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# Glamorgan coastal hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment

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A report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments  
by S H Sell BA



Contracts Division



*Nash Point (400s, SAM Gm 033) in 1986, looking southwest  
(photo: GGAT, ref. 27-26)*

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Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.  
Ferryside Warehouse, Bath Lane, Swansea SA1 1RD  
Tel. 01792 655208  
Fax 01792 474469  
Registered Charity no. 505609



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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Sources consulted</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Methodology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Geology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Description and archaeological background</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Dunraven (SAM Gm 350)	4
5.2 Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a, 186b)	4
5.3 Nash Point (SAM Gm 033)	4
5.4 Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019)	5
5.5 The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)	6
<b>6 Geophysical potential</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7 Current condition and nature of threat</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1 Dunraven	8
7.2 Cwm Bach Camps	8
7.3 Nash Point	9
7.4 Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major	9
7.5 The Bulwarks, Porthkerry	10
<b>8 Recommendations</b>	<b>11</b>
8.1 Dunraven	12
8.2 Cwm Bach Camps	13
8.3 Nash Point	13
8.4 Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major`	13
8.5 The Bulwarks, Porthkerry	14
<b>9 Conclusions</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>List of Illustrations</b>	
<i>Fig. 1 Location plan</i>	18
<b>List of Tables</b>	
<i>Table 1 Level of current knowledge from intrusive investigation</i>	6
<i>Table 2 Geophysical suitability</i>	7
<i>Table 3 Adverse factors affecting each monument</i>	11
<i>Table 4 Level of investigation constraints and limiting factors</i>	15
<i>Table 5 Factors determining potential of each monument</i>	15

## *1 Introduction*

The Cadw-funded coastal archaeology survey has identified the coastal hillforts of Glamorgan and Gwent, many of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, as a group of monuments under threat from erosion (Locock 1997). An initial project involved a programme of work at Sudbrook Camp, Mon. (SAM Mm 048) in the years 1998/9 (Sell 1998) and 1999/2000. The results of this work were sufficiently promising to suggest that it might be extended to other sites. Following discussions between the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments an application to the Cadw contingency fund was drawn up for a programme examining five of the promontory forts on the coast of the Vale of Glamorgan between Ogmere and Barry. All are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and all are affected by past and active erosion in a number of different forms. The purpose of this report is to describe and evaluate each monument and to establish priorities for mitigation.

All of the forts selected for study are multivallate with the exception of Cwm Bach Camps. To the west **Dunraven (SAM Gm 350)**, the largest at 6.5ha and probably the most complex, has evidence for occupation but has also been extensively damaged by the construction of Dunraven Castle within its limits. The two monuments collectively known as **Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a and b)**, must, if contemporary, be closely related and are considered together for the purposes of this report. The northern camp, Cwm Bach, was once probably one of the smaller univallate forts, but nonetheless may now, at 0.3ha, be only a quarter of its original size. The southern enclosure, Whitmore Stairs, lies immediately to the southeast, and presently covers an area of approximately 0.4ha. Little now survives of the fort at **Nash Point (SAM Gm 33)**, which must be but a remnant (0.4ha) of its former extent. **Castle Ditches (Llantwit Major) (SAM Gm 019)** now covers an area of 2.5ha, perhaps half of its original size. No entrance survives, but the ramparts are well-preserved. **The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)** now covering 4.1ha is probably the most complete in terms of loss to the sea; perhaps as much as three quarters still survives, with evidence of internal occupation

## *2 Sources consulted*

The background information is based upon entries within the inventory of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW 1976), itself based on earlier published sources, site visits etc. The Ordnance Survey Record Cards and Ancient Monuments Record Forms used by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, which include the results of site visits, contain more detail on each monument. Earlier monitoring of the threat from coastal erosion was also carried out at Nash Point and Castle Ditches.

### *3 Methodology*

The background information for each of the monuments within the study group was largely derived from information currently held on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record. Each site was visited to assess its current condition and enhancement potential, and a programme of geophysical testing was also undertaken by Stratascan Ltd. to establish the survey technique appropriate to each monument and establish the most suitable locations for the siting of field evaluation trenches. These reports are to be submitted separately.

