

# HERITAGE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2008-2009

## EDUCATION AND PUBLICATION

All of the Trust's archaeological research and investigations contribute directly or indirectly to raising awareness about Wales' historic environment. However, several of the Trust's projects and activities are specifically aimed at promoting this awareness. The Trust's **Outreach Strategy** continues to contribute to fulfilling the Trust's basic charitable objective - the education of the public in archaeology - and its role in promoting the historic environment as one of Wales' greatest assets.

### Community Heritage

The Trust continues to recognise the need for the promotion and interpretation of the historic environment at community level. 'Community Archaeology' or 'Archaeology for All' is becoming increasingly important across Britain, with a recognition that the profession can make a major contribution to a number of current economic and social objectives including social inclusion, public health and education, tourism and economic regeneration. The sector also has an opportunity to take advantage of the high media profile that archaeology currently enjoys.

Several of the fieldwork projects successfully engaged community members, students and others with an interest in archaeology, providing learning opportunities to a large number of individuals. At **Dinefwr Park**, Llandeilo, c.50 members of the community were engaged with the excavations and surveys over several weeks. The numbers of volunteers interested in taking part on the **Porth Clew**, Pembrokeshire, excavations were so great, that places had to be limited. Members of the community also participated on the excavations at **St Brides**, Pembrokeshire, and in the fieldwork associated with the **Cors Fochno** wetlands margins survey, north Ceredigion.

### Heritage Interpretation Panels and Leaflets

The provision of heritage interpretation panels continues to be an aspect of the promotion of the historic environment in the region. During the year work was completed or started on approximately 20 panels, for a variety of clients including twelve for the **Amman and Loughor Heritage Walks** (co-sponsored by Carmarthenshire County Council and Neath-Porth Talbot County Council), six at **Llyn Llech Owain** country park (Carmarthenshire County Council), and two each at **Maenclochog** and **Llawhaden**, Pembrokeshire, for PLANED.

### Exhibitions, displays and open days

Three well-attended events were held during National Archaeology Week in July 2008. At **Ammanford** over 400 people attended an event organized jointly with the Ammanford Archaeology and History Society, where, as well as exhibitions, talks and interactive events, displays were provided by *Gweryn y Gwyr*, an early medieval reenactment group. The Trust attended an open day at **Carmarthen Museum**, and guided tours were given at the excavations at **Dinefwr Park** in conjunction with the National Trust.

A number of events were attended or organized at which various aspects of the Trust's work were displayed, including: the **Colby Woodlands Garden** heritage day organized by the National Trust; **Strata Florida** open day run by Lampeter University, the **Royal Welsh Show** alongside Cadw and RCAHMW's displays, and a community day at **Brynamman** organized by Fforest Fawr Geopark (Brecon Beacons National Park).

Archaeological excavation has the capacity to attract the public's attention, thus directly raising awareness of the community's heritage and by extension Wales's heritage, and also of the work of the Trust. The Trust is therefore always keen to seize the opportunity offered by excavation to promote heritage. This was achieved successfully at **Porth Clew** where daily tours were offered to local people and visitors during the three week project, and at **Dinefwr Park**, in conjunction with the National Trust, where large numbers joined guided tours of the excavations during two open days (including one during National

Archaeology Week).



*Displays and exhibitions proved very popular at the well-attended open day held at Ammanford during National Archaeology Week.*

