



one and all onen hag oll

CORNWALL
COUNCIL

The Union Cellars, Sailmakers' workshops, Charlestown, Cornwall Archaeological watching brief

The Union Cellars, Sailmakers' workshops, Charlestown, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief

Client	Robin Davies
Report Number	2016R051
Date	December 2016
Status	Final
Report author(s)	Jo Sturgess and Francis Shepherd
Checked by	Andy Jones
Approved by	Andrew Young

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Cornwall Council

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

Tel: (01872) 323603

Email: enquiries@cau.gov.uk Web: www.cau.org.uk

Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Robin Davies and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council.

Historical research for the site and buildings was based on work undertaken by Eric Berry in 2015 as part of an historic building record of the structures.

The Project Manager was Jo Sturgess. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ryan Smith, Francis Shepherd and Jo Sturgess.

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

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



Cornwall Archaeological Unit is a Registered Organisation with the
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Cover illustration

South elevation of former fish cellar spine wall (taken in January 2016)

© **Cornwall Council 2016**

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

Contents

1	Summary	7
2	Introduction	9
2.1	Project background	9
2.2	Aims	9
2.3	Methods	10
2.3.1	Desk-based assessment	10
2.3.2	Fieldwork	10
2.3.3	Post-fieldwork	10
3	Location and setting	10
4	Designations	11
5	Site history	11
6	Design and function of the pilchard pressing sheds	12
7	Archaeological results	12
7.1	Shed 1	13
7.2	Shed 2	13
7.2.1	Shed 2 South western end	13
7.2.2	Shed 2 South eastern end	13
8	Conclusions/discussion	14
9	References	15
9.1	Primary sources	15
9.2	Publications	15
9.3	Websites	15
10	Project archive	15
	Appendix 1: Table of contexts	23
	Appendix 2: Sailmakers Workshop, Charlestown Historic Building Record	26

List of Figures

Fig 1 Location map.

Fig 2 Site extent.

Fig 3 Extract from the OS First Edition One Inch Map c1809.

Fig 4 A detailed survey of Charlestown created in 1825 by Richard Thomas of Falmouth commissioned by the executors of Charles Rashleigh's estate. (Reproduced by permission of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro)

Fig 5 Tithe Map, c1840.

Fig 6 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880.

Fig 7 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907.

Fig 8 Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1932.

Fig 9 Watching brief survey results

Fig 10 Shed 1: surface drainage gully (301) looking south-west

Fig 11 Shed 1 looking south-west

Fig 12 Shed 1: post pad (303) looking south-east

Fig 13 Shed 1: posthole [304] looking south-east

Fig 14 Shed 2: culvert (205) looking east

Fig 15 Shed 2: stake holes (213) and iron pins (212) looking north-west

Abbreviations

CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
HE	Historic England
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

Cornwall Archaeological Unit were commissioned by Robin Davies of Forestay Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the conversion of former pilchard cellars now known as the Longstore, adjacent to the harbour in Charlestown. The site is located at NGR SX 0382 5162. The watching brief along with a historic building record, undertaken by Eric Berry (Berry 2015), were commissioned to fulfil Condition 9 on planning application (PA15/02224) which stipulated that a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation was secured and implemented prior to the development taking place.

The site lies within the Conservation Area of Charlestown on the west side of the Grade II* listed harbour and within the curtilage of the 'Boatshed' (now the Wreckers), a Grade II Listed Building, which lies immediately to the east. It contains two adjoining stone rubble-built sheds which once formed the north-west range of a pilchard cellar established by the late 18th century. The sheds were purpose-built for pressing pilchards in barrels after they had been cured. The development covers an area of approximately 0.12 hectares and slopes gently down towards the east. It is bounded by Barkhouse Lane and another historic industrial building to the north, a leat and sluice to the north-west, a steep slope to the south-west, Square Sail yard and associated buildings to the south-east and Charlestown Road to the north-east.

The cellars were likely to have existed before the creation of Charlestown and the harbour. Mapping dating from 1825 shows that the sheds within the development area once formed the north-west range of a pilchard palace known as the Union Cellars (Fig 4). The 1st Edition OS map (Fig 6) indicates that at some point between the Tithe map of 1842 (Fig 5) and c1880 much of the complex had been demolished, with the exception of the two sheds within the development area, the Boathouse, now 'Wreckers' restaurant and the property boundary walls to the south-west and south-east. By c1932 (Fig 8) a new range had been built to replace the previously demolished south-west range. The sheds appear to have had a variety of uses throughout the 20th century, mostly associated with maritime industry. Most recently they have been used by Square Sail as workshops and for storage.

A culvert found as part of the subsequent watching brief in Shed 2 is likely to be the earliest feature identified, probably predating the pilchard cellar. Features revealed that were associated the buildings' use as pilchard pressing sheds included a series of iron spikes and stakeholes representing a removed launder for collecting fish oil and various postholes and post pads indicating locations of removed structural divisions and support posts. The consistent nature of the upper cobbled floors, found above these features, suggest they post-date the buildings' use as pilchard pressing sheds and were quite possibly laid down in the late 19th or early 20th century when the buildings saw a change in use. Subsequent modifications have had minor impacts on subterranean features save for the remodelling of the north-east section of Shed 1.

No features, deposits or finds of prehistoric or medieval date were identified.



Fig 1 Location map.

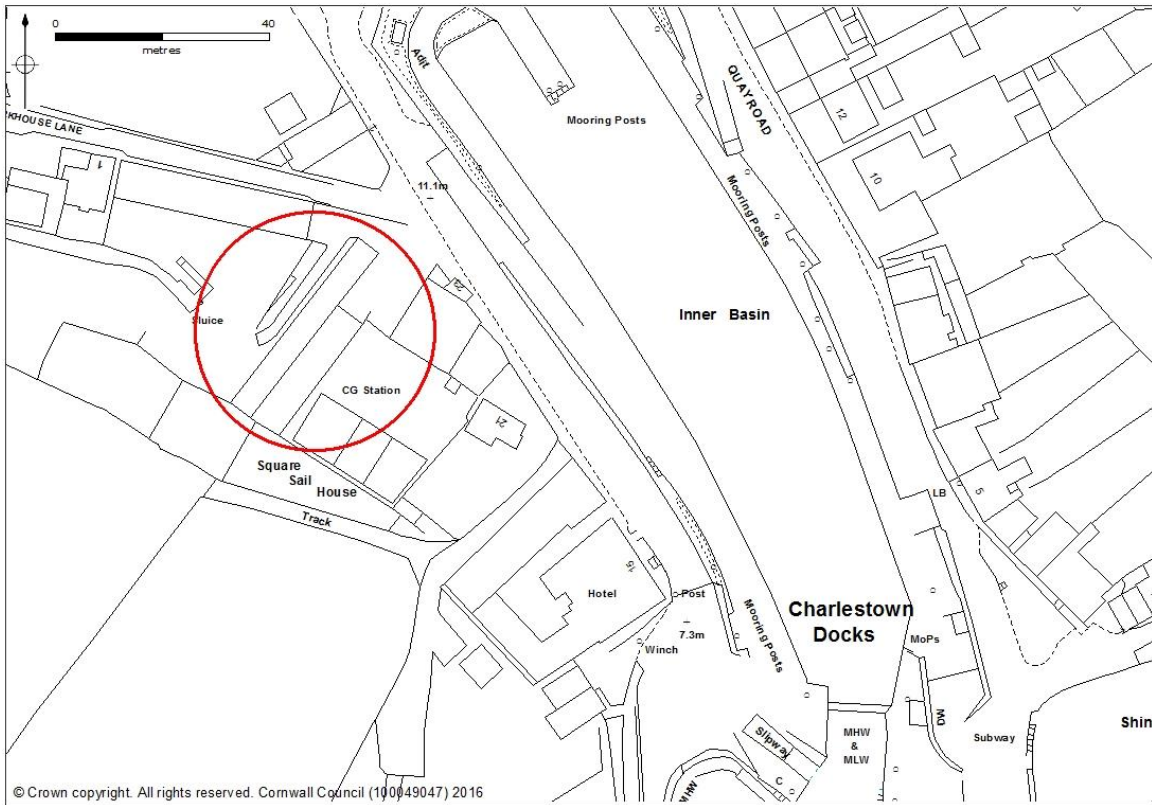


Fig 2 Site extent.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

Planning application PA15/02224 was submitted in March 2015 for the redevelopment of two historic buildings at Square Sail Shipyard, adjacent to the harbour in Charlestown, to create shops a restaurant and office space. The planning application was approved subject to ten conditions. Condition 9 states:

'A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and: 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording, 2. The programme for post investigation assessment, 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording, 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation, 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation, 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.'

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

D) The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed.

Reason: to properly assess the archaeological potential and likely visual impacts upon the Charlestown Conservation Area and Cornish Mining World Heritage Site (WHS) in accordance with the aims and intentions of Policy 27 of the Restormel Local Plan 2001 and section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. A pre-commencement condition is necessary in this case because it is essential to ensure that a robust archaeological recording exercise is carried out before any harm may occur to this heritage asset in advance of development taking place in order to protect the outstanding universal value of this section of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site'.

Following the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, Eric Berry was commissioned by the client to undertake a historic building record of the buildings prior to alterations. Cornwall Archaeological Unit was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development. This report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief. The results of the historic building record are presented in a report by Eric Berry (attached to this report as Appendix 2).

2.2 Aims

The principle aim of an archaeological watching brief is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

The principal aims of the work were to:

- To record archaeological features and deposits affected by the scheme.
- To recover and record any artefacts uncovered by the works.
- To deposit the archive with the relevant museum and disseminate the results of discoveries as a concise archive report and, if merited, wider publication.

Key objectives were:

To locate, identify and record any below-ground features associated with the 18th pilchard cellars and its later uses, as well as any features associated with earlier activity within the area of the proposed development.

2.3 Methods

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:

- Cornwall HER.
- Sailmakers Workshop, Charlestown, Historic Building Record by Eric Berry 2015.
- Images of England online listed buildings database.
- Early maps (see Section 9.1).
- Published histories (see Section 9.2).
- Websites (see Section 9.3).

2.3.2 Fieldwork

The archaeological watching brief was carried out during the reduction in ground levels within the two buildings. This was carried out on three separate days within the area of the proposed development. The watching brief for Shed 2 was carried out on two separate visits. The first visit focused on the eastern end of the building and was carried out on Tuesday the 17th of November 2015. The second visit, the remainder of the monitoring in Shed 2 was carried out on Monday the 11th of January 2016. The watching brief for Shed 1 was carried out on the third day, Wednesday the 10th of February 2016.

