

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 MONTH'S FEATURES

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BOUNDARY STONES IN TRURO

Andrew Langdon's article about Truro's boundary stones in FYOC 51 (Keeping within Bounds) attracted much interest. Here is a second exploration of these features:

Alverton/Tremorvah boundary



Following on from February's report, another boundary stone which marked the Alverton/Tremorvah boundary has been identified by Jo Mattingly. The boundary stone is situated at the eastern end of Alverton Terrace and Rosewyn House at SW 8301 4513, and has been set at the end of a small wall and is certainly not in its original position. It is not shown on any of the historic or modern maps and appears to have been one of the boundary stones marked on the 1907 25in Ordnance Survey maps between the two properties.

Photo: Andrew Langdon

This granite boundary stone has a rounded top and has an incised line running down its centre face, with **A** for Alverton on the left and **T** for Tremorvah on the right. The boundary stone is much larger than the boundary stone at the end of Tremorvah Wood Lane, recorded in last month's report.

The inscribed face faces south-east, the boundary stone measures 0.6M high, 0.3M wide with a thickness of 0.2M.

St Paul's Truro boundary

The church of St Paul's on Tregolls Road, Truro was built in 1845 and paid for through an interest-free loan from Mr William Tweedy, and opened for worship on 23rd November 1845. However the bishop of Exeter, Henry Phillpotts would not consecrate the Church until the outstanding debt was paid in full to Mr Tweedy and it was not until the 26th November 1864, almost twenty years later that the church was finally consecrated by Phillpotts.

In the following year a set of boundary stones were set up marking the limits of this modern parish, although at present I am unable to find a map or plan of these stones. A boundary stone on Moresk Road, almost opposite no. 99 Moresk Road, stands at SW 8285 4556. Its inscription reads, in four lines, **T St P – DC – 1865 – No 1**, which appears to mean Truro St Pauls, 'DC' perhaps Diocesan Commissioners, 1865 - 1st boundary stone, suggesting further stones. The stone is 0.74M high, 0.3M wide with a thickness of 0.2M or more (built into hedge). The inscription or legend is aligned to the north. The stone has had rough treatment and has sustained some damage from passing vehicles. The boundary stone is recorded as 'stone' on both the 1880 and 1907 OS 25in maps.



Photo: Andrew Langdon

Another similar boundary stone was found along Malpus Road near Trennick Row at SW 8308 4421; however this stone is sunk deeper in the ground and reads **T St P –DC – 1865**, the number of the stone is below ground level. This stone stands 0.5M high, 0.3M wide and 0.16M thick. The boundary stone is recorded as 'stone' on both the 1880 and 1907 OS 25in maps.



Photo: Andrew Langdon

Looking at the 1880 Ordnance Survey map, there are several more possible boundary stones, marked as 'stone' on the map, including one which once stood on St Clement Hill where the entrance to the cemetery is, and others on the site of Truro School, between St Clement's Hill and Trennick Lane. The stone at the entrance of the cemetery no longer exists, although there may be some boundary stones still surviving on Truro School land.

At the top of Moresk Road at its junction with Bodmin Road is the Trenerry Toll House and directly opposite on Bodmin Road is a stone with a large B carved on its south west face at SW 8317 4575. There is no sign of any numbers to suggest it was a milestone, however a wall is built around the stone and it is not possible to examine the remaining three faces. This stone appears to be another boundary stone and is marked on the HER (MCO 49146 No 173242), where it is suggested that the B may represent the Boscawen family. The boundary stone is recorded as 'stone' on both the 1880 and 1907 OS 25in maps.



Photo: Andrew Langdon

Report and photos by Andrew Langdon

TRIPPET STONES CLEARED

Karen Dickin was concerned that the Trippet Stones on Bodmin Moor were being obscured by gorse, so after consulting the relevant authorities, she organised a successful clearance.

