

PILOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF FARMS IN THE TIR CYMEN SCHEME:

DINEFWR



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 This pilot assessment of the archaeological and historic landscape was carried out on twelve farm holdings in the Tir Cymen scheme in the Dinefwr district of Carmarthenshire. Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (ACA) (formerly the Dyfed Archaeological Trust) were contracted by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) during to undertake the project during the spring of 1997. The twelve holdings were a representative sample of farms, farming regimes and landscape types encountered in the district.

1.1.2 The assessment involved a desktop study of documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources and records held by the regional Sites and Monuments Record (at the ACA offices, Llandeilo), the Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. In addition, each holding was the subject to a rapid field survey and where possible oral history relevant to the property was recorded. Over 60 previously unrecorded sites were documented during the assessment, mostly post-Medieval features associated with settlement or agricultural practices.

1.1.3 The results of the pilot assessment were presented as individual dossiers on each farm, which include a map of the holding showing the location of recorded archaeological sites as well as descriptions of these sites. The dossiers will hopefully help Tir Cymen in the preparation of farm plans. General observations regarding site management and recommendations for future action are made in a separate section of the report.

1.1.4 The results of the pilot project demonstrate the need for a systematic assessment of farms within the Tir Cymen Scheme, if sufficient provision for the management of the archaeological and historic landscape resource is to be made. A number of recommendations were made, including the extension of the assessment to cover all farms in the Tir Cymen scheme.

1.2 CRYNODEB

1.2.1 Astudiodd yr asesiad arbrofol hwn archaeoleg a hanes y dirwedd ar ddeuddeg fferm sydd yn rhan o gynllun Tir Cymen yn ardal Dinefwr, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Comisiynwyd Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed gynt) gan Gyngor Cefngwlad Cymru, i gyflawni'r asesiad, yr hyn a wnaed dros fisioedd y gwanwyn, 1997. Roedd y deuddeg fferm a ddewiswyd yn cynrychioli enghreifftiau nodweddiadol o'r math o ffermydd, dulliau ffermio a thirweddau sydd yn gyffredin i'r ardal.

1.2.2 Roedd yr asesiad yn cynnwys ymchwiliad pen-ffwrdd o ffynonellau dogfenol, mapiau hanesyddol a lluniau o'r awyr sydd ym meddiant Cofnod Safleoedd a Henebion yr ardal (yn swyddfa ACA, Llandeilo), neu yn Archifdy Sir Gaerfyrddin, Caerfyrddin a Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Aberystwyth. Yn ychwanegol, gwnaed arolwg cyflym o'r tir ar bob fferm a, lle'n bosibl, cofnodi hanes llafar yn gysylltiedig â'r daliad. Cofnodwyd dros 60 o safleoedd archaeolegol newydd gan yr asesiad, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn perthyn i'r canrifoedd oddi ar yr Oesoedd Canol ac yn ymwneud ag aneddeleoedd neu arferion amaethyddol.

1.2.3 Cyflwynir canlyniadau yr arolwg mewn cyfres o adroddiadau byrion ar gyfer pob fferm. Maent yn cynnwys map o bob daliad sy'n dangos lleoliad safleoedd archaeolegol, ynghyd â disgrifiad ohonynt. Gobeithir bydd yr adroddiadau hyn o gymorth i Dir Cymen wrth baratoi cynlluniau ar gyfer y ffermydd. Mae nifer o sylwadau cyffredinol ac argymhellion ar gyfer y dyfodol wedi'u cynnwys mewn rhan arall o'r adroddiad hwn.

1.2.4 Dengys canlyniadau'r arolwg hwn fod angen asesiad cyflawn a chyson o ffermydd sydd yn perthyn i Gynllun Tir Cymen, os yw reolaeth dros olion archaeolegol a hanesyddol yn mynd i gyrraedd y lefel sydd ei heisiau. Gwnaed nifer o argymhellion, yn eu plith y cred y dylid ymestyn yr asesiad i gynnwys pob fferm sydd yn rhan o Gynllun Tir Cymen.

1.3 PROJECT AIMS

1.3.1 Consultation with Welsh archaeological bodies led CCW to establishing a pilot scheme to determine the methodology and best practice for assessing the archaeological and landscape resource of farms in the Tir Cymen scheme in the districts of Dinefwr and Meirionnydd. It is also intended to assess the significance of the archaeological resource in relation to management needs; the extent to which existing agreements have identified and made provision for the interpretation of that resource and to produce an overall appraisal of results from each area.

1.3.2 The aim of the pilot assessment was to establish a methodology for assessing the archaeological and historic landscape resource of the farms in the Tir Cymen scheme in the light of concerns expressed by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, amongst others, that sufficient archaeological provision was not being made. It is felt that through the clear identification and assessment of the significance of the archaeological resource of each holding, that future management strategies will be able to remove such concerns.

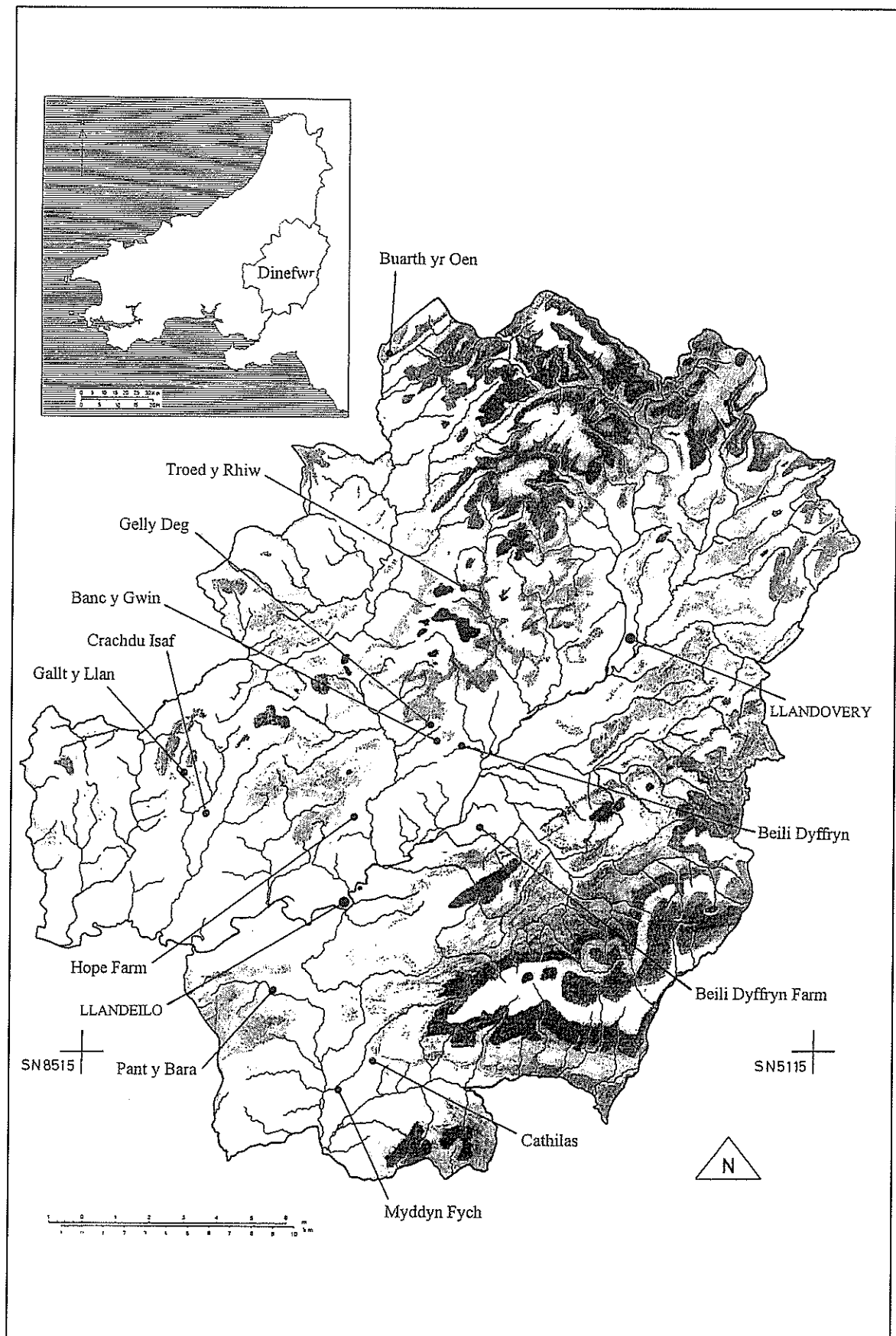
known within a holding, copies of Site Record Forms derived from the regional SMR were included for reference.

2.3 The field survey was carried out by Paul Sambrook during late March and early April, 1997. Weather conditions were generally favourable during this period allowing for fairly full coverage of each holding. During each visit, previously known sites were examined, new sites recorded and as much oral history as possible noted. In advance of fieldwork, Meridian Airmaps Aerial Photographs of the Dinefwr area, which are kept in the SMR, were also consulted.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 The project involved detailed desktop and field survey work. The former was carried out by a member of the Sites and Monuments Record Staff, Susan Scott and involved research within the SMR, Carmarthenshire Record Office and the National Library of Wales. Historic documents and maps were consulted as well as relevant published sources.

2.2 The material collated during desktop research was arranged into a series of holding specific record files which formed the basis for the organization of the field survey of each property. Each file contained a full range of historic Ordnance Survey maps, from the early 19th century Original Surveyors Drawings through to the early 20th century 2nd edition 1:2500 series maps. Added to these were copies of the relevant portion of the mid-19th century Tithe Survey maps and apportionments including, where available, the details of land ownership, land use and field names provided by this source. Where existing archaeological sites were already



MAP 1 - Map of Dinefwr, showing distribution of holdings included in study.

3. OVERVIEW

3.1 A full understanding of the economic and cultural history, as well as the archaeology, of the sample farms in Dinefwr needs to call upon the wider frame of reference of the historic landscape. Some work on defining and characterising the historic landscape of Dinefwr has already been done and informs this overview. The physical characteristics of the area are also of course a fundamental framework of reference. These preliminary remarks have been included to help underpin the Executive Summary and perhaps point the way to further work to enhance the historic landscape elements of the Tir Cymen schemes.

3.2 Considerable consultation took place in 1991 and 1992 between Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the then Dinefwr District Council on the archaeological and historic landscape components and characteristics of their own 'areas of great landscape value'. Three areas were selected for designation: the north-eastern uplands which are the southern fringes of the Cambrian Mountains forming a distinct physical boundary to the district as the source of the Tywi. The Tywi valley and the Cothi Valley were also selected. In all three areas, whilst physical and environmental characteristics were paramount in justifying selection, historic landscape features (traditional field sizes, historic route corridors) were also cited as well as individual archaeological sites and monuments. The survival of much high value landscape in the south of the area, especially the mountain fringes of the Amman valley, despite heavy industrialism, was also highlighted. Other valued elements were *fridd* land (rough mountain pasture), hay meadows and ancient woodland.

3.3 In 1992, CCW funded an archaeological assessment of the whole of Dinefwr district which attempted to characterise the nature, location and extent of the archaeology of the district, supporting a general recommendation for assessment and evaluation of Tir Cymen applications (DAT, 1992). A general pattern of dispersed settlement and widespread enclosed landscape, mostly of small and rather irregular fields was seen as the primary characteristic. In an attempt to identify further sub-divisions within the area, a systematic analysis of field sizes was carried out and a direct correlation between field size and relief

was identified, this being of greater significance than any correlation between field size and soil type. This analysis is still of value and is reproduced here (Map 2). Insufficient historic landscape information was then available to extend that assessment into the characterisation and mapping of archaeological features that was so successfully carried out for Meirionydd, the other pilot area subject to archaeological assessment (GAT 1992).

3.4 In retrospect, greater use might have been made of the 1944 Report for Carmarthenshire of the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain (Davies and Miller 1944) as a basis for characterising the historic landscape areas as well as components of Dinefwr District. Ten main land use regions were identified and a sample farm selected from each for detailed analysis (Map 3). That analysis of land use, farm size and the individual farm economy was also historic comparing data from the 1920s and 1930s, the whole within a chapter on the historical development of land use in the County. Any further work of archaeological and historic landscape assessment with Tir Cymen's Dinefwr district might usefully focus on some of these 1946 sample farms, whether they remain as single farming units or not.

3.5 Despite the variations in land-use which relate very clearly to relief and drainage patterns and are still valid to a certain extent today, the impression gained by Paul Sambrook in his field work is of an overall pattern common to many of the farms. In most the farmhouse and buildings is sited at a median altitude; the farm will have some valley-floor land, the amount depending on the topography of the valley. Adjacent to the farm are valley side lands, which may themselves be dissected by minor streams; finally there are the upland or plateaux areas of pastureland. It seems as though this is a very ancient pattern. It is adapted and developed for modern conditions mainly by a process of amalgamation of holdings (demonstrated very well in the case of Buarth yr Oen Farm, Ffarmers) and by improvement of upland pasture areas. The pressure since the war has been to improve semi-natural rough grazing and this continues within Tir Cymen schemes.

3.6 A number of observers, looking at Dinefwr's farm and farming practices from their different perspectives, have highlighted the strong degree of conservatism of farming practice and continuity of older arrangements. Writing on long-houses in Wales, Dr. Eurywn Wiliam singles out the northern half of Dinefwr - "the hilly country north of Llandeilo and Llanymdyfri" for the survival of numerous longhouses of late date, typical of other archaic features in Welsh dialect, late survival of ploughing with oxen, circular stone pigsties and so-on (Wiliam, 1992, 18). Tir Cymen staff of Dinefwr District are aware of additional longhouses to the known corpus and have been instrumental in the purchase, by the National Trust of the remarkable Aberdeunant farmhouse and holding near Llansadwrn (SN672307). whose first tenant will in fact be a member of the Dinefwr Tir Cymen staff.

3.7 The interest in these buildings and the farming practices which permitted their late survival and indeed use is not new. The Secretary of the 1896 Royal Commission on Land in Wales and Monmouthshire, D. Lleufer Thomas, was born on the small farm of Llethr Enoch, Llandeilo parish. He was interested in traditional Welsh buildings and actually commissioned a Llandeilo architect and surveyor, David Jenkins, to make plans and take photographs of older farmhouses in Llandeilo and Llansadwrn parishes for the Commission. This material is now at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans.

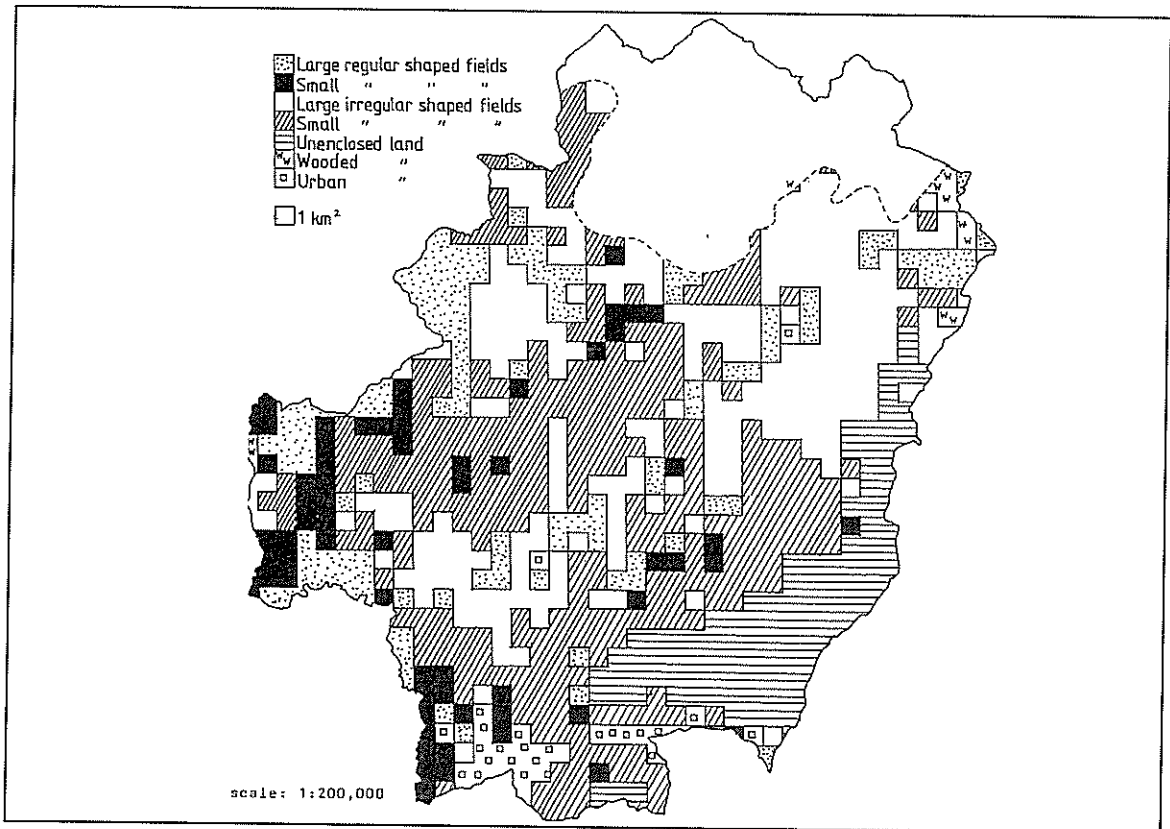
3.8 The reasons for the survival, indeed persistence, of traditional practices in farming in Dinefwr are rooted in the medieval history of the area. Anglo-Norman control was late and partial, the area was the heartland of Deheubarth and the dynasty of Dinefwr. Welsh law, Welsh systems of tenure and inheritance persisted. Characteristic also, in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, were landowning gentry such as the Williamses of Edwinsford described thus by the late Francis Jones:

"The history of the Williamses illustrates the survival of an ancient family of 'uchelwyr' through the uncertain middle ages, and its progression from the ranks of rural freeholders to the vanguard of Carmarthenshire's county families in post-Tudor days".

