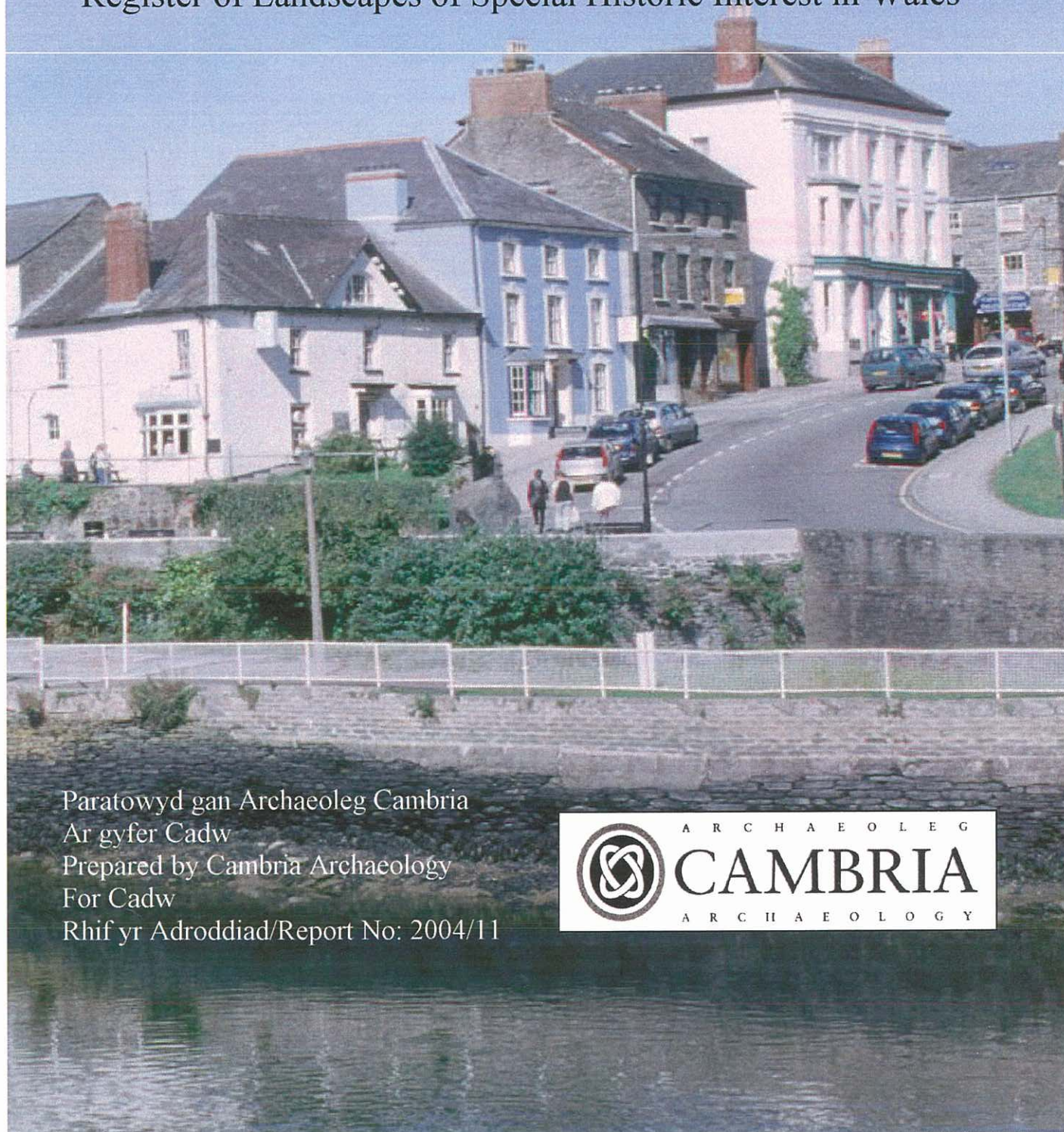


HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION  
of  
**THE LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**  
and  
**DREFACH AND FELINDRE**  
two landscapes on the  
Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer Cadw  
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
For Cadw  
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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION of THE LOWER TEIFI VALLEY and DREFACH AND FELINDRE

Gan / By

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## PREFACE

Natural forces and human activity acting together over the last six thousand years have contributed to produce a landscape of great beauty and variety in Wales, a national asset that is essential both to our national identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and well-being. The diversity and imprint of human activity on the landscape is everywhere to be seen, from the enigmatic stone monuments of the prehistoric period and the magnificent castles and abbeys of the medieval period, to quite commonplace and typical features like field boundaries that can often be of great age. But the landscape is more than just attractive scenery or a record of the past; it also provides a place for us to live, work and sustain ourselves, through farming, forestry, tourism and so on, processes that all shape, and will continue to shape, the landscape.

Recognising and raising awareness of the importance and wealth of the historic fabric of the landscape has been the central theme and message of the non-statutory, *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*, the first part of which, covering thirty-six 'outstanding' landscapes, was published in January 1998. This is being compiled as a joint initiative between Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), working in collaboration with the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Welsh unitary authorities.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* provides a first step, national overview of the historic content of the Welsh landscape. The next step, so essential to the process of informing the way in which aspects of the historic landscape may be managed, is to make available more detailed information about the character of this landscape at a more local level. This is achieved through a process known as historic landscape characterisation which has been developed in Wales jointly by Cadw, the CCW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. This involves the identification of geographically definable and mappable areas of historic character, as determined by the range and distribution of surviving archaeological and historical features and the main types of historical land use patterns or historic 'themes' that have shaped the area. The key historic characteristics of the area are then identified along with recommendations for their positive management.

This report is one of a series of historic landscape characterisation exercises being undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts with grant-aid from Cadw. These studies will initially concentrate on those areas identified on the *Historic Landscapes Register*, although it is accepted that the whole of the Welsh landscape can be said to be, in one way or another, historic. Information is being prepared in a form which



is compatible to the CCW's landscape assessment and decision-making methodology, known as *LANDMAP*. It will be made available to a wide range of organisations and will feed into various initiatives to protect and manage the Welsh countryside, most notably the *Tir Gofal* agri-environment scheme. It is also seen as making a particularly important contribution to raising awareness and heightening a feeling of local distinctiveness.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* and these characterisation exercises fully acknowledge the dynamic and evolving nature of the landscape. They promote the view that protecting the legacy of the past in the landscape is not to be achieved by preventing change or fossilising the landscape but rather by informing the process of change, creating tomorrow's landscapes without necessarily sacrificing the best of yesterday's.

**RICHARD AVENT**  
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

**RICHARD KELLY**  
Countryside Council for Wales



## *Rhagair*

Mae'r grymoedd naturiol a'r gweithgaredd dynol a fu'n gweithredu ar y cyd dros y chwe mil o flynyddoedd diwethaf wedi cyfrannu at y broses o gynhyrchu tirwedd o harddwch ac amrywiaeth hynod yng Ngymru, ased cenedlaethol sy'n hanfodol i ni o ran ein hunaniaeth genedlaethol a hefyd o ran ein lles a'n 'hymdeimlad o berthyn i le' unigol. Gellir gweld ymhobman yr amrywiaeth a'r olion a adawyd ar y tirwedd gan weithgaredd dynol, o henebion cerrig enigmatig y cyfnod cynhanesyddol a chestyll ac abatai gwych y cyfnod canoloesol, i'r nodweddion eithaf cyffredin a nodweddiadol fel ffiniau caeau a all yn aml fod yn hen iawn. Ond nid dim ond golygyfeydd deniadol neu gofnod o'r gorffennol yn unig yw'r tirwedd; mae hefyd yn darparu lle i ni fyw, gweithio a chynnal ein hunain ynddo, drwy gyfrwng amaeth, coedwigaeth, twristiaeth ac ati, oll yn brosesau sy'n llunio, ac a fydd yn parhau i lunio'r tirwedd.

Bu cydnabod a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o bwysigrwydd a chyfoeth ffabrig hanesyddol y tirwedd yn thema ac yn neges ganolog y gofrestr anstatudol, *Cofrestr O Dirweddau O Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol Eithriadol Yng Nghymru*, y cyhoeddwyd y rhan gyntaf ohoni, sy'n cwmpasu trideg chwech o dirweddau 'eithriadol' ym mis Ionawr 1998. Caiff y Gofrestr ei llunio fel menter ar y cyd rhwng Cadw, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'r Cyngor Rhyngwladol ar Henebion a Safleoedd (ICOMOS) sy'n gweithio mewn cydweithrediad â



phedair Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Cymru, y Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru ac awdurdodau unedol Cymru.

*Y Gofrestr o Dirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol* yw'r cam cyntaf, trosolwg cenedlaethol o gynnwys hanesyddol tirwedd Cymru. Y cam nesaf, mor hanfodol i'r broses o lywio'r modd y gellir rheoli agweddau ar y tirwedd cenedlaethol, yw trefnu bod gwybodaeth fwy manwl ar gael ynglŷn â chymeriad y tirwedd hwn ar lefel fwy lleol. Cyflawnir hyn drwy broses a elwir yn nodweddiad tirweddau hanesyddol a ddatblygwyd yng Nghymru ar y cyd â Cadw, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ac Ymddiriedolaethau Archeolegol Cymru. Golyga hyn nodi ardaloedd o gymeriad hanesyddol y gellir eu diffinio a'u mapio'n ddaearyddol, yn ôl yr hyn a benderfynir gan ystod a dosbarthiad y nodweddion archeolegol a hanesyddol sy'n goroesi a'r prif fathau o batrymau defnydd tir hanesyddol neu 'themâu' hanesyddol sydd wedi llunio'r ardal. Nodir nodweddion hanesyddol allweddol yr ardal felly ynghyd ag argymhellion ar gyfer eu rheoli'n gadarnhaol.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn un o gyfres o ymarferion nodweddiad tirweddau hanesyddol yr ymgwymerir ag ef gan Ymddiriedolaethau Archeolegol Cymru gyda chymorth grant gan Cadw. Bydd yr astudiaethau hyn yn canolbwyntio yn y lle cyntaf ar yr ardaloedd hynny a nodwyd yn y *Gofrestr O Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol*, er y caiff ei dderbyn bod modd disgrifio tirwedd Cymru gyfan, mewn un ffordd neu'r llall, fel un hanesyddol. Mae gwybodaeth yn cael ei pharatoi ar ffurf sy'n cydweddu â methodoleg asesu tirweddau a gwneud



penderfyniadau Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, sef *LANDMAP*. Bydd ar gael i ystod eang o sefydliadau a chaiff ei fwydo i fentrau amrywiol er mwyn diogelu a rheoli cefn gwlad Cymru, yn bennaf y cynllun agri-amgylcheddol sef, *Tir Gofal*. Caiff ei weld hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad arbennig o bwysig i'r broses o godi ymwybyddiaeth a dwyshau'r ymdeimlad o arbenigrwydd lleol.

Cydnabyddar *Gofrestr O Dirweddau O Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol* a'r ymarferion nodweddiad hyn yn llawn natur ddeinamig y tirwedd sy'n parhau i esblygu. Hyrwyddant y farn mai nid trwy rwystro newid neu ffosileiddio'r tirwedd y mae diogelu treftadaeth y gorffennol yn y tirwedd, ond yn hytrach drwy lywio'r broses o newid, gan greu tirweddau'r dyfodol heb o anghenraid aberthu tirweddau gorau'r gorffennol.

*Richard Avent*

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

*Richard Kelly*

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru

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## **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION**

### **Characterisation of two southwest Wales landscapes on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales: the Lower Teifi Valley, and Drefach and Felindre**

#### **SUMMARY**

*This report is a historic landscape characterisation of two southwest Wales landscapes on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales: the Lower Teifi Valley, and Drefach and Felindre. Characterisation involves the examination of historic processes that have shaped and moulded the present-day landscape. Historic components that make up the landscape such as field boundary type, field shape, buildings, settlement pattern, parks and gardens, roads and railways, industry, and archaeological sites are all taken into consideration during characterisation. By analysing all the components it is possible to divide the landscape into historic landscape character areas. Each area includes components that are distinct from its neighbours.*

*The Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape comprises the entire valley downstream of Cenarth, including the floodplain and lower valley sides. It has been divided into 23 historic landscape character areas. These include Cardigan town, with its medieval castle and fine collection of late 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, St Dogmaels, Cilgerran and the smaller settlements of Llechryd and Cenarth. The main elements of the landscape are, however, more rural. These include the major houses, parks and gardens of large estates, dispersed farms, fields, woodland and dispersed remains of industry such as stone quarrying. The use of Cilgerran, or Teifi valley, slate as a building material unites many of the disparate historic landscape components of the Lower Teifi Valley, and provides a strong local and regional signature to the built heritage.*

*Thirteen historic landscape character areas have been identified in the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape that lies mostly on north-facing slopes of the Teifi valley. Although it is noted for the existence of a 19<sup>th</sup> century woollen industry and the villages and hamlets that grew to serve the mills of this industry, Drefach and Felindre is overwhelmingly a rural landscape, and is characterised by fields, dispersed farms and valley-side woodland. Rich pasture lands of the Teifi valley floodplain and high farmland carved out of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of moorland are included in this area. Almost all buildings, both rural and industrial, date to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## INTRODUCTION

This report is a historic landscape characterisation of two southwest Wales landscapes on the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales*: the Lower Teifi Valley, and Drefach and Felindre. The Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape is spread across the three counties of southwest Wales: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. Most of the Drefach and Felindre landscape lies within Carmarthenshire, with a little situated across the Afon Teifi in Ceredigion. The two landscapes have been divided into 36 historic landscape character areas (numbered 381-416). Numbers 1-132 were used in the characterisation of Upland Ceredigion (Murphy 1999), numbers 133-257 in the characterisation of four landscapes within Carmarthenshire (Murphy and Ludlow 2000), numbers 258-304 in the characterisation of Preseli, St David's/Ramsey Island, and Skomer Island (Murphy and Ludlow 2001), numbers 305-357 for the Milford Haven Waterway (Murphy and Ludlow 2002), and 358-380 in the characterisation of four landscapes within Pembrokeshire (Murphy and Ludlow 2003).

The landscapes under consideration in this report on the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales* (Cadw 1998) comprise approximately 84 sq kms in total (Lower Teifi Valley = 50 sq km, Drefach and Felindre = 34 sq km). This is an estimation of the registered landscapes, as their boundaries are not hard-edged. In order to accommodate those parts of historic landscape character areas that lie across and outside the boundaries of the register area, the total area included in this study is 153.47 sq kms (Lower Teifi Valley = 92.56 sq km, Drefach and Felindre = 60.91 sq km). See Figures 1 – 3 for the location of the register areas and the character areas within the register areas.

This report has been divided into sections. The first section comprises: a general introduction, a statement on the purpose of the report, the relevant entry from the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, methodology, an explanation of the GIS proformae, a description of the historic events which have helped shape the landscapes and a consideration of the management of historic character. The second section consists of a description of each historic landscape character area. A map, a ground photograph and an aerial photograph accompany each area description. GIS proformae for the historic landscape character areas are not included. This is because LANDMAP exercises (sponsored by Carmarthenshire County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council) have been undertaken in parallel with this characterisation project and the information on historic landscape character areas has been converted to the LANDMAP format.

Historic landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land in the past. They reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of man's activities and exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at any one time, or evolving functions over different periods of time. The various characteristics of a landscape interrelate and may, in some cases, overlap.

The Countryside Commission states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of its thinking. The aims of this project were to identify the characteristics of the present registered landscapes, which bear witness to the historical processes which have created them, to provide a basic commentary on the categories of information used, to relate these to existing landscape types and to define the scope for creative action within a number of initiatives which will guide the continuing evolution of the landscape, and thereby sustain or even enhance elements considered essential to the historic character of the areas.

This project received grant-aid from Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

Further information on this project and other landscape characterisation programmes within Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire can be obtained from Cambria Archaeology or from visiting Cambria Archaeology's website at [www.acadat.com](http://www.acadat.com).



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**THE STUDY AREA - EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTER OF  
LANDSCAPES OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES**

## PEN ISAF DYFFRYN TEIFI LOWER TEIFI VALLEY



Hawffraint Coron Prydain: CBHC/Crown Copyright: RCAHMW.

*Pen Isaf Dyffryn Teifi.*

*Lower Teifi Valley.*

## Disgrifiad o'r tirwedd

Afon Teifi yw un o brif afonydd Cymru, ac, yn hanesyddol, un o'i hafonydd enwocaf. O'i tharddiad yn Llyn Teifi, yn uchel ar lethrau gorllewinol Mynyddoedd y Cambria, mae'n torri trwy isfrynau Mynyddoedd y Cambria cyn llifo i'r gorllewin mewn dyffryn darluniadwy clasurol sy'n rhannu llwyfandir Ceredigion i'r gogledd oddi wrth lwyfandir Caerfyrddin i'r de. Mae'n cyrraedd Bae Ceredigion yn Aberteifi, trwy aber llydan sydd dros 90km o'i ffynhonnell fynyddig. Mae'r ardal a gynhwysir yma yn cynnwys yr aber a rhannau isaf dyffryn Teifi rhwng Pen Cemaes ac Ynys Aberteifi yng ngheg yr aber a cheunant Cenarth yn y de-ddwyrain. Mae'r dramwyfa gul hon yn cynrychioli pellter o tua 20km lle mae llawr y dyffryn yn codi i tuag 20m uwchben SO, rhwng ochrau sy'n ei amgáu yn dyn ac sy'n codi'n serth i wynebau'r llwyfandiroedd uwchben sydd rhwng 150 a 200m uwchben SO.

Bu'r ardal yn faes astudiaeth pwysig i ddaearagwyr Cwaternaid ers tro byd. Yn ddiweddar, adolygwyd prosesau llunio dadrewlifo'r ardal, ac mae'n debyg mai erydiad sianeli nentydd is-rewlifol a greodd geunentydd isaf Teifi yng Nghenarth a Chilgerran lle llifodd yr afon ôl-rewlifol. Rhwystrwyd ei chysiau cynharach gan ddyddodion dwfn o ddrifft rhewlifol yn y dyffryn ehangach bob ochr i gwrs presennol y Teifi. Caiff dyddodion traeth ymgodol yn Poppit Sands wrth geg yr aber ac, ar yr ochr ogleddol yn Gwbert, dyddodion diweddarach o glog-glai rhewlifol o Fôr Iwerydd, eu cuddio gan dwyni tywod llawer mwy diweddar a helaeth. P'un a ddechreuodd yn y cyfnod cynhanesyddol diweddarach ai peidio, roedd yno, fel mewn mannau eraill ar arfordiroedd De a Gorllewin Cymru, bentyrru cyflym o dywod ar ddiwedd y 13eg ganrif. Darganfuwyd casgliad pwysig o lestri coginio canoloesol yn yr hyn a adwaenir bellach fel Dyfed gravel tempered ware, o bwl a amlygwyd ar wyneb clogwyn yn Gwbert. Wedi ei gladdu gan dywod, efallai bod y pwll yn rhan o aneddiad canoloesol diffaith o fewn Cwningar Tywyn ar ochr ogleddol yr aber.

Mae'r tywod hefyd wedi creu bar ar draws ceg yr aber, efallai yn y cyfnod ôl-Rufeinig. Ceg yr afon Tuerobis (y Teifi) yw un o'r ychydig leoedd ar arfordir Cymru a enwir yn arolwg arfordirol y ganrif gyntaf yn Naearyddiaeth Ptolemy. Ond hyd yn hyn nid oes un lle amlwg a allai fod wedi bod yn ganolfan grym yn ystod cyfnod diweddar Oes yr Haearn ac yn ganolfanwynt masnach arfordirol a allai fod wedi achosi cynnwys aber afon Teifi yn y Ddaearyddiaeth. Mae hyn yn cyferbynnu â grwpiau o henebion defodol ac angladdol Oes yr Efydd ar y tir uchel ar ochr ddeheuol yr aber megis Crugiau Maen Saeson uwchben Llandudoch.

Arferwyd lleoli aneddiadau canoloesol cynnar fel arfer yn uwch i fyny'r afon, 5km o'r môr ar y fan bontio isaf. Mae Llandudoch ar y llethr deheuol, Aberteifi gyferbyn i'r gogledd, a phentir caerog Fferm Old Castle i'w gweld o sawl man gwyllo manteisiol ar y tir uchel ar y naill ochr i'r aber. Yn weledol ac yn dopograffegol, yn ogystal â thrwy eu henebion sy'n goroesi sef yr Abaty, y castell, y dref â waliau o'i chwmpas a'r priordy a'r bont ganoloesol, maent yn darparu enghraifft dda i gywiro'r argraff or-symbl o brosesau goroesi aneddiadau Cymreig brodorol a'r tarfu fu arnynt o du'r bwrdeistrefi castell Eingl-Normanaidd. Er nad oes unrhyw dystiolaeth archaeolegol uniongyrchol, mae'n debyg bod sylfaen Tironaidd 1115 Robert Fitzmartin ar gyfer Abaty Llandudoch ar yr un safle â mynachdy canoloesol cynnar Llandudoch, a ysbeiliwyd gan y Llychlynwyr

## Landscape description

The River Teifi is one of Wales's principal and, historically, most famous rivers. From its source in Llyn Teifi, high on the western flanks of the Cambrian Mountains, it cuts through the Cambrian Mountain foothills before flowing west in a classically picturesque valley that divides the Ceredigion plateau to the north from the Carmarthenshire plateau to the south. It enters Cardigan Bay at Cardigan, through a broad estuary which is over 90km from its mountain source. The area included here comprises the estuary and lower reaches of the Teifi valley between Cemaes Head and Cardigan Island at the mouth of the estuary and the Cenarth gorge in the south east. This narrow corridor represents a distance of about 20km in which the valley floor rises to about 20m above OD, between tightly enclosing sides that rise steeply to the plateau surfaces above at 150m to 200m above OD.

The area has long been an important locus of study by Quaternary geologists. Recently, the shaping processes of the deglaciation of the area have been reviewed, and it seems that erosion of sub-glacial stream channels created the lower Teifi gorges at Cenarth and Cilgerran in which the post-glacial river flowed. Its earlier courses were blocked by deep deposits of glacial drift in the wider valley either side of the present course of the Teifi. Raised beach deposits at Poppit Sands at the estuary mouth and, on the northern side at Gwbert, later deposits of Irish Sea glacial till, are overshadowed by much more recent and extensive sand dunes. Whether beginning in later prehistory or not, there was, as elsewhere on the South and West Wales coasts, a rapid build-up of sand in the later 13th century. An important assemblage of medieval cooking pots in what has become known as Dyfed gravel tempered ware was recovered from a pit exposed in a cliff face at Gwbert. Sealed by sand, the pit may be part of a deserted medieval settlement within Towyn Warren on the north side of the estuary.

The sand has also created a bar across the estuary mouth, perhaps in post-Roman times. The mouth of the River Tuerobis (the Teifi) is one of the few places on the Welsh coast named from 1st century coastal survey in Ptolemy's Geography. But there is as yet no obvious candidate for any late Iron Age centre of power and focus of coastal trade which might have occasioned the inclusion of the Teifi estuary in the Geography. This contrasts with groups of Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments on the high ground on the southern side of the estuary such as Crugiau Maen Saeson above St Dogmaels.

Early medieval and medieval settlements were characteristically sited further up river, 5 km from the sea at the lowest bridging point. St Dogmaels on the south bank, Cardigan opposite on the north, and the fortified promontory of Old Castle Farm, are visible from several vantage points on the high ground on either side of the estuary. Visually and topographically, as well as in their surviving medieval monuments of abbey, castle, walled town and medieval priory and bridge, they provide a good example to correct the often over-simplified view of the processes of survival of native Welsh settlements and the imposition on them of Anglo-Norman castle boroughs. Although there is no direct archaeological evidence, it is likely that Robert FitzMartin's 1115 Tironian foundation of St Dogmaels Abbey occupied the



Castell Cilgerran.

Cilgerran Castle.



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yn AD 987. Rhagflaenwyd Aberteifi ei hun, a sefydlwyd ar safle o'r newydd rhwng 1110 a 1136, gan aneddiadau cynharach. Mae'n debygol bod o leiaf un o'r rhain ar bentir Old Castle y gellir ei uniaethu â Din Gereint Brut y Tywysogion. Roedd Aberteifi'r 12fed ganrif yn allbost Normanaidd caerog ac ym 1165 syrthiodd i ddwylo'r Arglwydd Rhys; parhaodd yn ganolfan ddinesig Gymreig am genhedlaeth o leiaf. Roedd Aberteifi yn borthladd stapl yn y 14eg ganrif ac yn ganolfan pererindod ar gyfer y tapr enwog, delw i'r Forwyn Fair yn eglwys y priordy, ar ddiwedd yr Oesoedd Canol, gosododd Aberteifi lawer o'i thiroedd a'i melinau ar brydles i uchelwyr amlwg yr ardal. Ond, fel llawer o drefi, dirywiodd rhwng diwedd y 15fed a dechrau'r 17eg ganrifoedd.

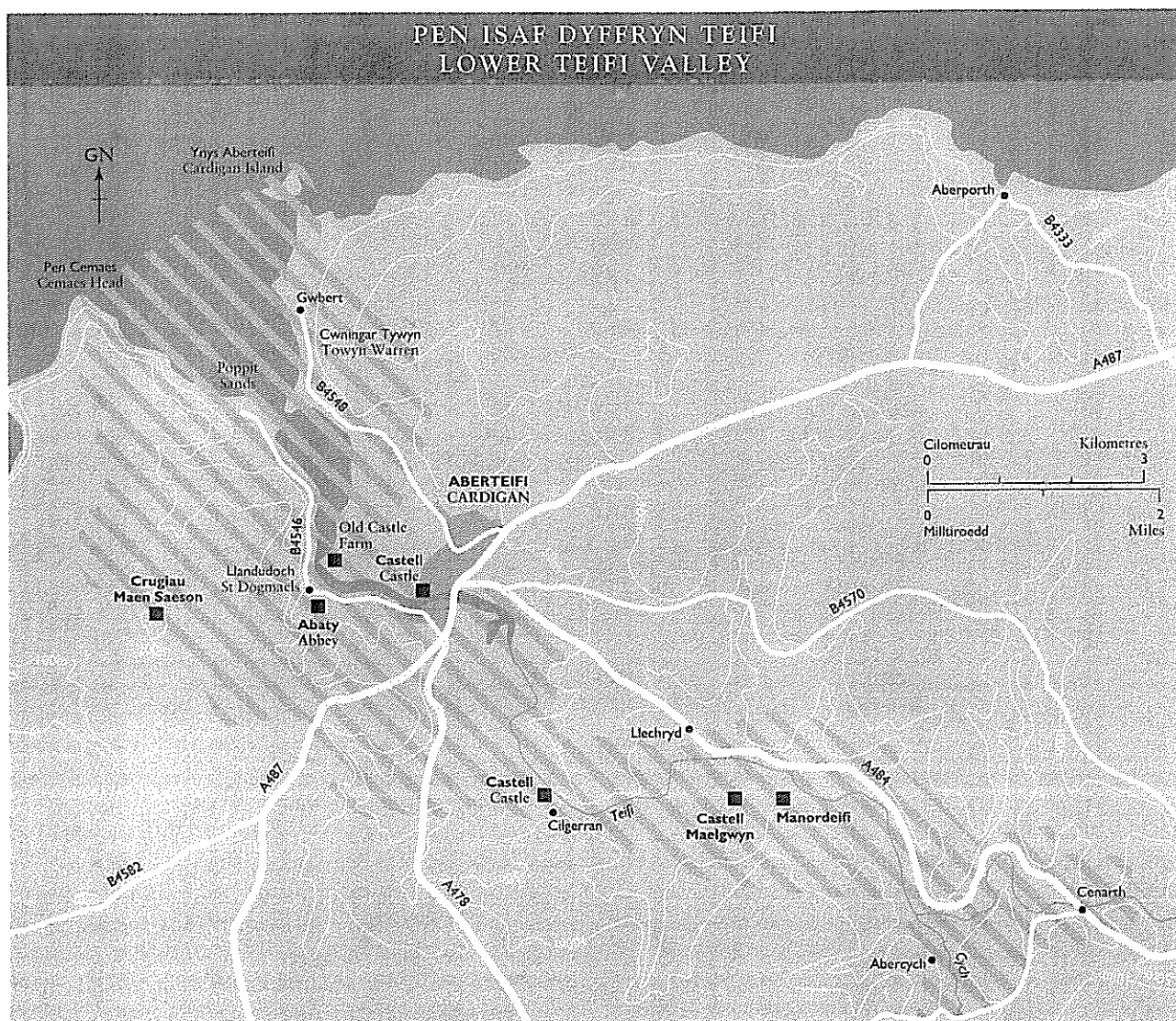
O ddiwedd y 17eg ac i mewn i'r 18fed ganrifoedd, roedd ffyniant masnachol newydd yn seiliedig ar fasnach forol yn bennaf. Roedd pysgota'r môr a'r afon yn bwysig a defnyddiwyd yr afon fwyfwy fel modd cludiant ac fel adnodd ar gyfer pŵer i felinau a ffwondriau. Roedd masnach ddyfnfor wedi datblygu erbyn dechrau'r 19eg ganrif a daeth Aberteifi yn ganolfan adeiladu llongau bwysig, ar gyfer cychod arfordirol yn bennaf, a daeth cynnydd ym mhob masnach gysylltiedig, wedi'i ganolbwyntio at y Netpool a'r Mwldan. Defnyddiwyd coed dyffryn Teifi, yn enwedig derw, yn helaeth, ond roedd angen ychwanegu atynt gyda mewnforion o Norwy a Gogledd America. Mae glanfeydd a stordai'r cyfnod hwn yn dal i fod yn nodwedd amlwg ar lan yr afon. Hefyd yn y 1820au a'r 1830au, daeth y dref yn fan cychwyn ar gyfer mudo o'r gefnwladdlawd a gorboblog. Mae astudiaeth nodedig ddiweddar gan yr hanesydd o Ganada, Peter Thomas, yn nodi sefydlu 'Cardigan' yn New Brunswick, Canada, o un cyfnod mudo o'r fath, gan ei ail-greu yn deimladwy o faled gyfoes, Hanes Mordaith y Brig Albion o Aberteifi.

Mae rhaeadrau Cenarth wedi denu sylw teithwyr ers iddynt gael eu disgrifio gyntaf gan Gerallt Gymro, mewn rhan o'r afon oedd yn enwog am ei heogiaid. Tra bod yr

same site as the early medieval monastery of Llandudoch, sacked by the Vikings in AD 987. Cardigan itself, established on a de novo site between 1110 and 1136, was preceded by earlier strongholds. At least one such is likely to have been on Old Castle promontory and to be identified with the Din Gereint of the Welsh Brut y Tywysogion or Chronicle of the Princes. Twelfth-century Cardigan was an embattled Norman outpost and in 1165 fell under the control of the Lord Rhys; it remained a Welsh urban centre for at least a generation. A staple port in the 14th century and centre of pilgrimage for the famous taper, a relic of the Virgin Mary, at the priory church, late medieval Cardigan leased many of its lands and mills to prominent Welsh gentry of the vicinity. But, like many towns, it was in decline in the late 15th to early 17th centuries.

From the later 17th and into the 18th centuries, renewed commercial prosperity was based on an essentially coastal trade. Sea and river fishing were important and the river was increasingly used as a means of transport and as a source of motive power for mills and foundries. Deep sea trading had developed by the early 19th century and Cardigan became an important shipbuilding centre, mainly for coasting vessels, with an increase in all the ancillary trades, focussed on the Netpool and the Mwldan. Teifi valley timber, especially oak, was heavily used, but needed to be augmented by Norwegian and North American imports. The wharves and warehouses of this period are still a prominent feature of the river frontage. Also in the 1820s and 1830s, the town became a springboard for emigration from the impoverished and overpopulated hinterland. A notable recent study by the Canadian historian, Peter Thomas, details the foundation of a Cardigan in New Brunswick, Canada, from one such emigration, movingly recreated from a contemporary ballad, Hanes Mordaith y Brig Albion o Aberteifi.

The falls at Cenarth, in a stretch of the river famed for its salmon, excited the attention of travellers after they were first



hynafiaethydd a'r teithiwr Richard Colt Hoare yn ystyried, yn y 19eg ganrif, bod cwryglau'r Teifi yn 'add much to the animation of the views', roedd hefyd yn wir bod cymunedau Cenarth, Abercych, Llechrhyd a Chilgerran yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar bysgota eogiaid am eu bywoliaeth. Rhannwyd yr afon yn bedair rhan a threfnwyd y pysgota yn dda gyda'r rheolau yn cael eu trosglwyddo ar lafar. Roedd brwydrau hirfaith rhwng diddordebau tîrfeiddianol a'r pysgotwyr gwialen a lein drwy ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif. Heddiw, ymddengys mai twristiaeth fydd yn dod yn brif fodd o warchod rhai o'r traddodiadau a'r arferion hyn. Roedd ardal aeddfed gyfan dyffryn Teifi yn boblogaidd o'r 18fed ganrif ymlaen ar gyfer adeiladu cartrefi bonedd ac edmygwyd ei lethrau coediog a'u olygfeydd gan deithwyr ac arlunwyr, yn enwedig ceunant Cilgerran gyda'i gastell adfeiledig rhamantus uwchlaw iddo, a ddarluniwyd ac a baentiwyd gan J. M. W. Turner a llawer un arall.

Ond yn ystod yr holl amser hwn, chwarelwyd y ceunant ar gyfer llechi neu lechfeini a gafodd eu hanfon ar longau i lawr yr afon i Aberteifi. Datblygwyd y diwydiant hwn gan y teulu Lloyd o Goedmor, ond nid oedd ei effeithiau a'r gwaredu gwastraff helaeth ar ochr Sir Benfro o'r afon ar y corstiroedd uwchben Aberteifi i'w gweld o'u plasty uwchben Cilgerran, sef meca ar gyfer uchelwyr Teifi drwy'r 19eg a dechrau'r 20fed ganrifoedd. Roedd mewnfudwyr fel Syr Benjamin Hammet yn gyfrifol am fentrau diwydiannol a masnachol eraill. Adeiladodd un o

described by Gerald of Wales. Whilst the antiquarian and traveller Richard Colt Hoare might, in the early 19th century, consider that the distinctive Teifi coracles 'add much to the animation of the views', it was also true that the communities of Cenarth, Abercych, Llechrhyd and Cilgerran depended heavily on salmon fishing for their livelihoods. The river was divided into four sections and the fishing was highly organized within orally transmitted rules. Battles with the landed interests and the rod and line fishermen were protracted throughout the later 19th century. Today, tourism seems set to become the main means of preserving some of these traditions and practices. The whole of the mature Teifi valley was favoured from the 18th century onwards for the building of gentry residences. Its wooded slopes and vistas were admired by travellers and artists, none more so than Cilgerran gorge surmounted by its romantic ruined castle, which was drawn and painted by J. M. W. Turner and many others.

But during all this time, the gorge was being quarried for slate or flagstones which were shipped down river to Cardigan. This industry was developed by the Lloyds of Coedmor. Its effects and the massive dumping of waste on the Pembrokeshire side of the river on the marshes above Cardigan were not visible from their mansion above Cilgerran, a mecca for Teifside society throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. Incomers like Sir Benjamin Hammet were responsible

Lloydiaid Coedmor a mentrwyr lleol eraill gamlas o Manordeifi i Lechrhyd, a oedd eisoes yn safle i efail haearn, er mwyn darparu pŵer ar gyfer gwaith tun cynnar yn y 1770au; erbyn y 1790au roedd Hammet wedi cymryd meddiant o'r gwaith ac adeiladu plasty newydd, Castell Maelgwyn.

Heneb arall ddiweddarach o ddiddordeb archaeolegol diwydiannol yw'r dramffordd a adeiladwyd yn dilyn awgrym Syrffwr y Sir, James Szlumper, ym 1873, i gario rwbwl chwarel i gorstiroedd Aberteifi ac atal rhwystro'r afon ymhellach ac achosi iddi orlifo. Mae'r diwydiannau hyn wedi diflannu, ac er bod peth chwarelu yn parhau, y diwydiannau hamdden a thwristiaeth sy'n defnyddio'r afon a'r aber heddiw. Ar y cyd â hyn ceir cydnabyddiaeth gynyddol o werth ecolegol dyffryn yr afon a'r aber.

for other industrial and commercial ventures. A Lloyd of Coedmor and other local entrepreneurs built a canal from Manordeifi to Llechrhyd, itself the site of an iron forge, to power an early tinworks in the 1770s; by the 1790s Hammet had taken over the works and built a new mansion, Castell Maelgwyn.

Another later monument of industrial archaeological interest is the tramway constructed following the suggestion of County Surveyor, James Szlumper, in 1873, to carry quarrying waste on to the Cardigan marshes and prevent further clogging of the river and subsequent flooding. These industries have gone; some quarrying remains, but it is the leisure and tourist industries which make use of the river and estuary today. This is accompanied by an increasing recognition of the ecological value of the river valley and estuary.

## CRYNODEB

<b>Rhif cyf</b>	HLW (D) 14
<b>Rhif map mynegai</b>	46
<b>Map AO</b>	Landranger 145
<b>Sir flaenorol</b>	Dyfed
<b>Awdurdod lleol</b>	Ceredigion, Sir Benfro (Caerfyrddin)
<b>Prif ddynodiadau helaeth</b>	Mae rhan fechan o ochr orllewinol yr ardal o fewn Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Sir Benfro. Mae'r rhan o'r ardal sydd yn Sir Benfro o fewn Ardal Amgylchedd Arbennig Preseli. Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys: Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Coed Môr; y cyfan o Goeddydd a Chorsydd Aberteifi a rhan o'r Afon Teifi sy'n Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig; Safleoedd Gwarchodaeth Castell Cilgerran ac Abaty Llandudoch; Henebion Cofrestredig Castell Aberteifi a thomen Old Castle; Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Aberteifi, Cenarth a Llandudoch.
<b>Meini prawf</b>	3, 5
<b>Cynnwys ac arwyddocâd</b>	Yr Afon Teifi yw un o brif afonydd Cymru, ac un o'r rhai enwocaf yn hanesyddol ac mae'r aber a rhannau isaf y dyffryn a nodir yma yn cynnwys tystiolaeth amrywiol a sylweddol ar gyfer parhad o ddefnydd tir o gweithgaredd o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol i'r gorffennol agos gan gynnwys: henebion defodol ac angladdol Oes yr Efydd; safleoedd canoloesol cynnar a chanoloesol, seciwlar, eglwysig, ac wedi'u hamddiffyn; tai bonedd diweddar ac olion archaeolegol diwydiannol chwarelu, diwydiant cynnar a chyfundrefnau trafnidiaeth; sawl cysylltiad llenyddol, celfyddydol a diwylliannol hanesyddol pwysig.

## SUMMARY

<b>Ref number</b>	HLW (D) 14
<b>Index map number</b>	46
<b>OS map</b>	Landranger 145
<b>Former county</b>	Dyfed
<b>Local authority</b>	Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire (Carmarthenshire)
<b>Principal area designations</b>	A small part of the western side of the area is within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The part of the area in Pembrokeshire is within the Preseli Environmentally Sensitive Area. The area includes: Coed Môr National Nature Reserve; Coedydd a Chorsydd Aberteifi and part of the Afon Teifi Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Cilgerran Castle and St Dogmaels Abbey Guardianship Sites; Cardigan Castle and Old Castle Mound Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Cardigan, Cenarth and St Dogmaels Conservation Areas.
<b>Criteria</b>	3, 5
<b>Contents and significance</b>	The River Teifi is one of Wales's principal and most historically famous rivers and the estuary and lower valley sections identified here contain diverse and significant evidence for continuity of land use and activity from the prehistoric period to the recent past, including: Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments; early medieval and medieval, secular, ecclesiastical and defended sites; recent gentry houses and industrial archaeological remains of quarrying, early industry and transport systems; several important historic literary, artistic and cultural associations.

## Ffynonellau detholedig/Selected sources

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## DRE-FACH A FELINDRE DREFACH AND FELINDRE



Hawlfraint Coron Prydain: CBHC/Crown Copyright: RCAHMW.

*Dre-fach a Felindre.*

*Drefach and Felindre.*



## Disgrifiad o'r tirwedd

Er gwaetha'r newidiadau i'r diwydiant gwau yng Nghymru wledig yn sgîl mecaneiddio, mae sawl ardal weithgynhyrchu yn parhau i fod â chysylltiadau agos â'r economi amaethyddol. Yn yr un modd, o ddechrau'r 19eg ganrif ymlaen, cafwyd datblygiadau dramatig o ran maint y cynhyrchu mewn ffatrioedd yng Ngogledd a De Cymru, er na ddatblygodd yr un man fel ardal weithgynhyrchu mor sylweddol ag, er enghraifft, West Riding yn Swydd Efrog. Cynhwysir ardal Dre-fach a Felindre yma ar y sail ei bod yn cyfuno'r ddwy elfen hon o'r diwydiant gwlan Cymreig. O fewn dyffrynnoedd cul Brân, Esgair a Bargod, sydd oll yn isafonydd i'r Teifi yn Henllan, disgynna'r nentydd cyflym tua 200m o fewn pellter o 5km neu lai, ac erys trwch anhygoel o felinau a ffatrioedd, tai diwydiannol a thystiolaeth ffisegol o'r defnydd o'r pŵer dŵr toreithiog hwn.

Caiff y dyffrynnoedd eu gwahanu gan arwynebau llwyfandiroedd sy'n gwyo'n raddol rhwng 200 a 300m uwchben SO ac, i'r gogledd, ar gyrion dyffryn Teifi, hen dir comin o rostir a chorstir. Heddiw, mae'r ardal gyfan yn amaethyddol gan fwyaf, gyda'r diwydiant gwau wedi dirywio mor gyflym nes iddo ddiffannu bron rhwng dechrau a chanol yr 20fed ganrif. Nid oes gan bob un o'r ffermydd presennol na'r cyn ffermydd, fodd bynnag, hanes canoloesol fel sydd gan Fferm Cryngae. Gan orwedd i'r gogledd orllewin o Dre-fach, yn y 14eg ganrif Cwnstabl Castell Castellnewydd Emlyn ar y pryd oedd berchen arni, sef Llywelyn ap Gwilym Fychan. Ef oedd ewythr y bardd enwog canoloesol Cymraeg, Dafydd ap Gwilym, a dreuliodd ran o'i lencyndod yn yr ardal. Bryd hynny roedd y dyffrynnoedd yn rhan o faenor Gymreig o fewn Arglwyddiaeth Emlyn, y gosodwyd gwerth arnynt oherwydd eu coedwigoedd a'u heangderau ac am ychydig o felinau yd lleol gyda'u cynnyrch o flawd gwagrau. Cofnodwyd rhai o'r rhain, a safleoedd newydd hefyd, fel pandai ar ddiwedd y 16eg a'r 17eg ganrifoedd, sy'n dyst i ddatblygiad diwydiant gwau cartref. Yr etifeddiaeth hon o waith crefft, ynghyd â manteision ffisegol y nentydd oedd y prif ffactorau yn ymddangosiad a thra-arglwyddiaeth fyrhoedlog ardal Dre-fach a Felindre ar ddiwedd y 19eg ac ar ddechrau'r 20fed ganrifoedd.

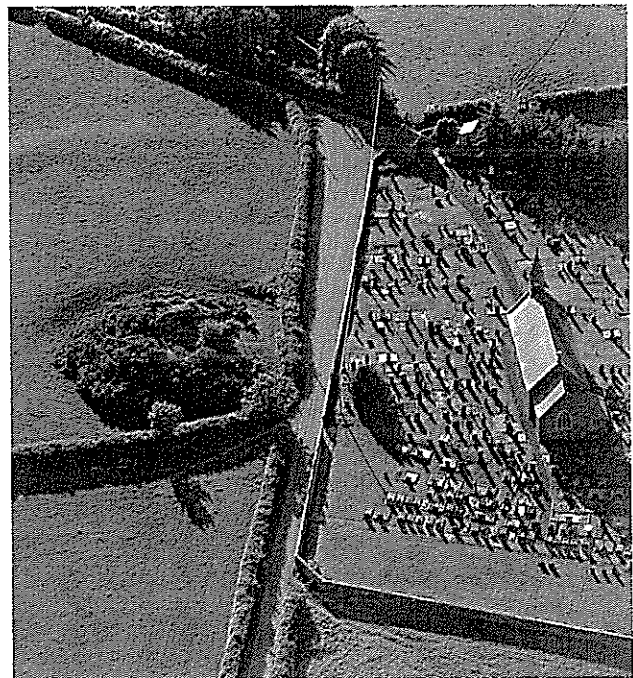
Datblygodd pentrefannau Drefelin, Dre-fach, Felindre, Cwmpengraig a Chwmhiraeth o gwmpas y pandai cynnar hyn i mewn i aneddiadau poblog iawn diwedd y 19eg ganrif. Datblygodd aneddiadau newydd wrth gyffyrdd ac wrth fannau croesi afonydd yn ymyl cominau bychain ym Mhentrecagal a Waungilwen. O'r ddau safle eglwysi canoloesol, mae Penboyr, sydd ar yr uwchdir yn anghysbell ac yn bell oddi wrth bentrefannau'r dyffrynnoedd, gydag un fferm yn unig a thomen, sef Tomen Llawddog, gerllaw. I'r gwrthwyneb, roedd Llangeler, sef Merthyr Celer gynt, fwy na thebyg yn fam eglwys gyn-Normanaid cwmwd Emlyn ac yn aneddiad cnewyllo cynnar.

Roedd Richard Richards a'i frawd, a oedd bryd hynny yn fferm Bach y Gwyddel i'r dwyrain o Gwmpengraig, yn nodweddiadol o'r rhyngberthynas gynnar rhwng y ffermydd uwchdir a phentrefannau'r dyffrynnoedd. Agorasant bandy yno yn y 1760au. Roedd yr un math o ffermwr/crefftwyr yn llwyr wrthwynebu'r peiriant nyddu cyntaf, a ddaeth i Gwmpengraig yn y 1820au, oherwydd y gred oedd y byddai'n bygwth bywoliaeth y rheini oedd yn nyddu â llaw. Roedd nyddu â llaw wedi diffannu erbyn diwedd y 19eg ganrif, ond parhaodd nyddu â gwdd llaw yn y cartref. Mae'r rhwydwaith o lwybrau troed, traciau a heoldd ceffylau yn dyst i'r cysylltiad rhwng ffermydd

## Landscape description

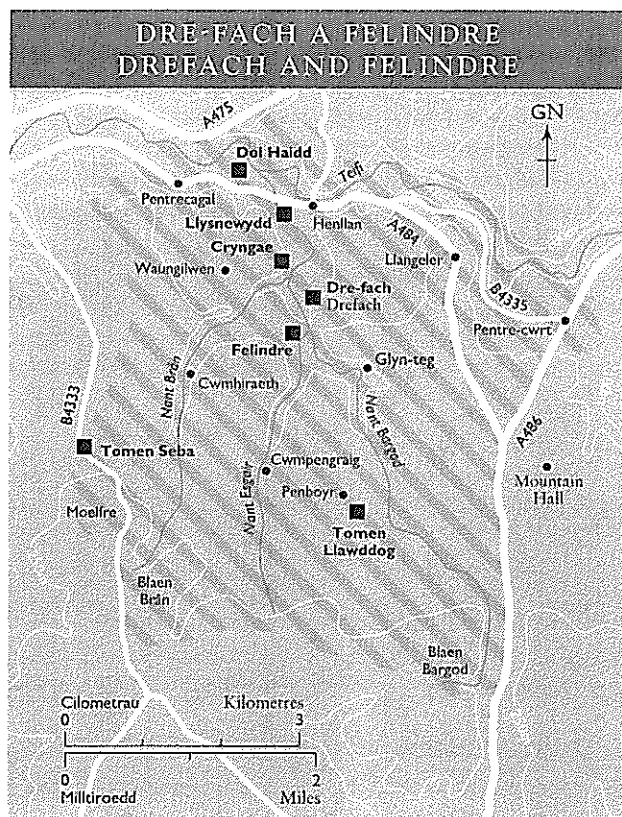
Despite the changes brought to the woollen textile industry in rural Wales through mechanization, many areas of manufacture remained closely tied to the agrarian economy. Equally, there were from the early 19th century onwards, dramatic developments in factory-scale production in both North and South Wales, although nowhere developed as a manufacturing region comparable, for example, with the West Riding of Yorkshire. The Drefach-Felindre area is included here on the basis of combining both these aspects of the Welsh woollen industry. Within the narrow valleys of the Brân, the Esgair and the Bargod, all tributary to the Teifi at Henllan, the swift streams descend about 200m in a distance of 5km or less, and there remains a remarkable concentration of mills and factories, of industrial housing, and of the physical evidence for the use of this abundant water power.

The valleys are separated by gently sloping plateau surfaces between 200 and 300m above OD and, to the north, fringing the Teifi valley, former commons of moor and marsh. Today, the whole area is predominantly agricultural, the textile industry having rapidly declined almost to the point of extinction in the early to mid-20th century. Not all the present day farms or former farms, however, have the medieval pedigree of Cryngae. Lying to the north west of Drefach, in the 14th century this farm was the seat of the then Constable of Newcastle Emlyn Castle, Llywelyn ap Gwilym Fychan. He was the uncle of the most celebrated medieval Welsh poet, Dafydd ap Gwilym, who spent some of his youth in the area. The valleys then were part of a Welsh maenor within the Lordship of Emlyn, valued for their woods and wastes and for a few local corn mills with their dues of blawd gwagrau (sieved flour). Some of these, and new sites as well, are recorded as pandai (fulling mills) in the late 16th and 17th centuries, testimony to the development of a domestic textile



Tomenlawddog, Penboyr, Llangeler.

Tomenlawddog, Penboyr, Llangeler.



a phentrefannau. Ailagorwyd y rhain yn ddiweddar fel rhan o gynllun uchelgeisiol o'r enw Llwybrau'r Gwlân o dan arweiniad Cyngor Dosbarth Caerfyrddin gynt.

Pan oedd y diwydiant yn ei anterth tua 1900, roedd 52 o felinau gwlân, ffatrïoedd neu orchwyllion yn gweithredu yn ardal Dre-fach a Felindre, a daeth pentrefi canol dyffryn Teifi yn brif ganolfannau gweithgynhyrchu gwlân yng Nghymru. Dim ond dyrnaid o felinau sy'n parhau i weithio, gan gynnwys Amgueddfa Diwydiant Gwlân Cymru yn Nhre-fach, sydd ym Melinau Cambria gynt, y fwyaf yn yr ardal, a adeiladwyd rhwng 1902 a 1912. Er bod nifer o'r adeiladau wedi diflannu, mae amrywiaeth llawn o felinau o'r safleoedd llai ac adfeiliedig yn bodoli o hyd ym mhen uchaf dyffryn Bargod, ac mewn mannau eraill, adeiladau gweddol eu maint a ffatrïoedd mawr. Roedd y rhai olaf hyn, a adeiladwyd ar droed y ganrif, yn fecanyddol iawn ac er iddynt gael eu hadeiladu dros safleoedd blaenorol a oedd yn ddibynnol ar bŵer dŵr, nid oeddent hwy yn dibynnu ar hyn.

Er hyn roedd dibyniaeth barhaus ar bŵer dŵr yn nodwedd amlwg o'r diwydiant. Arweiniodd ffyniant at adeiladu ac ailadeiladu ar bob lefel gymdeithasol. Dim ond ychydig o'r hen fythynnod waliau llaid a thoeon gwellt sydd wedi goroesi — sef rhes hir, isel Ogof, ger Cwmpengraig, lle yr ymestynnwyd bwthyn o'r fath i gynnwys ystafell liwio ac ystafell wehyddu er mwyn gwneud lle i bedwar o beiriannau nyddu â llaw. Gwnaeth yr hanesydd lleol enwog Daniel Jones sylwadau ar yr ailadeiladu yn ei gyfnod ef, gyda thair deulawr newydd o friciau a charreg. Mae chwareli clai a cherrig lleol yn dystiolaeth o'r twf yn y diwydiant adeiladu. Mae enghraifft dda o res o fythynnod gwehyddwyr unllawr wedi goroesi yng Nglynteg. Datblygodd bywyd gymdeithasol a diwylliannol cyfoethog, oedd yn troi o gwmpas y capel, y côr a'r band.

Er nad yw'n bosibl bellach ei ailagor yn llawn, mae Rheilffordd Dyffryn Teifi yn dal yn weithredol dros estyniadau byr yn Henllan a Chwmgwili. Nid agorodd Rheilffordd y Great Western lein Pencader-Castellnewydd Emlyn trwy Pentrecwrt a

industry. This inheritance of craft work, together with the physical advantages of the streams are the principal factors in the emergence and short-lived dominance of the Drefach-Felindre area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The hamlets of Drefelin, Drefach, Felindre, Cwmpengraig and Cwmhiraeth developed around these early fulling mills into the densely populated settlements of the later 19th century. New settlements developed at road junctions and at river crossings on the edges of small commons at Pentrecagal and Waungilwen. Of the two medieval church sites, upland Penboyr is remote and isolated from the valley hamlets, with only a single farm and a motte, Tomen Llawddog, close by. Llangeler, by contrast, formerly Merthyr Celer, was probably the pre-Norman mother church of the commote of Emlyn and an early nucleated settlement.

Typical of the early interrelationships between the upland farms and the valley hamlets is the case of Richard Richards and his brother, of Bach y Gwyddel Farm, east of Cwmpengraig, who opened a fulling mill there in the 1760s. Such farmer/craftsmen were bitterly opposed to the spinning jenny, first brought to Cwmpengraig in the 1820s, which was thought to threaten the livelihood of hand spinners. Hand spinning had vanished by the later 19th century, but domestic handloom weaving continued. The links between farms and hamlets is evidenced in a network of footpaths, tracks and bridleways. These have recently been reopened in an ambitious scheme entitled Llwybrau'r Gwlân/Woolen Trails led by the former Carmarthen District Council.

At the industry's height, about 1900, there were 52 woollen mills, factories or businesses operating in the Drefach-Felindre area, and the villages of the middle Teifi valley became the main centres of woollen manufacturing in Wales. Only a handful of mills remain in operation, including the Museum of the Welsh Woollen Industry at Drefach; this is housed in the former Cambrian Mills, which are the largest in the area, and were built between 1902 and 1912. Although many buildings have gone, there is still a full range of mills from the smaller, ruinous sites in the upper Bargod valley and elsewhere, through medium-sized structures to large factories. These latter, built at the turn of the century, were highly mechanized and did not depend on water power, although they were built over earlier sites that did.