The *Heritage Gateway* description of the Trippet Stones (HER 1928; Scheduled Monument CO126; Blisland, SX 1310 7501) states:

According to Barnatt [Barnatt, J, 1982, Prehistoric Cornwall: The Ceremonial Monuments, 174-177, 249], this is a true circle, 33.0m in diameter, which now consists of eight leaning uprights and four fallen stones, one of which has been partly removed by stone breakers. The uprights are 1.22m to 1.40m high and have flat tops and inner faces. Near the centre of the circle is a modern boundary post, apparently recently fallen. Six shallow pits around the perimeter of the circle indicate where other uprights have been removed in the first half of the C19 or earlier. One of these pits has a low mound beside it; perhaps a stone had to be dug out when being removed. A similar mound near the boundary stone could be upcast from its stonehole or an earlier, possibly prehistoric feature. Barnatt says the pits and surviving stones show that the spacing was regular and the circle is symmetrical.

The original number of stones in the circle must have been 26 or 27. A large outcrop on Carbilly Tor is orientated towards the midsummer sunset (b11).

Here is Karen's report:

A few hours' work one sunny Saturday afternoon by David Attwell, David Edyvean and Karen Dickin and the stone circle is now clear of encroaching gorse.

The site is now more easily visible on the open moorland on Manor Common and its atmospheric sense of mystery restored, as shown in these before and after shots.



The Trippet Stones before clearance – 10 April 2021

Photo: Karen Dickin



The Trippet Stones cleared

Photo: Karen Dickin

Report and photos by Karen Dickin

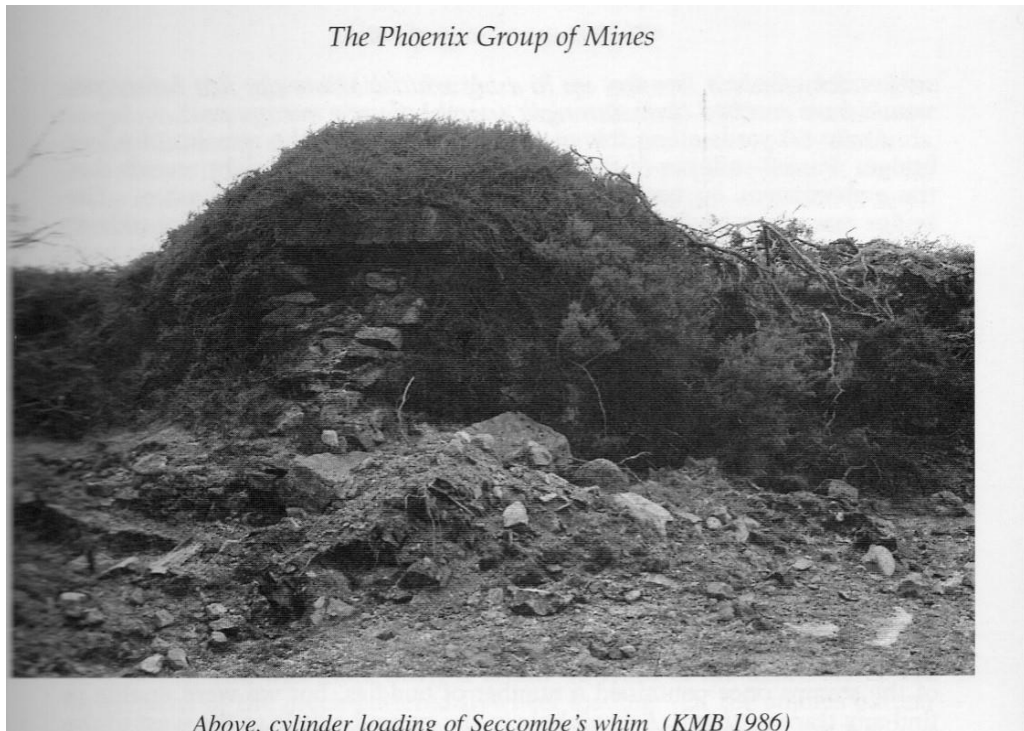
PHOENIX ARISES FROM THE BUSHES

Brian Oldham (Area Rep and President of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society) has been busy revealing an interesting mining remnant:

Phoenix United Mine

In "Exploring Cornish Mines Volume 4" Ken Brown and Bob Acton told us that there "is a remarkable survival standing about 8 feet high, above the hedge. Under the cotoneaster can be discerned the cylinder bedstone of Seccombes's 28 inch steam whim, still perched miraculously on the crumbling loading. Cylinder bolt centres measure 32 inches, which is compatible."

