

THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



Recently excavated medieval ship at Newport

Half-yearly review
October 2002

&

Annual review of Cadw projects
2001-2002

Registered in Wales No. 1276976. Registered Office Heathfield House,
Heathfield Swansea

A Company limited by Guarantee without Share Capital. The Trust is a
Registered Charity No 505609



Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
Half-Yearly Review
September 2002

Contents	Page
<i>REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2001 – MARCH 2002</i>	3
CURATORIAL PROJECTS	
GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services	3
GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services	11
GGAT 67 Tir Gofal	13
THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS	
GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation – Merthyr Tydfil	14
GGAT 63 Lowland Romano-British Settlements	19
GGAT 65 Deserted Rural Settlements	19
GGAT 66 Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites	21
GGAT 72 Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites	22
GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement	24
<i>REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2002 – SEPT 2002</i>	25
CURATORIAL PROJECTS	
GGAT 67 Tir Gofal	25
GGAT 74 Research Agenda in Wales	26
THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS	
GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation – Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows and Margam Mountain	26
GGAT 66 Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites	27
GGAT 72 Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites	28
GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement	28
GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads	29
<i>CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS</i>	29
<i>POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW</i>	30
Grey Literature	31
<i>FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2002-MARCH 2003</i>	33
CURATORIAL PROJECTS	
GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services	33
GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services	33
GGAT 67 Tir Gofal	33

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 61	Historic Landscape Characterisation - Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows and Margam Mountain	34
GGAT 66	Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites	34
GGAT 72	Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites	34
GGAT 73	Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement	34
GGAT 75	Roman Vici and Roads	34

REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2001 – MARCH 2002

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Funding and staffing

This section of the half-yearly report provides information on 2001-2002 Cadw funded projects that provide essential archaeological curatorial services to Southeast Wales, a populous area of twelve Unitary Authorities. These services come under the general headings of Regional Heritage Management Services (GGAT 1), Regional Archaeological Planning Services (GGAT 43) and the All Wales Agri-Environmental Scheme, otherwise known as Tir Gofal (GGAT 67). More detailed information, including statistical breakdowns, is regularly supplied to Cadw as quarterly monitoring reports.

Cadw funding for heritage management and archaeological planning services continued to be supplemented by financial contributions from all the regional Unitary Authorities. These services were provided under detailed service level agreements with the Authorities. This combined funding provided for five full and part-time staff. In addition, Cadw provided resourcing for SMR services specifically to support their threat-led assessment projects.

The trend in the demand for heritage management services, including the provision of information and advice, continued to expand with growth running at 25% per annum. The increasing level of consultations from the service industries, specifically Welsh Water, was also noteworthy. With public interest in archaeology continuing unabated, the provision of 'outreach' services necessarily continued to grow and became central to our service provision in Southeast Wales.

The Tir Gofal project and the opportunity it provided to better conserve and manage aspects of the heritage of Wales on farm land, hitherto not readily accessible, continued to be a success in the region though this assessment is tempered by the serious outbreak of the foot and mouth that unfortunately occurred.

GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services

The following section relates to Cadw's requirement and work specification (dated March 2000) for the provision of wide-ranging archaeological 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 Sites and Monuments Record, the Trust assisted Cadw in many areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. The Trust also made its own scheduling recommendations arising out of its varied work and these and supporting information were relayed to Cadw for consideration.

The Trust welcomed the Cadw initiative for its curatorial staff to accompany Cadw officers to sites where there is a perceived to be a health and safety issue.

SMR 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 217 SMR enquiries were made as compared with 152 for the previous year. In addition 51 visits were made to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the SMR. In order to assist the many period contributors in preparing the Gwent County History, the Trust provided information from the SMR.

This growing demand for archaeological information for a wide variety of purposes, continued to rise at a rate of 25% per annum and represent a major area of workload for the Heritage Management Section of the Trust.

The Sites and Monuments Record also provided 'start-up' and support information for other non-Curatorial, Cadw-funded projects including – Historic Landscape Characterisation – Merthyr Tydfil (GGAT 61), Tir Gofal (GGAT 67) Southeast Wales Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Sites (GGAT 72) and Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement (GGAT 73). Additional information was also provided in support of the preparation of the 2002-2003 Cadw Project Proposals.

Advice on Scheduled Monument Consent Applications

On behalf of Cadw, the Curatorial Division, as a recognised consultee, commented on the regional applications for scheduled monument consent, which is required from the National Assembly by those seeking to carry out work to a scheduled ancient monument. During the year 19 consultations were referred to the Trust. Responses varied from supporting applications, recommending further information to inform the processing of applications and suggesting appropriate conditions, through to advising refusal where the interests of archaeology could not be satisfactorily mitigated. The Trust recommended archaeological responses on three occasions.

Site visits/meetings by curatorial staff

In pursuit of our heritage management remit the Trust attended a large number of meetings with a wide variety of agencies, both public and private, the twelve regional Unitary Authorities, educational establishments and in response to approaches from the general public seeking advice. This area of service to the regional communities is vital as it not only resolves potential problems in a proactive, rather than reactive way, but also provided important opportunities for furthering our 'outreach' commitment. Over the year the average number of meetings per week was 1.6. This compares with an average of 1.3 meetings per week for the previous year.

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

Liaison and follow-up advice continued to be provided to the Historic Landscapes Officer of the Countryside Council for Wales with respect to the Register of Historic Landscapes.

Increasingly historic landscape issues are considered in the planning processes and the Division monitored the use of the CCW document – *Guidelines and Methodology for Assessing the Significance of Impacts of Developments on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL)*. This document was used in preparation for two major development proposals – one for coaling and the other for a wind-farm.

The Trust continued to liaise with the Countryside Council for Wales and the Unitary Authorities on *LANDMAP* projects, acting as the archaeological adviser to Local Steering Groups. The use of the *LANDMAP* methodology (landscape assessment in support of the decision making process) and the importance of this work for the preparation of Unitary Development Plans made this a key area of our forward planning activity.

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

The Trust continued to make good progress in our growing and productive relationship with the regional planning authorities in SE Wales. For 2001-2002 all Authorities again agreed to the implementation of service level agreements and to meet in full the contributory funding requests that the Trust has made. The benefits of such partnership agreements are enormous as seen from the approach from Monmouthshire County Council which has asked us to prepare a supplementary planning guidance document on archaeology, the first such approach in Wales.

The deposit Unitary Development Plan for Bridgend County Borough Council and the outline UDP proposals for Cardiff County Council were responded to as well assisting with additional information to the Unitary Authorities of Monmouthshire, Newport, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan. The Monmouthshire UDP, which contains Archaeologically Sensitive Areas, was received both as hard copy and on compact disc.

Bridgend County Borough Council asked the Trust to provide archaeological information to support their designation of Conservation Areas. We welcomed this approach and supplied information which strengthened the reasoning for the selection of the conservation areas.

