

# THE GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



*Careful hands on the past: Church Farm Barrow Cemetery (SAM Gm 262)  
removal of disturbed secondary burial urn with cremation*

## HALF-YEARLY REVIEW 2006 & ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS 2005-2006

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## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2005—MARCH 2006

### ***GGAT 1 Heritage Management***

The Trust has witnessed a continuing increase in demand for heritage management services, including the vital public service provision of information and advice. This mirrors the growth of public awareness and interest in archaeology, for example as seen through the media's greater commitment to archaeological programming in recent years. The activities of many different organisations impact on the Historic Environment, this project ensures that sound information and advice can be given early in the decision-making process.

The following section relates to the work specification agreed between Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts for the provision of wide-ranging heritage management services in Southeast Wales.

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

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

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

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust provided individuals and communities in the region with archaeological information and advice in pursuit of their projects and interests. During the year 349 enquiries were made as compared with 262 for the previous year. This significant (33.2%) increase is higher than in any other year since records have been maintained; a little of the increase is due to Tir Cynnal (19 enquiries), but the majority may related to the higher profile which the Trust has been able to achieve through more proactive outreach. Visits to the Trust's offices to consult the detailed further information files of the Sites and Monuments Record continues high with seven more visits than last year. This facility for visiting the Trust is an essential public service and in line with the Trust's development as a regional archaeological resource centre. However, it is a very time-consuming activity, representing a major area of workload for the Heritage Management Officer.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Total consultations*</b> | <b>Visits to Trust</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 2000-2001   | 152                         | 49                     |
| 2001-2002   | 217                         | 51                     |
| 2002-2003   | 277                         | 59                     |
| 2003-2004   | 287                         | 76                     |
| 2004-2005   | 262                         | 67                     |
| 2005-2006   | 349                         | 74                     |

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

In 2005-2006, 103 enquiries were commercial, the remaining 246 resourced through the Heritage Management Project.

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

On behalf of Cadw, the Curatorial Division, as a recognised consultee, received 29 consultations, of which only two required responses: the remainder were notifications

of Welsh Assembly Government's decisions on applications. As the holder of the Sites and Monuments Record, the Trust is able to offer further detailed information and advice particularly when a planning application has also been lodged. In both cases, refusal was advised since it was considered that the proposed schemes of works did not protect the archaeology satisfactorily.

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

In pursuit of our heritage management remit, the Trust made many site visits and attended meetings with a wide variety of agencies, both public and private. This area of service to the regional communities is vital as it not only resolves potential problems or conflicts in a proactive, rather than reactive way, but also provides important opportunities for furthering Cadw and the Trust's joint outreach policy and commitment. Visits were made to sites such as Upper Forge Dam in the Angidy Valley, Tintern (Monmouthshire) to examine damage caused by debris trapped in the sluice, Cowbridge Town Wall (Vale of Glamorgan), where a hole had been dug in the base of the medieval wall during a landscaping scheme, and Cheriton (Swansea) to advise on the restoration of the village green and a proposed heritage trail. A growing class of monument reported to the Trust are those connected with the Second World War. During the course of the year Trust curatorial staff visited an air raid shelter at Baglan (Neath Port-Talbot), and also carried out a watching brief during the recovery by a regionally based interest group of a Spitfire in the vicinity of the Welsh St Donats group of scheduled barrows. The digging of the diminishing number of such WWII sites by people with no archaeological expertise and with no proper research design gives cause for concern, and representations have been made to the Ministry of Defence suggesting that they might review their system of granting licences.

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

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

Increasingly historic landscape issues are being considered in detail as part of the land-use planning processes, most recently in Tir Gofal HE1 reports. The Trust currently has to devote significant resources to this area of work, particularly in areas where large-scale development has potentially major impacts on the registered historic landscape.

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

A site visit was made at the request of Torfaen County Borough Council to offer advice regarding an archaeological feature, an incline, which may have been adversely affected by new roadworks.

At the request of the City and County of Swansea Trust staff visited Clyne Valley to advise on an important industrial landscape in conjunction with their Rhododendron clearance programme.

The Trust continued to make good progress in our growing and productive relationship with the regional planning authorities in Southeast Wales. A revised Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with local authorities at the last Regional Heritage Forum. This unified arrangements in respect of provision of the Trusts' curatorial services to the Unitary Authorities in Southeast Wales into a single document.

***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, as part of its heritage management remit, continued to provide archaeological 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. Seventy-three Woodland Grant Scheme consultations were responded to during the year as opposed to seventy-five last year. There was one request for Sites and Monuments Record information to help in the preparation of Native Woodland Plans and one Felling Licence Application received this year. In connection with these consultations visits were made to a number of sites such as Knelston School, Reynoldston, Gower, to determine whether the proposed planting was likely to impinge on the possible Early Medieval site associated with the former site of Knelston church, and to a farm in the Sirhowy Valley where there was evidence for a small rectangular enclosure. This turned out to be a post-medieval stock enclosure rather than an earlier feature.

***Advice as part of the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme as outlined in the Countryside Council for Wales 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 Sites and Monuments Record 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.

The Trust also continued to respond to the Environment Agency on the Catchment Abstraction Strategies for Southeast Wales. Generally, we advised that changes in riverine 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.

***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***

**Coastal**

See below.

***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. Public demand for information on the archaeological heritage has rapidly grown over the past few years and 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 supported projects. During the year information on Cadw projects was added to the website, including a summary of the landscape characterisation of the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape. The Trust's other outreach activities are considered below.

***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.

At the Regional Heritage Forum, officers from our Unitary Authorities were shown a poster on Archaeology and Planning compiled for the Vale of Glamorgan, illustrated by pictures of sites and monuments within that Unitary Authority area. Work on adapting this to all our other Unitary Authorities continued subsequently in the year, with illustrations agreed for Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport and Monmouthshire.

Information continued to be provided to media companies in consideration or preparation of various television and radio programmes.

A number of seminar/workshop meetings were attended to discuss such issues as the River Ely Valley Action Plan (County Hall, Cardiff), The Welcome Host workshop arranged by Herian (Tondu, Bridgend), the Restoring Our Past for the Future seminar at the Memo Hall, Newbridge, Caerphilly) and the Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy workshop (Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea), Sirhowy Valley Landscape Partnership (Bedwellty House, Tredegar). Attendance continues at groups such as the Swansea Environmental Education Forum.

Talks and lectures were given to Treboeth Ladies Group (Swansea), Cascade Community Centre (Penpedairheol), Elliot Colliery Friends and Volunteers (New Tredegar), Glamorgan Family History Society (Swansea Branch), Llŵchwr Historical Society, (Swansea) and CBA Wales/Cymru Open Meeting (Swansea University).

A guided walk on historic Swansea was given as part of the Gower Walking Festival in September.

In association with Swansea Museum the Trust organised an Open Day at the museum on Saturday 16th July 2005. This was arranged as part of the Council for British Archaeology's National Archaeology Week and proved very successful. A number of other local organisations had displays, including the West Glamorgan Archives Service, Gower Society, Friends of Newport Ship, Friends of Oystermouth Castle, Swansea University and the Swansea Metal Detectorists Club. Interactive events, such as prehistoric pot making and various competitions, introduced children to archaeology, and there were also three groups of costumed interpreters. A demonstration of Roman cookery put on by the Trust proved extremely popular. Gwerin Y Gwyr, a Dark Ages Historical Re-enactment Society provided an

assortment of craft demonstrations such as leather shoe making and weaving and also a display of reproduction military equipment with warriors dressed for battle. A medieval archer of the 'Bowmen of the Rose' demonstrated the skills of the archer and the power of the Welsh longbow. The opportunity was provided for members of the public to try on replica armour and learn about everyday objects of the time. The event was extremely well attended, as the venue is more readily accessible than the Trust's Offices, and attracted passers-by who had not noted any of the advance publicity. The museum reported a substantial increase in visitor numbers over a normal Saturday.



#### **National Archaeology Day 2005 Roman Cookery Exhibition and Demonstration**

The Trust took part in two agricultural shows. The first of these was the Swansea Show on 29th and 30th May 2005 at Singleton Park, with a stand in the SEEF partnership marquee (the Eco-Zone). The main new display prepared for this event was the annotation of a satellite image of Gower, commercially available as a poster, to illustrate the historic landscape; this proved particularly popular with the public. On 17th August 2005 Trust staff participated in the Vale of Glamorgan County Show at Fonmon Castle near St Athans. Cadw and Trust displays with accompanying literature were exhibited. A new display based on the results of the Romano-British Southeast Wales Lowland Settlement Survey with information on the history of the showground in particular was well received by the public. Children and adults alike enjoyed the hands-on experience of prehistoric pot making and learning about and handling a selection of excavated Roman material.

A Trust display was exhibited at the Glamorgan Family History Society Open Day at Cardiff City Hall on the 8th October 2005. The event provided an excellent opportunity for Trust staff to network with a large number of organisations, as over sixty took part. The day was very successful with more than 1,450 visitors attending.

Trust staff attended the West Glamorgan Archive Services Open Day on the 30<sup>th</sup> September at County Hall, Swansea with a display on the work of the Trust and the Cadw Listed Buildings display.

The number of outreach events attended by the Trust this year (and the previous year) has contributed substantially to raising its profile. This may be reflected in the significant increase in the number of queries to the SMR during the year.



#### **Vale of Glamorgan Show 2005 GGAT Display and Activities**

The Trust has maintained attendance at the Gower Countryside Forum, which is an advisory body for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As a result we have raised the profile of the historic environment which should result in a better understanding of historic environment issues and positive management benefits.

The Trust continues to offer support, advice and information to a number of community groups applying for various grants for heritage projects. They include the the Bettws Heritage Group, Plas Danbert Preservation Trust, Llanmadoc Community Council, the Valleys Cycle Club, Swansea Promenade Infrastructure Network, Friends of Oystermouth Castle, the Whitebrook Conservation Group and the Friends of Newport Ship.

The Trust continues to respond to reports of damage to archaeological sites brought to our attention by members of the public. These may not always require site visits but are dealt with by passing on the information to the relevant authority.

#### **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 located in Southeast Wales and the Brecon Beacons National Park. The 2005 meeting was hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and

held at their Dock Offices in Barry. The Sites and Monuments Record Manager gave a presentation on the process of converting the Sites and Monuments Record to a Historic Environment Record. Also discussed under the heading the Sites and Monuments Record were the current state of the moves towards protecting the Sites and Monuments Records/Historic Environment Record in the event that the Welsh Trusts ceased to exist, data exchange, and progress on providing the Sites and Monuments Record on line under The Oxford Archdigital Heritage Management System.

