

Nancegollan Farm

Crowan, Cornwall

Photographic Recording

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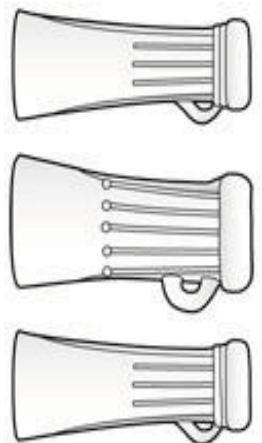
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This study was commissioned by Jonathan Born and carried out by Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (AC).

A file containing historical map extracts and other research was kindly provided by Jonathan and Marcie Born.

The Project Manager was Matt Mossop whilst the fieldwork was undertaken by Hayley Goacher, Dan Billing and James Dean.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Cover illustration

East elevation of Nancegollan Farm Barn, Building 1 30-04-2010 CP1/4

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Photographic Recording

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Report Date:	November 2010
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Abbreviations

AC	Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
BGS	British Geological Society
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now the HES)
CC	Cornwall Council (formerly Cornwall County Council)
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
HEPAO	Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer, Cornwall Council
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Service, Cornwall Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR	National Monuments Record, Swindon
OASIS	Online access to the index of archaeological investigations
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RCM	Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro

1 Summary

AC was commissioned by Jonathan Born to undertake photographic recording in advance of the conversion of two barns into holiday lets at Nancegollan Farm (SW 63955 32556). The photographic recording was required as a condition of listed building consent for the proposed conversion as the barns are grade II listed (No. 65875).

This fieldwork was undertaken on 18th August 2010, it recorded:

- The extant internal and external elevations of the barns which appear to be predominantly 19th Century.
- The internal fixtures of the barns including two cobbled floors.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project Background

Planning permission was granted for the conversion of the barns to make two holiday lets, subject to a number of conditions including Condition 6:

No work shall be undertaken until the implementation of an appropriate programme of recording and analysis of archaeological features has been agreed in writing by the local planning authority, to be carried out by a specialist acceptable to the local planning authority and in accordance with an agreed written brief and specification.

A brief was provided for the required work (Markham) and AC were commissioned to undertake the photographic recording in line with an approved written scheme of investigation (Mossop and Goacher).

2.2 Site Location

The site is located approximately five kilometres north-northwest of Helston at OS grid reference SW 63955 32556. The barns form the south and west sides of a yard associated with Nancegollan Farm.



Figure 1 Site Location. Courtesy of Cornwall Council.

2.3 Topography

The site is located on agricultural land, which slopes down towards the northwest.

2.4 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as being Mylor slate formation and, more specifically, Hornfelsed slate and silt stone, with the Carnmenellis granite intrusion immediately to the east (British Geological Survey).

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Within one kilometre of the site, the Historic Environment Records (HER) include a former standing stone (HER 29527) and two former barrows (HER 29528) at Sithney Downs as well as a possible barrow (HER 56391) and a granite spindle whorl (HER 29496) at Polcrebo Downs

The extant enclosure at Pengwedna, a possible triple ditched enclosure at Kus Skewes (HER 56364) and a round at Crenver (HER 29472) indicate prehistoric activity. Possible rounds at Pengelly and Skewes are suggested by place name evidence and also point to considerable later prehistoric habitation of the area.

Further place name evidence (Nancegollan, Pengelly and Polcrebo) suggests *early* medieval settlement. These places along with Skewer and Crenver are first documented in the medieval period.

There is no reference to Nancegollan in the Domesday Book and the meaning of the name 'whetstone valley' is unclear in its origin (Padel, 1988; 126). 'Nansecolan' is first recorded in 1327 (Padel, 1988, 126) and the village appears to have developed at a cross roads where the principle north to south route connects Helston to Praze-an-Beeble and the east-west route Porkellis to Godolphin.