### *4 Geology*

The entire coastline of the Vale of Glamorgan between Ogmere and Barry, with the exception of the mouth of the Thaw, is formed of rocks of the Lower Lias series, apart from the harder Carboniferous Limestone which outcrops at Trwyn y Witch, Dunraven, to the southwest of the hillfort, and at Ogmere itself, at the western end of the study area. It is the nature of the Lower Lias formation which constitutes the principal threat to the coastline and therefore to monuments which form part of this coastline; the lias is horizontally bedded, and erosion and undercutting of the softer elements of the lower strata is resulting in the progressive collapse of the overlying rock formations.

*5 Description and Archaeological Background*

*5.1 Dunraven ( SAM Gm 350, PRN 329M, NGR SS 8867 7279)*

The hillfort lies on a headland rising to over 60m OD, falling away to the south and west towards the low promontary of Trwyn y Witch, and to the north and east where a valley cuts across the base of the headland. The surviving area enclosed now measures c. 6.5ha, but may originally have been more than 10 ha. To the southwest, the harder Carboniferous Limestone of Trwyn y Witch has slowed the rate of loss from the sea, but the northern part of the monument, which is formed of lias, is subject to active erosion. To the north and west, where the ground falls away steeply, the defences, which appear to consist of two banks and ditches, follow the contour along the southwest side of the valley, although the southeastern part of this line has been largely destroyed by the site of Dunraven Castle and its approaches from the southeast. The defences turn towards the west close to the cliff edge, and there is evidence of part of the entrance surviving at this point. The remnant of a further embanked area to the northwest could represent part of an annexe opposite the entrance. Within the area enclosed by the main defences there is a further possible bank, just to the south of the summit, which may represent the remains of a defensive system on this side of the monument.

Within the area enclosed by the defences there are three groups of possible hut platforms; other hollows may represent the results of small-scale quarrying. There is also a line of massive post sockets of unknown date or purpose along the northern edge of Trwyn y Witch. Groups of mounds, both on Trwyn y Witch and to the southwest of the castle site, are now considered to be pillow mounds of medieval or later date.

A flight of steps associated with the later period of the Castle, may represent the line of a section through one of the ramparts which was cut by Iolo Morgannwg in 1813 (Waring 1850, 175). His findings, such as they are, represent the only evidence from excavation currently available which is directly related to the promontory fort; an inhumation excavated from an eroding slope on Trwyn y Witch proved to be post-medieval in date (Sell 1980)

*5.2 Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a, b, PRN 336/7M , NGR SS 8970 7173 and SS 8988 7145)*

These two enclosures, which lie only *c.* 90m apart, can be considered together although no dating evidence exists to link them. The northern camp is known as Cwm Bach (SAM Gm 186a), the southern as Whitmore Stairs (SAM Gm 186b). Cwm Bach lies on a headland at *c.* 60m OD on the south side of the valley where it reaches the sea, in a position reminiscent of Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major. The present enclosed area of *c.* 0.3ha may only be a quarter of its original extent; this monument would probably have been classified as one of the smaller univallate forts. The single line of defence on the southeastern side is broken by a gap *c.*14m wide, presumably an entrance, and the two sections of bank are offset to each other. There are traces of a possible small enclosure or structure outside the northeastern section of bank.

The southern monument, lies on the cliff top just to the south; approximately 0.4ha survives of a probable rectilinear area of perhaps twice this size. The slight single bank and ditch indicate that this monument is most likely to have been a non defensive enclosure, perhaps an annex to the fort to the north, rather than part of the field system to the east which has been identified by aerial photography, but whatever its function it is likely to have formed part of the complex of which Cwm Bach to the north is the focus. There is a length of bank and ditch, which may represent the remnant of another defensive site at SS 896 719, on the northern side of the valley, which should perhaps also be considered in an assessment of the Cwm Bach Camps, although it may rather have formed part of a much later field system now lost to the sea.

No excavations have been carried out upon this monument.

