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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for:
Penlanfawr**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5565**

**ACA Report No. 2006/86
Project Record No. 54246**

Prepared by Will Steele

Other documents enclosed:

**Historic Landscape Character Areas 381 DREFACH - FELINDRE
382 DYFFRYN BARGOD AND DYFFRYN ESGAIR
390 PENBOYR**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Penlanfawr farm consists of a single holding which lies in the community of Llangeler. This landscape has been registered by Cadw and ICOMOS as an area of Special Historic Interest (Drefach and Felindre : HLW (D) 10), due to the concentration of remains relating to the woollen textile industry within the narrow valleys of the Brân, the Esgair and the Bargod. Here the steep sided narrow valleys channel swiftly flowing streams and the harnessing of this plentiful water power is evident by the number of mills, factories and associated industrial housing.

The landscape has been more fully described as part of the Historic Landscape Character Assessment project and, within the holding, is subdivided into; HLCA 381 Drefach and Felindre, HLCA 382 Dyffryn Bargod and Dyffryn Esgair and HLCA 390 Penboyr.

Archaeological and Historic Content

An Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 2282) has been recorded on the western side of the holding. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments who visited the site in 1913 found no trace of an earthwork, but they remark that one is said to have been completely removed some 40 years previously. A semi-circular hedge which may conceal one of the original defensive banks is now all that remains. The field name is "Y Gaer".

The site at Penlanfawr is typical of many of the similar defended settlements within the region, many hundreds of which still survive as earthworks in the landscape. Such sites are commonly viewed as defensive structures, although recent interpretations suggest that they were also built with an element of ostentation and display in mind. Excavated examples have revealed traces of settlement such as round houses, other, post built structures and storage pits.

The recorded archaeology on the farm is predominantly post medieval, however and unsurprisingly there are features that relate to the woollen textile industry. These include water management structures such as a mill leat and weir (PRNs 56153, 56154) and associated workers housing. Ty Newydd (PRN 35560) is recorded on the 1871 Census as a Domestic Handloom Weaving and Stocking Workshop.

The farmstead of Penlanfawr itself is of considerable historic value with a Grade II listed mid-19th century gentry farmhouse as its centrepiece and a number of outbuildings of character. It was once part of the Cawdor Estate and the present house was built in 1869. A few hundred yards to the east the tithe map (1840) records "Old House and waste" said to be the site of the old farmstead before it was rebuilt at the current location. No visible traces of the abandoned farmstead remain today however.

Key Objective

The management priority for Penlanfawr is the sensitive management of Caer Llwyn Bedw (PRN 2282). Detailed management advice is provided below.

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
1	CAER-LLWYN-BEDW;GAER Y (2282)	Iron Age hillfort	SN35403744	B	Specific

An apparently bivallate earthwork is shown at SN35403744 on the first edition OS 1" and is named Caer-llwyn-bedw. Air photographs and the OS mapping show, in the same position a roughly semi-circular hedge which may conceal a bank. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales who visited the site in 1913 found no trace of an earthwork, but they remark that one is said to have been completely removed some 40 years previously. The field name is "Y Gaer".

The description of the site is unchanged. It now lies within an improved pasture field.



The semi-circular hedge at Caer-Llwyn-Bedw may conceal one of the defensive banks. View from north.

[\(15860\)](#) **Post Med quarry** SN35533796 C **Generic**

Shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1889. A substantial extraction site, covering approximately 0.5 acres in all. The quarry is located on a steep E facing slope in woodland.

TY NEWYDD [\(35560\)](#) **Post Med weavers cottage** SN35553701 D **Generic**

Domestic Handloom Weaving Workshop and Stocking Knitting on 1871 Census, Weaving Factory in existence 1899. Two buildings are recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). The nineteenth century buildings are now all but destroyed. The south and west walls of what would appear to have been a single storey cottage have been incorporated within a modern agricultural building. Of the northern building no surface traces now remain except that which may be concealed within a hedge bank.