The lack of a church; a Wesleyan Chapel originating in 1813 (HER 138231) and linear arrangement of houses along the routeways, advocate a later post-medieval date for the majority of the village: in all probability associated with the great mining boom of the late 18th to early 20th Century. Mines have been recorded at Nancegollan, Wheal Fortune, Wheal Vrose (probably Rose) and Higher Skewes (HER), all within one kilometre of the site.

An undated map of Nancegollan Mine (Figure 2) shows a shaft and associated adits just beyond the north east corner of the farmyard. Pengelly CCT work and Nancegollan tin mines are referred to in 1857 and renamed Florence United by 1872. The mine is illustrated as disused by 1877-78 (OS map) before apparently being reworked as Great Wheal Worthy in 1882 (HER 29547).

The mining boom and substantial population increase of the period put great pressure on farming to supply produce. A bone mill (HER 40213) depicted on the 1st edition OS map at Nancegollan demonstrates the continued importance of farming in the area, with the Helston railway (HER MC054552) carrying quantities of freight traffic, particularly broccoli and early potatoes, when it opened in 1887 until 1964.

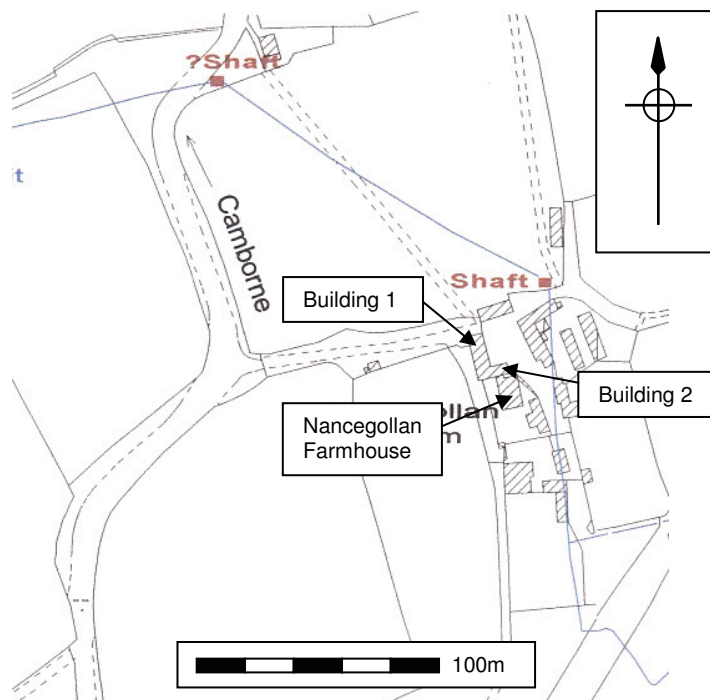
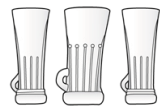


Figure 2 Extract from plan of Nancegollan Mine. Courtesy of J. Born

An extract from the 1696 Lanhydrock Atlas, shows the study area with four structures or buildings ranged around a yard, described as house, orchard, gardens etc. The south western of these structures or buildings appears to stand in the approximate position of Building 2 (see results section).

The OS 1801 and an extract of an 1810 map (Figure 3) both apparently show Building 2 which was owned by William Paull Jewell by c.1840 (Tithe apportionment) with a tenant farmer John Buckett occupying the house immediately to the east of the present farmhouse.

