



Y · SEFYDLIAD · CADWRAETH · ADEILADU · HANESYDDOL
INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC · BUILDING · CONSERVATION

CANGEN CYMRU · WALES BRANCH

WALES BRANCH 2026-7 Business Plan

Final: Jan 2026

Introduction

About Us

Our committee currently has six members, and a couple of new recruits beginning to help with events and membership. We are beginning to meet online every month, supported by Yunseo Joung, our new branch consultant.

Committee Role	Committee Member
Chair	Sam Johnson
Vice Chair	<i>Currently Vacant</i>
IHBC Trustee, Welsh branch rep	Kathryn Moore
Secretary	Catherine Kemp
Treasurer	James Drew
Comms and Social Media Secretary	Matt Pyart
Consultations Secretary	Lindsay Christian
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Yunseo Joung (Acting)</i>
<i>Branch Representative on IHBC Council</i>	<i>All members, rotating</i>
<i>Branch Representative on Welsh Government Historic Environment Group</i>	<i>Sam Johnson, Lindsay (deputy)</i>
<i>Events Secretary</i>	<i>Adam O'Donovan (Acting)</i>

In the 2024-5 year we ran two events. In September 2024, our branch AGM and day conference at Gregynog Hall, Newtown, included updates on Heritage at Risk in Wales from CADW and RCAHMW, and a briefing how the new Historic Environment

Act will impact those working in conservation in Wales from Charles Mynors. There was an exclusive tour of the house and at risk structures in the grounds, in-person networking opportunities. 37 delegates attended. The event made a small loss (£500) due to the cost of putting on the event, specifically speaker fees and refreshments.

In April 2025 we hosted Charles Mynors in Cardiff for an in-person CPD session on curtilage listing. It was an interesting discussion on the complex issue of curtilage which was attended by a mixture of interested parties, it was positive to see the interest and engagement for this event. The event made a modest profit.

Our Aspirations

We aspire to be a vibrant, well networked branch, which is at the forefront of conservation best practice in Wales. We want to contribute to national, regional and local policy development, drawing on our multi-disciplinary network of professionals and practitioners.

Our plan is to use the April 2026- March 2027 year to bolster our committee, grow our membership and run two events. We want to build up to hosting a national event in the autumn of 2026, looking at the future of heritage in Wales, its resilience and the ways in which all those working in the historic environment here can work together.

Context and Need

As a national branch we one of the geographically largest and most dispersed. Geography and transport routes mean it is difficult to get everyone together so branch events tend to alternate between north and south. Our membership, which is fairly constant at around 100, is amongst the lowest of the branches.

In recent years our committee has been low on capacity, and heavily reliant on a few individuals. We've lacked the resources to attract new committee members to in turn grow our events and support programme and our membership. Increased national support would give us the capacity to strengthen our governance and financial reporting.

Not unsurprisingly in relation to costs there have again been significant fluctuations and variances in attempting to secure CPD across the country, and this continues to escalate. We have made a loss at one of our events in the past year, and costs for catering, venue hire etc continue to rise. We struggle to find venues that are outside the charitable sector, which severely limits our ability to attend and showcase project work/places of a varied nature. We request that IHBC gives an appropriate increase to its branch allocation to recognise the continued escalating costs for branches. Budgeting projections indicate the elevated need for support from central funds in accordance with the previous allocation due to cost of venue hire and other expenses.

Conservation departments within LPAs remain under high levels of strain. Anecdotally we know that Conservation Officers in particular are often isolated with demanding workloads, resulting in poor wellbeing for individuals, high levels of absence and difficulties for LPAs recruiting and training staff. We are also aware many in the conservation and broader heritage sector face similar challenges. Our fifth objective for this year focuses on responding to the need for wellbeing support and advocacy in this area.

Strategy

Our objectives for the coming financial year are set out in the table below:

Wales branch objective	Link to Corporate Plan 2025 (CP25)
1. Grow the branch committee and ensure effective governance	OBJECT C: Helping conservation professionals - Modernise corporate governance and streamline operations, to refine the regulatory framework within which our members secure conservation.
2. Grow branch membership	OBJECT A: Helping people - Extend conservation advocacy and access, to improve the civic and social contexts within which our members secure conservation.
3. Raise and maintain standards of conservation practice in Wales.	OBJECT B: Helping conservation - Enhance support for specialist and non-specialist practitioners, to enhance the practice environment within which our members secure conservation. OBJECT C: Helping conservation professionals - Modernise corporate governance and streamline operations, to refine the regulatory framework within which our members secure conservation.
4. Participate in national conversations and policy development	OBJECT A: Helping people - Extend conservation advocacy and access, to improve the civic and social contexts within which our members secure conservation.
5. Support the wellbeing of conservation professionals in Wales	OBJECT C: Helping conservation professionals - Modernise corporate governance and streamline operations, to refine the regulatory framework within which our members secure conservation.

