

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Newsletter



Autumn 2014



Welcome...

...to the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Newsletter for Autumn 2014. This moment marks the beginning of two anniversaries, which are the focus of this issue. One is the commemoration of the First World War, the other is a significant birthday of our own.

STAFF NEWS

Viviana Culshaw (right) joined us a year ago as a CBA Training Placement bursary holder. We are pleased to have been able to keep her on after the CBA scheme ended in September 2014 - she is now a full-time Community Archaeologist with the Trust.



Viviana has been working closely with universities, local schools and groups, and creating other outreach opportunities within CPAT projects. Viviana is also the main point of contact for our 'Friends' scheme (see opposite).



Kate Pitt joined the field services team in December last year as a Project Archaeologist. A graduate of UCL's Institute of Archaeology, Kate came to us from LP Archaeology where she gained wealth of experience on commercial projects. In January, **Menna Bell** joined us from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, where she had been working as their Community Archaeologist. Another UCL graduate, Menna has extensive experience of upland archaeology and community projects.



Our most recent recruit is our new Administrator **Clare Beaumont**, who joined us in September. Originally from Manchester, Clare is an experienced administrator who loves the border countryside. Our current long-serving administrator, Jenny Britnell, will retire in November.

Congratulations to **Ian Grant**, who is now a full Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MifA).

Finally, congratulations are also due to our former Director and current Associate, **Bill Britnell**, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours earlier this year - a well-deserved award reflecting a lifetime dedicated to the archaeology of Wales.



TRUST NEWS

With a new **Heritage Bill**, a new Planning Bill, and other changes in Welsh archaeology, there are lots of exciting challenges and opportunities ahead.

To make sure that CPAT is in the best position to take advantage of these changes, we have a new **Strategy and Development Plan**. The strategy sets out where we want to be as an organisation in five years' time, and underpins the shorter-term development plan. The current plan takes us to March 2015, and we are now in the process of reviewing this for 2015 onwards.

We will be working with Netherlands-based **CommonSites** on the development of our new website in the coming months. They have worked with a number of leading heritage organisations around the world on rebranding and website development.

CPAT TURNS 40

Our formal incorporation as a charitable Trust and Limited Company took place in May 1975. All four Welsh Archaeological Trusts were established at around the same time, and so we are getting together to celebrate 40 years of understanding, conserving and interpreting the archaeology of Wales. A booklet describing the history of the Trusts will be launched next spring, and there will be special events around the country to mark this significant anniversary!

FRIENDS OF THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Friends is a network of people who share our aspiration for everyone to be able to engage with archaeology and heritage in a positive way. By becoming a Friend you will have opportunities to participate even more closely in the work of the Trust. Friends receive:

- a free newsletter twice a year
- regular bulletins with opportunities to participate
- discounts on workshops and other activities
- special behind the scenes events
- discounts on CPAT publications and merchandise
- annual archaeology day school with talks, displays and site visits
- linked benefits to other organisations

Annual membership costs £10 per adult, with a concessionary rate of £8. Institutional membership is also available. Membership contributes to the cost of the newsletters, postage and administration.

Friends will enjoy completely free entry to our 'Exploring the Borderlands' archaeology day school in October - which alone is worth the price of membership!

We hope to have a full programme of Friends activities for 2015 available soon please see our website for details!

For more information email friends@cpat.org.uk

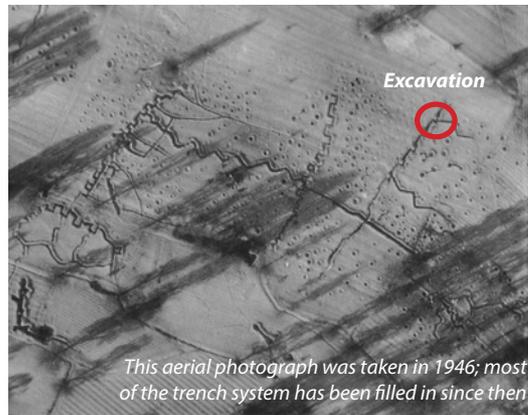
The heritage of war

Our part of Wales may not have been strategically-important territory during the World Wars of the twentieth century, but the landscape still bears witness to the brave efforts of men and women from both sides of the conflict and all parts of the world.

In this issue of the Newsletter we reflect on projects this year which have looked at the theme of recent conflict.

Bodelwyddan Castle (Flintshire) was used in the First World War as a training camp for soldiers preparing for active service. The troops were stationed at nearby Kimmel Park Camp, and training took place both there and at Bodelwyddan.

