



Stepper Point Lobster Hatchery, Padstow, Cornwall Archaeological Assessment



Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Stepper Point Lobster Hatchery, Padstow, Cornwall

Archaeological Assessment

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Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Dominic Boothroyd, General Manger of the National Lobster Hatchery, Padstow and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

The Project Manager was Charles Johns.

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

Freedom of Information Act

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Cover illustration

Stepper Point quarry from the southern entrance 22 April 2015

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Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMP	National Mapping Programme
OS	Ordnance Survey

1 Summary

In April 2015, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, was commissioned by Dominic Boothroyd of the National Lobster Hatchery to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site of a proposed new lobster hatchery at Stepper Point near Padstow, Cornwall (NGR SW 91477 78454). The assessment comprised a rapid desk-based study and field visit, and the results from the project are intended to assist future planning considerations.

Although the locality has a long history of use stretching from the Mesolithic period through to the present day there are no existing archaeological features within the footprint of the proposed development and the archaeological impact here will be negligible. It is also concluded that, because of its location in a secluded former quarry at the end of Stepper Point, which will be screened with an earthwork on the seaward side, the development will not affect the visual setting of any heritage assets in the vicinity.

The density of crop marks and other features indicate that there is high potential for as yet unknown and unrecorded subsurface archaeology to exist in the surrounding area. Therefore an archaeological watching brief is recommended during any expansion of the access track and also during trenching for the seawater pipeline. The specifics of any further archaeological mitigation will need to be agreed with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment).



Fig 1 Location map

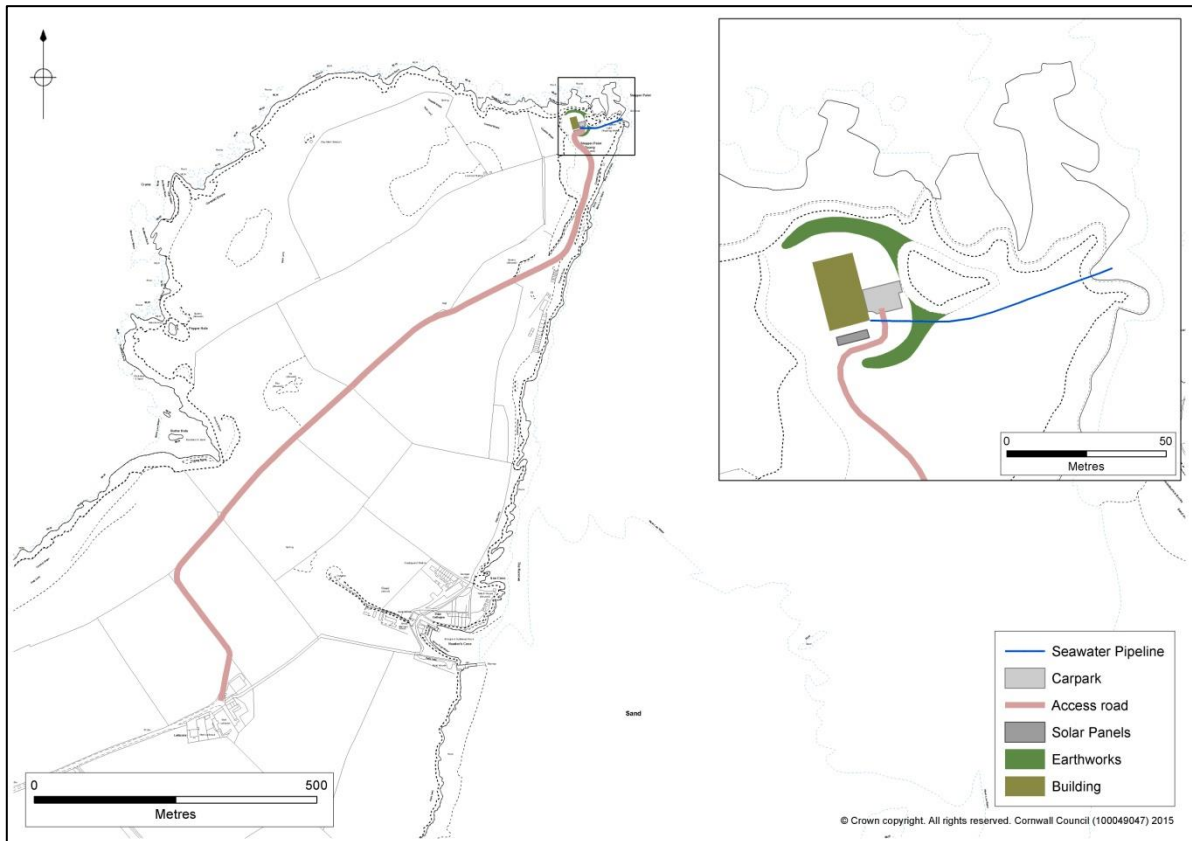


Fig 2 Site extent.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

In April 2015 Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council (CAU), was commissioned by Dominic Boothroyd, General Manager of the National Lobster Hatchery to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site of a proposed new lobster hatchery at Stepper Point Quarry, at the mouth of the Camel Estuary near Padstow (Fig 1).

The proposal is to construct a large industrial/agricultural type pitched roof building (21m by 13m) for the breeding of juvenile lobsters and the provision of aquaculture research and development facilities. The building is proposed to have a shallow pitched sedum (or similar) roof. In addition, 24 square metres of ground mounted solar panels are proposed beside the building and water storage tanks integrated into the existing bank, fed by a permanent seawater pipeline (Fig 2).

2.2 Aims

The aims of the study were to gain a better understanding of the impacts of the proposed development on the historic environment and heritage assets at Stepper Point by identifying areas of archaeological sensitivity where archaeological recording would be recommended prior to development and to assess the impact of the development on the setting of any heritage assets in the vicinity.

2.3 Methods

The methodology for the archaeological assessment was guided by the comments on heritage consideration in the pre-planning application decision letter (dated 16 June) by Mark Wigley, Development Officer, Planning, Housing and Regeneration Service, Cornwall Council:

'In terms of heritage consideration, paragraph 115 of the NPPF [National Planning Policy Framework] provides detailed advice including:

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. 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.

