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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



Parkland associated with the gentry farm of Y Fron.

Prepared for: Y Fron Farm Tir Gofal Reference No W/12/4465 ACA Report No. 2004/105 Project Record No. 50536

> Prepared by Alice Pyper

Other documents enclosed: Kenneth Murphy & Neil Ludlow, 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Historic Landscape Character Area 228 Cilgwyn -Llwynwormwood

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The southern half of this farm holding lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area 228 Cilgwyn - Llwynwormwood. 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. Formerly, in the late 19th century, this area was made up of small narrow fields running along the contours, but many of these field boundaries have now been abandoned in favour of larger fields. At the very northern end of the farm holding the field enclosures have changed little since they were recorded in 1886.

The most distinctive element of the historic landscape within the holding is the parkland which lies below and to the north of Y Fron Mansion. The date of establishment for Y Fron mansion and farmstead is unknown but it was in place by the later 19th century and the scattering of the specimen trees still remain in the landscape. Some of the parkland specimens directly in front of the mansion house appear to have originated in former field boundaries.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

The farm holding lies near the Roman and Medieval settlement of Llandovery and the Roman road out of Llandovery forms much of the northeastern boundary of this holding. The curved section of roadway within the holding is likely to be a Post Medieval diversion. However, no Roman or Medieval archaeology has yet been identified within the holding, the known archaeology within the holding is Post Medieval in character, and is dominated by the establishment of the gentry house and farmstead of Y Fron. The mansion now lies in separate ownership, but the farmstead of Y Fron is largely intact and shows an interesting development over the last two centuries. Other archaeological remains include traces of mining or quarry workings which lie on the edge of Allt Rhydings, where a substantial quarrying complex within the wood itself was in use in the 19th century.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The management priority for the historic environment of this farm is to retain the parkland landscape character, by carrying out careful tree planting where parkland specimens have either died or are showing signs of damage and old age.

The sensitive maintenance and repair of the traditional farm buildings of Y Fron farmstead, using appropriate methods and materials to match the historic fabric, is also a high priority.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

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

These are divided into three types:

i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.

iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Location and description:

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

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

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
<u>(51359)</u>	Post Medieval quarry	SN7823332	5 C		Generic

A small roadside quarry marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The quarry is still visible, lying within woodland and adjacent to the road.

FRON (51360)	Post Medieval	SN77853324	В	Generic
	farmstead			

A farmstead complex associated with Y Fron Mansion (PRN19408). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1886) marks several associated out/farm buildings, enclosures and plantations. Y Fron farmstead is now in separate ownership from the adjacent mansion. Other than the farm buildings which are described individually, there is a pond, shown on historic maps, which has recently been cleared and refilled. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map also indicates a circular feature the east of the barn (PRN 53151). It is likely that this was the site of a horse engine, used to supply power for crop processing in the barn. The site of this feature is now obscured by a metal open-sided hay barn with a corrugated iron roof.



Y Fron Farmstead from the east

(51363)	Post Medieval	SN78063339 C	Generic
	building?		

A small rectangular building is marked on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps (1886, 1906) at the edge of the woodland. There are no upstanding remains of this building surviving in an area which is quite wet and boggy - indeed the current OS map records the outline of the building as a pond. It is possible that this building was associated with the mine complex in the adjacent Allt Rhydings woodland. (PRN 20570)

(51365) Post Medieval well SN77953311 C Generic

A well first marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. Not seen during the farm visit.

(51366)	Post Medieval	SN77883351	С	Generic
	;Modern barn			

An open sided building, presumably a hay barn, is first shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. There are no upstanding traces of the building today, but a metal framed round topped hay barn lies across the other side of the track.

<u>(53146)</u>	Post Medieval	SN7798933446 C	Generic
	quarry		

A large quarry is situated in woodland, the first edition OS (1886) shows this area as a small parcel of woodland, suggesting that it must have been out of use at this point.

(53147) Post Medieval pit SN7806533007 C Generic

A small D-shaped depression, approximately 4.5 metres at its widest and no more than 0.5 metres deep. The pit lies within woodland at present. It is unknown what its origins are, perhaps a quarry pit or possible charcoal burner's platform



A small D-shaped pit within woodland on the ridge behind Y Fron Farm

(53148)

Generic

A small run in adit or level lies adjacent to the boundary with Allt Rhydings where a mining complex has been recorded (PRN 20570). It has parallel vertical sides and a possible tip to the northwest side where the level runs out and standing water in its base. Some young trees are now growing within it.



A small adit or level lies to the west of the mining complex within Allt Rhydings

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.