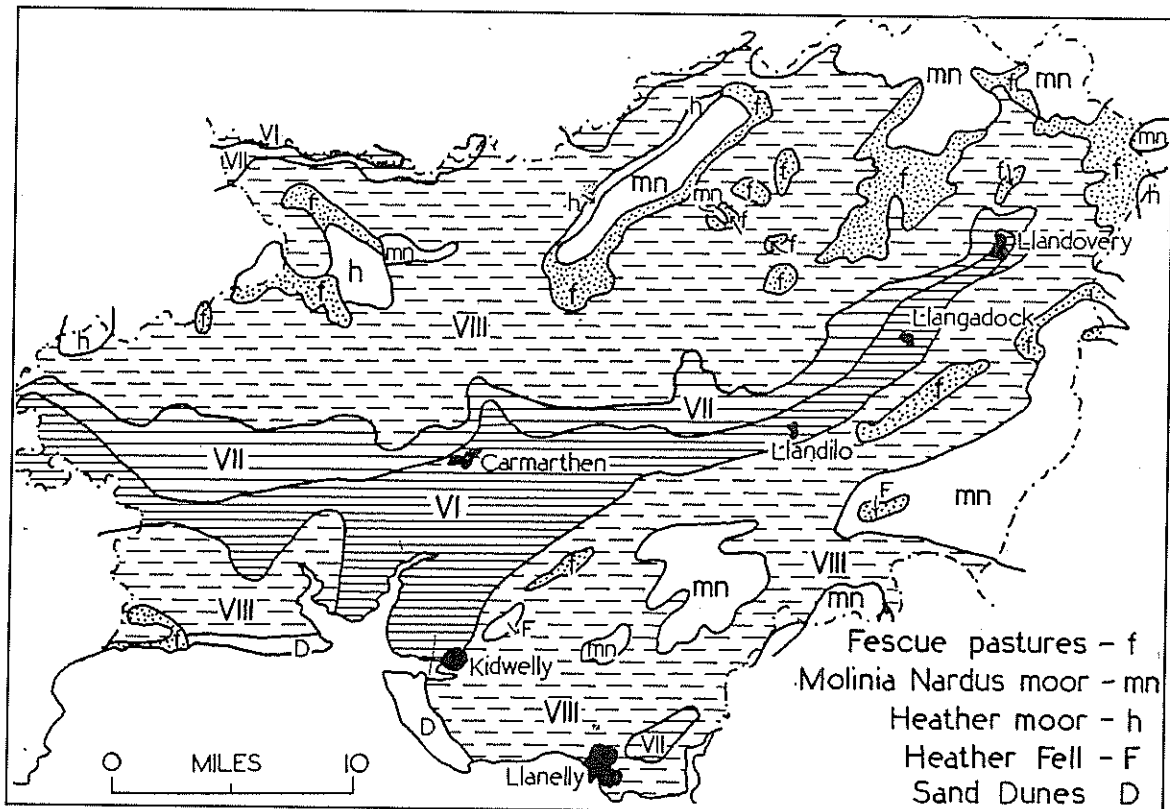
3.9 By the early 20th century the gentry estates consisted of blocks of separate, consolidated farms - a hint of older arrangements surviving only in areas like Betws, Ammanford with more strung-out farm holdings and still some shared use of meadows. There was relatively little change on the ground therefore in farm sizes and locations as these estates were broken up in the 1920s and 1930s and tenants, if they could, became freeholders. A recent study (Davies 1996) describes the harsh living conditions on many farms in the high Victorian and Edwardian periods. Even more valuable in this seminal study is his documentation of the acute psychological pressures in winning a living from the land and keeping the family holding - an awareness of which is a useful corrective to any over-nostalgic view of 'traditional' rural life. Davies cites R.S. Thomas's poem 'Tenancies' as a 'fine expression of the overbearing burden of history and inheritance'.

3.10 The settlement pattern of the southern half of Dinefwr has of course been greatly influenced by its industrial history. This has been principally based on the extractive industries: limestone quarrying and burning and the anthracite coal mining. It is important to recognize that the development of the anthracite coalfield did not really get underway until the second half of the 19th century when transport links to the ports (Swansea and Llanelli) were finally in place. The availability of seasonal mining and quarrying work has been often cited as a reason for the survival of many small farms that would possibly have not been economically viable without this additional income.

3.11 DAT's 1995 Cadw-funded study on the historic settlements of Dinefwr (Sambrook and Page 1995) highlighted the dramatic changes and developments in many of the district's villages from 1850 onwards. There was a gradual rise in the population of the countryside and rural villages during the early decades of the 19th century, but as the pace of industrial growth increased toward the middle of the century, a substantial drift of population towards the burgeoning industrial villages commenced. Increased activity in the anthracite coalfield after 1850 combined with new agricultural techniques to accentuate this



MAP 2 - Field Sizes in Dinefwr
(from DAT, 1992)



MAP 3 - Land use regions of Carmarthenshire
(from Davies & Miller, 1944).

process. By the last decade of the 19th century, landowners such as David Davies, Rhyblid, Myddfai could complain to the 1896 Royal Commission on Land in Wales and Monmouthshire of the difficulty of keeping good farmhands, enticed away to better paid work in the industrial towns; even increased wages and the promise of a cottage could not outweigh the lure of the industrial valleys for young men and women at that time.

3.12 Outside the new urban and industrial village settlements of Ammanford and the Amman and Gwendraeth valleys, older historic landscape elements have survived to a surprising extent. A preliminary attempt at characterising the historic landscapes of south-east Carmarthenshire (part of which lies within the Dinefwr area, was carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust for Chris Blandford Associates. (CBA 1996) Broad landscape areas were defined within which a varying number of landscape types were further identified and defined.

3.13 Although the work was carried out at a provisional level certain key indicators of survival of earlier land uses as working components in modern farms were apparent, although time did not allow for comprehensive mapping. The potential of using place-name evidence, together with CCW's Phase 1 Habitat Survey to look at areas of ancient meadows (*ynysau*) as a tool for analysing the persistence of earlier patterns of shared land use was flagged up, but time did not allow it to be pursued.

3.14 Another feature of historic landuse yet to be systematically investigated are the origins of the present day practices of movement of sheep down from upland grazing and tack sheep. The present heavy use of all available upland pasture and the desire to improve it to allow greater stocking levels has subsumed older common use of these uplands. The shrinkage and loss of a great deal of common land away from the upland areas is a notable product of pressure on the land resource during the past 200 years. This is quite graphically demonstrated in the case of one of the farms included in the survey, Maes Ifan, Llanfynydd. Early 19th century map evidence (Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawing), shows the holding occupying a valley wedged between two fairly large blocks of common land; Llanfynydd Common and

Mynydd y Figyn. Both of these areas have since been enclosed and improved, to the extent that the only physical indication of their former status are the large, rectilinear fields which now cover their areas - such field shapes being typical of land enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries.

3.15 Less studied and less easy to recognize are the former smaller valley floor commons within the Tywi valley, for instance a small common known as Pen Waun Gynydd survived until the late 18th century, literally at the gates of the important Abermarlais House, Llansadwrn (Campbell-Davies Map Book, 1761). Tywi valley farms appear to depart from the Dinefwr, and indeed the Carmarthenshire norm in that many do not have adjacent blocs of upland pasture. It may be speculated that for these holdings, in the medieval and early modern periods at least, transhumance may have been a necessity unless a lowland common was available, such as that at Abermarlais, or the surviving common at Felindre Sawdde, Llangadog.

3.16 All this information has helped inform the Tir Cymen farm assessments that are the subject of this Report - but the value of oral evidence from family farms has been shown to be of equal importance. Implicit in the survey therefore and in the background work is a better understanding of the origins, development and sheer adaptability and vitality of many of the area's farms. There needs to be, in our view, a greater recognition of the range of component historic landscape features particular to Dinefwr within the operation of the Tir Cymen schemes for two principal reasons. One is to assess and survey what may be destroyed - the upland areas improved under the scheme without any prior evaluation of their archaeology. Secondly all relict features relating to former land usage and how people organised and moved about the landscape with their animals need to be accorded the same level of conservation care - at present some seem to be singled out and others rejected.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS & EVALUATION

4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1.1 In Dinefwr, like many other rural Welsh districts, a large percentage of the agricultural population are Welsh-speaking. During this pilot assessment, Welsh speaking landowners were interviewed through the medium of the Welsh language and therefore notes about the history of their holdings usually also made in Welsh. It would have been a natural progression from this point to produce a bilingual final report. However, time determined that an English only report be produced. It is hoped that resources will be available if any similar project is established in the future to allow for a more extensive use of the Welsh language in keeping with the bilingual image of Tir Cymen. Such studies place the CCW and archaeological bodies in a position to make good use of oral evidence collated through contact with landowners. Consideration might be given to involving other interest groups in future projects of this kind, such as the National Museum of Wales or Welsh university colleges, which have an interest in folk-life and linguistic studies.

4.1.2 The selection of farms for study in any future project might concentrate on those holdings which have an element of marginal land, such as unimproved hill or other 'waste'. The survival of significant archaeological sites is not of course confined to areas of upland or marginal land, but such landscapes are likely to include a higher number of well preserved archaeological features than properties in a more intensively farmed environment. This point is clearly illustrated in the case of the 12 holdings visited during this pilot project, the three farms which had the largest areas of unimproved or slightly improved hill pasture contained about half of the archaeological sites recorded by this survey.

4.1.3 It is essential that an increased awareness of the value of post-Medieval archaeological features and agricultural buildings permeates the Tir Cymen management structure. The historical development of the landscapes and the farm holdings studied is recorded in the physical features created by successive generations who have worked the land. These features include elements as diverse as trackways, field

boundaries and buildings, all of which are in some way susceptible to damage and degradation under the pressure of changing agricultural practices and require as much protection as is possible. One relatively recent structure which was particularly noted during fieldwork was a well built stone bridge leading into the farmyard at Banc y Gwin, Llansadwrn. It is precisely the type of structure which may be overlooked in a farm management plan as it may not be considered to be of historical importance. Probably built by a large estate during the 19th century, the bridge is an attractive and unusual feature to encounter on a small farm and must be considered to be of significance to the historical development of the farm.

4.1.4 Attention should be specifically drawn to the need for a full buildings survey of properties which enter the Tir Cymen scheme. A proper assessment of the architectural and historical importance of farm dwellings and outbuildings is beyond the type of rapid field surveys carried out for this project, but it is clear that many properties include buildings which retain elements of considerable interest. The derelict longhouse at Bancygwin farm (cover illustration) and its accompanying 19th century barn were probably the most notable examples of buildings encountered in the field which are in need of proper recording, but most of the farms had structures of interest. Recent Cadw listings have included at least two buildings on properties included in this study, Brynio Cottage at Hope Farm and a barn at Troedyrhiw farm, both of which have been given Grade 2 listing.

4.1.5 On most of the holdings visited it was clear that the recent trend towards creating larger field parcels by grubbing out field boundaries and hedgerows has had some impact on the landscape. It is recommended that future management plans should, where possible, reduce this threat to the character of the district's agricultural landscape.

4.1.6 Another process which obviously has an effect on the archaeological resource is that of land improvement which includes the removal of surface stone other than field boundaries. In one instance, on the upland portion of Beili Dyffryn farm, Llangadog, it appears that some archaeological features recorded by a Dyfed Archaeological Trust survey in 1989 (Murphy, 1989) have unwittingly been removed or

damaged during the (grant-aided?) clearance of bracken and surface debris to restore former pastureland (i.e. a small long hut PRN 14202). Such a case underlines the need for long-term co-operation between environmental and archaeological bodies.

4.1.7 The archaeological resource is essentially a hidden one; we mostly only see the physical remains of buildings and features used within the past 200-300 years, predominantly the last 150 years. However, the archaeological resource represents evidence of many thousands of years of human activity buried in the landscape. It is important that management plans incorporate an awareness of the fact that some areas may have no obvious field monuments but still be potentially highly sensitive. Examples from Dinefwr is the farm of Myddynfych, which has a documented history extending back for some 1,200 years, and Alltparc, which was formerly at the heart of the important Abermarlais Park and is shown on early maps (Campbell Davies Map Book, 1761) to have included part of a possible ornamental garden. Both holdings have little visible archaeology but must be considered to have significant archaeological potential and sensitivity.

4.1.6 Although touched upon earlier, the need to maximise consultation between environmental and archaeological bodies needs emphasising. Whilst there is obviously no wish on the part of CCW/Tir Cymen to degrade the archaeological resource in any way, it is clear that the natural course of even minor land improvement can include the disturbance of surface features of archaeological significance, as appears to have occurred at Beili Dyffryn. There is certainly a strong case for recommending that this pilot study leads to a wider survey of all properties in the Tir Cymen scheme to minimise this threat to the archaeological resource.

4.1.7 The parallel survey carried out by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust of farms in the Meirionydd district has produced general guidelines for future management of significant archaeological sites on farms in the Tir Cymen scheme (i.e. those of regional or national importance). This list is reproduced here and applies equally to Dinefwr;

- i) Existing grass cover should be maintained.
- ii) Grazing, is normally a desirable means of conserving archaeological sites.
- iii) Grazing should be maintained at a level which keeps undesirable vegetation under control but not such as to cause erosion. Fencing may be necessary to protect part of the site while allowing grazing to continue elsewhere, in which case care is required when positioning fence posts.
- iv) Artificial feed points and licking blocks should not be placed on archaeological sites.
- v) Care should be taken with any machinery in the area.
- vi) If permanent fencing is to be erected, care should be taken that it does not cut across areas of archaeological significance.
- vii) Areas of archaeological significance should not be ploughed without consultation.
- viii) Areas of archaeological significance should not be cleared and improved without prior consultation.
- ix) Changes in land use in areas of archaeological significance should not occur without prior consultation.
- x) Existing erosion scars affecting sites of archaeological interest should be repaired and subsequently monitored and maintained.
- xi) Rabbit populations (and other burrowing animals) should be kept under control.
- xii) Archaeological sites should not be used as a source of stone, turf or other materials
- xiii) Materials (including stone, topsoil etc) should not be stored or dumped in archaeologically sensitive areas.
- xiv) No new tree planting should occur within 20m of archaeological sites. No tree planting should take place without prior consultation.
- xv) No tree should be removed from an archaeological site without prior consultation.

xvi) No new drainage should be carried out without prior consultation.

xvii) No heavy machinery should be moved across archaeologically sensitive areas without prior consultation.

- A National importance
- B Regional importance
- C Local importance
- D Minor importance
- E Requires further investigation

4.2 EVALUATION OF SITES

4.2.1 It is important that some space is devoted to an assessment of the relative evaluation of the archaeological sites which have been identified during this survey. A general indication of relative values can be made by using the following categories;

4.2.2 The overwhelming majority of the sites recorded fall into Categories C or D, such as quarry workings, trackways, turbaries or dwellings and really need no further discussion here. It is important however to focus attention on those sites which can be considered to be of Categories A, B and E, and a list of such sites is therefore provided below;

PRN	NAME	SITE TYPE	STATUS	CATEGORY	ACTION
852	Cwm yr Efail	Cropmark	None	E	
853	Cwm yr Efail	Cropmark	None	E	
34659	Abermarlais	Garden	None	E	
34660	Banc y Gwin	Farmhouse	None	B	Recording
34661	Banc y Gwin	Barn	None	B	Recording
34663	Banc y Gwin	Bridge	None	B	Listing
34665	Banc y Gwin	Wall	None	E	Recording
8378	Beili Dyffryn	Enclosure	None	B	
10656	Beili dyffryn	Farmstead	None	B	Recording
14200	Beili dyffryn	Settlement	None	B	Recording*
14205	Beili dyffryn	Platform House	None	B	Recording*
34670	Beili dyffryn	Cromlech?	None	E	Recording
1915	Esgair Fraith West	Round Barrow	SAM	A	
1916	Esgair Fraith East	Round Barrow	SAM	A	
34673	Craig Twrch	Settlement	None	B	Recording
34678	Esgair Fraith	Round barrow?	None	E	
34680	Pant y Blawd	Dwelling	None	B	Recording
34695	Brynio	Cottage	LB 2	A	
34697	Hope Inn	Round Barrow?	None	E	
693	Carn Maes Ifan	Round Barrow	None	A	
11372	Myddynfych	Settlement	None	A	
17401	Myddynfych	Dwelling	None	B	Recording
34715	Troed y Rhiw	Barn; Cowshed	LB 2	A	

*Bracken clearance means that more detail of these sites is now visible and re-recording or re-evaluation may be beneficial.

FARM ASSESSMENTS

5. ALLT Y PARC FARM

Alltyparc is located on the western side of the Tywi valley, just over 1km north-west of the village of Ashfield Row, near Llangadog, within the parish of Llansadwrn. The property is now in the ownership of Beili Dyffryn Farm, Bethlehem, Llangadog. The holding was visited during April, 1997.

5.1 LANDSCAPE

5.1.1 The holding is situated on gently sloping land between the Tywi floodplain and a steep wooded slope known as Alltyparc. It is crossed by several minor stream valleys, but the land is in the main gently undulating in character. The foot of Alltyparc hill is included within the holding and along this north-western side of the property there is a sharp increase in slope. Most of the holding lies below 100m OD.

5.1.2 In the main, the Alltyparc comprises good pastureland. There is some woodland along the north-western side of the holding and one parcel of woodland known as Bog Wood, along one of the minor stream valleys which cross the property. The northern fields are rather wet and rough pasture, with some patches of scrub growth. The name Bog Wood is itself suggestive of this characteristic.

5.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

5.2.1 Undoubtedly, the most significant historical aspect of Alltyparc is its location within the lands of the home estate or *demesne* farm of Abermarlais. During the early 16th century, Abermarlais was home to Sir Rhys ap Thomas, Lord of Dinefwr, one of the foremost supporters of Henry Tudor and the man said to have slain Richard III on Bosworth Field. His fame brought him wealth and properties across the country, but Abermarlais was his main home.

5.2.2 Alltyparc (lit. Park Hill) receives its name from its location within the parkland of the Abermarlais demesne, but the name now refers specifically to the wooded slope or *allt* which lies just to the north of the holding boundary. Both were once elements in the Abermarlais parkland, an area once characterised by large field parcels, easily identifiable on the Llansadwrn Parish Tithe Map of 1839. These parcels have been defined by traditional hedged earth boundary banks within the past 250 years, but to what

degree the parkland was sub-divided before the 18th century is unknown. The 1st edition 1:10560 OS Map of 1891 shows that some of the current pasturelands were once lightly wooded parkland. Small depressions are visible in some fields, showing where tree stumps have been ripped up in modern times.

5.2.3 An early estate map (Campbell Davies Map Book, 1761) shows that many of the wooded parcels in the area are plantations. It shows that Alltyparc slope was unwooded in 1761 but hand-written notes on the map indicate that it was planted in 1796 and that Bog Wood was planted in 1803. The same map also shows that the area around the 'bowling green', the portion of Alltyparc closest to Abermarlais house included garden features and possibly ornamental plantations.

5.2.4 Alltyparc has never been a working farm unit, rather it has been a portion of parkland which has been apportioned at various times to various farm holdings. No dwelling is recorded as having stood within the boundaries of the present holding, other than a small cottage at Park Lodge, at the western edge of the property. The 1839 Tithe Apportionment shows that at that time the land was in part owned by a holding called Penybanc, which was located alongside the main Llandeilo-Llandovery road, just south of the present village of Ashfield Row. Penybanc owned only the small fields at the south-western end of the present property, the bulk of Alltyparc probably remained with the Abermarlais Estate at that time.

5.2.5 The most obvious changes made to the landscape since the first half of the 19th century has been the sub-division of the large field parcels of the old parkland by the construction of a number of straight field boundaries, although it is now apparent that some of these boundaries have now either disappeared or become defunct.

5.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF ALLT Y PARC

Previously recorded sites.

PRN852: CWM YR EFAIL - CROPMARK

This site has been identified on aerial photographs and is probably the shadow of a garden feature related to the Abermarlais

PRN853: CWM YR EFAIL - BOWLING GREEN.

Another site identified on aerial photographs. It has previously been tentatively identified as a Roman fortlet, by virtue of its rectangular shape and proximity to the Tywi valley Roman road. The site comprises a large, flat, rectangular area, slightly raised above adjacent land. Its location within the Abermarlais park is significant and an early estate plan (Campbell Estate Map Book, 1761) shows a rectangular feature named as the 'Bowling Green' at this location.

PRN3419: TURNPIKE ROAD

The trackway which passes along the eastern side of Alltyparc was at one time thought to correspond with the line of the Roman road down the Tywi valley, but it is now recognized to be an old Turnpike road. This was the main Tywi valley road before the Turnpike Trust replaced it in the early 1800s with a new road, now the A40. Much of the route of the Roman Road in this section of the Tywi valley has now been mapped quite accurately from aerial photographic evidence and in the vicinity of Ashfield Row can be seen passing between the A40 and the old Turnpike road.

PRN22463: PARK LODGE - LODGE

One of a number of lodges located at entrance points to the Abermarlais park. The site includes the ruins of a stone built cottage, a stretch of trackway, defined by a stone edging kerb and some garden features around the cottage. The dwelling is very ruinous, little more than a pile of rubble, and partially overgrown. It is shown on the original OS surveyors drawings of 1811-12 (although not on the 1761 Campbell Davies Map) and was still occupied according to the 2nd edition 1:10560 OS map of 1907. Its date of abandonment is unknown.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34655: BRIDGE

The ruins of a small bridge across a minor stream on the southern margins of the holding. A causeway has been raised on the north bank of the stream to carry a track across an area of soft ground. The original OS surveyors drawings of 1811-12 show a trackway coming from the direction of Felindre, Llansadwrn, crossing the stream at this point and proceeding along an existing road towards the direction the river crossing

near Llangadog. The bridge is likely to be 18th century in date and may represent the location of a much older bridging or fording point.

