Wales in the Modern Period

General consensus for Modern period is that it begins in 1900 and is therefore the Post Victorian period (Victoria died 1901 but it was felt more helpful to define by the century rather than reign)

Introduction

The Modern Period as defined from 1900 onwards is a time of great change with considerable difference between the start and "end" of the era. In the earlier part of the period we see the continuation of the themes defined for the "*Industrial & Modern Period (Post 1750)*".

"*The Industrial and Modern period (post-1750) in Wales is the country we inhabit today. In this time-frame, an agricultural and pastoral society evolves to become a leading industrial export economy, supplying not only iron and copper products, coal, tinplate, lead, granite and slate to world-markets and to an imperial polity, but also labour and know-how, as Welsh émigrés took their skills with them to the USA, to Russia and elsewhere. Wales ceases to be a receptor culture and becomes an initiator-culture in the Industrial and Modern period. At the same time, strong cultural continuities are also apparent, in the growing strength of the Welsh language and in the vitality of small rural communities. For these reasons, the period offers strong narratives of innovation and renewal, of transformation and social conflict, which inform the contemporary sense of Welsh identity*".

When concentrating specifically on the Modern Period there could be consideration of:

- decline and de-industrialisation of areas. This includes the decline of traditional industries such as coal and steel and the rise (and decline/change) of manufacturing
- changing agricultural landscape and farming practises – rural areas population change
- warfare and commemoration
- Forestry Commission – landscape changes
- the rise and fall of tourism
- changes in religious practises
- the changing townscape (move to supermarket and out of town/internet shopping, decline of local and specialist shops)
- changing settlement patterns – slum clearance, WW2 bombing, suburbanisation, social housing, temporary structures such as prefabs
- identifying temporary areas such as protests (Bethesda/80's Miners Strikes etc) and can deposits be tied to single events
- identification of "folk art" through graffiti and public art - slate carving outside miners hospital & bridge at Penrhyn Castle, Newport Chartist Memorial
- the changing Welsh community as people from around the world become part of Welsh society, history and archaeology

Relevant & Recent Research

In addition to examples discussed in last framework there are also lots of special interest groups active in Wales. They are actively recording specific areas such memorials, milestones, lime kilns etc and it would be a worthwhile endeavour to reach out to these groups/individuals to persuade them to submit findings to HER.

Present & Revised Priority List
This is amended for that of the previous Framework to reflect the Modern Period

- The significance of technical change in, and the scale, landscape impact and survival (including below-ground archaeology) of, the major industries of coal, iron, copper, tin, lead and slate; their context and significance in terms of similar sites elsewhere in the world; their relationship with the markets they served – **UPDATE:** Include manufacturing industry, changes in workforce numbers, effect on community, decline in industry
- The significance of military and defensive sites – **UPDATE:** to include commemorative monuments – war memorials, more "ephemeral" monuments such as Rolls of Honour and smaller monuments in individual buildings such as chapels, churches and places of work
- The erosion or survival of local and regional characteristics in domestic building from the later eighteenth century onwards; the varieties of planned and unplanned settlement; evidence for migration and social diversity in housing stock **– Stands as is for the later period**
- The extent to which the proliferation of social infrastructure and communal institutions such as chapels, churches, institutes is a distinctive feature of the period and in what ways these structures might be distinctive to Wales – **UPDATE:** Later changes to this pattern and decline in attendance and chapel/church closures. Effect on communities of losing these buildings/spaces
- The significance, form and archaeological survival of transport corridors – turnpikes, government-sponsored roads, canals, railways – in terms of their engineering, the industries they served and the settlements they sustained; their context and significance in terms of similar sites elsewhere in the world - **UPDATE:** Include modern infrastructure such as motorways, dual carriageway, power stations (and green energy), closure and reopening of smaller railway stations particularly in rural areas, buses and trams
- The significance, form and archaeological survival of major dock systems; their context and significance in terms of similar sites elsewhere in the world – **UPDATE:** Examination of changes of community and area following decline of dock areas
- **UPDATE:** Secular social institutions – Importance of public houses, working men's institutions, Trade Unions, libraries, memorial halls, cinema
- **UPDATE:** The NHS. Previous miners/workers hospitals set up prior to NHS, then creation of new hospitals. Effect on society and custom built structures
- **UPDATE:** Educational institutions – changes in schools and school designs, grammar schools and comprehensives, modern architecture, universities – changes to systems and buildings (example Bangor University - 1st World War Memorial buildings, earlier faux historic style, modern elements as expands)
- **UPDATE:** Tourism – very important particularly for coastal areas. Reinvention of tourism using historic sites such as zip wire. Rise of holiday homes/lets on rural/coastal landscape
- **UPDATE:** Oral history – this is a vanishing resource and more needs to be made of it