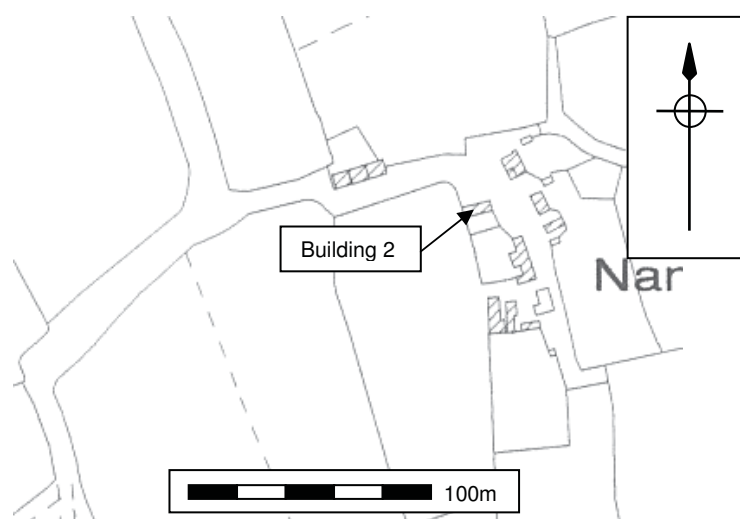


Figure 3 Extract from 1810 Plan of Nancegollan Farm. Courtesy of J. Born

By 1877-78 (Figure 4) Building 1 forms the west side of the extant yard, whilst Nancegollan Farmhouse has also been built, supporting the listed building's description.

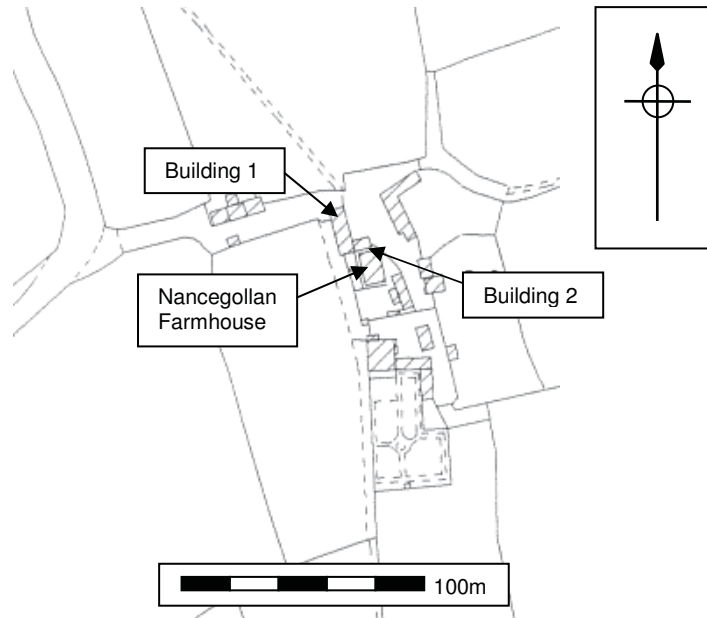


Figure 4 Extract from OS map 1877-78. Courtesy of J. Born

Census and tithe apportionment research undertaken by the client has demonstrated that the farm was owned by the Jewell family in the 19th Century with tenant John Buckett working part of the land before being sold to William Wynne and Edward Pendarves. Gerald Born (Jonathan Born *pers com*) arrived in 1950 and installed the concrete dairying stalls in the 1950s.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

The principal aims were to:

- Complete and archive a standard photographic record of the building
- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains
- To record and interpret the nature of the site, and its significance
- Disseminate the findings appropriately.

To achieve these aims the report has:

- Characterised and drawn together the historical and archaeological information about the building and its environs, specifically for the late Post-Medieval period.

2.7 Methodology

2.7.1 Desk-based assessment (DBA), walk over and standing building survey

The DBA concentrated on the HER and a map regression exercise.

A walk over and scaled monochrome photographic survey recorded the external and internal elevations, concentrating especially on aspects most likely to be affected by the conversion works, especially the internal walls and floor.

Scaled digital colour photography has augmented this to provide general and detailed shots and has been used within the report. All black and white negatives and contact prints will be included in the archive accompanied by a photographic register detailing; feature number, location and direction of shot.

2.7.2 Report

This report describes the results of the archaeological work. Copies of the archive report will be submitted to: the client; The Historic Environment Records; Cornwall Record Office; National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon and all significant contributors where (with the exception of the client's and contributors' copies) they will be available for public consultation.

