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Date 29/04/2004

## Tir Gofal Historic Environment HE1

Tir Gofal Office Llandeilo  
Farm Trehyrne

Our reference PRN 50488

Application No W/12/4348

Grid reference SN 3300 1462; SN 3663 1443; SN 3425 1142

Statutory/other classifications (if any) Historic Landscape Character Areas 179 Llangynog - Llangain,  
152 Laques, 153 Llanybri & Llansteffan strip fields.  
SAM Cm 053, SAM Cm 083

## Archaeological Farm Visit Recommended

Please notify and consult Cambria Archaeology on all restoration projects or works that affect archaeological features and traditional buildings.

### Archaeological Sites and Features

Site numbers refer to the numbers by which each site is identified in the Sites and Monuments Record. Unnumbered sites have been identified from other sources such as maps. Where appropriate, sites are marked on the attached map(s) to assist with their identification.

Please note that recommendations are often made without the benefit of recent or detailed information about the sites in question. For this reason some recommendations may not apply. Cambria Archaeology would be delighted to receive information about any of the sites listed below and about sites that have not been identified here.

This farm consists of three holdings, the main holding 4348 lies around the farmstead of Trehyrne, 4348a lies to the east around Waunfwlchan farmstead and 4348b lies to the south on the edge of Llansteffan. Holding 4348 is characterised by large field enclosures along the stream edge, with small regular field extending west of Gelli farmstead, with a general settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and cottages. The smaller fields had been established by the time of the tithe map in 1840 but the remaining area is divided into large open areas, subdivided into its current layout by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Holding 4348a is divided by a series of medium to large regular field enclosures. The eastern half had been enclosed by the time of the tithe map in 1841 but the regular nature of the field suggests it was fairly recent enclosure by that date. The western half was still unenclosed at that time, achieving its current layout by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map in 1891 with the establishment of a new farmstead. Holding 4348b is also divided into regular field enclosures, possibly parliamentary enclosures of the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the layout had been established by the time of the tithe map in 1841, and other than the abandonment of some field subdivisions, has seen little change since.

Both holding 4348 and 4348a lie within Historic Landscape Character Area 179 Llangynog - Llangain. Holding 4348b lies both within HLCA 152 Laques to the west and HLCA 153 Llanybri & Llansteffan Strip Fields to the east. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and include general management priorities. Detailed descriptions of the character areas are included to the rear of this report. Holding 4348 contains a Scheduled Ancient Monument Cm083 Castell Cogan Iron Age Hillfort and holding 4348b contains Scheduled Ancient Monument Cm058 Fron Ucha Burial Chamber.

**The priorities for management of the historic environment on this farm are the preservation and maintenance of features that define local distinctiveness and the landscape character of the area, including field boundaries, trackways and traditional farm buildings. The preservation and maintenance of the important SAMs is also a priority for this farm. Management recommendations are provided in consultation with Cadw.**

**An archaeological site visit is recommended to holding 4348b due to the concentration of potentially important archaeological sites which may require more detailed site-specific management recommendations.**

#### Holding 4348

- 24662 Farmstead 'Trehyrne'. The original location of the Trehyrne farmstead, as indicated on the tithe map (1840) and early OS maps. It is visible in this location on the 1907 OS map but shown in its present location on OS maps of the 1960s. Current condition unknown.
- 25670 Mansion House 'Trehyrn'. The mansion house of Trehyrne farmstead. It is described by Francis Jones, owned in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by the Popkin family, now described as ruinous.
- 24674 Farmstead 'Hendre'. The farmstead appears to be shown on the tithe map of 1841, although lying in unenclosed land makes it difficult to locate on current OS maps. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891 records a large number of buildings in roughly its current layout. Current condition unknown.
- 15723 Mansion House 'Hendre'. The site of a mansion house associated with Hendre farmstead. Current condition unknown.
- Farmstead 'Gelli'. A T-shaped arrangement of farm buildings is visible on the tithe map of 1840 and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891. A greater number of buildings are shown by the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map in 1907.

**We have no information about traditional buildings on this farm. Management recommendations can be provided on buildings following receipt of information from the Tir Gofal Project Officer. Where work is to be undertaken on traditional farm buildings it may be possible to receive a visit from a buildings expert from Cadw and/or the RCAHMW. Contact Cambria Archaeology for further information.**

- 2154 Hillfort 'Castell Cogan;Old Castle'. Scheduled Ancient Monument Cm083. A small Iron Age hillfort, well preserved on the edge of a hilltop. Hillforts are generally recorded as having been constructed in the Iron Age (circa 600 BC - 100AD) but scientific dating of some archaeologically excavated sites has indicated that they may be Bronze Age in date (c2000 - 500BC). Hillforts are usually viewed as defensive structures built with the intention of defending and securing property. They are also locations for dwellings that were used on a seasonal or permanent basis. Sites such as these may have been used over very long periods of time and therefore, were probably put to many different uses.
- 9811 Occupation Site 'Castell Cogan'. Recorded as a Roman occupation site. A spearhead dated to the Roman period was recovered from an excavation in 1971.

