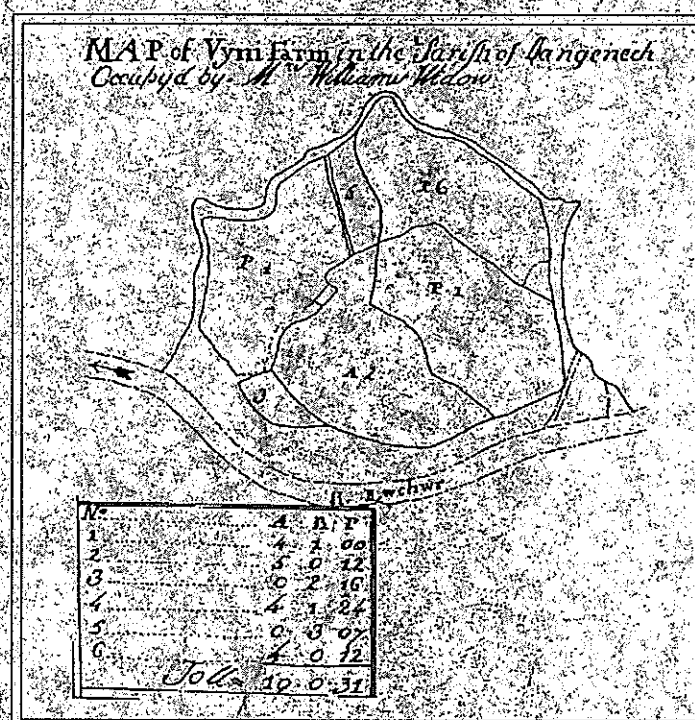


OG 1994

17/10/94

REPORT
on
THE HISTORY OF PAST LANDUSE & EMBANKMENT
OF TALYCLYN & LLANGENNECH MARSHES
and
VEGETATIONAL PATTERNS & PAST LANDUSE
ON LLANELLI MARSH



Commissioned by the Countryside Council for Wales (94/3)
from
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Report Officers
H.J. JAMES & D.E. MORGAN

THE BRIEF.

A Report commissioned by the Countryside Council for Wales in 1992/3 (Contract No. 7/92) *Past Landuse Survey of the Coastal Area South East of Llanelli*, to specifications drawn up by I.K.Morgan, covered the history of drainage and enclosure of the marshes south east of Llanelli in detail and that of Llangennech marsh only in outline. In its conclusion, Dyfed Archaeological Trust drew attention to the potential of field names for further information on past land use.

In March 1994 a second stage Report was commissioned by the Countryside Council for Wales (Contract No. 94/3) to the following Brief from I. K. Morgan:

"In 1992-3 CCW commissioned a report on past land use patterns in the coastal area SE of Llanelli. This area forms a distinctive landscape type, akin to the Gwent levels (albeit on a much smaller scale). There are also some notable habitats, and a noteworthy assemblage of trees which are uncommon in much of Wales. In order that CCW may fully identify and safeguard where possible, important sites in the area, further information is required. This will involve:

1. Examination of additional documentary sources, such as deeds and rental agreements;
2. An analysis of field names.
3. A detailed report on the history of farming on the marshes."

This Report falls into two separate parts:

1. The history of enclosure, drainage and past land use on Llangennech marsh.
2. More detailed study of past land-use and vegetation patterns on Llanelli marshes using field name evidence.

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Map 3: Summary of Enclosure Phases on Llangennech marsh

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Map 11. Enclosure Map.

Map 12. O.S 6 inch, 3rd Edition of 1921.

Map 13. Llanegennech Tithe Map field names plotted onto 1st edn. 6 inch.

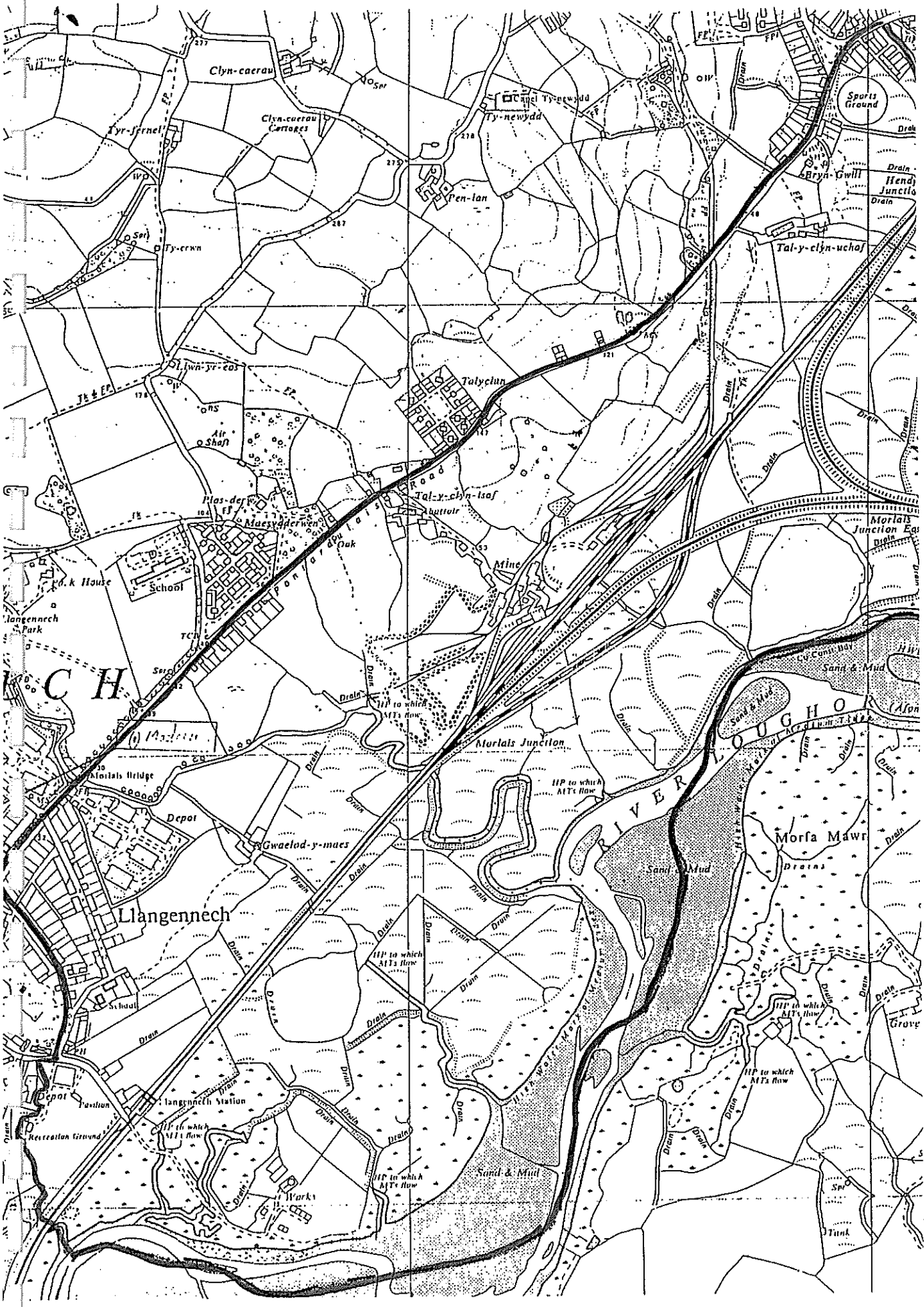
Map 14. Llanelli Marshes - Vegetation data & past land use data

Map 15. Llwynhendy & Tir Morfa area - enlarged from 1st edn OS 6 inch 1877

Map 16. Detail from William Jones' 1751 Map of lands at Berwick Chapel.

Map 17. Dyffryn area - enlarged from 1st edn OS 6 inch.

Map 18. Detail of Dyffryn area from 1751 map.



LLANGENNECH

Introduction
The present and are seen and forms. Apart from SN009 no information the Llangennech existence buildings mass of re marshes a intensivel for at least

Geology
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Map 1: Llangennech Study Area

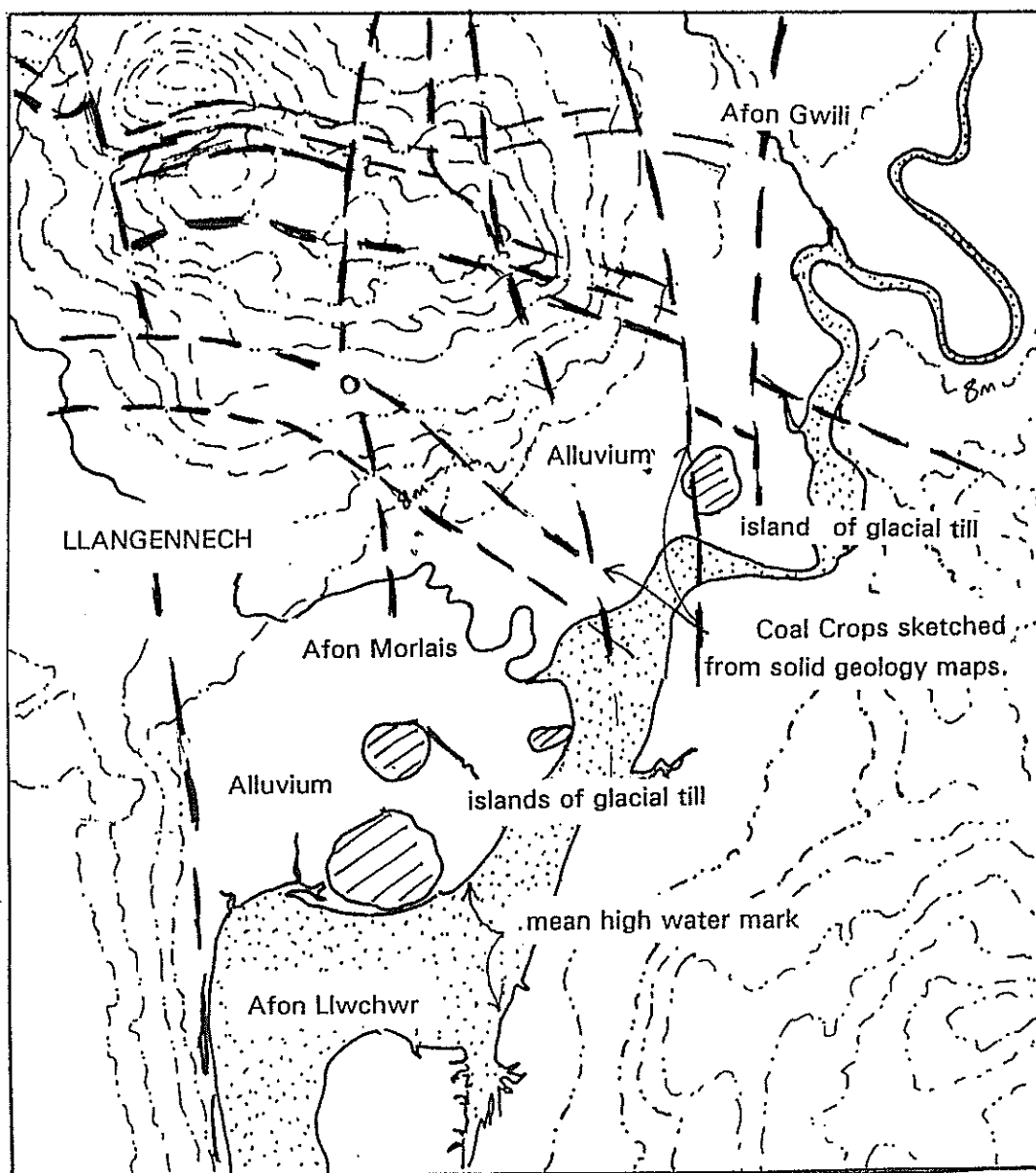
LLANGENNECH & TALYCLYN MARSHES.

Introduction (Map 1).

The present day Llangennech and Talyclyn marshes lie on the east bank of the R. Loughor and are separated by the R. Morlais, a tributary of the Loughor, which flows across the marsh and forms the parish boundary between Llangennech to the south and Llanedy to the north. Apart from a few 'islands' of slightly raised ground, the flood plain of the tidal Loughor from SN009 northing and SN 028 northing is some 1.6 km, or 1 mile wide which has led to the formation of estuarine marshes. The river has and continues to change course. The history of the Llangennech Marshes is similar to that of Llanelli coastal marshes, not least in the existence of coal seams below them. The Morlais Colliery closed in the early 1980s and its buildings have been cleared, but much of the spoil tips remain. Cleared too are the former mass of railway sidings alongside the still active main rail line west. The northern part of the marshes are now cut across by the embankments of the M4. The marshes are no longer farmed intensively and are probably now under a more natural vegetational regime than they have been for at least a few hundred years.

Geology and Topography: Map 2

The meltwaters of the ice sheets which mantled Wales in the last Ice Age carved out a wide channel for an enlarged R. Loughor whose edges are marked by the 8 m. contour line. As on Llanelli marshes, the ice sheets deposited moraines of glacial till which formed islands in the low-lying estuary, otherwise inundated at low tide. Estuarine marshes then developed over the alluvial deposits infilling the much wider and deeper sub-glacial river channel. The other geological factor which has influenced land-use of the Marshes is of course the existence of coal seams below and adjacent to the marshes.



