



## **AN KESUNYANS KELTEK – SCOREN KERNEWEK**

### **CORNWALL BRANCH OF THE CELTIC LEAGUE**

*A National Branch of the Celtic League which has roster consultative status at the United Nations*

We support fully the 'Save Penwith Moors' (SPM) organisation and the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN) in their ongoing struggles to safeguard our threatened heritage. As a result of communications between the Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League and UNESCO regarding mismanagement of our Nation's heritage on Penwith Moors and with material kindly provided by SPM and CASPN, we forwarded UNESCO in Paris a portfolio containing copies of the World Heritage Sites which disputed what they had been incorrectly advised by the UK Government. We have already written to the Head of Heritage Policy at the Department for Culture Media and Sport on 30 December, 2013 and await a reply.

Meanwhile, UNESCO now seem to be acting as a result of our joint concerns..

For the sake of openness these correspondences have been posted on Facebook sites by the Kernow Branch [KBCL] and are reproduced here by Save Penwith Moors with some display editing.

### **MISMANAGEMENT OF PENWITH MOORS**

<a href="#"><u>21 November 2013</u></a>	KBCL letter “Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall”
<a href="#"><u>13 December 2013</u></a>	Response from Andrew George MP
<a href="#"><u>16 December 2013</u></a>	Response from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<a href="#"><u>17 December 2013</u></a>	Response from Defra
<a href="#"><u>23 December 2013</u></a>	Letter from KBCL to Department for Culture Media and Sport
<a href="#"><u>30 December 2013</u></a>	Letter from KBCL to UNESCO
<a href="#"><u>6 January 2014</u></a>	Response from English Heritage
<a href="#"><u>15 January 2014</u></a>	Response from Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE
<a href="#"><u>16 January 2014</u></a>	2nd response from DEFRA
<a href="#"><u>17 January 2014</u></a>	Response from Natural England
<a href="#"><u>January 2014</u></a>	Response from Cornwall Council Historic Environment
<a href="#"><u>21 January 2014</u></a>	2nd response from UNESCO, Paris
<a href="#"><u>3 February 2014</u></a>	Response from SPM to DEFRA letter of 17 December 2013
<a href="#"><u>3 February 2014</u></a>	Response from SPM to English Heritage letter of 6 January 2014
<a href="#"><u>20 February 2014</u></a>	Response from Department for Culture Media and Sport
<a href="#"><u>26 February 2014</u></a>	Response from DEFRA to SPM letter of 3 February 2014
<a href="#"><u>10 March 2014</u></a>	Response from English Heritage to SPM letter of 3 February 2014

[March 2014](#) Letter sent to all of Cornwall's MPs by the Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League in answer to English Heritage response of 10 March.

[16 March 2014](#) KBCL news article 'English Heritage and the Cornish dilemma - a quango utterly out of control?' 'Pagan Community increasingly concerned at treatment of ancient sites!'

[26 March 2014](#) Response from Mr Weatherhill to EH letter dated 10 March 2014 to SPM.

**21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

**THE CELTIC LEAGUE** 

## **AN KESUNYANS KELTEK – SCOREN KERNEWEK**

### **CORNWALL BRANCH OF THE CELTIC LEAGUE**

A National Branch of the Celtic League which has roster consultative status at the United Nations

**Michael J Chappell**

**e. kernow@celticleague.net**

**Convenor – Cornwall Branch Celtic League**

**w. www.celticleague.net**

**21 November, 2013**

### **Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall**

The moors of Penwith in west Cornwall are an area to be cherished and treasured. With a history extending back thousands of years, the district contains many ancient sites of International note amongst them the Men an Tol and the Tregeseal Stone Circle. These sites are iconic and form a part of our world recognised Cornish heritage.

As an organisation, we are extremely concerned at the current management of the moors and ancient sites by English Heritage (EH) and Natural England (NE).

Our Branch has now had sight of evidence which confirms beyond all doubt that these two organisations are openly and deliberately overseeing irreparable damage caused in this area. This evidence has been witnessed by some of our members at first hands who have visited the sites and there is now overwhelming photographic and video material to hand.

The introduction to this environment of unsuitable cattle and fencing as well as other ill thought out actions is a matter of great public concern. Ancient monuments are being trampled over by these large beasts and many visitors are being frightened away.

Much of the evidential material lays in the hands of a campaign group 'Save Penwith Moors' (SPM) and also a charitable partnership, the 'Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network' (CASPN), two local organisations which care greatly for the area. We have consulted with both CASPN and SPM and indeed other interested parties in advance of this communication.

SPM was set up in July 2008 by six local residents to campaign for a few of the most popular areas of open access heath land that includes much archaeological heritage both mining and prehistoric, to be left free of new stock proofing and grazing for the benefit of local and tourist recreation and education. From that start with six concerned locals, SPM now has a membership of 600.

Many other organisations and individuals are now noticing the grave mismanagement of Penwith Moors.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) is destructive to the historic environment and English Heritage is supporting it despite the evidence presented by SPM.

English Heritage's stance is that the monuments are being damaged by visitors but this rests on the personal opinion of that organisation's Anne Preston-Jones and not on clear and unequivocal evidence.

English Heritage continue to bizarrely maintain this stance despite the discrepancy between opinion and evidence and have only reluctantly added cattle damage to their report on Tregeseal after submission by SPM. They still favour damage by visitors and give that more weight than their evidence can support.

CASPN probably has more evidence of damage to the paths and surrounds at Men-an-Tol, particularly the turf around the central stone, but they have been excluded in favour of HLS and its inherent damage. Therefore, EH is allowing, even encouraging the damage to Cornwall's historic environment rather than admit that their HLS scheme is flawed and damaging.

Some grazing in this area might be acceptable but this needs to be done in a better planned and managed way. To allow grazing when the area is soft and wet does not represent responsible stewardship.

These problems are not limited to Cornwall. We should remember that SPM are in contact with other similar organisations in other parts of the UK who are also having their local environments decimated by the very agencies that claim to protect them, usually Natural England and English Heritage.

However, in Cornwall, especially in Penwith, there are monument types that are not found elsewhere, and so the damage being allowed by English Heritage and Natural England has a greater impact than damage in other environments in Great Britain.

Cornwall's heritage is unique and this rare and precious heritage has a history of destruction by remote authorities usually administered from London.

