

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD



DINEFWR HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS PROJECT

GAZETTEER OF SETTLEMENTS

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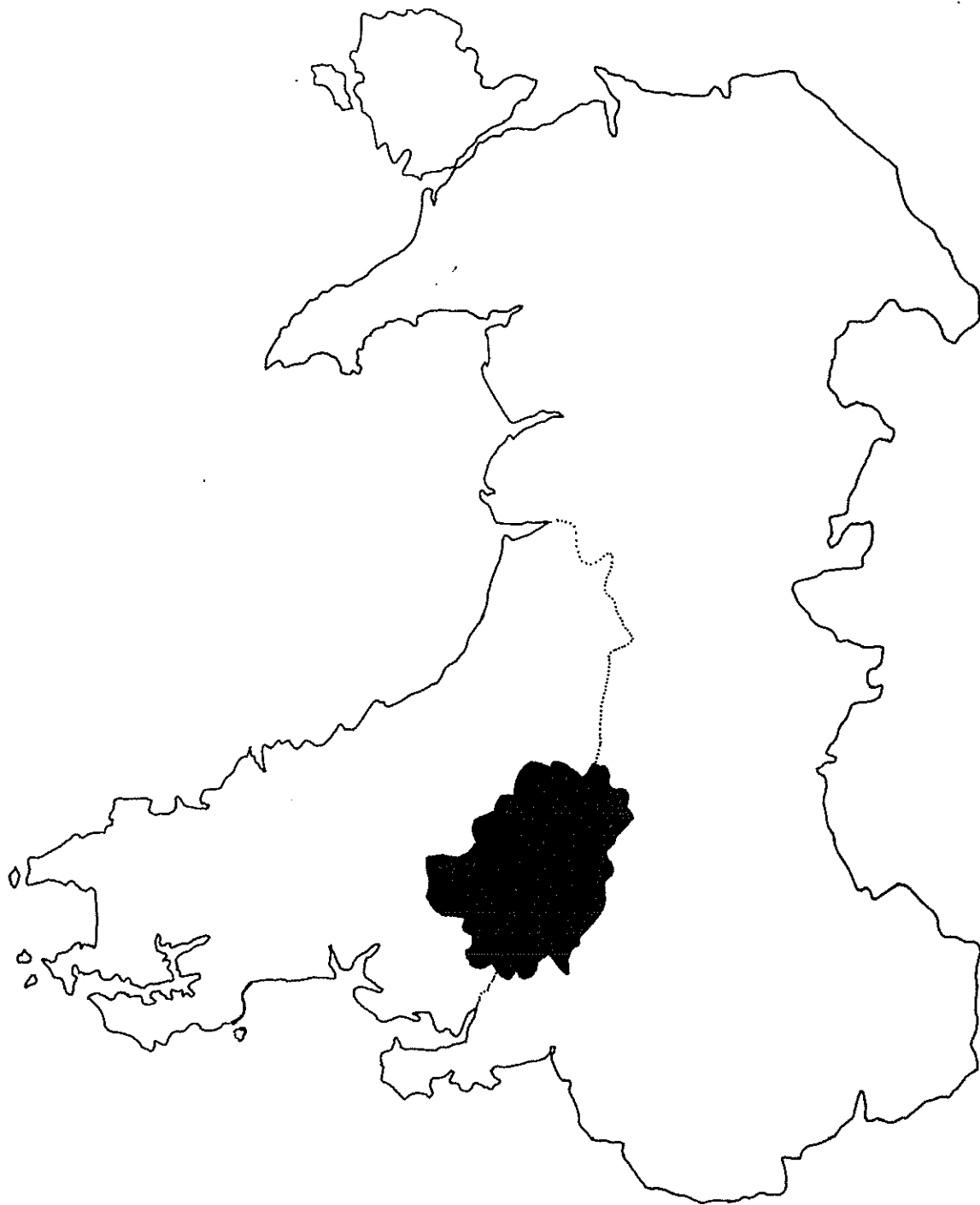
Commissioned by: CADW

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Figure 1 Location plan of Dinefwr

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1. INTRODUCTION.

The Dinefwr Historic Settlements Project was commissioned by Cadw to research the origins and development of the historic villages of Dinefwr District and identify possible threats to the archaeological resource of each settlement. The Dinefwr project is the second such study carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the first being the South Pembrokeshire Historic Settlements Project (Kissock, 1993).

This Gazetteer includes archaeological and historic details of 70 villages defined as historic settlements, tracing their origins and development through a combination of desktop research and field study. It is one of two reports produced by the Project, being complemented by a report which gives an overview of the settlement history of Dinefwr (Sambrook, 1995).

1.1 Selection of the Historic Settlements.

For the purpose of this project the definition of an historic settlement was broadened to include those villages which owe their existence to relatively recent industrial developments, such as the coal towns of the Amman Valley. 70 major and minor villages were included in the study, most of which are found in the Dinefwr Draft Local Plan settlement matrix. The Draft Plan defines a settlement thus:

“A grouping of houses which in the opinion of the local authorities and community council can be justifiably regarded as a single entity. The Borough Council would not consider that individual dwellings or small clusters of dwellings clearly separated by areas of open countryside would merit inclusion in this category.”

This definition is useful in preparing a list of modern villages, but is not wide enough to account for historic settlements which have shrunk in size or been abandoned. Therefore, further criteria were added with the aim of extending the scope of the study to ensure that settlements of historic importance would not be overlooked. The following criteria were applied:

- i) Those villages included in the Dinefwr District Local Plan settlement matrix (55 villages).
- ii) Those villages not included in the settlement matrix but possessing or having possessed a building of public importance, e.g. School; Post Office; Place of worship (15 villages).
- iii) Minor nucleations which have a name indicative of possible historic settlement, i.e. Felindre or Pentre. (A number of these were investigated, none were added to the gazetteer, but they are mentioned in the text of the accompanying report (Sambrook, 1995).

From the outset it was decided that some settlements would not be included in this study, namely the historic towns of Llandovery, Llandeilo, Llangadog, Dryslwyn and Dinefwr (the latter two now deserted). These were the subject of an earlier report on “The Historical Towns of Dinefwr” (Soulsby & Jones, 1977. Despite their exclusion from the Settlement Gazetteer they too are discussed in the accompanying report (Sambrook, P, 1995). The modern village of Dryslwyn was included in the Gazetteer, as it apparently stands on a different site to that of the mediaeval borough. Also excluded were the settlements within Ammanford Community, which is an almost completely urbanised area.

1.2 Fieldwork.

Every listed village was visited to make as comprehensive a record as possible of standing buildings and archaeological sites and features. The information thus gathered was merged into the Settlement Gazetteer, along with information obtained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust’s Sites and Monuments Record and documentary and map searches.

The inclusion of post-mediaeval settlement in the study meant that a considerable number of buildings of nineteenth and early twentieth century date were recorded. These mainly included schools, chapels, post offices, terraced cottages, vicarages, smithies and public houses - important markers as to the status of a village during the last 150 years. Such buildings often become the foci around which villages grew.

All features and buildings recorded were given Primary Reference Numbers (PRN’s). These are the record numbers by which sites are catalogued within the Sites and Monuments Record and each is unique to a particular site or feature.

Rapid observations were made of land surrounding the villages due to the possibility that some villages have shrunk or moved site, thus leaving archaeological evidence of earlier settlement. Cilycwm was the only

known village which had recognisable earthwork traces of earlier house platforms outside the present area of settlement. No comparable evidence was found elsewhere. However, the deserted site of a cluster of eighteenth century cottages at Felingwmisaf was identified. At Pentregwenlais the original village core, including cobbled roads, terraced cottages and a small woollen mill, survive in ruinous condition some distance away from the modern village. Overall, very few new non post-mediaeval sites were added to the Sites and Monuments Record.

1.3 Sources.

The cartographic sources used in the study of each village included Parish Tithe Maps, the Ordnance Survey's first edition 1" to 1 mile map of 1831 and the first and second edition 1:2500 County Series maps, generally published in 1888-89 and 1905-06 for the Dinefwr area. The third edition 1:2500 series was consulted for some of the coal villages which developed after 1906. Also consulted were relevant antiquarian maps of the area (such as Saxton's 1578 Map of Carmarthenshire), early atlases and estate plans kept at the Carmarthen Record Office and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The current Ordnance Survey Landranger series 1:50,000 scale maps were used in establishing road numbers and topographical details. The detailed village maps of the Dinefwr Local Draft Plan (1992) were also useful as the most up to date cartographic representation of current settlement and areas intended for future development.

An extensive documentary search was made of all available published local histories. A full bibliography of the sources consulted is provided in the Settlement Gazetteer as a part of each individual settlement report.

1.4 Village Origins.

The information collated in this Gazetteer allows us to identify several general themes which are of use in outlining the development of the villages. There are, however, problems in defining the original focus of some villages and the list cannot be claimed to be a definitive guide.

Whereas we can be reasonably certain as to the origins of those villages which have developed around foci such as mediaeval churches or industrial sites, we become less confident when addressing rural settlements which may have poor or no documentary record and it is not always possible to discover the reason for their existence. The following list provides a general indication of why a village initially developed, or identifies the focal point around which development occurred. An asterisk has been placed beside any village where there is doubt or lack of evidence as to its true origins.

A mediaeval church or chapel of ease	16 villages (Caeo, Cilycwm, Llansawel, Talyllychau, Llansadwrn, Llanwrda Llanfynydd, Capel Gwynfe, Llanddeusant, Myddfai, Brechfa, Llanegwad, Llangathen, Llandybie, Betws, Pumsaint*).
Other Mediaeval	3 villages (Felindre Sawdde, Felindre Dryslwyn, Nantybai*).
Industrial (Coal Limestone, Lead extraction).	16 villages (Rhandirmwyn, Pantyllyn, Pentregwenlais, Castell-y-rhingyll, Penygroes, Saron, Capel Hendre, Stag & Pheasant, Glanaman, Brynaman, Rhosaman, Cefnbrynbrain, Ystradowen, Twynmynydd, Blaenau, Cwmgwili.)
Nonconformist Chapel	10 villages (Crugybar, Siloh, Salem, Cwmifor, Capel Isaac, Twynllannan, Bethlehem, Carmel, Milo, Cwmdu*).
Modern planning creations.	4 villages (Waunystrad, Temple Bar, Fferws Hill, Drefach).
A communications junction: ford, bridge cross-roads.	14 villages (Ffarmers, Porthyrhyd, Ashfield Row, Manordeilo, Pontargothi, Broad Oak, Ffairfach, Trapp, Maesybont, Nantgaredig, Felingwmisaf*, Felingwmuchaf*, Dryslwyn*, Penybanc*).
Other/Unknown	7 villages (Cyngordy, Cwrt Henri, Gelli Aur - Mansion; Halfway - Inn; Derwydd* - Railway station; Rhosmaen - Mill*; Pentretygwyn*).

1.5 Gazetteer structure.

The information collated during the study has been presented in the form of individual settlement reports, each of which is sub-divided into the following categories:

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

General details are included regarding the location of each village and the topography of their sites. Morphological descriptions are given, though are of limited value as the majority of villages are irregular agglomerations, appearing to have grown organically and haphazardly. Very few villages have a regular, planned morphology, though nineteenth and twentieth century housing estates bring an element of regularity to many settlements. Felindre Sawdde (PRN 29429) and perhaps Cilycwm (PRN 20405) are the only settlements which seem to exhibit traces of earlier planning. A radial morphology is encountered in some villages which have developed around parish churches, such as Llansadwrn (PRN 29416) and Llanegwad (PRN 12777). A few examples of polyfocal villages were encountered, such as Cynghordy (PRN 20409).

2. History.

Within this field the village name is explained and the first documentary or cartographic record given. Thereafter the main historical points in the development of each village are outlined.

3. Archaeology.

This field contains information derived from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and monuments Record, combined with new evidence discovered during fieldwork. Generally archaeological sites and features are only listed here and their PRN's noted.

4. Buildings.

Buildings listed in this category are generally those which could loosely be described as "historic buildings". These may range from mansions to smithies and are mostly nineteenth and twentieth century structures. Many have been given a PRN for the first time. This includes a large number of Post Offices, schools, vicarages, terraced cottages, nonconformist chapels and village shops. These have a collective importance as indicators of village status, being acquired by many settlements during the mid and late nineteenth century. One unusual inclusion is that of mid-twentieth century council house estates, which were often significant additions to small rural villages.

5. Recommendations.

The individual settlement reports include recommendations for future responses to threats to sites of known or potential archaeological or historic significance. However, several sites or buildings have been recommended for statutory protection, and deserve highlighting (see below).

6. References.

This includes a bibliography specific to each settlement, listing documentary, published and cartographic sources used.

1.6 Specific Recommendations.

The old village of Pentregwylais (PRN 29797) is recommended for scheduling. Eighteenth century terraced cottages and a woollen mill survive in a ruinous condition mostly in a private garden attached to the old village chapel, the only occupied building now surviving. Several former inhabitants of the old village still live locally and a considerable body of oral history is available and is in urgent need of recording. The area thought to include the most important remains is defined on the village plan included in this gazetteer (Fig.30) Two instances occur of larger areas of land being recommended for Conservation Area Status:

i) The core of Court Henry Estate Park (PRN 25589). A largely undisturbed nineteenth century estate landscape where the mansion, home farm, estate chapel, reading room and several cottages stand in a relatively compact group.

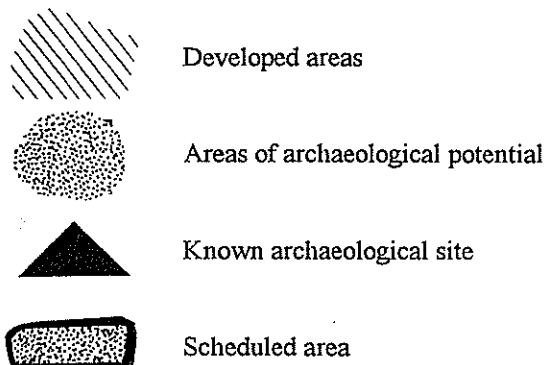
ii) The historic core of the village of Gelli Aur (PRN 29450), which includes several historic buildings some of which are associated with the nearby Golden Grove Estate, such as an almshouse, lodges, school, church and vicarage. Like Cwrt Henri, these buildings stand in a relatively compact group and no modern development has taken place.

A number of individual buildings are recommended for listing:

- i) Rock Street, Cao (PRN 29652). A single row of terraced cottages, some of which retain their original architectural features such as decorative house numbers above their front entrances.
- ii) Pannau Street, Rhandirmwyn (PRN 29689). A single row of terraced lead miners cottages in excellent condition and fronted by a cobbled street. Two former inns known as "The Miner's Arms" and "The Victoria" stand at either end of the row, both now private dwellings. This street is included in view of the village's connection with the lead mining industry, unique within Dinefwr.
- iii) Chapel Street, Brynaman (PRN 29605). A single row of terraced houses, built by the Amman Iron Company, one of the largest employers in Brynaman during the late nineteenth century. The houses in Chapel Street are largely unaltered and survive as excellent examples of late nineteenth century workers houses.
- iv) Crugybar Primary School (PRN 18733). This school is due for closure during 1995. It was built during the 1860's and its original architectural character is retained.
- v) Siop y Pentref, Cao (PRN 29651). This old village shop and nineteenth century Post Office is now closed but still bears its sign and is an architecturally pleasant feature in the village centre. Most of the villages of Dinefwr have at some time possessed a Post Office and shop, but few now survive, fewer still are outwardly identifiable.

1.7 Village plans.

Detailed plans have been included for 28 of the villages. These are the villages where specific recommendations have been made for future archaeological responses to threats to known or suspected sites of archaeological interest. The following conventions have been used for each plan;



1.8 Bibliography.

Dinefwr Borough Council, 1992, *Draft Local Planning Document*.

Sambrook, P, 1995, Dinefwr Historic Settlements Project; *The Historic Settlements of Dinefwr*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

Soulsby, I and D Jones, 1977, *Historic Towns in the Borough of Dinefwr: archaeological implications of redevelopment*. Urban Research Unit, University College of Cardiff.

2. THE GAZETTEER.

The Gazetteer is arranged community by community, with the Community Council areas in the order shown below. Within each community section, individual village reports are organised in the numerical order shown below. The lettering and numbering provides the key to the village distribution map (Fig.2).

A	-	Cynwyl Gaeo	1	L	-	Llangadog	40
1	-	Caeo; Caio		34	-	Bethlehem	
2	-	Pumsaint;Pumpsaint		35	-	Felindre	
3	-	Crugybar		36	-	Waunystad	
4	-	Ffarmers		37	-	Capel Gwynfe	
B	-	Cilycwm	8	M	-	Llanddeusant	45
5	-	Cilycwm		38	-	Llanddeusant	
6	-	Porthyrhyd		39	-	Twynllannan	
7	-	Siloh		N	-	Llangathen	66
C	-	Llanfair-ar-bryn	12	40	-	Felindre	
8	-	Cyngordy		41	-	Dryslwyn	
9	-	Rhandirmwyn		42	-	Broad Oak	
10	-	Nantylhai		43	-	Llangathen	
11	-	Pentretygwyn		O	-	Dyffryn Cennen	71
D	-	Llansawel	18	44	-	Drefach;Llandyfan	
12	-	Llansawel		45	-	Trapp	
E	-	Talyllychau	20	46	-	Ffairfach	
13	-	Talyllychau		P	-	Llanfihangel Aberbythych	75
14	-	Cwmdu		47	-	Gelli Aur;Golden Grove	
F	-	Llansadwrn	24	48	-	Temple Bar	
15	-	Llansadwrn		49	-	Milo	
16	-	Ashfield Row		50	-	Carmel	
G	-	Llanwrda	28	51	-	Maesybont	
17	-	Llanwrda		52	-	Pantyllyn	
H	-	Myddfai	48	53	-	Castell-y-rhingyll	
18	-	Halfway		54	-	Stag and Pheasant	
19	-	Myddfai		Q	-	Llandybie	84
I	-	Llanegwad	52	55	-	Llandybie	
20	-	Felingwm Uchaf		56	-	Blaenau	
21	-	Felingwm Isaf		57	-	Pentre Gwenlais	
22	-	Brechfa		58	-	Penygroes	
23	-	Nantgaredig		59	-	Saron	
24	-	Pontargoethi		60	-	Capel Hendre	
25	-	Cwrt Henri		61	-	Cwmgwili	
26	-	Llanegwad		62	-	Fferws Hill	
J	-	Llanfynydd	30	63	-	Derwydd	
27	-	Llanfynydd		R	-	Betws	95
K	-	Manordeilo	32	64	-	Betws	
28	-	Manordeilo		S	-	Cwmamman	96
29	-	Salem		65	-	Glanamman	
30	-	Cwmifor		66	-	Twyn Mynydd	
31	-	Capel Isaac		T	-	Quarter Bach	99
32	-	Penybanc		67	-	Brynamman	
33	-	Rhosmaen		68	-	Rhosamman	
				69	-	Cefnbrynbrain	
				70	-	Ystradowen	

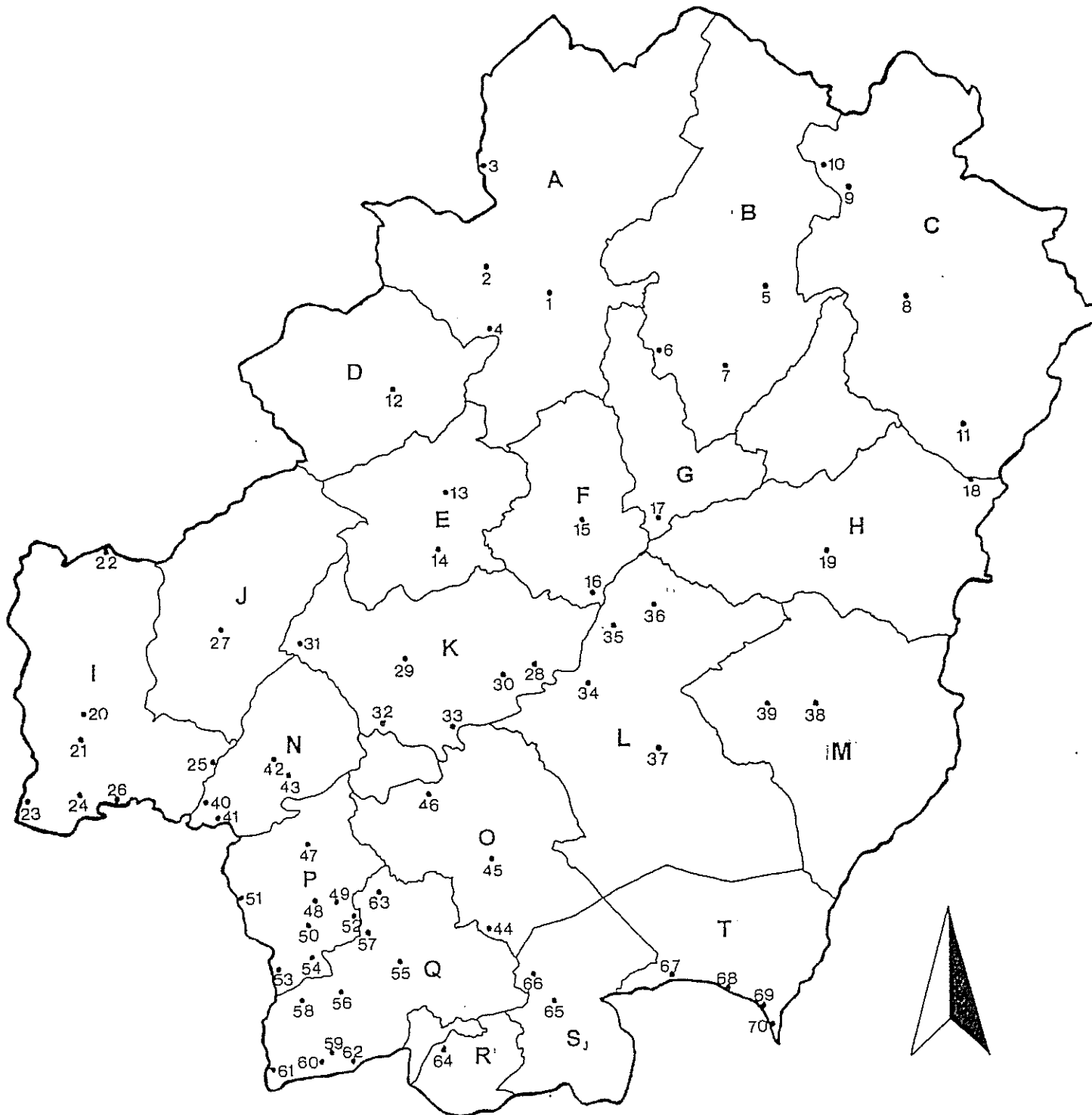


Figure 2 Location plan of communities (A-T) and villages (1-70)

**DINEFWR HISTORIC
SETTLEMENTS PROJECT

GAZETTEER OF SETTLEMENTS.**

by

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1995**

CAEO COMMUNITY

PRN: 29400

Name: CAEO (Fig.3)

NGR: SN675398

Community: Cynwyl Gaeo

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Caeo lies 2km to the south west of the village of Pumsaint, on the course of the former main communications route between Llandovery and Lampeter, which has served as a droving route, mail road and is also believed to roughly follow the course of the Roman road linking Llandovery and Pumsaint.

The village stands at 160m on a spur just above the confluence of the Afon Annell and a small feeder stream, Nant Frena. Though bounded by high ground on three sides, the village has an open aspect, facing south-west down the wide flood plain of the Annell. The village core lies alongside the churchyard and has a regular, linear morphology, though a small number of dwellings stand detached from this on the east side of the Annell.

2. History.

The origin and meaning of the name Caeo is uncertain but of some antiquity. Caeo was an important ecclesiastical centre in the early mediaeval period. Early Christian monuments dated to the sixth or seventh centuries AD have been found within the parish, two at nearby Crugybar as well as one built into the church wall at Caeo itself. An early Celtic monastic community or "clas" may have been associated with the church at that time. The church is dedicated to the dark age St.Cynwyl and was a mother church over several neighbouring churches, some now parish churches. A charter of a gift of land willed by Rhys Fychan (d.1271) to the "Church of St.Cynwyl with its chapels of Llan-sadwrn and Llanwrdafe and Pistyllsawyl".

In later mediaeval times, the name was applied to the commote and lordship of Caeo as well as the parish of Cynwyl Gaeo. Caeo became the main bond settlement of the commote of Caeo (GR. Jones, 1971, 317). George Owen (1601) records that two fairs were held annually at Caeo, on the 6th of June and 10th of August.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Caeo was a stopping point for drovers on their eastward journey from Cardiganshire to England. Here they could find lodgings and pasture for their animals. Provision was made for them to shoe their cattle on the meadow below the churchyard.

3. Archaeology.

The sub-circular churchyard is indicative of a foundation of the early Celtic church. It is possible that the radial morphology of some field boundaries east of the village indicate the extent of former infield lands farmed by an early community, perhaps the bond community referred to by GR. Jones.

A strip of vacant land opposite the school is known as the village green (PRN 10766), whether or not it is of mediaeval origin is not known.

The paddocks where drovers once penned their cattle survive as earthwork features on the southern side of the village, associated ruined buildings may represent a former smithy. (PRN 29640). Nearby is the ruined cottage of Rhiw'r Cyrff (6938) and a small quarry (18744).

4. Buildings.

4.1 St.Cynwyl's Church (PRN 1881). Grade II Listed Building.

4.2 Caeo Primary School (PRN 29679). Stands on the edge of the churchyard. Built in 1867.

4.3 Siop y Pentref (PRN 29651). Former village shop and Post Office. Mid-19th century. Recently closed.

4.4 Rock Street Terraced Cottages (PRN 29652). A well preserved and attractive row of mid-nineteenth century cottages.

4.5 Kings Head Public House (PRN 29653). Now a private dwelling.

4.6 Brunant Arms Public House Open (PRN 29654).

4.7 Smithy (PRN 18743). Now converted into a private dwelling.

4.8 Capel Tynewydd (PRN 20883). Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, first built in 1777.

4.9 Brofrena Council Estate (PRN 29678). 1950's estate.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The antiquity of Cao is unquestioned and the likelihood of archaeological remains of mediaeval settlement beneath the present village quite strong.

5.2 Cao retains much of the architectural character of the late nineteenth century village. It is one of the few historic villages of Dinefwr which has not been subject to significant twentieth century expansion and care should be taken that its character is not lost through obtrusive new development.

6. References.

- Colyer R 1978 *Roads and Trackways of Wales*.
- Price F S 1904 *History of Caio*.
- Daniel-Tyssen JR 1878 *Royal Charters of the Town and County of Carmarthen*, 60-72.
- Evans J W 1991 "Aspects of the Early Church in Carmarthenshire", *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 248-249, ed. H. James. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.
- Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*. Folly Publications, Malvern.

PRN: 11487

Name: PUMSAINT; LLANPUMSAINT (Fig.4)

NGR: SN656406

Community: CYNWYL GAEO

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Pumsaint lies on the A482, midway between Lampeter and Llanwrda, which here follows the route of an old droving road, mail road and the Roman road from Llandovery.

The village occupies a spur which overlooks the confluence of the Twrch and Cothi streams and the wide, open flood plain of the Cothi to the south. The village stands at an altitude of about 130m. It is a small, linear settlement set along the A482. The topography of the site offers limited room for expansion to the south and west, where the Twrch and Cothi flood plains border the village.

2. History.

The village was known as Llanpumsaint in mediaeval times. Pumsaint literally translates as "Five Saints" and is derived from a tradition that a Dark Age chapel of ease dedicated to five saints once stood here (PRN 1955).

Pumsaint is certainly best known for its Roman fortlet (PRN 1956; SAM Carmarthen 226) and bath-house (PRN 1945) and the nearby Gold Mines at Dolaucothi (PRN 1947).

Some settlement may have been associated with the early mediaeval chapel. It is possible that this represents the continuity of a settlement associated originally with the Roman fort. Little is known of the later mediaeval history of Pumsaint, except that "Llanpumsaint" is mentioned in Rhys Fychan's will (d.1271) as a chapel of ease to Cao church. It is also shown on Saxton's map of 1578.

During the nineteenth century the present village took shape and its history seems bound to the nearby Dolaucothi Estate (PRN 1944), evidenced in the names of the Dolaucothi Arms and Felin Dolaucothi (PRN 21857).

3. Archaeology.

Most of the present buildings stand within the ramparts of the Roman fort. The nearby Roman Bath-house and the historic Ogofau metal mine at nearby Dolaucothi are well known, indicating the archaeological importance of the locality. The early mediaeval Chapel of St. Teilo stood within the village, 50m south west of the public house. Excavations within the Roman Fort have uncovered what are believed to be traces of early post mediaeval or mediaeval settlement.

1950's aerial photographs show a small rectangular earthwork feature of unknown nature (PRN 29764), possibly the remains of a mill building, in the field due south of the village, on the opposite bank of the Cothi, though no trace remains above ground now.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Pumsaint Methodist Chapel (PRN 11487). Built in 1875 and in use.
- 4.2 The Dolaucothi Arms (PRN 29655). Grade II Listed Building. Owned by the National Trust.
- 4.3 Village Hall (PRN 29656).
- 4.4 The Lodge (PRN 29657). Grade II Listed Building. Belonged to Dolaucothi Estate.
- 4.5 The Post Office and Agricultural Co-operative Stores (Amaethwyr Caerfyrddin a Phumsaint) (PRN 29658). Open
- 4.6 Smithy (PRN 21858).
- 4.7 Pont Pumsaint Bridge (PRN 8437).
- 4.8 Telephone Call Box. Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.9 Coach house (PRN 29784). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.10 Old Post Office (PRN 29785).

5. Recommendations.

The archaeological sensitivity of the village area is recognised due to the Roman remains which underlie the present settlement. The fort is a scheduled ancient monument and most of the village lies within the scheduled area. Any development outside the scheduled area will require a full archaeological evaluation.

6. References

- Burnham B & H 1989 Draft Report of 1989 Excavations at Pumpsaint. Unpublished.
- Rees W 1932 Map of Wales and the Border in the 14th century.
- Daniel-Tyssen J R
1878 Royal Charters of the Town and County of Carmarthen, 60-72).
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 62. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 29402

Name: CRUGYBAR

NGR: SN658379

Community: CYNWYL GAEO

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Crugybar stands alongside the B4302, some 6km north of Talylychau and 1km south of its junction with the A482 Lampeter - Llanwrda road.

The village occupies an open and relatively flat site on the eastern side of the Afon Anell flood plain, at an altitude of 130m. Crugybar is a polyfocal settlement, with two small agglomerations of dwellings some 300m apart, one near the chapel, the other near the school.

2. History.

Though in use as early as 1313, the origin and meaning of the name are unclear. "Crug" implies a mound, possibly a burial mound. In the nineteenth century it was reported that "Roman" burial mounds were common nearby, though no such features have subsequently been recorded.

The will of Rhys Fychan (d.1271), mentions "a parcel of land at Crugybar", it is possible that some form of settlement existed nearby at that time, and earlier. On Bryn-y-garth there is the site of the early mediaeval Capel Teilo. South of the village, at Maesllanwrthwl there is an early Christian cemetery where inscribed stones dated to the sixth century AD have been found, though there is no evidence to suggest that any mediaeval settlement occurred on the site of the present village.

The first Independent Chapel of Crugybar was built c.1688. It stood alone until 1867, when land was granted for the construction of the school and the row of terraced cottages alongside the chapel was built.

3. Archaeology.

The proximity of Capel Teilo (PRN 1886) at Garth, the Dark Age inscribed stones known as the "Paulinus Stone" (PRN 9939) and the "Talus Stone" (PRN 9940) and cemetery at Maesllanwrthwl (PRN 1880) indicate that an early mediaeval settlement may have been located on an unknown site in the locality. The present chapel does not stand on the site of the original building, the possible location which lies somewhere between the present building and the B302 road (Davies, 1926).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Capel Crugybar (PRN 18731). Grade II Listed Building. An early and important Independent Chapel, first built in 1688, but rebuilt on its present site in 1785.
- 4.2 Crugybar Primary School (PRN 18733). Land was granted for the construction of a "British School" in 1867.
- 4.3 Glynborthyn Shop (PRN 29659). Open.
- 4.4 Old Post Office (PRN 29660).
- 4.5 Terraced cottages (PRN 29661). Grade II Listed Building. These stand alongside the chapel and are dated 1867. They are in good condition, and include the original village Post Office at the southern end of the row.
- 4.6 Dyffryn Anell Council Estate (PRN 29662). Built in 1950's.

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 It is clear that this locality was a focus of activity during the early mediaeval period. However, the village does not stand on an area of known archaeological interest, therefore it is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.
- 5.2 It is recommended that Crugybar Primary School be considered for listing, it is due to close during 1995.

6. References.

- Davies B 1927 "Crugybar". (Traethawd Cadeiriol Eisteddfod Crugybar, 1926).
- Price F S 1904 History of Caer.
- Daniel-Tyssen J R
 1879 Royal Charters of the Town and County of Carmarthen, 60-72.
- Rees William 1933 Map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century.

PRN: 29403

Name: FFARMERS

NGR: SN650447

Community: CYNWYL GAEO

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Ffarmers lies in the north western corner of Dinefwr, within 3km of the Ceredigion border, some 4km north of Pumpsaint. It stands on the course of the Roman road linking Pumsaint and Llanio.

The village occupies relatively flat open ground, at an altitude of 170m, above the confluence of the Twrch and Fanafas streams. Modern development has led to ribboning of dwellings away from the 19th century village core, along the road south of the cross-roads where the Drovers Arms stands. Some recent development has also extended the village east and west of this point.

2. History.

The origin of the name is obscure, save that it is an English loan word and apparently of recent date, not appearing on the Tithe Map of 1841.

The earliest known building in the vicinity of the present village was at the site of Felin-Rhos mill, believed to have been a mediaeval fulling mill known as Kevenvays (Cefnfaes). Ffarmers is a nineteenth century village in origin. Map evidence shows that by 1840 only the mill, the Drovers Arms and a cottage on the site of the Post Office are recorded. Late nineteenth century OS maps show that the village core had formed. Little change occurred until the

last quarter of the twentieth century, when a large number of new dwellings were added.

3. Archaeology.

The route of the Roman road (PRN 3420) linking Pumsaint and Llanio is believed to follow the line of the modern road through the village. To the west of the village, on the flood plain of the Afon Fanafas, is Felin-Rhos, where evidence for the mediaeval fulling mill of Cefnfaes (PRN 12946) may survive.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Drovers Arms Public House (PRN 29663). This is possibly a pre-19th century inn, appearing on the 1840 Tithe Map. Open.

4.2 School (PRN 18911). Dating to c.1870. Open.

4.3 Post Office/Shop (PRN 29664). Mid nineteenth century, now closed and vacant.

4.4 Smithy (PRN 29665). Mid nineteenth century, now a mechanics garage and petrol station.

4.5 Neuadd Bro-fana (PRN 29666). Village Hall, built in 1931 and still in use.

4.6 Felin Rhos Mill (PRN 5121). Disused. Private dwelling.

4.7 Bryntwrch Council Estate. (PRN Built early 1970's.

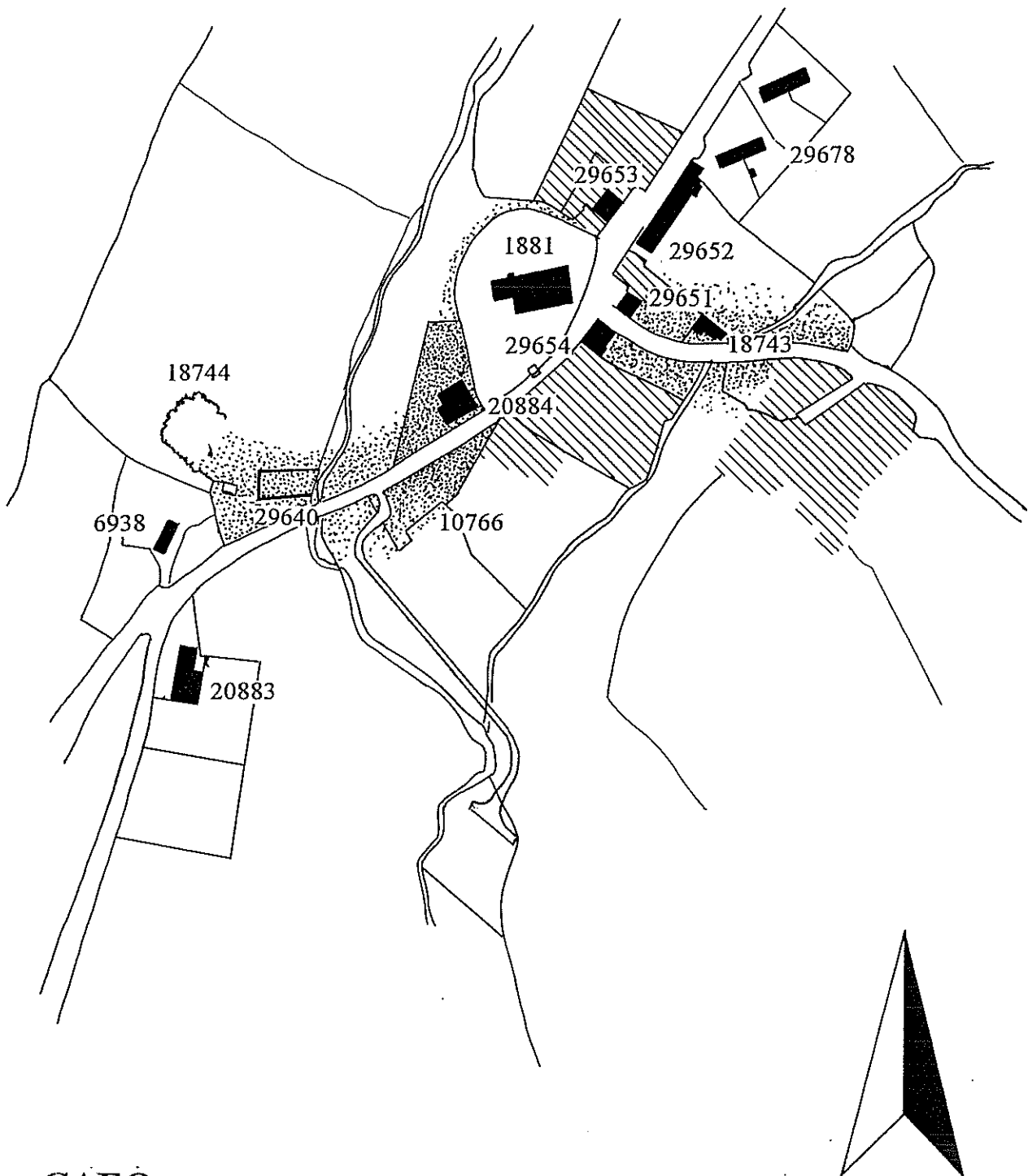
5. Recommendations.

