

Sara's Foundry, Tolgus, Redruth, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief during tree removal



Historic Environment Projects

1 Project Details

Report No	Report Name	Report Author		
2009R046	Sara's Foundry, Tolgus, Redruth: Watching brief during tree management	James Gossip		
Event Type				
Watching brief/advice				
Client Organisation		Client Contact		
English Heritage				
Monuments (MonUID)				
Fieldwork dates (From)		(To)	(Created By)	(Create Date)
30/03/09	09/04/09	James Gossip	20/05/09	
District		Location		
Kerrier, Redruth	Town Mills, Tolgus Road, Redruth			
Town				
Redruth				
Easting X co-ord		Northing Y co-ord		
SW 69124	42590			

1.1 List of Figures

Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Location of the felled tree.

Fig 3 Initial branches lowered towards the mill pond.

Fig 4 Photograph showing the proximity of the tree to the foundry building.

Fig 5 Sections of tree lowered onto the flat area adjacent to the mill leat.

Fig 6 Sections of the tree stabilised by securing with ropes held from the ground.

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

2 Project background

Sara's Foundry, established by William M Sara in 1860, is a remarkable survival of a 19th century foundry, of unique importance because of the survival of machinery and artefacts inside it. The site includes a well preserved leat system and 30 ft waterwheel.

The foundry is in perilous condition, is a Grade II* Listed Building and on the English Heritage (EH) Buildings at Risk Register, where it is a category A site, being 'at risk of rapid decay or collapse with no plan or scheme for restoration agreed'. A diseased tree has overhung the buildings for some time and presented a serious threat. EH agreed to fund the removal of the tree in order to reduce the risk to the building; the EH Inspector requested that a watching brief be carried out while the tree was being removed, to ensure that there would be no risk or damage to the building in the process. This followed discussions between the owner of the site, Kerrier District Council, World Heritage Site representatives and EH regarding the sites future. In addition the lower branches of an adjacent oak tree were also removed.

3 Aims and objectives for recording

3.1 Monitoring the management work

An archaeologist was on site during management work to:

- Ensure that there was no damage to any of the structures or features associated with the site
- Discuss any issues with the tree surgeons carrying out the work
- Record any archaeological features or finds revealed in the process of carrying out the management work
- Record any significant stages in the work with notes and photograph

3.2 Potential impact of the management work

Extreme care was needed since the tree partly overhung the foundry building. There was a significant risk that the work could threaten the building either through accident or by careless handling of its removal.

3.3 Photography

The photographic record comprises digital photographs to be used to illustrate the report and for presentation purposes.

Photos were taken:

- before work started
- during management work;
- on completion of the work.

4 Results

The tree removed was a mature beech tree growing from a steep bank on the western side of a leat supplying water to the foundry waterwheels. A large branch growing from the side of the tree had broken and collapsed onto the roof of the foundry building some time ago, damaging the roof. Bracket fungus growing from below the branch-collar of the broken branch indicated serious disease. This was probably of the type *Ganoderma*, a widespread wood-decaying fungus. This was confirmed when sections of the trunk were removed and diseased areas were found to be in an advanced state.

The tree was removed over a period of three days in late March and early April 2009 by a team from Atlas Tree Services, Redruth. Care was taken throughout the work to ensure that none of the removed wood damaged surviving parts of the foundry or the waterwheels. In order to achieve this a 'zip-wire' was suspended from the higher parts of the tree and felled sections transported by this to the area around the mill-pond. As the lower sections were reached branches were dropped by rope onto a level area adjacent to the foundry building.

