

# Cadw Annual Report

April 2024—March 2025



Cadw—er lles pawb.  
For us all, to keep.



A family explores one of the 'Made by Hand' artworks, bringing to life the stories of the men and women who built and worked within Castell Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

[cadw.gov.wales](http://cadw.gov.wales)

# Contents

---

Introduction	4
A conserved and protected historic environment that supports sustainability, climate action and biodiversity	8
Widening access to, enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment for people of all backgrounds	15
The historic environment contributes strongly to the economic well-being of Wales and of its communities	22
Developing our people, processes and partnerships to enable the delivery of our ambitions	24
Appendix	25

---

# Introduction

Cadw's core mission is 'caring for our historic places, inspiring current and future generations'. Our vision is a Wales where our historic places are cared for, understood and shared by everyone.

2024 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cadw's establishment, providing a valuable opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the past four decades. To celebrate this significant milestone, Cadw delivered a programme of activities across Wales, showcasing the special monuments in our care.

Highlights included historical-themed weekends exploring medieval treasures, interactive knight and sword schools for children, and flying displays featuring majestic birds. We also introduced *The Cadw Handbook: A guide to over 100 historic places in Wales*. This was distributed free of charge to all Cadw members and made available for purchase in our gift shops.

Here is a look back at just some of our achievements from the past 40 years:

## Conserving and celebrating the heritage of Wales

Since Cadw's formation in 1984, we have made significant progress in protecting and promoting Wales' historic environment. The number of listed buildings has more than tripled to over 30,000, while the number of designated monuments has increased from 2,700 to more than 4,200.

Cadw supported Welsh Ministers in making Welsh legal history: the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 established Wales' first bilingual law dedicated to the historic environment.

Over the past four decades, Cadw has also played a significant role in securing the inscription of four World Heritage Sites for Wales — Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd (1986), Blaenavon Industrial Landscape (2000), Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal (2009) and the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales (2021).



Top: 2024 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cadw's establishment, offering an opportunity to reflect on four decades of achievement.

Middle: The Chapel at St Michael's College, Llandaff, Cardiff — Wales' first post-war building to be awarded Grade I listed status.

Bottom: Penrhyn Slate Quarry, Gwynedd, part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site.  
© Crown copyright: RCAHMW



One of Cadw's earliest achievements was the rescue and restoration of Plas Mawr in Conwy — now one of the finest surviving Elizabethan town houses in the UK and a leading visitor attraction.

Our commitment to enhancing the visitor experience continues today. Cadw is currently transforming Caerphilly Castle — Wales' largest medieval fortress — refurbishing the great hall and investing in a new interpretative scheme to elevate the experience at this remarkable thirteenth-century site.

Each year, Cadw supports owners, custodians and communities through our Ancient Monument Grant and Historic Buildings Grant programmes, helping to care for and maintain Wales' historic buildings, monuments and archaeological sites for future generations. Over the past 40 years, these schemes have supported hundreds of projects across the country.



Throughout this time, we have continued to invest in major conservation works and develop innovative interpretation to help bring the stories of our monuments to life. Key projects include the creation of new visitor centres at Castell Harlech and Denbigh Castle and extensive conservation programmes at Neath Abbey, Castell Coety, Castell Coch and Castell Conwy. We have also delivered groundbreaking redevelopment and conservation projects at Castell Caernarfon and Tretower Court and Castle.

Over the last decade, our in-house team of specialist stonemasons, joiners and surveyors — Cadwraeth Cymru — have dedicated more than 408,000 hours to conserving some of our smaller and more remote historic monuments across Wales. In 2010, their expertise received international recognition with a prestigious Europa Nostra Award for the 15-year conservation of St Davids Bishop's Palace in Pembrokeshire.



Top left: The King's Gate at Castell Caernarfon following a significant conservation and redevelopment project, enhancing access to one of Wales' most iconic gateways.

Below left: Cadwraeth Cymru: 408,000+ hours spent conserving Wales' historic monuments over the last decade.

Top right: An artist's impression of the medieval-inspired decoration planned for the great hall in Caerphilly Castle.

Below right: A remote medieval ringwork near Erwood, Powys, improved through our grant schemes with erosion repairs, tree clearance and new fencing for better site management.

# Educating communities and embracing the future



Above: Alex Wharton led a poetry workshop at Neath Abbey with pupils from Dŵr y Felin Comprehensive School.

**Cadw's work to educate and engage communities across Wales — particularly younger generations — has been profound. Each year, we deliver more than 2,500 community events and welcome up to 100,000 educational visits to the monuments in our care.**

Initiatives such as Young Custodians involve close collaboration with schools to visit our monuments and help foster a sense of ownership, heritage and belonging among pupils. Each project is tailored to its host monument, with activities ranging from creating tapestries and cartoons to studying maths, science and literature, as well as introducing pupils to traditional heritage skills, including stonemasonry.

