

# BBS Spring Meeting 2022: Cornwall

**Saturday 26th March 2.00pm Meet at Ladock Community Hall (SW8928 5099)**

## **Ladock Wood and Trethurffe Manor**

SW8851 - 2 records

There is a car park by Ladock wood (SW883516) and we have permission from the Duchy of Cornwall to record in the woods. I believe that it is mixed woodland. Historically it was oak and ash coppice, but it was planted with conifers during the nineteenth century. In the 1980's cherry, chestnut, beech and lime were planted. The conifers are gradually being removed. There is a small area of restored coppice to the south-east of the car park.

SW8951 - 0 records

At SW896515 there is a ruined hamlet of stone and cob cottages, Bessigga, uninhabited since the 60's. Tin streaming was performed in the River Ladock and a record nugget of gold was extracted in 1802. There is a Holy Well at SW895513 dedicated to St Ladoca (a sixth century abbess from Ireland) with a nineteenth century well house and fifteenth century arches. Ladock church is thirteenth century.

SW8950 (records from church yard only, J.Paton 2004) and SW9050 - 0 records

There are five acres of grounds around Trethurffe Manor that we have permission to explore. The Manor is surrounded by organic farmland to which access could be arranged.

**Permission:** Ladock woods – Duchy of Cornwall, Trethurffe- Mr D J and Mrs E H Denning

**Safety:** Possibility of wind damaged trees in the woods

**Sunday March 27th 9.00am Meet at Ladock Community Hall (SW8928 5099)**

## **Cabilla Rewilding Estate**

SX1469 - some records from Manor wood (2007) SX1569 - records only from Warleggan village

This is 400 acres of land that are part of a rewilding project on the southern edge of Bodmin Moor. Cabilla Tor is a big granite outcrop in oak woodland with abundant Greater Woodrush, Bilberry, Bluebell and Anemone. There are also good patches of Tunbridge Filmy Fern on the shaded boulders. The River Bedalder runs down through the woods and is the classic rocky stream running off Bodmin Moor. There are areas of scrub, pasture, mature trees and bracken invaded grassland. The owner is keen to hold bryophyte records to monitor changes over time resulting from the rewilding project. There are a number of records, the latest dating from 2007, but most of them are at tetrad level.

**Parking:** Park at Cabilla Manor SX145696 tbc

**Permission:** Merlin Hanbury-Tenison

**Safety:** Possibility of wind damaged trees in the woods

## Dannonchapel

SX0382, SX0482 – 1 record for *Plagiochila punctata* from 2005 in the tetrad (Very few records at all in the tetrads between Port Gaverne and Trebarwith Strand)

Scrubby tangled woodland and stream valley leading down to close grazed pasture and the sea. Upper part of the valley owned by Tregragon Farm, the lower valley owned by the National Trust. Permission to record in both areas. Rugged friable cliffs with limited access to cliff top due to scrub. Several rights of way running through the tetrad, but most of the land away from the valley and the coastal strip is improved pasture. Permission to explore the scrub in the valley bottom but access not easy.

The area is underlain by Devonian mudstones, siltstones, and sandstones.

**Parking:** at SX051829. Turn down farm lane to Tregragon Farm. Turn off the farm lane onto a rough track which bears left down to the valley bottom. Park at the side of the pond making sure that there is room for farm vehicles to pass. Room for only two vehicles.

**Permission:** Michael Warman of Tregragon Farm, National Trust ( Philippa to ring to inform farmer)

**Safety:** livestock in the fields, unstable sea cliffs

## Luxulyan

Well recorded at tetrad level in 2005 also recorded in 2019 during the Luxulyan Plant Course. Nothing at monad level in the BBS database in SX0556 since 1977, SX0656 - 1 record

**Description:** Mixed woodland with remains of granite industrial buildings, an old wheel pit, bridges, viaduct, artificial waterways and river. Luxulyan is designated as part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. This wooded valley, with the River Fowey flowing through it was a site of considerable industrial importance during the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. It was managed for timber during medieval times. When it was acquired in the 1800's its utility was its proximity to the harbour that was built at nearby Par. A canal and two inclined plane railways were built to connect the harbour to the nearby mines. In addition, a leat was built to supply water to the mines. In 1842 a viaduct was built to carry a new horse driven railway connecting Par harbour to Wadebridge. The viaduct had a waterway beneath the tramway to supply more water to the mines. Granite was quarried within the valley and later, minerals were extracted from deep underground. In 1875 a china clay drying works was opened at Pontoys Mill that operated for just over 20 years. In 1920 a clay drying kiln was built at Trevanney Dry just SW of the viaduct and an electric turbine and various mill s operated at Pontoys Mill. The woodland has become re-established over the last century.-'very mossy'-quote!!!!The whole area is underlain by the St Austell Granite.

**Parking:** There is a circular walk that can be accessed from either Black Hill car park at the northern end of the valley SX05875728 or from Pontoys Mill car park at the southern end SX07295611.

**Permission:** Cornwall County Council

**Safety:** Possibility of storm damaged trees, unstable masonry, hidden mine workings

**Monday March 28th 9.00am Meet at Ladock Community Hall (SW8928 5099)**

### **Trebartha Private Estate and Hawks Tor**

Tetrad records from 2005. There are several debracketed species for VC2 that have been recorded from the estate- *Cephalozia catenulata*, *Cephalozia spinigera* and *Tritomaria exectiformis* (all J.P.1966) from the open access Hawk's Tor area (SX2576) and *Harpalejeunia molleri*, (1966) *Harpanthus scutatus* (1966 J.P.) and *Scapania subalpina* (1992 D.H.) from the private part of the estate (SX2577) that includes the Withey Brook Cascade.

