

THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



*Excavations at Salubrious Place, Wind Street, Swansea
March 2003 (© GGAT)*

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
Half-Yearly Review
September 2003

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REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2002 – MARCH 2003

Cadw's lead funding for heritage management and archaeological planning services continued to be supplemented by financial contributions from all the regional Unitary Authorities. These services to the Councils are provided under the terms of three detailed service level agreements for Planning Services, Sites and Monuments Record and Heritage Management. This last activity provided information and advice to a wide range of local authority departments.

GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services

The increasing demand for heritage management services, including the provision of information and advice to the public continued in line with the growth of public awareness and interest in archaeology. Without Cadw's continuing commitment to these essential public outreach services, this vital area of the Trust's work would have been impossible.

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

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

Through the detailed information contained in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the Trust assisted Cadw in many areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. The Trust also made its own scheduling recommendations arising out of its curatorial work and these and supporting information were relayed to Cadw for consideration.

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

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year 277 SMR enquiries were made as compared with 217 for the previous year. In addition 59 visits were made to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the SMR. Seventy-nine enquiries were commercial, the remaining 198 resourced through the Heritage Management Project.

Year	Total consultations*	Visits to Trust
2000-2001	152	49
2001-2002	217	51
2002-2003	277	59

*These exclude consultations for the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Industry and Public Utilities, etc.

This growing demand for archaeological information and advice for a wide variety of purposes continued to rise at a high rate and represents a major area of workload for the Heritage Management Officer. It also demonstrates a notable success in the Cadw-Trust working relationship as it provides an important outreach service providing enquirers not only with detailed information but also access to professional archaeologists with specialist regional knowledge.

The Sites and Monuments Record provided ‘start-up’ information for Cadw-funded threat-led assessment projects. Following the completion enhanced information has been returned to the SMR as a matter of routine and grant-aid. In some cases the Trust has provided additional support to ensure that the return data meets changing pan-Wales quality standards.

Advice on Scheduled Monument Consent Applications

On behalf of Cadw, the Curatorial Division, as a recognised consultee, received 31 consultations. Six required responses; the remainder were notifications of Welsh Assembly Government’s decisions on applications. Our responses varied from supporting applications and recommending the provision of further information to inform the process through to suggesting appropriate conditions and advising refusal where the interests of archaeology could not be satisfactorily mitigated.

Site visits/meetings by curatorial staff

In pursuit of our heritage management remit, the Trust made many site visits and attended meetings with a wide variety of agencies, both public and private. This area of service to the regional communities is vital as it not only resolves potential problems in a proactive, rather than reactive way, but also provides important opportunities for furthering Cadw and the Trust’s joint ‘outreach’ policy and commitment. Over the year the average number of meetings per week was 1.4. This compares with an average of 1.6 meetings per week for the previous year.

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

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

Increasingly historic landscape issues are being considered in detail as part of the land-use planning processes and the Trust has been active in implementing and monitoring the use of the *Guidelines and Methodology for Assessing the Significance of Impacts of Developments on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL)*. Versions of this document have been used for major development proposals as shown in the table below:

Site	Proposal	ASIDOHL	GGAT planning advice	Outcome
Gelligaer Common	Windfarm	No	Refusal	Went to WAG; withdrawn by developer
Brynglas Farm, Gwent Levels	Housing	No	Refusal	Refused at planning appeal
Penpedairheol Caerphilly	Housing	No	Refusal	UDP Inquiry; housing allocation refused
Merthyr Village	Reclamation	Yes	Refusal	With WAG
Margam Mountain	Windfarm	Yes	Consent with conditions	Planning Inquiry
Blaenavon	Windfarm	Yes	In process	
Blaenavon	Reclamation	Requested	In process	
Ffos y Fran	Reclamation	Yes	If consented – conditions needed	On-going
Rhondda	Windfarm	Yes	Consent with conditions	Consent granted
Gateway to Wales	Multi	In process	Further info required	

Consultations on proposals affecting registered historic landscapes

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

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

The Trust continued to make good progress in our growing and productive relationship with the regional planning authorities in Southeast Wales.

The Trust is now seeing the value of the three service level agreements with local authorities taking a keener interest in the Sites and Monuments Record, the development of which they now partly fund and in the heritage management advice we can provide to many council departments. In particular advice was provided to assist the Swansea, Cardiff and Neath Unitary Development Plans.

The Trust prepared '*Monmouthshire Historic Settlements: a planners handbook*' for distribution within the authority.

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

See below GGAT 43.

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



Shaft tunnel, part of a complex of mining remains at Pant y Geifr, Resolven.

The Trust, as part of its heritage management remit, continued to provide archaeological services to the national forestry authorities - The Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise. The Register of Felling and Planting is received each week with the Trust providing information and advice on the protection of archaeological interests as part of grant-aided projects and forestry operations. 36 Woodland Grant Scheme consultations were responded to during the year as opposed to 41 in the previous year. In connection with these consultations visits were made to a number of sites including the Senghenydd Dyke, Caerphilly, Pant y Geifr, Resolven, Neath mining complex with appropriate management advice being provided.

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

See GGAT 67 below

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

As part of the 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. Many proposals are for the renewal of existing facilities and have reduced impacts on the archaeological resource. Others involve major new pipelines, etc which will impact on archaeological sites unless these are considered early in the consultation and mitigation processes.

The Trust has seen an enormous growth in this area of our work, with the high level of consultations being maintained. In 2001-2002 172 consultations were received from the Utilities as opposed to 65 in the previous year. In 2002-2003 there were 56 requests for information from the SMR from the Utilities (including TRANSCO). However, 31 of these consultations were for major pipelines covering large areas. (Only about 10 pipelines were considered in 2001-2002).

The Trust has reported to Cadw that it has experienced difficulty in maintaining these initial services to the utilities without a detrimental knock-on effect to other equally important areas of our heritage management services to non-commercial bodies. In order to resolve these issues the Trust commenced discussions with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water as part of an attempt to ensure that full curatorial services are provided to the utility companies in future.

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

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

The National Trust began their re-survey of the archaeological features on land in their ownership on the Gower peninsular. GGAT assisted in the update by providing information from the SMR, library and paper record files.

The Trust responded to the Environment Agency on the Catchment Abstraction Strategy for the Neath, Afon and Ogmores and Taff and Ely Rivers. We advised that changes in riverine water levels and environment could impact on certain classes of archaeological site. It was recommended that the Welsh Archaeological Trusts should be consulted on each and every proposal in future.

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

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

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

Churches

The Trust continued to have a representative on the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and on the Fabric Committee for Brecon Cathedral. The Trust is increasingly being contacted by parishes and church architects to discuss and resolve issues arising out of faculty applications. This is welcomed as are the growing number of approaches for assistance prior to lodging such applications. The DAC archaeologists in Wales met for their annual meeting in Brecon to discuss matters relating to faculty procedures and the advice we give to our respective committees. Such meetings are intended to ensure greater consistency in the advice we give to the Welsh Dioceses.

Coastal

During the year attendance and responses to the Swansea Bay Coastal Engineering Group were maintained. The Trust regularly completes proforma reports for the Group. Early in 2003 the Swansea Bay and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Groups were amalgamated. The Futurecoast study commissioned by DEFRA was presented by Halcrow at County Hall, Cwmbran in October. The project predicts coastal evolutionary tendencies and will aid coastal initiatives such as Shoreline Management Plans. The study includes aerial photographs of the entire Welsh coastline, which were given in digital format to the SBCEG members.

The Trust continues to liaise with the Severn Estuary Partnership. Staff continued to monitor the loss of sand and exposure of prehistoric peat deposits on the Gower beaches.

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

Cadw, in partnership with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, promote the need across Wales for greater emphasis to be made in disseminating information on archaeological work. Public demand for information on the archaeological heritage has rapidly grown over the past few years, due no doubt to the greater coverage of archaeology on television and radio. The Trust in response to this interest continued to use its website (www.ggat.org.uk) to provide information on regional archaeological issues as well as a section dedicated to Cadw's projects. During the year information on Cadw projects was added to the website. The Trust's other 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.

A display was prepared to accompany the recently completed leaflet in the 'Introducing' series - "Archaeology and your planning application". This information and accompanying display will assist planning officers and those intending to lodge a planning application, and highlight the importance of addressing archaeological issues early in the planning process. Displays were provided for the Annual Regional Heritage Forum with the Unitary Authorities (see below) and to a number of libraries and other public outlets. Other display venues included the ALGAO AGM at Newport and the Severn Levels Research Committee Seminar at the NMGW at Cardiff.

