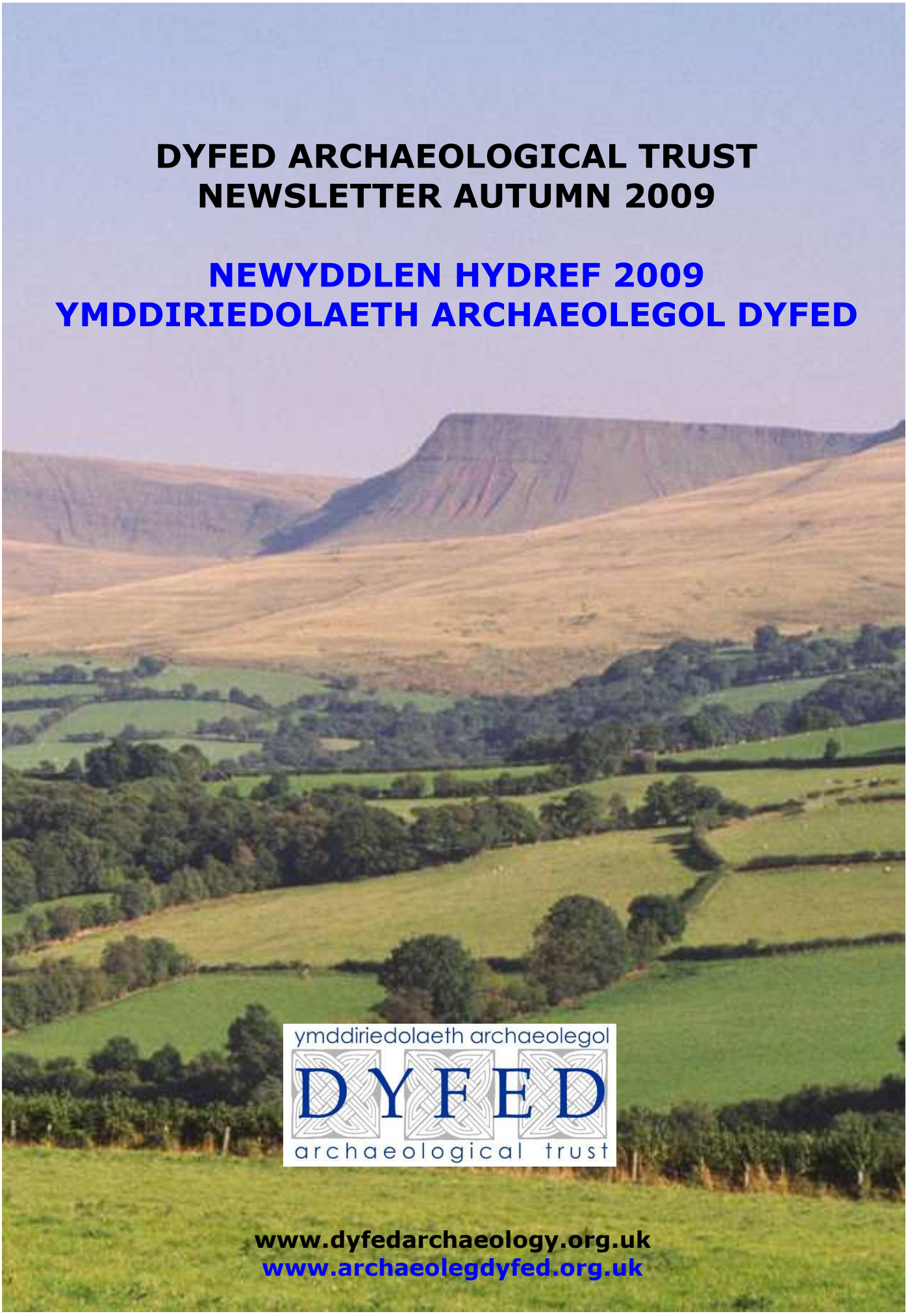
DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2009

NEWYDDLEN HYDREF 2009
YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL DYFED



www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, an independent organisation dedicated to the effective protection, investigation, recording and promotion of the historic environment.

Dyfed has a highly motivated professional workforce with a wide range of skills and experience. This is complemented by long established contacts and partnerships with external specialists enabling Dyfed to offer extensive consultancy and other archaeological services.

