

FROM YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

Updates from Cornwall Archaeological Society's Area Representatives

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Issue 64

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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- NEWQUAY SCRUB-BASHERS
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- MOTTES AND MOATS
- EAST CORNWALL MISCELLANY
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CAS Area Reps recently met at Kresen Kernow and on Zoom. Some of their reports are included in this issue. Many readers will also have seen the excellent episode in the Cornish Archaeology Online lectures series in which some of our reps talked about their recent work.

ROSELAND ROUND-UP

Sheila James has been checking various sites in her Roseland parishes. Happily most were stable; however in this account she outlines her concerns about others.

Most of the sites visited recently are stable but some are causing concern as listed below

Nun's Well, Rosteague, Gerrans

Nev Meek of St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society

(<https://kernowgoth.org/member-societies/st-gerrans-porthscatho-old-cornwall-society/>)

has reported problems with St Nun's Well, Rosteague, a Grade II listed structure (HER MCO64394; Listed Building (II) 62982; SW 8719 3364; Gerrans parish). The OCS carried out clearance work to remove ivy, laurel and other scrub and have found that the structure of the well house has been severely damaged and is in danger of collapse. In addition to the problems identified in the photographs below, the internal lintel is cracked, the internal roof is partially collapsed, and the exterior roof is completely collapsed. Much of the stonework is loose and two large tree trunks continue to cause damage. The OCS wish to restore the well house but require assistance in developing a plan.



St Nun's Well, Gerrans, February 2022. Photo: courtesy of Chris Giles of St Gerrans and Porthscatho OCS

As the next photo shows, the rear wall is cracked and leaning inward.



Photo: courtesy of Chris Giles of St Gerrans and Porthscatho OCS

Problems with animal burrowing

A number of earthworks are suffering burrowing damage caused by badgers. Sites particularly affected are:

- SM 32939 Veryan Castle (HER 22826; Scheduled Monument 32939; SW 9090 3881; Veryan parish)
- SM 32938 Carne Beacon (HER 22827.10; Scheduled Monument 32938; SW 9127 3863; Veryan parish)
- SM 32935 Dingerein Castle (HER 22708.10; Scheduled Monument 32935; SW 8819 3753; Gerrans parish)

A badger survey including these sites was carried out last year as part of the AONB Monumental Improvement Project, but no mitigation plans have yet been put in place.



Veryan Castle, October 2021. The badger survey identified burrowing in areas covered by dense scrub. Photo: Sheila James



Carne Beacon, October 2021. The badger survey identified an active sett at Carne Beacon. Photo: Sheila James



Dingerein Castle, February 2020. Evidence of animal burrowing. Photo: Sheila James

Encroachment on to protected areas

A problem which affects barrows situated in fields which are under regular cultivation, is encroachment by ploughing too close to the monument. Two sites which are particularly affected are: the three bowl barrows near Bolotho (HER 9025; Scheduled Monument 32910; SW 7971 4195; Kea parish); and the round barrow NE of Penventon at Playing Place (HER 188855; Scheduled Monument 32917; SW 8119 4124; Kea parish), see photographs below.



SM 32910, the barrows have each been marked by a granite post, but the site has been ploughed to within approximately 1m of the posts. Photo: Sheila James



SM 32917, a crop of Christmas trees is growing around the barrow site – centre left of the picture. This is the second crop of trees in this field. The whole field was ploughed when the previous crop was harvested. Photo: Sheila James

Report by Sheila James. Photos: Sheila James and Chris Giles of St Gerrans and Porthscatho OCS.

NEWQUAY SCRUB-BASHERS

Steve Hebdige and Sheila Harper have been busy monitoring and clearing a variety of monuments and features in the Newquay area. Sheila holds the position of Chief Scrub-Basher (see: <https://newquaymuseum.org/kowethas-kernow-goth-tewynblustri/newquay-old-cornwall-archaeology-group/the-nocag-diaries/>). Steve has sent this summary of their activities:

On 2/12/2021 Sheila's scrub bashers, including me, returned to Trevemper Bridge (HER 25068; Listed Building (II) 63659; SW 8194 5987; Cubert parish) clearing the leaves & strimming the path where needed. We also recorded damage to the top of the parapet possibly caused by the recent storm - see photos below.