*5.3 Nash Point (SAM Gm 033, PRN 400S, NGR SS 9148 6848)*

The hillfort at Nash Point, which now covers an area of only *c.* 0.4ha, probably now represents a fraction of its original extent. It lies on a narrow promontory to the west of Cwm Marcroes, where the valley meets the sea, on ground rising steeply to the north and west to a height of more than *c.* 30m OD. The main defences are to the north, where there are short lengths of three banks and ditches, broken by modern gaps; a longer outer bank is separated from the others by a small cwm descending in a southeasterly direction to the main valley. The entrance appears to have been gained by a trackway leading south from this cwm and running alongside the inner three defensive banks after they turn towards the south.

There is some slight evidence, resulting from surface erosion, of internal occupation at Nash Point, in the form of Iron Age pottery and midden material, now in the National Museum (Savory 1976, 73 No 106, Acc. No. 59.104. 1-3) although the only feature of any antiquity is a pillow mound of medieval or later date.

No excavations have been carried out upon this monument.

5.4 *Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019, PRN 447S, NGR SS 9602 6742)*

The promontory fort at Castle Ditches now covers an area of 2.5ha, perhaps half of its original size. It occupies a headland on the west side of Cwm Col-hugh, where the valley meets the sea, at c. 40m OD. To the northwest the land falls away steeply to the valley floor. The main defences, consisting of three banks and ditches, lie on level ground to the east, turning to follow the top of the escarpment towards the southeast, although much reduced along this side of the monument. The present entrance, at the northeastern angle, is probably of relatively modern date.

Apart from former field boundaries the only internal feature is a length of bank near the western end, which may represent part of the defensive system of an earlier, smaller fort. There is no evidence of internal occupation, although late 3rd century coins are said to have been found on the site ( Trevelyan 1910, 16)

No excavations have been carried out upon this monument.

5.5 *The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029, PRN 523S, ST 0817 6634)*

This is probably the most complete of the hillforts under review; its present extent of c. 4.1ha may represent as much as three quarters of the original size of this monument. It lies on a natural spur between a little valley descending from west to east, formerly a tidal inlet, and the cliff face, at a height of c. 60m OD. The main defences, which consist of three banks and ditches, lie on level ground to the west, although they survive as degraded terraces on the north and east side of the monument where the ground falls away steeply into the valley and towards the beach. The present entrance, which may be original, lies at the centre of the western defences; another entrance at the northwest corner, where the defences have been much damaged, is almost certainly modern.

There are no visible internal features; excavations carried out in 1968, however, in advance of the installation of landing lights for Cardiff International Airport, established the presence of a series of rectangular buildings belonging to the late Iron Age and Roman periods close to the western ramparts; no traces of occupation, however, were noted in the northeastern part of the interior (Davies 1973, 85-98).

**Table 1 Level of current knowledge from previous intrusive archaeological investigation, with degree of value (nil, low, moderate, high).**

	<i>Dunraven</i>	<i>Cwm Bach</i>	<i>Nash Point</i>	<i>Castle Ditches</i>	<i>Bulwarks</i>
<b>Defences</b>	Low	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Interior</b>	Nil	Nil	Low	Nil	Moderate
<b>Other features</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Glamorgan coastal hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment**

<b>Chronology</b>	Nil	Nil	Low	Low	Moderate
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*6 Geophysical potential*

The project included the assessment of the five hillforts for geophysical potential, with the aim of determining the most appropriate technique in each case and which areas might be most suitable for field evaluation. A full report on this work is to be submitted separately

**Cwm Bach/Whitmore Stairs (SAM Gm 186a, b)** and **Nash Point (SAM Gm 033)** are considered to be too small for a valid assessment of geophysical potential to be attempted. Preliminary findings, however, indicate that **Dunraven (SAM Gm 350)** and **Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019)** are thought to have sufficient potential, despite anomalies attributable to geological factors, to require further evaluation, although the preliminary results will be subject to a more detailed assessment. The **Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)** certainly has the potential for further work and the survey results appear to complement those of the excavations carried out in 1968 (Davies 1973).

