

# Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Leedstown, Cornwall	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SW 60382 34653	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording ahead of the proposed development and construction on land north-east of Dean House, Leedstown, Hayle, Cornwall.		<b>Photo(s) attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Ref:</b> PA21/12437; Appeal Ref is: APP/D0840/W/22/3301617		<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-517384	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> LLDH23	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> of July 2023	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a Private client, ahead of the proposed residential development and associated landscaping works at land north-east of Dean House, Leedstown, Hayle, Cornwall. The monitoring took place during trenching works looking to ascertain the extent and condition of the historical mining works within the proposed development boundary. The works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2023) drawn up in consultation with HEP Archaeology at Cornwall Council.</p> <p>The site, and the northern portion of Leedstown, lies within the area that was once occupied by the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Wheal Treasure Mine. This was a copper mine that was in operation from 1778 and included Drewollas mine, Wheal Maid, Wheal Penny and West Treasury, with production until sometime between 1826 and 1854 (MCO13151; MCO39840). The site appears as part of larger area surveys for the World Heritage Site bid and condition reports, with no site-specific archaeological investigations having been carried out on the site or in the immediate vicinity. A cartographic study was carried out as part of a Preliminary Site Risk Assessment. This identified a single shaft is situated near the centre of the site on the 1908 Ordnance Survey Second Edition Mapping. Further shafts are seen beyond the limits of the site to the north and east. A dwelling is seen in the south-east corner of the plot in the 1975-89 OS mapping, which appears to have been demolished since. The Crowan Tithe Map of c.1840 shows the site as a small part of a large enclosure, 1277, recorded on the apportionment as 'Moor', wasteland that was owned by the Duke of Leeds and occupied by John Ward. John Ward seems to have occupied a number of plots in this area, some used for agricultural purposes, some listed as waste, and one noted as 'destroyed by mining'.</p> <p>During the site visit six narrow trenches were opened, with the aim of exploring the extent of previous mining works and locating the feature marked as a shaft on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map. Scrub and debris partially obscured portions of the site, mostly along the eastern edge, partially limiting the available area able to be investigated. The trenches were opened by a 0.8m toothed bucket. A shallow topsoil was present across the surface of the site, with an average depth of 0.1m. The topsoil overlay a deposit of mining waste material of varying depth from 0.4m to a maximum depth of c.0.9m in trenches 4 and 5; the mining waste comprised mostly of rubble and stone, with occasional modern rubbish such as 20<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles noted. Below this waste lay a buried soil layer, likely the previous topsoil layer before the site was levelled with mining waste, this also varied across the site with an average depth of 0.2m. The natural lay directly below this buried topsoil and comprised an orangey-brown silty-clay. The shaft was located within trench 5, with the mining feature measuring c.2.6m wide narrowing to c.1.6m. The shaft was excavated to an approximate depth of 3m, and had been infilled with a mix of mining waste material and modern debris, including metal and plastic waste. Additional machine work occurred following SWARCH monitoring and this demonstrated that this mining feature stopped at c.4m depth (Wheal Jane Consultancy comms.) and is not therefore a true mining shaft, but a deep and large prospection pit or shaft abandoned at a very early stage of excavation.</p> <p>No features or remains of archaeological significance were present within the excavated areas of the site area, with modern disturbances the only other features noted. The monitored excavations were recorded via GPS (Figure 1), and whilst the investigations are concentrated on only one part of the site, the clear substantive mining activity means that further works are likely to not add any greater understanding of the Site.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The presence of historic mining works and mining waste debris was confirmed within the site, with a single mine shaft, identified on Historic OS Mapping, located within the centre of the site infilled with modern rubbish and mining waste. No other features or evidence of any archaeological significance were found during excavations.</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2023: <i>Land Ne Dean House, Leedstown, Hayle, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI No. LLDH23WSiv1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a></p> <p>Historic England 2020: <i>Listing</i>. <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/">https://historicengland.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Bonvoisin, South West Archaeology Ltd.		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023



FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN DRAWING SHOWING EXCAVATION WORKS.



FIGURE 2: VIEW ACROSS THE TRENCHED PORTION OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 3: VIEW OF THE EXCAVATED PORTION OF THE LARGE PROSPECTION PIT, SHOWING MODERN INFILL; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 4: EAST FACING SAMPLE SECTION, WITHIN TRENCH 04; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).