The village lies on the line of Sarn Helen Roman road, and archaeological features associated with this road may survive in within the village area. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 62. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

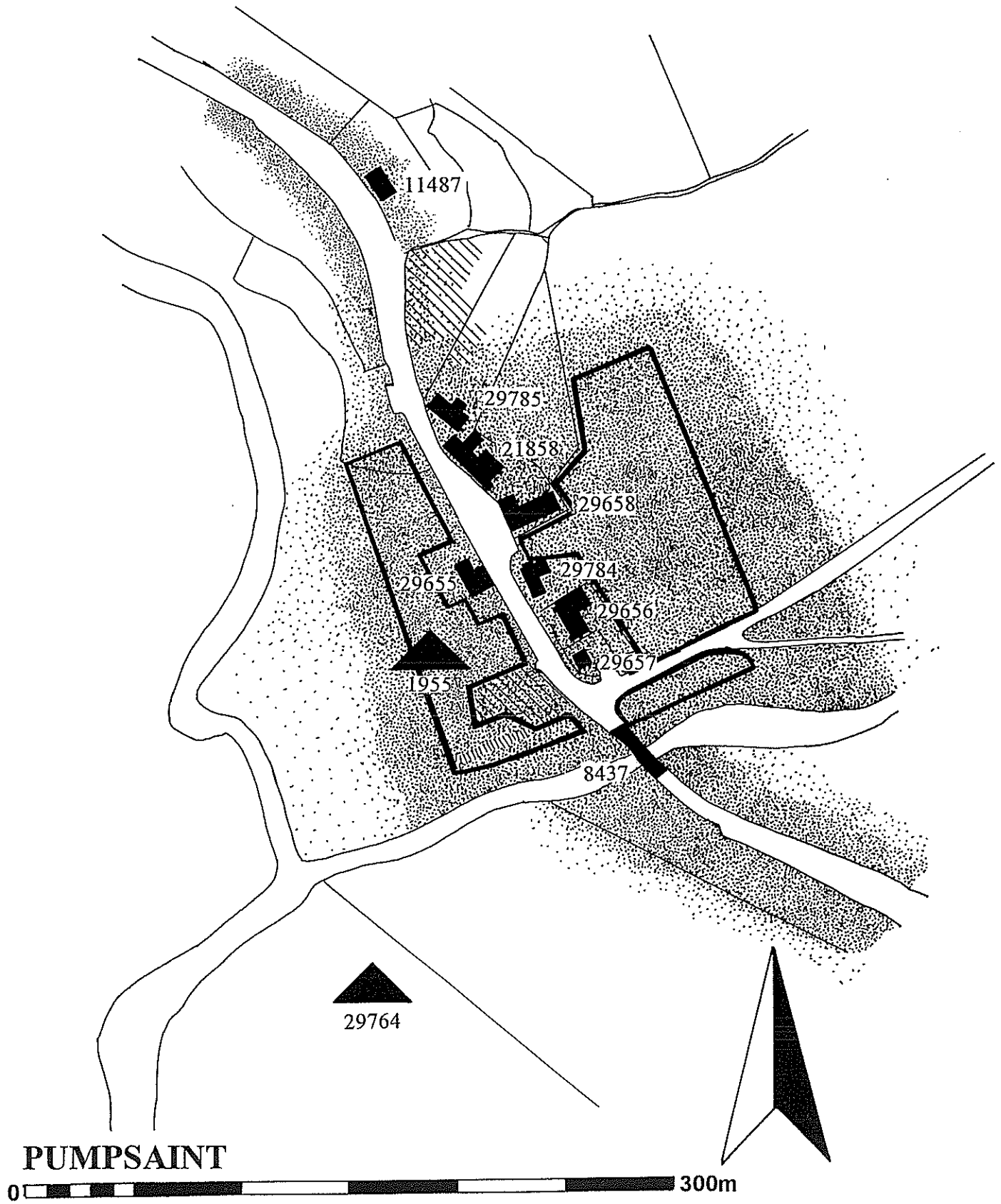
Jack R I 1981 "Fulling Mills in Wales and the March before 1547", *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 107 pp.70-130



CAEO

0  300m

Figure 3



PUMPSAINT

0 300m

Figure 4

CILYCWM COMMUNITY

PRN: 29405

Name: CILYCWM (Fig.5)

NGR: SN753401

Community: CILYCWM

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Cilycwm is located some 5km north of Llandovery and lies on relatively flat, open ground along the flood plain of the Afon Gwenlais at an altitude of 105m. The compact, historic core of Cilycwm lies west St. Michael's Parish Church, set in a fairly regular row plan either side of the main street. Modern additions to the north and south have served to emphasise the essentially linear morphology of the village.

2. History.

Cilycwm translates as "the narrow part of the valley". This does not conform with its topographical position. There is no record of a parish of Cilycwm in the Taxatio of 1291. The church and, possibly, the parish may be of fourteenth century date.

The village displays elements of a regular, planned morphology, evident in garden and field boundaries. A vacant parcel of land known as the village green survives opposite the churchyard. Given the Norman dedication of the church, it is possible that Cilycwm was planned, or re-planned during the 14th century.

The village appears on Saxton's map of 1578. One of Griffith Jones' Circulating Schools opened in the village in 1740. Late nineteenth century Cilycwm was described as a neat and orderly village, in contrast to its condition half a century earlier, when the houses of the village were described as being untidy, largely mud-walled structures with reed thatch roofs (Morgan 1901).

3. Archaeology.

Earthworks and traces of stone buildings (PRN 14406) have been noted along the roadside to the east of the smithy, probably the site of mediaeval or early post mediaeval dwellings.

Aerial photographs show a linear crop mark feature entering the village from the south west which does not conform with the present road and field boundary systems of the village. This appears to be a continuation of the Roman road believed to link Llandovery and Rhandirmwyn (PRN 4076) which appears as a crop mark 1km due south, apparently heading towards Cilycwm.

Morgan (1901) describes a village green (PRN 10881), a vacant parcel of land opposite the churchyard which was used by villagers in the late nineteenth century as a place of recreation. Whether or not this green is of mediaeval origin is unknown

4. Buildings.

4.1 St. Michael's Parish Church (PRN 4111). Grade II Listed Building. Believed to have been founded after 1291.

4.2 Capel y Groes (PRN 19564). Grade III Listed Building. Built in 1860, this is the only nonconformist place of worship in the village.

4.3 Cilycwm Primary School (PRN 19530). This a church school, dated by inscription to 1870. Open.

4.4 Ysgoldy Fach (PRN 25786). The original village school house, in use until the mid-nineteenth century.

4.5 Post Office (PRN 29669). Known as the Old Post Office, now a private dwelling.

4.6 Smithy (PRN 19563). Now a private dwelling.

4.7 Neuadd Fawr Public House (PRN 29670).

4.8 The Drovers (PRN 29675). Former public house, now a private dwelling.

4.9 Vicarage (PRN 19531).

5. Recommendations.

5.1 There is evidence that settlement formerly extended outside limits of the present village, to the east of the smithy. Earthwork traces survive in one location and late nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps show that several buildings stood either side of this road for up to 200m east of the Afon Marlais. An archaeological field evaluation should be carried out here in advance of development.

5.2 The linear crop mark feature which enters the village at its south western corner may well be a road or trackway of some antiquity, possibly a Roman road. A watching brief should accompany any development affecting this area.

5.3 The pre-twentieth century buildings of the village core remain relatively unspoilt and efforts should be made to ensure that any new development within the village centre is sympathetic to the character of this historic settlement.

6. References.

Morgan H 1901 "Cilycwm", *Yr Haul*, Cyfrol III, pp.17-20.

Murphy K 1992 Site Record Form 14406, Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

RCAHM 1917 Carmarthenshire.

Salter M 1994 The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales. Folly Publications, Malvern.

PRN: 29406

Name: PORTH-Y-RHYD

NGR: SN710377

Community: Cilycwm

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Lies 6km due north of Llanwrda village at an altitude of 213m. It stands on the course of the Lampeter to Llandovery droving route and the suspected route of the Roman road linking Llandovery and Pumsaint. The village forms an irregular row of dwellings along the line of a minor road, with a core of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings including the Inn and chapel, flanked to the east and west by modern bungalows.

2. History.

The village takes its name from an abandoned farm of the same name which is located 100m north-west of the settlement. It translates as "Gateway at the ford", possibly derived from the presence of a toll gate here (site unknown) during the nineteenth century. The name appears on the 1831 1":1 mile OS Map, but applied to only Porthyrhyd Farm. The inn at Porthyrhyd is known to have been frequented by passing drovers during the nineteenth century (Colyer 1978). They would often lodge at Porthyrhyd and there was provision for their animals to be pastured and re-shod if necessary. Drovers papers indicate that there was a Porthyrhyd toll gate (PRN 29765).

3. Archaeology.

It is believed that the Roman road linking Llandovery and Pumsaint passes through the village, running from Bwlch Trebannau to the east into the village and where it turns west along the route of the road which now leads to Clyn-glas Farm. The site of the now ruined Porthyrhyd Farm (PRN 29671) lies on the slope above the village. The location of the Porthyrhyd Tollgate (Colyer, 1978) is unknown.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Royal Oak Inn. Named in Caeo parish Burial Records of 1821 (PRN 29672).
- 4.2 Baptist Chapel (PRN 29673).
- 4.3 Post Office. Built 1906 (PRN 29674).

5. Recommendations.

5.1 It is desirable that the village core (including the Inn, Chapel and Post Office) retains its integrity and is not swallowed by modern development. Normal development control procedure should be observed for future development.

6. References.

Colyer R 1978 Roads and Trackways of Wales.

Cilycwm Parish Records, Carmarthen Record Office.

PRN: 29407

Name: SILOH

NGR: SN742371

Community: CILYCWM

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Siloh stands alongside a minor road, the former Lampeter to Llandovery droving route, some 2km north west of Llandovery, at an altitude of 160m. It is a ribbon development strung out along the line of the old droving route to Llandovery.

2. History.

The name is taken from the nineteenth century chapel which stands in the village. Capel Siloh was built in 1860 but there seems to have been little development of the village until the addition of several bungalows during the 1980's.

3. Archaeology.

There are no recorded sites of archaeological significance in the immediate vicinity of Siloh.

4. Buildings.

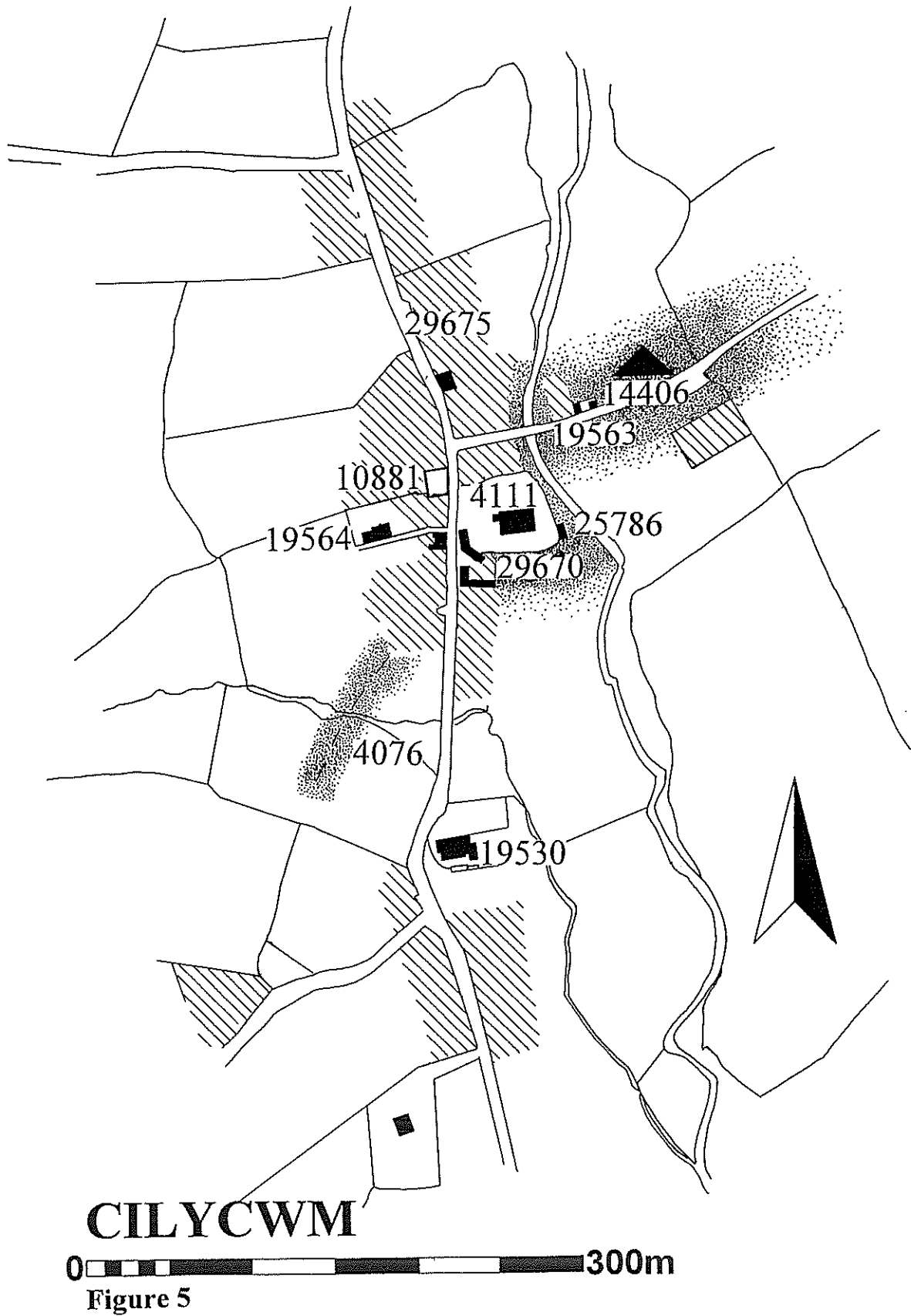
- 4.1 Capel Siloh (PRN 19478). Built 1860. Still in use.
- 4.2 New Inn farm (possible former Inn) (PRN 29676).
- 4.3 Siop Siloh (PRN 29677). Late nineteenth century village shop.

5. Recommendations.

No sites of archaeological interest are known in the vicinity of the village. Normal development control procedures should be observed on the event of future proposed development.

6. References.

Colyer R 1978 Roads and Trackways of Wales.



LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN COMMUNITY

PRN: 29409

Name: CYNGHORDY (Fig.6)

NGR : SN8040

Community: LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Cynghordy is located on the flood plain of the Afon Bran, just off the A483, at an altitude of 120m. It is a polyfocal settlement, with generally loose agglomerations of settlement around the chapel and the school, as well as a small housing estate west of the chapel.

2. History.

Cynghordy translates as 'The house of council or learning' a name which is probably linked with the mediaeval Llandovery Priory which may have owned land around Maesmynach (PRN 5456) which lies over 1km north of the village. The Priory was founded by Richard fitz Pons c.1110, but the apparently offensive behaviour of the resident monks led the Lord Rhys to eject them c.1185. There is no reason to believe that any nucleation of settlement occurred locally before the late nineteenth century. The Tithe Map of 1839 only records scattered cottages and farms across the locality. It is possible that the employment offered at the nearby Cynghordy Brickworks created some expansion in the local population. A range of Victorian buildings served this community, such as the Post Office, Bethel Chapel and the new parish church of St.Mary's.

3. Archaeology.

The line of the Roman road (PRN 3419) between Llandovery and Castell Collen is follows the line of the A483 through Cynghordy. Two Roman practice camps (PRN 6269 & 6270) lie 500m south of the church. It is believed that a Roman Villa (PRN 6271) stood somewhere in the vicinity of the church and vicarage.

A suspected prehistoric hearth or burnt mound lies c.250 south west of the church (PRN 4155), and an earthwork of unknown date and function lies nearby (PRN 4151).

A mediaeval chapel of ease, possibly known as Llangynfab, stood to the west of Cynghordy, at Cefnyllan Farm. This church has been claimed to be of early mediaeval origin. It was replaced in the sixteenth century by a new chapel known as Capel Newydd (PRN 29792), which apparently stood to south west of the school but no longer survives.

The only known archaeological finds locally are a bronze age palstave (PRN 4170) found near the railway station and some crude, undated figures from near Cynghordy Mansion (PRN 5458-60).

4. Buildings.

4.1 Smithy (PRN 19924). Now a private dwelling house.

4.2 Railway station (PRN 29683). The brick built Station House survives as a private dwelling. Otherwise the platform only has a small modern shelter.

4.3 Cynghordy Mansion (PRN 7211) and park (PRN 25608). Grade II Listed Building.

4.4 Capel Cynfab School (PRN 19925). Open.

4.5 Melin y Waun Mill (PRN 19926). Private dwelling house.

4.6 Bethel Independent Chapel (PRN 17332). Built 1814.

4.7 Post Office (PRN 29684). Former village shop.

4.8 Council Houses (PRN 29685).

4.9 Cynghordy Brickworks (PRN 29686).

4.10 St.Mary's Parish Church (PRN 5449). Nineteenth century.

4.11 Vicarage (PRN 19833). Nineteenth century.

4.12 Pontwen Bridge (PRN 19927)

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 A watching brief should be required for any development within the field where Capel Newydd reputedly stood.
- 5.2 The site of Cyngordy Brickworks has been largely cleared and little record is available of the nature of the works. It is recommended that any surviving features be properly recorded and the history of the site researched.
- 5.3 Normal development control procedures should be observed in the event of future proposed development elsewhere in the village.

6. References.

- Arber-Cooke A T 1978 *Pages from the History of Llandoverly*, Vol.II, pp.83-85.
- Cowley F G 1977 *The Monastic Order of South Wales, 1066-1349*, 38. University of Wales Press, Cardiff.
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, Sir Gar: *Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 61-62. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 29410

Name: RHANDIRMWYN (Fig.7)

NGR: SN785437

Community: LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Rhandirmwyn lies in the northernmost portion of Dinefwr district, 9km north of Llandoverly. The village stands at an altitude of between 120 and 180m, on slopes overlooking the Tywi flood plain to the west, whilst altitude rises sharply to over 330m to the north and east. The form of the village as recorded on the Tithe Map of 1841 is of a fairly irregular scattering of dwellings. As the number of dwellings increased the village took on a polyfocal morphology, with one agglomeration of dwellings near the Royal Oak Public House and another some 400m to the west near St.Barnabas Church.

2. History.

The name has its origin in the metal mining tradition of the area, "rhandir" meaning shareland, "mwyn" meaning "ore". It is possible that silver and lead have been mined locally since the Roman period. There is evidence that a Roman road ran from Llandoverly towards Rhandirmwyn (James, 1991), presumably to gain access to the mineral resources of the area. An eighteenth century mines plan names "Roman Levels" at Nantymwyn, though this does not prove Roman activity it does suggest that there were old workings of unknown date recognisable at that time, quite possibly of mediaeval date. Lead was mined here during the thirteenth century, the Crown taking every "eleventh foot" of the mined ore. There is a record of a lead mine working in the Rhandirmwyn area in 1530 also (Rees, 1968). It seems likely that a mining community has existed in the vicinity since the mediaeval period.

There was more or less continuous mining activity at Rhandirmwyn from the eighteenth century until the early twentieth century. From 1755 onwards the Nantymwyn site was exploited, with a workforce of 400 men recorded in 1790, with an annual output of up to 5,000 tons of lead. This level of industrial activity is largely responsible for the existence of the village and helped maintain a relatively high population in what is a remote location. The cessation of mineral extraction has led to an alteration, if not gradual decline in local population, with people now moving to the area seeking solitude rather than employment.

3. Archaeology.

Features associated with the metal mines of Nantymwyn (PRN 8880) and Rhandirmwyn (PRN 20609) are of significant historical and archaeological importance. These range from mine buildings, spoil heaps, shafts and adits to worker's dwellings, as well as possible earlier mining features surviving in the locality. A mine shaft (PRN 29692), adit level (PRN 29642) and tramway bed (PRN 29693) belonging to the Rhandirmwyn Mine complex were recorded between Nantymwyn Terrace and St.Barnabas Church.

Two fields adjacent to the village may contain sites of archaeological interest. Cae Carnau (PRN 5546), named on the 1839 Tithe Map, may contain prehistoric cairns or barrows, though nothing is visible above ground. "Cae Gwyn yr Eglwys" (PRN 8172), lies next to the nineteenth century church, but the name predates its construction. It may be the site of the mediaeval chapel of Capel Nantbai (Arber-Cooke, 1976).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St.Barnabas Church (PRN 5542).
- 4.2 Salem Chapel (19552). Calvinistic Methodist chapel.
- 4.3 Nantymwyn House (PRN 20983). Grade II Listed Building. occupied by Mines Agents during the last century.
- 4.4 Royal Oak Inn (29687).
- 4.5 Church in Wales School (PRN 19551)
- 4.6 Nantymwyn Terrace (PRN 29688). Miners cottages.
- 4.7 Miners Arms (PRN 21836). Former public house.
- 4.8 Pannau Street (PRN 29689). Miners cottages. Cobbled street.
- 4.9 Old Dray Cottages (PRN 29691). Miners cottages.
- 4.10 Vicarage (21837).
- 4.11 Old Post Office (PRN 29783).
- 4.12 Argall Avenue (PRN 29690). Council houses.

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 Rhandirmwyn is unique within Dinefwr as a largely intact settlement founded on the employment provided by metal mining. The mines and the village which housed those who worked them should be viewed as an area of regional importance. It is recommended that Pannau Street be considered for listing.
- 5.2 A future programme of field survey and recording of surviving features is recommended for both the Nantbai and Nantymwyn Lead Mine sites.
- 5.3 Watching briefs are considered appropriate for any development affecting the fields named Cae Carnau (possibly the site of prehistoric burial mounds) and Cae Gwyn yr Eglwys (possibly the site of a mediaeval chapel).

6. References

- Arber-Cooke A T 1978 *Pages from the History of Llandovery*, Vol.II.
- Rees W 1968 *Industry before the Industrial Revolution*, Vol.I, 40. University of Wales Press.
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 62. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 29411

Name: NANT-Y-BAI; NANTBAI

NGR: SN775446

Community: Llanfair-ar-y-bryn.

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Nantbai is located 1km north west of the village of Rhandirmwyn. The village is a small, loose agglomeration of dwellings, situated alongside Nant Bai, a tributary stream of the Tywi, at an altitude of 135m, overlooking the Tywi flood plain to the south.

2. History.

Nant-y-bai, meaning "The rill along the fault", is taken from the name of the stream which flows through the village. The Lordship of Nantbai was a mediaeval grange belonging to the Abbey of Strata Florida. A lease of land here, dated 1509, survives. A small community probably existed here during mediaeval times, the mill is believed to stand on the site of an earlier mill worked by the monks who farmed the grange. The proximity of the lead mines at Rhandirmwyn affected Nantbai and some miners settled here. A late nineteenth century photograph survives of a small row of thatched miners cottages known as Winkin Row, which stood in the village.

3. Archaeology.

There are definite traces of the leat (PRN 29697) which once fed the mill pond (PRN 29696) of Nant-y-bai Mill, along the roadside above the mill pond, which is now largely infilled. Whether or not this pond and leat are connected with a mediaeval leat (PRN 8902) above the village is not known.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Nant-y-bai Corn Mill (PRN 21838). Now a private dwelling. Waterwheel in situ but derelict.
- 4.2 Smithy (PRN 19548).
- 4.3 Post Office and shop (PRN 29694). Closed. VR letterbox.
- 4.4 Winkin Street (PRN 29695). Miners Cottages. Demolished.
- 4.5 New Inn (PRN 29766). Possibly a former public house.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 There is a potential that archaeological evidence of mediaeval settlement survives around the village. Normal development control procedures should be observed in the event of future proposed development.

6. References.

Kingerlee D 1985 *Llandovery Album: Pictures of a Welsh Market Town*, plate 105. Llandovery.

PRN: 29412

Name: PENTRE-TY-GWYN

NGR: SN816354

Community: Llanfair-ar-y-bryn

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Lies 5km east of Llandovery, 1km north of the A40 Llandovery to Brecon road, and can be reached along minor roads. The village is a small, irregular agglomeration of dwellings around its chapel, and stands at the confluence of the Afon Pedwar and two smaller streams, at an altitude of 125m.

2. History.

Pentretygwyn translates as "The village of the white house", the origin of which is not known. Chapel records show that the name was in use at the time of the foundation of the Independent Chapel, in 1749, which takes its name from the village. The land on which the chapel stands was donated by the mother of William Williams, Pantycelyn, the hymn writer. Pantycelyn itself is located a short distance to the east of the village. Little can be said of the origins of the village. It appears to predate the foundation of its chapel which suggests that it may be a small agricultural village which may have appeared during late mediaeval or early post mediaeval times.

3. Archaeology.

The Parish Tithe Map records the field name "Cae dan y Shop", north of the chapel, indicating that a shop was located in or near the village during the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. (PRN 29767).

4. Buildings.

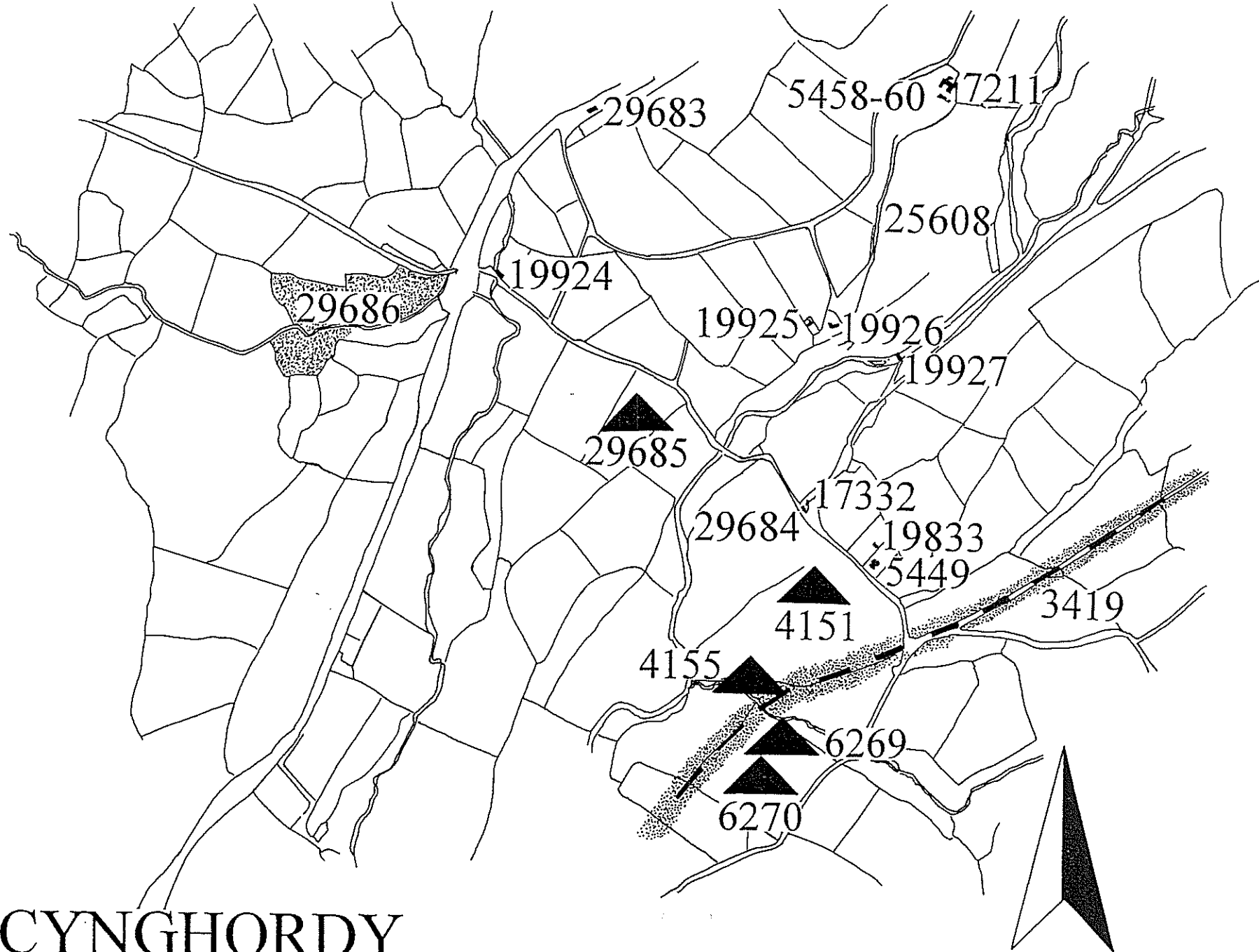
- 4.1 Capel Pentretygwyn (PRN 19864)

5. Recommendations.

5.1 No site of archaeological interest are known in the vicinity of the village. Normal development control procedures should be observed in the event of future proposals for development.

6. References.

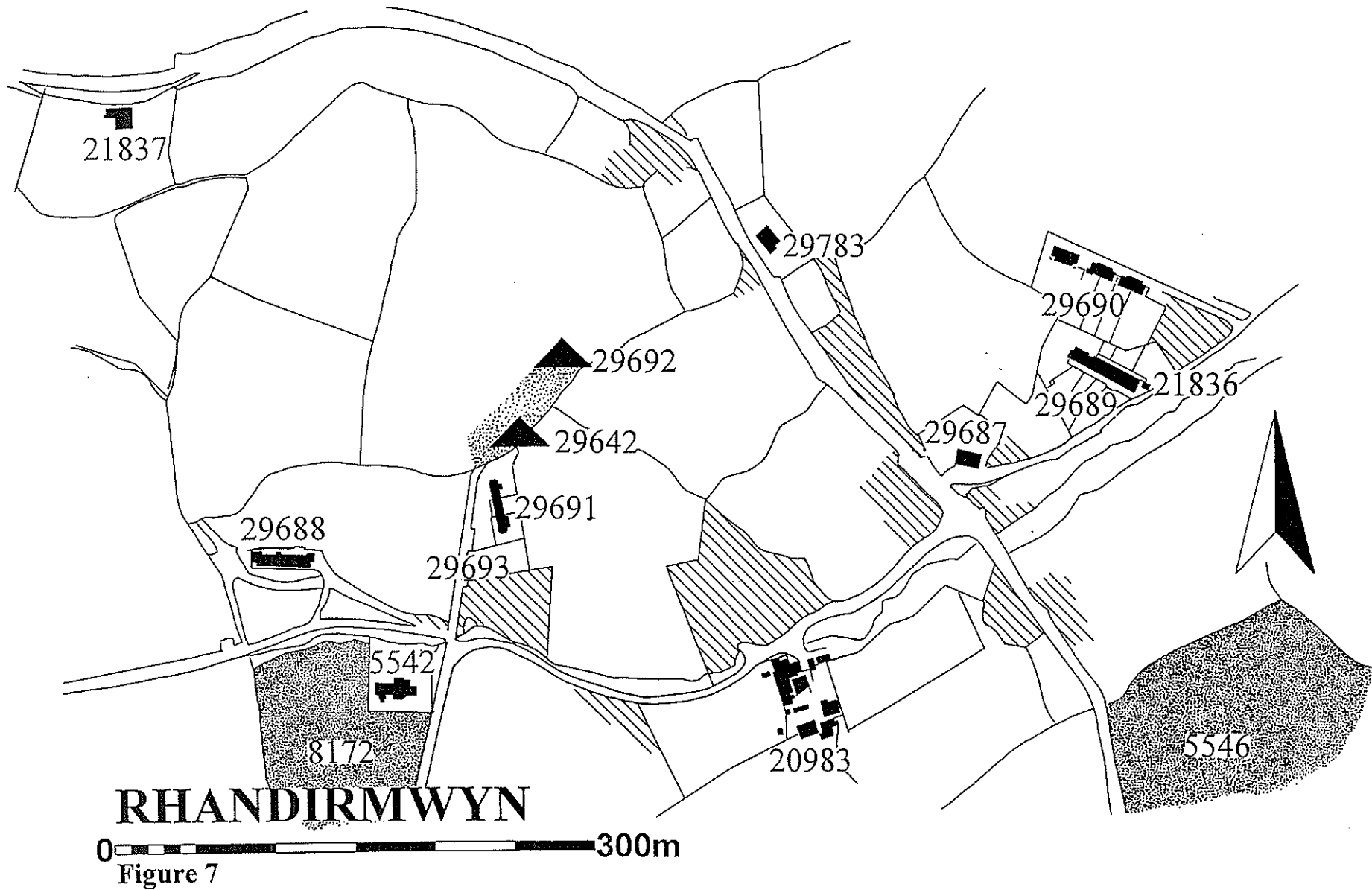
Davies, Rhys 1983 *Cefn Arthen; Y Comin, Y Capel a'r Ysgol*. Walters, Clydach.



CYNGHORDY

0 1000M

Figure 6



LLANSAWEL COMMUNITY

PRN: 29413

Name: LLANSAWEL (Fig.8)

NGR: SN620363

Community: Llansawel

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llansawel stands just above the confluence of the Afon Marlais and the Afon Melindwr at 120m. On three sides, the village is bordered by higher ground, with Pen y Dinas to the south-east being a dominant landscape feature at 240m. To the east a more open landscape prevails, along the flood plain of the Afon Marlais.

The church clearly provides a focal point for the village, with the core of historical buildings standing immediately due west of the churchyard. However, ribboning of settlement is evident on the 1": 1 mile OS Map of 1831, with dwellings shown to extend along the approach roads to the north and west. Modern additions to the village have accentuated this process, being largely concentrated along the Crugybar road to the north-east and the Talylychau road to the south east.

2. History.

The name "Llansawel" is derived from the dedication of an early mediaeval chapel to the Celtic St. Sawyl (PRN 1658). It is possible that some settlement was associated with this chapel. The Chapel of Sawyl, then known as "Pistyllsawyl", was a chapel of ease to Caeo church. It is mentioned in the will of Rhys Fychan (d.1271), which confirms grants of land at Pistyllsawyl to Talylychau Abbey. Little else is known of later mediaeval Llansawel, though a mill is recorded here c.1326. The village appears on Saxton's map of 1578.

By the eighteenth century it is evident that Llansawel had developed into an important local market town. It stands on one of the main droving routes from the west, also a well travelled route for Cardiganshire farmers on their way to the lime kilns and coal suppliers of Eastern Carmarthenshire. That Llansawel was a busy market town is reflected in the fact that there were still eight public houses here at the end of the nineteenth century. There were also a Town Hall, Grammar School, Board School, a Police Station and in the early nineteenth century there were no less than five Toll Gates ringing the town, one on each road.

In common with many other villages within Dinefwr, Llansawel underwent a substantial rebuilding during the mid and late nineteenth century. The memories of older inhabitants were recorded in 1898 and describe early nineteenth century Llansawel thus;

"...nearly all the houses were straw thatched, many being hardly better than huts. Gradually, however, they gave way to larger and slate covered dwellings".

3. Archaeology.

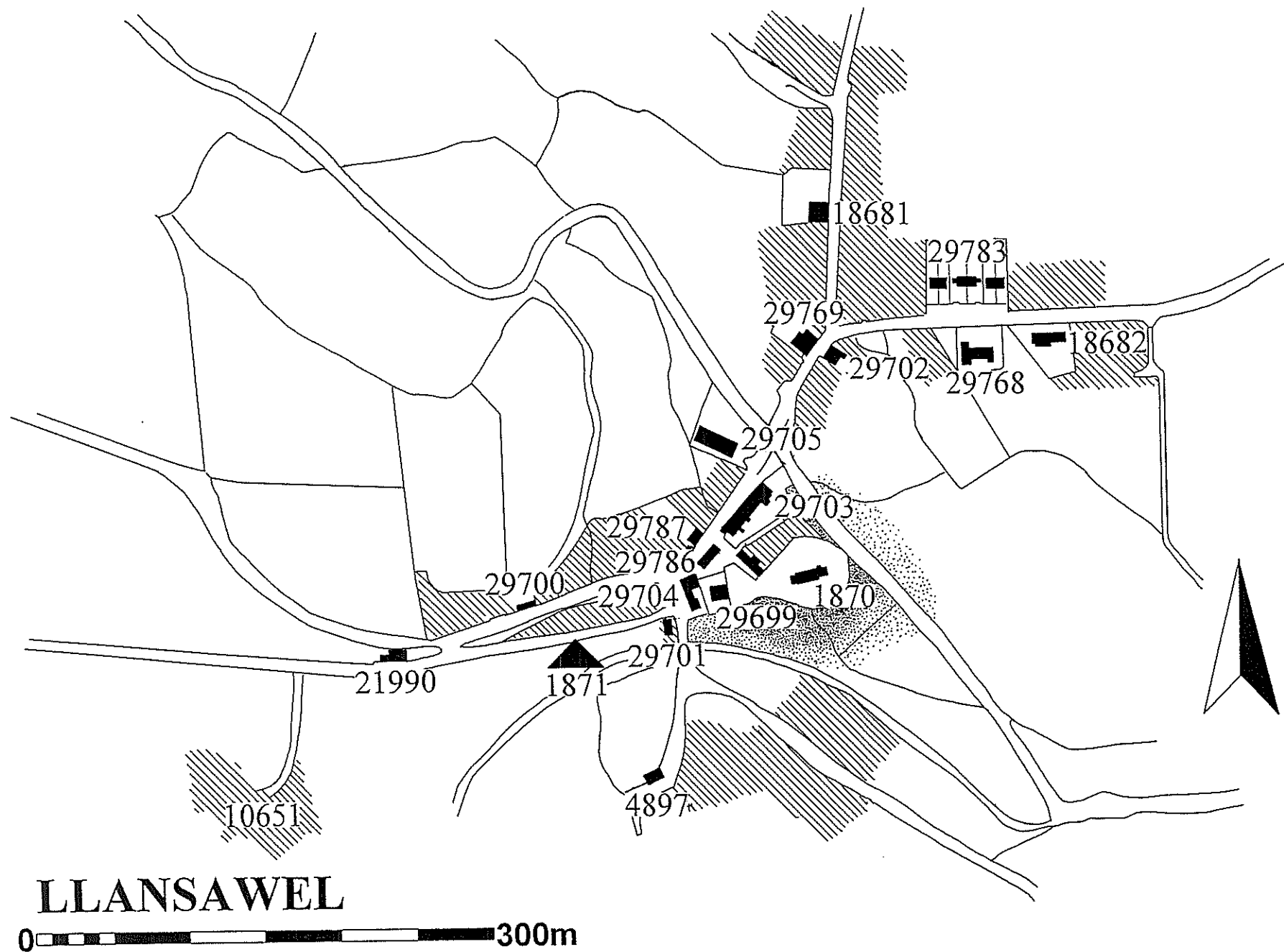
Llansawel Church stands in a sub-circular churchyard, a feature generally accepted as indicative of an early mediaeval foundation. Early ecclesiastical activity is also suggested by the presence of an early Christian monument (PRN 1821), dated to the seventh to ninth centuries, which can be seen in the church (though it is of course possible that the stone has been moved to the church from another site).