English Heritage is now presiding over the most intensive destruction of Cornwall's unique heritage in a generation. For an agency that is supposed to protect our heritage to be actively engaged in destroying it demonstrates that English Heritage is not fit to protect Cornwall's heritage.

CASPN was set up because people used to deliberately destroy the stones of our motherland. Since then they have become the bench mark, grass roots, protective organisation which is used as an example to set up similar organisations elsewhere, such as for example the Dartmoor NPA. Yet CASPN have now been refused the paltry funding EH used to give them and now will be put into the untenable position where in order to protect ancient monuments, they will have to go begging to the heritage organisation that is destroying it.

Declining resources may be at the root of these problems. Our organisation takes heed of the contents of the 'Fifth report on Local Authority Staff Resources' produced by English Heritage, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation.

Predictably and unfortunately Cornwall is not singled out. However, in 2006 this report shows that the "South West" employed more Full Time Employees in the heritage sector than any other region.

Since then, the drop of professionals in Heritage has reduced to equal or less than the East of England and the South East regions.

So while there has been a reduction across all regions, it is most marked in the South West region and the current Penwith Moors crisis may reflect this loss.

In the past 12 months the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities in England has fallen by 3% and the number of conservation specialists has fallen by 4%.

EH and NE have lost all credibility in Cornwall and to protect our historic environment, EH must be permanently removed from every part of our precious Duchy. Instead, protection of our ancient environment should be the responsibility of an agency based in Cornwall that actually protects it. At the moment, the only such organisations in Cornwall are locally-led groups like SPM and CASPN.

On 29 September, 2011, George Eustice MP for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle made this statement:

‘In recent years there has been a growing feeling that Cornwall should have its own heritage organisation, taking over from English Heritage. After all, how can a quango whose nearest office is in Bristol possibly understand issues in Hayle? If you look at its website, there is not one single reference to Camborne, Redruth or Hayle, even though our towns are at the heart of a World Heritage Site. Instead, what you get are pictures of pretty castles in the Home Counties. Cornwall's industrial heritage should be an attraction to the whole world, but it belongs to Cornwall, and Cornwall alone. It is time we started to make our own decisions about how best to bring it to life.’



Mr. Eustice's words could be easily applied to heritage and the environment throughout Cornwall.

We call for a formal enquiry into the mismanagement of Cornwall's heritage and environment by English Heritage and Natural England most particularly in Penwith.

We call for the establishment of a Cornwall only Heritage and Environment Organisation with local democratic accountability.

We add our support to the campaigning work of 'Save Penwith Moors' and 'Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network'.

We seek your earliest attentions to the contents of this letter whilst wishing to inform you that it together with our appeal will be circulated to all interested and relevant Westminster Departments and Agencies, to Cornwall's MPs and certain Cornwall Councillors, to our contacts outside Cornwall including at the United Nations and to the wider media.

Yours sincerely

Michael J Chappell  
Convenor  
Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League

Distribution:

Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall  
Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

George Eustice MP [Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for farming, food and marine environment](#)

Lord de Mauley [Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for natural environment and science](#)

Dan Rogerson MP [Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for water, forestry, rural affairs and resource management](#)

Andrew George MP

Steve Gilbert MP

Sheryll Murray MP

Sarah Newton MP

Councillor John Pollard Leader Cornwall Council

Councillor Julian German Cornwall Council portfolio holder for Economy and Culture

Cornwall Council Historic Environment Service

Councillor Kevin McFadden St Just in Penwith Council

Sir Laurie Magnus English Heritage

Poul Christensen CBE Natural England

Irina Bokova Director General UNESCO Paris

CASPN

SPM

GS Celtic League

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**13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**RESPONSE from Andrew George MP – Ref. 13/10.1.1/ag/ew – 13.12.2013**

Re. Cornish Heritage

Thank you for your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013. I have had many extended meetings with the group “Save Penwith Moors” and have arranged joint meetings between them, local farmers, Natural England and others to explore their concerns and to seek redress and mediate on matters of local dispute regarding access and management issues in the Penwith area.

On a separate but, in the sense that you describe, related issue, I would simply repeat what I have always and consistently said on the issue of devolution of statutory powers to Cornwall in that I would certainly support the creation of politically independent statutory agencies whose responsibility it is to protect Cornish heritage and Cornwall’s natural environment. Both Cornish heritage and, in a separate organisation, Cornwall’s natural environment and to act as Cornish parallels to both English Heritage and Natural England. Needless to say, and as it indicated, it would be essential that such statutory agencies should retain the same political neutrality and responsibility of discharging a range of important statutory duties with the appropriate resources and respected technical expertise which would command the respect and authority that the agency would need to uphold.

I trust you find this helpful. With every good wish.

Yours sincerely, Andrew George MP

**16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**Crisis on Penwith Moors - UNESCO response**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – Ref.CLT/WHC/7063/KM/PT – 16.12.13

Subject: State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property "Cornwall and West Devon Mining... Landscape"

Dear Convenor

I acknowledge with thanks your letter dated 21 November 2013 concerning the World Heritage property "Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2006.

Please be informed that the World Heritage Centre consulted the responsible authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the issues raised in your letter, namely the management of prehistoric ritual or ceremonial monuments in West Penwith. While the authorities have indicated that they are well aware of the issues concerning the treatment of prehistoric ritual or ceremonial monuments, they also informed us that the monuments of Penwith Moors are not located within the World Heritage property, and that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property would not be affected.

Should you have any further questions, we encourage you to contact directly the authorities concerned at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport:

Head of Heritage Policy  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
SW1A 2BQ London

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Thank you for your interest in the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

This communication copied to:

Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO  
National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for UNESCO  
National Focus Points for World Heritage

Yours sincerely

Kishore Rao

Director

The Culture Sector

World Heritage Centre

7. place de Fontenoy 75362 Paris 07 SP, France

**17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**RESPONSE from Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs**

CCU 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Nobel House

Smith Square

London SW1P 3JR

(t) 08459 335577

[helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Dear Convenor – Cornwall Branch Celtic League

**Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall**

Thank you for your letters of 21 November to the Secretary of State and George Eustice about Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall. I have been asked to reply.

