

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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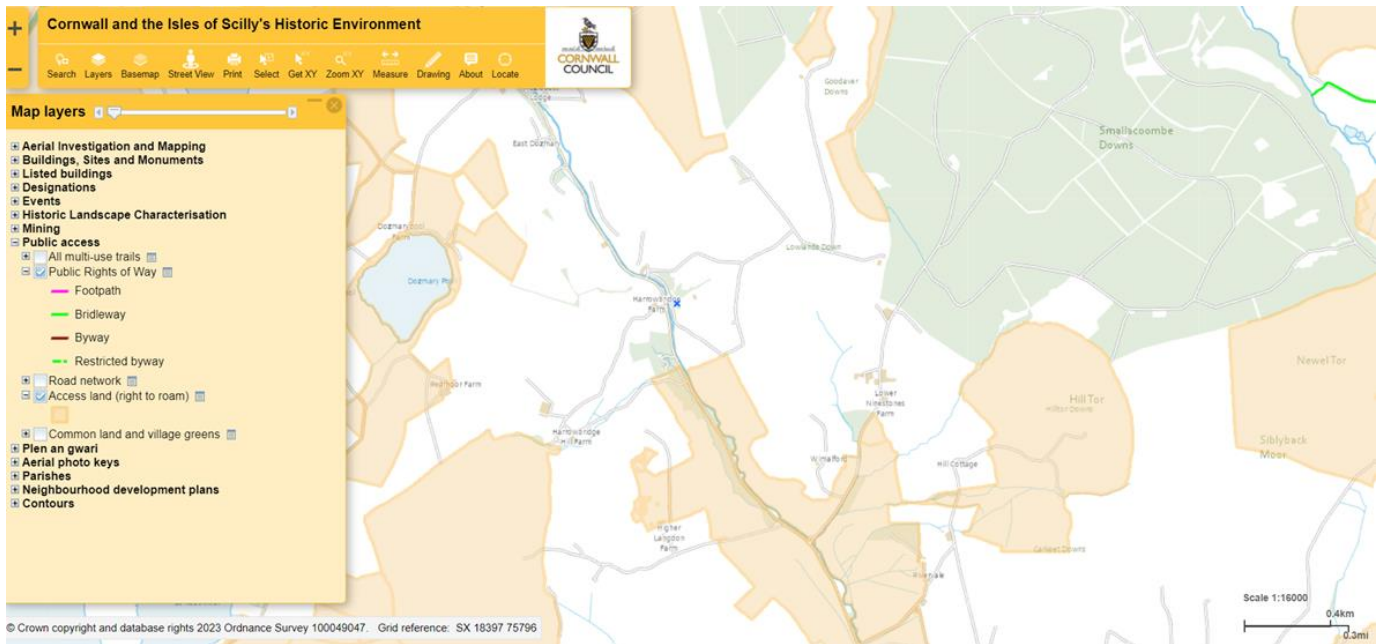
This is the final edition of this newsletter but not the end of news from CAS Area Representatives. Their stories will be posted on our website (<https://cornisharchaeology.org.uk/area-representatives-and-monument-watch/>) or in our main newsletter.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

- GOOD DAY AT GOODAVER
- MOOR MISBEHAVIOUR
- 75 AND OUT!

