

**POLTESCO MILL**

**(NGR: SW 7238 1567)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
AND  
INTERPRETIVE HISTORIC  
BUILDING SURVEY OF THE MILL**

**Commissioned by**

**NATIONAL TRUST**





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**HE Project No.**  
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**Prepared by**  
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NATIONAL TRUST HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY:  
Summary Sheet One

<b>Property Name</b> Poltesco	<b>Address</b> Ruan Minor, Cornwall	<b>Building Name</b> Poltesco Corn Mill
<b>Property/ Building Reference</b>	<b>OS Grid Reference</b> SW 7241 1568	<b>Surveyor/Date of Survey</b> N Thomas/15.2.2013
<b>Category</b>	<b>Original Use</b> Corn Mill	<b>Current Use</b> Corn Mill (currently some parts incomplete)
<b>Date(s) of Construction</b> The earliest parts may be 17 <sup>th</sup> century, visible builds are mostly mid and later 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>Statutory Designation (s)</b> Listed Grade II	<b>NT SMR Reference</b> 92519
<b>Walling Materials</b> Serpentine stone rubble, bedded in lime mortar. Some cement-based re-pointing.	<b>Roofing Materials</b> Nailed A frame trusses. Scantle slate covering (cement washed) on softwood rafters and laths.	<b>Flooring Materials</b> Ground floor: serpentine cobbles and reused granite millstones. Upper floors: wooden planks on joists.
<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Small rectangular plan corn mill comprising two principal storeys plus a loft. Attached lean-to on NE (lower) side projecting forward of mill building. Mill banked on SW (upper) side providing access to first floor. Areas of rubble stone paving to SW side and front.</p> <p>Cast-iron shrouds and wood spokes in waterwheel by Isaac Willey of Helston are dated 1907. This wheel is fed by a millpond and leat. The tailrace channel reconnects with the main stream below a bridge.</p> <p>Some parts of the mill are currently incomplete and the mill machinery was last run more than 3 years prior to this study; i.e. 2009 -10. Missing elements include the upper (driven) stone for the SW set of millstones, and gearing to the NE set of stones (although the stone nut and parts of other gears are in the building). Some buckets on the waterwheel also require replacement.</p> <p>The roof of the mill is in very poor condition with many slates now loose and/or missing. This is allowing rainwater to enter the building and if left unchecked will cause rot damage to the timberwork.</p> <p>Flooding in November 2012 has caused significant exterior damage, including the sluices on the millpond, the sides of the leat channel, missing planking on the launder and displaced stonework on the tailrace channel.</p>		
<p><b>Architectural/Historic Significance:</b> A virtually intact water mill; corn mills still containing machinery are now extremely rare within Cornwall</p>		<p><b>Landscape Significance:</b> A picturesque asset within the Poltesco Valley</p>
<p><b>Notes/Qualifications Regarding Survey:</b> The survey of the mill was carried out as part of a wider assessment of the former mill holding, although the mill house and land are now part of a separate tenancy.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Information Sources for this Building (s):</b></p>		
<p><b>Copies &amp; CDs of this report held at:</b> NT SW Region Cornwall Office; NT Swindon Office, Heelis (Archaeological Archive); Cornwall Council HBSMR)/ County Records Office; NMRC, Swindon</p>		



NATIONAL TRUST HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY:  
Summary Sheet Two

<b>Property Name</b> Poltesco	<b>Address</b> Ruan Minor, Cornwall	
<b>Property/Group Reference</b>	<b>OS Grid Reference</b> SW 7241 1568	<b>Surveyor/Date of Survey</b> N Thomas/15.02.2013
<b>Local Planning Authority</b> Cornwall Council		<b>Local Authority (Building Regs. etc.)</b> Cornwall Council
<b>Area Designations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV)</li> <li>• Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</li> </ul>		
<b>Description of Group (and any related buildings):</b> A corn mill, formerly part of a tenement that included a mill house, associated outbuildings and smallholding. The corn mill building is now within a separate occupancy.		
<b>History and Development</b> The corn mill is first mentioned in documents in 1574 (Anthony Hitchens Unwin, pers comm.) and is shown on the Trethvas estate map dated 1770. The present building has early (probably 18 <sup>th</sup> century) build within the lower part of the wheelpit wall and NE wall. The mill was originally almost square in plan and most likely originally thatched. Its roof may have originally been hipped at both ends, therefore its roof shape would have been almost pyramidal. A gabled slate roof had been added before 1865, most likely in the first half of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. The SE (front) wall was rebuilt after 1865 and the mill was extended slightly to the SW between 1880 and 1907. This extension allowed two pairs of millstones to be incorporated. 18 <sup>th</sup> century dated stones have been re-incorporated as quoins within the SW extension. The waterwheel shrouds are dated 1907 and this represents a refurbishment of the wheel itself (new shrouds and spokes).		
<b>Information Sources</b> Historic photographs		
<b>Maps</b> Lanhydrock Atlas c1699, Trethvas estate plan 1770, Ruan Minor Parish Tithe Map 1842, OS 1 Inch scale c1809, OS 25 Inch scale c1880 and c1907		
<b>Written Records</b> Listed Building description (from Heritage Gateway website)  <i>Johns, C, 2003. Preliminary Archaeological and Historical Survey - Poltesco Valley, Grade and Ruan Minor, Cornwall, NT, HES CCC</i>		
<b>NT Records</b> NT Vernacular Building Survey, April 1990		

## Abstract

The mill complex at Poltesco lies approximately 0.5km to the north-east of Ruan Minor on the east coast of the Lizard peninsula at NGR SW 7238 1567 (Fig 1). Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council were commissioned by the National Trust in January 2013 to carry out an archaeological assessment of the mill holding and historic building survey of Poltesco Mill in order to better inform the maintenance and interpretation of the site.

A total of 45 sites were identified during the desk - based survey and subsequent walkover within the study area. The Mill and the Mill House are both Grade II Listed buildings, 15 sites were classed as sites of Regional Importance and the rest were classed as sites of Local Importance.

Archaeological sites identified during the assessment within the study area are largely 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, associated with the corn mill and nearby houses and small holding. An historic building record was undertaken of the mill building only.

The Poltesco stream was the focus for several mills and associated settlement during the medieval and post-medieval periods and it is possible that archaeological remains of this date may be present within the development area. There is also potential for encountering prehistoric remains.

Recommendations for conservation and management include initial targeted vegetation clearance, the completion of a measured survey of the area of the mill, millpond and leats, repairs to the mill and providing regular educational/outreach opportunities – these to be carried out in consultation with the custodian, Anthony Hitchens Unwin – and the completion of historic building surveys of all the remaining buildings within the complex.

In terms of immediate repairs, the scantle slate roof of the mill is in need of urgent replacement (there are already two substantial holes and other places where rain is entering the building). Failure to repair at this stage will result in subsequent rot of the timberwork.

It is recommended that in the longer term the Trust should aim to reunite the smallholding, mill house and mill under a single tenancy. The mill has no domestic accommodation and it is preferable that it can be managed, maintained and potentially displayed by someone who is able to live close by. This would also reflect the historic arrangement for management of the mill.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

In January 2013 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council (HE Projects) was commissioned by James Parry (National Trust Archaeologist), to undertake an archaeological assessment and historic building survey at Poltesco Mill, Ruan Minor, located at NGR: SW 7238 1567 (Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out in order to inform the maintenance and interpretation of the buildings and associated land here. The whole of the study area was subject to an archaeological assessment and a building survey of the mill building was carried out. The Mill House and Mill at Poltesco are fine examples of structures which are part of a late 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century milling complex and both buildings are Grade II Listed (see Appendix 1 for List entries). They are currently tenanted but owned by the National Trust along with the remainder of the study area.

## **2 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

The assessment involved six main phases of work:

- Desk-based assessment
- Walkover survey
- Historic building survey
- Archiving
- Report production and dissemination
- Archive deposition

### **2.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

During the desk-based assessment historical databases and archives were consulted in order to obtain information about the history of the site and the structures and features (see Section 13). The main sources consulted were as follows:

- Cornwall Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Images of England online listed buildings database
- Early maps, photographs and postcards
- Published histories and reports

### **2.2 FIELDWORK**

A walkover was undertaken to locate and assess all archaeological features identified within the study area. Descriptive notes were made for all identified features along with notes on condition and management recommendations. These features were located on a base map and photographed.

An English Heritage Level 2 building survey was undertaken of the mill building. It comprised a photographic survey, descriptive survey and the creation of measured floor plans.

The photographic survey included colour photographs that were taken with digital single lens reflex cameras (with resolutions of 8 and 10 megapixels). A selection of these images (reproduced as the Plates in this report), were compressed to a printable standard.

A principal element of the recording was a descriptive survey. The National Trust's Vernacular Building Survey (carried out in April 1990) was used to provide background information and the present study aimed to update this where required.

Floor plans were made for each level of the building. These were created from dimensioned sketches with the scale drawings produced afterwards in the office

### 2.3 POST-FIELDWORK

During this phase the results of the walkover survey were collated for archiving with the National Trust and the results of the desk-based assessment and fieldwork were drawn together in this report.

The photographs were downloaded, processed and edited where required using Adobe PhotoShop Elements software.

This analysis of the building fabric undertaken on site, and information recorded as notes enabled further post-fieldwork interpretation. The dimensioned sketches were turned into scaled drawings using AutoCAD software (see Figs 44 and 45).

## 3 LOCATION

### 3.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Poltesco lies approximately 0.5km to the north-east of Ruan Minor on the east coast of the Lizard peninsula at NGR SW 7238 1567 (Fig 1). The study area of the mill complex lies in the Poltesco Valley on the western side of the settlement fronting Poltesco Lane which leads to Ruan Minor (Fig 2) and includes the Mill House, the corn mill, a piggery, a stable, a privy, a field system, a former orchard, a leat and a mill pond. It is located on the north facing slope of the upper part of the Poltesco Stream valley at a height of between 30m and 40m OD. The study area lies within the parish of Ruan Minor with the Poltesco stream forming the northern boundary. This stream also forms the parish boundary (**site 92504**) dividing the parishes of Ruan Minor to the south and Grade to the north.

### 3.2 GEOLOGY

The underlying geology comprises Lizard Complex Peridotite and Serpentinite. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately 354 to 417 million years ago in the Devonian Period (British Geological Survey website).

## 4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

There is no evidence of prehistoric activity in the study area or immediate surroundings, although prehistoric artefacts have been found in the wider area.

The place-name Poltesco, **site 92506**, contains the Cornish elements *pol* 'pit; pool; stream; cove, creek' and possibly *\*tusk* 'moss' (Padel 1985, 187-9, 236, 298), so 'mossy pool or stream' is very appropriate to the place (Johns 2003).

During the later medieval period (c1066-1540) the study area was part of the estate or manor of *Trethevas Lucies Rosuic* (in Landewednack). There were two watermills for the estate which were located at Poltesco and Treal. The Poltesco mill is believed to date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Unwin 1975, 25 and pers comm; Johns 2003).

Trethvas, situated 1km north of Lizard Town, became an important estate and settlement during the medieval period. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century most of Ruan Minor and Grade parishes were appended to the manorial estates of Trethvas and Rosuic in St

Keverne, which were then the property of the Carminow family from Mawgan-in-Meneage. In 1396, when the estate was divided between the co-heiresses of the family, the manors of *Tredevos* (Trethvas) and Rosuic were allotted to John Trevarthian of the house of Trevarthian, near Marazion. Part of the agreement concerned the costs of a suit to recover 6s.8d from the mill of *Poltuske* which could refer to either the mill within the study area, **site 912519**, or the one in Grade parish (**site 90583**) to the east of Poltesco Farm (Unwin 1975, 25; 1984, 4 and pers comm). From the medieval period there are likely to have been two mills here, one serving the parish of Grade (an outlier of the Predannack Wollas estate **site 90583**) and the other the parish of Ruan Minor (Trethvas estate **site 912519**). However it is difficult to ascertain which mill is being referred to in the early documents. It seems likely that there was a ford next to the Ruan Minor mill, **site 92508**. In 1429 Trethvas passed to the Reskymers of Mawgan, who retained it until the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century as part of their estate of *Reskymmer Meneage* (Johns 2003).

*Poltisca* and *Poletisca Myll* remained as part of the estate of *Reskymmer Meneage* until at least 1613 when it was settled by William Reskymmer of Merthen in Constantine upon his son and heir John (Unwin 1975, 26). However, in about 1620 John Reskymmer sold the family estates to his steward, William Thoms, whose son John Thoms of Tremayne sold off the *Reskymmer Meneage* estate (Henderson 1934-6, 53). In 1631 Trethvas was purchased by Robinson of Nansloe, whose family retained it until 1768. In 1709 it is recorded that George Robinson leased a parcel of land to Richard James, yeoman of Ruan Minor, on condition that he and his friends ground all their corn at the mills of the manor called *Poltisca Mills* and sent a workman once a year, or when required to scour and cleanse the mill pools and leats (Davies Gilbert, Vol III, 423; Unwin 1975, 26).

In about 1768 Trethvas was bought by Thomas Fonnereau, an adventurer who had obtained a seat in Parliament and come to Cornwall in c1750, after obtaining a lucrative contract to build the Lizard lighthouse. Fortunately for historians either maps were drawn up for the sale or Fonnereau commissioned maps to be made of his new estate and the c1770 estate map showing Poltesco is an important source of information (Fig 4; Johns 2003).

Thomas Fonnereau was bankrupt by 1780 and the Trethvas estate was sold to Sir Christopher Hawkins of Trewithen in about 1782. By the time of the Tithe Apportionment Surveys in the late 1830s and early 1840s Sir Christopher's heir, CHT Hawkins, was one of the chief landowners on the Lizard, owning Trethvas and Trevorder (Johns 2003). The 1842 Tithe Apportionment records that Hawkins owned all of the study area.

The 'lower' or 'little' corn mill, **site 90583**, by the stream to the east of the old farmyard at Poltesco is in the parish of Grade and is possibly medieval in origin, the surviving structure perhaps dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is shown on the Lanhydrock Atlas of 1695 as 'Ye Mill' (Fig 3) and on the 1770 Trethvas estate map as a small rectangular building (Fig 4). This 'lower' mill is shown on the 1843 Tithe map (Fig 6) for the parish of Grade (TA 188) and went out of use some time after 1850. In 1860 Edward Rutter paid £3.7s.9d rent to the rector of Grade for 'Poltesco Mill' (Grade Rector's Rent Charge Book), but this was probably the middle mill (see below), where the census records that Solomon Rutter was miller in 1861 (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

The 'lower' mill would have been a typical small Cornish watermill, one or two storeys high with a thatched roof, it was built of serpentine bonded with earth mortar, with a 10ft diameter overshot waterwheel at its east end.

Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, lies in the parish of Ruan Minor. It is marked as 'The Mill' on the 1770 Trethvas estate map (Fig 4), is a small two-storeyed, water-powered corn mill, built of serpentine rubble, situated next to a bridge over the Poltesco stream on the road



to Ruan Minor. A small, rural grist mill, it is typical of water mills in west Cornwall, originally built in the medieval period to serve the tenants of local estates. The present mill building is likely to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries but may include fragments of earlier structures. It has a reused crucifixion figure, **92505**, medieval in style carved on stone in the rear wall. The gabled roof dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Johns 2003).

It seems the mill was never very prosperous and following the demise of guaranteed manorial custom in 1828, it is doubtful whether a satisfactory livelihood could be made without the attached smallholding, **site 92526**, which increased from 3 acres to 16 acres between 1806 and 1947. From 1900 onwards the milling trade declined although there were still customers until the waterwheel broke down in 1945. Until then the mill was run by Wilfred Johns who installed a second-hand French runner stone on the left hand pair to replace a stone which had been damaged in dressing by his brother Johnny from Treal. A millstone from Poltesco, formerly outside the blacksmith's forge in Ruan Minor churchtown, is now set in the tarmac outside the village hall (Unwin 1974 and pers comm; Johns 2003).

In the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century the mill was used as a reading room for Ruan Minor village, with regular card games being played in the evenings or on Saturday mornings when waiting for the farmers and their carts. The mill worked around the clock on a twelve-hour shift basis. The timbers in the mill are mainly old ship's timbers washed ashore after wrecks (Johns 2003).

A 'middle' mill was built, sometime after 1843, by Edward Rutter, whose father Bernard or Barnard, had built the cottage in 1826. The remains of this mill lie to the east of the study area and are now in a private garden.

Poltesco Mill, its mill pond and leat together with Mill House are shown on the 1770 Trethvas estate map (Fig 4), and the OS First Edition 1 inch drawing c1809 (Fig 5). The Tithe map of 1842 for the parish of Ruan Minor (Fig 6) shows all of these features still *in situ* with the addition of an outbuilding to the north of Mill House and another house (no longer extant) to the south-east of Mill House. The Apportionment lists the enclosure around the Mill House and the field to the west as orchards. The two fields further west (TA 193 and 194) were in use as arable fields at this time. On the Apportionment the whole of the study area is listed as being owned by CTH Hawkins and occupied by Bernard Rutter. The next map to show the development of the site is the First Edition OS 1 inch map of c1880 (Fig 7). This map illustrates that by 1880 little had changed within the area except that the house shown to the south-east of Mill House on the Tithe map had been demolished and a new outbuilding had been added to the rear (west) of Mill House. Although outside the study area a new building is shown on this map on the opposite side of the road to the mill. The second Edition OS map of c1907 (Fig 8) shows that little had changed since c1880 except for the construction of a few more outbuildings to the west of Mill House associated with the small holding. The modern OS map shows only very minor changes in plan since c1907 map (Fig 2).

## **5 DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE**

### **5.1 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

During 1994, the Cornwall Archaeological Unit carried out a map-based historic landscape characterisation across the whole of Cornwall, using existing field patterns and early map and place-name evidence among other systematic sources to characterise the landscape (Cornwall County Council 1996). This characterisation reflects the historic processes that have shaped the Cornish landscape and involved dividing the county into a series of zones, each of which reflects a particular set of historic processes and tends to contain a predictable range of archaeological sites

and historic features. They also tend to share similar visible character, based on this history and those components.

The historic landscape character of the study area is mapped as Farmland medieval which is part of Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL).

### **Anciently Enclosed Land (AEL)**

Much **AEL** will have been enclosed and farmed since the Middle Bronze Age (c 1500 BC). The 'Medieval farmland' AEL reflects re-organisation in the medieval period into extensive 'open' or sub-divided field systems, associated with hamlets of co-operating families who each worked open strips of land dispersed in different 'cropping units' or stock proof fields making up the systems.

Standing features including field boundaries still in use can reveal much about the history of this HLC Type. Ground disturbance in 'Medieval Farmland' may reveal buried artefacts and structures or deposits associated with settlement, agriculture and other activity, both medieval and earlier in date. Across Cornwall as a whole, it contains many 'rounds' or later prehistoric to Roman period enclosed settlements. These may survive as earthworks, or as sub-surface remains, which may be visible as 'crop-marks' on aerial photographs, or detected by geophysical survey.

## **5.2 IDENTIFIED SITES**

A total of 45 sites were identified during the desk-based survey and the subsequent walkover within the survey area (see Fig 9). The sites included two medieval sites including a parish boundary and settlement (sites **92504** and **92506**), two possible medieval sites (a stone carved figure **92505** and a ford **92508**), 12 18<sup>th</sup> century sites including a mill **92519**, leats **92520**, **92612** and **92627**, a culvert **92630**, a millpond **92521**, pond retaining bank **92629**, the Mill House **92522** and boundaries **92630**, **92634**, **92635**, **92636** and 29 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century sites associated with the mill complex and its small holding including five buildings (sites **92623**, **92624**, **92625**, **92609** and **92610**). Descriptions of each site are included in the site inventory (section 6).

## **5.3 OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

Although there are no identified prehistoric sites in the area there may be undiscovered prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The fields in the eastern half of the area where the ground has undergone little disturbance of HLC type 'Medieval Farmland' may reveal buried artefacts and structures or deposits associated with settlement, agriculture and other activity, both medieval and earlier in date. The fact that the site lies within a documented medieval settlement (Poltesco) and that a mill may have been established here during the medieval period indicates high potential for the survival of medieval remains. The present mill and the Mill House are post-medieval in date giving a strong indication that associated mill features and the layout of the rest of the study area had been established by that period if not earlier. A few outbuildings constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century including a stable and piggery indicate the need for the milling industry to be supported by the establishment of a small holding.

# **6 INVENTORY OF SITES**

(See Figure 9 for site locations)

### **92504 Parish boundary**

**SW 7193 1647- 7279 1564**

The boundary between the parishes of Grade (to the north) and Ruan Minor (to the south); the boundary is formed by the Poltesco stream which forms the northern extent of the study area, The stream is an important natural feature that also formed

the boundary between the estates of Predannack Wollas and Trethvas. Where it passes the mill pond the sides are stabilised by high retaining wall constructed from serpentine rubble.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

Further research into the origin of parishes on the Lizard should be encouraged. The retaining walls along the riverside should be repaired when necessary.

**92505 Stone carved figure**

**SW 7241 1568**

**Cornwall HBSMR, PRN MCO5687**

The rear wall of Poltesco mill, **site 92519**, contains a small crucifixion figure carved on stone, medieval in style (Plate 39). There is a similar carving on the font in St Gwinear church (Dowson 1967, 104; J Mattingly, pers comm; Anthony Hitchens Unwin, pers comm).

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

Ensure that the carved figure is not over-painted or accidently damaged. Make a 1:1 drawing of the figure as a record.

**92506 Settlement (Poltesco)**

**cSW 7240 1570**

The place-name of Poltesco is probably first recorded in 1396 as *Poltuske* (Unwin 1975, 25); the settlement lies in the valley bottom and is divided between the parishes of Grade and Ruan Minor. The early settlement is likely to have been concentrated in the vicinity of the mills. The study area lies within the settlement in the parish of Ruan Minor.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

Any ground disturbance within the area of the settlement could reveal medieval, or earlier, remains. Accordingly, provision should be made for archaeological watching briefs whenever such disturbances are planned.

**92508 Ford**

**SW 7243 1568**

The forerunner of the bridge, **92564**, at Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, was a ford or 'splash' across the stream, which is still in evidence (Anthony Hitchens Unwin, pers comm).

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

None.

**92519 Poltesco Mill**

**SW 7241 1568**

### **Cornwall HBSMR, PRN MCO23568**

Poltesco Mill is a small, two-storeyed, water-powered corn mill, built of serpentine rubble, with an attached lean-to of later date, situated close to and backing on to the Poltesco stream, next to the bridge on the road to Ruan Minor. The present mill building is likely to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century but probably includes fragments of earlier structures. The gabled slate roof dates to the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century and the building was most likely formerly thatched. (Unwin 1989; The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill: PP/20).

The mill is important because, despite a period of disuse and neglect in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, it remains virtually complete. The mill machinery illustrates the mechanical development that took place in Cornwall from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of the 1842 Tithe Apportionment the mill holding consisted of a dwelling house, **site 92522**, mill cottage, water mill, outbuildings, orchards and some sixteen acres of land. The corn mill is the most southerly surviving mill in Britain (*ibid*).

The mill was restored to working order in the 1970s and 80s by the present occupier Anthony Hitchens Unwin, an experienced millwright who has used and maintained the property to the present day.

#### *Significance*

Listed Building Grade II.

The mill is considered to be one of the most important historic buildings in Trust ownership (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill: PP/20) because it is the only surviving mill of this description in West Cornwall and one of few comparable mills in the county.

#### *Recommendations*

[See also Section 12]

It would be useful if Mr Unwin could write a brief account of the work he has done at the mill and also make an inventory of all the artefacts associated with the mill.

The following maintenance work is recommended and should be carried out in consultation with Mr Unwin:

- Replace roof covering
- Repair internal machinery
- Repair buckets on the water wheel
- Repair timber launder

Regular open days for education and outreach at the mill should be encouraged at the mill, and opportunities to facilitate should this discussed with Mr Unwin.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

### **92520 Leat**

**SW 7239 1571**

The stone-lined leat leads from millpond **92521**, and serves as a race to the overshot waterwheel of Poltesco Mill via a wooden launder (Figs 16, 23, 24 and 25). The leat is marked on the 1770 Trethvas estate map (Fig 4). It is approximately 0.6m wide and vertical sided, lined with serpentine rubble and slate.

The tailrace (at a lower level to the east of the water wheel), is approximately 0.6m wide by 0.8m deep and has serpentine stone-lined sides. It drains under a separate arch of the mill bridge, **92565**, into the Poltesco stream.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations.*

Repairs to the leat and tailrace may be required when sections of the stone lining become dislodged from time to time. A small area of walling in the tailrace has collapsed and will need repairing; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

**92521 Millpond**

**SW 7237 1573**

The millpond (Fig 26) serving Poltesco Mill is marked as 'Mill Pond' on the 1770 Trethvas estate map (Fig 4). On this map and the Tithe map of c1840 (Fig 6) it is clear that the pond stretched as far as the western boundary of the study area. The First Edition OS map shows the pond as an isolated feature covering the eastern part of the original pond. This is how the pond exists today with a bank separating the eastern area from the rest of the former pond. This eastern area is rock-cut but is now silted up. The area of former pond to the west is heavily silted up and is populated by reeds and brambles. The whole area is retained to the north by a wide bank separating the pond from the fast flowing river. To the south the area is defined by a slope with rubble boundary walls at the top.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

It would be useful if Mr Unwin could write an account of the maintenance work he has carried out on the leats, pond, sluice gates and other features associated with this area and if possible describe the layout and mechanisms that existed prior to his occupancy.

**92522 Mill House**

**SW 7237 1567**

Poltesco Mill House (Figs 12, 13, 27 and 28) is built on the sloping side of the Poltesco valley, just above the mill. The present house, without its front wing is shown on the 1770 Trethvas estate map (Fig 4). The house is also shown on the 1842 Tithe map for Ruan Minor with the wing (Fig 6). It is a two-storey stone house and with brick and stone added wing it is historically important in association with the mill and for retaining a high proportion of internal features (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill House; PP/20). The census records for 1841 indicates that William Rutter (miller) lived here with his family.

*Significance*

Listed Building Grade II.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that an English Heritage Level 2/3 historic building record is undertaken to gain greater understanding and full record of the property and allow for targeted recommendations.

When necessary, repair rather than replace 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century features; particularly windows.

### **92523 Piggery (Mill House)**

**SW 7237 1567**

A rectangular single story gabled piggery range, built from serpentine rubble (Fig 29). The front wall has three doorways with wooden lintels. On the right is a low feeding door with a weathered wooden lintel. The interior is divided with two slate partitions; the floor might be cobbled. The building has a nailed 19<sup>th</sup> century collar truss roof with laid purlins, scantle slates and clay ridge (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill House; PP/20). It first appears on the c1907 OS map (Fig 8).

### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that an English Heritage Level 2/3 historic building record is undertaken to gain a full record of the piggery and allow for targeted recommendations.

Retain original features such as the slate partitions, the drain holes at rear, any cobbled flooring and as much of the roof as possible. Ensure that roof covering is maintained.

### **92524 Stable (Mill House)**

**SW 7237 1567**

Single storey gabled stable built of serpentine rubble (Fig 30). There are framed pigeonholes with slate hips in the rear (south) gable and a brick-framed slit ventilator in the front gable. The window on the front has opening louvers below and a three-pane glazed fanlight above. The stable-type plank door has a granite threshold. The continuous wooden lintel over both openings is re-used timber with chamfering and shallow joist housings. The bolted collar truss roof is probably 19<sup>th</sup> century with nailed slates and clay ridge with some set up as ventilators. The interior may have a cobbled floor (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill House; PP/20). This building is first shown on the First Edition OS map of 1879 (Fig 7).

### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that an English Heritage Level 2/3 historic building record is undertaken to gain a full record of the stable and allow for targeted recommendations.

Retain the door and furniture, the wooden lintel, any cobbled flooring, the pigeonholes, the roof structure and ventilated ridge. The window is of particular interest and should be reconstructed replacing missing ventilators, if this has not already been done.

**92525 Privy (Mill House)****SW 7237 1567**

Nineteenth century ruined stone-built, gabled, outdoor privy (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill House; PP/20) (Fig 31). It is first shown on the c1880 OS map (Fig 7).

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that an English Heritage Level 2/3 historic building record is undertaken to gain a full record of the privy and allow for targeted recommendations.