**This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, in order to protect the site and to prevent damage to buried archaeology the area within 10 metres of the edge of this site should not be ploughed, subjected to any other intrusive activity and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock. Movement of stock over this area should be restricted in wet weather to prevent erosion from trampling, such erosion has been noted along a fence line.**

- 9831 Hillfort?. A circular earthwork enclosure visible on aerial photographs in this area, possibly the remains of an Iron Age hillfort.
- 2178 Burnt Mound. These sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC) to the post medieval period. However, these sites are generally thought to date from the Bronze Age and may have been used as cooking sites or saunas. Burnt mounds are usually identified on the ground as grass covered horseshoe shaped mounds. These mounds consist of heat shattered stone and charcoal. Where sites have been excavated they often have adjacent wooden water tanks. Burnt mounds are located in wet areas where the tanks can fill with water unaided. Stone was heated in a fire and thrown into the tank of water. The heated water was used for cooking or bathing. In order to reuse the tank the stone was removed resulting in the mound. In some cases these mounds are very large indicating long-term use of the site.

**In order to protect these sites and to prevent damage to buried archaeology the area within 5 metres of the edge of these sites should not be ploughed, subjected to any other intrusive activity and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.**

- Cottage 'Cross Roads/Croes-heolydd'. A roadside cottage called 'Cross Roads' visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> (1891) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1907) edition OS maps.
- 21664 Blacksmiths. A smithy located at the crossroads, first shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891.
- 23588 Cottage 'Gwar-y-gelli'. A cottage site first visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (1891), current condition unknown.
- Building. A small building with an adjoining enclosure to the SE, visible by the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map in 1907. The enclosure is still shown on current maps.

**Ground breaking work should be avoided in these areas. Any standing remains should be maintained in a stable condition as visible features. Hedgelines or banks marking enclosures should be left in place. Clearance of vegetation (cut back, do not uproot) from the area, followed by light grazing, will ensure visibility and prevent any damage to structural remains. The same management should also extend to any associated structures such as outbuildings.**

- Well. A spring marked as a well on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of 1907. The importance of wells prior to the advent of mains pumped water cannot be overstated. Many wells were imbued with religious and ritual significance in the past, and retained this significance until recent times. Wells often represent landscape features of some antiquity, and may retain the vestiges of stone built standing structures around them.

**If any structural elements are present maintain these as visible historic landscape features. Buried and waterlogged remains should not be disturbed.**

- Trackway. Trackway giving access to the side of the original Tre-hyrn seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> (1891) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1907) edition OS maps.
- Trackway. Trackway leading to the hillfort seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps.

**In many instances trackways will not leave any remains and, therefore, no management recommendations need apply. Associated features of these routeways that require protection are the stiles, gateways, etc that indicate the locations of these routes through the landscape.**

- Place Name 'Llan Ucha;Llan issa'. A field described in the tithe apportionments as 'Llan ucha' and 'Llan issa' suggesting this may formerly have been church land.

**These features are implied by the place names, it is not clear whether there are any physical remains, so no management advice can be given at present. If however there are any indications of the existence of an archaeological site in these fields Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for further information.**

Holding 4348a

- Farmstead 'Waun-fwlchan'. A farmstead shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891. The farmstead is not shown on the tithe map but the surrounding area is known as Waun-fwlchan.

**We have no information about traditional buildings on this farm. Management recommendations can be provided on buildings following receipt of information from the Tir Gofal Project Officer. Where work is to be undertaken on traditional farm buildings it may be possible to receive a visit from a buildings expert from Cadw and/or the RCAHMS. Contact Cambria Archaeology for further information.**

- Cottage. A single building in a rectangular enclosure is shown on the tithe map of 1841, described as a cottage and garden. At that time it was surrounded by unenclosed land, making it difficult to accurately locate on current maps. The enclosure was bounded on one side by the road and the other by the stream.
- Dwelling. A semi-circular enclosure against the stream marked on the tithe map and described as Waun Fach 'house and garden'.

**Ground breaking work should be avoided in these areas. Any standing remains should be maintained in a stable condition as visible features. Hedgelines or banks marking enclosures should be left in place. Clearance of vegetation (cut back, do not uproot) from the area, followed by light grazing, will ensure visibility and prevent any damage to structural remains. The same management should also extend to any associated structures such as outbuildings.**

- Well. A riverside well shown on the first edition OS map. The importance of wells is described above.

**If any structural elements are present maintain these as visible historic landscape features. Buried and waterlogged remains should not be disturbed.**

- Artificial Watercourse. An artificial water course including weirs, sluices and a pond, leading to a woollen mill (PRN 21661) to the south.

**Maintain any remains of this site as a visible historic landscape feature. Buried remains should not be disturbed.**

- Ford. A ford carrying the road across the river shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891.

**River crossings may have seen sustained usage over long periods of time. There may be evidence of earlier crossings in the vicinity, in the form of paving or associated structural remains. Do not disturb or remove any structural remains of this crossing. Submerged remains should be left in situ.**

- 11190 Place Name 'Parc Cerrig Llwyd'. The tithe map records this field name as 'Parc cerrig llwyd', suggesting the possibility of a Bronze Age standing stone in the vicinity.
- Place Name 'Parc Ffynnon'. A field described on the tithe map as 'Parc Ffynnon', suggesting a well/spring in the area, presumably towards the southern end of the field.

