

THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**Furnace Remains, Melincourt Ironworks**

Half-yearly review  
October 2004  
&  
Annual review of Cadw projects  
2003-2004

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## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2003 – MARCH 2004

### *GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services*

The Trust has seen a continued increase in demand for heritage management services. This, no doubt, mirrors the growth of public awareness and interest in archaeology.

Activity reporting is set out under the main areas as provided in the works specification agreed between CADW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. Records of all actions are kept and form part of the Historic Environment Events Database maintained by the Trust.

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

On request the Trust provided CADW with detailed information contained in the regional Sites and Monuments Record.

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

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year a total of 287 enquiries were made, of these 76 led to a visit to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the Sites and Monuments Record. The total includes 77 commercial enquiries; for these the applicants met the processing costs.<sup>1</sup>

Year	Total consultations*	Visits to Trust
2000-2001	152	49
2001-2002	217	51
2002-2003	277	59
2003-2004	287	76

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

The Trust were provided with details of Scheduled Monument Consent applications on 36 occasions. For the most part the nature of the consultations was such that no specific response was required; in six instances a detailed response was provided. These responses varied from supporting applications and recommending the provision of further information to inform the process through to suggesting appropriate conditions and advising refusal where the interests of archaeology could not be satisfactorily mitigated.

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

The Trust met with a wide variety of agencies, both public and private to discuss issues affecting particular sites. This work included: Monkash, Vale of Glamorgan,

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<sup>1</sup> Consultations from the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Industry and Public Utilities are not included in the total.

advice on bones being eroded from a cemetery on the cliff's edge; Tomen y Clawdd, Rhondda Cynon Taff, advice on interpretive material at the castle; Stalling Down, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, advice on the deserted medieval settlement; Bryn, Neath Port Talbot, advice in connection with the discovery of well-preserved Second World War anti-aircraft battery site; Cefn Morfudd, Neath Port Talbot, advice to owner on significance of rectangular enclosures; Sker House, Bridgend, advice on conservation of excavated stone-lined pond.

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

Advice in connection with the use of the Register of Historic Landscapes continued to be provided to the Countryside Council for Wales.

The Trust welcomed the publication of the *Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscape of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Processes*.

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

Advice was given in respect of archaeological needs provision in Unitary Development Plans. In particular, detailed responses were made in respect of the Swansea Unitary Development Plan Pre-Deposit Consultation Draft.

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

See below GGAT 43.

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

The Trust continued to provide archaeological advisory services to the Forestry Commission. The Register of Felling and Planting is received each week with the Trust providing information and advice on the protection of archaeological interests as part of grant-aided projects and forestry operations. 54 Woodland Grant Scheme consultations were responded to during the year, a 50% increase over the consultations in 2002-2003. In some cases the pre-response site visits were made, notably at Lower Machen, Newport to assess the potential impact of new planting on the Roman settlement.

### **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"**

The Trust continued to provide first stage advice in respect of the Tir Gofal project. A good working relationship has been established with the Tir Gofal Project Officers based at the Countryside Council for Wales offices in Abergavenny, Cardiff and Swansea.

### **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 Sites and Monument Record enquiry record.

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

In this financial year much of the work in this area was transferred to the Development Control project (GGAT 43).

The Trust provided advice to the Environment Agency in respect of the Catchment Abstraction Strategies for Southeast Wales. Generally, we recommended that changes in river water levels and the local environment could impact on certain classes of archaeological site. It was recommended that the Trust should be consulted on each and every proposal in future

The Trust was approached by the Environment Agency to provide Sites and Monuments Record data for the Catchment Flood Management Plans for the Swansea and Llanelli Area. Due to climate change and other environmental factors, this project is required to predict future flood risk levels within river valleys and assess potential threat to archaeological sites and ancient monuments with a view towards long-term policy decisions and sustainable management.

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

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

In particular, the Trust continued to liaise with the National Trust in respect of the re-survey of archaeological features on land in their ownership on the Gower peninsular. The Trust assisted in the update by providing information from the Sites and Monuments Record, library and paper record files. Following the re-survey the National Trust returned enhanced data for assimilation into the Sites and Monuments Record.

The Trust also worked closely with the Countryside Council of Wales over the potential future development of the Gwent Nature Reserve and it is anticipated that the Trust will be involved not just from a planning application consultative perspective but also in the development of educational material for a visitor centre on site. This might provide an opportunity to present information about the archaeology of the Gwent Levels at an on-site location.

The Trust also commented the Draft Gower AONB Management Plan - *State of the AONB*.

### **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 and are referenced in Local Plans. There is much other advice on the need to consider development effects on the Historic Environment (EIA Regulations ((cf Circular 11/99; Circular 61/96) and measures that might be used (eg

ASIDOHL Guide) and it is important that as and where applicable such advice is not taken in isolation. Planning Inquiry test may also be an important tool in enshrining the principles of the Circulars and measuring their effectiveness.

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

#### **Churches**

The Trust continued to have a representative on the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and on the Fabric Committee for Brecon Cathedral. Attendance at these meetings not only provided the means to further the aims of church archaeology but also the opportunity to outreach to new audiences. The Trust continued to make representations on individual applications for faculty consent and to make an increasing number of visits to churches in order to discuss and resolve specific issues.

In October, the Trust organised and chaired the annual meeting of Diocesan Advisory Committee archaeologists in Wales at the Cathedral Centre, Brecon. Discussion related to the procedures of faculty application and to the question of consistency in the advice we give to our respective committees.

#### **Coastal**

During the year attendance and responses to the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group were maintained with the Trust regularly completing proforma reports for the Group. In particular, we are keen to be involved with the processes of coastal monitoring, such as aerial photography, which can discover newly exposed areas of coastal peats and archaeological material and highlight changes in coastal configuration resulting from rises in sea level and erosion. With this improved information it should be possible to predict threats to coastal archaeological sites and propose mitigation measures such as marine defence or excavation.

### **The wider dissemination of the results of CADW-funded projects including through the website.**

The Trust continued to mount displays at various locations, give lectures, and receive students and school placements

The Trust continued to utilise its website ([www.ggat.org.uk](http://www.ggat.org.uk)) to provide information on regional archaeology; the section dedicated to CADW funded projects was updated, including information on the landscape characterisation of Gelligaer Common, Caerphilly. Subsequently, we produced a leaflet on the Gelligaer Common Historic Landscape.

The Trust ensured that the leaflet and display - "Archaeology and your planning application" was provided to the regional Unitary Authorities at their respective premises. This information and display will assist planning officers and those intending to lodge a planning application as it highlights the importance of addressing archaeological issues early in the planning process.

The Trust met with the representative of the Balchder Bro – Pride of Place, Local Heritage Initiative in Wales with regard to our professional guidance and involvement

with the scheme, which is intended to promote interest in the historic environment at a community level.

During the year press releases were prepared for Roman finds at Loughor and the medieval excavations at Wind Street in Swansea. Information continued to be provided to media companies in consideration or preparation of television programmes, such as 'Extreme Archaeology'.

In association with the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Day (19 July 2004) the Trust organised an Open Day at the Trust's offices this incorporated practical demonstrations (pottery making, Roman cookery), interactive activities (SMR Enquiry, Learning through play) and identification works (Portable Antiquities). Later in the summer the Trust mounted a manned exhibit at the Gower Show, which provided a good means of outreaching to the local farming and other communities.

On Gower, the Llanrhidian Community Hall Trust has received a grant from Welsh Assembly Government to further develop its Church Hall into a multi-functional community development centre for the North Gower area. Trust staff discussed with members of the Llanrhidian Local History Group the possibility of providing information and support for a display providing interpretation of the North Gower landscape, heritage and culture and the promotion of 'green' tourism.

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. The 2003-2004 meeting was hosted by the City and County of Swansea. A range of important issues was discussed with the Trust emphasising the need for the Unitary Authorities to take a more holistic view of their key role in the historic environment.

