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## **TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)**



*The medieval motte at Glanmynys (PRN5526 ) overlooks the historic routeway, now the A40*

Prepared for:  
Glanmynys

Tir Gofal Reference No. W/12/3928

ACA Report No. 2004/111  
Project Record No. 48458

Prepared by  
Alice Pyper

**Other documents enclosed:**  
**Historic Landscape Character Areas:**  
**208 Ystrad Tywi: Llangadog - Llandovery**  
**228 Cilgwyn - Llwynwormwood**  
**257 Llanwrda Parish**

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## **A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

#### **Historic Landscape Character**

Glanmynys Farm consists of six holdings which lie within the communities of Llanwrda and Llandovery. The holdings lie in a cluster along the Tywi valley and its hinterlands.

Holdings 3928, 3928/a and part of 3928/d lie within the Tywi valley registered landscape of outstanding historic interest (HLW (D) 5), which has been further assessed as Historic Landscape Character Area 208: Ystrad Tywi: Llangadog - Llandovery. This is the floodplain of the Tywi Valley which, in the past as it is today, forms an important routeway from Llandovery to Carmarthen. The enclosure pattern of medium sized regular fields in this area is thought to date to the mid to late 18th century and it was certainly in place by the time of the tithe survey in 1840. This pattern appears to have remained largely intact with the exception of some small scale boundary removal.

Holdings 3928/c, 3928/d and 3928/e all lie on the northwest side of the Tywi valley within Historic Landscape Character Area 257: Llanwrda Parish. From the Tywi valley floodplain the land rises into rolling hills and steep sided valleys overlaid with a field pattern of irregular medium sized fields and scattered woodland. The enclosure pattern is thought to be post medieval in date and was certainly in place by the time the tithe map was produced in 1840.

One outlying holding, 3928/b lies to the southeast of Llandovery, in the Historic Landscape Character Area of 228: Cilgwyn - Llwynwormwood. This holding lies on northwest facing slopes with extensive views to Llandovery and beyond. The enclosure pattern is fairly regular small to medium sized fields suggesting a Post Medieval date. The character of this holding is influenced to a great extent by the establishment of the substantial country house, Fron, and includes a plantation and orchard which lie within the holding.

#### **Archaeological and Historical Content**

The archaeological and historical content of the six holdings is enormously diverse and spans 4000 years. The earliest recorded archaeology of the farm is the well preserved round barrow PRN 51873, thought to date to the Bronze Age (2000-600 BC), the Roman road then takes a course along the north side of the Tywi valley passing through the holdings 3928, 3928/a and 3928d. This route continued to be of great significance and was undoubtedly one of the reasons a medieval motte was sited at the end of a hill spur overlooking the course of the road. This site is recognised as being of national importance and has been Scheduled (PRN 5526 Cm 239).

Post medieval archaeology represented on the farm is largely domestic and agricultural, including the farmsteads of Glanmynys PRN 51864, Cwmmynys PRN 51865 and Brynteg PRN 51870 which were all tenanted farms of the country house

Llwyn-y-brain. The sporting interests of the residents of Llwyn-y-brain have left their imprint on the landscape within these holdings, with a racecourse (PRN 4078), and a pheasantry (PRN 51868) recorded.

**Key Objective**

The key objective for the historic environment of this farm is the continued maintenance and upkeep of the traditional buildings within the farmsteads.

In addition, the management of the Medieval Motte (PRN 5526, Cm 239) should also be reconsidered at the 5 year break clause of the scheme, to address any problems that may materialise with the maturing plantation cover.

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## B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

### **General requirements**

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Cambria Archaeology (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

**"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.**

**"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local**

**Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice**

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

**i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:**  
**Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.**

**Location and description:**

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to Cambria Archaeology.

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
<a href="#">(4078)</a>	Post Medieval racecourse	SN7359133602	B	Generic

A wide, terraced 'track' skirting the inside of the field boundaries in a large oval encompassing the summit of the hill. This is known as a racecourse, and is identified as such on the Llanwrda Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment of 1840 & 1837. The track is approximately 4 - 5 metres wide and is grass covered.



*The circuit of the racecourse is visible in its entirety as a wide terrace cut into the natural hillside*

**GLAN-MYNYS MOUNT Medieval motte**      **SN73143266 A SAM Cm 239 Generic**  
[\(5526\)](#)

A small castle mound. Glanmynys Motte is a Scheduled Ancient Monument Cm 239. It is portrayed by Cadw description as a Medieval mound. It survives to a height of around 8 metres and a diameter of approximately 30 metres. It appears to have been cut off from the rest of the natural spur to the west by an encircling ditch which was waterlogged at the time of the visit (December 2004). The site lies at the end of a strip of conifer plantation. Some of the conifers are beginning to die back and are gradually disintegrating, but none have uprooted and the site generally seems in a stable condition. It may be necessary, at the five year break of the scheme, to reconsider the management of the site, if the site is threatened by tree fall and root damage. Please consult with Cadw and Cambria Archaeology.



*The medieval motte lies at the end of a natural hillspur, it is now covered with a conifer plantation.*

[\(11089\)](#)      **Roman road**      **SN7294332239 B**      **Generic**

Projected course of the Roman road linking known segments of Roman Road. No visible trace on the ground surface.

