

T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane,
Praa Sands, Cornwall**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Nicholas Dawson

Site Code: PSH19/97

(SW 5797 2828)

Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane Praa Sands, Cornwall

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Armour Heritage Limited

by *Nicholas Dawson*

TVAS South West

Site Code PSH 19/97

May 2021

Summary

Site name: Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall

Grid reference: SW 5797 2828

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 2nd July 2019, 25th-26th January and 16th April 2021

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site code: PSH 19/97

Area of site: 0.42ha

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored ground works in relation to six dwellings and a mixed retail and residential block. Works observed during the project revealed only modern disturbance. No other features or finds of archaeological interest were identified.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 06.06.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 06.06.21

Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 19/97

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall, (SW5797 2828) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Amour Heritage Limited, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, BA11 5DP.

Planning permission (PA18/06022) has been granted by Cornwall Council for the demolition of a retail building and the construction of six dwellings and a building of ground floor retail and first floor accommodation on a 0.42ha site. The consent was subject to a condition which required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during all groundwork.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and Cornwall Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Planning (Archaeology). The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz and Nicholas Dawson on the 2nd July 2019, 25th-26th January and 16th April 2021 and the site code is PSH 19/97.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography, and geology

The site is located at the centre of the village of Praa Sands. The site is located approximately 8km west of Helston and 11km east of Penzance. The site is bounded to the east by Pengersick Lane to the south and west by residential housing and to the north by a holiday park of prefabricated buildings. The site slopes gradually down from 36m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to 31m aOD in the southwest corner of site. For its underlying geology, the site is on a Mylor Slate Formation – Hornfelses slate and Hornfelses siltstone, with no recorded superficial deposits (BSG 2017).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted within the Heritage Impact Assessment (Armour Heritage 2018) and again summarised in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Armour Heritage 2020). In summary the site sits within an area of prehistoric activity including a Palaeolithic occupation site, a Neolithic flint working 450m to the east of site and a Bronze Age cairn 950m north of site at Trevurvas. Known Iron Age and Romano-British activity is limited to two postulated sites to the north and northeast of site and several stray finds. Medieval activity consists of the manor/settlement of Pengersick first recorded in 1391 just north of Praa Sands. This includes a later addition of Pengersick Castle in 1510 later abandoned when the current castle was constructed in the 16th century. There was only limited development during the Post Medieval though the area lies just outside of the Tregonning and Qwinear mining district just on the north side of the A394 and Wheal Prosper lies just 1.88km south east along the coast from Praa Sands. Praa Sands itself dates to the mid to late 20th century with the growth of the tourist industry.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any identified archaeological deposits which may be affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, overburden removal and ground reduction. Any archaeological deposits identified were to be hand cleaned, excavated, and fully recorded.

Specific aims of the project were:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should any remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; prepare a report on the results of the watching brief; and
- prepare and deposit a site archive with the local museum.

Results

Retail block

In the area of the new retail block the footing excavated followed those of the now demolished building that stood in this location therefore revealing no archaeological features or finds. Two trenches were also dug in this area, one of 6.5m in length, the other 5.8m and both 1.5m wide. These were observed to depth of 1m and revealed a stratigraphy consisting of 0.5m of light grey, brown silty sand with stone and cement inclusions (50 and 53) resulting from the building demolition. Below this was a deposit of grey, brown silty sand with moderate brick inclusions (51 and 54) lying above the natural geology, which was a mix of brownish yellow stone and sandy clay. Into deposit 51 were cut two linear features (Figs 2 and 3 - 1 and 2), one in each trench. Both were orientated parallel to one another on a north west to south orientation, 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep. The fills (52 and 55) were both a dark brown silt sand with occasional stone inclusions.

Housing block

For the dwellings on the western half of the site, the footings were typically 0.8m wide and 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy here consisted of between 0.24m and 0.4m of (56) pale brown silty sand with moderate stone inclusions, above the natural geology which comprised a mix of brownish yellow stone and sandy clay. Nothing in the way of finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Attenuation tank

The location of a new attenuation tank was also observed against the western edge of site. This consisted of an area 7.5m by 6m being stripped of overburden down to a depth of 0.5m. A single shallow feature (1) 3.7m long aligned north-south was identified cutting the natural geology. Its width was 0.8m and its depth 0.15m and its fill (57) was a brown silty sand with stone inclusions. A modern brick was recovered from the fill. A smaller area of 2m by 3.5m in the south west corner of this strip was taken down further to a depth of 1m. The stratigraphy here matched that found in the nearby footings.