The Trust also continued to provide the Local Authorities and the Brecon Beacons National Park with information and advice outside of the planning processes. With all Authorities lacking an in-house archaeologist or heritage officer, this area of our work continued to represent an important and growing commitment.

The Trust has also assisted with and monitored the Countryside Strategies produced by the regional Unitary Authorities with a view to enhancing their archaeological content at the review stage

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

See below GGAT 43.

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



Mining explosives store at Cwmparc, NPT, to be restored

The Trust, as part of its heritage management remit, continued to provide archaeological services to the national forestry authorities - The Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise. 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. 41 Woodland Grant Scheme consultations were responded to during the year.

The Trust also improved liaison with other forestry organisations, including Coed Cymru and the Woodland Trust, as well as initiating wider proactive mechanisms for the understanding and management of archaeology in forestry contexts.

The Trust renewed its service level agreement with Forest Enterprise that provided important opportunities to visit and advise on the conservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites on its land holding in the region. This work proved to be extremely important in providing access to land that has seen little previous

archaeological survey and in the discovery of archaeological sites that are generally under-represented in the SMR.

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

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

As part of our regional heritage management remit Cadw requires the Trust to respond to initial enquiries from the service industries, such as water, electricity, and other utilities. Essentially, we are able to provide archaeological information and early advice in the preparation of proposals, which could otherwise have an adverse impact on the archaeological resource.

The Trust has seen an enormous growth in this area of our work, with the high level of consultations being maintained. Many of the consultations, for example refurbishing or laying new services, are often geographically large in extent, complex and time-consuming. In 2001-2002 172 consultations were received from the Utilities as opposed to 65 in the previous year. The Trust reported to Cadw that it was difficult to maintain these services to the utilities without there being a detrimental knock-on effect to other equally important areas of our curatorial services to non-commercial bodies.

Trust officers met with TRANSCO, the gas utility, to improve consultation procedures. As a result TRANSCO agreed to consult directly with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, rather than rely on the advice of the Unitary Authorities, which in archaeological terms, was unsatisfactory. This commitment has resulted in a major improvement to the consultation procedures.

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 conservation issues. The Trust responded to the Environment Agency on the Catchment Abstraction Strategy for the River Rhymney, which was the first such document to be received. We advised that changes in riverine water levels and environment could impact on certain classes of site. It was recommended that the Welsh Archaeological Trusts should be consulted on each and every proposal.

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 of the provisions required by central government to protect archaeological interests through the planning processes. This good working practice is demonstrated by all our Authorities willingness to make continuing financial contributions towards the provision of our comprehensive archaeological planning services.

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

Churches

The Trust continued to have a representative on the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee and on the Fabric Committee for Brecon Cathedral.

The Trust is increasingly being contacted by parishes and church architects to discuss and resolve issues arising out of faculty applications. This is welcomed as are the growing number of approaches for assistance prior to lodging such applications.

The DAC archaeologists in Wales met for the first time after a considerable interlude of many years to discuss matters relating to procedures and the advice we give to our respective committees. Such meetings are intended to ensure greater consistency of the advice we give and more are being planned for the future.

Coastal

During the year attendance and responses to the Swansea Bay Coastal Engineering Group was maintained. The Trust regularly completes proforma reports for the Group. The Trust attended the launch of the Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plan at Porthcawl, where the Cadw coastal display was exhibited and booklets/leaflets distributed.

The Trust contributed to the Severn Estuary Strategy by assisting in the preparation of the archaeology chapter – ‘*Archaeology and the Historic Environment*’ and attending the formal launch of the consultation document in Bristol.

Staff continued to monitor the loss of sand on the Gower beaches. This is particularly important as this process leads to the erosion of exposed prehistoric peat deposits in areas, such as Port Eynon.

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

Cadw, in partnership with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, promoted the need across Wales for greater emphasis to be made in disseminating information on

archaeological work. Public demand for information on the archaeological heritage has rapidly grown over the past few years, due no doubt to the greater coverage of archaeology on television and radio. The Trust in response to this interest set up a website (www.ggat.org.uk) which provides information on regional archaeological issues as well as a section dedicated to Cadw's projects. During the year information on Cadw projects was added to the website. The Trust's outreach activities are considered below.

Outreach/education

As part of our outreach commitment, and in partnership with Cadw, the Trust prepared displays and leaflets, made new contacts, gave lectures and received students and school placements into our offices.

Displays were provided for the Annual Regional Heritage Forum with the Unitary authority (see below) and to a large number of libraries and other public outlets. The Cadw coastal display was exhibited at the Kenfig Nature Reserve, where it is hoped to promote a greater awareness of archaeological interests as well as in the natural environment. The Trust again provided display material for the Welsh History Forum at the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans, where attendance figures at the site reached 60,000 over a bank holiday weekend.

Cadw/SMR leaflets, etc, were supplied for various events and exhibitions. Lectures continued to be provided to a wide variety of audiences, such as WIs, schools and societies.



Monmouthshire Antiquarian Society at the Salt House, Port Eynon.

The Trust maintained its productive partnership with the Dulais Valley Partnership contributing to a new leaflet which is designed to accompany and inform walkers on the Sarn Helen Roman road between the Roman forts of Neath and Coelbren. In conjunction with this project, a review of off-roading activities in Southeast Wales was being instigated and information collected. It is hoped that the success of the Sarn Helen project can be transposed to other areas where 'off-roading' is known to be causing damage, such as in the Caerphilly and Cardiff areas.

The Trust provided assistance and advice in setting up the pilot project for the Local Distinctiveness Initiative (Balchder Bro). The City and County of Swansea was chosen by the Countryside Council for Wales to participate in this trial and the Trust attended many meetings in support of this project, which encourages local communities to restore, promote and protect their local heritage assets.

The Trust also assisted the Swansea Environmental Education Forum (SEEF) which led to the Trust being added to a Providers Directory as a source of heritage information and advice. Members of the Directory may be asked to contribute towards INSET courses and provide information for schools, colleges, etc.

The Trust assisted the National Museum and Galleries of Wales by providing slides of Cosmeston medieval village for a forthcoming publication and photographs of past excavations were supplied to a local teacher to assist in the preparation of a Caerleon web-site.

Regional Heritage Forum

A major part of this Trust’s outreach programme and commitment is the organisation on an annual basis of a regional Heritage Forum. This year’s meeting, at which delegates from the twelve Unitary Authorities were present, was hosted by Newport County Borough Council. A paper, entitled ‘Working Together – New Horizons’, was given by the Trust and circulated to Cadw. This address outlined and explored the ways in which greater value and benefit could be derived to the historic environment through the continuing development of the successful partnership of the Regional Heritage Forum.

Responses

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.

