



# CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## REPORT OF A MEETING OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES HELD AT WHEAL MARTYN MUSEUM ON SATURDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018

**Present:** Iain Rowe (IR) - Convenor; James Gossip (JG); Laura Ratcliffe (LR); Hannah Curnow (HC); Steve Hebdige (SH); Val Jacob (VJ); Andrew Langdon (AL); Ann Preston-Jones (APJ); Chris Coldwell – AONB Project Development Officer (CC); Brian Oldham (BO); Rosy Hanns (RH); Linda Edyvean (LE); David Edyvean (DE); Dan Ratcliffe (DR); David Giddings (DG); Diana Sutherland (DS); Adrian Rodda (AR); Christine Wilson (CW); Sean Taylor (ST); Sally Ealey (SE); Pru Manning (PM) – Devon Medieval Graffiti project ; Roger Smith (RS) - minutes.

**Apologies:** Nick Johnson (NJ); Caroline Dudley (CD); Rebecca Davies (RD); Sheila James (SJ); Priscilla Oates (PO); Richard Heard (RH); Katherine Sawyer (KS); Joe Parsons (JP); Deborah Wingfield (W); Fuller Hughes (FH); Martin Andrewes (MA).

IR welcomed everyone, particularly guests Pru Manning and Chris Coldwell, as well as the new ARs (James Gossip, Laura Ratcliffe, Veronica Summers, Sean Taylor and Christine Wilson). Rebecca Davies had also become an AR but was unable to attend. Martin Andrewes had expressed an interest in taking up the role again, while IR intended to ask Steve Northcott if he would like to resume his oversight of Padstow.

Sadly, Pete Nicholas, who for so many years had represented many parishes in South-East Cornwall, had died. CAS had been represented at his funeral.

Richard Hoskins had agreed to become CAS Treasurer, so had relinquished his role as an AR.

Emma Trevarthen had left the Strategic Historic Environment Service and had been replaced by Francis Shepherd.

IR had seen Peter Cornall recently and had been asked by him to pass on his good wishes to the group.

### **2018/1: Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

These were approved as a true record.

### **2018/2: Matters arising from the previous minutes**

The *Prehistoric Cornwall for Schools* project had been completed. JG and IR had been involved throughout and LR had taken part in a recent Archaeology Day at Gulval School. Thanks were due to Dan Ratcliffe for arranging the grant for the project during his time in charge of the Strategic Historic Environment Service.

### **2018/3: Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the AONB**

Chris Coldwell (Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer) delivered a presentation. Over 30% of Cornwall was designated as an AONB, giving those areas the status and protection equivalent to that of a National Park. The AONB was managed by a Partnership of 21 organisations. There were 26 actions in the Management Plan, one of which concerned Scheduled Ancient Monuments (but not Listed Buildings). The aim was to get a better understanding of these sites and, in partnership with others, to improve the conditions of those that were at risk. Most of the sites needing attention were in the areas of Bodmin Moor, the Lizard and Rame Head. Of the 89 sites at risk in the 2017 Register (excluding Penwith) 48 were on Bodmin Moor. He was grateful to APJ for her assistance in identifying sites. The Heritage Lottery Fund was supporting the Penwith Landscape Partnership programmes which would include their SAMs. The greatest threats to those sites at risk were, in order: vegetation growth; farming and forestry; and coastal erosion. Vandalism, fortunately, was only a factor at one site.

The intentions with regard to these sites were:

1. To engage and involve local people in understanding local priorities and aspirations for SAMs in the Cornwall AONB and to raise awareness of the threats to these sites through partnership work involving, for example, training, publicity, and volunteering events.
2. To survey sites at risk of loss, or in decline, with a view to preparing a joint bid, with other organisations, to the HLF to fund a programme of conservation and protection.
3. To work with local communities and landowners to prioritise these sites for action and to seek to deliver work by agreement and in partnership with landowners.
4. To explore how local people, community groups and visitors could benefit from the project in terms of health, wellbeing, training, education and skills.