Conclusion

Works observed during the project revealed only modern disturbances. Cuts 1 and 2 match and are consistent with digging undertaken during a mines research trenching investigation undertaken in 2019 (Henderson 2019). Cut 3 appears to be consistent with a machine track also likely related to the mine research trenching investigation.

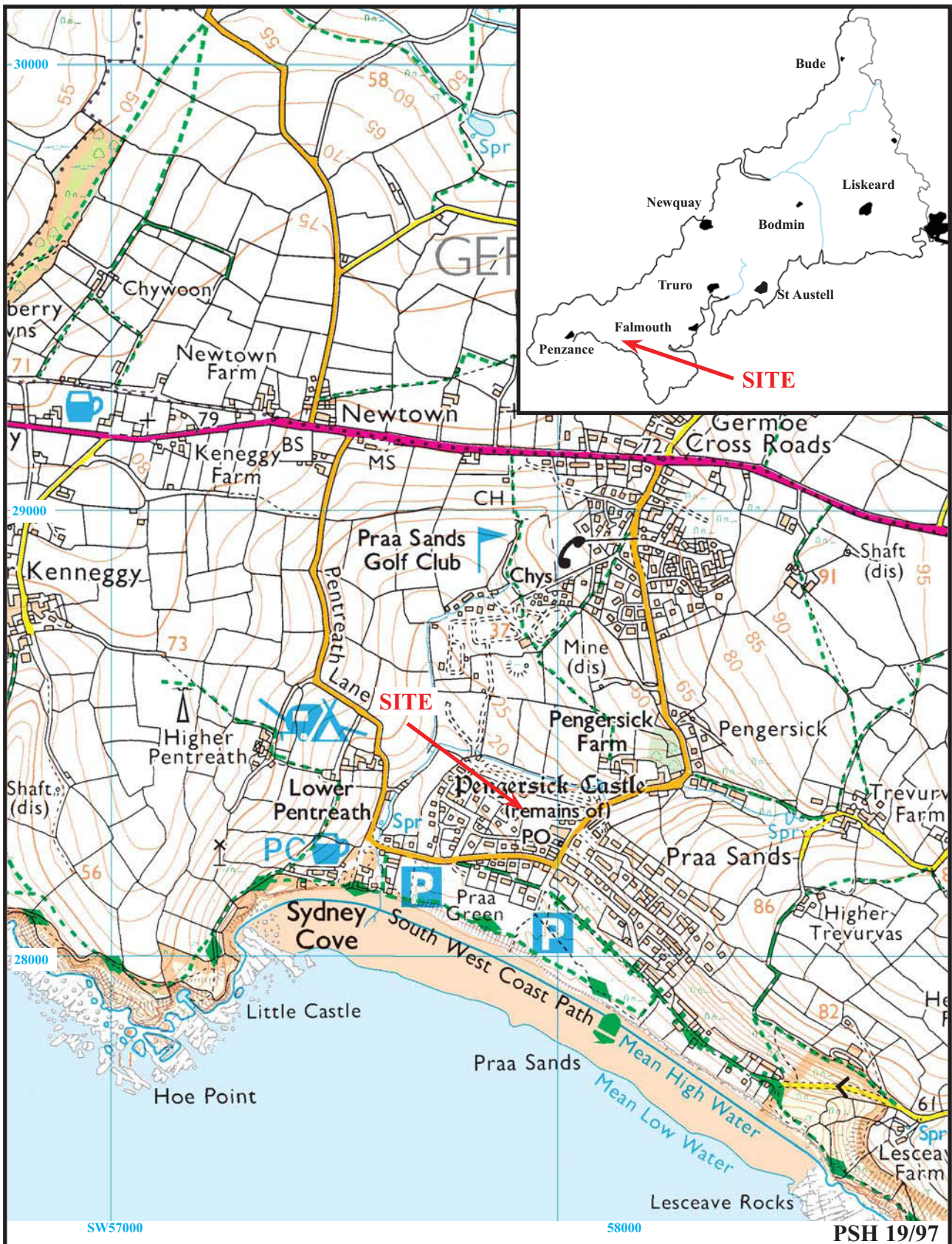
No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified on the site

