

The Lizard, Cornwall

Monitoring and management of archaeological sites by local volunteers



...come rain or shine...



Historic Environment Projects

The Lizard, Cornwall

Monitoring and management of archaeological sites by local volunteers

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Acknowledgements

This report describes a project undertaken in 2009 and 2010 by Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, to set up a group of archaeological volunteers on the Lizard.

This project is a component of the 'Conserving Cornwall's Past' project, which has overall funding from Cornwall Council, English Heritage, Cornwall Heritage Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project has been a partnership between Historic Environment, Natural England (Ray Lawman) and English Heritage, with help from the National Trust (Justin Whitehouse, Nigel Cook and Mike Hardy) and support from the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network. The group was set up by Cheryl Traffon, working as a consultant for Historic Environment. Within Historic Environment, James Gossip, Charlie Johns and Konstanze Rahn have helped with the project.

The greatest support has been from the many volunteers who have participated in the project, several as committee members and tool organisers. These include (in no particular order, but starting with those who have contributed most through involvement in the committee): Sally Ealey, Priscilla Oates, Bart O'Farrell, Graham Folkherd, Chris Verran, Jill Woodhead, Lana Jarvis, Meg Read, Pru Towner, Arthur Traffon, Sue Folkherd, Gilly Gilchrist, Steve Patterson, Dave Hart, Jenny Scriven, Martin Harris, Ginette Harris, Brian and Margaret Gough, Dave Thiexton, Keith Rundle, Lynette Millward, Norman Read, Barbara Tripp, and almost certainly others...

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.



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Cover illustration

Volunteers at Roskrige Beacon and after their first 'clear-up' at the Dry Tree barrow

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Abbreviations

CAS	Cornwall Archaeological Society
CASPN	Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network
CC	Cornwall Council
EH	English Heritage
HBSMR	Historic Buildings, Sites & Monuments Record, Cornwall's archaeological database, at HE
HE	Historic Environment (Cornwall Council)
HEFA	Historic Environment Field Advisor
LAN	Lizard Ancient Sites Protection Network
MAG	Meneage Archaeology Group
NE	Natural England
NGR	National Grid Reference
NNR	National Nature Reserve
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HBSMR
SM	Scheduled Monument

Summary

A scheme aimed at encouraging local people to get involved in the management and care of archaeological sites on the Lizard was established by Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, in 2009. Set up initially with funding from the 'Conserving Cornwall's Past' project, the scheme has proved very successful and is now self-maintaining. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the Cornwall Heritage Trust.

The project was co-ordinated for Historic Environment by Cheryl Traffon, the chair of the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network, acting as a consultant. The principal aims of the project were to set up a programme of site clearance work, to establish a network of people to adopt and monitor individual monuments, and to achieve this through liaison with existing groups and organisations on the Lizard. The sites for clearance were selected initially on the basis of recommendations from the local English Heritage Historic Environment Field Advisor, and were all sites which had been assessed as being at high or medium risk of damage due to scrub or plant growth. Over the year, eight sites were tackled and improved management initiated, and in several cases, the risk significantly reduced. Fifteen sites have been 'adopted' by local people and regularly monitored in the course of the year. The group now has a name (Lizard Ancient Sites Protection Network or LAN) and logo and is affiliated to the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN).

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1 Introduction

This report describes the establishment in 2009 of a new archaeological volunteer group, whose aims are to undertake the monitoring and management of historic sites on the Lizard.

The project was undertaken as part of Historic Environment's 'Conserving Cornwall's Past' project. The stated aims of 'Conserving Cornwall's Past' are to carry out conservation work on a range of Scheduled Monuments, to encourage local community groups to participate in works relating to the historic environment, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the historic environment and its management. With its purpose to encourage volunteer activity on a range of sites, the Lizard local monitoring and management project fitted perfectly with the aims of the wider project. It was also a significant example of what can be achieved through partnership working with, in this instance, the main partners being English Heritage (EH), Natural England (NE), and the National Trust (NT) in liaison with the Meneage Archaeology Group (MAG) and Cornwall Archaeological Society (CAS).

The project was based on successful work already being undertaken by CASPN in west Cornwall, and it is hoped that the idea might ultimately be repeated elsewhere in Cornwall, perhaps on Bodmin Moor.

1.1 Project background

A number of factors lead to the establishment of this project.

The Lizard Peninsula of Cornwall is notable for the number of its historic monuments and their excellent survival as features in the landscape. Many of these are protected as Scheduled Monuments, and as such their well-being is overseen by English Heritage's Historic Environment Field Advisor (the EH HEFA). Many of these monuments are, however, in poor condition principally as a result of scrub growth but occasionally due to neglect or vandalism. In most cases this is not deliberate, but the result of modern farming practice combined with the (incorrect) assumption that designation carries with it the implication that the monument must not be touched.

This awareness of the state of some monuments has been emphasised since 2007 by comprehensive risk assessments and publication of the results by EH, as part of their 'Heritage at Risk' strategy. Heritage at Risk has demonstrated that the main threat to Scheduled Monuments in Cornwall is from scrub growth: and the Lizard, with its large areas of downland, is no exception to this.

