

TERRY JAMES FSA

23rd August 1948-21st January 2007

Terry James, who sadly died in January 2007 aged 58, was the Trust's first field officer, appointed soon after the Trust's establishment in 1975. In the course of his work he met the Trust's assistant director, Heather Barnie, who became Mrs Terry James in 1978. One of his first tasks was re-searching Carmarthen's history, published in 1980 as the *Carmarthen Survey*. He excavated St John's Priory in Carmarthen and later he directed the major excavations at Carmarthen Greyfriars. Terry dealt with all the Trust's photographic needs and took a great interest in aerial photography. His large collection of aerial photographs, held by the Trust, forms a unique and irreplaceable archive. After a short break in employment in the early 1980s, Terry returned to manage the Trust's pioneering work in computers and data handling. In 1991, he was appointed Information Systems Manager at the RCAHMW, but ill-health forced early retirement in 1998.

One of Terry's many fine aerial photographs is reproduced on the cover of this newsletter. It shows the Roman road running from the fort at Llandovery (in the middle distance) to the fort at Pumsaint. The Roman road shows as a parch-mark to the left of and parallel to the modern road.



TERRY JAMES FSA

23 Awst 1948-21 Ionawr 2007

Trist yw sŵn am Terry James, a fu farw yn Ionawr 2007 yn 58 oed, swyddog maes cyntaf yr Ymddiriedolaeth, a benodwyd yn fuan ar ôl sefydlu'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn 1975. Yn ystod ei walth cyfarfu â chyfarwyddwr cynorthwyl yr Ymddiriedolaeth, Heather Barnie, a ddaeth yn Mrs Terry James ym 1978. Un o'i dsgau cyntaf oedd archwilio l hanes Caerfyrddin, a gyhoeddwyd ym 1980 ar ffurf y *Carmarthen Survey*. Fe ddatgoddiodd Briordy Sant Ioan yng Nghaerfyrddin ac yn ddiweddarach cyfarwyddodd y cloddfeidd mawr yn safle'r Brodyr Llywd yng Nghaerfyrddin. Terry fu'n ymddrin â holl anghenion ffotograffig yr Ymddiriedolaeth a chymerodd ddi-ddordeb mawr mewn awyrluniau. Mae ei gasgliad mawr o awyrluniau, sy'n cael eu cadw gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth, yn ffurfio archif unigryw amhosibl i'w all greu. Ar ôl seilbatio byr yn ei yrfa yn gynnar yn y 1980au, dychwelodd Terry i reoli gwaith arddesoedd yr Ymddiriedolaeth mewn cyfrifiadurol a thrin data. Ym 1991 fe'i benodwyd yn Rheolwr Systemau Gwybodaeth I Gomiswn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru (CBHC), ond gorfu iddo ymddeol yn gynnar yn 1998 oherwydd salwch.

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Cambria Archaeology

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Archaeoleg Cambria



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new trust director

In May 2007, Ken Murphy took up the reins as Trust Director, replacing Gwilym Hughes, who has been appointed Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Cadw, following seven years as Trust Director. Ken has been with the Trust since 1979, initially working on excavations and more recently as Principal Archaeologist for the Field Services department.



Don Benson (left), Director from 1975 to 2000, Ken Murphy (centre), current Director, and Gwilym Hughes (right), Director 2000-07.

Don Benson (chwith), Cyfarwyddwr yr Ymddiriedolaeth o 1975 hyd 2000, Ken Murphy (canol), y Cyfarwyddwr presennol, a Gwilym Hughes (dde), Cyfarwyddwr 2000-07.

cyfarwyddwr newydd yr ymddiriedolaeth

Yn mis Mai 2007, cymerodd Ken Murphy yr awenau yn Gyfarwyddwr yr Ymddiriedolaeth, gan gymryd lle Gwilym Hughes, a benodwyd yn Brif Arlywydd Henebon Cadw, ar ôl saith mlynedd yn Gyfarwyddwr yr Ymddiriedolaeth. Bu Ken gyda'r Ymddiriedolaeth er 1979, yn gweithio ar gloddiau yn gynaf ac yn fwy diweddar yn Brif Archeolegydd ar gyfer yr adran Gwasanaethau Maes.

