

Heritage Management and Interpretation

Barclodiad y Gawres

Options Appraisal Report

April 2014



CAPITA

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Preamble

CADW is the Welsh Government's historic environment service with a responsibility for promoting an accessible and well protected historic environment for Wales. CADW's lists of priorities for 2011-16 are:

- Conserving and protecting the historic environment of Wales
- Promoting distinctive regeneration and sustainable development through heritage
- Promoting public access, appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment
- Running a high quality and effective organisation which makes a real difference for people

Within CADW's guardianship lies the Barclodiad y Gawres, a Neolithic Burial Chamber and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) located at Cable Bay on the west coast of Anglesey near Rhosneigr. The monument contains highly decorated stones with lightly pecked and incised designs of spirals, chevrons and zig-zags, similar to those found in the Boyne Valley in Ireland. The monument is of national importance and is an important and popular feature along this section of Anglesey's Coastal Path. The Rough Guide to Wales describes the burial chamber in the following entry:

*"Cable Bay (Port Tre Castell), two miles northwest of Aberffraw, was the eastern terminus of the first telegraph cable to Ireland, though it is now better known for its good sandy beach popular with surfers and kayakers. On the headland to the north stands the heavily reconstructed remains of the 5000- year-old **Barclodiad y Gawres** burial chamber. Though superior to Bryn Celli Ddu it is more difficult to see, requiring the key from Llys Llewelyn and a torch. Without artificial light, you won't really see the stones carved with chevrons and zigzag patterns the burial chamber shares with the Newgrange and other Boyne Valley sites seventy miles across the water in Ireland. No buses pass Barclodiad y Gawres"*

Wales 'The Rough Guide'

CADW, through the Welsh Government's Heritage Tourism Project (HTP) has identified the burial chamber as an important site but one that is poorly presented and with old and outdated interpretation. This option appraisal report seeks to identify potential opportunities for this outstanding piece of heritage to be more accessible and enjoyable to visit, both for those who live in Wales and for visitors to Anglesey.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Isle of Anglesey is rich in archaeological finds and within the care of CADW:Welsh Historic Monuments, there are twenty-three field monuments distributed around the island. The Barclodiad y Gawres and translated as “The Giantess’s Apronful”, is one of the twenty three and amongst the most important Neolithic sites in Wales dating back to 2500 BC. It is a cruciform passage grave that contains several decorated stones with markings of lozenges, spirals and zigzags. The site is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 1.1.2 The grave is formed by a long narrow passage that leads to a main chamber and three side chambers. The side chambers are thought to have been used for funerals whereas the main central chamber was probably used to perform staged ritual ceremonies. It is understood that the chambers and stones were originally covered by a large earth mound with access only from the long narrow passage.
- 1.1.3 Today the grave is covered and protected by a large concrete dome structure that was installed by CADW Welsh Historic Monuments in the 1950’s following a programme of excavations. Within the top of the concrete dome a glass lens was installed to allow natural light into the chamber but this was later replaced by a concrete coping. Torches are now needed to illuminate the stones within the chamber. At the entrance to the grave there is a gated iron grille at the entrance to the grave that is currently locked to prevent open access by the general public. Access is therefore limited to the general public and often incidental to those walking the Anglesey Coastal Path.



1.2 A Brief History

- 1.2.1 In 1952 the burial chamber was excavated by T.G.E Powell and G.E Daniel. The most significant discovery was the decorated stones. Surviving Neolithic art forms of this kind are extremely rare and are thought to have held significant meaning to the monument builders. Other similar Neolithic art forms of this kind are to be found in the Boyne Valley in Ireland and this could suggest possible cultural links or a seafaring people, using the west of Anglesey as a base and a burial ground.
- 1.2.2 Following the excavations, the passage grave was covered by a concrete dome and earth mounding in an attempt to replicate the appearance of the earth mound that would have once existed. A glass lens was installed at the apex of the dome in order to let natural light in to illuminate the now protected stones. This was later replaced with a concrete cope, thought to have been replaced following concerns surrounding bird droppings and obscuring of light onto the lens.

Following excavation in 1952-53, the burial chamber was covered by a concrete dome within which was an oculus that allowed natural light to flood from above into the central chamber as illustrated in the photograph. This oculus has since been removed and replaced with a concrete coping resulting in low light levels rendering the stones barely visible from outside the secured and gated grillage.

Photograph courtesy of CADW



- 1.2.3 The entrance to the burial chamber was constructed from stone faced walls and a locked cast iron gate was installed to restrict access into the burial chamber with a key available in return for a small cash deposit. For many years the key was held in Beaumaris Castle, a round distance journey of approximately 45 miles and one that could take well over an hour. Towards the end of the twentieth century the keys were transferred to the heritage centre in the nearby villages of Aberffraw and to the Wayside Store Shop in Llanfaelog.
- 1.2.4 In 2007 concerns were raised about the potential for harmful vandalism to the decorated stones and on the advice of the Ancient Monuments Board, CADW restricted access to the central burial chamber to accompanied visits only. Locked gates were set at the entrance to the concrete dome where casual visitors could gain some restricted and unlit views of the stones. The key to the locked gates is still held in the Wayside Store Shop and can be obtained with prior agreement and authorisation from CADW Welsh Historic Monuments.

