

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there is a wide, grey, pebbly beach. To the left, a rocky cliffside descends towards the water. The middle ground is dominated by a steep, grassy slope. On this slope, there are several structures: a small, dark, rounded building in the lower center, and a larger, rectangular building with a flat roof further up the slope. The background shows a vast, green field under a clear sky.

# Protecting Twentieth-Century Military Structures in Wales

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49TH ANNUAL REPORT 2002-03

ANCIENT  
MONUMENTS  
BOARD FOR  
WALES

Ancient Monuments Board for Wales  
Crown Building  
Cathays Park  
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Lavernock, Vale of Glamorgan: An aircraft searchlight on the cliff edge  
(Crown Copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical  
Monuments of Wales).

A N C I E N T  
M O N U M E N T S  
B O A R D F O R  
W A L E S

49<sup>TH</sup>

ANNUAL REPORT  
2002–03

Presented to the National  
Assembly for Wales in pursuance  
of Section 23 of the Ancient  
Monuments and Archaeological  
Areas Act 1979 as amended by  
section 45 of the Government of  
Wales Act 1998

To  
Alun Pugh AM  
Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

I am pleased to provide you with this report of the work of the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales in 2002–03.

We have much appreciated the opportunity to advise you on matters concerning the ancient monuments of Wales. These are important assets to the historic environment of Wales and we are glad to be able to offer advice on the benefits to be gained from their protection and promotion — in terms both of the monuments themselves and their contribution to Wales's rich historic landscape. In 2002–03 we continued the approach we adopted in 1999 of considering a different theme each year. So far, we have looked at a wide range of topics ranging from early medieval stone sculpture to the monuments of the Industrial Revolution and, most recently, privately owned monuments. This annual thematic approach has enabled us to consider topics in detail and to provide recommendations for further attention or development.

In 2002–03 the Board considered the protection of twentieth-century military structures in Wales. To consider as monuments structures built within the living memories of many people in Wales is a difficult concept to appreciate and the sites are often taken for granted. However, the nature of their construction, and the redevelopment of the areas in which they lie, means that many are under serious threat. Positive action to protect them is increasingly urgent. As time passes not only are the sites, but also the local, often oral, history that is associated with them, being lost.

Close consideration of the issue highlights many problems, including the best means of their protection, particularly for extensive sites. The answers are not straightforward and more work needs to be carried out before a comprehensive plan on the way forward can be put in place. The Board's report for the year makes a number of recommendations as to how we might make a start, but it can only represent a first step in tackling the subject. The Board hopes to return to this issue again in due course.

During the year the work of the Board was reviewed and we were pleased to note the reviewer's conclusion that the Board should continue. We welcome this endorsement of our efforts and we look forward to advising you further in 2003–04, when we will be considering the care and presentation of properties in the care of the Assembly and managed by Cadw.

Finally, the Board would like to record its thanks to Richard Keen, who retired from the Board at the end of the year. Richard gave invaluable support during his many years as a member, and his enthusiasm and expertise, particularly on Wales's industrial heritage, will be much missed.

Rees Davies  
Chairman



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## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cadw should draw on the experience of colleagues in other UK heritage bodies who are engaged in the statutory protection of twentieth-century sites.
2. Much authoritative information has been gathered in Wales over the last few years by Medwyn Parry (of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) and Roger Thomas (now with English Heritage). Cadw should use its knowledge to identify the most important twentieth-century sites likely to be strong candidates for statutory protection.
3. Cadw should test its scheduling and listing criteria for this period against the recommendations for statutory protection in Roger Thomas's study of twentieth-century sites in Pembrokeshire. This exercise should also check the rate of survival of those site types covered by the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA) study of documentary records in the Public Record Office (anti-invasion defences, anti-aircraft artillery, bombing decoys, coastal artillery batteries and radar installations). This work should also be linked to a study of aerial photographs (historic and modern).
4. There should be some limited work elsewhere in Wales to test the CBA's Public Record Office-based evidence against survivals on the ground.
5. Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales should consider the most appropriate way of enhancing the level of information on twentieth-century structures in the regional Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), to ensure they are fully represented within the development control process.
6. A small working group involving all interested parties and chaired by Cadw should be established to provide advice on these and any subsequent projects, and on other related issues.
7. Outside the statutory process we would encourage the development of national and local initiatives to raise the general profile of the importance of these sites and to record, preserve and present them to the wider public.

