



October 2022

Kovadha henleow Pennwydh Recording Penwith's Ancient Sites

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP)

About six months ago we completed site records training with some of our volunteers, something that had been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and had a slow start as a result. Streamlining the scope of the project and trying to simplify it somewhat as a result of losing time has meant we now have a simple project that seems to be going from strength to strength.



The aim of the work is to make new records of features and sites in the local landscape that may have previously missed being recorded, and to do condition checks on existing sites. All records and condition checks then get sent to Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) to update the county's sites register. In order to focus our activity (where do you start in such an archaeologically rich place!?) we decided to focus on the trail guides that our Access Officer Matt has been working on over the project, which are available to view on the PLP website. We would walk the routes, checking the monuments along them and creating new records of anything new we found that did not already have a record on the HER. With Cornwall Council's online interactive map working well on phones we can check current records for sites as we go along.

So far we have managed to check sites on the Tregaseal trail and the Sancreed circular, and are half way through the Morvah route. We break the walks down into small chunks as we don't usually get very far along in a session, and have been astonished with how many new records we have made. To date we have twenty completely new site records, one record update for an existing record, and ten condition checks sent in.

Sites we have made new records for include Prehistoric cup marked stones, Post-Medieval inscriptions, churn stands, a spigot, stone troughs, two probably Prehistoric standing stones, a set of midsummer holes, clapper bridges, stiles and quern stones. All of these records help create a more complete picture of Penwith's archaeological heritage.

Events

We have the following free events coming up. To learn more, more details will be added to www.penwithlandscape.com/events soon.

- **Volunteer Sessions – Wednesdays and Thursdays:** Our regular practical task volunteering sessions take place on Wednesday and Thursdays. Tasks covered have included clearing vegetation from ancient sites, maintaining access paths, repairing Cornish hedges, creating new wildlife habitats and more. Go to <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/volunteer/> to learn more.

West Penwith Hedges Project News

In the last few months the Penwith Hedges project passed a significant milestone by completing a major target set in the original project plan; when our practical volunteer group carried out its 80th hedging task day, equating roughly to 50 or so individual hedging jobs. The tasks carried out by the volunteers are usually the repair of a small section of hedge that has collapsed or is damaged, perhaps anything from a metre up to ten metres in length. These small repairs might seem insignificant when compared to the great length of hedges over Penwith (perhaps 5,000 miles of hedge!), but they make all the difference. A well-known phrase springs to mind, 'a stitch in time saves nine', and the same is true of a Cornish Hedge. A small collapse can grow rapidly, especially when livestock rub against it, or even worse discover they can get through! So the work of the volunteers really has made a difference, and will continue to do so for the remainder of the project.



In addition we have funded two four day hedge training courses, delivered by Helen Bowkett of the Guild of Cornish Hedgers, and hosted a very successful hedge and Penwith gate focused family event at the St Buryan Rally. More than 200 people visited our marquee at the event and took part in the art activities and games, spoke with our Para Kernewek (Cornish team), and shared their memories and anecdotes of hedges and gates. One of the most popular activities was a hedge focused foraging event, looking at edible, medicinal and other useful plants to be found in Cornish Hedges.



While we may have met a major target for the project, our work repairing hedges will continue until the project's end in June next year, allowing for more Cornish Hedges to survive for years to come.

Who is on the Partnership?

Members of the Penwith Landscape Partnership board are:

Bolitho Estates
Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN)
Cornwall Archaeological Society
Cornwall AONB
Cornwall Councillors representing four Penwith wards
Cornwall Heritage Trust
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Farm Cornwall
Farming representatives
National Trust
Save Penwith Moors

Spider Eye Animation
St Aubyn Estates
St Just Town Council
Towednack Parish Council
West Penwith Bridleway Association
Zennor Parish Council

Chaired by Cllr Jim McKenna

Advisors to the board include:

NFU Cornwall, Natural England, Historic England and Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service

If you would like to keep in touch with our work please contact us to sign up to this newsletter.

Penwith Landscape Partnership

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Visit www.penwithlandscape.com, or email PLPinfo@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.