**These features are implied by the place names, it is not clear whether there are any physical remains, so no management advice can be given at present. If however there are any**

**indications of the existence of an archaeological site in these fields Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for further information.**

- Footpath. Connecting the farmstead to the well and a dwelling to the north.
- Trackway. Running north from the farmstead.
- Footpath. A series of footpaths running NW from Pentre-Wiman farmstead.

**In many instances footpaths and trackways will not leave any remains and, therefore, no management recommendations need apply. Associated features of these routeways that require protection are the stiles, gateways, etc that indicate the locations of these routes through the landscape.**

Holding 4348b

- 2182 Chambered Tomb?. Scheduled Ancient Monument Cm 058. Three large stones which may represent the site of a ruined Neolithic chambered tomb. A chambered tomb is a monument with evidence of a burial chamber, and occasionally a passage, comprised of upright stones and considered to be a funerary monument of Neolithic date. The burial chamber may be covered by a capstone or roof-stones and may be enclosed within a round or long mound or cairn. It lies in a field called 'Parc cerrig Llwyd' on the tithe map.

**Cadw have noted erosion around the base of these stones over the past 15 years and recommend management to limit this wear and possibly to make good the ground, this would require Scheduled Monument Consent. An archaeological site visit is recommended to this holding which could examine these issues and provide further management advice.**

- 7693 Ring Barrow/Enclosure?. The remains of a possible ring barrow, although this is uncertain. It may be connected to a more extensive relict field system. These sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC). They are comprised of a ring of earth and/or stones, usually anything between 5m and 20m in diameter, surrounding a hollow central area that is (or was initially) free of cairn material, and which is presumed to have been the focus of various prehistoric funerary and ritual ceremonies.

**In order to protect the site and to prevent damage to buried archaeology the area within 5 metres of the edge of this site should not be ploughed, subjected to any other intrusive activity and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.**

**Archaeological site visit recommended to establish the extent of archaeological remains in this area and provide more detailed management advice.**

- 11925 Hillfort?. A circular cropmark identified from aerial photography. It has been interpreted as a possible Iron Age hillfort site. The field is described as 'parc ffald' on the tithe map. Hillforts are described above.
- 11174 Cropmark. Another smaller circular cropmark identified from aerial photography, function and date unknown.

**In order to protect the site and to prevent damage to buried archaeology the area within 5 metres of the edge of this site should not be ploughed, subjected to any other intrusive activity and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.**

**An archaeological site visit is recommended to establish the extent and character of possible archaeological remains and provide more detailed management advice.**

- 11191 Place Name 'Parc Cerrig Llwyd'. The field is called 'Parc cerrig llwyd' on the tithe map, which may suggest the presence of a Bronze Age standing stone in the vicinity.
- Place Name 'Parc Quarry'. Two fields described in the tithe apportionments as Park Quarry. No quarrying is shown by the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map.

- Place Name 'Parc Ffynnon'. A field described in the tithe apportionments as 'Parc Ffynnon', suggesting the possibility of a well in the area, presumably near the streams to the north.

**These features are implied by the place names, it is not clear whether there are any physical remains, so no management advice can be given at present. If however there are any indications of the existence of an archaeological site in these fields Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for further information.**

*The following general advice may also apply. If further advice is required on any aspect of this report or the historic environment, please contact Cambria Archaeology.*

Please inform Cambria Archaeology if the farmer intends to restore archaeological or historic features, or if the farmer or project officer are aware of any archaeological features not covered by this report.

Field boundaries are an important aspect of a landscape character and should be maintained using materials and techniques appropriate to the locality.

The establishment of new access should not have a negative impact on archaeological sites and features. Footpaths should be routed around sites and accessible sites should be monitored for erosion.

Conversion of grassland to arable should only be undertaken where there is no threat to above or below ground archaeological remains.

The planting of new woodland and the establishment of new streamside corridors should not impede the visibility of existing historic landscape features or involve planting on archaeological sites.

## **Sources**

### *Maps*

Tithe Map 1841 Llansteffan Parish  
 Tithe Map 1840 Llandeilo Abercowin Parish  
 Tithe Map 1840 Llangunnog Parish  
 OS 1st edition 1891 (6") Carmarthenshire XLV NE.  
 OS 2nd edition 1907 (6") Carmarthenshire XLV NE.  
 OS 1st edition 1891 (6") Carmarthenshire XLV SE.  
 OS 2nd edition 1907 (6") Carmarthenshire XLV SE.  
 OS 1st edition 1891 (6") Carmarthen XLVI NW.