[\(56153\)](#) **Post Medieval leat** SN3614937896 C **Generic**

A mill leat conveying water from the Afon Bargoed to Dolgoch woollen mill (PRN 22597), shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1889. The leat is partly traceable in the field today, surviving up to 2m across and 1m wide. It consists of a rock cut channel enhanced in areas by a stone and earth bank on the down slope side. It is obscured by scrubby vegetation in places.



Looking south along the line of the former leat.

[\(56154\)](#) **Post Medieval weir** SN3614437879 C **Generic**

A weir shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. It was probably the head weir for Dolgoch woollen mill, PRN 22597 via leat PRN 56153.

[\(56155\)](#) **Post Medieval footbridge** SN3613937859 C **Generic**

A footbridge recorded over the Nant Bargoed on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. No visible traces of the footbridge remain.

PENLANFAWR [\(56920\)](#) **Post Medieval farmstead** SN35953760 D **Generic**

The tithe map records Penlanfawr (PRN 56152) and a few hundred yards to the east "Old House and waste" said to be the site of the old farmstead before it was rebuilt at the current location (PRN 56152). Of the old farmstead site little now remains other than some scattered stone at ground level. The site lies within improved farmland, subject to periodic cultivation.

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)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

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

Site 1 on MAP 1

CAER-LLWYN-BEDW;GAER Y ([2282](#))

SN35403744

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

Although earthwork traces of the hillfort in this field have been planed flat there is still potential for the survival of intact below ground archaeological remains. The aim of the management within the Tir Gofal agreement is to minimise damage to below ground archaeological remains by cultivation. The following management recommendations apply:

- The best practice option is to revert temporary leys in rotational cultivation to permanent grassland. Consider Tir Gofal reversion options. See extent of sensitive area (Map 1).
- Where this is not possible lower impact management practices should be put in place. Arable and root crops should not be grown but reseeded on a periodic basis.

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
2	PENLAN FAWR (56152)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN3577437513	A	LB II	Specific

A well planned farmstead, remodelled by the Cawdor estate in the later 19th century. Penlanfawr replaced an earlier site approximately 200m to the east and the present house was built in 1869. The agricultural buildings are likely to be broadly contemporary although a threshing barn/ lofted stable may relate to an earlier phase.

Includes a Grade II listed traditional gentry farmhouse in snecked slate stone with tall pitched slate roof, having stone end stacks to gables and with much original detail remaining. Agricultural buildings behind are also of slate stone construction with pitched slate roofs, ranged neatly around a rectangular yard and include many 19th century features typical of a mixed arable and livestock farm; threshing barn, lofted stable to S, cart house granary cowshed to E, pigties and brewhouse to N and an open fronted livestock shed some yards behind to NE. North Wales slate has now all but replaced locally sourced "green" Pembrokeshire slate on the roofs.

The nineteenth century agricultural buildings remain substantially unaltered although the cow house has been converted to a milking parlour. Some of the agricultural buildings are in poor repair with missing or displaced roof slates and deterioration to the roof timbers (eg. pigties, cow house, granary). Sheet box section roofs have replaced slate in part (eg. livestock shed, rear pitch of cow shed) and some original openings have been blocked or modified. Modern agricultural buildings are situated behind the historic core.



General view of Penlanfawr showing cow sheds/ cart house granary and stables/threshing barn. Looking southeast.

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 2 on MAP 1

PENLAN FAWR ([56152](#))

SN3577437513

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

Building restoration is proposed under Tir Gofal capital works options.

Despite modernisation, Penlanfawr is an unusually intact later nineteenth century farmstead with many original features surviving. Surviving buildings are generally in good order although a cow shed, cart house/ granary and pigsty are in need of attention if they are to be maintained in the long term; replacing slates and roof timbers as necessary.

The following is recommended:

- Allocation of Tir Gofal capital works money should consider how best to maintain the farmstead complex as a whole, ensuring that all buildings are maintained in a weatherproof and structurally sound condition
- 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. Welsh or Spanish slate can be used.
- Wherever possible repair original features rather than replace them. Re-use or repair elements of the old roof structure as far as practically possible.
- The farmhouse at Penlanfawr is a listed building. Listed buildings have a statutory protection and permission from the relevant planning authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building.

