

# Gamekeeper's Cottage,

## St. Clement, Cornwall

### Historic and Archaeological Recording

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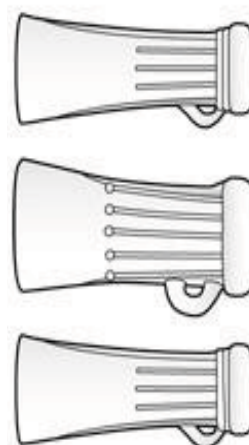
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## **Acknowledgements**

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Help with the historical research was provided by Angela Broom at the Courtney Library and Jennie Hancock, archivist at Cornwall Records Office.

The Project Manager was Matt Mossop whilst the fieldwork was undertaken by the authors and Dan Billing.

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**

Gamekeeper's Cottage looking northwest

# **Gamekeeper's Cottage,**

**St. Clement, Cornwall.**

## **Historic and Archaeological Recording**

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<b>Report Date:</b>	<b>December 2010</b>
<b>Client:</b>	<b>Gregory and Diane Bennett</b>
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>SW 84976 45473</b>
<b>Civil Parish:</b>	<b>St. Clement</b>
<b>District:</b>	<b>Central 1</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Cornwall</b>
<b>Project Dates:</b>	<b>June-July 2010</b>
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<b>Planning Reference:</b>	<b>APP/D0840/A/09/2113930</b>
<b>Statutory Protection:</b>	<b>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</b>

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## Abbreviations

AC	Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
CCC	Cornwall County Council
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations
OS	Ordnance Survey
RAF	Royal Air Force
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record, Cornwall HER

## 1 Summary

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd was commissioned by Diane and Gregory Bennett to undertake historic and archaeological recording in advance of the conversion of the cottage for holiday accommodation. The recording was required as a condition of the planning permission for the proposed conversion.

The Cottage is located 1 kilometre east of Truro at the edge of the Pencalenick Estate at SW 84976 45473 (NGR) (*Figure 1*).

The fieldwork was undertaken in July and August, it recorded the extant internal and external elevations of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century cottage, probably first occupied by Thomas Tapper, Gamekeeper of Pencalenick Estate.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Project Background

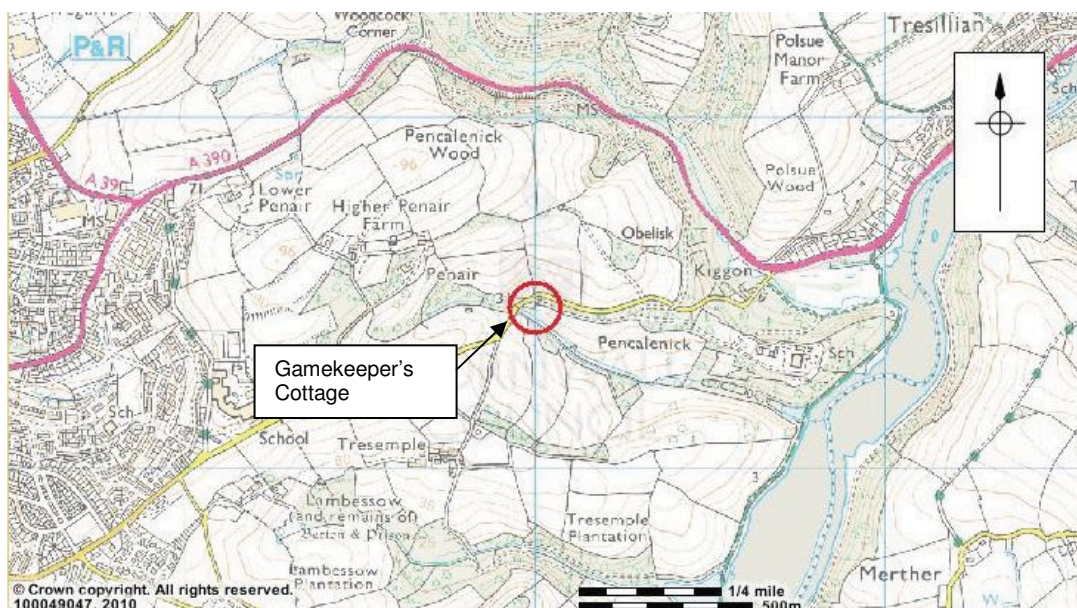
Following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, planning permission was granted for the reinstatement of a disused dwelling for use as holiday accommodation, subject to a number of conditions including Condition 7:

*"No development shall take place within the site until the appellants, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by them and approved in writing by the local planning authority."*

A brief was provided for the required work (Ratcliffe, D. 2010) and AC were commissioned to undertake the historic and archaeological recording in line with an approved written scheme of investigation (Mossop, M. 2010).

### 2.2 Site Location

The site is located approximately one Kilometre east of Truro at OS grid reference SW 84976 45473.



*Figure 1 Site Location. Courtesy of Cornwall Council*

## 2.3 Topography

The south facing site gently slopes approximately 25m above a tributary of the Tresillian River.

## 2.4 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as being Portscatho Beds (Sandstone) with inter-bedded argillaceous rocks specifically sandstone beds and slaty mudstone (Barton, 1969: 51; British Geological Survey). The soils are well drained and loamy.

## 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Within one kilometre of the site, the Historic Environment Records (HER) include a barrow at Tressemble (HER 50875), probably of Bronze Age date with evidence for later prehistoric or early medieval activity recorded slightly further to the north at Tresillian (Stowe and Mossop, 2010). A Lazar House at Kiggon (HER 22505; Truro Buildings Research Group, 1991; 71, 72), a relatively rare structure for Cornwall, is one of seven possible medieval settlements referred to in the HER. It is suggestive of a low local population and its position on the road to Truro would have aided the collection of alms by the lepers.

There are no direct references to Pencalenick in the Domesday Book (Morris, J. (ed) 1979). The land was probably part of another holding, perhaps Polsue Manor (HER 22557) to the north. The first definite reference is in the Parliamentary Survey of 1650 granting the liberty of digging slate.

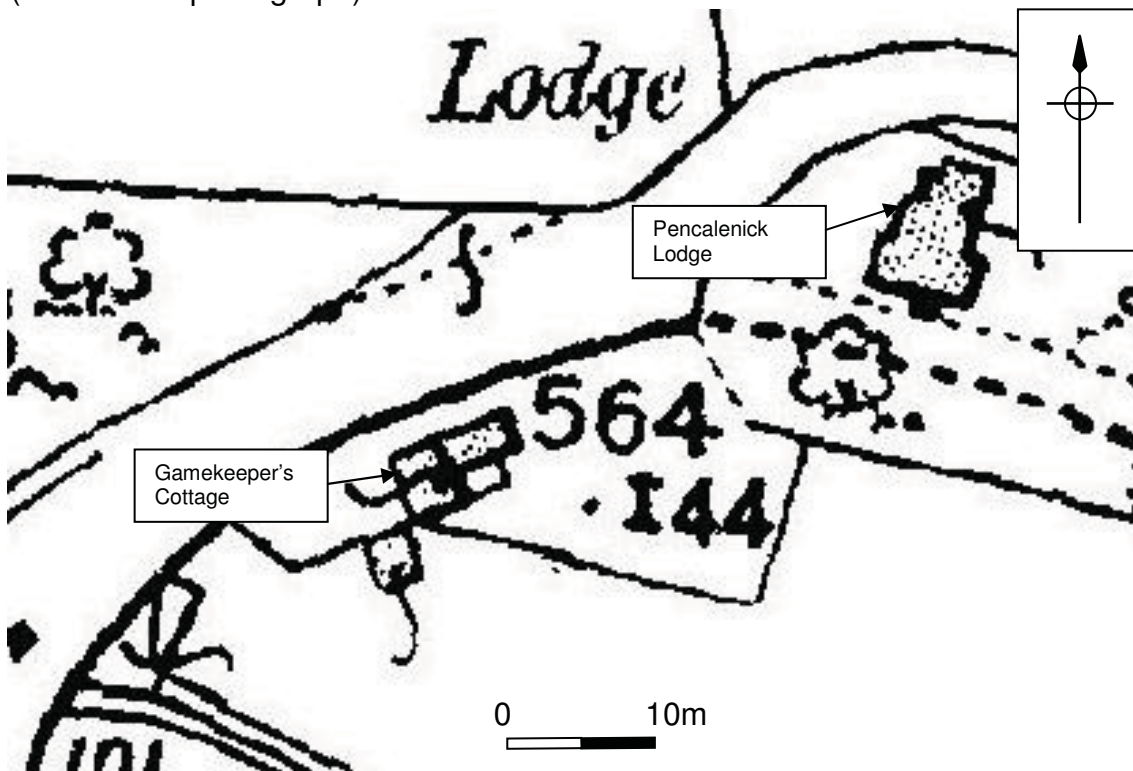
Place-name evidence indicates that Pencalenick is Cornish in origin, with the elements *pen* meaning 'edge' and *kelin* meaning 'holly' (HER 22569).

