

Council for British Archaeology

Cyngor Archaeoleg Brydeinig

Wales/Cymru



Bailey Hill, Mold (from the 1923 Gorsedd Circle)

Newsletter 61 Spring 2021

<http://www.councilforbritisharchaeologywales.wordpress.com/>



The Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales is celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of a conference held in Aberystwyth in 2001. This was the first stepping stone on what has been called the largest community archaeology project in Wales.

People from diverse backgrounds and interests have given their time to help pull together what we know about the archaeology of Wales, and more importantly, what we don't know. There have been opportunities to be involved at different stages whether as part of a focus group, at a conference or looking at draft papers. The results can be found on our website <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/>

We are just about to start on the third review of the framework, and want to reflect the views of all who are interested. We also add to the themes that we currently have, creating new ones like Material Culture that are common across all period themes, or address other issues like Climate Change.

So how can you be involved?

Firstly become a member of the Research Framework. Membership is free, just fill in our online form [Membership Form](#) (and don't be put off by the question about relevant expertise or skills – it's just to let us see what range of experience we can draw on).

Secondly look out for opportunities to get involved: whether in a theme or focus group, attending our events, commenting on circulated documents or letting us know about something you have been involved with. We will be letting people know what is going on through social media or, if you are a member, through email.

Thirdly we are looking at plans to upgrade the website to give even better access to all the information on there. The upgrade has two elements, an upgraded WordPress website, and collaborating with Historic England and ScARF on a Research Frameworks portal. These two initiatives need some funds, in the region of £1500 in the next financial year. If you would like to make a contribution please use these bank details and mark your contribution CBANEWS

Research Framework
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And finally, let other people know about the Research Framework. It is only as strong as the people who contribute make it, the more people involved, the more likely the framework will be well-rounded and complete.



clwb **archeolegwyr** ifainc
young **archaeologists'** club

WANTED URGENTLY!
LEADERS FOR YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB
(South and Mid Wales)

If you have an interest and understanding of archaeology
If you like working with knowledgeable young people
If you can spare around 5 hours a month
If you like working in a team of like minded people
If you would like to gain experience working with museums and heritage organisations
If you would like to pass on your love of archaeology to the next generation

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A YAC LEADER.

For an informal discussion please contact Jan:
Janet.bailey3@btinternet.com

Research Excavations at Strata Florida, Ceredigion 2020-2021

Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA); Carys Aldous-Hughes - SFT (BA, MSc); Professor Emeritus David Austin (Trust Academic Director and PI of the Sacred Landscapes Project)

Between September 2020 and March 2021 a research excavation and archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the Grade II Listed Tŷ Pair, prior to, and during, the development of the Arddangosfa Mynachlog Fawr Exhibition by the Strata Florida Trust. The excavation was carried out by HRS Wales, directed by Richard Scott Jones, on behalf on the Strata Florida Trust and part-funded (in its research aspects) by the AHRC 'Sacred Landscapes of Medieval Monasteries Project' led by the Trust's Academic Director, Professor David Austin. It is all part of the on-going Strata Florida Research Project investigating the long-term history and landscape of this famous Cistercian Abbey, its predecessors and successors over the last 4000 years. Strata Florida Abbey, active on this site from 1184 to 1539, known affectionately as the Westminster Abbey of Wales, was once an important centre of culture, religion and economic change, with connections spreading far across Europe.



Figure 1: Tŷ Pair and cart shed west facing elevation prior to conservation

The Strata Florida Trust is a charity which owns, and aims to preserve, the historic Mynachlog Fawr building complex and to advance the education of the public about its history, surrounding landscape and heritage, through the development of the Strata Florida Centre. The buildings lie on the south side of the abbey ruins which are in the guardianship of Cadw. When the conservation work on Tŷ Pair is complete, the building will be a free-to-enter space telling the story of the farm through the “Mynachlog Fawr in 30 objects” exhibition, featuring a variety of artefacts and documents from the historic farmstead. The exhibition will open in Spring/Summer 2021.

The Tŷ Pair consists of two elements: a former cart shed; and a bake-house complete with large inglenook fireplace. It lies just to the south of the grade II* listed gentry mansion and later farmhouse which, in its present form, dates from 1670-80, although incorporating earlier fabric. The listing description dates the Tŷ Pair to the 19th century. Graphic sources, however, including an antiquarian engraving by the Buck Brothers in 1741 and an estate survey of 1765, together with analysis of

its fabric, suggest that the building is probably much earlier, possibly late 17th or 18th century, with later 19th century additions.



Figure 2: The large inglenook fireplace within the Tÿ Pair.

Previous excavation on the west side of the Tÿ Pair had revealed a sequence of buildings in a stratigraphy down to a depth of over 1.5m., with the remains of substantial walls on the same alignment as the known Abbey buildings. Preliminary analysis, confirmed by ceramic evidence, has suggested that these walls were medieval with later re-use in the 16th and 17th centuries. These appear to be a building abutting and annexed to the now-revealed refectory west wall and this could be part of the Cistercian kitchen range.

The Refectory wall was found to continue beneath the north wall of Tÿ Pair and also appeared in one of the trenches between it and the main house. This northern section of the wall had been cut by the south wall of the main house when part of it was first built, either in the later middle Ages or the mid-16th century. That there was no evidence for an east-west wall for this early Refectory, either to the north or south, suggests that we do not yet have the full extent of this building. Northwards, and cut away by, and now beneath, the later house, must be the junction with the cloister-walk and to the south must be a gable end which probably lies beyond the Tÿ Pair.

The internal excavations also revealed a narrow wall running parallel to and abutting the Refectory wall on its east, interior, face, running the whole length of the Tÿ Pair but stopping somewhere underneath its north wall. Both these walls

could be seen continuing down below the levels of substantial rubble deposits which filled the interior of the medieval refectory. The excavations and watching brief on this occasion did not take these rubbles lower than the depths specified above and it can only be an assumption that the contemporary, 13th and 14th century floor levels are about 1.5 metres deeper, consonant with the medieval surfaces seen elsewhere in the monastic claustral complex. All this corroborates Leland's observation in 1536-7 that the Refectory was 'in ruins'.