Innovation has also shaped our approach to learning. The creation of the first Cadw World in Minecraft has revolutionised how children experience Welsh heritage, allowing them to explore 20 Cadw sites through immersive AR and VR technologies. Notably, it is also the first Welsh-language Minecraft in the world.

Cadw continues to take a proactive role in raising awareness of the risks and opportunities presented by climate change and the need for

adaptation. In February 2020, we published the *Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales: Sector Adaptation Plan*, supported by a series of advisory guidance booklets designed to help owners of historic buildings prepare their properties for the challenges of future climate change.



Cadw World in Minecraft enables children to explore 20 historic sites, including Castell Conwy, through immersive AR and VR technologies.

## Cadw Governance

Cadw's governance framework supports the effective delivery of our mission and strategic objectives. The Cadw Senior Executive Team is supported by the Cadw Board, which provides independent advice, constructive challenge and fresh perspectives — helping Cadw respond to both current and future opportunities and challenges.

During 2024–25, the Cadw Board, under the leadership of Interim Chair Peter Wakelin, worked with Cadw to take forward the recommendations arising from the review of Cadw's governance arrangements, published in December 2023. Key areas of progress included undertaking a Cadw Board Effectiveness Review; establishing an Operational Framework and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Welsh Ministers and the Cadw Chief Executive, adopted in June 2025; and contributing to the working group reviewing the relationship between Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

## Business Plan 2024–25

The three principal ambitions set out in our business plan for 2024–25 are:

- A conserved and protected historic environment that supports sustainability, climate action and biodiversity.
- Widening access to, enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment for people of all backgrounds.
- A historic environment that contributes strongly to the economic well-being of Wales and of its communities.

With one enabling theme of:

- Developing our people, processes and partnerships to enable the delivery of our ambitions.

This annual statement is laid out according to these four themes, with a short summary of key achievements during the course of the year.



A family engaging with a volunteer at Plas Mawr, Conwy, to learn more about the history of the Elizabethan house.

# A conserved and protected historic environment that supports sustainability, climate action and biodiversity

## Cadw monuments

131



monuments including 19 staffed sites.

£3,204k

Expenditure on capital-funded investment projects.

£7,793k



Expenditure on revenue-funded conservation.

£2,308k



Expenditure on facilities management at Cadw sites.

## Wider historic environment

£1,521k



Total value of capital grants awarded to projects supported through the historic buildings, maintenance, urgent works and ancient monument grant schemes; and new capital grants committed to support historic assets, including:

£1,247k to projects to conserve and maintain historic buildings, including 9 new historic buildings grants and £450k to the Architectural Heritage Fund to support more than 25 projects through project viability grants, capital works grants, project development grants and heritage impact fund programmes.

£269k to support conservation projects for 7 scheduled monuments.

£5k to support 1 urgent works grant.

£1,756k

Total value of revenue grants awarded to 20 organisations, including £1,312k to Heneb to provide essential regional archaeological and heritage advisory services.

154

Scheduled monument consent applications determined.

# 169

Designation-related assessments completed (new listing and scheduling, de-listing and de-scheduling and other amendments to existing designations), comprising 119 stage-1 desk-based assessments of historic buildings, 44 stage-2 inspection-based assessments of historic buildings and 6 scheduled monument assessments.

# 1,399

Planning application consultations determined.



# 24

Buildings added to the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. In addition, 1 building upgraded, 1 certificate of immunity, 80 listing descriptions amended and 12 buildings de-listed.

# 414

Listed building consent notifications responded to.



# 2

Monuments added to the schedule of monuments of national importance and 2 amendments to existing scheduling.

# 200

Consultations on listed building religious exemptions responded to.



# 1

Garden added to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.



# 374

Other consultations, including appeal casework, non-statutory pre-applications, Natural Resources Wales licensing, environmental impact assessments, strategic impact assessments, utility company consultations and responses to Welsh Government and Local Authority policy documents.



# A conserved and protected historic environment that supports sustainability, climate action and biodiversity

In 2024–25, work to make Castell Coch weatherproof progressed with the launch of a £2m conservation project to repair the Well and Kitchen Towers and protect them from the increasingly severe driving rain and high winds associated with climate change. This followed the successful conservation of the Keep Tower in 2019.

A complex scaffold, wrapped in colourful sheeting to protect the Well Tower from wind and rain during the work, enabled masons to rake out the failing cement pointing — a vital first step in allowing the structure to dry out. When the old pointing was removed, water could be seen trickling from the stonework. Repairs to the roofs, chimneys and windows will also be undertaken as part of the project.