### *Other Sources*

Francis Jones 1987 Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families  
 Kenneth Murphy & Neil Ludlow, 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation.  
 Register of  
 Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.  
 Historic Landscape Character Area 179 Llangynog - Llangain  
 Historic Landscape Character Area 152 Laques  
 Historic Landscape Character Area 153 Llanybri & Llansteffan strip fields

**For queries about the information in this report please contact Phil Poucher:**

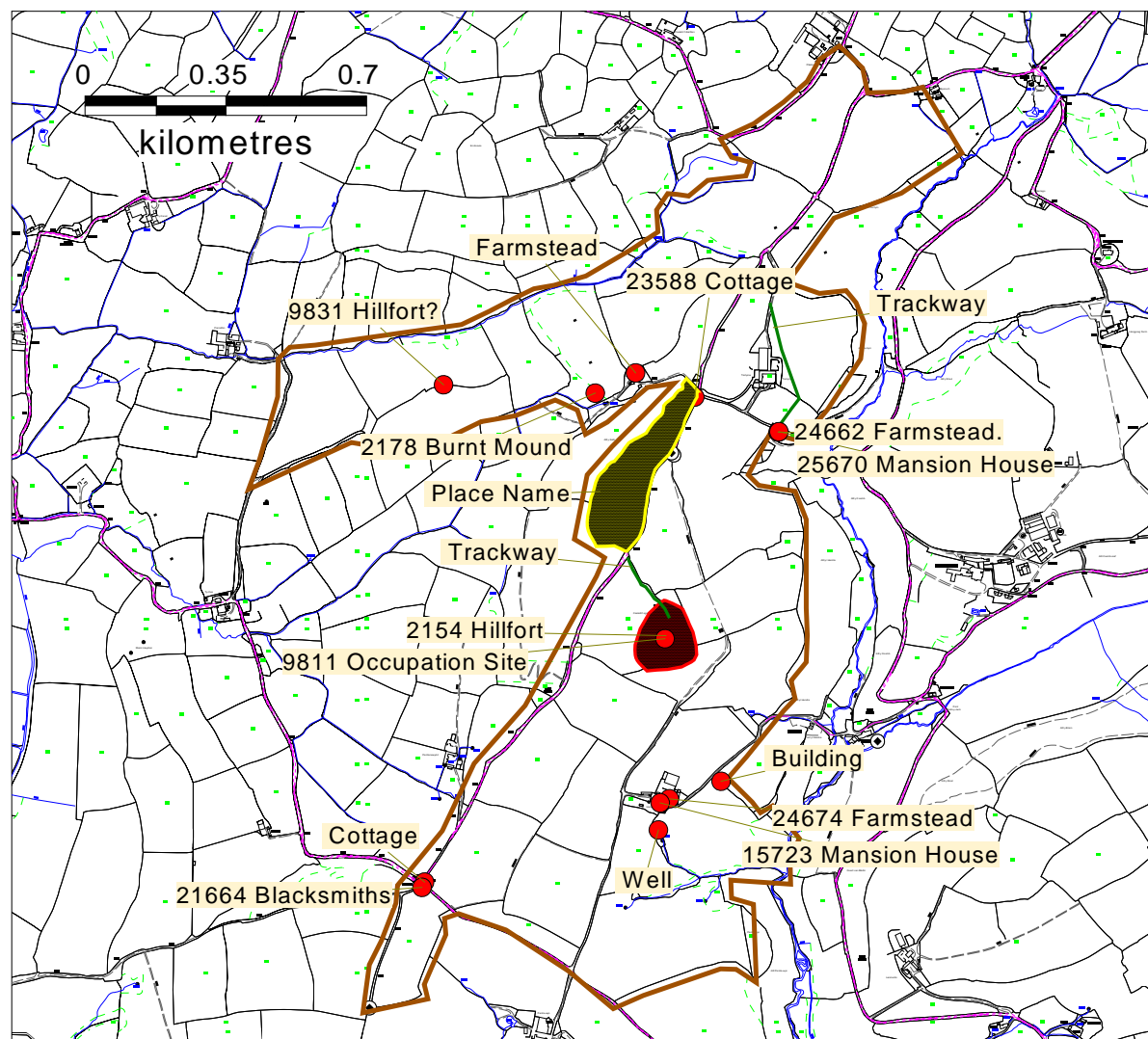
**[phil.poucher@acadat.com](mailto:phil.poucher@acadat.com) or 01558 823 131**

Trehyrne  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/4348 Cambria  
 Archaeology Reference PRN 50488  
 National Grid Reference SN 3300 1462

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area
-  Sites and Features identified from the Sites and Monuments Record and/or other sources
- 
-  Linear features, parks and gardens and sites where the full extent is unknown or as changed over time
-  Sites where the exact location or extent is unknown