Ken Brown's 1986 photo shows the extent of the intruding growth 35 years ago. My photo taken on 29th April 2021 shows it continues to be a problem.



Before the tidy up began...

Photo: Brian Oldham



A daunting prospect

Photo: Brian Oldham

With the approval of the local landowner (a Duchy of Cornwall representative confirmed the site is not on their land) 2 pairs of hands with secateurs and a Dumpy bag got to work on the Bank Holiday weekend.



A job well done

Photo: Brian Oldham

It'll be overgrown again in a few years' time, but at least it can be seen to be a bedstone for now, if you're 8 feet tall that is!



Brian on his way to the recycling centre

Report and (most) photos by Brian Oldham

MAPPING METHODISM

In FYOC 52, Sheila James wrote about Carnon Downs Wesleyan Chapel (HER MCO32169) where, 'The small building to the rear of Carnon Downs Wesleyan Chapel is in a poor state of repair and a pre-application planning enquiry has been raised for advice on its demolition.' This has attracted the interest of local historian Barry West who is concerned that demolition would destroy an increasingly rare example of accommodation built for visiting preachers.



Carnon Downs Wesleyan Chapel stable, March 2020.

Photo: Sheila James

Methodist chapels, that played such a fundamental role in the lives of many generations of Cornish people, are disappearing, some altogether, with others being converted for other uses. Realistically, it may not be possible, or desirable, to preserve them all, yet care has to be taken that they do not disappear entirely. Aside from the theological significance of the movement, its place in social and political history ought not to be forgotten. Historian E.P. Thompson considered that, 'Methodism, with its open chapel doors, did offer to the uprooted and abandoned people of the Industrial revolution some kind of community to replace the older community-patterns which were being displaced...there was a sense in which working people could make it their own; and the more closely-knit the community in which Methodism took root (the mining, fishing or weaving village) the more this was so' (E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, 1963, Vintage Books).

In addition to Barry's wide-ranging research into other aspects of Cornish history, he and others contribute to the fascinating, expanding, and highly recommended *Mapping Methodism* archive on the *Cornish Story* website: <http://cornishstory.com/category/cornish-story-projects/mapping-methodism/> .

HELLAND BRIDGE DEFENCES

Road traffic is growing again as lockdown eases, and the tourist invasion will soon get under way: worrying news for anyone who loves Cornwall's lovely medieval bridges. Despite being a Scheduled Monument, Helland Bridge (HER 17108, Helland, St Mabyn/SX 0652 7149) is on the *Heritage at Risk Register* because it has been struck so often, and hard, by numerous vehicles. But now it is ready for the onslaught. Boy racers, harassed delivery drivers, and Satnav followers in their 'Chelsea tractors' will still come but now there is a formidable array of signs and defences that should make any reasonable driver slow down and cross carefully. Well done to those involved in designing and installing the signs and protection features - let's hope they work as well as similar measures have done at Ruthern Bridge and Respryn Bridge.



Clear signs and stout wooden posts



Whitewashed stones protect the parapet



Result: Bridge 1 v. Cars 0. Perhaps the driver should have used the main road?