The site of the dark age holy well known as Ffynnon Sawyl (PRN 1871) is believed to lie on waste ground to the west of Pont Melindwr.

The place name Beili-tew, west of the village may denote the site of a mediaeval ringwork or bailey (PRN 10651). East of the village, the farm name Maes-y-llan (PRN 10649) may indicate the location of former glebe lands belonging to the church. Further to the north east, the place name Maes-y-felindre (PRN 10650) could well denote the land attached to a mediaeval bond vill, possibly the demesne land of a local lordship.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St. Sawyl's Parish Church. (PRN 1870). Grade II Listed Building. Some fourteenth century stonework survives.
- 4.2 Llansawel Primary School (Board School). (PRN 18682)
- 4.3 Bethel Chapel (PRN 18681)
- 4.4 Shiloh Chapel. (PRN 21990)
- 4.5 Llansawel Corn Mill (PRN 4897)
- 4.6 Police Station (PRN 29699). Closed.
- 4.7 Post Office (PRN 29768).



LLANSAWEL

0 300m

Figure 8

- 4.8 Smithy (PRN 29701).
- 4.9 Swan Inn (PRN 29702).
- 4.10 Black Lion Hotel (PRN 29703).
- 4.11 Angel Inn (PRN 29704)
- 4.12 Neuadd Llansawel Village Hall (PRN 29705).
- 4.13 Sawel Academy (PRN 29700)
- 4.14 Castle Green Public House (PRN 29769). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.15 Porth Woollen Factory (PRN 21987).
- 4.16 Town Hall (PRN 29786). Nineteenth century.
- 4.17 Llysawel Council Houses (PRN 29783).
- 4.18 Church Terrace (PRN 29789). Marked on 1837 Tithe Map.
- 4.19 Old Post Office (PRN 29787).

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 The likelihood that mediaeval settlement existed in the vicinity of the church requires that archaeological evaluations should accompany any development within the shaded areas on the accompanying plan.
- 5.2 The site of Ffynnon Sawyl lies within a Proposed Environmental Improvement Area. No such improvement should occur without an archaeological field evaluation of the site.

6. References.

- Price F S 1898 *History of Llansawel*.
- Nash-Williams VE
1950 *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales*. University of Wales, Cardiff.
- Salter, M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*. Folly Publications, Malvern.

TALYLLYCHAU COMMUNITY

PRN: 29414

Name: TALYLLYCHAU; TALLEY (Fig.9)

NGR: SN632327; SN641324

Community: Talyllychau

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Talyllychau is located 9km north west of Llandeilo. The village stands midway along a fairly narrow glacial valley, with two glacial lakes on its northern side. To the south, the valley is occupied by the Afon Ddu, whilst the lakes are the source of the Cothi which flows down the valley to the north. Most of the settlement occupies the slopes either side of the Afon Ddu at an altitude of c.120m.

Talyllychau has a polyfocal morphology. The historical focus of settlement is found in an irregular agglomeration of cottages around the Abbey and church site, and along the western edge of the valley to Cwm-byr. Recently, substantial development has occurred along the eastern side of the valley, along the main Llandeilo road. This consists of a long ribboning of mostly twentieth century dwellings to the east of the Edwinsford Arms.

2. History.

Talyllychau translates as "The Head of the Lakes", a name which refers to its location above the Upper and Lower Talley lakes to the north. It is commonly known by the anglicized version "Talley".

The Premonstratensian Abbey at Talyllychau was founded by the Lord Rhys in the latter decades of the twelfth century. Considerable possessions were willed to the abbey by Rhys Fychan (d.1271), confirmed in a patent roll of 1331. Shortly after its foundation the abbey became involved in a long running dispute with Whitland Abbey, which tried to take possession of Talyllychau. This proved a drain on the resources of Talyllychau which seems to have remained a weak foundation thereafter. Giraldus Cambrensis describes Talyllychau as a "poor house" in "a rough and sterile spot, surrounded by woods on every side and beyond measure inaccessible". In 1377 only an Abbot and five monks remained at the Abbey, and in 1433 its possessions were recorded as being "wasted by misrule". At the

dissolution most of the properties owned by Talylychau were leased to Sir Thomas Johns of Abermarlais. Settlement probably continued around the abbey after the Dissolution. It may be that Cwm-byr was also a small village at that time, for though it is now considered a part of Talylychau it can be seen to have been a larger settlement, perhaps a village in its own right, on the 1838 Parish Tithe Map.

3. Archaeology.

The Abbey and churchyard appear to have been enclosed by a boundary bank (PRN 13151) which now survives only as a cropmark. 1950's Meridian aerial photographs show that further earthwork features appear in the field due south of this point (PRN 10946). It also appears that the road which runs from the Edwinsford Arms towards the abbey originally proceeded straight onwards to the abbey itself, whereas it now runs south of Y Plas. The radial nature of some field boundaries to the east of the abbey may be evidence of boundaries of the infield lands farmed by the early mediaeval community. Earthwork features (PRN 10653) are visible north of the Abbey along the Upper Lake shore, as well as in the field due east of the Abbey. These may represent areas of mediaeval activity.

The site of Mynwent Capel Mair (PRN 25385), a mediaeval chapel and cemetery, is situated immediately east of the Edwinsford Arms but has now been built over. The builder has reported uncovering some quantity of dressed building stone during foundation excavation work and has used some of it to build a wall at the entrance to the housing estate.

A small strip of common land (PRN 13716) lies south of Talley House.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Abbey of St.Mary & St.Augustine (PRN 1897; SAM Carm.13). Grade I Listed Building. Conservation Area and Ancient Monument.

4.2 St.Michael's Parish Church (PRN 1891). Grade II Listed Building. Built in 1772 to replace the old abbey church.

4.3 Y Plas (PRN 25400). Grade II Listed Building.

4.4 School (PRN 18528).

4.5 Smithy (PRN 5108). Grade II Listed Building.

4.6 Talley House (PRN 6941). Grade II Listed Building.

4.7 Kingscourt (PRN 25399). Grade II Listed Building.

4.8 Inn (PRN 29706).

4.9 Edwinsford Arms (PRN 29707). Grade II Listed Building.

4.10 Capel Esgair-nant Methodist Chapel (PRN 18538)

4.11 Telephone Call Box. Grade II Listed Building.

4.12 Stable (east of smithy) (PRN 29770). Grade II Listed Building.

4.13 Post Office (PRN 29793). Closed.

4.14 Dyffryn-ig council estate (PRN 29782).

5. Recommendations.

5.1 Talylychau Abbey is the only Premonstratensian foundation in Wales. Its significance is increased by the fact that it was founded by a Welsh ruler, on the site of an existing Welsh monastic settlement. Talylychau Abbey is considered a site of national importance, it is a Grade I listed building and a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. Carmarthen 13) and stands within a designated Conservation Area. New development should not be allowed within this area. Beyond the precinct a partially radial field boundary system may well define the extent of the gardens and infield allotments farmed by the mediaeval community and should be considered as integral to the understanding of the rest of the site.

6. References.

Richards M 1974 "The Carmarthenshire Possessions of Talylychau", *Carmarthenshire Studies*.

Daniel-Tyssen J R
1878 *Royal Charters of the town and county of Carmarthen*, 60 - 72.

Butler S 1984 "Preliminary Investigation of the pollen record from Talley Lakes", *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* Vol.11.

Cowley F G 1977 *The Monastic Order of South Wales, 1066-1349*. University of Wales Press, Cardiff.

PRN: 29415**Name: CWMDU****NGR: SN635302****Community: Talyllychau****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Located some 7km north west of Llandeilo, Cwmdu stands alongside the Afon Dulais at an altitude of 120m, surrounded by undulating hills which rise to over 270m north of the village. It has an irregular, linear morphology, consisting of an core of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, along the course of the road which passes through the village.

2. History.

Cwmdu translates as "The Black Valley", possibly derived from the river Dulais which flows through the village or the Afon Ddu which flows 1km north-east of the village.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth century local nonconformists used Capel-hir Farm as a meeting house, until Providence Baptist Chapel was founded in 1789. The chapel probably became the focus around which the village grew.

Nineteenth century Cwmdu was of some local importance, possessing a public house, Post Office, chapel, school, smithy and mill. It did not, however, grow as a nucleated settlement, but served a wider agricultural community. Most of the buildings present on the 1839 Tithe Map of Talley Parish are still identifiable. The village has grown only slightly during the late twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

The site of the ruined Cwmdu Mill lies 150m south east of the village (PRN 28355).

4. Buildings.

4.1 Providence Baptist Chapel (PRN 18539). Grade II Listed Building.

4.2 Sunday School (PRN 18535).

4.3 Smithy (PRN 18536). Demolished.

4.4 Cwmdu Primary School (PRN 18540). Closed.

4.5 Capel Hir Farm (18532).

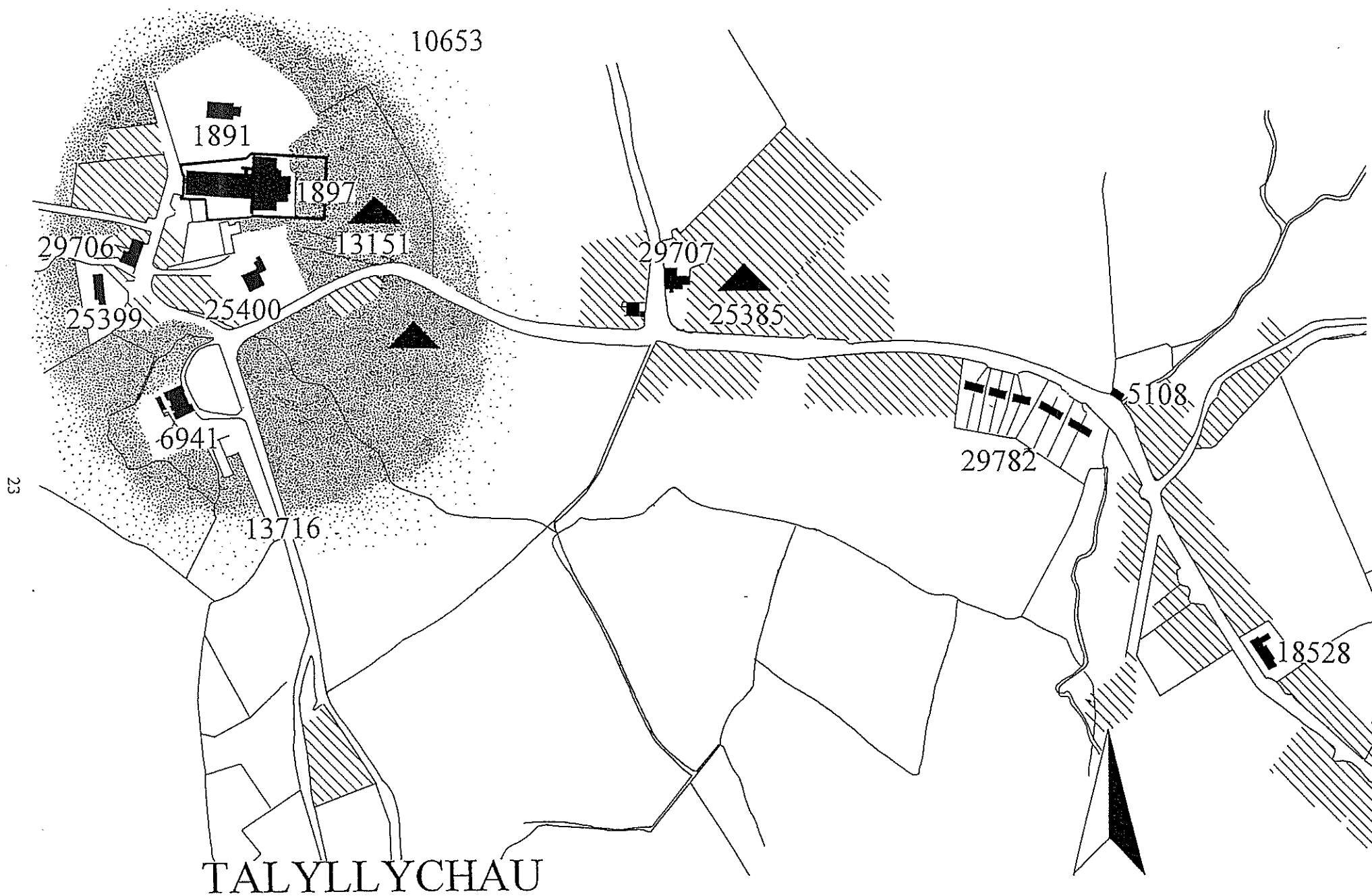
4.6 Vestry and Village Hall (PRN 24475). Grade II Listed Building.

4.7 Telephone Call Box. Grade II Listed Building.

4.8 Cottage row including Inn (PRN 29708) and Post Office (PRN 29709). Grade II Listed Building.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The historic core of the village is relatively unchanged. The National Trust now owns the village Post Office and public house and the village and adjacent fields are now defined as a Conservation Area. Apart from the mill, no site of archaeological interest are known in the vicinity of the village. Normal development control procedures should be observed in the event of future proposals for development.



0 300m

Figure 9

LLANSADWRN COMMUNITY

PRN: 29416

Name: LLANSADWRN (Fig.10)

NGR: SN695315

Community: Llansadwrn

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llansadwrn is located 7km south-west of Llandovery, and is reached by minor roads, either from Llanwrda or Maenordeilo. The village core is situated on a low hillock at c.120m, overlooking the Tywi valley to the south east. The ground falls away gently in that direction, giving the village an open aspect. Llansadwrn has radial morphology, with the sub-circular churchyard serving as the focal point for settlement which extends along the roads which enter the village.

2. History.

The village derives its name from the early mediaeval dedication of the church to Sadwrn, a Celtic saint. Llansadwrn church is mentioned as a chapel of ease to Caeo in the will of Rhys Fychan (d.1271).

Llansadwrn was closely associated with the fortunes of the Abermarlais Estate in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Abermarlais was one of the most important houses in Wales during that period, being the family seat of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, a kinsman and close ally of Henry Tudor, and a direct descendant of the Princes of Deheubarth. An estate survey of 1531, when Abermarlais passed into Crown hands, refers to "the town, hamlet, parish and Lordship of Llansadwrn", which had previously been in the possession of Sir Rhys ap Thomas and his family.

Nineteenth century Llansadwrn, as shown on the 1831 OS Map and the Tithe Map of 1839 appears in essentially the same form as the modern village, though it seems that most of the buildings standing at that time have been replaced since the latter part of that century.

3. Archaeology.

The large, sub-circular, raised churchyard of is characteristic of an early mediaeval foundation. It is likely that a contemporary ecclesiastical community existed in association with this early chapel.

Slight earthwork features (PRN 10654) visible in the field immediately west of the churchyard may be indicative of former settlement in this area.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St.Sadwrn's Parish Church (PRN 1903). Grade II Listed Building. Includes a thirteenth century doorway.
- 4.2 Capel Ebeneser Independent Chapel (PRN 18610). Open.
- 4.3 Capel Seion Methodist Chapel (PRN 18609). Derelict.
- 4.4 Post Office (PRN 29711). Open
- 4.5 Sexton's Arms (PRN 29712). Public House, closed.
- 4.6 Church/Village Hall (PRN 29713).
- 4.7 Llansadwrn Primary School (PRN 29710).
- 4.8 Vicarage (PRN 6955)
- 4.9 Beilglas Council Houses (PRN 29714)
- 4.10 Square and Compass (PRN 29715).

5. Recommendations.

5.1 Archaeological evidence of early settlement at Llansadwrn may well exist in the vicinity of the churchyard. Watching briefs are recommended for any new development within the historic core of the village.

5.2 The field west of the church appears to contain slight traces of earthwork features, possibly relating to earlier settlement. An archaeological field evaluation is recommended of this area before any future development.

6. References.

Tyssen-Daniel J R 1878 *Royal Charters of the Town and County of Carmarthen*, 60-72.

Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*. Folly Publications, Malvern.

PRN: 29417

Name: ASHFIELD ROW (Fig.11)

NGR: SN693286

Community Llansadwrn

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Ashfield Row is located some 2km west of Llangadog, on the A40 Llandeilo to Llandovery road. The village lies on the western edge of the wide Tywi flood plain at an altitude of 50m. To the west the ground rises gradually, but the village has an open aspect with clear views north and south along the course of the Tywi. It is a relatively compact, linear settlement, with dwellings along the western side of the A40. Some modern development has extended the village along the course of a minor road to the west, this includes a small housing estate directly behind the inn.

2. History.

The name is derived from a row of cottages named Ashfield Row which were built in 1839. The Tithe Map of 1839 shows only the inn and several small buildings at the cross-roads, the cottages not then completed it would seem. The road which runs east from the cross-roads leads to Llangadog, crossing the Tywi nearby. As this was one of the few bridging points along the Tywi, a tollgate was positioned on the cross-roads, probably in the late eighteenth century.

3. Archaeology.

Aerial photographs show that the Roman road from Llandovery (PRN 11089) passes very close to the western edge of the village.

A bronze age standing stone (PRN 11763) is located just east of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Square and Compasses Inn (PRN 29716). Closed.

4.2 Ashfield Row Cottages (PRN 29717). No.8 inscribed "D.L.1839"

4.3 Toll Gate (PRN 29718). Demolished.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The course of the Roman Road makes the whole area archaeologically sensitive. A watching brief should accompany any development which cuts across the line of this road or adjacent land.

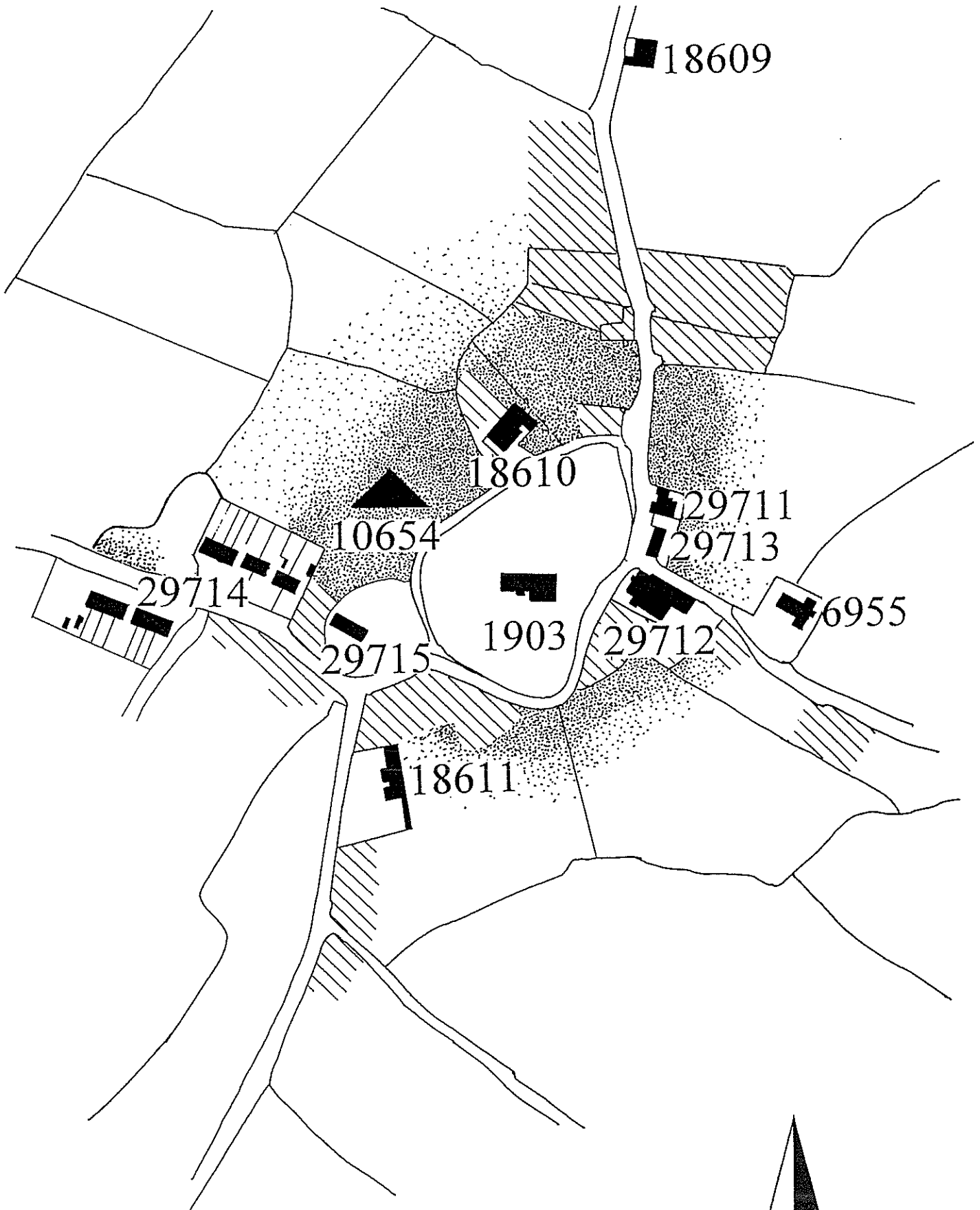
5.2 A watching brief should accompany any development on land adjacent to the bronze age standing stone as it is possible that unrecognised features associated with the stone may survive in its vicinity.

6. References.

James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 66. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

Kingerlee D 1985 *Llandovery Album: Pictures of a Welsh Market Town*, plate 118. Llandovery.

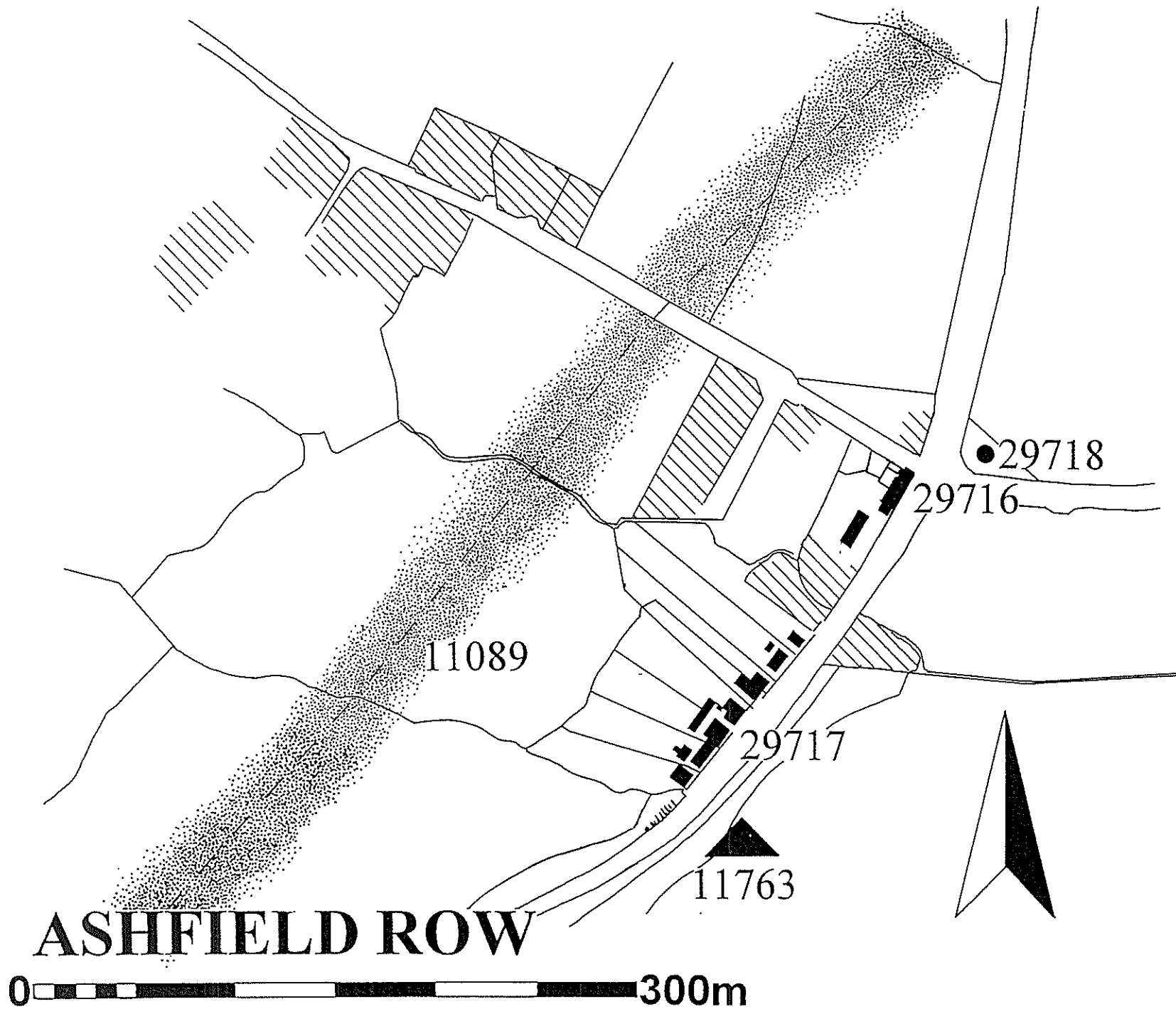
1839 Llansadwrn Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment,



LLANSADWRN

0  300m

Figure 10



ASHFIELD ROW

0 300m

Figure 11

LLANWRDA COMMUNITY

PRN: 29418

Name: LLANWRDA (Fig.12)

NGR: SN713315

COMMUNITY: Llanwrda

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llanwrda is located 13km north east of Llandeilo, standing alongside the A40, which, prior to road improvements, originally passed through the village. This road roughly corresponds with the line of the Roman road between Llandeilo and Llandovery. The village stands at an altitude of 50m around the point where the valley of Afon Dulais opens out into the Tywi Valley. It has an irregular morphology, with development occurring both up the Dulais valley to the west and southwards along the line of the A40.

2. History.

Llanwrda derives its name from that of the parish church which stands in the village, St Cawrdaf's. The dedication to a Celtic saint suggests that an early mediaeval chapel may have stood on the site of the present church, possibly with some associated settlement. The present church building dates largely from the Victorian period but there are some surviving traces of late medieval walls (Salter 1994, 41). Thirteenth century references to Llanwrda church show that it was at that time a chapel of ease to Caeo (Daniel-Tyssen, 1879).

Little is known of the medieval settlement history of Llanwrda. There is a record that the commotal court of Mallaen was held at Llanwrda during the fourteenth century, though this does not necessarily mean that it was held here on a regular basis as such courts usually moved around within the commote (Evans, DL, 1939). Nevertheless, it does suggest that some status was attached to a residence or settlement at Llanwrda at that time. Pentre Meurig house, to the south east of the village, is believed to have late mediaeval origins, but the nature and extent of any accompanying settlement is unknown. Llanwrda does appear on Saxton's map of Carmarthenshire of 1578.

The village has seen constant growth during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The village has developed around the junction of the A40 with what is now the main road between the Tywi valley and Lampeter. This latter road was not constructed until the early nineteenth century, but its existence prompted the construction of the Lampeter Road railway station at Llanwrda in the mid-nineteenth century. The status of Llanwrda was naturally boosted by this and may well have been an important factor in the subsequent development of the village.

There have been three episodes of council house building in Llanwrda, 1956, 1967 and 1976. It has all taken place at the north end of the village, opposite the church.

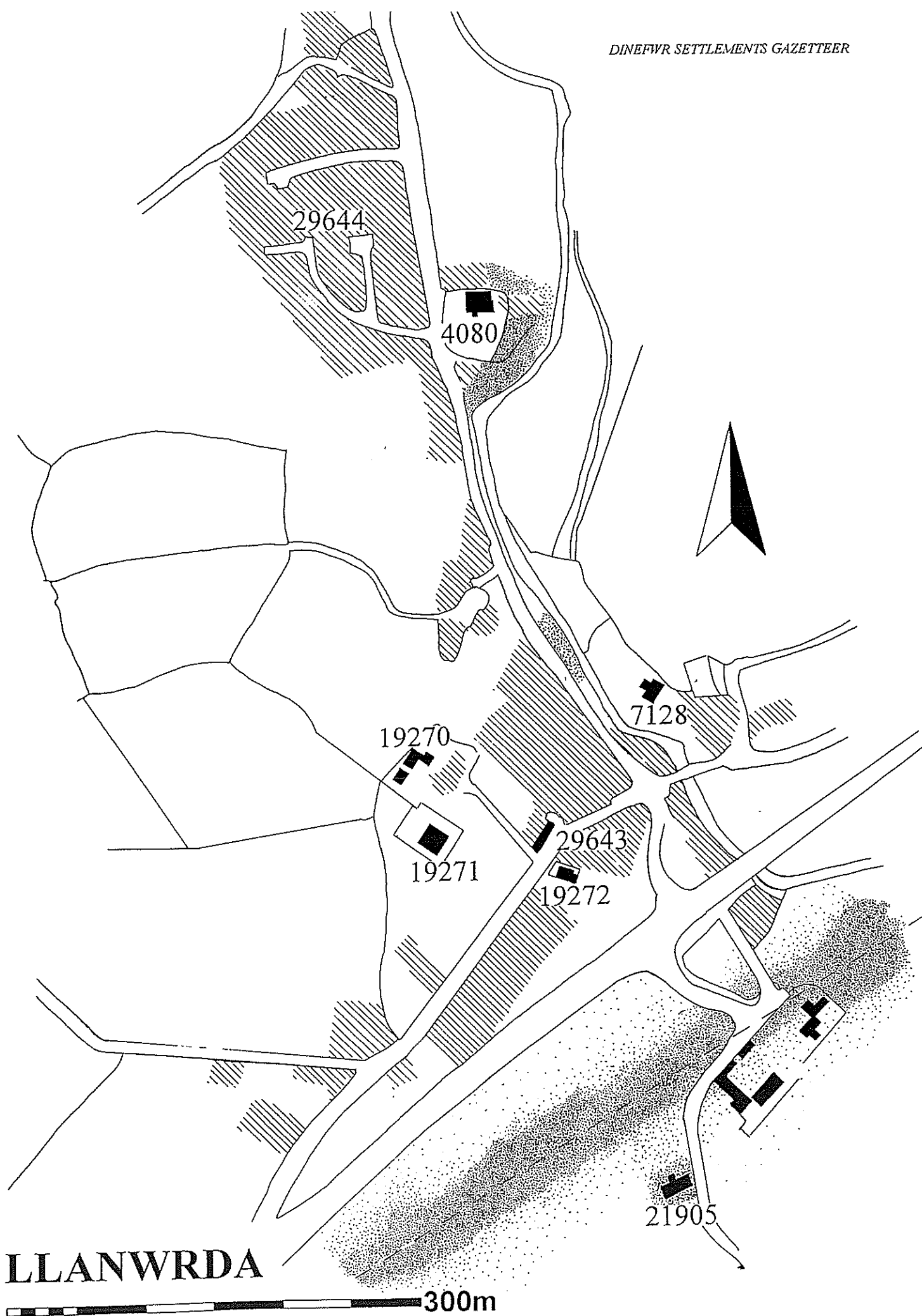
3. Archaeology.

The church and churchyard stand on an ecclesiastical site which has mediaeval, if not early mediaeval origins. There are no physical remains of earlier structures visible near the present church, but there is a likelihood of archaeological evidence for earlier chapels, associated buildings and burials surviving in the vicinity.

The Roman road (PRN 11089) to Llandovery passes close to, or through, the southern end of the village and archaeological evidence probably survives beneath the village.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St Cawrdaf's Parish Church (PRN 4080).
- 4.2 Cornwallis Almshouses (PRN 19271). Grade III Listed Building
- 4.3 Croes-y-Ceiliog Inn public house (PRN 29643).
- 4.4 Brodawel Council Houses (PRN 29644).
- 4.5 Neuadd Fawr (PRN 7128). Grade II Listed Building
- 4.6 School House (PRN 19270). Grade II Listed Building
- 4.7 Pentre Meurig (PRN 7127).
- 4.8 Vale of Towy Woollen Factory (PRN 21905).
- 4.9 Sunday School (PRN 19272).
- 4.10 Pontyneuadd Bridge (PRN 19269).



LLANWRDA

Figure 12

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development, other than within the shaded areas, which includes the line of the Roman road, where a more detailed archaeological evaluation will be required.

6. References.

- Evans D L 1939 "The Later Middle Ages", Lloyd, JE, ed. *The History of Carmarthenshire*, 226. London Carmarthenshire Society, Cardiff.
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 66. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.
- Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South-West Wales*. Folly Publications. Malvern.
- Daniel-Tyssen J R
 1878 *Royal Charters of the town and county of Carmarthen*.
 1839 Llanwrda Parish Tithe map and Apportionment,

LLANFYNYDD COMMUNITY

PRN: 29420

Name: LLANFYNYDD (Fig.13)

NGR: SN558275

Community: Llanfynydd

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llanfynydd is located 10km north of the Tywi valley and can be reached along minor roads from Llanegwad. The village stands on a bend in the narrow valley cut by the Afon Sannan, at an altitude of 140m. The ground rises steeply to over 200m both to the east and west of the village. Historically Llanfynydd has had an essentially compact but irregular morphology, its development constrained by local topography. Modern housing developments have extended settlement away from the river, to the south and south west.

2. History.

Llanfynydd was originally Llanegwad Fynydd, which means the "Church of Egwad in the Hills". The original dedication to St.Egwad is suggestive of an early mediaeval foundation date for the church, as well as a possible connection with Llanegwad. It is likely that some settlement was present here before the Norman conquest.

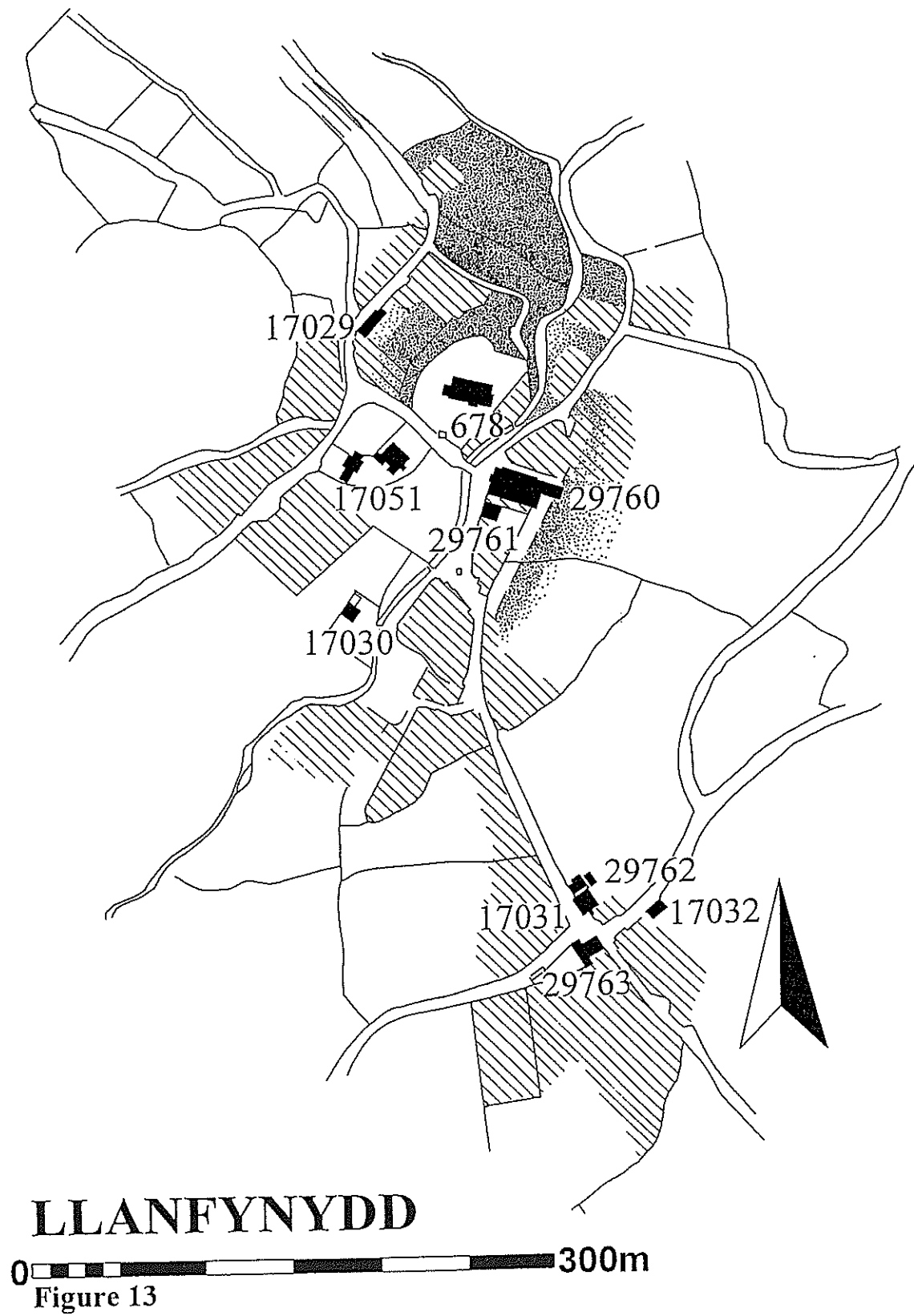
Llanfynydd was part of the Ystrad Tywi estate of the Bishop of St.David's after the conquest and documentary evidence exists indicating that a village and mill existed here in the early fourteenth century. The Black Book of St.Davids, compiled in 1326, names the inhabitants of Llanegwad Fynydd and describes their duties owed to the Lord Bishop.