Cadw prioritised this work alongside the installation of a new heating system to help the castle dry out and prevent further deterioration of its spectacular interior decoration. Paint analysis to learn more about the original external and internal decorative schemes is planned for 2025–26.

Cadw continues to prioritise sustainability and climate adaptation at the properties in our care. This year, we appointed a Grounds Maintenance Manager to lead the transformation of monument grounds, enhancing biodiversity and improving seasonal interest.

To support Wales' drive to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, we continued to install renewable energy sources across our estate, including new ground-source heat pumps at Castell Caernarfon and Caerphilly Castle.

Cadw completed the transition of our work vehicle fleet from fossil fuels to electric and rolled out an electric-charging network across key monuments. A total of 37 charge points were installed at 13 sites for the convenience of visitors and staff. In 2024–25, electric vehicles using our charge points travelled 125,300 miles, saving 24 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and the equivalent of 145 trees.



Top: Castell Coch's Well Tower under scaffolding during a £2 million conservation project to improve its resilience to severe weather.

Above: Electric vehicle charging points installed at Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire, part of a network of 37 across 13 Cadw sites.

During 2024–25, we assessed 119 historic buildings and 6 monuments across Wales to consider whether they met the strict criteria to be given special protection as a listed building (Table 4) or a scheduled monument (Table 5).



Top: Brambell Laboratory, Bangor University — a Brutalist landmark listed as part of Cadw's survey of post-war Welsh architecture.

Top: St Tudwal's Church, Barmouth — listed following the *Taking Stock* project, notable for retaining its ornate pre-Vatican II altar features.

Above: Great Hall, Aberystwyth University — listed as part of Cadw's thematic survey of post-war architecture, with a particular focus on University of Wales' sites.

Above: Our Lady of Lourdes, Benllech — listed for its innovative post-Vatican II church design.

Highlights of the year include the listing of Aberystwyth University's Great Hall and Bangor University's Brambell Laboratory — two significant Brutalist icons designed by the Percy Thomas Partnership. Their designation follows work undertaken through the ongoing thematic survey of post-war Welsh architecture (1945–1985), which is currently focussed on sites associated with the University of Wales.

lost in many churches following the Vatican II reforms, and Our Lady of Lourdes, Bennlech, Anglesey (1965), an example of the freedom, experimentation and new architectural thinking that emerged in post-Vatican II church design. The latter is the work of Welsh architects Stewart Powell Bowen and Bill Davies.

The year also saw the completion of the *Taking Stock* project, delivered in partnership with the Catholic Church to review the designations of its buildings. Newly listed churches include St Tudwal's, Barmouth, Gwynedd (1905), which has retained the elaborate altar features

Full details of revenue grants (Table 2) and capital grants (Table 3) issued during the year are set out in the appendix. These have enabled the wider historic environment sector to deliver specialist advice and services at both strategic and casework level.

Some examples of grant projects supported this year:

## Church of St Giles, Wrexham

The Church of St Giles, listed Grade I and recognised as one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in Wales, dates mainly from the late fifteenth century, although its interior also retains elements of an earlier fourteenth-century church. The building was constructed in several phases, ending with the completion of the tower between 1506 and 1520.

Conserving stonework on such a substantial building is an ongoing challenge to tackle the effects of age, weathering, pollution, corrosion of embedded ironwork and damage caused by earlier cement-based repairs that are no longer appropriate.

Cadw has contributed £167,592 through the historic buildings capital grant programme to support essential conservation work. This has included masonry repairs to the south aisle and chancel, re-leading the chancel roof and renewing rainwater goods. Adaptations were also made to rainwater outlets to help the building cope with heavier rainfall — an important climate change adaptation measure.

These works have safeguarded the chancel, strengthened the church's resilience to climate change and provided training opportunities for two apprentices in traditional stonemasonry.

Right: The church chancel, protected for the future through grant-aided conservation work.



The Church of St Giles, Wrexham — a Grade I listed landmark, conserved with Cadw grant support.

## Former coach house and stables to Plas Machynlleth, Powys



The Grade II listed coach house and stables, believed to date from the early nineteenth century, are part of the Grade II\* listed Plas Machynlleth estate. After standing vacant for several years, the buildings were considered at risk.

With £105,784 from Cadw's historic buildings capital grant programme, alongside funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Powys County Council, the building was made structurally sound, wind- and weatherproof. Works included re-roofing and repairs to the bellcote.

This work forms part of a larger project that will see the coach house brought back into use as a community facility.



Top: The coach house and stables at Plas Machynlleth — vacant Grade II listed buildings once identified as at risk.

Bottom: Plas Machynlleth coach house and stables following conservation work to make the buildings structurally sound and weatherproof.

