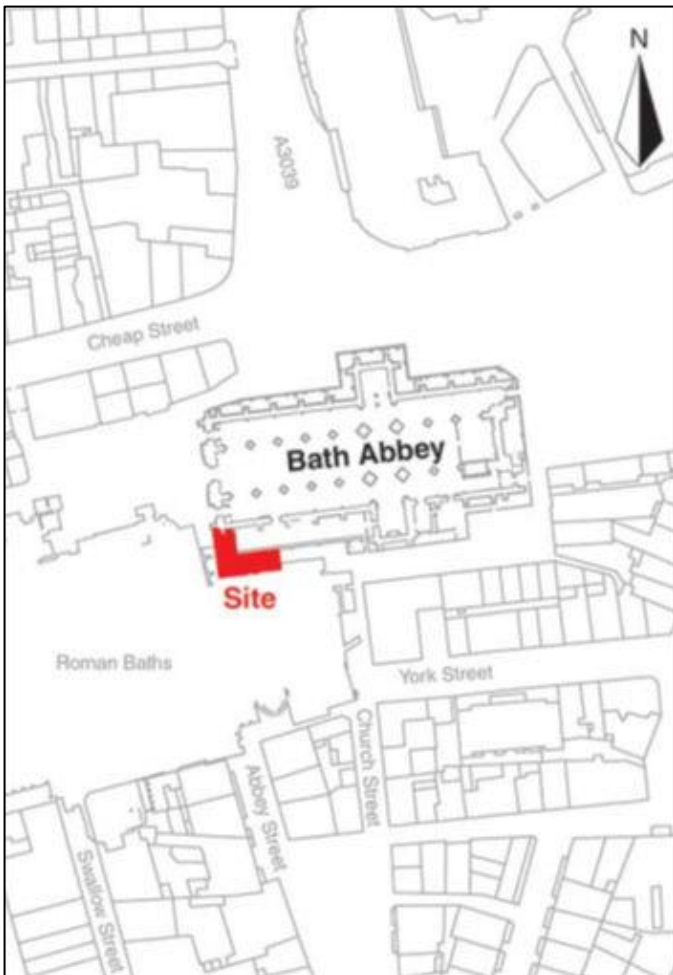




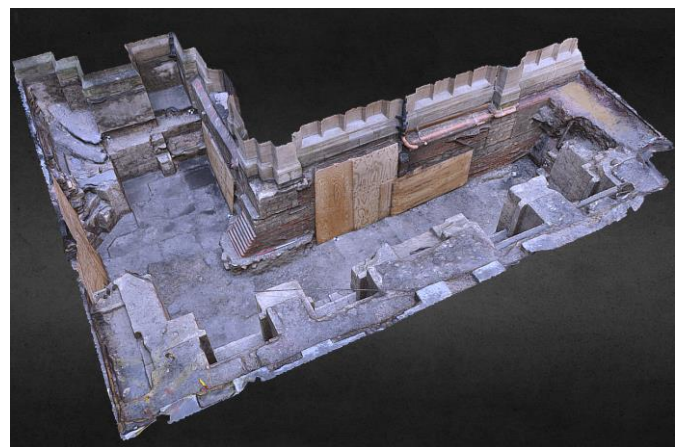
## Bath Abbey – Behind The Scenes



In 2019 Cotswold Archaeology undertook an excavation at Bath Abbey as part of Phase One of Bath Abbey's Footprint Project, a major programme to repair the Abbey's collapsing floor, install an eco-friendly heating system using energy from Bath's hot springs, and create new spaces and facilities which will enable the Abbey to improve its worship, hospitality and service to the community, visitors and the city of Bath. As part of Phase 1

of the Footprint project, some initial excavation work took place earlier in 2019 to shore up the foundations and to create some of the new underground spaces along the south side of the building, just outside the Abbey shop (known as the Jackson extension).

Rather than creating the underground spaces from scratch, the Abbey was able to use a small area of former cellars which date from the late 1750s. These became infilled when several buildings, known as the Kingston Buildings, were demolished around 1834 and the resultant rubble used to backfill the cellars. The first stage of work involved the monitoring, by Cotswold Archaeology, of the mechanical removal the cellar infill down to the old cellar floors. Following this, Cotswold Archaeology commenced removal, by hand excavation, of the deposits underlying the former cellar floors down to the construction level required for the new store rooms.