There are records of both corn and fulling mills around Llanfynydd, including Bishop's Mill to the south and a mediaeval fulling mill which may have been located on the site of Cwm-Sannan Factory. The

Parish records indicate that the village was a busy local centre by the early nineteenth century, the Cwm-Sannan Woollen Factory providing employment for weavers and card makers. Even so, the village plan of 1815 shown in the Map Book of the Lordship of St.David's shows that the village itself remained quite small. Late nineteenth century OS maps show that internal changes were occurring in the village, with new buildings replacing the old, a development shared by most villages within the district after the 1850's.

3. Archaeology.

The village churchyard has a sub-circular morphology which is generally believed to be indicative of an early mediaeval site. It may have been the focus for a small monastic community. Ffynnon Dyssul (PRN 12270), to the south of the village, is believed to be an early mediaeval holy well which may well be associated with such an early



settlement. Further evidence which may be linked to early ecclesiastical activity lies to the north of the village, where a field named Cae yr Hen Fynwent or "The Field of the Old Cemetery" (PRN 4745) is found. Later mediaeval settlement is known at Llanfynydd and archaeological evidence for this may lie near or underneath the present village.

Comparison of the Parish Tithe Map with later nineteenth century maps show that the main road into the village (PRN 29788) formerly ran to the west of the row of buildings which now stand on the western side of the modern main street. Some cottages still stand along the old road line and it is possible that more settlement once lined this road

4. Buildings.

4.1 St.Egwad's Parish Church (PRN 678). Grade II Listed Building. Some thirteenth century stonework survives.

4.2 Capel Amos Baptist Chapel (PRN 17030). Built 1829.

4.3 Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (PRN 17031). Grade III Listed Building. Rebuilt 1838.

4.4 Methodist Sunday School (PRN 29762). Next to chapel.

4.5 Smithy (PRN 17032).

4.6 Post Office (PRN 29761). Dated 1868. Open.

4.7 Sannan Court (PRN 17051). Vicarage.

4.8 Cwm Sannan Woollen Mill (PRN 22527). Late eighteenth century mill.

4.9 Penybont Inn (PRN 29760). Open.

4.10 Farmers Arms (PRN 29763). For Sale.

4.11 Llanfynydd Voluntary Aided Primary School (PRN 17029).

5. Recommendations.

5.1 There is a strong possibility that early mediaeval settlement occurred within the vicinity of the church. The area north of the churchyard is seen on the 1838 Tithe Map to be the site of numerous small strips of land associated with several dispersed cottages. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*. Folly Publications, Malvern.

1815 *Map Book of the Lordship of St.David's*. National Library of Wales. Unpublished.

Willis-Bund J W

1902 *The Black Book of St.David's*, London, Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion.

MAENORDEILO COMMUNITY

PRN: 29421

Name: MAENORDEILO (Fig.14)

NGR: SN676267

Community: Maenordeilo

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Maenordeilo lies 5km northeast of Llandeilo on the A40. It stands at an altitude of 40m on gently undulating ground at the edge of the Tywi flood plain. This small village is a loose agglomeration of buildings stretching for some 0.5km along the line of the main road.

2. History.

The name Maenordeilo has its origins in the medieval period, and was applied to the commote of Maenordeilo which may well have originally been a *maenor* or estate belonging to the monastic community of Llandeilo Fawr. Other *maenora* have been identified within Dinefwr, some shown to be in existence as early as the eighth century AD. The area of modern Maenordeilo was known at least as early as 1277 (Rees 1991, 46)

Nineteenth century maps show that only a small nucleation of settlement had occurred on the site of the

present village. The houses of Dolau Tywi were the last element of the village to be constructed in 1966 and 1970. Most of the buildings are substantially older, dating from the early nineteenth to early twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

The line of the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery (PRN 11089) passes through the village on the north side of the A40.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Dyffryn Chapel (PRN 18202), Calvinistic Methodists, constructed 1875).
- 4.2 Sunday School (PRN 18200), constructed 1901.
- 4.3 Post-Office (PRN 29645). Housed in a small nineteenth century terraced cottage.
- 4.4 Dolau Tywi, council housing (PRN 29633).
- 4.5 Old Sunday School (18201).
- 4.6 Gwestfa (PRN 22457). Dwelling, marked as a "clergy orphanage" on 1907 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development, other than within the shaded areas, which includes the line of the Roman road, where a more detailed archaeological evaluation will be required.

6. References.

- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, ed. H. James, 66-67. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.
- Rees D 1991 "Neuadd Wen: Changing Patterns of Tenure". *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, ed. H. James. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society. Carmarthen.

PRN: 29422

Name: SALEM

NGR: SN622265

Community: Maenordeilo

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Salem is located 4km north of Llandeilo, and has a fairly regular morphology, with development along a main north-south spine road and two roads leading to the east.

2. History.

Salem was formerly known as Heol Galed, the modern name being taken from the chapel, which was constructed in 1817. It is likely that the history of Salem as a recognisable village dates from this period, before that it would have been a scatter of farmsteads and possibly a small number of cottages.

Salem Chapel was a daughter house of the chapel at Capel Isaac, just over 3km away to the north west (Rawlins 1987, 238).

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest within the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Salem Chapel (PRN 18127), Independent, built 1817, rebuilt 1831, rebuilt and enlarged 1882.
- 4.2 The Angel Inn (PRN 29612), shown on 1891 Ordnance Survey map, has been extended and modernised.
- 4.3 School House (PRN 18128), appears now to be a private dwelling.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Rawlins B J 1987 *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their Records and Where to Find Them: Volume One: Carmarthenshire - Cardiganshire - Pembrokeshire*. Celtic Heritage Publishing, Salt Lake City, USA.

PRN: 29423

Name: CWMIFOR (Fig.15)

NGR: SN658252

Community: Maenordeilo

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Cwmifor lies 5km northeast of Llandeilo just off of the A40, and comprises a ribbon of housing on both sides of the single road through the village. The village stands in a gently undulating landscape drops from an altitude of c.75m at its northern end to less than 50m to the south, beyond which the ground falls away to the Tywi flood plain.

2. History.

The earliest cartographic evidence for the village dates from the mid nineteenth century. At the end of the last century the village comprised a small cluster of houses along the roadsides. There were also at this time a school and a chapel. The chapel has early origins, the first chapel was constructed in 1789. Chapel membership doubled from the 56 in 1795 to 110 in 1840, an expansion which made the rebuilding and renewal of the chapel possible. Before the construction of the present school in 1880, classes were held in a room above the stables of the chapel (Anon 1847, 230).

A significant number of the buildings in the village have been constructed within the last 20-25 years, including a number of council houses, indeed more housing was being constructed at the time of this survey.

3. Archaeology.

Cwmifor is rich in both known and potential archaeological features. Finds of Bronze Age artefacts (PRN 01 and PRN 867) have been made both north and south of the A40. The finds included three gold bracelets and a bronze axe (Benson 1975, 30-31; Savoury 1977, 35-53).

The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery (PRN 11089) passes through the southern end of the village. There is no visible trace of the road on the ground, but aerial photography clearly shows the line passing through the village (James and James 1984, 23-28).

Capel-bach Farm (PRN 24937) is believed to be the site of a mediaeval chapel of ease, known as Capel Isaf (PRN 876) the fabric of which has been incorporated into one of the present buildings.

Alongside the road at the southern end of the village is a small elongated earthwork mound. There is nothing to indicate whether the mound is natural or man-made.

4. Buildings.

4.1 St Paul's Church (PRN 18192).

4.2 Baptist Chapel (PRN 18191). Grade II Listed Building. The first chapel was constructed in 1789, and restored in 1814. The present building dates from 1836.

4.3 Primary School (PRN 18190), established during the 1880s to replace the school held in the Baptist chapel.

4.4 Chapel house? (PRN 29602) shown on 1839 tithe plan. The cottage has round-arched windows, possibly to reflect the architectural style of the chapel opposite.

5.Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development, other than within the shaded areas, which includes the line of the Roman road and the known Bronze Age find sites described above, where a more detailed archaeological evaluation will be required.

6.References.

- Anon 1847 *Reports of The Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales.*
- Benson D G 1975 *Archaeology in Wales* 15, 30-31.
- James H & T 1983 *Archaeology in Wales* 23, 35.

PRN: 29425

NAME: CAPEL ISAAC

NGR: SN582269

COMMUNITY: Maenordeilo

1.Location,Topography and Morphology.

Capel Isaac is a small village some 6.5km northwest of Llandeilo comprising a few houses, a chapel and a school. The village lies on a steep west-facing slope of the Afon Dulais valley at an altitude of between 40m and 70m, dropping by over 30m from east to west.

2.History.

The recorded history of Capel Isaac is essentially a history of the chapel from which the village took its name. Nonconformist worship started c.1650, with the first chapel being constructed some 20 years later. Membership of the chapel appears to have been strong during both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although there was a drop in membership at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This drop in numbers was more than offset when over 250 new members were added following a revival in 1828 (Rawlins 1987, 238).

3.Archaeology.

There are no known archaeological features within the village. However, the chapel has been rebuilt three or four times. It is not known whether each rebuild was on the same site, therefore, there may be some buried remains of this very important early chapel in the vicinity of the present chapel.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Capel Isaac (PRN 17041). Grade III Listed Building. Constructed c.1670, rebuilt c.1689, c.1780 and 1847. A graveyard was added c.1790.
- 4.2 County Primary School (PRN 17042).

5.Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References

- Rawlins B J 1987 *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their Records and Where to Find Them. Volume One, Cardigan - Carmarthen - Pembroke.* Celtic Heritage Publishing. Salt Lake City. USA.

PRN: 29426**Name: PENYBANC****NGR: SN615240****Community: Maenordeilo****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Penybanc is located some 2km north west of Llandeilo. The village is a small, irregular agglomeration of buildings and stands at an altitude of 60m in the relatively wide valley of a minor stream. The village stands alongside what is now a minor road which in the eighteenth century was a section of the Llandovery to Carmarthen mail road.

2. History

Penybanc derives its name from its topographical position, "at the edge of a bank".

The layout of the village has not changed since the very early years of this century. In 1906 there were two public houses, The Gate Inn and The Greyhound, both are now private dwellings. The name of the former suggests that there may well have been an eighteenth or nineteenth century toll gate positioned nearby. During the last century, the village had a school, which upon its reopening in 1846 was described as wholly inefficient (Anon 1847, 231). It is not known where the school classes were held. The chapel, Siloh Chapel (PRN 18800), was built in 1830 and rebuilt in 1876; a vestry room was added in 1898.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Siloh Chapel and vestry room (PRN 18800).

4.2 The Gate Inn public house, now a private dwelling.

4.3 The Greyhound public house, now a private dwelling.

4.4 Smithy (PRN 22430), shown on early Ordnance Survey coverage.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development, .

6. References.

Archer M S 1970 *The Welsh Post Towns*. Phillimore, London.

PRN: 29427**NAME: RHOSMAEN****NGR: SN639238****COMMUNITY: Maenordeilo****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Rhosmaen lies c.0.5km east of Llandeilo, and has developed along the line of the A40 and B4302 roads which meet at the southern end of the village. This has resulted in the creation of two relatively long ribbons of development north of the junction, over 1km long along the A40 and 500m along the B4302. The village stands at an altitude of 40m above the north eastern edge of the Tywi flood plain.

2. History.

Rhosmaen translates as "Stone moor". Its proximity to Llandeilo and location within Maenordeilo remind us that the surrounding land was part of the maenor or estate of the monastic community of Llandeilo during the mediaeval period. This is reinforced by the farm name Cefntiresgob near the village ("the ridge of the Bishop's land").

It is not possible to say whether any settlement occurred at Rhosmaen during the mediaeval period. Cartographic evidence from the mid to late nineteenth century shows that the village comprised a cluster of cottages around Rhosmaen mill (PRN 22433), at the northeastern end, a farmstead at Bank-y-Berllan and the farmstead and cottages at Cefntiresgob at the southern end.

The mill was not the only industry operating at the north eastern end of the village at the end of the last century, also in this area were a tannery (PRN 18812) and a weaving shop (PRN 29615). The tannery was shown on Ordnance Survey coverage in 1965. It is likely that the mill, tannery etc. at the eastern end of the village were associated with Rhosmaen House, which stands just north of them.

An estate of council houses was constructed in 1967.

3. Archaeology.

It is clear that the Roman road from Llandovery passes near the village, though its exact line has yet to be determined. There is a distinct change in direction in the general course of the road in the vicinity of Rhosmaen, however, as it turns south westwards to follow the Tywi valley towards Carmarthen. It has been suggested that an unrecognised Roman fortlet may exist in the vicinity, being the necessary day's marching distance from Llandovery (James, 1991)

The principal archaeological interests in the village are the remains of Rhosmaen Corn Mill and any associated features which may survive.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Chapel (PRN 18809), Methodist, constructed 1888.

4.2 Sunday School (PRN 18810), Elim Chapel, constructed 1847.

4.3 Rhosmaen House (PRN 255649).

4.4 Rhosmaen Corn mill (PRN 22433), still standing but derelict.

4.5 Cefn Tir Esgob (PRN 6922), post-medieval farmstead.

4.6 The Plough Inn (PRN 22436).

4.7 Former weaving shop (PRN 29615), now a private dwelling, shown on a plan accompanying a sales catalogue for the Tygwyn-Llandilo Estates in the Parish of Llandilo Vawr, 1879 (CRO ref SC814).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development,

6. References.

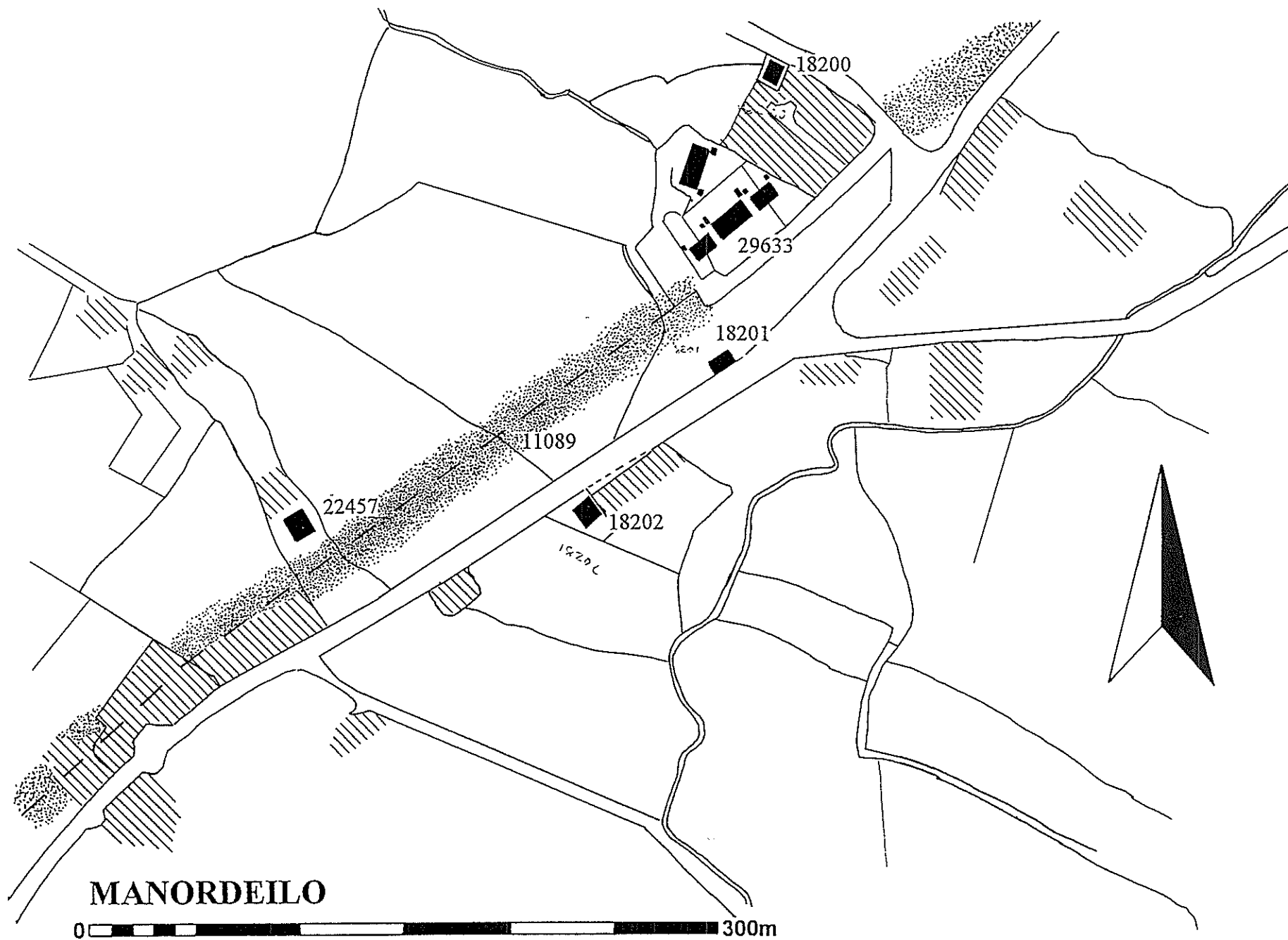
James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. James, H, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 66-67. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

Bowen E et al 1760 *The Large English Atlas*. NLW ref Llandovery Deposit Collection No1.

Jones F 1987 *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and Their Families*. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society; Cultural Services Department, Dyfed County Council. Carmarthen.

Plan of Rhosmaen (no date) NLW ref PA 6632 (469).

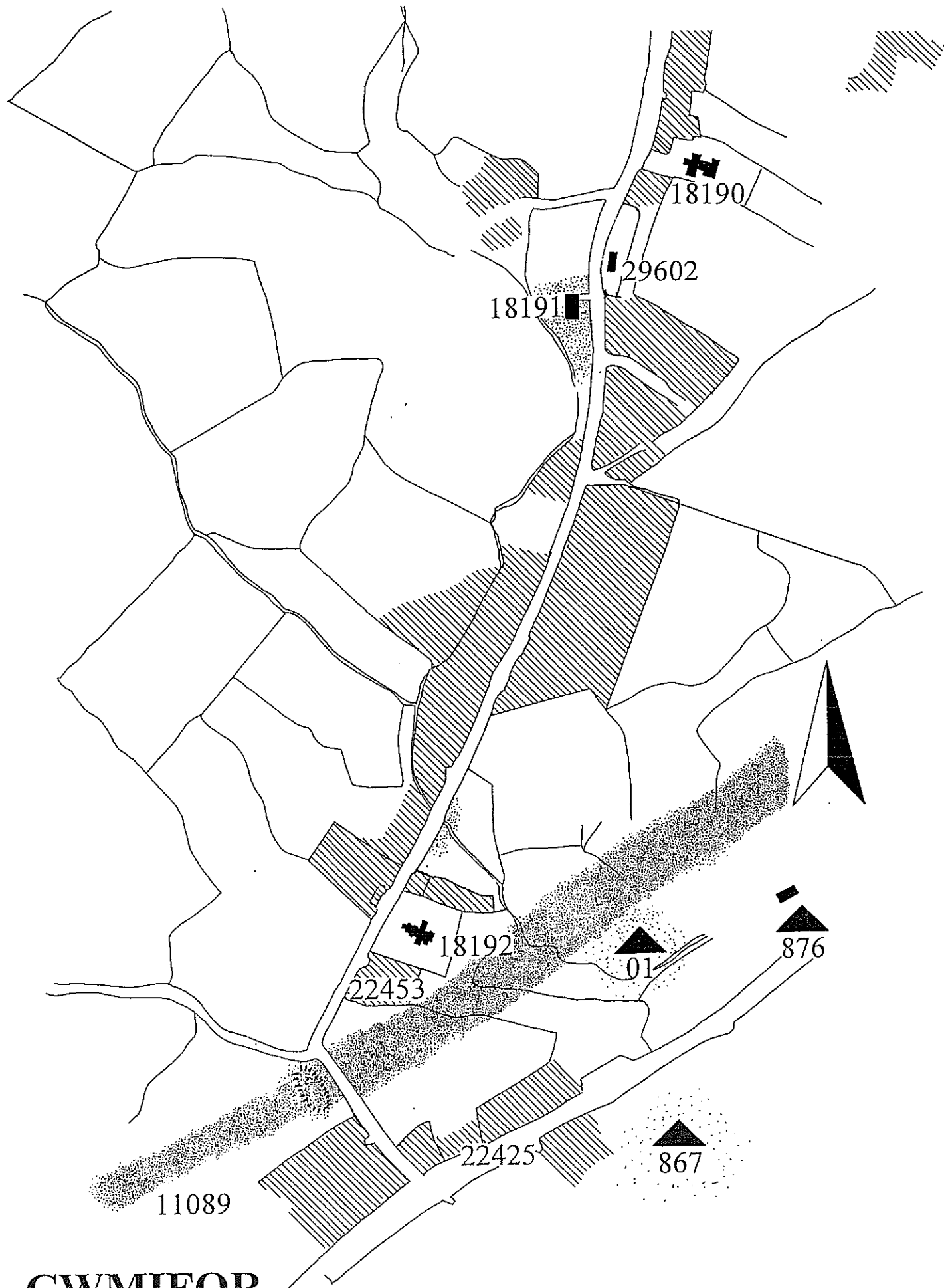
Plans accompanying a sales catalogue of the Tygwyn-Llandeilo Estates in the parish of Llandeilo Fawr (1879).



MANORDEILO

0 300m

Figure 14



CWMIFOR
 0 300m
 Figure 15

LLANGADOG COMMUNITY

PRN: 20428

Name: BETHLEHEM

NGR: SN685252

Community: Llangadog

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Bethlehem is a ribbon settlement which has developed along a plateau on the southern slope of the Tywi valley, at an altitude of c.100m, some 2.5km southwest of Llangadog. The east-west aligned village drops by approximately 35m from the east. The lineal form of the village has been dictated by its position along the valley slope.

Modern development has taken place at either end of the village, particularly at the eastern end with the construction of the school (PRN 18204) in the 1880s and the 20th century council houses (PRN 29609). This development has significantly altered the character of Bethlehem, changing it from a small cluster of cottages into a fairly intermittent linear village.

2. History.

The village name is taken from that of Bethlehem chapel in nearby Dyffryn Ceidrych hamlet. On the tithe plan of 1839 the settlement comprised a small cluster of cottages which appeared to be the present Dyffryn Cottage, Onnen-las, Plas-y-Graen and Graen Cottage. A water-powered corn mill (now disused) at the west end of the village is not recognisable on the Tithe map, although the leat that supplied it is clearly marked. This suggests that the mill was in use during the mid-nineteenth century, and probably from much earlier.

The construction of the school in the mid-nineteenth century was a significant point in the development of the village, as was the establishment of a post-office. Both institutions indicate that Bethlehem was a central focus for the surrounding community, as it has never been large enough to support either a school or post-office on its own.

3. Archaeology.

Apart from the disused Geidrich Corn Mill, and any associated features which may survive there are no known archaeological features in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 County Primary School (PRN 18204), originally a British School, but by 1897 was under the control of the Schools Board.

4.2 Geidrych Corn Mill (PRN 4884).

4.3 Tremygarn Council Houses (PRN 29609). Constructed 1956.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Jones J F 1963 The Llangadog Charities Inquiry 1897. The Carmarthenshire Antiquary IV, 217.

1839 Llangadog Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment.

PRN: 29429

Name: FELINDRE

NGR: SN704276

Community: Llangadog

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Felindre lies c.0.75km southwest of Llangadog on the southern fringe of Carreg-Sawdde Common just over 100m from the west bank of the Afon Sawdde, at an altitude of 33m. Modern Felindre is square in layout, defined by a road on each side, giving the impression of having been planned. There is however an irregular agglomeration of dwellings within or around the line of these roads.

2. History.

The name Felindre translates as “Milltown” and villages bearing the name are often believed to be of mediaeval origin, signifying the site of a mill and a community of bond men or villeins attached to a lordship. Sawdde Mill, was shown on the 1782 survey just north west of the village, and it is possible that the name is derived from an earlier mill on the same site.

An alternative explanation of the name is that it may actually be derived from “Filindre”, literally “a settlement of villeins”. Rees (1924 & 1932) refers to fourteenth century documentation showing that a small community of bondmen at this Felindre farmed 18 acres of demesne land belonging to the Lordship of Carreg Sawdde. Evans (1939) notes that the villeins were in charge of a reeve and suggests that Felindre Sawdde may have originally been the *maerdref* of Castell Meurig, which stood on the opposite bank of the Sawdde.

In 1383, Nicholas de Audley, Lord of Llandovery, granted an annual fair to Felindre. George Owen (1601) calls this the fair of “Penybont ar sawthey”. Penybont is a farm just south of the village and its name indicates that there must have been a bridging point here at least as early as the sixteenth century.

The present layout of roads into and around the village was in place by the time the tithe plan was published, and there are hints that most of it is substantially older. A survey of lands belonging to the Pentremeurig, Llwynybrain and Maesybwlch Estates shows that much of the village was in place by 1782 (NLW ref Llwyn y Brain Deposit Vol Map 3). By the time a survey of lands belonging to Matthew Gwyn was carried out in 1808 (WGRO D/D GW E/4) the layout of roads and landholdings was well established.

3. Archaeology.

Although there are no known archaeological features within the defined limits of the village itself, it is probable that evidence of mediaeval occupation survives beneath or around the modern village. There are also remnants of a mediaeval strip field system (PRN 8329) to the south west that were clearly shown on maps of the Danyrallt Estate dating from 1832 (NLW ref NLW Vol 16 pV) and the Tithe map of 1839. Passing to the north of the village is the line of the former mill leat which supplied Sawdde Mill from the Afon Sawdde.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Smithy (PRN21920)

4.2 Pigsty (PRN29608)

5. Recommendations.

In archaeological and historical terms, Felindre is one of the most important villages in Dinefwr in view of the documentary evidence of settlement here as early as the fourteenth century. The possibility that it was the *maerdref* of Castell Meurig suggests that it may have its origins in the twelfth or thirteenth century. However, the village area has been largely built over or landscaped in recent times and no archaeological features are apparent. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Evans D L 1939 "The Later Middle Ages", Lloyd, JE, ed., *The History of Carmarthenshire, Vol.I*, 235.
 Rees W 1924 South Wales and the March, 1284 - 1415, a social and agrarian study, 200. Oxford University Press.

Owen G 1601 *The Taylors Cussion*. Facsimile Copy, Pritchard, E, ed., 1906.

Sambrook P 1995 *Dinefwr Historic Settlements Report*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

A Book Containing a True and Accurate Survey of Pentremeurig, Llwynybrain and Maesybwllch Estates Situated in the Several Parishes of Llandilovawr, Llangadock, Mothvey, Llansadwrn, Llanwrda and Llandingate: Carmarthenshire, Also in the parishes of Llandilovane, Brecknockshire (1794). NLW ref. Llwyn y Brain Deposit Vol map 3.

A survey of Lands Belonging to Matthew Gwyn in Carmarthenshire (1808), WGRO ref. D/D GW E/4.

Maps of the Danyralt Estate Carmarthenshire, The Property of J W Lloyd Esq. (1832), NLW Vol 16 pV.

Llangadog Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1839.

PRN: 29430

Name: WAUNYSTRAD

NGR: SN716283

Community: Llangadog

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Waunystad, 1.5km east of Llangadog, is located at a junction of two minor roads. The village stands at an altitude of 50m on gently undulating land which slopes northwards to the flood plain of the Afon Bran. The village has an irregular, linear morphology along both roads to the east of the road junction.

2. History.

Waunystad is a name of topographical origin, meaning "the meadow in the valley". The village consists of a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century housing and has only become recognised as a village in recent years. A land valuation survey (1885) showed a small cluster of cottages at the road junction and a row of terraced cottages at the north western edge of the modern limits. The new housing has largely been the western and south eastern sections of the village.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

There are no buildings of particular historical or architectural interest.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Land Valuation Plans (surveyed 1885, revised 1905).

PRN: 29431

Name: CAPEL GWYNFE (Fig.16)

NGR: SN723220

Community: Llangadog

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Lying 6.5km south of Llangadog, Capel Gwynfe is a small village clustered around All Saints' Church (PRN 5516). It stands at an altitude of 205m. Although only one road passes through the village it lies on a junction with one other road and a number of footpaths.

2. History.

The village name may well indicate that All Saints Church stands on the site of an earlier chapel dedicated to St. Gwynfe. The dedication to a Celtic saint may be indicative of a pre-Norman foundation and traces of a sub-circular boundary bank, preserved in field boundaries which surround most of the village, may be evidence of an early mediaeval "llan". During later mediaeval times Gwynfe was a chapelry to Llangadog, and the name also applied to the Lordship of Gwynfe, a division which may have been based on a pre-Norman estate or *maenor*. Rees (1932) names a Maenor Gwynfe. The demesne lands of the Lordship of Gwynfe are shown on the Tithe Map a short distance to the south east of the church. There was possibly a chapel subordinate to Llangadog here as early as 1284. Although an exact date for the present church is uncertain it was described in 1913 as "modern", and as "taking the place of an eighteenth century church" (Evans 1913, 217).

Nineteenth century maps show that only a few dwellings stood in the vicinity of the church, though a nineteenth century post office and a public house known as the Mason's Arms stood on the site of the present Village hall and public toilets. Little development has occurred during the twentieth century. In 1952 a row of council houses (PRN 29630) were added at the eastern end of the village.

3. Archaeology.

Little is known of the extent of any medieval settlement there may have been surrounding the church. An incomplete sub-circular boundary which runs around the church and village may represent the boundary of an early mediaeval "llan" which could have acted as the focus for some settlement.

4. Buildings.

4.1 All Saints' Church (PRN 5516).

4.2 Hall (PRN 29610), in churchyard.

4.3 Hall (PRN 29611).

4.4 Maesywern, row of four council houses (PRN 29630), constructed 1952.

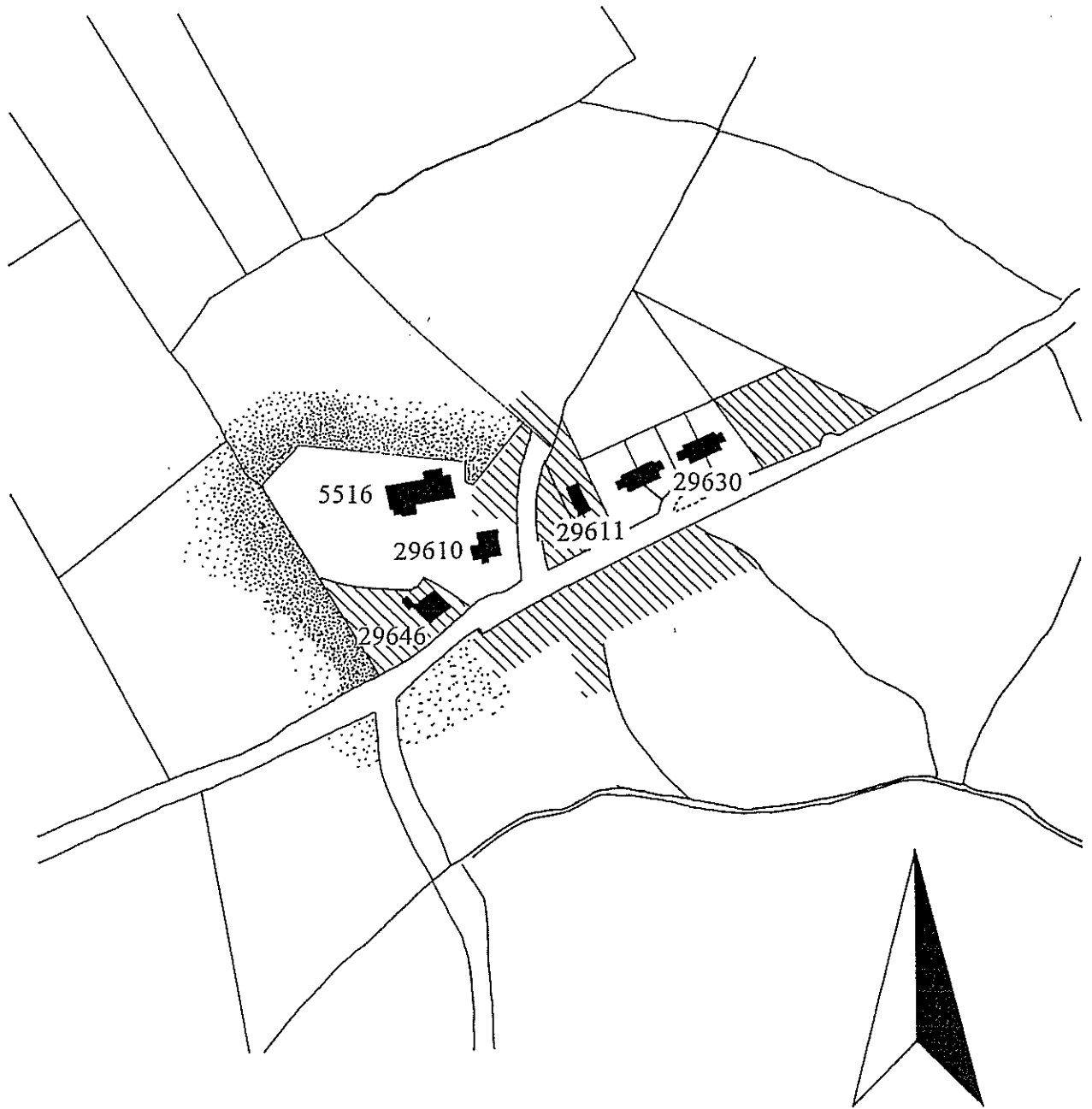
4.5 Capel Siop (PRN 29646). Twentieth century Post Office.

5. Recommendations.

The area around the churchyard, shaded on the accompanying plan, may be of archaeological importance and a watching brief would be the minimum response to any future development of this land.

6. References.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|--|
| Saxton C | 1574-79 | <i>Atlas of England and Wales</i> . NLW Acc No 67. |
| John Sellers | 1701 | <i>Map of Carmarthenshire</i> from Camden's <i>Britannia</i> , abridged, p42. NLW ref Acc No M7466. |
| Bowen E et al | 1760 | <i>The Large English Atlas</i> . NLW ref Llandovery Deposit Collection No1. |
| John Carey | 1832 | <i>Pocket Atlas: Carmarthenshire</i> . NLW ref PA 9487 W200. |
| Sambrook P | 1995 | Dinefwr Historic Settlements Report. Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo. |
| Evans G | 1913 | <i>The Story of the Ancient Churches of Llandovery</i> . The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion. London. |



CAPEL GWYNFE

0  300M

Figure 16

LLANDDEUSANT COMMUNITY

PRN: 29432

Name: LLANDDEUSANT (Fig.17)

NGR: SN777245

Community: Llanddeusant

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llanddeusant lies c.8km southeast of Llangadog, positioned at a point where the east-west Sawdde valley is joined by a north-south spur valley. To the south of the settlement the land slopes steeply to the Afon Sawdde at a height of c.200m, to the east and west the land rises to c.300m

The village comprises a small group of buildings clustered around the parish church of St Simon and St Jude. Its present layout has not changed significantly since the mid nineteenth century, with the exception of an extension of the burial ground to a plot south of the road.

The extensive network of roads and trackways in and around the village was shown on plans accompanying a Survey of Lands Belonging to Matthew Gwynne in Carmarthenshire, dated 1808 (WGRO ref D/D GW E/4). It is likely that the layout had its origins in the medieval period, and developed as the church grew in importance.

2. History.

Llanddeusant translates as “the Church of Two Saints”, the earliest traced reference of the name is dated to 1282 (Edwards 1935, 114) when Gilbert de Clare wrote from Thlandusant to the Bishop of Bath and Wells asking that a distraint order against one his followers be released. The dedication of the church to St.Simon and St.Jude, is likely to have been a later middle ages creation, with the original dedication probably made to two Celtic saints, claimed by Doble (1971) to be Potilus and Notilus, brothers of St.Paulinus, who reputedly had founded a monastery at Llanddeusant (Doble 1971, 150; Yates (1972), 56; Yates (1973), 65). This monastery was described in the ninth century “Life of St.Paulinus” as possessing many buildings. Tradition also has it that St.David and St.Teilo were educated there. Whether or not Llanddeusant was in fact the site of Paulinus’ monastery we cannot be sure, but it is quite possible that an early community may have grown around the original church.