**Description:** Trebartha is a historic estate on the North-eastern side of Bodmin Moor consisting of open moorland, mixed woodland, rocky ravine, extensive gardens with mature exotic trees and shrubs, fish ponds, old overgrown mine workings, pasture with veteran oak trees, ruins of the old Trebartha Hall, and the River Lynher running through the middle of it all. The gardens are now being managed with biodiversity very much to the fore and the owners would be keen to learn as much as possible about the bryophyte diversity on the estate. It passed to the family of the present owners in 1948. They have been doing a lot of recent renovation work which includes clearing around the old fish ponds with appropriate water management and extensive clearance of rhododendron.

<http://www.northhillhistory.co.uk/trebarthahall.htm>

A recently commissioned Land and Heritage Report specifies that the relic ravine oak woodland is the most important feature at Trebartha and that the epiphytic and ground covering bryophytic flora is exceptionally rich! The underlying geology is all acidic with the eastern edge of the Bodmin granite forming the high ground, intruded into sandstones and siltstones along the river valley with a zone of fine grained pelitic hornfels metamorphosed by contact with the granite.

These links kindly supplied by Moira Latham are to botanical surveys by Ian Benallick and David Pearmain which may be of interest to those members with a wider interest in botany.:

29 September 2020 survey: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tk0B0FtVgwz26NJqiw3Um-FGOgXgeF4Q/view?usp=sharing>

11 May 2021 survey: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-DUDTOFFilfBzJ9qbjezm\\_vmxpkB9jug/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-DUDTOFFilfBzJ9qbjezm_vmxpkB9jug/view?usp=sharing)

It is suggested that we should split into two groups. One group to cover the gardens and the right bank of the Withey Brook, all part of the private Trebartha Estate. A second group could take the bridle path through Castick Wood and investigate the left hand bank of the Withey Brook. At the top it opens out onto the Open Access moorland around Hawk's Tor. It would be possible to come back into the private estate near the water turbine at SW 250767 and to return to the cars via the estate woodland.

It would be much appreciated if any records that are made on the private part of the estate should be recorded separately to the records made on the tenanted areas or on the Open access area around Hawks Tor so that we can compile a list for the benefit of the family at Trebartha. Moira Latham, with whom I have been negotiating, Caroline Latham -gardens director and Ian Sherriff -Head Gardener may join our groups for a while. The private estate is bounded by the Withey Brook to the south and the woodland edge to the west. There is a small area of gnarled oak woodland belonging to the estate at the top of the Withey Brook ravine on the northern side that is separated from the main estate by a tenanted pasture field.

Interesting records include :-

*Douinia ovata*, *Cephalozia leucantha* and *Hedwigia ciliata* from Hawk's Tor,

*Rhabdoweissia crispula*, *Rhabdoweissia fugax*, *Riccardia latifrons* and *Marchesinia mackaii* from Castick Wood

*Fissidens crassipes*, *polyphyllus*, and *viridulus*, *Drepanolejeunia hamatifolia*, *Heterocladium wulfsbergii*, *Pohlia camplotrachela*, *Scapania umbrosa*, *Schistostega pennata* and *Schistidium rivulare* from the main estate.

#### **Directions :**

Satnav will get you to Trebartha PL15 7PD, but is not good for specific addresses, and in any event there is **no mobile reception locally**.

Attached is a map where we plan to meet at the at the Old Laundry (SX 26261 77534) A link of UK Grid reference finder is here:

[https://gridreferencefinder.com?gr=SX2626177534|Car\\_s\\_Parking|1&v=r&labels=1](https://gridreferencefinder.com?gr=SX2626177534|Car_s_Parking|1&v=r&labels=1)

You need to get to the crossroads just north of Trebartha village, where you see High Park Lodge on one corner. Turn down the no through road next to the lodge, towards Bastreet. Take the first turn on the left, which is a very short way downhill. Follow the bend in the track down to the right; the old laundry building and hard standing will then be on your left.

**Permission:** Moira and Robert Latham and Caroline Latham for the Trebartha Estate and Martin Bloomfield for the Castick Wood

**Safety:** Wind damaged trees in the ravine, livestock, slippery rocks

#### **Plusha and Upton Castle Wood**

SX27P SX2478 SX2578 SX2479 SX2579 - Only four records for this tetrad.

**Description:** This tetrad is composed mainly of farmland, generally improved pasture lying over metamorphosed pelagic sedimentary rocks. There are a number of public rights of way crossing the farmland. In addition, we have been given access to Upton Wood by Caroline Latham from the Trebartha Estate. There is a mound by the side of the track through the wood that is all that remains of Upton Castle. There is an area of open access land in the SW corner of the tetrad which rises up onto the Bodmin granite where there is a *Schistostega pennata* record.

**Parking:** There is parking by the side of the road in Plusha village (SX25298014) or room for a single car on the verge along the road towards Upton Wood (SX252798)

**Permission:** Upton Castle wood-Caroline Latham

**Safety:** Wind damaged trees, livestock

#### **Tregargus Wood**

SW9554 only 3 records at Monad level (J.P.1955.) No tetrad records since 2005

**Description:** In the late 19 century it was an industrial location with China Stone quarries and mills operating from around 1870. The last only stopped operating in 1965. There are old stone buildings

and drying pans in the woods. There is a stream running through the centre of the area and clay tailings up at the northern end of the site. There is a path down through the woods and a public right of way that runs along the top edge. Wellingtons essential. Access to old clay spoil at the top end of the site. The woods lie on the Trendrean mudstone formation- hornfelsed siltstones and sandstones. The boundary with the kaolinized St Austell granite is at the top of the site.