Consult the Local Authority Building Conservation Officer for detailed advice before carrying out any works to these buildings:

Adrian Griffiths
Building Conservation Officer
Carmarthenshire County Council
Tel: 01267 224645

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:

Historic Environment Record

Cadw 1998 Buildings of Special Historic and Architectural Interest Penboyrr parish (Part)

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. Register of Landscapes of Special

Historic Interest In Wales. Drefach and Felindre HLW (D) 10

Ordnance Survey Old Series map 1831 Sheet 41, 1"

Ordnance Survey 1889. 1st edition 1:2500. Carmarthenshire sheet 13.12

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1840 Penboyrr Parish

Penlanfawr W/12/5565



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

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DREFACH AND FELINDRE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 381 DREFACH - FELINDRE

GRID REFERENCE: SN353385

AREA IN HECTARES: 127

Historic Background

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire comprising the generally steep-sided valleys of Nant Bargod and its tributaries, Nant Esgair and Nant Brân. Its character has chiefly been shaped by the 19th century woollen industry. The area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained as such throughout the 12th- and early 13th centuries. The commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until it was finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire in 1536, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15th century, reverting to the crown in 1525, to be then granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19th century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed little settlement appears to have occurred within the Drefach-Felindre character area prior to the late 18th century, although medieval settlements were recorded at Cringae, now a farm, and at 'Aberbargod'.

As cloth was produced in many locations in southwest Wales during the medieval and early modern periods, it is likely that it was also produced at Drefach-Felindre, and the mill at Cringae in the 14th century may have been a fulling-mill. A small chapel-of-ease to Penboyr parish had been founded, within what was to become Felindre, by the early 18th century. Possibly a post-medieval foundation, Holy Trinity Chapel, also known as Capel Bach, was 'dilapidated' in 1750 and it was eventually replaced by St Barnabas' Church in 1862. What is not clear is why during the course of the 19th century Drefach-Felindre became pre-eminent in woollen cloth production in Wales, leading to its appellation 'the Huddersfield of Wales'. In the late 18th century four fulling mills at Pentre-cwrt, Dolwyon, Drefach and Cwmpencraig were established; other functions were carried out by hand, on a domestic basis or in small workshops. Carding factories were in production at Cwmpencraig and Dolwyon by the 1820s, and later factories had spinning machines. Concomitant with the increase in cloth production was the growth of settlements. In 1776 Felindre was just a few houses called Velindre Shinkin but by the tithe survey of c.1840 it had grown to a village of c. 20 houses. Drefach had about 20 houses and Drefelin 7 houses. No settlement is recorded at Waungilwen on the tithe map. Indeed the area of the latter village was common land, and it seems likely that the settlement originated with squatters illegally constructing houses. A similar process seems to have happened at Cwmhiraeth.

The introduction of the power loom in the 1850s and greater reliance on water power and other power sources at a later date led to an expansion of the industry, with substantial mills (some employing 50-100 people) constructed at Drefach, Felindre, Drefelin, Cwmpengraig, Cwmhiraeth and Pentre-cwrt by the first decade of the 20th century. Settlement expanded to accommodate workers and other personnel, and it is the peak decades of the industry from 1880 to 1910 that have largely shaped the historic landscape. It is during this period that the population centres of Drefach and Felindre, with their worker houses, mill owner houses, shops, church and other places of worship were firmly established, as were secondary settlements such as Cwmpencraig and Cwmhiraeth, with their factories, mill owner houses, worker houses, and chapels clustered on narrow valley floors. The decline of the woollen industry from the 1920s is reflected in the historic landscape as few houses or other buildings date to the mid 20th century. However, late 20th century housing, particular linear development, has linked some of the former separate settlements, such as Drefach and Felindre with Waungilwen.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Small industrial settlements unite this oddly shaped historic character area. Its centre lies at approximately 50m above sea level at the confluence of Nant Bargod, Nant Esgair and Nant Brân where the steep-sided valleys of these north-flowing streams open out into the Teifi Valley, but it also includes upstream settlements and fields on the narrow valley floors rising to 90m above sea level. The motive power provided by these streams was a prime reason for the growth of the woollen industry, and neither the factories nor the associated settlements have expanded far from the valley floor. Up to the mid 20th century the villages and hamlets constituting this character area maintained a degree of physical separation, although united in function and character, but since then residential development has joined the two main settlements – Drefach and Felindre – with Waungilwen. The hamlets of Drefelin, Cwmpengraig, Cwmhiraeth and Glyn-teg, lying in the steep-sided valleys, have experienced less recent development and have maintained their individual character. The villages and hamlets are linear, spreading along the valley floors or alongside roads. There is now no particular focus to these settlements, and former clustering of houses around individual mills or other buildings such as chapels has been subsumed into the overall settlement pattern.

