

# Council for British Archaeology

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations  
Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

By email: [Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales](mailto:Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales)

15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Ms Jewell,

## **Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to Cadw and Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology regarding the cuts proposed to both Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) in the draft budget 2024-25, announced in December 2023.

Whilst we recognise that the Welsh Government, like the UK more broadly, cannot escape the current economic climate where tough choices about where to make funding cuts are needed, the CBA are deeply concerned by the extent of the proposed cut of 22.3% to the core revenue funding of both Cadw and the Royal Commission. **In real terms this amounts to a c27% cut**, almost a third of their core funding. The sustainability of both bodies, and as a result the important work they do, will be catastrophically impacted. It is impossible to see an operational future for the RCAHMW following such a severe cut. Cadw will need to scale back all but their core statutory purposes. This will massively impact the ability of both bodies to deliver against Wales's Well-being of Future Generations Act, to which essential and highly valued contributions are currently made in relation to the historic environment.

We have written to Dawn Bowden, Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, expressing our deep concern about these cuts to the Welsh Heritage bodies that form the bedrock of protecting the historic environment in Wales. We have attached our letter here.

### **Disproportionate Funding Cuts**

Whilst we understand the need for cuts, we are extremely disappointed to see such a stark disparity between the 22.3% cuts to heritage bodies (Cadw and the Royal Commission) in comparison to 10.5% cuts to other arts and cultural bodies such as the Arts Council Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, National Library, Sport Wales and the National Botanic Garden. Why have you identified and chosen to attack heritage in Wales to this degree? We see no



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justifiable reason for the disparity in cuts and consider and urgent review is required to avoid a catastrophic decimation of heritage in Wales.

We ask that your committee take a close look at the ramifications of this scale of cut to heritage and archaeological services in Wales.

- We would like to know: what the justification for the scale is of these cuts?
- Why is there such a disparity in the level of cuts proposed for heritage bodies as opposed to other arts and culture bodies?
- Has the impact on Heneb, the new Archaeological Trust for Wales, been properly considered in these proposals?

These are critical issues for your scrutiny committee to consider and seek clarification on and we welcome your oversight on these issues and concerns.

Yours Sincerely,



Neil Redfern,  
Executive Director

CC:

Dawn Bowden Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism ([Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales](mailto:Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales))

Tom Giffard, Shadow Minister for Culture Tourism and Sport ([Tom.Giffard@Senedd.Wales](mailto:Tom.Giffard@Senedd.Wales))

Heledd Fychan, Plaid Cymru Spokesperson on Culture ([Heledd.Fychan@senedd.wales](mailto:Heledd.Fychan@senedd.wales))

Jason Thomas, Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism ([jason.thomas@gov.wales](mailto:jason.thomas@gov.wales))

Founded in 1944, the Council for British Archaeology champion and help safeguard archaeology and public participation. As the voice of archaeology in the UK we bring together community groups, commercial units, academics and heritage organisations to create and share opportunities to discover, take part and be inspired by archaeology.

