



9 June 2008

INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES DAY MARKED BY START ON SITE FOR NEW GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE

Work started today on the site of the new Glamorgan Record Office— a state of the art archive building that is to house records for six Glamorgan counties, dating from the twelfth century to the present day.

The new building is a part of Cardiff City Football Club's extensive new stadium development and will open to the public in 2010. It will extend still further the social benefit created by the new football stadium, as the new building will take advantage of the roads and other infrastructure created by the stadium and retail park at Leckwith.

The new 45,000 sq ft facility will house a collection of over 1 million documents and will be constructed in such a way as to use the structure itself to create stability in terms of temperature and humidity – reducing the need for environmentally expensive air conditioning.

There will also be conference space for workshops, lectures and school groups and a key feature will be a modern paper conservation studio – the leading facility in South Wales when completed, where visitors will be able to see specialists working to repair and conserve irreplaceable ancient archive papers.

Cllr Rodney Berman, the Leader of Cardiff Council, welcomed the new building as a genuine asset to the local community:

“It was always intended that the development at Leckwith would be a genuine 'mixed use' development offering a diverse range of attractions and amenities. The new Glamorgan Record Office is an excellent example of a community facility that will complement the sporting, retail and other attractions being built.

“Of course it will serve the wider region, not just the people of Cardiff, so I’m delighted the service has decided to relocate to Leckwith where it will be so much more prominent and accessible to people from both Cardiff and the surrounding communities.

“The new building will offer more comfortable surroundings for visitors and staff, as well as improved storage conditions for the archives, and I’m sure it will prove to be a popular move.”

Gary Tuson, Programme Director at the Glamorgan Record Office believes the new facilities will be among the best in the UK. “Currently our records are stored on no less than eight kilometres of shelving in various buildings in and around Cardiff. Bringing it all together under one roof will dramatically improve people’s access to these records. The records are irreplaceable and they will now be stored in environmentally sound and future proof accommodation second to none.”