With archaeology all over the country now an increasingly professional business, but nonetheless a popular interest amongst non-professionals, amateurs are often finding it difficult to establish a role for themselves. However, help with the management of monuments at risk from scrub encroachment represents a very positive way in which non-professionals can have an important role in relation to their local archaeological sites.

It was with all these factors in mind that the project described here was set up.

1.1.1 Why the Lizard

Part of the reason for the success of CASPN is that it works principally within West Penwith: a relatively small and discrete geographical area, with a very high concentration of extant and distinctive archaeological sites, which are much frequented and loved but also in need of management. This is generally because a lack of grazing and other management over the last century has led to them becoming very overgrown. Moreover the area attracts people with a strong interest in its heritage, as both visitors and permanent settlers.

The Lizard is a similarly distinctive area, with an outstanding landscape and many remarkable monuments, and if not as overtly distinctive in this respect as Penwith, nonetheless with its own remarkable character. Like Penwith, the Lizard also has a number of volunteer groups, many of which are concerned with the heritage – natural or historic – of the area. It even has its own

archaeology group - the Meneage Archaeology Group (MAG). NE and the NT also have a considerable presence in the area, focussing principally on the area's natural heritage.

Finally, like Penwith, the area still has large areas of downland which are likely to include archaeological sites suffering from the detrimental effects of uncontrolled scrub growth.

1.2 The principal aims of the project

The main aims of the project were:

1. To initiate a regular programme of practical management work on monuments on the Lizard, for local volunteers to participate in, similar to CASPN's site clear-ups.
2. To set up a programme of monitoring of archaeological sites on the Lizard by local people.
3. To ensure that these activities are on a sound footing and capable of being maintained locally by the end of a year.
4. To ensure that any Health and Safety issues (eg insurance) are addressed.
5. To set up a small working party of local people who are interested in the scheme: this to form the basis of a management group (similar to CASPN's committee) which can carry the work forward after year 1.
6. To do this in liaison with all interested parties, eg Cornwall Archaeological Society, the Meneage Archaeology Group, Natural England, the HES, English Heritage, Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Group,
7. Publicise the initiative with occasional press releases in the course of the year

In addition, there is an active volunteer network on the Lizard, with some of the groups already undertaking voluntary work, though not necessarily on archaeological sites. Which are already

1.3 Methods

The following course of actions were proposed to help get the project going

1. Appoint a suitable contractor to undertake the challenge of setting up the group, within a year's.
2. Initial meeting at HES office to discuss the concept with people likely to be involved or have an interest:
3. An initial public meeting on the Lizard to raise interest and attract volunteers.
4. Arrange an initial meeting for a working party of selected individuals
5. Plan a programme of site 'clear-ups' (in liaison with Natural England)
6. Advertise for volunteers (local newspaper, fliers, CASPN website, and word of mouth, any other): this possibly in the context of publicity following the first 'clear-up'
7. Arrange for CASPN's display to be in local libraries and Helston Museum
8. An initial meeting and training day for volunteer monitors which all of the above can attend if they want. Exchange of contact details so that information can be sent.
9. Provide information and monitoring forms for people to get going with.
10. Establish a database for recording monitoring activities
11. Provide regular feed-back to the HES/EH, by monitoring meetings and quarterly reports (to be linked to payments)
12. At the end of the year, hand organisation of the established project over the MAG to maintain

13. Maintain lists of volunteers and time spent (this information will be required by the HES for purposes of claiming grant from the HLF)

2 The project

The progress of the project is summarised in relation to the methods outlined above. This is given in some detail; in the hope that it may prove helpful if another such a group is to be set up in another part of Cornwall.

2.1 Project management

While overall funding and co-ordination of the project was by CC HE, the day-to-day running was Cheryl Traffon, the chair of CASPN, was employed as a consultant to undertake the day-t-day running and organisation. The funding of this role was seen as essential in helping to ensure that the project got off to a good start, with one person to push it forward, provide the framework, establish precedents, pull people together, and help publicise the initiative.

Funding was also made available for two HE officers to spend time attending the initial meetings and clear-up sessions.

Although only paid to oversee the set-up of the group for a year, Cheryl Traffon has remained as the group's co-ordinator.

2.2 Initial meetings

A first meeting was held between with representatives of local groups (Sally Ealey of CAS, MAG and the Lizard Peninsula Heritage Project; and Priscilla Oates of the Old Cornwall Societies, CAS and MAG), to gain support locally and establish whether this project was likely to meet with interest and enthusiasm.

Following this, a public meeting was held at Mawgan village hall, on the Lizard, to raise interest and attract volunteers. Presentations, relating to the work of CASPN, the work of EH, the role of statutory protection, and the need for the new group were made. There was discussion of potential sites, and of issues like insurance for volunteers. At this meeting, a number of individuals signed up to join the proposed group.

2.2.1 Name and logo

These were chosen at the first committee meeting. A unanimous decision was made to reflect the group's affiliation with CASPN, by selecting a name and logo which are both similar yet distinct from those of the sister group.