PRN34656: PLATFORM

The 2nd edition 1:10560 OS map of 1907 shows a small building on the slope just within the holding boundary here. A small platform is visible in the field, measuring c.5m x 2m. A hut of unknown purpose clearly stood here, possibly associated with the management of Alltyparc wood or an estate feature. Nothing is marked here on earlier OS maps.

PRN34657: PLATFORM

An unusual scoop set into the slope and the base of a field boundary bank. It measure 5m x 4m, with its longest axis cutting across the contour. Its function is unknown, but it may represent a hut platform or could alternatively be a root vegetable clamp (*cladd tatws*).

PRN34658: FIELD BOUNDARY BANK

There are clear traces of a grubbed out field boundary bank running parallel to the Bog Wood stream, along the top of the valley slope on the southern side of the stream. This bank is not shown on any map.

PRN34659: ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

As noted above, the Campbell Davies Map Book of 1761 shows a planned garden and bowling green on the portion of Alltyparc lands nearest to Abermarlais House. The fields here are now devoid of any surface evidence of such features but may nevertheless be archaeologically important.

PRN34710: ALLTYPARC TRACKWAY

A well built trackway, c.4m wide, runs along the northern margin of the holding, at the foot of the Alltyparc wood. It is grassed over but remains in good condition. It enters Alltyparc from the west, passing through the old yard of Park Lodge (PRN22463) and seems to head in the direction of the small hamlet of Felindre, to the north.

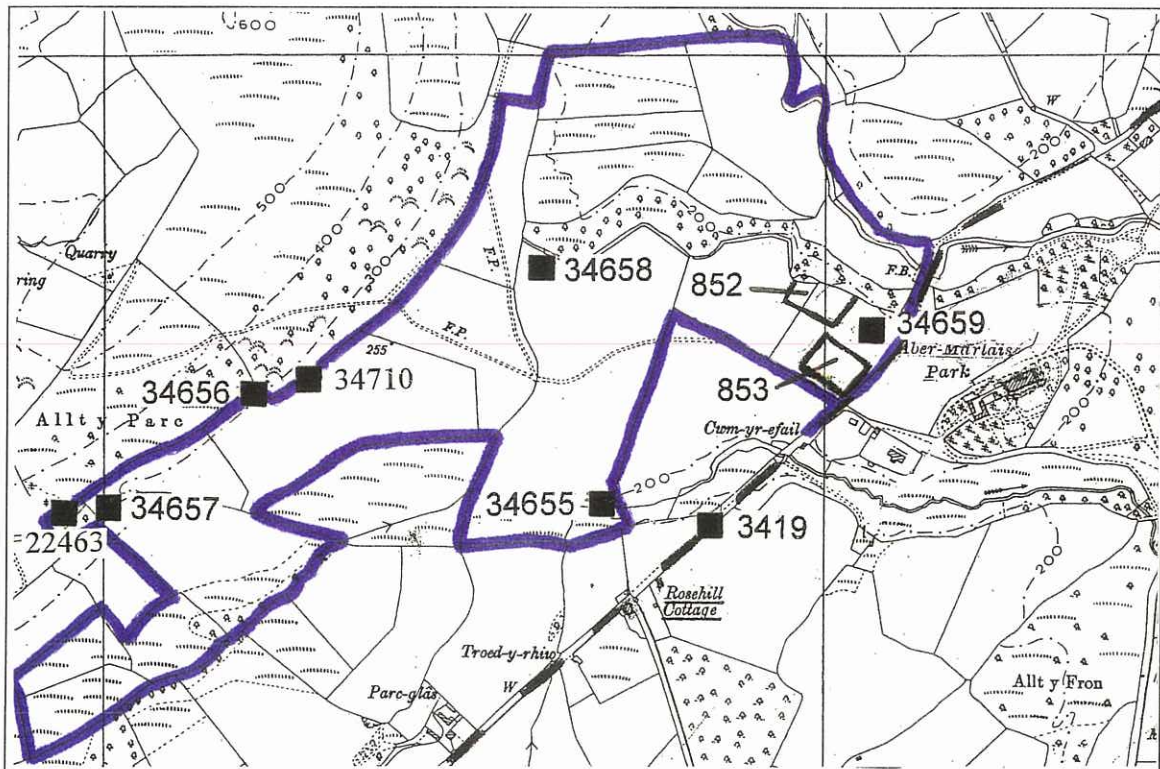


Fig.4: Allt y Parc.

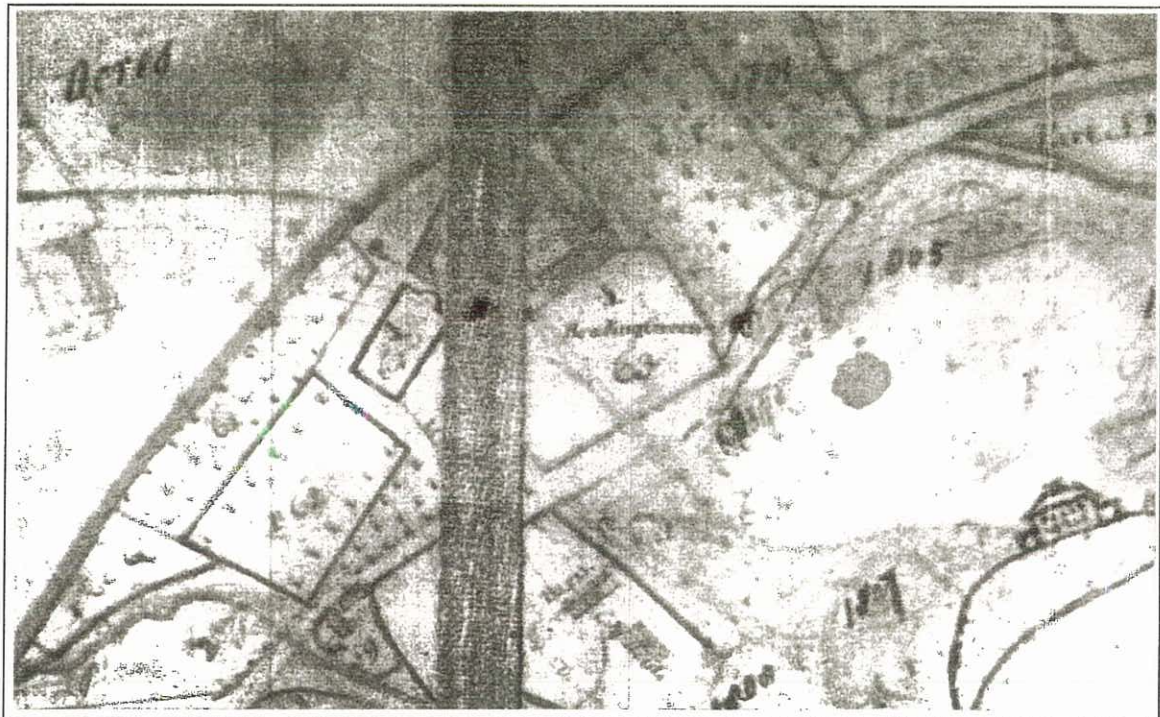


Fig.5: Portion of the 1761 Map of Abermarlais Demesne from the Campbell-Davies Map Book (CRO). Parcel 63, in centre, is 'The Bowling Green', Abermarlais House is shown bottom right.

6. BANC Y GWIN FARM

Banc y Gwin Farm is located on a ridge of relatively high ground between the Tywi valley, to the east and the smaller Dulais valley, to the west, just over 1km north-west of the village of Ashfield Row, which stands on the main A40 road in the Tywi valley. The holding is currently in the hands of Hope Farm, New Inn, Llandeilo. A rapid survey of the property was made during April, 1997, in the company of the owner.

6.1 LANDSCAPE

6.1.1 The core of Banc y Gwin occupies south-west facing and mostly gently sloping land which borders the steep sided hill known as Parc, which was once part of the parkland belonging to the neighbouring Abermarlais estate. The top of Parc hill is now part of Banc y Gwin, having been acquired in recent years. This is the highest point on the property, at just below 200m, and the land slopes away to the south-west to an altitude of some 120m at the lowest part of the holding.

6.1.2 Banc y Gwin is predominantly characterised by good pastureland with some unimproved pasture on Parc hill. Field boundaries are mostly of traditional hedgerows, with some stone walling a relic of earlier estate management. There is very little woodland at Banc y Gwin, only a few small fragments including a small wooded dingle adjacent to the farmhouse.

6.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

6.2.1 The absence of a resident farmer or tenant on the property means that there was little oral evidence recorded regarding the holding. However, map evidence is available which gives some indication of the development of the property since the 1760s.

6.2.2 An Abermarlais estate map dated to 1761 (Campell Davies Map Book) shows that Banc y Gwin was owned by one David Protheroe at that time. Later notes added to the map also show that portions of Parc hill were planted with trees in 1797 and 1801. No woodland is shown here on the Llansadwrn Tithe Map of 1839, suggesting that this plantation had either failed or had already been harvested. Parc hill is bounded on its western side by a substantial stone wall which almost certainly marks the boundary of the Abermarlais parkland on this side of the hill.

6.2.3 The buildings around the farmyard of Banc y Gwin are of considerable historic interest. The most important standing structures are the farmhouse and adjoining *beudy* and the barn on the opposite side of the farmyard. Both appear to be present on the 1839 Parish Tithe Map.

6.2.4 The Parc hill, which can be described as the upland element of the property has not only been used in former times for tree planting. Numerous elongated pits across the hill suggest that quarrying has occurred in the past. There is also some evidence of earlier shepherding activity on the hill, in the form of a small hut platform on the northern side of the hill, sheltered from prevailing winds.

6.2.5 The proximity of Banc y Gwin to the Abermarlais estate and its former parkland has some implications for the history of the property. It is apparent that one of the main access roads into the parkland passed through Banc y Gwin. This is the 'hollow way' described below, which may have been in use for many centuries before becoming disused in the 19th century.

6.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF BANC Y GWIN

Previously recorded sites.

PRN18207 QUARRY

A small quarry is recorded in the corner of one of the higher fields on the property. It probably dates to the late 19th century, appearing for the first time on the 1907 1:10560 OS map.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34660 BANCYGWIN FARMHOUSE

The farmhouse and *beudy* belong to the Welsh longhouse tradition, once typical of farms in this region, and retain many original features, including some mud-walling in the dwelling. They are however in a state of advanced dereliction and the collapse of some walls has begun (see cover photograph).

PRN34661 BARN

The barn is of excellent dressed masonry construction under a slate roof and in remarkably good condition, remaining in use as an agricultural building. Lime mortar was used in its construction and it may have been

built in the later 19th century on the same alignment as an earlier structure. It has large opposed entrances, indicating that threshing was carried out in the southern end of the building, and a mill race passes the same end of the barn, once feeding a water wheel which probably provided power for threshing machinery.

PRN34662 MILL RACE

The line of this small leat is still visible running towards the southern end of the barn. It was supplied by a minor stream, some 200m north-east of the barn. All traces of the water-wheel and its housing have been removed.

PRN34663 BRIDGE

South of the farmyard the ground falls away quite sharply into a steep sided stream valley. The track which descends into this valley is carried across the stream by a substantial and attractive stone bridge, an unusual feature on a small farm and presumably constructed at the behest of a larger estate. The stream flows through a single, small arch, no more than 1m high. The stonework of this arch on the northern side of the bridge is in the early stages of collapse but must be considered repairable at present.

PRN34664 HOLLOW WAY

This sunken trackway may be of some antiquity. On early OS maps (OS 1:1mile, 1831) it is shown connecting Banc y Gwin farmyard with another trackway which crosses Banc y Gwin land from the direction of Cefnmaes farm to the west, ultimately originating from Taliaris park. Park Lodge stood at the boundary of Banc y Gwin and Abermarlais park during the 19th century, indicating that this latter trackway may once have linked the important estates of Abermarlais and Taliaris.

PRN34665 BOUNDARY WALL

A substantial stone built wall forms the western boundary of Parc hill. The same boundary line is shown on the 1761 Campell Davies map, marking the edge of the Abermarlais estate parkland, but the date of construction of the wall is unknown. The source of the building stone used is also unknown, for although there are numerous quarry pits on Parc hill, the shaly stone exposed there makes it unlikely that these quarries were a source of such good building stone as is used in the boundary wall.

PRN34666 QUARRY?

The type of friable shale exposed on the hill indicates that the quarried stone was probably taken for road building or repair in the vicinity.

PRN34667 PILLOW MOUND?

A pillow mound is a man-made rabbit warren, and can date to the mediaeval or early post-mediaeval period, when rabbits were farmed quite commonly. The mound on Parc hill is 10m long x 5m wide and stands over 1m high. It has been created by digging into the slope and pulling the quarried earth downslope to create a mound. Although this mound displays the characteristics of a pillow mound, it may equally be associated with quarrying activity on the hill and merely represent the beginnings of an abandoned quarry cut.

PRN34668 MOUND

Located on the steep northern side of Parc hill, this low, circular mound measures 7m in diameter. It may be associated with a small hut platform some 15-20m upslope. No explanation can be offered as to its origin.

PRN34669 HUT PLATFORM

Also located on the sheltered northern slopes of Parc hill, this small platform measures c.5m x 3m. It is attested that shepherds constructed small shelters for themselves, known in 18th century south-west Wales as *cabanau*. In view of its location on this high hill it is possible that this might be the site of such a structure.

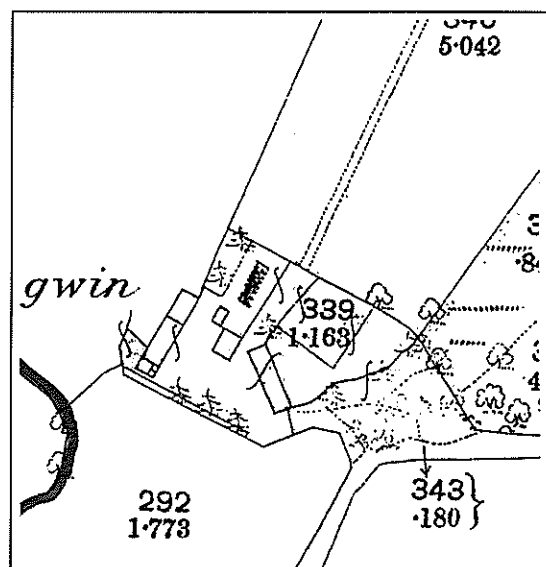


Fig.6: Banc y Gwin farmyard on 1887 1:10560 OS map. Note course of leat.

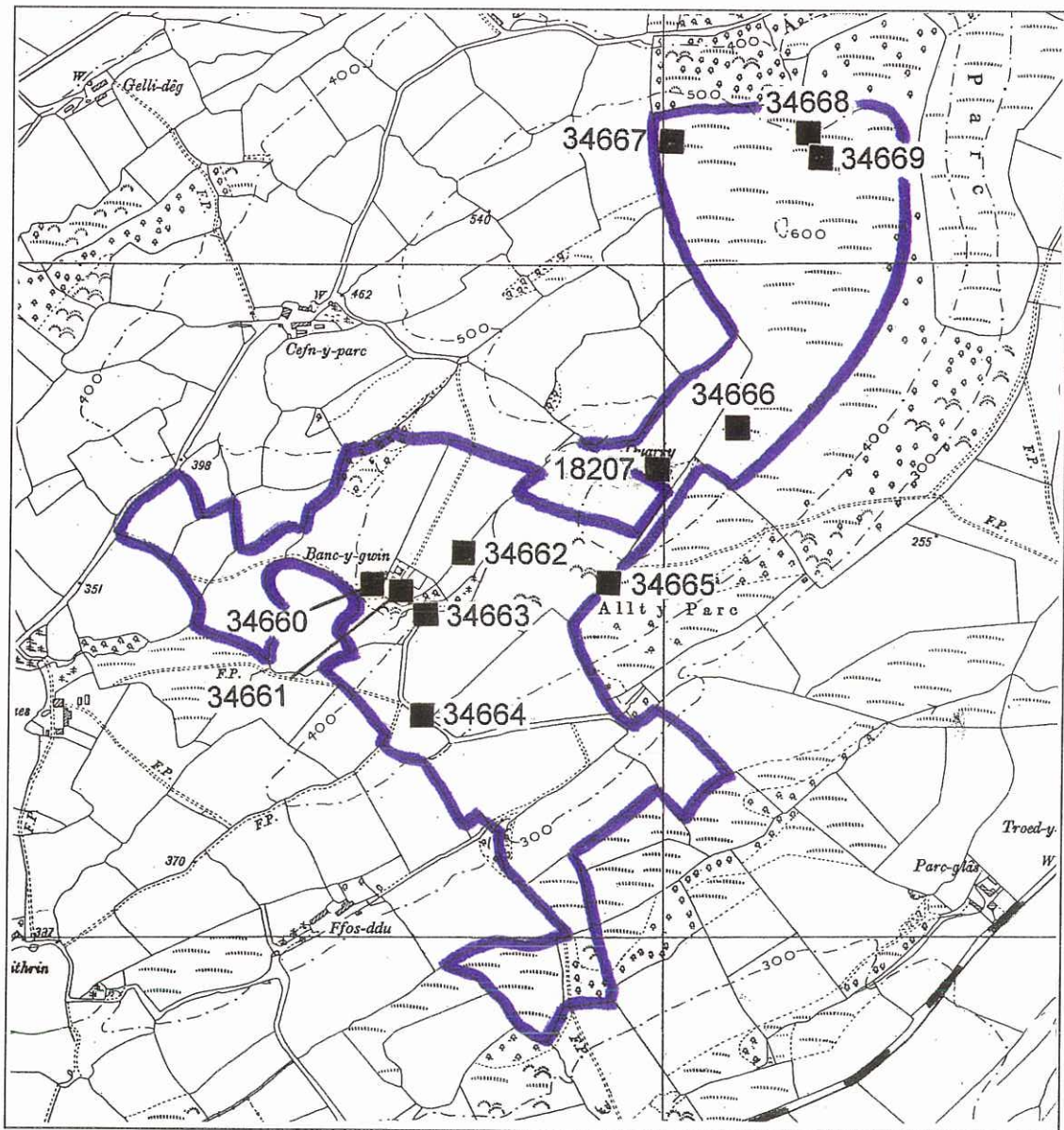


Fig. 7: Banc y Gwin Farm

7. BEILI DYFFRYN FARM

Beili Dyffryn farm is located on the eastern side of the Tywi valley, less than 1km north-east of the village of Bethlehem. The southern half of the farm lies within the area of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The holding has been in the ownership of the same family since the late 19th century and the present owners reside in the farmhouse.

The farm was visited in April, 1997. It should be noted that a large number of archaeological sites were already recorded on the farm, following a survey of the upland portion of the property by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1989, prior to land improvements (Murphy, 1989).

7.1 LANDSCAPE

7.1.1 Despite its proximity to the Afon Tywi, which is 1km to the north-west, Beili Dyffryn is located at the head of the valley of Nant Ceidrych, separated from the Tywi floodplain by a low ridge at the western edge of the farm. The prospect from the farmyard is therefore in the direction of the village of Bethlehem to the south-west, along the Ceidrych valley.

7.1.2 Field boundaries are mainly of traditional hedgerows, although stone walls enclose parts of the upland portion of the farm. There is little woodland on the holding, such as there is being confined to a wooded tributary stream valley which runs off Garn Goch into Nant Ceidrych and a narrow *allt* on the upland portion of the holding.

7.1.3 The moorland of Garn Goch hill, which rises to over 200m, is an important landscape feature in this locality, and the upper part of the farm reaches up onto the lower slopes of the hill, above the 110m contour.

