

# THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



Vulcan Brewery, Merthyr Tydfil: Brecon Road Façade: Buildings A, B, C and J

## HALF-YEARLY REVIEW 2009 & ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS 2008-2009



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# REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2008 — MARCH 2009

## GGAT 1 Heritage Management

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

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

Through the detailed information contained in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), the Trust assisted Cadw in many areas of its own statutory functions including the scheduling enhancement programme. Of particular importance this year has been work on scheduling monuments related to the Second World War, where Trust staff have provided a number of recommendations and accompanied Cadw's Assistant Inspector on site visits.

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

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year 241 enquiries were made as compared with 266 for the previous year, and there were 46 visits to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the HER. These figures are very slightly down on last year, but broadly in line with figures for recent years; it should be noted, however, that in spite of the economic downturn, the numbers of commercial consultations were up. 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 centre for archaeological resources and information. Whilst it is invariably a time-consuming activity, the forward benefits from what is often the first point of contact can be very significant.

<b>Year</b>	<b>*Total consultations</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Total visits to Trust</b>
2004-2005	262	96	166	67
2005-2006	349	103	246	74
2006-2007	273	97	176	38
2007-2008	266	110	156	68
2008-2009	241	144	97	46

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

### ***Advice on Scheduled Monument Consent Applications***

The Trust as a recognised consultee, received 20 consultations, of which only four required responses: the remainder were notifications of Welsh Assembly Government's decisions on applications.

### ***Site visits/meetings by curatorial staff***

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 Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to life-long learning and inclusivity, and the Trust's declared object of educating the public in archaeology.

A significant theme in site visits was the investigation of structures reported as eroding out of the foreshore. Over the course of the year, Trust staff visited fish traps in Swansea Bay south of County Hall, a trackway at Brynmill, and a row of stakes and the submerged forest at Port Eynon. The assessment of the Brynmill track way resulted in a small Cadw-funded emergency recording programme (GGAT 94 reported later in this review). Other sites visited

to assess and make management recommendations included a newly discovered coal-mine adit at Dunvant, a possible stone structure on Harding's Down, ruins of buildings at Widegate (PI 1), which map regression work suggests may have been ruinous by the mid-nineteenth century, and the foundations of a building at Llanmadoc,



*PI 1 Early Post-medieval buildings, Widegate, Gower*

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

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

Historic landscape issues are often considered in detail as part of the land-use planning processes. Information was also provided about the Rhondda Historic Landscape to the BBC in connection with a series on development of Britain, and information on Blaenau Gwent Landmap was sent to a local organisation proposing a community project in Brynmawr.

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

Local Authority bodies made a total of seventeen HER queries this year. Take-up on advice outside the planning process remains patchy, with some local authorities being much more willing to avail themselves of the service offered by the Trust than others. During the course of the year, we provided information on the archaeology of their commons to Caerphilly and Swansea, and on the Ely Valley to Cardiff City Council and Clyne Valley to Swansea.

Information and photographs were also provided to Caerphilly CBC for a new exhibition at the Winding House Museum, Elliotstown. Discussions were held with Swansea City Council in respect of replacement interpretation boards and the deterioration and condition of the wall surrounding the Salthouse at Port Eynon. Trust staff also attended meetings concerning the revised version of the Swansea Environment Strategy Action Plan for 2008—2010, for which we also provided written comments. The Trust also worked with Swansea City Council and Torfaen County Borough Council on the preparation of HLF landscape bids.

For information on the Trust's input into local structure plans, see GGAT 43 report.

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

See below GGAT 43.

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

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. The Trust screened a total of 60 applications, of which 32 did not need further assessment (WHE1). Applications for felling licences are still being received (6 during the year), as are forest plans (one 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"***

See GGAT 67 below.

***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 HER enquiry procedures

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

See GGAT 43

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

The Trust continued to maintain good contact with the Countryside Council for Wales over a wide variety of issues and projects. The Trust also maintained close relations with other organisations and individuals that have responsibility and interests in national and local historic environment issues. Trust staff attended a workshop to inform the development of the Severn River Basin District Plan.

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

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

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

The Trust's Heritage and Outreach Manager provides historic environment information for the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the diocese of Swansea and Brecon attending six general meetings a year. This year she was also involved in a site meeting to discuss proposed works at Port Eynon church. Acting in this role and also as a member of the National Committee for Recording and Protection of Early Medieval Inscribed stones and Stone Sculpture, she continued to work with Llangyfelach church on devising plans for the conservation and redisplay of the Early-medieval carved stones there. She also acts as secretary to the Caerleon Research Committee, attending two meetings a year and acting as first port of call to general enquiries by phone and email about Caerleon.

***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](http://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

was added to the website, including summaries of the landscape characterisation of the Lower Wye Valley and Llancarfan, for which leaflets were also produced.

An exhibition was produced based on the Historic Churches project, and has proved immensely successful: the panels dealing with the Diocese of Monmouth have been out continuously since they were completed, touring churches in Gwent. The Swansea and Brecon panels were displayed for many months at St Mary's Swansea, where the rector reports that some people visited the church specially to see them.

Another exhibition on the Waterfront project was written and designed by an American student on placement, under the supervision of Trust staff. The Trust's other outreach activities are considered below.

### ***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.

<b>From</b>	<b>Document title</b>
DEFRA	Marine Bill White Paper
Environment Agency	Flood Risk Management consultations for four catchment areas
HEG	Towards a Historic Environment Strategic Statement for Wales
Strategic Framework	Standards for Welsh Archives
WAG	Draft Heritage Bill
WAG	Sustaining the Land

### ***Dealing with consultations connected with the Countryside Rights of Way Act***

No consultations took place under this head during the year.

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

Two consultations took place under this head 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, as well as commenting on the draft of the Marine White Paper. The Trust is also a member of the Severn Tidal Power stakeholder group.

### ***General outreach/education***

As part of our outreach commitment, and in partnership with Cadw, the Trust continued to prepare displays and leaflets, made new contacts, gave lectures and received students and school placements into our offices. In particular, we produced leaflets on the Trust's landscape characterisation projects for the Lower Wye Valley and Llancarfan.

The Trust responded to a number of approaches were made by the media for information. The BBC was provided with information on Merthyr Mawr Warren, and the Rhondda Historic Landscape, to the BBC, and on Cwmyoy church was provided to Fulmar West, all in connection with forthcoming programmes. Information was also provided to researchers from *Time Team* in connection with a proposed programme based on Caerwent. Trust staff provided expert comment and additional information to *British Archaeology* on the guide to sites and monuments in Glamorgan, which is to appear in the forthcoming issue. Information on the Cardiff Castle excavations was provided to the Cardiff-based magazine *Action Network*.

Talks and lectures were given to Bexley Archaeological Group, Cowbridge and District Historical Society, Cymmer Afan and District Local History Society, Cardiff Naturalists, the Llŵchwr Society, Llynfi Valley Historical Society, South Wales Industrial Society (twice), Treboeth History Society and Treboeth Ladies' Guild. Two workshops on Roman cookery

were held, for Glyngaer Primary School and the Gelligaer Young Archaeologists, and a sketching workshop at Pennard Castle, coupled with a guided walk for National Archaeology week. Six other guided walks were given, one also for National Archaeology Week and four as part of the Gower Walking Festival in June. All were well attended.