The group is now known as LAN: the Lizard Ancient Sites Protection Network and the logo, which was designed by James Gossip, represents the Dry tree menhir and Arthur: one of the two listed satellite dishes at Goonhilly Earth Satellite Station. In Fig 2, the two are compared.

2.3 Working party/committee

A working party to co-ordinate the work of the group was established. With Cheryl Traffon acting as chair, this group included members of various local organisations, individuals, and a mixture of professionals from EH, HE CC, NE, and the National Trust. As this indicates, partnership-working is a hallmark of this group, the relationships with English Heritage and Natural England being particularly strong.

Initially held monthly, the meetings have, after the first year, been reduced to two-monthly intervals. Meetings are now held at Natural England's new meeting room at Higher Bochym.

2.4 Recruiting volunteers and publicity

The names of a nucleus of interested people had been collected at the initial meeting but ideas for recruiting further volunteers were forthcoming at the first committee meeting. Fliers were produced and circulated to various local societies, for example, the Meneage Archaeology Group (MAG), the Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust, CAS, the Helford River Association, St Keverne History Society, the local Old Cornwall Societies, and Womens' Institutes.

In addition, there have been occasional press releases and information has been added to the websites of CASPN, CAS and MAG; articles have been contributed to the CAS and Council for British Archaeology South-West's newsletters. Displays have been set up at Helston Museum and Helston Library, and clear-ups have been arranged to coincide with the Festival of British Archaeology in July, to attract more helpers and to benefit from the publicity associated with that. Archaeology diploma students from Truro College joined in with one of the clear-ups.

See:

CASPN: <http://www.cornishancientsites.com/lan.html>

CAS: <http://www.cornisharchaeology.org.uk/news.htm>

MAG: <http://www.mag.webeden.co.uk/#/mag-events-2010/4538508856>

3 Site 'clear-ups'

At the first meeting of the working party, sites suitable for clear-ups were discussed and a programme for the first six months agreed.

3.1 The sites

The sites for clearance were selected initially on the basis of recommendations from the local EH Historic Environment Field Advisor, and were all sites which have been assessed as high or medium risk of damage and in deteriorating condition due to scrub or plant growth.

These included:

- The Three Brothers of Grugwith: a group of stones, possibly a type of portal dolmen, completely overwhelmed by scrub and with a badly overgrown path leading to it. Scheduled Monument Cornwall number 4; medium risk.
- A Barrow adjacent to the Dry Tree menhir: in need of extensive clearance of scrub and willows. Part of Scheduled Monument Cornwall number 606; medium risk/declining.
- Little Dennis Head: a civil war fort and prehistoric promontory fort in an outstanding location at the entrance to the Helford Estuary, extensively overgrown with scrub bracken and bramble. Scheduled Monument Cornwall number 437; high risk/declining.
- Kynance Gate settlement: a prehistoric hut circle settlement on open downland, with tall vegetation obscuring the houses Scheduled monument Cornwall number 439; medium risk/declining.
- Polcoverack settlement and field system: all but inaccessible due to tall heather and gorse Scheduled Monument Cornwall number 683; medium risk/declining.
- Barrow in Croft Pascoe plantation: a Bronze Age barrow, neglected and overgrown. Scheduled monument Cornwall number 564; medium risk/declining.

Not all have been cleared, for various reasons – for example Little Dennis Head is now proposed for Higher Level Stewardship, a more appropriate approach for a large site - but with time others

have been added to the list. These include Chynalls Point cliff castle, the Piskeys Hall fogou, Roskruge Beacon round barrow, the ruined church of Ruan Major, and Carminowe Mill. Several of the sites have now been visited on more than one occasion, notably Kynance Gate settlement, a large site with many round houses. Sites where scrub clearance has taken place are shown in Fig 3.

3.2 Co-ordination of clear-ups

In West Penwith, CASPN's clear-ups are co-ordinated by one individual, and it was felt that it would be a good idea to have someone on the Lizard to undertake this role. In the first place, one of the volunteers and a committee member, Brian Gough, agreed to take on this role. However, when he had to give up due to a change in circumstances, the clear-ups have become the main focus of the group's activities and their organisation the responsibility of the committee.

3.3 Tools

At the outset, tools were a fundamental requirement. Fortunately, as much of LAN's work has been on sites on the Goonhilly Downs National Nature Reserve (NNR), Natural England kindly agreed to purchase a set of tools which would be for LAN's exclusive use, whether working on the NNR or not.

The National Trust provides tools when work is being undertaken on their property.

Very occasionally, volunteers are asked to bring their own tools.

3.4 Insurance

The issue of insurance was discussed at some length at the first committee meeting. Here, Ray Lawman of Natural England explained that if working on the NNR, volunteers would be covered by NE's insurance, but only so long as they were signed up as NE volunteers. Volunteers have therefore been encouraged to do this. By so-doing, a claim for travel expenses can also be made. A volunteer application form is available on Natural England's website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/volunteer-registration_tcm6-7759.pdf

This is also dependent on having a trained first-aider on site.

