for quoins, ground-floor lintels, and jamb-stones where used to hold iron pintails. A flight of external steps at the north-east end of the barn has dressed granite steps. Dressed granite is also used for threshold stones. Window cills are slate monoliths. Gable-ended roofs are laid with original scantle slate and there are red clay ridge tiles. There is a small brick chimney stack that serves the former swill kitchen at the south-west end of the pigsty. A central ventilator to the pigsty roof is a later fitting (Fig 15).

### **Plan**

The building is a single-phase structure with most openings to its south-east front (see Fig 6). There is a 2-storey rectangular barn at the north-east end and a smaller (narrower and more shallow) plan pigsty building set back at the south-west end. The barn has a wagon bay at its left-hand (SW) end with a wide doorway at the front (later partly blocked). The loft of the barn has a doorway at its north-east end. The pigsty has evidence that the left-hand (SW) end was designed as a swill kitchen. The remaining two thirds of the building display evidence that it was originally divided into two pens.

### **Exterior elevations**

The SE front elevation of the barn (Fig 7) has a partly blocked wide doorway on the left (former wagon house) and a narrower doorway flanked by two window openings to the former shippon part. The doors are old and ledged and braced. They hang from original strap hinges offset at the outer ends to fit iron pintails held in the front face of granite jamb-stones. Two first-floor window openings are regularly disposed with respect to the whole elevation. The front windows are old but not original.

The north-east elevation (Fig 8) has a large flight of steps rising from the front of the building to a central loft doorway. The gable ends contain earthenware ventilators.

The rear elevation of the barn has a central first-floor window opening that contains an original shuttered and glazed window (Fig 9).

The south-west elevation of the barn has gable vents similar to those at the opposite end of the building.

The front elevation of the pigsty (Fig 7) has three doorways with old narrow ledged doors with hinges similar to those of the barn. There are earthenware vents under the eaves (front and rear elevations).

## **Interior (Figs 10-15)**

The internal walls are lime-washed. Original roof structures are coeval with each other but trusses are different in their constructional detail as a design response to the different spans that they bridge. The wider-span barn 7-bay roof has collar trusses with angled queen struts. The collar joints are bolted, and the strutted and crossed apex joints are nailed. The pigsty has a 5-bay roof with tie-beam trusses. There are two old, possibly original small floor hatches in the loft floor of the barn. Otherwise, there are no surviving original fittings but there is evidence for the location of former partitions in the rear wall of the pigsties. A concrete block partition now separates the former swill kitchen from the former pigsties.

Within the former shippon area there is a ceiling fitting comprising battens attached to the original joists with mortise joints for former upright timbers. This does not appear to be an original fitting but appears to relate to late subdivision.

## **Significance**

The subject buildings are an interesting example of planned farm buildings designed to function for specific farming needs in this part of Cornwall at the date of its construction.

## **Conclusions**

The results of the survey show that the barn and pigsty were built at the same time and that there is strong evidence for their original design functions. There is no design provision for threshing within the building and this indicates that rolled grain was being brought from elsewhere when the buildings were constructed. Apart from the nearby smithy there are no other traditional farm buildings at Millpool Farm. This suggests that Chyrase Farm on the opposite side of the public lane is the original farm of the settlement. This view is reinforced by the older date of Chyrase Farmhouse and some of its associated traditional farm buildings.

## **References**

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. Swindon

## **Project archive**

The HE project number is **2011029**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Black and white photographs archived under the following index numbers: GBP 2173
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.M-P\Millpool Farm barn Goldsithney 2011029
4. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-99007

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\Sites M\Millpool Farm outbuildings HBR 2011029\report\Millpool farm building report.doc

