

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT 2018 – 2019

1. The attached report set out the work and outcomes of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's archaeology section for the financial year 2018 - 2019.
2. The report highlights work in the following areas:
 - Archaeological research.
 - Project and engagement work.
 - Monument safeguarding work.
 - Archaeology events and conferences.
 - Current work over 2019 – 2020.
3. The report highlights the diverse array of work that the Authority undertakes across a range of archaeological activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members are requested to RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Report.

(For further information contact Tomos Ll. Jones on extension 4830)

Community Archaeology Report 2018 - 2019



**Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority**



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INTRODUCTION

1. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park contains over 250 scheduled monuments and over 7000 recorded archaeological features. Of these, 11 scheduled monuments are located on land owned by the National Park Authority and a further 8 are located on land where the Authority has land management agreements with the landowners. A large part of the role is to help monitor, manage and safeguard the condition of these monuments and features and also provide opportunities for their enjoyment by communities and the public. The approach to successfully achieve these goals will depend on a number of factors, including location. Some of the monuments such as Crugiau Cemaes round barrows are easy to manage, however others like Pengegin woods require more thought.
2. Work is normally achieved using a number of different approaches, many of which are highlighted in this report. It is worth noting that much of the work that is carried out to improve and safeguard archaeology would not be possible without the cooperation and hard work of internal and external colleagues, partner agencies, volunteers and local communities. In particular, the rangers and wardens are a vital internal partner.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

3. A number of research projects took place during 2018-19, including:

Excavations at Nevern Castle

4. The annual season of archaeological excavations at Nevern Castle came to a close this year following a decade of discovery on the historically significant site. As usual there were weekly guided tours and an open evening was held on the 11 June. The 2018 dig, led by Dr Chris Caple of Durham University with support from Nevern Community Council, Cadw and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, began on 18 June and came to an end on the 12 July 2018.
5. This year saw the excavation of the Northern Wall of the Great Hall, a trench through a 12th century rampart and the excavation of an unexpected blocked up gateway underneath the motte. Some of the main artefacts discovered this year were decorated pieces of masonry (similar to those found at St David's cathedral), a 12th century knife and as always ample amount of 12th century pottery.
6. The excavations between 2008 and 2018 have provided a large volume of information about the site which has already been made available through: the interim excavation reports (see appendix 1 for bibliography).
7. The excavation has revealed an earth and timber castle and associated town of the early 12th century. A series of clay mortared slate buildings and defences were added to this castle through the mid to late 12th century and the castle was enlarged. Subsequently the castle was burnt down and partially demolished. Agricultural activity subsequently damaged parts of the site. A series of 15 phases of activity have been identified on the site.
8. The research will continue into the post excavation phase of this project; conserving the artefacts recovered, analysing samples and researching the information revealed through excavation to present a comprehensive report on the excavations and understand Nevern Castle within its 12th century context. The results of this research will be communicated to the public and colleagues in the archaeological profession in a number of ways:
 - A guidebook is currently being written in English by Dr Chris Caple (Caple forthcoming). This will be provided in digital form with all copyright

permissions to Nevern Community Council who will take forward publishing the guidebook in both Welsh and English versions.

- Updated information will be supplied the administrator of the web site www.neverncastle.com . All interim publications will continue to be available in PDF form from the Durham University web site.
- Update and replace the three existing 'on site' information boards and add two further boards to ensure the site can be understood by all the casual visitors to the site. This work to be co-ordinated with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority who installed the initial boards.
- The detailed results from the excavation and post excavation work will be written up and analysed by Dr Chris Caple and a series of subject specialists. The detailed written study will be edited by Dr Caple and published as a monograph by the Society for Medieval Archaeology.

Castell Henllys: Excavation of a Roundhouse

9. Harold Mytum and a team from the University of Liverpool as well as a team from Dyfed Archaeological Trust under James Meek led a 2 week excavation of the Earthwatch roundhouse back in the first two weeks of July last year. The work highlighted once again the human impact on the earth (plastic) in the last 30 years and has currently been published in British Archaeology. There is scope to have a pop up exhibition on this project during the foreseeable future.

Stones of Stonehenge Project: Excavations at Waun Mawn

10. In the first weeks of September 2018 the Authority assisted with the dig at Waun Mawn under Professor Mike Parker Pearson. The dig and its subsequent talk at Castell Henllys and Bluestone brewery stimulated a large amount of interest with the local population and visitors alike. The team have recently published an article on Craig Rhosyfelin and Carn Goedog in the International Journal Antiquity.