[\(33976\)](#)      **Roman road**      **SN7251132015 B**      **Generic**

The Roman road is visible as a cropmark in this area, and has been identified from aerial photographs. No visible trace on the ground surface.

[\(33977\)](#)      **Roman road**      **SN7335332449 B**      **Generic**

The Roman road is visible as a cropmark in this area, and has been identified from aerial photographs. No visible trace on the ground surface.

**GLANMYNYS** [\(51864\)](#)      **Post Medieval farmstead**      **SN7329532742 B**      **Generic**

The historic farmstead of Glanmynys is shown on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41) and the Llanwrda tithe map of 1840 with three buildings which correspond with the barn (PRN 51860) the outbuilding, possibly the former farmhouse (PRN 51861) and the cow shed (PRN 51862). The current farmhouse is a late 19th century / early 20th century addition to the farmstead and appears on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 originally built as two domestic units (Carns sheet 26.04). A further cow shed was also constructed to the south of the farmyard core prior to the survey for the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Please inform Cambria Archaeology if any works to the historic core of the farmstead are to be undertaken.



**CWMMYNYS** ([51865](#))      **Post Medieval farmstead**      **SN7301134594 B**      **Generic**

The historic farmstead of Cwmmynys is recorded on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41). The current arrangement of the farmstead has shifted from that shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The present farmhouse now occupies a location where a range of buildings (or possibly a longhouse?) used to lie across the slope. In addition a barn with a horse gin is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1888) to the northwest of the farmstead. Today the farmstead consists of a mid to late 19th century farmhouse (stone built with brick dressings) lying on the west facing slope and a long range of the buildings to the south which lie across the slope (PRN 51866, 51867). A well in the northeast corner of the farmstead is also shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

([51868](#))      **Modern pheasantry**      **SN7334033226 C**      **Generic**

A pheasantry is marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. The map shows a rectangular building within an enclosure & further to the east along the field boundary are a series of pens. There is little trace of any structure in this location, the field boundary is only marked by a small section of hedgerow trees amongst which are some iron hurdles, which may be relics of the pheasantry enclosure.

([51869](#))      **Post Medieval stable?**      **SN7378532522 U**      **Generic**

The Llanwrda parish tithe apportionment of 1839 names two fields 'Cae stable uchaf' and 'isaf' and the map indicates a building lying on the boundary. There is no indication of this building on any of the later historic maps; the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map only indicates a couple of isolated trees along the relic boundary. There is now only one tree remaining from this hedgeline and the stump of one other. There is no visible trace of any structure in this location.

**BRYNTEG** ([51870](#))      **Post Medieval farmstead**      **SN7470533223 B**      **Generic**

A farmstead lies to the north of the A40. The farmhouse has been demolished and replaced by a bungalow but a barn and cow shed remain. The Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41) records a farmstead named Brynteg. The farmstead is shown as a loose courtyard arrangement.

([51872](#))      **Post Medieval cottage**      **SN7779333079 C**      **Generic**

A cottage and enclosure are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. There is now no visible trace of this cottage and enclosure, however a slight levelling off of the slope may suggest the remains of the building platform.

([51873](#))      **Bronze Age round barrow**      **SN73703350 A**      **Generic**

A well defined round barrow, approximately 19 metres in diameter (from top of bank). The bank is c. 0.3 m high with an apparently continuous external ditch 0.3 deep. The centre of the barrow appears slightly uneven and may have been disturbed in antiquity. It is located in a very prominent position with extensive views to the northeast, south and west but its location placed on the break of slope below the summit obscures the view to the north. The barrow is located in permanent pasture with some bracken growing within the bank.





*A round barrow lies just below the summit of the hill with views over to Mynydd Du*

**CWMMYNYS** ([51874](#))

**Post Medieval  
building**

**SN7298834645 C**

**Generic**

A building, probably a barn, is shown on the 1st ed Ordnance Survey map of 1888, with a circular feature to the north, probably a horse gin. It appears to have been dismantled by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 (Carms sheet 17.16)

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

### **Generic Management Prescriptions** - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

## ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

### Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
1	GLANMYNYS ( <a href="#">51860</a> )	Post Medieval barn	SN7330932776	B	Specific

A large barn with two threshing bays at the north end and two cart entrances with loft overhead to the south, accessed from external stone steps at the south gable end. The barn lies adjacent to the roadside. Later modifications to the barn include replacement doors of metal and a roof structure of iron trusses covered with corrugated asbestos. The gable steps are overgrown and appear loose.



*A large barn and lofted cart shed lie beside the road at Glanmynys*

- 2      **GLANMYNYS** ([51861](#))      **Post Medieval outbuilding**      **SN7329732734 B**      **Specific**

A two storey brick and stone outbuilding, possibly formerly part of the original farmhouse, which has since been heavily modified. The Llanwrda parish tithe map of 1840 shows a building lying at right angles to the roadside in this location. The current building is two storey, one up, one down with a chimney on the southwest gable and a pitched slate roof. It has been extensively rebuilt in brick although much of the southwest gable is composed of stonework. Although the building has been heavily modified at some point in the late 19th / early 20th century it seems likely that it retains elements of a much older building, which was possibly the original farmhouse. More recently it has been used as accommodation, but now is used as a store. The southwest gable is becoming heavily overgrown with ivy which has encroached over the chimney.