CC had consulted recently with most of the county's conservation groups and hoped that CAS would become involved. The help he sought included:

1. Support and help in developing the project as a partner of the AONB team.
2. Support with site surveys and associated training. It was hoped to get funding from Historic England (HE) for four training events, at Liskeard, Rame, Truro and Helston. ARs might find the training useful but their presence would be helpful on the surveys.
3. Working with the AONB to agree priority sites to be the focus for the HLF project bid. It was hoped to submit a formal project plan for a Stage 1 HLF grant in 2018/19.
4. Continuing to act as a partner on the delivery and completion of the project.

CC dealt with a number of questions.

He explained that not all of Bodmin Moor was currently covered by the AONB. In some places in the county an extension of the boundaries was being considered.

He wished to develop a pro-forma to be used by volunteers in the field. This would be similar to that currently used by ARs, although it might be necessary to add other sections covering, for example, land ownership, access and so on. The attendance of ARs at the training events and surveys would be very helpful. Although the volunteer network that the AONB hoped to draw on was strong, even more people were needed to cover such a large area.

APJ added that ideas for sites on the Heritage at Risk register that might be worked on would be very helpful.

SE wondered if the AONB project might be able to carry out work at Little Dennis Civil War promontory fort, whose owner was very reluctant to permit any action to deal with rampant vegetation growth. APJ said that slight progress had been made at the site. A new path had been cut as part of the Natural England Coastal Access project. The landowner could not prevent this but had not responded positively for suggestions about clearing vegetation on the monument itself. CC noted that the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union were partners of the AONB and wondered if the landowner might be persuaded by them to be more cooperative.

DR suggested that groups and individuals with other interests in the areas, such as wildlife recorders, artists and so on, might also be interested in participating.

Cornwall Archaeological Unit would be assisting in the project with a team to be led by JG. JG intended to look at the form used by ARs to see how it might be adapted for use, or it might be possible use the pro-forma used by the Penwith Landscape Project. He encouraged ARs to attend the AONB meetings if they could. IR said that the dates would be sent out to ARs and could also be advertised on the CAS website and its Facebook pages.

IR added that Cathy Parkes might be taking on the role of CAS Excursions Officer and that she was considering a different approach to visits, in which people would be encouraged to explore and discuss rather than just listen to expert input. CC thought that this would fit in well with the 5 outcomes sought by the HLF, which included the promotion of Health and Wellbeing.

#### **2018/4: Enriching the List**

APJ explained that Historic England (HE) was seeking to augment the information available online about Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Battlefields and Registered Parks and Gardens. Entries about these tended to be confined to brief summaries and a map, without any photographs. There were also cases of errors or omissions in the entries. Now Historic England was offering the public the chance to add information, and photographs, as part of an initiative to 'Enrich the List'. By logging on to the website (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/>) it was possible to create a passport account and then to submit information, which, after verification, would appear in the online entry for the monument or feature in question.

A second Historic England initiative was the 'Immortalised' project (<https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/help-write-history/help-find-englands-secret-unknown-forgotten-memorials/>). Members of the public were invited to submit information about memorials to ordinary, less-well-known people. A local example was the monument near Rough Tor to the murder victim Charlotte Dymond. All that was needed was to complete an online form, ideally with photographs included. At the end of the year Historic England would assess entries and exhibit those that were suitable online.

AL mentioned that the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies had introduced a project on plaques. VJ explained that all OCS Recorders were being asked to photograph plaques in their areas. CC thought that both initiatives would be relevant to the Cornwall AONB project. DR hoped that a way could be

found for the HER to be informed about any extra information that was being recorded by HE and FOCS.

### **2018/5: Medieval Graffiti Survey**

IR welcomed Pru Manning. CAS had previously expressed some interest in recording graffiti but progress had stalled. PM was currently trying to interest Devon Archaeological Society in setting up a project there and had made contact with CAS to see how our work was faring.

PM explained that the idea of recording Pre-Reformation graffiti came from Matthew Champion in Norfolk, where 70% of the county's churches had now been surveyed. Cornwall and Devon would not have the same amount of graffiti because of the widespread use of granite; however, wood, glass and lead surfaces might have examples. She recommended the Norfolk and Suffolk websites (<http://www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk/> and <http://www.medieval-graffiti-suffolk.co.uk/>) that had been established as a result of Matthew Champion's work. So far, there were about a dozen county surveys being conducted. Some were being carried out by local societies, others were linked to county HER departments or universities.