There are indications that the population of Llanddeusant has always been scattered and sparse. In 1317 there were only 53 tenants in the Maenor of Llanddeusant (Evans 1913, 216), probably due to the remote, upland nature of most of the parish.

3. Archaeology.

In the area surrounding the village there is much evidence of early human communities, such as the Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 8145) to the north east of the village and a number of Bronze Age standing stones to the east. Within the village there is little known archaeology, beyond the church itself. It is possible that there may be buried traces of medieval settlement.

4. Buildings.

4.1 St Simon and St Jude Parish Church (PRN 4055). Grade II Listed Building.

4.2 The Red Lion public house (PRN29614), now a youth hostel.

4.3 The vicarage (PRN 19073).

5. Recommendations.

The area around the churchyard, shaded on the accompanying plan, may be of archaeological importance and a watching brief would be the minimum response to any future development of this land.

6. References.

- Doble G H 1971 *Lives of the Welsh Saints*, Ed. D S Evans. University of Wales Press.
- Edwards J G 1935 *Calendar of Ancient Correspondence Concerning Wales*. University Press Board. Cardiff.
- Evans G 1913 *The Story of the Ancient Churches of Llandovery*, The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, Session 1911-1912, p44-238. London.
- Lewis S 1833 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*. London.
- RCAHM 1917 *An Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire: County of Carmarthen*. HMSO. London.
- Yates W N 1972 Non-Celtic Pre-reformation Church Dedications in Carmarthenshire. *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary VIII*, 49-67.
- Yates W N 1973 The "Age of the Saints" in Carmarthenshire: A Study of Church Dedications. *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary IX*, 53-81.
- Yates W N 1974 Carmarthenshire Churches. *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary X*, 63-82.
- West Glamorgan Record Office D/D GW E/4.
1808 A Survey of Lands Belonging to Matthew Gwynne in Carmarthenshire.

PRN: 29433

Name: TWYNLLANAN

NGR: SN755245

Community: Llanddeusant

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Twynllanan lies 1km west of Llanddeusant on a southwest facing slope at an altitude of 190m. The village drops slightly from both ends (east and west) to a staggered cross-roads at its centre. The village has an irregular, linear morphology.

2. History.

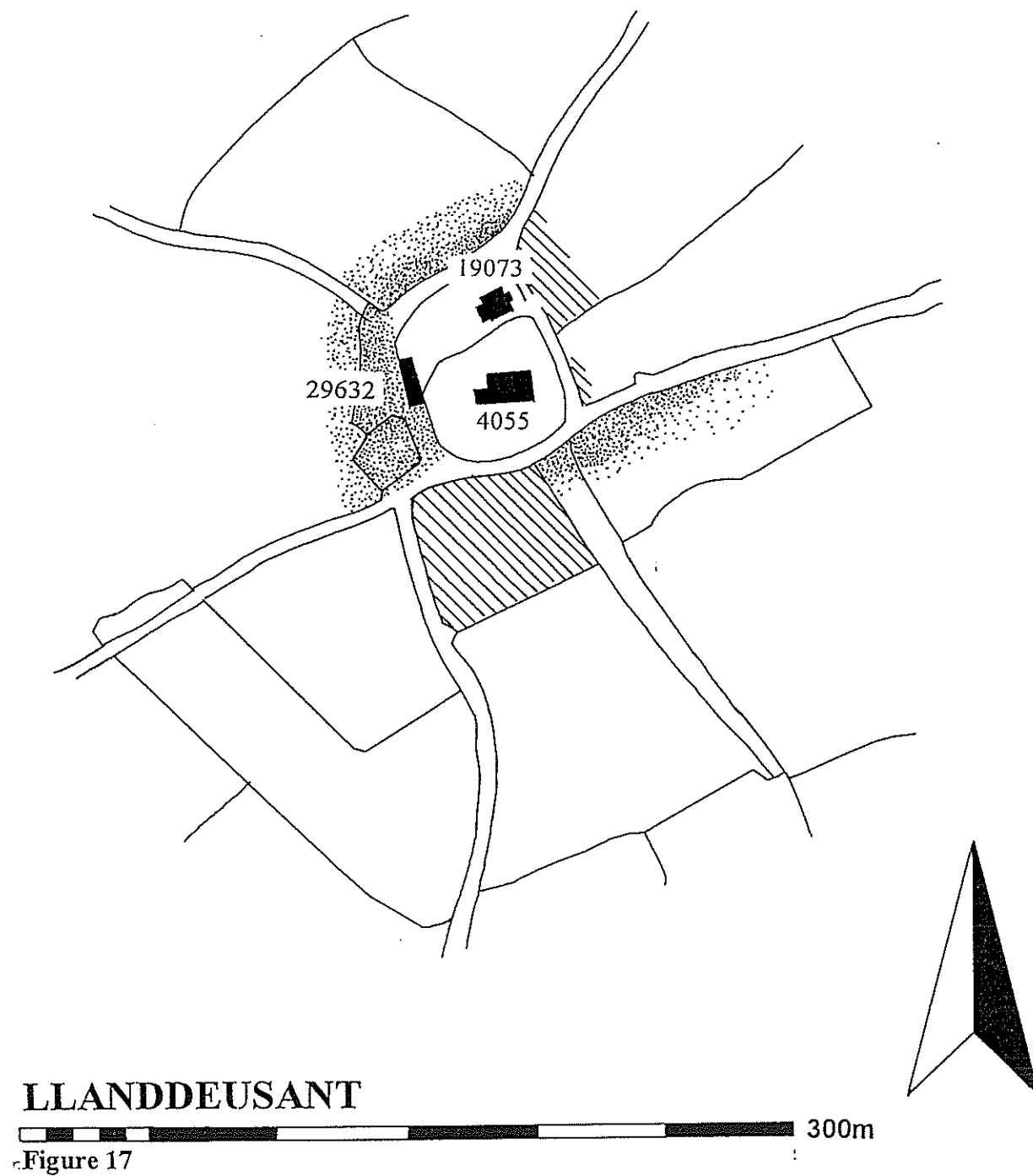
The exact meaning of the name is difficult to determine. "Twyn" is a spur of land, but the meaning of "llanan" is unknown. It may be derived from "llan" and indicate former ecclesiastical land nearby. There is a tradition explaining the origin of the name. It is said that a Lady Anne wanted to construct a chapel on the site of the village (llan + Ann), but what was erected by day was pulled down at night by supernatural agency, and the materials taken to the site of the present Llanddeusant church (Evans 1913, 216).

Cartographic evidence indicates that the village is largely a late nineteenth century creation. Very few of the village buildings were shown on the tithe plan of 1839. One that was shown was the Calvinistic Methodist chapel (PRN 19061). Nonconformist worship has a long history in Twynllanan, dating back to at least 1742, with the first chapel being built in 1790 (Rawlins 1987, 233). The present chapel dates from 1827, with renovations carried out in 1910.

A school was constructed c.1870 approximately 1km outside the village. In 1953 a row of four council houses were constructed at the eastern extreme of the village.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known archaeological features in the vicinity of the village.



4. Buildings.

4.1 Calvinistic Methodist chapel (PRN 19061), constructed 1827.

4.2 Bancyderi, council housing (PRN 29649).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

- Evans G 1913 *The Story of the Ancient Churches of Llandoverly*. The Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, Session 1911-1912, p44-238. London.
- Rawlins B J 1987 *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their records and Where to Find Them: Volume One, Cardigan - Carmarthen - Pembroke*. Celtic Heritage Publishing. Salt Lake City. USA.
- West Glamorgan Record Office ref D/D GW E/4.
- 1808 A Survey of Lands Belonging to Matthew Gwynne in Carmarthenshire
- 1839 Llanddeusant Parish Tithe map and Apportionment.

MYDDFAI COMMUNITY

PRN: 29434

Name: MYDDFAI (Fig.18)

NGR: SN772301

Community: Myddfai

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

The village of Myddfai stands at the centre of the parish of that name. It lies in a small fold in the surrounding hills and comprises a cluster of buildings around the parish church.

2. History.

As late as the sixteenth century, Myddfai was known as Llanfihangel Myddfai. Myddfai translates as "the hollow in the meadow", and has been in use since the mediaeval period.

During the medieval period Myddfai was an important religious centre, with the parish church, St Michael's the focal point. It is likely that as an important ecclesiastical centre it would have attracted a number of lay persons, thereby leading to the development of a secular community near the church. A field near the vicarage is known as "Cae Mynach" (Monk's Field), which suggests that the church may once have been the focus for an ecclesiastical community.

It is probable that the present church dates from the thirteenth century, although the dedication of the church to St Michael is suggestive of a date as early as either the tenth or the eleventh century when dedications to that particular saint were popular. The first written evidence for a church in Myddfai is dated 13th June 1284 (James 1992, 121).

Religious life in Myddfai appears to have been dynamic as besides the parish church the village boasts two nineteenth century nonconformist chapels, Capel Bethania (PRN 19388) and Capel Seion (PRN 19389) (Rawlins 1987, 338-9) - and both were replacements for earlier chapels which stood some way from the village. Even though both chapels date from the last century the history of nonconformist worship in Myddfai dates from before the Act of Toleration in 1688. The first chapel in Myddfai parish was constructed in 1792 near Blaencwm in the south western section of the parish.

That Myddfai was at the centre of a dynamic community is also shown by the fact there have been three public houses in the village, The Plough, The Myddfai Arms and The Kings Head Inn. Only The Plough, which is

reputed to have its origins in the early to mid 18th century (Western Daily Mail 28/04/79) is still open. The Myddfai Arms closed c.1880 and The Kings Head closed c.1925 (James 1992, 13).

Formal education in Myddfai probably started in the 18th century, although at that time it would have been confined to religious teachings. The present school (PRN 19387) was established c.1870. The school building was formerly a coach house belonging to Gwynne-Holford of Cilgwyn. A decade earlier the school may have been held in a building near the western end of the present building, and prior to that it was held in private houses. In 1840-50 the school was held in a house called Corner House, which was later called Brynamlwg (PRN 29629) (James 1992, 152-3).

There is little evidence of any industry carried on in the village, although a reference by Lewis in his topographical Dictionary of Wales (1833) mentions "a small woollen manufacture carried out within the village", and in 1840 a rich vein of lead ore (PRN 26640) was discovered just north of the church, although it appears that it was never exploited (Clouston et al 1988, site No.G29; Hall 1993, 39). A smithy used to operate at the southern end of the village (PRN 21945). Modern development within the village has been confined to council properties on the north-east side of the church.

3. Archaeology.

Although the village layout dates from the post-medieval period it is likely that an earlier settlement developed around the church. It is not known to what extent, if any, features of this earlier settlement survive.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St Michael's Parish Church (PRN 4090). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.2 Capel Bethania (PRN 19388) Calvinistic Methodist. Constructed 1857.
- 4.3 Capel Seion (PRN 19389). Grade III Listed Building. Independent. Constructed 1877
- 4.4 Primary School (PRN 19387), formerly a coach house.
- 4.5 The Plough Public House (PRN 8744).
- 4.6 Former post-office (PRN 29613), now a private dwelling.
- 4.7 Brynamlwg (PRN 29629), cottage formerly used to hold school classes c.1840-1859.
- 4.8 Dolwerdd, council housing north east of the church (PRN 29647).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that an archaeological evaluation should precede any development of the vacant land north of the churchyard, shaded on the accompanying plan. Otherwise, normal development control procedure should be observed for any future proposed development within the village.

6. References.

- Hall G W 1993 *Metal Mines of South Wales*. Griffin Publications. Kington.
- James D B 1992 *Myddfai: its land and peoples*. NLW. Aberystwyth.
- Jones H C 1979 Western Daily Mail: 28th April 1979.
- Lewis S 1833 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*. London.
- Brian Clouston & Partners
 1988 *Cambrian Mountains: Metal Mines Project: Inventory of Sites*.
- Rawlins B J 1987 *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their Records and Where to Find Them. Volume One: Cardiganshire - Carmarthenshire - Pembrokeshire*. Celtic Heritage Publishing. Salt Lake City, USA.
- RCAHM 1917 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire: County of Carmarthen*. HMSO. London.
- Soden R W 1984 *A Guide to Welsh Parish Churches*. Gomer Press. Llandysul.
- Yates W N 1974 Carmarthenshire Churches. *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* X, 63-82. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society. Carmarthen.

PRN: 29408**Name: HALFWAY****NGR: SN830329****Community: Myddfai****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Halfway is located on the A40(T) Llandovery - Sennybridge road, a former droving and mail coach route, straddling the Carmarthenshire - Breconshire border. The village stands at an altitude of 135m in the narrow valley cut by the Afon Cwmdwr, which flows east-west through the village. Steep wooded slopes rise both to the north and south. It is a small village, composed of an irregular row of cottages along the line of the main road.

2. History.

The name originates from the position of the inn and village halfway along the route of the old Mail Road from Llandovery to Sennybridge. The road was constructed in the 1780's and improved in the 1820's. It is likely that the inn was built on this new road sometime during the intervening years, acting as a focus for the development of this small settlement. Part of the village lies in Powys, including a nineteenth century smithy and nonconformist chapel.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological importance near the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Post Office (PRN 29680). Derelict

4.2 Halfway Inn (PRN 29681). Derelict.

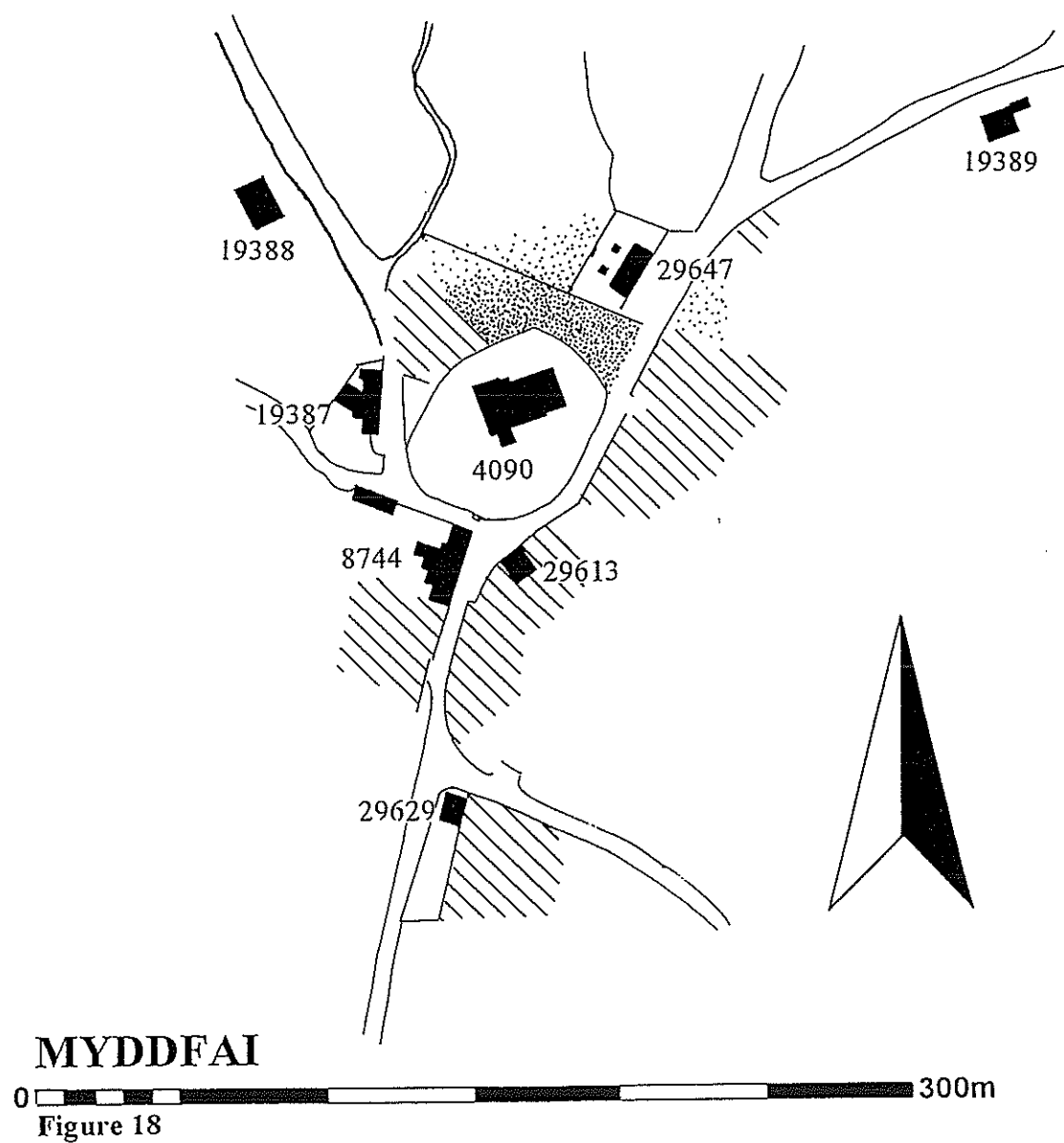
5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Bleddyn ap Maenarch 1882 "Cwmdwr", *Yr Haul*, Cyfrol XXVI, t.465.

Davies Rhys 1985 *Cefn Arthen; Y Comin, Y Capel a'r Ysgol*. Walters, Clydach.



LLANEGWAD COMMUNITY

PRN: 29435

Name: FELINGWMUCHAF

NGR: SN509246

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Felingwmuchaf is located some 3km north-east of Nantgaredig, along the B4310 Nantgaredig - Brechfa road. It stands at 60m on the confluence of the Afon Llamarch and Afon Cloidach, facing southwards along the fairly narrow, steep sided valley created by the Cloidach.

The village consists of a small, irregular agglomeration of buildings, clustered around the river confluence and the junction of the roads which follow their courses.

2. History.

Felingwmuchaf translates as "The Upper Valley of the Mill". The Parish Tithe Schedule of 1839 records Melingwm as the village name. No distinction was made at that time between Felingwmuchaf and Felingwmisaf. The name may well be derived from the mill of Felin Mynachdy, which stands at the mouth of the valley, 2km south of the village.

There is no information regarding the nature of settlement at Felingwmuchaf before the nineteenth century. Placenames such as Cwrt, Neuadd and Capel which occur as farm and field place names locally may point a link with the mediaeval grange belonging to Talylychau Abbey, centred on Mynachdy to the south of the village.

By the nineteenth century nucleation of settlement had occurred on a small scale, a handful of cottages and the Penybont Inn appearing on the Tithe Map. The Plough Inn, the school, Post Office and village shop and a mill were added during the subsequent fifty years.

Twentieth century Felingwmuchaf has undergone some internal changes and seen limited development, with row of council houses and modern bungalows extending a short distance along the road up the Llamarch valley.

3. Archaeology.

A disused and probably pre-nineteenth century mill leat ((PRN 29719) fed by the Cloidach ran across Cwrt Farm and through the village in 1839, though no associated mill is apparent on the Tithe Map.

A mill leat (PRN 29720) fed by the Llamarch is discernible between its source and the site of a mill which formerly stood on the site of the present agricultural machinery garage.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Plough Inn (PRN 2164). Dated 1830 or 1839 by inscription. Open.

4.2 Felingwm County Primary School (PRN 16955). Open

4.3 Old Post Office (PRN 29721). Noticeable for its large shop window. Vacant.

4.4 Maesyrewig Council Estate (PRN 29723). Newly built at time of Meridian Air Photographs c.1953.

4.5 Felingwm Mill (PRN 16954). Demolished.

4.6 Penybont Public House (PRN 21344). Demolished.

4.7 Cwrt Farm (PRN 29722). Mid-nineteenth century buildings on site of earlier farm.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Richards M 1968 The Carmarthenshire Possessions of Talley Abbey. *Carmarthenshire Studies*.

PRN: 29436**Name: FELINGWMISAF****NGR: SN508248****Community: Llanegwad****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Felingwmisaf is located some 2km north-east of Nantgaredig, along the B4310 Nantgaredig - Brechfa road. The village stands at an altitude of 45m, at a point where the Afon Cloidach is joined by two small feeder streams, one from Cwm-gwyn to the west, the other from Cwm-byr to the east. This has created a relatively open area suitable for settlement in what is otherwise a fairly narrow and steep sided valley and has led to an irregular agglomeration of dwellings around the river confluence.

2. History

Felingwmisaf translates as "The Lower Valley of the Mill" (See Felingwmuchaf).

There is no record of settlement at this location prior to the eighteenth century. The 1839 Tithe Map shows the Fulling Mill and Woollen Factory to be in operation; they probably date to the late eighteenth century. Several cottages stood on either side of the Cloidach, along with Sittim Baptist Chapel. A small number of cottages and a smithy also stood to the east of the Factory, many of which are named in the chapel history. A similar picture is portrayed on late nineteenth century OS maps, but the closure of the Woollen Factory, and new employment opportunities elsewhere probably resulted in the shrinkage of the village during the early twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

Modernisation and extensive landscaping mean that little remains of either the Fulling Mill or The Woollen Factory. Traces of the leats which formerly served both are visible, however.

The field due south of the Woollen Factory is shown to have contained several cottages (PRN 29724) shown on the 1840 Tithe Map. No trace remain of these above ground.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Glandwr Fulling Mill (PRN 21110). Demolished. Site occupied by a modern house.

4.2 Dolau Woollen Factory "Y Ffatri" (PRN 21317). Partly demolished. Remaining buildings extensively modernised.

4.3 Sittim Baptist Chapel (PRN 16963). Built 1817. Still in use.

4.4 Smithy (PRN 29725). Demolished.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Owen M B 1932 *Hanes Sittim Felingwm, Llanegwad*. PRN: 29437

PRN: 29437

Name: BRECHFA (Fig.19)

NGR: SN524303

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Brechfa is located some 10km north of Nantgaredig and can be reached along the B4310 from Nantgaredig. The village stands at an altitude of 70m in a natural basin formed around the confluence of the Cothi and several minor rivers. The village core occupies a strip of land above the confluence of the Afon Pib and the Afon Marlais but the village has developed an irregular, linear morphology, following the line of the B4310 for c.1km with some development occurring along minor roads exiting the village to the north and west.

2. History

Brechfa is mentioned as early as the eighth century, being the "Bracma" named in a marginal entry in the Lichfield Gospel Book, describing a gift of land to the church of Llandeilo Fawr. Brechfa is included in the will of Rhys Fychan, granting extensive lands to Talylychau Abbey in 1271, which name the chapel of "Lanteilau Brechva", and is again mentioned in the Taxatio of 1291, which refers to a chapel and mill of Brechfa. As a monastic grange of Talylychau (PRN 12722), it is likely that a small community would have existed here. The mill and chapel of Brechfa are again mentioned in records of Talylychau Abbey of 1534, shortly before the dissolution of the monastery.

Iolo Morgannwg visited Brechfa in 1796 and found it to be "A village of about 7 or 8 houses, the church small and simple". This historic core of the village is recognisable on early nineteenth century OS and Tithe Maps. By the late nineteenth century expansion had occurred away from the church, along with a infilling of available land west of the church.

Employment provided by forestry, the Brechfa Chemical Works and numerous local trades helped maintain the expanding population. The disappearance of many of these industries halted population growth for much of the twentieth century. The latter half of the century has however witnessed increased demand for housing locally and relatively significant growth has occurred at Brechfa, nearly all on the Carmarthen District side of the Marlais.

3. Archaeology.

The mediaeval church was demolished in 1909. Traces of its foundations remain below ground within the modern churchyard, though they have been disturbed by recent burials. The field known as Cae'r Palasau (PRN 12016) contains earthwork features which may be significant archaeological remains. A drainage trench cut across the field has brought up large stones which indicate the existence of two stone banks or walls which can just be made out on the ground. Given the proximity of this field to the churchyard, as well as its name (The Field of Palaces), it is possibly the site of buildings associated with the mediaeval grange of Brechfa.

The site of Brechfa Chemical Works and Brick Works lie in Carmarthen District, the Brick Works site remains unlocated.

4. Buildings.

4.1 St. Teilo's Church (PRN 20697).

4.2 National School. (PRN 21282).

4.3 Rectory (PRN 6793).

4.4 Forest Arms Public House (PRN 29726)

4.5 Old Post Office (PRN 29727).

4.6 Brechfa Methodist Chapel (PRN 17112). Built 1790.

4.7 Brechfa Primary School. (PRN 17113).

4.8 Smithy (PRN 17116).

4.9 Church Hall (PRN 29728).

(Within Carmarthen District).

4.10 Brechfa Chemical Works (PRN 23233).

4.11 Cae'r Efail - Drover's Smithy. (PRN 29730).

4.12 Post Office and Village Shop (PRN 29731).

4.13 Ty Mawr Country House (PRN 25675). Mansion in which "Brechfa Academy" was held during the nineteenth century. Now an hotel.

4.14 Brechfa Brickworks (PRN 29732).

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 The historic core of the village stands within Dinefwr District and remains largely unspoilt. The character of this part of the village should be protected from unsympathetic development.
- 5.2 There are earthwork features visible in Cae'r Palasau which may be linked to mediaeval settlement or land use. An archaeological evaluation should precede any development of this field. It should be noted that part of the field has been acquired for an extension to the churchyard.
- 5.3 Adequate recording of surviving features of Brechfa Chemical Works is strongly recommended as some development has already occupied part of the site.

6. References.

- Lenny B and Thomas P
1993 *"Teulu Teilo" - A History of the Church in Brechfa*. Privately published.
- Davies B 1927 *Diwydiannau Coll Ardal Brechfa*. CYMRU Cyfrol LXXII.
- Anonymous 1926 *CYMRU Cyfrol LXX*, 143.
- Bowen-Evans M
1988 "Sir Gaeriad": Some comments on Carmarthenshire and its people by Iolo Morgannwg. *Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Journal*, Vol. XXIV, 42.

PRN: 29438

Name: NANTGAREDIG (Fig.20)

NGR: SN493217

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Nantgaredig is located 6km east of Carmarthen on the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The village is largely built across the floodplain of the Tywi at an altitude of 15m, though the original village core stands on higher ground on the northern edge of the flood plain at 35m. The village core is an irregular agglomeration around the cross-roads of the A40 and the B4310 roads, but infilling between this part of the village and the Tywi to the south, along the B4310, has created an irregular, linear settlement over 1km long.

2. History

Nantgaredig translates as "The Kind Stream". No explanation can be offered as to its origin. The earliest references to the area show strong ecclesiastical links. In early mediaeval times the lands around Nantgaredig were part of Maenor Brunus, an estate mentioned in the Book of Llandaff. In the sixth century, tradition has it, St. Teilo was born near the site of Llandeilo'rwnws Farm. An early mediaeval church dedicated to Teilo stood in the vicinity of the farmhouse, and it is possible that some contemporary settlement existed nearby.

The village initially grew around the cross-roads of the Brechfa and Carmarthen roads, probably before the end of the eighteenth century (the chapel was built in 1760). Settlement began creeping southwards with the opening of the railway station 1km south of the cross-roads in the mid-nineteenth century. The present century has seen a significant infilling between the station and the cross-roads, including the addition of the school.

3. Archaeology.

Nantgaredig is particularly rich in archaeological sites, representing over 4,000 years of human activity in this part of the Tywi valley.

A neolithic henge (PRN 1754; SAM Carmarthen 42) lies partly beneath a small group of houses near Ffynnon Newydd. There is a bronze age round barrow (PRN 1752) at Maes-y-Crug Farm, another possible round barrow at Llechwenny (PRN 9958) as well as a bronze age standing stone at Ystrad Wrallt (PRN 10213).

Iron Age or Roman artefacts (PRN 9959) were found on the site of the school, which stands close to the line of the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery (PRN 3419). There is also the site of an early mediaeval church and possible settlement in the vicinity of Llandeilo'rwnws Farm (PRN 7557).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Nantgaredig Methodist Chapel (PRN 16983). Built 1760 (nineteenth century rebuild).
- 4.2 Nantgaredig C.P. School (PRN 16485)
- 4.3 Ystrad Wrallt Mansion (PRN 20920)
- 4.4 Nantgaredig Railway Station (PRN 16487)
- 4.5 Railway Hotel Inn (PRN 29733). Open.
- 4.6 Llandeilo'rwnws; Llandeilo'rynys (PRN 26707). Grade III Listed Building.
- 4.7 Pont'rwnws; Pont Llandeilo'rynys (PRN 5378). Grade II Listed Building.

5. Recommendations.

The concentration of archaeological sites listed above, in such close proximity to the village, makes the locality one of considerable archaeological sensitivity. It is quite possible that other, as yet unrecognised features may survive nearby. It is recommended that archaeological evaluations precede any development along the line of the Roman road and around the Neolithic henge monument. Otherwise, it is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

- Evans J W 1991 "Aspects of the Early Church in Carmarthenshire", ed. H. James, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 239-253. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. H. James, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 68. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 29439

Name: PONTARGOTHI (Fig. 21)

NGR: SN505217

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Pontargothi is located 7km east of Carmarthen along the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The village stands at an altitude of 20m, at an historic bridging point across the Afon Cothi, 2km north of its confluence with the Tywi. The valleys worn by the two rivers form an open, relatively flat landscape to the south, with gentle hills north of the village.

Pontargothi is an irregular agglomeration of buildings, either side of the Cothi. Historically, most of the village lay on the Carmarthen side of the river, but late twentieth century development has extended the village to the east.

2. History

Pontargothi translates as "Bridge over the Cothi". The will of Sir Rhys ap Thomas (1527) refers to a chapel near the Cothi Bridge, and in the late 1530's Leland refers to a "great bridge" over the Cothi here. With the Roman road skirting the southern side of the village, it is apparent that this has long been fording or bridging point over the Cothi for communications routes along the Tywi valley. It seems probable that this important river crossing has long been the focus of settlement. The concentration of pre-twentieth century inns (four) here shows that it must have served as a popular stopping point for travellers on the Tywi valley road.

It is possible that this was the site of a mill belonging to the mediaeval borough of Llanegwad (1.5km to the east), which is mentioned in the Black Book of St. Davids (AD 1326). A mediaeval Corn Mill is recorded as having existed here (PRN 11635).

The Tithe Map of 1840 show a compact but small agglomeration of buildings around the bridge. The most significant building at that time was the Cothi Mill. Little changed throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century, but the late twentieth century has seen the village undergo significant expansion.

3. Archaeology.

It is probable that the foundations of earlier bridges survive near the present bridging point. It seems likely that the Roman road along the Tywi valley crossed the Cothi here, indeed the road is believed to roughly correspond with line of the A40 through the village.

To the south of the village, on the Showground Field on the west bank of the Cothi are earthwork traces of a possible Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 14326). On the opposite side of the river is the location of the mediaeval chapel of St.Mary's (PRN 726) named in Sir Rhys ap Thomas' will. The exact location of the mediaeval corn mill is unknown, but may correspond with that of the nineteenth century mill.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Cothi Mill (PRN 29734). Now a private dwelling.
- 4.2 Salutation Inn (PRN 21345).
- 4.3 Cresselly Arms (PRN 6773).
- 4.4 Cothi Bridge Hotel (PRN 29735).
- 4.5 Siloam Independent Chapel (PRN 16970). Built 1848.
- 4.6 Memorial Hall (PRN 29736). Built 1927.
- 4.7 Smithy. Private dwelling (PRN 16969).
- 4.8 Cothi Bridge (PRN 4747). Grade II Listed Building. This bridge is actually a composite of two bridges, with a modern bridge built alongside an earlier post mediaeval structure.
- 4.9 Cothi House (PRN 29771). Former public house?
- 4.10 Police Station (PRN 29737). Twentieth century.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The village boundary as currently defined for planning purposes does not include any area of known archaeological interest. However, south of this area lie two areas of interest and no development should encroach on them without archaeological field evaluations in both cases. This applies to the Showground Field and its possible Iron Age earthworks, as well as the mediaeval chapel of St.Mary, the exact site of which is unknown.

6. References.

- Rees D 1993 *Sir Rhys ap Thomas*, 76. Gomer Press, Llandysul.
- James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. H. James, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 68. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.
- Toulmin-Smith L ed.
1906 *Leland's Itinerary in Wales, 1536-39*. Ball & Sons.

PRN: 29440

Name: CWRT HENRI (Fig.22)

NGR: SN555231

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Cwrt Henri is located some 3km east of Llanegwad and can be reached along a minor road from the A40 Carmarthen to Llandeilo road.

Settlement is scattered over a large area on a large spur of land between the valleys of the Cellyn and Dulas rivers which flow southwards to the Tywi. The lower part of Cwrt Henri stands at an altitude of only 30m. Most dwellings are found on higher ground, on a south east facing slope above the Dulas at between 50m and 80m.

Cwrt Henri has a polyfocal morphology, with the Post Office and Methodist Chapel over 400m south of the School. Historically the settlement pattern was much more scattered, but an element of nucleation has crept in with the addition of a small housing estate and several modern bungalows near the school in recent years.

2. History.

The name is derived from the mansion of Court Henry, which in turn received its name from Henry ap Gwilym, who built the mansion during the fifteenth century. The subsequent history of the locality is closely linked with Court Henry Estate, which was responsible for several historic buildings, including St. Mary's Church (a family chapel), Home Farm and the Reading Room.

The Llanegwad Tithe Map of 1839 shows a fairly extensive scattering of cottages for up to 1km west of the site of the present school, built subsequent to the enclosure of Cwrt Henri Common in the early nineteenth century. Few of these survive. By the late nineteenth century the School and Post Office were added to serve the community, the school in recent years becoming the focus for a small nucleation of settlement.

3. Archaeology.

A short stretch of the Roman road which runs along the Tywi Valley (PRN 11089) has been recognised to the west of the Post Office. It probably runs through Cwrt Henri in the vicinity of the Post Office and the chapel.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Court Henry Mansion (PRN 6779).
- 4.2 St. Mary's Church (PRN 4755).
- 4.3 Reading Room (PRN 22566).
- 4.4 Cwrt Henri Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (PRN 17004).
- 4.5 Cross Inn House (Dryslwyn Post Office) (PRN 29738).
- 4.6 Primary School. Open (PRN 29739).
- 4.7 Llwyn-arel Cottage. (PRN 21149). One of the few surviving dwellings which were built after the Commons' enclosure. This cottage retains much of its original character.
- 4.8 Court Henry Lodge (PRN 17003).
- 4.9 Corn Mill (PRN 22565).
- 4.10 Pont Cwrt Henri Bridge (PRN 10085).
- 4.11 Court Henry Home Farm (PRN).
- 4.12 Home Farm Cottage (PRN).
- 4.13 Cottage (PRN 21040).

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 Court Henry Mansion and the associated buildings at the estate core (PRN 29791) lie in relatively unspoilt surroundings. Development within this area should be resisted and it is recommended for Conservation Area Status.
- 5.2 It is possible that the Tywi valley Roman road skirts the southern edge of Cwrt Henri. Watching briefs are recommended for any development in the area of the chapel and Post office as it may be possible to confirm the route of the road at this point.

6. References.

- Lloyd J A 1991 The History of Court Henry and its Families, *Carmarthenshire Antiquarian*, Vol. XXVII.
- James H 1991 Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire, ed. H, James, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 68. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 12777

Name: LLANEGWAD (Fig.23)

NGR: SN519214

Community: Llanegwad

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llanegwad is located in the Tywi Valley, some 9km east of Carmarthen, along the A40(T) Carmarthen - Llandeilo road. The village stands on the northern edge of the Tywi flood plain on gently sloping ground at an altitude of 22m, with clear views over the Tywi Valley to the south. It occupies the north eastern end of a spur of higher ground, c.1km long, which juts out onto the flood plain, south-west of the village.

Llanegwad has a fairly pronounced radial morphology, with field boundaries and roads radiating from the village, particularly to the south and east. These are centred on a sub-circular parcel of land within the village, c.600 square metres in area, delineated by an encircling road and trackway.

2. History

The name Llanegwad is derived from the dedication of the church to the Celtic St.Egwad. An early reference, possibly based on an eighth century charter, is included in the twelfth century "Book of Llandaff", locating Llanegwad within an estate known as Maenor Brunus. It seems likely that some form of settlement existed here during the early mediaeval period, possibly a monastic community associated with an early chapel.

The motte castle which stands to the west of the village is recorded as being "gained" by Rhys Ieuanc, son of the Lord Rhys, in 1203.

Land at Llanegwad was willed by Rhys Fychan (d.1271) to Talylychau Abbey. Both church and parish are named in the Taxatio of 1291. The Black Book of St.Davids, a rent roll of 1326, provides a valuable insight into the community at Llanegwad, at that time part of the Tywi Valley Estate of the Bishop of St.Davids. A small borough had been established at Llanegwad, probably at the behest of the Lordship of St.Davids. The Black Book shows that the twenty-four named burghage holders were nearly all Welsh and held land according to Welsh custom. Their duties to the Lordship included maintenance of the Lord's Mill (Cothi Mill?) and the escorting of prisoners to the Lord's court at Meidrim.

The borough does not appear to have been particularly successful, and it is unlikely that any significant settlement developed around the church during the later mediaeval period. Llanegwad is shown on Saxton's Map of 1578.

Nineteenth-century maps show Llanegwad to be a small cluster of dwellings, expanding during the latter half of the century, when the school and vicarage appear, as well as a post office (apparently next to the school) and Castell Hywel farm. No growth occurs in the number of dwellings in the village at this time, however. It is in the last quarter of the twentieth century that Llanegwad is seen to expand, though not to any significant degree.

3. Archaeology.

Three fields named Cae Garn lie within or just outside village and may represent the sites of unrecognised Bronze Age round barrows. (PRN's 4753, 11022, 11063).

A single Roman coin (of Carasius, AD 287-93) was found at Castell Hywel farm during the nineteenth century (PRN 744). The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery is believed to run in close proximity to the northern edge of the village.

The sub-circular land parcel which underlies the present village is of unknown significance. It could represent a prehistoric enclosure or settlement site and/or a dark age "llan" pre-dating the present churchyard. It is the focus of the radial field pattern which can be seen around the eastern side of the village, which may be surviving evidence for the extent of the allotments and gardens farmed by an early mediaeval community. Traces of ploughed out field boundaries can be seen south of the churchyard.