## St Lawrence's Church, Gumfreston, Pembrokeshire



St Lawrence's Church, a Grade II\* listed building, had fallen into severe disrepair and was placed on the Buildings at Risk register with no viable future use. Following its acquisition, the Friends of Friendless Churches initiated a major conservation programme, delivered in two phases.

Phase I focused on essential structural work, including extensive masonry consolidation and roof repairs to make the church weatherproof. During this work, conservators uncovered medieval wall paintings concealed beneath Victorian cement-based plaster.

Phase 2, part-funded by Cadw, focuses on the specialist conservation of these paintings. What began as a small number of isolated discoveries has grown significantly as plaster removal progresses, revealing multiple medieval images — particularly around the chancel arch. All findings are being recorded and the emerging significance of the artwork may justify an upgrade of the church's listing to Grade I, once conservation and assessment are complete.

Left: St Lawrence's Church, a Grade II\* building once on the Buildings at Risk register, under scaffolding during major conservation works to make the church weatherproof.

When the project is completed, the church will reopen under the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches, offering daily access for both the local community and visitors. This renewed use will enable the building

to be removed from the Buildings at Risk register. The project has also actively involved local people and has helped to support the development of traditional construction skills.

## Offa's Dyke

This year saw the successful delivery of major earthwork conservation along a badly eroded section of Offa's Dyke.

The project forms part of a wider partnership between Cadw, Historic England and Shropshire Council, which also includes supporting a dedicated officer to champion the long-term conservation of the dyke.



Conservation work on a heavily eroded section of Offa's Dyke at Burfa, delivered in partnership.

# Widening access to, enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment for people of all backgrounds

1,001,529



Visitors to Cadw's staffed sites.

↓ down by 14%  
from 1,161,475  
in 2023-24

58,003



Cadw members.

↓ down by 2%  
from 59,402  
in 2023-24

3,353,993

Page views on Cadw website.

769,007

Cadw website users.

2,206,820

Cadw website sessions.

138,000



Visitors attended 270 community and commercial events undertaken across Cadw sites.

47,387



Visitors to a Welsh heritage site as part of the Cadw Open Doors festival, supporting 616 events at 200 venues.

1,644

Visitors from refugee and asylum seeker groups enjoyed free access to Cadw sites as part of a targeted scheme.

# Widening access to, enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment for people of all backgrounds

Each year, Cadw welcomes more than a million visitors to the monuments in our care, providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds to enjoy and engage with Wales' rich heritage.

In 2024-25, the Cadw events programme successfully delivered 270 events, attracting 138,000 visitors to experience Welsh history and culture.

Highlights included the *Shadows of Tintern* light and sound installation, which brought cutting-edge technology into the heart of Wales' best-known Cistercian abbey, and *Warning Notes*, an immersive sound installation by award-winning international artist Mark Anderson at Blaenafon Ironworks. Alongside these flagship events, a wide range of living history and re-enactment events helped bring Wales' past vividly to life.



Re-enactment events brought Welsh history to life as part of Cadw's programme of 270 events, attended by 138,000 visitors.

2024 also marked the introduction of Cadw's new bookable guided tour programme at seven unstaffed sites, including Barclodiad y Gawres Chambered Tomb, Cae'r Gors, Valle Crucis Abbey, Llangar Old Church, Rug Chapel, Segontium Roman Fort and Castell Oxwich.

In September, Cadw successfully coordinated Open Doors — Wales' largest heritage festival. This year's programme delivered 616 events across more than 200 venues, welcoming 47,387 visitors to heritage sites throughout Wales.

Cadw launched Cadw Cymru, the first ever Welsh-language version of Minecraft Education, at Castell Conwy. Pupils from from Ysgol Pennant — who helped test the world — and the local Young Custodians from Ysgol Minafon enjoyed a real-life tour of the castle alongside their in-game experience, allowing them to compare the digital and physical environments.

Minecraft has proved to be an effective tool for engaging young learners, supported by the Welsh Language Resource Pack, helping to connect them with both their heritage and the Welsh language. Further investment in the project is planned for 2025–26.

In December, Cadw's Bryn Celli Ddu project and its signature event, 'Gwreiddiau', received two major honours at the Archaeological Achievement Awards 2024, winning both the Outstanding Achievement Award and the Engagement and Participation Award. Coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology, these awards celebrate excellence across the UK and Ireland and are recognised as a key highlight in the archaeological calendar.

Cadw's Lifelong Learning team was also recognised this year, receiving a silver award at the UK Operational Delivery Profession Awards for their commitment to youth and community engagement.



Top: Visitors on a guided tour at Castell Oxwich, part of Cadw's bookable programme introduced at selected unstaffed sites.

Middle top: Visitors on a guided tour of Ewenny Priory in the Vale of Glamorgan during Open Doors, Wales' national heritage festival.