Yet a continued dependence on water power was a marked feature of the industry. Prosperity led to building and rebuilding at all social levels. Only a few of what were numerous mud-walled, thatch-roofed cottages remain — notably the long, low range of Ogof, near Cwmpengraig, where such a cottage was extended to house a dyeing room and a weaving room to accommodate four handlooms. The celebrated local historian Daniel Jones remarked on the rebuilding in his own day, with new two-storey brick and stone houses. Local stone and clay quarries testify to the boom for the building industry. A good example survives of a single storey terrace of weavers' cottages at Glyn-teg. A rich social and cultural life developed, centring on chapel, choir and band.

Unsuitable now for complete reopening, though still operating in short stretches at Henllan, is the Teifi Valley Railway. Not until 1895 did the Great Western Railway open the Pencader-Newcastle Emlyn line via Pentrecwrt

Henllan tan 1895. Arweiniodd yr agosrwydd hwn i'r rheilffordd at ddatblygiad hwyr o ffatrioedd wedi'u pweru gan nwy neu drydan ym Mhentrecwrt, gyda nifer ohonynt yn defnyddio gwlân wedi'i fewnforio, yn hytrach na gwlân o fynyddoedd Cymru, ac yn gwerthu i gyfanwerthwyr mawr dinesig yn hytrach nag i fanwerthwyr yng nghymoedd Cymru. Dilynwyd y cyfnod olaf o dwf yn y diwydiant gyda chytundebau ar gyfer gwneud gwisgoedd milwrol yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf gan ddirywiad sydyn.

Mae terfynau ardal Dre-fach a Felindre yn hawdd eu diffinio. Mae dyffryn Teifi i'r gogledd o Dre-fach yn cynnwys parc hen blasdy Llysnewydd, oedd yn nodweddiadol o nifer yn y dyffryn ei hun, a Dol Haidd, sydd wedi goroesi hyd heddiw. I'r de, mae llwyfandir dyranedig yr uwchdiroedd sef Moelfre, Blaen Brân a Blaen Bargod yn dynodi'r rhaniad rhwng dyffryn Teifi ac isafonydd Tywi, Duad a Gwili sy'n llifo i'r de. Cyn amgaeadau'r 19eg ganrif, y rhain oedd cominau mawr agored plwyf Llanboyr mewn tiriogaethau a ddiogelwyd gan ddwy domen ganoloesol, Tomen Seba a Thomen Llawddog, a oedd hefyd wedi eu nodi, yn llawer cynharach, gan garneddau Oes yr Efydd a osodwyd ar gopaon crwn y brynau. I'r gorllewin, mae'r heol geffylau hir a adwaenir fel Lôn Sipswn wedi cael ei hailagor fel rhan o'r 'Llwybr Ffatri'. I'r dwyrain, mae llwybr cefnffordd gogledd-de llawer pwysicach o Langelier yn cwmparu tir uchel dyffryn Bargod. Am y rhan fwyaf o'i chwrs, dilynir y ffordd hon gan yr A486 fodern sy'n fforchio i'r gogledd-ddwyrain ym Mountain Hall i gynnwys Pentrecwrt cyn ail-ymuno â dyffryn Teifi.

and Henllan. Proximity to the railway led to a late development of large gas- or electric-powered factories at Pentrecwrt, many using imported, not Welsh mountain, wool and selling, not to retailers in the Welsh valleys, but to big city wholesalers. The last boom of the industry in First World War contracts for uniforms was followed by rapid decline.

The limits of the Drefach-Felindre area are readily definable. The Teifi valley to the north of Drefach includes the park of the former mansion of Llysnewydd, typical of many in the valley itself and the surviving Dol Haidd. To the south, the Carmarthenshire dissected plateau uplands of Moelfre, Blaen Brân and Blaen Bargod mark the watershed between the Teifi valley and the southward flowing tributaries of the Tywi, the Duad and the Gwili. Before 19th-century enclosure, these were the large open commons of Penboyr parish in territories protected by two medieval mottes, Tomen Seba and Tomen Llawddog, and, much earlier, marked by Bronze Age cairns placed on the rounded hill summits. To the west, the long bridleway known as Lôn Gypsies, is now reopened as part of the 'Factory Trail'. To the east, another and more important north-south ridgeway route from Llangeler encompasses the high ground east of the Bargod valley. For most of its course, this route is followed by the modern A486 which branches north east at Mountain Hall to include Pentre-cwrt before rejoining the Teifi valley.

#### CRYNODEB

Rhif cyf	HLW (D) 10
Rhif map mynegai	42
Map AO	Landranger 145
Sir flaenorol	Dyfed
Awdurdod lleol	Coerfyrddin, Ceredigion
Prif ddynodiadau helaeth	Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys rhan o Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig Afon Teifi.
Meini prawf	2, 5
Cynnwys ac arwyddocâd	Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys dyffrynnoedd a rhagnentydd tair isafon fer i ddyffryn Teifi yng ngogledd Sir Gaerfyrddin, a ddaeth yn un o ardaloedd mwyaf blaenllaw'r diwydiant gwau yng Nghymru ar ddiwedd y 19eg a dechrau'r 20fed ganrif. Er gwaethaf mecaneiddiad a datblygu cynhyrchu ar raddfa ffatri, parhaodd cysylltiad agos yr ardal â'i gwreiddiau amaethyddol ac mae'n cynnwys nifer anhygoel o felinau a ffatrioedd, tystiolaeth ffisegol ar gyfer y defnydd o bŵer dŵr, tai diwydiannol a chysylltiadau hanesyddol a diwylliannol pwysig perthnasol, a chynharach.

#### SUMMARY

Ref number	HLW (D) 10
Index map number	42
OS map	Landranger 145
Former county	Dyfed
Local authority	Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion
Principal area designations	The area includes part of the Afon Teifi Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Criteria	2, 5
Contents and significance	The area comprises the valleys and headwaters of three short tributaries to the Teifi valley in north Carmarthenshire, which became one of the foremost areas of the Welsh woollen textile industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Despite mechanization and the development of factory-scale production, the area remained closely tied to its agrarian economic roots and it includes a remarkable concentration of mills and factories, physical evidence for the use of water power, industrial housing and important related, and earlier, historic and cultural associations.

#### Ffynonellau detholedig/Selected sources

- J. G. Jenkins, *The Welsh Woollen Industry* (National Museum of Wales: Cardiff, 1969).  
D. E. Jones, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr* (1899; facsimile reprint by Dyfed County Council Cultural Services Department: Carmarthen 1994).  
Museum of the Welsh Woollen Industry, *Visitor Guide* (National Museum of Wales: Cardiff 1993).  
D. Parry-Jones, *Welsh Country Upbringing* (Batsford: London 1948).

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

(section by D Thompson and D Gwyn, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

The following uses for historic landscape characterisation were identified by Cadw.

Planning, including large-scale intrusions such as:

- roads
- wind-farms
- mineral extraction
- large-scale landfill/waste disposal
- reclamation
- water schemes
- major settlement
- major industrial development

Management of land by:

- large corporate landowners
- farmers
- industrial companies
- water or electricity companies
- forestry industry
- National Trust

Advice to conservation agencies including:

- Cadw
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Environment Agency
- local authorities
- national parks

Developing local landscape frameworks for managing agencies by means of:

- Tir Gofal (Tir Cymen, ESAs)
- Cadw
- Countryside Council for Wales
- local authorities
- national parks

Providing information

- Contributing to academic understanding of landscape
- Stimulating further research
- Raising public perception of the landscape
- Preparation of policy statements by public bodies



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

(Section by D Thompson and D Gwyn, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

Characterisation is defined as the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics that make each area distinctive, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for a unified approach to describing and understanding the environment (Countryside Commission et al, 1997, 4). Ultimately, in order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of physical things.

At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical characterisation of landscape, although previous work on Llyn has suggested a practical approach based on the concept of 'character areas'. However, comparable current studies in England are based on the principal of the predominant form of the present landscape [which] is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape. Rippon's study of the Gwent Levels (Rippon, 1996) shows a different way forward and was the first published study in Wales.

For the purposes of this study the two landscapes on the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales* have been divided into 36 historic landscape areas. Their location in relation to each other is shown on Figures 1-3.

## EVOLVING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION METHODOLOGY

(Section by D Thompson and D Gwyn, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

'Characterisation' is a contribution towards the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic environment.

Historical landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs in the past; they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of human activities and exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at one time, or evolving functions in different periods of time.

The Countryside Commission (in its document *Views from the Past*, 1996) states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of these ideas.

Characterisation is defined as *the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics that make each area distinctive*, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for describing and understanding the environment. Historic landscape characterisation is one dimension of this approach: it sets out to identify the principal historic components within the current landscape. It is the great depth of human activity that underpins much of that which we feel is important and helps give an area its local distinctiveness. Historic landscape characterisation set out to establish the historic depth within the modern landscape by identifying its principal historic components.

The term 'historic character' is generally preferred to 'historic landscape', as it is now accepted that all landscape is historic in that it reflects, to a greater or lesser degree, the processes which have occurred in history and which have formed its present appearance.

At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical characterisation of landscape, but work on numerous landscapes by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts has suggested a practical approach based on considering the evidence as a series of themes which may provide an answer. At a landscape level, what is significant in historical terms includes field boundary patterns (whether they are irregular or regular, their size, date *etc.*), settlement patterns (whether scattered or nucleated, date of origin *etc.*); the relict remains of earlier periods which are to be found in upland or marginal landscapes; the effect of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century estates on the landscape; the impact of industry, military installations and so on.

The dominant historic themes or patterns in a locality help define local historic character. The combination of these characteristics give an area its local distinctiveness, and it is the definition of areas of local distinctiveness which leads to character areas. The concept of 'character areas' differs somewhat from comparable studies in England which are based on Historic Landscape Types where *the predominant form of the present landscape [which] is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape*.

The process of characterisation can be briefly summarised as -

(one or several) components	→	dominant patterns
(one or more) dominant patterns	→	coherent character
coherent character (with definable limits)	→	character area
(several) character areas	→	local landscape

Characterisation is a practical tool intended to aid management in its broadest forms. In order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of 'landscape tangibles' (*i.e.* the evidence for historical processes and periods in the present landscape). It is essential, therefore, that the

key historic landscape characteristics are features and/or patterns to which can be applied management prescriptions whose success or otherwise can be measured for monitoring purposes.

The reports emanating from this work contain a number of elements. The first part of the report contains general information concerning the background to the project, the methodology employed, a glossary of terms and general management issues. The second part contains information relating the specific area under study including: (a) historical background, (b) key historic landscape characteristics and (c) conservation priorities, and is accompanied by a map and a ground and aerial photograph.

## GIS PROFORMAE

(Section by D Thompson and D Gwyn, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

This section contains instructions on filling in the GIS-linked recording forms created as part of the project. The form consists mainly of 'tick boxes' compatible with a table to be created (for example) in MapInfo, and has now been standardised across Wales. The GIS tables used by LANDMAP, and the form contain a number of fields which are intended to cross-reference to LANDMAP exercises. In this study the data collected on the proformae has been converted to LANDMAP GIS tables. These tables are reproduced as an appendix to this report.

The form is loosely divided into four parts - the first identifies the area by name, number, project and location; the second is a list of historic landscape 'themes' which is intended to act both as a check-list and to ensure systematic recording of all character areas (which can be transferred to database) to a certain level; the third list other relevant and management information; while the fourth is the principal link to LANDMAP.

### PROJECT NO

This simply records the individual project number each Trust assigns to the particular project (e.g. G1527).

### AREA

This is the name of the area as used in the project: this will usually be based on a geographical, historical or cultural association.

### HLCA NO.

It has been agreed that there should be a unique (Wales, rather than regional) reference number for each character area (especially as some will inevitably cross Trust boundaries) for ease of reference. This number doesn't need to contain any information in itself (e.g. county identifier), so the simple idea of numbering from 1 upwards has been adopted. Based on previous experience, it is unlikely that each Trust will end up with more than a thousand areas, so the following allocation of HLCA (historic landscape characterisation areas) reference numbers will be used

DAT 1- 999  
CPAT 1000 -1 999  
GAT 2,000 - 2,999  
GGAT 3,000 - 3,999

In this report the number sequence is 381-416.

### HLCA NAME

As above, a historic, cultural or simple geographic name is preferred (e.g. Creuddyn), otherwise a more general topographical description (e.g. rolling meadow) might be more appropriate.

### LOCATION

A six figure central grid reference should be sufficient.

### SUMMARY OF CHARACTER

This should be succinct, preferably fewer than c. twenty words. This summary should help justify the decision on 'evaluation' made below (e.g. for Llandudno Outstanding example of planned 19th century seaside resort).

### THEMES

For each theme, all those descriptions that apply to the area should be ticked. Boxes should be ticked where significant evidence at a landscape scale exists within an area. The ticked boxes will form the basis of the free-text description below: this description should refer to all the ticked boxes and supply supporting information. It is inevitable that more than one box (i.e. theme type) will be ticked for each area.

#### BOUNDARIES

This should record briefly how the boundary of an area has been defined, and whether the boundary is definite or indicative only.

#### MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

This summarises the key historic landscape components which underlie (and are essential to) the character of the area and therefore need to be managed if the historic character of the area is to be maintained. This can be a summary of the relevant part of the main area entry.

#### PRINCIPAL CURRENT LAND USES

This field summarises the broad principal land uses within the area in an attempt to try to identify which future management mechanisms (e.g. AWAES for agriculture, UDPs for residential/urban areas) might be relevant to managing the area.

#### PRINCIPAL REFERENCES

Simply a list of which sources in the bibliography are most relevant to this area.

#### RECORDED BY / DATE

Name and date of compiler following standard practice.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA (HLCA) FORM

PROJECT NO. DAT 55 AREA LOWER TEIFI VALLEY/DREFACH VELINDRE

HLCA NO. HLCA NAME

LOCATION ORGANISATION CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

LANDMAP REF.

### SUMMARY OF CHARACTER

THEMES (tick where significant evidence exists)

#### AGRICULTURE (Field pattern)

Unenclosed/open ☐ Evolved/irregular ☐ Regular (small) ☐ Regular (medium) ☐ Regular (large) ☐  
Large enclosures ☐ Med. strips ☐ R+F ☐ Varied ☐ Degraded ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### AGRICULTURE (Field boundary)

Dry-stone wall ☐ Stone-faced bank ☐ Stone-faced bank with hedge ☐ Hedge ☐ Distinctive hedgerow trees ☐  
Earth bank ☐ Dyke ☐ Ditches ☐ Mortared walls ☐ Slate pillars ☐ Pale ☐ Sheepfolds ☐ Post+wire fence ☐ Other ☐  
Not present/Unknown ☐

#### FORESTRY

Ancient woodland ☐ Other broadleaved woodland ☐ Plantation ☐ C20 Forestry ☐ Scrub/unmanaged ☐ Coppice ☐  
Charcoal burning ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### COASTAL/MARITIME

Sea defences ☐ Intertidal features ☐ Harbour/fishing ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### RELICT ARCHAEOLOGY

Prehistoric settlement/fields ☐ Medieval settlement/fields ☐ Prehistoric ritual ☐ Post-medieval settlement/fields ☐  
Other ☐ Scattered ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Loosely dispersed scatter ☐ Dense scatter ☐ Clustered ☐ Ribbon ☐ Nucleated - planned ☐ Nucleated - organic ☐  
Business/commercial ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### BUILDING TYPE

Farmhouse ☐ Cottage ☐ Terraced housing ☐ Shops ☐ Place of worship ☐ Processing ☐ Distinctive vernacular style  
(specify in character summary) ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### PRINCIPAL BUILDING MATERIAL

Stone - random ☐ Stone - coursed ☐ Clay/earth ☐ Wood ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete ☐ Other ☐

#### PRINCIPAL ROOFING MATERIAL

Slate ☐ Tile ☐ Thatch ☐ Stone tile ☐ Concrete tile ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐

#### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Quarrying ☐ Mining ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Mill ☐ Brewery ☐ Metal processing ☐ Other processing ☐  
Craft/cottage ☐ Rural industry ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### COMMUNICATION

Footpaths ☐ Tracks ☐ Lanes-winding ☐ Lanes-straight ☐ Major road ☐ Ports/docks ☐ Airfields ☐ Bridges ☐  
Communications towers ☐ Public rail ☐ Industrial rail ☐ Other rail ☐ Canal ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

#### MILITARY

Prehistoric ☐ Roman ☐ Early medieval ☐ Anglo-Norman ☐ Edwardian ☐ Welsh ☐ Tudor ☐ Civil War ☐ C19th ☐  
WWI ☐ WWII ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐



**ORNAMENTAL / LEISURE**

Deer park ☐ Parkland/garden ☐ Garden/park ☐ C20 ☐ Tourism ☐ Sports facilities ☐ Hunting estate ☐  
Other leisure ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

**ECCLESIASTICAL**

Cemetery ☐ medieval ☐ Cemetery ☐ modern ☐ Church ☐ medieval ☐ Church ☐ post medieval ☐ Monastic ☐  
Chapel ☐ nonconformist ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

**RESOURCES**

Power generation ☐ Power distribution ☐ Water supply ☐ Peat cutting ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

**BURIED ARCHAEOLOGY (not relict)**

Cropmark/parchmark ☐ Urban deposits ☐ Find scatters ☐ Palaeoenvironmental evidence ☐ Other ☐  
Not present/Unknown ☐

**HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS**

Placename ☐ Artistic ☐ Folklore/legend ☐ Events ☐ Literary ☐ Persons ☐ Other ☐ Not present/Unknown ☐

**BOUNDARIES**

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**OTHER STATUS(non historic)**

AONB ☐ eSAC ☐ GCR ☐ LNR ☐ NNR ☐ NPA ☐ RAMSAR ☐ RIGS ☐ SSSI ☐ LOHIW ☐ Other ☐

**MANAGEMENT / CONSERVATION PRIORITIES****PRINCIPAL CURRENT LAND USES**

Arable - fodder ☐ Arable -cereal ☐ Pasture -dry ☐ Pasture - wetlands ☐ Traditional hay meadows ☐ Orchards ☐  
Horticulture ☐ Bog ☐ Marsh ☐ Fen ☐ Reclaimed ☐ Saltmarsh ☐ Cliff top ☐ Open moorland ☐ Woodland ☐  
Residential/urban ☐ Tourism ☐ Recreational/open space ☐ Retail ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Derelict ☐ Industrial ☐ Defence ☐  
Other ☐

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH****PRINCIPAL REFERENCES**

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**RECORDED BY** K Murphy**DATE****LANDMAP EVALUATION**

Outstanding ( National) ☐ High (Regional) ☐ Moderate (Local) ☐ Low ☐ Unknown ☐

**LANDMAP TOLERANCE TO CHANGE (CONDITION)****LANDMAP MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES****ASSESSED BY** K Murphy**DATE**

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE THEMES OF THE LOWER TEIFI VALLEY, AND DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The pre Anglo-Norman administration of west Wales was founded on a number of small kingdoms or *gwledydd*, which had been established before the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The two register areas occupy the three current counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, whose boundaries roughly correspond with those of the ancient *gwledydd*. Ceredigion is coterminous with the *gwlad* of Ceredigion. Pembrokeshire, and Carmarthenshire west of the Tywi estuary, represent the *gwlad* of Dyfed, while Carmarthenshire east of the Tywi estuary was the *gwlad* of Ystrad Tywi. In the early 11<sup>th</sup> century the latter two *gwledydd* became part of the kingdom of Deheubarth which occupied most of southwest Wales (Rees 1951, 19).

Within each *gwlad* were smaller units of administration or estates known as *maenorau*, attested to have existed since the 9<sup>th</sup> century. These were composed of a number of 'townships' or *trefi*. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century two additional administrative tiers had been introduced - the *cantref*, literally a group of 100 *trefi*, each of which was subdivided into a number of *cwmwdau* into which the *trefi* were grouped. Each *cwmwd* contained a *maerdref*, a special *tref* adjacent to the king's court or *llys* where the bondsmen who farmed the demesne lands lived, near or amongst the numerous officials and servants who served the court. In conjunction the king or lord was also provided with an upland township which would meet the requirements of summer pasture (*hafodydd*) for his livestock. It is not possible to identify the *llysoedd* and *maerdrefi* of all the *cwmwdau* within the study area.

The Anglo-Norman settlement of the region began in 1093 with the invasion of Dyfed and the establishment of castles at Cardigan, Carmarthen and Pembroke. Cardigan and Carmarthen castles were short-lived, and were re-established (both on different sites?) when the conquest began in earnest in c.1100. Cantref Cemaes, in north Pembrokeshire, was subdued by the Norman Robert FitzMartin to become the Barony of Cemaes, while to the east Cantref Emllyn (in both north Carmarthenshire and north Pembrokeshire) was partly brought under control, with the west half, Emllyn Is-Cych, becoming the Lordship of Cilgerran. Ceredigion was taken in c.1110.

However, the Welsh princes regained much of the area during the anarchy of King Stephen's reign. Ceredigion was reconquered in 1136 and (with the exception of Cwmwd Iscoed around the castle - the Lordship of Cardigan) remained in Welsh hands until the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, as did the east half of Emllyn - Emllyn Uwch-Cych, which may never have been fully subdued. They were finally annexed to the English crown in 1284 when the counties of Cardigan and Carmarthen were created. The Welsh, briefly regained Cemaes, in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, but Anglo-Norman control was uninterrupted from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards and it remained a marcher lordship until the creation of Pembrokeshire in 1536.

A loose form of Anglo-Norman administration was imposed. Pre Anglo-Norman territorial divisions remained largely unchanged after the conquest. The Anglo-Norman lordships largely remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as 'Welshries'. No holdongs were held by knight-service within the register areas. This tenurial system - with neither villis nor knight's fees present - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region, which is generally without significant nucleations. However, the Lordships of Cardigan and Cemaes were subject to a more formalised manorial tenure, but again largely following Welsh custom, leading to a dispersed settlement pattern. The boroughs of Cardigan and Cilgerran (and St Dogmaels), as well as the manors of Eglwysrwrw and Cemaes (and a small manorial holding at Llandygwydd, Ceredigion), operated at least a partial Anglo-Norman manorial system.

### PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AND BURIAL SITES

Like many Welsh landscapes, the register areas and their environs have preserved much evidence of prehistoric activity, chiefly in the form of standing earthworks from the Bronze Age (2500 - 700 BC), and Iron Age (700 BC - 1st century AD). Preservation has been assisted by the low-intensity agricultural regimes traditionally practised within the region. Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity

within the region as a whole is mainly limited to knowledge obtained through the examination of palaeoenvironmental evidence from peat deposits.

Although prehistoric monuments - standing stones, burial mounds and hillforts - are relatively numerous within the study area, their impact on the modern landscape is often insignificant. A number of Bronze Age burial mounds, usually in the form of stone cairns, and contemporary ritual cairns, are recorded in the area, and these are often prominent historic landscape elements on account of their location. For instance, groups of burial mounds on the high ground south of the Afon Teifi, and near Cemaes Head, are visible for many kilometres. The occurrence of large numbers of bronze age sites, in what are now considered to be quite remote areas, indicates a once settled population.

The location of Iron Age hillforts also ensures that they are also conspicuous elements of the landscape today, and again they attest to a significant population and a wide, settled hinterland. However, no obvious patterns of coincidence between hillforts and later territorial units can be discerned, nor can any present pattern of fields and boundaries be assigned origins within this period or the Bronze Age.

### *TOWNS AND VILLAGES*

The register areas consist primarily of agricultural land. Three medieval towns, Cardigan, Cilgerran and St Dogmaels, located within these areas, contrast sharply with the surrounding dispersed settlement. A fourth, Newcastle Emlyn (with Adpar) lies just outside the study area.

Cardigan's origins are generally thought to belong to the period 1110-1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. Anglo-Norman control in the region was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town. However, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164. It was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. The construction of the castle and a bridge over the Teifi, and the foundation of St Mary's Church as a Benedictine priory to the east of the town, appear to belong to the period 1110-1136. From the first, St Mary's was also the parish church, surviving the Dissolution to remain the parish church. A weekly market was held from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and many burgess privileges had been granted in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but the town was not formally recognised as a borough until 1284 when it received its first charter. The town wall's construction commenced during the 1240s when the English Crown extensively rebuilt the castle, although some form of defences may already have been in existence. The medieval street-pattern has survived more-or-less intact, but there are now no standing remains of the town wall. The walls, and the charter, had the effect of increasing the population from 128 burgages in 1274 to 172 in 1308. The borough was incorporated in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a mayor and corporation, and the grant of further privileges. However, the town had been contracting during the late medieval period; only 55 houses are recorded the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, and it was described as 'ruinous and decayed' in 1610. From 1536 onwards, Cardigan was the county town which may have given impetus for growth - Speed's map shows extensive extra-mural suburbs to the north, and especially to the east of the town wall. The County Assizes were held in the town from 1536, a shire hall was built in 1764, and a county gaol, by John Nash in 1793, to the north of the town. Cardigan became the chief port of the region, and a shipbuilding centre. It developed rapidly during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its main economic function is now as an entrepôt for the regional agricultural community, and an administrative centre.

Cilgerran lordship was administered from Cilgerran Castle, established in c.1100. It was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under Welsh rule, apart from a brief period between 1204 and 1214, until 1223 when William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, took it. It remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, and was administered as a 'Welshry'. A settlement developed outside the gates of Cilgerran Castle, large enough to be termed a 'town' in 1204. It was regarded as a borough, but by prescription only, as no charter is known. Its regular plan, comprising burgage plots laid out either side of a long main street, with a broad market place, and a second street at right angles, suggest that it was planned. Twenty-two taxpayers were recorded in 1292. In c.1610 Speed listed it among the principal market towns of Pembrokeshire. The predominantly Welsh demographics of the lordship were reflected in the Welsh names of the taxpayers. The town had its own gaol, and stocks. It appears always to have kept its links with the land and the chief occupations recorded during the post-medieval period were farming, salmon-fishing and slate-quarrying. However, the weekly market

recorded by George Owen in c. 1600 ended in the early 1900s, the fair had been discontinued many years previously, while quarrying ceased in 1938.

St Dogmaels was a manor of the Barony of Cemais. It was the site of an early medieval monastic house which was re-established as a Benedictine Abbey by Robert FitzMartin in 1113-20, and which still forms the defining element of the town's landscape. A settlement had developed outside the abbey by the later medieval period, directly held by the barony, which may have been keen to exploit the economic potential provided by the abbey's presence. The lords of Cemais are also recorded as having established a market here. The settlement was described as one of the 'three corporate towns' of Cemais in 1603 (along with Newport and Nevern), but in reality it never appears to have been a borough. It may have remained fairly small through the medieval period. However, it was large enough to be served by a parish church dedicated to St Thomas (the abbey church being non-parochial), which stood opposite the abbey, but which has now gone. A mill immediately east of the abbey served the abbey, and perhaps the settlement, and the monks had rights to an extensive fishery on the Teifi estuary. The settlement had become fairly sizeable by 1838, when the tithe map shows a loose nucleation of about 100 buildings centred on the abbey. A new parish church was established on its present site in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was rebuilt in 1847, followed by the construction of the vicarage and the coach-house in 1866. Much rebuilding and development occurred during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, fuelled by a maritime economy. St Dogmaels is now a popular holiday destination.

The three towns are very distinct from their hinterland. Welsh tenurial systems in Emlyn Uwch-Cych, Cilgerran and Ceredigion precluded the establishment of formal manors, and there were few vills, resulting in a dispersed settlement pattern. This is a pattern that is still visible and, to a certain extent, still practised.

There is some nucleation within the partly feudalised lordships of Cardigan and Cemais. A vill had been established at Llandygwydd, within the Lordship of Cardigan, by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was formally constituted as the Manor of Llandygwydd, probably under the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids who had acquired the parish of Llandygwydd, and who established a fair in the manor. However, it is today a small, linear village comprising post-medieval buildings with little sign of nucleation. A vill developed around the Teifi crossing at Llechryd, also within the Lordship of Cardigan. Unusually for the region it appears to have developed into a nucleation at an early date. This development may have been encouraged by the crown, or by the Bishops of St Davids to whom the parish of Llangoedmor, within which Llechryd lay, was appropriated from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. A chapelry to Llangoedmor, dedicated to the Holy Cross, was built to serve this emerging community. It became a parish church in its own right in the early post-medieval period. A third medieval settlement appears to have been located at Gwbert, also within the Lordship of Cardigan, where pits containing medieval shoes were exposed in an eroding cliff-section. The settlement was subsequently inundated with sand, and abandoned early. There is circumstantial evidence that it may have included a church. In Cemais some nucleation occurred with the formation of hamlets within the sublordship of Eglwysrwrw, where holding and tenure – whilst still Welsh – had been feudalised. A 'failed' Anglo-Norman manor may exist at Llantwyd.

Outside these areas, nucleation is entirely post-medieval. Whilst much of it may have occurred around pre-existing features eg. the churches at Cenarth, Llangeler and Henllan, there is no evidence that it significantly pre-dates the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and much of it is later still. In addition to pre-existing foci, settlement developed around 18<sup>th</sup> century non-Conformist chapels (eg. Saron, Carms. and Ponthirwaun, Cer.) and turnpike roads (eg. Rhos, Carms.). But industry was by far the greatest impetus to post-medieval nucleation. The Teifi Valley woollen industry, which reached its peak during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, led to the development of substantial villages at Drefach-Felindre (with its own Anglican church and chapels), Pentrecagal and Pentrecwrt (Carms.), and Henllan (Cer.). A forge at Abercych on the Carms. - Pembs. border attracted settlement that developed into a fair-sized village, again with its own Anglican church and chapels. Most of these villages are still growing. In contrast, the Teifi Valley slate industry with its centre at Cilgerran, does not seem to have spawned any significant new nucleation.

*OPEN FIELDS AND THEIR ENCLOSURE*

Virtually all manorial farmland was cultivated in open-field systems (also called sub-divided fields or common fields). In this system land was held communally, and apart from small closes and paddocks attached to farmsteads, enclosures were rare. The land was divided into strips or shares within large open-fields. Uncultivated common and waste lay beyond the open-fields. Traditionally, strips within the open fields were not assigned to one farmer, but were rotated on an annual basis. However, by the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century rights of cultivation of certain strips within the open-fields became the prerogative of single farmers. By exchange and barter several adjoining strips could be amassed. It was then a simple process to throw a hedge around the amassed strips. By this process the open, communally-held fields were transformed into the privately-held field systems that still exist.

However, Welsh tenurial systems in Emlyn and Ceredigion led to a dispersed, non-manorial settlement pattern, which was largely based on husbandry in the upland regions of Emlyn. There is little physical evidence of arable farming outside Cemais, either within the Anglo-Norman lordships or in the Welsh-held areas, although it was recorded in Emlyn during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is assumed that the fertile Teifi floodplain would have been under the plough.

The prevailing field pattern within Emlyn and Ceredigion is one of fairly regular, large enclosures which appear to be new enclosure of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century – early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, the region – particularly the uplands of Emlyn – appears to have been largely unenclosed before the present pattern was imposed. Late 18<sup>th</sup> century estate maps show parts of this areas still unenclosed, with strips or ‘slangs’ marked in different ownership. These strips were probably not medieval in origin, and were certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which was undergoing enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the time the tithe maps were surveyed in c. 1840 most of these strips are gone and the field pattern of today is in place. It is, however, possible that this system of ‘sharelands’ associated with farms – held privately, in the traditional Welsh way – has its origins within the medieval period. A lack of contemporary documentation in this area is a hindrance to our understanding.

There is some evidence for a mixed pastoral/arable economy, again under Welsh tenurial systems, in the Barony of Cemais. Within the area around Cemaes Head, the present pattern of small- to medium-sized irregular fields suggests that the area was enclosed during the early post-medieval period, if not the later Middle Ages. Subdivided blocks are shown within some of these fields on the tithe maps, while closer to the coast, an unenclosed block of short narrow strips is shown. These strips may be *lleini*, relics of arable farming under Welsh tenure and are associated with a system of small, irregular paddocks. The sublordship of Eglwysrwrw was included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the ‘Extent of Cemaes’. Welsh systems of tenure here resulted in the development of a number of small landholdings. Each of these was associated with a gentry house of varying status, many of which were in existence by 1594. There is some common land throughout the area, but it is associated with village rights, as at Eglwysrwrw, rather than relict. It is apparent that the entire area was settled, and probably enclosed with the present system of regular fields, by the early post-medieval period. The landscape history of part of the Lordship of Cilgerran – a ‘Welshry’ – appears to be similar.

Anglo-Norman manorial tenure is apparent in the Lordship of Cardigan, the former commote of Is-Hirwern, where the Coed Mawr estate represents the rump of the demesne land attached to Cardigan Castle. Normally, unfree tenants worked demesne land for 2 or 3 days per week in return for rights over strips of land. However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The Anglo-Norman Borough of Cardigan comprises c.800ha within the boundary of its liberty. The name Warren Hill, at the east end of the area, may indicate the presence of the burgesses’ rabbit-warren. Relict open fields may be indicated by strips north of the town, shown on the tithe map but now gone. The map also shows a small pocket of common nearby.

*CHURCHES AND CHAPELS*

The larger medieval churches— eg. Cardigan and Cilgerran - are highly visible and defining elements of the landscape. However, many of the churches are small, remote and as dispersed as the settlement. As noted above, few became the focus for settlement. They are therefore often not distinctive features of the landscape (although the tower at Ferwig - now gone - was a celebrated landmark during the 16<sup>th</sup> century).

The ecclesiastical landscape began developing at an early date. The wide Teifi Valley, the estuary and coastal fringe in particular exhibit evidence for early medieval cemeteries and ecclesiastical sites. St Dogmaels Abbey occupies the site of an earlier monastery, 'Llandudoch', whose six Early Christian Monuments suggest a continuous ecclesiastical presence from the 6<sup>th</sup> century onwards, while it was wealthy enough to be attacked by Vikings in 988. It was subsumed beneath the later abbey but its enclosure may partly survive as a cropmark. Stone lined 'cist' burials have been noted at the nearby Iron Age hillfort of Caerau Gaer, and it has been proposed as the original site of St Dogmael's monastery. A church at Cenarth is suggested in a 6<sup>th</sup> century grant. Llangelier appears to occupy an important early medieval multiple church site, while Cilgerran and Henllan, and Capel Mair in Llangelier parish, may also have early origins. A possible early, undeveloped cemetery at Llain Ddineu (Penboyr) is more doubtful – it doesn't really fit in with contemporary settlement patterns and may be Bronze Age.

Llandudoch was re-founded as the Tironian Abbey of St Dogmaels. Commenced in c.1113, it had developed into a large church by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, central to an extensive range of masonry conventual buildings occupying a precinct that was at least 4ha in extent. The complex still forms a defining element of today's landscape. The only other post-Norman monastic house in the region was at Cardigan, where the Benedictine priory was also the parish church. It was a very small house with a church, though much less grand than St Dogmaels, it has a high-quality, 14<sup>th</sup> century 'Decorated' chancel.

The system of parishes has its origins in the post-1115 period, after the appointment of Bernard as the first Anglo-Norman Bishop of St Davids. However, its formalisation within Ceredigion and Emlyn may be later. Nevertheless it was complete by 1291 when the majority of the present day parishes – with some subsequent minor changes - had been created.

With the exception of the monastic churches, and the borough church at Cilgerran, churches are small and simple, comprising just a nave and chancel. They appear to have been of poor construction, as all the medieval churches, except Cardigan and Manordeifi, and were largely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At Cilgerran the medieval tower was retained, but the rest was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (twice, because the first attempt was so poor). The tower at Ferwig -formerly a celebrated landmark - was also retained, only to be demolished in 1968. Llandygwydd and Llantwyd churches were rebuilt in different locations within their respective churchyards. However, Manordeifi remains a largely unrestored church with a full suite of unaltered, late 17<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century fittings.

Not only are churches rarely the foci for settlements or nucleations, but they rarely exhibit a close relationship with Anglo-Norman castles. This does not necessarily imply that they pre-date the Norman Conquest – many of these castles were short-lived affairs of the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, while many of the region's churches were clearly established by Welsh lords during the 12<sup>th</sup> century and early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the earthwork castles may similarly be Welsh, and indeed where churches and castles co-exist they may both have been Welsh foundations of the post-1100 period (eg. Penboyr?). The close relationships between Llantwyd parish church and its castle suggest that here, in the Anglo-Norman Cemais, they are Norman foundations. While Llandygwydd parish church may be contemporary with the nearby motte, it is more likely to have been built at the same time as its grant to St Davids in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, as it lies 0.5km northeast of the motte (which appears to have been abandoned at an early date). However, the distance between the castle-borough of Cilgerran and its church suggests that the latter is pre-Conquest.

The dispersed settlement characteristic of the region led to the establishment of a large number of chapelries, most of them formal chapels-of-ease to their parishes, rather than devotional (or field) chapels. Most of them became disused in the post-medieval period, and few remains survive. However,



the ruins of Llechryd Chapel - later a parish church -, while Capel Mair, a grange chapel to Whitland, near Llangeler was re-established, possibly on the same site, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The early medieval Decabarbalom Stone, found nearby, suggests early origins for this chapel. Other former chapels that no longer exist include the bridge chapel south of Cardigan town established by Archbishop Baldwin on his visit in 1188, Cilfowyr Chapel (Manordeifi parish), the old parish church at St Dogmaels opposite the abbey, and the old church at Drefach-Felindre, which may have been early post-medieval. Capel Degwel and Capel Carannog in St Dogmaels parish appear to have been pilgrimage chapels on the route to Nevern.

A degree of parochial reorganisation was undertaken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The parish of Newcastle Emlyn was created out of Cenarth parish, in response to the increasing population of the town, served by a new church (just beyond the register area). A new, iron parish church was built in a less peripheral location within Manordeifi parish. New Anglican churches were built within the rising population centres of Drefach-Felindre (replacing the earlier church), and at Abercych, the latter being built during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Eighteenth- and 19<sup>th</sup> century non-Conformist chapels are ubiquitous. Many of them were located in Cardigan, St Dogmaels and Cilgeran, and in the textile-producing areas of the Teifi Valley. An early chapel at Drefach-Felindre, Capel Pen-rhiw, was converted from a barn in 1777; a classic of the 'primitive' type of chapel architecture, it was moved to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Other chapels were established away from population centres, but became settlement foci eg. Saron (Carms.) and Ponthirwaun (Cer.).

#### *MAENOR FORION GRANGE*

Both Register areas include former monastic land, represented by Maenor Forion Grange. The grange was established during the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the land was granted to the Cistercian Whitland Abbey by the sons of the local Welsh lord Maredudd of Cilrhedyn. It comprised c.1800 ha between the Teifi and the high ground north of Cwmduad. Its nucleus appears to have been at Court Farm, where a granary was also present, and which was apparently a summer retreat for the abbot. Two mills, a corn mill and a fulling-mill (part of the leat of which can be traced) were located on the Afon Siedi at Geulan Felen, demonstrating that the abbey was an early pioneer in the cloth industry that would come to dominate other parts of this Register Area.

The grange chapel, 'Capel Mair', was probably on the same site as the present St Mary's, a chapel-of-ease to Llangeler parish. The early medieval Decabarbalom Stone, found near the chapel, suggests early chapel origins. It is associated with a motte, 'Pencastell', which may have been an earlier grange nucleus.

However, we know little of the land-use within the grange. Maenor Forion was one of the very few Welsh granges not to be subject to an Exchequer Proceeding (Equity) after the Dissolution, from which much of our knowledge of grange management is derived. Most of Whitland's estates were held at the Dissolution under various leases, tenurial systems, rents and obligations belonging to Welsh law. In general, the abbey's Carmarthenshire properties paid money rents, and contributions of cheese, capons and oats, while the Ceredigion properties made contributions of wool, sheep and lambs. However, it is far from clear whether or not these arrangements perpetuate long-standing arrangements of earlier origin. Nevertheless the survival of a diversity of rents, in both cash, kind and service, suggest that they correspond with earlier villein obligations, and it has therefore been proposed that Whitland exploited its granges along native lines from the first, and land-use and settlement were probably broadly similar to that outside the grange.

The grange became crown land at the Dissolution in 1536 and was sold during the reign of Charles I to John Lewis of Llysnewydd and Thomas Price of Rhydyppennau, the latter's portion passing onto D L Jones of Derlwyn. Apart from the disposal of small parts of the properties, the greater part of the former grange remained in the hands of these families until at least 1900, forming the core of two large estates.

### *MEDIEVAL CASTLES*

The Register areas feature one of the densest concentrations of medieval castles in Wales, with as many as 13 possible sites. Most of these are small earthwork mottes and ringworks with no recorded history, and few are defining elements of the landscape, and like the parish churches, few attracted any nucleated settlement.

There is a concentration of castles in Cantref Emlyn, particularly within the eastern half, Emlyn Uwch-Cych, which apart from a possible brief period of Anglo-Norman control during the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, remained in Welsh hands until 1283. A similar situation prevails in Ceredigion north of the Teifi. The most likely origin for most of these castles is the period 1100-1136 when the Anglo-Normans were stamping their authority on the region by founding castles on at the heart of pre-existing centers of Welsh administration, or during the remainder of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by native Welsh lords. Few are associated with contemporary villas, but that could mean either that they were short-lived Anglo-Norman constructions, or were part of the Welsh pattern of dispersed settlement and would thus not have acted as settlement foci. Some of the close church-castle relationships may be entirely Welsh, as at Cenarth, and possibly at Penboyr where the church and castle could be new Welsh foundations of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

However, the church/castle at Llantwyd in the Anglicised Barony of Cemais probably represents a 'failed' early Anglo-Norman manor. Cemais, like the Lordship of Cilgerran, was subdued at an early date and even though Anglo-Norman rule was by no means uninterrupted, both lordships feature a lesser concentration of castles.

With the exception of Llantwyd, which may feature some stonework, the only other masonry castles are at Cardigan and Cilgerran (and at Newcastle Emlyn just outside the Register areas). Unlike the earthwork castles, they are still defining elements of the landscape, with the ruins dominating their surroundings.

Cardigan castle, although badly damaged, commands the Teifi foreshore, the bridge and the town, and forms the axis of the town's street plan. A castle had first been established during an Anglo-Norman incursion in 1093, but was short-lived. It is usually thought to be represented by the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, but it could equally be at the present castle site which was certainly fortified in c.1110 under the Anglo-Norman de Clare earls. It became the centre of the Lordship of Cardigan, from c.1201 a royal lordship, and was the administrative centre for the County of Cardiganshire established in 1284. However, the castle's administrative role came to an end with the Act of Union of 1536. It was neglected, becoming ruinous by 1610, but saw action in 1644-5 during the Civil War when it was damaged and taken by Parliamentary forces. John Bowen later acquired it, and by 1810, had begun converting it into a mansion, erecting a house and landscaping the interior. It was occupied until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Consolidation of the ruins is due to commence.

Cilgerran Castle was established in c.1100 as the caput of Cilgerran lordship. The castle may not occupy the site of the pre-Norman commotal centre, as it does not appear to have acquired the name of the lordship, Cilgerran, until the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, being referred to as 'Cenarth Bychan' during a daring Welsh raid in 1109. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under Welsh rule, apart from a brief period between 1204 and 1214, until 1223 when William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, took it. Rebuilding of the castle in stone began immediately and was largely complete by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. Its two massive 'drum' towers still dominate the landscape. The abolition of the lordship in 1536 saw its abandonment and decline. It saw no action during the Civil War and was allowed to become a ruin, albeit the source of inspiration to Romantic painters. They included Richard Wilson, and J M W Turner who made several studies of the castle.

### *POST MEDIEVAL ESTATES*

Estates dominated the rural economy of the lower Teifi valley from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but more especially during their peak in late 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Greatest of these was the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which at its height included almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentrecourt in the east to Cenarth in the west. Land holdings of other

estates were extensive, such as Castell Malgwyn, Llangoedmor and Noyadd, and some of the larger gentry houses - Gellydywyll, Pentre, Stradmore, Llwynduris and Parc y Pratt – had land attached. The effect of these estates on the landscape is both subtle and obvious. Great houses and the gardens and parks laid out around them are an obvious legacy of how landowners shaped and manipulated the landscape for their own enjoyment. Buildings of a higher quality than the norm also indicate a strong estate presence. Gelligatti, a house and model farm constructed for the agent of the Golden Grove estate is an obvious example of this, as is the several small but nevertheless high quality 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Cenarth, a village that was almost entirely under the control of the Vaughan family. Smaller farmhouses and farm buildings are not generally indicative of estate control. Analysis of these buildings, however, reveals that those within the estate zone tend to towards the Georgian style (although often built towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century), while those outside this zone have more vernacular traits. Subtler still is the control that estates had over the field layout and field systems. In other areas of estate dominated southwest Wales such as the Tywi valley and southwest Pembrokeshire medieval open field systems were swept away and replaced by regular large fields during the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. This contrasts to areas where estates had less control. Here open fields persisted even into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and their eventual enclosure resulted in a pattern of strip fields. In the Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape, and to a lesser degree the Drefach and Felindre landscape, there is very little topographic or historical evidence for open field systems, and late 18<sup>th</sup> century estate maps show a landscape very similar to that of today. All this strongly suggests that the estates of the lower Teifi Valley were instrumental in arranging the fields into the systems that exist today, during the early modern period.

#### WOODLAND

Semi-natural deciduous woodland is a component of the Afon Teifi valley and its tributaries, and occurs in pockets between Eglwysrw and St Dogmaels. It is more-or-less absent from the coastal, western area of the Lower Teifi Valley. Within the Teifi Valley itself woodland is mainly confined to the steep-sided tributaries where it is at least semi-natural and has been subject to an informal management regime. It was clearly an important element of the economy but its use is usually not recorded. It has been augmented with estate planting during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, while there has been some regeneration over former fields and farms.

However, one estate north of the Teifi, Coedmore – which is still wooded - represents part of the formal demesne attached to Cardigan Castle. Demesne was that part of the manor that was the lord's own land, meaning that it was subject to an Anglo-Norman manorial regime. Normally, demesne land was worked by unfree tenants for 2 or 3 days per week in return for strips of land. However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The name Coed Mawr (= Coedmore = big wood) suggests that this area too was always wooded, probably exploited for its economic value. Cardigan Castle remained crown property. However Coed Mawr was apparently farmed out at an early date, and Earl Roger of Chirk was recorded as holding the manor during the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. It later became a gentry estate and park.

Cilgerran Forest formed a large part of the Lordship of Cilgerran in the medieval period. It is mentioned in late medieval and 16<sup>th</sup> century accounts as one of the great woods of Pembrokeshire, along with Narberth, Coedrath and Canaston Forest. These were formal, manorial forests practising forest law. Much of the area is still wooded, although this part of the former lordship lies outside the Register areas.

Coniferous plantations dating to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are a characteristic component of the high ground south of the Teifi Valley. Much of it was planted over open moorland and abandoned fields, including some fields that were enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Act of Parliament. It is often a prominent element of the landscape.

### MARITIME TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Cardigan's maritime location has been important to its development since the medieval period, and the ability to remain supplied by sea led to its holding out against Welsh incursion through most of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It may have declined during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the Port of Cardigan had jurisdiction over Newport, Fishguard, Aberaeron, Aberporth and Newquay, with a combined fleet in 1833 of 291 registered vessels. Shipbuilding was an important occupation, but its decline had begun by c. 1800. The town was involved in considerable coasting trade, as well as some foreign trade, exporting oats, butter, oak bark, and - especially from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards - locally-quarried slate. This trade declined during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century although coastal herring fishing, and a salmon fishery on the Teifi - including coracle fishing - were undertaken into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rapid growth of St Dogmaels during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century undoubtedly owed much to busy trade along the Teifi, with the Port of Cardigan burgeoning and associated activity spreading to St Dogmaels.

There are some early references to seine net fishing at St Dogmaels. A medieval source mentions a salmon fishery in association with the abbey, and there is also a later record of a complaint in the reign of Elizabeth I for fishing with nets called "sayney." Where as seine net fishing was practised along the shores of the estuary, by the 18<sup>th</sup> century St Dogmaels had also developed into one of several important herring fisheries along the Cardigan Bay coastline. Seine net fishing is now only carried out under licence by a single team of fishermen, and the future of this ancient tradition is threatened.

Fishing on the Teifi below Cilgerran has a long history. The gorge below the castle was noted for its fishing, particularly salmon. By 1270, the Lord of Cilgerran's salmon weir below the castle had six traps, and complaints were made that they impeded river traffic carrying stone downstream for the king's building works at Cardigan Castle. The traps were ordered to be removed, but were rebuilt in 1314 by the Lord of Cilgerran in manner that did not interfere with river traffic. George Owen described the six traps in 1603 as 'the greatest weir of all Wales'. The fishery continued to be operated by the burgesses of Cilgerran through the post-medieval period, the building where the fish were taken to be weighed - 'Ty'r goved' being located immediately below the castle. Coracle fishing was also undertaken in the gorge until recent years.

A large fish-weir was also a feature of medieval and later Cenarth. It was positioned to take advantage of the natural traps and pools of Cenarth Falls. We have an important and unique eye-witness account of the fishery during the 1180s, when Gerald of Wales described it as '*a flourishing (salmon) fishing-station. The waters of the Teifi run ceaselessly over (the falls), falling with a mighty roar into the abyss below. Now it is from these depths that the salmon ascend to the... rock above...*'. Salmon-fishing contributed to the economy of the small settlement until comparatively recently. It was traditionally undertaken in coracles - it is now a tourist attraction.

### THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY WOOLLEN INDUSTRY

Extensive grazing land for sheep, an abundant supply of soft water and numerous fast-flowing streams and rivers to power machinery has ensured that cloth manufacture has had a long history in southwest Wales. Up to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century cloth was manufactured locally, with no clear centres of production. Towards the end of the century the increasing use of water powered machinery led to some centralisation of the industry. Within the Drefach - Felindre area fulling mills were established at Pentrecourt, Dolwynon, Drefach and Cwmpengraig. This marked the beginning of the woollen industry in north Carmarthenshire. Carding factories were established at Cwmpencraig and Dolwyon by 1820. Up to 1850 the term factory referred to a building where carding or spinning machines were powered by water. Weaving was done on the handloom, usually in houses or small workshops attached to domestic buildings. Greater use of water power, and other forms of power at a later date, plus the introduction of the power loom resulted in a rapid increase in the industry. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century over 23 factories were working in the Drefach - Felindre area, with others elsewhere in the Teifi valley such as at Lampeter, Llandysul, Newcastle Emlyn, Cardigan and St Dogmaels. Rural factories and non-rural factories produced cloth. The former were in remote locations and were family run businesses. The latter were more common in the Drefach - Felindre landscape. They employed 50-100 people, were generally located in or close to villages and usually close to a railway or good road communications.

The industry was at its peak from 1880 to 1910, but by the 1920s it was in decline, although some mills continued production well into the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### *STONE/SLATE QUARRYING*

The term lower Teifi valley slate or stone is used here in preference to the more commonly used Cilgerran slate. This is because many small quarries to supply local markets were worked in many different locations in the Teifi valley in addition to the large enterprises located in the gorge below Cilgerran. Roofing slate was produced, but it was not of good quality, and the main products were 'slab' and general building stone. Stone and slate extraction has a long history in the lower Teifi valley as attested by major medieval buildings such as Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle. However, the small-scale of the industry was generally only sufficient to supply the local market. It was not until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century that the introduction of greater mechanisation, steam power and better transport links led to an increase in production of the Cilgerran gorge quarries. There were two main centres of quarrying: quarries below the town itself and Fforest, a few kilometres downstream. Production started to decline in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the last quarry at Cilgerran closed in 1938.

The legacy of stone and slate quarrying in the lower Teifi valley lies not in the physical remains of the industry itself, which are slight and often tucked away on heavily wooded valley sides, but in the buildings of the region. Lower Teifi valley slate was ubiquitous until superseded first by brick and then by other materials. The use of building materials is discussed more fully below.

### *OTHER INDUSTRIES*

Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive tinplate- and iron-works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi at Penygored. A canal (or leat) supplied water to the works, materials were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The Penygored Company was successful, passing through several hands until purchased in 1792 by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. It was operational until 1806. The site of the works has now gone. It appears that no worker housing was built specifically to cater for its workforce, who presumably lived in the nearby village of Llechryd.

### *EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURY ENCROACHMENT SETTLEMENTS*

In common with all of Wales, and indeed most of western Britain, rural settlement expansion during the period of a rapidly increasing population in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century was largely at the interface of cultivated land and common land. These squatter settlements, or *tai unnos*, seemed to have little legal basis, but in the landscapes described here their foundation seems to have been tolerated by other landowners and tenants. Their legacy is quite clear – small agricultural holdings and cottages set in a landscape of small irregular fields fringing open moorland or high ground. In the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes the morphology and character of smallholdings fringing the only one substantial tract of high, unenclosed moorland, that of Rhos Llangier, Rhos Penboyr and Rhos Kilrhedin, indicate that they originated as illegal encroachments onto common. Tithe maps of c. 1840 and the Enclosure Award map of the common of 1866 that marks some of these smallholdings as illegal encroachments confirms the surviving physical evidence. Smaller, lowland commons were vulnerable to the same process. Encroachment by loose clusters of workers's cottages onto common, as at Waungilwen and Cwmhiraeth in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, is unusual for southwest Wales, but perhaps more common in the more industrialised areas of the southeast and northwest of the country.

### *PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE*

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century if not earlier the greater part of the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach Velindre historic landscapes comprised agricultural land. There was, therefore, very little open common land requiring an Act of Parliament for enclosure. A notable exception was Rhos Llangier, Rhos Penboyr and Rhos Kilrhedin, a high ridge of moorland on the watershed of the Afon Tywi and Afon Teifi in Carmarthenshire. In 1866 an enclosure award was granted to enclose this large tract of high moorland, transforming it into a landscape of large regular fields, whereupon shortly after farms were established.



A little earlier, in 1855, an Act of Parliament had enclosed small pockets of common close to Drefach and Felindre. These were probably the last remnants of once extensive lowland common, and their formal enclosure was the final act of several centuries of piecemeal, and illegal, encroachment.