PROJECT AND ENGAGEMENT WORK

11. A number of projects and engagement work took place over 2018-19, including:

Heritage Guardians Project

12. Heritage Guardians is a current project that is being run by the archaeology section with the aim of encouraging local primary schools within the National Park to 'adopt' a local heritage monument where they can help improve the appearance, access, awareness, monitoring and interpretation of the site. As part of this process the site can be used as a means to deliver aspects of the school curriculum including art, history, science and mathematics. The children will also be introduced to archaeological techniques such as artefact identification, recording and excavating. Ultimately the project hopes to introduce children to their local heritage, encourage their interaction with this heritage and inspire them to take pride in it. Moreover, there is an aspiration that the engagement of schools with their heritage will inspire the wider community take an interest also. Presuming this form of engagement is successful, it is likely that this awareness and appreciation should lead to improved safeguarding of archaeological monuments and features.

13. For details regarding project progress in 2018-19, see appendix 2.

Heritagewatch Scheme

14. Heritagewatch is a pilot scheme that was setup in July 2018 with the specific aim of preventing and raising awareness of heritage crime in the National Park. In addition, the scheme hopes to encourage the community and the public to monitor, record and report damage to local heritage.

15. For details regarding the schemes progress during 2018-19, see appendix 3.

Farming the Past Project

16. After attempting to visit YFC clubs to do activities and evening talks from October 2018 onwards, it became clear that in order to be put into their busy calendars they should be approached at the end of July. However, it was possible to 'tag onto' existing events such as the YFC Talent show in February 2019 and talk to the public during the breaks of the shows (50 people engaged). It was decided to continue to 'tag onto' ploughing matches to engage with the relevant farming audience. The Community Archaeologist attended the St David's Ploughing Match at Pointz Castle in February and engaged with 30 people. At these events she handed out leaflets regarding

metal detecting and landowners rights, brought artefacts found by farmers for the public to handle and gave advice regarding monuments on their land. After these events she received calls and emails regarding artefacts that were found on farm land and they were recorded accordingly.

Re-building the Roundhouse at Castell Henllys

17. The process of rebuilding the cookhouse began in the winter of 2017 and volunteers became involved during February 2018. The volunteers helped with the watling and daubing of the house as well as the decoration of the interior and the creation of a fireplace. A number of groups participated including groups from Pembrokeshire college, Plas Dwbl, Clynfyw, Pathways, voluntary wardens and Friends of the National Park. A number of independent volunteers also participated. In January - March 2018, local artist Linda Norris and a group of Plas Dwbl students with the Community Archaeologist painted the interior of the cookhouse and the chief's house with natural pigments from Celtic Sustainables. The students thoroughly enjoyed creating and painting their designs.

Saving Treasures Project

18. Since September 2018, the Community Archaeologist has been working with Tenby and Narberth Museums as well as the National Museum of Wales on the Saving Treasures project. This is a Wales wide National Lottery Heritage Fund project which aims to work with local communities, museums and metal detecting clubs. The Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project is a partnership project between Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales (The FED) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru), promoting the portable archaeological heritage of Wales through acquiring finds made by the public. The project secured Heritage Lottery Grant funding in October 2014 through the Collecting Cultures programme and runs for five years.

Preseli Heartlands

19. Preseli Heartlands Communities is a three year Heritage Lottery Funded Great Place Project that aims to celebrate and share the unique heritage and culture of the Preseli area, with an exciting programme of activities and events. The project is a partnership made up of key local organizations involved in heritage across Pembrokeshire, and was granted £218,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with additional funding from Arwain Sir Benfro and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. The Community

Archaeologist agreed to deliver Heritage Guardians sessions to 6 schools within the Preseli area. During 2018-19, the sessions were delivered to 4 schools within the area.

Volunteer Training Session

20. In October 2018 archaeological excavation training was offered to the voluntary wardens of the National Park. The training was provided by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and supported by the Community Archaeologist. Six wardens participated in the training and learnt the various techniques of archaeological investigation, recording and excavation.

MONUMENT SAFEGUARDING WORK

21. During 2018-19 a number of works were carried out on scheduled monuments to improve their condition and/or accessibility, including:

- Mountain Burial Chamber (North)- Fencing
- Crugiau Cemmaes Round barrows (North)- Scrub Clearance and stump treatment
- Wern Camp (North)- Scrub clearance
- Caerbwdi Mill (West)- Blackthorn, scrub clearance and stump treatment
- Penally WW1 Trenches (South)- Scrub clearance
- Gors Fawr Stone Circle (North)- Repair of fire damage
- Flimston Bay Fort (South)- Fencing
- Sister's House (South)- Fencing

Case Study: Sister's House

22. The aim of the works was to replace the fence. The old fence was rotting away and was insufficient to keep the public from entering the monument which in its current state is deemed dangerous and a risk to the public.