2.7.3 Site Archive

The site archive will be prepared in line with the brief.

The archive will be deposited with the Cornwall Record Office, within two months of the completion of the final report and confirmed in writing with the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer (HEPAO). A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.

The online access to the index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) record will be completed when the report is submitted.

3 Results

3.1 Structure of the Results

Due to the 'L' shaped plan of the barns, the results are divided into Building 1 and Building 2 where 1 is the larger structure orientated north-south and 2 is the smaller structure at right angles to 1 found at the southern end.

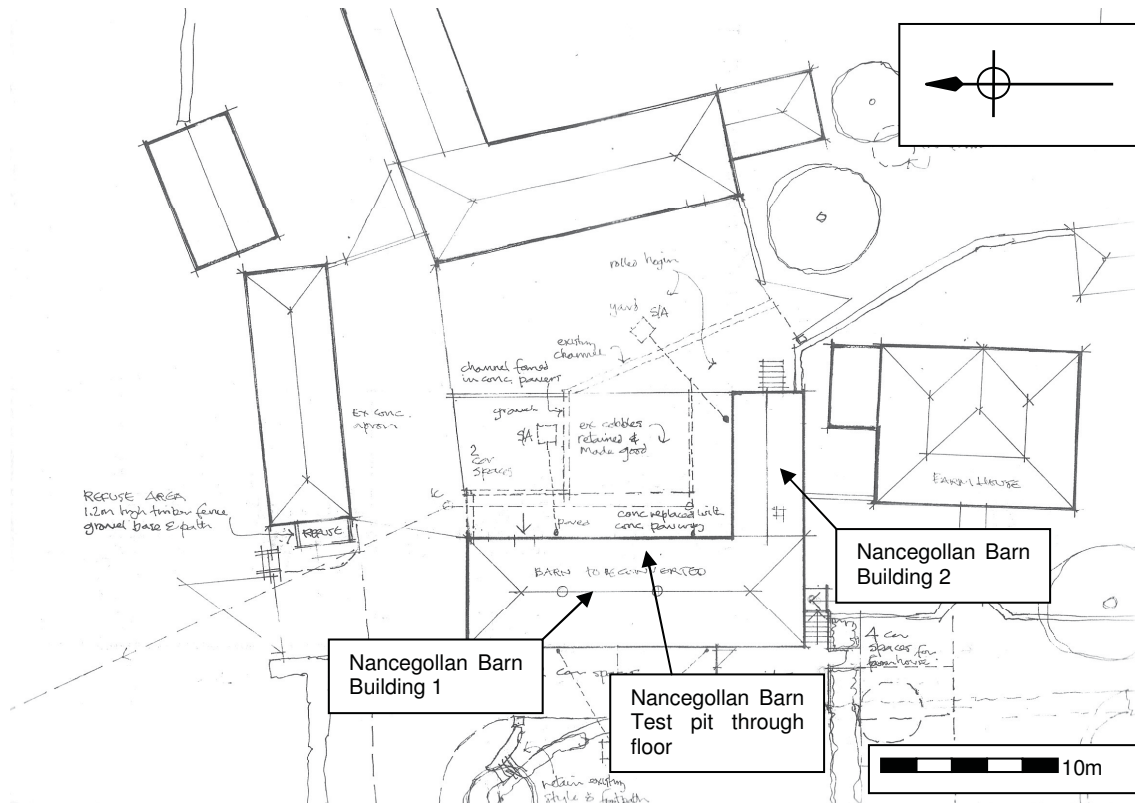


Figure 5 Site plan as supplied by architect Noel Spargo.

3.2 Building 1

Building 1 is a large two storey rectangular barn orientated north-south with no surviving first floor and a modern hipped slate roof. Until recently this building was used as a shelter for cattle.

