



Site Name: Cowlins Mill, Carn Brea, Cornwall	Planning Reference: N/A
Grid Reference (10-Fig): SW 66973 40772	OS Map Number: N/A
Parish: Carn Brea	OASIS ID: southwes1-509653
Site Type: Creation of a footpath	
Period: N/A	Form: Historic Building Recording
<p>Description: A rapid appraisal of a section of leat/tailrace at the former Cowlins Mill site in Carn Brea, on the south-eastern edge of Pool, was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Cornwall Council (The Client), prior to the construction of a new footpath alongside the main London-Penzance railway line. This work was undertaken by B. Morris on the 8th of October 2021, in line with a WSI produced by CAU (2021).</p> <p>The site stands on the south-east side of Pool, with soils identified as <i>Urban</i> but probably formerly well-drained humose gritty loamy soils of the Moor Gate Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the interface between the granites of the Carnmenellis Intrusion to the south and the hornfelsed slates of the Mylor Slate Formation (BGS 2021). The ground investigation report for the site records 2.58m of made ground adjacent to the mill building (BH05). The site is located at an altitude of c.118m AOD, on a fairly level site at the foot of the lower slopes of Carn Brea hill.</p> <p>The site is located within an area of intense industrial and post-industrial activity, most notably Tincroft Mine to the north of the railway line (now beneath Tesco/B&M stores). Carn Brea Station was located immediately to the north-east; two GII Listed engine houses survive immediately to the south-west. The depth of made ground on the site (1.90m-3.46m) demonstrates the presence of mine waste, as indicated as a stipple on the OS 1st edition map (1877x78). The tithe map (1840) and 1st edition OS map show the leat approaching from the south before Cowlins Mill was built. The OS maps mark <i>Sincock's Shaft</i> immediately adjacent to the site to the north. The Cowlins Mill built between 1878 and 1907; Penhallick House (adjacent) is reputed to have been built by Richard Cowlin (<i>grocer and flour dealer</i>) in 1892, though the house attached to the back of the Mill is far more architecturally elaborated.</p> <p>The 2nd edition 1:25" OS map shows a rectangular house, with a short range attached to the north wall, and a longer range attached to the west wall at an angle parallel to the leat. These structures are of granite rubble with dressed granite detailing and pitched slate roofs (phase 1). Sometime after 1907 another structure of stone rubble with a pitched slate roof and brick detailing was built abutting the angled rear range and over the original line of the leat (phase 2). The northern part of this structure was truncated in the latter 20th century and a new build of rendered concrete block built in its place (phase 3).</p> <p>The section of leat that was recorded lay to the north of the phase 3 block and had been truncated during the construction of that building; the interior being partly filled with clean granite aggregate tipped down from the southern end. The surviving section of leat was c.5.4m long, 1.17m wide and 1.48m high, defined to the west by walls of concrete block and to the east by shuttered concrete. The shuttering used was 'big six' type corrugated iron sheeting, which had then been used to close the roof of the leat before a concrete slab (the current ground surface) had been poured on top. The base of both walls had been undermined by the flow of the water. A 12" diameter iron pipe projected through the west wall. The covered leat structure was open to the side of the railway cutting, the leat forming a narrow incised channel but with no obvious structure beyond the site boundary. The leat was presumably carried on a launder over the railway cutting. A pile of recent debris/rubbish partly closed the entrance to the leat.</p> <p>References: BGS 2021: Geology of Britain Viewer. https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html SSEW 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Mining/Industrial	Land Use (Site): Industrial/Residential
Date of Site Visit: 08/10/21	
<p>Recorder's Name, Address, and Phone Number: B. Morris, South West Archaeology, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH, 01769 573 555</p>	