GOOD DAY AT GOODAVER

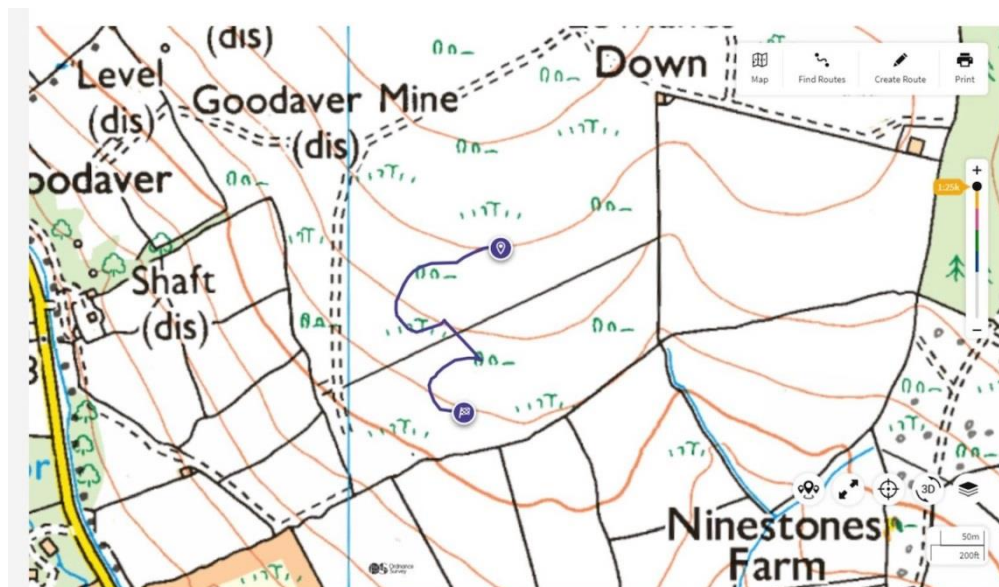
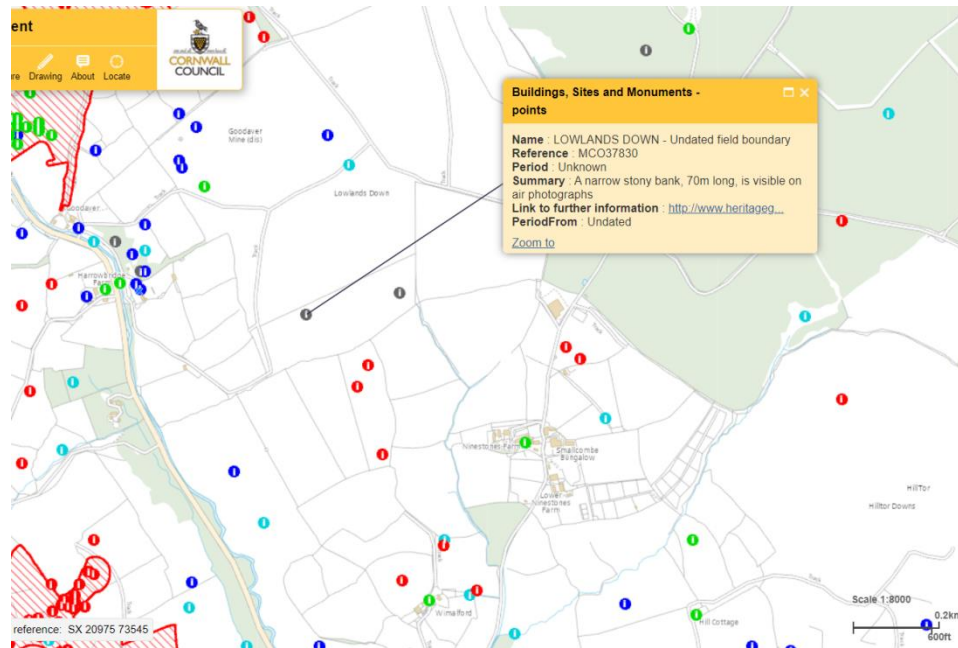
*Robin Paris has sent this fascinating account of visits she and two of our Area Representatives made to Goodaver Farm on Bodmin Moor to investigate archaeological features. This was with the permission of the landowner. There is **no** public access.*



Location of Goodaver Farm: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/conservation-and-environment-protection/strategic-historic-environment-service/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-historic-environment-record/>

In autumn 2022 Iain Rowe, Peter Crispin and Robin Paris made two visits to Goodaver Farm on Bodmin Moor after landowner Robert Goodenough found potential archaeological features revealed by the dry conditions. Goodaver Farm rises steeply from the Fowey's east bank to the ridge at 306m, and back down to Rushyford Water by East Moor. These new features are on the south-facing slopes of Lowlands Down, with views to Brown Gelly and down the Fowey (aka Draynes) valley. On Goodaver Downs it has one scheduled and three other recorded cairns (associated with Goodaver Circle and another cairn, on neighbouring land), and two scheduled roundhouses, so we arrived with great anticipation!