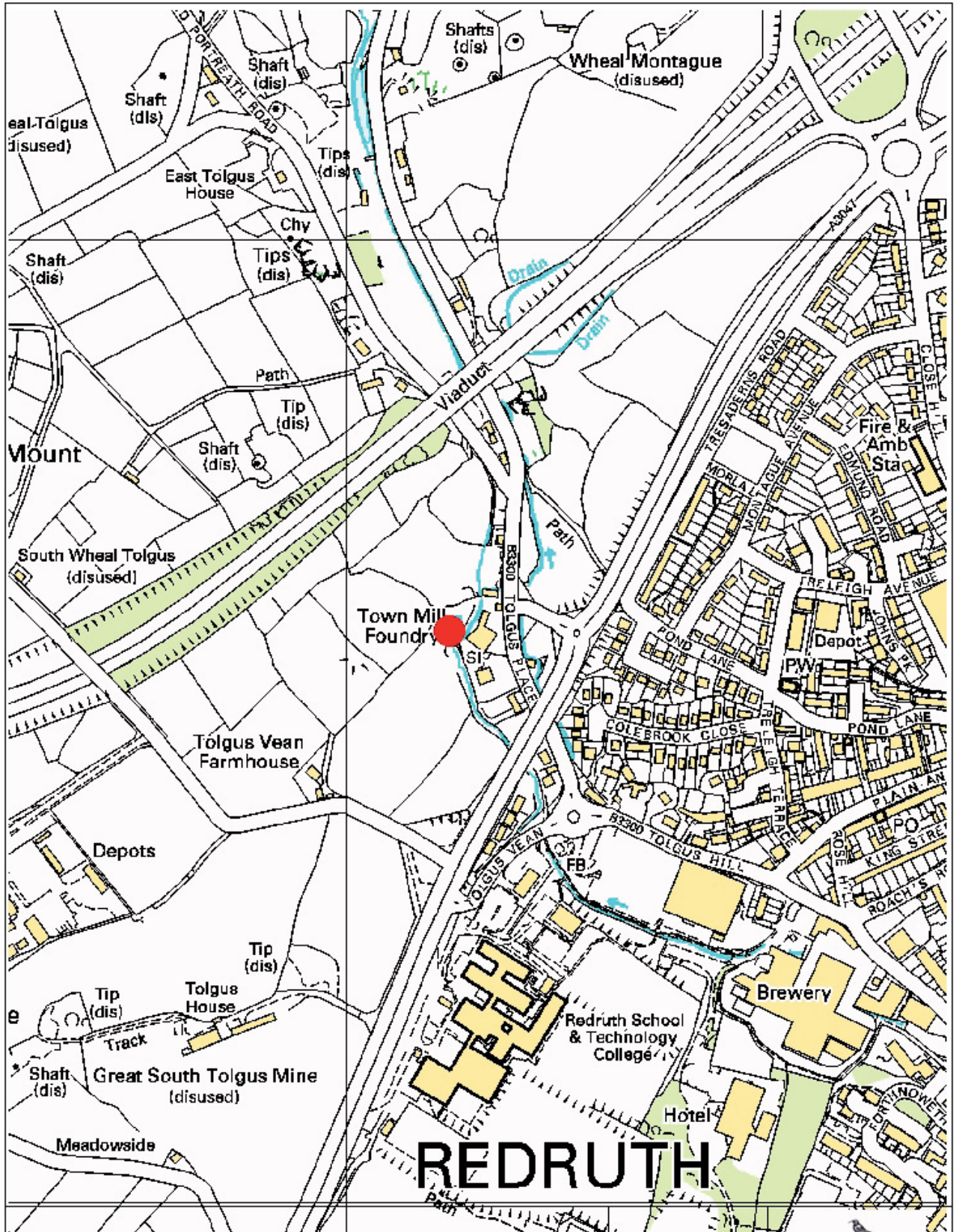
All sections of the tree were removed without damage to any of the adjacent building or machinery.

5 Project Archive

The HE project number is **2008224**

The project's documentary and photographic 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. Electronic drawings stored in the directory [R:\Historic Environment \(Images\)\SITES.Q-T\Sara's Foundry](R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Sara's Foundry)
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory [R:\Historic Environment \(Images\)\SITES.Q-T\Sara's Foundry tree felling](R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.Q-T\Sara's Foundry tree felling)
4. This report text is held in digital form as: [G:\Historic Environment \(Documents\)\HE Projects\Sites\Sites S\Sara's Foundry\Tree and SMM 2009](G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\Sites S\Sara's Foundry\Tree and SMM 2009)



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Fig 1: Site location

Scale 1:5000

Cornwall & Scilly
Historic Environment Record

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Fig 3: Initially branches were lowered carefully towards the mill pond



Fig 4: Extreme care was taken due to the proximity of the tree to the foundry building



Fig 5: As felling progressed sections were lowered onto the flat area adjacent to the mill leat.



Fig 6: Tree sections were stabilised by securing with ropes held from the ground