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Cynhyrchwyd y newyddlen hon gyda chymorth grant gan Cadw

Cadw

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Cover: The Black Mountain/Mynydd Myddfai, one of several historic landscapes studied by the Trust, details of which can by found on the Trust's website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Clawr: Y Mynydd Du/Mynydd Myddfai, un o nifer o dirweddau hanesyddol y mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn eu hastudio. Mae'r manylion ar wefan yr Ymddiriedolaeth: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed yw corff annibynnol sy'n ymroi i ddiogelu, ymchwilio, cofnodi a hybu'r amgylchedd hanesyddol yn effeithiol.

Mae gan Dyfed weithlu proffesiynol ac uchel eu cymhelliant syd ag amrywiaeth mawr o sgiliau of phrofiad. Ategir hynny â chysylltiadau a phartneriaethau—sy'n bod ers tro byd—ag arbenigwyr allanol sy's fodd i Dyfed gynnig gwasanaethau ymgynhori a gwasanaethau archaeolegol eraill.

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LLYS BRYCHAN – THE ONLY ROMAN VILLA IN WEST WALES

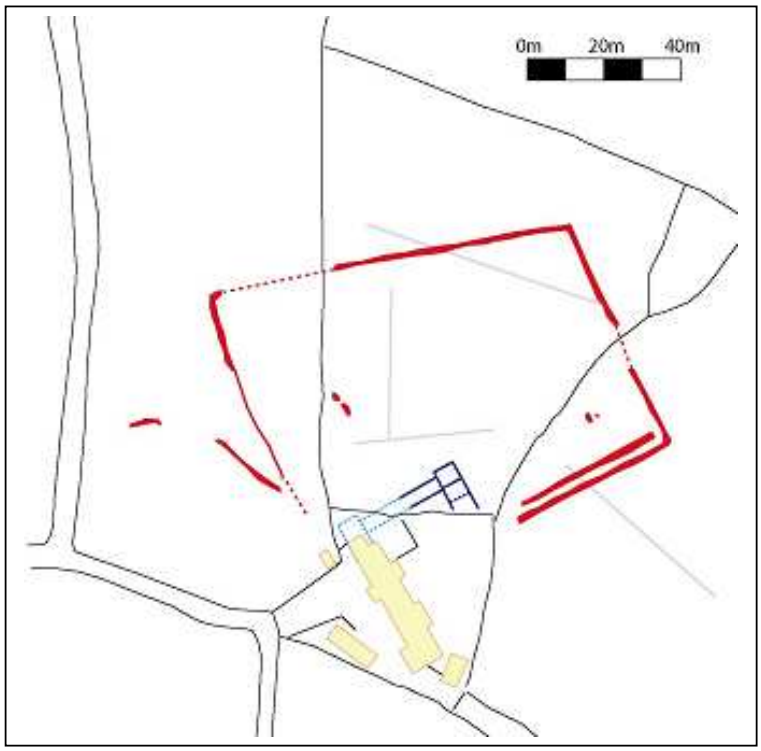
Since the partial excavation by Mike Jarrett of Cardiff University in the early 1960s of Llys Brychan, near Llangadog in Carmarthenshire – the only known Roman villa in west Wales – little attention has been paid to the site. However, it has recently been possible, under the Exploration Tywi! Project, to carry out a geophysical survey of the villa. As well as detecting the foundations of the building, the survey showed that the villa sits within a large enclosure. A week-long excavation will take place on the site starting on the 10th November 2009, with an open day on the 14th.

New discovery – Llys Brychan is not now the only villa in west Wales. Toby Driver of the Royal Commission has discovered a villa remarkably similar to Llys Brychan at Trawscoed in Ceredigion.

LLYS BRYCHAN – YR UNIG FILA RUFEINIG YNG NGORLLEWIN CYMRU

Ers y gloddfa rannol gan Mike Jarrett o Brifysgol Caerdydd yn y 1960au cynnar yn Llys Brychan, ger Llangadog yn Sir Gaerfyrddin – yr unig fila Rufeinig yng ngorllewin Cymru – nid yw'r safle wedi cael llawer o sylw. Er hynny, bu'n bosibl yn ddiweddar, fel rhan o Brosiect Chwilota'r Tywi!, i gynnal arolwg geoffisegol o'r fila. Yn ogystal â chanfod seiliau'r adeilad, dangosodd yr arolwg fod y fila wedi'i lleoli o fewn lloc mawr. Bydd cloddfa'n cael ei chynnal ar y safle a fydd yn parhau am wythnos gan ddechrau ar 10 Tachwedd 2009, gyda diwrnod agored ar 14 Tachwedd.