Two separate long low lines of stones curving downhill, likely former field boundaries, were helpfully marked out with fence poles by Robert and quite apparent in the low sun. GPS tracking revealed both as C shaped. The southern one we later found as a grey dot on Cornwall Mapping. HER 54570 is described as a narrow stony bank, 70m long, visible on air photographs [1946 RAF], with date and function uncertain but resembling prehistoric or medieval field boundaries occurring in the area, and might be an isolated surviving boundary from a former more extensive field system. A big lesson to not ignore grey dots! A grey dot further east (HER 54569, a 70m length ditch) will be sought out on our next visit.



Field boundaries plotted from GPS data by Iain Rowe, but ignore the straight line between the two.

Three small possible clearance cairns, each 2-3m diameter, roughly aligned up and downhill.



Lower possible clearance cairn looking up to middle one

Photo: Robin Paris



Higher possible clearance cairn looking down to other two.

Photo: Robin Paris

Probable roundhouse with external diameter 7.65m x 7.45m.

Before clearance:



Photo: Robin Paris

And after:



Photo: Robin Paris

The next photo shows a possible roundhouse or transhumance hut with external diameter 4.8m x 5.6m:



Photo: Robin Paris

Possible ploughed out barrow with diameter 13.3m x 12.4m. At 280m, on the shoulder of the ridge, lower than the cairns, on a SE facing slope.



