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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Brixton Farm**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5097**

**ACA Report No. 2005/94
Project Record No. 53705
Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

**Other documents enclosed:
Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape
Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.
Historic Landscape Character Area 147 Laugharne Parish, Pendine and
Llanddowror.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This farm holding lies on the north side of the River Coran valley, to the northwest of Laugharne. The holding also lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area 147 Laugharne Parish, Pendine and Llanddowror. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and the descriptions include general management priorities. The enclosure pattern in this area consists of medium sized irregular fields with a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads with small nucleations of settlements such as at Cross Inn on the northern edge of this holding. Much of this area around Laugharne appears to have been a mixture of strip field farming and open common land during the Medieval period. This pattern appears to have been overlaid by the current enclosure and settlement pattern during the Post Medieval period, which appears to have been in place by the time it was recorded on estate maps and tithe maps of the late 18th to mid 19th century. The date of establishment of Brixton Farm is unclear, but the current farmhouse is early 19th century in date.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

This farm holding may lie in an area of religious and ritual activity during the Prehistoric period. A possible Neolithic chambered tomb (PRN 5067) was recorded south of the farmstead. Later reports cast doubt on this assumption although it may have represented the remains of a Bronze Age cairn. Numerous stones are also recorded within this holding (PRNs 8037, 8043, 8044 & 8045), possibly part of a complex of Bronze Age standing stones in this area. All these features lie in fields that appear to be regularly ploughed and over the years they have been removed from their original locations. Another stone lying just outside this farm holding to the north was used as a boundary stone during the Medieval period, the stones within the holding may also have been used as boundary markers and rubbing stones later in their history. The tithe map records the field north of Brixton Farm as 'Parc y Groes', which may suggest the presence of an inscribed stone cross, often Medieval in date, in the area, however no evidence of such a feature has been recorded. The field name of 'Parc Velin Gwynt' to the southeast of the farm may also suggest the presence of a windmill in this area, possibly also Medieval in date. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 records settlement at the northern end of the holding as 'Windmills', suggesting this may have formerly been an area of windmills, none have yet been recorded within the bounds of this holding. The date for the establishment of Brixton Farm (PRN 21365) is unclear, although it is marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 and the grade II listed farmhouse (PRN 16144) is dated to the early 19th century. The large combination barn range (PRN 16145) with its unusual brick vaulted cowhouse, stable and cartshed suggests considerable investment in this farmstead in the early to mid 19th century, befitting an estate farm of relatively high status although little is known about the history of this farmstead. The 1st edition

Ordnance Survey map of 1888 marks a cottage (PRN 54640) on the edge of Cross Inn, although this may have been outside the bounds of the current holding. Small-scale industrial activity is also indicated by the presence of a small quarry (PRN 54641) to the south of the farmstead.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of traditional buildings within the farmstead complex (PRN 21365), protecting the structural integrity and character of the buildings using appropriate materials. Many of these buildings are grade II listed, advice from the local building conservation officer should be sought prior to any work affecting the structure and character of the buildings.

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
PARC POUND;BRIXTON STONES;PARC HOUND <u>(5067)</u>	Neolithic?/ Chambered tomb?;natural feature?	SN28831203	U		Generic
A group of stones first recorded by Curtis in 1889 in his Antiquities of Laugharne as 'marking the burial place of some Briton' and subsequently described by the RCAHMW in 1917 as 'probably the remains of a ruined cromlech'. More recent visits to the site have suggested these stones may be a natural feature although most recently a visit in 2001 suggested they may represent the remains of a cairn rather than a chambered tomb, possibly part of a wider Bronze Age ritual and funerary landscape including numerous standing stones that had been formerly recorded in the surrounding landscape. This site has been described as a group of three recumbant stones lying deeply embedded in the soil, protruding to a height of c0.3m enclosing a small U-shaped area with a small hole possibly drilled into the largest stone (Barker 1992). On the farm visit in 2005 no visible remains of these stones could be located at the given grid reference. They lie in a field of improved pasture that has been regularly ploughed over the years and may have been removed recently as part of this process. <i>Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)</i>					
BRIXTON FARM <u>(8037)</u>	Bronze Age;Post Med/ Standing stone?;rubbing stone	SN29091242	U		Generic
This stone was one of a complex of standing stones located on the land of Brixton Farm and formed part of a group of at least 7, and perhaps 10, standing stones and possibly a chambered tomb covering an area c.900m E-W and c.500m N-S on a particular hillslope overlooking the River Coran to the south and running into the Taf estuary to the east above Laugharne. There is no longer a standing stone in this area, and the stone has been moved/destroyed. Standing stones are generally thought to be Bronze Age in date (c2000 - 500BC) and may have been sites for ritual/religious activity and/or landscape markers. Sites such as these may have been used over very long periods of time and, therefore, were probably put to many different uses. <i>Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)</i>					
BRIXTON FARM <u>(8043)</u>	Bronze Age;Post Med/ Standing stone?:rubbing	SN28631218	U		Generic

stone?

One of a complex of at least 7, possibly 10 standing stones covering an area c900m E-W and c500m N-S on a hillslope overlooking the River Coran. This stone was apparently destroyed in the 1940s, there are now no archaeological traces of a monument in the area indicated by the grid reference, nor in the immediately surrounding area. The site lies in a field regularly ploughed. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

BRIXTON FARM (8044) **Bronze Age;Post** **SN286124** **U** **Generic**
Med/ Standing
stone?;rubbing
stone?

One of a complex of at least 7, possibly 10 standing stones covering an area c900m E-W and c500m N-S on a hillslope overlooking the River Coran. There are now no archaeological traces of a monument in the area indicated by the grid reference, nor in the immediately surrounding area. The site lies in a field of improved pasture and has presumably been removed/destroyed to allow ploughing. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

BRIXTON FARM (8045) **Post Med;Bronze** **SN28891247** **U** **Generic**
Age/ Rubbing
stone?;standing
stone?

One of a complex of at least 7, possibly 10 standing stones covering an area c900m E-W and c500m N-S on a hillslope overlooking the River Coran. A quernstone (3918) was found in the same original location as this stone and although this is recorded as a possible Roman find, it is worth noting that querns were often found associated with Neolithic/Bronze age monuments and could therefore be contemporary with this standing stone, as well as authenticating the site as a prehistoric monument rather than a Post Medieval rubbing stone. The site lies in a field of improved pasture that is regularly ploughed and appears to have been moved/destroyed at some point to clear the field for ploughing as there is no trace of a stone at this grid reference. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

BRIXTON (21365) **Post Med/** **SN28821228** **B** **LB2** **Generic**
Farmstead

A farmstead complex including early to mid 19th century grade II listed buildings. Little is known about the history of the farmstead, although the buildings indicate considerable investment in the early to mid 19th century in what must have been a relatively high status estate farmstead. The traditional buildings are described in section ii below. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. Traditional buildings also survive on this farmstead that may require additional management (see management prescriptions section ii). *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

(54640) **Post Med/ Quarry** **SN2871011970** **C** **Generic**

A small quarry marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Marked as 'old quarry' on 1889 suggesting it was already out of use by that time. Presumably used to quarry stone for repairs to the local farmstead. Little trace of the quarry now remains. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

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	BRIXTON (<u>16148</u>)	Post Med/ Stable	SN28821228	B	LB2	Specific
	<p>A grade II listed cartshed and stable building, dated to the mid 19th century and part of farmstead complex PRN 21365. The building lies to the northeast of the main range (PRN 16145), 2-storeys high, built of whitewashed mortared rubble with an asbestos roof. A camber headed double cart doorway with brick vousssoirs opens to the west. Stone steps on the north gable wall lead to the 1st floor stable loft. The building appears in relatively good condition although ivy is growing up the exposed southern gable wall, entering the inside of the building through window openings. <i>Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)</i></p>					
	 <p>East facing shot of stable/cartshed.</p>					
2	BRIXTON (<u>21365</u>)	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN28821228	B	LB2	Specific
	<p>A farmstead complex including early to mid 19th century grade II listed buildings. The complex includes a farmhouse (PRN 16144), a combination barn range (PRN 16145), a horse engine house (PRN 16146) and stable/cartshed (PRN 16147) described above. Further 19th century buildings survive, to the NE are the remains of the side walls of a barn building, aligned N-S with an adjacent corrugated iron building with brick corner pillars. To the south of barn range PRN 16145 lies a small mortared rubble building built in the same style, possibly a former brewhouse with a mortared rubble and brick built former pigsty to the SE. The range of farm buildings marked on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map to the south of the main barn building have since been partly demolished and replaced. A large corrugated iron open-sided hay barn lies to the south, incorporating part of an old building wall in its western side. To the west of this lies a modern concrete rendered dairy building and between this and the main barn range lies an open side cowhouse also incorporating part of an old building wall. Little is known about the history of the farmstead, although the buildings indicate considerable investment in the early to mid 19th century in what must have been a relatively high status estate farmstead. This is a working farmstead complex with most of the buildings still in use and in a relatively good condition. Ivy is growing on the stable/cartshed noted above, vegetation is also quite thick around the remains of farm buildings to the north and is dislodging bricks within the corner</p>					

pillars of the mainly corrugated iron building. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

BRIXTON (16144)

**Post Med/
Farmhouse**

SN288122 B LB2

Generic

A grade II listed farmhouse dated to the earlier 19th century. U-shaped in plan, 2-storey with a lower cross range to the rear. Built of whitewashed stone rubble with slate roofs. A cast iron water pump by Bamford of Uttoxeter lies in a small paved yard to the rear. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*

BRIXTON (16145)

**Post Med/
Combination farm
building**

SN288122 B LB2

Generic

A large grade II listed mid 19th century farm building range, built of mortared rubble, 2 storeys high with an asbestos roof. The main range consists of a stable at the western end, cowhouse in the centre and cartshed at the eastern end. The stable and cowhouse have both been segmentally vaulted in brick running lengthways with the cartshed transversely vaulted, a rare feature in this area. The entrances all have brick voussoirs except the larger cart entrance, both stable and cart entrances are arched, cowhouse entrances square headed with 'porthole' ventilation. A drainage passage runs along the length of the range to the rear. The 1st floor contains a hay loft with a long boarded threshing floor. There is single storey access to the rear, loft openings in the front wall are partly blocked, although the winch has been retained. Pigeon boxes run the length of the building, with several tiers of boxes in the western gable wall. Attached to the east is a slightly lower 2-storey range at a slightly splayed angle. This houses a former chaff room at the western end, with corn store above and a lofted stable at the eastern end. The gable wall has slit ventilators and twin segmental cart entrances. This end originally had a wheel pit with water fed from ponds to the east. This whole range is still in use and appears in relatively good condition, although the ceiling of the former chaff room is showing signs of deterioration with splits in the beams and holes in the floor boards visible. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*



NW facing shot of combination farm building.



Internal shot of cowhouse in the centre of the main range of the combination farm building, showing the unusual brick vaulted ceiling.

BRIXTON (16146)

**Post Med/ Horse
engine house**

SN288122 B LB2

Generic

A grade II listed octagonal horse engine house dating to the mid 19th century, part of farmstead complex PRN 21365. The partly asbestos/slate roof sits on whitewashed stone and brick piers, with modern brick infilling in between. The horses would have turned a driveshaft passing into the adjacent hayloft via a low opening. Apparently some of the machinery remains on the site. This building is long disused but in a stable weatherproof condition. *Visited 17/08/2005 (PP)*



SW facing shot of horse engine house.

CROSS INN VILLA
(54641)

Post Med/ Cottage SN2917312485 U

Generic

A cottage marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888/9. Still marked on current maps and appears to be still in use as a dwelling. This site was not visited during the farm survey and may lay outside the bounds of this farm holding.

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

BRIXTON (16148)

SN28821228

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to ensure the survival of the traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of traditional farm buildings as a whole. The stable/cartshed building is in a relatively good condition however ivy has established itself on the southern gable wall. The roots of the ivy may penetrate cracks and joints causing structural damage, possibly hiding defects and hindering maintenance.

- The ivy should be cut back and removed from the building.

Site 2 on MAP 1

BRIXTON (21365)

SN28821228

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to ensure the survival of the traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of traditional farm buildings as a whole. Specific recommendations for the cartshed/stable PRN 16147 are described above. Generally the buildings appear in good condition and stable. However, thick vegetation is growing around the remains of a barn building and a corrugated iron building at the NE edge of the farmstead complex. Vegetation is also growing in and around brick corner pillars of the corrugated iron building, dislodging some of the bricks.

- Vegetation may have to be cut back in this area to ensure the visibility and long term survival of traditional buildings on the edge of the farmstead complex.
- Vegetation should be carefully removed from the brick pillars which may require consolidation and repair using materials appropriate the farmstead complex as a whole. Advice should be sought from the local buildings conservation officer prior to any work on the fabric of the building as this building may fall within the curtilage of listed buildings at this farmstead.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

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This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the HE1 report for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Barker, C.T. 1992. The Chambered Tombs of South-West Wales.

Bestley, N. 2001. Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Project, West Carmarthenshire.

Cadw. Listed Buildings Database.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record

Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Area 147

Laugharne Parish, Pendine and Llanddowror.

Ordnance Survey 1831 Old Series 1" map, No.XLI

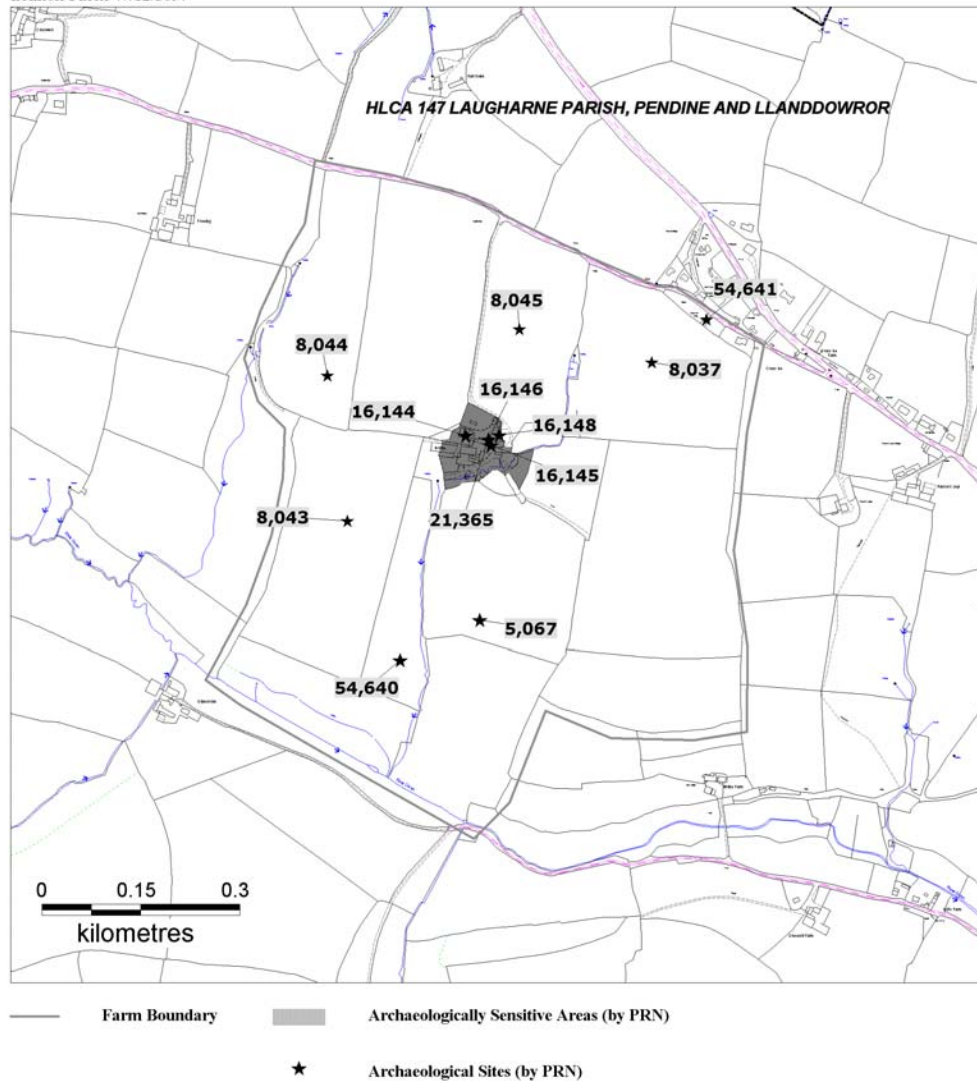
Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XLV.5 & 6

Ordnance Survey 1889 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XLV.9 & 10

Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XLV.5, 6, 9 & 10

RCAHMW 1917 Carmarthenshire Inventory.

Brixton Farm W/12/5097



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CARMARTHENSHIRE: TAF & TYWI ESTUARY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: **147 LAUGHARNE PARISH, PENDINE AND LLANDDOWROR**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 280115

AREA IN HECTARES: 2528.00

Historic Background

A very large historic landscape area comprising much of the eastern half of the Medieval Lordship of Laugharne, and lying in Laugharne, Llandawke, Llanddowror, Llansadurnen and Pendine parishes. The greater part comprises Laugharne parish which, in this area, was partly common land in the Medieval period. In 1278-82, Sir Guy be Brian granted free common to the burgesses of Laugharne in lands to the north of the town almost to St Clears (Williams, n.d.; Davies, 1955).

However, it is clear from a 1307 *Inquisition post Mortem* (National Library of Wales 10118E Vol. 1) that Sir Guy reserved arable and other lands within the parish for the demesne of Laugharne. Several places and tenants are named, though the form of settlement and field system employed is not known. It is probable that in the 13th- and 14th-century settlements consisted of small nuclei or loose clusters set in fields of shared arable, surrounded and separated by common. A small area of common survived at Broadmoor/Upper Moor in 1842 (Laugharne tithe map), but had clearly been encroached upon by squatters and much reduced in size. Some land close to Laugharne clearly consisted of open- or strip-fields; modern fields at Sir John's Hill reflect this early system and there are many references to the creation of fields from strips in 16th- and 17th-century documents in the National Library of Wales. It is likely that new, isolated farms were created with the abandonment of the open field systems. Llansadurnen parish was similarly farmed in an open field system, which according to manuscript sources was finally abandoned in the late 18th- or even early 19th-century. There is no trace of such a system in the modern landscape. In the 19th century a loose cluster of farms lay around the St Sadwrnen's church; a possible Dark Age foundation, the present church dates to 1859 (Ludlow, 1998). Pendine is in many respects similar to Llansadurnen, though documentary sources suggest that engrossing and enclosure of the open field system here was almost complete by the 18th century. The holding now occupied by Pendine Great House may be medieval - the first recorded occupant was William Barret in the earlier 16th century (Jones 1987, 147), but the house stands next to the parish church of St Margaret, with elements dating to the 12th century (Ludlow, 1998). It is not possible to ascertain the extent of any accompanying medieval settlement but in the 19th century, a loose cluster of farms and other dwellings lay around the church possibly reflecting an old settlement pattern. The isolated church of St Odoceus at Llandawke is of Medieval date, and is possibly of Dark Age foundation. In 1840 (tithe map) Llandawke was a tiny parish of one land holding. What appear to be enclosed strips show on the tithe map, indicating the former presence of an open field system. The date of enclosure of such a system and the pre-modern settlement pattern is entirely unknown. Unlike the above which in the Medieval period all lay within the Lordship of Laugharne, Llanddowror was a separate lordship (Rees 1932), which may reflect pre-conquest land division. Certainly the dedication of the church to St Teilo (or Cringat) suggests a pre-Conquest foundation. A nucleated settlement around the church was in existence by the mid 19th century, a settlement that had been given an extra lease of life by the construction of a turnpike road in the late 18th century. Documentary evidence for the existence of an open field system at Llanddowror has not been

researched, and though there is physical evidence in the modern landscape to indicate such a system was employed, its date of enclosure is unknown. The essential character of this historic landscape area has changed very little since the surveys for estate maps of the late 18th century, and tithe maps of c. 1840, were undertaken. Modern dwellings have been constructed, but as these are either dispersed across the landscape replicating the pattern of old established farms, or are grouped in the semi-nucleated settlements of Pendine, Llanddowror and Llansadurnen, they tend to emphasise historic patterns.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This very large area runs from a few metres above sea level on its southern fringes at Brook to over 150m at its highest point. It consists of rolling hills, sometimes with deeply incised valleys. Many of the steeper valley sides are covered with deciduous woodland, at least some of it ancient, intermixed with which are some small conifer plantations. However, the overriding characteristic of this area is enclosed pasture with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms and small villages. Fields are irregular and mostly small- to medium-sized, though with larger enclosures at higher levels. Boundaries are of variable date and consist of earth banks topped with hedges, with very occasional mortared walls. Hedges are in good condition and generally stockproof and vary from the heavily managed to the overgrown. Distinctive hedgerow trees are present in some areas, and these with the overgrown hedges and the small stands of woodland give a wooded appearance to certain parts of this area. Only at higher levels has there been some loss of hedges, but this is not severe and wire here provides the stockproof boundary. In the villages of Pendine, Llansadurnen and Llanddowror settlement is clustered around the churches. Older dwellings consist of farms and cottages of mainly 18th- and 19th-century date supplemented by later 20th-century dwellings in a variety of styles and materials. However, modern development has not overwhelmed these villages. Rural settlement is dominated by large farms dispersed across the landscape. Farmhouses are mainly of 19th century date and stone-built, often with a range of stone-built out-buildings which have been supplemented by modern farm buildings in recent years. Modern dwellings have been constructed, but in a low-key manner; and Cross Inn is the only substantial cluster of houses outside the historic villages.

In such a large area the archaeology is accordingly rich and diverse, and most periods are represented. There are a number of standing stones, and possible standing stone sites, Iron Age settlement sites, Medieval settlements, churches and mills, and a large number of Post-Medieval cottages and farmsteads.

Buildings are mainly stone-built with slate roofs. The Medieval churches at Llandawke and Pendine, which have medieval components, are Grade II listed, while that at Llanddowror is Grade B listed. However, distinctive buildings are comparatively uncommon, and there are few gentry houses. Pendine Great House, with its gate-piers, is Grade II listed, and is probably 17th century with later alterations. There are 10 more listed buildings, all Grade II and mainly agricultural but including one K6 telephone kiosk.

To the south, southwest and east this area is well defined by several landscape areas of widely differing characteristics. To the southwest lies the open moor of Marros Mountain (Area 135) and a steep coastal slope (Area 133). To the south is modern development at Pendine and Llanmiloe (Area 139), a relict, heavily wooded cliff line (Area 140) or reclaimed marsh (Area 143). The town of Laugharne (area 149) and extant or enclosed open field systems (Areas 145, 148, 150) lie to the east. Definition elsewhere is problematic, there being no clear boundary - generally to the north and west there is a less coherent landscape,

field size varies but tends towards the large and regular, and settlement becomes more dispersed.

Conservation priorities

Pendine, Llanddowror and Llansadwrnen villages have maintained their nucleated character. In order to maintain this character ribbon- and dispersed-settlement on the fringes of the villages should be discouraged. Outside the villages most of the historic landscape components are in good condition. However, 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.