



**CORNWALL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

## **Area Representatives Reports**

**Cornwall Archaeological Society**

**Registered charity: 1055654**

15 October 2016

**Representative:** Val Jacob

**Parishes:** Carlyon, Fowey, Pentewan Valley, Roche, St Austell, St Austell Bay, St Dennis, St Mewan, St Stephen-in-Brannel, Treverbyn

1. Lanhadron Cross Base, inscribed, 1.3m square and flush with the ground at the roadside, and overpowered by the hedge. Four volunteers from the Pentewan/St Austell Old Cornwall Society cleared the site on April 4th. It is planned to visit area again, with permission, to search for the shaft.
2. A check on Listed Buildings in St Austell and an eye kept on building developments.
3. On a walk with OCS members in the Probus-Trewithen area, a small stone arch was found in the surroundings of a bridge, 50m from old mill building, on the footpath from Creed Parish Church.
4. Pentewan OCS including a talk by R.Smith in their programme, on 21 November: title 'Protecting our ancient monuments'.
5. Planned: a new information plaque for the ancient Mengu stone in the churchyard.

**Representative:** Roger Smith

**Parishes:** Lanhydrock; Lanivet; St Wenn; Withiel; Bodmin; Helland; St Mabyn; St Tudy; Luxulyan; Lanlivery; St. Blaise; Tywardreath.

Unfortunately, I still haven't visited my northern parishes (Helland, St Mabyn and St Tudy) for years. However, I do travel around the remaining parishes frequently, even though this does not always lead to reports. I have been most active in Luxulyan and Lanlivery recently.

The Luxulyan Valley HLF project is making good progress and the bid for the major sum of money will be made in March 2017. Dr Christine Garwood, who recently addressed CAS members at Liskeard, is leading the non-capital side of the project, investigating the potential for improved access, interpretation and education. While there is a clear commitment to maintaining the Valley's tranquillity, it is hoped that physical access will be improved by making use of upgraded trails and more effective use of the Par-Newquay rail line, rather than encouraging increased vehicular use. Considerable efforts have been made to engage and involve local individuals and organisations, resulting in great interest and support. The capital side of the bid, essentially the civil engineering required for the Viaduct and leat system, seems to be presenting greater technical challenges than during their construction in early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but CAS members will be reassured to know that John Smith, on behalf of Cornwall Heritage Trust, is keeping a very close eye on what is happening.

Luxulyan Parish Council has started the Neighbourhood Planning process, so it is hoped that here, as in more and more parishes, the importance of the historic environment can be written into future planning policy.

One monument that is currently in a vulnerable state is Respryn Bridge (Lanhydrock, HER 21315) – see photograph. A significant section of the upstream parapet on the eastern side has been demolished, probably as a result of vehicle damage. Such damage to ancient bridges is, sadly, not uncommon in this area, with Ruthern and Helland being examples of other vulnerable structures.

One positive outcome from the damage at Respryn was the concerned response to photographs posted on the CAS website. Clearly there is potential to make more use of the excellent new site to illustrate sites, not only those that are in a poor state but also to enthuse members and others about the wealth of features that survive well in Cornwall.



Barrows are our featured monument this year. In my parishes, concerns about their condition tend to reflect neglect (vegetation and tree growth) rather than any active threat. Two examples are illustrated below:



Bronze Age barrow at Castle Hill (Luxulyan, HER 21216). The tree and plant growth represent the biggest threat to this monument. The vicinity once had numerous barrows but most are not extant.



Bronze Age Barrow on Rosenannon Downs (St Wenn, HER 26122.03). A grazing scheme operates on the Downs, keeping vegetation under control.

**Representative:** Steve Hebdige

**Parishes:** Colan, Crantock, Cubert, Mawgan-in-Pydar, Newlyn East, Newquay, Padstow, Perranzabuloe, St Agnes, St Ervan, St Eval, St Issey, St Merryn

#### FLINT

Robbie Selly gave me the next instalment of flints from Coombe - south of Down Farm Bell Lake with the Red River running along the north side of the field. 449 flints including Waste Flakes were found in one visit in March 2013. I examined them & placed them into different catalogues, Waste Flakes, Rejuvenation Platforms, Cores, Tools consisting of :- Scrapers, Blades & Awl/Points. These were all photographed & some drawn. Approximate Percentages of the different Groups were as follows

Waste flakes & Rejuvenation Platforms	28%
Cores	17%
Tools	55%

#### MONUMENT CLEARING

Together with the Newquay OCS Scrub Bashers we have cleared Trevemper Bridge, the Cross Shaft at Treloy Hill, the Barrows on the Barrowfields in Newquay and litter picked them, as well as Mawgan Porth Early Medieval Settlement which will be taken off the 'At Risk Register'. The group is getting a certificate from English Heritage, Angels Award. As last year the group were also invited to the 2016 Cormac Community Celebration at the Eden Project.

