

Society of Museum Archaeologists

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
36 Caroline Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 1DQ

22 June 2010

Dear Sir

The Glamorgan – Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd

I have been advised that the HM Revenue & Customs and the Trust have been in discussion over a potential legacy debt that, if realised, could force the Trust into administration and probable liquidation.

In the short term this could have disastrous consequences as the provision of key Historic Environment Services in South Wales would be irreparably disrupted. This would particularly impact on planning services and those development works where the effect on the historic environment is a major consideration.

In the longer term there would be a detrimental impact on public benefit, education and well-being with the loss of a key centre for the provision of our knowledge and understanding of the Historic Environment of South Wales. This could not be easily replaced, and there would be consequential costs to national and local government bodies, and a considerable loss of esteem.

I would therefore request that you explore all possible avenues in trying to find a solution that will enable the Trust to be able to continue its works unimpaired.

From our museum perspective the Welsh Archaeological Trusts have been the envy of the wider archaeological community since they were formed in the 1970s and we are well aware of the excellent work they do. They have set a standard that other parts of the United Kingdom still strive to emulate. And if I am allowed a personal note, I worked for the Glamorgan-Gwent Trust in the late 1970s during its early years and well recall the feelings of excitement and achievement as we 'rescued' information from historic Cowbridge, Caldicott/Caerwent, Cardiff, to name but a few locations, and set up a system to monitor the ever-demanding planning processes.

I do hope that a successful solution will be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ALLEN, Chairman, Society of Museum Archaeologists
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