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Pencalenick Estate was owned by the Foote family who built Pencalenick House. This passed to the Vivians in 1758. Both were important families in Truro society; the Vivians owned much of St. Clement civil parish and extensive lands across Cornwall (Truro Buildings Research Group, 1991; 72, 73).

By 1883 Michael Henry Williams had assumed ownership of the Pencalenick Estate and built the present house to the design of J.P. St Aubyn, the famous Cornish architect, demolishing the earlier brick built dwelling. The Census data for 1871 (Cornwall Online Census Project) onwards records a variety of lodges and cottages relating to higher ranking servant positions at Pencalenick. In 1881 (Cornwall Online Census Project) the resident of Pencalenick Higher Lodge is Thomas Tapper from Holberton in Devon, Head Gamekeeper, and his wife Anne, aged 40 and 41 respectively. Additionally a lodger, Thomas F. May, is the Clerk of Works for the building of the new house. Pencalenick Lower Entrance Lodge is occupied by Robert Andrew (Gardener) and his family. It is likely therefore that one or more lodges were built alongside the reconstruction of the house. The 1891 Census (Cornwall Online Census Project) places the Tappers at Western Lodge whilst the Andrews are living in Pencalenick Mansion Farm Cottage and Daniel Nichols (Coachman) and his family are living

at Pencalenick Lodge. This is the first mention of Western Lodge and it seems likely that Pencalenick Mansion Farm Cottage is in fact the Gardener's Lodge or Lower Entrance Lodge referred to in 1871 and 1881 and that Western Lodge is the building central to this study in keeping with its geographical position. Interestingly, Robert Andrew's son, Edward (aged 20 by 1891), is described as a Trapper (Gamekeeper) and it seems likely that he may have assisted Thomas Tapper with his duties.

The Ordnance Survey maps concur with the documentary evidence as Gamekeeper's Cottage is not shown on the 1880 map, but is shown on the 1907 OS map along with North (or Higher) Lodge. By this stage (1907) Gamekeeper's Cottage is shown apparently in its present form with the southeasterly part of the building apparently unroofed. A wall encloses a probable garden around the cottage with a small outbuilding or structure to the southwest of the cottage (*Figure 2*). During the Second World War the Pencalenick Estate was taken over by the War Office and found to be unoccupied and in a state of disrepair. It was subject to a variety of uses associated with the War Effort which also involved the sacrifice of the gates and railings from the Lodge. Aerial photographs of 1946 (RAF) corroborate this disrepair as a small walled enclosure is obscured by substantial hedge growth. Later photographs dated 1988 (CCC Aerial photograph) show the lodge similarly overgrown and it is no longer visible through the vegetation by 1996 (CCC Aerial photograph).



*Figure 2 c.1907 6 inch series OS map showing Gamekeeper's Cottage.  
Courtesy of Cornwall Council*



## **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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **2.7 Methodology**

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

The Desk Based Assessment concentrated on Sites and Monuments Records (SMR), the HER, Census information, aerial photographs and a map regression exercise.

