



# Castle an Dinas, St Columb Major, Cornwall

## Management and interpretation works



**Historic Environment Projects**



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## **Acknowledgements**

This report describes management and interpretation works at Castle an Dinas in mid Cornwall co-ordinated by the projects team of the Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (formerly Historic Environment, Cornwall County Council).

Work on the site was carried out by John and Anthony Hart; the interpretive paintings of the site were by local artist Jane Stanley. At all stages there was close consultation with Tony Blackman, Philip Hills and Gerry Brain of the Cornwall Heritage Trust.

The work was undertaken as part of 'Conserving Cornwall's Past' project: a project funded jointly by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Council and other partners. Tom Fletcher, of Cornwall County Council's Countryside Access section, arranged funding for scrub clearance from Natural England's Access Management grant scheme. The overall Project Manager was Ann Preston-Jones; with advice on the reconstruction paintings from Andy Jones, Graeme Kirkham and Jacky Nowakowski of Historic Environment. Andy Jones liaised with Joan Taylor, who kindly supplied photos of the 1960s excavation.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

## **Freedom of Information Act**

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

Within the Historic Environment Service, the Project Manager was Ann Preston-Jones.



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## **Cover illustration**

Building the Bronze Age barrow at Castle an Dinas by Jane Stanley

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## Abbreviations

CHT	Cornwall Heritage Trust
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
RCM	Royal Cornwall Museum
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

## **1 Summary**

This report describes work undertaken at Castle an Dinas in St Columb Major, in 2008-2010, in liaison with the owners of the site, the Cornwall Heritage Trust. The purpose of the work, which involved scrub clearance, the demolition of an eyesore and re-use of the rubble from this to reconstruct a damaged section of rampart at the entrance to the fort, was to improve the condition and accessibility of the monument. In addition, the project involved extensive liaison with local artist Jane Stanley in the production of a series of paintings illustrating the site's history which will be used in interpretation and educational activities on the site.

Located at SW 9454 6236, the site is a Scheduled Monument, Cornwall 93, and number 21602 in Cornwall's Historic Buildings, Sites and monuments Record.





## Introduction

Castle an Dinas is an impressive multi-vallate hillfort in Mid Cornwall owned and managed by the Cornwall Heritage Trust (CHT). This report describes work undertaken here in liaison with the CHT to improve the condition and interpretation of the monument. The management work involved scrub clearance, the demolition of an eyesore and re-use of the rubble from this to reconstruct a damaged section of rampart at the entrance to the fort.

In the course of the project the possibility of ensuring the long-term well being of the site through a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement arose, and facilitating this opportunity through negotiation with Natural England became a significant part of the project.

An initial plan to replace an out-of-date interpretation board was put on hold with the prospect of alternative funding through the proposed HLS agreement. Instead, however, a series of paintings illustrating significant phases in the history of the site were commissioned from a local artist and these will form the basis of a new interpretive scheme in the near future.

### 1.1 Project background

This project first came about through discussion with Carl Roberts, then vice-Chairman of the Cornwall Heritage Trust and with particular responsibility for Castle an Dinas. He had two particular aims in mind, which he wished to achieve before stepping down from active involvement in the management of the site. These were the demolition of a concrete water tank, a notable eyesore built into the ramparts of the fort on the east; and replacement of the aged interpretation board which greets visitors to the site, which anyhow refers more to the wildlife than the spectacular monument. Historic Environment (HE: then the Historic Environment Service) agreed to help in both of these objectives through Conserving Cornwall's Past; though as circumstances changed and other opportunities arose the final project differed slightly in detail from the original concept, while retaining its overall aims.

## 2 Castle an Dinas

Located in mid Cornwall on a hilltop overlooking Goss Moor, Castle an Dinas is a large and roughly circular Iron Age hill fort with four well-preserved concentric ramparts forming a formidable defence. The fact that the third rampart is a very much slighter feature than the others may suggest an early prehistoric origin, while within the central enclosed area are the remains of two Bronze Age round barrows.

Castle an Dinas has legendary associations with the Dukes of Cornwall and King Arthur and has been the subject of extensive antiquarian description and recording but only one known archaeological intervention; this was in the 1960s when a few trenches were cut by Bernard Wailes (see Fig 13). Unfortunately, although the results of this excavation have appeared as short interim reports in *Cornish Archaeology* (Wailes 1963, 1964, 1965), they have never been properly published.

Despite the fact that mining remains are abundantly recorded on the surrounding Castle Downs, the fort itself has seen relatively little modern disturbance. There is a small quarry near the centre and in a couple of places the ramparts have been flattened to provide level stances for the pylons that carried an aerial ropeway from Castle an Dinas mine to the north of the fort with its processing works on the south. A roughly surfaced track, also linking the two parts of the mine, ran across the south-eastern side of the fort, taking a route between the two outermost ramparts. In the course of research for the project it was recognised with some interest and concern that a pond on the north of the fort's interior is actually on the site of a ventilation shaft of the mine.

Though formerly part of an extensive area of downland, the land around the fort was enclosed and agriculturally improved within the 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving the fort (and narrow strips of land to north and south containing the mining remains) as a small fragment of rough ground in a swathe of bright green improved pasture (see Figs 2 and 3).

When the surrounding area was still rough ground, access to the monument was through its original entrance on the south-west (Fig 2). However, enclosure of the area resulted in a realignment of access to the south-south-east (Fig 3) thereby resulting in one of the problems which the project sought to address.

### **2.1.1 Assessment of the significance of the monument**

Castle an Dinas is one of the largest and best-surviving hillforts in Cornwall, and without doubt one of the County's most outstanding monuments. Despite past problems with localised erosion and scrub and bracken infestation, there is a strong possibility of well-preserved below-ground remains.

### **2.1.2 Ownership**

Previously a holding of the Duchy of Cornwall, Castle an Dinas has been in the ownership and management of the Cornwall Heritage Trust for over twenty years. A small strip on the eastern perimeter of the fort which remained outside CHT ownership for many years has recently been acquired; as a result, and fencing re-aligned around the outside edge of the monument.