Possible barrow looking ESE, Smallacombe forestry

Photo: Robin Paris



Possible barrow looking SW, Brown Gelly beyond

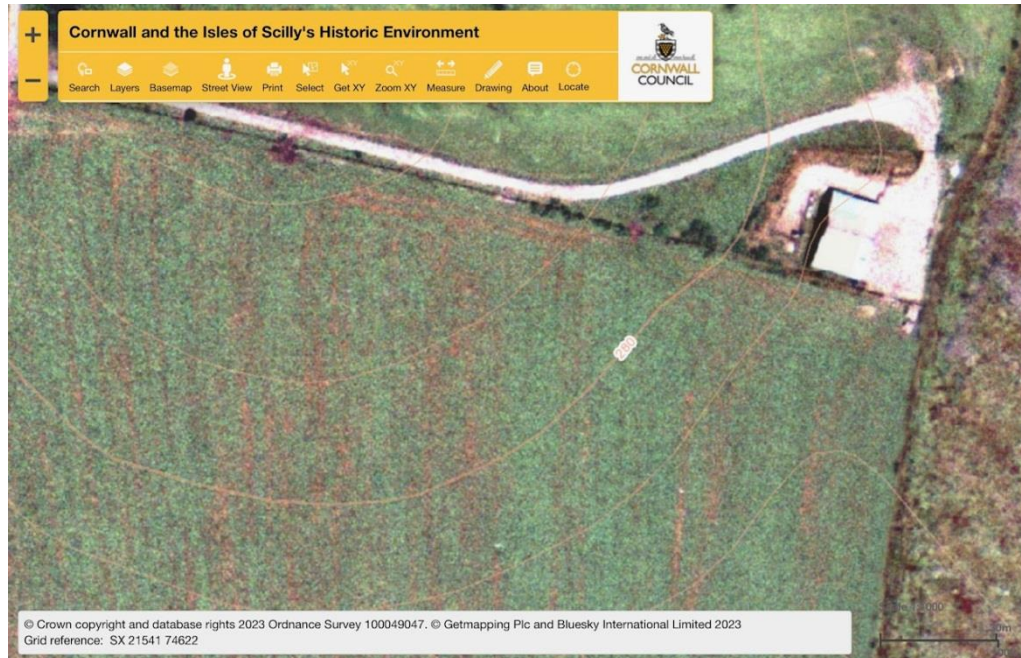
Photo: Robin Paris



Possible barrow looking south, down Fowey (Draynes) Valley

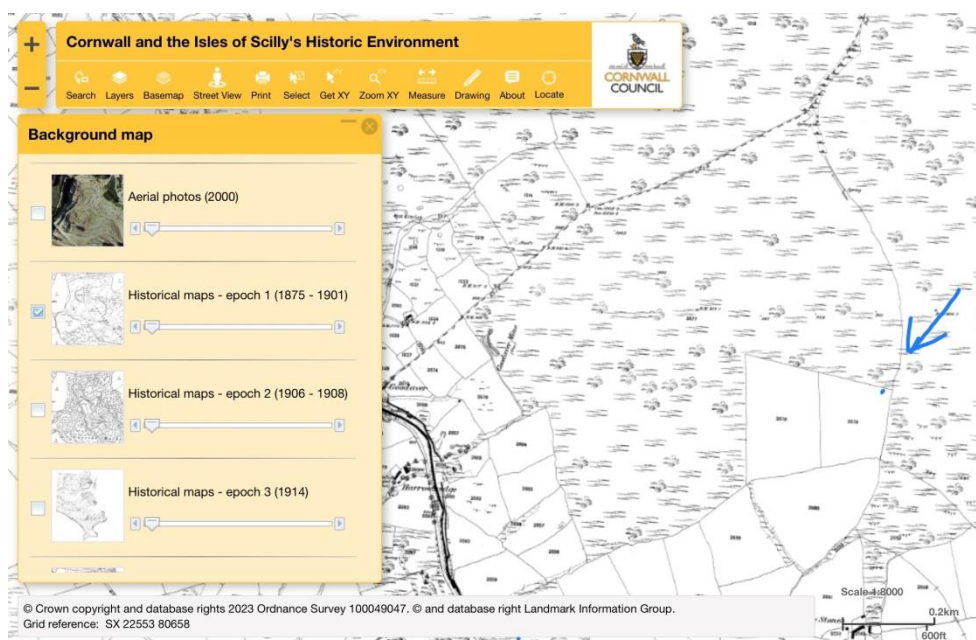
Photo: Robin Paris

Robert said his father ploughed this field only once and reluctantly. Cornwall Mapping's aerial photos (2000) shows the field re-seeded; also an impression of a round feature at the possible barrow (as in subsequent aerial photos). The possible barrow is in the vicinity of the 280m contour number. A curious ring feature top left too...

