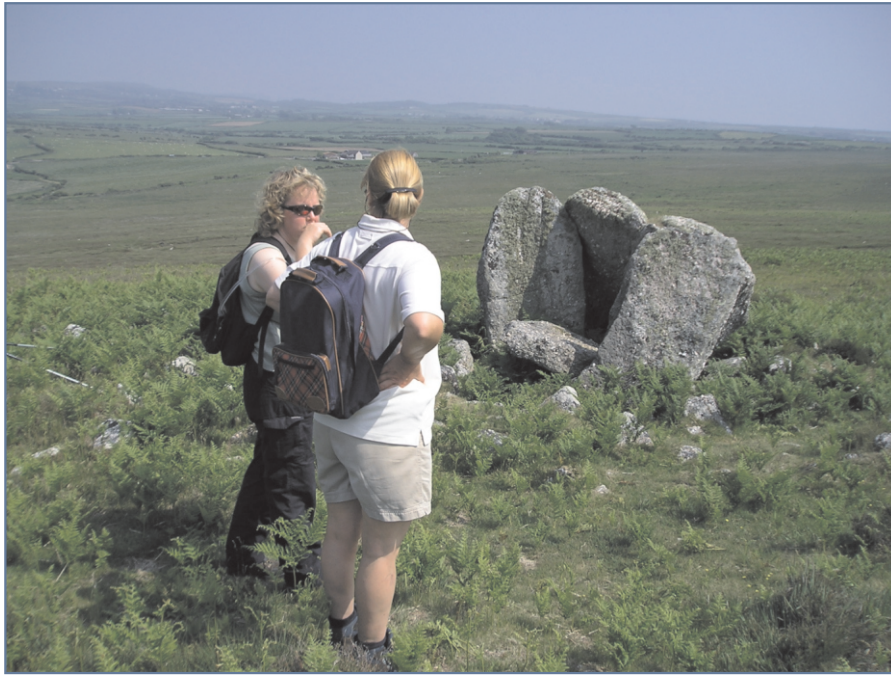


THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



Walkers at Sweyne's Howes, Gower: Gower Walking Festival 2007

HALF-YEARLY REVIEW 2008 & ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS 2007-2008



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REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008

GGAT 1 Heritage Management

The Trust has continued to provide heritage management services, including the vital public service provision of information and advice. This mirrors the growth of public awareness and interest in archaeology in recent years. The Trust has made preliminary approaches to the Heritage Lottery Fund in regard to the development of community archaeology provision, and in 2008-2009 will be assembling the evidence base to support a funding application.

The following sections specifically relate to the task requirements set out in the work specification agreed between Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts 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 Historic Environment Record, the Trust assisted Cadw in many areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. In addition to responding to standard information set requests, Trust staff have also accompanied Cadw's Assistant Inspector on site visits to monuments related to the Second World War.

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

The Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year 266 enquiries were made as compared with 273 for the previous year, and there were 68 visits to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the Historic Environment Record. These figures are very slightly down on last year, but broadly in line with figures for recent years. This facility for visiting the Trust is an essential public service and one of the key components of the Trust's development as a regional archaeological resource centre. In particular, it often proves the first point of contact for what can become a close association between the Trust and local groups. The table below shows comparative data for the previous five years.

Year	*Total consultations	Commercial	Public	Total visits to Trust
2003-2004	287	77	210	76
2004-2005	262	96	166	67
2005-2006	349	103	246	74
2006-2007	273	97	176	38
2007-2008	266	110	156	68

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

Provision of advice on Scheduled Monument Consent Applications

On behalf of Cadw, the Trust, as a recognised consultee, received 33 consultations, of which only four required responses: the remainder were notifications of Welsh

Assembly Government's decisions on applications. As the holder of the Historic Environment Record, the Trust is able to offer further detailed information and advice particularly when a planning application has also been lodged.

Site visits by curatorial staff to verify reports of damage and/or to determine appropriate action

During the year, the Trust was asked by a wide variety of parties, both organisations and private individuals, to visit sites either to provide information about the nature of the site, or to advise on management issues. We welcome these visits, both as a way of helping to safeguard the historic environment, and in furthering national commitment to life-long learning and inclusiveness.

Most visits this year were concerned with conservation advice to local groups and individuals wanting to know about specific monuments or sites on a specific land-parcel, and concerned with the long-term condition. Examples include visits to a well-house at Melingriffith, Whitchurch, a site in Cwmbran believed to be associated with the pilgrim's way to St Derfel's chapel, fish traps in Oxwich Bay, a new Roman site at Parc le Breos, and a mound on Carmarthen Road, Swansea, believed by the enquirer to be a motte.

Other issues pursued included the management of archaeological sites at Caerwent Army Training Area, the development of a heritage trail at RSCPA Llys Nini and the restoration of Penarth Pier and Pavilion.

Information and assistance associated with the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales and other landscape-related issues

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.

Historic landscape issues are now regularly considered in detail as part of the land-use planning processes and the Trust provides advice independently and, where appropriate in consultation with Cadw and Countryside Council of Wales, on need and technical issues, often in particular connection with the undertaking of ASIDOHL studies.

In promoting Historic Landscape importance the Trust prepared a new exhibition that covered Historic Landscapes in Southeast Wales and the Historic Landscape Characterisation and LANDMAP processes. Copies of the exhibition boards can also be seen on the Trust website.

Trust staff also contributed to the development of the Blaenavon Forgotten Landscapes bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Advice to local authorities and National Parks on a range of matters including the preparation of forward planning policies in new Local Development Plans

Outside the planning departments take-up on advice by Unitary Authorities remains low. Some authorities are more aware of the potential for integrating Historic Environment Record than others. In 2007-2008 there were only seventeen enquiries from Unitary Authorities to the Historic Environment Record that were not related to developments in the planning process. It is to be hoped that, if enacted, that the implementation of the provisions in Part 5 of the Heritage Protection Bill will lead to greater awareness throughout Unitary Authorities of the Historic Environment Record and its potential use and usefulness. Early issue of draft supplementary guidance for Wales as is already available for England would clearly be beneficial to this process.

In regard to specific actions in 2007—2008 particular advice was provided to Swansea City Council about Duvant Brickworks and the Second World War monuments on Mumbles Head. Information was also provided to Cardiff City Council

for the new interpretation centre at Cardiff Castle, and to Rhondda Cynon Taff for the Cynon Valley River Park. Trust staff have also attended meetings of the Brecon Beacons National Park Eastern Area Advisory Aboard and for the same authority participated in the process of developing a sustainable tourism policy.

By 2008—2009 Trust staff will be assisting all the Unitary Authorities in Southeast Wales with their new Local Development Plans. As the required processes for these new structure plans is more complex than that for their predecessors the commitment required from specialist staff at the Trust is such that the management mechanism has had to be reviewed and from 2008—2009 this area of work will be covered by a separate project.

Advice to Unitary Authorities and National Parks on development proposals as part of the development control process

See below GGAT 43.

Provision of initial advice on all Better Woodlands for Wales applications and other Forestry Consultations, including Forest Design Plans

With the introduction of the Better Woodlands for Wales scheme, the nature of the Trust's provision of information to the Forestry Commission has changed, since most of the other schemes are being phased out. Under this project's remit, the Trust screened a total of 42 applications, 12 of these have warranted more detailed assessments (WHE1) the costs for which are met by the Forestry Authority.

Applications for felling licences are still being received (37 during the year), as are forest plans (two during the year).

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" and other agri-environmental work

Tir Gofal work is reported under a separate project heading. There were five enquiries in connection with the Tir Cynnal scheme.

Provision of information and advice to farmers and other landowners outside the Tir Gofal scheme.

Approaches for information and advice have been received from a few farmers and landowners and these have been accounted as part of the Historic Environment Record procedures.

Initial enquiries from service industries, such as water and electricity and other utilities and their contractors and sub-contractors

See GGAT 43

Information and advice has also been provided to Welsh Water to assist the production of a heritage leaflet that will highlight some of the archaeological features found during their work.

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

The Trust continued to maintain good contact with the Countryside Council for Wales over a wide variety of issues and projects. The Trust has maintained attendance at the Gower Countryside Forum, which is an advisory body for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As a result we have raised the profile of the historic environment which should result in a better understanding of historic environment issues and positive management benefits. The Trust was also involved with the Wye Valley AONB in helping to prepare the successful bid for funding for the 'Overlooking the Wye' project, with an emphasis on presenting the valley's heritage.

The Trust also maintained close relations with other organisations and individuals that have responsibility and interests in national and local historic environment issues.

Monitoring the effectiveness of Planning Guidance (Wales) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96

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

The Trust's Heritage and Outreach Manager provides historic environment information for the DAC for the diocese of Swansea and Brecon as an offshoot of the Historic Churches project.

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

Cadw, in partnership with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, promotes the need across Wales for disseminating information on archaeological work. The Trust continued to utilise its website (www.ggat.org.uk) to provide information on regional archaeology as well as a section dedicated to Cadw-funded projects. During the year information on Cadw projects added to the website included summaries on the Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Clydach Gorge, Mynydd Margam, and Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows. Promotional leaflets on these areas in the Landscapes Register were also produced. Some of the other Trust outreach activities are reported below under the Specific Proposals heading.

An interview on the prehistoric footprints on Kenfig Sands was given to ITV's *Grassroots* programme. Information was provided on the WWII monuments of Gower for the newsletter on the AONB.

Responding to consultations from the Welsh Assembly Government and other organisations on proposals which affect the historic environment

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
DEFRA	Marine Bill White Paper
DCMS/WAG	Heritage Protection Bill White Paper

Dealing with consultations connected with the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 and coastal access

No consultations took place during the year.

Dealing with consultations connected with the Uncultivated Land and Semi-natural Areas Provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.

No consultations took place during the year.

Curatorial advice in connection with the marine environment

The Trust has maintained its role within the Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) and attended the half-yearly meetings held by that organisation. During the year

attendance and responses to the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group were maintained.

