

After closing in 1998 South Crofty will again open for mining

Strongbow Exploration's 100% owned South Crofty tin project is located in the Central Mining District of Cornwall, in the towns of Pool and Camborne, South West England.

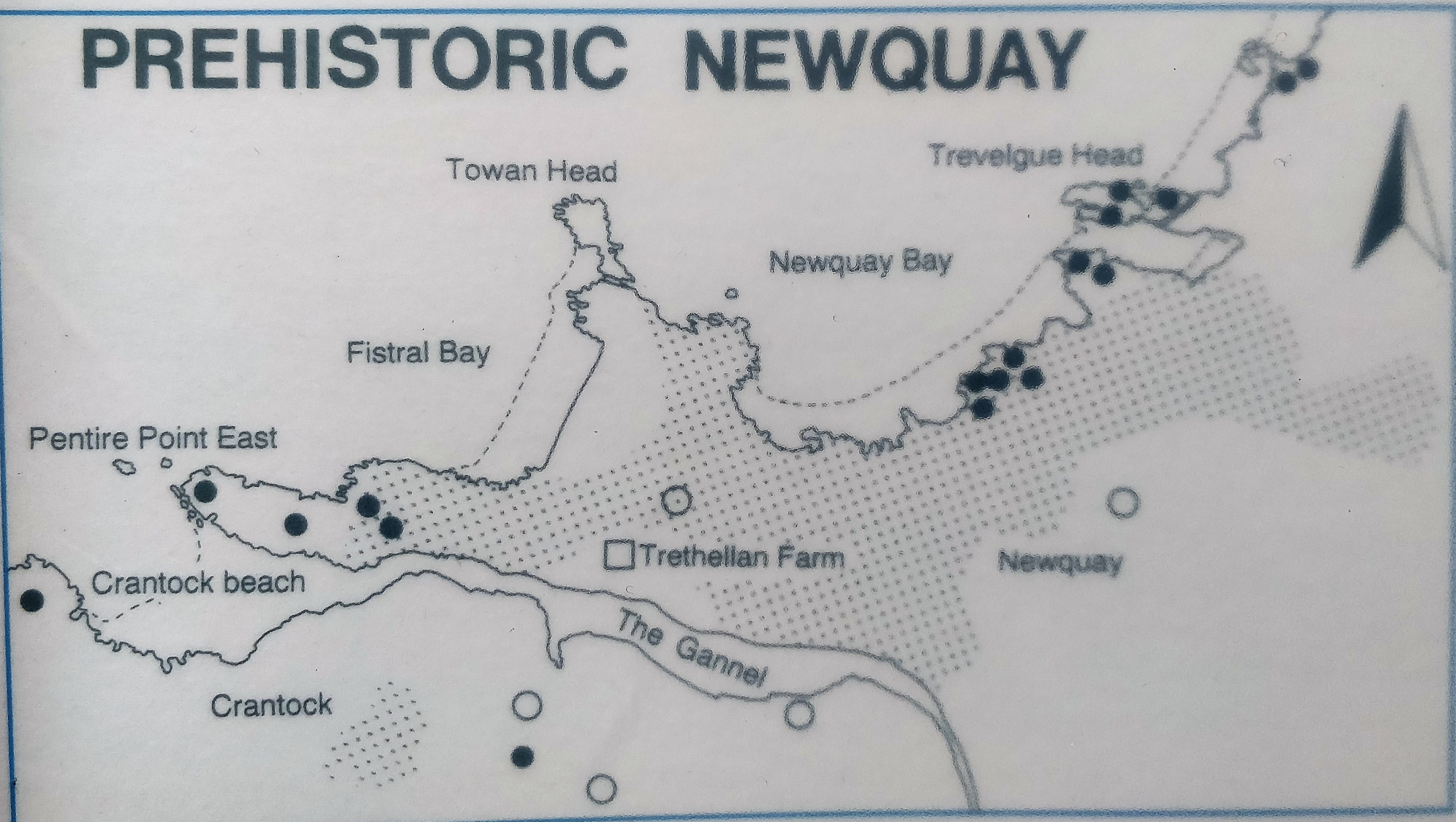
Tin mining in this region dates back to 2,300 B.C. Large-scale production at South Crofty first started in the mid-1600s (the first documented production dated in 1592). The mine has been in operation intermittently since then, with the last closure in 1998 coming after a prolonged period of depressed tin prices. Historical production from 1700 to 1998 totalled over 450,000 tonnes of tin from the Central Mining District.

In March 2016, Strongbow entered into an agreement with Galena Special Situations Fund and Tin Shield Production Inc. to acquire a 100% interest in Western United Mines Ltd. ("WUML") and Cornish Minerals Limited (Bermuda) (the "Companies"), which owned the South Crofty tin project plus additional mineral rights over a further 7,500 hectares located in various parts of Cornwall. The closing of the acquisition was announced on July 12, 2016.

