



Kynance Gate Prehistoric Settlement Management Plan

A Monumental Improvement Project

Cornwall National Landscape

September 2025



Cornwall
National
Landscape



A Monumental Improvement Project:

The Monumental Improvement Project was delivered by Cornwall National Landscape between 2022-2025 and sought to ensure that 40 at risk and vulnerable Scheduled Monuments, spanning 6000 years of Cornish history, were better identified, supported and enjoyed by a wide range of people.

The Project was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), Cornwall Council, Historic England, National Trust, Cornwall National Landscape (including Farming in Protected Landscapes Funding), Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall National Landscape Trust.

The Project was supported by a Partnership Board, made up of representatives from Cornwall National Landscape, Historic England, Cornwall Archaeology Society, Cornwall Heritage Trust, National Trust and Cornwall Council.

A Lasting Legacy:

The Purpose of this document is to provide advice and guidance on the future management of Kynance Gate Prehistoric Settlement. This management plan has been put together by the Monumental Improvement project and informed by the Partnership Board.

This document references the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites*, designed to be used by landowners and volunteer groups in carrying out ongoing monitoring and maintenance, including a methodology approved by Historic England, ecological considerations, statutory designations, a reporting framework and risk assessment.

The Toolkit and resources including archaeological, ecological and management information, can be found on the site-specific webpages on the Cornwall National Landscape website.



Kynance Gate

Management Plan

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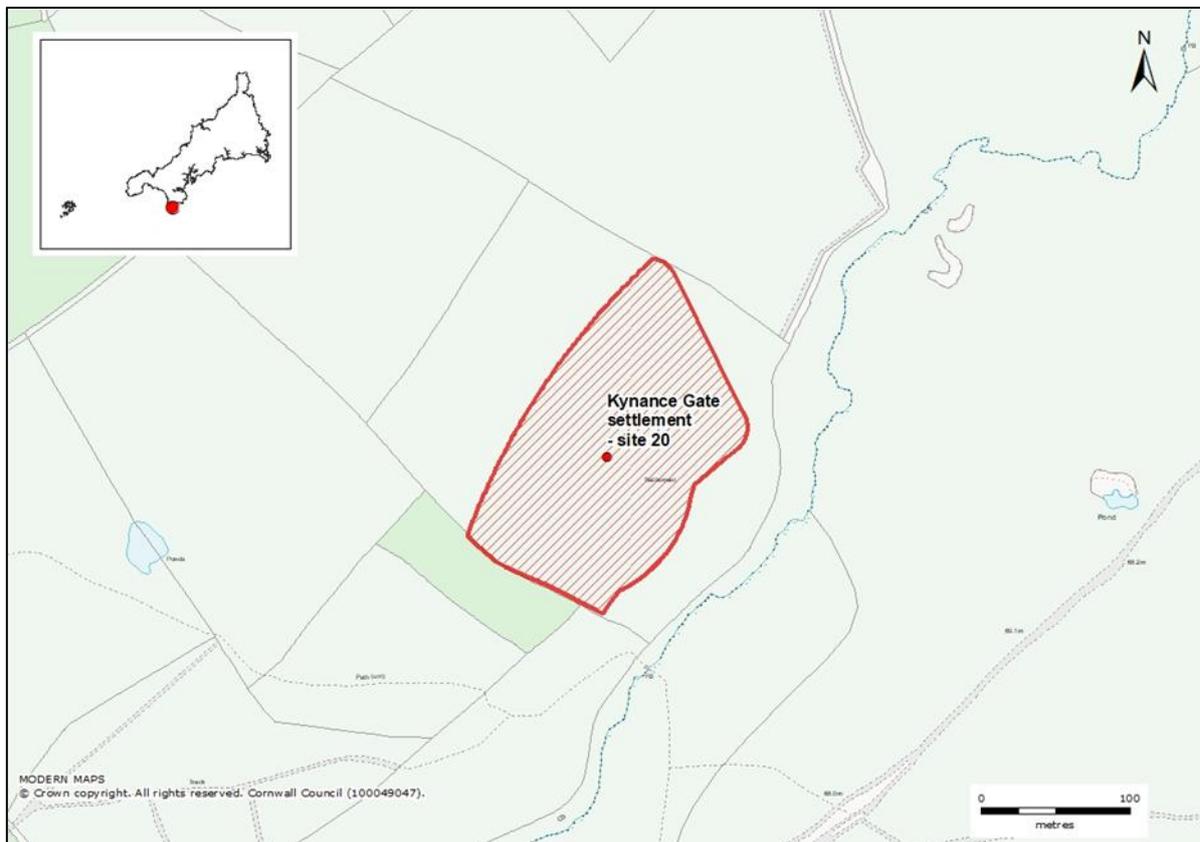
Site Overview

