

# **Gilwen Farm W/12/3944**

## **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**



Looking west from Fforest Hill towards Dyflyn farmstead.

Report No. 2004/49

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Gilwen Farm  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm.

### **Method Statement**

The farm visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information System based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a farm visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Due to time constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM**

Gilwen Farm (PRN 50651) consists of five separate land holdings in the community of Cilycwm in Carmarthenshire. Two of these holdings (3944 and 3944b.) were visited by Cambria on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

All holdings fall within the Tywi Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (CCW/Cadw 1998). This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which identifies the different historic landscape components, which give an area its unique qualities. Descriptions of the relevant historic landscape character areas are provided at the end of this report.

The home farm of Gilwen (holding 3944) occupies relatively flat land in the shadow of Mynydd Mallaen. The Afon Dunant bisects the holding in a general east-west direction, and the Nant Nawmor, a tributary, forms part of its eastern boundary.

The holding is of considerable historic interest, not least for the variety of settlement evidence it contains. Gilwen farmstead (PRN 50652) is a well preserved example of a U-plan farmstead and dates to the early nineteenth century if not earlier. The old farmhouse retains several scarfed cruck trusses and is a rare survival of a pre nineteenth century house in the area. Both the house and buildings are Grade II listed. Several other historic farmsteads and cottages (PRNs , 29572, 50664, 50665 and 50667) are scattered about the holding. The majority of these have long since been abandoned and retain few visible traces today. They recall a time of increased population density before the consolidation farms into larger units and rural depopulation led to their abandonment and removal. A Roman road (PRN 50663) crosses the holding in an east-west direction and may have linked the forts of Llandovery and Pumsaint by an indirect valley route (Toller 1993). The agger is remarkably well preserved across marshy ground to the east but eroded and spread by ploughing further west.

Dyflyn (holding 3944b.) lies about a kilometre east of Gilwen on the opposite side of the Tywi. It includes part of western flank of Fforest Hill which drops away steeply to the valley floor. Regular straight sided enclosures on higher ground here suggest that much of the area may have remained unenclosed until the early nineteenth century. The remains of a possible long hut (PRN 50666) in the lee of the hill summit suggest squatter settlement at an earlier date, possibly during the early post medieval period. Two ruined cottage sites (PRNs 21914, 50662) are situated further downhill to the east. Dyflyn farmstead lies in the west of the holding. In its current form the farmstead dates to the later nineteenth century, although a reference to the old mansion at “Divlyn” (PRN 11764) is mentioned in “The County Families of Wales” (Thomas 1872, 303). The site is now lost, although it is possible that elements of the earlier mansion may be incorporated into the present dwelling. No traces of a milestone (PRN 50669) and or a possible kiln (PRN 50668), suggested by place-name evidence, were observed during the archaeological farm visit.

Little of archaeological interest was identified on the other three holdings (3944a, 3944c and 3944d).

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **COW SHED (PRN 50654); THRESHING BARN (PRN 50655)**

Both buildings are Grade II listed. Any works which are likely to affect the character of the buildings will require listed building consent.

The landowner has expressed a desire to remove limewash and then repoint the outer walls of both the cow shed and the barn, in order to leave a bare stone finish and eliminate the need for regular limewashing.

Removing the limewash render will alter the historic appearance of the building and will require listed building consent. An application should be made to the local planning authority if this is to be undertaken. Further advice can be obtained from the local planning authority building conservation officer:

Adrian Griffiths  
Building Conservation Officer  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Tel: 01267 224645

Removing the limewash will expose the masonry and lime mortar bonds to erosion, and increase the need for regular repointing. The correct application of an appropriate limewash render mix will give long lasting protection against weathering. Further advice on the selection of an optimum lime mix and its application can be obtained from a specialist on traditional building materials and techniques. A list of contact numbers for building restoration is provided at the end of this report.

### **COW SHED (PRN 50658)**

The landowner is keen to replace the partial covering of corrugated asbestos on the eastern pitch of the roof with slate. This will improve the historic appearance of the building and is to be welcomed. Displaced slates elsewhere should also be reinstated in order to maintain the roof in a watertight condition. Materials and techniques used should be compatible with those used originally.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

**PRN** 21914 **Site Name** CRINCOED **Grid Reference** SN76883807

**Site Type** COTTAGE **Period** Post  
Medieval

### Description

A ruinous three unit range with central cottage, on the eastern flank of Fforest Hill. It first appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and seems to have replaced an earlier cottage (PRN 50662) a short distance to the north.

It is of rubble stone, formerly with a slate roof and follows a three unit ground floor plan. The cottage stands to near gable height around the corners indicating a one and a half storey design. It features a symmetrical façade with central door and windows to either side and a south gable fireplace. The abutting units to either side are less well preserved and only the low spread wall footings survive.

It lies within a pasture field which is grazed periodically. Some mature trees surround the site. These are in a stable condition and pose no immediate threat to standing structural remains.

### Recommendations

The cottage should be maintained in a visible and stable condition. Buried archaeological remains should be protected from damage. The area within 5 metres of the edge of the site should not be used as a location for feeding livestock or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** C



Plate 1- Crincoed cottages (PRNs 21914, 50662) viewed from the north.

<b>PRN</b>	29572	<b>Site Name</b>	TY'N-Y-BERTH	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74383852
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

#### **Description**

A small farmstead seen on historic maps including the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings of 1819-20. It appears as an L-plan farmstead on the Second Edition map of 1907. The site now lies within the corner of an improved pasture field. No surface traces of the farmstead survive today.

#### **Recommendations**

Surface traces of the farmstead have been removed and ploughed out, although buried archaeology is still likely to survive. Ideally the area extending 10m from the edge of the site specified should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities. Otherwise the cultivation depth should not be exceeded.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	50652	<b>Site Name</b>	GILWEN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74733868
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB II

#### **Description**

A well preserved U-shaped farmstead dating to at least the early nineteenth century. The farmhouse (PRN 50653), which retains four scarfed cruck trusses and was probably thatched originally backs onto an L-plan range of early nineteenth century agricultural buildings (PRNs 50654, 50655) to complete a three sided yard. Gilwen is Grade II listed as a good example of a traditional U-plan farmstead, with high group value and a rare surviving pre-nineteenth century house.

#### **Recommendations**

The farmstead has been given a Grade II listing. Any works that affect the character of these buildings will require listed building consent. Further advice can be obtained from the local authority building conservation officer. The buildings should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** B



Plate 2- The old farmhouse at Gilwen (PRN 50653)



Plate 3- The cow shed and threshing barn at Gilwen (PRN 50654, 50655)

<b>PRN</b>	50653	<b>Site Name</b>	GILWEN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74733868
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB II

### **Description**

The old farmhouse at Gilwen farmstead (PRN 50652). It backs onto an L-plan range of agricultural buildings (PRNs 50654, 50655) to complete a three sided yard. It is no longer inhabited and was apparently raised from a cruck truss single storey range in the later eighteenth century. It retains several scarved cruck trusses and is Grade II listed as a rare surviving example of a pre nineteenth century house in the area.

It is of whitewashed (formerly ochred) rubble stone, with a steeply pitched corrugated iron front roof and a slate rear. A stone west gable end stack survives, and the east stack has since been removed. The front wall faces south and features windows at both ground and first floor level; those at upper level with catslide dormers. A door and two windows to the right are obscured by a modern milking parlour. The west gable end is blind and a small loft light is the only opening in the east gable. The rear (north) wall, which faces on to the farmyard features two doors and a window to the left.

The interior follows a three room plan, divided by wooden board partitions. The main east end room has a large fireplace with an oak lintel. The hall is roughly central within the building, and includes a dog-leg stair with nineteenth century banisters. The east end room also features a large fireplace with oak lintel. Four scarfed cruck trusses survive at upper level, two with pegged collars. It is divided into three rooms (based on Cadw 1995, 28).

It is no longer inhabited, although the west unit of the building houses livestock. The house remains in a reasonable condition and is still weatherproof, although there is localised weathering of the lime mortar masonry bonds, particularly around the west end.

### **Recommendations**

The farmhouse is Grade II listed. Any works that will affect the character of the building will require listed building consent. Further advice can be obtained from the local authority building conservation officer. It should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	50654	<b>Site Name</b>	GILWEN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74713870
<b>Site Type</b>	COW SHED	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB II

### **Description**

An early nineteenth century cow shed forming part of an L-plan range (together with combination farm building PRN 50655) on the north side of the farmyard at Gilwen farmstead (PRN 50652). It is a single storey building of whitewashed rubble stone and a slate roof. Six doors with timber lintels face onto the farmyard; five to the cow house and a sixth to a separate end stall. The second and fourth doors are part blocked. An additional doorway is in the centre of rear wall. A loft light pierces the east gable end above the end stall (based on Cadw 1995, 29)

The cow shed is Grade II listed for group value with the old farmhouse and threshing barn as a good example of a U-plan farmstead within the region. It remains in a good state of repair.

### **Recommendations**

The cow shed is a Grade II listed building. Any works which are likely to affect the character of the building will require listed building consent.

The landowner has expressed a desire to remove limewash and then repoint the outer walls of both the cow shed and the barn, in order to leave a bare stone finish and eliminate the need for regular limewashing.

Removing the limewash render will alter the historic appearance of the building and will require listed building consent. An application should be made to the local planning authority if this is to be undertaken. Further advice can be obtained from the local planning authority building conservation officer:

Adrian Griffiths  
Building Conservation Officer  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Tel: 01267 224645

Removing the limewash will expose the masonry and lime mortar bonds to erosion, and increase the need for regular repointing. The correct application of an appropriate limewash render mix will give long lasting protection against weathering. Further advice on the selection of an optimum lime mix and its application can be obtained from a specialist on traditional building materials and techniques. A list of contact numbers for building restoration is provided at the end of this report.

**Site Category** B



Plate 4- The threshing barn at Gilwen (PRN 50655)

<b>PRN</b>	50655	<b>Site Name</b>	GILWEN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74713869
<b>Site Type</b>	THRESHING BARN	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval	<b>Site status</b>	LB II

### Description

An early nineteenth century threshing barn and lofted cart shed on the west side of the yard at Gilwen farmstead (PRN 50652). It is of whitewashed stone with a slate roof and stands to two storeys. The barn to the right has two pairs of large doors facing each other across two threshing floors. Vertical slits are equally spaced to either side of the doors, and three additional slits are arranged in the north gable end.

The two cart entrances to the left of the threshing barn are separated by a stone pier and have wooden lintels. Access to the upper loft was by a door, although the stone steps have since been lost. A single loft window is situated over the second cart entrance (based on Cadw 1995, 29).

The barn is Grade II listed for group value with the old farmhouse and cow shed as a good example of a U-plan farmstead within the region. Despite the loss of the external stone steps, the barns original appearance remains comparatively unaltered. It is in a good state of repair, although some slates have become displaced on the western pitch.

**Recommendations**

The cow shed is a Grade II listed building. Any works which are likely to affect the character of the building will require listed building consent.

The landowner has expressed a desire to remove limewash and then repoint the outer walls of both the cow shed and the barn, in order to leave a bare stone finish and eliminate the need for regular limewashing.

Removing the limewash render will alter the historic appearance of the building and will require listed building consent. An application should be made to the local planning authority if this is to be undertaken. Further advice can be obtained from the local planning authority building conservation officer:

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Removing the limewash will expose the masonry and lime mortar bonds to erosion, and increase the need for regular repointing. The correct application of an appropriate limewash render mix will give long lasting protection against weathering. Further advice on the selection of an optimum lime mix and its application can be obtained from a specialist on traditional building materials and techniques. A list of contact numbers for building restoration is provided at the end of this report.

Displaced roof slates should be reinstated in order to maintain the building in a weatherproof condition.

**Site Category**    B

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<b>PRN</b>	50656	<b>Site Name</b>	DIVLYN; DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76153878
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

A later nineteenth century farmstead on the east side of the road south of Rhandirmwyn. It follows an expanded U-shape plan with agricultural buildings (PRNs 50657, 50658, 50659, 50660, 50661) loosely arranged around a yard and the farmhouse to the west.

An early mention is provided by Thomas in “The County Families of Wales” (1872) with reference to “the old mansion of Divlyn” (PRN 11764). We have no further information on the old mansion, although a building is shown at the site of the present house from at least the time of the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings of 1819-20. The present farmhouse is a tall, roughly square house with outshuts to the rear and right side and a hipped gabled roof. Its origins are not known, although its external appearance suggests that it may have been built or at least largely reworked during or after the Victorian period. Elements of the “old mansion” may be incorporated into the present dwelling.

Although the farmstead is seen on the 1819-20 Original Surveyors Drawings, it does not appear in its present form until the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. Date inscriptions on most of the farm buildings suggest that they were erected in the early 1870s, and there is little consistency with the layout seen on earlier maps.

The farmstead remains in active agricultural use today and buildings are mostly well maintained and in good condition, the only exception being a long range (PRN 50661) adjacent to the house which is now derelict and partially roofless.

### **Recommendations**

Traditional buildings should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50657	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76213881
<b>Site Type</b>	THRESHING BARN	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### Description

A large late nineteenth century threshing barn on the east side of the yard at Dyflyn farmstead (PRN 50656). It is of stone rubble construction with roughly squared quoins and a pitched slate roof. It features opposing high double barn doors with two slit ventilators to the left and one to the right. Ventilation slits also pierce the gable ends. A small door to the right also gives access from the yard. The interior was not seen during the archaeological farm visit. An inscribed stone on the west wall “GA Rees 1874” provides a likely date for its construction.

The barn is a good example of its type within the region. It remains largely unaltered and retains many historic features. The landowner recalls that a raised horse gin for powering barn machinery was formerly situated behind the building.

### Recommendations

Traditional buildings should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** C



Plate 5- the threshing barn at Dyflyn (PRN 50657)

<b>PRN</b>	50658	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76213879
<b>Site Type</b>	COW SHED	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

A late nineteenth century cow shed, with loose box and pigsties to the rear, on the east side of the yard at Dyflyn (PRN 50656). It is of stone rubble construction with a slate roof. Five doors with brick heads face onto the farmyard. The first and third doors are blocked, and the fifth is masked by a modern shed. A loft window pierces the north gable end and a door below is a later insertion. The rear outshut includes a loose box and pigsties, probably originally with two or three doors plus pig openings. A date inscription on the west face "GA Rees 1875" provides a date for the construction of the building.

The cow shed remains in reasonable condition, although some roof slates are displaced on the eastern pitch. It retains good historic character, although a partial corrugated covering now detracts from the original appearance at the rear.

### **Recommendations**

The landowner is keen to replace the partial covering of corrugated asbestos on the eastern pitch of the roof with slate. This will improve the historic appearance of the building and is to be welcomed. Displaced slates elsewhere should also be reinstated in order to maintain the roof in a watertight condition. Materials and techniques used should be compatible with those used originally.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 6- the cow shed at Dyflyn (PRN 50658)



Plate 7- the combination farm building (PRN 50659) at Dyflyn

<b>PRN</b>	50659	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76193881
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<b>Site Type</b>	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A lofted combination farm building range of whitewashed rubble stone with a slate roof at Dyflyn farmstead (PRN 50656). It follows a three unit ground floor plan with stable to the north, two elliptical stone voussoired cart entrances and a separate end stall. External stone steps provide access to the loft door in the south west end wall. Two granary windows face onto the farmyard in the left of the building. A larger wooden shuttered opening is placed above a stable door in the right of the building. Like other buildings at Dyflyn, the combination farm building contains an inscribed stone above the cart entrances. In this case the stone has been whitewashed over and can no longer be read. The building is absent from the tithe map (1840) and probably dates to the later nineteenth century.

It is a well preserved example of a type of building which is typical within the region and is currently in a weatherproof condition.

**Recommendations**

The building should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	50660	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76203881
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<b>Site Type</b>	SHED	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A shed abutting the combination cart shed, stable and granary building (PRN 50659) at Dyflyn farmstead (PRN 50656). It is of whitewashed stone rubble with a hipped gabled slate roof and an open front onto the yard. It is currently well maintained and comparatively unaltered from its original appearance although the front is now partially bricked up.

**Recommendations**

The building should be maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50661	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76163880
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<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE?; CART SHED	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A derelict building range adjacent to the farmhouse at Dyvlyn farmstead (PRN 50656). It is stone rubble built with a pitched slate roof and follows a two unit plan; a farmhouse to the left (southwest) and a lofted cart shed to the right.

The front wall features two wide, crescentic cart entrances to the right, with small doors either side, and catslide dormers opening from the loft above. The now roofless dwelling to the left includes a wide fireplace with stone stack in the partition wall. The façade is arranged symmetrically with a central door and windows either side. Opposing window openings are positioned in the rear wall. An inscribed stone above the cart entrances gives the date 1872 for its construction. The range is now partially roofless and in a deteriorating condition.

**Recommendations**

The building should be maintained in its present condition. Any works undertaken should use traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50662	<b>Site Name</b>	CRINCOED	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76923811
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<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A ruinous cottage on the eastern flank of Fforest Hill. It lies as short distance to the north of cottage (PRN 21914), by which it seems to have been replaced.

It first appears on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawings of 1819-20 and is marked as abandoned by the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. It is now partially intact with only the ruinous east gable end, with central doorway, surviving.

The site lies with a field which is grazed periodically and is presently in a stable condition.

**Recommendations**

The cottage should be maintained in a visible and stable condition. Buried archaeological remains should be protected from damage. The area within 5 metres of the edge of the site should not be used as a location for feeding livestock or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50663	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74673842; SN73903842
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<b>Site Type</b>	ROAD SEGMENT	<b>Period</b>	ROMAN?
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### **Description**

A segment of Roman road between the forts at Llandovery and Pumsaint (Toller 1993). It appears as a cropmark on aerial photographs, bisecting the holding in an east-west direction (SN74673842 to SN73903842).

A well preserved agger c.8m wide is clearly visible on the ground for approximately 100m across a marshy grassland field in the east of the holding. Westwards from here the agger is much reduced due to regular ploughing in the past, although its path can still be traced for approximately 700m before it disappears beneath the surfaced road at the foot of Pen-y-banc hill.

### **Recommendations**

Surviving earthwork traces of agger are rare in Carmarthenshire. In order to protect the agger, it is recommended that the area extending 10m from the edge of the earthworks should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** A

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Plate 8- a well preserved length of agger (PRN 50663) in marshy grassland at Gilwen.

<b>PRN</b>	50664	<b>Site Name</b>	TY ISAF	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74153842
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<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

The former farmstead of Ty Isaf. It appears as two parallel ranges on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map (1831), where it is named Erw-waun, but is reduced to a single building by the time of the Second Edition Map of 1907 when it becomes known as Ty Isaf. It can still be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1955 but has since been abandoned. The site lies within an improved pasture field and no surface traces of the buildings or enclosure survive today.

**Recommendations**

Surface traces of the farmstead have been removed and ploughed out, although buried archaeology is still likely to survive here. Ideally the area extending 10m from the edge of the site specified should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50665	<b>Site Name</b>	BRYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73893843
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<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A roadside cottage seen on the Ordnance Survey Old Series map of 1831 and named Bryn on the 1891, 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. It has since been abandoned and no above ground traces survive. A scattering of stone rubble in the hedge bank is all that remains.

**Recommendations**

Surface traces of the cottage have been removed and ploughed out, although buried archaeology is still likely to survive here. Ideally the area extending 10m from the edge of the site specified should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** C

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**PRN** 50666 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN76923843

**Site Type** LONG HUT? **Period** Post  
Medieval

**Description**

A possible long hut, visible as a rectangular platform, terraced into a shallow hillslope on the eastern summit of Fforest Hill. It measures approximately 18m by 6m(NW-SE), with a denuded stone and earth wall, visible to c.0.5m in the southeast end.

We have no specific cartographic or documentary evidence relating to the long hut and its origins are not known. It may represent squatter settlement prior to the nineteenth century.

**Recommendations**

The site should continue to be maintained in a visible and stable condition. No ground intrusive activities to be undertaken within 5 metres of the platform and earthworks.

**Site Category** C

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**PRN** 50667 **Site Name** CAE-GWYN **Grid Reference** SN73893843

**Site Type** COTTAGE **Period** Post  
Medieval

**Description**

A small roadside cottage seen on the tithe map (1844) and First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) where it is named Cae-gwyn. It is absent from later map sources. No surface traces of the cottage survive today.

**Recommendations**

Surface traces of the farmstead have been removed and ploughed out, although buried archaeology is still likely to survive. Ideally the area extending 10m from the edge of the site specified should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50668	<b>Site Name</b>	DYFLYN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76353881
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<b>Site Type</b>	LIME KILN?; CORN DRYING KILN?	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------	------------------

**Description**

The fieldname “Caerodyn” given on the Llandigat Parish tithe map and apportionment (1840) suggests that a lime or corn drying kiln may once have existed in the vicinity. The landowner, who has a long family history at Dyflyn has not recollection of a kiln at this location, and no traces of a kiln were observed during the archaeological farm visit.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	50669	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN75953972
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<b>Site Type</b>	MILESTONE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval
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**Description**

A milestone three miles north of Llandovery. It is marked on the 1891, 1907 Ordnance Survey maps, but is now lost.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations.

**Site Category** C

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## **SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY**

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### **SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument**

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

### **LB1, LB2\* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2\* & 2**

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales**

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

### **PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales**

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Maps**

Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 1819-20 Sheet 90  
Ordnance Survey Old Series 1831 Sheet 41  
Tithe Map & Apportionment 1844 Cilycwm Parish  
Tithe Map & Apportionment 1839 Llandingat Parish  
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire Sheet XVII NE  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire Sheet XVII NE  
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire Sheet XVIII NW  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire Sheet XVIII NW  
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire Sheet X SW  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire Sheet X SW

### **Other Sources**

Cadw 1996 Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Cilycwm in the Borough of Dinefwr.  
Cadw/ ICOMOS 1998 The Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales  
Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000 Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. ACA Report No. PRN 40373  
Nicholas, T. 1872 County Families of Wales Volume 1. p.30  
Toller, H. 1993 A Roman Road Between Llandovery and Pumsaint. Draft copy held by the landowner.

**GILWEN FARM  
W/12/3944**

**REPORT NUMBER 2004/49**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2004**

This report has been prepared by Will Steele

Position Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature ..... Date .....

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Principal Archaeologist (Heritage Management)


Signature ..... Date.....


As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
on the content or presentation of this report


Gilwen Farm  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3944  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48466  
 National Grid Reference SN74733868

 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

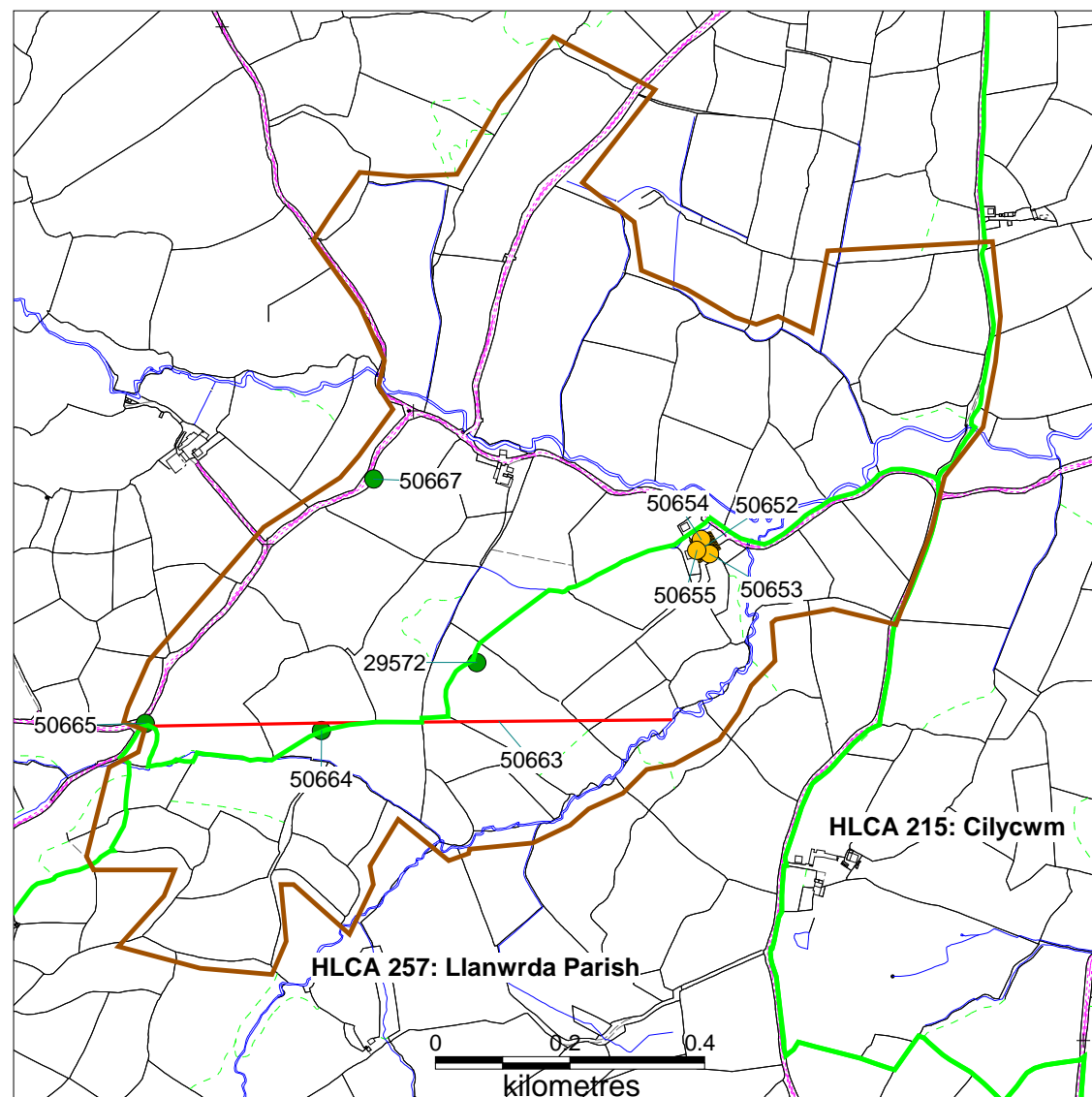
Site Category D – Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
 no physical definition

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 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3944b,c  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48466  
 National Grid Reference SN76153878

 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

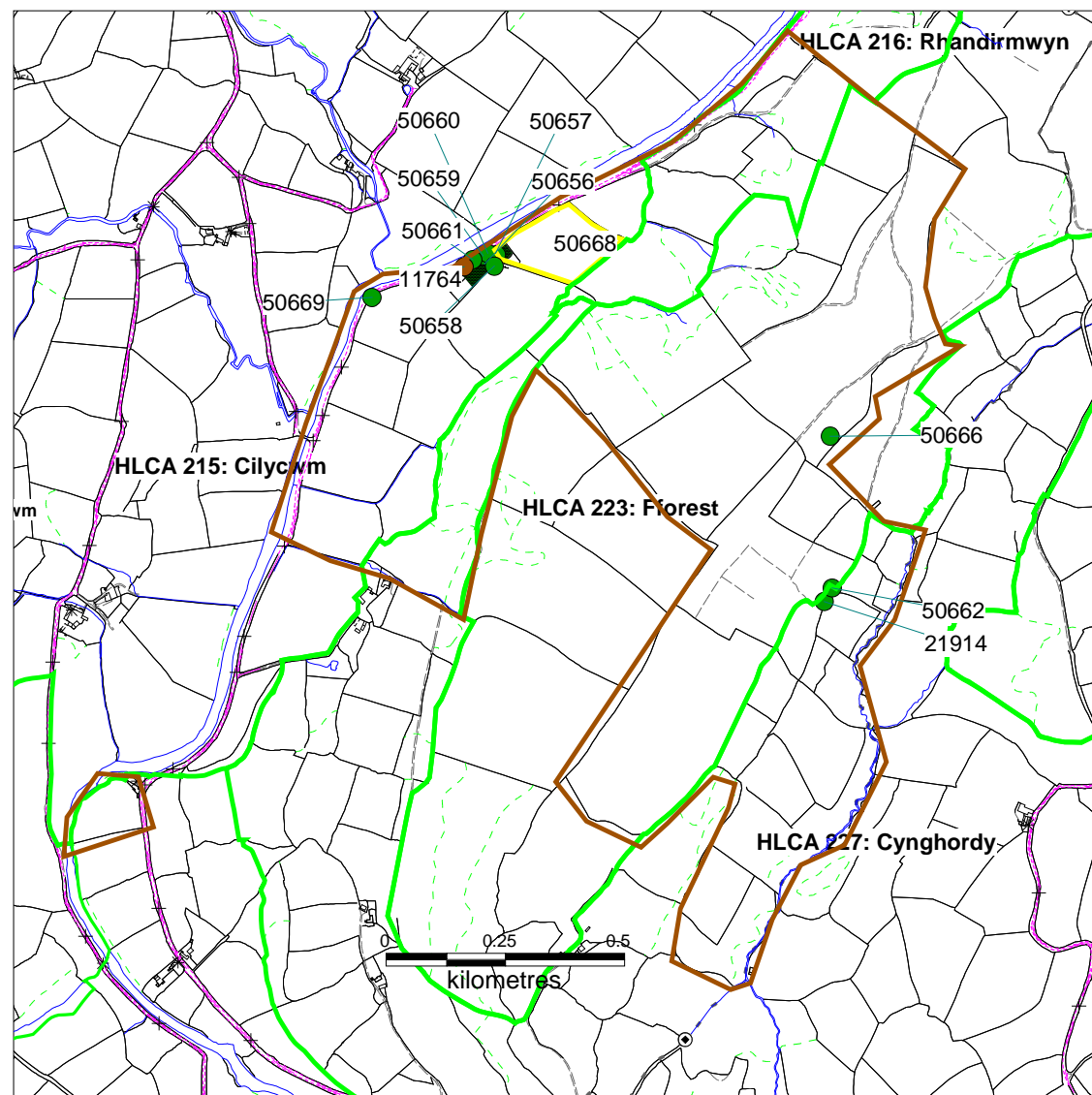
Site Category D – Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
 no physical definition

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Gilwen Farm  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3944a  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48466  
 National Grid Reference SN75404003

 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

**Site Category A - National Importance**


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


**Site Category B - Regional Importance**

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

**Site Category C - Local Importance**

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

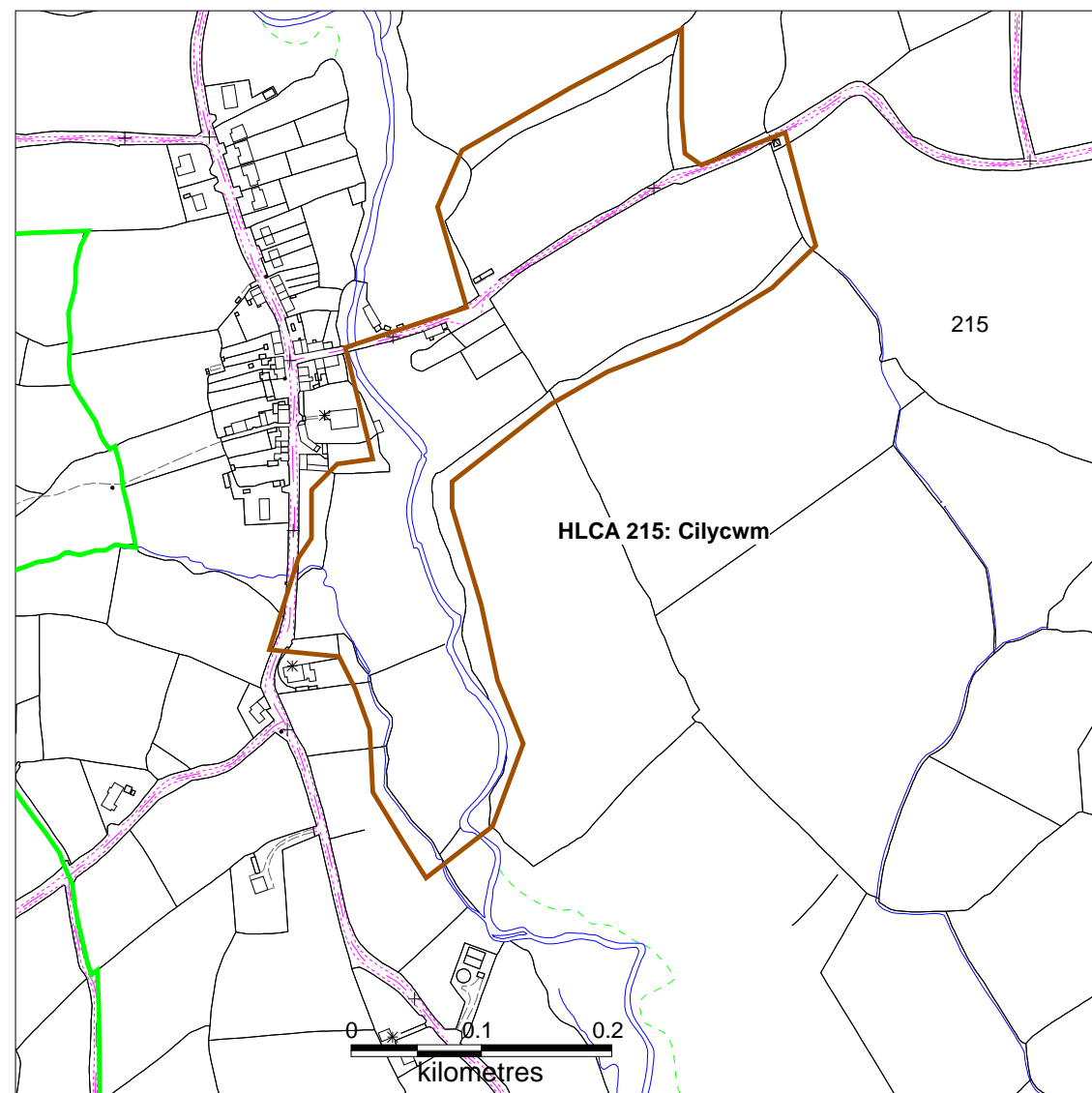
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 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
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Gilwen Farm  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3944d  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48466  
 National Grid Reference SN77614281


 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

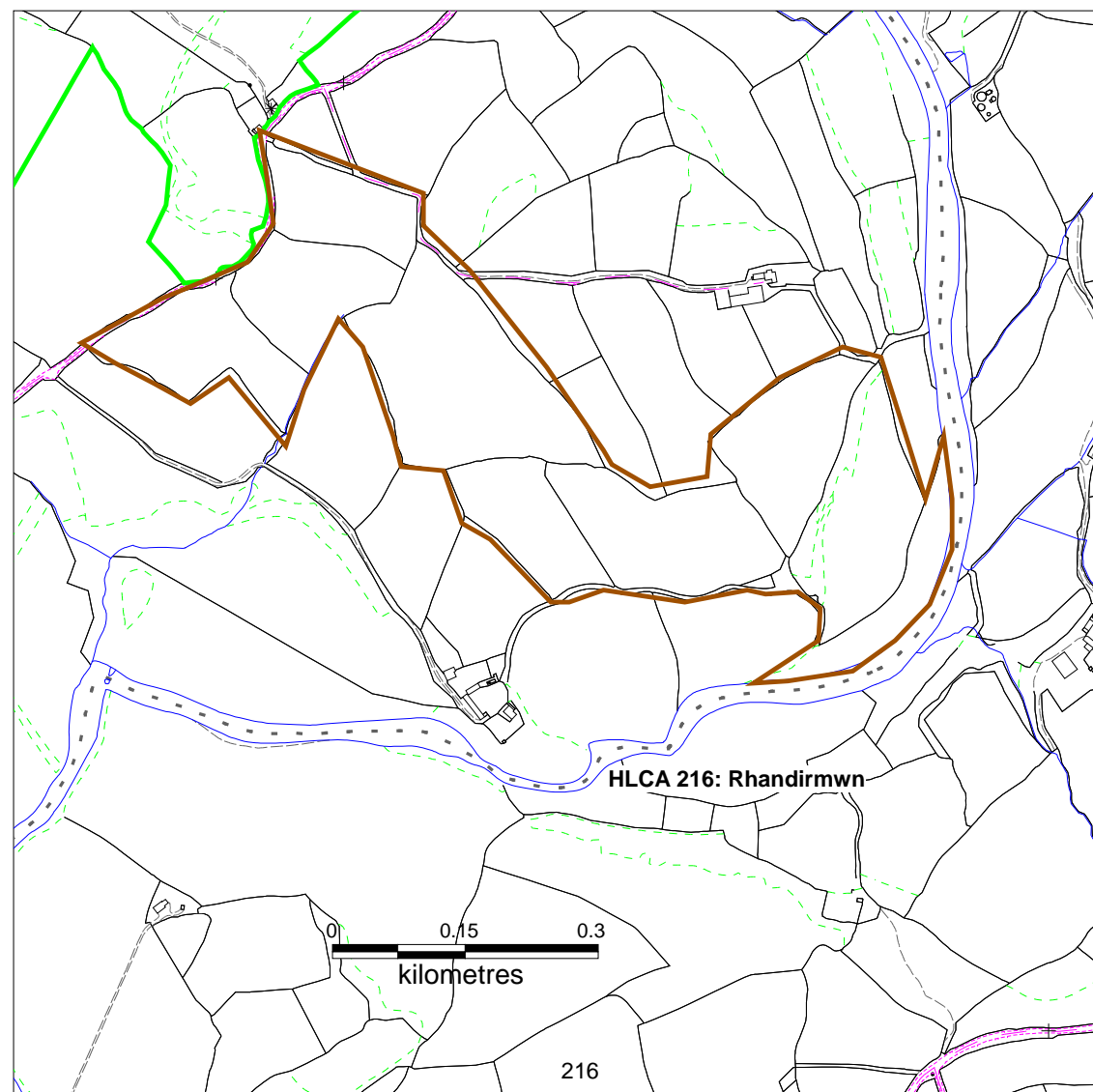
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 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48466  
 National Grid Reference SN76153878

 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

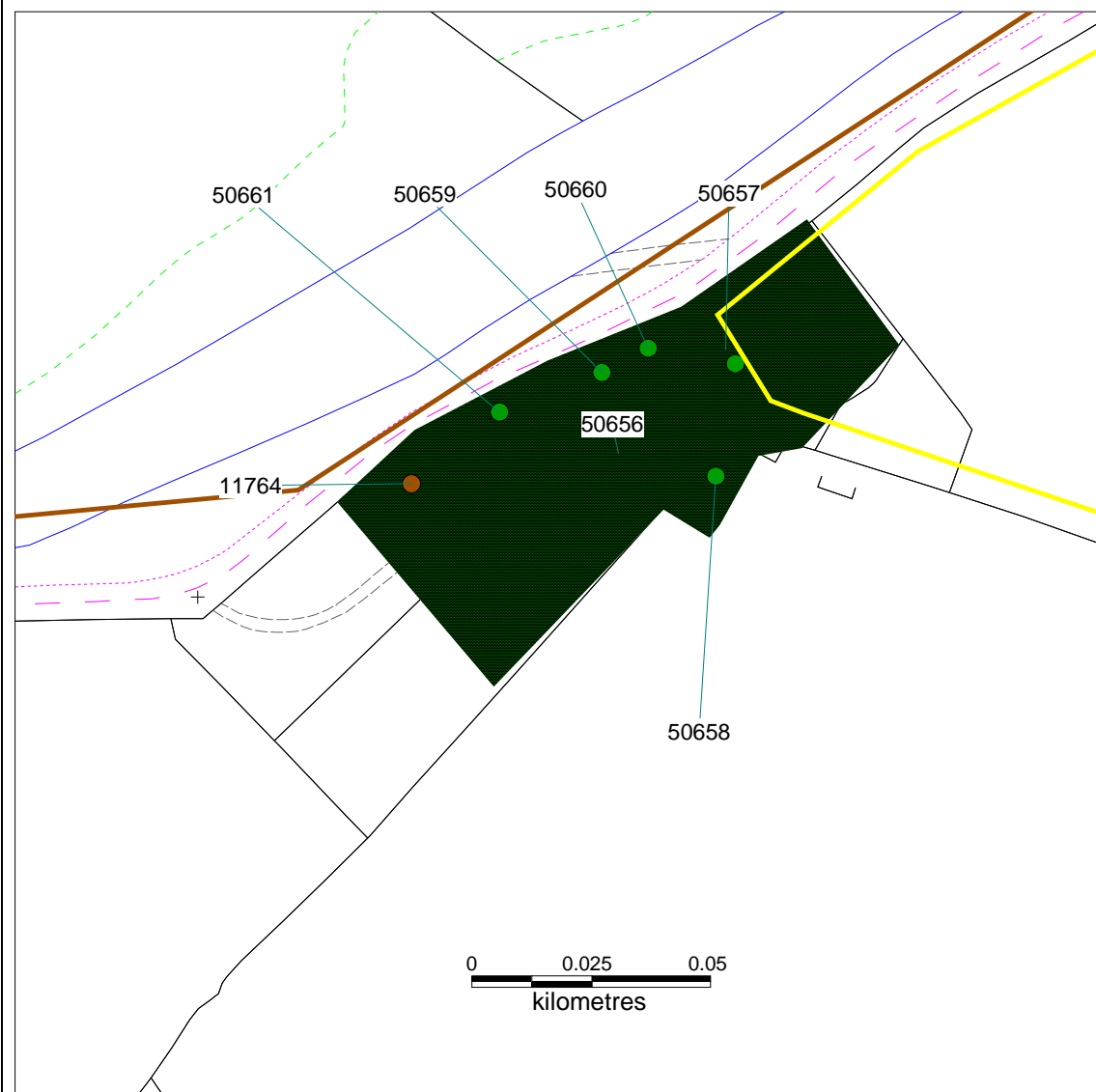
Site Category D – Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
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 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48466  
 National Grid Reference SN74733868

 Farm Boundary  
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
 Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance  
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic  
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

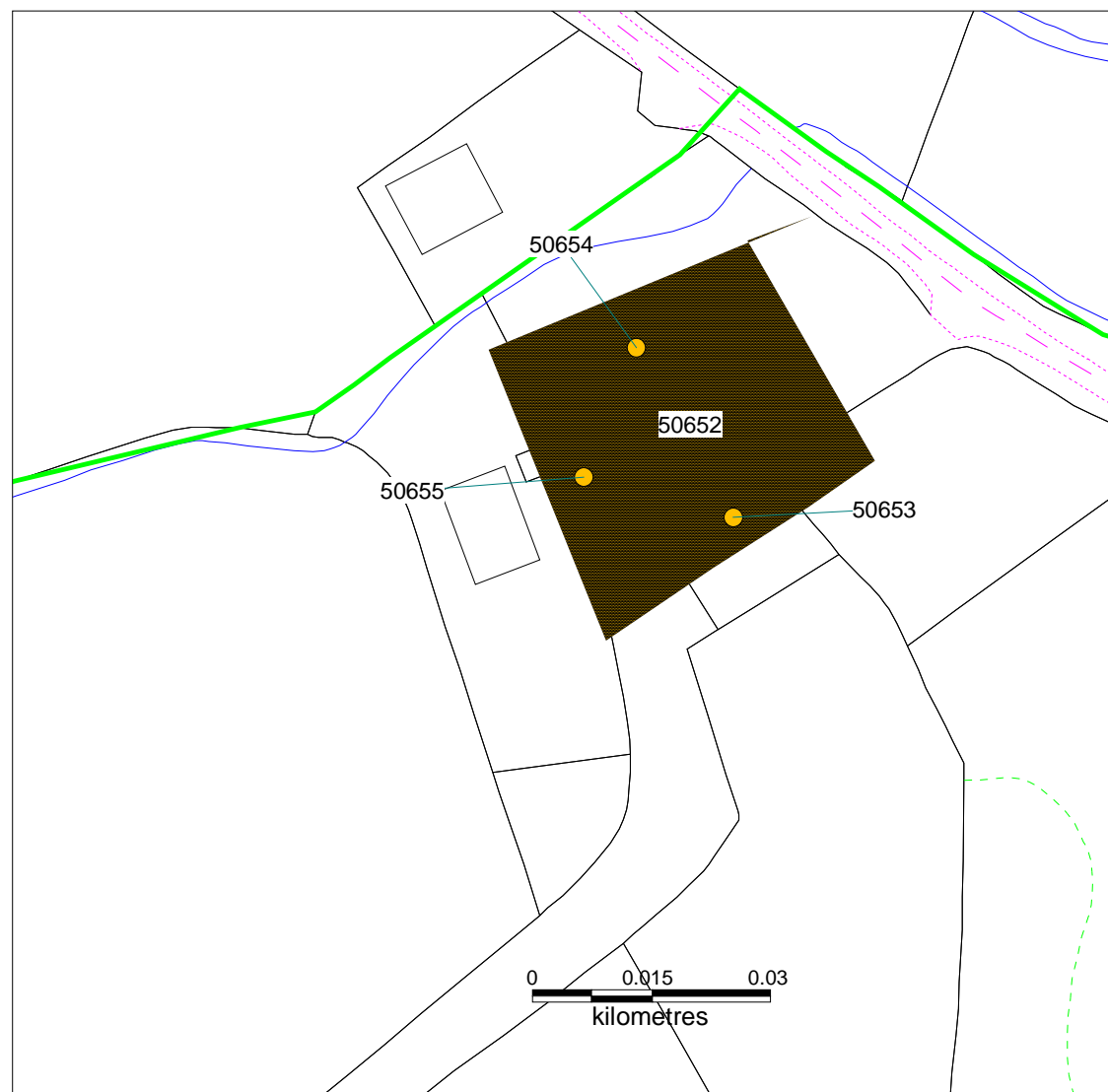
Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
 no physical definition

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## CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 215 CILYCWWM

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GRID REFERENCE: SN 757401

AREA IN HECTARES: 847.10

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#### Historic Background

An area either side of the River Tywi, around the present village of Cilycwm. It once lay within Cwmwd Malláen of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284, and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. Early origins have been claimed for the nucleation around Cilycwm parish church (Sambrook and Page 1995, 17) but the church is omitted from the *Taxatio* of 1291 and not mentioned until 1347 (Ludlow 1998). The village green survived into the 19th century as an open parcel of land opposite the church (Sambrook and Page 1995, 23). Cilycwm became the centre of droving activity in the 18th century and doubtless benefited from the establishment of a small lead mine at Pen-y-rhiw-Rhaiadr to the north of the character area. It had developed into an important village by the early 19th century, but with 'untidy', mud-walled, reed-thatched houses, which were replaced through the century by the present stone structures including neat rows of terraced cottages. By the end of the century it had many civic amenities - a school, a chapel, a Post Office and a vicarage (Sambrook and Page 1995, 23). The present pattern of large, fairly regular enclosures within the area may have been a product of the 17th- or early 18th-century, and associated with the gentry houses, of which there are a number in the area, although none earlier than the 17th century. They are dominated by the Neuadd Fawr estate which, under the Davys family from the early 19th century onwards, absorbed many of the holdings in Area 215 (Judith Alfrey, *pers. comm.*). Neuadd Fawr was first mentioned in 1603 (Jones 1987, 138) but became ruinous in the latter half of the 20th century. Abergwenlais was the home of the Price family from 1680 until the later 19th century when it was rebuilt for the Neuadd Fawr estate (Judith Alfrey, *pers. comm.*). Cefntrenfa was the home of the Lewis Bowens from the late 17th-century (Jones 1987, 28), while Erryd is marked on Emmanuel Bowen's map of 1729. Twentieth century development is confined to housing at Cilycwm village and a small sewage farm to the south.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Cilycwm character area lies across part of the upper Tywi valley and across a wide tributary valley. The Tywi valley in this area widens out from its more constricted course downstream, before narrowing again upstream, to the north. The floor of the valley lies at about 100 m, with the lower valley sides within this area rising to a maximum of about 180 m. Essentially this area is characterised by dispersed farms, small irregular fields and woodland. The whole area is enclosed into fields. Fields on valley sides are small and irregular; those on the valley floor are larger and have a more regular shape. Improved pasture dominates, but, especially on the valley floor where the course of the river is sluggish, there are large pockets of rough, wet and rushy ground. A little arable is present. Boundaries are of earth banks topped with hedges. Apart from alongside roads and tracks, hedges are not in good condition; some have entirely gone, others are reduced to lines of straggling bushes, most are overgrown. Wire fences provide the main stockproof boundaries. Many hedges contain distinctive hedgerow trees, and these together with the many small stands of deciduous woodland lend a wooded appearance to parts of this character area. Parkland lies close to Glanrhosan House. The nucleated village of Cilycwm lies in the centre of the area. Cilycwm essentially consists of a single street of dwellings, with the Medieval church at its centre. Terraces of 18th- and 19th-century stone-built houses and cottages - the larger houses in the Georgian style, smaller houses and cottages in the vernacular tradition - are situated at the heart of the village. Small-scale late 20th-century housing lies on the fringes of the settlement. The settlement pattern of the area is however dominated by dispersed farms. Although the buildings on these farms date mostly to late 18th- and 19th-century, a wide range of social and economic classes is represented, from minor gentry houses complete with home farms, to small farmhouses in the vernacular tradition with a single small range of outbuildings. Most farmhouses, however, are two-storey and stone built. Although examples of the simple three-bay farmhouse in the vernacular tradition are present, those which are larger and exhibit polite architectural consideration constitute the majority. These larger farmhouses have a larger and wider range of 19th century stone-

built outbuildings associated with them than smaller examples, often arranged in a semi-formal pattern around a courtyard. Most farms have large modern agricultural buildings.

Recorded archaeology is mainly represented by the buildings but includes an unknown findspot, and the lead mines.

There are a large number of distinctive buildings, many of them gentry houses, of which c.35 are listed. The landmark Medieval parish church, with a tower, is Grade I listed. Neuadd Fawr, its coach house and stable are each Grade II listed, and accompanied by the home farm. Abergwenlais house, farm, mill and outbuildings, with late 18th century origins but rebuilt for the Neuadd Fawr estate in the late 19th century, are each Grade II listed. Cefntrenfa house, barn and outbuildings are 18th century and each is Grade II listed - large gardens with fruit trees, stable and dovecot were mentioned in 1812 (Jones 1987, 28). Erryd is mid 18th century and Grade II\* listed. The majority of the remainder of the listed buildings are in Cilycwm village and include the vicarage, mill, post office, school, chapels and dwellings.

Although this is a fairly distinct character area, both historically and geographically, some neighbouring areas contain similar historic landscape components - in these cases, to the east, south and southwest (Areas 214, 216, 227 and 257) there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border. To the north forestry on steep valley sides provides a clear boundary (Area 217). Character areas to the west have yet to be defined.

#### **Conservation priorities**

The decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is seriously eroding the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be also be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations. Cilycwm village has a proposed Conservation Area; development here should respect this proposal.

**Ground photograph:** 215

**Aerial photographs:** 2

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:**

## 216 RHANDIRMWYN

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 776421**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 804.90**

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### **Historic Background**

An area in the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains either side of the headwaters of the River Tywi, which formed the boundary between Cantref Bychan to the east and Cantref Mawr to the west. Cantref Bychan was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery. Cantref Mawr remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284. Both retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when they were united within modern Carmarthenshire. Much of the area east of the Tywi lay within the Manor of Nant-y-bai, which had been granted as a grange to the Cistercians of Strata Florida, probably by Gruffydd ap Rhys in c.1200. The nucleus may have lain at Bron-y-cwrt within Area 216 (Williams 1990, 58). It was an upland grange, probably operated by tenant farmers primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals, although the present mill has origins as a Medieval corn mill indicating that arable was undertaken in pockets of good soil (Sambrook and Page 1995, 18). The name Rhandirmwyn contains a 'shareland' element (*rhandir*), suggesting that the tenants held their land by inheritance, with perpetual right to their holdings (Rees, 1924, 200). The manor continued after the Dissolution as the Ystrad-ffin estate. A survey of 1629 (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Lort Muniments 17/678) shows that it contained most of the surrounding farms and demonstrates that the present settlement pattern was more-or-less already in place; the present system of medium-sized irregular fields may also have been established. Pwll-priddog, which has Medieval origins, was held separately from both the manor and the grange by the Morgan family (Jones 1987, 168). The area is chiefly characterised by former lead mining which may have begun under the Cistercians (Williams 1990, 58), or even the Romans (James 1982, 34); it was certainly undertaken in this area by the late 13th century, the crown taking the 'eleventh foot' of the ore in taxation (Rees 1968). This would imply that a mining community, of unknown size, may have existed in the vicinity of Rhandirmwyn and Nant-y-bai. Rhandirmwyn may have been comparatively large by the 18th century - possibly exceptional by local standards - as the mines employed 400 workers in 1791 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 23), and the present nucleation features worker terracing, and the new church of St Barabas from the mid 19th-century. Lead mining ceased in the early 20th-century. The presence of coal is noted in the place-name 'Nant-y-glo' and a quarry operated in the southern part of the area. The later 19th- and 20th-century have mainly been characterised, however, by scattered development of cottages and dwellings. A sewage works has been erected to the south of Rhandirmwyn.

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

Rhandirmwyn character area lies in the upper Tywi valley where the sides open out to form a large bowl-shape. The valley floor lies at between 100 m and 120 m, and the valley sides within this area rise to over 180 m. This is a complex area as it consists of small irregular fields, dispersed farms, woodland and conifer plantation, lead mines and their associated communities, and 19th- and 20th-century cottages and houses. Improved pasture is the dominant land-use within the system of small, irregular fields, but large pockets of rough and rushy ground are present, particularly towards the valley floor. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in poor condition with less than 50% stockproof. Most are either overgrown or derelict. Wire fences supplement the hedges. Many of the hedges have distinctive trees, and these together with the numerous deciduous copses and small conifer plantations lend a wooded aspect to the landscape. The ancient settlement pattern in this area comprises dispersed farms. These are stone-built with slate roofs, and generally date to the 19th century. Most are two-storeys with three bays and tend to be in the vernacular tradition, though examples in a more polite Georgian style are present. Stone-built outbuildings are present at most farms, as are large agricultural buildings. Remains of the lead mining industry lie mainly outside this area, but Rhandirmwyn community which grew up to serve it is located here. It consists of dispersed stone-built dwellings and chapels of 19th century date. Individual houses and cottages are present, as are terraces of two-storey and single storey houses. Stone-built worker cottages of 19th century date, and 20th century brick built worker houses are situated in isolated locations alongside roads away from the main community. Recent housing consists of individual dwellings.

Recorded archaeology chiefly comprises lead mining features and buildings, but includes a Bronze Age standing stone and round barrow, and two possible barrows, an Iron Age hillfort and possible Medieval well and chapel sites.

There are a number of distinctive buildings but few of them are listed. Nant-y-bai mill is Grade II listed, with an overshot, timber and cast-iron wheel and corn-drying kiln within. Dugoedydd and Pwll-priddog have both been rebuilt. The church, worker housing, post office and public house in Rhandirmwyn should be noted. There are several nonconformist chapels

This is a distinct area. It is well defined by conifer plantations to the northeast and west (Areas 217 to the west, that to the northeast has yet to be defined), and by high semi-enclosed land to the east and south (Area 223). To the north and to the southwest definition is less good; there is a zone of change rather than a distinct border between this area and Areas 215 and 218.

**Conservation priorities**

Decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is seriously eroding the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should also be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland.

**Ground photograph:** 82

**Aerial photographs:** 3

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 223 FFOREST**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 784402**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 463.50**

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### **Historic Background**

An area in the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains east of the headwaters of the River Tywi, once part of 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 the modern Carmarthenshire. The northern half of the area lay within the Manor of Nant-y-bai, which had been granted as a grange to the Cistercians of Strata Florida, probably by Gruffydd ap Rhys in c.1200, and remained together after the Dissolution as the Ystrad-ffin estate. A survey of 1629 (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Lort Muniments 17/678) shows that it contained most of the surrounding farms, demonstrating that the surrounding landscape was already settled. As an upland grange and manor, however, it was probably operated by tenant farmers primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals. Area 223 is labelled 'Crugyblaid Forest' on Rees' map of 14th century South Wales (Rees 1932) and its boundary morphology suggests that it remained largely unenclosed until the early 19th-century. A sheepfold in the northern part of the area may be earlier and demonstrates that pasturing was undertaken. The area also contains the remains of a house platform, and enclosures which may be associated, which are characteristic of early Post-Medieval settlement in upland southwest Wales (Sambrook and Ramsey 1995), and may represent squatting. Time-depth is provided by a number of Bronze Age ritual sites. There has been no recent development but there are pockets of later 20th century conifer plantation.

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

Fforest character area occupies the crest of a 6 km long ridge which lies between the valleys of the Afon Tywi and Afon Brân. The ridge rarely achieves heights of over 300 m. Its northern, southern and western flanks fall away steeply to the valley floors. To the northeast the ridge rises to unenclosed upland. There are no settlements in the area. Earth banks divide the ridge into fields. At the highest levels and on steep slopes the fields are large; the banks are redundant and wire fences provide stock-proof boundaries. Essentially at these highest levels the area is open moorland. Steep slopes are cloaked with scrubby woodland and bracken. At lower, sheltered locations on the ridge crest, and on the less steep flanks, fields are small and defined by earth banks with hedges. Hedges are in poor condition; either derelict or overgrown. Wire fences again provide stock-proof boundaries. Bushes in some of the very overgrown hedges have developed into distinctive hedgerow trees. Land-use in these areas is a mixture of improved grazing and rough pasture. There are one or two small conifer plantations present.

Recorded archaeology provides time-depth and comprises two round barrows, one possible barrow, and a findspot all from the Bronze Age, at least one Iron Age hillfort, and a second suggested by a cropmark, a Post-Medieval house platform and possible cockpit, and an undated field system.

Built structures are represented only by a sheepfold and sheep-dip.

Fforest is a distinctive character area and contrasts with lower-lying, settled and enclosed land which surrounds it (Areas 216 and 227).

### **Conservation priorities**

Many of the hedges have broken-down. On the highest ground this process should be left to continue enabling the land to return to semi-open moorland/pasture. Elsewhere decay evident in the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of this area; this problem needs to be addressed.

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY**

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### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 227 CYNGHORDY**

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 783395**

**Historic Background**

A large area situated between the Afon Brân and the headwaters of the River Tywi, once part of Hirfryn commote of 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. Much of the area may have been unenclosed during the Medieval period - Rees' 1932 map of 14th century South Wales labels it 'Cefngelevarth Forest' (Rees 1932) - but the village of Cyngordy may derive its name from a monastic foundation (undated), and/or a chapel, 'Capel Cynfab', while the nearby place name Maes Mynach suggests the presence of land-holdings belonging to such a foundation (Sambrook and Page 1995, 18). The present pattern of fields suggests that the southern half of the area was enclosed during the late Medieval or early Post-Medieval period; the regular enclosures in the northern half may be later but the present landscape was in place by the early 19th-century. Cyngordy Hall may have 16th century origins (Jones 1987, 53) but Rees suggests that the Medieval manorial centre of the area lay at 'Abergevel' to the south (Rees 1932), and while he does mark a possible mill at Cyngordy, there is no evidence that the present village is an early settlement alongside a former church/monastery. It appears instead to have developed separately alongside the Roman Road between Llandovery (*Alabum*) and the mid Wales forts at Beulah and Castell Collen (James 1982, 7) - now represented by the A483(T) just east of Area 227 - which became an important droving route in the Post-Medieval period. The presence of a nonconformist chapel and inn may be due to this association. The area is crossed by the railway from Llandovery to Llanwrtyd Wells, which had been established by 1871 to form part of the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) Central Wales and Carmarthen Junction Line, is still operational and forms part of the 'Heart of Wales' line. However, despite having the 'essential' requirements of a chapel, post office and school, as well as a mill and industry represented by a brickworks, a new parish church (Llanfair ar-y-bryn) constructed in the late 19th-century, a vicarage, an inn and a railway station, nucleation did not occur at Cyngordy - perhaps they were so dispersed that there was no single focus around which a village could develop (Sambrook and Page 1995, 24) and indeed, the most significant development has been the construction of a 20th century council estate.

**Description and essential historic landscape components**

Cyngordy is a large character area which lies between 80m and 250m on southeast-facing slopes on the western side of the Brân valley north of Llandovery. It is essentially an area of small, irregular fields, dispersed farms and scattered woodland. Boundaries are formed from earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in a variety of conditions; at higher elevations they are becoming derelict and/or overgrown, at lower levels, and alongside tracks and lanes, they are in better condition and generally well maintained. Most hedges are supplemented with wire fences. Many hedges contain distinctive trees. These trees together with the numerous small stands of deciduous woodland - mostly confined to steeper slopes - and many conifer plantations, lend a wooded appearance to much of the landscape. Farmland is given over to pasture, which is mainly improved, but there is rougher and rushy ground in wet hollows and at higher levels. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms; Cyngordy is the only aggregate settlement and this consists of a loose cluster of 19th century houses, chapels, a school and a street of 20th century housing. Farmhouses are almost entirely late 18th- and 19th-century, stone-built, two-storeys and of three bays, though larger and smaller examples are present. Most are in the vernacular tradition, but there are examples in the more 'polite' Georgian style. Nineteenth century outbuildings to the farms tend to be of one or two ranges, though larger farms have a greater range of buildings in a semi-formal arrangement with the house. Most farms have a large range of modern agricultural buildings. Though the Brân valley is an important routeway linking Carmarthenshire to mid-Wales, most of the actual routes, from a Roman road to the modern road, pass up the eastern side of the valley. The exception to this is the mid-Wales railway which passes through this area, with a station at Cyngordy, gaining in height from south to north. Its impressive stone-built viaduct which just lies within the north side of the area, is a major feature in the landscape.

Recorded archaeology is rich and diverse, comprising two definite and two possible Bronze Age round barrows, a possible Iron Age hillfort, a possible Medieval holy well and chapel and/or monastery site, and a number of separate findspots from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman (possible) and Post-Medieval periods.

There are a few distinctive buildings. Parts of Cyngordy Hall, which is Grade II listed, date to the 18th century (Jones 1987, 53). The viaduct carrying the LNWR line is from c.1871 and Grade II listed. In addition there are the post office, railway station, brickworks, St Mary's Church and vicarage, school, chapels, and mills, none of which are listed.

Character areas to the east and north of Cyngordy have yet to be defined. To the west a high ridge (Area 223) provides a reasonably good boundary to this area, but to the south (against Areas 213 and 214), there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations. Otherwise maintain as existing.

**Ground photographs:** 94

**Aerial photographs:** 64

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## **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 Caeo 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.

### **Conservation priorities**

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration

may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.  
Otherwise maintain as existing

**Ground photographs:** 124

**Aerial photographs:** 27

### **Tir Gofal list of contact numbers for building restoration**

The following organisations may be able to provide further information or advice to assist with the conservation and restoration of buildings of historic interest:

**CADW** - provide information and advice about the restoration of traditional buildings.

Contact: Judith Alfrey, tel.(02920) 500200 (general enquiries) or e-mail Judith.Alfrey@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

**St Fagans, Welsh Rural Life Museum** - can provide up to date information and advice about contractors and suppliers that deal with traditional buildings and materials.

Contact: Gerallt Nash, tel. (02920) 573445

**Ty Mawr Lime Ltd.** - suppliers and manufacturers of traditional and natural building materials as well as providing advice, support and training about the use of lime products and other natural building materials for mortars, plasters, renders and paints.

Contact: Nigel and Joyce Gervis, Ty Mawr Lime Limited, Ty Mawr Farm, Llangasty, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7PJ, tel. (01874) 658249, e-mail: tymawr@lime.org.uk

**Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings** - a nationwide organisation providing publications and advice about architectural conservation.

Contact: 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY

tel. (0207) 377164 or e-mail: info@spab.org.uk

**South Pembrokeshire partnership for Action in Rural Communities (SPARC)** - provide advice about the restoration of historic farm buildings and information about local building contractors that specialise in traditional methods of restoration.

Contact: Richard Tree (Heritage Officer), tel. (01834) 860965

**Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** - provide detailed archaeological and architectural advice about buildings and other features of historic interest in Wales.

Contact: Crown Building, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1NJ

tel. (01437) 720861, [www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms](http://www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms)

**Local Authority Buildings Conservation Officers** - provide advice and information about buildings of historic interest, in particular Listed Buildings.

**Carmarthenshire (01267) 234567**

Contact: David Priest (Head of Conservation), John Llewelyn, Adrian Griffiths

**Pembrokeshire (01437) 764551 ext no. 5720**

Contact: Ian Bartlet

**Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (01437) 764636**

Contact: Rob Scourfield

**Melin (Welsh Mills Society)** - offers information sheets and practical advice about the recording and conservation of mills.

Contact: Hilary Malaws, Y Felin, Tynygraig, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion, Wales, SY25 6AE, tel. (01437) 720861, [www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms](http://www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms)

**Association of Energy Conscious Builders**

Contact: Keith Hall tel. (10559) 370908

**Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth** - provide advice about organisations that specialise in the restoration of historic mills. They also provide their own consultancy service.

Tel. (01654) 705989

**British Hydropower Association, Cheshire** - services include consultancy, feasibility studies, refurbishment and repairs of watermills.

tel.(0161) 4409196, [www.brit-hydro.cwc.net](http://www.brit-hydro.cwc.net)

**Dorothea Relations, Bristol** - specialise in the refurbishment of watermills and run a nationwide service.

Contact: G.J.O Wallis, Unit 6, Riverside Business Park, St Annes Road, Bristol BS4 ED, tel. (01179) 715337, [www.dorothearest.co.uk](http://www.dorothearest.co.uk)

**Heritage Engineering, Glasgow** - specialise in the recovery, restoration and/or replication of water-powered machinery.

Contact: J.S. Mitchell, 22 Carmyle Avenue, Glasgow G32 8HJ, tel (01417) 630007

**Capel (The Chapels Heritage Society)** - offers information sheets and practical advice about the recording and conservation of chapels that are no longer required for their original purpose.

Contact: Penny Icke, RCAHMW, tel. (01970) 621210, [www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms](http://www.rcahmw.org.uk/wms)

**The Welsh Mines Preservation Trust**

Contact: David Bick, Denefield, 111 Barn Lane, Golborne, Warrington WA3 3PR

**The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust**

**Ymddiriedolaeth Hanesyddol Cymru**

Ty Leri, Talybont,

Ceredigion, SY24 5ER

Tel/Fax: 01970 832268

**Building material specialists** - provide advice about specific traditional building materials.

**Slating Consultant** - Contact: Terry Hughes tel. (01286) 650402

**Timber Consultant** - Contact: Bob Childs tel (02920) 573245

**Architect specialising in Timber Frames** - Contact: Nick Joyce tel. (01905) 726307

**Lead Sheet Association** - tel (01892) 822773