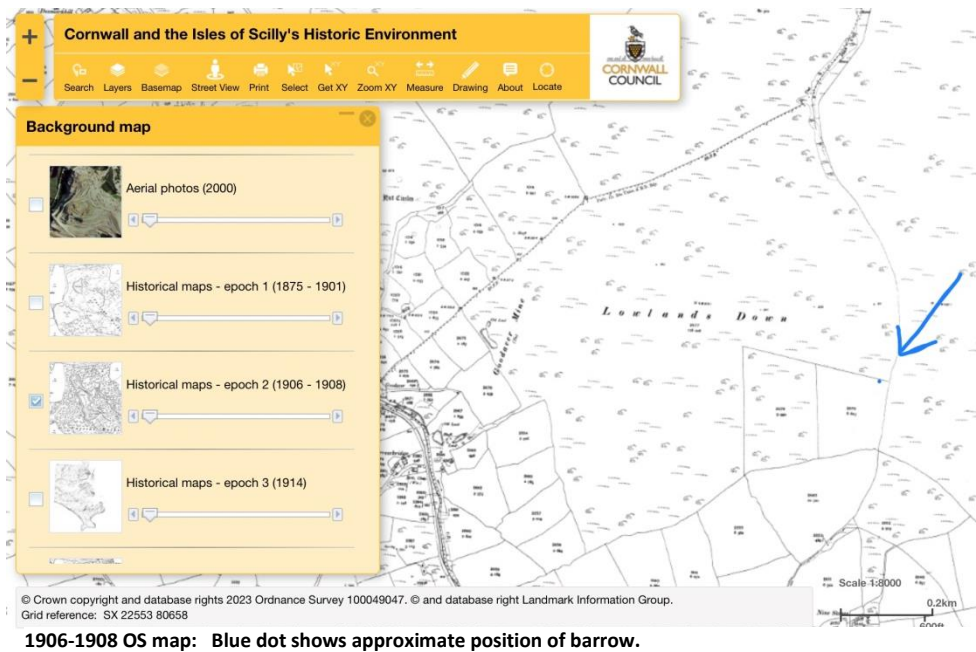


Cornwall Mapping aerial photo 2000

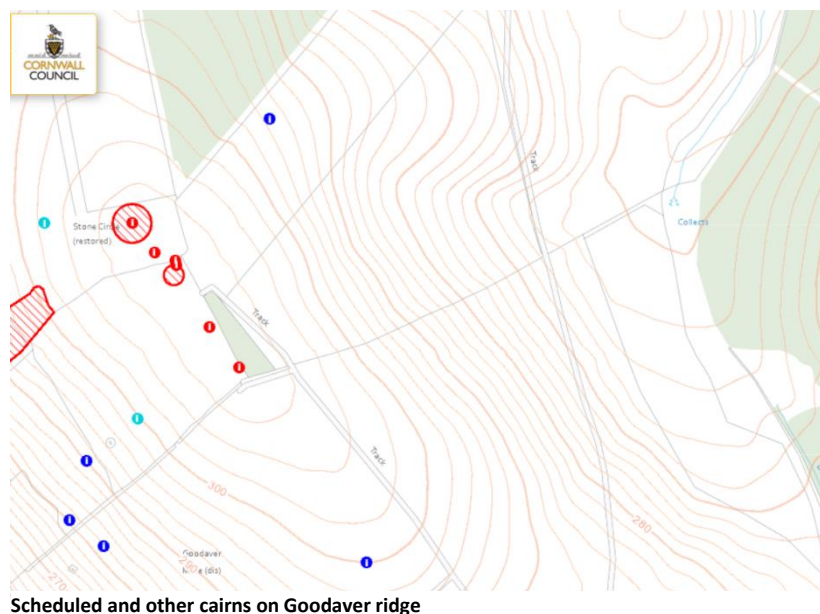
Historic mapping 1875-1901 shows this field was already "improved", but by 1906-08 had been divided with the non-barrow side reverted to rough pasture. However neither map indicates presence of a barrow.



1875-1901 OS map: Blue dot shows approximate position of barrow.



Our recording completed, Robert then took us to Goodaver's ridge and scheduled cairn which he's taking great pride in looking after (HER MCO61906; Scheduled Monument 15274; SX 2092 7510; Altarnun parish). The views here are just stunning: East Moor and across to Dartmoor, Kilmar, Stowes, Hilltor, Caradon Hill top, Tregarrick, Brown Gelly with Clay Country beyond, the Fowey/Draynes valley, the south coast and out to sea. Conifers unfortunately block views to the northern moor and east. The cairns and Goodaver Circle sit rather beautifully, almost aligned, on the ridgetop.



The scheduled cairn is close to a field boundary corner. HER describes cairn SM15274 as a "Bronze Age platform cairn, 17m in diameter and 0.2m high, with some stones around its edge, possibly suggesting a former kerb, and perhaps even a slight rim"

(https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO61906&resourceID=1020).



The scheduled cairn. Or is it?

Photo: Robin Paris

Robert wasn't aware of the other cairns and they were not obvious in the boggy environment! Armed with HER descriptions, maps and grid refs from us, he soon found and marked them out before our second visit. The southernmost cairn (MCO61905) the HER describes as possibly Bronze Age, 7m diameter and 0.6m high. "Amorphous, but on the line of the two previously recorded cairns and possibly therefore an element of a complex of prehistoric cairns and circles." It's tucked away in another corner, or field boundary walls were built alongside it.