2. Do not install new drains or underground services.

3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.

4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.

5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.

6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery

does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).

8. Do not burn materials on site.

9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.

10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

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

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	FRON (53151)	Post Medieval barn	SN77880332	238 B		Specific

A large barn which survives unaltered and intact. It has a central opposing doorways flanked by ventilation slits. Internally it is open to the roof, but has a low wooden partition at the north end, a small entrance (a hog hole?) in the east side. A breeze block lean-to has been added to the west side, but other than that there appears little modern intervention. The building retains its original double doors in a good state of repair. The roof is slated on the west side and corrugated iron on the east. The 1st edition OS map indicates the location of a horse engine, a power supply for crop processing, on the east side of the barn, although the location is now obscured by a metal open sided hay barn.

The slates are reasonably intact although there are couple which have recently become loose and displaced. Ivy is also established on the northern gable end.



A fine largely intact barn at Y Fron Farmstead

2 FRON (53153)

Post Medieval cow SN7788633278 B shed

Specific

A stone and brick built range of cow sheds lie to the northeast of the farmstead. These appear to be later additions to the farmstead, although they are recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1886. They consist of two distinct phases, although further modifications are also traceable; at the north end, a former stable/cart shed, used latterly as a cow shed, constructed in stone with yellow brick dressings and roof dormer opening, and to the southeast is a mostly brick built cow shed. The style of building of these two elements is different from the other buildings in the farmstead, and the widespread use of brick suggests a later date from the other farm buildings. The buildings have retained slate roofing, but the former stable/cart shed has corrugated iron on the east side. Notably the southern section of the buildings appear to be in the most perilous condition of all in the farmstead, a truss is missing from the roof of the cow shed and consequently the roof is bowing.



A former cart shed and stable with an attached cow shed lie to the northeast of the farmstead

FRON (51360)Post MedievalSN77853324BGenericfarmstead

Y Fron farmstead is in separate ownership from the adjacent mansion, and consists of a farmhouse which appears in part to formerly have been a farm building, a barn (PRN 53151), a stable/cart shed (PRN 53149), a combination farm building (PRN 53150), a number of outbuildings (PRN 53152) and a former stable/cart shed and later cow sheds (PRN 53153). The farmstead makes for an interesting complex of buildings, not all built at the same time which demonstrates different phases of investment in the farm. The majority of the farm buildings appear to be in a reasonable state of repair, the main areas of concern lie with the cow shed (PRN 52153) where the roof is in danger of failing, please see specific management recommendations for this building.

FRON (53149)	Post Medieval	SN7784633240	В	Generic
	stable; cart shed			

A single range incorporating a stable at the north end and a cart shed at the south end (southern end is owned by the adjacent property Y Fron House). The stable is well constructed in stone work, but with fine stone voussoirs over the openings. It is also fortunate that the original wooden shutters and doors survive at the stable end. The stable is lofted and some of the stall work survives on the ground floor.



A finely constructed stable and cart shed are now in divided ownership between Y Fron Farm and Y Fron Mansion

Generic

FRON (53150) Post Medieval SN7786133235 B combination farm building

A range of buildings including a cart shed and granary and cow shed. This building may be the earliest surviving building in the farmstead, and is certainly unusual with evidence of different phases of development. The west end is one storey, unusually it is L-shaped in plan and appears to have been animal accommodation. To the east is a 2 storey cart shed which appears to be a later addition. Fortunately many of the original fixtures and fittings survive in this building, including plank doors and shutters. Another point of interest is the survival of patches of yellow ochre limewash on the south of the building. The building is in a fair condition by and large, although the roof has become very mossy it is intact and covered by asbestos tiles. Some of the openings on the south side have collapsed sills.



In the centre of the photograph is the unusual L-shaped combination farm building at Y Fron, possibly the earliest building in the complex

FRON (53152) Post Medieval SN7785633264 C Generic outbuildings

A L-shaped range of outbuildings and leantos behind the farmhouse. This complex of apparently haphazard buildings on the north side of the present farmhouse is intriguing and undoubtedly consists of earlier phases of building which have been modified to create a series of sheds. The roofs of these buildings are now corrugated asbestos. The roof of one building has collapsed because it is currently inaccessible due to the division of the farmstead into two properties. The owners of Y Fron farm hope to remedy this by opening up a entrance to the building.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.

2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.

