Towards the end of March the Trust moved into new rented premises at 41 Broad Street Welshpool, about midway between its former offices in Church Street and the High Street. As well as bringing the whole of the Trust under one roof our new premises provide much better access and facilities for the public and much needed storage.

We are quite easy to find, opposite the town hall next to the offices of the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust. The building never seems to have had a number on the outside and instead has the date of 1816 prominently displayed above the door. The building, a former branch of Lloyd’s Bank, lies on the site of a bank set up by Robert Griffiths during the 1780s, later renamed the Montgomeryshire Old Bank. In time, the Trust will no doubt begin to stamp its own identity on the history of the building.

The move, which is in effect our first move since we were set up thirty-six years ago, provides an opportunity to look again at our aims and objectives, as set out on the page opposite. Due to the current climate of financial austerity we will inevitably be forced have to cut-back on some of our activities — perhaps particularly on our education and outreach work — though hopefully we will be able to return to these once the economy begins to recover.

The Trust is one of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, working closely with other national, regional and local bodies to help protect, record and interpret all aspects of the historic environment for the whole of Wales.

In the other three panes we summarize some of the ways in which we try to carry out our aims.

**protect**

We help to protect the historic environment by:

- working with local authorities and other agencies to monitor the impact of development
- providing strategic planning advice at local and national levels
- providing information and advice about site management and conservation issues

**record**

We help to record the historic environment by:

- maintaining the regional Historic Environment Record which includes photographic, drawn and written records
- undertaking survey and excavation projects, particularly of sites under threat
- recording finds made by detectorists and members of the general public

**interpret**

We help to interpret the historic environment by:

- providing information about sites and finds of archaeological and historical interest
- mounting exhibitions and displays, undertaking guided walks and talks, and publishing reports about our work
- providing work experience and employment training opportunities
On Denbigh Moors . . .

Just published! This well-illustrated, bilingual volume about the Denbigh Moors — Mynydd Hiraethog — has just been published by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in collaboration with the Trust and written by Bob Silvester, the Trust’s Deputy Director. Based on the Commission’s Uplands Survey Initiative, the volume tells the history of this distinctive upland area south of Denbigh.

Despite its often harsh and challenging landscape the moors have been exploited by people over many millennia. The story takes in Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, Bronze Age chieftains, Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval farmers, as well as more recent pressures posed by 20th- and 21st-century reservoirs, conifer plantations and windfarms.

Above The 20th-century Alwen Reservoir, snaking its way across the moor. Mesolithic stone implements have been found below some of the moor’s reservoirs during periods of low water. 

Left Reconstruction drawing of the post-medieval summer houses at Hafod y Nant Criafolen excavated in the 1970s in advance of the construction of the Brenig Reservoir by the Rescue Archaeology Group — the forerunner of the Trust. The illustration is from the original publication in the Post-Medieval Archaeology journal.

Above left In the foreground is the enclosure known as Hen Ddinbych (‘Old Denbigh’) which seems likely to have been the focus of a sheep farm forming part of the estate of the medieval bishops of Bangor. Towards the middle right of the image is just visible the Brenig platform cairn with Llyn Brenig reservoir beyond. The Bronze Age platform cairn was excavated in the 1970s as part of the rescue campaign organised by Frances Lynch, The Trust’s current chairman, in advance of the construction of the reservoir. 

Below left One of the smaller Bronze Age cairns that were examined in the 1970s. This one was found to cover a cremation burial placed in a central stone-lined cist.
A series of self-guided historic landscape walks on open-access land is now available on the Trust’s website (www.cpat.org.uk/walks/index.htm). The guides give details (see example on pages 8–9) of where you can park, sites of interest that you can see on the walk, plus an indication of how long the walk might take and how strenuous it is. The first series of walks, shown on the map below, focus on the recent survey of prehistoric burial and ritual sites funded by Cadw, including sites such as stone circles, standing stones and burial cairns largely dating to the Bronze Age (between about 2300–1200 BC), but also draw attention to sites of other periods that can be seen on the walk. It is hoped that in time walks looking at sites of other periods will be added to the list.