The research examination of the southern, gable wall of the main house which, in its present form, can be dated from documentary sources and dendrochronology to c. 1670 also assisted in our understanding of the development of this building. It clearly shows that it was originally a narrow, ground-floor structure built onto the same medieval ground level as the rest of the claustral complex. It was then rebuilt in c. 1670, being extended by the addition of a new west façade to make the structure 1.5 metres wider while retaining much of the earlier east and south walls. It also became a two-storey gentry house with a substantial attic containing servants' quarters. The original narrow structure may be either a much reduced 15th-century Refectory or, much more likely, a small hall added to the surviving west range of the Abbey cloisters occupied by the Stedmans who came in 1546-7 to run the former Strata Florida monastic estates for the Devereux family.



Figure 3: The medieval Cistercian refectory wall in the cart shed



Save the date:
Wednesday
12th May 2021

CHERISH Project's ONLINE conference: Coastal Cultural Heritage and Climate Change

This international conference will showcase the vulnerability of coastal environments to climate change and how these may be impacted by future changes. Papers will cover a range of topics around the theme of understanding and managing coastal heritage under threat.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for release of our conference programme and booking details:

www.cherishproject.eu

@CHERISHproject @CHERISHproj

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



JOHN SWEENEY,
 Maynooth University, Irl
www.maynoothuniversity.ie



Mold's Bailey Hill continues to give up its history

John Atkinson (research volunteer on the Regeneration of Bailey Hill Project in Mold)

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) returned to Mold, Flintshire in October 2020 to complete their excavation work on the town's 11th century motte and (double) bailey Norman castle site. CPAT had been providing a watching brief during last year's regeneration work to bring the council owned site back into more popular public use. The regeneration work, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Leader Funding Cadwyn Clwyd, Tourism Amenities Investment Support and Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme, centred on the modern-day entrance, the gothic cottage and the areas around the inner and outer Baileys.



The motte from the 1923 Gorsedd Circle

Bailey Hill overlooks Mold town centre at the head of the High Street. As a scheduled monument and the site of previous discoveries over several hundreds of years the importance of the site is well known so the likelihood of further discoveries was high. The regeneration work afforded CPAT the first ever professional excavations to be undertaken on the hill. The previous discoveries are noted as far back as 1784 by Thomas Pennant, amongst others, but most were the result of random ad-hoc work and even though they included human remains their importance was not recognised and no conservation took place. So in 2020 CPAT, assisted initially by Archaeological Survey West LLP who undertook a geophysical survey, completed their excavations, only hindered by Covid restrictions and the weather. The findings were enlightening and will add a further chapter to the rich story of Bailey Hill. They included:

- Masonry walls at the foot of the motte with evidence of burning. An indication that occupation of the castle was not short-lived.

- Skeletal remains of 7 individuals within the inner bailey, one without a skull, all carefully buried.
- Two arrowheads, one clearly socketed, the other heavily corroded.
- Pottery sherds, including a spout from a pitcher recovered from a confirmed medieval floor layer.
- Various butchered animal bone, cobbles and fire-cracked stone.
- An assortment of 20th century items, including a 1941 halfpenny, assorted local Buckley bricks and ironwork.
- The sleeper wall of 20th century bricks upon which a steel corrugated building once stood. This structure had previously been used as an isolation hospital.



(Above) Medieval masonry at foot of the motte (CPAT)

(Right) Ian Grant (CPAT) recording a trench 16.10.2020



The portable artefacts and remains were all carefully removed and sent for dating and DNA analysis. The results are eagerly awaited, but in the meantime the Regeneration Project Research Volunteers continue with their work. Now that the archaeology is recorded and protected the regeneration groundworks continue and are due for completion in Spring 2021. The tripartite group of the Friends of Bailey Hill, Flintshire County Council and Mold Town Council, ably assisted by a team of community volunteers will ensure this next chapter in the life of Bailey Hill puts Mold and its castle back in the historical and archaeological spotlight once more.

Chronic illness in the workplace

Sarahjayne Clements BA MA ACIfA

I wanted to write this piece not only to raise awareness of chronic illness in the workplace but also to formally thank the CBA for granting me a workplace-learning bursary in 2013 as a community archaeologist with RCHAMW, allowing me to gain invaluable experience.

I have lived and worked in Wales on and off since 2007 and have been working as a professional archaeologist, in varied roles for eight years. I particularly enjoy Heritage Management, although I have developed interests in examining mental health and disability within the profession.

In Profiling the Profession (2012-13) employers reported that less than 2% of archaeological employees identified as disabled. However due to the data being collected directly from employees for the first time this year (2020-2021), the number of archaeologists, identifying as disabled is set to rise to around 10%(1). This means that roughly 80% of disabled archaeologists are not notifying their employers.

In the past, I was fearful of limiting future career opportunities by writing about my conditions but I hope that my account will help employers and the rest of the archaeological community to understand the nature of chronic illnesses and to **normalise disability in the workplace**. I hope that it will also serve to empower others and normalise what may present as 'invisible' illnesses.

My conditions started with the onset of glandular fever but worsened after the birth of my first child. For a long time I managed to continue to work as a commercial archaeologist with the support of my current company, after eventually receiving a diagnosis of M.E and disclosing this. Through disclosure, support can be given in the form of reasonable adjustments. Without disclosure, employers might not notice any issues but they do need to create a **supportive culture** to allow issues to be raised.

Initially we were able to work together to make reasonable adjustments relating to travel time, working hours and working patterns. Unfortunately, commercial work is no longer currently possible after I developed a rare pelvic condition (condensans illi). I then went on to develop Fibromyalgia after an infection. Currently the company have kindly given me desk-based work, mainly in the Historic Environment Record and Heritage Management teams. The situation arising from COVID-19 has

(1) Correct at the time of inquiring but before publishing. Thanks to Doug Rocks-Macqueen of Landward Research Services for his help with statistics. 10

meant that I have been able to test out home working and flexible working hours.