### **2.1.3 Amenity value**

Being one of the best-preserved and arguably the most famous hillfort in Cornwall, in the ownership of a charitable trust, Castle an Dinas has high amenity value. It lies relatively close to the A30 trunk road and it has ample car parking space. Two interpretation boards, one in the car park and one at the entrance to the site, provide information for visitors.

## **3 Condition of the monument**

Being the last fragment of downland in the area to remain unimproved, Castle an Dinas has a cover of rough grass, some gorse, and bracken (evident in the summer); while heather grows on the ramparts in some places. Over the last two decades, previously extensive spreads of bracken and gorse have been reduced and controlled by ad hoc cutting, herbicide spraying and grazing with sheep.

Unfortunately, an absence of grazing over the two years prior to this project had allowed gorse and bracken to regenerate to the extent that the site looked untidy, and was not as visible and accessible as usual.

The Cornwall Heritage Trust was keen to address this and one or two other localised problems. These were as follows (Fig 4):

- The original entrance to the hillfort is on the south-west. However visitors to the site approach from the south-south-east along the line of the track created to link Castle an Dinas mine with its processing works. Due to a 5 metre-wide break in the second rampart caused by the levelling of a section for the aerial ropeway (Fig 5); visitors have tended to follow the straight line up and over the inner rampart to the centre of the fort. This desire line, clearly seen on the air photo, Fig 3 was causing erosion at this point where both visitors and grazing stock climbed over the inner rampart to gain access to the interior of the fort.
- The remains of a redundant 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete tank on the outer rampart on the east represented a scar affecting the integrity of the Iron Age hillfort. This tank, which measured approximately 5 metres by 3.5 was also a potential safety hazard since at one point there was a drop of 2 metres to the interior and the broken tops of the walls had sections of metal reinforcing sticking out of them in places (Fig 6).
- An interpretation board erected outside the site in the late 1980s is out of date and in need of replacement; in any case it focuses on the wildlife aspects of the site, rather than the archaeological.
- After two years without grazing, the vegetation was in need of cutting to open up the earthworks and prevent the spread of invasive species, prior to a re-introduction of grazing (Fig 7).

## **4 Project aims**

The aims of the project were therefore to:

- Demolish the old concrete water tank, built into the ramparts on the eastern side of the monument.

- Use rubble from the tank to help rebuild a modern gap in the middle rampart on the south-south-east, and encourage the alternative use of the original entrance to the site on the south-west.
- Undertake scrub clearance to improve the presentation of and access to the hillfort.
- Update the interpretation of this significant site.

Allied to this, HE also commissioned educational work to improve understanding of the Iron Age in Cornwall. This involved

- Working with Sense of Place to update an 'Iron Age Kernow' work unit for Key Stage 2 pupils.
- Commissioning the Royal Cornwall Museum to redevelop their KS2 'Romans and Celts' workshop at the museum and develop a loans box for use by schools.

## **5 Results of the management work**

The majority of the work was carried out in early 2009. The interpretive and educational work was in development over a much longer period, from 2008 to 2010.

### **5.1 Scrub clearance**

Scrub clearance work was facilitated by Tom Fletcher of Cornwall County Council's Countryside Access section, with funding from Natural England's Access Management grant scheme.

Prior to scrub clearance taking place, the site was cloaked in thick grasses (Molinia-dominated), with European gorse up to a metre high general throughout the areas of Molinia. There was also some heather, a few trees and much bracken (Fig 7). Access was restricted to a few narrow paths.

The scrub clearance was carried out by Anthony Hart on three days in late January/early February 2009, using a tractor-mounted flail. As much of the site as could be reached with the flail was cut: this included all flat areas, and the banks and ditches where accessible for the tractor.

The work was highly effective: leaving the site clearly visible and fully accessible.

### **5.2 Demolition of the water tank**

The concrete water tank located in the outer ditch reflects agricultural improvement of the surrounding downs in the twentieth century. It therefore has significance in the history of the site, but is clearly not its most important attribute. The decision was therefore taken not to remove it entirely, but to leave the base in the ground and cover it over. This would have the further benefit of reducing the risk to the Iron Age ramparts that might have been posed by fully excavating out the tank.

Demolition of the tank was undertaken by John Hart on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009; an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Dick Cole.

To minimise damage to the ground, the work was done using a tracked mini-digger (Fig 8). A tractor with trailer conveyed the demolition material to the point where it was to be used in restoring the rampart.

The tank was not completely removed: only the parts that protrude above the ground were demolished; then the resulting platform was levelled, covered with soil, and left to re-vegetate naturally. No re-seeding or re-turfing was considered necessary since the location is relatively inconspicuous.

Two years later, the site now appears as a rectangular grass-covered platform where the former presence of the tank would hardly be suspected. Only the level platform in the ditch gives a clue to its existence (Fig 9).

### **5.3 Bank construction**

Material from the tank was re-used on site as the core for the reconstructed section of rampart on the south (for location, see Fig 4).

Here, the rampart had been cut through in the twentieth century to create a level stance for one of the pylons supporting the aerial ropeway which straddled the site when the Castle an Dinas wolfram mine was in operation. However, the existence of the gap here was proving detrimental to the monument, for it encouraged visitors to the site to head through the gap and straight over the inner rampart to reach the interior of the fort, thereby leading to significant erosion to the inner rampart at this point. After numerous attempts to prevent access this way by signing and fencing and repairs to the inner rampart, it was finally decided that the best way to prevent access would be to fill the gap in.

The work was carried out in tandem with the removal of the concrete tank, by John Hart and team on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The work was supervised by Dick Cole for the Historic Environment Service.

In practice the work involved:

- Turf was lifted from the gap in the rampart, along the line of the new barrier/bank and set aside for re-turfing the reconstructed rampart afterwards.
- Rubble from removal of the tank was used at the core of the reconstruction so that the material would not be visible afterwards.
- The rubble was laid to create a bank of approximately 3 metres wide and one metre high, following the line of the outer (southern) edge of the rampart.
- The bank of rubble was covered over with a layer of topsoil sufficient to ensure that none of the underlying rubble was visible. This topsoil was brought in from outside the Scheduled area of the site.
- The front face and part of the top of the bank were re-turfed, with turf taken from beneath the bank; the remainder was left to regenerate naturally.