Middle bottom: Children explored Cadw Cymru in Minecraft at its launch at Castell Conwy, comparing the digital world with the real site.

Bottom: 'Gwreiddiau' at Bryn Celli Ddu, an award-winning event recognised for promoting engagement and participation in Welsh archaeology.



In 2024–25, Cadw’s Lifelong Learning team continued its support for the Food and Fun School Holiday Enrichment Programme — a school-based initiative that provides children with food and nutrition education, enrichment activities and healthy meals throughout the school summer holidays. We delivered over 51 heritage-based educational workshops and engaging hand-on experiences to 1,743 learners across Wales.

2024 also saw the continuation of the Young Custodians programme at Neath Abbey — our first in south Wales — building on the successful model already established in the north. This initiative is fostering pride, ownership and a deeper understanding of the site among local young people, which is especially important following the completion of a long period of conservation at the site.



As part of the programme, an annual schools day transformed Neath Abbey into an outdoor classroom. Facilitated by Cadw, pupils used the abbey’s unique spaces to explore maths, science, literacy and history, bringing their learning to life through direct engagement with the heritage around them.

Our Cadw volunteers bring enthusiasm and knowledge to enable us to offer richer experiences and support our mission to protect and promote the historic environment. In 2024–25, the *Cynefin* project built on this commitment through a volunteer created learning resource that helps young people explore their local history and sense of place.

Developed with Cadw’s Lifelong Learning team to support the curriculum for Wales, it introduces pupils to key themes in Welsh history while building enquiry and critical thinking skills. Through interactive, cross curricular activities, the project encourages learners to become ‘history detectives’ and deepen their connection to Wales’ heritage.



Cadw’s programme of monument access improvements continued this year with the installation of new safety barriers along the wall-tops at Castell Harlech, part of the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site. The barriers — made from glass with slim, unobtrusive handrails — have been carefully designed to be almost invisible from ground level, ensuring they do not detract from Harlech’s dramatic silhouette between mountain and sea.

Walking the wall tops is one of the most cherished aspects of visiting Wales’ castles, offering both the breathtaking views they were originally built to command and the exhilaration of being high above the ground. At Harlech, these spaces can feel particularly exposed, especially in windy conditions. The new barriers have significantly enhanced visitor confidence and comfort, allowing more people to enjoy the experience safely while preserving the authenticity of the site.

Top: Children took part in a hands-on excavation activity as part of Cadw’s Food and Fun summer programme.

Middle: A costumed interpreter brought history to life at Neath Abbey, engaging pupils through storytelling, music and hands-on learning.

Bottom: New glass safety barriers at Castell Harlech enhance access while remaining almost invisible, preserving the castle’s dramatic silhouette.

## *Shadows of Tintern*

Thousands of visitors enjoyed a truly atmospheric night-time experience as historic Tintern Abbey was brought to life through light, sound and fire. More than 2,500 people gathered in the abbey grounds on the bank of the river Wye, where the interplay of modern artistry and medieval architecture created an unforgettable sense of wonder. Audience feedback reflected the impact of the event, capturing its magic.

“ The photos don't capture the amazing sense of place that you conjured. People wandering around with their mouths open. A total sensory onslaught we will not forget! ”



Tintern Abbey illuminated with light, sound and fire, as thousands gathered for an atmospheric night-time event blending modern artistry with medieval architecture.

## Warning Notes at Blaenafon Ironworks



The Balance Tower illuminated during *Warning Notes*, as Blaenafon Ironworks was transformed into an immersive world of sound, light and performance.

*Warning Notes* at Blaenafon Ironworks offered visitors a powerful, immersive sonic experience filled with suspense, shifting soundscapes and poetry. As day turned to night, the ironworks were transformed into a captivating audio world, with an ever-changing outdoor live performance that interacted with the site's industrial setting. One audience member described it as:

“ A pulsing, gorgeous and threatening world woven out of sound sculptures and beautiful, rhythmic notes. ”

# The historic environment contributes strongly to the economic well-being of Wales and of its communities

## Cadw commercial activity

---

**£10,455k**

Total commercial income.

↑ up by 1% from  
£10,319k in  
2023-24

## This comprised:

---

**£6,465k** 

Admissions income.

**£1,273k** 

Membership income.

**£2,373k** 

Retail sales income.

**£152k** 

Commercial hire income.

**£192k** 

Estates and other income sources.

---

# The historic environment contributes strongly to the economic well-being of Wales and of its communities

Total visitor numbers to Cadw sites in 2024–25 fell by 14% compared with the previous year. This decline partly reflects the timing of Easter, with only one week of school holidays in 2024–25 compared with three weeks in the previous year, alongside an industry recorded 10% reduction in overall trips to Wales — Domestic GB tourism statistics (overnight trips): 2024 — GOV.WALES.