As far as non-NNR sites were concerned, it was decided that in the first instance it would be best if volunteers were made aware of the risks and perhaps asked to sign a disclaimer before starting work. Insurance is expensive and may be worth investigating once it has been shown that the group is established and working well.

3.5 Advertising the 'clear-ups' programme

This is done mainly via the MAG, CASPN and CAS websites, with small fliers posted in libraries and emails sent around by Cheryl Traffon to remind the 'regulars' just before each clear-up.

3.6 Results

The clear-up sessions have generally proved popular, fun, and extremely worth-while in terms of the work achieved. Over the first year, an average of nine people have attended each clear-up and eight sites have been tackled. At some, like the Piskeys Hall fogou, the work has been a 'one-off' with no need to return in the near future, while larger sites like the prehistoric settlement at Kynance Gate will take many visits to clear and maintain.

An example which stands out as a very successful piece of work is that which was undertaken at the first clear-up on 23rd March 2009 (see front cover). This is the Dry Tree barrow – a large Bronze Age round barrow adjoining the Goonhilly Earth satellite Station. When work commenced here, the barrow was scarcely visible beneath bracken and bramble, gorse and willow scrub. By the end of the day, however, the majority of the barrow had been cleared and its massive mound revealed, crowned

by a trig point and a second concrete pillar. Subsequently, the barrow has been very much easier for NE to maintain: the bracken re-growth has been sprayed with herbicide, and further willow cut from around the edge. It now forms a prominent feature beside a new disabled path on the downs and in the long term NE will maintain it by annual cutting.

Reports on the first year's work are included in Appendix 4; the volunteers are shown in action in Figs 7 and 8.

4 Site monitoring

In essence, the site monitoring follows the methods used by CASPN's Adopt-a Site scheme, with monitoring forms, advice for volunteers and risk assessments simply adapted, with the new LAN logo. Samples of the information and forms used are included in appendices 1 to 3; sites being monitored are shown in Fig 4.

Procedures are explained in detail to all monitors and if appropriate an initial site visit is undertaken jointly with the co-ordinator or someone with appropriate experience. Volunteers are also supplied with information on their site(s) from the Historic Environment Record by Konstanze Rahn of Historic Environment and a member of the committee.

4.1 Site selection

A number of people on the Lizard already visit certain favourite sites on a regular basis and have a rapport with individual owners and sites and so they will simply carry on monitoring those, the difference being that EH and HE CC will now be aware of the fact that they are being cared for. For other people without a particular site-relationship, sites have been suggested, selected principally from a list of Scheduled Monuments on the Lizard.

4.2 Running the monitoring

The site monitoring was set up by Cheryl Traffon and she remains as co-ordinator.

4.3 Database

The information arising from the volunteers' periodic reports is fed into a database compiled by Cheryl Traffon and based on a simplified version of the template used by CASPN. Information is compiled on two sheets:

Sheet 1 has site details: site name, NGR, monument type, the HBSMR number, the scheduling number, owner/tenant information.

Sheet 2 has monitor and monitoring information: monitor name and contact details, and for each visit: the date, the hours spent and the results.

4.4 Feedback and results

Feedback on the results of the monitoring is given regularly to the committee at meetings. On the whole, there has been limited feed-back from monitors, which is taken to mean that there are no problems, and that if there was anything amiss, we would hear immediately!

5 Events

To foster a sense of community, particularly amongst the site monitors who do not regularly meet at the clear-ups, a walk and pub-lunch were held just before Christmas 2009 (Fig 6); and a party is planned for December 2010!

6 Conclusion

The project has proved more successful than anyone dared hope; the clear-ups in particular have proved enjoyable and productive and look set to continue. Encouraged by the success of this scheme, it is hoped that a similar group might be established in the near future, to look after sites on Bodmin Moor.

7 Project archive

The HE project number is **2008206**

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.
2. An information file containing copies of documentary/cartographic source material.
3. Digital photographs stored in the directory R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.I-L\Lizard Archaeology Network

This report text is held in digital form as: G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\Sites L\Lizard Monitoring and management (LAN)\ Lizard Monitoring and management (LAN) report

