

EXPLORATION TYWI!



TYWI AFON YR OESOEDD



TYWI A RIVER THROUGH TIME



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EXPLORATION TYWI!

Gan / By Alice Pyper

Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

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BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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INTRODUCTION

This is the final report of Exploration Tywi!, a culmination of the work carried out by members of the community with the guidance and support of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. This report summaries the activities which were carried out from January 2009 to March 2011. Full reports have already been submitted to TAYO at the end of each quarter during this period, and will not be repeated here, but the main points summarised. Supporting information is provided in the accompanying DVD and in hard copy. All supporting information is ordered chronologically by quarter and a diary of events located at the end of this report.

Overall Project Co-ordination and Staffing

Exploration Tywi! the community landscape investigation element of Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd landscape partnership scheme began in earnest in January 2009. Hazel Williams was recruited in February 2009 on a part time basis to provide Welsh language support to Exploration Tywi! primarily, but also her background as a teacher and in drama was considered an essential skill for engaging the public in the story of the Tywi valley. Day to day project co-ordination was undertaken by Alice Pyper, with Louise Austin heading the project. Other members of staff at DAT were employed on specific activities within the project.

Publicity

Initial setup and publicity was developed in the first quarter of 2009 with a leaflet designed to outline each of the archaeological activities proposed, (see supporting information). The leaflet included a simple form, which allowed individuals to make an 'expression of interest' in participating. These were circulated both in the general mail shot with the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd project newsletter, and to the individuals registered to receive the DAT newsletter. Other organisations were also circulated and the newsletter was distributed at events. A display was also put together to be exhibited at various events (see diary of events).

Webpage

A webpage was also designed and linked to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust homepage with information on the activities scheduled and contact details, this has been updated throughout the project. (See supporting information)

Distribution of Promotional Leaflets	No. of leaflets
Ammanford Archaeology and History Society	c100
Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society	c100
Llandeilo and District Civic Trust	c20
Focus Group meeting 6th March, Llangadog	c20
Carmarthenshire County Archives	20
Carmarthenshire County Council Libraries	20

REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE

Reviewing the evidence was the first project in a raft of activities to begin the journey of Exploration Tywi! Community volunteers were invited to join Dyfed Archaeological Trust to investigate historic sources for the Tywi valley to make an assessment of the known records of the area. Using the Historic Environment Record as a starting point, maps were compiled showing sites from different periods to indicate the current knowledge of the Tywi valley. The work on 'Reviewing the Evidence' took place throughout 2009.



Exploration Tywi! volunteers undertook research, investigating various sources of existing knowledge and information, and working with professional archaeologists, local people undertook research on the information already available in the valley, compiling and editing it into a digital Geographical Information System (GIS) dataset created for Exploration Tywi! This work included the assessment and analysis of information within the Historic Environment Record (HER), analysis of historic maps and other available historic documentation. New sites were recorded from historic maps and other sources such as the records provided from the LNG pipeline excavations. Visits to external bodies such as the Carmarthenshire Archives Service, the National Monuments Record held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments and the National Library of Wales were also undertaken to assess the resources available. Illustrations and depictions of the Tywi valley were kindly provided by Tom Lloyd. Using this information a narrative history was put together by Will Steele and Mike Ings, professional archaeologists at DAT, to provide a brief history of the Tywi valley.

The project included:

- The integration of available digital data from identified sources and creation of a project 'Explore Tywi' GIS to create a base-line dataset which is now included in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record.
- The recording of field patterns, identifying field systems and development. These records are now accessible within the Historic Environment Record.
- A further desk based study of parklands from historic map records, with records added to the HER, following on from the general assessment already undertaken in 2007, 'An Assessment of the Parks and Gardens in the Tywi Valley'.
- The integration of data from the initial LNG pipeline excavations within the 'Explore Tywi' GIS which has been incorporated within the HER.
- The identification of historic quarry sites, old public houses, mills etc and other identifiable historic sites into the 'Explore Tywi' GIS which have also now been recorded on the HER.

Outputs

- An 'Explore Tywi' Geographical Information System base-line data set which is now included in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's (HER) Historic Environment Record.
- A written report compiling the findings of the project.
- Information generated from this activity has been used to inform the production of the popular booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past' and also the educational resources available on the websites www.tywiafonyroesoedd.org.uk and www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
- Photographs of community involvement in 'Reviewing the Evidence'.

CHECKING THE FINDINGS

Following the assessment of historic sources carried out as part of 'Reviewing the evidence' a series of fieldwork days were organised through summer 2009 to investigate some of the areas of interest and to 'ground truth' sites recorded from documents alone.

This element of the archaeological investigation involves checking visible evidence in the field, ground truthing- sites and features, identified in the desktop analysis (base line data) to accurately identify surviving historic landscape features and archaeological sites.



These comprised organised tours of the core area led by DAT. Participants used copies of historic sources and HER information to investigate sites in the field and to make or update records of the sites. Participants made photographic, written and drawn records of the features visited. This information is now collected together and has been incorporated into the overall record of the project. Records are available to the public through the Historic Environment Record held and maintained by DAT at Llandeilo.

The first field trip took place on the 27th June 2009, taking a group out to Y Garn near Bethlehem to investigate old settlements and enclosures which lie between the Carn Goch hillforts and the Roman villa at Llys Brychan. The deserted cottage of Pant y Dderwen was recorded by sketch plans and photographs. A further fieldwork day was carried out at Wernfawr farmstead at Penybanc near Llandeilo. An opportunity was taken in July 2009 for participants to have a guided walk, conducted by Ken Murphy, director at DAT, around the recent excavations in Dinefwr Park, and also to learn of the extensive survey work in the Deer Park. The National Trust kindly arranged free access to the park for the participants of Exploration Tywi!

In addition a further excursion was organised which involved the investigation and recording of field walls, folds and enclosures at Y Garn, with specialist dry stone waller and amateur archaeologist Stuart Fry, also an Exploration Tywi volunteer, who has worked extensively in the area.

The project included:

- Fieldwork days looking at historic settlements and associated features
- Participants learning to identify historic features in the field
- Participants recording features through measured sketch plans, photography and note taking.
- Post fieldwork recording, cataloguing photographs etc

Outputs

- Updated and enhanced records on the 'Explore Tywi' Geographical Information System base-line data set which is now included in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's (HER) Historic Environment Record.
- Ground photographs of sites visited – deposited as digital copies in the HER
- Annotated sketch plans of sites visited deposited as digital and hard copies in the HER
- Photographs of community involvement in 'Checking the Findings'.

GATHERING NEW EVIDENCE: CHURCHYARD SURVEY

St. Teilo's Churchyard is divided in two by the A483, which runs south, to Llanelli and north to Llandovery. The east side of the churchyard had been recorded by the Women's Institute in 1981, but the west side had never been tackled because the ground was so uneven and overgrown. So it was the west side of the graveyard which was identified for recording through the Exploration Tywi! project. Recording guidelines and a recording proforma were devised and an initial training day organised in February 2009.

The first training day for graveyard recording took place in February 2009 and was very well attended with 20 participants. Training was given in how to fill out a proforma sheet to record not only the inscription but also the form and materials used for the memorial, its condition and decoration. Many interesting tales emerged from the examination of the monuments.



A recording day was organised where in addition to recording gravestones, a plan was drawn of the graveyard using a Total Station Theodolite (TST). Plotting in a number of landmark memorials on to an Ordnance Survey base map which allowed the graveyard to be more accurately partitioned up into sections. A number of regular volunteers took a section each (or several) which allowed them to come at their own leisure to record memorials.

The graveyard survey has turned into an on-going project, although at the time of writing in March 2011, the recording of gravestones is very nearly complete in the west section of the graveyard. Tony Coombe and Matt Davies have taken the project to this point, Tony has put each record onto a new database along with records from the original WI survey which had been recorded onto a spreadsheet by Ann Williams, secretary to the church. In addition Tony has also taught himself how to build a website to provide a platform to search the database. This is now available through the Dyfed Archaeological Trust website www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/llandeilograveyard

After illustrating this prototype at the 'Celebrate Exploration Tywi!' conference a number of enthusiasts have started to test the site and the feedback has been very enthusiastic (see supporting information).