The Middle Ages and Early Modern period.

Llangennech formed part of the Welshry of the commote of Carnwyllion, that, by the later Middle Ages, was itself a part of the Duchy of Lancaster's Lordship of Kidwelly. The area is therefore included in the 1609-1613 Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster Lordships in Wales. There is however no information on ownership and common rights on the marshes to complement the very full and useful details for Llanelli itself (see 1992 Report). It is possible therefore that they were of no great extent in the Middle Ages. Rees' *Map of South Wales and the Border in the 14th century* depicts an area of marsh within that enclosed by embankments (1a) to (1c) - see Gazetteer below - as 'Morfa Mawr', but this may be an error and the name refers to the present day Morfa Mawr on the opposite side of the Loughor in Llandeilo Tal-y-Bont parish, Glamorganshire.

The location and nature of medieval cultivation can be generally located by means of field shapes and names, fossil traces within a later enclosed landscape of individual farms and estates. Like Llanelli, medieval arable farming may be indicated over the later farmlands of Gwaelod-y-Maes by the persistence of 'maes' and 'cae' field names recorded in the Llangennech Tithe Schedule. (Unfortunately no field names were recorded for the Llanedi Tithe Schedule). Talyclyn is noted as a holding on William Rees's *Map of South Wales in the Fourteenth Century* and the 'clun' element carries the general meaning of meadow, so we can suppose some use of the saltmarsh fringes of the estuary for grazing in the Middle Ages.

Parliamentary Enclosure.

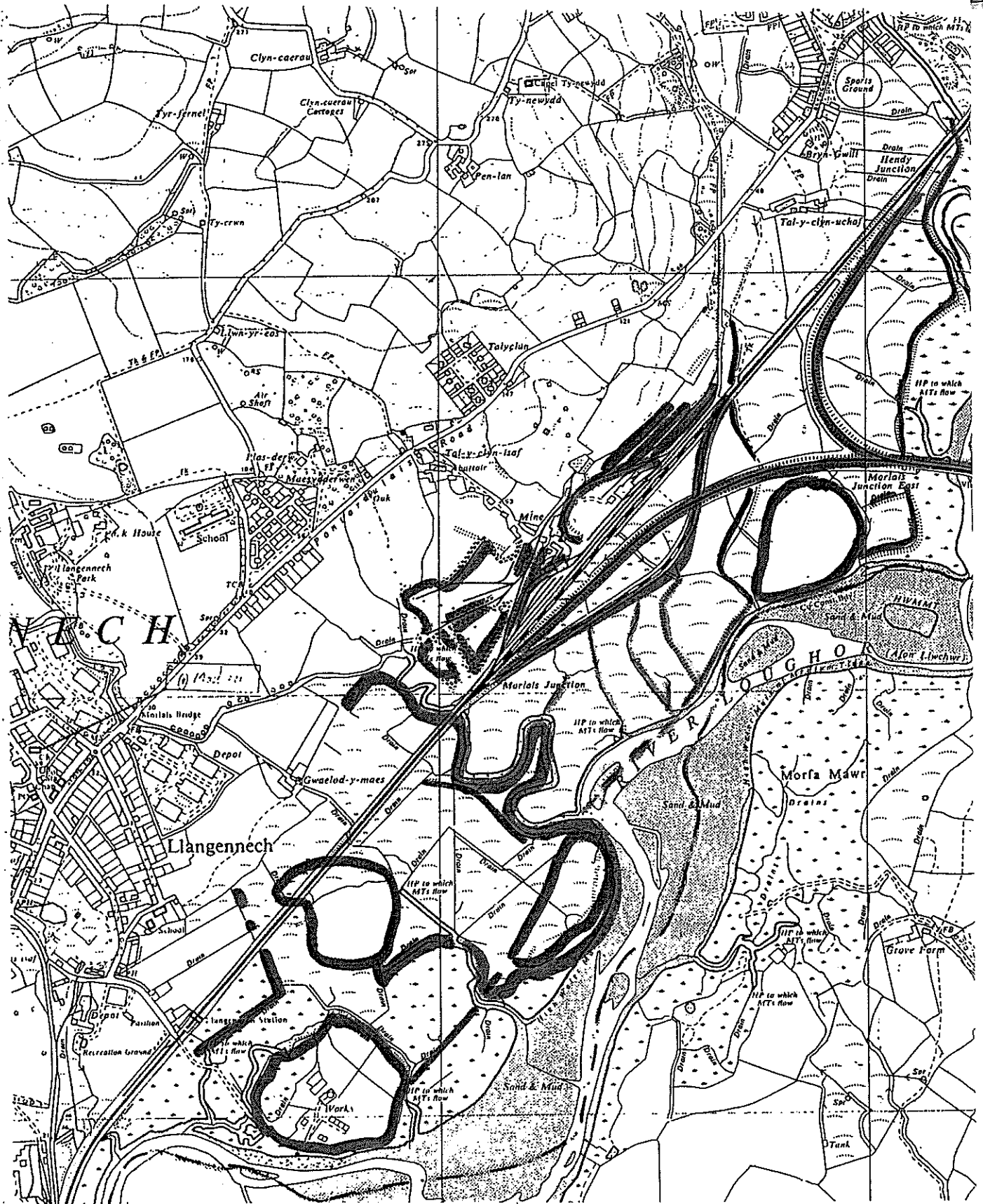
Useful general evidence on what the improving farmers and landlords of the late 18th century regarded as backwardness in not enclosing Carmarthenshire marsh land is provided by Charles Hassall in 1794. In his *General View of Agriculture of the Co. of Carmarthen with observations on the means of its improvement* states that:

"The fenns of this district lye near the coast about Kidwelly and Llangennech and are of considerable extent; they are, for the most part, overflowed by spring tides; and on that account called salt marshes. Laugharne Marsh, lying on the west side of the Tawe river, has already been mentioned, as a valuable tract of excellent land. Why no attempt has been made to embank and drain the other marshes, which consist of soil equally valuable, is a matter of much surprise; especially as most of those marshes may be embanked at a very moderate expence, since the tide does not rise to any considerable height over them. I was informed, by an intelligent person who lives in that part of the country, that a bank six feet high, would be fully adequate, to resist any tides, by which those marshes are overflowed; upon this statement, I have calculated the expence of embanking the Carmarthenshire marshes, at about two shillings and eight pence per yard long; from which any proprietor may easily calculate the expence of an embankment; adding about twenty percent for skillful assistance in setting out and superintending the work". (pp. 28-29)





The passing of the first general enclosure act in 1801 greatly facilitated the passage of private bills promoting the enclosure of common and waste lands. Prior to this (act), the great expence expended by the promoters of such a bill had the effect of



preventing the improvement of waste lands, as the great expence which generally attends the present mode of obtaining authority to divide and inclose them, by applying for an act of parliament upon every occasion of that sort. People of small fortune dread the expence of these applications so much, that they will rather permit their interests in waste lands to lie dormant, than subject themselves to the greater inconvenience of an expence they are not always able to bear. (*idem*, pp.22-23).

The great impetus to the enclosure movement following the 1801 Act can be measured by the 2000 acts which were passed during the period up to 1845. The eighth enclosure act affecting Carmarthenshire, passed in the year 1812 (52 Geo.3, c.57) concerned the parishes of Llanelli, Llangennech and Llanedy.



Map 3: Summary of Enclosure and Landuse Phases on Llangennech and Talycyn Marshes

 = Phase I
 = Phase II
 = Phase III
 = Phase IV

 = Phase V
 = Phase VI

Summary of Enclosure. Map 3

The detailed field and documentary evidence for the past land use of Talyclyn and Llangennech marshes is presented below in Gazetteer form with an accompanying numbered key map (Map 4). It has however been thought useful to preface this with a short summary of the principal phases of enclosure and settlement.

Phase I: Llangennech marsh 'island' farms.

See nos 13, 14, 15 and 25 below for farms and ownership of these islands of glacial till, Perth-y-wrach, Bryn-y-Gwair and Vinney. There is documented usage as meadows, if not with settlements, from at least the 17th century, possibly earlier.

Phase II: Talyclyn Marsh.

This was the first to be enclosed by a series of embankments (1a-1c) which eventually extended from the southern bank of the R. Gwili to the glacial till 'island' of Llandwr. In existence by 1813 - perhaps contemporary with the Talyclyn Canal, (see 10) below, constructed by Clayton c. 1775.

Phase III: South Part Talyclyn Marsh. (Area D)

An enclosure, in stages, probably after 1824, much of which has been eroded away by the R. Loughor.

Phase IV: an abortive or unfinished attempt to enclose Llangennech Marsh

Probably 1794-1816 - see Bank 7 on Map 3.

Phase V: North part Llangennech Marsh.

Consequent on the Enclosure Act of 1812. Possibly earlier in origin, or at least contemporary with III above, c. 1824. Consisting of a 'levee' type bank along the south side of the R. Morlais, thence on the seaward side of the 'island' of Perth-y-Wrach and along a pill to the island of Bryn-y-Gwair. An enclosure which still allowed inundation by high tides, designed to create improved salt marsh.

Phase VI: Llandilo & Llanelli Railway 1834.

Cut right across both marshes - marks the end of the era of canals, pills and shipping places for coal export - 'terrain oblivious'.

Phase VII: industrialisation.

Early 20th century expansion of Morlais Colliery and extension of the rail network with the Hendy Loop.

1. An Embankment parallel to the R. Loughor that is continuous across much of the marsh in Llanedi parish, from a point near confluence of the R. Gwili and the Loughor to a point 200m north-east of confluence of the R. Morlais with the Loughor. Date of construction unknown, but up to eight possible phases have been identified, viz:

(1b) A second phase (1b + 11) is represented by an embankment (coloured orange) and a ? canalized drain at right angles to its southern end, forming enclosure B. The bank is of similar form to 1a and some 300m in length. The drain (450 m. in length) terminates in a deep pill and has undoubtedly been 'straightened out' as part of this phase of enclosure. The area south of the drain now overlain by railway embankments, corresponds to a wide expanse of marsh depicted on Denham's Chart of the Burry Inlet dated 1830. The Chart thus clearly shows how far enclosure and reclamation had advanced at the northern end of the Talyclyn marsh by 1830.

All the above three sections of embankment are believed to have been constructed by 1813 since they are all depicted on sheet 188 of the Original Surveyor's Drawings (hence OSD) Ordnance Survey (Map 5). However, there is clearly a mistake in the OSD on how far south the embankment extended. They show it extending along the whole south eastern circumference of Llandwr, but that length is absent from Cort's Plan of 1824. Cort's plan of Llangennech and Talyclyn marshes of 1824 is a more reliable and accurate source. He was concerned with the plotting of existing and proposed embankments for a proposed canal project. On Cort's plan, the extent of Talyclyn marsh is equivalent to the area marked 'D' on Map 4. No actual embankments enclosing area 'D' are depicted, only a 'proposed embankment' is indicated linking the south western edge of Llandwr with the confluence of the Morlais river.

(1e) Section five of embankment is represented by a straight c. 150m length of embankment, parallel to the Loughor river, and is considered to have been constructed post 1824 (and possibly later than 1841 since it is not depicted on the Tithe survey either) but prior to 1878. This may represent all that remains of Cort's proposed embankment (see above under 1c), the remainder down to the mouth of the R. Morlais having been eroded away by a new course of the R. Loughor. Comparison of Cort's plan with the present extent of the marsh here also suggests loss of land to the river. Another indication that this is all that remains of a substantial attempt to enclose marsh D is the fact that all the watercourses appear to have been straightened as drains. Although the detail of the depiction of the drainage of this area on the Surveyors' Drawings of 1813 (Map 5) cannot be relied on, there is no mistaking that they mapped the characteristic 'dendritic' pattern of drainage of unimproved, tidally-inundated salt marshes, which differs greatly from the new, straight cuts of improved marsh, whether salt or fresh water marshland.

8

of 'D' described above under 1d to the south-west of Landwr.

(1g) Short c.30m length (dark blue) constructed between 1905 and 1913 which completed the link between embankment (1f) and (1e). *embankment 31302*

(1h) 100 m. embankment (green) length constructed between 1841 and 1878. *embankment 31303*

2. The brown line marks the likely inland extent of common marsh c. 1815 on the eve of the enclosure of Llangennech marsh. The extent of marsh within Llanedi parish is based upon Denham's chart of the Burry Inlet surveyed in 1830. The following description of the areas of marsh is laid out in two parts according to the administrative division of the area: to the north of the Morlais river within Llanedi Parish and, to the south within Llangennech parish.

(2a) The upper section of marsh within Llanedi parish was known as Talyclyn marsh and was farmed as part of the holdings of Talyclyn Isaf and Talyclyn Uchaf. No rights of common existed over this area. The raised island composed of glacial till within Talyclyn marsh, occupied by a dwelling during the early 19th century, was known as Landwr (see no.12 below). At the time of the Tithe Survey (c.1841), Landwr was considered part of Talyclyn Uchaf and therefore of lesser status. The major landowners in the early 19th century were the Clayton family of Harleyford, Bucks. Little detailed documentation has been found to complement the Llangennech area to the south and it is possible that material is to be found in English collections relating to their enclosures of Talyclyn marsh. Subsequent to the enclosures described above (No.1), the succession of map evidence from the later 19th and 20th centuries shows saltmarsh developing and extending out on the seaward, or river side of the bank - a common process found elsewhere.