The environmental stewardship scheme in Cornwall is run by natural England staff based in Truro. They worked very closely with local farmers, landowners, English Heritage, Cornwall Council and local groups to support the sensitive management of the Cornish historic environment through environmental stewardship.

Environmental stewardship supports nearly 200 farmers in managing and protecting 490 scheduled monuments in Cornwall. Of these, 79 were previously identified as being ‘at risk’ by English Heritage and their condition has been directly improved by the support provided through environmental stewardship. In addition, numerous unscheduled sites are also protected and managed through support provided by the environmental stewardship.

Natural England also manages a number of scheduled monuments on national nature reserves in Cornwall, for example the Lizard national nature reserve. Here a number of barrow sites and a medieval village are managed in conjunction with the Lizard Archaeological Network, which English Heritage and the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network are part of. They advise and approve any management works that are undertaken on these sites.

Regarding the long-running campaign on the Penwith Moors, Natural England meets regularly with the Save Penwith Moors group and Andrew George MP to discuss issues, respond to concerns and answer queries. The most recent meeting was in November. Natural England also facilitates the successful Penwith famers’ focus group to help and support local farmers in the management of this outstanding natural and historic environment. The most recent event was in December and focused on traditional management of the Penwith Moors.

In respect of Men-a-Tol, English Heritage has confirmed that the management carried out by the local farmer (and supported by environmental stewardship) will improve the condition of the scheduled monument. Cattle can be intimidating for some people, but this is a farmed landscape and Natural England is working with the famer to put in measures to help manage this. For example,

there are plans to create fire breaks with the aim of drawing cattle away from the stones. Cattle can be removed where ground conditions become difficult, for example during the winter and at other times advised by English Heritage.

If the Celtic League has further concerns about the management of the scheduled historic sites in Cornwall do please get in touch with English Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hill

Defra – Customer Contact Unit



**23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**KERNOW BRANCH CELTIC LEAGUE**

Crisis on Penwith Moors - KBCL letter to

Head of Heritage Policy

Department for Culture Media and Sport

100 Parliament Street

London SW1A 2BQ

Dear Sir

Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall

I am writing to you following various communications including with UNESCO whose Director of The Culture Sector, World Heritage Centre in Paris, Kishore Rao suggested we contact you.

The moors of Penwith in west Cornwall are an area to be cherished and treasured. With a history extending back thousands of years, the district contains many ancient sites of International note amongst them the Men an Tol and the Tregeseal Stone Circle. These sites are iconic and form a part of our world recognised Cornish heritage.

As an organisation, we are extremely concerned at the current management of the moors and ancient sites by English Heritage (EH) and Natural England (NE).

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However, in Cornwall, especially in Penwith, there are monument types that are not found elsewhere, and so the damage being allowed by English Heritage and Natural England has a greater impact than damage in other environments in Great Britain.

Cornwall's heritage is unique and this rare and precious heritage has a history of destruction by remote authorities usually administered from London.

English Heritage is now presiding over the most intensive destruction of Cornwall's unique heritage in a generation. For an agency that is supposed to protect our heritage to be actively engaged in destroying it demonstrates that English Heritage is not fit to protect Cornwall's heritage.

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Mr. Eustice's words could be easily applied to heritage and the environment throughout Cornwall.

We call for a formal enquiry into the mismanagement of Cornwall's heritage and environment by English Heritage and Natural England most particularly in Penwith.

We call for the establishment of a Cornwall only Heritage and Environment Organisation with local democratic accountability.

We add our support to the campaigning work of 'Save Penwith Moors' and 'Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network'.

We seek your earliest attentions to the contents of this letter whilst wishing to inform you that it together with our appeal will be circulated to all interested and relevant Westminster Departments and Agencies, to Cornwall's MPs and certain Cornwall Councillors, to our contacts outside Cornwall including at the United Nations and to the wider media.

Yours sincerely

Convenor

Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League

**30th DECEMBER, 2013**

Dear Kishore Rao

**Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall**

References:

A. Cornwall Branch Celtic League letter dated 21 November, 2013

B. Your letter dated 16 December, 2013 referenced CLT/WHC/7063/KM/PT

Thank you very much indeed for your kind response which I copy hereunder for ease of reference.

I have taken your advice and have written to the Head of Heritage Policy at the United Kingdom Government's Department for Media, Culture and Sport in London.

Taking up some points raised in your communication, I wonder if I may respectfully draw your attention to the map I have enclosed?

This has been obtained from the official record held by UNESCO and Cornwall Council and presumably other agencies and organisations and is in the public domain at this website reference 'Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape – St Just Mining District':

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents>

This shows the relevant World Heritage Site of West Penwith, Cornwall, Great Britain contained within the area lined in red. To the bottom left is a larger scale map showing how the delineated area fits within Cornwall itself.

The locations of Tregeseal Stone Circle (Ordnance Survey map GR SW 386323) and the Men-an-Tol (Ordnance Survey map GR SW 426349) are marked on the map.

You will note that contrary to the advice you have been supplied by the responsible authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, both sites which are the subject of our joint concerns are well within the World Heritage property.

The two prehistoric monuments in question were erected and used by the early inhabitants of the Penwith, Cornwall landscape in the Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age period perhaps 2,500 to 2,000 BCE, these being very peoples who initiated the extraction of copper and tin from the ground in this area. Both sites and indeed others have an absolute and intrinsic link with the mining heritage now recognised by UNESCO others. For the responsible authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to say any other is inaccurate.

Accordingly and with all due deference to your office, would it be possible to be informed of who the responsible authorities of the United Kingdom referred to in your correspondence are and further, whether it would be possible for you to supply photocopies of the correspondence between your office and the United Kingdom authorities?



In requesting such I assure you that I am writing on behalf of an organisation which along with our partners is utterly sincere and passionate in our shared desire to see the ancient sites given the best protection possible.

I await your response with thanks.

Yours sincerely

Michael J Chappell

Convenor Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League

**6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**RESPONSE from English Heritage South West - 6.1.2014**

Dear Convenor

**Management of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall**

Thank you for your letter on behalf of The Celtic League

The management of land under Higher Level Stewardship Schemes is carried out through a legal agreement between the landowner/manager and Natural England, on behalf of Defra.