I just wanted to say many many heartfelt thanks for the excellent work you and the team did with the St Teilo graveyard project. I can't tell you how useful it is already proving to be. There are some 74 'Harries' listed, of course not all relations, but it is already proving to be a most valuable addition to the other sources I use. We have made several trips from Sussex to look in the graveyard but, as I have MS, it was always a difficult exercise with the long grass...!

Apart from the methodical recording of memorials, Tony Coombe and Matt Davis have also been investigating the histories of some of the individuals, including a colourful character called 'Captain Enderby' who fought at Trafalgar.

Matt Davies has also written up the methodology of the report and has given talks about the project.

The project included:

- The creation of a proforma recording methodology for St Teilo's which is easily adaptable for other graveyards.
- Training sessions to demonstrate the recording methodology
- Two sessions with volunteers recording the plan of the graveyard and surveying in 'landmark' gravestones.

Outputs

- A plan dividing the graveyard into sections which volunteers have added to and annotated.
- Completed recording forms for over 400 graves. They are also scanned and available as digital copies (pdfs) available at the HER.
- Digital record photographs of each grave, held within the HER.
- A database of information, linked to digital images of individual gravestones and digital copies of the proforma sheets.
- A recording pack with proforma and guidance notes.
- A website to provide a digital platform for searching the database:
www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/llandeilograveyard/
- A report on the graveyard survey available on website
- Photographs of participants carrying out 'Graveyard surveys'

GATHERING NEW EVIDENCE: HEDGEROW HUNTS

Exploration Tywi! participants have carried out surveys in three different areas of the Tywi valley, looking at the field boundaries and hedgerow species. This activity was designed to investigate the history and construction of different types of field boundaries in different locations. Archaeologists have long used the construction and composition of hedgerows in order to understand more about the origins and development of field enclosure patterns.

In order to carry out a systematic survey a proforma recording sheet was developed used the Defra 'Local Hedgerow Field Survey Form' as a template and amending it to incorporate more information on the historic documentation, construction and character of the field boundaries. The recording form was supported by guidance notes on ecology and biodiversity and also the history and development of hedgerows (see supporting information). Species identification guides were also supplied to assist in recording the hedgerow flora.



Four training sessions took place in May and June and September looking at field boundaries at Felindre near Llangadog, around Dryslwyn Castle and up on Y Garn, above Bethlehem. Llangadog, Llangathen and Bethlehem village halls were used as bases for the events. These were carried out with the invaluable support of Anna Hobbs, Landscape Officer for Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd and also Rosie Carmichael, Landscape Conservation Officer for Carmarthenshire County Council who provided a wealth of knowledge on the ecology of hedgerows and what they can tell us about the management, both past and present of the hedgerows.

The project included:

- Fieldwork training days looking at hedgerows around Llangadog, Dryslwyn, and Y Garn.
- Participants learnt about identifying hedgerow species and what species might indicate about hedgerow history.
- Participants learnt about archaeological recording techniques, filling proforma sheets, measured sketches and photography.
- Participants learnt about landscape history and how ecology and biodiversity is interconnected with the historic landscape.

Outputs

- A recording pack was developed for members of the public to use. This is available for download on the website.
- Recording forms have been digitised and deposited in the HER.
- Record maps digitised and deposited in the HER.
- Ground photographs of landscape and hedgerows.
- Photographs of community involvement in hedgerow recording.

GATHERING NEW EVIDENCE: HOUSE DETECTIVES

An extensive survey of the buildings of the Tywi valley was undertaken by Exploration Tywi! participants as part of the 'House Detectives' programme. The first training session was organised in August 2009. After a presentation at The Shire Hall in which the aims of the project were explained, with guidance and tips for investigating buildings, the participants divided up into groups to go out into Llandeilo to record various buildings in the town. Each participant was given a House Detectives pack which included recording forms, guidance notes to assist with the recording forms, a 'House Detectives Information Sheet' giving an explanation of the aims of the project and a short glossary of architectural terms, a map of the project area, and a modern and a historic Ordnance Survey map of Llandeilo town. The workshop included a discussion about the architecture, building materials and documentary sources which can all reveal the history and development of the built environment. Each participant was encouraged to allocate an area of the valley to carry out building recording.



In addition a further training and informative lecture evening was held at The Shire Hall. The evening was attended by over 30 people. Duncan Schlee of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust gave a talk on how to investigate and discover the history of buildings illustrated by numerous examples and case studies. This was followed by Dr John Davies, formerly regional geologist for CCW, explaining the geology of the valley and how it influences the building materials of the area. His talk was illustrated by a collection of various stone samples found in a traverse across the valley.

A recording pack was also developed for schools and now forms part of the Exploration Tywi! educational resource.

The project included:

- Training sessions in the Shire Hall to give guidance and advice on the recording of buildings throughout the Tywi valley.
- On-going support to a number of participants carrying out surveys in parts of the project area

Outputs

- A recording pack which included recording forms, guidance notes to assist with the recording forms, a 'House Detectives Information Sheet' giving an explanation of the aims of the project and a short glossary of architectural terms, a map of the project area, and a modern and a historic OS map of Llandeilo town. This is available for other projects and can be downloaded from the website.
- An archive of completed recording sheets covering a large portion of the valley, deposited in the HER.
- An archive of digital photographs held in the HER.

HOUSE DETECTIVES PART II

Following on from part one of 'House Detectives' the second phase involved more detailed investigation and recording of a selection of historic buildings of the Tywi valley. A number of buildings were identified as being of particular historic interest. These included the historic orchard building of Ty Picca at Dryslwyn, Lan Farm near Penybanc and Lan Lash Farmstead near Cwrt Henri. The recording of Ty Picca was carried out early in the project in order to feed into the restoration of the building through the Rural Structures Renovation grant from the Traditional Buildings element of TAYO.

The proposal to carry out restoration on the clom orchard building at Ty Picca near Dryslwyn presented an excellent opportunity to carry out some early building recording with Exploration Tywi! participants. The aim of the day was to gain a better understanding of the building, how it had been constructed, what the original form and function of the building was and what materials had been used in its original form and its subsequent modifications.



In April 2009 10 participants attended the clom recording day with participants learning archaeological building recording techniques and how to look at the archaeological evidence for building construction methods to see how it might have changed. Measured drawings of the elevations and a plan were made by the participants with the assistance of Dyfed Archaeological Trust staff. A photographic record was also compiled. Following the fieldwork an interpretive report with a discussion of the findings was produced and circulated to the participants and sent to the landowner. A follow up day of building recording was carried out at Easter 2010 in order to record the building as it was partially dismantled ready for reconstruction.

A weekend of building recording was organised to investigate the historic farmstead of Lan Farm, near Penybanc. This was also carried out in conjunction with an 'Old House Surgery' led by TAYO and Cliff Blundell. The farm is of particular interest because it partially retains evidence of clom or earth in its construction.

A day of building investigation was carried out at Lan Lash farmstead near Cwrt Henri, with the expert help of Geoff Ward from the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). This farmstead has documentary evidence to suggest it existed in the 15th century and building works recently suggest that there is early masonry, which survives within the later building.

The project included:

- A detailed investigation and recording activity on 3 separate historic buildings
- Measured drawings, plans and photographs of each building complex.
- Interpretative reports on each building, downloadable from the website
- Photographs of participants carrying out the surveys.

TESTING THEORIES and SENSING THE PAST

As part of the ongoing project 'Exploration Tywi!' investigating the Tywi valley, a series of week-long archaeological evaluations were undertaken at four locations within the Tywi valley. Deserted settlement sites were identified from the previous activities, 'Reviewing the evidence' and 'Checking the findings'. In two instances geophysical investigation of sites (through the Sensing the Past activity) were carried out at these locations in order to inform the evaluation excavations. Participants of Exploration Tywi! were involved in all aspects of these activities.

On the last day of each of the four evaluations an open day was arranged with the landowners' permission to allow members of the public to visit and to provide an opportunity to see the results of the excavations before the trenches were backfilled. Due to the remote nature of the sites a shuttle bus service was provided running from a pick up point at a car parking area to each of the sites.

Wernfawr

This evaluation was undertaken on the site of a deserted farmstead known as Wern Fawr, near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN6268 2387). The former farmhouse lies within a rectangular enclosure, with upstanding walls and earthwork remains marking the site of the former farmstead. The farmstead was burnt down in 1911.

