



Conserving Cornwall's Past

Final project report



Historic Environment Projects

Conserving Cornwall's Past

Final project report

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Within Historic Environment, the project was managed by Ann Preston-Jones and Peter Rose, with help from Dick Cole (at the outset), James Gossip, Cathy Parkes and Adam Sharpe.

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.

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Cover illustration

High points in the project: trial of education unit at Boskenwyn School, LAN volunteers at Kynance Gate, repairing the Trethevey Roman milestone, the restored Tremethick Cross and stabilising stones at Tregeseal Stone circle.

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Abbreviations

BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CASPN	Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection network
CHT	Cornwall Heritage Trust
CWT	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
LAN	Lizard Ancient Sites Action Network
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship Agreement
NE	Natural England
NGR	National Grid Reference
NT	National Trust
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER
SMM	Scheduled Monument Management
SM@R	Scheduled Monuments at Risk



Summary

This report describes work undertaken between 2008 and 2010 through Historic Environment, Cornwall Council's *Conserving Cornwall's Past* project. The project, funded principally by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Cornwall Council, centred around conservation work at a number of Scheduled Monuments at Risk, but involving also educational work, interpretation, and especially community involvement. Involving local communities in the conservation of their heritage was one of the key aspects of the project, the most successful element of this being the establishment on the Lizard of a group of volunteers dedicated to managing and monitoring monuments there.

The main monuments involved in the project are listed in the contents and have illustrated summary descriptions within the report; they include stone crosses, stone circles, a hillfort, and a badly eroded barrow. In fact an even larger total of monuments benefitted in some way, when the number of sites where scrub clearing was carried out by volunteers is considered and the fifty pieces of medieval stone sculpture microchipped. A valuable aspect of the project was in facilitating future management through the promotion of sites for Higher Level Stewardship agreements, and through the production of a Conservation Management Statement (Tregargus Valley) an archaeological assessment (Falmouth Jewish and Congregationalist cemeteries), evaluation work (St Piran's Oratory) and a project proposal (Carwynnen quoit).

Outreach and interpretation for the project included numerous lectures on the management and conservation of monuments in Cornwall, the enhancement of Cornwall Council's website to include information on the management of archaeological sites, the production of webpages on monuments in Cornwall, three interpretation boards, a leaflet for Paul Church and Kennall Vale Gunpowder works, and the exploitation of any suitable opportunity for publicity.

An especially satisfactory element of the project was the development of a close working relationship with Sense of Place, an organisation dedicated to the production and promotion of educational materials for schools. With the help of Sense of Place, we produced an entirely new work unit for very small children, and revised and updated work units on China Clay and the Iron /age in Cornwall. There is now a rich resource for teachers interested in using Cornwall's heritage as a foundation for teaching and learning about the past.

It goes without saying that a project of this variety and scope could not have succeeded without the support of a similarly varied and enthusiastic range of partners. Principal amongst these are the Cornwall Wildlife Trust at Kennall Vale, Natural England on the Lizard, the Cornwall Heritage Trust in relation to Castle an Dinas, the St Piran's Trust, Penryn Town Museum and Paul Parochial Church Council. The many others involved are listed in section 4 of the report.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

For many years, Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Service had been running a successful and busy programme of management works to Scheduled monuments, known as the 'Scheduled Monument Management Project'. Funding for this came mainly from English Heritage (EH), the Cornwall Heritage Trust (CHT) and Cornwall County Council (CCC), with in-kind contributions from a wide range of partners. Between 2005 and 2007, with additional grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), a project of wider scope was developed (the *Scheduled Monument Management Programme*), carrying out more community-based work, education and interpretation than hitherto. Following this, a further application to the HLF and other funders for a new project with different emphasis was also successful in gaining support. This project, *Conserving Cornwall's Past*, is summarised in this report.

As with the previous *Scheduled Monument Management Programme*, the project has revolved around conservation work to a range of Scheduled Monuments in poor condition. A significant difference of this project however, has been the aim of involving communities and volunteers in practical work on the monuments; an aim very successfully achieved at Kennall Vale gunpowder works and on the Lizard, where a flourishing new volunteer group now functions. Education has been a key element too, on the premise that the future of our sites depends on today's children. So as part of the project we have commissioned an entirely new Work Unit for Key Stage 1 pupils, and helped in improving and promoting further Units on the Iron Age and the heritage of the China Clay area.

The project has taken longer than expected to complete. It spanned a difficult period during which Cornwall County Council and the many District Councils in the county transforming into a Unitary Authority, and in the process one of our officers left to become a Councillor with the new authority. Meanwhile one or two of the elements of the project as originally proposed fell through for various reasons: but other equally worthy possibilities emerged to take their place, once ratified by the HLF and EH.

1.2 Aims of the project

The aims of the Conserving Cornwall's Past project, as set down by the HLF were as follows:

- To carry out conservation and repair works on a range of Scheduled Monuments
- To encourage local community groups to participate in works relating to the historic environment
- To increase knowledge and understanding of Scheduled Monuments and historic landscapes
- To improve the interpretation for Scheduled Monuments

1.3 Sites

The list below is of all the elements of Conserving Cornwall's Past; it indicates the scope of each project and assesses how they fitted with the overall project aims. Some projects – like Castle an Dinas – fulfilled all the project aims; others only some, but between them all aims were satisfied well. The work at some sites took a matter of days; at others it extended over the life of the project.

In many instances, the work undertaken will have contributed not only to any immediate conservation needs, but also to the long term management of the sites in question. This is also described, where appropriate, as it has been a significant, if partly unpredicted aspect of the project. For example, a number of the sites will be progressing on to Higher level Stewardship agreements, St Piran's Oratory is the subject

of a current grant application, and a Sainsburys development is facilitating improved management of the Jewish and Congregationalist Cemeteries at Falmouth. All these are related to the work undertaken through Conserving Cornwall's Past.