The ground within the project area was excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to a depth where natural ground was encountered. A toothed bucket was used under supervision when needed to remove concrete. Any archaeological features revealed during this process were recorded as appropriate. A photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3.3 Post-fieldwork

The site archive was collated. This included:

- Preparation of finished measured drawings
- Archiving of drawings, photographs, paperwork and digital files
- Preparation of HE and Archive Index forms
- Production of this report
- Completion of an Historic England OASIS form

3 Location and setting

The site lies on the west side of the harbour in Charlestown, a small port on the south coast of Cornwall, situated to the south-east of St. Austell at NGR: SX 0382 5162 (See Figs 1 and 2). It contains two adjoining stone rubble-built sheds which once formed the north-west range of a pilchard palace which had been established by the late 18th century. To the north-west of the buildings there is an area of open yard.

The development area is bounded by Barkhouse Lane and another historic industrial building to the north, a leat and sluice to the north-west, a steep slope the south-west, Square Sail yard and associated buildings to the south-east and Charlestown Road to the north-east (Fig 2). It covers an area of approximately 0.12 hectares and lies in the base of a valley which slopes very gently down towards the east at a height of approximately 11m

OD. The Geological Survey of Great Britain (Sheet 347) states that the underlying geology consists of Lower Devonian Meadfoot Beds: Calcareous slate, grit, and thin limestone.

4 Designations

The site lies within the Conservation Area of Charlestown and within the curtilage of the 'Boatshed' (now the Wreckers), a Grade II listed building, which lies immediately to the east. This building once formed part of the north-east range of the same pilchard palace complex, of which the two sheds were also an element. The site also overlooks the Grade II* listed harbour and lies within Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

5 Site history

Charlestown was renamed as such in the late 18th century after Charles Rashleigh had acquired this area as part of a larger land deal. Previously the small, medieval fishing settlement here was known as 'Polmear' or 'Porthmeur'. Thomas Martyn's map of 1748 was surveyed before the construction of Charlestown harbour, and records the earlier place-names of Higher and Lower Polmear. This name was first recorded in 1403 as 'Porthmeur' (Gover, 1948, 386). Higher Polmear later became known as Polmear Farm and still carries this name whilst the area around the harbour where the former fish cellars are located was originally part of Lower Polmear. A nautical chart dated 1795 indicates that the surviving sheds within the development area had already been built as part of a pilchard cellar by this date (see Fig 3).

After the village had been acquired by Charles Rashleigh in 1784, he engaged the services of John Smeaton to design a new harbour, which was begun in 1792. Although Smeaton died the same year, the work was carried out to his design, and involved the construction of a breakwater and outer harbour, an inner wet dock, and a seven-mile leat to bring water from the Luxulyan Valley. It was at this point that Polmear became known as Charles Town (Berry *et al* 1998, 7). Charlestown was a multi-faceted enterprise from its inception. As well as the export of copper, china-clay, and china-stone, it imported coal and continued to expand the earlier industry of pilchard fishing and processing. New pilchard cellars were built as well as limekilns and a ropewalk and the inner harbour was used for shipbuilding (Berry *et al* 1998, 8). All this was in place by 1823, the year of Rashleigh's death. In 1825 the Crowder family took control of the village, which prompted the detailed survey of Charlestown by Richard Thomas of Falmouth in the same year, commissioned by the executors of Charles Rashleigh's estate (Fig 4). This map shows that the sheds within the development area once formed the north-west range of a complex of buildings set around a yard. This building complex was a pilchard palace (a group of buildings used for processing, preserving and packaging pilchards). The map also clearly shows that the buildings were part of the 'Union Cellars'. The north-west range of the building, comprising the two long parallel 'sheds', had already been extended by 1825 and was designed to be used for pilchard pressing: the pressing appears to have been taking place in at least the central section of both sheds using both sides of the dividing spine wall. The ends of the two sheds may have been used for barrel storage. The 'Boatshed' (now the 'Wreckers') which originally formed part the north-east range of the Union Cellars was also originally designed for pilchard pressing. The press sockets in the front (north-east) wall of this building indicate that this range of the fish cellars originally extended further to the north-east. Coupled with map evidence this shows that the building had already been substantially remodelled by 1795, indicating that the cellars were likely to have existed before the creation of Charlestown and the harbour.

The Tithe Map created in 1842 (Fig 5), shows that the layout and function of the Union Cellars had not changed since 1825. The cellar complex is listed on the accompanying Tithe Apportionment as 'Cellars' owned by the Charlestown Shipping Company and occupied by Edward Rose Tunno and others.

During the second half of the 19th century the pilchard industry in Cornwall fell into decline as pilchard stocks diminished due to over-fishing. The next cartographic reference is the 1st

Edition OS map c1880 (Fig 6) which shows the impact of the decline in the pilchard trade. This map indicates that at some point between 1842 and c1880 much of the Union Cellars complex had been demolished, with the exception of the two sheds within the development area, a section of the north-east range (the Boathouse, now 'Wreckers' restaurant) and the property boundary walls to the south-west and south-east. It is possible that during this time the north-west range within the development area was converted for a use other than pilchard pressing, since the map appears to show that the remaining part of the north-east range (now 'Wreckers') had been converted for use as a smithy.

By c1907 when the 2nd edition OS map (Fig 7) was produced, few changes had occurred, except that the south-west end of shed 2 had been taken down. By c1936 (Fig 8) the south-west end of shed 2 had been reinstated and to the south-east of it, a new range had been built to replace the previously demolished south-west range. The remains of an early to mid 20th century forge located in the south-west end of shed 2 suggests that this end of the building was reinstated as a smith's workshop between c1907 and c1932. The sheds appear to have had a variety of uses throughout the 20th century, although their uses were mostly associated with maritime industry, being used either as workshops or storage sheds.

6 Design and function of the pilchard pressing sheds

The two adjoining sheds originally formed the north-west range of a much larger pilchard palace complex. They are parallel lean-to structures built on a slight slope running down towards the north-east and share a central spine wall. Originally both sheds had open frontages with lean-to roofs supported on probable granite or timber posts to the north-west and south-east. The spine wall retains a substantial length of the original 'press wall' containing a line of beam sockets on both sides, indicating that both sheds were used for pressing (see Appendix 2 for detail).

After the pilchards had been cured in salt for four or five weeks elsewhere in the complex, they were placed in hogshead barrels in the pressing sheds. Each socket in the spine wall would have held a long timber beam set over a barrel of pilchards located close to the spine wall and each barrel had a circular timber lid or 'buckler' over it. In order to press the fish into the barrels and extract their oil, a heavy, stone weight was hung on the far end of the beam which forced the lid (buckler) down into the barrel. This force extracted the oil from the fish which then ran out through the timbers staves of the barrel into a drain or launder. This drain or launder, deliberately constructed on gentle slope, ran the length of the building collecting oil from all the barrels at once. Gravity caused the oil to run down the drain or launder to a collection point at the lower end of the building (in this case at the north-east end). Here a sump (the 'train pit'), set in the floor, collected the oil. During the pressing, the barrels would be topped up with more fish as space in them became available. The pressing would last for approximately a week. The fish oil ('train oil') had a variety of uses including being used as a fuel for lighting and was sold on as such, whilst the majority of cured and pressed pilchards were exported to Mediterranean countries.

The spine wall dividing the two sheds is possibly the only known example of this sort of wall with sockets for the former pressing beams. At least two other examples of double-sided walls survive in St Ives such as Couch's Factory (Jones 1999), but these are of the later type with the upper part of the wall cantilevered to provide inverted ledges for the pressing beams (Berry 2015).

7 Archaeological results

See Figure 9 for locations and Appendix 1 for context descriptions.

7.1 Shed 1

The south-western wall of the building and the roof had been removed prior to the commencement of the watching brief. Excavation reached a maximum depth of between 1m and 1.25m below ground level in the southern corner of Shed 1. Made up ground was identified towards the north-eastern end of the shed. This area was excavated to approximately 0.75m a reduced depth which reflects the proposed design and the existing slope that fell from the south-west to the north-east.

A cobbled surface (301) formed the most recent floor of the building. It extended from the south-western end of the building up to a concrete slab (308) at the east end. The surface, comprising small rounded cobbles, was well laid and in good condition. Directly below this surface was a lens of white grey clay, likely to be china clay waste. This thin lens overlay several isolated features which survived below the floor. Abutting the spine wall dividing Sheds 1 and 2 at the south-west end of the building was (303), a probable post-pad for an internal support. The feature comprised four separate pieces of shillet, laid flat in an almost square arrangement. There was no clear cut, the stones having been pressed into the natural yellowish grey silty clay subsoil (302). It seems likely that the stones were deliberately positioned to create a post-pad or other supporting feature, predating the later cobbled surface (301). A similar feature (306) was discovered further along the wall to the north-east consisting of one large, flat stone protruding 0.6m from the base of the spine wall. To the west of this, a posthole [304] measuring approximately 0.4m in diameter was observed. Within the cut lay several fractured burnt sub-angular stones (305). These appeared to represent the remains of packing for a supporting post or possible door jamb, perhaps an indication of an earlier internal division. These separate, isolated features overlay what appeared to be the natural subsoil (302), a deposit of grey yellowish silty clay. This was only excavated to the depth required by the new development.

Along the northern side of the shed was (307), a narrow concrete strip 0.5m wide by 0.1m deep, ran 14m south-west from concrete surface (308). No clear function for this could be discerned. Beyond this and completely sealing the area from the north-eastern entrance to Shed 2 for approximately 13.5m was (308) a concrete base up to 0.2m in depth. Underlying this base was a plastic pipe that ran north-eastwards beyond the excavated area. Various modern finds were encountered below the concrete slab (308) pressed into the natural (302) these included a metal bar, modern ceramics and plastic. At the far eastern end of the shed immediately below the modern concrete surface a levelling layer (309) was uncovered comprising reddish brown sand, 0.2m to 0.3m deep and also containing modern finds including fragments of 20th century pottery.