The site has been partially archaeologically investigated previously (Nacap Land & Marine forthcoming) revealing the presence of archaeological remains associated with the farmstead and also the presence of two post medieval corn-drying kilns in the vicinity.

Investigations within the area of the farmstead were limited.



Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook this evaluation with the assistance of local participants. Five trenches were hand excavated in order to assess the character and extent of significant archaeological features and deposits on the site. A detailed topographical survey was also undertaken.

Remains of the main farmhouse were excavated revealing internal room divisions, floor levels and a small hearth. Finds indicate the northern part of the building was used as a domestic area, and also showed clear signs of fire damage (relating to the 1911 fire). The function of the building to the south of the domestic area remains unclear although a level mortar floor, small hearth and fragments of large ceramic drying tiles were recorded in this area. Finds appeared to be later post medieval in date and no earlier floor levels were revealed within the evaluation trenches, although the main wall of the farmhouse revealed two construction phases.

Wall remains to the east of the main building revealed a late 19th/early 20th century structure, possibly a pigsty. Flooring remains of a barn range were also identified in this area, corresponding to a barn range depicted on 19th century map sources. The structure of a central bank was also revealed and recorded. The evaluation represented the investigation of only a very small part of the farmstead enclosure.

Danyralt

This evaluation was undertaken on the site of a lost mansion house known as Danyralt, near Llangadog, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 6938 2641).

The mansion house is believed to have stood in this location since the 16th century and possibly earlier, until its destruction in the 1840s. No trace of the mansion now survives, although former associated farm buildings and garden features do still exist, as does a small complex of structures that may have been associated.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook this evaluation with the assistance of local participants. A geophysical survey was undertaken followed by five trial trenches, hand excavated in order to assess the character and extent of significant archaeological features and deposits on the site. A detailed topographical survey and scheme of photographic building recording was also undertaken.



The likely location of the former mansion site was identified through map regression work and topographical survey on a level platform c.25m to the east of the current farm buildings. No clear evidence of the mansion was revealed on the geophysical survey and two trenches excavated on the site failed to reveal definite remains of the mansion. Remnants of a demolition layer and fragments of stone tiles and late post-medieval finds were recorded in the trenches that may be associated with the former mansion. It would appear that the mid 19th demolition and the recent construction of a farm trackway have resulted in the substantial destruction of any evidence for the mansion on the site.

The geophysical survey indicated the possible location of former mansion outbuildings on the hill to the east, but upon excavation this proved to be an area of modern disturbance with the former outbuildings possibly lying further to the east.

A series of small extant stone-built structures were examined and recorded, located in the probable area of the former mansion house. These structures appear to have been used as storage and a possible toilet block, and also apparently as sheep pens at a later point in their history. It is unclear if these rooms were originally part of the mansion house or later additions to the site following the demolition of the mansion.

The geophysical survey revealed a possible straight-sided ditched enclosure on the hillside above the mansion site. A trench opened across this site revealed one U-shaped ditch. No finds were recovered so it unfortunately remains undated, but a lack of post-medieval finds, that were common elsewhere, and its occurrence relatively low in the soil sequence, suggests this enclosure may date to an earlier period in the history of the mansion, or even predate the 16th century mansion.

Beili Dyffryn

This evaluation was undertaken on the sites of a medieval longhouse and the site of a Neolithic chambered tomb, to the south of Beili Dyffryn Farm, near Bethlehem, Carmarthenshire.

The medieval longhouse lies on the southern side of a dry-stone boundary wall marking the edge of the agricultural farmland and the upland area of Carn Goch. It is located at grid reference SN 6972 2517.

The site of the Neolithic chambered tomb, known as Cae'r Ganfa or Cil y Ganfa is visible as a large mound within the agricultural lands, with the boundary of the uplands of Carn Goch curving around the tomb to the east and south. A number of upright stones are visible within the mound. It is located at NGR SN6950 2502.



The archaeological investigations within the possible medieval longhouse demonstrated the presence of later medieval/post-medieval pottery within the apparent levelling material used to create the raised platform on which the building sits, suggests a later medieval date for the construction of the structure. The walls of the building used locally sourced stone, mostly irregular shaped blocks, with larger stones used in the footings for the wall. No bonding material was recorded within the walls, although this may have been as a result of weathering removing any clay bonding over the years. If a medieval longhouse, as expected, then part of the structure would have been used for human habitation, and the other end for animals, although the results of the excavation could not confirm which end was which.

The investigations also included vegetation clearance and survey of the chambered tomb of Cae'r Ganfa or Cil y Ganfa. This has demonstrated that it is a sizeable monument, comprising a number of very well set stones within a larger mound of stone rubble. No intrusive excavation was undertaken on the site, although the recorded information suggests it may survive fairly intact within the earth and stone mound which surrounds it, although any capstones which may have been present have long since been removed. The investigations indicate that the tomb comprises three main elements. These are a group of stone at the western end, Stone Group 1, which has parallel rows of stones and potentially an entranceway into a chamber behind. Stone Group 2 comprises a rectangular arrangement of narrow stones forming a large chamber. Stone Group 3 suggests a small chamber to the north of and perpendicular to Stone Group 2. There is still a potential for other chambers to be present within the mound, covered by vegetation or still sealed beneath the mound material. The potential is that the tomb is very well preserved and would be considered to be of high archaeological importance.

Llys Brychan

The Exploration Tywi! investigations of the Llys Brychan Roman Villa have provided exciting new evidence regarding the layout of the villa and its environs. An initial geophysical survey in the three fields to the north of Llys Brychan farm has demonstrated that the villa is probably of a winged corridor type, with wings to the northeast and southwest. The geophysical survey also demonstrated the presence of a large rectangular enclosure to the north of the villa, comprising single ditches on three sides with a double ditch to the south.



Trench 1 of the investigations confirmed the presence of the northern side of the enclosure. This comprised a V shaped ditch of around 2m width and 0.9m depth. The ditch contained two sherds of Roman black burnished ware pottery. Evidence for an outer bank and trackway beyond was revealed.

Trench 2 targeted the double ditches to the south. This revealed a V shaped outer ditch, similar to that to the north. A possible outer bank was again indicated, and Roman finds were recovered from the fills. The inner ditch was smaller and contained no finds. A metallised surface was also uncovered on the inside of the southeastern corner of the enclosure which may suggest a large stoned surface was present.

Trench 3 was located on the eastern edge of the enclosure and targeted both the ditch and a large anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. The trench revealed a large pit which would have been situated directly over the ditch. The pit contained a large amount of charcoal and a number of large stones, and it is thought that its original function would have been industrial.

The investigations have provided further significant information regarding the Llys Brychan Roman Villa. The work was undertaken with the assistance of local participants and their laudable determination and hard work through very poor weather.

The project included:

- Participants involved in the preliminary geophysical survey at Llys Brychan and Danyralt Mansion site.
- Participants involved in the excavation processes from deturfing, cleaning and identifying archaeological features, sectioning and sampling archaeological features. Collecting archaeological finds.
- Participants involved in the interpretation and discussion of archaeological evidence.
- Participants involved in archaeological recording techniques, such as completing context sheets and drawing sections and scaled plans.
- Participants involved in photographic recording of archaeological features.

Outputs

- Archived records of evaluation, including written records, measured drawings (sections and plans).
- Archive of digital photographs.
- Digital photographs of participants involved in evaluations
- Written reports on each of the evaluations, now downloadable on the website.

TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME

Exploration Tywi! participants have mapped and recorded routeways through the Tywi valley. This involved studying historic sources and documents, primarily historic maps, to understand the development of communication routes through the valley. In addition a modern route was investigated to reveal what history and archaeology is associated with it in order that guided walk leaders could use the information for the Festival of British Archaeology. The walk is now incorporated into the popular booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past'.



A work experience pupil from secondary school spent a week working on 'Travelling through Time', looking at the historic maps for the Tywi valley and recording bridges and crossing points and recording them onto the project GIS. This was followed up by project participants who identified and recorded all the Turnpike roads, gates and milestones within the study area and researched Carmarthen Archives to find Turnpike notices, Acts of Parliament and engineer's schematic drawings for the railway between Llandeilo to Llandovery. This information has been recorded in the HER.