23. Upon receiving the notification that the scheduled monument consent form was successful we replaced the fence in a like for like manner. The work included driving in 4" Round stakes at around 300mm. the work was undertaken by the Pathways project under the supervision of the park ranger and pathways co-ordinator.

24. The works began on the 19/06/2018 and concluded on the 5/7/2018.



ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

25. A number of events and conferences took place during 2018-19, including:

National Parks UK Historic Environment Group event

26. During May 2019, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority hosted the National Parks UK Historic Environment Group, which included delegates from nearly all of the UK National Parks, Historic England, Natural Resources Wales, Cadw and RCAHMW. The group discussed a number of issues facing the historic environment and the best way forward to address these issues. It was suggested that for monuments at high risk of being continuously damaged, such as the Pilgrim's cross in Nevern (problems with coins), it should be laser-scanned in order to preserve its current state for posterity.

Archaeology Day 2018

27. The annual Archaeology Day was held in November 2018 in the Merlin's theatre, Pembrokeshire College with around 180 people attending. The event was chaired by Heather James and included the following speakers and topics:

- Dr Toby Driver - 'New sites - New questions; aerial discoveries in Pembrokeshire from the 2018 drought'
- Luke Jenkins (student speaker) - Geophysical and Topographical Survey at Banc Llwydlos, Brynberian
- Dr Chris Caple - 'Nevern Castle: What a decade of excavation has revealed'
- David Glennerster – '*Penally Trenches*'
- Alice Pyper – 'The Archaeology of the First World War in Southwest Wales'
- Prof Mike Parker Pearson – 'New Discoveries on the Preseli Hills'

Talks, walks and presentations

28. Throughout the year the Community Archaeologist has given a number of talks, walks and presentations to a wide variety of groups such as Tafarn Sinc Heritage group, Hoelion Wyth, Rotary Clubs, WI, Merched y Wawr, Friendship clubs and Adran yr Urdd Maenclochog. In August last year the Community Archaeologist worked with Tenby Museum and the summer ranger to pilot a pop up event called Archaeology on the Beach where there was a mini excavation in the sand in the morning along with metal detecting and artefact handling in the museum in the afternoon.

CONCLUSIONS AND 2019-2020 WORK

29. The report has highlighted the diverse array of work that has been carried out during 2018-19. Including work carried out to improve the condition and/or accessibility of monuments. During 2019-20, this work will continue, including:

- **Archaeological research;** the Authority is supporting an excavation season at St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands. This is being done in partnership with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and is part of the Rediscovering Ancient Connections project. In addition, the Authority is supporting work by the CHERISH team from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).
- **Project and engagement work;** the Authority will continue working with schools through the Heritage Guardians project. There will also be a review of Heritage Watch to see how best to progress this scheme. The Authority will continue to support the Saving Treasures project and Preseli Heartlands. In addition, the Authority will support a number of agricultural shows and festivals including the County Show and provide engagement activities. The archaeology section will also work with the Authority's Volunteer Development Officer to develop a strategy and approach to recruit volunteers to help carry out archaeology related activities, specifically monitoring and improving the condition of scheduled monuments.
- **Monument safeguarding work;** the Authority will continue to carry out work on monuments as and when required. In addition, a new condition recording system is being developed to monitor the condition of monuments and this information will help feed into the management plans of monuments. It is hoped that this system will help identify where work is required and also better safeguard monuments. In conjunction with the development of this system, it is hoped that volunteers can be trained to help monitor the condition of monuments and carry out work to safeguard monuments, where appropriate.
- **Archaeology events and conferences;** the Authority will be organising the annual Archaeology Day conference for November 2019. This is being done in partnership with PLANED. As part of the conference, both the current and former Community Archaeologist will be doing a joint presentation about the work that the National Park Authority do in relation to archaeology. In addition, the archaeology section will be running a number of guided archaeological walks over 2019-20.

- **Partnership working;** the Authority will continue to work with partner agencies including colleagues within the Welsh National Parks, National Parks UK, Cadw, RCAHMW, National Museum Wales, Natural Resources Wales and the National Trust. In addition, the archaeology section will continue to work closely with internal colleagues within the National Park Authority.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Nevern Bibliography

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Appendix 2 - Heritage Guardians Report

January 2018 – March 2018 (Project Reference SDF0374)

In January 2018 the Project Milestones were agreed. The way in which the project was to be delivered altered slightly in that instead of delivering the sessions at each of the 10 schools over the three year period (in which case the schools would only interact with the project once every 3 months) it was decided to deliver the entire project to 3 or 4 schools over a period of 7 months (with sessions delivered on a monthly basis), and then complete the project with 10 schools (minimum) over a period of 3 years.