Making **reasonable adjustments** can help to minimise any time that otherwise may have been lost. The nature of chronic illnesses are often fluctuating which is why a block of time off may not help and which is why **flexibility is key**. Employers have a duty to make reasonable adjustments and if they need financial help with modifications they may be able to gain support through the 'Access to Work' scheme which can help cover costs, including funding **disability awareness** courses for the workplace. I would also recommend a **mental health awareness** course or mental health first aid, as mental health conditions are often co-morbid with chronic conditions. This would have a company-wide benefit. One of the ways that the construction industry is tackling mental health problems is through heavily investing in training. Archaeology faces similar issues and it is something that as a discipline we must do more to tackle.

A positive arising from the pandemic is the availability of online conferences and talks, which otherwise I would not have been able to attend. We do need to make sure that inclusivity is more than just moving online for example by including subtitling etc. We can and should adapt our practices to be able to be more inclusive and supportive for disabled people in the workplace as anyone can develop a disability at any time in life. We should also consider what narratives are being missed because of limited inclusion.

Although enabled archaeology is becoming a prominent topic, we still need to work harder to promote open discussions, disability awareness and look at how we can better make adjustments.

References

Aitchison, K. and Rocks-Macqueen, D. 2013: Archaeology Labour Market Intelligence: Profiling the Profession 2012-13.

Useful Links

<https://www.actionforme.org.uk/uploads/pdfs/employers-guide-to-me-booklet-2016.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

<https://www.gov.uk/reasonable-adjustments-for-disabled-workers>

<https://www.sja.org.uk/courses/workplace-mental-health-first-aid/book/adult-mental-health-first-aid-2-days/>

Centre of ceremony and death? New fieldwork at Castell Nadolig hillfort, Ceredigion

Dr Toby Driver, RCAHMW

Toby.driver@rcahmw.gov.uk

Twitter: [@RC_Survey](#) & [@Toby_Driver1](#)

Castell Nadolig is a concentric Iron Age hillfort sited on the summit of a low hill on the coastal plain of south-west Ceredigion. It is the second largest hillfort in Ceredigion, and in a landscape of cropmarks it is one of the very few to survive as an up-standing earthwork. The site has never been excavated.



Castell Nadolig: drone view from the east 2020, flown with permission of nearby MoD Aberporth (Crown Copyright RCAHMW)

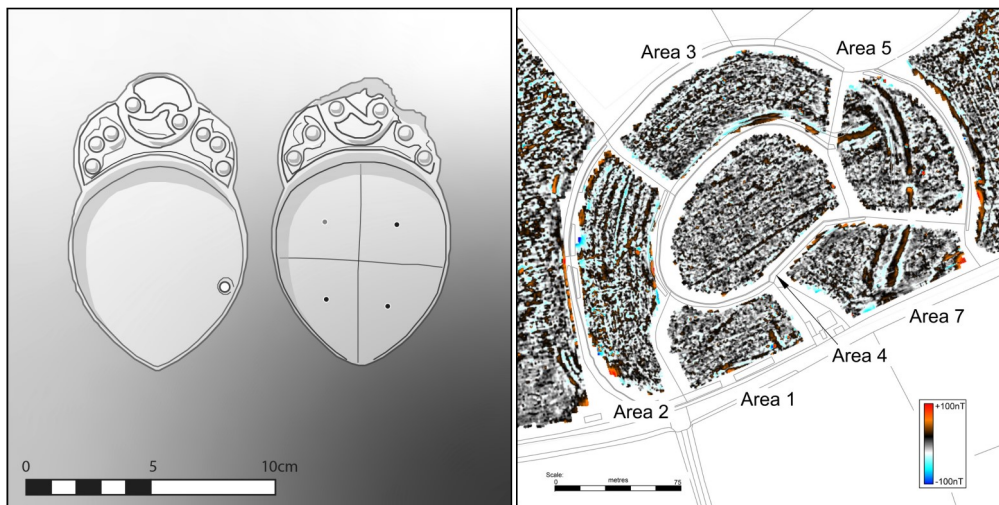
Castell Nadolig is famous for the discovery of the Penbryn Iron Age spoons in 1829 which, in 1836, joined the collections of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Only 27 similar individual spoons, representing just 17 pairs, are known from Britain, Ireland and France. These enigmatic ‘spoons’, large and generally flat and about the size of an adult’s palm, first came to public attention in 1862 and have been much discussed since. When found in pairs a cross-incised spoon is always matched by a plain spoon with an offset hole. Given their rarity and stylistic elements, Andrew Fitzpatrick has argued that they were specialist tools used by a religious elite – or druids – for the purposes of divining the future, and for divining auspicious and inauspicious dates for significant events.

Of the known spoons, the pair from Castell Nadolig was the earliest to be discovered and is among the most ornate. The pair share design similarities with the Thames spoon, now in the Museum of London. It is likely they accompanied an Iron Age burial capped with rocks or boulders. There is further antiquarian evidence for burial at this hillfort; around 1859 three urns containing cremations (now lost)

were found beneath a slab at the site, and early tourists passing the site record a barrow or tumulus close to the hillfort. There are also several major springs within and close to the site.

In 2019 the Royal Commission began a new investigation of Castell Nadolig to explore the context of the Penbryn Spoons, against the background of the Pembrokeshire chariot burial and a recognition of Iron Age burials outside Welsh hillforts. New geophysics by SUMO Geophysics LTD for the Royal Commission has revealed many internal details, together with a series of plough-levelled ring ditches or barrows within and outside the eastern entrance. This is the first firm evidence of multiple burials within and close to the hillfort and provides a likely context for the antiquarian finds. We can surmise that ritual, ceremony and burial may have been central to the function of Castell Nadolig alongside other more mundane domestic and agricultural activities.