(2b) The lower section of marsh within Llangennech parish was known as Llangennech Marsh or Morfa (salt-marsh) Llangennech and was considered to be common pasture up to the 2nd decade of the 19th century when it was enclosed by parliamentary act. As noted above, these commons need not be of mediæval origin since it is likely that much of the marsh did not build up until the 17th century.

Three islands of private property existed within the common marsh, viz. Perthywrach (13), Brynygwair (14) and Viney (15) discussed below. It is likely, by analogy with Llanelli Marsh and elsewhere that farmers and landowners had encroached upon common marshland pasture, sometimes by purchase from the Lord of the Manor. Some detail on this process can be gained from the unusual survival of a pre-enclosure survey dated June 1816 of Llangennech Marsh (CRO Cawdor, Maps 142). This survey depicts two parcels of marsh which had been sold at auction to one William Hopkin. A further two parcels reserved for sale were surveyed for such purpose in May 1822 (Cawdor, Maps 141). Another plan of intermediate date (Cawdor, Maps 127) shows that the system of allotments had been determined between 1816 and 1822. The principal beneficiaries were Lord Cawdor (as Lord of the Manor) 14-1-27; John Symmons (proprietor of Llangennech Estate) 35-1-16; Sir William Clayton (proprietor of the Alltycadno Estate) 12-1-10; of a total of 77-0-17 acres allotted. Three "islands" were treated as private property for the purposes of the act viz: Vini farm and Perthywrach belonging to John Symmons and, Brynygwair belonging to William Clayton. The 1816 Plan indicates three sections of embankment. However, the conclusion reached in this report is that the early 19th century embankment, whether piecemeal or part of an overall plan, was unfinished and ineffective. The marsh remained saltmarsh, in places inundated on almost every tide. *31304*

3. Section of embankment (orange) c.500m in length bounding the landward extent of marsh area 'D'. Date of construction unknown but extant by 1824. Could be the earliest of all, since it is closest to the landward edge of the marshes. Would have been rendered obsolete by 1e - 1f, and certainly by the railway embankment. Obscured by tipping from Morlais colliery.

(3a): Short extension of the above (green) intended to link to the Llanelly and Llandilo railway, and therefore constructed between 1834 and 1878. *embankment 31305*

31291
4. Length of embankment (green) contiguous with (and possibly contemporary with) embankment 5 below. Not depicted on Cort's plan of 1824 but, shown on the 1st edition 1:2500 survey of 1878; however, it is possible that it may have been constructed nearer the earlier date since an adjoining field name on the Llangennech tithe survey (c.1842) is named 'b' course of the Morlais was particularly unstable in this area and this embankment may have been constructed partly with the intent of stabilising its course.

31289
5. Substantial length of embankment or levee (blue); the earliest map evidence for this feature is the 1st edition 1:2500 O.S. of 1878. Constructed after 1824, and contiguous with embankment no.4 above, it runs along the southern bank of the R. Morlais until the Loughor is reached. Then, parallel to the Loughor in a south-westerly direction until it reaches the confluence of an unnamed pill with the Loughor; thereafter it follows the northern bank of the same unnamed pill up to the island of Brynygwair. It is likely that this embankment was constructed by the Llangennech estate since its course follows the seaward edge of their property and allotments on the marsh. The intention of this major scheme was clearly to enclose Marsh E, utilising the 'island' of Perth-y-Wrach. It is not known whether the extensive system of new straight cuts for drains is all contemporary with the embankment construction, but it suggests an intention to create a non tidally-inundated area of drained pasture land. The upper reaches of the un-named pill on the east side of Bryn-y-Gwair, which today form the limit of man tidal range appear to have been straightened and deepened in order to contain tidal influx.

31277
6. Length of embankment (blue) constructed between 1816 and 1878 along the outer boundary of the allotment purchased by William Hopkin c.1816 and later in the possession of the Llangennech estate of Edward Rose Tunno (c. 1821-27). The allotment was bisected by the construction of the Llanelly and Llandilo railway in 1834; its land use at this time was marsh. No embankment encloses the allotment on the western side of the railway line and it is therefore likely that this embankment was constructed by the Llangennech estate, broadly contemporary with 5 and 6 above between 1834 and 1878. The area enclosed - G - also appears to have been drained by new straight cuts and no longer a saltmarsh.

31288
7 & 8. Two lengths of what were described as 'unfinished embankment' on the pre-enclosure survey of 1816. (See above under 2.)
Embankment 7 (pink) constructed between 1794 and 1816. Depicted on a pre-enclosure survey of 1816 but, on a plan of the marsh surveyed c.1824 (Cort, 1824) this feature was named as an 'unfinished embankment'. Hassall, writing in 1794, clearly states that no attempt had been made to drain, embank or improve Llangennech marsh although it seems very probable that this embankment was constructed prior to enclosure of the marsh since it is not mentioned in the award nor is its course respected by the allotment boundaries and later embankment works i.e. no.5 above. A length of ditch or watercourse is depicted on the 1st edition 1:2500 O.S. of 1878 corresponding with part of its course. It looks like an overambitious attempt to link the two 'islands' of Perth-y-Wrach and Vinney whilst still allowing tidal ingress up the un-named pill it crosses. It was therefore intended to protect areas E & F from all but high tides and create an improved saltmarsh for grazing.
Embankment 8 (pink) as above. A length of ditch or watercourse is depicted on the 1st edition 1:2500 O.S. of 1878 corresponding with the whole of its course.

31276
9. Llangennech canal Two stages of construction, begun c.1775 with terminus at the confluence of the Mwrwg river. Extended to Llangennech Quay c.1790 but fell into disuse shortly afterwards. Linked to waggon roads to bring coal from Bryn-Sheffre Fawr and later Glanmwrwg collieries to a shipping place (Symons 1979, 186-188).

31292
10. Course of the Talyclyn canal commissioned by Clayton of the Alltycadno estate c.1775. A watercourse is depicted on the Llanedi tithe map (c.1841) to the east of the railway line and follows the boundary between Talyclyn Isaf and Talyclyn Uchaf farms over part of its course. Symons mentions a dispute between Clayton's tenants whose lands were cut to form the canal; this would be consistent with the interpretation of this watercourse as the Talyclyn canal. Field inspection in 1994 revealed a very well preserved feature, apart from where it is sectioned by

the railway line, often embanked both sides and its course well marked by dense reed growth. Worthy of Scheduling.

11. Rejected course of the Talyclyn canal suggested by Symons (dashed blue line). No watercourse in this location is depicted on the Llanedi Tithe map (c.1841) nor would its construction here have affected Talyclyn Isaf farm and cause the dispute mentioned by Symons between Talyclyn Isaf and Talyclyn Uchaf farms. In addition, this watercourse, marked as a drain by the O.S., has its confluence 600m upstream from 10 above and would be less suitable as a shipping place.

12. One of the four islands (all purple) of glacial till in the marsh known as Landwr (O.S. 1830) or alternatively Lan-dior (Denham, 1830). Dwelling formerly situated on eastern side of island. Part of Talyclyn Uchaf farm on Tithe survey of 1841. Only part of marsh above 25ft contour. No information identified to date concerning past land use.

13. Second of the four islands of glacial till in the marsh known as Perthywrach. Part of the (Llangennech) estate purchased by John Symmons from the Stepney's estate c.1800 and farmed as part of Pen-y-Lan at this time. Possibly identifiable with one of two detached fields comprising part of Pen-y-Lan farm in the 1761 Stepney estate book, viz: 'Wain Dow in ye marsh [sic]' or 'Han (Llan?) Penylan in ye marsh'. However, a note in the Stepney map book states that the above two parcels 'are not sold to Mr Simmons'. In addition, the adjoining land ownership details given in the Stepney map book for the two detached parcels do not appear to concur with the documented, rather isolated position of Perthywrach at the far end of the marsh overlooking the Loughor river. A number of possible solutions may explain the problem of the identification of the detached Pen-y-lan fields:

(a) the extent of enclosure of the marsh during the 18th century was more advanced than that at the beginning of the 19th century and that changes in the river channel or some other factor causing increased tidal inundations may have forced a retreat to the higher ground.

(b) the two detached parcels may be situated within the area of embankment no.4. The course of the Morlais river appears to have been very unstable in this area and it may therefore have altered the enclosure pattern to a significant extent. Unfortunately for this theory, the area was owned by Symmons as part of the Llangennech estate and therefore inconsistent with the statement in the Stepney Estate map book that the two parcels 'are not sold to Mr Simmons'.

(c) the two detached parcels may be situated within the vicinity of the Box tenement and Sir John Stepney's shipping place at the confluence of the Mwrwg brook with the Loughor. Subsequent canal, tramway and associated industrial developments may have caused significant alteration to the field pattern in this area, obscuring the mid 18th century topography.

14. Third of the four islands within the marsh known as Bryn-y-gwair. Its origin as a relict island of glacial till surrounded by post-glacial estuarine sediments being identical to the others. Part of Gwaelod-y-maes farm and the Allt-y-Cadno estate in the early 19th century. Its name suggests its use as a hay meadow and is documented in 17th century leases housed in the Glamorgan Record office. The Llangennech estate held a 'landshare' in Bryn-y-gwair c.1800 but, by the tithe survey c.1842 this share had been relinquished. The book of reference to the proposed Llanelly and Llandilo railway c.1834 indicates that its land use was meadow at this time. It is suggested that the crescentic northern extension to Bryn-y-gwair may be an enclosure of adjoining marsh; it does not appear to be depicted on the map of John Symmons' purchased estate c.1800.

15. Viney or Vini; the fourth island in the marsh. Depicted as an independent tenement in the 1761 Stepney Estate map book; a dwelling had been established and the adjoining land use included arable and pasture. By 1800, Viney appears to have been farmed as part of Ty Issa and by 1842, formed part of a much larger holding comprising the former tenements of Ty Issa, Thurston and Hendre. Viney would appear to have been farmed into the current century until Llanelli Rural District Council took possession of the site for a sewage works c.1913-1935.

50233
33
16. Llanelli and Llandilo Railway constructed c.1834 (yellow). later became part of the Great Western Railway Company's network (by 1878 at least) until nationalisation. Other than enclosure, the most significant event which seems to have influenced land use on the marsh during the 19th century; the book of reference to the survey carried out in conjunction with the promoting bill provides details of the land use, owners and occupiers affected by the construction of the railway. The land use along this railway corridor has been reconstructed on the 1st edition 6" O.S. map (surveyed 1878). Classes of land use include: beach, marshland, meadow, arable, garden land and road. Over the study area, three classes of land use are identifiable viz: marshland, meadow and arable.

314
316
17. G.W.R. Hendy Loop (pink dashed line) constructed between 1905 and 1913. Railway link between the G.W.R. Llanelly line (formerly the Llanelly and Llandilo railway) and the G.W.R. Swansea District line.

315
319
18. Tramway (pink) constructed 1878-1905 between Tal-y-Clyn Brickworks and Colliery to link with G.W.R.

3293
3294
3295
19. Tramway (black) constructed 1842-78 between Morlais Colliery to link with Llanelly and Llandilo (later G.W.R.) railway.

3274
3306
3310
20. Tramway constructed 1905-13 between coal level near Tal-y-Clyn Uchaf to link with tramway system no.18 above.

21. Extensive area of railway sidings built 1913-1948 to accommodate freight wagons handling increasing coal output from Morlais and Tal-y-Clyn collieries to G.W.R. system.

22. Limekiln built into southern boundary of Landwr enclosure. Extant by 1824 but disused by 1877. No trace found on field visit in 1994 - lost to river erosion?

23. Limekiln built adjacent to eastern boundary of Landwr enclosure. Extant by 1841 but disused by 1877. Found to be intact on Field visit in 1994.

24. Dwelling known as Landwr. Extant by 1830 but abandoned by 1877. No trace found on field visit in 1994.

25. Viney or Vini dwelling extant by 1761. Holding described as no.15 above. It appears to have been occupied into the current century until Llanelli Rural District Council took possession of the site for a sewage works c.1913-1935. The buildings were roofless by 1948.

26. Morlais colliery Two 'old coal pits' and an air shaft are depicted on the 1st edition 1:2500 surveyed in 1878. However, by 1905, major redevelopment of the colliery was underway and continued thereafter into the early 1980's. The extensive waste tips to the south and west of the colliery buildings constitute the most significant industrial legacy within the study area.

27. Coal shipping place from Sir John's (Stepney) Pill (otherwise known as the Mwrwg river) into the Loughor river. Known to be in use during the late 17th century although undoubtedly in use at a much earlier date; the Duchy of Lancaster Survey of 1609 mentions coal being dug from the Allt at Llangennech.

28. Coal shipping place on Llangennech Marsh between Sir John's Pill and Viney. Indicated as during the late 17th century as a shipping bank for culm and coal (Symons 1979)..

29. Approximate course of road (dashed brown line) through Llangennech marsh to Swansea by means of the Llangennech ford as depicted on early 19th plans of the marsh. The crossing point may have been to the south-east of Viney where the channel of the Loughor is wide and splits into two branches. It is assumed that the route headed for Cwrt-y-Carne (site of monastic grange) on the Glamorgan side of the river and thereafter towards Swansea via Llannant road. The route may thus have been of at least medieval origins.