Amendments to the Research Questions: How Might These Priorities be Addressed?
Taken from previous framework:

"The studies identified above have gone some way to addressing the questions posed in 2007, and knowledge of the 'industrial' element of the Industrial and Modern period has been to some extent increased.

However, the sheer scale of the archaeological resource, of for instance, the coal industry, makes

any sort of conclusive study of Welsh industrialisation a daunting task. A number of the studies identified above, particularly of the building stock of Wales, have emphasised that there were both strong continuities with earlier periods and that 'vernacular' building enjoyed a new lease of life in this period (Suggett 2005; Lloyd, Orbach and Scourfield 2006; Haslam, Orbach, Voelcker 2009; Wiliam 2010).

It has also been argued that industrialisation stimulated new regional styles, and sustained cultural distinctiveness, and that both agriculture and industry should be considered within broader patterns of social change (Gwyn 2006, 2007). On this basis, it is suggested that whilst the emphasis on the transformative nature of industrialisation in Wales from 1750 onwards must continue to provide a focus the Research Framework as it evolves, it is also important both that other aspects of the social and economic changes of this period and also those aspects of the local character and distinctiveness of Wales that survived alongside what was new be considered".

UPDATE – Consideration of post industrialisation and population change

Local and Regional Character
The assumption that industrialisation effaces local and regional character, and the counter-suggestion that it may in fact have increased it, both need to be examined. More work is needed to identify regional and local character so that its components are better understood, and effectively sustained. Settlements and towns Communal buildings and infrastructure need further study, which should be widened to include evidence of retail. More work is needed to increase an understanding of settlement formation and growth in this modern period, and on the transformations wrought during the nineteenth century on most towns (whether industrial or not).

UPDATE: Supermarkets/out of town shopping/online shopping, decline of the high street, reuse of high street – coffee shops & and reintroduction of independent retailers

Housing stock
The organisation of the building industry is crucial to understanding the nature and extent of Wales' housing stock from 1750 onwards. It is clear both that distinctive local and regional styles survived the coming of industrialisation, and also that burgeoning industrial communities developed their own often distinctive regional and local idioms. The range and capacity of locally-based builders, masons and architects needs to be assessed. It would be useful to know more about how building work was organised, who paid for it, who commissioned it, who actually carried out building work, and who it was intended for. There is more work to be done in specific areas relating to twentieth century building, for example to gain a better understanding of the work of public authorities and other public bodies, and of specific building types.

UPDATE: More use of historic material in building recording – newspapers, census, town brochures – this is down to planning to ask for higher level of recording. Changing settlement patterns – slum clearance, WW2 bombing, suburbanisation, social housing, temporary structures such as prefabs

Chapels and Institutional Buildings
Nonconformist chapels contributed to a distinctive Welsh industrial townscape and need further internal recording before most of the original interiors are lost. The intensive architectural recording undertaken by RCAHMW in partnership with Capel now needs publication. The substantial stock of Victorian and Edwardian churches, significantly threatened with closure, requires a programme of recording to understand the dynamics of the industrialist- worker relationship. The late great flowering of mechanics and workers institutes merits recording in order to understand the educational and other aspirations of worker communities themselves.