On the heritage management side, the Trust reported on: government initiatives; the What's In Store initiative; the progress of the current Cadw-funded threat-lead assessments and historic landscape assessments; and the Trust's website, leaflets and displays. Cadw's *Listed Buildings* display and the Trust's *Romans in the Vale* display had been brought for the interest of the attendees and to provide examples of the sort of exhibitions available for loan through the Trust. The Unitary Authorities were provided with a list of exhibitions currently available, and were encouraged to make bookings and also to contact the Trust to discuss any exhibition needs which were not already covered. They were also encouraged to put in orders for the currently available leaflets (four on Historic Landscapes, one on the Sites and Monuments Record, and Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales's uplands leaflet) copies of which were provided in their welcome packs. A number of orders were taken and leaflets will be sent out in due course. The support that the Trust could provide to community heritage groups was outlined, and a request made that Unitary Authorities would refer such groups to the Trust, since they are conscious of the fact that we do not necessarily know where these groups are.

The formal part of the meeting was followed by a guided tour of Cosmeston medieval village.

***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>  |
|---|--|
| Welsh Assembly Government                 | Draft rural development plan for Wales 2007-13                 |
| Welsh Assembly Government                 | Environment strategy for Wales                                 |
| Welsh Assembly Government                 | Integrated Coastal Management Zone                             |
| Swansea City Council                      | Swansea biodiversity strategy                                  |
| Swansea City Council                      | Swansea environmental strategy                                 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council | RCT environmental improvement strategy                         |
| Heads of the Valleys Programme            | Heads - We Win   |
| Heads of the Valleys Programme            | The Way Ahead...Towards a Strategy for the Heads of the Valley |

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

As a recognised consultee the Trust continued to respond to the provisions of the Countryside Rights of Way Act, the government's flagship policy for providing greater public access to and enjoyment of the countryside. The historic environment is a key issue providing better opportunities to manage and conserve archaeological sites and occasion for public education and outreach. Throughout the year we have received a number of conclusive maps for various 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.

Trust staff attended a workshop in Porthcawl organised by the Countryside Council of Wales as part of a consultation on the possibility of extending the right to roam to coastal areas.

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

During the year the Trust received three consultations in connection with environmental assessment for proposals to alter farming practices.

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

Increasingly the Trust has been consulted on large-scale developments such as windfarms and aggregate extraction in the marine environment, particularly in the Severn Estuary. 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.

The Trust has maintained its role within the Severn Estuary Partnership 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.

#### ***GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services***

##### ***Planning Statistics 2005 –2006 (see Appendix 1)***

The archaeological planning services provided on behalf of Cadw require the Trust to initially assess all the region's planning applications and to notify the planning authorities of archaeological constraints to proposals, giving information and specific recommendations on the best course of action required to protect archaeological interests whilst enabling permitted development. Thereafter, and with the combined resources provided by all twelve Unitary Authorities, the Development Control Section provided further detailed services, such as the provision of archaeological briefs for pre-determination assessments, approving detailed specifications submitted by developers and monitoring the work from inception and fieldwork to the production of the final report. The Section has also been involved in a large number of planning appeals providing information and written advice to the Planning Inspectorate of the National Assembly.

The 2005-2006 detailed statistics of the responses to planning applications made by the Archaeological Planning Management Section, which vary from recommending desk-based assessments and intrusive field evaluations in the predetermination period of planning applications through to the attachment of appropriate archaeological conditions on planning consents, are attached as an appendix to this review.

The past five years have seen a significant increase in registered planning applications in our area each year; however this years statistics appear to show that this increase has reached its peak with a slightly lower number of applications being registered (2004-5 = 22,357, 2005-6 = 21,526 although technical problems in one authority have led to a delay in forwarding some applications in the last quarter of 2005-2006.

The introduction of a new form of strategic planning in Wales, the Local Development Plans succeeding the previous Unitary Development Plans system has required substantial input from the section. The new system is "community led" requiring considerable community engagement including meetings. The Local Development Plans are also subject to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental

Assessment and we are also involved in these processes. During this year, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan commenced work on their Local Development Plans

The number of planning applications also reflects the volume of development activity including many large scale and complex projects. 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. In the reporting period notable archaeological excavations were carried out at the new visitor centre at Cardiff Castle and during the construction of the Ryder Cup Golf Course at Celtic Manor Resort, Newport.

The section has continued to provide advice to the Utility Companies and the Environment Agency on the impact of their works on the archaeological resource. Seventy-five consultations were received during the year leading to a number of discoveries being made during archaeological monitoring of linear developments.

### ***GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation***

As part of the ongoing programme of characterisation of historic landscapes contained in the *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (Parts 2.1 and 2.2)* the Trust has carried out a landscape characterisation project to study the Gower peninsula. The current study was funded jointly by Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales and the City and County of Swansea.

The landscape of Gower represents a rare and important historic landscape and as such is included in the national Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2:1: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest (1998). Landscape characterisation has fully substantiated this view and makes recommendations for the proactive and long-term management of the area. This landscape characterisation study has included the entire designated Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty in addition to the two areas forming the registration, West Gower and Cefn Bryn. The West Gower area includes: Whiteford Burrows and Gower Coast National Nature Reserves; Rhossili Down Site of Special Scientific Interest; Hardings Down camps Scheduled Ancient Monument; Cheriton, Llangennith, Llanmadoc, Port-Eynon and Rhossili Conservation Areas. Cefn Bryn is almost entirely within the Cefn Bryn Common Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Outstanding Historic Landscape of Gower, chosen through professional consensus, comprises two of the best surviving and most complete, close but topographically discrete, historic areas on the Gower peninsula, containing a rich and unrivalled evidence for a long sequence of land use and occupation from the prehistoric to the industrial periods. The areas include: Upper Palaeolithic caves; Neolithic chambered tombs; Bronze Age funerary and ritual sites; Iron Age hill and promontory forts; medieval religious and secular settlements, including Rhossili deserted medieval village and the Vile open field system; Port-Eynon 16th century salthouse and other recent industrial remains.

The Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty encompasses and provides a wider setting for the Outstanding Historic Landscape of Gower. Within this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the first in Britain (1956), there are archaeological sites of most periods, from occupied Upper Palaeolithic caves through to medieval castles and en-parked 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape and industrial monuments, representing an exceptional microcosm of Wales' historic wealth. Other important designations exist such as Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.



**Gower Historic Landscape HLCAs 008 Rhossili Bay [l] 013 Lower Rhossili Enclosed Coastal Strip [c] and 023 Rhossili Down [r]**

The work was carried out to the established methodology of the recent Historic Landscape Characterisation projects carried out in Wales. This project has involved a rapid trawl of the Sites and Monuments Record and other readily available sources, in order to identify distinctive historic landscape character areas where significant historical/archaeological qualities, interests or themes are discernible. In order to understand and appraise the general landscape character and relative quality a day visit was made to a selection of key areas. As a result of this rapid survey eighty-seven character areas were identified and described for Gower.

The interrogation of the Sites and Monuments Record was supplemented by consultation of the relevant Ordnance Survey, Tithe and Estate Maps, held in the Glamorgan Record Office, Cardiff, the West Glamorgan Record Office, Swansea and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. This work allowed for a rapid map regression assessment to be carried out which assisted in the assessment of landscape evolution of the Gower area. Consultation of aerial photographic records provided information on land-form, current use and texture.

More general works, articles and other readily available sources were consulted and these are included in the select bibliography. These included reports such as the broad brush Swansea LANDMAP study, various Cadw supported assessments, specific landscape studies including work carried out by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and others on for instance the Clyne Valley and Parc le Breos, and a series of surveys undertaken by the National Trust.

The report is divided into several parts:

**Part 1: Landscape Characterisation** of the report includes the citation for the *Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2:1* (*op cit* above) as well as defining the aims, methodology and processes of landscape characterisation. It also considers the management of historic character and the wide applications and

benefits of historic landscape characterisation to those with involvement in landscape conservation. Section 7 of Part 1 of the report identifies and describes the eighty-seven historic landscape character areas that have been identified for Gower on the basis of the agreed methodology. Provisional specific management recommendations for the individual character areas have also been included. The identified character areas are mapped using a Geographical Information System, kindly provided by Cadw under a licence agreement. Photographs were also included to provide additional depth to the descriptions.

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

As an additional project task the Merthyr Tydfil Web Presentation was completed. This element to the project entailed reformatting and mounting of the prepared and translated text of the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape report produced in 2003. The accompanying maps and photographs were also reformatted to an appropriate format and size, and links created.

### ***GGAT 67 Tir Gofal***

The Tir Gofal project and the opportunity it provides to better conserve and manage aspects of the heritage of Wales on farm land, hitherto not readily accessible, continued to be a success in the region with tangible benefits for the conservation of the rural historic environment and for general outreach to farmers and landowners.

In line with Cadw's requirements, the Trust responded to successfully ranked applications (HE1 Stage) for the Tir Gofal scheme. 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. During the year the Trust processed 70 consultations (of which twelve were additional lands). These were used by project officers when making their own farm visits. Eighteen farms were identified as requiring archaeological farm visits (HE2s).

The Trust continued to meet with Cadw and the Countryside Council for Wales and with regional representatives at a variety of meetings during the year.

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

Following the conclusion of the main phase of fieldwork, a significant number of sites were identified as either missed National Monuments Record entries or as having been added subsequently to the Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments Record through fieldwork in the uplands, and these sites were the subject of the fifth year's work on this project. They included recently discovered examples in Blaenau Gwent County Borough, for which the record needed to be revised to provide information to the project standard format. Otherwise, the main group was in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, with a scatter of sites elsewhere in Southeast Wales. There were no significant alterations to the conclusions previously made, but the new survey permitted statistics on monument types to be updated.

### ***GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads***

This year's work was focused on the civil settlement at Caerleon, with the end-product being a report which summarised the results of all work in the area since the completion of the Mill Street report (Evans 2000). The map compiled for this earlier report was digitised as a series of MapInfo tables, to allow future work to be integrated easily, and the new information was added. A full air photographic search

of the area was carried out for the first time; this identified what appeared to be a second building on Uskside. A still from a television programme, provided by one of the members of the Caerleon Research Committee, shows a cropmark which may be caused by a building complex, or possibly the legionary kilns; the location of this was added to the map although it was too indistinct to plot.