30. Lin
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30. Limekiln built on edge of Talyclyn marsh. Extant by 1841 but not shown on later maps. Destroyed by development of Morlais colliery.

31. Group of two limekilns situated on part of former common marsh reserved unenclosed for the parish of Llangennech. Extant by 1878 but, not depicted on earlier mapping (Cort, 1824; tithe, 1842; enclosure mapping, 1816-1822). 31280

32. Coal shipping place on Llangennech Marsh at confluence of Viney Pill. Indicated as 'Shipping Place' on shipping bank for coal. 31308

33. Watercourse (dashed green line) of linear form depicted on Cort's plan (1824) and tithe survey (1842) but, not shown on later plans nor visible on air photographs. Possible post-enclosure drainage ditch. 31309

34. Tal-y-Clyn Uchaf farmstead; attached to holding which farmed upper part of Tal-y-Clyn marsh and adjoining enclosed land. Part of Allt-y-Cadno estate. Documentary origins not researched but, extant by 1813 at least. Rees' map (reconstructing c.14th century landscape) plots Tal-y-Clyn although it is uncertain whether this relates to the known sites of Tal-y-Clyn Uchaf, Isaf or Canol or to some other unknown site. 6758

35. Tal-y-Clyn Isaf farmstead; attached to holding which farmed lower part of Tal-y-Clyn marsh and adjoining enclosed land. Part of Allt-y-Cadno estate. Documentary origins not researched but, extant by 1813 at least. 25661

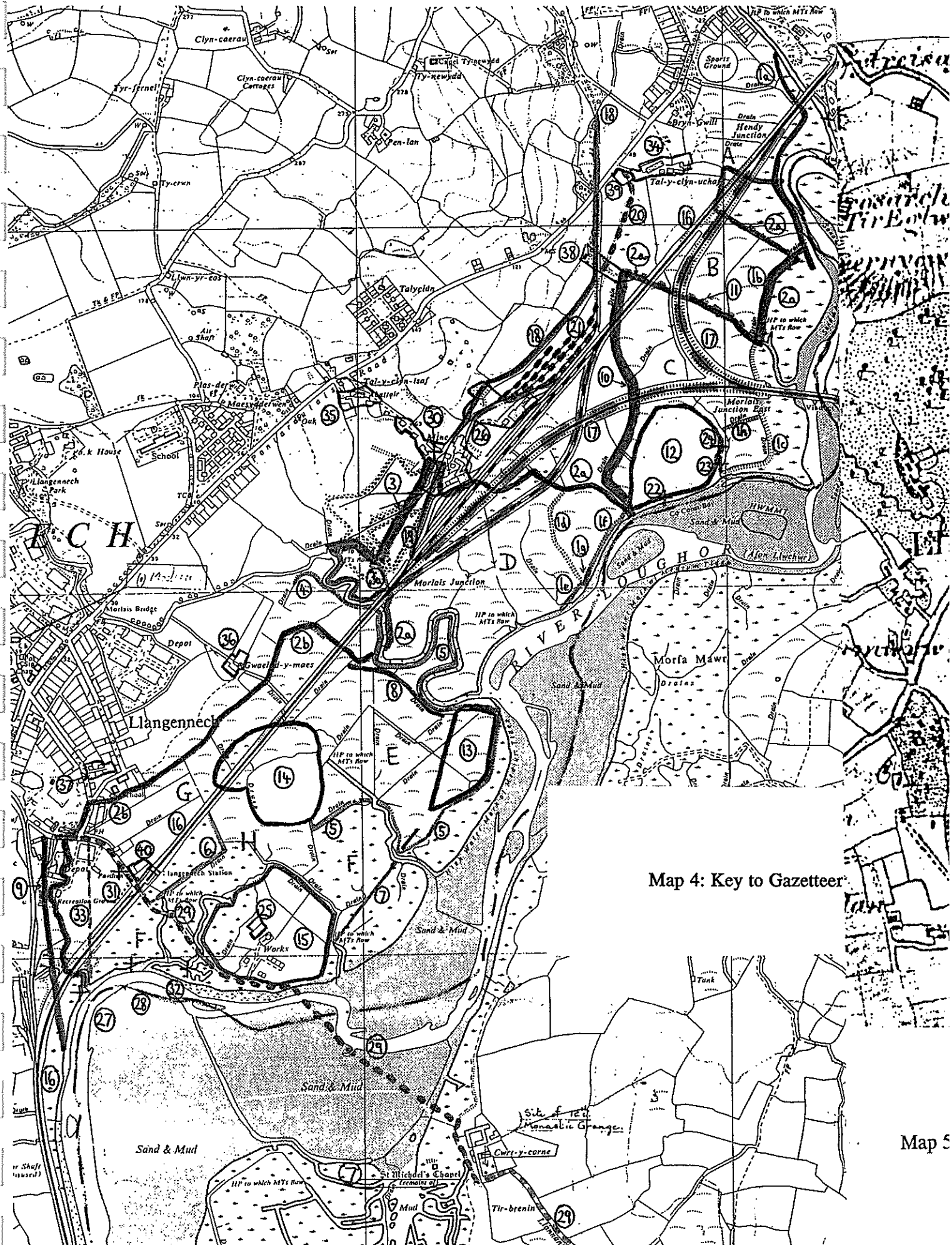
36. Gwaelod-y-Maes farmstead; attached to holding which farmed upper part of Llangennech marsh and adjoining enclosed land. Part of Allt-y-Cadno estate. Its existence is documented in 17th century leases housed in the Glamorgan Record office. The farmstead is now ruined. 25068

37. Maes Bach dwelling; attached to small holding which farmed lower part of enclosed land adjoining Llangennech marsh. Part of Llangennech estate. Documentary origins not researched but, extant by c.1800 at least. Since late 19th century much of former holding has been consumed by the expansion of Llangennech village and adjacent industrial development. 31311

38. Colliery. A 'coal slant' and an 'old air shaft' are depicted on the 1st edition 1:2500 surveyed in 1878. No structures are depicted on the tithe survey; however, this is not necessarily a definitive indication that no development had occurred by this stage as industrial activity of a minor nature is often ignored by the tithe surveyors. A group of buildings and an 'old coal slant' are depicted on subsequent editions of O.S. maps. These coal workings are situated at/near the terminus of the Tal-y-Clyn canal constructed 1775 and it is possible that these workings may have been exploited at this time. 4713

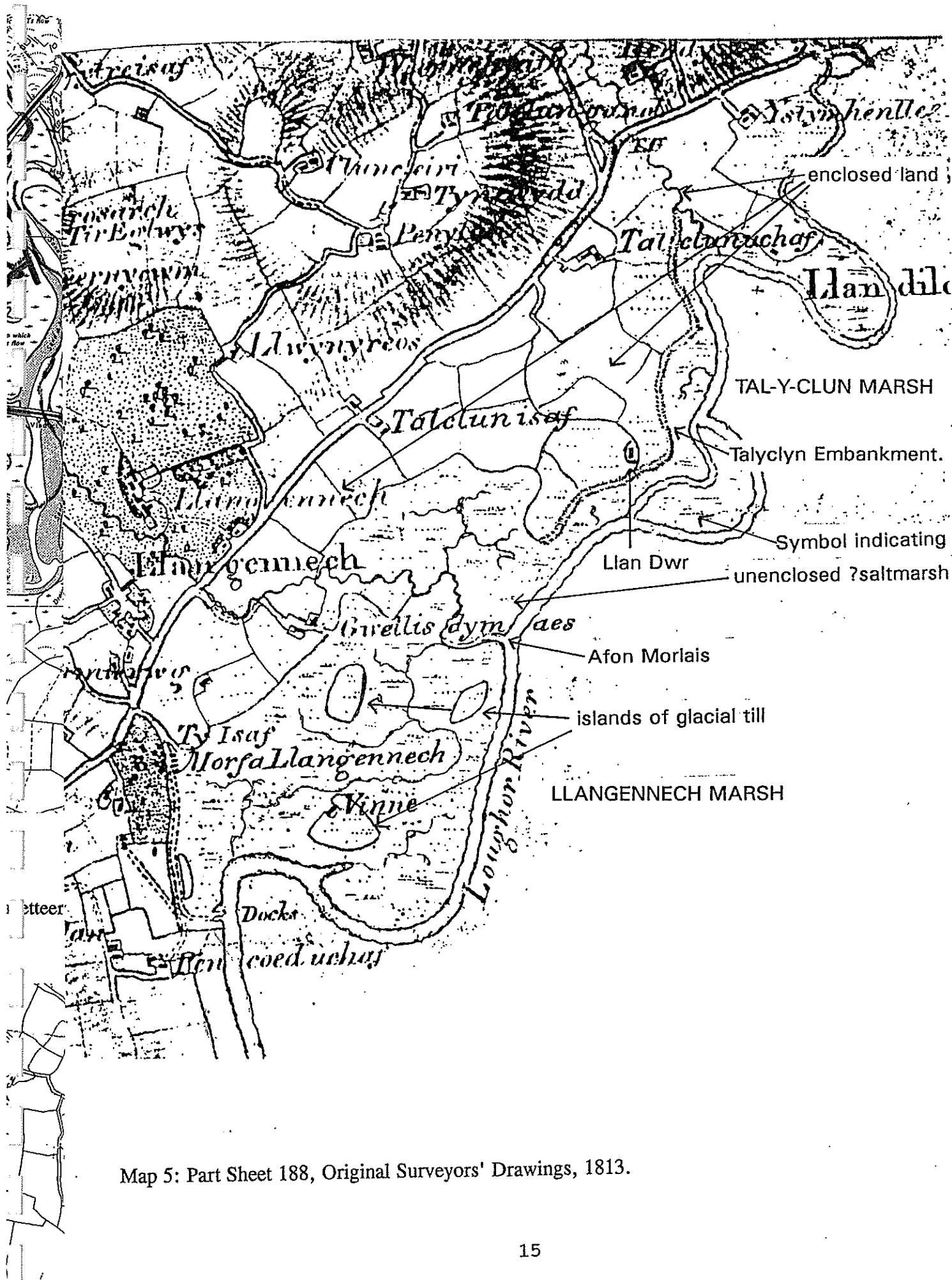
39. An 'old (coal) level' is depicted on the 2nd edition 1:2500 O.S. map to the west of Tal-y-Clyn Uchaf farmstead. No activity is visible on the 1st edition 1:2500 map of 1878. However, by 1913, it appears that the level had been reopened and, linked to Morlais colliery by a new tramway (no.20) above. 31312

40. Site of steam saw mill established on marsh to west of Llangennech station by 1878 (O.S., 1879). By 1905 however, the site had been redeveloped for an alternative use. 31281