Darganfyddiad newydd – bellach, nid Llys Brychan yw'r unig fila yng ngorllewin Cymru. Mae Toby Driver o'r Comisiwn Brenhinol wedi darganfod fila sy'n hynod o debyg i Lys Brychan yn Nhrawsgoed yng Ngheredigion.



Map of Llys Brychan resulting from the geophysical survey showing the villa foundations in blue, the enclosure in red and the modern farm buildings in yellow.

Map o Lys Brychan yn deillio o'r arolwg geoffisegol yn dangos seiliau'r fila wedi'u lliwio'n las, y lloc yn goch a'r adeiladau fferm modern yn felyn.

DISCOVERY OF A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE AT PORTH CLEW

In the first season of work in 2008 excavation focused on investigating the chapel and cemetery at Porth Clew. In 2009, evidence for a village around the chapel was discovered. Foundations of stone- and timber-buildings were revealed. 'This is a very exciting discovery' said Duncan Schlee, the excavation director, 'as it is the first time that a medieval deserted settlement has been excavated in Pembrokeshire'. The findings indicate that Porth Clew was a more important place in the medieval period that was first thought. The good preservation of the buildings is due to wind-blown sand covering them after they had gone out of use. Analysis of the finds from the site over the next year will provide clues as to when the settlement was abandoned, but initial results suggest that this was in the 12th-13th century.

A 'dig diary' of the excavations can be found on the Trust's website.

Duncan Schlee, the site director, helping local volunteers with the excavation of a grave.

Duncan Schlee, cyfarwyddwr y safle, yn helpu gwirfoddolwyr lleol i gloddio bedd.

DARGANFOD PENTREF CANOLOESOL YM MHORTH CLEW

Yn ystod y tymor cyntaf o waith yn 2008 canolbwyntiodd y gloddfa ar archwilio'r capel a'r fynwent ym Mhorth Clew. Yn 2009, canfuwyd tystiolaeth o bentref o gwmpas y capel. Dadorchuddiwyd seiliau adeiladau carreg a phren. 'Mae hwn yn ddarganfyddiad cyffrous iawn,' dywedodd Duncan Schlee, cyfarwyddwr y gloddfa, 'oherwydd dyma'r tro cyntaf i anheddiad anghyfannedd canoloesol gael ei gloddio yn Sir Benfro.' Mae'r darganfyddiadau'n awgrymu bod Porth Clew yn fan pwysicach yn y cyfnod canoloesol nag a gredwyd yn wreiddiol. Mae'r adeiladau wedi aros mewn cyflwr da oherwydd iddynt gael eu gorchuddio gan dywod a chwythwyd gan y gwynt wedi iddynt fynd yn segur. Bydd dadansoddiad o'r darganfyddiadau o'r safle dros y flwyddyn nesaf yn awgrymu pryd y cafodd yr anheddiad ei adael, ond mae'r canlyniadau cychwynnol yn awgrymu y digwyddodd hyn yn ystod y 12fed-13eg ganrif.

Mae 'dyddiadur cloddio' i'w gael ar wefan yr Ymddiriedolaeth.

Images of Porth Clew. Above, foundations of a stone building. Top left, volunteers working on the excavation. Bottom left, Duncan Schlee giving a tour of the site. Bottom, some of the very well preserved skeletons during excavation.

Lluniau o Borth Clew. Uchod, seiliau adeilad carreg. Top i'r chwith, gwirfoddolwyr yn gweithio ar y gloddfa. Gwaelod i'r chwith, Duncan Schlee yn arwain taith o gwmpas y safle. Gwaelod, rhai o'r sgerbydau a ganfuwyd mewn cyflwr da iawn yn ystod y gloddfa.

