



Cornwall
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

A MONUMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

Project Friends Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the Monumental Improvement project delivery stage newsletter!

In May 2022 we were able to officially launch the delivery stage of the Monumental Improvement project following confirmation of our success in securing a grant of almost £500k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund!

With additional funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, Cornwall AONB, National Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Kilkhampton Parish Council, the project is able to set about achieving its goal to ensure that 40 at-risk or vulnerable Scheduled Monuments in the Cornwall AONB are better protected, identified and enjoyed by a wider range of people by 2024.

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It has been a busy first few months for the project, and we have lots to share with you in this issue! Jacob, our Activities Officer, has been able to kickstart our delivery stage activity programme and it has been brilliant to welcome so many people to our events. Check out pages 3-6 for an overview of some of our latest events.

Our project team has also been busy commissioning the necessary contractors for all our planned work and we are pleased to have awarded our Ecological Service contract and Evaluation Services contract and work is well underway, with more to follow. Our project team is also growing and we are in the process of recruiting an Archaeological Officer and an Archaeological Technician apprentice to join in September. It is also with sadness that we announce that Jacob Parry, our Activities Officer is leaving the project in August to embark on a Masters in Forestry. Check out page 18 for a project staff update!

We are so grateful for the support that the project has received from all our partners, landowners, community groups and volunteers who helped us get to this point and we look forward to working with you all and welcoming new volunteers over the next couple of years!

Natalie
Project Manager



Photo: Scrub clearance at Trebarveth Settlement.

A MONUMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

OUR DELIVERY STAGE GOALS



Photo: Redoubt 4, Maker Heights. Photo by N. Haly

The Monumental Improvement project was developed to deliver on the Cornwall AONB's Management Plan aim to nurture heritage through improving the understanding and interpretation of the AONB's historic character and heritage assets. This key aim stated that active efforts were required to bring features identified as at risk or vulnerable back into better management, and so in 2018, the AONB (funded by a Regional Capacity Grant from Historic England) set out to assess the at risk or vulnerable Scheduled Monuments in its sections (outside of West Penwith which were covered by the work of Penwith Landscape Partnership). Of the 118 Monuments surveyed, 40 priority sites in 10 of the 12 AONB sections were identified as needing urgent care.



Photo: St Piran's Oratory. Photo by N. Haly

The 40 sites span over 4,000 years of Cornish history and include Iron Age hillforts, Neolithic settlements, Medieval motte and bailey castles and a WWII airfield! 35 of the 40 sites are currently listed on the Heritage at Risk Register, whilst the remaining 5 are identified as vulnerable, with the main threats being erosion, unchecked vegetation, flooding, animal burrowing and poor identification. The Monuments are also ecologically significant with 16 located within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a further 12 are in European Designated sites which have the highest levels of environmental protection in the UK.

In 2020, the Cornwall AONB were awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage

Heritage Fund (NLHF) for a development stage project with a goal of stabilising the 40 Monuments. Running from January 2020 until November 2021, this stage saw all 40 sites surveyed by an archaeologist and a bespoke management plan created for each, outlining the work needed to help improve their condition. In addition, the project commissioned an ecological survey of each of the sites to help inform the management plans and ensure that any future work would protect biodiversity and ensure environmental legal compliance. The project also tested and trailed a broad activity programme with a focus on health and wellbeing, and the team actively developed links with new audiences.

With the development stage of the project coming to an end in December 2021, the Cornwall AONB applied for further funding from the NLHF for the two-year delivery stage of the project which was successfully approved in 2022. The project was also awarded funding from Cornwall Council, Historic England, Cornwall AONB, National Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Kilkhampton Parish Council and was therefore able to officially launch the delivery stage of the project in May 2022.

The next two-year programme of works will seek to ensure that the 40 Scheduled Monuments are better identified, supported and enjoyed by a wide range of people. It will focus on removing as many of the sites from the Heritage at Risk register as possible and provide training for local volunteers to help care for the Monuments in the future. Through an extensive activity programme and increased interpretation, the project will also help to connect more people to heritage in the AONB, provide skill development, create jobs and improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.



Photo: Vegetation management at Dingerein during Development Stage

Heritage is seen by the Cornwall AONB as an integral part of its designated landscape. The AONB's mission to be Cornwall's 'Landscapes for Life' involves protecting and enhancing the character, biodiversity, culture and heritage of the AONB for one and all. The Monumental Improvement project will therefore help to deliver on the AONB's Management Plan by contributing towards the achievement of 6 aims and 19 policies in its new five-year plan for 2022-2027. In addition, the project will deliver on all 9 of the NLHF outcomes

(www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/outcomes), all 3 of Historic England's objectives (www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/grants/our-priorities), and is aligned to Cornwall Council's new Heritage Strategy for Cornwall (www.letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/heritage-strategy).



Photo: Art workshop at Maker Heights, Rame 2022. Photo by Natalie Haly.



Photo: Winecove Cliff Castle. Aerial photo care of the Historic Environment Record.

Now that project funding is in place and the delivery stage has officially launched, we have been working hard to recruit our project team and ensure that all permissions are secured before we commence the stabilisation works. The timeline below shows the project milestones to date.



You can read more about our project aims and objectives for the delivery stage on our webpage - www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement.

Recent Project Events

By Jacob Parry, Activities Officer



Photo: The Rumps Wellbeing Walk, July 2022. Photo by Natalie Haly.

Since the delivery stage of the project commenced, the Monumental Improvement project team have been working hard to organise several exciting kick-off events!

From guided walks and art workshops, to stands at some large-scale events in Cornwall, the Monumental Improvement team have had a busy few months. In the next few pages, you'll discover more about the events we've run to date to help launch the project.

This is only the beginning, and there is much more still to come over the next couple of years! See page 13 for information about our upcoming events and turn to page 16 to find out more about how you can get involved in the project, including volunteering and skill development opportunities.

Royal Cornwall Show

June 2022

At the beginning of June, the Cornwall AONB Unit took to the Royal Cornwall Show with a stand in the Forestry tent. Visitors to the stand were able to learn about the new AONB Management Plan priorities for 2022-2027 and our Monumental Improvement project team were on hand to launch the delivery stage of the project.

Our stand had a number of archaeological finds from our Monumental Improvement sites, which were available for handling. Visitors were able to hold delicate pieces of pottery and tools, some of which were

thousands of years old! This was a fantastic opportunity for the team to get out and talk to people so early on in the project. We had lots of interest in our upcoming events, as well as many people registering to hear more about our future volunteering and skills activity programme.

The team will be visiting many events just like the Royal Cornwall Show over the next couple of years to engage people with the history of Cornwall. Come and see us at our next event for your chance to handle some real archaeological finds! (see page 13 for details).



Photo: visitors to the Cornwall AONB stand at the Royal Cornwall Show 2022. Photo by Jacob Parry.

Art in the Landscape at Tehidy

July 2022

Between 16th and 17th July, Cornwall AONB and Cornwall Council hosted a self-guided, immersive art trail in Tehidy Woods. Sustainable flags featuring the winners of the AONB photography competition were hung throughout the woods, offering a trail of discovery for visitors through the trees. Past Scheduled Monuments and through wildlife corridors, the Flag Trail told a visual story of the rare and hidden treasures of the Cornwall AONB.

Tehidy Woods is home to one of the 40 Scheduled Monuments included in the Monumental Improvement project. Evidence shows that as far back as 800 BC, people were keeping their animals seasonally at Tehidy and one of the animal pounds (or enclosures) still survives today. Located on the edge of the woods near the North Cliffs carpark, the Tehidy Round is currently quite hard to identify. Throughout the course of the project, we will be working closely with volunteers to ensure that the Monument is easier to identify by managing vegetation.