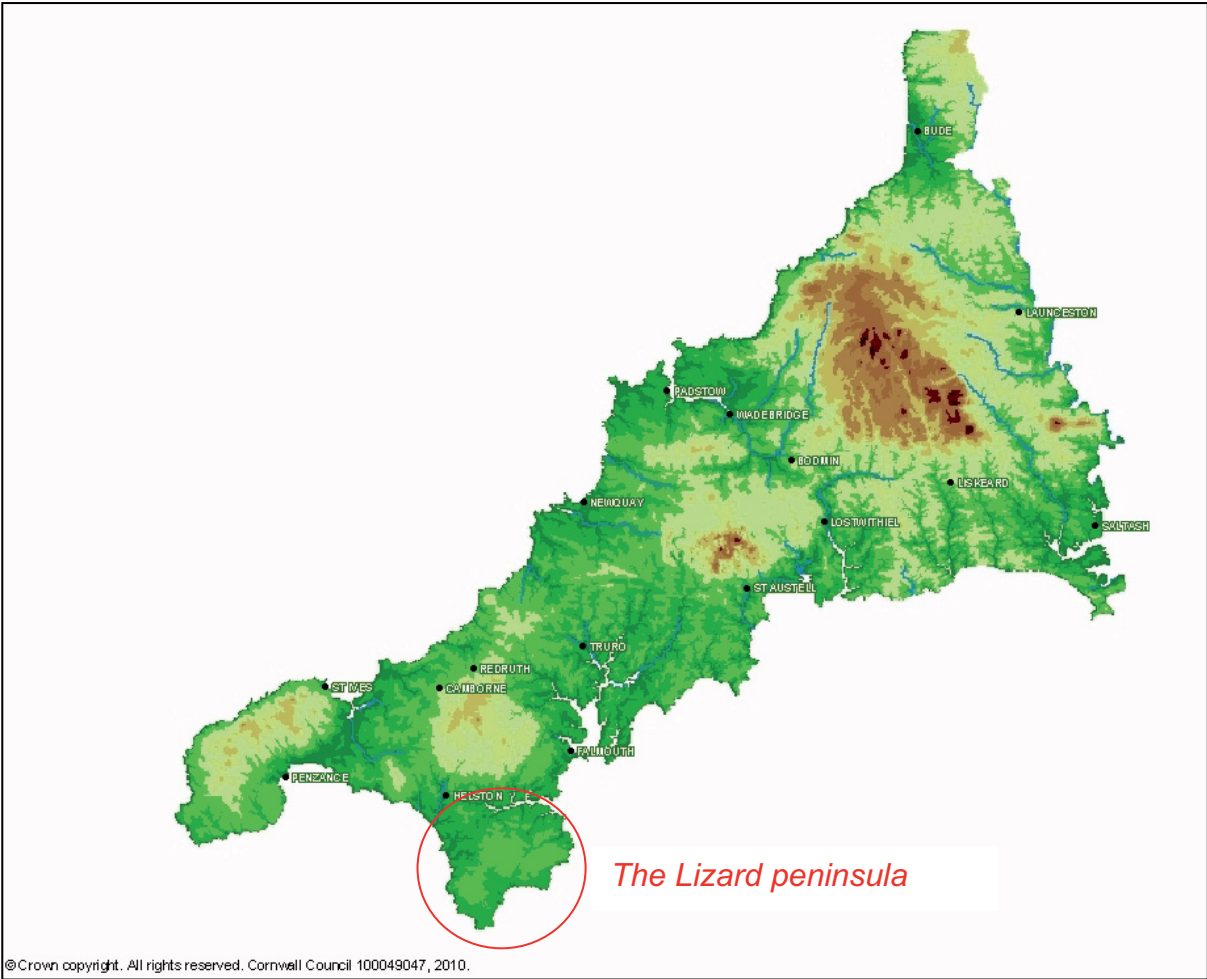


Fig 1 The location of the Lizard peninsula



Fig 2 CASPAN and LAN logos



Fig 3 The location of sites where scrub clearance work has been carried out to August 2010



Fig 4 The location of sites selected for monitoring



Fig 5 The Roskruge barrow before and after scrub clearance



Fig 6 LAN winter walk at the Dry tree menhir



Fig 7 The volunteers at work at Chynalls Point, Croft Pascoe barrow, Ruan Major Church, and Kynance Gate settlement



Fig 8 The volunteers at work: at the Dry tree barrow, Kyannce Gate, and the Three Brothers of Grugwith

8 Appendices

The information in these appendices is all from Cheryl Traffon.

8.1 Appendix 1: site monitoring form



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING FORM

SITE NAME:

MONITOR NAME:

Grid Ref: SW / HER No: Date

DAMAGE BY (tick one or more:

	Potential	Slight	Moderate	Severe
Vegetation (scrub/bracken)				
Vegetation (trees)				
Burrowing animals				
Livestock				
Burning				
Water action				
Ploughing				
Vehicles				
Erosion (natural)				
Erosion (people)				
Collapse of Stonework, etc				
Construction				
Vandalism (inc. Fires)				
Debris(clouties, candles, etc)				
Metal detector activity				
Other disturbance				

Immediate action required?

Any debris removed (details)?

Any other comments or recommendations? (continue overleaf if necessary)

8.2 Appendix 2 Guidelines for volunteer site monitors



LIZARD ANCIENT SITES NETWORK (LAN) ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING SCHEME

As someone who has expressed an interest in adopting one of Cornwall's many ancient sites, you will probably already know that the County contains one of the richest distributions of archaeological monuments and features in Britain. Among these are a significant number of hugely important sites, which provide crucial evidence for understanding the social and religious practices employed by Cornwall's ancient people. That so many have survived until the present is remarkable, as they have endured centuries of widespread agriculture and other human practices which, elsewhere in the Country, have all but destroyed the ancient landscape. In recent times, however, many of Cornwall's ancient sites have come under increased pressure as a result of years of neglect and vandalism, aggressive farming practices and natural processes, and this has placed them under almost constant threat of damage or destruction. It is this fact which prompted the formation of the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN) and the Lizard Group – Lizard Ancient Sites Network (LAN), and the establishment of this archaeological monitoring scheme.