### *FIELD BOUNDARIES*

In common with the rest of southwest Wales the predominant type of field boundary consists of an earth or earth and stone bank topped with a hedge. These hedges are a major component of the historic landscape. The character of the hedges varies between and even within farms; some are well maintained with a few large bushes or trees, some have distinctive trees, others have been reduced to straggling lines or bushes and trees whilst others consist of bracken and gorse on massive banks. The critical criteria in determining the character of the hedge are elevation and degree of exposure. Generally the more sheltered the location the more lush the hedge. Clearly management has a role as well and poorly maintained hedges reduced to lines of bushes can be found on valley floors, but large hedges of vigorous bushes cannot live on the exposed coastal hills to the west. Indeed it is only in these areas that other types of boundary are found. These are predominantly stony banks, supporting low hedges of gorse and bracken, but with occasional dry-stone walls, now usually in a collapsed state.

### *BUILDINGS*

#### *Rural buildings*

In common with most of southwest Wales most of the pre 20<sup>th</sup> century building stock belongs to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are very few pre 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic and agricultural buildings. Building analysis indicates that virtually all the smaller rural buildings were replaced during a period of great rebuilding from c.1840 to c. 1900, leaving just a handful of earlier survivors. These few survivors provide an insight into an almost extinct tradition for which evidence has all but vanished. They are small, single storey farmhouses, as at Rhyd, Llandygwydd (now used as an outbuilding), cottages, as at Cwmcych, or outbuildings. All these are of poor quality stone or earth (clom) under thatch roofs. They were small, simple and fragile and easily swept aside during the increasing prosperity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were replaced by two-storey stone-built houses, cottages and farm buildings, which, though well constructed of rubble or coursed stone, have little architectural pretension. Most are within the Georgian tradition – two-storey and three-windows wide, regular plan and elevations, with relatively high ceilings and windows – although a few have one or more vernacular traits such as an asymmetrical plan, low ceilings, small windows and large chimneys. Almost all pre-20<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings are stone-built, with most farms having one or two ranges informally arranged around the sides of a yard. Smaller farms may just have a single range attached in-line to the house, and larger farms three or more ranges. Cow houses, stables, barns and other storage buildings indicate that a mixed farming economy was in operation during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The vast majority of these houses and farms were estate provisions with others constructed by jobbing builders and/or self built. It is noticeable that outside the zone of the main estates, at the extreme far west of the Teifi valley and on higher ground to the south of Drefach and Felindre, houses have more vernacular traits than those within the zone, indicating a degree of standardisation in estate buildings.

A high quality stone-building tradition has been present for over 800 years as evidenced by Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle, but prior to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it had not filtered down to the smaller houses, cottages and farms. Surviving larger domestic and agricultural buildings earlier than the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century are rare, suggesting that the building stock was not of particularly high quality and had to be replaced. It is not really until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that good quality stonework is used in domestic buildings and then on major houses such as Castell Malgwyn and Coedmor. Later good quality masonry was employed in smaller buildings.

There are few rural buildings dating to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rural development restarted in the 1960s and has accelerated since the 1980s with occasional new houses in isolated locations, clusters of housing on established village fringes as at Llandygwydd and Cenarth, and the rebuilding of older farmhouses. The latter phenomenon is not common except in the higher areas of the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape where the 19<sup>th</sup> century housing stock was probably poor. A more dramatic affect on the landscape has been the construction of modern concrete, steel and asbestos farm buildings.

*Industrial villages and hamlets*

Buildings in the industrial villages and hamlets of Drefach and Felindre, Abercych and to a lesser degree Cilgerran date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a strong concentration in the last two decades. A mid 18<sup>th</sup> century terrace of low houses in the centre of Drefach provides an indication of the early type of housing stock, but in common with rural housing most of this early type of housing was replaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. All the industrial settlements in the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape experienced rapid growth from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was a result of the increasing scale of operation of the woollen industry, which is reflected in the numerous stone- and brick-built factories, the associated housing stock, chapels and churches and other buildings constructed at this time. A distinct settlement pattern of mill, mill owner's house, workers' houses and chapels clustered on the floors of narrow valleys is apparent as at Cwmpengraig and Cwmhiraeth. Worker houses are grouped into short terraces or semi-detached units either provided by mill owners or small-scale speculators by landowners are broadly in the Georgian style – symmetrical plan and elevation, high ceiling and large window openings – reflecting the aspirations of the workers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is social mixing within communities with the owner's house and/or manager's house close to or alongside those of the workers. However, none of these owner/manager houses is particularly large, and some stand a little distance from the rest of the community.

Buildings reflect the fortunes of the woollen industry as well as other industries. Very few new houses were constructed within associated settlements during the decline of these industries during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Owing to easy and quick transport links to larger communities development has now picked up, and new individual houses and small estates have been constructed since the 1970s at Drefach and Felindre, Cilgerran, and Cwmcych.

*Urban and non-industrial settlements*

The greatest range of domestic and commercial buildings in the two historic landscapes is found at Cardigan. Constraints within the medieval town have produced a tightly packed plan with houses, shops and other commercial buildings, mostly dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century squeezed into terraces. Away from these constraints the terrace is still the favoured house type of later 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, but in contrast to the early stone buildings brick is more commonly used. Later development is freer still, with detached villas, semi-detached houses and estates commonplace. Similar patterns, but on a lesser scale, are found at St Dogmaels and Cilgerran, and even in the small villages of Cenarth and Llechryd.

*Walling materials*

A common building material – Teifi valley slate – unites all the pre-1870 buildings, including houses, cottages, farm buildings, churches, chapels, castles, mills, factories and bridges, in both the Lower Teifi Valley, and the Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes. The term Teifi valley slate is preferred to the more commonly used term Cilgerran slate as 'slate' quarries in the Teifi valley outside the gorge at Cilgerran were worked for building stone. The early recognition of this high quality building stone is evident by its use in a 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century context at Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle, and later in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries on Cardigan, Llechryd bridges and other bridges over the Afon Teifi.

It is a versatile stone, usually grey-brown in colour but with silvery-grey hues in the finest-grained strata, and can be cleaved into large slabs, chisel shaped and dressed, and sawn into ashlar blocks. The full repertoire of Teifi valley slate is best displayed in domestic architecture. Un-coursed or roughly coursed rubble is common in the earliest surviving houses of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, even in some substantial dwellings such as Castell Malgwyn mansion, and continues to be used in this form in more modest worker houses and cottages late into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Quoins are often large, distinctive shaped slabs, even in rubble build, and window and door voussoirs are usually shaped. Chisel-squared regularly-coursed slabs and blocks with more finely dressed quoins and voussoirs were introduced in some finer buildings by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, evidenced by several Georgian houses in Cardigan, for example. This form of construction continues throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, gradually being employed in houses lower down the social scale, such as some workers houses in Drefach and Felindre, and at Cilgerran. During the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century regularly coursed finely-sawn stone is introduced, using fine-grained grey Teifi valley slate from the Cilgerran quarries. Sawn stone laid in very regular courses is mostly found in high-quality, high-cost buildings such as the stable block and service buildings at Castell Malgwyn and mill owners' houses at Drefach and Felindre, but is also used in more modest late 19<sup>th</sup> century houses close to the quarries at Cilgerran.

An unusual and highly decorative use of silver-grey Teifi valley slate slabs laid in strong horizontal courses interspaced with square blocks of warm brown Dolerite from the Preseli Mountains producing a banded effect, is employed in some mid 19<sup>th</sup> century houses at St Dogmaels. This style of construction is unusual, but can be seen in some warehouses at Cardigan and in houses at Newport and Dinas in Pembrokeshire, although in these examples the use of contrasting coloured stone is not so marked as that at St Dogmaels.

Outside the main sources of Teifi valley slate and away from good transport connections, other types of stone are occasionally used. For instance on higher ground in the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape and in the far west of the Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape locally quarried stone is used in farmhouses, cottages and farm buildings. Owing to the poorer quality of the stone dwellings are frequently cement rendered.

Better transport links allowing the importation of different materials and the opening Cardigan brickworks in the 1870s lead to a gradual decline in the use of stone, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century its abandonment as a building material. Apart from close to the brickworks at Cardigan, brick was initially used sparingly, as on workers houses at Drefach and Felindre where both yellow brick and red brick door- and window-jambs complement stone. Purely red brick buildings, many with decorative tile courses and other architectural features were constructed at Cardigan during the 1870s, and elsewhere soon after, but nowhere with the initial exuberance seen in the first houses and shops. The mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century building boom, attested by numerous stone-built buildings, petered out towards the end of the century and the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and therefore red brick buildings do not constitute a major element in the historic landscape. Only at Cardigan were a significant number of new buildings constructed during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Suburban housing – red-tiled and stuccoed villas, semi detached middle-class dwellings and small estates – contribute to the urban landscape. A new and continuing building boom right across the southwest Wales landscape from the 1960s onwards, and particularly from the 1980s, has added many new houses and other structures to the landscape, this time in a variety of new materials.

Lower Teifi valley slate is a good quality building material and houses constructed from it rarely require a protective cement or stucco coat; stone-built farm buildings are always left bare. There are many reasons why some of the houses have a stucco coat: use of poorer quality stone, use of brick and for decorative purposes. Where poor quality stone is used stucco is generally applied for protection. At St Dogmaels, however, a tradition of high quality bare-stone houses indicates that stucco was probably not required for protection, yet well over half the buildings have applied cement render. The stuccoed buildings here have a highly decorative air, and wide repertoire – different coloured pebbledash, applied decoration around door and windows and house names is employed lending a jaunty seaside air to the village. Similar surface treatments can be found on houses at Cardigan and Cilgerran. Although there is decorative treatment to some of the houses in the industrial settlements of Drefach and Felindre, the main use of stucco here seems to be for protection.

The use of stone was ubiquitous by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and had been used for major buildings prior to this. A few rare survivors, however, demonstrate an earlier building tradition. One or two cottages and disused, small farmhouses are constructed of clom (earth) on stone footings, with thatched roofs. It is highly likely that clom-built farmhouses, cottages and farm outbuildings were the most common building types in the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes prior to a great rebuilding in stone during the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Roofing materials*

Commercially quarried and cut north Wales slate is used throughout the region. Historic records indicate that lower Teifi valley slate was used as roofing material, but it is uncertain if its use was widespread prior to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and the dominance of the north Wales slate. Surviving small cottages and farmhouse demonstrate that thatch was probably common, if not universal, on smaller dwellings and farm buildings, prior to mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Slate is still the main roofing material, with concrete tile, ceramic tile, steel and asbestos becoming more common.

*TWENTIETH CENTURY AND LATER DEVELOPMENT*

Twentieth century and later development is similar to that of the rest of southwest Wales in that it is predominantly confined to the last three or four decades of the century and is concentrated on the fringes of existing towns, villages and hamlets. Between 1900 and the 1960s new housing consisted of small-scale social housing estates and small private housing estates, such as those on the northern fringes of Cardigan, and low-key industrial facilities. There are of course exceptions to this, such as the continued programme of woollen mill construction at Drefach and Felindre; this, however, should be regarded as the final flourish of a mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century industry rather than as new development. By the 1960s larger scale housing projects were underway, and the pace of new housing development is still accelerating. There is no village or hamlet that does not have some modern housing, and in some instances the extent of the modern housing is sufficiently great to have nearly erased the community's historic core. Modern housing is at its most dense close to towns and villages. Thus a belt of late 20<sup>th</sup> century houses encloses Cardigan, and hamlets and villages within four to five miles from the town contain many modern elements. Beyond this distance the quantity of new houses begins to fall away, but nevertheless is always present.

*PLANNING REGIMES AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT*

The Lower Teifi Valley and the Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes straddle four planning authorities: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Planning policies of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire have led to broadly similar landscapes, with new housing concentrated in or on the fringes of existing settlements, and very little new development in the open countryside. There is, however, very little modern development within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. This has resulted in a markedly different modern landscape on the north side of the Teifi estuary in Ceredigion to that on the south side in the National Park. Immediately pre- and post-World War 2 homemade houses/chalets and other low-key tourist facilities began to develop on both banks of the estuary. On the south side, however, this was halted and the only modern developments are a car park and a lifeboat station. To the north tourist related facilities have expanded - a caravan park, yachting park/yard and a golf club - and modern housing constructed, driven by the demand from Cardigan town a few miles away. In some locations such as at Ferwig new housing has swamped the historic village core, and at other places housing density has led to the creation of new communities.

*TOURISM AND THE LEISURE INDUSTRY*

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the sandy beach of Poppit in the far west of the Teifi valley receive the most visitors, with a reduction in numbers as one travels east up the valley. There is no major tourist honey pot in the Lower Teifi Valley or Drefach and Felindre such as can be found in south Pembrokeshire and consequently the impact of the tourist and leisure industry on the historic landscape has been relatively insignificant. St Dogmaels Abbey, Cardigan Town, Cilgerran Castle and gorge and nature reserve, Cenarth Falls, Newcastle Emlyn Castle and the National Museums & Galleries' woollen mill museum at Drefach-Felindre attract visitors, but these locations are components of the historic landscape in their own right, and their associated tourist elements - car parks, toilets, shops - are very low key. Visitors to them may travel some distance on a daily basis or may be tourists staying in holiday homes, converted farm buildings or bed and breakfast accommodation - the type of facility that has no or minimal impact on the landscape. Some larger scale holiday accommodation is present such as a chalet and caravan park outside Cenarth, but most tourist facilities are situated downriver of Cardigan towards the coast. Even so, apart from small car parks, housing and hotels at Gwbert and a caravan park and yacht park/yard on the river's edge, the impact of the tourist industry on the historic landscape is not great.

## MANAGING HISTORIC CHARACTER

(by D Thompson and D Gwyn, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust)

### Rural land-use change

There have been many pressures on the rural environment and the countryside over the last 50 years as a result of changes in land use and shifting priorities for agriculture (the principal rural land use). Agricultural intensification and the maximisation of productivity were the priorities up until the mid-1980s, and as a consequence the character of rural landscapes changed dramatically during this period as hedgerows and trees were removed to create more efficient farming systems. Reclamation of the hills and marginal land led to the removal of significant upstanding archaeological sites and palimpsest landscapes.

Currently, due to agricultural over-production and a general greater awareness of and concern for the quality and protection of the rural environment, the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy provides a number of incentives to farmers and landowners to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive manner. The all-Wales Tir Gofal scheme includes provision for the conservation of certain habitats as well as sites and features of archaeological and historic landscape interest.

However, of the estimated 27,000 farms in Wales, only c. 600 farms per year are currently entering into such agreements, which leaves the vast majority outside any formal management scheme, and so many important archaeological sites and landscape features continue to be lost. The challenge therefore is to identify historic landscape priorities for conservation, protection, enhancement or even restoration both within the scheme and without it.

Three of the principal advantages of an approach using character areas are that (a) it is able to identify and map both local distinctiveness and national importance; (b) by identifying physical features which can be managed it can feed directly into land management and development planning strategies; and (c) it sets the management of individual features within their local landscape context, allowing emphasis to be placed on those features which best define local landscape character. It can assist in management plans by setting priorities for management and enhancement, highlighting intrinsic values, and encouraging links to multi-purpose management.

Characterisation is about management: if we are going to manage effectively, we must know what is there, what is important and what we want to do with it. Character areas can tell us what is distinctive (*i.e.* important both locally and nationally) about a particular area, and therefore what needs to be managed in order to retain that area's distinctiveness (character).

### General considerations

Positive management should be aimed at halting and, if necessary, reversing any trends that can be shown to be causing unacceptable damage to the historic landscape resource. If at the same time management can actually enhance the historic landscape, then that is even better. It is essential that such management is continuous, and contains provisions for monitoring and review.

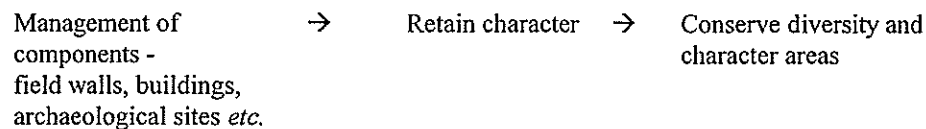
One of the basic tenets underpinning management is that we should be aiming to continue (rather than halt) the past evolution of the landscape: to do this we must first identify what is important and significant in historic landscape terms. It is the overall historic character of the present landscape (as evidenced in important and significant groupings and patterns) which we should aim to retain, but in order to do this we must concentrate management actions at the level of individual components. We must identify, conserve and enhance the local and regional historic diversity of our landscapes.

Agri-environment and other rural initiatives offer the opportunity to integrate the needs of the historic environment with modern land-use requirements to produce a workable, effective management system. More importantly, they should result in a working, viable landscape, which should provide ways and means for the various human activities in an area to be integrated with each other and with conservation, at the same time providing opportunities for study, research, education, interpretation and quiet enjoyment.



This means that sites and features of historic landscape interest are positively managed for their own sake, rather than just left unimproved. It is important that the management of such features is integral to the management of the farm, or the scheme, as a whole, rather than an isolated, unrelated activity.

By working at the most basic level, management can be used to retain the general historic character of the area -



A management plan should specify conservation objectives for a site/area and how they will be monitored: it should identify points at which some response will be made if monitoring shows that a feature is changing: it should establish what activities/processes will be the subject of monitoring: it should establish what management of on-going activities is required; and identify the types of development or activities which might adversely affect the site.

Not all the sites and features which comprise the historic environment require the same detailed level of management: some sites can be adequately managed by the application of simple, general strategies, while more complex sites merit more detailed, site-specific, problem-led responses.

#### **Mechanisms - general**

It is envisaged that characterisation has many potential applications to management including -

- assisting in developing landscape conservation and enhancement projects, by identifying elements and patterns of the historic environment which are considered either typical of a local area (provide local distinctiveness) or are of particular importance (rare at a national level);
- targeting resources within grant-aid by government and other organisations towards conserving elements and patterns of the historic environment in the same way;
- developing policies for unitary development plans;
- assisting in determining planning applications, especially large-scale developments such as roads, wind-farms, mineral extraction, large-scale landfill, waste disposal, reclamation, water schemes, major settlement and major industrial development;
- aiding the management of land by farmers, and large corporate landowners such as industrial companies, water or electricity companies, the forestry industry and the National Trust;
- providing baseline information for local areas against which future change can be monitored, for example as part of the Tir Gofal scheme;
- providing general information not already on the SMR which can be used to inform advice given as part of a number of rural initiatives such as Tir Gofal, Woodland Grant Schemes *etc.*;
- providing advice in a rural framework to conservation agencies including Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, local authorities, national parks and others;
- providing information to a number of wider initiatives, including contributing to our academic understanding of landscape, stimulating further research, raising public perception of the landscape, and the preparation of policy statements by public bodies.

#### **Mechanisms - specific**

*Tir Gofal* is open to applications from farmers throughout Wales. Within the scheme, payments will be made to farmers for observing 'codes of good environmental practice', one of which is care and

enhancement of the historic environment. As the scheme is a 'whole farm' scheme, it allows archaeological management strategies sensitive to the character of the landscape as a whole to be integrated with farming practices. Characterisation is useful for monitoring purposes, as it sets out the wider historic environment framework within which individual farm plans will sit. It can also help prioritise management within a broader landscape context.

*Unitary Development Plans* address 'land use' issues. They may take into account LANDMAP initiatives which involve a certain level of historic characterisation.

*Countryside strategies* are the responsibility of local authorities (together with others), which have a general duty under section 1 of the Countryside Act, 1981, to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of their functions relating to land. Countryside strategies principally address management of the countryside in areas outside settlement limits, but they are also a mechanism, at least in part, of implementing development plan policies. In Wales, such strategies are supported by CCW.

*Local authorities* have a number of powers which have implications for the management of the historic environment including the power to establish Country Parks (section 7 of the Countryside Act 1968); the ability to declare Local Nature Reserves (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to enter into access agreements with landowners (section 64 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to buy derelict land (often of industrial archaeological interest) for reclamation purposes (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the duty to make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate (section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990); and the duty to apply The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 which controls the removal of certain important hedgerows (from section 97 of the Environment Act 1995). Other powers are treated separately below.

Some local authorities have a countryside warden service which would benefit from characterisation information.

*Local Agenda 21 programme* At Rio, governments committed themselves to setting up national targets for safeguarding and improving the environment. Local Agenda 21 and Local Biodiversity Action Plans provide the means of meeting these targets, and of promoting the principles of sustainable development, at a local level. Both initiatives are about embracing a conscientious vision of the long-term future by identifying what matters locally and paying serious attention to the global costs of maintaining local lifestyles.

This has implications for archaeology and the historic environment? At a local level, sense of place is a fundamental aspect of quality of life. The present day landscape underpins our sense of the place in which we live. Much of its character and distinctiveness is derived from the historic environment (archaeology and the built heritage in all its forms). The historic environment is of course both fragile and non-renewable. We have a responsibility to maintain it so that future generations can also appreciate and benefit from it in the same way that we do. However, the landscape is not static. Just as today's landscape is a product of the changing relationships between people and their environment through time, so it must be allowed to continue to change.

The point of sustainability is that it promotes change which meets the needs of the future whilst retaining the integrity of the historic environment. In order to do so decisions have to be made about the relative importance of different elements. Traditionally, evaluation has been based on individual sites, with particular examples being selected out for special protection (known as scheduling). However, it is the sum total of archaeological features not individual sites which give landscape its grain and it is often the more ordinary features that create 'local distinctiveness'. In order to ensure that decisions about the future of the historic environment are made on a secure basis, sound information needs to be gathered. Historic landscape characterisation work of the kind being carried out by the Trusts provides historic environment audits, from which decisions of this kind can be made.

*Biodiversity Action Plans* LBAPs are a means by which Local Government Authorities can implement the biodiversity recommendations established after the Rio Summit. They achieve this by building up local partnerships and taking account of both national and local biodiversity priorities to develop

strategies for the conservation of species and habitats of local significance. As we are still at the early stages of our involvement, more information will be forthcoming at a later date, but it is already obvious that the type of general information coming from characterisation projects will be able to feed into such plans.

At a general level, archaeology is of relevance to LBAPs because it raises awareness of the historical origins of the contemporary environment. There are no purely 'natural' environments in Britain; the landscape is the product of millennia of human activity. Our knowledge of the changing relationship between people and their environment through history allows us to understand the land-use activities which have led to the creation of contemporary landscapes, and comment from an informed historical perspective on those practices which could be encouraged in order to protect and conserve particular landscapes and ecosystems.

*Access* is a key issue in the countryside, if we are to enjoy the landscape and all its inherent interests and in turn engender understanding and respect for the countryside and the way it works. In addition to the rights of way network, a bill has recently been passed by Parliament with proposals to provide greater public access to open areas of the countryside. As many of the best-preserved and most fragile palimpsest archaeological sites and landscapes lie within open areas of countryside, this has potential implications for archaeological management.

Historic landscape characterisation can identify these areas (i.e. where there are well-preserved yet fragile archaeological remains) and thus highlight the potential management problems if the areas are 'opened up' to public access. It may even be that such areas could be excluded from unfettered access under new legislation, either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Characterisation also has the potential to inform leaflets, trails and other interpretative material.

*Tourism* The Wales Tourist Board (WTB) has the strategic responsibility for encouraging people to visit Wales and for the provision of tourist facilities. In recent years tourism has become one of the most important growth sectors of the economy. Unitary authorities all have a tourism strategy of some description, and historic characterisation has a part to play in sustainable 'green tourism' in that it can help identify local distinctiveness which can be used both to attract visitors (by way of advertising), create atmosphere and to inform quality initiatives such as local walks, guides and other recreational activities. It can also direct visitors to areas with a robust historic environment, and away from those which are particularly fragile.

*Management agreements* In addition, local authorities have the ability (under section 39 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981) to enter into management agreements with landowners. This is an area which could be explored further from the historic environment perspective, as such agreements could cover not only individual monuments but also historic landscape characteristics (such as boundary types).

*Other local authority programmes* Local authorities have programmes for economic development, highways maintenance, environmental education and coastal protection. These would all benefit from the information which is being compiled through the characterisation projects, and, in the other direction, the safeguarding of the historic environment would benefit from those drawing up these programmes having direct access to historic landscape characterisation data. In fact, information at this broad level would probably be more useful than detailed, site-specific SMR data.

*Forestry Commission* Information from characterisation projects will be invaluable in contributing to national and regional indicative forestry strategies, indicating where new proposals for planting are likely to be acceptable (or unacceptable) from an historic environment perspective. On a day to day basis, it can provide information at a landscape level which can inform proposals for new planting. It will be particularly useful when considering proposals under any of the challenge schemes.

*Environment Agency* is responsible for producing Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs) and Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The historic environment does not have a high profile in either of these, and both could therefore benefit from information which characterisation can provide.

*Other bodies* Historic landscape characterisation information can be used to educate and inform a wide range of organisations and individuals including statutory agencies, voluntary bodies (RSPB, Woodland Trust, North Wales Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, National Trust) town councils, community councils, farming unions and others. It is our experience that often it is easier to explain the importance of, and inherent interest of, the historic environment by using historic characterisation, than by the more traditional means of individual archaeological sites and excavations.

Local distinctiveness and a sense of place, which are of undoubted interest to people, can all be conveyed by such means, and the potential importance of this aspect of characterisation cannot be emphasised too strongly.

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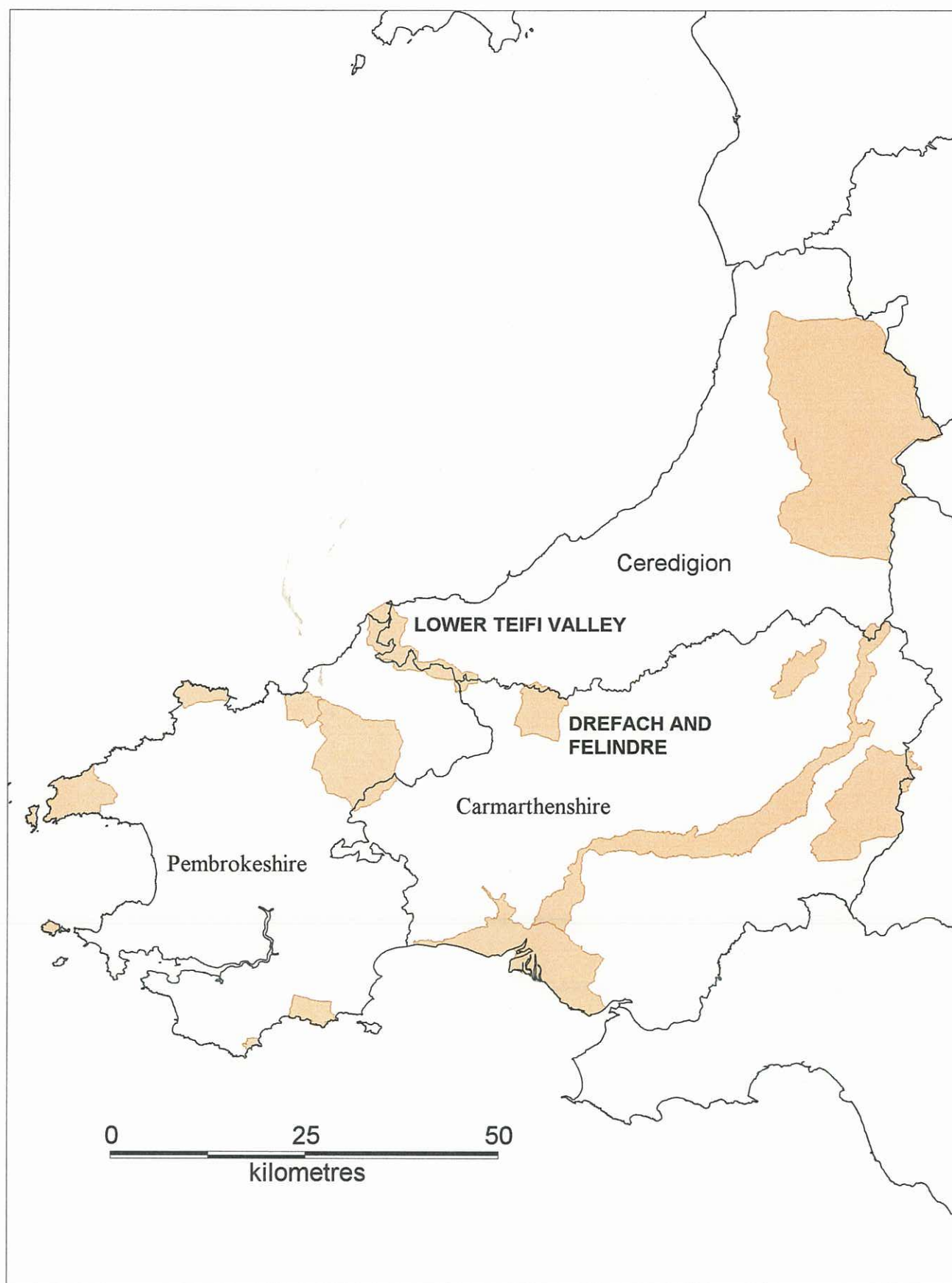


Figure 1. Location of all landscapes in southwest Wales on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales





Figure 3. Location of historic landscape character areas in the Lower Teifi Valley registered landscape.

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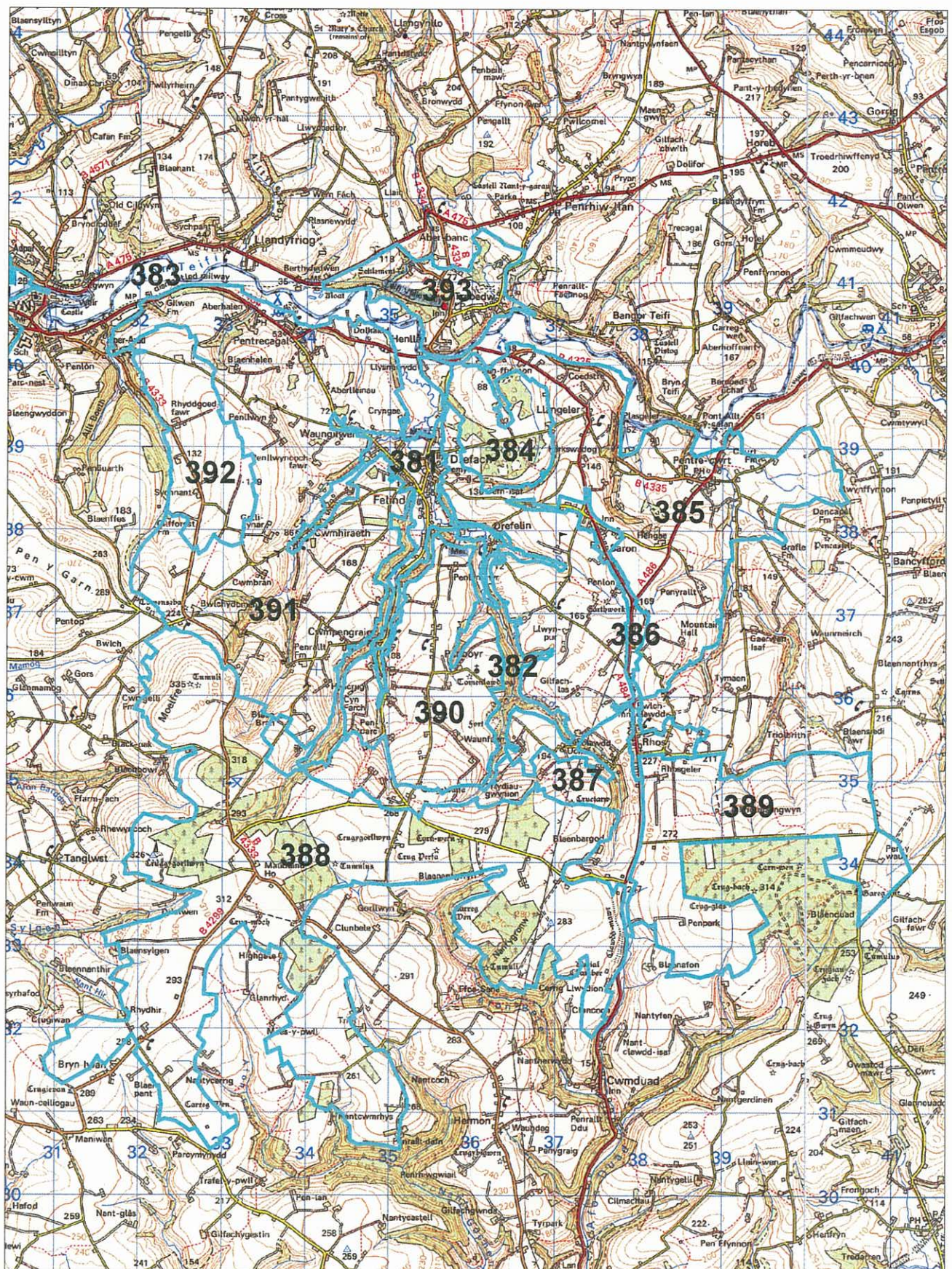


Figure 2. Location of historic landscape character areas in the Drefach and Felindre registered landscape.

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## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 381 DREFACH - FELINDRE

GRID REFERENCE: SN353385

AREA IN HECTARES: 127

#### Historic Background

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire comprising the generally steep-sided valleys of Nant Bargod and its tributaries, Nant Esgair and Nant Brân. Its character has chiefly been shaped by the 19<sup>th</sup> century woollen industry. The area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained as such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup>- and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until it was finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire in 1536, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525, to be then granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed little settlement appears to have occurred within the Drefach-Felindre character area prior to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, although medieval settlements were recorded at Cringae, now a farm, and at 'Aberbargod'.

As cloth was produced in many locations in southwest Wales during the medieval and early modern periods, it is likely that it was also produced at Drefach-Felindre, and the mill at Cringae in the 14<sup>th</sup> century may have been a fulling-mill. A small chapel-of-ease to Penboyr parish had been founded, within what was to become Felindre, by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly a post-medieval foundation, Holy Trinity Chapel, also known as Capel Bach, was 'dilapidated' in 1750 and it was eventually replaced by St Barnabas' Church in 1862. What is not clear is why during the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Drefach-Felindre became pre-eminent in woollen cloth production in Wales, leading to its appellation 'the Huddersfield of Wales'. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century four fulling mills at Pentre-cwrt, Dolwyon, Drefach and Cwmpencraig were established; other functions were carried out by hand, on a domestic basis or in small workshops. Carding factories were in production at Cwmpencraig and Dolwyon by the 1820s, and later factories had spinning machines. Concomitant with the increase in cloth production was the growth of settlements. In 1776 Felindre was just a few houses called Velindre Shinkin but by the tithe survey of c.1840 it had grown to a village of c. 20 houses. Drefach had about 20 houses and Drefelin 7 houses. No settlement is recorded at Waungilwen on the tithe map. Indeed the area of the latter village was common land, and it seems likely that the settlement originated with squatters illegally constructing houses. A similar process seems to have happened at Cwmhiraeth.

The introduction of the power loom in the 1850s and greater reliance on water power and other power sources at a later date led to an expansion of the industry, with substantial mills (some employing 50-100 people) constructed at Drefach, Felindre, Drefelin, Cwmpencraig, Cwmhiraeth and Pentre-cwrt by the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Settlement expanded to accommodate workers and other personnel, and it is the peak decades of the industry from 1880 to 1910 that have largely shaped the historic landscape. It is during this period that the population centres of Drefach and Felindre, with their worker houses, mill owner houses, shops, church and other places of worship were firmly established, as were secondary settlements such as Cwmpencraig and Cwmhiraeth, with their factories, mill owner houses, worker houses, and chapels clustered on narrow valley floors. The decline of the woollen industry from the 1920s is reflected in the historic landscape as few houses or other buildings date to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing, particular linear development, has linked some of the former separate settlements, such as Drefach and Felindre with Waungilwen.



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

Small industrial settlements unite this oddly shaped historic character area. Its centre lies at approximately 50m above sea level at the confluence of Nant Bargod, Nant Esgair and Nant Brân where the steep-sided valleys of these north-flowing streams open out into the Teifi Valley, but it also includes upstream settlements and fields on the narrow valley floors rising to 90m above sea level. The motive power provided by these streams was a prime reason for the growth of the woollen industry, and neither the factories nor the associated settlements have expanded far from the valley floor. Up to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century the villages and hamlets constituting this character area maintained a degree of physical separation, although united in function and character, but since then residential development has joined the two main settlements – Drefach and Felindre – with Waungilwen. The hamlets of Drefelin, Cwmpengraig, Cwmhiraeth and Glyn-teg, lying in the steep-sided valleys, have experienced less recent development and have maintained their individual character. The villages and hamlets are linear, spreading along the valley floors or alongside roads. There is now no particular focus to these settlements, and former clustering of houses around individual mills or other buildings such as chapels has been subsumed into the overall settlement pattern.

Drefach is the largest village and is described first as it contains most of the elements that can also be seen in the other villages and hamlets. This is overwhelmingly a 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial settlement. Mills here range from substantial two storey structures of stone and brick such as the integrated Cambrian Mills (now part of the National Museum and Galleries of Wales) mainly built in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to weaving sheds/workshops attached to houses or incorporated into them as attics or upper storeys, such as Pantglas and Llwynbrain House (these houses and the Cambrian Mills are listed). Other listed buildings at Drefach comprise a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel, mills and large, detached, late 19<sup>th</sup> century houses of the middle classes and mill owners, such as Greenfield, Bargoed Villa and Meiros Hall. Most houses are not listed and consist of 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses. Many styles are present, but two-storey terraces with little architectural pretension predominate, with both single period - single style terraces and mixed style – multi build terraces. They are probably the result of housing provision by mill owners or speculative building by landowners. Most lie in the broad Georgian vernacular tradition, with relatively large sash windows and symmetrically arranged facades. Some Gothic detailing is present on some dwellings and a row of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century two-storey vernacular cottages lies in the centre of the village. Stone – both locally-sourced and Teifi valley slate – is the dominant building material. Teifi valley slate is cut and laid in courses on the larger houses, such as Greenfield, but more commonly stone is used as uncoursed rubble on workers cottages and other buildings. The use of yellow brick and to a lesser extent red brick for door and window jambs and voussoirs provides a distinct character to many buildings. Shaped stone voussoirs are also present. Cement render with colour-wash is also common, particularly on early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings. Some of these may be of brick, although the use of brick for the entire building prior to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is not common. Commercially cut north Wales slate is ubiquitous. Development continued throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with examples of 1930 to 1950 suburban style houses on the outskirts of the village and infilling vacant spaces within the village itself. House building continues today, and the village of Drefach is now linked to Felindre by 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows and houses.

Felindre shares many of the characteristics of Drefach. It has listed woollen mills, terraced worker houses and larger middle class or mill owner houses. St Barnabas', the communities' Anglican church which is in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century gothic style, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century school, are located here. An early chapel at Felindre, Capel Pen-rhiw, was converted from a barn in 1777. A classic of the 'primitive' type of chapel architecture, it was moved to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Felindre House opposite the church may have 18<sup>th</sup> century origins, in which case it predates other buildings in the area, although externally it appears to be a rubble built two-storey 19<sup>th</sup> century house. As with Drefach late 20<sup>th</sup> century linear development links the village with that of its neighbours.

The oldest part of Waungilwen consists of terraces of 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular terraced worker houses and detached worker houses, including some single storey cottages. Drefelin has a listed stone built mill, on the site of an older mill, and a terrace of 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses running along the valley floor. Further up the valley at Glyn-teg is a 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel, a farm and a short terrace of 19<sup>th</sup> century single storey worker cottages. Squeezed into the narrow valley floor at Cwmpengraig is a chapel, woollen mill and worker house, all of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Cwmhiraeth is similarly confined. Here there is a loose cluster of 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey worker houses – detached, semi-detached and short terraces – single storey cottages and small-holdings and a three-storey disused mill. Teifi valley slate is the dominant building material. There is also a scatter of modern bungalows and houses. Within or

alongside the fields of the valley floor, between the villages and hamlets, are other isolated mills, cottages, worker houses, mill owners' houses, which almost all date to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although predominantly domestic in appearance, many of these dwellings have weaving sheds or workshops attached to them, although most are now in a derelict condition.

Of the 115 recorded archaeological sites in this area, the vast majority are buildings and structures as described above, with others relating to the woollen industry such as mill leats and ponds. There is very little pre 19<sup>th</sup> century recorded archaeology, and what there is – three holy wells – do not greatly characterise the area.

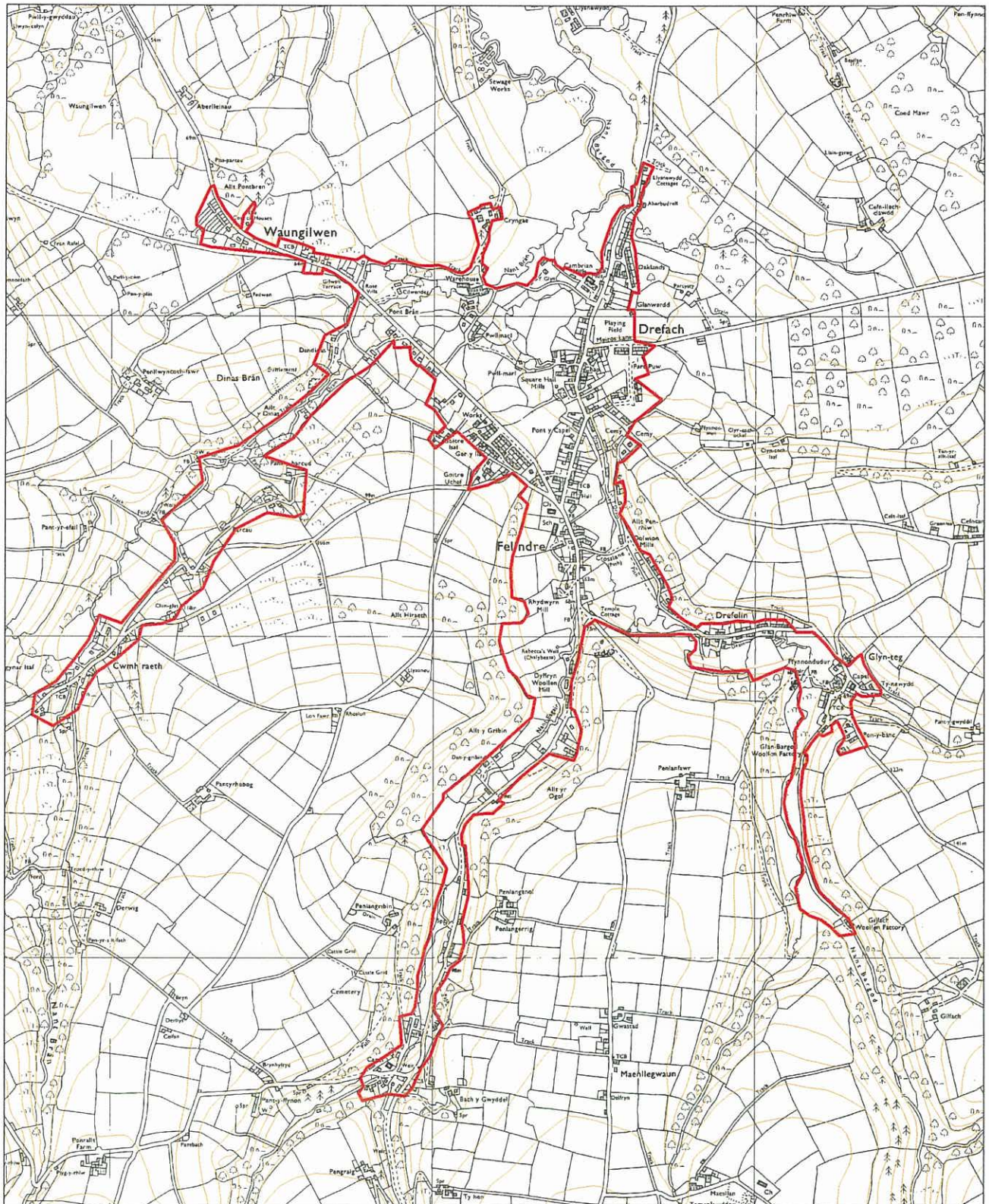
The tight grouping of buildings constructed from local stone in a broadly similar architectural style within a very short period from 1870 to 1910 provides a strong historic landscape character for Drefach – Felindre. It is therefore a very distinct historic landscape area, and contrasts with the woodland and farmland of neighbouring areas. However, many of the architectural traits – use of Teifi valley slate, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century style - of the industrial buildings are paralleled in the agricultural buildings of the neighbourhood.

### **Conservation priorities**

Many of the domestic buildings are in good repair and retain much of their original character. This should be encouraged. The industrial buildings are not in such good condition, with mills, weaving sheds and other structures becoming disused and neglected. New uses for these structures should be sought where feasible. Modern linear housing development has united some settlements that formerly had separate identities. This form of development should be discouraged, and development that adds to the character of the settlements encouraged.

**Sources:** Bowen, E G, 1939, 'Economic and Social Life', in J E Lloyd, *A History of Carmarthenshire Volume II, From the Act of Union (1536) to 1900*, 265-406, Cardiff; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 76; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jack, R I, 1981, 'Fulling Mills in Wales and the March before 1547', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 130, 70-125; Jenkins, J G, 1998 'Rural Industries in Cardiganshire' in G H Jenkins and I G Jones, *Cardiganshire County History Volume 3: Cardiganshire in Modern Times*, 135-59, Cardiff; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyf Llangeler a Phenboyr, Llandysul*; Hilling, J B, 1975, *The Historic Architecture of Wales*, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Ludlow, N, Wilson, H and Page, N, 2001, 'Cambrian Mills, Drefach Felindre', unpublished Cambria Archaeology client report; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 381 DREFACH - FELINDRE

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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**Drefach – Felindre** is an industrial historic landscape character area based on the woollen industry. Stone-built mills, workers' houses, owners' houses, churches and chapels clustered in several villages attest to the rapid expansion of this industry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 382 DYFFRYN BARGOD AND DYFFRYN ESGAIR**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN348367**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 171**

#### **Historic Background**

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of the steep-sided valleys of Nant Bargod and its tributary Nant Esgair. It mainly comprises heavily-wooded valley slopes. The area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and it remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525 to be granted, in 1546, to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed little settlement has occurred within this area, although the first large-scale cartographic representation of this area - estate maps of 1778 - show a lot less woodland than today, with more fields on steep valley sides. By the tithe survey of c. 1840 more woodland is shown, but it is still less than today. Since that date woodland has either regenerated over former fields or been planted. Since World War 2 coniferous woodland has been planted, either in small pockets between deciduous trees, or as more extensive cover on the higher slopes towards the southern part of this area.

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

This heavily wooded historic landscape character area lies on the steep valley sides of the north-flowing streams, Nant Bargod and Dyffryn Esgair. The lower valley sides at the northern end lie at about 50m above sea level. At the southern end the highest point of the valley sides rises to over 200m above sea level. Apart from a few fields of scrub and rough pasture, the whole is wooded. This is a mixture of deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations. Deciduous woodland predominates at the northern lower end of the character area on the valley sides above the villages and hamlets of Drefach, Felindre, Cwmpencraig and Drefelin, with coniferous plantations more common on the higher ground to the south. Some of the deciduous woodland is ancient, some may be relatively recent regeneration and some may be plantations.

There are no standing buildings in this area, but several ruined cottages associated with the Drefach - Felindre woollen industry are recorded on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, as well as several mill leats that once fed woollen mills. Other archaeological sites are few, but include an Iron Age hillfort, and several old quarries of probable of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

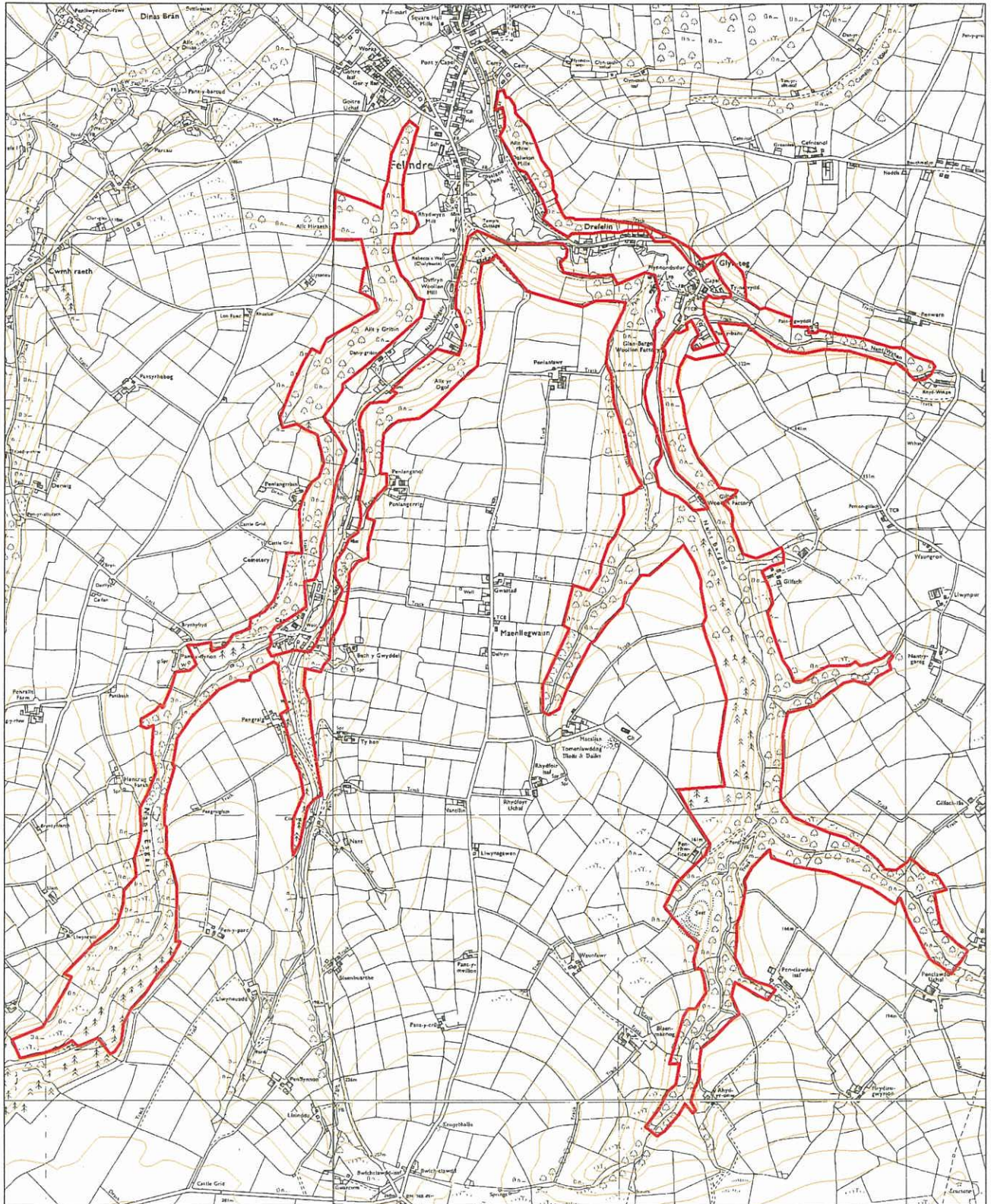
This is a distinctive historic landscape character area. It contrasts sharply with the neighbouring agricultural character areas and industrial/settlement areas.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Management of the deciduous woodland may be required, but no detailed inspection of it was made for this report. Otherwise maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Cadw –Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 382 DYFFRYN BARGOED AND DYFFRYN ESGAIR

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Deciduous woodland on steep valley sides above the industrial settlements of Drefach and Felindre characterises the **Dyffryn Bargoed and Dyffryn Esgair** historic landscape character area.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 383 AFON TEIFI: NEWCASTLE EMLYN - LLANDYSUL

GRID REFERENCE: SN352401

AREA IN HECTARES: 388

#### Historic Background

A long, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, comprising the rich, scenic floodplain of the lower Afon Teifi between Newcastle Emlyn to the west and Llandysul, to the east. It is almost entirely farmland, consisting of fairly large, often regular fields of pasture. The Teifi forms the boundary between the two counties but the medieval and later history of the area is similar in both. Both Cantref Emlyn (Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote) south of the river, and Cantref Is Aeron (Gwynionydd commote) north of the river remained in Welsh hands until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with a brief period of Anglo-Norman control - and the establishment of numerous castles - between 1100 and 1136. The English crown finally annexed both areas in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created; In 1536, Emlyn Uwch-Cych eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region; this, and periodical flooding, have militated against major settlement within the area. However, some has occurred. The church at Llandyfrïog (Ceredigion), right on the riverbank, was already a parish church in 1291 and may have earlier origins (but was entirely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century). It appears never to have been a focus for domestic settlement. The moated site at Henllys had been recorded by the 14<sup>th</sup> century (the name does not necessarily indicate particularly early origins), and a small number of farms - Ddôl, Berthyfedwen, Cwmisdwr and Bercoed Uchaf - were later established on the floodplain. The area would also have been more isolated than today during the historic period, as the two roads that now flank the floodplain - the A484 on the south side and the A475 to the north - are both former turnpike roads that were newly constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The field pattern may have been largely established by the earlier post-medieval period, and estate maps and tithe maps show that this area has changed very little over the past 200 years. There has been a little loss of boundaries since estate maps were surveyed in 1778, and its clear from historic maps that in some areas the course of the river has changed. However, the construction of the 'Carmarthen-Cardigan' railway line through the area - opened under the Great Western Railway in 1895, but actually terminating at Newcastle Emlyn - once greatly contributed to the character of the area until it was closed in 1973. Its traffic was mainly locally produced textiles, with livestock, milk and timber.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

This area consists entirely of the floodplain of the Afon Teifi between Newcastle Emlyn and Llandysul, a distance of approximately 12km. The average width of the floodplain is about 0.5km and it lies between 30m and 50m above sea level. Land-use is almost entirely improved pasture with a little unimproved pasture. Fields are medium- to large-size, fairly regular and separated by hedges. The hedges are rarely set on boundary banks, and the banks that are present are low. Hedges sometimes flank streams or drainage ditches. Many of the hedges are overgrown and this together with the numerous large hedgerow trees and occasional isolated standard, lends a 'parkland' aspect to parts of the landscape. Apart from Llandyfrïog church, there are no buildings, but two bridges cross the river where the valley narrows to c. 50m wide. Pont Henllan is an 18<sup>th</sup> century single arch bridge of Teifi valley slate with a date stone of 1774, and Allt-y-Cafan Bridge is also built of local stone with a single arch and a date stone of 1839. Both are listed buildings. Former turnpike roads - the A484, A486 and A475 - run along the edge of the floodplain for part of their courses, and in places cross it. Mortared walls flank these roads for short sections. The heavily wooded embankment of a dismantled railway that runs almost the entire length of the floodplain is a distinctive landscape element. A sports field, sewage works and caravan site have recently been established on the floodplain. Known archaeology is limited to Henllys medieval moated settlement.