Photos: Steve Hebdige

On 12/1/22, Sheila and I returned to Trevornick Holy Well (HER 19676; Listed Building (II) 63653 and Scheduled Monument 32955; SW 7733 5889; Cubert parish) to clear more of the ivy from the roof of the well.

Before

After



Photos: Steve Hebdige

The Scrub Bashers have been back to Mawgan Porth Early Medieval Village (HER 22101; Scheduled Monument CO530; SW 8511 6726; Mawgan-in-Pydar parish) once a month since Christmas and the site is almost back to normal pre Covid (Photos: Steve Hebdige).



On 26/1/22, Denise Marshall, Sheila and I visited the small barrow on the golf course at East Pentire Newquay to deal with the gorse regrowth since last time, managed to fill four large bags with gorse.



Photos: Steve Hebdige

On 18 January the Newquay Old Cornwall scrub bashers group visited East Pentire, Newquay (HER 4130.30; Scheduled Monument CO521; SW 7894 6148; Newquay parish). There was extensive erosion to the barrow on the far end of East Pentire caused by weather, footfall and a lot of mole hill damage around the barrow. This was hard to assess on the ground, so Sheila arranged with Mr Gregor Stevenson, who kindly volunteered to use his drone to photograph the area around barrow. Sheila sent a report to Ann Preston Jones who has put the barrow on the Monuments at Risk Register. See Mr Gregor Stevenson's photo below; the yellow dots are the mole hills.



Photo: Gregor Stevenson

On 21 & 27 /3/22, the Scrub Bashers visited the Barrowfields in Newquay. Here they carried out litter picking and strimming on the large barrow and the barrow by the metal fence of the old putting green (HER 4666.04; Scheduled Monument CO619; SW 8201 6221; Newquay parish). The large barrow shows damage due to mountain bikes being ridden off the top of the barrow causing: a new thin path on the southern side of the barrow; two new wider paths and a section with turf damage to the NE side. The red arrows shows close-up turf damage in the next photo:

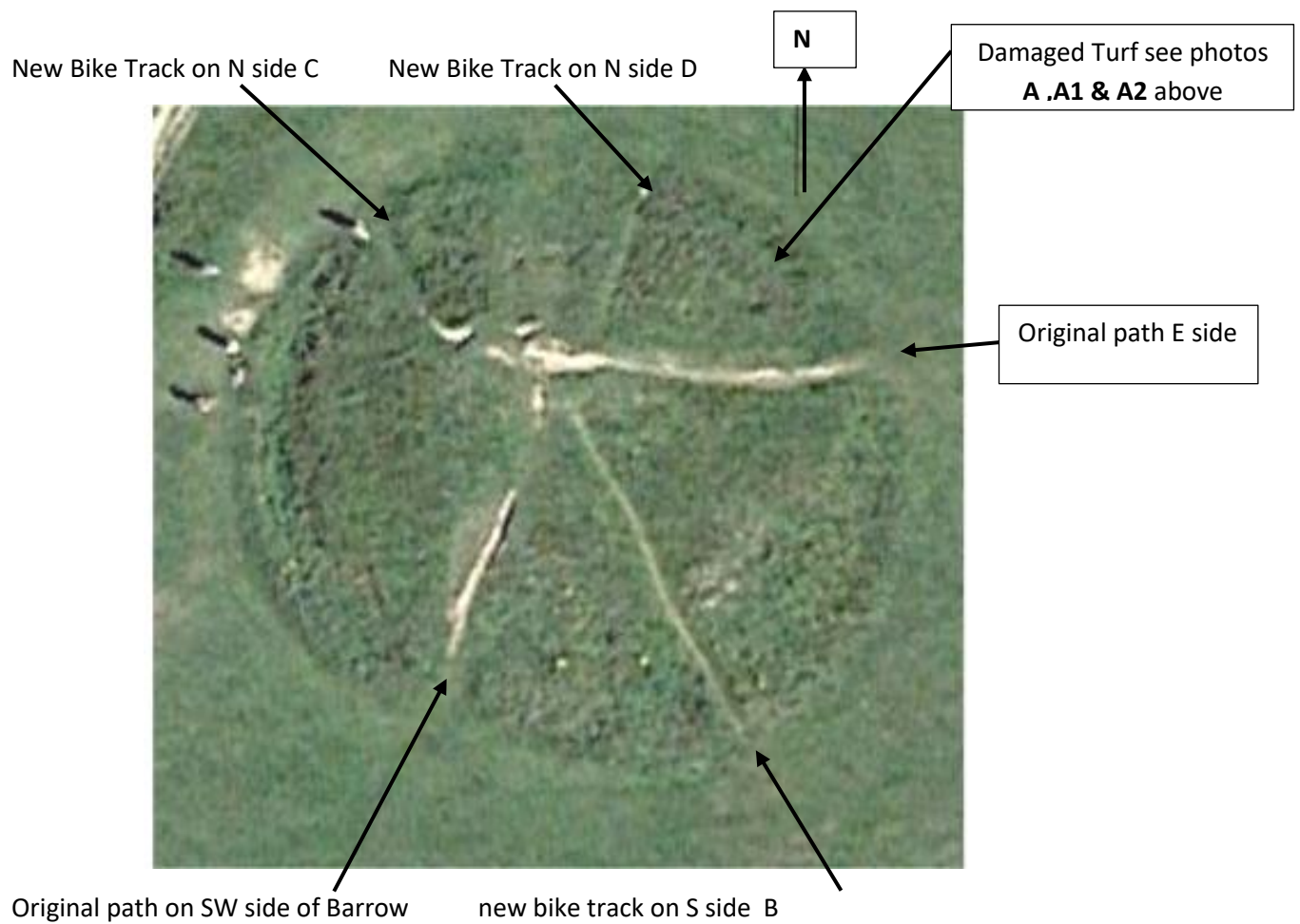


View of NE side of Barrow A1

Damaged turf at bottom of Barrow A2



Below is an aerial view of the large barrow (HER 4666.03; Scheduled Monument CO619; SW 8192 6214; Newquay parish) with arrows showing damage.



New path B looking up



New path C from top



New path C looking up



New path D looking from top



New path D looking up

Photos: Steve Hebdige and members of Newquay Old Cornwall Society

A report will be sent to Historic England. We will also send our reports on recent visits to:

St Constantine's Well (HER 108084; Listed Building (II) 397252 and Scheduled Monument 31827; SW 8651 7495; St Merryn parish);

The ruins of St Constantine's Church (HER 107294; Listed Building (II) 397249 and Scheduled Monument 31827; SW 8652 7489; St Merryn parish) on Trevoze golf course;

The two barrows on the cliff edge over looking Zacry's Island near Watergate beach (HER 4654 and HER 4654.10; Scheduled Monument CO402; SW 8335 6371; Newquay parish).

Report by Steve Hebdige. Photos: Steve Hebdige and members of Newquay Old Cornwall Society

CARDINHAM CASTLE CARTOGRAPHY

Karen Dickin has been involved with Malcolm Wright and his Timeseekers team in a project to produce a geophysical survey of Cardinham Castle (HER 2958; Scheduled Monument CO455; SX 1261 6803; Cardinham parish). Many people are surprised to hear that there was a castle in Cardinham. Not only was there a castle but as the comparative plan produced by Ann Preston-Jones and Peter Rose in *Cornish Archaeology* 25 (1986) shows, it was one of the largest ones in medieval Cornwall.

