

National Trust Press Release

Issued 13 November 2024

Images can be downloaded here:  [West Penwith Gate Installation](#)

Traditional West Penwith gate installed on National Trust land thanks to local partnership

An initiative involving the National Trust, the National School of Blacksmithing and two local enthusiasts has seen the installation of a classic West Penwith gate on Carn Goose Road, near St Just.

The initiative grew out of a collaboration between documentary film maker Mick Catmull and artist blacksmith Peter Parkinson who met whilst volunteering for the former Penwith Landscape Partnership project, where Mick was much taken with Peter's enthusiasm for the Penwith Gate, and agreed to make a film about this ancient rural artefact.

The West Penwith gate design, in use for at least 145 years, is commonplace throughout West Cornwall and uses a clever and robust design featuring flat and round bars connected by screw threads and nuts, with the added flourish of decorative scrolls on top of the gate. The earliest photograph showing a West Penwith gate is dated from the 1880s.

Mick and Peter enquired whether the National Trust would be interested in commissioning an exact replica, to be installed on NT land, from the National School of Blacksmithing in Holme Lacy, Herefordshire, where a group of enthusiastic students were keen to forge the gate by following a classic pattern, drawn by Peter, using traditional blacksmithing techniques.

Peter says: "The West Penwith Gate is a gem hidden in plain sight, seen by many, but not acknowledged for what it is – an elegant, clever and intriguing design. With a utilitarian function, why would a farm gate need decorative scrolls? My answer to that is traditional blacksmithing pride, that wouldn't leave bars just cut off square, without some form of decoration."


A 45-minute documentary film about the project behind the West Penwith gate has been collaboratively created by Peter and Mick and will be released for public viewing at Newlyn Filmhouse, details of which are still to be confirmed.

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Notes to editors:

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Images: Images can be downloaded here:  [West Penwith Gate Installation](#). Only to be used in conjunction with this press release. Credit and caption as per file name.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive.

We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2023/24 we received 25.3 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.38 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.