After trialling this form of delivery from January-July 2018, the schools fed back that the project might be better delivered within a school term. This meant delivering all 7 sessions within a term. This form of delivery was undertaken for the schools starting in September- Penrhyn, Croesgoch and St Dogmaels primary schools. This form of delivery suited the schools better and was better structured to fit in with the teaching of a 'theme' (as within History) within a school term.

Another aspect that has slightly changed is the session getting the children to do remedial work on the monument. The monuments visited either did not need remedial work or the work was too complex for a school group so instead the work was undertaken by PCNPA volunteers at the sites visited by the children or at other sites that do need attention- the work is then shown to the children via PowerPoint.

April 2018-May 2018

During this period Bro Inqli, Puncheston and Llanychlwydog primary schools participated in site visits to a local monument. Bro Inqli pupils visited Carreg Coetan Arthur and the Old Castle; Puncheston Castell Mael and Wern Camp and Llanychlwydog visited an Iron Age enclosure in Allt Pengegin. Only the trip to Wern Camp required a minibus as the other sites were within walking distance of the school.

All of the schools participated in a condition monitoring activity which involved the children conducting a survey of the site using both the monitoring form and cameras.

No work needed to be done at Carreg Coetan Arthur or Castell Mael. A work programme was drawn up for Wern Camp, Old Castle, Newport and the Iron Age enclosure at Allt Pengegin with the pupils input however the work itself is too dangerous for the children to undertake.

Work programme

Crugiau Cemmaes (as an alternative for Carreg coetan Arthur)	Vegetation clearance from October onwards (avoiding bird nesting season)
Wern Camp	Vegetation clearance from October

	onwards (avoiding bird nesting season)
Old Castle	Removal of bramble/ saplings
Enclosure at Allt Pengegin	Felling of trees and bramble clearance (will be undertaken by PCNPA wardens pending felling and dormouse licence)

June - July 2018

During June and July, the Heritage Guardians project worked with Bro Ingli (Newport), Llanychllwydog (Gwaun Valley) and Puncheston primary schools to create forms of interpretation to tell the stories of their local heritage sites. This was delivered over two sessions: the first was to explore the various ways that they could tell the story (film, poster, leaflet) and then research into more in-depth information regarding each site. In the second session, the children then created their chosen form of interpretation.

Bro Ingli school pupils decided to do a mixture of interpretations for the Old Castle site next to their school and Carreg Coetan Arthur (a Neolithic burial chamber). Some students created posters, others made a drama which they performed in front of the other children and others created a film on their I-pads. 30 pupils participated in this activity.

Llanychllwydog pupils created a time travelling film around the Iron Age enclosure of Allt Pengegin just above their school whilst incorporating some of the other monuments of the area, such Castell Pengegin which is suspected to be Norman. 15 pupils participated in this activity.

Puncheston school created a number of posters and 'artist's impression' of their sites of Castell Mael (suspected Norman castle) and Wern Camp (Iron Age enclosure). They also did a documentary radio talk show about what they created. 29 pupils participated in this activity. All activities were delivered through the medium of Welsh.

August 2018

In this month the Community Archaeologist designed and began writing the information pack of the project which will be sent out, upon completion of the project, to all participating schools so that the activities undertaken can be replicated in the future. It also contains material that the teachers can use in class or at the chosen sites.

The schools provided extremely positive feedback regarding the project but they did suggest that it would be better delivered over a school term rather than over 7 months.

The Community Archaeologist made contact with new schools with Croesgoch (Welsh), Penrhyn (bilingual) and St Dogmaels' (Welsh) primary schools agreeing to start in September.

September - December 2018

The Community Archaeologist liaised with various land owners in the Preseli areas regarding holding archaeological excavation activities and site visits on their land. This was to fit in with the delivery of Heritage Guardians as part of the Heritage Guardians project. One exciting possibility is working with Scolton Manor on excavating a portion of the vegetable garden of the tŷ unnos at Penrhos. A number of potential sites have been identified for the prospective schools in the Preseli areas.

In September, St Dogmael's and Penrhyn primary schools began the project both with up to 30 pupils. In this month they participated in the introductory session, the metal detecting and test pitting session. Croesgoch began and completed these sessions in October.