English Heritage is a consultee on such schemes and advises Natural England on management proposals with reference to the historic environment. The use of grazing to improve biodiversity and to reveal and manage heritage assets is a frequently applied measure. We are generally supportive of such proposals, as they can assist in removing heritage assets from 'at risk' status and improve the public enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment feature. The management proposals also generate income for the local economy.

At Men an Tol our very experienced staff have monitored the site and we are content with the proposed management. Both people visiting and cattle can cause erosion of the turf and topsoil and this can look unsightly. However, as the ground around the stones has been repaired in the past and

the erosion refilled more than once, and part of the monument is set in concrete, we believe that the current level of erosion is not damaging any undisturbed archaeological deposits. Given the success of this sort of management at other sites, such as Lanyon Quoit, we believe that the opening up of the landscape from bracken infestation will provide wider benefits to the historic environment and a wider range for the grazing cattle, which will then spend less time in the vicinity of the monument. Under the HLS Agreement, the cattle are removed for the winter.

Regarding the management of Men an Tol by CASPN, English Heritage recognise that this has been carried out to a very high standard over the past three years, with some funding from an English Heritage Management Agreement. Funding constraints mean that we are unable to continue with this arrangement, however we would like to continue working with CASPN at this site by offering our technical expertise.

English Heritage is keenly aware of the issues facing Local Authority staffing for heritage and conservation. Whilst local authority budgets and spending are primarily matters for them, at every level we press the case for heritage in its own right and in the role it plays in sustainable economic development. The historic environment of Cornwall is particularly rich, and is known to generate income for the local economy, through the use of heritage skills and tourism.

I understand that English Heritage has had correspondence from ‘Save Penwith Moors’ over several years, and in some matters we have to agree to differ in our views. The assertion that English Heritage is “presiding over the most intense destruction of Cornwall’s unique heritage in a

generation” is, I think, incorrect. Neither can we agree that English Heritage “has lost all credibility in Cornwall”, however strongly some may feel about particular issues.

We have received several copies of your letter from a number of different people and I would be grateful if you would treat this as the response to all copies sent to English Heritage.

The South West Office in Bristol has teams that are devoted to our work in Cornwall in terms of grants for heritage assets, advice to owners and local authorities, and the care of sites in the UK Government’s Guardianship and ownership. The teams comprise staff based both in the office and also located in Cornwall, so they are fully aware of local Cornish issues. Indeed, the restoration of Trelil Holy Well at Helston, which I hope you will agree is a success story for Cornwall’s heritage, features on our website under the Heritage at Risk case studies.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Vines

Planning & Conservation Director SW

29 Queen Square

Bristol

BS1 4ND

Telephone 0117 975 0700 Facsimile 0117 975 0701

**15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**from Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE 15th January 2014**

Crisis on Penwith Moors - Response to KBCL letters sent to Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE Lord Lieutenant & land owner:

Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE – Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall - 15.01.2014  
Tregwainton

**16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**2nd RESPONSE from DEFRA 16th January 2014**

Crisis on Penwith Moors - Response from DEFRA on behalf of Government Ministers Lord de Mauley & Dan Rogerson MP. In essence identical to response from Secretary of State at DEFRA Paterson MP and Minister at DEFRA George Eustice MP:

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs – Ref. DWO333775/SH – 16.01.2014  
CCU 7th Floor, Nobel House  
Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Dear Convenor – Cornwall Branch Celtic League

Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall.

Thank you for your further letters of 11 January about Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall. I have been asked to reply.

I am sorry if it was not clear from my previous letter of 17 December, but the reply I sent to you covered all of your correspondence to Ministers.

Please find enclosed a copy of my reply for your information.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hill, Defra – Customer Contact Unit, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

**17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**RESPONSE from NATURAL ENGLAND 17th January 2014**

Vaughan Robbins – Natural England  
Natural England  
Pydar House  
Pyder Street  
Truro

Your correspondence dated 11 January 2014 in respect of correspondence dated 21st November 2013.

Thank you for your letter of 11th January addressed to Poul Christenson. The letter has been passed to me to respond on behalf of Natural England.

Natural England does not appear to have received the letter from you dated 21st November 2014 regarding alleged ‘Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall’.

However we are aware of a letter from you addressed to the DEFRA Minister George Eustice MP of that date and subject. We have provided our comments regarding that particular letter to the section dealing with Mr Eustace’s correspondence and we understand that DEFRA has sent a reply to you.

I hope that my letter provides a satisfactory response to your enquiry. If you would like to discuss any aspect further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely Vaughan Robbins

**RESPONSE from Cornwall Council Historic Environment**

Crisis on Penwith Moors - informative (!) response from Dr Alyson Cooper, Principal Historic Environment Officer, Cornwall Council to KBCL letters of 21.11.13 & 11.1.14.

Dear Convenor,

Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall.

Thank you for your recent correspondence of 11 January 2014 and also your earlier letter of 21 November 2013.

I do apologise that you did not receive an acknowledgement. I can confirm that the contents of both letters have been noted.

Yours sincerely

Dr Alyson Cooper

Principal Historic Environment Officer Cornwall Council



**21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2014**

**2nd RESPONSE from UNESCO, Paris. 21st January 2014**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

Subject: State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape.

Dear Convenor Mr Chappell,

The World Heritage Centre has received your letter dated 30 December 2013, by which you reiterated your concerns regarding the management of prehistoric ritual or ceremonial monuments in West Penwith and pointed out the location of Tregeseal and Man-an-Tol in relation to the World Heritage property of “Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape.”

As mentioned in my earlier correspondence, the World Heritage Centre is now consulting the responsible authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on any concerns raised regarding the state of conservation of World Heritage properties on the UK territory. We will therefore transmit your continuous concerns to the State Party for further comments.

We will also share your letter with the Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS International, for review regarding any potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

In the meantime, I encourage you to also maintain direct contact with the authorities concerned i.e. the Head of Heritage Policy at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Thank you for your interest in the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

This communication copied to:

Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO  
National Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for UNESCO  
National Focus Points for World Heritage  
ICOMOS

Yours sincerely Kishore Rao  
Director The Culture Sector World Heritage Centre, Paris

**3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

RESPONSE FROM SPM to DEFRA

Sarah Hill  
Defra Customer Contact Unit  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nobel House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

Dear Sarah Hill

I write in response to your reply [Ref. DWO329870/SH – 17.12.13] to the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League correspondence ‘Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall’ in which you mention Save Penwith Moors.