The Norfolk group used simple recording forms, which IR would be able to send out, but PM thought that these might be adjusted to allow more information to be included, for example about the shape and position of marks. Groups in Wiltshire and Surrey were already recording in greater detail. A national database had been planned by Matthew Champion but PM didn't think that this was available, perhaps because of a lack of funding. However, the potential existed to create a database into which county surveys could be fed; in which case there needed to be similarity between the forms used.

Recording forms would need to be archived. The Archaeological Data Service (ADS) had been asked about this but there would be a charge for archiving and the information might have to be formatted in a different way. HC and IR would ask Francis Shepherd about using the form envisaged by PM for Cornwall's HER, as well as the best means for labelling files. HC thought it would be best for the HER to link to another database rather than carry out any duplication. PM had spoken to the Devon HER which wanted reports in PDF format, with two key photographs for each example. DR suggested an alternative to using the ADS archive. He was currently developing an archive system of his own using Google Drive which would allow controlled access. Although this wouldn't be considered 'archive-secure' by ADS, a similar approach to labelling might be adopted and it would have a reasonable level of robustness. JG noted that Deep Store was an alternative archiving system but there would be a charge for this.

PM said that more modern graffiti, or examples found in secondary contexts, were of interest but in the interests of practicality the focus, at least initially, would be on Pre-Reformation examples; however, it might be more appropriate to call it a Historical Graffiti project. JG noted that archaeologists often encountered examples in secondary contexts, information about which could be obtained from contractors' reports. He was aware of sites of wartime graffiti in Cornwall that were vulnerable. DR had surveyed and mapped examples of graffiti around Truro, for example in some of the opes. AL mentioned that Post-medieval examples, including some with dates, had been

found on the walls of St Thomas's Chapel in Bodmin. JG recollected that what appeared to be ritual protection marks had been incised on stones at the Tintagel Island excavation site last summer.

IR thanked PM for her contribution. He would set up a meeting with her, HC and Francis Shepherd to consider the next steps. He noted that CAS had already paid for two lamps and a scale (and possibly a small digital camera) to assist with recording graffiti.

#### **2018/6: Coastal Access Survey 2018**

HC explained that Natural England was conducting a survey of the coastal path and had asked the Strategic Historic Environment Service to assist in recording archaeological features on the line of the path. A number of ARs had assisted with last year's survey, which had covered the south coast as far west as Penzance, and Natural England had been pleased with the results.

She hoped that ARs would be interested in participating in this year's survey, which would cover the north coast (actually from Penzance to the border with Devon). IR would let RH and JP know since some of the path lay in their parishes and would also circulate the information to everyone else.

#### **2018/7: Short Guide for Area Representatives**

IR reported that the draft of the revised guide had been circulated. If there were any comments that AR wished to make, he requested that they send them to him soon so he could finalise the document.

#### **2018/8: Email contact for Area Representatives**

An email address ([arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk](mailto:arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk)) had been established to allow members of the public to make contact. This was being received by RS who then contacted the relevant AR. Several enquiries had been received so far.

It was important that ARs should not be concerned if they felt an enquiry was not something they could deal with. It was easy to ask advice from one of the many professionals who were ARs or connected with CAS.

#### **2018/9: CAS website**

SJ had spoken to Millie Holman, the CAS webmaster, who had incorporated all the changes requested.

#### **2018/10: Upcoming events**

1. An excavation was planned around a flue on Kit Hill. No date had been given but JG thought CAU might have some involvement with this.
2. Trethevy Quoit. A community archaeology test-pitting dig to be led by Andy Jones of CAU (and CAS) was planned for July.
3. The *Festival of Archaeology* would not occur in 2018 but would resume in 2019.
4. ST gave notice of two events being organised by *In Search of Tywardreath*:

- (a) On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, Nicholas Orme would be giving a talk in Tywardreath parish church about Tywardreath Priory. Tickets would cost £5 and could be obtained from the Village Shop in Tywardreath.
  - (b) On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018, digging of a trial trench at Newhouse Farm would take place and possibly test-pitting in other locations in the village.
5. BO advised that 'Liskeard Unlocked' would take place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018. It was part of National Heritage Weekend and offered an opportunity to see inside properties that were not usually open to the public. There would also be a guided walk. It had proved so popular last year that it had been decided to repeat it.