In addition a TAYO focus group evening was held on this theme, which involved a walking tour of the ancient trackways and routes around Llandeilo. Ken Murphy, Director of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust took a group of 32 people on a route looking at trackways from earliest times, such as the Roman roads converging on the fort in Dinefwr, to the railways and the construction of the Llandeilo bridges. The evening was beautiful and enjoyed by all who attended.

The project included:

- Participants and work experience pupil recording information on routeways from historic maps onto project GIS
- Participants investigating and compiling information on historic features associated with a route from Bethlehem village to Garn Goch.
- Participants walking historic routes around Llandeilo.

Outputs

- Updated GIS including information on historic routeways, including, bridges and crossing points, Turnpike roads, milestones, toll gates and toll gate cottages. This is now included in the DAT HER.
- A walking tour from Bethlehem to Garn Goch incorporated into the popular booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past'

THE VALLEY AT WAR

Historic battles and conflict were another aspect of the project with Exploration Tywi! participants investigated. To encourage participation in this aspect of the project an open evening was held at the Shire Hall with extensive displays borrowed from Carmarthen Museum's 'Carmarthenshire's War - The Home Front' exhibition, the National Trust and attended with the hospital bed and handling collection from Newton House. The Welsh Battlefields Society was also represented, with a display on the battle of Coed Llathen which took place near Broad Oak. Numerous artefacts and wartime pieces of memorabilia were brought in and recorded by photographs and proforma sheets by a couple of longstanding Exploration Tywi participants; Tony Coombe and Matt Davies. A map was displayed on the wall on which visitors were encouraged to record any knowledge of military activity or remains. Over 25 people attended the evening.



An A-level work experience student recorded the field names associated with the Battle of Coed Llathen onto the project GIS dataset.

Voice recording equipment, loaned by the National Library of Wales allowed a local resident Miss Aileen Stephens to be interviewed and recorded. She read from the diaries her father had written during the 1st World War from the trenches. He endured numerous occasions in the firing lines, until at the Battle of Loos in 1915, when he was wounded helping a fallen soldier. For this action he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and returned to Llandeilo a hero. These precious recollections are recorded in Miss Stephen's own words and are archived both with the Exploration Tywi! records at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and will also be archived with the National Library of Wales, who have agreed to hold the recordings.

Part of the Valley at War project looked at developing worksheets for school visits to Bethlehem and Garn Goch (See Educational Packs). The worksheets encourage school children to envisage life in the Iron Age with the impact of the Roman Army invading the Tywi valley and to develop and discuss their battle tactics.

The project included:

- An evening at the Shire Hall with exhibitions and displays about historic battlefields, Carmarthenshire's Home Front and Newton House 2nd World War hospital.
- Wartime memorabilia and information recorded photographically and on proforma sheets.
- Desk based assessment and recording of field names associated with the historic battle of Coed Llathen.
- Oral history recording wartime related history.
- An assessment of the historic battles of the valley, incorporated in the Educational Packs.

Outputs

- GIS table updated with the battle of Coed Llathen, now incorporated into the HER
- Digital photographs, digital audio recording and proforma sheets of wartime memorabilia, recorded in the HER
- Educational Packs including history of battles in the Tywi valley, worksheets and teacher's notes on Iron Age and Roman war tactics including a guided walk around Garn Goch (see Educational Packs)

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

After completing an analysis of LiDAR data provided to the Exploration Tywi! project by Environment Agency Wales, the University of Aberystwyth research team mapped the courses of the river channels using historic mapping and aerial photography. A series of fieldwork days were attended by participants to help carry out a Ground Penetrating Radar surveys and sampling in selected sites throughout the project area. A couple of post graduate students participated in this element of the project. Analysis of the data has helped understanding of the development of the valley's topography and also identified where archaeological remains may survive.



The project included:

- Analysis of historic maps, aerial photographs and LiDAR data to establish river channel change
- Fieldwork days surveying and sampling sites across the Tywi valley.
- Analysis of survey data
- Written reports

Outputs

- GIS data showing river channel change and terracing in the valley floor.
- Summary of findings incorporated into popular booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past'
- Written reports and Appendices, downloadable from websites.

UNEARTHING THE PAST

The four evaluation excavations were targeted to establish a site which would make suitable site for a four-week excavation. Wernfawr farmstead was identified as being of significant interest. The excavation took place during April and May 2010.

A small team of archaeologists from Dyfed Archaeological Trust supervised over 30 participants in the archaeological excavation of this deserted farmstead.

Participants varied in background from those who had attended a number of previous DAT archaeological excavations and those who had no previous experience of being on an archaeological site. A number of children from a home education group joined in the excavation.



Two large targeted trenches were opened up by participants to investigate the farmhouse, an agricultural building and the farmyard area. The majority of the farmhouse, partially investigated in 2009, was opened to reveal the floorplan and internal divisions. The different floor surfaces used in separate rooms were still well preserved, with flagstones used in the kitchen and central hallway. The rest of the house had a crushed lime floor. Traces of plaster survived in the corner of the rooms revealing a pale blue limewash finish.

As is typical of many historic farmhouses the cow house was sited alongside the domestic quarters and under the same roof. The cow house was identified with a rock cut floor and sockets in the bedrock indicating the location of wooden stall partitions.

What initially had appeared to be quite a simple building revealed, during excavation, to be more complex, with several phases of construction identified, building up a picture of a site which had seen continued occupation over centuries. The second trench, sited over the other farm building and yard appeared on first impression to be fairly sterile of archaeology, however after painstakingly cleaning it, a number of more subtle features revealed themselves. The remains of the farm building were less well preserved than the farmhouse, indicated only by fragments of walling and more intriguingly, post holes and possible beam slots. These features are more usually associated with earlier building traditions and suggests an earlier phase to the farmstead.

The yard itself revealed other features cut into or out of the bedrock. A large pit was excavated in the centre of the yard and some raised areas may suggest the site of rick stands.

Beyond the farmstead complex a geophysical survey was undertaken in the field adjacent to look for other indications of occupation or activities beyond the site. The participants of the excavation were also given the opportunity to try out this method of survey and see the results unfold. In this instance no further archaeological features were identified.

Aside from the 30 participants who undertook the excavation and recording of the farmstead, the site was open to the public each weekend with a shuttlebus available to pick

people up from Llandeilo. On site visitors were taken on a guided tour by one of the excavation team and shown displays of finds and documents relating to the site.

Schools visits

Five Carmarthenshire primary schools visited the site, Llangadog, Llandeilo CP, Meidrim, Teilo Sant and Cwmifor. All the primary schools within the project area were invited to come to visit, however Ffairfach and Cwmifor were unable to attend due to school inspections so Meidrim made a bid for the available day of visits. A minibus provided transport for the children and they were met at the site by Hazel Williams who welcomed them. Hazel gave an introduction to the area, talking about the drovers road they were standing beside before taking them into the farmer's field and setting them up for their hedgerow survey. After discussing fields and farming and then filling in the hedgerow worksheets they made their way to the site. Before seeing the excavation the anticipation was built up by a talk from Hazel in the dig tent. Here the children were invited to rummage in five sawdust 'lucky dip' buckets to find an artefact fragment and then to try and work out what it was and how old it might be. A handling collection and reference photographs helped them identify their artefacts. Once they had undergone their archaeological training they were invited to try out their archaeological investigative skills in answering their 'Wernfawr house detective' forms. They then had a tour of the site from Alice Pyper, and were asked to look for clues to help them fill in their questionnaires. They had an opportunity then to investigate the site for themselves and ask questions of the excavation team to enable them to complete their worksheets.



Feedback forms returned from children and teachers were unanimous in their enjoyment of the visit and the only shortcoming noted was that they wanted more time and the opportunity to actually do some digging. At least two children from Llangadog school expressed a desire to become archaeologists!

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The project included:

- On site opportunities to carry out topographic and geophysical survey
- On site training in archaeological excavation
- On site training in archaeological recording, including completing proforma recording sheets, measured drawings to scale – plans and sections, photography.
- Guided visits and tours of the excavation, with transportation from Llandeilo.
- School visits with activities led by Hazel Williams.