*A 3D view of the cellar with all backfill removed*

The excavation uncovered a compacted gravel and stone construction deposit which had been

## FEATURES

laid down in a single event, although it had been compacted into several layers during its deposition. This deposit may have formed a rafted foundation for construction of the Norman Abbey; a wall footing relating to the Norman Abbey was recorded overlying this deposit in the edge of the trench. However, similar deposits were uncovered during earlier works at the adjacent Roman Baths, where they were believed to be the base of a Roman podium associated with the Roman Baths and Temple complex. The southern edge of the deposit had been cut away by a trench whose location suggested it had been excavated to rob stones from a wall associated with the deposit.



A mortar surface, identified in the deepest part of the trench, was likely associated with a cellar of the Abbey House, which was constructed in the 17th century to accommodate visitors to Bath. At some stage this cellar was infilled with a large amount of residual Roman material, and around 1750 new cellars were constructed when several houses, depicted on 18th-century mapping as the 'Kingston Buildings' abutting the south-west corner of the Abbey, were constructed. These cellars featured several light wells and at least two fireplaces. They were infilled in the early 1830s when the Kingston Buildings were demolished prior to construction of the moat around the Abbey.

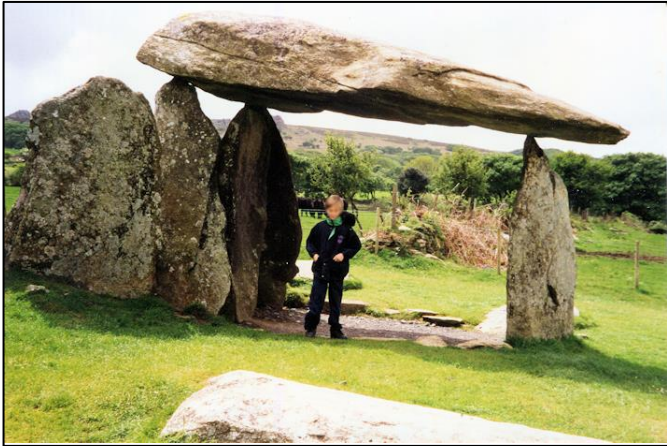


The base of a wooden coffin, which had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the later cellar in the late 1750s, lay to the south of the robber trench. Any skeletal remains were probably removed and re-buried at that time, as only three small fragments of bone were found within the remains of the coffin. Several coffin nails, and a possible coffin plate, were associated with the remains of the coffin - a large piece of which was recovered intact. The coffin is likely to be of 17th-century date or earlier. Another probable burial lay adjacent though was not excavated as it lay beyond the required limits of the excavation.



CAS visited Bath Abbey on Saturday 13th July 2019.

## Pentre Ifan



Pentre Ifan is one of the most impressive chambered tombs in Wales. It consists of a tilted capstone dipping towards the nevern valley to the west, placed upon three upright megaliths. The blocking stone in the doorway forecourt area was packed with small stones around the base.

There are many antiquarian accounts of the site, the earliest dating back to 1603. The site appears to have altered since Richard Tongue painted it in 1835. Some of the stones belonging to the chamber were visible.

Frances Lynch Llewellyn has suggested that the tomb was built in two phases. Phase one consisted of the chamber, uprights and capstone with a low square cairn. Phase two saw the construction of a low mound, perhaps with the capstone left exposed.

The mound itself does not survive, the site yielded a number of flint flakes and fragments of an open bowl of Welsh / Western pottery.

CAS visited Pentre Ifan in 1996.

## Maen Ceti

Also known as Arthur's Stone, Cefn Bryn or Coetan Arthur, it is located on the Gower Peninsular.



Dominating the skyline as one walks towards the barrow cemetery is a massive double chambered stone monument right on the brow of the northern slope of Cefn Bryn. This exploits a huge piece of the local conglomerate, transported here by ice. People exploited its dramatic location by undercutting it to insert uprights to create a massive tomb. The monument sits in a wet hollow and a stone ring surrounds it. Originally the capstone would have measured 4m in length by 3m in width and 2.2m in height. It is estimated it weighed between 30 and 35 tons. As to its age, local legend likes us to believe that this was the pebble thrown out in irritation from King Arthur the giant's shoe during his visit to Llanelli. As to whether it is Neolithic or later in - different archaeologists suggest both Neolithic and Bronze Age dating for it and currently this wonderful monument remains a mystery to us.