#### **2018/11: CAS lectures 2018-2019**

IR had been asked by Jenny Moore for short talks that might form part of the members'/ARs' talks evenings. If anyone was prepared to give a talk he asked them to contact him. BO offered to give one talk.

#### **2018/12: CAS walks**

IR reported that Cathy Parkes was likely to talk over the role of Excursions Officer and would be keen to receive ideas for walks. He asked for anyone with ideas for suitable locations to contact him.

SE would need to consult a landowner but hoped to be able to suggest one visit.

#### **2018/13: Monument of the Year 2018/2019**

IR thanked APJ for her help with organising training for the previous monument type (Medieval sites). The focus for next year would be Prehistoric Enclosures. A training day would be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018, probably in West Cornwall and possibly incorporating Carn Brea and Tregonning Hill.

#### **2018/14: Monument of the Month**

IR noted that this had fallen into abeyance recently and asked if ARs thought it was worth reviving, particularly since a monthly update about AR work was being provided for the website. Opinion was divided. The feature alerted CAS members and the public to important and interesting sites, as well as providing key information and directions. On the other hand, it could be a chore for the AR concerned and it might be possible to incorporate the item into the monthly update. IR would ask it to be considered at the next planning meeting. LR pointed out that it might be possible to see what members thought about it at the AGM.

#### **2018/15: Oral reports**

1. AL and RS had undertaken some scrub-bashing at various sites.
2. BO had been able to clear vegetation from a tiny cist on Bodmin Moor and to obtain photographs of the interior.
3. LE and DE reported that Leaze farm on Bodmin Moor was for sale [<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/4370810/>]. The farmhouse was not included but the 128 acres included 2 SMs.

4. APJ, on behalf of JP, reported that CAU had recently been surveying the Worthyvale Stone for him. It was situated on the edge of the River Camel, which covered it when in spate as well as eroding the adjacent river bank. Historic England had commissioned surveys. One was geological and geomorphological; the other was being led by JG, on behalf of CAU, to investigate the stone and its setting. Various options for the stone would be considered in the light of this work, for example: leaving it in situ; moving it above the flood level; or re-erecting it in a nearby location, such as Lady Falmouth's Garden.
5. RS thanked fellow ARs for the information and photos that had been provided for the monthly update. Any further information that might be of interest would always be very welcome.
6. IR corrected a previous email which had stated that Peter Cornell had held the post of Convenor for 20 years; he had in fact carried it out from 2008. He also thanked those who had recently become ARS. There were now just 5 parishes to cover. BO knew of 2 more potential recruits in the Caradon area.
7. DR had been forwarded an enquiry from someone in the USA, offering opportunities for fieldwalking in the St Columb Major area. However, the site in question was in line for development (and therefore subject to planning regulations) and the enquirer's motivation was unclear. It transpired that the national office of the Portable Antiquities Scheme was looking into other activities of this person.  
DR had also been making various trips by bike to search for examples of graffiti.
8. ST had emailed a very detailed report, which he summarised. The main points were:
  - (a) St Mary's Church at Biscovey had launched a Crowdfunder appeal to raise money for urgent repairs: <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-our-spire>.
  - (b) He was looking into a planning application on Par Moor (*PA18/00435 | Outline application for development of 11 business units comprising a mixture of B1/B2 usage, creation of new road and access along with associated works. | Hensbarrow Dry Porth Farm Par Moor Road Par Cornwall PL24 2BH*). The extant buildings were two 20<sup>th</sup> century china clay dries but the location was the site of the original settlement of Porth, and therefore of significant archaeological interest. The planning archaeologist for Mid-Cornwall (Senior Development Officer Historic Environment or SDOHE) had requested a heritage report although one had not yet been submitted. ST would follow this up.
  - (c) He had also contacted the planning archaeologist for Mid-Cornwall about a site developed by a national housebuilder at Par Lane in Par. A report had been written for the Romano-British site that had been discovered but none, as far as he could tell, for the medieval longhouse uncovered on the adjacent section of the development. The findings would be relevant to several South West Research Objectives. He felt it was very important that where an archaeological report had been made a condition of planning consent it should be actually carried out. CAS might lobby for this to happen in this and other cases.
  - (d) ST explained that part of his work involved acting as a planning archaeologist for West Cornwall. He had two colleagues, who covered Mid and East Cornwall. He urged anyone with a query about a site in their parish that had been excavated under planning conditions, but for which they had no news of any follow up work, to get in touch with Cornwall Council. The correct procedure was to quote the planning reference and contact the planning officer. Or they might get in touch with the SDOHEs directly at this