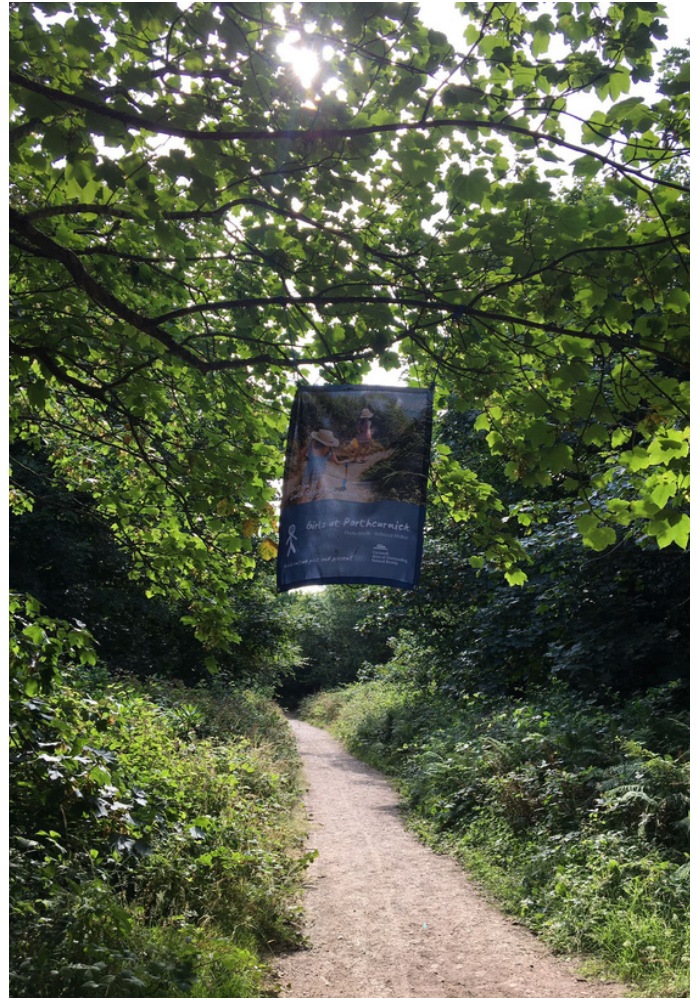


Photo: Flag on the art trail through Tehidy taken by Jacob Parry.

Alongside the immersive art trail, there were plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in a wide range of activities over the weekend. On Friday evening over 30 local Rainbows, Guides and Rangers took part in a Bushcraft workshop in the woods, learning about the Iron Age history of the site and having a go at making their own Iron Age coil pot! During the weekend, the Monumental Improvement team also ran a stand which featured archaeological finds, games and crafts centred around the Iron Age Scheduled Monument in Tehidy.

We also ran two Iron Age themed 'Mindfulness in the Forest' sessions with From Acorns to Oaks, where participants were encouraged to think about how people lived in the Iron Age. Guided through the woods, participants were about to listen to the sounds of the forest and connect with the past, as well having a go at some traditional crafts such as fern flag printing!

We were joined by Samuel Halstead of Half Acre Studio's too who led several observational drawing workshops. Using pastels, pencils and charcoal, our budding artists were encourage to observe the environment around them to create their own landscape drawing, honing their skills under Sam's tuition, whilst enjoying the wonderful atmosphere of Tehidy Woods. A huge thank you to our wonderful project partners and volunteers who helped to make this event a success!



Photo: Observational drawing. Photo by Jacob Parry.



Photo: Fern printing on linen flags. Photo by Jacob Parry.



Photo: Monumental Improvement stand. Photo by Natalie Haly.

Wellbeing Walk of The Rumps

July 2022

We were blessed with beautiful weather for a wellbeing walk which took place in early July. Run in collaboration with local mental health charity, Pentreath and the National Trust, participants were given an insight into the fascinating history of The Rumps, one of our Scheduled Monuments on the North Coast of Cornwall.

Situated just around the corner from Polzeath, The Rumps is a brilliant surviving example of an Iron Age promontory fort, built as a defence against attack. The settlement would have been easily visible to people travelling by water around the coast and would have sought to demonstrate power and wealth. Past excavations of the site have found spindle whorls, quern stones, whetstones and the possible remains of a loom inside the surviving hut circles where thatched-roof roundhouses would have once stood, which suggests that the occupants had trading links with the Mediterranean!

Our walk started from the National Trust Pentireglaze visitor centre, along the coastal footpath. NT Ranger, Tom gave us an overview of the ecological work the

Trust is doing on this stretch of coast and at the promontory fort itself, NT Archaeologist, Jim gave a fascinating overview of the area as it would have been in the Iron Age.

This event was designed in collaboration with Pentreath, an award-winning Cornish charity who support recovery from mental ill health. Through social prescribing referrals, link workers at Pentreath help people to combat feelings of loneliness, isolation and mental ill health by providing opportunities to connect with others, be in nature and learn new skills. We hope to work closely with Pentreath and the NT throughout the project to offer many more opportunities like this!

To find out more about social prescribing please visit:

www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/



Photo: The Rumps Wellbeing Walk taken by Natalie Haly.

King Arthur's Hall Planetarium and Guided Walk July 2022

On Saturday 16 July 2022, the Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement project partnered with Mayes Creative and the astronomy department of Nottingham Trent University to present a planetarium show in St Breward, followed by a guided walk to the enigmatic site of King Arthur's Hall.

Earlier in 2022, Professor Dan Brown of Nottingham Trent Uni had visited King Arthur's Hall to digitally map the Monument, including the positioning of the stones to within 2mm. This data was then used by to create a planetarium show focused around understanding more about the positioning of King Arthur's Hall in relation to the skyline.



Photo: exploring King Arthur's Hall. Photo by Natalie Haly.



Photo: the planetarium show taken by Natalie Haly.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in July, members of the public were invited into an inflatable planetarium in St Breward Village Hall and through examining the skylines around the Hall, were encouraged to think about why King Arthur's Hall might have been built and how we can uncover clues about its past. After some refreshments, participants then set off on a guided walk, led by Mayes Creative, to King Arthur's Hall so that they could experience this unique Monument for themselves.

Professor Brown and his team will be bringing the planetarium back to St Breward in September as part to our Monument Celebration Week Events. See page 14 for more details on how to book your free place!

Goonhilly 60

July 2022

Our project team also took to Goonhilly Earth Station in July for their 60th Anniversary celebration event - Goonhilly 60! This was a fantastic opportunity to engage lots of children, young people and families in our project and spread awareness of the Bronze Age landscape at Goonhilly Earth Station which is part of the Monumental Improvement project.

6 bowl barrows survive at Goonhilly Earth Station which are part of a wider Bronze Age cemetery on Goonhilly Downs. These barrows are around 2m high and 30m wide with a burial site in the centre. They were originally built by piling up earth to create a domed shape (or an upside-down bowl, hence their name). During the Bronze Age, settlers had arrived from Europe and had brought new customs,



Photo: Pot Puzzle Activity - Photo by Jacob Parry

including this type of religious burial practice, which became part of the culture in Britain. The bowl barrows are currently at risk due to vegetation growth which we will be tackling with contractor and volunteer assistance during the delivery stage of the project!

Over 40 children took part in the fun & games throughout the day including, handling archaeological finds, making Bronze Age coil pots and assembling a Trevisker Style Pot using a puzzle made by local ceramicist, Angela Trzaska.



Photo: Coralie Barrow at the Monumental Improvement stand. Photo by Jacob Parry.

Upcoming Events

Monument Celebration Week, 10-17 September 2022

In September the Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement project will be presenting their first Monument Celebration Week! This annual event series is intended to raise awareness of Scheduled Monuments in Cornwall and the risks they face, as well as to connect new people to the heritage in their local areas.

There are lots of events and activities planned at several of the Monuments included in the project, with more still to be confirmed. Please take a look at our website for full information (www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement), and read more below about the upcoming events and how you can get involved!

Guided tour of Redoubt 4 Maker Heights 10 September 2022



Photo: Redoubt 4 at Maker Heights. Photo by Jacob Parry.

On Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, the Rame Conservation Trust will be offering a rare opportunity to venture inside the 18th Century military fortifications at Maker Heights.

Built originally as mud platforms circled by defensive ditches and mounted guns, the Redoubts were built to defend Plymouth Sound from the imminent threat of invasion from French and Spanish forces in 1782.

This event will be available to pre-book soon, so please check our website for info!

Excavation of King Arthur's Hall



Photo: King Arthur's Hall. Photo by Natalie Haly.

In September, the Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement project will be working with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit to conduct an excavation of King Arthur's Hall, an at-risk Scheduled Monument on Bodmin Moor. The team will carry out a small investigative excavation in order to understand more about the age of this enigmatic site which will ultimately help to inform its future management.

Specialists teams will be digging a small trench near the entrance to King Arthur's Hall to examine the bank and the adjacent leat system, using Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating to try and determine when it was built.

The team will also be taking pollen, peat and water samples and examining the standing stones inside the Hall in order to discover more about the construction and use of the Monument in the past.

The main objectives of the excavation are:

- To develop a clear chronology for the construction of the site
- To understand the use of the Monument and its relationship with the adjacent leat system
- To understand how the site and the environment may have changed over time
- To understand the longer-term conservation needs of the Monument

During the excavation, we will be celebrating the fascinating heritage of the Cornwall AONB and exploring ideas about what King Arthur's Hall might have been used for and who might have built it! We will be running an exciting programme of events alongside the excavation to help spread awareness of the threats to the site and our plans to help protect it. Sign up now for one of our free events, and be sure to keep an eye on our website for more events still to come!



Photo: Moorland Guided Walk. Photo by Natalie Haly.

DARK SKIES - LOW LIGHT WALK - Friday 16th September

On Friday evening we will be offering a low light level walk out onto Bodmin Moor with the Dark Skies Team. This fantastic, guided tour will allow you to explore the night sky and find out why Bodmin Moor dark skies are so unique!

MAYES CREATIVE - PINHOLE AND SUPER 8 FILM WORKSHOP - Saturday 16th September

Journey with us to the enigmatic King Arthur's Hall and learn to use analogue techniques to capture the sights of the Monument and its surrounding landscapes with our pinhole and Super Eight film workshop. Learn how to use the cameras and develop the film using sustainable methods in this one-day free course!