**Table 2 Geophysical suitability (low, moderate, high)**

<i>Dunraven</i>	<i>Cwm Bach</i>	<i>Nash Point</i>	<i>Castle Ditches</i>	<i>Bulwarks</i>
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	High



## *7 Current condition and nature of threat*

Each of the monuments within this survey is described briefly for the benefit of the public in the guide produced by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Whittle 1992, 37-41, 188) although the Cwm Bach Camps are relegated to the appendix. Each of the designated monuments was visited and an assessment made of its current condition, and note taken of any recent physical changes and differences from previous surveys. A critical analysis of all factors bearing upon each monument is also included as a table (Table 3, below) with the effects of each form of erosion and other adverse factors categorised as slight, moderate or severe as appropriate.

### *7.1 Dunraven (SAM Gm 350)*

This is a high-profile site with considerable visitor potential on one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the Vale of Glamorgan. Dunraven and its environment, with its formal gardens, park and other sites of historical and archaeological importance is a heritage resource of considerable value and potential for future enhancement.

Erosion along the northern section of the cliff face, where the formation is lias, is similar to that found elsewhere along this stretch of coast; there is evidence of recent cliff falls and surface movement along the edge of the cliff face. The southern part of the monument is better protected by the harder rocks of Trwyn y Witch. Surface erosion is slight overall although there is some localised damage from movement of sheep to the south of the summit; some of this erosion may also have resulted through human agency. Groundwater may also have contributed to the problem. Regular grazing, however, has ensured that the open areas of the monument have been kept free of scrub, in particular the invasive sea buckthorn.

In the northeast corner of the hillfort the picture is different. Locally there is severe erosion and damage, probably entirely due to visitor pressure, around and to the north of the flight of steps which is thought to mark the position of Iolo Morgannwg's excavation of 1813 through one of the ramparts (Waring 1850, 175) These steps represent the main public access on the seaward side of the monument, where the defences are best preserved, and should in theory channel visitors and thus relieve pressure and consequent damage elsewhere; instead the immediate area of the steps has become the focus for surface damage to the defences, most if not all directly attributable to visitor pressure. The path on the lower side of the steps also gives cause for concern; it is deeply eroding into the fabric of the defences and is currently in poor and hazardous condition, but does appear to be the chosen route for the public, with damage elsewhere being slight.

Although not directly affecting the promontory fort, the condition of the Castle also gives cause for concern; despite the fact that the building has been largely cleared, its remains are unsightly and hazardous and its potential for full clearance and display as yet disregarded.

*7.2 Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a, b)*

These two monuments, which may well have originally been part of the same defensive site, are now both small and of limited visitor interest. Neither is advertised and there is no access by road, but public footpaths supposedly exist across farmland from Glanmor and from the road via Cwm Bach. Both sites are now a fraction of their original sizes, but remain uninvestigated; their research potential, therefore, is comparatively high.

**Cwm Bach** is presently under rough pasture; what remains of the monument is in relatively good condition and still shows clearly. Erosion from cliff loss is the principal threat, with evidence of recent rock falls and surface erosion along the cliff edge. On the monument itself there is little erosion apart from some slight surface damage near the cliff edge on the southern defences, with no evidence of damage related to animal activity or visitor pressure. The escarpment of Cwm Bach itself is, unlike the comparable Cwm Col-hugh, free of thorn scrub but is suffering badly from surface erosion.

**Whitmore Stairs** is also under rough pasture and free of invasion from thorn scrub; the field has been ploughed beyond the low bank and ditch, which continue to show well. As with Cwmbach, erosion from cliff loss is the main problem, the cliffs being particularly sheer and badly undercut along this length of coastline. There is no evidence of surface damage related to visitor pressure or other factors.

*7.3 Nash Point (SAM Gm 033)*

So little is left of this monument that it must be a priority for research, since virtually nothing is known of its nature and date; in the short term its visitor potential, as part of the environment of lower Cwm Marcroes, could also be enhanced.

Other erosion factors are eclipsed at Nash by the extent of cliff loss, with evidence of recent falls and surface slippage at the seaward end of the northern defences, where the banks are best preserved. The interior, which is presently under rough pasture, shows little surface erosion and no invasion of thorn scrub, although this is more of a problem over the steep slopes on the eastern side of the monument. Despite the present moderate visitor pressure upon this monument, lying as it does on the Heritage Coast path, damage appears to be slight, mostly involving erosion on the steep south-facing slope which provides access on the seaward side from Cwm Marcroes.