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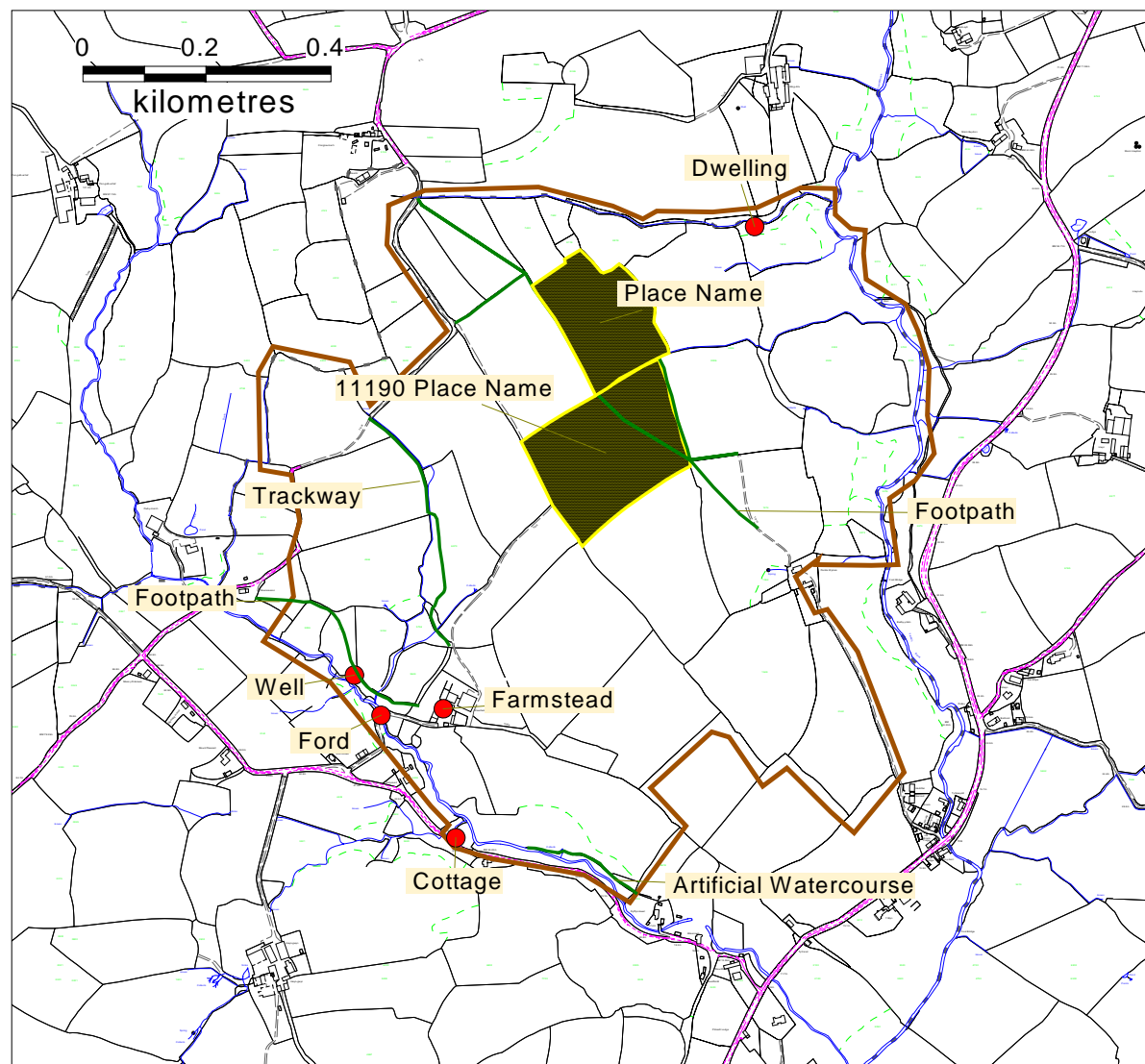
## Trehyrne

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/4348a  
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 50488  
National Grid Reference SN 3663 1443

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area
-  Sites and Features identified from the Sites and Monuments Record and/or other sources
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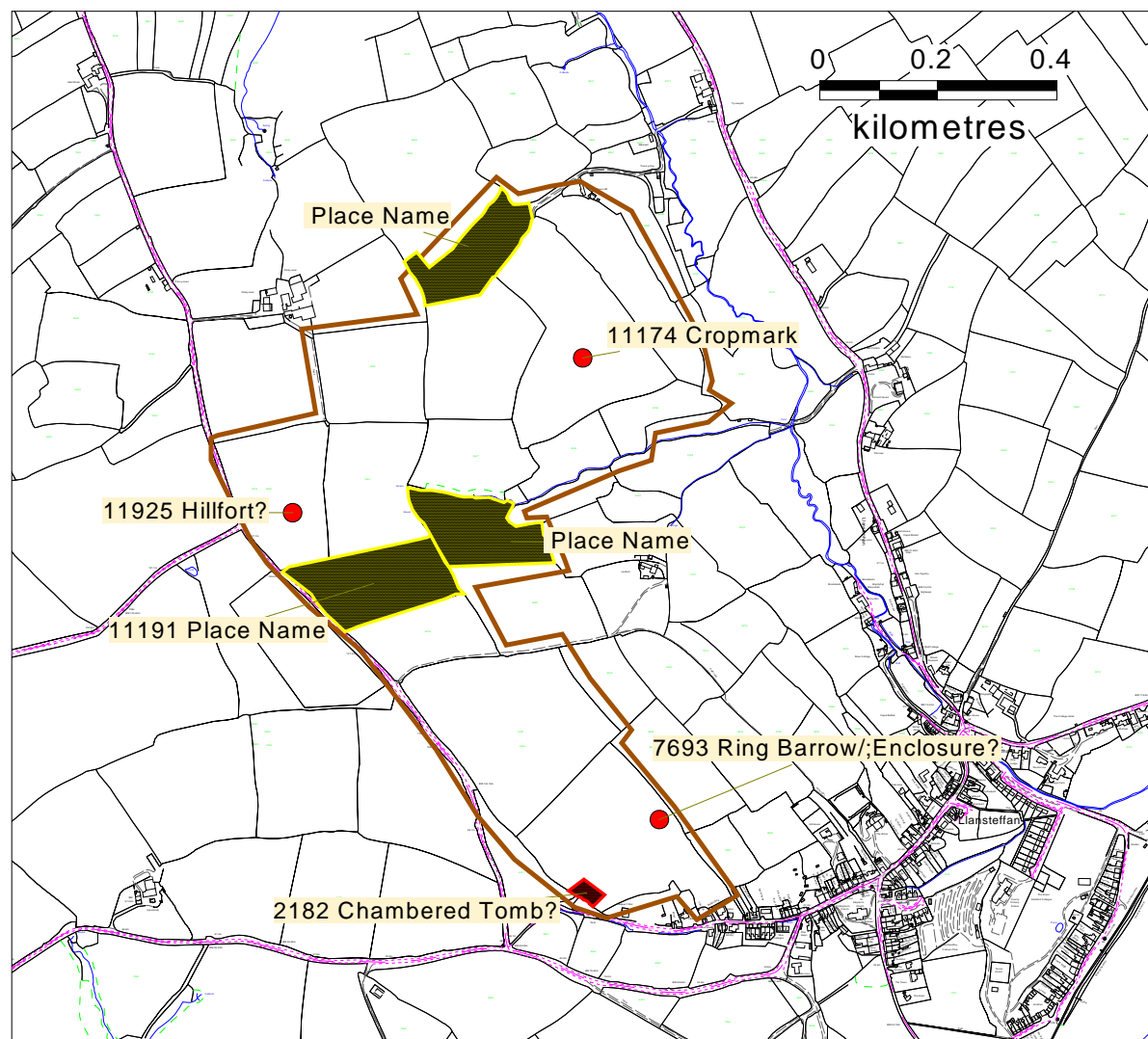


