

THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



New Trust Premises – Heathfield House Heathfield, Swansea

Half-yearly review
October 2001

&

Annual review of Cadw projects
2000-2001

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

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Registered Charity No 505609



Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
Half-Yearly Review
September 2001

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REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2000 – MARCH 2001

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Funding and staffing

This section of the half-yearly report provides information on Cadw funded projects that provide essential archaeological curatorial services to Southeast Wales, an area which is subdivided into twelve Unitary Authority areas. 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 are regularly supplied to Cadw as quarterly monitoring reports.

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

The demand for heritage management services, including the provision of information and advice, continues to expand and grow, with the increasing requirements of the service industries, for example Welsh Water, being particularly noteworthy. Public interest in archaeology continues unabated, as does the growing need for quality information and advice. It is expected that the needs and demands of public 'outreach' services will continue to grow in the foreseeable future and be central to our service provision in Southeast Wales.

In this developing role the Curatorial Division of the Trust is the delivery point of key regional services, supplementing the national and statutory role of Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. In working together both our organisations benefit not just each other in our distinct roles, but also the historic environment and heritage of Wales.

The Tir Gofal project and the opportunity it provides to better conserve and manage aspects of the heritage of Wales on farm land, hitherto not readily accessible has been a notable success in the region. This opinion is, however, tempered by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in February, which suspended visits to the farms and curtailed much of the recent work.

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 areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. The Trust also made its own scheduling recommendations arising out of its work and these and supporting information were relayed to Cadw for consideration. The Trust assisted Cadw with field visits to selected monuments to assess their condition and significance in order to determine whether they meet the national criteria for scheduling. Other information was regularly supplied to Cadw inspectors to assist a wide variety of tasks.

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 in pursuit of their projects and interests. Many academic enquiries from students and schools were serviced by the Heritage Officer. A small service charge was levied for commercial enquirers.

During the year 152 enquiries were made, 92 being non-commercial and 60 being commercial. In addition 49 visits were made to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the SMR.

The Sites and Monuments Record also provided 'start-up' information in support of Cadw Threat-led Assessment projects including – Historic Landscape Characterisation – the Rhondda (GGAT 61), Deserted Rural Settlements (GGAT 65), Tir Gofal (GGAT 67) and Southeast Wales Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Sites (GGAT 72). Additional information was also provided in support of the 2001-2 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 22 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 objected to applications on four 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 the meetings also provide important opportunities for furthering our 'outreach' commitment. Over the year the average number of meetings per week was 1.3.

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

Liaison continued with the Historic Landscapes Officer of the Countryside Council for Wales on the preparation of Part 2.2 of the Register – *Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. This document was formally launched by the Minister of the Environment at Llangollen on February 2nd, 2001.

The Curatorial Division was also formally consulted on the draft CCW document – *Guidelines and Methodology for Assessing the Significance of Impacts of Developments on Historic Landscape Areas on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.

The Curatorial Division continued to comment in detail on many consultations and planning applications for developments in areas listed in the Register of Historic Landscapes. These included a windfarm on Gelligaer Common (Caerphilly), land reclamation and coaling at Bryn y Gwyddel (Ffos y Fran), Merthyr, Rhyd y Car, Merthyr, and a proposed new village at Brynglas on the Gwent levels, Newport.

The Curatorial Division also represented Caerphilly County Borough Council in their Unitary Development Plan Inquiry. Objections were lodged in favour of the inclusion of land at Gwaun y Fro, Penpedairheol as housing allocation. Both the Council and this Trust were against this allocation of housing land as the site lies within Gelligaer Common, a registered historic landscape and immediately adjacent to the nationally important Roman military installations at Gelligaer.

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 the work for the preparation of Unitary Development Plans makes this a key area of our forward planning activity.

The Trust contributed to the Vale of Glamorgan *LANDMAP* report, which had already won a national award. The project was subsequently forwarded as the UK representative and duly won the Regional Authority Award category for the Council of Europe Landscape Awards 2000.

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

In terms of forward or strategic planning The Trust continued to inform and advise on the preparation of the Unitary Development Plans for the twelve Unitary Authorities and the Brecon Beacons National Park in our region. The production of these individual plans is at various stages in the process, though our services over the year were mainly required by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Monmouthshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea and for the County Boroughs of Bridgend, Torfaen, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Neath and Merthyr Tydfil.

The Trust continued to provide the Local Authorities and the Brecon Beacons National Park with information and advice outside of the planning processes. For instance, The Trust monitored the twelve Countryside Strategies produced by the regional Unitary Authorities with a view to enhancing their archaeological content at the review stage. In response to specific Local Authority requests The Trust advised on many local issues, such as the future development of Margam Park, Neath Port Talbot.

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

See below GGAT 43.



Smithing Hearth at Maerdy, The Rhondda

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 national forestry authorities - The Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise. This largely involved responding to individual consultations, such as Woodland Grant Schemes and by providing information and advice on how to protect archaeological interests through grant-aided projects and forestry operations.

The Trust also looked to improving 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.

On a weekly basis The Trust examines the Register of Felling and Planting by reference to the databases of the Sites and Monuments Record. Where considered necessary further details are requested and more detailed and appropriate advice provided.

Twenty-nine Woodland Grant Schemes and one felling licence application were received and processed this year. Archaeological interests were noted in 2 cases and appropriate conservation advice given.

The Trust renewed its agreement with Forest Enterprise that provides the opportunity to visit and advise on the conservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites on its land holding in the region.

A representative from the Trust attended the Forestry and Archaeology Liaison day in October. This was held in the Hafren Forest in Canolbarth District. The theme of the day was the practical management of afforested areas containing archaeological sites. This included management of scheduled and non-scheduled areas. The need for liaison at an early stage was emphasised, with archaeological needs being written into the Forest Design Plans and requirements during the work being passed to the managers and contractors in the forests.

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 (including GGAT 67).

This year was the second year of the major new national initiative - the All-Wales Agree-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.

Pre-application Enquiries

As part of the procedures for early consultation farmers are encouraged to contact the Trust to enquire about archaeological sites on their land. This information can assist the landholders to assess the archaeological resource on their land and prepare their Tir Gofal applications. However, take-up of this service has so far been poor and recommendations were made to CCW to improve the level of this early consultation.

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 65 consultations being received this financial year as opposed to 28 in the previous year. Many of the consultations, for example refurbishing or laying new services, are often geographically large, complex and time-consuming.

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

The Trust maintained close contact with a large number of organisations and individuals that have responsibility and interests in national and local conservation issues.

Consultation concerning the development of the LANDMAP methodology continued with the Countryside Council for Wales, Unitary Authorities and the other Welsh Trusts.

The Trust continued to work with the Countryside Council for Wales in developing closer working relationships especially on the sensitive Gwent Levels. The Curatorial Division was invited to join the management advisory group for the Gwent Levels Wetlands Reserve. This was accepted by the Trust and a contribution on archaeological issues for their Draft Management Plan made. The Trust also attended the public consultation meeting for the Reserve with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Nash on 21st February.

The Trust continued to take a full role in supporting and advising the Heritage Lottery Fund bid made by the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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 Unitary Authorities took full regard to the provisions required by central government to protect archaeological interests through the planning processes.

The Trust also noted and warmly welcomed the many decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate of the National Assembly, which support the advice we give to the planning authorities. Details of these can be provided on request.

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

The Curatorial Division continued to take a significant role in archaeological matters concerning coastal and church archaeology in the region. The Trust attended and advised the regional committees for both the Severn Estuary and Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plans. Meetings of the Severn Estuary Strategy Group and the Swansea Bay Coastal Engineering Group were also attended. The Trust assisted in the preparation of chapter 14 – Archaeology and the Historic Environment – of the draft Strategy for the Severn Estuary.

Staff continued to monitor the loss of sand on the Gower beaches, particularly as this can lead to the erosion of exposed prehistoric peat deposits in areas, such as Port Eynon.

The Curatorial Division gave advice on church archaeology in the region and the Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial) continued to attend meetings of Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee as their archaeological advisor. He was also appointed as the archaeological advisor for Brecon Cathedral's Fabric Committee.

The formal 'launch' of the church project by Cadw and the provision of the church survey data to the responsible bodies during the year was welcomed. This occasion should be the catalyst for improvements in archaeological conservation in an ecclesiastical context. An offer was made by the Curatorial Division to put together guidelines for the handling of archaeology in the faculty process. The Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee warmly accepted this offer.