Outputs

- An excavation archive including recording forms, drawings and photographs.
- Information from the excavation used within the popular booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring the past'
- A dig diary published on the website.
- Information from the excavation used to create an educational pack for teachers and home educators
- Photographs of members of the community getting involved in the excavation.
- A written report downloadable on the website.

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

With all the mass of information which has been accumulated from the various activities, a programme of cataloguing, archiving and assessing the information was devised to include project participants. Participants have been instrumental in much of this process, recording and archiving the data before returning it to the HER. This has been carried out with the supervision of the HER manager and other DAT staff. An afternoon of finds processing was also held at the Shire Hall, with the supervision of Dee Williams from Trinity Saint David University, an expert in medieval and post medieval pottery. The finds from the excavation were laid out and methodically cleaned by the volunteers. Dee talked about the types, dates and origins of the different wares revealed through cleaning.

The results of each activity have been recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER) and will be publicly available through the HER held at DAT and also online through the website 'Archwilio'. Archives will be deposited at the NMR in Aberystwyth and copies will also be held at DAT in Llandeilo.

The project included:

- Participants involved in post excavation processing of finds.
- Cataloguing and archiving digital photographs from activities.
- Updating and enhancing the project GIS prior to including data into the HER.

Outputs

- Enhanced GIS data, now incorporated in the regional HER.
- Digital photographs archived in the HER.
- Specialist pottery report on the finds from Wernfawr.
- Photographs of participants involved in finds processing.

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND OUT?

The finale public event was '*Celebrate Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past*' held in the large theatre at Tregib school on Saturday the 5th February. This was an opportunity for participants and volunteers, along with other interested individuals and local people, to come and hear about the results of the project and the legacy it will leave for the valley.



A variety of talks were programmed throughout the day (see supporting information) including volunteers Tony Coombe and Matt Davies relating the stories that have emerged from St Teilo's graveyard survey. Dr Paul Brewer and Professor Mark Macklin from Aberystwyth University explained the results of the geomorphology fieldwork and analysis of the Tywi valley. DAT staff Jim Meek and Phil Poucher shared the results of the community excavations. Hazel Williams demonstrated how the children of the Tywi valley helped bring history alive and learned about life in the Iron Age on Garn Goch hillfort. Louise Austin showed how all the results from Exploration Tywi are available to all and can be added to and expanded on. The Exploration continues!

A variety of exhibitions were also on display, including those from each of the activities carried out during *Exploration Tywi!* The free booklet '*Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past*' was also offered to each participant of the conference.

The conference was supported by Councillor Ieuan Goronwy Jones who opened the proceedings, and Gwilym Hughes, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings at Cadw and Eifion Bowen, Head of Planning at Carmarthenshire County Council, who jointly chaired the day.

The day was attended by over 150 people, including those who had been involved in *Exploration Tywi!* over the last two years and those who had come from a distance (as far as Gwynedd!) to hear about the project.

EDUCATION PACKS

After consultation with teachers from the project area through a 'Teachers Twilight Inset Evening' a series of Education Packs were developed. Also using the experiences of working with schools in the 'House Detectives', 'Unearthing the Past' and 'The Valley at War' activities. Four separate projects are available for download, including Tywi Timeline, How to be an Archaeologist, Valley at War and House Detectives. The educational packs are designed to help teachers and home educators use the Tywi valley as an educational resource. The educational packs incorporate teacher's notes and guidance sheets, worksheets and classroom ideas for different aspects of the curriculum.

The project included:

- Teacher's twilight inset evening with presentations from DAT, Carmarthenshire Museum, Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales, Carmarthenshire Libraries and Carmarthenshire Archives Services.
- Working with schools at both the 'Unearthing the Past' excavation, 'House Detectives' and Garn Goch school visits to develop worksheets.

Outputs

- Four projects; Tywi Timeline, How to be an Archaeologist, Valley at War and House Detectives available to download from the website.
- A gallery of images and reconstruction drawings for download.
- A list of links to other organisations who offer educational information.

POPULAR BOOKLET

As material and information from Exploration Tywi was brought together at the end of 2010 a popular booklet was compiled. The aim of the booklet, 'Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past' is to celebrate the achievements of the project and to inspire more people to take an active interest in discovering about their historic environment. The text was drawn from the findings and results of Exploration Tywi! with a number of the regular participants also describing their experiences with the project. It is also designed as a handbook and has guidelines to help people get started on the investigation and exploration of their own local history. There are extensive signposts throughout the booklet, guiding people to where more information is to be found.



A distribution list was put together, and the booklet has been circulated to members of the public, with a great number given out to interested participants at the 'Celebrate Exploration Tywi' conference at Tregib School. They are also being enthusiastically received by local history or community groups where evening talks or lectures are being delivered. A box of 50 has been delivered by TAYO to each school within the project area, whilst a number have been circulated to every school in Carmarthenshire. Tourism offices and tourist providers have also been circulated.

The project has

- Provided a lasting tangible legacy of the project which participants and interest groups can keep forever.

Outputs

- A 44 page colour booklet, illustrated by a mixture of text and photographs, drawings, old photographs, historic maps etc.
- A downloadable version of the final document is available as a pdf on the website.

INTEGRATION OF RESULTS INTO HER

The Historic Environment Record Manager, Marion Page, coordinated the incorporation of the results of '*Exploration Tywi*' into the HER, along with the continued help of project participant Tony Coombe. Over 450 new records have been created through '*Exploration Tywi*' within the project area. These records are now accessible through the website www.archwilio.org.uk.

The project included:

- The systematic updating and verification of data amalgamated through the Exploration Tywi! project
- The data has been validated and is included within the DAT Historic Environment Record and is available on www.Archwilio.org.uk

Outputs

- Over 450 records now held within the digital record of the DAT HER.
- Numerous hard copies of supporting information and record forms held within the archive at DAT.

TALKS AND EXHIBITIONS

Talks, exhibitions and illustrated presentations have been carried out continuously throughout the lifetime of the project. At the start these intended to advertise the project's aims and objectives with the purpose of recruiting more people to become involved in Exploration Tywi! As the project developed exhibitions and presentations sought to disseminate information from the project's work. Towards the close of the project, more groups including local history groups and community organisations have heard about the project and are actively seeking a talk to hear about the project. Presentations have been given to community groups far and wide with an illustrated talk given to the CBA Community Archaeology Forum in Leicester, to the Abbeycwmhir Trust and Brecon U3A, which will be followed up by a field visit in May 2011.



'Our Tywi Past' was a TAYO focus group evening in which residents of the valley were encouraged to bring along items or artefacts of interest, which had some meaning to them and were connected to the landscape. A panel of experts were on hand to look at the artefacts including Dr John Davies, a regional geologist, Gavin Evans, Curator of Carmarthen Museum and Ken Murphy and Louise Austin of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Each of the experts brought along a collection of material from the area and were on hand to examine or identify artefacts brought to them by the public. In addition each item brought in was photographed (by a member of DAT and an Exploration Tywi! participant) and recorded on a simple record sheet, in which the owner could note down its history as they recalled it. Twenty people brought items in, including one resident who had a box full of different photos, artefacts and documents. Some fascinating items appeared during the evening including wonderful photographs of the valley, including a photograph of Tregib mansion taken days before it was demolished, and various agricultural implements.

The Festival of British Archaeology has been a key event in Exploration Tywi's calendar. In 2009 an open day was held at the Shire Hall. There were various activities, most led by participants themselves, which were demonstrated throughout the day including gravestone recording in St Teilo's graveyard and a display of hedgerow species with a quiz to 'test your identification skills'. Visitors were also invited to take part in the 'Landmarks of Llandeilo Town Trail Quiz'.

'Parti Nadolig' has also become a key event of Exploration Tywi! as part of the Llandeilo's "Festival of the Senses," Dyfed Archaeological Trust opened its doors in 2009 and 2010 to invite everyone to learn all about the Exploration Tywi! project and to learn and take part in Christmas customs. A re-enactment took place of the Fari Lwyd to musical accompaniment with visitors enthusiastically singing the rhyming banter or 'Pwnco' which was the custom. Children were busied making their own Christmas Calennig to take home.

