Case Name: Small multivallate hillfort, early Christian memorial stone and C19 landscaped paths at Carnsew

Case Number: 466352

Background
This case was originally part of the strategic assessment of historic sites and buildings in Hayle which was undertaken in 2001. The recommendations were put on hold and we have now been asked by one of the owners to progress the case.

Asset(s) under Assessment
Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Heritage Category</th>
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<td>Small multivallate hillfort, early Christian memorial stone and C19 landscaped paths at Carnsew</td>
<td>Scheduling</td>
<td>Amend Schedule</td>
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Visits

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Context
A thematic designation project on the historic sites and buildings associated with the two former foundries that were established in Hayle in the C18 was undertaken in the 2001. The project identified the hillfort at Carnsew as meriting designation and a draft scheduling description was produced and all interested parties were consulted on the documentation. However, in 2003 in response to a request from government for the Designation Department to focus resources on a review of the heritage protection regimes, all our inherited programmes including the work on Hayle's historic environment were put on hold in order to facilitate this review. The designation for the hillfort, memorial stone and landscaped walkways was therefore not formally reviewed. As part of a renewal of our strategic programmes under the National Heritage Protection Plan we are now able to progress the recommendation.

The assessment includes the Cunaide Stone which was designated as a scheduled monument on 30 November 1926 and described as the "Hayle inscribed stone". This early Christian memorial is situated within the perimeter of the hillfort and therefore forms part of the assessment. The stone is also listed at Grade II.

The scheduling is divided into two separate areas of protection and includes only those areas of landscaped walks that impinge on the area of the hillfort. The northern part of the site forms a public park – the King George VI Memorial Plantation and this area is situated within the Hayle Town Conservation Area; the interior is in private ownership and mostly under pasture. The site is situated within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site.

Assessment

CONSULTATION
All interested parties were consulted on the original recommendation to schedule the site in 2001. Given the length of time that had elapsed since the first consultation, all parties were re-consulted in December 2010. In response the town council have expressed support for the protection of the monument.

DISCUSSION

The 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) states monuments are scheduled by reason of their archaeological, historic, architectural, artistic or traditional national importance. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport’s Scheduled Monuments: Identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Annex 1 (March 2010) sets out the non-statutory criteria which provide further guidance on assessing national importance. They state that when archaeological sites are assessed for scheduling, the key considerations are period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity and potential. Monuments are assessed under those of the criteria relevant to their type. They should not be regarded as definitive, but as indicators which contribute to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of a case. Archaeological sites are assessed for their national importance, which is the key indicator of their significance. Those which are identified as of national importance may then be scheduled, if this is considered to be the most appropriate tool for their future management. Sites may be considered to be of national importance; but the Secretary of State may still use his discretion not to add the site to the Schedule.

Hillforts are amongst the most striking of all archaeological monuments in England; their hilltop locations and often massive earthworks make a very powerful statement to the modern observer about the organisation, manual skills, labour and beliefs of Iron Age societies over 2,000 years ago. Small multivallate hillforts are rare with only around 100 examples recorded nationally. In view of their variety and their importance in understanding the nature of settlement and social organisation within the Iron Age period there is a presumption in favour of their designation when they survive to a substantive degree.

The hillfort at Hayle is one of the major elements in the surviving prehistoric landscape of the Hayle estuary. It occupies a prominent position and in the past would have been visible to any vessels entering the estuary to land goods and using the cross-peninsular route to Marazion and St Michael's Mount. Furthermore the disposition of the ramparts, orientated towards the estuary, strongly suggests the fort was intended to be seen by, and impress those, arriving to trade. The hillfort is, therefore, particularly valuable for studies of later prehistoric defensive activity given its strategic setting overlooking the estuary. It survives well and, despite some modern disturbance, the layout and earthworks remain clearly traceable on the ground. While material has been dumped over some of the ramparts during the mid-C19 landscaping this should leave the defences in good condition beneath, together with their sealed old land surface and any associated prehistoric structural features. In addition, organic remains surviving in the buried ground surfaces beneath the ramparts and within the ditches will provide important information about the local environment and the use of the surrounding land before the hillfort was built and during its occupation. Despite local knowledge of some past digging within the interior there is no evidence for widespread disturbance at substantial depth beyond the railway cutting and the site, therefore, has strong potential to increase our understanding of the hillfort and its place in Iron Age society.

The discovery of the Cunaide Stone at the foot of the hill provides valuable evidence for the hill's continued importance into the Anglo-Saxon period. As the earliest such memorial stone known from Cornwall, and with a style of inscription which is nationally extremely rare, this stone is of major importance for our understanding of early post-Roman society, of its contacts and influences, and of the spread of Christianity.