I must strongly dispute your assertion that “their [scheduled monuments] condition has been directly improved by the support provided through environmental stewardship”; you must surely agree that this statement is in direct contradiction to all the evidence so far assembled through photographs and video.

You seem to ‘back-up’ your statement by noting that English Heritage – to whom I am also writing – maintain that the condition of the Men-an-Tol will be improved through environmental stewardship. This is clearly not the case and this scheduled monument was, apart from occasional remedial work to repair a small degree of erosion caused by visitor pressure, in a perfectly good state before the current fiasco.

Save Penwith Moors have become accustomed to dogmatic responses from the various government agencies concerned that take no account of factual reality and I strongly suggest that you take a look at the two files on our web site (see below) detailing damage and degradation caused by cattle to scheduled ancient monuments in our area to get a realistic vision of what is actually happening on the ground.



You write that there are “plans to create fire breaks with the aim of drawing cattle away from the stones”, but I should point out that fire breaks and other wide tracks were cut out **before** any cattle were recently introduced onto this site, yet stock were still attracted to the monument (as they were at Tregeseal Stone Circle) and as far as I am aware cattle are not left on this croft during the winter months anyway.

You also write that “this is a farmed landscape” but this particular croft has to my knowledge – and I have lived within half a mile of the Men-an-Tol since 1980 and walked there several thousand times during that period – never been subjected to grazing in that time. It appears that grazing only takes place on these areas when it becomes financial attractive to do so – as now through Higher Level Stewardship – otherwise it is simply left to look after itself.

It is perfectly obvious to me that no lessons have been learnt by Natural England (or Defra) during the past five years when new grazing financial incentives have been introduced into West Penwith despite our having had numerous fruitless meetings.

I urge you to pass on our very serious and genuine concerns to the relevant ministers for a complete re-assessment of the current debacle.

[PLEASE NOTE: in the interests of openness and transparency this correspondence and any responses will be placed in the public domain.]

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Ian McNeil Cooke

Cc by email

Andrew George MP, CASPN, Kernow Branch Celtic League

**3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**RESPONSE FROM SPM TO English Heritage 3rd February 2014**

Andrew Vines  
English Heritage  
Planning & Conservation Director SW  
29 Queen Square  
Bristol  
BS1 4ND

Dear Mr Vines

I write in response to your reply dated 6 January 2014 to the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League correspondence ‘Mismanagement of Penwith Moors and ancient sites, Cornwall’ in which you mention Save Penwith Moors.

I am astonished that you can write – after all the evidence that has been presented – “we are content with the proposed management” of the Men-an-Tol, especially as I believe I am correct in saying, the site was visited by EH monitor(s) last November after cattle degradation of the site. If this was the case then I hardly consider the persons concerned to be “very experienced staff”, nor that they had an impartial and unbiased attitude. It is of course true that visitors do cause erosion over many months but – and you must surely agree with me – this is infinitesimal compared with that caused by a few cattle during only a few days which has had a far greater impact.

You mention the successful management of Lanyon Quoit but not the unsuccessful management of Tregeseal Circle on Carnyorth Common where unpaid volunteers from CASPN still have to regularly clear bracken and scrub from around the monument after five years of grazing stock. I would have thought it a far better option that significant funding for “the very high standard” of work done by CASPN was reinstated (through payments via Higher Level Stewardship?), rather than continue to support the use of cattle that have proved spectacularly unsuccessful in clearing sites of scrub and bracken under the very expensive fiasco of local Higher Level Stewardship.



You write that you are “generally supportive of such proposals [use of grazing]” to remove heritage assets from ‘at risk’ status and “improve public enjoyment...” But surely neither the Men-an-Tol nor Tregeseal Stone Circle have been classified as being ‘at risk’; neither can the churned up mud and large heaps of cattle dung around the monument and adjacent public footpaths be considered to improve

public enjoyment – indeed it might also be a public health hazard (many families take small children to this site as well as local school visits).

Save Penwith Moors have become accustomed to dogmatic responses from the various agencies concerned that take no account of factual reality. I strongly suggest that you take a look at the two files on our web site (see below) detailing damage and degradation caused by cattle to scheduled ancient monuments in our area in order to get a realistic vision of what is actually happening on the ground.

It is perfectly obvious to me that no lessons have been learnt by English Heritage during the past five years since new grazing financial incentives were introduced into West Penwith, and I urge English Heritage to reconsider their unconditional support of grazing on and around both scheduled and unscheduled ancient sites in West Penwith – after all I am sure there are other less sensitive areas where grazing can take place.

We ask you to address our very serious and genuine concerns for a complete re-assessment of the current debacle.

[PLEASE NOTE: in the interests of openness and transparency this correspondence and any responses will be placed in the public domain.]

Thank you, Yours sincerely

Ian McNeil Cooke

Cc by email: Andrew George MP, CASPN, Kernow Branch Celtic League



**20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**Ed Vaizey MP Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries**

Department for Culture Media & Sport  
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

Dear Convener

Thank you for your letter of 23 December to the Department, about Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall. I am replying as the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, and apologise for the delay in responding.

I understand that the management of land under Higher Level Stewardship Schemes is carried out through a legal agreement between the landowner/manager and Natural England, on behalf of Defra. English Heritage is a consultee on such schemes and advises Natural England on management proposals with reference to the historic environment. The use of grazing to improve biodiversity and to reveal and manage heritage assets is a frequently applied measure. I have contacted English Heritage on your behalf, which is generally supportive of such proposals, as they

can assist in removing heritage assets from 'at risk' status and improve the public enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment feature. The management proposals also generate income for the local economy.

At Men an Tol very experienced staff have monitored the site and English Heritage is content with the proposed management. Both people visiting and cattle can cause erosion of the turf and topsoil and this can look unsightly. However, as the ground around the stones has been repaired in the past and the erosion refilled more than once, and part of the monument is set in concrete, English Heritage believes that the current level of erosion is not damaging any undisturbed archaeological deposits. Given the success of this sort of management at other sites, such as Lanyon Quoit, they believe that the opening up of the landscape from bracken infestation will provide wider benefits to the historic environment and a wider range for the grazing cattle, which will then spend less time in the vicinity of the monument. Under the HLS Agreement, the cattle are removed for the winter.

