

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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From

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### **WORLD FAMOUS BRONZE AGE MONUMENT UNDER THREAT**



One of the most internationally famous archaeological sites in the far west of Cornwall is now under threat of damage by cattle introduced, for the first time in many decades, onto heathland under a Natural England agri-environmental scheme.

This is where the Bronze Age monument known as Men-an-Tol (stone of the hole) is located and where, on one of my recent (on 25th March) regular walks from my studio about half a mile away, I noticed cattle hair on the holed stone with hoof prints in the churned up ground surrounding all three stones. It is obvious that the cattle had been using the stones as convenient ‘rubbing posts’.



This is exactly how several stones of a Bronze Age circle (Tregeseal) on heathland about 3 miles away were destabilised when cattle were introduced in early summer 2009 – and this happened about a dozen times over the following years and caused considerable uproar within the local community even though all relevant agencies had been warned by us long before any cattle were put onto this common that this was bound to happen. Expensive remedial works had to be carried out under the auspices of English Heritage.

It is obvious that the experience at Tregeseal Circle is being repeated at the Men-an-Tol and that it is only a matter of time before damage is caused to this most famous and, arguably, most frequented ancient site in the Land's End Peninsula by locals – including parties of primary schoolchildren – and visitors from across the world.

This is of course completely unacceptable to us and of extreme concern: English Heritage and Natural England have been asked what action will be taken to rectify the situation before it is too late and another scheduled ancient monument is destabilised and degraded.



## **ENDS**

For damage at Tregeseal Circle see

<http://www.savepenwithmoors.com/2013%20CARNYORTH%20archaeology.pdf>

See also “Don’t change the site; let the site change you” at

<http://www.savepenwithmoors.com/2013%20ARCH%20dont%20change%20the%20site.pdf>

## **CONTACTS**

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