**Parking:** Limited parking at the top entrance to the woods at SW948547. Parking in St Stephens village at SW94465349

**Permission:** Imerys China clay, Tregargus Trust

**Safety:** wind damaged trees, ruined buildings, steep muddy slopes

## Tuesday, March 29th Meet at Tregurra Park & Ride NE of Truro off A390 (SW8390 4602) NW corner

### Zennor Head and Carnelloe Long Rock

SW4438 , SW4439, SW4539, SW4538. Well recorded at tetrad level but not at monad level

**Description:** An attractive village on the granite with old field boundaries and lots of public rights of way leading down to the rugged coast. Zennor village is on the Lands End granite, but halfway down to the coast the granite gives way to the Mylor slate formation. Within the slate formation there are metamorphosed igneous rocks of gabbro and microgabbro forming Carnelloe Long Rock headland to the west of Zennor, the northern part of Zennor Head, and a couple of outcrops beyond Zennor Head at SX451394 and SX453393. These rocks have slightly more basicity so there is a possibility of finding a slightly different suite of bryophytes to those found on most of West Penwith. There are records of *Neckera crispa* from the nineteenth century. Churchtown Common is open access land on the granite in the south- eastern corner of the tetrad.

**Parking:** Zennor village car park at SW4542738463; £1 honesty box

**Permission:** Zennor Head – National Trust, Carnelloe Long Rock-unknown

**Safety:** Lyme disease, snake bite possible – see site specific risk assessment

### Rosewall Hill

SW4839 and SW4939 well recorded. Fewer records in SW4838 and SW4938

**Description:** Classic granite landscape with boulders and outcrops. Old mining shafts are walled off. Mining spoil completely covered with undergrowth

**Parking:** Small parking area by side of the road at SW4865939417

**Permission:** National Trust

**Safety:** Lyme disease, snake bite possible – see site specific risk assessment

## Carn Galver

SW4136, SW4236. Lots of records. 3 debracketed species found historically in this locality - *Cephalozia lunulifolia* (DH 2000), *Dounia ovata* (JP 1963) and *Orthocaulis attenuatus* (H.Birks 1966).

**Description:** Classic tin mining site situated on the Penwith granite. Ruined buildings, open moorland, tin processing plant in stream valley going down to the sea, rugged granite sea cliffs. Part of the Cornish World Heritage Mining Site. The National Trust are just starting a Countryside Stewardship Scheme and would appreciate any advice that might help to inform their management.

**Parking:** NT car park at SW421364

**Permission:** National Trust

**Safety:** Lyme disease, snake bite - See Site specific risk assessment

## Poldice Mine

SW7442 lots of records Species of interest include *Cephaloziella nicholsonii*, *Cephaloziella stellulifera*, *Pohlia andalusia* and *Bryum pallescens*. These are all found in the area around the mine buildings at SW741429/ SW741430

**Description:** Poldice Mine lies in an extensively worked valley south of the hamlet of Todpool, near St. Day in Cornwall. The underlying rocks are Devonian Porthtowan mudstones and sandstones that were heavily mineralised by the nearby granite. It was worked for at least 200 years, eventually closing in 1930. Although it started with the extraction of tin ore, the mine switched to copper in 1788 and, after merging with another mine, it switched to arsenic extraction in the early 19th century. Today, the mine workings include extensive spoil heaps, disused buildings, chimneys and other structures, many of which are open to the general public. The site has been notified as part of West Cornwall Bryophytes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Large areas of open mine spoil remain, especially around the mine buildings.

**Parking:** on the road in Crofthandy - roughly SW7392742466. The site of interest is to the north of Crofthandy.

**Permission:** Cornwall Council

There is also an extensive area of tailings just to the East of Crofthandy that might be worth exploring. These overlie the Mylor slate Formation of siltstones and slates.

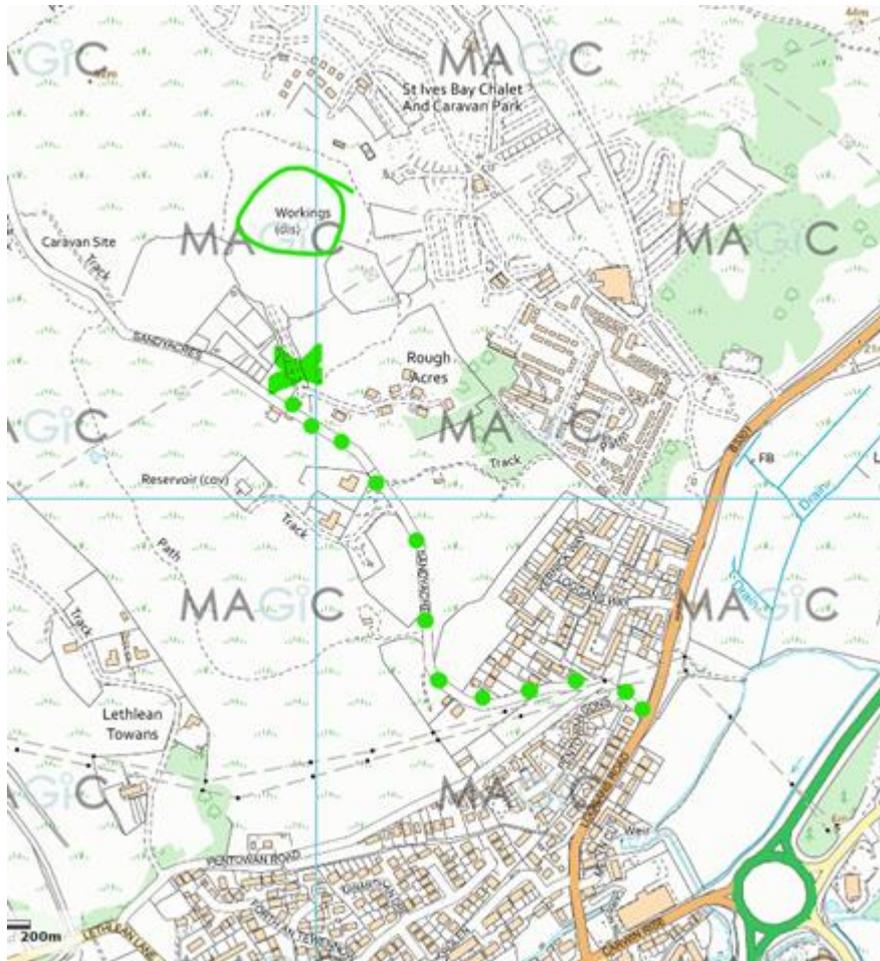
## Phillack Towans Sand Quarry and Phillack Towans