## INTRODUCTION

It is ten years since the Board last considered the issue of statutory protection for twentieth-century military structures. Since then public interest in the remains of this period has continued to grow and the CBA's *Defence of Britain* project has made a major contribution by raising awareness throughout the country of the importance of this subject and the vulnerability of many of the surviving sites. Its database, covering 20,000 sites across the UK (mainly anti-invasion defences), is now accessible through the internet. In 1993, Cadw (with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park) funded a study of nineteenth- and twentieth-century military structures in Pembrokeshire and also of the Welsh section of the CBA's survey of certain documentary records of the Second World War in the Public Record Office (now the National Archives).

Unfortunately, in parallel to this rise in enthusiasm, structures that were often intended to last only a few years have continued to deteriorate, and new threats, such as greater pressure for reuse of brownfield sites, have arisen. The Board considered that it was timely to review the situation and to develop a strategy for the future protection of these sites. As part of our review we visited a range of sites in the Pembrey area of south Carmarthenshire and around Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire.

## SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT

The term 'twentieth-century military structure' covers an enormous range of site types, including pillboxes, coastal defences, artillery sites, aircraft crash sites, shipwrecks caused by acts of war, radar stations, military factories, sites from the Cold War period, civil defence sites and prisoner of war camps. Not only are the sites wide-ranging in nature but some can be quite complex. An example is the airfield at Sealand, which was built in the First World War, was upgraded for use in the Second, and still remains in service. Its buildings thus span eighty-five years. It is, perhaps, most helpful to look at what is special about the sites in Wales without losing sight of the fact that twentieth-century military structures in Wales were planned as an integrated part of an UK-wide system. Indeed Cold War structures may be part of systems embracing Europe and North America.



*Dale, Pembrokeshire: a cartoon (above) on the wall of the airmen's barracks (top).*

Wales was not a military backwater. Although at first sight seeming to lack the glamorous front-line sites now protected in England, such as Battle of Britain fighter stations, Wales was in the front line for the Battle of the Atlantic, with airfields and flying boat stations for anti-submarine and convoy protection duties for the Western Approaches. There were fighter stations to protect the industrial towns and important west-facing defences constructed against possible invasion from Ireland. Holyhead was a base for the Royal Dutch Fleet. The position of Wales, relatively distant from the Continent, made it ideal as a manufacturing base for military equipment such as the production of Wellington bombers at Broughton. The same is true for training, maintenance, and weapons-testing bases, and many of these uses continue to the present.

Over the past decade or so around two dozen twentieth-century military sites in Wales have received some form of statutory protection. This has generally come about because of specific requests for protection or in response to threats to the sites, rather than through any systematic review of the subject. Only sites where there can be absolutely no doubt as to their value have been protected and the Board visited two of these: the planetarium-like scheduled dome gunnery trainer at the former Pembrey Airfield, Carmarthenshire, and the listed Sunderland flying boat hangars in Pembroke Dock (believed to be unique). Another set of aircraft hangars, but in this case dating to the First World War, are listed at Sealand in Flintshire. Two remarkable prisoner of war buildings are listed; the chapel at Henllan, with a highly decorated interior fashioned by Italian prisoners, and the hut at Island Farm, Bridgend, from which German officers escaped through a tunnel in the largest breakout of the Second World War. Other scheduled sites include the Chain Home Low radar site at Margam, Neath Port Talbot, a heavy anti-aircraft battery at Lavernock, Vale of Glamorgan, and two sets of First World War practice trenches at Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire and Bodelyyddan in Denbighshire.

## MEANS OF PROTECTION

The existing mechanisms for the protection of sites by scheduling and listing are stretched when faced with most twentieth-century military sites. In particular, the recent date, huge numbers, and mass-produced nature of the structures to standard designs cause problems; not to mention the poor surviving condition of many of the examples.

