



Nine Stones Circle 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 Nine Stones Stone Circle. 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.

Nine Stones Stone Circle

Future Management Plan

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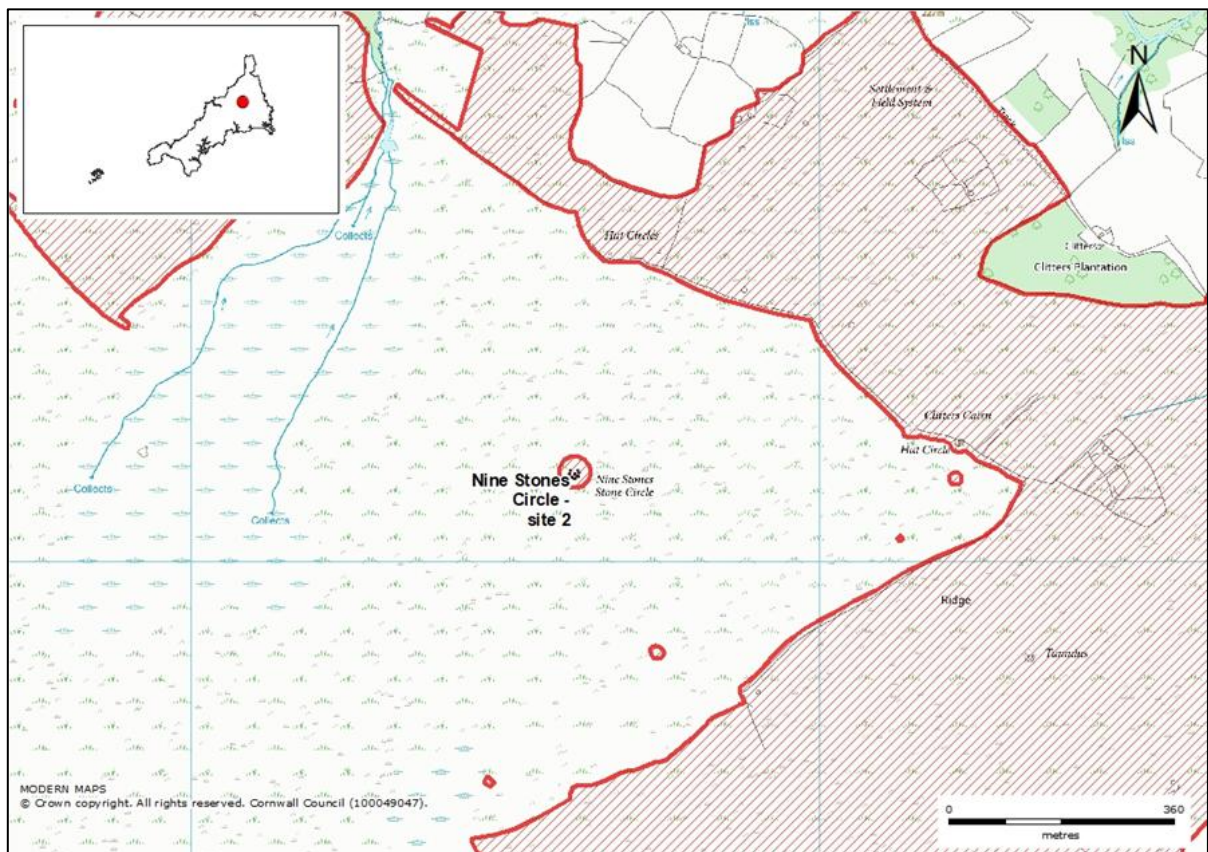
Site Overview

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

Site Name:	Nine Stones Circle
Scheduled Monument number:	1008631
Site Type:	Stone Circle
Site Grid Reference:	SX 23611 78143
Site W3W:	zealous.toolkit.wrist
Site Postcode:	PL15 7PE

Details:

This stone circle is comprised of eight granite slabs, all of which are between 1-1.3m high and between 4-6.5m apart. 2 slabs are missing which has left a gap of 11.5m; one has been missing since the monument's depiction on an 1884 map, the other since 1889. A stone in the north-east section has collapsed outwards. A ninth erect stone positioned towards the circle's centre, is a relatively recent parish boundary stone.



