

FROM YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

A monthly update from your Area Representatives

June 2017

Just look at this stunning view from Stowe's Hill on Bodmin Moor. But isn't there something a bit odd about the prehistoric enclosure wall?



Yes, you have spotted it! Tiny cairns have appeared. And as the next photo shows, it is even worse in some places.



lain Rowe took these photographs and writes: 'They are back again! It is always this time of year it happens, so I wonder if it is to do with someone who comes for the Solstice. Or it's a school or college who come the same time every year. A colleague from *Caradon Archaeology* flagged it up to me so I went straight up to disassemble them. The whole hill is a Scheduled Monument of course, but also they are a danger to children and wildlife.' Iain has made sure that *Historic England* is aware of the problem but it just shows how important it is to have people on the ground to monitor what is going on. Iain would love to hear from anyone who can shed light on this.

Another area of Cornwall which benefits enormously from the watchfulness of enthusiasts is Penwith, where CASPN (Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network) has for many years played a vital role in protecting the unique historic environment. CASPN is the lead organisation for the *Ancient Penwith* strand of the Penwith Landscape Partnership programme, which aims to protect, educate and create better access to a range of ancient monuments. David Giddings is our Area Representative in Penwith and an active participant in this initiative. Following an archaeological survey carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, and volunteers, detailed plans on site maintenance have been produced. An *Ancient Penwith* Project Officer, under CASPN management, will be employed to oversee the plan, which will include work by volunteers. Education, not just of the young, will be a key ingredient, and it is interesting to see that, instead of installing a rash of information boards, new technology will be employed to create downloadable resources, as well as printed booklets. There is much more to this exciting programme, of course, and these excellent websites give a fuller picture:

http://www.penwithlandscape.com/
http://cornishancientsites.com/ .

Emma Trevarthen, in her role as the Historic Environment Record Officer for Cornwall and Scilly, has for years been 'keeper of the flame', making sure that information is added and

accessible. Not only that, with Ann Preston-Jones of *Historic England*, she has trained our Area Representatives, fielded their questions, attended meetings in her own time, and processed their reports. This record is crucial to Cornwall. If a feature isn't on it, then in the eyes of developers, planners and others, it simply does not exist and has no protection. Sadly, for us, Emma is leaving her post to take up a new role with *Historic England* in York, where she will be involved in the glamorous practice of aerial photography. She will certainly be missed but I know that all the Area Representatives wish her every success in her new role. By the way, if you have anything you would like to see added to the HER, you can send it to her@cornwall.gov.uk.

Diana Sutherland has sent these very disturbing photographs of Trekelland Bridge, near Launceston.





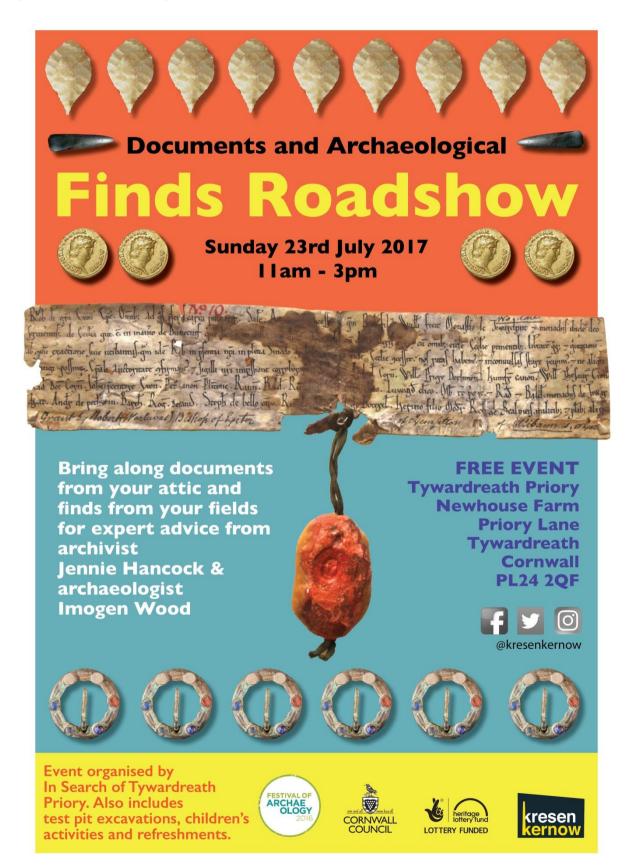


Charles Henderson described it as 'one of the best preserved and most beautiful of Cornish bridges'. And he thought it might have been 'the nameless bridge near Launceston for which Bishop Oldham granted an indulgence on 23 August 1504'. Diana says it was the only bridge over the River Inny to survive the Great Flood of 1847. Unfortunately, it is vulnerable to the impact of large vehicles. Its status as a Listed Building and Scheduled Monument is changing too as it has been de-scheduled.

Sadly, traffic seems to be threatening various ancient bridges. Respryn Bridge has been mentioned in earlier reports, as has Ruthernbridge, but in the latter case someone seems to have come up with an ingenious solution in the form of stout wooden posts which prevent tractors from getting too close. The posts appeared in the spring and so far the bridge is intact.



You may be interested in the *Documents and Archaeological Finds Roadshow* organised by Iain Rowe of *Kresen Kernow*, to be held at Tywardreath, on the site of the former Priory, on 23rd July. All details are in the poster below.



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 54*, or contact our secretary, Sophie Meyer, at: secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk.

Roger Smith, 29th June 2017