On completion of the fieldwork additional research concentrated on the development of the Pencalenick estate to establish the date and relationship to Gamekeeper's Cottage. Census information was used to corroborate evidence from secondary sources. No photographic evidence was found at the Cornwall Studies Library.

Vegetation was carefully removed from the structure, cutting or sawing where necessary and treating with systemic weed-killer as appropriate to minimise disturbance to the structure. A walk over and comprehensive scaled monochrome photographic survey recorded extant visible remains on the site, concentrating 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 to illustrate 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. Existing plans and elevations were annotated with archaeological detail at a scale of 1:50.

### **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 County Historic Environment Record; Cornwall Record Office; National Monuments Record 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 and 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. A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Planning Advice Officer.

The online OASIS record will be completed when the report is submitted.

## 3 Results

The building will be described room by room, starting at Room 1 which is located in the northwest corner of the structure, the description will continue clockwise to Room 6 in the southwest corner. Where the orientation of the length is specified the width is described at right angles to it unless stated otherwise.

Gamekeeper's Cottage is a rectangular structure with Room 4 protruding from the east wall. It is predominantly constructed of local slate with red brick quoining and originally partly roofed with slate. The chronology and use of the eastern half are less certain given the physical evidence. Each of the apertures had different characteristics, due in part to the degree of survival and later modification. A St. Day brick floor was intact throughout the building, with the exception of Room 4.

Room 1 measured 3.10m east to west by 2.41m north to south, the former ceiling height was 2.20m. The external doorway in the north wall was missing a lintel and the lower part of the wooden frames had rotted away. Although the door was not extant a padlock and part of a latch remained on the east side of the opening. The south doorway through to Room 6 had replacement sections scarfed in to the lower wood frames. The wooden lintel, strap hinges on the west side and latch plate on the east were extant and suggestive of the door opening into Room 6. In the west wall was a large square window [17] 1.03m in height and 1.33m wide (*Plate 1*). Externally the lintel was of fine grained dressed granite with brick quoining and crude, cracked slate sill. Internally the lintel was of straight sawn (probably imported Scandinavian pine) wood and the splayed opening included a wooden vertical sash with simple chamfered horns and twelve boxed panes. The brick floor had a curious drain extending from outside the north wall, south into Room 6 (*Plate 6*). This appears to be an integral and original feature of the property. A number of bottles of typical late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century date were also recorded (*Plate 10, Plate 11, Plate 12, Plate 13, Plate 14*).

Rooms 2 and 3 will be considered together as they are formed by partition out of Room 5. They measure 1.60m east to west by 2.06m north to south and 1.63m by 1.88m respectively. The central north to south partition [10] was tied into the north wall of the building. It was constructed from a single thickness of red brick with large inclusions and survives only to approximately half the height of the external north wall (2.63m). The east to west partitions [11] and [12] were constructed from concrete blocks with red bricks possibly forming the upper

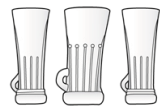
courses. Partition [11] to the east has fallen over whilst [12] on the west side has only the blocks remaining intact, the bricks having been piled on top (*Plate 3*). A small portion of the original gabled slate roof survived on top of the wall dividing Rooms 3 and 4. An orange ceramic ridge tile suggested the form of the original roof ridge though fragments of corrugated Perspex and Portland cement flashing indicate the roof's replacement above Rooms 2 and 3 (*Plate 2*; *Plate 7*).

Room 4 appeared to be an integral part of the original layout of Gamekeeper's Cottage. It measured 1.42m north to south by 0.88m. It had a door [18] in the east wall, measuring 1.67m high and 0.78m wide, with a louvre vent, external dressed granite lintel (of similar granite to window [17]) , internal wooden lintel and frame with a replacement section scarfed in on the north side (*Plate 5*). The tongue and groove assembled door had been reversed as the outlines of the original strap hinges and lock demonstrated. A crude wire toilet roll holder had been attached to the inside of the door (*Plate 4*). Internally, there was an earthen floor [9], and a quantity of slate, presumably from the collapsed roof. Iron fixings protruded from the wall.