3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)

5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)

7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)

8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

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

Site 1 on MAP 1 FRON (53151) SN7788033238

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

The slates should be replaced and roof made sound and weatherproof, before any damage from water ingress ensues. Also the ivy should be cut at roof level, and spot treated to prevent regrowth if necessary

Site 2 on MAP 1

FRON <u>(53153)</u>

SN7788633278

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

The owners have expressed a desire to see these buildings repaired. This would be a worthwhile undertaking since the roofs need attention to prevent further damage and potentially collapse. As with all conservation and repair of historic buildings, elements of the roof should be repaired rather than replaced wherever possible and the distinctive slating style should be replicated on the cow shed roof.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

Location and Description:

A historic park or garden is a discrete area of land laid out in an ornamental way, originally for the pleasure and use of its owner. A sub-category of park is the deer park, laid out for management and containment of deer.

Historic parks of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.

The following parks and gardens have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
3	<u>(51367)</u>	Post Medieval park	SN7779334	1 B		Specific

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 shows trees within this area that are reminiscent of planting as part of a designed parkland landscape, all within the main view from the mansion house. The parkland landscape is still in evidence today (2004), many of the oaks shown on the 1st edition map survive in the parkland, particularly those which lie in the fields immediately to the north and northwest of the house. There has been some loss of the specimen trees which lay in the furthest northern extent of the parkland. Some coniferous specimens survive to the east of the site of the hay barn (PRN 51366).



The parkland landscape at Y Fron is one of the most striking aspects of the farm holding.

4	(53145)	Post Medieval	SN7774233484 C	Specific
		enclosure		

A four-sided enclosure is represented on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, shown with conifer trees within it and surrounded on the northern sides with broadleaved trees. This enclosure survives as a number of thorn trees. Only stumps of the oaks which used to surround it survive. This enclosure is an anomaly with in this parkland context, it does not appear to conform to the parkland character seen elsewhere on the farm, ie scattered large specimen trees. However, it does appear to have been well established in the last quarter of the 19th century and was to some extent contemporary with the parkland.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic garden or parkland.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with the historic garden or parkland.

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

Generic Management prescriptions

1. Original features identified in the agreement must be retained and maintained. Repairs (including repairs to walling and fences) should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)

2. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)

3.Drives and historic tracks together with associated walling, revetment and bridges identified in the agreement must be maintained and, where necessary, restored using appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option).

4.New tracks should not be created.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:

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

Site 3 on MAP 1

SN77793341

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

It is suggested that some tree planting is undertaken in order to replace those specimen trees which have been lost, or those which are dying. The tree species should follow the existing profile of trees represented in the park which is predominantly oak. The replacement trees should be carefully located in positions as close as possible to those represented on the 1st edition OS map, a copy of which is enclosed.

Site 4 on MAP 1

(53145)

(51367)

SN7774233484

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

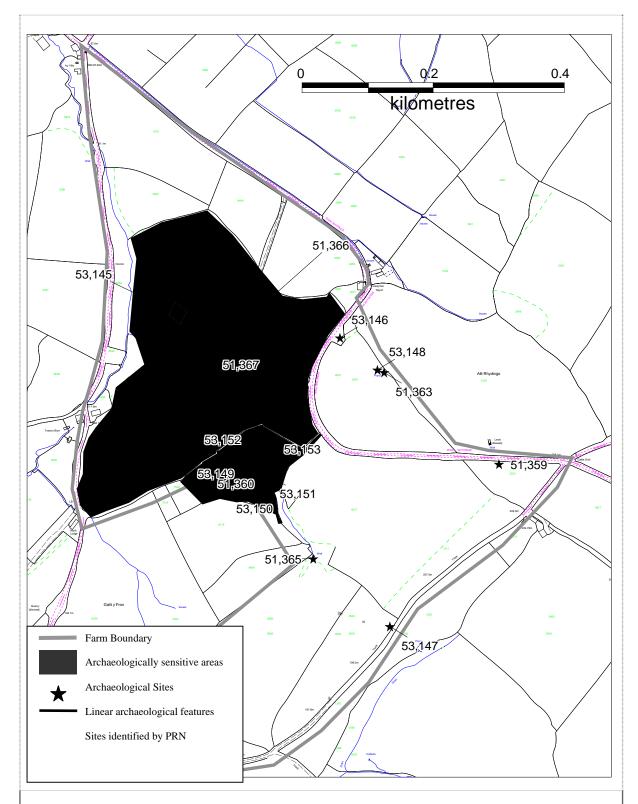
It has been proposed by the owners to establish an orchard somewhere within the parkland and it appears using this existing enclosure would be the most sympathetic way of achieving this aim. Orchard trees could be planted within the bounds of the enclosure and some of the broadleafed specimens which stood around the northern sides of the enclosure could be replaced in order to soften the visual impact of the enclosure.