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 in disseminating information on archaeological work that has been undertaken. 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. 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 Welsh History Forum at the Museum of Welsh life, St Fagans, various libraries in the Swansea area, for the Cwm Dulais Valley Festival, *etc.*

A display was also prepared for the 25-year celebration of the life and work of this Trust in December.

Cadw/SMR leaflets, etc, were supplied for various events and exhibitions. Leaflets were supplied to the Environment Centre at Swansea for the Eco-Festival at Singleton Park, to the Cambrian Archaeological Association for display at their meeting at Swansea University and SMR leaflets went to the Eisteddfod at Llanelli. Leaflets have been prepared including 'Archaeology and Planning', which is being produced as part of Cadw's 'introducing' series. Lectures continued to be provided to a wide variety of audiences, such as W.I.s, schools and societies.



Coelbren Roman Fort and environs

One of our main areas of outreach was participation with the Dulais Valley Partnership and their Millenium Festival. The Trust contributed through the provision of display material, lectures and a leaflet to accompany a new walk along the Sarn Helen Roman Road between Neath and Coelbren. This walk is designed to promote the quiet enjoyment of the countryside and its historic features, rather than the destructive 'off-roading' activity that has occurred. Meetings with the Cwm Dulais Partnership, the local history society, local authority representatives and Forest Enterprise (as a major landholder) were held to progress this important initiative.

Another beneficial 'knock-on' has been the archaeological interest developed within an active community in the Dulais Valley and the commissioning by the Dulais Valley Partnership of a non-intrusive survey of the environs of the Roman fort at Coelbren, through a substantial grant provided by the Millennium Commission. Geophysical work was carried out by Stratascan Ltd and detailed survey work, including aerial photography, undertaken around the Roman fort by Trust staff. A

report was prepared and recommendations made for the investigation and possible scheduling of a major new Roman site discovered in the environs of the fort.

This project, albeit time-consuming, has been a good example in Wales of the benefits that proactive heritage management, in association with local communities, can have in terms of increasing our archaeological understanding, in conservation and also with vital outreach.

The Trust is keen to improve our contacts with other bodies concerned with the historic environment of Wales. Contact with Rhondda/Cynon/Taff (Aberdare Museum) and Caerphilly Museum Services was made to promote archaeological interests. Contact was also made with the Trostre Works Cottage and Industrial Museum, which has been supplied with information to assist the production of their displays.

GGAT 43 - Regional Archaeological Planning Services

Planning Statistics 2000 –2001 (see Appendix)

The Curatorial Division provided a wide variety of vital planning services to the twelve regional Authorities in Southeast Wales with funding received from Cadw and collectively from the 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 work is particularly important both in terms of its scale and complexity. This work is significant both in terms of forward planning through the emerging Unitary Development Plans and the processing of the regional planning applications.

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.

The most notable change in the planning statistics was the increase in the planning applications (posted on the weekly lists) processed from 15,095 in the year 1999-2000 to 16,619 for 2000–2001, the largest rise for ten years. This significant increase influenced all of the figures for the year with an increase in detailed planning applications requested from the planning authorities rising from 1237 to 1293. The number of these applications with archaeological restraints also rose from 302 in 1999–2000 to 381 in 2000–2001 (2.3% of all applications). There was a significant increase in the number of watching briefs conditions recommended up from 131 to 210. This probably represented an increase in the number of applications to build small extensions to buildings inside the historic core of towns. The other major increase was the doubling of the number of desk-based assessments requested. This figure included recommendations made as part of the recently introduced scoping procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment and reflected the increasing number of developments that required these to be compiled.

As one would expect for areas of Southeast Wales, generally an economically dynamic region with major inward investment, there was a large number of large, complex and time-consuming development proposals, such as the National Maritime



Archaeological evaluation being undertaken in front of the Engine House, Tondur Ironworks, Bridgend

and Industrial Museum, Swansea, Parc Derwen, Bridgend, 11a Westgate, Cowbridge, Welsh Rugby Union Centre of Excellence, Newport, Tondu Ironworks, Bridgend, etc. These required the detailed response and attention of the Development Control Section including liaison with 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 recommendations on the best course of action to protect archaeological interests whilst enabling permitted development. 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 on site from inception 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 both the protection of important archaeological resources for future public benefit and also the production and presentation of reports on the archaeological resource identified. Information on these reports is published in the Council for British Archaeology's Welsh Group annual publication – *Archaeology in Wales*. For the year 2000 114 reports on work required and governed by the development control processes in Southeast Wales are contained in their publication.

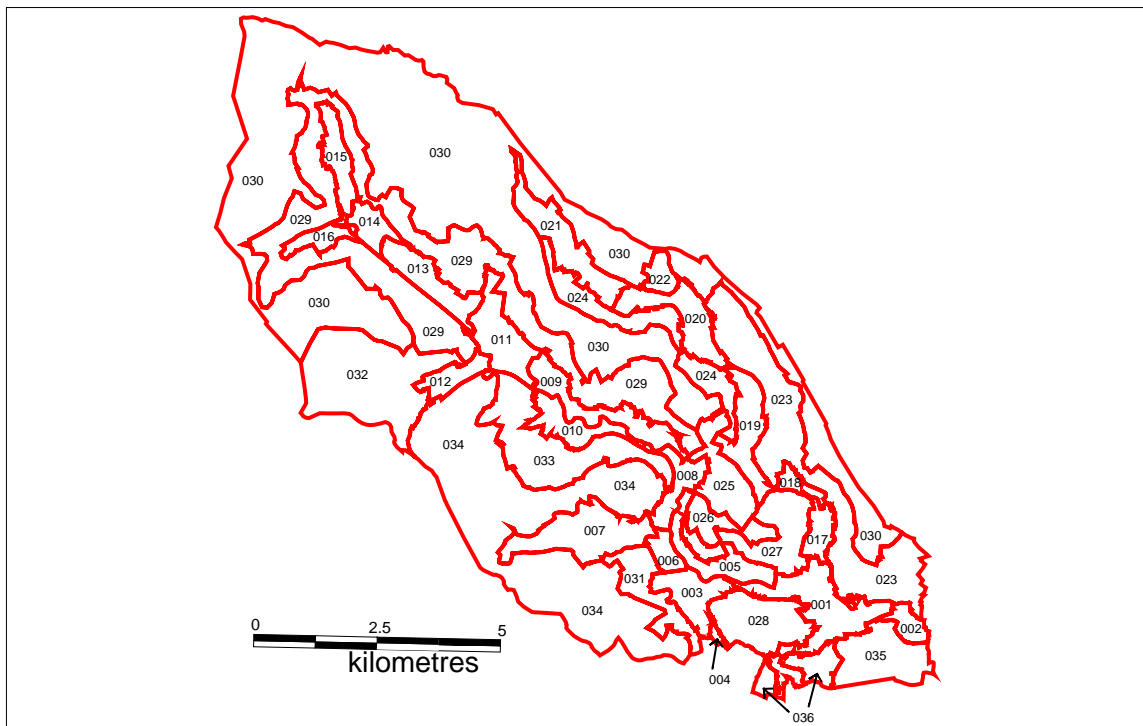
GGAT 61 - Landscape characterisation - the Rhondda

In March 2001 the work undertaken by the Trust for the Rhondda Historic Landscape Project was brought to completion and a report submitted. This involved the writing up the character areas, the production of a historical and thematic introduction, production of the character area maps and the compilation of the final report, complete with photographs and area maps. The landscape characterization exercise was funded with an additional years grant, agreed following consultation with Cadw. The study identified a total of 36 character areas¹, 21 of which are based on the largely 19th century industrial/urban communities which take up the bottom and

¹The 36 character areas are: 001 Porth: Gateway to the Rhondda Valleys; 002Hafod; 003; Penygraig; 004 Williamstown; 005 Trealaw; 006 Tonypany; 007 Cwm Clydach; 008 Llwynypia; 009 Ystrad and Pentre; 010 Ton Pentre and Gelli; 011 Treorchy; 012 Cwmparc; 013 Treherbert; 014 Ty-newydd; 015 Blaenrhondda; 016 Blaenycwm; 017 Ynyshir; 018 Wattstown; 019 Pontygwaith, Tylorstown and Stanleytown; 020 Blaenllechau and Ferndale; 021 Maerdy; 022 Ffaldau; 023 Rhondda Fach: Eastern Enclosed Valley Sides; 024 Rhondda Fach: Western Enclosed Valley Sides; 025 Mynachdy Penrhys; 026 Mynydd Brith-weunydd and Mynydd Troed-y-rhiw; 027 Brith-weunydd and Troed-y-rhiw; 028 Mynydd Dinas and Mynydd Cymmer; 029Rhondda Fawr: Enclosed Valley Sides; 030 Rhondda Uplands; 031 Rhondda Uplands (Mynydd Ton – Mynydd Penygraig); 032 Parc Cwm Brychinog; 033 Rhondda Fawr: Enclosed Valley Sides (Cwm Lan - Nant-y-Gwiddon); 034 Rhondda Fawr: Enclosed Valley Sides (Mynydd Penygraig); 035 Mynydd-y-Glyn; 036 Cilely and Rhiwgarn

lower slopes of the valleys. The character areas for the Rhondda are shown in the figure on the next page:

The characterization process used for the Rhondda followed the established methodology relying on initial SMR searches, which identified a minimum of 584 NMR registers, and desk-based documentary searches, including initial 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 confined and narrow valley landscape naturally lent itself to being divided vertically along north south lines, on basic topographic grounds alone; this resulted in separation between unenclosed upland ridges, steep mostly enclosed valley sides and the densely populated urban valley bottoms. The number of character areas identified was initially large, unsurprising given the dramatic, if relatively short industrial and urban history of the Rhondda, with its diverse, fragmented and complex landscape. During the field visit a written record, using the established proformae as a basis, and photographic record were produced for each individual character area.



Rhondda Valleys HLA – Character Areas

The developing process, which is landscape characterisation, 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 number of character areas was undertaken. This was augmented by additional fieldwork, more detailed documentary research, and map regression with the specific task of characterising the urban landscapes of the area. It

was noticeable that considerable urban development had occurred in the period between the survey of the Tithe and the later OS maps. There after urban development appears to have been a continual, if relatively short-lived process. 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 Rhondda, even today. 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, Treorchy, Tonypany Libraries, Swansea and Cardiff University Libraries. 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 Llantrisant, Llanwynno and Ystradfodwg, together with estate maps, database catalogues and the general catalogues. The database of the National Library detailed estate maps, and 49 Sales Catalogues relevant to the understanding urban development. Useful suggestions regarding additional sources were also provided by Judith Allfrey, Cadw's building representative, Dr. Rick Turner and Dr. Peter Waklin, Cadw; Dr. Eurwyn William, National Museums & Galleries of Wales; Richard Keen, The National Trust; and Brian Davies, Pontypridd History and Culture Centre.

The results of the characterization study showed that the Rhondda communities were individually conceived and originally physically separated, and that later infilling eventually filled all available space to create the virtually continuous urban valley sprawl seen today. It was noted that the valley communities all had their own individual characteristics and identity, which are well known in the Rhondda, and that this was to an extent reflected in the urban morphology and the way in which the communities had developed. Initial urban development was found to generally follow the establishment of the colliery or collieries and thereafter each community typically grew in close association with its particular pit or pits to fill the narrow confines of the valley bottom and lower valley sides. While there is an apparent uniformity of character to the urban sprawl of the Rhondda, primarily resulting from the ubiquitous terraced house, this can be viewed as superficial and on closer inspection differences emerge; which allow spatial and time scale variations to be charted.

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. 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 a combination were also important. During the study characterization of the urban element was undertaken grounds of date and origins and urban morphology. Analysis of the way in which a particular settlement originated and developed over time and 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.



Rhondda Heritage Park, foreground with part of Trehafod and Mynydd-y-Glyn in background.

The urban morphology of the area, as pioneered by geographical studies of the 1960s (Wayne KD Davies' morphological and functional study of central places as applied to the settlements of the Rhondda² and PN Jones' study of the form, structure and disposition of colliery settlement in south Wales)³ was found to be indispensable as a tool for urban characterization. As already noted characteristics such as architectural distinctiveness, building types/materials were also taken into consideration and MJ Fisk's in-depth study of housing in the Rhondda,⁴ which charts the development of the area's housing in its industrial and social context, was found to be a useful source material.

² Davies, WKD, 1967 'Centrality and the central place hierarchy'. *Urban Studies*, 4, 61-79.

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

³ Jones, PN, 1969, *Colliery settlement in the South Wales Coalfield, 1850 to 1926*. Hull.

⁴ Fisk, MJ, 1996, *Housing in the Rhondda 1800 – 1940*. Merton Priory Press, Cardiff

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 the Rhondda, are detailed within the report. Section 8 of part 1 identifies and describes the 36 character areas that have been identified for the Rhondda, the area descriptions have been divided into three sub-sections: location, historic background, and key historic landscape characteristics. A map showing the extent of each area and photographs to give an impression of the texture are also included, as is a detailed Bibliography of source material for the Rhondda. Part 2 looks at 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. While provisional general recommendations are made, specific management strategies were considered beyond the scope of the report and omitted, given the involved and complex urban nature of the Rhondda. Part 3 includes the nationally agreed forms used as part of the historic landscape characterisation process. It is intended that the findings of the report, complete with character area descriptions and maps will eventually be posted on a website.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

Tir Gofal applications

In line with Cadw's requirements The Trust received notice of 74 applications (HE1 Stage) for possible entry into the Tir Gofal scheme and provided detailed information and advice on each application to the Countryside Council for Wales. Of these applications 14 were identified as requiring an archaeological 'walk-over' survey. These are carried out by the Trust's Tir Gofal Project Officer in the next stage of the Tir Gofal procedures (HE2), funded through the Countryside Council for Wales.

The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in February 2001 curtailed all visits to farms in the region effectively putting the Tir Gofal scheme on hold. Trust staff attended a Tir Gofal seminar in Porthcawl in April, 2000 in which details of the Tir Gofal assessment processes and other matters were fully discussed by the partners to the scheme.

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.



Lime kiln at Salisbury Farm, Magor

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 62 - Coastal Hillforts: Sudbrook Camp

A digest report for publication in *Studia Celtica* was produced.

GGAT 63 - Southeast Wales Lowland Romano-British Settlements

The work scheduled for the financial year 2000-2001 consisted of final reporting on the completion of this project. However, as the result of the effect of the foot-and-mouth outbreak on the fieldwork for other projects, most of the work on the preparation of a report for publication was brought forward to the final quarter of this year. In addition, a summary of the results of the project was presented at the biennial conference on Roman archaeology organised by the Roman Society and held in Glasgow.

The purpose of the project 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 results would best be presented in two reports, one concentrating on the detailed survey area, and the other presenting the more general picture. The publication report presents the main conclusions from both parts of the study.

The report on the Penmark-Porthkerry area reviews the methodology used during the detailed survey. This was based largely on fieldwalking as much of the area as permission could be obtained, noting any earthworks and collecting artefacts from arable, reseeded pasture and set-aside. These results were integrated with previously known sites, air photograph features and artefact scatters, and information on the natural topography, to provide as far as possible a picture of settlement in the area in Roman times. The results indicated a much greater density of sites than has hitherto been noted in southeast Wales, in the absence of such detailed fieldwork. Three sites were investigated further, two by excavation and one by geophysics, to test some of the hypotheses generated during the course of the work. The site investigated by geophysics (Glebe Farm) had been identified on the basis of a metal-detector find of a coin, and had also produced a tiny sherd of mortarium during the course of fieldwalking; it proved to take the form of a multivallate curvilinear enclosure of generally late prehistoric form. The purpose in excavating one of the other sites (Nurston) was to determine whether the find of a single sherd of Roman pottery during fieldwalking could be extrapolated as potentially signifying occupation; it also had produced some cropmarks of unknown potential but possibly Roman date, and was in the field adjacent to where Roman occupation had been discovered in the 1950s. The excavation produced features of Roman date, one of which overlay a ditch containing late Iron Age pottery. Excavation of the other site (Fonmon Castle Wood) was carried out to determine whether this site, an enclosure of late prehistoric form, contained evidence for Roman activity; this proved to be the case.

The more general report reviews the evidence for Roman settlement overall, discussing sites according to broad functional categories, and with reference to ten character areas within the main survey area. Sites are divided into two broad classes, (1) military and infrastructure, which also includes maritime and waterfront sites; and (2) civilian settlement and associated activity. The latter, which forms the main focus of the report, is further divided into settlements with urban characteristics, rural settlements, agricultural, industrial, funerary and religious. Appendices include: descriptions of the ten character areas; details of PRNs added to the survey from air photograph searches, field visit records; details of geophysical work carried out as part of the project; information from the Book of Llandaff with a possible bearing on the Roman landscape; and a proposed research agenda for the area in the Roman period.

