

## FROM YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

### Updates from Cornwall Archaeological Society's Area Representatives

Any opinions or errors in these articles are those of the authors and must not be assumed to be those of Cornwall Archaeological Society.

## NOVEMBER 2021

Issue 60

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

In November, the Society's Area Representatives held their second meeting of the year at Kresen Kernow, with those unable to attend in person participating on Zoom. This month's edition includes some of the updates provided for the meeting.

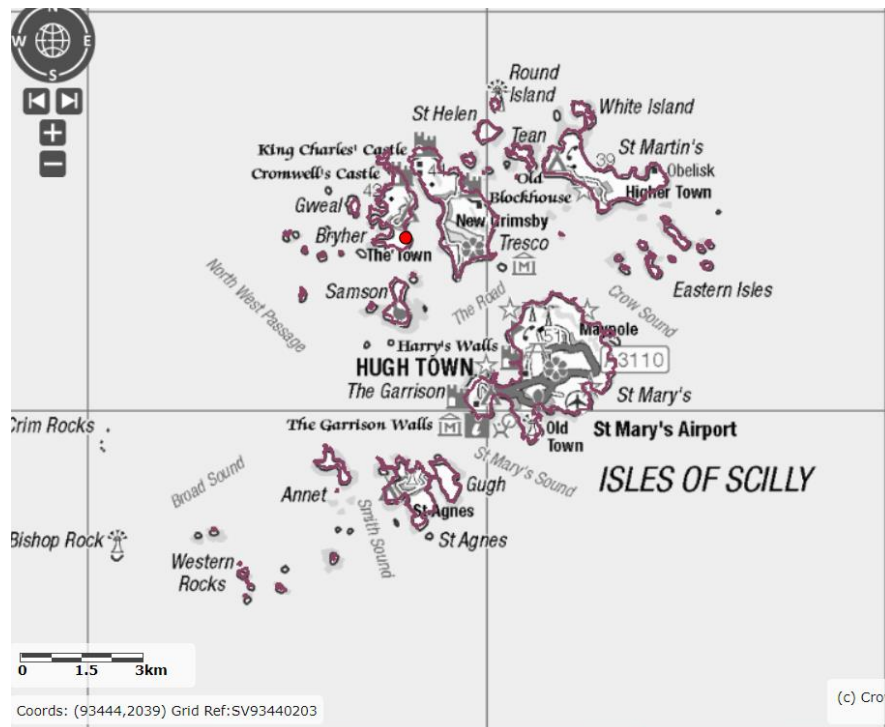
- **ISLES OF SCILLY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP**
- **NOCS SHRUB-BASHERS**
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May took us to Samson Hill, Bryher to clear two more, including the wonderful site at Works Carn, shown here after clearance:



Photo: Katharine Sawyer



<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

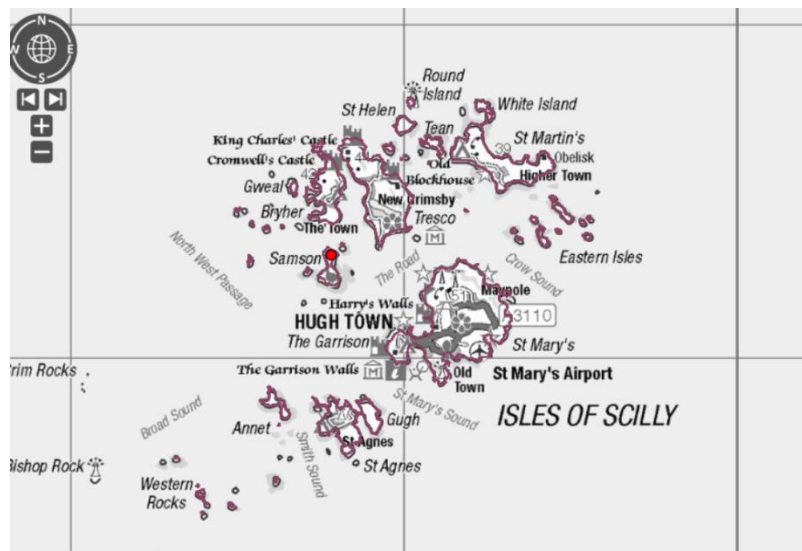
In July, gorse and other vegetation around some of the burial chambers and boulder walls on North Hill, Samson was tackled, as shown in these before and after photos:



Photo: Katharine Sawyer



Photo: Katharine Sawyer



<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

August took the group to Nornour to work on the iconic prehistoric settlement site and Romano-British period shrine. We were concerned, when we arrived, to see that a group of visitors were having a barbeque in the hearth of one of the Bronze Age huts. They left as soon as we landed and we then extinguished their fire which was still burning. Fortunately no damage had been done to the hearth.