Regarding the management of Men an Tol by CASPN, English Heritage recognises that this has been carried out to a very high standard over the past three years, with some funding from an English Heritage Management Agreement. Funding constraints mean that they are unable to continue with this arrangement. However they would like to continue working with CASPN at this site by offering technical expertise.

English Heritage is keenly aware of the issues facing Local Authority staffing for heritage and conservation. Whilst local authority budgets and spending are primarily matters for them, at every

level English Heritage presses the case for heritage in its own right and in the role it plays in sustainable economic development. The historic environment of Cornwall is particularly rich, and is known to generate income for the local economy, through the use of heritage skills and tourism.

I understand that English Heritage has had correspondence from Save Penwith Moors over several years, and in some matters they have to agree to differ in their views. The assertion that English Heritage is 'presiding over the most intensive destruction of Cornwall's unique heritage in a generation' is, I think, incorrect. Neither can we agree that English Heritage 'has lost all credibility in Cornwall', however strongly some may feel about particular issues.

The South West Office of English Heritage, in Bristol, has teams that are devoted to work in Cornwall, in terms of grants for heritage assets, advice to owners and local authorities, and in the care of sites in the UK Government's Guardianship and ownership. The teams comprise staff based both in the office and also located in Cornwall, so they are fully aware of local Cornish issues.

Ed Vaizey MP

Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries

Approved to be the Minister's Private Secretary in his absence.

26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

CCU 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nobel House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

T 08459 335577  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

Mr Ian McNeil Cooke  
Men-an-Tol Studio  
Bosulow  
Penzance  
TR20 8NR

Our ref: DW0336241/SH

26 February 2014

Dear Mr McNeil Cooke,

**Penwith Moors and ancient sites in Cornwall**

Thank you for your further letter of 3 February in response to mine of 17 December.

I am afraid that there is nothing I can usefully add to our previous correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hill  
Defra - Customer Contact Unit



10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH WEST

Mr I McNeil Cooke  
Co-ordinator Save Penwith Moors  
Men-an-Tol Studio  
Bosulow  
PENZANCE  
Cornwall  
TR20 8NR

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Mr McNeil Cooke

Thank you for your letter, received on 5 February, in response to mine to the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League.

I believe that our response, and previous responses to yourself and other members of the Save Penwith Moors group, have made it clear that we consider the HLS scheme to be appropriate in its approach to the management of the moors, in particular to help clear scrub and bracken from historic landscapes and sites at risk of damage by root action, burrowing animals and concealment in undergrowth.

We have acknowledged that the erosion of ground around monuments can be unsightly, but would repeat that we do not believe that the erosion at Men an Tol is disturbing intact archaeological deposits. Users of the countryside may expect to encounter livestock in the countryside and, for their own comfort, usually dress appropriately to deal with mud or dung.

The views of our staff are based on professional experience and, though others may disagree, we believe them to be objective. We continue to monitor scheduled monuments and should conditions arise that we consider to be damaging, whether by human or animal activity, we will take action.

The repetitive nature of this correspondence and the efforts and considerable amount of staff time taken up in recent years seeking to explain our role suggests that we will have to disagree on this matter.

As a public body English Heritage has a responsibility to use its increasingly scarce resources in the most efficient way, and my staff cannot continue this very time consuming correspondence. Whatever you may believe, English Heritage staff have tried to be



29 QUEEN SQUARE BRISTOL BS1 4ND  
Telephone 0117 975 0700 Facsimile 0117 975 0701  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

PTO

constructive in their dealings with you, in explaining our position and assuring you that we are monitoring the condition of the relevant monuments.

I now believe there is nothing more we can do to help you and, whilst we will monitor the sites, we will not answer further correspondence on the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Vines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Andrew Vines  
Planning & Conservation Director SW

## MARCH 2014

Letter sent to all of Cornwall's MPs by the Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League in answer to English Heritage response of 10 March.

AN KESUNYANS KELTEK – SCOREN KERNEWEK

CORNWALL BRANCH OF THE CELTIC LEAGUE

A National Branch of the Celtic League which has roster consultative status at the United Nations

Convenor – Cornwall Branch Celtic League w. [www.celticleague.net](http://www.celticleague.net)

Dear

ENGLISH HERITAGE - PENWITH MOORS

I write on behalf of the Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League which has members and followers in every Westminster Parliamentary Constituency in Cornwall and beyond.

I refer to a letter dated 10 March, 2014 sent to the grassroots campaigning organisation Save Penwith Moors (SPM) which now has in excess of 700 members signed by Andrew Vines, Planning and Conservation Director South West, English Heritage 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND and which responds to questions concerning the ongoing mismanagement of Penwith Moors by English Heritage and Natural England.

Our organisation supports wholeheartedly the work of Save Penwith Moors recognising that it enjoys a groundswell of democratic public support and that it operates in a fully transparent manner.

The final paragraph of Andrew Vines' letter has caused utter astonishment not only to the membership of SPM but also of other organisations including the Celtic League.

I quote: 'I now believe there is nothing more we can do to help you and, whilst we will continue to monitor the sites, we will not answer further correspondence on the matter.'

That this has been written by the representative of a publicly funded Non-Departmental Public Body is both disgraceful and unacceptable in a democracy. English Heritage and their associated NDPB, Natural England appear to be out of control.

We question English Heritage's stance on this matter, call for an immediate apology from them and an investigation into their working practices. We further believe that heritage and environmental management should be subject of democratic accountability at Cornwall Council level.

Will you support this call please?

Gans oll an gwella / with very best wishes

Michael J. Chappell

Convener

Cornwall Branch Celtic League



**16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014**

**KBCL NEWS ARTICLE 16th MARCH 2014**

KBCL (Mike C) has sent variations of the article below to many publications. To those which are political such as Private Eye, The Big Issue and Comment Is Free - the Guardian of London and others one version. To those Pagan magazines that he writes for, the version below.

**English Heritage and the Cornish dilemma - a quango utterly out of control?**

**Pagan Community increasingly concerned at treatment of ancient sites!**

What is a 'QUANGO'? It's a term we hear so much of these days. Well, the word is actually the shortened form of 'quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation' – an organisation which often holds great power and which is run at the taxpayers' expense and which are officially known as a 'non-departmental public body' - NDPB.

