

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol
Dyfed
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF



Dyfed Archaeological Trust
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
(Call Out)**

**Prepared for:
Trefach
Tir Gofal Reference No: W/13/5203**



**Project Record Number: 52219
Report Number: 2009/81**

**Prepared by
Mike Ings**

**Other documents enclosed: Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions for number 273
Tregynon and number 275 Cilgwyn**

Call Out Visit

The farm was visited on the 30th October 2009 at the request of the Tir Gofal Project Officer to address specific management issues, in particular possible maintenance and consolidation works on a ruined farmstead complex, Fagwyr Llwyd (PRN 52731). The report does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report (HE1).

The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site. In addition, any health and safety issues associated with public access to the site are not addressed in this report.

Introduction

Trefach farm comprises three holdings of land within northern Pembrokeshire. Only the holding containing Fagwyr Llwyd farmstead was visited during the 2009 call-out. For information on the remaining holdings and archaeological sites recorded on the farm please refer to the initial HE2 report compiled in 2005.

The deserted farmstead of Fagwyr Llwyd (PRN 52731) is located at NGR SN08273517, on land that rises on the northern flank of the Preseli Mountains. The considerable landscape importance of the area is recognised by its inclusion on the Cadw and ICOMOS Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation project (Historic Landscape Character Areas – HLCAs - are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape), and this farm holding falls between areas 273: Tregynon and 275: Cilgwyn. Full descriptions of these HLCAs are included at the end of this report and their distribution is illustrated on Figure 3 below.

There has been a marked erosion of historic landscape character within the holding during the earlier 20th century, making it important to preserve the remaining features. Several field boundaries have been removed and the holding is now divided into only three large fields and one smaller one.

Fagwyr Llwyd farmstead is now in ruins, although the layout of the complex visible on the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is still traceable on the ground. Although the site is not marked on the 1819 old series Ordnance Survey map, the name “Vagurllwyd” is recorded in the area in 1734 and 1762 (Charles, 1992). It seems likely that the site was abandoned by the time of the 1907 2nd edition map as many of the buildings are depicted as being roofless.

It is possible that a settlement existed at Fagwyr Llwyd as early as the late 15th century as it is recorded, by the contemporary historian Polydore Vergil, that Henry Tudor stayed there on the night of 9th August 1485 as he marched north through Pembrokeshire before facing Richard III at Bosworth (Howells, 2002)

Description



Looking northeast across the site of the now ruined farmstead Fagwyr Llwyd

Although the farmstead is now a ruin the layout of the Fagwyr Llwyd complex is still traceable on the ground. It comprises the farmhouse with at least three farm buildings, of unknown function, to the east and south and two stone-walled enclosures to both north and east. A trackway originally accessed the farmstead to the south.



Looking south, remains of the north-facing farmhouse wall

The rectangular main house lies on the western side of the farmstead, aligned north-south, and measures approximately 11 by 5 metres. The end walls are of partially

dressed stone and stand to a maximum 1.5 metres high, while the sidewalls are now generally low rubble spreads. No internal features survive apart from the remains of a fireplace in the southeastern corner. Rubble associated with the nearby farm buildings indicate that they were roofed in slate and it seems probable that the house would have been similarly roofed.

The parallel farm building is of rubble stone construction and measures approximately 9 by 5 metres. There is an internal division and the building is presumed to have had an agricultural function, possibly a cow shed, although too little remains to know for sure. It backs onto an extensive stone walled enclosure, on the southeastern corner of the farmstead, which itself is subdivided into three strips.



Looking east, from within farmhouse, across adjacent farm building

A further stone walled enclosure, or yard, lies on the north side of the complex, extending some 27 metres east-west, with a possible gateway within the northern boundary leading out to the fields beyond.



(Left) looking southeast, the eastern enclosure and (right) looking north, the northern enclosure with possible gateway.

Two small buildings lie to the south of the farmhouse, the function of which are unknown although they are presumed to be agricultural.

Tir Gofal management recommendations

The Tir Gofal Project Officer requested the call-out to Trefach Farm because the owner is willing to allow an open access area at the historic ruin of Fagwyr Llwyd farmstead, which would link up with a permissive access route that has already been created at the site.

Any works carried out on the site will be concerned with consolidation and maintenance as the farmstead is now in a very ruined state.

Consolidation

There are some limited stretches of stone wall that stand a few courses high, particularly the north and south ends of the farmhouse and the walls of the adjacent farm building. These would benefit from some consolidation work to help prevent further deterioration of the structures.