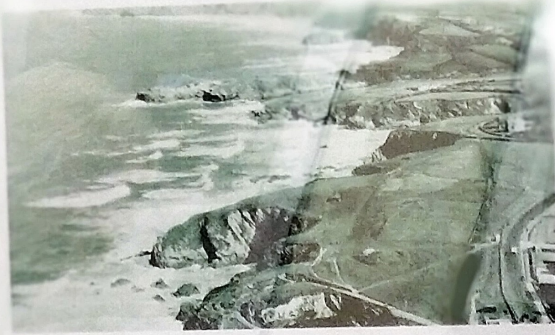
The South Crofty project is fully permitted, having underground permission (mining licence) valid until 2071, planning permission to construct a new process plant and a permit from the Environment Agency to dewater the mine. Strongbow is now focused on the construction of a water treatment plant so the now-flooded mine can be dewatered. Strongbow plans to bring the project to a project decision and complete a feasibility study in parallel with the mine dewatering process.

The underground permission area covers 1,490 hectares and includes 26 former producing mines. Current infrastructure on the property includes four usable vertical shafts and a 300-meter decline. Regional infrastructure includes excellent access to power, roads and rail. The process plant site is adjacent to the railway line and accessible grid power crosses the property. South Crofty mineralisation occurs in laterally extensive lode structures, with some over 4 kilometres long, and extending to a vertical depth of at least 1,000 meters.

PREHISTORIC NEWQUAY



TREVELGUE HEAD



The stretch of coast from Holywell Bay to Park Head has been inhabited for, possibly, 10,000 years. Over this period the most consistently used site has been Trevelgue Head or, to most Newquay people, Porth Island.

Excavations have revealed, in the form of worked flints, evidence of populations from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The large barrows on the Headland and along the coast date from the early Bronze Age and occupation continued into the late Bronze Age.

During the Iron Age, 800 to 100 BC there was a major settlement featuring a large round house and evidence of iron working on an industrial scale which continued for some 300 years. Fragments of pottery and a large number of coins indicate continued use from the 1st to 5th centuries AD.

The most detailed investigations of the site were the 1939 excavations directed by C. K. Croft Andrew and the 1983 surveys to aid the long term Scheduled Monument Management Programme. The onset of the Second World War and other factors delayed publication of results until 2011 and the information presented is provided courtesy of the authors.

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Trevelgue in recent times

Trevelgue Head is a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the care of Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service. It is also a popular area both for local people and for visitors and is therefore prone to erosion of the pathways in addition to that arising from wind, weather and sea.

These problems are addressed by the county wide scheduled monument management programme with guidance from English Heritage. Erosion of the prominent barrow was a particular problem and corrective works in 2003 included the delivery of some 50 tons of gravel and soil by helicopter.



Photographs: Chris Burkett

Erosion also reveals new finds, particularly of flints and of the exposed surfaces of the midden on the south side of the island. These have been monitored over a prolonged period by NOCS members Steve Hebdige and Sheila Harper.



Slag from iron smelting

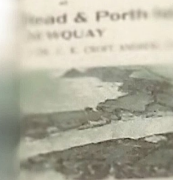


Animal bone – cut marks

Both these objects were photographed "in situ" and not disturbed

PREHISTORIC FUKING

EXCAVATED



Early in 1939 the decision was taken to commence the excavation of the site and Charles Kenneth Croft Andrew, a respected field archaeologist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, was appointed Hon. Director of the project. Funding of £ 200 was required which was raised by private and public donations, notably a grant from the Publicity Committee of Newquay Urban Council.

A decision was also made in the light of the high unemployment at the time to use paid manual labour. Pay averaged 1 shilling per hour over a 40 hour week plus 1s 7d National Insurance stamp. Croft Andrew received £2-17s-6d per week plus accommodation in Arundel Way. The workforce was somewhat unreliable, being unaccustomed to the care required of them, and the dig came to rely increasingly on the assistance of unpaid volunteers including holiday makers and, notably, members of Newquay Old Cornwall Society.

Work began in July 1939 but bad weather made progress difficult as rain caused flooding in some areas of the site. In August the team was strengthened by the arrival of Dr. F J Tritsch, an experienced Austrian archaeologist, who added important technical skills to the team.

A professional Newquay photographer, Paul Drake, was retained to take large format pictures of the work at a cost of 5 shillings per print.

INVESTIGATING THE SITE



Unlike some archaeological remains barrows and cliff castles were prominent features in the landscape. They were regarded perhaps, with some superstition, as being associated with long departed peoples or possibly as the homes of piskies or other mysterious creatures. Whilst some may have been opened in search of treasure most remained untouched over the centuries.