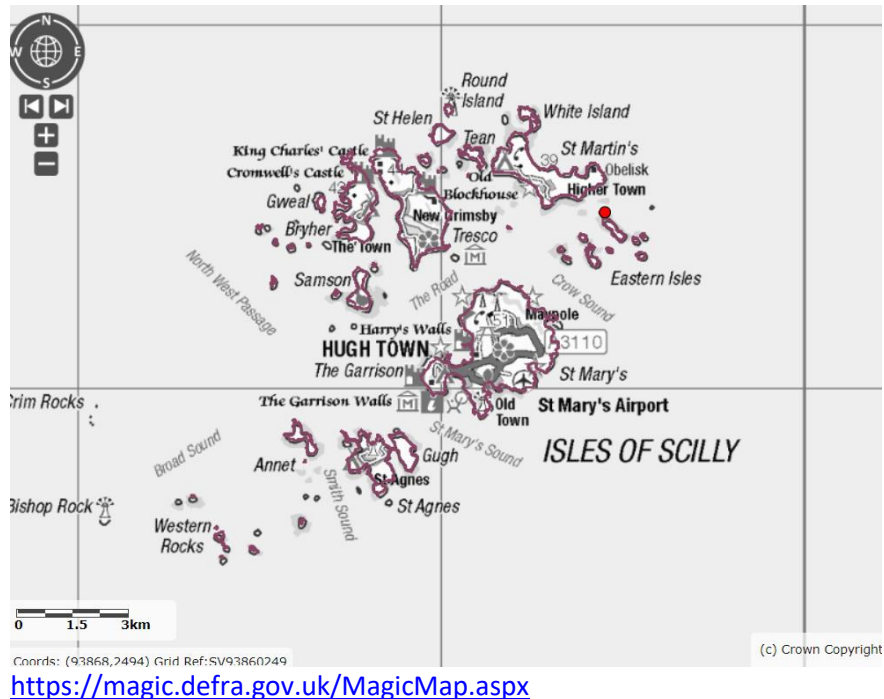


Photo: Katharine Sawyer

It had been two years since the last clearance session on Nornour so there was plenty to do. With encouragement from Cathy Parkes, the CAU Senior Archaeologist with special responsibility for Scilly, we also carried out the Heritage at Risk assessment and plotted the current line of the top of the beach on to the 1970s excavation plan of the site, in order to show how much coastal erosion has taken place since then. Pictures show some of the team

at work and the results of their labours in part of the shrine and the 'barbeque hut' (where the ash in the hearth is still visible):



Photo: Katharine Sawyer



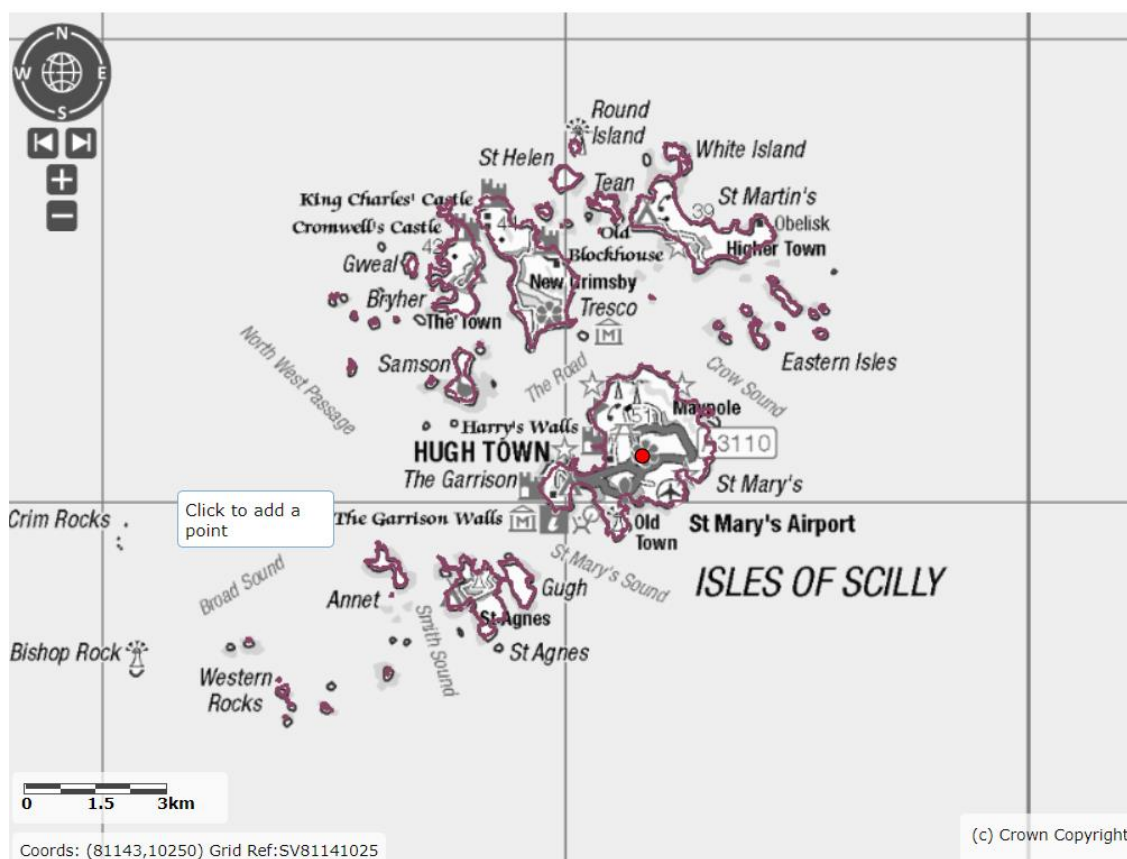
Photo: Katharine Sawyer

In September we returned to Kittern Hill, where we worked on the entrance graves of Obadiah's Barrow and Carn Valla. We also searched for a kelp pit, last recorded in 1988 when it was described as having 'windblown sand and eroded soil' in it and being 'partially concealed by grass and heather clumps'. We think that we found it but time didn't permit us to investigate fully, so that will be December's task!