7.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

7.2.1 When the upland portion of Beili Dyffryn was surveyed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1989, a number of field boundaries and settlement sites were recorded, showing that attempts had been made in previous centuries to enclose and improve the fringes of Garn Goch Common. No date can be affixed to these sites merely from analysing surface features, but it is likely to represent mediaeval or early post-mediaeval activity, which might have occurred at almost any time between the 12th and 18th centuries.

7.2.2 The relationship between these upland sites and the lowland farm is unknown, but it is likely that Beili Dyffryn has enjoyed rights of common on Garn Goch for many centuries. The name of the large parcel of land known as *Cae Newydd* or *Pal-y-Baily* on the 1881

Direlton estate map gives some indication of the past status of the land. *Cae Newydd* (New Field) suggests that this is old common or waste land brought into the holding at some time prior to the early 19th century - quite probably during the 18th century, when there was an increasing drive to enclose and improve common land. *Pal y Baily* (The Baily's Enclosure) suggests that this enclosure was indeed made for the benefit of Beili Dyffryn. However, the archaeological sites recorded on the hill, such as the field boundaries, are not obviously related to this enclosure and may well predate it by some centuries.

7.2.3 Beili Dyffryn is fairly typical of the farm units in the district in respect to the combination of lowland and upland elements in the holding, which until the latter half of the 20th century would have practiced mixed agriculture. An 1881 Direlton estate sales catalogue indicates the predominance of cattle on the holding at that time, and indicates that pigs were also kept. Sheep would certainly have been grazed on the upland portion of the farm. The catalogue also shows that about 20% of the property was arable land, presumably turned over to crops such as oats and barley, important as stock feeds.

7.2.4 The history of the farm is partly outlined in Francis Jones 'Historic Houses of Carmarthenshire' (1987), which draws attention to the status of past occupants of Beili Dyffryn. The farm was in the ownership of various estates until the mid-20th century, such as the previously named Direlton estate. The present occupant remembers the property being owned by Sir Mervin Peel before World War II. The Direlton Estate was responsible for some plantation of wood along the western side of the property, where pheasants were once bred.

7.2.5 Oral evidence indicates that the holding retains grazing rights on the remaining commons of Garn Goch, as do a number of other properties which bound the common. These rights are now rarely used because of the risk of sheep picking up ticks from the

When bracken was still commonly used as a winter bedding material for stock animals, farms neighbouring the common also enjoyed bracken cutting rights, each property being allocated its own portion of the common.

7.2.6 Oral tradition has it that until the mid-20th century a local clog-maker obtained wood in the wooded parcels which survive on the upper portion of the farm. Such use of a local woodland resource by tradesmen from the wider community was once a common feature of Welsh rural life.

7.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF BEILI DYFFRYN

Previously recorded sites.

PRN8378 Enclosure

A square enclosure measuring c.10m x 10m and associated with a field system which divides up a wide natural terrace in the hillslope. The enclosure and the field banks are defined by wide earth and stone banks.

PRN10656 Beili Dyffryn Farmstead

The present farmhouse and outbuildings have no outstanding architectural characteristics. They include a larger than usual farmhouse detached from a range of stone built buildings which bear some signs of the influence of estate design and construction, such as decorative wooden lattice-work above the door frames of the cowshed. The 1881 Direlton estate sales catalogue of Beili Dyffryn lists the following buildings and features; "Superior dwelling house, Barn, Stable, Cow Houses, Open Cattle Sheds, Calf Houses, Piggeries, Outbuildings..."

Comparison of the 1886 1:2500 OS map and modern plans of the farm show little change in the range of buildings present and a full survey of the farm buildings may well allow for a reconstruction of the late 19th century plan of the farmyard.

PRN14200 Long Hut: Settlement?

Recorded in 1989 as a 'complex site consisting of a possible settlement of circular huts... rectangular huts and boundary banks'. The area is rather obscured by vegetational growth and no clear plan of the site is discernible.

PRN14201 Enclosure

A sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 12m x 7m, recorded in 1989. Not located during field visit.

PRN14202 Long Hut

A small hut, built of dry-stone walls, measuring only 5m x 3m. Possibly a temporary shepherding shelter. Not located during field visit. Possibly removed by recent land improvements.

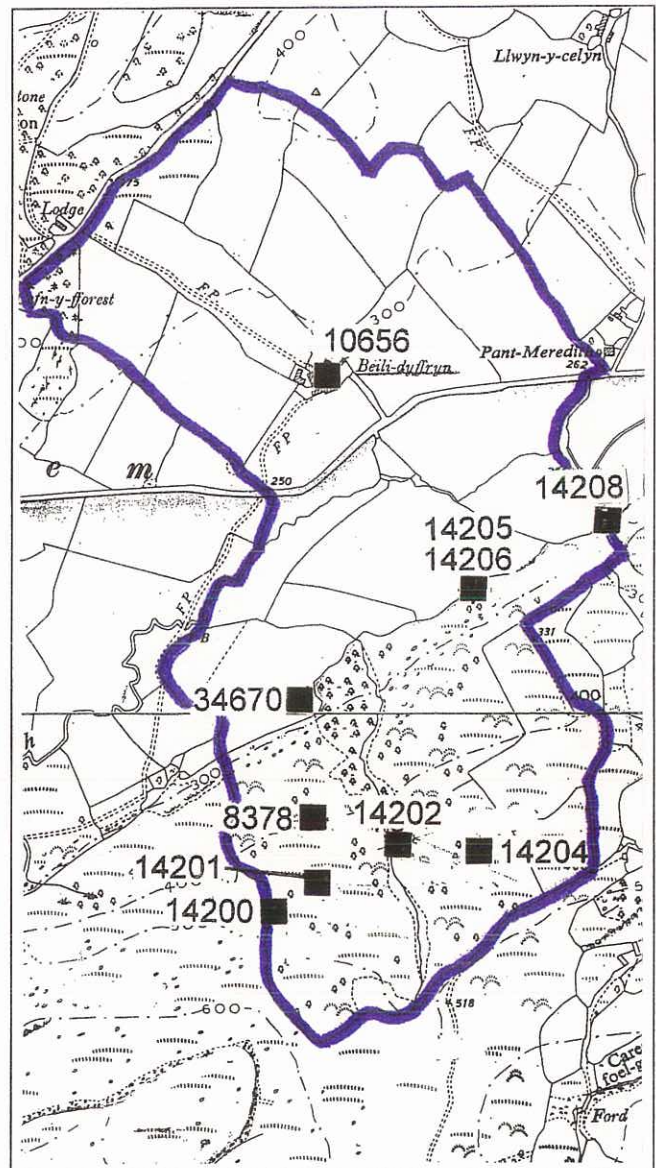


Fig. 8: Beili Dyffryn Farm.

PRN14204 Enclosure

Recorded in 1989 as a rectangular enclosure with a possible associated building. The area has since been cleared of bracken and is now improved pasture. The stone spread recorded in 1989 may have been created by the clearance of the land at an earlier date, and mistaken for an archaeological feature due to the thick vegetational growth which previously obscured the area. No evidence of any enclosure or structure is now visible here.

PRN14205 Platform House

A well preserved drystone structure built on an artificial platform and measuring 22m x 6m. The date of such dwellings is difficult to establish without excavation, but a mediaeval date is probable for such a structure.

PRN14206 Field System

Drystone walls which probably represent an attempt at enclosing part of Garn Goch common (see also PRN29552-3).

PRN14208 Building

Site of a ruined cottage. Noted in 1989 but not marked on any historic or modern map. Date and purpose unknown.

PRN29552 Field Boundary

This refers to a type of field boundary encountered on the upland portion of the farm, whereby earth and stone banks fronted by a ditch were used to enclose some fields. These

are felt to be later than the field boundaries represented any PRN29553, but earlier than PRN14206 type banks.

PRN29553 Field Boundary

Possibly the earliest type of field boundaries on the upland part of the farm, being rubble and boulder banks which divide the area into irregular shaped fields, suggesting the stones were obtained during initial land clearance.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34670 CROMLECH?

An unusual arrangement of stones in the corner of the field known on the 1881 Direlton estate map as *Cil y Ganfa*. This corner has clearly been used in the past as a dumping area for stones disturbed by ploughing. However, there are a number of large edge set slabs of stone which form a rectangular feature c. 2.5m x 5m in size (although this is probably not the whole of the feature, which has been disturbed by both stone removal and dumping). Some 10m to the west, more edge set slabs run at right angles to this rectangular feature and may be part of a larger structure. It may indeed be a ruined neolithic burial chamber or *cromlech*. However, the degree of interference of the area over a very long period makes it difficult to interpret the site from surface evidence.

Lot 55.

A FIRST CLASS FEEDING FARM,

KNOWN AS

BAILY HOUSE,

Adjoining Dan-yr-allt and on the Turnpike Road from Llandilo to Rhydsaint and Llangadock,

And comprising Superior Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, Cow Houses, Open Cattle Sheds, Calf Houses, Piggeries, Outbuildings, Stack Yards, Gardens, &c., together with about

173a. 2r. 32p.

OF RICH MEADOW AND PASTURE AND SOUND ARABLE LAND,

Fig.9: Detail from Direlton Estate Sales Catalogue, 1881 (CRO).

8. BUARTH YR OEN FARM

Buarth yr Oen is a sheep farm, which is located some 3km north of the village of Ffarmers in the parish of Caio, on the northern border of Carmarthenshire. The owner is resident in the farmhouse. A survey of the holding was made in March, 1997.

8.1 LANDSCAPE

8.1.1 The farm includes landscapes which vary from rocky mountain moorland on the ridge of Craig Twrch and Esgair Fraith, to improved pasture on the valley floor of the Afon Twrch. The farm is divided by the Twrch, with land rising to over 400m on Esgair Fraith, to the north-west, and over 300m on the slope to the south-east. The farmyard, at the foot of the steep slopes of Craig Twrch, stands at c.240m.

8.1.2 Only a little woodland is found on the farm, including one small wood on wet land near Taldre, and a wooded slope on the slopes rising to the south-east of the Afon Twrch.

8.1.3 The high and open moorland on Esgair Fraith and Craig Twrch includes a turbary (peat cutting area) and unimproved pasture, some of which is still Crown Common Land.

8.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

8.2.1 Although Buarth yr Oen is located well away from the main modern communications routes of the district, history shows that the farm was far from isolated in the past. The old Roman Road 'Sarn Helen' passes close to the western side of the farm. This route was used for centuries by drovers moving their cattle to markets further to the east, or farmers journeying to the coal and lime producing centres further south in Carmarthenshire. Indeed, this point is illustrated by a photograph in the possession of the family which was taken by D.C. Harries, Llandeilo at the start of the 20th century. It shows a member of the family driving his sheep over Llandeilo bridge on his way to market, having travelled from Buarth yr Oen.

8.2.2 The earliest map consulted, the OS Original Survey Drawing of 1819, it can be seen that Buarth yr Oen, and other farms along the valley of the Afon Twrch, stand on the edge of an area of unenclosed common land and that the land either side of the valley remains open common or waste. It is likely

that the land in the valley bottom, which has typically been divided into irregular fields by earth banks and hedgerows, has been farmed for many centuries. The adjacent hills have historically been used for the summer grazing of cattle and sheep, which would return to the valley for the winter. This pattern of farming, commonly known as the *hafod/ hendre* system, was characteristic of the mountainous regions of Wales in the past, and which has survived to some degree into the present. Several deserted settlement sites identified during fieldwork, known as *magwyr* to the landowner, are typical of the archaeological remains of former upland dwellings found across the hills of Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, probably associated with the *hafod/hendre* system (i.e. PRNs 34672-3)

8.2.4 Only one holding, Lluest y Bwlch, was present on the slopes of Esgair Fraith in 1819, with only a small parcel of land enclosed around the house. The name *lluest* suggests that this holding was originally an old shepherding cottage on the mountain pastures. Its possible that the rest of the land beyond Esgair Fraith was enclosed in 1851, when 1970 acres of land on 'Cellan Mountain' were enclosed (Bowen, 1914, 54). It is not known when the hill on the south-eastern side of the farm was enclosed, which the Cynwyl Gaiio Tithe map of 1841 shows had already occurred

8.2.5 Buarth yr Oen is that it stands in such close proximity to another farmhouse, Taldre. Early maps, such as the Parish Tithe Map show that Taldre was the larger of the two at one time. The relationship between the two farms is unknown, one may have been founded by the other, but no evidence of this has been uncovered. Buarth yr Oen now includes the land and house of Taldre.

8.2.6 The major changes which have affected Buarth yr Oen since the last quarter of the 19th century can be seen by comparing historic and modern OS maps. It can be seen that the woodland in the south-eastern portion of the farm has spread since the 1888 OS survey, but at the same time, the land above this woodland, which was a mixture of rough grazing and scrub has been transformed into improved pasture. The map record also shows that a number of field boundary banks on the valley floor have been grubbed out during the 20th century, in keeping with the modern tendency to create larger fields.

8.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF BUARTH YR OEN

Previously recorded sites.

PRN1915: ESGAIR FRAITH WEST

A round barrow or burial mound of Bronze Age date (2,500 - 700BC). A piece of pottery was found here in the past, probably part of a cremation urn. The mound was opened before the 20th century but there is no record of the excavation. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

PRN1916: ESGAIR FRAITH EAST

Another bronze age round barrow, also a scheduled site.

PRN13698: BANC TY HEN

Crown Common Land. Part of the commons of the ancient commote and manor of Cynwyl Gaio which has retained its status as a common and remains largely unenclosed.

Newly recorded sites

PRN34671 RHIW CRAIG TWRCH -
PEAT CUTTER'S TRACK

This old track climbs the steep slopes of Craig Twrch and links Buarth yr Oen with the peat bog at the foot of Esgair Fraith. It is said that the track was by the sleds or *cartiau llusg* of the peat cutters when bringing loads of peat down from the turbary. These sleds were used in the locality into the 20th century.

PRN34672: SETTLEMENT

A deserted settlement of uncertain date. The site includes a building platform cut into the hillslope, on which stands the ruins of a small, rectangular, drystone building. The most likely interpretation of this site is that it is the remains of an old *hafod* or *lluest*, associated with shepherding on the adjacent slopes. It is also possible of course that there is an association with peat cutting activity, the peat cutters track described above begins its descent quite close to the platform.

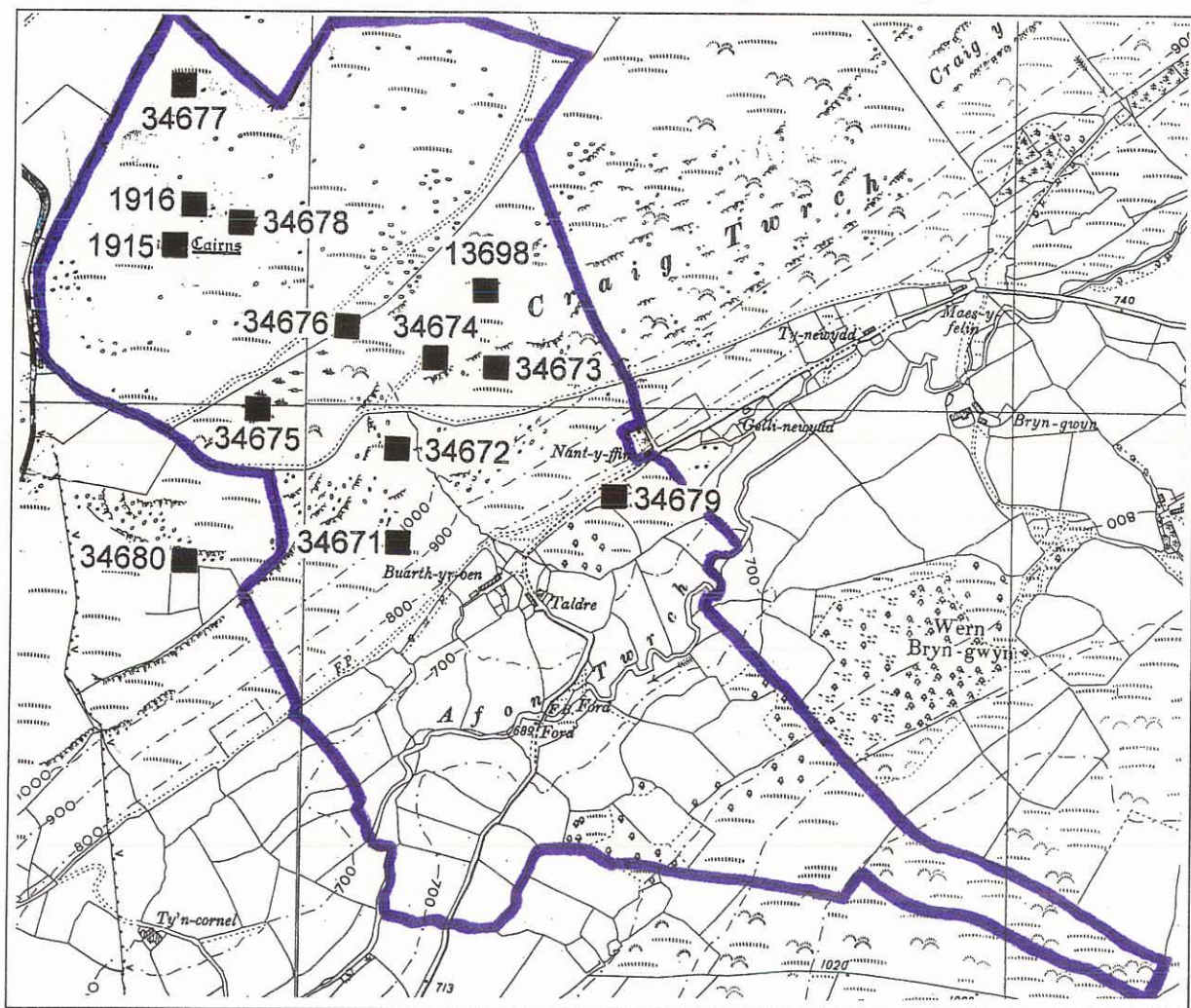


Fig.10: Buarth yr Oen Farm.

PRN34673: SETTLEMENT

This site includes the ruins of three drystone structures, one of which is a probable dwelling - a rectangular building 7.5m x 4m, divided into two cells. The other two structures are smaller and were probably animal or fowl pens. They occupy a flat, rocky terrace in the shelter of Graig Twrch. There is also evidence that a earth and stone bank enclosed a part of the terrace, around the settlement, presumably to keep stock under control.

PRN34674: BUILDING? PEAT DRYING PLATFORM?

A rectilinear feature, 7m x 3m, in the form of lines of drystone set into the ground to form the rectangle. It is located at the edge of the turbary above Craig Twrch and may be the site of a small, temporary, peat cutters shelter. Alternatively it may be a peat drying platform, where cut peat could be left to dry in the wind before being moved down to the valley. There are signs that a trackway led up towards this platform and its exposed position above Craig Twrch might have made it an ideal location for drying peat.

PRN34675: TURBARY

An area of peat bog is situated on a natural terrace between Esgair Fraith and Craig Twrch. Peat was traditionally cut as a domestic fuel, a practice which continued within living memory in this area. The peat was removed from the mountain on wooden sleds or *cartiau llusg* and the trail followed by these sleds is still visible on the slopes of Craig Twrch.

PRN34676: WALL

A well built drystone wall which denotes the boundary of the Crown Common Land on Craig Twrch. Some sections are becoming ruinous but it is on the whole in good condition. The date of the wall is unknown.

34677: PEAT CUTTERS TRACK?

Another linear feature similar to the attested peat cutters track above Buarth yr Oen. This track comes from the north-east, but its date, purpose and origin are uncertain.

34678: ROUND BARROW?

Near the Esgair Fraith round barrows, another mound was recorded c.20m in diameter x 2m high; possibly another burial mound, possibly a natural feature. If is a round barrow it has not been disturbed.

