

**Press Release – 27 October 2008**

**THE PRINCE'S REGENERATION TRUST RESCUES CORNWALL'S  
HISTORIC DUCHY PALACE**

The Old Duchy Palace in Lostwithiel, one of Cornwall's most important historic buildings, has been rescued by The Prince's Regeneration Trust, the charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales which focuses on heritage-led regeneration. The Trust has exchanged contracts to purchase the building.

The Grade 1 listed building is a unique part of Cornwall's history, but in recent years has become under-used and surplus to the requirements of the previous owners. Local people were alarmed by the prospect of it falling vacant and derelict so the Cornwall Building Preservation Trust asked The Prince's Regeneration Trust to step in and save it. The Trust plans to restore the building through a programme of renovation that will be sympathetic to its historic character and important medieval architecture. It will then secure a viable and sustainable long-term use for the Palace that will ensure it's properly preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The Duke of Cornwall's Palace at Lostwithiel was built at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century as the administrative centre for The Duchy of Cornwall. It fell into ruin in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and various fragments of a much larger building, including the Convocation Hall, have over time been built into the surrounding properties. The part of the property The Trust will renovate is thought to be the original kitchen of the Great Hall, which was at one time used as a stannary for the assay of Cornish tin.

The Prince's Regeneration Trust was introduced to the project by the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust (CBPT) and Cornwall County Council. CBPT carried out a feasibility study earlier this year which highlighted the importance of the building and also demonstrated the possibilities for future re-use. The Duke of Cornwall Benevolent Fund assisted with the finance needed to buy the building.

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AT No. 858319490 The Prince's Regeneration through Heritage Trust is a company limited by guarantee No.4342518 R/O 19-22 Charlotte Road London EC2A 3SG Charity No.1089932



Commenting on the project Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of The Prince's Regeneration Trust, said:

“This is a building of prime historic importance that was under threat of being lost entirely to the Cornish community unless we stepped in. Working in partnership with the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust and the local councils, and with the very generous support of The Duke of Cornwall Benevolent Fund, we can bring our complementary skills and expertise together to ensure that the Palace is preserved and has a viable future. In this way we can protect one of Cornwall's most important buildings for future generations.”

Ms Kerslake emphasises the importance of finding donor funding to accomplish The Trust's plans for regeneration:

“Identifying a long-term use is just one of four essential steps that The Trust will now embark upon, along with securing grant and donor funding, converting it, and then enabling some public access,” she explained.

The Trust is working in partnership with CBPT as its local partner and will be meeting the local councils, relevant partners, heritage experts, potential donors and representatives within the local community, to bring in as much support as possible, particularly to help raise the additional money needed for repairs and renovation.

Simon Thorpe, Chair of Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust said:

“We are delighted that The Prince's Regeneration Trust has decided to work with us to find a future for the Duchy Palace, and are sure we will learn from its national expertise. We will bring our local knowledge, contacts and experience to the project. We know the local community is keen to be involved and hope we can reassure it that this much loved historic building is now in safe hands.”

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Note to editors:

The Prince's Regeneration Trust's projects enable under used or redundant buildings to perform a new function, unlocking a regeneration of the wider community. The Trust works across the United Kingdom sharing learning and experience through its projects.

Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust is a registered charity formed in 1973, supported by the six District Councils and County Council, and exists to protect, acquire, conserve and re-use historic buildings across Cornwall.

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