Trehyrne  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/4348b  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 50488  
 National Grid Reference SN 3425 1142

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area
-  Sites and Features identified from the Sites and Monuments Record and/or other sources
- 
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## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 179 LLANGYNOG - LLANGAIN

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 355152**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 4058.00**

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### Historic Background

A large area which was formerly divided between the lordships of Llansteffan (Penrhyn commote) and Carmarthen (Derllys commote, specifically Maenor Gain). This area was re-organised under manorial tenure between 1109 when Carmarthen Castle was founded (James 1980, 23), and 1146 with the establishment of the castle at Llansteffan (Avent 1991, 168-72). Llangynog may be an important pre-Conquest religious centre with its circular churchyard and associated large cropmark enclosures in neighbouring fields (Ludlow 1998), but is now represented by a 19th-20th century dispersed settlement lying 1 km from the church, which was formerly a chapelry of Llansteffan parish. Llanllwch - the demesne manor of Carmarthen - lay to the north (Area 181), and some of the neighbouring land within Area 179 may also have been held as demesne; within the manor itself significant areas of former ridge and furrow have been noted. The presence of arable is recorded at Alltynap at the very north end of the area which, as 'le Cnap', belonged to the Augustinian Priory of St John at Carmarthen (James 1980, 42). The name 'Parc-y-splots' immediately to the south indicates the former practise of ridge and furrow. Maenor Gain appears to have been coterminous with the present parish of Llangain which, however, is a Post-Medieval creation. St Cain (Keyne), Llangain was formerly a chapelry belonging to Carmarthen Priory but may represent a pre-Conquest foundation (Ludlow 1998). Between 1115 and 1147 a ploughland ie. 120 acres at 'Egliskein' (Llangain) was granted to Carmarthen Priory by the lord of the manor Alfred Drue (Jones 1991, 4). The present village, however, is entirely later Post-Medieval in origin (Jones 1991, 3). It has been suggested that the *caput* of the manor was either at Green Castle, a 16th- or early 17th-century mansion-house site overlooking the Tywi estuary associated with a landing-place, or at a small motte-and-bailey that formerly existed nearby (ibid.). An area held as common land lay immediately south of Alltynap (James 1980, 42) and four further areas of common had largely been enclosed by the early 19th-century (Llansteffan, Llangynog and Llangain tithe maps), the enclosure around Glog-ddu and Llwyn-gwyn probably as a result of squatter settlement. A large portion of the northern part of the area is labelled 'Forest' by Rees (1932) but within the area lay Cwrt Malle, a moated site held of Maenor Gain, granted to Robert de Malley, a former deputy Justiciar of South Wales, in 1312 (James 1988, 108). It later passed to the Philipps of Picton Castle. Substantial holdings dating from at least the 17th century are known to have existed at Cwrt Hir, Gilfach ap Rosser, Maes Gwyn, Pant-yr-athro, Pilroath, Wern Corngam and Wern-ddu (Jones 1987), but none of the present farms retain earlier features and did not form large estates. Cored Roth is the site of a Medieval fish-weir and watermill (Rees 1932), the latter later becoming a woollen factory (Jones 1991, 3). Otherwise there was little industry, and only scattered 19th- and 20th-century settlement. Llangain is the only substantial settlement cluster, and the fringes of its very small historic village core have experienced extensive housing development in recent years. To the south at Pant-yr-athro is a holiday complex.

