

St Anthony Finds Record



Project Report

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St Anthony Finds Archive

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Cover photograph: The shore as seen from the position of the site

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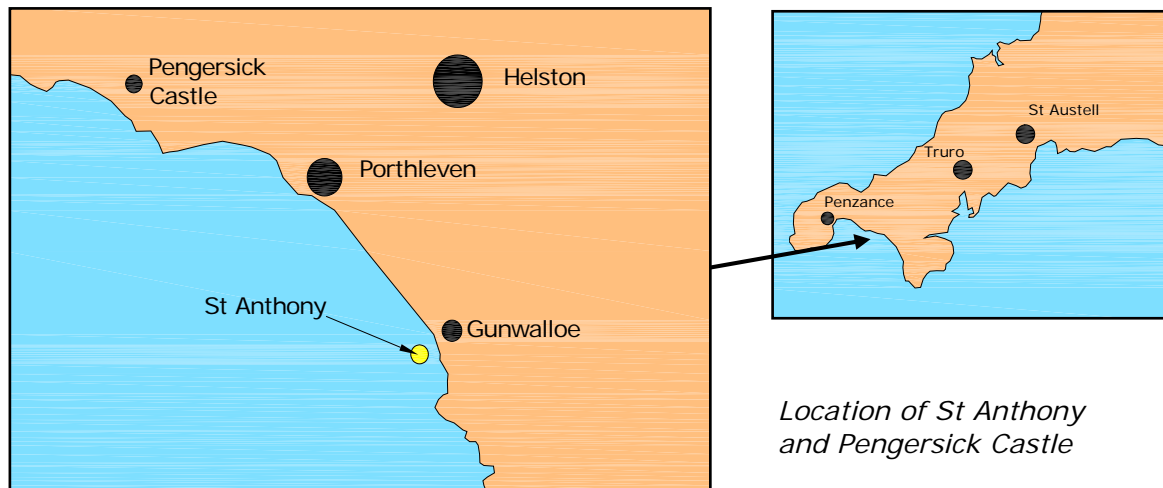
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Recording of protected wreck material

1 Background

1.1 Description



Site Position

50°03.335'N 05°16.911'W (WGS84)

The St Anthony

Described as a 'fine ship' belonging to King John III of Portugal, the St Anthony was wrecked on 19th January 1527 while sailing from Flanders to Portugal. The vessel had a crew of 86 and was carrying a valuable cargo – including silver and copper ingots, candle sticks, bowls and fine cloth¹.

Site description

The site is situated a short distance offshore from Gunwalloe Fishing Cove, on Lizard, Cornwall. The wreck was discovered in the late 70's by a local shellfish diver. It was probably exposed as a result of aggregate extraction from the beach which continues to the present day. It came to the attention of Richard Larn in 1981, in which year he and a group of local divers started underwater investigation of the site. A number of artefacts were recovered which led them to identify the wreck as that of the St Anthony. They applied to have the wreck designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act in 1981 with Richard Larn as the licensee. The licence was taken over in 1986 by Tony Randall, another member of the team.

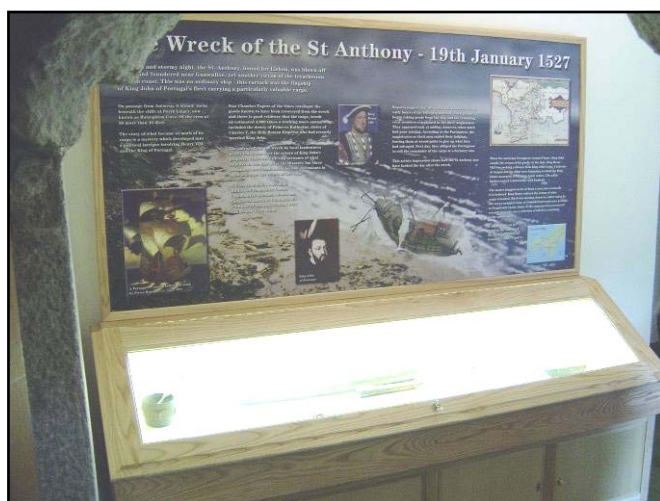
¹ *The Wreck of the St Anthony*. Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Part 4, Vol V 1968 by John Chynoweth.

The seabed around the wreck consists of shallow rock gullies and shingle with some pockets of coarse sand. It lies in shallow water, generally between six and ten metres deep. The position given for the original designation application was "50.03.24N 05.17.06W" – presumably in degrees, minutes and seconds, datum unknown, but probably OSGB36? Bearing in mind that this was derived in the days before GPS this position should be viewed as approximate.

In 2006 local divers began recovering material from the seabed. This material was declared to the receiver of wreck and was apparently from the St Anthony. This was possible because the area of the designation did not encompass the area of the wreck. Accordingly in September 2006 the site was re-designated – the new area is a circle of 150m radius centred on 50 03.335N 05 16.911W (WGS84).