The bank was filled in with respect to the adjacent ropeway base, by building a bank which is slighter than, but aligned with the front face of the main rampart, so leaving the ropeway base as a visible and extant feature in the ditch to the rear.

Two years later, the repair looks excellent and seems to be working in terms of preventing access to the top of the hill at this point. Helped also by a small sign, visitors are clearly now using the original entrance to the site. Both inner and outer faces of the reconstructed bank are fully grassed over and although this section of the bank stands out because it is very much greener than the rampart to either side, with time it will undoubtedly develop a rougher vegetation cover which blends in seamlessly. There is a slight pathway up the inner rampart beyond, but this appears to be a sheep track, rather than a footpath worn by visitors.

## 6 Interpretation

Interpretation for Castle an Dinas has been a much-debated issue over the last two years. It is generally accepted that the existing interpretation board at the entrance to the site is both out-of-date and inappropriate; however the difficulty has been to decide what to replace it with. Plans have varied from one board only (the original idea), to a range of on-site boards interpreting different aspects of the monument, to a small interpretation 'centre' in the car park. Although there had been an initial plan to help with interpretation as part of this project, this was abandoned once it was realised that some aspects might be funded by Natural England through a proposed Higher Level Stewardship scheme. However, the project helped instead with the development of a major series of reconstruction paintings illustrating different phases in the history of the site.

### 6.1.1 Reconstruction paintings

Jane Stanley is a local artist and member of Cornwall Archaeological Society. Her knowledge and skill in depicting the archaeology of Cornwall is unique. A major project exploring aspects of the archaeology of Cornwall, in progress over the last decade, resulted in an exhibition of work at the Royal Cornwall Museum and an award-winning book entitled *A Brush with the Past* (Stanley 2009). In 2008, Jane was commissioned to produce a reconstruction painting for a board at Castle an Dinas. This was so well-received that a further five paintings were commissioned by CHT. Until

they eventually find their way onto boards, these paintings will be available for use by schools visiting the site and will shortly be available on Cornwall Council's Access to Monuments website.

Much of the research for the paintings was carried out by Jane Stanley, in close consultation with the CHT and Ann Preston-Jones, Andy Jones, Graeme Kirkham and Jacky Nowakowski at the Historic Environment Service.

The paintings, which are all in bright acrylic colours, illustrate the following topics. Descriptions of the paintings are by Jane Stanley.

#### **6.1.1.1 Construction of the earliest rampart**

The hilltop was first enclosed at an early date. Of the total of four lines of enclosing banks and ditches one is low, eroded and discontinuous. Excavation established that it is much older than the others, though its exact date remains a mystery. Pending analysis of finds from the excavation, this painting remains as a draft.

#### **6.1.1.2 Construction of the barrow (Front cover)**

Many prominent hills in Cornwall were places of ritual in the early Bronze Age (nearly four thousand years ago) and Castle an Dinas is no exception. On top of the hill are the remains of two barrows, one with a stone kerb.

'Archaeologists have reported that pieces of turf, as well as stones, were used in the construction of the larger cairns. The labour involved must have been a team effort. I made two visual references to Bronze Age people's respect for their ancestors. One man has brought an urn containing an ancestor's ashes to include them in the structure. A grandfather in the background reminds us that, if someone lived to be over thirty years old, they were probably considered to be favoured by the gods because it was so unusual. The builders of such monuments seem to have been aware of the visibility of other hill top features, so, on the horizon, I have put Hensbarrow on the St. Austell Moor, the largest barrow in Cornwall. You can also see Helman Tor, a Neolithic hill-top enclosure south of Bodmin.

The girl in the near right corner of the picture has netted a hare to cook for the workers. (not a rabbit because they were not brought to Britain until Medieval times.) She has also caught a woodcock which were, in early times, thought to have no brains, making them easy to snare.'

#### **6.1.1.3 The Iron Age hillfort (Fig 14)**

The innermost rampart of the Iron Age hillfort was a simple dump of earth and stone, which had been refurbished in a second phase. It had a V-shaped ditch, cut into solid rock. In the main entranceway on the south-west, a cobbled causeway led over the ditch and here the bank was revetted with stone. In common with other hillforts, the entrance would have been closed with a massive timber gate. Just inside the entrance excavations revealed post-holes suggesting the site of a timber house.

'This painting shows a basket of pottery because some sherds of South-Western B type were found on site. A quantity of round sling stones were also found during the excavation. I imagined them being used by young boys as bird scarers because rubbish would have been dumped in the ditch attracting scavengers. Until Roman times, the sheep would have been a small, dark, Soay sort of animal.'

#### **6.1.1.4 Civil War camp (Fig 15)**

Castle an Dinas had a brief involvement in the English Civil War when in March 1645 the Royalists, under their commander Sir Ralph Hopton, spent two nights there. Following defeat at Torrington on 16<sup>th</sup> February, the Royalists had withdrawn to Camelford, then Bodmin, pursued by the Parliamentarians under Fairfax. Hopton held a council-of-war in a farmhouse near Castle an Dinas, and on then 10<sup>th</sup> March his army surrendered, at Tresillian Bridge.

Jane Stanley's discussion of the painting is extremely informative, and provides an explanation for features which may seem surprising.



