

Archaeoleg Cambria
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com



Cambria Archaeology
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE1)

**Prepared for:
Tyriet**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/13/5117**

Holding No

**Prepared by
Helen Milne
Project Record No. 49579**

Archaeological Farm Visit Recommended

An archaeological farm visit is recommended in order to investigate several features for which we do not currently hold sufficient information to provide management recommendations, including the possible earlier location of Eglwys Fair, a possible cross-inscribed stone of the early medieval period, and an earthwork of unknown significance.

Other documents enclosed:

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N.: Pembrokeshire Historic Landscape Characterisation
Historic Landscape Character Area 275: Cilgwyn. Preseli.**

Historic Landscape Character Area 273: Tregynon. Preseli.

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

The Tyriet holding lies on land that rises on the northern flank of the Preseli Mountains. The holding is covered by two historic landscape character areas (HLCAs) 275: Cilgwyn and 273: Tregynon. These areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. Both character areas are part of the Cadw ICOMOS Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Preseli). This is a non-statutory, advisory publication, which aims to provide information and raise awareness of significant historic landscape areas in Wales to aid their protection and conservation. The name Tyriet is derived from the older form Ty'r-Iet, meaning Gate house, or house at the gate, and this could be a reference to the former mountain gate leading onto the open common-land of Mynydd Preseli. The field pattern within and around the holding has not changed significantly since the later nineteenth century, and the settlement pattern of dispersed farms has remained relatively stable, excepting the abandonment of two farmsteads within the holding since the nineteenth century. There is a possibility that the area around Cilgwyn was significant in terms of early medieval and high medieval religious activity. Cilgwyn chapel was on a pilgrimage route to St. David's. Included within the farm boundary is the site of a possible early chapel, a possible cross-incised stone, and the medieval church of St. Mary's at Cilgwyn. Close to Tyriet farm itself is a place-name 'Ty'r Iet Cross' (PRN 52705) whose significance is unknown. It may refer to a stone cross, which seems plausible given the associations in the area with an early chapel site. However, this was also the location of a former cross-roads (the route running south is now represented by a field boundary), and the name may simply refer to the cross-roads itself.

Archaeological and historical content

There are two known abandoned settlements within the holding, both of which have significant archaeological potential. The two farmsteads still occupied have potential for the survival of traditional buildings, and may also incorporate buried archaeological remains. Apart from the farmsteads, an earthwork has been identified whose significance is unknown (PRN 11754), and several find-spots within the holding testify to pre-historic activity in the area. Finds include a Neolithic stone axe (PRN 1505) found north-west of Ysgarwen farm and a flint scraper dating from the Bronze Age (PRN 1507). There are also several less well attested, but very interesting references to sites with archaeological potential within the farm boundary, including an abandoned building recorded in the early twentieth century by the Royal Commission for Ancient Historic Monuments (RCAHM), which is believed to be the site of an early chapel. Also a settlement is recorded at Cilgwyn on Rees's map of south Wales and the Border in the fourteenth century.

Key objective

The management priority for this farm holding is to retain landscape continuity through the maintenance of traditional farm buildings and field boundaries using materials and techniques appropriate to the locality. The preservation of archaeological features pertaining to the medieval ecclesiastical landscape may also be a priority, however appropriate management advice will be provided after an assessment of the importance and condition of these features during an archaeological farm visit. Tyriet farm falls within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP), and any management should respect the policies set out by the park authority.

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 prior approval.
- 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 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.

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
GARFETH (1514)	Dark Age inscribed stone?	SN07593537	U	Generic
This is thought to be an inscribed stone dating from the Dark Age (Early Medieval) period. However it is not certain whether the marks by which it has been identified represent a deliberately inscribed Latin cross, or if they represent damage by a plough.				
BANK DDU (1570)	Unknown unknown	SN077347	U	Generic
An enclosure of unknown significance was recorded by the Royal Commission for Ancient Historic Monuments (RCAHM) in 1925, and has been identified with the lost chapel site of St. Mary's. In 1925 it was described by the RCAHM as: The site of the small chapel of St. Mary is reputed to be at the summit of Banc Du, at the foot of which three quarters of a mile to the north, is the present chapel of St. Mary, Cilgwyn. In c. 1900, the remains left visible at the site were described. The very large stones forming three sides of a rectangular figure led the surveyor to suspect that the building must have been 'very ancient'. The Ordnance Survey described the site in 1966 as "a rectangular enclosure with walling of large stones				

immediately east of an old Rab quarry at Eglwys Fair [which] was reputed to be the site of the chapel of St. Mary". The Ordnance Survey recorded that the site was difficult to interpret as it had been bulldozed in 1951, and that there was no trace of a chapel or enclosure here. A number of large stones (not dressed) lay piled in the quarry and against a nearby field wall. It is possible that the structure recorded by the RCAHM and the Ordnance Survey represented a predecessor to St. Mary's church which now stands to the north at Cilgwyn. However, if there was a church at the current site at Cilgwyn during the Medieval period, this possibility is less likely.

EGLWYS FAIR;ST MARY'S ([7731](#)) **Post Med church** **SN07713597 A** **Generic**

The present Cilgwyn Church was restored/ re-built in 1883, replacing an 18th century rebuild of a presumed medieval structure. It is suspected that some of the fabric of the present church is medieval in origin. The Royal Commission considered that this was a more likely location for the earlier chapel of St. Mary, rather than the possible site at the top of Banc Du (see PRN 1570).

CILGWYN ([10880](#)) **Medieval settlement** **SN076361 U** **Generic**

There is a settlement recorded at Cilgwyn on Rees's map of south Wales and the Border in the fourteenth century.

CILWEN ([11754](#)) **Unknown unknown** **SN07853590 U** **Generic**

An earthwork of unknown significance is recorded in this location. Earthwork of unknown significance. RPS August 2001

TYRIET; TY'R-IET ([52698](#)) **Post Med farmstead** **SN0742236068 B** **Generic**

Tyriet farmstead is marked on various historic map sources, including the Ordnance Survey Old Series of 1819. There are buildings in similar locations on historic and modern map sources, implying potential for the survival of traditional buildings within the farmstead.

FRON-OGWYDD ([52699](#)) **Post Med farmstead** **SN0777135475 B** **Generic**

Fron-Ogwydd farmstead is marked on various historic map sources. A group of three buildings is marked in a U-shape arrangement on the Old Series Ordnance Survey of 1819. The buildings are still marked on current map sources, but are not named, implying that the farmstead has been abandoned

FRON-FACH ([52700](#)) **Post Med farmstead** **SN0786435134 B** **Generic**

Farmstead marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey which appears to have been abandoned by the time of the second edition OS map of 1907.

EGLWYS FAIR ([52701](#)) **Post Med unknown** **SN0764934731 U** **Generic**

In this location on the first and second edition OS maps is marked a spot labelled 'Eglwys Fair'. The name 'Eglwys Fair' is thought to represent the location of a church which pre-dated the current St. Mary's at Cilgwyn, and may have been attached to the feature described by the Royal Commission (PRN 1570). It is unclear when the site gained this name.

([52702](#)) **Unknown stone** **SN0767034617 C** **Generic**

This stone is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, but not on the second edition. There are several stones marked along this field boundary, and they probably originated as markers delineating the boundary between enclosed land and unenclosed common land on Mynydd Preseli.

([52703](#)) **Unknown stone** **SN0757434864 C** **Generic**

This stone is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, but not on the second edition. There are several stones marked along this field boundary, and they probably originated as markers delineating the boundary between enclosed land and unenclosed common land on Mynydd Preseli.

PEN-LAN-OLEU
[\(52704\)](#)

Post Med
farmstead

SN0787834811 B

Generic

This farmstead was recorded by the Royal Commission from aerial photographs as an 'abandoned farmstead with yards to the west, approached from the north (RCAHMW 09/09/03)

YSGARWEN; IS-GAER- WEN
[\(52706\)](#)

Post Med
farmstead

SN0790135995 B

Generic

Called 'Scerwen' on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1819, there are currently buildings in the same locations as those marked on historic maps, implying potential for the survival of traditional buildings. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas, many of which have been occupied over long periods of time. Archaeological remains may survive in the vicinity of the present farmstead.

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
TYRIET; TY'R-IET (52698)	Post Med farmstead	SN0742236068	B	Generic
<p>Tyriet farmstead is marked on various historic map sources, including the Ordnance Survey Old Series of 1819. There are buildings in similar locations on historic and modern map sources, implying potential for the survival of traditional buildings within the farmstead.</p> <p>This farmstead has potential for the survival of traditional buildings, for which we currently hold no further information. Traditional buildings often require additional management. In these instances the following management recommendations would apply.</p>				
FRON-OGWYDD (52699)	Post Med farmstead	SN0777135475		Generic
<p>Fron-Ogwydd farmstead is marked on various historic map sources. A group of three buildings is marked in a U-shape arrangement on the Old Series Ordnance Survey of 1819. The buildings are still marked on current map sources, but are not named, implying that the farmstead has been abandoned.</p> <p>This farmstead has potential for the survival of traditional buildings, for which we currently hold no further information. Traditional buildings often require additional management. In these instances the following management recommendations would apply.</p>				
PEN-LAN-OLEU (52704)	Post Med farmstead	SN0787834811	B	Generic
<p>This farmstead was recorded by the Royal Commission from aerial photographs as an 'abandoned farmstead with yards to the west, approached from the north (RCAHMW 09/09/03)</p>				
YSGARWEN; IS-GAER-WEN (52706)	Post Med farmstead	SN0790135995	B	Generic
<p>Called 'Scerwen' on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1819, there are currently buildings in the same locations as those marked on historic maps, implying potential for the survival of traditional buildings.</p> <p>This farmstead has potential for the survival of traditional buildings, for which we currently hold no further information. Traditional buildings often require additional management. In these instances the following management recommendations would apply.</p>				

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.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

HM - 30/11/2004 (14:06:47) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE1 report, ACA Project record number 49579.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Cambria Archaeology), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@acadat.com, website www.acadat.com

Sources consulted:

Maps

Ordnance Survey Old Series, Sheet XL, 1819

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet X.4; 1889

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.1; 1889

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet X.8; 1889

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.5; 1889

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet X.4; 1907

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.1; 1907

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet X.8; 1907

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Pembrokeshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.5; 1907

Other Sources

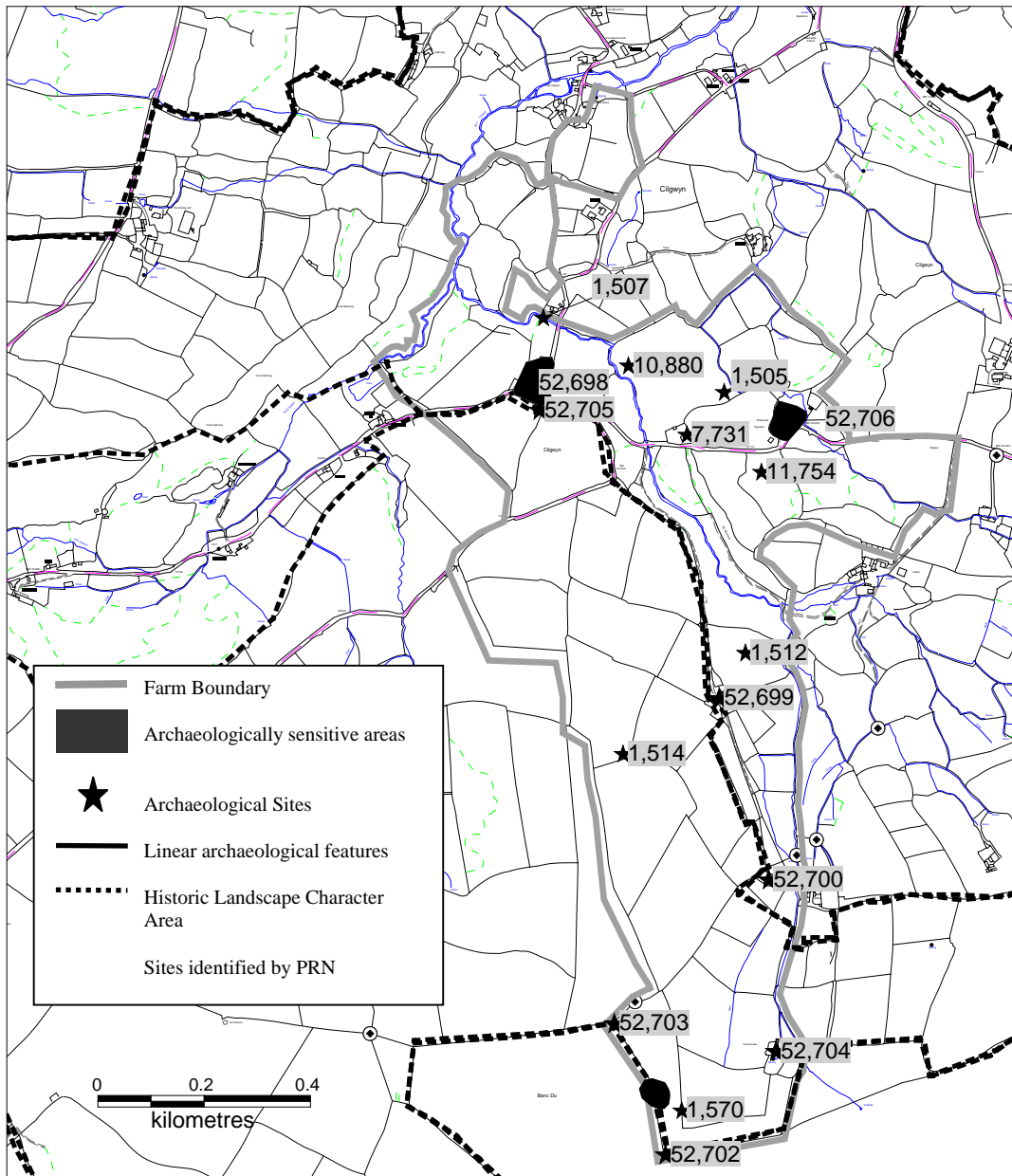
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales

Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N.: Pembrokeshire Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape Character Area 275: Cilgwyn. Preseli.

Historic Landscape Character Area 273: Tregynon. Preseli

Tyriet W/13/5117



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

PRESELI HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 275 CILGWYN

**GRID REFERENCE: SN080370
AREA IN HECTARES: 630.1**

Historic Background

An area of modern Pembrokeshire, on the northern flank of Mynydd Preseli, within the medieval Cantref Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326 when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was conterminous with the later Hundred of Cemais, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. This character area lies mainly within the hamlet of Cilgwyn, Nevern parish, which was a borough of the barony during the medieval period. It mainly comprised woodland during the medieval period and is today still heavily wooded. The present pattern of small irregular fields probably relates to piecemeal enclosure of woodland during the late medieval - early post-medieval period. The dispersed nature of settlement in this area is due to the Welsh tenurial systems under which land was held. Today, surviving woodland at Pentre Ifan is a remnant of the once greater Cilruth Wood that was under the forest jurisdiction of the Barony since the 12th century when it was said to extend west to Trewern and described as 'a wonder... to see such fair timber' in 1603. Wenallt and Brithdir woods to the north were 'minor woods' in the 16th century. Clearance and enclosure of this woodland had begun by the 13th century when Cilgwyn St Mary was a chapel-of-ease to Nevern. A settlement at Dolrannog was recorded in c.1280, while Fachongle was mentioned in a document of 1343, as was Pentre Ifan which was rebuilt on its present site in the late 15th-century for Sir James ab Owen as a reward for his services to Henry Tudor. Later established holdings were, by tradition, carved out of woodland. The *Extent of Cemaes* of 1577 lists many of the present farmsteads and holdings within and close to this character area. The 'mansion' of Trewern was liable for 6d annual rent to the Barony, Dolrannog was assessed for 6d rent from Thomas Lloid, while the Warrens were liable for 3s 4d for the 5 tenements that made up Fachongle, 3 of which are represented by the present Fachongle-uchaf, -ganol and -isaf. Later settlement may be represented by Cilgwyn and Cilgwyn Mawr which are probably 17th century homesteads - the latter also a Warren holding by 1734. In addition some of the irregular enclosures to the south, on the edge of Mynydd Preseli, which appear to be *assarts* into woodland, may in fact also be later, representing 18th- and early 19th-century squatter settlement on former common land, a remnant of which projects into this area as Carnedd Meibion Owen character area. The name 'Constantinople' in the centre of the area is also late in origin. To accommodate the growing population, a schoolroom was built onto St Mary Cilgwyn in the 18th century, and Caersalem Chapel was established in 1820. The present pattern was fully in place by the tithe survey of 1843. Since the mid 19th-century some farms have been abandoned and woodland regenerated over their fields. There has been some quarrying to the south, and much of the remaining woodland is managed by Forest Enterprise or Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Woodland management led to the construction of a light railway at Pentre Ifan in the early 20th century. The present situation is overwhelmingly rural, but with some depopulation - Caersalem is still well-attended but Cilgwyn St Mary has recently closed.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Cilgwyn historic landscape character area lies across the valleys of the upper Afon Gwaun and the Afon Clydach. The valleys here are steep sided, producing an undulating landscape ranging in height from 20m at the lowest points to over 250m. The landscape is divided into small irregular fields. The boundaries of these fields come in a variety of forms, ranging from stone-faced banks, dry-stone walls to stone and earth banks. Stone is the common factor in the boundaries, with, in many instances monolithic foundation stones present. Most boundaries are topped by hedges, but these are generally neglected, very overgrown with small trees sprouting out of them. Deciduous woodland is a defining characteristic of this area. The more substantial woods at Ty Canol and Pentre Ifan have colonised former fields. Woodland on the steep valley sides is more ancient. Overall, the extensive woodland and trees on the overgrown hedge-banks provides a heavily wooded aspect to Cilgwyn. Agricultural land-use is almost entirely pasture. This is mostly improved on the less wooded valley shoulders, but on the valley sides and bottoms rougher, unimproved and rushy land is more common. Some of the more neglected land is reverting to scrub. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and cottages. Dwellings are generally of 19th century date in the vernacular style. One, one-and-a-half and two

storey buildings are present. They are stone-built (cement rendered and bare stone), slate roofed and of three bays. Out buildings where present are also quite small. Usually a single 19th century stone-built range is present, sometimes in combination with a mid 20th-century corrugated-iron structure and/or small late 20th-century steel, asbestos and concrete buildings. There are numerous deserted farms and cottages, most notably along the Clydach valley. Cilgwyn St Mary sits on a heavily wooded valley side and the imposing Caersalem Chapel, with an external baptistry tank, lies on more open, level ground. There are no listed buildings in the area. Transport elements of this landscape consist entirely of narrow winding lanes and tracks flanked by large hedge-banks.

Recorded archaeology includes the well-known, scheduled Pentre Ifan neolithic burial chamber, a neolithic findspot, and a possible chambered tomb/standing stone complex. There is also a bronze age round barrow, and a clearance cairn of unknown date. From the iron age there is a scheduled hillfort, another hillfort and a settlement site. There are medieval settlement sites and possible medieval field system, and post-medieval mill sites and a quarry. In Pentre Ifan woodland, there are management features including boundary banks, marl pits, cottages, saw-pits and a light railway from the early 20th-century.

The large woodland element of the landscape and the small irregular fields lends Cilgwyn a distinctive historic landscape character. It stands in sharp contrast with the areas of larger fields with little woodland which border it on most sides and with the open moorland of Carnedd Meibion-Owen to the southeast.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, decay evident in some of the boundary banks and 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.

Sources: Charles 1992; Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1997; Howells 1977; Jones 1996; Lewis 1972; Nash 1989; Nevern tithe map and apportionment, 1843; Rees 1932; Trethowan 1998

PRESELI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 273 TREGYNON

GRID REFERENCE: SN049340

AREA IN HECTARES: 511.0

Historic Background

An area of modern Pembrokeshire, on the western flanks of Mynydd Preseli, within the medieval Cantref Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326 when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was conterminous with the later Hundred of Cemaes, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. Tregynon character area lies mainly within the hamlet of Cilgwyn, Nevern parish, which was a borough of the barony during the medieval period. The *Extent of Cemaes*, compiled in 1577, shows that most of the holdings within the present character area had already been established. Chief among them was Tregynon 'with its parcels', first mentioned in 1315, which together paid 2s 3d annually to the Barony of Cemaes. Penrallt(ddu), then held by James Perrott, paid 3d. This was a minor gentry house of the Vaughan family, who were to acquire much land in the region by the early 17th-century. 'Kilykenawon', which was assessed at 8d rent and the site of a medieval chapel, is located on the Rees map within this character area. The 'land at Kilgwyn of David Lloid', liable for 6d rent, may be equated with the gentry-house at Trefach, which was the home of the Lloyd family in the 17th- and 18th- century and assessed for 5 hearths in 1670. These holdings may date from the 16th century; the pattern of medium-sized, irregular fields is typical of enclosure of that period from land that may formerly have been open pasture. However, some narrower enclosures towards the south may preserve the pattern of earlier strips fields. The tithe map of 1843 shows a situation like that of the present day. Land-use is still predominantly pastoral, and there is a sheep-dip at Trefach.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Tregynon historic landscape character area occupies a west- and northwest-facing gently sloping shelf of land located at 170m and 320m sandwiched, between the open moorland of Mynydd Preseli and the heavily wooded steep valley sides of the Afon Gwaun. The landscape is divided into small- and medium-sized fields. The smaller fields usually lie close to farmsteads. Field boundaries consist of massive earth banks in the western part of the area through to less substantial earth and stone banks at the eastern end and on higher ground on the fringes of Mynydd Preseli. Apart from alongside lanes and at the eastern end there are no hedges on the banks, and hedges where they survive are generally not in good condition. It is a virtually treeless landscape. Land-use is improved pasture with pockets of rougher grazing, particularly in wet hollows. At higher levels some fields are beginning to revert to moorland. Farms are widely dispersed across the landscape. At higher levels several are deserted. Farmhouses are in a variety of styles. The main type comprises a 19th century, two storey, three bay, stone-built dwelling, with a slate roof, in the vernacular style. Single storey 19th century dwellings in the vernacular style are also present, as well as some 20th century farmhouses. Most farms have a single small, stone-built 19th century range of farm buildings, with a mid 20th-century corrugated-iron barn and other structures and several small late 20th-century steel-, concrete- and asbestos-built structures. The larger farms have several large 20th century agricultural buildings. Trefach House and mill are both Grade II listed. Tregynon House is now a country hotel and restaurant. Transport elements of this landscape consist of local-use lanes and tracks.

Recorded archaeology is fairly rich for such a small area, including two scheduled bronze age standing stones (one of which may be from a neolithic chambered tomb), and the scheduled iron age hillfort of Castell Tregynon. There is a possible Early Christian inscribed stone, while 'Kilykenawon' was the site of the medieval Capel Cynon. Post-medieval features include a well, a deserted rural settlement, and a sheep dip. There is a further earthwork of unknown nature.

This is a distinctive and generally well defined historic landscape area. The lower-lying heavily wooded landscape of Cilgwyn lies to the north, the heavily wooded slopes of Cwm Gwaun to the northwest and to the east lies the open moorland of Mynydd Preseli. Definition is less clear between this area and land to the west, and between this area and Gellifawr, which it virtually surrounds.

Conservation priorities

Some of the historic components of this landscape are in an advanced state of decay. Hedgerows across much of the area are a particular problem; they will continue to decay and erode the historic character of the area if left unmanaged. 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.

Sources: Charles 1992; Howells 1977; Jones 1996; Nevern tithe map and apportionment, 1843; Owen 1897; Rees 1932