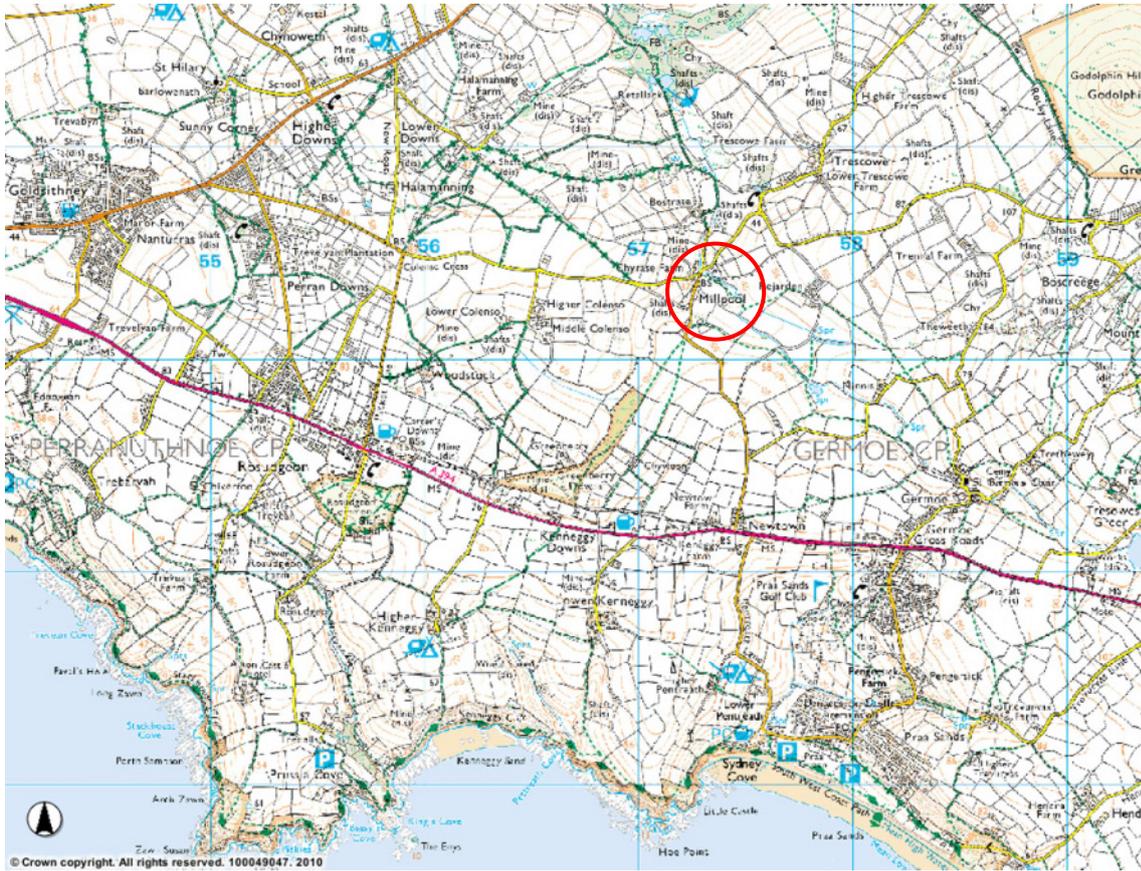


Fig 1 Location map

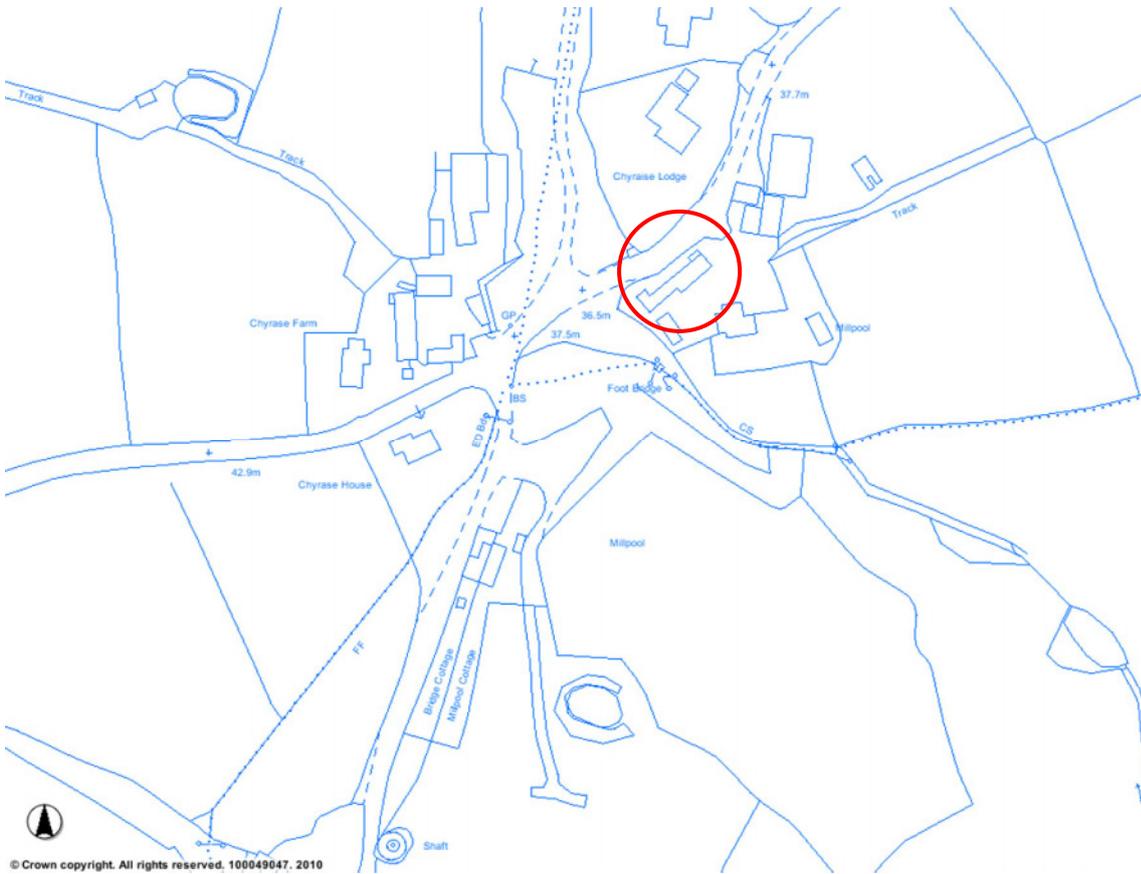


Fig 2 Modern landline map





Fig 5 Air photograph 2005

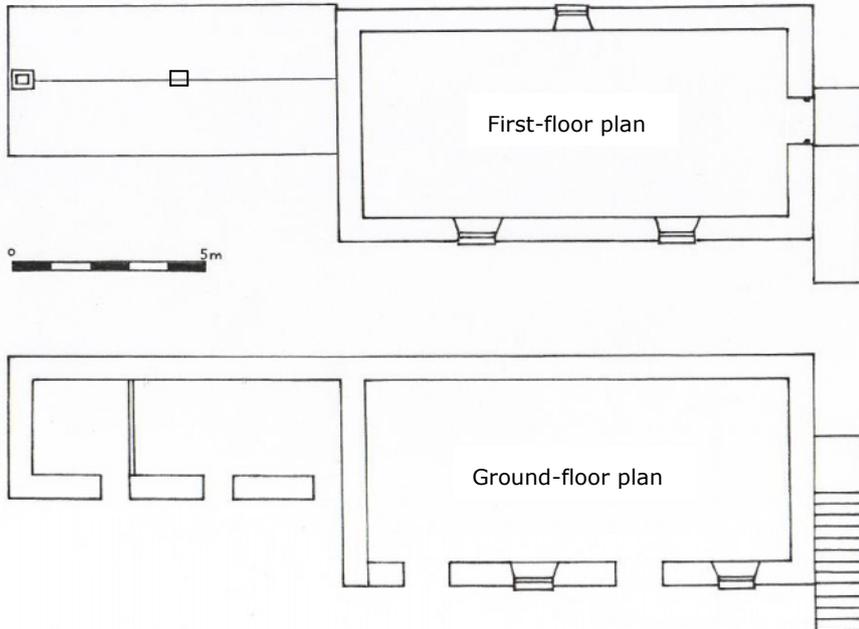


Fig 6 Floor plans



*Fig 7 Front (SE facing) elevation  
(note wide doorway to ground-floor left of barn partly blocked)*



*Fig 8 Barn NE end with granite steps leading to loft doorway*



*Fig 9 Rear of barn and pigsties from west (note 'bridge' in foreground)*



*Fig 10 Barn interior ground floor from west*



*Fig 11 Barn loft from south-west*



*Fig 12 Barn roof NW slope SW end from SE*



*Fig 13 Barn original central rear window*



*Fig 14 Pigsty interior from south-west*



*Fig 15 Pigsties roof from underneath*