Meeting with Cadw and CCBC 18 6 19.

Present

Sue Evans - Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm (CTS)

Will Davies - Cadw

Phil Griffiths - CCBC

Margaret Isles – """ (joined the meeting after it had started)

Dewi Thomas - """"

Background

The Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) at Twmbarlwm had been badly damaged by wildfires in the summer of 2018. A Sward Management Plan (SMP) had been prepared for Cadw which identified how restoration could be achieved and the resultant sward managed in the future to reduce the risk of more wildfires occurring.

The meeting was arranged to discuss Cadws proposal to use the management plan as an exemplar project of upland restoration which could inform the management of other similar areas under their control.

There was a wide ranging discussion but the following points were agreed:

- 1) Restoration should accord with the principles set out in the SMP with the view that various techniques could be trialled on different parts of the monument. Cadw were not averse to temporary fencing being used to protect reseeded areas or areas subject to erosion.
- 2) The proposed archaeological investigation could be used to identify the condition of the ground and so advise on the best method to revegetate. (I wonder if it would be more sensible to ask Cadw to engage Andre Berry to dig some trial pits across the SAM in advance of any archaeological work to identify the extent of the fire damage so that we can consider a further reseeding project this autumn?)
- 3) Cadw would be happy to support restoration work outside of the SAM but their focus had to be on the SAM.
- 4) There was high level support within Cadw for the archaeological investigation and the SMP.
- 5) CCBC indicated that as part of the Adventure Triangle Project were already working to encourage more public access to Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Maen so were already committed to the area. They would be interested in getting involved with the SMP. However, both they and Cadw recognised the need to involve other partners such as NRW, the South Wales Fires Service and the Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University, as well as existing local partners such as CTS, the grazier, the landowner and commoners.

- 6) Funding was discussed and it was felt that apart from Cadw and CCBC the public sector bodies in 5 above could be possible sources as well as grant aid via the various Lottery Grants that are available. Re: the latter CTS could be the applicant for this grant.
- 7) There was the need for an urgent 'hearts and minds' campaign to inform and advise the public of the issues facing the SAM, what was planned and to get them actively involved. (*I don't think that Cadw and CCBC, particularly the latter, appreciate the urgency of this in relation to the damage being caused by public access.*)
- 8) Action Points.
- 8.1) CCBC will approach their contacts in NRW and the South Wales Fire Service to see if they would be interested in getting involved in implementation of the SMP.
- 8.2) Cadw to approach IBERS to see if this is something that they could use as a research project.
- 8.3) Cadw and CCBC to see what grants were available.
- 8.4) Cadw will draft an article which could be used in a 'hearts and mind campaign' for circulation to all parties.
- 8.5) CTS will progress the bidding process for the archaeological investigation.
- 8.6) Margaret Illes (CCBC Ecologist) will visit the SAM to see the extent of the damage.
- 9) No date was agreed for a future meeting