The mid-C19 landscaping in the northern part of the hillfort was created by Henry Harvey, owner of the internationally-renowned Harvey's Foundry, to reflect the fruits of its economic success. The introduction of revetted paths adds interest to the site since it reflects the continuing prominence of the hillfort into the C19. The memorial arch which represents part of this designed landscape is listed at Grade II and it is considered that this is the most appropriate designation regime for this structure.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the national importance of this case, the criteria for scheduling are fulfilled. The scheduling of the Cunaide Stone should be amended to include the hillfort and those parts of the mid-C19 landscaping which overlie the hillfort's defences.
REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

It is recommended that the scheduling of the Cunaide Stone is amended to include the small multivallate hillfort and C19 landscaped works at Carnsew for the following principal reasons:

* the hillfort is a class of monument which is important to our understanding of Iron Age societies and, together with the Cunaide Stone, provides strong indications that this was a high-status site which continued to be an important centre long after the Iron Age;

* the later landscaping of the part of the hillfort adds a further layer of interest, reflecting the role that the site continued to play into the C19.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed. This small multivallate hillfort survives well and has considerable potential for furthering our understanding of the complex nature of settlement, trade and social organisation in the area during the Iron Age and onwards. As a rare site nationally, it fully merits scheduling.
Deborah Williams
12th August 2012
Annex 1

List Entry

List Entry Summary
This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance.

Name: Small multivallate hillfort, early Christian memorial stone and C19 landscaped paths at Carnsew

List Entry Number: 1006720

Location
The site is situated on the north-west side of Hayle, to the south side of Carnsew Road. It falls within two areas of protection: the larger, northern area is centred on NGR SW5566637095, the second area to the south of the railway cutting is centred on NGR SW5566637095.

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

<table>
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<th>County</th>
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<th>District Type</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Hayle</td>
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National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: Not Applicable to this List Entry

Date first scheduled: 30 November 1926
Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information
The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: RSM - OCN
Legacy Number: CO 30

Asset Groupings
This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Monument
The monument at Carnsew in Hayle, which is divided into two separate areas of protection, includes a small later prehistoric hillfort with C19 landscaping at its northern end and an early Christian memorial stone.

Reasons for Designation
The multivallate hillfort, the Cunaide Stone and mid-C19 landscaping are scheduled for the following principal reasons:
• Rarity/period: the hillfort and the Cunaide Stone provide strong indications that this was a high-status, prominent site which continued to be an important centre long after the Iron Age;

• Survival: despite some cutting of the ramparts to create ornamental paths, this small multivallate hillfort survives comparatively well and is particularly valuable for studies of later prehistoric defensive activity given its strategic setting overlooking the Hayle estuary;

• Potential: as the site remains unexcavated there is considerable potential for research and discovery. It will retain deposits that are very likely to add to our knowledge of the material culture of the hillfort's inhabitants and the wider physical environment;

• Association: the later landscaping adds a further layer of interest since it reflects the prominence of the site into the C19 and is associated with a prominent local family.

History
The Hayle Estuary, one of the few natural harbours on the north coast of south-west England, was an important focus for trade and the movement of people and ideas in the prehistoric and early medieval periods. The area around the estuary has produced prehistoric artefacts with Irish affinities, and later some of the earliest post-Roman evidence for Christianity in south-west England, again showing strong Irish influences. Trade and religion continued to be important with a growth of pilgrimage to European shrines and more locally to St Michael's Mount, but rapid decline set in during the later medieval period as the estuary became choked by silts from tin extraction along the valleys feeding into it. By the early post-medieval period, the estuary was surrounded by dispersed settlement remote from regional and national centres of trade and economic power.

Hillforts date from the Iron Age period, most having been constructed and occupied between the sixth century BC and the mid-first century AD. Small multivallate hillforts are fortified hilltop enclosures of varying shape, generally of between 1 and 5ha. Most are located in the Welsh Marches and the South-West, with a concentration of small monuments in the North-East. They are generally regarded as settlements of high status, occupied on a permanent basis. Recent interpretations suggest that the construction of multiple earthworks may have had as much to do with display as with defence.

The hillfort at Carnsew, Hayle, dates from the later prehistoric period, and it is prominently sited to overlook the Hayle Estuary. It has not been excavated and is depicted on the 1877 25" Ordnance Survey map, but incorrectly described as a cliff castle. During the early 1840s, Henry Harvey, the owner of the internationally-renowned Harvey's Foundry, drew back from his business interests and spent some of the latter years of his life creating a network of levelled, revetted paths around the northern half of the hillfort. Set into the lower slope of the hill is an inscribed stone, known as the Cunaide Stone. It was discovered in 1843 during road-making at the north-eastern foot of the hill; it lay flat beside a cist grave, lined and covered by flat slabs, containing sand, charcoal and ashes and covered by a rubble mound. Research on the style of the inscription has concluded that it dates to the fifth century AD, one of very few such stones where the phrasing shows continental European inspiration but with the subject's name, Cunaide, possibly Irish in origin.

Details
PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS
A small later prehistoric hillfort occupying the crest and slope of a prominent hill at Carnsew, overlooking the Hayle Estuary. In the mid-1840s a network of paths was laid out on part of the hillfort. At the foot of the hill is an early Christian memorial stone (also listed at Grade II) known as the Cunaide Stone, which was re-located to its present position following its discovery very close by in 1843.

The scheduling is divided into two separate areas of protection.