'I had been told by many people that there was no horse transport in Cornwall, until the nineteenth century, because the roads were unsuitable in width and surface for wheeled traffic. Only donkeys were used as pack animals. Adam Hart Davies, in his book, 'Just Another Day', says 'even in Devon and Cornwall, in the South-West of England, there were essentially no wheeled vehicles until the nineteenth century.' (I wondered how Charles Rashleigh came by his eighteenth century coach which is displayed on the ground floor of the RCM.) Barrett, however, makes it clear that there were cavalry as well as infantry during the Civil War. All his quotes come from contemporary accounts of the battles at sites like Lostwithiel, where the harness for the draught horse was so rotten that the parliamentary troops lost (and left behind) three demi-culverins. Thirty horses for each were needed by 'the king's men' to shift these cannons. There is mention of a cart-load of muskets. It is difficult to believe that the Cornish aristocracy, who led their troops, walked and fought on foot all the time. It would have been difficult, also, to carry enough barrels of gunpowder using only donkeys carrying two each, pannier-style, so I was reminded of local farmers, ploughing with oxen. (Surely the ploughing in Cornwall was not all done by humans dragging the ploughs, but by draught animals!) There is mention in the text of baggage trains, sometimes consisting of scores, or even hundreds, of wagons.

Until the days of Florence Nightingale, nursing on battlefields was carried out by old women or 'ladies of easy virtue' because they were not considered 'clean'. They laid out the dead in civilian life, and were expendable in cases of disease and serious contagion. The most common remedy was blood-letting. Because a pottery dish would have broken as a result of rough usage in an army camp, I have included a pewter bleeding bowl, on the corner of the operating table, to be used by the 'barber surgeon'.

Military uniforms were not issued to recruits at first, but these volunteer soldiers were from a poor rural background. They would not have survived sleeping rough in the winter, in the ragged clothing they turned up in, so the counties, who were responsible for recruiting and equipping the men, ordered suitable clothing from local merchants. The merchants did not produce batches of coats and breeches in the same colour each time. The soldiers had to pay for these outfits from their first wages. To mark out which unit they belonged to, the soldiers at first wore coloured ribbons denoting the 'Lord of the Manor' they were fighting for. Hats were equally diverse. Some wore knitted caps, some wore brimmed 'cavalier' hats, and some had a 'Monmouth cap' with an extra upstanding surround which could be pulled down to give balaclava' protection. It was not until the 'Restoration' of Charles the Second that the idea of a large scale national army prompted the uniformity of clothing. Red jackets, by then, had become a favourite.

In the noise of the battlefield it was difficult to hear orders barked out by the captain, so a code of drum beats was learned and practiced to co-ordinate action. I have put in a drummer boy who is helping to spread straw under the injured who are waiting for attention, although for some it is too late.'

Useful sources of information included John Barratt's *The Civil War in the South-West*, and Keith Roberts' *Matchlock Musketeer 1588 – 1688*.

#### **6.1.1.5 Castle an Dinas mine (Fig 16)**

Perhaps the most challenging of the paintings, this involved much research on the mine and its components, and was informed by discussion with Tony Brooks, author of *Castle-an-Dinas (1916-1957): Cornwall's Premier Tungsten Mine*. The painting is from the north and shows mine buildings, headgear, etc in the foreground and the aerial ropeway leading up and over the hillfort to the processing works on the south.

Jane Stanley supplied the following information:

'From the wide range of photographs I collected, it was obvious that changes were made to the buildings over its forty year life time, so I probably missed out or put in the odd structure out of tune with the main date I depicted.

The small buildings in the centre foreground were, from left to right, a drying room for the workmen's clothes, a blacksmith's shop, and behind it, the mine office. The large sheds housed the crushing machinery where all the material from both north and south ends of the mine were

processed (hence the overhead ropeway) because the machinery, a lot of it second hand, was too expensive to install at both ends.

To the right of the main mine shaft headgear is the winding house. You can see the driving cable turning the wheel at the top of the shaft mechanism. There were reservoirs behind the winding house, to provide enough water for steam engines.

Somewhere underneath the most southerly pylon, behind the pit headgear structure, had been a 'walk-in' or 'drift' entrance to the mine, so mechanisms and methods changed during the life of the mine. When it was closed down, the waste tip material, being good firm granite chippings, was sold to build airport runways.'

#### **6.1.1.6 1960s excavations (Figs 13 and 17)**

Excavations were carried out at Castle an Dinas in the 1960s, under the direction of Bernard Wailes of the University of Pennsylvania. He examined the ramparts and parts of the interior, in three seasons of work. The finds, which included sherds of Iron Age pottery and rounded pebbles, possibly sling stones, were few, suggesting that the occupation here had been only short-term. Photos and information helping with this illustration were kindly supplied by Joan Taylor, FSA, who helped on site in the 1960s (Fig 13).

'Here we see trenches unprotected by being roped off, a simple arrangement for washing finds, and a Shackleton Bomber flying over from the nearby US Air Force Base at Newquay. I have made an attempt at portraits of Bernard Wailes wearing the beret, and Joan Taylor talking to him over the trench. A neighbour of mine, working in the construction industry, identified the early digger, from fragmentary views in the photographs, as a 'shoveldozer'. During the excavation, which co-incided with the Great Train Robbery, policemen appeared on site when it came to their notice that a few people were digging in this comparatively remote spot.'

## **7 Education**

Also undertaken in conjunction with this project was work to interpret the Iron Age in Cornwall for school children. To this end, we worked with Sense of Place and the Royal Cornwall Museum.

### **7.1 Sense of Place**

Sense of Place was commissioned to enhance and update a unit for KS2 pupils entitled *Iron Age Kernow*. The Unit summary is as follows; further information on the unit is given in appendix 2.

In this unit pupils visit and explore the traces of the Iron Age in their locality. They are presented with the challenge to re-enact the sights and sounds of the Iron Age; either in the school grounds or at an Iron Age site. In order to recreate the past, pupils investigate historical sources including maps, artefacts and photographs. Pupils find out about the settlements in their locality and discover that settlements from the past can be seen in and around Cornwall today. To recreate the Iron Age, pupils build a round house and dress up as people from the past. They participate in reconstruction activities and draw on their learning about the past to create a cycle of song, poetry and reconstruction drawings.

Information and photos of Iron Age finds were supplied to help enhance the information in the Unit, together with ideas, maps and air photos to help schools plan visits to sites in their locality. James Gossip of the Historic Environment Service participated in a trial of the unit at St Ives School.