PREHISTORIC BURIALS AT CARDIGAN

Geophysical survey in 2008 confirmed that two low mounds at Pant y Butler, Llangoedmor thought to be ancient burial sites were indeed prehistoric round barrows. As the barrows are slowly being lowered by annual ploughing, an excavation took place in the autumn of 2009 to recover what survived of the burials. The excavations were undertaken by a group of enthusiastic local volunteers under the direction of Trust staff. Very little survived of the smaller mound, but a central cremation burial was discovered. This burial had disturbed the remains of an earlier cremation, suggesting the site had been in use over a long period of time. There was not time to fully investigate the larger mound, which is in a better condition than the smaller one. It was constructed from turf and soil and would have been at least 18m in diameter. Analysis of samples taken during the excavation will shed light on the environment of the area when the barrows were constructed.

A 'dig diary' of the excavations can be found on the Trust's website.

Paul Howard and Will Rathouse excavating the central burial pit of the smaller barrow.

Paul Howard a Will Rathouse yn cloddio pydew claddu canolog y crug lleiaf.

Two young volunteers excavating the top of the larger barrow. Note the large upright stone incorporated into the barrow and the mass of smaller quartz stones.

Dau wirfoddolwr ifanc yn cloddio top y crug crwn mwyaf. Noder y maen unionsyth mawr sy'n rhan o'r crug crwn a'r pentwr o gerrig cwarts llai o faint.

CLADDEDIGAETHAU CYNHANESYDDOL YN ABERTEIFI

Cadarnhaodd arolwg geoffisegol yn 2008 fod y ddau grug isel ym Mhant y Butler, Llangoedmor, y credwyd iddynt fod yn safleoedd claddedigaethau hynafol, yn grugiau crwn cynhanesyddol. Gan fod y crugiau crwn yn suddo'n is oherwydd aredig blynyddol, cynhaliwyd cloddfa yn hydref 2009 i adfer yr hyn sydd wedi goroesi o'r claddedigaethau. Cynhaliwyd y cloddfeydd gan grŵp o wirfoddolwyr lleol brwdfrydig o dan gyfarwyddyd staff yr Ymddiriedolaeth. Ychydig iawn sydd wedi goroesi o'r crug lleiaf, ond canfuwyd corfflosgiad canolog. Roedd y gladdedigaeth hon wedi ymyrryd ag olion corfflosgiad cynharach, sy'n awgrymu i'r safle gael ei ddefnyddio dros gyfnod hir. Nid oedd digon o amser i archwilio'r crug mwy o faint yn llawn. Mae hwn mewn cyflwr gwell na'r crug llai o faint. Cafodd ei adeiladu o dyweirch a phridd a byddai wedi bod â diamedr o 18m o leiaf. Bydd dadansoddiad o samplau a gymerwyd yn ystod y gloddfa yn rhoi gwybodaeth ynghylch amgylchedd yr ardal pan adeiladwyd y crugiau crwn.

Mae 'dyddiadur cloddio' i'w gael ar wefan yr Ymddiriedolaeth.

CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DAY SCHOOL
Ferryside Residential Education Centre
Saturday 5 December 2009

Provisional Programme

James Meek (Dyfed Archaeological Trust). Arfordir – a project to involve communities in recording, understanding and monitoring changes in our coastal heritage.

Tim Upson-Smith (Northamptonshire Archaeology). Excavation of Carmarthen's Civil War defences on the old cattle market site.

Alice Pyper (Dyfed Archaeological Trust). Exploration Tywi! – A community archaeology project investigating the archaeology and landscape of the Tywi valley.

Richard Suggett (RCAHMW). Subject to be announced.

Jonathan Berry (Cadw). World War II defences in Carmarthenshire and Wales.

Ken Murphy (Dyfed Archaeological Trust). Recent work in southwest Wales.

The cost of the day school is £9.00 per head, which includes tea, coffee and lunch.

To book contact Richard Jones at the Trust 01558 823131 or 825997
r.jones@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY DAY SCHOOL 2009
Organised by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Pembrokeshire College, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest
Saturday 14 November 2009

Provisional Programme

John Evans and Steve Thompson - The Sunderland Project, WWII flying boat

Mike Alexander – Man and Nature

Chris Caple - Nevern Castle, results from 2009

James Meek – Ardfordir, Coastal Archaeology – working with communities

Pete Crane - Recent work in Pembrokeshire

The cost of the day school is £8 per head, which includes tea, coffee and lunch.

To book contact Pete Crane, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock SA72 6DY.
petec@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk