

## **NOTES FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNDERTAKING DESK-BASED STUDIES IN SOUTH-EAST WALES**

### **General**

The framework for local history in South-East Wales is not as well established as in other areas of the United Kingdom. Therefore it is more likely that some reference to primary documentation will be required for the compilation of sufficiently detailed desk-top studies. Some sources may require knowledge of medieval Latin and Welsh.

### **National Government and Legislation**

Planning in Wales is currently overseen by the Assembly Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development: through the Planning Division of the Welsh Assembly Government.

The majority of functions carried out by English Heritage in England are currently provided by Cadw, Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff, CF15 7QQ Tel: 01443 336000 although others are undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 2HP Cadw maintain the current information on scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings.

The primary planning legislation in Wales is the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, the Welsh Assembly has produced Planning Policy Wales (March 2002) to provide advice on all aspects of planning policy in Wales. Detailed advice on archaeology in the planning process is contained in Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology. The issuing of this advice in December 1996 cancelled Welsh Office Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning (December 1991).

Welsh Office Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas presents the Government's advice on the handling of historic buildings and landscapes in the planning process. It should be noted that an equivalent document to the English PPG15 was never issued in Wales.

The Hedgerow Regulations (Countryside 1997 No 1160) apply to Wales.

A Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Importance was issued in 1998. A further Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest was issued in 2001. Many current structure and local plans, including Unitary Development Plans and the emerging Local Development Plans include measures to protect them. The Government has provided some advice on these landscapes in Welsh Office Circular 60/91. The Welsh Assembly Government through Cadw, and Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) have issued a second edition of the "Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Processes" (2007) which provides detailed advice on the processes required to produce an Assessment of the Significance on the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape

(ASIDOHL). It is expected that developments that will have a significant effect on a registered historic landscape will require an ASIDOHL to be prepared for them.

A register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales has also been compiled. Advice concerning these designated sites can be sought from Cadw.

### **Local Government**

Since April 1996 Wales has been divided into 21 local unitary authorities. 12 of these Authorities, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouth, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan are in the South-East Wales Region. Each Unitary Authority runs its own Local Planning Authority, and are currently preparing Local Development Plans (LDP). Until the full adoption of these LDPs a patchwork system of adopted Structure Plans and Local Plans prepared by the former County and Borough Councils and in some cases and Unitary Development Plans prepared by the current Authority are in force. Details regarding which documents are in force are available from the relevant planning department.

No Unitary Authority in South-East Wales currently directly employs an archaeologist to advise on planning issues; however, they all subscribe to a service provided by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT Curatorial). Detailed advice on archaeology in the planning process in the region can therefore be gained by contacting the Archaeological Planning Section, Curatorial Division, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL tel: 01792 655208 fax: 01792 474469 e-mail [curatorial@ggat.org.uk](mailto:curatorial@ggat.org.uk)

### **Historic Environment Record**

No Unitary Authority in the region maintains a Historic Environment Record (HER); however, all have adopted the HER curated by GGAT Curatorial for the purposes of the Town and Country (General Development) Order 1995. Information or access to the HER can be arranged through the Heritage Management Officer, Curatorial Division, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL tel: 01792 655208 fax: 01792 474469 e-mail [curatorial@ggat.org.uk](mailto:curatorial@ggat.org.uk) A charge is made for this service to commercial enquirers.

The National Monuments Record (NMR), part of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) also holds information on archaeological sites in the regions. An index (ENDEX) locating sites in both the NMR and SMR is currently being compiled. Further information can be obtained from the SMR Officer or from the NMR, RCAHMW, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, SY23 2HP tel:01970 612205.

### **Documentary and Cartographic**

The Glamorgan County History Series provides an overview of the archaeological and historical resource in the former County of Glamorgan. A county history for Gwent is currently

being prepared with the first Volume Gwent in Prehistory and Early History being published in 2004; until the later volumes are issued the standard work on Gwent in the historical periods remains Bradney's History of Monmouthshire published between 1906 and 1932 (although the final volume was only actually issued in 1997).

The principal local archives are:

Gwent Record Office, County Hall, Cwmbran  
Glamorgan Record Office, Glamorgan Hall Cathays Park, Cardiff  
West Glamorgan Archive Service, Record Office, County Hall, Swansea

However, the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, holds a large number of estate records. These include the Badminton Papers (covering large areas of Monmouthshire as well as elsewhere in Wales) and the Tredegar Papers (coverage of much of Newport, Southern Monmouthshire and eastern Cardiff). Access to some of these collections is only possible with written permission of the depositor.

Documents are also held by museums including the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and the Aberdare, Abergavenny, Chepstow, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Swansea, Torfaen Museums, as well as in the local collections of the Cardiff, Newport and Swansea Libraries. Information concerned with cultural and countryside matters is held by the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagans, Cardiff.

Documents relating to industrial concerns are held by the local museums listed above as well as the Big Pit Mining Museum, Blaenavon, National Waterfront Museum, the Pontypridd Cultural and Heritage Centre, and Swansea University Library.

The libraries of the University of Wales, Bangor, Cardiff, Lampeter, Newport and Swansea hold relevant theses on many aspects of the archaeology and history of South-East Wales.

Topographic prints, engravings and photographs are held by many of the institutions mentioned above. Public art galleries containing relevant information include the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, the Newport Art Gallery (part of Newport Museum) and the Art Department of the National Museum and Galleries of Wales.

### **Air Photographs**

The official collection of aerial photographs in Wales is held by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales, The National Assembly for Wales, Crown, Room G-003, Crown Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ Tel: 029 20823819. The majority of this collection comprises vertical photographs taken for the Ordnance Survey from 1946 until present. Access to the collection is only by appointment and given increasing use of this facility it is strongly recommended that admittance to this collection is applied for as early as possible.

The RCAHMW also holds a large collection of aerial photographs particularly of scheduled ancient monuments. Access to these photographs can be gained through the National Monuments Record.

### **National, Regional and Local Journals**

The major United Kingdom academic period journals (such as *Britannia* and *Medieval Archaeology*) include information on major archaeological sites in Wales. However there are specifically Welsh Journals that contain information on major Welsh sites and also regional publications dealing with more localised aspects. Some local societies also publish journals that may contain relevant information.

#### National

*Archaeology Cambrensis*  
*Archaeology in Wales*  
*Studia Celtica (formerly Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies)*  
*Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorian*

#### Regional

*Gwent Local Historian*  
*Morgannwg*  
*Monmouthshire Antiquarian*

#### Local

*Gelligaer*  
*Monmouth Archaeology*  
*Transactions of the Neath Antiquarian Society*  
*Transaction of the Cardiff Natural History Society*

### **Fieldwork**

There are a number of archaeological contractors, societies, universities and individuals carrying out fieldwork in the region. The SMR Manager will be able to advise who is working in a particular area.

### **Place-Names**

Place-name evidence can be of great importance for providing clues about earlier undocumented uses of sites. There are currently no national sources or dictionaries, but there are a number of regional studies. The most important for South-East Wales are Pierce G.O. 2002 **Place-Names of Glamorgan** Merton Priory Press, Cardiff and Pierce G.O. 1968 **The Place-Names of Dinas Powys Hundred** University of Wales Press Cardiff.

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