Saved Policy ENV14 of the North Cornwall Local Plan 1999 is the relevant Development Plan policy in respect of sites of Archaeological or Historic Interest.

The relevant part of Policy ENV14 states:

2. Development proposals which adversely affect locally important archaeological sites or remains identified as a result of a prior archaeological investigation will only be permitted where:

(a) physical preservation *in-situ* is not feasible in conjunction with the proposed development and the importance of the development clearly outweighs the case for preservation of the remains; and

(b) satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation and recording of the remains before or during development.

3. In Areas of Great Historic Value, Historic Settlements and all other locations where there is evidence to suggest that significant remains may exist on the site of a proposed development the extent and importance of which are unknown, applicants will be requested to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the proposal before the planning application is determined.'

The methodology for the archaeological assessment was also discussed by telephone with the Development Officer who considered that viewsheds of the site would not be required. Therefore the assessment comprised a rapid desk-based assessment and field visit/walkover survey.

2.3.1 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 that were likely to survive. The main sources consulted were as follows:

- The Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- Images of England online listed buildings database.
- Early maps and photographs (see Section 10.1).
- Published histories (see Section 10.2).
- National Mapping Programme (NMP) transcripts from aerial photographs.
- Other aerial photographs in the Cornwall and Scilly HER.
- Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping.

2.3.2 Fieldwork

A site visit and walkover survey took place on Wednesday 22 April 2015. The purpose of the walk-over was to identify archaeological features and provide a good descriptive record of the development area, assess its condition and survival and assess the effect of the development on the setting of surrounding heritage assets in the vicinity.

3 Location and setting

The proposed development site at Stepper Point sits within a disused partially naturalised elvan quarry on the south-western side of the Camel Estuary, located about 3 km to the north of Padstow (Figs 1 and 2). The development would be centred at NGR SW 91477 78454 with proposed access that incorporates an existing track to Lellizzick (SW 90829 77391). The surrounding landscape character is typically coastal rough ground to the north-west whilst post-medieval enclosed land with rolling hills and shallow sided valleys extend along the estuary towards the south-east.

The proposed access route traces an existing track across several fields currently used for grazing sheep and cattle. The track winds its way along the ridge of the headland from Lellizzick before leaving the enclosed land. At this point it drops down to the north-eastern side of the headland merging with the coastal footpath as it meets a small disused quarry (Fig 9, Gazetteer no.16). Crossing the coastal footpath the track continues down the slope flanked by the estuary bank to the north east and cliff face to the south west before opening out into a large flat area with a steep quarry face to the west and expansive views across the estuary to the north and east.

The underlying geology comprises largely Upper Devonian mudstones, siltstone and sandstones. At Stepper Point a dolerite intrusion thrusts through the Devonian slates. It is this dolerite deposit that has been exploited in the past. Extensive sand banks and bars hug the estuary fringes and extend for considerable distances into the estuary at low tide.

4 Designations

There are no nationally designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings), regionally designated heritage assets or locally important heritage assets within the development site or along the access route. The nearest Listed Building is the Stepper Point Daymark which is approximately 0.5km to the east, the nearest

Scheduled Monument is the cross (HHLE 1006624) in the grounds of Prideaux Place, about 3km to the south of the site.

The site lies within a high number of important landscape designations, namely:

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Heritage Coast (HC).
- Area of Great Historic Value (AGHV).
- Area of Great Scientific Value (AGSV).
- Cornwall Nature Conservation Site (CNCS).
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

5 Historic Landscape Characterisation

During 1994, CAU carried out a map-based historic landscape assessment 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.

The development area is characterised by this assessment as **Coastal Rough Ground**. This is unenclosed sloping ground, beyond enclosed fields but above precipitous cliff, a narrow band, from 30 to 800m wide, running along most stretches of the Cornish coast. The main historic use of Coastal Rough Ground will have been as areas of summer grazing and sources of fuel, particularly furze. Some cliffs, like Stepper Point, were the sites of mines or quarries. Coastguard services produced lookouts and fishermen built huers' huts from which to watch for shoals of pilchards.

The access track passes through **Post-Medieval Enclosed Land**. This is land that was enclosed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, usually from land that was previously Upland Rough Ground or Coastal Rough Ground and often medieval commons, and generally located in relatively high, exposed or poorly-drained parts of the county.

6 Site history

6.1 Prehistoric and Romano-British (c 8000 BC –AD 410)

Little evidence of prehistoric occupation survives on the headland itself but cropmarks mapped as part of the Cornwall NMP suggest extensive use and likely habitation of Lellizzick and the fields to the south (Fig 9).

Lithic scatters discovered in the local area speak to a long tradition of visitation or use. Finds and structures recorded here suggest habitation of the wider area since the Mesolithic period (c 8000 BC – c 4000 BC). Further analysis of the lithic assemblages from this area, especially the discoveries made along the coastal strip between Trevoze Head and Pentire Head, would appear to support this (Johnson and David 1982). Other discoveries of flints include forms indicating that this lithic tradition stretched at least into the Neolithic (c 4000 BC – c 2500 BC).

The discovery of cists and the density of possible barrows and enclosures identified by the Cornwall NMP suggest significant use during the Bronze Age (c 2500 BC – 800 BC). A possible round (defended settlement), an Iron Age (800 BC – 43 AD) artefact scatter and a Romano-British (43 AD – 409 AD) field system mark the transition to a more sedentary lifestyle and the first real evidence of permanent settlement at Lellizzick (Figs 9 and 10).

In October 2007, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' near the river at a site between Hawker's Cove and Harbour Cove (NGR 191116 77177) to investigate a series of circular anomalies identified by aerial photography and geophysical survey following extensive metal detecting (Wessex Archaeology 2008).

The aim of the evaluation was to investigate the nature of these anomalies and ascertain their date, character, condition and extent.