(Use this information when completing HER Monument Monitoring and Recording form)

Site Name:	Kynance Gate
Scheduled Monument Number:	1004432
Site Type:	Settlement
Site Grid Reference:	SW 68681 13896
Site W3W:	sheepish.packets.weekday
Site Postcode:	TR12 7PJ

Details:

The monument includes a stone hut circle settlement with an associated irregular aggregate field system, situated on the edge of an open moorland plateau around a rocky spur on the north western side of the steep valley leading to Kynance Cove.



Designations

HE Designations: [Scheduled Monument, 935m southeast of Kynance Farm](#)

NE Designations: [SSSI- West Lizard, SAC – The Lizard](#)

Other Designations: [Cornwall National Landscape – Section 08 – South Coast Western](#)

Site Status on HAR register: The site is listed as vulnerable on Historic England's HAR database.

Link to CIOSHER web page for this site:

https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=8&xcoord=168594&ycoord=13799&wsName=CIOS_historic_environment&layerName=Buildings,%20Sites%20and%20Monuments%20-%20points:Scheduled%20Monuments

Link to Historic England's webpage for this site:

[Stone hut circle settlement with irregular aggregate field system at Kynance Gate, 935m south east of Kynance Farm, Mullion - 1004432 | Historic England](#)

Link and QR code to Cornwall National Landscape webpage for this site:

<https://cornwall-landscape.org/monument/kynance-gate/>



Visiting & Contacts

Landowner (s): **Natural England** (car park is National Trust)
Contact Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Site Specifics

Nearest Volunteer Tool Hub & Contact: **Meneage Archaeology Group, Boden.**

Relevant Volunteer Organisation: **Meneage Archaeology Group**

Contact: info@meneagearchaeologygroup.org

Tool Use: **Cool burns, hand tools (see image below).**

Parking for site: Park considerably and carefully in Kynance Cove **National Trust Car Park** see **X** in map below. NT members park for free (scan card at machine) **NGR: SW 6884 613213 W3W: loops.sling.pursue**



Monumental Improvement Interventions

Site priorities identified during Monumental Improvement Development Stage:

Priority	Project year	Action
Longer term	3 (post project)	Regular programme of volunteer vegetation clearance in September/October (CAS, MAG).

Vegetation management	Interpretation	Survey & Monitoring
To be carried out by CAS or MAG in September/October to avoid both bird nesting and reptile hibernation seasons.	Landowner to check and report to Cornwall National Landscape on any issues	Monitor erosion repairs and vegetation growth. Monument Watch monitoring through CAS or MAG.

Threats Identified at Kynance Gate:

- The principal threat to the site is scrub growth, mainly gorse and bramble across the monument which obscure the rocky outcrop and hut circles.
- Livestock erosion by grazing cattle and horses. This threat has been addressed through Natural England’s management plan and the conservation works undertaken by the Monumental Improvement Project.

Interventions during Monumental Improvement Delivery Stage:

- A condition survey by Cornwall Archaeological Unit in 2021.
- An ecological survey by Woodfeild Ecology in 2021.
- A vegetation management plan developed between the project and the NE team.
- Conservation repair works carried out in September 2024 to the southern settlement and a new stock-proof gate installed.
- New onsite Interpretation panel with QR code raising the profile of the monument including way markers from the National Trust Car Park to the site.

- Historic England recognition of the improved condition of the monument.
- Relevant Volunteer Organisation engaged to assist in the future management of the site as part of the MI legacy.

Assets created during Monumental Improvement Delivery Stage:

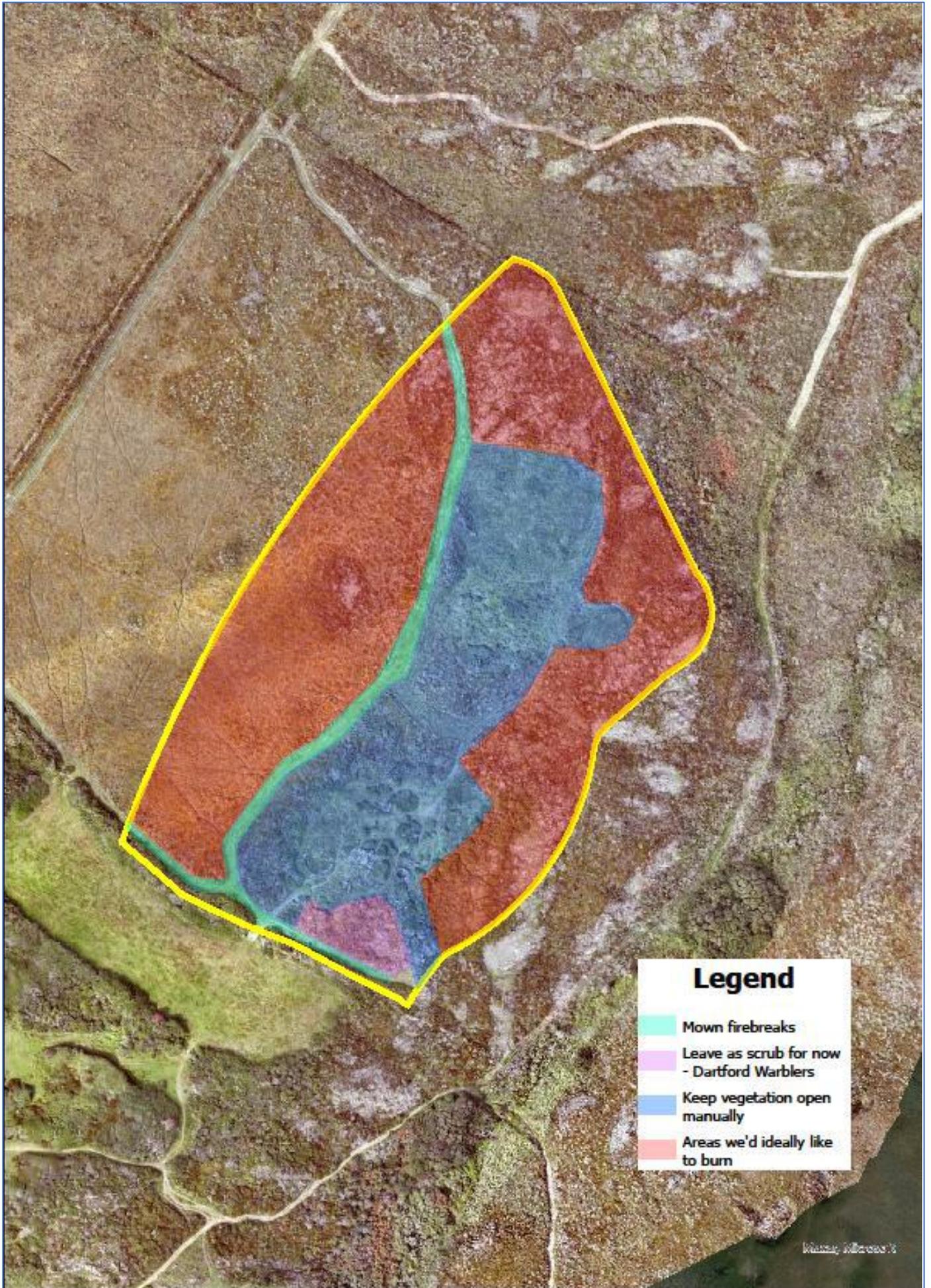
- New site-specific webpage hosted on the Cornwall National Landscape website.
- New digital interpretation including a site overview, ecological information, surveys and reports.
- New on-site physical interpretation with a QR code for more information on the Cornwall National Landscape website.
- Drone aerial photography of the site.
- Ground Photography of the site, its condition and features.
- Summary report of conservation repair and archaeological investigation.
- The Lizard field club excavation notes relevant to the site have been digitised where possible.
- A photographic record of the finds from historical excavation has been created and can be seen at the Cornwall National Landscape website.
- Creation of the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites* to assist in the future management of the site.

Management & Maintenance Recommendations:

Ongoing Site Management Recommendations:

- *Relevant Volunteer Organisation*, such as CAS or MAG, to carry out periodic monitoring visits to the site focussing on the following threats to the site.
 - Areas of erosion, particularly around the interpretation panel or through the main path to the site from the gate.
 - The level of vegetation around the site, especially whether the settlement is becoming obscured.
 - The condition of the interpretation.
 - The condition of the fencing.
 - The presence of large livestock e.g. horses or cows.
 - The presence and condition of the rare Golden Hair Lichen (*Teloschistes flavicans*).