In November we worked on Porth Hellick Down on St Mary's, clearing vegetation from several of the entrance graves there.

In June the Isles of Scilly Museum opened its 'Museum on the Move' in the Town Hall on St Mary's. This has enabled us to display some of our most important archaeological artefacts, including the Roman brooches from Nornour, the Iron Age sword and mirror from Bryher and Bronze Age funerary urns from a number of sites. This was very well received by both islanders and visitors.

Work is continuing to plan for a museum building to replace the one which had to close in June 2019 due to structural problems. The preferred site is the Town Hall and the Council of the Isles of Scilly has recently been awarded £440,579 from the UK Community Renewal Fund to progress proposals for a new museum and cultural centre there.



<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Report and photos: Katharine Sawyer

The Isles of Scilly Archaeology Group has a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/473127096149620/> .

## NOCS SHRUB-BASHERS

*Steve Hebdige, Sheila Harper and their colleagues in Newquay Old Cornwall Archaeology Group (also referred to as the NOC Shrub Bashers) are never daunted by the task of caring for the archaeological heritage in their area. Steve has given us this update:*

Our first outing after lockdown was in June 2021 when Ann Preston Jones of Historic England asked Sheila about the Cubert Common Barrow (HER 1966; Scheduled Monument 29666; SW 7806 5943; Cubert parish), so Sheila and I visited it. There was only a small amount of damage at the top of the barrow, see picture:



1. Cubert Common Barrow Photo: Steve Hebdige

Trevemper Bridge (HER 25068; Listed Building (II) 63659; SW 8194 5987; Cubert parish) was the first Newquay Old Cornwall Archaeology Group outing in June (see pictures 2 & 3). We have been back two more times.



2. Trevemper Bridge

Photo: Steve Hebdige





3. Trevemper Bridge

Photo: Steve Hebdige

On 17<sup>th</sup> June the Shrub Bashers visited the landward barrow on Trevelgue Head (HER 55457; Scheduled Monument CO88; SW 8289 6306; Newquay parish):



4. Trevelgue Head

Photo: Steve Hebdige

In 2019, a granite mortar-stone, believed to be 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century AD in date, was found in the car park opposite the King's Head public house in Lane (SW 82731 60140). The site was due to be developed for housing but the lockdown prevented any action to remove it to a safer site. Fortunately, Sheila was able to speak to the landowners and arrange for it to be moved to Dairyland Museum. The move took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June:



5. Mortar-stone

Photo: Steve Hebdige



6. A rolling-stone...

Photo: Steve Hebdige

On 1<sup>st</sup> July St Eval Longstone (HER 21980; SW 8714 6802; St Eval parish) was visited:



7. Revealing the Longstone

Photo: Steve Hebdige



8. It's a menhir, m'dear!

Photo: Steve Hebdige

On 19<sup>th</sup> July Sheila and I went to the Barrowfields in Newquay after reports of caravans parking there. (Various barrows including HER 4666.05; Scheduled Monument CO619: Three round barrows on the Barrow Fields; SW 8206 6227; Newquay parish.)

We found there were 3 large caravans on the western end and about 6 smaller caravans on the eastern end. We took photos and reported it to the council, who dealt with it and the next day all the caravans were gone.



9. Caravans on Newquay's Barrowfields

Photo: Steve Hebdige

Between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> October the shrub-bashers have been to Mawgan Porth Medieval Village (HER 22101; Scheduled Monument CO530; SW 8511 6726; Mawgan-in-Pydar parish) ten times so far.



**10. Mawgan Porth settlement before clearance Photo: Steve Hebdige**



**11. The settlement revealed after a lot of effort Photo: Steve Hebdige**

In August our group tackled the large barrow on the Barrowfields. We have been twice.



12. Clearing one of the barrows in Newquay

Photo: Newquay OCS

November saw the shrub-bashers making two visits to Trevornick Holy Well (HER 19676; Listed Building (II) 63653; Scheduled Monument 32955; SW 7733 5889; Cubert parish) on the golf course and a further visit is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> November.



13. Well hidden

Photo: Steve Hebdige



14. Working well

Photo: Newquay OCS



15. Well well – job done

Photo: Steve Hebdige

During lockdown Sheila and I have photographed and drawn another flint collection found by Robbie Selly in a field at Coombe, west of Tehidy County Park. We have also researched tidal, bone and corn mills in Cornwall, as well as carrying out newspaper searches for more fish cellars, fishing stations and capstans.

**Report by Steve Hebdige. Photos: Steve Hebdige and Newquay Old Cornwall Society**

Newquay OCS has a Facebook page at : <https://www.facebook.com/newquayhistory/> .

## A KERRIER BAG

*Adrian Rodda has provided a wide-ranging summary of the condition of monuments in his parishes. Here is his bag of goodies from Kerrier.*

This is just a summary of trends within my parishes and some of it will not be up to date.

### **Camborne:**

The crosses within the town are well protected and in good shape, as are the crosses at Treslothan Church (HER 35260; Scheduled Monument 31851; SW 6507 3781; Camborne parish) and the Reskajeage Cross (HER MCO57026; SW 6002 4189; Camborne parish).