In terms of site visits and interpretation sessions for St Dogmael's, as they were studying Darwin the Community Archaeologist decided to pick St Dogmael's Abbey as their site looking at it from the point of an antiquarian. During the site visit the schools not only conducted a survey to monitor its condition but also undertook a new activity where the children were given a page with a picture of the abbey drawn during the Georgian and Victorian era. They first had to identify which part of the abbey was drawn and secondly draw how it looked like today underneath the original drawing. In the interpretation sessions they researched into the story of the abbey then talked and explored different ways of telling the story of the abbey. In the final session the children created their forms of interpretation, some told the story through stained glass windows, others through a 'horrible histories' style documentary and others through posters and medieval style illuminations.

With Croesgoch primary, they were looking at the First World War and commemorating the dead. We visited Carreg Samson which is a Neolithic mortuary monument. At the site the Community Archaeologist and the school talked about the differences between how people remember and commemorate the dead today compared to how they did it in the Neolithic. They also conducted a site survey. With the interpretation sessions, the children researched into the various heritage sites in the Croesgoch area, including Carreg Samson, Mesur y Dorth Cross, Aberfelin Mill and Porthgain harbours. The children then chose to do a fact file on each and then develop an artist's impression of how each site would have looked like in their respective periods.

Penrhyn school visited the Dry Burrows Bronze Age round barrows whereas with the other sites, the children undertook a survey of the condition of the site. As there were a number of mole hills in the field the Community Archaeologist had the children check them for artefacts, which they enjoyed despite not finding anything. The children researched the Bronze Age in Wales and how round barrows were used and decided to produce a website providing information about the Bronze Age and the barrows which they uploaded to the internal school website upon completion. Due to safeguarding issues and the fact that the children produced a video of themselves as part of the website the site cannot be shared publically.

January – March 2019

It proved very difficult to get a new uptake of schools for this period. Although the Community Archaeologist sent out an e-mail to 8 different schools only 4 replied expressing interest, with 2 replying that they either do not have the time or in the case of Nant y Cwm Steiner school, that the project would not fit in with their curriculum.

The schools that expressed an interest were Manorbier, Maenclochog, Ysgol y Frenni and Eglwysrwrw. Despite trying to set up a meeting with Eglwysrwrw and Manorbier, and after multiple phone calls and e-mails, the Community Archaeologist decided to give up. Maenclochog was very keen, however their headmistress was off sick for the whole of January and requested that the Community Archaeologist try again later on in the year.

So for this term the Community Archaeologist only had Ysgol y Frenni, Crymych as a participating school who started the project on 30 January 2019. As a result the Community Archaeologist worked with Plas Dwbl College on a Celtic Art project which they are undertaking at Castell Henllys Iron Age village. In total 47 children were participating (Years 5 and 6), therefore as there was only one project officer the number of sessions were occasionally doubled. The children were doing the Rebecca Riots as part of their history curriculum so the Community Archaeologist tailored the sessions to this theme.

With the artefact handling session (which was done with all 47 children at once!) they were introduced to the concept of archaeology and how it helps people tell the whole story of history not just what is written down. Tenby museum kindly allowed the project to borrow artefacts from the period of the Rebecca riots such as Clay pipes as well as axeheads through the ages (as Twm Carnabwth used an axe to cut down the tollgate) as well as the normal artefacts used. The test pitting session was done by year 6 first in February and year 5 in March (due to bad weather). The children found lost toys and plastic during their dig, which highlighted that the plastic problem is also apparent in the land as well as in the sea.

The interpretation and research sessions were delivered in late February and early March due to the bad weather. The children researched the Victorian period, the Rebecca riots and the Welsh Not and worked in groups to develop their form of interpretation to tell the story of the riots. These included Victorian dress design (as the rioters dressed up as women), artistic impression of tollgates and rural cottages (tai unnos), film scripts, songs, poems and a comparison presentation. This worked well as the children became enthused and excited about creating and learning about something in a way that they chose and enjoyed.

At the end of March the pupils conducted their site visit at Iet y Wilym cottage which is a ruin of a cottage on the common land at Gors Fawr. It is likely that this originated as a ty unnos. The school conducted a condition survey of the site as well as some other activities that made the children think about the layout of the house compared to their house and to think about what it would have been like living in the cottage.

As a few of the schools did not need a minibus to get to their sites, there was sufficient funds in the budget of the project to allow the Community Archaeologist to take Ysgol y Frenni to Narbeth museum where the children could look at how they tell the story of the riots as well as giving the children a chance to show the museum the interpretation that they had done.