Room 5 in the southeast corner (measured 3.36m east to west by 2.56m north to south) may not have been roofed originally. The brick floor included the drain [14] which continued through from Rooms 1 and 6 and two soak-aways (*Plate 6*). There remains a stub wall [13] on the same alignment as the partition [10] between Rooms 2 and 3. On the east end of the south wall was the remains of an external doorway [19]; no lintel or frame survived and the west side was almost completely destroyed. The quoining in local brick on the east side appears to have been rebuilt. There was a substantially raised slate threshold with an opening on the west side for the drain [14]. The west wall of the room had a door through to Room 6 which opened into Room 5, as evidenced by the hinge. The doorway measured 1.88m high by 0.92m wide.

Room 6 measured 3.10m east to west by 1.91m north to south. The drain continues south across the room to the south wall where it turns through 90° and extends through the east wall into Room 5 (*Plate 6*). In the northwest corner of the room were the remains of a brick fireplace with traces of mortar in the position of a surround or hood (*Plate 8*; *Plate 9*). The bricks were not tied in to the wall and although evidence of heating was visible on the bricks there were no traces of soot. The type of red brick used for the upper chimney stack is indicative of a later replacement. Parts of a wooden sash box frame are all that remained of the approximately central window [20] in the south wall. The opening was splayed internally with red brick external quoining. An iron stove top measuring 0.62m in length by 0.19m wide was 0.15m thick with a 0.21m diameter hole presumably for a reusable hot plate was found outside the building.





*Plate 1 Detail of chamfered horns on replacement sash window [17] looking north*



*Plate 2 Room 2 roofline showing original slate and later replacement with Portland cement for corrugated Perspex roof. Looking northwest*



*Plate 3 Iron latch and St. Day bricks from Room 2*

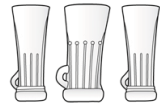


*Plate 4 Crude wire toilet roll holder on inside of Door [18]*



*Plate 5 Louvered vent in Door [18] Looking northwest*





*Plate 6 Drain and soak-aways in Room 5. Looking west*



*Plate 8 Evidence of stove location in Room 6. Looking northwest*

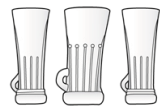


*Plate 7 Orange ceramic roof ridge tile looking northeast*



*Plate 9 Iron stove top*





*Plate 10 Late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century bottles on sill of Window [17] looking north*