## CASE STUDY — PEMBREY AIRFIELD

The former RAF station at Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, was mainly a gunnery training base, but is now largely privately owned farmland. The most important surviving structure on the site is a dome gunnery trainer which has been scheduled as a monument of national importance.

This unusual structure worked in the manner of a planetarium, with film projectors beaming moving images of aircraft onto the interior surface of the dome. The trainee gunner, with a dummy weapon, would learn to follow the track of aircraft, and sound effects for aircraft and weapon noise were provided.

The stricter controls of scheduling were felt more appropriate for a structure more likely to be preserved as a monument than reused for other purposes, given its limited usefulness to its private owner. However, the issue remains of what are the appropriate methods for the preservation of buildings which were never intended to last more than ten years, are of little aesthetic interest, and have lost much of their historical context.

There seems much to be gained from an integrated approach on such sites (similar to Cadw's methods on industrial sites), whereby listing and scheduling, as appropriate, are combined with other methods of protection. This might possibly include designating the more coherent parts of such sites as conservation areas.



*Dome gunnery trainer at Pembrey Airfield, Carmarthenshire.*



*Chapel Bay Fort near Angle, Pembrokeshire, is a Victorian fortification that was reused in the First World War, shown before (top) and after (above) restoration work (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).*

Added to this is the problem of finding the most appropriate protection for something like an airfield, built with impermanent materials and spreading over several square miles. At the height of the Second World War twenty per cent of the land area of the UK was under military control and a substantial number of sites still remain, raising the wider issue of how protection should be directed.

Scheduling may be applied only to monuments of national importance and, whilst it is certain that the built legacy of two world wars is as a whole of national importance, it is often hard to see how one of several hundred surviving sites of similar nature or type might qualify. English Heritage has developed detailed scheduling criteria for a wide range of these monuments and, given the nature of these sites, these criteria can also be used in Wales. Listing may be applied only to structures of special architectural or historic interest and is primarily concerned with surviving character: buildings of all periods must be in something like their original condition. This obviously causes problems with derelict buildings and sites. For twentieth-century buildings, the listing criteria in particular call for great selectivity and specify the selection of key examples against which to judge other candidates.

In general, scheduling is more suitable for areas, surfaces, mounds, banks, gunnery installations and underground structures, with obvious implications for protecting airfields, or banks intended to protect against blasts, or air-raid shelters. Listing is generally more useful for standing buildings and structures. The stricter controls of scheduled monument consent are more appropriate for sites where preservation as a monument is feasible. Listed building consent, intended to control change as much as to prevent it, is likely to be more suitable where buildings are capable of adaptive reuse. Preservation in situ can also be achieved in certain circumstances through the planning system, especially as sites recorded in Sites and Monuments Records are identified as part of the development control process.

The vast majority of sites will not meet the criteria for statutory protection or be covered by the planning system. Their future survival will depend upon local people being aware of their existence and their importance. The huge interest generated by the *Defence of Britain* project demonstrated how interested people are in this relatively recent aspect of their past, where those originally involved in the construction or manning of the sites are sometimes still living in the same community. Protection, therefore, needs to be seen in landscape terms, involving

raising public awareness of the existence and importance of what survives, combined with statutory protection for those few structures which meet the criteria.

Some military structures are so extensive as to make statutory protection difficult or unrealistic. Airfields and stop-lines are obvious examples. There have been two cases in Scotland where whole airfields have been scheduled but it is unlikely that any suitable candidates will be identified amongst the surviving remains in Wales. The Board saw a short length of the Carmarthen stop-line near Pembrey and members were able to appreciate the problems associated with protecting a 60km-long defensive line made up of a combination of man-made and natural features. Protection would have to rely on raising public awareness and the selective use of scheduling and listing. Many of the structures that we saw in Pembrokeshire lay within the area included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales and the surviving military and naval fortifications are one of the aspects of the Milford Haven waterway that contributed towards its inclusion on the Register. Public awareness of the importance of the area has been further heightened by the more detailed characterization of this landscape, undertaken, with grant-aid from Cadw, by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The results of this work will shortly be widely available through the Trust's website.