Specific Proposals

As part of our outreach commitment the Trust continued to prepare displays and leaflets, made new contacts, gave lectures and received students and school placements into our offices. In connection with this the Trust carried out a number of specific proposals that were agreed with Cadw in advance as part of this project.

Shows and Exhibitions

Talks and lectures were given to Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society, Shirenewton Local History Society, the Gelligaer Roman Project - Communities First Partnership, Radyr and Morganstown Local History Society, Cowbridge and District Historical Society, Cardiff Archaeological Society, Treboeth Ladies' Guild and Llynfi Valley Historical Society, and also to the Roman Pottery Group. A workshop on Roman cookery was held for the Bridgend Young Archaeologists' Club, and a Roman cookery demonstration provided for The National Legion Museum's Roman Feast event. Three guided walks were given as part of the Gower Walking Festival in June, on the archaeology of Rhossilli, historic Swansea, and the industrial archaeology of the Lower Swansea Valley. All were well attended.

Our partnership with heritage groups and organisations in Swansea continued to bear fruit, with the Trust attending two separate weekend events organised by the Glamorgan Family History Society's 'Family History Weekend', and Swansea Local History Book Fair. Manned exhibitions were provided for all these events as well as the chance to consult the HER, and discuss the excavations on the site of Swansea Castle with Trust staff. The Trust also took exhibitions and the HER to The Flood 400 event at Redwick, the Gower AONB Awareness Day, the Brecon Beacons National Park Open Day, the Severn Estuary Forum and the St John's Day Fair at Aberdare.



National Archaeology Day 2007

Again in association with Swansea Museum, the Trust organized an Open Day at the museum as part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Week and proved very successful, with approximately a thousand visitor movements recorded over the day, a similar number to previous year. Besides a range of exhibitions, the Trust provided HER searches, prehistoric pottery making and cave painting for children, a Roman cookery demonstration and a finds roadshow. Guided tours of the excavation of Swansea Castle on the David Evans site were also provided. A wide range of local history and heritage societies and other organisations also had stalls, including Friends of Oystermouth Castle, Oystermouth Historical Association, the Glamorgan Family History Society (Swansea Branch), the

Swansea Metal Detectorist Club, West Glamorgan Archives Service, South Wales Miners' Museum, the Royal Institute of South Wales. Meibion y Ddraig a living history group, provided an insight into the lives of 14th century archers and their families.

Also as part of National Archaeology Week, a successful evening walk took place to examine the archaeology of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast between Nash and Llantwit Major. A sketching party at the Salt House, Port Eynon, arranged in conjunction with Swansea City Council, proved to be a popular attraction, although the activity was cut short by rain in the afternoon.

Trust staff attended the Margam Country Show on the August Bank weekend. Again, displays and prehistoric pottery making for children were provided, the latter attracting a considerable number of people to the stand. A feature of the display was the new exhibition on historic landscapes, particularly apposite as Margam Country Park lies within one of these. Unfortunately, the Chepstow Agricultural Show where the Trust had intended to have a stand was cancelled because of flooding.

The Trust continues to offer support, advice and information to a number of community groups initiating heritage projects. They include the Friends of Llandeilo Talybont Old Churchyard and a group set up to care for the former Llangiwg Parish Church.

Regional Heritage Forum

The annual regional Heritage Forum was held at the Guildhall in Swansea. The meeting was well attended by Cadw and Trust staff and representatives from most of the twelve Unitary Authorities in Glamorgan and Gwent. In the afternoon Oxford Archaeology gave a presentation about the ongoing excavations at the Upper Bank Copper Works.



Regional Heritage Forum 2007

Preparation of Early Medieval Stones Leaflets

The proposed leaflets on the Early Medieval Stones of Gower and Merthyr Mawr were put on hold pending receipt of final comment from Dr Mark Redknap and agreement of the plans to move stones at Llangefelach and Llangennith.

Community Archaeology

With Cadw support, the Trust made preliminary approaches to the Heritage Lottery Fund over possible funding for a new post to support community archaeology projects in our area. The proposal has passed the initial consideration stage and next year the Trust will be working with local partners to develop the full bid.

GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services

Planning Statistics 2007—2008 (see Appendix 1)

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 Archaeological Planning Management 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 and where necessary assist with planning appeals.

The 2007—2008 detailed statistics of the responses to planning applications made by the Archaeological Planning Management 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.

The number of applications registered by the local planning authorities (LPAs) in Southeast Wales in the period decreased slightly as predicted in last year's report with the number falling from 21,152 in 2006—2007 to 20,251 in 2007—2008. However, detailed advice was provided in respect of 1,811 applications, an increase of 268 over the previous year. Objections were lodged in respect of 11 applications on the grounds that the proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the archaeological resource (the same as the previous year). In 118 cases it was recommended that additional information on the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource would need to be provided by the applicant prior to the determination of the planning application (more than double the number (51) in the previous year) and in 453 cases it was requested that conditions requiring archaeological work to be undertaken should be attached to the planning consent (441 in the previous year). These conditions can be divided into three types, those requiring programmes of archaeological of which there were 166 (159); those requiring an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during the development 197 (190) and those requiring buildings and structures to be recorded 90 (92).

The main reason for the significant increase in the number of applications to which we have replied was the decrease in the number of applications that we requested

from the LPAs but did not receive. This was partly due to the introduction of web-based planning systems by Bridgend County Borough Council, Brecon Beacons National Park and Monmouthshire County Borough Council which allowed details to be downloaded directly by the Officer dealing with the application (see below report on GGAT 92 for more details) but also due to checking that the initial request letters had been received by the LPA. However, the Trust is still not receiving all of the applications that are requested. In the forthcoming year it is hoped that further LPAs will start to place their applications on-line and that this will reduce the number of applications that we do not comment upon. The Trust will also write regularly to those LPAs whose applications are not on-line in order to ensure that the required information is sent. It is hoped that these measures will continue to significantly reduce the number of applications that the Trust does not consider.

The number of planning applications also reflects the number of large scale and complex development projects being initiated in Southeast Wales. The service has committed considerable time and effort in ensuring that the historic environment is carefully considered during the planning process and that mitigation measures including preservation in situ and excavation are included in these developments. This year these developments have included in particular the large excavations carried out during the construction of a residential development on the site of the Upper Bank Copperworks in Swansea, the urban excavation at the former David Evans store also in Swansea, and the large scale works undertaken at Ffos-y-Fran near Merthyr Tydfil.



Excavations at Ffos-y-Fran, Merthyr Tydfil 2007

The Section has continued to provide advice to the Utility Companies and the Environment Agency on the impact of their works on the archaeological resource. Sixty-seven consultations were received during the year (an increase of 24 on the preceding year) leading to a number of discoveries being made during archaeological monitoring of these linear developments.

2007—2008 saw the construction of a major gas pipeline from Felindre near to Swansea to Tirley in Gloucestershire. The Trust was commissioned by the Department for Trade and Industry to provide curatorial services for works on those parts of these pipelines that crossed our region. A considerable amount of survey and investigation work was undertaken prior to the final route of the pipelines being agreed, allowing the route to be diverted around significant sites. However, watching briefs during the construction work located a possible Bronze Age round house, a recumbent standing stone, and the badly damaged remains of a possible cairn all in the vicinity of Felindre; whilst work on Cefn Drum located significant evidence of medieval field clearance and other agricultural practices. Pre-construction work was also carried out on another pipeline to connect a new gas-fired power station being constructed at Uskmouth to the Grid during the year. The route of this pipeline will cross the eastern end of the Wentlodge Level and due to the archaeological and wildlife resources in the area the developers have decided to reduce impacts by directionally drilling the pipe for much of its route. However, there will be some impact on the archaeological resource and archaeological work will be undertaken on this route during 2008—2009.

In the last few years the Trust has been working closely with Dwr Cymru, Welsh Water (DCWW) to ensure that archaeological features are recorded during their construction works. One of DCWW's major partners is Laing O'Rourke, who is particularly involved with the renewal of water supplies throughout South Wales. During the year the Trust held a number of archaeological awareness workshops with Laing O'Rourke's design and operational teams and prepared a "toolkit" poster explaining the type of archaeological features that may be discovered during pipeline works.

In last year's report we noted the potential impact of the processes that would result in the eventual adoption of Local Development Plans (LDPs), the successors to Unitary Development Plans (UDP). So far in our region ten LPAs have commenced work on their LDPs with the remaining three due to start work in 2008—9. The new "community led" system naturally requires considerable community engagement and is also subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Following review and in order to ensure that this important but short-term additional work can be effectively delivered it will be carried out under the aegis of a separate project in future years.

GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterization

The year April 2007—March 2008 saw the successful completion of the following tasks:

1. The characterisation of the Llancafán (Vale of Glamorgan) historic landscape.
2. The characterisation of the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape (prior to final edit).
3. Translation of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Clydach Gorge web texts (Prysg).
4. The placing of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Clydach Gorge characterisation reports on to the Trust website (Cadw pages).
5. Translation and printing of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Clydach Gorge leaflets

As part of the ongoing programme of characterisation of historic landscapes contained in the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (Parts 2.1 and 2.2)* the Trust has carried out a landscape characterisation project to study Llanccarfan in the Vale of Glamorgan and the Lower Wye Valley, in Monmouthshire on behalf of Cadw. The Wye Valley historic landscape was previously subject to a review in 2007, which established the need for characterisation to the 'Welsh' method.



Llanccarfan (l) and Wye Valley (r) Historic Landscapes

The landscapes of Llanccarfan and the Lower Wye valley represent rare and important historic landscapes and as such have been included in the national Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2:1: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest (1998). Landscape characterisation has fully substantiated this view and makes recommendations for the proactive and long-term management of the areas.

Lower Wye Valley

The Lower Wye Valley Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales falls within Monmouthshire, the Forest of Dean, South Herefordshire Principal area designations. The area is almost entirely within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It includes: Lady Park Wood National Nature Reserve; the River Wye and Wye Gorge Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Chepstow Bulwarks camp, Chepstow Castle and port wall, Monmouth Castle, Tintern Abbey Guardianship Sites; sections of Offa's Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument; Chepstow (central area), Llandogo, Monmouth (central area), Tintern and Whitebrook Valley Conservation Areas.