7.2 Shed 2

7.2.1 Shed 2 South western end

Excavation reached a maximum depth of between 0.5m and 1m below ground level towards the western end of Shed 2. A concrete surface (103) measuring approximately 3.67m x 5.44m x 0.1m deep sealed the majority of the floor area and overlay (105), a 0.1m deep mid-grey loose sand used as bedding material for (103). This lay above (104); polythene used as damp coursing material. Below the polythene a remnant of earlier floor surface (106) comprising smooth, rounded pebbles and beach stones measuring up to 0.1m in diameter was revealed. These cobbles were pressed into a bedding layer of compact mid-bluish grey clay (102) which in turn overlay the natural (206). These cobbles were not encountered in the north-west corner of the watching brief area (see Fig 9, Shed 2).

7.2.2 Shed 2 South eastern end

Excavation reached a maximum depth of 0.7m below ground level towards the north-eastern end of Shed 2. A modern trench [214] was found bisecting the shed. The trench was filled by (215) modern concrete. This appears to have marked the location of a removed partition. This trench cut through a cobbled surface (208) on the north eastern side of [214] which extended to the north eastern end of the building. This cobbled floor

overlay (209), a pale grey compact clay 0.05m deep that contained coal fragments. This thin layer sealed some isolated features associated with the building's use as a pressing shed. Along the south-east wall a posthole [207] was uncovered. It is likely that this marked the location of one of the structural posts used to support the roof when the building had an open front to the south-east (as shown on the c1880 and c1907 maps (Figs 6 and 7)). Set parallel to the spine wall between the two sheds at a distance of 0.95m away from the wall a series of sawn off iron spikes (212) were observed set approximately 1m apart. Between the iron spikes and continuing into the south-western part of the building were a series of small rectangular post slots (213) each approximately 0.2m away from an iron spike. Both the iron spikes and the post slots are likely to have been supports for a timber launder collecting the oil that was pressed from the barrels lined up against the spine wall. The sloping floor of the building indicates that the oil would have run down the launder from south-west to north-east, being collected at the north-east end of the building in a 'train pit'. All these isolated features were cut into (210), a 0.2m deep layer of pale yellowish grey compact sandy silty clay which sealed a thick (0.4m deep) layer of mid-brownish grey sandy clay silt (211) containing occasional large pebbles.

To the south-west of [214] a concrete slab (201) measuring approximately 0.07m in depth sealed the lower layers. This concrete slab is likely to have been laid at the same time as the concrete recorded as (103) during the initial watching brief within Shed 2. Below the concrete a cobbled floor surface (202) was recorded. This cobbled surface was very similar, and likely to be of the same date as those recorded as (106) during the initial watching brief and (208) to the north-east of trench [214]. Unlike the area to the north-east of [214] these cobbles overlay a 0.05m layer of very compact soot and china clay (203). This layer sealed an earlier cobbled floor surface (204) which in turn overlay the iron spikes and post slots also seen to the north-east of trench [214]. Cobbled surface (204) also overlay a culvert [205] which ran from the south-east wall of Shed 2 westwards on an east-west alignment. This culvert was 0.7m wide and had vertical, roughly built, killas rubble sides, a flat earth-cut base, and was covered by large killas capstones. Its rectangular opening was 0.15m wide by 0.2m deep.

8 Conclusions/discussion

No features, deposits or finds of prehistoric or medieval date were identified during the watching brief.

The culvert [205] found during the watching brief in Shed 2 is likely to be the earliest feature identified. It clearly pre-dates the construction of the 18th century pilchard palace and could be of 17th or 18th century date. Features associated with the 18th and 19th century pilchard processing sheds include post pads and postholes (303), [304] and (306) as well as posthole [207] which appears to show the location of one of the removed roof support timbers which existed when the building was open fronted to the south-east. Other features uncovered which relate directly to shed 2's use as a pilchard pressing shed include (213) and (212), the series of post slots and iron spikes which once supported a timber launder to collect the fish oil pressed from the barrels.

Cobbled surface (204) is likely to represent a phase of re-flooring shed 2 immediately after its abandoned function as a pressing shed (probably in the late 19th or early 20th century). The consistent nature of construction found between the later cobbled surfaces (202), (208), (106) and (301) suggest that they are all likely to have been part of the same construction phase. The fact that none of these floors display the features expected to be seen in pilchard pressing sheds indicates that they post-date the buildings' use as pilchard pressing sheds and were quite possibly laid down in the early/mid 20th century. It seems likely that the south-east wall of shed 2 was constructed when the building's used as a pilchard pressing shed had ceased and it no longer required an open frontage.

Since this time very little significant structural change has occurred to the upstanding buildings, apart from the possible changes to the north-east wall of shed 2 (see Appendix 2 below for detail). The addition of new structures to the south-east of Shed 2 between 1907 and 1932 would appear to have had little impact. Most significant seems to be the changes made by the introduction of concrete surfaces in the 20th century. In many

instances this has served to protect the earlier floor surfaces, as evidenced by the survival of cobbled surfaces (106) and (202) below the concrete. The area below concrete surface (308) appears to be the exception to this. Significant alterations to this area have removed all traces of earlier structures or features.

The demolition of much of the Union Cellars complex between 1842 and 1881 left only the north-west range (the two sheds) and a section of the north-east range (the Boathouse, now 'Wreckers' restaurant) standing. This has meant that the buildings are now viewed as separate properties in their own rights, but essentially they were originally part of the same cellar complex and functioned as one.

9 References

9.1 Primary sources

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, 2007. Mastermap Digital Mapping

Tithe Map and Apportionment, c1840. Parish of St Austell (licensed digital copy at CRO)

Survey of Charlestown created in 1825 by Richard Thomas of Falmouth commissioned by the executors of Charles Rashleigh's estate (held by RIC).

9.2 Publications

Berry, E., 2015, *Sailmakers Workshop, Charlestown, Historic Building Record* Truro

Berry *et al* 1998, *Charlestown Historical and Archaeological Assessment* CAU report Truro

Jones, A, 1999, *Couch's Factory, St. Ives, Archaeological Evaluation and Building Recording* CAU report Truro

9.3 Websites

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> Historic England's online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings

10 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146538**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit. Finds were recorded but not retained.

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin: \\Sites\Sites C\Charlestown Square Sail sheds 146538

Digital photographs: \\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.A-D\Sites C\Charlestown Square Sail sheds 146538

Electronic drawings: \\Historic Environment (CAD)\CAD Archive\Sites C\Charlestown Square Sail sheds 146538

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-259154



Fig 3 Extract from the OS First Edition One Inch Map c1809.



Fig 4 A detailed survey of Charlestown created in 1825 by Richard Thomas of Falmouth commissioned by the executors of Charles Rashleigh's estate. (Reproduced by permission of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro)

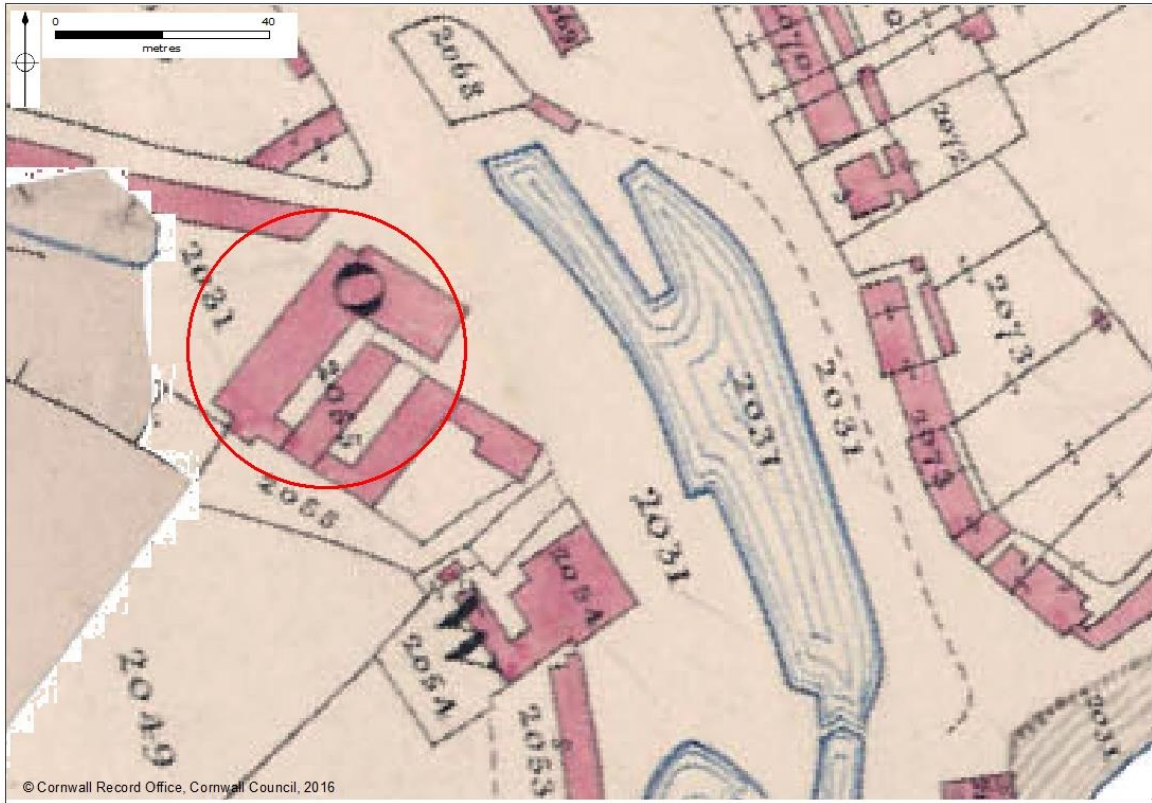


Fig 5 Tithe Map, c1840.