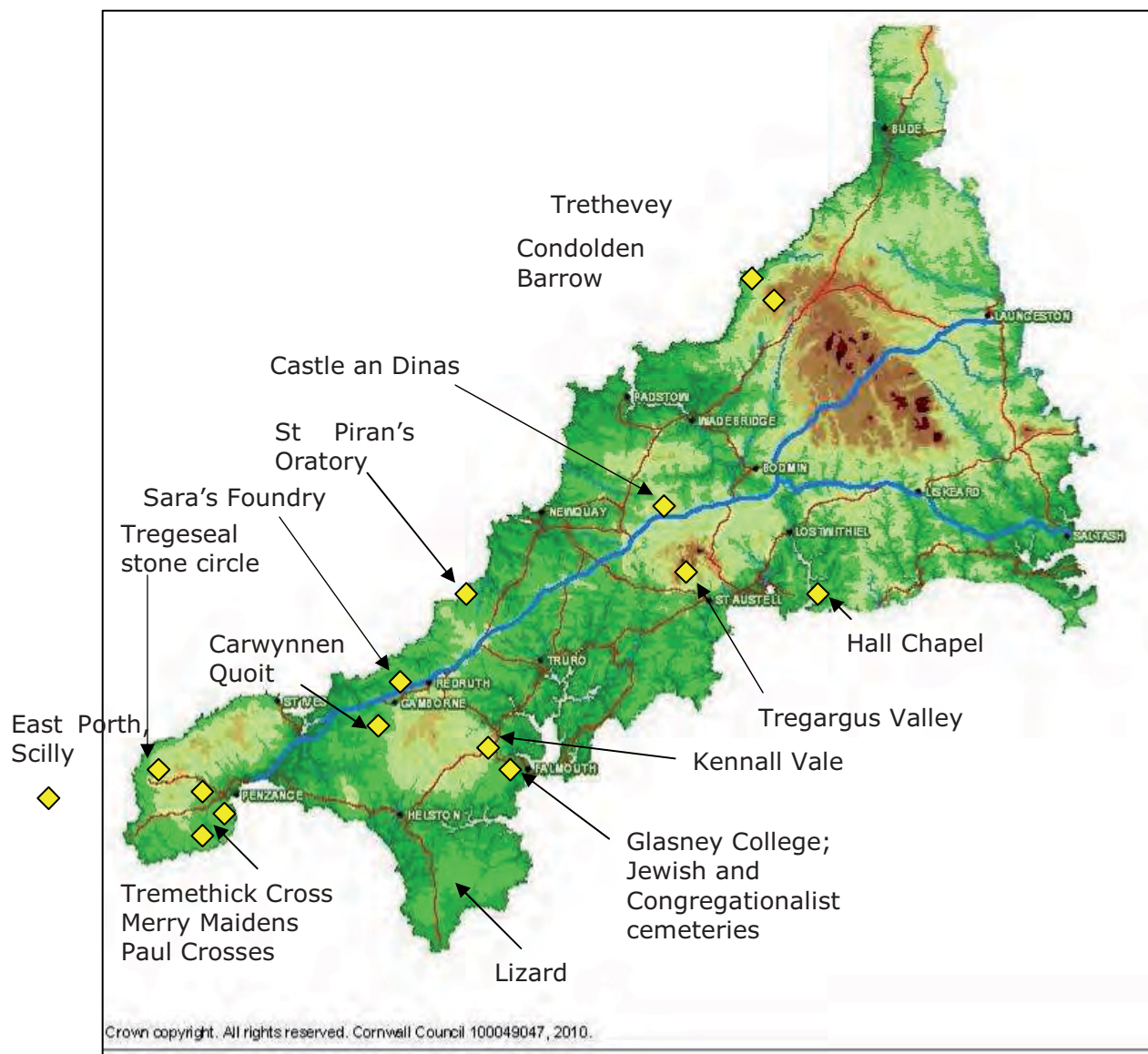


Fig 1 Location of sites mentioned in the report

Carwynnen Quoit

Conservation: A geophysical survey undertaken as part of this project will help guide management of buried features associated with the quoit in the surrounding field.

Community: Project undertaken in partnership with a community trust. Local volunteers involved in surveys of the site.

Knowledge and understanding: Ground and geophysical surveys have contributed significantly to understanding of the site.

Future management: One of the outcomes of the project was an application for a Higher Level Stewardship for full restoration of the monument and sympathetic

management of the field in which it stands. It would complement a successful grant application by the Sustainable Trust to the HLF.

Castle an Dinas hillfort

Conservation: The entire site was cleared of scrub, an eyesore (a concrete water tank) was demolished and its remains used to restore a damaged section of the ramparts of the hillfort.

Knowledge and understanding: A schools work unit on the Iron Age has been updated and re-launched, following successful trials.

As part of this project, a series of paintings reconstructing the many phases of the site were made. These will be available for schools visiting the site.

The result of scrub clearance was so impressive that a survey team from EH has been encouraged to make a detailed survey of the site; and geophysical surveys are also now planned.

Interpretation: The reconstruction paintings will form part of an interpretive scheme being planned now.

Future management: One of the outcomes of the project was an application for a Higher Level Stewardship to help with the long term sustainable management of the site.

Condolden Barrow

Conservation: A severely eroded barrow was repaired.

East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly

Conservation: Because of its archaeological importance the whole island of Samson is a Scheduled Monument and the project will contribute to its long term management.

Knowledge and understanding: The project will make available for the first time the results of excavations carried out in 1971, thereby enhancing our knowledge of ancient Scilly.

Interpretation: The outcomes of the project can be incorporated into future interpretative material about the island.

Falmouth Jewish and Congregationalist Cemeteries

Conservation: Both cemeteries are in serious, deteriorating condition, suffering vandalism, stonework collapse and uncontrolled tree and scrub growth. The project has helped to raise awareness of their plight and has contributed to action to reverse this decline.

Community: The project has encouraged local people to get involved in recording gravestones within the cemeteries.

Knowledge and understanding: An archaeological assessment has added greatly to understanding of the cemeteries and helped in raising awareness.

Future Management: The project has encouraged Cornwall Council's parks and gardens team to undertake scrub clearance within the Congregationalist Cemetery. The development of a major superstore adjacent to the site brings the potential for funding a Conservation Management Plan and some elements of the repair work that is needed.

Kennall Vale Gunpowder Works

Conservation: Two vandalised structures were repaired

Community: A thriving volunteer group now exists to help with the management of Kennall Vale; as well as undertaking practical work, they also helped with a

photo survey to help in monitoring the condition of all the buildings and structures on the site.

Interpretation: A new interpretation board and leaflet have been produced through the project.

Future Management: Work here has helped to focus attention on this high risk Scheduled Monument. Although it has not altered the risk, it has led directly to an application for Higher Level Stewardship to help with the repair of leats, buildings, and paths and the management of the site as a whole.

Local volunteers on the Lizard

Conservation: Numerous sites have been cleared of scrub, while the condition of others is regularly monitored.

