



**ALGAO:Cymru Meeting
Virtual Meeting
24 June 2020 @ 1pm**

1. In attendance:

Chris Martin (CM) (Chair) – Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Abi McCullough (AM) – Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Alice Pyper (AP) – Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Alice Thorne (AT) – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Jenny Emmett (JE) – Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Nina Steele (NS) – Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
John Lawson (JL) – ALGAO:UK Chair
John G. Roberts (JGR) – Snowdonia National Park Authority
Judith Doyle (JD) – Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Tomos Ll. Jones (TLIJ) (Vice-Chair) – Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

2. Apologies:

Steve Greuter (SG) – Wrexham County Borough Council

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

Section 1.1

CM - Constitution has been amended.

AM - Name misspelt in the minutes.

Action: TLIJ to amend misspelling of AM on ALGAO:Cymru AGM 2019 minutes.

Action: TLIJ to amend ALGAO:Cymru constitution to include virtual meetings as an option and also any relevant subgroups.

Section 1.2

CM - Grant claim has been actioned

Section 1.3

CM – Existing proposal and draft document done, this relates to the Landward report.

Section 1.4

CM – Appointment of officers actioned.

Section 2.2 - 2.3

CM – Contact details were received but no response from them.

AP – Still get emails from them and this is a good way to stay in touch with the subgroup.

JL – Annual report has been received from the group on 24 May 2020. There has been difficulty holding physical meetings recently due to COVID-19.

CM – Has not received a copy of the annual report.

AP – Has been receiving material/correspondence from the Urban Committee, however as not involved in planning, in all likelihood forwarding this on.

Action: AP to follow this up and circulate report to the group.

Section 2.7

CM – The Welsh Archaeological Trusts planning review is yet to take place.

NS – This is currently postponed.

CM – There have been challenges in getting a suitable contractor.

CM – This is an internal review of development management, consistency across Trusts and identifying ways to improve working/organisational practices. This is being funded by the Trusts.

Action: All to circulate as and when they become aware of any new information/material/update regarding this review

Section 2.9

CM – Consulted on the National Development Framework, however there is no further progress to report on at present. This is something to monitor.

Section 2.10

CM – Made contact with Craig Mitchell, however contact has not been sustained. Not clear if he is still the Local Government representative on the Historic Environment Group.

Action: JGR to check with Naomi Jones, SNPA if Craig Mitchell is still the representative for Local Government.

All members – Agreement that ALGAO:Cymru should revisit becoming a member of the Historic Environment Group (Wales). ALGAO:Cymru could be a valuable addition to the group as it brings in the perspective of Local Authority Archaeological Service.

Action: TLIJ, JE and JGR to explore joining the Historic Environment Group (Wales) and to consult with ALGAO:UK Chair.

2.11 OASIS

CM – Not adopted in Wales.

4. Appointment of officers

CM resigned as Chair of ALGAO:Cymru. Those present acknowledged the work of CM during his period as Chair.

The following officers were appointed for 2020-21:

Chair – TLIJ, this appointment was supported by JD and JGR with no objections.

Vice-Chair – JE, this appointment was supported by AP and AT with no objections.

Action: TLIJ to inform ALGAO:UK executive committee of appointment and ask Ruth Beckley to update the ALGAO website to reflect this.

5. Members' updates

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

CM – Since lockdown commenced the Trust continued to provide service on advisory side for Historic Environment Records and planning service although reduction in number of applications. Fieldwork was affected by the pandemic and outreach has been put on hold. The outreach could not continue due to these being physical activities and the proportion of volunteers being vulnerable due to age. Hoping to recommence engagement w/c 29/06/2020. It has been challenging to do engagement online. In terms of working arrangement, this has been home working. Some staff were furloughed.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

