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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Westmead**



Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5500

Prepared by
Will Steele

Report No. **2006/72**
Project No. **54225**

Other documents enclosed:

**Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions: 139 Pendine and Llanmiloe,
143 Laugharne and Pendine Marsh, 144 Laugharne and
Pendine Burrows & 147 Laugharne Parish, Pendine and Llanddowror.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Westmead Farm is centred on NGR SN29560914 in Llanddowror community, Carmarthenshire overlooking Carmarthen Bay. The farm includes land which runs from a few metres above sea level to over 140m at its highest point.

This coastal area lies within the Taf and Tywi Estuary Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 9). It has also been assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and the farm falls between areas 139: Pendine and Llanmiloe, 143: Laugharne and Pendine Marsh, 144: Laugharne and Pendine Burrows and 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.

For much of its history the area below the farmstead would have consisted of marsh and salt marsh. It was not until 1660 when Sir Sackville Crow came into possession of the marsh that a scheme of drainage was initiated with the construction of sea walls. Drainage allowed for the establishment of new farms - a process that was complete for the tithe survey of the 1840s - and by the late 18th century Laugharne March comprised the best farmland in the country. Charles Hassall (1974, 15) described how the land could be made more productive by ridging up the land by the use of the Dutch Plough and the earthworks are still a distinctive landscape component today. Drainage work continued into the 19th century. Since the Second World War a Ministry of Defence research establishment has used the dunes for tests, and a number of military installations have been constructed.

Behind the marsh the land rises up steep wooded slopes before levelling out at around 140m. The area behind consists primarily of enclosed pasture with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms and small villages. Fields are irregular and mostly small to medium sized. What appear to be enclosed strips shown on the tithe map indicate the former presence of a medieval open field system over at least some of the area. Wind turbines are a recent component of the landscape here.

Archaeological and Historic Content

There are documentary references to Westmead from at least the latter part of the 16th century when it was owned by Sir John Perrot (who was rumoured to be the illegitimate son of Henry VIII). It later fell under the ownership of the notable Sir Sackville Crowe who owned extensive properties in the area including the Lordship of Laugharne. He is said to have built the mansion house of Westmead (PRN 11646) and initiated a scheme of drainage on the marsh. Charles Hassall later described how the land could be made more productive by ridging up the land by the use of the Dutch Plough and by the end of the eighteenth century Laugharne Marsh comprised some of the best agricultural land in the county. Traces of 17th century sea walls survive on the farm (embankment PRN 44700) and the successive enclosures of the early 19th century are well preserved whilst the earthworks of improvement period ridge and furrow, in this instance ridge and drain, are a unique component of the historic landscape (PRN 39280).

Perhaps the earliest detailed account of the Westmead Estate comes from records when the estate was advertised to be sold by auction on 26th July 1821. The catalogue describes the "manor of Westmead" at that time extending over the parishes of Laugharne, Marros, Kyffig, Pendine and Llansadwrnen, consisting of 7280 acres. Not all of the estate was sold and in 1841 Westmead Farm (PRN 25553) was still under the ownership of the previous occupier. The fortunes of the mansion declined when due to a crippling window tax equalling the rent it was eventually abandoned. It was ruinous by 1900 and was demolished after 1942. Sections of garden and orchard wall on the farm are now all that remain.

The present day land holding of Westmead Farm also includes the estate farmsteads of Cynyogs Well (PRN 56469) and Brook Farm (PRN 24926). The first is now ruinous but Westmead and Brook retain elements of estate character with many components mentioned in the 1821 sale catalogue still present.

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

The priority for Westmead Farm is the sensitive management of the improvement period landscape on the marshes ie. the drainage ditches and ridge and furrow earthworks.