There are many of these 'quangos' in existence in the British Isles , currently over 700 and between them all, they



exercise considerable influence over the lives of millions at a cost to the public purse of billions of pounds.

The euphemistically named English Heritage is one such quango or NDBP and administers hundreds of historic sites, many of which are anything but 'English'.

English Heritage is actually sponsored by and is currently an executive agency of the Westminster Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport and has been in existence since 1983 when it took over direct functions from the then Department of the Environment and before that, the Ministry of Works.

Not only is English Heritage paid for by the taxpayer but it also draws down grant funding and adds to its income from charging admission prices, catering sales, by operating a public membership scheme and so on. Members who join and who currently pay £48 a year have no voting rights and are unable to influence the organisation. The organisation's income is currently estimated to be in excess of £180 million from all sources.

Run by a 17 strong board known as the 'Commission' normally made up of titled individuals, during the summer of 2013, the Government announced plans to change the status of English Heritage transforming it into a self-financing charity.

A strangely Anglo-centric organisation with a politically devious and imperialist agenda, English Heritage which has no authority to act in Scotland or Wales these countries having their own heritage organisations, has never been popular in Cornwall and record exists of numerous documented examples of complete indifference, even wilful negligence, shown to Cornish heritage by English Heritage.

English Heritage works closely with another NDBP, 'Natural England' which also has its own agenda.

Back in 1999 there was much controversy regarding sites in Cornwall under the care of the quango. The Cornish Stannary Parliament wrote to English Heritage asking them to remove all signs bearing their name from sites in Cornwall by July 1999 as they regard the ancient sites as Cornish heritage and not English.

Historically, this is a true fact as many of the sites in Cornwall were constructed by the ancient peoples before England or English people existed.

Over eleven months members of the Cornish Stannary removed 18 signs and a letter was sent to English Heritage informing them that 'the signs have been confiscated and held as evidence of English cultural aggression in Cornwall. Such racially motivated signs are deeply offensive and cause distress to many Cornish people.' This claim was widely supported in Cornwall.

On 18 January 2002, at Truro Crown Court in Cornwall and after the prosecution successfully applied for a Public Immunity Certificate to suppress defence evidence three members of the group agreed to return the signs and pay £4,500 in compensation to English Heritage and to be bound over to keep the peace. In return, the prosecution dropped charges of conspiracy to cause criminal damage and no individual was convicted. This rather bizarre course of action by the Crown Prosecution Service normally used in cases involving national security was widely believed to have been taken at the direction of Prince Charles Windsor, Duke of Cornwall, who has powers to intervene in any matter in protection of his interests and who is the owner of several English Heritage managed sites in Cornwall, which generate revenue.

In 2011 the Tory MP for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle, George Eustice stated in an article published in local newspapers that Cornish heritage 'is not English' and that there is 'a growing feeling that Cornwall should have its own heritage organisation, taking over from English Heritage' He suggested that English Heritage be replaced 'with a Cornish Heritage group, just like they have for instance in Wales and Scotland.'

George Eustice, now the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment, Water and Rural Affairs, has never repeated this statement and as he is now a Minister, is increasingly likely to toe the party line.

However, his words will not be forgotten and were warmly received.

Much evidence now exists of mismanagement of ancient and historic sites in Cornwall by English Heritage.

This evidence has been gathered in the main by 'Save Penwith Moors' – SPM – a mass membership protest organisation which now has literally hundreds of members and which is democratically and transparently run by local people in the far west of Cornwall, many of whom have a background of expertise in the fields of environment, archaeology and history.

Prehistoric and other historical sites have been subject of appalling abuse by English Heritage working in close conjunction with Natural England.

This abuse has been photographed and filmed by many members of Save Penwith Moors and others who have expressed concern that the quangos have licensed cattle not indigenous to the area to graze and

roam the moors and to knock against the many standing stones, stone circles and other unique sites which are spread across this part of Cornwall. Some of the sites have been reduced to little more than slurry pits and individuals visiting them, both local residents and tourists, have reported being chased off by livestock. Previously open areas of moor land have been fenced in with barbed wire and unnecessary cattle grids and gates installed.



The membership of another voluntary local organisation, the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network – CASPN – has worked to repair the damage being caused and is committed to preserve these unique and beautiful places. However, although English Heritage is able to offer grant aid, it has declined to financially assist CASPN any further.

The Cornwall Branch of the Celtic League, another membership organisation formed of Committee and subscribing members and a Branch of the Celtic League and which has thousands of followers decided to join forces with SPM and the CASPN to highlight the enormous shortcomings by English Heritage and Natural England.

Many active pagans have joined the various groups and organisations having been alarmed at the state of many of the ancient sites at the hands of the quangos. Naturally, the ancient sites, some of which are in excess of 5,000 years old, are held as special sites by many following the various pagan paths and for sure, certain closeness to the old ones is felt by many in these places.

Between them, the three organisations, of which the Celtic League is a recognised Non Governmental Organisation – NGO – with roster consultative status at the United Nations, have written to dozens of individuals,

politicians at all levels, Government departments, the quangos themselves and now to the United Nations expressing concern at the very obvious damage being caused.

The affair has thus far been one of lies and deceit on the part of the quangos and inaction by elected representatives. A letter received back from UNESCO in Paris indicated that they had been informed by the Westminster authorities that the ancient sites did not even fall within the World Heritage designated area. This was instantly disproved by SPM and the Celtic League who responded to UNESCO accordingly with detailed UN approved maps. UNESCO is now promising an inquiry.





Meanwhile, members of SPM have been harassed by the authorities and accused of damaging fencing erected by the quangos on the open moorland, something which is quite simply not true. Campaigners from all organisations have in the recent past been subject of dirty tricks campaigns and so, in order to combat this make all the material freely available on various websites.

In the latest turn of events, English Heritage has declined to answer any more written correspondence from the concerned organisations. This means that there is now no democratic accountability on the part of English Heritage which continues to act in contravention of the wishes of thousands of people in Cornwall.

That a quango can operate in such a manner and at public expense is astonishing. That said, there is no sign that the campaigners will back down. Indeed, the more obtuse English Heritage and their partners Natural England are, the more stubborn the campaigners become.