- In collaboration with the landowner, the Relevant Volunteer Organisation should aim to hold two hand tools vegetation clearance events per year, focussing on the southern group and keeping the site accessible to the public. The below graphic produced by Natural England shows the areas targeted for 'cool burning' in red, and hand tools (manual) clearance in blue.
- This methodology has been approved by Historic England for managing vegetation at this site.
NB: The purple area of scrub can be cleared once Natural England confirm the area is no longer suitable for Dartford Warblers, who prefer to nest in low gorse and will vacate once the gorse matures.



Legend

- Mown firebreaks
- Leave as scrub for now - Dartford Warblers
- Keep vegetation open manually
- Areas we'd ideally like to burn

Putting recommendations into practice:

- Please refer to the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites* for a best-practice guide to carrying out scrub clearance and monitoring work at heritage sites.
- All site work must be accompanied by a **Risk Assessment** covering all attendees and activities.
- A record of work should be made and a copy sent to the secretary of the Relevant Volunteer Organisations: e.g. Cornwall Archaeological Society, Historic England and Historic Environment Record (HER). You can find a template for your records and a link to the HER online form in the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites*.

Future Opportunities:

- Opportunity to increase interpretation through the Cornwall National Landscape website.
- Opportunity for significant scrub clearance of the northern group, informed by the CAU 2023 survey. This would require significant support and collaboration between landowner and volunteer groups and may include further agreement on the use of cool burns with the landowner Natural England and Historic England.
- A research project into the archive for Kynance Gate, bringing together the history of excavation at the site and increased understanding of the 1950-1960's excavation and tracking down the finds.
- Guided walks with local experts, e.g. Museum of Cornish Life, Meneage Archaeology Group and other archaeologists who have worked on the Lizard.
- The Museum of Cornish Life in Helston is running a project headed by archaeologist Charlie Johns "Interpreting the past – Kynance Gate Ancient Settlement Project" which aims to address a long-standing gap in the public record by publishing the excavation results and making them freely accessible.
- If the interpretation is damaged, the proofs are to be kept on file by Parc Signs and Cornwall National Landscape for re-printing.

Vegetation/scrub clearance methodology:

Please refer to the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites* for a best-practice guide to carrying out scrub clearance and monitoring work at heritage sites.

Ecology Overview

Taken from: ECOLOGY BRIEFING NOTE – SITE 20 KYNANCE GATE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT. Commissioned by the Monumental Improvement Project in 2021

The full Report is available to download on the Cornwall National Landscape website and includes details on types of work likely affect the following species, a calendar for helping to plan work at the monument, and opportunities for ecological enhancement of the site.

Key species at this site:

Birds	Reptiles	Amhibians	Plants	Invertabrates
Black Redstart Cornish Chough Dartford Warbler Eurasian Dotterel Eurasian Wryneck European Bee-eater Honey Buzzard Firecrest Goshawk Hoopoe Merlin Peregrine Red-backed Shrike Snowy Bunting Little Plover Skylark Meadow pipit	Common Lizard Adder Slow-worm (High suitability around monument)	Common Toad	Chamomile Pale Heath-violet Three-lobed Crowfoot Yellow Centaury Autumnal Squill Chives <i>Allium</i> Fringed Rupturewort Cliff Dyer's Greenweed Cornish Heath Dwarf Land Quillwort Spring Sandwort Thyme Broomrape Western Clover Great Fen-sedge Dodder and Dropwort.	Small Heath Butterfly

Other Plants	Fungi	Lichen	Moss
38 nationally notable plants (including 9 SPIs) 27 locally notable plant species	7 nationally notable fungi 1 locally notable species	Golden Hair-lichen Southern Grey & Physcia lichen (both legally protected) PLUS 48 nationally notable lichen species	5 nationally notable moss species 2 locally notable species

1. FURTHER SURVEY AND MITIGATION CALENDAR

FURTHER SURVEYS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lichen survey	Targeted lichen survey within areas of proposed trenching works.												
MITIGATION		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Breeding Birds	Avoid vegetation removal during the main nesting period, or for individual shrubs, undertake a pre-clearance check (by trained volunteer) for nesting birds												
Reptiles	Avoid excavation / earthworks during the hibernation period												
KEY:													
Optimal Periods for Survey													
Periods when certain types of activity within suitable habitat for this species should be avoided or be subject to specific controls													

Enhancement Opportunities

Feature	Enhancement	Benefit
Reptiles	Create brush piles (to a maximum of c. 0.75m high and 2m across) from scrub clearance arisings.	Provides refuges and basking opportunities for reptiles.
Breeding birds, Invertebrates & Flora	Through consultation with NE and with ecological input, draw up a concise integrated archaeological and ecological scrub management strategy.	Prevent overdominance of scrub and Bracken in favour of a mosaic with more extensive areas of heath, grassland and open habitats.
	Clear scrub from areas leaving scalloped / complex edges rather than straight lines. Maintain scrub edges as an ecotone (by varying scrub removal frequency) from tall continuous scrub to short / scattered scrub to grassland & heath.	Provides different light environments and edge habitats for plants and breeding birds, and microclimate and structural diversity for invertebrates.