- The best practice option is to revert temporary leys in rotational cultivation to permanent grassland.
 - Where this is not possible lower impact cultivation practices should be put in place to limit the erosion of the ridge and furrow earthworks. Ideally crops (eg. maize) should not be grown on the marsh but re-seeding could continue.
 - Continue to maintain the drainage ditches taking care not to alter their original profile.
-

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
WESTMEAD (11646)	Medieval?;Post Med mansion	SN260092	B		Generic
Formerly one of the county's finest mansions and home of the notable Sir Sackville Crow in the 17th century. It is said that the window tax equalled the estate rental and by the end of the nineteenth century it had been abandoned, standing increasingly ruinous until it was demolished in 1942. Sections of the garden and orchard wall are all that remain. A school now occupies the site of the house.					
UNKNOWN (22337)	Post Med cottage	SN27280868	B		Generic
An un-named cottage recorded on the parish tithe map of 1841 but not shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1889. No above ground remains survive.					
KENNOCKSWELL; CYNOG'S WELL (25554)	Post Med farmstead	SN26010982	B		Generic
The now derelict farmstead of Cynogs Well, formerly Kennocks Well. Its history goes back to at least 1307- a settlement (PRN 9688) is mentioned here in an inquisition of that time. Kennocks Well is included in a sale catalogue and estate map of 1821 when described with a farm house, stable. cow house, beast house, piggery and some 93 acres of arable and pasture land.					
Many of the elements described have been lost, the complex having been abandoned for a number of years now. The house at the north end of the yard and a large combination range opposite are ruinous with many of their original features difficult to discern. A cart shed to the west with high brick arch is still weatherproof but also falling into disrepair. Woodland vegetation obscures much of the site.					



Much of Cynogs Well farmstead is now ruinous.

PENDINE BURROWS **Modern? road** **SN26380840** **C** **Generic**
[\(29938\)](#)

A tarmac road across the MOD test range facility at Pendine burrows. It runs roughly south east from West Marsh to terminate on the Burrows. Recorded on 1946 RAF aerial photographs.

[\(44700\)](#) **Post Med** **SN2687308692** **B** **Generic**
embankment

The embankment dates from Sir Sackville Crow's drainage of Laugharne Marsh in 1659-1660. Crow's instruction was to build the bank "six foot high in earth and eighteen foot deep in the sole". The bank ran for 1.5km. Most of the line has now been used for access roads. Only a short section of the original bank survives. The description of this site is unchanged.



An intact section of the embankment. Looking north.

Ffynnon Gynog possibly the site of a former holy well. St. Cynog was a son of Brychan king of Wales during the 5th century. We have no further information relating to a holy well at this location. No well is known at the farm.

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	WESTMEAD FARM (25553)	Post Med farmstead	SN25980922	B	Specific
<p>A working farmstead complex, historically the home farm of the Westmead estate. The farmstead is recorded in a sale catalogue of 1821 and marked on the accompanying estate map. The catalogue mentions the farmhouse, with a large farmyard, barn, stable for five horses, wagon and cart sheds, pigsty, dog kennel and other outbuildings.</p> <p>Many elements of the early nineteenth century layout can still be traced. The farmstead includes a two storey symmetrical fronted house with lateral outshut, a large stone and slate cowshed, stable cart shed, granary and pigeon loft range and a much modified stone threshing barn (now a milking parlour). Despite modernisation (eg. rendered exterior to house and barn, altered outbuilding interiors) the farmstead retains elements of historic interest. The long south range is formally designed, well built and remarkably intact. A threshing barn opposite with rough cut, wooden pegged A-frame trusses bedded into the wall tops probably relates to an earlier, pre-nineteenth century phase of construction. The farm buildings are generally well maintained and in good order, although some roofing slates are displaced on the main long range and corrugated asbestos has been used as a substitute for slate in parts. Modern agricultural buildings lie behind the historic core to the east.</p>					



The main range on the south side of the yard at Westmead.

BROOK FARM ([24926](#)) **Post Med major dwelling;farmstead** **SN26700940** **B** **Generic**

Occupied farmstead complex. Jones (1987) records an early reference to the name from a deed dated 1584 relating to Thomas Perrot "late of Broke".