The recent history is interesting. According to George Nash, the capstone appears to have been restored to its place during the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is quoted in the Myvrian Archaeology of Wales (1870) as "one of three

## FEATURES

mighty achievements of the isle of Britain". In 1695, Edward Lhwyd used the English name of Arthur's Stone.

CAS visited Maen Ceti on Saturday 9th July 2011.

## Highlights from the Magazines

### Current World Archaeology Jun-Jul 2021

Understanding Hawaiian temples - A new angle on the role of ritual sites

Jerash - Revealing a peripheral part of an ancient city in northern Jordan

Discovering Roman women's lives - From slaves to a senatorial lady in Geneva

Orokolo Bay - Archaeology: Western science or global practice?

Ancient Egyptian animal cemetery - the Port of Berenice

Queen Adelaide's Castle in the Tuscan Marches

### Current World Archaeology Aug-Sept 2021

The Antikythera Mechanism - An Ancient Greek Machine Rewriting the History of Technology

A Legionary Fortress at Valkenburg - Discovering a Springboard for the Conquest of Britannia

Cloggs Cave Revisited - A Temporary Hunting Camp or Secluded Retreat and Source of Magical Supplies

Nero - Monster or Maligned

The Lost City of Norchia

Epic Iran - A New Exhibition at the V & A

### Minerva - Archaeology & Art Jul-Aug 2021

The People's Princes? - The Nero Exhibition at the British Museum

Secrets of the Galloway Hoard - an exhibition of the Viking Hoard discovered in 2014

Echos of Iberia - Influence of the Ancient World on Picasso

In Search of Ancient Ionia - Antiquarians in Ionia

Banquets - The Theatre of Feasting

### British Archaeology Jul-Aug 2021

Bootham Crescent - Sharing Memories, Shaping Place

Conflict Archaeology at Caernarfon Castle

Collecting Mammoths: a Lost World on the Norfolk Coast

Wading through History - A Rare Medieval Bridge at Ancrum, Scottish Borders

Migrants and Natives in EBA Britain

A Saxon God? - Dating the Cerne Abbas Giant

### Current Archaeology July 2021

Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard - Secrets of a Unique Viking Age collection from SW Scotland

Carmarthenshire's Missing Monument - One of the Biggest Excavations in Wales

Iron in the Time of Anarchy - Investigating a Smithy Site forged in 12 Century Civil War

Who Will Deliver Me from this Turbulent Priest?  
- the Memory of Thomas Becket

Nero's Britain - Rebellion, Reconstruction and a Revised Reputation

### Current Archaeology August 2021

Northampton's chequered history - Uncovering Britain's first medieval chess workshop

Interpreting Dover Castle's Great Tower - Angevin innovation, or a Medieval White Elephant

Reimagining the Past - Experiments in Construction at Butser Ancient Farm

Sailing Ahead - The Latest News from the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company

A Golden Anniversary - Marking 50 years of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit

## Llangynwyd Castle

Llangynwyd Castle (Castell Coch) occupies a strong position on a promontory between the ravines of Nant y Castell and Cwm Cae-Lloi. On the north west the promontory, beyond the castle, one may denote a large bailey or an Iron Age fort. The southern half of this outer line has been destroyed near Castell Farm. The castle is 600 m away from the village and is unable to see movement along the Llynfi valley which is 3 km to the east.



It was strategically important, as it constituted an advance base posed by the Welsh lords of Afon.

The castle is not recorded before 1246 but Tir Iarll is thought to have been appropriated before the death of Robert, Earl of Gloucester (1147) possibly during the dissention between the four sons of Caradog ab Iestyn.