Archaeological Overview



Fig 1. J.Gossip CAU 2024 survey of roundhouses at Kynance Gate

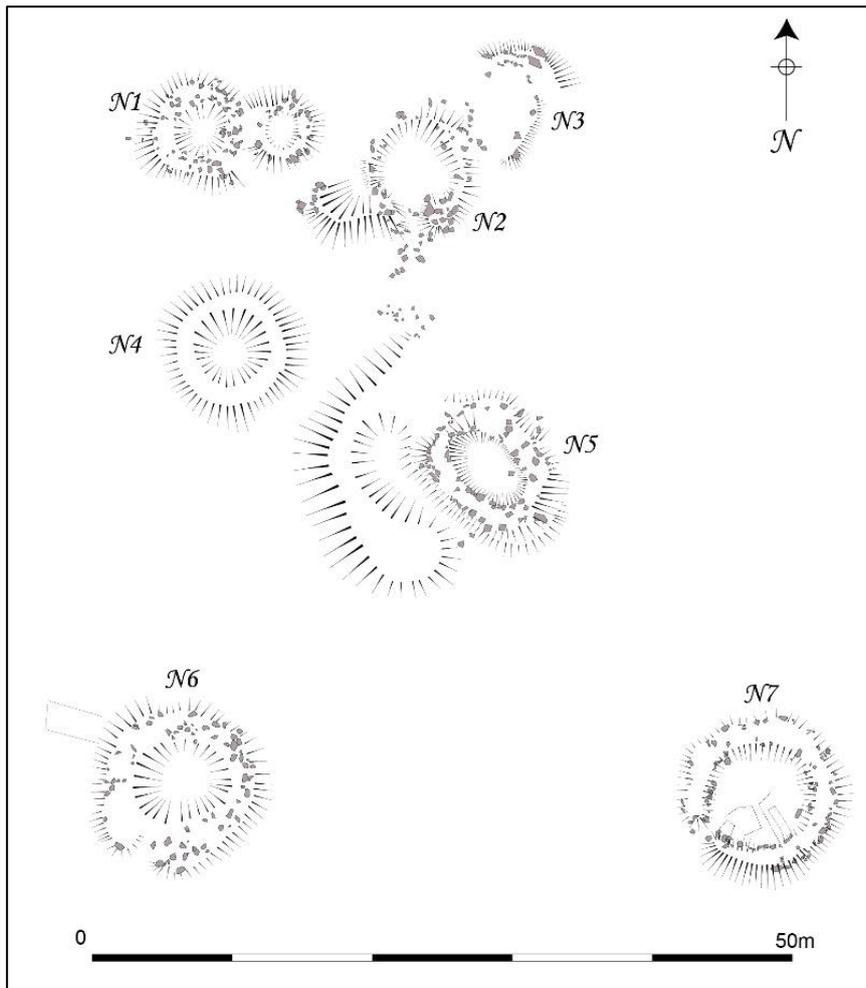


Fig 2. J.Gossip CAU 2024 survey of the northern group of roundhouses at Kynance Gate.