Local tradition has it that the original chapel of St.Egwad stood "in a field close to the site of the present church. It was reported some two hundred years ago that part of the building was turned into a dwelling house. A well nearby was known as Ffynnon Egwad (PRN 10665) (Brunker, 1937). Neither the site of this "chapel" nor Ffynnon Egwad are known.

An indication of Norman influence in Llanegwad survives in the form of the small earthwork motte of Pen y Cnap (PRN 695) to the west of the village, of which little is known.

4. Buildings.

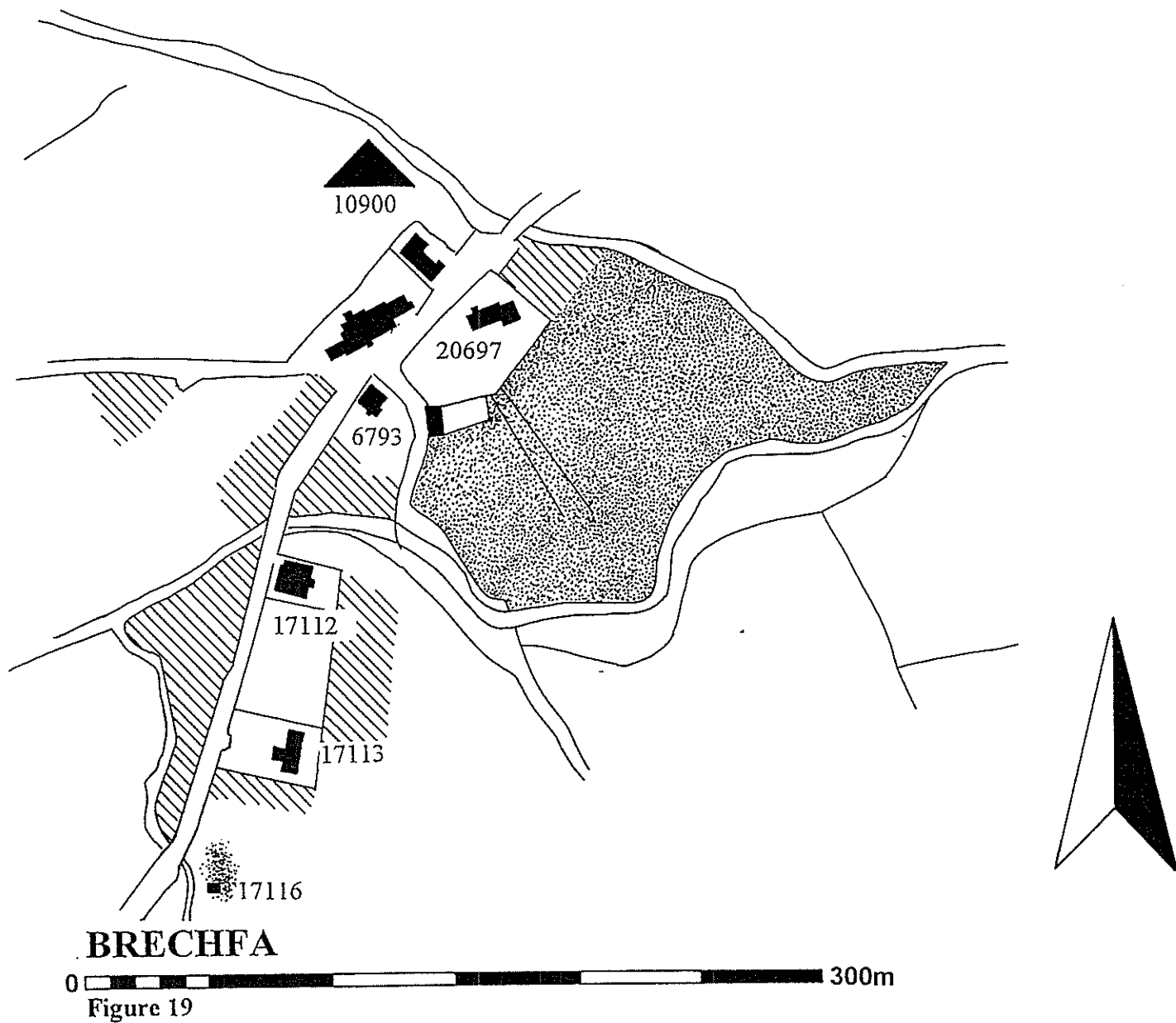
- 4.1 St.Egwad's Parish Church (PRN 7370). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.2 Vicarage (PRN 16973). Grade III Listed Building.
- 4.3 School (PRN 16974)
- 4.4 Nineteenth century Post Office (PRN 29741)
- 4.5 Twentieth century Post Office (PRN 29740)
formerly the Red Lion Malt House (PRN 21091)
- 4.6 Castell Hywel Farm (PRN 21098)
- 4.7 Church Hall (PRN 29772).
- 4.8 Ty Llandre (PRN 29742). Grade III Listed Building.

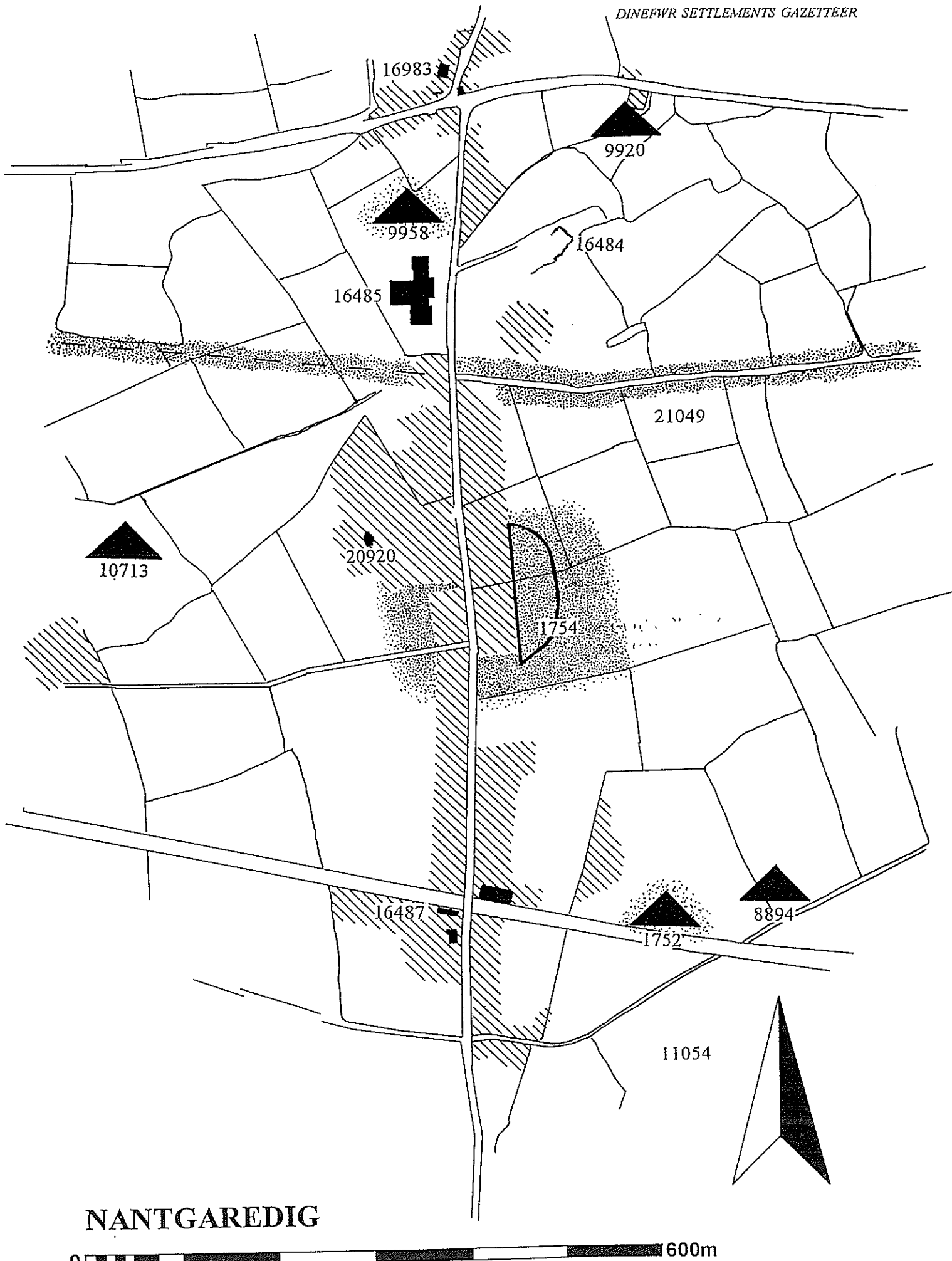
5. Recommendations.

5.1 It is known that mediaeval settlement occurred at Llanegwad. Evidence for this settlement is likely to survive beneath the present village. It is therefore recommended that archaeological evaluations precede any future development within the village boundary. The Recreation/Amenity area at the centre of the village may well contain important archaeological remains and its status should be maintained.

6. References.

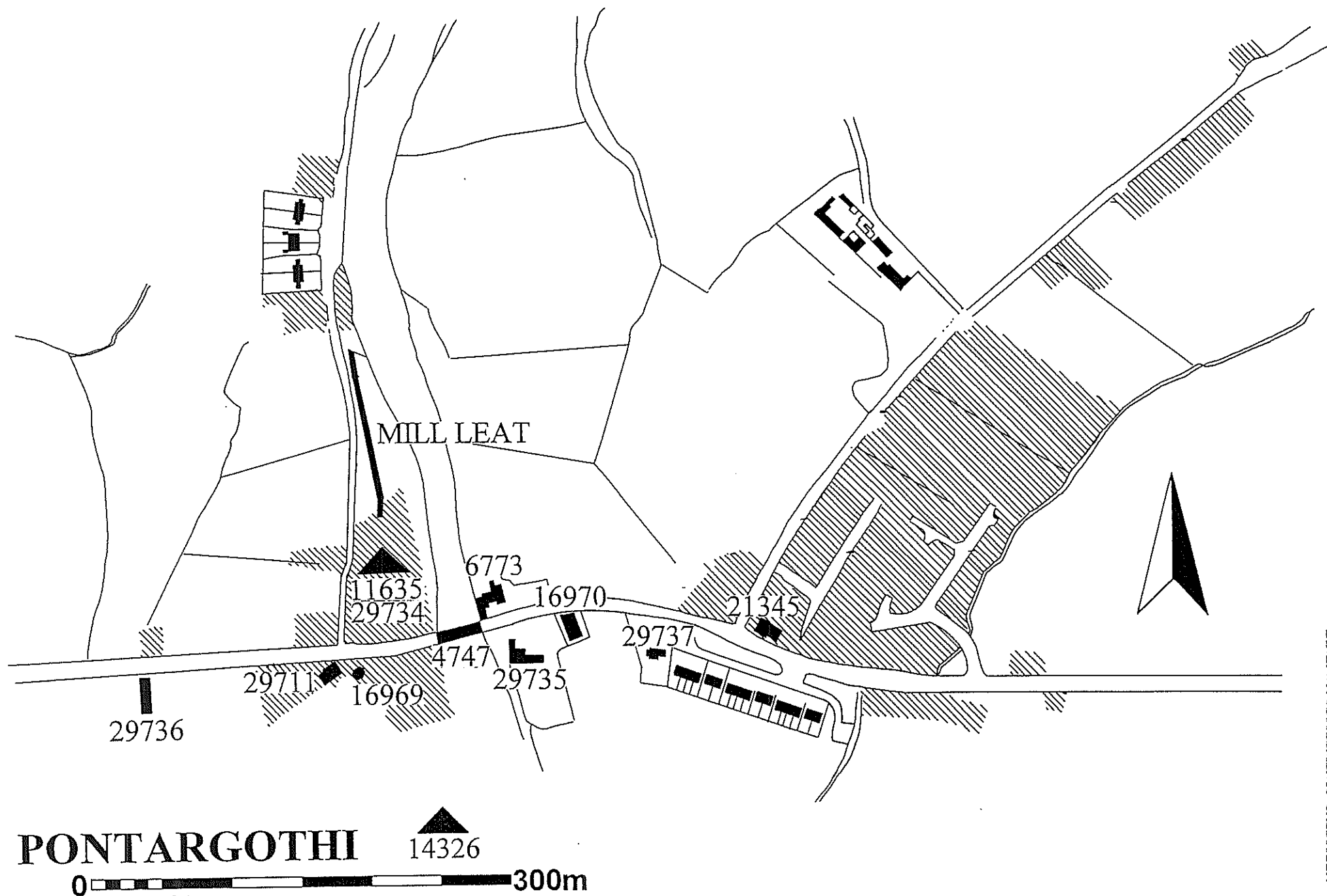
- Brunker J 1937 *Llanegwad*.
- Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*. Folly Publications, Malvern.
- Willis-Bund J 1902 *The Black Book of St.David's*. Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, London.
- Anon 1801 *Map Book of the Lordship of St.David's*. National Library of Wales. Unpublished.
- 1955 *Brut y Tywysogion*. Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion

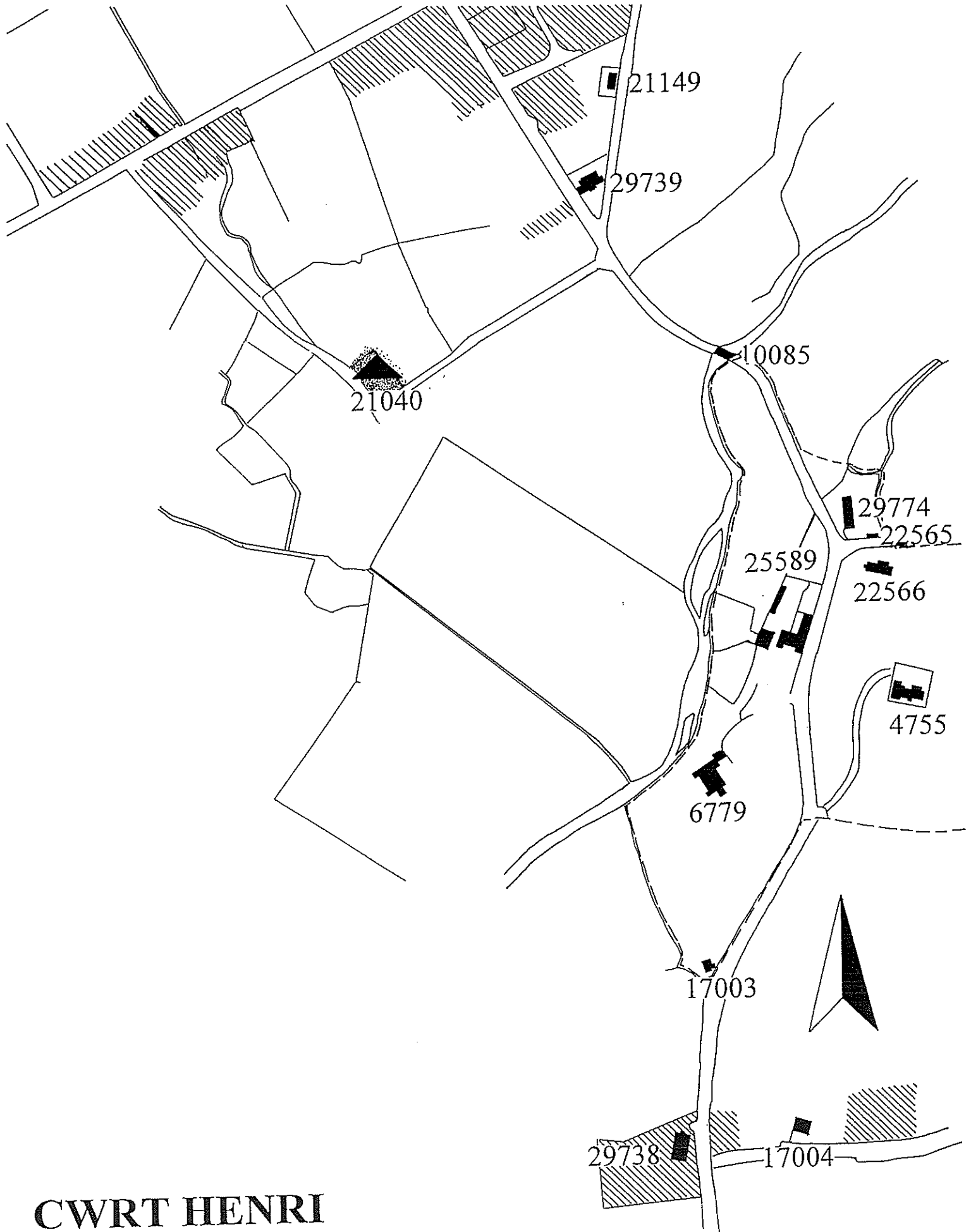




NANTGAREDIG

0 600m
Figure 20





CWRT HENRI

0 300m
Figure 22

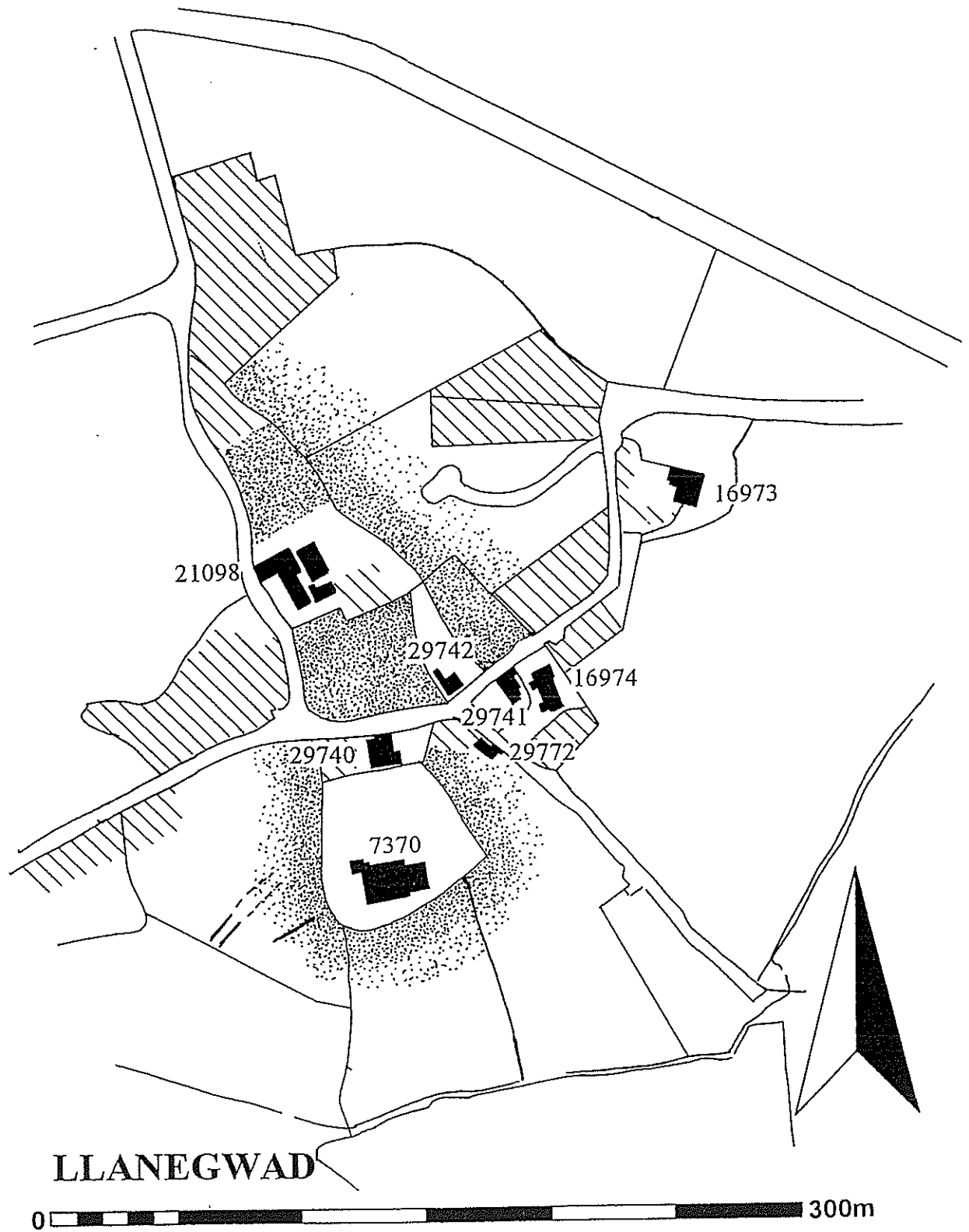


Figure 23

LLANGATHEN COMMUNITY

PRN: 29441

Name: DRYSLWYN

NGR: SN553205

Community: Llangathen

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Dryslwyn is located on the flood plain of the Tywi Valley, some 7km south west of Llandeilo, at an altitude of 18m. It can be reached by minor roads from the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The present village stands at the foot of the imposing limestone outcrop, on which stands Dryslwyn castle. It consists of a small, irregular agglomeration of dwellings.

2. History.

The hill on which Dryslwyn castle stands may well have been the site of settlement and defensive structures since prehistoric times. The Princes of Deheubarth may have had a castle here by the thirteenth century and a town of Dryslwyn is mentioned in connection with the castle when it came into the possession of Rhys ap Iaredudd in 1271. It came under English control in 1287 and the town was probably reorganised subsequent to this, with new burgages laid out both inside and outside the castle defences. The town never exceeded more than about 50 burgages and appears to have ceased to exist by the early fifteenth century, possibly being destroyed during the Glyndwr revolt. The castle itself was not repaired after the early 1400's.

Following the demise of the castle and borough it seems likely that it is likely that the local settlement pattern reverted to one of scattered farmsteads, with no reason to suspect that any nucleated settlement continued. The present village is therefore unlikely to represent a continuation of settlement of mediaeval origins.

3. Archaeology.

Due to the proximity of the castle the present village is bounded on all except its northern side by land which is protected as a scheduled ancient monument. The exact location and extent of the settlement which stood outside the castle defences is not known, though believed to have been on the western side of the hill.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Dryslwyn Castle (PRN 703)

4.2 Capel Dryslwyn (PRN 17015). A small nonconformist chapel once existed. Now a private dwelling.

4.3 Dryslwyn Castle Inn (PRN)

5. Recommendations.

Most of the land surrounding the village is already scheduled and is likely to include the area of mediaeval settlement. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Soulsby I and Jones D

1978 Historic Towns in the Borough of Dinefwr.

Lewis A E 1907 *A collection of documents illustrating the history of Dryslwyn.* Carmarthen Reference Library. Unpublished.

PRN: 29442**Name: FELINDRE****NGR: SN551212****Community: Llangathen****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Felindre is located less than 1km north of Dryslwyn Castle, on the flood plain of the Tywi some 7km south west of Llandeilo and can be reached along minor roads off the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The village lies on the wide, flat flood plain of the Tywi at an altitude of c.25m. A small tributary of the Tywi, the Dulais passes along the western edge of the village. Felindre is an irregular agglomeration of dwellings.

2. History

Felindre is translated as "Mill-town". In this instance, it may have been the site of the mill serving the community around Dryslwyn Castle. Mediaeval records of Dryslwyn Castle refer to a new mill being built for the town of Dryslwyn the fourteenth century, possibly at Felindre.

An alternative meaning is "Villeins town", indicating a settlement of bond men responsible for farming the demesne lands of their lord. It is possible that such a community existed here (cf. Felindre Sawdde, Llangadog). Field names such as "Cae Steward" and "Felindre lands", south of the village, may indicate part of the demesne of Dryslwyn castle. There are traces of a possible strip field system east of the village which may also have been farmed as part of such a demesne.

Direct references to Felindre only begin in the nineteenth century, it is shown on the 1":1 mile OS Map published in 1830. Considering the proximity of Dryslwyn Castle, it seems highly probable that a settlement grew or was created here during the mediaeval period. It may have originally been a bond settlement populated by unfree peasants tied to the lord's estate. The field name Cae'r Steward Uchaf may indicate that a steward or reeve held property around the village in mediaeval times.

The Llangathen Tithe Map of 1837 shows at least a dozen dwellings within the village, including Felindre Corn Mill and a "Smith's shop". There has only been minor growth in the village during the later half of the twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

Archaeological evidence of mediaeval occupation is possible within or near to the present settlement, as well as evidence of an earlier mill. Nothing is evident above ground, however.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Corn Mill (PRN22525). Private dwelling.

4.2 Smithy (PRN 29743). Shown on Tithe Map. Demolished.

5. Recommendations.

There is a high potential that some mediaeval settlement existed at the site of the present village. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Lewis A E 1907 A collection of documents illustrating the history of Dryslwyn. Carmarthen Library. Unpublished.

PRN: 29444**Name: BROAD OAK;DERWEN FAWR****NGR: SN578227****Community: Llangathen****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Broad Oak is located some 4km south west of Llandeilo, standing on the route of the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The village stands at an altitude of 60m, with a south facing aspect on ground which slopes gently from north to south into a shallow valley created by the headwaters of Nant Stephanau and Nant Las, which rise near the village. The prominent hills of Bryn Castell- gwrychion and Grongaer to the south, both over 120m high, separate this small valley from the Tywi flood plain. The village is an irregular agglomeration of dwellings around the junction of the A40 and a minor road.

2. History.

Broad Oak is also known as Derwen Fawr, a direct translation. A house named Old Broad Oak is marked on the Llangathen Tithe Map of 1837, possibly this is the source of the village name. The village was composed of a handful of cottages and a smithy at that time, but later in the nineteenth century a mill was constructed on the site of the original smithy and a new smithy built closer to the main road.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest within the present village. However, it is probable that the Roman road between Llandovery and Carmarthen passes close to the village, perhaps on the same line as the A40. The farm of Llethr Cadfan, (PRN 6778) 500m north of Broad Oak, is reputed to be the site of a fierce battle fought between Welsh and English armies. Field names such as Cae Tranc (Field of Death) and Cae Dial (Field of Revenge) supposedly record the site of battle.

4. Buildings.

4.1 The Forge Smithy (PRN 6780). Late nineteenth century. Now a private dwelling.

4.2 Mill (PRN17006). Building survives as a converted private dwelling. Not marked on Tithe Map, which shows a smithy on the same site.

4.3 Council Houses (PRN29744).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Davies W 1858 *Llandeilo-Vawr and its Neighbourhood; Past and Present*. Privately published. Llandeilo.

James H 1991 "Roman roads Of Carmarthenshire", ed. H, James, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, 68. Carmarthen Antiquarian Society, Carmarthen.

PRN: 29445

Name: LLANGATHEN (Fig.24)

NGR: SN585222

Community: Llangathen

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llangathen is located 4km south-west of Llandeilo, just south of the A40(T) Carmarthen to Llandeilo road. The village stands at an altitude 100m on the south-west facing slope of Bryn Castell-gwrychion, a prominent hill overlooking the Tywi valley. The ground falls away quite steeply to the west of the village, placing some restriction on the land available to expand the settlement.

The village core is a small, irregular agglomeration of dwellings near the church, with a few buildings detached from this, including the chapel, school and former Post Office.

2. History.

Llangathen originates from the dedication of a church to the Celtic St. Cathen. An early monastic community may have existed here during the pre-conquest period. Little is known of the mediaeval history of Llangathen, though it is named on Saxton's map of 1578. Two mansions stand on the edge of the village; Aberglasney being the residence of local notables from as early as the mid-fourteenth century, and Berllandywyll (originally called Porthwryd), which has been occupied since at least the mid-seventeenth century. Both these houses must have had some effect on local settlement.

There is no reason to suppose that the village has ever been significantly larger than at present.

3. Archaeology.

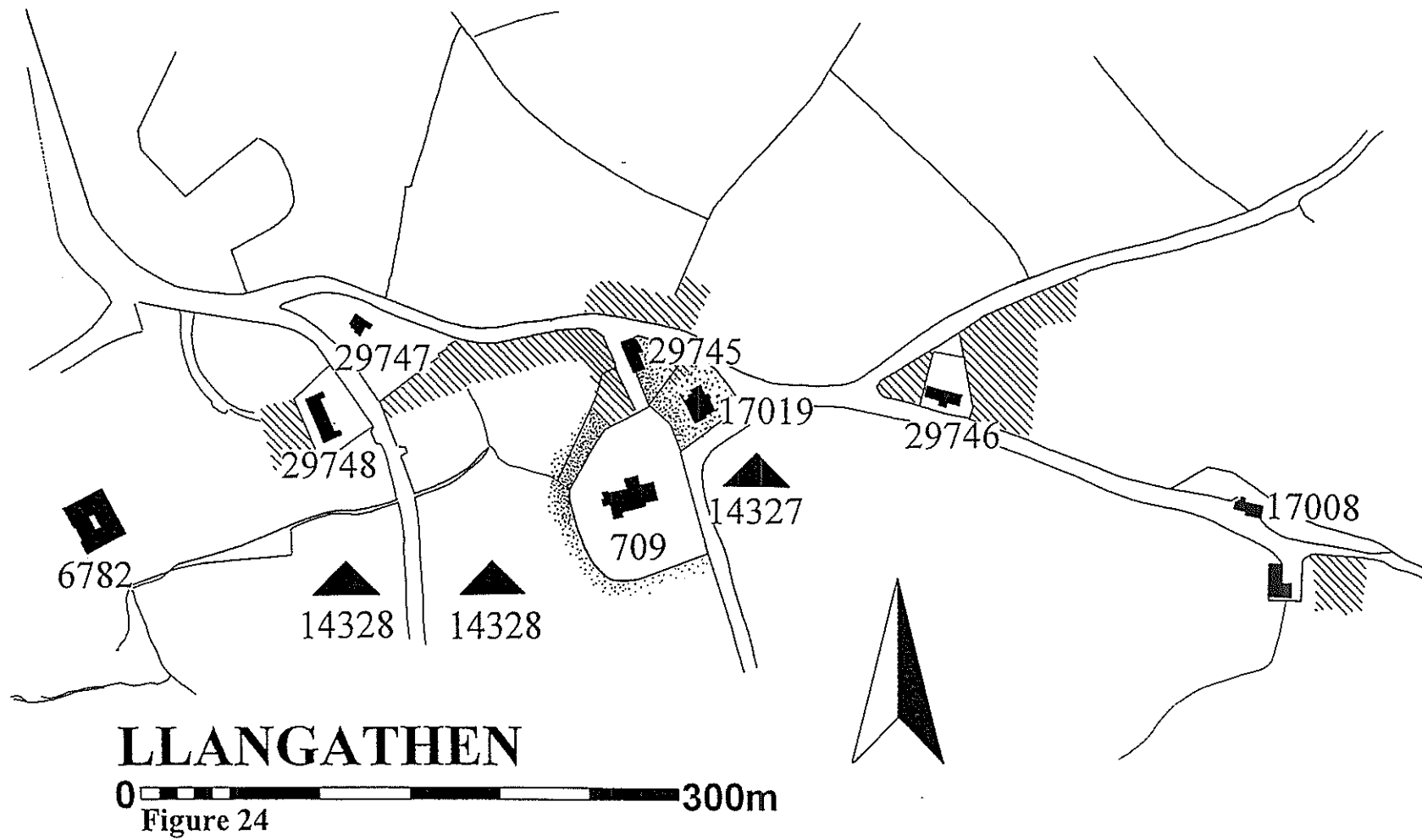
Two cropmark features near the churchyard appear on aerial photographs. What is believed to be the ploughed out boundary of a vallum enclosure (PRN 14327) around the church is visible in the field due east of the present churchyard. This enclosure may be dark age in date and be associated with an early church. A second cropmark (PRN 14328), of unknown date and function, rectangular in shape, has been recognised on the western side of the churchyard.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St. Cathen's Church (PRN 709). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.2 Farmers Arms Public House (PRN 29745). Private dwelling.
- 4.3 Vicarage (PRN 17019).
- 4.4 School (PRN 17007). Private dwelling.
- 4.5 Post Office (PRN 29747). Closed 1982. Private dwelling.
- 4.6 Berllan-dywyll House (PRN 8713). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.7 Aberglasney House (PRN 6782). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.8 Methodist Chapel (PRN 17008).
- 4.9 Village hall (PRN 29748).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.



DYFFRYN CENNEN COMMUNITY

PRN: 29447

Name: DREFACH

NGR: SN651164

Community: Dyffryn Cennen

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Drefach is located 3km northeast of Llandybie and as comprises a linear settlement of a half a dozen or so buildings which are spread out along a 500m stretch of a minor road. The village stands at an altitude of 168m with appreciably higher ground on the Millstone Grit ridge of Carreg Dwn to the north and the western fringe of the Black Mountains to the south east. The Afon Llŵchwr flows along the northern edge of the village.

2. History.

The name Drefach accurately describes the nature of this settlement, translating as “the small village”. On the 1891 Ordnance Survey coverage only two buildings are shown, the Square and Compass at the northern end of the village, and Dan-y-coed at the southern end. Apart from those two all the other buildings appear to date from the 20th century. No significant settlement has occurred here and the village status of Drefach has arisen out of modern planning definitions.

There were several flourishing local industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as the limestone quarries at Llandyfan and the Llandyfan Forge Ironworks to the north west and north east, as well as a knife factory at Glynhir to the south. The settlement pattern of the area has, however, remained scattered throughout the industrial period.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest within the village limits.

4. Buildings.

4.1 The Square and Compass public house.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Roberts G M 1939 *Hanes Plwyf Llandybie*. Llandybie.

PRN: 29448

NAME: TRAPP (Fig. 25)

NGR: SN653190

COMMUNITY: Dyffryn Cennen

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Trapp is a small village some 4.5km southeast of Llandeilo. The village stands at an altitude of 118m and has developed at a bridging point on the Afon Cennen. The river flows westwards through its relatively wide valley, with ground level rising gradually to well over 200m to both the north and south.

2. History.

The origin of the name Trapp is obscure, it may be an English loan word. Little is known of the history of the village, although it is likely that its origins are with the mill (PRN 25725) at the eastern end of the village. Quite when the mill was constructed is uncertain, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that there was a mill in this vicinity during the medieval period connected with the nearby Carreg Cennen Castle. It is equally possible that some contemporary settlement may have been present.

3. Archaeology.

Within the defined village limits there are two areas which are potentially archaeologically sensitive. These are an area surrounding the mill (PRN 25725) and an area surrounding the bridge (PRN 18348).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Cennen Arms Public House (PRN 29648), shown on the Tithe map of 1838.
- 4.2 Y Felin (PRN 25725), mill shown on the Tithe map of 1838.
- 4.3 Post office (PRN 29619), former mill building?
- 4.4 County Primary School (PRN 18347).
- 4.5 Council Houses (PRN 29620).
- 4.6 Ponty Trapp (PRN 18348). Grade II Listed Building.

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 The potential for mediaeval settlement within or near the present village is quite high. It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.
- 5.2 Due to its location at the bottom of a narrow valley development space is limited. At present the core of the village retains an historic character and appearance, unsympathetic development should be avoided.

PRN: 29449

Name: FFAIRFACH; ABERCENNEN

NGR: SN 628 215

Community: Dyffryn Cennen

1. Location, topography and morphology.

Ffairfach lies on the Tywi flood plain at the southern end of Llandeilo Bridge at an altitude of 30m OD. The village core has developed around the cross-roads of the A483 and the A467, although dwellings now extend for several hundred metres to the north, south and west.

2. History

Ffairfach derives its name from the mediaeval fair that was held at Maes Abercennen during the early seventeenth century (Owen 1601). William Rees (1932), denotes Ffairfach as a trading centre. It is possible that some level of occupation developed at Ffairfach during the medieval period as it was common for important centres such as Llandeilo to attract extra-mural settlement.

During the early to mid eighteenth century the village had a pub called The Torbay, the landlord of which was also the local smithy and dentist (Thomas 1973, 52). According to eighteenth century cartographic evidence the pub was in an area behind the present Torbay Arms, and sited on a mill leat that powered a mill which formerly stood alongside the Bethlehem Road.

It was during the last century that Ffairfach really began to develop, with important institutions like the Congregational Chapel 18803 (constructed 1818), and the Union Workhouse (constructed 1839) being established in the early part of the century. Much of the later development was due to the arrival of the railways between 1856 and 1865. The first railway in Ffairfach was the Llanelli Dock Railway, on the line of the present railway, a branch line of the London and North Western Railway going to Carmarthen joined the existing line where it crossed the Tywi. Both lines had separate stations in the village, the LDR station (PRN 18804) on the present site and the LNWR station (PRN 22440) on a site opposite the southern end of Tywi Terrace.

In 1858 the first school was opened in a building opposite the LDR railway station, this was replaced in 1899 when the council school (PRN 18802) was opened near the cross-roads. Tregyb Comprehensive School, which has a wide catchment area, stands on the eastern edge of the village. 1860 saw the construction of a gasworks behind the Torbay Arms. it was necessary to demolish a row of cottages in order to erect the gasworks, there is no surviving evidence of those cottages.

Other than the chapel and early school, all development on the western side of the Llandybie - Llandeilo road has occurred during this century. A number of plans showing the allocation of building plots and proposals for housing development in the village suggest that the landowners, the Cawdor Estate, were planning to build a large number of new houses. The area proposed for this housing stretched from the chapel to the Carmarthen road. Subsequently the area was developed by the council in 1948-49.

Undoubtedly the economic success of nearby Llandeilo was important to the development of Ffairfach, but despite the proximity of the town Ffairfach remains a distinct community, served by several public houses and small shops.

3. Archaeology.

Two Bronze Age standing stones (PRN 4887 and PRN 12845) are recorded in the field behind the agricultural supplies depot. Other areas of potential archaeological interest have been developed and now lie under new buildings. The remains of a water-powered corn mill, White Mill (PRN 25240), were demolished in the late 1980s to make way for a new housing estate. (Western Mail 18/10/1988, 9). The site of the gasworks, and the cottages destroyed to allow its construction, currently remains in the ownership of British Gas. The line of the railway is still visible passing through the village.