A longer report is in preparation which includes a fresh study of the Iron Age spoons of Britain, Ireland and France, and a new typology of this most rare find type. Only by understanding the styles, traditions and findspots of these rare religious tools can we place the Penbryn Spoons within a more rigorous research framework. The Royal Commission would like to thank the landowners for allowing permission for this new programme of fieldwork.



(left) The Penbryn Iron Age spoons discovered at the hillfort in 1829 are the earliest to be discovered, and among the most ornate, in Britain and Ireland (Toby Driver)

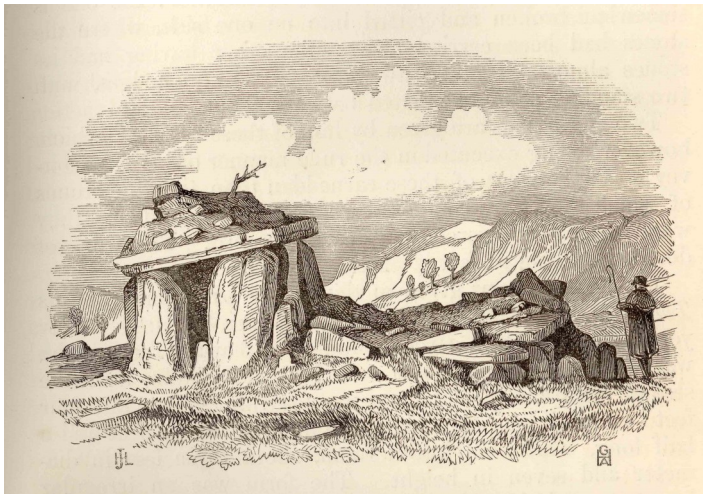
(Right) New geophysical survey of Castell Nadolig carried out in November 2019 by Sumo Geophysics LTD for the Royal Commission, revealing a new complexity to the eastern gateway ramparts which appear to enclose a round barrow. The main gateway lay in Area 7, now silted by the road and a house (Crown Copyright RCAHMW).

Cambrian Archaeological Association: 175th Anniversary

Heather James and Toby Driver

2021 is the 175th Anniversary of the Cambrian Archaeological Association and we intend to celebrate this event by producing a booklet looking at the development of archaeological illustration principally, though not exclusively, through the pages of *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. 'The Cambrian Archaeological Association is formed in order to examine, preserve, and illustrate, all Ancient Monuments and Remains of the History, Manners, Customs and Arts of Wales and its Marches' – thus the preface to the first set of rules in 1847. In fact the first issue of the journal preceded the formal foundation of the Association. From the beginning there was an emphasis on illustration as the first Notes to Correspondents in 1846 states: 'In drawings and sketches, accuracy of detail and measurement will be esteemed far beyond picturesque effect, which is of little or no value for archaeological purposes; and in case of illustration of camps, castles, churches, buildings, or any monuments, being communicated it is particularly requested that, if possible, a ground plan with proper measurements may accompany them. The scale upon which a drawing or plan is made, ought always to be specified.'

The editors (Heather James and Toby Driver) have already 'signed up' a wide range of contributors to write short essays and select their illustrations within a chronological framework but some general themes like the printing history, the skills of the artists and woodblock engravers, the arrival of photography and developing techniques of excavation and how these were illustrated will also be covered. Heather James is currently sorting and cataloguing the hundreds of *Arch Camb* blocks and plates for deposition it is hoped in the National Museum of Wales and many of these will be displayed at the Conference. The booklet will be issued free

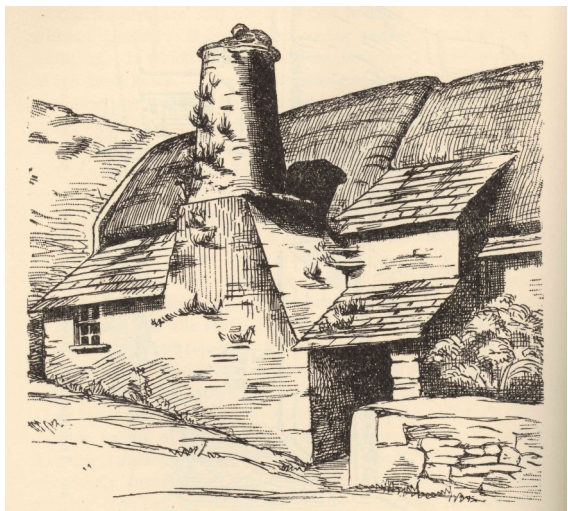


Bryn Celli Ddu

to members and will be launched at the CAA's Autumn Weekend Conference in Llangollen (22-24 Oct) exploring the same themes. It will then be available with a modest cover price for non members.



A few examples must suffice: Frances Lynch uses an early woodblock of Bryn Celli Ddu, where the remains of the covering mound are clearly shown over the capstones, to illustrate how ideas of bare stone tombs functioning as 'druidical altars' were disproved. Other illustrations show artefacts now lost. Details of vernacular buildings now altered such as Trefaiddan, St Davids are equally important. Much effort was devoted to the recording – and preservation – of the early medieval inscribed stones many of which were discovered as Victorian restoration – and rebuilding – of churches gathered pace. The lengthy accounts of the Summer Meetings – an unbroken CAA tradition apart from two world wars and the covid pandemic – were occasion for further fieldwork and drawing and recording – and some trenchant exchanges of opinion! Whilst the emphasis will be on the Victorian period key 20th century contributions such as Cyril Fox's series of reports on his surveys of Offa's Dyke will be included.



Trefaiddan, St Davids



The 2021 CBA Festival of Archaeology

We are pleased to announce that this year's Festival of Archaeology will run from Saturday 17 July to Sunday 1 August. Following the success of last year's digital Festival this year we will have a blend of online and on the ground events which will include a range of self-guided activities.

The CBA Festival of Archaeology is the UK's biggest annual celebration of archaeology. Traditionally held over the last two weeks of July, the Festival has evolved from a two-day event to two weeks of activity. With hundreds of events delivered by community archaeology groups, heritage organisations, universities and commercial units, we help over half a million people to engage in archaeology, explore stories of place and connect with the environment around them.