Community: An enthusiastic group of archaeological volunteers has been established.

Merry Maidens Stone Circle

Conservation: A vandalised stone was stabilised.

Microchipping Crosses

Conservation: A unique ID for 50 medieval crosses has been provided by fixing microchips, to act as a deterrent to theft.

Community: Publicity associated with the project has raised awareness with local communities on the need for vigilance to protect crosses.

New Key Stage 1 work unit for schools

Conservation: It is hoped that promoting an interest and awareness in archaeology at an early age, will help protect sites in the future. The children who learn with this work unit today are the sites' guardians of the future.

Knowledge and understanding: The aim of the work unit is to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of archaeology even in the youngest children.

Interpretation: Through this unit, the interpretation of archaeological sites is subtly revealed.

See <http://www.azook.org.uk/barebones/sop.php>

Paul Churchyard Cross-head and shaft

Conservation: The churchyard cross-head has been conserved, stabilised and made safe by replacing faulty iron fixings.

Community: The work took place in a prominent place within Paul village, and was linked with a lecture in the village hall.

Knowledge and understanding: Understanding of the cross and an associated cross-shaft built into the wall of the church was enhanced through the project, with the discovery that both may have been part of the same original monument.

Interpretation: A leaflet interpreting the cross-head, cross-shaft, and other wayside crosses in the parish was produced, to be available in the church.

Future management: With the knowledge resulting from this project, there exists the very real possibility of one day re-uniting and improving presentation of the two pieces of the churchyard cross.

Reconstructions book

Conserving Cornwall's Past helped with the production of a book of reconstructions of archaeological sites in Cornwall. The book, entitled *A Brush with the Past*, was written by Jane Stanley, an artist and member of Cornwall Archaeological Society.

Knowledge and understanding: People's knowledge and understanding of Cornwall's past will be significantly enhanced by just looking at the pictures in this book!

Interpretation: The book interprets and brings to life many Cornish monuments, in a way which is accessible and interesting.

Sara's Foundry

Conservation: A large tree which threatened Sara's Foundry buildings and its precious contents was carefully taken down by skilled tree surgeons.

Scheduled Monuments at Risk

Future management: Nearly two-thirds of the Scheduled Monuments in Cornwall are considered to be at risk from one or more threats. This project carried out an evaluation of English Heritage's Scheduled Monuments at Risk data, to help flag up sites in Cornwall which might be suitable candidates for future conservation through a Cornwall Council-based Scheduled Monument Management project.

St Piran's Oratory

Conservation: Evaluation on the site of St Piran's Oratory provided information on the buried Oratory and its condition, which is essential to the long-term aim of uncovering and conserving the site.

Community: Members of the St Piran Trust were involved with the evaluation excavation.

Knowledge and understanding: A DVD and interactive model will increase knowledge and understanding of the site, its condition, and the long-term aims of the St Piran Trust to make the site accessible once more.

Future Management: The evaluation has provided information to aid an application to the HLF for a project planning grant for uncovering the Oratory and undertaking a range of community activities.

Tregargus Valley china stone mills

Conservation: The project has resulted in the production of a Conservation Management Statement, to support applications for grants to help with repairs.

Knowledge and understanding: As part of this project a school's work unit, 'White Pyramids', has been revised and is being promoted locally.

Future management: The site has been proposed for Higher Level Stewardship to help with building repairs and sustainable long-term management.

Tregeseal stone circle

Conservation: Stones which were loose in the ground have been stabilised and extensive scrub clearance undertaken.

Community: Local volunteers are involved in the management of the site.

Future management: The site will be managed by a mixture of volunteer scrub clearance and the grazing which is now in place through a Higher level Stewardship agreement.

Tremethick Cross

Conservation: The cross which was severely damaged as a result of vehicle collision has been repaired.

Knowledge and understanding: Research undertaken as part of the project has shed some light on the history of the monument.

Trethevey Roman inscribed stone

Conservation: Iron fixings have been removed from the stone.

Community: The stone is now fully accessible for the community.

Knowledge and understanding: Research undertaken as part of this project has shed light on Roman this monument and inscribed stones in Cornwall as a whole.

Interpretation: A small plaque interpreting the stone is now mounted on a wall close by.

Future management: The stone is now mounted in a new base, which will protect it from the risk of vehicle damage, theft, etc, and has been microchipped to further protect it.

Webpages

Knowledge and understanding: Understanding of the work of Cornwall Council through *Conserving Cornwall's Past* has been promoted with the introduction of a new section on site management on the Cornwall Council website. The possibility of making Monument management reports available over the internet is also being investigated. <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8520>

Interpretation: The Access to Monuments website, set up three years ago, has been enhanced with webpages on a further fifty monuments in Cornwall, where possible selecting sites which have benefited from management work by Cornwall Council.

<http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/a2m/>

1.4 Results

A very brief summary of the main results of each component project is illustrated in section 3. Most projects will also have resulted in the production of a full report. These are all listed in section 4.

1.5 Publicity

Where possible or appropriate, publicity was arranged to promote the projects in *Conserving Cornwall's Past* and the project-funders. As in the past, microchipping proved popular with the press, but the Paul crosses also received a fair amount of attention, as did the work of the volunteers on the Lizard.

2 The individual projects

The projects are illustrated on subsequent pages.

2.1 Carwynnen Quoit



Carwynnen Quoit, located on the Pendarves Estate just outside Camborne, collapsed in 1842. It was re-erected 'by workers on the Pendarves Estate and local people, galvanised by Mrs Pendarves'; however in 1967 it fell again, during an earth tremor. Since then it has remained as a pile of boulders in an agricultural field.



In 2008, the quoit and an area of land around it were bought by the Sustainable Trust, with the aim of protecting and ultimately restoring the monument. Conserving Cornwall's Past helped with surveys to inform management of the land around the quoit and compiled a project proposal for re-erection, to inform grant applications



Plane table survey of the quoit by Cornwall Archaeological Society



Geophysical survey by Tamarside Archaeological Survey group and Cornwall Archaeological Society



The quoit being inspected by Phil McMahon of English Heritage

2.2 Castle an Dinas



In 2008-9, Historic Environment helped co-ordinate work to improve the condition and presentation of Castle an Dinas, one of the most outstanding hillforts in Cornwall. The work was undertaken in partnership with the Cornwall Heritage Trust, owners of the site. The work included scrub clearance, demolition of an old concrete water tank, and restoration of a section of the rampart. A plan to create an interpretation board was put on hold pending alternative funding from Natural England as the site enters a Higher Level Stewardship scheme, but a major series of paintings illustrating the site at different stages in its life was commissioned from artist Jane Stanley, for use in future interpretation.