4. Buildings.

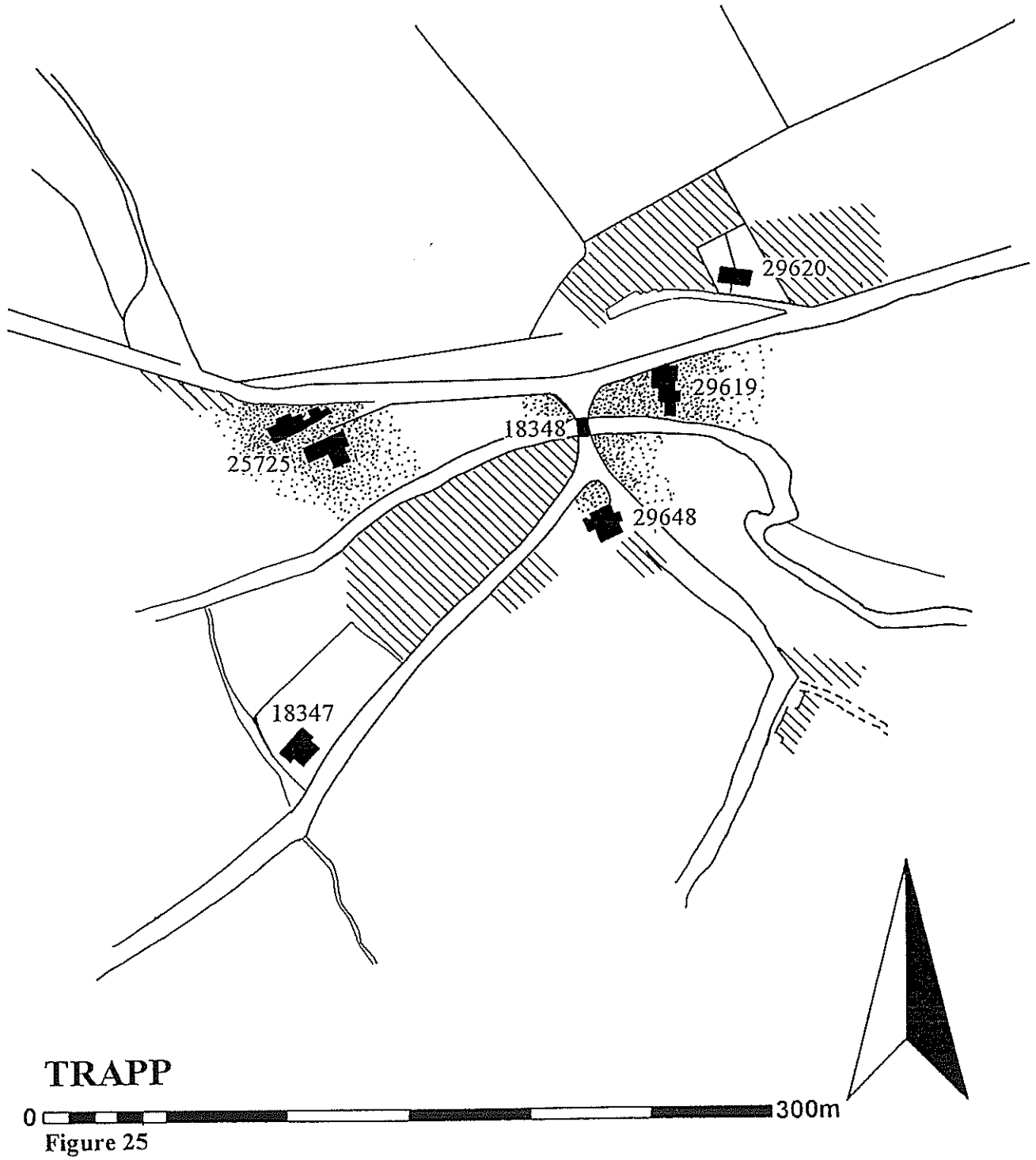
- 4.1 Tabernacle Chapel (PRN 18803), constructed 1818, 1860.
- 4.2 Railway Station (PRN 18804).
- 4.3 School (PRN 18802), constructed 1899.
- 4.4 Sunday school (PRN 29634).
- 4.5 British school (PRN 29635), constructed 1858, now used by
- 4.6 Tabernacle chapel.
- 4.7 Torbay Arms (PRN 29636), an inn named Torbay is known in Ffairfach since the eighteenth century.
- 4.8 Tregyb Arms (PRN 29637).
- 4.9 Maerdy (PRN 29638), possibly has a medieval origin.
- 4.10 Bridge Farm (PRN 29639), formerly a tannery and smithy, now disused.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed for any future development in or around the village.

6. References.

- Owen G 1601 *The Taylors Cussion*, Fascimile copy, ed. Pritchard E, 1906. London.
- Thomas B Undated *The Good Old Days: Notes and Jottings on Llandybie, Llandeilo, Ffairfach and the Amman Valley*. Privately published booklet.



LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH COMMUNITY

PRN: 29450

Name: GELLI AUR; GOLDEN GROVE; LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH (Fig.26)

NGR: SN590196

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Gelli Aur is located some 4km south-west of Llandeilo, on the southern edge of the Tywi valley. It can be reached on the B476 road from Llangathen, which crosses the Tywi at Cilsan Bridge. The village stands at an altitude of c.60m, overlooking the Tywi flood plain to the north. To the south altitude increases rapidly to over 150m, and is characterised by wooded and often steep slopes near the village. It is an irregular agglomeration of dwellings, with its historic core of the village around the Parish Church of St. Michael's.

2. History.

Golden Grove is a direct translation of Gelli Aur. The village is also sometimes referred to as Llanfihangel Aberbythych, being the site of the church of the parish of that name. It is not clear as to when the church was founded. A dedication to St. Michael can be indicative of a Norman foundation, though in Wales St. Michael was a popular figure before the tenth century. What is known is that Llanfihangel Aberbythych was listed in the Taxatio of 1291 as being one of the churches in the Deanery of Ystrad Tywi which was appropriated to the Abbey of Tal-y-lychau. The present church is a nineteenth century rebuild of a church built in 1617 by Sir John Vaughan of Golden Grove. There is a question mark as to whether the seventeenth century church stood on the site of its predecessor, an unsubstantiated tradition suggests that an earlier church stood north of the village, on the Tywi flood plain.

The nearby estate of Golden Grove was first founded by the Vaughan family c.1490 and the name was in use during the sixteenth century. Whether or not the Welsh "Gelli Aur" predates the foundation of the estate is not known. The family were known for their Royalist sympathies during the Civil War. Oliver Cromwell himself visited Golden Grove in an unsuccessful attempt to arrest Sir Vaughan, a prominent Welsh Royalist during the conflict.

The village consisted of no more than a handful of dwellings until the mid twentieth century, when the Gelli Newydd housing estate was built. Prior to this the village consisted only of the Church, Vicarage, School, New Park Farm and a few cottages. Many of these are not present on the 1837 Parish Tithe Map.

3. Archaeology.

It is possible that an unidentified early church stood on the Tywi flood plain below the village.

The significance of the field name "Llanmihangel Field", behind Gelli Newydd housing estate is not known, however through this field the line of a seventeenth century canal is just visible (PRN 29773). It originates at the Tywi and was used to bring coal from the river to Golden Grove mansion.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St. Michael's Parish Church (PRN 12707). Grade III Listed Building.
- 4.2 Vicarage (PRN 16892)
- 4.3 Voluntary Aided Primary School (PRN 16890). Grade III Listed Building. Closed
- 4.4 Almshouse (PRN 16891). Grade III Listed Building.
- 4.5 Tollgate Cottage. Grade III Listed Building. Private dwelling. On Tithe Map (1837).
- 4.6 Llanfihangel Aberbythych Railway Station. Line closed, station house now a private dwelling.

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1 A full survey of the Golden Grove Demense lands should be made in order to record the numerous features and estate buildings which lie within its bounds.
- 5.2 The village contains several buildings of architectural interest and is recommended for Conservation Area Status.

6. References.

Wood-Griffiths J H 1950 *Golden Grove and Jeremy Taylor (1613 - 1667)*. Privately published.

Cowley F G 1977 *The Monastic Order in South Wales, 1066-1349*, 277. University of Wales Press,

Cardiff

PRN: 29451

Name: TEMPLE BAR

NGR: SN590175

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Temple Bar is located some 3km north-west of Llandybie, on the eastern edge of the upland block known as Mynydd Mawr. It stands on the B476 road which connects the Tywi Valley and Crosshands. The village stands at 150m on relatively flat, poorly drained land, generally rough or improved pasture land. The land slopes gradually to the north east, down the valley of Nant Pysgodlyn.

Temple bar has an linear morphology, along the line of the B??? road between Carmel and Golden Grove. It can almost be considered to be a ribboning of settlement from nearby Carmel.

2. History.

Temple Bar is named after the inn which stands in the village. The name occurs on the 1837 Tithe Map of Llanfihangel Aberbythych Parish, though occurring as Temple Bar Farm and Temple Bar House, which is probably the inn. As a village Temple Bar is a late twentieth century creation. There is no history of previous settlement.

3. Archaeology.

There are no recorded sites of archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Temple Bar Inn (PRN 29749) The standing building appears to be a rebuild or refurbishment on the site of the Temple Bar House marked on the Tithe Map.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Llanfihangel Aberbythych Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1837.

Name: MILO: NANTYGROES

PRN: 29452

NGR: SN595177

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Milo is located some 2.5km north-west of Llandybie, in the eastern portion of the upland block known as Mynydd Mawr. It can be reached by leaving the A476 Crosshands - Llangathen road at Temple Bar. The village stands at an altitude of 135m and has a linear morphology, having developed along a minor road around its nineteenth century chapel.

2. History.

Milo is named after its two chapels, the first of which was built in 1831 to serve a scattered rural community. Milo Newydd was built in 1904, but the 2nd edition 1:2500 OS Map of 1906 shows that no nucleation of settlement had occurred. Most of the oldest dwellings in the village stand around the two chapels, but these are all post 1906 in date, as is Nantygroes Primary School. The last quarter of the twentieth century has seen significant growth in the village, with numerous dwellings constructed along 300m stretch of road between the chapels and the school.

3. Archaeology.

There are no sites of archaeological importance recorded in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Hen Filo Independent Chapel (PRN 29750). Built 1831. Now used as Village Hall.
- 4.2 Milo Independent Chapel (PRN 16905). Open.
- 4.3 Nantygroes CP School (16906). Open

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

PRN: 29453

Name: CARMEL (Fig.27)

NGR: SN584165

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Carmel is located 3.5km west north-west of Llandybie. It stands along the junction of the B476 Crosshands - Llangathen road with a minor road. The village lies on the northern edge of the limestone ridge which forms a prominent topographical feature across Carmarthenshire. The ancient woodland of Carmel Woods lies south east of the village, on this ridge. The village stands at an altitude of 210m, facing north east down the valley of Nant Pysgodlyn.

The Tithe Map of 1837 shows the village to have an irregular row pattern morphology along the line of a curving road. The present village morphology is polyfocal, with one nucleation around the Post Office, the other some 400m away to the west of the chapel. The former group of dwellings is the largest and it has extended both to the north and south, away from the old village core.

2. History.

The origin of the name Carmel is uncertain. It has been identified by William Rees as being the site of a mediaeval village known as Camoyle. However, maps of the common land of Mynydd Mawr, enclosed c.1813, show that much of the land now occupied by the village was in fact unenclosed common at that time and there is no indication of the existence of a village. Carmel Chapel was built in 1833 and the name is used on late nineteenth century maps.

The proximity of the village to the limestone ridge make it quite likely that lime burning and quarrying were an important source of employment for local inhabitants during and before the nineteenth century. Indeed, this industry may well have lead to the initial growth of the village. Extensive quarrying and lime burning areas lie to the south, around Pwll Edrychiad, at Carmel Woods and Llynnyfran and Castell y Garreg Quarries.

By the late nineteenth century the village had increased in size and had a Post Office by 1887. During the mid-twentieth century a further addition was a moderate size council house estate on the south eastern corner of the village. Further expansion has occurred during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Carmel's position on the main road network and its proximity to the populous Gwendraeth Valley may explain its growth during the late twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

Though identified as mediaeval Camoyle by William Rees, his assertion remains unproven and no supportive evidence was uncovered during this study.

A dense concentration of small quarries and earth built lime kilns of probable pre-nineteenth century date lie immediately south of the village around Pwll Edrychiad. Across the same area the straight field boundaries contrast sharply with the irregular boundaries to the north. They possibly represent a pre-nineteenth century enclosure of former woodland (a part of Carmel Woods), cleared during quarrying and lime burning operations.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Carmel Baptist Chapel (PRN 16911). Built 1833.
- 4.2 Smithy (PRN 24035). Private dwelling.
- 4.3 Post Office. (PRN...)
- 4.4 Eglwys Fair (Church in Wales) (PRN...). Mid-twentieth century

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Rees W 1932 *Map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century.*

Llandybie & Co.

1820 Enclosure award. Carmarthen Record Office, ref. no. CRO AE17

1813 "A Map of Great Mountain Carmarthenshire, Showing the Boundaries of the Manors or Lordships as determined by the Commissioners". Carmarthen Record Office.

PRN: 29454

Name: MAESYBONT

NGR: SN567166

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Maesybont is located some 5km west-north-west of Llandybie. It stands on the B4297 road, which runs north-west from Castell-y-rhyngyll. The village stands at an altitude of 195m and is surrounded by relatively flat, poorly drained pasture, with some improved pasture intermixed. The Gwendraeth Fach rises nearby and flows through the village. Maesybont is a small village of irregular linear morphology.

2. History.

Maesybont translates as "the field at the bridge", derived from its location at a bridging point on the Gwendraeth Fach river. The land to the west of the village was part of Mynydd Mawr common until its enclosure c.1813. The irregular field shapes of the fields east of the village suggest that that area was enclosed much earlier.

The village itself appeared subsequent to the enclosure of Mynydd Mawr. By 1887 a small community had developed and the school had opened. In the early twentieth century a post office was opened in a cottage opposite the school and Hebron Evangelical Hall (1923) was built 300m south east of the village.

3. Archaeology.

A handful of cottages had been built by the time of the 1839 Parish Tithe Map. One of these was Hendre-faes (PRN 16907), which stood immediately to the east of the school. Its name has been taken to signify the presence of a "hendre" or mediaeval homestead nearby, but in view of the relatively high altitude of the site, and its position on the margins of enclosed land before the nineteenth century, it may be more likely that the name is indicative of land owned by a "hendre", with the homestead itself located at a lower altitude.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 "Yr Hen Lythyrdy" Post office. (PRN 29754). Closed.
- 4.2 Maesybont CP School (PRN 16908). Open

5.Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Llandybie & Co.

1820 Enclosure award. Carmarthen Record Office, ref. no. CRO AE17

1813 A Map of Great Mountain Carmarthenshire, Showing the Boundaries of the Manors or Lordships as determined by the Commissioners. Carmarthen Record Office.

PRN: 29455

Name: PANTYLLYN

NGR: SN604169

Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych

1.Location,Topography and Morphology.

Pantyllyn is located 2km north-west of Llandybie and can be reached along minor roads via Pentregwenlais. The village stands at an altitude of c.180m on the northern edge of the limestone ridge east of Carmel, with the ground sloping away gradually to the north. Pantyllyn is a rather scattered collection of cottages, in three separate clusters, over a 500m stretch of a minor road between Pentregwenlais and Carmel.

2.History.

Pantyllyn derives its name from its proximity to a small natural lake 300km to the south, hence “The Hollow of the Lake”, though the village stands on higher ground. The 1837 Tithe Map shows the name applies only to Pantyllyn Farm. No nucleation of settlement occurred before the later nineteenth century.

It seems likely that the cottages built in the vicinity of Pantyllyn were the homes of quarrymen who worked in one of several neighbouring quarry complexes. The fine row of late nineteenth century terraced cottages may well reflect a period of growth in the local quarry workforce.

3.Archaeology.

There are extensive quarry workings at Pantyllyn Quarry, south of the village (PRN 18263), accompanied by numerous eighteenth and nineteenth century lime kilns (e.g. PRN 23189). In the late nineteenth century, quarrying activity uncovered undated cave inhumations (PRN 815) near the village. Twelve skeletons were found in caves opened in the quarry, known as the Pantyllyn Bone caves. Most were reburied in the quarry, one complete skull reportedly finding its way to the British Museum.

A Bronze Age axehead (PRN 818) was also found at Pantyllyn quarry earlier this century.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Late nineteenth century terraced cottages (PRN 29756)

4.2 Toll house? (PRN 29757)

5.Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Stepney-Gulston A 1893 “Pantyllyn Bone Caves”. *Archaeologica Cambrensis*, Vol.X 5th series, 163.

PRN: 29456**Name: CASTELL-Y-RHINGYLL****NGR: SN578147****Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Castell-y-rhingyll is located 2km north east of Crosshands, along the A476 road. The village stands at an altitude of between 175m and 220m, on the southern flank of the Millstone Grit ridge which runs north east to south west across the district. The lower part of the village actually lies on the Coal Measures. The village is an irregular agglomeration around the cross-roads the B4297 and the A476.

2. History.

Castell-y-rhingyll translates as "The Reeve's Castle". The name is taken from the house of the same name which stands in the village. It is also known as "The Gate", derived from the Turnpike Tollgate which formerly stood at the cross-roads.

The reeve was a relatively important figure in the local administration of government until the mid-fourteenth century, and a holder of this office may have lived or owned land in this area in mediaeval times, possibly at Castell-y-rhingyll House itself.

There is no evidence that a village stood here before the nineteenth century. It should be noted that the village lies on the edge of Mynydd Mawr, a large area of common land which was not enclosed until c.1813 (PRN 24417).

During the late nineteenth century a small colliery opened in the village and nucleation of settlement began to the south east and south west of the cross-roads. There has been a steady growth in the village during the twentieth century, with development occurring to the north and north east, onto the higher ground of the Millstone Grit ridge. This development can be viewed overspill from the larger urban areas of Gorslas and Cross Hands to the south.

3. Archaeology.

It is possible that a mediaeval motte and bailey castle stood near the village, tenuously attributed to a site near Castell-y-rhingyll House (PRN 642).

Much of the land around the village is former waste and upland pasture enclosed in the early nineteenth century. There is a potential for undiscovered prehistoric or early historic archaeological sites to be located within this landscape.

Employment provided by Cwmnant Colliery (PRN 27743) may well have been the reason behind the expansion of the village in the late nineteenth century. The site has been levelled and no trace of the colliery remains.

Glasnant quarry and tramway (PRN 27741 & 24072) lie opposite the colliery site. Some surface features remain.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Tollbar. (PRN 29758). Demolished. On Tithe Map.

4.2 Sunday School (PRN 16844). Demolished.

4.3 Smithy (PRN 24094).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Llandybie & Co. Enclosure

1820 Map held at Carmarthen Record Office, CRO AE17

1813 "A Map of Great Mountain Carmarthenshire, Showing the Boundaries of the Manors or Lordships as determined by the Commissioners". Carmarthen Record Office.

Jones Capt.F 1987 "Castell-y-rhingyll". *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and Their Families*, 26.

PRN: 29457**Name: STAG & PHEASANT****NGR: SN589154****Community: Llanfihangel Aberbythych****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Stag & Pheasant is located 3km north-east of Crosshands, on the A476 road. The village stands at an altitude of 220m on the southern side of a gap Allt-y-garn ridge and on the boundary between enclosed farmland and the rough pasture of the ridge. It has a linear morphology, having developed along the line of the A476.

2. History.

Stag & Pheasant takes its name from the Inn which stands in the village, which is shown on the 1837 Tithe Map, though is not shown on Enclosure Maps of 1813-1820.

Only the Inn is shown on the Tithe map. The terraced houses at the southern end of the village were built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, whilst the rest of the dwellings were added during the last quarter of the twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

The rough pasture around the village was enclosed c.1813 and has never been intensively farmed. Evidence of prehistoric or early historic activity may survive in the area, indeed Bronze Age round barrows and ring-barrows are known on Allt-y-garn ridge.

Less than 500m to the south west is the farm known as Glynyrhenllan. This in turn lies near the Gwaun Henllan mentioned in the eighth century "Lichfield Gospels". It is quite possible that an early Christian site is located in this area.

4. Buildings.

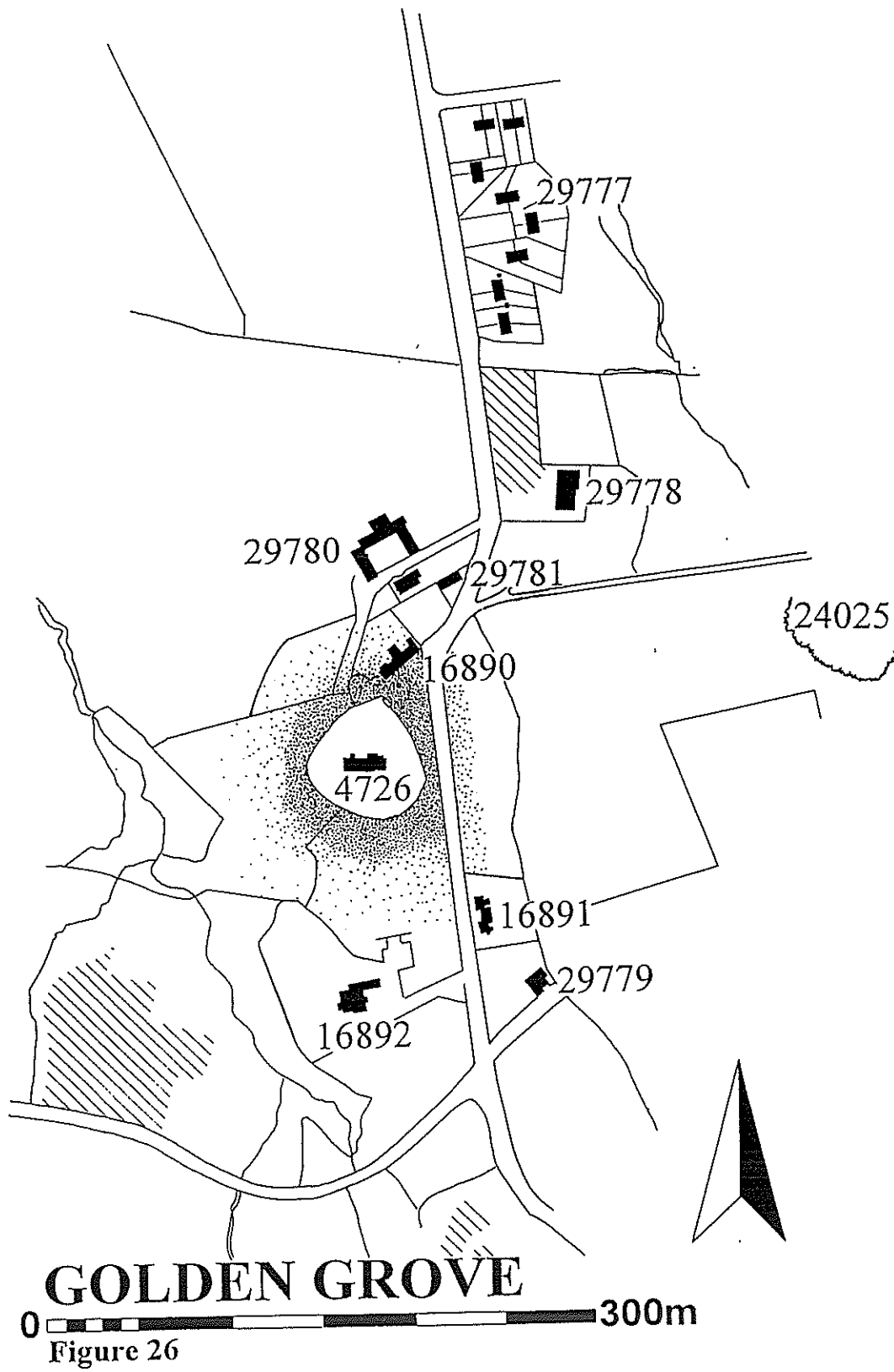
4.1 Stag & Pheasant Inn (PRN 29759). Apparently a twentieth century rebuild of the earlier Inn now stands in the village.

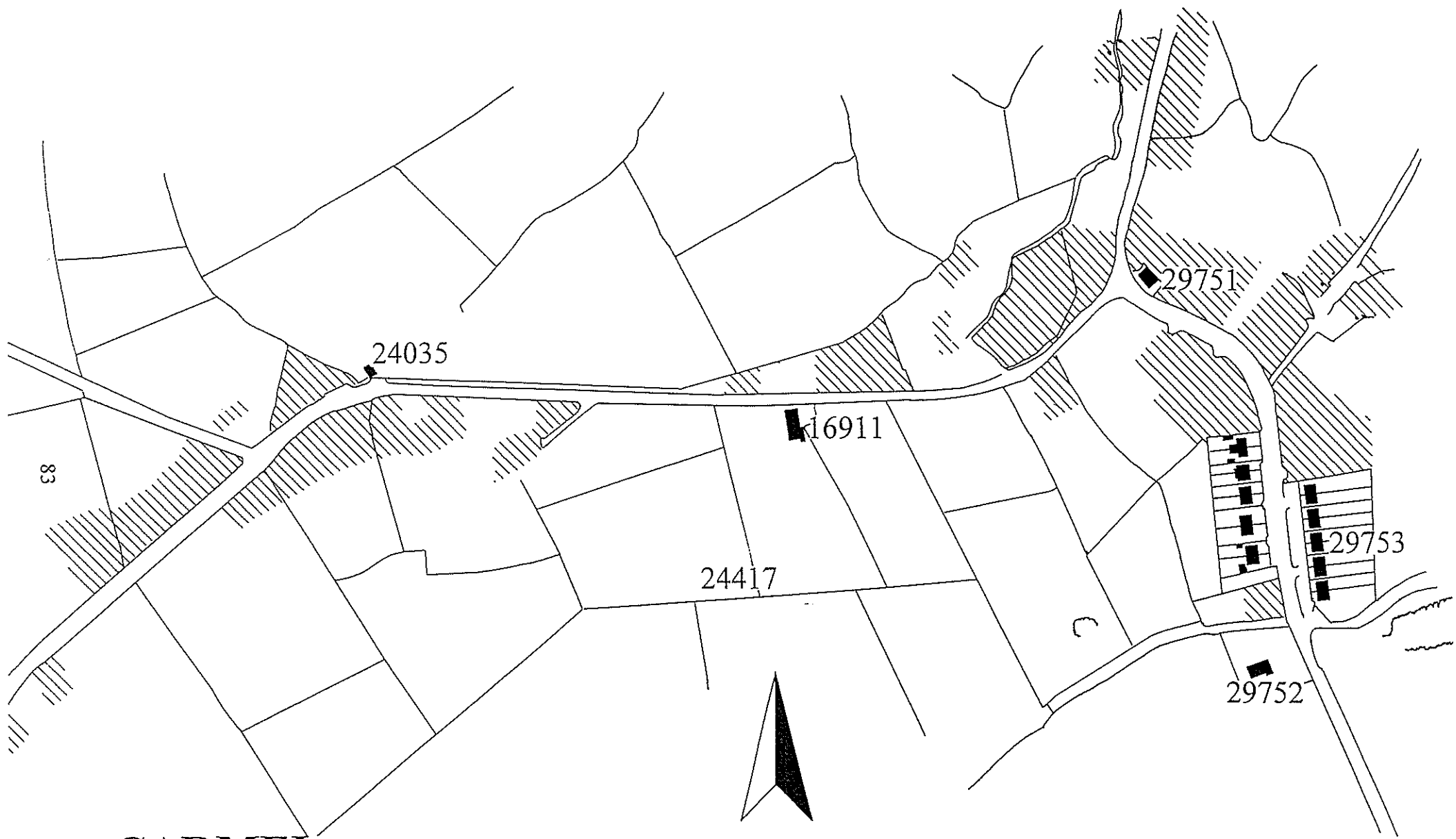
5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Jones G R 1989 "The Dark Ages". *Settlement and Society in Wales*. Ed. D Huw Owen. University of Wales Press. Cardiff.





LLANDYBIE COMMUNITY

PRN: 29458

NAME: LLANDYBIE

NGR: SN618153

COMMUNITY: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Llandybie is located 2km north of Ammanford on the A483 Llandeilo road. It sits in a shallow valley on the banks of the Afon Marlais at an altitude of c.60m. The historic core of the village is an irregular agglomeration of dwellings and business properties on the southern side of the parish churchyard. During the twentieth century the village has grown considerably, southwards, with the addition of extensive, planned housing estates to along the Blaenau and Ammanford roads.

2. History.

The name Llandybie is derived from the story of St Tybie (to whom the church is dedicated), a daughter of Brychan, King of Brycheiniog and allegedly murdered by Irish settlers in the area (Thomas 1975, 7). This story is likely to have been an attempt to explain the name of the village rather than anything else, as an identical story is told of the origins of the name of Merthyr Tydfil in Mid Glamorgan (St Tudful was also a daughter of Brychan and killed by Irish settlers).

Although the tradition surrounding the name may be dubious Llandybie does have a very long history and the parish is the subject of some of the earliest documentary evidence we have of social and political organisation in Wales. A meadow c.0.5km to the west, called Gwaun Henllan (Meadow of the Old Church) in the ninth century, indicates that the present site of Llandybie, with its church and holy well, was by then well established (Jones 1989, 189).

The first mention of Llandybie church was in 1284, when Edward I gave the Bishop of St. Davids the right to appoint a priest to the church (Roberts 1939, 42). The earliest datable elements of the present church are from the late 14th century and the 16th century (Salter 1994, 34).

Llandybie had, until the beginning of the twentieth century, developed fairly slowly, at the end of the seventeenth century, there were nine houses (Roberts 1939, 49), by the mid nineteenth century there were approximately three times as many (Thomas 1975, 99), this number remained static until the early twentieth century. The early village was clustered around the parish church, so the twentieth century development was forced outwards along Ammanford Road and Blaenau Road. It was in Blaenau Road that the last surviving thatched cottages in the village stood until they were replaced by modern housing (Thomas 1973, 37).

Despite the expansion the old section of the village is still recognisably the village core. It is the economic centre of the village, all the shops and public houses are in this section, it is also the spiritual and social centre as well, as it has the parish church, the chapels the school and the library.

Llandybie has had formal school classes since at least 1684 (Rees 1939). The first permanent school building was constructed in the middle of the nineteenth century, in 1850 the first schoolmaster was appointed to Llandybie school. The school at this time was a National School (Thomas 1973, 17). A new school has since been constructed on the north western edge of the village, with the original school building today housing the community library.

3. Archaeology.

With Llandybie having such an early foundation, there have been maybe as many as 1400 years of settlement and building on around the site of the church. Even though it is not certain if any remains of pre-nineteenth settlement survive beneath the present buildings, the area of the old village is archaeologically sensitive.

4. Buildings

- 4.1 Eglwys Sant Tybie (PRN 824). Grade II Listed Building. Parish church.
- 4.2 National School (PRN 4857) Grade II Listed Building. Mid nineteenth century in date, now houses village library.
- 4.3 Red Lion Inn (PRN 6901). Grade II Listed Building.
- 4.4 Church House (PRN 6906). Grade II listed building.
- 4.5 Plas (PRN 6903). Grade II listed building.
- 4.6 Salem Baptist Chapel (PRN 29631), constructed 1905.
- 4.7 Felin Llandybie, Grade II Listed Building.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The core of the village, south of the churchyard, includes several buildings of historical interest and the character of the nineteenth century village survives and should be maintained, if not enhanced.

5.2 For the rest of the village it is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

- Jones G R 1989 "The Dark Ages". *Settlement and Society in Wales*. Ed. D Huw Owen. University of Wales Press. Cardiff.
- Roberts G M 1939 *Hanes Plwyf Llandybie*.
- Salter M 1994 *The Old Parish Churches of South-West Wales*. Folly Publications. Malvern.
- Thomas B 1973 *The Good Old Days: Notes and Jottings on Llandybie, Llandeilo, Ffairfach and the Amman Valley*. Privately published.
- Thomas B 1975 *Days of Old: Llandybie Notes and Memories*. Privately published.

PRN: 29459

Name: BLAENAU (Fig.28)

NGR: SN603137

Community: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Blaenau is located 2km south west of Llandybie along the B4556 Llandybie - Crosshands road. The village stands at an altitude of 100m in a landscape much altered by modern coal extraction operations. It has a predominantly linear morphology, along the line of the main road, although part of the village lies somewhat detached from the rest of the settlement, close to Blaenau House to the north.

2. History.

"Blaenau" is the plural of "blaen", meaning summit or source, and is a name descriptive of the topography of the area on which the village stands. The name is also applied to Blaenau House and to the hamlet or township of Blaenau, a territorial unit with its origins in the mediaeval period.

The history of modern Blaenau appears to have been linked with the fortunes of Cae'r-bryn Colliery just to the west of the village. At the end of the last century there were only eight or nine houses between what was known as Blaenau Square, at the east end of the village and Cae'r-bryn at the west. Much of the present village dates from the early years of the twentieth century. It was at this time that the then owners of Cae'r-bryn Colliery, The French Company, built Cae'r-bryn Terrace (PRN26921).

The Cae'r-bryn Colliery was not the first coal mine in Blaenau, shafts shown opposite the old Post Office, at the west end of the village, and shafts at the east end of the village were described in 1832 as old. This suggests that they were at least eighteenth century in date. Cae'r-bryn Colliery commenced in 1875, part of the colliery closed in 1921 (Thomas 1975, 48) and it ceased production following the General strike of 1926 (Roberts 1939, 221; Thomas 1973, 41; Evans 1982, 17).

During the early part of this century there were two shops in Cae'r-bryn, the first was the post office, which also had a barbers in one room, the second was a general stores, which had a billiards room at the back (Evans 1982, 17). A plan for a school in Blaenau was first proposed in 1906, the present school was opened in 1910-11.

3. Archaeology.

Blaenau House may be the site of early mediaeval settlement, inheriting the name of the mediaeval township of the same name.

Within the limits of the village are the earthwork remains of Blaenau Pit (PRN 27779). At the west end of the village, outside the limits, are the extensive remains of the Cae'r-bryn Colliery and the railway network that survives as a prominent earthwork bank along the southern edge of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Eglwys Sant Marc (PRN 29623), post 1916.

4.2 Blaenau Primary School (PRN 18300), constructed 1909.

4.3 Bethel Sunday School (PRN 29622), constructed c.1880.

4.4 Cae'r-bryn Terrace (PRN 29621), a row of workers housing constructed by the owners of Cae'r-bryn Colliery in the first years of this century.

4.5 Blaenau House (PRN 20925).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Evans C 1982 Cae'r-bryn. *Amman Valley History Society Journal* No 2, p17.

Roberts G M 1939 *Hanes Plwyf Llandybie*.

Thomas B 1973 *Notes and Jottings on Llandybie, Llandeilo, Ffairfach and the Amman Valley*. Privately published booklet.

Thomas B 1975 *Days of Old: Llandybie Notes and Memories*. Privately published.

PRN: 29460

Name: PENTRE GWENLAIS (Figs.29 & 30)

NGR: SN608162

Community: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Pentregwenlais is located 1km north west of Llandybie. The village stands at an altitude of c.140m, on the southern side of the narrow east-west valley of the Nant Gwenlais. To the north the ground drops away sharply to the Nant Gwenlais and to the south the ground rises up onto the Millstone Grit ridge of Alltygarn. The defined limits of the present village bear no relation to the historical settlement which lay on the valley floor. Local topography has restricted its development to a narrow terrace along the minor road which follows the valley, resulting in the village's linear morphology. Interestingly, however, the original village core was located lower down, on the banks of the Gwenlais.

2. History.

Translating as "Gwenlais Village", this is one of the most interesting of the small settlements of Dinefwr, in that it is the only example of a village that has moved site.

There are mediaeval references to a small chapel of ease located near the source of the Gwenlais (Roberts, 1939) and the name is clearly of some antiquity. We cannot be sure of the origins of the village itself however. The Pentre element of the name may indicate that it is of mediaeval origin. To the east of the village lie fields named Cae'r Pentre and Gwaun y Pentre ("Field and Meadow of the Village"), which may signify lands once farmed jointly by the inhabitants of a mediaeval community here.

The eighteenth century core of the village was in the valley below the present village. During the period 1740-1840 there were approximately 25 houses, making it roughly the size of nearby Llandybie at that time (Thomas 1975, 99). Prior to the construction of the Llanelli Dock Railway in 1857 the village was largely self-sufficient, with employment available in local industries such as Pentregwenlais Woollen Factory, the nearby corn and fulling mills and the Cilrychen and Pant-y-llyn lime quarries to the north of the village (Thomas 1975, 99). A baker, a small village shop, a beekeeper and a hatter were to be found in the village. The village also had an annual fair which probably began to lose its importance as the railway gave increased access to travel and goods.

The arrival of the railway to the east of the village in 1857 coincided with construction nearby of the large Cilrychen Lime Kilns by Lime Firms Ltd. In 1903 the railway sidings at the west end of the village were constructed. Subsequently, the village began extending westwards along the line of the Llandybie - Pantyllyn road.

3. Archaeology.

The archaeology around the village reflects its industrial heritage, from the disused woollen factory to the embankments of the Llanelli Dock Railway. Within the village, the only archaeological feature is a length of north-south railway embankment surviving as a visible earthwork. At the western edge of the village lie the extensive earthwork remains of the railway sidings and tramways from the Pant-y-llyn quarry a short distance to the northwest.

Significant traces of the abandoned eighteenth century village remain. The old chapel stands complete, now converted into a private dwelling. The ruins of several cottages and the Woollen Mill stand nearby.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Congregational Chapel (PRN 18222).

4.2 Golwg-y-Ddinas, a small row of six council houses (PRN 29624).

4.3 The remains of the woollen mill (PRN 29625) which closed in 1905. The wheel was put into service at the Cil-yrychen lime quarry.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The surviving buildings of the old village of Pentregwenlais (PRN 29467) are unique within Dinefwr and therefore are recommended for scheduling. Several rows of terraced cottages, a woollen mill, cobbled roads and boundary walls survive in a ruinous condition. One cottage is still roofed, though in a derelict condition. The land is privately owned, mostly by the current owner of the old chapel.