*7.4 Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019)*

The monument lies adjacent to a reserve managed by the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust, and is consequently well signposted and promoted as part of a circular walk from Cwm Col-hugh as well as lying on the Heritage Coast path. It is still an important

monument with considerable visitor potential taken in conjunction with the other tourist and heritage attractions of Llantwit Major and the adjacent coastline.

Coastal erosion and loss is evident from recent cliff falls, especially at the western end of the monument. The ramparts, which are best preserved at the eastern end, are heavily overgrown with mature tree and scrub growth with consequent damage and denudation. Sea buckthorn scrub on the inner rampart is beginning to spread outward on to the interior of the monument except at the northernmost end of this defensive line, where this bank is clear of scrub. The interior is presently rough grassland with little surface erosion apart from evidence of rabbit scrapes around the edges, but, as with most of the other monuments within this survey, it has presumably been ploughed and renewed at some stage.

The escarpment overlooking Cwm Col-hugh, where the defences now take the form of reduced terraces, is densely overgrown with thorn scrub; this area now forms part of the wildlife reserve. Visitor access from the southwestern end of Cwm Col-hugh follows a well-maintained path on the lower slopes of the valley, but this deteriorates rapidly on its unsurfaced upper reaches. Surface erosion from the coastal path over the less sensitive level ground of the interior does not reflect the true nature of visitor pressure upon this monument; this occurs as locally severe damage where the path cuts through the line of the defences close to the cliff edge. There is some wear on the exposed interior of the banks at this point but active erosion is also evident on the path, which is unsurfaced and in poor condition; it is carried over the banks by a series of steps, revetted by wooden risers, which are inadequate to present traffic needs.

#### *7.5 The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)*

Despite the impressive size and relative completeness of this monument, it is neither advertised nor obviously accessible by road (a turning off the road to Rhoose village) and entry through the adjacent caravan park appears to be discouraged. It is difficult to assess the current status or future potential of this site; it seems rather to have been forgotten and concealed from public view, although lying on a public right of way from Porthkerry westward along the coast and being situated close to a major centre of population.

Coastal erosion does not appear to be so severe a threat to this site as to those further to the east, although proportionately less of the Bulwarks is subject to direct cliff loss. There appears to be an established growth of thorn scrub along this frontage, but this has not spread to the interior of the monument, which is renewed grassland, apparently recently maintained, and otherwise unaffected apart from the installation of landing lights and associated works for Cardiff International Airport in the late 1960s. A certain amount of recent disturbance adjacent to the westernmost lighting gantry, midway along the northern perimeter, was noted. The defences themselves, which are best preserved on the western side of the monument, are densely overgrown with mature trees and undergrowth to west, north and east; it is difficult to assess the degree of damage and denudation which will have occurred as a result of this growth, but trees are shown conventionally to the west and north sides on early editions of the twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map.

**Glamorgan coastal hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment**

The coastal path to Aberthaw crosses the western defences close to the cliff edge; there has been some damage and disturbance on the seaward side of this path, which has cut through the banks and crossed the ditches on the level, and also a degree of erosion elsewhere on the exposed interiors of the ramparts similar to that noted at Castle Ditches. The original entrance, to the north, appears to be unaffected by visitor pressure; the effects on the coastal path, however, appear to have been mitigated by the level nature of the western part of the monument, with recent erosion only noted on the coastal path where it descends to the beach on the east.

**Table 3 Adverse factors affecting each monument, with degree of severity (slight, moderate or severe).**

	<i>Dunraven</i>	<i>Cwm Bach</i>	<i>Nash Point</i>	<i>Castle Ditches</i>	<i>Bulwarks</i>
<b>Coastal loss</b>	Moderate	Severe	Severe	Moderate	Slight
<b>Ploughing/renewal</b>	n/a	Moderate	n/a	Slight	Moderate
<b>Vegetation growth</b>	Slight	Slight	Slight	Severe	Severe
<b>Animal activity</b>	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight
<b>Visitor pressure</b>	Severe	Slight	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
<b>Groundwater</b>	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight
<b>Other factors*</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Moderate
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Severe</b>	<b>Severe</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Note:** \* adverse effects of groundworks in the case of the Bulwarks.