1.3 CADW Heritage Tourism Project

- 1.3.1 The funding for the Barclodiad y Gawres project originates from the Welsh Government's £19 million Heritage Tourism Project which is backed with £8.5 million of European funding. The project is seeking to help maximise the economic value of heritage by increasing the number, length and value of visits to Wales. The project also aims to help open Wales's outstanding heritage to a wider audience by making it more enjoyable both for visitors and for people that live in Wales and for visitors. The brief for improving the presentation and related access improvements has therefore been developed to improve the visitor experience.
- 1.3.2 In 'An interpretation Framework for The Origins and Prehistory of Wales 250,000 BC to AD 47/78', CADW has identified the Barclodiad y Gawres as sitting within the thematic strand for the *Origins and Prehistory of Wales*. The framework acknowledges that many of the sites are located in relatively remote areas and that by their very nature, presents significant challenges for site management and conservation, interpretation and physical access. Accessibility, both physically and intellectually is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the interpretation of monuments such as these.

1.4 The Project Brief

Extract from the Project Brief

- 1.4.1 *“The current presentation of **Barclodiad y Gawres** burial chamber is unsatisfactory, old and outdated. Public access to the chamber interior is restricted due to concerns about the risk of damage to the rare prehistoric artwork carved on the stones within. Current viewing arrangements provide only restricted views into the interior of the monument and do not enable the majority of visitors to see the carved stones or help them to appreciate the form and function of this important ancient monument. Access to the interior is currently available as an accompanied visit at restricted times.”*
- 1.4.2 Menter Môn acting on behalf of CADW has appointed the project team to prepare proposals for improving visitor access and the presentation of the prehistoric burial monument of Barclodiad y Gawres. Within the overarching aims and objectives of the Heritage Tourism Project, the brief lists some key elements that the project should consider as follows:-
- (a) Site approach from car park and beach. Improvements are necessary including directional help and ‘welcome’ information on the site and route to it
 - (b) Review options to improve viewing positions and light levels within the concrete dome to enable visitors to see and appreciate the decorated stones
 - (c) Review the location and form of security arrangements. CADW is not committed to the retention of either of the current grilles. Consider options to improve visitor access and visibility while still retaining adequate protection for the monument
 - (d) Review overall presentation of the monument and consider options to improve the interpretation of the original form of the burial chamber
 - (e) With consideration of recent improvements to infrastructure (formalization of parking arrangements and way-marked surface), review opportunities to improve and increase access to the monument for all visitors
- 1.4.3 For the Barclodiad y Gawres, CADW have advised the project team that the focus and priority for any proposals in the short term, is to address the items (b), (c) and (d) above.

2.0 The Monument Today

2.1.1 Site location and Context

- 2.1.1.1 The site is located on the west coast of Anglesey in a spectacular coastal setting overlooking Cable (Tracastell) Bay between the popular coastal resort of Rhosneigr (to the north) and Aberffraw to the south. Cable Bay is a small but popular sandy cove, a notable venue for surfing, kayakers, outdoor pursuits and sea angling. There is a car park serving the bay off the A4080 that runs between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. The site is not entirely remote but is located amongst rugged scenery along the Anglesey Coastal Path.



- 2.1.1.2 Access to the site is via the Anglesey Coastal Path, with the nearest car park located at Cable Bay some 550 metres to the east of the burial chamber. The coastal path can also be accessed by the beach car park at Tywyn Fferam that lies some 750 metres to the north of the monument. This section of coastal path is slightly narrower, more undulating and not in quite as good condition as the section between the Cable Bay and the monument.

2.3 General Condition, Presentation and Amenity

- 2.3.1 The monument is generally well preserved and protected from the elements by the concrete structure with walls approximately 750mm thick with a 200mm reinforced steel concrete roof. At the apex of the dome was originally a glass oculus, but this has since been removed and replaced with a concrete cope, apparently due to concerns over bird droppings obscuring the glass surface. According to records from CADW (Ministry of Works, Cardiff April 1958) there is approximately a 450mm covering of topsoil over the concrete dome that was in turn covered with 75mm of turf. The dome extends well beyond the internal chamber itself and measures approximately 27 metres in diameter.
- 2.3.2 Today, the external surface of the dome is covered in rough grassland with the concrete cope still in place of the glass oculus. There is evidence of a faint track leading to the top of the dome, presumably formed by visitors walking the coastal path to take advantage of the panoramic views. A rough track also follows the base of the dome around its perimeter either side of the stone wing walls that denotes the entrance.
- 2.3.3 Within the concrete structure that dates back to the 1950's, there are some signs of damp but this is limited to small areas towards the southern edge of the dome. The standing stones within the chamber have evidence of green mould growing on faces that are exposed to natural daylight from the entrance open to the north. There is a general smell of dampness, most likely due to the lack of ventilation with the air stagnating due to no through flow. Within the 'chimney' of the oculus is evidence of a nest, possibly a house martin or swallows nest. The roof of the concrete dome is undecorated and appears as a light grey colour with the internal walls clad in natural stone with recessed mortar joints as are the wing walls at the entrance.
- 2.3.4 The external wing walls are clad in natural stone and provide a wide access (approximately 2.5 metres) towards the entrance to the burial chamber. It is understood that the original passage would have been much narrower and more akin to the existing access to Bryn Celli Ddu that is barely wide enough for an adult to squeeze through.



The entrance to Bryn Celli Ddu is via a much smaller and more natural aperture compared to the entrance at Barclodiad y Gawres.