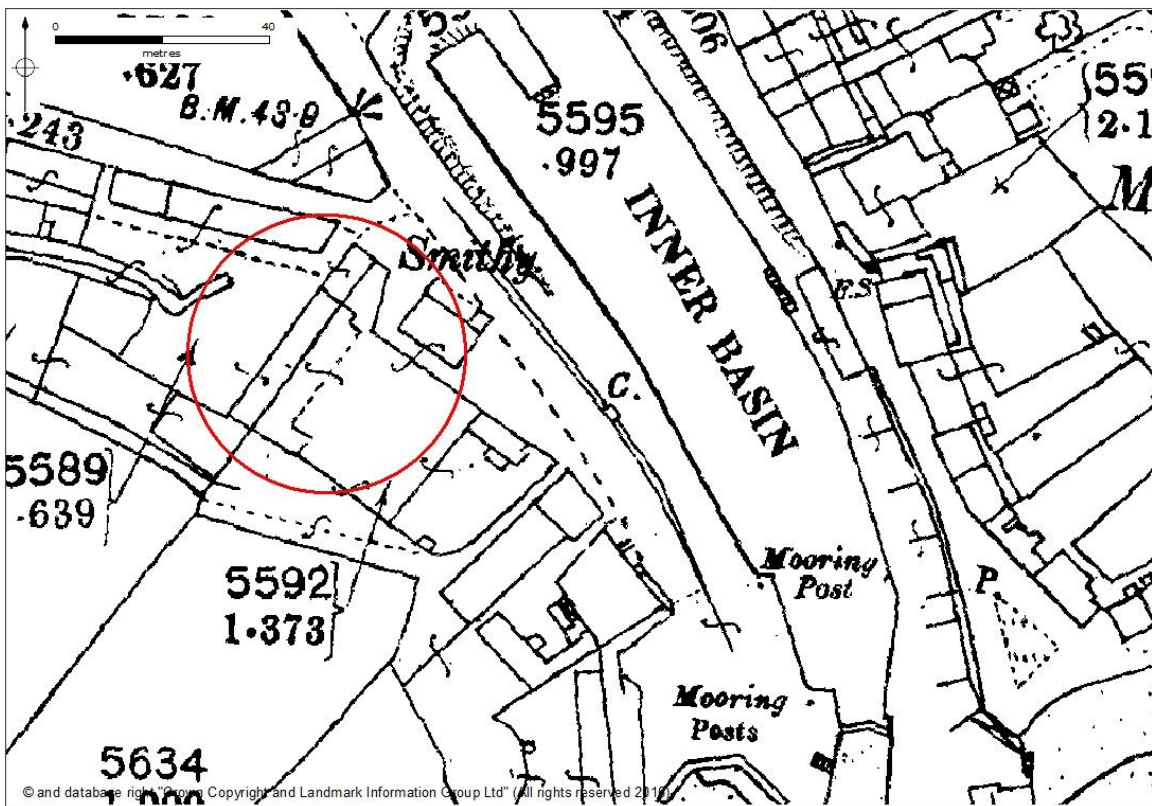


Fig 6 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880.

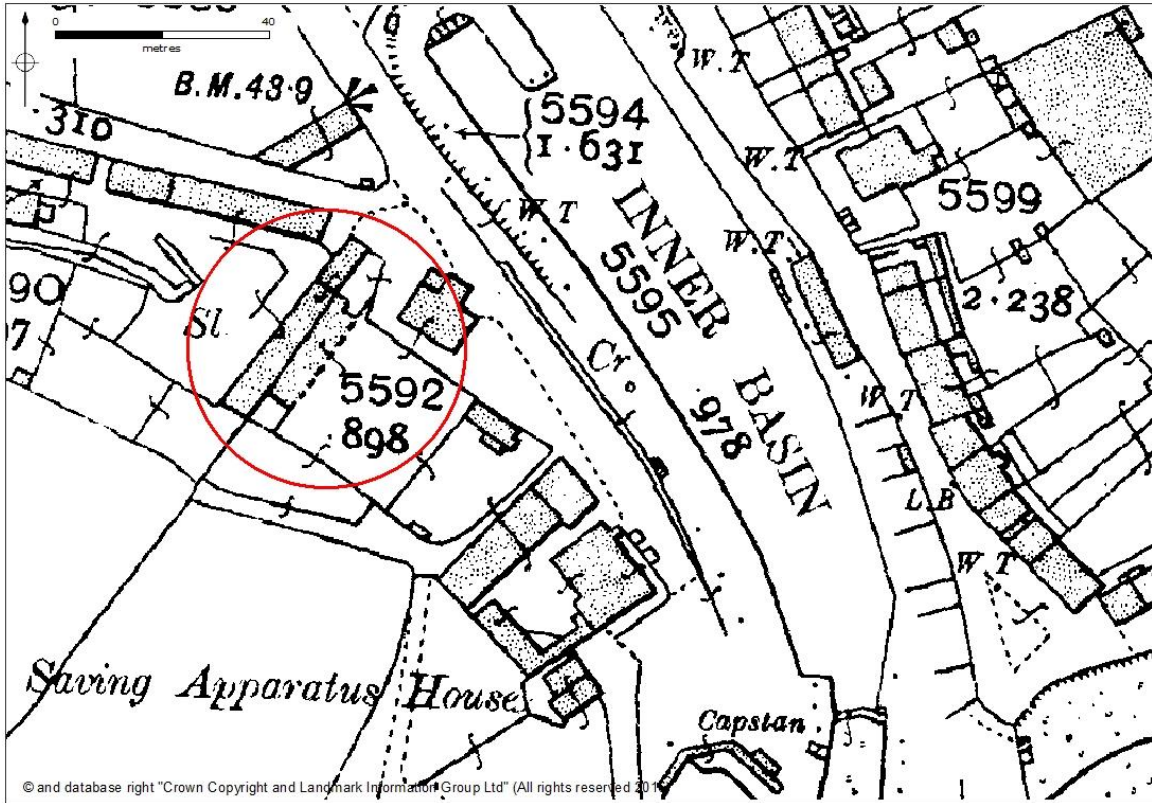


Fig 7 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1907.

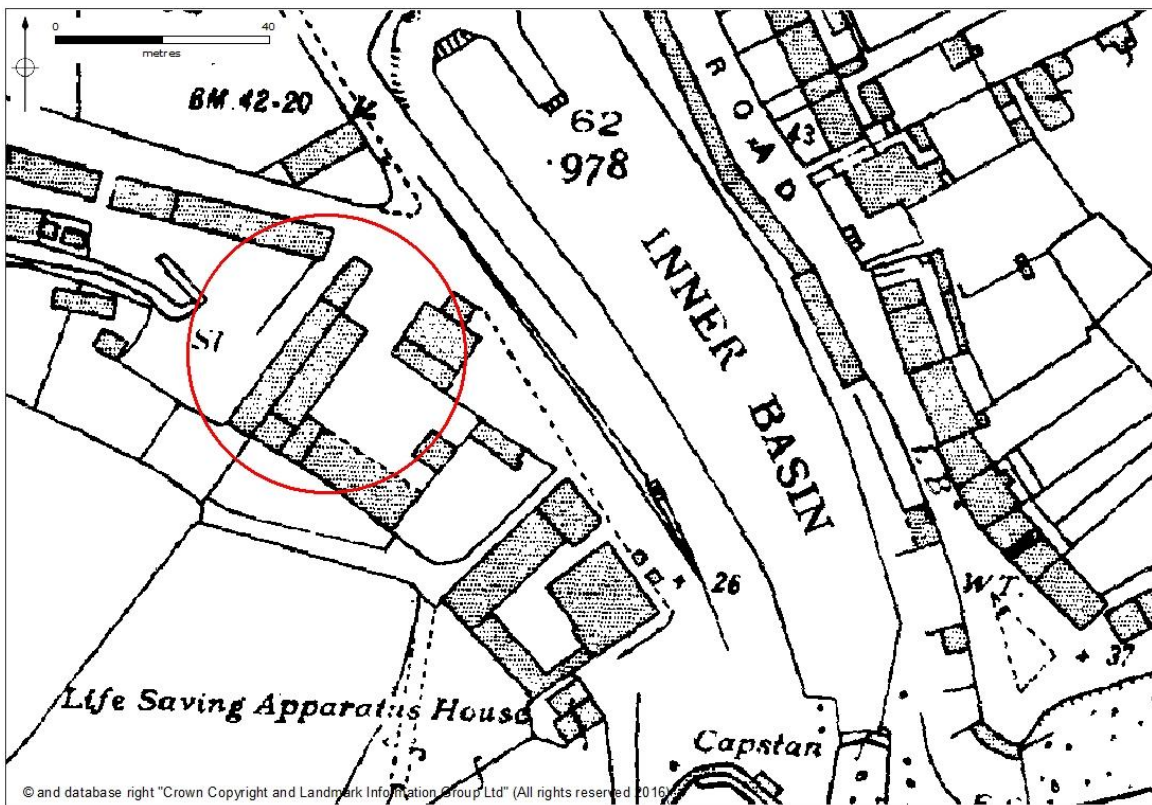


Fig 8 Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1932.



Fig 9 Watching brief survey results



Fig 10 Shed 1: surface drainage gully (301) looking south-west



Fig 11 Shed 1 looking south-west



Fig 12 Shed 1: post pad (303) looking south-east



Fig 13 Shed 1: posthole [304] looking south-east



Fig 14 Shed 2: culvert (205) looking east



Fig 15 Shed 2: stake holes (213) and iron pins (212) looking north-west

Appendix 1: Table of contexts

Context Number	WB phase	Site Subdivision	Context Type	Description
(101)	1	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of dark brown/black loose gritty soil 0.1m depth.
(102)	1	Shed 2	Deposit	Later of mid bluish grey compact clay 0.5m depth utilised as bedding layer for cobbles (106).
(103)	1	Shed 2	Build	Concrete floor surface laid on black polythene (103). 3.67m x 5.443m x 0.1m thick.
(104)	1	Shed 2	Build	Black polythene underlays (103) overlies (105).
(105)	1	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of mid grey loose sand 3m x 5m bedding layer for concrete layer (103).
(106)	1	Shed 2	Build	Cobbled floor, Smooth rounded pebbles and beach stones up to 0.1m diameter set into (102).
(201)	2	Shed 2	Build	Concrete floor surface 0.07m seals (202).
(202)	2	Shed 2	Build	Cobbled floor surface largely angular quartz/granite. Average approx 0.05m depth.
(203)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of dark brownish grey, very compact mix of soot and China Clay. 0.05m depth. Overlies (204).
(204)	2	Shed 2	Build	Cobbled floor surface, largely angular quartz/granite quarried stone. Average approx 0.05m depth. Overlies [205].
[205]	2	Shed 2	Cut	Culvert; Cut into natural (206) lining and capping stones of roughly laid Killas. Cut width is 0.7m. Culvert opening 0.15m wide x 0.2m deep. Runs west to east below the building floor. No evidence of association with current structures.
(206)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Natural pale yellowish grey silty clay with frequent mid reddish brown patches.
[207]	2	Shed 2	Cut	Posthole cut by south-east wall. Filled with brick. Removed roof support for open fronted building.
(208)	2	Shed 2	Build	Cobbled floor surface largely angular quartz/granite. Average