TLIJ – Since lockdown, Authority staff have been working from home. Initially, there were no furloughed staff, however a significant number were furloughed more recently. Most of the archaeological engagement activities and projects stopped as a result of the pandemic, including community excavation. One engagement event

that took place recently was some online training, introducing the public to archaeology and hopefully gets them interested in helping monitor the condition of local monuments. These have been largely delayed until 2021. Despite the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, work on our HeritageWatch scheme has continued. This includes developing a reporting mechanism on the PCNPA website, refreshing the Facebook page and carrying out patrols to sites at risk of burning during the summer solstice. One development in relation to HeritageWatch is the appointment of a Heritage Crime lead to cover all police forces in Wales (Insp. Reuben Palin). In addition, Dyfed-Powys Police have appointed a new heritage crime lead to cover their force area, Lynwen Thomas. Planning advice for the Authority continues to be provided by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust planning service.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

AP – Staff have been working from home since March 2020. A number of the field team were furloughed, however a project has started in Langharne and all are now back full time. In addition, there is other work coming in to the field team. Initially, all staff were reduced from full time to four days a week, however it is now possible to go back to full time. Some of the staff have chosen to return to full time. Throughout the lockdown, the planning section has continued and has been busy. Heritage management is still busy; the Trust has continued to get consultations in conjunction with the Natural Resources Wales' Memorandum of Understanding. Outreach was initially hit, however things have picked up as a result of social media activity. The Trust is currently looking at what can be done over the summer and in relation to the festival of archaeology. The project officer involved with Unloved Heritage at the Trust is still working on this, however physical activities have stopped.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

JE – Staff have been working from home, although four members of the field team have been furloughed and one member of the administration team. There has been a drop in planning applications; however these tended to be for development types without implications for archaeology. TF (DC archaeologist) has been undertaking site monitoring visits. Consultations from Natural Resources Wales have continued to be received during this period; for one scheme NRW have agreed in principle to paying GAPS for further work beyond initial advice, commencing with preparation of a brief. Community engagement has continued and adapted to the Covid restrictions by focussing on digital outreach and creatively responding to the problems. A new volunteer project has been set up to enhance the Historic Environment Record remotely, and has had a tremendous response from interested individuals on the GAT mailing lists. Staff have had to limit the volunteers on the project to 25 for now to maintain a manageable level of work.

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust

JD – Planning application numbers reduced initially, however this has returned to above normal level in the past three weeks. Heritage management has continued during the lockdown and the Trust has been doing work on behalf of Natural Resources Wales. Outreach and engagement stopped as a result of the lockdown due to the activities being physical. Some field team were furloughed; however they are now back working on mainly large infrastructure projects.

Brecon Beacon National Park Authority

AT – Planning has continued as normal during pandemic, however majority of internal projects have stopped. Peatland restoration and Fan Foel conservation work on hold. The National Park Authority lost its project manager and suffered conservation damage as a result of Storm Dennis. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has added to these issues. Projects are now starting to resume and the Authority is working towards undertaking site visits. Volunteering almost entirely stopped in the Authority, however the Volunteering Manager is in discussion to reinstate opportunities, but this is not yet ready.

Snowdonia National Park Authority

JGR – Some services and functions have continued, whilst others have reduced or not continued during the lockdown. JGR returned to the role after finishing off work on the Carneddau Project (Planning Phase). Work has completed on the Caer Gai interpretation scheme. The Authority is supporting the World Heritage Site nomination. A number of the sites nominated to be included are owned by the Authority. In connection with this, an application was made to the Welsh Government for a conservation, access and interpretation project on some of the nominated sites and the Authority was successful in obtaining almost £150k. Progress on this project has been reduced due to COVID-19. Planning service is provided by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service; however JGR is doing some of the pre-application work and also liaising with NS regarding consultations.