As a practising pagan myself, I have both visited the sites and seen the many photographs available and am more than concerned that enormous wrong is being done here.

Pagans have long been at the forefront of campaigns to protect the earth mother and the ancient sites and ways. One need only look at the current 'fracking' disputes for proof of that. Pagan folk are both leading and actively participating in the demonstrations to stop this irreparable damage being caused to the land.

I believe that we, as people who believe in respect for our ancient sites which are, for so many of us, places for peaceful worship now need to make our voices heard in order to protect these lone menhirs, stone circles and men-an-tols.

The photographs speak volumes. I encourage all those who feel strongly about this to communicate their concerns using the clear evidence contained in the pictures to English Heritage.

Please join me and write to:

English Heritage

29 Queen Square

Bristol BS1 4ND



**26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014**

**Response from Mr Weatherhill to EH letter dated 10 March 2014**

Dear Mr Vines,

I have had sight of your letter to Ian McNeil Cooke, dated 10th March 2014, and note your final line: "We will not answer further correspondence on the matter". Quite frankly, I am appalled by this attitude, which is not to be expected from a body which is accountable to the general public.

You may not be aware that the organisation represented by Mr McNeil Cooke, Save Penwith Moors (SPM), consists of some 700 members, most of whom are intimately acquainted with the Penwith Moors, with many possessing considerable and diverse knowledge and experience of that area; from its archaeology and history, to its natural habitat, including wild-life management and conservation. This deep local knowledge and expertise, accrued over decades, far exceeds any held by officials of 'English' Heritage (EH), or Natural 'England' (NE), yet continues to be held in contempt and disregard by both organisations. SPM and its aims are also fully supported by the Celtic League, with whom you have also received communication, and which has the full recognition of the United Nations.

By what authority does an employee of an agency financed by public funding refuse communication with properly concerned members of that public? The concerns which have been put to you are neither vexatious nor frivolous, but of an extremely serious nature. I put it to you that, if you find the content of

that communication "repetitive", then it is only continual inaction, intransigence and disinterest on the part of EH that can account for it.

Your letter asserts that officers of your organisation regularly monitor the scheduled sites and monuments of West Penwith. I assert that they do no such thing. Since May 2009, no less than 15 separate incidents of damage to scheduled monuments in this area, directly caused by the imposition of grazing regimes and totally unsuitable breeds of grazing stock insisted upon by your sister quango, NE, have occurred. None of these incidents were detected by EH staff. All were discovered by members of the public and, through SPM, reported to your organisation which, in every case, responded tardily and apparently with considerable reluctance.

You also state that, with regard to the HLS scheme in West Penwith: "we consider the HLS scheme to be appropriate to the management of the moors, in particular to help clear scrub and bracken from historic landscapes and sites at risk of damage by root action, burrowing animals, and concealment in undergrowth". It is impossible to assess how you reach that conclusion without the same intimate knowledge of this landscape as that possessed by members of SPM and the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN). In fact, none of that statement's assertions have been borne out by five years of grazing on Carnyorth Common. The historic sites are kept clear of scrub and bracken only by a programme of hand clearance regularly carried out by the volunteers of CASPN. That the actions of "burrowing animals" are affected in any way by a grazing regime appears to derive from sheer fantasy and is, quite frankly, a ludicrous assertion.

On what basis do you claim that archaeological deposits at the Men-an-Tol are not being disturbed by the deep poaching caused by recent cattle activity in a prolonged period of wet weather? Are you merely thinking about the presently scheduled area, which only covers the most obvious group of stones, or the entire 18-metre diameter area of the former stone circle, discovered in 1992, of which those stones were part? The majority of this stone circle, shockingly, remains unscheduled (of which, see further details below). This assertion very much resembles that which was voiced by your organisation after damage done to a scheduled barrow on Woon Gumpus Common in 1999. In that case, EH stated that only top layers of modern dumping had been disturbed, utterly ignoring the reliable testimony of a experienced archaeologist who well knew the difference between the layers of dumping, and those of the archaeology beneath.

The track record of EH in Cornwall, since its inception in 1984 has, quite frankly, been a disgrace. A comprehensive dossier on this record has been compiled over those years. This includes, among many items, EH's total inaction over the disastrous Cadbury's Creme Egg Hunt in 1984, which seriously damaged more than 30 ancient sites in Cornwall, its appalling treatment of the Chysauster fogou in 1989 ("It's not as if it's Stonehenge, is it?" - Lord Montagu, then Chairman of EH, to Penwith District Council), and the present disgraceful treatment of scheduled sites by your fellow quango, NE.

EH has yet to explain its conduct in covertly suspending all scheduling on the Penwith Moors at the inception of the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme in 1987 (that scheduling has never been resumed) or its deliberately untruthful assurances to the then Penwith District Council from the following year that a new and extended scheduling programme was under way and due for completion within 5 years. This wilful untruth was repeated to the Council by EH and its agents in Truro for several years

afterwards. The truth of the suspended scheduling in 1987 only came to light by way of a report written by the Historic Environment Service in Truro in 2008. None of this is hearsay, Mr Vine, as I was the Conservation Officer of Penwith District Council to whom your organisation made those "assurances" in written form.

I await your written assurance that communication with SPM, the Kernow Branch of the Celtic League (KBCL) and concerned members of the public about damage to the sites and monuments of West Penwith will be resumed, without conditions, forthwith, and that those concerns be addressed with the seriousness and urgency they merit. Your "increasingly scarce resources" do not interest any of us, and should not be held up as an excuse for non-action and avoidance of responsibility. Members of the public, of SPM, CASPN and KBCL, also have little or no resources at their disposal, but none would ever permit that to inhibit their genuine and active care for a unique landscape, which merits considerably more than lame excuses for negligence.

Should that assurance not be forthcoming within 21 days, you will leave me little choice other than initiate a programme of intensive lobbying for a Public Inquiry into the conduct of both 'English' Heritage and Natural 'England' in Cornwall and, in particular, West Cornwall. You will doubtless be aware of publicised dissatisfaction with the actions of both quangos by politicians such as George Eustice MP, Ian Liddell Grainger MP, and senior journalists such as George Monbiot.

I await your response.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Weatherhill, Author, archaeologist, historian.