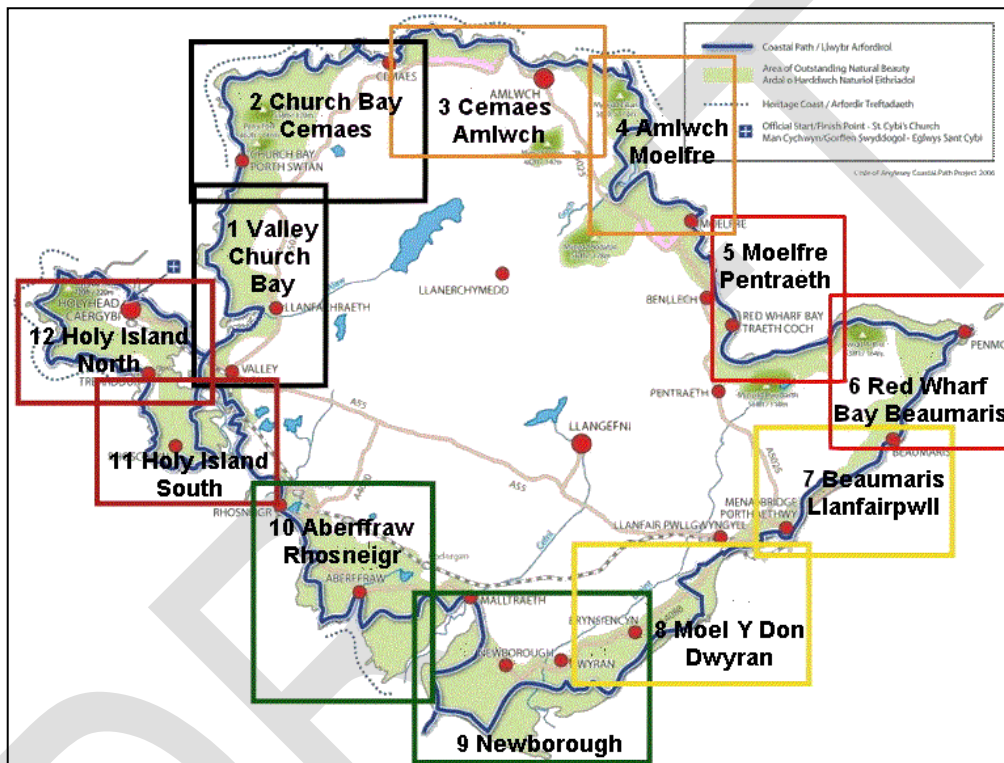
- 2.3.5 The wing walls are tapered in height and rise from a low wall on the perimeter of the monument to a height of approximately 3 metres at the entrance. The entrance itself appears as a dark square, clearly visible from the north and for quite some distance away (circa 1 kilometre), appearing as very straight lines within an otherwise and predominantly natural landscape setting.



View towards Barclodiad y Gawres from Tywyn Fferam Car Park and the A4080. From this northern aspect, the entrance is readily visible as a dark entrance with straight sides as defined by the stone wing walls.

2.4 The Anglesey Coastal Path

- 2.4.1 The Barclodiad y Gawres sits within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONB (as described in Section 3) and as an important feature along the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path. The path runs for a total length of 125 miles/200 kilometres around the island and helps to attract a **large number** of visitors per annum to the island. The numbers of visitors using section 10 (Aberffraw/Rhosneigr) of the path near the Barclodiad y Gawres amount to approximately **xxxxx** per annum with records indicating that approximately 12,000 people visit the Barclodiad every year



3.0 Planning Policies and Statutory Protection

3.1 Scheduled Ancient Monument Protection

- 3.1.1 The Barclodiad y Gawres is classified as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) that is protected by legislation under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The 1979 Act provides the legislative framework for the protection of ancient monuments supported by guidance in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96. Under the 1979 Act, the Welsh Ministers through CADW compile a Schedule of Ancient Monuments along with a record for each one. The Scheduled Ancient Monument Record for the Barclodiad y Gawres is appended for reference in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Once a monument has been scheduled, the consent of the Secretary of State (through CADW) is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of *'demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering up the monument'*. Consent will only be granted for detailed proposals as opposed to an outline planning application. Some works (under Annex 4 of the circular) are exempt which allows owners to proceed without consent. These include works relating to agricultural or forestry work, works urgently needed for Health and Safety reasons, archaeological evaluation and surveys.
- 3.1.3 An application for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent is normally made to CADW using the appropriate forms (refer to Appendix B) and guidance is given by CADW in the document 'Scheduled Monument Consent'. Applications for SMC take a maximum of 13 weeks although CADW aim to resolve cases much sooner.

3.2 Isle of Anglesey County Council

- 3.2.1 The area of coastline within which Barclodiad y Gawres is located is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 3.2.2 Within the AONB, the council *'will give priority to the protection and enhancement of the landscape when considering planning applications'*.