*This small brick outbuilding may hold traces within it of the original farmhouse at Glanmynys*

- FRON** ([19408](#))      **Post Medieval Country House**      **SN77853322 B**      **Generic**

'Fron' is recorded on the 1831 Old Series Ordnance Survey map (sheet 41). In 1886 the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map indicates a substantial complex of buildings (Carms sheet 27.02). Today this complex has been divided into two properties and the majority of the farm buildings lie on the adjacent land holding, with the exception of part of the old stables and coach house.

- GLANMYNYS** ([51862](#))      **Post Medieval cow shed**      **SN7327532735 B**      **Generic**

A limewashed rubble stone and slate roofed cow shed. Central doorway flanked by narrow windows to either side. The arrangement of openings suggest that it was originally built as a stable. The window openings appear to retain their original fittings, however the door has been replaced by a metal sliding door. To the east the building is flanked by a lower extension, this has further been extended with a breeze block addition.

- GLANMYNYS** ([51863](#))      **Post Medieval cow shed**      **SN7329132713 C**      **Generic**

A low cow shed built in rubble stone with a pitched slate roof. Yellow brick dressings around window and door openings.

**GLANMYNYS ([51864](#))**      **Post Medieval**      **SN7329532742**      **B**      **Generic**  
**farmstead**

The historic farmstead of Glanmynys is shown on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41) and the Llanwrda tithe map of 1840 with three buildings which correspond with the barn (PRN 51860) the outbuilding, possibly the former farmhouse (PRN 51861) and the cow shed (PRN 51862). The current farmhouse is a late 19th century / early 20th century addition to the farmstead and appears on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 originally built as two domestic units (Carms sheet 26.04). Further cow shed were also constructed to the south of the farmyard core prior to the survey for the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Please inform Cambria Archaeology if any works to the historic core of the farmstead are to be undertaken.

**CWMMYNYS ([51865](#))**      **Post Medieval**      **SN7301134594**      **B**      **Generic**  
**farmstead**

The historic farmstead of Cwmmynys is recorded on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41). The current arrangement of the farmstead has shifted from that shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The present farmhouse now occupies a location where a range of buildings (or possibly a longhouse?) used to lie across the slope. In addition a barn with a horse gin is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1888) to the northwest of the farmstead. Today the farmstead consists of a mid to late 19th century farmhouse (stone built with brick dressings) lying on the west facing slope and a long range of the buildings to the south which lie across the slope (PRN 51866, 51867). A well in the northeast corner of the farmstead is also shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

**CWMMYNYS ([51866](#))**      **Post Medieval**      **SN7300934557**      **B**      **Generic**  
**stable**

A two storey stone building with a pitched slate roof. Stone arched doorway in north wall and a single small window in 1st floor. Now has a breeze block leanto against the north wall. Possibly originally a stable. A later one storey cow house lies adjacent to it, abutting the west gable end (PRN 51867).

**CWMMYNYS ([51867](#))**      **Post Medieval cow**      **SN7299634557**      **B**      **Generic**  
**shed**

A low stone built cow shed with yellow brick dressings. Butts against the stable to the east. Four evenly spaced doorways face onto the yard to the north, interspersed with window openings. The roof is now covered with corrugated iron.



*The stable lies upslope and a cow shed downslope at Cwmmynys*

**BRYNTEG ([51870](#))**      **Post Medieval**      **SN7470533223**      **B**      **Generic**  
**farmstead**

A farmstead lies to the north of the A40. The farmhouse has been demolished and replaced by a bungalow but a barn and cow shed remain. The Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 (sheet 41) records a farmstead named Brynteg. The farmstead is shown as a loose courtyard arrangement.

**BRYNTEG** ([51871](#))

**Post Medieval  
combination farm  
building**

**SN7472433236 B**

**Generic**

The barn and cow shed survive as a continuous range on the east side of the farmstead and further large sheds have been built against the west side of the cow shed. Both the barn and the cow shed are constructed in local stone with dressed stone openings, the roofs are now covered with corrugated iron. Both buildings are currently in use. The range lies across the slope with the barn at the upper (north) end. A gable end doorway into the loft of the barn is accessed from ground level. At the lower end of the barn is a large threshing doorway. The cow shed has two original doorways and an enlarged doorway at its southern end.



*The barn at Brynteg*

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

### **Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2**

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.



### **Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:**

The following individual traditional buildings are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over these generic requirements:

**Site 1 on MAP 1**

**GLANMYNYS ([51860](#))**

**SN7330932776**

*In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.*

Ideally the vegetation on the gable steps should be removed and the masonry consolidated.

**Site 2 on MAP 1**

**GLANMYNYS ([51861](#))**

**SN7329732734**

*In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.*

It is recommended that the ivy stems are cut through above root level. The vegetation should then be allowed to die off in place. The roots may be spot treated to prevent regrowth. Ideally further consolidation of the masonry and brickwork should then take place.