## CONCLUSIONS

We believe that there are grounds for optimism over the ability to protect the best twentieth-century military structures, particularly as, in Wales, Cadw is able to adopt an integrated approach to scheduling and listing. We were able to see the benefits of this approach when, three years ago, we reviewed the protection and management of industrial structures. There are other similarities with industrial structures, not least the neglect and dereliction of many of the sites and possible contamination with asbestos or hazardous waste, including that from the manufacture of munitions or even chemical warfare materials. However, the Board recognizes that the protection of monuments of this period is a very extensive undertaking, which needs to be tackled at different levels by a range of organizations and individuals. The fact that the aspirations of a nationwide project on the scale of the *Defence of Britain* project had to be significantly limited to anti-invasion defences is a measure of the overall size of the task. Realistically, Cadw can



*The Pembrey stop-line: anti-tank defences (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).*

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W A L E S



*Henllan, Ceredigion: This dormitory (above) built in 1940 was converted to a chapel by Italian prisoners of war and decorated with scrap materials and natural dyes (right).*

concentrate only on its core task of providing statutory protection through scheduling and listing but this must be founded on well-informed and well-researched information. More research and fieldwork will be required over the next few years to fill the gaps and, after tackling the most obvious candidates, the rate of statutory protection will be dictated by the pace of this primary work.

Outside the statutory process much can be achieved towards the long-term protection of these sites by ensuring that their general profile is raised amongst the public, particularly through more local initiatives of the type we saw in the trail around Pembrey Country Park. Further initiatives to record these sites and enhance the archival record should also be encouraged, particularly where sites are under threat.

The Board will want to continue to review this area of Cadw's work and return to the subject at a suitable juncture.



## CASE STUDY — FLYING BOAT HANGARS AT PEMBROKE DOCK

The huge hangars were built in 1934–35 for the servicing and repair of flying boats, including the giant Sunderlands. Pembroke Dock was an important seaplane base during the Battle of the Atlantic, from which anti-submarine and convoy protection missions were flown. The station finally closed in 1957.

The two hangars are the largest twentieth-century military buildings in Wales and are believed to be the last remaining of their type in the UK. The hangars were listed as buildings of special architectural or historic interest in 1994. This was considered to be the appropriate mechanism of protection since the procedures of listed building consent are intended to control change as much as prevent it. Large covered spaces such as these can be relatively easily reused, as here, for industrial purposes such as storage or garaging, although there can be problems of maintenance as mid-twentieth-century materials reach the end of their lifespan.

In north Wales, a listed group of much smaller First World War hangars at Sealand is used as part of an industrial estate.



*First World War hangars at Sealand, Flintshire.*



*The flying boat hangars, surrounded by more recent buildings, at Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).*

CASE STUDY — ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORY  
AT PEMBREY (PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK)



In 1914 the Nobel Explosive Company in collaboration with the Government established a military explosives factory at Pembrey. Although this was run down between the wars, its administration buildings were used as a convalescent home and rehabilitation centre for the children of unemployed miners.

As the Second World War began, the factory was largely rebuilt as the Royal Ordnance Factory. The huge factory covered 200 hectares and was amongst the largest producers of explosives in the UK. The more dangerous processes and storage were dispersed among the sand dunes and man-made earthworks to reduce the effects of accidents.

The site was closed in 1965, and the land was eventually cleared and decontaminated to become Pembrey Country Park, owned and managed by Carmarthenshire County Council. Most of the earthworks survive, but apart from magazines and pillbox defences, few of the buildings are still standing.



*Pillbox defences at Pembrey,  
Carmarthenshire.*

The success of the reclamation, which has given public access to a large, apparently rural, area and a fine and popular beach, makes its history difficult to comprehend, as it is now essentially a landscape with a few upstanding structures. The history of such large sites could be made available to the public through interpretation boards or laid-out trails, and publications.

Today, with increasing planning pressure on brownfield sites, it is more likely that such a site would be built over. Given such planning pressures, the proper recording of such sites is increasingly important, and records should be held both at the National Monuments Record — maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales — and also in the Sites and Monuments Records held by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, which provide archaeological advice to planning authorities.