A lowland river valley and deeply incised meandering gorge situated in the Lower Wye-Forest of Dean limestone plateau, contains diverse evidence of settlement, defence and industry from the prehistoric period to the recent past. The area includes: Bronze Age funerary monuments; Iron Age hillforts; Offa's Dyke; Chepstow and Monmouth towns and Castles; Tintern Abbey and settlement, early industrial remains of papermaking, tanning, tin-plate manufacture and quarrying; the setting for Reverend William Gilpin's historic artistic Picturesque landscape.

The area is acknowledged to be one of the most scenically attractive lowland landscapes in Britain, and one of the few lowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The scenic qualities of the valley inspired the Reverend William Gilpin in 1770 to write his important treatise on the notion and depiction of landscape as the Picturesque inspiring a generation of painters. Along with its artistic associations, the valley also has a rich archaeological legacy, from the prehistoric to the recent past, reflecting its importance as a communication route, a natural and political boundary, and in the medieval period a centre for religious life and later several industries.

The central part of the valley is physically and spiritually dominated by the spectacular remains of Tintern Abbey, one of the most celebrated monastic sites in the British Isles, founded in 1131, its ruins still towering over the valley floor in its tranquil setting.

The Llancairol, Vale of Glamorgan Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales includes Llancairol Conservation Area and comprises part of the gently rolling coastal plateau of the Vale of Glamorgan where it is dissected by the shallow valley of Nant Llancairol. The area represents one of the best surviving and most complete, typical historic parts of the Vale of Glamorgan. It contains diverse evidence of land use from the prehistoric period onwards, including: an Iron Age hillfort; an important and significant Early Christian monastic site; Llancairol village, one of the best surviving examples of the characteristic Anglo-Norman nucleated settlements of the Vale of Glamorgan with their large churches and distinctive vernacular style.

Llancairol, Vale of Glamorgan Historic Landscape:

The Vale of Glamorgan (*Bro Morgannwg*) is a distinctive lowland landscape formed on a gently rolling limestone plateau dissected by shallow valleys, and extending from the outskirts of Cardiff to the east to Bridgend in the west. The historic character of the landscape, including the large churches and the settlement pattern, is generally untypical of Wales, reflecting more the landscapes across the border in England.

The ancient settlement and secluded valley of Llancairol, situated in the central plateau of the vale, is one of the best surviving and most complete, typical example of the historic landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole. The setting of the large church within its picturesque, nucleated village is typical of the strong, monastic and Anglo-Norman influences, as demonstrated elsewhere in the vale at Llandough, Llantwit Major and Merthyr Mawr. The focal setting of the ancient church at Llancairol, itself testimony to early Welsh Christianity can also be regarded as typical of the regional settlement pattern as a whole.

Methodology

The characterization work was carried out to the established methodology of the recent Historic Landscape Characterization projects carried out in Wales. These projects involved a rapid trawl of the Regional Historic Environment Record (henceforth RHER), and other readily available sources, in order to identify distinctive historic landscape character areas where significant historical/archaeological qualities, interests or themes are discernible. In order to understand and appraise the general landscape character and relative quality a day visit was made to a selection of key areas. The interrogation of the RHER was supplemented by consultation of the relevant Ordnance Survey, Tithe and Estate Maps, held in the Glamorgan Record Office, Cardiff, the Gwent Record Office, Cwmbran and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. This work allowed for a rapid map regression assessment to be carried out which assisted in the assessment of landscape evolution. Consultation of aerial photographic records provided information on landform, current use and texture. More general works, articles and other readily available sources were consulted and these are included in the select bibliographies within the respective

reports. As a result the study of the Lower Wye Valley, restricted to that part of the historic landscape area on the Register within the boundaries of Wales (ie Monmouthshire), identified, mapped and described 40 historic landscape character areas (at Level 4 LANDMAP), whilst that undertaken for Llancaiach identified, mapped and described 12 historic landscape character areas.

The reports are divided in to several parts:

Part 1: Landscape Characterisation of the report includes the citation for the *Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2:1* as well as defining the aims, methodology and processes of landscape characterisation. It also considers the management of historic character and the wide applications and benefits of historic landscape characterisation to those with involvement in landscape conservation. Section 7 of Part 1 of the report identifies and describes the historic landscape character areas identified on the basis of the agreed methodology. Provisional specific management recommendations for the individual character areas have also been included. The identified character areas are mapped using a Geographical Information System onto baseline OS kindly provided through Cadw under licence. Photographs were also included to provide additional depth to the descriptions.

Part 2: The Management of... considers the conservation and long-term future of the area and general provisional recommendations are made. Provisional specific management recommendations for the individual character areas have also been made within the body of the report (part 1).

Website Work

The translation and placing of the Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Clydach Gorge characterisation reports on to the Trust website (Cadw pages) was completed. The accompanying leaflets for Mynydd Margam, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows, and Clydach Gorge were also translated and printed and will be distributed in 2008—2009.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

The Trust continued to liaise closely with Cadw, Tir Gofal management and regional representatives.

Deferment to the renewal of the scheme meant that the new round of applications started relatively late in the year; eleven HE1s were completed. Currently there are no arrangements in place to enable HE2s to be undertaken.

Sixty-two five-year reviews were also undertaken. The Rural Payments Division funded these.

GGAT 72 SE Wales Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments

This year saw the completion of the post-excavation and reporting programme for the evaluation we conducted on the Norton Causewayed Enclosure (PRN 0470m) and Church Farm Barrow Cemetery group (SAM Gm 262) in the Vale of Glamorgan. This represents the completion of the final year of the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Project.

The results of the excavation at Norton Causewayed Enclosure have proved beyond doubt the presence of bi-vallate ditches at the site. Ditched deposits were subjected radiocarbon analysis producing a confusing set of dates indicating activity in the early-medieval period (Cal AD 400 to 570) followed by a range of post-medieval dates (Cal AD 1520-1590, Cal AD 1620 to 1670, Cal AD 1770 to 1800 and Cal AD 1940 to 1950). It seems likely that the intrusion into the ditches occurred sometime in

the late Tudor Period, probably as a result of field improvement for arable husbandry. Overall the ditch features of greater depth have survived reasonably intact, as have their deposits, but the shallower ditches and pits have fared less well with contaminated material present throughout. The lack of securely datable material culture and very confusing radiocarbon dates frustrates our overall understanding of this monument's chronology. The casual loss of a prehistoric flint flake recovered from the lower fill of the third trench provides as near a *terminus post quem* as prehistoric sites allow, even if it is only diagnostic generally to the wider period. Unstratified worked flint and stone objects recovered from the ploughsoil within the enclosure also suggest a prehistoric provenance for the monument.

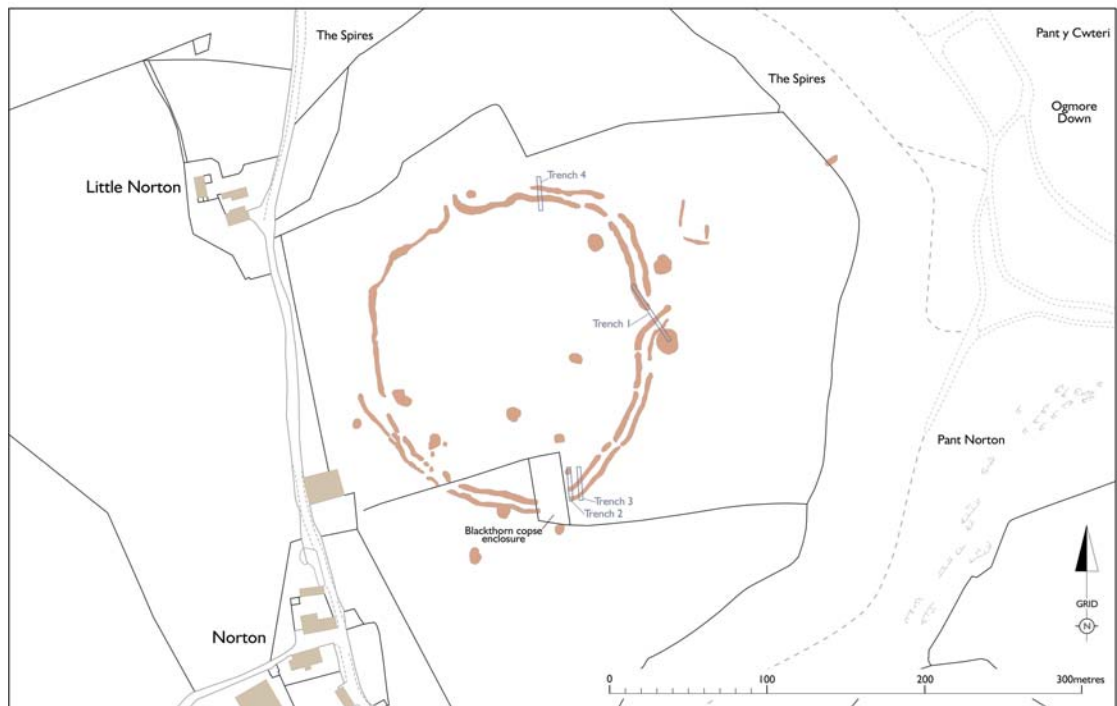


Figure 3. Location plan showing Norton Causewayed Enclosure (PRN 0470m) and evaluation trenches

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Norton Enclosure Plan

A substantial deposit of bone recovered from a back-filling event within the third trench proved to be primarily bovine from juvenile individuals (less than two years old). Their burnt condition and relatively small size would suggest deposition after butchery and cooking; possibly after a feasting event and that the consumption of cattle may be intimately linked with the excavation and back-filling of this ditch. The bias in favour of disarticulated and butchered cattle bones found within the inner ditch at Norton has parallels with many other causewayed enclosures, such as Windmill Hill, Crickley Hill, Hambledon Hill, Knap Hill and Etton where the abundance of disarticulated and butchered cattle remains interred in the ditches suggest an important relationship between this species and the activities occurring at causewayed enclosures across Britain.