JGR - The delivery phase of the Carneddau project was approved by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This started earlier this year and a full team has been appointed. The historic environment is a major part of the project. A LiDAR survey is underway as part of the project in conjunction with aerial photography. The LiDAR data has been captured and an initial evaluation of a sample of the data has taken place. JGR currently working on portal for delivery of data, citizen science aspect and consider the any pandemic restrictions. The aim is to integrate data with the Historic Environment Records and discussion is underway with NS. One project strand that is being done in partnership with the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is the Neolithic

Axes project. Due to the pandemic, some aspects of the project are not currently possible. An important element of the project is the intention to develop heritage management provisions initially in the Carneddau region and then rolled out to the Park more widely. There will also be lots of engagement delivered through the project. The project will run for five years in total.

JGR – The Authority has furloughed staff from the income generation sections of the Authority. One person from the Cultural Heritage team has been furloughed; manager of Yr Ysgwrn. However, hoping to bring this member of staff back soon. In addition, the Authority is looking at appointing a Cultural Heritage Officer on a two-year basis in the next few months, to work on aspects of the Carneddau project and also Dyffryn Ardudwy.

6. Update from ALGAO:UK

The development management picture across the country

JL – The planning function has survived relatively well despite the pandemic with many working from home. In many parts of the UK, construction work stopped, including Scotland. Large commercial units in England were still working with continued construction in the South of England, including HS2. In Scotland, development did not continue. For most of the lockdown application levels have remained the same, however this has now started to decrease.

Impact of COVID-19 ALGAO:UK survey

JL – Pleased with the number of responses to the survey, including those from Welsh members. Keen to get the message across that archaeological services across the UK continued despite the pandemic and lockdown restrictions. It is a very important survey and it was crucial to make it as simple and straightforward for those responding. ALGAO:UK has been working with the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) who are a keen partner. There is a risk that rules around planning could be relaxed as an attempt to cut red tape in relation to the environment. As such, it is important to have data to counter this. Also, the survey hopefully helps highlight its importance as an economic resource.

TLJ – Regional data from the survey could be incredibly useful. There is a danger that the picture for Wales could be lost as there are significantly less organisations/authorities than for other regions. The data could also be useful for broader studies of the impact here in Wales. A request has been made to the ALGAO:UK executive team regarding adding this as brief for the survey.

JL – Agreed that this is a good idea.

Action: TLIJ to update ALGAO:Cymru on the outcome of the survey, including if analysed at a regional level.

IHBC-ALGAO Memorandum of Understanding

JL - Keen to have a partnership with IHBC and this has taken some time. The partnership is about support and joint training initiatives. Changes to the planning system are coming, so this strengthens support for both sides of the historic environment. A meeting between ALGAO:UK and IHBC will take place in the next month or so. ALGAO:UK will be represented by Quinton Carroll.

7. Update from ALGAO:Cymru Planning Subgroup

JE – No meeting took place in the last year, therefore no update.

Action: TLIJ to setup meeting for the planning subgroup.

8. Update from ALGAO:UK Subgroups (all)

ALGAO:UK Countryside Committee

AM – No updates in relation to the Committee. There have been some correspondence, but mostly on the agri-environment scheme consultation. Matters discussed by the Committee are generally not relevant to Wales. AM did not attend last meeting and these normally take place in Birmingham.

There was a general discussion around ERAMMP being included as part of the scheme that replaces Glastir and whether this was true or not. Ian Halfpenney, Senior Inspector at Cadw seems to be the lead on this for the historic environment.

Action: NS to contact Ian Halfpenney regarding this query and report back to ALGAO:Cymru.

Action: TLIJ to setup a group to meet to discuss countryside matters in Wales, including Ian Halfpenney.

9. Update on Welsh HERs

NS – The HERs in Wales are currently focussing on completing quinquennial audits to assess data quality/content and service delivery against the Standards and Benchmarks for Historic Environment Records in Wales.

A general discussion regarding proposals to bring the Historic Environment Records and the National Monuments Records closer together took place. Those present are not directly involved in this process, as such could not provide detailed further information in relation to progress.

10. ALGAO:Cymru Work programme 2019 – 2020

CM – Work programme ideas were submitted to Cadw, however a response has not been received by Cadw. As such, ALGAO:Cymru has not received the £3k grant for 2019-2020.