(https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO61905&resourceID=1020)

The middle cairn (MCO61904) has a similar diameter and ring cairn height to the scheduled cairn, and once you see it, it's quite obvious! The HER describes a BA platform cairn, overall diameter 17m with a fine ring cairn with width 1.5m and height 0.2m max, some medium sized stones and possible remnants of a kerb. The 2009 record calls it boggy and poached inside, and while that was still true on our visit Robert is now keen to take care of it as well as the others. It may have suffered some damage from vehicles in the past.

(https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO61904&resourceID=1020)



Middle cairn looking towards Brown Gelly

Photo: Robin Paris



The ring cairn looking towards the south eastern cairn (left of vehicle and gateway) Photo: Robin Paris



South eastern cairn. Robert and Pete marking the possible cairn's extent, with Tregarrick Tor through the gateway, and Craddock Moor cairns on the skyline above the cairn
Photo: Robin Paris

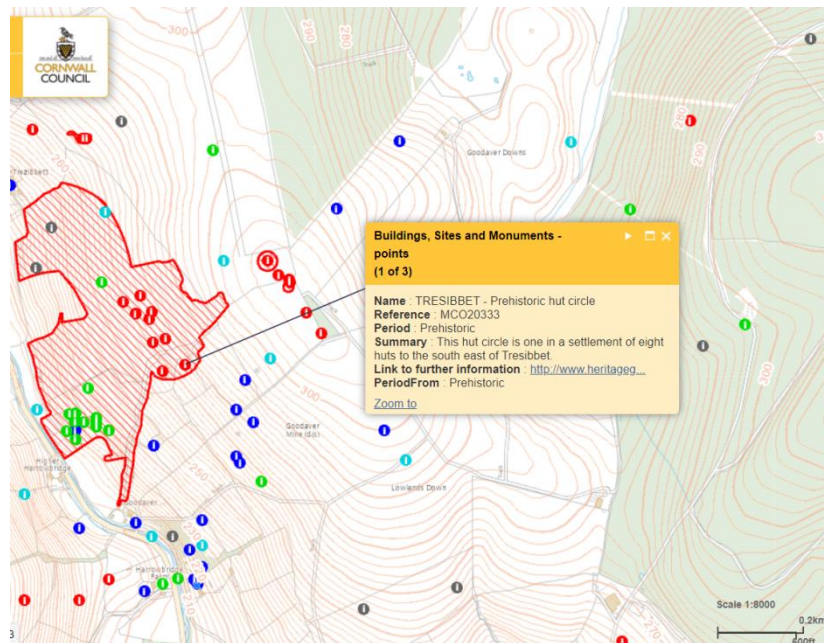
But a puzzle remained: a cairn was missing, we'd found only three his side of the boundary. Only determination and extreme scrutiny of the HER description indicated the lost cairn is offset on top of the scheduled cairn! The HER describes cairn 1115 thus: "the remains of this large cairn comprise a stony, turf covered, mound approximately 10m in diameter and 0.35m high and is eccentrically placed just north of the centre of a platform cairn. It is apparently composed of small stones and there is no surface evidence of a kerb or cist. It may have been robbed to provide stone for adjacent field walls, and it has superficial damage to its north side."

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO4438&resourceID=1020 So the earlier photo of the scheduled cairn, taken from the northern side, may in fact be HER1115. It's somewhat hard to tell! On our next visit we will examine both more carefully.

Returning to the valley bottom we stopped at roundhouses HER1116.08 and HER1116.07, in the southern part of Scheduled Monument 15273: "Prehistoric irregular field system and hut circle settlement with adjacent medieval regular field system and deserted settlement SE of Tresibbet Farm". These roundhouses are larger and with substantial walls and stones compared to the potential ones seen earlier. The HER describes both as levelled into the slope and built up on the lower side, with double faced walls composed of large grounders. HER 1116.08 has internal diameter of 7.8m and a rectangular annexe of 5m x 1.8m (internal) of similar build on its southern side. HER 1116.07 has internal diameter of 7.7m with wall 1.4m wide and 0.5m high. Gorse clearance on these is ongoing.

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO20333&resourceID=1020

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCO20332&resourceID=1020



Location of roundhouses



Roundhouse HER 1116.08, with Robert standing below the annexe. Gorse clearance ongoing

Photo: Robin Paris



Roundhouse with Brown Gelly beyond

Photo: Robin Paris

Wow, what a location for living! With assumed entrances looking 'southish' to Brown Gelly but also (at last, no conifers!) stunning views northwest to Tolborough Tor and Brown Willy. "Perfect glamping site", joked Robert, "imagine sitting here of the evening with a glass of wine, watching the sunset!"



Roundhouse HER 1116.07 looking towards Brown Willy and Tolborough Tor, from inside roundhouse

Photo: Robin Paris

Nearby, also in the scheduled area, is an old drovers' lane running down past the old farmhouse to a former ford across the Fowey. A reminder there is so much more history here than just the lovely Bronze Age remains we'd seen.



The trackway between the high moor and river is on the right of the wall, slightly overgrown but getting cleared over time

Photo: Robin Paris



Trackway meets water source, the River Fowey

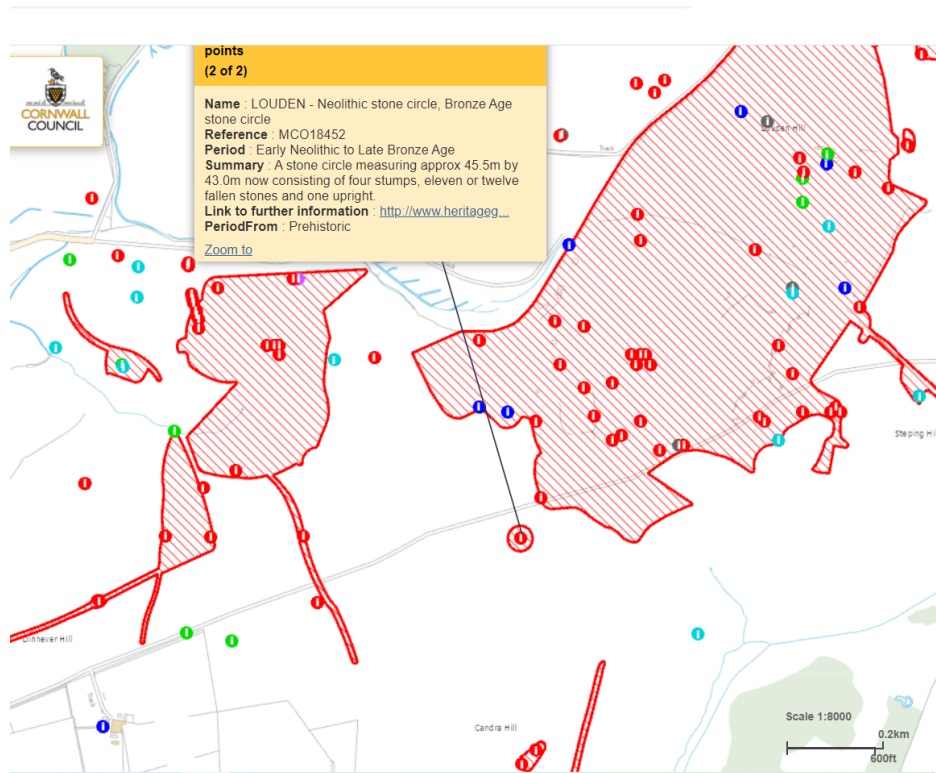
Photo: Robin Paris

As Goodaver Farm is **not** open access land (except a narrow boggy strip on its east side - good luck with that!), we are really grateful to Robert Goodenough for his enthusiasm and for showing us these archaeological features (and the views!).