### **Lectures, Talks and Meetings**

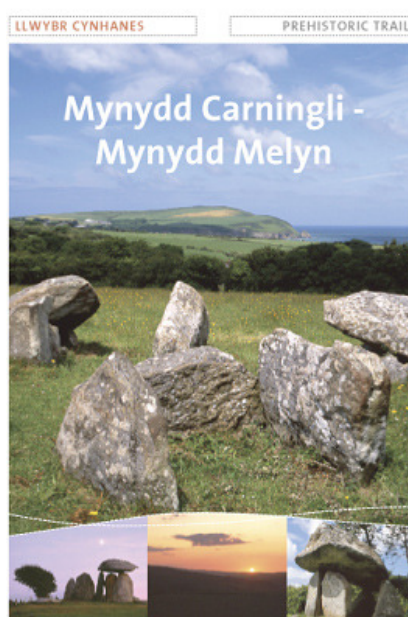
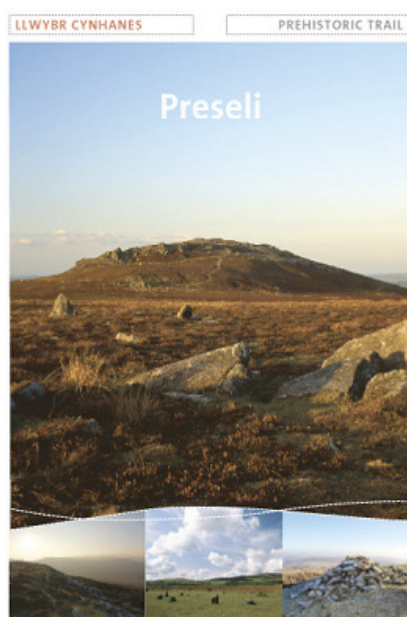
As in previous years, Trust staff continued to give lectures, talks and guided walks to a wide range of organisations, and papers were presented at a number of workshops, conferences and seminars. In total over 50 talks and guided walks were organised over the course of the year. A list of these events is provided in Appendix D. Of particular note were the series of talks given by Trust staff and others at the **Ceredigion Archaeological Day School**, which was attended by over 80 people, and the fifth annual **Pembrokeshire Archaeology Day School**, which was organized by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park with support from the Trust. The latter included talks by Trust staff and was very well supported, with over 170 people in attendance.

As part of the **Portable Antiquities Scheme** the Trust liaised and met with local metal detectorist groups and individuals, and continued to record artifacts discovered during the course of the year.

In addition, individual members of staff were directly involved in representing the Trust and in contributing to the activities of a large number of external organisations and groups at a national, regional and local level, for example: the Council for British Archaeology Wales/Cymru; the Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Archaeological Organisations Committee; the Welsh Industrial Archaeology Panel; the 'What's in Store' Advisory Group; the Wales Historic Environment Group; National Park Archaeologists Accord Meeting; the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group; Local Authorities Local Development Plans Stakeholders' Meetings; the Castell Henllys Stakeholders Group; the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum; the St David's Diocesan Advisory Committee; Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd Board Meetings; the Hill-Forts Study Group; and various local history and archaeological societies and groups. During the course of the year trust staff attended over 240 meetings.

### **Reports and Publications**

Two trail guide booklets to prehistoric sites on **Mynydd Carningli/Mynydd Melyn** and **Preseli** were published during the year and made freely available at various outlets in north Pembrokeshire. A booklet celebrating the heritage of Cardigan titled "**Cardigan**" was prepared for printing in spring 2009.



*The covers of the two trail guide booklets for north Pembrokeshire.*

Several papers and short contributions were prepared for *Archaeology in Wales for publication* in the spring of 2009. Other academic papers included a review of the Historic Environment Record in the *Carmarthenshire Antiquity* by Marion Page, the report on the excavations on the early medieval cemetery at West Angle Bay, Pembrokeshire, in *Church Archaeology* by Duncan Schlee, and a summary of the results of the prehistoric funerary and ritual sites project in Ceredigion by Nikki Cook, published in the journal *Ceredigion*.

Trust staff worked on other academic reports for publication. These included: excavations of the timber track-way at **Llangynfelyn**; several years' excavation and survey of **Cropmark Enclosures** in south Ceredigion and north Pembrokeshire, and a synthesis of the results of the southwest Wales **Iron Age Defended Enclosures** survey. Drawings were also prepared for the new edition of the **Roman Frontiers in Wales** volume and for a book on **Iron Age Settlements in Wales**.

In addition Trust staff produced over **89** internal reports ranging from long reports on Cadw grant-aided threat related assessments to shorter reports of just a few pages on archaeological watching briefs.

Three **Newsletters** were produced during the course of the year and were widely circulated. Contributions were also made to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's newsletter **Historic Environment Review**.

### **Education and University Training Support**

Training was provided to students and other participants on the excavations at **Porth Clew, Dinefwr Park** and **St Brides**, and opportunities continued to be provided for student and other placements in the Trust offices. During the year these placements included students from a number of local schools and colleges.

### **Website**

The Trust's website continued to develop, with regular additions being made during the course of the year. Following the success of previous years' dig diaries, similar daily

website updates with photographs were provided for the excavations at **Dinefwr Park** and **Porth Clew**.

The website serves as a very valuable education and research resource, and provides an effective method of disseminating all aspects of the Trust's work. The large number of visitors who regularly use the facility are a measure of its success. The web address is **[www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)**

### **Press/Media**

Numerous Trust projects appeared in the media during the year, including television, radio and local newspapers and journals. The excavations at **Dinefwr Park** and **Porth Clew** attracted the most media attention, with articles in local papers and local/national radio and television items.