3.3 Land Ownership

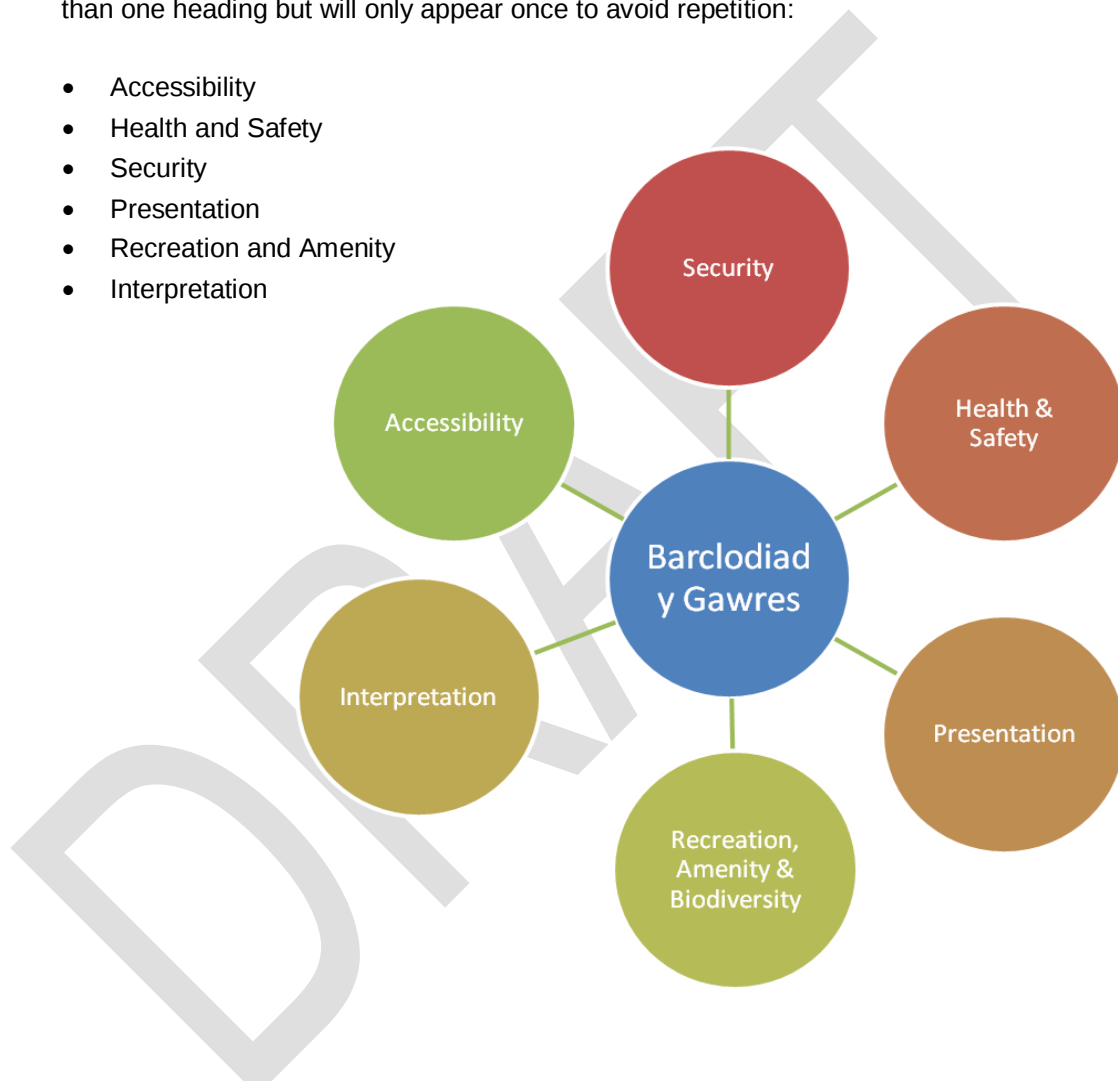
- 3.3.1 It is understood that much of the land along this area of coastline is owned by the Meyrick Family in the form of Bodorgan Estate and managed by Bodorgan Environmental Management (BEM) Ltd (formerly Bodorgan Wildlife Trust) since 1999.

4.0 Key Issues and Opportunities

4.1 General Approach

4.1.1 The following key issues and opportunities have been considered by the project team after several site visits and internal discussions. It is the intention that through consideration of the key issues suggestions and opportunities will be identified for the improvements to the presentation of the monument. These will be considered further as a number of options that will fall under the following headings. Some of the key issues could be considered under more than one heading but will only appear once to avoid repetition:

- Accessibility
- Health and Safety
- Security
- Presentation
- Recreation and Amenity
- Interpretation



4.1.2 It is anticipated that a phased approach will be required and will be largely dependent on the complexity and cost of the options explored. Possible phases of the project are considered further under Section 5 Summary Options Appraisal.

4.2 Accessibility

Key Issues

- 4.2.1 Access to the monument is solely from the Anglesey Coastal Path, either from the Cable Bay car park 450 metres to the south or from Twyn Fferam car park approximately 750 metres to the north. It is understood that both car parks are under the private ownership of Bodorgan Estate and are popular venues for visitors and surfers alike, there is currently no charge for parking at either location. There are seasonal toilet facilities in the form of portacabins (supplied by Bodorgan Estate) at Tywyn Fferam but no facilities at Cable Bay. Both car parks are unsurfaced and uneven in places, there are no designated car parking bays or markings to denote access or parking arrangements.
- 4.2.2 Currently, the only signage to Barclodiad y Gawres is from the Cable Bay car park via the coastal path. The path although well trodden, is often irregular with ridges and furrows and areas of poor drainage leaving it soft and muddy under foot. It is accessible for families with multi-terrain buggies but is difficult with the average every day pushchair. The path itself is reasonably level with some minor undulations, currently there is no seating or opportunities for visitors to rest along the section of path or at Cable Bay Car Park. Within the car park, there is no directional signage apart from the northern corner where there is some signage for the coastal path and to the monument.

Opportunities

- 4.2.3 Accessibility is considered a key issue for people to easily access the Barclodiad y Gawres and as a way of increasing awareness to a wide range of audiences. There are also potential benefits to health and safety, ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the burial chamber and wider benefits to the local landowner and the condition of the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path. In summary there are opportunities to:
- Resurfacing and widening the coastal path from Cable Bay to ByG
 - Resurfacing and widening the coastal path from Tywyn Fferam to ByG
 - Improve car parking facilities and signage at both Cable Bay and Tywyn Fferam Car Park through re-surfacing and increasing capacity of car park through designating car parking areas
 - Integrating new proposals for interpretation within car parking areas
- 4.2.4 As the land is owned by Bodorgan Estate, early dialogue has been undertaken with the estates representative regarding potential improvements to the car parking and coastal footpath. The estate appears to be generally supportive and is understood to be encouraging other developments such as a surf school facility at the Tywyn Fferam Car Park.