Left: the old water tank before demolition

Right: demolition of the tank in progress



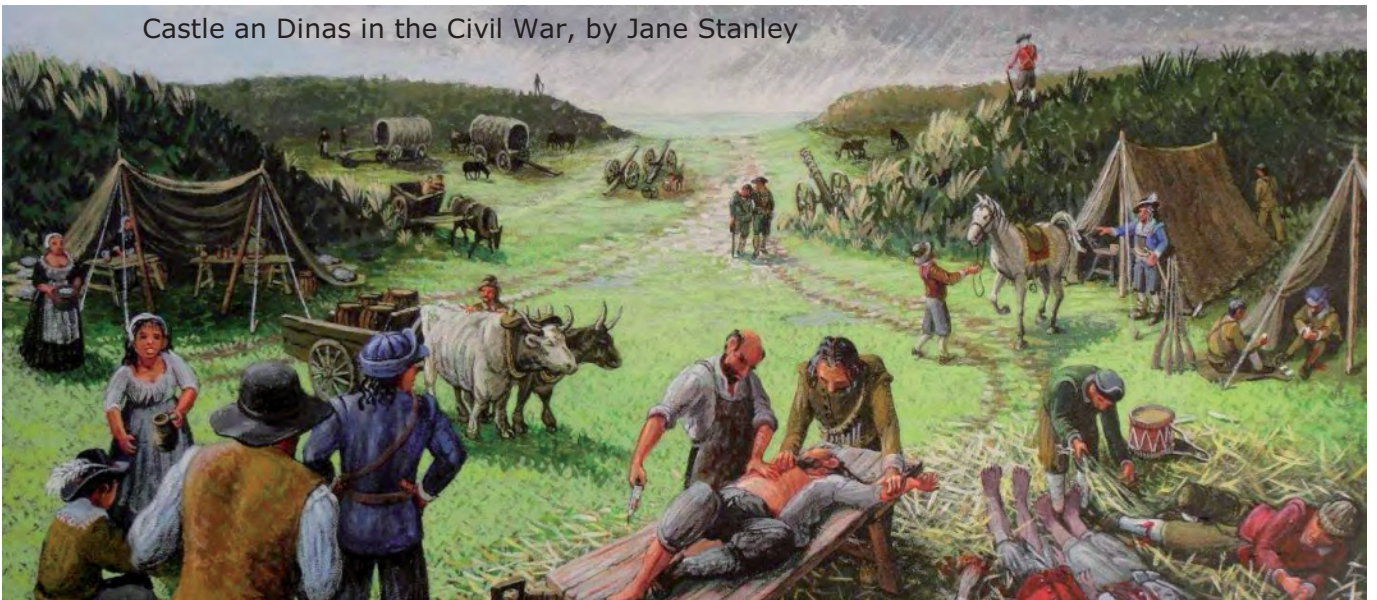
Left: gap in the rampart



Right: the restored rampart, reconstructed to prevent access through here to the centre of the fort



Castle an Dinas in the Civil War, by Jane Stanley



2.3 Condolden Barrow

For many years, Condolden Barrow had been subject to erosion by stock, with the result that by 2008, the top of the barrow, around the trig point, had been lowered by as much as 0.4 metres, and the trig point had started to lean.



Preliminary recording indicated that erosion was affecting about one third of the barrow's surface. In the eroded areas, the ground had been lowered by as much as 0.4 metres.



Erosion had cut through the turf and topsoil layers containing some large and small stones, and was eating into an underlying light yellow-brown clay layer studded by blocks of quartz and other stones

The barrow was fenced, and repaired by teams of volunteers from the British trust for Volunteers in April 2008, under the supervision of archaeologists from Historic Environment Projects.



2.4 East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly

The aim of the project is to publish the results of an excavation at East Porth on the uninhabited island of Samson undertaken by David Neal in 1971 with funding from the DoE. The site is particularly important because of the Neolithic pottery, rare in Scilly, and the range of post-Roman pottery from a multi-phase ecclesiastical settlement.



Above: air photograph of East Porth, Samson (Cornwall Council)

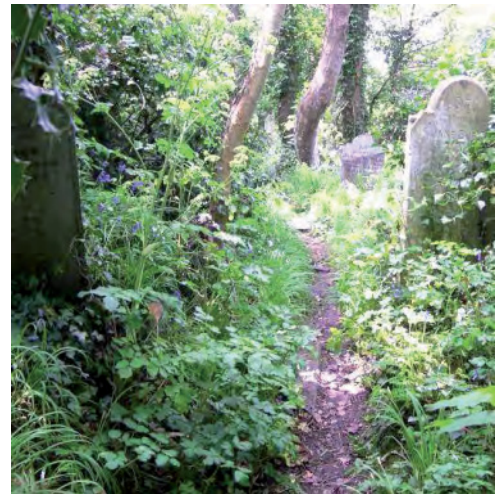
Below: photographs taken during the 1971 excavations (David Neal)



The project archive had become dispersed and the work has involved collecting the material together and cataloguing it. This was followed by specialist pottery reports by Henrietta Quinnell and Carl Thorpe, with help from Charles Thomas, and updating the draft report and illustrations compiled by Neal in the early 1970s. The draft publication article will be handed over to the editor of *Cornish Archaeology* in March 2011.

2.5 Falmouth Jewish and Congregationalist Cemeteries

Lying in a neglected, scrubby area on the edge of Falmouth, surrounded by retail development and busy roads, are Falmouth's Jewish and Congregationalist cemeteries. The main use of the cemeteries spans approximately 100 years, from 1780 to 1880, the Congregationalists' cemetery being of slightly later origin than the Jews'. Each contains a ruined mortuary chapel; between them they have about 150 graves.



Essentially unused since the early 20th century, both cemeteries are now in poor condition, the Congregationalists part especially so since it has apparently seen little or no maintenance throughout the 20th century. The Jewish cemetery is in rather better condition, as the vegetation there is occasionally cut, but the Congregationalists' is subject to tree and ivy growth, vandalism, collapse of walling, rough sleeping.....In both, shattered tombstones lie scattered. The two cemeteries have recently been assessed as a Scheduled Monument at high risk of damage and in deteriorating condition.



