

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AND
SOCIETY FOR LANDSCAPE STUDIES

Autumn Conference, Saturday 19th October 2019
St. Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, CF5 6XB

Recent Work in Welsh Landscape History

0910-0945 **Registration**

0945 **Welcome and administrative issues.**

0950 **Location, Location, Location: Neolithic monuments in the Walton Basin**

Bill Britnell, Research Associate, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

1030 **The impact of the Roman Army on the Landscape of Wales**

Dr. Peter Guest, Reader in Roman Archaeology, University of Cardiff,
and Leah Reynolds, University of Cardiff.

1120 Light Refreshments

1140 **Strata Florida: the Sacred Landscapes Project**

David Austin, Principal Investigator of the AHRC Sacred Landscapes Project

1220 **The Severn Sea in the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries**

Evan T. Jones, Senior Lecturer in Economic and Social History,
University of Bristol

1300 Buffet Lunch and Society for Landscape Studies AGM

1400 **Estate landscapes in Wales**

Shaun Evans, Director of the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates, Bangor
University

Philip Nanney Williams, Author of *Nannau: A Rich Tapestry of Welsh History*

1450 **The Minera Project.**

Speaker provided by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust- to be agreed.

1530 Light Refreshments.

1550 **Building a house on sand**

Eurwyn William, Independent Scholar

1630 Further questions and discussion

1700 Conference ends

The conference fee (including buffet lunch and morning and afternoon light refreshments) is £35 (£32 for members of Cambrian Archaeological Association, Society for Landscape Studies and full time students).

Please make it clear under which of these three you are claiming the £3 discount

RECENT WORK IN WELSH LANDSCAPE HISTORY, ST FAGANS 2019

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS.

Location, Location, Location: Neolithic monuments in the Walton Basin.

Recent work in the Walton Basin in the Welsh Borderland has revealed an extensive complex of Neolithic ritual and ceremonial monuments constructed over a period of well over a millennium. The presentation explores the reasons for the clustering of monuments and their legacy in later prehistoric and Roman landscapes.

The Impact of the Roman Army on the landscape of Wales

The Romans' success as empire builders is in a very large way explained by their capacity to concentrate large numbers of professional, well-equipped soldiers against their enemies for long periods of time. The invasion of Britain in AD 43 involved an army of about 40,000 men and over the following decades all of the native tribes in modern-day England and Wales were incorporated into the new province of the Roman Empire, some by force of arms and others by treaty. The invaders found the natives in Wales particularly troublesome and for the years between 50 and 120 an estimated 25,000 Roman soldiers were garrisoned in this part of western Britain (estimated to represent between 10 and 17% of the total population). The ability to maintain a standing army on this scale and over such a wide area is one of the defining characteristics of the Roman period, and understanding exactly how the soldiers were supplied and provisioned has become an increasingly important question. Unfortunately, and despite the accumulation of new material in recent years, we still have only a very rudimentary understanding of the military diet, or where and how the cereals, vegetables, fruit and meat consumed in forts and fortresses were produced. Overcoming this state of affairs is crucial if we are to understand the Roman army's impact on the countryside in Wales, particularly around military sites.

This paper consists of 2 parts. The first is a summary of the results of a ground-breaking study that explores the potential for strontium isotope analysis ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) of faunal dental enamel to provide new insights for the provisioning of animals to the legionary fortress at Caerleon in south-east Wales. The second is an overview of the evidence for the military influence on the rural landscape of Roman Wales using a variety of archaeologically-excavated artefacts.

Strata Florida: The Sacred Landscapes Project.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of its initiative on the future of land use in the UK, have made a major grant to the Sacred Landscapes Project. This is an interdisciplinary study of monastic landscapes taking a theorised and comparative approach to understanding the meaning of landscapes and how this is transmitted over the *longue durée*. This lecture will outline the programme and how we are proceeding at Strata Florida.

The Severn Sea in the fifteenth- sixteenth centuries

In 1540, the merchant and geographer, Roger Barlow, of Pembrokeshire, defined the "see called severne" as all those waters east of the Scilly Isles "betwene the principalities of wales and englande". This paper will consider how far the Severn Sea/ Mor Hafren can be considered a coherent economic space in the late medieval/ Tudor period, in the manner of Braudel's

“Mediterranean World”. What bound the communities around the Severn Sea together? How integrated were they? What was the nature of the Sea's urban hierarchy and its commercial interactions? Drawing In part on recent research published in my co -edited volume *The World of the Newport Medieval Ship* (2018), this paper will consider how far Mor Hafren and its tributaries constituted a meaningful region in the era and how this area related to the broader world of Europe's Atlantic Facade.

Estate landscape in Wales.

From the late-medieval period, through to the early decades of the 20th century, the majority of land in Wales was enveloped in a complex patchwork of landed estates. The management of these estates had profound impacts on the landscapes of Wales. This session will analyse some of the ways in which the landowners utilised and fashioned the landscape to communicate their desired image, with a particular emphasis on the research potential of estate maps and archives. Shaun Evans' introductory survey will be followed by a Philip Nanney Williams' case study of the Nannau estate and transformations of the Snowdonia landscape.

The Minera Project.

Lead Mining at Minera finally ceased in 1914 leaving behind large spoil heaps. which up to the 1950s were worked for gravel. The whole site posed a threat to health due to lead, zinc and cadmium in the spoil heaps and there was concern that it posed a threat to drinking water supplies. In 1988 work began on cleansing the site and reclamation. The spoil heaps had protected the archaeology of a working lead mine. The changes in the technology of extracting the lead ore could now be identified. The knowledge formed from the archaeology was used in the historical reconstruction of buildings, dressing floors, and machinery. The whole site is in the care of Wrexham County Borough Council and open for visitors.

Building a house on sand.

I will discuss the following linked themes: D. Lleufer Thomas, Iorwerth C. Peate, and the creation of a traditional architecture for Wales; an examination of Thomas's ground- breaking recording of traditional buildings for the Royal Commission on Land of Wales report of 1896; how Peate in *The Welsh House* and their works interpreted too widely that and other evidence; how Peter Smith, Bill Britnell, Richard Suggett and others have now placed the “Welsh” longhouse more firmly into context.

Recent Work in Welsh Landscape History Conference

BOOKING FORM

Name (s).....

Postal address

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Postcode.....

Email address.....,,

Telephone number if not on email.....

The Conference fee is £35 (£32 for members of Cambrian Archaeological Association, Society for Landscape Studies, and Full Time Students) which includes a buffet lunch and morning and afternoon light refreshments.

I wish to book.....place(s) for the Conference and enclose a cheque/postal order for £....., payable to “Society for Landscape Studies”.

Please state under which of the three categories you are paying the reduced fee.....

Please state any particular dietary requirements.....

.....

This completed form with your cheque or postal order should be posted to:
Brian Rich (SLS), 11Adams Grove, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 8NX
Please email brianrich457@btinternet.com if you have any queries.