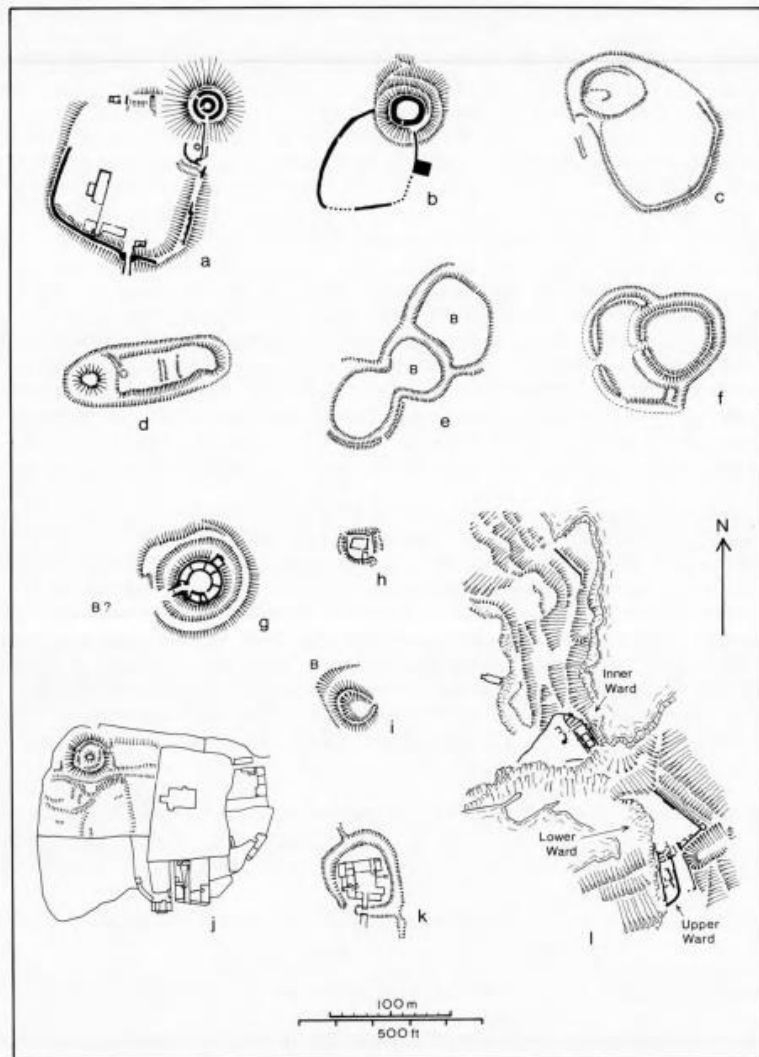


Fig 13

Castles in Cornwall. a Launceston. b Trematon. c Cardinham. d Kilhampton. e Eastleigh Berrys. f Castle Goff: possible ring-work and bailey, but more probably a prehistoric multiple enclosure. g Restormel. h Upton. i Bossiney. j Week St Mary. The ring-work or motte and other earthworks sit within a possible enclosure which appears to pre-date the church. k Berry Court, Penhallam. l Tintagel. In some instances B marks the position of the bailey. Sources: Odnance Survey, except a (Saunders, 1984) and j (earthworks, CAU survey).

Source: https://cornisharchaeology.org.uk/journals/No.25_1986.pdf

Here is Karen's report:

Cardinham Castle

Geophysical surveying has continued at Cardinham Castle. The team, led by Malcolm Wright of Timeseekers, has now clocked up some 60 volunteer hours undertaking resistance and magnetometry surveys of the motte and bailey plus two adjoining fields. It is almost complete now, barring a couple of strips which need to wait until they have been cleared by the farmer.

The geophysics will complement a topographical survey recently commissioned by Historic England and a report on all the findings will be available in the near future. There are no known early records to provide information, so this is a great opportunity to learn more about the site.

The castle was abandoned sometime during the mid 13C and the motte in particular has been heavily robbed and quarried out in the intervening centuries. The resulting lumps and bumps have provided some challenging terrain!



Photo: Karen Dickin



Photo: Timeseekers

The results so far reveal distinct walls and ditches and the possibility of some buildings. The results so far reveal distinct walls and ditches and the possibility of some buildings.



Image: Malcolm Wright and Timeseekers



Image: Malcolm Wright and Timeseekers

Later this year there may be an opportunity to apply to *The Castle Studies Trust* which awards grants to fund research projects into castles. The CST approached CAS to invite applications and the next round of grants opens on 1 September and closes on 1 December.

Report by Karen Dickin. Photos and images: Karen Dickin and Malcolm Wright

UNLOCKING LANDSCAPES

Emma Allen has been engaged in an exciting project using LiDAR. This video on You Tube, Archaeological Mapping from airborne LiDAR | Dr. Chris Smart | Virtual Café Sci, is well worth watching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2XCH9KCLxM&t=27s>

I have been working on the Unlocking Landscapes LiDAR project recently, led by Dr Chris Smart at Exeter University. Many would have heard about the first phase of this project in the national newspapers, due to the archaeological discoveries found during lockdown.