### **7.2 Royal Cornwall Museum.**

The work undertaken with the Royal Cornwall museum (RCM) was complementary to that produced with Sense of Place, in that it included the development of a KS2 'Romans and Celts' workshop at the museum with reference to a loans box funded by the project and more effective use of displays at the RCM. Resources were developed to be used both in the museum's galleries and by family groups at 'drop in' events. See appendix 1.

The workshop has been successfully trialled and will soon be fully available:  
<http://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk/learning/learning.ks12.htm>

## Conclusions

Overall, this has been a satisfying and interesting project. The management work has proved remarkably successful and was effective. The reconstruction paintings stand out as a real achievement of the project: as a series of paintings of one site they are unparalleled in Cornwall and will undoubtedly prove to be of enduring value and interest. Apart from anything else, their creation has helped to highlight the significance of Castle an Dinas, and will before long be a major feature in a new interpretive scheme for the site. Related to this, the Iron Age education materials are an important resource for the future, with the potential to be successful, informative and inspirational for many generations of school children.

Finally, it is especially pleasing to note that the focus on this major Cornish hillfort has also led to an application to Natural England for a Higher Level Stewardship scheme. If successful, this will ensure that funds exist for the sympathetic management of the site for the next ten years.

## 8 References

### 8.1 Primary sources

Ordnance Survey, c1880. *25 Inch Map* First Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)  
Ordnance Survey, c1907. *25 Inch Map* Second Edition (licensed digital copy at HE)  
Ordnance Survey, 2007. *Mastermap Digital Mapping*

### 8.2 Publications

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Brooks, T, 2001. *Castle-An-Dinas, 1916-1957, Cornwall's Premier Wolfram Mine*, St Austell  
Bullen, L J, 2002. *Mining in Cornwall, Volume 6: Mid county to the Tamar*, Abingdon  
Roberts, K, 2002. *Matchlock Musketeer 1588-1688*, Oxford  
Stanley, J, 2009. *A brush with the past: Cornwall's archaeology brought to life*, Truro  
Wailles, B, 1963. Excavations at Castle-an-Dinas, St Columb Major: interim report, *Cornish Archaeology* 2, 51-55  
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## 9 Project archive

The HE project number is **2008203**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration and copies of documentary/cartographic source material
2. Digital photographs stored in the directory ..\Images\SitesA-D\Castle\_an\_Dinas\_Restormel

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\CAU\HE Projects\Sites C\Castle an Dinas 2008





Fig 1 Location map



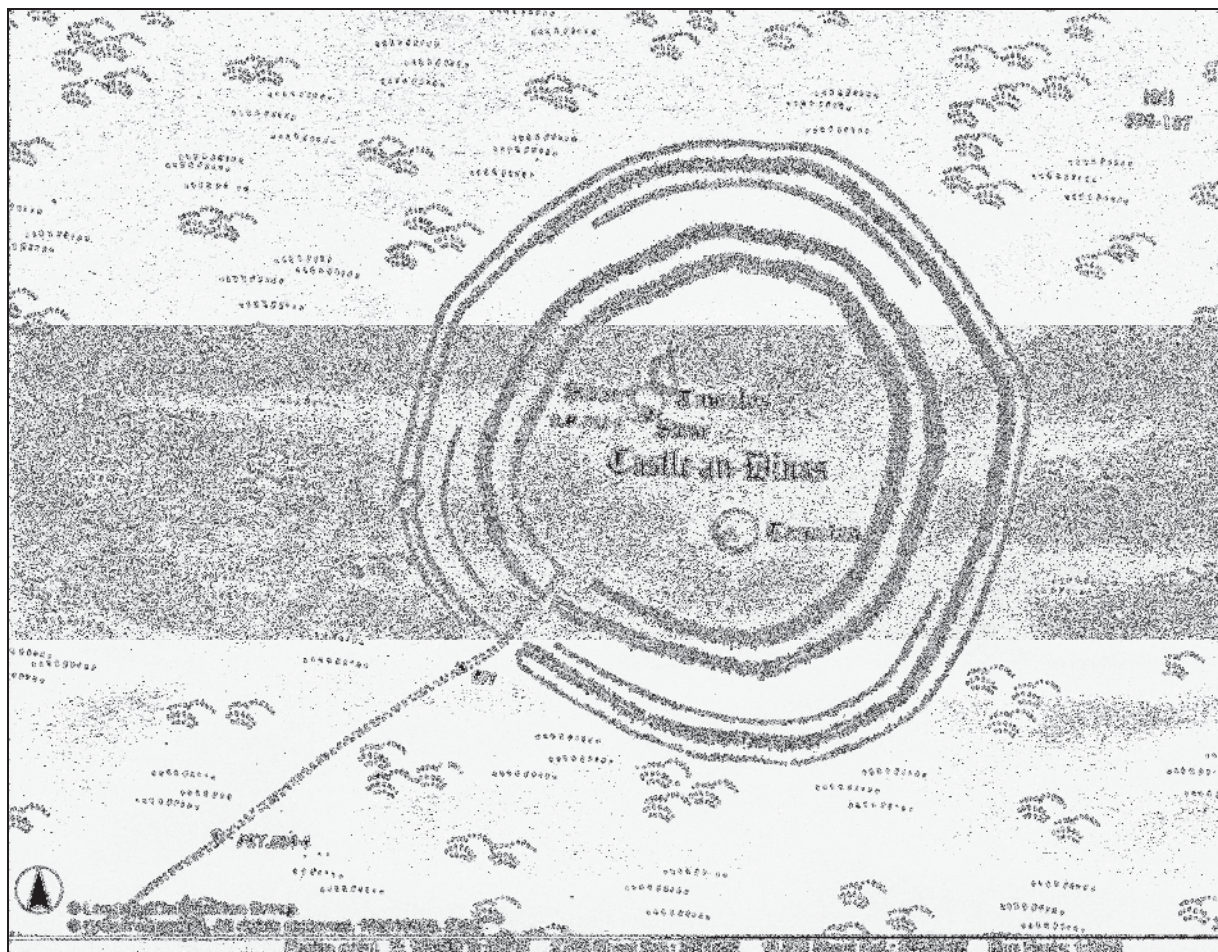


Fig 2 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, c1880, showing the original entrance to the site on the south-west