The project was successful in identifying a roundhouse settlement dating from Romano-British through into the post-Roman period, with evidence of occupation over perhaps five or six centuries, although no definitive evidence for pre-Roman settlement was found. The settlement appears always to have been relatively small, with new roundhouses repeatedly replacing old structures. Some evidence of industrial activity was recovered, as well as evidence for possible connections with the Byzantine world (Wessex Archaeology 2008).

6.2 Medieval (1066–1547)

During the medieval period the hamlet of Lellizzick started to develop. The settlement of Lellizzick is first recorded in 1284 when it is spelt *Lanwoledic* (Gover 1948). The name is Cornish and contains the elements *lann* meaning 'enclosed cemetery', and possibly *gwlesyk* meaning 'leader' used as a personal name (Padel 1985). Charles Henderson (1955–60) records that 'the Barton of Lelissick which includes the headland of Stepper formed the warren (site 12) and demesne of the Priory of Bodmin for its manor of Padstow'.

Other sites dating to the medieval period include the chapel of St Sampson at Hawker's Cove and the holy well (Gazetteer no.11) which is spring at the end of Stepper Point.

The ditch that runs from Hawker's Cove to Butter Hole is marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) (Figs 5 and 6) and was initially identified as a prehistoric enclosure (Fig 9, Gazetteer no.8). Later investigation by the OS and by CAU suggests that the feature may in fact date from the medieval period (AD 1066 AD – 1547). It is possible that the ditch is associated with the rabbit warrens mentioned by Henderson. The area of ridge and furrow identified by the Cornwall NMP to the north-east of the access road is likely evidence of extended cultivation (Gazetteer no.10).

6.3 Post-medieval and modern (1547 to present day)

The Daymark, or navigation tower (Gazetteer no.23) possibly dates to the early 19th century. It is a hollow tower, built of stone rubble and circular in plan. The tower was originally lime-washed and, standing high on the cliffs at Stepper Point, was guide to mariners entering the Camel estuary. It was part of a series of measures undertaken, including the building of lifeboat house at Hawker's Cove and the installation of capstans along Stepper Point to help incoming vessels clear the notorious Doom Bar.

The quarry is not shown on the c 1840 Tithe map for the parish of Padstow (Fig 4) but the 1st Edition OS (1875-1901) show capstans and a tramway running along the coast from the post-medieval quay (Fig 9, Gazetteer no.14) and post-medieval engine house (Fig 9, Gazetteer no.15) located approximately 400m to the north of Hawker's Cove. The engine house is marked on the Tithe map. It seems likely that the tramway was used as a means of transport for stone from the quarry to the north. The prevalence of capstans and mooring rings along the 500m stretch of coastline between here and the quarry and the lack of further accessible routes suggest that the material was exported by sea. Adjacent to the quarry and marked on the 1st Edition OS are a capstan and capstan house. It is unclear precisely when these features were constructed but on 1 February 1833 Coode and French Solicitors of St Austell negotiated a 60 year lease allowing use of 'mooring posts, capstans, buildings and slipways' (CF/1/2057d) so it seems likely that they were constructed after this date.

The 2nd Edition OS map (1906-1908) (Figs 7 and 8) shows Stepper Point Quarry, and the tramway infrastructure, capstans and capstan house are all still in evidence. Old photographs remain of the quarry workers taken in 1910 (McCarthy 1994) and another taken during the Second World War (McCarthy 1993) but the quarry appears to have gone out of use shortly afterwards, sometime around 1950.

7 Results from the fieldwork

When the site was visited no archaeological features were found inside the quarry.

Little remains of the quarry infrastructure apart from a small building and some nearby reinforcement walling located along the sea cliff at the far north of the site (Fig 19). The small building appears to be of fairly modern construction sitting as it does on a concrete plinth. It is possible that it dates from the end of the quarrying on the site. These two structures lie adjacent to some narrow concrete steps and a platform that may have housed an earlier navigation aid (Fig 20). On the sea cut platform to the east lie the remains of two capstans (Figs 21 and 22) and a structure, possibly a building. The structure is of unknown use or origin but is constructed from metal joists and railway sleepers. This may well be a re-utilisation of the remains of the tramway noted above. Due to its appearance and relatively modern construction it seems unlikely to be related to either the Capstan House or Apparatus House both of which are recorded on the 1st Edition OS map (Figs 5 and 6).

An assessment was made of the visual impact of the proposed development on the setting of heritage assets in the area. Because of its location in a secluded former quarry at the end of Stepper Point, and because it will be screened by an earthwork on the seaward side, the assessor concluded that the development will not affect the visual setting of any heritage assets.

The fieldwork demonstrated that all of the existing field boundaries along the access track have been modified in the very recent past presumably to allow the access and egress of modern farming equipment (Fig 12). The track itself has been renewed over time and appears to be of modern construction, apart from the narrow stretch approaching the modern quarry cutting (Fig 11).

8 Recommendations

There are no upstanding archaeological features within the footprint of the proposed development and it is unlikely that any will survive below ground. This means that the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains will be negligible in the quarry area.

The assessment also concluded that, because of its location and screening the development and will not affect the visual setting of any heritage assets.

Given the density of crop marks and other features in the surrounding area, however, there is high potential for as yet unknown and unrecorded subsurface archaeology to survive beyond the confines of the quarry. Therefore an archaeological watching brief is recommended during any expansion of the existing access track and also during trenching for the seawater pipeline. The specifics of any further archaeological mitigation will need to be agreed with the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment).