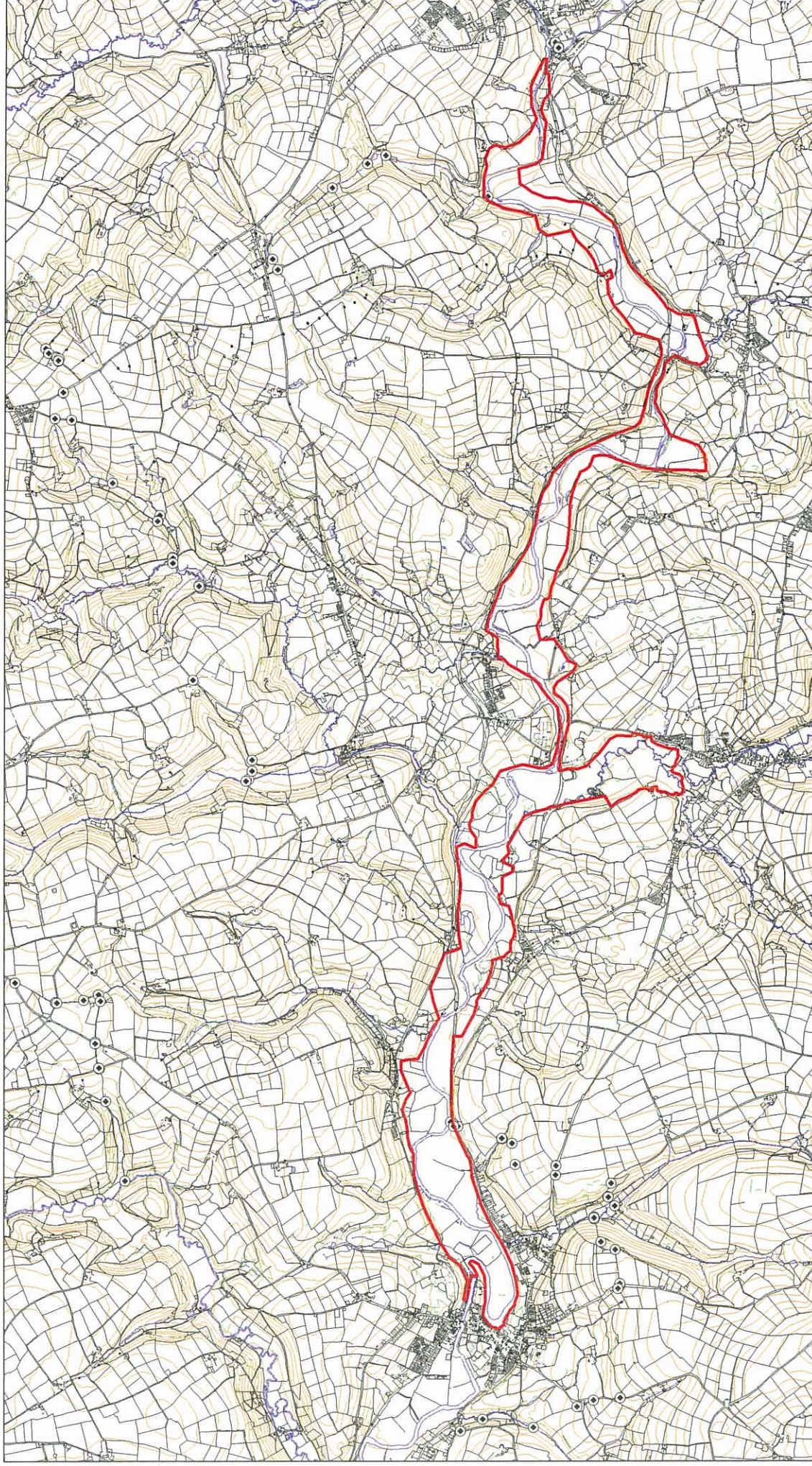
The few built structures and the 'parkland' aspect of the historic landscape character area set it out from its neighbours. Its level nature, as opposed to the hilly land of the surrounding landscape, enables a hard-edge boundary to be drawn around it.

**Conservation priorities**

Maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Gwili Railway, n.d., Guide to the Gwili Railway; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llandyfrïog parish tithe map 1844; Llanfair Onllwyn parish tithe map 1844; Llangelier parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion Churches', unpublished Cambria Archaeology client report; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; National Library of Wales Rev J C Davies map book 1793 –1815; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 383 AFON TEIFI:  
NEWCASTLE EMLYN - LLANDYSUL**

**Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals**

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**The Afon Teifi: Newcastle Emlyn – Llandysul** historic landscape character area comprises the rich pasture of the floodplain. There are no houses but two 18<sup>th</sup> century stone bridges are included.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 384 COED MAWR

GRID REFERENCE: SN363392

AREA IN HECTARES: 140

#### Historic Background

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire comprising a pocket of 19<sup>th</sup> century Parliamentary enclosure, with regular rectangular fields, now mainly wooded. The area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525 to be granted, in 1546, to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed little settlement has occurred within this area, which during the post-medieval period, and probably earlier, was common land. On the 1839 tithe map this area is depicted as open unenclosed land, and named on the accompanying apportionment as Waun Fawr Common, in the ownership of Earl Cawdor. The tithe map evidence suggests that the fringes of this common had recently been encroached upon and enclosed. In 1855, a Parliamentary Enclosure Award was granted for 138 acres of common and waste, then called Waunmeiros. The outcome of this award - regularly shaped fields and a straight section of road - is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1887. The field pattern established in 1855 prevails today. A small woodland plantation was established by 1887, and today land is under a mixture of woodland and pasture..

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

This relatively small historic landscape area, lying across gently undulating ground between 60m and 89m, is not now greatly different from its neighbouring landscapes, but it has a distinct and well-documented recent landscape history. The current pattern of regular, relatively small fields separated by hedges on earth banks dates from 1855, following a Parliamentary Enclosure Act. A straight section of road crossing the area is typical of Parliamentary enclosure. A small deciduous plantation was established by 1887 and subsequently many other fields have reverted to or have been planted with deciduous woodland. This woodland and the overgrown nature of the hedges lends a heavily wooded aspect to the landscape. Land quality does not appear as good as that in neighbouring areas as there is much unimproved pasture and damp rushy ground. There are no dwellings or other buildings, and no recorded archaeological sites.

Regular fields, woodland and the absence of buildings distinguish this area from its neighbours. Apart from these elements, the general landscape character is not dissimilar from the rest of this part of rural north Carmarthenshire.

#### Conservation priorities

There are few pressures on this landscape character area, even so some management of hedges may be required, but otherwise maintain as existing.

Sources: Chapman, J, 1992, *A Guide to Parliamentary Enclosures in Wales*, University of Wales Press, Cardiff; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llanelger tithe map, 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition, c.1880; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology









Small regular fields created by an Act of Parliament in 1855 and deciduous woodland characterise the relatively small **Coed Mawr** historic landscape character area.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 385 LLANGELER

GRID REFERENCE: SN379376

AREA IN HECTARES: 1069

#### Historic Background

A fairly large area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of dispersed farms, fields and scattered woodland stands. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverted to the crown in 1525, and was then granted, in 1546, to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentrecwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

The southern part of this area appears to have formed part of the medieval Garth Gywddyll Forest that stretched away to the southeast, and was presumably unfarmed, unenclosed land. However, the northeast part of this character area, east of Pentrecwrt, belonged to a different landholding and tenurial regime, having been part of Maenor Forion Grange. This grange was established during the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the land was granted to the Cistercian Whitland Abbey by the sons of the local Welsh lord Maredudd of Cilrhedyn. Its nucleus appears to have been at Court Farm, where a granary was present, and which was apparently a summer retreat for the abbot. Two mills, a corn mill and a fulling-mill (part of the leat of which can be traced) were located on the Afon Siedi at Geulan Felen, demonstrating that the abbey was possibly an early pioneer in the cloth industry that would come to dominate other parts of this Register Area. The grange chapel lay just outside this character area, probably on the same site as the present St Mary's, a chapel-of-ease to Llangeler parish. The early medieval Decabarbalom Stone, found near the chapel, suggests earlier origins. It is associated with a motte, 'Pencastell', which may have been an earlier grange nucleus. Otherwise, we know little of the land-use within the grange, as Maenor Forion was one of the very few Welsh granges not to be subject to an Exchequer Proceeding (Equity) after the Dissolution, from which much of our knowledge of grange management is derived. Most of Whitland's estates were held, at the Dissolution, under various leases, tenurial systems, rents and obligations belonging to Welsh law. In general, the abbey's Carmarthenshire properties paid money rents, and contributions of cheese, capons and oats, while the Ceredigion properties made contributions of wool, sheep and lambs. However, it is far from clear whether or not these arrangements perpetuate long-standing arrangements of earlier origin. Nevertheless, the survival of a diversity of rents, in both cash, kind and service, suggests that they correspond with earlier villein obligations, and it has therefore been suggested that Whitland exploited its granges along native lines from the first, and therefore land-use and settlement were probably similar inside and outside the grange. The grange became crown land at the Dissolution in 1536 and was sold during the reign of Charles I to John Lewis of Llysnewydd and Thomas Price of Rhydyppennau, the latter's portion passing onto D L Jones of Derlwyn. Apart from the disposal of small parts of the properties, the greater part of the former grange remained in these family hands until at least 1900, forming the core of two large estates.

The present landscape throughout this character area mainly comprises medium-large regular, rectangular fields of late enclosure. They probably date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century - although some of the individual farmsteads will probably be older - and appear to be contemporary with the present road system which follows the enclosure axis and boundaries. The present A484, which runs from north-south through the area, was built new as a turnpike road in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first

comprehensive map cover, the tithe map of 1839, shows a landscape not dissimilar to that of today. There are a few minor differences, such as small blocks of strip fields close to Saron and some small pockets of unenclosed land. Both of these are now regular fields. The only settlement clusters on the tithe map are at Llangeler, with approximately four dwellings, and Pentre-cwrt with c. 20 houses. Pentre-cwrt is possibly post medieval in origin as is the nucleation at Llangeler, although it developed around a medieval church which was also the property of Whitland Abbey, the grant of which was confirmed by King John 1199-1216. Llangeler - also known as 'Merthyr Celer' - was a multiple church site, with a 'capel-y-bedd' ('saint's grave chapel' or 'founder's grave chapel') formerly lying south of the church. A well-chapel lay 150m northeast of the churchyard. Both the churchyard and the well-chapel may have occupied a very large circular outer enclosure represented by field boundaries. The 'merthyr' element is regarded as an indicator of early medieval origins..

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

Llangeler historic landscape character area lies on the undulating north-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi. Its northern edge borders the floodplain at about 50m above sea level from which the land rises gently to over 200m above sea level at the area's southern boundary. It is an agricultural historic landscape character area consisting of dispersed farms, fields and scattered woodland stands. Agricultural land-use is almost entirely improved pasture. The hedges set on earth or earth and stone banks and which bound the medium-sized irregular fields are generally well maintained, but some are overgrown, and many have large trees in them. This creates a wooded aspect to the landscape in some parts of this area, especially where it occurs in combination with deciduous woodland on some of the minor, steep valley sides. Roads and lanes are narrow and winding and flanked by large hedgebanks, except for the two main north-south roads, the A484 and the A486. Stone is the main, and almost exclusive, building material in older structures. Generally Teifi valley slate is more common close to the Teifi - laid as uncoursed rubble, but there are some examples where the stone has been cut and laid in courses - in the northern part of this area, with locally-sourced stone predominant elsewhere. Many of the houses are cement rendered and colour-washed, but where visible and on unrendered houses and agricultural buildings this is clearly over stone. Commercial north Wales slate is the common roofing material. There are few pre-19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. The majority of farmhouses date to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and are in the typical southwest Wales style - two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows - a style that owes more to the polite Georgian tradition than the vernacular. Vernacular houses are present, such as the listed two storey, three bay example at Henfryn, but these are not common. More substantial, earlier, houses firmly in the Georgian Period and style, such as the listed examples at Tanyralltddu, Shadog and Penyrallt and the unlisted Rhydybennau, are also relatively rare. Penyrallt is a gentry house, with a home farm including several listed outbuildings, but is nevertheless relatively modest, with two storeys and three bays. Old agricultural outbuildings are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, of bare stone, apart from a few later, brick examples, and in most instances of one or two ranges, set informally around the farmyard. There are examples of buildings in a more formal setting around a courtyard, perhaps indicating estate farms. Penyrallt with its separate home farm is of a higher social level than the other farms. Most functions are catered for in the farm outbuildings indicating a mixed arable/pasture economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Working farms have modern steel and concrete outbuildings, but these are not on a large scale. Some mid 20<sup>th</sup> century corrugated iron round-headed barns survive on some farms. The hamlet of Llangeler, focused on the medieval church, is the only notable grouping of agricultural buildings, with 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses and buildings and several 19<sup>th</sup> century single storey worker cottages. Pentre-cwrt, the only other settlement cluster, is an old industrial settlement founded on the woollen industry. Several late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone built substantial mill buildings survive close to the village, at Llwynderw, Alltcafau and Henfryn. The village consists of a loose cluster of late 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey terraced, semi-detached and detached worker houses and single storey cottages with late 20<sup>th</sup> century houses and bungalows spreading along the approach roads. Dispersed late 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey worker houses, often in short terraces, can be found at several locations close to Pentre-cwrt and along the lower valley slopes close to the Teifi, such as Bwlchmelyn and Hannerfordd.

There are over 45 recorded archaeological sites in this historic landscape character area. Most are of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later buildings, but other sites such as the Iron Age hillfort at Henfryn, the grange features and the multiple church complex at Llangeler provide time-depth to the landscape. None of these earlier archaeological sites, however, now strongly characterise the area.

Llangeler is not an easy historic landscape character area to define. To the west valley side woodland and industrial settlements provide good contrast and a hard boundary, as does the floodplain of the

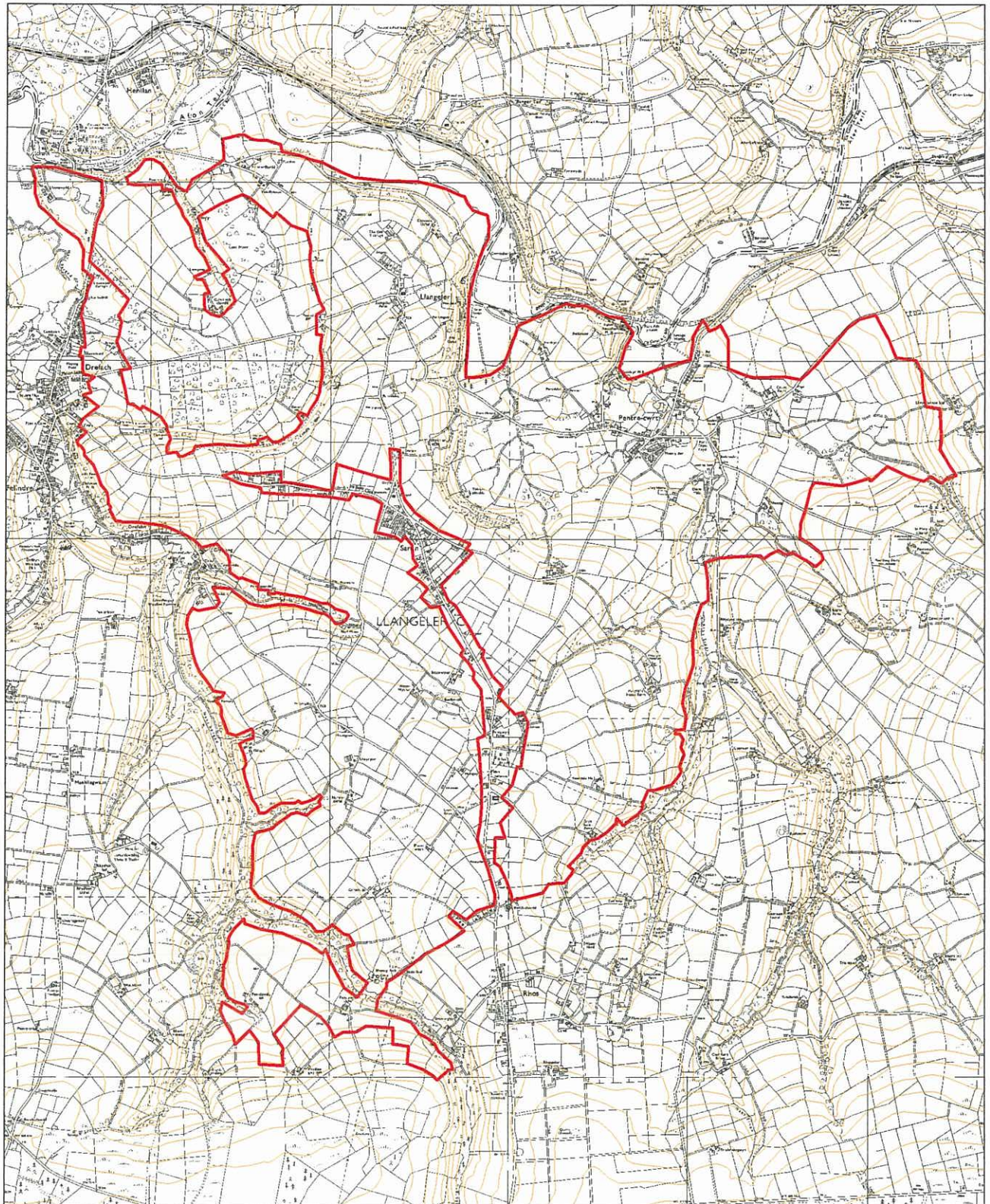
Teifi to the north, but elsewhere this area shares many of the characteristics of its neighbours and therefore the boundaries are a broad zone of change rather than hard-edged.

#### **Conservation priorities**

The majority of the historic landscape components of this area are in good condition. Hedges are generally well maintained, as is woodland. There is not a great deal of modern development, although the linear housing development around Pentre-cwrt needs to be carefully managed if the character of the settlement is not to be lost. Some old farm buildings and some of the old mill buildings are no longer in use. New uses for them must be sought if they are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cal. Patent Rolls, Elizabeth Vol. 2, 1560-1563, London 1948; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jack, R I, 1981, 'Fulling Mills in Wales and the March before 1547', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 130, 70-125; Jones, A, 1937, 'The Estates of the Welsh Abbeys at the Dissolution', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 92, 269-286; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Jones, E G, 1939, *Exchequer Proceedings (Equity) concerning Wales*, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2002 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Carmarthenshire', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N D, forthcoming, 'Whitland Abbey', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*; National Library of Wales Vol 17 map book 1796; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Richard, A J, 1935, 'Castles, Boroughs and Religious Houses', in J E Lloyd, *A History of Carmarthenshire Volume I*, 269-371, Cardiff; Williams, D H, 1990, *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales*, Cardiff





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 385 LLANGELER**

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Dispersed farms within a landscape of pasture fields with deciduous woodland on steeper slopes and a few late 19<sup>th</sup> century woollen mills and workers' houses close to the Afon Teifi characterise the **Llangel** historic landscape character area.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 386 SARON - RHOS

GRID REFERENCE: SN379367

AREA IN HECTARES: 82

#### Historic Background

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire, comprising a narrow corridor either side of the present A484, which runs north-south through the surrounding character area of Llangeler. The road has been subject to 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development, between the two 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements of Saron and Rhos. The area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which have any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverted to the crown in 1525, and was granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed, this character area represents one of the most built-up areas within Uwch-Cych, but the development is all of a very late date. In 1839, four buildings were recorded at Saron, close to the A484, which was a newly constructed as turnpike in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings include Saron Chapel, established in 1792, which was clearly a primary feature and from which the settlement derives its name. The buildings are in a landscape of fields and dispersed farms, which follow the axis of the road and appear to be contemporary, late 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. The landscape at Rhos is different. Here at the higher end of the character area close to open moorland a pattern of scattered cottages set in small irregular fields is seen. These were probably established as squatter settlements or *tai umos* on the fringes of common land in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Settlement expanded gradually throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a small church, an independent chapel and a Sunday school were established at Rhos, along with further dwellings at both Rhos and Saron. These settlements were then still very small. The last three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have seen a rapid expansion of the settlements which has resulted in an almost continuous linear development of houses and bungalows along the old turnpike road/A484.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a roadside linear character area very much dominated by late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing, but with some older elements. It fringes the A484 road on gentle north-facing slopes between 160m above sea level at Saron and up to 230m above sea level at Rhos. At Rhos there is a fairly tight distribution of late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone built, two storey cottages and houses. Some have small agricultural buildings attached or close to them indicating their agricultural origin. Stone is the traditional building material, with Teifi valley slate - laid as uncoursed rubble - more common at lower levels close to the Teifi, and locally-sourced stone more common at higher levels towards the southern end. Of the character area. Two small late 19<sup>th</sup> century chapels and a Sunday school are also located here. Modern housing, particularly bungalows, infills much of the space between the older house along the main road. Saron was originally focused on the main road where some of the older buildings including stone-built and cement rendered terraces of two storey worker cottages and a substantial late 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel can be found. A 20<sup>th</sup> century school is also located here. However, modern housing alongside the main road and on side lanes now dominates the settlement, forming virtually unbroken development on the A484 from Saron to Rhos. Although this area is chiefly non-agricultural, some agricultural historic landscape components are included including: Lleiniau, a late 18<sup>th</sup> century house with in-line outbuildings and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century house; farmhouses dating to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the typical southwest Wales style - stone-built, two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically



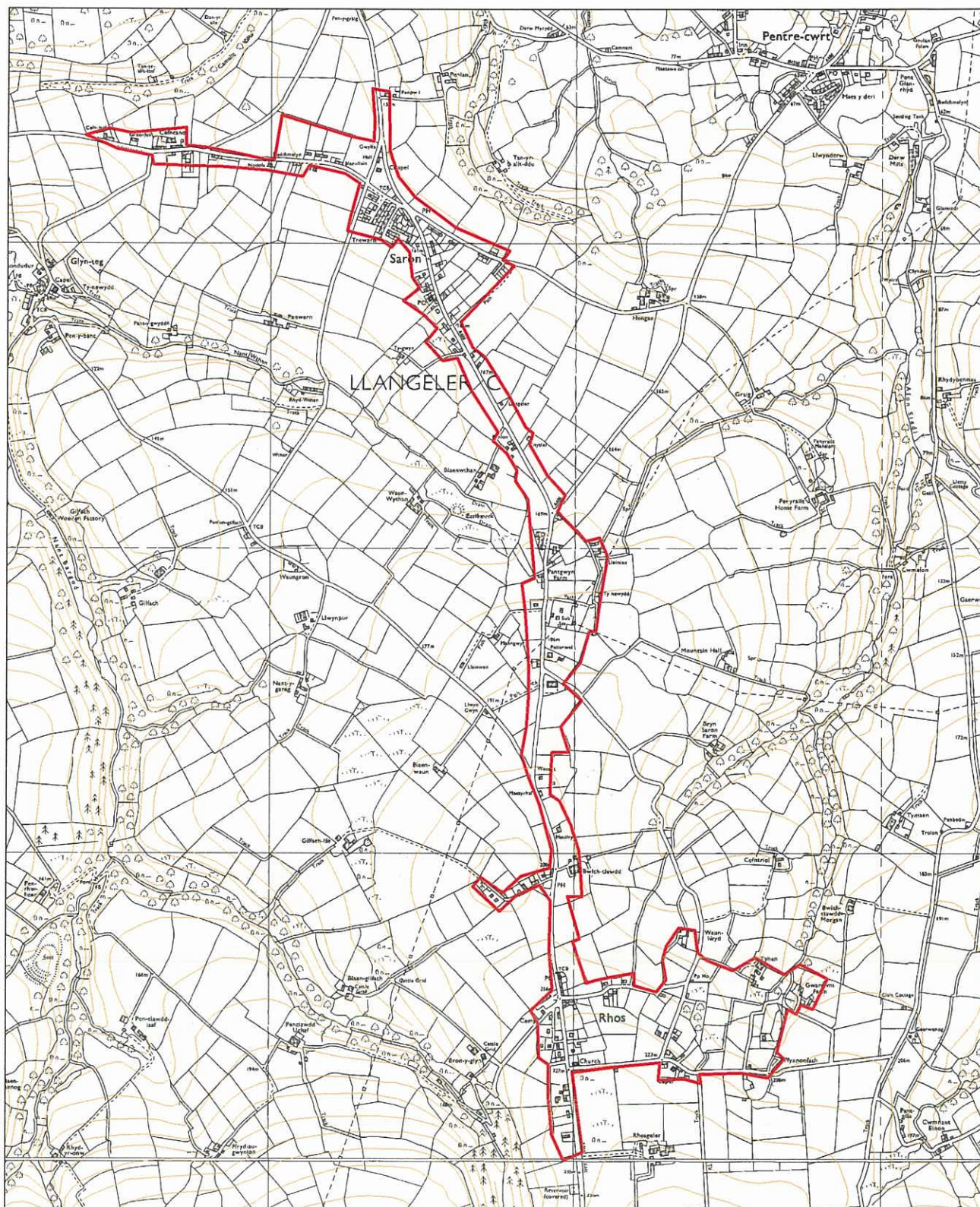
arranged windows - associated with one or two ranges of stone outbuildings, and fields with hedges on earth banks. There is no recorded archaeology.

Saron — Rhos is defined by modern development. Modern housing, particularly in clusters or linear developments is rare in the neighbouring historic landscape character areas.

#### **Conservation priorities**

The planning of Saron and Rhos needs to be carefully managed if the modern development is to be prevented from spreading further along the A484 and along minor roads into surrounding historic landscape character areas.

**Sources:** Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 386 SARON - RHOS

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Although small farms, cottages and other buildings testify to its 19<sup>th</sup> century origins, the **Saron – Rhos** historic landscape character area is overwhelmingly characterised by modern linear housing development stretching for several kilometres along the main A484 road.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 387 BWLCH-CLAWDD - CWMBACH

GRID REFERENCE: SN378345

AREA IN HECTARES: 270

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Carmarthenshire, comprising a narrow strip on the northern flank of an east-west ridge. It comprises 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of open moorland. In common with similar landscapes elsewhere in southwest Wales, prehistoric monuments represent the main historic landscape component. Crugydalfa and Cructarw, two Bronze Age burial mounds on its southern fringe - both of which were intentionally highly visible - give visual character and time-depth to the landscape character area. No contemporary field systems have so far been recognised. During the historic period, the area lay on the southern edge of the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which have any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup>- and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525, and was granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed, this character area was probably open moor until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its subsequent history is relatively well understood. Estate maps of 1778 show partially enclosed moorland. To its north lay farms and fields as today, and to the south open, high moor. Colonisation took place. For instance, at Penclawdd Uchaf in 1778 two cottages lay on unenclosed moor, but by 1839 fields had been created around these cottages. This colonisation of common, squatter settlements or *tai unnos*, was of dubious legality, but often tolerated. When Act of Parliament enclosed the remaining common of Llangeler and Penboyr in 1866 some of these settlements are marked as encroachments. Since that date there has been some retreat of settlement.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Bwlch-Clawdd - Cwmbach is a linear, east to west aligned, historic landscape character area lying on north-facing slopes between 210m and 270m immediately below a ridge summit. It is an agricultural character area characterised by small irregular fields, hedges on banks and dispersed farms. Agricultural land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with little arable or poor quality land. Hedges on the earth and earth/stone banks are generally overgrown and straggling, and the many large bushes and small trees in them, in combination with deciduous woodland on some of the steep valley sides, provides a wooded aspect to parts of the landscape. Agricultural holdings are very small. Late 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows and two-storey houses in a variety of styles and materials have replaced most of the earlier farmhouses, and there is some dispersed modern housing across the area. Occasional late 19<sup>th</sup> century cement rendered two storey vernacular dwellings survive, but are rare. Stone-built 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings are likewise unusual, and where they do occur they are small. Most farm outbuildings are modern and relatively small, although one farm has very substantial late 20<sup>th</sup> century steel, concrete and asbestos agricultural buildings. There are no listed buildings. Thirteen archaeological sites are recorded. Most of these are either quarries and sand pits of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century or buildings mentioned above. Two Bronze Age burial mounds demonstrate pre-19<sup>th</sup> century human activity in the area, as does the northern end of Clawdd-Mawr, an early medieval linear defensive earthwork.

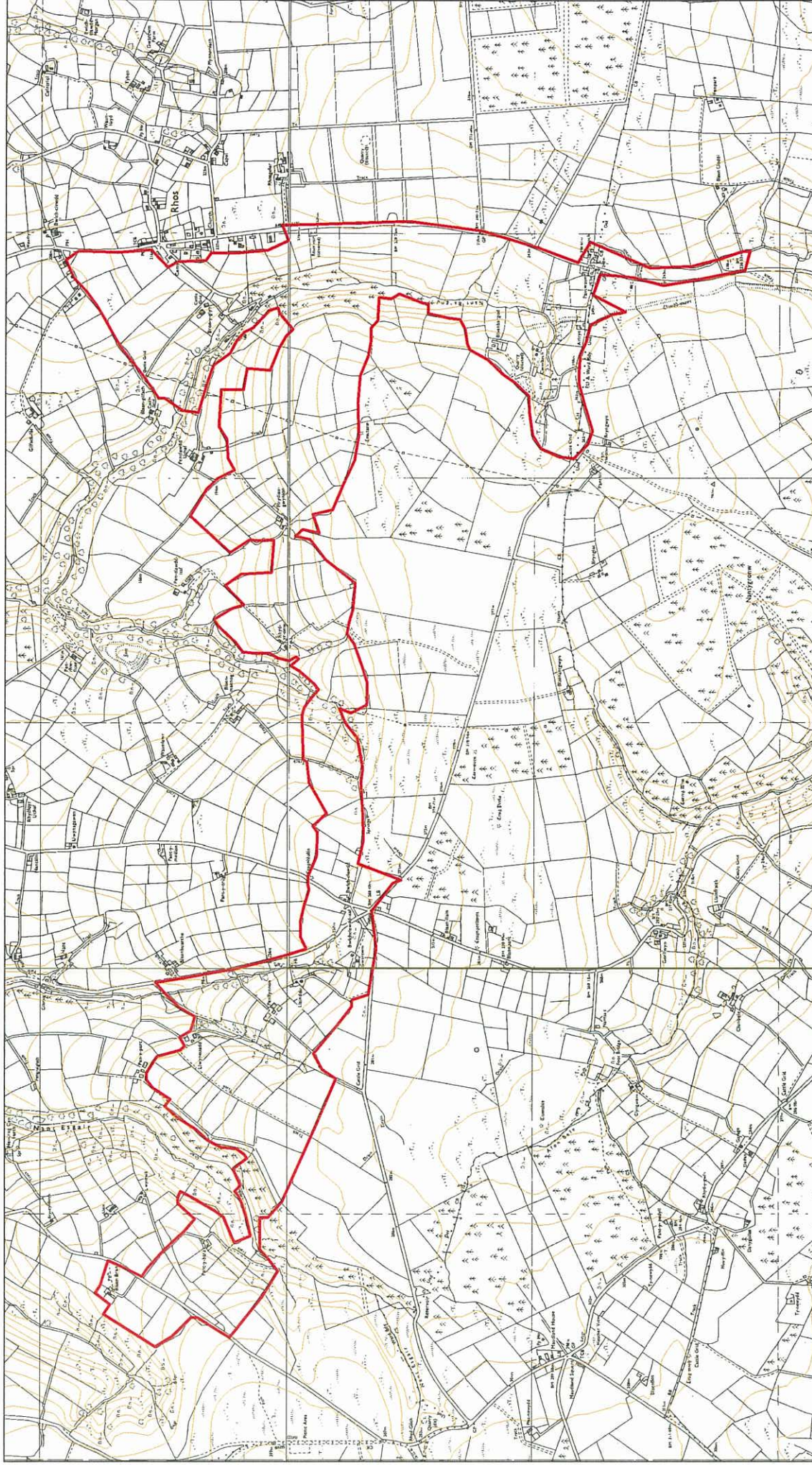
This is a relatively well-defined historic landscape character area. Regular fields created by a 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure award lie to the south and richer, larger farms on the lower-lying land to the north.

### **Conservation priorities**

Management of many of the overgrown hedges will have to be considered if they are not to be reduced to straggling lines of bushes, and eventually lost. Otherwise maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate -- The Property of John Vaughan 1778, maps 70, 85, 89, 92; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Phwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





# **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

**Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 387 BWLCH-CLAWDD**  
**CWM BACH**

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The **Bwlch-Clawdd – Cwmbach** historic landscape character area appears to have developed during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when farms and small fields were established on open moorland. Most buildings in the area are modern. Two Bronze Age round barrows and the early medieval Clawdd-Mawr dyke are included in this area.

## **DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 388 RHOS PENBOYR**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN333336**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 1584**

#### **Historic Background**

A large area within modern Carmarthenshire, comprising an extensive ridge of high ground separating the Teifi valley to the north from the Tywi valley to the south. It was open moorland, named 'Mynydd Castell Newydd' on Emmanuel Bowen's map of 1729 and was not enclosed until 1866. Historically, it presented a considerable barrier to travellers. Indeed its western end is named 'Fose y Gelin' by Bowen, with the warning 'A Dangerous Bogg which Strangers ought to be cautious of Crossing in ye Winter Season without Guides'. In common with similar landscapes elsewhere in southwest Wales, the main historic landscape component is represented by prehistoric monuments; including 15 Bronze Age round barrows, which were intentionally highly visible - and still are, especially the three on the summit of Mynydd Moelfre at the west end of the area - and give both visual character and time-depth to the area. No contemporary field systems have so far been recognised, although a massive linear defensive bank known as Clawdd-Mawr, crossing the eastern end of the ridge, which is early medieval, but could be much earlier.

During the historic period, the bulk of this area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote which remained largely in Welsh hands until the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, and in 1536 formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. The southern part of this character area is in Cantref Gwarthaf, Elfed commote. This was brought under Anglo-Norman control soon after the establishment of the royal castle at Carmarthen, in 1109-10, as part of the associated 'Honour of Carmarthen'. In 1284, it became the core of the newly-formed County of Carmarthen. However, it represented the 'Welshry' of the lordship and county, and so a Welsh tenurial pattern persisted in both areas - with neither villis nor knight's fees. This is largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern throughout the region. Indeed little settlement appears to have occurred within the Rhos Penboyrr character area prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, there is documentary evidence for lead and silver mining during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Mynydd Moelfre was formal common land during the medieval period, and the entire character area is shown as open common - essentially moorland - on tithe maps of c. 1840, although by this date its lower-lying fringes had been encroached upon by squatters, cottages had been built and fields laid out. The greater portion of common, including most of this character area, was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1866. Regular, relatively large fields were laid out, and soon after farms and cottages built. Later intervention has been limited, although a second defensive line, the Rhos-Llangelier Stop Line, was built across the ridge west of Clawdd Mawr during World War 2. Since the war, coniferous forestry plantations have been established over some of the fields, which with three massive wind-turbines - constructed in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century on Mynydd Moelfre - are now the most prominent landscape features of the area.

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

Rhos Penboyrr is an east-west aligned ridge, lying between 210m and 330m above sea level, forming the watershed between the Afon Teifi to the north and the Afon Tywi to the south. It is an agricultural landscape overlain in places by coniferous forestry plantation. The large regular fields and straight lanes are typical of a landscape created by Act of Parliament, in this instance in 1866. It is exposed and windswept, and consequently hedges on the earth boundary banks are either straggling lines of low bushes or non-existent. Post and wire fences are the chief stock-proof barriers. Apart from large coniferous forestry plantations, which are a major characteristic of this landscape, it is treeless. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture with occasional fields of unimproved grazing and pockets of heather/bracken moor. Farms are small and widely dispersed. Although most of the farms were established in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, there are few buildings, either houses or farm outbuildings - that pre-date the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are no listed buildings. Three massive turbines constructed in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century are prominent landscape features. Clawdd-Mawr defensive bank

crosses the eastern end of the ridge. The World War 2 Rhos-Llangeler Stop Line is represented by anti tank cubes and pill boxes, and crosses the ridge further west. Other archaeological sites comprise over 15 Bronze Age round barrows, most of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and the most prominent of which, on hilltops, are important historic landscape components and demonstrate pre-19<sup>th</sup> century use of the area.

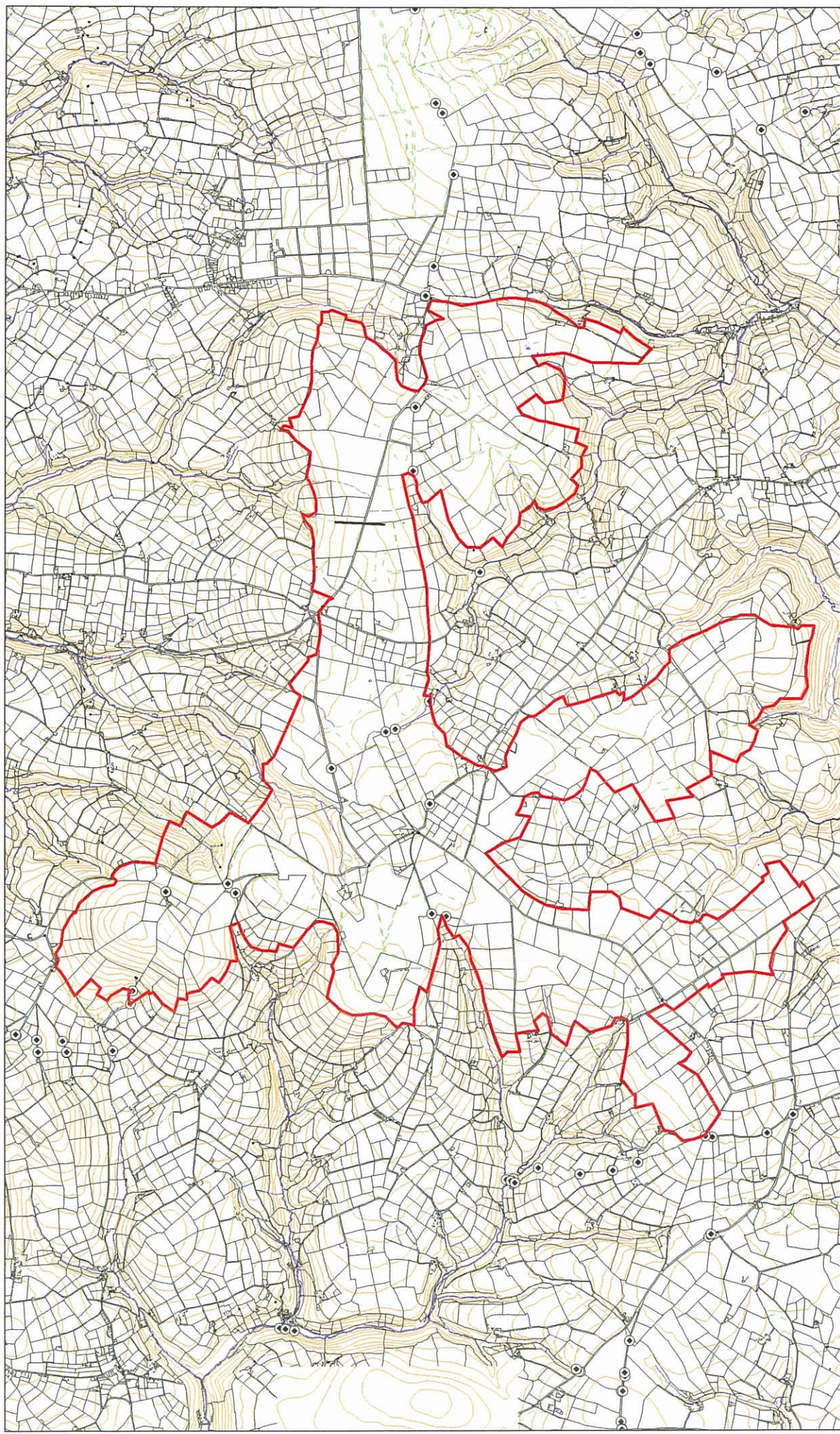
This is a relatively well-defined historic landscape character area that essentially corresponds to the land enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1866. There has been some blurring of the boundaries since then, owing, in particular, to the establishment of coniferous plantations, but nevertheless the historic boundaries still hold good.

#### **Conservation priorities**

This is a very dynamic historic landscape character area. It has altered over the past 150 years from open moorland, to fields and farms in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to fields and farms, forestry plantations and power generation. Consideration of this landscape's future direction is required so that the historic elements can be effectively managed.

**Sources:** Bowen E, 1729 A Map of South Wales; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 54, 56; Conwil parish tithe map 1840; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Phwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 388 RHOS PENBOYR**

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An 1866 Act of Parliament enclosing open moorland into fields created much of today's **Rhos Penboyr** historic landscape character area. Small farms, coniferous plantations, a World War 2 'stop line' and three wind turbines have been subsequently established.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 389 WAUNFAWR

GRID REFERENCE: SN382339

AREA IN HECTARES: 475

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Carmarthenshire, lying at the eastern end of an extensive ridge of high ground separating the Teifi valley to the north from the Tywi valley to the south. On Emmanuel Bowen's map of 1729 it is shown as open moorland under the name 'Mynydd Castell Newydd'. Historically, it presented a considerable barrier to travelers. The area was not enclosed until 1866. In common with similar landscapes elsewhere in southwest Wales prehistoric monuments represent the main historic landscape component. Two Bronze Age burial mounds are situated at its highest point - both of which were intentionally highly visible - give visual character and time-depth to the area. No contemporary field systems have been recognised.

During the historic period, the bulk of this area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote which remained largely in Welsh hands until the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, and in 1536 formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. The southern part of this character area is in Cantref Gwarthaf, Elfed commote. This was brought under Anglo-Norman control soon after the establishment of the royal castle at Carmarthen, in 1109-10, as part of the associated 'Honour of Carmarthen'. In 1284, it became the core of the newly-formed County of Carmarthen. However, it represented the 'Welshry' of the lordship and county, and so a Welsh tenurial pattern persisted in both areas - with neither vill nor knight's fees. This is largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern throughout the region. Indeed little settlement appears to have occurred within the Waunfawr character area prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, there is documentary evidence for lead and silver mining during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The eastern half of this character area belonged to a different landholding and tenurial regime, as part of Maenor Forion Grange. The grange was established during the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the land was granted to the Cistercian Whitland Abbey by the sons of the local Welsh lord Maredudd of Cilrhedyn. We know little of the land-use within the grange - Maenor Forion is one of very few Welsh granges not to have been subject to an Exchequer Proceeding (Equity) after the Dissolution, from which much of our knowledge of grange management is derived. Most of Whitland's estates were held, at the Dissolution, under various leases, tenurial systems, rents and obligations belonging to Welsh law. In general, the abbey's Carmarthenshire properties paid money rents, and contributions of cheese, capons and oats. The survival of a diversity of rents, in both cash, kind and service, suggests that they correspond with earlier villein obligations. It has been suggested that Whitland exploited its granges along native lines from the first, and therefore land-use and settlement were probably similar within and outside the boundaries of the grange, with this part of the grange probably always having been open grazing. The grange became crown land at the Dissolution in 1536 and this part of it appears to have been disposed of at an early date. There is documentary evidence for lead and silver mining within this general region during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The entire character area was still open common land - essentially moorland - when the Llangeler tithe map was drawn up in 1839, although by this date its lower-lying fringes had been encroached upon by squatters, cottages built and fields established. Act of Parliament enclosed the greater portion of common, including most of this historic landscape character area, in 1866. Regular, relatively large fields were laid out, and soon after farms and cottages built. Since World War 2 a substantial coniferous forestry plantation has been established over part of the landscape; this has been excluded from this area.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Waunfawr is the eastern end of an east-west aligned ridge forming the watershed between the Afon Teifi to the north and the Afon Tywi to the south. It lies between 210m and 310m above sea level. It is an agricultural landscape. The large regular fields and straight lanes are typical of a landscape created by Act of Parliament, in this instance in 1866. It is exposed and windswept, and consequently hedges

on the earth-and-stone boundary banks are either straggling lines of low bushes, or non-existent. Post-and-wire fences are the chief stock-proof barriers. The area is treeless, apart from small shelter-belts around dwellings. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture, with occasional fields of unimproved grazing. Farms are small and widely dispersed, but buildings are not a prominent characteristic of this area. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built farmhouses in the typical southwest Wales style – two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows- are present, as are 20<sup>th</sup> century houses. Some 19<sup>th</sup> century small, stone-built agricultural outbuildings are present, as are small ranges of recent buildings. There are no listed buildings. There are few archaeological sites, but of note are Bronze Age round barrows on the two highest points.

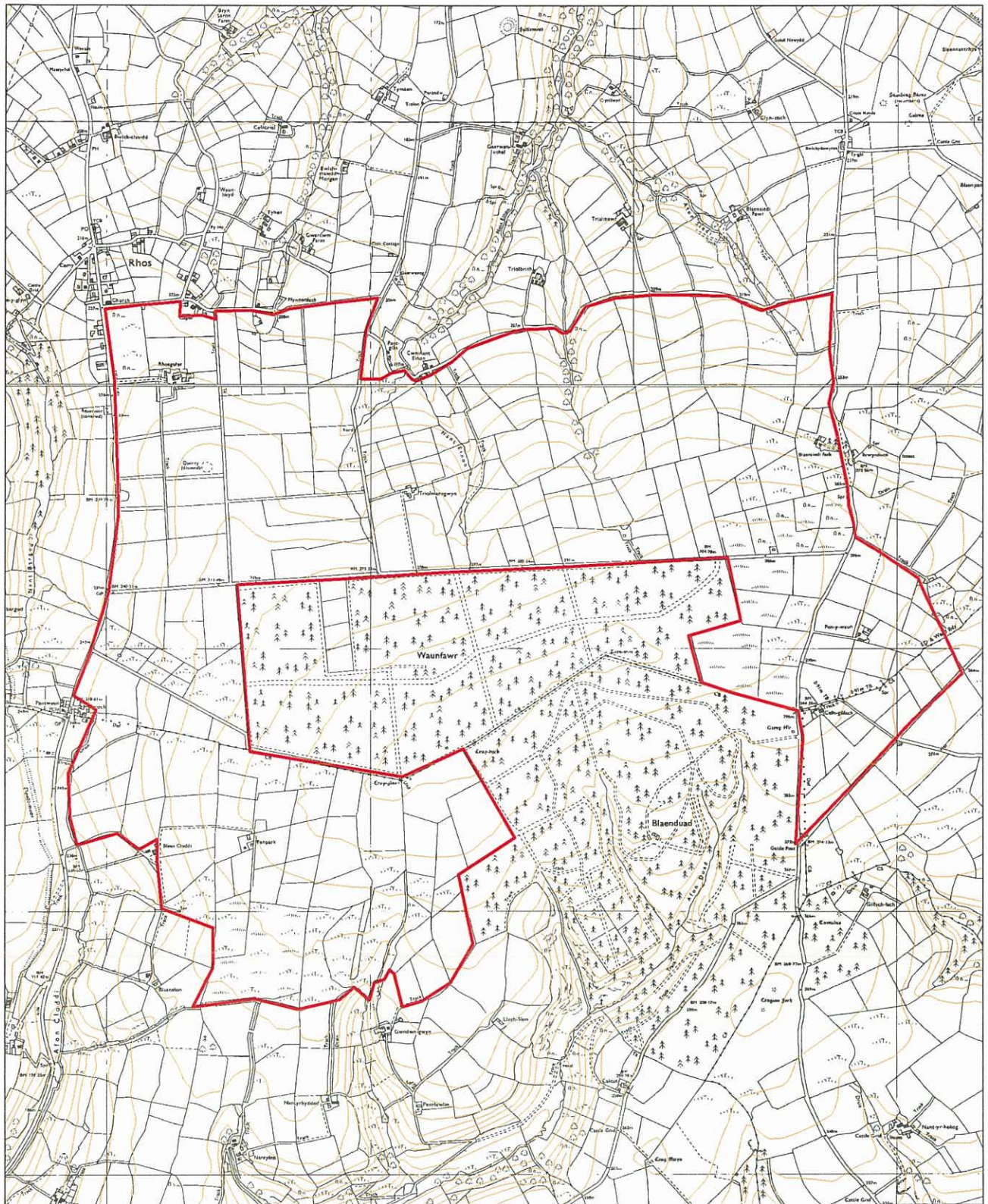
This is a relatively well-defined historic landscape character area. It approximately corresponds to the land enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1866, minus a substantial forestry plantation.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Most of the historic landscape components are in reasonable condition. Therefore maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Bowen E, 1729 A Map of South Wales; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cal. Patent Rolls, Elizabeth Vol. 2, 1560-1563, London 1948; Jones, A, 1937, 'The Estates of the Welsh Abbeys at the Dissolution', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 92, 269-286; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Jones, E G, 1939, *Exchequer Proceedings (Equity) concerning Wales*, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N D, forthcoming, 'Whitland Abbey', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Richard, A J, 1935, 'Castles, Boroughs and Religious Houses', in J E Lloyd, *A History of Carmarthenshire Volume I*, 269-371, Cardiff; Williams, D H, 1990, *Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales*, Cardiff





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 389 WAUNFAWR

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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The **Waunfawr** historic landscape character area largely results from an 1866 Act of Parliament enclosing moorland in regular fields and bisecting it with straight lanes. Small farms were later established. Two Bronze Age round barrows survive from a much earlier age.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 390 PENBOYR

GRID REFERENCE: SN353364

AREA IN HECTARES: 361

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of regular rectangular fields and dispersed farms. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote to the west was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych comote - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. A motte-and-bailey castle, 'Tomen Llawddog', was established within this character area, immediately next to Penboyrr parish church, St Llawddog's; and therefore they may be contemporary. It is not known whether they belong to the brief period of Anglo-Norman control, or are Welsh foundations of the later 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, the church dedication to St Llawddog may be later medieval, when his cult was still active in the area. The church was first recorded in 1222 when it was 'restored' to the Bishops of St Davids, to be counter-claimed by the crown. Its early parish status, along with its close relationship to the castle, suggests that the two represent a deliberate Anglo-Norman plantation. They may therefore represent the site of a failed vill. The castle, which has no recorded history, probably became disused at an early date. They never became the focus for any later settlement, nucleated or otherwise.

Uwch-Cych commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536 it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525, to be granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west.

The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - without (with the possible exception of Penboyrr) neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. The present landscape throughout this character area mainly comprises medium-large, regular rectangular fields of late enclosure. They probably date from the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century - although some of the individual farmsteads will probably be older - and appear to be contemporary with the present road system which follows the enclosure axis and boundaries. The first large-scale historic maps of this area date to 1788 and show a landscape very similar to that of today. However the 1778 estate map of Ty Hen/Penlan Ganol hints at an earlier fieldscape. Here, in addition to the usual fairly regular field system that still prevails, intermixed strips or slangs are shown. However, they are probably not medieval, and are certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which was undergoing enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the tithe survey of 1840 the landscape is virtually identical to that of today, except for the loss of a few hedges. Although this character area lies beyond the main textile-producing area of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there are records of weavers at several locations, presumably operating a cottage industry in cottages or small workshops.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Penboyrr historic landscape character area lies on the gently sloping north-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi between 120m and 260m above sea level. It is an agricultural landscape characterised by farms and small- to medium-sized, fairly regular fields. Farms are generally small with an unusually dense distribution. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped by hedges - Laburnum is contained in some hedges. At higher levels to the south of this area hedges are overgrown and in some instances reduced to straggling lines of bushes with many small trees, but in the more sheltered north they are in better condition. Stone is the main building material, in particular Teifi valley slate, which is usually of

uncoursed rubble, but coursed with cut stone on better quality buildings. Commercial north Wales slate is the ubiquitous roofing material. All the older buildings date to the mid to later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Farmhouses are generally in the typical southwest Wales style – two-storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows – but with strong vernacular traits, such as small window openings and low elevations, rather than in the more ‘polite’ Georgian tradition. There are exceptions to this, such as the two-storey, mid 19<sup>th</sup> century listed ‘Georgian’ house of cut and coursed Teifi valley stone at Penlanfawr. Some farmhouses have been rebuilt as bungalows in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and there is a scattering of other bungalows and houses across the area of a similar date. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey and single storey worker houses are also present. Agricultural farm buildings are generally small, with older examples stone built, and modern ones of steel, concrete and asbestos. Some of the smaller farms are no longer engaged in agriculture and their outbuildings are disused. The medieval Penboyrr parish church, which was entirely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the neighbouring Tomen Llawddog motte-and-bailey castle are the major archaeological sites in the area. The bailey of the castle is damaged and half the motte has been removed. Other recorded archaeology is mainly confined to sites, workshops and cottages that were engaged in the woollen industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It is a well-defined historic landscape area. To the west, north and east steep-sided heavily wooded valleys define it. To the south more irregular fields of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century form a zone of change rather than a hard-edged boundary.

#### **Conservation priorities**

The loss of historic buildings is a cause for concern. New uses should be sought for old agricultural buildings if they are not to be lost. Other historic landscape components are in reasonable condition and therefore maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, maps 70, 72, 76, 80, 82, 87, 89; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyrr*, Llandysul; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘Spiritual and Temporal: Church-building in medieval and later Carmarthenshire’, *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* 36, 71-86; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Carmarthenshire churches’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Penboyrr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



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A close distribution of small farms in a landscape of fields bounded by hedges on banks characterises the **Penboyr** historic landscape character area. Apart from a few modern houses, almost all the buildings in this area date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 391 BWLCHYDOMEN - PENTRECAGAL**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN334381**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 1049**

#### **Historic Background**

A fairly large area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of dispersed farms, fields and scattered woodland stands.

It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote to the west was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych comote - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. A motte-and-bailey castle, 'Tomen Seba', was established within this character area. It has no recorded history and it is not known whether it belongs to the brief period of Anglo-Norman control, or was a Welsh foundation of the later 12<sup>th</sup> century. If it was Anglo-Norman, it is likely that it fell into disuse at an early date, and it never became the focus for any later settlement, nucleated or otherwise.