### **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. In particular, we responded to Welsh Assembly Government's Review of the Historic Environment in Wales, which we warmly welcomed. During the year we provided written responses to the following documents:-

<b>From</b>	<b>Document title</b>
National Assembly of Wales (NAW)	Review of the Historic Environment in Wales. A Consultation Document
DEFRA	Consultation Exercise on developing a compendium of UK organic standards
NAW	CROW - Consultation on proposals for regulations
CCW/NAW	Welsh Farming and the Environment-consultation on a new approach. An entry level agri-environmental scheme for Wales
NAW	Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW) - Removal of obstructions from rights of way
CCW	CROW Draft Map – Eastern South Wales Valleys, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Newport and Monmouthshire.
CCW	CROW - Provisional map - Western Brecon Beacons & S Brecknockshire
C&C of Cardiff	Countryside Strategy Review 2003 - Discussion Document
Sue Essex AM	People Places, Futures - The Wales Spatial Plan
EA	Rivers Taff and Ely Salmon Action Plan Consultation Document

DEFRA	Consultation Paper: Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on Rights of Way.
EA	Thaw & Cadoxton Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy-Awareness Raising leaflet
The Planning Inspectorate	Appeals re CROW Section 6
C&C Swansea	Management of the AONB. State of the AONB
Forestry Commission	Better Woodlands for Wales
Renewable Energy Partnerships	Windpower in S Wales - Strategic Consultation

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

Throughout the year we have responded to Countryside Access Draft Maps for various upland areas in Southeast Wales and we anticipate being further involved in historic environment issues as the project develops detailed tangible proposals to meet its objectives.

As part of this project the Trust represented the other Welsh Archaeological Trusts at the Wales Off-Road Motorcycle Conference in Merthyr Tydfil. As the Trust has for sometime been concerned with the damage being done to ancient monuments in the countryside, such as the Sarn Helen Roman road in Neath Port Talbot, this was a useful occasion to promote historic environments interests and concerns to a wider audience.

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

During the year the Trust began to receive consultations in connection with environmental assessment for proposals to alter farming practices. Responses were submitted to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department of Welsh Assembly Government.

### **Curatorial advice in connection with the marine environment**

The Trust has liaised closely with CADW to ensure consistency of advice on applications that fall outside the normal planning processes and for which there is currently no established or perceived professional methodology for responding. Particular responses were made in respect of the Scarweather off-shore windfarm near Porthcawl, Bridgend and aggregate extraction in the North Middle Grounds, North Bristol Deep and Bedwyn Sands in the Severn Estuary.

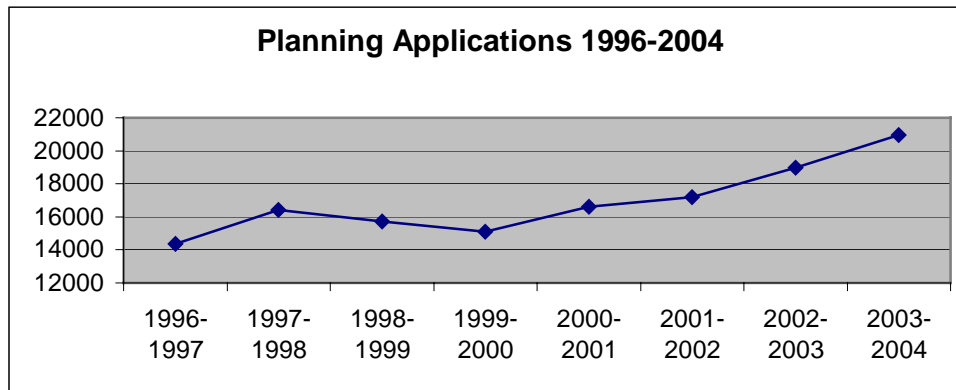
The Trust has maintained its role within the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA) and during the year welcomed its foundation document for the management of the Severn Estuary European marine site.

### *GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services*

### **Planning Statistics 2003 –2004 (see Appendix 1)**

The archaeological planning services provided on behalf of CADW required the Trust to initially assess all the region's planning applications and to notify the planning authorities of archaeological constraints to proposals, giving information and specific recommendations on the best course of action required to protect archaeological interests whilst enabling permitted development. Thereafter, and with the combined

resources provided by all twelve regional authorities, the Development Control Section provided further detailed services, such as the provision of archaeological briefs for pre-determination assessments, approving detailed specifications submitted by developers and monitoring the required archaeological work from inception and fieldwork to the production of the final report. The Section has also been involved in a several planning appeals providing information and written advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the Welsh Assembly Government.



In the last two years we have reported significant increases in the number of planning applications being received by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Southeast Wales and the corresponding increase in the workload of the Development Control Service. This trend continued during the year with an increase of nearly 2,000 registered applications breaking the 20,000 application mark for the first time. These increases and the need to respond to the LPAs inside 21 days of receiving a consultation are clearly putting a considerable strain on the service, which continues to be disproportionately supported for this work when compared to other areas of Wales and has not seen corresponding rises in grant-aid to offset increased workload. The breakdown of applications and response levels by authority and response type is provided as Appendix 1 to this review.

By agreement with CADW processing of initial enquiries from Statutory Undertakers now more correctly forms part of the Development Control Project. In general our working relationship with the Statutory Undertakers is much improved with information, including annual schedules of work, now being provided. This year the Trust processed 349 consultations from the Public Utilities, with Gas accounting for 258, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water 63, Electricity 14 and the Environment Agency 14. Recommendations for 11 assessments and appraisals and 28 watching briefs were made as a consequence of these enquiries.

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 made a number of changes to Environment Impact Assessments (EIA), increasing the range of developments requiring EIA and also introduced new procedures, most notable screening and scoping opinions. A screening opinion is made to determine if an EIA is required or not whilst a scoping opinion clarifies the issues that will need to be addressed by the EIA. The number of these opinions sought in Southeast Wales has been slowly increasing since the introduction of the Regulations and the issuing of the accompanying Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment. In 2003-4 15 scoping opinions and 4 screening opinions were required. Whilst these appear to be relatively small numbers, the responses require significant research and consideration to be undertaken prior to the provision of curatorial advice.

Clearly, and significantly, the archaeological 'end-product' of the development control process is either the preservation *in situ* of important archaeological resources for future public benefit or preservation by record – such as the production and presentation of reports on the excavated archaeological resource. One measure is the information and reports on excavation as published by the Council for British Archaeology Wales in *Archaeology in Wales*, a minimum output normally required. For the year 2001, 112 reports on work, required and governed by the development control processes in Southeast Wales, are contained in that publication. In 2002 this figure had risen to 176. In almost all cases underlying 'grey literature' reports will have been submitted to the Regional Sites and Monuments Record.

## GGAT 61 *Historic Landscape characterisation*

### **Cwm Clydach**

Historic Landscape Characterisation was completed for The Cwm Clydach Special Historic Landscape. The work involved the identification and description of individual character areas within the area on the Register, the preparation of recommendations for protection and improvement, the production of a historical and thematic introduction, the production of the character area maps and photographs.

The characterization process used for Cwm Clydach largely followed the established methodology relying on initial Sites and Monument Record searches and desk-based documentary searches, including initial map regression, which identified a minimum of 176 Sites and Monument Record registers (81 National Monument Record registers; 40 Listed Buildings) in a slightly wider study area than identified on the register.

It was found that the landscape lent itself to being divided into 9 character areas along the lines of industrial transport, processing, and settlement areas ie the transport and communication corridors (road, rail, tramroad and railroad), the iron works themselves, industrial and other settlement areas, and the areas surviving mineral fields and limestone quarries.



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

Proformas were prepared for each individual character area and included field visit notes. Staff from CADW participated in the field visit and particularly assisted with the review of the character of the area's architectural heritage.

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

much of the industrial development was already in place by the publication of the early OS Surveyors drawings of the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the major development, apart from the construction of the Heads of the Valleys Road within the confines of the gorge, was wholesale reclamation of the workings to the south on Mynydd Rheinalt and Twyn-blaen-nant. Aerial photography added to the understanding of the patterns and texture of the landscape and led to further revision.