9 References

9.1 Primary sources

Joel Gascoyne's 1699 Map of Cornwall

Martyn's 1748 Map of Cornwall

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

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

Ordnance Survey, 2015. Mastermap Digital Mapping

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c 1840. Parish of Padstow (licensed digital copy at CRO)

Draft lease, roads or pathways, Padstow (CRO CF/1/2057d)

Agreement, building site at Hawker's Cove and cutting down Stepper Point (CRO PHC/23)

9.2 Publications

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9.3 Websites

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/>

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf?titleId=1095076>

http://pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=889490#aSt

10 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146485**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-210822

11 Gazetteer of identified sites in the vicinity

Gazetteer Number	Name	HER Number	NGR (SW)
1	STEPPER POINT - Prehistoric lithic scatter	MCO6800	91500 78500
2	BUTTER HOLE - Mesolithic lithic scatter	MCO6614	90840 77830
3	LELLIZZICK - Mesolithic lithic scatter	MCO6697	90860 77560
4	STEPPER POINT - Prehistoric lithic scatter, Mesolithic lithic scatter	MCO6801	91500 78400
5	STEPPER POINT - Mesolithic lithic scatter	MCO6802	91500 78400
6	LELLIZZICK - Prehistoric lithic scatter	MCO6695	91000 77790
7	LELLIZZICK - Bronze Age cist	MCO52006	91100 77800
8	STEPPER POINT - Prehistoric enclosure, Medieval boundary bank	MCO26600	90994 77724
9	BUTTER HOLE - Medieval ridge and furrow, Post Medieval ridge and furrow	MCO26612	90850 77810
10	LELLIZZICK - Medieval ridge and furrow, Post Medieval ridge and furrow	MCO26604	90970 78200
11	ST JOHNS WELL - Medieval holy well	MCO7085	91548 78525
12	STEPPER POINT - Medieval rabbit warren	MCO26601	91000 78000
13	STEPPER POINT - Post medieval quarry	MCO29326	91510 78420
14	STEPPER POINT - Post medieval quay	MCO4909	91400 77990
15	STEPPER POINT - Post medieval engine house	MCO29333	91376 77981
16	STEPPER POINT – Post medieval / Modern quarry cutting of unknown date but not identified on historic maps	NA	91386 78196
17	STEPPER POINT – Modern building approximately 2m x 2m possibly related to quarry workings at northern most point of quarry.	NA	91525 78465
18	STEPPER POINT – Modern reinforcement / walling possibly related to quarry workings at northern most point of quarry.	NA	91529 78472
19	STEPPER POINT – Modern concrete steps leading to narrow walk way and small concrete platform. Purpose is unclear but may be earlier navigation aid.	NA	91561 78481
20	STEPPER POINT – Post medieval capstan	NA	91533 78388
21	STEPPER POINT – Post medieval capstan	NA	91501 78283
22	STEPPER POINT – Modern building. The remains of a modern structure built against the cliff face. Timber and metal work remain <i>in-situ</i> .	NA	91500 78299
23	STEPPER POINT – Daymark. Navigation tower, possibly built in the early 19 th century	MCO162808	91010 78420

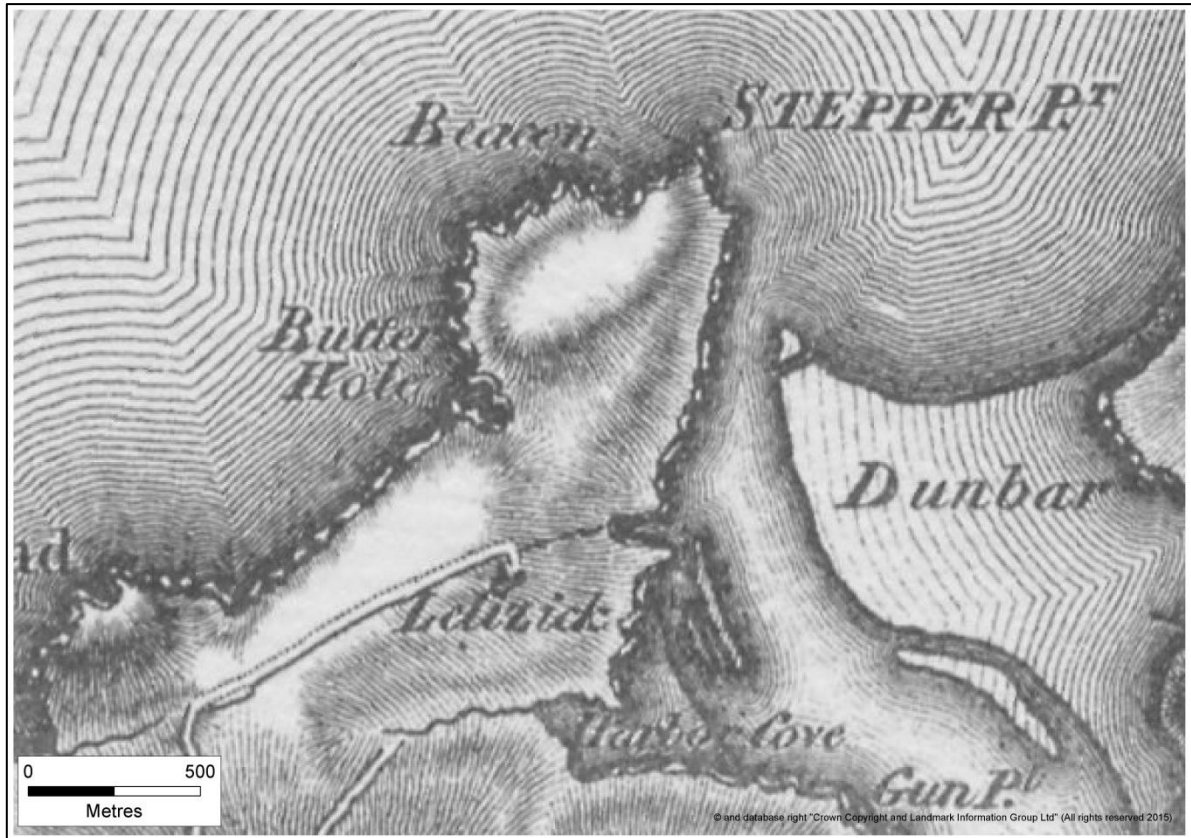


Fig 3 Extract from the OS First Edition One Inch Map c 1809.



Fig 4 Detail from the c 1840 Tithe map for the parish of Padstow.

