

## DATED GRANITE BLOCK SOUTH OF QUARTER WALL

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This brief report describes the discovery of a dated granite block from beneath the main track immediately south of Quarter Wall (NGR SS 1357 4487).

One of the tasks allotted to the Lundy Field Society Working Party in October 1990 was to remove the drainage gully underneath the main track at Quarter Wall and replace it with a plastic pipe to offer protection from the pressure of vehicles. During the course of the excavation by Trevor Seach and Richard Annear, a dressed granite block was found buried 15cm beneath the track, the bottom face inscribed with the date 1864.

The block has dimensions of 62cm long, 27cm wide and is 20cm thick (24" x 10" x 8") while the characters are 13cm (5") tall. The manner in which the stone was dressed, the date and its location all suggest it might originally have been set in one of the walls either at Old Quarry Cottages or, perhaps more likely, Quarter Wall Cottages (NGR SS 1357 4494). Both were built to provide accommodation for quarry workers employed by the Lundy Granite Company between 1863 and 1868. The Quarter Wall Cottages were dismantled sometime after 1868 to provide building stone for Signal Cottages and the church. It would appear likely that the stone, rather than being reused in construction, was transported the short distance and used for track repairs or drainage works. Another possibility is that it might be associated with other evidence for post-medieval occupation occurring in the immediate area, although pottery found to date would appear to suggest an earlier 17th or 18th century date (Schofield 1988,36). Whatever its association, the only reason for deliberate placement would seem to be connected with track improvement or drainage.

The block has been temporarily set in soil, date uppermost, on the west side of the track to the south-west of Quarter Wall gate. Further examination and a decision about resiting it will presumably emerge from the ongoing survey by the National Trust (Claris 1989; this volume).

### REFERENCES

- Claris, P.D. 1989. Historic Landscape Survey of Lundy: an introduction. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 40, 48-9.
- Schofield, A.J. 1988. Archaeological Fieldwork 1988: the results of test-pit excavations and geophysical survey south of Quarter Wall. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 39, 31-45.