MONITORING SCHEMES

Over time, organisations who are responsible for large numbers of archaeological sites, such as the National Trust and English Heritage, have recognised that one of the most productive ways to ensure their long-term survival and conservation is via a regular and systematic monitoring scheme undertaken by local volunteers. In this way, sites which might not be encountered that often by archaeological staff (e.g. due to their out of the way locations on moorland, farm fields and cliffs) can still be visited on a regular basis, and any actual or potential damage can be reported and acted on before it gets out of hand. This information is then fed into a database designed to record each site's current state, including any problems and the subsequent response to them. By recording such information, the database becomes a tool with which to make informed decisions about the management of a broad range of sites, based on their type, construction, location and so on. The LAN monitoring scheme is based on that developed by CASPN in West Penwith, which in its turn was adapted from one used by the National Trust in Cornwall & Devon.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed for monitoring archaeological sites is actually very simple, consisting essentially of just a basic form which each monitor takes to the site and fills in. This form lists the various problems which might be most obviously affecting a site, and includes space to record any other factors which might be peculiar to it, thereby prompting the monitor to examine it in the most productive and valid way. The form also allows the monitor to make their own recommendations as to how he or she might constructively address any of the issues they have recognised. Once completed, a (preferably) electronic copy of the form, along with (if possible) any relevant digital photos, is forwarded to the monitoring scheme co-ordinator so that the details can be added to the database. Any urgent issues should also be reported to the co-ordinator directly by phone. Where there are no current issues, a regular 'all well' update by email rather than a filled in form is sufficient, as a record of the site's stability is essential for informing the management decisions made for similar but more problematic examples.

Co-ordinator: Cheryl Straffon 01736-787186 cheryl.straffon@btinternet.com

FREQUENCY OF VISITS

In conservation terms, the frequency of visits that are deemed necessary can be quite varied, based on site type, method of construction, antiquity, popularity and so on. Little known sites which exist in marginal areas, for example, might only be visited every few months, whilst well known sites listed in guidebooks might need weekly monitoring. For the purposes of the LAN scheme, a monthly visit would be the most preferable, as this will provide a good record of the life of a site throughout the year, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the monitoring database as a management tool.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following points are offered as general guidelines for monitoring your chosen ancient site or sites, and are based on those used by CASPN and other archaeological monitoring volunteers in Cornwall and elsewhere:

Preliminary Action

- Consult the risk assessment prior to the initial site visit
- On land which is not open access, and where it is known that permission is required to gain admission, contact the landowner prior to visiting the site

On-site Activity

- Be aware at all times of the hazards which may be encountered whilst on-site, as noted in the risk assessment
- Use the monitoring form check-list to inform your on-site observations, whilst being aware of any other issues which may not be included on the list
- Where relevant, record your observations and recommendations in detail (using the back of the form etc, if necessary), as these often fulfil an important role in understanding a site and the issues which affect it
- If possible, take a photographic record of the site, particularly if it has been damaged in any way
- Do not attempt to repair any serious damage personally, as this may require both specialist archaeological attention and/or the permission of the landowner
- Do not confront anyone who is creating a problem, though by all means try and talk to them calmly and explain why their fire or any other interference is damaging to the site's archaeological integrity
- If possible, remove any litter or other human debris (the non-organic remains of previous offerings etc.) from the site, and record that you have done so

Post-visit Actions

- Forward any completed forms to the monitoring scheme co-ordinator for action and inclusion onto the database. Electronic versions of the form are preferable if possible. Please save the form e-mailed to you and then print off a copy each time you need to. (Forms are also available to be sent to you by post).
- Forward any photographs with the completed forms. Again, digital copies are easiest as they can be stored electronically, and can be quickly forwarded to others if necessary

If you have any questions about the operation of this scheme please contact the Co-ordinator on the e-address or phone number given on p.1 of this document.

8.3 Appendix 3 Risk assessment for volunteer monitors



RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MONITORING SCHEME

Explanatory note:-

The type of work covered by this Risk Assessment includes visiting archaeological sites, and monitoring and surveying their structural integrity.

Physical hazards arising:-

- Slips trips and falls
- Mine shaft and associated workings
- Cliff edges
- Abrasion from brambles and thorns
- Attack by members of the public

Health hazards arising:-

- Adder bites
- Bracken spore inhalation (July-Sept)
- Animal-borne diseases which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses), including bovine tuberculosis, cattle leptospirosis, Lyme disease, orf, ovine chlamydiosis, Q fever, ringworm and tetanus
- Lyme disease resulting from tick bites
- Damage to skin resulting from sun exposure
- Dehydration and heat exhaustion
- Hypothermia

Principal precautions:-

- If hazards are suspected, consult with LAN co-ordinator, or with the landowner, prior to any site visit
- Do not enter non-consolidated structures without consulting LAN co-ordinator or landowner to assess structural stability
- Heavily overgrown areas should be avoided due to possible presence of mineshafts and other open and dangerous mine-workings