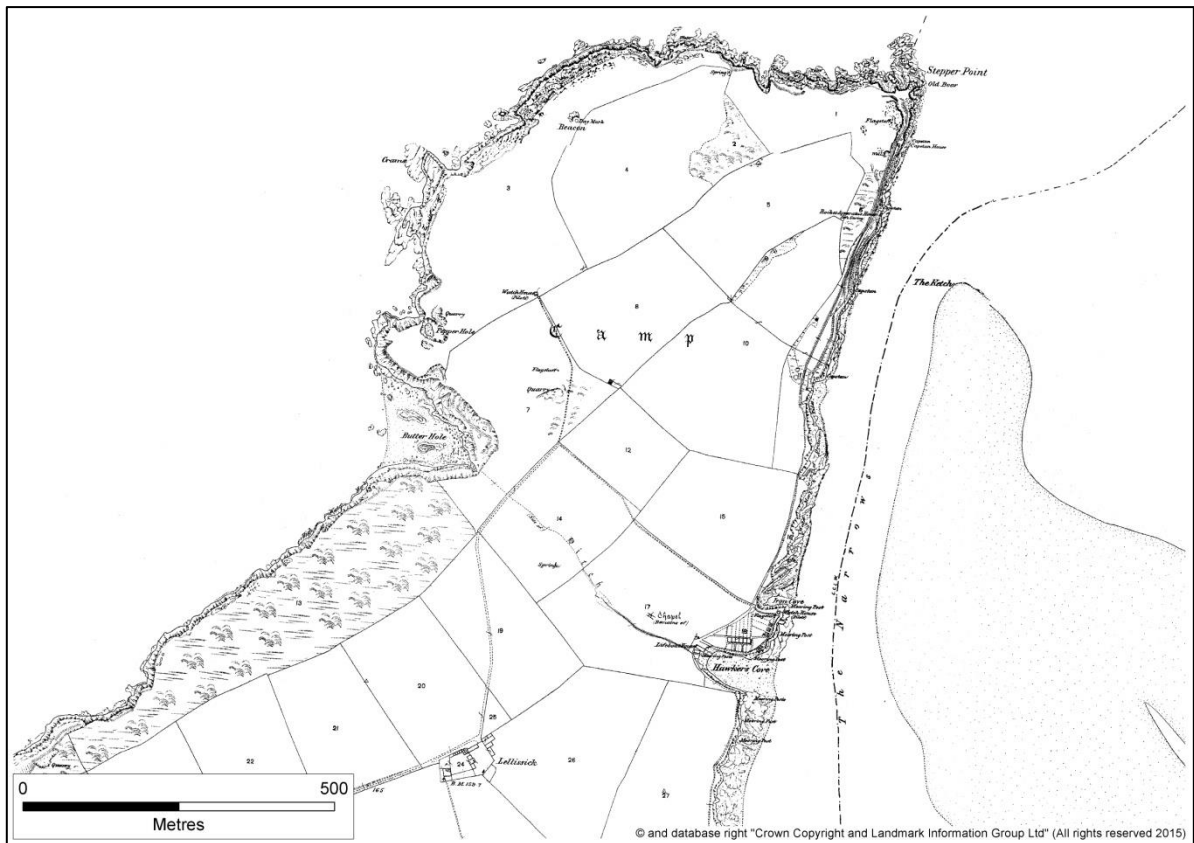


Fig 5 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c 1880.

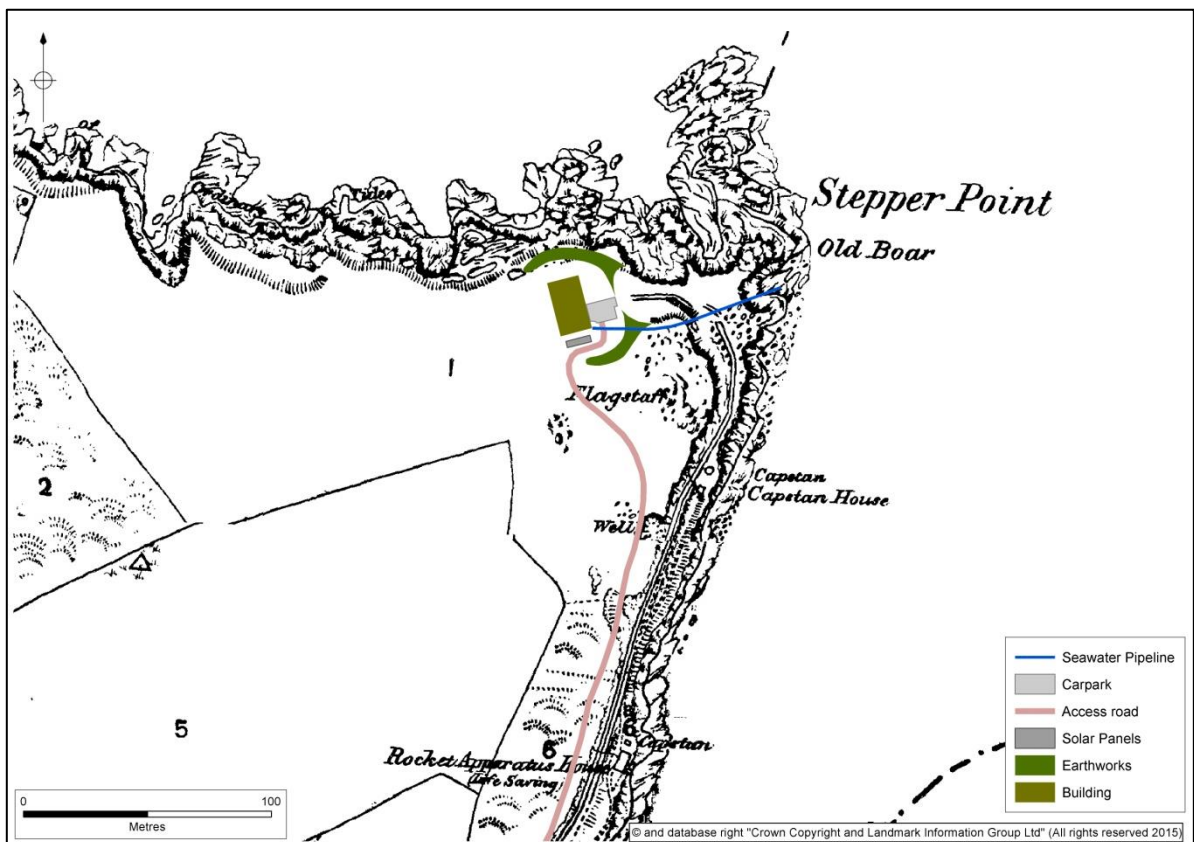


Fig 6 Close up of the proposed development overlain on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c 1880.