Further geophysical survey was carried out in two areas on the eastern side of the civil settlement (Millmead and Uskside) which were the subject of evaluation in 1989-90 in connection with a proposed bypass road (Evans 2000, 167-8, 173-5). The Millmead survey re-examined the original survey area, for which good definition was not obtained, as well as extending the survey to the east. The survey results (resistivity and gradiometry) suggest that significant activity may be taking place in that part of the area closest to the Mill Street site, but further towards the river the results were equivocal. On the Uskside site it had been hoped to use ground-penetrating radar to separate out the Roman structures known as a result of test-pitting from more recent dumping, but significant scrub development since 1990 made this impossible. The area examined (by resistivity and gradiometry) lay to the east of the original survey area, and the results were again equivocal. Excavation established that there was significant activity in Millmead close to the Mill Street site, including what appeared to be a building aligned with the continuation of the *via principalis sinistra*. Further away from Mill Street, the anomalies were shown to have a natural origin. The activity at Uskside was of recent date. The report on the excavations was added to general report on the civil settlement.

A geomorphological survey of the tidal reach of the River Usk and Afon Lwyd above Newport was commissioned from the Department of Geography at the University of Wales Aberystwyth, and a preliminary report produced. This programme of work will be completed in 2006-2007.

#### Reference

Evans E 2000 The Caerleon Canabae *Britannia Monograph* 16.

### **GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts**

Having completed Phases 1 and 2 of this project, it was considered that the results of this work merited distinct dissemination to a wide range of users.

Year three of this project therefore entailed the production of a 'glossy' booklet (GGAT 2006) for the non-specialist audience, comprising an outline of the works undertaken and presenting in visual (map, drawing and photograph) form key outcomes and constraints with further advice and contact information.

#### Reference

GGAT 2006 Wales, Waterfronts and the World (ISBN 1-870419-05-7)

### **GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures**

This pan-Wales project follows on a pilot carried out by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, with the aim of reviewing defended enclosures of the late prehistoric period in respect both of morphological features and of condition. The second year's work was mainly focused on Gwent, though a few sites were also visited from the outstanding Glamorgan examples, since following a review of the database for Gwent it was decided that the number of sites where a visit would be profitable was lower than the number estimated during the preparation of the project.

Work started with a desk-based stage to review the information already available on the enclosures of Gwent. As for Glamorgan in the previous year, sites that were not defensive or not prehistoric were rejected. Enclosures under 20m across were

rejected as they were considered too small to be likely to be defended enclosures of the type under consideration, and those of about 500m or greater across were rejected as too large, unless there was good evidence to show they were defended. With regard to form, enclosures defined by walls rather than earthworks were rejected, as were sites where the enclosing banks and ditches seemed that they had never been sufficiently massive to be defensive. Sites for which there was good evidence for occupation at periods other than, and not including, the prehistoric were also rejected. The total number of sites retained in the project database for Gwent was 110. For these sites, a series of forms was compiled giving detail of defences, entrances, interiors, annexes and other associated features, where available. A further eleven sites were rejected at the field visit stage. For this reason, where percentages are given, these actually also represent real numbers.

As for Glamorgan, there are very few sites above the 244m contour. There also appears to be a dearth of sites in the south and east of the county, especially north of the modern A40 trunk road, though it is not clear whether this represents a real absence or is due to some other factor, such as lack of fieldwork, or perhaps later reuse in the Middle Ages for castles whose earthworks have obscured any earlier occupation of the site. As far as the immediate topographic location is concerned, 23% are on hillslopes, 25% on hilltops, 19% lie on ridges and 7% are on some type of promontory. From the remaining 20%, only 9% lie at a lower altitude such as a flood plain or level ground.

Relatively few forts in Gwent occupied naturally strong positions when compared with Glamorgan, as the local geology has not led to the extensive cliff-edge and cwm-edge locations afforded in the latter county. Univallate sites are by far the commonest form, with sixty-two examples, which are more widely distributed than other types. Bivallate enclosures with closely set defences account for seventeen examples, closely set multivallate defences are next in rate of occurrence at twelve, but both widely set bivallate defences and widely set multivallate defences have a very low occurrence with examples at five sites and three respectively. Most sites appear as cropmarks or earthworks, with little evidence for ramparts constructed all or partly of stone, but this may well be because so few have been excavated. Of the 39 sites where an entrance is recorded, twenty-nine have only one, and the remaining ten have two entrances. More entrances open to a southerly direction (south, southeast, southwest) than any other. There are sixty sites where there is no information about the entrance direction, many of which are cropmark sites with nothing surviving above ground. The commonest form of entrance is the simple, consisting of no more than a gap in the defences (twenty-three examples). Slightly more elaborate is the entrance passage (nine examples). Barbicans and/or hornworks occur at four sites (13% of the sites where entrances are known); guardchambers or complex entrances were recorded at only one location each.

Shape was classified under eight headings, as circular, subcircular, rectangular, subrectangular, polygonal, triangular, irregular or complex. All the shapes were represented at least once within the study group. The most common type was subcircular (thirty-five examples), twelve sites were true circles, or sufficiently close to be classed as such. There were thirty-two sites described as subrectangular and five as rectangular; these categories may not be clearly distinguished, but without a plan to hand or a site visit it is not possible to determine whether this is the case. Five sites were complex, three triangular, three polygonal and one irregular. There appears to be very little in the way of significant groupings visible in the locations of the various shapes of enclosure, apart from a predominance of subrectangular and rectangular enclosures away from the Northwestern Coalfield. Internal features are poorly represented in the archaeological record. Only on five sites has any excavation taken place in the interior, and as two of these were by Nash-Williams in

the 1930s, reliable results cannot be expected. Of the three excavated more recently, two have produced evidence suggesting the presence of roundhouses and the third, Lodge Hill, some kind of ancillary structure lacking a heath. Circular cropmarks amid earthworks are also known from the interiors of a further six unexcavated sites. Annexes and additional enclosures are recorded at only twelve sites, and possible associated field systems at four.

### ***GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks***

During year two of the project the study examined the routes of supply, in particular the limestone railways and other early transport infrastructure. The history of these is well studied, but this has been largely document-led and there has been little in the way of fieldwork to establish what survives on the ground. There has been comprehensive coverage of several of the ironwork related transport systems in the Southeast Wales area: the Merthyr Tramroad (Archaeological Investigations), the tramroad network around Blaenavon (Torfaen County Borough Council and Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales), and the Brecon Forest Tramroad (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales). Separately Herian and Groundwork Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff are looking to develop a network of industrial trails, many of which will use tramroads as part of the routes. Of particular relevance to this project is Van Laun's (2001) study, which provides a detailed account of the best-preserved element of the railway transport system, the lines which carried the fluxing limestone from quarry to furnace.

This project was designed to be field visit/survey driven rather than desk-based led. Though historic map data especially advance drawings for the Ordnance Survey and Board of Health Plans was examined during the initial stage, it was considered that the application of the standard iterative desk-top study methodology to establish and enhance the project database was not the most productive approach.

Both the Merthyr Tramroad and the area of Blaenavon were excluded from the current project due to the high level of existing coverage. A representative proportion of the resource has been selected for field validation, and consideration for protection, based largely on John Van Laun's work (2001), information on the ironwork centres and early map sources collated during year one of the project. These are as follows: Abersychan Railway; the Llam-march Railroad; the Llam-march Tramroad; the Clydach Railroad; Clydach incline; Disgwylfa Tramroad; the Trevil Railroad, Rassa Railroad; Hall's Trevil Tramroad; the Rhymney Tramroad; Twynau Gwynion Tramroads (2 lines); Morlais (east) Tramroad and Rly; Morlais (west) Tramroad; Tappenden's Tramroad; and Mr Glover's Railroad. These were chosen on the basis of association with various iron working centres, where the surviving remains are considered to be of high quality, and on landscape interconnectivity, in addition to typological and historical considerations. This will allow greater scope for landscape interpretation and understanding of the industrial archaeological resource and the processes involved.

The project involved interrogation of the computerised Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by information held on the National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth. More general works and articles and other readily available sources were also consulted. No original research was carried out for the purposes of the current study. Recommendations for further original study, however, will appear in the final report.

The Sites and Monuments Record data, refined through other sources and rapid map regression, has been assembled into a database, and routes of linear features digitally plotted. The level of current protection and threats was added and following field validation the baseline data was checked and revised as necessary, and

information on current condition/value added. Data storage, manipulation, analysis, interrogation, presentation and future update of information has and will be undertaken through GIS system. The Information Technology component of the project has allowed a dynamic, multi-layered digital model for the study area to be produced.



**Part of the Trevil Limestone Railway lying in the Heads of The Valleys Regeneration Area. Routes such as this historically linked communities (in this case Trefil and Ebbw Vale) and their related industrial bases. With sensitive improvement and management they would present ideal pathways for communities to access both the past and the countryside.**

The year two report sets out the results of the project, with a section defining the aims, and methodology. It also summarises the known and potential threats and provides general recommendations and establishes management/conservation priorities.

The main body of the report, Section 8, identifies and describes the 25 identified transport networks (43 sub-sections). These routes were mapped in the current landscape using a MapInfo Geographical Information System, and figures produced to illustrate a selection of the best surviving areas/features.

Reference

J van Laun 2001 *Early Limestone Railways* (London)

### ***GGAT 83 Southeast Wales Cross-ridge Dykes***

The Trust commenced a threat-led assessment of the Cross-ridge Dykes. These are a distinctive monument class, particularly in upland Glamorgan where most of the ridges are crossed by short lengths of earthwork banks possibly designed to control access along these natural route ways. The date of these features is not certain, although an early medieval origin is assumed (Royal Commission on the Ancient and

Historical Monuments of Wales 1976, 5-11). The Cross-ridge Dykes are subject to a variety of threats, including forestry re-planting, wind farm developments, and off-road vehicular activity (scrambling and 4 X 4).

In the reporting period an enhanced database of all known Cross-ridge Dykes was created. Information recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record was assessed. Cartographic and documentary sources were studied, along with relevant published information. Current data and information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and registered landscapes was obtained from Cadw and additional information requested from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

Of the sources examined, historic map data were the most generally useful, and provided information for all areas. Only map sets giving a full coverage of the area (tithe and Ordnance Survey) were used. Earlier estate plans were not examined. All historic maps, Ordnance Survey 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th edition maps were used; these were scaled at 1/10,650 and 1/25,000. The high-resolution digital geo-referenced aerial photograph coverage, supplied by GetMapping under licence granted through Cadw, provided further useful information. Published and unpublished material was of varying degrees of usefulness.