The scheduled menhir in the area of Pendarves Woods known as the Rocks is standing as a reminder of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age landscape (HER MCO54540; SW 6509 3839; Camborne parish).

Carwynnen Quoit (HER 35111; Scheduled Monument CO396; SW 6501 3721; Camborne parish) is well cared for by Sustrust, (formally The Sustainable Trust) the charity which promoted the project to raise the fallen quoit in 2014.

At St Ia's Chapel and Cell (HER 26681; Scheduled Monument 1441204; SW 6583 3816) Sustrust volunteers, including Phillip Hills, who drove the scheduling application, keep a watch and have done some clearance.

### **Crowan:**

The churchyard cross is stable (HER 29525; SW 6456 3449; Crowan parish). However, I was not able to sneak into the Clowance Estate for many months of the lock down. The Nine Maidens Cross (HER 35175; Listed Building (II) 65832; Scheduled Monument CO179; SW 6336 3490; Crowan parish) was still unprotected from a parking space just behind it. Some kind of crash barrier would help. I could not locate the Binnerton Cross as so many new lodges and tracks had been built near where I expected it to be (HER 29468; Scheduled Monument CO179; Listed Building (II) 65842; SW 6360 3532; Crowan parish). I must go back and try to find a receptionist or groundsman who can help. The Bold Gate Cross (HER 29523; Scheduled Monument CO179; Listed Building (II) 65841; SW 6353 3476; Crowan parish) located on the island and accessible only by boat is invisible from the bank, but I might be luckier in the winter. When last visited it was well cared for and not overgrown.

A small group of local people excavated the ditch of an unscheduled round and found pottery from Iron Age to modern period within its filling. Unfortunately, both the land owner and the promoter of the dig have died and I do not know what has become of the finds. The ditch was very deep!

**Gwinear:**

The churchyard crosses are well loved and protected. (1. HER 31876; Scheduled Monument 30414; Listed Building (II) 70119; SW 5951 3736. 2. HER 29564; Scheduled Monument 30413; Listed Building (II) 70120; SW 5950 3738. 3. HER 29556; Scheduled Monument 30415; Listed Building (II) 70121; SW 5949 3739. All are in Gwinear parish.)

**Gwithian:**

To my eyes the lean on the churchyard cross, which stands precariously close to the graves, is not worse than it was (HER 105798; Scheduled Monument 30412; SW 5863 4124; Gwithian parish).

The Pound is still overgrown and attracts litter (HER 31804.11; Scheduled Monument CO773; SW 5878 4121; Gwithian parish).

The buried church of St Gothian which is near the Red River is well protected from cattle and humans (Scheduled Monument 1006700, Gwinear-Gwithian parish). However, it would be good to get a drone photograph of the site to see how the exposed walls have survived.

The barrow on Godrevy Headland has some visitors, but little footfall erosion (HER 37068; Scheduled Monument CO772; SW 5812 4330; Gwinear-Gwithian parish). The NT board which explained the bump on the hill above has disappeared, as has the board with information about the seals. I only hope they will both be restored.

The summer 2020 found the NT site short staffed and people lit fires in the shelf above the beach at Godrevy which accommodated the remains of a fish processing cellar (HER 53558; SW 5810 4295; Gwinear-Gwithian parish). This summer they took on more temporary staff and I was not aware of serious vandalism.

The Dynamite factory at Upton Towans was scheduled recently (HER 37085; Scheduled Monument: National Explosives 1463206; SW 575 399; Gwinear-Gwithian parish). This covers a large area of dunes and the coast path runs by it. Most walkers have no idea that they are not seeing a completely natural landscape. Interpretation boards would be a great help. Wild campers had taken advantage of the privacy of the bunkers, particularly those where the dynamite packing sheds had stood within a line of small bunkers. The reams of toilet paper betrayed their activities.

A footing of a building was exposed below the dune bank separating the stony beach from the nature reserve where the tin works had once operated. This pops up after some exceptionally high tides and disappears after exceptional sand blows. Its function is a moot point amongst local "experts". Some see a round chimney at one end, but it eludes my imagination.

Back towards Portreath along the North Cliffs brings us to Caravel Cliff Castle (HER 26605; Scheduled Monument CO519; SW 6347 4396; Illogan parish). The narrow path off the coast path is so prickly with gorse and brambles it does not encourage visitors. There is no



interpretation board to point them to it, which is just as well as any cyclist who decided to use it for a launch into space from the inner rampart would end up below on the rocks or in the sea. Gradual erosion continues to eat into the exposed ends of the rampart. The trench dug there in 2012(?) is still a scar which visitors do walk over. However, in my opinion footfall erosion is minimal.

Just inland is Tehidy Woods Round, which is cut through by the main path (HER 26677; Scheduled Monument CO768; SW 6429 4375; Illogan parish). To the seaward side of the path there is a substantial bank and ditch which did attract boy/girl racers, but the resulting scar and eroded section is getting no worse, thanks to the re sited bench obstructing the approach. The inland side is very difficult to trace because it is much lower and very overgrown. (Lovely bluebells though.) Again there is no interpretation board, just a way marker plan.

### **Illogan:**

The churchyard cross (HER105860; Listed Building (II) 66739; Scheduled Monument 29224; SW 6712 4403; Illogan parish) is fortunately situated near war graves, so its environs are kept clear and it is accessible. Much of the rest of the churchyard has been assigned for re-wilding. There was an active group of local volunteers who looked after the graves and researched the families and history of the parish. I do not know if they have resumed their interest this year.