SW5739 *Bryum dyffrynense* and *Didymodon umbrosus* in sand quarry. *Petalophyllum ralphsii* and *Riccia crystallina* on Phillack Towans

**Description:** *B.dyffrynense* occurs in this privately owned sand quarry. Phillack Towans surrounding the quarry is an extensive area of sand dunes that was used to store ammunition during WW2. There are numerous brownfield sites amongst the dunes comprising of crumbling brickwork, concrete and rusting iron.

**Parking:** We'll meet at the entrance to the site, green cross on the attached map at SW 5696 3920. There is a gate here which is usually locked. It will be open (I have arranged this with the owner and

will remind them nearer the time!) so we can drive through and park in the former sand extraction quarry, where I have placed a green circle. If we park outside the gate then there is a good chance we will get a parking fine! To access the site you need to drive along the private Sandycroft road off the B class road - green dotted line.



Permission: Claire Williams

Safety: Sunburn?

### Godolphin Bridge Mine

SW5932 and SW6032

**Description:** A wooded estate overgrowing old mine workings on the banks of the River Hayle. There are a number of Des.Callaghan records from 2012 of *Scopelophila cataractae* mainly from the inside of the northern bank of an old leat. Other species of interest apparently include *Cephaloziella massalongi* found in the eroding stream banks and *Cephaloziella stellulifera*. There were rare records of *Cephaloziella nicholsonii* in 2010. There is concern that the site is not receiving enough disturbance for the species to persist. Recording of other species in the tetrad has not been carried out for over a decade.

It is believed that copper was being extracted well before 1600 and tin was still being extracted up until the 1840s. There is a National Trust café and gardens adjoining the site (coffee and cake!!!!) open until 17-00. Godolphin House itself is let by the NT as a holiday property.

The site lies on the Upper Devonian Mylor Slate formation of mineralised slate and siltstone

**Parking:** National Trust Car Park at SW60013243

**Permissions:** National Trust

**Safety:** Weil disease, Lyme disease, snake bite possible, open mine shafts -see site specific risk assessment

## Trewardreva Mill

Tetrad SW73F

**Description:** This is a tetrad just north of the village of Constantine on the Carnmenellis granite that has only one record on the BBS database from 1833 for *Hedwigia stellata*. The tetrad is crossed by several public rights of way, probably relics of its industrial past, as the landscape is dotted with granite quarries. There are several patches of scrubby woodland and a small stream running by Trewardreva Mill. Granite is everywhere, boulders and outcrops and extensive areas of quarry workings, with improved pasture lying between.

SW7231 and SW7230

We have been given a lot of assistance by local land owner Karen Tudor from 'Higher Carvedras' who owns Carvedras quarry at (SW727319). The quarry itself is open access, but Karen has said that a couple of cars could park at her house (SW728317). The landowners who own the land either side of the track in the valley below Great Carvedras Farm have given us permission to leave the track and record either side of it. There is some unimproved grassland and some scrubby woods.

Lionel Mann from Meyn Pern Farm (SW735312) – spelt wrong on the OS map- has offered to let us park at his farm to have access to the quarry workings to the west of his farm buildings. I have not visited this quarry yet but it appears to be quite an extensive area and there is one area that has some water.

SW7330 and SW7331

There is limited parking at the entrance to a woodland bridleway as you drive up the hill west out of the village on the left (SW7291 3025). The woodland is open access belonging to the local council. There is a notice by the parking spot that says Bosahan Caravan and Boat storage. There is a right of way from there that passes through Bosahan woods and up to Retallack. The owners of Retallack Quarry at (SW 733 304) have granted us access to the quarry but they would like to know and to accompany any bryologists that might wish to visit so it will be necessary to phone Dickon and Trixie on the day.

Going west up the road a little way from the parking at (SW729 3025) back into SW7230, there is a gate into a field, which, if there is no stock, we are allowed to enter to investigate an iron age ancient monument – Pixie's Hall 'fougou'- which is a stone chamber buried in the ground. It is not known whether it has any bryophyte interest.

**Permissions:** Karen Tudor -Higher Carvedras, Tim and Sue Beattie -Little Carvedras, Rebecca and James Fox- Trewardreva Manor, Lionel Mann-Meyn Pern, John and Bridget Olde-Bosahan, Dickon and Trudi-Retallack, Bosahan Woods Management Group