References

- Armour Heritage, 2018, 'Proposed Redevelopment of Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall; Heritage Impact Assessment', Armour Heritage report AH717/1, Frome
- BGS, 2017, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 358, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Armour Heritage, 2019, 'Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall, TR20 9SQ: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief', Armour Heritage, Frome
- Henderson, D, 2019, 'Preliminary Site Investigation Report (Trenching Investigation) for Wheel Parade, Pengersick Lane, Praa Sands, Cornwall, TR20 9SQ', Henderson Mines Research report, Helston
- NPPF, 2019, National Planning Policy Framework (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

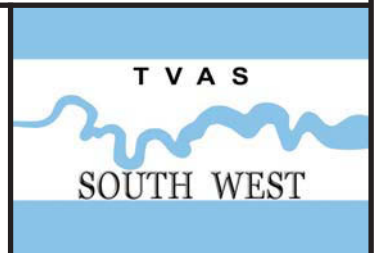
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Demolition layer	Modern	Finds
	51	Topsoil rubble mix	Modern	Finds
1	52	Geological trial trench	Modern	Documentary
	53	Demolition layer	Modern	Finds
	54	Topsoil rubble mix	Modern	Finds
2	55	Geological trial trench	Modern	Documentary
	56	Topsoil		
3	57	Machine track	Modern	Ceramic building material



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Figure 1. Location of site within Praa Sands and Cornwall.

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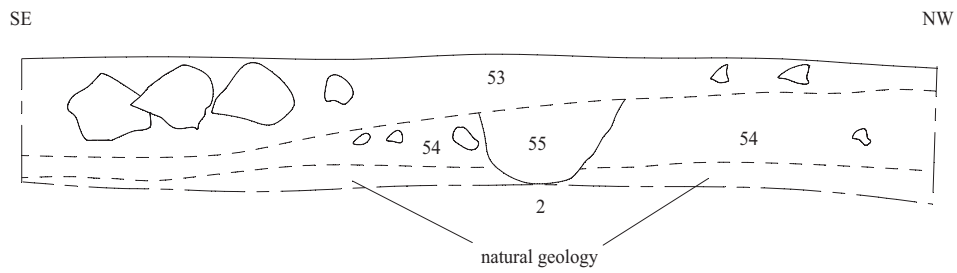
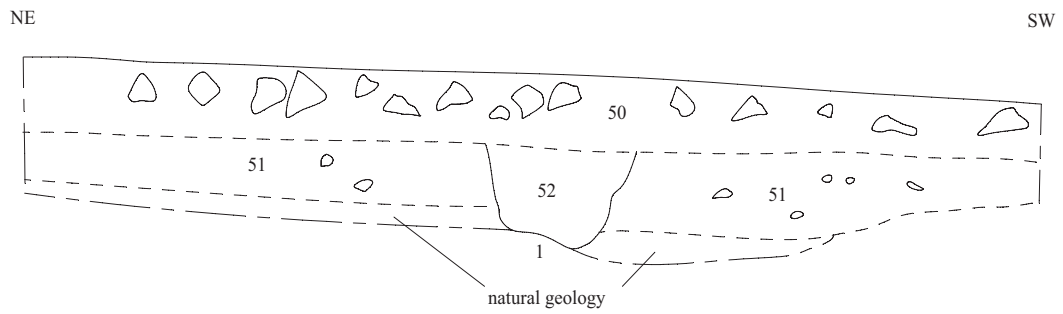




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Figure 2. Site plan.





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Figure 3. Sections.





Plate 1. Footings Trench, looking West,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. General view of site, looking East.



Plate 3. Area stip for attenuation tank, looking West,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Excavation for attenuation tank, looking South,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 to 4.**

T V A S

SOUTH WEST

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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