Despite lower visitor numbers, Cadw recorded a 1% increase in total income versus last year. This was driven by seasonal price increases at six sites during the summer, generating an additional £136k, alongside membership income up by 17% against budget.

Cadw also increased its membership base during 2024–25, rising from 28,370 to 28,684, a growth of 1%. In addition, trade income reached its highest level on record at £402k. This reflects active attendance by Cadw's commercial team at trade shows, the introduction of a new online booking system and working closely with Visit Wales to maximise communications and drive trade footfall.

All income generated by Cadw is reinvested in the work we do to support the conservation and management of our historic environment and to make it more accessible for the public to enjoy. During the 2024–25 financial year, two new initiatives were introduced that directly supported these aims:

- As part of Owain Glyndŵr Day celebrations in September, marking the anniversary of the Welsh national hero being proclaimed Prince of Wales by his followers in 1400, Cadw offered free entry for all under-18s at its sites. This initiative helped connect younger audiences with a pivotal period in Welsh history.
- *The Cadw Handbook: A guide to over 100 historic places in Wales* was completed and distributed to Cadw members with the Easter edition of *Heritage in Wales* magazine. Retailing at £9.95, the handbook is also available to purchase at all staffed Cadw sites and through independent bookshops across Wales.



Top: *The Cadw Handbook*, distributed to members and available at Cadw sites and bookshops.

Above: Cadw offered free entry for under-18s during Owain Glyndŵr Day celebrations in September.

## Margam Park

Margam Castle, a Grade I listed building, is one of Wales' most striking historic landmarks. Over time, however, its intricate stonework — finials, towers, turrets and chimneys — had deteriorated so severely that parts of the structure became unsafe, including the impressive plaster ceiling in the entrance hall.

To safeguard the building and enable the main hall to remain open to the public, Cadw contributed a 50% grant of £800,000 towards essential restoration works. The highly specialised nature of the repairs also created valuable hands-on learning opportunities in traditional stone masonry, supporting the continued development of heritage skills and craftsmanship.

This investment formed the first step in a wider vision to restore, reinterpret and open more of Margam Castle to visitors. It also helped position Neath Port Talbot Council to secure major external funding to support the site's long-term regeneration.

To date, the National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded a £900,030 Development Grant for the *Reimagining Margam Castle* project, with the potential for a further £9 million Delivery Grant subject to the successful completion of future stages. Cadw worked closely with the council throughout this process, helping to shape the proposals that led to the successful funding award.



The restoration of Margam Castle's ornate plaster ceiling, supported by Cadw funding, provided hands-on training in traditional stone masonry skills.

# Developing our people, processes and partnerships to enable the delivery of our ambitions

Heritage plays a critical role in shaping our identity, enriching communities and inspiring future generations. Participation in cultural and heritage activities is recognised to bring positive outcomes for individuals, communities and the well-being of the wider society.

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and its supporting regulations came into effect on 4 November 2024. Together they constitute the historic environment code, which establishes a secure foundation for the future development of accessible and effective law for our nation's unique and precious historic environment. Wales now benefits from the most up-to-date historic environment legislation of any UK nation. While the new legislation significantly improves how the law can be found, understood and applied, it does not change the way the historic environment is currently managed in practice.

Cadw continued to explore new ways of bringing its historic places closer to local communities, supporting economic well-being and creating opportunities for local people to work directly with Wales' historic environment.



At Strata Florida Abbey near Pontrhydfendigaid, Cadw established a partnership with the Strata Florida Trust. While Cadw remains responsible for the care and conservation of the monument itself, responsibility for all other aspects of the visitor experience has transferred to the Trust. To support this, the Trust has recruited three custodians and engaged local contractors to maintain the grounds. This partnership has improved the visitor experience, increased visitor numbers and delivered a more cost-effective model for managing this iconic site.

Following the publication of *A Review of Cadw's Governance Arrangements* in December 2023, work has been completed to establish a new Cadw Operational Framework. This framework formalises operational delegations, clarifies roles and responsibilities and sets out more clearly the important advisory role of the Cadw Board.

Progress against the review's recommendations include the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Cadw and the Welsh Ministers. This will clarify professional independence in specific regulatory areas, including designation decisions, the control of works affecting scheduled monuments, decisions relating to listed buildings, and planning functions. The formalisation of these existing practices reinforces Cadw's role as a trusted and authoritative source of expert advice on heritage matters.

Left: Members of the Cadw team who supported Welsh Ministers in delivering the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023.

Above: The west doorway of the abbey church at Strata Florida Abbey, Ceredigion.