The earliest detailed information about Brook Farm is from 1821 when it appears in a sale catalogue and estate map of the Westmead Estate and is described with "a very good farmhouse" with a yard, barn, stable, granary, beast and cart houses, cow house, blacksmiths workshop and other outbuildings as well as five labourers cottages. The farmstead is formally planned and well built. A U-plan layout is shown with the house at the head of the yard and impressive long outbuilding ranges on either side. The layout is basically unaltered today.

The farmstead is currently occupied and under mixed use: the west range is subject to a planning application for conversion whilst the east range is still used for agricultural purposes. It is long building, showing some expense in its construction with double threshing floors at the southern end and cattle stalling to the north with upper granary and loose boxes to the rear. It is stone built with cut granite heads to door and window openings and a state roof. Changing agricultural practices have seen modifications to the interior. The opposite range was not seen during the Tir Gofal visit.



The main range on the east side of the yard at Brook Farm shares characteristics with outbuildings at Westmead.

LITTLE BURROWS ([44701](#)) **Post Med farmstead** **SN2787108197** **B** **Generic**

Minor farmstead established in the early 19th century on recently reclaimed saltmarsh. Shown with three buildings around a rectangular yard on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1889. Nineteenth century elements include a vernacular two storey stone and slate cottage with symmetrical front and a rear annex, and stone and slate outbuildings: a double cartshed and a long low cow house. Brick and asbestos buildings were added in the early twentieth century. The farmstead is presently unoccupied and no longer being maintained.

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

WESTMEAD FARM ([25553](#))

SN25980922

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

Building restoration is proposed to the main south range under Tir Gofal capital works options.

The range is a historically interesting building, with many fine original features surviving, and is a central element of the nineteenth century farmstead group. Restoration should be considered a priority.

It is intended that repairs will be made to the roof of this range- re-slating the roof and repairing roof timbers as necessary.

The following is recommended:

- Care should be taken to re-use the maximum number of old slates possible. New slates should, ideally match the type, colour, texture, size and thickness of the existing ones. New slates can be mixed with old ones across the roof or reserved for less prominent slopes.
- Wherever possible repair original features rather than replace them. Re-use or repair elements of the old roof structure as far as practically possible.

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
WESTMEAD (55612)	Post Med garden	SN2575309035	B	Generic
Sections of the garden and orchard wall are now all that remain. A school now occupies much of the former area of the house and gardens.				

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.

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

Sources consulted:

Cambria Archaeology Historic Environment Record

Curtis, M 1880 The Antiquities of Laugharne, Pendine and their Neighbourhoods, p260-1

Jones, F. 1987. Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and Their Families

Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Areas 139

Pendine and Llanmiloe, 143 Laugharne and Pendine Marsh, 144 Laugharne and

Pendine Burrows & 147 Laugharne Parish, Pendine and Llanddowror.

