

Summaries of Cadw-funded Projects being undertaken in 2013/14

The following fieldwork and desk-based projects are being undertaken by the Trust with funding from Cadw during 2013/14

Roman Military Vici assessment

Proposals for 2013/14 focus on the two following military vici in Powys:

- ***Brecon Gaer vicus***
Geophysical surveys were undertaken at Brecon Gaer in 2005 and 2006 with some additional work in 2010. Test pitting took place in 2009 and again in 2010, all with Cadw funding. With the completion of the on-site works, the results need to be published, and it is planned to integrate these with other elements pertaining to Brecon Gaer (metal-detected finds, a mirror burial, the road network by the fort) in an article which should merit publication in a national journal.
- ***Pen-y-gaer vicus***
Past geophysics work and evaluation in 2007 of a substantial building to the south of the fort was followed by a community project in 2011 and again in 2012. This completed the site work at Pen-y-gaer, and it is now necessary to prepare the results for publication.
- ***Caerau, Beulah, vicus***
Following test pitting on two sides of the fort in 2012, further test pits are planned on the east and north sides, the examination of a linear earthwork immediately to the north of the fort, and some additional geophysics on the east side, together with a geophysical survey of a poorly known camp that forms part of the Caerau complex a few hundred metres to the west of the fort. It is anticipated that fieldwork will involve the participation of local volunteers as successfully carried out at Brecon Gaer and Pen-y-gaer.

Potential contingency request for publication work

It had originally been intended to include this element of the project in the submission for 2013/14 but due to a perceived shortage of funding it has now been deferred. It might, however, be submitted for contingency funding later in the financial year.

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Historic Settlement Archaeology Reassessment

This is the third year of this project. The purpose is essentially planning-led and intended to update the information put together on historic settlements in the Clwyd-Powys region generally between 14-17 years ago and to recast it in a way that will also make the information more accessible. The two areas for which work is planned in 2012/13 are Wrexham and the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The two districts in the proposal for 2013/14 lie adjacent to each other at opposite ends of the trust's region and have many points in common, not least because they collectively formed much of the historic county of Denbighshire from the Tudor era up until the relatively recent local government reorganisation. In total just under one hundred settlements were examined during the original assessments in the 1990s.

In modern Denbighshire around 40 settlements were identified as being of medieval or even earlier origin during the study in the 1990s, the vast majority of them with a church at their heart, though not all of these were necessarily nucleated or had. Of the remaining twenty or so, up to seven have been examined in earlier studies where the settlements have been transferred to Wrexham and Powys, while the bulk appear superficially to be post-1750 creations though this assumption will need to be confirmed during the study. The settlements range from the city of St Asaph and towns such as Denbigh itself, Llangollen, Rhuddlan and Ruthin to large villages like Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Dyserth and down to church settlements like Llangar and Efenechtyd. There are one or two in addition where their interest may not have been appreciated during the original survey and here Cynwyd stands out.

In eastern Conwy, at least 17 settlements need reassessment ranging from the town of Abergele to minor and yet historically important settlements such as Llangwm and Gwytherin.

Aircraft Crash Sites TWENTIETH-CENTURY MILITARY SITES

Cadw in their *Revised Grant-aid Statement to the Trusts* identified three main facets for a Twentieth-Century Military Sites scheduling enhancement project, namely (a) military airfields; (b) military aircraft crash sites; and (c) military camps, ranges and training areas. They have suggested that in the first instance the focus should be on airfields, a site type of which there are only three known examples in the former county of Clwyd and none in Powys.

The work to be undertaken during 2013/14 will include data collection supplemented with information from targeted site visits in order to establish their condition and significance, resulting in the production of scheduling proposals or other management recommendations where these seem more appropriate. The methodology for the project wherever possible will follow that developed in 2011/12 by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in their pilot project on military aircraft crash sites.

Hen Caerwys community excavation project

A short but successful community project was undertaken at Hen Caerwys by Cadw and CPAT in July 2011 and this was followed by a second, two-week season in July 2012. Research into the discoveries made during the original 1960s excavations and on the landscape and setting of the settlement site itself has also continued, the results being shared with local communities in lectures. It is intended to return to Hen Caerwys to undertake more work in the late spring or early summer of 2013. This will involve the completion of the trench across the cottage, first opened in 2012, a trench across one of the second set of platforms lying further to the west, a trench across one of the field/enclosure banks and possibly some limited work targeted on features close to the cottage site. As before the scale of the excavations will be driven by the number of volunteers who sign up. The emphasis will again be on involving the local community in the work itself and exhibiting the site to those who have been attracted by the publicity.