### **iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:**

**There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Cambria Archaeology Historic Environment Record for the application area**

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*AP - 21/12/2004 ( 17:24:05 ) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, ACA Project record number 48458.*

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*This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.*

#### *Sources consulted:*

**Ordnance Survey 1888. Carmarthenshire sheet 17.16**

**Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire sheet 17.16**

**Ordnance Survey 1887. Carmarthenshire sheet 26.04**

**Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire sheet 26.04**

**Ordnance Survey 1887. Carmarthenshire sheet 26.08**

**Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire sheet 26.08**

**Ordnance Survey 1886. Carmarthenshire sheet 27.02**

**Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire sheet 27.02**

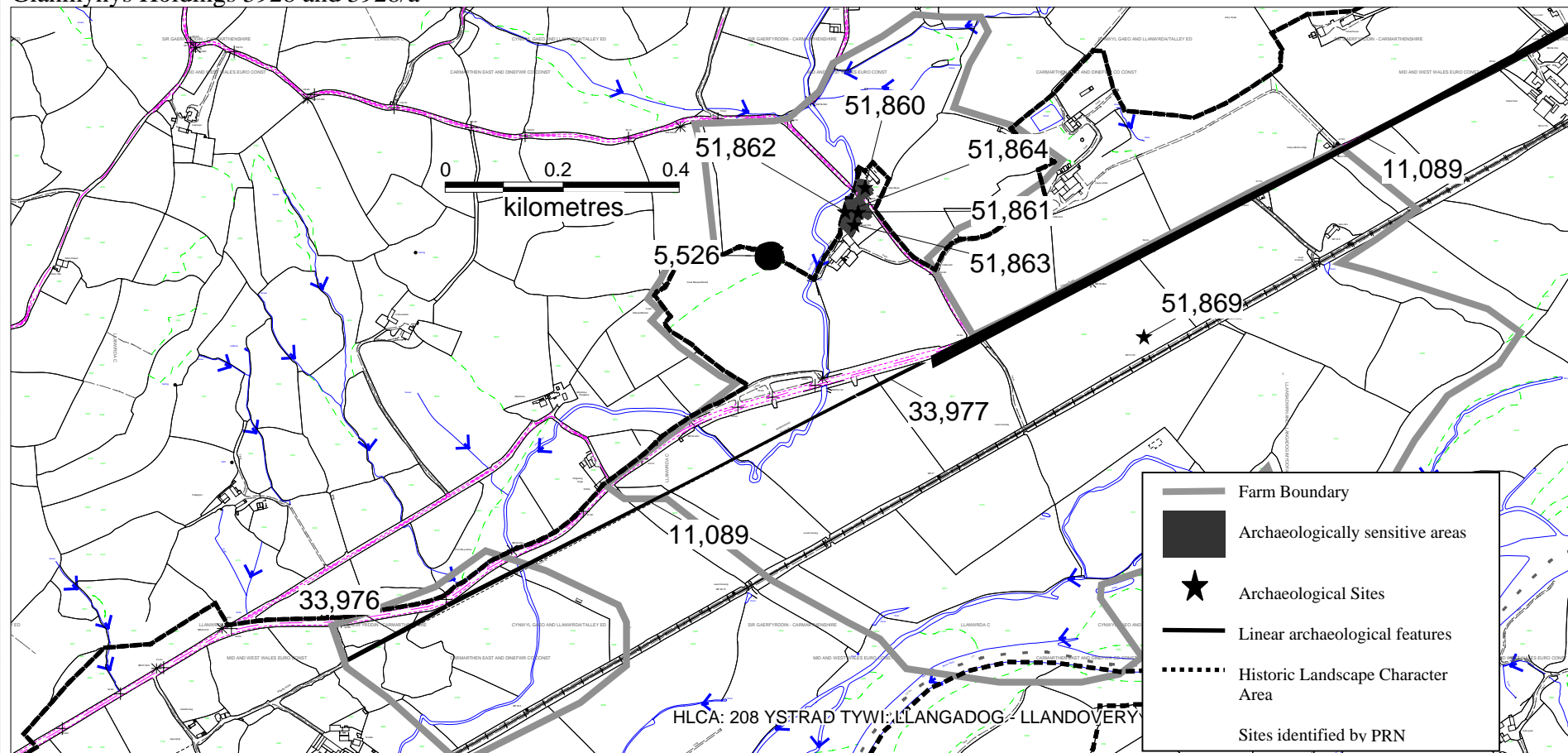
**Tithe Map of Llanwrda Parish 1840**

**Tithe Apportionment of Llanwrda Parish 1839**

**RAF Aerial Photographs, 106G-UK-1471 1192-3, 29273**

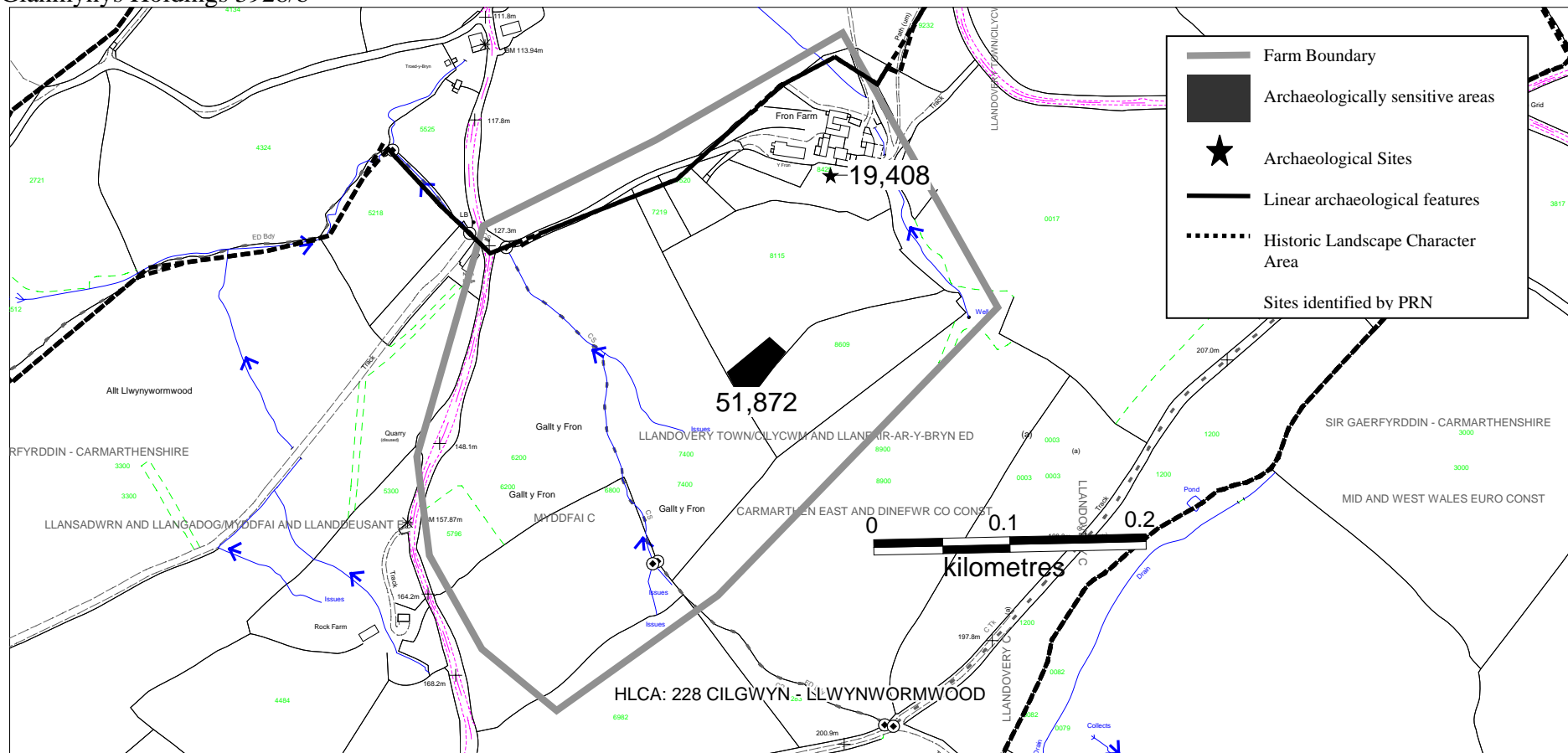
**Ordnance Survey card, 1968. SN73 SW(M). PRN 4078.**

# Glanmynys Holdings 3928 and 3928/a



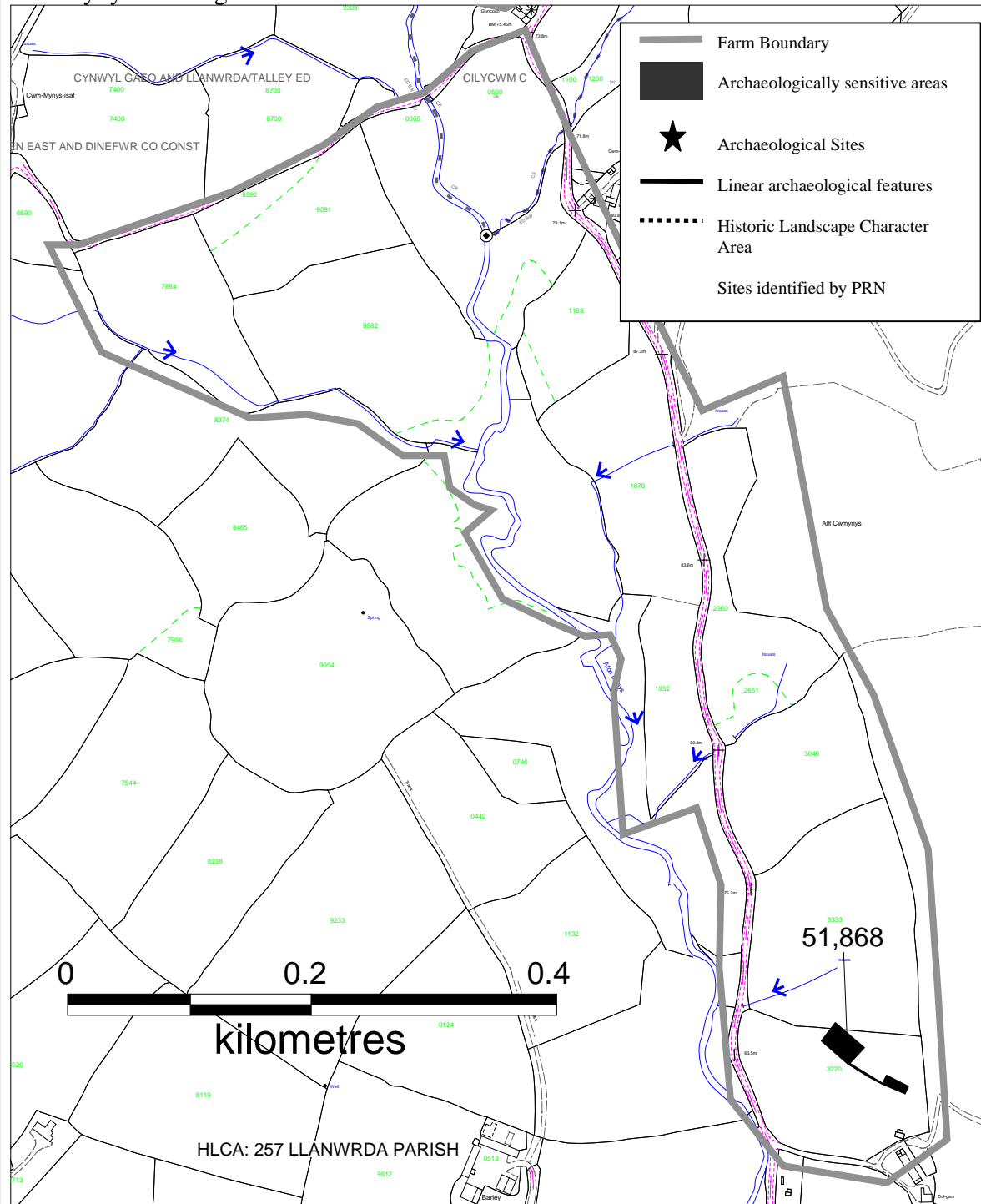
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# Glanmynys Holdings 3928/b