## SECTION 2 — OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD

The Ancient Monuments Board for Wales not only considers an annual theme, but also provides advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of other issues of current interest or concern. These are discussed at the two meetings during the year or alternatively Board members are asked to provide advice on an ad hoc basis outside formal meetings. Members have also advised on the content of Cadw's guidebooks and other publications on the monuments in its care. We are pleased to note the consistently high standard and authoritative content of these publications.

### PREVIOUS THEMES

Our advice on specific themes is not confined to the year of that theme and we continue to review progress on the implementation of recommendations we have made in previous years.

In 2000–01 the Board's theme was *Protecting Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture*. Our key recommendation was that a national committee should be established to consider the issues involved and to take forward our other recommendations. We were pleased to hear that the committee had been formed and met for the first time late in 2002 under the chairmanship of Professor Wendy Davies, a member of the Board. We believe that the strategic leadership this can provide will prove valuable in bringing together the different academic, public and private bodies with an interest in this culturally important subject.

### ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME 2002–03

We reviewed the Cadw grant-aided work undertaken by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts during the year. We also considered current threat-related priorities and, in outline, the expected main themes and priorities for grant-aided work in 2003–04 against the agenda set out in the joint statement by Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, previously approved by the Board.

We endorsed the proposed direction of the programme and also supported the valuable continuing work — initiated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists — to develop a national Research Agenda for Welsh Archaeology.



*Award-winning restoration of the stonework at St Quentin's Castle, Llanblethian, Vale of Glamorgan.*

We were also pleased to note the additional funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government of up to £3.5 million for the excavation, conservation and presentation of the Newport medieval ship. The huge local interest prompted by this surprise, and unique, find showed how much local enthusiasm there can be for Wales's heritage.

## CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MONUMENTS IN CARE

The Board discussed and agreed Cadw's programme for the conservation and presentation of monuments in its care and reviewed the agency's progress during the year. The Board also inspected work recently completed at Castell Coch and considered the problems faced by Cadw in the care of the building and its presentation to the public. The issues raised will be among those we will be looking at more closely as part of our theme for 2003–04, *The Care and Presentation of Properties in State Care*. We were encouraged by the effort being made to explain how the rooms were used in this often inadequately understood site. To build on this approach we suggest that Cadw investigate the potential for an explanatory video presentation on the history of the castle.

We also welcomed the opening of Dolforwyn Castle on 12 September 2002 and the completion of the new visitor centre at Caerphilly Castle. The Board had commented on the design of the latter in 2001–02. We also had the opportunity to offer our advice on proposals for a new visitor centre at Raglan Castle to replace the unattractive, temporary building in place. We would like to congratulate Cadw, and its workforce, Cadwraeth Cymru, for award-winning work at St. Quentin's Castle, Llanblethian, Vale of Glamorgan.

The Board is conscious of the challenges presented to the owners of ancient monuments in attempting to adapt public historic buildings to permit physical access in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This has been a welcome development, although there is a difficult balance to be struck between providing suitable access and preserving the fabric and character of historic structures. This is a subject we shall be considering in detail as part of our theme for 2003–04 but, in the meantime, we welcome the guidance on the subject published by Cadw in *Overcoming the Barriers*, developed in association with the Disability Rights Commission and Disability Wales. We understand that Cadw has commissioned consultants to carry out pilot access audits of some of its sites and we look forward to considering this issue in more detail.

## CASE STUDY — LLANGORS CRANNOG, NEAR BRECON

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The Board has taken an interest in this privately owned site since visiting it in 1994. Although this small tree-covered island in Llangors Lake may not appear impressive to the casual viewer, it represents one of Wales's most interesting and important survivals of the early medieval period.

Built using timber felled between AD 889 and AD 893, the artificially created island served as a royal hall and refuge for the kings of Brycheiniog until it was destroyed, probably in AD 916. Although similar crannogs survive elsewhere, it is unique in England and Wales and its importance is enhanced by the survival of historical evidence relating to the site.

Investigations have, however, demonstrated that the survival of the crannog is threatened by ongoing erosion through wave action, which has slowly deformed the island. Supported by grant-aid from Cadw, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has developed an engineering solution to the problem involving the creation of a rock gabion and timber pile to stop waves damaging the historic remains. Given the importance of this unique site, the Board hopes that work will be able to proceed as planned in 2004.