Conserving Cornwall's Past carried out an archaeological assessment of the site to enhance understanding and appreciation of the cemeteries, and provide guidelines for action, as a first step to undertaking work to reverse their decline, repair, stabilise and improve management.

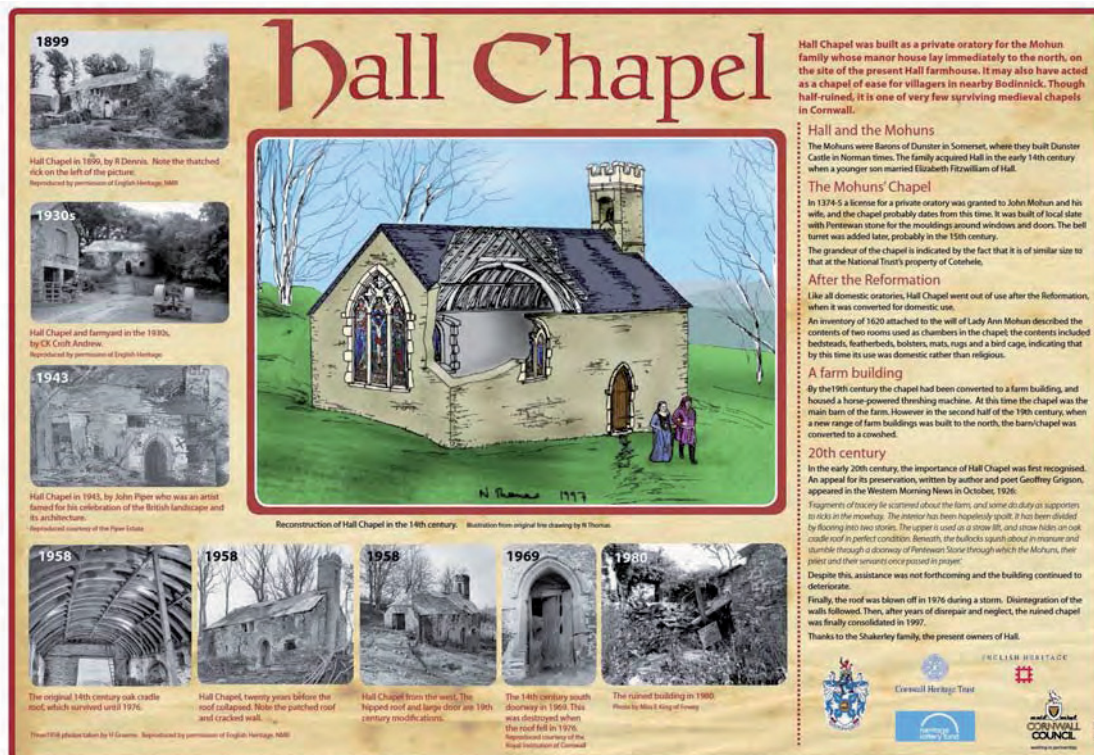
2.6 Glasney College

Conserving Cornwall's Past worked with Penryn Town Museum to produce an interpretation board for the site of medieval Glasney College.



2.7 Hall Chapel

At Hall, on the edge of Bodinnick in East Cornwall, we helped the owner of a ruined medieval chapel to renew and update an interpretation board.



2.8 Kennall Vale

In a deep wooded valley managed as a nature reserve by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust at Kennall Vale, Ponsanooth, are the well preserved remains of an early 19th century gunpowder works. The site is a remarkable complex of mills, leats, trackways, bridges, blast walls and ancillary buildings. Despite its beauty, Kennall Vale is a high risk Scheduled Monument: the threats to its integrity include deteriorating stonework, vandalism, tree damage and the uncontrolled flow of water through leats and buildings.



In 2009, in liaison with Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Conserving Cornwall's Past helped to carry out a range of conservation and management works at Kennall Vale. This included carrying out conservation work to two vandalised structures, the felling of particularly dangerous trees, and re-surfacing of the main track giving access to the site. Groups of volunteers helped with work in the reserve, including vegetation clearance and a photographic survey to enable monitoring of the condition of the buildings. Finally, an interpretation board and leaflet were designed and produced.



Volunteer Birgit Honzsch clearing steps adjacent to one of the incorporating mills, to improve access and help with photography

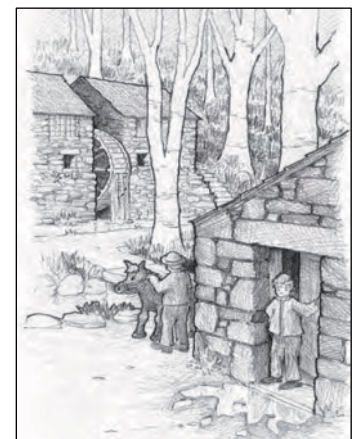


Repointing the vandalised cask house



Re-surfacing the path within the reserve, to improve access

Drawing of Kennall Vale in the 19th century for the interpretation board and leaflet



2.9 Local volunteers on the Lizard



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, in liaison with Natural England, English Heritage, the Meneage Archaeology Society and CASPN: the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network. Site monitoring and monthly scrub clearance sessions were initiated, with the latter proving particularly popular. The group, known as the Lizard Ancient Sites Protection Network or LAN has achieved dramatic improvements to the condition and presentation of many sites and is now self-sustaining.



Within a year, eight sites had been cleared of scrub by the volunteers.



2.10 Merry Maidens Stone Circle



Merry Maidens (SW 4327 2450) is one of the best preserved stone circles in the country, never mind Cornwall. Yet this fabulous site, over four thousand years old, suffers regularly from minor acts of vandalism.



The latest occurred in July 2009 when – seemingly – an attempt was made to push one of the stones over. As a result, the stone was left leaning and loose in the ground – and a potential threat to visitors to the site.



Although plenty of standing stones lean in this way, some at a greater angle than this, a decision was made to straighten and stabilise the stone because it appeared insecure. The aim was to avoid the risk to the many visitors to the site, to avoid any damage to the stone or any deposits associated with it, as well as to restore the stone at this near-perfect circle.



Preliminary archaeological excavation showed the stone to taper markedly under ground. Although it was supported under one corner by a smaller stone, this shape may explain why it had been relatively easy to push over and its subsequent instability.

The stone was restored in October 2009 by Adrian Thomas and Pip Morse. It was pulled gently back into position and the ground around it backfilled and re-turfed.



2.11 Microchipping Crosses



A second phase of microchipping took place in 2008-10. In 2005-7, 100 wayside crosses were microchipped. On this occasion, 50 crosses and carved fragments loose in churches and churchyards were protected from theft by microchipping, and the function of a proportion of those installed previously were checked.

2.12 Scheduled monuments at risk



In 2008-10, 'Scheduled Monuments at Risk and Scheduled Monument Management', or SM@R and SMM, produced for Cornwall a prioritised working list of scheduled monuments 'at risk', with scope for improvement under a SMM project. A total of 171 monuments were identified as suitable for consideration for SMM projects, and these sites will form the basis of future Cornwall Council SMM projects.

2.13 Paul Churchyard Cross

Standing on a boulder built into the churchyard wall and a prominent feature in the village of Paul, is the head of a large four-holed cross, of 10th or 11th century date: the oldest visible feature on the church site.



In recent years, it had become apparent that the cement and ironwork holding the cross-head to the boulder and the churchyard wall was in poor, deteriorating condition, making the monument at risk of damage.



At about the same time, an interlace-decorated cross-shaft was noted by local historian Jill Hogben, built into the north wall of the church. It was considered possible, but by no means certain, that the cross-head and shaft both came from the same original monument.



The cross-head was removed from the churchyard wall, and the rusty old iron pin which had been holding it in place was replaced with one of stainless steel. The cross-head was lifted back into place and the joint repointed in lime mortar.



The pointing was dug out from around the cross-shaft to reveal its full extent. It was concluded that the head and shaft were indeed part of one original monument, the shaft being in all probability cut off in the late medieval period, so that it could be used as a building stone.

2.14 New Key Stage 1 work unit for schools



A new work unit for Key Stage 1 children was written, trialled and finally launched in 2010, by Sense of Place, a project which enables teachers in primary and secondary settings to deliver the curriculum with distinctiveness and diversity. In our new unit, classes visit an archaeological site where they 'bump' into the Victorian Cornish archaeologist John Blight who explains how the objects help him to uncover ancient sites in Cornwall. Pupils then meet and interview a modern day archaeologist and find out why and how archaeologists dig, and what they are looking for, hearing exciting stories about the ancient and precious artefacts that have been discovered in Cornwall. and go on to design and make their own historic replica artefacts.



In addition, 'the Cornish Alps', an existing work unit on the china clay area, has been brought up to date with our support and advice and offered free to all schools in the china clay area. We have also helped Sense of Place to finalise a work unit 'Iron Age Kernow' and the Royal Cornwall Museum to develop an Iron Age workshop and loans box for schools.

2.15 St Piran's Oratory

Conserving Cornwall's Past helped the St Piran Trust forward their aim to excavate the Oratory from the sands by carrying out an archaeological assessment and evaluation trenching. A promotional DVD and interactive model were also produced.



The Oratory c 1900



The concrete shell built to protect the Oratory in 1910



Dick Cole and volunteers excavate on the site of the Oratory

2.16 Tregargus valley



Big Wheel mill in operation

The Tregargus Valley in St Stephen in Brannell contains a remarkable complex of china stone mills. Here we helped the Tregargus Trust towards their aim of restoring the mills and improving access by producing a Conservation Management Statement and promoting the site for a Higher Level Stewardship agreement.

2.17 Tregeseal stone circle



With the re-introduction of grazing to Tregeseal Common in St Just, in 2009, an unusual threat to the stability of the stone circle materialised. Members of 'Save Penwith Moors' found that a number of the stones were slightly loose in their sockets, and at risk of being pushed over by cattle rubbing against them. In agreement with English Heritage, Natural England and the owners of the site, the problem was addressed through Conserving Cornwall's Past. Four of the stones which were loose, were stabilised by wedging rab down into the gap between the stones and the surrounding ground. At the same time, an area of dense vegetation around the site was cleared, to give more space for the stock to move around and to help reduce the possibility of any conflict between cattle and visitors to the site.



In the photo above, Adrian Thomas and David Cutting are filling the gaps at the sides of the stones with rab. The stones which were loose were all ones which had fallen and been re-erected within the last 100 years.



Nathan Thornton flails the vegetation outside the circle.



Volunteers from the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network now help to monitor and maintain the site.

2.18 Tremethick Cross



Tremethick Cross, near Penzance, was hit by a lorry in February 2008, and broken into three pieces. The cross was restored in October 2008, by pinning the separate pieces together and mortaring the joints.



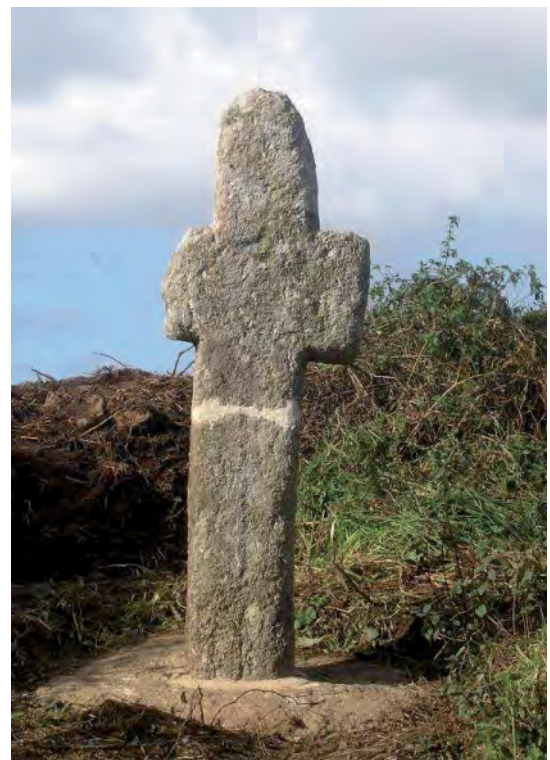
Broken cross-head



The broken were pinned with stainless steel dowel



28 Re-erecting the cross



The restored cross

2.19 Trethevey Roman inscribed stone

At Trethevey, Tintagel, is a rare Roman inscribed stone commemorating the 3rd century emperors Gallus and Volusianus, found in 1919, in use as a gatepost, and moved into the garden of St Piran's House. Deterioration of the gate fittings and rust staining made the stone difficult to interpret; its location in a private garden made access difficult. So in partnership with the owner, a project was developed to remove the gate fittings, move the stone to a public location, secure it on a new base and interpret the inscription.