Accessibility (A) - Options Appraisal		
H&S	Description	Commentary
A 1	Resurfacing and widening the coastal path from Cable Bay to Barclodiad y Gawres	Improvements to the coastal path would promote better accessibility to a wide range of user groups including families with buggies, not only to the monument but also to this section of the coastal path. This section is currently signed as the main route to the monument and therefore access improvements along this section could be considered as a priority.
A 2	Resurfacing and widening the coastal path from Tywyn Fferam to Barclodiad y Gawres	Improvements to the coastal path would promote better accessibility to a wide range of user groups including families with buggies, not only to the monument but also wider users of the coastal path
A3	Improve car parking facilities and signage at both Cable Bay and Tywyn Fferam Car Park through re-surfacing and increasing capacity of car park through designating car parking areas	Both car parks are in need of re-surfacing but are in the private ownership of Bodorgan Estates. As such, grant aid for improvements to privately owned facilities may not be forthcoming. Regular engagement with Bodorgan estates needs to continue to explore potential joint ventures between key stakeholders such as CADW, IACC and Menter Mon.
A4	Provide designated car parking area for Barclodiad at Tywn Fferam (or other location to the north) to improve approach	A designated car park for Barclodiad y Gawres similar to the facilities at Bryn Celli Ddu, would have the benefit of separating different user groups and potentially providing a more focussed arrival and departure point for people with an interest in archaeology. A dialogue with Bodorgan Estates needs to be maintained, possibly as a focus group for the Rhosneigr area.
A5	Monitor numbers of people accessing the coastal path and the Barclodiad y Gawres and establish if there are any trends in seasonality or correlations between the two.	Monitoring of numbers may provide Bodorgan Estates and other key stakeholders, with information (visitor numbers) that could support a business case for coastal infrastructure improvements to the car parks and possibly improved welfare facilities
Recommendation		Prioritise Option A1 and include proposal within Phase 1 for Initial Enhancement Works. Pursue other options by maintaining contact with key stakeholders.

4.3 Health and Safety

Key Issues

- 4.3.1 It has been established that the approach to Barclodiad y Gawres is generally from the south and Cable Bay Car Park. From this aspect the entrance to the burial chamber is not obvious and there could be a tendency (intentionally or otherwise) to scale the top of the mound and inadvertently the dome of the monument to take advantage of the panoramic views. The entrance to the monument from this approach is well concealed and is potentially dangerous, particularly when weather conditions are bad and visibility limited and for the reasons described below.
- 4.3.2 The entrance to the burial chamber is defined by a square opening with high wing walls either side. When approached from the top of the dome, there is a significant drop of approximately 3 metres that is unprotected and has no warning signs. Therefore there is an inherent risk of people and children visiting the site to fall from the upper slope into the entrance to the monument, a risk that could have severe consequences to physical damage. This risk is further exacerbated by the fact the monument is remote and any injury, particularly if the person is alone, could be severe leaving any injured person stranded and in severe difficulties with further risks of hypothermia if immobilised.
- 4.3.3 The issue of health and safety is often a complex subject at historic sites that are within areas of outstanding landscape quality. How to ensure that the visiting public are encouraged to engage with a monument without placing them at undue risk and without introducing incongruous or unsightly access restrictions is a perennial issue.

Opportunities

- 4.3.4 The project team has visited the site on several occasions and considered what the most appropriate opportunity or design solution that would reduce the risks to health and safety of the visiting public would be. Given the other key issues considered in this section of the report, there are opportunities to improve the safety and reducing potential risks to visitors by considering the following options:
- Provision of warning notices at each car park
 - Provision of warning notices along the coastal path and on the approaches to the burial chamber
 - Improved footpath surfacing to guide people away from the area of risk ie. do not encourage access to the top of the earth mound but around the base
 - Provide low key fencing around the entrance to the monument (as at Maeshowe, Orkney) to reduce fall from height
 - Completely fence off the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument area around the base of the mound
- 4.3.5 An option appraisal of the above is summarised below in a tabular format with commentary and recommendations.

Health and Safety (H&S) - Options Appraisal		
H&S	Description	Commentary
H&S 1	Provision of warning signs at both Church Bay Tywyn Feram car parks to warn of potential dangers	Warning signs may alert people to potential risks and dangers of walking the coastal path and visiting the monument but will not reduce the physical risk of falling from height.
H&S 2	Provision of warning notices along the coastal path and on the approaches to the burial chamber	As above, warning notices would raise awareness but would not directly reduce the potential risk. There is also the potential for signage to become vandalised, deteriorate due to climatic conditions or merely be ignored.
H&S 3	Improved footpath surfacing to guide people away from the area of risk ie. do not encourage access to the top of the earth mound but around the base.	There is currently a 'desire line' from the southern approach leading to the crest of the concrete dome that covers the burial chamber and down the other side on the north western aspect. The improvement of the coastal path may influence peoples movement but would not prevent people accessing the top of the dome to take in the panoramic views.
H&S 4	Provide low key fencing around the entrance to the monument (as at Maeshowe, Orkney) to reduce fall from height.	Low key fencing around the wing walls and northern portal of the entrance would greatly reduce the risk of falling from height. However, the alignment of the fence is likely to break the skyline and could be unsightly, especially when viewed from the north and in the context of the AONB designation..
H&S 5	Completely fence off the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument area around the base of the mound	The introduction of fencing around the base of the monument would clearly denote the area covered by the Scheduled Monument Record and reduce the risk of falling from height. It has the added advantages of being positioned below the horizon line and puts the total area of the monument in the clear ownership of CADW Welsh Historic Monuments. It provides some protection to the oculus if glazed and with photo voltaics installed
Recommendation		Due to the potential severity of the Health and Safety issue and risk of falling from height it is recommended that Option H&S 5 is implemented as a matter of urgency and then reviewed once the risk has been averted and other H&S options considered further.