				approx 0.05m depth
(209)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of pale grey, very compact clay with coal fragments. 0.05m depth.
(210)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of pale yellowish grey, compact, sandy silty clay 0.2m depth.
(211)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Layer of mid brownish grey sandy clayey silt and gravel with occasional larger pebbles 0.4m depth.
(212)	2	Shed 2	Build	Sawn off iron spikes. Approx 0.1m long.
(213)	2		Deposit	Remains of small rectangular timber post slots underlying (204). Each approx. 0.1m x 0.03m x 0.15m deep.
[214]	2	Shed 2	Cut	Shallow trench for removed partition bisects shed 2 aligned north-west / south-east. Filled by (215).
(215)	2	Shed 2	Deposit	Modern concrete fill of [214].
(301)	3	Shed 1	Build	Cobbled surface largely angular quartz/granite average dimensions approx 0.15m x 0.08m x 0.06m deep.
(302)	3	Shed 1	Deposit	Clean white / grey clay, sticky, extends beyond the footprint of the building up to 0.5m in depth. Possibly China Clay waste or natural subsoil.
(303)	3	Shed 1	Build	Probable post pad for support post, comprising large shillet fragments pressed into clay, no clear cut, 0.75m x 0.65m, single stone deep, angular 0.35 x.25m max.
[304]	3	Shed 1	Cut	Sub-circular posthole cut containing (305) approx 0.4m diameter. Possible removed partition post or door jamb.
(305)	3	Shed 1	Deposit	Fill of [304], burnt sub-angular shillet several fractured.
(306)	3	Shed 1	Build	Large angular stone protruding from wall base measures 0.6m x 0.5m possibly designed as post pad.
(307)	3	Shed 1	Build	Concrete strip runs parallel to north-west wall no more than 0.1m deep. In places narrow gap

				between wall and concrete. Profile curves downward on wall side.
(308)	3	Shed 1	Build	Concrete slab completely covers lower (north-east) area of building. Up to 0.2m deep in places. Overlies plastic pipe that contains likely de-caulking fluid or similar. Pipe seems to run parallel to wall and to travel beyond excavated area.
(309)	3	Shed 1	Deposit	Reddish brown washed sand. 0.2 - 0.3m deep, variable. Likely waste material used to level area prior to concrete pour, no other signs of use. Pieces of broken basin likely late 20 th century also observed in this area (not retained).
(310)	3	Shed 1	Deposit	Same as (302). Pale yellowish grey silty clay assumed to be natural, extends beyond maximum excavated depth.

Appendix 2: Sailmakers Workshop, Charlestown Historic Building Record



**By Eric Berry
November 2015**

Cover photographs: Subject buildings from across the harbour dock (top); pilchard cellar beam pressing sockets (bottom)

Sailmakers Workshop, Charlestown

Historic Building Record

By Eric Berry November 2015

ERIC BERRY Historic Buildings Consultant

ericberryhbc@btinternet.com

Cathedral Cottage, Busveal, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 5HH Tel: 01209 821274 or 01872 870 868

Contents

Summary

Background

Aims

Methods

Building description

Status

Location and Setting

Historical background (adapted from WSI)

Historic maps

Heritage Gateway record

Date evidence results

Materials

Plan and plan development

Exterior (elevations)

Interior

Significance

Digital Photographs

Exterior

Interior

Appendices (separate pdf document)

Appendix 1: Annotated plan (Black and white film rolls photo directions) Appendix 2: Phased internal elevation

Appendix 3: Photo Schedule

Appendix 4: Black and white photo digital images scanned from negatives

Summary

The subject buildings (Sailmakers Workshop), subsequently usually referred to as the 'Site', are within the former china clay port and fishing village of Charlestown. They are within the setting of a number of listed buildings including a building listed as the 'Boathouse'; the buildings are also within the Charlestown Conservation Area and within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Sailmakers Workshop is part of a larger former pilchard cellar complex, part of a building type that was popularly known as a 'pilchard palace' in Cornwall, usually a group of fish-cellar buildings constructed around one or more courtyards. When the pilchard industry declined the subject buildings were converted to other functions, remodelled and extended. This complex was then used probably as boatsheds, and a forge was fitted into one of the sheds in the early or mid-20th century. The Site comprises parallel lean-to structures sharing a spine wall that retains a substantial length of fish-cellar wall with beam sockets to either side. The lean-tos were originally open to their frontages carried on probable granite or timber posts but solid walls later replaced these in two separate phases. Cobbled floors appear to have been mostly re-laid when the buildings were extended or partly rebuilt both lengthways and their width was probably also extended. The building known as the Boathouse was once part of the fish-cellar complex but has now been converted to a small restaurant. Other buildings that probably belonged to the same overall complex have long since been demolished. The Site has been used until recently as storage facilities for the Square Sail Company. This storage is now relocated to other buildings and planning permission (PA15/02224) has been granted for the Site to be converted and enlarged to become a restaurant. A planning condition of this consent requires an archaeological recording of the standing buildings and a watching brief of the site during building works. The archaeological work has been set out in an approved **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)** that was provided by **Wessex Archaeology**.

Background

Eric Berry was commissioned by Square Sail to carry out **Stage 1** of a 2-stage project to record the subject buildings prior to their conversion.

The stage 2 (watching brief) will be carried out by:

Cornwall Archaeological Unit: Jo Sturgess, Archaeologist, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Economy, Enterprise and Environment, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro. TR1 3AY, 01872 324302 | 07968 892162 | jsturgess@cornwall.gov.uk

Client: Robin Davies, Square Sail Ship Yard, Charlestown Road, Charlestown, St Austell PL25 3NJ

Architect/Agent: Mike Barlow, 5 Quay Road, Charlestown, Cornwall PL25 3NX

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI): Wessex Archaeology, 1 Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EA, www.wessexarch.co.uk

Aims

Application: Square Sail, Charlestown - Redevelopment of Workshops

Project: Historic Building Recording (part Condition 9 of PA15/02224) and as specified in WSI

The aim of the Historic Building Record (HBR) is to make a permanent record of a historic fish cellar prior to its renovation, so the results can be made available to interested parties through the local HER. The HBR exercise will be achieved through a combination of an archive standard photographic record together with a written report and background historical research.

The two buildings that are due to be renovated will be recorded to Historic England (HE) Level 2-3 (descriptive record) standard. Guidance on the scope and content of different levels of record are set out in the document: *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006a).

This record is produced in response to a planning condition. A Written Scheme of Investigation written by Wessex Archaeology has informed **Stage 1** of the recording that involves recording and analysis of the standing buildings. The purpose of this record is to produce a detailed analysis of the

buildings and to record the buildings with black and white photography; also, to record the buildings with digital photography, and to produce coloured images for report production.

The principal aim of the Heritage Statement is to record and analyse the historic fabric of former fish cellar buildings at Charlestown in their historic context, to explain phases of their development, and to identify features that define their character and interest. The results should achieve a Level 2-3 standard of recording and should satisfy the requirements of the WSI.

Methods

The recorder has considered the following:

Available history or information about the building

Context of the building

Date(s) of the building

Materials and methods of construction

The plan form of the building and its phased development (site layout and organisation)

External elevations and features including fenestration

Internal arrangements

Internal layout and features

Significant fixtures and fittings

Diagnostic photography

Close-up photography of some important detail/features

Evidence of use and status

Function

Local and regional importance of the building (significance)

Fieldwork: A site visit was carried out for meeting the owner and the agent followed by recording the buildings. The fieldwork was aided by the availability of architect's drawings. Existing plan copies were annotated and analysis of the buildings was noted, also notes were taken about the orientation of photographs that include: external and internal wall surfaces, internal spaces, individual photographs of architectural features including doorways, windows, floor and roof structure, plus context photographs, plus historic fittings and character elements. Further notes were taken with respect to date and phase evidence.

Digital colour photography was used as an aide-memoire for writing up and for report illustration. This was carried out using interchangeable-lens cameras with resolution of 16 megapixels and using lenses of appropriate focal length.

Black and white archive photography was carried out using a 35mm single lens reflex camera with appropriate lenses for the subject matter involved.

The methodology of the photography set out to achieve the following objectives and in the following ways:

Many of the photographs were taken straight on to the subject with the back of the camera vertical (or at right angles to the subject matter).

Some photographs were taken diagonally to show spatial relationships.

Converging verticals were generally avoided, or corrected using Photoshop software.

Electronic flash was used in some situations where backlighting was a serious problem.

Post-fieldwork included: collation of evidence; editing and captioning digital photographs using Photoshop Elements software; compilation of report including selected photographs with captions; a measured elevation of the fish cellar wall; annotation of the plan for archive photographs, plus appendices (separate pdf document) for black and white photographic archive and supplementary information.

The report incorporates the findings of the building analysis and is illustrated with a selection of the photographs and annotated plans.

Building description

Status

The Site lies within Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and is within the Charlestown Conservation Area. There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development area but the site is within the historic curtilage of the grade II listed 'The Boatshed' (adapted from WSI).

Location and Setting

The Site comprises two industrial buildings, known as Sailmakers Workshop, which is situated within the Square Sail Shipyard, on the south side of Charlestown Harbour in Charlestown, Cornwall. The Site is bounded by Barkhouse Lane to the north-east, a car park to the south-east, fields to the south-west and lane that provides access to the rear yards of properties fronting Barkhouse Lane to the north-west (adapted from WSI).

The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SX 03825 51629.

The subject buildings are located near the harbour dock at Charlestown. The buildings relate visually to a significant concentration of historic buildings.

Historical background (adapted from WSI)

The earliest detailed cartographic depiction of the Site, Thomas Martyn's map of 1748, depicts Lower Polmear as a small cluster of buildings straddling a water channel, which may have been an audit portal draining mine workings to the north. The buildings on the east side of the channel include a c1740 fish cellar and a row of cottages. The buildings on the west side of the channel (adjacent to the Site) include a cottage and adjacent business premises at 21 Charlestown Road, which may formerly have been an inn (CC 2004, 10).

During the late 18th century the area around St Austell became a focus of the china clay and copper mining industries, as a result the sheltered beach at Polmear was increasingly used as a landing for ships exporting material to and from local industrial sites (CC 2004, 11).