The background research undertaken was fundamental to the characterisation work and allowed an understanding of the complexity and integrity of the industrial landscape of the area which represent an important and largely complete microcosm of industrial workings associated with the iron industry, quarries, furnaces, forges, ironworks, transport links and industrial settlement. The archival collections held at both the Gwent Record Office, and the National Library, Aberystwyth, were consulted; in addition secondary sources were consulted at the latter plus Cardiff, and Swansea Libraries, Swansea and Cardiff University Libraries. Primary source material included the four editions of 6-inch OS maps, the tithe maps and schedules for the parishes of Llanelly, and Llanfoist Fawr, together with estate maps and catalogues, and sales catalogues. The databases of the National Library provided details of estate and other maps relevant to the understanding transport/industrial and industrial settlement development of the area.



**The Remains of Clydach Ironworks**

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

Copies of the report have been lodged with CADW, The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, the regional Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Trust and the relevant Unitary Authorities.

#### *References*

- Davies, WKD, 1967 'Centrality and the central place heirarchy'. *Urban Studies*, 4, 61-79.  
Davies, WKD, 1968 'The morpolgy of central places: a case study', *Ann. Assoc. Am. Geogr.* **58**, 91-110.  
Jones, PN, 1969, Colliery settlement in the South Wales Coalfield, 1850 to 1926. Hull.

## Gwent Levels

Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Gwent Levels had been undertaken by Dr S Rippon for CADW ahead of the instigation of the main historic landscape characterisation programme as undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. In order that this information could be placed on the web in a similar fashion to other characterised landscapes, Dr Rippon's text was revisited and re-worked, with some upgrading and updating. The revised text was then agreed with CADW and Dr Rippon and sent to CADW for translation. Illustrative material was selected to accompany each character area description and this and the text formatted for uploading to the Trust website.

### *GGAT 67 Tir Gofal*

In line with agreement with CADW, the Trust responded to successfully ranked applications (HE1 Stage) for the Tir Gofal scheme (Year 3). During the year the Trust processed 100 applications. For each application detailed information and advice was provided to the Countryside Council for Wales and recommendations made on whether an archaeological site visit is required to assess sites and landscapes.

### *GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites*

The tasks for the year 2003-2004 comprised the compilation of two reports on the results of this survey, one for Glamorgan and one for Gwent, and a more general introduction to the subject for inclusion on the Trust's website.

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



Following the identification of a significant number of sites which were missed for technical reasons from the Year 1 survey and of others which have been discovered subsequently, these reports have been held until further fieldwork has been carried out.

The aim of the website pages has been to present an outline guide to prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in Southeast Wales in non-technical

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

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

### *GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites*

The work programme for the year 2003-2004 consisted of a more detailed examination of the sites listed in the Year 1 report as having grade A and B indicators, and those classed as D (requiring further work), but omitting those where activity seems to have been confined to the present churchyard area of a church still in ecclesiastical use, and those which are known to have been completely destroyed. There were 44 such sites in total, and a further one, St Arvans was added when attention was drawn to the recent Early Medieval metal detector finds from the vicinity of the church which had not been added to the Sites and Monuments Record.

The further investigation stage took a variety of forms, the principal ones being air photograph search, map regression and site visit. Twenty-three sites were identified as possibly benefiting from a search of air photographs. The results were mixed. On approximately half, air photograph examination produced no evidence at all. Of the sites with possible results, the majority highlighted possible curvilinear enclosures which were also visible on maps, but showed up more clearly from the air as possibly being significant. The best results came from Llanerthill, which produced evidence for a curvilinear ditched enclosure showing as a cropmark on a photograph of 1947, Pontymister, where a small rectilinear enclosure with rounded corners was identified, and Howick, where curvilinear features and rectilinear features which could be buildings of possible Roman date showed up in a field adjacent to the traditional site of St Wormet's Chapel. Map regression was identified as appropriate on four other sites. Two of these were particularly successful. One resulted in the almost certain identification of a lost holy well associated with an Early Christian Monument at the site of a farmstead named on the tithe map as Llanyltyd (Ffynnon Illtyd on the 1st ed OS 6" map) in Cwm Pelenna. The other located the area in Caerleon where excavations were carried out in the mid 19th century on what was believed to have been the site of St Aaron's Chapel, and established that it was within the area of one of the known Roman cemeteries, and also within a large block of glebeland.

The results of the site visits were also mixed. There was generally very little to see, and some site visits failed to produce any useful information at all, either because



**Glyneathrim Mound No 2 possible Early Medieval Church site**

nothing appeared to survive, or because crop cover and other vegetation conditions were unsuitable. Other sites produced ambiguous indications, which could represent elements of the Early Medieval phase of occupation, but this was by no

means certain; there was no unequivocal evidence. At Merthyr Geryn a possible Early Medieval enclosure bank was noted around part of the area of the later grange, and other possible earthwork enclosure features were noted at Campston, Coedkernew, Gellieithrym, Glyneathrim, Llandeilo Talybont, Llanfaenor, Lower Machen, Marshfield, St y Nyll and Tregaer, most surviving into the present day as hedgebanks. At Pwllmeyrick a possible location was identified for the known Medieval chapel (and therefore probably the Early Medieval ecclesiastical site). At Glyneathrym, two stony mounds were noted which could potentially be buildings, one of which lay within the variation of orientation for churches noted during the Historic Churches Survey.

## *GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads*

The work programme for the year 2003-2004 comprised geophysical survey of military *vici* at three sites: Gelligaer, Neath and Usk, and the excavation of part of the surveyed area at Usk.

### **Gelligaer**

The survey at Gelligaer concentrated on the little-known elements of the site, namely the timber fort ('Gelligaer I', generally considered to be of Flavian date) and adjacent land. Permission could not be obtained to work in certain areas: as a consequence the nature of activity in the northwest portion of Gelligaer I and beyond its walls in that direction remains unclear. The objectives in the surveyed area were to determine: the precise location of the Gelligaer I defences, previously only approximately surmised from faint earthwork traces and variably drawn on previous maps; whether the *vicus* of the later stone fort ('Gelligaer II', dated by inscription to Trajan) extended to the northwest into the area of the defunct timber defences; and whether Roman structures lay on the falling ground to the northeast of Gelligaer I, in the area that is not presently scheduled.

The double ditches of the Gelligaer I fort were clearly imaged by geophysics on the southeast and southwest sides, but the position of the northeast defences was not apparent. The southeast and southwest gateways were visible, whilst a blank area behind was interpreted as representing the rampart. Within the fort there was evidence for structures, although it was difficult to pick out the detail of any individual building. There were no obvious indications of use of the land within the timber defences during the period of the Trajanic fort (*ie* incorporation within the later *vicus*). However, in the limited area between the defences of Gelligaer I and the Trajanic fort there was clear evidence for activity. The road led out of Gelligaer I from the southeast gate: on either side there were definite anomalies, but it is unclear to what they relate. On the northwest side of Gelligaer I, strong magnetic anomalies were interpreted as buildings, one of which was believed to be a bath-house.

### **Usk**

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

As anticipated, the bounding ditches of the original fortress approach road and its narrower replacement were both well imaged. The most significant discovery was a double ditched enclosure immediately to the east of the road. It was thought possibly to contain a building, but interpretation was hampered by the proximity of the field

boundary and the edge of the survey. The northern ditches of the same enclosure were detected during the 1973 geophysics survey. Together, the two surveys demonstrate a roughly square roadside enclosure with sides each c 50m. Several potential interpretations of this enclosure were suggested, though the likelihood in all cases was that it is post-Fortress in age. A domestic function was considered to be quite plausible, but the roadside location and the nearby presence of cremation burials (found in 1994) might rather imply a ritual function, such as a funerary enclosure or even a temple within a *temenos*, perhaps located within a broader mortuary zone. If it was a temple then it would be an extremely rare example within the region.