Designations

HE Designations: [Scheduled Monument, NNW of Bowhayland Farm](#)

Other Designations: [Cornwall National Landscape – Section 12 Bodmin Moor, County Wildlife Site](#)

Site Status on HAR register: The site is listed as ‘At risk’ due to flooding.

Link to CIOSHER web page for this site:

https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=7&xcoord=223595&ycoord=78162&wsName=historic_natural_environment&layerName=Sites%20of%20special%20scientific%20interest:Special%20protection%20areas

Link to Historic England’s webpage for this site:

[Nine Stones stone circle 1.03km NNW of Bowhayland Farm, Altarnun - 1008631 | Historic England](#)

Link to Cornwall National Landscape webpage for this site:



Visiting & Contacts

Landowner (s): Trebartha Estate

Contact Email: Private Landowner. Please get in touch with the Relevant Volunteer Organisation for landowner permission.

Tenant (s): The site is within East Moor Common.

Site Specifics

Nearest Tool Hub & Contact Person: Cornwall Archaeological Society

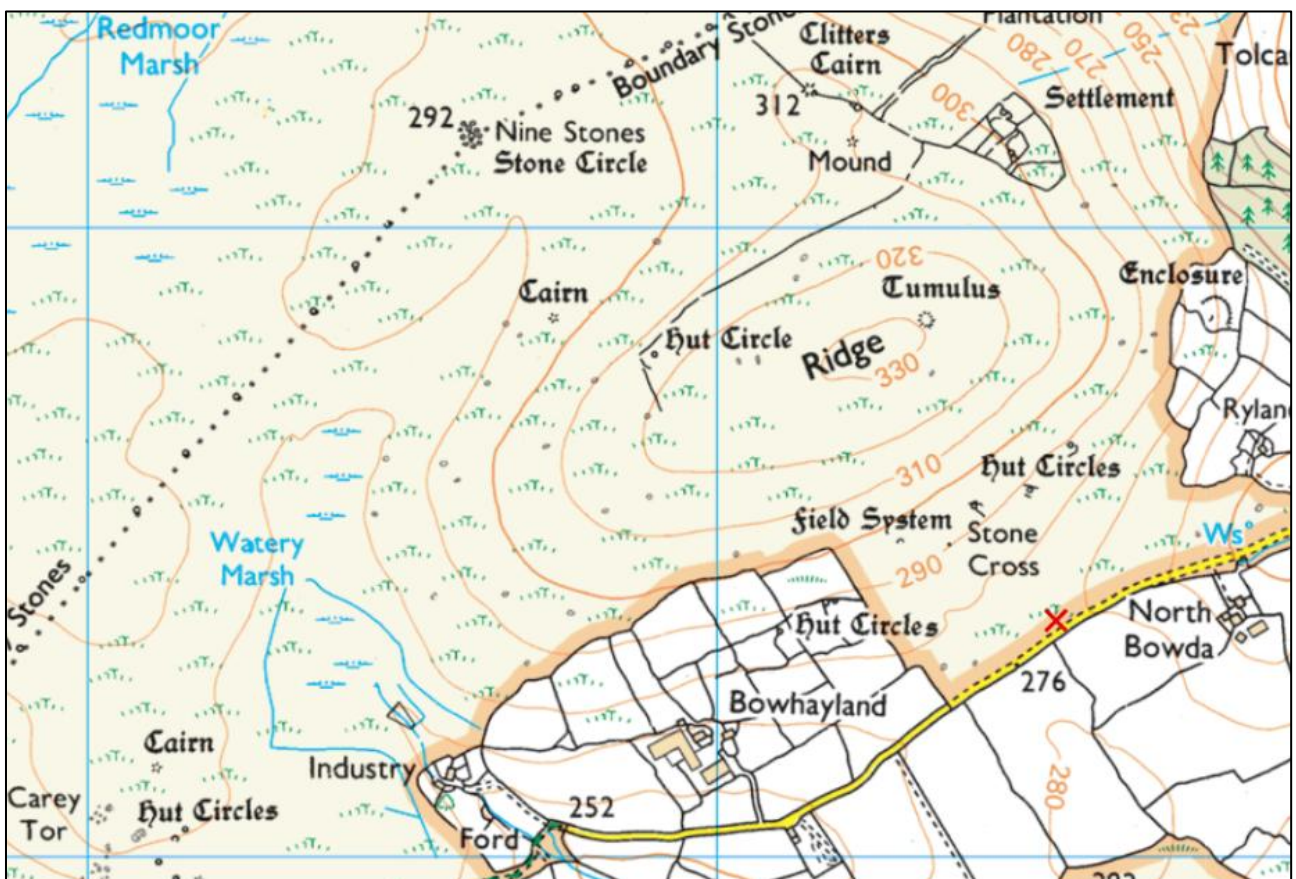
Organisation: Cornwall Archaeological Society

