

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.

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Issue 71

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER 2022

Historic England's latest Heritage at Risk Register has just been published. If you would like to see what is happening nationally or to find out more about the processes involved in drawing up the list, go to: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> . The Cornish entries are in the South West Register:

<file:///C:/Users/44789/Desktop/Roger/Cornwall%20Archaeological%20Society%202018%20onwards/Area%20Representatives,%2020%20June%202018%20onwards/South%20West%20HAR%20Register%202022.pdf>

The introduction to the South West Register notes that:

Of the 19,933 scheduled monuments in England, 1,961 (9.8%) are on the Register assessed as archaeology. Of the 6,995 scheduled monuments in the South West, 998 (14.1%) are on the Register assessed as archaeology. 57 archaeology entries have been removed from the previous South West Register (2021) for positive reasons, and 30 have been added.

While it can seem alarming to find that a feature has been added to the register, it should also be remembered that officially recognising that there is a problem can be the first step to finding a solution. And despite austerity policies and the ignorance and indifference of most politicians (especially at Westminster), solutions are being found in some cases. Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement project is now underway. It will not only improve the condition of 40 Scheduled Monuments but will also nurture new skills, bring people together and generate a lot of enjoyment and fun. For more information, including how to get involved, go to: <https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement> . In the far west, the Penwith Landscape Partnership has been working on numerous archaeological sites for some time, as you can see in its lovely website: <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/> .

The entries on the Cornish register are:

Buildings and structures: 47

Places of worship: 19

Archaeology: 178

Parks and gardens: 1

Battlefields: 0

Wreck sites: 0

Conservation areas: 1

Quite a few entries have appeared in previous editions of this newsletter but here are the new entries:



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SITE NAME:	Church of St Torney, North Hill
DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade I
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	Vacant/not in use
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	D (New entry)
OWNER TYPE:	Charity (heritage)
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1249982

Large parish church on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor. There are structural problems in the tower where the floors are unsafe for use. The rainwater goods are rusted and leaking. There are major damp problems in the east end and structural problems in the tower. The church has closed and was transferred to the Churches Conservation Trust in late 2021/early 2022.

Contact: Chris Miners 0117 975 1355



© Historic England

SITE NAME:	King Arthur's Great Halls, Tintagel
DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade II*
CONDITION:	Fair
OCCUPANCY:	Part occupied/part in use
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (New entry)
OWNER TYPE:	Charity (non-heritage)
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1267387

House built in the 1860s using the cellar of a C17 building. The house was bought by Frederick Thomas Glasscock in 1926. Glasscock made extensions and alterations between 1927-33 to adapt the house for use as King Arthur's Great Halls, the headquarters for the Fellowship of the Knights of the Round Table. As part of these works, the stained glass artist Veronica Whall was commissioned to provide 72 stained glass panes. These panes are at risk due to lead degradation, the failure of the seal between putties and supporting frames and damage to the glass itself through water ingress and vandalism.

Contact: Catherine Marlow 0117 975 0732



© Historic England

SITE NAME:	Wheal Busy Chapel, attached walls, gate piers and railings, Chacewater
DESIGNATION:	Listed Place of Worship grade II*, WHS
CONDITION:	Poor
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (New entry)
OWNER TYPE:	Private
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1386521

Bible Christian Chapel, dated 1863. This is arguably the best surviving complete example of the simple type of wayside chapel in Cornwall and one of only six examples of its type to retain all the original fittings. The unusual and beautiful fittings are quite remarkable. Unfortunately the chapel is no longer used. The roof is in need of recovering, windows are in a poor state of repair and decoration, some internal rot in floor. New uses restricted due to very important fittings.