In 2009 following liaison with a number of schools over their particular areas of interest, a teacher's INSET evening was organised inviting every school within the TAYO project area, a number beyond and a local home tutor group, to talks and presentations by a number of organisations. These included the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the National Trust, Carmarthenshire Museums, Carmarthen Reference Library, Carmarthenshire Archives and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales. Twelve teachers and 3 student teachers as well as a representative from the Home Tutor group attended and much useful discussion followed the presentations with links and ideas exchanged. A

number of the organisations represented at the event commented on how successful it had been with a far greater number of schools being represented than was usual at other INSET evenings.

In conjunction with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority an educational programme for schools was devised centred around the Romans and Celts at Garn Goch and Llandeilo. The work carried out at these school visits formed part of the Festival of Archaeology weekend activities on July 31st and August 1st 2010.

The day visits included staff from BBNPA and DAT, with two Exploration Tywi! participants, dressed in Celtic and Roman costumes re-enacting a scenario of Roman occupation on Garn Goch and Bethlehem. Children learnt about Roman and Iron Age life and conflict and were busied with a number of activities including playing games, making pots and writing on wax tablets. Storytellers from the TAYO group came in each day to tell the story of Caradog/Caractucus in the medium of Welsh or English depending on the school.

BBNPA wardens, Toby Small and Wyn Morgan took the children on a tour of the hillfort and were told about the defences and archaeology of the site after which the children gathered and were divided into groups of Romans and Celts to devise battle plans on worksheets. They were given an OS map of the area, the reconstruction drawing and laminated pictures to place on the sheets to illustrate their warplan.

Following the schools visit a team consisting of staff from Dyfed Archaeological Trust and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, as well as pupils working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award and local volunteers from the Bethlehem community, devised a plan for the Garn Goch Archaeology Festival as part of Exploration Tywi!

A range of archaeologically and historically themed activities were planned in order to take visitors 'back in time' to enable people of all ages to enjoy, appreciate and better understand the rich heritage of Garn Goch. Garn Goch is one of the largest Iron Age Hillforts in Wales, and activities therefore focused on Iron Age (Celtic) and Roman practices to reflect the archaeology of the surrounding landscape. Situated with wide vistas across the Tywi Valley, the Garn was the ideal location for this event, celebrating the unique heritage of the valley.

The project included:

- Presentations, talks, exhibitions and displays given to a range of organisations, and groups covering a broad geographical area.
- Participants developing material themselves, manning exhibitions and displays and giving presentations.
- Working with partners and developing links with BBNPA, PCNPA Castell Henllys, and other organisations or community groups such as Bethlehem Community who provided the refreshment kiosk for the Garn Goch Festival of British Archaeology.

Outputs

- A range of exhibition material, posters, advertisements each developed for a specific exhibition or event, including information about the project, or results obtained from the project.
- A range of powerpoint presentations developed for talks to various groups and society's.
- A range of interactive materials such as quiz sheets or treasure hunts for people to engage with.
- Photographs of members of the community attending / involved with activities.

EVALUATION

Throughout the course of Exploration Tywi! a programme of evaluation has been in place. All activities have had some form of feedback, which varied depending on the type of activity or event, and the opportunities for gaining feedback. Initially the participants' feedback was recorded on DAT's evaluation recording sheet, however this was aimed more for volunteers on excavations lasting a number of weeks, so a simpler sheet was designed, targeting the themes of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Councils' Generic Learning Outcomes. Some consideration was given to each activity to find a suitable form of obtaining feedback. This ranged from a visitors book at the excavation, a simple evaluation form, or a 'Your opinion' target.

It was not always easy to gain feedback other than anecdotally, and it was decided at the Garn Goch Festival that feedback should be drawn out by interview, with someone 'front of house' both welcoming people to the event, but also running through a brief questionnaire as people left. This seemed very successful, as people were far more willing to talk than to fill out a form. The children also enjoyed sticking a star on the 'Your Opinion' target.

Generally a good cross section of the population attended the events and activities, with the highest proportion falling in the age-group of 51-60. The age group 31-40 were the hardest to reach and engage in activities, although the family event of Garn Goch Festival seemed to attract this age group with their young families.

The desk-based assessment work incorporated in 'Reviewing the Evidence', and 'Travelling through time' was carried out by participants new to archaeology, secondary school work placements and also a recent archaeology graduate, looking to gain voluntary experience in the HER. In each case the participants learnt to use the GIS software, MapInfo, to add and enhance information on the project dataset.

Following tours of the DAT offices and a visit to the Carmarthen Records Office a number of local people frequented the Trust offices every week to carry out research into the Tywi valley, supported by staff at the Trust.

The results of the evaluations are compiled in Appendix, with copies of the completed sheets, letters etc. filed within the original quarter year in which the activity evaluated took place.

Generic Learning Outcomes

The following examples of comments have been collected from various activities, and ordered by GLO theme:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Participants have visited and learnt about archives and historic sources at the HER at the DAT, the Archives in Carmarthen, the NMR at the RCAHMS and National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth through 'Reviewing the evidence'.
- On the walking tour of dry stone walls - one person enjoyed, 'Learning about the different ages of walls'
- Participants learnt about Llandeilo and its past communities at the Graveyard Survey, 'There is a wealth of information about the community in the churchyard'
- Expectations from the Hedgerow Hunts activity, 'To learn more about the local area historically and environmentally' were 'Well met by information given verbally and on pamphlets'

- Expectations from the 'Hedgerow Hunts' activity; 'Experience in hedgerow surveying in relation to landscape history' resulted in, 'discussion relating findings to maps leading to interpretation v. interesting & useful'
- Expectations from the 'House Detectives' activity; 'To find out more about the buildings in the area and their History' were met and 'learnt about buildings in the area'.

Skills:

Participants have gained a number of new skills:

- IT skills, in particular the GIS MapInfo software, which geographically records information.
- Other skills include examining and researching historic documents and maps in particular.
- Participants have developed skills in how to locate, identify and record historic landscape features in the field. In investigating particular settlements participants have learnt archaeological recording techniques including photography, drawing and annotating plans.
- Participants learnt archaeological recording techniques, making written descriptions, learning the best way to decipher inscriptions, drawing sketches, measuring monuments etc.
- Feedback from the Graveyard survey was that the most interesting thing discovered was, 'How to record Gravestones in an efficient way' and 'Have learned how to record gravestones for future reference for the community'
- Participants have developed skills in how to identify and record hedgerow species and features in the field. Investigating hedgerows and field boundaries participants have learnt recording techniques including photography, drawing and completing proforma recording sheets.
- Responses to the question 'What was your favourite part of the event?' include, 'Identifying hedgerow plants on location', 'Learning about the different trees + plants' and 'Meeting with people and using gained skills'
- Expectations to 'learn how to look for historic details in buildings' were met.

Enjoyment, Inspiration and Creativity

A key part of the project was enjoyment;

- In 'Reviewing the evidence' comments included that their favourite part of the event was looking at the old maps of the area.
- Participants responding to the questionnaire identified different elements of enjoyment from the event, 'Meeting people and doing the recording', 'The whole experience' and 'Being out taking part in recording history'
- On Testing the Theories, 'The whole experience was informative and enjoyable. And I found it excellent to be actually undertaking the excavations, there was a good team spirit on site'

Attitudes and Values

- Evaluation sheets indicate that every participant agrees with the statement 'My interest in heritage has been broadened by this experience' and has enjoyed learning of further opportunities.
- One person commented that 'I have enjoyed my experience and will return at a later date to do more voluntary work'.
- All participants agreed that their expectations of, 'to learn and enjoy' and 'that I would enjoy the experience' were met.
- Evaluation sheets indicate that participants did discover an increased appreciation of the historic environment and therefore developed a pride of place and a wish to

support it in various ways, 'Join various community groups concerned with its preservation', 'Take note of the diversity of people who lie within the churchyard'

- 'It was good to be a part, albeit in a small way, of a project to investigate and record part of our heritage'
- Participants have recorded a desire to help in the future management of the valley, 'Keep looking into the history of the Valley', 'Join organisations that look after the Valley' and 'Try and get my own bit of the Valley in order!'
- Comments included, 'Looking forward to the next dig & hope to be more involved in the future'

Most participants have registered their enjoyment on the field trips, however not all, and one person commented on the Checking the Findings fieldtrip, 'I cannot say I have enjoyed it all'. Although there is no further qualification this may be due to having to avoid a field populated with cows. One member of the group was certainly fearful of being within sight of them, without entering the field.