The survey was followed up by a limited programme of excavation to clarify some of the results. Three trenches were cut by machine and the features and sections then cleaned by hand. The double ditched feature was of particular interest, and provided the focus for the excavation. Each of the trenches was positioned so as to cut across the linear features relating to this suspected enclosure. All three, Trenches 1 and 3 in particular, incorporated a significant area inside the feature. No conclusive evidence for features was found in Trench 1. However there were two indistinctly defined zones in which there was an appreciable concentration of charcoal within the typical ploughsoil, and concentrations of stone could not have been introduced to the site by any natural process (*ie* flooding). Roman pottery was also present. Trench 2, 15m further to the east but on the same alignment as Trench 1, revealed several cut features whose edges were difficult to establish, possibly including a palaeochannel, and also two clearly defined flat-bottomed features, probably pits. No features were noted in Trench 3, but there was a spread of stone and a few unstratified sherds of Roman pottery were discovered. The indistinct zones of higher charcoal content in Trench 1 were located at the position where geophysics imaged the putative inner and outer 'ditches' respectively. The same is true for the only definite linear feature found during the excavations, in Trench 2, which would be in the correct position to correlate with the imaged outer ditch. However, there is much difficulty in seeing this feature as part of the same linear as the corresponding feature in Trench 1, since the former feature lay almost 1m further beneath the modern ground surface than did the latter.

Two related explanations may be offered for this apparent lack of linear features. First, that any ditches or gullies (if such they were) were cut into alluvium and filled by the same material, rendering them difficult to see in either plan or section. This would certainly explain why concentrations of finds such as those assigned to the first of the poorly-defined area in Trench 1 occurred in an apparently unstratified position. It is worthy of note that none of the cobbles found in the trenches could have been moved by floodwater, and therefore they must have been introduced to the site by human action (although they may since have been disturbed by ploughing). Second, it is notable that the linears were imaged only by magnetometry, and not by resistivity; it may well have been the burnt material, both charcoal and clay, found within 103, 104 and elsewhere that was imaged, rather than any surviving remains of cut features.

All features were presumed to be Roman, although the only directly dateable context one of the rather nebulous features in Trench 1. From the varying heights of features, it seems most likely that there were two phases of activity, separated by episodes of substantial alluvial deposition. Two distinct levels could be identified at which archaeological interests occurred. First were a group of features just beneath the base of, and truncated by, the ploughsoil; such features corresponded in character, depth below ground surface, and survival, to those found during the 1994 excavations. The second level was seen in Trench 2, with features lying at depths of 1-1.3m beneath the turf; Roman pottery was also found at 1.2m depth in Trench 3.

In conclusion, the excavated area was undoubtedly an area of human activity, and it is reasonable to assume that most (and probably all) of this activity is of Roman date. In spite of the geophysical data the site cannot not be interpreted as a double ditched enclosure on the basis of the excavation alone, and there is no evidence for its precise date. If it post-fortress in age, then the idea of a 'dead zone' around the defences remains valid. Although the various concentrations of stone are certainly significant, they cannot be identified as cobbling or building footings on the basis of the present evidence. The most plausible interpretation of this area is as a marginal zone, and one in which burial was taking place. This is suggested by the presence of burnt bone in Trench 1, and within the truncated features seen in Trench 2. The present findings chime with those from other recent investigations of southern Usk. The 1994 excavations produced evidence for burial, whilst finds salvaged from the site of Orchard House during building work recovered sherds of at least two more cremation urns (Marvell *et al* 1998). More generally, Manning has noted a number of graves and cremation burials cutting the fortress remains, mostly (but not exclusively) located between the *via principalis* of the fortress and the southern ditch of the Flavian fortlet (see for examples Manning 1989, 44, 45, 60). Together these discoveries suggest that Post-Fortress burials extended alongside the lines of the former main roads, and range in date from Flavio-Hadrianic to later Roman.

## Neath

The survey at Neath took place on the playing fields belonging to Dwr-y-Felin comprehensive school. As such, it incorporated the northwestern part of the fort, and the extra-mural zone beyond, where previous investigations in 1993 detected a stone building. The defences of the stone fort were well imaged. The wall, angle tower and one interval tower were evident. Evidence for the external ditch was limited to magnetics. More unexpectedly, there was also possible evidence for an earlier fort phase, in a area to the northwest of the stone fort where there had been no previous investigation of any kind. The features imaged were interpreted as a rampart and external ditch, although any defences here must have been of timber. However, earlier investigations within the defences identified a substantial timber framed courtyard structure, early in date and anomalously sited in the southeast quarter of the fort. Its alignment differed slightly from that of the stone defences, but would fit more comfortably with the line of the northwest ditch and rampart suggested by the geophysics.

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

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

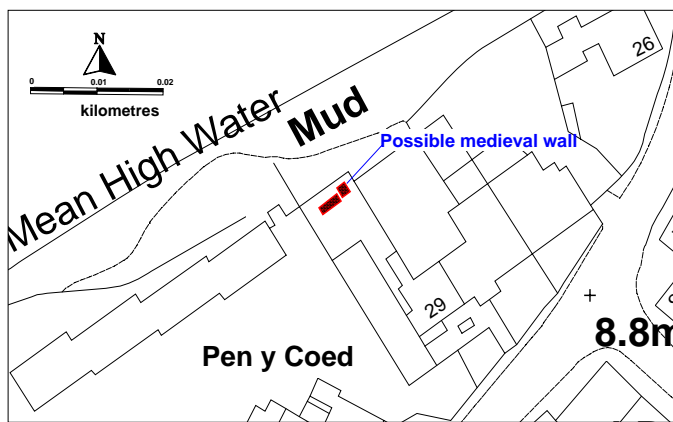
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The historic ports and harbours of Southeast Wales have played a crucial part in the history and development of the region. The well-documented maritime trade in the region during the medieval, early post-medieval and industrial periods has done much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

A detailed assessment of these ports and harbours is therefore being funded by CADW, so that our understanding of the potential of the maritime archaeological remains is enhanced and informed decisions regarding the future conservation of this resource can be made. Phase 1 (Year 1) of this project studied the historic ports of Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff and Swansea.



The regional Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments Record were assessed, along with documentary and cartographic evidence and other published sources, and a project database compiled. This was linked to Ordnance Survey data using MapInfo Geographical Information System. Historic maps were geocoded and overlaid with Ordnance Survey data, allowing a map regression exercise to be undertaken. The course of the rivers and position of waterfront features were then plotted. An assessment of the potential for the survival of maritime archaeological remains was made and zoned maps

**Detailed plan of possible medieval wall in Chepstow, from recent excavations on bank of River Wye (Robic and Ponsford 2002). This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.' Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2004). Annotations © GGAT & CADW**

produced. This information is available in both digital and hard copy formats. The potential for the survival of unexpected archaeological remains in these four sites is summarised below.

### Chepstow

The River Wye has not substantially changed its course through Chepstow during the period covered by this assessment and the build-up of alluvium on the inner side of the meander at this point has resulted in the waterfront has slowly moving outwards, into the river. This can be seen by the location of the post-medieval, and possible medieval, riverfront features. Archaeological work recently undertaken in Chepstow (Robic and Ponsford 2002; Pre-Construct Archaeology 2003) clearly illustrated that a large amount of material had been dumped on the riverside in the post-medieval period, to stabilise the area and allow the encroachment of structures onto previously unstable alluvium. The survival of earlier post-medieval, medieval and possibly even earlier riverfront structures further inland is therefore a very real possibility.

It is clear that organic and non-organic structures survive well in the alluvial conditions on the west bank of the River Wye, and important palaeoenvironmental information may also survive beneath the modern ground surface. In an assessment of the potential for further undiscovered archaeological deposits, structures and artefacts, the entire area from the castle to southern limit of the study area has been classed as 'high potential'. The area of the castle itself has been classified as 'established potential', in that the archaeological resource of this area is well understood, and the likelihood of unexpected discoveries being made is remote.