The Glebe land has been built on despite active protests by local people who did not want to lose this green space.

A similar pressure group in **Troon** has been objecting to a new building site there and archaeologists have found the footings of at least one roundhouse. Their trench has been refilled and I don't know what is planned for the future of the site. (See: <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/bronze-age-roundhouse-discovered-proposed-6097179> )

The cross on Whitecross Hill has been painted white and cleared of the vegetation which obscured it on top of a hedge (HER 3526; Scheduled Monument 31840; Listed Building (II) 66736; SW 6746 3974; Carn Brea parish). Carn Brea council have taken it under their wing.

### **Redruth:**

St Ruman's Cross is healthy and revered (HER 18051; Listed Building (II) 66802; SW 6981 4195; Redruth parish). The Butter Market has a listed status and is being developed tastefully, if not dairy free (HER18062; Listed Building (II); SW 6995 4193; Redruth parish).

A local group of people were worried about Tarmac's plans to solve the problem caused by the steep drop from the cemetery at Redruth Churchtown, St Euny (HER 18070.10; SW 6911 4125; Redruth parish). The graveyard is well above the neighbouring chicken farm and retained by a wall as old as the church itself. The wall is collapsing at the graveyard level in places and there is no defence against people falling down the vertical drop. Tarmac's suggestion was to build a fence on the chicken farm side from ground level up and above

the cemetery, but this would involve drilling into the existing wall to hold the fence. The ancient wall is visible from Carn Brea (with binoculars and long sight) and would be totally obscured by the new fence. Archaeologists objected to this plan as it would damage the old wall. Graves closely abut the existing wall, leaving no space to build at the cemetery level. To the best of my knowledge there are no vampires buried there who deserve a stake through their chests. I must go back to see what has happened.

Carn Brea castle is on the Heritage at Risk list (HER 18163.71; Scheduled Monument CO79; SW 6863 4086; Carn Brea parish). The roundhouses (HER 18163.42; Scheduled Monument CO79; SW 6850 4077; Carn Brea parish) had not been cleared when I last visited, but they and the Neolithic enclosure walls are better inspected once the bracken is down. The only serious piece of footfall erosion is on the main path between the castle and the monument, but at least it does show that there is a wall cutting across the area and separating the monument plateau. Most of the walls are too overgrown to spot without a plan or a guide.

### **The Mines and tin works:**

Gorse and brambles have advanced through the lock down on all the sites. The best one is Wheal Francis, which is probably the most visited part of the Great Flat Lode (HER35803.10; Scheduled Monument CO953; Listed Building (II) 66700; SW 6805 3937; Carn Brea parish). Ivy is getting a grip on most of the chimney stacks.

Wheal Peevor is a worry as the gorse and bracken is actually destroying the surface and the buddles on one of the processing floors (HER 19286; Scheduled Monument CO875; SW 707 442; Redruth parish). This may be beyond repair, but could be saved from getting worse. There are few buddles like these visible in any of the mine sites. Litter is a problem here, as elsewhere, but accessible litter seems to be cleared up. It is the cans and crisp packets thrown down into the engine houses that look so ugly.

One victory for local democracy was the rejection of a plan to build unnecessarily close to the boundary of this World Heritage Site. Probably the plan will be presented again!

Tuckingmill Valley Park is generally well used and the arsenic calciner on its little island in the Red River is relatively safe from vandalism. However, the chimney stack in the woods is suffering from ivy.

### **Perranporth:**

Not my area to report on but I visited on 10<sup>th</sup> November and the flooding at the Oratory was almost complete already (HER 19723; Scheduled Monument 29670; SW 7684 5639; Perranzabuloe parish). This surprised me as the dig out had gone back in an October when the sand was dry. The repairs to the walls are holding well.

St Piran's Cross (HER 19725; Scheduled Monument 15009; SW 7722 5644; Perranzabuloe parish) had a long and wide gash of digging at its foot, just above the graves. This could be rabbits but I do suspect it began with human delving.

The Medieval Church is in good shape, but has lost some more plaster from the repaired walls (HER 19726; Scheduled Monument 15009; SW 7720 5646; Perranzabuloe parish).

