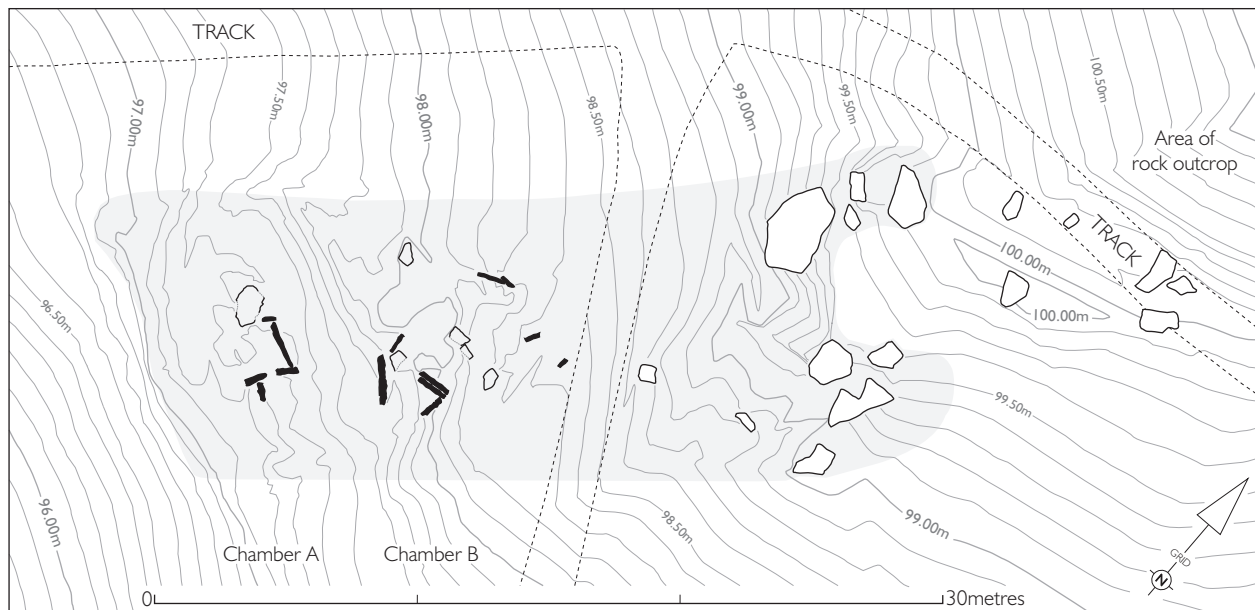


# THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



Plan of Graig Fawr chambered tomb showing chambers A and B, and the possible extent of the cairn area (shaded)

## HALF-YEARLY REVIEW 2007 & ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS 2006-2007



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## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2006 — MARCH 2007

### GGAT 1 Heritage Management

The Trust has witnessed a continuing increase in demand for heritage management services, including the vital public service provision of information and advice. This mirrors the growth of public awareness and interest in archaeology as seen through the media's greater commitment to archaeological programming in recent years. Without Cadw's continuing support to these essential public outreach services, this vital area of the Trust's work would largely have been impossible. A particularly interesting development this year has been requests for the Trust to develop community archaeology programmes in Merthyr Tydfil and Blaengarw. This seems to be in line with a growing demand for greater public participation in archaeology, and Trust staff also attended two conferences during the course of the year, in London and Manchester, to see how other organisations were providing such services.

The following section relates to Cadw's requirement and work specification for the provision of wide-ranging heritage management services in Southeast Wales.

#### ***Information in response to requests from Cadw including data to support projects particularly the Scheduling Enhancement Programme***

Through the detailed information contained in the regional Historic Environment Record, the Trust assisted Cadw in many areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. The Trust also continues to propose its own scheduling recommendations arising out of its varied curatorial work and these and supporting information were relayed to Cadw for consideration. Trust staff have also provided on-site information and advice to the Assistant Inspector involved in scheduling World War Two sites.

#### ***SMR (HER) Information to enquirers in accordance with the Trust's 'Guidelines for Access and Charging' (except paragraph 11)***

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year 273 enquiries were made as compared with 349 for the previous year, and there were 38 visits to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the Historic Environment Record. These figures are down on last year, but broadly in line with figures for the three previous years. This facility for visiting the Trust is an essential public service and one of the key components of the Trust's development as a regional archaeological resource centre.

Year	*Total consultations	Commercial	Public	Total visits to Trust
2000-2001	152	Breakdown not available		49
2001-2002	217	45	172	51
2002-2003	277	79	198	59
2003-2004	287	77	210	76
2004-2005	262	96	166	67
2005-2006	349	103	246	74
2006-2007	273	97	176	38

\*These exclude consultations for the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Industry and Public Utilities, etc, which are reported elsewhere.

In particular, it often proves the first point of contact for what can become a close association between the Trust and local groups.

### ***Advice on Scheduled Monument Consent Applications***

On behalf of Cadw, the Curatorial Division, as a recognised consultee, received 34 consultations, of which only two required responses: the remainder were notifications of Welsh Assembly Government's decisions on applications.

### ***Site visits/meetings by curatorial staff***

During the year, the Trust was asked by a wide variety of parties, both organisations and private individuals, to visit sites either to provide information about the nature of the site, or to advise on management issues. We welcome these visits, both as a way of helping to safeguard the historic environment, and in furthering the WAG commitment to life-long learning and inclusivity and the Trust's declared purpose of educating the public in archaeology.

Among the visits this year, two particular themes have stood out, World War Two archaeology and Early Medieval Carved stones. In part, this may be due to the greater prominence given to these two classes of monument recently.

The WWII sites (which are in addition to those where Trust staff have been requested to visit in connection with scheduling plans) were a pillbox at Pontarddulais, a subterranean room in Pontypool, and the anti-aircraft battery on Mumbles Head where the Trust was asked to visit in connection with a project to conserve the site and present it to the public.



### **Mumbles Head Anti-aircraft Battery**

The Early Christian monuments were at Llangyfelach Church where the possible conservation and relocation of the three monuments was discussed, and Llangiwig Church, where the Trust was asked by Swansea Museum to visit in connection with finding suitable provisions for housing the Early Medieval stone there in the event that the church, which was for sale, went into private ownership.

Visits were also made to sites at: Upper Coedcae, Blaenavon where a new limestone quarry site associated with the World Heritage Site was identified; St Donats Castle where storm action has exposed part of the earlier sea wall; and Kenfig Sands, where human footprints in the peat bed had been identified by a member of the public. This last led to a request for a small grant from Cadw to record the previously unknown upper peat bed (GGAT 88).

### ***Information and assistance associated with the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales***

Liaison and follow-up advice continued to be provided when required to the Countryside Council for Wales with respect to the Register of Historic Landscapes. There were no significant issues in the reporting period.

### ***Advice to Local Authorities and National Parks on a range of matters including local and structure plan policies***

Take-up on advice outside the planning process remains patchy, with some local authorities being much readier to avail themselves of the service offered by the Trust than others. Particularly constructive this year was the fairly close involvement the Trust has had with Swansea City Council's Environmental Strategy Policy, though even here we were only involved at the second stage of consultation rather than at the start. Besides commenting on, and providing material for, the policy document itself, Trust staff met with officers of Swansea City Council and the consultant drawing up the Environment Strategy Policy document for Swansea, to discuss the action plan which is to be included in the document. Two priorities have been agreed for the Historic Environment:

- Safeguard historic buildings, sites and monuments ensuring that regeneration schemes and developments are sensitive to an area's character and heritage;
- Improve access to and interpretation of valued buildings, sites and monuments in both urban and rural areas.

A series of milestones is being devised to mark future progress on the conservation and presentation of the historic environment, which will involve input by the Trust in establishing a framework for undertaking Conservation Area appraisals and in devising heritage trails. We have seen the fruit of this last initiative in the new self-guided walk leaflet for the city centre, for which the Trust provided information. We regard these Environmental Strategy documents as being a model of best practice for the historic environment.

Besides this, Historic Environment Record data and advice were given to Caerphilly CBC in connection with a survey that the council is undertaking on its commons, and the Trust is involved with helping develop a landscape project in the Sirhowy Valley which will be submitted to the HLF. Trust staff also took part in workshops organised by the BBNP to discuss its proposed new Sustainable Tourism Policy, the Vale of Glamorgan to discuss its Environmental Strategy, and in Cardiff City Council's Countryside Strategy annual forum. The Trust is also working with Merthyr Tydfil Museum to develop a community archaeology project at the Roman fort in Penydarren.

### ***Advice to local authorities and National Parks on development proposals as part of the development control process.***

See below GGAT 43 below.

### ***Advice and, where appropriate, visits associated with Woodland Grant Schemes work and other Forestry Authority consultations***

The Trust, as part of its heritage management remit, continued to provide archaeological services to the Forestry Commission. The Register of Felling and Planting is received each week with the Trust providing information and advice on the protection of archaeological interests as part of grant-aided projects and forestry operations. The Trust responded to 50

requests for information from the Forestry Commission. Thirty-five were in response to Woodland Grant Scheme Applications, Three offering advice for EIA's, and 12 regarding Felling Licence Applications.

In connection with these consultations visits were made to a number of sites such as Llantrisant, Monmouthshire, on the suspected course of the Roman road following the east bank of the River Usk between Caerleon and Usk and the Mumbles Woodland Improvement Project being carried out under Cyncoed.

***Advice as part of the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme as outlined in the CCW document "Tir Gofal Historic Environment Liaison Procedures for Historic Features and Archaeological Sites"***

See GGAT 67 below

***Provision of information and advice to farmers and other landowners outside the Tir Gofal scheme.***

Approaches for information and advice have been received from a few farmers and landowners and these have been accounted as part of the SMR enquiry procedures.

***Initial enquiries from service industries, such as water and electricity and other utilities.***

See GGAT 43 below.

Information and advice has also been provided to Welsh Water who are currently producing a heritage leaflet which reports on the archaeological features found during their work.

***Liaison and advice to conservation bodies such as the Countryside Council for Wales, the National Trust, etc***

The Trust continued to maintain good contact with the Countryside Council for Wales over a wide variety of issues and projects. The Trust also maintained close relations with other organisations and individuals that have responsibility and interests in national and local historic environment issues.