The results from the excavations at the Church Farm Barrow Cemetery have proved archaeological deposits survive directly beneath the ploughsoil (c0.2m in depth) and what remains of the barrows are now very denuded. The eastern barrow was found

to contain at least two phases of development. First a circular rock-cut ditch was excavated into the natural lias limestone bedrock and a mound erected within it, which was then finished with a thin (c0.05m in thickness), uniform and deliberate clay (render or capping) deposit. Then at some later stage a much larger mound was thrown up, which completely covered the clay capping deposit and in-filled the ditch. A single damaged urned cremation burial was recovered from the second phase of the round barrow. The rim was everted and elaborately decorated on the external and internal rim bevels, and on the outside of the neck, with twisted cord impressions and repeated chevron motifs. The rim form, fabric and decorative treatment suggest this as a Food Vessel of Early Bronze Age date, probably a Food Vessel Urn. The cremation urn had been truncated by ploughing and the surviving bone deposit was highly fragmented. The cremation burial comprised the remains of a single adult, possibly a female. No grave goods were identified with the cremation, however, a Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrowhead roughout, reworked as a scraper, was recovered from the second phase mound deposits. The lack of funerary artefacts may be attributed to the truncated nature of the urn (only 35% survived).

Analysis of the cremation material has identified the presence of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) hazel (*Corylus avellana*), oak (*Quercus*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) indicating the possible pyre combustibles used. It would also suggest the presence of local deciduous woodland and scrub in the area. There were indeterminable rhizomes present and these could have originated from parenchymatous in the pyre material or from other organics such as cereal, hazelnut kernels and fruits from the remains of a food offering. The pyre material was subjected to radiocarbon analysis and produced Bronze Age dates (Cal BC 1920 to 1690) consistent with those associated with Food Vessel Urns. The cremation seems to have been deposited at a shallow depth and is likely to be secondary to any primary burials that may exist below this but remain at this time unexcavated. A charcoal dump in close proximity to the cremation produced slightly earlier dates (Cal BC 2480 to 2220) and may be associated with an earlier phase of the barrow.

One of the primary aims of the evaluation was to assess the current level of preservation of both the Norton Causewayed Enclosure and Church Farm Barrow Cemetery group and to what extent these monuments have been damaged through agricultural practices. The evaluation has proved that these monuments are now relatively stable, although with some continuous but minor erosion occurring annually under the current arable regime. However, these monuments have suffered catastrophic damage in the past, probably from steam ploughing in the 19th century at Church Farm and almost certainly from clearance for arable use at Norton in the Tudor and later periods.

Text and plans have been produced for two academic reports. The results from Norton will be published alongside those from investigations at a similar site near Ewenny, probably in a national journal, and those from Church Farm will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.

GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads

The work programme for the year consisted of preparing new entries for the new edition of Nash-Williams's *Roman Frontier in Wales*, to be titled *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches*. Through this project gazetteer entries including text and illustrations were prepared for ancillary installations to the fortress at Caerleon lying outside the defences, the forts of Caerphilly, Coelbren and Penydarren, site with possible military connections at Coity, Chepstow, Cowbridge, Hirfynydd, Kenfig, Machen, Rheola Forest, Risca, Sudbrook and Treoda, and the dubious site of Coed y Caerau. In addition, for the communications network, entries were prepared for all

roads and portions of roads within the Glamorgan-Gwent area and other material supplied on request to the co-ordinator of the roads group, and a section was prepared on shipping incorporating material supplied by members of the shipping group.

GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures

The task identified for the year was the preparation of a chapter on the Roman period for the forthcoming publication on prehistoric defended enclosures in Wales; this was designed to draw on material collected both through this project and the Roman-British Southeast Wales Lowland Settlement Survey.

The chapter begins with a review of information on sites and society in the area before and during the Roman conquest. It was followed by sections on the impact of the Roman army, looking at the impact of forts and their satellite settlements and territories on the native populace as well as the possible impact of taxes in kind; the relationship of defended enclosures (and the countryside in general) with the Roman administration and new towns, including the tribal capital at Caerwent and the 'small town' of Cowbridge; and the countryside, looking at farming and at individual defended enclosures in the Roman period, including those that developed into villas. The chapter concluded with an overview of what little is known of defended enclosures in the post-Roman period

GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes (Year Four)

During Year Four the main element of the project was a Heads of the Valleys area-wide mapping exercise based on the first edition 25-inch OS map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping). This allowed specific ironwork extraction-related resources to be identified and quantified at a landscape scale. It was decided to base the mapping exercise on the first edition OS map (c. 1875-1880) as this period represented a hiatus in iron production across the Heads of the Valleys area, with the ironworks related extraction at its maximum extent. The mapping exercise was undertaken using a GIS mapping package (MapInfo 7). Digital point data was produced to locate individual localised features based on the first edition maps, with polygonal data being produced to extractive features and areas (eg areas of quarries, waste tips, workings etc). Valley system areas and areas of complex or ambiguous associations were conceived and mapped in polygonal form.

The survival of the resource was assessed through comparison of information obtained from historic maps and modern mapping (OS Landline) supplemented by information obtained from digitally available aerial photographs (Get Mapping). In addition readily available map information on areas of opencast was also sourced and used to aid this process; this primarily comprised digital mining information (past opencast site data) kindly provided by the Coal Authority under licence. The potential threats to the resource and the current level of protection given to the resource were also examined.

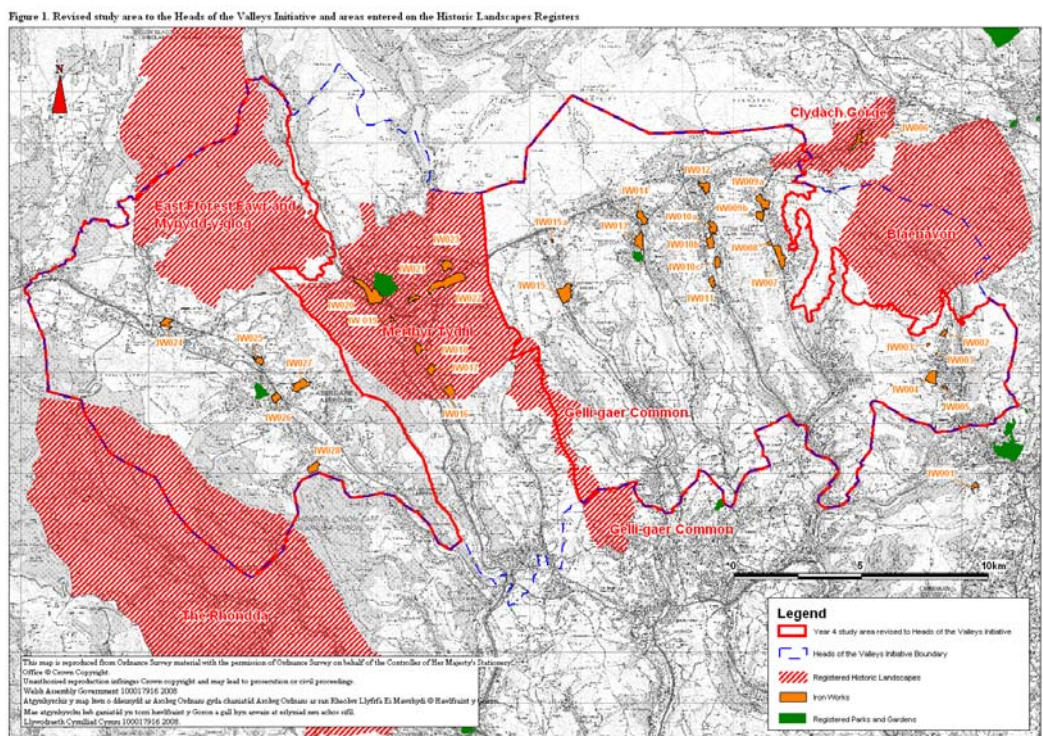
During Year Four the results of previous project work were also reviewed and incorporated to allow the identification and mapping of areas of special industrial ironworks landscape significance. This will be ultimately revised in Year Five to incorporate and take into account information on extraction areas.

As an approximate indication, known extractive features found to lie within general extractive areas connected by tramroad or located within close proximity to core ironworks areas, were tentatively considered as being potentially ironworks related. As a result 124 of the 351 extraction sites identified in the study area from initial searches of the Historic Environment Record are considered to relate directly or

indirectly to ironworks, and similarly at least 184 of the 294 National Monuments Record registers were considered to be ironworks related. A further 66 interests, including levels, collieries, pits, patch workings, and drift workings were identified from the Table of Mines (Davies/Godsall list) presented as an Appendix in the Cynon Valley History Society's publication *Cynon Coal* (Cynon Valley History Society 2001 Appendix A 199-244).

Extractive areas were identified from the 1st edition OS maps and mapped in digital polygon format; 156 polygon areas of varying sizes were identified and subject to rapid digital mapping, of these 119 were further identified as being potentially related to ironworks due to proximity and tramroad/rail links; the digital mapping of these areas was then further refined to accurately reflect boundaries on the 1st edition OS maps. Given time restraints a landscape approach was used identifying areas rather than individual features in isolation as point data.

The results of the Year Four study indicate that despite some complete losses, a considerable area of potential iron working extractive landscapes survive within the study area. The majority potential ironworks related extractive areas retain between 25% and 100% of their original areas, landscapes with a corresponding high incidence of potentially significant areas (reflecting incidence of protected and other identified related interests).



Ironworks Year Four Revised Study Area

The Year Four report sets out the results of the project, with a section defining the aims, and methodology. It also summarises the known and potential threats and provides general recommendations and establishes management/conservation priorities. The report has been presented in such a way that upgrading of information can be considered through the medium of a GIS system. This allows data storage, manipulation, analysis, interrogation, presentation and future revision of information. Sophisticated Information Technology application has therefore been a major component of this project and the current years work contributes to the production of a dynamic and multi-layered digital model for the study area(s).