Uwch-Cych commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536 it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525, to be granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Late 18<sup>th</sup> century estate maps show a few intermixed, unenclosed field strips on some holdings. However, they are probably not medieval in origin, and are certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which underwent enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The present landscape, throughout the character area, mainly comprises medium-sized, fairly regular fields which, in shape and size, are characteristic of the earlier post-medieval period. Late 18<sup>th</sup> century estate maps show a landscape that is, except for the remnant field strips, similar to that of today. By the time the tithe map was drawn up in 1840 all these strips had gone. The tithe map also shows two small pockets of open land, Waungilwen Common and Cwmhiraeth Common. These are probably the remnants of unenclosed grazing land. This common land had presumably been extensive in earlier centuries, but had been enclosed piecemeal until virtually nothing remained by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. An Act of Parliament enclosed these last remnants in 1866. The only settlement cluster is at Pentrecagal, alongside the A484 at its junction with the unclassified road to Drefach-Felindre. It appears to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin, developing after the A484 had been built as a turnpike, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, in response to increasing traffic to and from woollen mills. The area lies beyond the main textile-producing area of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but there are records of weavers at several locations within the area, presumably operating a cottage industry in cottages or small workshops. This industry had ceased by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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

Dispersed farms, fields surrounded by hedges and small pockets of deciduous woodland characterise this agricultural historic landscape character area. It lies on the gently-sloping north-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi. At its northern end it merges with the floodplain of the river at about 30m above sea level, but at its southern extremes it rises to over 260m above sea level. Agricultural land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with very little arable or rough ground. Fields are medium-sized and irregular and are bounded by earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained,



but with a tendency to become straggling and overgrown at the higher more exposed southern borders, and lush with more trees and larger bushes at lower, sheltered elevations. Woodland is mainly confined to the steeper valley sides of minor streams. This limited woodland together with overgrown hedges lends a wooded aspect to parts of the landscape. Stone is the chief building material, either cement-rendered or left bare. At the southern end of the area, away from the Teifi, locally-sourced stone is used. This is often rendered where used in housing, but left bare on agricultural outbuildings. Closer to the river Teifi valley slate dominates. Commercial, north Wales slate is the ubiquitous roofing material. The main building stock is 19<sup>th</sup> century, with most farmhouses probably dating to the latter half of the century, modest in size and in the typical southwest Wales style – two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows – a style that owes more to the ‘polite’ Georgian tradition than the vernacular. Nineteenth century farm outbuildings are likewise quite small, generally of one or two ranges, with cowhouses, stables and barns on most farms. Modern outbuildings, in the main, are not large although some very large examples are present. Some late 19th century workers’ houses, single-storeyed and two-storeyed, are dispersed close to the boundary of the Drefach – Felindre woollen industrial area. Pentrecagal, the only settlement cluster, consists of some late 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses and late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing spreading along the A484. Worker houses, a public house, a petrol station and other low-key commercial developments lie alongside this main road to the west of Pentrecagal. Dolhaidd Mansion, a listed 19<sup>th</sup> century ‘Georgian’ building with earlier elements, is the largest building in this area. Its Home Farm, where some of the buildings have been converted to holiday use, lies a little distance from the mansion. Most of the 63 archaeological sites record the use of a cottage or dwelling for weaving or other small-scale use associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century woollen industry. The only other major, earlier archaeological sites are Tomen Seba - a medieval motte castle - and an Iron Age hillfort.

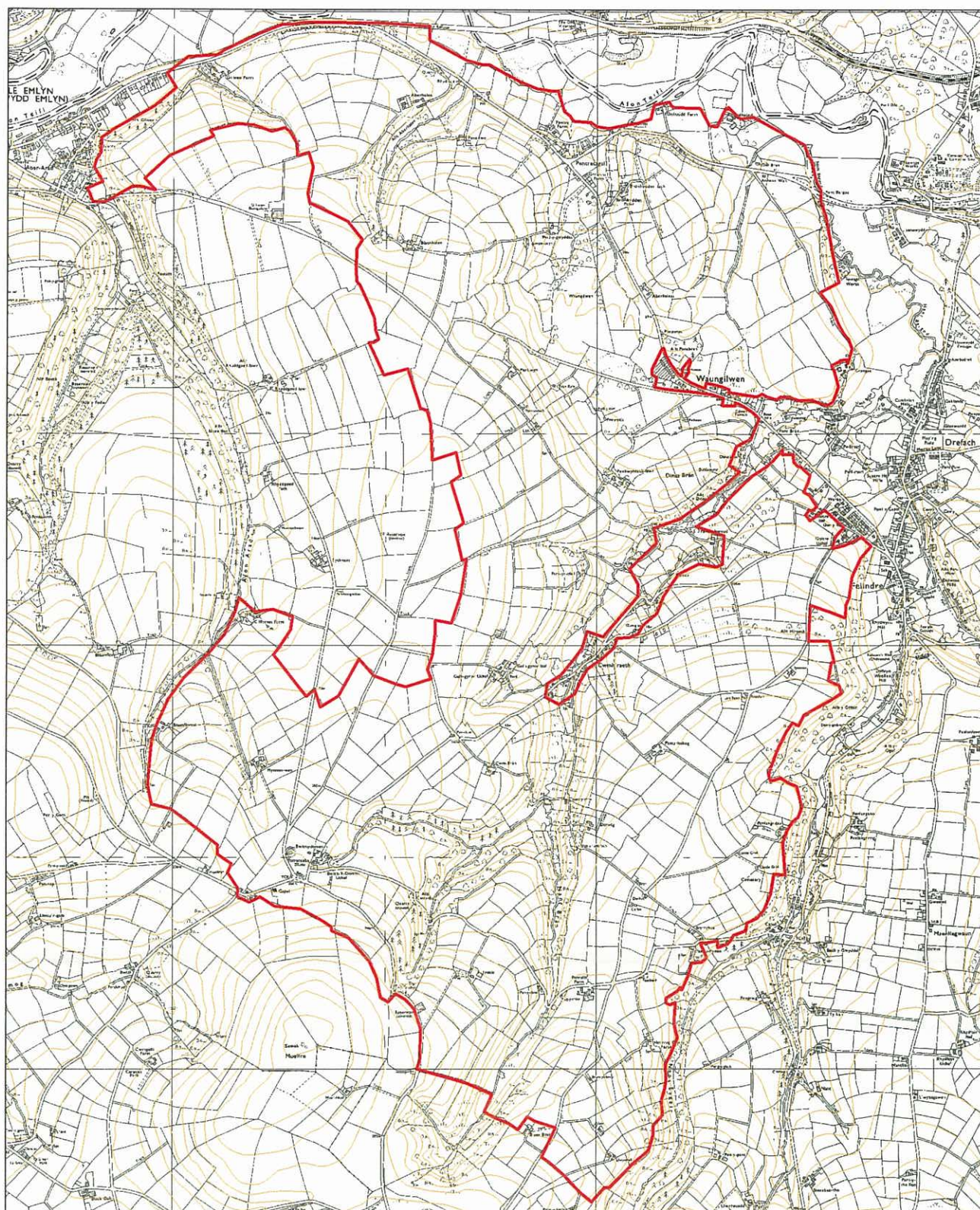
Bwlchychdomen – Pentrecagal historic landscape character area is well-defined to the north where it borders the Teifi floodplain, to the east against the industrial villages of Drefach – Felindre, and to the south where it runs up against the higher, formerly unenclosed land. Definition is less satisfactory to the west where the landscape shares many similar components to that of Bwlchychdomen – Pentrecagal.

#### Conservation priorities

Historic landscape components in this area are generally in good condition. Consideration to the spreading linear development will be required if the rural agricultural character of this area is to be maintained at its northern fringe along the A484.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, maps 43, 47, 51, 54, 58, 62, 64; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2002, ‘The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Carmarthenshire’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; National Library of Wales Rev J C Davies Map Book 1793-1815; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Ramsey, R and Ludlow, N, 1999, ‘Blaen Bowi, Cenarth: proposed windfarm site, archaeological assessment’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

**Historic Landscape Character Area 391 BWLCHYDOMEN -  
PENTRECAGAL**      Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Dispersed farms, fields and deciduous woodland on steep valley sides, with a scatter of late 19<sup>th</sup> century workers' houses close to Drefach-Felindre characterise the **Bwlchymen-Pentrecagal** historic landscape character area.



## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 392 RHYDDGOED

GRID REFERENCE: SN326390

AREA IN HECTARES: 221

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of a pocket of medium - large, fairly regular fields to the southwest of Newcastle Emlyn. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote to the west was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych comote - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Uwch-Cych commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverting to the crown in 1525, and granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Indeed, this area appears to have been largely unenclosed before the present pattern of medium - large, fairly regular fields was established in the late 18<sup>th</sup> early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Estate maps of 1778 show parts of this area unenclosed, with strips or 'slangs' marked in different ownership. These strips are probably not medieval in origin, and are certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which underwent enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the time the tithe map was drawn in 1840 all these strips had gone and the field pattern of today was in place.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Rhyddgoed is a relatively small, agricultural historic landscape character area lying on gentle north- to northeast-facing slopes and ranging in height from 60m to 180m above sea level. It is characterised by medium- to large-sized fairly regularly shaped fields. Land-use is improved pasture. Boundaries are well-maintained hedges on earth banks. Except for hedgerow trees, shelter-belts close to farms, and larger bushes in the few overgrown hedges, it is a treeless landscape. The dispersed farms are small. Most buildings are 19<sup>th</sup> century and stone-built, with cement rendering on the dwellings. Farmhouses are in the typical southwest style of the period: two-storeyed, three-bayed with a central front door, and symmetrically arranged relatively large windows - a style that owes more to the 'polite' Georgian style than the vernacular tradition. One of the houses was rebuilt in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nineteenth century farm outbuildings are also quite small and of one or two ranges. Most farms also have small ranges of modern outbuildings. Long straight sections of the B4333 cross this area. Apart from a ruined cottage, there are no recorded archaeological sites.

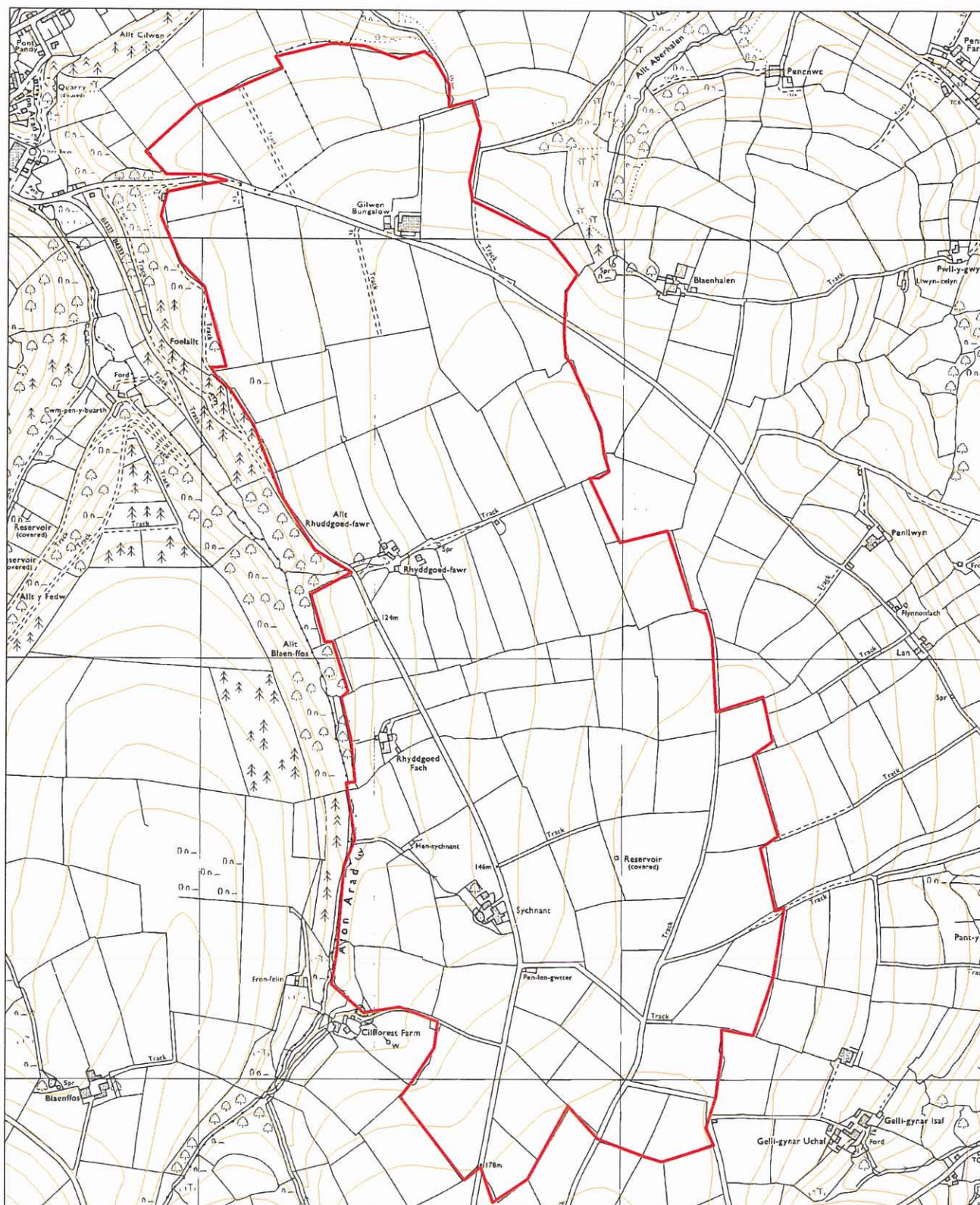
The main defining characteristics of this area are the larger, more regular fields than those of its neighbours. It is, however, not an easy area to define, and its neighbours share many of its historic landscape components.

#### Conservation priorities

Most historic landscape components are in good condition, therefore maintain as existing.

Sources: Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate - The Property of John Vaughan 1778; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Phwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2,

London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Penboy parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 392 RHYDDGOED

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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**Rhyddgoed** is a relatively small historic landscape character area and consists of regularly shaped fields and dispersed farms. Most buildings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 393 HENLLAN

**GRID REFERENCE: SN354408**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 167**

#### **Historic Background**

This is a small area within modern Ceredigion, comprising the built-up area of Henllan village and its environs, on the north bank of the Afon Teifi at a point where the floodplain narrows. It lies within the medieval Cantref Is Aeron, in Gwynionydd commote. Old Ceredigion, including Gwynionydd, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this Register Area were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Few of them have any recorded history. The earthwork at Felin Cwrrws may be an early castle, but it is more likely to be Iron Age in origin, like the large multivallate hillfort south of Henllan itself. If it was re-used during the medieval period, it fell into disuse at an early date, and never became the focus for any later settlement, nucleated or otherwise. Nor did settlement develop around Henllan parish church, on the floodplain. The church is recorded in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, but is almost certainly on an earlier medieval site, with a large circular churchyard of possible monastic origin. The church was entirely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region.

The Henllan village is entirely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin and is not connected to the parish church, lying 0.5km to the northeast. The village is a similar distance from Henllan House, which is recorded as a late medieval gentry-house and water-mill site (corn mill). The character area is depicted in its present form on the Henllan parish tithe map of 1844, except for the village which did not then exist. Its development may have followed the establishment of two woollen mills, at Cwerchyr in 1840, and Trebedw in 1885, but they always remained peripheral to the main textile centre around Drefach-Felindre. The construction of the 'Carmarthen-Cardigan' railway line through the area - opened under the Great Western Railway in 1895 - and with a station at Henllan, clearly accelerated development, but it remained a relatively small village, comprising one street focused on the railway station. In c.1940, a camp was established for Italian prisoners-of-war on the southern approach to the village, eventually occupying 4.5ha and consisting of rows of Nissen Huts, most of which have now gone. The camp had largely become disused by 1944. Cwerchyr Mill closed in 1953, and Trebedw Mill in 1958, while the railway line and station closed in 1973. However, a short stretch of the line has been re-opened as a tourist attraction, the Teifi Valley Railway, and the P.O.W camp site is now used for caravans and camping, and a small industrial estate.

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

Henllan is a small historic landscape character area located on a gently sloping south-facing valley side between 30m and 110m above sea level. It is a mixed area containing many disparate components, but essentially it consists of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century village of Henllan and the surrounding heavily wooded farmland. Henllan village, and its near but smaller neighbour Trebedw, are straggling linear villages, both late 19<sup>th</sup> century in character. Teifi valley slate, often cut and well-coursed rather than uncoursed rubble, is the main building material of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, sometime used in conjunction with yellow brick detailing, with north Wales slate for roofs. Worker houses are two storey, detached, semi-detached and terraced, as well single storey cottages. Henllan has a two storey single-built terrace with larger projecting end houses. There is also a corrugated iron church. Several small old industrial buildings are made of corrugated iron, particularly those associated with the railway, as are several agricultural buildings. Some of the original buildings belonging to the World War 2 prisoner-of-war camp on the outskirts of Henllan survive, including Nissen Huts and a unique, Grade II\* listed corrugated iron chapel, converted from a dormitory block and decorated by the prisoners themselves. Most of the other buildings have gone. A section of the railway is preserved as a tourist line. Beyond the village, agricultural holdings are small, with houses and outbuildings dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The farmhouses are in the typical southwest style of the period: two storey, three bay with central front

door and symmetrically arranged windows. Older outbuildings are stone-built and of one or two ranges. Corrugated iron outbuildings of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date are also present, as are small ranges of modern agricultural buildings. Hedges set on earth banks surround the medium-sized irregular fields. Many of the hedges are overgrown. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture and rougher ground. There is much deciduous woodland, some of which has probably regenerated over fields. Henllan parish church was entirely rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two listed bridges, Pont Henllan and Pont Felin Cwrrws, lie within this area. In addition, archaeological sites include two Iron Age hillforts and the site of a corn mill.

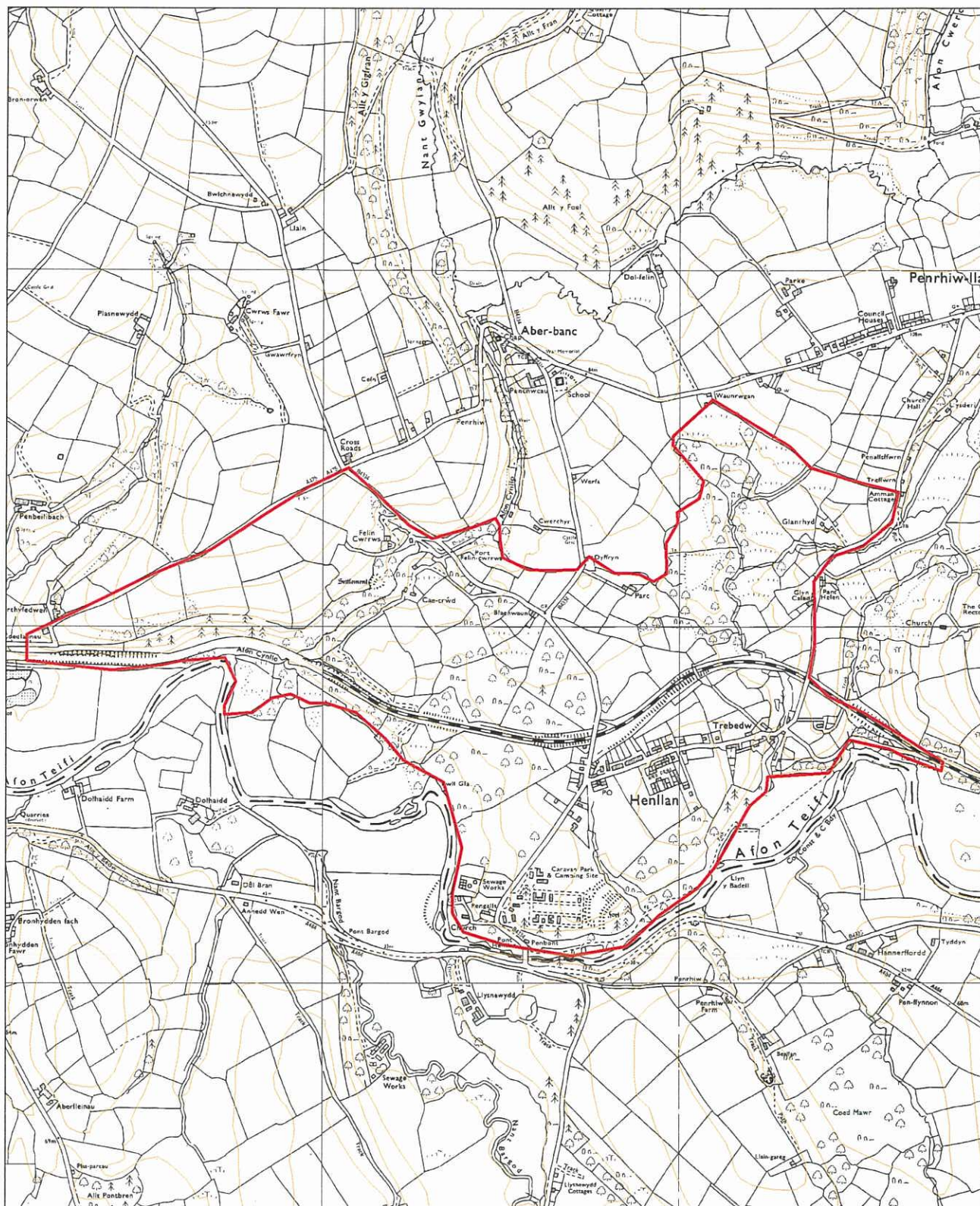
The 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial settlements and heavily wooded landscape distinguish this area from its neighbours.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Many of the historic landscape components of this area are in good condition. However, some of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century corrugated iron industrial buildings and the World War 2 prisoner-of-war camp are vulnerable, and new uses will have to be found for them if they are not to be lost and so alter the character of this area.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Henllan parish tithe map 1844; Gwili Railway, n.d., Guide to the Gwili Railway; Jenkins, J G, 1998 'Rural Industries in Cardiganshire' in G H Jenkins and I G Jones, *Cardiganshire County History Volume 3: Cardiganshire in Modern Times*, 135-59, Cardiff; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llandyfriog parish tithe map 1844; Llanfair Onllwyn parish tithe map 1844; Ludlow, N, 1994, 'Aberbanc – Henllan Bridge watermain scheme: archaeological watching brief', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N, 2000 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion Churches', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Ceredigion', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: DREFACH AND FELINDRE

### Historic Landscape Character Area 393 HENLLAN

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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**Henllan** is a small but complex historic landscape character area comprising a 19<sup>th</sup> century village focused on an old railway (now a tourist line) and a World War 2 prisoner of war camp, now largely converted to other uses, surrounded by deciduous woodland and farmland.

## **LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 394 AFON TEIFI: CENARTH - NEWCASTLE EMLYN**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN284413**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 105**

#### **Historic Background**

A small, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, comprising the rich, scenic floodplain of the lower Afon Teifi between Cenarth to the west and Newcastle Emlyn to the east. It is entirely farmland, consisting of fairly large, regular fields of pasture. The Teifi forms the boundary between the two counties but the medieval and later history of the area is similar in both. Both Cantref Emlyn (Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote) south of the river, and Cantref Is Aeron (Iscoed commote) north of the river remained in Welsh hands until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with a brief period of Anglo-Norman control - and the establishment of numerous castles - between 1100 and 1136. Both areas were finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536. Welsh tenurial patterns - with neither villis nor knight's fees - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. This and periodical flooding have militated against any settlement within this area where human intervention is limited to field boundaries, drainage ditches and a possible prehistoric chambered tomb. The landscape had assumed its present form by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, when estate maps show it as it is today. However, it would have been more isolated than today during the historic period, as the two roads that now flank the floodplain - the A484 on the south side and the B4333 to the north - are both former turnpike roads that were newly constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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

This area consists entirely of the floodplain of the Afon Teifi between Cenarth and Newcastle Emlyn, a distance of approximately 4km. The floodplain is generally between 250m and 400m wide, but at the western end above Cenarth Falls it narrows down to the width of the river. It lies at a height of 20m above sea level. Land-use is dominated by improved pasture. Fields are medium- to large-size and are bounded by hedges. These are either on very low banks or on no banks. Drainage ditches flank some. Many of the hedges are overgrown, and these together with the numerous hedgerow trees lend a parkland appearance to the landscape. The B4333 to the north and the A484 to the south flank the floodplain for parts of their courses. There are no buildings, and the only recorded archaeology is the possible site of a Neolithic chambered tomb.

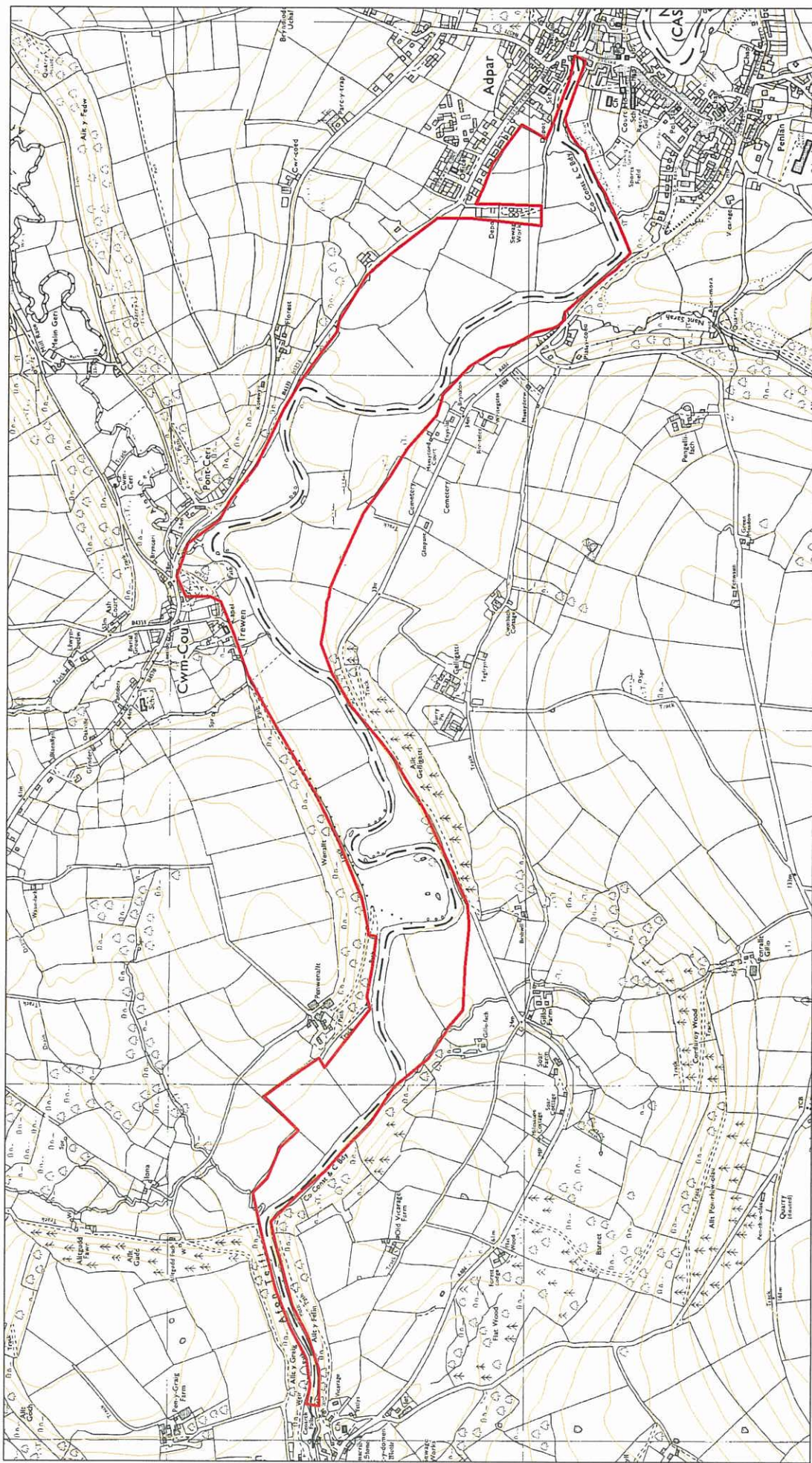
The absence of building and the flat nature distinguish this area from the rolling farmland of its neighbours.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate -- The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 2; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llandygwydd parish tithe map 1842; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 394 AFON TEIFI: CENARTH - NEWCASTLE EMLYN

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Pasture fields separated by overgrown hedges on the floodplain characterise the **Afon Teifi: Cenarth – Newcastle Emlyn** historic landscape character area. There are no buildings or other structures.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 395 CENARTH

GRID REFERENCE: SN267417

AREA IN HECTARES: 25

#### Historic Background

Cenarth is small area within modern Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion comprising the built-up area of the village of Cenarth. It lies either side of Afon Teifi and Cenarth Falls, a renowned beauty-spot which attracts many visitors and is one of the main *raisons d'être* for the development of the village. The bulk of this character area lies to the south of the Teifi, within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history. Cenarth (or 'Cenarth Mawr' as it was then called) was the commotal centre of Emlyn Uwch-Cych, and a motte-castle (now 'Parc-y-domen') was established here. However, the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> -and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is possible that the pre-Norman administrative centre may have occupied the site of Parc y domen castle, which lay immediately south of Cenarth parish church.

The church was an important early medieval ecclesiastical foundation, mentioned in a text of the *Llandaff Charters* from the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and still dominates the village from its circular churchyard high on a prominent knoll south of the Teifi. We have an important - and unique - eye-witness description of Cenarth during the 1180s, when Gerald of Wales described it as '*a flourishing (salmon) fishing-station. The waters of the Teifi run ceaselessly over (the falls), falling with a mighty roar into the abyss below. Now it is from these depths that the salmon ascend to the.. rock above.... The church dedicated to St Llawddog, his mill, the bridge with its fishing-station and a most attractive garden all stand together on a small plot of ground.*' It is interesting to note that a bridge and mill, presumably on the same site as the present structures, were already present, but it would seem that the castle had become disused. Neither the castle nor the church became a focus for settlement.

The commote of Uwch-Cych was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, reverted to the crown in 1525 and was to be granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Little domestic settlement appears to have occurred at Cenarth until the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. An estate map of 1768 records most of Cenarth village as part of the Gelly Dowill demesne. The village was then very small, just the church and 8 or so loosely clustered dwellings and small farms. However, the small amounts of land attached to the farms, either as small, enclosed fields or enclosed strips, appear to indicate the earlier existence of an open field system or, more likely, shared grazing strips within unenclosed land as seen elsewhere in Uwch Cych. Cenarth Mill, recorded in the 1180s, was a crown possession in 1298 when it was held by the Prince of Wales. It remained part of the royal estate until the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and from c.1630 onwards was part of the estate of the Vaughans of Golden Grove, passing to the Earls of Cawdor who held it until 1970. It probably provided the economic mainstay of the small settlement, and its 19<sup>th</sup> century growth, along with the salmon-fishing mentioned by Gerald of Wales, which was traditionally undertaken in coracles. Tourism and leisure account for the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Cenarth village, with the addition of a number of small housing estates.



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

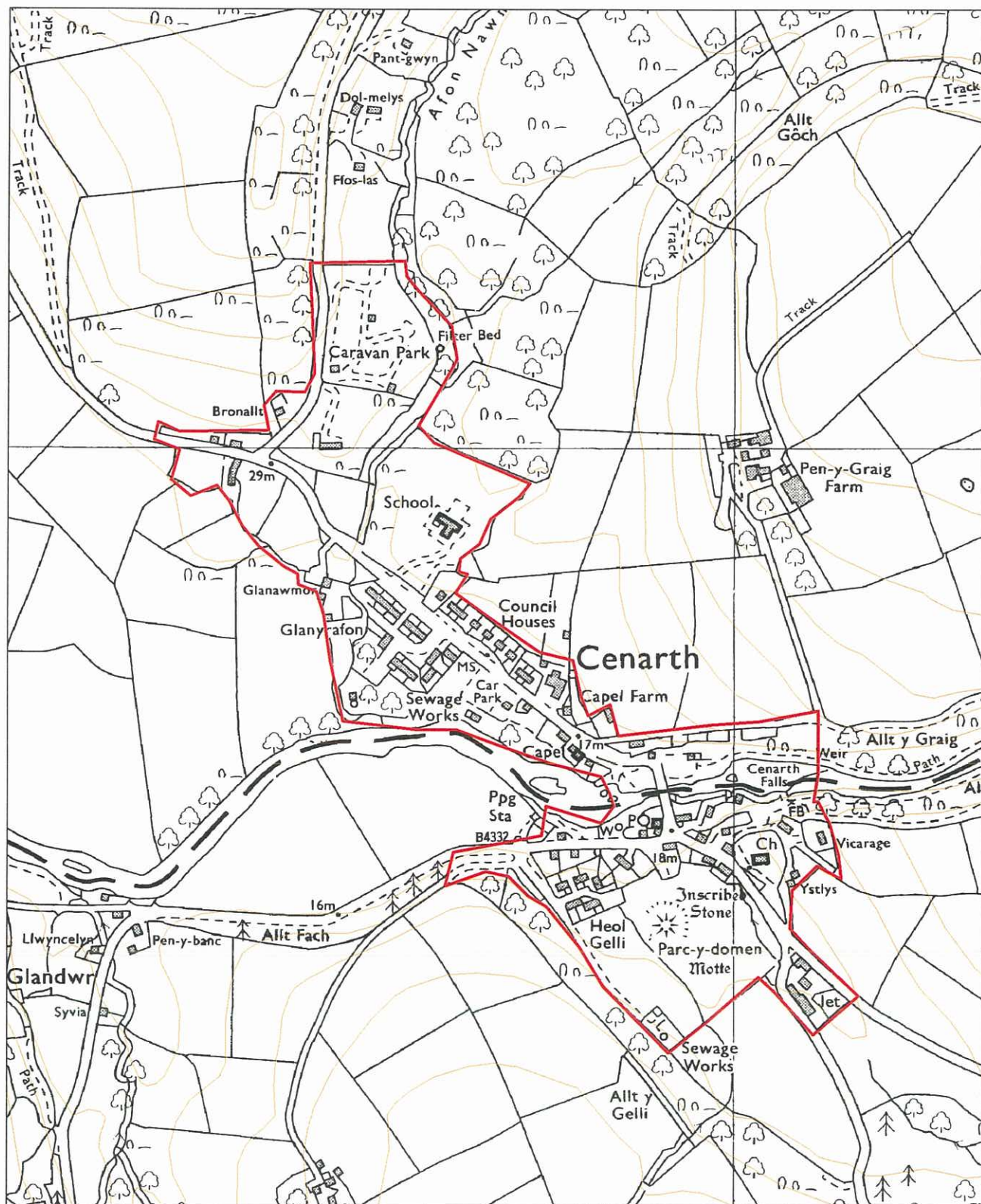
Cenarth is a very small built-up historic landscape character area that includes the old village core, the bridge over the Teifi, Cenarth Falls and a narrow section of river valley, and modern development at the village fringe. It lies between 20m and 30m above sea level at a point where the constrained valley of the Teifi opens out into a floodplain. The old core of the village consists of a loose cluster of houses, cottages, shops, pubs and the church immediately south of Cenarth Bridge at the junction of the A484 and the B4332. The stone-built three-arch bridge dating to 1785-87 (on a 12<sup>th</sup> century site) is the oldest structure in the village. The parish church, although an ancient foundation, dates to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, and stands to the southeast of the bridge on a slight prominence, with the earthworks of 'Parc-y-domen', the medieval motte-castle, to its south. Cenarth Mill is first recorded in the 1180s, but the present rubble-stone building on the banks of the river dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and most of its machinery dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Teifi valley slate, rubble or finely cut and coursed, is the building material of the older buildings. A listed cottage, now restored but formerly the old brewhouse of the Three Horseshoes, may date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, as does the White Hart. Most of the older domestic buildings in the village, however, date to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a strong estate or formal aspect to several of them, for example: Mill Cottage, Yet farmhouse with its semi-formal ranges of outbuildings, Teifi View house a dwelling in the Georgian style, and the former school and smithy. Most of these stone-built 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are listed. Modern development in the form of small housing estates, a car park for visitors to the falls, a school and caravan park lie to the north of the bridge. Recorded archaeology consists of buildings or those sites mentioned above.

This is a distinctive area and contrasts with the surrounding landscape of fields and farms.

### **Conservation priorities**

Management and planning in Cenarth should comply with its Conservation Area status and respect the many listed buildings in the village.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office Cawdor 227 (1768) p11; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Davies, W. (ed.), 1979 *The Llandaff Charters*, Aberystwyth; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llandygwydd parish tithe map 1842; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Carmarthenshire', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Parry, C, 1987, 'Survey and Excavation at Newcastle Emlyn Castle', *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* 23, 11-28; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Thorpe, L (ed.), 1978, *Gerald of Wales: The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales*, Harmanworth



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 395 CENARTH

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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The older part of **Cenarth** historic landscape character area lies to the south of the historic bridge over the Teifi and comprises a loose cluster of mainly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century stone buildings. Most modern development lies to the north of the bridge.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 396 AFON TEIFI: LLECHRYD - CENARTH

GRID REFERENCE: SN243421

AREA IN HECTARES: 207

#### Historic Background

This is a small, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, comprising the rich, scenic floodplain of the lower Afon Teifi between Llechryd to the west and Cenarth to the east, and includes the confluence with the Afon Cych. It is entirely farmland, consisting of fairly large, regular fields of pasture. The Teifi and Cych form the boundaries between the three counties, and the medieval and later history is different in the three counties.

Cantref Is Aeron (Iscoed commote) north of the Teifi largely remained in Welsh hands until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with a brief period of Anglo-Norman control between 1100 and 1136. The English crown finally annexed it in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created.

South of the Teifi, Cantref Emlyn was divided into two commotes by the Afon Cych; Emlyn Uwch-Cych and Emlyn Is-Cych. Emlyn Is-Cych, the the east of the Cych, was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when it was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. It may not have been fully subdued and it was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, at least, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire.

To the east of the Cych, Is-Cych) remained a marcher lordship (Lordship of Cilgerran) with intermittent periods of Welsh rule, until the late 15th century when it passed to the crown, eventually being incorporated into Pembrokeshire (Cilgerran Hundred) in 1536.

This character arewas possibly the scene of an earlier struggle, Llechrhyd being tentatively identified with the 'Llech-y-crau' recorded in 1088 as a battle-site and which was clearly a recognised location. The area in general remained subject to Welsh tenorial pattern - with neither vills nor knight's fees - which has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region; this and periodical flooding, have militated against settlement within this area.

However, a farmstead known as Ddol was oncelocated on the valley floor, but there has been no record of it since the 1840. The present Stradmore Mansion -- first recorded in 1610 - was also formerly located on the floodplain, where its walled garden can still be seen, but it was ruined by flooding in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and relocated to its present site on an overlooking spur (beyond the character area).

The landscape of large, regular fields appears late post-medieval in date and had assumed its present form by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when estate maps show it as it is today. However, it would have been more isolated during the historic period, as the road that now flanks the north side of the floodplain -the A484 -- did not exist until newly constructed as a turnpike in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Before this, access to the valley floor would have been via farm tracks and lanes. The history of this landscape has thus been overwhelmingly agricultural. However, an industrial element has helped to shape it. Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi at Penygored which lies just west of this area. The canal (or leat) that supplied water to the works still runs through this area just south of the river. Materials for the works were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The works were successful, passing through several hands until purchased by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. They ceased to operate in 1806.

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

This historic landscape character area consists of 7km of Afon Teifi floodplain between Llechryd and Cenarth. It averages 300m wide and lies at 10m above sea level. Land-use is almost entirely improved pasture with a little arable. Fields are relatively large and bounded by hedges. These are planted on low banks or alongside drainage ditches. Many of them are overgrown, with some reduced to straggling lines of bushes and trees. Apart from an 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> century substantial walled garden and associated buildings on the floodplain (the former site of Stradmore Mansion), and a modern timber yard there are no standing structures in this area. The A484 running along the edge of the floodplain provides a hard boundary to the northern side of this area. The course of a partly infilled canal – more properly a leat – that fed water to a tinplate works downstream, is visible at the western end of this area. Archaeological sites are few and consist of a deserted farm site called Ddol, and a bridge.

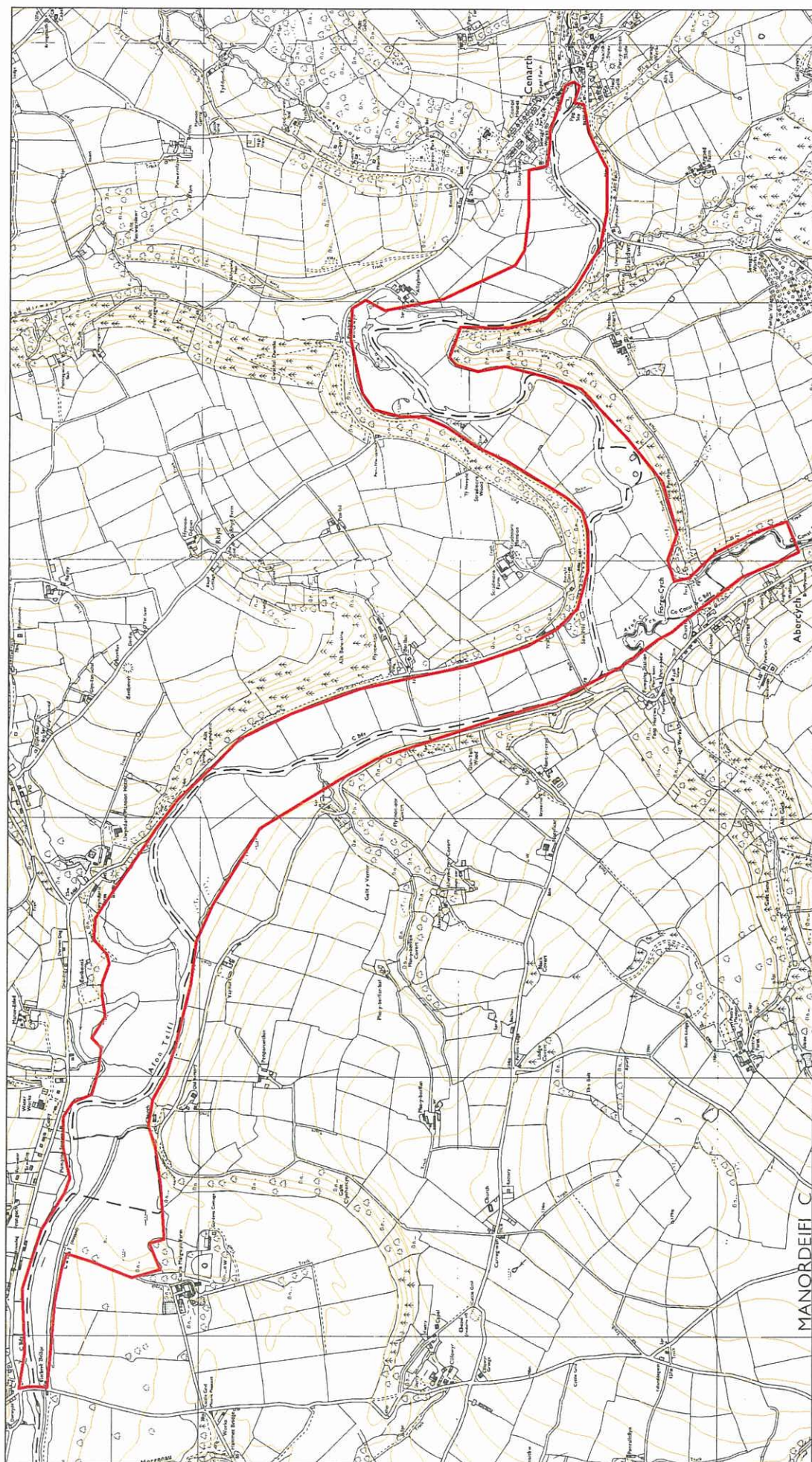
The Afon Teifi: Llechryd - Cenarth historic landscape character area is well defined on account of its flat nature in contrast to the surrounding rolling farmland.

### **Conservation priorities**

Maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Brooke, E H, 1932, *Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain*, Swansea; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 9; Carmarthen Record Office Cawdor 227, 1768, p3; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Jones, T, 1952, *Brut y Tywysogyon*, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1841; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; National Library of Wales Map 7616 1758; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 396 AFON TEIFI:  
LLECHRYD - CENARTH**

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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The **Afon Teifi: Llechryd – Cenarth** historic landscape character area consists of fields and overgrown hedges across approximately 7 km of floodplain. A timber yard and a walled garden are the only structures in this character area.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 397 GELLYDYWYLL

GRID REFERENCE: SN277407

AREA IN HECTARES: 730

#### Historic Background

This is a medium-sized historic landscape character area within modern Carmarthenshire on the southern slopes of the Teifi Valley. The area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536 it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. This fertile area appears always to have been more settled than other parts of Uwch-Cych, and further subdivisions of the commote - possibly in existence before 1100 - have been recorded. The historic landscape character area appears to correspond with one of these - *Gwestfa Cilfawr*. It may be that *Gwestfa Cilfawr*, with its possible centre at Gillo Farm (ie. 'Cilfawr'), formed the basis of the later Gellydywyll estate. It was the only *Gwestfa* recorded in Cantref Emlyn, which itself may be significant.

Gellydywyll was by the late 15<sup>th</sup> century in the possession of a local gentry family, the Lloyds. The Lewes family acquired it in 1589. Thus it appears always to have been a separate holding from the rest of Uwch-Cych commote, which having been granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, eventually passed by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate. Moreover Gellydywyll, traditionally, has a long history that is part of Welsh legend, reputedly having been the home of an early chieftain whose horse was said to have been shod with golden shoes. It was laid out as a gentry estate, around the house at Gellydywyll, during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a map of 'Gelli Dowill Demesne' drawn in 1768, when it was owned by James Lewes, shows a small, laid-out estate with woodland, parkland and shelter-belts. The surrounding field system is similar to today's. Other estate maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the tithe map of 1840, also show a landscape as today. Gellydywyll itself passed to the Golden Grove Estate, through purchase, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The A484, which runs through this area, began as a turnpike road newly built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Twentieth century developments include a holiday village at Penlan and a sewage works, to the west of Gellydywyll.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Gellydywyll occupies fairly steep north-facing slopes, rising from 20m above sea level on the floodplain of the Afon Teifi to over 170m. Deciduous woodland on some of the steeper slopes and tributary valley sides, and conifer plantations on pockets of higher ground are a characteristic of this area. Improved pasture with a little arable is, however, the main land-use type. Well-maintained hedges on earth banks surround the medium-sized irregular fields. The strong estate presence, which spanned the 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is not generally reflected in the landscape, apart from some buildings described below. Dispersed farms dominate the settlement pattern, with a little dispersed linear development along the A484 which runs through the northern part of this landscape close to the Teifi floodplain. There is a small holiday village of chalets, Penlan, close to the same road. Buildings are mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century in date; with Teifi valley slate the dominant building material. This is frequented cement rendered on dwellings, but left bare on farm buildings. Finely coursed cut stone is common on the estate buildings and randomly laid rubble common on other structures. Farms are generally quite small, with farmhouses in the typical southwest Wales style - two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows - a style that owes more to the polite Georgian tradition than the vernacular. They have one or two ranges of stone-built 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings, including cowhouses, barns and stables, indicating a mixed farming economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In some cases these older farm buildings have been converted to non-agricultural uses. Working farms have substantial ranges of modern concrete, steel and asbestos agricultural buildings. Little formality is present in the layout of the farmyards. Gelligatti is an exception. Here a substantial house built for the agent of the Cawdor estate has high quality Victorian model farm buildings attached to it. All are listed. Estate influence on other buildings is not obvious, apart from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century

mansion at Gellydywyll, at least one late 19<sup>th</sup> century 'pattern book' design house close to the A484, and the listed Old Vicarage. Other buildings on this road include 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century social housing and dispersed late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing. Further examples of this latter type can be found dispersed across the area. Most of the 30 archaeological sites recorded in this area are related to the buildings mentioned above or to minor modern historic landscape components such as old quarries. However, a prehistoric chambered tomb indicates a long period of human activity in the landscape.

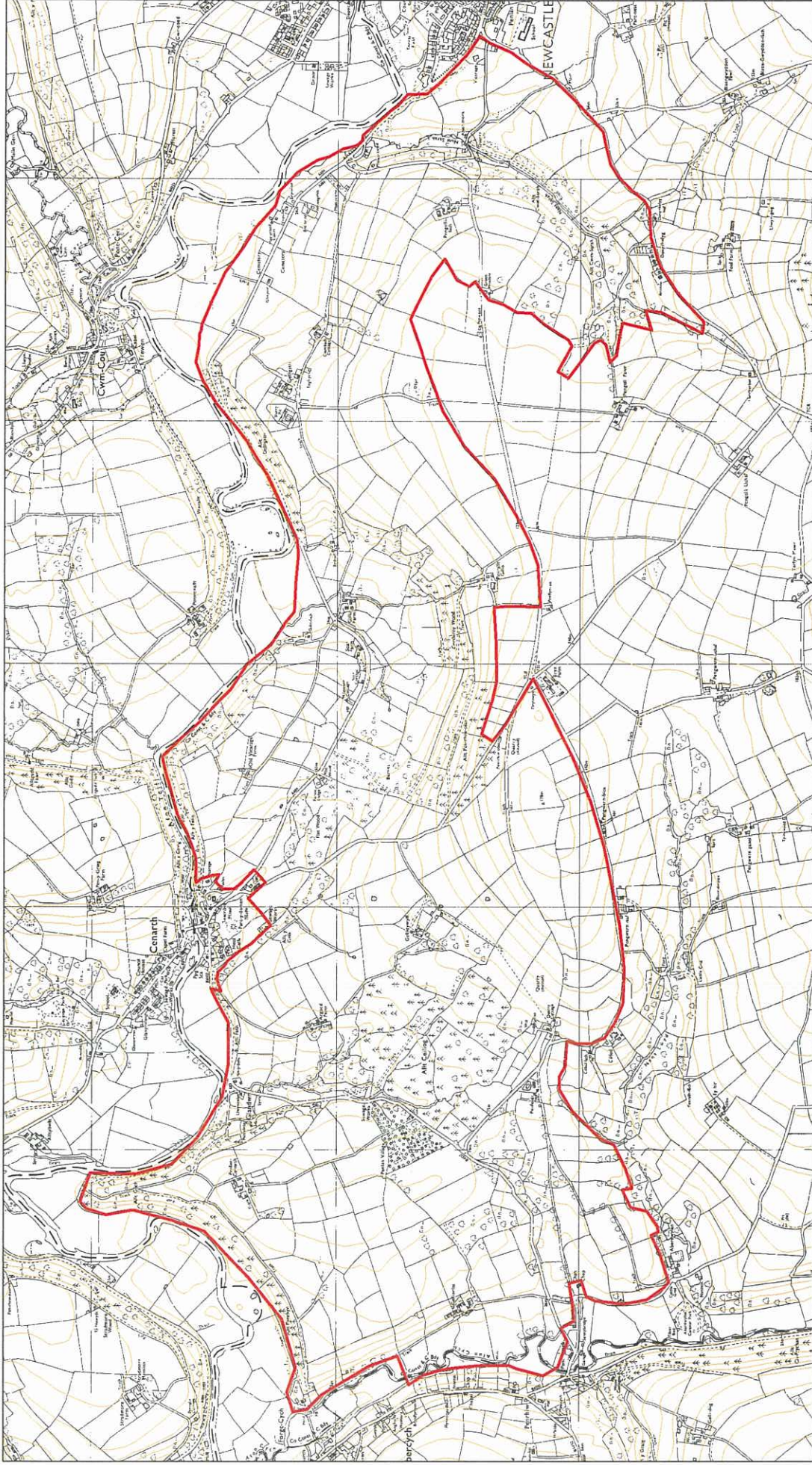
This is a fairly well defined historic landscape character area as to the north lies the floodplain of the Teifi and the village of Cenarth, to the west the Cych valley, to the east Newcastle Emlyn and to the south, higher and more sparsely settled land.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Historic landscape components of this area are generally well maintained. However, some consideration will have to be given to the re-use of historic farm buildings, and careful control over linear housing and holiday developments will have to be exercised, especially along the A484 corridor.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 2, 5, 7, 9 11; Carmarthen Record Office 227 Maps of the Estates of James Lewis 1768 pages 3, 11, 17; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, F, 1997, *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families*, Carmarthen; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 397 GELLYDYWYLL**

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Fields, dispersed farms, deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations, much on fairly steep north-facing slopes, characterise the **Gellydywyll** historic landscape character area. Farms are generally large, and include the 19<sup>th</sup> century model farm of Gelligatti.

## **LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 398 ABERCYCH**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN250406**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 29**

#### **Historic Background**

A small, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, comprising the industrial hamlet of Abercych, which is represented by 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century linear development along the Afon Cych near its confluence with the Afon Teifi. The Cych forms the boundary between the two counties, consequently the medieval and later history of the area is rather different either side of the river. The Afon Cych divided the medieval Cantref Emlyn into two commotes, Emlyn Uwch-Cych and Emlyn Is-Cych.

Emlyn Is-Cych, to the west of the Cych, was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when it was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. However, it may not have been fully subdued and it was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Emlyn Is-Cych to the east remained a marcher lordship, with intermittent periods of Welsh rule, until the late 15<sup>th</sup> century when it passed to the crown, eventually being incorporated into Pembrokeshire (Cilgerran Hundred) in 1536. Nevertheless, the area in general remained subject to Welsh tenurial patterns which have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement.