Contact: Catherine Marlow 0117 975 0732



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SITE NAME:	Church of St Wyllow, Lanteglos
DESIGNATION:	Listed Place of Worship grade I
CONDITION:	Poor
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (New entry)
OWNER TYPE:	Religious organisation
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1312492

Large rural church. Traces of Norman work in tower arches and in south doorway. Church reconstructed at end of C14 with tower, nave and north arcade. South arcade circa C15. Porch possibly rebuilt in C17. Church restored by EH Sedding in 1904-5. Rubblestone with granite dressings. Slate roof with nave and chancel in one under continuous roof. North and south aisles continue to west end of chancel. There is on-going movement and distress in the east wall of the north aisle.

Contact: Chris Miners 0117 975 1355

SITE NAME:	Two barrows south of Zachry's Island, Newquay		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1004461
CONDITION:	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	TREND:	Declining
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Coastal erosion	NEW ENTRY?:	Yes
OWNER TYPE:	Private	CONTACT:	Ann Preston-Jones 07917 642388

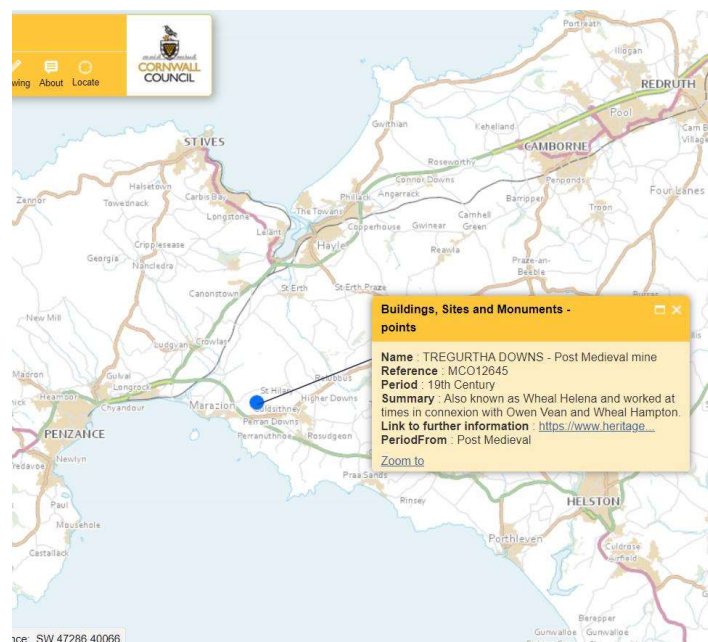
SITE NAME:	Bowl barrow 100 metres south west of Callestick Vean, Perranzabuloe		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1016103
CONDITION:	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	TREND:	Declining
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Arable ploughing	NEW ENTRY?:	Yes
OWNER TYPE:	Private	CONTACT:	Ann Preston-Jones 07917 642388

SITE NAME:	Caer Bran, Sancreed		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1006717
CONDITION:	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	TREND:	Declining
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Plant growth	NEW ENTRY?:	Yes
OWNER TYPE:	Private	CONTACT:	Ann Preston-Jones 07917 642388

It is a complex picture because some sites may be stable despite being at risk, while others are improving, so it is necessary to look closely at the entries.

TREGURTHA DOWNS MINE

Richard McAulay has been looking at various remains of Tregurtha Downs Mine (HER 25954.01; Scheduled Monument CO1060; SW 5379 3103; St Hilary parish). The nengine-house has been converted into a house and is in excellent condition, unlike an associated calciner and stack. Richard also tells the complex story of the engine that once occupied the engine-house:



The former engine house and chimney south located south of Gears Lane between Plain-an-Gwarry and Goldsithney, HER ref 25954.01, formed part of the Tregurtha Downs Mine. It was built in 1882 to accommodate an 80-inch pumping engine which stopped working in 1902, and was converted into a dwelling in around 1983.



Photo: Richard McAulay



Photo: Richard McAulay

The engine which occupied the house was built in 1854 by Sandys Vivian & Co at their Copperhouse foundry to a design by Captain Samuel Grose, a pupil of Richard Trevithick, and has an interesting, and in at least one aspect unique, story. It commenced working on Davey's Shaft at Wheal Alfred, near Hayle in 1855, where it remained until 1864, when it was moved to Wheal Abraham, near Crowan. There it was known as Pelly's engine and worked from 1865 to 1875/6, when the pump rod broke and the cylinder was smashed.