4.4 Security

Key Issues

- 4.4.1 Access to the burial chamber is restricted and currently locked. This is due to historic concerns raised over potential vandalism of the decorated stones. Unlike at Bryn Celli Ddu, the existing stones are the originals and not replicas and the risk of potential damage is still considered to be highly likely and potentially severe. There are currently two sets of grillage at the entrance to the memorial that make the entrance austere and municipal in character, detracting from the monument and visitor experience but providing sufficient security. The outer grillage is open with access through gap on the western side and contains a counter to record the number of visitors visiting the monument. The inner grillage is locked (with a key available from Wayside Stores) to prevent any vandalism or damage to the carved stones.

Outer Grillage

- 4.4.2 The outer grillage, although at first appears to have no function, does guide the visitor past the upstanding stones at the entrance outside the concrete dome. These stones form the original passage to the inner chamber and there are signs of polishing on the stones caused by pedestrian movements in the unprotected entrance area. Further definition such as paving the entrance to avoid further trafficking over the upstanding stones has been discounted by the design team as inappropriate and overly designed. There has been some consideration about restricting access to the outer grillage and therefore preserving the monument in its totality. However this has been subsequently discounted as the viewer will then be further distanced from experiencing the stones within the concrete dome. There is therefore an option to re-design the outer grillage leaving a gap to gently guide people past the exposed stones rather than open access without any directional influence.

Opportunities

- 4.4.2 It is generally considered that the inner grillage should be retained and to remain locked to the general public to reduce the risk of potential vandalism (by a minority) but that could be unlocked and accessed for pre-arranged and accompanied groups or parties. There is an option for the external railings or grillage to be re-designed, possibly with plain galvanised steel with a stippled finish and of a classical tapering finish. Design of the railings to replicate the patterning of the stones has been considered but discounted as this interpretation could be misleading and wrongly represent the patterning. The exact alignment of the railings has been considered for visibility and along with options for internal lighting. There is an opportunity for the railings to take a more concave alignment and enable people to enter partially into the concrete dome rather than adhere to the existing convex alignment. This would enable slightly more visibility of the patterned stones (5, 6, 8 & 22) and an improved view of the general formation of the stones and capstone, especially when considered in association with potential for improvements to the presentation of the stones through lighting.

Security (S) - Options Appraisal		
H&S	Description	Commentary
S1	Remove the outer and inner grillage and allow open unrestricted access to the burial chamber at all times of the year	This is considered too contain too much risk to the decorated stones. Although there are currently no signs of vandalism, some coastal amenity sites around the island have experienced some extreme acts of vandalism and arson.
S2	Retain existing grillage and allow open access during summer months when use of the coastal path is high and could therefore see a high number o f visitors to Barclodiad y Gawres	As above, there is considered too much risk tom the decorated stones although in theory, if the monument was more frequently visited there would be some element of self policing. The employment of seasonal wardens could also assist in policing and interpretation of the monument.
S3	Lock outer grillage to prevent more damage through pedestrian trafficking to the original entrance stones	The issue of restricted access to the monument is often criticised and although locking the outer grillage would provide improved security and conservation, further access restrictions would not promote intellectual or physical access to the monument.
S4	Undertake further archaeological investigation and recording, replace existing stones with replica stones and remove security grillage. Promote open access.	The removal of the existing stones and replacing with replicas is considered to be too high risk an operation in terms of archaeology. Opening the 'chamber' for all year round usage could see the internal chamber being misused by the general public as a shelter along the coastal path with disregard to the archaeological significance
S5	Replace existing security and grillages with a more bespoke and 'designed' solution that would improve the general presentation of the monument to the general public yet still retaining security. The inner gates would be locked with access available for arranged visits as is the existing arrangement.	The current grillage has a municipal and stark appearance but does provide security and visibility to the stones within the chamber including the cap stone. Although there is very little visibility of the decorated carvings, it enables some appreciation to be had of the stones without compromising the security. The grillage could be re-designed with a more contemporary and visual aesthetic, yet retain the existing security arrangements
Recommendation		Due to the potential risks that open access would pose to the monument, it is recommended that Option S5 is taken forward as the preferred option. This will ensure ongoing security, yet present the monument in a more aesthetic fashion and improve visibility into the main burial chamber.

4.5 Presentation

- 4.5.1 It has been established that the current presentation of Barclodiad y Gawres burial chamber is considered by CADW to be '*unsatisfactory, old and outdated*'. In addition to the potential themes, opportunities and options reported above (and that may in themselves improve the presentation of the monument), further measures are considered below.

Key Issues

- 4.5.2 The key issues in relation to the presentation of the scheduled monument are inextricably linked to accessibility, health and safety and security, but are largely related to lack of light within the concrete dome structure restricting visibility. As a result, the appreciation of the stones within the burial chamber is very limited unless access is through an organised group. The current presentation denies the casual visitor an appreciation of the burial chamber on two levels, namely:

- General appreciation of the stones formation, scale and general arrangement within the main burial chamber
- Patterning of the rock art on the stones in the form of zig-zags, spirals and lozenges. These are largely contained on stones 5,6,8 and 22 and can only really be appreciated from within the chamber with torches when access is available through the locked inner grillage

- 4.5.3 It is considered that the only method of illuminating the stones and internal chamber is through either natural light and / or some form of sustainable lighting solution. The original glass oculus provided a light source into the chamber but this was from above and did not represent a luminance from the floor of the chamber in the form of a fire, the only source of manmade light in Neolithic times. The interpretation proposals currently being prepared by others (referred to below) will assist in depicting the internal chamber, but there are opportunities to improve the presentation of the monument by other methods.