*PI 2 Stand and outdoor activities at the National Eisteddfod, Cardiff 2008*

Our partnership with heritage groups and organisations in Swansea continued to bear fruit. The Trust provided exhibitions for 14 venues in total. Eight of these were at events that Trust staff attended in person, covering such a diverse range of activities as the St John's Day Fayre in Aberdare, St Illtyd's Day at Llanhilleth, two events organised by the Glamorgan History Society, the Autumn History Conference at Llancaiach Fawr, the Roman Fort Day at Gelligaer, and an event to celebrate Barry between the Two World Wars, for which an exhibition on the archaeology of WWII was produced. Our major new exhibition this year was on Historic Churches: as reported above, the Monmouth and Swansea & Brecon panels have been out virtually the whole time since they were finished, and although there were initial problems in Llandaff due to the departure of our contact in the diocese, these panels did have some public appearances. Unmanned exhibitions were provided for Atlantic College (boats and ships), the Trust's excavations at Aberdulais Falls (a presentation on the tinsplate works there and the work of the Trust), and the Swansea Local History Book Fair.

Again in association with Swansea Museum, the Trust organised an Open Day at the museum as part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Week and again this 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, cave painting and a mock excavation for children, a Roman cookery demonstration and a finds road show. Talks on subjects of local interest were given. A wide range of local history and heritage societies and other organisations also had stalls, including Swansea Metal Detecting Club, the Oystermouth Historical Association, Friends of Oystermouth Castle, the Neath-Tennant Canals Trust, Gower AONB, West Glamorgan Family History Group, Treboeth History Society, and the West Glamorgan Archive Service. Meibion y Ddraig a living history group, again provided an insight into the lives of 14th century archers and their families.



Plate 3 'Training the next generation' GGAT Open Day 2008

Also as part of National Archaeology Week, a successful evening walk took place in association with the Mumbles Historical Association and the Mumbles Development Trust on the WWII forts, flora and fauna of Mumbles Hill. A sketching party was held at Pennard castle, in association with Swansea City Council.

Trust staff attended the Eisteddfod, where we shared our stand with Cardiff Archaeological Society. The new exhibition on waterfronts was a feature of the displays provided. For the first time staff recorded daily experiences on a weblog.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the Usk Agricultural Show where the Trust had booked a stand was cancelled because of flooding.

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 that should result in a better understanding of historic environment issues and positive management benefits. The Trust also sits on the technical support group for the Wye Valley AONB's HLF-funded 'Overlooking the Wye' project and Torfaen CBC's HLF-funded 'Forgotten Landscapes' project centred on the World Heritage Site at Blaenafon.

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, Aberdare and heritage group in Aberdare and Cwmbran preparing an HLF bid to examine the so-called St Elvan's Chapel in Aberdare and a series of stone features in woodland in Cwmbran.

### **Regional Heritage Forum**

A major part of this Trust's outreach commitment and programme is the organisation on an annual basis of a regional Heritage Forum with the twelve regional Unitary Authorities at the Metropole Conference Centre, Abertillery. The meeting was well attended with business matters followed by a presentation on the historic environment programmes being carried out in Blaenau Gwent in partnership with other EU countries.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ggatblog.blogspot.com/2008/08/national-eisteddfod-of-wales-2008-diary.html>



### ***Community Archaeologist post***

With Cadw support, the Trust carried out a fact-finding exercise to determine the level of demand there is likely to be for community archaeology projects within our area. This was followed by the preparation of a bid to HLF for a small community project involving work at Penrhiwceibwr (Rhondda Cynon Taff) and New Tredegar (Caerphilly) based around audits of the local historic environment asset. We are pleased to report that the bid was successful for funding to run the project in 2009—2010.

### **GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services and GGAT 92 Local Development Plan Support**

#### ***Planning Statistics 2008—2009 (see Appendix 2)***

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 (APMS) provided further detailed services, such as the provision of archaeological briefs for pre-determination assessments, approving detailed specifications submitted by developers and monitoring the work from inception and fieldwork to the production of the final report.

The 2008—2009 detailed statistics of the responses to planning applications made by the APMS, 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 (2) to this review.

The number of applications registered by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Southeast Wales in the period saw a significant decrease (16.5%) due to the economic downturn with the number falling from 20,251 in 2007—2008 to 16,898 in 2008-2009.

This resulted in a decrease in the number of applications where the section provided detailed advice (1811 in 2007—2008 to 1530 in 2008—2009) a decrease of 15.4% from the preceding year. Our detailed responses to the planning applications included 4 objections to applications on the grounds that the proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the archaeological resource (9 the previous year); recommending that in 68 cases 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 (118 the previous year) and in 444 cases that conditions requiring archaeological work to be undertaken should be attached to the planning consent (453 the previous year). These conditions can be divided into three types, those requiring programmes of archaeological investigation (such as excavations, intensive watching briefs) of which there were 137 (166); those requiring an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during the development 193 (197) and those requiring buildings and structures to be recorded 114 (90). The section has also been involved in nineteen planning appeals providing information and written advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the Welsh Assembly Government.

In 2003 the Trust made representation to Cadw and the Unitary Authorities in Southeast Wales in regard to the pressure on the archaeological planning management service (the then development control service) as a consequence of the sharp rise in planning applications which in the previous full accounted year had passed 16,000 for the first time (16,619) and was continuing to rise (17,197 in the year ending 31 March 2002). As a consequence it was agreed that additional resources should be made available through the national and local government funding partnership that would allow an additional post to be supported in order to ameliorate the pressure. Application levels have yet to fall to the degree when that need was caused, and the disproportionate allocation of the national resource available for such work, which had existed for many years, remains, even if somewhat less adverse than it had been.

The success of the additional funding can be seen both in the improvement of the professional delivery of the service and a significant increase in activity. Thus when levels

were last comparable interventions (watching-brief, assessment, evaluation, section 23, record) in 2000—2001 were recorded in total at 365, in 2008—2009 this same data set was in total 512 a 40.27% increase. Arguments in respect of efficiency improvements have value but need to be seen in the context that were the grant in 2000—2001 at £75,709 (ie before the additional 10K uplift in 2004—2005) to have kept pace with inflation it should now have stood at £96,908<sup>2</sup> whereas it currently stands at £90,669. This is a 29.43% deficit when including the uplift but if that, as it correctly should be, is discounted the underlying shortfall in real terms is 76.84% on inflation matching expectation.

In summary terms had the service been only adequately supported there would have been an admirable increase in performance, that this has been achieved against a background of increasing demand and eroding resources is remarkable. There is, however, no scope for further efficiency savings, and any further erosion is likely to lead to the introduction of unmanageable risks into the protection and recording of the historic environment in our area.