*Plate 13 Detail of perfume or ointment bottle*



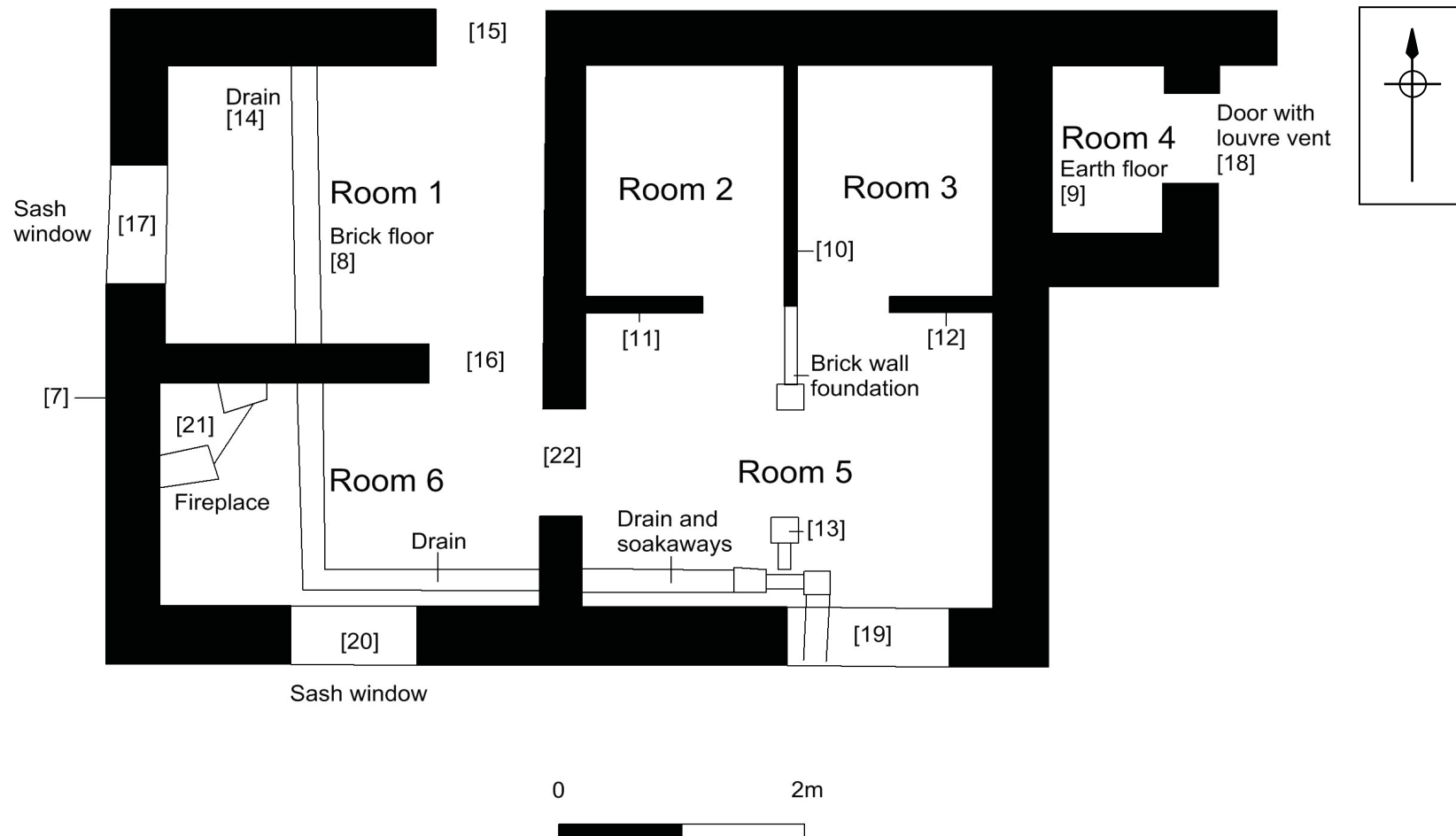
*Plate 11 Detail of Daddies bottle*



*Plate 14 Detail of medicine bottle*



*Plate 12 Detail of Perrier Source Q bottle*



*Figure 3 Gamekeeper's Cottage floor plan*

## 4 Discussion

Initially, Gamekeeper's Cottage appears to be a simple agricultural dwelling on a large estate with a straightforward plan and development. Further analysis however, reveals that the house is atypical with several intriguing features.

Documentary and map based evidence for a construction date between 1881 and 1891 is quite convincing. By this time ventilation, water supply and waste disposal were improving, though still rudimentary by modern standards. Houses were expanding in size as activities relating to food preparation were brought inside (Powell, C. 1996; 47), in addition to the living and retiring areas (Brunskill, 1999; 40). Gamekeeper's Cottage is arguably a specialist development derived from this pattern. Rooms 1 and 6 appear to have served as the principal living accommodation. Room 6 with its southerly aspect and stove would have been the kitchen and living room (*Plate 8; Plate 9*). Referring to plans in Brunskill (1999; 41) Gamekeeper's Cottage most closely resembles a 'rectangular two unit' with additional storage (Rooms 2 and 3), yard (Room 5) and toilet (Room 4) to the east. The open drain [14] running through the building suggests a surprisingly damp floor in the building, supported by the rotten door frames (*Plate 6*). That the drain pierced the north wall of the building is even more unusual, effectively cooling the building and making it even more damp. In the absence of guttering it may be that the drain was an economical, if unpleasant, method of draining both the interior of the building and the exterior where water may have collected. The unusual interior drainage may have partly compensated for the cramped living conditions and absence of a porch in which to store wet clothing.

