

CP 109 - New Slate Waymarkers from Holywell Beach to Perran Beach



The South West Coast Path between Holywell Beach and Perran Beach is a very popular area with locals and tourists alike. The dunes are open for public use, but it is important to make it clear to users the line of the South West Coast Path through the open access towans and along the beach. Slate waymarkers have been used in a few areas further west to delineate the coast path, so this project has been put together to continue the

theme of using slate through prominent parts of the coast path.

The project has been split into 2 sections: 1) purchasing and carving slate waymarkers and 2) installing the slates on site.

Part 1 was carried out by a local stone carver, Peter Martin, who was commissioned to carry out the carving of slates used in nearby areas in the past. The same carver was chosen to continue this work because his previous work has been of a high standard; he has the correct tools for the job; and he can provide a consistent high standard result.

Part 2 of the project was carried out by Cormac Contracting Ltd, who won the tender bidding process. The brief was to remove existing wooden waymarker posts and replace them with slates. In some locations there were no wooden waymarkers to remove. The installation involved using a mini digger to carry the slates to site from a trailer on the roadside; digging a large hole; putting in the slate; adding some concrete to hold the post in place; and finally filling in the hole with the material that was removed beforehand.

All the necessary permissions were gained from Natural England before the project began, because the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The project has been beneficial for the area because it has added a new layer to the texture of the land. The slate has been sourced as locally as possible, but will stand out in the dunes and on the cliff edge, because it is not naturally found in this location. The new waymarkers will be prominent in an otherwise sandy environment. The slate is also more

long lasting than wood. It will be low maintenance and so save money in the long run.

All the slates were marked with an individual code, so when I met with the work gangs at the start of the project to walk the site, each location was given one of the individual codes.

The main problem that we came across was how to get each slate safely to the coast path. The MOD and a local holiday park own much of the land we needed to travel across to reach the coast path, so access was not too difficult because both landowners had built good access tracks to drive over. There were a couple of sites that the slates had to be moved the last distance by hand. This involved 4 men and large straps to hold the slates with. The process was slow but safely done.

Once the transportation issue had been addressed the rest of the job was straightforward with no problems. Now the job has been completed I believe that a walk along this stretch of coast path will have an added unexpected bonus that should hopefully meet with much approval from the general public.

Before and After Photos for Holywell Beach to Perran Beach



There was no waymarker at the junction to Holywell Beach and the coast path...now there is. It is very prominent and directs walkers very effectively.



There was no waymarker at the top of the holiday park ramp directing people over the headland and down onto the beach. As this was a complicated junction 2 slates were installed showing the directions to travel.