1.2 Previous work

The objects were recorded by the author in 2004. Reference was made to the objects themselves and to the partial finds records held by Tony Randall, licensee of the site from 1986.



St Anthony finds on display at Pengersick Castle, Praa Sands, Cornwall

From the recorded recovery dates of artefacts it would appear that excavation was undertaken in 1981, 1983 and 1993. Excavation may have been undertaken in other years but these are the only dates of recovery I have discovered so far. No work has been undertaken on the site for the last ten years. Tony Randall, who is now retired, lives in Spain. He has loaned his finds from the St Anthony to Pengersick Castle (Praa Sands, Cornwall) for public display. Finds from the St Anthony are also on display in the Charlestown Shipwreck Museum and in the British Museum. A number of the other members of the team also have finds from the St Anthony, including Richard Larn, Mike Hall and Ken Simpson. Local divers declared objects recovered from the St Anthony to the Receiver of Wreck in 2006. The principal of these, Jason Rosevear (holder of a visitor licence for the site 2004/5) has declined to allow recording of the objects he has recovered from the wreck.

1.3 Reasons for the project

No proper record of the items recovered from this wreck exists. The relatively early date of the wreck (1527 – earlier than the Mary Rose) and the existence of an inventory of the St Anthony's cargo² make this an important assemblage of material.

1.4 Archive deposition

The record will be deposited with:

The National Monuments Record (EH)
Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record
English Heritage (Maritime)
Archaeology Data Service



The shore as seen from the site



Aggregate extraction on the beach adjacent to the site

² Petition to Henry VIII from Francisco Pessoa, an agent of John III, and defendants' answer to Star Chamber (SP 140) .

2 Objectives

2.1 Research design

The existing record of the objects has been prepared for deposition with the NMR and ADS. The data fields have been updated so that they conform with the existing NMR thesauri. The file types and structures have been made compliant with the ADS input requirements. In addition, the metadata required by ADS has been generated.

2.2 Publication and presentation

Copies of the object record and photographs will be deposited with:

The National Monuments Record (EH)
Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Record
English Heritage (Maritime)
Archaeological Data Service

The record will be stored as a text CSV file stored on DVD ROM. This format is accessible to all currently available database programmes. The photographs will also be included on the DVD ROM as jpeg compressed files. If required, the photographs can also be supplied as uncompressed tiff files – these however are very large and are not suitable for use in online databases.

The storage of the object record with the Archaeology Data Service will ensure its long term viability as well as providing online access to the information.

3 Methodology

3.1 Scope

There are 305 records in the St Anthony database and 687 digital photographs. The total size of the digital record is about 1 Gigabyte. All the known objects recovered from the site have been included in the finds database with the exception of those recovered in 2006 by Jason Rosevear – who would not allow recording of the objects he holds. These objects have apparently been declared to the receiver of wreck.

3.2 Recording

The majority of the objects recorded are on display at Pengersick Castle. Some objects recovered from the wreck are also held at the British Museum and Charlestown Museum and some are in private hands.

All recorded measurements are in millimetres. Where the weight of an object may be relevant (for example ingots and shot) this was recorded in grams. Weights were taken using an ordinary spring balance; hence the recorded weights should be considered as indicative rather than exact.

The photographs were taken using a Sony D10 digital camera. The camera was mounted on a copy stand and natural light was used for illumination. All photographs include a metric scale within the frame of the photograph. All photographs are stored as JPEG files.

3.2.2 Data Fields

Data Field	Data type	Notes and NMR Thesaurus
ID No	Number	Unique identifier. Note that some numbers in the sequence were not used – in which case the record is marked <number not used>
O class	Text	Object class in <mda archaeological objects> or <Test thesaurus fixtures and fittings – Ship fittings> where relevant entries exist
O type	Text	Object type in <mda archaeological objects> or <Test thesaurus fixtures and fittings – Ship fittings> where relevant entries exist
O name	Text	Object name - Preferred term in <mda archaeological objects> or <test thesaurus fixtures and fittings – ship fittings> where relevant entries exist
Material	Text	<RCHME building materials> where relevant entries exist
Numbers	Numeric	Where multiple and numerous identical objects exist (eg 5 musket balls) this field shows how many there are.
Description	Text	Description of the object
Condition	Text	<REP93 condition>
DIM	Text	Dimensions in mm
Weight	Numeric	Weight of object in grams – only recorded for items such as ingots, shot etc where weight is relevant
FDate	Text	Find date – the date the object was recovered where known.
Marked	Text	Where the object is marked with a number or identifier this is recorded.
Acquisition date	Text	Date acquired or recovered, where known
Current location	Text	Where the object was located when the finds record was made.
Photographs	Text	Photos – each photograph has a unique number recorded here. Most objects have more than one photograph.
Notes	Text	Used for additional information.