Opportunities

- 4.5.4 The monument is located in a fairly remote location away from existing services including mains electricity. The provision of mains electricity is a possibility but likely to be prohibitive on cost grounds. It is therefore considered that in order to illuminate the chamber, some form of low key electricity provision and associated lighting presents the most likely opportunity. Other opportunities such as coring holes through the concrete coping for lighting provision but have been discounted as this has the potential to seriously compromise the integrity of the concrete roof, particularly as the roof is understood to contain reinforced steelwork that if exposed, could be subject to corrosion.

Presentation (P) - Options Appraisal		
P	Description	Commentary
P1	Replace the existing concrete cope with a new glass oculus to enable natural light to fill the burial chamber. This would enable the general arrangement of the stones to be appreciated but would not illuminate the rock art of the individual stones.	This would enable a general appreciation of the stones but would not portray the burial chamber as a dark enclosed space as it was originally. With the chamber lit, luminance of the rock art would be difficult as this requires strong directional light to gain an appreciation of the patterning and textures.
P2	Provide lighting to the burial chamber via mains electricity. This would enable a number of lighting options to be considered and offer a great deal of flexibility to provide ambient light and directional feature lighting of the individual stones	The supply of mains electricity would entail significant infrastructure provision and ongoing costs for the electricity supply. There may be some benefits that could be shared with other key stakeholders such as providing improved welfare facilities at Church Bay but this is considered outside the scope of this particular project brief.
P3	Photovoltaic technology installed in a replacement oculus with lighting provided to the internal core of the burial chamber with a combination of ambient and feature lighting possibly running on a circuit that could be triggered through motion sensors. The internal walls and ceiling of the chamber could be darkened for added effect.	The issue of lighting was explored further in March 2014 when a lighting display was organised to explore potential opportunities and methods of lighting. A combination of ambient and directional lighting was experimented with and the proposals are for a combination of the two. The feasibility of using photo voltaics was also explored further and further feasibility work is currently being progressed. The ideal scenario is to install photovoltaics into the original oculus but this may not be large enough or in the right aspect to generate sufficient electricity for the desired lighting levels.
Recommendation		The recommendation is to explore Option P3 and test the feasibility for using photovoltaics. If this proves feasible then it is recommended that it should be taken forward as part of the initial enhancement works.

4.6 Recreation and Amenity

- 4.6.1 It has been established that Barclodiad y Gawres is located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is a prominent feature on the Anglesey Coastal Path between Rhosneigr and Aberffraw. It provides a landmark and some degree of shelter along this exposed section of coastline where the prevailing winds are westerly and weather conditions extremely changeable.

Key Issues

- 4.6.2 The key issues with regard to amenity are strongly linked to the presentation of the monument at its entrance. It is widely recognised that the entrance structure is unsightly and does not contribute to the visual amenity of the area, coastal path and coastal setting. It is also considered to represent a false representation in archaeological terms and that a more narrow entrance would be a more appropriate treatment.



Entrances to Bryn Celli Ddu, Anglesey and Maeshowe, Orkney are much narrower than that of Barclodiad y Gawres and provide a more authentic approach and presentation to the burial chamber.

Opportunities

- 4.6.3 There are opportunities for the re-configuration of the entrance to Barclodiad y Gawres. This would necessitate further archaeological investigation to ensure that any proposal would not have an adverse effect on the scheduled monument or its record. It is considered that any reconfiguration of the entrance would probably be feasible but would require extensive construction work but would improve the general amenity of the coast and coastal path and the presentation of the monument.
- 4.6.4 There are other opportunities to improve the general amenity of this section of the coastal path and these have been covered under some of the other themes above. However, a low key viewing point on the westerly aspect of the monument would provide opportunities for improved amenity along the coastal path and an opportunity for further interpretation.

Recreation and Amenity (R&A) - Options Appraisal		
R&A	Description	Commentary
R&A 1	Narrow the existing entrance to present the entrance to the monument as a more authentic passage grave, similar to the entrance to Bryn Celli Ddu. Regrade slopes either side of narrowed entrance to reduce risk of falling from height. Provide informal seating opportunities at entrance and at base of mound.	The narrowing of the existing entrance would effectively restrict access to the general public and present the monument in a more authentic fashion. It is considered that these proposals would be feasible but would need more archaeological valuation and recording of the original stones at the entrance to ensure the proposals have no adverse effects on the scheduled monument
R&A 2	Re-profile wing walls with a more 'splayed' appearance by removing existing stone walls and reconfiguring the entrance. Reduce the side slopes to remove risk of falling from height and provide informal seating at entrance and at base of mound. Retain existing element of shelter at entrance primarily for users of the coastal path	Widening the existing wing walls would improve the long distance views towards the monument and provide a more inviting approach to the entrance. It would remove the harsh lines and municipal appearance of the entrance but would not reflect the more authentic narrow entrance. It has the potential to reduce the risk of falling from height. As with Option R&A1 above, further archaeological evaluation may be required prior to detailed design.
R&A 3	Create informal viewing area at western promontory to replace viewing point from top of monument should Option H&S 5 be pursued and implemented. Emphasise links to the sea and Ireland and associations with the Boyne Valley through interpretation.	The option R&A 3 would provide added amenity value to the coastal path while replacing the existing viewpoint on top of the monument. Consultation with IACC AONB and Coastal path Officers would be required during the design stages.
Recommendation	It is recommended that Option R&A 3 is taken forward as part of an initial enhancement works package and the feasibility of other two options are explored in more detail with a view to implementation at a later date.	