# Appendix

**Table 1**  
Financial summary for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Revenue income	Amount
Commercial income	£10,455,000
Welsh Government funding	£17,324,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£27,779,000</b>

Revenue expenditure	Amount
Salaries	£11,220,000
Programme expenditure	£16,559,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£27,779,000</b>

Capital income	Amount
Welsh Government funding	£5,161,000
Partnership funding	£226,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,387,000</b>

Capital expenditure	Amount
Properties in care	£3,204,000
Capital grants	£1,921,000
Interpretation	£224,000
Visitor services	£38,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,387,000</b>

**Table 2**  
Cadw Revenue Grants 2024–25

Project	Description	Amount
<b>Historic Environment Revenue Grants Awarded</b>		
<b>Grants over £10,000</b>		
National Churches Trust	To re-establish the historic places of worship forum, to consult and bring people together to create a refreshed structure and strategy for the forum, and to plan and manage a series of regular meetings.	£10,000.00
Heritage Trust Network	To contribute to the Network's activity to champion and support heritage trusts and other community organisations directly involved in the preservation, restoration and re-use of heritage assets.	£10,273.00
Council for British Archaeology (CBA)	To support the CBA's work in protecting the historic environment and promoting participation and engagement with heritage, whilst also contributing to the Public and User Needs Survey 2 (PUNS2) research project in Wales.	£28,938.00
Welsh Religious Buildings Trust	To support the work of the organisation in caring for historically important and redundant non-conformist chapels.	£73,456.00
Friends of Friendless Churches	To support the work of the Friends of Friendless Churches in caring for redundant churches in Wales.	£89,183.00
Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology	To conserve and protect the historic environment of Wales including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat-related archaeological recording, surveys, assessments, excavations and watching briefs</li> <li>• Identify historic assets of national importance</li> <li>• Maintain and manage the regional Historic Environment Record (HER)</li> <li>• Support the sustainable management of the historic environment of Wales by providing regionally based planning and management curatorial advice</li> <li>• Promote public understanding and appreciation of Welsh heritage.</li> </ul>	£1,311,815.00
Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum	To support the management and administration of the museum as an Accredited Museum open to the public to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the appropriate level of care and management of artefacts and other items that form the core collections of the museum to the standards required by the Accreditation Scheme</li> <li>• Provide lifelong learning and other public engagement and education services.</li> </ul>	£94,762.50
Nevern Castle	Support towards post-excavation and publication of excavations at Nevern Castle.	£13,728.00
Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales	Support towards post-excavation and publication of excavations at the Roman town of <i>Venta Silurum</i> , Caerwent.	£10,400.00
Carneddau Landscape Partnership	To provide match funding support for the Carneddau Landscape Partnership during Year 5 of the Delivery Phase (2024–25) of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme.	£20,000.00
Cyngor Gwynedd	North-west Wales World Heritage Coordinator.	£25,486.17
Shropshire Council	Post of Project Officer to deliver a work programme under the Offa's Dyke Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in partnership with Cadw, Historic England and the Offa's Dyke Association.	£34,807.41
<b>Grants under £10,000 (8 grants)</b>		<b>£33,237.45</b>
<b>Total Revenue Grants 2024–25</b>		<b>£1,756,086.53</b>

**Table 3**  
Cadw Capital Grants 2024–25

Project	Description	Amount
<b>Ancient Monument Capital Grants Awarded</b>		
<b>Ancient Monument Grants over £10,000</b>		
Pen Dinas Camp, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion	Vegetation management, outreach, post-excavation work and publication.	£15,000.00
Offa's Dyke	To undertake Year 3 'demonstrator' conservation projects on selected sections of Offa's Dyke, forming part of the broader three-year, cross-border Offa's Dyke Conservation Project led in partnership with Cadw, Historic England, Shropshire County Council and the Offa's Dyke Association.	£78,289.84
Brymbo Ironworks, Wrexham	Consolidation, conservation and repairs to the charging wall of this early blast furnace, cast house and foundry .	£159,563.86
<b>Ancient Monument Grants under £10,000 (4 grants)</b>		<b>£16,660.76</b>
<b>Total Ancient Monument Grants 2024–25</b>		<b>£269,514.46</b>

Project	Description	Amount
<b>Historic Buildings Capital Grants Awarded</b>		
<b>Historic Buildings Capital Grants over £10,000</b>		
Church of St Tysilio, Denbighshire	Restoration of the existing slated roof to address water ingress and safeguard internal finishes, fixtures and fittings from further damage.	£39,970.55
Church of St Giles, Wrexham	Roof and buttress repairs.	£150,000.00
Former coach house and stables, Plas Machynlleth, Powys	Repairs to roof, bell turrets, lintels and gable parapets. Replacement of rainwater goods, works to gulleys and below-ground drainage.	£105,783.50
Insole Court, Cardiff	Repairs to pitched and flat roofs, guttering and rainwater pipes, together with the repair and replacement of windows and frames.	£96,250.00
Aberbechan Aqueduct, Llandyssil, Powys	Relining of the aqueduct's brick liner; infilling voids and repairing the towpath; and repair of arch masonry.	£220,282.30
Melin Daron, Aberdaron, Gwynedd	Rebuilding of the lean-to structure to house mill services, repairs to the north-east corner, restoration of the pond and dam reinforcement works.	£116,454.88
Yr Hen Gapel, Llwynrhydown, Ceredigion	Repairs to the south-facing gable and associated internal works.	£42,500.00
Flint Foreshore Regeneration	Concept designs of a Community Heritage Centre on land adjacent to Flint Castle.	£15,706.70