The results, however, indicate sufficient surviving potential for an understanding of the ironworks' related extraction areas, and that further detailed field-based work is required to confirm the survival and value of the surviving resource, backed up with appropriate documentary work. It is intended that field verification of the identified potential resource be undertaken in Years Five and Six.

The level of available study or survey undertaken for extractive areas is generally low with the exception of areas within and immediately adjacent to Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenavon, and Bryn Mawr (Nant-y-glo) where for instance geographically limited but intensive survey work has led to the distortion of the record. It is highly likely that additional detailed survey would have similar results elsewhere. More detailed documentary work and targeted field survey is recommended with the aim of increasing the level of information on the resource and in particular to ascertain its condition, provide where possible a developmental history, and attempt to confirm associations.

The following recommendations for further archaeological work have been made:

- Undertake detailed review of available cartographic and documentary sources, including map regression, to increase the level of detailed information available on the following extractive landscapes: Eastern Valley (Cwm Sychan and Cwm Ffrwd); Nant-y-glo and Ebbw fach; Sirhowy and Tredegar; Rhymney; Cynon with the Dare and Aman, and the Beaufort and Ebbw Vale valley areas.
- Undertake site visits to inform site descriptions and assess condition of the resource in detail on the following extractive areas: Eastern Valley (Cwm Sychan and Cwm Ffrwd); Nant-y-glo and Ebbw fach; Sirhowy and Tredegar; Rhymney; and Cynon with the Dare and Aman systems, and the Beaufort and Ebbw Vale areas as identified.
- Production of detailed management and conservation recommendations (based on the above)
- Production of protection recommendations (as necessary)
- Undertake topographic surveys and detailed recording (as necessary)

GGAT 88 Kenfig Sands Upper Peat Shelf

Sedimentary conditions on Kenfig Sands at the beginning of 2007 exposed two peat shelves. The lower one had already been plotted from air photographs as part of the Cadw-funded Swansea Bay intertidal survey (Nayling 1998). The upper shelf, which had never previously been recorded, was associated with a number of stake and plank features, and in places bore the imprint of animal hooves, including cattle.

The extent of this peat shelf was surveyed with a total station at the very end of the financial year 2006—2007, and a photographic survey carried out of the best of the prints. In 2007—2008, the survey was plotted and the photomosaic of the prints was integrated with it.

The three stakes that it had been possible to recover from an alignment on the beach were studied and radiocarbon dates obtained from two of them. All the stakes were of unconverted roundwood, two worked to chisel points with signs of having being driven into the ground, and the third worked to a wedge point. One of them stakes sent for radiocarbon dating had a conventional radiocarbon age of 3150[±]60 BP (Beta-242043); when calibrated to 2 Sigma this gives a date range of Cal BC 1520 to 1300. The other had a conventional radiocarbon age of 3060[±]70 BP (Beta-242044), Cal BC 1460 to 1120, when calibrated to 2 Sigma. Both therefore fall within

the Bronze Age, and the linear nature of their layout suggests some sort of linear structure, such a fence, trackway or fish-trap. Further information on this site will be forthcoming when the environmental sample is processed, and the site will then be published.

Nayling, N, 1998, *Swansea Bay intertidal survey*. GGAT unpublished report No.98/059

GGAT 89 Pre-medieval Scoping Project

The purpose of this project was to assess the data held on the Historic Environment Record to see what categories of site predating the Middle Ages should, and could practically, be assessed ahead of the implementation of proposed Heritage Protection legislation.

A database of 3,906 sites was compiled, comprising all sites of the prehistoric and Roman periods, from information extracted from the Historic Environment Record, plus a further 2,125 sites where the period was categorised as unknown. Entries with NGRs of under six figures were then removed, since there is no reasonable prospect of being able to locate them, as were sites recorded on areas that have now been built over. All those sites that had been assessed in previous Cadw-funded threat-led assessment projects, Tir Gofal farm visits (HE2s), or during the walk-over survey for a developer-funded projects were also removed, along with sites in Merthyr Mawr Warren, a large part of which is already well-protected. Entries marked as being of unknown period were scrutinised and those that could reasonably be dated to a later period was removed, together with any sites falling into the categories eliminated from the previous databases. Where it was possible to attribute period to any of the remaining sites, this was done.

Since the profile of Early-medieval sites more closely resembles prehistoric and Roman sites than those of later periods, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to deal with those at the same time. A separate query was run for sites described in the period field as Early-medieval: these numbered 174. As noted in the regional research audit document in 2002 (Evans *et al* 2002), all Early-medieval sites on the Historic Environment Record had been recategorised as Medieval in the 1990s. Although a proportion of Early-medieval sites have now been returned to the correct period description (notably through the Early-medieval Ecclesiastical Sites project), there are still errors of categorisation, and not all Early-medieval sites are yet listed as such. Since ecclesiastical sites had been studied in a separate project, they were removed from the dataset leaving only secular sites, totalling 28.

This resulted in a database of 739 sites including Early Medieval, or 711 sites excluding Early Medieval. Sites were then sorted according to type, and then placed in larger groupings, in order that themes suitable for future study could be identified. These comprised: Non-defensive enclosures, occupation sites and fields of prehistoric and Roman date; Roman-period military/high-status sites; Industrial sites (all Roman); Funerary sites (also all Roman); Caves and middens; Tools and weapons; Objects of personal adornment; Domestic equipment; Coinage and Early-medieval secular sites. Other types were Generic site type, Ecofacts, Findspots and Miscellaneous, which were not suitable for study in their own right, though material from them can be incorporated in other groupings. Each of the groupings was then examined to assess its suitability for study as part of a Cadw granted-aided project, and a sample of the records was examined to determine existing level of information held by the Historic Environment Record. However, following further guidance from Cadw, categorisation was dropped from the project, and sites were merely assessed to see whether any had any potential of being nationally important. This resulted in a database of 282 sites, which were felt to be worth further detailed assessment.

GGAT 90 Implications of the Introduction of Electronic Planning Applications on Archaeological Planning Services in Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government is assisting the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) across Wales to introduce electronic application forms and to place the resulting applications on-line. One significant change resulting from these developments is that some LPAs are now considering not sending copies of the applications along with their plans to consultees and instead are expecting them to download the information from the web. This paper considered the impact that this change will have on the current working practice in the Archaeological Planning Management sections of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and what other opportunities and benefits the introduction of e-planning will produce, concentrating on the area covered by the Trust which contains half of the planning authorities in Wales.

The LPAs are expected to determine 80% of householder applications inside 8 weeks; consequently they require responses from the Trust inside 21 days of their consultation letter being sent. The Trust has never been able to achieve this and currently our target is to respond inside 21 days of the receipt of the consultation. However, it was often the case that by the time the application had appeared on the LPAs weekly list of registered applications; the Trust had identified a potential archaeological restraint, requested the additional information and received it, that the 21 days Trust response was starting at the beginning of the fifth week and that the Trust's response was arriving at the LPA at the very end of the consultation period.

E-planning provides an opportunity to radically reduce the period between a planning application being registered and the Trust providing detailed advice on the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. It will also provide a greater level of information to the Trust which will allow casework advice to be more specific.

All LPAs now produce their weekly list of registered applications in electronic form and these are accessed from the web. This has reduced the Trust's initial response time in calling in an application by approximately 1 week.

The main service that the LPAs require is the provision of clear and appropriate advice in response to each application, that is capable of being defended at an appeal or inquiry. In order to achieve this the maximum amount of information on the application is required, along with the information provided by the Historic Environment Record and the professional knowledge and experience provided by the Officers of the Trust's Archaeological Planning Service.

Currently LPAs provide the Trust with a limited amount of information determined by individual officers, the introduction of e-planning with all information submitted by the applicant on-line will allow the Trust's officers to download the information that they require to provide the appropriate advice to the LPA ensuring that the planning officer is fully informed and that the advice is sound.

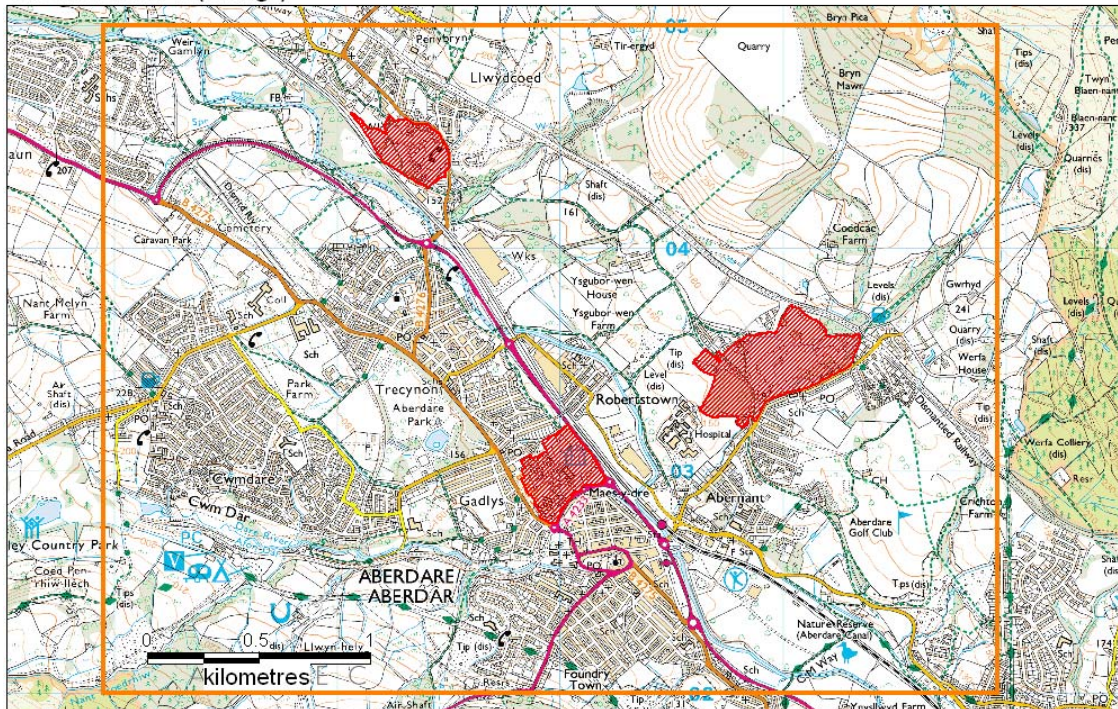
The paper also considered future developments of e-planning that will allow Trust officers access to the LPAs "back office", their systems and databases. This will make it possible to find previous applications for the site, check planning officer's reports to the planning committee, determine the result of applications and conditions attached to subsequent consents and allow the implementation of those conditions to be monitored. This will allow the Trust to provide both a better service to the LPAs and to improve the protection of the archaeological resource.