Walton Basin community, survey and management

As anticipated in last year's application, proposals for the coming year are focused on fieldwork assessment of sites of different periods in the Walton basin – primarily of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman date. The primary objectives of the

field assessment, which is designed to tell us more about this unique complex of sites as well as having wider relevance to the management of sites in agricultural regimes in Wales and further afield, is to:

- test methodology developed in 202/13 for assessing vulnerability
- help assess management options
- to secure more information about the form and dating of sites
- in the case of some Neolithic monuments to test their relationships with palaeochannels

The target sites, of which it will only be possible to carry out work on a selection, have emerged from the scoring system developed for assessing vulnerability to plough erosion, based upon COSMIC 2. It is hoped that field assessment will involve local community groups, local societies and interest groups with a view to providing training and making both participants and the local farming community more aware of the history of the landscape. Arrangements have already been made for holding a number of specific outreach events including exhibitions and presentations.

Whitford Dyke publication

Production of a publication report summarising the results from Cadw-funded geophysical survey, auguring and trial excavation for publication in a national or regional journal. In addition, following the negative trial excavations on western end of the dyke near Gop Farm in 2012/13 there are uncertainties about the existence or form of this part of the monument. A further trial excavation is proposed on part of the monument to the east of Trelawnyd in order to resolve outstanding questions about the dating, extent and state of the preservation of the intermittent linear earthwork known as the Whitford Dyke.

Recent excavations conducted by CPAT in 2009 and 2012, together with previous work by Fox in 1926 and the Offa's Dyke Project during the 1980s, have recorded the nature of the earthwork within two of the three known sections, around Brynbella and to either side of the Holywell Earth Circle. Yet it remains unclear whether the section to the south-east of Trelawnyd is of the same form as elsewhere and is thus part of the same monument, even though some upstanding lengths are scheduled. Indeed, investigations in the past appear to have failed to confirm the existence of a bank and ditch, the visible feature being dismissed as partly of natural origin and perhaps a relic of a former road and field system. A small-scale trial excavation is therefore proposed to resolve the form and status of the earthwork prior to the publication of the recent investigations.

Llanymynech Hillfort publication

Llanymynech Hill is one of the largest hillforts in Britain with a contingent range of earlier and later activities also represented, yet a sparsity of accessible published literature has frequently resulted in it being relegated to the sidelines in general discussions. The proposal envisages the preparation of a publication incorporating material derived from the Cadw-funded management study undertaken during 2012/13, and integrated with the results of the small-scale assessment work undertaken in previous years within the hillfort by the Trust in response to developments by the golf club as a result of Scheduled Ancient Monument consent.

Great War Commemoration scoping project TWENTIETH-CENTURY MILITARY SITES

Two elements to this project are proposed, as follows.

A. Great War military remains scoping study

Apart from war memorials, the physical remains of the preparation for WW1, the war itself and its aftermath are little studied, particularly in relation to those of WW2. This scoping study seeks to identify the military, social and economic impact the war had on the historic environment of Wales. It is intended that this assessment will provide a firm foundation for more detailed work during the centenary years.

- Identification of structures and buildings erected, used and reused before, during and after WW1 in the Clwyd-Powys region, with reference to the *English Heritage NMR Thesaurus Listing for the First World War Project*.
- Liaison with other groups and organisations who have an interest in the physical remains of WW1, or have an interest in commemorating WW1. These will include, RCAHMW, other WATs, Cadw, Imperial War Museum, HLF, CBA, and community groups.
- Rapid appraisal of the likelihood of survival and significance of buildings and structures.

It is intended that this project will be consistent with the English Heritage pilot study ‘The Home Front (1914-1918) and its Legacies’.

B. Bodelwyddan complex scoping study

The complex of sites in the Bodelwyddan area provides an ideal focus for Great War commemorative events. It includes the remains of the former First World War Kinmel Park Camp, a large and unusual complex of First World War practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park. It also includes These sites are also connected with a poignant historical event that occurred at the end of the Great War – the riot by Canadian troops protesting about poor housing conditions during the time of the outbreak of Spanish Influenza and delays in repatriation. As a consequence four of the five soldiers killed in the suppression of the riot and many others who died of illness in the camp hospital are buried in the cemetery at the nearby St Margaret’s Church. There is also an intriguing and more personal story which links the army camp to the wider archaeology of the region. This involves Private Carlyle D. Chamberlain (an American who enlisted in the Canadian Army and subsequently curator of Louisville Museum) who spent time visiting local archaeological sites in 1919, and amongst other things leaving a stone with his name engraved on it in a cairn within Penycloddiau hillfort, found during excavations by the Trust in 2008 (a story already picked up by the British and Canadian media - see story on <http://o.canada.com>).

The main objectives of the scoping study are therefore to identify and bring together interested parties (potentially including staff of Cadw, RCAHMW, Bodelwyddan Castle Trust, Denbighshire County Council, historical and special interest groups, the media, re-enactment groups, detectorist groups, local community groups, schools, other interested parties in Britain, Europe and the Commonwealth) with a view to making preparations for commemorative activities from 2014 onwards. A specific objective will be in conjunction with other parties to devise proposals for an HLF-funded community-based project from 2014 onwards under the *Your Heritage* programme or under the *Remembering the First World War* banner. The Trust’s focus will be upon the surviving physical remains, but there are a wide range of other community-based partnership activities which could be encompassed by such a project, as follows:

- Documentary research in Britain and Canada
- Fieldwork recording of the trench system command post in Bodelwyddan Castle Park
- Building recording at Kinmel Park Camp

- Structured metal detector survey to identify and record the positions of metallic anomalies
- Geophysical survey of practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park
- Trial excavations in scheduled or unscheduled parts complex of practice trenches in Bodelwyddan Castle Park
- Study of the earlier history of the Bodelwyddan landscape, including the relict medieval field system and later landscape park to enable a fuller appreciation of the First World War activity
- Gravestone recording at St Margaret's churchyard
- Education and local awareness activities focused on local community and schools
- Production of website about the history of the area during the Great War
- Re-enactment events within Bodelwyddan Castle Park

Warrens and Parks MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL SCHEDULING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

The proposal covers a scheduling enhancement programme on parks, and more specifically deer parks, and rabbit warrens, forms of aristocratic land-use which were closely linked in the medieval era. It represents the fifth themed study within the period, following the completion of a wide-ranging scoping assessment by each of the four trusts during 2010, and the completion of the monastic, milling and industrial projects in 2011 and 2012, and the on-going farms and farming project which started in 2012.

Site types used in the HER that relate to parks and warrens will provide the framework for the study, and already recorded examples will form a basis for the appropriation of other data from readily accessible sources where this seems worthwhile.

Information will be accessed from the HER, NMR and other readily available sources, and will be supplemented by field visits where these are likely to generate new data. The primary purpose is to assess the condition of any material remains and determine where additions to the schedule of designated sites could usefully be made, and, where settlements are already scheduled to establish whether any associated features need to be highlighted and protected. As well as enhancing the records currently existing in the HER and adding new ones, a report will be produced providing a context for this particular theme within the scheduling enhancement programme.

Buckley Potteries: community, survey and management

The medieval and post-medieval industry scheduling enhancement programme (SEP), conducted in 2011/12, identified the Buckley potteries as a nationally important complex of early industry which required more detailed study in order to ascertain its true significance and potential. This SEP follow-up project has been developed in collaboration with Dr Peter Davey, a leading authority on the Buckley potteries and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures at the University of Liverpool who is engaged on synthesising the documentary and artefactual evidence relating to the Buckley Potteries. The collaborative project for which grant aid is being sought is focused on the recording and management surviving visible remains of the medieval and later pottery industries on Buckley Common.

Summary of proposals in the coming year

The following approach is proposed in order to address the management and research priorities raised above:

- The development of a project database and GIS mapping, incorporating data from previous research and historic cartography.
- Map regression analysis to illustrate the development of the potteries and the pattern of commons encroachment
- A programme of field visits, the results from which would enhance the project database and GIS mapping, making use of 1m resolution LiDAR to define surviving earthworks in areas of dense vegetation
- Production of a project report, a separate report on scheduling recommendations, summaries for the CPAT website and *Archaeology in Wales*, and the provision of mapped and other data to assist with the publication by Peter Davey.
- Community outreach event in partnership with local museums, historical societies and interest groups; talks to local groups and societies