The broken engine was purchased by Harvey & Co in 1882, and following replacement of the cylinder, piston, cylinder cap and piston rod it was installed on St Aubyn's Shaft at Tregurtha. It worked there from 1883 until 1895, when it was shut down due to a reduction in tin prices; a reworking of the mine followed in 1899 but was short lived, and in 1902 the engine was sold to South Crofty for use on Robinson's Shaft.

The engine then spent the second half of its working life at South Crofty, and when it was shut down in May 1955 it was the last Cornish engine to work on a mine in Cornwall. It remains in place in the preserved engine house which now forms part of the Heartlands complex, and it is hoped that it will eventually be run again, but under pneumatic power.



Unlike the engine-house, the calciner and stack are not in such a good condition. Photo: Richard McAulay.

Text and photos: Richard McAulay

LANIVET YEW REMOVED

The June 2022 edition of this newsletter included a feature about the yew tree that was obscuring the medieval cross to the west of Lanivet parish church (HER 105914; Scheduled Monument 28444; SX 0391 6420; Lanivet parish). The cross was featured in in last year's successful Scheduled Monument Management programme, led by Pete Dudley of Cornwall Archaeological Unit, in partnership with Historic England.

The historical detective work carried out by experts Andrew Langdon and David Atwell showed that the Irish yew was not particularly old and therefore didn't justify protected status. A public consultation strongly favoured the removal of the tree and a faculty was obtained giving permission. Now you can see all sides of this beautifully carved cross:



Photo: Ann Preston-Jones

This was how it was before:



ROADSIDE REPAIRS

David and Linda Edyvean noticed that the granite sign post at the Tredethy turning (HER 173381; Listed Building (II) 67733; SX 0578 7211; St Mabyn parish) had been knocked over (again) at about the same time as the verge cutting was done. They informed Ian Thompson of The Milestone Society and Cormac. It has since been removed, presumably awaiting reinstatement.



Photo: David Edyvean

They also noticed that the medieval cross (HER 17010; Scheduled Monument 26242; SX 0606 7337; St Mabyn parish) and Longstone (HER MCO56715; Scheduled Monument 26242; SX 0606 7337; St Mabyn parish) on the crossroads at Longstone, between Washaway and Camelford had disappeared into the vegetation. Half an hour with the chainsaw and loppers has brought them back into public view.



Photo: David Edyvean



Photo: David Edyvean

BINHAMY AND STRATTON

Richard Heard has been pursuing various lines of enquiry in the north-east of Cornwall:

Foundations have been cut for the 5 new houses at Binhamy, Stratton (near medieval fortified house; HER 81; Scheduled Monument CO847; SS 2192 0575; Bude Stratton parish). The digger work was watched by S.W.Archaeology. On the north side of the plot and parallel to the north side moat, the base of a wall and an adjoining floor or yard was revealed, about one metre deep. A band of us locals under Malc Wright have cleaned up the site. The wall appears to have a break amidships as if for an entrance. The outer yard area was spread with crushed or trampled roofing slate upon local rubble. Photo attached, looking west (wall on the left).



Photo: R.M. Heard

I am pursuing recent information about bricks in North Tamerton parish, and a possible mine entrance at Morwenstow; both being work in progress.

Stratton Church Treasurer has shown me the broken remains of 2 or 3 small statues found in a churchyard wall under repair. [Stratton Church: HER 125; Listed Building Grade I, 1279033; SS 2315 0648; Bude Stratton parish.] They don't appear to be pre-reformation; the stone is blue grey Polyphant and they have their Saint's names in a neat Roman script on their bases. In the attached photo the base of St. Andrew is on the right, the other base Simon of Cyrene. Remaining pieces fail to fit either.

To me it looks like vandalism or demolition of a tombstone of the Victorian period.