At least two phases of masonry are assigned to the 13th century but the line of the curtain wall suggests that an earlier castle ringwork may have existed here. One indication of the early appropriation of Tir Iarll is the identification of Llangynwyd as a chapel of St James of Kenfig held by Tewkesbury Abbey. An earlier castle was built at Llangynwyd to secure the western flank followed by Newcastle by 1106 and Kenfig and Neath by 1130. These castles posed a threat to Afon whose lord led assaults on the western castles in 1183-84 although Llangynwyd is not mentioned then or in later Welsh attacks on Kenfig between 1228 - 1243.

Llangynwyd is first mentioned in a Margam deed of 1246. In 1257 the castle was taken by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd following his attack on Gower. It is improbable that the castle was restored by the following year when William

## SUPPLEMENT

Scurlage is recorded as its constable. The lordship had not recovered by 1262.

The major restoration was undertaken by Gilbert de Clare, especially the great gatehouse. During Madogs rebellion of 1294-95 Welsh insurgents in Glamorgan were led by Morgan ap Maredudd. The inquisition following Earl Gilbert's death in 1295 records that Langynwyd had been burned during the uprising. It appears that it was never restored.

CAS visited Llangynwyd Castle on Saturday 9th July 2011.

## Quiz

1. Beetle regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt.
2. Formative and Classic stage society of Oaxaca, Mexico.
3. City where, in AD 325, a church council denounced Arianism.
4. Empire of Babylonia conquered by the Assyrians in 1157 BC.
5. S... C... , Mesolithic settlement in the Vale of Pickering, Yorkshire.
6. Roman emperor from AD 337 to 350.
7. Gorgon killed by Perseus.
8. Middle Eastern city-state founded c.2300 BC.
9. Fertility goddess of the Phoenicians.
10. German city, location of the Porta Nigra Roman gate.

## Celtic Crosses

South Wales is renowned for its collection of Celtic crosses, to which many books have been devoted. A few of these intriguing monuments that we have visited over the years are set out below.

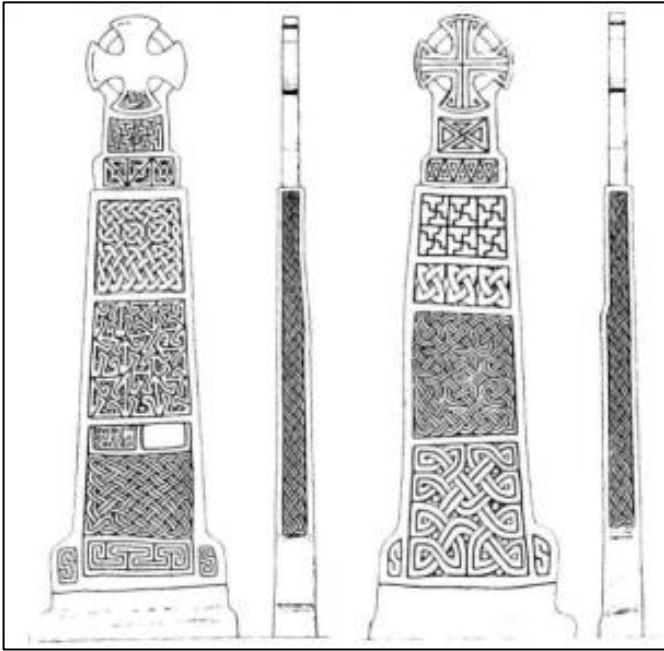
### Carew Cross



This large and elaborate cross with its sandstone top and dolerite base is dedicated to Hywel who became joint ruler of Deheubarth in 1033 and was killed two years later. Accordingly it is normally dated to this period. However, it is structurally the same as Nevern Cross, which is dated to the late tenth, early eleventh century, so the inscription could be a later addition. The cross was moved back from its position on an outcrop overlooking the road in

## SUPPLEMENT

the 20th century, whether this outcrop represented its original position is unknown.