UPDATE: Rural chapels need consideration. Understanding of 1906 revival and effect on Wales. Coherent scheme to deal with standardisation of records on closure of chapels (ie level 3 building recording, interior exterior shots), emphasis on deposition of archives contained within chapel – Capel adivise on this but be good to formalise. Oral history – chapel members to be encouraged to talk about their chapel

Institution buildings not really discussed
- Secular social institutions – Importance of public houses, working men's institutions, Trade Unions, libraries, memorial halls, cinema
- The NHS. Previous miners/worker's hospitals set up prior to NHS, then creation of new hospitals. Effect on society and custom built structures
- Educational institutions – changes in schools and school designs, grammar schools and comprehensives, modern architecture, universities – changes to systems and buildings (example Bangor University - 1st World War Memorial buildings, earlier faux historic style, modern elements as expands)

Agriculture
The agricultural sector remained important in Wales and saw many fundamental changes in this period, including enclosure, the development of court-yard farms and even of mechanised 'high farming' in some places. Improved transport links altered much of the character of Welsh agriculture in this period. Study of the many new farm-yards and agricultural buildings of this period must be a high priority. Horticulture Horticultural practices should be studied in greater depth. Much knowledge has been lost because a majority of gardens associated with most building types and social classes have been continuously developed. The potential to study and understand historic horticultural contributions to economy and society are much neglected, with virtually no surveys yet made of old allotments and few surveys of old kitchen gardens and commercial nurseries to base serious conclusions upon. It is important to study agricultural cottage, industrial workers' and town house gardens, as these are badly neglected and were fundamental complementary parts of everyday life.

UPDATE: Effect of first and second world war on agriculture – changes in population and practises. Drive to increase productivity. Migrant labour and signs of this.

Tourism
Tourism remains largely unconsidered, either in terms of the gentry 'discovery' of Wales from the late 18th century or of the growth in mass-holidaymaking from the 19th. These have left their mark in terms of transport links, distinctive structures and settlements, and are particularly important as the archaeology of what is now Wales' most significant industry.

UPDATE: Decline and re-emergence of tourism following the rise of the foreign holiday. Changes in styles, holiday camps. The coastal town – characteristics – piers, arcades etc. Outdoor activities and reuse of earlier historical/industrial sites such as quarries

Recreation
In addition to the question of tourism, the Research Framework should develop strategies to understand the growing important of organised recreation in the 19th and 20th centuries, such as swimming pools, football and rugby stadia etc., building on work of the RCAHMW/Swansea University.

UPDATE: Social significance of cinema and theatres as cultural centres
Partially Built Relict and Speculative Sites

November 2016 – First draft for Modern Theme

Many 'model' industrial complexes were erected purely to induce wealthy speculators, often from outside Wales, to invest large sums of money. These complexes include the Bryndyfi Leadmine in north Ceredigion and the Banwen Ironworks near the top of the Swansea Valley. Other features such the Gwauncaegurwen, Cribarth and parts of the Brecon Forest early railways in the same area were abandoned before completion. Both categories of site may not be of great economic importance but the evidence they provide from closely dated structures and for constructional techniques is invaluable.

UPDATE: Industrial parks such as at Llandegai, Bangor. More temporary sites such as Ebw Vale garden festival site

To Ensure the Awareness and Safeguarding of Early Plans & Maps
One area where such recognition is particularly important is in the retrieval and archiving of plans and documents relating to industrial sites, some of which are still working, which were still being destroyed in large quantities by those who did not understand their value. The RCAHMW has made particular effort in this area with limited success, both from owners of such collections and sometimes archivists need help in assessing their importance for the Historic Environment Record and the need to add locational information to their cataloguing. One of the earliest and most informative map collections on the period is missing from Wales but is now available online at http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/index. html and should be used by all archaeologists undertaking map regression work for this period (i.e. there were two unpublished sets of 2" to the mile Ordnance Survey Drawings in the first three decades of the nineteenth-century and this is the largely unknown improved and corrected set)

UPDATE: Deposition of later records to be seen as as important as records which would traditionally be seen as historic

Domestic Homes
A question was also raised concerning the use of the term 'Workers Housing' and how we look at the domestic activity within the home in relation to traditional male/female roles. The evidence for domestic activity needed to introduce the role of the women within Industrial Archaeology, but it needed to be made clear that there was not a case made for separate 'Industrial' and 'Domestic' categorisation but that everything was held together by the central role of the economy

UPDATE: Changing gender roles throughout modern period – influence of war - changes during and after both World Wars, household technologies and affordability, role of the suffragette and 1960's & 80's woman's movements, changes in women's work inside and outside the house in the later twentieth century onwards

Conclusion
To be discussed in the meeting