### Description and essential historic landscape components

This very large historic landscape character area of undulating and hilly ground which rises from sea level against the River Tywi to the east and the River Taf on the southwest, achieves a maximum height of over 140 m along its northern fringes. The northern boundary of the area is defined by a north-facing scarp slope, and many deeply incised streams within the area have produced further steep-sided valleys and hills. Despite its large area, the Llangynog-Llangain historic character area is remarkably coherent, consisting in the main of dispersed large farms set in a landscape of small-to medium-sized fields. Field boundaries comprise earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges survive in a variety of conditions; generally they are well maintained, but tending to become overgrown and neglected on the northern, higher levels. Wire fences usually supplement hedges. Distinctive hedgerow trees are not common except on the eastern side. Apart from the higher levels to the north where there is some rushy ground, poor quality grazing and even a small peat bog, almost all farmland in this area consists of improved pasture. Broadleaf woodland which cloaks many of the steep valley sides and may be ancient has been supplemented since the Second World War with conifer plantations; this gives a wooded aspect to parts of the northern and eastern fringes of the area. The dominant settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and other dwellings, but there is a nucleated development at Llangain and dispersed modern housing along the roads close to Carmarthen.

Recorded archaeology from such a large landscape area takes in a range of sites from all periods. However, all features relate primarily to agricultural land-use.

St Cynog, Llangynog, is a Medieval church, while St Cain, Llangain was rebuilt in a slightly different location from its predecessor in 1871 (Ludlow 1998). Important sites within the area include Cwrt Malle which represents one of only four moated sites in Carmarthenshire. Another possible moated site lay between Cwrt Malle and Wern Congam (James

1988, 107) and there are 16th- or 17th-century domestic remains at Green Castle. However, the only listed buildings are the Grade II listed house at Fern Hill and its Grade II listed stables. Farmhouses are generally stone-built, two-storey, three-bay of 19th century date, and mostly in the vernacular tradition, though there are examples in the 'polite' Georgian style. With such a large area there is clearly a variety of outbuildings associated with the farms, but most are fairly substantial, stone-built and 19th century, often of two or more ranges and sometimes arranged semi-formally around a yard. Most farms have large modern agricultural buildings. Modern housing in a variety of styles and materials is concentrated in small estates at Llangain and dispersed along the roads close to Carmarthen, though there is a scatter of recent dwellings right across the landscape.

A large but well-defined historic landscape area, distinct from the smaller former strip fields to the south (Area 153), the larger irregular enclosures to the south-west (Area 154), the unusual and undated system of very large, regular square enclosures to the west (Area 155), the dry valley and raised bog to the north, and the saltmarsh of the Tywi estuary to the east (Area 180).

### **Conservation priorities**

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

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 152 LAQUES

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 332106**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 510.30**

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### **Historic Background**

An area of undulating country featuring fairly large fields with irregular boundaries and dispersed farmsteads, all the result of the amalgamation and enclosure of fields under emerging gentry families such as the Lloyds of Laques (and The Plas, Llansteffan) in the 17th- and 18th-century. This landscape can be contrasted with those, for example in Area 153, in which the curving shape of former open field strips was fossilised by the Post-Medieval boundaries. To the south-east, in fact, part of the area may have lain within the medieval 'Broadlands Park' (Rees 1932), and have remained unenclosed until the Post-Medieval period. Elements of the Medieval landscape also include Pentowyn Farm, to the west of the area, which was a 120 acre grange granted to St John's Priory, Carmarthen, between 1115 and 1130 by the lord of the Manor of Llangain Alfred Drue (Jones 1991, 4). It contains the site of a chapel apparently dedicated to St Teilo, possibly with pre-Conquest origins (James, n.d.). At the dissolution Pentowyn fell to the Lloyd family of Llansteffan and is now owned by the National Trust. The central farmstead of Laques, with a name derived from the Old English 'lac' (stream), is known to have been occupied since the 14th century when it was the seat of the Reed family; it was acquired by the Lloyds of Llansteffan in 1616 (Jones 1987, 97). Lord's Park farm to the south is, by contrast, an example of a possible medieval settlement reorganised by the Lloyds according to a system of home and tenant farms, typical of 18th century estate re-organisation (James n.d.) and exhibits a farm-house and outbuildings, of good quality, from the late 18th- or early 19th-century. To the east of the area, on the Tywi foreshore, is a spring traditionally dedicated to St Anthony and regarded as an ancient holy well. An adjacent early 19th-century villa was built to take advantage of the sea views by a Captain Scott, typifying the appreciation of natural beauty that had been acquired by the emerging leisured classes (James n.d.).

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

This small historic landscape area lies between the confluence of the Rivers Tywi and Taf and is, in its present form, early Post-Medieval. It rises from sea level into a landscape of rolling hills that achieve a maximum height of over 130m. Most of the land is farmed, the majority of which is improved pasture. There are small stands of ?ancient deciduous woodland on steep slopes, but apart from these this is a very open landscape. Fields tend towards being medium-sized and regular, particularly at higher levels, with boundaries consisting of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are well maintained; few are overgrown, and distinctive hedgerow trees are rare. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms.

Recorded archaeology, in addition to the Medieval and Post-Medieval landscape features noted above, includes Neolithic finds at Pentowyn, two possible Bronze Age standing stones, two possible Iron Age hillforts.