## **Newport**

The alluvial clays of the River Usk produce an anaerobic environment, with a low salt content, providing excellent conditions for the survival of archaeological material. The high degree of preservation of both organic and inorganic material from the recent excavation of a medieval ship near Town Pill illustrates the very high potential for further archaeological deposits and features, including palaeoenvironmental information. Any future deep excavations in this area are considered to have a high potential for disturbing artefacts or features associated with the port and its associated boat-building activities. In an assessment of the potential for further undiscovered archaeological deposits, structures and artefacts, the area around Town Pill has been classed as high potential.

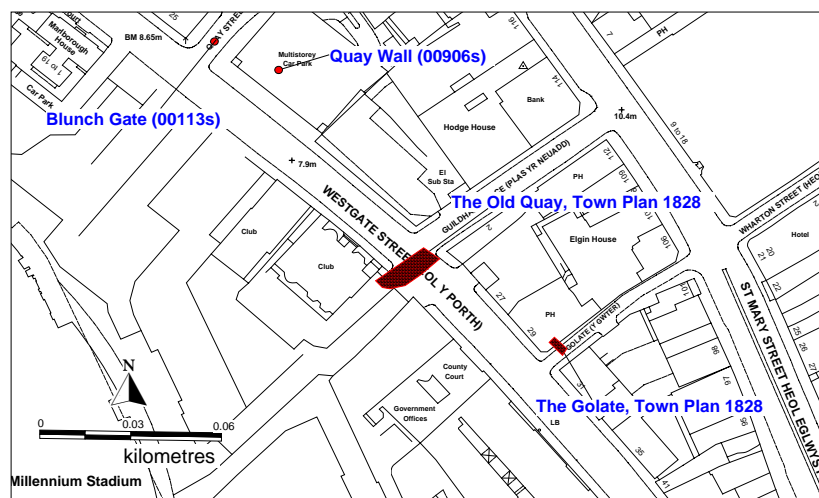
Although it is clear that the major medieval and post-medieval port for the town of Newport was situated around Town Pill, there is evidence that other pills along the length of the River Usk were also utilised. The boat fragment from the Alexandra Dock raises the possibility that other pills along the River Usk were used as havens from the prehistoric period onwards. Whilst the presence of formal quayside features are less likely at these other pills, the chance find of further boats or ships cannot be ruled out. The areas around Jack's Pill, Spytty Pill and Pill Gwenlly are therefore considered to have high potential for further archaeological discoveries. Those areas where previous deep excavations will have removed any potential surviving archaeological deposits, for example the modern docks, have been classified as low potential, whilst areas where the archaeological resource is well understood, such as Newport Castle, are described as 'established potential'. The remaining areas, including the River Usk itself, are described as medium potential.

## **Cardiff**

The River Taff in Cardiff was altered to its present course in 1849-53. However the locations of two medieval quays are well established, at Blunch Gate and the Golate or lesser quay, situated on the west side of the present Golate Street. Excavations on the site of Blunch Gate for a multi-storey car park in 1973-74 demonstrated that riverside features can survive at substantial depths below the modern ground surface (Webster 1977). In addition, two boreholes sunk during the construction of the Millennium Stadium contained wood approximately 4m below modern ground surface. Whilst this wood is not necessarily an indicator of human activity, it clearly demonstrates the potential for organic material, including palaeoenvironmental information, to be preserved in the alluvial clays of the River Taff.

Whilst Blunch Gate and Golate may have been the two major medieval and post-medieval quays serving Cardiff, it is possible that other, possibly earlier, riverside structures survive. The Roman fort would almost certainly have received supplies by water, and whilst evidence is limited, it is probable that a small settlement existed to the south of the fort from this period onwards. Given the movement of the River Taff, the location for putative earlier riverside structures is difficult to predict; however the

area to the west of the castle and medieval town is considered to have a high potential for surviving archaeological remains.



**Location of quays along Westgate Street in Cardiff. This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.' Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd 100017916 (2004). Annotations © GGAT& CADW**

In addition, the smaller pills to the south of the city may have been attractive as temporary havens from the prehistoric period onwards, and like Newport, the possibility of the discovery of boats or ships cannot be ruled out. This area is also therefore considered to have a high potential. Other areas, including the River Taff have been assigned a medium potential, apart from

where modern developments will have removed any potential surviving deposits.

## Swansea

In Swansea, the course of the River Tawe has also been considerably altered, with the excavation of the New Cut in the early 19th century, to create a new 'floating dock'. It is clear that the medieval and earlier post-medieval port of Swansea was located along the west bank of the River Tawe. The potential for surviving waterside features is evident from the remains discovered below the castle and the wood discovered during the excavation of the basement of the present BT tower. This clearly demonstrates the potential for organic material, including palaeoenvironmental information, to be preserved in the alluvial clays of the River Tawe, and this stretch of waterfront is all considered to be of high potential, except where previous developments will have removed any potential surviving deposits. Other areas, including the River Tawe itself, have been assigned a medium potential.

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## GGAT 77 Interrupted Ditch Enclosures

Interrupted-ditch (or causewayed) enclosures are one of the defining monuments of the Neolithic period. Originally synonymous with the chalk downland of southern England, they are now known to occur in diverse topographical locations and, to date, some 70 have been identified in the British Isles. Until the recent discovery,

through aerial reconnaissance, of four possible Neolithic enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan, this monument-type was unknown in Wales.

This project comprised a desk-based assessment of the evidence for the identified sites in the western part of the Vale of Glamorgan, and also an examination of the potential for the discovery of new sites in the region. A comparative study of the enclosures at Ewenny, Corntown, Norton and Pant yr Hyl, using published and unpublished literature and aerial photographs and their transcriptions, revealed some morphological variations between the sites, as one might expect. The aerial photographs and plots of the Corntown and Norton enclosures indicate lengths of segmented ditches; excavation at Ewenny disclosed a single, causewayed ditch that had not been revealed by aerial photography. In the absence of any other dating evidence (that from Ewenny awaits the report of the excavation; the association with the enclosure of the Neolithic flint scatter found on the Corntown site has not been established), these sites have been assigned to the Neolithic period by virtue of what appear to be interrupted ditch circuits. There is very little information so far for the enclosure at Pant yr Hyl, apart from some oblique photographs which show the greater part of a single-circuit enclosure. The four enclosures were united by their topographical setting on the Carboniferous Limestone within easy reach of coastal flint resources but, given the sparse and discontinuous nature of the archaeological record for the Neolithic in the region, there is insufficient evidence to be certain that they represent a genuine concentration of these monuments, or merely a bias in the record.

Although an attempt was made to determine ways in which to discover new sites of this type in the region, it was concluded that there is at present no clear way in which this might be done. The Sites and Monuments Record and, to some extent, the National Monuments Record in their present formats proved to be ineffective tools for this kind of research. Study of the topographic location of the known sites also proved abortive, as there is insufficient information about the local Neolithic to be able to determine patterns.

The study concluded that it would be better to refine and enhance the datasets currently at our disposal, in order to inform future research, and to test the air photograph data in the field, by ground and geophysical survey and sample trenching targeted in particular to confirm, or otherwise, the discontinuous character of the ditches. Meanwhile, there is always the possibility that systematic aerial survey might continue to turn up these enigmatic sites. If it can be proved that the enclosures in the Vale of Glamorgan are Neolithic causewayed enclosures, then the Neolithic of Wales is due for reappraisal.

## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2004 – SEPTEMBER 2004

### GGAT 61 *Historic Landscape Characterisation*

#### **Blaenavon**

Characterisation work on the Blaenavon Outstanding Historic Landscape has been completed to draft report stage. Landscape characterisation is a dynamic and developing process. This is reflected in the continual revision to boundaries and indeed the number of individual character areas identified within the Historic Landscape. A review of both the documentary (including cartographic, pictorial and photographic sources) and fieldwork evidence taking all the various strands of evidence into account has been undertaken for this, as previous landscape projects, during the production of the draft report.