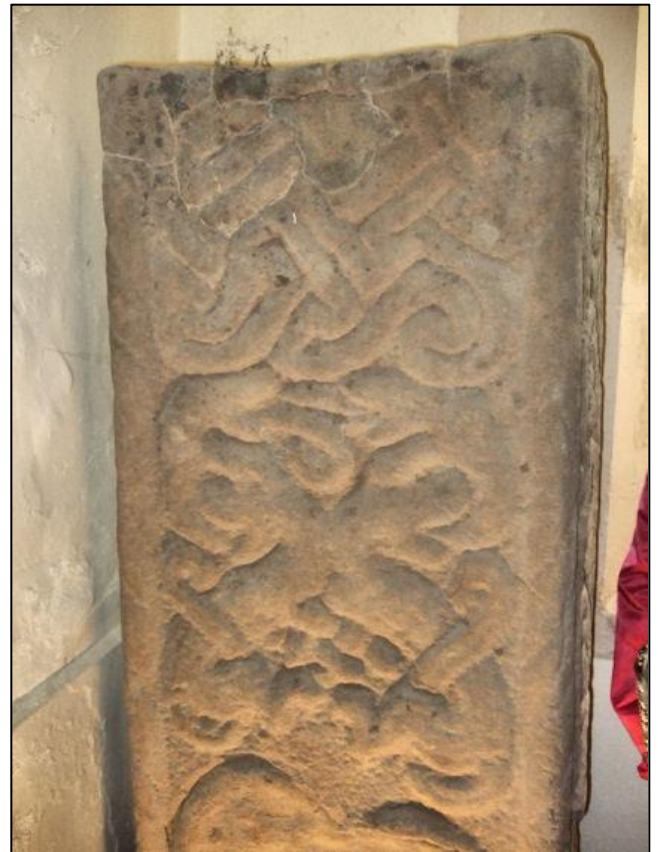


CAS visited Carew on Saturday 15th June 2013.

### St Nicholas Church, Penally



An elegant 1.9 metre high slab-cross is an unusual amalgamation of Northern decorative styles, carved from a single block of sandstone. The decorative crosshead is composed of corded ring-twists formed around the central boss of a looped knot. The shaft has a single vine-scroll of leaves and bunches of grapes, a conventional Northumberland motif.



Part of a second cross is also to be found inside Penally Church, originally thought to be a coffin lid. This cross is made of sandstone and is 165 cm tall displaying two beasts facing each other with gaping jaws. A mortice hole at the top of the shaft shows it once formed part of a composite cross.

CAS visited Penally on Saturday 8th June 2019.

## SUPPLEMENT

### Margam Stones Museum

The Cross of Conbelin originally stood in Margam village street near the church. The base has a hunting scene. Figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John flank the cross. A partly legible half-uncial inscription names Conbelin as the donor: CONBELIN P[O]SUIT HANC CRUCM P[RO] [A]NIMA RI[C] - Conbelin erected this cross for the soul of Ric... Date: 10th Century.



CAS visited Margam Stones Museum on Thursday 30th April 2015.

### St Illtud's Church, Llantwit major

The 1.9 metre high Houelt Cross is one of the earliest in Wales. Carved from a slab of local gritstone, both sides of the large circular head and splayed shaft are carved with intricate fret decoration. The rim at the top of the head has remains of a band of key-patterns. The Latin inscription on the front of the shaft states that Houelt prepared it for the Soul of his father Res. Houelt is thought to be Hywel ap Rhys, king of Glywysing, who died in 884.





Also to be found in St Illtud's Church is the Samson Cross which stands 3m high and may have originally had a disc type crosshead. The front inscription records that Samson placed his cross for his soul; on the reverse, the founder saint, Iltyd, Samson the king, Samuel and Ebisar are commemorated.



CAS visited Llantwit Major on Thursday 10th July 2014.

## Future Events

### Zoom Lectures

Our 2021/22 season of lectures will start with  
7 October - The Sutton Hoo Mound 1 Ship- its character, contexts and a new reality by Martin Carver, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Archaeology, University of York;

21 October- The World Before Us: When humans met Neanderthals (and Denisovans) by Prof Tom Higham, Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Vienna.

(All subject to change.)

## Links to Websites

### Recorded Previous Lectures:

[Leicestershire Fieldworkers](#)

[Scotland's Rock Art Project](#)

[Archaeological Services Youtube](#)

[Callander's Landscape Youtube](#)

[Archaeology of Abbey Cwmhir](#)

[Drone over Abbey Cwmhir](#)

[HS2 Archaeology](#)

## Answers to Quiz

1. Scarab 2. Zapotec 3. Nicaea 4. Kassite 5. Star Carr 6. Constans 7. Medusa 8. Akkad 9. Asterte 10. Trier