Finally the report considered the need for the Trust to improve it's current IT hardware and software so that it could take advantage of the e-planning initiatives, considered improvements to the current databases and working practices and suggested a programme of improvements some immediate and some long-term.

GGAT 91 Aberdare Urban Survey.

A grant from the contingency fund enabled works to commence on a desk-based assessment, including historic landscape assessment techniques refined for urban applications, to elucidate the development of Aberdare to provide a baseline to inform Townscape Heritage Initiative improvements. The following tasks were completed:

GIS STUDY AREA (Orange)



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Database Production:

Given the identified aims the Historic Environment Record data and any relevant data gathered from the ongoing Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes project was added to a database after checking. Sources included:

- Historic Environment Records (GGATHER, NMR, Cadw)
- Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes data

The database was set up in MSAccess and relevant Tithe plan and schedule obtained.

REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2008 – SEPTEMBER 2008

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

The Trust continued to liaise closely with Cadw, Tir Gofal management and regional representatives.

Nine HE1s have been completed and one additional land application. Currently there are no arrangements in place to enable HE2s to be undertaken.

The Trust has also processed ten Round 1 five-year reviews under the new arrangements for the Rural Payment Division.

GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes (Year Five)

Over the past four years the project has examined the core ironworks areas, of which 35 were identified, their associated transport systems, related water systems, and related extractive landscapes. Because of the complexity, interconnectivity over time, and often large-scale of the extractive and water management systems, these aspects have been dealt with on an area basis, rather than on an ironwork-by-ironwork basis. In order to make information available to the developing Heads of the Valleys initiative, the study of the ironworks extractive and water management systems has been refocused on the area covered by the initiative.

During the current year and 2009—2010 the project has been targeted on those areas (ie drainage and extractive areas) selected during previous years as being of greatest potential:

- a) The Aberdare-Hirwaun corridor and the area to the north of Hirwaun centred on the upper reaches of the Afon Cynon to Penderyn
- b) An area immediately to the west of Abersychan taking in the Abersychan and Varteg Ironworks and the adjacent hill slopes and valleys
- c) The upper Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw valleys and the watershed to the north of the Sirhowy Valley around Trefil, this would take in a series of closely spaced Ironworks from Nantyglo to Sirhowy and their connected landscapes.

As a result it was initially proposed to undertake more detailed documentary and fieldwork in the last area, Area c) during the current year. The work entails a more detailed level study centred on limited areas including the gathering of available historic background data, more detailed map regression, and detailed mapping of features from historic mapping, and aerial photographs, as well as targeted survey fieldwork as necessary, and the production of management recommendations and specific scheduling proposals as required.

During the current and following year fine-grained map regression of the defined areas indicated above will form an important element to the project. This will take the form of more detailed targeted mapping based on the first edition 25-inch OS map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping), and all other available mapping (ie estate and Tithe maps), in conjunction with consultation of selective detailed aerial photographic material. An element of targeted field visits will also form part of the project during this and the following year. The project includes interrogation of records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER), and National Monument Record (NMR), as well as data held by Cadw (for Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings), and CCW (for Environmental data), supplemented by other readily available primary (eg. records and maps at Gwent Record Office (GRO), Cwmbran and National Library of

Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth) secondary data. More general works and articles and other sources will also be consulted, as practicable. It is not intended to carry out original research, though where this would have a relevant and beneficial approach at some future date this will be identified.

Essential Task Breakdown (Year Five)

1. *Compile baseline documentation*
2. *Undertake historical mapping and production of revised detailed area constraint maps*
3. *Review the assembled data*
4. *Undertake field survey*
5. *Prepare field survey database & review area/site details*
6. *Compile and disseminate reports*

At the half-year point baseline data assemblage has been progressed (Task 1: Baseline HER, NMR, Cadw and CCW information obtained and processed). The NMR data has been checked and updated against Coflein and a visit to Aberystwyth made to view further information held at the NMR. The additional visits to the archives, ie. GRO, Cwmbran and NLW, Aberystwyth, and the aerial photographic resource at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs in Wales (CRAPW), Cardiff have been re-timetabled to take place during the period September 2008—December 2008, so that specific questions arising from the fieldwork can be investigated.

In terms of the historic mapping (Task 2), the updated detailed mapping has been completed for extractive features and areas/additional water management features based on the OS 1st edition and Tithe maps. Additional features have been identified and mapped as a matter of course and the assembled data has been revised and reviewed. Preliminary site access visits have been undertaken and assembled data accordingly updated; as a result specific targeted field survey areas have been further refined. A total of 8 areas have been selected for targeted visits amounting to a total area of 1,369ha. Field visit objectives were also devised with *proforma* and database designed and produced in preparation for site visits (Task 3).

The targeted field visits (Task 4) are currently underway, with the extensive extractive area of the Clydach Terraces, north of Bryn Mawr being the first area to be examined. Initial impressions are encouraging with the field visit confirming this area contains well-preserved extractive remains of national significance. It is hoped to complete the majority of the field visits by November 2008.

GGAT 89 Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites

This project will run over two years, the first year covering the western and northern parts of our area, comprising the unitary authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea and Torfaen. These include most of the uplands, and the sites studied this year area are expected to have a relatively high proportion of surviving stone structures.

The dataset compiled last year for the initial assessment phase of this project contained 133 sites in these eight UA areas. Examination of the information held in the Historic Environment Record reduced these to 100. The addition of material in RCAHMW's Brecknock *Inventory* not previously included in the Historic Environment Record has increased the number slightly again (although some of the apparent new sites are now known from fieldwork to be existing PRNs recorded at different NGRs). Eighteen sites were recorded on the Historic Environment Record as having been noted on air photographs, but with insufficient information to allow them to be assessed properly. The photographs were accordingly viewed at the Central

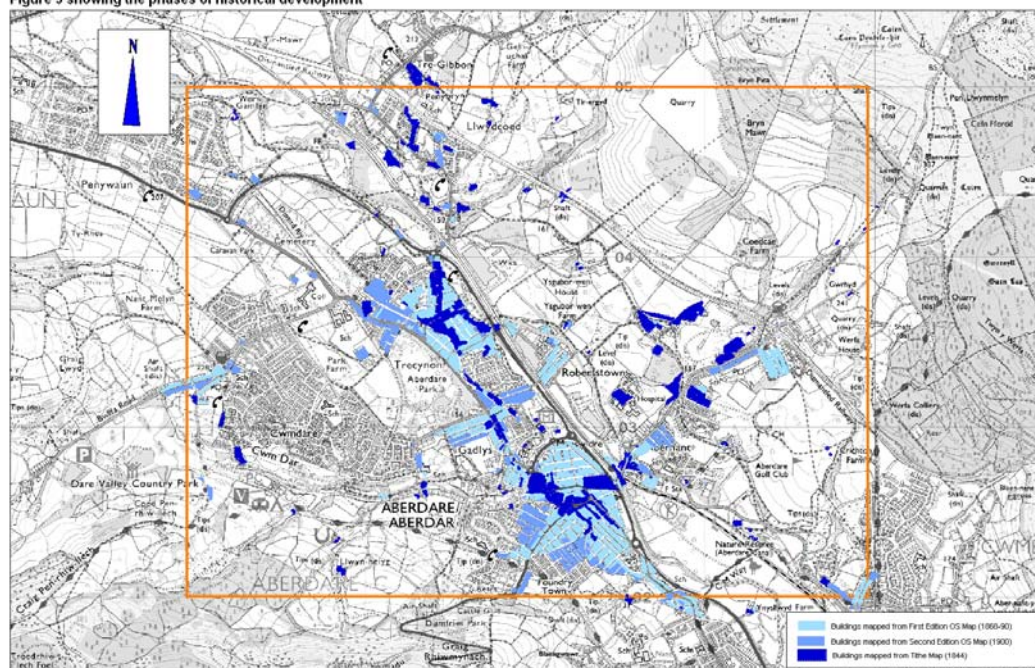
Registry, with the result that eight have been discarded as either destroyed or not falling within the remit of the survey. At eight sites, the air photograph information was so good that copies have been obtained for plotting. In total, 278 photographs were viewed. Seventy sites in all were identified as having potential for field visits. A start has been made on identifying owners and carrying out fieldwork. Some of the sites visited to date are very well preserved and potentially of national importance.

GGAT 91 Aberdare Urban Survey

This project, which commenced late in 2007—2008, took the form of a desk-based assessment including historic landscape assessment techniques refined for urban applications to elucidate the development of Aberdare to provide a baseline to inform Townscape Heritage Initiative improvements.

Aberdare and its satellite settlements of Trecynon, Robertstown, Cwmdare and Abernant form an important industrial urban landscape forged as a result of the industrial revolution. From its initial rural origins, Aberdare's urban development was associated with the upsurge in iron production experienced from the early 19th century and driven by improvements in technology and transport links, namely the canal and rail networks, such as Tappenden's Tramroad operational in 1805, and the Aberdare Canal completed in 1812. By the start of the 19th century discrete settlements had emerged around the ironworks at Gadlys (1827—1876), Llwydcoed (1800—1875) and Abernant (1801—1875), with the population of Aberdare increasing by over two and a half times between 1801 and 1831. The growth in the coal industry from the mid-19th century, enabled by the sinking of new and deeper pits, fostered continued urban expansion.