The stone before, lost amidst the shrubbery



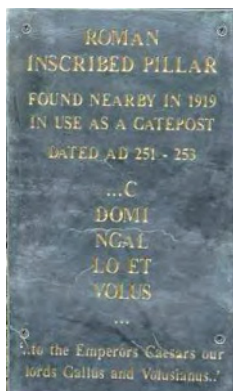
The rusty gate fittings



Lawrence Kelland removing the iron fixings



Removing the stone from the garden



New slate plaque



Removing the stone from the garden



Installing the new granite base



Re-erecting the inscribed stone



Owner Stephanie Brewis, proud of her achievement

2.20 Six lectures

In the original project design for Conserving Cornwall's past, it was promised that in the lifetime of the project we would do at least six lectures illustrating the importance of conserving monuments in Cornwall. Amongst others, talks were given to Launceston Old Cornwall Society, St Austell University of the Third Age, and Pentewan Old Cornwall Society; one was given at the Royal Institution of Cornwall to coincide with National Archaeology Week. A more specialist series on the conservation of Cornish Crosses, which features displays and an opportunity to handle artefacts including an example of a microchipped cross, given on our behalf by Andrew Langdon, has proved especially popular and is still touring Cornwall!

2.21 Webpages

In promoting the work of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council in the conservation of Scheduled monuments, including through *Conserving Cornwall's Past*, much work has gone into making information available on-line.

- A series of fifty further sites have been added to the existing Access to Monuments site (<http://www.historic-cornwall.org.uk/a2m/>) with sites selected as far as possible from those where conservation work has taken place.
- A new page describing site conservation work has been added to Cornwall Council's website. This contains links to details of selected projects and reports, as well as a list of all work undertaken (<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8520>) .
- Work is currently underway to make all Scheduled Monument Management reports available by the OASIS website: <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/> .

3 Site details and report list

The following is a list of full reports for each of the projects summarised above; with other sources of information where appropriate.

Carwynnen Quoit

NGR: SW 65014 37213

HER: 35111

Scheduled Monument: Co 396

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, et al, 2011. *Carwynnen Quoit, Camborne, Cornwall: archaeological recording and proposal for restoration*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2011R015)

Castle an Dinas

NGR: SW 9454 6236

HER: 21602

Scheduled Monument: Co 93

Report:

Preston-Jones, A and Stanley, J, 2011. *Castle an Dinas, St Columb Major, Cornwall: management and interpretation works*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2011R010)

Condolden Barrow

NGR: SX 0905 8718

HER: 23077

Scheduled Monument: Co 299

Report:

Cole, D and Preston-Jones, A, 2010. *Condolden Barrow, Tintagel: erosion repair to Scheduled Monument*, Cornwall, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R099)

East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly

NGR: SV 8780 1280

HER: 7076

Scheduled Monument: 15526

Report: Neal, D, forthcoming. *Excavations at East Porth, Samson, Isles of Scilly 1970-1, Cornish Archaeology*

Falmouth Jewish and Congregationalist Cemeteries

NGR: SW 7946 3384

HER: 38921

Scheduled Monument: 15581

Report:

Parkes, C, 2010. *Falmouth Jewish and Congregationalist cemeteries, Cornwall*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R039)

Kennall Vale

NGR: SW 7946 3738

HER: 18356

Scheduled Monument: 15541

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, 2011. *Kennall Vale, Ponsanooth, Cornwall: management and interpretation*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2011R021)

Local volunteers on the Lizard

Report:

Preston-Jones, A and Traffon, C, 2010. *The Lizard, Cornwall: monitoring and management of archaeological sites by local volunteers*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R121)

Merry Maidens Stone Circle

NGR: SW 4327 2450

HBSMR: 18453

Scheduled Monument: Co 43

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, 2010. *The Merry Maidens, St Buryan, Cornwall: stone stabilisation*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R016)

Microchipping Crosses

Report:

Langdon, A, 2008. *Cornish cross microchip project, phase 2, Truro*

New Key Stage 1 work unit for schools

<http://www.azook.org.uk/barebones/sop.php>

Paul Churchyard Cross

NGR: SW 4642 2707

HBSMR: 18767

Scheduled Monument: 28467

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, 2010. *Paul Churchyard Crosses, Cornwall: report of conservation and interpretation*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R137)

Reconstructions book

Stanley, J, 2009. *A Brush with the Past*, Truro.

Sara's Foundry

NGR: SW 69124 42590

Report:

Gossip, J, 2009. *Sara's Foundry, Tolgus, Redruth, Cornwall: archaeological watching brief during tree removal*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2009R046)

Scheduled Monuments at Risk

Parkes, C, 2010. *Scheduled Monuments at Risk and Scheduled Monument Management in Cornwall: assessment of priorities*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R016)

St Piran's Oratory

NGR: SW 7685 5639

HBSMR: 10230

Scheduled Monument: 29670

Report:

Gossip, J and Cole, D, 2010. *St Piran's Oratory, Perranzabuloe, Cornwall: results of evaluation*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R140)

Tregargus valley

NGR: SW 9491 5393

HBSMR: 38433

Scheduled Monument: Co 668

Report:

Sharpe, A and Pilkington, J, 2011. *Tregargus Valley, St. Stephen in Brannel, Cornwall: Conservation Management Statement*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R052)

Tregeseal stone circle

NGR: SW 3865 3236

HBSMR: 16152.01

Scheduled Monument: Co 305

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, 2010. *Tregeseal Stone Circle, St Just, Cornwall: conservation work*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2010R107)

Tremethick Cross

NGR: SW 4484 3014

HBSMR: 18834

Scheduled Monument: 26240

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, Langdon, A, 2008. *Cross south-east of Tremethick Cross, Madron, Cornwall*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2008R131)

Trethevey Roman inscribed stone

NGR: Formerly located at SX 0762 8919, now SX 07616 89153

HBSMR: 23107

Scheduled Monument: 30431

Report:

Preston-Jones, A, 2011. *Trethevey, Tintagel, Cornwall: conservation and re-display of the Roman inscribed stone*, Historic Environment Cornwall Council report (2011R004)

4 Partners

Although Conserving Cornwall's Past has had a set of strong overarching objectives, the objectives have been spread over many sites in many parts of Cornwall, so that inevitably, many different organisations and individuals have been involved. Partners in the project have ranged from monument owners, to volunteers, contractors, people with special interests in certain sites, to members of organisations or charities with interests which complement our own. Occasionally there have been offers of funding, often work in kind; even permission to undertake a project is important. But the real stars are our volunteers, who give their time free-of-charge. In every case, and in many different ways, they have enriched our work. To all those who have been involved in Conserving Cornwall's Past, we are hugely grateful.