Staff also took part in several radio interviews advertising forthcoming Trust events or describing recent archaeological discoveries.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

The Trust's Archaeological Services section comprised two elements. The maintenance and development of the Trust's regional **Historic Environment Record** (HER), part-funded by the RCAHMS and **Curatorial Services** the provision of advice to unitary and other statutory and non-statutory bodies on the protection and conservation of the historic environment. Both these services cover the unitary authority areas of **Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire**, as well as the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park** and part of the **Brecon Beacons National Park**.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority continued to provide additional financial support for the provision of Historic Environment advice on the management and promotion of the archaeology of the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park**. This support was supplemented by a grant from Cadw for the implementation of a programme of management work relating to Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the National Park. These resources allowed the Trust to employ a full-time **Park Archaeologist**.

Continuing grant-aid for the provision of **Archaeological Planning Advice** (over and above the grant support from Cadw) was provided by all five of the Local Planning Authorities in the region: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park; Pembrokeshire County Council; Brecon Beacons National Park; Carmarthenshire County Council; and Ceredigion County Council. The Trust continues to be very grateful to the Authorities for this support, which helps to ensure that the high level of service provided by the Trust can be maintained.

Cadw also provided grant-aid for the Trust's initial contribution to the historic environment provisions of the all-Wales **Tir Gofal Agri-Environment Scheme**. Further grant-aid was provided by the Rural Payments Division of the Welsh Assembly Government to cover the cost of undertaking farm visits for a selected number of properties within the scheme.

The Forestry Commission provided grants for the historic environment provision to the **Better Woodlands for Wales** scheme.

### **Regional Historic Environment Record**

The Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) includes both a paper record and a digital database. The Trust's HER and other staff continued to enter new data, carry out routine maintenance, undertake development work and respond to internal and external enquiries.

**New Historic Environment Record software** continued to be developed by Steve Smith on behalf of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. This software is crucial in assisting in the enhancement and maintenance of the HERs as well as allowing public accessibility through the Internet. Testing of the new software took place in the early part of the financial year. Following a period of training Trust some staff began to edit and create new records using

the new software, and all staff used the new system to access HER information. Over one thousand records had been created or edited in stand-alone databases in the interim period between abandoning the Trust's old software system and commissioning the new; the process of returning these records to the main HER database started during the year. It is anticipated that the element of the software allowing public access to the HER will go online in early-mid 2009, following extensive testing. Early in 2009 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust began testing an additional function of the new software designed to deliver reports more efficiently to the Forestry Commission, supported by a grant from the Better Woodlands for Wales scheme.

The Trust continued to be involved in the exchange of core data with the other partners of **END** (The Extended National Database for Wales).

Support continued to be provided through Cadw's curatorial grant for the wider provision of information from the HER and the development of outreach activities. 257 external enquiries were dealt with during the course of the year. Types of enquiry varied considerably, with some of the more demanding ones requiring a considerable amount of staff time. Most were answered by post or email but a significant number of enquirers visited the HER in person.

The Trust continued to attend meetings with its partners to work towards the goals outlined in the **Strategic Framework for Records Relating to the Historic Environment of Wales**.

#### **Dyfed HER Charitable Trust**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008, the **Dyfed HER Charitable Trust** was established, with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as the sole Trustee. The purpose of this new Trust was to safeguard the Historic Environment Record (HER) for public use in the event of insolvency of The Dyfed Archaeological Trust (the parent Trust). Four Trustee meetings were held during the year and on the **16<sup>th</sup> January 2009** a **Deed of Transfer** was signed, transferring records created during the year by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust to the Dyfed HER Charitable Trust.

#### **Curatorial Services: Planning**

This area of the Trust's work related mainly to development-control tasks, though some consultations affecting archaeological sites also arose outside the planning system. During the year **5229** planning applications were notified to the Trust. Of these **2587** needed detailed appraisal, resulting in further action in **255** cases, including recommendations for assessments, evaluations, excavations and recording work in advance of development, or for watching briefs during development. On **7** occasions the recommendation was refusal on archaeological grounds. Although the number of planning applications is down since the previous year, the number of cases requiring further action is up. It is this casework that is the most demanding on staff time.

During the year the Trust continued to develop its good working relationships with the regional planning authorities. In response to requests the Trust's Planning Archaeologist continued to prepare briefs, agree specifications and carry out monitoring visits to a variety of developments.

