

The Old Duchy Palace, Lostwithiel, Cornwall Project update November 2009



Existing elevation and section supplied by Purcell Miller Tritton Architects

About us

Cornwall BPT was formed in 1973 by Cornwall County Council and the six district and borough councils as a charity and limited company. The Trust is in the process of reviewing its Memorandum and Articles of Association to reflect the creation of the new unitary Cornwall Council on 1st April 2009. The Trust has no executive but is supported in its operation by the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The Trust has completed seven projects to date, the last of these was in 2001 in Bodmin.

Our current project

The Old Duchy Palace is a grade 1 Listed building currently on the Heritage at Risk register. The building dates from the 13th century and is described as the most important surviving secular building in Cornwall. It is the former administrative centre of the Duchy, former seat of the Cornish Stannary Parliament, and from 1875 to 2008 was a Masonic Lodge.

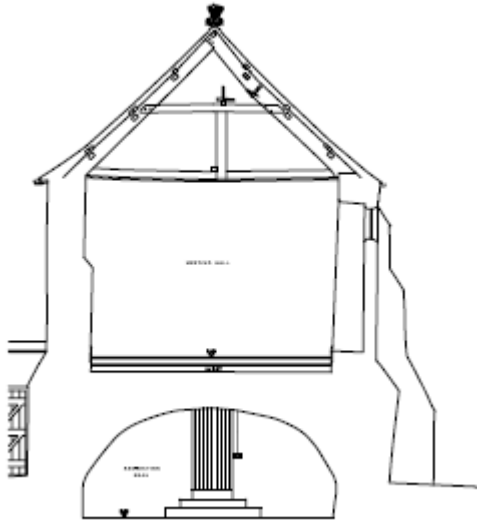
The Old Duchy Palace project commenced in autumn 2007 when the potential sale of the building was brought to our attention. Since then we have successfully attracted grants to carry out a range of studies, and introduced the project to the Prince's Regeneration Trust who purchased the building in January 2009.

Cornwall BPT is now working in partnership with The Prince's Regeneration Trust (PRT) to deliver this project. This is the biggest project Cornwall BPT has addressed and would not have progressed to this point without the purchase of the building by PRT; their involvement has brought experience and extra resources.

One of the aims of PRT's involvement is to help develop the capacity of Cornwall BPT to address projects of this

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magnitude in future. We hope to build a sustainable organisation capable of working in partnership with Cornwall Council to address more buildings at risk in future.



Studies to date:

- Feasibility Study – Hannah Reynolds Associates, 2008
- Historic Building Report - Eric Berry, 2008
- Masonic Interventions Report – Dr Charlotte MacKenzie, 2008
- Dendrochronology – English Heritage/Ian Tyers, 2009
- Business Plan – Common Places LLP, 2009

In May 2009 we appointed conservation architects Purcell Miller Tritton to the project. In August 2009 we applied to Heritage Lottery Fund, and November 2009 to English Heritage, for grants to meet capital costs of repair, conservation and interpretation of the building. We will shortly be applying for Listed Building Consent, and we hope to commence first phase repair work on site in April 2010.

In October 2009 we appointed Jan Clarke as Project Officer with funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund. Future work over the coming months includes local fundraising, further engagement with the community, and development of a learning activities programme.

We are grateful to the funders who have supported the project to date:

- Cornwall Heritage Trust
- Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund
- Restormel Borough Council
- Cornwall County Council
- Architectural Heritage Fund
- English Heritage
- Lostwithiel Town Council

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