Sites under particular threat or lacking protection were identified and relevant permissions sought to carry out sampling through auger-coring and a selected excavation. This fieldwork is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2006-2007.

#### Reference

Royal Commission on the Ancient And Historical Monuments of Wales 1976 *An inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan Vol 1: Pre-Norman Part III The Early Christian Period* (Cardiff)

#### **GGAT 84 Aerial Photographs Digitisation**

The Trust commenced a programme to digitise its photographic collections arising from projects undertaken with grant-aid funding from Cadw. The photographs were digitised to the standard set by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales who also audited the product. The work allowed the production of both TIFF images to be held in the digital archive and JPEGs for web-mounting and other outreach work. On completion of the digitisation the original photographs were transferred to the Commission for long-term curation.

In the reporting period about a 1,000 images were produced from the collections arising from Historic Landscape Characterisation work, and the Southeast Wales Coastal Survey and Southeast Wales Romano-British Settlements Assessment projects.

## REVIEW OF CADW PROJECTS APRIL 2006—SEPTEMBER 2006

### ***GGAT 61 Historic Landscape Characterisation***

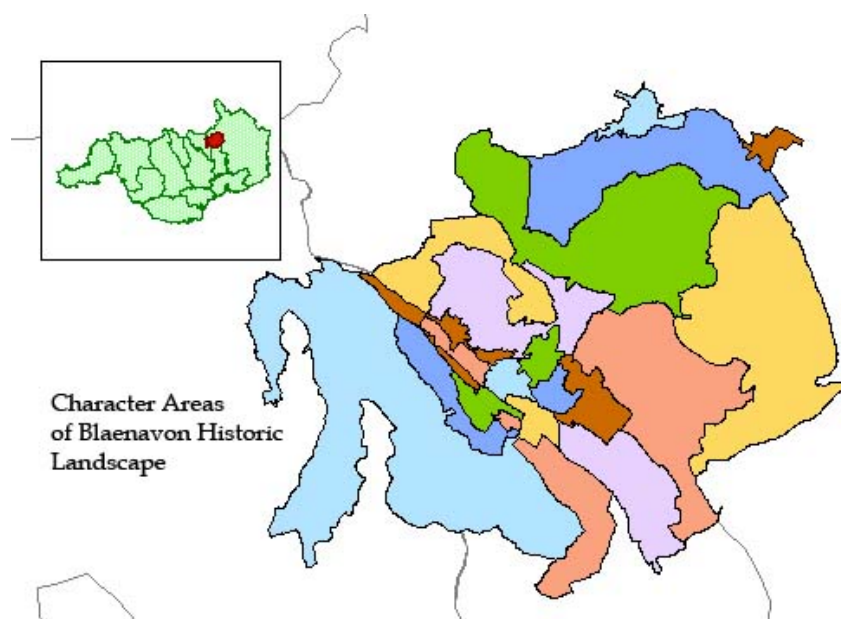
This year's project comprises the following tasks:

1. Placing the Blaenavon characterisation report on to the Trust website (Cadw pages)
2. Translation of Gower and posting on the Trust website by end of 2006 (Cadw pages)
3. Translation and printing of leaflet for Blaenavon Historic Landscape Characterisation
4. Translation and printing of leaflet for Gower Historic Landscape characterisation
5. Review of the Lower Wye Valley Landscape Studies.

Task 1, posting the characterisation work for the Blaenavon Historic Landscape on the web was completed in August 2006, following translation into Welsh. This entailed the formatting of the content of the Blaenavon Historic Landscape Report as web page, and the conversion of the photographic illustrations and maps illustrating the historic landscape character areas into a web compatible format.

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

#### **Blaenavon**



#### **Blaenavon Web-mapping extract**

Both the Blaenavon and the Gower Historic Landscape Leaflets, tasks 3 and 4, have been compiled following translation, and drafts are currently with Cadw for comment. Once approval has been gained from Cadw further final printed drafts will be produced as required prior to final printing.

### **GGAT 67 Tir Gofal**

The Trust has continued processing the tail-end of the Round 4 successfully ranked farm applications (HE1s). Since the beginning of April 2005, four applications have been processed. Three of these were for additional lands.

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

As a final element in the project, a document was drawn up to identify (among other things) monuments considered to be particularly at risk, and monuments or groups of monuments that would benefit from survey. The aim of this autumn's fieldwork was to investigate monuments from three of the identified groups; these included the Graig Fawr chambered tomb, located on the westernmost ridge in the uplands north of Swansea, the causewayed enclosure at Norton, occupying one of the elevated knolls east of Southerndown in the Vale of Glamorgan, and (also in the Vale) the Church Farm Barrow Cemetery group, located in an arable field east of Monkash.

The Graig Fawr chambered tomb (SAM Gm 513) was discovered in 1989 and consists of two separate monolithic chambers with a possible robbed mound. It was envisaged that a close-set contour survey on the monument would provide an accurate record of the chambers and possibly locate the position of the original mound, which would in turn permit the scheduled area to be extended. The results obtained from the survey showed two chambers (A and B) c3m apart, formed from relatively small and thin slabs of the local Pennant sandstone, each chamber having multiple compartments. The mound has been largely destroyed; indeed, it is difficult to distinguish its remains from the natural unevenness of the ground. However, the results of the survey demonstrated the existence of a crescent mound to the west of



**Norton Enclosure, partially excavated ditch section**

chamber A and a possible continuation of the mound to the east of the same chamber; but a degree of caution must be exercised in the interpretation. Although present sheep tracks were avoided in order not to prejudice the result, anomalies resulting from ancient sheep tracks and disturbance attributed to the partial destruction of the chambers cannot be discounted as cannot the possibility of the higher elements of natural strata lying just under the soil cover.

The enclosure at Norton was first photographed from the air in 1984, although the confirmation of the cropmark as a probable interrupted-ditch enclosure came as a result aerial reconnaissance in July 1996 by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of

Wales. The site circumvents the summit of a low limestone hill and overlooks the wide mouth of the Ogmere River, and beyond to the sand dunes of Merthy Mawr Warren. According to the aerial photographic plot the enclosure appeared to conform to an interrupted bivallate plan with entrances aligned to the four cardinal points, with an internal diameter of 191m by 176m and ditches 2-4m wide. Possible circular pits, with diameters ranging from 2m to 10m, are also suggested distributed broadly across the site.

The fieldwork incorporated four trenches positioned in order to identify the presence of the bi-vallate ditches and sufficient of their depth to enable their nature and degree of survival to be assessed. A 35m long trench was located through the eastern entrance and positioned to encounter a large pit (10m in diameter) and the three ditches forming a flanged-shaped terminus. The second and third trenches were 21m in length and placed over the enclosure's ditches to the south where a terminus is suspected but obscured on the aerial photographic plot by a copse of sloe and elder. The final 20m trench was positioned across the ditches to the north of the enclosure.

The results of the excavation have proved beyond doubt the presence of the bivallate ditches, although location of the large pit to the east of the site proved more elusive. The first trench revealed a rock-cut ditch 1.2m in depth and 13.8m wide, no trace of the large pit was encountered or any conclusive evidence of the flanged-shaped terminus depicted on the aerial photographic plot. A preliminary interpretation of this ditch feature is that the aerial photographic plot and trench location were marginally inaccurate and consequently missed the targeted terminus and instead followed a short section of the internal ditch, which comprises the north side of the eastern cardinal terminus. The second and third trenches revealed two large ditches measuring 2.9m to 3.5m in width with a possible terminus in the second trench, although as only sufficient of those deposits were excavated to identify the presence of the ditches the terminus remains unexcavated. The 3.5m width of internal ditch exposed in the third trench was excavated revealing a rock-cut ditch 1.5m in depth, the basal fill appeared to be comprised of back-filled rubble from the ditch, with large quantities of animal and possibly human bone randomly deposited within it. The basal fill appears to have been back-filled into the ditch from the south, the deposit diagonally sloped from this side, possibly hinting at the presence of an external ditch, however short-lived. No trace of a bank was discernable though above the ditch, probably due to the thin cover of topsoil and the existing agricultural regime. Then, as with both of the ditches excavated to bedrock, a period of abandonment is represented by a significant depth of natural silting before plough disturbance was encountered near the ground surface.

The Church Farm Barrow Cemetery group (SAM Gm 262) is comprised of three burial mounds and was chosen for investigation because of the seriously denuded nature of the earthworks. Indeed, the damage to at least two of the barrows is so severe as to raise the questions to whether these should be fully excavated to provide preservation by record.

It was decided that two 35m trenches placed across the two better surviving barrows would provide sufficient information on their state of preservation and to what extent the mounds have spread through agricultural practices. The third barrow is now so denuded that it is almost impossible to locate. Archaeological deposits were encountered directly beneath the ploughsoil and what the remains of these earthwork mounds are now very spread and visible as the subsoil. As a consequence of the seriously denuded nature of both barrows it was established that one of the earthwork mounds (PRN 228s) contained two damaged cremation burials, in funerary urns, located very close to the ploughsoil, only the base (0.1m in height) of one cremation urn survived. Both cremations were removed to prevent further loss during this autumn's ploughing activities. These burial urns were located 0.55m

above the bedrock and have been interpreted as secondary to any primary burials that may exist below this but remain at this time unexcavated. At the northern end of the round barrow the presence of a rock-cut ditch was identified cut through the natural Lias bedrock, 1.4m wide and 1m in depth with 0.5m near-vertical sides. A thin layer of light coloured clay was identified forming a gentle slope from the ditch over the surviving mound deposits; now badly truncated this 'clay cap' to the mound may be the remains of an original finish to the barrow. Although similar efforts were made to find the barrow ditch to the south, no trace of this feature was located. The additional time required to lift the cremations at PRN 228s limited any further exploration of PRN 227s; where the denuded mound was identified directly below the ploughsoil.

### ***GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads***

This year's work is limited to the completion of the geomorphological study of the Usk Valley the purpose of which is to set Roman Caerleon in its topographic context. This work will be carried out by the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences at University of Wales Aberystwyth, and the intention is that it should be completed in the second half of the financial year.

### ***GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts***

The Waterfronts booklet has been specifically distributed with a covering letter to key stakeholders: The Ancient Monuments Board; Associated British Ports Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities; Barry Yacht Club; Bridgend County Borough Council; Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society; Bristol City Council; Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery; British Association for Shooting and Conservation; British Waterways Caldicot & Wentloog Levels Inland Drainage Board; Cardiff Archaeological Society; Cardiff Council; Cardiff Harbour Authority; Cardiff Naturalists Society; Cardiff University; Cardiff Visitor Centre; Chepstow Museum; City and County of Swansea; Countryside Council For Wales; Crest Nicholson Marina's Ltd; English Heritage; Environment Agency Wales; Gower Society; Gwent Wildlife Trust; Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers; Monmouthshire County Council; Neath Museum; Neath Port Talbot CBC; Newport CC Ship Project; Newport City Council; Newport Harbour Commissioners; Newport Museum & Art Gallery; Paul Fairweather Co. Ltd; Royal Commission on the Ancient And Historical Monuments of Wales; Royal Institution of South Wales; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Cymru; Seaview Lad's Fishing Club; Severn Estuary Coastal Group; Severn Estuary Conservation Group; Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee; Severn Estuary Partnership, Severn Estuary Research Group; Severn Princess Preservation Group; Sustrans; Swansea Museum; The National Waterfronts Museum; The Parliamentary Maritime Group; University of Glamorgan; University of Swansea; Vale of Glamorgan Council; Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership; Wales Tourist Board; Welsh Assembly Government; Welsh Water-Dwr Cymru; Welsh Yachting Association; Wentloog Wildfowling & Conservation Association.

A short article arising from the work is to appear in the next issue of *The Field Archaeologist*. A power-point presentation has been prepared and some presentations made.

### ***GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures***

The current financial year (year three of the project) has seen the completion of fieldwork on monuments in Glamorgan. Some sites had already been visited during years one and two, but a further seventy-four sites were identified as requiring a site visit. Permission could not be obtained for seven of these, but the remaining sites were visited, and a report has been prepared. The sites visited included a high

proportion of sites that had been identified through air photography. It was found that, on many of these, repeated cultivation had removed all traces of earthworks.

In general, although the statistical data concerning the different morphological features of the enclosures has been augmented, the general conclusions reached in year one have not been significantly modified. Defended enclosures are still a rare type in the uplands, but the breakdown by topographic location has added a site in a valley bottom, where they had previously not been recorded.

The defences with which the sites were provided ranged from very massive multiple banks and ditches, to much slighter single defences, and were sometimes, but not always, connected with the natural defensibility of the site. Univallate sites are still the commonest form by far, now with eighty-three examples. However, it is possible that this number may include sites where an additional ring or ring of defences has been slighted, and air photograph and geophysical evidence from two otherwise univallate sites suggests that they may have had an outer palisade beyond the earthwork defences. Bivallate enclosures with closely set defences account for twenty-three examples, widely set bivallate defences for fourteen, closely set multivallate defences for fifteen, and widely set multivallate defences for twelve. The vast majority of recorded entrances are of simple type (forty-five examples), consisting of no more than a gap in the defences, although the excavations at Coedy-cymdda and Whitton show that the ends of the bank were faced with timber constructions at these two sites (Owen-John 1988, 59-65; Jarrett and Wrathmell 1981, 12-6), and similar arrangements are likely at other, unexcavated, sites. The earthwork entrance passage type remains at thirteen examples, with other entrance types still being rare (two entrance passage with guardchambers, three barbicans/hornworks and two complex). Four examples are now known with ditched/banked tracks (causeways).

As far as the shape of the interior is concerned, it was not always possible to tell from the information available. Where it could be assessed, the most common shape was sub-circular, with seventy-four examples, including half-circle enclosures on cliff- and cwm-edge sites. There were thirty-three sites described as sub-rectangular and three as rectangular. Five sites were polygonal, six triangular, eighteen irregular and one complex. There appears to be very little in the way of significant groupings visible in the locations of the various shapes of enclosure, apart from a predominance of circular ones on the lower reaches of the Coalfield in Neath Port Talbot. Knowledge of the internal details of these enclosures is limited not only by preservation of the upstanding earthworks, but also by the fact that few have ever been excavated. Twenty-six sites have internal buildings recorded, almost all being curvilinear. Annexes and additional enclosures are definitely present at only eighteen sites, with one possible additional one; the majority (ten examples) are detached. Eight sites are noted as having possible associated field systems, though it is not certain that these are contemporary. Most have no record of the form of these fields, but where it is recorded, they are small, possibly paddocks or garden enclosures.

References:

Jarrett, M G and Wrathmell, S, 1981, *Whitton: An Iron Age and Roman farmstead*

Owen-John, H S, 1988, The hillslope enclosure in Coedy Cymdda, near Wenvoe, South Glamorgan, *Archaeol Cambrensis* **137**, 43-98

### **GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks**

The study was initially limited to the northern coalfield rim. Approximately, thirty major blast furnace iron-producing sites are located within this area.

In year two of the project the study was extended outwards from the core of manufacturing and processing sites to examine the routes of supply, in particular the limestone railways and other early transport infrastructure. The start of work for year three of the project, which is to concentrate on water management features related to the ironworks, was by mutual agreement delayed and the project redesigned so that it could be better tailored to assist the requirements of the Heads of the Valleys Initiative. The project has just commenced with initial searches being undertaken and digital map regression started.

### ***GGAT 83 Southeast Wales Cross-ridge Dykes***

During the spring and early summer of 2006 a survey was undertaken of all known Cross-ridge Dykes in Glamorgan and Gwent. Cross-ridge dykes are a distinctive monument class in Southeast Wales, particularly in upland Glamorgan. Most of the ridges of the Glamorgan uplands are crossed by short lengths of earthwork banks, possibly designed to control access along these natural route ways. The date of these features is not clear, although it has been suggested they originated in the 8th or 9th centuries AD (Fox 1936; Crampton 1966; RCAHMW 1976, 5-11).

During the initial stages of the fieldwork permission was obtained to augur seven of the sixteen sites and one of these sites, Bedd Eiddil (PRN 02266.0m), was chosen for excavation. The remaining sites were subjected to a condition survey only, as the permission to augur and/or excavate could not be obtained from the landowners. Access to these sites, however, was provided by the new Open Access initiative.



**Bwlch y Clawdd Cross-ridge Dyke SAM GM 500, with section removed by access track and further wear caused by other vehicular crossing-points.**

Problems were encountered during the auguring of the seven sites, almost all sample locations were obstructed by stone at varying levels of depth. This then, would suggest that many of the Cross-ridge Dykes in Southeast Wales are composed of stone or have a significant stone content. Indeed, the excavation of Bedd Eiddil

identified large sandstone slabs used as cladding over an earthwork bank, and in places prevented even the most determined auguring. Therefore, the auguring of this monument type was found to be an inefficient method of evaluation. Small targeted excavations of this monument type would be a more efficient method of assessment.

Each of the seven sites augured produced results establishing that these monuments are situated on ferric stagnopodzols, (mainly upland soils with a peaty topsoil and periodically wet, faintly mottled bleached subsurface horizon overlying an iron-rich layer), some areas with a thin iron pan, over Palaeozoic sandstone bedrock. Crampton (1966) has shown these dykes to have been built not long after the *Ericaceae* pollen had reached its maximum, the soil structure being a *sol brun acide*, forming since the early-medieval period, on a podzol that started forming in the Bronze Age.

This would correspond well with the recovery of the prehistoric burnt flint flake and burnt clay ball from the existing palaeosoil at Bedd Eiddil. Bedd Eiddil is a relatively short earthwork dyke composed of a single bank with a ditch on its north side positioned broadly east-west across the ridge between Bryn Du and Carn Eiddil at the head of Rhondda Fach. A 10m trench was placed across the dyke, which located the earthwork bank, stone cladding and a shallow ditch. The presence of *Ericaceae* pollen in the palaeosoil implies a heathland existed before the dyke was constructed and has shown the dyke to have been built not long after the *Ericaceae* pollen had reached its maximum (Crampton 1966).

A recurring feature of all the dykes surveyed is the continual damage caused by motorised vehicles, especially motorcycles. Bedd Eiddil is a particularly bad example, here the eastern section of the dyke has suffered severe erosion from motorcycles, deep wheel ruts have cut through the monument and as a result the bank and ditch has become almost flattened. This particular dyke was recently (2005) de-scheduled. The excavation established that a substantial bank and ditch survives and it is therefore suggested that at least an 80m length of the dyke must be well-preserved west of the damaged area. **Cross-ridge dykes are not a common feature of Southeast Wales and consideration must be given to re-scheduling this particular monument.** Fly-tipping is a problem identified on several of the scheduled monuments, especially those in more secluded locations such as those on Gelligaer Common and at the head of the Rhondda Valleys. Horses and walkers have had slightly less impact than motor vehicles, although even these activities have damaged the dykes, cutting artificial paths through the earthworks. Animal burrowing has also been identified on most sites but given the cross-ridge dyke's predominately stone content they remain stable; this then only presents a problem during any environmental analysis of these monuments.

#### References

- Crampton CB 1966 An interpretation of the pollen and soils in Cross-Ridge Dykes of Glamorgan *BBCS XXI* pt IV
- Fox C 1936 An Investigation of the Cross-ridge Dykes of Glamorganshire *BBCS*
- RCAHMW 1976 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan. Vol I: Pre-Norman, Part III, The Early Christian Period* (Cardiff HMSO).

#### **GGAT 85 Southeast Wales Burnt Mounds**

The main objective of this study is to clarify the nature of the burnt mounds in Southeast Wales. The mounds are made up of debris from fires and cracked stone and it is beneath the mounds that pits, sometimes lined with wood and stone, can be found. It has been noted in West Wales that the shapes of the mounds are variable,

but with the majority being variations on oval and sub circular forms and truncated variations on these (Williams, G 1995, 5).

To date, we have verified eleven of the eighteen mounds listed on the Sites and Monuments Record. Sketches of the monument and the immediate surroundings, and site photographs were obtained for each site, and panoramic photographs were taken where weather permitted. Earthwork surveys using triangulation from a baseline were done where time allowed giving us accurate information about the form of many of these monuments. These details were gathered to verify the information we had on these monuments, but also to obtain more detailed and helpful information on their form that had been previously lacking and to enable us to review more clearly something of their cultural and landscape context.



**Crescent-shaped burnt mound with ranging rod placed in the centre of the inner edge of crescent. Note the very boggy ground indicated by the bog-cotton. Burnt Mounds are often found near streams (PRN 02144w, Cefn Bryn on the Gower).**

This project also involves a commitment to the local community whereby knowledgeable local sources have been contacted regarding possible locations of other burnt mounds in Southeast Wales. In this way we can have direct public involvement in the creation of a dataset that can be verified in the coming year or two. It is now being decided whether particular sites are suitable for palaeo-environmental testing and there is a proposed excavation for 2007-2008.

#### Reference

Williams, G 1995 *A Pilot Assessment of Burnt Mounds in Dyfed* Unpublished Cambria Archaeology/DAT report produced for Cadw

## CADW-FUNDED SCIENTIFIC CONTRACTS

No significant calls were made on the CADW Scientific contract in 2005-2006. In the first half of 2006-2007 samples for palaeoenvironmental analysis and possible C14 dating were recovered from the Cross-ridge Dykes project auger-coring and excavation at Bedd Eiddel Dyke, and other material has been recovered from the fieldwork carried out at Norton and St Donats as part of the Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments project but has yet to be assessed. Draws on the contract in the second half of 2006-2007, particularly for C14 dating are anticipated.

## POST-EXCAVATION AND PUBLICATION REVIEW

No Cadw-funded post-excavation work took place in this year.

### *'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:-

- *Waterfronts in Southeast Wales: Phase 2 Report No.2005/039* (GGAT 76)
- *Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes Year 1: the core ironworks areas Report No.2005/056* (GGAT 80)
- *Prehistoric Defended Enclosures in Glamorgan with recommendations for fieldwork Report No.2005/058* (GGAT 78)
- *Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscapes Year 2: Transport Networks Report No.2006/013* (GGAT 80)
- *Prehistoric funerary and ritual sites: supplementary sites Report No.2006/014* (GGAT 72)
- *Prehistoric defended enclosures in Gwent Report No.2006/021* (GGAT 78)
- *Roman roads and vici in Southeast Wales: Year 4 report - the Caerleon canabae Report No.2006/025* (GGAT 75)

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2006—MARCH 2007**

### ***GGAT 1 Regional Heritage Management Services***

The Heritage Management Section of the Trust will continue its regional remit to provide wide-ranging and detailed archaeological heritage management and outreach services, based on Cadw's list of Curatorial Services. This will include the provision of SMR information and advice to enquirers, and initiatives to increase our outreach to the general public. 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:

- finalise production of the Blaenavon and Gower historic landscape leaflets and arrange distribution;
- update Cadw's portion of the Trust website;
- Continue work on producing leaflets to introduce the Early Medieval carved and inscribed stones in Gower and Merthyr Mawr, in conjunction with local partners.

### ***GGAT 43 Regional Archaeological Planning Services***

The Archaeological Planning Management 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***

During the second half of the current year it is proposed to edit and translate the Gower Historic Landscape characterisation text and post the Gower work onto the web (task 2) by the end of 2006 to correspond with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

To enable posting on the web the content of the Gower 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.

#### **Lower Wye Valley Review**

In addition, during the second half of the current year a review of previous landscape characterisation studies carried out on the Lower Wye Valley (task 5) will be undertaken. All relevant existing landscape studies will be collated and a rapid review undertaken. This will decide the level of characterisation required for the Lower Wye Valley historic landscape. Sources to be reviewed include the Gloucestershire characterisation exercise, work undertaken by Liz Whittle, work undertaken for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Heritage Lottery Fund bid, and the Monmouthshire Landmap study.

### ***GGAT 67 Tir Gofal***

The Trust understands that following transfer of Tir Gofal management responsibilities to Welsh Assembly Government from Countryside Council for Wales that a new applications window will be opened in November. We further understand

that across Wales c125 HE1 reports may need to be compiled in the latter part of the 2006-2007 financial year, the geographical distribution of this total is as yet unknown. Given past trends the Trust may be required to undertake 10-15% of the total, but this is by no means certain.

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

The project report will be completed in the early autumn.

### ***GGAT 75 Roman Vici and Roads***

The geomorphological study of the Usk Valley (the purpose of which is to set Roman Caerleon in its topographic context) will be carried out by the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences at University of Wales Aberystwyth.

### ***GGAT 76 Southeast Wales Urban Waterfronts***

It is currently intended that several further presentations should be given to selected bodies. This work may be subject to redirection.

### ***GGAT 78 Prehistoric Defended Enclosures***

The project report will be completed in the early autumn.

### ***GGAT 80 Southeast Wales Ironworks***

Large-scale regeneration proposals, such as the Heads of the Valleys Initiative, represent as much an opportunity as a threat to this existing and as yet largely unquantified heritage resource. Whilst environmental enhancement work is potentially damaging to the archaeological resource, the Heads of the Valleys programme proposes five key strategic goals, the leader of which is 'an attractive and well-used natural, historic and built environment', and it is envisaged that this will be achieved through strategic landscape-scale environmental enhancements. A further goal refers to 'an appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience', which would include for large regional-scale projects. There is considerable opportunity for integrated heritage management, and it is proposed that the ironworks landscape project is tailored to fit the landscape-scale focus of the Heads of the Valleys programme. The area of the Heads of the Valleys Initiative area contains important remains related to the iron industry. In order to make information available to the developing Heads of the Valleys initiative, the study of the ironworks extractive and water management systems will initially focus on the area covered by the initiative.

Building on the two years work completed the ironworks related drainage/water management systems across the Heads of the Valleys Initiative area (with the exclusion of Merthyr Tydfil, and Blaenafon) will be mapped from historic maps and a rapid comparison using modern baseline mapping and aerial photographs. In this way the extent of the surviving resource can be rapidly identified and quantified. In addition industrial landscape areas of particular potential and interest can be further identified and constraint maps produced. Current levels of protection will be reviewed and recommendations for enhanced protection made as may be appropriate.

It is proposed that in next year (2007-2008), the same process will be undertaken in relation to the ironworks related extractive sites of the Heads of the Valleys area, with the end result of assessing the resource base level and producing constraint mapping.

During years three and four a mapping exercise based on the first edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (LANDMARK Historic Mapping) will allow specific ironwork

related resources (ie drainage and extractive features) to be identified and quantified at a landscape scale. The survival of the resource will be assessed through comparison between information obtained from historic maps and modern mapping (Ordnance Survey Landline) supplemented by information obtained from digitally available aerial photographs (Get Mapping). Readily available map information on areas of opencast and reclaimed land will be sourced, where available, and used to aid this process.

Information on statutory protection relating to ironworks related water management and extraction sites in the Heads of the Valleys area would also be obtained from Cadw to assess current levels of protection. Constraint maps will then be produced; identifying ironworks landscape areas of particular interest and potential. During the current year the results of previous work (years one and two) will also be incorporated to allow the identification and mapping of areas of special significance, this will be revised in year four to incorporate and take into account extraction areas.

Over the following two years, the project will be targeted on those areas (ie drainage and extractive areas) selected during years three and four of the project, as being of greatest potential. This selection will take into account the wider related ironworks landscapes and therefore be influenced by the level of associated surviving ironworks core areas and transport features. This follow-on work will entail a more detailed level study centred on limited areas defined during years three and four of the project, and will include the gathering of available historic background data, more detailed map regression, and detailed mapping of features from historic mapping and aerial photographs as necessary, and the production of management recommendations and specific scheduling proposals as required.

During years five and six fine-grained map regression of specific defined areas will form an important element to the project. 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 should provide a useful methodological framework. An element of targeted fieldwork is expected to also form part of the project during years five and six. The project will involve some interrogation of the computerised Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by other readily available primary and secondary data. Sites and Monuments Record enquiry is more likely to be of value in correlating data recovered by other means. More general works and articles and other readily available sources will also be consulted and expertise drawn from historians and archaeologists working in the area. It is not intended to carry out any original research, though where this would have a relevant and beneficial approach at some future date this will be identified.

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 revision 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(s).

### ***GGAT 83 Southeast Wales Cross-ridge Dykes***

The project report will be completed in the early autumn.

### ***GGAT 85 Southeast Wales Burnt Mounds***

The project report will be completed in the early autumn. The re-opening of the Tir Gofal project will necessitate a transfer of reserved funds and the field work element of this project will need to be deferred until 2006-2007.

## **GGAT 86 Tir Gofal Support Work**

This project involves the provision of archaeological heritage management information, advice and services to the All Wales Agri-Environment Scheme (Tir Gofal) in Southeast Wales by the Curatorial Division of the Trust. Tir Gofal is a whole farm scheme available throughout Wales to farmers to encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the agricultural landscape. Historic features and archaeological sites are important components of the landscape and their management and enhancement is a declared objective of the Tir Gofal scheme.

The project work will include: Management of the Tir Gofal project and staff within the Trust; Maintenance of databases; Cross-boundary consultations; Follow-up information and advice during the implementation of the agreement; Attendance at review meetings; Liaison with the regional Welsh Assembly Government Tir Gofal Officers; Liaison with other interested parties as required; Provision of training for Tir Gofal Officers; Monitoring the effectiveness of the scheme and provision of review information to Welsh Assembly Government; Provision of statistical information.

## **Contingency Projects**

### **GGAT 84 Aerial Photograph Digitisation**

We would anticipate continuing this work in particular digitising the photographic collections from the Severn Levels, Brynmill Peat Shelf, and Gwent Levels Surveys which are a distinct and related set.

### **GGAT XX Southeast Wales Urban Survey: Monmouth**

A proposal has been put forward to commence Urban Survey work in Southeast Wales.

As can be drawn out from the *Review of the Historic Environment* (Cadw 2003) there has been a lack of emphasis in clarifying the distinctiveness of different communities within larger urban environments. Such work would assist the identification of sense of place thereby giving added value and focus to urban communities in Southeast Wales.

Paradoxically, the Urban Communities of Southeast Wales have histories, which can be connected and common but also discrete and discrepant. The surviving built historic environment and the archaeological resource provide building blocks for distinctiveness and connection.

The project will draw on the well-developed methodologies for historic landscape characterisation as applied in conurbations (this can have outcomes useful for spatial planning) and those used for urban database compilation (English Heritage Intensive Survey Method - see English Heritage Website). This type of examination might also be applied within select areas within the urban core of the larger conglomerations.

It is also intended to look at *foci* (monuments, monument groups, building groups) within urban communities and their condition, and consider possible improvements in terms of presentation and appreciation. These should be linked to community heritage audits and can inform townscape schemes which otherwise may be implemented with little reference to the historic place of the particular community. For this to be achieved it will be necessary to take socially inclusive approaches. The need to interact with local representative bodies, and draw out through this, and other approaches, what the communities themselves think of their heritage and what they value will be as important to the success of this project as the ability to carry out historic and archaeological research; bottom-up and top-down views must be married.

## *Monmouth*

The objectives for the Monmouth Urban area are to carry out an intensive historic town survey that will produce easily usable information in hard copy report and digital GIS that can be used primarily to inform future strategic planning and conservation decision-making processes but with the intention that the information will be sufficiently accessible for it to be used to support and inform other initiatives in the community.

It is critical for the project success that the knowledge database built up by the Monmouth Archaeological Society as a result of their investigations and observations in Monmouth since their inception nearly fifty years ago is accessed and summary data included in the project outputs and they are prepared to commit to the project. It should be stressed that it is not the intention of the project to publish the results of the Society's work but it is critical that all key data even if only in summary form is included to ensure accuracy and completeness of the information base from which past development, archaeological potential and other constraint data are mapped to inform protection and management strategies.

In essence three stages of work are envisaged *database* (gathering of information), *assessment* (summary report and mapping), *strategy* (protection, management, conservation, publication). The work should be iterative through the stages, but it would be possible to repeat the process for discrete areas of study. Thus for example integration of community view could be dealt with as a separate strand to gathering and plotting constraint data. This approach needs to be followed as it is envisaged that the works will last more than one year and tangible product should be available at the end of each funding round.

Cadw have previously indicated that for such projects to be progressed there should be an equal partnership with the local planning authority. Monmouth County Borough Council have expressed not only enthusiasm for the work but identified and tabled funding to support the work of the partnership.

### Reference

Cadw 2003 *Review of the Historic Environment in Wales: A consultation Document* (weblink <http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/upload/resourcepool/48676.htm>)

English Heritage *Historic Town & City Surveys Website Summary* <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.001002003008002>

## Initial proposals for 2007—2008 Financial Year

We envisage the continuation of our Curatorial Service projects (*GGAT 1 & GGAT 43*). New specific proposals will be considered for the heritage management project. We anticipate some continuing involvement with the Tir Gofal initiative.

We have reviewed our overall progress against the *Statement by Cadw on Grant-aid for future threat-led assessments* issued in July 2004. In our case work in a number of areas (Deserted Rural Settlements, Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites, Ports and Harbours) is completed. For some other categories (Cross-ridge Dykes, Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments, Roman Roads and *vici*) project works are either substantially complete or by the end of this year will be, and outstanding tasks will be limited to completion of any scientific analysis and dissemination of summary results by means of short academic publication (such as Roman Roads and *vici* projects summaries in the proposed *Roman Frontiers in Wales* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed) volume). Such works need relatively low-resourcing. There may still be the occasional spin-off project, for example there is the possibility of a multi-partnership project to look at prehistoric remains on Rhossili Down but we believe these could be linked to other directions or initiatives.

We see no merit in pursuing any further the Early Medieval Stones Project and note that as discrete area of study Twentieth Century Military Structures has received little encouragement. However, we are aware in the latter case that, at least in Southeast Wales, the effects of World War II are still remembered, are tangible, and in addition surviving remains may provide community identifiers and past-links, and can be a useful historic-archaeological educative tool given the predilection for recent history in current syllabuses. The core of our threat-led assessment work for Prehistoric Defended Enclosures will be completed in 2006-2007, but, as for other parts of Wales, it would be worthwhile to carry out one or more discrete site investigations. We consider that this and any related project dissemination could be completed in 2007-2008.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation initiative has been a major achievement for both the protection of the historic environment in Wales and defining its importance. Our programme is well-advanced but may still take two-three years to complete. The Llancarfan, Forest Fawr/Mynydd-y-Glôg and Wye Valley landscapes remain to be characterised. The characterisation of Llancarfan and Forest Fawr/Mynydd-y-Glôg are relatively straight-forward exercises that could be undertaken and completed next year; Forest Fawr/Mynydd-y-Glôg straddles the Glamorgan-Gwent/Clywd-Powys border and the work could be undertaken by either organisation. We are examining options in respect of the Wye Valley this year. The area entered in the Historic Landscapes Register sits on the English/Welsh border and within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which extends into both countries. There is an opportunity to look at this important border zone using both English and Welsh Historic Landscape Characterisation Methodologies. There is also perhaps an opportunity following on from the successful partnership initiative for the characterisation of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to look at doing the same for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty perhaps linking this in to other community-sensitive landscape-orientated funding initiatives.

We are currently carrying out works on Burnt Mounds under the Miscellaneous Prehistoric Sites banner. This will be completed next year. Our recent assessment of protection shortfalls (below) suggests that there would be some merit in looking at undefended prehistoric sites that were not captured by the 'lithic' sites assessment. We see recording threatened Scheduled Ancient Monuments as being an on-going process, but believe that resources should only be directed where other funding streams are not available; in our area there are number of sites threatened by

Coastal Erosion and we have in particular previously drawn attention to issues regarding several of the promontory forts in Glamorgan. No progress has been made with Rural Monastic Landscapes or Medieval Lowland Settlement. Our recent initial assessment of protection shortfalls suggests that the latter is an area worthy of serious and urgent consideration in improving protection of the historic environment. The summary results of this assessment are included below.

The two remaining areas identified in the 2004 statement Regional Industrial Projects and Urban Archaeology are ones that we consider must now be given fuller attention.

Our work on the Ironworks and associated early limestone railways on the northern coalfield rim has been rightly praised, currently we are looking at the wider industrial landscape within which these remains sit within the particular area covered by the Heads of the Valleys Initiative. There is increasing recognition of the uniqueness and value of the industrial landscape in Southeast Wales and its past-link relationship to the socio-economic, cultural and political make-up of modern Wales. Designations such as the World Heritage Site status given to Blaenavon and tourism initiatives such as Herian serve to improve awareness. It is critically important that regeneration is not an iconoclastic process but rather one that recognises that re-invigorated communities have greater purpose when there is a clear sense of place – monumentality and its landscape provide the physical connectors and connections.

The greater part of the Welsh population lives in Southeast Wales and in Urban, communities. Southeast Wales contains three cities, as well as other major population centres. The major centres are facing programmes of substantial regeneration, and these together with other urban centres, many on Medieval or earlier foundations with discreet historic cores, will come under new strategic planning review in the not too distant future. Whilst there has been the occasional individual study or survey (for example Robinson 1980, Newman 2000), and occasional overall review (Owen 1989) there has been no systematic work since the demise of the Welsh Urban Archaeology Research Unit in 1978 (Soulsby 1983). By contrast a national programme of surveys of archaeology, topography, and historic buildings of England's historic towns and cities has been undertaken since 1992 with the intention initially of assisting local authorities to implement planning guidance regarding archaeology but now also contributing to wider aims such as regeneration planning and conservation initiatives (English Heritage 2006). To date the only equivalent of such works in Wales has been the survey of Carmarthen undertaken by Cambria Archaeology (Austin et al 2005). As can be drawn out from the *Review of the Historic Environment* undertaken in 2003 there has been a lack of emphasis in clarifying the distinctiveness of different communities within larger urban environments. Such work would assist the identification of sense of place thereby giving added value and focus to urban communities in Southeast Wales. The surviving built historic environment and the archaeological resource provide building blocks for distinctiveness and connection. We see that if appropriate partnerships can be formed that this should be an area of major involvement in the future.

#### References

Austin, L, Hill, C, James, H, James, T and Poucher, P Carmarthen *Historic Town Survey* (2 vols) (Cambria Archaeology)

English Heritage 2006 *Historic Town & City Surveys Website Summary* <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.001002003008002>

Newman 2000 *The Buildings of Wales Gwent/Monmouthshire* (Frome & London)

Owen DH (ed) 1989 *Settlement and Society in Wales* (Cardiff)

Robinson DM 1980 *Cowbridge Archaeology and Topography* (Swansea)

Soulsby I 1983 *The Towns of Medieval Wales* (Southampton)

We have examined our Sites and Monuments Record for monument classes that maybe under-protected and also considered whether study would be productive. The results are tabulated below. Post-medieval monuments have been excluded.

| <b>MONUMENT CLASS</b>  | <b>COMMENTARY</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>General</b>   |  |
| Battle sites and associated fortifications (including Civil War)                             | The Sites and Monuments Record includes twenty-seven battle site/battlefield entries. Seven are marked as Early Medieval and are unlikely to be difficult to locate precisely, as will also be the case with some of the medieval and those with little reference. Does not seem to have any significant potential as a project.   |
| Field clearance/systems  | The Sites and Monuments Record includes eighty-nine field systems, some of these have been examined as part of the Southeast Wales Roman-British Survey.   |
| <b>Prehistoric/Early Medieval</b>  |  |
| Field systems  | There are four field systems assigned to the prehistoric period, all crop-mark sites, three in the area studied in detail for the Southeast Wales Roman-British Survey, and the fourth on another visited site, none are visible on the ground. No project potential.  |
| Hut circles/prehistoric settlements, not included in Prehistoric Defended Enclosures Project | The Sites and Monuments Record includes two hut circles, and four settlements (including Atlantic Trading Estate and Chapelump). This is almost certainly under-represented. Much of the material found by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales for the Brecknock survey is not on the Sites and Monuments Record and other remains have been found in evaluations for developments and are in the Sites and Monuments backlog. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before appropriate fieldwork targets can be devised. |
| Mines and quarries   | There is only one prehistoric quarry marked on the Sites and Monuments record. No project potential (but see under medieval).  |
| Pit alignments/circles?  | None on Sites and Monuments Record but there are five pit clusters, of which two are post-medieval, two unknown, and the other excavated. No project potential.  |
| Scoop graves   | Desk-based assessment done, and some visited, as part of Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Monuments Project. An enigmatic type, which doesn't produce significant information from rapid field survey. No project potential.  |
| Short dykes  | These are currently being reviewed as part of the Cross-ridge Dykes project.   |

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| <b>Roman</b>   |  |
| Villas/farmsteads/ small settlements   | The Southeast Wales Roman-British Survey project looked at everything in these two groups ( <i>ie</i> all non-military Roman-period sites) east of Port Talbot and south of a line between Usk and Tintern. The rest of our area has not been covered and needs to be so, particularly in view of the new potential high status site discovered on Gower. (Although the Glamorgan uplands were not officially covered in Southeast Wales Roman-British Survey because it was lowlands, they were looked at tangentially in the context of possible transhumance; there are very few sites.) Possible project.  |
| Mines and quarries   |  |
| <b>Medieval</b>  |  |
| Boundary stones/crosses, engraved stones   | A preliminary count gives sixty-eight medieval crosses excluding churchyard crosses and Early Christian Monuments, but could be subject to modification. There are also nine medieval boundary stones, plus another five marked as unknown date. Some are documentary references only. There are no entries under engraved stones. Possible project.   |
| Chapel sites   | The Sites and Monuments Record contains one hundred and eighty-three examples of which a few were visited as part of the Historic Churches and Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites projects. Desk-top survey done as part of Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites, but mostly not visited. Possible project.  |
| <i>Castles</i> (earthwork and stone)   | The Sites and Monuments Record contains one hundred and five castle sites, ranging from documentary references through ruins of various degrees of completeness to post-medieval houses. Some of these are earthworks, but there are also fifty-two mottes and twenty-six ringworks. Glamorgan castles have been well covered by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, but there is no similar survey for those in Gwent. Neil Phillips has studied the earthwork castles in Gwent. The data is not in a standardised form, but otherwise there is not a lot of scope for a project, and the stone castles in Gwent might be better examined through other funding streams or agencies. |
| Farmsteads <i>ie</i> sites and structures not visited as part of Deserted Rural Settlement Survey<br>Also <i>barns</i> | The Sites and Monuments Record includes one hundred and seventy-eight farms and farmsteads, of which eighteen are classed as medieval, though others may have had medieval origins. Only one of these is noted as having been looked at as part of the Deserted Rural Settlement Survey. We also have sixteen possible medieval barns. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, followed by fieldwork as appropriate.  |
| Deer parks and park pales  | The Sites and Monuments Record contains thirty-three examples. Quite likely to be under-represented. Rick Turner has established an assessment methodology in work in connection with Chepstow Castle. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.   |

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| Deserted Medieval Villages   | The Sites and Monuments record includes eleven non-urban medieval settlements and one village. Almost certainly under-represented. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.  |
| Field systems - Ridge and furrow   | The Sites and Monuments record includes thirty-seven field systems with a medieval origin. Possible project.  |
| Fish traps/weirs   | The Sites and Monuments record includes thirty-six fish traps of all dates, two fish weirs and a weir of medieval date, and another nine weirs marked as post-medieval where there is not enough information to be able to tell whether they are fish weirs or not. Almost certainly under-represented. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.   |
| Flood defences??   | No entries under flood defences or sea walls. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.   |
| Moated sites, fortified houses - Gate houses<br><br><i>Also manor houses</i> | The Sites and Monuments record includes thirty-six moats, four moated sites, no fortified houses (probably under castles), seventy-five manor houses, eleven medieval gatehouses, some of which are attached to castles or monasteries and is almost certainly under-represented for Gwent. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.   |
| Holy wells<br><br><i>Also wells</i>  | The Sites and Monuments record includes one hundred and fourteen examples. Desk-based assessment done as part of Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites project, but mostly not visited. They include some nice listed ones, which may be worthy of scheduling. There are also one hundred and sixty-five wells, some of which should probably be classed as holy wells; some of these have well-houses, which is a significant local type where very little work has been done to date, but would be very useful to inform the planning process. Possible project.  |
| Mills<br><br><i>corn mills, fulling mills, water mills, windmills</i>        | The Sites and Monuments record includes sixty mills, three corn mills, fifty-three fulling mills, eighty-three water mills, six windmills, all medieval in date, plus a few more marked as 'unknown'. Almost certainly under-represented. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.   |
| Mines<br><br><i>Also bell pits, adits, levels</i>                            | There is very little information on medieval mining in the Sites and Monuments Record. There are seventeen bell pits which have all been logged as post-medieval, though some of them could be earlier. All adits and levels have been classed as post-medieval, though again some could be earlier. Some desk-top work and mapping has been done as part of the Ironworks Project, but in the Northern Coalfield Rim area only, and was not accompanied by fieldwork. These classes of monument are almost certainly under-represented, but it would be difficult to separate out medieval from post-medieval by rapid field survey. Possible potential for a project on pre-industrial mining, but a preliminary desk-based assessment would be necessary to establish numbers. |

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| Monasteries, <i>priories</i> , <i>friaries</i> , monastic lands and granges; hospitals | Some desk-top work done, with regular conventual houses and cells now identified, but mostly not visited, as part of Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites (twenty-one entries). Granges (so far one hundred and twenty entries) still under-represented, especially in Gwent. No work has been done on friaries, but since these were largely urban, there is probably little scope (two entries under friary, but others have been included with priories). Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified. |
| Redundant churches   | Most churches were covered during the Historic Churches Project, and most of the ones that weren't have been sold on to private individuals. No project potential.  |
| Warrens, pillow mounds<br><br><i>Also dovecotes, bee-boles</i>                         | The Sites and Monuments record includes twenty-eight pillow mounds of all periods, no warrens; warrens could probably be found from place-name evidence, twenty-nine dovecotes of all periods, thirteen bee-boles of all periods. Pillow mounds and dovecotes are almost certainly under-represented in Gwent, and bee-boles in both counties. Possible project, starting with a desk-based assessment to establish numbers of known sites, before fieldwork needs are identified.  |
| Pottery kilns  | There are no medieval pottery kilns recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (although at least five have been excavated), four kilns, of which one is a corn-drying kiln and one is a documentary source, which hasn't been found despite extensive searching. No project potential.   |

Some groups, which have been put into period sections, could perhaps be examined across periods (ie general category), these are mills, warrens and pillow mounds, mines and quarries.

Others could perhaps be amalgamated under larger themes. In this respect we note the lack of progress with regard to Rural Monastic Landscapes or Medieval Lowland Settlement headings in the 2004 *Statement by Cadw on Grant-aid for future threatened assessments*. Farmsteads, Deer parks and park pales, Deserted Medieval Villages, Field systems, Ridge and furrow, Fish traps/weirs, Flood defences, Moated sites, fortified houses, Holy wells, Mills, Warrens, and Pillow mounds might all be covered under a Medieval Lowland Settlement Project taking in Monmouthshire, the Vale of Glamorgan and Gower.

Some categories of site would particularly benefit from upgrading of information to assist Development Control works. Monuments for which information is most needed for Development Control purposes are Granges, Deer parks, Mills, Squatters settlements, Barns and farm-buildings, Chapels and churches, Turnpike roads and associated features, and Well houses.

In conclusion we observe that for many areas of the 2004 *Statement by Cadw on Grant-aid for future threat-led assessments* works will be finished this year or next year. We have identified in our further review some areas that need attention, particularly some 'secular' undefended prehistoric settlements, Romano-British settlement in Monmouthshire and on Gower, Monastic remains and some early pre-industrial mining. We note that study in many of these areas would address knowledge gaps identified in the Research Agenda for Wales at both national and regional level.

We have also identified that in delivering to the community we serve, and by far this the largest in any of the Welsh Archaeological Trust's areas, the importance of Urban Survey and Regional Industrial Projects. We believe that it is also time to address another area of identified shortfall Medieval Lowland Settlement and in Southeast Wales it is distinctive. These three zones characterised by Urban Cores some with medieval and earlier antecedents, Industrial Exploitation primarily developed in the late eighteenth century onwards as a result from iron and coal exploitation but also copper and other mineral works, and Rural Lowland with its mainly medieval landscape framework make up the historic landscape within which more than two-thirds of the population of Wales live and work, providing them with an improved understanding of their heritage inheritance is long overdue.

**GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST: CURATORIAL DIVISION**

**PLANNING STATISTICS 2005-2006**

| 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          | 639          | 142         | 39          | 6          | 0         | 5          | 18         | 2         | 5          | 1         | 2         | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0           | 0          | BLG          |
| BRI          | 1802         | 325         | 87          | 22         | 0         | 9          | 30         | 2         | 11         | 1         | 0         | 4          | 5         | 0         | 1          | 0           | 2          | BRI          |
| CAE          | 1906         | 372         | 61          | 3          | 0         | 13         | 23         | 1         | 4          | 1         | 3         | 3          | 7         | 0         | 3          | 0           | 0          | CAE          |
| CAR          | 3087         | 443         | 195         | 31         | 2         | 30         | 65         | 6         | 13         | 1         | 9         | 18         | 6         | 0         | 9          | 0           | 5          | CAR          |
| MON          | 1304         | 581         | 403         | 95         | 25        | 37         | 93         | 19        | 48         | 0         | 14        | 50         | 7         | 2         | 11         | 0           | 2          | MON          |
| MTY          | 659          | 153         | 37          | 1          | 0         | 3          | 24         | 0         | 2          | 0         | 0         | 1          | 1         | 0         | 3          | 0           | 2          | MTY          |
| NEW          | 1787         | 338         | 343         | 8          | 5         | 30         | 116        | 3         | 52         | 4         | 21        | 41         | 4         | 7         | 52         | 0           | 0          | NEW          |
| NPT          | 1700         | 364         | 121         | 14         | 0         | 21         | 42         | 5         | 15         | 2         | 4         | 0          | 9         | 1         | 7          | 0           | 1          | NPT          |
| RCT          | 2282         | 448         | 99          | 23         | 2         | 22         | 35         | 1         | 4          | 1         | 0         | 7          | 4         | 0         | 0          | 0           | 0          | RCT          |
| SWA          | 2672         | 650         | 165         | 9          | 0         | 28         | 70         | 3         | 21         | 1         | 1         | 13         | 11        | 0         | 4          | 0           | 4          | SWA          |
| TOR          | 872          | 162         | 81          | 4          | 2         | 16         | 38         | 0         | 3          | 1         | 0         | 9          | 2         | 0         | 2          | 0           | 4          | TOR          |
| VOG          | 2019         | 505         | 291         | 15         | 1         | 39         | 94         | 8         | 64         | 0         | 12        | 23         | 10        | 2         | 6          | 0           | 17         | VOG          |
| BBNP         | 797          | 96          | 37          | 2          | 0         | 7          | 15         | 3         | 3          | 0         | 0         | 2          | 2         | 0         | 3          | 0           | 0          | BBNP         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>21526</b> | <b>4579</b> | <b>1959</b> | <b>233</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>663</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>245</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>66</b> | <b>171</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>101</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>37</b>  | <b>TOTAL</b> |

LEGEND

Applications = Number of planning applications submitted to LPA  
 Mapped= Number of planning applications checked against SMR  
 No IPE = Number of planning applications requested by GGAT  
 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 fully record the standing structure should be imposed  
 Objection = Applications where it was determined that 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  
 Determine = Applications determined by LPA before being sent to GGAT

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 County Borough 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