Contact: volunteering@cornisharchaeology.org.uk

Tool Use: Hand tools only

Parking for site: Park considerably and carefully in a roadside pull-off

NGR: SX 24542 77373 W3W: answer.plump.rinses (see **X** on map below)



Monumental Improvement Interventions

Site priorities identified during Monumental Improvement Development Stage:

Priority	Project year	Action
Longer term	3 (post project)	Monitor the condition of the stones and clear vegetation around them during summer months.

Vegetation management	Interpretation	Survey & Monitoring
To be carried out between April – October by CAS or Timeseekers	Landowner to check and report to Cornwall National Landscape on any issues	Monitoring (April – October) through CAS or Timeseekers or other local community groups

Threats Identified at Nine Stones Circle:

- The principal threat to the site is from grazing livestock causing erosion around the stones which then become waterlogged, eventually leading to the stones becoming destabilised and falling.
- The site is also vulnerable to vandalism from visitors leaving offerings or burying items into the soil, particularly into the bottom of the stones.

Interventions during Monumental Improvement Delivery Stage:

- A condition survey was undertaken out in 2021 by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, identifying threats to the monument and proposing a range of interventions aimed at enhancing the condition of the site and raising its profile with the local community.
- An ecological survey of the site was completed in 2021 by Woodfield Ecology, identifying habitat types and compiling an inventory of notable species to inform future conservation and land management plans.
- New physical interpretation was developed and installed near to the site.
- Relevant Volunteer Organisation(s) have been engaged and supported throughout the Monumental Improvement Project. Volunteers have received hand tools safety training to assist in the future management of the site as part of the legacy programme.

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.
- Aerial photography of the site captured by drone showing the archaeological features in plan.
- 360 panoramic photography hosted on the Cornwall National Landscape website allowing virtual tours of the site.
- Ground Photography of the site, recording conditions of the monument and its setting in the landscape.
- 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:

- A project of conservation repair work was investigated by the Monumental Improvement Project in 2024 based on management proposals identified by CAU survey to address the waterlogged eroded hollows across the entire site, particularly surrounding each standing stone and re-erect two leaning and two fallen stones.
 - An example **methodology** and **draft SMC application** document is available as part of the Fox Tor Stone Alignment MI archive to assist in developing a project design for conservation works at Nine Stones Stone Circle.
 - A **risk-benefit analysis** was undertaken as part of this development phase and is available in the project archive to support future project designs.
 - Any conservation project must be developed alongside Historic England, the landowner, and other stakeholders.
- *Relevant Volunteer Organisation* to carry out periodic monitoring visits to the site focussing on the following threats to the site:
 - The stability of the stones, any signs of packing stones becoming dislodged or increasing erosion levels.