Indeed, no settlement is recorded in the Cych valley until the establishment of a forge, now gone, at Forge Cych at the bottom of the valley. The forge became the focus for settlement, mainly comprising worker houses. By the time of the tithe surveys of the early 1840s the settlement consisted of about 30 houses spread along the valley side. Two chapels were built to serve this community during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and an iron church, now closed, was added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, testifying to the importance of the new community. Development of the settlement, with further service industries, has continued through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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

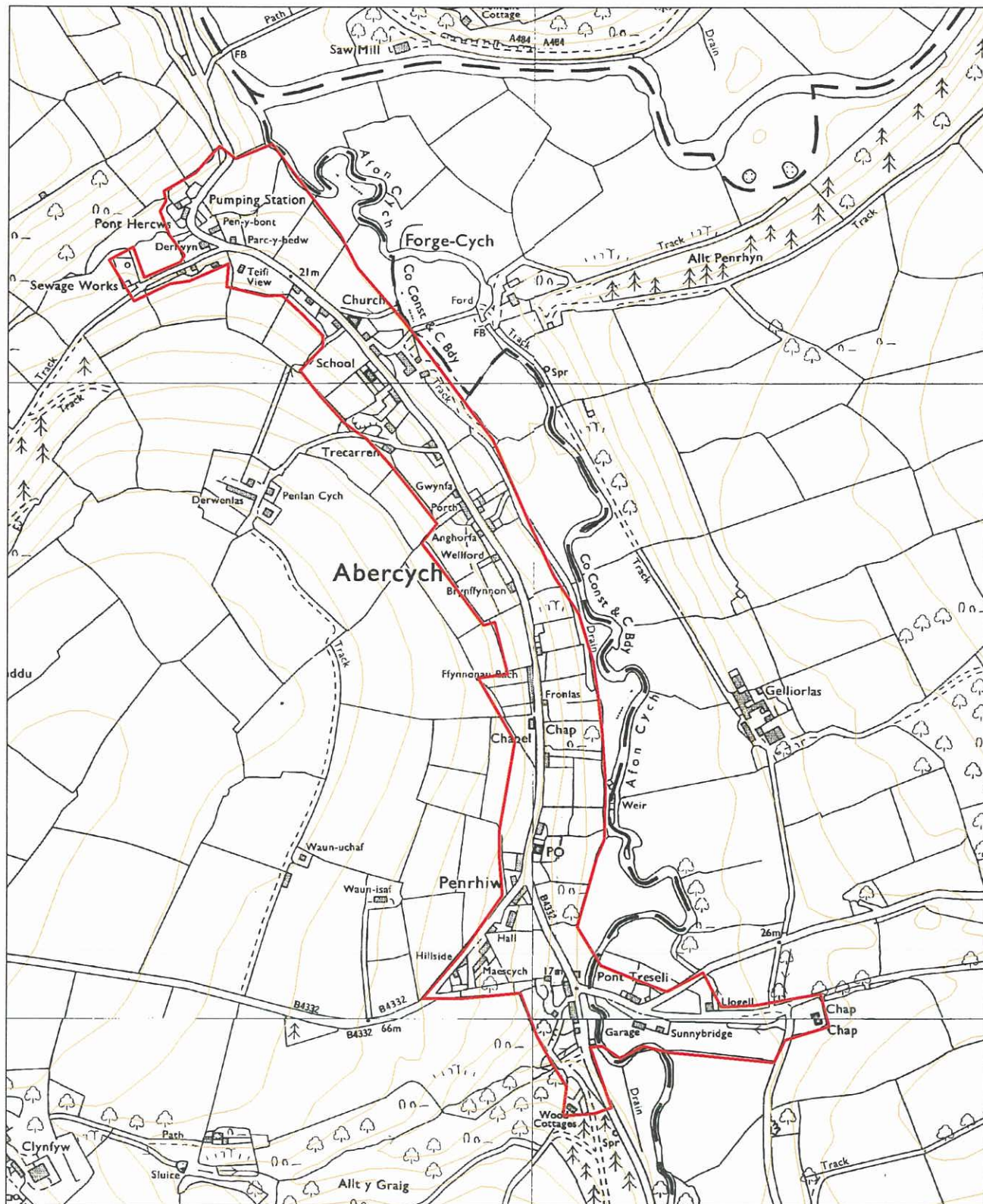
Abercych is a very small, built up historic landscape character area mainly lying on steep east- and northeast-facing valley sides of the Afon Cych, between 10m and 30m above sea level. It is a linear village, or rather an amalgam of several hamlets – Pont Hercws, Forge Cych, Abercych, Penrhiw and Pont Treseli – spaced along a minor road that runs along the steep valley sides and down onto the floodplain of the Cych alongside the B4332. Owing to the steep slopes houses are either located on terraces cut into the hillside upslope of the road or built out over the valley side on the downslope side. Most dwellings are worker houses dating to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and built of uncoursed Teifi valley slate. This is either left bare or cement rendered. North Wales slate is the most common roofing material. There is a mixture of building styles, but most houses are two-storeyed and three-bayed - as terraces, semi-detached and detached houses – with brick door- and window-jambes complementing the stonewalls. Much modified single-storey cottages are present, as are some late 19<sup>th</sup> century detached, slightly larger workers' houses with period details such as bay windows and bargeboards. At Pont Hercws, a now disused single storey cottage with corrugated iron over thatch, perhaps dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and is an indication of the type of building replaced by those described above. At least one old smithy survives indicating the industrial origins of this settlement. Buildings to serve the community include two 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built chapels (one listed), the 20<sup>th</sup> century iron church of St John, and two public houses. Many of the former open spaces between the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses have been filled by late 20<sup>th</sup> century and 21<sup>st</sup> century detached houses; this process is continuing. Pont Treseli, a 19<sup>th</sup> century road bridge is a listed building. Recorded archaeology consists of some of the buildings described above and documentary references to Forge Cych.



### **Conservation priorities**

The continuing low-key housing development should be seen as complementing the built-up, loosely developed character of this area. Larger scale housing developments should be discouraged.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 398 ABERCYCH

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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**Abercych** is a 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial linear village spaced along a minor road on a steep valley side. Older buildings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are stone-built. Modern housing infills the gaps between these older structures.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 399 PLAS-Y-BERLLAN

GRID REFERENCE: SN217416

AREA IN HECTARES: 473

#### Historic Background

This is a medium-sized historic landscape character area within modern Pembrokeshire, represented by agricultural land comprising medium-sized, fairly regular pasture fields, with some arable and scattered woodland, on the scenic southern slopes of the Teifi valley.

This area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223. From 1339 it was held of the Earldom of Pembroke, which passed to the crown in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran. The medieval lordship, administered as a 'Welshry', remained subject to Welsh laws, customs and tenurial systems throughout the period. This - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

This character area lies within a division of the Cilgerran Lordship, Maenor Deifi, which may have pre-Norman origins. A vill was established under Welsh tenure at Cilfowyr, in the southwest part of the area, by the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Maenor Deifi was broadly coterminous with the parish of Manordeifi, which, along with its church, was established by 1291. The church, which lies close to the Teifi floodplain was, from 1339, in the gift of the Earls of Pembroke as Lords of Cilgerran. Its original dedication may have been to St Llawddog, the dominant cult in Cantref Emlyn, but it was later dedicated to St David. It ceased to be a parish church in 1899, when a new church was constructed at Carreg-wen. A chapel-of-ease to the parish had been established at Cilfowyr by the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was ruinous by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and is now defined by an earthwork.

Settlement is still dominated by Cilfowyr, which had become a gentry house by 1543. Little further settlement appears to have occurred within this character area until relatively late in the post-medieval period, although the system of medium-sized, fairly regular fields may have been established before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, the farmhouse and small estate at Pentre was first recorded in 1610. The Saunders family owned it from the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century, passing by marriage to David Davies in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the family assuming the name Saunders-Davies. The mansion was rebuilt in 1820s - and marked on the 1843 tithe map - and enlarged in 1867 but the main range was demolished in the 1980s. An 1803 map of the Pentre Demesne shows enclosures, including gardens, around the house, but otherwise the landscape is very similar to that of today. Its overwhelmingly agricultural character is relieved along its western edge by the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, which was constructed in 1869. The line - which gained a place in local affections and was nicknamed the 'Cardi Bach' - was operational until the 1960s, mainly conveying milk and holiday traffic to Cardigan and St Dogmaels.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Plas-y-Berllan is an agricultural historic landscape character area lying on north- and northeast-facing valley sides of the Afon Teifi. In some sections the land rises steeply from the floodplain at 10m above sea level, but most slopes are fairly gentle. The maximum height achieved is over 170m above sea level. Land-use is improved pasture with a little arable and deciduous woodland, intermixed with a little coniferous plantation on the steeper slopes. Hedges on earth banks separate the medium-sized irregular fields. Whilst most hedges are well maintained, some are becoming overgrown and supporting large bushes and trees. These, in conjunction with the woodland on steep slopes, lend a wooded appearance to parts of the landscape. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and houses. Teifi valley slate is the principal building material (cut and coursed or rubble, sometimes cement rendered) on the older buildings, nearly all of which date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with north Wales slate used on roofs. The majority of the farmhouses and houses are two-storeyed and three-bayed with

a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows –a style that owes more to the ‘polite’ Georgian tradition than the vernacular, and common in southwest Wales. Other houses in this area comprise a one-and-a-half storey farmhouse with strong vernacular traits, the formal early 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey six-bay Pentre farmhouse and attached cottage, representing the home farm of the mansion demolished in the 1980s, a small mid 19th century estate cottage, and the Regency style mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Old Rectory, next to the medieval parish church. Older farm buildings are relatively small, clearly related to the size of the farm holding, and generally consist of one or two ranges with barns, cow houses, stables etc. contained within them. Some are in poor condition and others have been converted to non-agricultural uses. Larger farms have large ranges of modern concrete, steel and asbestos agricultural buildings. There is a loose cluster of mainly modern houses at Carreg-wen centred on the listed, 19<sup>th</sup> century parish church and rectory, and there are a few other modern houses scattered across the area. The other important building is the medieval parish church of Manordeifi, with a full suite of unaltered, late 17<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century fittings. The only roads in this area are narrow lanes and tracks for local traffic. Apart from standing buildings, the site of Cilfowyr Chapel and the course of the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, there is very little recorded archaeology in this area.

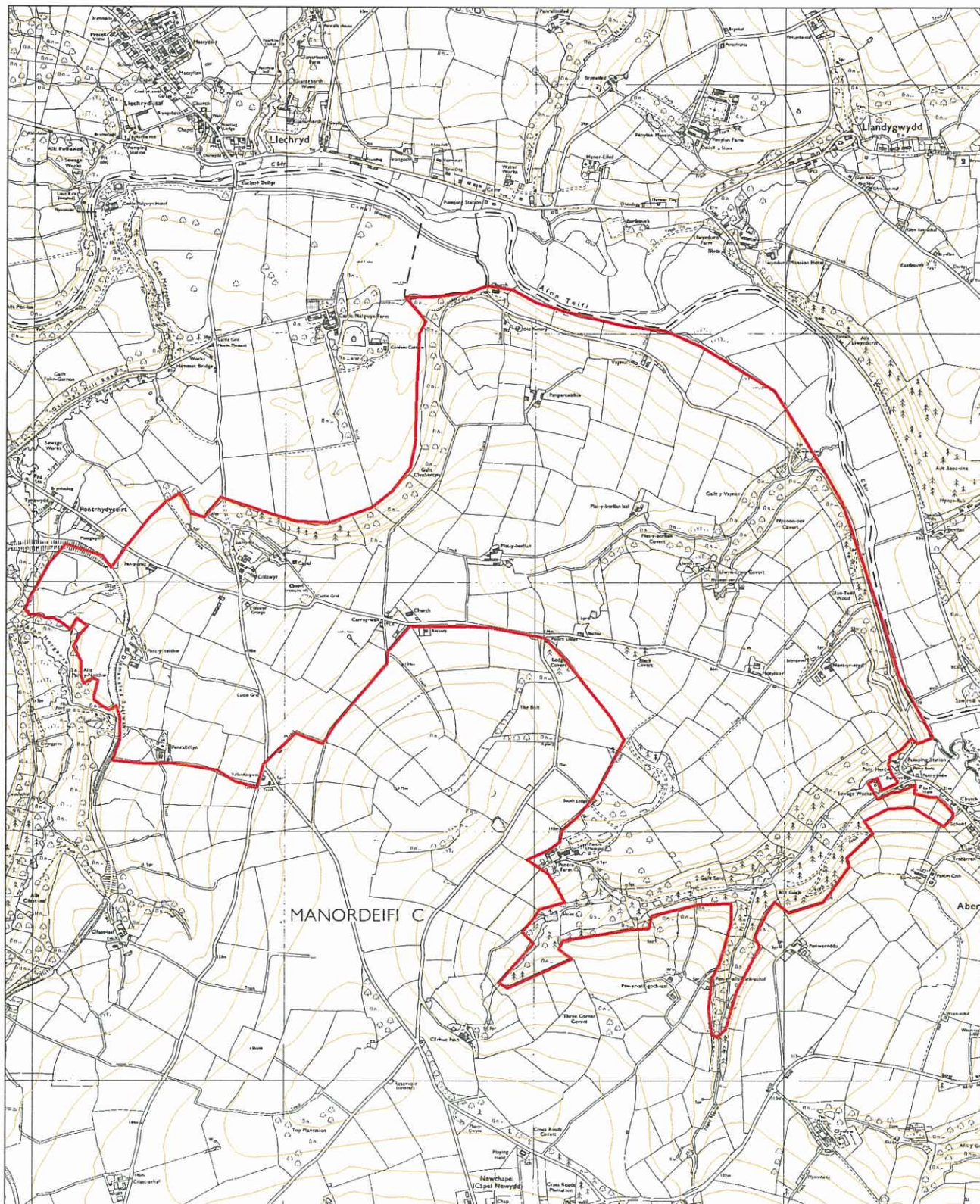
This area is well-defined to the west where it borders the parkland of Castell Malgwyn and to the north against the Teifi floodplain. Elsewhere there is no hard edged boundary, rather a broad zone of change exists between this area and its neighbours.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Generally most historic landscape components are in good condition and should be maintained as existing. However, the condition of some of the older farm buildings is a concern. New uses will have to be found for these if they are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N, 2002, ‘The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; National Library of Wales Rev J C Davies Deposit Map Book 1803, p1; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, London; Price, M R C, 1984, *The Whitland and Cardigan Railway*, Oxford; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 399 PLAS-Y-BERLLAN

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**Plas-y-Berllan** is an agricultural historic landscape character area lying on the south side of the Afon Teifi. Buildings of the dispersed farms and houses mainly date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are of stone. Hedges on banks form the boundaries to the fields. Steeper slopes are covered with deciduous woodland with a little coniferous plantation.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 400 LLANDYGWYDD

GRID REFERENCE: SN233435

AREA IN HECTARES: 1052

#### Historic Background

During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, divided between the commotes of Uwch-Hirwern and Is-Hirwern, which were separated by the steep, north-south valley of the Afon Hirwaun. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. A motte-castle, established near Llwynduris, overlooking the northern edge of the Teifi floodplain, may have become the centre of a small vill. A vill had certainly been established by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, which was formally constituted as the Manor of Llandygwydd, probably under the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids who had acquired the parish of Llandygwydd, and who established a fair in the manor.

Llandygwydd parish church (which was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century immediately to the east of its predecessor) may have been established at the same time as the motte, but it is more likely to be contemporary with its grant to St Davids as it lies 0.5km northeast of the motte. The motte appears to have been abandoned at an early date and was replaced by the late medieval manor house (or gentry-house) probably represented by the square earthwork to the west. This is probably the Llwynduris referred to in 1507, when it was the property of the Bishops, under lease to Gtuffudd Willam Madog. Otherwise, the area in general remained subject to Welsh tenurial patterns - with neither vill nor knight's fees - which were largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region.

No medieval nucleation occurred, the present settlement at Llandygwydd, whilst focused on the church and, presumably, the site of the medieval vill, is entirely from the later post-medieval period, represented by a straggling row of cottages leading up a small valley from the church. The loose cluster at Ponthirwaun is also late post-medieval and, like Capel Tygwydd just beyond this character area, developed during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century along the B4570 and around an independent chapel that was established in 1840. A nearby quarry may have encouraged its growth. Settlement has continued to develop, with 20<sup>th</sup> century infilling. The area throughout is characterised by scattered farmsteads most of which are contemporary with the present landscape of large, regular fields, although some may have earlier origins. This landscape appears to be late post-medieval and had assumed its present form by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when estate maps depict it as it is today. Some of the farms developed into fairly substantial gentry-houses, exploiting the fine southerly aspect, and the area developed a 'polite' veneer. These include the 17<sup>th</sup> century Stradmore Mansion, recorded in 1610 but later resited, Blaenpant, recorded in 1621, and Penylan. Manor Eifed was established before 1766. The road that now flanks the southern edge of the area - the A484 - was newly constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as a turnpike.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Llandygwydd is a large historic landscape character area over 9km from east to west lying on the south-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi. From the floodplain at approximately 10m above sea level the land rises very steeply to over 80m before levelling out to more undulating ground that continues to rise to over 100m. South-flowing tributary streams in steep-sided valleys dissect the area. Semi-natural deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations cloak the steep slopes, lending a wooded appearance to much of the landscape, especially that part in the Teifi valley. Agricultural land-use is predominantly improved pasture with a little arable. Hedges on earth banks bound the medium-sized irregular fields. These hedges are generally well maintained but to the west, and on some higher ground, they are more

commonly overgrown, and in some instances reduced to straggling lines of bushes. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and houses with clusterings at Ponthirwaun and Llandygwydd. Almost the whole pre-modern building stock in this area belongs to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with Teifi valley slate (both bare and cement-rendered), and north Wales slate being the principal building materials. House types represent a large socio-economic range. Penylan is a large listed formal house with a walled garden, coach house and stables. This with Manor Elfed, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century listed Georgian style gentry house, and Stradmore Mansion with its home farm, it lies at the upper end of the scale. Most farmhouses are more modest and comprise a two storey and three-window façade, with symmetrical layout, a type of structure that is derived from the Georgian style, even though most date to the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, rather than the vernacular tradition. Contemporary farm buildings are more substantial than in neighbouring areas, presumably reflecting the size of 19<sup>th</sup> century land holding, and often comprise two or three ranges of building, with barn, cow house, stables etc usually present. Occasional smaller farmhouses with more vernacular traits and smaller ranges of outbuildings are present. Some of the older outbuildings are beginning to fall into disuse. Working farms have substantial sets of modern concrete, steel and asbestos agricultural buildings. At Rhyd, a single storey clom (earth), listed farmhouse (now used as an agricultural outbuilding) with thatched roof under corrugated iron represents an older building tradition, one that was replaced by stone and slate during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ponthirwaun is a loose cluster of 19<sup>th</sup> century two storey workers' houses in cut and coursed Teifi valley slate, a stone-built listed chapel and a few modern houses. An old, large quarry indicates one possible reason for the development of this hamlet. Llandygwydd hamlet is centred on a grouping of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings including the parish church, a coach house and stables on the edge of the churchyard, a Tudor-Gothic vicarage and a gothic cottage, with a few one and two storey 19<sup>th</sup> century worker cottages. Loosely clustered modern housing, in a variety of styles and materials, has infilled gaps between older buildings and spreads up a minor road to the east of the church. There is a scatter of other modern houses across this area. Apart from the A484 which winds sinuously along the edge of the Teifi floodplain on the edge of this area, the only other roads are lanes and tracks for local traffic. Most of the 54 recorded archaeological sites consist of buildings, some of which are described above. However, there are several significant sites, and although these do not strongly characterise the area they indicate long human activity in this landscape. These include Llwynduris medieval earthwork castle, an Iron Age hillfort, a medieval holy well, and other possible medieval sites known only through documentation.

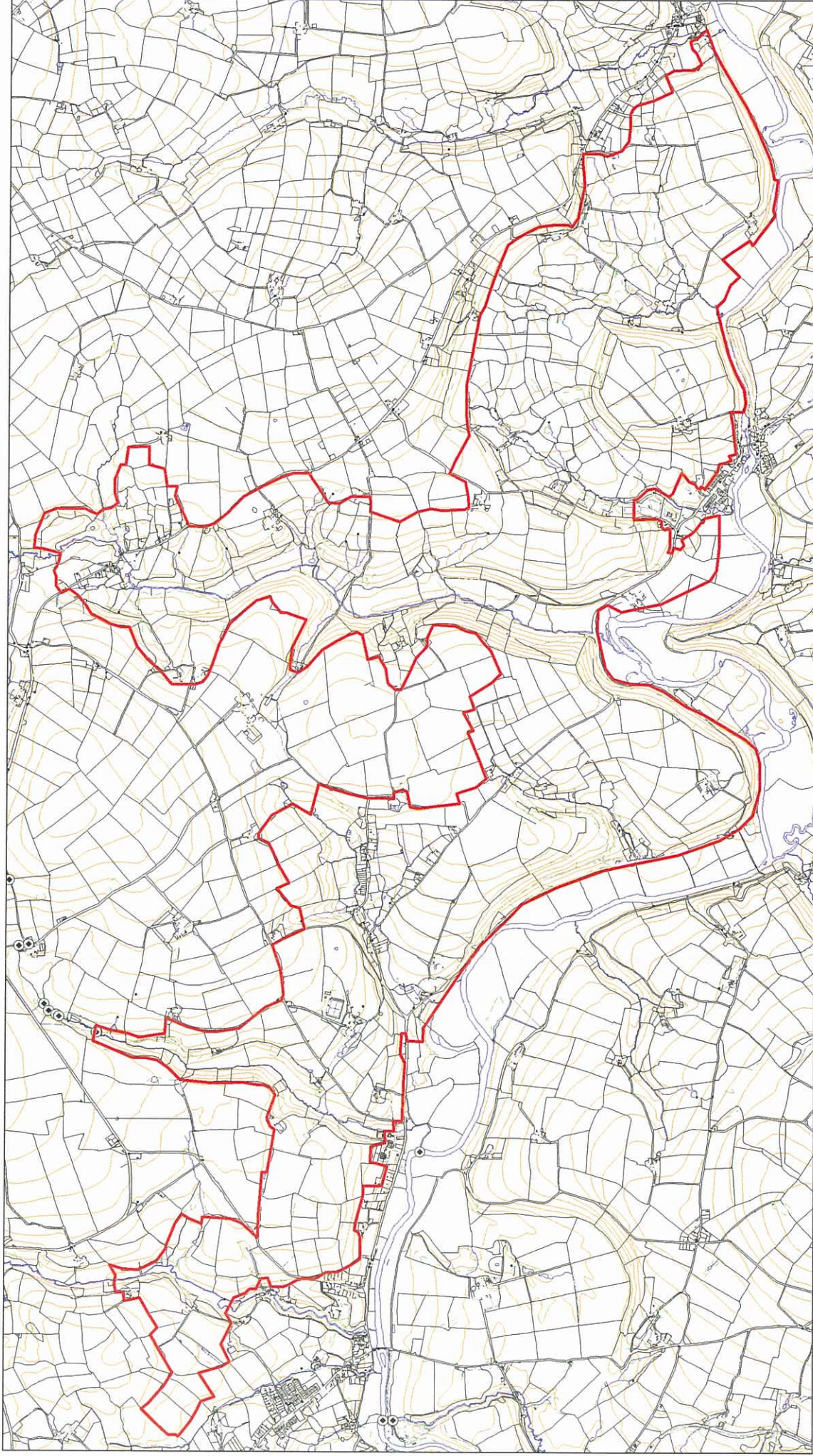
This area is well defined to the south where it borders the Teifi floodplain and the built-up areas of Cenarth and Llechryd. To the north definition is less satisfactory. Here the medium-sized fields and large number of farms merge with higher land of larger fields and fewer farms.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Most of the historic landscape components are in good condition. New uses for some of the older farm buildings will have to be found if they are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llandygwydd parish tithe map 1842; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; National Library of Wales 7616 134/1/19, 1758; Rawlins, B J, 1987, *The Parish Churches and Nonconformist Chapels of Wales: Their Records and Where to Find Them*, Salt Lake City; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Willis-Bund, J W (ed.), 1902, *The Black Book of St Davids*, London





**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 400 LLANDYGWYDD**

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Dispersed farms set in a landscape of pasture fields and deciduous woodland on the north side of the Afon Teifi characterise the **Llandygwydd** historic landscape character area. Older buildings range from Georgian gentry houses to cottages. All are stone-built and most date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 401 LLECHRYD

GRID REFERENCE: SN221439

AREA IN HECTARES: 56

#### Historic Background

A small area within modern Ceredigion, comprising the built-up area of Llechryd village and its environs, on the north bank of the Afon Teifi. During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'.

As a toponym if not a settlement, Llechryd may have earlier origins - it has been tentatively identified with the 'Llech-y-crau', recorded in 1088 as a battle-site and which was clearly a recognised location, and this area lies within a division of Is-Hirwern commote, *Gwestfa Camros*, which may have pre-Norman origins. Nevertheless Llechryd, and its history, are dominated by the bridge over the Teifi. The present structure is 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the crossing point has documented medieval origins, probably as a ford. The crossing was clearly the impetus for the development of a medieval settlement in the form of a vill which, unusually for the region, appears to have developed into a nucleation at an early date. This development may have been encouraged by the crown, or by the Bishops of St Davids to whom the parish of Llangoedmor, within which Llechryd lay, was appropriated from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. A chapelry to Llangoedmor, dedicated to the Holy Cross, was built to serve this emerging community, probably during the 14<sup>th</sup> century after the establishment of the parish. Its remains lie on the bank of the Afon Teifi, at the centre of the village.

The (re)building of the bridge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was a further spur to this development, which may have continued uninterrupted from the medieval period. Holy Cross became a parish church in its own right, remaining parochial throughout most of the post-medieval period. Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi, just south of this area at Penygored. The works were successful, passing through several hands until purchased by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. It ceased operating in 1806. There is no evidence of worker housing in the vicinity of the tinworks site and so it is likely that the workers settled in Llechryd. Further impetus for growth occurred when the A484 through the village was turnpiked in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the section leading eastwards out of the village along the north side of the Teifi having been newly built new for the purpose. The section leading northwest from the village may have medieval origins and most later development has occurred along this road. The tithe map of 1839 shows c.12 buildings in a cluster north of the bridge, all of which were rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century expansion of the village. This expansion meant that Holy Cross Church fell into disuse and was superseded by a new church, alongside the A484, in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The village continues to expand.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Llechryd is a small, built up historic landscape character area lying on the gently sloping north bank of the Afon Teifi between 10m and 50m above sea level. The core of the settlement consists of a cluster of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings to the north of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Llechryd Bridge. From this core dispersed linear settlement spreads eastward along the edge of the valley floor on the north side of the A484 and northwards along the same road. Older buildings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are constructed from Teifi valley slate. This is roughly squared into blocks or slabs and roughly coursed. Included in the village core are substantial mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century middle class detached houses in the Georgian tradition.

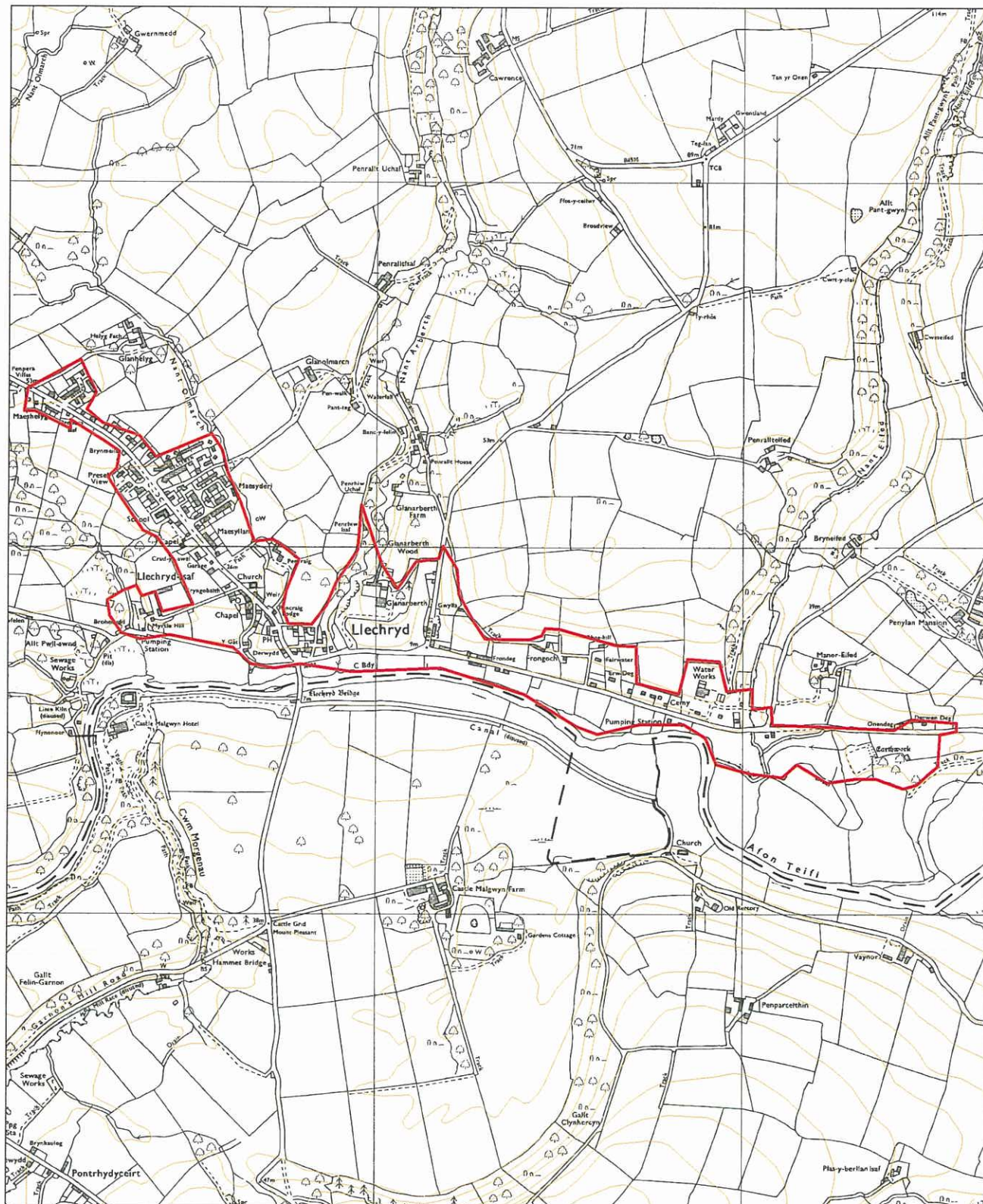


(including one listed example), but most of the mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century domestic buildings in Llechryd are more modest worker houses, short terraces, semi-detached and detached. Having said that, there is a very strong estate character to some of the buildings in the village, with a 19th century Tudor-gothic villa, a cottage with gothic detailing, a lodge to Pencraig Farm and a gated entrance to Glanarberth alongside the main road. Listed outbuildings to the Glanarberth estate are included in this area, although the house has been demolished. Other assumed estate influence is a series of houses, usually with small agricultural outbuildings, evenly spaced along the A484 north of the village. The line of these house extends beyond the village limits into Croes-y-Llan historic landscape area, and are dealt with in more detail there, but they are included here as 20<sup>th</sup> century housing has subsumed them into Llechryd. As mentioned above there is modern housing. This has mainly developed along the main A484 northwest of the village, both linearly and in small housing estates. As well as secular buildings the village has a strong ecclesiastical element with a listed 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel and church, and the ruined medieval church of Holy Cross at the heart of the village. A modern water treatment plant lies on the outskirts.

### **Conservation priorities**

Management and planning should respect the morphology of the historic village layout and take account of the many listed buildings.

**Sources:** Brooke, E H, 1932, *Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain*, Swansea; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Jones, T, 1952, *Brut y Tywysogyon*, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Llechryd parish tithe map 1842; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Ceredigion', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Willis-Bund, J W (ed.), 1902, *The Black Book of St Davids*, London



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

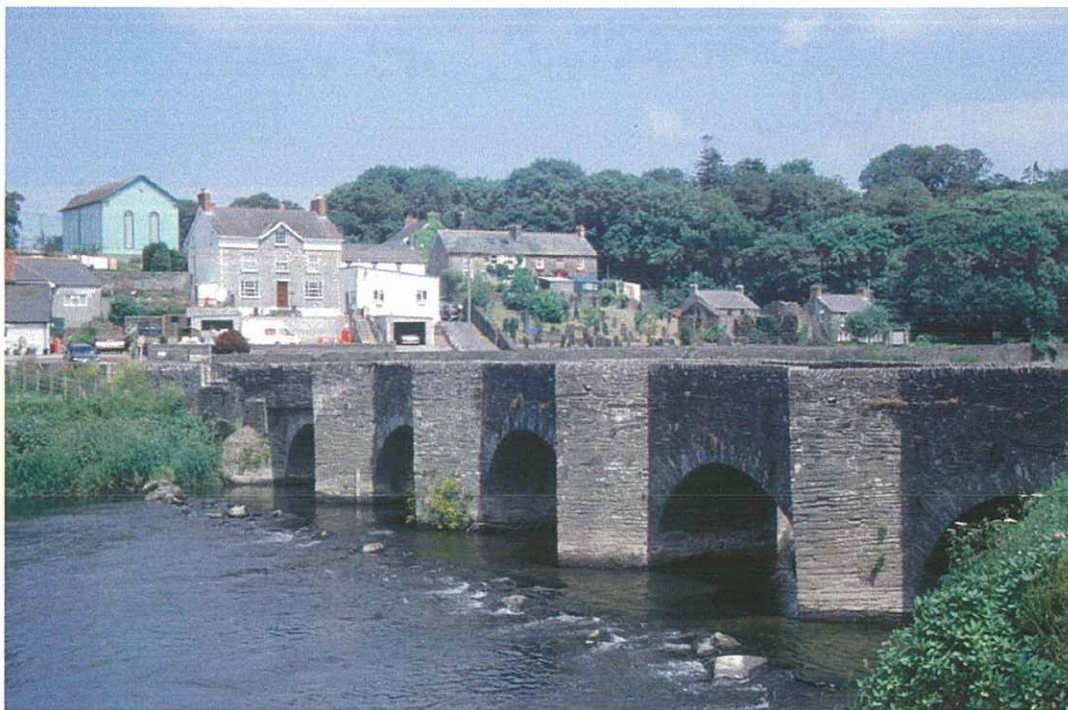
### Historic Landscape Character Area 401 LLECHRYD

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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A cluster of 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built houses and chapels immediately north of a 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge over the Afon Teifi forms the core of **Llechryd** historic landscape character area. Modern houses and other buildings lie on the village fringe.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 402 CROES Y LLAN

GRID REFERENCE: SN204444

AREA IN HECTARES: 345

#### Historic Background

An area within modern Ceredigion, comprising a system of small irregular fields and numerous small agricultural holdings, on the undulating plateau north of the Afon Teifi.

During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, divided between the commotes of Uwch-Hirwern and Is-Hirwern, which were separated by the steep, north-south valley of the Afon Hirwaun. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. This character area lies within a subdivision of the commote, *Gwestfa Camros*, which may have pre-Norman origins. Medieval tenurial patterns - with neither vill nor knight's fees - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement generally seen within the region.

There is little documented settlement within this character area prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although Rosehill House is said to contain 17<sup>th</sup> century elements. The distinctive landscape of many small, evenly distributed farms of this character area appears to represent estate planning or the break-up of a large estate either sold, or rented, as lots, and is likely to be later post-medieval in origin rather than earlier. Whatever its origins, the process was complete by c.1840 when the tithe maps show a landscape similar to today's. The later 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century have seen much infilling, particularly along the A484 into Cardigan, and either side of its junction at Croes y Llan. This road was turnpiked in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century but has origins as a medieval route to the ford/bridge at Llechryd. Part of the area is now a nature reserve.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Croes y Llan is an agricultural historic landscape character area lying on the gently undulating southwest-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi between 10m and 60m above sea level. It is characterised by its system of small irregular fields and the settlement pattern of numerous small agricultural holdings. Land-use is a mixture of improved pasture and poorer quality unimproved grazing with rushes. Hedges on earth banks bound the fields. These hedges are frequently overgrown, often reduced to straggling lines of bushes sometimes with trees. These trees in combination with small stands of deciduous woodland and small coniferous plantations lend a wooded aspect to parts of the landscape. Older buildings are almost entirely 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, and built of Teifi valley slate with north Wales slate roofs. There is a fairly tight distribution of agricultural smallholdings alongside the A484. Some of these houses are early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, cement rendered, and have strong vernacular traits such as small windows and asymmetrical, low elevations. Most, however, are later 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, of bare stone and owe more to the polite Georgian tradition than the vernacular - the typical southwest Wales style of two storeys and three-bays with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows. These houses are evenly spaced along the road and unusually have their gable ends to the road, not fronting the road, as is the norm. A single stone built agricultural outbuilding, sometimes attached in line to the dwelling, is usually associated with these houses. Many of these outbuildings are not now used for agricultural purposes. Llechryd village has expanded to include some of these agricultural holdings within its boundary. Other farms are in a similar style to those on the main road, and include the listed early 19<sup>th</sup> century example of Derwenlas. An exception is the listed Rosehill which is believed to include 17<sup>th</sup> century elements, and the use of brick in a few late 19<sup>th</sup>

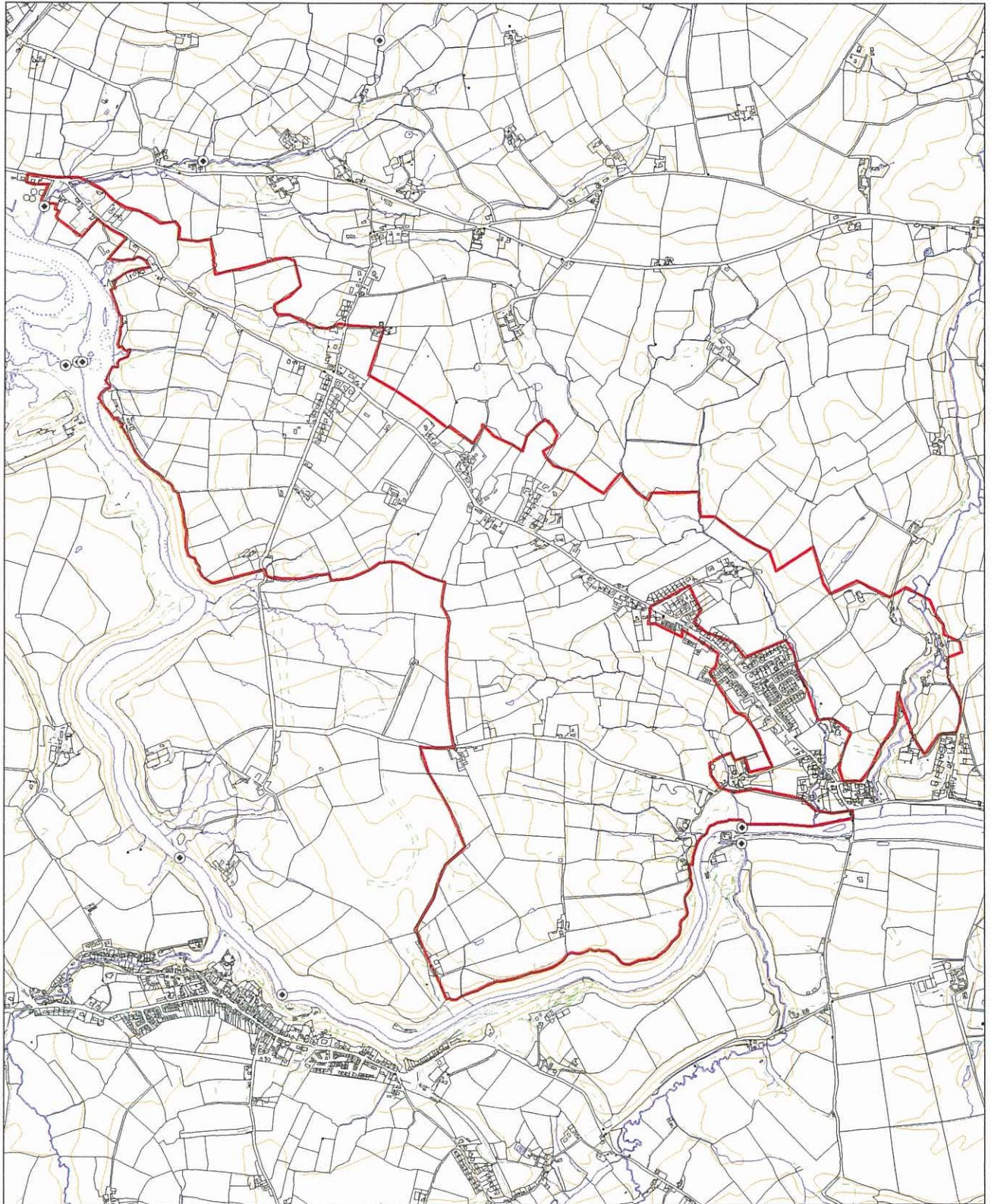
century – early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses and outbuildings. There is a fairly dense distribution of modern houses in a variety of styles, with a noticeable cluster and linear development down side roads at Croes y Llan. Along the main road these modern dwellings have infilled some of the gaps between the smallholdings. Some have maintained the gable end to road tradition. There are no archaeological sites other than those associated with the buildings described above.

This is a distinct area with both its field system and settlement pattern contrasting with that of its neighbours.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Careful consideration will have to be given to the planning of modern development if the predominantly agricultural character of this area is not to be compromised. New uses will have to be found for the small agricultural buildings if they are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1842; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 402 CROES Y LLAN**

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Small fields bounded by overgrown hedges and dispersed farms are the main components of **Croes-y-Llan** historic landscape character area. Small farms evenly spaced along the main A484 road are a feature of this landscape.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 403 COEDMORE

GRID REFERENCE: SN197437

AREA IN HECTARES: 136

#### Historic Background

Coedmor historic landscape character area lies within modern Ceredigion and corresponds to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Coedmor Park and its environs, a wooded estate landscape on the undulating plateau north of the Afon Teifi.

During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, divided between the commotes of Uwch-Hirwern and Is-Hirwern, which were separated by the steep, north-south valley of the Afon Hirwaun. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. The cantref, in the main, remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. However this area - as 'Coed Mawr' - formed part of the formal, demesne attached to Cardigan Castle, which had been established by the de Clares by c.1110. In contrast to its environs, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164. It was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, which corresponded to Is-Hirwern commote. A further period of Welsh rule followed in 1215-1223, but otherwise Cardigan remained in the hands of the English crown for the remainder of the medieval period. So although Coed Mawr may have been constituted as a demesne in c.1110, it was not re-united with the castle until 1201. Demesne was that part of the manor that was the lord's own land, meaning that it was subject to an Anglo-Norman manorial regime. Normally, demesne land was worked by unfree tenants for 2 or 3 days per week in return for strips of land. However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The name Coed Mawr suggests that this area too was always wooded and exploited for the economic value of the woodland. Cardigan Castle remained crown property. However, Coed Mawr was apparently farmed out at an early date, and Earl Roger of Chirk was recorded as holding the manor during the late 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Little is known of the later medieval and early modern history of Coedmore. It formed part of the estates of the Mortimer family, who sold it to Sir John Lewis in 1614-15. It eventually passed into the Lloyd family of Cilgwyn. In 1813, it was described as 'nothing very remarkable', but by 1833, under the ownership of Thomas Lloyd, it had become a 'noble mansion'. It seems likely that the surviving gardens and parkland were laid out by Thomas Lloyd.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Coedmore is an estate-dominated historic landscape character area lying on the north side of the Afon Teifi. Most of this area lies on gently undulating land between 40m and 60m above sea level edged to the west and south by the very steep wooded slopes of the Teifi gorge. Coedmore House, a substantial early 19<sup>th</sup> century Georgian style listed house of Teifi valley slate with a later 19<sup>th</sup> century octagonal tower and large service wing, lies at the heart of this area. Gardens lie around the house, wooded pleasure gardens beyond these to the northwest, and a walled kitchen garden further to the northwest. Included is the home farm with some of its farmland. Fields are relatively large and regular and bounded by well-maintained hedges on earth banks. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture. However, many of the fields have been planted with coniferous trees intermixed with a little deciduous woodland, which may be relict. It is this woodland that is the main characteristic of this area outside the parkland. There is no recorded archaeology in this area apart from those sites associated with Coedmore House and gardens.

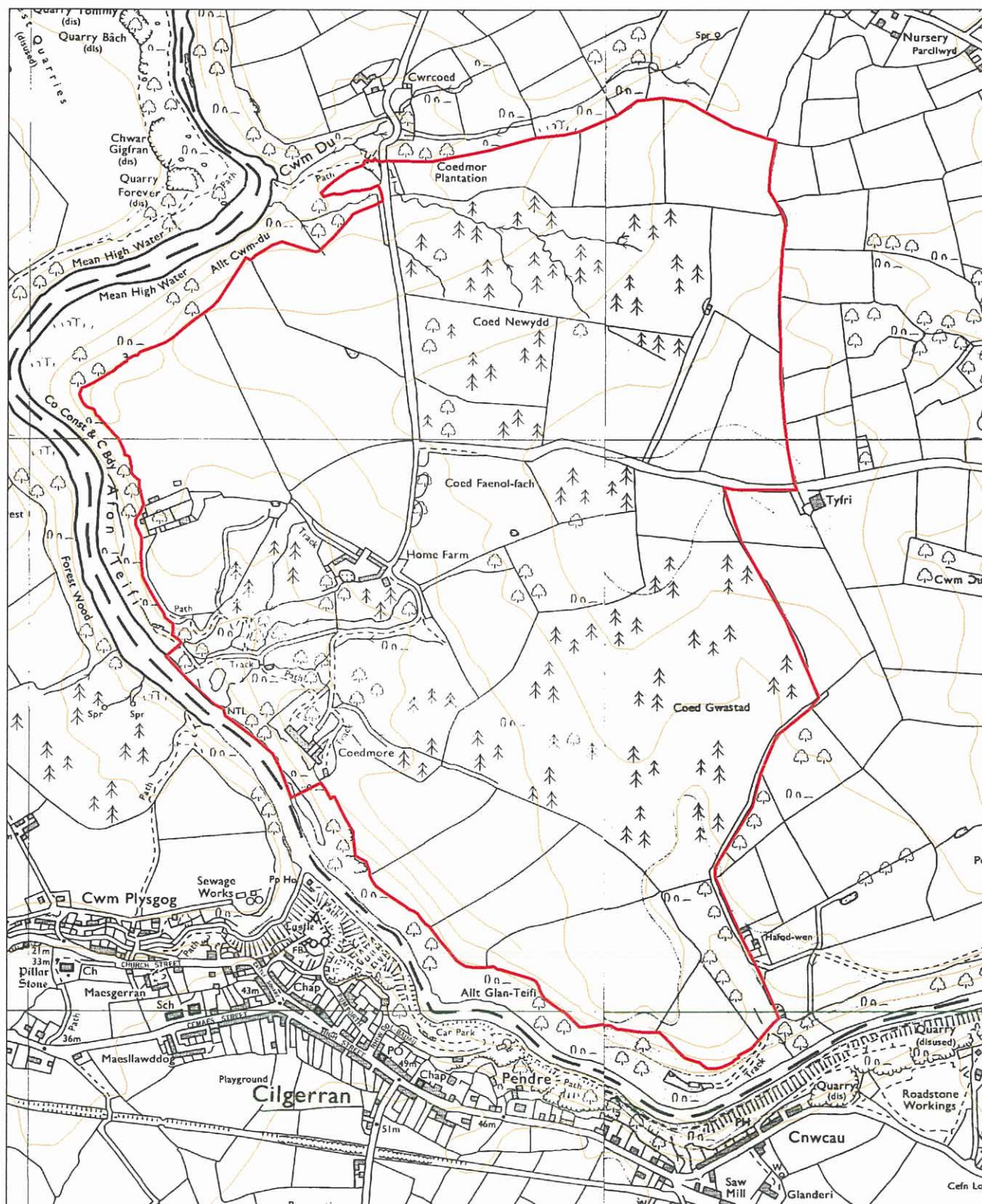
Parkland and woodland distinguish this area from its neighbouring areas of farmland and from the Teifi gorge to the south and west.

**Conservation priorities**

Coedmore is on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales and any development and management should respect this registration.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1842; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Murphy, K, and O'Mahoney, C, 1985, 'Excavation and Survey at Cardigan Castle', *Ceredigion* 10, No. 2, 189-218; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 403 COEDMORE

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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**Coedmore** historic landscape character area essentially consists of the Georgain Coedmore mansion, its park and gardens, with surrounding deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations.

## **LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 404 CASTELL MALGWYN**

**GRID REFERENCE: SN215428**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 173**

#### **Historic Background**

A small area within modern Pembrokeshire corresponding to the late 18th - 19th century Castell Malgwyn Park and its environs, an estate landscape on the gently sloping ground south of the Afon Teifi.

This area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223. From 1339 it was held of the Earldom of Pembroke, which passed to the crown in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran. The medieval lordship, administered as a 'Welshry', remained subject to Welsh laws, customs and tenurial systems throughout the period. This - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Although Castell Malgwyn has been regarded as the site of a medieval castle, this is unlikely. However, there is a strong tradition that it was a high-status house of the Welsh princes during the medieval period, and it was first recorded in c.1400 when it was held by a descendent of the legendary Cadifor Fawr of Blaen Cych. Earlier records refer to the original house, which is now a farmhouse on a high wooded bluff. The an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Penygored, on the banks of the Teifi, between 1764 and 1770. A canal (or leat) supplied water to the works, materials were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The works were successful, passing through several hands until they closed in 1806. Sir Benjamin Hammet, who had acquired the estate in 1792 when he purchased the Penygored Company, began the present Castell Malgwyn House, parks and gardens in 1798. This area is now characterised by the park and gardens. Castell Malgwyn House is now a hotel.

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

Castell Malgwyn is an estate dominated historic landscape character area lying on north-facing gently sloping ground rising from the Afon Teifi at less than 10m above sea level to 70m at its southern edge. It consists of the Castell Malgwyn mansion, parkland and associated land and buildings. The core of the estate consists of the three storey Georgian style house built in about 1795 of Teifi valley rubble slate and the nearby mid 19<sup>th</sup> century stable block and service wing of cut and coursed Teifi valley slate. The mansion is a hotel and the stable buildings and service buildings converted to tourist accommodation. A small park, entered through mid 19<sup>th</sup> century gates with flanking lodges of similar date, lies immediately to the east of the house, and wooded pleasure grounds flank the Afon Teifi to the north and west. Further out tree clumps indicate the former extent of the surrounding parkland, which is now subdivided by well-maintained hedges on earth banks into large regular fields. The home farm, consisting of a substantial late 18<sup>th</sup> century house with a very formal set of stone-built outbuildings, kitchen garden, other gardens and extensive modern agricultural outbuildings, lies in the parkland. The estate constructed other buildings, such as the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Elizabethan timber frame style Mount Pleasant house. Nearly all the estate-constructed buildings are listed. An old stone built mill is located in this area. The only substantial modern building is a bungalow constructed in the former parkland close to the Castell Malgwyn entrance. Recorded archaeology is mostly related to the mansion and park; although two place-names possibly suggest Bronze Age round barrows which may indicate an extended human presence in the area. Two limekilns on the banks of the Teifi and a section of the canal/lead are the only surviving remains of an old tinplate and iron works.

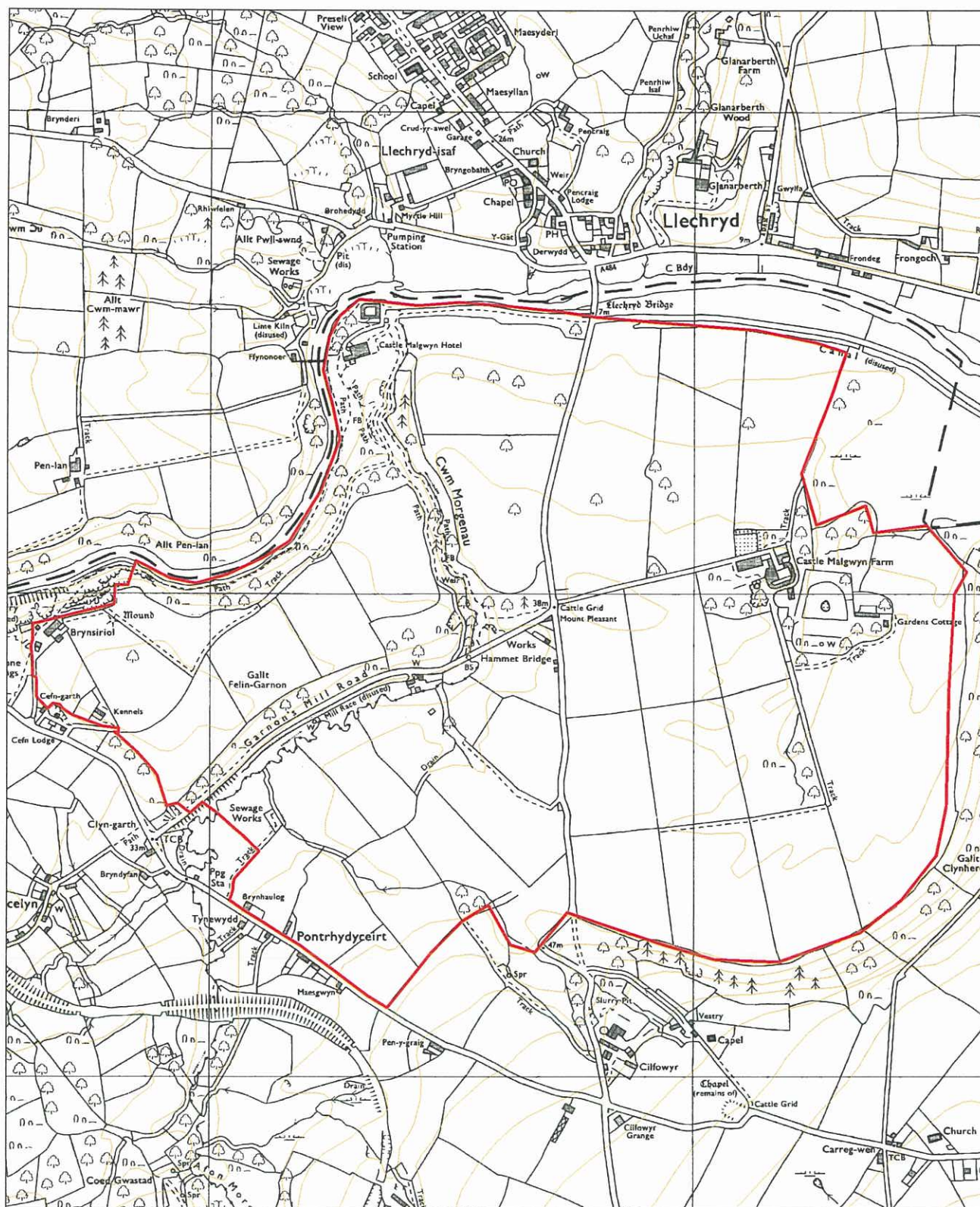


This is a distinct historic landscape character area. The parkland and estate buildings distinguish it from the surrounding areas of farms and fields.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Castell Malgwyn is on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales and any development and management should respect this registration. Careful consideration should be given to the location of new development so that it does not adversely impact on the historic landscape.

**Sources:** Brooke, E H, 1932, *Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain*, Swansea; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howell, D, 1987, 'The Economy 1660-1793', in D Howell *Pembrokeshire County History Volume III: Early Modern Pembrokeshire, 1536-1815*, 299-332, Haverfordwest; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 404 CASTELL MALGWYN

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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A Georgian mansion, its surrounding park and gardens, other estate buildings such as lodges, stable and service yards, and a home farm are the main elements of **Castell Malgwyn** historic landscape character area.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 405 CILGERRAN GORGE

GRID REFERENCE: SN190439

AREA IN HECTARES: 82

#### Historic Background

This is a long, narrow, sinuous area comprising the incised meanders of Cilgerran Gorge, where the Teifi Valley suddenly narrows from a floodplain at Llechryd into a narrow, rocky gorge. It has long been a renowned beauty spot.

This area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223. From 1339 it was held of the Earldom of Pembroke, which passed to the crown in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran. The medieval lordship, administered as a 'Welshry', remained subject to Welsh laws, customs and tenurial systems throughout the period. This - with neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

The gorge passes below Cilgerran Castle itself, which was rebuilt in stone during the 1220s-1230s and still dominates the landscape. The gorge below the castle is noted for its fishing, particularly salmon, which has a long history. By 1270, the Lord of Cilgerran's salmon weir below the castle had six traps, and complaints were made that they impeded river traffic carrying stone downstream for the king's building works at Cardigan Castle. The traps were ordered to be removed, but were rebuilt in 1314 by the Lord of Cilgerran, in manner that did not interfere with river traffic. The six traps were described by George Owen in 1603 as 'the greatest weir of all Wales'. The fishery continued to be operated by the burgesses of Cilgerran through the post-medieval period, the building where the fish were taken to be weighed - 'Ty'r govod', being located immediately below the castle. Coracle fishing was also undertaken in the gorge until recent years.

Another economic asset of the gorge that had been exploited since the medieval period is stone - the durable Teifi Valley slate stone that characterises so many buildings in the region. It is the stone from which Cilgerran Castle itself is made, physical evidence of an industry which is recorded in the reputed rights of the burgesses of Cilgerran to dig for stone, without payment, for their own use. A fee was payable if the stone was taken outside the borough. Seventeenth century leases also refer to slate quarrying. Despite this long history of quarrying for both building stone, and roofing slate, the industry seems to have been limited to numerous small workings until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, from the 1850s-1860s onwards, the industry was mechanised using steam power, and the arrival of the Whitland and Cardigan Railway at Cilgerran, in 1885, allowed for greater export. These factors led to the emergence of larger enterprises, with smaller quarries still serving local needs. The decline in the slate industry began in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and production of stone and slate ceased in the 1930s, although some bulk extraction was undertaken in the latter part of the century. There are two main groups of quarries, the Town Quarries on the slopes below the town and Fforest a little way downstream. Despite all this activity the valley retained a rural aspect, and even at the peak of the industry contemporary maps, such as the tithe map of c.1840, show the sides of the gorge as heavily wooded. These wooded slopes, with the castle, and the river below, have long been renowned as a beauty spot, attracting the attention of Romantic tourers and artists of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In search of the 'Picturesque', they would slowly coast downstream in order to view, sketch and paint the ruins of Cilgerran Castle. They included Richard Wilson, and J M W Turner who made several studies of the castle. The gorge itself attracted their attention - Samuel Lewis, in 1833, described the 'sylvan beauties of the scene... rich groves, alternating with the naked rock, continue to excite the admiration of the traveller'.

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

This historic landscape character area consists of approximately 5km of the Teifi valley from where it suddenly narrows from a floodplain upstream at Llechryd to where it enters tidal marshes at Rosehill/Pentood. The lower stretches of the river are tidal. From the river the valley sides rise steeply to over 50m above sea level. Numerous extensive, old stone quarries scar the landscape, particularly on the southern bank. Much of these old workings are cloaked in deciduous woodland, in common with the whole valley. There are no buildings in this area, and apart from a fishing weir close to Llechryd the only recorded archaeology is associated with the stone extraction industry. Three sections of the gorge, that below Cilgerran which contains a car park and coracle visitor centre, the gardens below Coedmore House, and the gardens/parkland of Castell Malgwyn have been assigned to different historic landscape character areas.

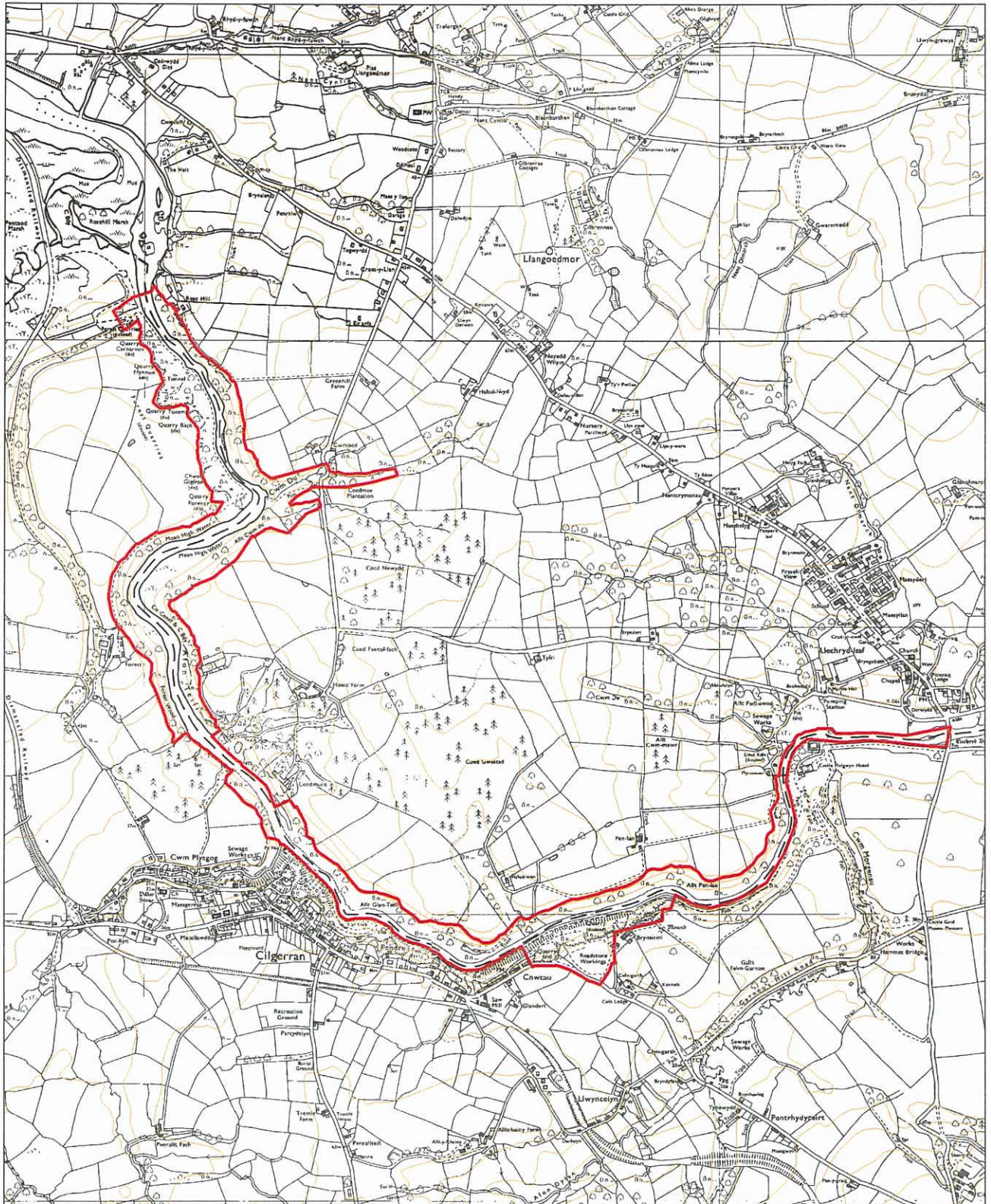
Cilgerran gorge is a distinct historic landscape character area with clearly defined boundaries. It contrasts with the neighbouring areas of Cilgerran, Coedmore gardens, Castell Malgwyn park, and farmland and fields.

### **Conservation priorities**

Maintain as existing. Greater public access and more information should be considered for the stone quarries.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Hilling, J B, 1992, *Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey*, Cardiff; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1841; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Richards, A J 1998 *The Slate Quarries of Pembrokeshire*, Llanwrst; Soulsby, I, 1983, *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, Chichester; Weeks, R, 2002, The 'Lost Market' settlements of Pembrokeshire, *Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report* 17, 21-30





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 405 CILGERRAN GORGE

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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The **Cilgerran Gorge** historic landscape character area consists of that part of the Afon Teifi valley that narrows before entering the tidal zone. Valley sides are steep and heavily wooded. No inhabited buildings are included, although several extensive old stone quarries are located on the south side of the gorge.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 406 CILGERRAN

GRID REFERENCE: SN194429

AREA IN HECTARES: 35

#### Historic Background

This is the built-up area of the small, handsome town of Cilgerran, pembrokeshire. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223, when William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, took it. It was held of the Earldom of Pembroke until it passed to the crown in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran.

The castle may not occupy the site of the pre-Norman commotal centre, as it does not appear to have acquired the name of the lordship, Cilgerran, until the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, being referred to as 'Cenarth Bychan' when it was the scene of a daring Welsh raid in 1109. William Marshall started rebuilding the castle in stone in 1223, and it was largely complete by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. Its two massive 'drum' towers still dominate the landscape.

A settlement developed outside the gates of Cilgerran Castle, large enough to be termed a 'town' in 1204. It was regarded as a borough, but by prescription only, as no charter is known. Its regular plan, comprising burgage plots laid out either side of a long main street, with a broad market place, and a second street at right-angles, suggest that it was planned. Twenty-two taxpayers were recorded in 1292 - rather less than the 70 or so burgage plots still discernible - and it appears that the town was still growing. In c.1610 Speed listed it among the principal market towns of Pembrokeshire. The predominantly Welsh demographics of the lordship are reflected in the Welsh names of the taxpayers. The town had its own gaol, and stocks. It appears always to have kept its links with the land, and the chief occupations of the townspeople during the post-medieval period were farming, salmon-fishing and slate-quarrying.

Cilgerran and the quarrying industry had long been closely linked, burgesses having had the right to dig for stone within the Teifi Gorge, where all the major quarries were located. Some of the stone-processing buildings, including a dressing-shed, were located in the town. The wealth of the industry at its peak, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, is reflected in the town's buildings, many of which were clearly built or rebuilt at this time using local stone. Some further growth of the town occurred, doubtless encouraged by the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, which was incorporated in 1869 (but closed in the 1960s). A chapel was established, and a brickworks, although brick is not a common building material in the town. However, the weekly market recorded by George Owen ended in the early 1900s; the fair had been discontinued many years previously, while quarrying ceased in 1938. The abolition of the lordship in 1536 had already seen the abandonment and decline of Cilgerran Castle. It saw no action during the Civil War and was allowed to become a ruin, albeit the source of inspiration to Romantic painters. The ditch became the town pound, and as a result of quarrying carried out around the castle, a large stretch of the castle wall itself fell in 1863. However, it has been in the care of the state since 1943 and is now one of the chief visitor attractions of the region.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a relatively small, built-up historic landscape character area consisting of the small town of Cilgerran, lying on relatively flat land at about 35m above sea level immediately to the south and above the Teifi valley gorge. It is essentially a linear settlement, with houses tightly packed along a main street, and the old triangular-shaped market place of Castle Square (encroached upon by 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings) with the large, ruined, 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century stone castle to the north, and the church of St Llawddog detached some distance to the west. The church, except for the medieval tower, was twice entirely rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Burgage plots (house plots) flank the market place and main street. These together with the settlement morphology indicate a small medieval planned town.

Medieval planning has dictated the modern form of the settlement, with houses of a standard burgage plot width squeezed tightly against their neighbours, lying hard against the street frontage. This has resulted in terraces of individual buildings – there are few examples of single-build terraces – as there is little space for detached buildings in the narrow plots in the centre of the settlement. There are some detached- and semi-detached houses, particularly on the edge of the settlement. Apart from the medieval church tower and the castle ruins, virtually all the older buildings in Cilgerran date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with most belong to the second half of the century. Teifi valley slate (Cilgerran slate) is used exclusively on the oldest buildings, with red brick appearing towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the buildings are cement rendered (stucco). North Wales slate is used on roofs. Along the main street, and on Castle Square, houses are mainly two-storey mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century with their symmetrical front elevations and large window openings placing them firmly in the ‘polite’ Georgian tradition. However, some vernacular and probably early traits such as smaller windows, asymmetrical frontages and large, squat chimneys survive on some houses. Teifi valley slate masonry, where not covered by cement render, is of very high quality, with squared- and sawn stone laid in courses. Decoration is confined to chisel pecks on the sawn surfaces. Several examples of these buildings are listed, as is the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century architect-designed ‘Georgian’ Rectory. Cement render is used probably on buildings with poorer quality masonry, or over brick on later buildings. Terraces and individual houses with many more vernacular traits lie to the west of the main settlement core at Cwm Plysgog and to the east at Cnwcau. A former stone-built stone-dressing shed is located at this latter location, although most of the quarries have been assigned to another historic landscape character area. Other buildings in Cilgerran include a 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel, a 20<sup>th</sup> century school, a coracle fishing/visitor centre, and limited modern housing on the outskirts of the settlement. There are few recorded archaeological sites here other than those related to the standing buildings.

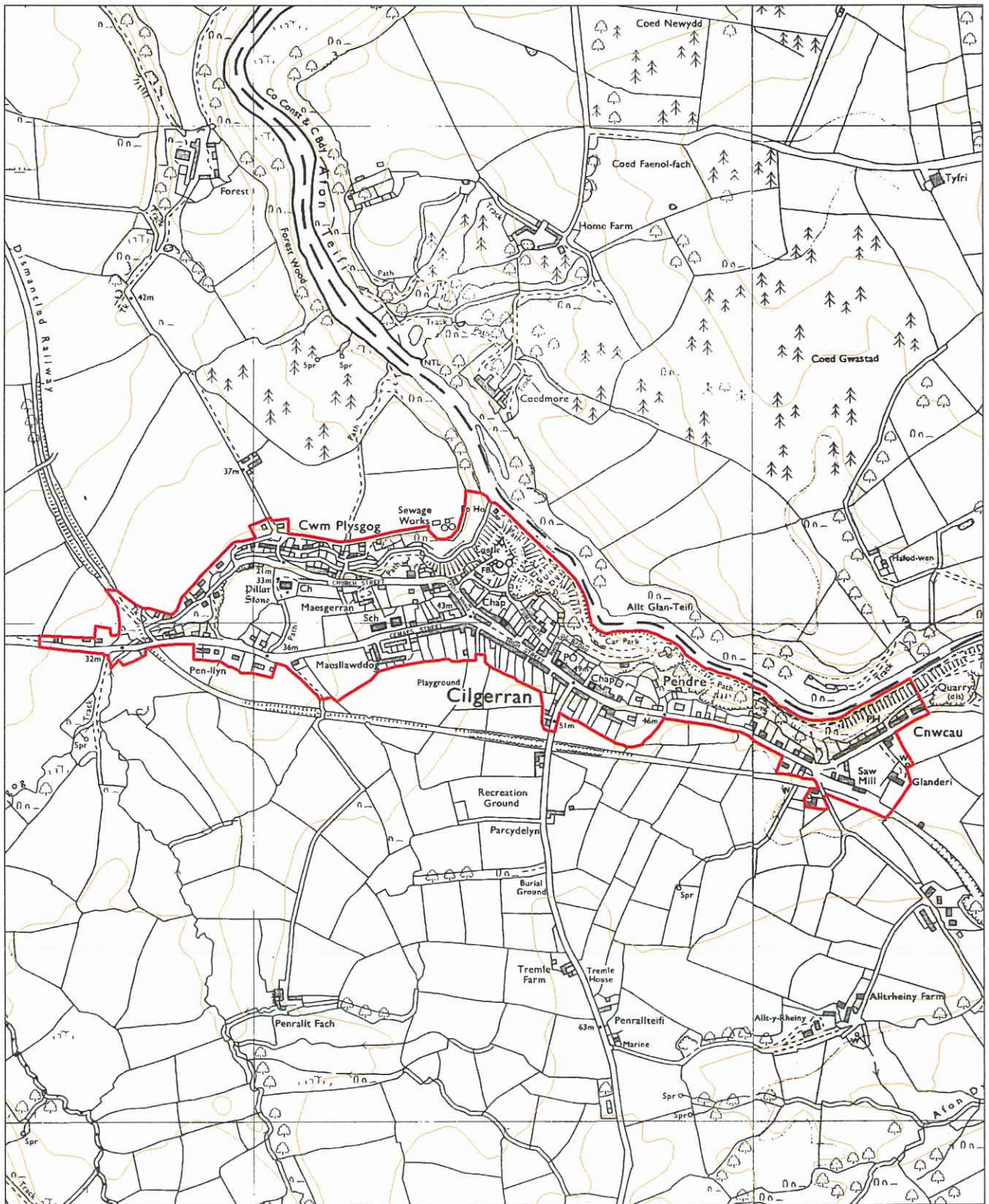
Cilgerran is a very distinct historic landscape character area. Its built up nature contrasts with its neighbouring rural areas.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Cilgerran is a good example of a medieval planned settlement. Although much of its building stock is 19<sup>th</sup> century, this respects the medieval town plan and uses local materials. Modern development is at present limited. It should be planned to respect the historic character of the settlement.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Hilling, J B, 1992, *Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey*, Cardiff; Jones, T, 1952, *Brut y Tywysogyon*, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N, 2002, ‘The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, London; Price, M R C, 1984, *The Whitland and Cardigan Railway*, Oxford; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Richards, A J 1998 *The Slate Quarries of Pembrokeshire*, Llanwrst; Soulsby, I, 1983, *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, Chichester; Slater & Co., 1850 *Royal, National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of.....*, London; Weeks, R, 2002, The ‘Lost Market’ settlements of Pembrokeshire, *Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report* 17, 21-30





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### Historic Landscape Character Area 406 CILGERRAN

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Historically a town, **Cilgerran** is essentially a liner settlement of mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built houses and the ruins of a large medieval castle.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 407 CARDIGAN ISLAND AND COASTAL STRIP

GRID REFERENCE: SN160507

AREA IN HECTARES: 64

#### Historic Background

This is a long, narrow area within modern Ceredigion, represented by the steep coastal cliffs between Craig-y-Gwbert and Mwnt, including Cardigan Island. During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote including Cardigan Island was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle, until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. This character area lies within a subdivision of the commote, *Gwestfa Berwick/Ferwig* which may have pre-Norman origins. Medieval tenurial patterns - with neither vill nor knight's fees - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement generally seen within the region.

The coastal strip, which is very narrow, has always been marginal land and was presumably used for rough grazing from an early period. No historic settlement sites have been recognised within this mainland strip, but evidence of post-medieval use is provided by a 19th century lime-kiln near Gwbert. Cardigan Island features a probable Bronze Age round barrow, suggesting a human presence on the island at an early date. Although some earthwork features within enclosures may be prehistoric hut platforms, they have not been dated and along with other features on the island may be medieval, or later. There is no evidence for the traditionally supposed early medieval or later monastic use of the island, and it is probable that no permanent habitations were established after the prehistoric period. However, some of the earthworks are thought to represent rabbit warrens, and there is plenty of documentary evidence for rabbit farming on other offshore islands in southwest Wales, and while none concerns Cardigan Island; there are oblique references to rabbits on the island in local lore. Some ridge-and-furrow is also present on the island, regarded as 'ancient' in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, but as the island was in the possession of the Brigstockes of Blaenpant - renowned agricultural improvers - during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it may belong to agricultural improvement of marginal land. However, the island was only seasonally exploited during the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it 'yielded good pasturage for cattle and sheep, chiefly for the market at Cardigan'. It is now a nature reserve.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

This historic landscape character area consists of Cardigan Island and the high, hard-rock cliffs rising from the sea to over 70m, from the mouth of the Afon Teifi to Mwnt cove, a distance of about 5km. The coastal strip is here rarely over 100m wide, and comprises rough grazing and waste fringing farmland as well as the sea cliffs. High cliffs surround the small area of unimproved grazing land that makes up the uninhabited Cardigan Island. There are no occupied buildings in this area, although a listed lime-kiln is recorded at Gwbert. Recorded archaeology is rich and varied and consists of numerous sites associated with earlier phases of occupation/agriculture on Cardigan Island, such as a Bronze Age round barrow, settlements, a possible rabbit warren and ponds. There is also an Iron Age hillfort on the mainland strip, post-medieval landing-places and other sites.

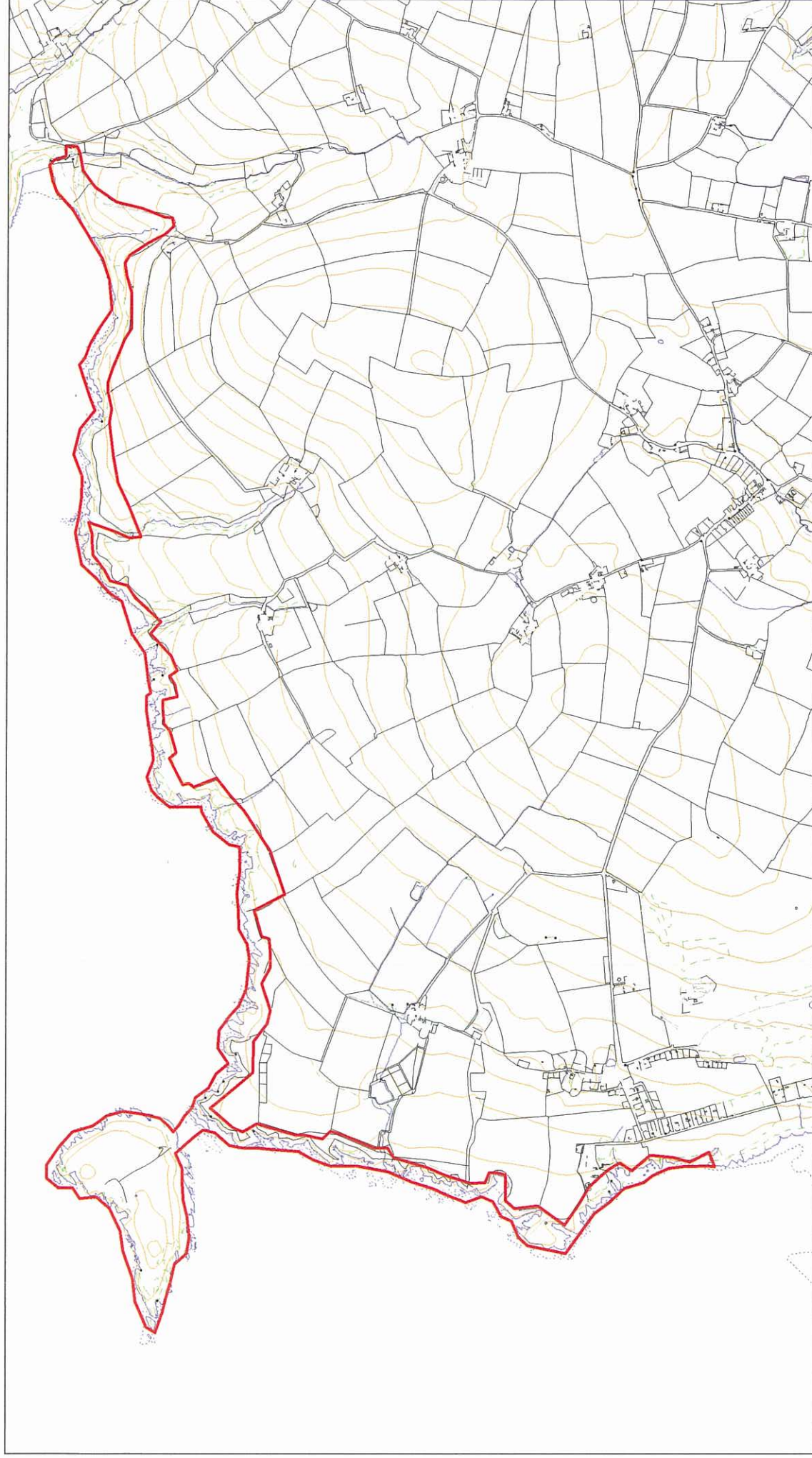
Cardigan Island and the coastal strip is a distinct historic character area and contrasts with the fields and farms of neighbouring character areas.



### **Conservation priorities**

Although this is a relatively small and a very narrow historic landscape character area, it is very distinctive with an open aspect as opposed to the enclosed, intensively used neighbouring farmland. This open aspect should be maintained.

**Sources:** Bewers, P, 1994, 'Cardigan Island, Y Ferwig', *Archaeology in Wales* 34, 3-6; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; James, T, and Simpson, D., 1980, *Ancient West Wales from the Air*, Carmarthen; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Ceredigion', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Verwig parish tithe map 1839



**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 407  
CARDIGAN ISLAND AND COASTAL STRIP**

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Although rarely over 100m wide, the **Cardigan Island and Coastal Strip** historic landscape character area consists of over 5km of hard rock sea cliff and rough ground along the cliff top.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 408 COASTAL STRIP - POPPIT TO NEWPORT

GRID REFERENCE: SN102453

AREA IN HECTARES: 212

#### Historic Background

This is a long, narrow area within modern Pembrokeshire, represented by the steep coastal cliffs between Poppit Sands, at the mouth of the Teifi estuary, and Newport to the west. During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control by Robert FitzMartin in c.1100 and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemaes. Cemaes remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223 moreover, held this northeastern part of Is-Nyfer. These Welsh tenurial patterns have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. This coastal strip, which is very narrow, has always been marginal land and was presumably used for rough grazing from an early period. It is shown as today on the tithe maps from the 1840s. No settlement sites from the historic period have been recognised within this strip, but evidence of post-medieval use of the area is provided by a number of quarries. Poppit Sands occupies a scenic estuary setting with extensive sands, which are very popular with visitors. A caravan park and its services - though just outside this character area - are the dominant feature of the landscape here. Meanwhile, the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, designated in 1952, starts at Poppit and gives unrivalled access to coastal scenery.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

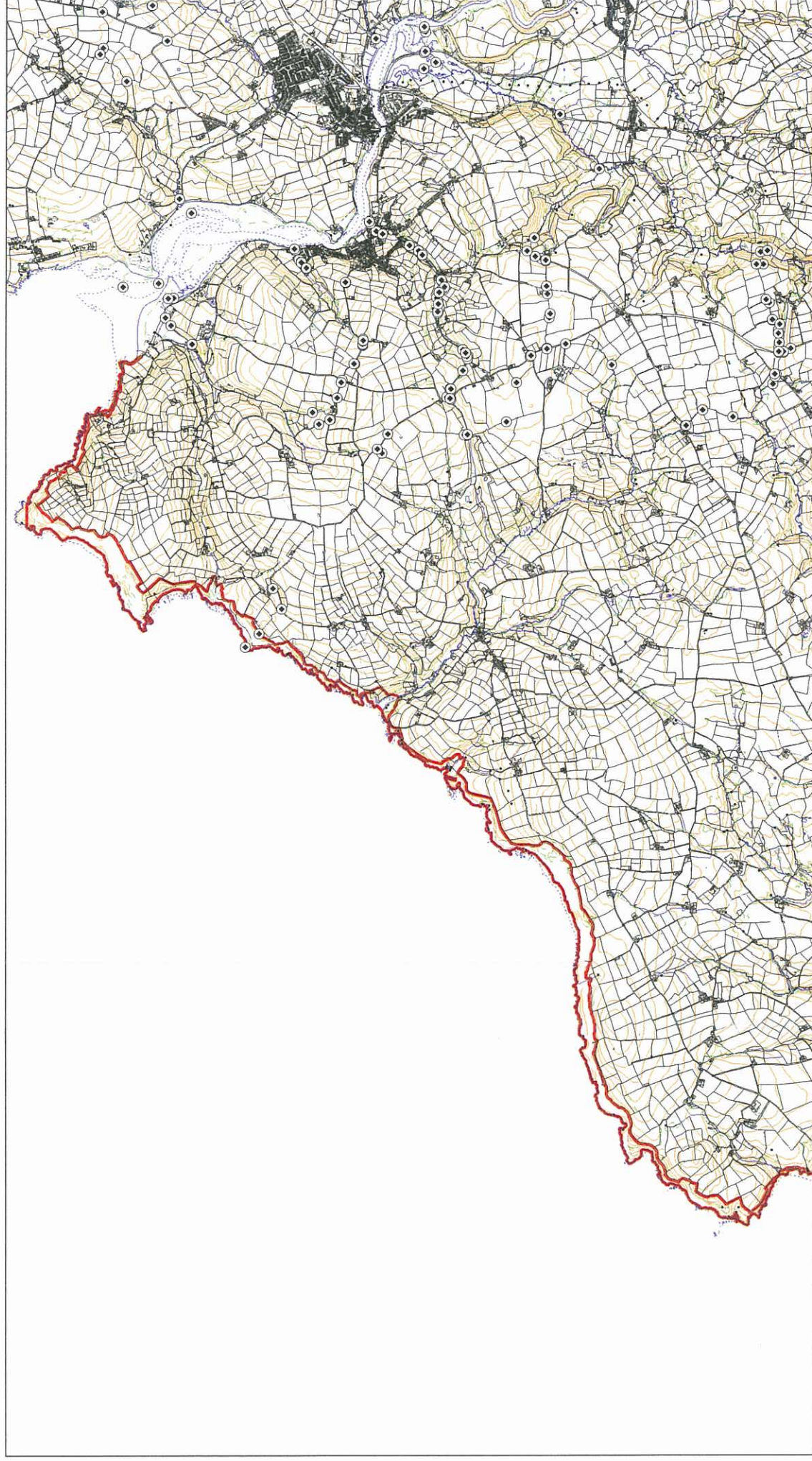
This historic landscape character area consists of the narrow coastal strip from Poppit sands on the Teifi estuary to Newport sands, a distance of approximately 19km. It is very narrow, rarely achieving a width of over 150m. It consists of vertical hard-rock sea cliffs rising to over 150m in places but generally lower, and a narrow band of rough ground sandwiched between the cliff top and farmland. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path runs along the cliff top. There are no inhabited buildings. Recorded archaeology consists of two Iron Age hillforts, burnt mounds and scatters of prehistoric finds and several post medieval sites including quarries.

The coastal strip is a distinct historic character area and contrasts with the fields and farms of neighbouring character areas.

#### Conservation priorities

Although this is a very narrow historic landscape character area, it is very distinctive with an open aspect as opposed to the enclosed, intensively used neighbouring farmland. This open aspect should be maintained.

**Sources:** Charles, B G, 1948, 'The Second Book of George Owen's *Description of Penbrokeshire*', *National Library of Wales Journal* 5, 265-285; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Maynard, D, 1993, 'Burnt Mounds in the St Dogmaels area of north Pembrokeshire', *Archaeology in Wales* 33, 41-43; Moylgrove parish tithe map 1847; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Nevern parish tithe map 1843; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838



**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION:  
LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**

**Historic Landscape Character Area 408  
COASTAL STRIP - POPPIT TO NEWPORT**

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The **Coastal Strip – Popitt to Newport** historic landscape character area contains 19km of high, hard rock sea cliff and cliff top. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path runs along the marginal land of the narrow coastal strip.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 409 PENTOOD MARSH

GRID REFERENCE: SN186453

AREA IN HECTARES: 88

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire comprising marsh, on the southern bank of the Afon Teifi. It is a nature reserve. Until recently, the area lay entirely within Pembrokeshire. It is divided in two by the Afon Piliu, a tributary of the Teifi, which during the medieval period was the boundary between Cantrefs Cemais and Emlyn, and their successor Anglo-Norman lordships, Cemais and Cilgerran, which were established in c.1100 and absorbed into Pembrokeshire when it was established in 1536. However, the area occupied the 'Welshries' of both lordships, within which Welsh law, customs and tenurial patterns were maintained throughout the medieval period and into modern times. This area has always comprised marginal land and was once probably less extensive than today, the salt-marsh accruing at the confluence of the Piliu with the Teifi. The marsh had, however, reached its present extent by the 1840s, when it was recorded as marginal land on the tithe maps. The old Whitland - Cardigan railway line (constructed in 1869) crosses the marsh and is now a footpath/cyclepath. The line - which gained a place in local affections and was nicknamed the 'Cardi Bach' - was operational until the 1960s, mainly conveying milk and holiday traffic to Cardigan and St Dogmaels.

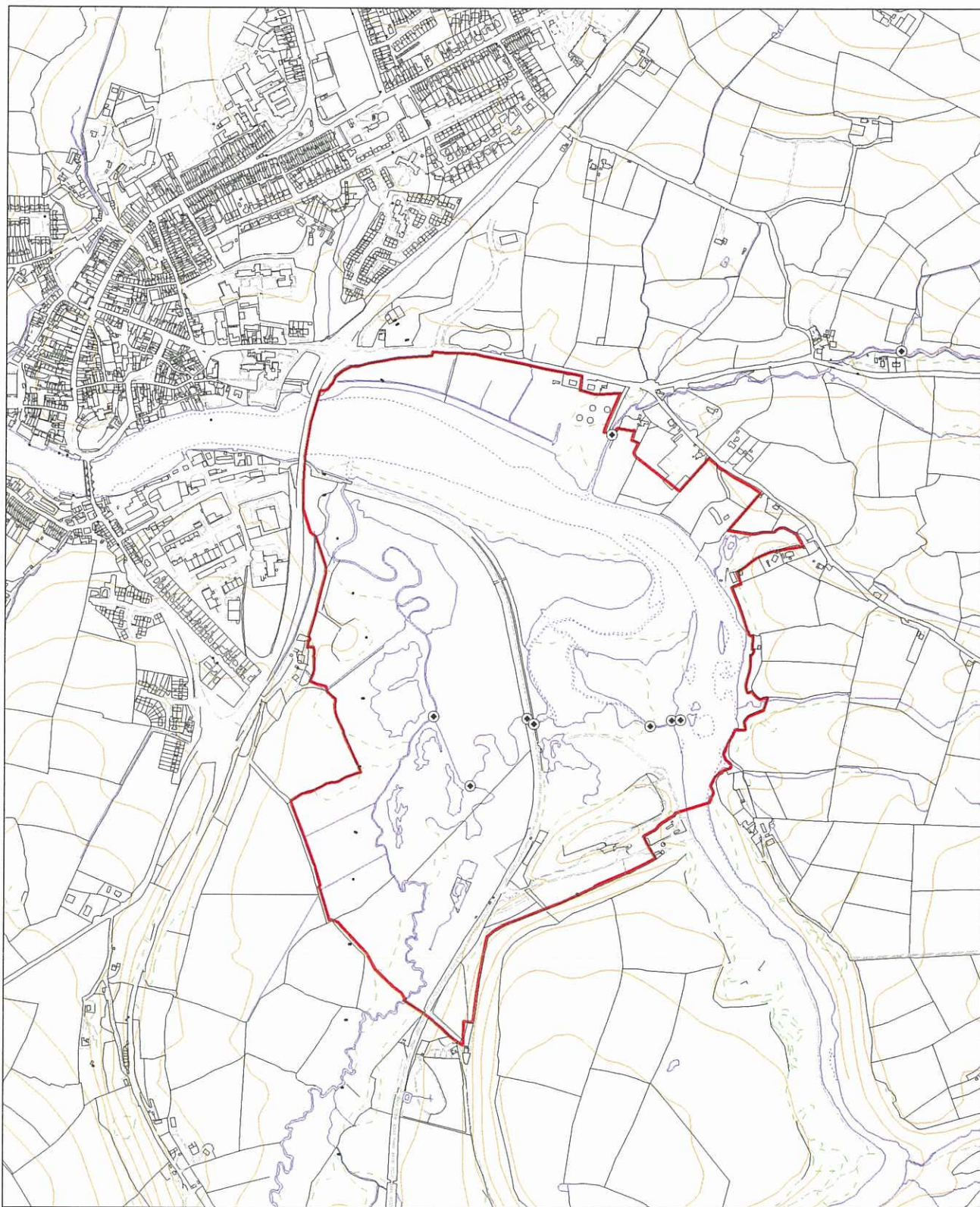
#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Pentood and Rosehill are tidal marshes dominated by reed beds, immediately upstream of the Cardigan bypass Bridge at the confluence of the Afon Teifi and the Afon Piliu. It is not a large area, measuring just 1.3km by 0.8km, but distinct, and contrasts with the neighbouring landscapes of fields and farms. It is a nature reserve. A visitor centre is located here and the old railway line has been converted to a footpath. There are no recorded archaeological sites.

#### Conservation priorities

Maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, Price, M R C, 1984, *The Whitland and Cardigan Railway*, Oxford; London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 409 PENTOOD MARSH**

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**Pentood Marsh** historic landscape character area lies at the upper tidal limits of the Afon Teifi. It is now a nature reserve. An old railway that crosses the marsh has been converted to a footpath.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 410 CARDIGAN

**GRID REFERENCE:** SN180463

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 160

#### **Historic Background**

Cardigan town lies within the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle at Cardigan on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. A castle had already been established during an earlier incursion, in 1093, but was short-lived. It is usually thought to be represented by the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, but it could have been located at the present castle site. Anglo-Norman control in Cantref Iscoed was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town.

Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164. It is recorded that the Welsh prince Rhys ap Gruffudd after gaining Cardigan immediately rebuilt the castle in stone, although the scant remains visible today appear, in the main, to be late 13<sup>th</sup> century. Rhys' sons relinquished Cardigan to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, which corresponded to Is-Hirwern commote. A further period of Welsh rule followed in 1215-1223, but otherwise Cardigan remained in the hands of the English Crown for the remainder of the rest of the medieval period.

The origins of the town, which later became a borough, are generally thought to belong to the period 1110-1136, as is the construction of a bridge over the Teifi, and the foundation of St Mary's Church as a Benedictine priory, to the east of the town. It was also the parish church, survived the Dissolution to remain the parish church until the present day.. It has a fine 14<sup>th</sup> century chancel, and a west tower that was rebuilt in 1748. A further chapelry, now gone, was established near the southern end of the town bridge, after a visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1188. A weekly market was held from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although many burgess privileges had been granted the town was not formally recognised as a borough until 1284, when it received its first charter. The town wall was constructed during the 1240s when the English Crown extensively rebuilt the castle, although the defensive line may already have been in existence. The medieval street-pattern has survived, but little of the town wall, which was already becoming ruinous in 1610. The walls enclosed 4.3 ha, taking in High and Bridge Streets, and their side streets between the Afon Mwldan and the priory. The population of the town increased from 128 burgages in 1274 to 172 in 1308. The borough was incorporated in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a mayor and corporation, and the grant of further privileges. The castle became the administrative centre for the County of Cardiganshire, which was created in 1284, but this role came to an end with the Act of Union of 1536. It was neglected, and by 1610 was ruinous. It saw action in 1644-5 during the Civil War when it was damaged and taken by Parliamentary forces. John Bowen acquired it by 1810 and began converting it into a mansion and landscaping the interior. It was occupied until the end of the 20th century. Consolidation of the ruins is due to commence shortly.

The town contracted during the late medieval period. There are only 55 houses recorded in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, while it was 'ruinous and decayed'. In 1610, Speed's map showing extensive open areas, and only one mill still existed of the three recorded on the Afon Mwldan in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. However, from 1536 onwards, Cardigan became the county town, which may have given impetus for growth - Speed's map also shows extensive extra-mural suburbs to the north, and especially to the east of the town wall. The County Assizes were held in the town from 1536, a shire hall was built in 1764, and a County Gaol built by John Nash, in 1793, to the north of the town.

Cardigan was a seaport from the first, and maritime trade - which underwent a revival from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards - also contributed to the redevelopment within the medieval town and the expansion of the suburbs. The Port of Cardigan had jurisdiction over Newport, Fishguard, Aberaeron, Aberporth and Newquay during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a combined fleet, in 1833, of 291 registered

vessels. Ship-building was also an important occupation, but its decline had begun by c.1800. The quay was located immediately west of the Afon Mwldan. The town was involved in considerable coastal trade, as well as some foreign trade, exporting oats, butter, oak bark, and - especially from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards - locally-quarried slate. The town was supplied with piped water in 1831 from a reservoir on the northern edge of the town, and a number of new places-of-worship had been established by 1833. A brickworks had been established in Cardigan, by William Woodward, by the 1870s. Development took place to the north of the medieval town, along the turnpike road to Aberystwyth (now the A487(T)), which already comprised 'shops, and few good houses' in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This development is shown on the tithe map of c.1840, which also shows a small secondary development at Netpool, and about 10 buildings south of Cardigan Bridge. Apart from these developments the town had not expanded outside its boundaries depicted by Speed in c.1610.

A further boost to Cardigan's trade, industry and growth came when the Whitland-Cardigan railway was incorporated in 1869 (closing in the 1960s), with its station on the southern bank of the Teifi. A substantial suburb developed here. However, subsequent development has mainly occurred north of the town, with rows of good-quality late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century terraces, and villas, either side of the A487(T) and B4548. Schools, and a hospital, were established during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main maritime industries rapidly declined during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, although coastal herring fishing, and a salmon fishery on the Teifi - including coracle fishing - were undertaken into the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The town is now a regional administration centre, with tourism and leisure playing an important role in its economy.

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

Cardigan is a complex urban historic landscape character area lying mainly on gently sloping south-facing land on the north bank of the Afon Teifi, but including a smaller but nevertheless substantial component on the opposite bank. Older elements of the town are mainly confined within the circuit of the medieval town walls (now almost entirely gone), with a focus on the remains of the medieval castle and bridge at the southern end of the High Street. The medieval urban topography of the High Street, and St Mary's Street leading to the parish church located a little distance to the east of the walled town, is perpetuated in the modern town plan. Mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century development, mostly housing, lies along North Road, to the east towards St Mary's Church and on the south bank of the river across the early 18<sup>th</sup> century stone bridge. Extensive 20<sup>th</sup> century (mostly later 20<sup>th</sup> century) housing and commercial development lies further out to the north and south. Teifi valley slate is the principal building material in the older buildings - the medieval remains of Cardigan Castle, the medieval St Mary's Church and Cardigan Bridge - and was used down to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On better quality buildings it is cut and coursed, but is uncoursed rubble on many structures. It is assumed that the cement render, common on many buildings, covers rubble. Banded Teifi valley slate in conjunction with squared, warm brown stone (Dolerite?) is used on some buildings; it is particularly noticeable on the three-storey early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouses close to the river. A couple of late 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings survive, but most stone-built domestic and commercial properties date to the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Numerous two- and three-storeyed Georgian style buildings are present (most are listed), but most, though generally in the Georgian tradition are relatively small terraced houses. Within the confines of the medieval town it is usual to find these terraces made up of buildings of different styles and dates - the available space for building dictated by the medieval burgage plots. Outside the medieval town single-build terraces are more common. The 18<sup>th</sup> century brick-built Black Lion is unusual, if not unique, in southwest Wales as brick was not commonly used until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The opening of a brickworks at Cardigan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century marked the decline of stone. Brick buildings are particularly evident along North Road, many displaying moulded designs and period details such as gothic and classically inspired architectural details. Some of these are listed, as are brick-built shops/commercial premises in the town centre. Cement rendering probably covers many smaller domestic brick-built buildings. North Wales slate is used on roofs of stone-built and brick buildings. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century development along North Road includes several substantial, pebbledashed, detached villas with towers, turrets and red tile roofs, as well as more modest semi-detached suburban style housing. Substantial later 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estates in a variety of styles and materials and commercial and light industrial development lie on the fringes of the historic town core.

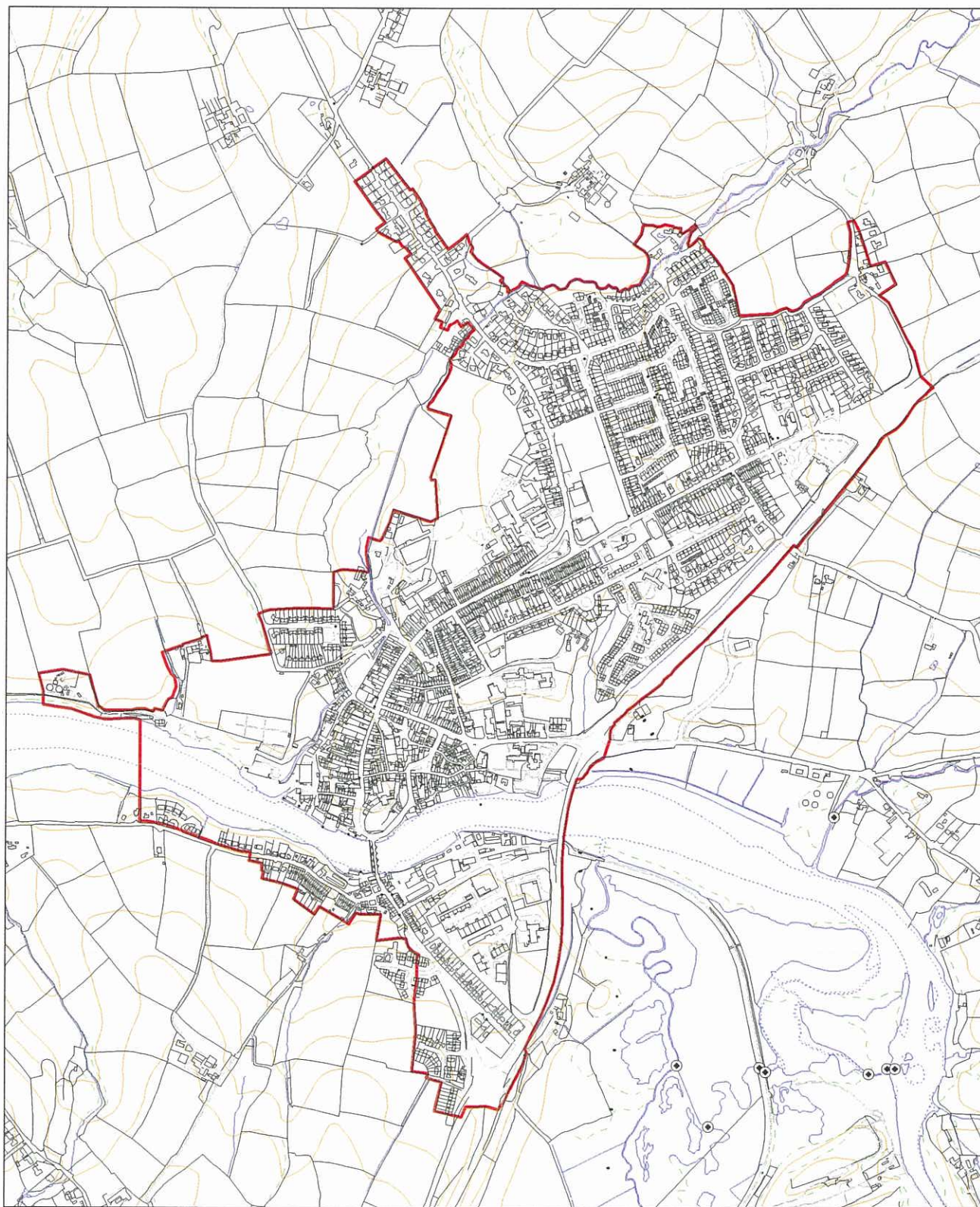
The urban character of Cardigan distinguishes it from the surrounding areas of fields and farms.



### Conservation priorities

Cardigan is a Conservation Area and therefore development should comply with this and respect the many listed buildings in the town.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; James, T, 1983, 'Excavations at Woolworth's, Cardigan, 1978', *Ceredigion* 9, No.4, 336-342; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished reports by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Murphy, K, and O'Mahoney, C, 1985, 'Excavation and Survey at Cardigan Castle', *Ceredigion* 10, No. 2, 189-218; Pritchard, E M, 1904, *Cardigan Priory in the Olden Days*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838; St Mary's parish tithe map 1846; Slater & Co., 1850 *Royal, National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of.....*, London; Smith, L. T. (ed.), 1906 *Leland's Itinerary in Wales*, 2; Soulsby, I, 1983, *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, Chichester; Thorpe, L (ed.), 1978, *Gerald of Wales: The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales*, Harmanworth



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 410 CARDIGAN**

Scale: Grid-lines at one kilometre intervals

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Focused upon the remains of a medieval castle and bridge over the Afon Teifi, **Cardigan** is a complex urban landscape. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick replaces stone as the main building material. There is extensive modern development on the fringes of the historic town core.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 411 ST DOGMAELS

GRID REFERENCE: SN163462

AREA IN HECTARES: 71.6

#### Historic Background

This is a small historic landscape character area represented by the built-up area of the large village of St Dogmaels. During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100, under Robert FitzMartin, and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemais. Cemais remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer commote represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223, held this northeastern part of the Is-Nyfer.

St Dogmaels is dominated by an ecclesiastical presence, in the form of the Tironian (Benedictine) abbey of St Dogmaels. This was established by Robert FitzMartin as a priory in 1113; it was raised to abbey status in 1120. It occupies a much earlier monastic site. FitzMartin's foundation charter described the house as the 'old church' of *Llandudoch*. The six Early Christian Monuments from the site suggest a continuous ecclesiastical presence from the 6<sup>th</sup> century onwards, which was wealthy enough to be attacked by Vikings in 988. A possible earlier monastic enclosure observed as a line of continuous property boundaries at St Dogmaels may or may not continue a curving bank recently recorded through geophysics south of the later abbey buildings. The abbey church was begun during the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. Although never completed to its original extensive plan, it had developed into a large church by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, central to an extensive range of masonry conventual buildings occupying a precinct that was at least 4ha in extent. The complex still forms the defining element of today's landscape.

A settlement had developed outside the abbey by the later medieval period, directly held by the barony which may have been keen to exploit the economic potential provided by the abbey's presence. The lords of Cemais are also recorded as having established a market here. The settlement was a manor, described as one of the 'three corporate towns' of Cemais in 1603 (along with Newport and Nevern), but it never appears to have been a borough. It may have remained fairly small through the medieval period. However, it was large enough to be served by a parish church dedicated to St Thomas (the abbey church being non-parochial), which stood opposite the abbey, but which has now gone. The abbey, and perhaps the settlement, were served by a mill immediately east of the abbey, and the monks had rights to an extensive fishery on the Teifi estuary. A devotional, or pilgrimage chapel was established in the steep valley of Cwm Degwell to the south.

The abbey was dissolved in 1536 when the buildings were leased to John Bradshaw of Presteigne. He built a mansion for himself within the precinct, from stone robbed from the conventual buildings, but this was short-lived and the site was described as a ruin in 1603. It was bought by David Parry of Neuadd Trefawr in 1646, but does not appear to have been inhabited, and the ruins passed into the ownership of the Anglican Church, who may briefly have relocated the parish church into the abbey. However, a new parish church was established, on its present site, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (which was rebuilt in 1847) followed by the construction of the vicarage (and the coach-house) in 1866.

There are some early references to Seine net fishing at St Dogmaels. A medieval source mentions a salmon fishery in association with the abbey, and there is also a later record of a complaint in the reign of Elizabeth I for fishing with nets called "sayney." Whereas seine net fishing was practiced along the shores of the estuary, the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw St Dogmaels develop into an important herring fishery. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, St Dogmaels grew rapidly. This undoubtedly owed much to the busy trade along the Teifi, with the Port of Cardigan burgeoning and associated activity spreading to St Dogmaels. The most obvious physical symbols of this upturn in economic activity within the parish of St Dogmaels are the fine 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouses seen along the river at both Bridgend and

near the Pinog. There are also a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century lime kilns along the river. Otherwise there are few structural remains to indicate the former importance of the sea trade to the community.

The settlement had become fairly sizeable by 1838, when the tithe map shows a loose nucleation of about 100 buildings centred on the abbey, though there are many gaps between them. Much rebuilding and development occurred during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with good-quality buildings, both terraced and detached. Analysis of 19<sup>th</sup> century maps graphically shows how the village grew. By the time of the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, gaps have been infilled. In addition, a coastal gun battery was built on the southern bank of the Teifi in the 1880s. This ruined fort is now almost unrecognisable on the shore below the Webley Hotel. A workhouse was established at Albro Castle, north of the village, later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Another interesting development during this period was the settlement of common land along Cwm Degwel and on high ground to the south of the village. This land was virtually unsettled in the 1840s, but by 1891 formed a significant part of the village. A few of these cottages were probably *tai unnos*, characterised by the single dwelling standing in an enclosed garden plot.

St Dogmaels is now a popular holiday destination. The abbey has been in the care of the state since 1934 and is now one of the visitor attractions of the region. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century mill is also preserved and open to the public. However, there has been little modern commercial development.

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

St Dogmaels is a small, built-up historic landscape character area located on the southern bank of the tidal Afon Teifi. Most of the settlement lies on relatively level ground between sea level and 30m, but on the southwestern periphery streets and houses are located on very steep slopes up to 80m above sea level. Also included are two wooded minor valleys, the larger of which, Cwm Degwell, has a minor road with dwellings along its floor. An open area containing the imposing ruins of a medieval abbey with the adjacent mid 19<sup>th</sup> century parish church lies at the centre of village. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built corn mill in working condition lies immediately to the east of the abbey ruins, on a medieval site. Streets meander from this centre in an organic fashion. There is no indication of planned settlement. Tightly-packed buildings, usually two-storey terraces, curving and straight, with some semi-detached and detached houses line these streets. Almost the whole pre 20<sup>th</sup> century housing stock dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and most to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, with very little evidence of anything earlier. Terraces are generally multi-build, that is buildings have been fitted between existing buildings. However, there are a few examples of short single-build terraces. This pattern suggests buildings had to be fitted into existing building plots, plots that may have been established several centuries prior to the rebuilding during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Teifi valley slate is the principal building material and north Wales slate the roofing material of these 19<sup>th</sup> century houses. Many houses are cement rendered (stucco). Occasional use is made of red brick – sometimes cement rendered. A very distinctive characteristic of some of the St Dogmaels houses is the use of pale blue/silver Teifi valley slate laid in strongly coursed bands which is separated by courses of rich brown squared stone (possibly Preseli dolerite). In some instances the slate banding has been emphasised by paint. This banding technique has been noted elsewhere, such as at Newport and Dinas in Pembrokeshire and at Cardigan, but no other location has the strong polychrome effect seen on the St Dogmaels houses, several of which are listed. Many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses have good period detail, such as door cases, bay windows, bargeboards and low street frontage walls with railings. Few of the terraces are single build. This mixture of narrow crowded streets rising up the steep valley side and small houses of great individual variety, but with an overall coherence of date and design, provides St Dogmaels with its strong historic landscape character.

