

Project Vision

The Digital Reanimation of Wales's Transport Heritage

The Mission: From Static Records to Living Landscapes

The "Turnpike and Pre-Turnpike Roads" project is more than a data entry exercise; it is a **digital translation** of Welsh history. By taking the static, text-heavy findings of the *2014 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Interim Report* and migrating them into a geospatial, interactive environment, this initiative transforms a "sleeping" archive into a **navigable experience**.

The Ethos: Bringing the Past to Life

As a researcher, my mindset is rooted in **Active Heritage**. I believe that for history to remain relevant to both academics and the public, it must be as dynamic as the world we live in today.

- **Quality over Speed:** A year of work to reach 33% completion is a deliberate choice. Every coordinate is verified against modern satellite imagery and translated into **GPS** and **What3Words** addresses.
- **Accessibility as a Standard:** I am "taking the search out of research." By simplifying complex archaeological data into a visual map, I allow users—from professors to hikers—to "see" a location instantly rather than hunting through pages of text.

The Innovation: The Interactive Link

This project breaks the traditional archival mold by functioning as a **Living Document**. Through a unique link within the **People's Collection Wales**, the public can witness the project's growth in real-time. This provides a level of transparency and engagement that traditional, finished reports cannot offer.

The Impact: A Field-Ready Future

The ultimate goal is to provide a tool that makes Wales's rich transport infrastructure "walkable." By clicking an icon, the user bridges centuries of history in a single second. This work ensures that the meticulous research of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust is not just preserved, but actively used, explored, and protected by future generations.

The Legacy: Digital Continuity for Wales

The true legacy of this project lies in its **technological translation**. By moving away from static Ordnance Survey (OS) grid references which are not natively compatible with modern digital mapping—and adopting **Decimal Degree GPS** and **What3Words**, this work ensures:

- **Futureproofing:** While paper-based grid references can be difficult for the modern public to use, GPS coordinates are a universal digital language compatible with every smartphone and navigation system on earth.

- **Physical Connectivity:** By providing "field-ready" data, the legacy of the 2014 Dyfed Archaeological Trust report is transformed from a document on a shelf into a "walkable" reality for future historians and hikers.
- **Permanent Accuracy:** The rigorous visual verification against satellite imagery ensures that even as the landscape changes, the digital record of these turnpike sites remains pinpoint accurate.
- **Accessibility for All:** This approach "takes the search out of research," allowing the next generation to engage with Welsh heritage through a "point-and-click" interface rather than manual archival hunting.

By establishing these digital standards now, you are ensuring that the meticulous work of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust is not just preserved, but is actively "reanimated" for those who will follow in your footsteps.

Project Record

Digital Mapping of Wales's Historic Road Infrastructure

Research Initiative: Scheduling Enhancement Project for Turnpike and Pre-Turnpike Roads

Source Data: Dyfed Archaeological Trust (2014 Interim Report) for Cadw

Researcher: Graham Tudor Emmanuel

Project Status: 33% Complete (Ongoing)

Date: 8 February 2026

1. Project Overview

This project is a geospatial research initiative designed to modernize the accessibility of the **TURNPIKE and PRE-TURNPIKE ROADS: Medieval and Early Post-Medieval Sites Scheduling Enhancement Project (2014 Interim Report)**. By converting original OS grid references into high-precision GPS coordinates and What3Words locations, this project ensures that Wales's transport heritage is visible, searchable, and navigable using 21st-century technology.

2. Research Ethos & Digital Standards

This project operates on a "Quality over Speed" methodology. Unlike traditional archiving, which focuses on the preservation of static documents, this work utilizes a **Dynamic Reconstruction Ethos**:

- **Bridge to the Modern:** I aim to transform static, paper-based reports into "field-ready" data that the public can use on smartphones.

- **Accuracy as Priority:** Taking a year to complete 33% of the data reflects a commitment to meticulous verification. Every coordinate is cross-referenced with modern satellite imagery to ensure geographical integrity.
- **The Living Archive:** By linking the collection to a live map, I provide a transparent look at the research process, allowing the archive to grow and evolve in real-time rather than waiting years for a "final" version.

3. Methodology & Digital Workflow

The data entry process follows a rigorous multi-step workflow:

- **Data Extraction:** Reviewing the 2014 Dyfed Archaeological Trust report to identify Primary Record Numbers (PRN) and site descriptions.
- **Coordinate Translation:** Manual conversion of OS Grid References into **Decimal Degree GPS** and **What3Words** addresses.
- **Geospatial Logging:** Entry into a Google MyMaps interface, which is linked to the People's Collection Wales.
- **Visual Verification:** A split-screen workflow is used to verify that the digital pin aligns perfectly with the historical description provided in the original report.

4. Key Resources & Interactive Links

To explore the data or view the workflow, please use the links below:

Direct access to the live Google MyMap.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1BtinugnlHEqq5ob7XhjPn-yHYgw1_Cg&usp=sharing

Video Demonstration: A screen recording showing the data entry and conversion process in 4K resolution.

<https://youtu.be/Tu2z5DwPdHQ>

5. Statement of Intent & Credits

The purpose of this map is to support further study, preservation awareness, and public engagement. All primary research data represented here is the result of the meticulous documentation provided by **Dyfed Archaeological Trust**.