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# Glanmynys Holdings 3928/c



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Map of the Llanywrda area showing farm boundaries, archaeological features, and sites. The map includes a scale bar (0 to 0.4 km) and a legend.

**Legend:**

- Farm Boundary
- Archaeologically sensitive areas
- Archaeological Sites
- Linear archaeological features
- Historic Landscape Character Area
- Sites identified by PRN

Key features on the map:

- Large black-outlined area labeled **4,078** and **51,873**.
- Smaller black-outlined area labeled **51,870** and **11,089**.
- Star symbol indicating an archaeological site.
- Scale bar: 0 to 0.4 kilometres.
- Text: **HLCA: 257 LLANWRDA PARISH**.

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## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 208 YSTRAD TYWI: LLANGADOG - LLANDOVERY**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 723316**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 925.40**

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#### **Historic Background**

A large, narrow area stretching from Llangadog in the southwest to Llandovery in the northeast, which lies in the fertile alluvial floodplain of the River Tywi. The valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales and the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, which lies just within the northwest edge of this character area, followed the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi. A later turnpike more-or-less followed the course of this Roman road, as does the present A40(T) - see Areas 182 and 196. The River Tywi in this area is active and subject to course changes across the valley floor, and the wooded nature of the valley was commented upon by early writers including Leland in the 1530s (Smith 1906), who appear to be describing the floodplain. Therefore, the present pattern of regular fields is probably of later date, while enclosure may have been undertaken during the 18th century, but had definitely taken place by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century. In addition, settlement on the floodplain has always been minimal. There are, however, a few farms and dwellings in the area, also occupying the interface or situated upon glacially derived 'islands' within the floodplain; one of these, Pentremeurig, has 16th century origins and was assessed for 7 hearths in 1670 (Jones 1987, 155). The disposition of these habitations may then reflect earlier settlement patterns. Peat deposits have been noted between the alluvium and the underlying geology elsewhere within the Tywi Valley (Page 1994, 4,9), where they were thought either to represent such 'islands' in the floodplain, or a drying of the floodplain (see also Area 196) and while no prehistoric sites have been recorded within the area it must be stressed that within the Tywi Valley, this period is among 'the least known' (Cadw/ICOMOS, 1998, 28). During the Medieval period the river formed one of the major boundaries of Carmarthenshire, separating Cantref Mawr on the north bank from Cantref Bychan on the south bank (Rees, 1932). As such, the landscape area has experienced a chequered history of tenure and was troubled by warfare until the end of the 13th century; Cantref Mawr, unlike Cantref Bychan which was subject to 12th century conquest and reconquest, remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 (Rees 1953, xv) and the Post-Medieval house at Ystrad may be the site of the Medieval *llys* of Gwestfa Ystradmynys within which this area partly lay. There does not appear to have ever been a bridge across the Tywi between Llangadog and Llandovery but there were at least two, possibly three historic fords. The turnpike, established in 1763-71 (Lewis 1971, 43) more-or-less followed the line of the Roman road and is now represented by the A40(T). The A4069 on dry ground between Llangadog and Llandovery on the south side of the valley also follows the line of a turnpike begun in 1779 (*ibid.*). The floodplain, meanwhile, is crossed by the former LNWR main West Wales railway line which was opened, as the 'Vale of Towy Line', by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company in 1858 (Gabb, 1977, 76). Little industry has developed in this area although a woollen factory possibly operated at Pentremeurig.

### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area comprises the flood plain of the Tywi together with the lower, gently sloping valley sides. Within this area the flood plain of the Tywi rises some 20 m, from 40 m OD at the west end to 60 m OD at the east end, over a distance of 7 km. The lower valley sides rise up to a maximum of 60 m to 70 m. Above these lower slopes valley sides rise steeply, particularly on the northern side towards Llandovery, to over 150 m. This part of the Tywi valley provides a natural route-corridor. The Romans utilised the route for the Llandovery-Carmarthen road, and in more recent times turnpike roads were constructed on both sides of the valley. The course of the turnpike on the northern side is now followed by the A40(T), that on the south side by the A4069. The railway that runs along the flood plain on a low embankment also uses this route corridor. Where areas of deposition and erosion are evident on the Tywi there is no strong field patterning, and scrubby, rushy ground prevails. These areas are, however, fairly restricted and most of the area is divided into reasonably regular, medium-sized fields. Field boundaries are hedges without banks and earth banks topped with hedges. The former are planted on the valley floor presumably to facilitate flood-water drainage. Some hedges are accompanied by ditches. Most hedges are well maintained, though a significant number are becoming derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. Many hedges possess distinctive hedgerow trees, and these, together with isolated trees and small copses lend a parkland aspect to the area. This may be a planned effect, designed to merge with the parks on the north side of the valley associated with gentry houses. Settlements are confined to low terraces which lie slightly above the flood plain and to the valley sides. A wide range of economic and social classes are represented by the buildings of the area from the gentry house of Ystrad, with an area of parkland, through to small roadside cottages. However, the settlement pattern is dominated by farms dispersed along a river terrace to the south of Llanwrda, on the lower slopes of both sides of the river. Farmhouses are quite substantial and tend towards the 'polite' with extensive, large semi-formal outbuildings, mainly supplemented with modern agricultural buildings.

Recorded archaeology is confined to buildings and the ford sites.

There are many distinctive buildings but none are listed. They include the gentry house at Glan-Dulais, the 18th- and 19th-century Ystrad house and park, and Pentremeurig with 16th century origins. Farmhouses are generally quite substantial - more so than the simple two storey, three-bay structures common elsewhere - and generally of 18th- or 19th-century date, stone built and polite, rather than vernacular. 20th century brick-built farmhouses are also present. Farm buildings are also large and are often arranged in a semi-formal setting with the farmhouse. 19th century stone-built examples and 20th century brick outbuildings are represented, and most farms possess large assemblages of modern agricultural buildings

This is a fairly distinct character area, and contrasts with the character areas of enclosed farmland with smaller farmsteads that bound it to the north and south (Areas 201, 207, 210, 214, 228, 257), with the urban areas of Llangadog and Llandovery (Areas 206, 212), and with former parkland to the northeast (Area 209).

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 228 CILGWYN - LLWYNWORMWOOD**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 754308**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 1288.00**

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#### **Historic Background**

An area southeast of the River Tywi lying in the former Cantref Bychan which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.). It was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery but retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated within modern Carmarthenshire. The area was divided between two commotes, Hirfryn to the north and Perfedd, specifically Maenor Myddfai (and Myddfai parish), to the south. The latter may have been administered from Myddfai itself but Cilgwyn Mansion had been established by the 16th century (Jones 1987, 30), and the nearby mill is marked by Rees on his map of 14th century south Wales (Rees 1932). With 3820 acres in Myddfai parish in 1873, the occupants of Cilgwyn Mansion, the Gwynne-Holfords, were the chief family of the parish. A second gentry house nearby, Glasallt, is said to have been the home of the Owen family since 1508 (Jones 1987, 80). Llwynwormwood in the northern part of the area, now gone, was a later 18th century gentry house and home of the Williams family, also of Dolgarreg and the second family of Myddfai parish (Jones 1987, 122). A small emparked area also lies around Glansevin, at the southern end of the area, which had been the home of the Lloyd family since the 16th century and was assessed at 8 hearths in 1670 (Jones 1987, 78); it is now a hotel. The landscape within the area exhibits a varied pattern of enclosures; those to the south are irregular and may have been established by the early Post-Medieval period, while those to the north are more regular and probably later in date. The landscape around Cilgwyn and Llwynwormwood was extensively emparked in the 18th- and 19th-century with much tree-planting. Small-scale mining activity is represented by Allt Rhydys and Paradise Lode, small copper/lead shafts in the north of the area, and a lead/zinc shaft in the south of the area. There has been little recent development.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood character area lies across a wide hilly ridge which trends southwest-northeast on the south side of the Tywi valley between Llandovery and Llangadog. The ridge rises from approximately 60 m on the valley floor to achieve heights of over 180 m. The area is heavily wooded. This consists of deciduous woodland on steep valley sides interspersed with and under-planted by 20th century conifer plantations. There are also substantial conifer plantations on the ridge crests. Although some of the deciduous woodland is probably ancient, especially that on the steeper slopes, much has the appearance of 18th- or 19th-century plantations, part of the estate landscape. There are several large estates or former estates in the area. The mansion of one of the largest, Cilgwyn, still exists, along with various associated relict garden features, but the other main house of the area, Llwynwormwood is now a ruin. Dolgarreg and Cwm-Rhuddan, two lesser major houses still stand. Outside the wooded areas, the main land-use is pasture. This has been divided into fields which are large and fairly regular on higher levels, smaller and more irregular at lower