DETAILS
The hillfort occupies a strategically significant controlling position on a low, but prominent, small hill at the north-east end of a broad ridge overlooking the Hayle Estuary from the south. The hill dips gently south-west to the spine of the ridge but the slope steepens considerably around the north and north-east sides, descending to what was the estuary's southern shoreline in the later prehistoric landscape, though large areas of reclaimed land now surround the foot of the slope. The hillfort's defences extend around those steeper slopes, from the north-west around the north-east to the south-east sides, defining a sub-rectangular internal area measuring up to 85m north-west to south-east by 75m north-east to south-west, with no evidence for completion of the defensive circuit on the south-west side. The interior and defences of the
hillfort are crossed south-east of centre by a deep railway cutting, up to 25m wide, hence the division of the scheduling into two areas.

The defences include two lines of rampart beyond which a slight scarp follows the foot of the northern slope, 12m-20m beyond the outer rampart. The outer rampart runs straight along the contour of the hill's north-western mid-slope then curves around the north-east to be crossed by one of Harvey's downslope paths then partly modified by another above it as it approaches the railway cutting. South-east of the cutting, its line can no longer be perceived due to major post-medieval development. The inner rampart follows the slope crest, its line on the north-west preserved in a hedge bank from which it emerges as a distinct earthwork around the north and north-east, interrupted by the railway cutting but re-appearing to curve around the south-east of the hillfort, where its outer face becomes partly truncated by a C19 wall. The size of the ramparts varies but where least modified by later activity they appear broadly 8m-9m wide and up to 2.25m high. Some variation is attributable to Harvey's landscaping, his paths crossing ramparts in some places and revetting their edges in others. Material from his path levelling is also considered to have been dumped onto portions of the ramparts to create some anomalous accretions, notably a ramped mound forming the present highest point of the inner rampart on the north side.

The Cunaide Stone is set upright, embedded in a wall revetting Henry's path against the outer edge of the inner rampart to the north of the hillfort. The stone, as now visible, measures 1.32m high by up to 0.31m wide, almost parallel sided with a roughly rounded upper end. Centred within the top of the exposed face are two natural mineral veins forming a natural `cross', their position on the finished stone considered to have been deliberately contrived in the selection and shaping of the piece. The exposed face bears a shallow inscription in ten lines of capital letters across the width of the stone, the lettering still surviving though feint, giving a reading currently translated as 'here in peace lately went to rest Cunaide. Here in this grave she lies. She lived 33 years'. A C19 translation presented on a slate slab beside the stone is based on an incorrect reading of the inscription.

The mid-C19 landscaping undertaken by Henry Harvey takes the form of levelled, revetted paths around the northern half of the hillfort. Paths are cut along the foot of each rampart, converging gradually down the long gradient to the west of the hillfort, beyond the scheduled area. The path below the upper rampart has a return which ascends the ramped mound on the north of that rampart. A further path links those below the ramparts then runs NNE over steps directly down the hillslope; as this path cuts through the outer rampart, it passes beneath a formal arch which serves as a memorial to his efforts. The arch is listed at Grade II and is not included in the scheduling.

The scheduling is divided into two separate areas of protection by a very deep railway cutting, 25m wide, which passes north-east to south-west across the hillfort destroying all archaeological features in its path. As the cutting leaves the hillfort on the north-east, it is crossed by a railway bridge which is Grade II listed and is also not included in the scheduling. The second, smaller area of protection is designed to protect the nationally-important archaeology south-east of the railway cutting, the area measuring 55m north-east to south-west by up to 30m north-west to south-east.

A number of items are excluded from the scheduling. These are all modern fences and gates, all modern metalled and gravelled surfaces, the modern landmark cross, its electricity supply cabling and trench, all modern signs, notices and the information plinth on the summit, all modern seats, all drains and grids, the surface of the former tennis court, the Grade II listed memorial arch and railway bridge, and all stored materials and modern structures in the south east side of the hillfort. The ground beneath all these features is, however, included.

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**Selected Sources**
Buck, C and Smith, JR, Hayle Town Survey, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 1995

Cahill, N & CAU, Hayle Historical Assessment, Cornwall, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, 2000

Noall C, The Book of Hayle, 1985

Vale E, The Harveys of Hayle, 1966
Map

**National Grid Reference:** SW5566337090

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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1006720_2.pdf
Former List Entry

List Entry Summary
This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance.

Name: Hayle inscribed stone

List Entry Number: 1006720

Location
Not currently available for this entry.

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: Not Applicable to this List Entry

Date first scheduled: 30 November 1926
Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information
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Legacy System: RSM - OCN
Legacy Number: CO 30

Asset Groupings
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List Entry Description

Summary of Monument
Not currently available for this entry.

Reasons for Designation
Not currently available for this entry.

History
Not currently available for this entry.

Details
This record has been generated from an "old county number" (OCN) scheduling record. These are monuments that were not reviewed under the Monuments Protection Programme and are some of our oldest designation records. As such they do not yet have the full descriptions of their modernised counterparts available. Please contact us if you would like further information.
Selected Sources

None.
Map

**National Grid Reference:** SW 55674 37182

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