Cambria is the working name of The Dyfed Archaeological Trust, an independent organisation dedicated to the effective protection, investigation, recording and promotion of the historic environment.

Cambria has a highly motivated professional workforce with a wide range of skills and experience. This is complemented by long established contacts and partnerships with external specialists enabling Cambria to offer extensive consultancy and other archaeological services.

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farm buildings in the tywi valley

The farm buildings of the Tywi valley have recently been the subject of a study by Cambria Archaeology. The project was initiated by the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd Landscape Partnership which is currently putting together a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a three-year programme to improve the conservation and management of this outstanding landscape through developing local knowledge and skills.

The assessment looked at the survival of traditional farm buildings within an area from Dryslwyn to Llangadog, and specifically at the types of buildings, constructional techniques and materials employed and how they contribute to local distinctiveness. There are many traditional farm buildings surviving in the project area and a great diversity of farmsteads. Whilst the predominant building materials represented are stone and slate, the types of stone and the variety of ways it was employed is enormous, giving the valley great character.

An assessment of parks and gardens within the Tywi valley is also currently underway.



adeliadau fferm yn nyffryn tywi

Yn ddiweddar mae adeliadau fferm Dyffryn Tywi wedi bod yn bwrc astudiaeth gan Archaeoleg Cambria. Cychwynwyd y prosiect gan Bartnenaeth Tirwedd Tywi, Afon yr Oesoedd, sy'n rhoi cais Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri ar ei gilydd ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer rhaglen ddi-lynydd i wella cadwraeth a rheolaeth y dirwedd eithriadol hon drwy ddatblygu gwybodaeth a sgiliau lleol.

Edrychodd yr asesiad ar oroesiad adeliadau fferm traddodiadol yn yr ardal o'r Dryslwyn i Llangadog, ac yn enwedig ar y mathau o adeliadau, technegau adeliadu a'r deunyddiau a ddefnyddiwyd a'r modd y maent yn cyfrannu at arwaharwydd lleol. Mae yna lawer o adeliadau fferm traddodiadol yn dal i fod yn ardal y prosiect ac amrywiaeth fawr o ffermydd. Tra mai cerrig a llechi yw'r deunyddiau adeliadu a wellir yn bennaf, mae'r math o garreg a'r amrywiaeth ffyrdd o'u defnyddio, yn enlawn, gan roi cymeriad cryf i'r dyffryn.

Mae asesiad o barciau a gerddi Dyffryn Tywi hefyd ar y gwell ar hyn o bryd.

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new facilities at trust's headquarters

Extensive alterations and refurbishment to the Shire Hall, the Trust's offices in Llanddello, have provided a much-enhanced facility for members of the public, academic researchers and anyone else wishing to consult the Trust's extensive Historic Environment Record. Two computer terminals have been installed and large tables are provided on which to lay out maps and other documents in the new search/meeting room. Disabled access has been created, ensuring all members of the community can use the room.

Llandello Fawr Town Council, the owners of the Shire Hall, funded the work with generous grant-aid from the 1 Fund, administered by Carmarthenshire County Council. The Town Council hold their bi-monthly meetings in the room, and other local groups can use this new community facility in the evening.



cyfleusterau newydd yn swyddfeydd yr ymddiriedolaeth

Mae'r gwelliannau a'r allwampio helaeth i Neuadd y Sir, swyddfeydd yr Ymddiriedolaeth yn Llandello, wedi darparu cyfleuster lawer gwell ar gyfer aelodau'r cyhoedd, ymchwilwyr academaidd ac unrhyw un arall sy'n dymuno cael goiwg ar Gofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol helaeth yr Ymddiriedolaeth. Mae dwy derynnell cyfrifiaduwr wedi eu sefydlu, a darparwyd byrddau mawr ar gyfer gosod allan fapiau a dogfennau eraill yn yr ystafell chwilio/cyfarfod newydd. Crëwyd mynediad ar gyfer yr anabi, gan sicrhau y gall pob aelod o'r gymuned ddefnyddio'r ystafell.