## *8 Recommendations*

The criteria which apply to each of the five monuments within this survey are extremely variable and the values accorded to each will in part depend on the nature and level of response, but given the current level of information available, supplemented by the results of geophysical survey (Appendix 1, bound separately) it should be reasonable to expect to propose a course of action for each monument which could enhance its status. The conclusions reached, and the responses considered to be appropriate, are given in each case. Limiting factors and constraints to investigation are given in Table 4, below, with the relative values of each monument, as far as their potential for enhancement can be judged, laid out in Table 5.

### *8.1 Dunraven (SAM Gm 350)*

Enough remains of this monument to put into place conservation measures aimed at preventing further surface erosion in the most sensitive areas, where the coastal path crosses the ramparts to the north. The adverse effects of visitor pressure could be mitigated by improving the existing path by resurfacing and increasing its width, repairing the damaged areas adjacent to the flight of steps and directing the public away from direct contact with sensitive areas wherever possible. Both the rampart area to the north, and other features within the promontary, should be adequately advertised, perhaps as part of a trail to take in all features of archaeological and historical interest (to include earthworks, structural and landscape features etc.). Dunraven has far more visitor potential than any of the other sites, and the promontory fort is just one of a number of attractions which combine to create the most important tourist location on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The site of the Castle and other areas of interest should be upgraded and presented to the public with this in mind.

The potential for research is less easily quantified, but limited examination of the defences and one or more of the possible hut platforms would only add to the overall appeal of this monument and its environment, and providing that care was taken to avoid hastening the rate of erosion, the results might be used to enhance its future presentation.

### *8.2 Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a, b)*

Long-term preservation and presentation do not really apply to these monuments, owing to their inaccessibility and rate of loss to the sea, particularly where the southern camp (Whitmore Stairs) is concerned; maintenance at the current level is likely to be the appropriate response with avoidance of further damage, particularly from ploughing and renewal. The relationship of the northern and southern camps is critical to an understanding of their function, and information towards this research goal could be provided by carefully placed trial trenches, initially to compare the

defensive or boundary banks of both sites and to search for evidence of occupation in their interiors. The possible enclosure or structure outside the north eastern defences of Cwm Bach should also be examined.

The northern camp is more enigmatic and still retains significant features; its potential for short-term conservation is thus greater than that of its southern counterpart, and its research value correspondingly higher.

### *8.3 Nash Point (SAM Gm 033)*

Presentation enhancement is desirable in the short term, given the location of this monument on the Heritage Coast path, but so little now remains of the site that research work must be a priority. There is slight evidence for internal occupation, and further work here might well provide much needed dating evidence to establish the archaeological significance of the hillfort at Nash Point. Trial work within the interior, across the entrance and the inner and outer defences would be recommended in the circumstances, taking care to ensure careful reinstatement, given the general good condition of the earthworks at Nash and its scenic setting at the seaward end of Cwm Marcroes.

### *8.4 Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019)*

Next to Dunraven this monument has the most potential overall for enhancement in terms of presentation. The rate of cliff loss may be somewhat less than further to the west, and almost 200m of the eastern defences still survive. Furthermore, the site lies next to a nature reserve at the mouth of the Afon Col-hugh and close to the historic town of Llantwit Major, so its importance within the local environment is considerable.

The visitor potential of this part of the Heritage Coast implies that measures should be put in place to improve the access from Cwm Col-hugh, upgrade the coastal path to include renewal where it crosses the eastern defences and repair where damage has occurred to the banks. The existing signposting should also be improved to give more prominence to the fort itself. The problem of overgrowth on the defences is a more serious cause for concern; it detracts from the present appearance of the most important and sensitive part of the monument and has caused chronic long term damage to the structure of the triple banks. It is difficult to suggest a viable way of clearing this part of the monument without causing further damage, which will inevitably result from removal of mature tree growth, but further spread could, and should, be prevented, particularly towards the interior.

