

Site Name: Mellanear Stream, Millpond Gardens, Hayle, Cornwall	Planning Ref: PA18/04240
Grid ref (10-fig): SW 55845 36939	OS Map No: OSGB36
Parish: Hayle	OASIS Ref: southwes1-520639
Site Type: Scheduled Monument, former mill, improvement to water management system	
Period: Post-Medieval /modern	Form: Archaeological monitoring and recording event
<p>Description: Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Bridge Civil Engineering (the client) on behalf of the Environment Agency during the installation of a path and improvements to a watercourse and flood defence management system at Mellanear Stream, Millpond Gardens, Hayle, Cornwall. The work was carried out by SWARCH personnel on the 1st and 2nd of August 2023 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with Cornwall County Council and Historic England.</p> <p>The site lies in the base of a shallow valley just above the tidal section of the Mellanear Stream and Hayle Estuary, at a height of c.7m AOD; the base of this valley is likely to have been intertidal until relatively recently. The soils of this area are classified as urban (SSEW 1983) and overlie a narrow band of superficial Quaternary alluvium with slate- and siltstones of the Mylor Slate Formation at depth (BGS 2023).</p> <p>The site lies within the footprint of the Scheduled late 18th/19th century mill complex with ropewalk and water management system powering a hammer and grist mill at Hayle, Cornwall (Scheduled Monument No.1402648). The site was designated for the survival of the upstanding mill and ropery remains and consolidated ruins which clearly show the sequence and differences in character of the components of the industrial site; for the potential significance of below ground remains relating to the operations of the site; and for the group value of the remains, representing one of the most coherent surviving groups of industrial structures associated with the internationally renowned Harvey's Foundry. Previous works for an adjacent telemetry kiosk at the site (Planning Ref: PA18/04240) revealed no archaeological features (SWARCH HER report 2022).</p> <p>A 1.60m wide strip was excavated around the edge of an existing concrete structure to a depth of c.0.34m. Deeper sections were excavated in the locations of proposed access steps, to a depth of c.0.49m. Across the excavated area, Topsoil (100) was a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt loam, 0.15+m thick. It directly overlaid modern backfills associated with the construction of the extant concrete structure on the site, modern telemetry ducts and gabions in the waterside edge of the bank on either side of the concrete structure. The modern features on the site cut a made-ground/subsoil. The subsoil was a mid yellow-brown, compacted sandy-silt loam with moderate-frequent medium stones. This subsoil formed the defensive bank beside the adjacent mill pond. Finds from the topsoil, subsoil, and later cuts through it were all 19th-21st century including brick fragments. The subsoil contained probable 20th century finds. All finds were discarded on site.</p> <p>Extant cables associated with further works on the site were located and identified at the north end of the monument, at a grate leading to Foundry Hill/B3302, near the Millpond Gardens carpark. Further monitoring of these when they are connected/extended beyond the extent of the scheduled monument and was not monitored.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</p> <p>Conclusion: Although some of the stone within the made-ground and modern in-fills could have come from ruined structures associated with the Scheduled mill and ropewalk, no significant archaeological features or deposits were present. The depth of excavation and disturbance to the bank beside the millpond made dating the feature improbable; although it was ostensibly maintained in- and after the 19th century.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Millpond Gardens, Hayle, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH Report No. HMS20WSlv1. British Geological Survey 2023: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>	
Land Use (Area): Settlement	Land Use (Site): Scheduled Monument, mill
Date of Site Visits: 1-2.08.23	
Recorder's name, address and telephone number: S. Stevens, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH; 01769 573555.	

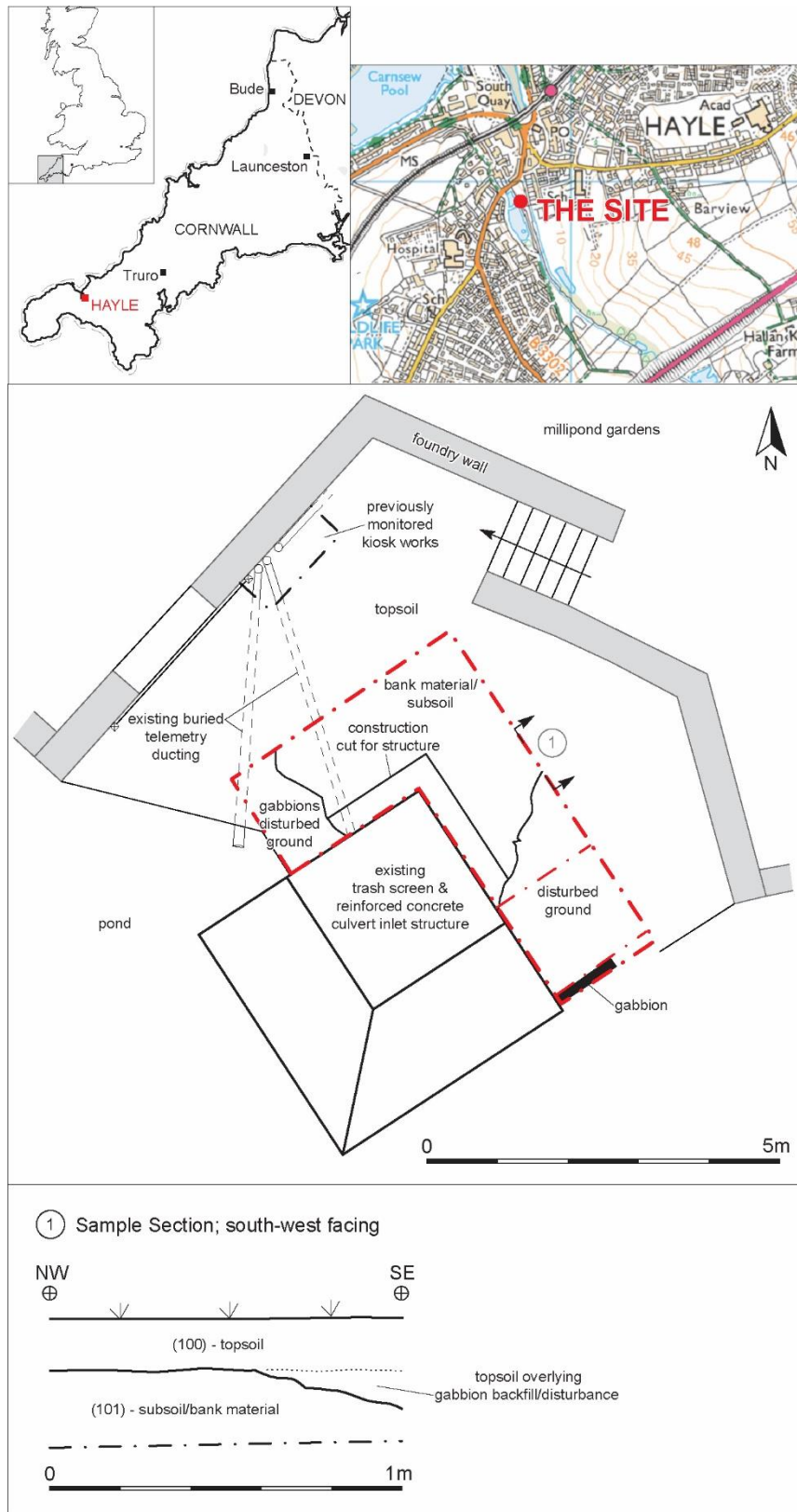


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTION DRAWING.



FIGURE 3: DITCHES [103] AND [105] SECTION; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 5: DITCHES [103] AND [105] SECTION; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).