Cornwall's early historians notably Richard Carew in the 17th and William Borlase in the 18th centuries made little reference to them and scientific advances of those times were more concerned with the advancement of science and engineering than academic studies of past peoples. Borlase consigned any pre-Roman sites to the broad definition of "druids".

By the 19th century much of the mystery surrounding barrows had disappeared and many were wantonly destroyed to clear land for cultivation or to rob out stone for field boundaries. Bones, ashes and pottery fragments disturbed were only regarded as "soil improvers". Typical of this were the actions of farmer Richard Cardell in Newquay who, in 1818, cleared the majority of barrows from what is now the "Barrowfields".

Some remains were however conserved as was the funerary urn discovered by workmen at Glendorgal in 1850.

It was the leisured classes of the early 20th century who first inspired by tales such as the Arthurian legends and then by a growing interest in Cornish history and language that were able to turn their attention to the history and meaning of the barrows and their associated sites.

INVESTIGATING THE SITE, CONTINUED



Trench showing ditch in foreground and section across rampart



Trench showing excavated midden or waste dump

The trenches across the site produced a great number of finds which served both to assist in dating the site and in determining the activities which took place there.

Pottery:

4257 sherds of pottery were identified their composition and decoration allowing dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods. The majority of items were from the Middle Iron Age and of Cornish manufacture. Much of the Roman wares were also of Cornish manufacture but one amphora was imported possible in the 5th century AD.

Small objects:

A number of small domestic objects were found including a copper alloy lynch pin, iron knives, finger rings and glass beads.

Metal working:

Trevelgue is of National importance to the history of metalworking in Britain with evidence of iron mining, smelting and of bronze and tin working over a period of some 800 years.

INVESTIGATING THE SITE, CONTINUED

Stone:

Some 20,000 pieces were recovered during the excavations most being used as hammer stones, slingshots, whetstones etc.

A number had been worked or shaped producing spindle whorls, beads querns or other domestic items.

Flints:

Large quantities of flints were found identified as from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and early Iron Age. This confirms the very long period of habitation on the site and reminds us that flint knives, arrow heads, scrapers etc. were used long after the introduction of metals.

Food:

As may be expected from the sea side location large quantities of mussels and limpets were consumed with shells forming large parts of the refuse dumps.

Animal bones indicate the consumption of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs together with occasional examples of red deer. The nature of the site suggests that animals would have been raised in more sheltered inland areas and brought to Trevelgue as required for food.

Coins:

88 coins, all Roman, were discovered on the site a larger number than from any Cornish site apart from Nour Nour in Scilly. Most came from the in-fill of House 1 but this had itself been taken from across the site. Apart from one coin each from Vespasian and Trajan all dated to the 3rd century AD. The distribution of the coins suggest deposition over a period of time not the burying of a hoard.

The distribution of coins is unusual for a British site with a predominance of those dating from AD 348 to AD 378. Overall the coins indicate a period of activity from AD 320 to AD 400 with the greatest activity from AD 348 to AD 400. Two possibilities have been considered regarding the source of the coins; trade through Devon and Somerset or trade by sea with the Atlantic coast of Europe. The period is late for Roman military occupation although this is a clear probability in earlier centuries and comparison with Nour Nour which was clearly a shrine means that some cult activity may have occurred.

Later Prehistoric Settlement around Newquay

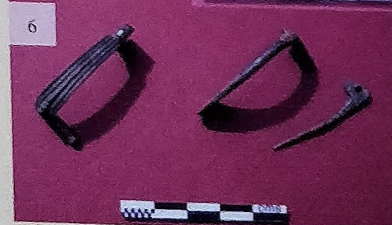
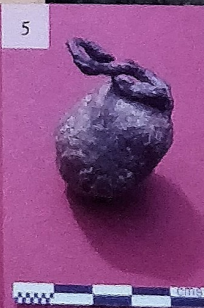
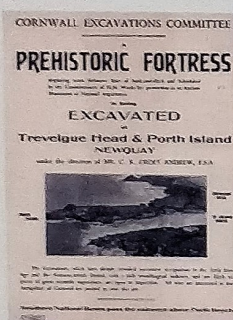
Excavations at Atlantic Road have provided evidence of the late Iron Age (100 BC – AD 43) and Romano-British periods (AD 43 – 410). The remains of buildings and hearths as well as evidence for stock and arable farming were found.

Other possible prehistoric sites include rounds (enclosed settlements) at Treringey, Trevella Farm and 'Castle Meadow' near St Piran's Road.

Two Bronze Age barrows and an impressive Iron Age promontory cliff castle are situated on Trelvague Head, which lies on the northern outskirts of Newquay.

This natural harbour has always been one of the very few good havens along this stretch of the North Cornish coast.