The following list is of our main partners, collaborators and volunteers, in no particular order. I will almost certainly have forgotten some – to whom I apologise.

John and Anthony Hart (contractors, Castle an Dinas)	Dave Munday (CASPN scrub clearance, Tregeseal)
Jane Stanley (reconstruction paintings)	Adrian Thomas (contractor Paul, Trethevey, Merry Maidens)
Philip Hills, Cornwall Heritage Trust	David Cutting (contractor Tregeseal, Trethevey)
Gerry Brain, Cornwall Heritage Trust	Pip Morse (contractor Merry Maidens, Paul)
Carl Roberts, Cornwall Heritage Trust	Jill Hogben, Paul Church
Tony Blackman, Cornwall Heritage Trust	David Carpenter (Paul Churchwarden)
Sue Marriott, Cornwall Heritage Trust	Geoff Hoad (contractor with JCB various sites)
Tom Fletcher, Cornwall Council	Rev Tim Heaney, Paul church
Joan Taylor (photos of 1960s dig, Castle an Dinas)	Elizabeth Stubbings, Paul Church and <i>Cornishman</i> correspondent
Ian Cooke, Save Penwith Moors	Dick Cole (before he disappeared)
Craig Weatherhill, Save Penwith Moors	Peter Lugg, CC Highways (Tremethick Cross)
Vaughan Robbins, Natural England	Adrian Drake, CC Highways (Tremethick Cross)
Clive Williams (permission for Tregeseal)	Tony and Ann Jenkin, looked after Tremethick Cross head
Kenny Trembath (permission for Tregeseal)	

Sue and Lawrence Kelland, Stonework Conservators

Stephanie Brewis, owner of Trethevey Roman milestone

Sarah Cawrse, conservation officer, NCDC

Andrew Langdon, microchipping, Paul

Lyn Poole, Cornwall Diocesan Advisory Committee secretary

Eric Dawkins (information on Jewish cemetery, Falmouth)

Peter Scott (owner, Condolden Barrow)

Tom David, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), Condolden

Volunteers with BTCV

Cheryl Straffon (LAN, CASPN)

Sally Ealey (LAN volunteer)

Priscilla Oates (LAN volunteer)

Bart O'Farrell (LAN volunteer)

Graham Folkherd (LAN volunteer)

Chris Verran (LAN volunteer)

Jill Woodhead (LAN volunteer)

Lana Jarvis (LAN volunteer)

Meg Read (LAN volunteer)

Pru Towner (LAN volunteer)

Arthur Straffon (LAN volunteer)

Sue Folkherd (LAN volunteer)

Gilly Gilchrist (LAN volunteer)

Steve Patterson (LAN volunteer)

Dave Hart (LAN volunteer)

Jenny Scriven (LAN volunteer)

Martin and Ginette Harris (LAN volunteer)

Brian and Margaret Gough (LAN volunteer)

Dave Thiexton (LAN volunteer)

Keith Rundle (LAN volunteer)

Lynette Millward (LAN volunteer)

Norman Read (LAN volunteer)

Barbara Tripp (LAN volunteer)

Ray Lawman, Natural England

Justin Whitehouse, National Trust

Nigel Cook, National Trust

Mike Hardy, National Trust

John Nash (CASPN, Merry Maidens)

Beth Tonkin, Natural England

Eileen Carter, St Piran Trust

Perran and Angela Penrose, St Piran Trust

Tim Carter, archaeologist

Doug Johnson, St Piran Trust

Helen Rowe, St Piran Trust

Stephen Richardson, St Piran Trust

Colin Retallack, St Piran Trust

Nathan Yeoman, Cornwall council

Tom Tremewan, St Piran Trust

Pip Richards, Sustainable trust

Andy Norfolk, Sustainable Trust

Jacky Nowakowski, Cornwall Council

Konstanze Rahn, CAS survey volunteer

Peter Rose, CAS survey volunteer

Les Dodd, CAS survey volunteer

Peter Nicholas, CAS survey volunteer

Ursula Davey, CAS survey volunteer

Ryan King, CAS survey volunteer

Adrian Rodda, CAS survey volunteer

Simon Thorpe, Cornwall Council

Morwenna Milburn, Cornwall Council

Nick Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Mark Nicholls, Cornish Stoneworks, Kennall vale contractor

Peter Dudley, archaeological contractor, Kennall Vale

Callum Deveney, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Birgit Höntzsch (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Linnea Glynne-Rule (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Chris Wheeler (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Sheila James (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Lewis Meyer (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Robbie and Judy Beardon (Kennall Vale volunteer)

Jonathan Kearsley (Kennall Vale volunteer)

John Kirby, Penryn Museum

Gavin and Margaret Shakerley, Hall Chapel

Dave Taylor, Design Team, Cornwall Council

Glyn Bennallick, Design Team, Cornwall Council

Polly Enright, Cornwall Council

John Yeo, Tregargus Trust

Kim Wonnacott, Tregargus Trust

David Hazlehurst, Natural England

Jane Pilkington, Spalding Associates

Roger Jeffery – access to Merry Maidens

Stephanie Brewis, Trethevey Roman stone owner

Fiona Fleming, archaeologist

Atlas Tree Services, Sara's Foundry

5 Future

In a future project, we hope to build on some of the elements of this project which have proved so successful. Our work with archaeological volunteers on the Lizard has been so well received, that we are now intending to see if we can have equal success on Bodmin Moor: a bigger area with many important prehistoric and medieval sites, but dispersed over a much larger area. As English Heritage has made it clear that their priority for funding from now on will be for Scheduled Monuments at high risk of damage, we hope to be undertaking research into the single most damaging agency affecting monuments in Cornwall: bracken rhizomes. In this we will be working closely with the Dartmoor Bracken project, to see how much damage this plant does to - infested sites in West Penwith. Finally, repairs to granite monuments will feature: there is no shortage of these in Cornwall.

6 Project archive

The HE project number is **2008200**

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 records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Details of archives for the individual projects within Conserving Cornwall's Past are given in the individual project reports (see list, section 3)

This report text is held in digital form as: Sites G:\Historic Environment (Documents)\HE Projects\Sites\Scheduled Monument Management\2008-10\Final report