3.2.3 Abbreviations used in the record

Location of objects

BM British Museum
 CSM Charlestown Shipwreck Museum
 LHC Longstone Heritage Centre, Isles of Scilly
 MH Mike Hall, Ruan Minor, Cornwall
 PC Pengerisick Castle, Praa Sands, Cornwall
 RL Richard Larn, Isles of Scilly

4 Results

4.1 What was recorded

The objects now at Pengersick castle were all measured, described and photographed prior to their display at the castle. Those at Charlestown were recorded as part of the recording of designated wreck material at the Charlestown Museum undertaken last year. The objects on display at the British Museum were also described and photographed without removing them from the display cases. Those objects in the reserve collection of the British Museum were not seen but details were taken from the BM's Merlin database. Objects held by private individuals are noted in the database with the exception of those objects recovered by Jason Rosevear in 2006.

Location	Number of Objects
British Museum	6
Chalestown Shipwreck Museum	26
Longstone Heritage Centre	1
Mike Hall	?
Pengersick Castle	231
Richard Larn	1
Lost	c.20

4.2 Metadata

The following is the metadata for the finds record – it follows the layout suggested by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in their guidelines for depositors.

Title	St Anthony finds recording project
Description	A record of the finds recovered from the designated wreck site the <i>St Anthony</i> . Described as a 'fine ship' belonging to King John III of Portugal, the <i>St Anthony</i> was wrecked on 19 th January 1527 while sailing from Flanders to Portugal. The vessel had a crew of 86 and was carrying a valuable cargo – including silver and copper ingots, candle sticks, bowls and fine cloth
Subject	Maritime, wreck, watercraft, museum, designated wreck, artifacts from shipwrecks
Coverage	Village – Gunwalloe Fishing Cove. Town – near Helston – Cornwall. Country – United Kingdom. Period – 16 th century
Creators	Compiled by Kevin Camidge, commissioned by English Heritage
Publisher	Unpublished
Dates	Dataset created 2004 - 2007
Copyright	Copyright English Heritage
Relations	This is a record of material recovered from the designated wreck site of the <i>St Anthony</i> wrecked at Gunwalloe in 1527.
Language	English
Resource type	Artifact record
Format	Artifact record – Microsoft Excel (XLS) and ASCII (CSV) file. Photographs stored as JPEG (JPG) files. This report Microsoft Word (DOC).

The finds record and photographs are stored on the DVD ROM – which is located in section 5 of this report. The finds record is stored in two different formats; as a Microsoft Excel (2003) file and an ASCII CSV file (readable by any database programme). The first line of the CSV file contains the record field headings. Subsequent lines contain a finds record, each field separated by commas. The fields are ordered and formatted as described in the table in section 3.2.2 above. The photographs are stored as digital JPEG files. The filename of the photographs is constructed from the project title (St_Anthony_Finds_) followed by the photo number. The photo numbers for each object are stored in the *photographs* field of each object record. All filenames conform to the ADS filename format specified in their guidelines for depositors (alpha numeric characters and underscore are the only characters used).

Folder	Filename	Description	Format
	St_Anthony_Finds_Report.doc	This report	Microsoft Word (DOC)
Finds_Record	St_Anthony_Finds.xls	The finds record. 1 file	Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet (XLS)
Finds_Record	St_Anthony_Finds.csv	The finds record. 1 file	Comma delimited ASCII file (CSV)
Photographs	St_Anthony_Finds_1.JPG to St_Anthony_Finds_687.JPG	Object photographs. 687 files	JPEG

Table showing the contents of the DVD ROM – see section 5

4.3 The NMR thesauri

For each data field of the finds record, the NMR thesaurus which was used is shown in table 3.2.2 above. In a few cases there was no suitable term in any of the NMR thesauri – these are detailed below.

Material (RCHME building materials)

It is often not possible to distinguish between copper, brass and bronze by visual inspection – especially when the objects are much corroded. This is often the case when they have been submerged in seawater. Accordingly, where no positive identification was possible, the term *copper alloy* has been used to describe the material.

Object name (MDA Archaeological Objects or Test Thesaurus Ship Fittings)

A number of difficulties were encountered in finding suitable terms in the relevant thesauri. These were mainly where a positive identification of the object concerned was not possible. These are detailed in the table below.

Anode	Object 173 was a zinc anode, probably an intrusive object from a 19/20 th century vessel. Interestingly Humphry Davy in 1824 employed iron anodes to reduce corrosion of copper sheathing on ships.
Sheet lead	A number of fragments of lead sheet were recorded. The exact function of these items could not be identified. These were recorded with an object name of sheet, with no object class or type being recorded.
Handle	It is quite common to be able to identify an object as a handle without being able to say what class or type of object the handle is from. Object name recorded as handle, class and type left blank.
Dice shot	A number of composit lead/iron dice shot were recovered from this wreck. The object name has been recorded as shot.
Unidentified	Several objects were recorded which could not be identified (90-93, 131, 246 and 295). These were assigned the object name <i>object</i> , but class and type were left blank.

5 The DVD ROM (Finds record & digital photographs)