Ariannwyd y gwaith gan Gyngor Tref Llandello Fawr, perchnogion Neuadd y Sir, drwy gymorth grant hael iawn o Gronfa 1, a weinyddir gan Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin. Cynhellir cyfarfodydd Cyngor y Dref yn yr ystafell bob yn ail fis, a gall grwpiau lleol eraill ddefnyddio'r cyfleuster cymunedol newydd hwn gyda'r hwyr.

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discovering roman roads

During the Roman conquest of Wales, as elsewhere, the Roman army constructed a network of roads and forts. By AD 120 the Roman army withdrew from Wales, heralding the decline and importance of the road network. Some routes continued, eventually becoming part of our modern road system, others fragmented through changes in land-use. Traces of the Roman road network can still be identified in the landscape in the forms of place-names and landscape features such as cropmarks, earthworks, field boundaries, tracks and roads.

The search for lost Roman roads has long been a subject of fascination for professional and amateur archaeologists and historians alike. Their efforts have resulted in a number of proposed routes, the validity of which is hotly debated. For a long time the 'holy grail' of the road hunters was the identification of a road running through west Wales.

However, this research has been tainted by the infamous 18th century deception perpetrated by 'professor' Charles Bertram. Bertram, provided antiquarian William Stukeley with a fake 14th century map and documents purportedly indicating the route of the Roman road running across western Wales. Unfortunately, the deception was not exposed until mid 19th century, by which time it had become deeply embedded in maps and historical research of the region. All this has resulted in a mass of factual, theoretical and speculative information (and not a little confusion) about what is and is not known.

Cambria Archaeology are currently involved in a Cadw-funded study entitled 'the Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici Project', which is being undertaken jointly by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. A review of all the physical and documentary evidence for the network of Roman forts and roads has now been completed, in addition to a programme of geophysical survey undertaken to ascertain the presence and extent of 'vici' (civilian settlements) that often grew up outside the forts.

Cover: Taken during the dry summer of 1984 by Terry James, this aerial photograph shows the Roman road running from the fort at Llandoverly to the fort at Pumsaint.

darganfod ffyrdd rhufeinig

Yn ystod concwest y Rhufeiniad yng Nghymru, fel ymhobman arall, adedlodd y fyddin Rufeinig rwydwaith o ffyrdd a chaerau. Erbyn 120 OC tymodd y fyddin Rufeinig yn ôl o Gymru, gan gyhoeddi dilynwyd a phwysigwyd y rhwydwaith ffyrdd. Parhaodd rhai o'r ffyrdd gan ddo y rhan o'n system ffyrdd gyfocs yn y pen draw, tra chwalwyd eraill gan newidiadau yn y defnydd ar y tir. Gellir canfod olion o rwydwaith y ffyrdd Rhufeinig yn y dirwedd o hyd ar ffrif enwau lleoedd a nodweddion trwydd fel ôl cnydau, gwrthgloddiau, ffiniau caeau, llybrau a ffyrdd.

Bu chwilio am ffyrdd Rhufeinig diflunedig yn destun diddordeb i archeolegwyr a haneswyr profffesiynol ac amaturaid fel ei gilydd. Canlyniad eu hymdrechion oedd cynnig niifer o ffyrdd, y dadleuwr yn frwd dros eu dilystrwydd. Y 'greal sanctaidd' am amser malth ymhlith yr helwyr ffyrdd oedd canfod ffyrdd yn rhedeg drwy ganol gorllewin Cymru.