Little is known of the chronology of this monument so the potential exists, depending on the results of geophysical survey where such a large area is concerned, for opening trial areas within the interior. Elsewhere e.g at The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (see below) and at Sudbrook (Nash Williams 1939) occupation has been proven to lie in the lee of the western ramparts, presumably for reasons of shelter from the prevailing winds; Castle Ditches, however, is only thus defended on the east, so the

provision of evidence for the presence or otherwise of occupation close to these defences would be a valid research goal. It might also be reasonable to include an examination of the eastern defences within the improvements proposed for the coastal path.

#### *8.5 The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)*

Despite the proportion of this monument which survives today it is difficult to suggest a realistic programme for enhancement of its current condition for future presentation. Loss from coastal erosion appears to be a less significant problem than elsewhere, but the damage which will have resulted from long-term tree colonisation, to the extent that the monument is now difficult to recognise, reduces its value significantly.

Measures to enhance the presentation of this monument should be aimed initially at improving the lack of information available and increasing public awareness of the existence of the site. The public footpath, particularly where it crosses the western ramparts, should be upgraded by surfacing, damage to the banks repaired and this area generally tidied. The interior of the monument should be maintained under grass in its present condition.

It may be valid, as at Castle Ditches, to examine the structure of the banks archaeologically during repair work, but they are presently heavily denuded and further cutting back could have a deleterious effect. A section cut on the seaward side might be more acceptable providing full reinstatement is possible. Some further work in the lee of the western ramparts may be desirable, but elsewhere is unlikely to produce positive results, to judge from trial work carried out in the 1960s (Davies 1973).

The problem of the long-established tree growth is much greater. At the time of writing it is difficult to appreciate the significance of the site, although some idea of the defensive system can still be gained from the footpath where it crosses the western ramparts, where preservation is best. In the short term prevention of further vegetation spread and sapling growth, and cutting back of the existing growth, might be the only realistic proposal, but the situation here is worse than that at Castle Ditches and the problems proportionately more serious. The ecological aspects of proposing clearance and the return to grass of a substantial area of woodland, however, should not be forgotten, and must weigh heavily against such a course of action being acceptable except perhaps as applied to selected areas such as the original entrance and the point where the public footpath crosses the western defences.

**Table 4 Level of investigation constraints and limiting factors, with degree of value (low, moderate, high).**

	<i>Dunraven</i>	<i>Cwm Bach</i>	<i>Nash Point</i>	<i>Castle Ditches</i>	<i>Bulwarks</i>
<b>Access</b>	Low	High	Moderate	Low	Moderate
<b>Vegetation cover</b>	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	High
<b>Risk factors</b>	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Low
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

### 9 Conclusions

The monuments **Cwm Bach Camps (SAM Gm 186a,b)** and **Nash Point (SAM Gm 033)** should be subject to limited archaeological investigation in the short term in view of the rate of coastal loss where these sites are concerned; conservation is not an issue. Investigation at **Dunraven (SAM Gm 330)** should form part of an integrated enhancement programme; a similar programme at **Castle Ditches, Llantwit Major (SAM Gm 019)** will need to include a greater element of conservation. Conservation should be the main ingredient at **The Bulwarks, Porthkerry (SAM Gm 029)** but could also be combined with a degree of investigation. In the latter three cases involvement of the relevant local authorities and other interested parties may be beneficial.

All five monuments are very different in their requirements, yet at the same time have much in common. There is little doubt, however, that each and every one would benefit greatly from enhancement of one kind or another, from the clearance of scrub and resurfacing of paths to the production of archaeological data; our level of knowledge of this class of monument, based on research to date, is still extremely limited, particularly where the nature and chronology of occupation are concerned; recent work designed to re-evaluate evidence of internal occupation at Sudbrook, Mon (SAM Mm 048) has produced more questions than answers (Nash Williams 1939, Sell 1998).

**Table 5 Factors determining potential of each monument, with degree of value (low, medium, high)**

	<i>Dunraven</i>	<i>Cwm Bach</i>	<i>Nash Point</i>	<i>Castle Ditches</i>	<i>Bulwarks</i>
<b>Threat (all types)</b>	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low
<b>Conservation</b>	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	High



## Glamorgan coastal hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment

<b>Presentation</b>	High	Low	Medium	High	Medium
<b>Research</b>	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Low

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## Glamorgan coastal hillforts: erosion monitoring and assessment

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