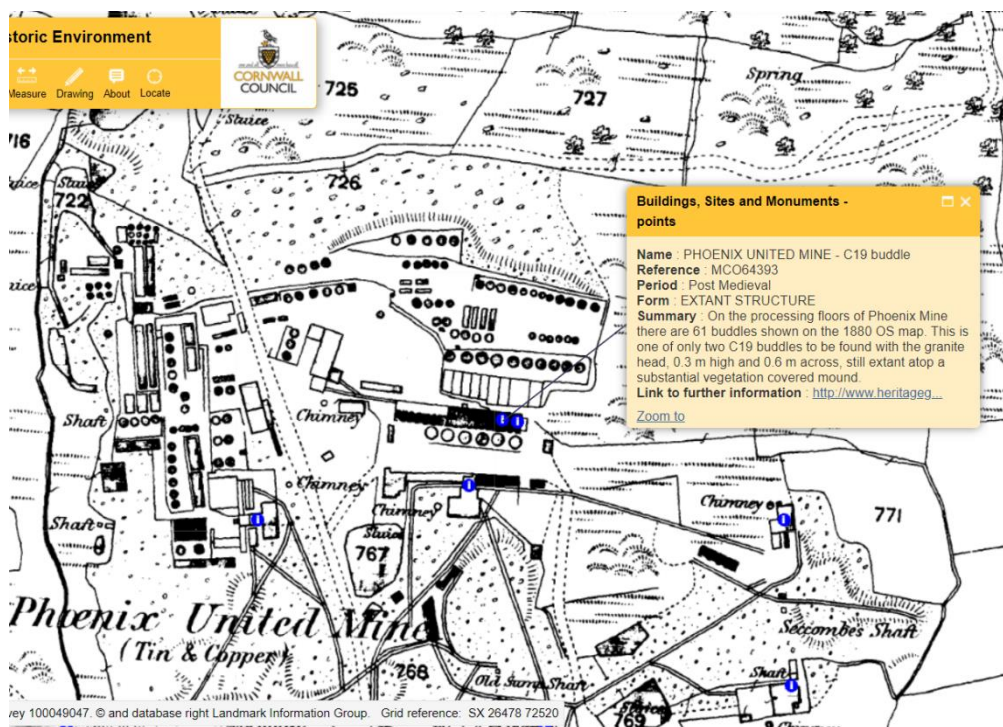
St Piran's Round (HER 19554; Scheduled Monument 29628; SW 7789 5448; Perranzabuloe parish) is in protection of St Piran's Trust and CHT and had just had its winter trim of grass and brambles from the interior. It looked fine. The ditches are not cleared.

Report by Adrian Rodda

## RAMBLING AMIDST THE BUDDLE – IA

*Brian Oldham (President of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society and CAS Area Rep) has been busy exploring the abundant industrial archaeology in his neighbourhood and raising money for charity at the same time. Here he describes some of his recent activities:*

61 buddles are shown on the c1880 OS map in the processing floors of the Phoenix United Mines (HER 14020; SX 2645 7220; Linkinhorne parish). I'd never seen granite heads in situ in the area before, until a fellow member of the Caradon Archaeology Group showed me 2, side by side near his home. They are both atop substantial vegetation covered mounds, reports were submitted in May 2021 and they now appear on the HER map.





Buddle at Phoenix United

Photo: Brian Oldham

A 'Children in Need' Ramble on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 passed the 12 boundary stones that mark the extent of the unenclosed section of the ancient Duchy Manor of Rillaton, £935 was raised for the charity. Some of the 40 ramblers, including several CAG members, were aware of the inscription '11' at the western end of Bearah Tor, but it was suggested that we follow a roughly carved arrow nearby and, new to all of us, the full inscription of '11 RIL 1846' was found higher up on the massive boulder, the HER entry has been updated (HER MCO58236; SX 2564 7441; North Hill parish).



Bearah Tor boundary stone

Photo: Brian Oldham

This is the entry on Heritage Gateway:

*One of a series of boundary stones, in the form of a large granite rock, marking the Duchy of Cornwall Manor of Rillaton's unenclosed land. Inscription reads 'RIL 11' on the upper rock strata. The rock also hosts one of a series of Fleur de Lys carvings which protect Bearah Tor from the activities of quarrymen as part of a lease granted to John Freeman and Sons in 1864.*

*Also, one of a group of inscribed numeric stones ( entire group numbered 1-21) carved under the terms of the lease granted to Tregellis and Crouch in 1856. This stone is carved '11'. Numerical heights 255, 255, facing due east. Horizontal, on upper surface of western-most limit of tor rock formations. Rock 2.0m wide x 1.75m deep x 0.8m high (1).*

[https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=MCO58236&resourceID=1020](https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO58236&resourceID=1020)

The CAG monthly walk on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 highlighted some industrial archaeology remains in the Marke Valley mining area, which do not appear on the HER. Firstly, the low walls of the Wheal Jenkin office, shown on a plan in the CAU's 1993 'Minions' survey. Then the substantial walls of the Liskeard & Caradon Railway coal yard, which served the Marke Valley Mine. (Wheal Jenkin: HER 14007; SX 2659 7119; Linkinhorne parish.) Lastly, a well preserved concrete buddle from a 1970s attempt at tin-streaming, served by a leat taking water from the Wheal Jenkin dressing floors, an operation featured in Brown & Acton's 'Exploring Cornish Mines volume 3'.



Wheal Jenkin

Photo: Brian Oldham



Liskeard & Caradon Railway coal yard

Photo: Brian Oldham



Concrete buddle

Photo: Brian Oldham



Buddle at Wheal Jenkin

Photo: Brian Oldham

Report and photos by Brian Oldham

Liskeard OCS has a Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LiskeardOCS/> . Look out too for a forthcoming book by Brian, *A Peek into Liskeard's Past*. Copies will be available from Liskeard Museum.