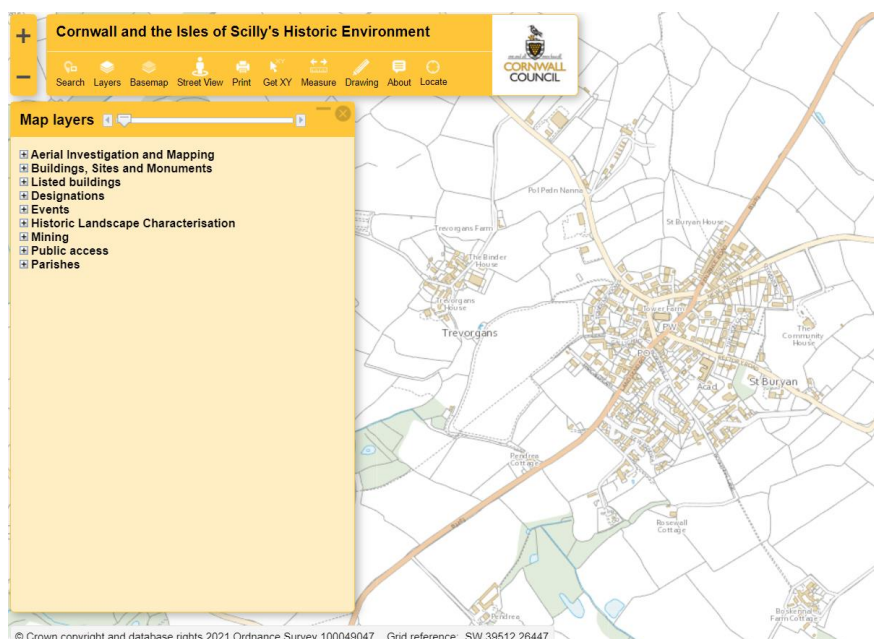
How could anyone fail to be aware of the need to slow down?

This is a beautiful bridge in a lovely location, in spite of the surprisingly frequent traffic using it. It's well worth a visit but if you can, try to get there by walking or cycling on the adjacent Camel Trail and don't use a car on the bridge!

HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT!

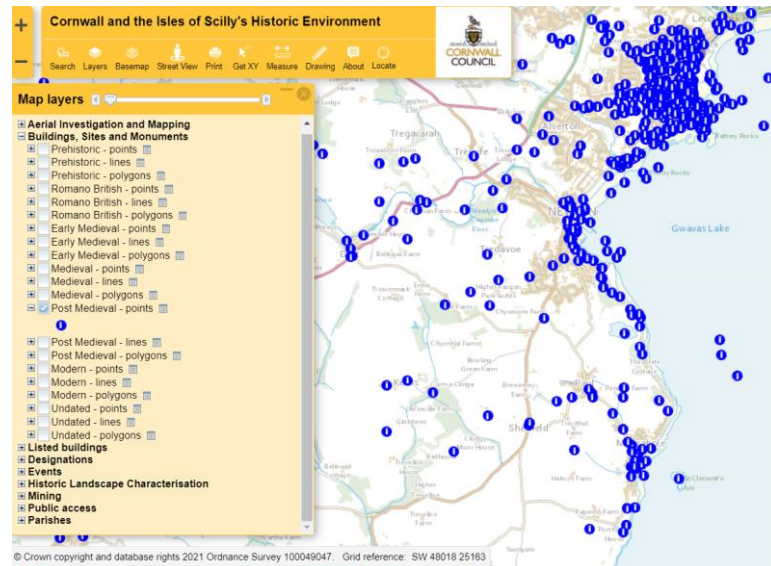
The mapping page of Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Record

(https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=7&xcoord=140991&ycoord=25682&wsName=CIO_historic_environment&layerName=) was already renowned as one of the Wonders of Modern Cornwall but incredibly, it has got even better. Here are the layers:

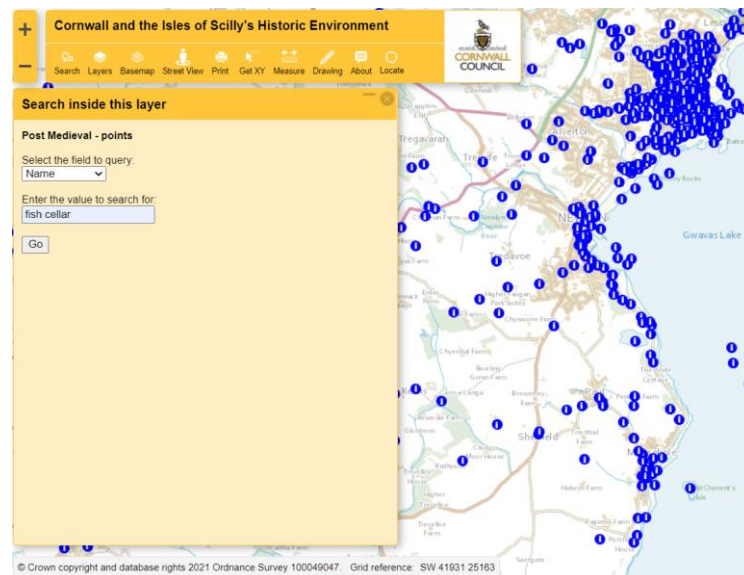


But there is even more to it; in fact there are hidden depths, layers within layers, which can be searched in numerous ways. For example, if you are interested in Post Medieval fish cellars:

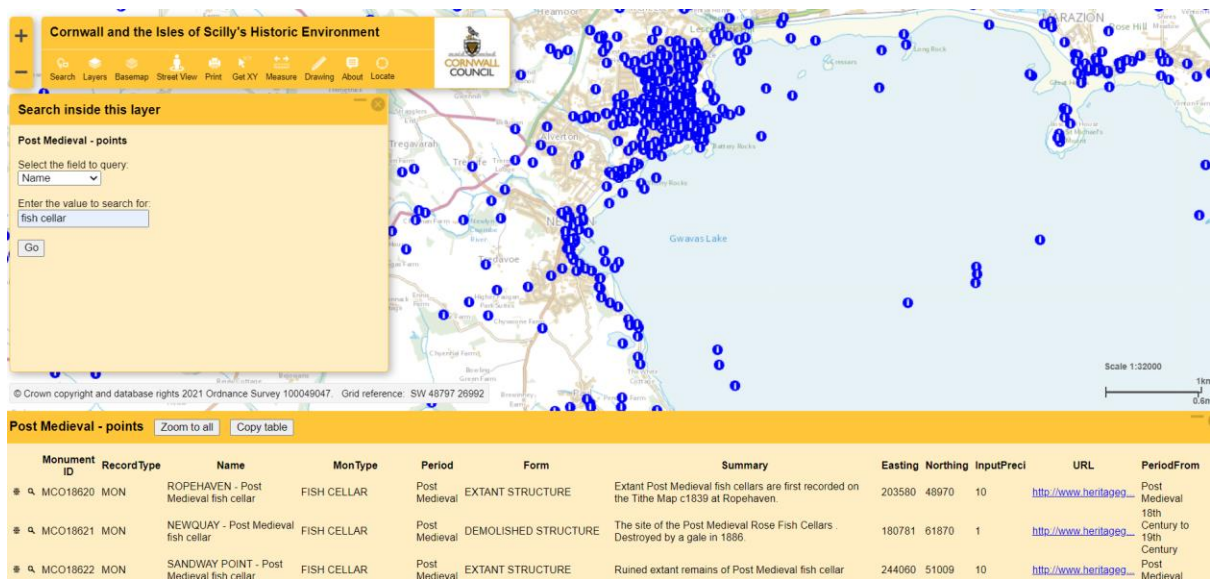
1. Click on the *Buildings, Sites and Monuments* layer and select *Post Medieval – points*.
2. Then click on the little symbol to the right of *Post Medieval – points*.



3. Select *Name* from the *field query* box, type in *fish cellar* and press *Go*:



And this is the result:



The table at the bottom of the page gives options to zoom to all fish cellars on the HER or to copy the table. By zooming you can see the distribution of this feature based on the HER:



Of course, there is much more to explore in this incredibly rich (and expanding) treasure house of archaeological delight and the best approach is probably to experiment. Huge credit must go to Francis Shepherd and Hannah Curnow at the HER and to their colleagues in the Geographical Information Services team.

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* 57, or send an email to arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk.

Roger Smith, 16th May 2021