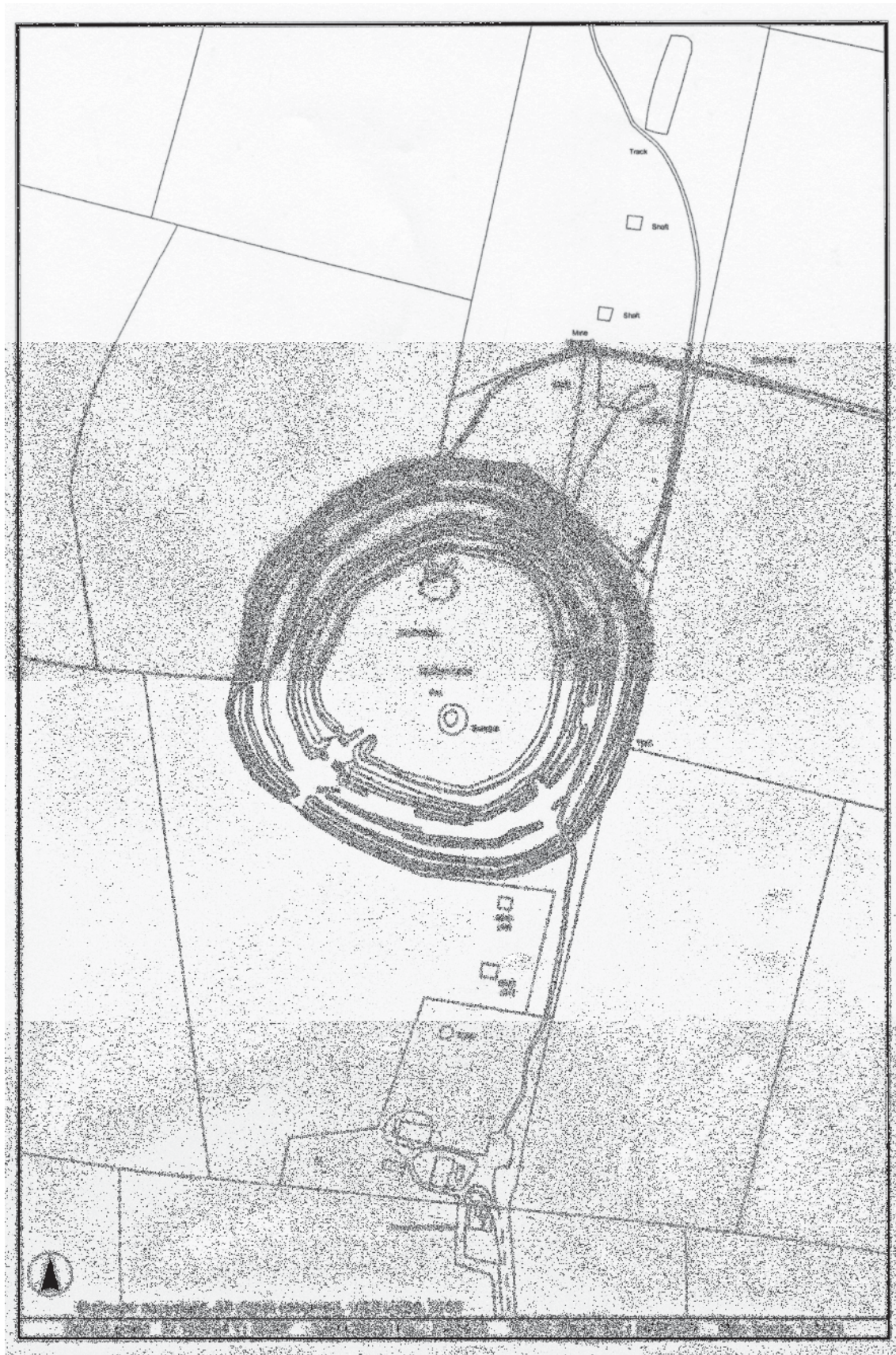


Fig 3 Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs (2008)





Fig 4 Air photo of Castle an Dinas (HES AP F80-006, September 2007)