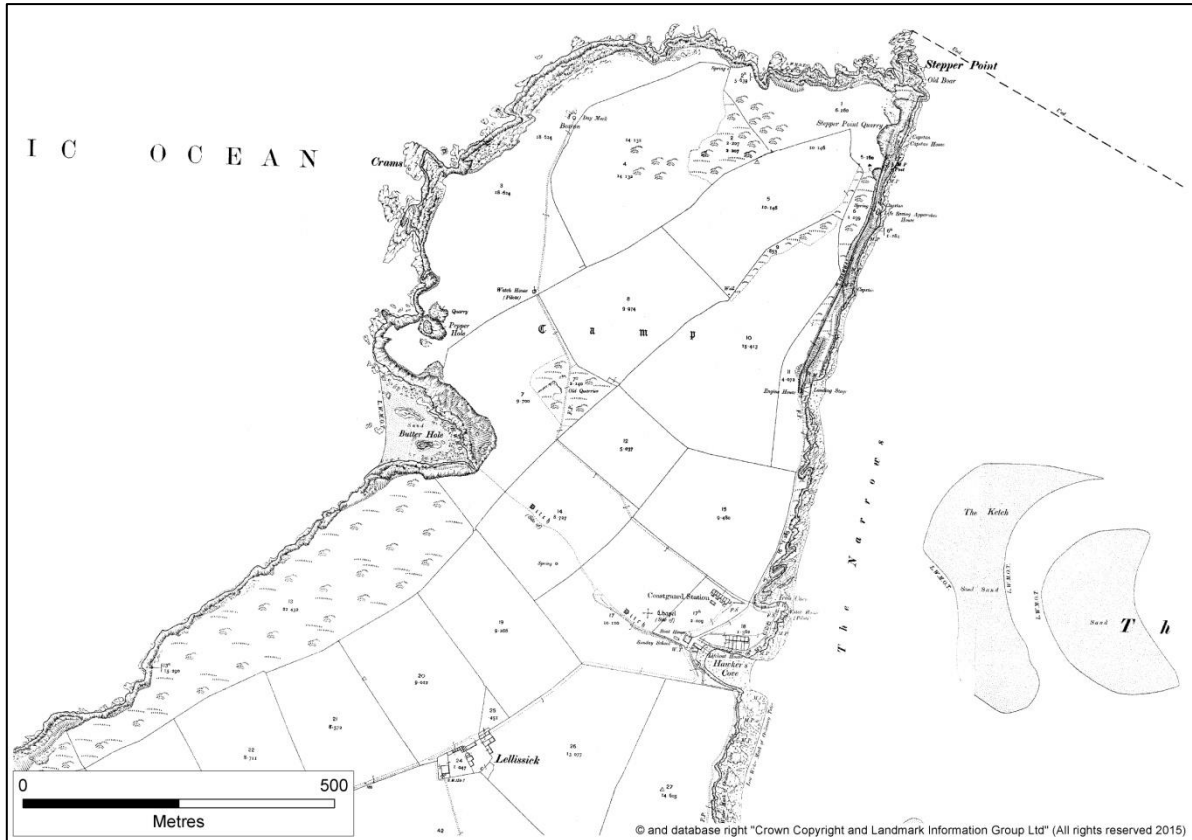


Fig 7 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c 1907.