Figure 5 showing the phases of historical development



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Aberdare development as evidenced by historical mapping overlaid in GIS

Much of the older housing within the area relates to the provision of housing for ironworkers, however from the 1840s immigration to work the area's growing coal industry increased the area's population further with a rise from 3,532 inhabitants in 1841 to 14,998 in 1851 (32.6%), and added to the need for additional housing. The

result was continuing urban expansion of the established communities and the creation of new communities, for example those established in the Dare Valley. With the effective end of iron production by the close of the 1870s throughout much of the Heads of the Valleys area, it was employment in the area's coal industry, which cushioned and even reversed an emerging population decline, and as a result Aberdare, and its environs appears to have continued to experience sustained urban development at least into the mid-twentieth century.

The general aim of this project was to provide an informed historic environment framework for sustainable development within the wider context of regeneration using a methodological approach previously developed and subsequently refined for urban characterisation.

It is considered that regeneration under initiatives such as the Heads of the Valleys Initiative has the potential to provide considerable benefit to the community of Aberdare, ensuring that heritage interests are not compromised but rather secured and enhanced. The project, undertaken for the study area shown below provided an opportunity to research, collate and analyse data on the historic urban character and fabric of Aberdare. It is hoped that the resultant baseline data will ultimately feed into projects fostered by such initiatives.

The Trust provided input in relation to Archaeological and Topographical Analysis and Creation of GIS for the study area. To this end the Trust brought to completion the following elements of the characterisation exercise in the current financial year:

- The description of historical development and topography, primarily a desktop and mapping exercise including the identification and mapping of surviving historical components including designated sites (SAMs and Listed Buildings), and other historic buildings and plots (based on date of 2nd edition O.S)
- The identification of archaeological potential (data-gathering and synthesis)
- The production of a summary report and preparation of GIS mapping.

The completed tasks carried out during the Year 2008—09 are as follows:

- GIS data mapping: the GIS data extracted during 2007—08 was plotted in MAPInfo layers as point data and where there is sufficient spatial information as polyfeatures (polyline and polygon data). In addition topographic and phased mapping of urban development was produced from historic cartographic sources (Tithe, 1st and 2nd edition OS mapping) in MapInfo Layers as point and polygon data
- Production of summary report.

The findings were presented at the Aberdare Show in June 2008. The display was well attended and considerable interest was shown in the project, with somewhere in the region of 50 people viewing the display, around 20 of whom asked specific questions.

GGAT 93 Church Hill Enclosure and Roman Site Survey and Excavation

The Church Hill excavation and survey is a project carried out jointly with the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology of Swansea University and the Royal Institution of South Wales (Friends of Swansea Museum). The fieldwork for this project took place over three weeks at the end of June and the first half of July. Thirteen students and two lecturers took part from the university. Input from the RISW comprised occasional attendance from identified staff; a volunteer attended under the aegis of the RISW.

Following clearance of herbaceous vegetation that had grown since the Forestry Commission cleared the site in the spring, two trenches were laid out. It had been intended to cut one trench 2x30m across the enclosure bank into the interior, and one 2x20m in the area of Roman finds to the south of the enclosure, but the location of standing trees and stumps made this impossible. Trench 1, outside the enclosure was 2x19m, Trench 2 across the bank was 2x10m, and following discussion with Cadw a third trench, Trench 3, also 2x10m, was cut in the interior.

Trench 1 ran east-west, with its eastern end intersecting the trackway. A wall running north-south was discovered, 2m from the eastern end of the trench and partly on the line of the trench. It was 0.60m wide and survived one course high above the foundation, built of limestone blocks with a well-made face on the east side, but with the west side in the same smaller rubble blocks as the core. It had not apparently suffered any ill effects from vehicles passing along the track. A deposit of rubble to the west of this wall overlay a cobbled surface, which did not apparently extend all the way to the west end of the trench, though time constraints prevented all but a small portion from being uncovered. More extensive excavation was carried out to the east of the wall. Here the corresponding rubble overlay a loose deposit containing combustion products, probably from some industrial process, which in turn overlay a layer of clay burnt red and yellow. Small patches of unburned yellow clay were noted adjacent to the east section.

Trench 2 was cut north-south through the bank on the southern side of the enclosure at the point that the trackway ran across it. Again, the vehicular traffic was shown to have done relatively little damage to the archaeology. The bank was about 4m wide and up to 0.7m high. It was constructed from large rubble blocks laid as a facing with an internal rubble core, and a line of regularly placed rubble blocks down the centre. Approximately 2.5m to the south there was a probable foundation, also of large uncut fieldstones about 0.8-1.0m in width. The intervening area contained a loose packing of rubble and earth fill together with larger blocks from the wall overlying a clay layer. At the southern, outer foot of these bank deposits was a rubbish deposit including very large quantities of oyster shell, but the relationship between the two could not be clarified in the time available for the excavation.

Trench 3 running northwest-southeast in the interior contained very little in the way of structural information. A patchy cobbled surface was noted, but this did not extend all the way to the northwestern end, which contained only a patchy deposit of rubble in a similar soft clay matrix as noted at the west end of Trench 1.

All datable finds that were recovered from all trenches were Roman. The pottery range was mainly 2nd-3rd century, with only a few later forms noted; it included samian as well as coarsewares. The inclusion of pottery in the bank shows that it must have been constructed in or after the Roman period, and therefore the site does not appear to be one where Roman-period occupation continued in and around a later prehistoric enclosure. A few fragments of copper-alloy and iron were discovered, but no coins. Brick and tile were frequent finds, and there were some fragments of *opus signinum*. Preservation of animal bone was good.

The topographic survey showed the enclosure in relief, together with the topography inside and outside. It also indicated the extent to which the present track and its predecessors had penetrated below the present ground surface. It did not prove possible to tie the survey in to any fixed points because of the lack of visibility through the tree canopy. It is hoped that this can be done after the leaves have fallen. Post-excavation is also due to take place during the university's autumn term.

FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2008 – MARCH 2009

GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation

This year's project comprises the following tasks:

1. Translation of Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan historic landscape texts and posting on the Trust website by end of 2008 (Cadw pages)
2. Translation of the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape texts and posting on the Trust website by end of 2008 (Cadw pages)
3. Translation and printing of leaflets for Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan historic landscape and the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape (GGAT 1).

This work is scheduled for completion in the second half of the 2008—2009 financial year.

GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

Currently there are 30 HE1 applications to be completed in the 2008—2009 current financial year; these include one double and one triple

GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes (Year Five)

Following completion of targeted field visits, review of site information, and completion of field visit database, the project year report will be produced and disseminated.

GGAT 89 Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites

Following completion of field visits the first year project report will be compiled.

GGAT 93 Church Hill Enclosure and Roman Site Survey and Excavation

Processing of finds and other site data from the Church Hill excavation leading to an excavation narrative and project report is due be completed in the autumn of 2008.

CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS

In 2007—2008 advice in respect of palaeoenvironmental sampling was sought in respect of the recording and sampling work at Kenfig (GGAT 88). Palaeoenvironmental samples obtained from the trial excavations carried out at Norton and Church Farm (GGAT 72) were, following assessment, analysed and reports completed. Summary details are included in the project account earlier in this review.

POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

Post-excavation work was undertaken on the sites at Monknash and Norton. Publication of the later will be alongside results from an excavation of a similar site in the same locale at Ewenny Quarry, that from the former is intended for publication in *Archaeology in Wales* in 2010.

'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:-

Assessment of sites predating the Middle Ages, with recommendations for future projects GGAT Report No 2007/069

Historic Landscape Characterization Llancarfan parts 1 & 2 GGAT Report No 2008/007

Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes: Year 4 Extraction Areas GGAT Report No 2008/014

Kenfig Sands upper peat shelf: Report on the survey carried out in 2007 GGAT Report No 2008/015

Implications of the Introduction of Electronic Planning Applications on Archaeological Planning Services in Wales GGAT Report No 2008/019

Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Survey and Excavation: post-excavation analysis and report GGAT Report No 2008/027

Historic Landscape Characterization Lower Wye Valley parts 1 & 2 GGAT Report No 2008/043

FUTURE PROGRAMME MARCH 2009 – APRIL 2010

Curatorial Works (GGAT 1, GGAT 43, GGAT 67, GGAT 92)

We anticipate submitting proposals to allow our archaeological planning management, local development plan, Tir Gofal and heritage management projects to continue. We do not expect that there will be any significant changes to the works covered by these proposals. Our heritage management project will contain a number of specific proposals relevant to the promotion of the historic environment in Southeast Wales.

Continuing Projects (GGAT 80, GGAT 89, GGAT 93)

For our ironworks threat-led assessment we intend to bring a proposal to enable the following areas to be examined in detail:

- a) The Aberdare-Hirwaun corridor and the area to the north of Hirwaun centred on the upper reaches of the Afon Cynon to Penderyn
- b) An area immediately to the west of Abersychan taking in the Abersychan and Varteg Ironworks and the adjacent hillslopes and valleys.

These were previously identified as two of three drainage and extractive areas of greatest potential.

We will also bring forward proposals to allow the completion of our Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites project. The completion of this will mean that for our area we will have assessed in terms of condition and vulnerability all the sites and monuments of Roman or earlier period that could be examined within the threat-led assessment grant-aid project constraints.

Given the success of our work at Church Hill we will be seeking to carry out some further investigative work here or at a similar site where such examination can be undertaken in partnership with the community and may also benefit some of the intentions behind the Prehistoric and Roman settlements project.

Cadw – WATS Existing Agreed Programme Outstanding Areas

In our 2006 Half-year Review (pp 32-38) we took stock of our overall progress against the *Statement by Cadw on Grant-aid for future threat-led assessments* (July 2004) and reported on an examination of the developing Historic Environment Record for monument classes that may be under-protected.