email address: [HEP.Arch@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:HEP.Arch@cornwall.gov.uk) . This had not been done enough in the past. In his own area there had been sites of great interest in Hayle, Helston, Mullion, Penzance, Porthleven, and Stithians in the last three years, all hopefully moving towards publication.

- (e) In Tywardreath, there had been a report of a possible cross but this awaited verification. Also, the search for the priory had made a step forward in a trial trench dug last year, when the remains of a medieval roof, complete with ridge tiles were discovered. As yet it was not possible to say whether it was in situ or a redeposited dump of roofing material (as found at Glasney).
9. DG reported that the Penwith Landscape Project was underway and that it contained a strong archaeological element. He was pleased that LR had been appointed as the Ancient Penwith Officer.
  10. VS had only been AR for Sithney for a week when she was informed that builders carrying out work inside the parish church had discovered a large quantity of human bones underneath the floor. There had been some confusion amongst church personnel about how to proceed but matters had since been clarified. JG reported that CAU had been approached by the architects and it was now up to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to decide on what archaeological investigation should take place. He had visited the church and noted that at least one intact inhumation was evident and part of a momento mori plaque. The dates of the bones were as yet unknown. VS circulated photographs of the church interior.
  11. DS had read a report in a local newspaper about the discovery of a Roman fort at a housing development in Launceston. It turned out that the features were Medieval. She had phoned John Allan about it. She was unsure about where any finds would be deposited. JG would wait until the report was published and would try to find out more.
  12. LR had been examining SMs in Constantine parish. Access to Trevease Cross had been a problem but AL was able to provide advice. She noted that Pixies' Hall fogou had cattle fencing to protect it.
  13. SH described storm damage at Trevelgue. Top soil on top of the protective gabions had been dislodged, although without this protection the erosion would have been far worse. There had been a major cliff fall at Lusty Glaze, close to the site of Edyvean's canal. The damage on this occasion was to bathing huts and clearance work was underway.
  14. VJ had concerns about two sites in or near Pentewan. The first was the foundation stone set into the jetty wall by Sir Christopher Hawkins in 1826. The letters were becoming eroded and there were concerns about the panels themselves. Pentewan Old Cornwall Society wished to move it to a place of greater safety. AL suggested that it might be a good idea to contact the Tremayne Estate first of all. It was thought that it might be a better option to repair it in situ because part of its historical significance lay in its position. VJ and others had for years been trying without success to visit, and possibly carry out conservation measures, on Dart's Well near Heligan.
  15. AR noted that in his parishes the crosses were standing, engine-houses crumbled and bracken still grew on Car Brea.
  16. SE reported that an out-of-county archaeological unit had found evidence of a Bronze Age village on a housing estate on land near Nansloe Academy in Helston. She believed that finds, including a large granite quern, would be deposited in Helston Museum. JG added that



Iron Age querns had also been found. ST noted that an Open Day had been requested but that the developer had not wished to pay for it.

**2018/16: Ideas for future meetings**

IR suggested that greater time might be found in future for oral reports.

CC, PM and LR might be invited to provide future updates about the AONB, Medieval Graffiti project and the Penwith Landscape Partnership respectively.

APJ suggested that it might be interesting to hear from Sam Barnes who had joined the Historic England Designation team.

**2018/17: Date of the next meeting**

This would be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, at Wheal Martyn Museum, Carthew, St Austell (coffee/tea from 10 a.m., business 10.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.).

DRAFT