The privy at present is ruinous and overgrown with ivy. It is important that the ivy is removed and the remaining walls consolidated to avoid further collapse as it is an important element of this otherwise intact related group of buildings.

**92526 Field system (Poltesco Mill holding)****centred at SW 7237 1567**

The mill holding increased from three acres to 16 acres between 1806 and 1947. The 1842 Tithe Award map records that it was owned by CHT Hawkins and occupied by Bernard Rutter and included the mill house and orchard, sites **92522** and **92578**, a willow garden (outside area), three other houses and gardens, sites **92609**, **92610** and Millstone Cottage (outside area), orchard **92579**, fields **92632** and **92633**, as well as the mill and watercourse **92519**, **92520** and the millpond **92521**.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

Further study of the history of the mill holding is desirable. The creation of a measured survey would also help to clarify the historic development of the site.

**92578 Orchard****SW 7236 1568**

Former orchard at Poltesco marked on the 1843 Tithe Award map for the parish of Ruan Minor as adjacent to house (TA 187). The enclosure as marked on the Tithe map remains unaltered although a house shown on the eastern side was demolished before 1880. It is now part of the garden belonging to Mill House.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

Identify suitable varieties and consider re-planting the orchard.

**92579 Orchard****SW 7236 1580**

Orchard (Fig 32) at Poltesco marked on the 1843 Tithe Award map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 192) (Fig 6). This enclosure is still an orchard although very overgrown to the south and west.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that the orchard is retained but that major clearance of areas overwhelmed by brambles is undertaken. Much of the orchard is inaccessible at present.

#### **92609 Ruined dwelling**

**SW 72373 15680**

Ruined building shown on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 192) (Fig 6). It is listed on the Tithe Apportionment as house and garden (TA 191) associated with the mill. The ruined building is roofless and overgrown. It comprises uncoursed serpentine rubble walls (Figs 12 and 33) and is associated with the enclosed garden to the west.

#### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that an English Heritage Level 2/3 historic building record is undertaken to gain a full record of the dwelling and allow for targeted recommendations.

The building at present is ruinous and overgrown with ivy. It is important that the ivy is removed and the remaining walls consolidated to avoid further collapse as it is an important element of this otherwise intact related group of buildings.

#### **92610 Site of dwelling**

**SW 72382 15650**

Site of a house shown on the 1843 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 187, Fig 6). It is listed on the Tithe Apportionment as house and orchard. The south-east corner of the building has been fossilised on the garden boundary wall which may include part of the original serpentine rubble build.

#### *Significance*

Local Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

Repairs to the hedge/wall which may contain elements of the former building may be required if sections of the stone walling collapse.

#### **92611 Sluice gate opening**

**SW 72372 15699**

Position of former sluice gate. Only a modern timber frame remains. The opening is 0,5m wide between the mill pond and the leat releasing water from the mill pond into the stream.

#### *Significance*

Local Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that the sluice gate is replaced; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.



**92612 Leat****SW 72376 15695**

This rock-cut leat (Fig 35) leads from millpond **92521**, and serves as an outlet for excess water in the pond into the Stream below. It varies between 1-2m wide and reaches a depth of approximately 2m.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations.*

Repairs to the leat may be required from time to time; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

**92613 Sluice gate****SW 72369 15692**

Modern timber sluice gate with associated concrete block wall. This is likely to have replaced an earlier gate at the same point. The gate is 0,5m wide and controls the flow from the pond to the mill wheel.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the sluice gate is maintained; any maintenance works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

**92614 Low wall****SW 72373 15694**

Low overgrown wall defining the south-east extent of the mill pond. It is 0.3m high by 0.4m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this feature remains *in situ*.

**92615 Boundary wall****SW 72370 15687**

Retaining boundary wall of 19<sup>th</sup> century garden enclosure shown on Tithe map as 191 (Fig 6) associated with former house 92609. The serpentine rubble wall reaches a height of 1.5m on its north side.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92616 Boundary wall****SW 72378 15671**

Low serpentine rubble wall 0.3m high by 0.4m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92617 Steps**

**SW 72369 15674**

Serpentine steps to the south of former dwelling **92609**. See Fig 36.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the steps are maintained

**92618 Boundary**

**SW 72359 15693**

Serpentine rubble-built wall/ hedge bank forming the northern boundary of the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden associated with dwelling **92609**. It measures 1m high by 0.7m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92619 Boundary**

**SW 72355 15687**

Serpentine rubble-built wall/ hedge bank forming the western boundary of the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden associated with dwelling **92609**. It measures 1.5m high by 1.2m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92620 Gate post**

**SW 72354 15676**

Serpentine gate post (Fig 37) located at the south-west corner of the piggery (**92523**). The opposite post has been removed in the past.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

This gate post should be left *in situ*.

**92621 Trough**

**SW 72346 15674**

Serpentine trough (Fig 38), presumably once in or outside the stable or piggery.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

This trough should be kept with the property and ideally left outside the stable or piggery.

**92622 Low wall**

**SW 72380 15679**

Short section of low walling 0.4m high by 0.4m wide by approximately 3m long. This may be associated with the dwelling to the west or the mill leat to the north.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

This wall should be left *in situ* and included in a measured survey of the pond area.

**92623 Boundary wall**

**SW 72347 15653**

Serpentine rubble-built wall/ hedge bank forming the western boundary of the former 19<sup>th</sup> century orchard **92578**. It measures 1m high by 1m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92624 Boundary wall**

**SW 72356 15638**

Serpentine rubble-built wall/ hedge bank forming the southern boundary of the former 19<sup>th</sup> century orchard **92578**. It lies at the top of a rocky slope and in places retains the land to the south. Generally it measures 1m high by 1m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained.

**92625 Low wall**

**SW 72377 15653**

Short section of low retaining wall 0.4m high by 0.4m wide by approximately 4m long. This may be associated with the former dwelling to the east (**92610**).

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

This wall should be left *in situ*.

**92626 Leat**

**SW 72325 15713**

This stone-lined leat leads into the millpond **92521** from field **92632**. It is 0.5m wide.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

### *Recommendations.*

Repairs to the leat may be required from time to time; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

#### **92627 Leat**

**SW 72286 15731**

This leat (Fig 39) leads from the Poltesco Stream at the west end of the study area and feeds water to the mill pond **92521**. It is marked on the 1770 estate map (Fig 4) and subsequent maps. The leat is 1m wide by 0.5m deep the vertical sides are lined with serpentine rubble.

#### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

In places the stone lining of the leat needs repair work; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

#### **92628 Culvert**

**SW 72259 15730**

This culvert is located at the western end of leat **92627** where it meets the river (Fig 40). It runs below a wide, raised bank (**92629**) which has a rubble built retaining wall at this point on either side 1.5m high by 1.5m wide. The culvert opening itself is 0.4m high by 0.4m wide. Dividing the culvert off from the river to the west is a sluice gate **92630**.

#### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that the culvert is maintained and repaired when necessary; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

#### **92629 Raised bank/ path**

**SW 72315 15749**

This raised bank forms the northern edge of the mill pond and leat area, retaining the water to the south (Figs 41 and 42). It also acts as a raised path for access around the northern side of the pond. It extends from the western edge of the study area to the eastern end of the mill pond and also forms the southern bank of the river. The bank varies in width from 1m wide to 4m wide.

#### *Significance*

Regional Importance.

#### *Recommendations*

It is recommended that the bank is maintained and repaired when necessary; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

**92630 Retaining wall**

**SW 72257 15732**

A retaining boundary wall for south side of mill pond and leat area. The serpentine rubble wall reaches a height of 1m on its north side and retains the field (92632) to the south.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that the wall is maintained; any maintenance works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

A measured survey of the millpond area and associated leats and mill is recommended to gain a detailed measured plan of the area and aid greater understanding of how the features operated and evolved.

**92631 Possible overflow**

**SW 72362 15725**

This is a possible mill pond overflow (Fig 42). It is defined by an area of the raised bank 92629 that is stepped in from the river retaining wall (and the rest of the bank) by approximately 3m. This section is also approximately 0.5m lower than the rest of the bank.

*Significance*

Regional Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this feature is retained, repaired when necessary and included in a measured survey of the pond and mill area; any repair works should be carried out in consultation with the custodian.

**92632 Field**

**SW 72288 15705**

This field is marked on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 193) as Mill Pool Field used as arable land. At the time of the walk-over the field was inaccessible but could be viewed from the pond area to the north-east (Fig 43). The field has clearly not been cultivated for many years and is now overgrown and contains large areas of brambles and saplings.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this field is cleared of intrusive growth and then maintained through use.

**92633 Field****SW 72287 15661**

This field is marked on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 194) as Higher Field used as arable land. At the time of the walk-over the field was inaccessible. As with field **92632** it has clearly not been cultivated for many years and is now overgrown and contains large areas of brambles and saplings.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this field is cleared of intrusive growth and then maintained through use.

**92634 Field boundary****SW 72327 15668**

This field boundary is marked on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor. At the time of the walk-over the boundary could not be accessed from either side due to excessive bramble growth.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this boundary is cleared of excessive bramble growth and then maintained.

**92635 Field boundary****SW 72283 15625**

This field boundary is marked on the 1770 estate map (Fig 4) and the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (Fig 6). It contains the gateway into fields **92633** and **92632**. At the time of the walk-over the boundary could not be accessed due to water logging around the gateway and dense tree and bramble growth.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this boundary is cleared of excessive growth and then maintained. It is also recommended that the gateway is cleared of trees so that the fields beyond (**92633** and **92632**) are made accessible again.

**92636 Field boundary****SW 72251 15656**

This field boundary is marked on the 1770 estate map (Fig 4) and the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (Fig 6). At the time of the walk-over the boundary could not be accessed.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is likely that this boundary is concealed by bramble growth which should be removed and then the boundary should be maintained.

**92637 Field boundary****SW 72288 15683**

This field boundary is marked on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor. At the time of the walk-over the boundary could not be accessed although it could be seen from a distance and small willow trees were visible growing from it.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this boundary is cleared of excessive growth and then maintained.

**92638 Garden enclosure****SW 72363 15685**

This garden is marked on the 1842 Tithe map for the parish of Ruan Minor (TA 191) and is associated with the former house **92609** immediately to the east.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

It is recommended that this is maintained through use.

**92639 Building and building platform****SW 72363 15685**

This is the site of a 20<sup>th</sup> century former outbuilding. There is a cement covered platform measuring approximately 10m east-west by 5m north-south with a concrete block wall remaining in situ on the south side where there is also a small concrete block built shed at the south-east corner.

*Significance*

Local Importance.

*Recommendations*

None.

## **7 ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE**

### **7.1 DESCRIPTION OF SITE SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **7.1.1 LISTED BUILDINGS**

The following sites are Grade II Listed Buildings:

Site **92519** 18<sup>th</sup> century mill building

Site **92522** 18<sup>th</sup> century Mill House

#### **7.1.2 SITES OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE**

The following sites are regarded as of Regional Importance:

Site **92505** Medieval/post-medieval stone carved figure

Site **92506** Settlement of Poltesco

Site **92520** Post-medieval leat

Site **92521** Post-medieval mill pond

Site **92523** 19<sup>th</sup> century piggery

Site **92524** 19<sup>th</sup> century stable

Site **92525** 19<sup>th</sup> century privy

Site **92526** Poltesco Mill holding  
Site **92609** 19<sup>th</sup> century ruined dwelling  
Site **92612** Post-medieval leat  
Site **92627** Post-medieval leat  
Site **92628** Culvert  
Site **92629** Raised retaining bank  
Site **92630** Retaining wall  
Site **92631** Possible overflow

### 7.1.3 SITES OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE

The following sites are regarded as of Local Importance:

Site **92504** Parish boundary  
Site **92508** Ford  
Site **92578** Orchard  
Site **92579** Orchard  
Site **92610** Site of dwelling  
Site **92611** Sluice gate  
Site **92613** Sluice gate  
Site **92614** Low wall  
Site **92615** Boundary wall  
Site **92616** Boundary wall  
Site **92617** Steps  
Site **92618** Boundary  
Site **92619** Boundary  
Site **92620** Gate post  
Site **92621** Trough  
Site **92622** Low wall  
Site **92623** Boundary wall  
Site **92624** Boundary wall  
Site **92625** Low wall  
Site **92626** Leat  
Site **92632** Field  
Site **92633** Field  
Site **92634** Field boundary  
Site **92635** Field boundary  
Site **92636** Field boundary  
Site **92637** Field boundary  
Site **92638** Field boundary  
Site **92639** Building and building platform

## 7.2 SIGNIFICANCE

The mill complex and holdings at Poltesco date to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century in their present form but parts of the complex may be much older. The mill and associated mill pond may have been established during the medieval period as suggested by early documents and a reused stone carved with a crucifixion figure within the building. The area retains its 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier mill, mill pond and associated features and also the 18<sup>th</sup> century Mill House along with additional 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. It also lies within the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Poltesco which spreads down the valley either side of the stream. During both the medieval and post-medieval periods the powerful flow of the stream was used to power at least two mills in the settlement, one serving the parish of Ruan Minor and the other (site **90583** dating to at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century) serving the parish of Grade. The farmland within the mill holding is likely to have been established by the medieval period. It has been characterized as Anciently



Enclosed Land indicating that there is possibility of prehistoric and/or medieval remains existing within the area.

The mill itself is important because, despite a period of disuse and neglect, the mill components remain virtually complete. The mill machinery illustrates the mechanical development that took place in Cornwall from the mid-18th century to 1925. It is considered to be one of the most important historical buildings in Trust ownership (The National Trust Vernacular Buildings Survey Lizard: Poltesco Mill: PP/20) because it is the only surviving mill of this description in West Cornwall and one of few comparable mills in the county.

### **7.3 DESIGNATIONS**

The proposed development area lies within significant designated areas. These include:

- Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV)
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Poltesco Mill (site **92519**) and Poltesco Mill House (site **92522**) are Grade II Listed buildings.

### **7.4 OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE AREA**

Besides Poltesco Mill and Poltesco Mill House (Grade II Listed Buildings), a total of 43 other sites were identified. Fifteen of these were classed as sites of Regional Importance and 28 were classed as sites of Local Importance.

## **8 POLICIES AND GUIDANCE**

### **8.1 FORMER LOCAL PLAN (KERRIER)**

Although now part of Cornwall Council, Kerrier District Council's policies listed in its local plan continue to be relevant. Those policies concerning the historic environment are listed below.

