

## Case Study for Heritage Counts 2015

### Lizard Horizons - The Lizard Windmill Conservation & Environmental Education Project

In summer 2015, the Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) repaired and transformed the Lizard Windmill, a rare surviving example of a Cornish windmill dating from the C17th, giving visitors a unique vantage point from which to experience the unique landscape and habitat over which monument presides and making a significant step towards removing it from the Heritage at Risk register.

The Lizard Horizons project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and SITA Cornwall Trust, set out to repair the Windmill and introduce a new spiral staircase (see Figure 1), roof (see Figure 2) and viewing platform, sympathetically designed to replicate the historic shape of the windmill. The project also engaged volunteers to uncover World War II features in the surrounding landscape and to produce new interpretation and a trail guide. The project also offered a series of events and schools visits to offer new access and insights into the history of the area to visitors and local people.



Figure 1. The construction of the internal spiral staircase in May 2015 (Historic England).



Figure 2. The Lizard Windmill in June 2015 (Historic England).

This achievement reflects years of dedication and working with partners on the part of the CWT who, with the Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society, purchased the nature reserve in 2001 with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then, CWT have worked with a range of partners to enhance and restore both the reserve's habitats and historic assets. They carried out holding repairs to the windmill in 2013, but due to its poor condition it was placed on the Heritage at Risk Register in the same year. The Trust's Higher Level Stewardship scheme with Natural England enabled them to commission surveys to understand the monument's repair and conservation needs, and, working closely with Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Service and Historic England, they developed a scheme which met the requirements for Scheduled Monument Consent. Finally, a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund secured a grant, completed the funding package, and allowed the project to start in April 2015.

Lizard Horizons has achieved many outcomes for the historic and natural environment. Not only will the Lizard Windmill be removed soon from the Heritage at Risk Register, but the project has also identified and improved the condition of other monuments, including important World War II features discovered by volunteers working with experts. It has also created new ways for visitors to enjoy the unique landscape and its habitats and heritage for generations to come.

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