As coordinators of the Festival, the CBA provide support and promotion to external organisers. The [CBA Festival of Archaeology website](#) offers information, guidance and event registration for organisers and acts as a hub for the public providing search facilities, a blog, competitions and details of the Festival's principle online events such as A Day in Archaeology and Ask An Archaeologist Day.

Exploring local places, our theme for the 2021 CBA Festival of Archaeology, is all about helping people discover the archaeology and heritage that is all around them. Our Festival of Archaeology 2021 will help people get out and explore their local places, to discover stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special. We want you to help us celebrate local sites, stories and the people who lived and shaped our local places. Archaeology is a great tool to help you do this and to find out more about places through time.

While you are waiting for this year's Festival of Archaeology to get underway there are lots of ways you can start to explore your local place. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Try** our [Local Explorer Bingo Challenge](#) and see how many things you can find. This is a great activity to do on your daily walk.
- **Take** a wander down your local high street and think about how it has changed over time. If you are a member of a local archaeology society or history group this could make a great research project.

- **Discover** [Dig School](#) (link is external) and learn how you can use archaeology to find out about the people who lived on your doorstep. Dig School is a series of online workshops and activities ending with the opportunity to dig a test pit in your own back garden!
- **Try** out a self-guided walk.
- **Got** a question about an object, site, feature or simply curious about something unusual – get answers from archaeologists around the world on [Ask An Archaeologist Day](#).
- **Photo** competition – take part in our photo completion on the theme of Local Heroes – we want images that capture the very essence of the places you live in and what makes them special to you. It could be a building, a place, a tree or garden, an archaeological site or feature, it could be people and friends and the places you meet – what defines the place you live, work, like to visit or go to school in a photograph.
- **Contact** your [CBA regional group](#), local archaeology society, history group, museum, library, and archive to find out what they are doing and how you can get involved.
- **Find** out more about ways to participate in archaeology and share your experience as part of [A Day In Archaeology](#).
- **Watch** out for our growing list of events and activities and sign up for our regular updates via the [Festival website](#).
- **Become** a member and supporter of the CBA and get involved in our activities all year round. Find out more here <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/become-a-cba-member>.

How to get involved

Festival of Archaeology events offer opportunities for all ages and levels of experience.

Take part in an event near you. Festival events including hands on activities, field-work opportunities, talks and guided walks, re-enactment and much more.

Participate in our online events – this year we will be offering a range of online talks and workshops

If you have a local place you would like to share, why not put on your own event. For more information about becoming an event organiser please contact festival@archaeologyuk.org.

Events will be listed on the Festival of Archaeology website from April. In the meantime, we still have a range of fantastic events and activities from the 2020 Festival that you can view at any time. Search the event listings at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/find>.

Test Pitting on newly discovered Romano-British Site

Rhys Mwyn

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been excavating Test Pits at an undisclosed site on Anglesey where earlier geophysical survey has shown up what could be Iron Age roundhouses in two possible groups. Each Test Pit was placed over an area of possible archaeology or activity show up by the geophysics survey.

Initial investigations were in the form of 1m x 1m and 1m x 2m test pits that were sufficient to ascertain if the targeted anomalies had an archaeological origin and also to identify and discount modern and geological features with the minimum of resources. The trenches aimed to identify and sample the archaeology but would not aim to fully excavate features.



Several pieces of black-burnished ware were found in one Test Pit which confirms that our site is now very likely to date to the Roman period. Manufactured in Dorset, the pieces of black-burnished ware show that the Anglesey communities were connected to a wider trading network almost 2000 years ago.



Two walls or structures were also found which have been initially interpreted as part of a roundhouse wall and another wall matches a possible line of 'bank' that had shown up in the geophysics survey.



CBA Resources

CBA now have a fantastic range of on-line resources which can be viewed under the participation area on the CBA website <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/>. Here is a summary of just some of the resources you can find:

Under Returning to Activities Following Covid-19 <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/returning-to-activities-following-covid-19> you will find advice, tips and links to official guidance on getting your activities up and running again.

CBA Events <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/cba-events> is a series of monthly workshops on a range of different topics.

A Career in Archaeology <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/a-career-in-archaeology> has three films looking at different pathways into a career in Archaeology.

CBA Volunteering <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/cba-volunteering> lets you know how you can get more involved.

Fieldwork, Conferences, Talks and Networking <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/fieldwork-conferences-talks-and-networking> advertises events and courses across the UK, but many are currently being held online (fees may apply).

There is also a wealth of online resources, guidance, publications, forums and so much more on the Archeology Resource Hub <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/archaeology-resource-hub> in the Discover area of the website.

Inscribed stones from *Llys Dorfil*

A.M. & W. T. (Bill) Jones

e-mail: wtj831509@gmail.com

The Blaenau Ffestiniog Archaeological Society was kindly given permission to excavate the site of *Llys Dorfil*, SH 69574447, and has completed three seasons of work. *Llys Dorfil* is a multi-period site with the earliest structural remains being an early farmstead in an irregular enclosure. Inside the enclosure we found a possible pair of conjoined roundhouses, and in one of these, a stone cist like feature. Samples taken from the base of the cist were sent off for dating following a successful application to the Community Archaeology Radiocarbon Dating (CARD) fund. We were rather surprised when the result came back, to see an age of 7030-6700 cal BC. This is likely to be dating the ground surface into which the cist was built.

The site is frustratingly lacking in artefactual evidence, but a small number of incised stones have come to light. On the clay floor of the roundhouses a number of smooth slate river pebbles were found some still embedded in the clay, suggesting a pebbled floor. Three of these pebbles were inscribed with purposeful creations, rather than incidental markings. Under one of them, a red stain is visible, the consensus is that over the years an accumulation of iron stain from the peat bog above the site seeped to the hollow made by the pebble in the clay floor.