Photo: R.M. Heard

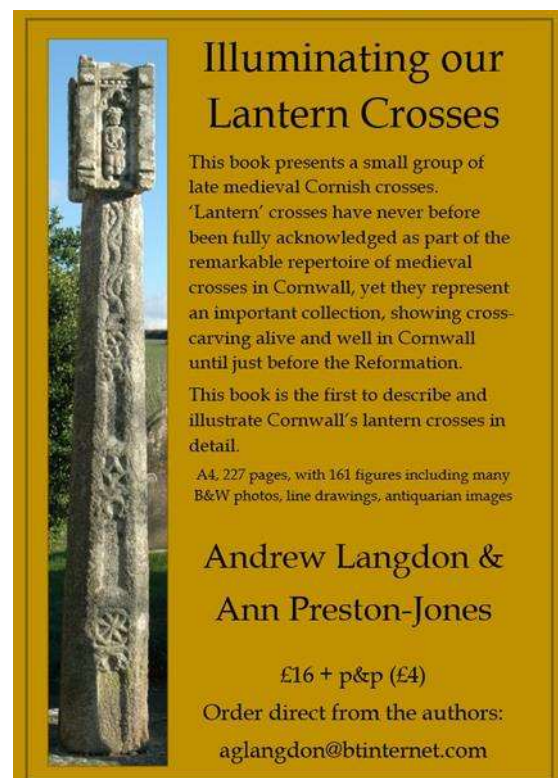
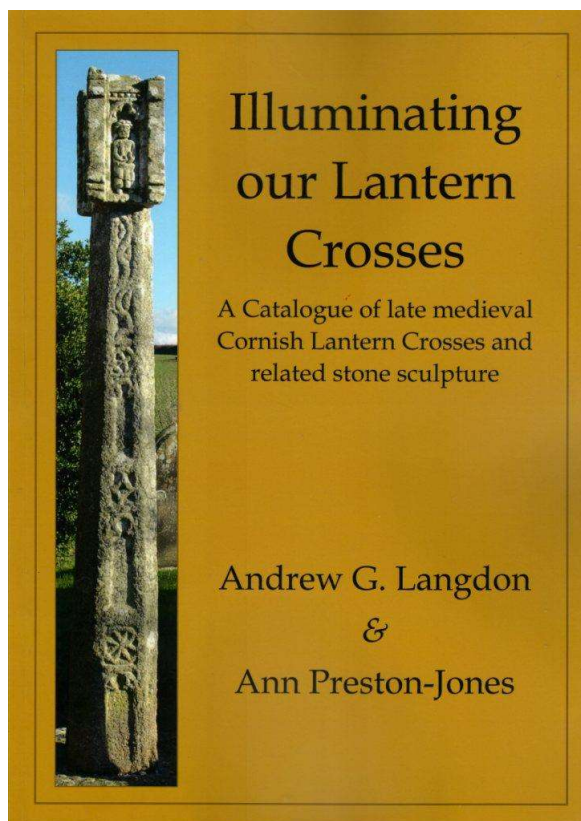
Text and photographs: R.M. Heard

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

This is the time of year when our thoughts turn to Christmas presents. So if you are thinking about what to give, or what you would like to receive, here is a new book that will not disappoint. Andrew Langdon and Ann Preston-Jones have just published the first ever volume devoted to Cornwall's medieval lantern crosses. It is an essential reference for anyone interested in the Cornish medieval period and has been written by the two foremost experts on the subject.

It is described as a catalogue but is so much more. Besides including a wide range of illustrations, ranging from modern photographs right through to antiquarian sketches, there are sections explaining terminology and how these monuments may be dated. As a comprehensive, authoritative record it stands in a class of its own but the historical detective work involved in researching these crosses is fascinating in itself.

Producing this lovely volume has clearly been a labour of love for Andrew and Ann and that joy will be shared by its readers. Details on how to order your copy can be seen 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* 59, or send an email to arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk.

Roger Smith, 28th November 2022