After each event or activity feedback was analysed to ensure that comments were acted on, to learn from the experience and improve the delivery of activities and events. For instance one comment from the feedback form suggested that not enough information was being supplied prior to the event - expectations were - 'Not sure because of the limited information before attending'. This was noted, and efforts were made to supply more information about the events before people booked.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Exploration Tywi! brought in 100's of non-archaeologists to experience archaeological research, experiencing activities they wouldn't normally be involved with.
- Members of the community sharing experiences and stories with each other and with the archaeological community.
- An enhanced and improved Historic Environment Record relating to the history and archaeology of the Tywi valley.
- An easily accessible website to publicise and allow the download of archaeological information and reports.
- A vast range of outputs, ranging from oral history recording, to children's educational resources, to ground breaking academic pieces of research.
- Raised awareness of the historic environment of the Tywi valley, its importance and its unique character.
- Raised awareness of TAYO, the partners, DAT and other organisations.
- Members of the community empowered to undertake areas of research themselves.
- Exploration Tywi! has provided endless social interaction amongst participants and staff at DAT which has led to lasting social relations.
- Good links developed with partner organisations.
- Good links between other themes of TAYO.
- A hardcore of committed and enthusiastic participants who want to continue to help further the aims of Exploration Tywi!

Weaknesses

- Timescale of project was reduced by 9 months. Project originally programmed to run over 3 whole years, but in fact was 2 years 3 months. This made programming difficult to coincide with school holidays, and doing fieldwork in summer months.
- Contraction of timescale led to less time for set up and preparation, activities had to start immediately. Also at the end of the project there was less time for collecting information and analysis.
- The 31-40 year age group not easily reached, participants largely falling in the 51-60 age range.
- Difficulty in engaging the landowners caring for the historic landscape.
- TAYO website never achieved the level of dynamic interaction required to give participants a platform to share experiences and organise activities which could have continued after the end the project.
- Loss of participants' interest, at the end of the Exploration Tywi! activities.
- Change in staffing led to loss of Welsh language skills and some discontinuity of activities.

Opportunities

- Seek further resources to continue working with the enthusiastic and committed participants and to develop areas of research.
- To broadcast the success of Exploration Tywi! to other community groups and organisations.
- To share the methodology, experiences and successes of the project in order that similar projects may develop elsewhere.
- Develop research into new areas, beyond the TAYO project boundary.
- To raise awareness of the project to the local population and to continue to present the results to the local community

- Present opportunities for further discovery within the Tywi valley building upon Exploration Tywi's results.
- Develop a 'friends of DAT' group to continue the regular events and activities

Threats

- Lack of resources to support participants' continued research.
- Reduction in support leading to participants' losing enthusiasm for continuing research in the area.
- Reduced time of project reduced the opportunities available to continue the research.
- End of the project resulting in lack of opportunities to continue fostering links with partners and other organisations
- Loss of interest or will to attend activities at DAT due to external influences, weather etc
- Poor marketing/publicity of Exploration Tywi! leading to loss of project in people's memory.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

January to March 2009

16th February 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Short talk at Ammanford Archaeology and History Society	c100 participants
21st February 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Exhibition of Exploration Tywi at Carmarthenshire Antiquarians Day School 'Tywi a River Through Time'	c100
26th February 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Exhibition at Llandeilo and District Civic Trust	c20
Saturday 28th February 2009	Graveyard Survey Training day in St Teilo's Churchyard Recording Memorials	20 participants
6th March 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Focus group meeting at Llangadog village hall	c20
24th March 2009	Graveyard Survey Training day in St Teilo's Churchyard Recording Memorials	11 participants 6 repeat attendees

April to May 2009

Saturday 4th April	Archaeological Building Recording An opportunity to learn archaeological techniques recording a small earth and stone building near Dryslwyn.	9 participants
Tuesday 7th April	Graveyard Survey Location: St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo As well as recording memorials a survey was carried out using an Electronic Distance Meter to establish a more detailed churchyard plan. Led by Phil Poucher	9 participants - all repeat attendees
Thursday 16th April	Reviewing the Evidence Location: Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Carmarthen St, Llandeilo A tour round the Historic Environment Record and an opportunity to look at the records and historic maps held at the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.	8 participants
Saturday 18th April	Graveyard Survey Location: St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo A day in the churchyard recording memorials.	9 participants 5 repeat attendees 4 new
Tuesday 21st April	Reviewing the Evidence Location: Carmarthen Record Office, Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen A tour round the Carmarthen Records Office and a chance to look at estate maps and sale catalogues	12 participants

Tuesday 28th April	<p>Reviewing the Evidence Location: Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Carmarthen St, Llandeilo</p> <p>Researching the information held on the Tywi valley, looking at old maps, archaeological records and other historical documentation.</p>	4 participants
Tuesday 5th May 10am – 4pm	<p>Reviewing the evidence Location: Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Carmarthen St, Llandeilo</p> <p>We will be researching the information held on the Tywi valley, looking at old maps, archaeological records and other historical documentation.</p>	4 participants
Tuesday 12th May 10am – 3pm	<p>Hedgerow Survey <i>Location: To be confirmed</i></p> <p>A number of tours and guided walks with an archaeologist and an ecologist will look at the secrets that hedgerows can hold about the past.</p>	7 participants
Thursday 14th May 10am – 4pm	<p>Reviewing the Evidence Location: Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Carmarthen St, Llandeilo</p> <p>We will be researching the information held on the Tywi valley, looking at old maps, archaeological records and other historical documentation.</p>	5 participants
Saturday 16th May 10am – 3pm	<p>Hedgerow Survey <i>Location: To be confirmed</i></p> <p>A number of tours and guided walks with an archaeologist and an ecologist will look at the secrets that hedgerows can hold about the past.</p>	8 participants
Tuesday 19th May 6 - 8pm	<p>Reviewing the evidence Location: Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Carmarthen St, Llandeilo</p> <p>We will be researching the information held on the Tywi valley, looking at old maps, archaeological records and other historical documentation.</p>	7 participants
Thursday 21st May	<p>Traditional Buildings Open Day Location: Home Farm, Dinefwr</p> <p><i>Exploration Tywi stand, distribution of newsletters, display and registration for 'House Detectives'</i></p>	16 registrations for 'House Detectives'

June to September 2009

Tuesday 2nd June 10am – 3pm	<p>Hedgerow Survey <i>Location: To be confirmed</i></p> <p>A number of tours and guided walks with an archaeologist and an ecologist will look at the secrets that hedgerows can hold about the past.</p>	7 participants
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Thursday 11th June	'Our Tywi Past' Location: Civic Hall Llandeilo An open evening at the with specialists from DAT, Carmarthenshire County Museum and regional geologist.	35 participants & 20 registered artefacts
Monday 22nd June	Prime Cymru event Location: Llandovery Market Exploration Tywi! display and distribution of newsletter	
Saturday 27th June	Checking the findings <i>Locations: Y Garn</i> A field study day investigating old enclosures and derelict cottages revealed through desk-based investigation	3 participants
7th July 2009	Checking the findings – exploring and recording sites at Y Garn	4 participants – all repeat attendees
15th July 2009	Checking the findings – Wernfawr farmstead	3 participants - all repeat attendees
20-21st July 2009	Sensing the Past - Geophysics at Llys Brychan	3 participants – all repeat attendees
25th July 2009	Festival of British Archaeology – Exploration Tywi! Open Day Town Treasure hunt - prize Hedgerow quiz Graveyard recording	In excess of 87 attendees
28th July 2009	Checking the findings – Tour of Dinefwr Park and excavation	11 – 7 new participants
15th August 2009	Llandeilo Show	
19th August 2009	Checking the findings - Beili Dyffryn stone walls with Stuart Fry.	8 participants – 3 new participants
25th August 2009	Reviewing the evidence – Carmarthen Archives – Rummage!	10 participants – 3 new participants
27th August 2009	House Detectives – Training afternoon	17 participants – 8 new participants
8th September 2009	Reviewing the evidence – Tour of National Library National Monuments Record	9 participants – 4 new participants