The main substance of the report concentrates on civil settlements and their associated activity. The results of the detailed area survey have been used to inform this part of the report. Evidence for sites of varying degrees of Romanisation is assessed,

settlements with urban characteristics, possible villas, and settlements of lower status all being taken separately. Patterns of settlement are also examined, with regard to the relationship of rural to possible urban sites, and to the favoured types of topological location in the various areas. The economic basis of settlement is also considered, using both data on both agricultural and industrial production. Some sites have relatively little preserved in the way of cultural material, but this would seem to be related to the degree of Romanisation rather than necessarily being any absolute measure of wealth/poverty. Funerary and religious sites are poorly represented on the record, particularly the latter, but what little evidence that exists for these is also considered in relation to settlement patterns as a whole. The report concludes with a short discussion on the possible socio-economic basis of settlement in the area in the Roman period, and the transition between the Roman and Early Christian periods.

GGAT 65 - Southeast Wales Deserted Rural Settlements

At the commencement of this project in 1999, a search of the SMR was undertaken to identify sites classified as 'platform house', 'longhouse' or 'longhut', yielding 215 sites. In 1999-2000, four pilot areas were examined to test the distribution as recorded on the SMR by intensive prospection through documentary survey and by reviewing a wide range of site types which might be misreported platform houses. This prospection identified some new sites, but showed that the SMR distribution was generally reliable; blank areas were indeed devoid of sites.

In order to complete the pan-Wales DRS project within a reasonable time, GGAT proposed in 2000-2001 to examine the remaining 176 sites recorded on the SMR as a 'condition survey', visiting all accessible examples, recording their form and condition using the agreed standard terminology, and identifying those most worthy of statutory protection.

The fieldwork for the project was undertaken in November 2000 - January 2001, and thus was not affected by Foot & Mouth Disease. In order to visit as many sites as possible within the available time, those which lay on public rights-of-way and unenclosed moorland were prioritised, while for sites on private land consent was sought following the establishment of ownership through consultation of the Land Registry. Following discussions with Cadw concerning the desirability of establishing direct contact with all owners as part of the project, this methodology was adapted so that all landowners were approached, whether the site was accessible or not. In the event, 36 sites were not visited, either because consent was refused, or no positive consent was granted. A result of the change in working practice is that even for these sites, landowners have been sent details of the location and nature of the sites on their land, and the archaeological interest in their management. Thus rather than simple blanks in the record, some of the management and educative aims of the pan-Wales project have been met in this way.

The pan-Wales survey has developed a standard glossary for the group of sites under consideration, in an attempt to move away from the implications and variations of past terminology (which had led to considerable confusion between 'platform houses', 'house platforms', 'long huts', 'longhouses', and related terms). Where sites could be identified as other types (e.g. farmsteads, cottages, barns) they were been assigned to

‘Not a DRS’, although they may be closely related in date, form and function. Where the site is considered to lack the identifying features of DRS sites and are considered to be of natural, recent, or industrial origin, they have been classified as ‘rejected sites’. Although prospection was not a major part of the project, 20 new sites were noted

In general the sites were in a stable condition, although in some cases the site had been so completely damaged that it could not be located. The deterioration of the key features was noted, however. The principal threat is casual damage and neglect, as demonstrated by the poor state of some of the best examples on Gelligaer.



Gelligaer East (505M, SAM Gm 314a); evidence of casual damage to right

The relationship of DRS sites to types of landscape exploitation remains problematic. In most cases, an association with seasonal pasture seems likely. The large number of pairs of platforms, and the examples of areas such as Cefn Drum and Gelligaer Common where the summit area is ringed by platforms, suggest that they have their origin in the use of the pasture by several groups (presumably families). Kisson (2000) provides a documented transhumant context for the excavated sites at Cefn Drum. Nevertheless, there are more complex examples where a platform is used as the focus for a range of related features (Bryncynan, Mynydd Baiden (126M), and the possible granges at Penonn (1910S) and Brynteg (545G)). The construction of a large platform against the Cross Dyke at Tonna (636W) might imply a function for the dyke in stock control rather than defence (and incidentally a medieval date). At Dunraven Castle, the DRS is probably associated with the pillow mounds (334M). It would appear that the ‘platform building’ tradition formed part of the vernacular of building in medieval and later south Wales, alongside other types (notably the round-cornered buildings as found at Barry, Cosmeston, Rhossili and elsewhere).

The platforms in Glamorgan and Gwent generally retain little evidence of structure, with at most wall-banks and possible doorways. The excavated examples at Gelligaer and Cefn Drum have shown that this appearance is misleading: substantial structures are covered by vegetation and soil. Almost all run down the slope, although a few are aligned diagonally or laterally. There is little evidence for associated cultivation, and only one possible store (on Cefn y Brithdir (975M), in a group with two platforms). The Gelligaer East (Dinas Noddfa) sites are part of an extensive system of field banks, ditches and clearance cairns, and the anomalous evidence for permanent occupation may be explained by the atypicality of the sites.

There are no certain examples of deserted longhouses using the adopted definition, although some standing buildings may fulfil the looser definition of three unit buildings with one end used for farm purposes. None retains the use of the lower end for stock, and the presumed chronological relationship between the longhouse proper and the direct-entry and hearth-passage plans which are considered to be developments from it remains unclear. However, these examples are enough to suggest that some of the platforms did survive to become later farms.

Of the sites examined in 2000-2001, 16 sites were recommended for Scheduling (four of these sites have been Scheduled arising from earlier recommendations). The condition survey for SMR sites in southeast Wales has now been completed, although sites added to the SMR since 1999 (including a group of 12 in Blaenau Gwent, identified by RCAHMW-funded uplands survey) have not been examined.



Ty'n-y-waun, Heol-y-Cyw (4227M); hearth-passage house with later alterations. It became an outbuilding when a new farmhouse was built in the 1840s.

GGAT 72 - Southeast Wales Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Sites

The first stage of the project consisted of the compilation of a database for the whole of the Glamorgan-Gwent area. There were originally estimated to be 868, sites, but by the start of fieldwork this had increased to 1339 by the start of fieldwork, as a result of adding material waiting to be included in the SMR.

The first year's target was the completion of work on the unitary authorities of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff, the total number of monuments for which were calculated at the start of fieldwork as 368. However, since at the beginning of the foot-and-mouth outbreak 124 sites remained to be visited, fieldwork had to be suspended in favour of starting the desk-based phase of the planned programme for year 2 (Neath Port Talbot and Swansea).

The initial, desk-based stage of the work for the year involved the checking of the database entries to eliminate (as far as possible) any duplicates, and to ensure that there was a series of good descriptions of the monument over time, usually from the 1950s when the first OS records were compiled, in order to check changes in condition. As many as possible of the landowners were traced via the Land Registry, but there were a large number of sites where the land was not registered, and recourse had to be made to local enquiry.

The overwhelming majority of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in the area are round barrows and cairns. Fourteen sites were recorded as standing stones, but most of these are probably track markers rather than ritual monuments. The most convincing examples of ritual standing stones come from the lowland areas, on the fringe of the Vale of Glamorgan. There are also two possible henges or hengiform monuments, three chambered tombs, and four possible cists.

The greater part of the area under investigation consists of upland; the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons, and much of the west and central area of the Glamorgan ridges. The locations of cairns within this area is not uniform. Few have been recorded from the lowlands, but this may be as a result of agricultural clearance; the largest lowland group is from Merthyr Mawr Warren, where besandment seems to have begun in the Bronze Age (records from early in the 20th century speak of barrows composed largely of sand), protecting the monuments from the usual damage. However, no comparable barrows are reported from Kenfig Warren, only a few miles northwestwards along the coast. In the uplands, some areas appear to be favoured above others. Not all of the ridges have cairns, although most have at least one or two, and the distribution is not regular along any particular ridge, with most having clusters of cairns interspersed with area where they are lacking. The ridge with by far the greatest concentration of cairns is Gelligaer Common, at the extreme east of the survey area, and here the greatest density is concentrated towards the northern end of the ridge. The neighbouring ridge has another concentration towards its northern end, on Gelligaer Common, but here there is a second focus further south on the ridge, on and to the south of Mynydd y Capel.

The cairns of the Brecon Beacons are similarly non-uniform in distribution. Most of the groups are focused on the high ground, with large groups on Mynydd y Glog and

Cefn Sychbant, and somewhat smaller groups on Cadair Fawr, Cefn Cilsanws, Garn Ddu and Penmoelallt; Moel Pendreyn however appear to lack cairns. This area also has some large and important cairns in the valleys between the higher ground, in Cwm Cadlan and between Cefn Sychbant and Penmoelallt.