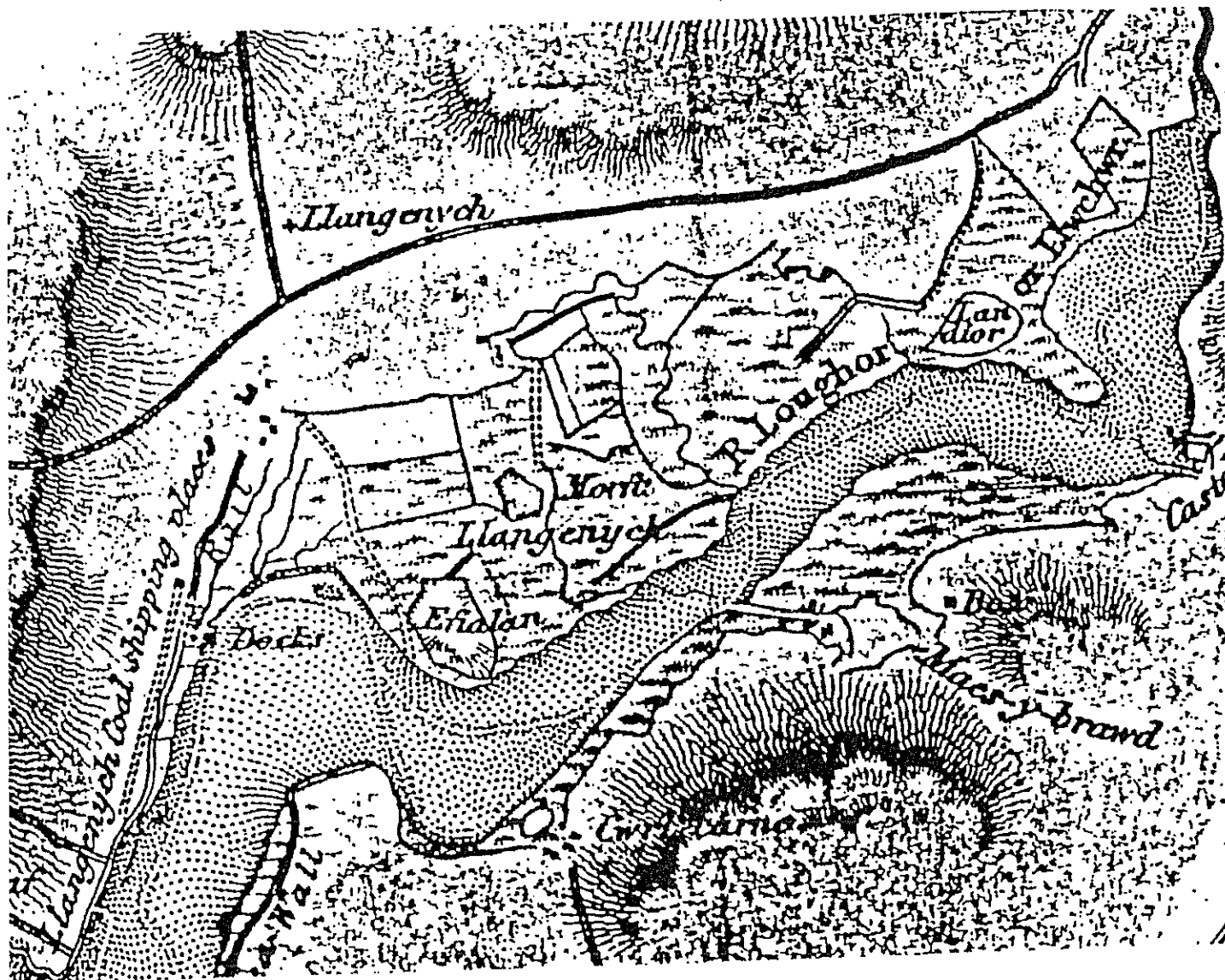


Map 4: Key to Gazetteer

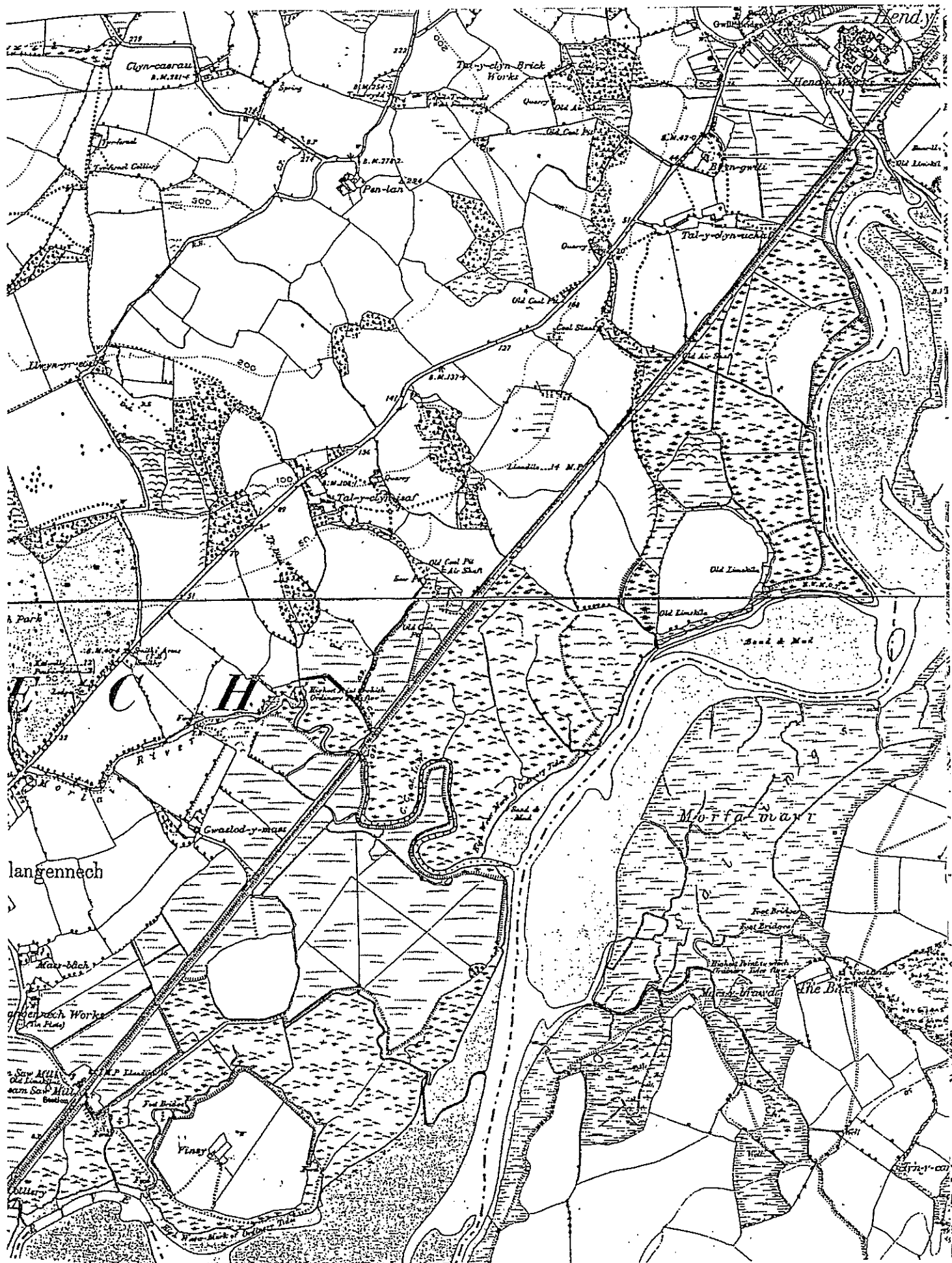
Map 5



Map 5: Part Sheet 188, Original Surveyors' Drawings, 1813.

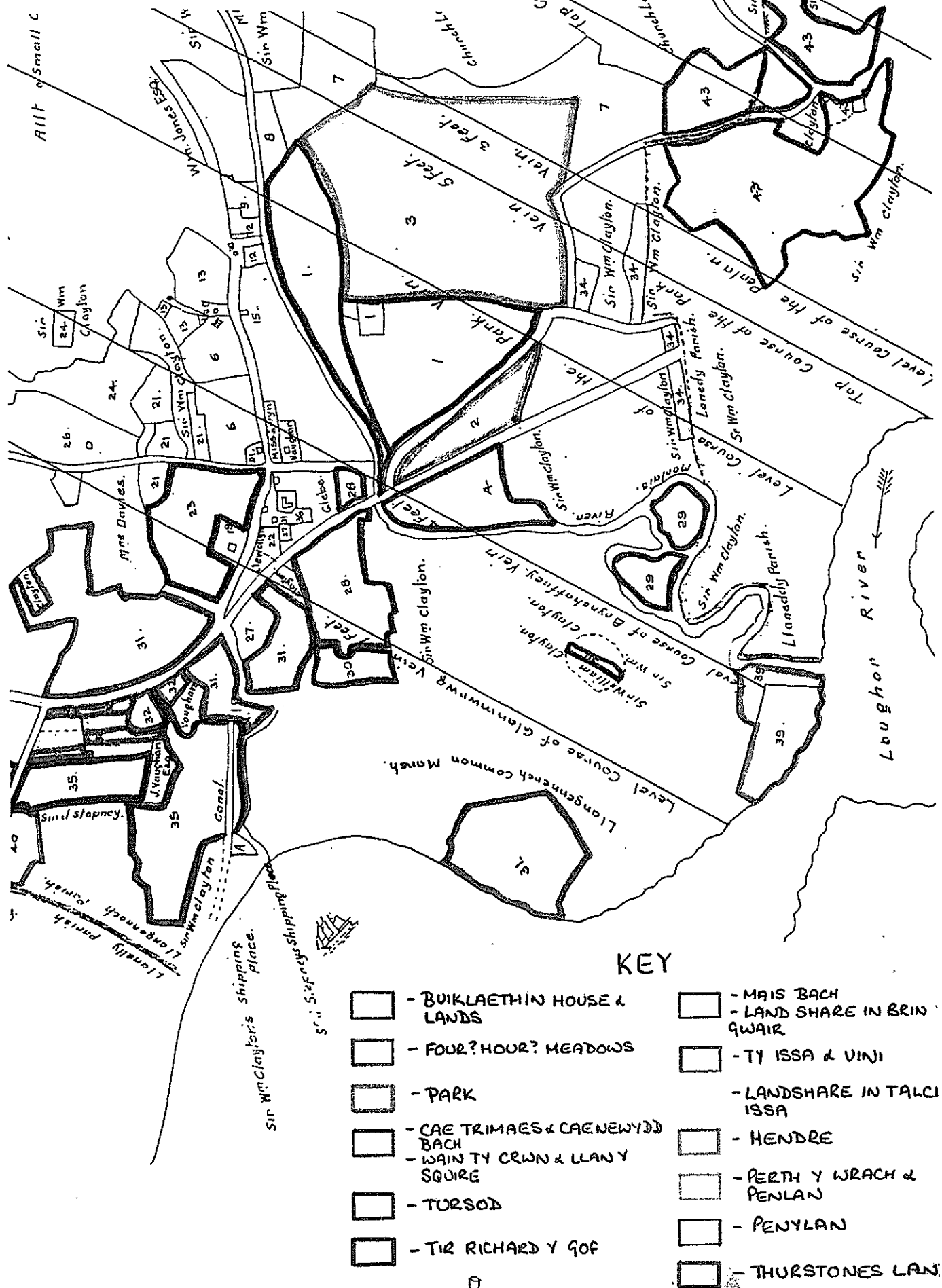


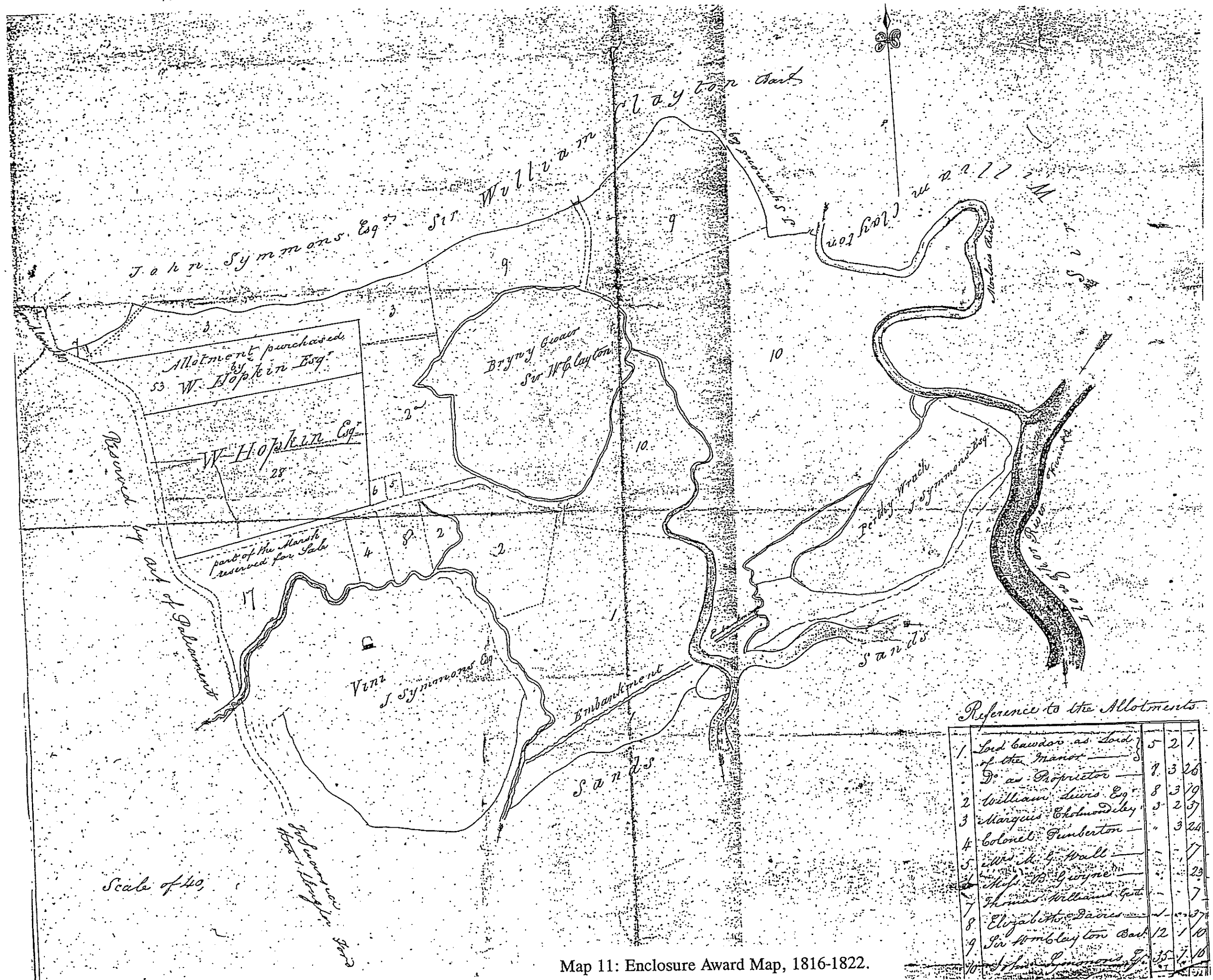
Map 7: Enlargement from Lt. H. M. Denham's *Chart of the Llanelly or Burry Inlet*, 1830