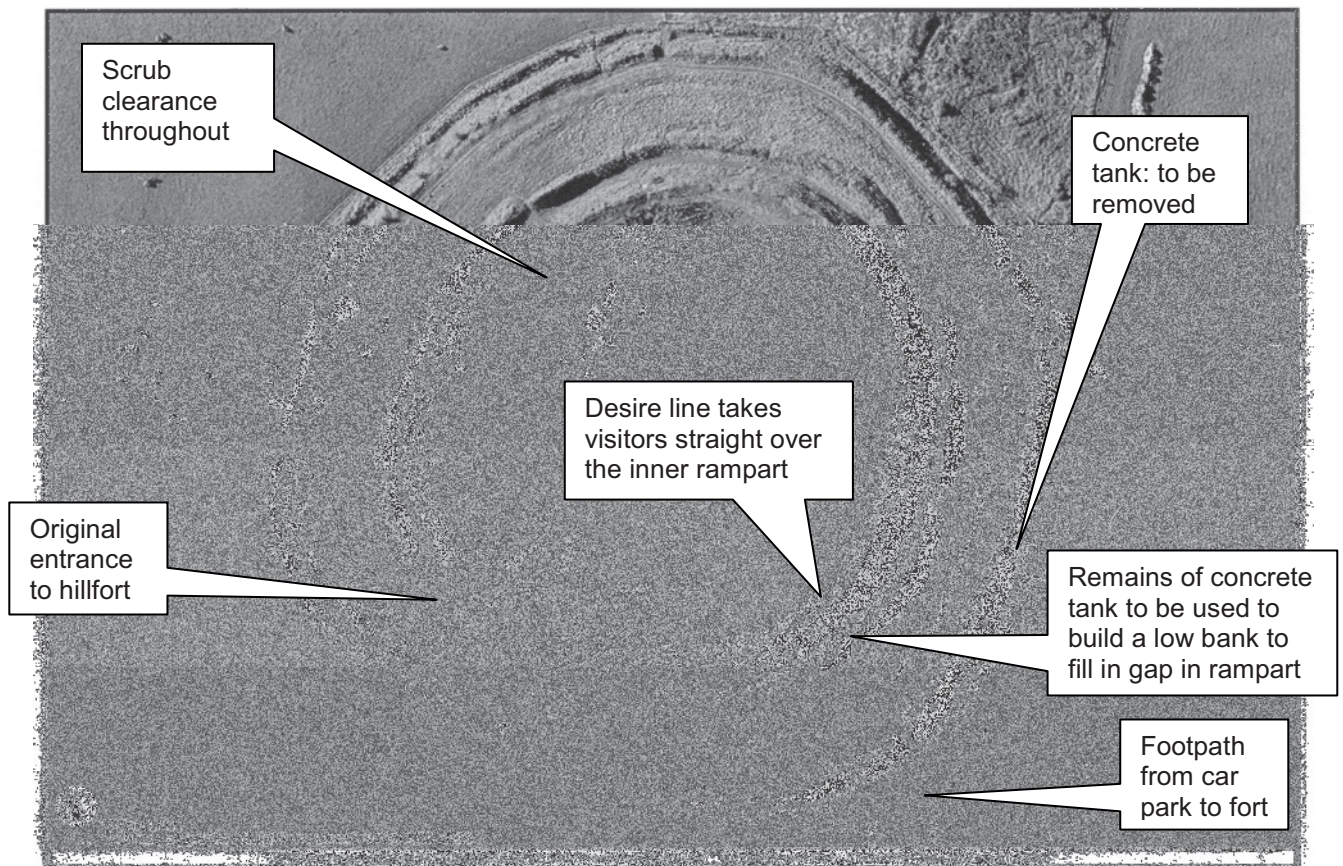


Fig 5 Air photo of Castle an Dinas in 2005, showing the locations of the proposed management work





*Fig 6 The concrete tank before demolition*





*Fig 7 Two contrasting views of the ramparts at Castle an Dinas. Above: the bracken and grass-filled ditch is far less accessible than that in the picture below, with well-managed vegetation (Photo 2: Graeme Kirkham)*





*Fig 8 Demolishing the upstanding parts of the tank, and the site of the tank immediately after levelling and landscaping*





*Fig 9 The site of the tank in January 2011, nearly two years later*



*Fig 10 The gap in the rampart on the south, before it was filled to prevent access through the gap*



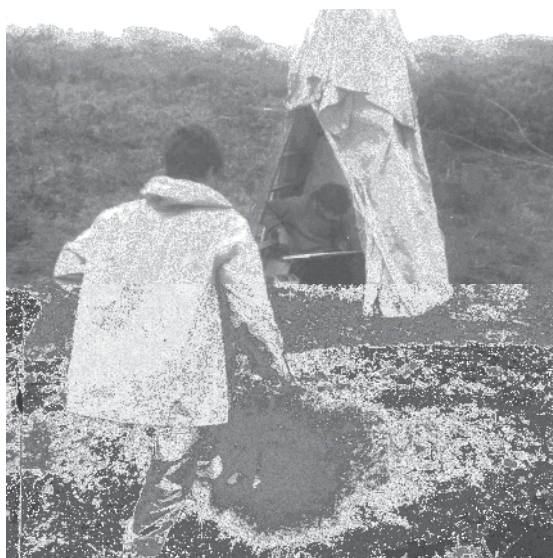


*Fig 11 Infilling the gap in the rampart with rubble, and earthing over*



*Fig 12 The restored section of rampart two years later, in January 2011*





*Fig 13 To help with the reconstruction painting of the 1960s excavation Joan Taylor, who dug on the site at the time, kindly supplied a number of images, of which this is a selection*





Fig 14 Castle an Dinas in the Iron Age: at the main entrance on the south-west



Fig 15 Castle an Dinas in the Civil War: Defeated Royalists camped here for a night before finally surrendering to the Parliamentarians at Tresillian on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1645





Fig 16 Castle an Dinas wolfram mine in operation



Fig 17 Excavation at Castle an Dinas under the direction of Bernard Wailes in the 1960s

## 10 Appendices

### 10.1 Historic Environment and Royal Cornwall Museum Partnership Project

#### Project Summary:

To redevelop the KS2 'Romans and Celts' workshop at the museum with reference to the loans box and using the relevant museum display more effectively. The new resources will link to the Sense of Place 'Iron Age Kernow' unit and will be developed through consultation with teachers. Resources will be developed to be used in the galleries and can also be used by family groups at 'drop in' events.

#### Objectives:

- A new KS2 Iron Age workshop developed and piloted by March 2010
- An Iron Age workshop offered to all schools from September 2010
- A loans box for use in the classroom to be available for loan from September 2010

#### Outcomes:

- Promote a deeper level of knowledge and understanding of life in Iron Age Cornwall.
- Increase enjoyment and engagement with museum collections.
- Promote curiosity and a desire to find out more.

#### Project narrative

- **Planning and developing resources**

The new workshop was developed to support the Sense of Place unit Iron Age Cornwall, specifically 'pupils find out about the way of life of the indigenous peoples of Iron Age Cornwall'.

In December 2009 the main gallery of the museum underwent a redisplay. This included rationalising and redisplaying objects and also creating spaces for school groups to work in, something that had not been possible before. The Iron Age displays were developed with an understanding of the needs of a school audience and how the objects on display could aid children's understanding of the period. A partial Iron Age roundhouse was constructed and objects displayed within demonstrate daily life. The workshop was then developed, with support from 2 advanced skills teachers, building on the museum team's knowledge and experience of designing hands on, creative sessions.

- **Piloting resources**

The workshop was piloted in May 2011 by a class of Year 6 children from Bosvigo School. Although the class were not studying the topic at the time the feedback from both the children and teacher was very positive. They enjoyed the variety of activities and by the end of the day the teacher felt that the children had a better understanding of life in Iron Age Cornwall.