One feature of the survey is the number of cairnfields which lie within this area. It is usually not possible to determine from inspection the extent to which these are of funerary origin. The results from excavation have been mixed. The Llwnceilyn and Twyn Brynhir groups in the southeast corner of the Beacons, dug by Fox and Murray Threipland (1942) before the Second World War failed to find any clear evidence of burial, though some of the excavated examples had central hollows. One of the three excavated examples of the twelve-strong Penrhiw Cradoc group, dug in 1981, had been erected over three pits contained burnt bone for which a radiocarbon date fell within the Bronze Age (Owen-John 1986). The evidence from Merthyr Mawr, obtained when the remains of cairns were revealed by sand blow, suggests that there may have been a cairnfield consisting of small heaps of stones over inhumations, in the vicinity of the Burrows Well settlement, which is known to have been occupied from the Early Iron Age onwards; it is unclear whether there was any actual connection with the settlement itself. During the course of the survey, any cairns which seemed particularly likely to be of funerary origin, on the grounds of greater size, regularity or complexity of construction, were given separate PRNs.

The form of the barrows and cairns is very variable, and appears to be closely related to the local geology. On the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons, where the local geology consists of Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone, many cairns are massive structures composed of relatively large blocks of stone. In the Coal Measures, the cairns tend to be of smaller size and made up of smaller slabs of sandstone; the cairns on Gelligaer Common typically have central cists whose capstones are formed by massive blocks of Pennant Sandstone, covered by low mounds composed of small slabs of the same material.

References

- Fox, A and Murray Threipland, L, 1942, The excavation of two cairn cemeteries near Hirwaun, Glamorgan *Archaeol Cambrensis* **97**, 77-92
Owen John, H S, 1986, A group of small cairns near Penrhiw Cradoc, Mountain ash, Mid Glamorgan, *Bull Board Celtic Stud* **33**, 266-88

REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2001 – SEPTEMBER 2001

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Introduction

The Trust employed six staff in its Curatorial Division from funding received from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and the twelve regional Unitary Authorities.

Trust activities this half-year have been temporally disrupted by the move to new premises at Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea. However, these new premises provide the Trust with improved facilities for public access not only to the Sites and Monuments Record but also to the expertise of other professional staff and will greatly assist the outreach programme required by Cadw and ourselves.

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. More detailed information is provided to Cadw on a quarterly basis.

Information in response to requests from Cadw⁵

Information continues to be supplied to support the scheduling enhancement programme and this Trust's scheduling recommendations. Visits, accompanied by Frank Olding, Cadw Inspector, are planned to at least three sites to assess condition and criteria prior to supplying further information. These visits continue to be delayed due to the ongoing foot and mouth epidemic.

Providing SMR information to enquirers⁶

Information to non-commercial enquirers is regularly and routinely being provided by the Heritage Officer.

There have been 89 requests for information from the SMR since April 1st 2001 (41 commercial, 16 Tir Gofal pre-application inquiries and the remainder public/academic).

There have been 17 visits made to the Trust offices to consult the SMR since April 1st, 2001.

⁵ Including data to support projects such as the Scheduling Enhancement Programme.

⁶ In accordance with the Trust's 'Guidelines for Access and Charging' (except paragraph 11). Apart from where it is established that the information is required for commercial gain, information will be provided free of charge, although charges may be levied for non-salary costs including the cost of materials and services.

The SMR has provided ‘start-up’ information in support of Cadw’s threat-led assessment projects – Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlement (GGAT73) and Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites (GGAT 72).

Advice on SMC applications

The Trust has been notified of 14 SMC applications since 1st April 2001 and consulted on three.

Site visits/meetings by Curatorial Staff

The Trust’s Curatorial staff attended a wide range of meetings with organisations and bodies that require archaeological advice outside the scope of regional archaeological planning services. Full details of these are provided in the Trust’s quarterly reports to Cadw.



Timber features at Port Eynon, Gower

Information and assistance associated with the Register of Historic Landscapes

Part 2.2 of the Register – Landscapes of Special Historic Interest – with all Trust consultation/liaison completed – was launched by the Minister of the Environment at Llangollen on 2nd February, 2001. Increasingly The Trust has noted that historic landscape issues are being considered in the planning process and general heritage management.

Detailed advice has been provided on a number of planning applications within registered historic landscape areas, such as the windfarm at Gelligaer Common, a new village at Brynglas Farm, Wentloog, land reclamation at Winch Fawr West, Merthyr

Tydfil, etc. These have been referred to the Planning Inspectorate and decisions are awaited.

The Trust provided expert witness support to Caerphilly County Borough Council for their Unitary Development Plan Inquiry. The Trust awaits the results of the Inquiry and in particular the proposed inclusion of land at Gwaun y Fro, Penpedairheol (Gelligaer Common) as a housing allocation, which would seriously affect the registered special historic landscape (Part 2.2 of the Register of Historic Landscapes).

When this decision is received, and the position with regards to the Wind Farm application (see below) at the northern end of Gelligaer Common clarified, the Trust will propose and assist in the preparation of a Management Plan for the Common with the relevant Unitary Authorities and other interested bodies.

The Trust had commented on the draft CCW document – Criteria for Assessing Significance of Impacts of Development on Historic Landscapes. A further draft of this document was issued and has been employed in the planning process. This document is currently being used in preparation for planning applications for coaling at Blaenavon (Torfaen County Borough Council) and a windfarm at Margam (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council).

General advice to local authorities and National Parks on a range of matters including Unitary Development Plan policies

The Trust has continued to make good progress in our growing and productive relationship with the regional Unitary Authorities in Southeast Wales. For 2001-2002 all Authorities have agreed to the implementation of the Service Level Agreements and to meet in full the funding requests we have made.

In May the Trust organised the second Regional Heritage Forum for Unitary Authorities in Southeast Wales. This event was hosted by Newport County Borough Council. Displays were provided by the Trust and presentations made on a variety of topics. The Forum is proving to be a good vehicle for discussing regional issues with the Authorities and will continue and be developed in the coming years. Bridgend County Borough Council has kindly agreed to host the next meeting in May 2002.

The deposit UDP for Bridgend and the Outline Proposals for the Cardiff UDP have been responded to. The report on the modifications to the Newport UDP have also been received and we were pleased to note that in all cases our objections to the deposit plan had been noted and modifications made.

Additional information and advice in support of Unitary Development Plans has been provided to the following Authorities – Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Torfaen and Vale.

The Heritage Management Section has noticed an increase in consultations from Unitary Authorities that are non-development related. These come from other Authority departments, such as Countryside Divisions and County Farms, who require information and advice on archaeological potential, problem orientation and solution.

The Trust welcomes these approaches, which are part of the tripartite partnership arrangements for funding heritage management consultation and outreach with Cadw and the twelve regional Unitary Authorities.

LANDMAP

The Trust continued to advise the 'Valleys,' Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent LANDMAP Steering Group in its heritage management remit.

The Trust has been commissioned to undertake the Merthyr Tydfil History and Archaeology Aspect Specialist report.

Countryside Strategies

The Curatorial Division continues to monitor the twelve Countryside Strategies produced by the local authorities in our area with a view to enhancing their archaeological content at the review stage. The Torfaen Countryside Strategy 2001-2005 was received and commented on.

General Advice to Local Authorities and Brecon Beacon National Park on development proposals as part of the development control process

See below GGAT 43.

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

Eight Woodland Grant Scheme applications were received during this period, none of which had any archaeological implication. The Register of Felling and Planting is studied each week for relevant applications, with further details being requested if necessary. All details sent directly to this Trust are responded to, both to inform on any archaeological resource and to advise on any archaeological constraint to proposals.

The Trust was represented at the launch of the Woodlands for Wales, the National Assembly for Wales' Strategy for Trees and Woodlands. This was held in Afan Argoed Country Park, Neath Port Talbot, in July. The Minister for Rural Affairs, Carwyn Jones, launched the Strategy and speakers included Gareth Wardell in his capacity as a Forestry Commissioner, Noel Cowley, the leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and a variety of speakers whose livelihood and land are affected by such strategies. Approximately 150 attended and had the chance to examine a variety of exhibition material. The Strategy, in its Explanation and Evidence section, takes into account the effect on the landscape by early human activity and the uses of timber and timber products and woodland management systems.