PRN34679: DWELLING

At the roadside between Buarth yr Oen a Saron, are ruins of a stone built dwelling. It can be seen that it had two rooms. The garden area is also discernible. Trees have grown across the site and the land turned very boggy. Oral evidence suggests that this was an old Smithy, but its name is not known.

PRN34680 PANTYBLAWD DWELLING

Although this site is not within the area defined by Tir Cymen for this survey, it lies on adjacent land which has recently been purchased by the owner. Pantyblawd was a small cottage, and its ruined walls still stand up to c.1.5m. Pantyblawd does not appear on any historic map before 1888 (OS 1:2500, Carms. 1.16, 1888) when it is shown as an empty house. This suggests either that it might have been built and abandoned before the first survey took place in 1819, or that it was built after the Tithe Survey c.1839 and had been vacated by 1888. The present remains include the drystone walls of the house and a series of small enclosures and fields. It is known locally as Pantyblawd.



Fig.11: Cynwyl Gaio Tithe Map, 1841, showing Buarth yr Oen (92) and Thaldre (91).

9. CATHILAS FARM

Cathilas is located some 4km north-east of Ammanford, within the parish of Llandybie. The farm is one of several properties farmed by the current owner, who does not reside at Cathilas. However, the property has been in hands of the same family since the mid-20th century. The holding was visited during April, 1997.

9.1 LANDSCAPE

9.1.1 The farm occupies a slope with a south-western aspect. It stretches from the Afon Llwchwr, to the west, to the fringes of the Mynydd Du, to the east, including an area of former common land known as Y Pâl; a rise in altitude from 75m to 225m OD.

9.1.2 The land included in the holding is mostly gradually sloping, many fields being fairly flat. The surface is increasingly undulating towards the south-western corner of the property and falls away sharply in the wooded area along the edge of the Llwchwr valley.

9.1.3 Although now completely enclosed and improved, with traditional hedged field boundaries defining the fields on the historic core of the farm, whilst unhedged earth banks are seen on the land which was carved out of the old Pâl common. This latter area still show characteristics of the old moor, with patches of gorse and rushes persisting in some areas. Even though the visit was carried out at the end of a prolonged dry period, the surface of these fields was still spongy and wet in places.

9.1.4 Woodland is confined to the fringes of the Llwchwr valley, which map evidence shows to have been wooded over the last 200 years, its steep slopes probably never having been fully cleared. A few other small parcel of woodland also exist on the holding, including small portions along stream valleys near the farmyard and a larger area in a field in the centre of the property, known as Waun Galed. The tree growth in this latter parcel may represent a regeneration of woodland since the 19th century, for Waun Galed was recorded as pasture on the Llandybie Parish Tithe Map of 1841 and late 19th century OS maps show a much smaller extent of tree cover than at present.

9.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

9.2.1 The earliest references to Cathilas identify a dwelling here during mediaeval times, noted by Professor William Rees and shown on his map 'South Wales and the Border in the 14th Century' (1932).

9.2.2 Cathilas was once held by the Vaughans of Gelli Aur, one of the county's most powerful families. In the late 1650s, Sir Henry Vaughan, who was a Major-General in the Royalist forces during the Civil War, bequeathed £10 annually to his illegitimate son Henry Vaughan of Swansea, to be paid out of 'Kathylas' profits (Roberts, 1939, 85).

9.2.3 In the mid-18th century, the property was held by one William Chambers and in 1761 a plan of the holding was made for his estate by one John Davies. This map is particularly interesting, for it shows that the boundaries of the holding were almost identical to those of the present farm, only the land now occupied by the council refuse tip having being lost.

The map shows clearly the historic heart of the farm, namely the irregular shaped fields south of the old common boundary.

9.2.4 An interesting point of note on the 1761 estate map is the status of the former common land, Y Pâl, on the northern side of the farm. It is clear that by 1761 that the process of enclosure was well advanced and that a portion of Y Pâl had already been added to Cathilas, along with a neighbouring field known as Waun Newydd (now included in the refuse tip site. However, Y Pâl remained a single parcel of land, as it was on the 1841 Parish Tithe Map. During the mid-19th century it was sub-divided into the eight fields which presently exist. The Parish Tithe Map shows quite clearly that a large portion of the common bounding Cathilas had already been enclosed and divided into orderly, rectangular field parcels, characteristic of 19th century enclosure.

9.2.5 Comparison of the 1761 estate map and the 1841 Tithe Map show that the Ammanford - Drefach road, which now runs northwards through Cathilas Farm, was built during the intervening years. Indeed, it is shown as a trackway on the OS Original Survey Drawings of 1811-12.

9.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF CATHILAS

Previously recorded sites.

PRN10987 Cathilas - Mediaeval Settlement

This refers to a reference to the dwelling and holding of Cathilas during mediaeval times, recorded from documentary sources by William Rees (1932).

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34681 POND

The 1st edition 1:2500 OS map of the area, published in 1876, shows that a small pond had been created a short distance to the east of Cathilas farmhouse. It was created by damming the small stream which flows past the farmyard. The dam was constructed with rough millstone grit blocks and now survives in a very ruinous state, with the central section having been eroded away. The dam stands to about 2m in height and along the valley sides there are traces of a partial stone lining to the pond. The 1876 map indicates that a sluice in the dam and another further downstream controlled water flow, presumably supplying a water wheel on the farm.

PRN 34682 ENCLOSURE

Amongst numerous randomly dumped stone clearance cairns in the wooded parcels of the field known as Waun Galed, there are some hints of earlier stone built features, such as enclosures and trackways. The clearest example of this is a faintly traceable stone bank which encloses an area approximately 20m x 10m, alongside the north-western bank of a small stream which flows along the south-eastern side of the field.

PRN34683 BOUNDARY BANK

Probably one of the most important historical events to affect the property was the enclosure of the former common land known as Y Pâl. The northern third of the property was open moorland until the late 18th century and it is perhaps significant that the field boundary between this former common land and the previous farmed area is a substantial stone and earth bank, standing over 1m high and c.3m wide with a fairly deep and wide ditch on its northern side (i.e. facing the former common).

PRN34684 DWELLING? GARDEN?

On the northern edge of the property, near the cottage known as Groesffordd, there are clear earthwork traces of a rectangular enclosure which includes traces of cultivation ridges typical of a lazy-bed garden. This is connected by another earth bank to a second rectangular feature, measuring c.10m x 4m, which may represent the site of a dwelling or another enclosure. The location of these features on former common land may suggest this to be former squatters dwelling, perhaps a *ty unnos*, built before the 19th century.

However, their location alongside a trackway leading to Groesffordd, which post-dates the enclosure of Y Pâl in the 18th century, suggests the possibility that some attempt was made to settle here *after* the common was enclosed and improved, and the trackway created.

PRN34685 RIDGE AND FURROW

In the field known as Cae Ysgubor, which borders on the northern side of the farmyard, widely spaced 'ridge and furrow' cultivation ridges are evident, indicative of arable use at some time in the past.

PRN34686 COTTAGE

The 1761 estate map of the property shows a cottage and garden located in a narrow field parcel along the roadside in Heol Ddu village. This was occupied by one William Samuel in 1761.

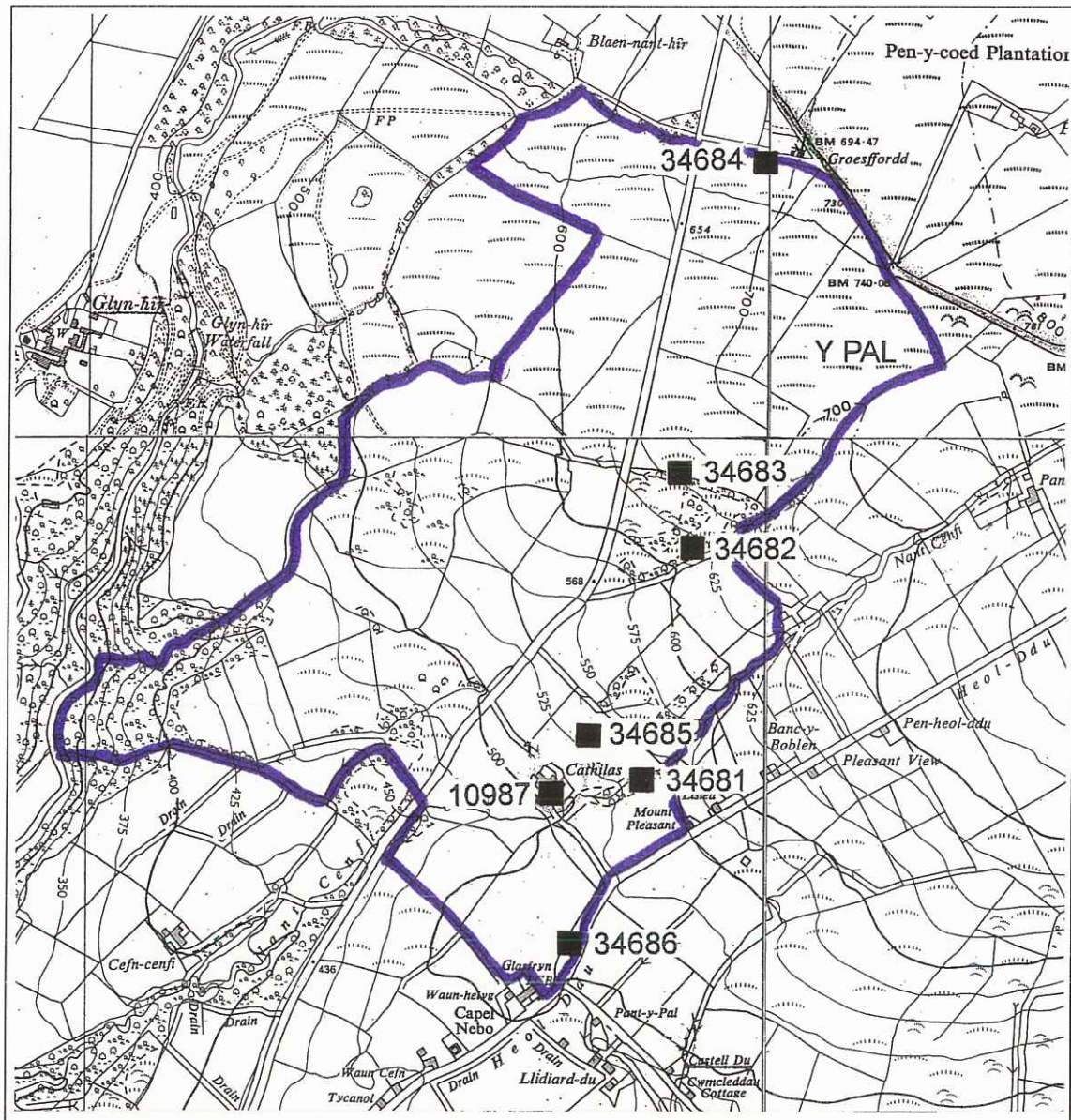


Fig.12; Cathilas Farm.

10. GALLT Y LLAN FARM

Gallt y Llan is located some 300m north of the village of Llanfynydd, in the parish of Llanfynydd, in central Carmarthenshire. The present owner purchased the property in the early 1950's and continues to reside in the farmhouse. Gallt y Llan is now predominantly a sheep farm, with dairying having been reduced in recent years. A rapid survey of the property was made in April, 1997, in the company of the owner.

10.1 LANDSCAPE

10.1.1 Gallt y Llan is situated on a steep slope overlooking the valley of the Afon Sannan and the village of Llanfynydd. The farm extends from the valley floor up onto slopes on the north eastern side of the valley, formerly part of Llanfynydd Common. The farmhouse stands at an altitude of 210m, whilst the farmland rises quite sharply from c.160m on the valley floor up to over 300m on the hilltop.

10.1.2 The best pasture on the farm is found along parts of the narrow strip of flat land between the foot of the hill and the Afon Sannan and on the recently improved fields on the upper part of the holding, which are above the steep valley sides and also relatively flat. Due to the particularly steep slopes of the Sannan valley sides, a large proportion of the land has historically been difficult to farm. As a result a band of woodland and rough grazing land runs north-west to south-east through the centre of the property, across the steepest slopes (*gelltydd*). Some wooded parcels also remain along the course of the Afon Sannan, and some of the fields on the valley floor also include areas of wet or rough grazing.

10.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

10.2.1 Although the owner of the holding has no family ties with the property or the area, a valuable amount of oral evidence was recorded during the survey of the property. It would seem that Gallt y Llan was one of only two local farms which was independent of the Pantglas Estate, one of the larger estates in the district. The property was purchased from a member of the Gwynne family which had, according to oral tradition, occupied Gallt y Llan for three centuries. This is partially confirmed by the Llanfynydd Parish Tithe Map of 1840, which shows the farm to be owned by one William Gwynne.

10.2.2 The present owner purchased the property in the early 1950s. The history of this purchase is itself significant for, as a former Prisoner of War, the owner and a partner bought the farm in order to settle in a permanent home.

10.2.3 In recent years, the neighbouring property of Yr Allt has been added to Gallt y Llan and makes up the western half of the present farm. Yr Allt farmhouse has long been abandoned and little remains of the house and its outbuildings.

10.2.4 Other former dwellings included within the boundaries of the modern farm include the site of the now demolished Pantyblodau Cottages and Pantyblodau Uchaf (see below). These may have been dwellings for some of the workers at the nearby Glansannan Woollen Mill.

10.2.5 Map evidence shows that the farmhouse and outbuildings at Gallt y Llan have changed only slightly over the past 100 years. The main cowhouse is adjacent to, but detached from, the farmhouse. A second outbuilding, further from the house has been enlarged during the 20th century and the house itself had been added to. The ruins of a stone structure on the northern side of the house are said to be the remains of an earlier farmhouse, which served for some time as a dairy coolhouse after being replaced in the 19th century by the present house.

10.2.6 One of the most significant developments in the history of Gallt y Llan and its neighbouring holdings during the last 200 years has been the enclosure of the old Llanfynydd Common, which probably occurred in 1814 (Bowen, 1914, 51). It is probable that Gallt y Llan, as a property bordering the common, would once have enjoyed grazing rights on the common, which would have been lost upon enclosure. The 1841 Parish Tithe Map shows that one field within the enclosed area bordering Gallt y Llan was owned by William Gwynne, and it may be that this parcel was awarded to Gallt y Llan in exchange for the loss of grazing rights. Those fields which were enclosed in the 19th century are recognisable due to their regular rectangular form and the straight boundary banks constructed at that time, markedly different to the irregular shaped fields of the older part of the farmstead.

10.2.7 Oral evidence indicates that an annual corn fair was held on the parcel of land described in 2.6 above. According to the landowner, oats were sold in late August or early September each year in the small fields on the upper part of the farm (in 'the pond field'). Local farmers brought their crops to these fields, where small stacks of about 40 sheaves were placed for inspection and purchase by dealers.

10.2.8 On the steep slopes behind the farmhouse, a good deal of ash grows in the woodland. This wood once supplied a wheelwright who had his workshop in the village.

10.2.9 Wil Gwynne, the last member of the Gwynne family to reside in Gallt y Llan, made regular journeys with his horse and cart to Llandybie to purchase both lime and coal, which he sold in the Llanfynydd district. He sold the farm to present owner c.1952.

10.2.10 An interesting story which is only of slight relevance to Gallt y Llan, but well worth recording is of a former tenant of the neighbouring smallholding of Cae'r Esgob. Born in Pantyblodau Cottages, he served as a *gwas* (farmhand) at Gallt y Llan, where he met his wife (a servant at neighbouring Bryn y Berllan). When married they raised five children at Cae'r Esgob, the wife keeping the smallholding, the husband travelling daily on his motorbike to work at Crosshands Colliery.

10.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF GALLT Y LLAN

Previously recorded sites.

PRN22538 CASTELL Y GWYNT - COTTAGE

A building on the site of Yr Allt farmyard, probably refers to an outbuilding of the farmstead.

PRN22539 YR ALLT FARMSTEAD

Site of abandoned and ruinous farmhouse and outbuildings. Little now survives of the original buildings.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34687 PANTYBLODAU COTTAGES

Possibly two adjoining cottages, known as Pantyblodau cottages stood at the bottom of the track which leads to Yr Allt farmyard, and are shown on the 1841 Parish Tithe Map. These buildings have been removed.

PRN34688 PANTYBLODAU UCHAF

The Tithe Map also shows that another cottage once stood on the opposite side of the same farm lane, known as Pantyblodau Uchaf.

PRN34689 POND

A man-made pond located in a small field on the upper part of the farm was created after the survey of the Parish Tithe Map in 1841. The land on which it stood was described at the time of the Tithe survey as 'Cottage and Block', indicating that there was probably an intention to build a cottage on this newly enclosed land at that time. Whether or not this was done is not known, but no dwelling appears on any subsequent map.

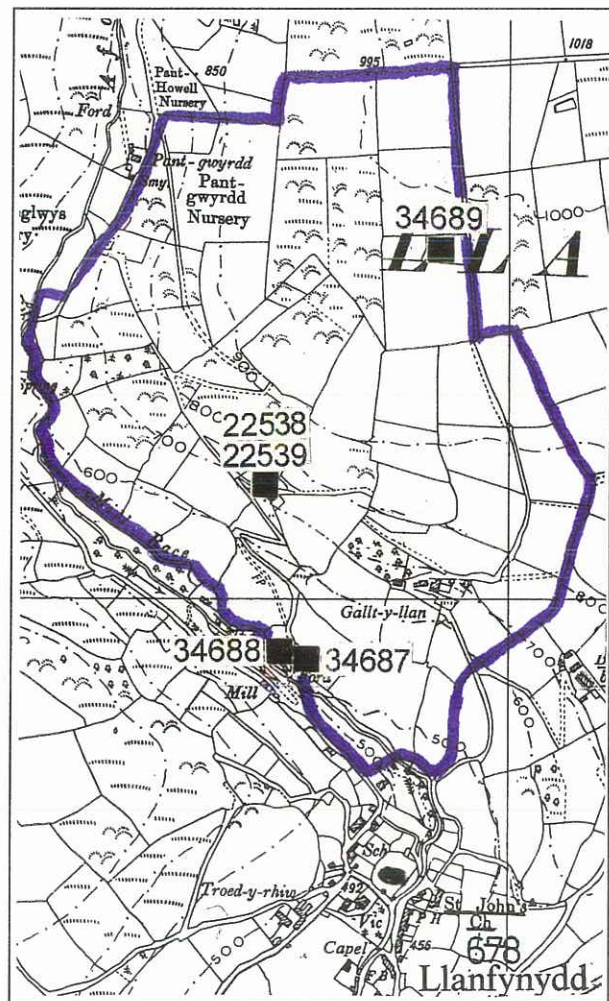


Fig.13; Gallt y Llan Farm.