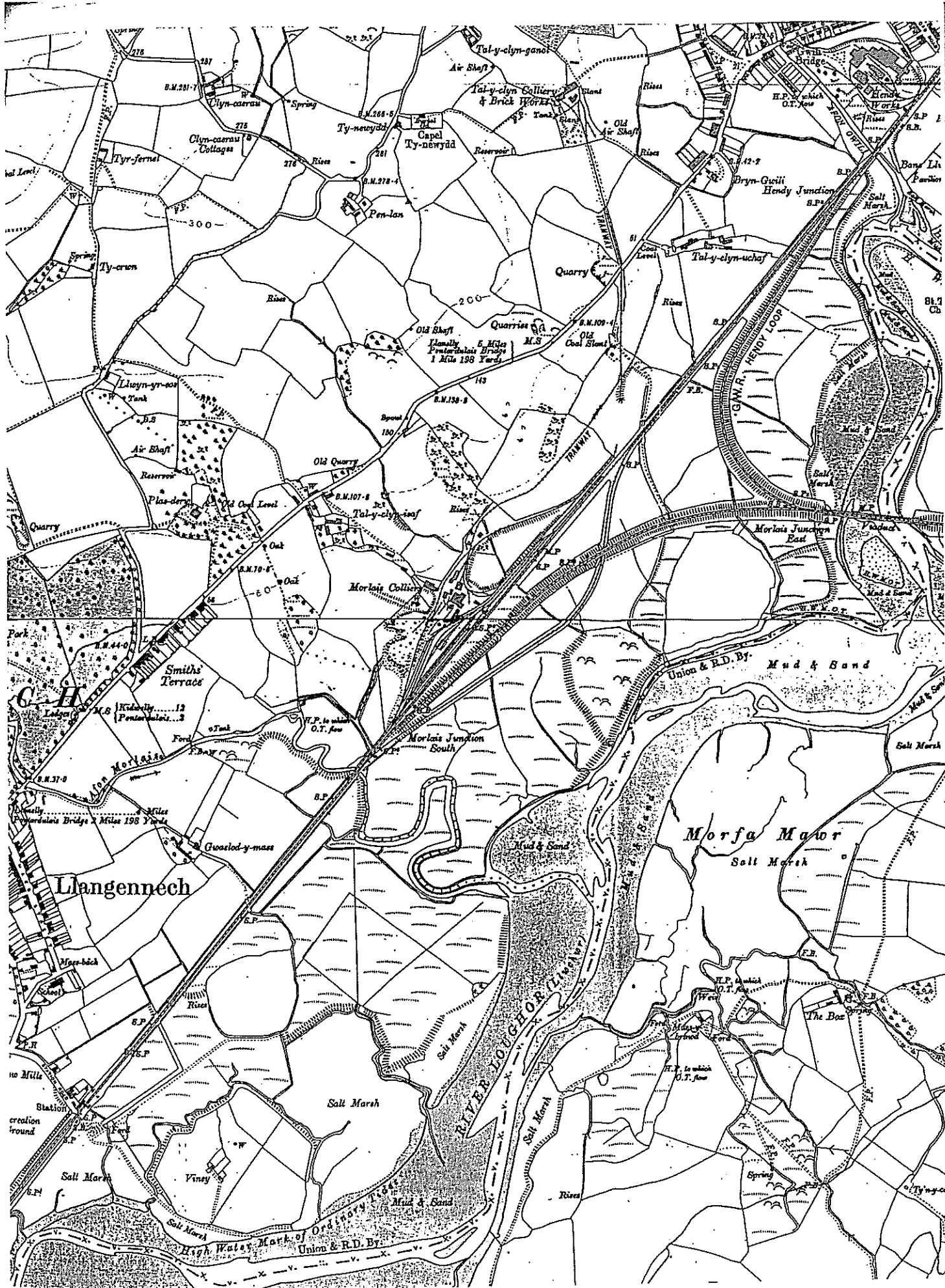
Map 8: Part of 1st edn 6 inch OS, top sheet 55SW (1898), bottom sheet 59NW (1892) both derived from, 1st edn. 1:2500 surveys, 1878 (Carms), 1875 (Glam.)

Map 9: Plan of an Estate
purchased by J. Symmons c. 1800

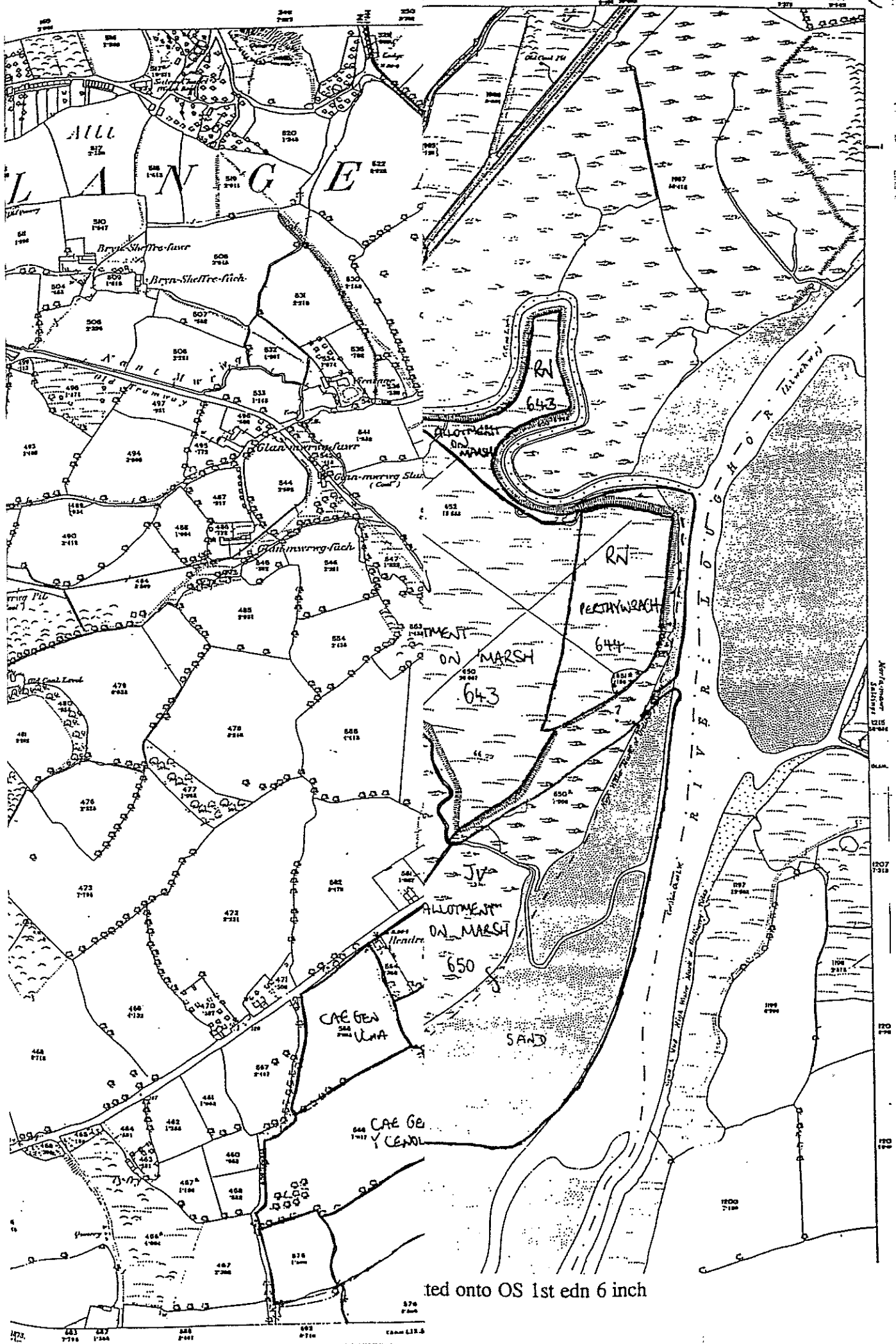




Map 11: Enclosure Award Map, 1816-1822.



Map 12: O.S 6 inch, 3rd edn. of 1921



ted onto OS 1st edn 6 inch

Field and place-names on Llangennech & Talyclyn marshes

Place names:

Vyny (John Lloyd, 1723)

Vyni (Stepney, 1761)

Viney (Cort, 1824)

Ffiniau (OS, 1830)

Viney (OS, 1878)

Ffiniau = boundaries

Gwaylod-y-maes (GRO, 1655)

Gwaelod-y-Maes (Cawdor, 1816)

Gwilod-y-Maes (Tithe, 1842)

Gwaelod-y-Maes (OS, 1830)

Gwaelod-y-Maes (OS, 1878)

Gwaelod = bottom; Maes = (arable/open?) field

Talle y clyne (Ycha) (GRO, 1604)

Tallycline (GRO, 1679)

Tal'Clun (OS, 1830)

Talclun (Cort, 1824)

Taly Clun (Tithe, 1841)

Tal-y-Clyn (OS, 1878)

Tal = end; Clun = meadow

Perthywrach (Stepney, 1800)

Perthywrach (Cawdor, 1816)

Perth = bush/hedge; (G)Wrach = witch

Landwr (OS, 1830)

Lan Dior (Denham, 1830)

Lan = hill/eminence or (L)lan = enclosure; Dwr = water

Brynygwayr (GRO, 1674)

Bryn y Gwair (Cawdor, 1816)

Bryngwyr (Cort, 1824)

Bringwair (Tithe, 1842)

Bryn = hill; Gwair = hay

Morfa Llangenych (OS, 1830)

Morfa = sea marsh

Field names:

(from Llangennech Tithe Map)

579. Cae Thomas and waste. Cae = field; Thomas = personal name

595. Handir? Rhandir? Rhandir = allotment/landshare

578. Waun Brwynog. (G)Waun = meadow/moor; Brwyn = rushes

594. Waun Mawr. (G)Waun = meadow/moor; Mawr = large

605. Waun Caerodyn. (G)Waun = meadow/moor; Cae = field; Odyn = kiln

604. Cae Hops. Cae = field; Hops = Hops?

648. Bringwair Bryn = hill; Gwair = hay

645. Llan Brinygwair. Llan = enclosure; Brin = hill; Gwair = hay

392 & 393. Maes Bach. Maes = (arable) field; Bach = small

389. Cae Maes Issa. Cae = field; Maes = (arable) field; Issa = lower; lower field

388. Cae Maes Ucha. Cae = field; Maes = (arable) field; Ucha = upper; upper field

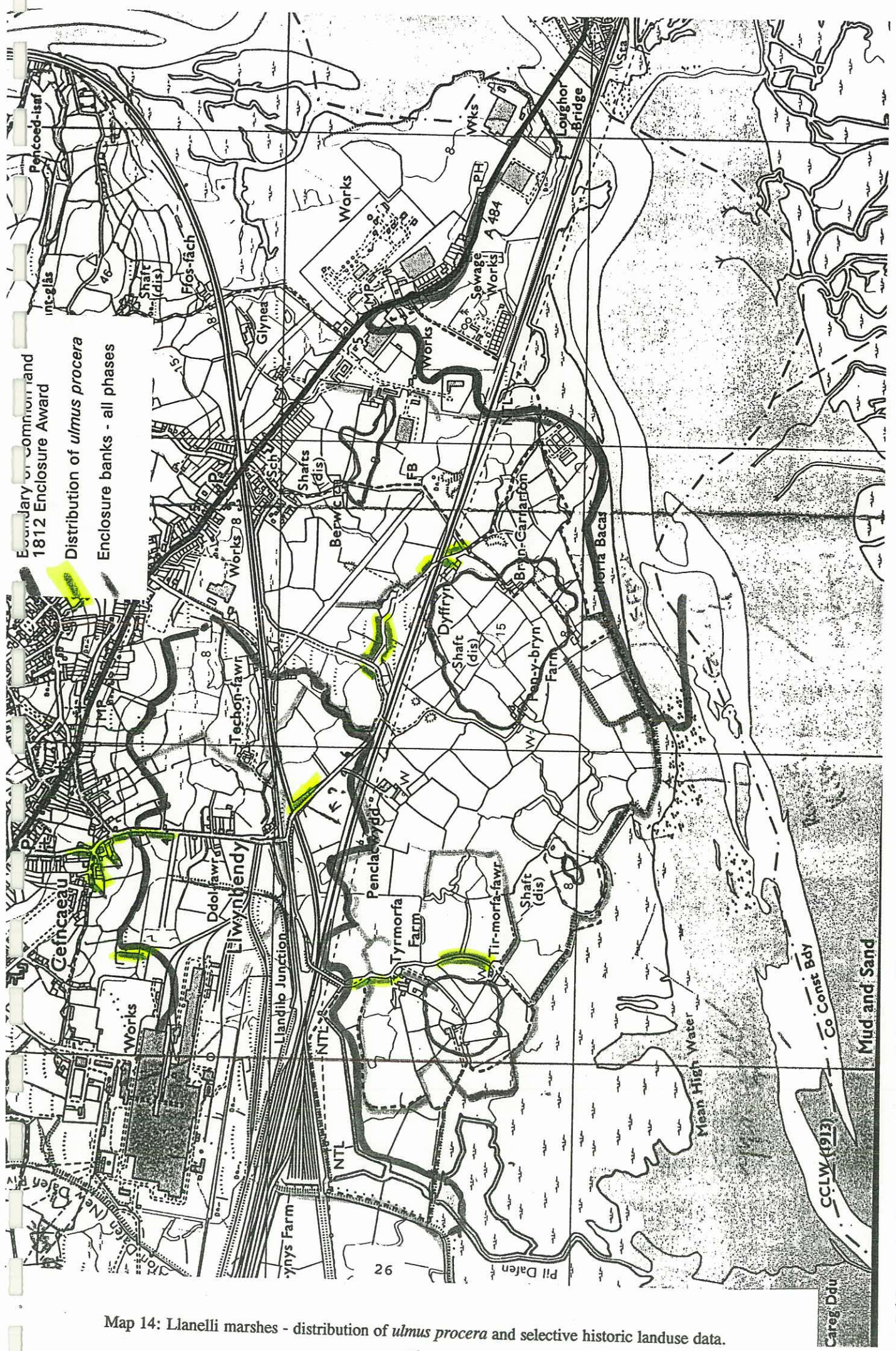
390. Cae Newydd Bach. Cae = field; Newydd = new; Bach = small; small new field