A visit was made with Forest Enterprise to four sites:

Park Wood, Gower

A site had been identified adjacent to an area of felling, which showed as a roughly rectangular depression surrounded by remnants of stone walling. The area was covered with thick undergrowth and sapling trees and appeared to be the ruins of a small structure, probably a single roomed house connected with the management of the woodland and deer park.

Rhigos, near Hirwaun

A tree had fallen onto small stone building at the edge of coniferous woodland adjacent to open land. The building was 3m by 2m and stood to a height of 2m although roofless. No other structures or remains were nearby and it is possible that the building was connected with storage for mines nearby.

Llyn Fawr, Nr Hirwaun

Clear felling revealed a well-preserved farmstead, comprising the remains of a house, yard, sheepfold, walling and trackway. The OS maps have sheepfold marked but the remains are far more extensive and currently undated.



Farmstead at Llyn Fawr, Nr Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taff

Briton Ferry

Foresters had found the remains of what appeared to be a flue or air shaft, stone lined and covered, running from a depression with a circular stone structure up the mountainside to a square stone structure.

A fuller report on this visit will be compiled with management advice and forwarded to Forest Enterprise.

Summary information about sites within the Tir Gofal Scheme

With regard to SMR desktop information to landowners preparing applications for AWAES/Tir Gofal, there have been 16 pre-application enquiries since April, representing a significant and welcome increase on the previous year.

Initial enquiries from service industries⁷

Regular consultation with most of the utility companies continued. In this half-year the service expectation continued to grow at an alarming pace. The consultations from Welsh Water are particularly complex and time-consuming.

This increased work-load continued to have a detrimental 'knock-on' effect on the provision of other curatorial and 'outreach' services to other non-commercial clients.

Consequently, the Trust has asked Cadw formally to define its grant-aided specifications in more detail. With the workload increasing and free advice clearly being provided to private companies and commercial concerns, this Trust believes that Cadw's precious resources should be directed solely at the conservation divisions of the parent utility companies, and not to the large number of contractors, sub-contractors, etc, that are now commercially involved in the processes. It is recommended that Cadw assist in a review with Welsh Water/ Dwr Cymru and later with other Statutory Undertakers with a view to producing agreements in line with the recent ground-breaking Forest Enterprise/Cadw/Trusts Accord, which has clarified responsibilities, roles and service expectations.

Thirty-one consultations have been processed from since April 1st 2001, demonstrating this continuing trend of high level and complex consultation to the utilities. Full details are provided in the trust's quarterly monitoring reports to Cadw.

Liaison and initial advice to conservation bodies⁸

Consultation concerning the development and implementation of the LANDMAP methodology continues with the Historic Landscape Officer of the Countryside Council for Wales and the other Welsh Trusts.

The Trust continues to take a role in supporting and advising the Heritage Lottery Fund bid made by staff of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Monitoring the effectiveness of PG(W) and Circular 60/96

Both documents are fully and effectively enshrined in planning policy and practice in Southeast Wales as demonstrated by the continuing and willing acceptance by the

⁷ Such as water and electricity, and other utilities.

⁸ Bodies such as CCW, The National Trust, etc

Unitary Authorities of the Trust's Service Provision Document and suite of Service Level Agreements. A reflection of this developing partnership is the continuation and increase in the necessary financial contributions being provided by the regional authorities.

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

The PAO (Curatorial) continues to attend meetings and advise the Swansea and Brecon DAC and the Fabric Committee for Brecon Cathedral.

An offer had been made and accepted by the Swansea and Brecon DAC to put together guidelines on the handling of archaeology in the faculty process. This document is in the process of preparation.

It had been hoped this financial year to bring together the DAC archaeologists in Wales for a meeting to discuss all matters relating to the procedures and advice we give to our respective committees. An attempt to bring together DAC archaeologists and the Curatorial Divisions of the Trusts recently failed. The CPAT and GGAT now intend to liaise to produce guidelines and working procedures for the Swansea and Brecon Diocese.

Attendance at the Swansea Bay Coastal Engineering Group has been maintained. The group members include representatives from the unitary authorities of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, from the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, British Petroleum and Associated British Ports, with the National Assembly for Wales and GGAT as observers.

At a recent meeting the date for the official launch of the Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plan was arranged for early October in Porthcawl. The Plan will introduce sustainable policies for the protection of the coastline from erosion and flooding from the sea while taking into account environmental and human needs. The plan divides the shoreline into manageable sections or cells, the Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plan extending from Worm's Head (Gower) to Lavernock Point (Nr Cardiff). The Cadw Coastal display will be exhibited at this launch along with displays from all member groups.

The Trust attended the formal launch in Bristol of the Consultation Document for the Severn Estuary Strategy, the archaeology section of which - 'Archaeology and the Historic Environment' - it helped to prepare. The Trust continues to assist with the consultation process.

The Trust continues to monitor the loss of sand on the Gower beaches, particularly as this can lead to the erosion of exposed prehistoric peat deposits in area such as Port Eynon. In consultation with Cadw Nigel Nayling, of University College, Lampeter, was asked to comment on timber structures that had been exposed at Port Eynon.

These turned out to be natural tree-root formations. Nevertheless, it is considered important that specialist advice is provided in such circumstances.

Following the reporting by members of the public of a previously unrecorded wreck near Burry Holms, Gower, a site visit was made by Nigel Nayling. As a result of this students from Lampeter University are recording and reporting the site.



Wreck near Burry Holmes, Gower

The Trust responded to Ms Sue Essex, National Assembly Planning Division, on the Consultation Document for the Marine Aggregate Dredging Policy South Wales. The Trust supported the requirement that the historic environment must be fully considered when scoping and preparing Coastal Impact Studies and Environment Impact Assessments. As a NMG Key Consultee The Trust also commented on the proposals for dredging in the North Middle Grounds of the Severn Estuary.

The wider dissemination of the results of Cadw-funded projects

Information is regularly and routinely being provided in support of the dissemination of information derived from Cadw-funded projects. The Cadw portion of the website will be updated in January 2002.

Outreach/education

The Trust continued to liaise with the Cwm Dulais Valley Partnership on the production of a leaflet to accompany a walk along the Sarn Helen Roman Road. The foot and mouth epidemic has halted progress in some areas but we continue to advise at steering group meetings. It was also planned to contribute this year by targeting local schools and amenity societies, though site visits had to be abandoned due to the foot and mouth epidemic.

As part of our outreach/education commitment the Trust is supporting a LEADER+ 2000 – 2006 bid by the City and County of Swansea for European Union grant money for the Gower Peninsula. The aim of the Leader+ initiative is to enhance the natural and cultural resources of Gower with the emphasis on sustainability and community involvement. The Trust attended a meeting held at City and County of Swansea offices on 1 May 2001, where the bid was discussed. We have since sent written outline proposals to benefit the historic environment and letters of support.

The Trust has also attended the Swansea Local Distinctiveness Inaugural Meeting. The City and County of Swansea has been chosen by the Countryside Council for Wales to take part in the Pride of Place, Local Distinctiveness Initiative, which is being co-ordinated by CCW and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action with 90% funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is anticipated that this project could have important benefits for the Historic Environment.

Two displays were exhibited at the second joint Trust and Unitary Authorities Annual Regional Heritage Forum in May 2001, which this year was hosted by Newport County Borough Council and attended by representatives from the twelve Unitary Authority planning departments of Southeast Wales.

The Cadw Coastal display will be exhibited at the launch of the Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plan in October, Gorseinon College and also libraries at Clydach and Brynhyfryd, Swansea.

The Trust received a consultation copy for “Draft Planning Policy Wales” (February 2001) and commented favourably. We have also agreed in principal to act as a prescribed consultee for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2001- Mapping of Open Country.

The Trust was consulted on Cadw’s document ‘Providing Physical Access to Historic Buildings’ and responded on a number of relevant issues not contained within the report.

Responses have also been made to the Cardiff City of Culture Bid and the Torfaen Countryside Strategy.

Contact continues with the Trostre Works Cottage and Industrial Museum, which has been supplied information to assist displays.

Leaflets continue to be distributed as and when required.

Some lecture dates were affected by the foot and mouth disease, though a guided visit was provided to the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association at the Salt House, Port Eynon.

Unfortunately, due to limited space in the previous building and the move to new premises recently, we have been unable to accept students in the Curatorial Division this year. We anticipate that we will be able to provide better facilities to students and volunteers in the future.