The origin of the pebbles is likely to be the river *Bowydd* which flows approximately 100m to the east, near to the enclosure wall. On its journey to this point it flows over some Ordovician slate outcrops. This meant that any loose slate was carried and worn down by the river and then as it passed *Llys Dorfil* was picked up and used by the inhabitants.

The interpretation of the inscriptions is a hot site tea break topic. The straight lines crossing one another on pebble 214, could be a pattern or possibly a tally or method for counting but the more naturalistic lines on pebble 242 look rather like a picture. Perhaps a depiction of the view from *Llys Dorfil* if you are feeling imaginative. But their exact purpose and date currently remains something of a mystery.



Cat: No LLDSCS214



Cat: No LLDSCS215



Cat: No LLD SFS242

This stone was found in situ embedded in the clay floor, note the red iron stain on the underside

Airborne 3D Survey

Dave Maynard, Landsker Archaeology Ltd.

Drones (UAV) are being used for a series of surveys of archaeological sites in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire in a project undertaken by Landsker Archaeology Ltd. The work is funded as part of the Welsh Government Cultural Relief fund to mitigate businesses affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Landsker Archaeology has spent much of the past 20 years working in international contexts, but is now rather curtailed.

The work will cover a range of sites including hill forts and enclosures on the Preseli hills of North Pembrokeshire. Various buildings and structures in the area including quarries and related buildings. The aerial photography has also been used to create a plan of the cemetery at Hebron chapel to form the basis of digital recording of the gravestones to identify family groups and associated farms from the 1830s onwards. The fort on Foel Trigarn is used as a bit of a training ground to try different techniques as it is conveniently located and has a range of different features.

The project output will be both illustrations and 3D models used to create digital terrain models. The project will also show elements of other projects such as work done by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the walled garden at Scolton Manor. A major component of the project is training staff in professional piloting skills for flying drones and the use of 3D software.

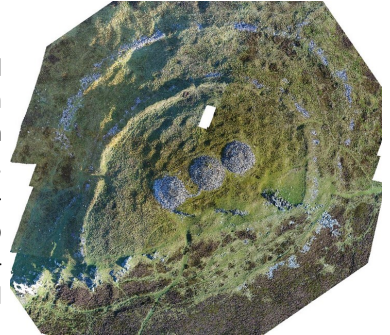


Figure 1: Foel Trigarn hillfort

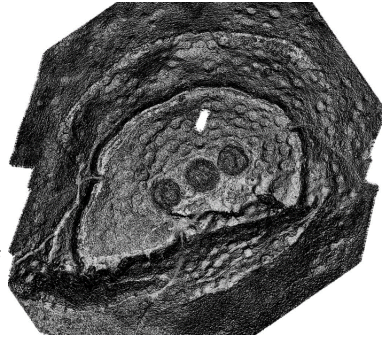


Figure 2 :Foel Trigarn hillfort slope



*Figure 3: Carn Ffoi,
Newport*

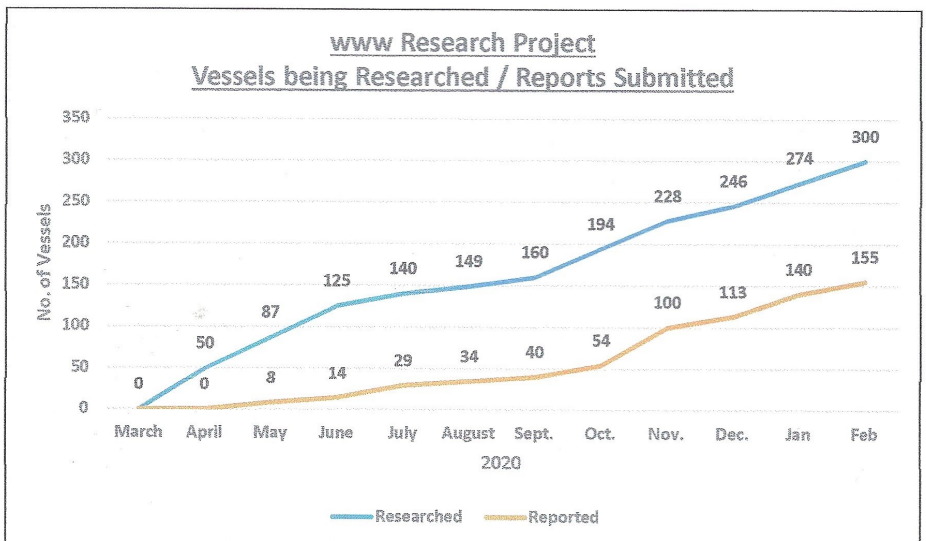
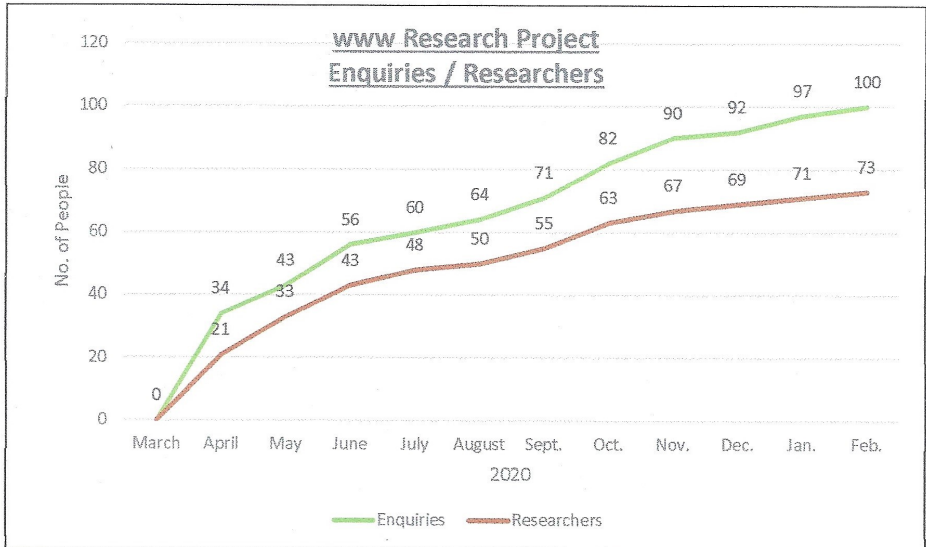
In last Autumn's Newsletter, we provided an article on the volunteer research project that the Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit (MADU) has been running for the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS). The project invites people to carry out some on-line investigation into vessels from a data base of historical maritime incidents in the North Cardigan Bay area. The initial aim of the project was to help keep people with an interest in maritime archaeology both sane, and engaged, during the various Covid restrictions and lockdowns. The secondary benefit however has been that a considerable amount of fragmented on-line information relating to Welsh maritime heritage is now being consolidated into a single resource.