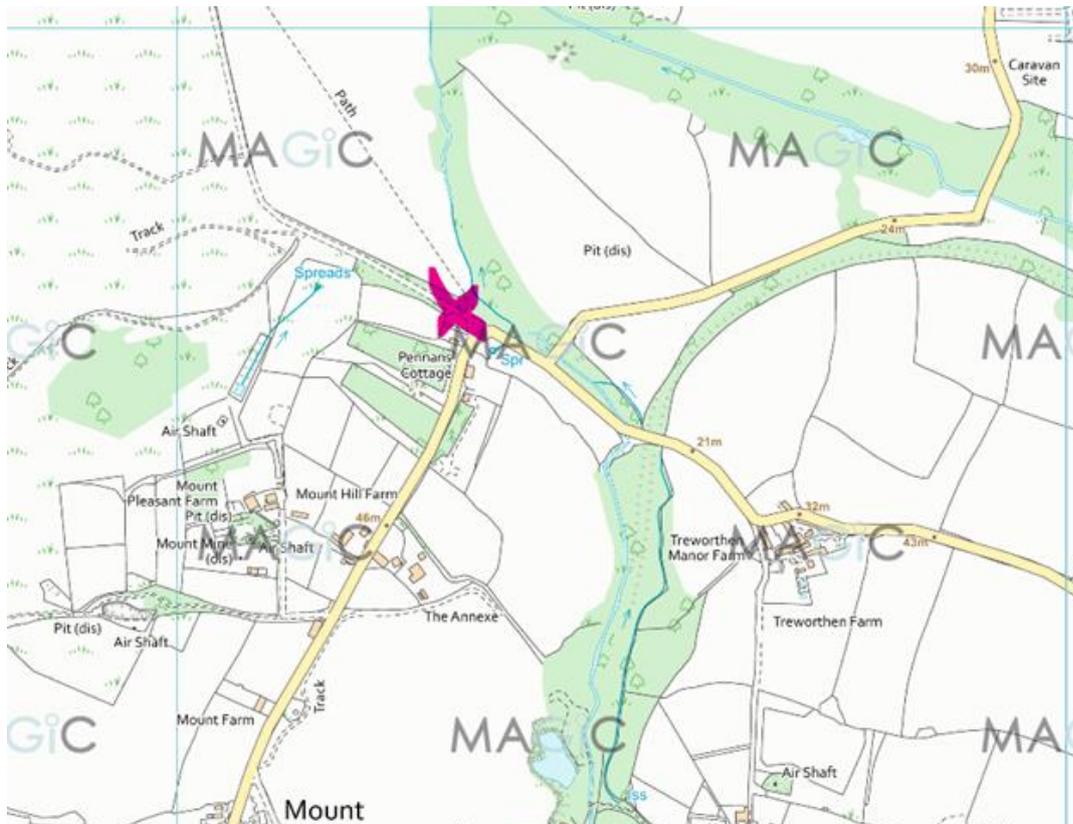
**Safety:** loose rocks in the quarries, wind damaged trees, livestock

Wednesday March 30th - 9.00am Meet at Ladock Community Hall (SW8928 5099)

### Penhale Camp-MOD site

**Description:** SW7656 and SW7756 - not been recorded since 2005. Sand dunes, derelict buildings, ruined gun emplacements, old mine workings.

**Parking:** We will meet at SW 7833 5666, the pink X marks the spot on the attached maps. There is a gate which Matt will have unlocked and opened having collected the key from John Cripps of CWT. Once we are all assembled the gate will be locked to prevent public access. We will then drive into the site and park up. If anyone wishes to leave early they will have to be escorted to the gate to let them out.



**Permission:** The Ministry of Defence and the Cornish Wildlife Trust

**Safety:** Do not disturb any metal objects, derelict buildings. Sun burn?

### Boconnoc (private estate)

**Description:** Deer Park, Gardens, Lake and Woodland. The gardens have an array of rhododendrons and azaleas and numerous fountains and water features. The park was laid out in 1760 by Thomas 'diamond' Pitt, former governor of Madras who bought the estate with the proceeds from the sale of the enormous 'Pitt' diamond. There are various monuments and an obelisk dating from 1771. The park runs down to the lake and is studded with numerous veteran trees. The Deer Park at Boconnoc has been here for nearly a thousand years, it is mentioned in the Domesday Book . the medieval Tower of Boconnoc was rebuilt in the sixteenth century and the house and stable yard were completely remodelled in 1786 with the help of the architect Sir John Sloane. Charles 1 had his

headquarters here at one point during the Civil War and in the nineteenth century it belonged to William Wyndham, Lord Grenville, Prime Minister famous for abolishing the slave trade. Anthony and Elizabeth Fortescue started to restore the house and revitalise the estate in 2000. It is managed as an event venue. It all lies on Trendrean mudstones and siltstones

Boconnoc is a huge estate, mainly mixed woodland with a number of veteran trees. Lots of beech, oak, chesnut, and Corsican? Pines, and a deer park that has been designated as an SSSI. It has been brought to my attention that there have been some interesting lichen finds on the estate, both to the west and the south of the house, but there does not appear to have been a huge amount of work done on the bryophytes.

The monad with the greatest mix of habitats (Grottoes, buildings, gardens, park and woodland) is around the main house (SX1460). This was last surveyed in 2005 (JP). The monad north of that one (woodland and parkland) (SX1461) around the Crickapit Mill was surveyed in 1965 (JP).

SX1459 has records from 1965(JP) but they are all labelled Couch's Mill, so it is possible that the Deer park has not been surveyed. We can ask Jean when we see her. There is also a strip of woodland leading up from Couch's Mill to the lake in this monad and there are no records in SX1559

There are no records at all for the tetrad that includes SX1462. This monad is accessible via a track that leads on from the Crickapit Mill. It is oak woodland with pines and ash and birches, with an understorey of rhododendron and laurel. Access to the stream is limited but there is a path that leads down from the track at SX1416 6226.

There appear to be no records in the tetrad that includes Druids Hill i.e. to the west of the house.- SX1260,1360,1261 and 1361.mixed woodland with a number of veteran trees, gorse heath at the top, earthy banks etc. There is a network of access tracks.

We have been granted access to the whole estate, but the farmers have not been notified so we have been asked not to cross into any fields.

**Directions & Parking:** Travel to East Taphouse and turn right onto the B3359 (signposted Looe / Polperro B3359 & Boconnoc). Approximately 1 mile along the B3359 take the 1st right signed Boconnoc (with a tiny sign) Then take immediate left signed Boconnoc and 1st right about 1/3 of a mile down the road signed Boconnoc. Go to crossroad with lodge by the gate where the sign says Boconnoc, Private Road. Drive straight through there and follow the signs to Boconnoc which take you along the road round to the left, down a long straight drive to a tall stone obelisk. Follow the road round to the left, past another lodge and straight down the hill until you get to the main house. At the white gate turn right and follow signs for the Estate Office.