**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Cadw Capital Grants 2024–25**

Project	Description	Amount
<b>Historic Buildings Capital Grants Awarded</b>		
<b>Historic Buildings Capital Grants over £10,000</b>		
Coleg Harlech, Gwynedd	Contribution to the Eryri National Park Authority's grant towards the costs of works at Wern Fawr, Coleg Harlech, Gwynedd, including temporary roofing and localised repairs to prevent water ingress.	£10,000.00
Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF)	To support AHF's 'Heritage Transformed in Wales' programme, including the award of project viability grants, project development grants and capital works grants, as well as core costs associated with the programme and a contribution to the AHF's core costs.	£450,000.00
<b>Historic Buildings Capital Grants under £10,000 (0 grants)</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Historic Buildings Capital Grants 2024–25</b>		<b>£1,246,947.93</b>
Project	Description	Amount
<b>Historic Buildings Local Authority Urgent Works Grants Awarded</b>		
Historic Buildings Local Authority Urgent Works Grants over £10,000	N/A	£0.00
Historic Buildings Local Authority Urgent Works Grants under £10,000 (1 grant)	To assist with the costs associated with preparing and serving a Section 215 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of 10 Church Street, Monmouth.	£5,000.00
<b>Total Historic Buildings Local Authority Urgent Works Grants 2024–25</b>		<b>£5,000.00</b>
<b>Total Capital Grants 2024–25</b>		<b>£1,521,462.39</b>

**Table 4**  
New designations: Listed buildings 2024–25

Reference Number	Name	Unitary Authority	Grade
87936	Ty Cwrdd Bach, Cwm Gwaun, Fishguard	Pembrokeshire	II
87938	Telford Milestone (23), Bangor	Gwynedd	II
87939	Telford Milestone (28), Llanllechid	Gwynedd	II
87940	Telford Milestone (46), Bro Garmon	Conwy	II
87941	Ty Hen (including garage room to Penygroes), Blaenau Ffestiniog	Gwynedd	II
87873	Catholic Church of Christ the King, including forecourt walls, gate and gate piers, Builth Wells	Powys	II
87943	The Great Hall, Aberystwyth University	Ceredigion	II*
87944	The Bell Tower, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth	Ceredigion	II
87945	The Hugh Owen Building, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth	Ceredigion	II
87946	59 High Street, Blaenau Ffestiniog	Gwynedd	II
87947	Lion Hotel and Prospect House, Carreghofa, Llanymynech	Powys	II
87948	Brambell Laboratory, Bangor University	Gwynedd	II
87950	Milepost outside no. 7 Hanky Terrace, Plymouth Street, Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	II
87942	Wrexham Waterworld Leisure & Activity Centre, Acton	Wrexham	II
87953	Former Supply Reserves Depot Gatehouse and Gatepiers, Barry	Vale of Glamorgan	II
87901	Catholic Church of Our Lady of Fatima (including the Presbytery), Bala	Gwynedd	II
87903	Catholic Church of Christ the King, Towyn	Conwy	II
87904	Catholic Church of St Joseph (including attached presbytery), Colwyn Bay	Conwy	II
87905	Catholic Church of St Joseph, Denbigh	Denbighshire	II
87906	Catholic Church of St Illtyd, Rhuddlan	Denbighshire	II
87908	Catholic Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Benllech	Isle of Anglesey	II
87909	Monument to Bishop Brown in the burial ground of the church of St David, Holywell	Flintshire	II
87918	Catholic Church of St David, Mold	Flintshire	II
87924	Catholic Church of St Tudwal (including attached presbytery), Barmouth	Gwynedd	II

---

**Table 5**

New designations: Scheduled monuments 2024–25

Reference Number	Name	Unitary Authority
CN419	Pen y Bryn Slate Quarry and tips, Llanllyfni	Gwynedd
GM637	Prehistoric Rock Art at Tai'r Waun Isaf, Nelson	Caerphilly
BR431	Cefn-Brynich Roman Fort, Brecon	Powys
GM638	Tir-Gwyllt Second World War Barrage Balloon Site, Bonymaen	Swansea