## CASTLE QUEST AND BARROW BONUS

*Karen Dickin has given some very exciting news about two important sites in her area. Cardinham Castle (HER 2958; Scheduled Monument CO455; SX 1261 6803; Cardinham parish) was one of the homes of the Cardinan family - their others included Penhallam Manor and Restormel Castle. (They were also patrons of Tywardreath Priory.) The other site is Council Barrow (HER 17100; Scheduled Monument CO340; SX 0994 7026; Cardinham parish). Here is Karen's report:*

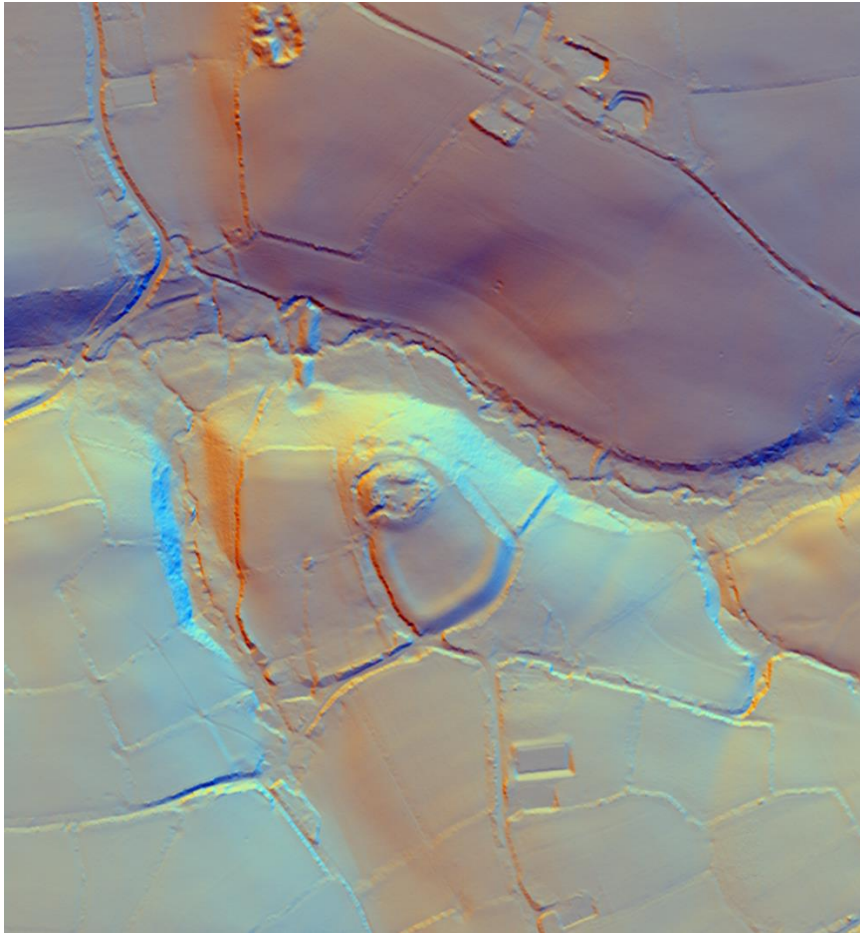
### **Cardinham Castle.**

Little information is known about the castle other than that it was probably built in the mid to late 11C and abandoned probably sometime in the mid 13C. Only the earthworks remain visible today and some of the south side was quarried out in successive centuries.

The Lidar imagery looks interesting (see below). Ann PJ arranged with Malcolm Wright to do some geophysics there this summer. The landowner who farms the site has proved extremely interested and helpful, previously having been charmed by Ann into clearing a lot of the scrub growth and putting in a stile to allow permissive access to the site.

A small group of volunteers worked there with Malcolm over 5 days in June/July to survey the two fields to the east while waiting for a licence from EH to survey the actual Motte and Bailey. This was also heavily covered in bracken at the time, so it was necessary to wait for landowner to cut down the bracken before tackling the motte anyway. It is very steep and uneven so will be quite a challenge. The initial results indicate a curved ditch in the north end of the top field and a possible trackway.

The licence has come through now and work resumed on Thursday, starting with some resistivity and magnetometry on the bailey, completing about ¼ of the area. The hope is to complete some more before Christmas, weather permitting.



Cardinham Castle  
Lidar Imagery 2019

### **Council Barrow**

Excellent news on Council Barrow. This is a bowl barrow on Racecourse Downs a few miles north of Bodmin, just 30 metres or so from the eastbound carriageway of the A30. It survives as a circular mound measuring up to 16m in diameter and 2m high with hollows, caused by early excavation or robbing, to the centre and south side. It is on the *Heritage at Risk* register as being in a declining condition and is badly overgrown with impenetrable thicket and gorse.

Ann recently met with a representative from Kier, who are sub-contracted by Historic England to do some environmental work on monuments in Cornwall situated near the highway. They are still in discussions with the Commoners, but it looks as though they will undertake scrub clearance from the barrow and the area around it and then fence the area to enable grazing. They will also put in a stile so that anyone with an interest can see the barrow and improve the adjoining track.

The site will need an ongoing maintenance plan and hopefully we can have some input into this and involve some volunteers.

**Report and images from Karen Dickin**



## **CLEARING, 'BATTING' AND STABLING**

*Now we will turn south-west, towards the Roseland and beyond. Sheila James has been closely monitoring these 3 sites for some time and has given this update:*

### **1. Dingerein Castle** (HER 22708; Scheduled Monument 32935; SW 8819 3753; Gerrans parish)

Dingerein Castle has been included in the AONB Monumental Improvement Project. A tour of the site was included in one of the guided walks in the CAS summer walks programme.

Nev Meek of the St Gerrans and Porthscatho OCS organised a mini-clearance day in October to remove growth from the inner rampart. The OCS is planning a bigger scrub clearance day in February and would welcome volunteers from CAS.