Drefach is the largest village and is described first as it contains most of the elements that can also be seen in the other villages and hamlets. This is overwhelmingly a 19th century industrial settlement. Mills here range from substantial two storey structures of stone and brick such as the integrated Cambrian Mills (now part of the National Museum and Galleries of Wales) mainly built in the first decade of the 20th century, to weaving sheds/workshops attached to houses or incorporated into them as attics or upper storeys, such as Pantglas and Llwynbrain House (these houses and the Cambrian Mills are listed). Other listed buildings at Drefach comprise a mid 19th century chapel, mills and large, detached, late 19th century houses of the middle classes and mill owners, such as Greenfield, Bargoed Villa and Meiros Hall. Most houses are not listed and consist of 19th century worker houses. Many styles are present, but two-storey terraces with little architectural pretension predominate, with both single period - single style terraces and mixed style – multi build terraces. They are probably the result of housing provision by mill owners or speculative building by landowners. Most lie in the broad Georgian vernacular tradition, with relatively large sash windows and symmetrically arranged facades. Some Gothic detailing is present on some dwellings and a row of mid-18th century two-storey vernacular cottages lies in the centre of the village. Stone – both locally-sourced and Teifi valley slate - is the dominant building material. Teifi valley slate is cut and laid in courses on the larger houses, such as Greenfield, but more commonly stone is used as uncoursed rubble on workers cottages and other buildings. The use of yellow brick and to a lesser extent red brick for door and window jambs and voussoirs provides a distinct character to many buildings. Shaped stone voussoirs are also present. Cement render with colour-wash is also common, particularly on early 20th century buildings. Some of these may be of brick, although the use of brick for the entire building prior to the early 20th century is not common. Commercially cut north Wales slate is ubiquitous. Development continued throughout the 20th century, with examples of 1930 to 1950 suburban style houses on the outskirts of the village and infilling vacant spaces within the village itself. House building continues today, and the village of Drefach is now linked to Felindre by 20th century bungalows and houses.

Felindre shares many of the characteristics of Drefach. It has listed woollen mills, terraced worker houses and larger middle class or mill owner houses. St Barnabas', the communities' Anglican church which is in mid-19th century gothic style, and the 19th century school, are located here. An early chapel at Felindre, Capel Pen-rhiw, was converted from a barn in 1777. A classic of the 'primitive' type of chapel architecture, it was moved to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans in the late 20th century. Felindre House opposite the church may have 18th century origins, in which case it predates other buildings in the area, although externally it appears to be a rubble built two- storey 19th century house. As with Drefach late 20th century linear development links the village with that of its neighbours.

The oldest part of Waungilwen consists of terraces of 19th century vernacular terraced worker houses and detached worker houses, including some single storey cottages. Drefelin has a listed stone built mill, on the site of an older mill, and a terrace of 19th century worker houses running along the valley floor. Further up the valley at Glyn-teg is a 19th century chapel, a farm and a short terrace of 19th century single storey worker cottages. Squeezed into the narrow valley floor at Cwmpengraig is a chapel, woollen mill and worker house, all of 19th century date. Cwmhiraeth is similarly confined. Here there is a loose cluster of 19th century two storey worker houses – detached, semi-detached and short terraces – single storey cottages and small-holdings and a three-storey disused mill. Teifi valley slate is the dominant building material. There is also a scatter of modern bungalows and houses. Within or

alongside the fields of the valley floor, between the villages and hamlets, are other isolated mills, cottages, worker houses, mill owners' houses, which almost all date to the later 19th century. Although predominantly domestic in appearance, many of these dwellings have weaving sheds or workshops attached to them, although most are now in a derelict condition.

