



*Dedicated to research, restore and protect  
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - Gwent's most iconic landmark*

*Ymroddedig i ymchwilio, adfer a gwarchod  
Mynydd Twmbarlwm - tirnod mwyaf eiconig Gwent*

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## **TWMBARLWM ARCHAEOLOGY DIG 2022**

### **VOLUNTEERS INFORMATION**

The investigation will be taking place on weekdays only from Monday 8th August until Friday 26th August – plus we will also be working the weekend of 13th and 14th August to give those working full time a chance to get there. Each day we will meet at the car park on the lower common below Twmbarlwm at 9:00am (10:00am on Mondays) - and walk to the top from there (approx. half mile steep climb). There will be a lunch break and the day will finish around 5:30pm (much will depend upon the weather). Directions how to get there are at the end of this document.

We would appreciate if you could let us know when you would like to attend by completing the attached form. If you have difficulty in using the form simply send an email giving your name, address, email address, mobile phone number and list the days you would like to attend – and let us know if you have any previous experience.

We will probably only be working on one trench at a time, so we may need to restrict the numbers of volunteers on site at any one time. Even if there's no space to work in a trench there will always be a need for help to carry equipment and of course, you can just be there to observe and chat with the archaeologists.

We intend to hold a meeting at Risca Museum on Monday 8th (time TBA) - this will be a presentation of the report of last year's dig and an explanation of the work we will be doing over the next 3 weeks.

#### **BE PREPARED**

Please note that as a volunteer, you will be responsible for your own well being - so make sure you are dressed appropriately for the weather and terrain and are self sufficient for food and drink - especially plenty of water. Remember the location is the top of a mountain and the weather can vary greatly throughout the day so consider bringing waterproofs as well as sun protection and head covering.

There will be a basic first aid kit on site.

***Also note:*** *There are no toilet facilities at the top of the mountain.*

#### **THE WORK**

This investigation is being carried out on behalf of Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust under the advice of the Welsh Government's Heritage department, Cadw. CPAT's lead archaeologist, Richard Hankinson, and a Cadw Officer will be on-site at all times and they have sole control over the location and nature of any digging or disturbances into the surface of the Scheduled Monument - no other person is allowed to make any such incursion into the monument without permission.

CPAT's archaeologists will brief volunteers on how to complete the work allocated to them - but if you are unsure of what to do, please consult one of the professional team.

There will be some heavy digging work to be done when opening and closing the trenches and it is hoped volunteers will help with that part of the operation. There may be some less vigorous work to do in the trenches but please be sure to work within your own limitations – if you think you're not capable of a particular task, say so.

We want to give everyone the opportunity to get involved so knowing when you can be there will greatly help us. Priority to work in trenches will be given to those who have pre-registered - anyone who turns up on the off chance should report to an official on site and register their details.

## **EQUIPMENT**

We will have all the necessary equipment and hopefully enough to go round for volunteers, depending on how many turn up, but if you have your own favourite, trowel, shovel, brush, kneeling mat, gloves etc., bring them along.

There will be a 4x4 vehicle on site - primarily to carry the archaeologists' equipment from the car park to near the top. The vehicle will be parked at the kissing gate on the east side of the Twmp - help to carry gear from there would also be useful. It may be possible to accommodate some volunteers' belongings to the top of the mountain, but that cannot be guaranteed.

## **COMMUNITY**

We also want to encourage the community to get involved in the project and we will welcome groups to come and visit the site to have a guided tour when a real archaeologist will answer your questions – most days there will be an archaeologist on site specifically to inform and interact with the public. If you have associations with a group you think may be interested please get in touch via email.

Visit our website <http://www.twmbarlwm.co.uk> and the archaeology blog to see reports and photos of what we did last year and since this project started in 2019.

## **DIRECTIONS**

Go to "Location" on our website where you will see directions and a map for how to get to the car park on the common below the Twmp. From there you have the choice to walk straight up the steep slope to the summit - approx. half mile - or if you prefer a more gradual slope you can go through the stock gate alongside the car park and up the rough track (it looks like you are going away from the mountain) - at the top of that track, to your left you get your first wonderful view of the Twmp, continue up onto the ridgeway before heading back towards the Twmp.

Since the Cwmcarn Forest Drive has reopened it offers an alternative route up to Twmbarlwm - ideal for those who just want to visit the mountain and the dig. The drive is open from 10:00am and costs £8 per vehicle. You can drive to car park 2 - called Twmbarlwm View - and it's a 1.2mile (about 30 minutes) walk along the ridgeway to the Twmp. If you are feeling very energetic you can access Twmbarlwm from Car Park 7 - Pegwn y Bwlch - where it is a very steep half mile climb direct to the Twmp.