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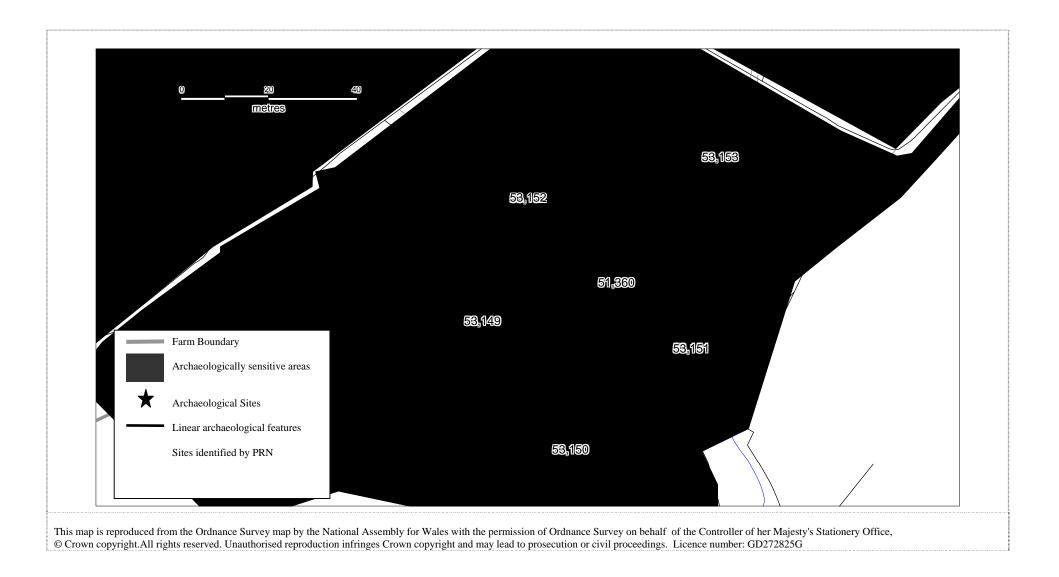
This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the <u>HE1 report</u> for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record Ordnance Survey 1886 25" 1st edition Carms.XXVII.1 Ordnance Survey 1906 25" 2nd edition Carms.XXVII.1 Ordnance Survey 1886 25" 1st edition Carms.XXVII.2 Ordnance Survey 1906 25" 2nd edition Carms.XXVII.2 Kenneth Murphy & Neil Ludlow, 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Area 228 Cilgwyn - Llwynwormwood



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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 228 CILGWYN - LLWYNWORMWOOD

GRID REFERENCE: SN 754308 AREA IN HECTARES: 1288.00

Historic Background

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

Description and essential historic landscape components

Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood character area lies across a wide hilly ridge which trends southwestnortheast on the south side of the Tywi valley between Llandovery and Llangadog. The ridge rises from approximately 60 m on the valley floor to achieve heights of over 180 m. The area is heavily wooded. This consists of deciduous woodland on steep valley sides interspersed with and underplanted by 20th century conifer plantations. There are also substantial conifer plantations on the ridge crests. Although some of the deciduous woodland is probably ancient, especially that on the steeper slopes, much has the appearance of 18th- or 19th-century plantations, part of the estate landscape. There are several large estates or former estates in the area. The mansion of one of the largest, Cilgwyn, still exists, along with various associated relict garden features, but the other main house of the area, Llwynwormwood is now a ruin. Dolgarreg and Cwm-Rhuddan, two lessor major houses still stand. Outside the wooded areas, the main land-use is pasture. This has been divided into fields which are large and fairly regular on higher levels, smaller and more irregular at lower levels. Earth banks with hedges form the boundaries to the fields, but apart from alongside roads and tracks hedges are in very poor condition, especially so at higher elevation, and are either overgrown or derelict. Wire fences provide most of the stock-proof boundaries. Many hedges have distinctive trees, and there are individual trees and small clumps present across much of the area. Parkland is still present as at Cwm-Rhuddan, but virtually the whole area seems to have been subjected to landscaping by the estates in the 18th- and 19th-century. Outside the major houses, the settlement pattern is of dispersed farms and other dwellings. Farmhouses are substantial, stone-built, generally 19th century in date and have a wide range of stone outbuildings reflecting estate management. Most farms have modern agricultural buildings. Other dwellings are mostly 19th century cottages or houses, usually in the vernacular style, with a few 20th century buildings.

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

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

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

Conservation priorities

Part of this area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect polices in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). The decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations. Otherwise maintain as existing.