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4.7 Interpretation

- 4.7.1 The interpretation proposals for Barclodiad y Gawres are being prepared under a separate commission by Marion Blockley Associates using a combination of interpretive panels, way markers with tactile plaques and interactive smart phone technology. The details of the proposals are not yet fully known but it is understood that the approach is for a comic strip type approach as illustrated below, kindly provided by Marion Blockley Associates:



- 4.7.2 The details of the interpretation proposals will be integrated within any initial works identified in the Summary Options Appraisal below in Section 5.

5.0 Summary Option Appraisal

5.1 Methodology

5.1.1 A number of options have been explored above under the following headings:

- Accessibility
- Health and Safety
- Security
- Presentation
- Recreation and Amenity

5.1.2 Many of the options can be considered under more than one heading, for example some of the key issues and opportunities explored under recreation and amenity also benefit the presentation of the scheduled monument to the general public.

5.2 Towards a Phased Approach

5.2.1 The options appraisal above contains a number of proposals, some of which are more complex than others. Some may require further investigative work, discussions with landowners and third parties and consequently, may take time to develop in sufficient detail to become a physically deliverable project. CADW recognise the need for improvement to the presentation of Barclodiad y Gawres and it is important that any improvements are easily delivered and within a relatively short time frame.

5.2.2 The project team have developed the following summary option appraisal as a staged approach and one that will enable initial enhancement works to be progressed and delivered on the ground, along with the development of more long term objectives that will deliver further improvements to visitor access and presentation of the scheduled monument at a later date subject to funding availability and the relevant permissions and consents.

5.2.3 The phasing of the works has been divided into four phases as follows and is described in more detail below:

Phase 1	Initial Enhancement Works 2014/2015
Phase 2	Physical Enhancement Works
Phase 3	Project Development Works
Phase 4	Coastal Infrastructure Improvements

Phase 1 – Initial Enhancement Works – 2014 - 2015

Initial low key interventions and improvement works to enhance the immediate presentation of the Barclodiad. This is seen as the start of an iterative process for improving the presentation of the burial chamber and one that will encourage an annual review and stimulate fresh interest in the monument. The initial proposal will also incorporate the interpretation proposals from Marion Blockley into the detailed design. Schedule Monument Consent will be required for the works that will take a minimum of 13 weeks for processing. Detailed design and specification will be required and procurement of a suitable contractor to achieve completion by March 2015.

Theme	Option	Description
Accessibility	Option A1	Resurfacing and widening of the coastal path from Cable Bay to Barclodiad y Gawres for improved and ease of access
Health and Safety	Option H&S 5	Completely fence off the designated scheduled monument around the base of the mound to reduce the risk of falling from height
Security	Option S5	Replacement of existing security grilles with improved bespoke quality solution with lockable internal grillage as per existing
Presentation	Option P3	Provision of ambient and directional light powered by photo voltaics. Painting of internal ceiling with dark render finish
Recreation and Amenity	Option R&A 3	Create informal viewing area at western aspect of monument overlooking the sea

5.2.4 Phase 1 Initial Works is considered an important stage in the ongoing improvement of access and presentation of Barclodiad y Gawres. The remaining phases 2, 3 and 4 are interchangeable and more flexible and are subject to third party discussions outside the control of CADW Welsh Historic Monuments. The remaining phases are presented in tabular form below.

Phase 1 – Initial Enhancement Works – 2014 - 2015		
Phase 2 – Physical Enhancement Works	Phase 3 – Project Development Works	Phase 4 – Coastal Infrastructure Improvements
Further enhancement of the Phase 1 works by improving the immediate entrance to the burial chamber and providing better amenity opportunities. Improving the visual appearance of the entrance when approaching the site from the north	Prior to the consideration of any further infrastructure improvements to enhance the visitor experience to the Barclodiad, discussions with the curatorial arm of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust suggests that further investigation into the potential for other unknown sites nearby may be worthwhile prior to considering other access or presentation improvements	The provision of adequate coastal infrastructure in the area is seen as an important progression in promoting this area of coastline on Anglesey. This will involve consultation with local landholders (Bodorgan Estate) and the Anglesey Coastal Path officer
- Remove existing 'wing walls' and re-install new walls at shallower gradient. Walls to be of more natural, non uniform appearance with open joints for biodiversity opportunities. Entrance to be effectively 'narrowed'. Stones at entrance to be protected from further erosion by metal grilles. - Low wall at entrance to chamber to provide opportunities for informal seating/rest point along coastal path and to encourage longer stays. - Provide better ventilation for the long term management of air quality to prevent further algal growth	- Undertake a programme of archaeological investigation into the wider area - Stakeholder engagement activity to record any other community based evidence of the Barclodiad and other archaeological sites nearby - Re-appraisal of visitor numbers – visitor surveys to establish trends and requirements	- Provision of 'dedicated' car park for Barclodiad visitors (much in the same way as at Bryn Celli Ddu) with provision of toilets and welfare facilities. Locations to be discussed with Bodorgan Estates. Possible locations include Porth Nobla (east) and Tywyn fferam - Enhancement of the Coastal Path from Porth Nobla/Tywyn Fferam to the Barclodiad and thus tying into the footpath improvement works proposed under Phase 1 - Improvements to parking and infrastructure at Church Bay – consideration of low key welfare facilities