

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Gulworthy, West Devon	National Grid Reference 242683,73528	Number:
Subject: 2 Rock View, Devon Consols, Householder application for erection of extension to house plant room		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 00728/2010	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-118728	Museum Accession no: 2012.10.	
Contractor's reference number/code: GDC12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 27 th April 2012	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Ms Kate Royston (the Client) during the groundworks associated with an extension and landscaping at No. 2 Rock View, Gulworthy, Devon (Figure 1). The work was carried out by Dr. S Walls in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by S. Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).</p> <p>The proposed development site is adjacent to a listed building and lies in an area of archaeological significance within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Rock View Cottages (known historically as Wheal Anna Maria Cottages) seem to have originated in the late 1840s to early 1850s as a single large house and adjoining office (now No. 1 Rock View). This was evidently enlarged by the addition of two further cottages to the south-west (Nos. 2 & 3 Rock View) by 1867 (Waterhouse 2009).</p> <p>A rectangular area of approximately 11m x 4m was excavated to the north of the house at No. 2 Rock View. The area was covered with concrete paths, steps and a stone wall and therefore a 6 tonne tracked mechanical excavator using a 1m wide toothed bucket stripped the area under archaeological supervision (see Figure 1).</p> <p>The concrete path that wrapped around the front of the house was set 1.1m lower than the surrounding ground of the drive which was lowered and terraced down to the height of the path. Much of this area was covered with concrete (c.1970 judging by the plastic wrappers beneath), with concrete steps truncating an earlier stone retaining wall which ran parallel to the house. This wall had also been truncated at its western end by the addition of concrete block built stores which abutted the wall of the neighbouring property (No. 3).</p> <p>The stone retaining wall was constructed of blocky sub-angular stones (up to 0.55m x 0.15m x 0.15m) with a creamy yellow-grey gritty sand and soft cream mortar bond. There was common copper staining within and to these stones, which, along with the gritty yellow-grey sand used to primarily bond the wall, suggests that it was all material derived from nearby mining activity. Upon the demolition of the wall, the site was stripped; initially putting two sections through the development area (see Figure 1). These sections revealed that the area was simply covered by a single deposit of gritty gingery-yellow sand, a derivative of the mining activity on the site. Only a single archaeological feature was noted during the excavation of these sections, namely a cut for the retaining wall (see Figure 2) which was filled by similar (slightly more gingery) mining waste, but also included occasional lenses of grey-brown silt-loam (buried topsoil). Tentatively it is hypothesised therefore that the area had already been partially covered in mining waste prior to the construction of No. 2 Rock View, and that a platform was cleared/cut through this waste on which the house (and its neighbours?) were then built. The retaining wall may therefore have been constructed prior to the building of the house, in order to stop the loose gritty mining waste from encroaching.</p> <p>At the western end of the excavated area a deposit of compact yellow clay-sand with occasional small sub-angular shillet fragments (>50mm) was seen at the base of the excavated area. This deposit probably represents the natural subsoil which suggests that the area had been stripped prior to mining waste deposits being overlain. This deposit was not seen elsewhere within the excavated area.</p> <p>No finds were recovered from the monitoring works at this site.</p> <p>Bibliography Waterhouse, R. 2009: <i>2 Rock View, Devon Great Consols Mine, Gulworthy: An Archaeological Appraisal.</i></p>		