levels. Earth banks with hedges form the boundaries to the fields, but apart from alongside roads and tracks hedges are in very poor condition, especially so at higher elevation, and are either overgrown or derelict. Wire fences provide most of the stock-proof boundaries. Many hedges have distinctive trees, and there are individual trees and small clumps present across much of the area. Parkland is still present as at Cwm-Rhuddan, but virtually the whole area seems to have been subjected to landscaping by the estates in the 18th- and 19th-century. Outside the major houses, the settlement pattern is of dispersed farms and other dwellings. Farmhouses are substantial, stone-built, generally 19th century in date and have a wide range of stone outbuildings reflecting estate management. Most farms have modern agricultural buildings. Other dwellings are mostly 19th century cottages or houses, usually in the vernacular style, with a few 20th century buildings.

Recorded archaeology comprises a possible hillfort, three metal mines, estate and parkland features, and several unknown cropmark/earthwork/landform features.

There are many distinctive buildings of which the 18th century Cilgwyn house and one of the Llwynwormwood park lodges, from the 18th- or early 19th-century in picturesque 'estate' Gothic style, are Grade II listed. Glansevin, from the 18th- and 19th-century with Classical features, is Grade II listed.

Mansions, parkland and woodland distinguish this area and mark it out from the neighbouring areas of farms and small fields (Areas 208, 232, 234 and 235).

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 257 LLANWRDA PARISH**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 727352**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 2058.00**

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#### **Historic Background**

An area lying on the north-west side of the Tywi Valley. During the historic period it lay within the commote of Malláen, the late Medieval parish of Llanwrda and the later hundred of Cao (Rees 1932). The commote was held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284, and in this area was subdivided into Gwestfa Llanwrda, probably administered from a *llys* at Neuadd Llanwrda (Area 210), and Gwestfa Ystrad Mynys, probably administered from a *llys* at Ystrad (Area 208). There is evidence for settlement from an early period; a possible Iron Age hillfort lies within the area while the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, turnpiked in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) and now represented by the A40(T), partly forms its south-eastern edge. The road was probably the route taken by the Anglo-Normans advancing from the east under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and subdued Cantref Bychan to the south. This initial campaign may be the context for the establishment of the motte at Glan-Mynys, on the edge of the Tywi floodplain; it may, however, be an independent Welsh foundation lying as it does in association with the possible *llys* at Ystrad. There may be a Medieval settlement site at Cwmdwr in the west of the area, and a possible moated site lies just beyond the northern edge. The present system of medium-large irregular fields suggests enclosure by the earlier Post-Medieval period, by which time the present pattern of farms had probably developed. The landscape is more-or-less unchanged from that depicted on the Llanwrda tithe map of 1837. There are no villages within the area but there is an interesting late development at Siloh where an early 19th century chapel and public house, on the droving route from Cao to Llandovery which crosses the northern part of the area, became the focii for a small nucleation. There has been little recent development.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This very large character area lies on the northern side of the Tywi valley and includes much of the parish of Llanwrda. From the floodplain of the Tywi at approximately 60m the land rises steeply to over 130 m. To the north of this the area is characterised by rolling hills and small, steep-sided valleys lying between 100 m and 230 m. It is essentially a landscape of widely dispersed farms, small irregular fields and scattered woodland. Boundaries to the fields consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Over such a wide area there are differences in the management of hedgerows, but most are in good condition, though there is a tendency for them to become derelict at higher levels, and overgrown at lower levels. Many of the hedges have distinctive hedgerow trees, and these together with the numerous small stands of deciduous woodland (particularly distinctive on the steep valley sides) and medium-sized conifer plantations lend a wooded aspect to the landscape. Farmland land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with very little rough grazing and rushy ground. There is no aggregate settlement; the settlement pattern is dominated by dispersed farms. Farmsteads are generally 19th century, stone-built, two-store and three-bay. Clearly

over such a large area there is variation in type, but most are in the vernacular tradition, with fewer examples in the more polite 'Georgian' style. Older farm buildings are stone-built. There is a considerable variation in size and layout of these buildings, but mostly they are limited to one or two ranges, but with some larger more complex examples arranged formally around a yard. Most farms have modern agricultural buildings. There is virtually no modern residential development. Apart from a B road which cuts across the northern part of this area and which replaces the route of a Roman road from Llandovery to Pumsaint a little way to the north, all transport links in this area are local and consist of lanes, tracks and paths.

Recorded archaeology comprises a possible Iron Age hillfort, a Medieval settlement site, motte and possible chapel site, and a possible signal station of unknown date.

There are few distinctive buildings including Siloh and Tabor chapels, a former public house, dwellings, bridges and former mills.

To the north and west character areas have yet to be described, but here land rises into a series of low unenclosed and semi-enclosed hills. On other sides neighbouring character areas (Areas 208, 214 and 215) have similar landscape components to this area; here there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged boundary.