

Archaeologists find remains of old ford

Cornwall County Council archaeologists have recorded the remains of an old river crossing between the two bridges in Boscastle.

The ford had already been identified by the archaeological assessment. It was revealed when an access ramp to the river was being cut, and consists of two revetment walls defining a narrow pathway between them.

Harbourmaster Fred Siford showed the archaeologists from the council's Historic Environment Service old postcards from the late 19th century that appeared to show some walling at this point.

This evidence seemed to be confirmed when a complete beer bottle dating from around the turn of the 20th century was found embedded in one of the walls by the crossing.



Steve Michaels of Carillion keeps safety watch on the road as a digger deepens the River Valency, upstream from where an old crossing point has been found

The ford was in use as an access to the river but was superseded as a crossing when the lower bridge was built in 1887.

News in brief from our partners in Boscastle

The National Trust and the Environment Agency have been working together to produce a management plan for the Valency valley. A report will outline the most appropriate management for the river, its banks and trees. It is hoped this will be available early in the New Year.

A working group of local residents, Forrabury and Minster Parish Council, National Trust, English Heritage and the Environment Agency has decided on the most suitable option for replacing the lower bridge.

The stone-clad design favoured by many was judged to be unsuitable because, with the river being widened, it would have been very obtrusive and not fitted in well with its surroundings.

The working group favours the second favourite option: a bridge with a thinner deck and metal uprights on the edges supporting horizontal cables or tubes. This design is due to be presented to the parish council in the near future.

North Cornwall District Council (NCDC) has announced that the new Visitor Centre is due to be open for business from 16 December. The Portakabin used as a temporary visitor centre will be removed from the car park four days later.

The contract for the new Gateway Building at Boscastle has been awarded by NCDC to local building contractor Geoff Cole Construction. Work is due to start soon, with completion due in spring 2007. The project consists of public toilets, shelter and information area and is being managed by NCDC's own Design Service.

South West Water says that its scheme to build two underground pumping stations, a control kiosk and pipework in the harbour area of Boscastle is well under way.

Despite some setbacks in diverting utilities away from the site, South West Water is still on track to complete the pumping stations by the middle of 2007 and the pipework by March 2008. Construction of the control kiosk will start next month.

The Boscastle flood defence scheme is being carried out by the Environment Agency working with Cornwall County Council, Forrabury and Minster Parish Council, National Trust, North Cornwall District Council and South West Water