A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder: S. Walls

Date sent to HER: 08.05.12

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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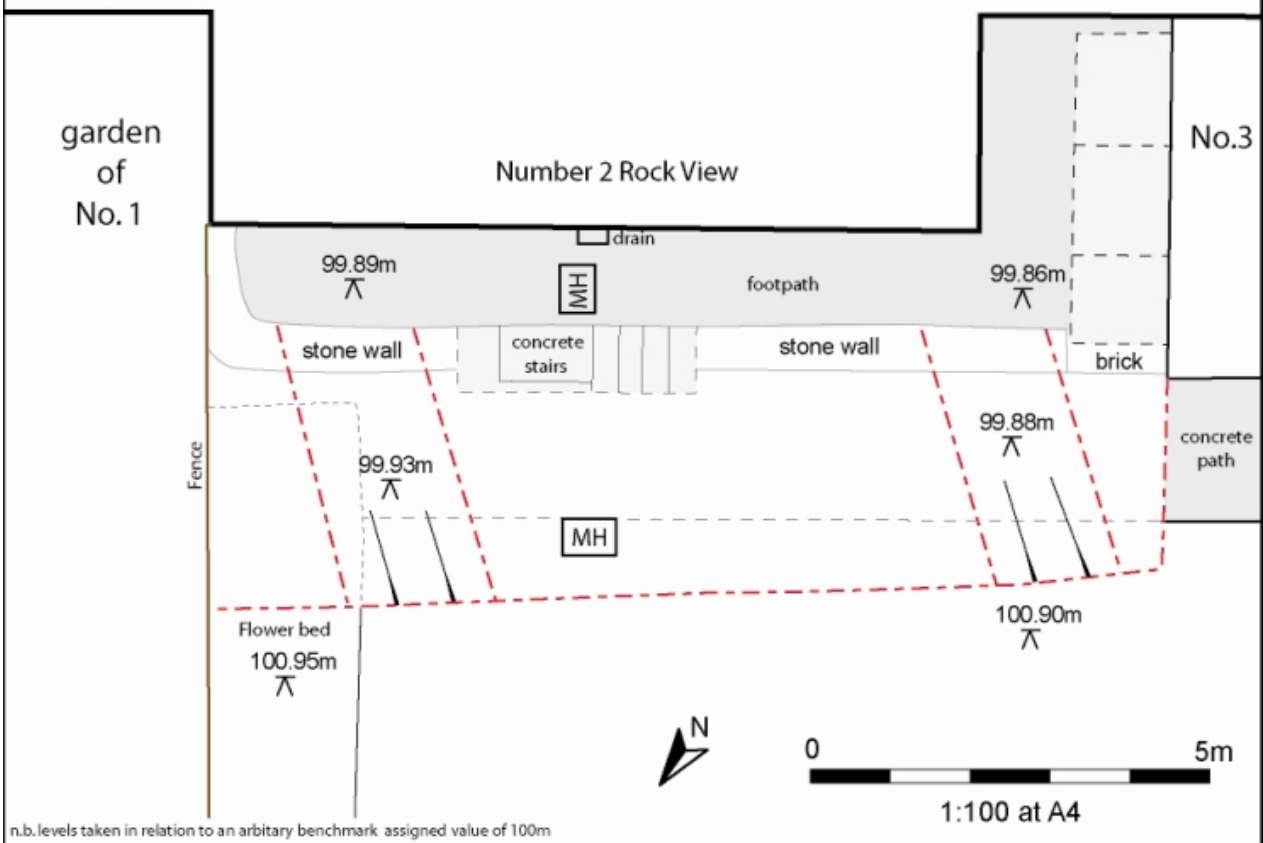
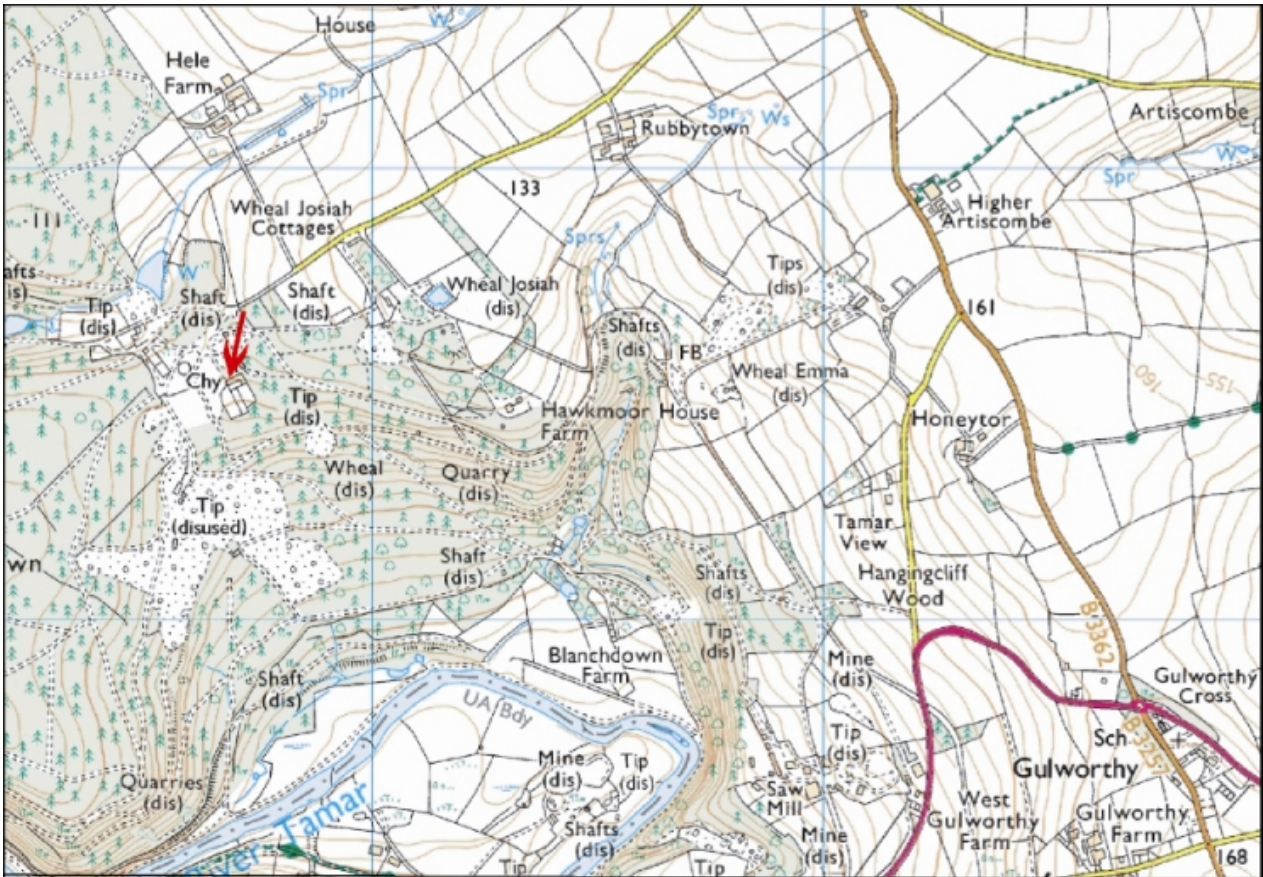


Figure 1: Site location (the site is arrowed) and the excavation plan.



Figure 2: Left - is a shot during the demolition of the eastern portion of the retaining wall (note the copper staining), viewed from the south-west. Right - is the same area post-excavation, viewed from the south-west (2m scale).