5.2 Several former inhabitants of the old village still live locally and there is a large body of oral history which is in urgent need of recording.

5.3 For the rest of the village it is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Roberts G M 1939 *Hanes Plwyf Llandybie*.

Thomas B 1975 *Days of Old: Llandybie Notes and Memories*. Privately published.

Webber M Undated *Visitors Guide and County Handbook for Carmarthenshire*. C and D Constable Ltd. London.

PRN: 29461

Name: PENYGROES

NGR: SN584137

Community: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Penygroes has developed around a cross-roads 4km south west of Llandybie. It lies on fairly level open ground, on the shoulder of a saddle of higher ground which has a north east-south west axis.

2. History.

The name translates as "Cross end", which probably refers to the cross-roads on which the village stands. Prior to the last decade of the nineteenth century Penygroes was a minor village comprising a row of buildings, including Penygroes chapel and at least one public house, along the north side of Norton Road. The subsequent period, up to 1915, saw rapid expansion, with large-scale construction of further housing on Norton Street and new housing southwards along Bridge Street. The expansion was in response to the development of two collieries, the California Colliery at the west end of the village and the Emlyn Colliery (PRN 24080) and Brick Works in the centre. During this period of growth two new chapels were constructed and others refurbished. Population growth has continued in Penygroes throughout the second half of the twentieth century and substantial numbers of council houses were constructed between 1952 and 1988, mostly southwards, along Waterloo Road.

3. Archaeology.

The most significant archaeological features within Penygroes are the remains of the Emlyn Colliery and brick works (PRN 24080) situated between Norton Road, Bridge Street and Gorsddu Road. Running from the western edge of the village to Bridge Street are the earthwork remains of the Mountain Branch of the Great Western Railway that ran from Crosshands Colliery c.5km to the west to Gulston Junction a similar distance to the east. The railway also serviced Gorsgoch Colliery to the west as well as the California and Emlyn Collieries.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Penygroes Independent Chapel (PRN 16856), constructed 1825, reconstructed and refurbished in 1842, 1883 and 1914.
- 4.2 Jerusalem Chapel (PRN 16855), Calvinistic Methodist, constructed 1873, rebuilt in 1905.
- 4.3 Calfaria Baptist Chapel (PRN 16857), constructed 1898.
- 4.4 Sion Independent Chapel (PRN 16860), constructed 1912.
- 4.5 The Apostolic Temple (PRN 16859).
- 4.6 Penygroes Primary School (PRN 16858), established 1877.
- 4.7 Farmers Arms (PRN 29628), the building was shown on the tithe plan for Llandybie parish (1840).
- 4.8 Norton Hotel (PRN 29627).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

- Rawlins B J 1987 *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their Records and Where to Find Them. Volume One: Cardigan - Carmarthen - Pembroke*. Celtic Heritage Publishing, Salt Lake City, USA.

PRN:29462

Name: SARON

NGR: SN600124

Community: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Saron is located some 3km west of Ammanford. The village stands at an altitude of 100m on fairly flat open ground on the northern edge of the Carmarthenshire coalfield. It has a linear morphology, standing along the line of the Capel Hendre to Llandybie road. During the twentieth century the village has expanded southwards, almost reaching Capel Hendre.

2. History.

Saron takes its name from its nineteenth century Baptist chapel. The village is typical of those which sprang up during the great coal boom of the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The historic core of Saron was centred on the junction of Saron Road and Dyffryn Road. In 1840 only six buildings were shown, this number had doubled by 1906 and by 1915 the present extent of the village had been reached. Since 1915 there has been some infilling of space with new housing, and a number of council houses have been constructed at the northern end of the village. The first school in Saron was constructed in 1894, with plans for a new school proposed in 1906.

3. Archaeology.

Much of the landscape south of the village has been removed during opencast working. At the turn of the century the area of landscape removed was a patchwork of small farmsteads, collieries and the supporting infrastructure of roads and tramways.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St Davids Church (PRN 4871). Modern church.
- 4.2 Baptist chapel (PRN 18367). Built before 1891.
- 4.3 Colliers Arms public house. Possibly shown on tithe plan (1840).
- 4.4 A small close of council houses (PRN 29605).

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Llandybie Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1840.

PRN: 29463

NAME: CAPEL HENDRE

NGR: SN592113

COMMUNITY: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Capel Hendre is located 3km west of Ammanford. The village stands at an altitude of 120m on the south east facing slope of a ridge of higher ground which passes to the north. It is a relatively large settlement, of irregular morphology, which has grown around the junction of several minor roads.

2. History.

The village name is derived from that of its chapel, which in turn apparently derived its name from that of a nearby cottage, Hendre College. The significance of the latter name is not known, though the Hendre element may well be derived from a nearby farm of mediaeval origin.

As with many other settlements in Llandybie parish, Capel Hendre has a relatively short history. Its present form was established during the twentieth century, its growth due to the expansion of coal industry. There were a number of mining operations around Capel Hendre at the turn of the century. Recent opencast mining has removed large tracts of landscape around the village.

3. Archaeology.

The opencasting has removed a number of post-medieval farmsteads, and old mines, including Hendre Colliery which was shown on the Ordnance Survey coverage of 1891. There are no recorded sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 Capel Hendre (PRN 1900), a Calvinistic Methodist chapel constructed in 1900. This building replaces an earlier chapel that stood on the opposite side of the road.
- 4.2 The Kings Head public house (PRN 24150), shown on the 1840 Tithe Map.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Llandybie Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1840.

PRN: 29464**NAME: CWMGWILI****NGR: SN575108****COMMUNITY: Llandybie****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Cwmgwili lies c.2km east of Capel Hendre at the extreme south western corner of Dinefwr. The village has a polyfocal morphology, with a small cluster of dwellings and the school to the west, and a larger agglomeration some 300m to the east, which includes the Post Office. The valley of the Afon Gwili passes between the two agglomerations

2. History.

The village takes its name from the valley which passes through it. Study of the Ordnance Survey coverage of Cwmgwili shows that in 1891 only three buildings stood within the present limits of the northern section of the village (Bryn-yr-Odin and Pen-y-Banc at the north end and Pant-y-Celyn to the south). By 1915 there were a dozen or so buildings in this part of the village, whilst in the southern section only the school was present at this time.

The development of Cwmgwili village is linked to the general increase in employment provided by the local coal industry, and the parallel increase in population, during the late nineteenth century. Cwmgwili is one of the few villages in Dinefwr which still has a working colliery. Cwmgwili Colliery lies 300m south of the village and has recently reopened after a period of inactivity. There does not appear to have been the rapid expansion at Cwmgwili as experienced by other settlements in Llandybie parish. Most of the dwellings in the village post-date 1953, when the council houses on Heol y Deri were constructed.

3. Archaeology.

There are no sites of archaeological interest recorded in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Ysgoldy Gibea (PRN 16877), a modern church (post-1891).

4.2 Cwmgwili County Primary School (PRN 29618), constructed c. 1908.

4.3 Capel Libanus. Independent chapel.

5. Recommendations.

Normal development control procedures should be observed for any future development proposals.

PRN: 29465**Name: FFERWS HILL****NGR: SN606115****Community: Llandybie****1. Location, Topography and Morphology.**

Fferws Hill lies 1km east of Capel Hendre and 2.5km west of Ammanford, standing at an altitude of 100m. The village occupies a position on the northern side of the narrow valley of Nant Arw. It is a small settlement with a simple, linear morphology.

2. History.

The village derives its name from the Fferws Brook, which flows to the east. The meaning and origin of "fferws" cannot readily be explained, though the brook itself is named in the ninth century Lichfield Gospels as a feature on the boundary of Maenor Meddynfych, an early estate. It is also named in an early seventeenth century description of the boundaries of the commote of Iscennen (Rees, 1953), of which it is part.

Although the road layout through and around Fferws Hill has changed little since the nineteenth century there appears to have been no building here until the twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known features of archaeological interest at Fferws Hill.

4. Buildings.

4.1 A row of council houses (PRN 29606).

4.2 A row of council houses (PRN 29607).

5. Recommendations.

Normal development control procedures should be observed if any future development is proposed.

6. References.

Jones G R 1971 "Post-Roman Wales", in Finberg, HPR, ed. *The Agrarian History of England and Wales*, Vol.I, Part 2, 310.

Rees W 1953 *A Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster Lordships in Wales, 1609-1613*, 301. University of Wales Press, Cardiff.

PRN: 29466

NAME: DERWYDD

NGR: SN624179

COMMUNITY: Llandybie

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Derwydd is located 2.5km north of Llandybie on the A483 Llandybie-Llandeilo Road. The village stands at an altitude of 70m above the southern edge of the flood plain of the Afon Cennen. Derwydd is a small, irregular agglomeration of dwellings around the cross-roads of the A483 Llandeilo - Llandybie road and a minor road.

2. History.

Derwydd takes its name from the nearby Derwydd House, a mansion which dates at least to the late mediaeval period, when it was one of the residences of Sir Rhys ap Thomas of Abermarlais. The origins of the name may well be earlier, however, as the name also applies to the hamlet or township of Derwydd, a division of Llandybie parish which may have its origins in early mediaeval territorial organisation. The village is largely a twentieth century development. On Ordnance Survey coverage of 1891 only the College Inn, Station Cottages, one of which was shown as the post office, and Derwydd Road Railway Station were shown. The mid-nineteenth century railway station appears to be the original focus for settlement at Derwydd. During the present century Derwydd has extended eastwards from the cross-roads, along the Llandyfan road.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known archaeological sites within the present village.

4. Buildings.

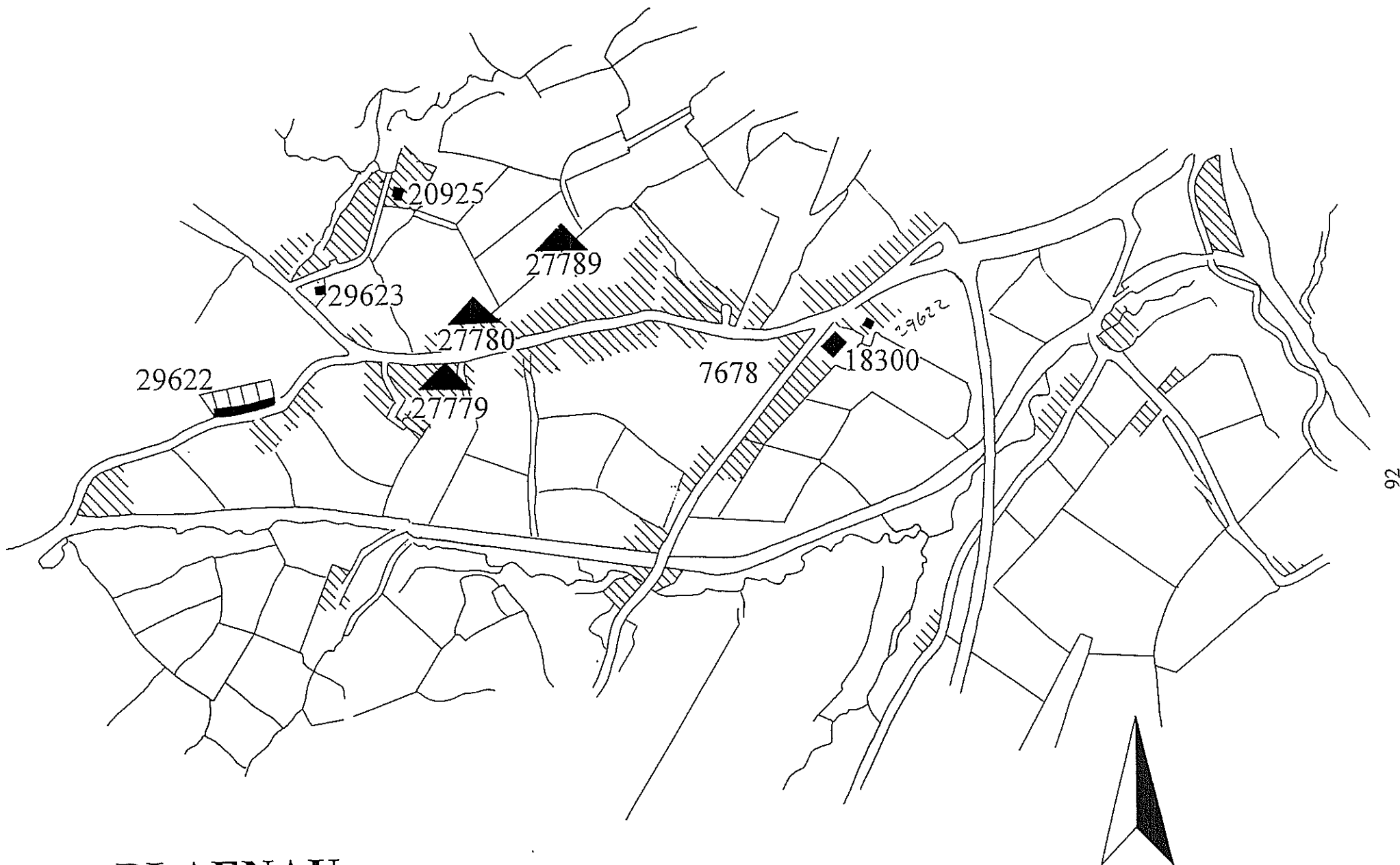
4.1 College Inn (PRN 29625).

4.2 Station Cottages (PRN 19626), one of the two cottages was the Post Office in 1891.

4.3 Derwydd Road Railway Station (PRN 18223).

5. Recommendations.

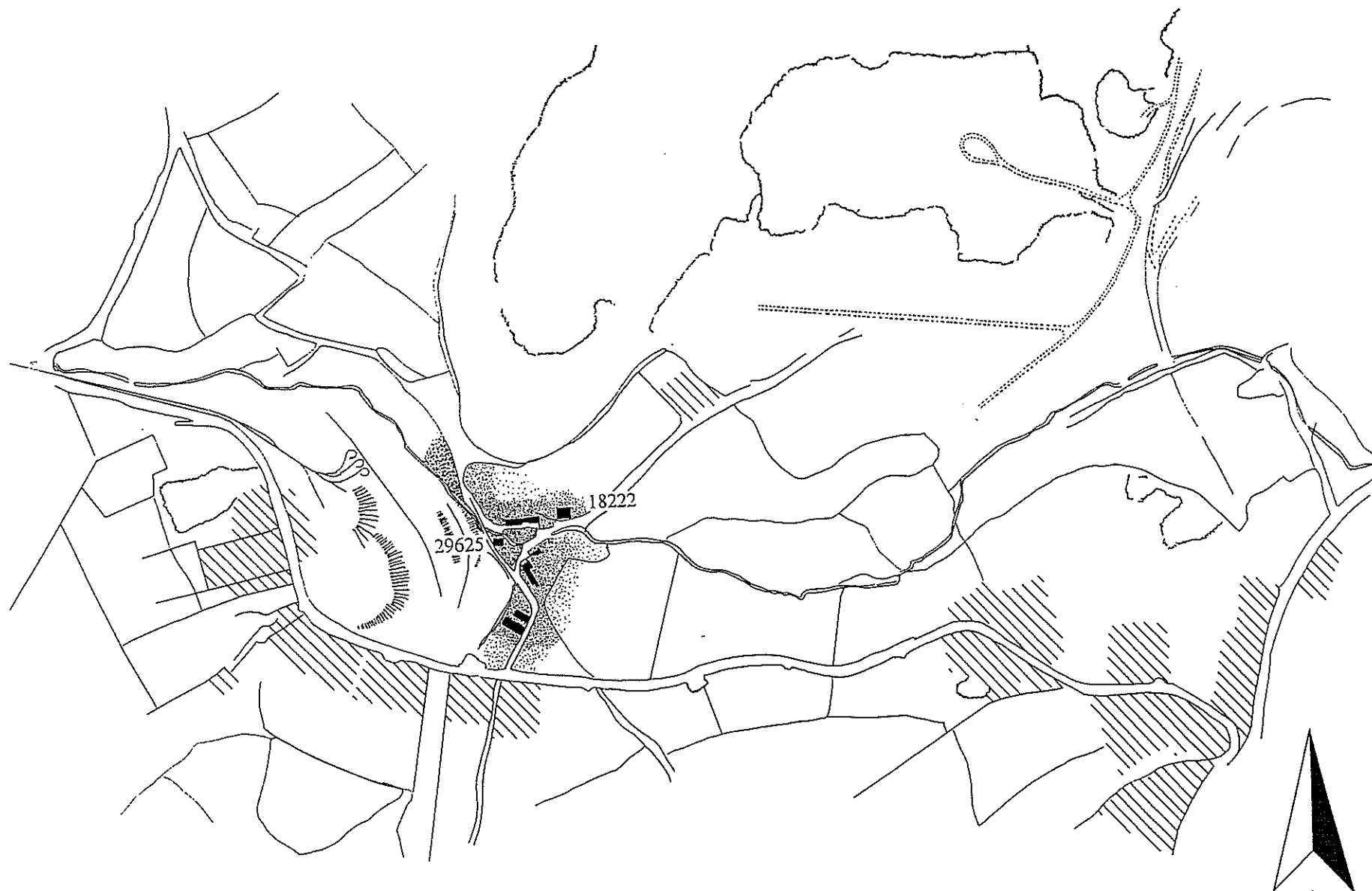
It is recommended that normal development control procedures are observed if any future development is proposed.



BLAENAU

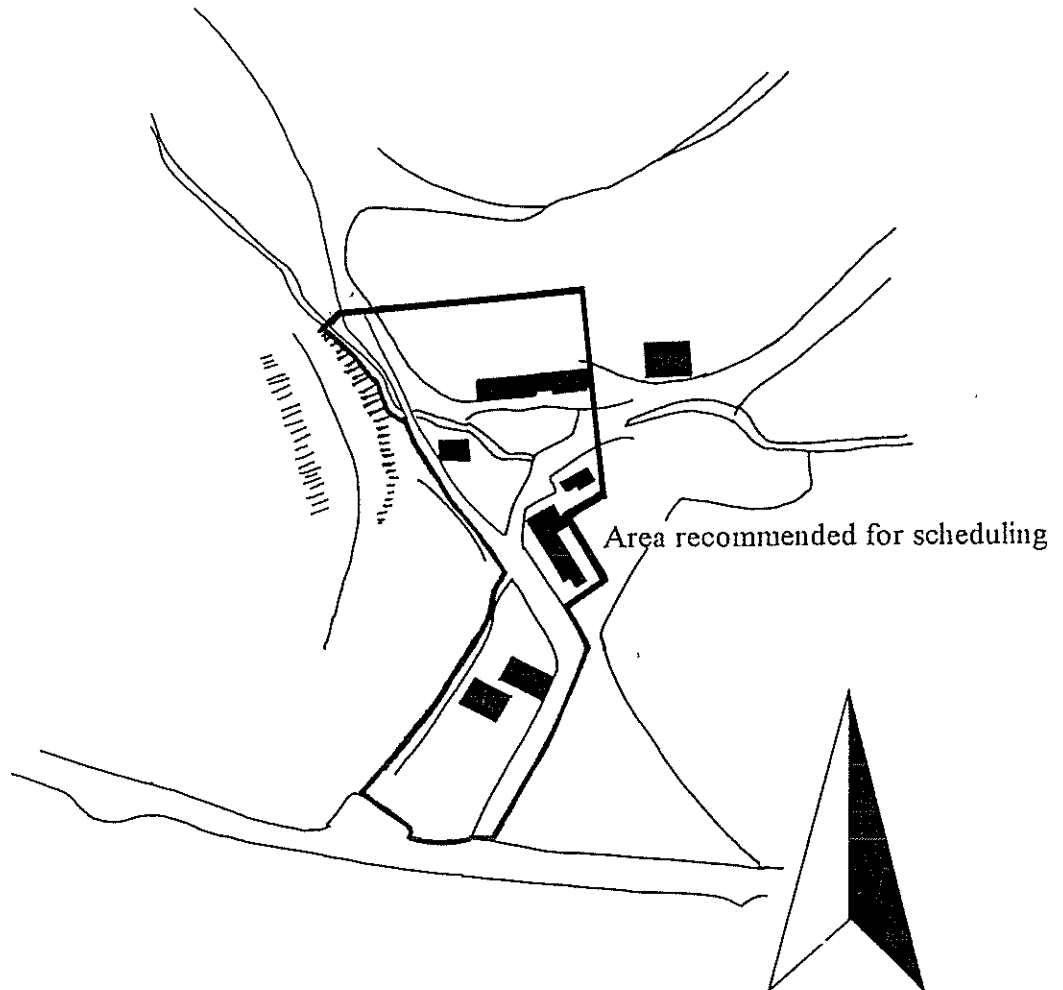
0 500m

Figure 28



0 300m
Figure 29

PENTREGWENLAIS



PENTREGWENLAIS

0  200m
Figure 30

BETWS COMMUNITY

PRN: 29471

Name: BETWS

NGR: SN633118

Community: Betws

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Betws lies on the south eastern outskirts of Ammanford, on the opposite side of the Afon Aman. The village stands at an altitude of c.40m on gently undulating ground rising from the Aman flood plain. Despite its proximity to Ammanford, Betws retains something of a rural atmosphere.

2. History.

The name Betws is derived from the English "Bede-house". Little is known of the origins of the church at Betws. The fact that it stands in a sub-circular churchyard and its dedication to St. David are indicative of a pre-Norman foundation.

Betws is shown on Saxton's Map of Carmarthenshire of 1578.

The parish historian (Thomas, 1894) records that there were no businesses of any consequence in the parish before 1817, when the Amman Valley Turnpike road was opened. Communications further improved when the railway reached the area in 1840. The Tithe map of 1848 shows no more than a handful of dwellings in the vicinity of the church. There is no evidence to suggest that a village of any significance grew around the church before the nineteenth century, when rapid industrial expansion locally resulted in a large population increase and the growth or creation of many new villages. Coal was certainly mined within the parish during the eighteenth century and earlier, and the industry largely supported the local population for most of that period. Bettws Colliery was the last large colliery in the locality, closing during the late 1980's.

By the end of the nineteenth century Betws remained a small village, comprising the parish church (PRN 4872), Seion Chapel (PRN 18399), the school (PRN 18400), two public houses (the Cross Keys and the Plough and Farrow) and a few cottages. By 1916 much of the present layout was in place. The name of one of the streets shown on the 1916 Ordnance Survey coverage, Coronation Terrace, suggests that it was constructed soon after the coronation of Edward VII in 1901.

3. Archaeology.

The area around the church and churchyard can be considered to be archaeologically sensitive. The Tithe map shows that they are located within a larger sub-circular enclosure which may well represent an early mediaeval "llan".

A number of old coal workings lie in the vicinity of Betws, mostly on the higher ground to the east and south of the village. Most of these are probably nineteenth century, but some may well be older.

4. Buildings.

4.1 St David's Church (PRN 4872), the parish church of Ammanford and Betws. Grade II listed building.

4.2 Capel Newydd (PRN 18399), Calvinistic Methodist, constructed 1888. This chapel replaced Capel Seion Built 1795), which was c.0.5km south on Betws Road, demolished sometime after 1916.

4.3 Siloam Chapel (PRN 18406), Calvinistic Methodist. Now appears to be unused.

4.4 Betws Primary School (PRN 18400), was enlarged in 1881.

4.5 The Plough and Harrow public house.

4.6 The Coopers Arms public house, formerly the Cross Keys.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The churchyard is seen on the 1848 Tithe Map to lie within a much larger sub-circular parcel of land, possibly an early mediaeval *llan*. Most of this area is now built over, though part of the boundary of the larger enclosure is still visible on the pasture land west of the church. An archaeological evaluation should be required for any development in this area.

5.2 For the rest of the village it is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

- Thomas D T 1894 *Hen Gymeriadau Plwyf y Betws. Ystalyfera.*
- Roberts G M 1938 "Capel Seion, Betws", *Methodistiaeth Fy Mro.* Treforus.
- Caxton W 1607 Map of Carmarthen. *Britannia.* London.
- RCAHM 1917 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Carmarthenshire.*
Vol V, county of Carmarthen. HMSO. London.
- Sambrook P 1995 *Dinefwr Historic Settlements Report.* Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.
- Betws Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1848.

CWMAMMAN COMMUNITY

PRN: 29472

NAME: GLANAMAN

NGR: SN669139

COMMUNITY: Cwmamman

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Glanaman is located in the Amman Valley, 4km east of Ammanford and has developed either side of the Afon Aman, mostly along the edges of the river's flood plain at altitude of between 100m and 110m. Its morphology has been dictated by the confines of the valley, the sides of which rise steeply to both north and south.

2. History.

The modern history of Glanaman is similar to that of many of the settlements of southern Dinefwr in as much as it was until the later nineteenth century a small rural community, indeed in 1858 it was referred to as a hamlet (Davies 1858, 1). The tithe plan of 1848 shows a pattern of dispersed farmsteads, including those at Hendre-fawr, Tir-Dan-yr-Heol and Tir-Powell-Ddu.

During the nineteenth century the expanding coal industry obviously played a significant part in the growth of Glanaman. Along the southern edge of the town the evidence of coal working is still clearly visible, and the spoil tips from the old Middle Amman Colliery, later the Gellyceidrim Colliery, form a physical boundary to the town. The second half of the nineteenth century and the first few years of the twentieth century saw large-scale building programmes, so that by 1916 most of the present town had been constructed.

This rapid expansion from hamlet to town was a result of the volume of people attracted by the economic opportunities available in the coalfields of the Amman Valley. Coal extraction was not a new industry in the locality, indeed a coal-pit was recorded at Brynllloi as early as 1757. Although the house at Brynllloi is no longer standing the name survives as a street name.

There have been large-scale council house building programmes in Glanamman during the latter half of the twentieth century.

3. Archaeology.

There are extensive remains of former industrial sites surviving around the town, especially along the southern edge, where there are numerous old mines and spoil tips. The fairly extensive network of railways and tramways that serviced the coal industry is not detectable within the town. Coal working has removed any pre-nineteenth century remains there may have been, such as the old house at Brynllloi, which was reputedly built c.1494 and in good condition at the end of the last century (Thomas 1894).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St Margaret's Church (PRN 4878).
- 4.2 St Margaret's Church Hall, a timber-framed corrugated-tin hall.
- 4.3 Christ Church (PRN 18505).
- 4.4 Christ Church Vicarage (PRN 18506).
- 4.5 Wooden school house (PRN 18507).
- 4.6 Capel Calfaria (PRN 18500), Baptist, constructed 1906.
- 4.7 Ramah Apostolic Church (PRN 18503), constructed 1923.
- 4.8 Tabernacle Chapel (PRN 18495), Calvinistic Methodist, constructed 1840.
- 4.9 Bethania Chapel (PRN 18502), Calvinistic Methodist, constructed 1906.
- 4.10 Capel Bryn Seion (PRN 18498).
- 4.11 Bethesda Chapel (PRN 29600), Baptist, constructed 1844, rebuilt 1882.
- 4.12 New Bethel Independent Chapel (PRN 18977), constructed 1875.
- 4.13 Stepney Hall (post-1891).
- 4.14 Amman Hotel public house.
- 4.15 Farmers Arms public house.
- 4.16 Cross keys public house.
- 4.17 Raven Inn public house.
- 4.18 The Station Inn shown on the 1916 Ordnance Survey coverage was not traced, it may have become the home of Amman United Rugby Football Club.

5. Recommendations

Normal development control procedure should be observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

Davies W 1858 *Llandeilo-Vawr and its Neighbourhood; Past and Present*. Privately published. Llandeilo.

Thomas D T 1894 *Hen Gymeriadau Plwyf y Betws. Ystalyfera*.

Llandeilo Fawr Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1838.

PRN: 29473

Name: TWYN MYNYDD

NGR: SN665145

Community: Cwmamman

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Twyn Mynydd lies c.0.75km northwest of Cwmamman on Mountain Road, which forms the southern boundary of the Black Mountain National Park. The village is situated on the banks of Nant Coch at an altitude of 175m, overlooking the Amman Valley to the south. It is a small settlement of irregular morphology which has developed around the junction of two minor roads.

2. History.

Its name describes its topographical position, Twyn Mynydd translating as "Mountain Spur". The name appears to have been taken from a cottage of the same name which stands in the village.

It is likely that the history of Twyn Mynydd was linked to the general population increase in the area during the late nineteenth century coal boom. The village appears to have developed between the mid-nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century. Subsequent development has been confined to two new dwellings at the eastern end of the village.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of the village.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Sunday School (PRN 18488).

4.2 Angel Inn. Shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey coverage. Originally the neighbouring Angel Cottage was part of the public house.

5. Recommendations.

Normal development control procedure should be observed for any future proposed development.

PRN: 29474

Name; BRYNAMAN

NGR: SN7114

Community: Quarter Bach

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Brynaman lies in the Amman Valley, 9.5km east of Ammanford. The town has developed on a steep, south facing slope overlooking the Afon Aman and is often discussed in terms of an upper and lower village (Brynaman Uchaf and Brynaman Isaf), lying within an altitude range of between 150m and 250m. Brynaman is a large settlement of irregular morphology.

2. History.

Before the late nineteenth century the area where the village now stands was known as Gwter Fawr (literally The Great Gutter). This name was derived from an eighteenth century trackway cut for the purpose of carrying coal, by mule, from workings on the mountain side down to the blast furnaces of an iron works at Glanaman, 4km to the west. The name Brynaman (Aman Hill) first appears in 1838, as a house name and only became generally accepted as the village name when it was put on the name board of the railway station. (Rees 1896). Prior to the large-scale coal extraction of the mid to late nineteenth century the area of Brynaman was a scattered collection of cottages and farms. By the end of the century however Brynaman changed significantly. Not only had the number of private houses more than doubled in the period 1860-1890 (Rees 1896), but a large number of shops and services had also been established.

That expansion was due to the burgeoning coal industry, which during the last half of the 19th century attracted large numbers of people from the rural areas of Wales. The coal industry also attracted other industries into the area, in particular metal working industries. In Brynaman one of the largest employers was the Amman Iron Company who were responsible for the construction of worker's houses, probably New Road (PRN 29604) and Chapel Street (PRN 29605), as well as the foundation of a school by 1889 (Evans 1982, 19) and the donation of the land for the construction of St Catherines Church some ten years earlier (Roberts 1981, 1). The rapid expansion of the town is particularly apparent in the growth in the numbers of shops. The first purpose built shop, Watkins, in Brynaman was constructed in 1839 (Rees 1896), but by the time the trade directories of 1889 and 1900 were published there were 9 grocers, 3 butchers, 5 drapers, 4 inns, 2 coffee taverns, 2 tobacconists, a bank, a solicitor, a leather merchant, a tailor and even an artist operating in the town (Evans 1982, 19-22). The principal shopping area was Station Road, and even though the shops still survive most are now empty.

Despite the trend of commercial decline during the 20th century, there has been a vast increase in the amount of housing available. This is due to the extensive programmes of council house building that have taken place every decade from the 1930s through until the 1980s.

3. Archaeology.

Being a "new" town in as much as it was created virtually in one process, there is no known pre-nineteenth century archaeology within the town. Any early archaeological features in this area are likely to have been destroyed during the extensive coal extraction that have taken place during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Indeed it is recorded that even the first miners cottages built in the village were buried beneath coal tips before the end of the nineteenth century (Rees, 1896).

4. Buildings.

- 4.1 St Catherine's church (PRN 5503), constructed 1881.
- 4.2 Gibeia Independent chapel (PRN 21964), constructed 1842, rebuilt 1856, 1889.
- 4.3 St Catherine's Sunday School?, a large building opposite the church which may have been the original Gibeia chapel. When the new chapel was built in 1856 the old chapel became a day school (Rees 1898).
- 4.4 Moriah chapel (PRN 21966), Calvinistic Methodists, constructed 1871.
- 4.5 Catholic Church, a small stone-facaded hall on Station Road.
- 4.6 Corrugated-tin chapel, no date or inscription.
- 4.7 Upper Brynaman Vicarage (PRN 21963), constructed some time between 1909 and 1920.
- 4.8 Brynaman Infants School (PRN 21965), constructed 1920.
- 4.9 Farmers Arms public house. This building probably dates from 1840 and replaces an earlier public house of the same name. It is now the Brynaman Rugby Club. Extensive modernisation has masked any original features that may remain.
- 4.10 Tregib Arms public house on Cwmgarw Road, constructed 1865.
- 4.11 The Bridgend Inn public house on Station Road, date uncertain, although nothing is shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey coverage.
- 4.12 Chapel Street (PRN 29603), a row of 19th century workers cottages. Externally, this row is in almost original condition.
- 4.13 New Road (PRN 19604), formerly called Tinworks Row, two rows of 19th century workers cottages. Many of these have some alterations to the rear.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Chapel Street (PRN 29603) is recommended for listing. The houses in the row are almost in their original condition.
- 5.2 For the remainder of the village it is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development.

6. References.

- | | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| Evans M C | 1982 | "Brynamman 1889", <i>Amman Valley History Society Journal</i> , No 2. Privately published. |
| Rees E | 1898 | <i>Hanes Brynaman a'r Cylchoedd</i> (2nd edition). Reprinted by Dyfed County Council Cultural Services Department. |
| Roberts V P | 1981 | <i>St. Catherine's Church Brynamman: a Brief History to Commemorate the Centenary of the Construction and Dedication of the Church</i> . Privately published booklet. |

QUARTER BACH

PRN: 29475

Name: RHOSAMAN

NGR: SN733140

Community: Quarter Bach

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Rhosaman is a small collection of houses and bungalows ranged either side of the A4068 Cwmgarw Road. It stands at an altitude of 180m on the edge of the open moorland of Mynydd Du and at the head of the Amman Valley; the Aman rises 3km north east of the village and flows along the western side of the village.

2. History.

Rhosaman translates as "Aman Moor", a name undoubtedly derived from the topographical nature of the area and its proximity to the Afon Aman.

Cartographic evidence suggests that Rhosamman is a modern creation, dating largely from the early years of this century. It developed around the Rhosamman Colliery which stood at the edge of the village. In 1924 an explosion at the colliery killed seven people, one injured man, who later died, was taken to the Rose and Crown Hotel

(Anon 1982, 6; Amman Chronicle Jan 10th, p6 cl1-6, 17th p8 cl2-4, 24th p6 cl1, 1924).

Modern housing has spread westwards along Cwmgarw Road, and a close of eight council houses was constructed in 1967.

3. Archaeology.

The area of the old Rhosamman Colliery has been landscaped, and is now a childrens playground. The line of the railway to and from the colliery is still visible south of the road, where it curves southeast past the Rose and Crown.

4. Buildings.

4.1 Rose and Crown Hotel public house.

4.2 Corrugated tin cottage. A small corrugated tin building, formerly The Print Shop, J Barker and Sons Lithographic Printers. Closed

4.3 Rhydwen Council Houses. A close of eight council houses, constructed 1967.

5. Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development. The northern part of the village lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

6. References.

Amman Valley Chronicle

1924 10th Jan p 6 cl1-6, 17th Jan p8 cl2-4, 24th Jan p6 cl1.

Anon 1982 *Amman Valley History Society Journal No2.*

PRN: 29476

Name: CEFNBRYNBRAIN

NGR: SN742134

Community: Quarter Bach

1. Location, Topography and Morphology.

Cefnbrynbrain is located 2km east of Brynmanan and stands at an altitude of 170m on the southern edge of the open moorland of the Mynydd Du. It is a small, irregular agglomeration of dwellings.

2. History

The village derives its name from its location on the slopes of Bryn Brain (Crows Hill).

The recorded history of Cefnbrynbrain is relatively short. The 1":1 mile OS Map of 1831, shows only a farm or cottage known as Bryn Brain. During the later nineteenth century the village began to form, probably as a result of the general increase in population throughout the area brought about by the expanding coal industry. At the end of the last century it was a small cluster of cottages, and by 1917 it had expanded virtually to its present form. The County Primary School (PRN 29617) was constructed in 1903, and in the 1960s the council houses of Brynbrain were built at the northeastern end of the village.

3. Archaeology.

There are no known sites of archaeological interest in Cefnbrynbrain.

4. Buildings.

4.1 The County Primary School (PRN 29617), constructed in 1903.

4.2 Village hall, corrugated tin building.

5.Recommendations.

It is recommended that normal development control procedure is observed for any future proposed development. The northern part of the village lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

6. References.

John Carey 1832 *Pocket Atlas: Carmarthenshire*. National Library of Wales, ref. P9487.

PRN: 29477

Name: YSTRADOWEN

NGR: SN750125

Community: Quarter Bach

1.Location,Topography and Morphology.

Located in the extreme south eastern corner of Dinefwr, 4km south east of Brynmanan, Ystradowen stands at an altitude of 160m on a spur of land between the Twrch and Llynfell rivers, which have their confluence just south of the village. The village has an essentially linear morphology, with many dwellings standing along the line of the A4068, though some modern development has extended away from the road.

2.History.

The name means "Owen's valley". The 1":1 mile OS Map of 1831 records the name as that of a farm or cottage on the site of the modern village.

Ystradowen is very much a product of the nineteenth and early twentieth century coal boom.

3.Archaeology.

There are visible reminders of the former coal mines that gave rise to the existence of the village. To the east of the school lies the site of a small disused mine, whilst south of the village, over the West Glamorgan border, lie earthwork traces and spoil tips of a larger mining complex.

The site of a former mill, Felin Fach (PRN 19976), may now be represented by two short lengths of wall, the visible sections of which have the appearance of being the interior of a building.

4. Buildings.

4.1 St Margaret's Church (PRN 29795), constructed c.1900.

4.2 Chapel (PRN 19977).

4.3 Berrington Arms public house, now destroyed by fire.

4.4 School constructed around 1913 (PRN 29796)

5.Recommendations.

Normal development control procedure should be observed for any future proposed development.