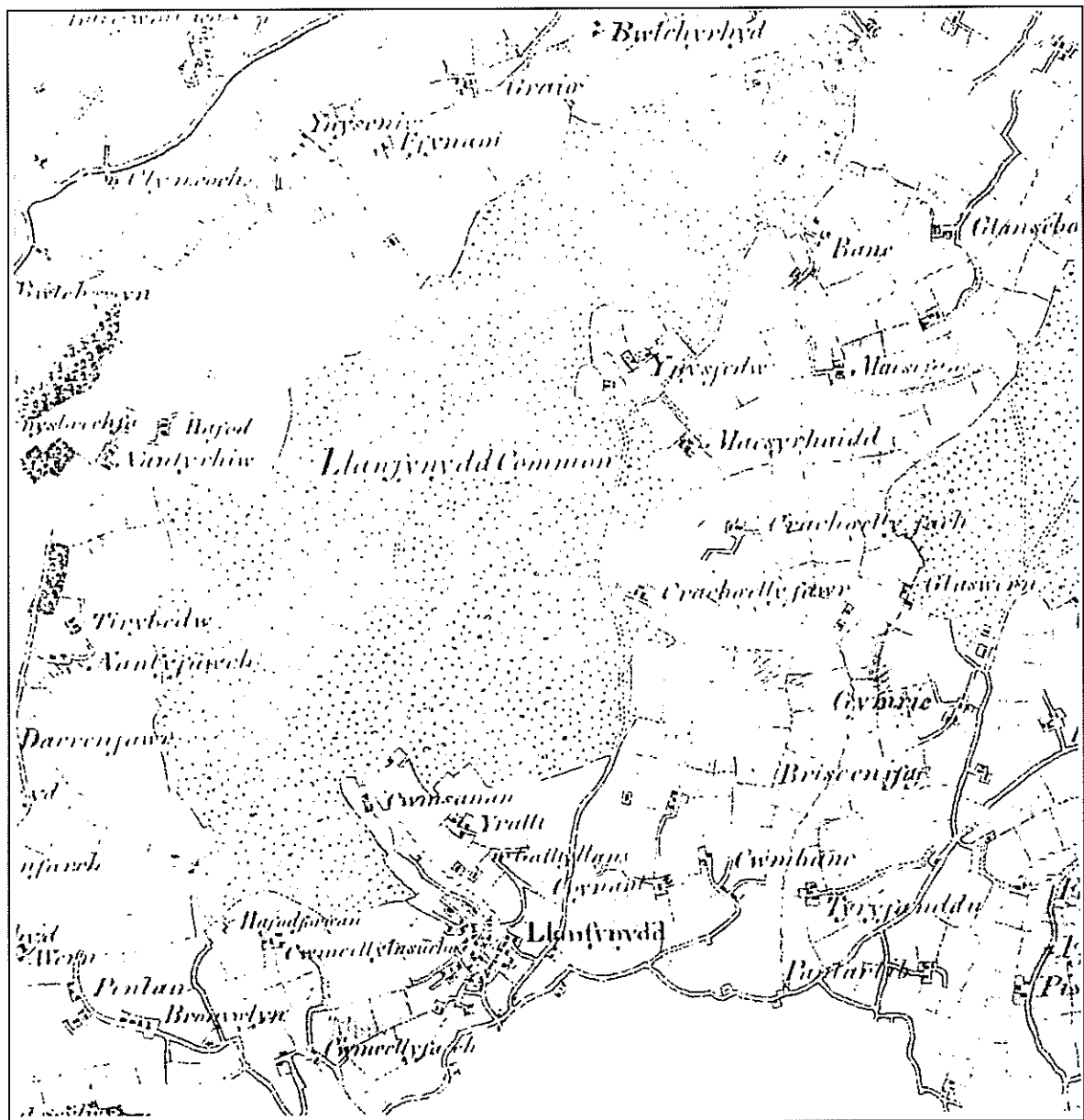


Fig.14: A portion of the OS Original Survey Drawing of 1811-12 (Sheet 17), showing the extent of Llanfynydd Common and the proximity of Gallt y Llan to the common.

11. GELLIDEG FARM

Gellideg is located just over 2km south-west of the village of Llansadwrn, within the parish of Llansadwrn. The property lies some 3km west of the Tywi floodplain, from which it is separated by the hill known as Alltparc, part of the historic parkland of the Abermarlais Estate. The present owner resides in the farmhouse. A rapid survey of the holding was carried out during late March, 1997, in the company of the owner.

11.1 LANDSCAPE

11.1.1 The main portion of Gellideg occupies the floor and lower slopes of a minor tributary stream of the Afon Dulais, which it joins about 2km to the south-west. The lowest field of the property lies at an altitude of about 90m and the farmyard at about 120m. A detached portion of the holding, recently acquired, extends up the relatively steeply sloping southern side of the nearby hill known as Y Fan, the uppermost field being at about 220m.

11.1.2 The bulk of the holding consists of good pastureland, with only a few patches of marshy pasture. The field known as Waun Llun (Llyn?) is the largest parcel of marshy pasture and there may at one time have been a small lake here.

11.1.3 There is relatively little woodland on the holding, the two largest parcels being located in the fields known as Y Wern and Rhandirfail, neither of which are shown as being wooded on 19th OS maps. One small parcel of woodland adjacent to the farmyard, which has been recently cleared, included several mature oak trees, the girth of which suggests that they were perhaps of considerable age. This parcel is the only one shown as being wooded on late 19th century OS maps.

11.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

11.2.1 The present owner has no previous family connection with the property and therefore only a minimum of oral evidence associated with the history of the property is available.

The earliest available map consulted, the OS Original Survey Drawing of 1811-12 (Sheet 189) shows Gellideg, but the farmyard area appears to be mis-represented - an error repeated on the 1": 1 mile OS map of 1831. The Llansadwrn Parish Tithe Map of 1839, rectifies this error and shows the farm lane in

its correct position and the farmhouse in its present position. However, unlike the present arrangement of the farmyard, the Tithe Map shows two detached buildings opposite the house on a different axis to the house. This suggests that the stone outbuilding now opposite the house is of mid- or late-19th century date.

11.2.2 Although the present house has been altered during the 20th century, it seems probable that the original dwelling on this site was of the Welsh longhouse tradition. Evidence for this is seen in the western gable end of a red-brick outbuilding appended to the western side of the dwelling. Although this structure is of apparent 20th century brick build, its gable end is a surviving fragment of an earlier structure, constructed of rounded, water-worn stones. Almost certainly this is the original gable end of the house and byre shown on 19th century OS maps.

11.2.3 The main portion of the holding comprises relatively small, irregular fields, suggesting that it is very well established farmland. The 1839 Llansadwrn Parish Tithe Map shows that these fields formed the core of the holding at that time and, indeed, little change appears to have occurred to the extent of the holding until the late 20th century.

11.2.4 Although the fields on the upper portion of the farm are larger and perhaps rather more regular in form, which might be taken as evidence of Parliamentary Enclosure in the 18th or 19th century, map evidence indicates that this land was enclosed before the 19th century. These upper fields formerly belonged to neighbouring Bryn Farm and were purchased by the present occupier in recent years.

11.2.5 No direct evidence as to the ownership of the holding prior to the late 20th century was discovered during desktop research. However, a John Francis & Son Sales Catalogue of the property, dated 1907, suggests that Gellideg may have at that time belonged to the Cawdor Estate of Gelli Aur (CRO, JF/SC 238). The Catalogue notes that particulars of the sale could be obtained from the Cawdor Estate Offices, Carmarthen.

11.2.6 The names of two fields in the lower portion of the holding suggest that there was at one time an agricultural building detached

from the main farmyard. These are the fields of *Cae-dan-ysgubor-isaf* and *Cae-gwar-ysgubor-isaf* ('The lower field below the barn' and 'the lower field alongside the barn'). No map record or surface evidence for such a barn exists in the area, but it is quite feasible that a storage barn once stood in the vicinity of these fields.

11.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF GELLIDEG

Previously recorded sites.

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the holding boundaries.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34690 GELLIDEG FARMSTEAD

The farmstead itself is deserving of a record number. The buildings on the farmyard include standing and functioning outbuildings of both 19th and 20th century date. These include an early or mid-20th century red-brick structure which retains portions of an earlier stone building, as well as a mid- or late-19th century barn. Both are in good condition and make the farmyard a particularly interesting focus of the property.

PRN34691 QUARRY

In the south-western corner of the field known as *Cae Cwar*, there is evidence that a small quarry has been worked. No map shows such a working, but it is likely that it was exploited as a useful source of stone by successive tenants in the past.

PRN34692 QUARRY

On the boundary of the uppermost field of the holding, a small wooded parcel hides evidence of small quarry pits which were probably dug to obtain stone for track building or field boundary construction.

PRN34693 ROAD; HOLLOW WAY

This road crossed Gellideg farm from the direction of the Taliaris estate to the west and proceeded eastwards towards Felindre and the village of Llansadwrn. The section on Gellideg land has been largely infilled, but where it reaches the holding boundary part of its course is well preserved. This surviving section bears the characteristics of a hollow way, a road which has sunken into the landscape due to many centuries of use.

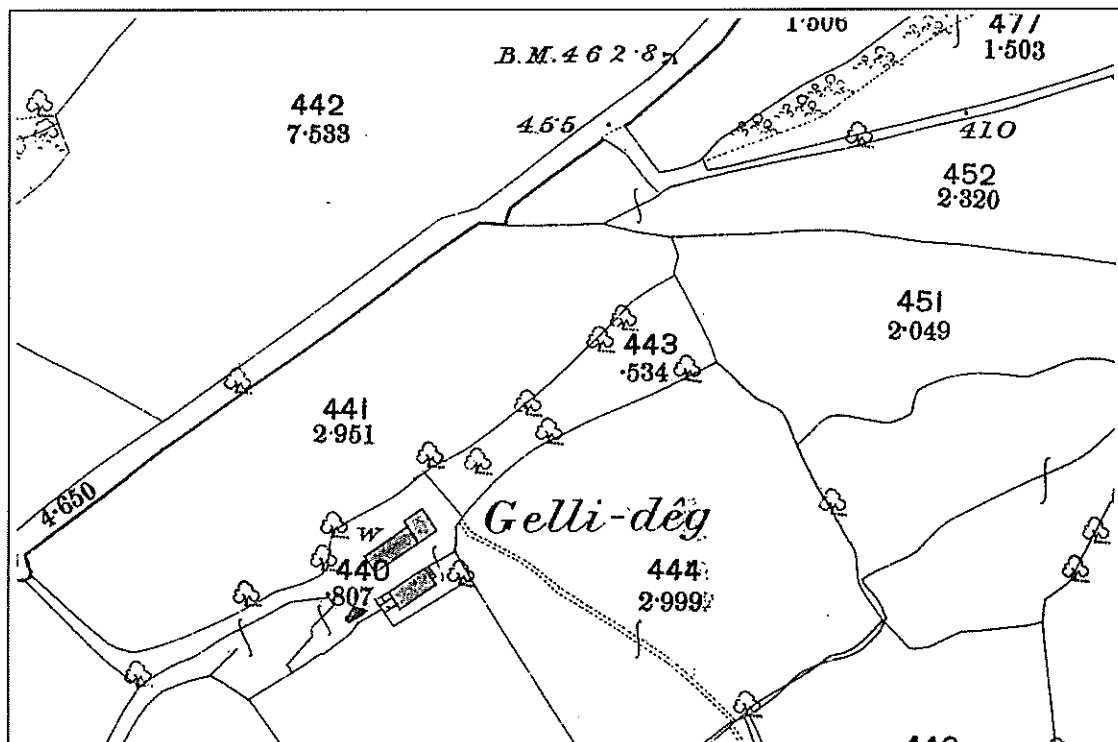


Fig.15; Gellideg - the arrangement of the farmyard in 1886. (Enlarged from the OS 1:2500 1st edition map (Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVI.9).

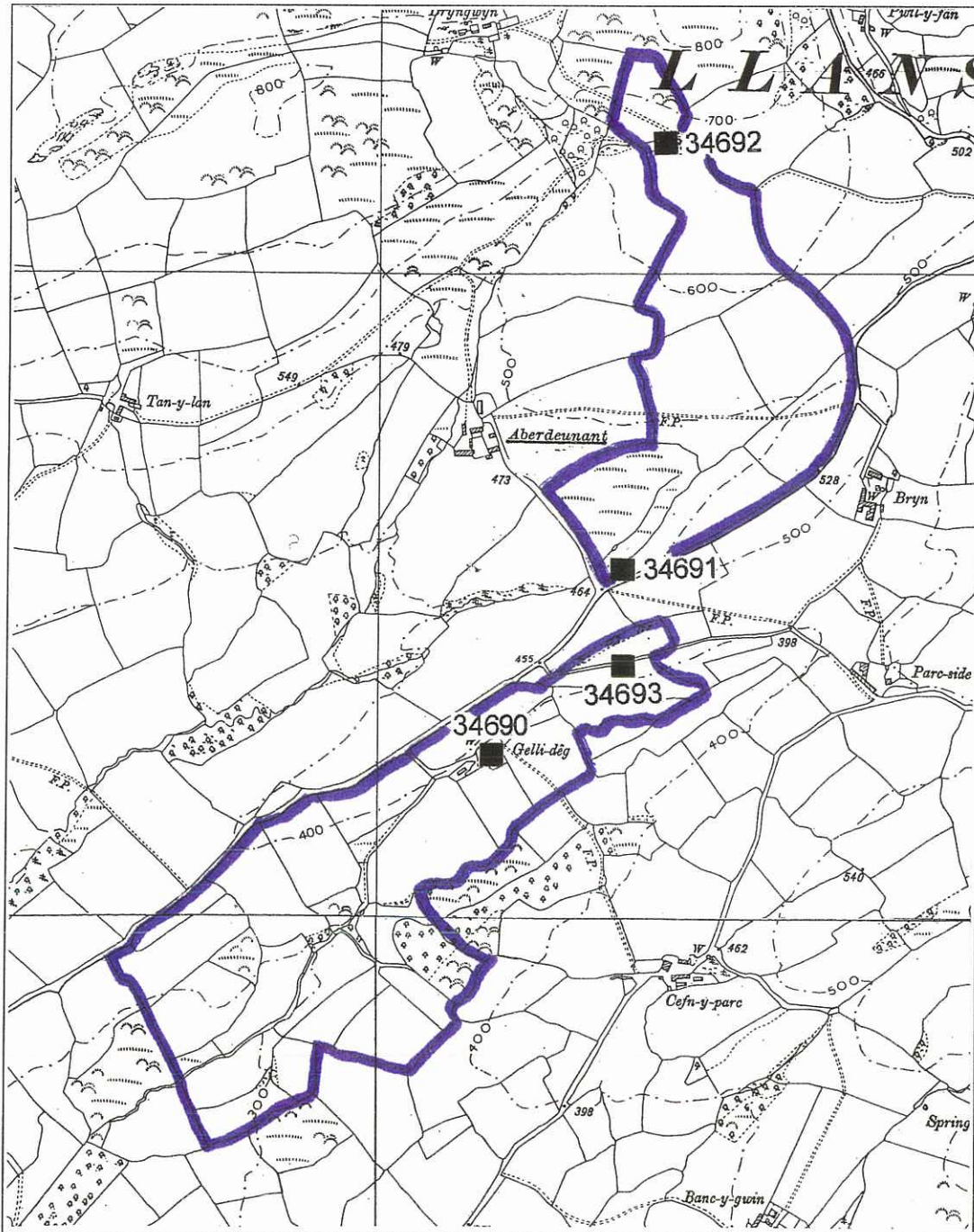


Fig.16; Gellideg Farm.

12. HOPE FARM

Hope Farm stands alongside the B4302 road, between Rhosmaen and Talylychau, on the western side of the Dulais valley and in the parish of Llandeilo Fawr Rural. The village of Salem lies within a few hundred metres of the western edge of the property. The present owners reside in the farm house. The property was visited in April, 1997, and a rapid survey of the land made in the company of the owner.

12.1 LANDSCAPE

12.1.1 The present holding extends from the floodplain of the Afon Dulais, to the east, up onto a hill known as Mynydd Pen Twic (as named on the 1831 1inch:1mile OS map), some 1.5km to the west - a rise in altitude from some 50m to over 150m. The farmhouse is situated in the centre of the holding, at an altitude of c.90m. The bulk of the holding lies to the west of the farmyard, and this part of the farm is bisected by a minor tributary stream of the Dulais, which creates a small, partially wooded valley running west-east through the holding. The ground rises either side of this stream valley and is generally of an undulating character. The property is also cut by the main Rhosmaen - Talylychau road and a minor road to Taliaris; the farmhouse stands at the junction of these two roads.

12.1.2 Most of the holding comprises good or improved pasture, with some marshy pasture. There is very little marginal land or woodland, such as there is being confined to thin ribbons along the stream valley which cuts through the centre of the farm or around the northernmost part of the property.

12.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

12.2.1 Hope Farm has a relatively short history as a farm holding. It is clear that the farm is a modern creation, based around the core of the former Hope Inn public house (the present farmhouse), around which a fairly large holding has accrued during the 20th century. The present owner noted that land from as many as six farms and smallholdings have been combined to create the present farm.

12.2.2 Although the farm holding is relatively new, there is some debate as to the antiquity of the public house. The earliest map showing the Hope Inn is the 1st edition 1:10560 OS map - it is absent from the Parish Tithe Map, believed to have been surveyed in 1841.

However, oral tradition states that the inn was first opened by 'Bet yr Hope' in 1841. If this is true, the absence of the inn on the Tithe Map is understandable, for the map survey may have been carried out before the inn was built (it is not certain whether the map was actually drawn up in 1841 - it may have been made a year or two earlier). The tradition also states that the Hope was built on the site of a *ty unnos*, known as Wenallt. This is harder to explain, for no structure is shown at this location on any earlier map, including the 1831 OS 1inch: 1mile series and the OS Original Survey Drawings of 1813.

12.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF HOPE FARM

Previously recorded sites.

There are no previously recorded sites on the holding.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34694 HOPE INN

A public house established in the mid-19th century, possibly in 1841, which closed during the 1970s. Now the farmhouse of Hope Farm.

PRN34695 BRYNIO

Amongst the properties which have been combined to create the holding is Brynio. The dwelling here has recently been given Grade 2 listing by Cadw. Remarkably, the present occupier of the house has lived there since 1910 and made few changes to the house, which has remained essentially unchanged in character, both internally and externally, since the early 20th century. Brynio is not shown on the Original OS Survey Drawings of 1813, but does appear on the OS Index to the Tithe Survey (1825-28), which gives some indication of when the first house was built.

PRN34696 ABERDEUNANT

This dwelling is now in a very ruinous condition. It was a small cottage and is shown on the 1831 1inch:1mile OS map.

PRN34697 ROUND BARROW

On the highest point on the holding is located a circular mound, some 25m in diameter. Its form and location suggest that it may be a bronze age burial mound, dating to the period c. 2,500BC - 700BC.