612. Cae'r Well. Cae = field; (G)Well = better
613. Cae Crwm. Cae = field; Crwm = bent, crooked
614. Cae Glas. Cae = field; Glas = green
615. Cae Brwynog. Cae = field; Brwyn = rushes
619. Ynis. Ynys = river meadow
377. Ynisoedd as above, plural
621. Cae Berllan. Cae = field; Berllan = orchard
620. Cae Berllan Pella Cae = field; Berllan = orchard; Pell = far
639. Han? Llan? Squire on Marsh: Llan = enclosure; Squire's enclosure on marsh
640. Bulwark Cenol. Bulwark; Cenol = middle
636. Bulwark Ucha. Bulwark; Ucha = upper
622. Cae Brin y Fran. Cae = field; Bryn = hill; Bran = crow
638. Waun Ty Crwn. (G)Waun = meadow/moor; Ty Crwn = stocky, small house.
637. Bulwark Issa. Bulwark; Issa = lower
629 & 635. Crincae Issa. Crin = withered, miserly or Cryn = small; Cae = field; Issa = lower
628. Cae Glas. Cae = field; Glas = green
630. Waun Cryn Ucha (G)Waun = meadow/moor; Cryn = small; Ucha = upper
633. Waun Willy. (G)Waun = meadow/moor; (G)Will = vagrant, bandit; (G)Willt = Wild
631. Cae Bach. Cae = field; Bach = small

Analysis

Analysis
Further research is required to attempt to date the foundation of Gwaelod-y-Maes Farm. The place name element 'maes' is suggestive of a former medieval open field, attached to the village of Llangennech. Another such field may have been subsumed within the later Llangennech Park, as the survival of the 'rhandir' name element in that location suggests. As noted in the earlier CCW Report, later enclosures within the 'maes' often have 'cae' field names, and almost all of the fairly regularly shaped fields at Gwaelod-y-Maes bear that name element.

Significant also are the 'ynys' names (riverside meadow), appropriately located, as are the 'waun' field names to the north of the river Morlais, buttressed by fields with the 'bulwark' element, - probably among the earliest enclosed areas from the marsh. It is hard to overstate the importance of hay crops and meadow land in the Middle Ages and traces of shared ownership often linger in such valuable land long after arable land has passed into 'severalty' or individual ownership. The 'islands' in the marsh were, as we have seen above, used as hay meadows in the 17th century.



Map 14: Llanelli marshes - distribution of *ulmus procera* and selective historic landuse data.

LLANELLI MARSH

Preface

The previous Report (CCW 7/92) set out the history of enclosure and drainage on Llanelli marshes. An area of early medieval settlement was identified at Maes-y-Dafen and Llwyn Hendy on the northern edges of the present day marshes. Virtually the whole of this ancient, relict landscape has now disappeared beneath Trostre Steel Works, new retail development at Parc Trostre and through the new A484 Llanelli-M4 link road. What remains are isolated fragments of earlier fields and tracks mainly reverting to 'natural' vegetation. This area was mapped in detail on several occasions in the mid and late 18th century, because of the vital question of ownership of what had in many cases been shareland in open fields or meadow land but was land increasingly valued for its coal resources and for access to those resources. Particularly valuable is a Map of 1751 by William Jones 'A Description of Lands near or about Berwick Chapel in Llanelli Parish' (hence Jones' Map). A detailed analysis of the field names has been carried out for this Report.

Provisional CCW mapping of elms, willows & poplars on Llanelli Marshes. Map 14

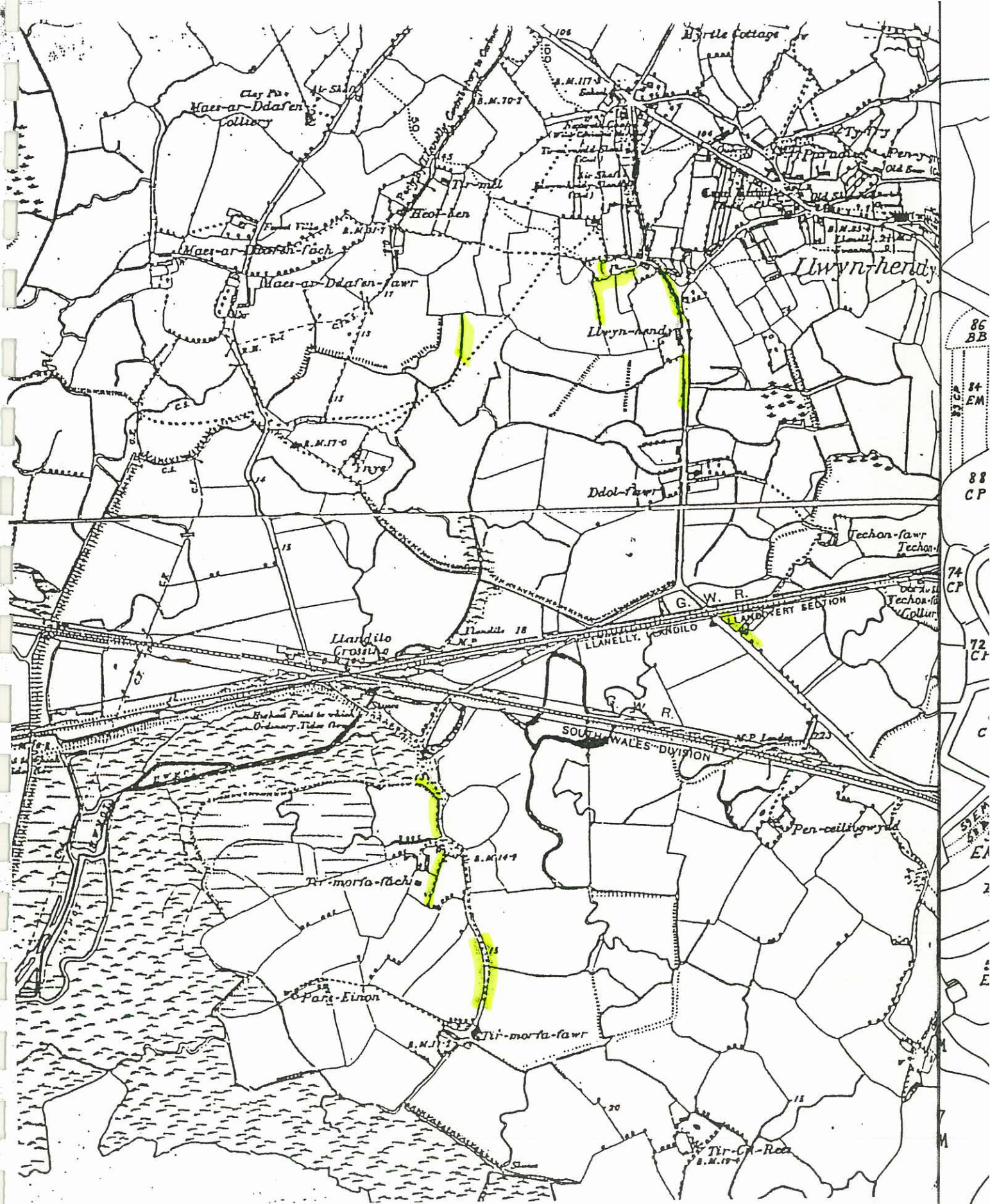
A provisional Map of the distribution of the above was supplied to DAT by I.K. Morgan and some of his data have been plotted onto Map 1. This shows the southern limits of enclosed land and in the 1751 survey, the earliest roads and trackways giving access to the marshes and the raised 'islands' of glacial till in addition to Mr Morgan's data. The most interesting distribution in terms of early boundaries is that of *Ulmus Procera* and this is looked at in detail below.

Ulmus Procera at Cefncaeau (Maps 15 & 16)

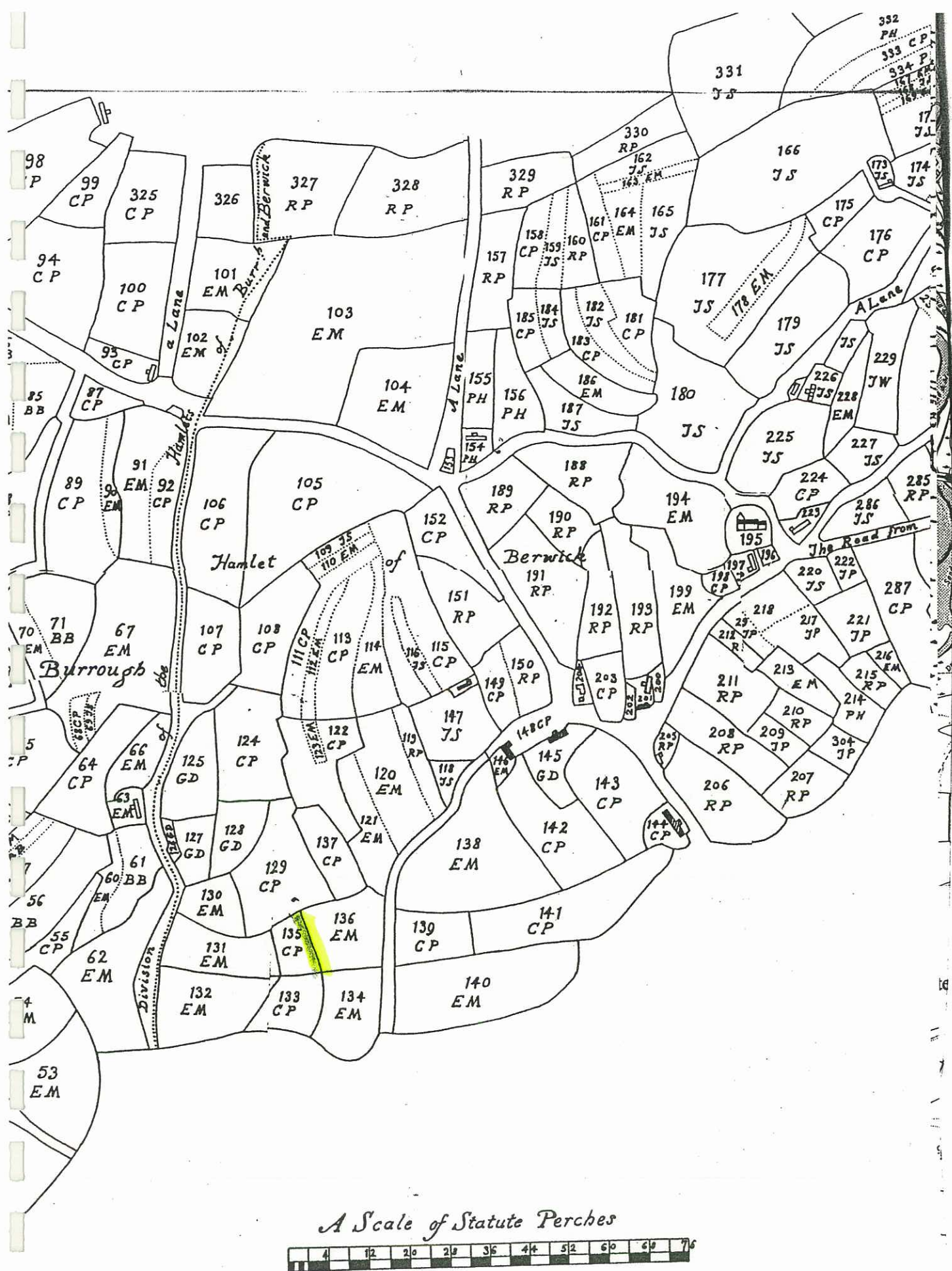
The boundary on which this elm species has been identified is an ancient one, possibly of medieval origin. It is very much a relict feature in an area which has been drastically altered in the past 250 years. Cefncaeau is a modern settlement whose streets and houses have been laid out over what were relict strip fields at the time of the OS first edition 6 inch (1877). As the enlargement from this map shows there were coal shafts and slants over these narrow strip fields on the slopes of the high ground above the marsh. The Jones' Map of 1751 shows a landscape much closer to the Middle Ages. Chapel Berwick is at the top right, the early 19th century turnpike road has not yet been driven across the middle of the enclosed triangle of the hamlet. The traces of unenclosed landshares (nos. 109-115 and enclosed strips 122, 147 etc) still show the area of a former medieval arable open field. Strips 109-116 are simply described as 'In Ca' lloyn hendy' - in Llwyn Hendy field which probably originally extended south to the lane. Fields 147, 149 and 150 with names like "in the lane", "in Park Gitto" and "Rhandir Park Vil" are early enclosures out of the open field.