In 1784 Polmear was acquired by Charles Rashleigh (d. 1823) as part of a larger land deal. Seeing the potential of the location as a harbour, he redeveloped the hamlet as a fortified industrial port, with a substantial harbour that was constructed between 1790 and 1800; the new settlement soon became known as 'Charles Town', (CC 2004, 11). The impact of the development is evident in the population statistics: in 1790 the population of Polmear was recorded as nine, but by 1801 the new town had a population of 300 (CC 2004, 10, 13). Charlestown Harbour was principally used to export white china clay to the potteries in the Midlands and copper ore to South Wales, with a return cargo of coal to power the engines of the local mines (CC 2004, 12). There is extensive evidence of mining activity in and around Charlestown, comprising shafts, tips and blowing houses (CC2014, 13).

Charlestown flourished during an early 19th-century copper boom, but by the 1870s, the local copper industry collapsed; this was coupled with a disappearance of the pilchard shoals. Fortunately, the china clay industry continued to thrive and in 1870 the harbour was expanded. Charlestown continued to be the principal china clay exporting port during the early 20th century, but it eventually lost the trade to the deep water ports at Par and Fowey, which could accommodate larger ships (CC 2004, 16-17).

Sailmaker's Workshop comprises two lean-to industrial buildings that were originally constructed as a fish cellar, known as the Union Fish Cellar (CSHER 141151), which is first recorded in 1795. Both buildings are constructed in stone rubble. The southern building has a corrugated asbestos cement roof and a brick chimney at the west end that is associated with a forge. The northern building has a rusting corrugated iron roof (CAU 1998). The Boatshed, which is located on the opposite side of the car park to Sailmaker's Workshop, also originated as fish cellar (CSHER 141152), which was first mapped in 1795 and recorded at the Great Warehouse in 1825. Sailmaker's Workshop and The

Boatshed both share an alignment that suggests that they pre-date the construction of Charlestown Road in the 1790s.

The 1882 1:2500 OS plan shows Sailmaker's Workshop with the same basic layout as today. The southern building appears to have been open sided at this date. The word 'Smithy' appears near the north-eastern end of the buildings, but it is unclear if this refers to Sailmaker's Workshop or The Boatshed. Later historic plans appear to show that southern part of Sailmaker's Workshop was open-sided until at least 1969.

Authors comment: However, the southern wall that survives appears to be much older than that suggested. It is possible that the historic plan was informed by older mapping information.

Historic maps

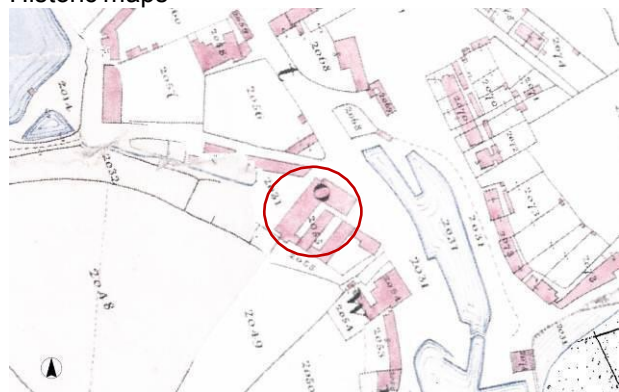


Fig 1: 1840 Tithe Map (Subject buildings circled)

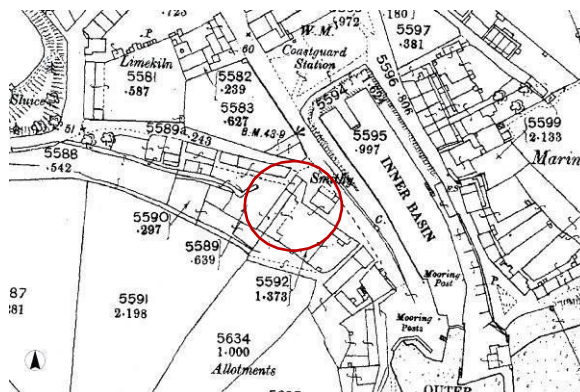


Fig 2: c1880 first OS map: (Subject buildings circled)



Fig 3: c1907 second OS map: (Subject buildings circled)

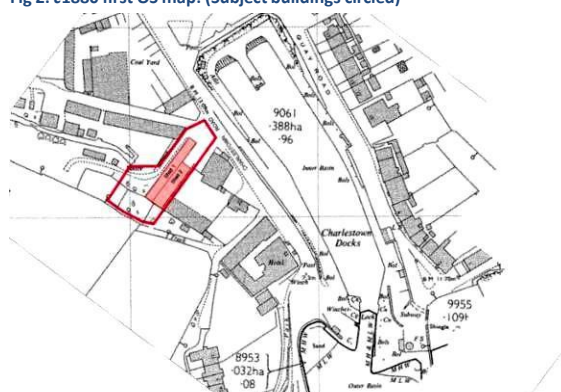


Fig 4: Location plan from architect's plans (subject site outlined in red)

Heritage Gateway record

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly HER, Heritage Gateway record

Please note: The Site (centred at SX 03826 51630) is not the building described in the Heritage Gateway Record but is in its setting. The Site is also within the Charlestown Conservation Area and is within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

Heritage Gateway Printable Result Page 1 of 2

[< Back to Heritage Gateway](#)

Cornwall & Scilly HER

For important guidance on the use of this record, please click [here](#).
If you have any comments or new information about this record, please [email us](#).

HER Number: 141152
Name: CHARLESTOWN - Post Medieval fish cellar

Summary
A building west of the inner basin was first mapped in 1795 and in 1825 was recorded as the Great Warehouse. By 1882 it had become a smithy; it is now called The Boatshed.

Grid Reference: SX 0384 5162
Parish: St Austell, Restormel, Cornwall
Map: [Show location on Streetmap](#)

Protected Status
Listed Building (II) 478846: THE BOATSHED
Conservation Area: CHARLESTOWN

Other References/Statuses
Primary Record No. (1985-2009): 141152

Monument Types
FISH_CELLAR (18th Century - 1701 AD to 1800 AD)

Full description
A building west of the inner basin was first mapped in 1795 and in 1825 was recorded as the Great Warehouse. By 1882 it had become a smithy; it is now called The Boatshed.
This building, like others in the vicinity has an orientation which suggests that it pre-dates the construction of Charlestown Road. There are still traces of the fish cellar, comprising granite press pole holes, in the northern part of the east wall. Fish cellars were associated with pilchard fisheries and were once commonplace; most Cornish fishing coves possessed examples. The rest of the wall in this part of the building is also mostly of granite with granite quoins. It is evident from the way the building is situated that the fish cellar structure extended towards the present Charlestown Road and may have been demolished when the harbour road was built. The warehouse/smithy building appears to occupy a former road line, backing onto the former. The southern end of the building has seen numerous rebuilds and now includes many different types of masonry; stonework, buff coloured brick, red brick in Flemish bond and concrete block. The main roof has a slightly curved profile and is covered with relatively small slates in diminishing courses, probably scantle slate. In the east wall there are two windows containing multiple fixed small panes. The northern window has granite quoins so it may be an original opening associated with the fish cellar. In the southern part of the east wall is a blocked opening with brick jambs, close to ground level. There has been some structural movement in the

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single_Print.aspx?uid=MC035... 25/09/2015

Fig 5: Heritage Gateway record (page 1)

Heritage Gateway Printable Result Page 2 of 2

building and there are tie rods visible at the south eastern corner. At least two lean-to buildings were attached to the south end and traces of rooflines survive on the building and concrete floors can be seen adjoining. Attached to the eastern side of the building is a small brick outshut, containing a panelled door and four-pane sash windows.

Associated Finds: none recorded
Associated Events: none recorded
Related records: none recorded

Search results generated by the HBSMR Gateway from [exeGeoS_SDM Ltd](#)

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single_Print.aspx?uid=MC035... 25/09/2015

Fig 6: Heritage Gateway record (page 2)

Date evidence results

Historic maps provide important evidence in understanding the development of the site within its existing and wider context.

The c1840 Tithe Map shows the subject building to its possible current width and overall length as part of a conjoined complex of buildings enclosing two narrow courtyards. It is likely that this whole complex was at that time used for pilchard pressing or at least provided related facilities. This group included the Boathouse.

The c1880 map shows that the two narrower buildings that ran parallel to the subject building and also the narrow-plan building link building at the southern end of the site had been demolished. It appears that the function of the northern shed had changed and a solid wall had replaced an original open side of the elevation facing to the north-west. The opposite (SE) elevation is shown as still being open-sided. At this time there is still a building linking the NE end of the sheds with the Boathouse and the Boathouse is shown with an open-sided pressing-floor area to its NE side.

The c1907 map shows that the NE side of the Boathouse has probably ceased its function as a fish – cellar and a small wing has been constructed to the centre of its NE wall, otherwise there is little change from the c1880 map.

Overall it appears that there has been a progressive reduction in the fish-cellar function in favour of other uses. Some of the fish cellar buildings were demolished and the remaining subject building was converted to other functions.

Fabric evidence within the buildings confirms the presumed plan and function changes that are shown on the maps. Further documentary research may present further evidence for the later functions of the buildings.

Materials

The subject buildings on the Site are predominantly built from a variety of local rubble-stone bedded in earth mortar and pointed with lime mortar, plus some much later repointing with cement mortar. Some of the openings incorporate dressed granite jamb stones, some of the beam-pressing sockets also incorporate granite rubble as lintels jambs and there is also some red brick used where openings have been altered or inserted. The northern roof is laid with corrugated (iron) steel to standard profile; the southern roof is laid with corrugated asbestos sheeting also to a standard profile. Some clear corrugated sheeting provides light within the buildings. The ridge is crowned with reused red clay tiles.

Plan and plan development

The oldest part of the subject building construction is probably the first phase of the fish cellar spine wall that is part of the part wall between the two sheds. The second oldest is probably phase 2 of the fish cellar wall. The fish cellar on each side of this wall would have been open to the frontages with the wall-plate for the roofs carried on granite or timber posts. The building has been successively altered, extended and has subsequently been partly demolished. The original fish-cellar complex certainly included the 'Boatshed' that still has pilchard-pressing beam sockets in its north wall and the whole group of buildings probably ranged around a courtyard. These groups of fish-cellar buildings were often called 'pilchard palaces'. Adaptation for later uses has included re-laying the cobbled floor and building solid walls where there were once open bays between posts. The phasing of many of the later changes is now difficult to sequence due to separation of features and many alterations within definable phases. However, the construction of the NW wall of the northern shed appears to be much older than that of the southern shed and the older wall now leans outwards to the north-west. Some of the obvious phases are indicated Fig 7. It has been suggested that the SE wall was open until the 1960s or 1970s but the existing stone wall is built using earth mortar and the rubble stone is expertly laid. However, there is an in-filled area at the top of the wall where there must have been a gap between the wall top and the wall-plate of the roof. It is possible that this would be shown as open on a former plan of this part of the building.