**Blaenavon Historic Landscape, HLCA 006 Blaenavon Ironworks**

The work entailed desktop searches, including: consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record and the transferral of information digitally to workspaces. Relevant developer and other reports were identified and secondary sources compiled. CADW (listings and SAMs), The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (National Monuments Record further information from Endex, Coflein, and surveys etc), and Central Registry for Aerial Photography in Wales (available air photographs)

were also consulted. In addition, the National Library of Wales has been contacted for database search for relevant source information and copies of the 1st three editions of the OS 6-inch maps were obtained. All readily available Tithe and estate maps were consulted at the Gwent Record Office, the National Monuments Record, The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and the National Library.

MapInfo workspaces were created with Sites and Monuments Record/National Monuments Record tables, Listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument information, and Countryside Council for Wales information on designated and other areas. Paper base maps of the area were assembled showing the resulting preliminary Historic Landscape Character Areas at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000. The preliminary Historic Landscape Character Areas were then digitised as accurately as possible as polygon areas (MapInfo Tables). These were later subject to a process of revision to take into account additional information from the field visits and other sources, including the suggestions of members of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Historic Environment Working Group. Proformas were used during the field visit to form the basis of a written record, supplemented by photographic record. The field visit included a review of the architectural heritage character of the area

with input from CADW staff. Aerial photography added to the understanding of the patterns and texture of the landscape and led to further revision. Revised digital maps (including MapInfo tables, workspaces and layout windows) were then completed for each of the areas as the basis for map figures to be used in the final report.

It was found that the landscape lent itself to being divided along the lines of industrial transport, processing, and settlement areas ie the transport/communication corridors (road, rail, tramroad and railroad), the iron works themselves, industrial and other settlement areas, and the areas relict mineral fields (coal, iron ore and limestone).

The research undertaken was fundamental to the study, and allowed an understanding of the complexity and integrity of the industrial landscape of the area which represent an important and largely complete microcosm of industrial workings associated with the iron industry, quarries, furnaces, forges, ironworks, transport links and industrial settlement.

As a result of the above rapid survey, map regression and site visit, a total of 21 character areas were identified. These included four industrial urban areas, two industrial transport settlement areas, two industrial iron-processing areas, and at least five surviving extractive areas among others.

It was noticeable that the landscape character was evolved from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with later additions generally re-enforcing the pre-existing character. Urban industrial development began on a limited scale close to the ironworks, with the pre-existing agricultural settlement probably absorbing much of the initial dwelling requirement. Industrial settlement expansion developed first in ribbon fashion along Church Road and in the area along King and Queen Streets from c 1800 with a number buildings surviving from the period c. 1800 – 1840. Associated settlement, also relating to the canal system, develops from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (HLCAs 014 and 015). By the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (1880s) the grid layout of the urban core of Blaenavon (HLCA001) had been established. Later editions of the OS detail the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century urban expansion over former scattered agricultural/industrial settlement (HLCA002). During the 1850s satellite settlements connected with the new works at Forgeside (HLCAs 012 and 003) emerge.

## **Gwent Levels**

The summary of the results of the detailed characterisation of the Gwent Levels Historic Landscape, the subject of editing and reformatting in the previous financial year, was posted on the web in August 2004 following translation into Welsh.

### *GGAT 67 Tir Gofal*

The Trust has continued processing Year 4 successfully ranked farm applications (HE1s). By the end of September, 43 applications will have been processed on behalf of CADW and sent to the Countryside Council for Wales. The total includes 11 additional land applications; processing other additional land applications was put on hold in early September until the funding arrangement is clarified.

### *GGAT 72 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites*

This year's work is of very limited scope, consisting of a fact-finding exercise to determine whether there is likely to be any market for the publication of information

on prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments in either the schools sector or the tourism sector. The results will be analysed in time for the half-yearly meeting at the end of September. Preliminary indications in the education sector are that there is unlikely to be any call for workpacks on the subject, since most schools are now teaching the 'Celts' or 'Romans' options rather than the 'Early Peoples', under which it would come. A well-illustrated wallchart does however seem to have some appeal. The tourist bodies are relatively unenthusiastic; some feel there would be no market for monument trails aimed at either the motorist or the walker, and although others are more positive, none is prepared to put up any money.

### *GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites*

For all four Trusts, this year's work has consisted of the preparation of a paper on a topic arising out of the pan-Wales project, with particular relevance to their own area of the principality, to be given at a conference on the Early Medieval church to be held at Bangor in September. In the case of this Trust, this was an examination of the extent to which Early Medieval ecclesiastical sites were later to become the sites of priories and granges of the Catholic regular orders, and how the southeast compared with the rest of Wales in this respect. The availability of reasonably consistent data on the early sites across the whole of the Principality has for the first time made it possible to carry out these comparisons.

Whilst there was very little change to broad outlines of the picture which has long been established (Benedictines only in the south, *clasau* in the north adopting the Rule of St Augustine, Cistercians with a wide appeal to Welsh and Normans alike), some surprising details have emerged. The transformation of the *clas* into the Augustinian priory can be seen to be a particular feature of how the diocese of Bangor aligned itself with the new ecclesiastical order: there were no Augustinians in St Asaphs. None of the southern houses is likely to have been the result of a straightforward transformation; the general popularity of the Augustinians with the English establishment may have been as much of a factor in the establishment of Carmarthen Priory than its previous history. The relatively high proportion of Cistercian properties in Llandaff which have indicators that they were originally pre-Conquest ecclesiastical is not matched anywhere else in Wales; this one diocese contains over 75% of all examples. However, there is evidence that the sequence of events did not necessarily take the form of the invading Normans confiscating land from the Celtic church in order to donate it to monasteries in Normandy or England. In some cases there must have been a significant lapse of time between one event and the other, and in others it was Welsh landowners that were involved rather than Normans. With regard to the Benedictines, it is clear that their presence in the diocese of Llandaff was much more firmly established than in St Davids with five conventual priories as against two.

### *GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads*

The objectives of this year of the project focus mainly on excavation. Excavations have been carried out, at Gelligaer and Neath, in each case to test the validity of the results obtained from geophysical survey the previous year. In neither case were the results what was expected. At Gelligaer the two large areas of anomaly to the northwest of Gelligaer I were examined, each by means of a machine-cut trench 1.8m wide; a third trench was cut through the feature believed to be a ditch forming part of the defences of this first fort. The large areas had been thought to be buildings, a possible courtyard building and a possible bath-house, both apparently marked by earthwork platform. Platform 1, the platform/anomaly furthest from

Gelligaer II, which had been interpreted as a bath-house, was examined by means of a trench whose eventual width was 30m and width 1.8m. The anomaly proved to be an area of burning on the subsoil, which at this point had also seen the formation of iron pan. No Roman material at all was recovered from this trench, and the date of the burning was not established. Platform 2, the site of the presumed courtyard house, was examined by means of a trench 20m long. It proved to contain a pit cut into the subsoil and containing the base of an amphora, other more ephemeral features cut into the subsoil, and a collection of sherds of amphora in a roughly linear alignment at the bottom of the topsoil; it seems probable that these sherds of amphora, together with the base in the pit, may have produced an anomaly which had been interpreted as a wall line. There was no depth of stratigraphy in this trench, which also contained thin soil deposits containing Roman material over the natural subsoil. Although only a selection of these could be excavated in the time available, there was nothing to suggest that there had ever been a building here. The third trench, 5m long, examined the ditch. This proved to be relatively narrow and shallow (little more than 2m wide and under 1m deep) and could not have been a defensive feature. It contained no datable material. It seems likely that it was connected with the track mentioned under this parcel in the tithe apportionment (though not graphically depicted on the accompanying map).

The results of this field evaluation show that Roman activity was present, but that it was confined to the northwestern end of the site, which gave the appearance of possible settlement edge activity. It probably represents the furthest extent of the *vicus* attached to Gelligaer II.