### **2. Lamorran Church** (HER 22670; Listed Building (II\*) 62875; SW 8786 4177; St Michael Penkevil parish)

It was reported last year that the church building was suffering from damp due to the gutters being blocked. The church has not been used for services since 2014 due to the bat roost in the roof. The plan to provide a false ceiling to separate the bat roost from the body of the church has received funding from the Bats in Churches project and the gutters have now been cleared.

### **3. Carnon Downs Wesleyan Chapel** (HER 137954; Listed Building (II) 473919; SW 7993 4041; Feock parish)

The old stable building attached to the chapel is in a state of disrepair. The chapel are not going ahead with their plan to demolish the stable as they do not have the funding. They have fenced off the area to keep the public away and plan to allow the building to decay over time.

**Report by Sheila James**

## **DOWNTOWN DUNHEVED**

*Diana Sutherland has concerns about some of Launceston's medieval heritage but also good news about a Bronze Age barrow in her area.*

Building has now started on the ground beside the site of Launceston Priory (HER 2613; Listed Building (II\*) 370061; Scheduled Monument CO268; SX 3281 8501; Launceston parish) so I presume the archaeological investigation did not find anything of note. The Priory ruins seem to have been shut most of the time. This is partly because of hidden drug taking and the council being extremely short of workers.

The Prior's Bridge (HER 2612; Listed Building (I) 370137; Scheduled Monument 15571; SX 3278 8509; Launceston parish) has appeared on the Heritage at Risk list although I wouldn't say it has reached that far. Cormac agreed that they would do some repairs but, if they have done so, there has not been a huge improvement. They have rescued a lower side-slate from the river and put it in place and a lot of the vegetation has been removed. However, another large slate is now missing from the lower side and two more from the upper side of the river and I can't see the slates in the water, so I fear they have been stolen. There is a lot of vandalism in that area unfortunately. There are also some rather loose slates, so it does need attention, but the rest of it looks ok.

Launceston Castle (HER 2753; Scheduled Monument 15005; SX 3311 8464; Launceston parish) had a certain amount of vegetation growing on the south gate, and as usual, the rubbish bins are put in the dungeon, which could be improved on. It has been closed several times this summer and I think that if English Heritage is short of helpers they pinch the one from Launceston to make sure Tintagel has all it needs! The plaques could do with renewal too.

Kernick Barrow (or Wittabarrow – HER 2485; Scheduled Monument CO579; SX 2911 8592; St Stephens by Launceston Rural parish) has had all the rubbish and farm machinery removed from it and has been trimmed around the edge. It is still covered with gorse and brambles but looks safe and much better.

**Report by Diana Sutherland**

## **NORTH BY NORTH-EAST**

*It's time to turn our attention to the beautiful north-east of Cornwall with Richard Heard's summary of heritage matters in his parishes:*

The Storm Tower by George Wightwick at Compass Point, Bude is very likely to be moved for the second time (HER 170311; Listed Building (II) 64742; SS 2004 0634; Bude Stratton parish). Built early 1840's, moved due to cliff erosion and rebuilt 1881. According to a letter at Exeter, Wightwick was also the architect for the simple version of Sir T.D. Acland's private chapel at Bude (now the parish church).

I have visited the new building site at Poughill Rd, on Northcott Farm property and the 2 fields north east of Morwenna at Kilkhampton village. Only field drains noticed.

I assume the vast development at Binhamy, Bude is still being watched by Wessex Archaeology (HER 81; Scheduled Monument CO847; SS 2192 0575; Bude Stratton parish).

I have been collecting Mesolithic flints (ref. Anna Lawson-Jones) from the cliff edge at Cleave, Morwenstow for some years. Early summer 2021 the farmer or tenant had planted in the field adjacent and I could see white dots over the fence. A careful collection in a 20 metre square yielded almost 100 pieces including 8 cores. I shared the bulky find with Tasha

Fullbrook (PAS Finds Liaison Officer) when she came to Bude. Evidently the makers went off using the good stuff and I have collected their rubbish.

**Report by Richard Heard**

## SNIPPETS

These were not the only stories from the Kresen Kernow. Emma Allen was pleased that ownership of a key site on Bodmin Moor had passed to someone with an interest in archaeology and heritage. David and Linda Edyvean continue to liaise with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Cornwall Archaeological Unit about finds of flint artefacts on Bodmin Moor. Peter Crispin was able to describe great progress in a project to re-site the stone row in Lezant, which, if things go to plan, will be publicly accessible for the first time in many years (HER 37154; SX 3621 8033; Lezant parish).

We were fortunate to have a superb presentation from PC Julian Fry (Police Heritage Lead, Rural Affairs Team, Devon and Cornwall Police) outlining the force's increasing and very impressive efforts to combat Heritage Crime. Tasha Fullbrook (Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer for Cornwall) described recent finds and gave valuable guidance on how to make use of the wonderful PAS database (<https://finds.org.uk/>). More information about both these topics will appear in future editions of *From Your Own Correspondents*.



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**AND A SAFE, HEALTHY 2022**

**TO ALL OUR READERS !!!**

Area Representatives would love to hear from fellow CAS members, and the general public, about any feature of the historic environment in their parishes, whether a new discovery, something causing concern, or even just to answer queries. If you have any concerns, or new information, about any archaeological feature, please contact the Area Representative for the parish. If you do not know who that is, just look at the inside back cover of the latest journal, *Cornish Archaeology* 58, or send an email to [arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk](mailto:arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk).

Roger Smith, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021