### ***Web-based Planning***

Last year we reported on the introduction of web-based planning systems by the LPAs of Bridgend, Brecon Beacons and Monmouthshire, which allowed details to be downloaded directly by the Officer dealing with the application, and produced a report on the issues raised by this innovation (see report on GGAT 90 in last years Half-yearly Review for more details). This year the City & County of Swansea and the Vale of Glamorgan also started to provide information on planning applications on-line. These changes to the way we receive information has allowed us to provide a quicker more efficient service for those LPAs who have invested in the new technology, and we look forward to more LPAs going “on-line in the next financial year.

### ***Major development impacts***

Although the number of planning applications has reduced this year a number of large-scale and complex development projects continued to be 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 completion of the large excavations carried out during the construction of a residential development on the site of the Upper Bank Copperworks in Swansea, and the large scale works undertaken at Ffos-y-Fran near Merthyr Tydfil. The Section also monitored the on-going fieldwork required for the Church Village By-Pass and assisted in drawing up a programme of works including geophysical survey and trial evaluation prior to the submission of a planning application for the new military academy proposed for the site of MOD St. Athan.

### ***Utilities***

The Trust 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) and following our advice, archaeological monitoring of these linear developments led to a number of historic environment interests being recorded.

### ***Local Development Plans***

We have noted in the last two reports the introduction of a new form of strategic planning in Wales, Local Development Plans (LDPs), which will succeed the Unitary Development Plans (UDP) system. The Trust has provided substantial input in the development of these new plans providing advice on the impact of development of the archaeological resource in regard to land proposed for allocation in the plans. In many cases this will require advice to be given on over 250 proposed land allocations for each plan. Local Development Plans are also subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Trust responds on historic environment issues in such respects.

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<sup>2</sup> Calculated using <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/historic-inflation-calculator>.

## **GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Lower Wye Historic Landscape & Llancarfan Website Work**

The following tasks were completed after final editing of the characterisation reports for Llancarfan and the Lower Wye Valley:

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

## **GGAT 67 Tir Gofal**

The Trust continued to deliver works in connection with the Tir Gofal scheme. Twenty-seven HE1s were completed.

Twenty-eight five-year (break clause) reviews were also undertaken, of which two included additional lands.

## **GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks landscapes (Year Five)**

During year five the information gathered from the Heads of the Valleys area-wide mapping exercise based on the first edition 25-inch OS map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping) carried out during the previous two years was refined and confirmed through further map work and field survey. Pilot work undertaken by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust at Ffos-y-Fran, Merthyr Tydfil and by Archaeological Investigations Ltd at Rhyd-y-Car, Merthyr Tydfil provided a useful methodological framework. The Year Five study was restricted to one of the valley group landscapes identified during Year Four: The upper Sirhowy, Ebbw Fach and Ebbw valleys and the watershed to the north of the Sirhowy Valley around Trefil, covering a series of closely spaced Ironworks from Nantyglo to Sirhowy and their connected landscapes.

The study took the form of more detailed targeted map analysis and regression utilising the first edition 25-inch OS map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping), and other available mapping, ie estate, industrial and Tithe maps, in conjunction with consultation of further detailed aerial photographic material (see Bibliography, below). The digital mapping (polygon and point data) was revised with the level of detail increased (using MapInfo 9). The project also involved interrogation of the computerised regional Heritage Environment Record (HER), relevant data and information held by the RCAHMW (NMR records and the on-line Coflein resource) were also accessed as was up-to-date information on scheduled and listed building held by Cadw, supplemented by other readily available primary and secondary data, including documentary and cartographic sources held at the National Library of Wales (NLW), and Local Record Offices. The searches of the NMR, provided further details on sites identified from 'Coflein' and the Endex material and aerial photographic sources, of particular note was the recent upland survey carried out by John Winterburn Archaeological Services in 2005 (*Uplands Initiative 2005. Mynydd Llangatwg*), and the corresponding *Uplands Initiative Mynydd Llangatwg Database January 13<sup>th</sup> 2006 JWAS-007/05*. More general works and articles and other readily available sources was also consulted (see Bibliography, below).

An element of targeted fieldwork also formed part of the project during the current year; the areas, considered to have the highest potential on the basis of the mapping study undertaken during Year four of the project, were further assessed and specific field visit areas were selected. The field visits allowed the extent, condition and significance of the resource to be further assessed, and allowed the preparation of area and site-specific conservation and management recommendations and scheduling proposals. A proforma was devised and used for field recording, and the resultant field records transferred later to a database (MSAccess 2000) compatible with the regional HER.

The fieldwork allowed the condition of surviving extractive areas/water management systems visited and the remains within to be noted and their significance to be rapidly assessed. The following condition ratings were devised and used:

**A** – Intact: well-preserved extraction area/water management system with abundant associated features visible on the surface.

**B** – Moderately Intact: good condition, occasionally with associated features visible and high potential for buried remains.

**C** – Damaged: surface features survive in disturbed condition, some potential for buried remains.

**D** – Substantially Damaged: features survive in a heavily disturbed condition with form and function no longer obvious/feature found to be largely destroyed.

**E** – Altered: visible remains of feature substantially altered (e.g. sites where substantial renewal or modernisation has occurred)

**U** – Unknown: unknown surviving potential (e.g. sites inaccessible for survey, i.e. those on private land, hidden by vegetation, or buried).

The overall archaeological significance or potential of the resource was arrived at through considering the following factors, where information was readily available:

- **Rarity** – in terms of period, type, etc
- **Representativeness** – representative range of elements
- **Survival** – percentage survival (areas and systems only)
- **Condition** – overall condition of surviving elements
- **Group Value** – structural/functional coherence of surviving features, but also wider ironwork group value
- **Coherence** – retention of historic meaning and significance
- **Integrity** – survival of original character or form
- **Potential** – potential for future study or analysis
- **Amenity** – potential for development for public educational recreational amenity
- **Association** – to events, figures, technological advancement, or availability of documentary evidence
- **Status** – statutory protection

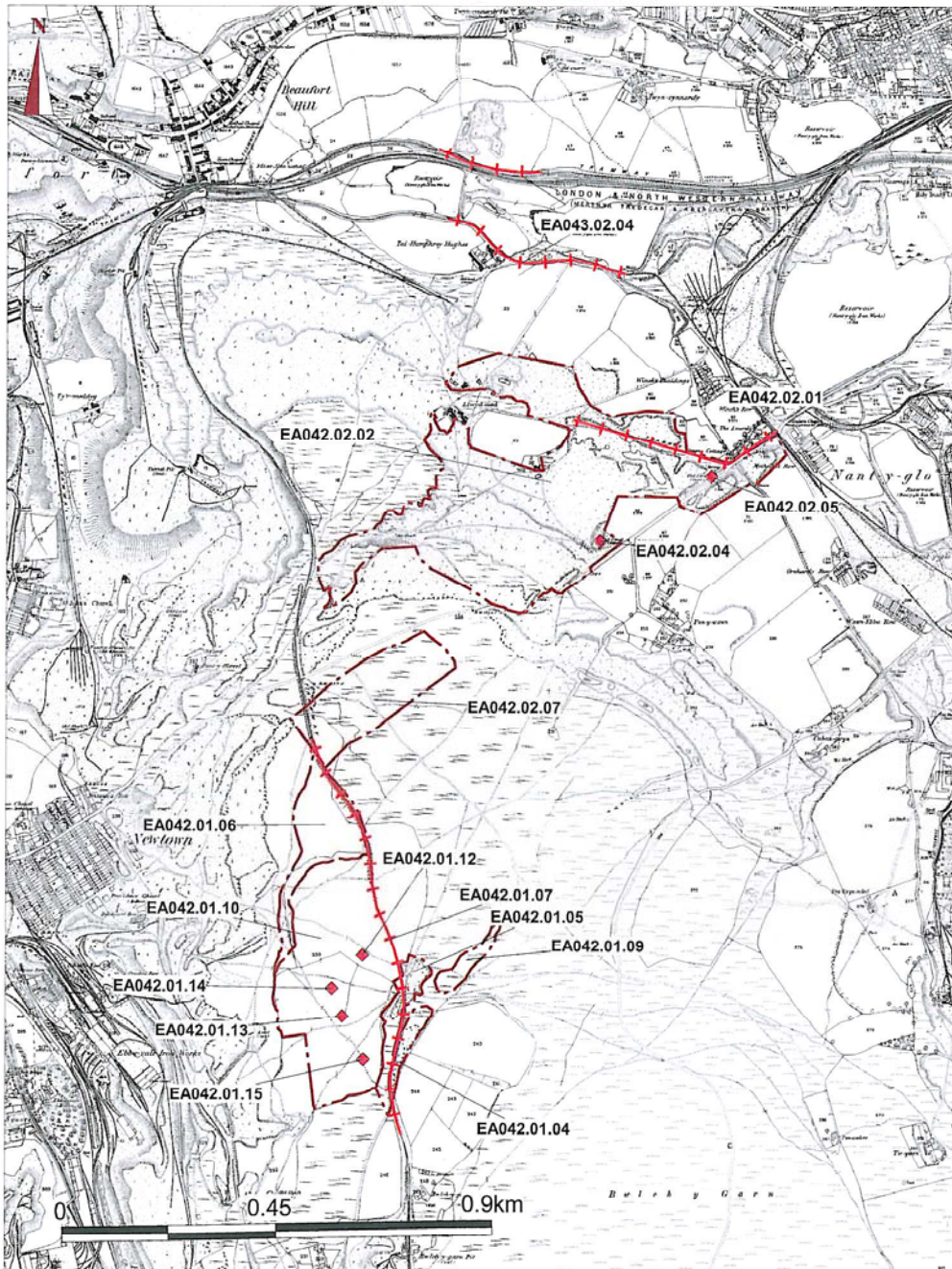
Given the nature of both extractive and water management features, where direct association is frequently difficult to establish, group value and integrity were frequently the overriding factors used in determining archaeological significance.

The archaeological significance arrived at was allocated one of the following values:

- A – National Significance (A? – Potential National Significance)
- B – Regional Significance
- C – Local Significance
- D – Minor Significance
- U – Unknown/Unestablished

The results of this investigation indicate that the most significant survival of extraction features and areas were to be found within the extractive landscapes of Bryn-mawr north (EA042.09), the extractive landscape area above Ebbw Vale Iron Works (EA042.01), and Twyn Blaenant (EA042.05), with additional discrete areas of features of significance within the Nantmelyn area (EA042.06), and at Domen-fawr (EA071), though the surviving features within latter (EA071) was largely relate to later extractive activity. In addition to the impressive rare Waun-y-pound and Rhyd-y-blew reservoirs, significant water management features directly relating to extraction and ironstone processing (scouring and hushing) were also recorded, such as the important surviving 'system' of hushing/scouring leats and reservoirs at Bryn-mawr north.

Areas - EA042.01.04, EA042.01.05, EA042.01.06, EA042.01.09, EA042.01.10, EA042.02.02, EA042.02.07  
 Extractive tramroads - EA042.01.07, EA042.02.01, EA043.02.04  
 Point features - EA042.01.12, EA042.01.13, EA042.01.14, EA042.01.15, EA042.02.04, EA042.02.05



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 Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd. Ar ran Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru 2009.

Fig 1 Features linear area and spot features recorded during survey of the extractive landscape to the east of Ebbw Vale

The extraction sub-areas, extraction features, and water management features were assessed for condition and archaeological significance, and recommendations made. The details of the condition of the 87 extraction areas and individually recorded features or groups of features visited were assessed with 19 extractive areas and sites being intact and well-preserved (ie condition A) with a further 25 considered to be of condition A/B, a single area

recorded at A-U (due to limitations of access), and 20 recorded as being in good condition (ie condition value B) with a further 5 at B/C, 2 at B/D, and one at B/U. The remainder of the visited interests, apart from two of unknown surviving potential, was assessed as being in a damaged, substantially damaged or altered state.

Of the 78 water management features visited and assessed during Year 5, two were assessed as being intact and well-preserved (condition A), with a further 31 assessed at A/B, and 16 assessed as being moderately intact and in good condition (condition value B), with a further seven at B/C, five at B/E and two at B/U. The remainder of the visited water management features, apart from one of unknown surviving potential, was assessed as being in a damaged, substantially damaged or altered state.

The report made recommendations varying from further detailed archaeological record/topographic survey to conservation/management and recommendations relating to the possibilities of public presentation and potential candidates for community projects were proposed.

### **GGAT 89 Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites**

This project is designed to 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 Unitary Authorities include most of the uplands, and the sites studied this year area had a relatively high proportion of surviving stone structures, as was initially anticipated.

The dataset compiled last year for the initial assessment phase of this project contained 133 sites in these eight UA areas. Eighteen sites were recorded on the HER 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 were obtained for plotting. In total, 278 photographs were viewed. Seventy sites in all were identified as having potential for field visits. Site visits were carried out from the beginning of September 2008 until the end of January 2009.

The sites were located using a GPS handheld device, enabling the NGR for each monument to be corrected if necessary, and where possible as a reliable GPS reading could not always be obtained. Where sites were not found at the given NGR, the surrounding area was searched. In case of discrepancy between the height Ordnance Datum (OD) given by the GPS reader, and the height listed in the NGR database, the latter was considered more reliable, and was therefore preferentially retained.

Each site was recorded using a pro-forma, noting present description, measurements, position, aspect and prospect, and present land use. The survival, amenity value, condition, fragility and vulnerability were assessed on a separate pro-forma. The record forms closely followed the pro-forma developed for the Ritual and Funerary Monuments project (GGAT 72). Horizontal measurements were taken using a measuring tape, and the surviving height over the surrounding ground was assessed using a photographic scale. Photographs were taken using black-and-white print and digital images. A sketch was made for unscheduled monuments where the monument contained distinguishing features and a RCAHMW survey did not already exist. New sites noted during the course of the field visit were recorded using the same methodology.

Some of the sites visited were very well preserved and potentially of national importance. In most instances, the sites are located in a stable environment and are not under threat of being further eroded or destroyed in the foreseeable future. A majority of them are situated on open access land that is used as pasture. As a general rule, upland sites are still upstanding stone built structures, and they in a better state of preservation than sites that are lying on lower grounds. This bias originates in the contrasted land-use, with lowland grounds being more likely to have undergone centuries of ploughing. A few upland sites lie on karst geology, and are vulnerable to collapsing into sinkholes. The fieldwork was carried out under varied weather conditions, which occasionally had a negative impact on the recording quality.

A handful of new sites were identified during site visits, although not all of them fell within the remit of the project. Two new sites were added to the list of Later Prehistoric Undefended Settlements and Roman Rural Settlements, and the HER database has been updated accordingly. These sites consist of two platform houses that were identified within the Glais Brook enclosure complex. There is considerable overlap between the different monument types and many groups are made of a combination of two or more types. An aggravating factor that affected the recording work came from the complexity and extent of a number of settlement sites that were grouped under a single PRN. In the end, we updated/entered into the HER database seven *settlement* sites, twenty-one *enclosure* sites, fourteen *hut circles* sites, four *platform* sites, three *wall* sites, two *field system* sites, two *field boundary* sites, four *bank* sites, and two sites have been classified as *earthworks*, as it was impossible to refine their typology further. It was not possible to visit one *enclosure* site, as we were unable to obtain access. Two others could not be found. One *wall* site could not be located during the site visit. Medieval and Post-medieval *platform* sites were surveyed during an earlier Cadw-funded project (the Deserted Settlement Survey), leaving the prehistoric and Roman sites to be dealt with in the present survey.

### GGAT 91 Aberdare Urban Survey.

The project, an urban characterisation exercise on Aberdare, was carried out to inform a Townscape Heritage Initiative bid. 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 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.

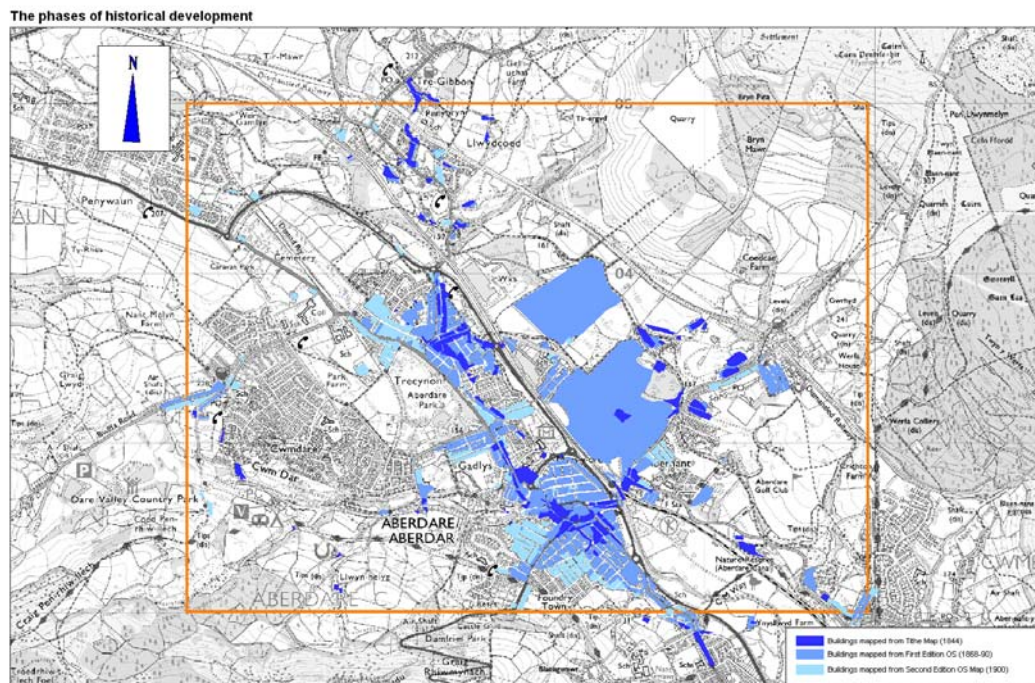


Fig 2 Aberdare Urban Characterisation: Development phases drawn out from map regression study

This project encompassed Aberdare and its satellite settlements of Trecynon, Robertstown, Cwmdare and Abernant, which 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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-19<sup>th</sup> century, enabled by the sinking of new and deeper pits, fostered continued urban expansion.

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 project work carried out by GGAT provided input in the form of Archaeological and Topographical Analysis and Creation GIS data for the study area, amounting to:

- GIS data mapping: the GIS data was plotted in MAPInfo layers as point data and where there was 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, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS mapping) in MapInfo Layers as point and polygon data.
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS)
- The identification of archaeological potential (data-gathering and synthesis).
- The production of a summary report.

### **GGAT 93 Church Hill Enclosure and Roman site Survey and Excavation**

The Church Hill excavation and survey was 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, and there was some additional assistance from 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 modern 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.



*Pl 4 Church Hill, Gower: Excavation (Horizontal Scale 1m) Trench 1 with Roman wall in foreground*

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. 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 Roman-period occupation continued in and around a later prehistoric enclosure.

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.

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.



PI 5 Church Hill, Gower: Finds Recording

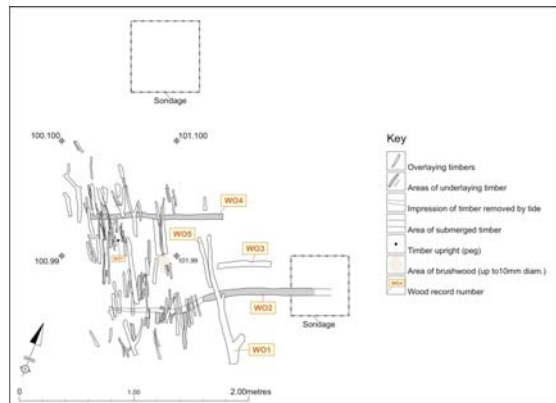
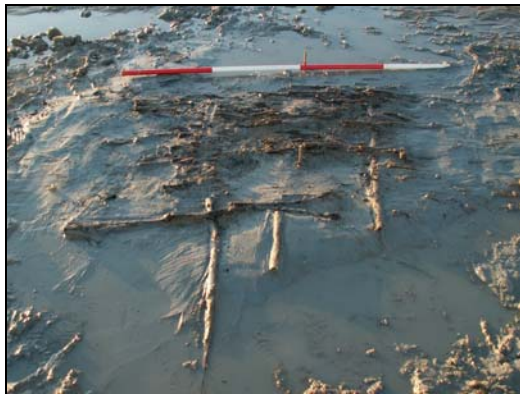
All datable finds that were recovered from all trenches were Roman. The initial assessment of the pottery indicates that the date range was mainly 2nd-3rd century, with only a few later forms noted; it included samian as well as coarsewares, although the quantity of finewares was not large. The relative proportions of the vessels was however unusual. This and the low numbers of fineware vessels suggested to the pottery expert that the site was not a villa; however, the finds associated with the building's structure show that it is likely to have been of high status.

Brick and tile were frequent finds, and there were some fragments of *opus signinum*, and tesserae; a fragment of wallplaster also came from earlier surface finds. Preservation of animal bone was good, and the assemblage includes deer and wild boar, another likely indicator of high status. A few fragments of copper alloy and iron were discovered, which were not considered worthy of report, but no coins.

### GGAT 94 Brynmill Peatshelf

In August 2008 Brian Price of the Swansea Metal Detecting Club reported the discovery of a possible wooden structure on the Brynmill Peatshelf, within the intertidal zone of Swansea Bay. On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the Trust carried out emergency investigation and recording work on this structure.

The fieldwork confirmed that the structure was a short section of hurdle trackway, constructed from a series of parallel roundwoods overlain by a deposit of brushwood. A short roundwood peg that had been worked to a chisel point had been driven through the brushwood deposit into the underlying clay to anchor the hurdle panel in place.



PI 6 Brynmill Trackway: Timber structure 003, Fig 4 Brynmill Trackway: Plan looking southwest (2m scale)

The lower deposit across the area of interest was a bluish-grey marine clay with an excavated depth of 0.60m; overlying and partially contained by the clay was a northwest – southeast aligned timber structure, which had an exposed length, (northwest – southeast) of 2.18m and was traced for a further 0.14m under the marine clay. The feature had a maximum exposed diameter of 1.72m and narrowed towards the northeast of the structure to a projected width of 0.63m. The structure was constructed from parallel roundwood laterals, all of which had small side branches trimmed off. The northeastern and southeastern laterals each consisted of a single roundwood (W04 and W02). Running parallel to these timbers down the centre of the structure was a possible fourth lateral (W03). A single large roundwood (W01) was

orientated at 90° to these laterals, overlying timber W02. A 6mm deep, V-shaped notch with a gently sloping southern edge and a vertical northern edge had been cut into W01.

Partially underlying the northeastern lateral W04 was a roundwood timber (W06) that extended 0.35m to the northwest of the structure, under the surface of the marine clay. Roundwood W06 had been worked to a wedge point. Overlying the northwestern end of the structure was a deposit of brushwood (004), orientated at right angles to the lateral roundwoods. There was no evidence for any of the brushwood being fully wrapped around the laterals as seen in some upright hurdle panels. Located 0.56m from the northwestern end of the brushwood deposit (004) was a roundwood (W07), which had been worked to a chisel point on one side.

A single sample from the structure (W04) was sent to the Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Laboratory in Florida for AMS dating. This sample was dated to Cal BC 2140 to 1930 (Cal BP 4090 to 3880) with a 2 Sigma Calibration (Beta: 257022). A total of five samples (W01, W04, W07, B01 and B14) were sent to Astrid Caseldine of the University of Wales, Lampeter for species identification. Timbers W01, W07, B01 and B14 were identified as being oak and timber W04 as being alder.

### **GGAT 95 Vulcan Brewery, Merthyr Tydfil, Emergency Recording**

In January 2009 the Wales and West Housing Association informed Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council that they were going to demolish the former Merthyr Tydfil Brewery (also known as the Vulcan Brewery), as it was unsafe and a potential health and safety risk. Cadw provided a grant to enable the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust to carry out emergency recording of the brewery buildings prior to their demolition.

The Merthyr Tydfil Brewery was reputed to be the oldest Brewery in Merthyr Tydfil with the earliest record being from 1830. The earliest surviving building may have been constructed before 1842 but the majority of buildings were constructed during the period that the brewery was under the control of the Giles family (later Giles and Harrap) from 1850 until it was sold to William Hancocks and Co in 1936 and the buildings converted into a distribution depot. Later the site was purchased by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for use as their estates yard.

The original brewery buildings consisted of a range of storehouses and spirit vaults with a decorated façade alongside Brecon Road with the brew house, malt house and other brewing buildings located at the rear. A house for the owner was also part of the complex. By 1881 a new malt house and stable complex had been constructed. Substantial investment before 1899 saw a new range constructed and by 1917 a new brew house complex along with a boiler and engine house completed the brewery buildings.



*PI 7 Aerial Photograph of Merthyr Tydfil Brewery in 1989 when it was in use as a council depot (© Courtesy Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)*

## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2009 — SEPTEMBER 2009

### GGAT 67 Tir Gofal

The Trust has processed ten Round 1 five-year reviews under the new arrangements for the Rural Payment Division, and one with additional lands falling within the Cadw Tir Gofal project. Six HE1s have been completed, but no HE2s.

### GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes (Year Six)

During the current year and previous year the project was targeted on those areas (ie drainage and extractive areas) selected during years three and four of the project, which identified three zones 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.

The current year's work has involved more detailed documentary and fieldwork in the first area, Area a). This entailed 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.

Fine-grained map regression of the defined areas 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, formed an important element to the project. Targeted field visits were also carried out. 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 the National Library of Wales (NLW), Aberystwyth, the Glamorgan Record Office (GRO), Cardiff, and elsewhere). More general works and articles and other sources were also consulted. It was not intended to carry out original research, though where this would have a relevant and beneficial approach at some future date this has been identified.

At the half-year point the project is underway with baseline data assemblage completed (Task 1: Baseline HER, NMR, Cadw and CCW information obtained and processed). The NMR data has been checked and updated against Coflein, and the NMR has been consulted. Additional visits to the archives, ie NLW, Aberystwyth, GRO, Cardiff, and the aerial photographic resource at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs in Wales (CRAPW), Cardiff have been scheduled to take place during mid-late September 2009, so that specific questions arising from the fieldwork can be investigated.

Updated detailed mapping has been completed of extractive features and areas/additional water management features based on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition and Tithe maps (Task 2). 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, with a total of 33 extractive areas selected for targeted visits amounting to a total area of 517.4 ha. In addition 35 Water management features, predominantly outside of the latter areas, have also selected for field visits. Field visit objectives were previously devised with *proforma* and database designed and produced in preparation for site visits (Task 3).

The targeted field visits (Task 4), though delayed by wet weather and problems with vegetation cover, are currently nearing completion, with the relatively well-preserved limestone quarries at Penderyn being the first substantial area to be examined. The extractive landscapes recorded during the current year are generally more fragmented and on a smaller scale than those studied during the previous year and generally the results of the fieldwork have been mixed. However, a range of extractive features (eg engine houses, drum houses, inclines, quarries, levels and tips) have been identified as surviving, a number of which survive in good condition for their class. The field visits have therefore confirmed the area contains well-preserved extractive remains potentially of national significance. Significant water management features associated with the ironworks of the area, such as principal feeders, sluices, and aqueduct sites, have also been identified and recorded as part of the current year's fieldwork. It is hoped to complete the field visits by mid-September. The preparation of the site database has been carried out in tandem with the fieldwork, and is well progressed.



*Pl 8 Penderyn Quarry: General view of brake engine emplacement*

### **GGAT 89 Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites**

This project has been designed to run over two years: the second year covers the eastern and southern parts of our area, comprising the unitary authorities of Cardiff, Monmouth, Newport, and the Vale of Glamorgan. In contrast to the first year, the sites in these unitary authority areas are mostly located in the lowlands, and they are expected to yield a comparatively low proportion of visible monuments.

The dataset compiled last year for the assessment of the second phase of this project contained 149 sites in these four UA areas. Aerial photography review has included the examination of 283 photographs covering 29 sites, most of which had been entered in the HER as findspots. The majority of these were disappointing, mostly with only ambiguous evidence for any structures or earthworks. However, two sites are very promising. One of these appears to be a settlement with field systems and other linear features; the other is an earthwork complex of more uncertain type. The information gathered will help target sites with potential for field visits. A start has been made on identifying owners and carrying out fieldwork. Procedures for Land Registry searches have changed, making it more difficult to

obtain direct information for rural holdings and there will be greater recourse to more informal approaches. Fieldwork recordings will be made following the same procedure as last year.