Report and photos: Robin Paris

MOOR MISBEHAVIOUR

David and Linda Edyvean are keen walkers who regularly monitor archaeological features on their patch of Bodmin Moor. Recently they visited the Stannon area, which, as the map below shows, has numerous significant features and, in law, a high degree of protection.



Inside Stannon stone circle (aka Louden stone circle; HER 1978; Scheduled Monument 15287; SX 1320 7949; St Breward parish) wheel ruts suggested someone had been spinning around on a motor bike or quad bike.



Vehicle damage inside Stannon/Louden stone circle

Photo: David Edyvean

Interestingly, small gifts, possibly relating to solstice rituals, were found, not for the first time, showing that for some people, the circle still has spiritual meaning.



Modern ritual deposit inside Stannon/Louden stone circle

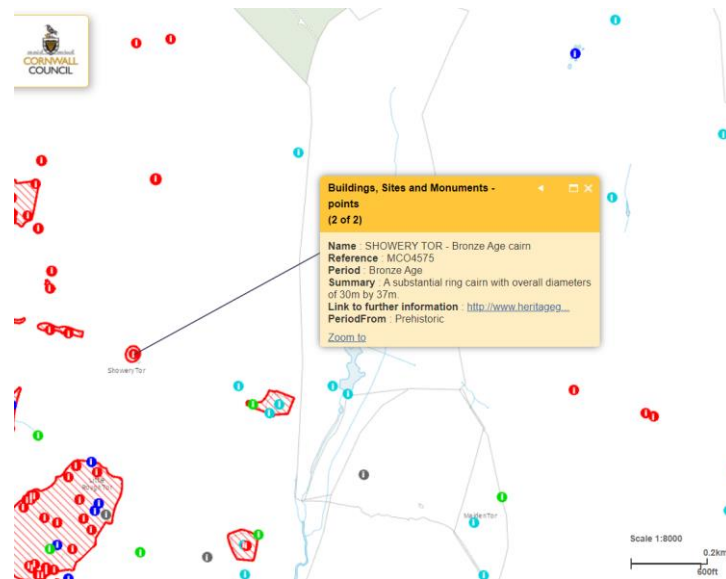
Photo: David Edyvean

The practices of arranging stones and stone-stacking have not lost their popularity, which is fine on a beach but not where it involves displacing stones that form part of important archaeological features, especially if they have legal protection as Scheduled Monuments. The following example was found on Showery Tor (HER 3307; Scheduled Monument 15200; SX 1492 8131; St Breward parish). In all likelihood, the perpetrators don't intend to cause harm but *'any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings'* is a heritage crime and there is a well-established legal maxim that ignorance of the law is no excuse.



Showery Tor Photo: David Edyvean

While Horace Rumpole might argue that the above example of artistry was outside the Scheduled area, where did his client obtain the stones, m'lud?



Devon and Cornwall Police take heritage and other rural crime very seriously. P.C. Julian Fry is the lead officer, as well as being a great archaeology and history enthusiast. He also liaises closely with CAS Area Representatives. When (if?) the weather improves and you are able to get out and explore Cornwall's wonderful archaeological sites, you may see the new signs he and his colleagues have placed at certain protected sites, warning against a range of destructive and illegal activities, such as digging, making fires, unauthorised metal detecting, and off-roading. Often people are unaware of the status of these sites, so education can make a big difference in changing behaviour.

If you would like a very quick guide to heritage crime, this short video is highly recommended: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbca-8a52oc>



Devon and Cornwall Police - Rural Crime - Heritage Crime

75 AND OUT!

This is the last *From Your Own Correspondents* newsletter but the team of CAS Area Representatives, led by Iain Rowe, continues to thrive. You will still be able to read the latest stories about their work on the CAS website at:

<https://cornisharchaeology.org.uk/area-representatives-and-monument-watch/> . And if you have a query, or information, please contact

arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk or secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk .

**Thank You to the Area Reps
and others for their stories
over the last 6 years or so and
to the loyal readers of this
newsletter!**