Action Plan

Objectives	Targets	Proposed Actions	Lead Member(s)	Budget
1. Grow the branch committee and ensure effective governance	• Fill all committee roles • Reinstate monthly committee meeting (12 per yr) • Embed good governance • Ensure branch financial reporting line with IHBC national accounts.	• Formalise committee positions, advertise specific roles, including membership secretary • Enlist new branch support consultant to support meetings. • Ensure meeting agendas/minutes circulated. Ensure all docs available through shared account. Branch passwords etc. to be securely accessible to committee • Clarify branch bank account access, review finances, standardise reporting	Chair/ Communications Secretary, Secretary; and Treasurer	None
2. Attract and retain new members to the IHBC through branch activity.	• Grow membership by 10% • Retain current membership	Multi-strand Recruitment Campaign linked to wider survey (see 5) including: • Press release with survey 'Assessing the state of Welsh Heritage' (working title) • Word of mouth - Encourage fellow professionals to become involved. • Increase LinkedIn activity from branch account – min postings once a fortnight about current affairs, sharing jobs, news, trends, call to action on newsletter sign up etc. • Promote events widely to non-members E.g. press, Socials, posters, flyers, newsletter	All Committee Members, Communications Secretary with support from Branch Consultant and Secretary	None None

		• Offer introductory/promotional rate for new members at events (investigate corporate sponsorship) • Two branch meetings per year; • Social event e.g. annual quiz, pub/cafe meet • Maintained list of e-mail addresses; • Spring and autumn newsletter • Website and social media updated monthly • Electronic distribution of useful central IHBC updates and communications including promoting MATE events in nearby branches (West Midlands and North West particularly) • Foster links with CADW, AHF, RCAHMW, HENEB, HE and FE institutions including Welsh School Architecture, RTPI, RICS, Tywi Centre to broaden reach and promote events and membership		
3. Raise and maintain standards of conservation practice in Wales.	• Host two branch meetings annually Min. 5 hours so can be used as CPD. One to be linked to national CPD Branch Training Partnership One to include AGM	• Virtual AGM, December including a <i>CPD talk on Ynys Mon/Anglesey's heritage-led regeneration projects and recent NLHF award as a 'Heritage Place'</i>. • Spring event (Late April): North Wales event Fire Protection and Regulations. Steve Emery (National Trust Chirk or Erddig) • Other ideas: Placemaking and Design Codes (2026-7) Traditional Window Repair (Tywi Centre) <i>We are very open to ideas for CPD and visits from membership</i>	Events lead in coordination with Committee	£0 £1,500 per meeting] max £3,000

	Plan national event for Sept-Oct 2026 (Cardiff)	- Autumn 2026 national event in Cardiff to focus on the future resilience of heritage in Wales - Liaise with national branch and promote events - Plan and budget for event	Committee/ Sub-committee	£200- planning budget Delivery budget tbc- to discuss with IHBC Central
4. Participate in national conversations and policy development	Contribute to IHBC consultation responses from Council and independently when appropriate Contributions to Context Magazine Strengthen links with other conservation bodies in Wales	- Sign up IHBC Wales email address to gov.wales and gov.uk relevant consultations - Recruit volunteer from membership to draft consultation responses and agree a process e.g. - Electronic distribution of consultations to memberships to include working group draft response with first 7-10 days with request for feedback with 4 weeks. - Final draft agreed by Wales committee and IHBC consultation committee - Responses sent and filed - Discuss collaborative contributions and call out to membership - Networking, cross-promotion of opportunities, annual strategic briefing	Consultations Secretary Branch Consultant Consultations Secretary All Members Chair/Committee	None £250 in honorarium for consultation responses volunteer None £200 expenses for travel/meeting attendance
5. Support the wellbeing of conservation professionals in Wales	Understand the current challenges and pressures of IHBC Wales membership	Possible Google forms survey to members and non-members linked with a recruitment campaign and publicised through a press release and wider comms- helping generate interest in membership at the same time as finding out how many conservation professionals	Branch Consultant with input from Committee	None

		are in Wales, where they work and in what capacity. • Work with membership to draw up a brief for a research project and apply for funding through Creative Conservation Fund. • Use survey fundings to plan 2026-7 strand which responds to membership need.	Membership Secretary Committee	None None
			SUB-TOTAL	£4,650

Financial position and budget

Total branch funds	£1944.77
Estimated income	
Central funds – annual allocation	£1000.00
Ticket sales from events	£1750.00
Sponsorship	£250.00
Total income	£3,000.00
Estimated expenditure	
Events (venue costs)	£2,000.00
Events (speaker costs)	£1,000.00
National Event planning	£200
In honorarium consultation responses volunteer	£250
Committee expenses networking and policy development	£200
Allowance for Welsh language translation	£1000.00
Total expenditure	£4,650.00
Excess of expenditure over income	£1,650.00

Projected NET Funds at end of year	£ 294.77
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