***Monitoring the effectiveness of Planning Guidance (Wales) and Circular 60/96 – Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology***

Both documents are fully and effectively enshrined in planning policy and practice in Southeast Wales. All the regional Unitary Authorities took full regard to the provisions required by central government to protect archaeological interests through the planning processes. No specific actions were required in the reporting period.

***Follow-up advice and long-term support for pan-Wales (churches, coastal, etc) and other Trust projects***

The Trust's Heritage and Outreach Manager provides historic environment information for the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon as an offshoot of the Historic Churches project.

***The wider dissemination of the results of Cadw-funded projects including through the website.***

Cadw, in partnership with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, promotes the need across Wales for disseminating information on archaeological work. Public demand for information on the archaeological heritage has rapidly grown over the past few years and the Trust continued to utilise its website ([www.ggat.org.uk](http://www.ggat.org.uk)) to provide information on regional archaeology as well as a section dedicated to Cadw funded projects. During the year information on Cadw projects was added to the website, including a summary of the landscape characterisation of the Blaenavon

Registered Historic Landscape and an enlarged Gower Historic Landscape which included the whole of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Accessibility has been improved to the Cadw pages of the website, the start of a programme to upgrade the whole site. The website pages prepared for the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites project have been translated and will be uploaded once the new website structure has been devised. The Trust's other outreach activities are considered separately below.

***Responding to consultations from the Welsh Assembly Government and other organisations on proposals which affect the historic environment.***

As part of our regional heritage remit the Trust is consulted on a wide variety of matters. During the year we responded to the following documents.

<b>From</b>	<b>Document title</b>
Welsh Assembly Government	Amended rural development plan for Wales 2007-13
Swansea City Council	Swansea environmental strategy
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	Cynon Valley River Park consultation
Hyder Consulting	Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy
WAG	Environment Strategy for Wales

***Dealing with consultations connected with the Countryside Rights of Way Act***

No consultations took place under this head during the year.

***Dealing with consultations connected with the Uncultivated Land and Semi-natural Areas Provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.***

No consultations took place under this head during the year.

***Curatorial advice in connection with the marine environment***

The Trust has maintained its role within the Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) and attended the half-yearly meetings held by that organisation. During the year attendance and responses to the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group were maintained. Trust staff also attended a workshop on the Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy, held in Swansea.

***General outreach/education***

As part of our outreach commitment, and in partnership with Cadw, the Trust continued to prepare displays and leaflets, made new contacts, gave lectures and received students and school placements into our offices. In particular, we produced leaflets on the Trust's landscape characterisation projects for Blaenavon and Gower.

Information continued to be provided to media companies in consideration or preparation of various television and radio programmes, such as BBC2's *Coast* programme and BBC Wales's *Fishlock's Wild Walks*. An interview on the work at Cardiff Castle was given to ITV's *Grassroots* programme.

A number of seminar/workshop meetings were attended to discuss such issues as the Taff Action Plan (St Fagans Museum, Cardiff), and a heritage trail leaflet around Llantrisant and Llanharry to help promote the South Wales Valleys as a tourism destination (Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff). Attendance continues at groups such as the Swansea Environmental Education Forum.

Talks and lectures were given to Gwent Historical Society, Llantrisant Local History Society, Swansea Eastside Historical Society, Caerphilly Local History Society, Birchgrove OAP

Association Ladies' Branch, Friends of Forest Farm and Glamorgan Canal Nature Reserve and the after-school Latin Club at Bishopston Comprehensive School, and also to the History Forum for Wales, the Roman Archaeology Conference and a dayschool on Roman Caerleon organised by the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association and the Caerleon Research Committee. Three guided walks were given as part of the Gower Walking Festival in June, on the archaeology of Rhossili, historic Swansea, and the industrial archaeology of the Lower Swansea Valley. All were well attended.

Our partnership with heritage groups and organisations in Swansea continued to bear fruit, with the Trust attending the West Glamorgan Archive Services Open Day, the Glamorgan Family History Society's 'Family History Weekend', and a finds identification day held by Swansea Museum. Manned exhibitions were provided for all these events along with other attractions as appropriate, such as finds identification and the chance to consult the Historic Environment Record.



#### **2006 National Archaeology Week GGAT Open Day at Swansea Museum**

In association with Swansea Museum, the Trust organised an Open Day at the museum as part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Week which again proved very successful - the museum's records indicate a thousand visitor movements, the best attendance so far recorded at such an event. Besides a range of exhibitions, the Trust provided Historic Environment Record searches, prehistoric pottery making for children, a Roman cookery demonstration and a finds roadshow. A wide range of local history and heritage societies and other organisations also had stalls, including Friends of Oystermouth Castle, the Glamorgan Family History Society (Swansea Branch), the Plas Danbert Trust, the Swansea Metal Detectorist Club, West Glamorgan Archives Service, Swansea University and the Swansea Bay 1940s Museum. Gwerin y Gwyr, a Dark Ages Historical Re-enactment Society, provided an assortment of craft demonstrations such as leather shoe making and weaving, and also a display of reproduction military equipment with warriors dressed for battle.

Also as part of National Archaeology Week, a successful evening walk took place to examine the archaeology of Portskewett and Sudbrook, but uptake for a daytime walk to explore the ritual and funerary monuments of Park Wood and Cefn Bryn was disappointing, possibly because of the heat.





### **Welsh Archaeological Trusts Stand National Eisteddfod 2006**

Trust staff attended the National Eisteddfod held at the old Felindre tinplate works site, manning a stand on the work of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts in conjunction with Cambria Archaeology. Both Historic Environment Records were available on computer, enabling members of the public to search the whole of South and West Wales. A bilingual information sheet on the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts with contact details was available as a hand-out: this has since been provided electronically to the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for their outreach activities, and can also be made available to the other two Trusts. New displays had been prepared on the Trust's recent work, including a panel on the Gower Historic Landscape Characterisation, to tie up with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty golden anniversary and the forthcoming posting of this area on the Trust's website. There was also a more general display on the work of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, including illustrative material from all over Wales making use of pictures kindly provided by the other Trusts. Other activities included prehistoric pottery making for children, which the Eisteddfod organisers were keen for us to provide.

Trust staff attended the Bedwelty Agricultural Show at Blackwood, Caerphilly, on August Bank Saturday, in the environmental tent. Again, displays and prehistoric pottery making for children were provided, the latter attracting a considerable number of people to the stand since there were only a limited number of activities for children elsewhere on the field.

The Trust has maintained attendance at the Gower Countryside Forum, which is an advisory body for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As a result we have raised the profile of the historic environment, which should result in a better understanding of historic environment issues and positive management benefits. In celebration of Gower's becoming the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 50 years ago, the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Conference was held at Swansea in July. As part of the conference the Trust in conjunction with the City and Council of Swansea conducted a field trip for the delegates. The successful day trip visited a number of locations and explored issues such as the management of the historic environment and how the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status has helped to restrict unsympathetic development. Another event was the visit to Gower by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to celebrate the 50 years as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of their tour around Wales. As a member of the Gower Countryside Forum a representative from the Trust was invited to meet with them at Rhossili Village Hall.



### **2006 Gower Walking Festival: Rhossili Down**

The Trust also provides information and advice on issues relating to the historic environment to the technical officers' group supporting the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's *Overlooking the Wye* HLF bid.

The Trust continues to offer support, advice and information to a number of community groups applying for various grants for heritage projects. They include the Friends of Oystermouth Castle. Information for the preparation of a Heritage Trail leaflet around Llantrisant and Llanharry to help promote the South Wales Valleys as a tourism destination was provided at a meeting with Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The Trust produced drafts of leaflets on the Early Medieval carved and inscribed stones of Gower and Merthyr Mawr. These are still awaiting comment from Dr Mark Redknap before they can be progressed.

### ***Regional Heritage Forum***

A major part of this Trust's outreach commitment and programme is the organisation on an annual basis of a Regional Heritage Forum with the twelve Unitary Authorities in South-east Wales. The seventh Regional Heritage Forum, hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC, took place on 16th October at Dare Valley County Park. The meeting was well attended by Cadw and Trust staff and representatives from all but two of the twelve Unitary Authorities in Glamorgan and Gwent. A presentation was given by Judith Alfrey (Cadw) entitled 'Making the Most of the Built Environment'

### **GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services**

The archaeological planning services provided on behalf of Cadw require the Trust to initially assess all the region's planning applications and to notify the planning authorities of archaeological constraints to proposals, giving information and specific recommendations on the

best course of action required to protect archaeological interests whilst enabling permitted development. Thereafter, and with the combined resources provided by all twelve regional authorities, the Archaeological Planning Section provided further detailed services, such as the provision of archaeological briefs for pre-determination assessments, approving detailed specifications submitted by developers and monitoring the work from inception and fieldwork to the production of the final report. The Trust has also been involved in a large number of planning appeals providing information and written advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the Welsh Assembly Government.

The 2006-2007 detailed statistics of the responses to planning applications made by the Archaeological Planning Section, which vary from recommending desk-based assessments and intrusive field evaluations in the predetermination period of planning applications through to the attachment of appropriate archaeological conditions on planning consents, are attached as an appendix to this review.

The year on year increase in planning applications registered by the planning Authorities in Southeast Wales may have peaked. The number of applications registered this year was similar to last years total (2005-6 = 21526; 2006-7 = 21152). The Trust provided detailed advice on 1543 applications in the year a decrease of 183 from the preceding year. This led to us lodging objections to 11 applications on the grounds that the proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the archaeological resource (12 the previous year); recommending that in 51 cases additional information on the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource would need to be provided by the applicant prior to the determination of the planning application (79 the previous year) and in 441 cases that conditions requiring archaeological work to be undertaken should be attached to the planning consent (482 the previous year). These conditions can be divided into three types, those requiring programmes of archaeological investigation (such as excavations) of which there were 159 (171); those requiring an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during the development 190 (245) and those requiring buildings and structures to be recorded 92 (66).

The Trust has continued to provide advice to the Utility Companies and the Environment Agency on the impact of their works on the archaeological resource. Forty-seven consultations were received during the year leading to a number of discoveries being made during archaeological monitoring of linear developments. Moreover, two substantial gas pipelines were under construction in the western part of the region during the year, one from Milford Haven to Aberdulais in the Neath Valley and another from Felindre near to Swansea to Tirley in Gloucestershire. The Trust were commissioned by the Department for Trade and Industry to provide curatorial services on the parts of these pipelines in the region. A considerable amount of survey and investigation work was undertaken prior to the final route of the pipelines being agreed. In the case of the Milford Haven to Aberdulais pipeline this work allowed the route to be diverted around significant sites such as the motte and bailey castle at Llandilo Talybont and led to few discoveries being made during construction work in our region. Construction work on the Felindre to Tirley only commenced March 2007 and any discoveries on this route will be reported next year.

