



Repair of Sea Defences and Upgrade to Gwelva Boat Landing, Marazion

In 2019, planning permission and Marine Management Organisation consent was obtained to repair the “toe” that forms part of a stretch of sea defences and upgrade Gwelva Boat Landing. These pieces of essential infrastructure are both situated on Marazion beach and are shown in the photographs at the foot of this note.

Offsite works began in 2019 and onsite works were due to commence in September of 2020. A number of well attended public consultation sessions were held in Marazion Community Centre where St Aubyn Estates and representatives from the National Trust answered questions in relation to the project. Covid – 19 delayed on site works which are now due to commence in September of this year.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the “toe” and why is it important?

The “toe” forms part of the design of the sea defences. Sea energy has damaged a stretch of the “toe” between The Godolphin Arms and Gwelva Boat Landing. Maypole Gardens sits above the “toe” within which is a Western District Power substation and South West Water’s sewerage main not far away. The “toe” will be replaced which is important to help protect these key parts of Marazion’s infrastructure as well as adjacent properties.

2. What is Gwelva Boat landing and why is it important?

Gwelva Boat Landing was constructed in the early 1900s as the landing point for twice daily postal deliveries to St Michael’s Mount and an improved boat service for residents and visitors to the island. As visitor numbers to west Cornwall and St Michael’s Mount have grown, so has the importance of Gwelva Boat Landing for the movement of visitors to and from the island when the causeway is covered by the sea. Gwelva Boat Landing is also essential for the everyday life of the 30 or so residents that live on the island.

Over the last 100 or so years there have been a number of interventions to improve the landing, the last of which was over 40 years ago. It is now time for a further programme of repairs and improvements.

3. Why are you carrying out these works now?

These works were programmed to commence in September of 2020 but were postponed due to Covid-19. Carrying out repairs to the “toe” are key as parts of the existing infrastructure have failed. The Gwelva Boat Landing works need to happen for a number of reasons which include:

- A. Changes to maritime legislation which have increased the gunnel height of the island’s new ferryboats. As a consequence, the step down from the new ferryboats has increased along with the associated risk of accident. Increasing the height of the landing will reduce this risk.
- B. To improve safety by reducing the number of steps in the landing and making it wider for two way pedestrian traffic.
- C. To increase the time that Gwelva Boat Landing is in use. This will reduce the reliance on the other boat landings and the disruption to Marazion of moving large bodies of people between boat landings.
- D. To improve visitor experience by reducing journey and wait time for visitors.
- E. As part of a programme of continual repair and improvement across St Michael’s Mount and its infrastructure.

4. What are the works?

The “toe” will be replaced on a like for like basis. Gwelva Boat Landing will be heightened and widened with a granite face on its west elevation versus the existing concrete finish. This will involve removing parts of the existing landing and adjacent rock before forming the upgrade. The landing will not be increased in length. A site compound will be set up in the small car park opposite the Marazion Estate Office.

5. When will works begin and how long will they last?
The works will begin in September 2022 and are programmed to continue until May 2023. This window has been chosen to avoid the busier time of the year.

Below is a schedule of dates when works will take place:

[illegible]

December																															
T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
January																															
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
February																															
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
March																															
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April																															
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
May																															
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	
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6. How will the site and disruption be managed?

Cornish Heritage Builders are the main contractor and the project will be overseen by its longstanding manager, Garry Earley. Cornish Heritage Builders will be supported by members of St Michael's Mount Boating and Visitor Services teams who will be situated in key strategic positions around the site on each working day. This will be to manage pedestrian access and answer any questions that members of the public have.

Works will not begin before 0800 and will not continue beyond 1700 on any day. Works will not be carried out at weekends. Works will not be carried out across the Christmas and New Year period. On each day that works can take place, they can only occur for up to 6 hours maximum due to the incoming tide.

7. Will you run another session so that the public can better understand the project?

Yes. Although we undertook this process in 2019, it is important to us that members of the public once again have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team. This further drop in session will be held in the Estate Office on the Marazion waterfront on the 16th August between 0930 and 1600 where plans will be available to review and the key project team on hand to answer questions.

8. What happens if the project overruns?

We are confident that the project will be delivered on time. However, in the unlikely event of an overrun we would liaise with the relevant authorities and communicate to the locality.

9. Who owns the "toe" and the Gwelva Boat Landing?

The "toe" and adjacent beach are owned by St Aubyn Estates. The Gwelva Boat Landing forms part of the 1950s gift from the St Aubyn family to the National Trust. As part of that gift, the St Aubyn family created an Endowment Fund for the upkeep of the island and its infrastructure. Today, the National Trust and the St Aubyn family manage St Michael's Mount in partnership.

This is an important generational project for St Michael's Mount and reflects the commitment from the National Trust and St Aubyn Estates for continual reinvestment into the island and its infrastructure. We are grateful for your understanding throughout the programme of works. Should you have any questions before or during the project, please do not hesitate to email enquiries@stmichaelsmount.co.uk

Harvey Thomas
St Aubyn Estates Chief Executive Officer



The “toe” pre works



Gwelva Boat Landing pre works