Correlation of all the data received from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts at that time identified certain monument types under-represented in the schedule, of those in our area still to be addressed Medieval monastic precinct and granges, chapels, DMVs/SMVs, hermitages, and some other minor classes of medieval monument still need to be assessed. We note that study of many of these areas would address knowledge gaps identified in the Research Agenda for Wales at both national and regional level.

With reference to the 2004 Statement certain other areas remain to be addressed, these include:

Regional Industrial Projects – a topic identified back in 1999 and for which in our area the work on the Ironworks of the Northern Coalfield Rim perhaps provides an exemplar of what can be attained, scoping studies for other industries should be progressed.

Recording Threatened SAMs – we have previously identified the promontory forts on the South Wales littoral as a case in point, climate change concerns perhaps raise the need to introduce a structured program of monitoring of coastal/shoreline and river-basin area change perhaps partnered with other agencies

Urban Archaeology – we have tried to take this forward and, following direction, addressed issues at Monmouth with mixed success, as the partnership with the local authority could not be sustained. Other partners have not yet been found. As we have observed previously and as can be drawn out from the *Review of the Historic Environment* undertaken in 2003 there has been a lack of emphasis in clarifying the distinctiveness of different communities within larger urban environments. Such work could be a positive force informing sensitive regeneration and providing cohesive strand in sustaining communities. We see that if appropriate partnerships can be formed that this should be an area of major involvement in the future. However, it is likely that unless the joint funding prescription is removed or Cadw are more overt in encouraging such partnerships that Wales will continue to be many years behind England in this area of work with concomitant impacts for the protection of the Historic Environment.

APPENDIX 1 – REVIEW OF DELIVERY OF WAG OBJECTIVES

In our project proposals for 2007—2008 we set out how these would amongst other things address certain Welsh Assembly Government objectives and in doing so benefit the populace of Southeast Wales. Following completion of the works we now review the success of the projects in addressing these issues.

The programme has allowed skilled graduate professional Historic Environment staff to be retained in Southeast Wales. The work carried out by these staff generates other archaeological and related employment whether by the Trust or other organisations. Thus for example advice given by the archaeological planning management service (3 full-time staff) requiring applicants to provide additional information on the archaeological resource has meant that archaeological contractors have been commissioned by the applicants. Likewise conditions attached to planning consents requiring archaeological work to be undertaken during the development also required archaeologists to be engaged. It is difficult to calculate how many full and part time jobs were created or sustained by the planning process: However, given the long term excavation work carried out at the Upper Bank Copperworks site in Swansea, the Princess Way Development also in Swansea and the Ffos-y-Fran opencast along with the number of other investigations, including evaluations, assessments and watching briefs, carried out by archaeological organisations, both large and small, across the region it is estimated that the equivalent of 40 full time jobs were generated by these requirements (another 3 full time posts). Graduates, sometimes with further degrees or additional professional qualifications, hold the majority of these jobs.

Recording impacts of some of our works has not been easy. An attempt was made to obtain feedback through questionnaires at these events. However, resistance by the public to filling in forms meant that insufficient data could be collected to be statistically significant. In particular, we have found so much difficulty in persuading the public to fill in standard questionnaires on customer satisfaction that we cannot produce statistically significant data. In future we will try to obtain feedback through a simple questionnaire designed to test popularity of activities against age range, and enjoyment of the event as a whole and encourage returns through rewards.

However for planning works this is clearer, thus in 2007—2008 there were 118 cases where additional information on the archaeological resource was required by the LPA, 453 planning consents issued with conditions requiring archaeological work to be undertaken during the development and 294 reports on archaeological work undertaken in the region were registered by the Historic Environment Record. Detailed advice on the impact of proposed development on the archaeological resource was given on 1811 applications.

Local government take-up of heritage and outreach services remains patchy. Whilst for archaeological planning management work relationships with the Unitary Authorities are well-established in other areas of historic environment work we have strong partnerships with some, particular Swansea and Caerphilly, where we have found the authorities' enthusiasm for our services grows the more they use them, but for others there is much groundwork still to do. On this basis, greater resources into this area of the Trust's work would pay dividends in terms of extending partnerships.

In promoting a Sustainable Environment the Trust has contributed to consultation on the Marine Bill, drawing attention to the place of the historic environment in any marine sustainability plans. We have also contributed to the BBNP Draft Management Plan. The Trust continues to provide heritage management information through the Tir Gofal scheme, which promotes the conservation of the historic environment. Similarly the initial screening of Better Woodlands for Wales

applications allows for the identification of those where heritage management information is required. Whilst links with the Forestry Commission are well-established and facilities are in place to enable follow-up field work to verify where necessary desk-top assembled data, for the Tir Gofal work the transfer of responsibility from the Countryside Council for Wales to the Rural Payments Division has seen a cessation in this work and a concomitant reduction in the protection of the rural Historic Environment

The Archaeological Planning Service has been assisting ten LPAs in the Region with the development of their Local Development Plans ensuring that the historic environment is fully considered in the preparation of the LDPs and that an appropriate Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out. The results of this work will not be fully recognised until the LDPs have been adopted but we attended 22 meetings and prepared detailed comments on 10 documents relating to Local Development Plans.

In promoting a rich and diverse culture the Trust has started to contribute to raising awareness of the wealth of historic landscapes and churches in our area through the preparation of a new exhibitions the first has already been set up at several locations and the other is designed to help promote the Open Doors initiative in 2008—2009. Copies of the exhibitions can be seen on the Trust website.

We have updated and expanded web pages relating to Historic Landscape work on the website and this has been coupled with the preparation, printing and distribution of promotional leaflets. The Historic Landscapes Pages continue to be some of the most visited. The Trust has contributed to raising awareness of the landscape history by the new exhibition on Registered Historic Landscapes and LANDMAP, which was on display at our outreach events this year, and later used by Bridgend CBC at its council offices and Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

A number of the outreach activities in which the Trust has been involved are of particular interest to tourists. The programme of walks carried out as part of the Gower Walking Festival and National Archaeology Week included participants on holiday from elsewhere in Britain and Europe.

Whilst it is too early to comment on how the Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscape Project has achieved WAG Objectives in detail, it is intended that this project will enhance the quantitative and qualitative data which should underpin specific WAG Commitments, specifically the Spatial Plan, Cultural Tourism Strategy and Environmental Strategy, and relative to the One Wales Agenda (June 2007), namely the areas of 'Learning for Life A Fair and Just Society', and 'Sustainable Environment.' In addition to enhancing available data, recommendations from the Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscape Project and historic landscape characterisation will help devise measures to maintain and enhance the quality and diversity of historic landscape, and manage impact to maintain the unique and diverse character of historic and cultural features, including historic buildings, in Wales to a high standard. More particularly, the Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscape project has been reshaped to link specifically with the Heads of the Valleys Initiative Area, and it is hoped that data from this project will be incorporated into future strategic planning.

APPENDIX 2 – PLANNING STATISTICS 2007—2008

LPA	Apps	Mapped	No of IPE	No Reply	DARi	DAR Disc	DAR Disc+	LB Disc	WB	ASS	EVA	Sec 23	Record	Objection	Other	No Response	Determined	LPA
BLG	633	152	34	5	0	11	15	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	BLG
BRI	1581	235	71	4	0	9	27	0	7	1	2	5	0	0	2	0	14	BRI
CAE	1438	265	73	2	0	11	43	0	2	1	6	3	4	0	1	0	0	CAE
CAR	3140	441	157	9	6	14	64	7	18	4	3	20	5	0	6	0	1	CAR
MON	1530	558	451	3	26	26	182	35	61	1	30	46	23	1	8	0	9	MON
MTY	624	182	90	10	2	9	41	1	1	3	0	12	4	1	6	0	0	MTY
NEW	1701	398	307	0	15	15	136	10	38	2	13	29	6	1	43	0	0	NEW
NPT	1759	329	107	24	1	7	32	5	5	5	4	11	3	2	7	0	1	NPT
RCT	2218	449	114	4	0	28	51	1	6	3	1	6	12	1	1	0	0	RCT
SWA	2621	561	177	4	0	24	83	1	23	2	7	13	15	2	2	0	0	SWA
TOR	729	107	82	2	0	9	53	2	3	5	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	TOR
VOG	1654	361	205	17	3	14	62	3	32	4	20	18	5	3	7	0	18	VOG
BBNP	623	71	27	0	0	1	14	0	1	0	1	3	6	0	1	0	0	BBNP
TOTAL	20251	4109	1895	84	53	178	803	65	197	31	87	166	90	11	86	0	45	TOTAL

BLG =Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

BRI = Bridgend County Borough Council

CAE = Caerphilly County Borough Council

CAR = Cardiff County Council

MON = Monmouthshire County Council

MTY = Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

NEW = Newport City Council

NPT = Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

RCT = Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

SWA = City and County of Swansea

TOR = Torfaen County Borough Council

VOG= Vale of Glamorgan Council

BBNP= Brecon Beacons National Park

Applications = Number of planning applications submitted to LPA

Mapped = Number of planning applications checked against SMR

No Reply = Number of applications requested by GGAT but not received

DARi = Number of applications received which had no archaeological impact

DAR Disc = Number of applications received where it was determined that there was unlikely to be an archaeological impact

DAR Disc + = Number of applications received where it was determined that there was minimal archaeological impact

LB Disc = Number of applications received which affected listed buildings but were perceived not to have an archaeological impact

WB = Number of applications received which were determined to require the imposition of a watching brief condition

ASS = Number of applications received which required further information in the form of a desk-top assessment prior to determination

EVA = Number of applications received which required further information in the form of an evaluation prior to determination

Sec 23 = Applications where the archaeological resource can be protected by the imposition of conditions requiring archaeological work

Record = Applications where it was determined that condition requiring the developer to record the standing structure should be imposed

Objection = Applications where the development would cause damage to the archaeological resource and GGAT object

Other = Number of applications received where GGAT's response could not be classified.

No Response = Number of applications received which GGAT failed to respond during consultation period

Determined = Applications determined by LPA before being sent to GGAT