Of the 115 recorded archaeological sites in this area, the vast majority are buildings and structures as described above, with others relating to the woollen industry such as mill leats and ponds. There is very little pre 19th century recorded archaeology, and what there is – three holy wells – do not greatly characterise the area.

The tight grouping of buildings constructed from local stone in a broadly similar architectural style within a very short period from 1870 to 1910 provides a strong historic landscape character for Drefach – Felindre. It is therefore a very distinct historic landscape area, and contrasts with the woodland and farmland of neighbouring areas. However, many of the architectural traits – use of Teifi valley slate, a late 19th century style - of the industrial buildings are paralleled in the agricultural buildings of the neighbourhood.

Conservation priorities

Many of the domestic buildings are in good repair and retain much of their original character. This should be encouraged. The industrial buildings are not in such good condition, with mills, weaving sheds and other structures becoming disused and neglected. New uses for these structures should be sought where feasible. Modern linear housing development has united some settlements that formerly had separate identities. This form of development should be discouraged, and development that adds to the character of the settlements encouraged.

Sources: Bowen, E G, 1939, 'Economic and Social Life', in J E Lloyd, *A History of Carmarthenshire Volume II, From the Act of Union (1536) to 1900*, 265-406, Cardiff; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 76; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jack, R I, 1981, 'Fulling Mills in Wales and the March before 1547', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 130, 70-125; Jenkins, J G, 1998 'Rural Industries in Cardiganshire' in G H Jenkins and I G Jones, *Cardiganshire County History Volume 3: Cardiganshire in Modern Times*, 135-59, Cardiff; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyr*, Llandysul; Hilling, J B, 1975, *The Historic Architecture of Wales*, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; National Library of Wales Ms Vol 84 (PE965) Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure 1866; Ludlow, N, Wilson, H and Page, N, 2001, 'Cambrian Mills, Drefach Felindre', unpublished Cambria Archaeology client report; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology

DREFACH AND FELINDRE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 382 DYFFRYN BARGOD AND DYFFRYN ESGAIR

GRID REFERENCE: SN348367

AREA IN HECTARES: 171

Historic Background

A small area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of the steep-sided valleys of Nant Bargod and its tributary Nant Esgair. It mainly comprises heavily-wooded valley slopes. The area lay within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote, to the west, was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and it remained such throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536, when Is-Cych joined Pembrokeshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15th century, reverting to the crown in 1525 to be granted, in 1546, to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19th century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. Indeed little settlement has occurred within this area, although the first large-scale cartographic representation of this area - estate maps of 1778 - show a lot less woodland than today, with more fields on steep valley sides. By the tithe survey of c. 1840 more woodland is shown, but it is still less than today. Since that date woodland has either regenerated over former fields or been planted. Since World War 2 coniferous woodland has been planted, either in small pockets between deciduous trees, or as more extensive cover on the higher slopes towards the southern part of this area.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This heavily wooded historic landscape character area lies on the steep valley sides of the north-flowing streams, Nant Bargod and Dyffryn Esgair. The lower valley sides at the northern end lie at about 50m above sea level. At the southern end the highest point of the valley sides rises to over 200m above sea level. Apart from a few fields of scrub and rough pasture, the whole is wooded. This is a mixture of deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations. Deciduous woodland predominates at the northern lower end of the character area on the valley sides above the villages and hamlets of Drefach, Felindre, Cwmpencraig and Drefelin, with coniferous plantations more common on the higher ground to the south. Some of the deciduous woodland is ancient, some may be relatively recent regeneration and some may be plantations.

There are no standing buildings in this area, but several ruined cottages associated with the Drefach – Felindre woollen industry are recorded on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, as well as several mill leats that once fed woollen mills. Other archaeological sites are few, but include an Iron Age hillfort, and several old quarries of probable of 19th century date.

This is a distinctive historic landscape character area. It contrasts sharply with the neighbouring agricultural character areas and industrial/settlement areas.

Conservation priorities

Management of the deciduous woodland may be required, but no detailed inspection of it was made for this report. Otherwise maintain as existing.