**Historic landscape walks in the Clwyd-Powys area**

Note that the downloadable guides should always be used in conjunction with a suitable map, such as the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer or Outdoor Leisure series. A GPS and compass may also be useful. The walks will take you into remote upland areas and you should make sure that you are well equipped and have checked a weather forecast before setting out.

1. Gop Cairn
2. Llyn Brenig
3. Llantysilio Mountain
4. Eglwyseg
5. Moel Ty Uchaf
6. Trannon
7. Corndon
8. Gro Hill
9. Gors Lydan
10. Bache Hill
11. Nant Tanw
12. Mynydd Llangorse
13. Pen Cerrig-calch

**Opposite** The Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle, south of Llandrillo, Denbighshire, which is the focus of one of the self-guided walks.
Eglwyseg Mountain

Maps Ordnance Survey Explorer 256
Distance 5.3 miles / 8.5 kilometres (linear) or up to 9.6 miles / 15.5 kilometres (circular)
Duration Allow at least 7 hours for the circular walk
Difficulty Medium, with some moderate exposure to drops and one steep descent
Start/finish The walk can be done as a linear route from the car park at World’s End SJ 23214835 to the Panorama walk at SJ 24104295, or as a circular walk from World’s End.

From car park turn left and take first track on right, continuing until it joins another track, where you turn right and continue along this route. This path passes the earthworks of 18th or 19th-century lead mining (SJ 23794768), comprising small shafts surrounded by spoil which are part of a much wider mining landscape. Following waymarked path, turn right, opposite the cliffs of Craig y Forwyn, which is popular with climbers.

Follow path alongside fence and at the corner take waymarked path on left. Below you will see Plas Uchaf, the manor house at World’s End which you will pass later on. Continue towards the rocky outcrop of Craig Arthur, with views west to the Horseshoe Pass and its slate workings visible on the skyline. At the waymark ignore descending path and keep to top of the crag.

At Craig Arthur there is a good view of the limestone cliffs to the south and the Berwyns on the skyline. A short detour ascends the limestone crags on the left to an impressive burial cairn (SJ 22344708). This is one of many burial sites in the area which date from the Bronze Age (2300 – 1200 BC). The cairn has a kerb of larger stones around its edge and although it has not been excavated it is likely to cover a main burial, possibly within a stone cist (coffin). Nearby is a small satellite cairn which may cover a cremation.

Return to the path, continue along crest of the escarpment, descend into a steep valley and rise to the top of the crag beyond. Pass a small stone-built sheepfold (SJ 22304583) on right, evidence of past landuse when the moorland was used extensively for grazing sheep. As the path descends a large burial cairn is visible on the skyline. Follow the path up the valley and take the Panorama Walk as far as the road, then turn left and follow the road to the parking area (SJ 24104295). For the circular route either continue along the Panorama Walk or descend directly to the right from the signpost on a narrow path, keeping the wall on your left. This path, although rough underfoot, may be difficult to walk in wet weather and is signed with yellow arrows to guide you. As the valley narrows ignore a path leading left to a quarry and follow the path right, through gorse, to the road.

Turn right at the road and and follow its winding route to a very short detour on the right leading to a limekiln. This area was once an important source of limestone, which was used as a building stone and also burnt for use in lime mortar and as an agricultural fertilizer.

Continue to follow the Offa’s Dyke path and below Craig Arthur, the impressive timber-framed manor house bears a date of 1563 and stands on the site of a hunting lodge of the princes of Powys, established by Bleddyn ap Cynfyn in the 11th century. Legend relates that here Owain ap Cadwgan abducted Nest of the kingdom of Dyfed.

Continue through a felled plantation to join the road on a corner with a ford. Cross the ford on stepping stones and follow the road back to the carpark, noting a limekiln on the right.
Round-up of recent digs

On this page and the page opposite we give a round-up of just some of the recent excavation projects undertaken by the Trust, sometimes with the help of volunteers. Thanks must also be given to the many landowners and tenants who have allowed us access to their land. The projects shown here formed part of a number of assessment projects funded by Cadw.