Building 1 is constructed of uncoursed or semi-coursed granite blocks and rubble with dressed granite quoins, thresholds, sills and lintels. At least three of the granite blocks have grooves as a result of drilling to split them to size (feather and tare). Internally the openings have squared wooden lintels, probably of imported Scandinavian pine. A two storey opening allows for its connection with Building 2, spanned by a cylindrical wooden lintel (possible re-used telegraph pole) to support the first floor. First floor access would have been stepped to allow for the lower first floor in Building 2.

Ground Floor

A test pit through the extant (1950s) concrete floor revealed two earlier granite cobbled floors with a layer of levelling in between. A range of concrete block built cattle stalls and feeding troughs on the west side appeared to have replaced earlier granite troughs and possible wooden partitions (Plate 1). Opposite the stalls an engine to power a belt drive was loose on the floor.

The ground floor east wall is 0.58m thick with three doorways and one window. The wooden lintel of the northern door has four holes drilled through it of approximately 0.06m diameter. The window has an internally splayed aperture

and the lower part displays the remains of rendering to a height of 1.10m from the floor. A larger, approximately central opening, had iron fixings for externally hung doors. Unusually, the doorway at the southern end has a cylindrical wooden lintel that extends across to the southern wall of the building; again there are iron fixings externally on the south side.

In the south wall, the window has a wooden lintel with truncated carpenters marks and a rebate suggesting it's re-use. A wooden frame and half of a horned sash frame have been inserted (Plate 2).

Although only roughly arranged in courses, the west wall has two level lines of stonework at a height of 1.20m and 1.60m. It has only one ground floor window crudely inserted at a later date (Plate 3). This is apparently compensating for the lack of windows to the east where Building 2 adjoins, but it is currently blocked with modern hardboard. Internally, at a height of 1.90m, there is a clear break in the whitewash and rectangular 0.2-0.7m long granite blocks protrude approximately 0.10m from the ground floor walling. Above this the first floor walling narrows, creating a more substantial ledge on the east and west walls to accommodate the first floor joists, which along with the floorboards do not survive.

First Floor

The first floor has a central loading door with granite threshold on each of the four walls. The openings on the north, east and west walls are provided with wooden doors set in wooden frames although these are much decayed and repaired. The northern loading door is provided with an extended threshold supported on projecting ground floor masonry. The southern door is off-centre to the west apparently respecting an earlier ground floor window. The southern door has been blocked with granite blocks, averaging 0.20m in length. Four splayed window openings with granite lintels and sills provide additional light, a pair flanking the east and west loading doors. The southernmost window on the west wall has been obscured internally with corrugated iron sheeting and the northernmost has been blocked to three-quarters height with modern concrete blocks.

3.3 Building 2

Building 2 is a small, dilapidated two storey rectangular structure extending eastwards from the southern end of Building 1 with an eastern external stair and a number of modern repairs. The first floor, roof and parts of the first floor walling have not survived. The earth-bonded, uncoursed granite rubble walling has dressed granite quoins and lintels, where they survive (Plate 5 and 6).

The north 0.65m thick wall is constructed of uncoursed granite rubble with dressed granite quoins. It has a 0.9m wide doorway, with granite quoins and lintel. There is a second, much wider, opening to the east that has a single gate hinge. The remaining wall has been repaired with concrete blocks, Portland cement and concrete with granite inclusions especially at first floor level, though quoins suggest a first floor window.

The east wall has lime mortar pointing with exterior granite steps leading to a doorway 1.54m above ground level (Plate 6).

More coarsely constructed of earth bonded angular granite rubble, the south wall is partially rendered in Portland cement. No openings are extant. Building 1 appears to have truncated the west end of Building 2 though much of the first floor of Building 2 appears to have been rebuilt butting up to the new walling.



Plate 1 Granite troughs and 1950s cattle stalls in Building 1, looking northwest. BW1/28



Plate 3 Inserted ground floor window in west wall of Building 1, looking east. CP1/2



Plate 2 Building 1 ground floor window in south wall with carpenter's marks on lintel, looking south. CP2/17



Plate 4 Building 1 engine with belt drive, looking south east. CP1/16

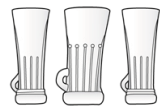


Plate 5 North elevation of Building 2 with Building 1 to the right and Nancegollan Farmhouse to the rear, looking south. BW1/11



Plate 6 East elevation of Building 2, looking west. BW1/10

4 Discussion

The separate alignment, different floor heights, building widths and materials indicate that Building 1 and 2 are of different ages. The first floor of Building 2 clearly butts up to Building 1 and it seems likely that much of the ground floor of Building 2 is from an earlier building depicted on the 1801 OS map.

The listing description suggests Building 1 may have been used to store grain or fodder over a cow house (shippon) and the proliferation of openings at first floor level would support this. Such an arrangement is typical of numerous barns and field barns (Brunskill, 1993, 64), though in this case it is clear that the barn was an addition to an existing farmyard and is not a field barn.

The loading doors probably allowed grain or fodder to be loaded straight from the farm carts into the first floor. An engine powering a belt drive in the ground floor of Building 1 could have been used to power lifts to facilitate this. The multiple openings could be used to control the draft thus keeping the produce dry whilst in storage.

The concrete cattle stalls with feeding troughs, water and drainage are likely to mimic the original layout, allowing cows to be fed, watered, milked and mucked out efficiently. The upper cobbled floor is likely to be contemporary with the construction of Building 1 though the lower floor may be part of an earlier cobbled farmyard.

Building 2 has been assigned by the listing description the possible function of a horse engine house. This would consist of a horse driving a circular wheel and powering, by means of gears, a piece of machinery. There is no evidence for any related machinery and examples of horse engine buildings given by English Heritage, indicate a circular building or apsidal extension. Building 2 is rectangular and too narrow to conceivably accommodate the horses in present form though it is possible that a horse whim in the farmyard could have powered a small mill or other machinery within the building. Equally it is conceivable that the larger nearly square building or structure shown on the Lanhydrock Atlas extract could have housed a horse whim. This building is similar in size and shape to one depicted in whim field approximately 150m to the north (Tithe map extract).

The angular nature and consistent size of the granite rubble used in the construction of the south and east walls of Building 2 is typical of mine waste and may be associated with the shaft depicted on the Nancegollan Mine map (Figure 2). This in turn suggests that parts of Nancegollan Mine including the Nancegollan Farm shaft had already been excavated by 1801.

5 Conclusion

There appears to have been a house and probably a farm in the study area from at least the late 17th Century when it was known as Nangigullow, part of the Manor of Penryn-Corfe.

Building 2 appears to have been constructed sometime between 1696 (Lanhydrock Atlas extract) and 1801 incorporating mine waste from a shaft to

the north east (Figure 2). No evidence of a horse engine was recorded within the surviving structure.

Building 1 truncated the western end of Building 2 when it was constructed sometime between c.1840 (Tithe map extract) and 1878 (OS map) probably as a cow house with storage above.

The findings are considered of local significance, contributing to our understanding of rural developments in Crowan parish in the later post-medieval period.

6 The Archive

The AC Ltd project number is **AC10008E**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, Goodagrane, Halvasso, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9BX prior to its transferral to the Cornwall Record Office. The contents of this archive are quantified below:

Written and Photographic Records

Record	A5*	A4*	A3*	A2*	A1*	≥ A0*	Total Number	Comment
Drawing sheets							0	
Site diary							0	
Site notes	2	6					8	
Levels book							0	
Primary record sheets							0	
Project management		5					5	
Other Sheets							0	
B&W Contact Prints		1					1	
B&W Negatives 35mm		1					1	
Contact sheets							1	

* = Number of sheets

There are no environmental samples, finds or digital archive for this project.

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