The introduction of a new form of strategic planning in Wales, the Local Development Plans (LDPs) succeeding the previous Unitary Development Plan (UDP) system has required substantial input from the section. The new system is "community led" requiring considerable community engagement including meetings. The LDPs are also subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and we have been integrated into these processes. In addition to the Unitary Authorities who started work on their LDPs last year (Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Torfaen) Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan commenced work on their LDPs during this year.

In July 2006 the Cardiff County Council approved its' Supplementary Planning Guidance document on Archaeologically Sensitive Areas. The Section provided considerable assistance in the preparation of this documentation and later in the year presented a seminar on its' use to the Authority's Planning Officers,

Some monitoring works may only require a single site visit or report review, but occasionally where large scale and complex development projects conflict with complex archaeological remains more intensive works are required. This year in addition to the Gas Pipelines, there were two such cases, the construction of a supermarket on part of the site of the Llynfi Ironworks at Maesteg and the construction of a residential development on the site of the Upper Bank Copperworks in Swansea.

## **GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Gower Historic Landscape Website Work.**

The year April 2006 — March 2007 saw the successful completion of the following tasks:

1. The placing of the Blaenavon characterisation report on to the Trust website (Cadw pages)
2. Translation of Gower and posting on the Cadw pages of the Trust website
3. Translation and printing of leaflet for Blaenavon Historic Landscape Characterisation
4. Translation and printing of leaflet for Gower Historic Landscape characterisation
5. Review of the Lower Wye Valley Landscape Studies.

Task 1, posting the characterisation work for the Blaenavon Historic Landscape on the web was completed in August 2006, following translation into Welsh. This entailed the formatting of the content of the Blaenavon Historic Landscape Report as web pages, and the conversion of the photographic illustrations and maps illustrating the historic landscape character areas into a web compatible format.

Task 2, the translation and placing of the Gower historic landscape on web was similarly carried out during the latter half of the financial year to correspond with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Both the Blaenavon and the Gower Historic Landscape Leaflets, tasks 3 and 4, have been printed and are being distributed.

### **Lower Wye Valley Review**

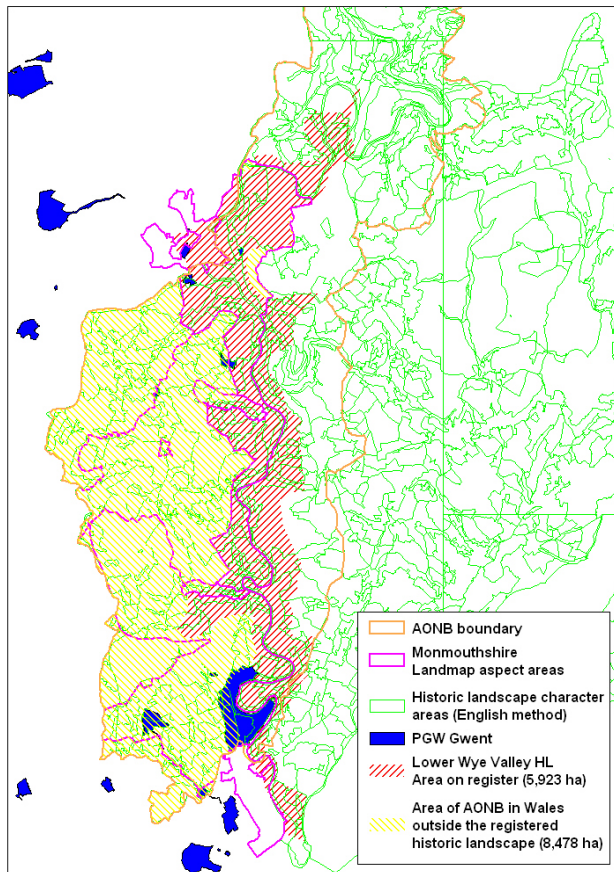
In addition, during the second half of the year a review of landscape studies previously undertaken for the Lower Wye Valley (task 5) was carried out to inform the future proposals for characterisation of this area. As a result it has been established that in addition to historic landscape characterisation of the area on the register, ie the Lower Wye Valley Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, as cited in Part 2:1 of the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, 1998, that part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty situated within the boundaries of Wales would also benefit from characterisation to the 'Welsh' methodology established during the pan-Wales Cadw Historic Landscape Characterisation project .

The level of modern historic landscape study or characterisation for the historic landscape area of the Lower Wye Valley was found to be inconsistent: the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape has benefited from the characterisation of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the 'English' methodology, a methodology largely based on a landscape (fieldscape) typology, differing in scope to that adopted in Wales. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty characterisation study also relies on limited data and source material, whilst the necessary consultations do not appear to have been carried out consistently for that part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lying beyond the English Border.

The 'English' method is based on a brief typological description of the character area, and does not provide the level of identifiable key characteristics, essential for detailed landscape assessment (ASIDOHL), an increasingly significant component of EIAs and archaeological planning management in Wales. This study also omitted any provision of management/conservation recommendations. An assessment of historic and picturesque viewpoints undertaken in 2001 for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty does provide specific management recommendations in the form of viewpoint strategies linked to the

management aims of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the latter, however, whilst detailed and suited to its purpose, is not comprehensive enough at a landscape scale to obviate the need for the management recommendations, which would be produced as part of a study undertaken to the 'Welsh' method. It should be noted that whilst characterisation of a portion of the area has been undertaken to a lower level, LANDMAP level 3, for the purpose of the Monmouthshire LANDMAP study (Deposit Version September 2001), this study has yet to be updated to the latest guidelines (2003) and Quality Assured.

For the sake of consistency with other historic landscapes and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty within Wales, especially with regards planning practice in the Welsh context, it is considered that both the area of the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape on the register, and that part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within Wales would benefit from characterisation project(s) carried out to the 'Welsh' methodology. This would provide consistent and compatible data



with other historic landscape areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales, in particular facilitating consistent use of ASIDOHL.

### **GGAT 67 Tir Gofal**

The Trust continued its involvement with Tir Gofal, although this scheme has been through changes recently, leading to a much reduced programme of work. Three HE1s at the tail-end of the Round 4 applications were completed, and three HE1s from Round 1 five-year reviews with additional lands. Twenty-six reviews without additional land were also undertaken, these with no funding support. Five HE2s for Round 4 were also undertaken in the first part of the year with funding from the Countryside Council of Wales.

The Trust continued to meet with Cadw, Tir Gofal management and regional representatives.

### **GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites**

Work on this project this year consisted of two tasks, both of which had been identified in the action plan drawn up in 2005-2006 as desirable. One was a detailed survey of the Graig Fawr chambered tomb near Pontardawe (see cover illustration), which had been discovered too late

to be included in the RCAHMW's Glamorgan *Inventory*. The other was a programme of fieldwork to assess the survival of two sites in the Vale of Glamorgan, one an interrupted ditch enclosure at Norton near Ogmores-by-Sea, which was being considered for scheduling, and the other a scheduled barrow cemetery at Monknash, to see how badly it was being damaged by continued ploughing.

The Graig Fawr chambered tomb (SAM Gm 513) was discovered in 1989 and consists of two separate chambers built from orthostats with a possible robbed mound. It was envisaged that a close-set contour survey on the monument would provide an accurate record of the chambers and possibly locate the position of the original mound, which would in turn permit the scheduled area to be extended. The results obtained from the survey showed two chambers (A and B) c3m apart, formed from relatively small and thin slabs of the local Pennant sandstone, each chamber having multiple compartments. The mound has been largely destroyed; indeed, it is difficult to distinguish its remains from the natural unevenness of the ground. However, the results of the survey demonstrated the existence of a crescent mound to the west of chamber A and a possible continuation of the mound to the east of the same chamber; but a degree of caution must be exercised in the interpretation. Although present sheep tracks were avoided in order not to prejudice the result, anomalies resulting from ancient sheep tracks and disturbance attributed to the partial destruction of the chambers cannot be discounted as cannot the possibility of the higher elements of natural strata lying just under the soil cover.

The enclosure at Norton was first photographed from the air in 1984, although the confirmation of the cropmark as a probable interrupted-ditch enclosure came as a result of Royal Commission aerial reconnaissance in July 1996. The site encloses the summit of a low limestone hill, overlooking the wide mouth of the Ogmores River, and beyond to the sand dunes of Merthyr Mawr Warren. According to the aerial photographic plot the enclosure appeared to conform to an interrupted bivallate plan with entrances aligned to the four cardinal points, with an internal diameter of 191m by 176m and ditches 2-4m wide. Possible circular pits, with diameters ranging from 2m to 10m, also seemed to be distributed broadly across the site.

The fieldwork incorporated four trenches positioned in order to identify the presence of the bivallate ditches and sufficient of their depth to enable their nature and degree of survival to be assessed. A 35m long trench, through the eastern entrance, was positioned to examine a large pit (10m in diameter) and the three ditches forming a flanged-shaped terminus. The second and third trenches were 21m in length and placed over the enclosure's ditches to the south where a terminus is suspected but obscured on the aerial photographic plot by a copse of sloe and elder. The final 20m trench was positioned across the ditches to the north of the enclosure.

The results of the excavation have proved beyond doubt the presence of the bivallate ditches, although location of the large pit to the east of the site proved more elusive. The first trench revealed a rock-cut ditch 1.2m in depth and 13.8m wide, no trace of the large pit was encountered or any conclusive evidence of the flanged-shaped terminus depicted on the aerial photographic plot. A preliminary interpretation of this ditch feature is that the aerial photographic plot and trench location were marginally inaccurate and consequently missed the targeted terminus and instead followed a short section of the internal ditch, which comprises the north side of the eastern cardinal terminus. The second and third trenches revealed two large ditches measuring 2.9m to 3.5m in width with a possible terminus in the second trench, although as only sufficient of those deposits were excavated to identify the presence of the ditches the terminus remains unexcavated. The 3.5m width of internal ditch exposed in the third trench was excavated revealing a rock-cut ditch 1.5m in depth, the basal fill appeared to be comprised of back-filled rubble from the ditch, with large quantities of animal and possibly human bone randomly deposited within it. The basal fill appears to have been back-filled into the ditch from the south, the deposit diagonally sloped from this side, possibly hinting at the presence of an external ditch, however short-lived. No trace of a bank was discernable though above the ditch, probably due to the thin cover of topsoil and the existing agricultural regime. Then, as with both of the ditches excavated to bedrock, a period of abandonment is represented by a significant depth of natural silting before plough disturbance was encountered near the ground surface.

The Church Farm Barrow Cemetery group at Monknash (SAM Gm 262) is comprised of three burial mounds and was chosen for investigation because of the seriously denuded nature of the earthworks. Indeed, the damage to at least two of the barrows is so severe as to raise the questions to whether these should be fully excavated to provide preservation by record.

It was decided that two 35m trenches placed across the two better surviving barrows would provide sufficient information on their state of preservation and to what extent the mounds have spread through agricultural practices. The third barrow is now so denuded that it is almost impossible to locate. Archaeological deposits were encountered directly beneath the ploughsoil and what the remains of these earthwork mounds are now very spread and visible as the subsoil. As a consequence of the seriously denuded nature of both barrows it was established that one of the earthwork mounds (PRN 228s) contained two damaged cremation burials, in funerary urns, located very close to the ploughsoil. Regrettably, because of previous agricultural activities, only the base (0.1m in height) of one cremation urn survives. Consequently, it was considered prudent to remove both cremations to prevent their loss during this autumn's ploughing activities. These burial urns were located 0.55m above the bedrock and have been interpreted as secondary to any primary burials that may exist below this but remain at this time unexcavated. At the northern end of the round barrow the presence of a rock-cut ditch was identified cut through the natural Lias bedrock, 1.4m wide and 1m in depth with 0.5m near-vertical sides. A thin layer of light coloured clay was identified forming a gentle slope from the ditch over the surviving mound deposits; now badly truncated this 'clay cap' to the mound may be the remains of an original finish to the barrow. Although similar efforts were made to find the barrow ditch to the south, no trace of this feature was located. The additional time required to lift the cremations at PRN 228s limited any further exploration of PRN 227s; where the denuded mound was identified directly below the ploughsoil.

Support from the reserve allowed radiocarbon to be obtained. These related to samples taken from the deposits associated with the cremation at Monknash, and animal bone from the ditch at Norton. The latter was disappointing in archaeological terms, since one sample was too small for proper measurement and the other produced a post-medieval date. However, the samples from Monknash were all within the expected date range (Beta - 229070 3480+/-40 BP; Beta - 229071 3530+/- 40 BP; Beta - 229072 2920+/-40 BP).

## **GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads**

Work in 2006-2007 consisted of the second year of a two-year programme to carry out a geomorphological survey of the tidal reach of the River Usk and Afon LLwyd above Newport, which was been commissioned from the Department of Geography at the University of Wales Aberystwyth. This work involved detailed sampling of two areas, including one in the floodplain of the Afon Llwyd immediately to the west of the Fortress and one further upstream. In addition samples from the floodplain recovered during the construction of the New Championship Course at the Celtic Manor Resort were analysed. Due to technical difficulties the report was delayed and delivery is expected in the autumn of 2007.

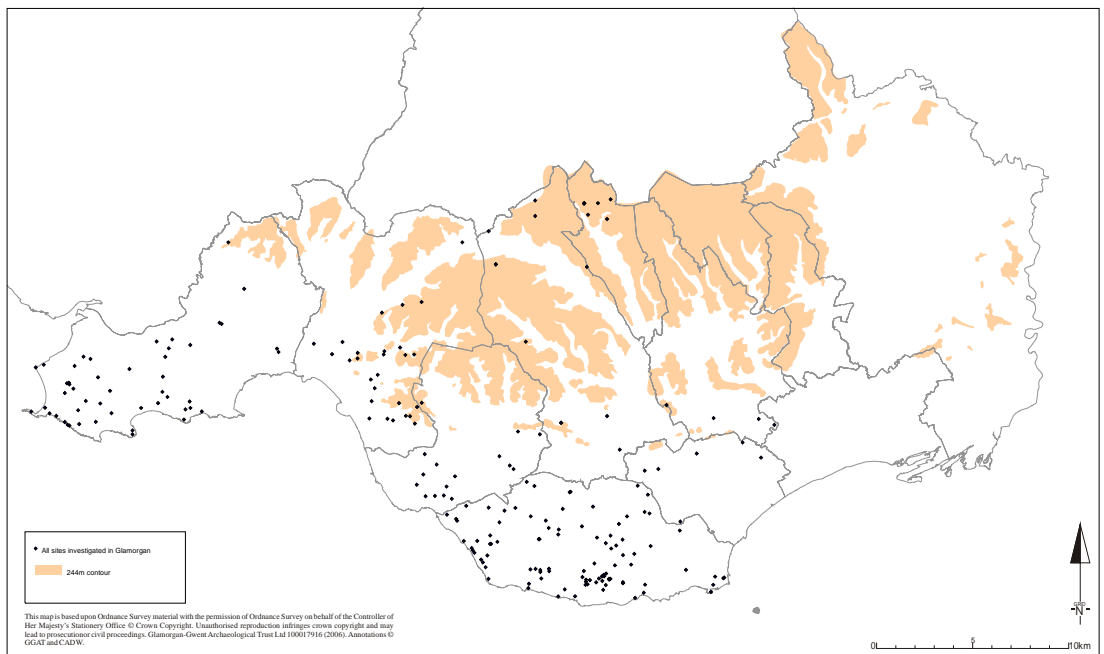
## **GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures**

In 2006-2007 the fieldwork on monuments in Glamorgan was completed. Some sites had already been visited during years one and two, but a further seventy-four sites were identified as requiring a site visit. Permission could not be obtained for seven of these, but the remaining sites were visited, and a report prepared. The sites visited included a high proportion of sites that had been identified through air photography. It was found that, on many of these, repeated cultivation had removed all traces of earthworks.

In general, although the statistical data concerning the different morphological features of the enclosures has been augmented, the general conclusions reached in year one have not been significantly modified. Defended enclosures are still a rare type in the uplands, but the

breakdown by topographic location has added a site in a valley bottom, where they had previously not been recorded.

The defences with which the sites were provided ranged from very massive multiple banks and ditches to much slighter single defences, and were sometimes, but not always, connected with the natural defensibility of the site. Univallate sites are still the commonest form by far, now with eighty-three examples. However, it is possible that this number may include sites where an additional ring or ring of defences has been slighted, and air photograph and geophysical evidence from two otherwise univallate sites suggests that they may have had an outer palisade beyond the earthwork defences. Bivallate enclosures with closely set defences account for twenty-three examples, widely set bivallate defences for fourteen, closely set multivallate defences for fifteen, and widely set multivallate defences for twelve. The vast majority of recorded entrances are of simple type (forty-five examples), consisting of no more than a gap in the defences, although the excavations at Coed-y-Cymdda and Whitton show that the ends of the bank were faced with timber constructions at these two sites (Owen-John 1988, 59-65; Jarrett and Wrathmell 1981, 12-6), and similar arrangements are likely at other, unexcavated, sites. The earthwork entrance passage type remains at thirteen examples, with other entrance types still being rare (two entrance passage with guardchambers, three barbicans/hornworks and two complex). Four examples are now known with ditched/banked tracks (causeways).



### Map extracted from project report showing location of Prehistoric Defended Enclosures investigated in the former Glamorgan Counties

As far as the shape of the interior is concerned, it was not always possible to tell from the information available. Where it could be assessed, the most common shape was sub-circular, with seventy-four examples, including half-circle enclosures on cliff- and cwm- edge sites. There were thirty-three sites described as sub-rectangular and three as rectangular. Five sites were polygonal, six triangular, eighteen irregular and one complex. There appears to be very little in the way of significant groupings visible in the locations of the various shapes of enclosure, apart from a predominance of circular ones on the lower reaches of the Coalfield in Neath Port Talbot. Knowledge of the internal details of these enclosures is limited not only by preservation of the upstanding earthworks, but also by the fact that few have ever been excavated. Twenty-six sites have internal buildings recorded, almost all being curvilinear. Annexes and additional enclosures are definitely present at only eighteen sites, with one possible additional one; the majority (ten examples) are detached. Eight sites are noted as having possible associated field systems, though it is not certain that these are contemporary.



Most have no record of the form of these fields, but where it is recorded, they are small, possibly paddocks or garden enclosures.

## References

Jarrett, M G and Wrathmell, S, 1981, *Whitton: An Iron Age and Roman farmstead*

Owen-John, H S, 1988, The hillslope enclosure in Coed y Cymdda, near Wenvoe, South Glamorgan, *Archaeol Cambrensis* **137**, 43-98

## GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks

In 2006-2007 the main element in the third year of the project was a Heads of the Valleys area-wide mapping exercise based on the first edition 25-inch OS map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping). This allowed specific ironwork water-related resources to be identified and quantified at a landscape scale. It was decided to base the mapping exercise on the first edition OS map (c 1875-1880) as this period represented a hiatus in iron production across the Heads of the Valleys area, with the systems largely at their maximum extent. Later OS editions detail the water management systems as they were modified for steel production and public health water supply. The mapping exercise was undertaken using a GIS mapping package (MapInfo 7). Digital point data was produced to locate individual localised features based on the first edition maps, with polygonal and line data being produced to map reservoirs and linear features (eg leats, culverts and feeders). Valley system areas and areas of complex or ambiguous associations were conceived and mapped in polygonal form.

The survival of the resource was assessed through comparison of information obtained from historic maps and modern mapping (OS Landline) supplemented by information obtained from digitally available aerial photographs (Get Mapping). In addition readily available map information on areas of opencast was also sourced and used to aid this process; this primarily comprised digital mining information (past opencast site data) kindly provided by the Coal Authority under licence. The potential threats to the resource and the current level of protection given to the resource were also examined.

During Year 3 the results of previous years work were also reviewed and incorporated to allow the identification and mapping of areas of special industrial ironworks landscape significance. This will be ultimately revised in Year 4 to incorporate and take into account information on extraction areas.

Initial searches identified 101 water management related features within the revised study area. Of these 67 were found to relate directly or indirectly to ironworks; rapid mapping increased this figure over eightfold; the total number of water related features/sites identified increased to 601. Of these a total of 563 were previously unidentified sites.

For practical reasons the current study has identified five water management systems, broadly corresponding to the major river valleys within the study area. It was evident from the data that none of the water management systems within the study area survive intact, and that five out of the six systems identified for the purpose of the project potentially surviving to around 50% of their original extent. The results, however, indicate sufficient surviving potential for an understanding of the ironworks' related water management systems, and that further detailed field based work is required to confirm the survival and value of the surviving resource, backed up with appropriate documentary work.

The level of available study undertaken for water management features in general is low, with the exception to an extent of the Dowlais free drainage system, and parts of the systems, which supplied Cyfarthfa and Ebbw Vale. Whilst the current study allowed a rapid establishment of baseline data across the Heads of the Valleys area, it has been by its very nature limited in scope and detail. On this basis further detailed documentary work and targeted field survey is recommended. This further work would aim to increase the level of data and information on water management systems, and, as well as identifying additional features, would in particular ascertain the condition of the resource fully, provide developmental history, and if where

possible, attempt to confirm the exact associations, and how the water management features of any particular 'system' operated.



#### **Waun-y-Pound Reservoir used to supply both the Sirhowy and Tredegar Ironworks**

The following recommendations for further archaeological work are made:

- Undertake detailed review of available cartographic and documentary sources, including map regression, to increase the level of detailed information available on the following water management systems: Eastern Valley (Cwm Sychan and Cwm Ffrwd); Nant-y-glo and Ebbw fach; Sirhowy and Tredegar; Rhymney; and Cynon with the Dare and Aman systems, and to a lesser extent the Beaufort and Ebbw Vale system, the latter has been largely covered by recent assessment work (Oakey 2005).
- Undertake site visits to inform site descriptions and assess condition of the resource in detail on the following water management systems: Eastern Valley (Cwm Sychan and Cwm Ffrwd); Nant-y-glo and Ebbw fach; Sirhowy and Tredegar; Rhymney; and Cynon with the Dare and Aman systems, and those sections of the Beaufort and Ebbw Vale system not covered by recent assessment work (Oakey 2005).
- Production of detailed management and conservation recommendations (based on the above)
- Production of protection recommendations (as necessary)
- Undertake topographic surveys and detailed recording (as necessary)

The Year 3 report sets out the results of the project, with a section defining the aims, and methodology. It also summarises the known and potential threats and provides general recommendations and establishes management/conservation priorities. The report has been presented in such a way that upgrading of information can be considered through the medium of a GIS system. This allows data storage, manipulation, analysis, interrogation, presentation and future revision of information. Information Technology has therefore been a major component of

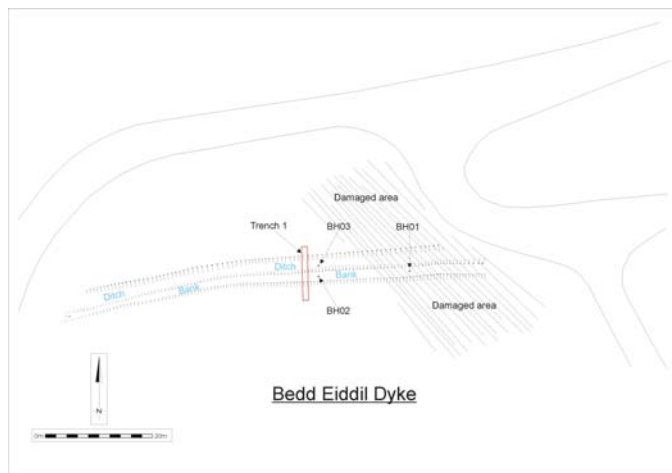
this project and the current years work contributes to the production of a dynamic and multi-layered digital model for the study area(s).

## GGAT 83 Southeast Wales Cross-ridge Dykes

During the spring and early summer of 2006 a survey was undertaken of all known Cross-ridge Dykes in Glamorgan and Gwent. Cross-ridge dykes are a distinctive monument class in Southeast Wales, particularly in upland Glamorgan. Most of the ridges of the Glamorgan uplands are crossed by short lengths of earthwork banks, possibly designed to control access along these natural route ways. The date of these features is not clear, although it has been suggested that they originated in the 8th or 9th centuries AD (Fox 1936; Crampton 1966; RCAHMW 1976, 5-11).

During the initial stages of the fieldwork permission was obtained to augur seven of the sixteen sites and one of these sites, Bedd Eiddil (PRN 02266.0m), was chosen for trial excavation. The remaining sites were subjected to a condition survey only, as the permission to augur and/or excavate could not be obtained from the landowners. Access to these sites, however, was provided by the new Open Access initiative.

Problems were encountered during the auguring of the seven sites. Almost all sample locations were obstructed by stone at varying levels of depth. This then, would suggest that many of the Cross-ridge Dykes in Southeast Wales are composed of stone or have a significant stone content. Indeed, the excavation of Bedd Eiddil identified large sandstone slabs used as cladding over an earthwork bank, and in places prevented even the most determined auguring. Therefore, the auguring of this monument type was found to be an inefficient method of evaluation. Small targeted excavations of this monument type would be a more efficient method of assessment.



**Plan Showing location of trench across Bedd Eiddil Dyke**

and burnt clay ball from the existing palaeosoil at Bedd Eiddil. Bedd Eiddil is a relatively short earthwork dyke composed of a single bank with a ditch on its north side positioned broadly east-west across the ridge between Bryn Du and Carn Eiddil at the head of Rhondda Fach. A 10m trench was placed across the dyke, which located the earthwork bank, stone cladding and a shallow ditch. The presence of *Ericaceae* pollen in the palaeosoil implies a heathland existed before the dyke was constructed and has shown the dyke to have been built not long after the *Ericaceae* pollen had reached its maximum (Crampton 1966).

A recurring feature of all the dykes surveyed is the continual damage caused by motorised vehicles, especially motorcycles. Bedd Eiddil is a particularly bad example, here the eastern section of the dyke has suffered severe erosion from motorcycles, deep wheel ruts have cut through the monument and as a result the bank and ditch has become almost flattened. This

Each of the seven sites augured produced results establishing that these monuments are situated on ferric stagnopodzols, (mainly upland soils with a peaty topsoil and periodically wet, faintly mottled bleached subsurface horizon overlying an iron-rich layer), some areas with a thin iron pan, over Palaeozoic sandstone bedrock. Crampton (1966) has shown these dykes to have been built not long after the *Ericaceae* pollen had reached its maximum, the soil structure being a *sol brun acide*, forming since the early-medieval period, on a podzol that started forming in the Bronze Age.

This would correspond well with the recovery of the prehistoric burnt flint flake

particular dyke was recently (2005) de-scheduled. The excavation established that a substantial bank and ditch survives and it is therefore suggested that at least an 80m length of the dyke must be well-preserved west of the damaged area. Fly-tipping is a problem identified on several of the scheduled monuments, especially those in more secluded locations such as those on Gelligaer Common and at the head of the Rhondda Valleys. Horses and walkers have had slightly less impact than motor vehicles, although even these activities have damaged the dykes, cutting artificial paths through the earthworks. Animal burrowing has also been identified on most sites but given the cross-ridge dyke's predominately stone content they remain stable; this then only presents a problem during any environmental analysis of these monuments.

### References

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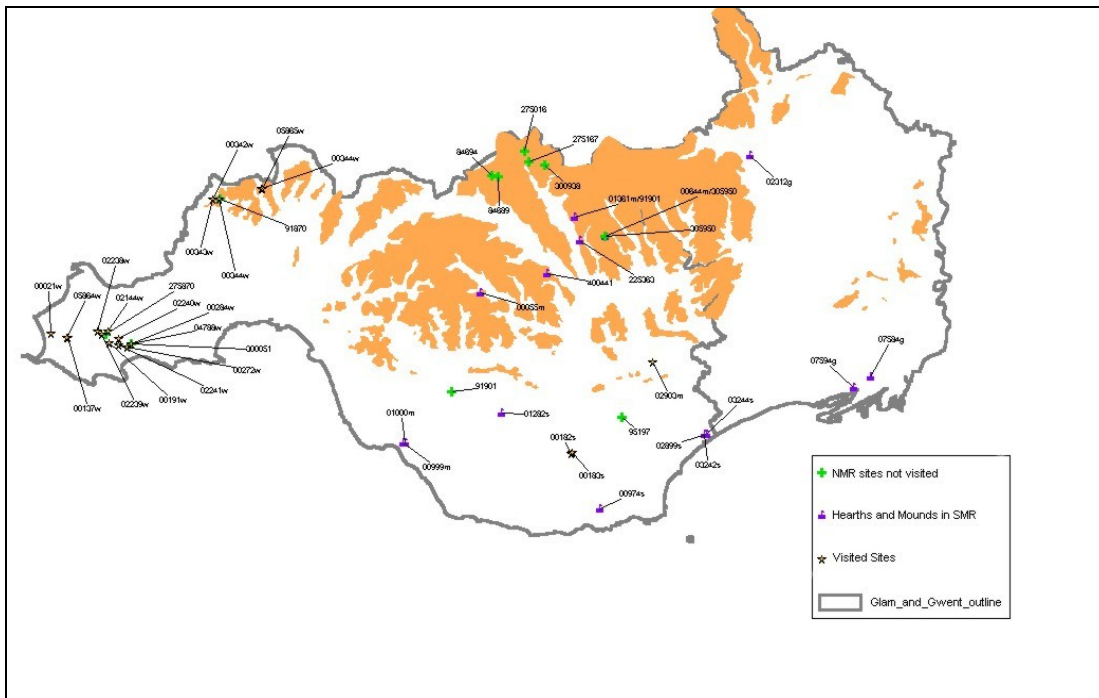
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## GGAT 85 Southeast Wales Burnt Mounds

The main objective of this study was to clarify the nature of the burnt mounds in Southeast Wales. The mounds are made up of debris from fires and cracked stone and it is beneath the mounds that pits, sometimes lined with wood and stone, can be found. It has been noted in West Wales that the shapes of the mounds are variable, but with the majority being variations on oval and sub circular forms and truncated variations on these.

Analysis of available records suggested that forty-seven potential sites were worthy of visit and in some cases testing through augering. Sketches of the monument and the immediate surroundings, and site photographs were obtained for each site, and panoramic photographs were taken where weather permitted. Earthwork surveys using triangulation from a baseline were done where time allowed giving us accurate information about the form of many of these monuments. These details were gathered to verify the information we had on these monuments, but also to obtain more detailed and helpful information on their form that had been previously lacking and to enable us to review more clearly something of their cultural and landscape context.

Following this the database was revised. Altogether twenty-two new burnt mounds have been added to those previously entered onto the Historic Environment Record, along with considerable additions to the original records, the majority of which previously contained very little information. The project report presents a summary of this data and also consideration about location, situation, and topography.



**Location of Burnt Mounds in South-east Wales**

## **GGAT 87 Southeast Wales Historic Urban Survey: Monmouth**

The Trust began the first phase of a two-year project to compile an historic urban database of Monmouth town with Cadw and Monmouthshire County Council providing matching funding on equal partnership terms to progress the first year's work.

Amongst the historic urban centres in Wales, Monmouth is exceptional in the degree to which buried archaeological remains from the Roman, medieval and later periods survive throughout the town, and in places include waterlogged deposits with well preserved evidence for past environments and their exploitation.

The objective of the urban survey was to produce an historic environment framework, primarily in an electronic database format supplemented by a paper based summary, for the sustainable development of Monmouth that could be used to inform future strategic planning and conservation decision-making processes. In addition, a secondary aim was that the information would be sufficiently accessible for it to be used to support and inform other initiatives in the community.

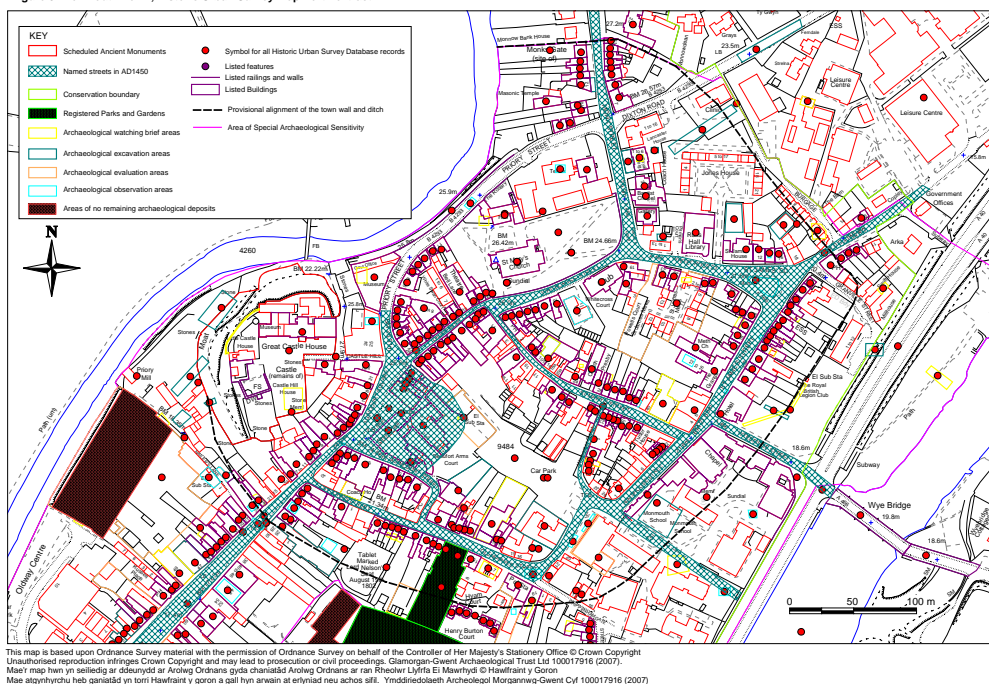
The survey methodology followed the guidelines devised by English Heritage's Urban Survey Programme and also the model used by Cambria Archaeology for the urban survey of Carmarthen (Austin *et al* 2005). The study area was based on a map of the town published in 1610 by John Speed which depicts the town walls and gates, principal buildings and streets; this same boundary was designated as an Area of Special Archaeological Sensitivity by Monmouth County Council in the Unitary Development Plan.

The first phase of work comprised the establishment of an interrogative GIS platform (Mapinfo) linked to a database (MSaccess), which included scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs), listed buildings, SMR/NMR information, registered parks and gardens, the conservation area boundary, archaeological excavation events, archaeological observation events and archaeological evaluation events, sourced from published articles and, areas where remains have been preserved through planning mitigation. In addition, the streets named in a document of AD1450 and a provisional alignment for the Town wall were added to the map to indicate and visually enhance the historic core area.

Information recorded on the database at the end of the first year included three SAMs, 356 listed buildings and/or features, 40 archaeological excavations, 27 archaeological evaluations, 63 archaeological watching briefs, 43 archaeological observations and three registered parks and gardens. Apart from SAMs and Listed Buildings, the greater quantity of the archaeological records indicated the richness of archaeological deposits of mainly Roman, medieval and post medieval date discovered within the town.

A number of problems were encountered during the survey of which the following were the most pertinent; it is also likely that these problems will be encountered by other bodies carrying out similar work. Firstly, the degree of precision needed to plot areas or individual trenches or trial holes was handicapped by the lack of information (National Grid coordinates) contained within most published site reports and especially the earlier reports. Furthermore, the problem was compounded by the fact that a site, which had been archaeologically recorded, may have had only a small proportion of its footprint disturbed thus leaving archaeological remains *in situ*; these areas within areas were not easily identified.

Figure 3: Monmouth Town, Historic Urban Survey map-north extract



**Monmouth Town map extract, taken from the report, showing the density of archaeological events and listed buildings recorded within the Historic Urban database**

Secondly, few development sites have been totally excavated. Most have had archaeological recording in advance of and in accordance with conditions of planning approval but generally only to those immediate areas necessary to carry out the development or works and only to the depth required to satisfy building regulations. The results of some of these archaeological works have been published but there would appear to be little follow-up information regarding whether, piling, strip foundations, rafts or any other methods were subsequently required and employed for development to proceed; different foundation designs will have different impacts and implications for preservation of archaeological deposits. As a consequence this lack of information suggested that archaeological remains might well exist at greater depth in the case of rafting or in pockets between strip foundations and piles.

However, despite the problems, a significant step in compilation of the historic urban database framework for Monmouth has been made in the first year of work where nearly five hundred records have been assimilated into the database and also mapped. The mapping also showed that the distribution of past archaeological events represented but a small percentage of the town that has been 'opened' to archaeological investigation and also gives an indication of

where further similar deposits may be expected. Together, the combination of records and mapping should provide a greater awareness of the archaeological resource and also provide guidance to conservation groups and potential developers of the probable archaeological deposits they are likely to encounter within the historic environment in which they work.

The project was structured so that the information contained within the database would be accessible as a stand-alone usable product; following completion of the first year of work, a presentation of the results was made to Monmouth County Council.

### Reference

Austin L, Hill C, James H, James T and Poucher P, 2005 (draft), *Carmarthen Historic Town Survey* (2 volumes), Cambria Archaeology.

## GGAT 87 Tir Gofal Support Work

This project included the provision of archaeological heritage management information, advice and services to the All Wales Agri-Environment Scheme (Tir Gofal) in Southeast Wales by the Curatorial Division of the Trust. Tir Gofal is a whole farm scheme available throughout Wales to farmers to encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the agricultural landscape. Historic features and archaeological sites are important components of the landscape and their management and enhancement is a declared objective of the Tir Gofal scheme.

The project work will include: Management of the Tir Gofal project and staff within the Trust; Maintenance of databases; Cross-boundary consultations; Follow-up information and advice during the implementation of the agreement; Attendance at review meetings; Liaison with the regional Welsh Assembly Government Tir Gofal Officers; Liaison with other interested parties as required; Provision of training for Tir Gofal Officers; Monitoring the effectiveness of the scheme and provision of review information to Welsh Assembly Government; Provision of statistical information.

## GGAT 88 Kenfig Sands Peat Shelf

In January 2007, the Trust's attention was drawn by Mr Steve Maitland-Thomas of Porthcawl to the fact that scouring of beach deposits on Kenfig Sands had exposed the peat shelf and that what appeared to be human footprints had appeared. A site visit on 23rd January established that there were indeed human footprints in and through the peat of the previously plotted shelf (Nayling 1998, Map 4). Following publicity in the media, one of the Trust's correspondents, Mr John Player of Margam, brought into our Swansea offices three wooden stakes which he had found embedded in the peat and had removed before they could be washed out. A second visit by Trust staff on 18th February, accompanied by Mr Player, failed to plot the location of these stakes as sand and shingle had covered that area back up again. However, a much greater area of the beach had been scoured of mobile deposits than had been the case the previous month, and it was clear that there were two peat shelves, the lower being the previously recorded shelf laid down over clay and now known to be associated with human footprints, and the upper a previously unrecorded one laid down over sand. A rapid survey of the more prominent exposed areas of the upper shelf located areas of poaching by ungulates, probably mainly cattle, similar to that noted associated with Building 6 at Goldcliff on the Severn Levels (Bell *et al* 2000, 119 fig 8.13); there was also a stake-and-plank feature possibly representing a fence poking through an area of fragmented peat close to the poaching. It was also clear that the peat was at severe risk of breaking up, since the sand on which it was laid down was being washed away by the sea, and the detail of the poaching, whilst very crisp when first exposed, was losing its definition also as a result of tidal erosion.



These features suggest that the upper peat shelf was being used for grazing, probably seasonally. There is as yet no dating on either peat shelf, but if this upper peat is the same

one which has been observed at Brynmill, a date in the pre-Roman Iron Age or the Roman period would be likely (Williams 1993). The only similar features so far recorded are in the Severn Levels. This is the first time that evidence for animal husbandry will have been recorded around Swansea Bay, an area where there has hitherto been little evidence of agricultural practice in prehistoric and Roman times.

The features associated with the lower peat shelf were recorded by a team from Liverpool John Moores University with a specialist interest in human footprints, whose brief did not extend to any recording of the upper shelf. An application was therefore made to Cadw for a grant to make a basic record of the upper shelf. With this assistance, a small team from the Trust carried out an EDM survey of the areas exposed in early March, plotting their extent and their height OD. The best preserved area of cattle poaching was recorded by vertical photography. A sample of peat was taken for palaeoenvironmental study.

### **References**

- Bell, M, Caseldine, A and Neuman, H, 2000, *Prehistoric intertidal archaeology in the Welsh Severn Estuary*, CBA Res Rep **120**
- Nayling, N, 1998, *Swansea Bay intertidal survey*. GGAT unpublished report No.98/059
- Williams, D N, 1993, Brynmill, Swansea, Glamorgan, *Archaeol Wales* **33**, 50



## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2007 — SEPTEMBER 2007

### GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation

This year's project comprises the following tasks:

1. Characterisation of Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan historic landscape on the register;
2. Characterisation of the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape on the register;
3. Translation of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and the Clydach Gorge historic landscapes texts and posting on the Trust website by end of 2007 (Cadw pages);
4. Translation and printing of leaflets for the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and the Clydach Gorge historic landscape characterisation studies (GGAT 1).

Task 1, the characterisation of Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan is well-progressed with Historic Environment Record output, desk-based searches, aerial photographic searches, and map regression works completed. Initial and revised Historic Landscape Character Areas have been identified, site verification visits made. Twelve character areas have been identified and digitally mapped. The notes and digital characterisation proformas from the field visit are currently being written up, as the first phase to preparing the draft reports, which are due for submission at the end of January 2008.

Task 2, the characterisation of Lower Wye Valley, starting with the assembly of initial SMR output is to commence by the end of September.

Task 3, the work of editing of the text of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and the Clydach Gorge historic landscapes ready for translation and uploading onto the web has been initiated, as has the work of producing draft leaflets for the same under GGAT 1, which will be forwarded to Cadw for comment once they have reached the draft stage, and then sent for translation.

### GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

The Trust has processed 26 Round 1 five-year reviews under the new arrangements with the Rural Payment Division.

### GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites

The task identified for the current financial year is to carry out post-excavation work on the interrupted ditch enclosure at Norton and the barrow cemetery at Monkash, both excavated in 2006. The archive quantification, finds processing, context finds record digitisation and GIS data manipulation tasks have been progressed in accord with the agreed project timetable.

### GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads

This year's work has consisted of preparing new entries for the new edition of Nash-Williams's *Roman Frontier in Wales*, to be titled *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches*. Gazetteer entries have been prepared for ancillary installations to the fortress at Caerleon lying outside the defences, the forts of Caerphilly, Coelbren and Penyardren, site with possible military connections at Coity, Chepstow, Cowbridge, Hirfynydd, Kenfig, Machen, Rheola Forest, Risca, Sudbrook and Treoda, and the dubious site of Coed y Caerau. In addition, for the communications network, entries have been prepared for all roads and portions of roads within the Glamorgan-Gwent area and other material supplied on request to the co-ordinator of the

roads group, and a section has been prepared on shipping incorporating material supplied by members of the shipping group.

### **GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures**

The task identified for the current financial year is the preparation of a chapter on the Roman period for the forthcoming publication on prehistoric defended enclosures in Wales, which will draw on material collected both through this project and the Roman-British Southeast Wales Lowland Settlement Survey. This has also been programmed to take place in the second half of the year.

### **GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks**

The first two years of this project studied the core Ironworks areas themselves and their associated transport links (restricted to limestone railways and tramroads) through out the northern coal rim area. Also associated with the ironworks are large complex water management systems and extractive landscapes. As a whole all these components contribute to a complex, integrated landscape within and extending between each valley region. For the third and fourth years modifications were made to the remit, scale and with these the extent of the study area to allow the project to tie into the requirements of programmes, such as the Heads of the Valleys Initiative, and to provide results on a landscape scale through increasing available baseline data in a rapid way; because of this the third years' project was restricted largely to a mapping exercise.

This year the project will concentrate on extraction features related to the ironworks within the revised study area tailored to the requirements of the Heads of the Valleys initiative. The work for year four of the project was initiated in June with initial searches undertaken and base line data assembled to date. Historic mapping is currently being undertaken and digital comparative map regression started. Threat and protection data is currently being assembled. To date approximately 170 polygons of historic extractive areas have been identified and rapidly mapped using the 1<sup>st</sup> edition historic mapping. Comparative mapping using modern OS landline data, get mapping aerial photographs and other digitally available aerial photographs (viewed at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs, Cardiff) is currently underway.

### **GGAT 87 Southeast Wales Historic Urban Survey: Monmouth**

Progress of this project is dependent on securing partner funding, Negotiations in such respects are continuing. If the project goes ahead it is proposed to add the following new sources of information to the database; findspot data, cellaring and intrusions, phases of historic development, archaeologically enhanced historic topography, areas of archaeological potential, constraint data and historic urban character areas.

### **GGAT 89 Pre-medieval Scoping Project**

The purpose of this project was to assess the data held on the Historic Environment Record to see what categories of site predating the Middle Ages could usefully be studied through a Cadw-funded project, in order that the Schedule of Ancient Monuments can be fully updated for these areas before the proposed Heritage Act (currently at White Paper stage) is expected to become law in 2010.

A database of 3,906 sites was compiled, comprising all sites of the prehistoric and Roman periods extracted from the Historic Environment Record, plus a further 2,125 sites where the period was categorised as unknown. Entries with NGRs of under six figures were then removed, since there is no reasonable prospect of being able to locate them, as were sites recorded on areas that have now been built over. All those sites that had been assessed for scheduling potential in previous Cadw-funded projects, Tir Gofal farm visits (HE2s), or during

the walk-over survey for a developer-funded projects were also removed, along with sites in Merthyr Mawr Warren, a large part of which is already scheduled and where there is unlikely to be enough information available to allow anything outside the SAM to be scheduled. Entries marked as being of unknown period were scrutinised and anything that could reasonably be dated to a later period was removed, together with any sites falling into the categories eliminated from the previous databases. Where it was possible to attribute period to any of the remaining sites, this was done.

A separate query was run for sites described in the period field as Early-medieval: these numbered 174. As noted in our research audit document in 2002 (Evans *et al* 2002), all Early-medieval sites on the Historic Environment Record had been re-categorised as Medieval in the 1990s by a previous Historic Environment Record officer. Although a proportion of Early-medieval sites have now been returned to the correct period description (notably through the Early-medieval Ecclesiastical Sites project), there are still errors of categorisation, and not all Early-medieval sites are yet listed as such. Since ecclesiastical sites were studied in GGAT 63, they were removed from the dataset leaving only secular sites, totalling 28.

This resulted in a database of 739 sites including Early Medieval, or 711 sites excluding Early Medieval. Sites were then sorted according to type, and then placed in larger groupings, in order that themes suitable for future study could be identified. These comprised Non-defensive enclosures, occupation sites and fields of prehistoric and Roman date, Roman-period military/high-status site, Industrial site (all Roman), Funerary sites (also all Roman), Caves and middens, Tools and weapons, Objects of personal adornment, Domestic equipment, and Coinage. Other types were Generic site type, Ecofacts, Findspots and Miscellaneous.

## CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS

In 2006-2007 specific advice in respect of palaeoenvironmental sampling was sought in respect of the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments Site (GGAT 72) and Cross-ridge Dykes (GGAT 83) projects. Column and other samples were obtained from sample excavations carried out on both projects. Material was subsequently assessed under the contract. Material suitable for C14 dating was extracted from the samples obtained from the burials at Marcross and the interrupted-ditch enclosure at Norton.

## POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

No Cadw-funded post-excavation work took place in this year.

### ***'Grey literature' reports on grant-aided work***

The database of all 'grey' literature reports produced for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments has been maintained and a copy supplied to the Inspectorate. An update will be sent after the half-yearly review meeting. In the past year the following reports have been produced:-

- *Prehistoric defended enclosures in Glamorgan with recommendations for fieldwork* Report No.**2006/089** (GGAT 78)
- *Cross ridge dyke survey and excavation of Southeast Wales* Report No.**2006/103** (GGAT 83)
- *Lower Wye Valley Historic Landscape and Wye Valley AONB:Historic landscape characterisation review* Reports No.**2007/004** (GGAT 61)
- *Burnt Mounds of Southeast Wales* Report No.**2007/001** (GGAT 85)
- *Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscape year 3 Water Management Features* Report No.**2007/023** (GGAT 80)
- *Prehistoric funerary and ritual sites survey: EDM survey of Graig Fawr chambered tomb* Report No.**2007/029** (GGAT 72).

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2007 — MARCH 2008**

### **GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services**

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust will continue its regional remit to provide wide-ranging and detailed archaeological heritage management and outreach services, based on Cadw's list of Curatorial Services. This will include the provision of Historic Environment Record information and advice to enquirers and initiatives to increase our outreach to the general public. This area of Trust activity continues to grow rapidly as can be seen from the broad spectrum of services being requested and reported for 2006-2007. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to Cadw in our regular monitoring reports.

In the forthcoming half year specifically, the Heritage Section will:

- produce leaflets on the Clydach, Margam Mountain, and Merthyr Mawr, Margam and Kenfig Burrows historic landscapes and arrange distribution;
- update Cadw's portion of the Trust website.

We also hope to complete the Early Medieval stones leaflets for Gower and Merthyr Mawr, but this depends on third party inputs.

### **GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services**

The Archaeological Planning Management Section of the Trust will continue to provide a detailed and comprehensive planning advisory service to the twelve regional Unitary Authorities, the Brecon Beacons National Park, developers, agents and archaeological contractors. This project continues to rely on the tripartite service provision arrangements in place with the Trust, Cadw and the twelve regional planning authorities. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to Cadw in our regular monitoring reports.

### **GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Lower Wye Historic Landscape & Website Work**

Work will continue with reporting of the characterisation work initiated during the first half of the year on the Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan historic landscape on the register. This will be followed by the proposed characterisation of the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape on the register as set out in the detailed project proposals previously submitted to Cadw.

The web and leaflet work as set out in the project proposals, ie the translation of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and the Clydach Gorge historic landscapes texts and posting on the Trust website by end of 2007 and the production of the accompanying leaflets (as part of GGAT 1), will be advanced during the second half of the current year.

### **GGAT 67 Tir Gofal**

The new round of Tir Gofal HE1s will be received in the autumn. It is currently anticipated that the Trust will be expected to process at least 10 applications, and it is unlikely that the requirement in the financial year in such respects will exceed thirty

### **GGAT 72 Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments**

The post-excavation study and report arising from the sample excavations carried out at Norton and St Donats in 2006 is scheduled for completion by the end of 2007.

## **GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures**

The chapter in for inclusion in the pan-Wales monograph will be completed in the second half of the 2006-2007 financial year.

## **GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks landscapes (Year 4)**

Year 4 of the project will continue with the key tasks being historic and comparative mapping, assembling of data, to be followed by a review of data, rapid field visits and reporting.

During the remaining part of the financial year the ironworks related extraction areas across the Heads of the Valleys Initiative area (with the exclusion of Merthyr Tydfil, and Blaenafon) will be mapped from historic maps and a rapid comparison using modern baseline mapping and aerial photographs. In this way the extent of the surviving resource can be rapidly identified and quantified. In addition industrial landscape areas of particular potential and interest can be further identified and constraint maps produced. Current levels of protection will be reviewed and recommendations for enhanced protection made as may be appropriate.

Information on statutory protection relating to ironworks related water management and extraction sites in the Heads of the Valleys area would also be obtained from Cadw to assess current levels of protection. Constraint maps will then be produced; identifying ironworks landscape areas of particular interest and potential. The results of previous years work (Years 1 & 2) will also be incorporated to allow the identification and mapping of areas of special significance, this will be revised in Year 4 to incorporate and take into account extraction areas.

The report will be presented in such a way that upgrading of information can be considered through the medium of a GIS system. This will allow data storage, manipulation, analysis, interrogation, presentation and future revision of information. The Information Technology component of this project will therefore be high and will see the creation of a dynamic and multi-layered digital model for the study area(s).

## **Contingency (Reserve) Projects**

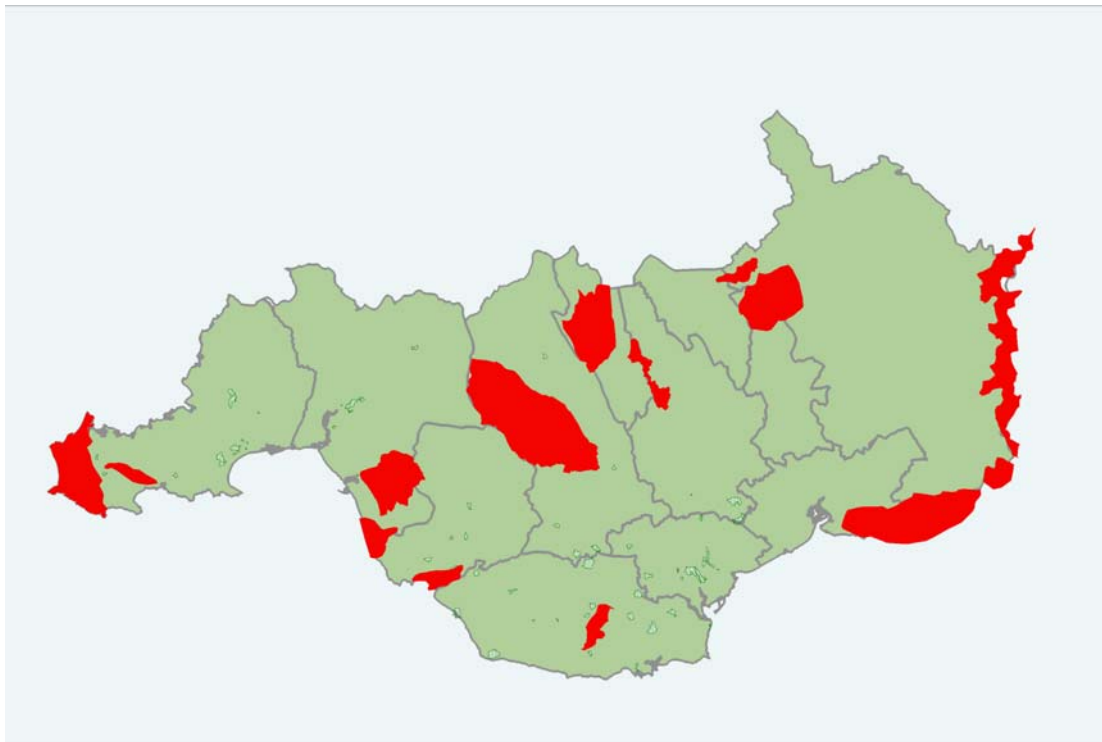
A proposal in respect of post-excavation works arising from the recording of inter-tidal exposures at Kenfig is to be made.

## INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR 2008 — 2009 FINANCIAL YEAR

We envisage the continuation of our Curatorial Service projects (GGAT 1 & GGAT 43). New specific proposals will be considered for the heritage management project. We anticipate continuing involvement with the Tir Gofal initiative.

Last year we reviewed our overall progress against the *Statement by Cadw on Grant-aid for future threat-led assessments* issued in July 2004. In our case we identified that work in a number of areas (Deserted Rural Settlements, Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites, Ports and Harbours) was completed, and that by the end of the 2006-2007 financial year outstanding works for some other categories (Cross-ridge Dykes, Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments, Roman Roads and *vici*) would be limited to completion of any scientific analysis and dissemination of summary results by means of short academic publication. In our current programme this is being pursued in respect of the Roman *Vici* and Roads, Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments and Prehistoric Defended Enclosures Projects. We are confident that by the end of this financial year all the agreed targets in such respects will have been achieved.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation initiative has been a major achievement for both the protection of the historic environment in Wales and defining its importance. Our programme is well advanced. This year will see the completion of the detailed characterisation of all the areas in South-east Wales on the Historic Landscape Registers. Web mounting of Llancafarn and the Wye Valley will need to take place in 2007-2008 to complete the process. It is pleasing to note that the Countryside Council of Wales have been able to indicate their support for characterising the Welsh part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in addition to the part on the Register. The earlier exercise in characterising the whole of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was successful and pointed one way in which this work might be extended. We are exploring similar initiatives with other parts of Welsh Assembly Government.



### **Map of areas in South-east Wales on the Historic Landscapes Registers: detailed characterisation work will be completed by March 2008**

Characterisation work is closely linked with the two remaining areas identified in the 2004 Statement Regional Industrial Projects and Urban Archaeology. In respect of the former it is proposed that in the next two years (Project Years 5-6 2008-2010), the project will be targeted

on the drainage and extractive areas selected as being of greatest potential. In respect of Urban Survey we have made a good start with Monmouth. We therefore intend to explore with our other Unitary Authority partners the options for carrying out similar exercises for other historic urban settlements in South-east Wales. We believe that this type of project and our ironworks project are not only inherently valuable in themselves for improving an appreciation and enhancing protection of the historic environment but are particularly good vehicles for delivering other strategic objectives.

We have carried out a review of the outstanding classes of monument to the Roman - Early Medieval Transition that remain to be assessed. It is our considered opinion that the 739 sites identified as being worthy of further assessment could be examined in two sub-regional groups over a two-year period. We note that in due course several classes of monument relating to later periods that will need similar treatment. We note that study in many of these areas would address knowledge gaps identified in the Research Agenda for Wales at both national and regional level.



## GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST PLANNING STATISTICS 2006-2007

LPA	Apps	Mapped	No of IPE	No Reply	DARi	DAR Disc	DAR Disc+	LB Disc	WB	ASS	EVA	Sec 23	Record	Objection	Other	No Response	Determined	LPA
BLG	696	162	24	2	0	3	10	0	2	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	BLG
BRI	1695	368	98	32	0	7	34	0	0	1	1	6	3	0	6	0	8	BRI
CAE	1659	378	66	5	0	7	32	2	4	2	1	4	7	0	1	1	0	CAE
CAR	3109	429	159	12	1	36	72	6	6	1	3	9	8	0	4	1	0	CAR
MON	1291	538	405	123	20	18	88	21	56	0	9	44	9	2	9	1	5	MON
MTY	699	179	66	14	1	3	31	0	1	2	1	6	3	3	0	0	1	MTY
NEW	1661	338	331	6	10	22	127	7	45	1	11	44	7	5	45	0	1	NEW
NPT	1643	324	99	25	0	13	21	5	10	4	1	9	5	0	5	0	1	NPT
RCT	2371	508	133	42	1	22	37	3	3	0	1	5	17	0	0	0	2	RCT
SWA	2834	670	162	1	0	19	87	4	18	1	3	12	10	0	7	0	0	SWA
TOR	868	162	75	4	0	14	43	0	2	0	0	3	5	1	3	0	0	TOR
VOG	1807	375	196	32	0	9	79	3	40	3	5	12	9	0	4	0	0	VOG
BBNP	819	125	39	12	0	5	12	0	3	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	BBNP
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21152</b>	<b>4556</b>	<b>1853</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

BLG =Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council; BRI = Bridgend County Borough Council; CAE = Caerphilly County Borough Council; CAR = Cardiff County Council ; MON = Monmouthshire County Council; MTY = Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council; NEW = Newport County Borough Council; NPT = Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; RCT = Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council; SWA = City and County of Swansea; TOR = Torfaen County Borough Council; VOG= Vale of Glamorgan Council; BBNP= Brecon Beacons National Park.

Applications = Number of planning applications submitted to LPA

Mapped = Number of planning applications checked against SMR

No IPE = Number of planning applications requested by GGAT

No Reply = Number of applications requested by GGAT but not received

DARi = Number of applications received which had no archaeological impact

DAR Disc = Number of applications received where it was determined that there was unlikely to be an archaeological impact

DAR Disc + = Number of applications received where it was determined that there was minimal archaeological impact

LB Disc = Number of applications received which affected listed buildings but were perceived not to have an archaeological impact

WB = Number of applications received which were determined to require the imposition of a watching brief condition

ASS = Number of applications received which required further information in the form of a desk-top assessment prior to determination

EVA = Number of applications received which required further information in the form of an evaluation prior to determination

Sec 23 = Applications where the archaeological resource can be protected by the imposition of conditions requiring archaeological work

Record = Applications where it was determined that condition requiring the developer to record the standing structure should be imposed

Objection = Applications where the development would cause damage to the archaeological resource and GGAT object

Other = Number of applications received where GGAT's response could not be classified.

No Response = Number of applications received which GGAT failed to respond during consultation period

Determined = Applications determined by LPA before being sent to GGAT