*Llangors Crannog (Crown  
Copyright: RCAHMW).*

CASE STUDY — MAEN ACHWYFAN,  
WHITFORD, FLINTSHIRE

Maen Achwyfan is a particularly fine slab-cross of the late tenth or eleventh century which stands to a height of some 3.4m, making it one of the tallest crosses of its type in Britain. The cross is fashioned from one stone and is heavily ornamented, mainly with interlaced designs, and with figures and animals around the base.

The Board inspected the cross in 2000 as part of its consideration of the theme, *Protecting Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture*, and although generally well preserved, it was becoming increasingly covered by lichen, which was threatening its preservation and obscuring the ornamentation. In 2002 the cross, which is in Cadw's care, was carefully cleaned using the JOS system, a low pressure, chemical-free cleaning method which avoids damage to the stone itself. The work proved very successful and will help ensure its survival and allow it to be fully appreciated by visitors.



*Maen Achwyfan before (above)  
(Mick Sharp Photography) and  
after cleaning (right).*



## QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW

During 2002–03 a quinquennial review of the Board was undertaken, a requirement for all Assembly-Sponsored Public Bodies. We welcomed the conclusion that the Board should continue to exist and, during 2003–04, we shall seek to implement the helpful recommendations set out in the report.

## PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Board has always been conscious of ensuring that our deliberations are as open as possible and our annual report has been widely distributed free of charge. Given the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we drew up a publication scheme, which we submitted during the year to the Information Commissioner. We are pleased that the Commissioner gave approval without amendment and we are now working in accordance with the scheme. Agendas and minutes of our meetings are available in hard copy and on the web at [www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk), except where those documents raise matters of personal confidentiality.

## FUTURE PLANS

As indicated above, during the year 2003–04 the Board will take as its theme *The Care and Presentation of Properties in State Care*. Given the breadth of the subject it is likely that these considerations will need to extend into 2004–05, with specific issues such as access for disabled people and health and safety being considered in 2003–04, to be followed by more general issues the following year.

## CONCLUSION

This report has highlighted some of the salient issues which the Board examined during the course of the year. We should like to thank your officials in Cadw for the discussion papers and for organizing our informative and instructive programme of visits.



*Dolforwyn Castle, Powys.*



*Board Members.*

## MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board had two formal meetings in 2002–03, one as part of a summer tour in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, and a winter meeting at Castell Coch, Cardiff.

The membership of the Board during the year was as follows:

### Chairman:

Professor R. Rees Davies, CBE, FBA, MA, DPhil, FRHistS

### Members:

Professor Miranda J. Aldhouse-Green, BA, M.Litt, Ph.D, FSA

Mr Richard Brewer, BA, FSA

Professor Wendy Davies, FBA, BA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS

Mr Michael J. Garner, RIBA

Professor Ralph A. Griffiths, BA, PhD, D. Litt, FRHistS

Mr Richard G. Keen, MA

Mr Christopher R. Musson, MBE, BArch, MIFA, FSA

Professor Alasdair Whittle, FBA, MA, D.Phil, FSA

The Secretariat to the Board is provided by Cadw and during the period of the report was:

Mrs Jean M. Booker and Mr Richard W. Kevern.

### Architectural Assessor:

Mr J. Douglas Hogg, RIBA, ARIAS, FSAScot

### Archaeological Assessor:

Mr J. Richard Avent, MA, FSA

## COSTS

The chairman and Board members are not remunerated for their services. The Board's costs during the year were:

Meeting expenses (including travel)	£5,487
Estimated costs incurred by Cadw in supporting the Board	£11,064
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,551</b>

## ROLE AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD

### Background

1. The Ancient Monuments Board for Wales was originally established by statute in 1913 to advise the then Secretary of State on the discharge of his functions under ancient monuments legislation, most recently the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (1979 Act). Its aims and objectives are set out below.
2. The Board now advises the Welsh Assembly Government through Cadw, the Assembly Government's executive agency carrying out the National Assembly for Wales's statutory powers for the historic environment. The Assembly Government is responsible for members' appointments. Members have a specialist knowledge either generally or of a specific aspect of the ancient monuments of Wales. Membership is constituted to ensure that there is a good spread of expertise across the major historical periods and types of monuments within the Board's remit. There are nine members, including the chairman. Some members represent specific organizations; none is paid. The chairman of the Board also serves on the Cadw Advisory Committee, which reviews Cadw's general performance quarterly. The Board's annual report is presented to and published by the Assembly.