Modern housing, individual dwellings and small estates lie at the periphery of the village and infill gaps in the historic core. Albro Castle, one of the best examples of a 19<sup>th</sup> century workhouse in Wales is located on the periphery of this area. There is a school, but few shops in the village and little in the way of modern commercial development. Concrete slipways and other facilities are provided for the launching of small boats along the river frontage, but apart from limekilns and 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouses in banded stone (now converted to other uses), there are few structural remains to indicate the former importance of the sea trade to the community. Recorded archaeology mainly consists of standing structures and buildings as described above, but also included are the early medieval inscribed stones in the abbey, church and chapel sites, burnt mounds and a Roman coin hoard.

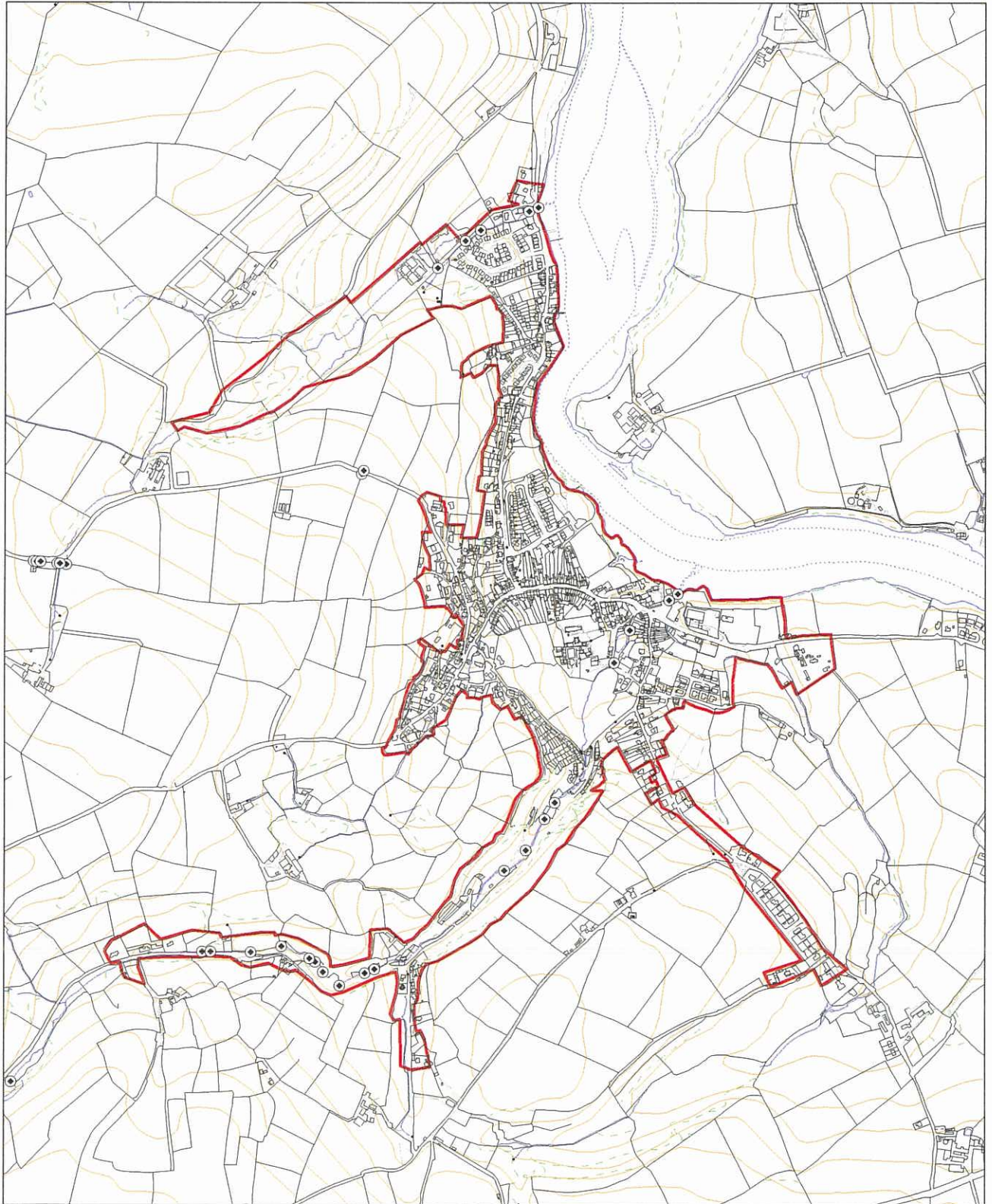
St Dogmaels is a very distinctive historic landscape character area and contrasts strongly with the neighbouring areas of fields and farms.

### Conservation priorities

Any works undertaken should comply with St Dogmaels conservation area status.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Hilling, J B, 1992, *Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey*, Cardiff; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; James, T, 1992, 'Air photography of ecclesiastical sites in south Wales', in N Edwards and A Lane, *The Early Church in Wales & West*, Oxford, 62-76; Jones, T, 1952, *Brut y Tywysogyon*, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Maynard, D, 1993, 'Burnt Mounds in the St Dogmaels area of north Pembrokeshire', *Archaeology in Wales* 33, 41-43; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Pritchard, E M, 1907, *The History of St Dogmael's Abbey*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838; Weeks, R, 2002, The 'Lost Market' settlements of Pembrokeshire, *Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report* 17, 21-30





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 411 ST DOGMAELS**

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**St Dogmaels** is an old, unplanned settlement centred on the remains of a ruined abbey. Houses date mainly to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and while many are stucco over stone or brick, a significant number are of banded stone.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 412 TOWYN BURROWS AND GWBERT

GRID REFERENCE: SN165491

AREA IN HECTARES: 143

#### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Ceredigion, overlooking the scenic Teifi estuary. An Iron Age hillfort attests to early occupation of the area, but it is not a prominent feature within the landscape and no associated field systems have been recognised.

During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. This character area lies within a subdivision of the commote, *Gwestfa Berwick/Ferwig*, which may have pre-Norman origins. Medieval tenurial patterns - with neither vill nor knight's fees - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement generally seen within the region.

Sand inundation, though probably occurring from an early date, was formerly less extensive than at present. A medieval rubbish pit was excavated in the eroding cliff-section, southwest of the present village of Gwbert, during the 1970s. A number of medieval leather shoes were recovered from the pit, as was pottery, which has given its name to 'Gwbert Ware'. The pit appears to belong to a medieval settlement buried beneath the dunes. The place-name is thought to be a corruption of a 'Celtic' dedication, suggesting that a chapel may have been present. Although 'Gwbert' is not recorded, by name, as a settlement in medieval documentation, Towyn Farm - on the northern edge of the dunes - was recorded as a late medieval gentry house/settlement, owned by Gwilym ap Einon, constable of Cardigan Castle, in 1326. No associated landscape features can be recognised beneath the sand. Progressive besandening has meant that land use was probably always dominated by rough grazing on the burrows - the 'Warren' place-name clearly refers to the sand hills rather than to rabbit-farming. On the tithe map of 1839 this area is shown divided into several large enclosures in contrast with the surrounding smaller agricultural fields, but it is uncertain whether this was common land. However, a couple of isolated cottages indicates encroachment. This process does not seem to have progressed. The present village is an entirely *de novo* settlement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it is only in the last 100 years that development - a hotel and housing at Gwbert, a caravan park and yacht club/park by the river and dispersed housing in the wind-blown sand - has had an impact on this area.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Towyn Burrows and Gwbert is a small historic landscape character area on the northern bank of the Teifi estuary, lying on exposed west-facing slopes up to 120m above sea level. Despite its size it is a complex area united by underlying wind-blown sand and/or 20<sup>th</sup> century and 21<sup>st</sup> century buildings. The wind-blown sand is most obvious on the very steep coastal slope where it is overlain by gorse scrub. A caravan park and yacht club/yard lies on the gravel and wind-blown sand spit at the mouth of the Afon Teifi, and dispersed late 20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings, mostly bungalows, lie in the wind-blown sand slopes at the southern end. At the northern end above hard-rock sea cliffs Gwbert village, which is mostly late 20<sup>th</sup> century houses but includes the large Cliff Hotel, has developed in a linear, more planned fashion. A golf course with modern clubhouse has been established on the highest point of this area. Recorded archaeology includes finds of Neolithic and medieval date as well as a possible Iron Age hillfort.

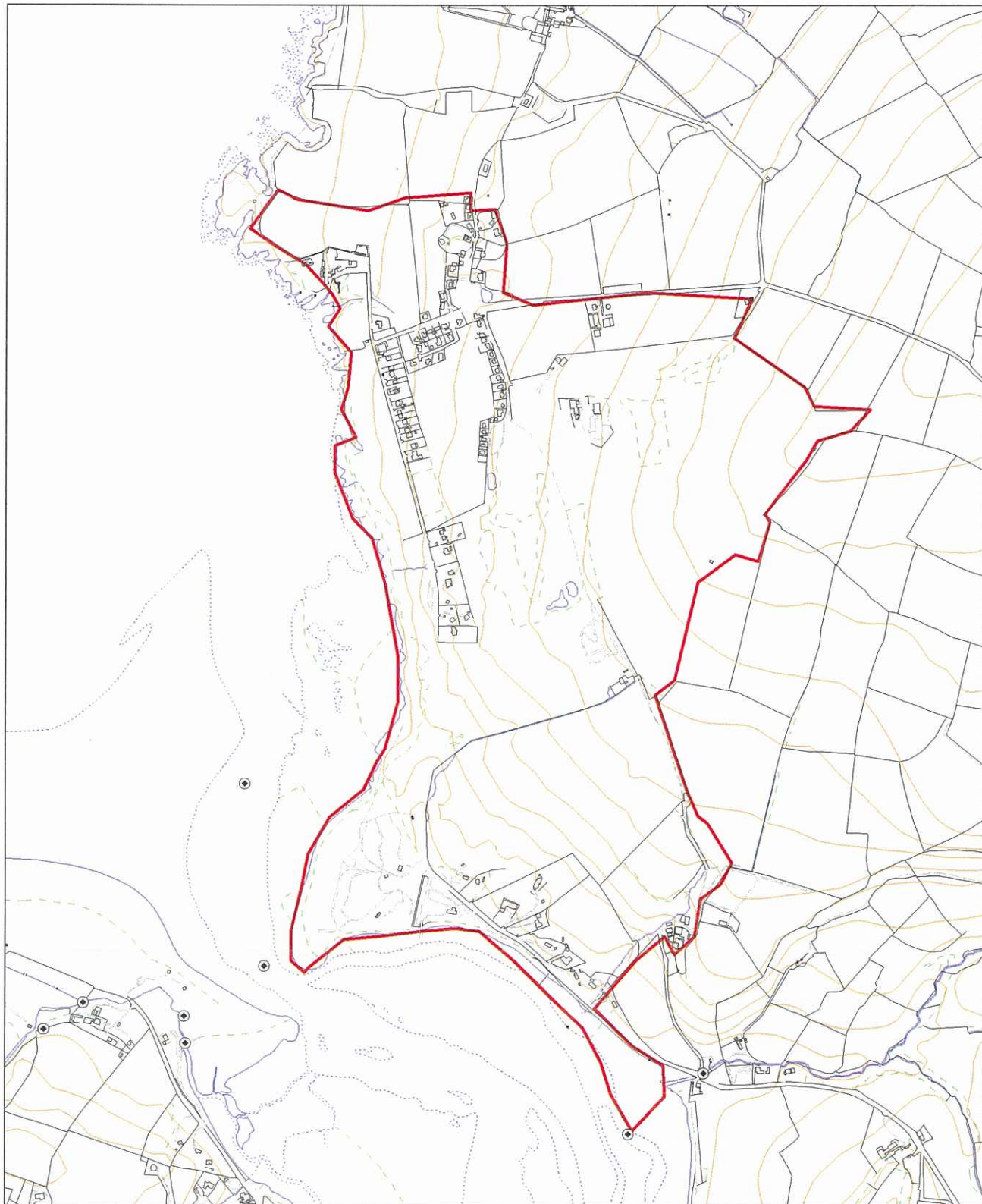


Towyn Burrows and Gwbert historic landscape character area has many different historic landscape components from its agricultural neighbouring area. It is, however, difficult to define its boundaries with precision.

#### **Conservation priorities**

The unplanned character of this area is one of its defining characteristics. This should be allowed to continue, although its extent should be circumscribed to prevent it spilling into neighbouring historic landscape character areas.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Dyfed Archaeological Trust, 1986, *Archaeology in Dyfed*, Carmarthen; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Ceredigion', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Ferwig parish tithe map 1839; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 412 TOWYN BURROWS AND GWBERT**

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Scrub over wind-blown sand and 20<sup>th</sup> century houses, bungalows, caravan park, golf club and yacht park are the main components of the **Towyn Burrows and Gwbert** historic landscape character area.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 413 CROSSWAY - GLANPWLLAFON

GRID REFERENCE: SN143437

AREA IN HECTARES: 3004

#### Historic Background

This is a large area within modern Pembrokeshire comprising good mainly pastoral agricultural land, between Eglwysrw, to the south, and St Dogmaels on the Teifi estuary. A number of burnt mounds, of possible prehistoric date, attest to early occupation in the area, as do several Bronze Age round barrows on the high ground at the north end of the area.

During the historic period, the area (with the exception of a small area at the far east end) lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote, in the division of Uwch Clydach. 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 coterminous with the later Hundred of Cemaes, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. This character area lies within Eglwysrw, Llantwyd, Monington and St Dogmaels parishes.

Eglwysrw parish was coterminous with the manor of Eglwysrw which was held from the 13th century onwards as a sublordship of the barony, comprising one knight's fee. It maintained its own manorial court 'baron' every 15 days and a biannual court leet. However, its early post-Conquest history is vague. Pengelli Forest, just east of this area, which was always part of the manor, could have provided its original name, as a 'lord of Pengelli' was recorded before 1231. It may even have early medieval origins - a study of deserted rural settlement sites by Sambrook has identified seven potential settlement foci within the sublordship of Eglwysrw, that, perhaps correspond to Jones' model of an early 'multiple estate'. By the time Cemaes was recaptured from the Welsh, in 1204, the Cantingtons appear to have been lords of the manor of 'Eglwysrw'. It reverted to the Audleys, via a female heir, in 1326 and was henceforth held in demesne by the lords of Cemaes, and in the 16th century, was in the inheritance of the Owen lords of Henllys. The original *caput* of the sublordship of Eglwysrw, originally in the village, was later re-established at Court Farm, a moated site 1km to the northwest, and at the southern end of this character area. It was in ruins by the 16th century but 'huge walls' could still be seen. It appears to have become a mere tenant farm at an early date. Eglwysrw's importance as an economic centre is illustrated by the fact that, in the 16th century, there were four markets and fairs within Cemaes, three of which were held at Eglwysrw, and the manor was responsible for levying the militias of the Hundreds of Cemaes and Cilgerran. It was included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the 'Extent of Cemaes'. Welsh systems of tenure appear to have persisted throughout the sublordship, with the subsequent development of a number of small landholdings. Each of these was associated with a gentry house of varying status, but by the 16th century the landholdings had mainly become amalgamated under the Owens of Henllys. Among those listed in the 'Extent' were the present farmsteads of Trewilym, traditionally a seat of the 13th century Cantingtons, and Berllan which also had medieval origins. Both were later owned by the Owens of Henllys. The sublordship also included farmsteads of later establishment, such as the 17th century Tredefaid.

The parish of St Dogmaels was coterminous with the manor, which comprised one knight's fee held as 'St Dogmaels patria alias Cassia', of the barony by the abbots of St Dogmaels. At the dissolution, it passed to John Bradshaw who had purchased the abbey in 1543. The Manor of St Dogmaels survived into the 19th century. It had been acquired by the Neuadd Trefawr estate during the 17th century and was sold to David Davies of Castle Green, Cardigan, in 1862. Manian Fawr, at the north end of this area, may be the site of an early earthwork castle. It was part of the manor and later became a gentry-house. The Manor of Monington was also held of the barony. Not being 'parcel' of the barony, the manors of Monington and St Dogmaels were not included in the 'Extent of Cemaes'. Llantwyd was not a manor at this time, and reckoned only as a vill. However, it has a fine motte-and-bailey castle, which is perhaps a re-used hillfort, at 'Castell Pen-yr-allt', although without a recorded history, it shows signs of having been fortified in stone. It lies within 400m of Llantwyd parish church, and the two may be contemporary Anglo-Norman institutions. It appears, therefore, that Llantwyd was an early manor that

'failed'. It is now a farm. The church was rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, immediately to the north of its predecessor. There is some common land throughout the area, but it is associated with village rights, as at Eglwysrwrw, rather than relict.

It is apparent that the entire area was settled, and probably enclosed with the present system of regular fields, by the early post-medieval period. The tithe maps of the 1840s show the landscape much as today. The character area has been crossed by the main Haverfordwest-Cardigan route since the medieval period, which was later turnpiked and is now the B4329. The Fishguard-Cardigan route (A487T) is of similar age to the B4329. Although industry is never a major factor in the development of this landscape, there was some small-scale lime production. Its overwhelmingly agricultural character is relieved along its western edge by the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, which was incorporated in 1869. The line - which gained a place in local affections and was nicknamed the 'Cardi Bach' - was operational until the 1960s, mainly conveying milk and holiday traffic to Cardigan and St Dogmaels. However, these developments have had little effect on the settlement pattern which remains chiefly dispersed.

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

This is an extensive historic landscape character area lying on the southern bank of the Afon Teifi. Although most of this landscape lies across gentle slopes with a general north-facing trend down to the tidal river, some steeper slopes lie in tributary stream valleys. Higher hills rise to over 200m above sea level. It is an agricultural character area dominated by medium-sized fairly regular fields and dispersed farms. Fields tend to be larger and more regular on higher ground and smaller and more irregular on lower-lying land. Apart from pockets of rough ground along the floor of the Piliu valley, land-use is almost entirely improved pasture with a very small amount of arable. There is some deciduous woodland and a little coniferous plantation on some of the steeper slopes, but apart from these locations woodland does not strongly characterise the area. Hedges on earth banks divide the fields. Hedges are generally well maintained, but thinner, and more straggling at higher altitudes, and more lush and overgrown in sheltered locations. As noted above woodland is not a feature of this landscape. However, in a few locations such as close to Pantirion farm substantial trees have grown in the hedges.

Lower Teifi valley slate is the main pre-20<sup>th</sup> century building material, with north Wales slate commonly used for roofs. On the better quality 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings the Teifi valley slate is cut and coursed, but used as uncoursed rubble pre-19<sup>th</sup> century structure and poorer quality houses and farm outbuildings. It is left unrendered on farm buildings but smaller houses are frequently cement covered. Although the building stock dates mainly to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, minor gentry houses of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries such as the listed Tredefaid demonstrate that stone was the principal building material in earlier periods, at least for major buildings. There is a wide range of 19th century social-economic groups represented in the buildings. Georgian styling in most houses is a unifying element in the buildings stock, from substantial early 19<sup>th</sup> century houses such as the listed Parc y Pratt to the more common simple later 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse in the typical southwest Wales style - two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows. A very good example of this is the listed Glanpwllafon farmhouse. Houses with stronger vernacular traits, including single-storey houses with attached, in-line farm buildings are present, but are not as common. Close to Cardigan and St Dogmaels there is a scatter of 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses. These mostly date to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and as with the farmhouses most have strong Georgian style traits, but a few have clear vernacular elements. There is also a scattering of modern housing, again with a concentration towards Cardigan and St Dogmaels, with some clustering as at Briscwm. Most farms are large. Tredefaid has a late 18<sup>th</sup> century farm building, but as with the houses the majority of the older farm buildings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and mostly the second half of that century. The large, formally arranged stone farm buildings at Parc y Pratt are typical of a gentry house. Usually one or two ranges of stone outbuildings are present, with extensive modern concrete, steel and asbestos buildings on most working farms. Owing to the numerous modern farm buildings some of the older stone structures are disused or have been converted to other uses. There is a large number (over 120) and wide range of archaeological sites, including Bronze Age round barrows, a hillfort, early medieval inscribed stones, medieval defended sites, Llantwyd parish church and numerous post-medieval quarries and other sites. Apart from the scheduled Bronze Age round barrows, which are found on the highest points, few of these sites help characterise this area.

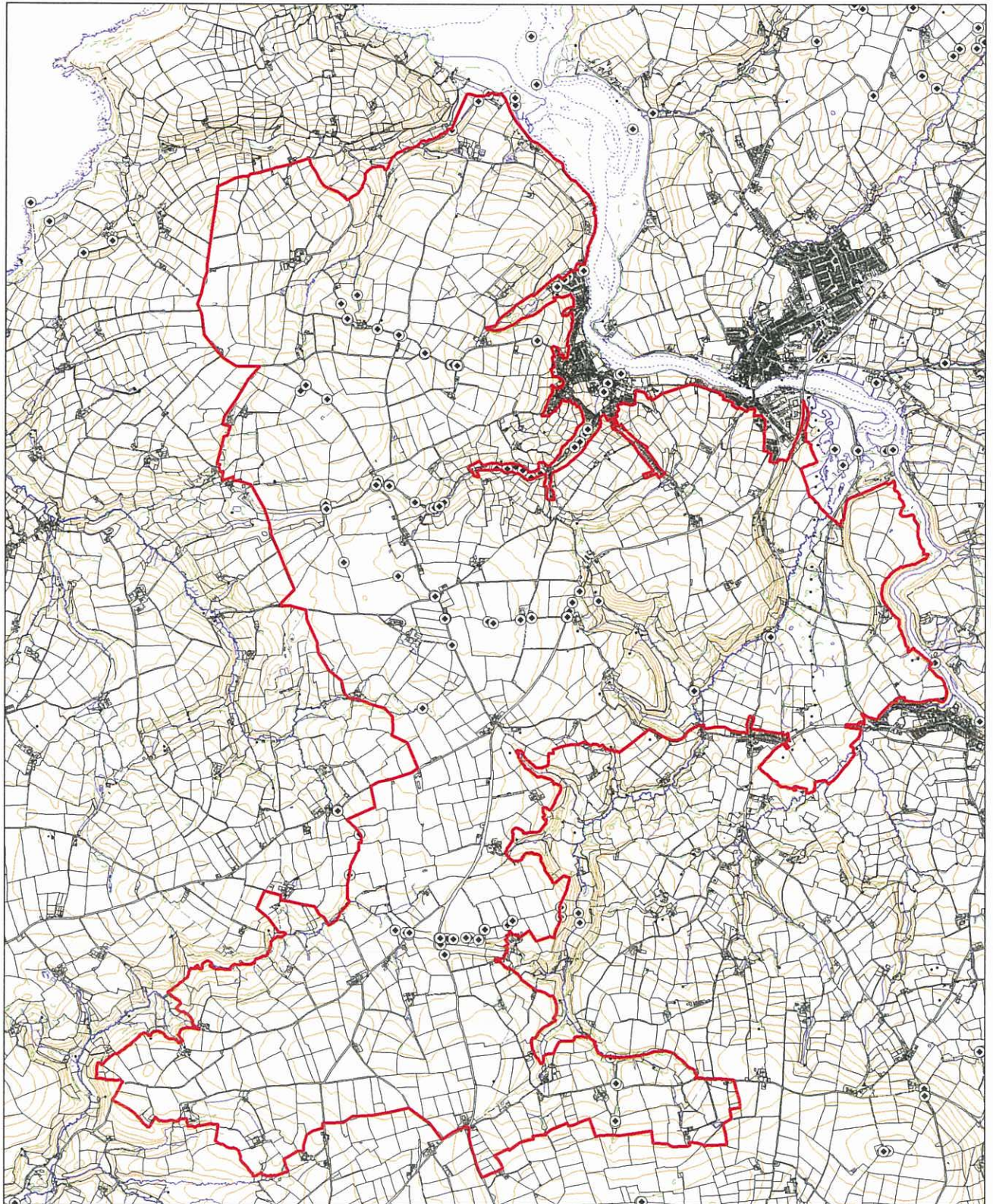
This is not an easy historic landscape character area to define apart from along its northern boundary where it meets the Teifi estuary, St Dogmaels, Cardigan and Cilgerran. Elsewhere there is a broad zone of change between this area and its neighbours.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Most historic landscape components are well managed. Some consideration, however, needs to be given to finding other uses for older farm buildings. Sensitive positioning of modern development will also be required if it is not to have a significant impact on this overwhelmingly agricultural landscape.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Charles, B G, 1948, 'The Second Book of George Owen's *Description of Pembrokeshire*', *National Library of Wales Journal* 5, 265-285; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; ; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llantoed parish tithe map 1839; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Ludlow, N, 2003, 'St Cristiolus' Churchyard, Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire: a Post-Conquest Cist Cemetery', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 146, 20-48; Maynard, D, 1993, 'Burnt Mounds in the St Dogmaels area of north Pembrokeshire', *Archaeology in Wales* 33, 41-43; Monington parish tithe map 1838; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Price, M R C, 1984, *The Whitland and Cardigan Railway*, Oxford; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; Sambrook, P, 1997 'Medieval or Later Deserted Rural Settlements: 1996-7 Pilot Study, an Interim Report', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 413 CROSSWAY - GLANPWLLAFON**

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The extensive **Crossway – Glanpwllafon** historic landscape character area is overwhelmingly agricultural, with farms ranging from small gentry holdings with Georgian houses to cottages. Hedges on banks bound fields, which are larger and more regular than normal for the lower Teifi valley.

## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 414 TRE-RHYS

GRID REFERENCE: SN122462

AREA IN HECTARES: 447

#### Historic Background

This is small area within modern Pembrokeshire comprising exposed agricultural land sloping down towards, and overlooking, the rocky Irish Sea coastline south of Cemaes Head. A hillfort lying on the cliff-top at the mouth of Cwm Trewyddel and a Bronze Age round barrow just to the southeast attest early occupation of this area. More prominent is the large, multivallate Iron Age contour hillfort of Caerau Gaer.

During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote, in the division of Uwch Clydach. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control by Robert FitzMartin in c.1100 and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemais. Cemais remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20th century. This northeastern part of Is-Nyfer was, moreover, held by the Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223. Welsh tenurial patterns, and the exposed nature of the landscape, have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

However, a significant early medieval presence within this landscape is indicated by the undated cist graves which have been reported from between the ramparts of Caerau Gaer. The hillfort lies in association with the field-name element *eghwys*, suggesting that the cemetery may have developed with the addition of a church. It has even been proposed as the initial site of St Dogmael's monastery.

Subsequently, the character area came to lie within the parish of St Dogmaels, which was formally established after c.1100. The parish was coterminous with the manor, which comprised one knight's fee held of the barony, as 'St Dogmaels patria alias Cassia', by the abbots of St Dogmaels. However, not being 'parcel' of the barony, the manor of St Dogmaels was not included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the 'Extent of Cemaes'. At the dissolution, it passed to John Bradshaw of Presteigne who had purchased the abbey in 1543. The Manor of St Dogmaels survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It had been acquired by the Neuadd Trefawr estate during the 17th century and was sold to David Davies of Castle Green, Cardigan, in 1862.

Possible medieval vill has been suggested at Granant and at Hendre, both now represented by farmsteads. They were certainly a gentry-house by the 16<sup>th</sup> century when referred to as the 'caput of Granant alias Hendre'. A record of a possible vill, 'Cilgarthen', may be represented by the deserted settlement indicated by earthworks immediately south of Caerau Gaer. None of the other seven dispersed farmsteads now present are recorded before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but some are likely to have earlier origins. The present pattern of small- to medium-sized irregular fields suggests that the area was enclosed during the early post-medieval period, if not the later Middle Ages. Subdivided blocks are shown within some of these fields on the tithe map of 1838, while closer to the coast, an unenclosed block of short narrow strips is shown. These systems may be relics of arable farming under Welsh tenure, which has since ceased, and today the former strips are hardly detectable in the landscape. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path, designated in 1952, runs along the cliff-top here giving unrivalled access to the coastal scenery.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Tre-Rhys historic landscape character area lies on a very exposed west-facing coastal slope between approximately 30m and 180m above sea level. Consequently it is a treeless landscape, and hedges are reduced to low windswept straggling lines of gorse, bracken and thorn. It is an agricultural landscape characterised by small- to medium-sized irregular fields and dispersed farms. Land-use is almost entirely improved pasture. Field boundaries are high banks of earth and stone topped with low,



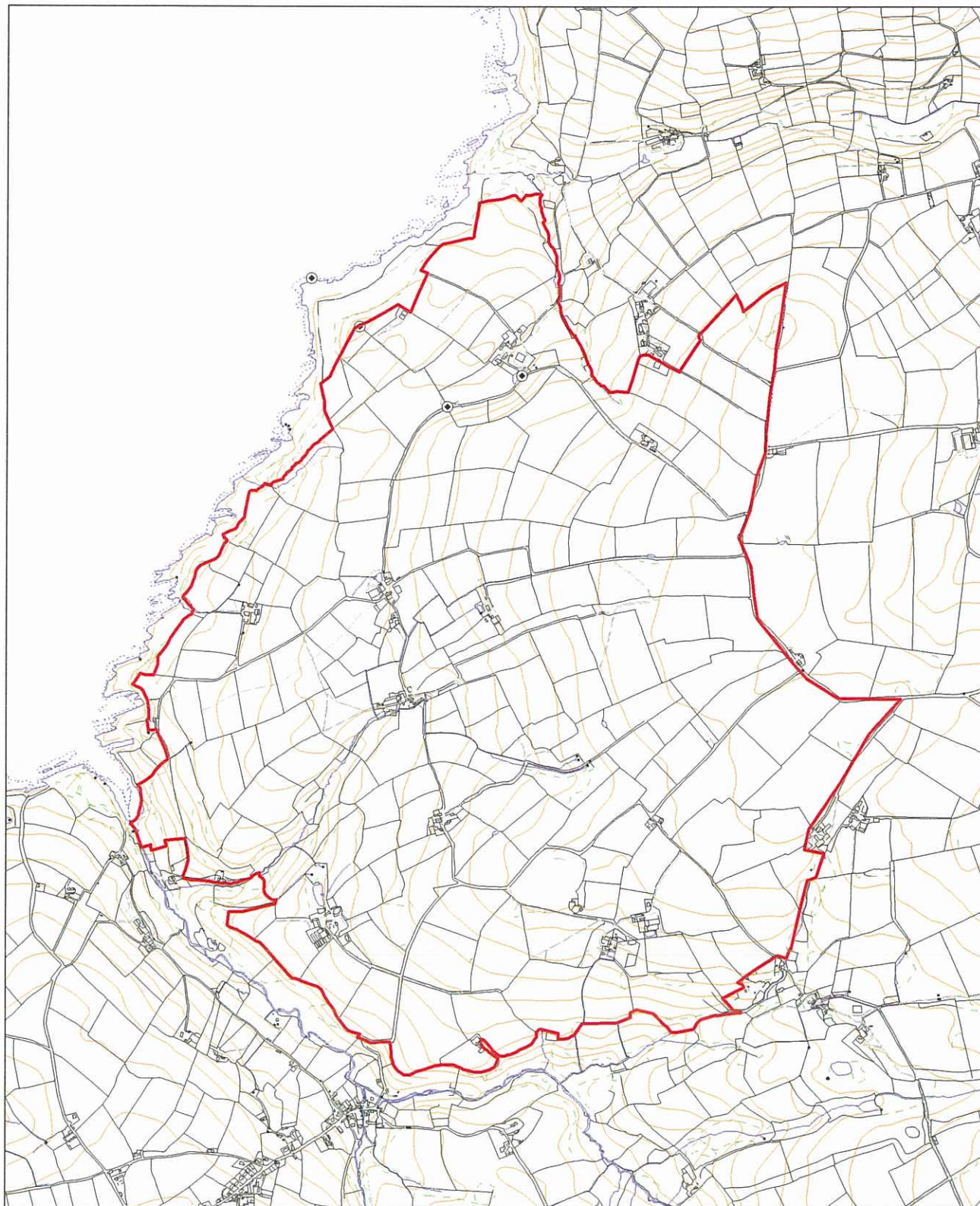
windswept hedges and supplemented with wire fences. Cement-rendered stone is the main building material of the farmhouses. Most date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are relatively small, consisting of two storeys and three-bays with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows. Stone outbuildings are similar in date and of one or two ranges. Modern outbuildings, where present, are also small and are not a strong component of the historic landscape. Indeed there are few late 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings. Significant archaeological sites include the large Iron Age hillfort and cemetery at Caerau Gaer, a second hillfort and a Bronze Age round barrow.

Apart from where it meets the coastal slope to the west this area is not easy to define. On other sides boundaries between this area and its neighbours are broad zones of change rather than hard-edged.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Most historic landscape components are in good condition. Maintain as existing.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838



## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 414 TRE-RHYS**

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Situated on a very exposed west-facing coastal slope, **Tre-Rhys** is a treeless agricultural historic landscape characterised by dispersed farms and fields bounded by low, windswept hedges on high banks.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 415 CIPPYN

**GRID REFERENCE: SN139484**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 453**

#### **Historic Background**

This is a small area within modern Pembrokeshire lying between the sea-cliffs of Cemaes Head and the Teifi estuary. It comprises a system of small and medium-sized pasture fields and dispersed farmsteads, either side of a steep valley, Cwm yr Esgyr. A large number of burnt mounds, of possible prehistoric date, attest early occupation of the area.

During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote, in the division of Uwch Clydach. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control by Robert FitzMartin in c.1100 and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemais. Cemais remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This northeastern part of Is-Nyfer was, moreover, held by the Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223. Welsh tenurial patterns have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

A significant early medieval presence within this landscape is indicated by the undated cist graves which have been exposed at Penrhyn Castle and Penrhyn-bach. There is no evidence that the cemetery was ever enclosed, or developed with the addition of a chapel, and it may be very early. Subsequently, the character area came to lie within the parish of St Dogmaels, which was formally established after c.1100. The parish was coterminous with the manor, which comprised one knight's fee held of the barony, as 'St Dogmaels patria alias Cassia', by the abbots of St Dogmaels. The possible medieval vill at Granant, referred to as the 'caput of Granant alias Hendre' in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, straddles this area. However, not being 'parcel' of the barony, the manor of St Dogmaels was not included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the 'Extent of Cemaes'. At the dissolution, it passed to John Bradshaw of Presteigne who had purchased the abbey in 1543. The Manor of St Dogmaels survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It had been acquired by the Neuadd Trefawr estate during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was sold to David Davies of Castle Green, Cardigan, in 1862.

None of the other c.15 dispersed farmsteads now present is recorded before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Penrhyn Castle mansion appears to be an entirely new establishment of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though some are likely to have earlier origins. The present pattern of fields appears to belong to two distinct periods of enclosure. A system of small, irregular fields can be seen within Cwm yr Esgyr, particularly on the south-facing side of the valley, and in the eastern half of the area. These are associated with the densest concentration of farmsteads and appear to belong to early post-medieval, if not late medieval enclosure under Welsh tenure. To the west of this system, the higher ground - which slopes up to the sea cliffs - is characterised by larger, more regular fields. This part of the area may have been unenclosed grazing until the later post-medieval period, but had been enclosed by the time of the tithe survey of 1838.

A small lifeboat station was established on the Teifi estuary. Subsequent development has been associated with leisure. Poppit Sands, at the mouth of Cwm yr Esgyr, occupies a scenic estuary setting with extensive sands, which are very popular with visitors. A caravan park and its services, and 20<sup>th</sup> century beach houses associated with a pocket of sand-dunes, are the dominant feature of the landscape here. Meanwhile, the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, designated in 1952, runs along the cliff-top here giving unrivalled access to coastal scenery, and a Youth Hostel is situated within this area.

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

Cippyn historic landscape character area lies at the extreme western end of the Teifi valley to the south of the river. It runs down to the tidal estuary on its northeastern side and rises to over 180m above sea level. Its western flanks and highest points are exposed to the Atlantic gales; no trees and few bushes

stand here. The steep northeast-facing coastal slope and the steep valley sides of Cwm yr Esgyr provide the only shelter spots; here there is some scrubby deciduous woodland and bracken/gorse covered slopes. It is an agricultural area with improved pasture. On the higher, exposed parts stony banks bound the medium-sized irregular fields. Hedges, where present, are straggling lines of low gorse bushes. Hedges, many of them overgrown or reduced to straggling lines of bushes, survive on the earth and earth/stone banks in more sheltered locations. Farms, smallholdings and cottages are fairly densely scattered across the more sheltered slopes, with just a few farms and two small 19<sup>th</sup> century chapels in exposed locations. Apart from the formal 'Georgian' proportions to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey stone rubble listed house at Bryntirion, dwellings are small, and probably date to the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Houses are two storey with a three-window front. Generally their low elevations and small window opening owe more to the vernacular tradition than the polite Georgian style. Single-storey cottages are also present, including a listed example in poor condition. Locally-sourced stone, not Teifi valley slate is common in the lower Teifi valley, is the main building material. This is invariably cement-rendered on houses, but left bare on agricultural outbuildings. These agricultural buildings are also small, comprising just one or two ranges, and in some cases a single range, in line with the dwelling. Some have been converted to non-agricultural use, and many are in poor condition. Modern farm buildings are few and generally small, with many of the smallholdings not now engaged in agriculture. A few post World War 2 home-made houses, and beach houses, are situated at Poppit. Also here is a small caravan park, a lifeboat station, a tourist car park and other facilities.

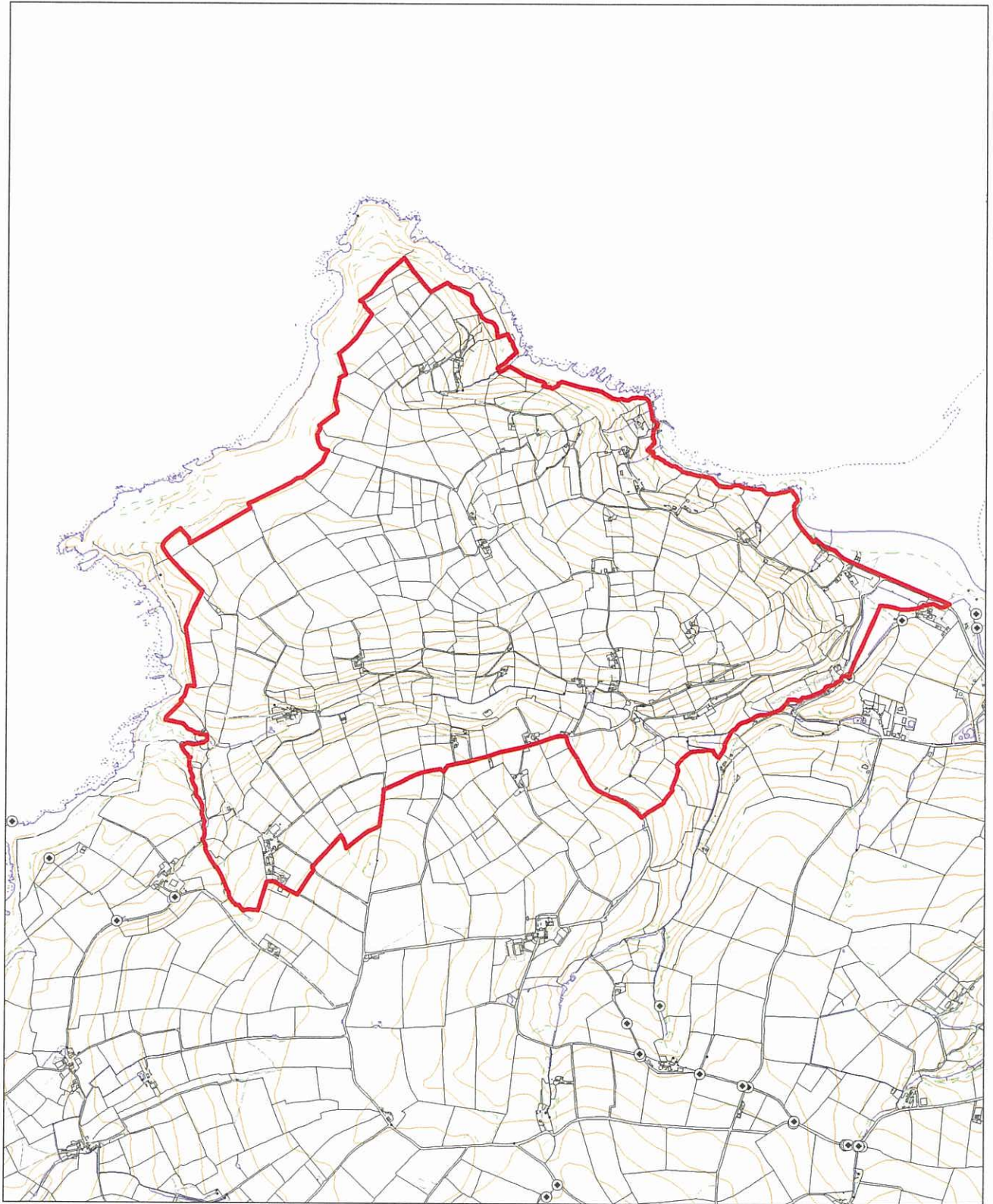
The absence of trees and to some extent hedges, the stony boundary banks, the small nature of the houses and farms characterise this area and the general absence of modern development distinguishes it from its neighbours. It is therefore a distinctive area.

#### **Conservation priorities**

Many of the historic landscape character components are in good condition. Some consideration will have to be given to the future of the small agricultural buildings if these are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, *The Extent of Cemaes, 1594*, Haverfordwest; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire', unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes* 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838



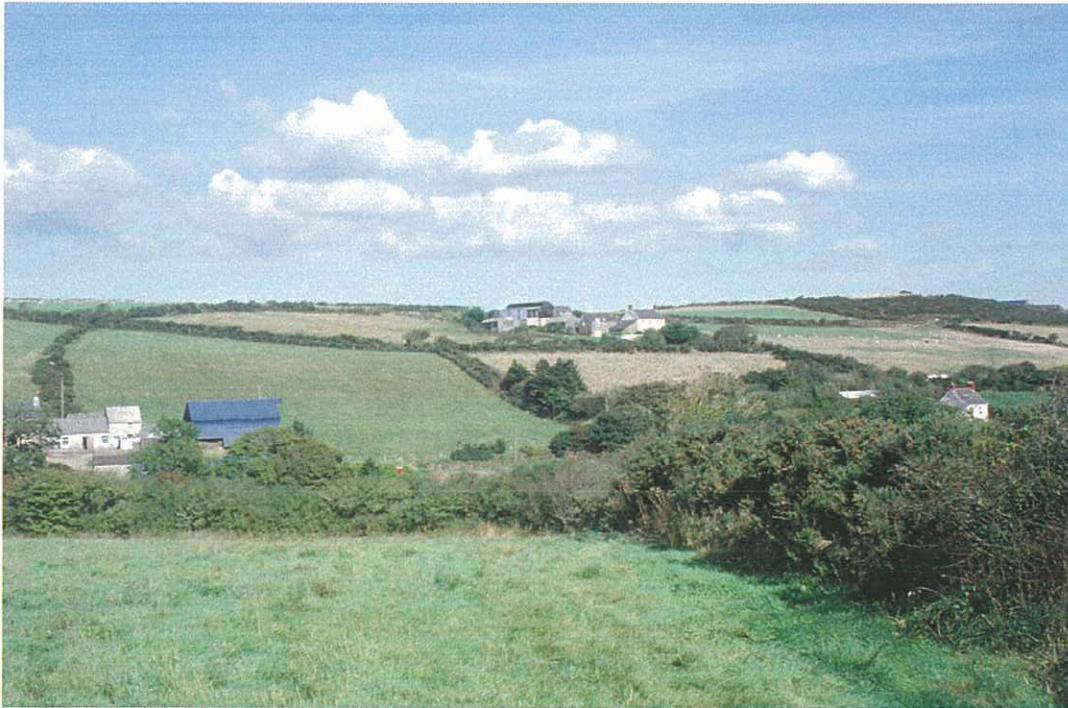


## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 415 CIPPYN**

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**Cippyn** historic landscape character area lies at the extreme western end of the Teifi valley. It is exposed to westerly gales. Consequently settlements and woodland are confined to slopes affording some shelter. Stone and rubble banks topped with windswept hedges bound fields.



## LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 416 FERWIG

GRID REFERENCE: SN180487

AREA IN HECTARES: 1186

#### Historic Background

This is a medium-large historic landscape character area within modern Ceredigion, comprising undulating agricultural land between Cardigan town and the rocky cliffs of the Irish Sea. The highest ground is in the north of the area where a Bronze Age round barrow at Crug Farm, attests early occupation in this area and is a prominent feature within the landscape.

The area lay within the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle at Cardigan on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. A castle had already been established during an earlier incursion, in 1093, but was short-lived. Anglo-Norman control in Iscoed was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town and just beyond the east side of this character area. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, until finally annexed by the English Crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern Commote, was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle, which it remained until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. The lordship mainly remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, and administered as a 'Welshry'.

This particular area lay within a division of the commote, *Gwestfa Berwick/Ferwig*, which may have pre-Norman origins, and persisted into the post-1110 period as a vill, Berwick. This vill may not have been closely associated with Ferwig parish church, St Pedrog's (which was listed, as the church of 'Ber[e]jwick' in 1291) as the present settlement around the church is entirely 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The church may have been founded by the then Welsh Lord of Cardigan in c.1200, when it was granted to Talley Abbey. Except for its tower (which was a celebrated landmark during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but was demolished as recently as 1968), the church was rebuilt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The large rectangular churchyard was remodelled in the post-medieval period and is integrated with (and part of?) the surrounding enclosure pattern. The large, fairly regular fields suggest that they are later post-medieval, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century, in origin, although some of the enclosure southwest of the church may be earlier. The mill in this area, Felin Bedr, has a name that reflects the church dedication and this too may be earlier, which may suggest it lies on the site of an medieval mill. Crug Farm, to the north, preserves medieval roof timbers and a 17<sup>th</sup> century interior, but is not a documented site. The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have seen the development of a nucleation around the parish church, with a chapel, Post Office and school, but this appears to have been *de novo* in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other modern developments include a sewage works and reservoir.

In contrast, the southern half of this area from the 13<sup>th</sup> century was embraced within the liberty of the medieval Borough of Cardigan and was held under Anglo-Norman tenure. Cardigan received its first charter in 1284, but had had a weekly market, and burghal privileges, since the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. The borough was incorporated in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a mayor and corporation, and the grant of further privileges. The name Warren Hill, at the east end of the area, may indicate the presence of the burgesses' rabbit-warren. The Afon Mwldan flows through this area, which supplied three water-mills within the town, and a further three were located within this area. Felin Ganol may occupy the site of one of them, but New Mill appears to be a later establishment. On the tithe map of 1846, strips north of the town indicate relict open fields, but these have now gone. The map also shows a small pocket of common nearby, at Trebare. Otherwise the field system is not unlike that around Ferwig today and appears later post-medieval in origin, suggesting that the open field system was never extensive and that unenclosed land predominated.

There is little later development within this area and most farmhouses appear to date to the second half

of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The area is bounded, to the south, by the A487(T) which was the medieval Cardigan-Aberystwyth route, and had been turnpiked before 1833. A sand pit was worked during the 19<sup>th</sup> century at Maesymeillion, while there is a pump house at Caemorgan. The 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen some development around New Mill and Llwynpiod, but otherwise this is an entirely pastoral area.

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

Ferwig historic landscape character area lies on the northern side of the Teifi estuary on gently sloping west-facing slopes rising from the water to over 120m above sea level. The northern end is exposed to Atlantic gales and is therefore treeless. Deciduous woodland is present in more sheltered locations alongside the river opposite St Dogmaels, and on the steep slopes of small valleys. It is an agricultural landscape dominated by improved pasture with a little arable and scrubby rough ground on some steep slopes. Hedges set on earth- and earth-and-stone banks surround the medium-sized fairly regular fields. Hedges are generally well maintained, but in the more exposed locations they are low and in extreme cases they are reduced to windswept lines of gorse and thorn. Teifi valley stone, frequently cement rendered on houses, is the principal pre-20<sup>th</sup> century building material. Dispersed farms with clustering at Ferwig and Llwynpiod characterised the settlement pattern. In common with other agricultural areas of the lower Teifi valley the older building stock is chiefly 19<sup>th</sup> century. Crug Farm, with its medieval roof timbers and 17<sup>th</sup> century interior, is a rare survivor from an earlier period. Ferwig parish church was entirely rebuilt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, except for its tower, which was demolished in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Georgian-style country houses such as Bryn-y-Mor and Aberdare (both listed) are present, but most farmhouses are more modest, date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are of two storeys and three bays with examples in both the Georgian style and the vernacular tradition. Stone-built 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings are relatively small, reflecting the size of the land holding, and usually of one or two ranges, some are falling into disuse and others have been converted to non-agricultural use. Working farms have ranges of modern agricultural buildings, but these are not generally substantial. Round-headed corrugated iron barns of probable mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date survive on some farms. The replacement of a number of older farmhouses with 20<sup>th</sup> century houses is feature of this area. There is also a significant amount of modern housing, both dispersed and in clusters as at Ferwig and Llwynpiod. As well as modern housing at Ferwig, there a small nucleation of 19<sup>th</sup> century worker houses – short terraces and detached – focused on the parish church and 19<sup>th</sup> century chapel. Most of the 28 recorded archaeological sites are concerned with aspects of the post-medieval landscape. Significant earlier sites include the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, and a Bronze Age round barrow and standing stone.

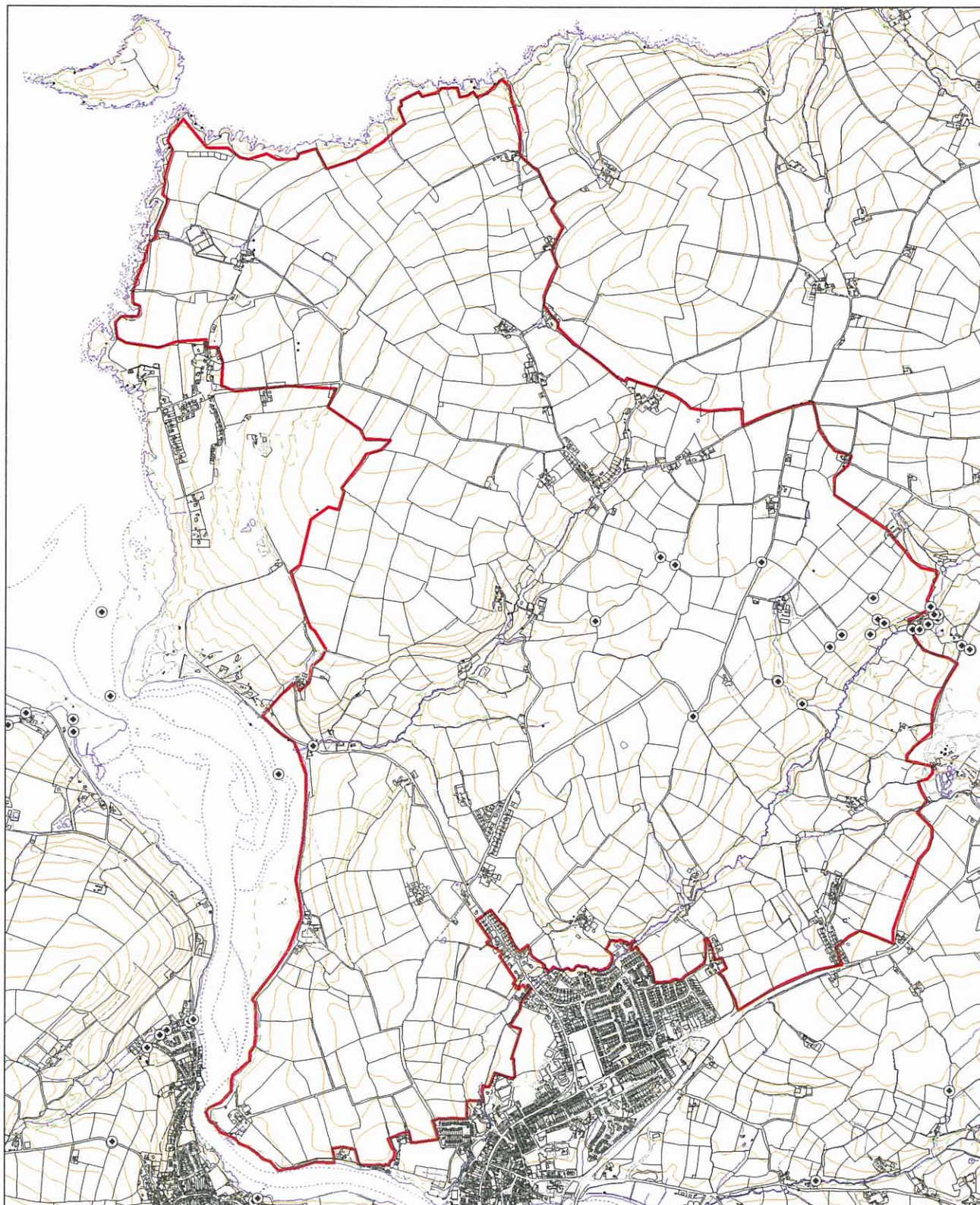
This is a well-defined area to the west and south, but less so to the north and east – here there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged boundary.

#### **Conservation priorities**

More careful control of modern development will be required if the agricultural character of this area is to be retained. Some consideration should be given to the reuse of old agricultural buildings if they are not to be lost.

**Sources:** Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Ferwig parish tithe map 1839; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished reports by Cambria Archaeology; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Owen, E, 1893 & 1894 'A Contribution to the History of the Praemonstratensian Abbey of Talley', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 10 & 11, Fifth Series; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology; St Mary's Parish tithe map 1846; Soulsby, I, 1983, *The Towns of Medieval Wales*, Chichester





## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION: LOWER TEIFI VALLEY

### **Historic Landscape Character Area 416 FERWIG**

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**Ferwig** is an agricultural historic landscape character area lying at the extreme western end of the Teifi valley. Dispersed farms set in fields characterise this area. Many of the buildings are modern, and there is some clustering of modern and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses at Ferwig village.

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION**  
**of**  
**THE LOWER TEIFI VALLEY**  
**and**  
**DREFACH AND FELINDRE**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2004/11**

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by K Murphy

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Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 13/02/2004

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

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Swydd / Position: Director

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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar  
gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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