Lectures were given to the IFA Wales Day School at Machynlleth, Mumbles WRVS, the Kenfig Historical Society and the Dulais Valley Partnership (DVP). The Trust provided an increasing amount of information and advice for the media to support programme production eg Time Team, Time Flyers, Two Men in a Trench and an interview provided at Kenfig medieval borough for the new BBC 'Counties of Wales' series. In February, the leaflet to accompany the Sarn Helen Roman road walk was



Lecture given at the Dulais Valley Partnership community feedback session

launched at a well-attended DVP community feedback session. This included a lecture/slide show given by the Trust. The Trust also prepared information to assist the Partnership with a HLF bid, hoping to increase tourism and visitor information by linking up key tourist sites in the area. Through the Dulais Valley Partnership the Trust met with relevant parties and landowners to discuss the damage caused by off-road vehicles to the Roman road and the possibility of completely closing the Sarn Helen by-way to vehicular activity.

An Open Day was held at the Trust premises on 19th July 2002. This was held in conjunction with the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Day. The aim of the event was to give the general public the chance to experience a wide range of archaeological activities. A number of displays were exhibited on various archaeological topics. Displays included a Roman cookery demonstration, a finds road- show, pot making and various children's competitions.

The Trust continues to attend the Swansea Environmental Education Forum meetings. SEEF brings together over 50 statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector organisations to raise awareness of environmental issues, including archaeology. Information regarding the work of the Trust has been provided to 120 schools and colleges in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot areas via packs distributed by SEEF. A Trust display was exhibited at a SEEF teachers evening on 28th Jan 2003. This meeting provided the opportunity for the networking of teachers and SEEF members assisting the awareness and incorporation of environmental issues across the curriculum as advised by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Trust assisted the Vale of Glamorgan County Treasures project, which is supported by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and local communities. We provided advice and start-up information from the SMR. The Trust was keen to assist the volunteers involved in the collection of information for this project and provided advice regarding the data structure of the SMR to facilitate the incorporation of return data.

On behalf of ALGAO (Wales), the Trust organised the first Welsh meeting of this national association, kindly hosted by Newport County Borough Council. The 'Archaeology and your planning application' leaflet was 'launched' at this meeting and a presentation was given on the Newport ship excavation.

The Trust represented the Welsh Archaeological Trusts on the Steering Committee for the Survey of Archaeological Archives in Wales. A number of meetings were held at Cardiff in conjunction with the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, the Council of Museums in Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

The Trust assisted the Wye Valley AONB with their HLF bid providing advice on heritage management proposals and outreach issues for Trellech and the Angiddy and Whitebrook valleys near Tintern.

Regional Heritage Forum

A major part of this Trust's outreach programme and commitment to 'joined-up' thinking is the organisation on an annual basis of a regional Heritage Forum with the twelve regional Unitary Authorities. The 2002-2003 year's meeting was hosted by Bridgend County Borough Council and attended by delegates from the councils. A range of important issues was discussed and a talk given on the ASIDOHL assessment process for assessing the impact of development on registered historic landscapes as part of the planning process.

Responses

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

FROM	DOCUMENT TITLE
National Assembly for Wales	Rights of Way Improvement Plans
Cardiff County Council	Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
National Assembly for Wales	Agriculture & Rural Development Committee inquiry into agri-environmental schemes in Wales
Countryside Council for Wales	CROW draft access map consultations in the Eastern Brecon Beacons.
Countryside Council for Wales	CROW draft access maps Eastern South Wales Valleys
National Assembly for Wales	Consultation paper on amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994
Gifford	Strategic Shoreline Management Options, SESMP
Countryside Council for Wales	CROW draft access map consultations Central & Western BBNP & S Brecknockshire
Countryside Council for Wales	CROW draft access map consultations Western South Wales Valleys
Countryside Council for Wales	CROW draft access map consultations Eastern Brecon Beacons National Park

GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services

Planning Statistics 2002 –2003 (see Appendix)

The archaeological planning services provided on behalf of Cadw require the Trust to initially assess all the region's planning applications and to notify the planning authorities of archaeological constraints to proposals, giving information and specific recommendations on the best course of action required to protect archaeological interests whilst enabling permitted development. Thereafter, and with the combined resources provided by all twelve regional authorities, the Development Control Section provided further detailed services, such as the provision of archaeological briefs for pre-determination assessments, approving detailed specifications submitted

by developers and monitoring the work from inception and fieldwork to the production of the final report. The Section has also been involved in a large number of planning appeals providing information and written advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the National Assembly.

The 2002-2003 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, are attached as an appendix to this review.

Last year we reported a noticeable increase in the number of planning applications we processed for the region. For 2002-2003 there was a further increase in the number of planning applications lodged by the Local Planning Authorities in Southeast Wales (see table below). This follows the trend for the last four years in which there has been almost a 30% increase in the number of planning applications that have been subject to the initial tasking required by Cadw. Whilst there has been this high increase in the volume of applications processed by the Trust since 1996 there has correspondingly only been inflationary rises in the Cadw grant. Cadw are asked to consider this issue as part of the Half-Yearly Review.

Year	Number of applications
1996-1997	14363
1997-1998	16426
1998-1999	15725
1999-2000	15095
2000-2001	16619
2001-2002	17197
2002-2003	18992

Planning applications processed by the Trust since 1996

In addition to the increase in the number of planning applications in 2002-2003 the Trust has also noted the significant rise in the number of occasions that we have requested Grampian planning conditions to be attached to consents, which have required the applicant to submit a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of development. This figure has risen from 49 in 2001-2002 to 96 in 2002-2003 – practically a 100% rise. This major increase is in part due to the increased number of applications that have been submitted to the Trust following archaeological evaluation or investigation, but also as a direct consequence of requiring in appropriate circumstances stronger planning conditions (ie a Grampian condition as modelled in Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96) than a standard watching brief condition. This should lead to developers being better aware of their responsibilities when a significant archaeological discovery is made during a watching brief. It also ensures that the archaeological curator has an active and clearer role in the determination of the requirement and form of further work. The reactions to the circumstances of the discovery of the Newport ship demonstrate the need. This major maritime discovery was made as the result of a watching brief during the course of development with an arguable planning obligation on the developer to fund further full excavation of unforeseen discoveries and subsequent archiving and publication made during a watching brief; the application of the section

23 need would ensure that the obligation was clarified before construction commenced.

As one would expect of Southeast Wales, generally an economically dynamic region with major inward investment, there were a large number of complex and time-consuming development proposals such as Salubrious Passage, Swansea, Cardiff Castle, Island Farm, Bridgend, 'Gateway for Wales', Caldicot, Monmouthshire, Castle Quay, Swansea, Ewenny Quarry, Bridgend, Eglwys Nunnydd, Margam, Neath Port Talbot, Corus Llanwern, Newport, Darren Farm, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Fynnon Oer Windfarm, Cymmer, Neath Port Talbot, RAF St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan and others. These projects and many other developments required detailed responses with liaison involving a large number of bodies, agents, contractors and individuals.

Clearly, and significantly, the archaeological 'end-product' of the development control process is either the preservation *in situ* of important archaeological resources for future public benefit and or preservation by record – such as the production and presentation of reports on the excavated archaeological resource. Information on these reports is published in the Council for British Archaeology's Welsh Group annual publication – *Archaeology in Wales*. For the year 2001, 112 reports on work, required and governed by the development control processes in Southeast Wales, are contained in their publication. At the time of writing the 2002 'Archaeology in Wales' is unavailable and comparative figures cannot therefore be given.

GGAT 61 - Landscape characterisation

During August 2002 computer problems, which caused a failure in the back-up system led to a loss of digital data. This particularly affected the HLC project. Digital map data, plates, figures, communications and other digitally stored data was either lost or overwritten by an earlier incomplete version. This affected both the Merthyr Tydfil characterisation project, completed earlier in March 2002 and awaiting final editing of the draft report and printing, and those of the then well-progressed Mynydd Margam and Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscapes.

Merthyr Tydfil

In January 2003 the work undertaken by the Trust for the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape Project was finally brought to completion with the restoration of the digital data and the accompanying report. This involved the re-writing of the character areas, the historical and thematic introduction, the re-production of the character area maps and the compilation of the final report, complete with photographs and area maps, which were all recreated from various surviving fragments. As mentioned in the previous half yearly report the study identified a total of 79 character areas. A steering committee of specialists and interested parties comprising A Marvell (GGAT), R Roberts (GGAT), M Locock (GGAT), P Wakelin (Cadw), SL Smith (WDA), S Hughes (RCAHMW), D Percival (RCAHMW), C Edwards (MTCBC), P Dorling (BBNP) and R Kelly (CCW) advised on the project and outcomes. The report, complete with figures and plates fully restored was launched in January 2003. It is intended that the findings of the report, complete with character area descriptions and maps will eventually be posted on the website.

Mynydd Margam and Merthyr Mawr

Project work has been completed on the Mynydd Margam and Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscapes (GGAT 61), despite being severely

hampered by the loss of digital data in August 2002. Work included the recreation of all vital digital map data, figures and the production of the restored draft reports, which were edited and launched in their final form in September 2003.

The work entailed desktop searches, including: consultation of the SMR databases at the RSMR and the transferral of information digitally to workspaces. Relevant developer and other reports were identified and secondary sources compiled. Cadw (listings and SAMs), RCAHMW (further information to Endex and surveys), and CRAPW (available aerial photographs) have been consulted. In addition, the National Library of Wales was contacted for database search for relevant source information and the first three editions of the OS 6-inch and relevant Tithe maps. All readily available and relevant estate maps have been consulted at both the Glamorgan Record Office and the West Glamorgan Record Office.



New Inn Bridge (HLCA 016) Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscape

Paper base maps of all three areas have been assembled showing the HLCAs at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000. MapInfo workspaces were then created with SMR tables, and CCW information on designated and other areas. The boundaries of all three historic landscape areas were then digitised as accurately as possible. Following identification of the preliminary HLCAs on paper base maps, subsequent

digitisation as polygon areas (MapInfo Tables), the HLCAs were revised to take into account additional information. Revised digital maps (including MapInfo tables, workspaces and layout windows) were then completed for each of the areas as the basis for map figures to be used in the final report.

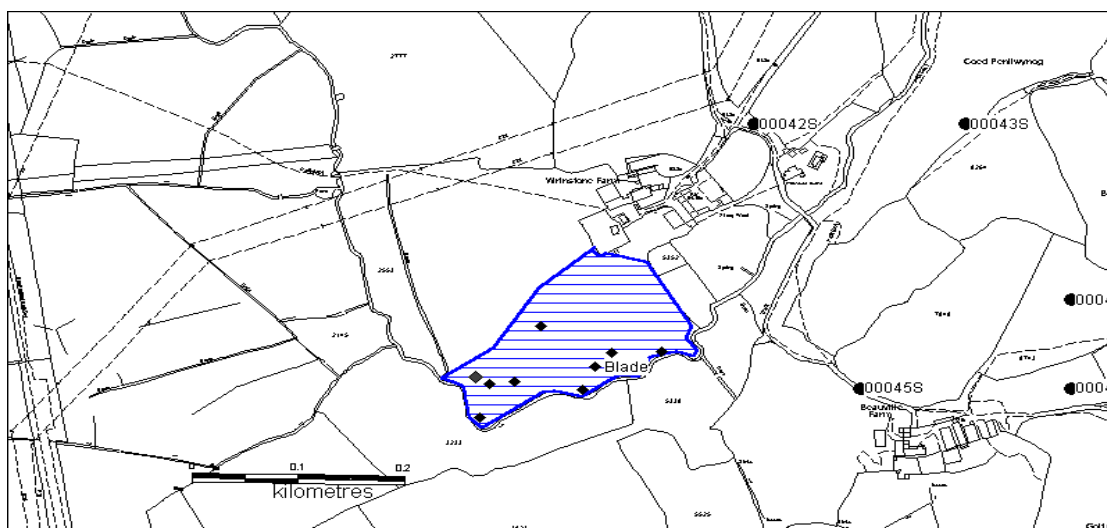
The project has been brought to completion from initial desk-top searches, identification and refining of the character areas, carrying out of field visits to allow ground photography and completion of pro-formas, and inclusion of an AP flight to take aerial photographs to illustrate the character of the areas. The texts for the two historic landscape reports have been completed, and draft reports submitted, edited and final reports produced. Thirty-five character areas in total have been identified within the two historic landscapes: 17 for the Mynydd Margam/Margam Mountain Historic Landscape, and 18 for the Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows Historic Landscape. It is intended that the findings of the report, complete with character area descriptions and maps will eventually be posted on a website.

GGAT 66 *Lithics*

As the final part of the lithics project for Southeast Wales, the evidence for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity as a whole was reviewed; further fieldwork was undertaken at two sites (Wrinstone Farm and Nant-yr-Uchen). The work at Wrinstone Farm has demonstrated that in terms of quantity of flint, extensive fieldwalking is the best approach. Although the relationship of the surface flint to underlying deposits is not clear (and evaluation has shown that there are no intact deposits or features), the lithic evidence can be interpreted in its own right.



Cottage Field, Wrinstone Farm (looking west). This field of 2.3 hectares slopes down from Wrinstone Farm in the east (at 50m OD) to a stream at the west (at about 35m OD). It had been ploughed a few weeks before the fieldwork. Nine flint findspots were recorded (for this field, all flint was located; subsequently only those with evidence for utilisation were recovered), yielding a total of 20 flints (seven were natural). Utilised flint density is 6.95 flints/hectare. The flints included two Neolithic flakes (one utilised), two blades, five flakes (three burnt, one cortical) and general knapping debitage



Cottage Field flints (hatched area walked) The early prehistoric material was examined using screening criteria and scoring based on EH *Managing Lithics Scatters*; this corrected the bias inherent in the 1999 desk-top study which examined findspots recorded on the SMR as such (thus not covering other types of site for which the main or only evidence was finds). Base map reproduced from the OS map with the permission of Ordnance survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence Number: GD272221. Annotations © Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and GGAT.

The three groups of material from Wrinstone Farm bear out the earlier results from the 1970s, in that they demonstrate that flint is present in large quantities, and comprises cortical waste, cores, tools and flakes. Although most of the flint cannot be precisely dated, all dateable material is consistent with Neolithic activity (with the exception of one certain and one possible Late Mesolithic tool). The absence of definite Bronze Age material is notable. The variation in flint density implies preferential use of the valley sides rather than the summits and (least preferred) the valley floor in the Neolithic period. Such a pattern would be consistent with shifting agriculture in clearings on the bedrock edge, hunting and foraging on the ridge, and pasture on the valley floor, although other interpretations are possible.

Fieldwork at Nant-yr-Uchen was negative. Areas of particular concern have been defined, and high value sites identifications made on the basis of the three stages of the lithics project. A draft academic article was produced to synthesise to a wider audience the detailed project reports submitted to Cadw.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

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, continued to be a success in the region with services slowly being restored to the pre- foot and mouth epidemic levels.

In line with Cadw's requirements, the Trust responded to a further 31 successfully ranked applications (HE1 Stage) for the Tir Gofal scheme (Year 3). For each application detailed information and advice was provided to the Countryside Council for Wales.

On behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, a programme of 21 farm visits was commenced during the year. The site visits to the farms have generally been very productive not only in terms of assessing the condition of known sites and finding new features of archaeological interest, but also for the opportunity they provide to meet and discuss archaeological issues with farmers. These custodians of the land invariably have considerable local knowledge and are the key guardians of much of the Welsh archaeological heritage. This work is therefore a significant part of the Trust's 'outreach'.

The Trust continued to meet with Cadw and the Countryside Council for Wales and with regional representatives at a variety of meetings during the year. The Trust also responded to an inquiry into the future of agri-environment schemes in Wales by the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of Welsh Assembly Government. We also assisted in the preparation of a report commissioned by the Countryside Council of Wales into the integration of historic environment issues within the Tir Gofal scheme.

GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites

The foot-and-mouth epidemic caused considerable disruption to the programme of work for this three-year project. The financial year April 2002-March 2003 was Year 3 of the project, but because of restrictions on fieldwork between February and December 2001, some of the Year 2 fieldwork had to be carried over into Year 3, finishing in July after the end of haymaking. However, a significant part of the desk-based component of the Year 3 work, the compilation of material from existing

sources, had already been completed in Year 2 as part of the rearrangement of the work programme.

Year 3 covered the unitary authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan (the old counties of Gwent and South Glamorgan with a small area formerly in Mid Glamorgan). The number of sites initially identified on the SMR was 352. A further 72 sites were added during the course of the project, both from other written sources and as a result of fieldwork; 24 sites were rejected as a result of fieldwork or other information, and a further 21 were classed as lost or dubious. The spread of sites across the Year 3 area tends to be rather uneven, some local authorities having very few monuments recorded within their boundaries compared with others, and this is not necessarily related to size of the area under consideration. There are only eleven sites in Torfaen (excluding rejected examples), twelve in Newport and thirteen in Cardiff, whilst Monmouthshire has 135 and the Vale of Glamorgan 164. Given the relative sizes of the two last local authorities, where Monmouthshire is at least three times the size of the Vale, the figures for Monmouthshire may reflect the differing histories of research into field monuments in Glamorgan and Gwent. Glamorgan has been well served by the publication of the relevant section of the *Inventory* (RCAHMW 1976) and a synthetic discussion by Savory (1984) in the *County History*. Gwent lacks anything comparable; although Olding (2000) has published the results of his extensive fieldwork in the Black Mountains, it is possible that elsewhere in the former county the known monuments may only be a fraction of the true total.

Geologically, the area divides into three main zones. The Coalfield occupies the northwestern section, as far as a line between Newport and Abergavenny, to the west of which the geology consists very largely of Old Red Sandstone. The southwestern area (the Vale) is mainly composed of rocks of Mesozoic age (particularly Lias Limestone) but with Carboniferous Limestone at various points, mainly around the northern rim of the Vale. Similar rocks are also to be found around Newport (mainly Lias Limestone) and southern Monmouthshire (mainly Carboniferous Limestone), where not overlain by the alluvial deposits of the Severn Levels. No prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments have been recorded in the Levels.

Although there was no difference in the range of types between this group and the groups studied in Years 1 and 2 (Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Swansea and Neath Port Talbot), the proportions of the individual types differ. This is particularly noticeable in the proportions of barrows (142) to cairns (94). Whilst cairns predominate in Mid and West Glamorgan where there are significant areas of upland, it is barrows which are by far the more common in Gwent and South Glamorgan, the former of which has a high proportion of lowland and the latter being entirely so. It is, however, not always possible to be categorical in the absence of excavation. Ring cairns were also much less common, there being only nine certain examples as against the 58 evenly divided between Years 1 and 2. Kerb cairns maintained the usual small numbers on the northern fringe of the area, with only two examples in the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains respectively. The greatest difference from previous years was with cairnfields. These had previously been common, but in the Year 3 area were almost none-existent apart from a few possible examples in Caerphilly, none of which was believed to be funerary. Figures for other cemetery types are fairly closely comparable with the rest of Mid Glamorgan (Year 1).



Nash Point Barrow B, Vale of Glamorgan (PRN 00402s). This monument, one of a group of round barrows, could be either a severely robbed round barrow or a ring cairn, but it is impossible to be certain in the absence of excavation (scale 1m).

Most of the chambered tombs within the Year 3 area are of Cotswold-Severn type, though there is a fine portal dolmen, Gwal-y-filiast (Maesyfelin), in the Vale. The distribution is also largely lowland, the main exception being the stone at Maen Cattwg near Gelligaer, which RCAHMW (1976, 43 no.49) suggest was the capstone to a chambered tomb. Another unusual feature of this stone is its cupmarking; this is extremely rare in the area and is otherwise known only as a feature on stones incorporated into round barrows or cairns. There are no certain henges; two sites have been suggested as possible hengiform monuments, but this

identification is based on their association with other monuments rather than from specifically diagnostic features.

Standing stones for Year 3 again tended to be localised, with 22 out of the total of 37 being in Monmouthshire, and these are mainly in fairly elevated positions, compared with the largely lowland distribution in Glamorgan. There is only a single stone circle; again, like the two Glamorgan examples a kerb circle; this forms a component of the important complex on Gray Hill, Monmouthshire. Another monument complex appears at Garreg Las in the Black Mountains, and a third was suggested at Duffryn in the Vale of Glamorgan.

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GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

This was effectively the first year of the project, since the previous year's work had been severely limited in scope. The aim of the Year 1 work programme was to review SMR data relating to Early Medieval ecclesiastical sites, to supplement it as necessary from other sources, to evaluate the sites identified, and to grade them according to a set of criteria established for the whole of Wales by the other three Trusts as part of their work in the previous year.

Although Southeast Wales is fortunate in having a very large body of documentary evidence preserved in the Book of Llandaff, which has a good modern study in the work of Professor Wendy Davies, and in the case of Glamorgan, the *Inventory* volume (RCAHMW 1976) devoted largely to all ECMs known by the middle of the 1970s and largely superseding the work of Nash-Williams (195*), other aspects of the dataset left much to be desired. There is also very little excavation evidence.

Only fourteen sites excavated under modern conditions have produced structural evidence definitely or probably relating to the period. Of these, three were entirely settlement sites and at another three, evidence for the period consisted only of limited traces of activity, whose nature is not necessarily clear, found during the excavation of earlier sites. The remainder are almost entirely burials with very little or no evidence of any structures associated with ecclesiastical activity.

The SMR caused particular problems. The research audit for the area (Evans *et al* 2002, 141-2) noted that it contained only 30 sites of the category 'Religious, ritual and funerary' for the Early Medieval period. This was partly due to the conflation of material of this period under a general 'Medieval' period heading, but also because in most cases the fact that a church had been mentioned in the *Book of Llandaff* was merely noted as part of its general description as a monument of the Medieval period. For this reason, and because many medieval ecclesiastical sites must be regarded as potentially having their origin in the Early Medieval period, all 'Religious, ritual and funerary' sites classified as medieval also had to be examined, and further search of the SMR also established that many Medieval and Early Medieval sites, particularly Early Christian monuments had been entered as Period = Not known, and that a significant number of churches, founded in the Middle Ages but still in use, were entered as Period = Post-medieval. In the Broadclass field, some holy wells had been entered as Water Supply and Drainage, and the granges (a significant proportion of which had early medieval antecedents) had all been entered as Religious, Ritual and Funerary; Agriculture and Subsistence, and had thus not been picked up by the original query. In addition, neither of these classes of monument had been systematically entered on the SMR, leading to numerous and significant omissions. Other sources of data consulted during the course of the project were published collections of documents from the Medieval and Early Medieval periods, antiquarian writers, modern scholarly works and tithe maps.

As a result of the additions and modifications made during the course of the project, the size of the effective project database grew from the 859 sites located during the initial trawl for Broadclass = Religious, Ritual and Funerary and Period = Early Medieval or Medieval to over 1500 sites; of which 223 could confidently be allocated an Early Medieval period designation. The correction of the period field from 'Medieval' to 'Early Medieval', accounts for 131 of these entries, but 92 are completely new entries, 74 of them resulting from the systematic examination of documentary sources and the addition to the database of those ecclesiastical establishments whose location is known or can be inferred.

The grading of sites depended on the identification of the criteria established for the project over the whole of Wales. Grade A indicators are regarded as generally providing incontrovertible evidence of early church sites, whereas Grade B indicators represent probable evidence and Grade C possible evidence. However, the distinction in practice is not as clear-cut, since the quality of the evidence for each individual site is not necessarily good. Not all of these criteria appeared to have relevance to the southeast where there was early and extensive Normanisation from the beginning of the 12th century, and some had to be modified to allow for local conditions. In addition, it became clear during the review of the evidence that there was a strong tendency for pre-Norman churches and monasteries to be granted by their new Norman lords, very soon after the Conquest, to Catholic regular orders represented by monasteries in England and France. There was also a further round of donations to the Cistercians, when they established themselves in Wales, of earlier church sites at which the Cistercians went on to establish granges. This was also treated as a significant criterion. Each indicator was graded (a), (b) and (c), depending on whether it was regarded as certain, probable or possible, and a final

score for any one site was arrived at by considering the value of the criteria attributed to it. These scores were A=certain; B=probable and C=possible; a fourth score of D was added for sites which it was felt required further investigation before a decision could be reached. Typically, a D score was given to sites for which identification as a documented Early Medieval ecclesiastical institution had been suggested but for which definite evidence was lacking, and for sites where there was a constellation of lower-grade indicators.

The result of the grading exercise was to identify a total of 279 Early Medieval ecclesiastical sites, ranging from certain to possible. These may be broken down as follows: 68 sites were graded as A, of which 20 are no longer in ecclesiastical use; 31 sites were graded as B, of which 18 are no longer in ecclesiastical use; 134 sites were graded as C, of which 38 are no longer in ecclesiastical use; and 46 sites were graded as D, of which 28 are no longer in ecclesiastical use.

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GGAT 74 Research Agenda in Wales

The Trust produced a detailed Research Audit report for Southeast Wales (Evans et al 2002). This document, relying heavily on the interrogation of the regional Sites and Monuments Record, considered and compiled the known archaeological resource mainly by period and broadclass. The summary of evidence highlights key sites for each period and type providing location details, short description and bibliographic references. The audit contains site type scatter maps and consideration of scientific dating and environmental evidence. The report also contains a bibliography of grey literature, the first time this body of data has been made available singly. It is intended that the audit will be made electronically available through the web in due course.

The document has already assisted the processing of, and informed responses to, many enquiries to the Trust both from academic researchers and members of the public seeking detailed archaeological information of the region.

The audit was used to assist in the preparation of a series of period assessment reports written by leading specialists with the assistance of a panel of other experts. The Trust organised a Research Assessment seminar at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales in Cardiff on November 23rd 2002. This conference, at which these papers were delivered, prior to audience participation, was extremely well attended and proved successful in bringing together the archaeological community of Southeast Wales.

References

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GGAT 75 Roman *Vici* and Roads

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

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

Nine *vici* associated with auxiliary bases have been considered in detail: Abergavenny; Caerphilly; Cardiff; Coelbren; Gelligaer; Loughor; Neath; Penydarren; Usk. Relevant SMR and Scheduling information has been obtained, and an assessment made of both published and unpublished literature. Site visits have also been undertaken. The study demonstrated that there is evidence from each of the nine forts for activity beyond the defences. The scale and character of this activity remains largely unclear, however, principally because of a lack of a coherent excavation programme investigating these extra-mural areas. It has not been established whether the archaeological remains relate to occupation, to industry and other ancillary functions, or (most probably) to a combination of both.

The *vici* deserve investigation, as they are central to our understanding of each individual fort, and of the character of the Roman auxiliary military occupation in Southeast Wales as a whole. Examination of at least some of these sites should be considered a priority, for virtually none of the extra mural areas is presently afforded statutory protection.

There exist substantial undeveloped areas around each of the forts where fieldwork could be undertaken. With the possible exception of Abergavenny, where the only open ground lies a considerable distance from the fort itself, each site has at least reasonable potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains, as demonstrated by the prior discoveries described above.

The priority for research is Neath. This is an extremely important site, albeit one that is neglected in the literature by comparison to other forts in the region such as Coelbren and Gelligaer. Although the fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the *vicus* is unprotected, and in recent decades it has been subject to a series of small-scale developments. Although archaeological watching briefs and evaluations have accompanied these developments, such 'keyhole' archaeology has failed to produce a coherent image of the *vicus*. As a consequence, the *vicus* is being destroyed in piecemeal fashion without any real understanding being gained of its character or extent. Development is occurring on a regular basis around the fort, notably on the college and school sites, and therefore the *vicus* should be investigated at the earliest possible opportunity.

The only other site for which there is a potential development threat is Cardiff Castle, where a new visitor centre and restaurant are proposed within the precincts of the

Shore Fort defences (and thus over the *vicus* of Forts II and III). However, this project has not yet been granted planning permission, and were it to proceed it would be accompanied by an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation. Thus whilst investigation of Bute Park remains a possible fieldwork objective, research within the castle itself is not considered a priority under the auspices of the present project.

The remaining *vici* are not threatened by development at the present time. Nevertheless, greater knowledge of these sites remains highly desirable, both for its own sake, and also to inform the location and nature of any future development. All have archaeological potential, though some more than others. Ideally several sites should be examined, for it is likely that the character of the *vici* varied between the individual sites. For example, the fort at Coelbren and the Flavian base at Usk were probably quite different in terms of function, and this may well be reflected in the nature and scale of activities within their associated *vici*.

Coelbren has the highest potential, in part due to its uninvestigated annexe and the possibility of buildings lying considerable distances from the fort along the line of Sarn Helen. Crucially, however, at Coelbren there also is the possibility of surviving waterlogged archaeology. The potential therefore exists for timber, leather and other normally perishable items, as well as for environmental evidence. The Vindolanda writing tablets were found in such conditions, and it is accepted that all forts of the Principate would have generated such administrative documents. Recently published ink-written tablets of 1st or early 2nd century date from the fort at Carlisle bear out this conclusion, as do fragmentary remains discovered at Caerleon. The research potential of all types of waterlogged finds argue strongly for the further investigation of Roman sites where they may still survive.

Methodologies for investigation

Two methods of investigation are proposed, namely geophysical survey and excavation. Geophysics has the advantage of being comparatively inexpensive, with the potential to provide information over a large area. This makes it particularly suitable for sites such as Caerphilly, where the location of the *vicus* is entirely unknown. Geophysics has been used very effectively at numerous sites, including recently within Cardiff Castle, and at the Welsh forts of Cefn Gaer and Caer Gai. Resistivity, magnetometry and GPR techniques would be applicable for many of the *vici*.

A note of caution is required, however, for geophysics yields better results in certain circumstances than it does in others. Geology is an important factor, and experience at Coelbren suggests that the native Coal Measures hampers high quality results. Gelligaer, another site where geophysics would prove a useful tool, also lies on the Coal Measures. Usk might well present different problems, for here many of the ditches were dug out of, and subsequently filled by, deposits of river alluvium. Features such as roads should nevertheless give a response. Further investigation of the applicability of geophysics is required before any research strategy is finalised.

Where it can be applied, geophysics could serve as a preliminary stage of an investigation. In ideal circumstances it would provide an impression of the overall extent of the *vicus*, the location of principal features such as roads and streets, and enable some limited areas of particular interest to be targeted for further investigation.

Excavation would be an essential component of any fieldwork project. Without physical examination, little impression can be gained of the character of occupation, and certainly not of the date at which any activity was taking place. In certain cases suitable areas are already apparent, for example at Neath, where open ground immediately beyond the north gate and adjacent to the Roman road offers a clear

opportunity for investigation. Similarly, the annexe at Coelbren would be an obvious choice for excavation.

REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2003 – SEPTEMBER 2003

GGAT 61 - Landscape Characterisation

Cwm Clydach

In April 2003 the Cwm Clydach Historic Landscape Project was started; this is now in its final phase leading to the production of a draft report. The work involves 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 draft report, complete with photographs and area maps. The study identified a total of 9 character areas.

The characterization process used for Cwm Clydach largely follows the established methodology relying on initial SMR searches and desk-based documentary



View across Cwm Clydach from N of Blackrock limestone quarry (HLCA 004b) towards the quarries on Gilwern Hill

searches, including initial map regression, which identified a minimum of 176 SMR registers (81 NMR registers; 40 Listed Buildings) in a slightly wider study area than identified on the register. At this stage an aerial photographic flight has been undertaken and preliminary character areas identified and mapped using MapInfo.

It was found that the landscape lent itself to being divided along the lines of industrial transport, processing, and settlement areas ie the transport and communication corridors (road, rail, tramroad and railroad), the iron works

themselves, industrial and other settlement areas, and the areas surviving mineral fields and limestone quarries.

Proformas have been prepared for each individual character area; these will be used during the field visit to form the basis of a written record, which will be supplemented by photographic record. It is intended that the field visit will include a review of the character of the area's architectural heritage.

Cwm Clydach Historic Landscape - Character Areas

Landscape characterisation is a dynamic and developing process. This is reflected in the continual revision to boundaries and indeed the number of individual character areas identified within the Historic Landscape. A review of both the documentary and fieldwork evidence taking all the various strands of evidence into account will be undertaken for this, as previous landscape projects, during the production of the draft report.

The general landscape characterisation process was augmented by more detailed documentary research, and map regression with the specific task of characterising the transport and industrial landscapes of the area. It was noticeable that the landscape character was largely in place by the late 18th century/early 19th century, with later additions generally re-enforcing the pre-existing character. Virtually all the urban development had occurred by the period of the Tithe survey, detailed on the

later OS maps, and much of the industrial development was already in place by the publication of the early OS Surveyors drawings of the first quarter of the 19th century. During the 20th century the major development, apart from the construction of the Heads of the Valleys Road within the confines of the gorge, was wholesale reclamation of the workings to the south on Mynydd Rheinallt and Twyn-blaen-nant. 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, and allowed an understanding of the complexity and integrity of the industrial landscape of the area which represent an important and largely complete microcosm of industrial workings associated with the iron industry, quarries, furnaces, forges, ironworks, transport links and industrial settlement. The archival collections held at both the Gwent Record Office, and the National Library, Aberystwyth, were consulted; in addition secondary sources were consulted at the latter plus Cardiff, and Swansea Libraries, Swansea and Cardiff University Libraries. Primary source material included the four editions of 6-inch OS maps, the tithe maps and schedules for the parishes of Llanelly, and Llanfoist Fawr, together with estate maps and catalogues, and sales catalogues. The databases of the National Library provided details of estate and other maps relevant to the understanding transport/industrial and industrial settlement development of the area.

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

The results of the study will be presented in a report in three parts. Part 1 will contain 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 will be outlined, including details of the GIS proforma used. The historical processes and themes, which can be seen to have had an influence on shaping the historic character of Cwm Clydach, will be detailed within the report. Section 8 of part 1 will describe the 9 character areas identified, with the area descriptions divided into three sub-sections: historic background, key historic landscape characteristics and conservation and management priorities. A map showing the extent of each area and photographs to give an impression of the texture will also be included, as well as a detailed bibliography of source material. Part 2 will presents general and specific management mechanisms such as Tir Gofal, Unitary Development Plans, and Countryside strategies, and will consider the conservation and long-term future of the area. Part 3 will include the nationally agreed forms used as part of the historic landscape characterisation process.

The draft report is currently in the process of being produced. Once the report is finalised it is intended that the findings of the report, complete with character area descriptions and maps will eventually be posted on a website.

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GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

There have been no pre-application enquiries since April 1, 2003.

Year 4 Farm Consultations (HE1s)

The Trust has commenced processing Year 4 successfully ranked farm applications (HE1s). As of 1st September a total of 87 HE1s have been received from the Swansea, Cardiff and Abergavenny offices. Of these 29 have been processed. We have also received two late Year 3 applications.

HE2 Farm Visits

On behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales the Trust carries out farm visits and prepares reports where significant archaeological sites exist and management advice is required. Farm visits for both Round 3 and Round 4 are currently being carried out as part of these contractual requirements.

Consultation

The Trust is awaiting the outcome of the John Carr report on the integration of archaeological interests within the Tir Gofal scheme.

GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites

The current half year has seen the preparation of two synthetic articles for publication, one on Glamorgan and the other on Gwent, the compilation of pages for the website, and the inclusion of the results of the survey on the SMR.

After a short introductory section on methodology and topography, the monuments are surveyed by period and type, and are also considered in relation to the different character areas into which each county was divided (seven in the case of Glamorgan and six for Gwent). The article on Gwent, which is aimed at the *Monmouthshire Antiquary*, contains more in the way of background material to each period since it is recognised that a significant proportion of the readership may not have much in the way of prior knowledge of prehistory. Since the Glamorgan article is aimed at *Archaeology in Wales* it was not considered necessary to provide comparable background. Although there is a short summary of construction details for the various monument types, drawn mostly from the few properly published excavated examples, the main emphasis is on their siting and the comparative distributions of the different types. The concluding sections consider the monuments within the landscape. Appendices provide details of the glossary used for the project and of the character areas.



A cairn on the Bloreng, Monmouthshire, a new PRN (08396g) added to the SMR as the result of the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Project (scale 2m ranging pole in 20cm stripes)

The aim of the website pages has been to present an outline guide to prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in Southeast Wales in non-technical language, and to provide a selection of the best photographs taken during the project, supplemented with a few from other sources, used either because they show other details (such as excavation) or because different weather conditions produced a better photograph. However, a link will be available to provide details of the methodology and how to consult the database for visitors with a professional or academic interest. The opening pages provide a background to the different types of monuments in the Neolithic and Bronze Age and to their construction; the photographs used for illustration have been labelled to show the different elements present. Links will take the visitor to further pages on chambered tombs, standing stones, stone circles and round barrows and cairns. These consist of photographs of selected monuments with a short commentary for each; the more complicated monuments are represented by more than one photograph.

GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

The work programme for the current year consists of a more detailed examination of the sites listed in the Year 1 report as having grade A and B indicators, and those classed as D (requiring further work), but omitting those where activity seems to have been confined to the present churchyard area of a church still in ecclesiastical use, and those which are known to have been completely destroyed. There were 44 such sites in total. The further investigation stage takes a number of forms, the principal ones being air photograph search, map regression and site visit. Twenty-two sites were identified as possibly benefiting from a search of air photographs. The results so far have been mixed, with one site, Llanerthill, producing evidence for a curvilinear ditched enclosure showing as a cropmark on a photograph of 1947, but others proving completely negative. Map regression was identified as appropriate on four other sites. One of these was very successful, resulting in the almost certain identification of a lost holy well associated with an Early Christian Monument at the site of a farmstead named on the tithe map as Llanyltyd, at two the site location was narrowed down, the fourth has not yet been carried out. The results of the site visits (eleven by the end of August) have also been mixed. There is generally very little to see, and some site visits have failed to produce any useful information at all, either because nothing appears to survive, or because crop cover and other vegetation conditions were unsuitable. Other sites have produced ambiguous indications, which could represent elements of the Early Medieval phase of occupation, but this is by no means certain; there has so far been no unequivocal evidence.

GGAT 75 Roads and Vici

Work to-date in Year 2 of this project has comprised geophysical survey of military *vici* at three sites: Gelligaer, Neath and Usk. An area of c10 ha has now been examined, revealing Roman features at each location.

Gelligaer

The survey at Gelligaer concentrated on the little-known elements of the site, namely the timber fort ('Gelligaer I', generally considered to be of Flavian date) and adjacent land. Permission could not be obtained to work in certain areas: as a consequence the nature of activity in the northwest portion of Gelligaer I and beyond its walls in that direction remains unclear. The objectives in the surveyed area were to determine: the precise location of the Gelligaer I defences, previously only

approximately surmised from faint earthwork traces and variably drawn on previous maps; whether the *vicus* of the later stone fort ('Gelligaer II', dated by inscription to Trajan) extended to the northwest into the area of the defunct timber defences; and whether Roman structures lay on the falling ground to the northeast of Gelligaer I, in the area that is not presently scheduled.

The double ditches of the Gelligaer I fort are clearly imaged by geophysics on the southeast and southwest sides, but the position of the northeast defences is not apparent. The southeast and southwest gateways are visible, while a blank area behind represents the rampart. Within the fort there is evidence for structures, although it is difficult to pick out the detail of any individual building.

There are no obvious indications of use of the land within the timber defences during the period of the Trajanic fort (*ie* incorporation within the later *vicus*). However, in the limited area between the defences of Gelligaer I and the Trajanic fort there is clear evidence for activity. The road leads out of Gelligaer I from the southeast gate: on either side there are definite anomalies, but it is unclear to what they relate.

On the northwest side of Gelligaer I are two structures indicated by strong magnetic anomalies. Whilst they share the alignment of the defences, it is not clear whether they lie beyond the line of the ditches, or are in fact imposed over them. Detail is lacking, but the first may be a courtyard structure with rooms arranged on three sides: two parallel linear features run downhill from this building to the northeast, and may be drains, ditches or walls. The form of the second structure is less clear, but the intense magnetic response is suggestive of industrial activity or a bathhouse. Neither structure appears on any historic map, indicating that they pre-date the 1790s.

Usk

Work at Usk concentrated on land immediately to the south of the defences, adjacent to ground surveyed by geophysics in 1973, and where limited excavation in 1994 had proved the existence of the approach road and had suggested the presence of other features.

As anticipated, the bounding ditches of the original fortress approach road and its narrower replacement were both well imaged. The most significant discovery was a double ditched enclosure immediately to the east of the road. It possibly contains a building but interpretation is hampered by the proximity of the field boundary and the edge of survey. The northern ditches of the same enclosure were detected during the 1973 geophysics survey. Together, the two surveys demonstrate a roughly square roadside enclosure with sides each c 50m. There are several potential interpretations of this enclosure, though the likelihood in all cases is that it is post-Fortress in age. A domestic function is quite plausible, but the roadside location and the nearby presence of cremation burials (found in 1994) may imply a ritual function. It is possibly a funerary enclosure or even a temple within a *temenos*, perhaps located within a broader mortuary zone. If it was a temple then it is an extremely rare example within the region.

Both geophysical surveys show the enclosure apparently standing in isolation. However, this may point to the limitations of the technique, for the 1994 excavations found indications of some activity in the field immediately to the north and in the area of the present survey.

Neath

The survey at Neath took place on the playing fields belonging to Dwr-y-Felin comprehensive school. As such, it incorporated the northwestern part of the fort, and the extra-mural zone beyond, where previous investigations in 1993 detected a stone building.

The defences of the stone fort are well imaged. The wall, angle tower and one interval tower are evident. Evidence for the external ditch was limited to magnetics. More unexpectedly, there is also possible evidence for an earlier fort phase. To the northwest of the stone fort are features that may be interpreted as a rampart and external ditch, although any defences here must have been of timber. No previous excavation has extended into this area, and therefore at present there is no physical evidence relating specifically to the defences that supports this notion. However, earlier investigations within the defences identified a substantial timber framed courtyard structure, early in date and anomalously sited in the southeast quarter of the fort. Its alignment differed slightly from that of the stone defences, but would fit more comfortably with the line of the northwest ditch and rampart suggested by the geophysics.

Wooden buildings are also imaged, and once again appear to extend beyond the stone defences. This may imply that they are elements of an earlier fort, but it is quite possible that some of the features seen were elements of the later fort *vicus*. This certainly seems the likely conclusion for those that appear to overlie the 'rampart'.

A road to the northwest is clearly visible on the resistivity plot. It changes direction at the early 'fort ditch'. In the extra-mural area no clear evidence was found for *vicus* structures; the building found in 1993 is not well imaged, being partially masked by the trench backfill and partly by a post-medieval field boundary.

Conclusion

As detailed above, potentially significant features have been shown to lie beyond the present scheduled areas at each site. Further fieldwork has therefore been recommended at all three locations, with the principal objective of establishing the age and character of the detected remains, and also their present condition. These investigations would comprise trench excavation, and at Gelligaer would be combined with a limited extension of the geophysical survey, which is intended to establish the extent of activity on the northwest side of the timber fort.

GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts

The historic ports and harbours of Southeast Wales have played a crucial part in the history and development of the region. The well-documented maritime trade in the region during the medieval, early post-medieval and industrial periods has done much to shape the nature of modern patterns of settlement and industry. Despite the archaeological importance of the harbours and ports, their character and extent remain poorly understood. On-going redevelopments, in particular the increase in waterside developments, means this important and fragile, yet poorly understood, archaeological resource is under continued threat.

This two-year project is intended to elucidate the nature and extent of maritime activity in the historic ports and harbours of Southeast Wales and identify areas of high, medium or low potential for surviving archaeological remains. This will highlight

any areas of national importance that require statutory protection and permit management through informed development control.

The first year of this project has concentrated on the four important medieval/early post-medieval ports that have subsequently developed modern docks, ie Cardiff, Chepstow, Newport and Swansea. Four provisional study areas were drawn up using MapInfo GIS. Following primary and secondary data collection, four site-specific databases of relevant archaeological interests were created, and linked to the appropriate base maps (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Sites studied in year 1

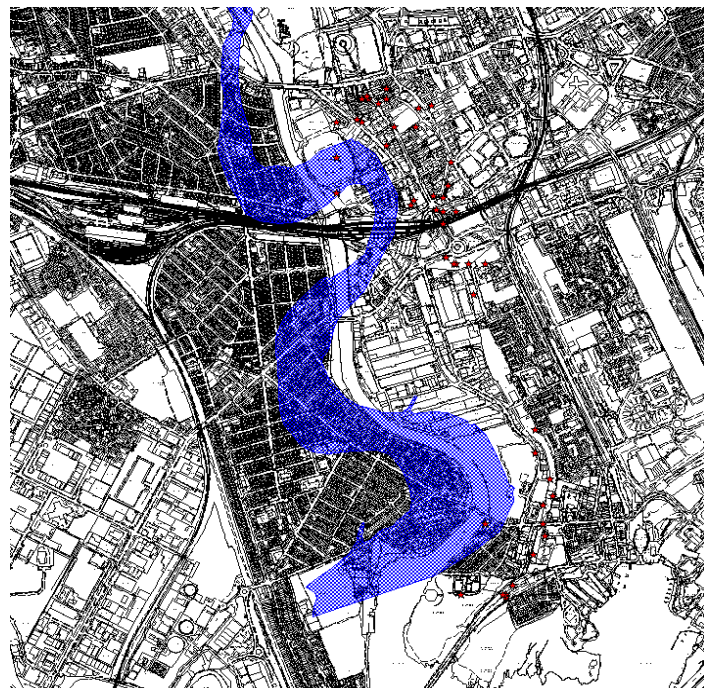
<i>Site</i>	<i>Study area (ha)</i>	<i>Centred at (NGR)</i>	<i>No. of archaeological interests</i>
Cardiff	126.2	ST 18929 76513	54
Chepstow	67.0	ST 53577 93860	144
Newport	378.0	ST 31616 86073	97
Swansea	87.9	SS 66082 93160	89

Historical maps were also scanned and registered in MapInfo, so that they can be viewed in conjunction with modern map data. This has facilitated the plotting of old river courses, which is particularly important for the River Taff in Cardiff and River Tawe in Swansea, which have both been canalised in parts. Using a combination of the spot data and historic maps, interpretive maps are being produced, which will highlight areas of high, medium and low potential for the survival of archaeological remains associated with past activity on these waterfronts.

Cardiff

The River Taff in Cardiff was altered to its present course in 1849-53. However the locations of two medieval quays are well established, at Blunch Gate (00113s) and the Golyate or lesser quay, situated on the west side of the present Gollate Street (00864s).

During excavations on the site of Blunch Gate for a multi-storey car park in 1973-74, fragments of walling were discovered, thought to be associated with a medieval quay. Other areas of interest may be focussed on the site of small pills on the River Taff, such as those shown on the Tithe plan of the Parish of St Mary of 1840.



The course of the River Taff, extrapolated from Tithe plan of the Parish of St Mary of 1840

Chepstow

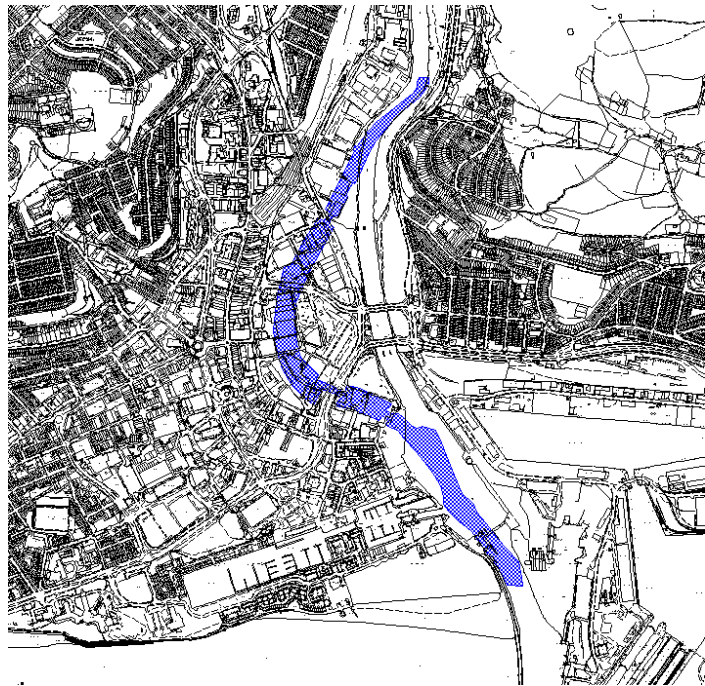
The River Wye has not substantially changed its course through Chepstow during the period covered by this assessment, however, the relationships between the town, castle and river are crucial to understanding the nature and development of the waterfront activity from the medieval period onwards. Recent investigations in Chepstow by Channel Archaeology and Pre-Construct Archaeology found well-preserved riverside structures, including a post-medieval boat, alongside the River Wye. An informed assessment of the potential of this area will assist the future management of this resource.

Newport

The importance of Newport as a port in the later medieval period was illustrated recently by the discovery of an ocean-going ship of mid 15th-century date, along with post-medieval waterside features at Moderator Wharf. A second focus of activity may be further south on the River Usk, on the site of the Alexandra Docks, where the remains of a vessel, probably of early medieval date, were discovered during construction works in April 1848 (05157g). The potential for further surviving structures is evident, and again the locations of pills shown on historic maps, will be important as possible foci for past activity.

Swansea

In Swansea, the course of the River Tawe has also been considerably altered, with the excavation of the New Cut in the early 19th century, to create a new 'floating dock'. Oral evidence uncovered during this project indicates that many 'old timbers' were discovered in around 1970, during the excavations within a cofferdam of the foundations for the current BT Tower on The Strand. This clearly indicates the potential for surviving archaeological remains along the bank of the original course of the River Tawe, which has been extrapolated from historic maps.