Dr Chris Smart and his team have recently been awarded National Lottery Heritage funding to continue mapping archaeological landscapes across Devon and Cornwall using LiDAR data. The grids below illustrate the areas already systematically searched, mainly for Iron Age/ Roman landscape components. New data is being released this year covering West Penwith, the Lizard and a small area in North Cornwall.

I'm currently searching parishes near Bude and have already started to find new archaeological sites, confirmed by Dr Chris Smart.

The team communicates via a private Facebook group, 'Teams' meetings and emails, with future plans to meet up on newly discovered sites. It's a great project for anyone interested in learning more about Landscape archaeology using LiDAR data, Google Earth Pro and aerial images.

MOTTES AND MOATS

In addition to helping out with the geophysical work at Cardinham, Richard Heard has been very busy in his parishes. In this report he describes the condition of two important medieval sites: Kilkhampton Castle (see site D in the plan on page 12) and Binhamy Manor. Richard and Pete Herring will be leading a walk around Kilkhampton and Stowe on 15th May (details in CAS newsletter and website):

The late Norman Castle at Kilkhampton (HER 4531; Scheduled Monument CO438; SS 2431 1158; Kilkhampton parish) is currently losing some ash trees at the east end. The National Trust has decided they suffered "die back". Hopefully that site will remain as clear when the

CAS Walk visits on Sunday May 15th. Kilkhampton castle is about a quarter the size of the large Castle at Cardinham.

The Manor site at Binhamy, Stratton (HER 81; Scheduled Monument CO847; SS 2192 0575; Bude Stratton parish) is under an offensive from sewage works and service trenches for yet another “Bude” development. See two photos attached. The first shows the area awaiting foundations for 5 dwellings on the north side of the moated manor. The second shows the drainage line running parallel to the west moat and within 20 metres. Professional archaeologists have been engaged; I’m informed “nothing yet of interest”.



Photo: Richard Heard



Photo: Richard Heard

EAST CORNWALL MISCELLANY

Packhorse Bridge

The Prior's Bridge in Launceston, (HER 2612; Listed Building (I) 370137; Scheduled Monument 15571; SX 3278 8509; Launceston parish) was reported as more damaged than in my previous report in November 2021, but despite problems the further damage is hopefully under control. A report sounded as if vandals had caused severe destruction but fortunately this was not the case. It appeared as if slates on its edge had been stolen or pushed into the River Kensey possibly being due to the fact that the bridge has been used more frequently due to work on the new pedestrian bridge nearby. In actual fact Cormac had agreed to repair the footway and has, as a stop gap, used lime mortar for safety reasons to cover the edges, which looked very odd, and has recovered and arranged storage of the missing slate copings. Cormac is working closely with Historic England.

Repairs will include the raking out and repointing the cobbles & walls, re-fixing the slate coping stones, repairing a drainage pipe, repainting the handrails & streetlight, and most importantly, scouring protection works to the foundations.

The work has also been held up by also the fact that all salmonid rivers are protected from October to May in case of any possible pollution.

Barrows in Hallworthy Forest

HER 2318; Scheduled Monument 1005468; SX1867988100, SX1881388069, SX1886688032, SX1917987772, SX1918887616; Treneglos parish.

I have checked 3 of the barrows - fortunately still clear of the trees but overgrown with thick grass and a certain amount of gorse which makes them less likely to be seen easily. One barrow, just outside the forest area, is just visible, but only if is known to be there. I ran out of time to see the 4th barrow which is in a different position.

Youlston Cross

The cross at Youlston (HER 2319; Scheduled Monument CO225; SX 1982 8949; Warbstow parish) is in a good position and in good order.

Warbstow Bury

HER 2156; Scheduled Monument CO86; SX 2011 9077; Warbstow parish.

I checked the 2 placards giving information about the Bury and its wildlife as I had been told that they were difficult to read. Fortunately I had water and a good cloth as I realised that the problem was a build-up of dirt and mildew especially on the one near to the road, but under some trees, is now more readable. The other one marking a footpath on the west side was clean due to it being in direct line of any rain. There is some sign of mould under

the perspex but not causing any difficulty. There is a lot of gorse on the ramparts and ditches but it is not interfering too much, and the rest is in excellent condition despite the considerable attention by a number of rabbits.