Action: CM to chase up the grant for 2019-2020

11. ALGAO:Cymru Work programme 2020 – 2021

A general discussion took place around work programme 2020-2021 and potential re-purposing of ALGAO:Cymru's function. This included looking at the funding model.

Action: TLIJ and JE to look at work programme 2020-2021, funding model and purpose of ALGAO:Cymru.

12. AOB

British Archaeology Awards

JL – Attended a meeting to discuss the future direction of the Awards, including making it more inclusive and highlight more excellence in the field. This work is being led by Carenza Lewis. It would be good for the awards to apply to more difficult to reach groups. It would be good to get development led projects into this and it would make the Awards relevant to the construction sector. This might help the construction sector see the benefit of archaeology.

Call for CIRIA case studies

ALGAO:UK is partly funding this and steering group have got together. Progress is being made to publish something and authors are now in place. There are 16 people on the steering group from across the sector. Attempting to make this a UK wide document, written in straightforward easy to understand format. It will be an important document.

Landward report

CM – There have been some draft changes, with criticism that statistics was not the same, but happy about the way data collected. The ALGAO:Cymru Planning

Subgroup might want to consider collecting data for the ALGAO statistics as this would also cover data required from Cadw.

Action: ALGAO:Cymru Planning Subgroup to consider collecting data for the ALGAO statistics.

Archaeological Data Service survey on Marine Environmental Data

TLIJ – Survey open for those who want to comment on use of the data and suggest ways for it to be developed:

<https://survey2018.oecd.org/Survey.aspx?s=39c3e2e36f984cc4b45b93a1bde962db>

CifA changes to standards and guidance

CM - CifA have made changes to some of its standards and guidance.

Action: TLIJ to highlight these changes to the ALGAO:Cymru Planning Subgroup.

13. Date of Next Meeting

To take place in October 2020.

Action: TLIJ to send poll around for the next ALGAO:Cymru Business Meeting.

14. Summary of actions

Table of Actions			
<u>No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>By whom?</u>
1.	Amend misspelling of AM on ALGAO:Cymru AGM 2019 minutes.	ASAP	TLIJ
2.	Amend ALGAO:Cymru constitution to include virtual meetings as an option and also any relevant subgroups.	ASAP	TLIJ
3.	Circulate Urban group report to ALGAO:Cymru	ASAP	AP
4.	WATs planning review - circulate as and when they become aware of any new information/material/ update regarding this review	Ongoing	All
5.	Check if Craig Mitchell is still the representative for Local Government on HEG. If not, who?	ASAP	JGR
6.	Explore ALGAO:Cymru joining HEG as a member in its own right and consult with ALGAO:UK Chair.	Next meeting	TLIJ, JE, JGR and JL
7.	Inform ALGAO:UK executive committee of ALGAO:Cymru appointments and ask for ALGAO	After this meeting	TLIJ

	website to be updated accordingly.		
8.	Update ALGAO:Cymru on the outcome of the COVID-19 impact survey, including if explored at a regional level.	Ongoing	TLIJ
9.	Arrange meeting for the ALGAO:Cymru Planning subgroup.	September 2020	TLIJ
10.	Contact Ian Halfpenny regarding ERAMMP query.	ASAP	NS
11.	Setup a group for Wales to discuss countryside matters including Ian Halfpenney.	September 2020	TLIJ
12.	Follow up on Cadw grant claim for 2019-2020.	ASAP	CM
13.	Look at work programme for 2020-2021, funding model and purpose of ALGAO:Cymru.	Next meeting	TLIJ and JE
14.	ALGAO:Cymru Planning Subgroup to consider using ALGAO statistics approach for data collection.	September 2020	Subgroup members
15.	Highlight ClfA changes to the ALGAO:Cymru Planning Subgroup.	September 2020	TLIJ
16.	Arrange next ALGAO: Cymru Business Meeting for October 2020, including sending a poll around.	ASAP	TLIJ