The simple chamfered horns, preservation and cream brick quoins of Window [17] in Room 1 are suggestive of a later insertion (*Plate 1*). Horned sash windows were in use at the time of construction but not so prevalent in this type of building (Powell, C. 1996; 74, 94) and the simple chamfers rather than more elaborately carved horns are typical of 20<sup>th</sup> Century replacements. This may be associated with the War Office occupation in World War II, along with Window [20] in Room 6. The cream brick quoins at the northwest corner of the cottage probably also date from this period.

Window [20] would have provided ventilation for a stove in the corner. The limited space, narrow flue, late date and lack of sooting suggest that an iron stove was probably the original fitting (*Plate 8*). The iron stove top found outside the building is likely to be part of the original stove (*Plate 9*).

Room 4 clearly served as a toilet, probably provided with a bucket, though a cesspit may be hidden by the debris on the floor. Its inclusion within the original build of the cottage so close to the domestic accommodation is unusual in the absence of plumbing though notably its entrance faces away from these areas.

From Room 6 the door opens outwards into Room 5 which appears not to have ever had a full roof. The granite lintel on the east side of this, the lack of roof depicted on the 1907 map, the lack of joist sockets for a roof, and the continuation of the drain indicate that this was a small courtyard (*Plate 6*). Rooms 2 and 3 had no windows and the original slate roof came down low to the south seemingly to minimise heat and light in the rooms (*Plate 2*). Iron stays

in each may suggest wooden doors originally closed these rooms from the courtyard (Room 5), though louvered vents may have been included. The lack of heat, light and external openings indicate these as storage areas, and given the provision of open drains in the courtyard downslope and the probable occupation of the first incumbent, it seems that they may have been purpose-built meat storage rooms where game could have been hung.

The habitation of this dwelling by the estate gamekeeper and its position within the estate grounds leads to the conclusion, supported by documentary sources, that this cottage was built by the landowner. From the 1850s this had been an increasing trend used in part to entice good labourers to remain in the countryside (Powell, C. 1996; 48, 73). One might expect these cottages to add aesthetic value to the estate and many did but given the decreasing profitability of agriculture and the resulting loss of security that had come with having a great estate it can thus be concluded that polite architecture was rarely practical or indeed necessary. The particularly crude nature of parts of Gamekeeper's Cottage, the use of local materials and the entirely vernacular style which has resulted in elements still without explanation can therefore be justified.

## **5 Conclusion**

In conclusion, Gamekeeper's Cottage must be viewed as an entirely vernacular design appropriate to its use, status of the inhabitants and position within the estate hierarchy. It was functional if uncomfortable accommodation for two people who worked the majority of their time outside or possibly in Pencalenick Mansion and for the game that was prepared.

The form of the building coupled with the documentary evidence provide an intimate picture of life as a Gamekeeper in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The findings are considered of local significance, contributing to our understanding of developments in the Pencalenick Estate and St. Clement parish in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

## **6 The Archive**

The AC Ltd project number is **AC10005E**

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*	Total No.	Description	Location
Reports		1	1	Goacher, H. & Mossop, M. Dec 2010 <i>Gamekeeper's Cottage: Historic and Archaeological Recording</i> . Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. (19pp comb-bound report)	Folder 1
Site notes		2	2	Annotated plans and elevations	Folder 1
Primary record sheets		4	4	Build register, Finds register, Film register, BW1 Photo Register	Folder 1
Project management		5	5	Ratcliffe, D. 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010. <i>Brief for Photographic Recording</i> . Cornwall Council. Mossop, M. 7.07.2010. <i>Gamekeeper's Cottage, St. Clement, Cornwall, Archaeological and Historic Recording: Written Scheme of Investigation</i> . Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.	Folder 1
BW Negatives		1	1	BW1/1-21	Folder 1
BW Contact prints		1	1	BW1/1-21	Folder 1

\* = Number of sheets

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

## 7 Recommendations

Following the completion of archaeological work stipulated by the Written Scheme of Investigation, no further archaeological work is recommended for this development.

## 8 References

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