- The presence and size of the pools of water around the stone circle, compared with the survey in the archaeological overview of this document.
- Signs of scrub encroachment within the scheduled area.
- If site monitoring visits record scrub encroachment within the scheduled area, the Landowner with Relevant Volunteer Organisation support should manage and remove the vegetation in line with the guidance in the *Toolkit for Volunteer Monitoring and Maintenance at Heritage Sites* with due care to the ecological sensitivities in this document.

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 digital interpretation through the Cornwall National Landscape website.
- Opportunity for project focussing on the ecology of the site and the plants thriving in the waterlogged hollows and their impact (if any) on the archaeology.
- A local history group could be engaged to undertake a research project on the boundary stone, particularly its provenance and dating.
- The site would benefit from a significant project to address the flooding and impact of grazing livestock on the monument. This would require significant collaboration between land owners and graziers, the local community, funders and Historic England.

Ecology Overview

Taken from: ECOLOGY BRIEFING NOTE – SITE 2 NINE STONES STONE CIRCLE Commissioned by the Monumental Improvement Project in 2021

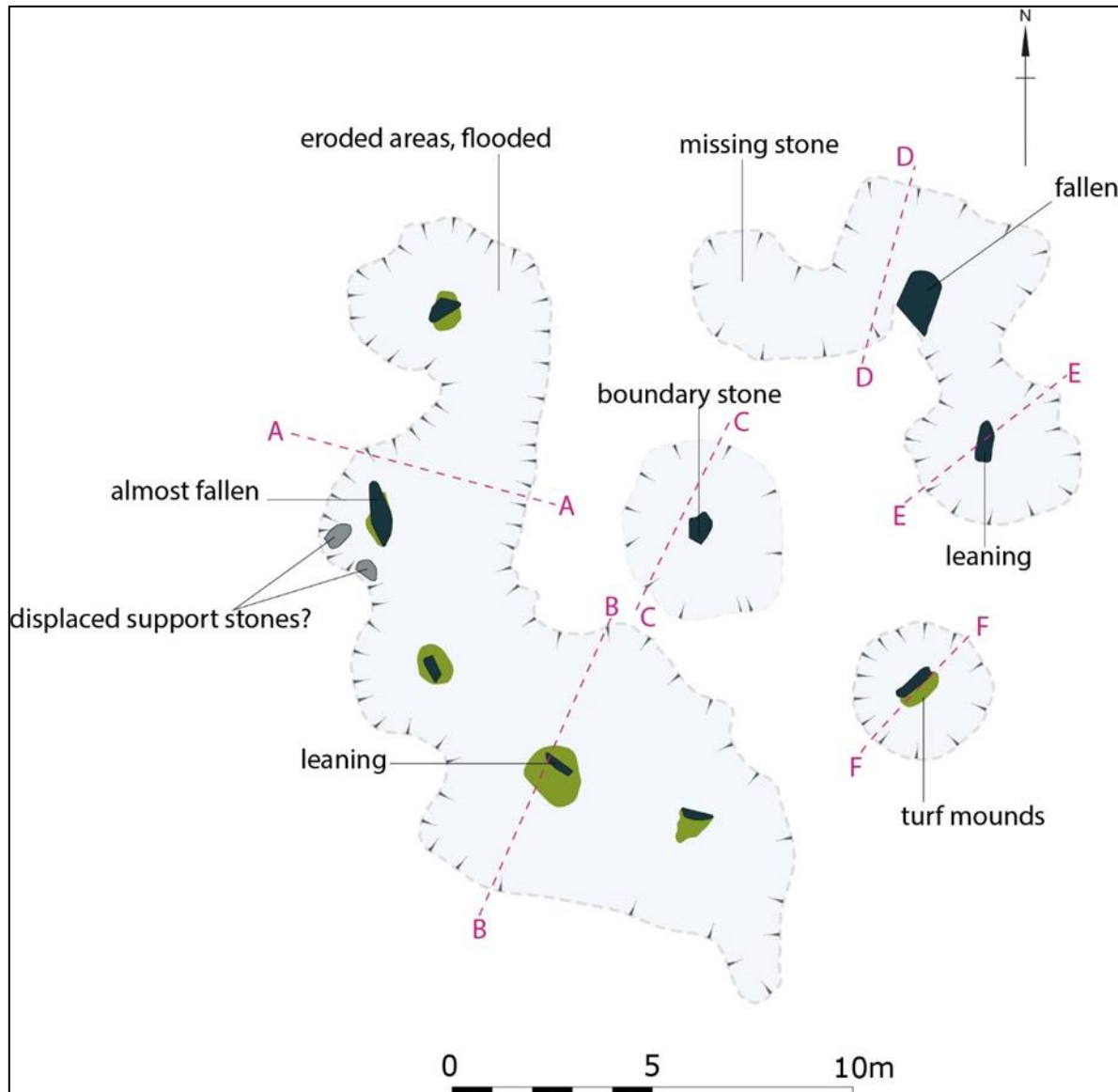
The full Report is available to download on the Cornwall National Landscape website and includes details on types of work likely affect the following species, a calendar for helping to plan work at the monument, and opportunities for ecological enhancement of the site.