FROM	DOCUMENT TITLE
National Assembly	Draft Planning Policy Wales
City & Council of Cardiff	Cardiff City of Culture Bid
CADW	Providing Physical Access to Historical Buildings
Torfaen CBC	Torfaen Countryside Strategy
Ian Walker and Associates	Severn Estuary, North middle Ground Stage 1 Studies
National Assembly	Draft Marine Aggregates Dredging Policy (SW)
Environment Agency	River Rhymney Awareness Raising Leaflet, Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies
National Assembly	CROW Act 2000 consultation on proposals for regulations



Archaeology and Planning Leaflet

During the year the Trust prepared a new leaflet for the ‘Introducing’ series – “*Archaeology and your planning application*”. This leaflet is designed to assist planning officers and those intending to lodge planning applications, whether large or small scale development, in addressing archaeological issues at an early stage in the planning processes. A display to accompany this leaflet will also be provided.

GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services

Planning Statistics 2001 –2002 (see Appendix)

The Curatorial Division provided a wide variety of vital archaeological planning services to the twelve regional Authorities in Southeast Wales with funding received from Cadw and collectively from the Unitary Authorities themselves. As our region contains over half the number of planning authorities in Wales and receives over 50% of all the national planning applications lodged, this area of our workload is particularly important and onerous both in terms of its scale and complexity. This work is also significant for the implementation of strategic planning policies contained in the emerging Unitary Development Plans.

Attached are the detailed statistics of the responses to planning applications made by the Development Control 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.

Last year we reported a noticeable increase in the number of planning applications we processed for the region. For 2001-2002 there was a further increase in the number of planning applications lodged by the Local Planning Authorities in Southeast Wales.

This follows the trend for the last two years. The annual number of planning applications lodged in Southeast Wales since 1996-1997 is as follows:

Year	Number of applications
1996-1997	14363
1997-1998	16426
1998-1999	15725
1999-2000	15095
2000-2001	16619
2001-2002	17197

Surprisingly, however, the number of detailed planning applications requested from the LPAs fell by 183 over the previous year (2000-2001 =1293; 2001-2002 =1110). This reduction probably reflects the Trust's increasing experience in selecting planning applications for which there is a considered potential archaeological dimension. For the year the Trust was able to respond to all planning applications inside the target period of 21 days.

As one would expect of Southeast Wales, generally an economically dynamic region with major inward investment, there were a large number of complex and time-consuming development proposals such as Castle Quay, Swansea, East Pit East Opencast Scheme, Neath Port Talbot, Llanhilid Film Studios, Rhondda Cynon Taff, 9-11 Castle Street, Cardiff, etc. These projects, and many other developments, required detailed responses with liaison involving a large number of bodies, agents, contractors and individuals.

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 Development Control 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 Section has also been involved in a large number of planning appeals providing information and expert advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the National Assembly.

Clearly, and significantly, the archaeological 'end-product' of the development control process is either the preservation *in situ* of important archaeological resources for future public benefit and or preservation by record - i.e. the production and presentation of reports on the excavated archaeological resource. Information on these reports is published in the Council for British Archaeology's Welsh Group annual publication – *Archaeology in Wales*. For the year 2001, 112 reports on work, required

and governed by the development control processes in Southeast Wales, are contained in their publication.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

This year was the third year of the major new national initiative - the All-Wales Agri-Environment Scheme, otherwise known as Tir Gofal. This project, managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, is intended to encourage farmers and landowners to manage their land in a more environmentally friendly way. In return they are offered financial assistance to protect existing wildlife habitats, create new habitats, encourage improved public access to their land and protect the historic environment including landscape quality and historical/archaeological features.

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts are fully involved with this scheme providing SMR information and carrying out farm visits to assess archaeological potential and advise on conservation needs.



Sheep-dip at Monkash, Vale of Glamorgan

As part of its heritage management remit the Trust responds to requests from farmers for pre-application information and advice. . Previous take-up of this service had been poor. This year, however, 16 pre-application enquiries were received and early advice and assistance provided to the farming community. The Trust has also encouraged a number of farmers to apply to the scheme where significant archaeological interests are known to lie on their land.

Tir Gofal applications (HE1s)

In line with Cadw's requirements, the Trust responded to 106 successfully ranked applications (HE1 Stage) for the Tir Gofal scheme. For each application detailed information and advice was provided to the Countryside Council for Wales. In addition there have been a number of re-consultations for additional land.

With the easing of restrictions caused by the foot and mouth epidemic farm visits (HE2s) were recommenced. On behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, a total of 10 farms were visited for Year 2 applications. The site visits to the farms have generally been very productive not only in terms of assessing the condition of known sites and finding new features of archaeological interest, but also for the opportunity they provide to meet and discuss archaeological issues with farmers. These custodians of the land invariably have considerable local knowledge and are the key guardians of much of the Welsh archaeological heritage. This work is a significant part of the Trust's 'outreach'.

The Trust continued to meet with Cadw and the Countryside Council for Wales and with regional representatives at a variety of meetings during the year. At the end of the financial year the Trust had no significant backlog of work associated with this project.

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 61 Landscape characterisation – Merthyr Tydfil

In March 2002 the work undertaken by the Trust for the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape Characterisation Project was brought to completion and a draft report submitted to Cadw. This involved the identification and description of areas of landscape character, the production of a historical and thematic introduction, preparation of character area maps and the compilation of the final report, complete with photographs and area maps. The study identified a total of 79 character areas.

An important component of this project was to engage those who have a direct interest in the study. This would enable decisions on the protection of the historic environment to be made in a more informed way by those having stake-holder interests. As a consequence a steering group was formed comprising representatives of the Trust, Cadw, RCAHMW, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, the WDA and the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The characterisation process used for the Merthyr Tydfil study followed the established methodology relying on initial SMR searches, which identified a minimum of 1,297 NMR registers (434 SMR registers), and desk-based documentary searches, including map regression. By this stage a field visit had been undertaken and preliminary character areas identified and mapped using MapInfo.

It was found that the industrial landscape naturally lent itself to division into historic landscape character areas essentially along the lines of industrial processing areas i.e. the iron works themselves, industrial and other settlement areas, transport/communication corridors and finally the areas of mineral fields along the upland ridges and steeply entrenched valley sides to the east, west and north of the main industrial/urban Merthyr basin.

The number of character areas identified was considerable, unsurprising given the important industrial and urban history of Merthyr Tydfil, which created a diverse, and complex landscape, fragmented in part by the subsequent and continuing process of development. During the field visit a written record, using the established proformae as a basis, and photographic record were produced for each individual character area.

Landscape characterisation is a dynamic and developing process. This is reflected in the continual revision to boundaries and indeed the number of individual character areas identified within the Historic Landscape. A review of both the documentary and fieldwork evidence taking all the various strands of evidence into account and allowing for a rationalization of the number of character areas was undertaken – the expert views and comments of the steering committee being instrumental in this process.

The general landscape characterisation process was augmented by additional fieldwork, more detailed documentary research, and map regression with the specific task of characterising both the urban and industrial landscapes of the area. It was noticeable that considerable urban development had occurred by the period between the survey of the Tithe and the later OS maps, though much of the industrial development was already in place by the publication of the early OS Surveyors drawings of the first quarter of the 19th century. Thereafter urban development appears to have been a continual process, advancing significantly during the 20th century with the advent of social housing. Aerial photography added to the understanding of the patterns and texture of the landscape and led to further revision.