In October this year we undertook an excavation at Bodelwyddan, to investigate the junction between one of the reserve trenches and a communications trench. The aim was to see what - if any - differences there might be between these trenches and those in France and Belgium which have already been investigated archaeologically. We also wanted to know to what extent these practice trenches conformed to the instructions issued by the War Office.



This aerial photograph was taken in 1946; most of the trench system has been filled in since then



Our excavation has confirmed the shape and depth of the trenches, which appear to have been shallower than those in France. It was clear that there had been considerable erosion and collapse of the trench sides. We recovered a variety of artefacts which confirmed the realistic training conditions. These included barbed wire, expended rounds of ammunition and components of rifle grenades (left).



Both the projects described here are funded by Cadw as part of a pan-Wales study of the archaeology of conflict. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales are co-ordinating a range of activities relating to the First World War.



Above: De Havilland Vampire VZ106 crashed on Fan Hir in 1953. Right: Merlin engine from Avro Lancaster W4929, which crashed on Rhyd-wen-Fach in 1943.



Another project has involved a detailed survey of **military aircraft crash sites** across the whole Clwyd-Powys region. This work is intended to inform ways in which these sites are protected and managed, as well as learning more about the events that led to the crashes. The project looked at over 230 crash sites, using a combination of historical research and field visits.

The earliest crashes took place in 1922 (two Bristol F2bs) and the most recent was in 1991 (an RAF Jaguar which collided with a Cessna 152). Perhaps inevitably the greatest number of crashes took place during the Second World War. These included British, American and German aircraft types; a number of Canadian servicemen also lost their lives.

The majority of crashes occurred during training exercises, usually caused by mechanical failure or navigational error, or simply the difficulties of coming to terms with new technology.

These crash sites are memorials to those who lost their lives.

All military aircraft crash sites are designated under the *Protection of Military Remains Act 1986*, and any intervention on a site is illegal without a licence from the Ministry of Defence.

1914

DARGANFYDDWCH
DREFTADAETH Y RHYFEL
BYD CYNTAF YNG NGHYMRU

1918

DISCOVER THE LEGACY
OF THE WAR IN WALES



Working with communities

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a charity whose purpose is the education of the public about archaeology. For the last 40 years we have been doing just that. Here is a selection of some of the projects we have been working on this year.

One of our long-term projects is our own hillfort at **Beacon Ring**, near Welshpool (Montgomeryshire). In the last year we have continued to clear vegetation from the ramparts with the help of volunteers. We have also been working with the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail to develop new interpretation on the site.



Beacon Ring



Further work is anticipated this autumn and winter - dates will be announced soon on our website so keep an eye open if you want to get involved!

Earlier this year we undertook a programme of survey and conservation at **Tomen y Rhodwydd**, near Llandegla (Denbighshire). Over 100 people, including schoolchildren and local conservation students, were involved in the project.



As in previous years we have also hosted a number of work placements. These have ranged from week-long 'experience' opportunities for local schools, to long-term placements for University students - this year we hosted undergraduates from Bradford, Chester, Liverpool and Cardiff. Participants in our placement scheme have the opportunity to undertake a variety of field-based and desk-based tasks, making a real contribution to the work of the Trust whilst at the same time gaining valuable real-world experience.