Parking is by the estate Office (SX147 606). There are a few spaces on the right as you drive up the hill, and above that there are a few spaces on the left. Someone needs to report to the office on arrival so that they have an idea of numbers.

**Permission:** The Hon. Elizabeth Fortescue

**Safety:** Storm damaged trees

**Carbis/Tregonhay**

SX0060 SW9960

**Description:** SX0060 and SW9960- Carbis/Tregonhay is a small woodland and moorland site. It has been surveyed only as part of a general botanical survey so there is a high possibility of species having been overlooked. Area overlays granite, surrounded by hornfelsed sandstones and siltstones

**Parking:** for Tregonhay/Carbis. There is parking at the side of the road (GR tbc). Cerin Poland from Natural England would like to join if anyone decides to survey here -07775 016915. There is a gate at SW99915 60251 that could be unlocked to provide hard standing for more cars.

## Goss Moor NNR

SW9559

**Description:** SW9559 for Toad's Hole. Goss Moor is a 500ha reserve lying on the northern edge of the China Clay Country between the villages of St Dennis, Indian Queens and Roche; it is the largest surviving remnant of the Mid Cornwall Moors. It comprises a mixture of dry and wet areas of grassland, heathland and woodland which have developed over a valley of bogs and mires.

Goss Moor was not notified as an SSSI for its bryophytes, however, 'Growing Goss' Project manager David Hazlehurst of Natural England would be pleased to have more information about its bryological interest to help inform management of the area. Goss Moor National Nature Reserve is 577ha in size and is made up of a wide range of habitats including areas of dry and wet heath, mire, fen and open water. The site is situated in a broad relatively flat, valley basin which forms the headwaters of the River Fal. It is part of the Mid Cornwall Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which encompasses a network of over 1600ha of semi-natural habitat. It is also part of the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors Special Area of Conservation, designated for its wet and dry heaths, mires and quaking bogs and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly as part of the EU's Natura 2000 network. Goss Moor's diverse habitats contain a vast range of rare and notable species and are well known for their wide array of vascular plants, dragonflies and damselflies, butterflies, mammals, breeding birds and much more. This part of the NNR is an area of wet woodland and wet acidic mire. Challenging terrain. The Moor lies on Bovisand hornfelsed sandstones and siltstones,

**Parking:** Park on edge of multiuse trail at SW95752 59752. It is necessary to go through a locked gate near Toad's Hole. The combination number is 19810,. Cerin Poland from Natural England would like to join if anyone decides to survey here -07775 016915.

**Permission:** Natural England

**Safety:** Ticks are common at Goss Moor and they can carry Lyme Disease. This disease can be transmitted to humans if you get bitten, therefore we strongly advise that all visitors wear tick proof clothing or clothing that has been treated with anti-tick repellent spray. If you are unable to source either tick proof clothing or anti-tick repellent spray, then there are some other steps you can take to reduce the risk of tick bites. This involves wearing long sleeved clothing to cover your arms, wearing trousers (not shorts), and wearing boots that fit well and you can tuck your trousers into. If you get bitten by a tick remove it as soon as possible and report it to a member staff. Advice on the symptoms of Lyme Disease and how to remove ticks safely can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>.

Due to rough and boggy terrain wellies/work boots must be worn when visiting site.

Please also check the weather before your visit to Goss Moor NNR and bring appropriate clothing. For example, in wet weather wearing both a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers is advised.

Goss Moor NNR has a herd of pedigree Belted Galloway Cattle and a herd of Shetland and Dartmoor Ponies on-site. The livestock graze the site to prevent scrub from returning to cleared areas in order to support our ambition to achieve SSSI Favourable Condition for the site. We strongly advise that you do not enter any areas where livestock are present during your meeting. Please be aware of any signage around the site that warns visitors about the presence of livestock in certain areas.

The land on wider parts of the moor can be very dangerous with the presence of open water and quaking bogs.

Please check accompanying risk assessment

## Thursday March 31st- Meet at Tregurra Park & Ride NE of Truro off A390 (SW8390 4602) NW corner

### Merthen Wood

SW7226 -30 records Francis Rose 1992 and SW7326- 0 records. No other records from the tetrad

**Description:** Merthen Wood extends for nearly 2 kilometres along the northern shore of the Helford River, occupying the peninsula between the main river and Polwheveral Creek. It lies equidistant between Gweek in the west and Helford to the east.

The steep south facing woodland extends down to the low cliffs at the river's edge, which terminate at Groyne Point to the west. Three stream valleys dissect Merthen Wood descending steeply to short creeks.

Soils are deep, well-drained and mostly acidic. The underlying shaley Gramscatho Beds of Devonian age are only exposed along the shoreline.

Merthen Wood is an ancient wood dating back to at least the medieval period. Its special importance is that it is a rare example of a woodland comprising of an almost pure, natural population of sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. It is one of the largest remaining oakwoods in Cornwall and historical records indicate that it has been coppiced for centuries.

The major standtype is sessile oak coppice, which is wind-pruned and stunted to a height of 10-12 metres. The understorey is locally dense and dominated by holly *Ilex aquifolium* or hazel *Corylus avellana*. Species of particular note include wild service *Sorbus torminalis*, a species which is very local in Cornwall, alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* a species uncommon to Cornwall, the locally rather rare skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* and the soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum* which is rare in West Cornwall.

The ground flora on the upper slopes is dominated by dense brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg. or by bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* in more open areas.

The lower slopes support a more heathy flora with bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, heather *Calluna vulgaris* and some bell heather *Erica cinerea*, with wild madder *Rubia peregrina*, which is mainly confined to coastal locations in south and west Britain, common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense* and moss species.

Parts of the woodland, mainly along stream valleys have a high forest structure. These are dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* with an understorey of holly *Ilex aquifolium* and hazel *Corylus avellana*.

Along the middle valley is a small strip of alder carr, with a ground flora of hemlock water dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina*.

Additional species of note include bastard balm *Melittis melissophyllum* which is nationally uncommon and goldilocks *Ranunculus auricomus* which is rare in Cornwall.

Moss species of interest occurring in Merthen Wood are the nationally rare *Fissidens curnowii* and the oceanic species *Hookeria lucens*.

Merthen Wood supports an interesting invertebrate fauna, with the largest known British population of the rare weevil *Anchonidium unguiculare*, a species whose British distribution is restricted to woodlands on the Helford River. The local weevil species *Acalles roboris*, *A. ptinoides* and *Caenopsis waltoni* also occur. The wood is the only known location in West Cornwall for an ancient woodland indicator species of slug – *Limax cinerioniger*. Also present here is the ant species, *Stenamma westwoodi* and the holly blue butterfly *Celastrina argiolus*.

**Parking:** Murthen Manor SW727 264?

**Permission:** privately owned

**Safety:** Wind damaged trees

## Poltesco valley

SW7215 and SW7214 not recorded at monad level since 2008

**Description :** Poltesco lies on the serpentine. Serpentine soils are toxic to much vegetation because they have generally very high Magnesium and Iron content, whilst, at the same time containing very low levels of calcium, nitrogen and phosphorus. Such plants that can adapt may often grow very differently to how they would grow in other environments. This toxicity allows adapted species to compete more effectively against other, normally more vigorous plants. This results in the unique botanical assemblages that are such an exciting feature of the Lizard peninsular. The Poltesco valley has a good mix of ruined serpentine buildings, exposed outcrops, woodland, and maritime heathland/coastal grassland. *Lejeunia mandonii* was recorded here in 2010 along with records for 5 Riccia species. *Chenia leptophylla* has been recorded from the cliff path in SX7214 south of the valley.

**Parking:** Small parking area for 5-8 cars SW72693 15678 NT

**Safety:** Rugged cliffs

## Kynance Cove

**Description:** Kynance valley and Lizard Downs -Rich site on the serpentine of maritime heath, with dramatic coastal scenery. Small stream running down the centre of the valley. Very well recorded but English Nature are keen to have more records to help inform ongoing management both for people

and for vegetation. 7 *Riccia* spp., 6 *Cephaloziella* spp., 5 *Fossombronia* spp. and *Gongylanthus ericetorum* amongst many other delights!

**Parking:** National Trust car park at SW688 133

**Safety:** rugged cliffs

## Friday April 1st- Meet at Tregurra Park & Ride NE of Truro off A390 (SW8390 4602)NW corner

### Downas valley- South of Coverack

SW7617, SW7616

**Description:** Arable fields, coastal heath and stream valley on the serpentine. Riccias recorded in the valley in 2016 but no monad records since J Paton in 1964. The fields on either side of the footpath going down to the sea have been identified as potential arable bryophyte sites. They have been planted with barley for the last couple of years to reduce the nutrient content after years of brassica growing and are possibly uncultivated at the moment. They are National Trust owned like the rest of the site. The tenant has been informed that we may be recording.

**Parking:** There is a small car park (free) at Treleaver Farm SW774 169. Access is along a footpath down to Beagles Hole and then along the coast path to the Downas valley

**Permission:** Natural England

**Safety:** rugged cliffs,

### Lizard Point and Arable fields

SW6911 and SW7011

**Description:** Coastal strip. The Old Lizard head series are a sequence of metamorphosed muds, sandstones and volcanic tuffs, with more iron and magnesium rich (mafic) basalts that have all been metamorphosed to form schists. These rocks form the cliffs to the west of Lighthouse, as far as the junction with the serpentinite of Kynance Cove. The headlands on either side of Polpear Cove are tipped with the non-mafic 'man of War' gneiss which is more resistant to erosion. The cliffs to the east of the lighthouse are hornblende schists that have been metamorphosed by contact with the nearby peridotite and are uniformly more mafic. There is consequently a lot of geological variation over a very small area. There are records for *Chenia leptophylla* on these hornblende schists in (SW6911). There are also records for *Chenia leptophylla* at Holseer Cove where the Old Lizard Series. gives way to the serpentinites. We have permission to look at a field to the north of the Lizard car park that has been left over the winter although it might have been ploughed by April 1st!!

**Parking:** There is a national trust car park (£3 for non-members) at SW701117

**Permissions:** Natural England, National Trust, Rona and Neville Amis-Tregullas Farm

**Safety:** Rugged cliffs

## Frenchman's Creek

SW7425 and SW7426

**Description:** Mixed woodland on steep banks falling to the Helford River. Low tide should allow access to the foreshore. There is an old record for *Ditrichum subulatum* from SW748 257.

**Parking:** at Kestle Barton (SW754 254). Kestle Barton is a restored ancient Cornish Farmstead that is being managed by a trust. We have permission to park there for free on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>. Karen from Kestle Barton is hoping to meet us. **BE WARY OF USING YOUR SAT NAV** – the shortest route is barely fit for vehicles. Best to keep on the A3083 and to turn left onto the B3293 after Culdrose Airfield - avoid Gweek!!!

## Tremayne

SW7225, SW7324, SW7325 – plenty of tetrad records but no records specifically for Tremayne

**Description:** Another wooded valley lining the sides of a creek on the Helford River. There is a path to Tremayne Quay which was built by Sir Richard Vivyan in 1847, anticipating a visit from Queen Victoria. The planned visit never happened but the quay is now a Grade II listed structure. Some of the trees in Tremayne Woods, notably the mature beech plantation in the valley at the head of the creek, were planted specifically to impress Queen Victoria prior to her aborted visit. The sessile Oak woodlands further down the track were managed as coppice for the charcoal and tannin trade up until the 1920's. Tremayne Quay and Tremayne Woods were bequeathed to the National trust in 1978 by the Vivyan family of Trelowarren. There is access to the water's edge at the Quay.