The research undertaken was fundamental to the study, revealing the complex urban and industrial tapestry, which characterises the Merthyr area to this day. The archival collections held at both the Glamorgan Record Office, and the National Library, Aberystwyth, were consulted; in addition secondary sources were consulted at the latter plus Cardiff, and Merthyr Libraries, Swansea and Cardiff University Libraries and Cyfarthfa Castle Museum. The Welsh School of Architecture and the Departments of Geography at both Aberystwyth and Swansea Universities were also contacted. Primary source material included the four editions of 6-inch OS maps, the tithe maps and schedules for the parishes of Merthyr Tydfil and Vaynor, together with estate maps, database catalogues and the general catalogues. The database of the National Library detailed estate and other maps relevant to the understanding urban/industrial development. Useful suggestions regarding additional sources were also provided by the steering committee, in particular Peter Waklin, Stephen Hughes and David Percival, and also Judith Allfrey, Cadw's building representative.

The results of the characterisation study showed that Merthyr evolved as separate communities and that later infilling eventually filled all available space to create the virtually continuous urban landscape seen today, with one or two exceptions. Enough local identity, however, survives to allow distinction of character between the various urban areas. Like the Rhondda, there is an apparent uniformity of character to the urban sprawl of Merthyr, primarily resulting from the ubiquitous terraced house and later social housing; this can, however, be viewed as superficial and on closer

inspection differences emerge which allow spatial and time-scale variations to be charted.



Typical early industrial housing at Abercarnaid (HLCA 018).

Principal indicators of character were seen to be the physical architectural composition, i.e. the built elements, various domestic structures and types of terraces and rows, churches, chapels, commercial premises, police stations, schools, town halls etc, of the settlement. Other important considerations were settlement pattern/layout, whether planned, estate managed or unplanned, their function, both primary and later, and whether the areas were primarily used for housing, commercial or business purposes or combination of these. During the study characterisation of the urban element was undertaken on the basis of date, origin and urban morphology. Analysis of the way in which a particular settlement originated and developed over time and the reasons behind its development is principal to understanding the characteristics of an urban area. Settlement type on functional grounds (i.e. does a particular settlement have a residential, commercial, administrative, leisure function/purpose or a particular combination of functions?) is also viewed as informative in denoting the character of an area, while historic association with particular industries, industrial developments, historic characters, and events are also considered to be of relevance.

Urban characterisation formed a key element to the study and the urban morphological studies utilised for the previous study of the Rhondda were found to be a useful starting point, in particular the geographical studies of the 1960s (Wayne KD Davies' morphological and functional study of central places as applied to the settlements of the Rhondda¹ and PN Jones' study of the form, structure and disposition of colliery settlement in south Wales).²

¹ Davies, WKD, 1967 'Centrality and the central place heirachy'. *Urban Studies*, 4, 61-79.

The results of the study were presented in a report in three parts. Part 1 contains an introduction to landscape characterisation, an extract on the study area from the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, and sections, which provide a definition of, and the aims and applications of historic landscape characterisation. The evolving methodology, both general and specific, used for the process of characterisation during the project is outlined, including details of the GIS proforma used. The diverse historical processes and themes, which can be seen to have had an influence on shaping the historic character of Merthyr Tydfil, are detailed within the report. Section 8 of part 1 identifies and describes the 79 character areas that have been identified for Merthyr Tydfil with the area descriptions being divided into three sub-sections: historic background, key historic landscape characteristics and conservation and management priorities. Individual maps showing the extent of each area and photographs giving an impression of landscape texture are also included, as is a detailed Bibliography of source material for Merthyr Tydfil.

Part 2 considers general and specific management mechanisms such as Tir Gofal, Unitary Development Plans, and Countryside strategies, to name but a few and considers the conservation and long-term future of the area. Part 3 includes the nationally agreed forms used as part of the historic landscape characterisation process.

GGAT 63 Lowland Romano-British Settlements

The purpose of the project, previously completed and reported, was to review the evidence for settlement in the Roman period in southeast Wales in the light of threats to sites of the period consequent on the increase on pressure for development land along the M4 corridor. It was intended to provide a greater understanding of patterns of settlement, as it was felt that this would provide a valuable tool to assist the planning process in ensuring that sites of the Roman period did not appear unexpectedly during development. The general review of settlement was supplemented by a detailed field study of a limited area (the parishes of Penmark and Porthkerry) within the main survey area, which was designed to determine patterns of land use which could then be used to predict where sites were likely to be found.

Because of the complexity of the data obtained for the survey as a whole, it was decided that the detailed results were best presented in two reports, one concentrating on the detailed survey area, and the other presenting the more general picture. These reports have been lodged with the regional SMR

This year the key objectives of the project were to prepare and present an academic publication on the whole project and to produce a popular publication for wider public interest and consumption. Both these objectives were achieved.

Davies, WKD, 1968 'The morphology of central places: a case study', *Ann. Assoc. Am. Geogr.* **58**, 91-110.

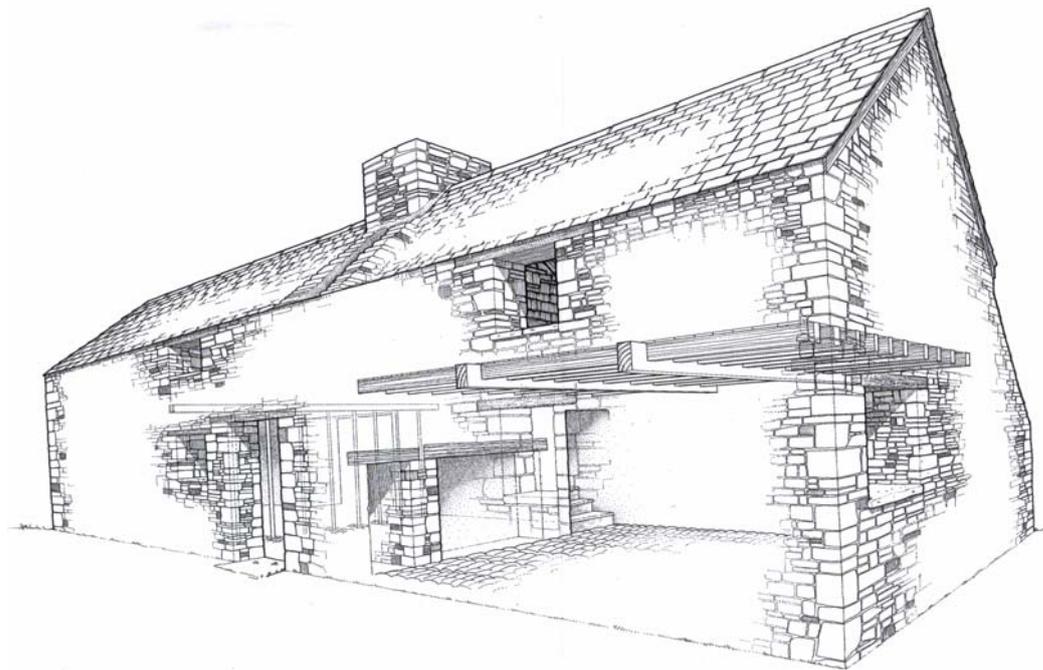
² Jones, PN, 1969, Colliery settlement in the South Wales Coalfield, 1850 to 1926. Hull.