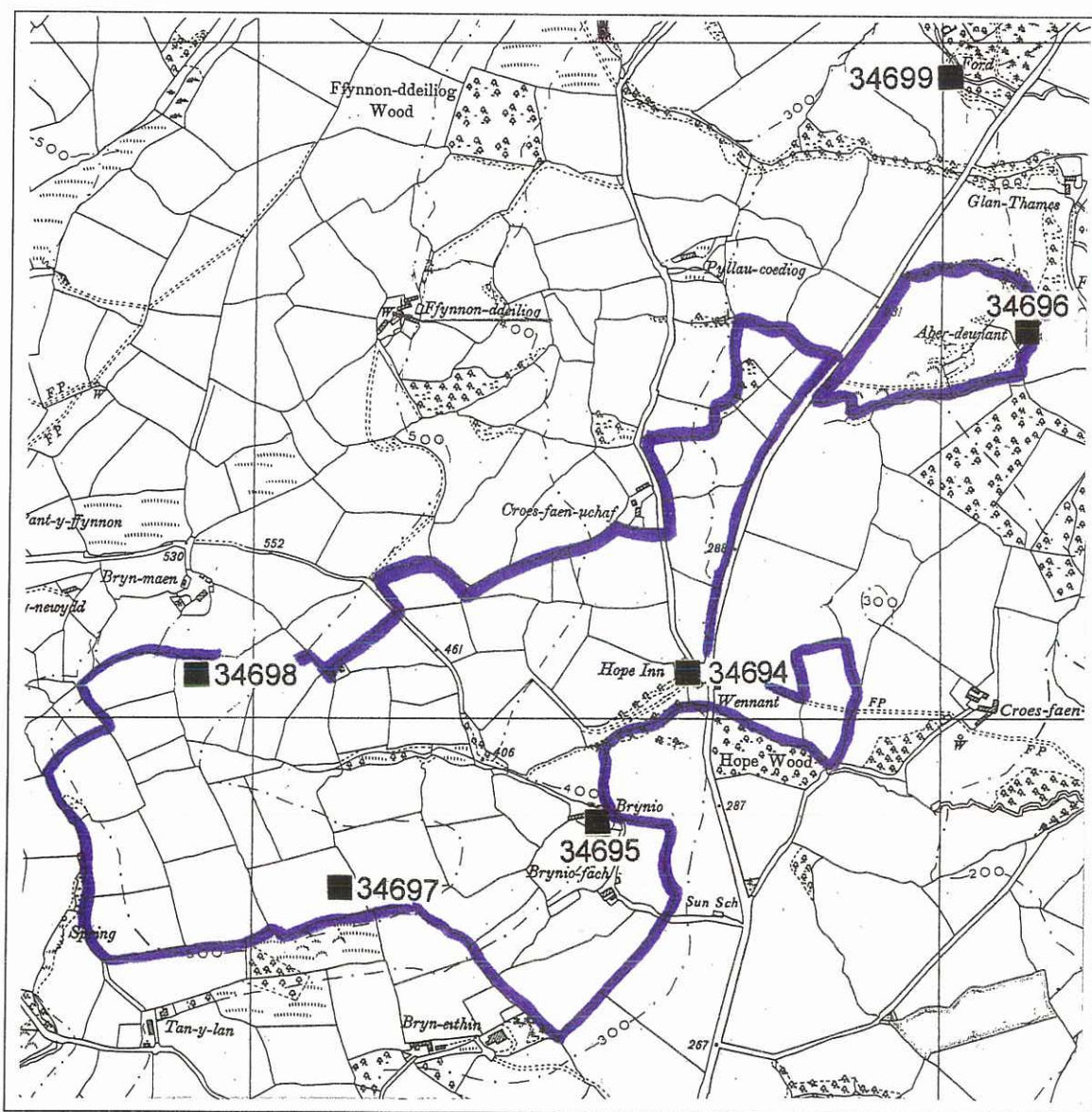
PRN34698 HUT PLATFORM? QUARRY?

A small sub-circular feature, some 5m in diameter, cut into a gentle slope. It does not appear to be a natural feature, but its purpose is difficult to explain. It may be a small hut platform, or a small quarry pit.

PRN34699 TRAMWAY

Although not within the holding boundary defined by Tir Cymen, it is worth noting a site

located on land which has been recently purchased by the farm. A quarry hidden in the woods alongside the B4302, almost 1km north of the farmhouse, was formerly connected to the road by a tramway, sections of which have been uncovered by the owners at the edge of the wooded area. A mound of cinders and ash dumped beside the tramway bed suggests that a steam engine may have provided motive power on the site..



Hope Farm

13. MAES IFAN FARM

Maes Ifan Farm is situated in a comparatively remote location in central Carmarthenshire, over 3km north of the village of Llanfynydd and within the parish of Llanfynydd. It is presently farmed by the owner of Crachdu Isaf, Capel Isaac, although a family member continues to live at Maes Ifan. A visit was made to the property in the company of the farmer during early April, 1997.

13.1 LANDSCAPE

13.1.1 Maes Ifan is situated just east of the source of the Afon Felindre and the wide valley through which the stream flows. A minor tributary stream flows through the holding towards the Afon Felindre, and the present holding includes land on either side of this stream. The valley slopes rise gradually from c.210m on the valley floor up to almost 290m to the east, at the top of Maes Ifan farm. The farmhouse itself stands at c.240m and has a south-western prospect along this minor stream valley.

13.1.2 Most of the holding is characterised by good pastureland, with some improved pasture, but the valley bottom includes a large area of boggy ground, which provides only rough grazing.

13.1.3 There is very little woodland on the holding, being confined almost wholly to a plantation on the steep slopes of Allt Maes Ifan, at the southern tip of the farm.

13.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

13.2.1 There is some documented history of early owners of Maes Ifan farm. They included a minor gentry family descended from Elystan Glodrudd and, according to Francis Jones (1987, 126), the family lived here for a short period at an unspecified time (apparently before the 18th century).

13.2.2 Map sources provide some important detail of the development of the holding over the past 200 years. The earliest map consulted is the OS Original Survey Drawing of 1827 (Sheet 187), which shows that the higher portion of the farm was at that time part of an area of open mountain common land known as Mynydd Figyn. Indeed, enclosed farmland in the immediate area at that time was confined to the valley of the Afon Felindre and its tributary, for on the opposite side of the

valley from Mynydd Figyn was the extensive Llanfynydd Common. It seems therefore that Maes Ifan, Maes Haidd and the other farms along these two valleys occupy land which had been under the plough well before the 19th century, quite probably since mediaeval times.

13.2.3 Analysis of map evidence shows two distinctive types of field on the holding. Firstly, the majority of the fields located on the lower valley slopes are irregular in shape, these probably represent the oldest enclosed fields on the property. Secondly, the fields on the higher slopes, either side of the valley, but particularly on Mynydd Figyn, are noticeably more rectangular in shape, with straight field boundaries - the mark of land enclosed by 18th and 19th century Parliamentary Acts of Enclosure.

13.2.3 During recent years the holding has been enlarged considerably by the purchase of most of the land of neighbouring Maes Haidd. One notable development which had occurred at Maes yr Haidd prior to purchase was the grubbing out of several hedgerows to create one large field east of the farmhouse. Such an action is typical of 'land improvement' during the late 20th century.

13.2.4 Little oral history was recorded pertaining to Maes Ifan farm. However, the farmer was aware that during the 19th century, peat was cut in the boggy fields along the stream valley which runs through the middle of the holding.

13.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF MAES IFAN

Previously recorded sites.

PRN680 CARN MAES IFAN

This bronze age round barrow is now barely recognisable and is only a slight earth mound in the field corner.

PRN693 HILLFORT; ENCLOSURE

This site may be better interpreted as an enclosure, rather than a hillfort, as it displays no banks or ditches of defensive proportions. Rather it is bounded on three sides by a low and stony bank, the stones in places appearing to be dumps of stone cleared during land improvement. The fourth side, at the top of a steep slope appears to have been left open, no

trace of any bank is discernible. The bank is certainly overlain by the 19th century field enclosure boundaries which cross the site.

PRN25376 MAES IFAN DWELLING

This record refers to the house and outbuildings of Maes Ifan. The original house stood on the opposite side of the road to the present dwelling and survives as an outbuilding.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34700 CLEARANCE CAIRN?

A small cairn of loose stones, partly grassed over, may be related to attempts to clear and improve the land in the past.

PRN34701 QUARRY

A small quarry pit, c.12m x 5m.

PRN 34702 DESERTED SETTLEMENT

Undoubtedly the site of an early dwelling. A building platform has been cut into the hill slope and measures 10m x 8m. A second

platform, measuring 6m x 5m is cut into the slope just below this, and may have served as a small yard or even a garden area. A trackway links the site with the old trackway to Laswern, which is now abandoned, suggesting that settlement here was of some permanence. A dry stone wall defines the edge of this trackway as it approaches the settlement site.

PRN34703 DESERTED SETTLEMENT?

Some 30m south-east of the settlement site described above lies another rectangular platform, measuring 10m x 5m. This may well be the site of another dwelling, or a building ancillary to that described above.

PRN34704 TURBARY (MAWNOG)

The father-in-law of the present farmer had farmed Maes Ifan for most of his life and knew that peat had once been cut from a turbarry in the boggy fields in the middle of the present holding.

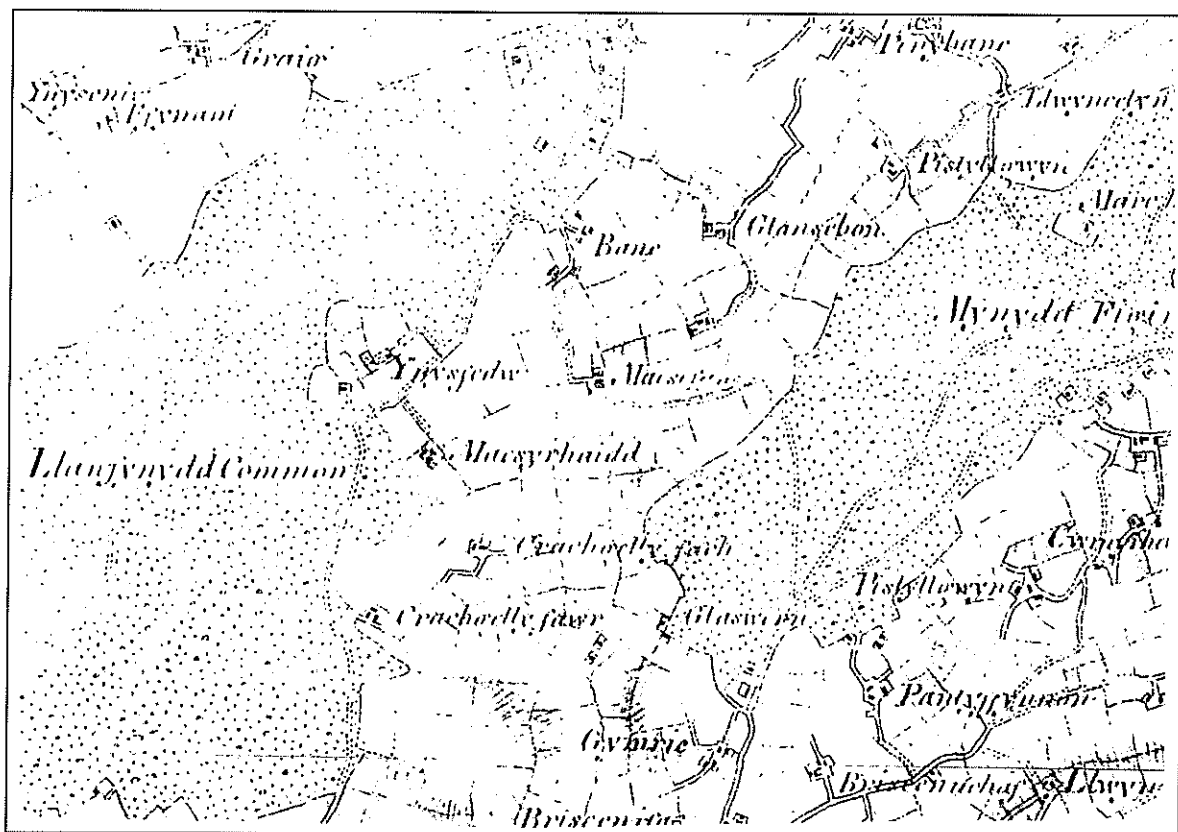


Fig.18: The OS Original Survey Drawings of the Maes Ifan area (1827). Note the extent of common land on Mynydd Figyn and Llanfynydd Common.

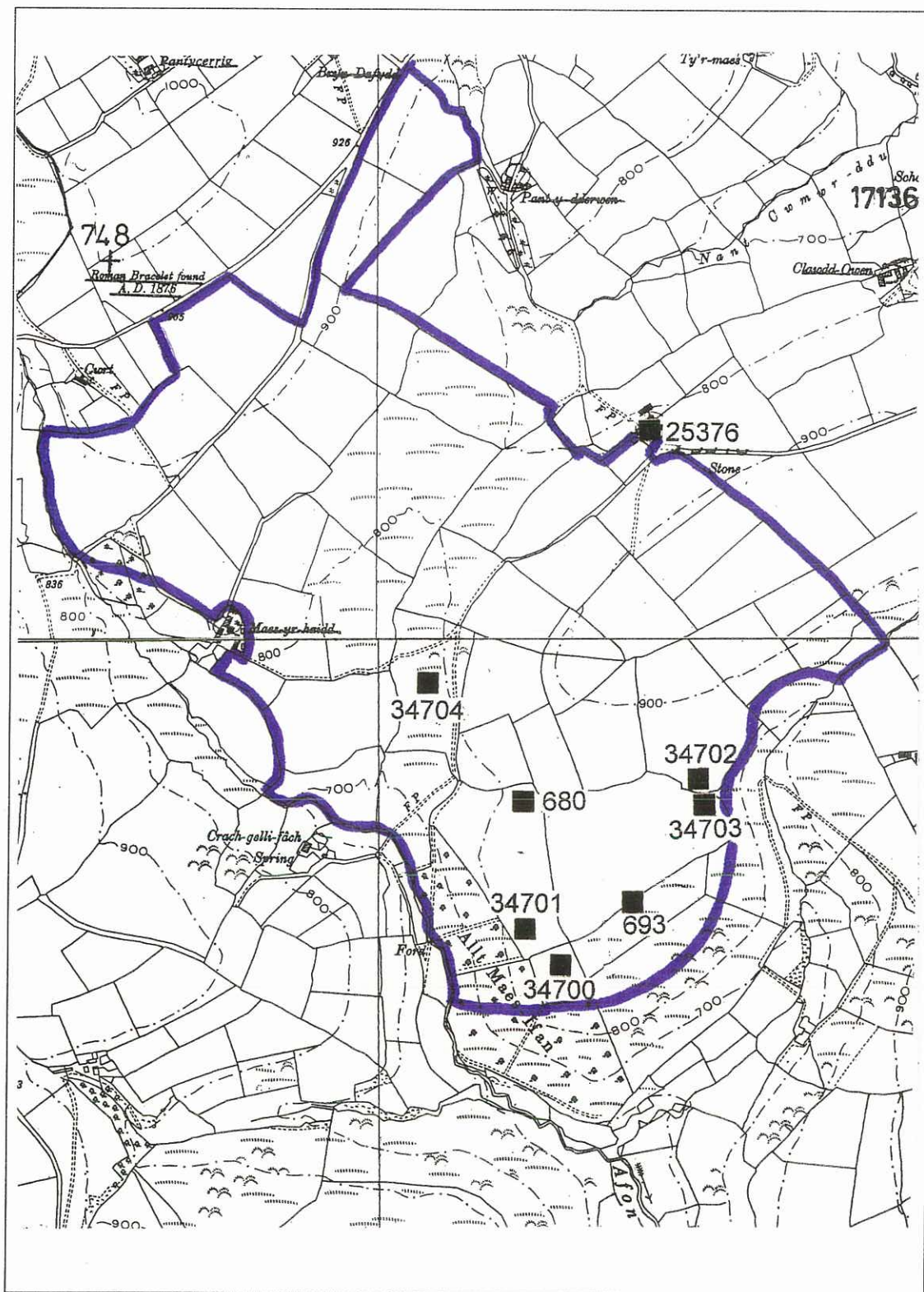


Fig.19; Maes Ifan Farm.

14. MYDDYNFYCH FARM

Myddynfych Farm is located on the outskirts of Ammanford town, but remains within the parish of Llandybie. The owner resides in the farmhouse. A rapid survey of the property was carried out during April, 1997.

14.1 LANDSCAPE

14.1.1 The farm lies on gently sloping, undulating land, on the southern side of the Afon Llŵchwr. The river forms part of the northern boundary of the property. The land ranges from c.140m to 230m in altitude, the farmhouse and yard being on the lowest part of the property. The farm has a south-western aspect, looking towards the valley of the Llŵchwr and the modern town of Ammanford.

14.1.2 The holding mostly comprises a combination of good and rough pasture. Map evidence suggests that a long strip of rough and damp pasture which runs north-south across the property has historically been rough pasture, as has the field at the north-eastern corner of the farm. Both these parcels of land are described as 'meadow pasture' on an early 20th century plan of the holding (CRO Bishop Box 63, 19).

14.1.3 Woodland on the farm is confined to a narrow band which runs through the middle of the farm, parallel to the parcel of 'meadow pasture' mentioned in 1.2 above. The Bishop holding plan identifies this as 'woodland pasture' and earlier maps, such as the Llandybie Parish Tithe Map of 1841, show that it has been preserved as woodland for some considerable time.

14.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

14.2.1 Myddynfych ranks as one of the most important farmsteads in Wales due to its almost uniquely ancient historical pedigree. Remarkably, Myddynfych is named in a 9th century charter preserved in the book known as the Lichfield Gospels or the Book of St. Chad, which was originally kept by the monks of Llandeilo Fawr. It was the focus of an estate known as *mainaur med diminih* (Maenor Myddynfych - the estate of Myddynfych) which was almost coterminous with the present parish of Llandybie. This reference indicates that a dwelling of some status must have been present at Myddynfych over 1,200 years ago.

14.2.2 Francis Jones (1987, 135) notes a mediaeval reference to Myddynfych, 'Meddynfych blas' (the mansion of Meddynfych), being mentioned in a 14th century poem. During the 14th and 15th centuries Myddynfych was home to a noble Welsh family, descended from Sir Elidir Ddu, whose son Gruffudd was the first of the family to settle there. The family remained at Myddynfych until the 17th century. Thereafter the property passed through the hands of a number of families and tenants, down to the present day.

14.2.3 The most striking physical reminder of the former glories of Myddynfych and its occupiers is the house itself. Although no longer in pristine condition, it certainly ranks amongst the most impressive and significant buildings in the county of Carmarthenshire. Elements of the house are believed to date to the 17th or even 16th centuries. Traces of an old walled garden, and a number of outbuildings around the farmyard (including an extensive range of 20th century red-brick buildings) increase to historical, architectural and archaeological value of the farmyard area.

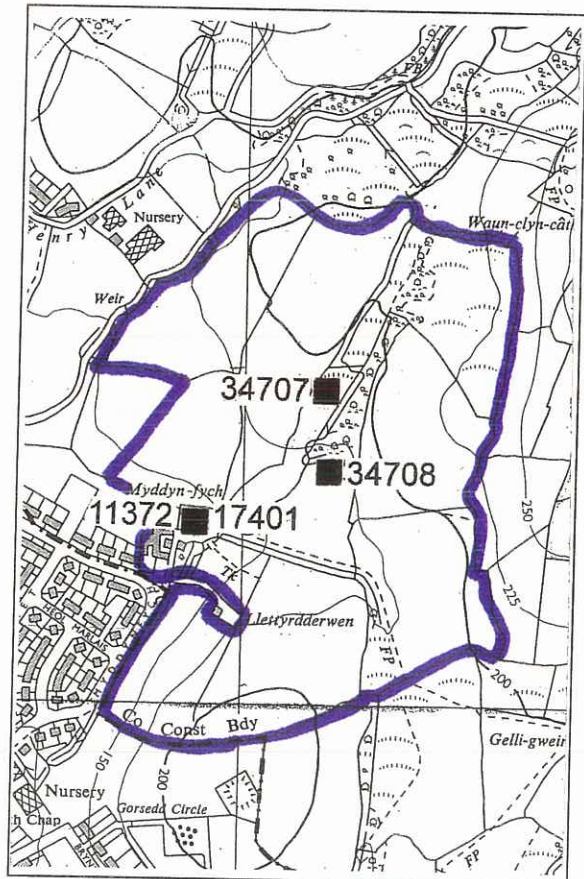


Fig.20; Myddynfych Farm.

14.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF MYDDYNFYCH

Previously recorded sites.

PRN11372 MAENOR MEDDYNFYCH

The dark age and mediaeval estate of Meddynfych. Although there is now no surface evidence to show what form of settlement was present at Myddynfych during the 8th century, there must have been some form of high status settlement.

Archaeological evidence may survive almost anywhere on the farm pertaining to this early period, and indeed subsequent periods of occupation. The holding must be considered to have a high archaeological potential.

PRN17401 MYDDYNFYCH HOUSE

The mansion house at Myddynfych. The present structure is believed to include elements which may be up to 400 years old, but the site has probably been the location of a high status settlement for much longer.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34707 POND

A fairly large pond has been created in the centre of the farm. It does not appear on any map and may well be a recent feature.

PRN34708 BUILDING

The ruins of a small red-brick building of unknown purpose. It does appear on the 1st edition 1:2500 OS map.