Specific Proposals

Prepare national display – “Archaeology and Planning”

Work has commenced on the production of a display entitled “Archaeology and Planning”. This is designed to accompany an ‘Introducing’ leaflet. The other Welsh Trusts have been asked for information/display material.

Prepare ‘Introducing’ and/or ‘Caring For’ Leaflet – “Archaeology and Planning”

A second draft ‘introducing’ leaflet ‘Archaeology and Planning’ has been prepared and circulated to partners for comment. Comments by Cadw have been particularly useful. The text has now been agreed and a mock-up leaflet will be produced for the Heritage Management Meeting in October.

This leaflet will be aimed at distribution to Planning Authorities, developers, libraries, etc and will have a large print run. It can also form the key elements of a national portable display which can be used by the other Trusts, though perhaps with regional illustration.

Maintain/enhance Cadw portion of Website

This is scheduled for January 2002.

Conducting a review with the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee on archaeological conservation and procedures with a view to preparing guidance leaflets. This work was delayed until the official launch by Cadw of its churches project. The review, which will result in an advisory document to support the faculty application process, is now in progress with importantly the full support of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This work will be carried out in consultation with CPAT.

Half-yearly provision of scheduling recommendations arising from Trust activities

A new list of sites that should be considered for scheduling will be provided to Cadw during the third quarter. These sites arise out of Trust activities including development control, contracts work, liaison with forestry officials, the Tir Gofal scheme, heritage management, etc.

Preparing general outreach articles on archaeological topics. receiving bodies (to be discussed)

No progress has been possible due to other work commitments and moving to new premises. An article for the ‘Welsh Historian’, which is distributed to around four hundred schools, is to be prepared later in the year.

Reviewing regional archaeological/potential with the education curriculum

This work continues to consider the ways in which a regional Welsh Archaeological Trust can support the educational establishment. Clearly the SMR has a key role to

play as does posting information on the Trust's website. But other non time-consuming support can be considered, such as adopting archaeological sites, work packs, etc. It is recommended that this matter should be discussed at the next joint Heritage Forum.

An exploratory meeting was held on 10th April 2001. As a result a talk will be given to primary school teachers at an inset day in order to explain the work of the Trust and the information available at the Trust to schools in our area etc. The Trust is awaiting contact from ESIS (Educational Support and Inspection Service).

Contact has been made with the Head of Archaeology at Gorseinon College as many of their A level Archaeology students have made visits to the Trust for information and advice during their course work. At a forthcoming meeting, a talk, displays, information on the work of the Trust and arranged visits to the Trust for groups of students are to be discussed and arranged.

Contribute to the Dulais Valley Millennium Festival

See above.

Reviewing the activities of off-road motorists in the Southeast Wales uplands, the damage that is undoubtedly being caused, and providing management recommendations

Progress on Sarn Helen has been reported above. Sarn Helen has been a good case study on the benefits of promoting public interest and support for the quiet enjoyment of these routes, supported by leaflet information. This long-term project could be transposed to other areas when damage has been reported, such as in the Unitary Authority areas of Cardiff, Caerphilly, etc. Elsewhere the situation continues to be monitored with the collection of appropriate data.

GGAT 43 - Regional Archaeological Planning Services

Planning Statistics

April to June 2001 (see Appendix)

There has been an equivalent number of planning applications to the corresponding quarter last year (2000 = 4547: 2001 = 4532). The number of planning applications that we have requested from the LPAs has also remained at a similar level (2000 = 341: 2001 = 321) whilst the number of these applications that had archaeological dimensions was exactly the same (100)

The challenge set by this increase in applications and the number with archaeological restraints has continued to be met with all Initial Planning Enquiries (IPEs) being responded to inside our target period of 21 days. However there has been a substantial number of requested applications not sent to us by the LPAs (35). Whilst this is a similar number to the corresponding quarter last year (36) it is a dramatic increase from the last quarter (14). One reason for the increase in "non-returns" is that Monmouthshire County Council's computer system broke down which led to them

not being able to send us requested applications at the end of the quarter. This problem has now been resolved and hopefully we can start to reduce this figure again.

Briefs

The Trust continues to provide detailed briefs on behalf of the planning authorities for archaeological work carried out, particularly for planning purposes, in South-east Wales. So far this financial year 8 briefs have been prepared. Full details are provided in the quarterly reports to Cadw.

On-going Planning Applications, Scoping for Environmental Impact Assessments, Monitoring, Meetings, Post-excavation requirements, planning appeals, etc

As part of the on-going planning procedures funded by the twelve regional Unitary Authorities the Development Control Section provides detailed services to planners, applicants, agents, consultants, contractors, etc. This detailed casework is reported to Cadw in the Trust's quarterly monitoring reports.



Archaeological evaluation being undertaken on Celtic Manor Golf Course, Newport

Archive

The re-organisation of our archives containing information on all developments where archaeology had been a factor in the planning process has been completed. The

archive contains more than 4000 files, stretching back to 1977 and these have now been organised into the 12 modern Unitary Authorities and re-boxed for easy access. A computerised database has been compiled for Monmouthshire (currently containing 1035 files) and this information has also been converted as a table in Mapinfo, the GIS (Geographic Information System) used for the SMR. This allows us to overlay the information on development sites on top of the archaeological resource. Work has commenced on a database for Newport so far 170 of the 500 Detailed Archaeological Response files have been entered on to it.

GGAT 61 - Landscape Characterisation: Merthyr Tydfil

Work is due to commence on this project in the third quarter. Arrangements have been put in hand to form a steering group, which will be hosted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

GGAT 67 - Tir Gofal

Work on the Tir Gofal Scheme has been disrupted and in part curtailed due to the continuation of the foot and mouth epidemic. All year 2 HE1 applications had previously been processed, but farm visits were not possible. The project has slowly resumed following permission from the National Assembly at the end of June for the resumption of fieldwork, albeit within strict guidelines.

The focus of the current work is on the Year 2 field-visits. 14 farms were originally selected for an archaeological walk-over survey. Two were visited before the outbreak of foot & mouth, though one was later not undertaken due to the disease. Of the remaining 12, one has been cancelled as, it too, became a victim of the disease; another was cancelled as it was signed up into a management agreement before the farm could receive an archaeological visit, which had been postponed during the epidemic. This was particularly unfortunate as the property had several scheduled ancient monuments and a number of other recorded sites, which would have benefited from a visit.

More recently as the problem of foot and mouth eases three farms have been visited. The HE2 reports have been prepared for two. Visits to properties continue to be archaeologically beneficial with the recording of sites and features as diverse as World War II air-raid shelters, elements of once complex water management systems and diminutive stone gate-posts.

With the agreement of the Countryside Council for Wales it has been decided to reduce the level of survey and reporting for the HE2 stage as the current cost of a farm visit and report is not commensurate with the resourcing offered.

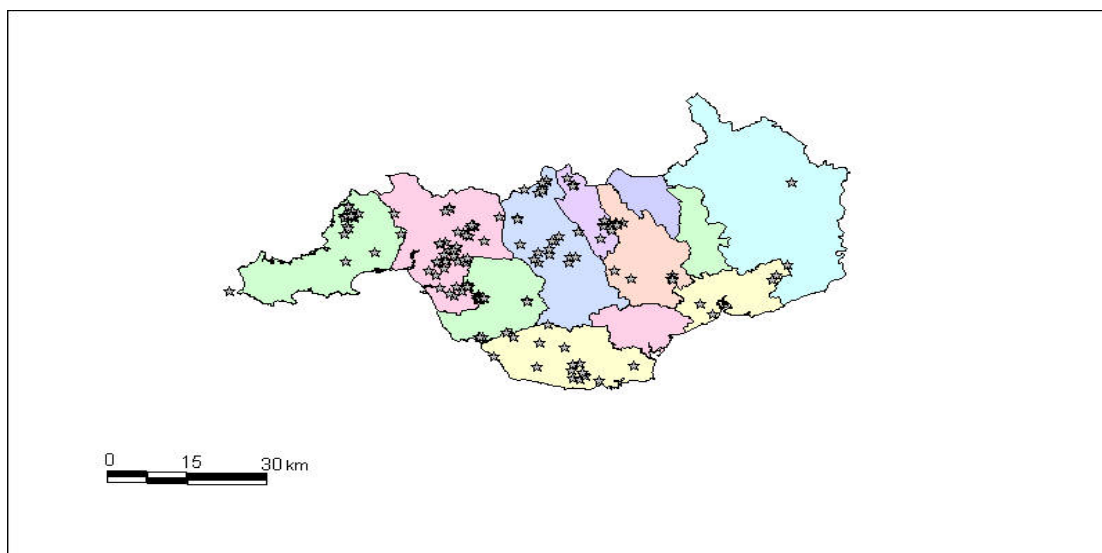
THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 63 - Southeast Wales Romano-British Lowland Settlements

A digest report for publication in *Britannia* has been prepared.