Key species at this site:

Birds	Reptiles	Flora & Funghi	Invertabrates
Common Starling House Sparrow Reed Bunting Yellowhammer Mistle Thrush Linnet Skylark	Common Lizard	Chamomile Marsh Flapwort Chaffweed Lanceolate Spleenwort 7x notable plants 1x notable moss 3x notable fungi	6x nationally notable 3x locally notable

FURTHER SURVEYS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
None Required	N/A												
MITIGATION		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Reptiles	Avoid earthwork or disturbance of stones 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													

Archaeological Overview



J. Gossip CAU: 2021 survey of Nine Stones

Taken from Historic England's Listing:

The monument includes a prehistoric stone circle situated on a broad level shelf on the lower north-west slope of Ridge hill on eastern Bodmin Moor, near broadly contemporary funerary monuments and prehistoric field systems.

The stone circle is visible as a setting of eight granite slabs, ranging from 1m to 1.3m high and up to 1.05m wide by 0.35m thick, their bases spaced 4m to 6.5m apart about a near-circular course 15m in diameter (Barnatt 1982, 191-2). All of the slabs have eroded surfaces and edges, showing no traces of dressing. One slab has been removed from the circle since its depiction on maps of 1884, and

a second missing slab was noted in 1889, these leaving a gap of 11.5m in the northern sector. The site of one of these slabs is indicated by a surface hollow measuring 2m east-west by 1.5m north-south slightly within the circular course in its NNE sector. The northeastern stone has collapsed outwards but the remaining stones are erect, with packing stones and slabs visible about most of their bases. A ninth erect stone, situated slightly south east of the circle's centre, is a relatively recent parish boundary stone, one of a line of such stones that extends beyond the monument to the ENE and south west marking the boundary between North Hill and Altarnun parishes. This stone is 1m high, 0.35m wide and 0.22m thick, differing from the other slabs in having sharp angular edges and barely weathered surfaces.

This stone circle was recorded and partly reconstructed by the local land- owner and antiquary, F R Rodd, in 1889, involving the re-erection of the circle's six slabs that had, by then, fallen and the re-erection and slight re-siting of the fallen parish boundary slab near the centre.

Beyond this monument are extensive and broadly contemporary field systems and settlement sites on Ridge hill, reaching to within 400m of the monument to the south east and north east, while the prominent Clitters Cairn is visible on the skyline, 540m to the east.

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:

- Cattle and horses grazing across the site, including with their young.
- Exposed, open moorland.
- Uneven ground with surface water.
- No toilet facilities nearby.
- The site is at least a 30-minute 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.