Report by Diana Sutherland

TRAINSPOTTING

CAS Area Rep Convenor Iain Rowe settled back into the plush padded seat of the First Class dining car of the 7.30 Liskeard to Redruth Express and pushed aside his plate, now empty of bacon and devilled kidneys. 'May I pour you more coffee, sir? Or maybe a glass of port to fend off the March winds?' enquired the solicitous attendant. But Iain's attention was suddenly directed elsewhere. He stared agape out of the window at something he had spotted in the blur of the passing countryside somewhere east of Truro. His higher calling as an Area Rep superseded the need for more victuals. There was a mystery to be solved. Alighting at Redruth station he pushed through the crowds of local historians making their way for their morning 'core' mining the archives at Kresen Kernow. The station-master was instructed to send telegrams immediately to the Historic Environment Service and Historic England. The investigation was on.

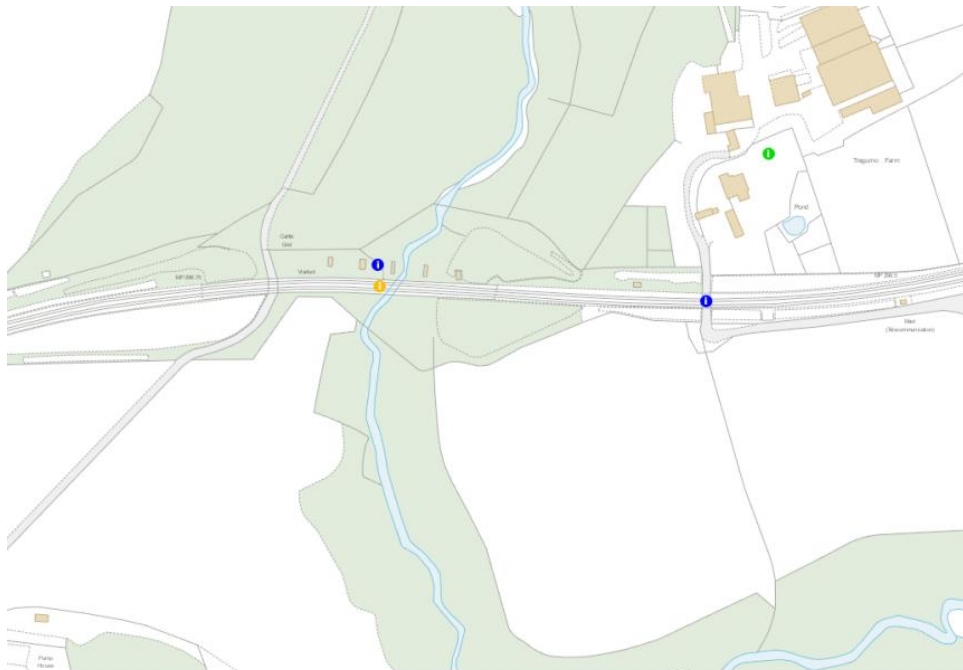
This was the image that had captured Iain's attention:



This was clearly a building of some style, yet it was not one that he recognised; nor could he recollect seeing it before. It could not be a mansion from a phantom world; it was definitely real. But where was it? And what was it? More importantly, was it on the HER? Was it Listed?