The course of the River Tawe, extrapolated from Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile 1st edition map of 1879

GGAT 77 Prehistoric Interrupted-Ditch Enclosures of Southeast Wales

Interrupted-ditch (or causewayed) enclosures are one of the defining monuments of the Neolithic period. Originally synonymous with the chalk downland of southern England, they are now known to occur in diverse topographical locations and, to

date, some 70 have been identified in the British Isles. Until the recent discovery, through aerial reconnaissance, of four possible Neolithic enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan, this monument-type was unknown in Wales.



Ewenny Enclosure during partial excavation in Summer 2002

The first phase of this project comprises a desk-based assessment of the evidence for the identified sites in the western part of the Vale of Glamorgan, and also an examination of the potential for the discovery of new sites in the region. This information will be used to inform recommendations for fieldwork strategies to follow in year two of the project. A comparative study of the enclosures at Ewenny, Corntown, Norton and Pant yr Hyl, using published and unpublished literature and aerial photographs and their transcriptions, has revealed some morphological variations

between the sites, as one might expect. The aerial photographs and plots of the Corntown and Norton enclosures indicate lengths of segmented ditches; excavation at Ewenny disclosed a single, causewayed ditch, **not** revealed by aerial photography. The integrity of the archaeological features as indicated by the aerial photographic evidence, therefore, needs to be tested in the field, by ground and geophysical survey and sample trenching targeted in particular to confirm, or otherwise, the discontinuous character of the ditches. In the absence of any other dating evidence (that from Ewenny awaits the report of the excavation; the association with the enclosure of the Neolithic flint scatter found on the Corntown site has not been established), these sites have been assigned to the Neolithic period by virtue of what appear to be interrupted ditch circuits. There is very little information so far for the enclosure at Pant yr Hyl, apart from some oblique photographs which show the greater part of a single-circuit enclosure.

The investigation of how we might discover new sites of this type in the region proved difficult, largely due to the shortcomings of the SMR and, to some extent, the NMR, which proved to be ineffective tools for this kind of research. The four enclosures are united by their topographical setting on the Carboniferous Limestone within easy reach of coastal flint resources but, given the sparse and discontinuous nature of the archaeological record for the Neolithic in the region, there is insufficient evidence to be certain that we are seeing a genuine concentration of these monuments, or merely a bias in the record. We simply do not know enough about the local Neolithic to be able to predict where similar monuments might turn up.

The study concludes that it would be better to refine and enhance the datasets currently at our disposal, in order to inform future research. Meanwhile, there is always the possibility that systematic aerial survey will continue to turn up these enigmatic sites. If it can be proved that the enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan are Neolithic causewayed enclosures, then the Neolithic of Wales is due for reappraisal.

CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS

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

POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

No Cadw-funded post-excavation projects took place in the year 2002-2003. The following reports were completed or sent to press:

GGAT 65 – Deserted Rural Settlements

Post-excavation work for the Southeast Wales chapter of the monograph has been completed.

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

The synthetic article based on the results of this survey has been accepted by *Studia Celtica* and has been scheduled to appear in the next volume but one.

'Grey literature' reports on grant-aided work

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

- *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites in southeast Wales: Desk-based assessment* Report No **2003/030** (GGAT 73)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr Tudful* GGAT Report No **2002/035** (GGAT 61)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Merthyr Tydfil. (Final Version)* GGAT Report No **2002/050** (GGAT 61)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr Tudful part 1 and 2: landscape characterisation and management* GGAT Report No **2002/009** (GGAT 61)
- *Lithics: interim report on Wrinstone Farm* GGAT Report No **2002/031** (GGAT 66)
- *Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.* GGAT Report No **2002/054** (GGAT 72)
- *Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan* Report No **2003/027** (GGAT 72)
- *Prehistoric Non-defensive Settlement Sites: Project Fieldwork 2002-3.* GGAT Report No **2002/077** (GGAT 66)
- *Research Agenda resource audit* Report No **2002/045** (GGAT 74)
- *Roman Roads and Vici: Year 1 Report,* Report No **2002/061** (GGAT 75)

FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2003 – MARCH 2004

GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust will continue its regional remit to provide wide-ranging and detailed archaeological heritage management and outreach services, based on Cadw's list of Curatorial Services dated March 2002. This will include the provision of SMR information and advice to enquirers and initiatives to increase our outreach to the general public. This area of Trust activity continues to grow rapidly as can be seen from the broad spectrum of services being requested and reported for 2002-2003. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to Cadw in our regular monitoring reports.

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

- provide the 'Archaeology and Planning' display for Unitary Authorities
- assist in the preparation of the Rhondda historic landscape leaflet
- update Cadw's portion of the Trust website
- consider a Management Plan for Gelligaer Common
- maintain the Southeast Wales Research Audit and place on web
- organise a regional archaeological conference probably in March

GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services

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

GGAT 61 - Landscape Characterisation

Work on Cwm Clydach is due to be completed by the end of November. The second part of this years Landscape Characterisation work the transition of the proto-characterisation work carried out by Cadw for the Gwent Levels into a format for posting on the web and in a presentation style that is comparable to more recently completed landscape characterisation projects is due to commence in October 2003.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

This on-going project is designed to provide the support services required for the Tir Gofal scheme. Further work on the HE1s for Year 4 of the scheme will be carried out to ensure as far as possible that up-to-date archaeological information is available to the Countryside Council of Wales prior to making farm visits. It is understood that the maximum figure for applications to be processed in this financial year has been revised to 100. The Trust will also attend further national and regional meetings and assist in the review of Tir Gofal procedures specifically as they relate to the historic environment.

GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

Work will continue on the remaining sites to be visited, ending with the production of a report in February 2004.

GGAT 75 Roman Roads and Vici

An interim report on this years work has already been submitted to Cadw, with recommendations for further fieldwork. However, it is understood that there may not be sufficient reserves for this to be carried out in the current financial year. If the project is not extended then the final report on this years work will be completed to include the refined geophysical data for Gelligaer, Neath and Usk and submitted to Cadw in or before December 2003.

GGAT 76 Urban Waterfronts

Work in the third quarter will see the translation of the gathered data into the agreed outputs. These will be delivered to Cadw in or before December 2003.

CONTINGENCY PROJECTS

Initial proposals for 2004-2005 Financial Year

We envisage the continuation of our Curatorial Service projects (*GGAT 1 & GGAT 43*), together with further work on Tir Gofal (*GGAT 67*). New specific proposals will be considered for the heritage management project.

Landscape characterisation work (*GGAT 61*) will include South Gower and possibly the whole of the ANOB if additional support can be made available from CCW. There is considerable website entry work to be completed for this project and the extent and form of characterisation work for Blaenavon and the Wye Valley needs to be assessed and agreed.

For the Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites project (*GGAT 75*) the work programme will consist of the preparation of GGAT's proposed contribution, 'Continuity and renewal of monastic landholding in Wales before and after the Anglo-Norman conquest'. We also understand that Cadw will require input into their contribution, in the shape of the compilation of statistical information. We also propose to try and locate undeveloped cemeteries through a study of undated inhumations, a class of site that did not register under the criteria employed for assessing sites in Year 1.

Proposals for further fieldwork at several *vici* (*GGAT 75*) have already been made. If this does not occur in 2003-2004, then this together with surveys and evaluations at other sites omitted from the 2003-2004 programme will be re-proposed for 2004-2005. The second year of the Urban Waterfronts project (*GGAT 76*) will see the assessment extended to other pre-1800 historic ports and harbours beyond the four medieval and early-medieval ports that have subsequently developed modern docks and which have been the subject of this year's work. The desk-based assessment of prehistoric interrupted ditch enclosures (*GGAT 77*) has thrown up the need for fieldwork and aerial survey and proposals in this regard will be put together.

Following the completion of our section of the pan-Wales coastal survey, it was recognised that certain Iron Age promontory forts were at particular potential risk and these were subject to a separate dedicated assessment. Remedial works have successfully taken place at Sudbrook Camp in Gwent but the recommendations for the Glamorgan examples have yet to be enacted. Proposals for such works have previously been brought forward and remain a priority. The Trust has also previously proposed an assessment of threatened industrial sites connected with the coalfield rim where early exploitation of resources is found and where the inter-dependence of the main and ancillary industries was at its most important. Methodology remains to be agreed, but it is hoped that further discussions with Cadw may clarify best approaches.