When the project was launched in April 2020, it was planned to run for 9-months, until the end of last year. At the time, it wasn't appreciated that the virus could turn into a full-blown world-wide pandemic, and that 2021 would commence with yet another lockdown. So, due to demand and to help people through the winter months, it was agreed that the project would be extended until Easter. The previous article was prepared at the beginning of August last year (4 months into the project), and now we are into the 12th and final month of the exercise we thought an up-date might be of interest. As can be seen from the table below, and the charts on page 24, since last August the number of enquiries, volunteer researchers, vessels being researched, and reports submitted have all increased considerably.

Details	Dates	
	1 st August 2020	1 st March 2021
Enquiries about taking part	60	100
Up-take	47 (78%)	73 (73%)
Vessels listed on the data base	524	582
Vessels being researched	140 (27%)	300 (52%)
Completed reports received	29 (21%)	155 (52%)

The 73 researchers currently engaged with the project, are of all ages and abilities, but when considering that the project predominantly centres around the north Cardigan Bay area, probably the most surprising outcome is that at least 20 of the project's volunteers are based outside of the UK, including: America, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Philippines, Russia and Sweden.

Almost by accident, the research has evolved into an international project, and one of the many unforeseen advantages of this is that, as trade is international, so too are many of the vessels carrying these goods. Consequently, having researchers that can investigate on-line sites that are not in English has in many instances proved to be of invaluable assistance.



As reports have been received, the approximate location of each incident has been added to a wreck/incident chart of the area, and along with a pdf of each report, can be found on the project's website, at:

<http://www.madu.org.uk/Page%204.42%20-%20www%20Research%20Project%20-%202020.dwt>

Last November, a presentation about the project was provided during the virtual NAS annual conference, and in May this year a similar presentation is planned for the annual DEGUWA underwater archaeology conference, which is due to take place at Xanten in Germany. Unfortunately, this event looks like it will also be virtual, but as the conference topic is "Safety and Waterways", an international project involving volunteer researchers investigating 582 maritime incidents in Cardigan Bay falls very appropriately into this heading. A paper for this conference is currently being prepared, and will be provided jointly with one of the project's researchers from Bulgaria, Dr. Hristomir Hristov, who will be taking about his experience of engaging with the project.

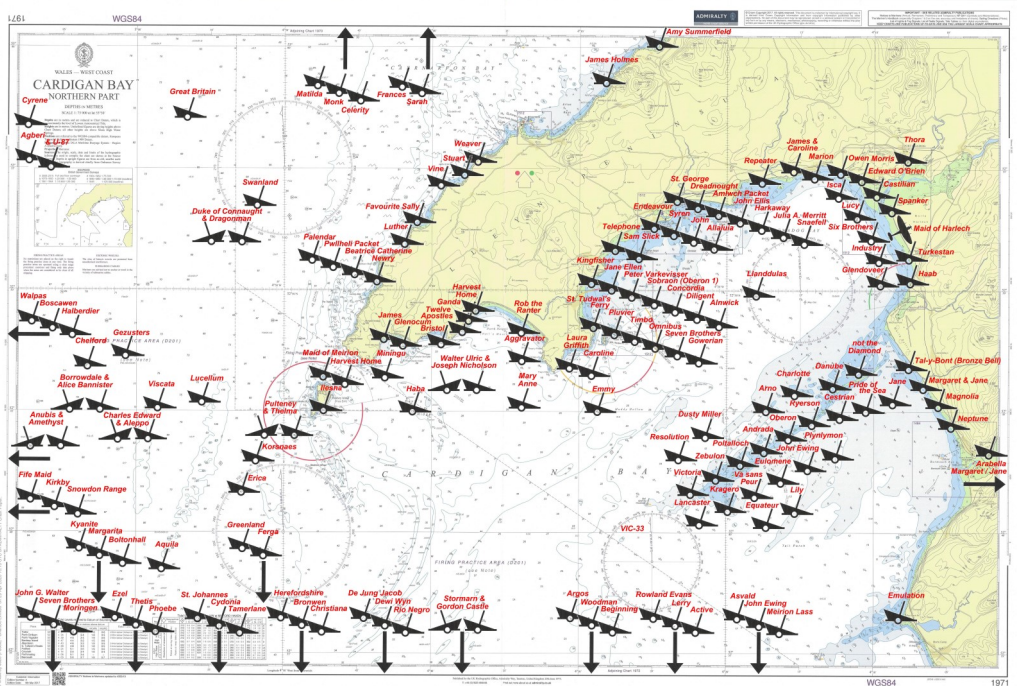


Chart showing the approximate locations of the maritime incidents for the vessels whose reports have so far been submitted.

Admiralty Chart 1971 - Cardigan Bay - northern part (not to be used for navigation!)