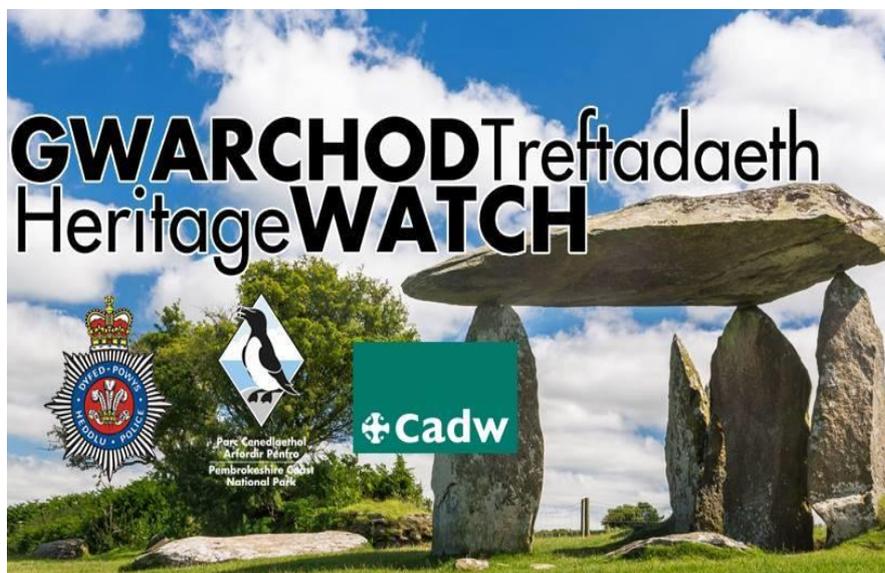
During this time the Community Archaeologist also did a session on Celtic art at the college and with their teacher Linda Norris they came up with their own Celtic designs that they have now painted on the new roundhouse at Castell Henllys.

The Future

In terms of schools that are interested in partaking in the programme Maenclochog and Pembroke Dock community school have definitely expressed an interest. With the Preseli Heartlands project, the aim is to involve two more schools in the project although it can be argued that the work and involvement of Plas Dwbl could be considered as one completed involvement with them being a participating school.

In light of the current project officer changing roles and the appointment of a new officer in due course, it is suggested that the new officer either takes on three schools in September or deliver the project to them in the period September – December 2019. If they are in post sooner, it may be possible to do condensed versions of the project in the period May – July 2019 with Pembroke community school pupils.

Appendix 3: HeritageWatch Pilot Project Evaluation Report



Introduction

Since July 2018 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Dyfed–Powys Police have worked in partnership on a pilot project called *HeritageWatch*. The purpose of the project is to prevent and raise awareness of Heritage Crime in the area by encouraging the public to monitor, record and report any damage to local heritage. After an incident at Pentre Ifan, Cadw has also joined the initiative.

A Facebook page was set up to raise awareness of the project and its activities such as joint patrols and site monitoring as well as facilitating the means for the public to share their photographs and report damage.

What is Heritage Crime?

Heritage crime is any unlawful activity which harms historic assets including buildings, monuments, parks, gardens and landscapes. Some legislation already exists to protect some sites such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings.

It is a criminal offence to destroy or damage a scheduled monument either intentionally or through recklessness. However, other crimes such as theft, criminal damage, arson and anti-social behaviour offences can also damage and harm heritage assets and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

The main problems encountered in during this pilot period were burning (both for ritual and recreational purposes) on sites and daubing/graffiti (Pentre Ifan, Narberth Castle and Haverfordwest Priory).

Training

A training event was held in Fishguard Police station in August for police officers and PCSOs from the Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Rural Crime Teams, as well as North Pembrokeshire, Mid Pembrokeshire and South Pembrokeshire Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Community Archaeologist introduced the officers to the types of heritage sites and assets that existed in the park, the resources that can be used to gain information about them and the types of heritage crime the area is currently facing. The Heritage Crime Liaison Officer gave the officers an overview of the relevant legislation (in particular the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979), and the purpose of the *HeritageWatch* scheme.

In February 2019, the Community Archaeologist trained voluntary wardens in how to use online resources to gain information about scheduled monuments and other heritage assets in their areas, the legalities concerning scheduled monuments; how to recognise the various threats facing the monuments and how to report any damage or threat that they encounter on their visits. They were provided with a list of all the publically accessible sites in their area; a document with a list of online resources they can use to gain information and a fact file regarding what to do if they come across an artefact (chance find) on their visits.

Joint Patrols

At the beginning of the project it was agreed to take a proactive and educational approach to tackling and raising awareness about heritage crime. As a result it was decided to undertake joint patrols (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority rangers and Community Archaeologist and Dyfed-Powys Police officers and PCSOs).

After the burn at Gors Fawr stone circle, a number of sites were identified that were susceptible to be used as ritual sites, as well as other publically accessible sites that would be vulnerable to damage. Since the beginning of the project there have been 3 joint patrols on 01/08/2018, 23/09/2018 and 31/10/2018. These dates (Lughnasadh / Lammas, the autumn equinox, and Samhuin / Nos Calan Gaeaf / Halloween) were deliberately chosen as the likelihood of inappropriate ritual use of scheduled monuments being detected and / or disrupted was considered to be greater.

On these patrols (except on Halloween when the patrol was cut short due to torrential rain) the team handed out flyers with information about heritage crime and the heritage watch project and engaged with the public regarding other sites that they visit; if they have seen problems at other sites; inform them of problems on the visited site and how they can help prevent damage and raise awareness about damage to sites.

Throughout the months, both the Pembrokeshire Coast National Authority and Dyfed-Powys Police undertook independent site visits if they were passing a monument and they had the time to check up on it.

Photos of both the joint patrols and independent site visits were posted on to the *Heritagewatch* Facebook page to raise awareness of the sites and attempt to encourage the public to do the same.

It must be noted that Joint Patrols were not possible at all times due to lack of available staff. However, a number of people from the general public have expressed an interest in conducting their own patrol, with guidance on which sites to patrol to be provided by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Dyfed-Powys Police. Furthermore, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority have trained some voluntary wardens to carry out site monitoring in their respective areas and who can be called upon to conduct patrols if there is strain on staffing. Both the Police and the National Park have an aspiration to develop this voluntary HeritageWatch activity.

Burning at Heritage Sites

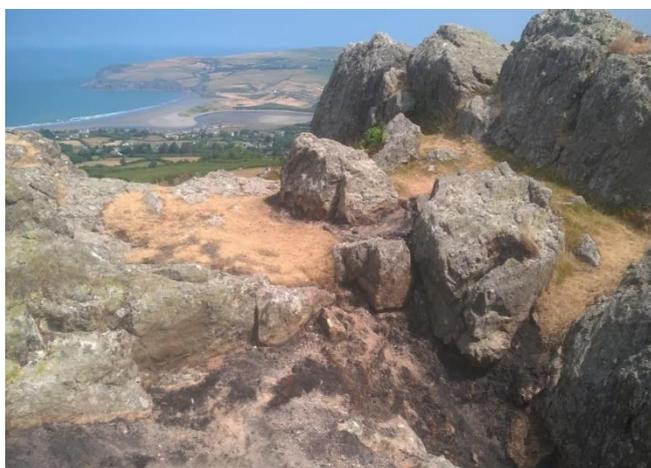


Figure 1 – Image of the burn at Carn Ffoi Iron Age enclosure

In May 2018 it was identified that a number of burnings had been taking place at Gors Fawr stone circle, particularly during the Pagan festivals of Beltane, Summer solstice and Lughnasagh (1 August). The image below was taken shortly after the Summer solstice where clearly a burn had taken place.



Figure 2 The ritual burn at Gors Fawr stone circle (bottom).

Although only a small area was affected by the burn, it has still caused damage to the aesthetic of the site and also to any possible underlying archaeology. Furthermore, the summer of 2018 was extremely dry and hot and lighting fires on moorland posed a danger to the local ecology, properties as well as animal and human welfare should the fire get out of control.

Therefore, it was decided to undertake joint patrols at Gors Fawr and similar sites from the inception of the project. Another burn was recorded at Waun Mawn (a possible Neolithic stone circle connected to Stonehenge) in October 2018. Both of these burns are believed to be ritualistic in nature and so it was essential to be sensitive to the fact that people believed these sites to be sacred and that these fires were a form of expressing their religion and beliefs. As a result, it was decided to work with local pagan communities to raise awareness about the consequences of burning directly onto the ground or on monuments. Furthermore, during the main Pagan festivals a fire pit is provided by the Heritagewatch project for practitioners to use. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Community Archaeologist has obtained scheduled monument consent to repair the damage at Gors Fawr which will be carried out before the spring equinox 2019.

Another burn was reported at Carn Ffoi Iron Age enclosure near Newport. The picture was uploaded onto the Facebook page to raise awareness about the dangers of burning, especially during the dry summer of last year.

Daubing at Pentre Ifan

In October 2018, we received a report that a heart and a triskele had been daubed on to the 5000 year old cromlech of Pentre Ifan. This site is one of the most famous prehistoric sites in Wales. The daubing caused damage to the lichens growing on the rocks and also caused damage to the appearance of the monument.

One line of enquiry which was investigated was the testing of the substance used for the daubing. The tests results showed that it was animal blood. Cadw was notified and (armed with this knowledge of the nature of the substance used) conservators began their work to remove the substance.

