



INTRODUCTION TO GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST (GGAT)

The Trust is a charitable company with an established object 'to educate the public in archaeology'. The powers by which it may do this are set out in the Articles. These include:

- to undertake, prepare or promote archaeological research, excavations, surveys, reports and advice and for any consequent or similar activities;
- to publish or otherwise distribute information; to arrange for the safe-keeping of all records arising from such objects and for their eventual deposition;
- to arrange for the safe-keeping of all materials and objects recovered as a result of such archaeological work; and, where appropriate,
- to arrange for their eventual deposition and/or display.

Currently the trust provides assistance with the maintenance of the Historic Environment Record for the area covered by the former counties of the three Glamorgans and Gwent. A subsidiary trust, the GGAT HER Charitable Trust, owns the record. The Trust provides strategic and development control planning advice to the twelve unitary authorities in south Wales. It also provides advice to a wide range of bodies with powers to undertake works that could adversely affect the historic environment and which may not need planning permission (eg Natural Resources Wales, Church in Wales, Ministry of Defence, Crown Estates, Utilities (as Statutory Undertakers)). It carries out monument class assessments. It undertakes archaeological (and other historic environment) assessments, evaluations, excavations, watching-briefs, surveys, and reports on results. It carries out programmes of outreach and engagement within the communities of south Wales.

CHALLENGES FACING GGAT

There are three main areas of risks to the future financial sustainability of GGAT delivery:

- GGAT receives funding from Cadw for certain works. As with all public funding, there is a risk of reductions in the near/medium term;
- GGAT, together with the other three Welsh Archaeological Trusts, is a contributor to the Welsh Archaeological Organisations' Pension Fund (AOPS). This fund is in deficit and while a recovery plan is in place, this depends on the assumptions about the likely return on investments and these may vary. In the event that one of the four Trusts became insolvent, then the other three would assume its proportion of the deficit, increasing the risk that the remaining Trusts might become insolvent also;
- The contracting services of GGAT are subject to increasing competition, which is a risk to their financial viability.

It is clear that taking these areas of financial risk together GGAT needs to increase and diversify its income streams. It is also likely that restructuring will be necessary to ensure that GGAT services are sustainable. Such restructuring could be both internal and in relation to other organisations.