GGAT 65 - Southeast Wales Deserted Rural Settlements

The main task for this year's work is the preparation of the Southeast Wales chapter for the monograph publication on the pan-Wales project. The draft text was completed to schedule in the first quarter, and has been circulated for comment; a revised draft will be submitted to the volume coordinator shortly. Work programmed for the 2nd quarter included site survey of examples to be included in the publication. The surveys have been postponed due to FMD restrictions, and are currently planned to take place in the 3rd quarter. It is possible that the balance between new and redrawn surveys may have to be altered if access to some sites remains problematic.



DRS Sites in Southeast Wales

GGAT 66 - Prehistoric Non-defensive settlement sites

A meeting in Cardiff was attended in order to discuss the ongoing CPAT work and the GAT and GGAT studies, with contributions from NMGW and UWCN. The scope of this year's GGAT work is the examination by a combination of test-pits, fieldwalking and section recording of six of the sites scoring highly on the previous desk-based stage (conducted in 1999-2000). Owing to FMD, this work was postponed from its intended date in July (timed to coincide with UWCN fieldwork weeks in order to provide additional staffing at no cost to the project). Work on three sites not affected by FMD (Worm's Head, Swansea, Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, and Friar;'s Point, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan) will proceed at the end of the 2nd quarter.

GGAT 72 - Southeast Wales Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites

Because of the problems caused by foot-and-mouth, the programme was revised, with only minimal work now scheduled to take place in the first quarter. During the second quarter work on the database was completed and a start made on fieldwork, initially concentrating on National Trust and Forest Enterprise land. Fieldwork is not yet sufficiently far advanced to provide much characterisation of the results. However, the desk-top stage has shown up a number of differences from the area further east which was covered in the first year. Although cairns still account for the vast majority of sites, other types are better represented. Out of the 354 sites identified in the SMR search, there were eleven chambered tombs and 27 standing stones, the former nearly four times the number than in the first year, and the latter nearly twice the number. There are also four caves which contained Bronze age funerary material. Most of the standing stones appear to be genuinely prehistoric in origin, and over half of them are to be found on Gower, at the western end of the peninsula. The Royal Commission draws attention to the fact that place name evidence (not included on the SMR) suggests that there may have been a further twenty in Gower, two-thirds of which lay towards the west (RCAHMW 1976, 121). Their distribution appears to be complementary to that of the Gower cairns, most of which are concentrated on three ridges of high ground, also at the west of the peninsula, Llanmadoc Hill, Rhossili Down and Cefn Bryn. The stones themselves are on the lower ground, the majority forming an arc around the western end of Cefn Bryn, facing Llanmadoc Hill and Rhossili Down. Fieldwork will be concentrated in the second half of the year, subject to access; however, nearly half the sites to be visited lie on open access commons and Forest Enterprise land.

Reference

RCAHMW, 1976, *An inventory of the ancient monuments in Glamorgan. Vol 1: Pre-Norman, Part i The Stone and Bronze Ages.* Cardiff

GGAT 73 - Southeast Wales Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlements

Only a few days have been allocated into this project for this financial year. The time has been spent making an initial search of the SMR to extract sites for this project database. Since the term 'Early medieval' has not been used consistently for all pre-Norman sites, it has been necessary also to extract all medieval ecclesiastical sites for checking. The total number of sites obtained by this process was 859, but it has proved possible to reduce these to 697 by the removal of separate PRNs for features within churchyards.

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 & 36 - Atlantic Trading Estate

The Trust has now received the publication text from the authors and the illustrations are complete. Once editing for publication has been finished the report will be submitted to the editor of *Studia Celtica*.

GGAT 28/41 - Monnow Street, Monmouth

This project has been reported as 'Investigations along Monnow Street, Monmouth' *British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 320*. The archive has been deposited with the Monmouthshire Museums Service.

GGAT 50 - Coastal archaeology survey

GGAT provided illustrations to GAT as requested in summer 2000. Given the long delay since the completion of the text, some thought should be given to revising the references to take account of the principal publications to appear since (notably the proceedings of the Southampton conference on the management of coastal archaeology, and sites in the Severn Levels (including Goldcliff, Redwick and Rumney)). The section on coastal management should be amended to reflect changes in government guidance, UDPs etc, and the section on historic wrecks may need to be amended.

GGAT 51 - Historic Churches Survey

The digest article arising from work on this pan-Wales project will be published in the next issue of *Church Archaeology*, which is due out this autumn.

GGAT 52 - Monmouth Historic Settlements

The production of the single-volume 'planner's handbook' version of the three detailed reports had been delayed pending the availability of Listed Building digital data and the publication of the Monmouthshire UDP. In the course of 2000, the Listed Building data was supplied by Cadw and the necessary amendments to the text were made; the UDP is due to publication in early September, following which the final drawings and text can be prepared so the planner's handbook remains a current document for the life of the UDP. Presentation of the report to MCC and Cadw is planned for the end of the 3rd quarter.

GGAT 62 - Coastal Hillforts: Sudbrook Camp

The digest report arising from this project will appear in the next issue of *Studia Celtica*.

GGAT 63 - Southeast Wales Lowland Romano-British Settlements

A digest report has been prepared for publication in *Britannia* (probably to appear in vol XXXIII in 2002).

‘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 year 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)
- *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)

FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2001 – MARCH 2002

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. This will include the provision of SMR information and advice 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.

Specifically, the Heritage Section will:

complete the introducing 'Archaeology and Planning' leaflet

complete the 'Archaeology and Planning' display

prepare (depending on Welsh translation services) the introducing leaflets for the landscape characterisation projects for Gelligaer and the Rhondda.

update Cadw's portion of the Trust website in January

complete and continue other specific proposals (listed above)

GGAT43 - Regional Archaeological Planning Services

The Curatorial Division 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, public 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. Further discussions will be held with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to better define our joint roles in development control. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to Cadw in our quarterly reports.

GGAT 61 - Landscape Characterisation: Merthyr Tydfil

This project will commence early in the third quarter as agreed. Contact has been made with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, who have agreed to host Steering Group meetings in their offices. The Trust has recently completed the history and archaeology aspect for the Merthyr Tydfil *LANDMAP* project. This work, which identified 18 Level 3 aspect areas, will be particularly helpful to Cadw's historic landscape characterisation study.

GGAT 67 - Tir Gofal

This on-going project is designed to provide the support services required for the Tir Gofal scheme. In the first six months the project provided information for the pre-application stages, though farm visits were largely curtailed due to the foot and mouth outbreak. In the second half of the year the Trust expects to receive over 116 year three HE1 applications. As the foot and mouth epidemic allows the backlog of farm visits will be completed.

THREAT-LED ASSESSMENTS

GGAT 63 - Southeast Wales Lowland Romano-British Settlements

The article prepared for *Britannia* will be revised and submitted to the editor.

GGAT 65 - Southeast Wales Deserted Rural Settlements

The surveys have been postponed due to FMD restrictions, and are currently planned to take place in the 3rd quarter. It is possible that the balance between new and redrawn surveys may have to be altered if access to some sites remains problematic.

Other project tasks include the continuing input into the preparation of the publication and assistance with Scheduling outcomes and Caring for distribution.

GGAT 66 -Prehistoric Non-defensive settlement sites (Lithics scatters)

Of the remaining three sites to be investigated, one (Llanmelin, Shirenewton, Monmouthshire) will proceed in the 3rd quarter. Additional assistance for this work will be provided by the members of Chepstow Archaeological Society.

The remaining two (Wrinstone, Vale of Glamorgan and Hatterhall Hill, Monmouthshire) are likely to be too sensitive to FMD for work this year, and therefore two other sites will be selected for examination in the 3rd-4th quarters, with reporting on the specific and general conclusions of the year's work by the end of the 4th quarter.

GGAT 72 - Southeast Wales Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual sites

Foot-and-mouth permitting, the second half of the year will be spent in completing as much as possible of the fieldwork from Year 1 and Year 2, and in compiling the reports for these two years.

GGAT 73 - Southeast Wales Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Settlements

Only one day remains of the time allocation, and this will be occupied with the half-yearly meeting in October.