- Consolidate any areas of loose masonry using a traditional lime mortar mix, trying to follow the original mix and appearance as far as possible.
- Re-pointing is necessary where mortar has weathered back to a depth equivalent to the joint width or is very loose.
- Consider capping the wall tops in order to prevent water from washing out lime mortar bonds and accelerating collapse.

Preventative maintenance

The main concern for the maintenance of the farmstead site is the threat from encroaching vegetation and some control would be advised. Root damage may be causing some damage and falling branches and trees pose a further potential threat. The trees that have established themselves in and around the site help to prevent excessive vegetation and saplings growing but they are also a source of shelter for cattle. Although poaching did not appear to be a major concern at the time of the Tir Gofal farm visit, stock levels should be maintained at a level of low intensity.

- Monitor the trees growing close to the building and consider felling mature trees that are at risk of windthrow. Remove branches that pose a threat from falling. Care should be taken not to disturb archaeological remains.
- Consider cutting back vegetation on the walls, leaving the rots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

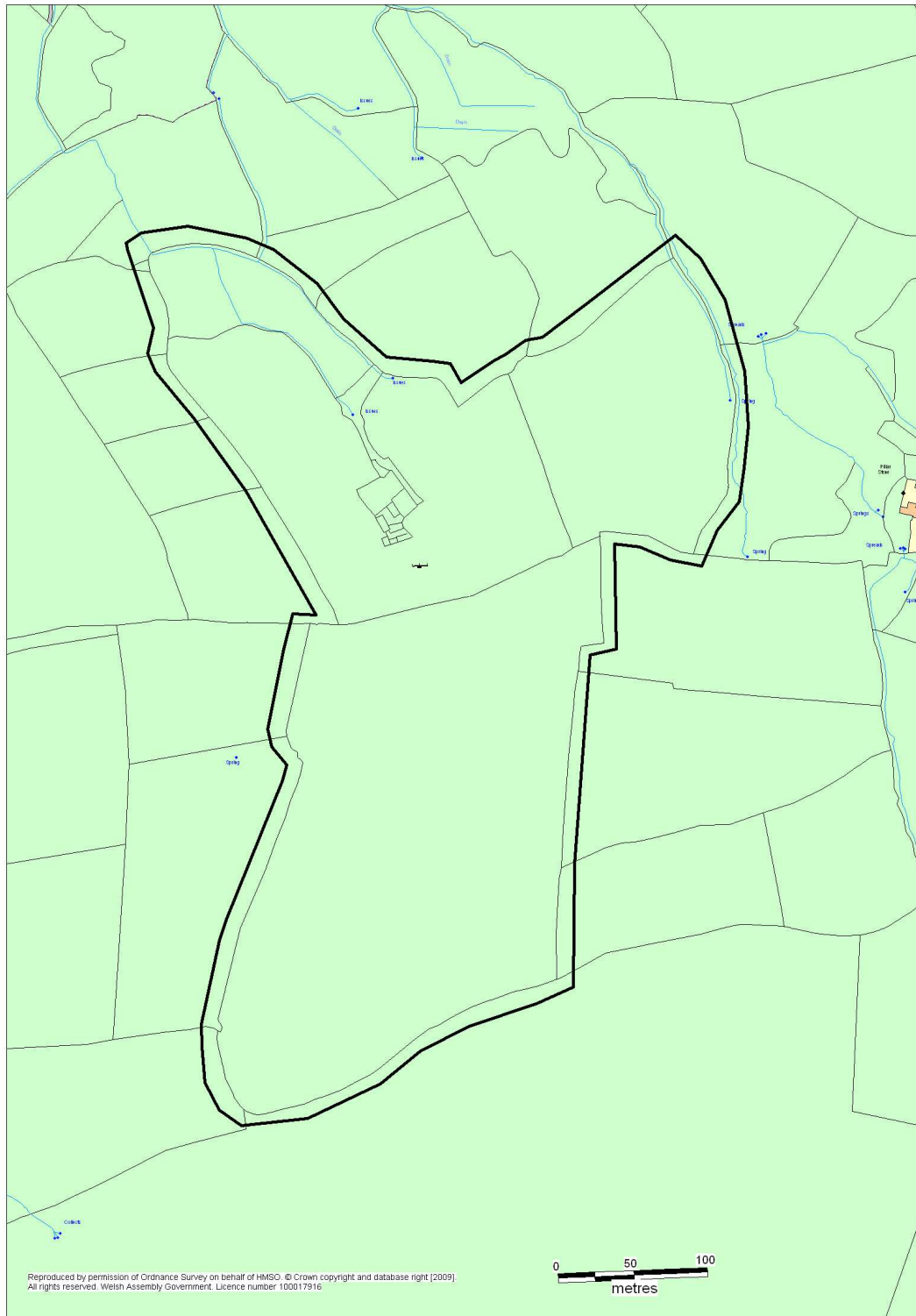


Fig 1: Map showing farm holding and location of Fagwyr Llwyd farmstead

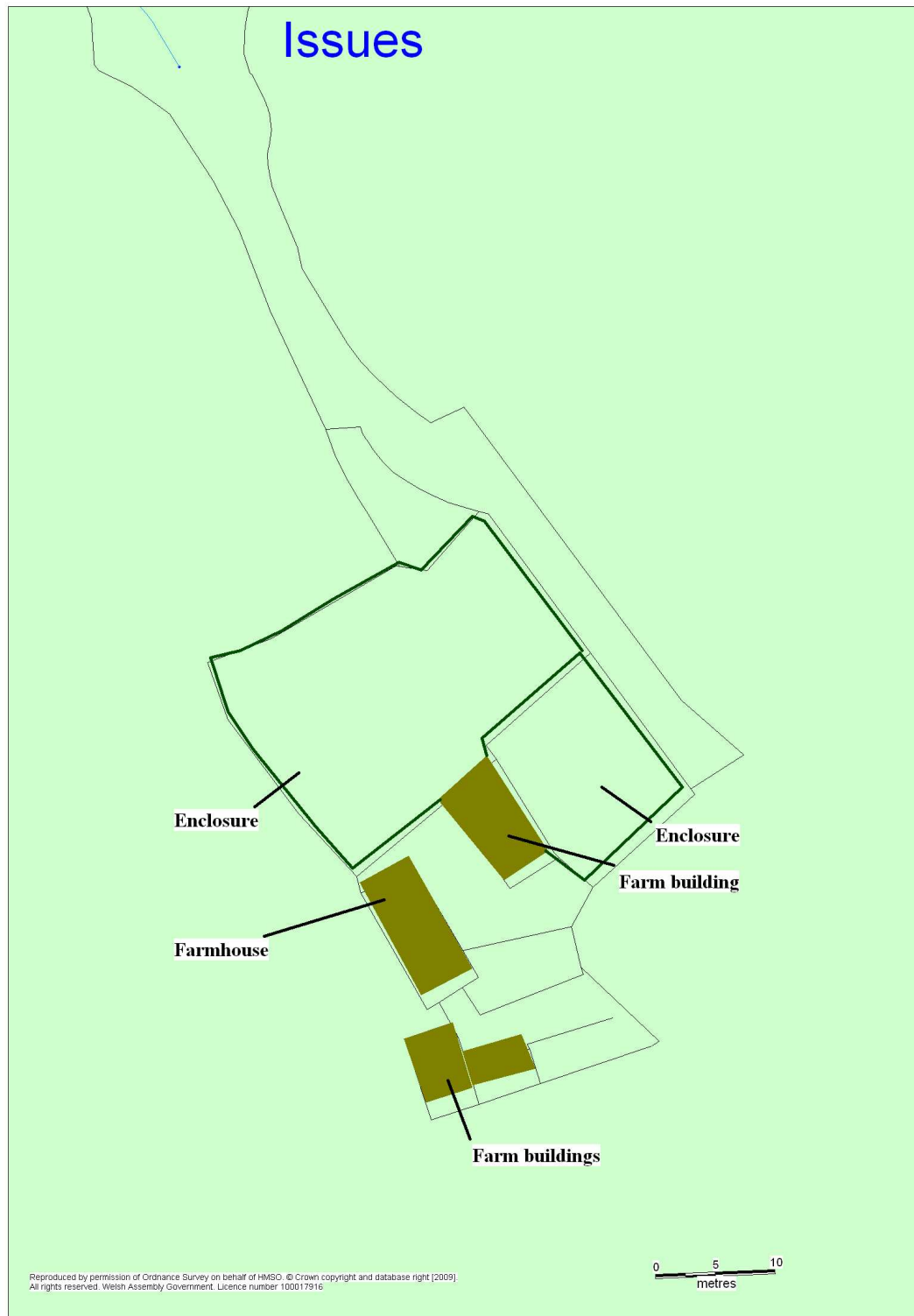


Fig 2 : Layout of FagwyrLlwyd farmstead

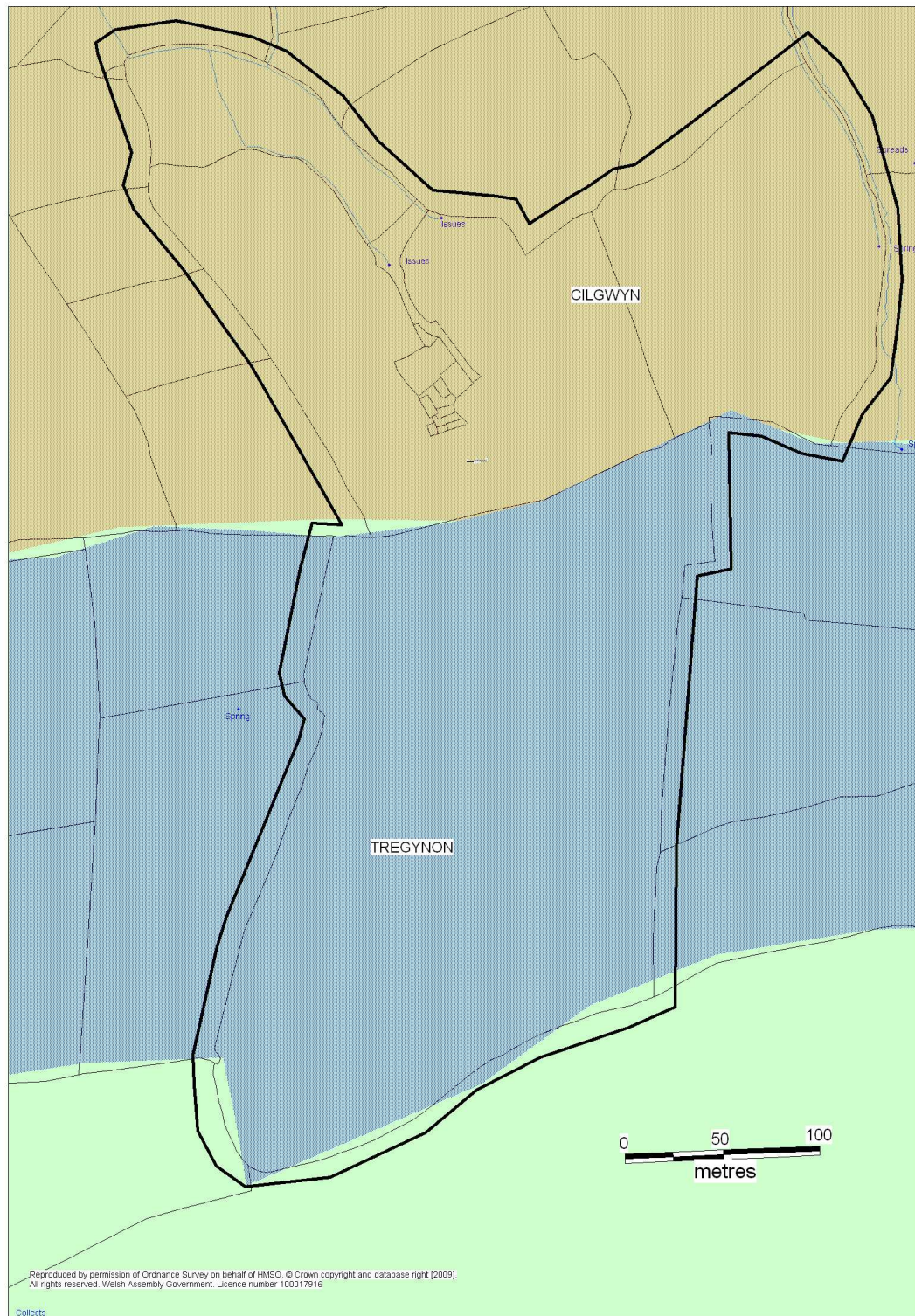


Fig 3: Map showing the distribution of Historic Landscape Character Areas

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

The Old Series Ordnance Survey Maps of England & Wales, Vol VI, 1992

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1889 Pembrokeshire Sheet 11.05

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet 11.05

Charles, B.G., 1992, The Place-names of Pembrokeshire

Howells, B (General Editor), 2002, Pembrokeshire County History, Vol II Medieval Pembrokeshire.

Cambria Archaeology, 2005, Tir Gofal Management Plan: Heritage Management Information (HE2), Report No.2005/92.

PRESELI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 273 TREGYNON

GRID REFERENCE: SN049340

AREA IN HECTARES: 511.0

Historic Background

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

Description and essential historic landscape components

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

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

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

Conservation priorities

Some of the historic components of this landscape are in an advanced state of decay. Hedgerows across much of the area are a particular problem; they will continue to decay and erode the historic character of the area if left unmanaged. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

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

PRESELI HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 275 CILGWYN

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

Historic Background

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

Description and essential historic landscape components

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

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

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

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

Conservation priorities

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

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