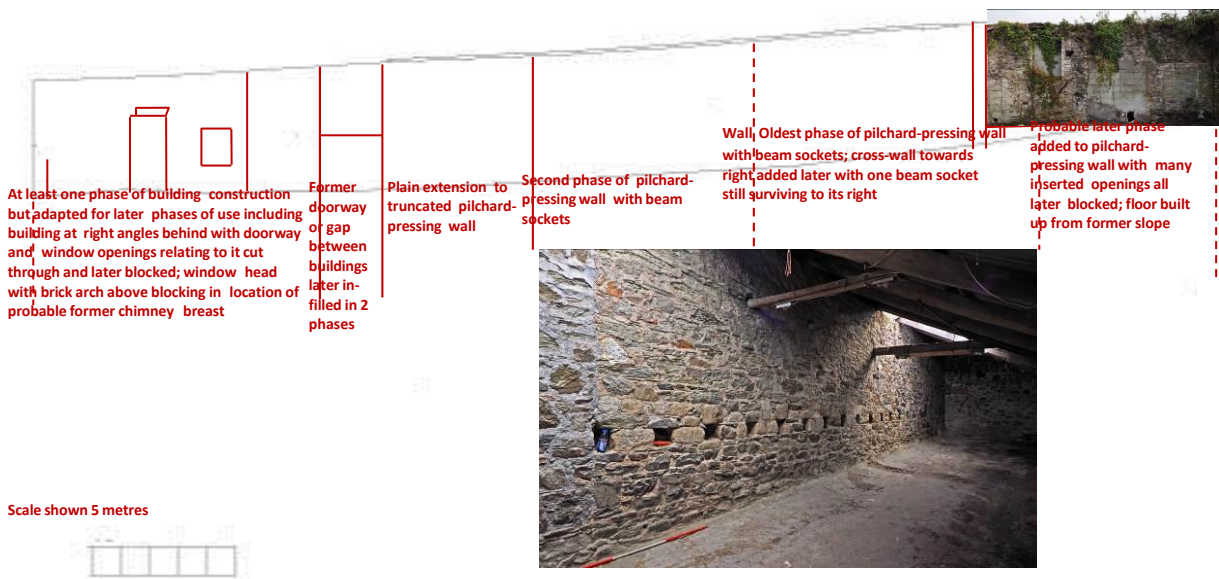


Fig 7: Annotated elevation of spine wall from NW to show phases, the background shape copied from survey drawings provided by the architect (see also photographs, Figs 50-64

Exterior elevations (Figs 8-31)

SE elevation (Figs 8 and 10) comprises the SE wall of the southern shed and the SE side of the spine wall shared between the two sheds set back on the right.

The SE elevation of the southern shed slopes upwards towards the left. It is a single-phase structure built to a height that ends short of the eaves level of the roof. This former gap has been in-filled probably in the late 20th century.

The SE wall of the northern shed displays strong evidence of the former gabled wing that formerly abutted the spine wall that otherwise separates the two sheds. There are a number of phases of construction and alteration within this length of wall. Associated with the former gable-roofed range that formerly linked to the Boathouse there are a number of blocked architectural features including: a ground-floor window opening, the remains of a first-floor opening and a rebuilt area formerly occupied by a probable chimney breast and fireplace. At far left there are two phases of blocking of a former wide doorway or former gap between buildings.

NE elevation (Cover and Figs 9 and 12-14)

This elevation retains the NE ends of the two sheds comprising two wide doorways that extend to the full width between the side walls and the spine wall.

SW elevation (Figs 30 and 40-41)

This end of the sheds is built into the bank relating to a higher ground level.

NW elevation (Figs 9 and 19-29) slopes up towards the right. The main wall has a window opening towards the left and two blocked window openings, one right of centre and one towards the right. The blocked window openings have evidence that they were greatly reduced in size to enable small central loading chutes to be provided at their tops. The purpose of these former chutes is a matter for conjecture. Possibly they were ice or salt chutes associated with fish cellar function. Left of centre is a wide doorway. This opening has been widened at some time as indicated by the use of dressed granite jamb-stones to the full height of the left-hand jamb and mostly rubble stone to the right-hand jamb.

At far right the wall has been truncated and the former spine wall between the two sheds is now the external wall of the southern shed (Figs 7, 27 and 29). This wall has much evidence of alteration and has the following openings (mostly inserted and later blocked with concrete blocks) from left to right: a former possible machinery slot in the location of a former pressing-beam socket; an original pressing-beam socket in situ, the last of the series; a first-floor level opening, possibly a loading doorway or a window opening; a wide ground-floor doorway, and at far right a window opening. At a short distance from the south-west end wall is a truncated octagonal granite pier (Fig 32).

5.10 Interior (Cover and Figs 7 and 33-74)

The lean-to roofs of the two sheds are of similar construction. There are fairly close-spaced principal timbers some of which have collars socketed into the spine wall at one end and nailed to the principal timber part-way along. Original collars relating to the section of the spine wall containing the pressing-beam sockets are un-hewn round timbers. The survival of these features within this part of the building adds to the evidence that this is the oldest surviving part of the spine wall and that the rest of the building has either been added to it or has been rebuilt.

Cobbled floors within each shed appear to have been mostly re-laid since the fish-cellar period of the building. However, there is a small area that appears to show an in-filled short length of runnel at the distance from the spine wall where such a feature would have once existed in a pilchard-pressing floor.

The principal features within the exterior walls and within the spine walls are shown in the photographs (Figs 33-74) and within the northern shed are shown in the elevation drawing (Fig 7).

Significance

The subject buildings at Charlestown are within the setting of a number of listed buildings including a nearby building listed as the 'Boathouse'; the buildings are also within the Charlestown Conservation Area and within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. In contrast to their external architecturally modest appearance internally they incorporate rare survival of a pilchard-pressing spine wall with beam-pressing sockets to either side. This is possibly the only known example of this sort of wall with sockets for the former pressing beams. At least two other examples of double-sided walls survive in St Ives but these are of the later type with the upper part of the wall cantilevered to provide inverted ledges for the pressing beams. The subject sheds at Charlestown also retain features that demonstrate the evolution of industries in a Cornish port from fish cellars to boat sheds and other associated maritime functions.

Digital Photographs

Exterior



Fig 8: SE wall from east



Fig 9: Northern shed from north



Fig 10: SE wall of northern shed, NE end (see also Fig 7: annotated elevation from other side))

This characterful wall displays a significant number of building phases and retains evidence of a former gable from a building that once extended forward at right angles to the wall (to the SE). Central to the photograph is an inserted and then blocked former window opening. Right of this is an irregular blocking that is partly blocking of an inserted then removed chimney breast, but higher up there was once a window opening. At far right there are the truncated remains of a former wall that once extended forward to the south east. At far left a wide former opening, or gap between buildings, has been blocked in two phases.



Fig 11 : This is the right-hand (SW) end of the spine wall that runs between the two subject sheds (see also elevation phase drawing) The socket towards the left (circled) is the last of a series of pressing-bean sockets, most of which are visible within the northern shed



Fig 12: Subject sheds from across the harbour dock (note the spine wall against which the two lean-to roofs abut)



Fig 13: Sheds and context from east



Fig 14: NE end of southern shed



Fig 15: Truncated end of SE wall continued from southern shed

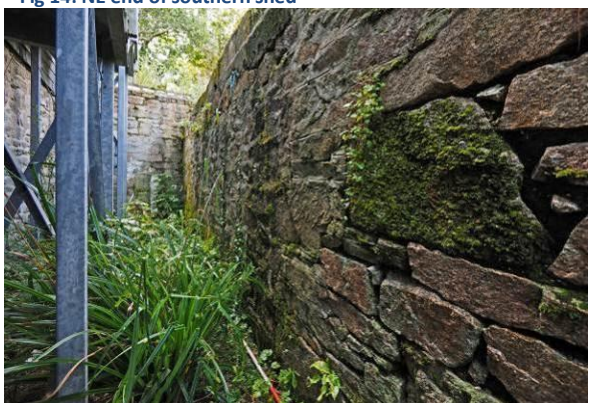


Fig 16: SW end of SE wall of southern shed



Fig 17: Representative length of SE wall of southern shed



Fig 18: Detail of SE wall of southern shed



Fig 19: NE end of NW wall northern shed from NW



Fig 20: NE end of NW wall of northern shed



Fig 21: NW wall of northern shed towards the left



Fig 22: NW wall of northern shed left of centre



Fig 23: NW wall of northern shed: widened doorway left of centre



Fig 24: : NW wall of northern shed, right of centre with approximate location of blocked window within dashed line



Fig 25: : NW wall of northern shed, right with approximate location of hidden blocked window opening within dashed line



Fig 26: : NW wall of northern shed showing blocked window towards right of surviving wall



Fig 27: Truncated NW wall of northern shed + spine wall, right



Fig 28: Sheds and context from SW



Fig 29: Spine wall at far right from NW



Fig 30: SW end wall of northern shed from NE



Fig 31: Later wall within northern shed, now the end wall



Fig 32: Stump of octagonal post of unknown purpose

Interior



Fig 33: Southern shed from NE



Fig 34: Southern shed SE wall far left



Fig 35: Southern shed SE wall towards left



Fig 36: Southern shed SE wall centre



Fig 37: Southern shed SW end; early-mid C20 forge on left



Fig 38: Southern shed forge from WNW



Fig 39: Southern shed SE wall far right



Fig 40: : Southern shed SW wall, left



Fig 41 Southern shed SW wall, right



Fig 42: Southern shed NW spine wall towards left



Fig 43: Southern shed NW spine wall left-hand end from east



Fig 44: Southern shed pressing-beam sockets from south



Fig 45: Southern shed NW spine wall left of centre



Fig 46: Southern shed NW spine wall right of centre



Fig 47: Southern shed NW spine wall towards right



Fig 48: Southern shed NE end



Fig 49: Southern shed cobbled floor towards NE end



Fig 50: Northern shed from NE



Fig 51: Northern shed from NE



Fig 52: Northern shed pressing-beam sockets from north



Fig 53: Northern shed SE wall far left (note blocked openings)