Principal physical precautions:-

- Sensible footwear and clothing should be worn appropriate to the environment, the time of year and weather conditions, and any routes taken (e.g through long grasses, water courses, etc)
- Ensure vaccination for tetanus
- Ensure plenty of fluids are consumed
- A first-aid kit should be carried
- High factor sun cream on exposed skin should be worn in appropriate weather
- It is strongly recommended that a mobile phone is carried during site visits, especially if monitoring alone

Further guidance (if required)

Leaflets are available if required on Lymes disease, UV radiation, Weil's Disease, and Conservation safety. Apply to Monitoring Co-ordinator for more details

8.4 Reports for initial clear-ups, by Cheryl Traffon

Monday 23/3/09 – Drytree Barrow [SW7256 2116]

Owner - Goonhilly NNR site Monitor – Prue Towner

Present: 10 volunteers + Ray Lawman [Natural England]
Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]
Brian & Margaret Gough [LAN Clear-ups Organisers]
James Gossip [LAN Committee member]
Prue Towner [Site Monitor]
Graham & Sue Folkherd
Chris (brother of Prue)
Jill Woodhead
Bart O'Farrell

Report: A good turn out for the first Clear-up by the Group. We met at NNR HQ, where Ray supplied everyone with tools and gloves. Then we drove over to Drytree site, and set to work clearing a very overgrown barrow. We made good progress, and by mid-afternoon had cleared most of the gorse and bracken from the site, and revealed the barrow. Ray offered to go back at a later date to cut down the willows on the top and around the perimeter of the site.

Tuesday 28/4/09 – Poldowrian Hut Circle [SW7550 1690]

Owner – Valarie Hadley Monitor – Margaret Hunt

Present: 7 volunteers
Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]
Brian & Margaret Gough [LAN Clear-ups Organisers]
Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member]
Charlie Johns [LAN Committee member]
Graham Folkherd
Lana Jarvis

Report: Weather was unsettled, with heavy downpours of rain and hail mixed with clear periods. Fortunately, the heaviest downpour occurred just before we started, and we had a relatively clear 3 hours. In the circumstances, this was a good turn-out, and we managed to clear the encroaching gorse from the hut circle right back to the edge of the perimeter wall. A good companionable afternoon.

Monday 18/5/09 – Kynance Gate Settlement [SW6875 1392]

Owner – Goonhilly NNR site Monitors – James Gossip & Sally Ealey

Present: 9 volunteers + Ray Lawman [Natural England]
Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]
James Gossip [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]
Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]
Priscilla Oates [LAN Committee member]
Graham Folkherd
Prue Towner
Chris Verran
Meg Read

Dave Thexton

Report: Another good turn-out, on a windy, but dry and sunny afternoon. Most of the regulars turned up, and we had 3 new volunteers. Ray suggested that we concentrate on the large hut circle near the entrance, which had become overgrown with gorse. We cleared that, and discussed coming back in the Autumn or next Spring to work on some more of the site.

Sunday 19/7/09 – Piskey Hall fogou [SW7280 3003]

Owner – John Olds Monitor – Steve Patterson

Present: 5 volunteers

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

Arthur Traffon

Graham Folkherd [Clear-up Co-ordinator]

Sue Folkherd

Chris Verran

Report: A small site that only needed gorse and bracken cleared. 5 was the ideal number, and even then the clear-up only took an hour and a half or so. John Olds asked us not to remove all vegetation from the top of the site, as the gorse bushes helped to prevent his cattle falling over the edge. So we cleared the entrance and edge of the fogou, so that it all looked much more attractive and accessible. We left the cut gorse in a heap for John, who had kindly agreed to take it away afterwards. A good site for a small Group, and a co-operative farmer. We can keep an eye on it for the future, and perhaps return there when the gorse has grown back again.

Monday 18/8/09 – Kynance Gate Settlement [SW6875 1392]

Owner – Goonhilly NNR site Monitors – James Gossip & Sally Ealey

Present: 8 volunteers

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

James Gossip [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]

Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]

Ann Preston-Jones [LAN Committee member]

Prue Towner

Chris Verran

Bart O'Farrell

Lana Jarvis

Report: A rare hot summer's day, which also brought out the horse flies! Ray brought over the tools and then left us to clear a second hut circle, which was successfully done. A good turn out for an August clear-up, showing perhaps the popularity of this site, which will certainly repay regular clearance. The hut circle we cleared in May was still free from gorse, though heather was growing inside it.

Sunday 20/9/09 – Chyanhalls Point Cliff Castle [SW785 175]

Owner – National Trust Monitor – Martin Harris

Present: 9 volunteers + Nigel Cook [NT Warden]

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

Ann Preston-Jones [LAN Committee member]

Martin Harris [Site Monitor]
Ginette Harris
Prue Towner
Chris Verran
Bart O'Farrell
Lana Jarvis
Arthur Straffon

Report: A beautiful sunny late summer's day at a lovely site. Nigel brought a great selection of tools and we concentrated on clearing the gorse and bracken from the downslope outer rampart. A standing stone was uncovered that may have been an entrance stone from the original site defences.