The strategic or forward planning departments of all the regional local authorities were at various stages in preparing their **Local Development Plans**. Trust staff attended all stakeholder meetings to ensure that appropriate policies were in place to protect the historic environment.

Significant ongoing casework included the provision of detailed advice on applications in the region's historic towns, in other historic settlements and elsewhere. As a result of the Trust's intervention the **Old Slaughterhouse at Kidwelly** in Carmarthenshire was saved from demolition and will be conserved as a managed ruin. The Trust recommended refusal of an application for a windfarm on **Mynydd y Betws**, Carmarthenshire. This case went to public inquiry; the decision is awaited. The Trust also recommended refusal of a proposed housing development at the **Tudor House, Pembroke**, on the grounds that it would be

detrimental to the medieval settlement pattern, would not enhance the Conservation Area and would be a departure from the Local Plan Policy. Permission was, however, granted as a delegated decision. At **Jameston**, Pembrokeshire, the Trust recommended that Pembrokeshire Coast National Park should commission a report on the assessment of the impact of a proposed allocation of 70 houses on the Manorbier Registered Historic Landscape. This assessment was commissioned. At **Lletty Ceiro**, Bow Street, Ceredigion, the Trust recommended that an archaeological planning condition should be attached to the consent for housing. In consultation with its historic environment partners, Cadw and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, the Trust prepared a brief for desk-based assessment for a large windfarm at **Nant-y-Moch**, Ceredigion. Reports are awaited.

Information and advice on heritage management issues continued to be provided outside the local planning framework in respect of forestry, the treatment of metal-mine sites, coastal sites and agricultural operations.

A "**Memorandum of Understanding**" over advice regarding the implications of works on the historic environment was agreed between Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and was launched at a meeting.

The Trust responded to **44** consultations from service industries, including schemes from **Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water** and the **Environment Agency**.

Information was provided on **21 Hedgerow Removal Notifications** for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. As in previous years, at Cadw's request, the Trust continued to comment on **Scheduled Monument Consent Applications**.

### **Curatorial Services: Heritage Management**

During the course of the year the Trust responded to consultations on a variety of issues that have relevance to the historic environment, including a response to the **Axis II** review on the future of agri-environment schemes, including Tir Gofal. An announcement on this review is expected in the spring of 2009.

The Trust continued to provide advice to the **St David's Diocesan Advisory Committee** on faculties. The Trust was represented on a number of other groups, including: a steering group for three heritage tourism projects managed by **PLANED**; the **Built Heritage Forum**; **20<sup>th</sup> Century Military Structures Working Group**; **Carmarthen and Swansea Bay Coastal Engineering Group**; the **South Pembrokeshire Ranges and Recording Advisory Group**; and **ALGAO** (Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers).

A number of interesting finds were recorded during the Trust's continued participation in the **Portable Antiquities Scheme**, a voluntary system for the reporting and recording of archaeological finds, these included two Iron Age bi-conical spindle whorls found near Cardigan and a 19<sup>th</sup> century brass rupee of the state of Bhutan found in Manordeilo, Carmarthenshire. A 12-month forward plan was produced with the aim of strengthening the main objectives of the scheme, namely good local publicity, developing links with metal detectorists, recording objects and dissemination of information.

Some of the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Archaeologist's** time was devoted to the early medieval cemetery excavations at **Porth Clew** and **St Brides**. Casework included: repairing damage to cairns on **Foel Drigarn**; filling in erosion around standing stones at **Tafarn-y-Bwlch**; provision of a new gate at **Cerrig-y-Gof** to secure continuing public access; and vegetation clearance at **Nevern Castle**.

The Trust continued to be responsible for the historic environment provisions of the **Tir Gofal Agri-Environment Scheme** in the region. During the year, and with the assistance of Cadw grant-aid, the Trust provided information on 150 consultations as part of the historic environment report process, including six updated reports. In addition, during the course of the year, 13 Welsh Assembly Government grant-aided farm visits were undertaken and reported on, and 9 call-outs made in response to specific management enquiries. 102 Year 5 Reviews were also undertaken. Towards the end of the financial year the Welsh Assembly Government informed the Trust that the number of Tir Gofal

consultations is likely to be much lower in 2009-10; the level of historic environment provision will depend on the outcome of the Axis II review announcement in the spring of 2009. The Trust also continued to be responsible for the historic environment provisions of the **Better Woodlands for Wales** scheme. With the support of grant-aid from the Forestry Commission the Trust responded to 108 consultations and produced 83 reports; visit reports were prepared for two of these consultations.