Fig 54: Northern shed SE wall: inserted then blocked window



Fig 55: Northern shed SE wall towards left



Fig 56: Northern shed SE wall blocked opening or former gap



Fig 57: Northern shed SE wall left of centre



Fig 58: Northern shed SE wall junction with beam sockets



Fig 59: Northern shed SE wall junction with beam sockets



Fig 60: Northern shed SE wall junction with beam sockets



Fig 61: Northern shed SE wall phase 2 beam sockets



Fig 62: Northern shed SE wall phase 2 beam sockets closer



Fig 63: Northern shed SE wall phases 2 and 1 beam sockets



Fig 64: Northern shed SE wall phase 1 beam sockets



Fig 65: Northern shed SW later inserted wall



Fig 66: Northern shed from SW end



Fig 67: Northern shed NW wall far left with blocked window within dashed line, the blocking fitted with chute



Fig 68: Northern shed NW wall with second blocked window within dashed line, the blocking fitted with chute



Fig 69: Northern shed NW wall left of centre



Fig 70: Northern shed NW wall altered doorway



Fig 71: Northern shed NW wall doorway and window



Fig 72: Northern shed NW wall centred on window



Fig 73: Northern shed NW wall far right



Fig 74: Northern shed NE end

Appendix 1: Annotated plan (Black and white film rolls photo directions)



Appendix 2: Phased internal elevation

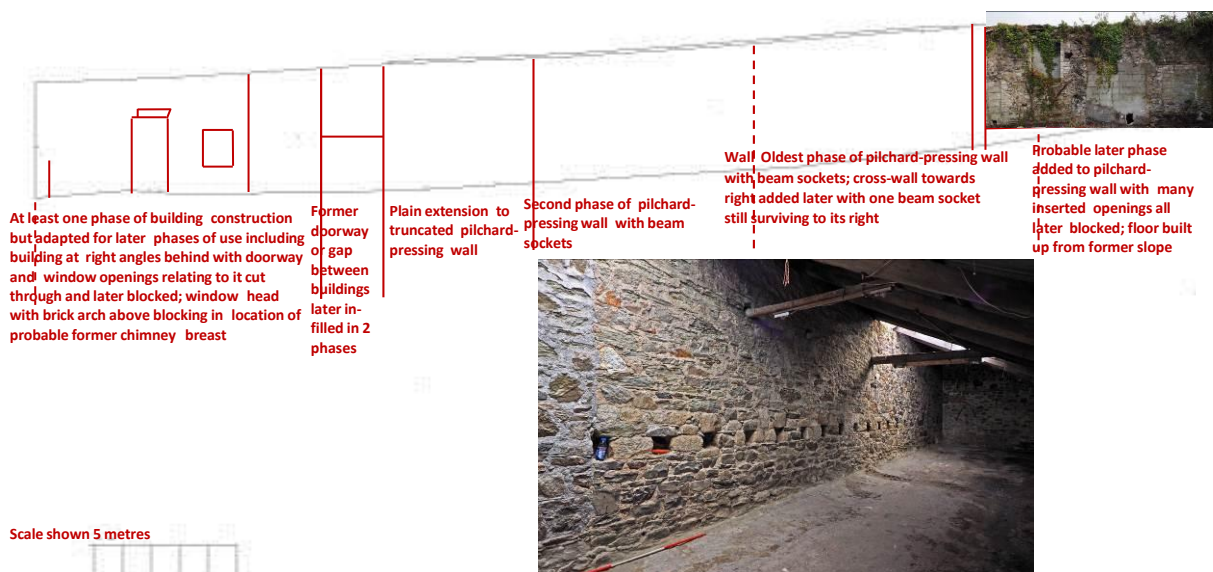


Fig 7: Annotated elevation of spine wall from NW to SE to show phases, the background shape copied from survey drawings provided by the architect (see also photographs, Figs 50-64)

Appendix 3: Photo Schedule

Black and white Photo Schedule (all photographs taken on 24/08/2015)

Roll 1	Subject	Orientation
Frame		
1	Northern Shed, SE wall, NE end	From SE
2	Southern Shed, NE wall end	From NE
3	Southern Shed SE wall NE end	From NW
4	Sheds and context	From east
5	Southern Shed interior SE wall far left	From NW
6	Southern Shed interior SE wall left of centre	From NW
7	Southern Shed interior	From NE
8	Southern Shed interior SE wall centre	From NW
9	Southern Shed interior SE wall right of centre	From NW
10	Southern Shed interior spine wall	From S
11	Southern Shed interior spine wall + beam sockets	From SE
12	Southern Shed interior spine wall + beam sockets	From SE
13	Southern Shed interior spine wall + beam sockets	From SE
14	Southern Shed interior spine wall + beam sockets	From SE
15	Southern Shed interior spine wall + beam sockets	From SE
16	Southern Shed interior spine wall far right	From SE
17	Southern Shed interior including forge from N	From SE
18	Southern Shed interior forge and SE wall	From NW
19	Southern Shed interior SE wall right of forge	From NW
20	Southern Shed interior SE wall far right	From NW
21	Southern Shed interior SW end	From NE
22	Southern Shed interior SW end	From NE
23	Southern Shed interior spine wall towards left	From E
24	Southern Shed interior spine wall blocked doorway	From SE
25	Southern Shed interior SW end	From NE
26	Southern Shed interior NE end	From SW
27	Southern Shed interior NE end cobbled floor	From above
28	Southern Shed interior NE end cobbled floor	From above
29	Northern Shed spine wall NE end (former interior wall)	From SE
30	Southern Shed SE wall	From SE
31	SE wall centre	From SE
32	SE wall left	From E
33	SE wall far left	From E
34	SE wall far left	From E
35	SE wall detail	From SE
36	Northern Shed spine wall far left	From NW
37	Northern Shed spine wall towards left	From NW
Roll 2	Subject	Orientation
Frame		
1	Northern Shed spine wall towards left including blocked window	From NW
2	Northern Shed spine wall towards left including blocked window	From NW
3	Northern Shed spine wall towards left including blocked opening	From NW
4		
5	Northern Shed SW end	From N
6	Northern Shed spine wall junction with fish cellar phase	From NW
7	Northern Shed spine wall fish cellar phase 2	From NW
8	Northern Shed spine wall fish cellar junction with phases 1 and 2	From NW
9	Northern Shed spine wall fish cellar phase 1	From NW
10	Northern Shed SW end	From NE
11	Northern Shed interior NW wall far left	From SE

12	Northern Shed interior NW wall towards left	From SE
13	Northern Shed interior NW wall towards left	From SE
14	Northern Shed interior NW wall left of centre	From SE
15	Northern Shed interior NW wall widened doorway	From SE
16	Northern Shed interior NW wall right of doorway	From SE
17	Northern Shed interior NW wall including window	From SE
18	Northern Shed interior NW wall towards right	From SE
19	Northern Shed interior NW wall far right	From SE
20	Northern Shed interior	From NE
21	Northern Shed interior	From NE
22	Northern Shed interior	From NE
23	Northern Shed interior	From NE
24	Northern Shed interior	From SW
25	Northern Shed interior	From SW
26	Northern Shed NW wall far left	From NW
27	Northern Shed NW wall	From N
28	Northern Shed NW wall towards left	From NW
29	Northern Shed NW wall left of centre	From NW
30	Northern Shed NW wall centred on doorway	From NW
31	Northern Shed NW wall right of doorway	From NW
32	Northern Shed NW wall right	From NW
33	Northern Shed NW wall blocked window	From NW
34	Northern Shed NW wall far right	From NW
35	Northern Shed SW wall	From SW
36	Northern Shed SW wall	From NW
37	Northern Shed NW spine wall far right	From NW
Roll 3	Subject	Orientation
Frame		
1	Northern Shed SW (former internal) wall	From NE
2	Northern Shed SW (former internal) wall	From NE
3	Northern Shed SW (former internal) wall and context	From SE
4	Northern Shed SW wall and context	From SW
5	Northern Shed SW end floor detail including stump of octagonal pier	From NE
6	Northern Shed SW end floor detail including stump of octagonal pier	From NE
7	Northern Shed NW wall far left	From NW
8	Northern Shed interior floor detail possible in-filled runnel	From above

Appendix 4: Black and white photo digital images scanned from negatives

Roll 1



Frame 1



Frame 2



Frame 3



Frame 4



Frame 5



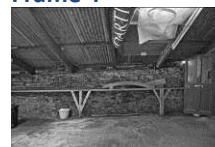
Frame 6



Frame 7



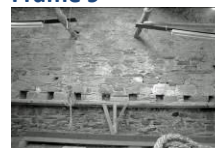
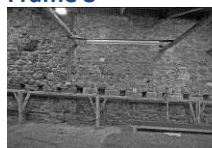
Frame 8



Frame 9



Frame 10



Frame 11



Frame 12



Frame 13



Frame 14



Frame 15



Frame 16



Frame 17



Frame 18



Frame 19



Frame 20



Frame 21



Frame 22



Frame 23



Frame 24



Frame 25



Frame 26



Frame 27



Frame 28



Frame 29



Frame 30



Frame 31



Frame 32



Frame 33



Frame 34



Frame 35



Frame 36



Frame 37



Roll 2



Frame 1



Frame 2



Frame 3



Frame 4



Frame 5



Frame 6



Frame 7



Frame 8



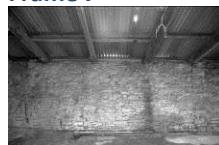
Frame 9



Frame 10



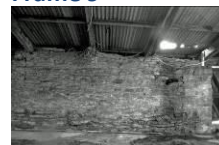
Frame 11



Frame 12



Frame 13



Frame 14



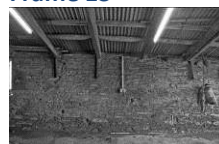
Frame 15



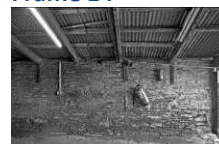
Frame 16



Frame 17



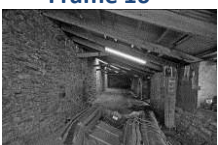
Frame 18



Frame 19



Frame 20



Frame 21



Frame 22



Frame 23



Frame 24



Frame 25



Frame 26



Frame 27



Frame 28



Frame 29



Frame 30



Frame 31



Frame 32



Frame 33



Frame 34



Frame 35



Frame 36



Frame 37

Roll 3



Frame 1



Frame 2



Frame 3



Frame 4



Frame 5



Frame 6



Frame 7



Frame 8

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall,
TR1 3AY

(01872) 323603
enquiries@cau.org.uk
www.cau.org.uk