**Parking:** Room for only 3-5 cars at SW731249

**Permission:** National Trust

## Saturday April 2nd

### Red Moor and Helman Tor

SX06Q

**Description:** This is a large wetland complex overlying granite, spreading from the slopes of Helman Tor. The landscape has been characterised by tin streaming which creates hummocks and hollows. These determine where the areas of wet and dry heathland and grassland are together with large areas of wet woodland. A large part of the area is managed by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust. It has recently been surveyed for *Biantheridion undulifolium*, but, at the same time, it is probably worth further exploration and has not been systematically surveyed at monad level. There is a record of *Schistostega pennata* on Helman Tor and also historical records of the debracketed *Dicranella cerviculata*. There is a 1978 VC2 record of *Racomitrium elongatum*. *Dicranum bonjeanii* has also been found in the tetrad. From the Helman Tor car park there is a footpath that leads around the back of Helman Tor onto the Redmoor Reserve. Wellingtons ESSENTIAL!!!

**Parking:** at SX0619 6140 (room for one or two cars at SX0759 6222)

**Permissions:** Cornwall Wildlife Trust

**Safety:** Wet hollows and wind damaged trees, livestock around Helman Tor. See attached site specific risk assessment.

## **Golitha Falls NNR**

**Description:** The reserve is a long gorge, on the granite, lined with ancient oak woodland that gives way to the River Fowey at the bottom. The site is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its woodland flora. The dramatic landscape created by the River Fowey is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It's one of Cornwall's richest valleys for bryophytes, with more than 120 species recorded here. It is equally important for lichens, with 48 species including the nationally rare *Parmelia minarum*. Woodland wildflowers include bluebells and wood anemone. The reserve is also home to dormice, which reside in the ancient hazel coppice. Noctule, brown long-eared and lesser horseshoe bats have been recorded. The river supports healthy populations of both salmon and sea trout. Otter are often seen exploring the falls. Much of the reserve is known to be ancient woodland, with Draynes Wood recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). In spring the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones, while the meadow areas see bugle, self-heal, white clover, common tormentil and valerian species flourish. The reserve supports 83 species of moth, including the notable double lines. Butterflies include the meadow brown, marbled white, green-veined white, gatekeeper, small skipper, ringlet, speckled wood and silver-washed fritillary.

Winter storms cause the River Fowey to swell, making the waterfalls even more torrential. Extra care should be taken when visiting after heavy rainfall.

**Parking :** SX228 689- free but gets very crowded

**Permission:** Natural England

## **Tetrads with few records**

### **Hendra and Codda Downs**

SX17Z

This is an area of mixed granite moorland and moorland pasture. There is a bridleway running through the tetrad which allows some access to a stream. There is a small number of scrubby trees and a farm track. There are only three records for the tetrad- *Dichodontium pellucidum*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and *Acaulon mediterraneum*. A fairly typical Bodmin Moor granite landscape, all heavily grazed by cattle. Parking by arrangement at SX18137820 (ask Philippa) at the end of the minor road leading up from Bolventor in front of the gateway to Blackhill Farm.

### **Halvana Plantation**

SX2077,SX2078,SX2177,SX2178 -1 record for *Splachnum ampullaceum*

Dull forestry plantation and degraded moorland. Parking at SX2188 7901 or SX2139 7875

## Coast between Lansallos and Polperro

SX15Q and SX15V-2 tetrads with few records – 1 record in SW1751, 7 records in SW1651

Scrubby clifftop preventing access to cliffs. strenuous walking- parking at NT Lansallos 17366 51777 or Polperro £7 a day

## Port Gaverne

SX08A-9 records

## Prideaux Wood

SX0655 and SX0755- not recorded since JP 1961.

Limited access to record as necessary to stick to path because of uncapped mine shafts on the granite. Permission to record from Cornwall Wildlife trust. Don't know about parking.

## North of Trenance-Bedruthan steps

SW86P-only 18 records, easy access NT car park at SW851689

## Caerhays Castle

SW94Q – magnolias and SW94A – lots of records for Caerhays but 0 records for SW94A

**Parking:** SW9740 4142, Parking for SW94A at SW913 409

## Pont Pill and Polruan

SX1351, SX1251, and SX1250

**Description:** National Trust woodland site surrounding a tidal inlet of the Fowey estuary. All on Devonian mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. The bryophytes have not been recorded since 2007. The banks of the inlet are densely wooded on both sides and the coastal path contours around the inlet at high level, with one or two places where it is possible to drop down to sea level. The area is thought to have provided some of the inspiration to Kenneth Grahame for writing the Wind in the Willows, also it was the sight of the wreck of the Jane Slade laid up in the Pill that inspired Daphne du Maurier to write her first book- The Loving spirit.

Polruan is a little seaside village. There are no records from Polruan since 1992 (records from Polruan include two records for *Grimmia decipiens* from 1882 and a recent record of *Scorpiurium circinatum*). There are a couple of sites on the south side of Polruan in short turf on the clifftop (SX1333 5060 and SX 1324 505), where the very rare Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) has been found, although it appears to be declining. It might be interesting to survey for bryophytes in this locality.

**Parking:** There is a National Trust car park at Lantic bay SX 149 514 or Veverly, a small car free car park just east of Polruan village SX 1317 5070 or in Polruan itself by the lookout station SX1249 5080 at £5 a day.

## **St Anthony's Head**

No monad records for SW8432 and SW8532 Very pleasant coastal walk. Lots of moss covered masonry around the head itself. Free Parking SW8477 3130 or NT car park SW866 329.