12th September 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Presentation to Council for British Archaeology in National Forum for Community Archaeology	
22nd September 2009	Hedgerow Recording – Y Garn	5 participants – all repeat attendees
23rd September 2009	Business Seminar – House Detectives	
23rd September 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Evening Talk to Dyfed Family History Society	In excess of 8 attendees

October to December 2009

6th – 10th October 2009	Testing the Theories Beili Dyffryn – A week long evaluation excavation of a medieval longhouse and the survey of a nearby Neolithic chambered tomb	8 participants
9th October 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Dyfed Archaeological Trust AGM. Talk to Trust members about Exploration Tywi!	Over 40 attendees
10th October 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Beili Dyffryn Evaluation Open Day for members of the general public. Transport provided.	12 visitors to Open Day.
10th October 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Home farm Open Day. Display and exhibition of traditional building materials. Exhibition of Exploration Tywi! Activities. Advertising specifically House Detectives.	
13th – 17th October 2009	Testing the Theories Wernfawr Evaluation. A week long evaluation excavation of a deserted farmstead.	13 participants
13th October 2009	County Councillors training day at Gelli Aur with Carmarthenshire County Council.	c. 12 county councillors
17th October 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Wernfawr Evaluation Open Day for members of the general public. Transport provided.	10 visitors to Open Day
20th – 24th October 2009	Testing the Theories Danyrallt excavation. A week long evaluation excavation of a lost mansion in the Tywi valley	8 participants

24th October 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Danyralt Evaluation Open Day for members of the general public. Transport provided.	12 visitors to Open Day
10th – 14th November 2009	Testing the Theories Evaluation at Llys Brychan. A week long evaluation excavation of an enclosure around the Roman villa.	14 participants
14th November 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Llys Brychan Open Day for members of the general public. Transport provided.	16 visitors
12th November 2009	House Detectives. Speakers: Dr John Davies - geology of the valley and how it influences the building materials of the area, Duncan Schlee –how to investigate and discover the history of their homes	Over 30 people attended
18th November 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Official Opening of Home Farm Traditional Buildings Centre at Home Farm. Exhibition on Exploration Tywi activities provided.	
20th November 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Evening Christmas party As part of the Llandeilo's " Festival of the Senses," Dyfed Archaeological Trust opened its doors to the public to invite everyone to learn all about the Exploration Tywi Project	Over 100 people signed in – musicians – Y Fari Lwyd, Calennig
30th November 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Bethlehem Community Hall– Talk about Exploration Tywi! And recent activities and investigations in Dyffryn Ceidrych.	15 attendees
1st December 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Teacher's inset evening. 4.30 – 6.30 pm Also RCAHMW, National Trust, DAT, TAYO, Carmarthenshire Reference Library, Carmarthenshire Museum.	16 Teachers attended from the project area and just beyond
5th December 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Carmarthenshire Archaeology Day School Ferryside A talk on Exploration Tywi!	Attended by 40
8th December 2009	Talks and Exhibitions Builder's lunch at Home Farm- displays and exhibitions on Exploration Tywi!	

January to March 2010

23rd February 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Attended Focus Group evening at Bethlehem Village Hall. Exploration Tywi! leaflets distributed.	
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26th February 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Exploration Tywi! Friends of Llandeilo Library talk in St Teilo's church. Presentation on the project and results so far. c.15 attendees	15 members in attendance
27th February 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Exploration Tywi! Exhibition and Display at a Geopark event 'Footsteps through Time' at the Castle Hotel, Llandovery 25 new volunteers signed up to take part in future activities.	25 people signed up for Exploration Tywi! news
27th February 2010	Graveyard Recording at St Teilo's Graveyard as part of the conservation day activities.	2 participants
6th March 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Exploration Tywi! Exhibition and Display at Council for British Archaeology AGM at Llandybie	c.120 attendees
10th March 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Meeting re: Festival of British Archaeology involving BBNP, local people and storytellers Including site visit to Garn Goch.	
11th March 2010	'Valley at War' launch evening - displays from Carmarthen Museum, National Trust and Welsh Battlefields Society. Over 25 volunteer participants took part. A number of participants volunteered to both record and have recorded their oral histories of the Tywi valley during WWII	c25+ attendees with participants also involved in organising the evening.
26th March 2010	Talks and Exhibitions Group of 7 storytellers come for a guided tour and discover the resources available in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.	

April to May 2010

13th April 2010	Unearthing the Past Excavations at Wernfawr	
17th April 2010	Open Day at Wernfawr – guided tours of the site	2 visitors
25th April 2010	Recording at Typica Orchard Building	1 participant
25th April 2010	Open Day at Wernfawr – guided tours of the site	3 visitors

26th 2010	April	Visit to Wernfawr by Llangadog Primary School	34 pupils
27th 2010	April	Visit to Wernfawr by Llandeilo County Primary School	32 pupils
28th 2010	April	Visit to Wernfawr by Meidrim Primary School	c30 pupils
29th 2010	April	Visit to Wernfawr by Ysgol Teilo Sant	27 pupils
30th 2010	April	Visit to Wernfawr by Cwmifor School	9 pupils
1st May 2010		Open Day at Wernfawr – guided tours of the site	4 Visitors
3rd May 2010		Open Day at Wernfawr – guided tours of the site	15 visitors

June to September 2010

17th 2010	June	Focus Group Evening – Travelling through Time. A walking tour of historic routes and trackways in and around Llandeilo.	32 participants
5th July 2010		School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Llandeilo CP school Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Sarah Orr (storyteller- English medium)	31 children
6th July 2010		School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Teilo Sant Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Liz Evans (storyteller- Welsh medium)	29 children
7th July 2010		School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Ffairfach Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Liz Evans (storyteller- Welsh medium)	35 children
8th July 2010		School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Cwrt Henri Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Judy Roberts (storyteller- English medium)	27 children
9th July 2010		School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Cwmifor Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Celia Parsons (storyteller- English medium)	9 children
11th – 12th July 2010		Lan Farm Building Recording – 6 participants	

12th July 2010	School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Llangadog Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Eysyllt Harker (storyteller- Welsh medium)	25 children
13th July 2010	School visits to Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort – Nantgaredig Participants – Stuart Fry, Matt Davies, Eysyllt Harker (storyteller- Welsh medium)	30? children
15th July 2010	Guided walk to Garn Goch –	4 participants all repeat attendees
31st July – 1st August 2010	Garn Goch Festival of Archaeology. Two days of activities and exhibitions taking place at Bethlehem village hall and Garn Goch hillfort. Jointly organised through Exploration Tywi!, DAT and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Over 500 visitors over the weekend with many participants spending the whole weekend helping and organising the event.	C 500 visitors and participants involved in setup and running event
21st August 2010	Stand at Llandeilo Show	
2nd September 2010	Workshop for Tywi Traders – researching businesses in the Tywi Valley	
2nd September 2010	Farmer training event for Tirwedd Tywi	
7th September 2010	Talk to the Abbeycwmhir Trust re Exploration Tywi – invited to give a talk on the activities and projects carried out in ET. 15 attendees.	15 attendees
11th + 12th September 2010	Exhibition and Stand at Tywi Food Festival	
14th September 2010	Attend Heritage Bursary Workshop at Dinefwr Home Farm	

October to December 2010

Monday 11th October 2010	Post excavation pot washing and analysis with Dee Williams of Lampeter University	8 participants, 2 new attendees
Thursday 21st October 2010	Oral history recording of Miss Aileen Stephens, Valley at War.	1 participant
15 November 2010	Discover Steering Group	
18th November 2010	House Detectives – Investigating Lan Lash farm with Geoff Ward of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments	7 participants, 3 new attendees
19th November 2010	Parti Nadolig – Festival of the Senses, focus group evening. Exhibitions and displays of Exploration Tywi events and activities in 2010.	100+ visiting

January to March 2011

5th February 2011	Celebrate Exploration Tywi! A community exploring their past. A day of talks and exhibitions illustrating and disseminating the results of the project	Over 150 attendees
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April 2011

4th April 2011	Llansadwrn County Women's Group, a talk to c.16 members of the Llansadwrn and Llanwrda communities	c16
13th April 2011	An talk to the Friends of the Carmarthen Archives about Exploration Tywi!	c24

Forthcoming

28th April 2011	A talk to Kidwelly Local History Group about Exploration Tywi!	
1st December 2011	A talk to the Towy Valley Association about Exploration Tywi!	