Ordnance Survey 1889 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XLV.13

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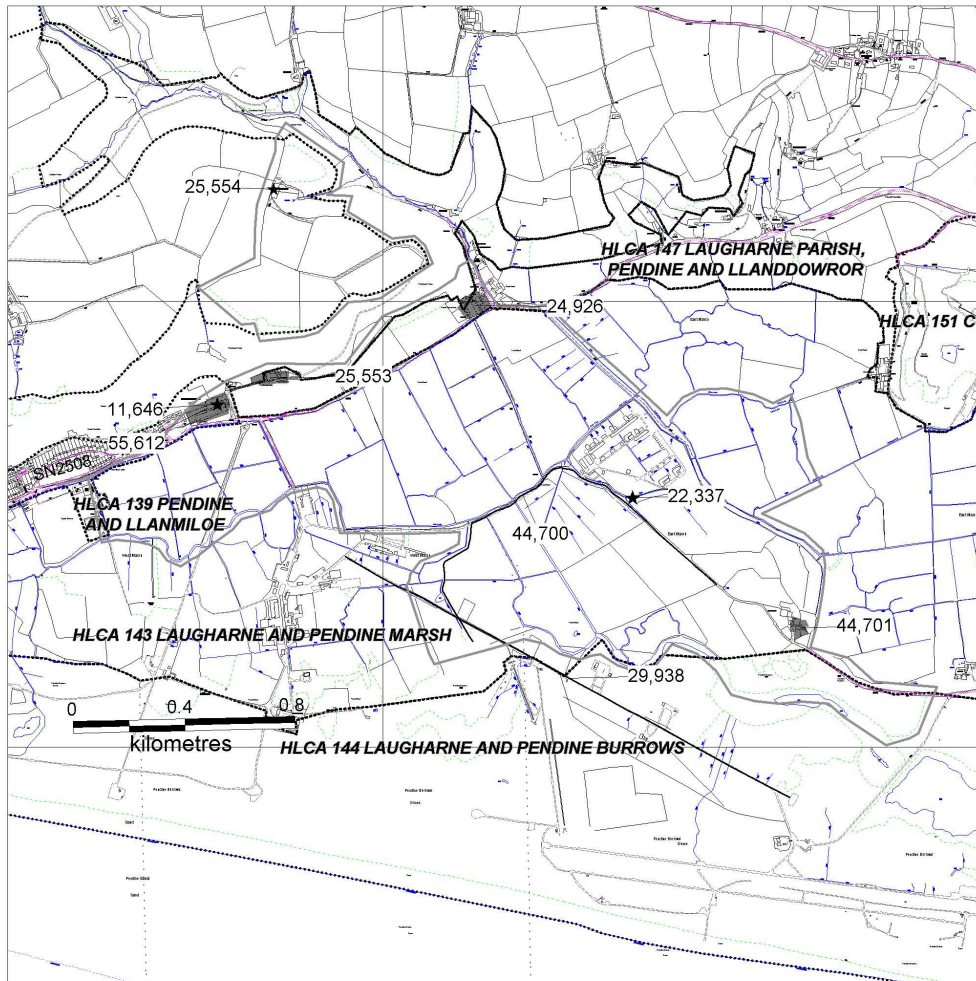
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Page, N. (Cambria Archaeology) 2002 Proposed Ragworm Farm at Pendine, Carmarthenshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Cambria Archaeology, report no.2002/28, PRN 44698.

1821. Part of sales catalogue for Westmead Estate, estate plan and schedule

Westmead Farm W/12/5500



	Farm Boundary		Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)		Linear Archaeological Feature (by PRN)
	Historic Landscape Character Area		Archaeological Sites (by PRN)		

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CARMARTHENSHIRE: TAF & TYWI ESTUARY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 139 PENDINE AND LLANMILOE

GRID REFERENCE: SN 232084

AREA IN HECTARES: 82.61

Historic Background

Pendine was a manor of the post-Conquest Lordship of Laugharne, held of the de Brian lords from the 13th century; the village itself lies in Area 147. On the tithe survey of c. 1842 (Pendine tithe map) a small settlement of four houses and a lime kiln is shown on the shoreline, hard against the foot of a steep slope, with a cluster of houses further up the hillside at New Inn. At Llanmiloe to the east stood Westmead Mansion in its grounds, and Llanmiloe House (Laugharne Parish tithe map). The former holding was owned by John Perrot, Lord of Laugharne, in the 16th century but the present house was built by Sir Sackville Crow in the 17th century (Lloyd 1986, 56). The latter dates to the 1720s and was acquired for military use during the Second World War when a Ministry of Defence research establishment was set up on the marsh to the south (see Area 143). A tourist industry developed at Pendine during the latter part of the 19th century and the 20th century. At first development was low-key, consisting of the construction of villas, a public house and a small hotel. However, since the Second World War Pendine and Llanmiloe have experienced large-scale changes with the building of extensive holiday and caravan parks, and the foundation of a Ministry of Defence research establishment, worker housing for the latter in the form of small estates including 'prefabs' - now rare survivors of post-war social housing - and more recent brick and concrete dwellings. A narrow band of land from Llanmiloe to Pendine is now continuously developed with housing, shops and caravan/holiday parks.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area occupies the coastal fringe at Pendine and comprises former reclaimed marsh, sand dune, and the lower built-up hillside of the coastal slope lying between 5 m and c.30 m above sea level. Apart from Llanmiloe House, the earliest surviving development consists of cottages, a hotel and public house, and 19th century villas on the sea front and coastal slopes. This early development has been swamped however by caravan/holiday parks on the reclaimed marsh at Pendine, and by housing development at Llanmiloe for workers at the nearby Ministry of Defence research establishment. Included in this housing is a small estate of post-war 'prefabs'. Most of the housing is of a more recent date. The Museum of Speed, celebrating the attempts on the land-speed record on Pendine sands in the 1920s, has recently been established on the sea front.

Recorded archaeology is restricted to the Post-Medieval-modern sea defences at Pendine.

Buildings are all stone-built with slate roofs. Llanmiloe House is an imposing structure of several periods, but the central block is probably from the 1720s; the well-preserved Edwardian garden, mainly from 1908-12, is entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 1 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle, 1999).

The Pendine and Llanmiloe historic landscape character area is contained and therefore well defined. It stands in sharp contrast to the steep, wooded coastal slope (Area 140) and enclosed farmland (Area 147) to the north, and sand dunes (Area 144) and reclaimed marsh (Area 143) to the south.

Conservation priorities

The only conservation priorities concern Llanmiloe historic park and garden.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TAF & TYWI ESTUARY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 143 LAUGHARNE AND PENDINE MARSH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 281086

AREA IN HECTARES: 958.00

Historic Background

From the later prehistoric period until Medieval times, this area probably comprised salt marsh and patches of rough pasture on marginally higher ground, interspersed with fresh and brackish-water lagoons. In a borough charter of 1278-82 (Williams n.d.) it is stated that Sir Guy de Brian granted certain privileges and rights to the burgesses of Laugharne 'in the marsh of Talacharn called Menecors'. However, it is clear that Sir Guy kept the greater part of the marsh in his own hands as part of the demesne of the Lordship of Laugharne, as on his death in 1307, 1000 acres of pasture in 'le Marcis' were recorded in an *Inquisition post Mortem* (National Library of Wales 10118E Vol. 1). In 1595, the first record of habitations occurs, when the 'dairies' of Hurst House, East House and Brook House were noted in a survey (Laugharne Corporation). These three dwellings are either on the fringes of the marsh or on islands of higher ground. The term dairy indicates pasture, perhaps on a seasonal basis, as it is likely that the marsh was subjected to flooding and tidal inundation in the winter months. Prior to 1595, Sir John Perrot, Lord of Laugharne, cheated the burgesses of Laugharne out of their share of their marsh, adding it to the demesne established by Guy de Brian. Sir John used the marsh for large-scale sheep farming. However, a small part of the marsh known as 'The Lees' remained in the hands of the burgesses and was later cultivated using an open- or strip-field system (Davies, 1955). The Lees is still owned by Laugharne Corporation, though in character it is indistinguishable from the rest of the marsh. It was not until 1660 when Sir Sackville Crow came into possession of the marsh that a scheme of drainage was initiated with the construction of sea walls (Murphy, forthcoming). Drainage allowed for the establishment of new farms - a process that was complete by the tithe survey of the 1840s - and by the late 18th-century Laugharne Marsh comprised the best farmland in the county. Charles Hassall (1794, 15) described how the land could be made more productive by ridging-up the land by the use of the Dutch Plough. Drainage work continued in the 19th century. A large sea-wall armoured with stone, and a quay, were constructed at the east end of the marsh in 1800-10 by George Watkins of Broadway and connected to Coygan Quarry by a tramway (James 1991, 150), and in c. 1840 a wall across the Witchett Brook was built. Watkins's work seems to have been part of wide-ranging improvements as most of the farms (all part of Broadway estate) were rebuilt in c.1820 in a 'Georgian' style and provided with good ranges of outbuildings. A Ministry of Defence research establishment has been founded across part of the south and southeast portion of this historic landscape character area.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This historic landscape character area consists of flat land some 6km by 1.5km just a few metres above sea level. It is characterised by regularly-shaped fields of pasture. These fields are divided by drainage ditches which are usually accompanied by wire fences, though in the central area of the Marsh, south of Coygan Quarry, low hedges parallel some of the ditches. Towards the eastern end of the Marsh fields become less regular and tend to reflect the dendritic pattern of the pre-drainage salt marsh. Two phases of sea wall separate this area from the salt marsh to the east. Pasture is the dominant land use, mostly improved, but with pockets of unimproved ground. There is limited arable and no old woodland. Towards the western edge the land is becoming neglected and rushes are growing. Ridge and furrow, or rather in this instance ridge and drain, is everywhere apart from between the two phases of sea wall at the eastern edge. This ridge and furrow is a distinct component of the historic landscape. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Farm buildings are generally two-storey and stone built. Farmhouses are in a 'Georgian' style and farms were provided with large ranges of outbuildings which were usually located formally around a yard. These early 19th-century estate farms lend a distinctive architectural signature to the area. Farms have modern agricultural buildings associated with them. The Ministry of Defence research establishment across part of the southern portion of this historic landscape character area has erased many landscape components. Many new buildings and tracks and have been constructed and the planting of shelter belts and scrubby woodland to shield the establishment from view have further altered the character of part of the area.

All recorded archaeological features relate to the reclamation and land-use described above.

There are some distinctive buildings. Date stones on several of the farms indicate a major period of rebuilding in c. 1820 by the Broadway estate. Hurst House and its farm buildings are both Grade II listed.

This is a very distinct character area with clear boundaries between it and its neighbours.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. The drainage system and pattern of ridge and furrow are important and unusual historic landscape elements; it is important that the drains are maintained and the ridge and furrow preserved. 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TAF & TYWI ESTUARY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 144 LAUGHARNE AND PENDINE BURROWS

GRID REFERENCE: SN 280074

AREA IN HECTARES: 730.60

Historic Background

An area of sand dunes fronting Laugharne Marsh (Area 143), which probably began to form in the second millennium BC in common with other coastal areas of South Wales (Higgins, 1933). The discovery early in the 20th century of shell middens in the dunes, seemingly associated with prehistoric finds, supports an early date for sand incursion (Cantrill, 1909). The dunes lay within the Lordship of Laugharne during the Medieval period, but were clearly of little economic use. The present system of an unbroken chain of dunes from Pendine to the Taf estuary is fairly modern. Terry James (1991, 148-51) has demonstrated that the Witchett Brook opened out through the dunes as late as the 1830s, when a dam and engine house were constructed across it. Since the Second World War a Ministry of Defence research establishment has used the dunes for tests, and many installations have been constructed within them.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a very extensive system of sand dunes, running for over 9 km from Pendine in the west to the Taf estuary in the east. It is 1km to 1.5km wide between Laugharne Marsh (Area 143) and High Water Mark. Historic landscape components are confined to the modern period and comprise many installations, buildings and tracks associated with the Ministry of Defence research establishment.

Recorded archaeology similarly mainly relates to the Ministry of Defence and to Post-Medieval drainage schemes but there is a possible settlement site, of unknown date (prehistoric?) and several findspots and middens.

Distinctive buildings are confined to the recent Ministry of Defence structures.

This is a distinct landscape area, and effectively separates Pendine beach and foreshore from Area 143 to the north.

Conservation priorities

There are no historic landscape conservation priorities in this area.

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.