### **GGAT 96 Oystermouth Castle**

A three-week community excavation was carried out at Oystermouth Castle in association with the Friends of Oystermouth Castle, Swansea City Council and Swansea University. This was coupled with a topographic survey of the surrounding area, arranged out as a training exercise for school students on work placement. The present project follows a geophysical survey commissioned by the Friends in 2006 (Davies 2006), which looked at the potential of the castle and its grounds for preserving archaeological information.

After analysis of the results of the geophysical survey, it was decided that there were three areas in particular where excavation would be particularly useful:

- The area to the south of the eastern tower wall of the gatehouse (the Knoll). Excavation could help to resolve the question of the construction status of the tower, and ascertain whether the ditch that appears to be shown in the geophysical survey can be located. Further south on the knoll, a possible wall, and possible area of structural debris were located. The Knoll has also produced a parchmark, and there is a section of possible wall further south.
- The earthworks to the north of the castle, presumed by RCAHMW to be the defences of the outer bailey, but as a possible quarry by Davies. Excavation would determine which of these is correct.
- The Castle Tump ridge. This has also produced possible areas of archaeological origin on its northern and southern summits.

However, because the castle surroundings are a public place, the council required that all excavation over 0.15m (6") in depth should be enclosed within security fences. For this reason it was decided that excavation should concentrate on a single area, to minimise cost and disruption. The easiest area to fence was the Knoll, where existing boundaries could be utilised, and where there was the most certain prospect of positive archaeological results and therefore of public engagement. Accordingly, three trenches, one (Trench 1) measuring 4m by 20m and the other two measuring 4m x 10m, were opened in the area of the Knoll.

Trench 1 ran from the projected outside wall of the west tower, across the ditch and onto the knoll. Although it was initially believed that the towers would be curvilinear throughout, the results of the excavation indicate that the tower wall is represented by a rectilinear structure that ran east-west across the full width of the trench. Neither of the returns lay within the area of the trench, but what is believed to be the western return was identified as a slight earthwork platform. The corresponding wall to the eastern tower is visible as a short length of upstanding stonework immediately to the east of the modern access path to the gateway. The preliminary conclusion is therefore that the base of the towers had rectilinear buttresses as in Marten's Tower at Chepstow Castle.

The area of the ditch was sampled in two sondages, one at the southern end of the trench and the other approximately 5m further north. In both, the Victorian rubble which had been observed over almost the full extent of the ditch was found to overlie a silty clay cultivation layer, which in turn overlay a fine silt deposit, assumed to be ditch fill. Both sondages were taken down to a depth of 1.2m, the maximum permitted for Health and Safety reasons, without encountering any changes. We therefore conclude that the underlying profile of the ditch cut is wider and deeper than indicated by the geophysical survey. We hope in subsequent years to open a sufficiently large area so that the full profile of the ditch can be explored, by stepping the sides of the trench.

Trench 2, to the south of Trench 1, proved to lie entirely outside the ditch. Here the Victorian rubble overlay as thin humic layer that in turn overlay the bedrock. The bedrock sloped downwards to the west. At the westernmost end of the trench, the limestone bedrock had been reddened, apparently by burning. Trench 3, further south again, lay outside the area covered by the Victorian rubble, and was entirely covered by the humic soil. There were two shallow, narrow stone banks running north-south across the full width of the trench under this soil. The limestone bedrock was again close to the surface, particularly in the centre of the trench; at the western end of the trench the bedrock had been cut away to form a rectilinear

pit, the sides of which were coated with a thin smear of lime mortar. This pit was presumably related to the production of lime mortar or limewash.



*Pl 9 Oystermouth Castle: General View of Excavations*

The finds were mainly Victorian, associated with the rubble in Trenches 1 and 2. However, there was a small quantity of medieval pottery in all three trenches. Preliminary assessment indicates an early 13th-mid 14th century date, and that imported wares are present. Trench 3 also produced a number of pieces of what may be medieval metalwork, although these await specialist confirmation.

**Reference** Davies, W, 2006 *A report on geophysical surveys at Oystermouth Castle, Swansea, Gower* unpublished report for the Friends of Oystermouth Castle

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2009 — MARCH 2010**

### **GGAT 67 Tir Gofal**

The final round of HE1 assessments will be completed along with any additional land reviews.

### **GGAT 80 SE Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes (Year Six)**

The report on the work in the Aberdare-Hirwaun corridor will be completed in the early part of the autumn.

Support from the contingency fund will be sort to complete the targeted areas for detailed study on extractive areas and water management features, the outstanding area being that immediately to the west of Abersychan taking in the Abersychan and Varteg Ironworks and the adjacent hillslopes and valleys.

### **GGAT 89 Prehistoric and Roman Settlements and other sites**

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

### **GGAT 96 Oystermouth Castle**

Processing of finds and other site data from the Church Hill excavation leading to an ordered site archive is due to be completed in the early part of the autumn.



## **CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS**

In 2008—2009 advice in respect of palaeoenvironmental sampling was sought in respect of the recording and sampling work at Brynmill (GGAT 88).

## **POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW**

'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:-

*Aberdare Urban Survey* GGAT Report No. 2008/033

*Historic Landscape Characterisation Lower Wye Valley part1 & 2.* GGAT Report No.2008/043

*Historic Landscape Characterisation Lower Wye Valley part1 & 2 (2nd draft)* GGAT Report No. 2008/072

*Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes Year 5: The Upper Sirhowy, Ebbw and Ebbw Fach Valleys* GGAT Report No. 2009/001

*Later Prehistoric Un defended and Roman Rural Settlements in Southeast Wales. Report* GGAT Report No. 2009/013

*Later Prehistoric Un defended and Roman Rural Settlements in Southeast Wales. Scheduling report.* GGAT Report No. 2009/014

*Emergency Recording of Timber Feature off Brynmill, Swansea Bay, Swansea* GGAT Report No. 2009/015

*Historic Landscape Characterisation Lower Wye Valley part1 & 2 (Final version)* GGAT Report No. 2009/016

*Excavation and survey at Church Hill, Penmaen, Swansea* GGAT Report No. 2009/017

*Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes Year 5: scheduling proposals* GGAT Report No. 2009/021

*Merthyr Tydfil Brewery (Vulcan Brewery) Brecon Road Merthyr Tydfil* GGAT Report No. 2009/022

## APPENDIX 1 — REVIEW OF DELIVERY OF WAG OBJECTIVES

In our project proposals for 2008—2009 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 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, but it is estimated that excavations and other investigations carried out by archaeological organisations, both large and small, across the region resulted in the generation of the equivalent of 30-40 full time jobs. Graduates, sometimes with further degrees or additional professional qualifications, hold the majority of these jobs.