Fodd bynnag, llygrwyd yr ymchwil hwn gan dwyll gwarthus y ddeunawfed ganrif a gyflawnwyd gan 'yr athro' Charles Bertram. Rhoddodd Bertram fap a dogfennau ffug a oedd i fod i ddyddio o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar ddeg i'r hynafiaethydd William Stukeley, yn honni dangos cyfeiriad y ffordd Rufeinig a redai ar draws gorllewin Cymru. Gwaetha'r modd, ni ddadeth y twyll i'r amlwg hyd ganol y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, ac erbyn hynny roedd wedi ei ymgorffori yn ddŵrn ym mapiau ac ymchwil hanesyddol yr ardal. Canlyniad hyn i gyd yw llythy o wybodaeth ffethiol, damcaniaethol a thybledig (a heb ychydig o ddrwsych) ynglŷn â'r hyn y gwyyddys amdano neu beidio.

Ar hyn o bryd mae Archaeoleg Cambria yn cymryd rhan mewn astudiaeth ariennir gan Cadw o dan y teitl 'Prosiect Ffyrdd Miliwrol, Caerau a Vici Rhufeinig', a gyflawnir ar y cyd gan bedair Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Cymru. Erbyn hyn gorfennwyd adolygiad o'r holl dystiolaeth naturiol a dogfennol ar gyfer y rhwydwaith o gaerau a ffyrdd Rhufeinig, yn ychwanegol at raglen arolwg geoffisegol a wnaed er mwyn canfod presenoldeb a maint y vici (aneddiadau sifil) a dyfodd yn aml y tu allan i'r caerau.

Clawr: Tymnwyd yn ystod haf sych 1984 gan Terry James; dengys yr awyrlun hwn y ffordd Rufeinig yn rhedeg o'r gaer yn Llandoverly i'r gaer ym Pumsaint.

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an early medieval cemetery in angle

In 1997, a group of stone-lined 'cist' graves was noticed eroding from the cliff-face at West Angle Bay, Pembrokeshire. A second group was seen in 2002. The neighbouring field is marked 'Old Church' on the 1844 tithe map, and is said to be the site of the medieval St Anthony's Chapel. No chapel building survives, but a 'Burial Ground (Site of)' is marked on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps.

Faint traces of what appeared to be two earthenwork enclosures are visible in the field. Both were investigated through exploratory trenches in summer 2005. The site indicated by the OS proved to be an oval enclosure, the bank of which was revealed during trenching. Five definite and six possible cist burials - stone-lined graves - were revealed within the enclosure. These appeared to belong to a late phase of burial, since the presence of human bone within the bank suggested that it was constructed over an earlier cemetery.

In 2006, six trenches were located to address specific questions posed by a geophysical survey and the previous year's excavation. An impressive ditch that appeared prehistoric in character and a probable ditched trackway were excavated. It was possible to demonstrate that the cemetery was enclosed by a stone wall atop an earthen bank surrounded by a ditch, and that these features all belonged to the same phase. Cist burials of one adult and two infants were excavated within the cemetery enclosure. A total of eight burials have now been excavated, seven of which were the graves of infants. All appear to have been cist burials. Radiocarbon dating of samples taken during the excavations yielded dates spanning the sixth to tenth centuries, and demonstrated that all features, including the large ditch of prehistoric appearance, are early medieval. The following sequence is suggested by the excavations: 1 - burial plot enclosed by a ditch, 2 - circular stone and earth boundary bank constructed, redefining the cemetery site and disturbing earlier burials, 3 - the establishment of St Anthony's Chapel.

The excavation was undertaken by staff from Cambria Archaeology and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, with students from Cardiff University and local volunteers. The Project was granted by Cadw. A local community group, Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development (PLANED), provided funding for an outreach element to the work. As well as providing supervision for 17 volunteers, this funding allowed more than four hundred visitors to be shown around the site, which is situated on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.



cloddio lloc amddiffynedig oes yr haearn yn fflynnwonwen

Datgloiddiwyd lloc hirgrwn amddiffynedig yn Fflynnwonwen, Tremain, Abertelfi yn ystod haf 2006 fel rhan o raglen ymchwilio barhaus mewn safleoedd o'r math hwn yn ne Ceredigion a gogledd Sir Benfro. Cyn hyn archwiliwyd lloc hirsgwr yn Nthroedrythiw, dim ond 2km o Fflynnwonwen. Canfuwyd Fflynnwonwen o'r awyr gan Chris Musson yn y 1980au ac fe'i diffinir gan loc ffosog hirgrwn ag ôl cwmw arno, 160m wrth 90m gyda lloc crwn 40m ar ei draws oddi mewn llddo.

Dangosodd arolwg geoffisegol o'r lloc crwn mewnol yn 2005 fynyddiad ar yr ochr ogleddol (fel ag y gwnaeth yr awyrluniau) ac o leiaf pedwar tŷ crwn oddi mewn llddo. Y strategaeth yn 2005 yn Nthroedrythiw fu ddiplio trefnyddol ffos y fynyddia a rhan o'r tu fewn. Gwelwyd bod hyn yn llwyddiant gan y darganfuwyd mwyafrif yr arteffactau, o ddyddiad Rhufeinig, yn llenwadau'r ffos uchaf. Canfuwyd nifer o byltau a thyllau pŷst hefyd oddi mewn. Defnyddiwyd yr un dull yn Fflynnwonwen, a defnyddiwyd peiriantau i godi pridd wyneb y ffos lle tybiwyd bod y fynyddia ac oddi ar ran o'r tu fewn, digon i ddatgelu o leiaf un tŷ crwn cyfan.

Roedd yn amlwg ar unwaith nad oedd y fynyddia yn y man a amlygwyd yn yr awyrluniau a'r arolwg geoffisegol. Roedd yna ffos, ond llwyddodd yr adelladwyr i dreiddio dim ond 10cm-20 cm i mewn i'r haen craig a oedd yn galed dros ben. Fodd bynnag, datgelodd forriad drwy ran o'r ffos ar ochr orllewinol y lloc lle'r oedd yr haen craig yn fwy drylliog, fod ffos ar furf V 4m o led a 2.2m o ddyfnlder. Daeth dau o'r ychydig darganfyddiadau o lenwadau uchaf y ffos hon: darn o slag haearn a throellin cogal wedi ei gwneud o ddam o grochenwaith Llestr Rhufeinig Dyffryn Hafren a aildefnyddiwyd.

Darganfuwyd cyffwrdd o adelladau a strwythurau nodweddiadol o anheddiad yr Oes Haearn ar y tu fewn, gan gynnwys tŷ crwn 8.3m ar ei draws a ddatgloiddiwyd yn gyfan gwbl, rhannau o ddau dŷ crwn arall ac adelladau hirsgwr. Ceir argraff gyffredinol o ofod mewnol y bu defnyddio mawr arno ac i gywll breswyllo ynddo am, efallai, genedlaethau lawer.

Gwnelir y prosiect hwn mewn partneriaeth â Phrifysgol Caer Efrog ac fe'i cefnogrir gan grant oddi wrth Cadw. Rhagweller y bydd tymor arall o waith i'w gyflawni ar loc yn agos i Drefdraeth, Sir Benfro ym misoedd Gorffennaf/Awst 2007.

Yr arolwg geoffisegol a thal crwn y gellir prif eu gweld yn y lloc crwn mewnol. Mae'r lloc hirgrwn yn mesur 180m o'r pen i'r gwaelod (chwilt).

excavation of an iron age defended enclosure at ffynnonwen

An oval defended enclosure at Ffynnonwen, Tremain, Cardigan was excavated during the summer of 2006 as part of a continuing programme of investigation of this type of site in south Ceredigion and north Pembrokeshire. Previously a rectangular enclosure at Troedyrhiw just 2km from Ffynnonwen had been examined. Ffynnonwen was discovered from the air by Chris Musson in the 1980s and is defined by an oval cropmarked ditched enclosure 160m by 90m within which lies a 40m diameter circular enclosure.

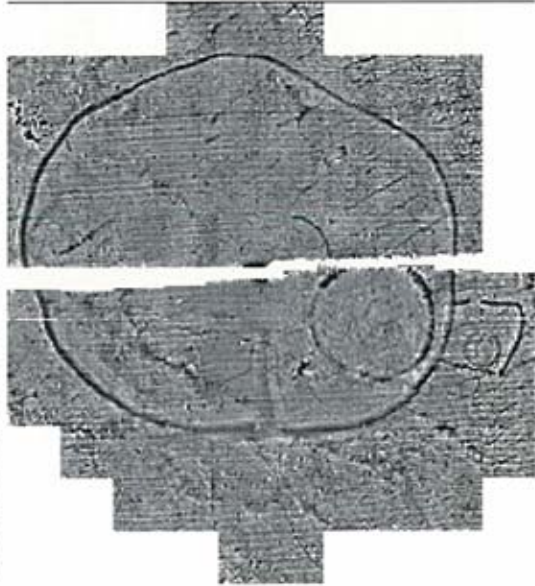
A geophysical survey of the inner circular enclosure in 2005 indicated an entrance on the north side (as did the aerial photographs) and at least four roundhouses within it. The strategy in 2005 at Troedyrhiw had been to excavate the entrance ditch terminals and a portion of the interior. This had proved successful as most of the artefacts, of Roman date, were found in the upper ditch fills. Numerous pits and post-holes were also discovered within the interior. The same approach was employed at Ffynnonwen and topsoil was machine stripped from over the ditch at the supposed entrance and from part of the interior sufficient to reveal at least one complete round-house.

It was immediately clear that the entrance was not where the aerial photographs and geophysical survey had indicated. There was a ditch, but the builders had only been able to penetrate 10cm-20cm into the very hard bedrock. However, a section cut through the ditch on the west side of the enclosure where bedrock was more shattered revealed a steep, V-shaped ditch 4m wide and 2.2m deep. Two of the very few finds came from the upper fill of this ditch: a piece of iron slag and a spindle whorl made from a reused sherd of Roman Severn Valley Ware pottery.

Within the interior a suite of buildings and structures was discovered characteristic of a late Iron Age settlement including a completely excavated roundhouse 8.3m diameter, parts of two other roundhouses and rectangular buildings. The overall impression is of an intensively used internal space, occupied, perhaps, over several generations.

This project is being carried out in partnership with the University of York and is grant-aided by Cadw. It is anticipated that a further season of work will be undertaken on an enclosure close to Newport, Pembrokeshire in July/August 2007.

The geophysical survey (below) with roundhouses just visible within the inner, circular enclosure. The oval enclosure measures 180m from top to bottom.



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mynwent o'r canoloesoedd cynnar yn angle

Ym 1997, sylwyd ar grŵp o gistfeddau wedi eu hymylu â cherrig ar y tu fewn yn erydu o wyneb y graig ym Mae Gorllewin Angle, Sir Benfro. Gwelwyd all grŵp yn 2002. Ar fap degwm 1844 ceir y cofnod 'Hen Eglwys' ar gae cyfagos, a dywedir mai dyma leoliad Capel Sant Antwn yn y Canol Oesoedd. Ni orosodd adeilad capel, ond nodwyd 'Mynwent (Lleoliad)' ar fapiau Ordnans y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

Gwelir olion gwan o'r hyn a ymddangosai yn ddau ddam o dir caeedig â chlawdd, yn y cae. Archwiliwyd y ddau drwy frosydd archwilio yn haf 2005. Canfuwyd mai lloc hirgrwn oedd y safle a nodwyd ar y map Ordnans, a datgelwyd ei glawdd wrth agor y frosydd. Datgelwyd pump cistfedd pendant ac o bosib chweched cistfedd - beddau wedi eu hymylu ar y tu fewn â cherrig - yn y lloc. Ymddangosai fel petaent yn perthyn i gyfnod claddu diweddar, gan fod presenoldeb esgryn dynol yn y clawdd yn awgrymu y'i hadelladwyd ar ben mynwent gynharach.

Yn 2006, lleoliwyd chwe ffos er mwyn mynd i'r afael â chwestiynau penodol a ofynnwyd yn sgil arolwg geoffisegol a chloddio'r fliwyddyn flaenorol. Datgloddiwyd ffos drawiadol â nodweddion a ymddangosai'n gynhanesyddol a'r hyn a allai fod yn lliwybr ffos. Roedd hi'n bosibl dangos bod y fynwent wedi ei chau i mewn gan wal gerrig ar ben clawdd pridd wedi ei amgylchynu gan ffos, a bod y nodweddion hyn i gyd yn perthyn i'r un cyfnod. Datgloddiwyd cistfeddau un oedolyn a dau faban yn lloc y fynwent. Datgloddiwyd cyfanswm o wyth claddfa erbyn hyn, saith ohonynt yn feddau babanod. Ymddengys fod pob un ohonynt yn gistgladdiadau. Cynhyrwyd dyddiadau sy'n pontio rhwng y chweched a'r ddegfed ganrif drwy ddyddio radiocarbon samplau a gymerwyd yn ystod y datgloddi, gan dangos bod yr holl nodweddion, gan gynnwys y ffos fawr a ymddangosai'n gynhanesyddol, i gyd o'r canoloesoedd cynnar. Awgrymir y drefn ganlynol gan y cloddio: 1 - llain gladdu wedi ei chau i mewn gan ffos. 2 - adelladu clawdd ffin crwn o gerrig a phridd, gan alldiffinio safle'r fynwent a tharfau ar gladdiadau cynharach, 3 - sefydlu Capel Sant Antwn.

Cyflawnwyd y gwaith datgloddi gan staff Archaeoleg Cambria a Pharc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Sir Penfro, gyda myfyrwr o Brifysgol Caerdydd a gwirfoddolwyr lleol. Cafodd y Prosiect gymhorthdal grant gan Cadw. Rhoddwyd arian gan grŵp cymunedol lleol PLANED (Rhwylwath Menter a Datblygu Gwelthredu Lleol Sir Benfro) ar gyfer elfen ymestyn allan i'r gwaith. Ynglyth â darparu goruchwyliaeth ar gyfer 17 o wirfoddolwyr, gwnaeth yr arian hwn hi'n bosibl arwain dros bedwar cant o ymwelwyr o amgylch y safle, sydd ar Lwybr Arfordir Sir Penfro.



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badgers and barrows

Throughout August 2006, Cambria Archaeology undertook a major excavation funded by Defence Estates of an early medieval cemetery adjacent to a Bronze Age burial mound at Brownslade on the Castlemartin Army Training Range in Pembrokeshire. Antiquarians first identified the cemetery in the 19th century. However, in the last few years it has been observed that the cemetery has been badly disturbed by a badger sett, with human bones regularly brought to the surface. A decision was taken to relocate the badger sett, erect badger-proof fencing around the site and to undertake the full excavation of those areas most severely affected by the badgers.

Over 30 graves were recorded, the majority of which contained the fragmentary remains of orientated, extended inhumation burials. Most had been badly disturbed and in some cases badgers had completely removed the upper and/or lower parts of the skeletons. Several of the burials were associated with stone cists and these had generally fared rather better than the 'open' graves. However, even some of the stone cist burials had been undermined by badger runs and had subsequently collapsed.

Owing to the calcareous wind-blown sand the condition of the bones was excellent - most unusual for south-west Wales - and therefore the excavation offered a unique opportunity to study an early medieval population. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the cemetery was in use between the 5th and 11th centuries AD.

Analysis of the bones by Dr Ros Coard of Lampeter University has revealed that there are around 45 individuals, with equal numbers of males, females and juveniles. The proportion of young individuals, ranging from newborns to teenagers, at just over 33%, may seem high from a modern perspective but is in keeping with results from other sites. Some of the skeletons display characteristics that are both unusual and interesting and are, most probably, due to adaptations caused by repetitive work, suggesting that some members of the population had a very physical and, possibly, a harsh lifestyle. From the signs of stress on the teeth and bones of the juveniles it is thought that such adaptations or activities may have started early in life.



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moch daear a charneddau

Trwy gydol mis Awst 2006, cyflawnodd Archaeoleg Cambria gloddriad mawr, a arfannwyd gan Ystadu'r Weinyddiaeth Amddiffyn, o fynwent ganoloesol gynnar a oedd yn gyfagos i gamedd Oes Efydd yn Brownslade ar Faei Hyfforddi'r Fyddin, yng Nghastellmartin, Sir Benfro. Cartfuwyd y fynwent yn gyntaf gan hynafiaethwyr yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Fodd bynnag, yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf sylwyd y bu cryn dipyn o dafu ar y fynwent gan ddaear moch daear, gydaeg esgryn dynol yn dod i'r wyneb yn rheolaidd. Penderfynwyd adleoli daear y moch daear, codi ffens o amgylch y safle a sillai wrthsefyll moch daear a chloddio'n llawn y manau hynny a effeithiwyd fwyaf gan y moch daear.

Cofnodwyd dros 30 o feddau, â'u mwyafrif, yn wynebu tua'r dwyrain, yn cynnwys darnau o weddillion claddiedigaethau estyredig. Bu tafu difrifol ar y mwyafrif, ac mewn rhai achosion roedd y moch daear wedi symud rhan uchaf a/neu ran isaf y sgerbydau'n gyfan gwl. Roedd llawer o'r claddiedigaethau yn gysylltiedig â chistfenni ac roedd y rhain, yn igffredinol, wedi goroesi'n well na'r bodlau 'igored'. Fodd bynnag, roedd hyd yn oed rhai o'r claddiedigaethau mewn cistfenni wedi cael eu tansellio gan y twnelau'r moch daear ac wedi cwympo i mewn yn y pen draw.

Cherwydd y tywod calchad a chwythwyd gan y gwynn roedd cyflwr yr esgryn yn ardderchog - peth mwyaf anghyffredin yn ne orllewin Cymru - ac felly cynigwyd cyfle unigryw i astudio poblogaeth ganoloesol gynnar yn y gloddia. Mae'r dyddio radiocarbon yn dangos y defnyddiwyd y fynwent rhwng y bumed a'r unfed ganrif ar ddeg O.C.

Datgelodd dadansoddiad o'r esgryn gan Dr Ros Coard, o Brifysgol Cymru, Llanbedr-pont-Steffan, bod tua 45 o unigolion yno, gyda niferoedd cyfartal o ddynion, menywod a phlant. Mae cyfran yr unigolion ifanc, rhwng newydd ariedig a rhai yn eu harddegau, ychydig dros 33%, efallai'n ymddangos yn uchel o safbwynt cyfocs ond mae'n unol â chanlyniadau o safleoedd eraill. Dengys rhai o'r sgerbydau nodweddiol sy'n anghyffredin ac yn diddiorol fel ei gilydd ac maent, yn fwy na thebyg, o ganlyniad i ymaddasiadau a achoswyd drwy wineud yr un gwaith drosodd a throsgodd, sy'n awgrymu bod rhai aelodau o'r boblogaeth wedi byw bywyd corfforol a chaled lawn o bosibl. O edrych ar amwyddion straen ar ddannedd ac esgryn y plant tybir bod ymaddasiadau neu weithgareddau o'r fath wedi dechrau'n gynnar yn eu hoed.

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