Excavations to test the results of the geophysical survey on Cwrt Herbert playing field at Neath were circumscribed by the need to avoid disturbing the rugby pitches. The aim was to excavate two trenches each 2m x 10m, one on the line of the presumed early fort defences and the other to examine the feature which appeared to be road running out of the northwestern gate of the fort. The trench over the line of the defences, which was sited to pick up the anomaly identified as the ditch, proved to contain a series of dump deposits of clay with some patches of cobbles, all dipping away to the northwest. The 'ditch' proved to be an extensive area of iron pan which had developed behind the most substantial and dense of the clay deposits, which in turn overlay a layer of large cobbles. It is considered that the clay deposits represent an early rampart, whose outer face is represented by this particularly substantial clay deposit and the cobbles, which had impeded drainage to such an extent as to cause the formation of the iron pan. Unfortunately the iron panning had an undulating surface and did not preserve any evidence for a timber corduroy. The deposits above and behind this were very similar in nature, and contained large patches of dense clay. It seems likely that this represents the slighting of the rampart, with material from its body dumped in front. No ditch was identified, but it was considered likely that it lay at the northwest end of the trench, below the deposits formed by the slighted rampart. The only stratified finds were fragments of brick or tile in the rampart. These were too small to date, but were consistent with Roman material.

The other trench was located in the only possible position over the presumed road line between a rugby pitch and the running track, but even so it had to be curtailed to 7.5m to avoid impinging on the former. It was however correctly sited to pick up the presumed road. Excavation revealed no sign of this. A narrow linear cobbled feature towards its northeastern end over the natural subsoil appeared to be a foundation of fairly insubstantial nature; another such feature appeared running across the northeastern end, but its full width could not be ascertained. On the other side of the first cobbled foundation, an ephemeral linear feature of slightly darker colour could

not be seen clearly in plan, but was more readily distinguishable in section as a gully. There was no sign of a road. This trench produced two small fragments of greyware.

The results of this excavation confirm that there was an earlier fort extending a little further to the southeast than the stone-walled fort. No evidence was seen for a road running out of the rear gate, but there would appear to be activity of some sort. Previous work (*Archaeology in Wales* **33** (1993) 60) has identified a building between the second trench and the fort, but nothing was seen in the area of the running track, and this area would appear to mark the furthest extent of extramural activity.

### *GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts*

Year 2 of this project includes all identified small harbours and ports along the entire coastline in the Southeast Wales region. These small harbours and ports were crucial to the trade, travel and industry (such as fishing, salt-making) of Southeast Wales into the 19th century.

The sites have been identified from The Welsh Port Books (Lewis 1927) and those identified during the coastal survey (Locock 1996, 1997, 1998), although previously unidentified sites may remain. A cut-off date of 1800 has been implemented, in order to exclude the large-scale dock developments of the industrial period. In the cases of the major tidal rivers, the upstream limits of the study limits are: River Wye: Tintern; River Usk: Caerleon; River Taff: Cardiff (studied in Year 1); River Neath: Neath; River Tawe: Swansea (studied in Year 1); River Loughor: Loughor.

Study areas have been drawn up and Sites and Monuments Record and historic mapping data overlain onto digital base maps. A programme of field visits has commenced, in order to assess the current state of the sites, identify any threats to existing sites and to locate previously unrecorded sites.

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Locock M, 1998 *GGAT 50: Coastal Survey (Glamorgan), River Rhymney, Cardiff (South Glamorgan) to River Wye, Monmouthshire (Gwent)* GGAT Report **98/010**

### *GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures*

Most of the work on this project has been timetabled to take place in the second half of the financial year. The only activities that have been carried out in connection with it are the extraction of the initial database from the SMR and NMR, attendance at the half-yearly meetings, and scrutiny of the proposed pro-forms for recording and scheduling assessment.

### *GGAT 79 Caerleon Environs*

The Roman legionary fortress of Caerleon and its environs was identified by the research assessment for Roman Southeast Wales in 2002-03 as an area of particular importance (see [cpat.org.uk/research/serom.htm](http://cpat.org.uk/research/serom.htm)). This project has sought to provide a framework for future research in the Caerleon Environs through review of existing data, identification of outstanding questions, and provision of broad

proposals for future work. It is seen as the first step in a new integrated approach to archaeological work in Caerleon, which will identify the extent of our knowledge, the main gaps in it, and the questions which should be asked during any future work in the light of local, regional, national and international priorities. It will not itself set out to answer these questions, but will provide a broad scheme as to how these might be addressed.

The survey area has been divided into three zones. Zone A comprises the fortress as defined by the ditch system. Zone B comprises the area immediately outside the fortress, occupied in the main by the civil settlement and the cemeteries, and the area of settlement on the southern bank of the Usk around the bridgehead, and the associated cemetery on the lower slopes of Chepstow Hill.. This zone is bounded to the south and southwest by the River Usk; to the north by the crest of Lodge Hill; to the east by the Sor Brook to the north of the Usk, and to the south of it by the nameless stream which runs almost opposite down Chepstow Hill; and to the southwest by the crest of Chepstow Hill. Zone C comprises a more extensive area. To the south of Caerleon, this extends along the Severn Levels from Rumney at the west to Goldcliff at the east; the boundary then runs inland to Coldra, where it turns to follow the crest of the escarpment forming the east side of the Usk valley nearly as far as Llantrisant, then runs directly westwards to Croesyceiliog before turning southeast and south to meet the line of the M4 motorway at Junction 27.

Work started with a review of existing data. The fortress and its defences (Zone A) have been broken down into a series of discrete areas (*insulae*, elements of defences, elements of road network), and each of these had been assessed in terms of extent of area excavated, results of excavation, and reliability of interpretation. The same exercise had been carried out for Zone B. In Zone C the approach was to examine the data available for all known sites. Following the data review stage, a meeting was arranged with other interested parties to discuss the issues that remain to be addressed, and to suggest methodologies for dealing with them. Emphasis was placed on the identification of clearly defined targets, and the formulation of strategies for dealing with them within the foreseeable future. A draft paper incorporating the results of this session has been circulated for comment

### *GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks*

The study has been initially limited to the northern coalfield rim, specifically those sites described by Ince (1993). Approximately, 30 major blast furnace iron-producing sites are located within this area.

A simple but valuable exercise has been to take the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map depiction and compare these with the modern map and Aerial Photographs and try to identify what survives and is visible, what survives and is buried and what has been destroyed. The boundaries of the study would be the limits of the ironworks, their immediate transport links and waterworks and would not extend to the wider water management, transport and the extraction sites. This will be validated by site visits, consultation with local land reclamation departments and talking to local experts. Each site would then be identified into archaeologically sensitive areas, areas of archaeological potential and sterile areas.

The project so far has involved interrogation of the computerised Regional Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by all the other readily available data. With the enhanced information available to this project, the methodology has involved a detailed desk-top element, including map regression. More general works and

articles and other readily available sources have also be consulted and expertise drawn from historians and archaeologists working in the area. It is not the intention, however to carry out any original research, though where this would have a relevant and beneficial approach at some future date this will be identified. Map regression (early OS, Tithe and Estate maps) and consultation of aerial photography to understand and determine the development/phasing and integrity of the immediate industrial landscape centred on each of the selected Ironworks has been carried out. In this way a comparison between the historic cartographic evidence and the modern map/aerial photographs can be made to allow the current extent of surviving identified landscape areas and key identified elements to be mapped.

The study should ultimately provide the information necessary to:

- assess the current state of survival/preservation, conservation and the recording requirements (of the ironworks landscapes of the northern coal rim)
- inform future protection and management issues, including future scheduling proposals (regarding the ironworks landscapes of the northern coal rim)
- inform the relevant Unitary Authority on industrial ironworks landscape issues in the planning process, including forward planning
- assist in assessing the wider impact of future proposed development on industrial ironworks landscape.
- assist in the evaluation of the aesthetic or amenity value of the industrial ironworks landscape
- assist in measuring the effect of individual development proposals on the overall historic integrity and coherence of industrial ironworks landscapes, with particular reference to the issues of outright removal, severance, fragmentation or dislocation of the historic elements.
- assess the cumulative effects of secondary or piecemeal changes over time.