Recording impacts of some of our works is not and may never be easy, and there is an absence of any meaningful longitudinal study data. Indeed to assess effectively the impact of much of our work would require the use of separate mechanisms to those available within the ambit, discrete cost, and time limits of project funding. Such would be the case for our Ironworks project which has clear and important outcomes that support the delivery of all



PI 10 GGAT Open Day Star Chart

other methods such as star charts provide a quick indicator as to whether we are 'getting it right' and the results have been generally very positive.

For planning works measurement is clearer, thus in 2008—2009 there were 68 cases where additional information on the archaeological resource was required by the LPA, 444 planning consents issued with conditions requiring archaeological work to be undertaken during the

kinds of national and local objectives but measuring these in a meaningful way would need an extensive period of carefully designed and properly funded survey.

An attempt was made in 2007—2008 to obtain feedback through questionnaires at outreach events. However, resistance by the public to filling in forms meant that insufficient detailed data could be collected to be statistically significant. In particular, we found so much difficulty in persuading the public to fill in standard questionnaires on customer satisfaction that attempting to do this may actually in itself have been damaging to the designed outcome of the endeavour to be measured.

Subsequently we have designed a more a simple questionnaire to test popularity of activities against age range, and enjoyment of the event as a whole and encourage returns through rewards, this is being tested. In the meantime the use of

development and 166 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 1530 applications. Whilst the overall caseload was down due to the effects of recession this was only fractionally so for planning condition consent preparation work and database assimilation.

Our Archaeological Planning Management Service has been assisting all the Unitary Authorities 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 more than 20 meetings and prepared detailed comments on 12 documents relating to Local Development Plans.

Also in promoting *a sustainable environment* the Trust has contributed to further consultation on the Marine Bill, made very detailed responses to the Environment Agency on Flood Risk Management Plans, and through its support for and representation on the Historic Environment Group contributed towards the development of a Historic Environment Strategic Statement for Wales. Tangentially we have also commented on the now withdrawn draft Heritage Bill and Standards for Welsh Archives.

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, but for others there is still much groundwork still to do. Encouragement for development by both Unitary Authorities and other government departments and government-supported organisations with activity remits that impact on, or benefit from interaction with, the historic environment needs to be made from both 'top down' as well as 'bottom up' directions and perspectives. Nevertheless the partnerships that we have developed with government bodies at local and national level, third sector organisations and private sector bodies can be seen to be assisting in the delivery of objectives for *a strong and confident nation* and *a prosperous society*.

The Trust continued 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.

Whilst we may not have nor be able to generate impact statistics for some areas of our work we can make a number of observations on how certain projects and activities have delivered to desired requirements.

Our Ironworks project feeds into many of the One Wales objectives, with data issuing from the project made available to inform strategic decision-making. The project has allowed authoritative statements to be made on the distinctiveness of the Southeast Wales Region in terms of its industrial heritage and landscapes, informing the Spatial Plan. The project has been re-shaped to link specifically to the Heads of the Valleys Initiative Area; informing players of the results to date of the project, the importance of the sites, and more particularly the landscapes including the many minor elements often-overlooked, without which integrity is reduced, and, how early study and incorporation of data into strategic planning can avoid later conflict, formed a distinct element in the programme.

The project also enable informed and authoritative data to be produced for use by all kinds of parties in delivering the Strategic Principles and Vision (particularly visions 1 and 2) and assisting the Strategy for Action (notably Developing a Sense of Place, Cultural Signposting, and more particularly the South Wales Industrial Heritage Experience, Interpreting the Cultural Landscape), as set out in The Cultural Tourism Strategy, as the project helps to raise awareness of the distinctiveness of particular communities.

Likewise the work that we carried out to understand the Urban Character of Aberdare feeds into many of the One Wales strategies, perhaps most significantly the Spatial Plan, and the Environment Strategy for Wales. Urban characterisation, in relation to the former, allowed authoritative statements to be made on the distinctiveness of the area, and in relation to the latter provides a tool to assist the implementation of measures to maintain and enhance the quality and diversity of the historic landscape and manage impact so that unique character and cultural features, including building stock are preserved.

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. The production of bi-lingual leaflets and mounting the Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan historic landscape and the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape on the Trust website fulfils the WAG Objectives 'One Wales A Progressive Agenda for the Government of Wales' through the dissemination of the projects results, which enhance to promote and preserve the rich and diverse culture and heritage of Wales. In terms of 'The Welsh Historic Environment Towards a Strategic Statement' the dissemination of these HLC projects help give distinction to particular communities. The projects disseminated are also commensurate with many of the WAG's specific commitments, such as the Spatial Plan and the Cultural Tourism Strategy by developing, or indeed re-invigorating a sense of place.

More generally much of our Cadw supported outreach activities attendance at shows, exhibitions, web presentations, walks, lectures and so forth support learning for life. In particular in 2008—2009 our heritage management project contributed to this agenda by supplying information on the historic environment to communities and individual members of the public, and assisting them to develop projects to research the history and archaeology of their areas. We have also synthesised information from the Trust's ongoing activities into easily re-useable formats allowing both electronic and traditional forms of information distribution. Thus this is has enabled us to dynamically use Web 2.0 as well as face-to-face presentations.

As well as providing opportunities to volunteers to experience archaeological exploration our community driven projects have provided a valuable introduction to archaeological fieldwork to students complementing their academic studies at university and providing them with new skills. By integrating professional staff, volunteers, students and academics through common interest cross-social strata bonding and synergies were enhanced.

Finally, we look forward to the anticipated delivery of a Strategic Statement for the Historic Environment for Wales with supporting action plans linked to the delivery of cross-sector objectives for the betterment of Wales and its inhabitants. Reporting of our contribution towards delivering improvements to the quality of life in the principality against an agreed plan for the sector should result in a concision that is presently not feasible.

## APPENDIX 2 — PLANNING STATISTICS 2008—2009

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	482	98	30	1	0	5	11	4	1	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	1	BLG
BRI	1243	190	67	0	0	8	28	5	7	3	1	5	4	0	3	0	1	BRI
CAE	1211	175	64	2	0	17	22	3	5	0	3	2	9	1	0	0	0	CAE
CAR	2559	331	143	11	3	18	72	9	11	0	2	10	4	0	3	0	0	CAR
MON	1304	517	401	0	13	36	144	36	66	4	11	49	30	1	11	0	3	MON
MTY	419	85	39	0	0	5	20	1	1	0	0	8	3	1	0	0	0	MTY
NEW	1486	276	268	0	1	21	115	3	34	3	8	31	4	0	47	0	1	NEW
NPT	1373	225	81	5	0	9	29	1	6	3	5	5	8	0	9	0	1	NPT
RCT	1819	336	99	0	1	18	48	1	9	1	5	2	13	0	0	0	0	RCT
SWA	2150	373	106	0	0	9	53	3	11	2	3	6	11	1	6	0	1	SWA
TOR	683	111	55	1	0	10	26	0	6	2	1	2	5	0	1	0	1	TOR
VOG	1543	279	143	1	1	13	45	3	34	3	8	13	13	0	7	0	2	VOG
BBNP	626	82	34	0	0	6	16	0	2	0	0	2	6	0	2	0	0	BBNP
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16898</b>	<b>3078</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

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