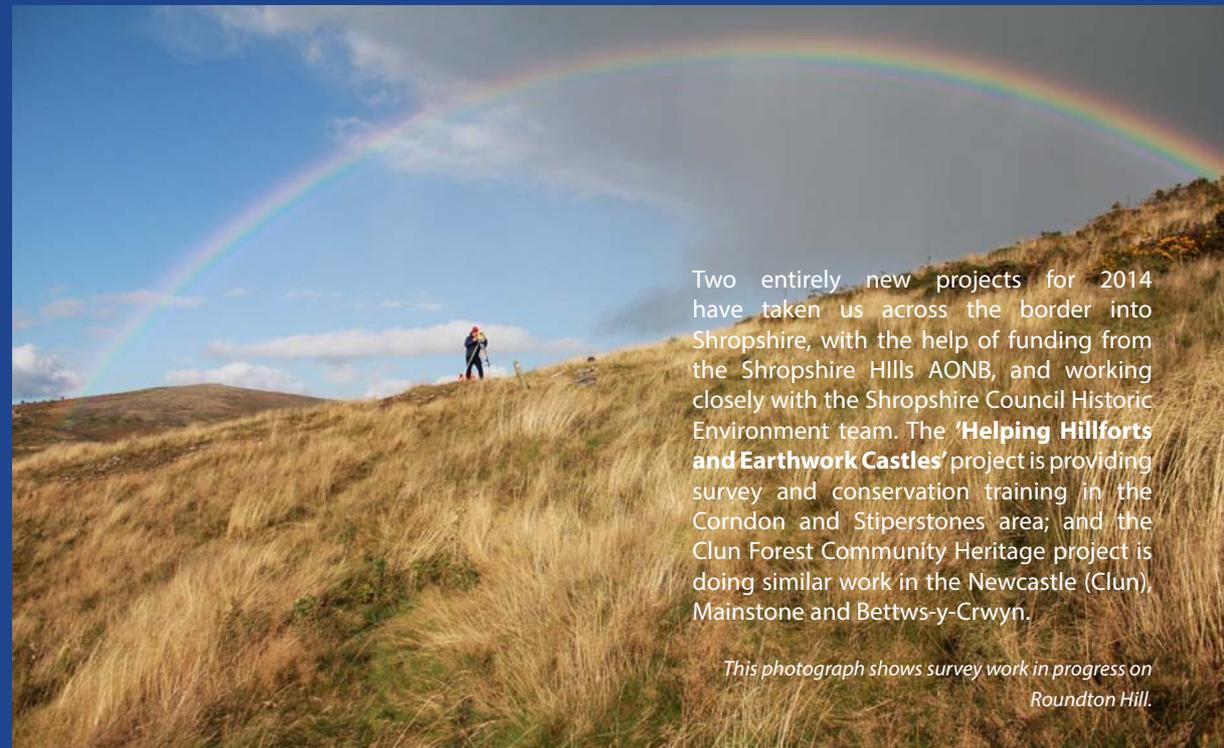
The penultimate season at **Hen Caerwys**, a deserted medieval settlement in Flintshire, took place in July 2014. As in previous years we had an excellent group of volunteers, including archaeology students from the University of Chester. The results this year were very exciting, with the discovery of significant quantities of medieval pottery - as well as prehistoric artefacts and a post-medieval icehouse!

A new fieldwork project for 2014 took place at **Buckley** (Flintshire). This was an important regional centre for pottery manufacture for during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Little survives above ground, but this year we undertook an excavation on the site of Price's Pottery, underneath the playing fields of Elfed School. Over 350 people joined in our excavations over the summer. These included pupils at the school, local volunteers, and members of the Buckley Society. A series of art and interpretation projects are now ongoing, and we very much hope to be able to continue this project next year.

Right: Some of the pupils from Elfed School, with CPAT colleagues and local volunteers. The girl in the foreground is a descendant of the owners of Price's Pottery - a fact which she only discovered as a result of the project!



Many of our community and public archaeology projects are funded by Cadw, with additional support from other bodies. We also rely on the work of volunteers, who make an enormous contribution to the activities of the Trust. We are always looking for new volunteers and new project ideas, as well as new partnerships with other organisations. Please do get in touch if you think you can help!



Two entirely new projects for 2014 have taken us across the border into Shropshire, with the help of funding from the Shropshire Hills AONB, and working closely with the Shropshire Council Historic Environment team. The **'Helping Hillforts and Earthwork Castles'** project is providing survey and conservation training in the Corndon and Stiperstones area; and the Clun Forest Community Heritage project is doing similar work in the Newcastle (Clun), Mainstone and Bettws-y-Crwyn.

This photograph shows survey work in progress on Roundton Hill.



*We strive to maintain the highest quality in all that we do, and we are committed to publication and promotion of our findings to the widest possible audience. We are very proud of our status as a Registered Organisation with the **Institute for Archaeologists** (IfA). This requires us to follow strict professional codes of conduct and standards across every aspect of our work.*

The **Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust** works to protect, record and interpret all aspects of the historic environment. The Trust is divided into three departments.

The **Field Services** team is the leading archaeological practice in mid- and north-east Wales, and one of the longest-established commercial archaeology contractors in Europe. We offer a range of high quality archaeology and cultural heritage solutions to a wide client base, providing an independent and comprehensive service.

The **Education and Outreach** Team delivers innovative public archaeology, community heritage, education and training projects. These include open days, day schools, talks and walks; school visits and public events; training programmes for students, professionals and non-professionals.

The **Curatorial Services** team is responsible for the management of archaeology and cultural heritage across 8,000 square kilometres of challenging topography. We maintain the regional Historic Environment Record (containing over 130,000 sites and events), provide Development Control advice to developers and local planning authorities, and advice and guidance to farmers and landowners on heritage management.

For more information please contact us, visit our website, or follow our Facebook page!



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