GGAT 65 Deserted Rural Settlements

Following completion of the field visits in March 2001 and the compilation of the second report, work in 2001-2 was aimed at preparing the contributions for the academic publication of a synthesis volume for the pan-Wales project as a whole.

In addition to the calculation of a range of statistics about site types, locations, threats and land-use, to be used to characterise the resource as a whole, a discursive account of the evidence from southeast Wales was prepared, including discussions of the pioneer 1930s excavations at Gelligaer and the limited subsequent excavation data, and presenting a series of case-studies which demonstrate the range of date and function of these sites. In particular, associations with medieval monastic landholding and early post-medieval squatter settlement and piecemeal enclosure on upland commons appear to be strong. In contrast to elsewhere in Wales, there is little evidence of potato clamps, cultivation ridges, and animal pounds and shelters, possibly because the relatively short distances involved in upland/lowland transhumance in southeast Wales meant that they failed to develop into freestanding settlements. An extensive group of platforms on the Mynydd Ty Talwyn, between Margam and Llangynwyd, may be associated with the granges of Margam Abbey in the lowlands to the southwest.

Field survey of earthwork sites for inclusion in the volume was undertaken at Pennon, Vale of Glamorgan, Ty-yn-y-Waun, Bridgend, and Ty Hir, Crynant, Neath Port Talbot, and a building survey of the longhouse adapted into an outbuilding at Ty-yn-y-Waun. The survey work was limited by the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and the natural reluctance of landowners to allow access.



Reconstruction of original (?late medieval) form of Ty yn y Waun, a hearth passage house later much altered until replaced as a house by a new building in 1846. Elsewhere on the farm is a small platform which may represent the earliest activity on the site. (After P. Jones GGAT)

In addition to the preparation of the southeast Wales chapter, chapters covering the other Welsh Trust areas were commented upon. Recommendations for Scheduling of the best earthwork sites were made to Cadw, in line with the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria.



Platform in corner of banked enclosure, Gelli-benuchel, Crynant, Neath Port Talbot, looking north. The enclosure contains well-marked cultivation ridges, and may be associated with a monastic grange abandoned in the 12th century. Scale 2m in 0.5m segments

GGAT 66 Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites

Following the review of find-spots recorded on the SMR (in 1999), a programme of fieldwork was undertaken on lithic sites scoring well on the discrimination criteria. It had been intended that a range of approaches would be used, including fieldwalking, recording of exposed sections, and the excavation of test pits, but in the event no fieldwalking sites were accessible. The timing and extent of fieldwork was severely affected by the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

Six sites were examined, with generally poor results. At four sites, a gridded array of hand-dug test-pits was excavated with the intention of recovering lithics within closely-definable horizontal and vertical locations and thus to permit an assessment of the likely source deposit, potential, and degree of disturbance for the previously-reported assemblages. At Wrinstone Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, the site of a large group of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints was examined; unfortunately, no flint was recovered from stratified contexts in the 6 test pits. Hatterall Hill, Monmouthshire, an area which had been covered by peat until a fire during the 1976 drought, was also examined; this had previously produced several Mesolithic and Neolithic finds. The excavation of four test-pits produced a flake and microlith from horizons below the present vegetation; it seems likely that there was a dense group of artefacts on the clay of the early prehistoric ground surface, which had been covered by the later

prehistoric peat and then exposed following erosion in the wake of the peat burning. At Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, three test-pits in the vicinity of reported finds close to the beach encountered only relatively recent drifted sand, and no soil horizon was identified; there were lenses of small stones thrown up onto the sand surfaces, including unworked flints, and it is possible that some of the finds previously reported from the area are in secondary or tertiary locations, having been transported down the Ogwr to the sea bed and thence onto the shore. Finally, a group of test-pits was excavated in Llanmelin Wood, Monmouthshire, with the assistance of Chepstow Archaeological Society and students from University of Wales College Newport, in the area between Llanmelin Wood hillfort and fields which have produced very large flint assemblages. No flints were found in the test-pits, although two were recovered from the surface of the field.

Two coastal lithics scatter sites were examined by observation of eroding soils. At Worm's Head, Gower, Swansea, flints had been reported from the extreme east end of the island, at a point where the bedrock is overlain by periglacial gravels and clay. No indication of a buried soil, or natural flint, was observed, although the stratigraphic context is closely comparable to the Mesolithic site at Burry Holms, on the north of Rhossili Bay. At Friar's Point, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, numerous prehistoric finds have been reported since the 1800s, perhaps reflecting the erosion of a group of barrows, although Mesolithic, Roman and medieval material has also been found. No indication of buried soils or flints were observed in the eroding soils, but an area of newly-exposed bedrock on the headland revealed a group of bronze objects of probable pre-medieval date.

Despite the limited quantity of additional flint found through this fieldwork, the exercise has provided a much better stratigraphic context for the previous finds. Unfortunately, even for dense scatters the likelihood that more than one or two flints would be found through test-pitting is very small; there is therefore no easy way to supplement the low-resolution data from surface collection.



Friar's Point, Barry: recently-exposed area of bedrock producing metalwork

GGAT 72 Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites

The foot-and-mouth epidemic caused considerable disruption to the programme of work for this three-year project. The financial year April 2001-March 2002 was Year 2 of the project, but restrictions on fieldwork between February and December 2001 also impacted on work for Year 1, the fieldwork for which could not be completed until the end of January 2002, and Year 3, where the initial desk-based phases of the work had been completed before the end of March. The programme of Year 2 visits could only be completed in July after the end of hay-making.

Year 2 covered the unitary authorities of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea (the former county of West Glamorgan), where a total of 349 sites had been identified. Although there is little difference in the range of types between this group and the Year 1 group (Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff), the proportions of the individual types differ. In Year 1 the overwhelming majority of sites were cairns, and there was a significant number of cairnfields. In Year 2, although cairns were still very much in the majority, there were also significant numbers of chambered tombs and a notable concentration of standing stones, not to mention two stone circles, a monument type which did not appear in Year 1.