The cliff castle is defined by seven large stone and earth ramparts and rock-cut ditches. Evidence for round houses, middens (rubbish dumps) and industrial metal-working has been found. Probably occupied seasonally for over 300 years, the site would have attracted specialist workers and traders in iron ore. The quarrying of local lodes is the likely cause of the large gap between the ramparts which is spanned by a footbridge today. After the 1st century BC the significance of the site appears to have waned.



- 1: Poster advertising the 1939 excavations on Trelvague Head produced by the Cornwall Excavations Committee.
© Trelvague Head Archive, Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.
- 2: Stone hearth pit found during excavations at Atlantic Road in 1998. Stone footings for round houses, rubbish dumps full of pottery, metalwork, animal bone and shell were discovered. The insubstantial character of the buildings could suggest temporary or seasonal occupation. © HES, CCC.
- 3: Aerial photograph of Trelvague Head Cliff Castle.
© S Hartgroves for HES, CCC. F66.
- 4, 5, 6: The middens contained a wealth of finds. Eighty-three metal objects including an iron wool carding comb (4), a lead weight (5) and two copper alloy brooches (6) were found together with glass beads, stone spindle whorls, whetstones and iron objects. © HES, CCC.
- 7: Roman plough marks discovered during excavations at Atlantic Road. © HES, CCC.

NEWQUAY HERITAGE ARCHIVE & MUSEUM

NEWQUAY'S PREHISTORIC & ANCIENT PAST

The coast near Newquay is strewn with defensive earthworks and burials from the barrows at Whipsiderry to the cliff castle on the Kelseys.

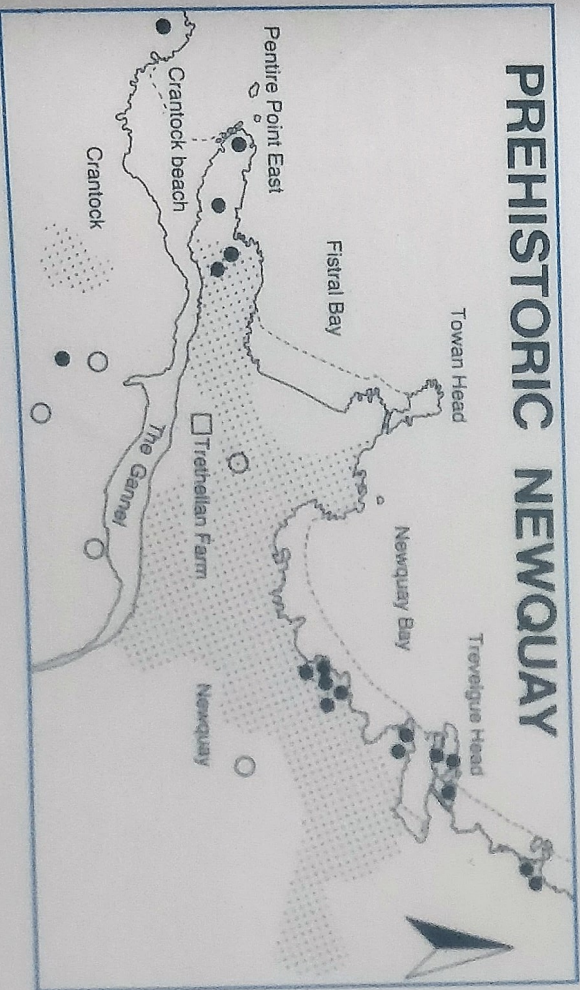
These date from the Neolithic period, some 2,000 years B.C., through to the late Iron Age; with evidence in associated areas, such as Atlantic Road, of habitation into the early centuries A.D.

Trevelgue Head is the most important of these sites and is one of the most heavily defended headlands in Cornwall. The sea, possibly helped by excavation, has broken through at the narrowest point of the headland leaving an island known locally as **Porth Island**.

The entire headland is scheduled as an ancient monument and is situated in areas designated as being of great historic and scientific value.

The headland contains a cliff castle protecting the island and two Bronze Age barrows. The series of large earth and stone ramparts embrace a large Iron Age settlement with an adjacent contemporary field system.

PREHISTORIC NEWQUAY



The Romano-British Pentire Neck Ring found at Pentire. A replica can be seen at the museum



In 1987 the discovery of a very well preserved lowland settlement in Newquay at **Trethellan Farm** led to one of the most extensive Cornish archaeological excavations in recent years. This uncovered the remains of a well preserved Bronze Age farming settlement [1500-1300 BCE], this community lived here for only a few hundred years before the site was deserted.

In approximately the 3rd century BCE the site was used as an Iron Age burial ground until approximately 100 AD. The dates for the use of this area by prehistoric communities is evidenced by pottery and metal work found at the site.

The site was then totally covered with soil, blanketing the entire area and preserving the site. A later medieval farm existed until replaced by a late 20th century housing development. This is when the prehistoric discovery was made.