Policy B.EN1: Historic Heritage – Archaeology

Development that would significantly harm sites, buildings and other remains of archaeological and historic importance, or their setting, will not be permitted unless there is a need for the development and the benefits for the community outweigh the archaeological importance. Where it affects archaeology that is found to be of national importance, development will only be permitted if the remains can be preserved in-situ without significant harm to them and to their setting; where it affects other sites and on-site preservation is impracticable or unnecessary, the development should include excavation and recording of significant remains and a planning obligation to secure this will be sought.

Policy B.EN2: Historic Heritage – Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Development that would significantly harm a Scheduled Ancient Monument, its setting or archaeological interest will not be permitted.

Policy B.En3: Historic Heritage - Areas of Great Historic Value

Development within the Areas of Great Historic Value that would significantly harm their historic character or the preservation of archaeological or historic remains and their setting will not be permitted.

Policy B.En4: Historic Heritage - Mining Remains

Development likely to significantly harm industrial archaeology, mining heritage, historical, industrial and mining buildings and sites, including former mineral railways,

tramways, engine houses and chimneys, will not be permitted unless the importance of the archaeology is outweighed by the benefit of the development to the community.

**Policy B.En5: Historic Heritage – Conservation and Enhancement of Mining Remains**

Development for the conservation, interpretation and display of industrial archaeological sites and buildings will be permitted where:

- (I) There is no significant harm to the character and appearance of the landscape, built environment or the quality of the natural environment;
- (II) There is no significant harm to the character, appearance, historic, cultural and heritage value of the buildings and remains themselves, their setting or to other nearby heritage features;
- (III) There is no significant harm to the residential amenities of occupiers of nearby property;
- (IV) There is safe parking in accordance with the council's guidelines and the access and approach roads can provide safely for the level and type of traffic likely to be generated; and
- (V) There is a scheme of directional or interpretational signage, or exterior illumination, forming part of the planning application that is compatible with the conservation of the site and its setting where there is a requirement for signage or illumination.

**Policy B.En6: Historic Heritage – Historic Settlements**

Development within the Helston Historic Settlement Area will be permitted where it does not significantly harm the form and layout of the historic street, block and building patterns and, where there are archaeological remains, conditions will be imposed on the planning permission to secure excavation and recording appropriate to their significance and, if justifiable and practicable, their preservation. proposal HS550:

(Historic Settlement Proposal Number: HS550 Site Location: Helston Town Centre Proposal: Boundary of Historic Settlement)

**Policy B.En7: Historic Heritage – Registered Parks And Gardens of Special Historic Interest**

Development that would significantly harm the form or character of important historic features of the buildings, structures or gardens of a registered park and garden of special historic interest or its setting in the landscape will not be permitted.

**Policy B.En8: Historic Heritage – Houses and Gardens of Local Historic Interest**

Development within or adjoining houses and gardens of local historic interest will be permitted where there is no significant harm to:

- (I) The preservation of the significant historic and architectural features of interest, layout and ornamentation of the house and grounds;
- (II) The conservation of the historic character of the house within its parkland or garden setting; and
- (III) The conservation of the historic character, landscape and setting of the parkland, including its trees and woodland.

**B.En9: Listed Buildings – Preservation, Alteration, Extension and Change of Use**

Development involving the alteration, extension or the change of use of a listed building will be permitted where it has special regard to the desirability of its preservation, the preservation of its appearance, character, setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest which contribute to its listing and it is compatible with the fabric and interior of the building. Development which would not preserve the listed

building, its setting or any features of special or historic interest will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated to be the only way in which the building can be retained.  
Policy B.En10: Listed Buildings – Demolition

The demolition of a listed building will not be permitted except where:

(I) The cost of repair and maintenance makes it impracticable to retain when compared with its importance and the value of its retention; and

(II) It has been shown that it is impracticable to sustain existing uses or to fund viable alternative uses.

## **8.2 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK 2012**

The following paragraphs within the above document frame planning policy relating to the Historic Environment:

**128** In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

**129** Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

**132** When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II\* listed buildings, grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

**133** Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

**134** Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

**135** The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

**139** Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

## **9 DESCRIPTION OF THE MILL AS EXISTING**

### **9.1 EXTERIOR**

The core of Poltesco corn mill has a rectangular plan and is oriented approximately SW – NE, with its front wall facing the lane on the SE side (Figs 44 and 45). The waterwheel is outside the rear (NW) wall (Plates 5 and 6). The mill is built into the rising ground at its SW end; here the NW corner of the building is approached by the leat running on a tall embankment to a short launder where it feeds the waterwheel (Plate 7). The mill's tailrace is a short stone-lined channel leading to an opening in a road-bridge (Plates 14 and 15). Below the bridge the tailrace re-joins the natural stream course. A lean-to building has been added to the mill at its NE end, this structure projects forward of the mill itself (Plates 2 and 3). The northern end of the lean-to does not align with the rear wall of the mill however, as this provides clearance for the mill's tailrace channel (Plate 4). The mill has three internal levels, comprising two (low) principal storeys plus a loft.

The mill building has been extended by 6ft (c2m) at its SW end; this extension is also clearly visible by comparison of the c1880 and c1907 OS large scale maps. Before the extension was created the mill would have had an almost square plan, slightly longer on its SW-NE axis. The extension is also visible in the structure, particularly in the front wall. The rear (waterwheel side) wall does not clearly show phasing within the present exterior face (with the waterwheel almost central) so part of the external facing appears to have been rebuilt when the mill was extended. The waterwheel bears a maker's name and date of 'Isaac Willey Helston 1907' (Plate 12); this date commemorates a refurbishment of the wheel with new shrouds and spokes. The iron axle of the wheel dates to c1877 (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

The mill's masonry comprises serpentine rubble laid in lime mortar. Substantial dressed squared stones are used as quoins (Plate 16). Re-pointing has been carried out in cement-based mortar and the pointing on the front wall has a struck finish. The lean-to is built in similar serpentine rubble masonry, with the exception of the front wall facing the lane, which contains the doorway and the remainder of the wall in wooden cladding. This lean-to also has a slate roof (although 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs show it thatched).

Several dated stones are incorporated into the external masonry, many of which have clearly been reincorporated into later masonry. At the SW quoin is a stone inscribed 'FC Aged 16 1786' (Plate 17). Other stones are inscribed 'FC 13', 'BR aged 15 1786' (Plate 19), 'BR Aged 19 1790' (Plate 18), 'JM 1877' and 'SR Aged 16 1877'. (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

The roof structure comprises nailed A-frames supporting purlins and rafters (Plates 40 and 41). The covering is of scantle slate on laths (Plate 2); bituminous paper has also been added between the rafters. The ridge is of red clay tiles. Cement wash has been added in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century to try and prevent slate slippage. The slate covering is

now in very poor condition with large holes developing on the southern roof slope. This requires urgent attention to prevent water penetration and potential rot damage to the timberwork inside the mill.

There is a principal entrance to the ground floor in the centre of the front (SE) elevation; this doorway supports a horizontally split ('stable' type) plank door on chamfered wooden jambs and with a curved chamfered lintel above (Plate 16). All external joinery is painted white. A central window above lights the first floor; this is a 4-pane casement that opens on a horizontal central pivot. At roof level towards the left hand end of the front wall is a short brick chimneystack from a fireplace on the ground floor. The left-hand end of the wall represents the later SW extension and the masonry is more clearly coursed within this part. The right hand end and central part of the wall including the door and window represent a post-1865 rebuild; a historic photo (Fig 10) shows an earlier doorway closer to the right hand end.

Features built into the masonry on the front wall include an iron tethering ring right of the doorway. An Ordnance Survey bench mark has been cut into the stone lower down.

The walling and roof of the lean-to dominates the lower part of the NE elevation (Plate 4). There are no openings in the lean-to wall, nor any at ground floor or first floor within the mill. The gable end (loft level) has a single central 4-pane window; this is a horizontal casement type (i.e. top-hung panes).

The overshot waterwheel and its pit dominate the rear (NW) wall (Plates 5 and 6). The waterwheel is close to central on the elevation and is fed by a launder on wooden supports. Above the launder, just below the roofline of the mill, is a lever for adjusting the water flow over the wheel. This lever is attached to a sluice on the launder. To the right (W) of the elevation is a stone-built abutment supporting the end of the leat and part of the wooden launder.

On the wall (and beneath the axle level of the waterwheel) are two shallow lintelled recesses built into the masonry. These resemble large putlog holes and may be associated with building or maintenance of the waterwheel.

The SW gable end masonry is entirely built within the later extended part of the mill (Plates 1 and 2). There is a central plank door that gives access to the milling floor inside. Access to the door is via two concrete steps, built here in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The lintel above the door has 'trunalls' or treenails and is therefore a reused ship's timber. A granite block used as a jambstone (Plate 21) is the centre part of an early composite millstone (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm). Above the door is a central 4-pane window similar to the one in the opposite gable. Close to the apex are a group of pigeonholes with slate landing perches.

## 9.2 INTERIOR

The mill has three internal levels, comprising two (low) principal storeys plus a loft (see floor plans Figs 44 and 45). The upper floors do not span the entire building and this allows light from the upper floor windows into the ground floor area.

Most of the interior finish within the mill is lime-wash over the stone rubble. The lean-to has a lime-washed plaster finish.

The ground floor plan is dominated by the internal gearing to the millstones, which is supported on a substantial wooden frame (bridge-work) and stone plinths (Plates 25 and 26). Gearing includes a large pit-wheel parallel to the rear wall (and which shares the same axle as the waterwheel outside, see Plate 27). The pit-wheel drives two short counter-shafts that have secondary gears meshed to the stone nuts (Plate 30). These provide the increase in ratio (stepping-up) to drive the millstones at the optimum speed.

Inside the mill the later extension to the building is also represented by an additional length of timber bridge-work which has been scarf-jointed to the earlier frame. Timber

uprights supporting the bridge-work have large mortises cut out and have clearly been reused. The principal horizontal timber in the present frame has also been reused and has been turned over; mortises on its lower side appear to relate to a previous use elsewhere (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

Note that not all gearing is *in situ*; the stone nut and bevel gear for the NE set of stones is not in place, although the stone nut is stored inside the building.

A small fireplace within the front wall provides heating to the ground floor area (Plate 22). Flooring in the ground floor is principally serpentine cobbles but three old and worn out granite millstones have been reused as floor paving.

Below the chute from the SW set of stones is a wooden box frame serving as a sack loading area (Plate 24).

Access to the first floor is by a central (and substantial) ladder stair. This has the pleasant patina and wear of substantial use over the decades (Plate 25).

The first floor level is the millstone floor; the substantial timbering of the bridge-work supports the stones. The two sets of stones are parallel to the rear wall and are driven from beneath by the stone nuts (small bevel gears on vertical shafts). The NE millstones appear to be an earlier set; these are mounted in a curved timber foundation. When working these stones will have been beneath covers and the grain fed into them from a wooden hopper. These elements are not *in situ*.

The SW millstones are mounted within a heptagonal wooden frame that supported a circular wooden cover. Note that at the time of survey the upper or driven stone was absent; only the bedstone is now in place (Plate 36). Likewise the cover and hopper feed are not in position.

Within the rear wall is a vertical recess, together with two stones that protrude from the wall facing (Plate 38). To the right of the recess is a carving in shallow relief on serpentine stone, depicting a crucifixion (Plate 39). This is most likely of medieval date. A dated stone towards the centre of the elevation is inscribed 'WW 1867', recording modifications to the mill made by Mr. Wearne, the miller at the time. A stone at the far right of this wall is inscribed 'JJ', likely to be a 17<sup>th</sup> century mason's mark (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

The recess appears to have been made at the point where the mill was extended and the original SW wall taken down. Assuming that the crucifixion stone is *in situ* (and allowing for the original thickness of the wall) this decorated stone would once have been in the corner of the room space. The lower protruding stone is likely to be a remnant of the earlier wall; the upper one may have been repositioned to permit use as crude steps into the loft level.

At the front of the mill on the first floor is a slightly raised rectangular area of wooden floor (Plate 23). This was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when flour-grading machinery was installed (Anthony Hitchens Unwin pers comm).

The remainder of the first floor comprises wooden planking of various widths and depths, parts having been replaced at various times (Plate 33).

A steep wooden ladder (later 20<sup>th</sup> century?) provides access to the loft area. The loft has windows in the two gable ends (see Exterior and Plates 40 and 41). The floor is of planks of differing widths. Almost central to the rear wall is an opening in the floor which has a horizontal capstan mounted between two joists (Plate 42). This is for lifting and maintenance of the millstones. Also in this area is the internal lever that operates the sluice on the launder outside, thereby controlling the flow of water over the wheel.

The roof trusses divide the present roof into four bays. The two easternmost trusses are earlier and belong to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century slate roof construction. These have notches cut into their front ends, indicating that they were temporarily propped when the wall on

this side was rebuilt. The western truss is slightly different and is an addition. This would have been inserted when the SW extension was constructed and the roofline extended to match.

## 10 INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORIC PHASING OF THE MILL

### *Period 1 Medieval to 17<sup>th</sup> century*

- There is likely to have been a mill serving the manor of Trethevas/Trethvas, recorded here since the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- The crucifixion figure, as well as the centre part of a granite composite millstone reused as a jamb in the present mill building are relics from an earlier mill sited here.
- A stone with a mason's mark appears to relate to the earliest visible stonework inside the building.

### *Period 2 18<sup>th</sup> century*

- Mill first shown on Trethvas estate plan dated 1770.
- Dated stones of 1786 and 1790 (reused in later builds) are extant on the mill.

### *Period 3 Early 19<sup>th</sup> century*

- Mill shown on 1842 Tithe Map for Ruan Minor. Shows NE end lean-to as part of mill plan.
- Mill had been altered to have a slate roof before 1865.

### *Period 4 Post-1865*

- A c1865 photo (Fig 10) shows mill already with slate roof, but lean-to at NE end still with thatch. Mill doorway was then closer to E corner, and a lean-to (wooden?) extension was situated at the SW end.

### *Period 5 Late 19<sup>th</sup> century*

- Comparison of c1880 and c1907 OS maps clearly shows that the mill was extended between the dates of these surveys. This was carried out to accommodate two pairs of millstones.
- The surviving mill machinery largely appears to represent a single episode of building (i.e. the waterwheel axle, pit wheel and bevelled gear drive to SW pair of stones) – all this appears to have been inserted at the same time. The NE pair of millstones and drive gearing that connects to them is older.

### *Period 6 1907 and later*

- Date 1907 cast on waterwheel – this commemorates replacement of the waterwheel shrouds and spokes.
- An inserted area of wooden floor at first floor level (at the front) represents addition of corn dressing machinery c1910.

## 11 KEY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### 11.1 SMALLHOLDING

Recommendations for each individual site are set out in Section 6.

The whole study area should be managed positively, but implementation should generally be low-key so that changes are subtle and the historic character of the place is retained. Repairs to structures and features should aim to replace like with like.

Much of the study area has become excessively overgrown and initial vegetation clearance of the fields (**92632** and **92633**), associated field boundaries (**92630**, **92634**, **92635**, **92636** and **92637**) and the orchard (**92579**) is recommended. Continued management through use of these areas would be ideal.

One of the main recommendations for the site is that a measured survey of all the industrial features associated with the mill should be undertaken. This would create a detailed plan of the area, which does not exist at present. It would also aid greater understanding of how the site functioned and evolved and allow more detailed interpretation.

This phase of work has seen the completion of an historic building survey of the mill building. It is now recommended that historic building surveys (English Heritage Level 2/3) are undertaken to include all the remaining buildings within the complex. This would include both interior and exterior records of the Mill House (**92522**), the piggery (**92523**), the stable (**92524**), the privy (**92525**) and the ruined dwelling (**92609**). The surveys would provide a greater understanding of the surviving buildings within the complex for interpretation and enable a clear management plan to be created for future maintenance.

It is recommended that in the longer term the Trust should aim to reunite the smallholding, mill house and mill building under a single tenancy. This would have several benefits including:

- The mill can be more easily protected from potential damage if the occupiers live close by.
- The mill could be brought back into operation in a limited way, to be run in conjunction with the smallholding. This would also reflect its historic use.
- It would make it easier to display the mill to visitors when required.
- A working smallholding and mill would help to provide some income and at the same time provide a small attraction within the valley.

## **11.2 MILL**

### **11.2.1 GENERAL CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES**

- Maximum retention of historic fabric.
- Minimum intervention.
- Use traditional methods and materials for repairs and conservation.
- Conservation work should allow building and features to be architecturally and chronologically understood.
- Like-for-like repairs.
- Specifications should be based on sound knowledge of the historic asset in question.
- Reuse – the preferred use is its original or historic associated function, or as close to this as possible.
- Peripheral intervention, such as access, parking, landscaping and other contextual issues should be fully explored for the purpose of achieving the overall conservation objectives.



- Traditional surfaces, such as paving or cobbling, within the curtilage of the historic asset should be retained where possible.
- Wildlife issues should be assessed and accommodated where needed.

### 11.2.2 SPECIFIC CONSERVATION MEASURES

The mill was restored to working order in the 1970s and 80s by the present custodian Anthony Hitchens Unwin, an experienced millwright who has repaired, used and maintained the property to the present day. It should be an underlying principle that any conservation work, maintenance or repairs are carried out in consultation with him.

It would be useful if he could write an account the work he has carried at the mill and also make an inventory of all the artefacts associated with the mill.

The scantle slate roof of the mill is in need of urgent replacement (there are already two substantial holes and other places where rain is entering the building. Failure to repair at this stage will result in subsequent rot of the timberwork.

Remedial works need to be carried out following flood damage in 2012. At present the mill machinery is inoperable due to several areas of external damage, including:

- The sluices that control the water levels in the millpond and leat
- Damage to the leat sides (displaced slates)
- Missing planking on the launder feeding the waterwheel
- A few waterwheel buckets are broken and require attention
- Replacement of displaced stonework in the tailrace channel

Inside the mill there is a need to refit or replace some of the machinery, including:

- Gearing to the NE set of stones
- Replacement (?) of the SW driven stone
- Reinstatement of the covers and hopper feeds to both sets of stones

The National Trust should liaise with Mr. Unwin to identify a suitably qualified person or persons who can provide detailed requirements, specifications and costs for those remedial works which cannot be undertaken by Mr Unwin himself.

### 11.2.3 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The long term future of the mill depends on support from the Trust to be able to invest in the structure of the building and support from the local community to help look after it. It is therefore important to foster a sense of ownership of the mill within the local community, many of whom have a keen interest in the history of their area. In order to promote this regular open days for education and outreach should be encouraged at the mill, and opportunities to facilitate this should be discussed with the custodian. More information about the mill should also be made available in the Trust's education room at Poltesco.

The mill was not, however, designed to have visitors walking through it and there numerous Health and Safety issues, particularly low beams, slip, trip and fall hazards as well as dangers posed by the mill machinery itself. For open days perhaps a limited number of people could come into the ground floor room with the machinery area cordoned off. The upper floors do not span the width of the mill and are not generally suitable for visitor access. The custodian or Trust staff would need to be present during any visits.

## 12 SOURCES CONSULTED

### 12.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Ordnance Survey, 1879. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)

Ordnance Survey, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

1843 Tithe Apportionment Survey for the parish of Grade

1842 Tithe Apportionment Survey for the parish of Ruan Minor

Joel Gascoyne, 1695. *Lanhydrock Atlas* estate plans (original ms at Lanhydrock House, copy at CRO)

Map of Trethvas Estate c1770 (CRO ref. DDJ. 145)

### 12.2 PUBLICATIONS

Cornwall County Council 1996. *Cornwall Landscape Assessment 1994*. Report prepared by CAU and Landscape Design Associates. Cornwall County Council

Dowson, E, 1967. Grade-Ruan Parish Checklist. *Cornish Archaeol* **5**, 102-5

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

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Gilbert, D, 1838. *The Parochial History of Cornwall Vols II and III*. J B Nichols & Son, London

Gover, J E B, 1948. *Placenames of Cornwall*. Typescript held by the Courtney Library, RCM

Johns, C, 2003. Poltesco Valley, Cornwall, Preliminary archaeological and historical survey. HE report

Padel, O J, 1985. *Cornish Place-Name Elements*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham

Parry, J, 2013. *Poltesco Mill, Poltesco, Ruan Minor: Brief for Archaeological Assessment and Building Recording* National Trust

Unwin, A, 1975. Some Local Watermills. *The Lizard* **V 3**, 25-8

Upton, V R, 1990. *National Trust Vernacular Building Survey* (includes the corn mill and mill house)

### 12.3 WEBSITES

National Trust historic landscape survey guidelines:  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-arch4.pdf](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-arch4.pdf)

Online HBSMR entry for Poltesco Mill:  
[http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=MCO23568&resourceID=1020](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO23568&resourceID=1020)

## 13 PROJECT ARCHIVE

The HE project number is **146225**.

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive will be held by the National Trust a copy is housed at the offices of Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council,

Fal Building, New County Hall, 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. Digital photographs stored in the directory ..\Images\Sites M-P\Poltesco mill assessment and HBR 2013.
3. English Heritage Oasis entry: Cornwall2-145227.

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\CAU\HE Projects\Sites P\Poltesco mill assessment and HBR 2013



Fig 1: Location map

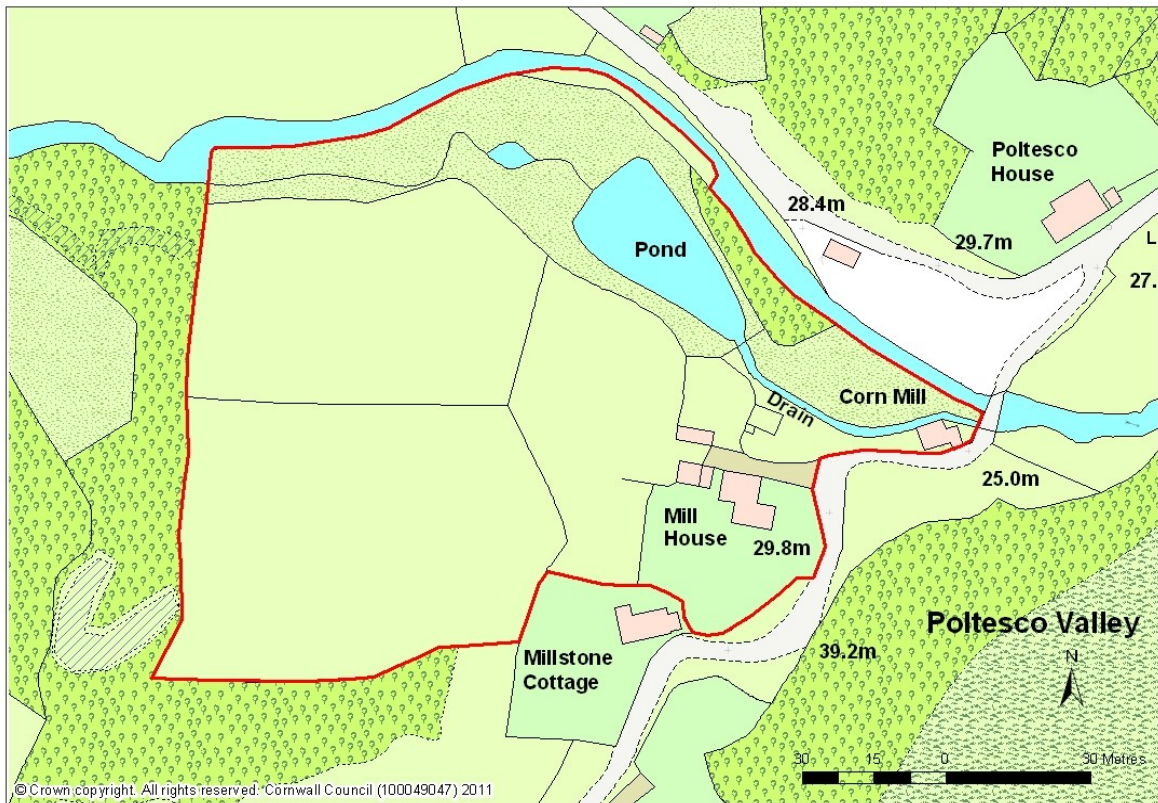


Fig 2: Study area

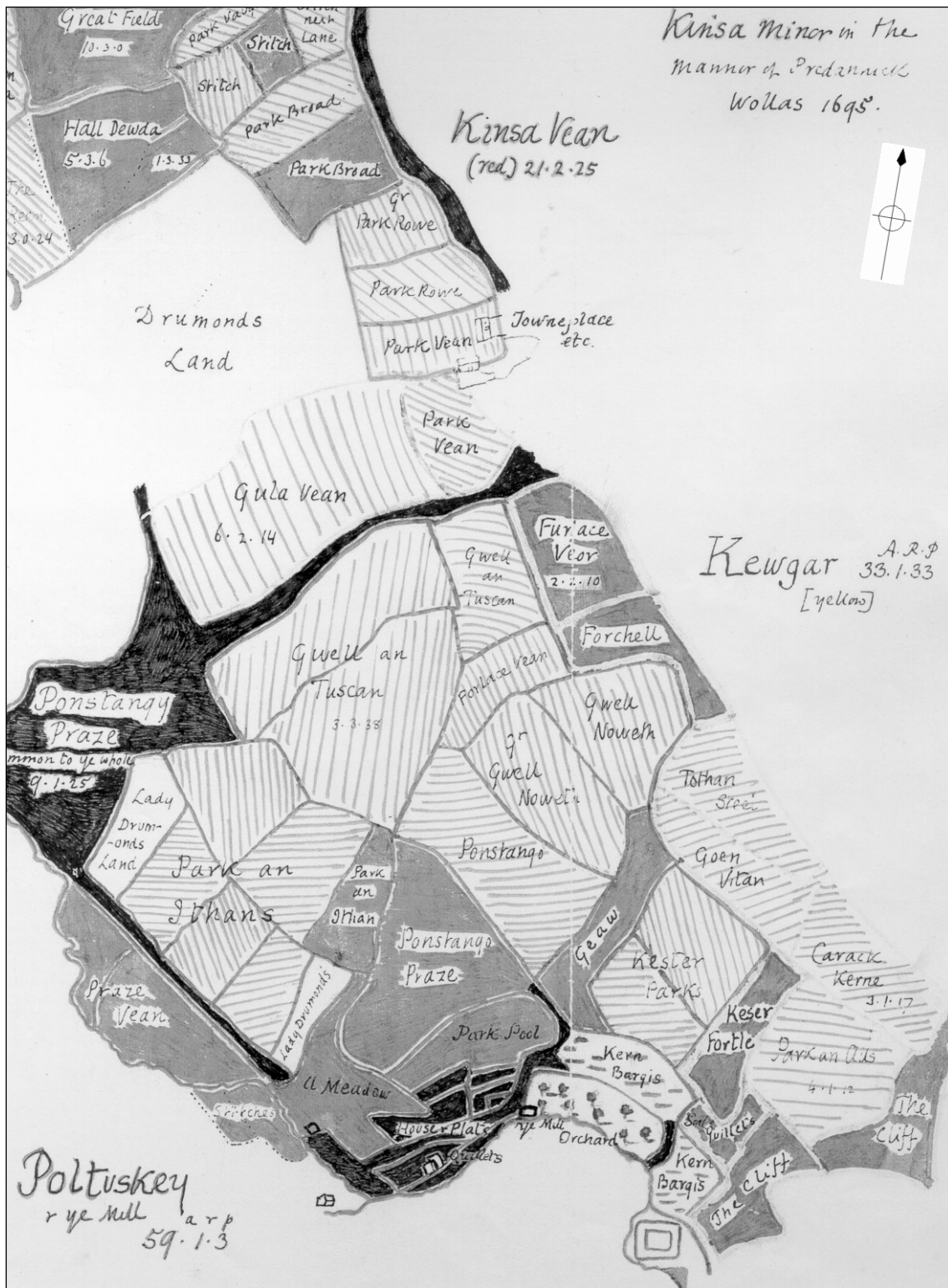


Fig 3: Detail from the 1695 Lanhydrock Atlas showing Poltuskey in the Manor of Predannack Wollas (a copy by Anthony Hitchens Unwin of Charles Henderson's tracing of the original map)



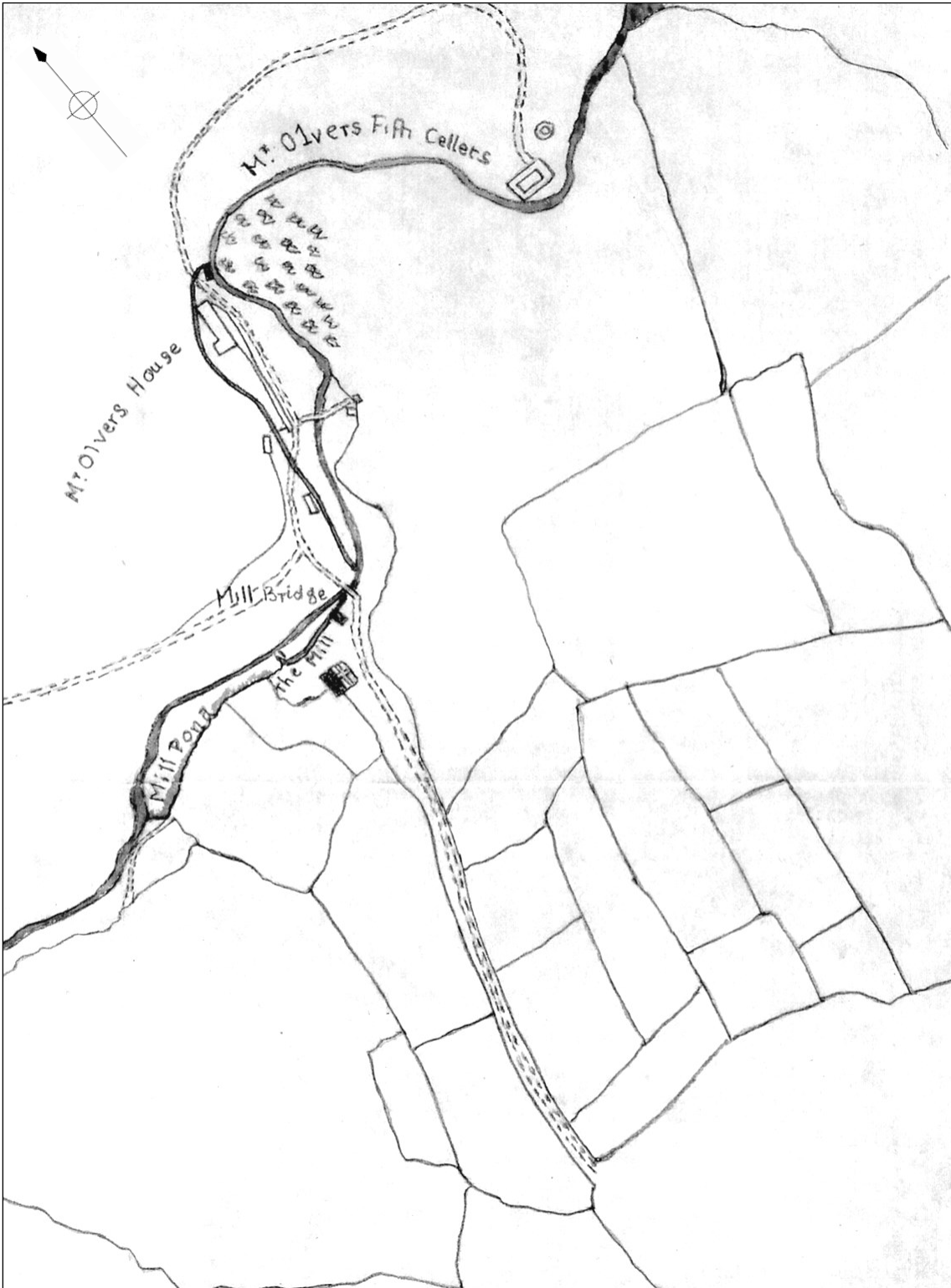


Fig 4: Detail from the 1770 Trethvas estate map showing Poltesco Mill, **92519**, Mill House, **92522**, and the mill pond, **92521** (traced from the original at the CRO by Anthony Hitchens Unwin)



Fig 5: Ordnance Survey First Edition 1 inch map c1809



Fig 6: Tithe map (the parish of Ruan Minor) 1842

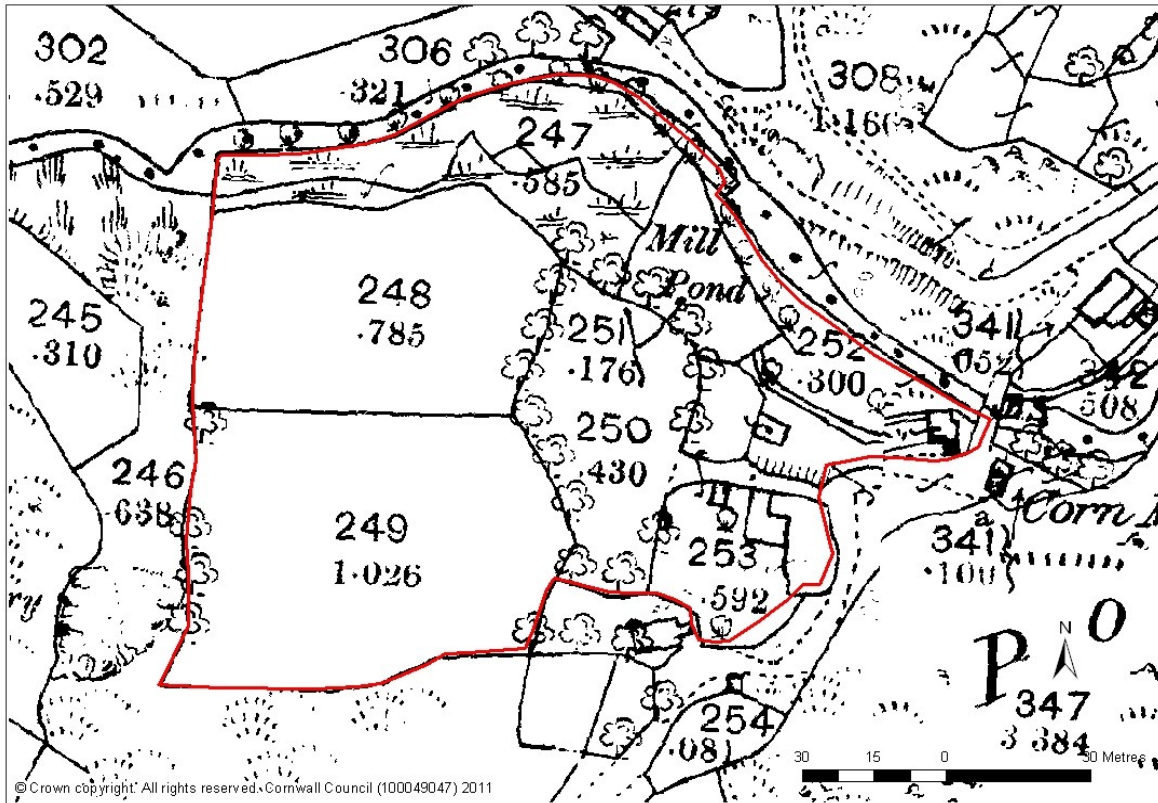


Fig 7: First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1879

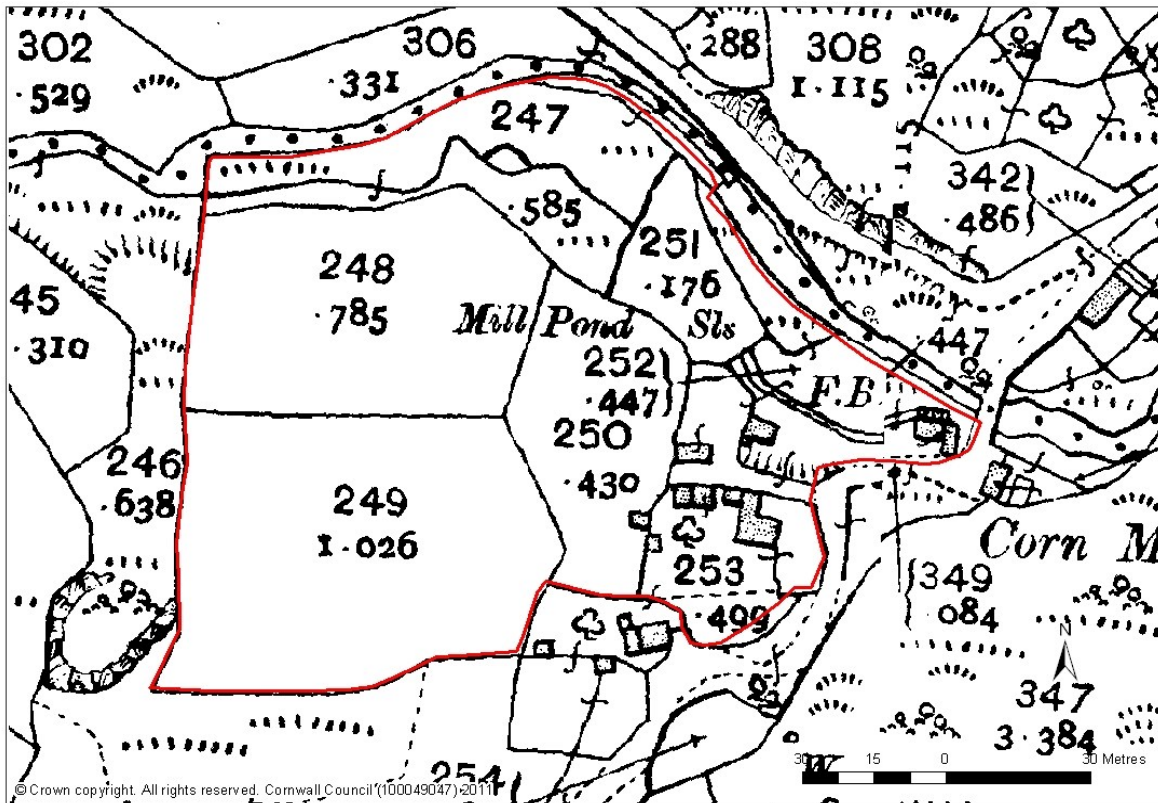


Fig 8: Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907



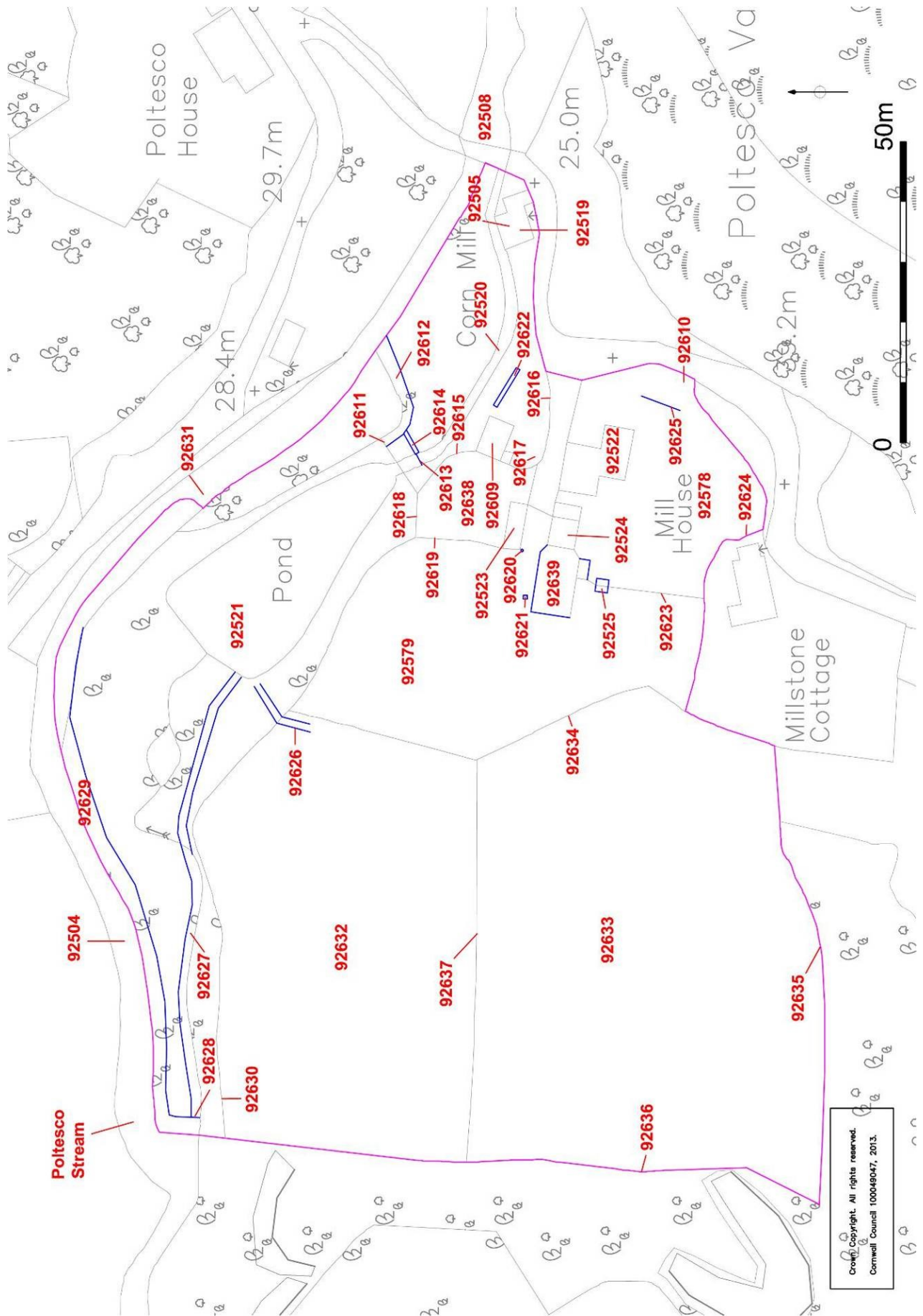


Fig 9:Inventory sites location map



*Fig 10: Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, viewed from the south-west, a c1865 photograph by William Brooks (RIC, Truro)*



*Fig 11: Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, and the mill bridge, **site 92564**, viewed from the north-east. Mr William Wearne is standing by the bridge with his donkey cart. A c1870 photograph, probably by John Berenger (RIC, Truro)*





Fig 12: Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, and Poltesco Mill House, **site 92522**, and former house **92609** (now ruined) not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)



Fig 13: Postcard view of Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, and Poltesco Mill House, **site 92522**, in 1906 (from Ivey nd)





Fig 14: Postcard view of Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, and house to east (now demolished), not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)



Fig 15: Postcard view of Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, and house to east (now demolished), not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)





Fig 16: Postcard view of Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, looking along the leat **92520** from the millpond and house to east (now demolished), not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)



Fig 17: Postcard view of Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, viewed from the north, not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)





Fig 18: Poltesco Mill, **site 92519**, viewed from the north with piggery to the east, not dated (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)



Fig 19: The caption to this photograph, taken outside Poltesco mill in c1920, names this old gentleman as a Mr. Wearne, who lived nearby (from Ivey nd). According to Anthony Hitchens Unwin's information it is not Mr. Wearne but Mr. Stephen Morgan's father (both were millers) who is striking a pose outside the piggery which stood opposite the mill, where a granite post now remains.





*Fig 20: Photograph of Mr. Wearne, the miller, taken inside the mill building on the first floor (image kindly supplied by Sarah Legge via Jeff Lee)*



*Fig 21: Poltesco Stream, parish boundary 92504*





*Fig 22: Poltesco Mill 92504 looking south-west*



*Fig 23: Poltesco Mill tailrace, part of leat 92520 looking west*





*Fig 24: Poltesco Mill leat 92520 set on top of serpentine rubble-retained bank looking north-west*



*Fig 25: Poltesco Mill leat 92520 set on top of serpentine rubble-retained bank looking east*





Fig 26: Millpond **92521** from east end looking north-west



Fig 27: Mill House **92522** looking west





Fig 28: Mill House **92522** looking south-east



Fig 29: Piggery **92523** looking north-west





Fig 30: Stable **92524** looking south-west



Fig 31: Privy **92525** looking south-west





Fig 32: Orchard **92579** looking north-west



Fig 33: Ruined dwelling **92609** looking north





*Fig 34: Enclosed former garden associated with (and immediately west of) house **92609** looking north*



*Fig 35: Leat **92612** looking east, used to release water into the river from the millpond*





Fig 36: Serpentine steps **92617** looking south



Fig 37: Serpentine gate post **92620** looking west





Fig 38: Serpentine trough 92621



Fig 39: Leat **92627** from west end looking east





*Fig 40: Culvert 92628 at west end of leat 92627*



*Fig 41: Raised bank **92629** retaining north side of millpond. Taken at west end looking north*

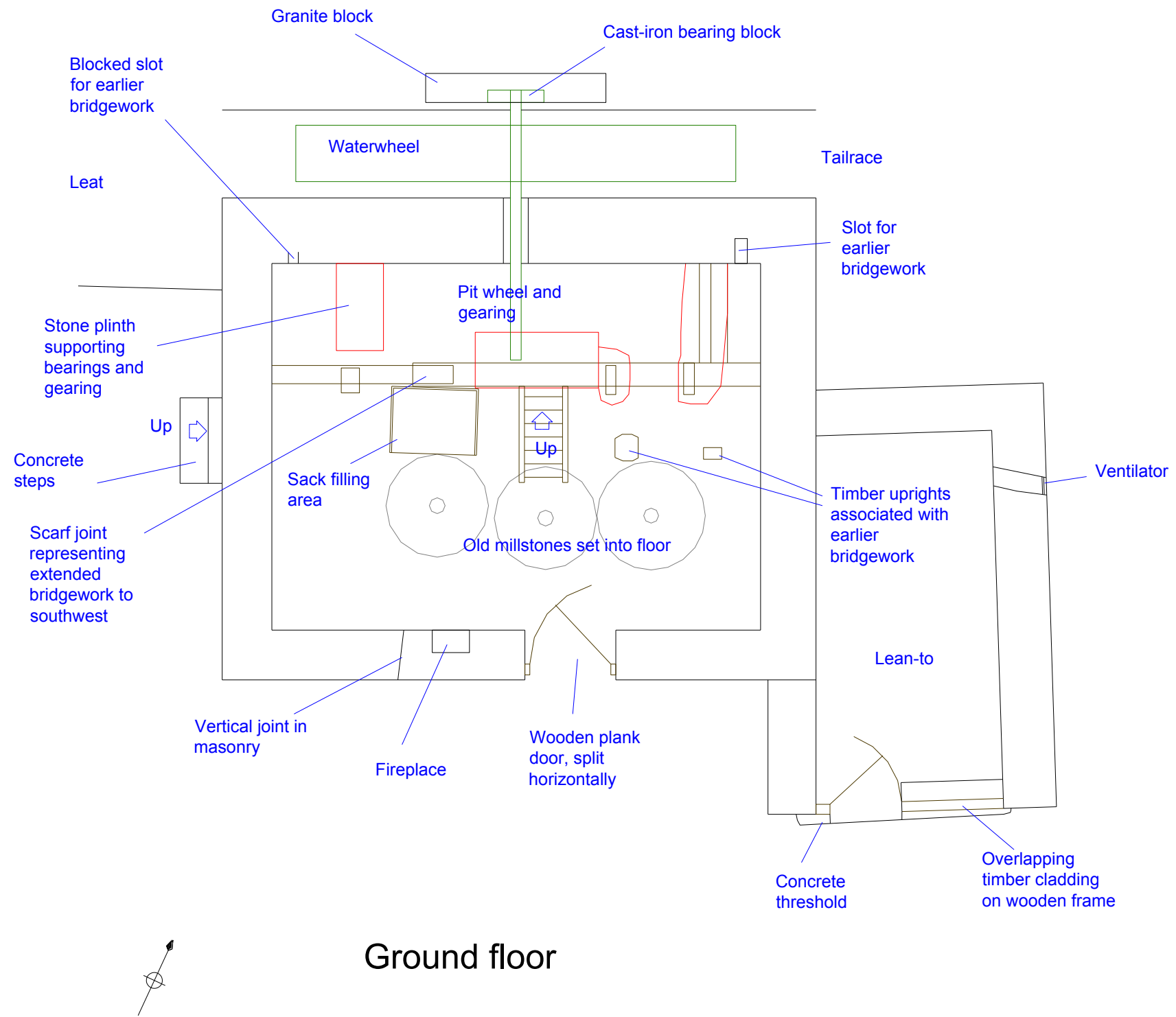




*Fig 42: Possible overflow **92631** in raised bank **92629** retaining north side of millpond.  
Taken looking north-west*



*Fig 43: Field **92632** looking south-west*



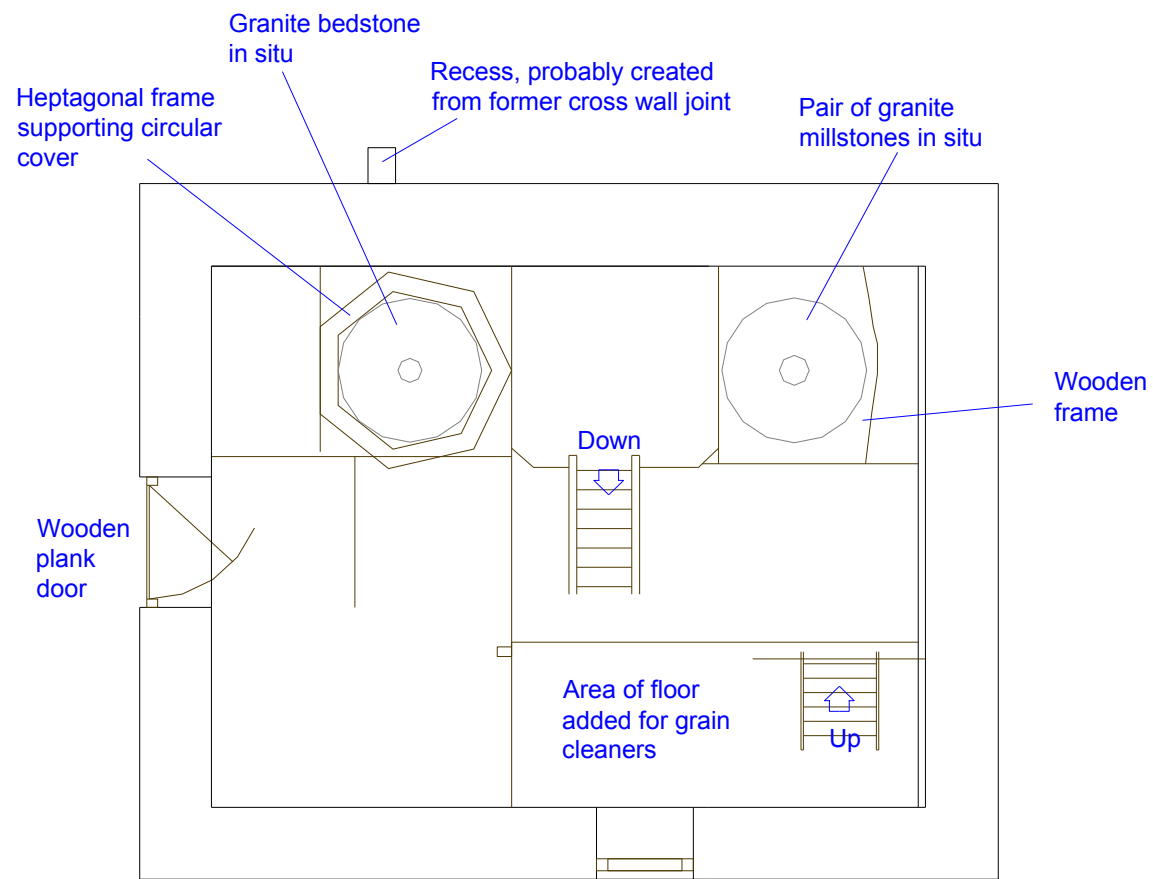
Ground floor

Fig 44: Ground floor plan of the mill

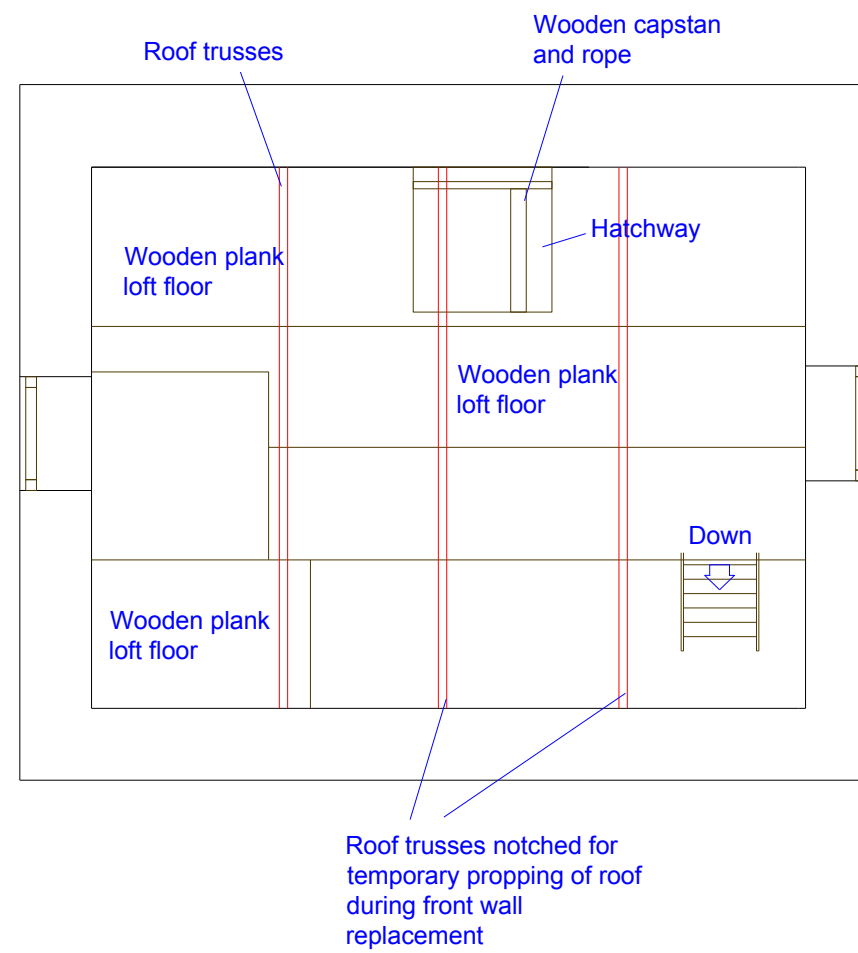
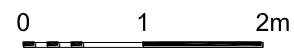








Middle floor



Upper floor/loft

Fig 45: Upper floor plans of the mill





*Plate 1 Poltesco Mill from the SW*



*Plate 2 Poltesco Mill from the S*





*Plate 3 Poltesco Mill from the E*



*Plate 4 Poltesco Mill from the NE, showing the waterwheel and tailrace*





*Plate 5 Poltesco Mill from the N, showing the waterwheel and tailrace*



*Plate 6 Elevation view of the waterwheel, axle bearing block and launder*





*Plate 7 Rear view of the mill, showing (to the right) the wall supporting the leat*



*Plate 8 View of the millpond from the sluice gates*





*Plate 9 View along the leat towards the mill*



*Plate 10 View of the launder feeding the wheel (note missing boarding caused by flood damage in 2012)*





*Plate 11 The wall supporting the leat adjoining the mill building. A step-stile has been incorporated into a rebuilt section of the wall towards the right. This rebuild would appear to date from the time the mill was extended towards the SW*



*Plate 12 Maker's name and date on the waterwheel*





*Plate 13 Reused granite block supporting the bearings of the waterwheel. Note the earlier bracket position on the outside of the stone*





*Plate 14 The wall separating the tailrace from the adjacent stream. Flood damage in November 2012 has displaced the upper course of stones (left)*



*Plate 15 View from below the bridge. The left hand (mill tailrace) opening appears to be the earlier part of the structure*





*Plate 16 View of the main doorway into the mill, with ladder stair to upper floor visible inside. Note the OS Bench Mark cut into the wall at lower right of the doorway, and the iron tethering ring*





*Plate 17 Dated stone incorporated into the front wall of the mill.*



*Plate 18 Dated stone reused within quoin of SW extension*





*Plate 19 Dated stone reused within quoin of SW extension*



*Plate 20 Part of a ships timber reused as a lintel in the SW extension*





*Plate 21 A granite central portion from a composite early millstone, reused in the SW extension*

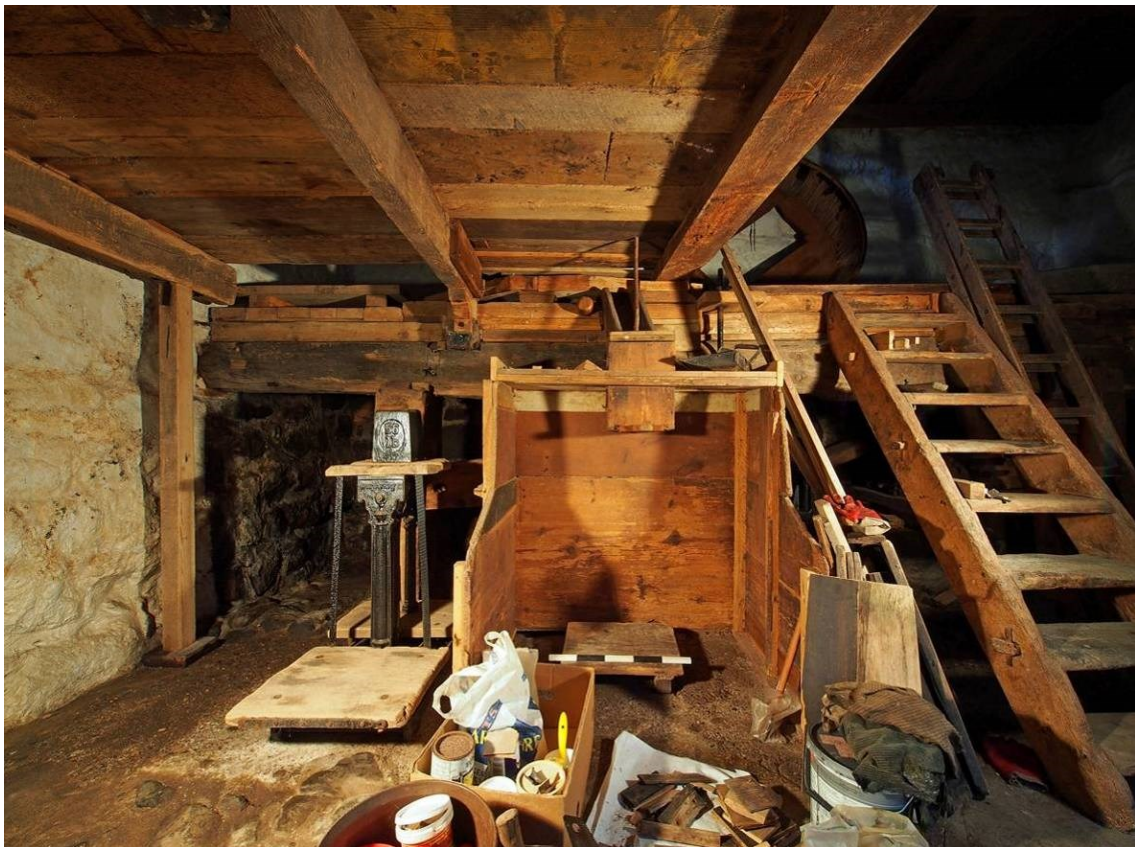


*Plate 22 The ground floor of the mill, with the fireplace towards the right*





*Plate 23 Ground floor of the mill, showing the main door and reused millstones in the floor. The boarded floor above was added c1910 when grading machines were accommodated*



*Plate 24 Ground floor of the mill, with sack loading area towards centre*





*Plate 25 Ladder to first floor (millstones visible towards upper right)*



*Plate 26 General view of ground floor, looking SW. The upper floor levels are also visible*





*Plate 27 Pit wheel (behind, centre) sharing axle with waterwheel, driving horizontal countershafts to secondary gearing onto stone nuts driving millstones*



*Plate 28 Blocked vertical slot in NW corner hints at earlier arrangement of bridgework*





*Plate 29 Vertical slot in NE corner shows hints at earlier arrangement of bridgework*



*Plate 30 Gearing to underside of millstones*





*Plate 31 View of the millstones on the first floor (looking NW)*



*Plate 32 View towards the NE wall at first floor level. Note the change in build and narrowed wall thickness (above the scale bar)*





*Plate 33 View of first floor looking E*



*Plate 34 View of first floor looking SW*





*Plate 35 View of first floor looking SE*



*Plate 36 The western mill bedstone in situ*





*Plate 37 The eastern millstones in situ*



*Plate 38 Recess in NW wall on first floor, which appears to have been created from where the earlier SW wall formed a quoin. Note the stones protruding from the wall to the right*





*Plate 39 Crucifixion figure in relief carved onto a stone incorporated into the NW wall (this part rebuilt in the 1860s)*

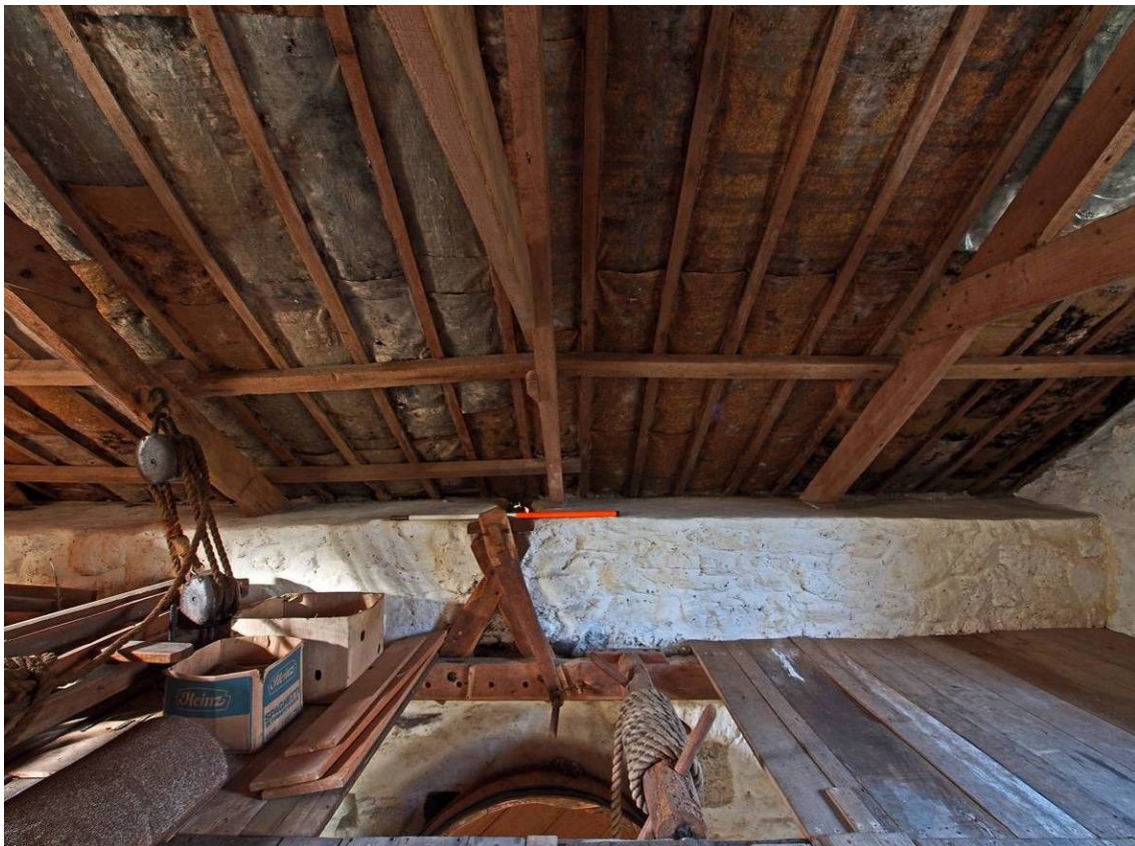


*Plate 40 View of the loft floor looking NE*





*Plate 41 View of the loft floor looking SW*



*Plate 42 View of the loft floor. Note the capstan for lifting the millstones (right of centre) and the wooden lever (centre, rear) for adjusting the sluice controlling the flow on the waterwheel*

## **APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES**

(from Heritage Gateway website)

### **GRADE-RUAN POLTESCO**

SW 71 NW

6/43 Poltesco Mill

9 4 75

GV II

Water mill, building mostly C18 and C19 including datestone F.C.A 1786 with some early work possibly dating from C14. Stone rubble with horizontal timber boarding and slurried scantle slate roof. Square brick chimney. East front with central wide C19 stable door with chamfered lintel above. Central 4-pane window directly above. South front with 2 steps up to wide planned C18 door with timber lintel above. 4-pane window below gabled end with 3 square brick dove holes. Later store built on north-east corner. Rubble base with C20 horizontal timber boarding below on asymmetrical gable end. Partly glazed door with 4-pane window directly above. 17'6" overshot hybrid (metal and timber) wheel dating from the 1870s. 2 pairs of millstones, horizontal gearing complete. Small crucifixion figure (possibly medieval) carved on stone inside building. Mill pool survives.

### **GRADE-RUAN POLTESCO MILL**

SW 71 NW

6/46 Poltesco Mill House

GV II

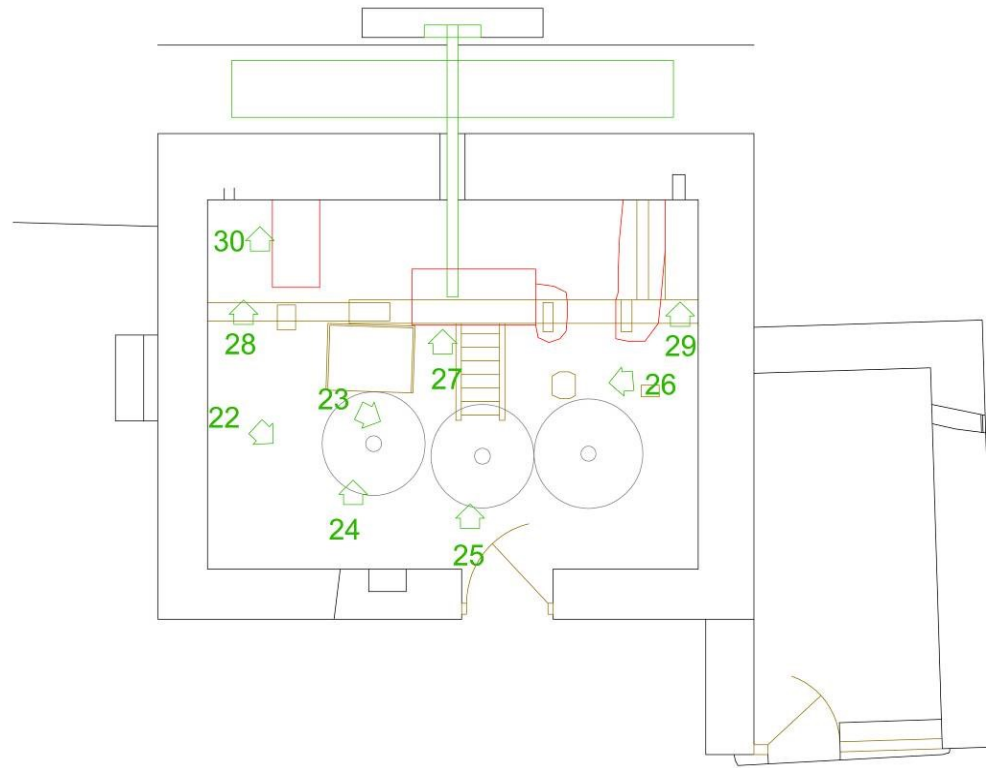
Farmhouse, circa late-C18 with mid-C19 gabled projection. Stone rubble with granite lintels over openings. Scantle slate roof gabled on right with brick chimney stack in gable end. Projecting wing on left with rubble stone ground floor and whitewashed brick first floor. Hipped scantle slate roof. Rendered brick chimney on south slope and tall brick chimney to rear. L-shaped plan. 2 storeys, asymmetrical. Ground floor: entrance near junction at projecting wing with partly glazed C20 door. On right, 12-pane sash (without horns) directly above. 12-pane horizontal sliding sash window on ground floor of projecting with with 16-pane sash (without horns) directly above. Interior not inspected.



# APPENDIX 2 LOCATION AND DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN

Note: numbers refer to Plates illustrated in this report

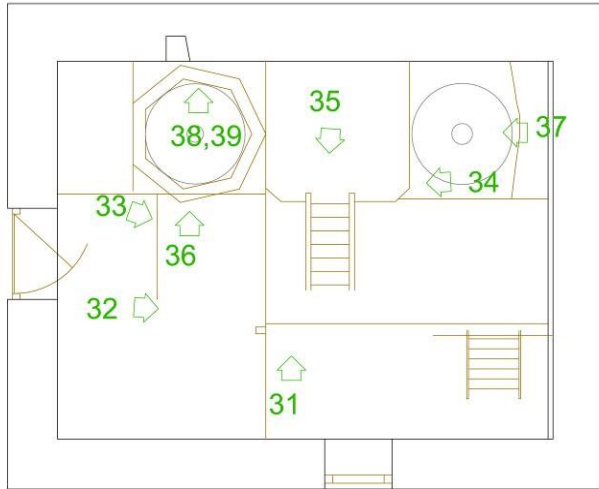




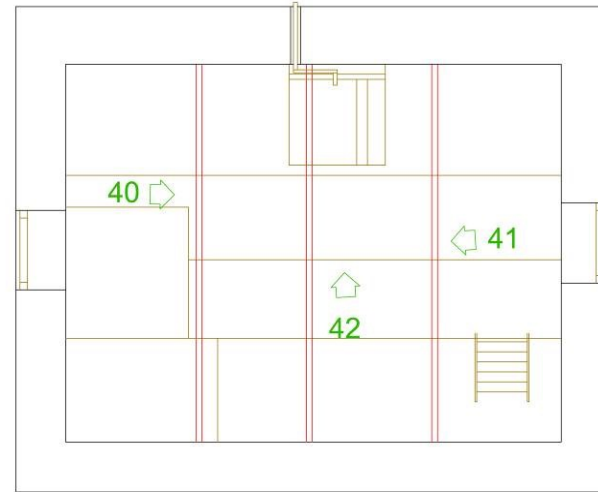
Ground floor







Middle floor



Upper floor/loft