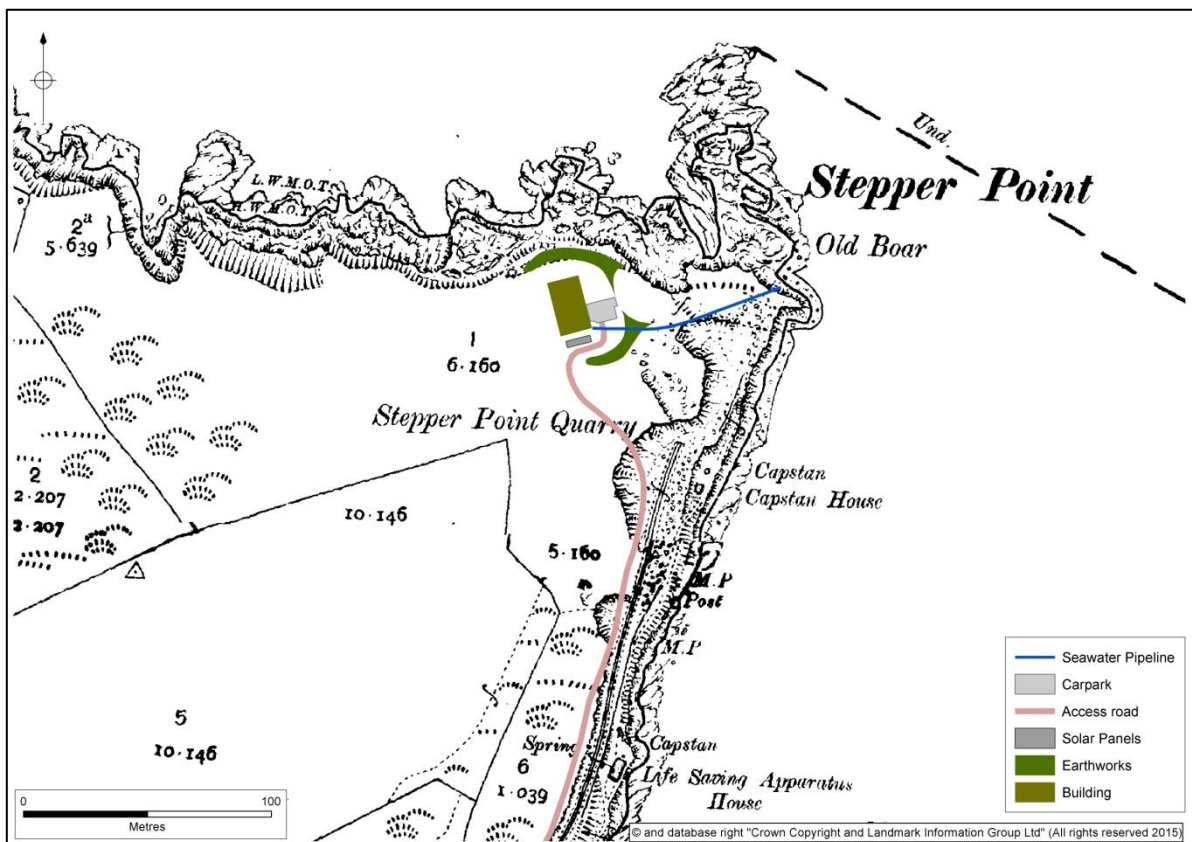


Fig 8 Close up of the proposed development overlain on the Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c 1907.

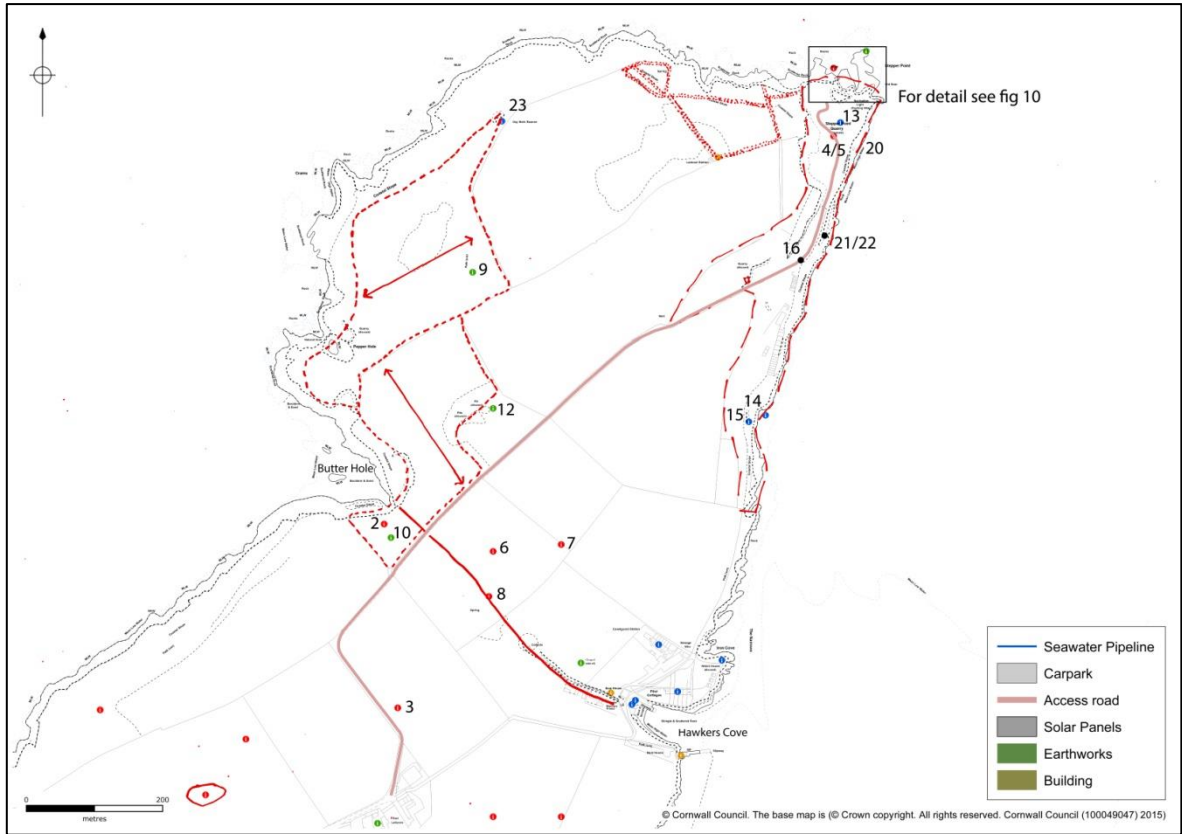


Fig 9 Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs (2015). Numbers refer to Gazetteer entries.