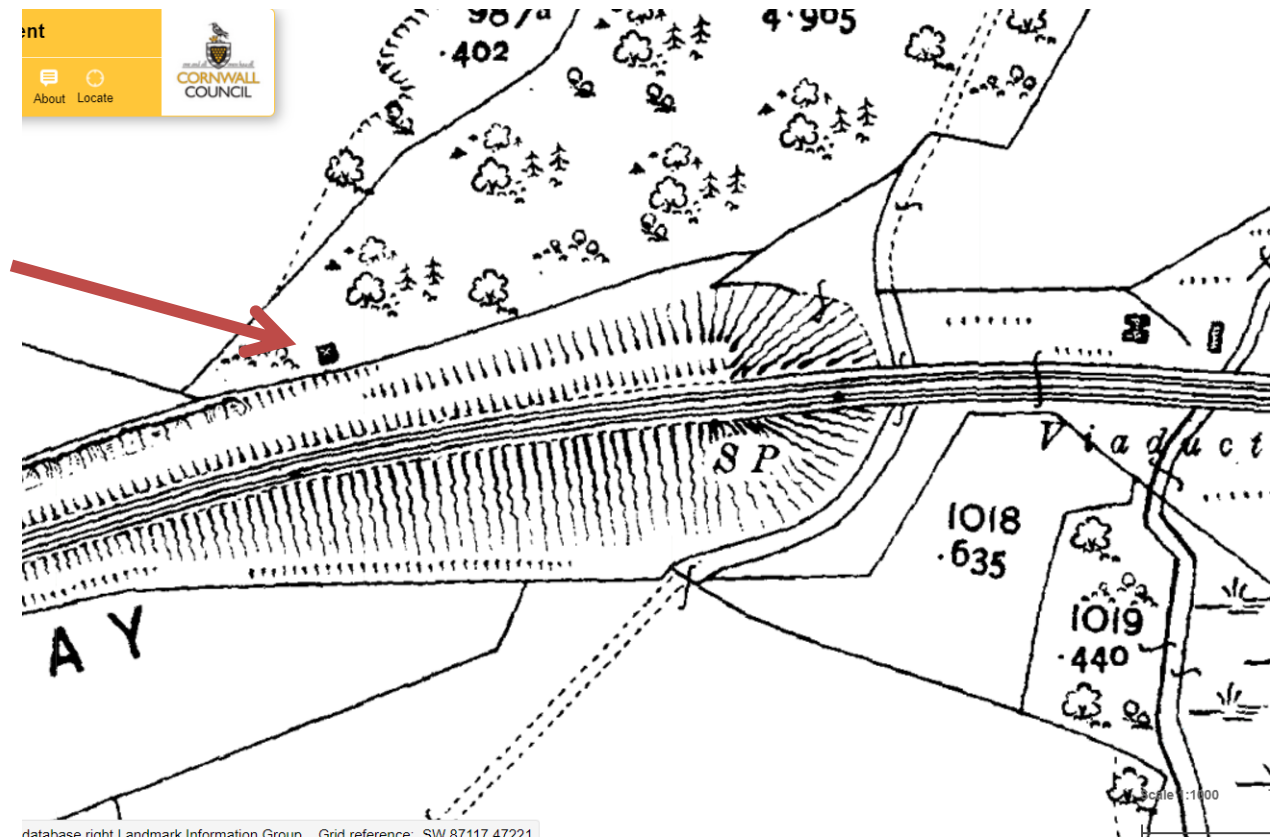
Iain thought carefully about his journey, carefully tracing it back to fix the position of this sighting. He remembered that there had been woodland clearance 'on a steep slope west of Tregurno Farm and just over the Tregarn Viaduct. It is a square building with a gothic arched mullioned window in a gable end facing the railway line – so facing south. No glass in the windows or roof, but well made – the window at least looks as if it has come straight out of a church. I have been using the train almost daily for 15 years and although I do not spend all of my time looking out I have not seen this one before.' Looking up the online mapping on the Historic Environment Record

(<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/conservation-and-environment-protection/strategic-historic-environment-service/cornwall-and-isles-of-scilly-historic-environment-record>) he thought it might be 'the square on the far left (just north of the railway line) on the map below SX 8711 4733.' This would be to the left of the blue and yellow dots on the map below, to the north of Tresillian Business Park, between Probus and Truro.



As for what the building was, Iain was unsure. A chapel perhaps, or even a folly, but the HER was no help. He would pay special attention over the next few days on his daily journeys but frustratingly there was no public access to the mystery building so a site visit was out of the question. Would this enquiry be a dead-end?