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CAER Heritage: Archaeology and Community Engagement in the time of Covid-19

Dr Olly Davis, Prof Niall Sharples and Dr Dave Wyatt, Cardiff University

CAER Heritage (www.CAERHeritageProject.com), established in 2011, is a collaborative partnership project between Cardiff University, Action in Caerau and Ely ('ACE' - a community development organisation in west Cardiff), Cardiff Council, local schools, community groups and residents, as well as some of the major heritage organisations in Wales (e.g. National Museum Wales, GGAT). The project focuses upon the research of Caerau Hillfort, Cardiff. This is one of the largest and most complex hillforts in the old county of Glamorgan, but until the instigation of our work had received almost no archaeological attention. Partly that is due to the general paucity of excavation at hillforts in south-east Wales, but it is also almost certainly a result of its location – the hillfort is nestled within the social housing estates of Caerau and Ely in western Cardiff, which are two of the most socially and economically challenged wards in Wales. However, the potential opportunities for using heritage to enhance social and economic well-being was the basis for the development of CAER Heritage. From the outset, the aim of the project has been to use research of local heritage to create educational opportunities, break down barriers to educational progression, promote skills development and challenge negative perceptions of these communities.

Over the last decade, CAER activities have included geophysics, excavations, artefact analyses, exhibitions, art installations, films, performances, accredited courses and experimental archaeology amongst many others. Five seasons of community excavations on the hill have revealed significant multi-period remains. Possibly most important has been the identification of an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure at the site (only the third such site confirmed in Wales), but excavations have also recovered evidence of intensive Iron Age occupation, Romano-British settlement and the possibility that the entire site may have been refortified in the Early Medieval period.

Launched in April 2019, the current phase of CAER Heritage, known as “The Hidden Hillfort Project”, is being funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The objectives are to create a heritage centre at the site along with heritage trails and interpretation, as well as conducting further archaeological investigation. Unfortunately the last 12 months of project delivery have coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 has had serious impacts on the communities of Caerau and Ely. Rising unemployment has resulted in many families struggling financially, particularly with food insecurity, while social isolation and school closures have led to a myriad of educational and emotional challenges.

Our planned ‘Hidden Hillfort’ work over 2020 included activities such as geophysical surveys and excavation, so lockdown presented huge challenges. The CAER team co-designed new project activities that allowed people to continue to engage with their

local heritage while also helping to address the significant social and economic challenges facing these communities. In place of our summer dig, we asked community members to undertake ‘mini-digs’ in their own back gardens in order to tell the wider story of Caerau and Ely, placing the hillfort into its landscape context. For those people without gardens we invited them to ‘excavate’ objects ‘buried’ in cupboards and drawers and discover the stories behind them. Overall, 39 households (131 individuals) and 1 school (30 yr 5 pupils) participated resulting in significant social outcomes (85% of participants said it made them feel more positive about their situation for instance) and interesting research findings – Neolithic flint tools and Roman and Iron Age pottery suggest hitherto unknown prehistoric settlement in the area. A ‘digital museum’ to showcase the discoveries and stories of individuals involved will be launched in the near future. We have also been working with the National Museum Wales St Fagans to develop fun heritage food parcels that address local issues around food poverty. These are now delivered to over 25 local families in need, allowing them to create wholesome meals based on historic recipes.

Our work during the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognised by the CBA with the Marsh Award for Best Community Archaeology Project 2020, and the intention is to invest the prize-money to further develop our Heritage Food project.



Caerau Hillfort, looking north-east. Crown Copyright RCAHMW 2013_2756



Local school children undertaking their own CAER ‘mini-dig’

ABOUT THIS RECIPE

This recipe dates back to the 14th century and is traditionally eaten in the winter months. It's often thought of as the national dish of Wales. The word nowadays often refers to a dish containing lamb and leeks, along with leeks, swedes, carrots and other seasonal vegetables. Once the potato was brought to the country in the 16th century, it was then included in the recipe. The dish would have been cooked in a cauldron or iron pot over an open fire.

The meat is cut into medium sized pieces and simmered with the veg in water; the stock was thickened with oatmeal of flour and this dish would be served as a first course. Cawl's counterpart in the North of the country (lobsogaws) had smaller pieces of meat and the stock was not thickened. In some areas, cawl is served with bread and cheese.

Word origin: first recorded in 14th century, comes from latin caulis meaning the stalk of a plant, such as cabbage. An alternative suggestion is the word comes from calidus meaning warm.

THIS PROJECT

These food boxes are brought to you by the CAER Heritage Project and ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely) along side some of our lovely partners.

The National Museum Wales has provided some of the recipes.

Awesome Wales have provided some package free ingredients so that we can reduce our plastic consumption and hopefully yours too!

Please take pictures of your cooking your dishes and share with us on social media:

Facebook: #CAERHeritageProject
Instagram: caerheritagehiddenhillfort
Twitter: #CAERHeritage

our contact details:

Phone: 029 2000 3132
e-mail: hiddenhillfort@aceplace.org



WELSH CAWL

PREP TIME

10 mins

COOK TIME

40 mins

SERVINGS

4-5

INGREDIENTS

1 Chopped onion
1 Chopped leek
Olive oil
Salt and Pepper
1 Chopped Carrot
1 Chopped parsnip
1 Peeled and chopped swede

1 Large potato, peeled and chopped
2 Sprigs of thyme
1.2L Vegetable stock
Fresh Parsley for garnish

We also recommend serving with some bread and cheese on the side.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add 1.2L of boiled water to your stock cube in a jug and stir.
- Peel and chop all of your veg and thyme into your preferred sizes.
- Start with the onions and leeks in a pan with a large splash of olive oil and a pinch of salt. Allow these to sauté for around 10 minutes on a medium low to medium heat.
- Add the rest of your chopped veg and thyme into the pan along with the stock you prepared earlier.
- Bring the stock to the boil then turn down the heat to let the cawl simmer for around 30 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.
- Serve in bowls and add some chopped parsley on top.

CAER Heritage Food parcel recipe card

If you are receiving this newsletter by post, you either do not have or have not given us your most recent e-mail address. Given the recent increase in online archaeological activity, if you would now like to provide us with an e-mail address which you are happy for us to use for CBA Wales mailings, please contact the Membership Secretary, kathy.laws@hotmail.co.uk

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Archaeology in Wales

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