The incident was shared on the Heritagewatch page with a request for information. Although no information was received regarding who committed the act, the incident did raise awareness of Heritage Crime and also acted as a reminder that such acts are not acceptable and, indeed, are unlawful.

The response to the incident on the Facebook page was overwhelming (see figure 4) and both the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Dyfed-Powys Police were approached by ITV, BBC and S4C to participate in interview on the incident which again was beneficial in raising awareness of the incident and to the subject of Heritage Crime in general.



Figure 1 Screenshot of the BBC online coverage of the Pentre Ifan daubing.

Facebook Page

The Facebook page was set up at the end of July 2018 and from its inception to the beginning of March 2019, the page itself has received 245 likes and has 245 followers.

All in all, this was an easy and cost effective way of raising awareness of the pilot project and its activities. The page reached 45,598 people through its posts and these posts were engaged with (post clicks, shares, reactions and comments) by 15,104 people. The most popular post proved to be the Pentre Ifan post which reached over 35,000 people.

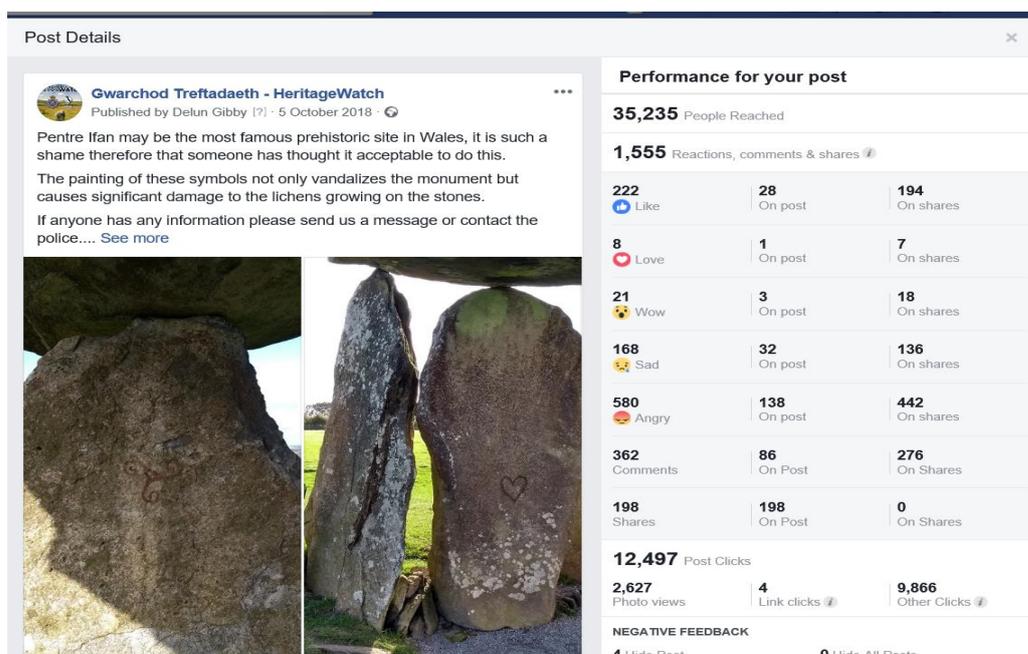


Figure 2 Screenshot of the performance analysis of the Pentre Ifan post on the Heritagewatch facebook page.

Although the page succeeds in raising awareness, it does not seem to succeed in getting the public to post their own pictures on the site. Here there is room for improvement. One of the problems is that people wish to report heritage crime or their concerns about particular sites but they want to do it in an anonymous way. Therefore it may be prudent to send out a post to encourage the public to contact us via messenger, or send their photos via messenger after which the pictures will be posted by the page administrator and the member of public would keep their anonymity.

Conclusions

Overall, HeritageWatch has been a successful pilot with the activities of the project succeeding in preventing, tackling and raising awareness for heritage crime in a sensitive, educational and cost/resource effective way.

The project can be improved by holding training events for the general public (how to identify heritage crime and how to report) which will inevitably recruit more volunteers to the project. It may be an idea to attend pre-organised events such as ploughing matches and agricultural shows (to raise awareness about illegal metal detecting) as well as organising specific training events.

Furthermore, some of the general public have voiced their concerns about uploading pictures of heritage crime directly onto the HeritageWatch page as they would rather do it anonymously. Therefore, as mentioned before, this issue can be easily resolved and will hopefully increase the number of the general public reporting heritage crime through the page.

It is anticipated that an official launch of the project officially will occur in June 2019.