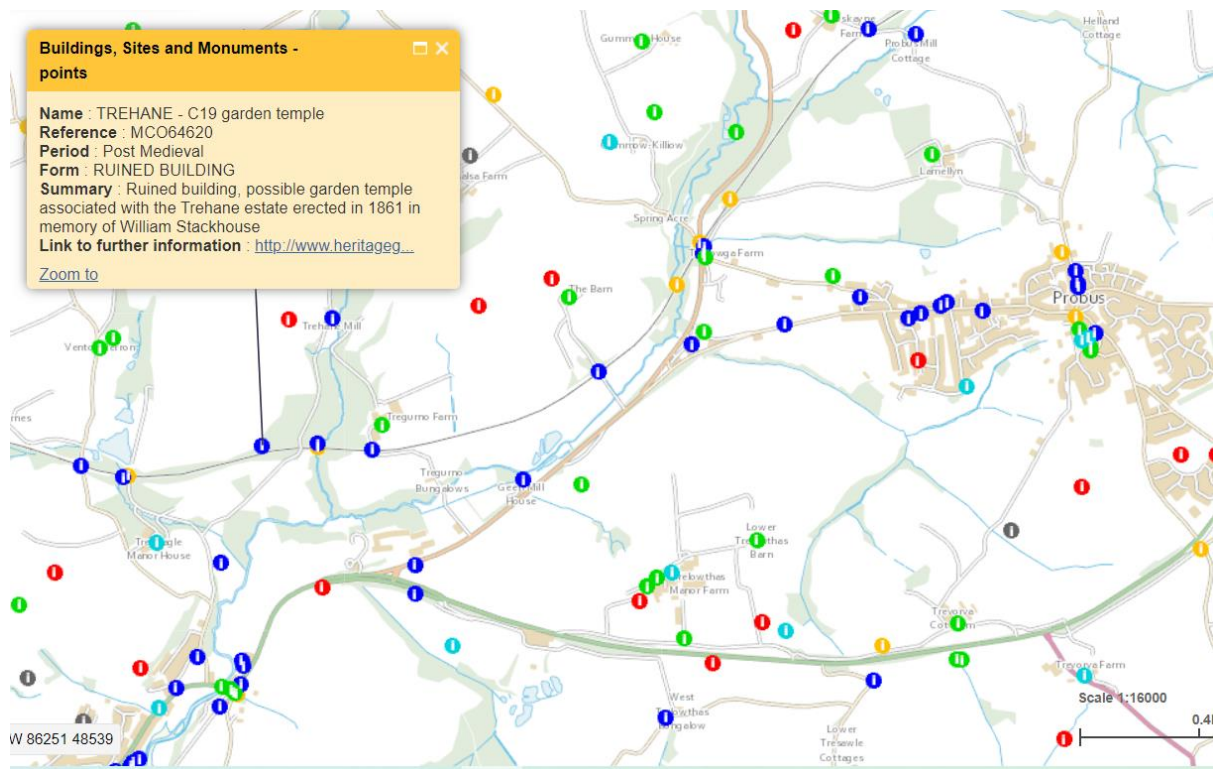
The first breakthrough came from Francis Shepherd of the Historic Environment Service. He had located a structure on the Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey map (1906-1908) – see below.



The enquiry was acquiring a critical momentum. Soon after, Ann Preston-Jones provided the next clue:

“Pett, in *Parks and Gardens of Cornwall*, mentions, on page 101: ‘The intriguing ‘little temple or pleasure house’ which stands outside the grounds overlooking the railway, erected in memory of William Stackhouse in 1861, with windows displaying the family arms in stained glass, has unfortunately been vandalised.’ I have never been sure where this temple or pleasure house (unless the one at SW 87315 47505) is but I see that Trehane, Trehane Mill, and Trehane Wood are just to the N, albeit on the wrong side of the valley in relation to your building. Your building (if I’m looking at the right one) is in an interesting location, soon after a cutting and just before the viaduct so (were it not for the gothic window) I would have thought it a railway building! I’m also puzzled because the building on the map appears to be E-W rather than N-S, so I’m not sure that the gable would be facing S? It would be very interesting to see a photo, if you are able to get one!”

The case was solved! Immediately this information was placed on the HER:



The trio of Iain, Francis and Ann had cracked what had seemed to be an impenetrable conundrum. Alighting at Liskeard Station, at the end of a testing, yet satisfying, day, Iain felt a tug on his sleeve. Turning round, he looked down at a small, rotund man whose heavily waxed moustache and fastidious attire stood out from the plainer travellers on the crowded platform. 'Monsieur Rowe,' implored the strange figure, 'something mysterious has been spotted from a window on the Orient Express. I am at a loss. Your assistance in this case would mean everything to me.' After a slight hesitation, Iain replied: 'Very well, M. Poirot. But first I have two telegrams to send; I must assemble the 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* 58, or send an email to arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk.

Roger Smith, 19th April 2022