There are some distinctive buildings but none are listed. Farms consist of substantial stone-built dwellings with slate roofs, in the Georgian tradition, usually with a range of stone-built out-buildings as well as modern structures; with the exception of Laques which retains Jacobean features but was extended after 1747 (Jones 1987, 97). There are also Post-Medieval cottages and a school.

To the south this area is extremely well defined by the sea cliffs/coastal slope of Area 142. Similar good boundary definition exists to the west against reclaimed salt marsh (Area 146), and to the east against Llansteffan village. To the north the exact boundary between this historic landscape character area and Area 153, the enclosed strip fields, is less defined but nevertheless these two character areas are distinct.

### **Conservation priorities**

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. Some consideration should be given to the management of hedgerows and to deciduous woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 153 LLANYBRI AND LLANSTEFFAN STRIP FIELDS

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**GRID REFERENCE: SN 343120**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 427.60**

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### **Historic Background**

The area comprises a substantial part of the parish of Llansteffan, to the north-west of Llansteffan village and around the small nucleation of Llanybri. Llansteffan had been established as an Anglo-Norman manor, and the caput of the commote and Lordship of Penrhyn, by the mid 12th century. It was a parish during the Medieval period, in which the former chapelry of St Marys at Llanybri had its origins as a chapel-of-ease (Ludlow 1998). The dominant feature of the present landscape is a pattern of fields which tend to be long and narrow with curved boundaries. These are particularly concentrated south-west and north-east of Llanybri, and are the product of the fossilisation of post-12th century open field strips within 17th- and 18th-century field boundaries established under gentry families such as the Lloyds of Llansteffan and Laques. The landscape can thus be contrasted with that of Area 152 within which Post-Medieval enclosure, under the same landowners, effaced any pattern of earlier field systems. Llanybri was a demesne manor of the Lords of Llansteffan and Penrhyn and appears to be an early nucleation around a central open space, adjacent to a chapel dedicated to St Mary that had been established, as 'Morabrichurch', by the 14th century at least (Rees 1932) and was, in the 16th century, called 'Marbell Church' (RCAHM, 1917, 197). An area of common land lay within the village and may have Medieval origins. Pendegy Mill, some 700m west of the village, is the site of the Medieval 'Mundegy Mill'. Rees (1932) depicts Llanybri as a borough, and though the designation is most unlikely the settlement did lie at the junction of seven routeways. The landing-place of Llansteffan ferry which has possible pre-Conquest origins (Davies 1989, 27) and was crossed 'in a boat' by Gerald of Wales in 1188 (Thorpe 1978, 138) lies to the east of the area.

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

This historic landscape character area comprises a system of enclosed, former field strips lying across a band of rolling hills that achieve a height of approximately 100m close to the village of Llanybri, and run down to sea level by the estuaries of the Taf and Tywi. Most land is farmed; the majority is improved pasture, though there is a little arable. On steep slopes are small stands of deciduous woodland, but trees are not common, and essentially this is an open landscape. Settlements consist of the hamlet of Llanybri and dispersed farms. Much recent residential development in a variety of styles and materials on the edge of the historic core has doubled or trebled the size of the settlement. Dispersed farms are usually stone-built with a range of outbuildings, both stone-built and modern. These farms are set in a landscape of small, irregular fields. On historic maps and in certain areas on the ground it is possible to detect enclosed strips in the modern field system - clearly the modern system evolved out of an open field system. Enclosed strips survive best on steep slopes to the north and east of Llanybri and to the west of Llansteffan. Over recent decades, on flatter ground, there has been a tendency to merge the enclosed strips into larger more regular fields, and it is more difficult to detect the former presence of an open field system. Boundaries to the fields consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition, but on the steep slopes to the north of Llanybri they are becoming very overgrown, and to the west of Llansteffan some are becoming derelict.

Earlier features within the landscape include a scheduled Bronze Age standing stone which, during the medieval period, was a known landmark called 'Welsh Cross' (Rees 1932). There is at least one more standing stone, and two round barrows. An inscribed stone is possibly recorded in a place-name at Llanybri, and a spring/holy well lies to the south-east.

Distinctive buildings include the Grade II listed Medieval chapel of St Mary which exhibits a low west tower from the 16th century but has become ruinous since 1917, the 19th century Holy Trinity Church and a non-conformist chapel. The core of the settlement consists of stone-built farms, houses and cottages of probable 19th century date with a former inn and smithy; other buildings include Pendegy mill, a bridge, farms and cottages.

This historic landscape character area is similar to Area 152 to the south, with scattered farms and medium-sized fields, and though the historical process that have helped form the two areas are different, the boundary is not well defined. A similar lack of definition exists between this area and Area 187, to the north, and Area 154 to the north-east. Reclaimed salt marsh (Area 146) provides a good boundary to the west, and Llansteffan village (Area 141) clear definition to the east.

### **Conservation priorities**

Conservation priorities in this area concern Llanybri village and the surrounding land. The village has maintained its nucleated character despite modern development. Ribbon- and dispersed-development on the outskirts of the village

should be discouraged. Many hedgerows have been lost; this and decay evident in others is seriously eroding the historic character of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.