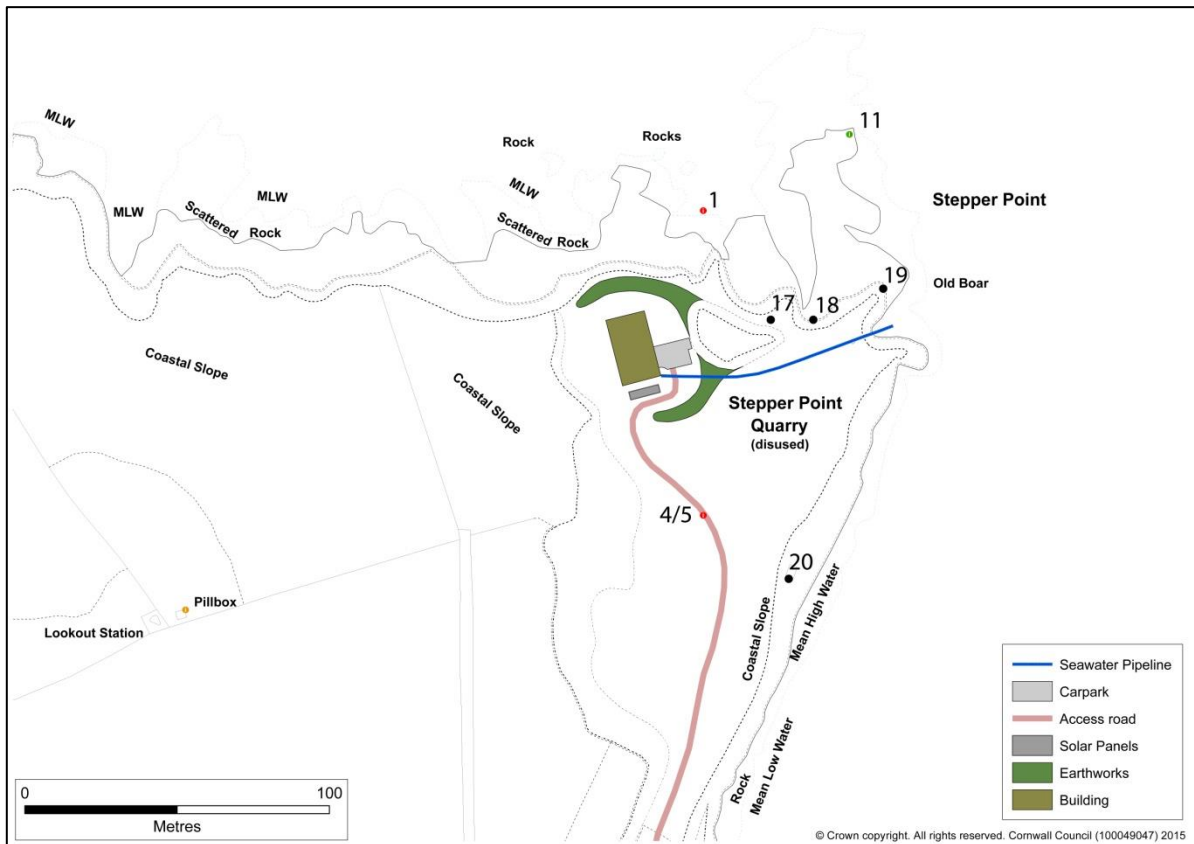


Fig 10 Close up of the proposed development overlain on the Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs (2015).



Fig 11 Looking north towards Stepper Point.



Fig 12 Rebuilt gateway.



Fig 13 View from the end of the track through the enclosed land looking north east towards the quarry cutting.



Fig 14 The quarry cutting looking south – note the spring in the foreground.



Fig 15 Access from the quarry cutting north east towards Stepper Point Quarry.



Fig 16 Looking north east across Stepper Point Quarry from the entrance.



Fig 17 The proposed development site.



Fig 18 The quarry face at Stepper Point Quarry.



Fig 19 Retaining wall and small structure at the northern end of Stepper Point.



Fig 20 Steps and walkway to the platform – this is likely to have been a predecessor to the modern navigational aid towards the right hand side of the image.



Fig 21 Post medieval capstan.

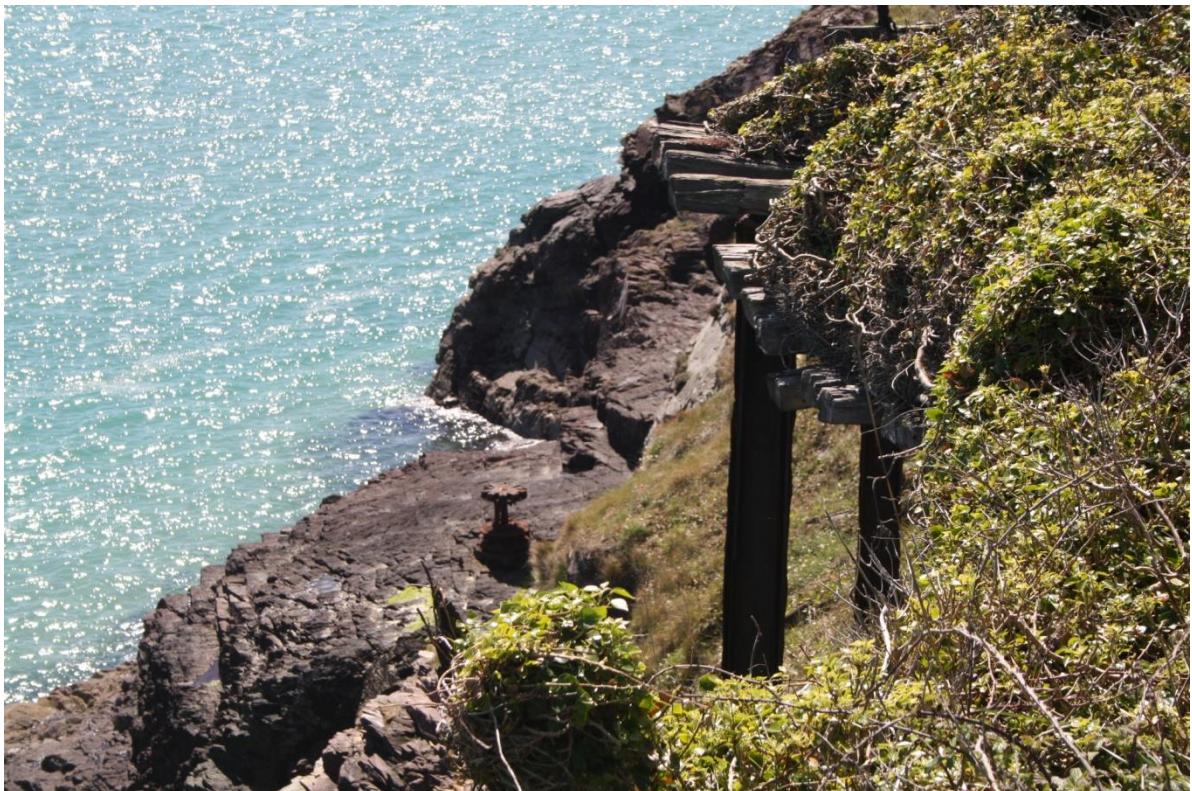


Fig 22 Modern structure, note the sleepers used for roofing and the remains of the post medieval capstan in the distance.