INFLATABLE PLANETARIUM AND GUIDED WALK TO KING ARTHUR'S HALL - Saturday 16th September

Cornwall AONB's Monumental Improvement project has partnered with Nottingham Trent University and Mayes Creative to present a planetarium show and guided moorland walk. We'll be exploring links between King Arthur's Hall and the skyscape above, before walking up to the Hall to experience the site in low light.

To find out more about these exciting events and book your place, visit: www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/king-arthurs-hall

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Throughout the delivery stage of Monumental Improvement there are plenty of ways you can get involved to help protect and support the Scheduled Monuments in the AONB.

Volunteering

Our Volunteering and Skills Development Programme for the project is integral to ensure a long-term legacy of support for the Scheduled Monuments. We're looking for volunteers who are would like to learn new skills, meet new people, get outdoors and ultimately, help to protect the Monuments for future generations to enjoy and learn from!

Over the next two years, we will be offering training in:

- Archaeological excavations
- Geophysical survey
- Coastal erosion monitoring
- Conservation and stabilisation works
- First Aid and Health & Safety to help support heritage focused community groups in caring for the Monuments
- Ecological risks
- Brushcutter and hand tool use and maintenance

In the autumn, the scrub clearance season will begin so we will be looking for volunteers to help us cut back vegetation at the Scheduled Monuments so they can be better identified and cared for. If this sounds like something you or your community would be interested in supporting, please register your interest via monuments@cornwall-gov.uk, and keep an eye on our website for upcoming events.

We are also looking for volunteer heritage guides to lead guided walks of the Scheduled Monuments. Volunteer guides will be trained to become qualified Walk Leaders, with first aid and health and safety training offered too. Our first training event is now fully booked, but we will be looking to train more guides in Spring 2023. You can register your interest in becoming a guide by emailing monuments@cornwall-gov.uk, or keep an eye on our website for more information in the new year.

Student Visits, Placements & Dissertations

During the delivery stage, we will be working closely with local universities and colleges to offer archaeology and history students opportunities for free site visits to our Scheduled Monuments where they can meet industry experts, make valuable contacts, and take part in practical archaeological or heritage-based activities to support the project.

We will also looking to support a range of student placements and site-specific dissertation research projects throughout the delivery stage. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities, please contact monuments@cornwall.gov.uk.



Photo: Falmouth University student filming project during Development Stage.



Photo: Event stand in Tehidy Woods. Photo by Jacob Parry.

Events and Activities

We will also be running a wide variety of activities and events throughout the delivery stage of the project! With a focus on learning by having fun, our activity programme has something for everyone!

You can stay up to date on our latest events and your opportunities to get involved via our project webpage:

www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement

We are always open to new collaborative opportunities. If you would like to run an event in partnership with our project, please contact monuments@cornwall.gov.uk.

PROJECT STAFF UPDATE

This month we sadly bid farewell to Jacob Parry, our Activities Officer on the Monumental Improvement project as he sets off to commence a Masters in Forestry in Wales.

Jacob joined the project during the development stage and has been integral in helping to develop our project audience. Jacob's done some brilliant work to connect the project to lots of health and wellbeing partners too who we will be working closely with during the delivery stage to try and encourage a wider range of people to connect with their local heritage. Jacob's led on lots of activities for Monumental Improvement and for our sister project, Monuments Matter to People where he has really made a difference to peoples lives.

We wish him all the best in his studies and his future career and want to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you for all his work over the last couple of years to help get the project to this point. Good luck Jacob!



Photo of and by Jacob Parry

Our project team have been extremely busy recruiting new starters for the project to help us deliver this next stage. We hope to be able to share an update on the roles of Activities Officer, Archaeological Officer & Archaeological Technician Apprentice in the next issue of the newsletter!

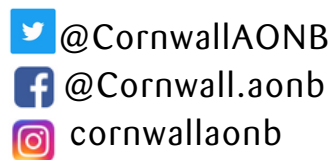
We also have lots of opportunities for student placements during this stage of the project, and are always keen for volunteers to come on board to help with anything from project admin to leading guided walks and getting stuck in with Monument maintenance! Please contact monuments@cornwall-aonb.gov.uk if you are interested in finding out more!

Coming soon...

That's it for our first delivery sage newsletter for the Monumental Improvement project!

We will be sending out our next issue in the autumn with an update on project staff, our activity programme and the timeline for the implementation of the management plans to stabilise the Monuments. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about the project or see our upcoming events, please visit: www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/monumental-improvement.

You can also follow us on social media:



Or contact a member of the project team via email:
monuments@cornwall-aonb.gov.uk



Photo: The Rumps, taken by Natalie Haly