Geologically, the area divides into two, west and south-central Gower consisting of Carboniferous limestone with outcrops of Old Red Sandstone, and the Glamorgan coalfield which accounts for the remainder. Topographically speaking, the Coalfield consists of an inland zone with long narrow steep ridges divided by narrow river valleys, as in much of the Year 1 area, and a more open coastal zone where the ridge/valley system is less marked and there are significant areas of coastal plain. The

majority of the cairns and barrows are on high ground, with very few in lowland or valley locations. Cairns again tend to appear mainly on selected ridges, particularly Graig Fawr, Mynydd Carnllechart, the Mynydd Uchaf/Mynydd y Garth ridge, the ridge between the Vale of Neath and Cwm Afan, and Cefn Bryn, Rhossili Down and Llanmadoc Hill on Gower, with lesser concentrations on Cefn Gwrhyd, Hirfynydd and Mynydd Margam. On many of these ridges the cairns are strung out along much of their length, instead of being clustered at particular points. However, there are again significant gaps in the distribution, with only a single dubious site on the Townhill/Cefn Coed ridge and very few on the escarpment overlooking the coastal plain from the mouth of the River Neath to Mynydd Margam, or on the hills of its hinterland. However, in contrast with Year 1, there is less variation in form which can be related directly to local geological factors. There are relatively few cairnfields, in contrast with Year 1 which had more than twice the number, and an even smaller number were judged to be probably funerary in origin.

In contrast with the largely upland distribution of the cairns, standing stones are mainly a feature of the lowland areas. Notable exceptions do however exist, in particular the impressive Maen Bredwen (also known as Carreg Bica) on the Mynydd Drumau ridge overlooking the Neath estuary. RCAHMW (1976, 121) have noted that not only do the surviving stones cluster especially in West Gower, but that this area also contains significant numbers of placenames that suggest the previous presence of standing stones. The surviving evidence would suggest that standing stones were largely single features in their landscapes, though there are two in the same field in Burry, Gower, and documentary evidence indicates that one of these was originally part of a row of three (Morris 1960). Maen Bredwen lies close to a cairn, though it is not possible to determine from superficial inspection whether this is of Bronze Age date, or whether it is a more recent field clearance cairn. This particular standing stone, with an estimated height of 4m is undoubtedly ancient, but it is more difficult to determine whether some of the smaller stones, around 1.5m in height, are of prehistoric origin or whether they may have been put up later, possibly as boundary markers. In the event, all stones which could not be excluded through assessment of size, location or map evidence, or a combination of these factors, have been included as possibly prehistoric.

The chambered tombs, of which there are eight definite examples and another three lost or doubtful, are more evenly spread between high and low ground, ranging from Arthur's stone on the top of Cefn Bryn to Parc le Breos, situated in the base of a valley. A range of different forms is represented, though not all are sufficiently well preserved to classify. Arthur's Stone, Carn Llechart, Nicholaston and Sweyn's Howes are portal dolmens; Arthur's Stone, and possibly also Carn Llechart, appear to be natural boulders under which the chambers were formed by excavation. Penmaen Burrows and Parc le Breos are Severn-Cotswold passage graves, and from what is known of the recently discovered Cefn Drum tomb, this too would appear to be some kind of passage grave, though one in which rubblework plays a significant part in the structure.

Two types of site which have been noted for Year 2 but not Year 3 are burials in caves and stone circles. Gower has at least three and possibly four caves which were used for burial during the Neolithic or Bronze Age, mainly as part of a long tradition

of use. There are two stone circles in the Year 2 survey area, once over-imaginative interpretations of natural boulder scatters have been discounted, as well as more recent erections including a crude circle of boulders erected in the last couple of years at Broughton, Gower, to accompany an equally spurious standing stone. Both are of kerb circle type consisting of close-set upright slabs, and both are situated on false crest locations on Coalfield ridges. A third possible example in a fairly low-lying location between the two sites was destroyed in the 19th century.

References

Morris, B, 1960, A vanished alignment of standing stones, *Gower* **13**, 65-6.
RCAHMW, 1976, *An inventory of the ancient monuments in Glamorgan. Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part i The Stone and Bronze Ages*. Cardiff

GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement

Only five days were allocated to this project. The only work carried out was a preliminary search of sites held on the SMR under the heading of 'Religious, ritual and funerary' for the periods 'Medieval' and 'Early medieval'.

REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2002

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

Following the major outbreak of the foot and mouth epidemic last year, which prevented access to farms, this important scheme has gradually got back on course.

Pre-applications

There have been no pre-application enquiries since April 1, 2002, which is understandably due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

Year 3 Farm Consultations (HE1s)

All successfully ranked farm applications for this year, which have been received to date, have been processed and the information forwarded to the Countryside Council of Wales. We have been informed by the East Area Office in Abergavenny that a few more consultations are to be expected for this round. To date the total of Year 3 HE1 reports processed has risen to 121. We have previously been funded for 105 by Cadw, which will accordingly be requested to provide additional grant for 16 consultations.

Year 3 Farm Visits (HE2s)

21 farms have so far been identified for an archaeological visit during the second half of the year. Unfortunately, we have recently been informed that some of these have already been accepted (or are in the process of being accepted) into management agreements prior to receiving archaeological advice.



Limekiln at Penterry Farm, Nr St Arvans

Year 4 Farm Consultations (HEIs)

No Year 4 successfully ranked farm consultations have been received. However, we have recently been informed that the window for this round may open early in the new-year and that we may receive consultations before the end of the financial year.

GGAT 74 Research Agenda in Wales

For Stage 1 of this pan-Wales project the Trust produced a detailed Research Audit report for Southeast Wales, which has been well-received in the region and further afield. The Research Assessment seminar will be held in Cardiff on November 23rd 2002 and arrangements are in hand for the organisation of this event.

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 52 Monmouthshire Historic Settlements

Following publication of the Monmouthshire Unitary Development Plan, the report texts have been collated and revised to a single format, incorporating new data about fieldwork, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings, and will shortly be presented as a 'planner's handbook' to assist the work of the Authority.

GGAT 61 Landscape Characterisation: Mynydd Margam and Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscapes

Work is currently underway on the Mynydd Margam and Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscapes (GGAT 61). The desktop searches have been completed: SMR databases consulted and information transferred digitally to workspace(s). Relevant developer and other reports identified and secondary sources have been compiled.

Cadw (listings and SAMs), RCAHMW (further info to Endex and surveys etc), and CRAPW (available aerial photographs) have been consulted. In addition, the National Library of Wales has been contacted for database search for relevant source info and a request for the first three editions of the OS 6-inch and relevant Tithe maps. All readily available and relevant estate maps have been consulted at both the Glamorgan Record Office and the West Glamorgan Record Office.

Paper base maps of all three areas have been assembled showing the historic landscape character areas at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000. MapInfo workspaces were then created with SMR tables including Countryside Council for Wales information on designated and other areas. The boundaries of all three historic landscape areas were then digitised as accurately as possible.

The accuracy/basis of the boundaries on the register can be questioned, especially that of the Mynydd Margam Historic Landscape; the latter has been discussed with Trust

staff, who agree that the boundaries of Mynydd Margam Historic Landscape will need adjusting (ie extending to the S, E and slightly to the N), to reflect robust and defensible character areas.

The preliminary historic landscape character areas have been established on paper base maps, and subsequently digitised as polygon areas (MapInfo Tables). The areas were later revised to take into account additional information and digital maps (including MapInfo tables, workspaces and layout windows) were then completed for each of the areas as the basis for map figures to be used in the final report.

The desk-top searches have been completed, and the character areas finalised with the identification of thirty-five character areas in total³. Fieldwork, including ground photography and the pro-formas, has also been completed. The aerial photographic flight has also been undertaken. The writing up of the text is currently underway and the final report remains to be prepared.

It is also intended that the results of the work, complete with character area descriptions and maps, will be posted on a website.

GGAT 66 Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites

The SMR evidence for all sites of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date was reviewed alongside the lithics evidence; this will inform the selection of sites to be visited in the field to assess potential. Work has focused on the limited evidence in the mesolithic for winter base camps in the lowlands, implying that rather than a upland/lowland hunting/gathering small group/large group pattern, most mesolithic activity appears to have been by small mobile groups, the most fixed points in the landscape being 'persistent places' of flint for toolmaking. This model has implications for the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition and the extent to which Neolithic settlement *per se* might be expected. Petrological studies of Neolithic stone axes seems to imply that there is an upland/lowland (or perhaps coastal/inland) division in sourcing and use of axes, complementing the distribution of Neolithic monuments.

³ 001 Margam Abbey and Castle; 002 Cefn Crugwyllt and Cwm Maelwg; 003 Cwm Brombil and Graig Fawr; 004 Mynydd Brombil and Ergyd Isaf; 005 Llangynwyd; 006 Eglwys Nunydd and Cwrt-y-defaid; 007 Graig Goch and Heol Newydd; 008 Margam Village; 009 Cwm Dyffryn and Cwm Farteg Railway Corridor; 010 Mynydd Margam Forest; 011 Waun Gilfach; 012 Nant y Gadlys and Nant Bryncynan; 013 Upper Cwm Kenfig/Cwm Cynffig Uchaf; 014 Moel Ton Mawr; 015 Upper Park and Ton-y-grugos; 016 Ton Mawr; 017 Cwm Dyffryn: Southern Valley Sides; 018 South Wales Main Line and Newlands Loop Rail Corridor; 019 Margam Moors/Morfa Margam; 020 Margam Burrows/Twyni Margam; 021 Kenfig Burrows/Twyni Cynffig; 022 Margam and Kenfig Sands/Traethau Margam a Chynffig; 023 River Kenfig and Llanmihangel/Afon Cynffig a Llanmihangel; 024 Kenfig and Mawdlam/Cynffig a Mawdlam; 025 Kenfig Golf Course; 026 Sker/Yscer; 027 Sker Point to Porthcawl Point/Trwyn Yscer i Drwyn Porthcawl; 028 M4 Motorway Corridor; 029 Merthyr Mawr; 030 Merthyr Mawr Warren/Cwningaer Merthyr Mawr; 031 Candleston and the valleys/Trecantle a'r cymoedd; 032 Newton Point to Black Rocks, Ogmores-by-Sea/Trwyn Drenwydd i Carreg Ddu, Aberogwr; 033 Ogmores Down/Rhos Ogwr; 034 Ochr Draw and Island Farm; 035 Ogmores/Ogwr.

Fieldwalking of five arable fields at Wrinstone Farm, Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan, was undertaken as a follow-up to trial pits in 2001. The results were more positive, especially from one field, which produced 12 worked flints including two arrowheads. The field is the subject of a current planning application for quarrying and had been evaluated (with negative results) shortly before the fieldwalking. An interim report on the fieldwalking was provided to the Cotswold Archaeological Trust to assist them in their discussion of the prehistoric potential.

The very large lithics scatter at Corntown Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, had been proposed for fieldwork, but the landowner's consent was not forthcoming. It is associated with a well-marked hilltop enclosure visible on aerial photographs. Even without confirmatory fieldwork, this site is considered to be of national importance.

Access to a Mesolithic site on Forest Enterprise land in Rhondda Cynon Taff has been agreed. Five other landowners have been approached and a selection of these will be covered later in the year, alongside initial visits to selected Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites.

GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites

The current half year has seen the completion of fieldwork and the production of the main report for Year 2 of this project, covering Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. The total number of SMR entries in the record for these two unitary authorities at the conclusion of the survey was 433, of which only eight were duplicates. This number includes all new entries to the SMR added during the course of the survey, the majority of which are either group numbers created to identify round barrow cemeteries of various types, or individual numbers allocated to individual cairns within cairnfields.

For Year 3 of the project, the database has been upgraded to include all information currently available in the SMR, and all sites have been plotted on 25,000 OS maps. There are 367 sites so far, of which 328 are currently scheduled for visiting, though this number may change in the light of further information. Searches have been made via the Land Registry for details of ownership, and 86 owners have been traced. Approximately 69 sites are probably on common land, but information is not yet forthcoming from local authorities to confirm details. No fieldwork has yet been carried out.

GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement

Work on this project has only just begun. So far, work has mainly concentrated on checking SMR entries in the category of 'Religious, ritual and funerary' for the periods 'Medieval' and 'Early medieval'. A further ten records missed from the original query have now been added to the database, but it has proved possible to eliminate some entries completely, so that the number of active sites currently stands at 701. It has been decided to retain wayside crosses at the moment, in case some of them may represent sites with a religious connection going back into the Early medieval period. So far, the Llandaff Charters have only been examined in relation to

difficulties encountered during the SMR review, but this has already resulted in the identification of two possible unplaced sites.

Five tithe maps have also been examined to see whether records of chapels or inhumations could be married up with curvilinear enclosures or significant placenames, but all proved negative.

GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads

The objective during Year 1 of this project has been to assess the archaeological resource relating to Roman roads and vici in Southeast Wales, and to suggest research criteria and directions for fieldwork in Year 2.

Examination of the Roman road system in Southeast Wales shows the state of knowledge to be poor. The general layout of the major highways is understood, but few physical traces of the roads have been positively identified. The existing syntheses of the subject are now outdated, and the GGAT SMR has proved a poor tool for investigation of this subject.

Nine vici associated with auxiliary bases have been considered in detail; Abergavenny, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Coelbren, Gelligaer, Loughor, Neath, Penydarren and Usk. Relevant SMR and Scheduling information has been obtained, and an assessment made of both published and unpublished literature. Site visits have also been undertaken. The study shows that whilst there was a vicus near to each fort, the evidence is not sufficient to establish the precise location, character and date of this extramural activity. Recommendations are made for a fieldwork programme in Year 2 that would investigate these issues, which would comprise both geophysical survey and excavation. Work at the vicus at Neath is considered to be of the highest priority, for this site is threatened by modern development.

CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS

No significant calls were made on the Cadw Scientific contract in the reporting periods.

POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

GGAT 14 and 36 – Atlantic Trading Estate

The Trust has edited the authors' text to form a single report; following minor editorial changes and amendments to illustrations, the report will be submitted to the editor of *Studia Celtica*.