Sunday 18/10/09 – Ruan Major Church [SW701 165]

Owner – Diocese Monitor – Charlie Johns

Present: 11 volunteers
Charlie Johns [Site Monitor & Organiser]
Ann Preston-Jones [LAN Committee member]
Sue Preston-Jones
Graham Folkherd [Clear-up Co-ordinator]
Chris Verran
Prue Towner
Steve Patterson
Jenny Scriven
Dave Hart
Andrew Langdon
Jill Woodhead

Report: Eleven of us spent a happy few hours in the tree-sheltered graveyard of the ruined church of Ruan Major. When we arrived, the churchyard was overgrown with long wet grass and nettles above which just the tops of the gravestones were visible. By the time we left, the vegetation to the south, west and east of the church had been trimmed to reveal many gravestones while within the church brambles were cut from the walls and a broken 13th century grave slab tidied up. Cuttings were raked up and beneath them we found many primroses, which hopefully will make a good display next spring, now they have been cleared of their overburden of wet grass.

Monday 16/11/09 – Croft Pascoe Barrow [SW7274 1943]

Owner – Goonhilly NNR site (Michael Tyler) Monitor –

Present: 9 volunteers
Cheryl Straffon [LAN Project Manager]
Ann Preston-Jones [LAN Committee member]
James Gossip [LAN Committee member]
Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member]
Graham Folkherd [Clear-up Co-ordinator]
Prue Towner
Jill Woodhead
Bart O'Farrell
Gilly Gilchrist

Report: A wild day, but fortunately sheltered in the woodland. This is a large bowl barrow (25m/81ft in diameter), which has not been cleared for at least 30 years, and it took the 9 of us all afternoon just to clear the bracken and vegetation from around the flanks and get to the top. Three groups worked separately, and by the end of the visit had all met up, which felt like a good achievement. Graham & Prue uncovered what looks like a kerb stone around the base of the barrow, though no further ones were found. (HER says there is a part of a kerb here). Definitely a site to return to next year.

Saturday 16/1/10 – Three Brothers of Grugwith [SW7616 1978]

Owner - Henry Pascoe Monitor – Sally Ealey

Present: 8 volunteers

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]

Charlie Johns [LAN Committee member]

Bart O'Farrell [LAN Committee member]

Graham Folkherd

Sue Folkherd

Chris Verran

Lana Jarvis

Report: A misty day with intermittent rain, but we were fortunate to have a mainly dry spell for the 3hrs of the Clearance. Sally had organised the access permission and a sheet of useful information.

A good turn out and a satisfying and enjoyable day. Group cleared all the surrounding gorse and revealed the monument in all its enigmatic glory. Amongst things noticed but not recorded elsewhere were the flat stone acting as a step up to the monument, and the serpentine-shaped stone on the left hand side entrance to the monument. Path to the site also made more accessible. Probably no need to return until next year.

Monday 15/2/10 – Kynance Gate settlement [SW687 139]

Owner – Goonhilly NNR site Monitors – James Gossip & Sally Ealey

Present: 15 volunteers

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]

James Gossip [LAN Committee member & Site Monitor]

Priscilla Oates [LAN Committee member]

Bart O'Farrell [LAN Committee member]

Jill Woodhead

Lana Jarvis

Arthur Traffon

+ Richard Mikulski from Truro College with 6 archaeology course students, including Chris Verran

Report: LAN's 3rd visit to Kynance Gate. Hut circles F3 & F2 which we had cleared last year were still looking quite free from re-growth, so, as we had the advantage of having the students from Truro College, making a good size work force, we decided to have a go at clearing a hut

circle [A1] that had become completely overgrown with gorse. We made excellent progress and cleared the whole hut circle in the afternoon. Weather was kind, with sunny spells and only one brief shower when we stopped for lunch. Ray brought up tools as usual, but although we had asked for extra ones because of the students, unfortunately there were not enough to go round. But everyone managed with what we had, and it was a successful and companionable afternoon. When the hut circle A1 was cleared, a small curved line of stones was found, similar to that found at the edge of hut circle F3. These exterior features have not been documented before. We made a useful contact with Richard and have e-mailed him details of future Clear-ups, and hope that he may be able to organise a return visit, perhaps to Chyanhalls Point in September? Thanks go to Chris for helping to get the students on board, and to Graham for coming in at the end to check that the tools were collected up.

Monday 15/3/10 – Croft Pascoe Barrow [SW7274 1943]

Owner – Goonhilly NNR site (Michael Tyler) Monitor –

Present: 7 volunteers

Cheryl Traffon [LAN Project Manager]

Sally Ealey [LAN Committee member]

Graham Folkherd [Clear-up Co-ordinator]

Jill Woodhead

Bart O'Farrell

Lana Jarvis

Meg Read

Report: A lovely sunny day, warm and sheltered in the small woodland. This was a return to the site we had first started to clear on a visit last November. The gorse and bracken we had cleared then had not regrown, so we continued to clear across the top of the barrow and ended up doing about two-thirds of it, leaving only a third for another day. Graham made a symbolic cut through to the far side of the barrow, so we could see the complete area of it. We left the gorse in a big pile on the top of the barrow for Ray to remove.