### Work of the Board

3. The Board meets formally twice a year to receive full reports from Cadw's professional officers and to discuss issues referred to the Board or initiated by its members and to advise on the way forward. It also carries out a number of site visits, generally to monuments in Cadw's or local authority care, to review work in progress and to consider problems that may have arisen in monument consolidation, presentation or maintenance.
4. The Board discusses and gives advice to Cadw on priority areas for the scheduling of ancient monuments over the next five years and for the rescue archaeology programme undertaken by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. It also advises on difficult policy issues and its members are consulted outside formal meetings on ad hoc topical issues arising during the year including Cadw publications.

Working with Cadw's officers, the Board has helped to safeguard important aspects of the Welsh historic environment, and increase public awareness of issues of archaeological importance. During 2002 the Board underwent a quinquennial review, along with Cadw and Cadw's other Assembly-Sponsored Public Bodies. The Board has also prepared a publication scheme, which has been approved by the Information Commissioner.

5. Since 1999 the Board has adopted an annual theme, focusing on a specific aspect of Cadw's work. The themes undertaken were as follows:

- 1999–2000 — Protecting Our Industrial Heritage;
- 2000–01 — Protecting Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture;
- 2001–02 — The Conservation of Privately Owned Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- 2002–03 — Protecting Twentieth-Century Military Structures in Wales.

The Board's annual reports discuss the problems associated with these monuments and explore solutions to help guide Cadw on its future priorities.

6. In addition to annual themes and individual items referred to it, the Board, through its collective expertise, contributes to the discussion of general policy issues involving the Welsh historic environment. In particular, it seeks to promote closer integration between local authorities, countryside agencies, archaeological agencies and utility companies in ensuring that the historic environment of Wales, in the broadest sense, is sensitively protected and managed for the benefit of current and future generations.

7. In 2003–04 the Board will advise the Welsh Assembly Government in the following ways. It will:

- consider as its specific theme *The Care and Presentation of Properties in State Care*;
- advise Cadw on wider issues associated with the protection and management of the historic landscape of Wales;
- advise on the strategic direction and specific trends in Cadw's grant-funding to the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts to inform the final grant programme, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of that programme on an annual basis;
- advise on overall trends in Cadw's ancient monuments grant and management agreement programmes;
- advise on the strategic direction of and monitor Cadw's scheduling programme, with Cadw providing annual reports on progress;
- provide ad hoc internal advice to Cadw on general issues and policies as they arise;
- advise on all major developments at ancient monuments in Cadw's care;
- advise on monuments recommended for guardianship;
- advise on and monitor Cadw's guidebook publication programme;
- comment on Government consultation papers and draft strategic documents;
- advise and liaise with other heritage organizations and bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Buildings Council, to ensure a focused and concerted approach to matters of archaeological and historical interest.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS BOARD

### Statutory

The Ancient Monuments Board is charged with advising the National Assembly for Wales on the exercise of its responsibilities under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and in particular:

- to advise the Assembly on proposals to schedule, reschedule and deschedule monuments under the 1979 Act;
- to advise the Assembly on the termination of a guardianship agreement under section 14 of the 1979 Act;
- to advise the Assembly on the disposal of any land acquired under sections 10, 11, or 21 of the 1979 Act.

### Non-statutory

To provide the Assembly with expert advice on all matters, including legislation, policy and executive issues, involving the protection, conservation, development and presentation of the built heritage in Wales. In particular:

- to advise the Assembly on the protection and presentation of monuments of national importance along with their setting;
- to advise the Assembly on the protection, preservation and presentation of monuments in its care;
- to advise the Assembly on issues affecting archaeology and the conservation of the built heritage in Wales;
- to encourage the closest possible working relationship with and between other bodies and individuals whose objective is to safeguard Wales's built heritage and promote its understanding and enjoyment.