The three sites shown on page 10 had all been thought to represent different types of Dark Age cemetery, belonging to a period before the earliest churches were established. The sites on page 11 focus on our continuing work on Roman civilian settlements outside Roman forts in the Clwyd-Powys area.

Top Trial work proved the existence of an early medieval cemetery near Llanrhaedr-y-Mochnant in Montgomeryshire, first hinted at by aerial photographs taken in the 1960s. Middle Assessment work looking at the state of preservation of one of a group of probable early medieval square-ditched barrows next to a Roman road at Druid, Denbighshire, first discovered from the air in the 1970s (noted in our Autumn 2010 Newsletter). Bottom Excavations near Moel Ty Uchaf, Denbighshire, on one of what had been thought to be a group of early medieval stone cists which have now been shown to be probably all 19th-century shooting butts belonging to the Pale estate.

These projects all show the worthwhile information that can be obtained from relatively small-scale excavations designed to answer fairly specific questions, such as the date or extent of a particular site or how well preserved it is. Sometimes, as shown by some of the examples on these pages, the results can, however, be quite different to what had been expected!

Small-scale assessment projects cause relatively little disturbance and are often of interest to local people who may have been wholly unaware that there is something historical interest at the site.

Top and Middle Trial pits designed to trace the extent of the Roman civilian settlement associated with Brecon Gaer Roman fort (continuing the work reported in our Spring 2010 Newsletter). Bottom Trial work examining a series of ditches just outside the Hindwell Roman fort. A larger ditch being excavated in the foreground looks as though it may have formed an additional defensive enclosure outside the fort. As a bonus, the ditch was found to cut through a previously unknown stretch of the Hindwell Neolithic palisaded enclosure.
Aerial photography has become a vital tool for archaeologists, providing a means of finding previously unknown sites and for showing how known sites fit into the landscape. This is amply illustrated by Montgomeryshire Past & Present from the Air — shortly to be published by the Trust in collaboration with the Powysland Club and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. The book, by Chris Musson, former Director of the Trust and subsequently responsible for aerial photography at the Royal Commission, includes almost 200 colour images mostly from the aerial photographic collections of the Trust and the Royal Commission.

The images in the book, some of which are shown here, have been specially chosen to show how the traces of the county’s history, from the earliest times up to virtually the present day, are indelibly etched into the landscape. They show the burial mounds of pioneering Neolithic and Bronze Age farmers, hillforts of Iron Age chieftains, strategic camps and forts built by the invading Roman army, Dark Age territorial boundaries, Norman motte-and-bailey castles, medieval towns, villages and churches, and post-medieval lead mines and model farms, as well as modern reservoirs and windfarms.

Publication is anticipated in late May/early June. Once published, copies of Montgomeryshire Past & Present from the Air will be obtainable from the Powysland Club (Triangle House, Union Street, Welshpool, SY21 7PG).

Above Llywelyn ap Gruffudd’s castle at Dolforwyn. Below The ornate gardens at Gregynog. Opposite The Breidden Hills marking the gateway to the upper Severn Valley just to the north of Welshpool, and author, Chris Musson, with Bob Jones (right) of Mid-Wales Aviation, pilot and perceptive ‘spotter’ in flights from the 1980s onwards with a Cessna aircraft.
The medieval market town of Llanidloes

This image taken from the forthcoming Montgomeryshire Past & Present from the Air provides an aerial view of the medieval market town of Llanidloes from the south, laid out in a loop of the Severn. The ancient church of St Idloes is visible at the top left. The long-vanished motte-and-bailey castle lay towards the lower right. The medieval market lay in the centre of the town, close to the fine half-timbered Market Hall built in about 1600 which is just visible where the principal roads cross at the centre of the town.

The Trust is grateful to all the landowners who granted permission to carry out the projects described here, and for the funding made available by these bodies:

The Newsletter can be downloaded from www.cpat.org.uk/news/newslets/newslets.htm

Front cover: Part of the remarkable Victorian farm complex at Leighton, from the forthcoming Montgomeryshire Past & Present from the Air (photo Ken Saito)

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