GGAT 50 - Coastal Archaeology Survey

The report on the pan-Wales project has been published (*The Coastal Archaeology of Wales* (A Davidson ed.) CBA Research Report **121**, 2002), with a section by GGAT on Coastal Management.

GGAT 51 – Historic Churches Survey

The digest article has been published (Evans, E M, Davidson, A, Ludlow N and Silvester, B, 2000 “Medieval Churches in Wales: The Welsh Historic Churches Project and its results”, *Church Archaeology* **4**, 5-26).

GGAT 52 – Monmouthshire Historic Settlements

The report has now been updated to take account of the Unitary Development Plan, recent work, and Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and will be presented to Monmouthshire County Council in the near future.

GGAT 61 – Historic Landscape Characterisation

A summary of the Rhondda Historic Landscape Characterisation study has been published (Roberts, R 2001 “Rhondda Historic Landscape Characterisation Project”, *Archaeology in Wales* **41**, 106-109).

GGAT 62 - Coastal Hillforts: Sudbrook Camp

The survey and evaluation work has been published (S H Sell 2001 “Recent excavation and survey work at Sudbrook Camp, Portskewett, Monmouthshire (ST 507873)”, *Studia Celtica* **35** (2001), 109-141).

GGAT 63 – Lowland Romano-British Settlements

A digest report has been submitted to *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (Evans, E M “Towards an understanding of the settlement pattern in southeast Wales during the Roman period”).

GGAT 65 – Deserted Rural Settlements

Final editorial comments on the southeast Wales chapter of the monograph have been submitted by Cadw and the text and figures revised accordingly.

GGAT 66 – Prehistoric Non-defensive Settlement Sites (Lithics Scatters)

Fieldwork from 2001-2002 will form part of the digest report to be prepared in the 3rd quarter, completing the project.

‘Grey literature’ reports on grant-aided work

A database of all ‘grey’ literature reports produced for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments has been produced and a copy supplied to the inspectorate. An update will be sent after the half-yearly review meeting. In the past two years the following reports have been produced:-

- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Gelligaer Common Part 1: Landscape Characterisation, Part 2: The Management of Gelligaer Common, Part 3: Historic Landscape Character Area Proformas* GGAT Report No **99/069** (GGAT 61)
- *Glamorgan Coastal Hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment* GGAT Report No **2000/002** (GGAT 70)
- *Uplands Archaeology in Glamorgan-Gwent: a review of progress 1989-1999* GGAT Report No **2000/004** (RCAHMW)
- *Sudbrook Camp, Portskewett, Monmouthshire (SAM Mm 048 (Mon)): heritage recording* GGAT Report No **2000/008** (GGAT 62)
- *Clydach Brickworks: emergency recording* GGAT report No **2000/017** (GGAT 68)
- *46 and 47 The Strand, Swansea: rapid survey of historic features* GGAT Report No **2000/018** (GGAT 69)
- *Prehistoric settlement in Southeast Wales: the lithic evidence* GGAT Report No **2000/024** (GGAT 66)
- *Deserted Rural Settlements in Glamorgan* GGAT Report No **2000/030** (GGAT 65)
- *River Valleys Survey: Ely and the Vale of Glamorgan LEAP* GGAT Report No **2000/033** (GGAT 48)
- *Romano-British Settlement Survey: Scheduling Recommendations.* GGAT Report no **2001/009** (GGAT 63)
- *Deserted Rural Settlement in Glamorgan and Gwent: a condition survey.* GGAT Report No **2001/016** (GGAT 65)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation: Y Rhondda/The Rhondda Part1: Landscape Characterisation.* GGAT Report No **2001/019** (GGAT 61)
- *Romano-British South East Wales Settlement Survey: Penmark and Porthkerry.* GGAT Report No **2001/020** (GGAT 63)
- *Romano-British South East Wales Settlement Survey: Final Report.* GGAT Report No **2001/023** (GGAT 63)
- *Deserted Rural Settlements Survey: Scheduling Recommendations.* GGAT Report no **2001/32** (GGAT 65)

- *Prehistoric Non-defensive Settlement Sites: Fieldwork interim report.* GGAT Report No **2001/33** (GGAT 66)
- *Prehistoric Non-defensive Settlement Sites: Project Fieldwork 2001-2.* GGAT Report No **2002/13** (GGAT 66)
- *Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites: Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda, Cynon, Taff.* GGAT Report No **2002/015** (GGAT 72)
- *Geophysical survey at Wyndcliff, Porthcasseg, S. Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1410 (Site 1) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at Llanbethery, Vale of Glamorgan, S. Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1410 (Site 2) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at Llanmihangel, Vale of Glamorgan, S. Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1410 (Site 3) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at New Mill Farm, Monknash, Vale of Glamorgan, S. Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1410 (Site 4) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at Glebe Farm, Porthkerry, S. Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1410 (Site 5) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at Dunraven Castle, Mid Glamorgan, Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1415 (Site 1) (GGAT 63)
- *Geophysical survey at Nash Point, South Glamorgan, Wales.* Stratascan report ref 1415 (Site 2) (GGAT 63)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Merthyr Tydfil.* GGAT Report No **2002/014** (GGAT 61)
- *Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff.* GGAT Report no **2002/015** (GGAT 72)

FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2002 – MARCH 2003

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

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 dated March 2002. This will include the provision of SMR 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 above. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to Cadw in our quarterly reports.

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

- launch the introducing 'Archaeology and Planning' leaflet
- complete the 'Archaeology and Planning' display
- complete the leaflet for the Gelligaer landscape characterisation project
- update Cadw's portion of the Trust website
- complete the review for the Swansea and Brecon DAC
- prepare a Regional Heritage Management Strategy report
- commence a Management Plan for Gelligaer Common
- organise the ALGAO meeting in Wales on November 12th
- organise the Research Agenda in Wales Cardiff seminar (November 23rd)

GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services

The Development Control 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 quarterly reports.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

This on-going project is designed to provide the support services required for the Tir Gofal scheme. Further work on the HE1s for the small residue of Year 3 are

anticipated as well as Year 4 HE1s should the Countryside Council for Wales' application window open in the new year.

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation - Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows and Margam Mountain

The required work programme for this project includes the completion of the descriptions of the historic landscape character areas, writing the historical background section, preparing information for the management priorities section and compiling the final report for presentation.

GGAT 66 Prehistoric Non-defensive Sites

The forthcoming half-year will see the completion of the fieldwork and the preparation of the final report and publication.

GGAT 72 Prehistoric, Funerary and Ritual Sites

This project will continue into the second half of the year with fieldwork concentrated on the Unitary Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan. Compatibility with previous fieldwork will be ensured through the provision of training for new personnel.

GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement

For the remainder of the year this project will conduct a review of the evidence for early medieval ecclesiastical settlement in south-east Wales and there will be selective non-intrusive fieldwork to some sites to ascertain condition and potential.

GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads

Project completed and report will be presented to Cadw shortly.