Jones' map shows two dwellings on the boundary in question, sited at a route junction. Area 148 is described as Park Gitto (probably a personal name). Field 145 has no name and 146 is simply "A Fold". The lane may mark the earliest medieval limit of arable cultivation at the foot of the slope and the fields to the south the earliest small closes taken in on the edge of the Marsh. It is evident from Fig. 14 in the previous report that the area is well within ancient common land (Ddol Fawr) apportioned out by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1810. Ddol Fawr was itself enclosed by the earliest sea defence, the eastward extension of Maesardaven Sea Bank which may itself be of medieval origin.

In the south west *ulmus procera* has been identified just outside the eastern boundary of the Trostre Steel Works. This boundary too is an interesting relic from an earlier landscape. On the first edition 6 inch map, we can see how it forms the eastern boundary of a field just to the east, and outside the earliest enclosure bank. The field has been created by canalizing a stream to form the curving boundary. Not surprisingly, as no. 136 in 1751 it is called (together with 135) "Wayn Hallt". It is also alongside the lane shown so clearly on the 1751 Map, which is



Map 15: Enlargment from 1st edn OS 6 inch, showing Llwynhendy & Tyr Morfa



Map 16: Area south west of Llwynhendy, from Jones' Map of 1751, showing location of *ulmus procera*

only marked as a dotted footpath by the time of the first edition 6 inch.

The sea wall to the west of fields 135 & 6 was, it is suggested of medieval origin. The fields then were perhaps originally saltmarshes built up on the seaward side of the bank. But that situation had long passed by 1751, for this strip of saltmarsh was itself enclosed as the field names "Bulwark" for nos. 133 and 134 suggests. This bank finally enclosed the outlying Ynys Farm (Ynys Ystum in the 1609 Duchy of Lancaster Survey). It was this enclosure, not the earlier, inner one, which formed the boundary of Common land, finally apportioned by the Enclosure Award of 1810. The 'waun' field name element seems only to have been applied to meadow or pasture land no longer subject to periodic inundation by the sea.

Finally, in the Llwynhendy area, *ulmus procera* has been mapped again alongside an early track way, this time just on the edges of boundary of the former common land within the old intake of 'Ddol-Fawr' and the medieval enclosed lands of Llwynhendy itself. It was suggested in the early Report to CCW that this large, secondary intake was late 18th century in date, the work of one William Morris. As will be discussed further below, the southward extension of this track was remodelled and extended by the Enclosure Commissioners of 1810.

Ulmus procera at Tyrmorfa Farm. Map 15

Tir Morfa (lit. 'land in the marsh') farms are sited on the sides of a raised mound of glacial till. It has not been traced back any earlier than the 18th century as a holding, but no exhaustive search of deeds has been carried out so its origins may well be earlier. At present, we feel it is unlikely to be a medieval holding. It is not shown on the 1751 Map, but that does not mean a farm was not in existence then. However, the survival of a few tithe pa strips or shares of land at Tir Morfa in the Tithe Schedule of 1841 suggests that the raised island may have been used for hay crops, as shared meadow land, before any settlement as such, as we have seen to be the case on Llangennech marsh. On the 1813 Surveyors Drawing for the first edition OS one inch maps it is shown as a holding, separated from Maes-yr-Dafen and Llwyn Hendy by 'Morfa Berwig.'

As mentioned above the Enclosure Commissioners laid out new straight tracks across the former Morfa Berwig. Tir Morfa was thus accessible directly from Llwynhendy and Maes-yr-Dafen. These roads were carried across the new railway lines. The latter of course vanished on the construction of the Trostre Works after the War. The former remains as access also to the Penclacwydd Wildfowl Centre.

It is however likely that there were tracks across Morfa Berwig before Enclosure and the rather irregular course of the road on the eastern side of Tir Morfa where *ulmus procera* occurs certainly suggests a pre-enclosure origin. By 1810 there was a seawall partly enclosing the estuary of the River Dafen, not canalized into its new cut until 1808-9. This may not in origin have totally confined ingress and egress of tide by means of sluice gates. But once the main course of the Dafen was diverted to supply new docks in Llanelli, the reduced flow would have made the construction of sluice gates easier. Access then to Tir Morfa could have been from the east along tracks edging the sea wall.

In summary therefore, even though the tracks on the eastern side of Tir Morfa may not be as ancient as those further north closer to Llwynhendy, they are certainly pre-enclosure, and perhaps of the 17th or early 18th century.

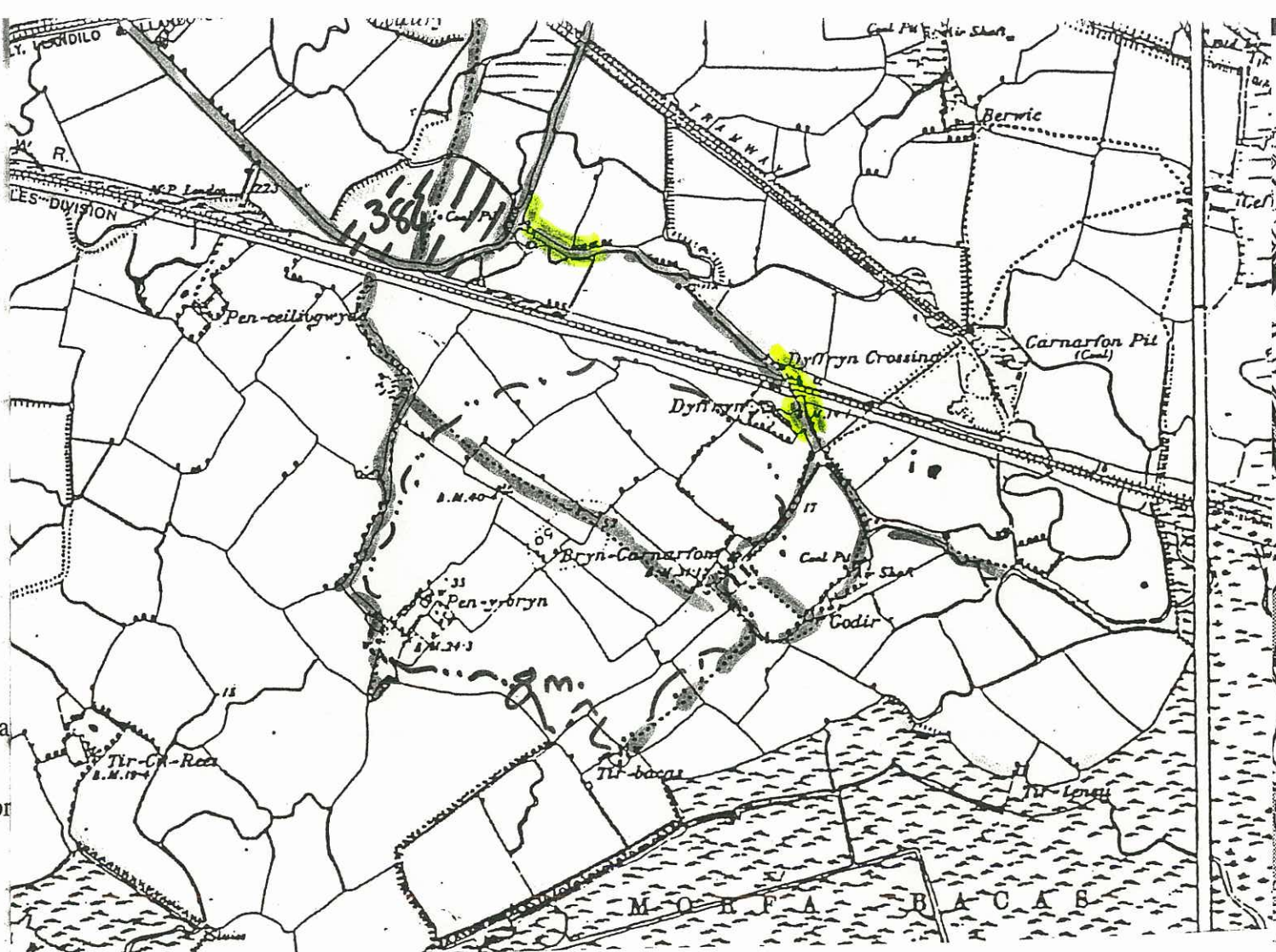
Ulmus Procera at Dyffryn Farm. Maps 17 & 18

Dyffryn is or was another farm situated on the slopes of a raised area of glacial till in surrounding marshland. This area was the largest of the 'islands' on the marsh. It was first worked for coal etc - Bryn Caernarvon Pit. The area is very much altered and it is difficult to match up earlier cartographic evidence with what survives on the ground.

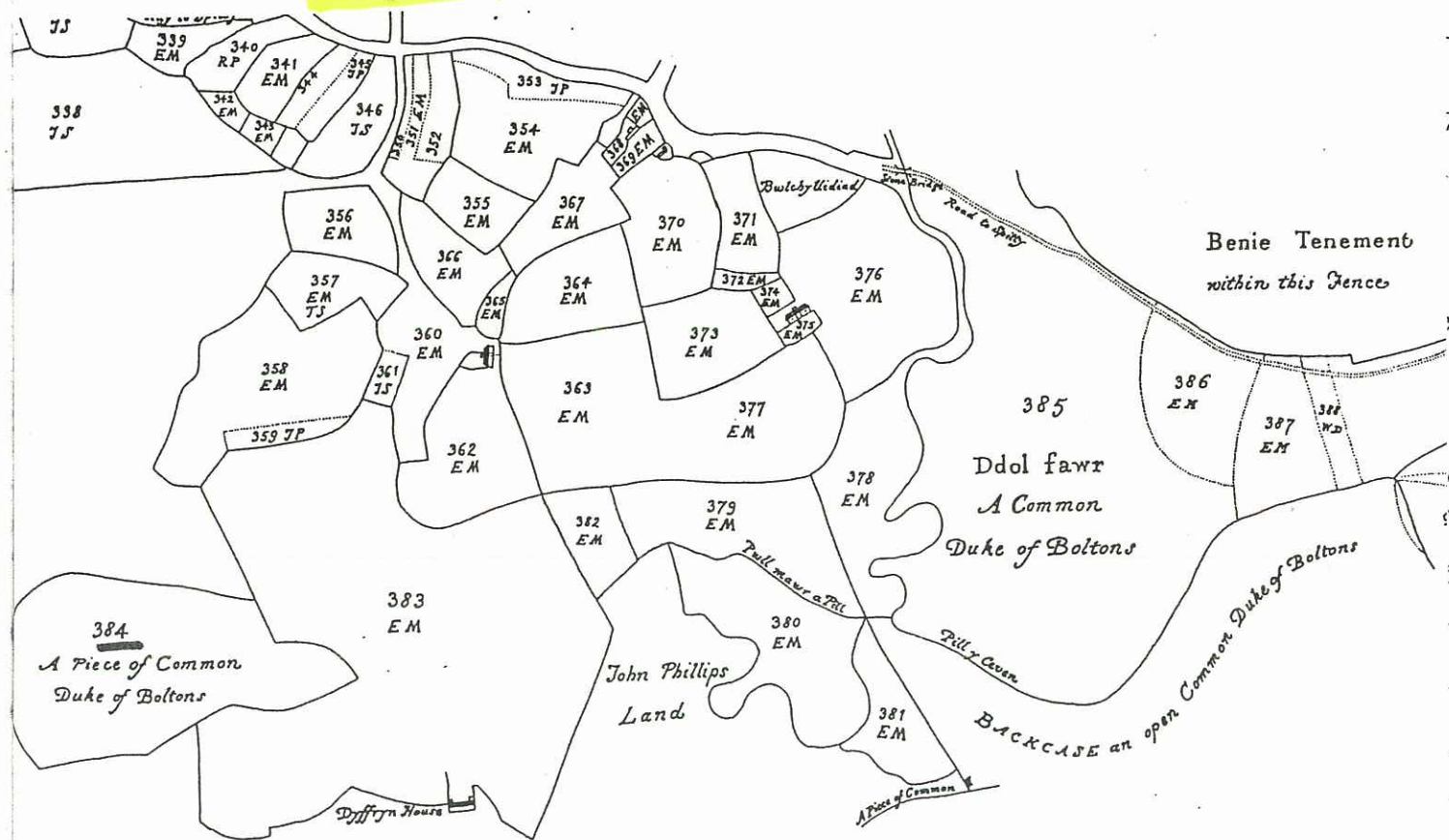
Like Tir Morfa, only on a larger scale, there is evidence from the Tithe Map of arable cultivation and shared ownership with numerous small unenclosed strips being mapped. This argues for a medieval origin.

Once again *ulmus procera* is to be found alongside an early trackway which is itself on the line of an early sea defence and on the boundary of the common land of Morfa Berwig which





Map 17: Enlargement from 1st edn OS 6 inch, 1877 of Dyffryn area, showing embankments & distribution of *ulmus procera*.



Map 18: Part of same area from 1751 Jones' Map

lasted until the Enclosure of 1810. The sea defence to the north of Dyffryn is to protect the lower land on the north side of the raised island from flooding on the east in what was known as Pill y Cefn. This land was evidently still saltmarsh in 1751 when (no. 383) it is described as "Morvaidd Dyffryn".

Conclusion.

There seems to be a direct correlation between the present day distribution of *ulmus procera* and the survival of earlier tracks and sea defences of medieval or early modern origin.

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Plan of Llangennech Marsh surveyed in June 1816.

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Plan of Llangennech Marsh.

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