In essence the work will help to ensure that any necessary change to industrial ironworks landscape is accommodated without sacrificing the essential integrity and coherence of the historic environment. The report will be presented in such a way that upgrading of information can be considered through the medium of a GIS system. This will allow data storage, manipulation, analysis, interrogation, presentation and future update of information. The Information Technology component of this project will therefore be high and will see the creation of a dynamic and multi-layered digital model for the study area. The project has been broken down into five main task sets, work has been completed or is well-progressed in respect of the first three sets.

#### 1. Review and compile baseline documentation

- Review and compile documentation for ironworks landscapes
- Ascertain total outputs from historical sources
- Obtain copies of 1st edition 1:2500 OS maps for each mine
- Review aerial photographic evidence for ironworks landscapes
- Assemble general bibliography for ironworks landscapes of northern coal rim
- Compile source list and bibliography for individual ironworks landscapes
- Collate information on archaeological survey and investigations
- Compile lists of ironwork landscapes and key elements within them
- Revise existing lists held by the Trust and produce distribution maps

#### 2. Review current state of protection and threats

- Establish current and proposed extent of scheduling / listing
- Review Unitary Authority plans/Welsh Development Agency programmes

### 3. Undertake selective field investigation

- Determine criteria for the selection of sites for visits
- Select sites for visits
- Implement programme of air-photography
- Visit sites
- Ascertain extent and quality of surviving remains
- Undertake rapid mapping (annotated 1:2500 base), description and photographic recording sufficient to illustrate extent and quality of surviving remains).

#### *Reference*

Ince P 1993 *The South Wales Iron Industry 1750-1885* (Merton Press)

#### **GGAT 81      *SMR Enhancement (Churches)***

A review of the Regional Sites and Monument Record identified that data from the Churches Survey had not been added as the task was not required by the project specification. This matter has now been addressed.

### **CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS**

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

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

No CADW-funded post-excavation projects took place in the year 2003-2004. The following reports were completed:<sup>2</sup>

- Evans, EM *Prehistoric and Ritual Funerary Monuments in Glamorgan*
- Lewis, R *Prehistoric and Ritual Funerary Monuments in Gwent*

A paper entitled *Continuity and Renewal of Monastic Landholding in Wales before and after the Anglo-Norman Conquest* was given by Dr E Evans to The Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches Conference held in Bangor in September 2004. In due course the paper will be published as part of the Conference Proceedings.

#### *'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:-

- *Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments Survey: Glamorgan and Gwent survey synthesis* GGAT Report No **2003/068** (GGAT 72)

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<sup>2</sup> Submission to publishing outlets has been put on hold as the reports, particularly that on the Glamorgan sites, will need revising following study of sites not included in the original work programme.

- *Roman Roads and Vici in Southeast Wales: Year 2 Interim Report* GGAT Report No **2003/076** (GGAT 75)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Merthyr Mawr, Margam & Kenfig Burrows* part 1 and 2 *landscape characterisation and management* GGAT Report No **2003/081** (GGAT 61)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Mynydd Margam/Margam Mountain* part 1 and 2 *landscape characterisation and management* GGAT Report No **2003/082** (GGAT 61)
- *Prehistoric interrupted-ditch enclosures of Southeast Wales Survey* GGAT Report No **2003/084** (GGAT 77)
- *Historic Landscape Characterisation Study: Cwm Clydach/Clydach Gorge* part 1 and 2 *landscape characterisation and management* GGAT Report No **2004/01** (GGAT 61)
- *Roman Roads and Vici in Southeast Wales: Year 2 Report* GGAT Report No **2004/02** (GGAT 75)
- *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites in Southeast Wales: Rapid field survey of selected sites* GGAT Report No **2004/019** (GGAT 73)

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2004 – MARCH 2005**

### *GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services*

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust will continue to provide wide-ranging and detailed archaeological heritage management and outreach services, based on the agreed list of Curatorial Services. Detailed statistical information will continue to be provided to CADW in our regular monitoring reports.

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

- continue to provide the 'Archaeology and Planning' display for Unitary Authorities
- assist in the preparation of the Gwent Levels historic landscape leaflet
- update the CADW portion of the Trust website
- maintain the Southeast Wales Research Audit and place on web
- prepare general outreach articles on archaeological topics

### *GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services*

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

### *GGAT 61 Landscape Characterisation*

In order to maintain progress with disseminating the results of the characterisation work to the wider public, the preparation and uploading of the Rhondda Historic Landscape Characterisation report as web pages and editing of sections of the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape Characterisation report will take place from November 2004. To enable posting on the web the content of the Rhondda report will have to be prepared and formatted as web pages and uploaded. In addition the photographic illustrations and maps illustrating the historic landscape character areas will require converting into a format compatible with the web. The content of the Merthyr Tydfil report will require editing to enable posting on the web. The text of the report, specifically the historic background and the individual historic landscape area descriptions will have to be edited to compatible level in line with previous material posted on the web. The text will also require translation into Welsh.

### *GGAT 67 Tir Gofal*

This on-going project is designed to provide the support services required for the Tir Gofal scheme. Further work on the HE1s for Year 4 of the scheme up to the agreed maximum of 63 will be carried out to ensure that up-to-date archaeological information is available to the Countryside Council of Wales prior to making farm visits. The Trust will also attend further national and regional meetings and assist in the review of Tir Gofal procedures.

### *GGAT 75 Roman Roads and Vici*

Given in particular the geophysical survey results It was originally considered that there would be data of sufficient quality to publish a summary report on the work in a national journal. However, the field testing of the geophysical survey suggests that the original interpretations need to be treated with caution, that the results are not as spectacular as once proposed and that a regional outlet such as Archaeology in Wales would now be a more appropriate vehicle. It is still the intention to produce a fully detailed limited circulation report on this years project work. As an appendix this will include the results of aerial photography analysis and field walking/visits to be carried out at the Pentwyn Triley settlement to the north of Abergavenny. Given the general popularity of Roman Archaeology we consider that it would be worthwhile considering wider outreach in respect of this project, the earlier Romano-British settlement survey, and the Caerleon Environs Research Framework perhaps through a dedicated section within the CADW part of our rebuilt website.

### *GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts*

Following the completion of the site visits in the second half of this year, the digital maps will be linked to the project database and interpretive maps, highlighting zones of archaeological potential, will be produced. A report on the Year 2 work will be submitted. In addition, alternative means of dissemination will be explored, in order to ensure that the results of this work reach a wide and diverse audience. This will facilitate the research objectives of the project, that is the on-going protection of the fragile waterfront archaeological resource through multi-disciplinary and well-informed management.

### *GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures*

The project, which in this year will examine the Prehistoric Defended Enclosures in the former counties of Glamorgan, has just commenced. Following database enhancement as a result of standard searches, sites will be selected for field visits. These are scheduled to take place between November 2004 and January 2005 with reporting to be completed by the end of February 2005.

### *GGAT 79 Caerleon Environs*

The draft research framework has been circulated to consultees. A second consultees meeting is to take place in October 2004 and the framework will be finalised following that meeting and receipt of any written representations.

### *GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks*

The project will be recommenced in December 2004. Work to completion in the current year consists of the following task sets:-

#### 4. Review the assembled data

- Consider and determine the needs and priorities for future recording
- Consider and review methodologies for detailed recording
- Consider development of ranking systems
- Discuss conclusions with CADW and project group

#### 5. Reporting

- Briefly review and significance and importance of individual sites
- Review relative historical significance and importance of individual sites
- Provide summary description of surviving remains and review significance
- Review threats and current management proposals, and assess likely impact
- Review and discuss priorities in terms of detailed field recording
- Prepare illustrations for report
- Produce report using DTP facilities
- Submit report to CADW
- Provide copies to interested parties