For an outline of the workshop please see appendix 1.

- **Evaluation**

The redisplay of the main gallery meant that for the first time a whole class of children could work in the space, creating a more immersive experience.

The pilot workshop session was evaluated by both the teacher and the workshop leader. Both felt that the timing, variety and pace of the activities were good but the wall building activity would be better for younger children. This has now been adapted. There were many opportunities for the children to ask questions and being in the gallery allowed the children to make good use of the displays throughout the day. The plenary brought the activities of the day together and also highlighted any misunderstandings.

The workshop is now being offered to all schools through the schools brochure that goes to all primary schools in Cornwall, the museum website and via Sense of Place.

Teachers will fill in evaluations after the workshop which will be used to develop it in the future.



Following the piloting of the workshop a loans box is being developed which will contain artefacts similar to those used in the handling part of the workshop. The loans box will be available for schools to borrow after they have attended the workshop. The loans box will be accompanied by resources to support their use in the classroom. The box alongside teacher's notes and a copy of the 'Spinning a Yarn' story will enable teachers to further develop the topic back in the classroom.

In October 2010 the museum will be hosting a family event day 'Blast from the Past' where families can pop in and try a range of archaeological inspired activities. Some of the resources from the project will be used on this day and in future events.

### **Brief Outline of new Iron Age Workshop KS2**

**Timing 10.00 am – 2.00 pm with 45 minute lunch break**

Iron Age Cornwall is not a specific part of the NC although some schools will have done archaeology and local History topics. These introductory activities are therefore a means of allowing children to absorb some background context.

On arrival children were given a sticky label with role and place to live. They then found the rest of their family (people who live on the same site). There were 4 families.

#### **Places to live:**

Trevelgue Head,                      The Rumps near - Polzeath (cliff castles)  
Castle Dore (Fowey, hill fort)    Carn Euny

#### **Roles:**

farmer, warrior, weaver, metal worker, hunter (a family group may have more than one of these)

Each of the 4 families then put on their costumes as a means of 'going back in time'

#### **The whole group moved into the main gallery**

The children were asked what they know about the Iron Age in Cornwall and had found out so far – places jobs, clothing etc

The following information was given.

- Iron Age Cornwall. People living in Cornwall before the Romans. Dates: 700 – AD43, possibly Dunmonii tribe.
- They still used Bronze but could also use Iron for making things. Benefits of iron are... harder, more of it, easy to sharpen.
- Objects in adjacent glass case belong to the Iron Age. They will need to look at these as part of next activity. Gold staters, silver tetrabol, mould for mirror from Castle Dore, copy of mirror from St Keverne (original in British Museum) etc
- Homes were Round houses, point out partial round house and say a later activity will be to build a wall for the round house
- 

#### **The first activity**

The children form new groups all the weavers, farmers etc. each with an adult. The task is given to each group. This task is designed to encourage children to think carefully about the lives led by different people in Iron Age Cornwall and to examine the artefacts on display. The groups spread out around the gallery.

### **Iron Age Cornwall 30 minutes**

You are **skilful metal workers** living in the Iron Age in Cornwall.

Look carefully at these 16 cards. (The cards show objects from the museum and geographical features) As a group choose 8 cards showing objects or places that would be most useful to you.

You will have to explain your choice to the rest of the class. Can you find any of the objects in the Iron Age Case?

When the groups had completed the task they returned to their original families and explained what they have found out about their character eg

a farmer grows...

a hunter kills...

a weaver uses... etc.

This task provoked very interesting conversations, it also raised some questions.

The group was then split into three smaller groups to participate in the next three activities in turn: handling, clay activity, artefact handling and teacher led activities as described below.

### **Iron Age clay pot 40 minutes**

#### **Background information**

Pieces of pot found by archaeologists pieces are called sherds. Often found in rubbish pits.

Show pot sherds. (Found at Carn Euny Penzance)

Hold over the table – these are genuine. Show how two pieces fit together. Pieces are like a jigsaw – we can find out what whole pots were like by piecing together.

#### **What can you see on the sherds?**

- Patterns scratched into surface using wooden tools, wheels, sticks, combs, ropes, maybe a design would have been carved into wood and stamped on.
- Pattern mostly on the shoulder of pot because that is the bit you see when you are eating. Probably same designs would have been scratched into the mud plaster on the roundhouse walls.
- Looks burnt on one side – probably happened in the kiln.
- Maybe it was burnt and broke during the firing and was thrown away.

#### **What were the pots used for?**

For holding beer, milk, honey, grain etc. For storing or cooking.

#### **How were the pots made?**

Made by hand using coils of clay – a very slow method. Clay in Cornwall was Gabbroic clay from Lizard. Iron Age Britons used a slow turning wheel when putting on patterns.

Demonstration and children make own pots.

### **Handling 40 minutes**

- Items in basket - children sit around the edge of rug.
- Archaeological items and replicas
- Explanation about artefacts and their care. Difference between original and replica and why use replicas. Also items to be handled with care eg sword
- All handle all items using who what when where, how, type questions
- In pairs decide on what would be most useful to you in your role.
- In turn each child then selects an item, describes it to the group and suggests who might own/use it.
- If time drawing to show how the item might be used (probably not time, however, could also be further developed).

### **Activities in Gallery – teacher led 40 minutes**

- Weaving – small circular card, 7 strands of wool,
- Building the round house – ‘stones’ stored in wicker basket start by the wall and build perhaps 1 or 2 stones wide – how strong is the wall? Where would the stones have come from?
- Quern for making flour

Weaving was very popular and all children made a good start. The building activity is not ideal better for children under 7!

### **Plenary – Spinning a yarn**

- Whole group reassembles in gallery with their weaving.
- Story Web -

I woke up to see the sun streaming through the doorway of the roundhouse. What could I have to eat, perhaps some porridge and and some water.

What shall I do today

- Sow some corn
- Weave
- Make flour, go hunting etc

Children continue the story using what they have found out during the day using a ball of wool to connect those who offer a sentence.



## **10.2      Summary of Sense of Place Iron Age Kernow work unit**