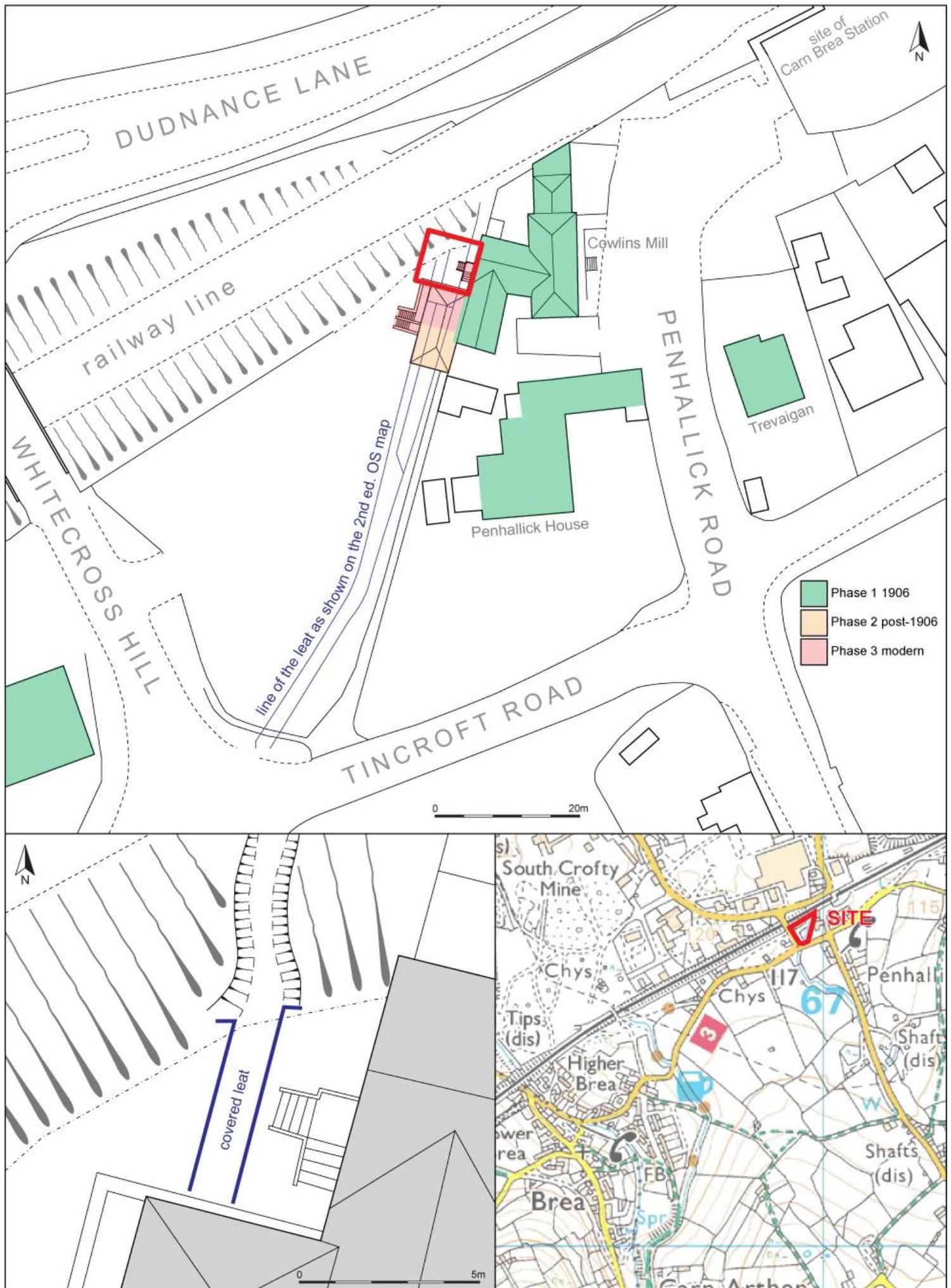


Figure 1: Site location (the site is indicated).



LEFT Figure 2: The 'entrance' to the covered leat; viewed from the north-east, Tincroft Mine compressor house in background (scales 1m).
RIGHT Figure 3: The 'entrance' to the covered leat; viewed from the NNE (scales 1m).



Figure 4: The interior of the covered leat, with walls of shuttered concrete and corrugated iron sheet roof, and partly infilled following the construction of the late 20th century phase of the Cowlins Mill building. Viewed from the north-east (no scale).