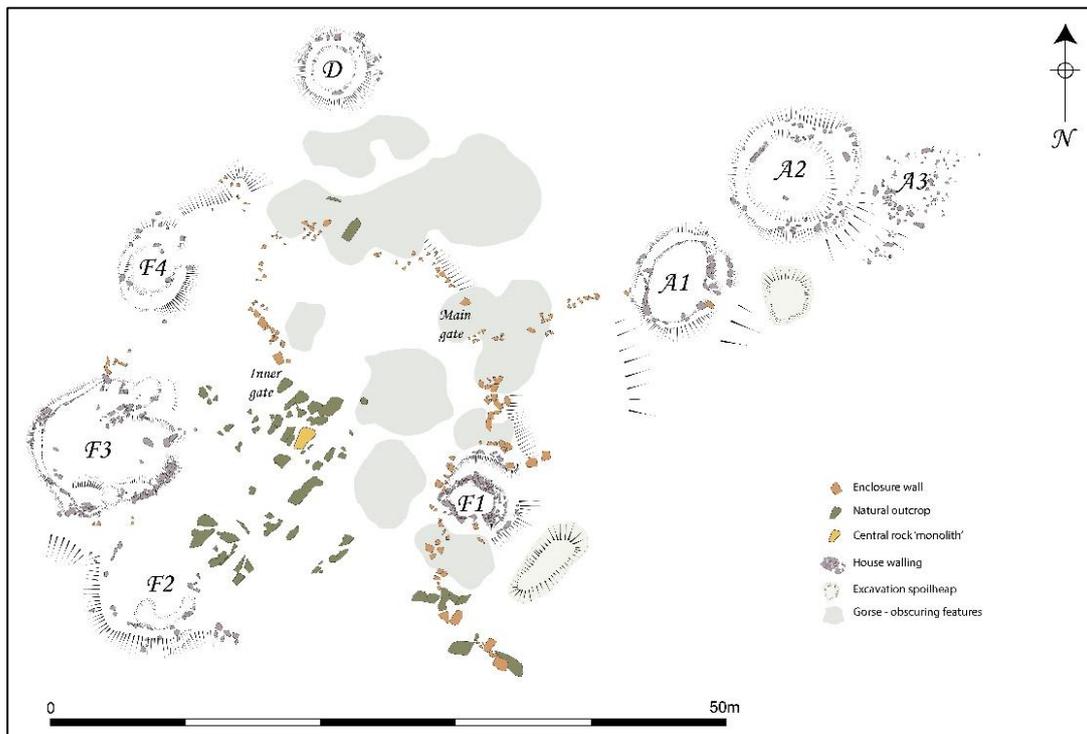


Fig 3. J.Gossip CAU 2024 survey of the southern group of roundhouses at Kynance Gate

Taken from Historic England's listing:

The monument includes a stone hut circle settlement with an associated irregular aggregate field system, situated on the edge of an open moorland plateau around a rocky spur on the north-western side of the steep valley leading to Kynance Cove. The settlement survives as two discreet groups of stone hut circles with associated small fields defined by stone walls. The north-eastern group includes possibly seven circular or slightly oval shaped stone hut circles measuring 9m in diameter on average and surrounded by walls of up to 0.4m high, with various attached enclosures. These have been partly surveyed by Total Station and GPS as part of the current project (Fig 2). The south-western group includes at least nine circular or oval stone hut circles defined by thick double-faced walls and all linked together by boundaries to form at least three enclosures. All the buildings in the southern group are constructed on a raised, terraced platform.

It is located in an area called Round Close in 1840 (Tithe Map for Landewednack) and it is first recorded on the 1st Edition 1:2500 OS circa 1880 map. Its archaeological history begins in 1896 when, following a heath fire, members of the RIC on an excursion to the Lizard spent an afternoon excavating two hut circles down 'to floor level' (Unknown, 1896). Apart from visits from 'curio hunters', the settlement was then largely forgotten until the discovery of pottery here, by a school boy in the early 1950s, led his headmaster, Ivor Thomas, to initiate excavations which lasted from 1953 to 1964. Ivor Thomas led a series of partial excavations by the Lizard Field Club which mainly concentrated on the huts in the southern group and their immediate surrounding areas, with a single excavation in one of the northern group huts in 1954. Between 1952 and 1963, over 2000 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery, stone artefacts, flints and fragments of clay moulds used for producing bronze axes were uncovered, as well as layers of occupation debris, post holes, paving and hearths indicating the date of the earliest settlement. Following an apparent period of abandonment, the settlement was re-used and extended during two phases of Iron Age occupation which extended into the Romano-British period and included the construction of oval-shaped buildings (Thomas 1956). The excavation has been published only as a series of notes. Full publication of this important site is much to be desired, as is a good large-scale survey. The finds are in Helston Museum.

The site was Scheduled in 1956 and surveyed by the OS in 1973.

Risk Assessments & EID (event information document)

Before any work takes place, a comprehensive Risk Assessment should be created. A template has been prepared for work carried out at this site and should be updated for future events – with any new risks considered. The template can be found on the Cornwall National Landscape website and with the Relevant Volunteer Organisation.

Some key issues which should be included in a risk assessment:

- Animals grazing
- Exposed, open moorland
- Uneven ground with surface water
- No facilities nearby
- Requires a walk from nearest road over open moorland

NB: This is not an exhaustive list and individual circumstances of each group and site conditions should be considered in creating a risk assessment.