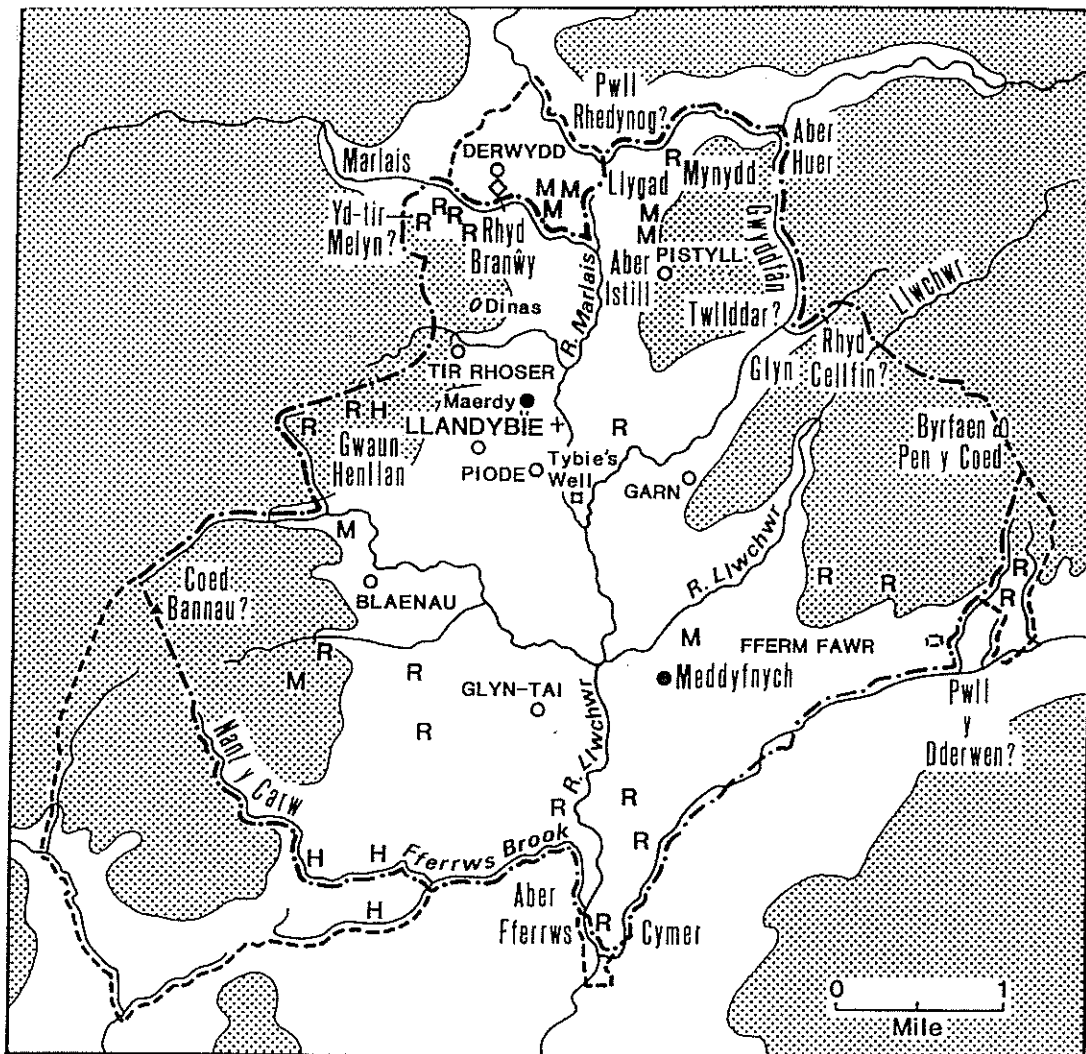


Fig.21: Maenor Meddynfych
(copyright Prof. G.R.Jones, 1972).

15. PANT Y BARA FARM

Pant y Bara farm is located some 0.5km east of the village of Milo (Nantygroes) in the parish of Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Carmarthenshire. The owners reside in the farmhouse and even though they have no family association with the property, were able to provide some information regarding the history of the property. A rapid survey was made of the holding in April, 1997.

15.1 LANDSCAPE

15.1.1 Pant y Bara is a small holding which occupies a low ridge between the Afon Marlais and one of its minor tributary streams. Some fields north of the Marlais are also part of the holding. Much of the land along the stream valleys is moderately sloping, particularly along the Marlais, where the gradient in a wooded area adjacent to the farmyard is quite steep.

15.1.2 Most of the holding comprises good pasture, although some fields north of the Marlais are of very rough grazing, mixed with some scrub and woodland.

15.1.3 Woodland is mostly confined to the two stream valleys which cross the holding. These wooded parcels may have been present for many centuries, although they are not shown on any maps before the late-19th century. Oral evidence suggests that some charcoal burning may have been practised along the wooded valleys in the past, but no physical evidence to confirm this was discovered at Pant y Bara. The scrub and woodland in the fields north of the Marlais is the result of recent regeneration, for it is said that the fields were green pasture before the war.

15.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

15.2.1 Little evidence as to the previous ownership of Pant y Bara has been encountered during this survey. The Parish Tithe Map of 1839 indicates that at that time the farm was owned by one Hannah Jane Southland and occupied by a William Llewellyn. The proximity of Derwydd House, focus of the Derwydd Estate, which lies just over 1km to the east, might suggest that the farm was previously linked with the estate, but no evidence of this was noted by this study.

15.2.2 Early maps, such as the Parish Tithe Map show that the layout of the farmyard at

Pantybara has changed little over the past 160 years. The house was probably originally a traditional longhouse, but it has been extensively modernised in the late 20th century and its original character obscured. However, two other buildings - the carthouse and a barn/cowhouse stand in the same position as buildings shown on the Tithe Map. Whether the present structures stand on the same site as earlier buildings is not known. The cowhouse has undergone a significant structural change, since the original pitched roof was lost and replaced with a flat roof, the gable ends being lowered accordingly.

15.2.3 Perhaps the most obvious change to the farmyard layout since the early 19th century has been the re-routing of the farm road into the yard. The original track was a hollow way, perhaps of some antiquity, which passed in front of the farmhouse and entered the yard from the south-eastern corner. By the publication of the 1907 OS 1:10560 map this route had been abandoned and a new track entered the yard at its south-western corner.

15.2.4 One interesting story associated with the property refers to the loss of some fields north of the Marlais through a previous owner betting on cock-fights. It is possible that this explains why the fields owned by Pant y Bara in this area are separated by a narrow strip of three small fields owned by another holding.

15.3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF PANT Y BARA

Previously recorded sites.

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites on the holding.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34705 PANTYBARA FARMSTEAD

The farmyard and its constituent buildings; the house, the cowshed and the carthouse.

PRN34706 QUARRY

Two small and neatly cut quarries exploiting an outcrop of Old Red Sandstone.

PRN34716 HOLLOW WAY; ROAD

The original farm lane, which passes in front of the house was a sunken road or hollow way and may have been used for many centuries before being replaced around the end of the 19th century..

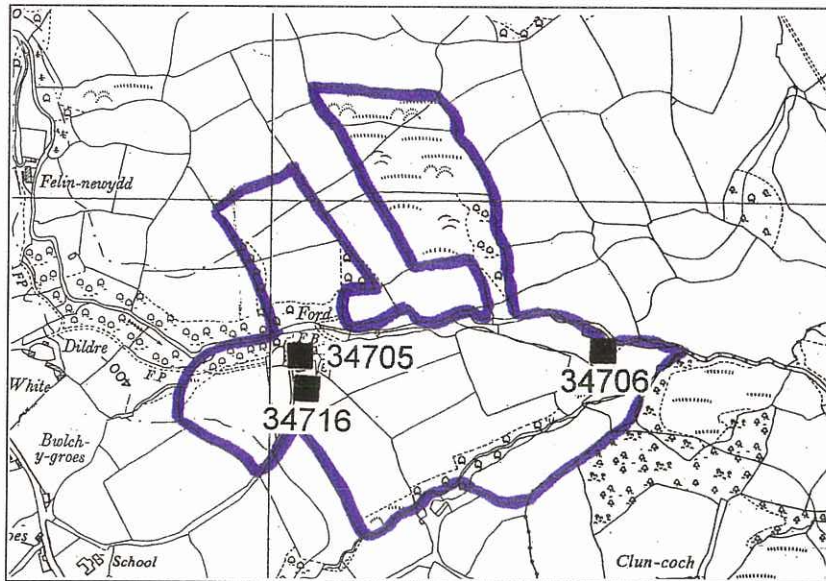


Fig.22; Pant y Bara Farm.

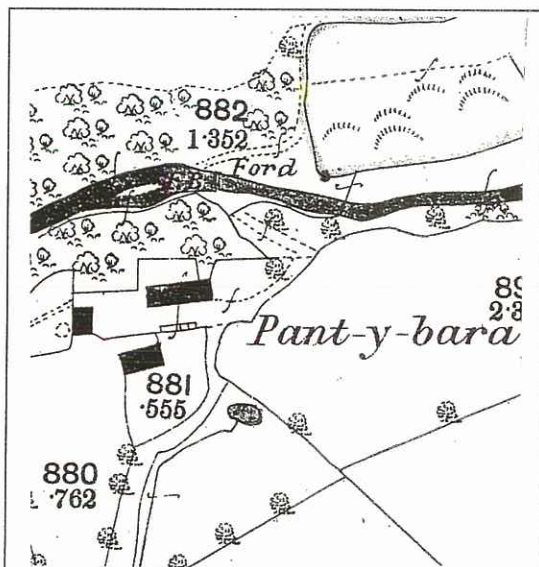


Fig.23; Layout of Pant y Bara farmyard on 1891 1:2500 OS Map.

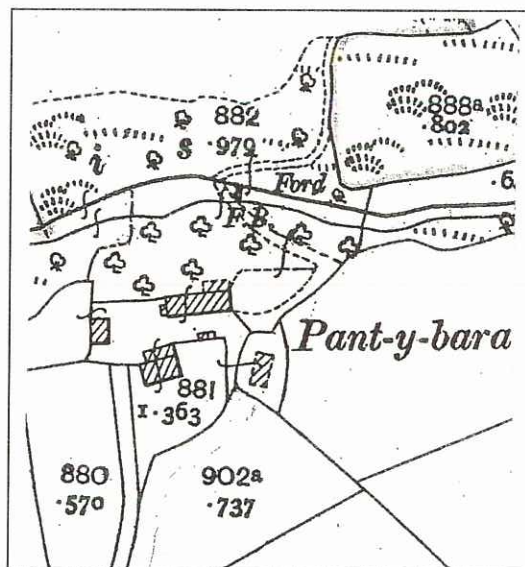


Fig.24; Layout of Pant y Bara farmyard on 1907 1:2500 OS Map.

16. TROED Y RHIW FARM

Troed y Rhiw farm is located alongside the A482 Llanwrda to Lampeter road, (approximately halfway between Llanwrda and Pumsant villages), within the parish of Cynwyl Gaio. The owner lives and works on the farm. The property was surveyed during April, 1997.

16.1 LANDSCAPE

16.1.1 The holding extends cross almost 1.5km. Its eastern boundary is the Afon Dulais and the land gradually rises westwards onto a hill known as Banc Bwlch Cefn Sarth, a change in altitude from 180m to 300m. Within the holding boundary, a variety of landscapes are encountered, with the land surface varying from steep sided wooded slopes to gently undulating pasture fields.

16.1.2 The bulk of the farm is characterised by good or well improved pasture, with very little marshy or boggy ground. Apart from the steep east facing slopes of Banc Bwlch Cefn Sarth, where patches of bracken and some small boggy areas are found, the higher portion of the farm is characterised by well improved pasture.

16.1.3 Woodland is found concentrated mainly in the large wooded area on Allt Lwyd, with a number of smaller wooded parcels dotted elsewhere around the property. Map evidence shows there has been little reduction in the wooded area since the 19th century.

16.2 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

16.2.1 Little evidence has been uncovered of the previous ownership details of Troed y Rhiw, other than that contained in the Tithe Survey Schedule for Cynwyl Gaio Parish in 1838. This shows that David Arthur Saunders-Davies was the landowner and one Mary Edwards his tenant. The Saunders-Davies family were from Pentre, Manordeifi, in North Pembrokeshire but, in common with other estates, held scattered properties, including some land in Carmarthenshire.

16.2.2 Little oral evidence was recorded during the field visit to Troedyrhiw, making map evidence an invaluable aid in outlining the history of the property. The earliest map source consulted during desk-top research was the OS Original Survey Drawing of 1811-12 (Sheet 189) which seems to show that Banc

Bwlch Cefn Sarth was still unenclosed common land at that time. The large, rectangular field parcels across this hill are certainly indicative of land which was enclosed during the late 18th or early 19th century. These fields shapes contrast in form with the irregular shapes seen on the lower part of the farm where the land has been farmed since an earlier period.

16.2.3 Some of the buildings around the farmyard are evidently of 19th century date, including the large barn/cowshed at the western side of the yard, which has recently been given Grade 2 listed status by Cadw. An associated building which stands to the east of this barn is also an interesting feature, for both have been present since at least the 1880's when they were surveyed by the OS. The farmhouse, which map evidence suggests to have originally been a longhouse, has been modernised during the 20th century.

16.2.4 It is interesting to note how trackway access to Troedyrhiw was altered during the course of the 19th century. Maps surveyed during the first half of the century show access via a track which came down into the yard from the north and ran first eastwards, then southwards to Llanwrda. However, by 1891, the 1:10560 map shows a new farm road approaching from the east, i.e. the present route. The previous route appears to have slowly declined in importance and by today is disused and not even shown as a footpath on modern the 1:2500 OS map. Only one section of this road survives (see PRN34711 below).

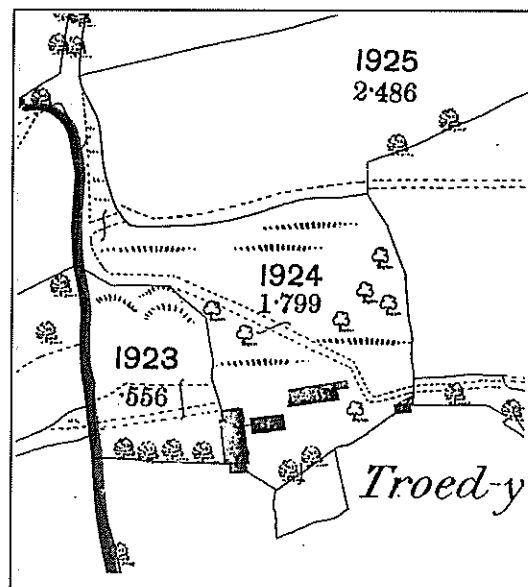


Fig.25; Troed y Rhiw Farmyard in 1888 (OS 1st ed., 1:2500, Carms. Sheet XVII.10).

16. 3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF TROED Y RHIW

Previously recorded sites.

PRN3391 CROPMARK

A crescentic cropmark identified on an Aerial Photograph (Meridian Airmaps, No. 260-230 29798-9, 1955). No surface evidence apparent.

PRN22488 BWLCH Y FFIN COTTAGE

A small cottage stood at the roadside here. Demolished. Site overgrown and inaccessible.

PRN26634 METAL MINE -LEAD

This small mine worked three levels which are not shown on the 1891 edition of the OS 1:10560 map, but are marked as 'old levels - lead' on the 1907 2nd edition map. There is no reason to believe that the mine was either long lived or successful, many small ventures of this type failed to make any profit.

Newly recorded sites.

PRN34711 ROAD

This is the only surviving section of the road which originally linked Troedyrhiw with the Llanwrda-Lampeter road.

PRN34712 QUARRY

Small quarry scoops in slope. Possibly associated with trial or prospecting works for nearby metal mines.

PRN34713 TRACKWAY

A minor trackway, cut neatly into the hillslope but disappearing where it runs into a boggy area. Purpose and origin unknown.

PRN34714 QUARRY

A small quarry scoop.

PRN34715 BARN; COWSHED

The barn/cowshed at Troed yr Rhiw has recently been given Grade 2 listed building status by Cadw.

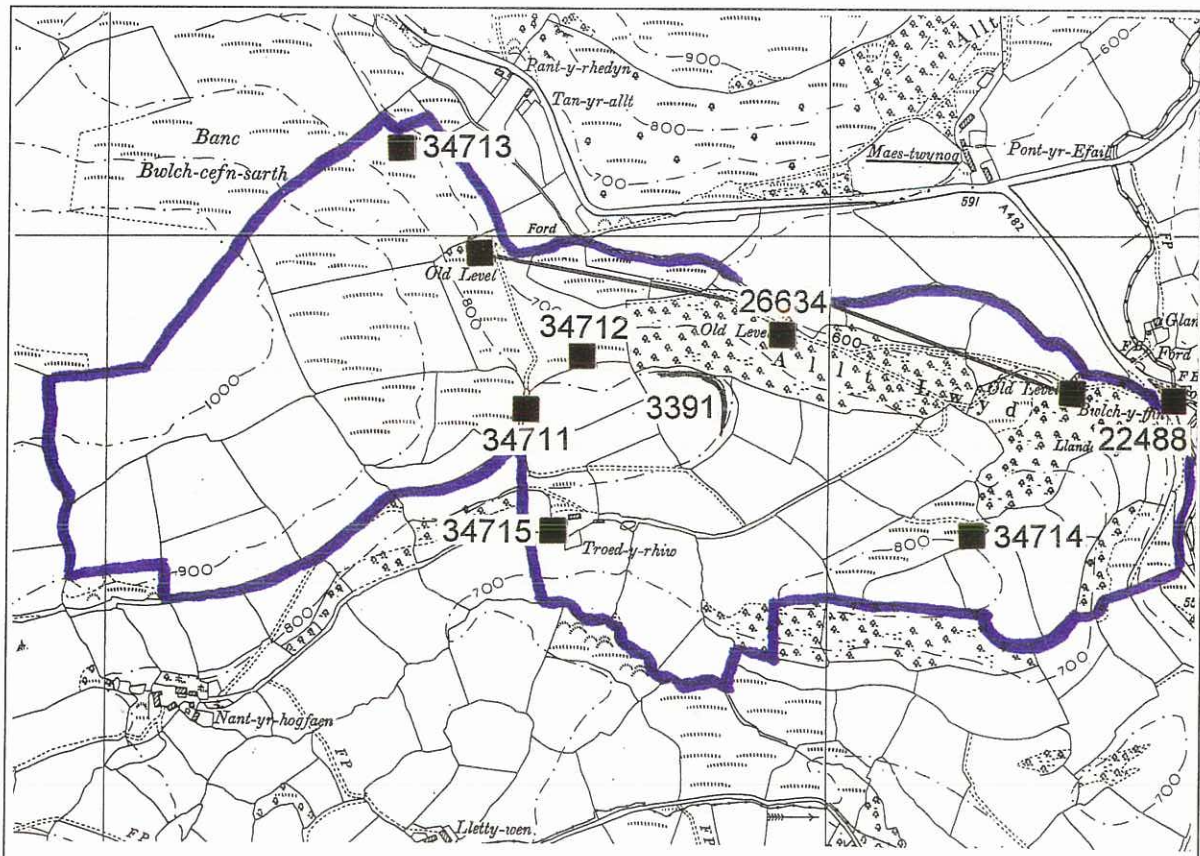


Fig.26; Troed y Rhiw Farm.

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A full range of historic maps were also used in the study of each holding. These include;

Ordnance Survey Original Survey Drawings (Scale: 2 inches to 1 mile) c.1810-20
Ordnance Survey Index to Tithe Drawings (Scale: 1 inch to 1 mile) 1825-28 (published 1831)
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Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1:2500 scale maps (1906)
Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:10560 scale maps (1891)
Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1:10560 scale maps (1906)
Tithe Maps and Schedules for each of the relevant parishes (1830s - 1840s)