Trevelgue Head has been monitored to assess the state of the recent renovations and any damage to the monument. Sheila is in the process of writing up a report. The barrow on the landward side will have the gorse cut and tidied up with in the next few weeks.

The Group has also visited the Nine Maidens, The Devil's Quoit, then onto Breock Downs to visit Men Gurta Standing Stone & the Breock Downs Menhir as well as the Kist Vean mentioned by Borlase.

#### Mawgan Porth Submarine Forest

On the 22/9/16 we received an email from Phil Ellery, President of St Columb Major Old Cornwall Society, that he found hazel nuts, 4 bits of probable deer skull, wood & a beetle case from a submerged forest which has become exposed on the beach at Mawgan Porth. Sheila & myself visited the site that afternoon and we photographed the peat with small pieces wood in it and took 4 GPS records of the extent of the exposure. The submerged forest has not been seen since at before 1839 (mentioned by De La Beche, Geology of Cornwall Devon & West Somerset).

The Two Old Cornwall Societies & Myself as Area Rep have submitted an application for a small grant from the CAS committee for a Carbon Date on a Hazel Nut as there has never been a Date for this submerged forest.

We have been back six times and have found the extent of the exposure as the sand comes and goes. The exposure has measured 43 metres length along the beach and 18 metres max width. The main area where finds have been made is just below the high tide mark.

We have found more hazel nuts, small pieces of wood, small seeds, bits of beetle cases, Common Pond Snails – which we had identified by Janet Sharpe, an archaeologist from Reading who is a conchologist, & leaf litter.

Since then Dr Michael J. Grant of the Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research Services (COARS), National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton

has contacted us and kindly offered to carry out pollen analysis, if we can collect stratified samples of the peat etc, free of charge for us. I have made some monolith boxes for this purpose.



**Representative:** Sheila James

**Parishes:** Feock, Gerrans, Kea, Kenwyn, Ladock, Mylor, Perranarworthal, Philleigh, Probus, Ruan Lanihorne, St Allen, St Clement, St Erme, St Just-in-Roseland, St Michael Penkevil, Tregony, Truro, Veryan

Some changes were noted regarding the barrows in Kea and Feock parish. The electric fence has been removed from Parkwood Hill barrow, and the daffodil bulbs have been lifted in the field surrounding the barrows near Killiow. In each case the condition of the barrows remains stable.

The field containing the barrow at Pisky farm has again been ploughed and replanted with Christmas trees, including the area of the barrow, creating a further significant risk.

Jennie Hancock visited the site of the barrow SW of Carrine and noted some deterioration including fly tipping. This site has been added to the At Risk register.

On a more positive note, most of the sites visited on the Roseland have remained more or less stable.

No problems were found with any of the wayside and churchyard crosses.

St Cuby holy well at Tregony has again become overgrown and would benefit from some clearance. In contrast, the area around St Just holy well has been completely cleared, see pictures below.



St Cuby holy well



St Just holy well

Veryan well, Veryan Castle, Carne Beacon and Dingerein Castle all show signs of neglect. In particular, the ditch at Veryan Castle is virtually impassable, and that of Dingerein Castle is now inaccessible due to the stock fence across the end, and consequently has disappeared under a sea of bracken. It is hoped that some scrub clearance can be arranged for these sites.

A visit to Tresillian Round showed no significant change from last year.

Finally, whilst walking near Lamorran, an old leat was identified. The leat is now dry but had been diverted from the stream higher up and ran beside the lane, terminating near the site of the old mill at Tregothnan. Details of the leat are to be added to the HER for Tregothnan Mill.



End of old leat with remains of sluice gate above site of Tregothnan Mill.