Sources: Cadw –Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Llangeler parish tithe map 1839; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Penboyr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology

DREFACH AND FELINDRE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 390 PENBOYR

GRID REFERENCE: SN353364

AREA IN HECTARES: 361

Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Carmarthenshire consisting of regular rectangular fields and dispersed farms. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote to the west was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych comote - none of which has any recorded history - but the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. A motte-and-bailey castle, 'Tomen Llawddog', was established within this character area, immediately next to Penboyrr parish church, St Llawddog's; and therefore the may be contemporary. It is not known whether they belong to the brief period of Anglo-Norman control, or are Welsh foundations of the later 12th century. However, the church dedication to St Llawddog may be later medieval, when his cult was still active in the area. The church was first recorded in 1222 when it was 'restored' to the Bishops of St Davids, to be counter-claimed by the crown. Its early parish status, along with its close relationship to the castle, suggests that the two represent a deliberate Anglo-Norman plantation. They may therefore represent the site of a failed vill. The castle, which has no recorded history, probably become disused at an early date. They never became the focus for any later settlement, nucleated or otherwise.

Uwch-Cych commote was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536 it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15th century, reverting to the crown in 1525, to be granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19th century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west.

The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - without (with the possible exception of Penboyrr) neither vill nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. The present landscape throughout this character area mainly comprises medium-large, regular rectangular fields of late enclosure. They probably date from the mid-late 18th century - although some of the individual farmsteads will probably be older - and appear to be contemporary with the present road system which follows the enclosure axis and boundaries. The first large-scale historic maps of this area date to 1788 and show a landscape very similar to that of today. However the 1778 estate map of Ty Hen/Penlan Ganol hints at an earlier fieldscape. Here, in addition to the usual fairly regular field system that still prevails, intermixed strips or slangs are shown. However, they are probably not medieval, and are certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which was undergoing enclosure in the late 18th century. By the tithe survey of 1840 the landscape is virtually identical to that of today, except for the loss of a few hedges. Although this character area lies beyond the main textile-producing area of the 19th century, there are records of weavers at several locations, presumably operating a cottage industry in cottages or small workshops.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Penboyrr historic landscape character area lies on the gently sloping north-facing valley side of the Afon Teifi between 120m and 260m above sea level. It is an agricultural landscape characterised by farms and small- to medium-sized, fairly regular fields. Farms are generally small with an unusually dense distribution. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped by hedges - Laburnum is contained in some hedges. At higher levels to the south of this area hedges are overgrown and in some instances reduced to straggling lines of bushes with many small trees, but in the more sheltered north they are in better condition. Stone is the main building material, in particular Teifi valley slate, which is usually of

uncoursed rubble, but coursed with cut stone on better quality buildings. Commercial north Wales slate is the ubiquitous roofing material. All the older buildings date to the mid to later 19th century. Farmhouses are generally in the typical southwest Wales style – two-storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows – but with strong vernacular traits, such as small window openings and low elevations, rather than in the more ‘polite’ Georgian tradition. There are exceptions to this, such as the two-storey, mid 19th century listed ‘Georgian’ house of cut and coursed Teifi valley stone at Penlanfawr. Some farmhouses have been rebuilt as bungalows in the late 20th century, and there is a scattering of other bungalows and houses across the area of a similar date. Late 19th century two storey and single storey worker houses are also present. Agricultural farm buildings are generally small, with older examples stone built, and modern ones of steel, concrete and asbestos. Some of the smaller farms are no longer engaged in agriculture and their outbuildings are disused. The medieval Penboyrr parish church, which was entirely rebuilt in the 19th century, and the neighbouring Tomen Llawddog motte-and-bailey castle are the major archaeological sites in the area. The bailey of the castle is damaged and half the motte has been removed. Other recorded archaeology is mainly confined to sites, workshops and cottages that were engaged in the woollen industry in the 19th century.

It is a well-defined historic landscape area. To the west, north and east steep-sided heavily wooded valleys define it. To the south more irregular fields of 18th and 19th century form a zone of change rather than a hard-edged boundary.

Conservation priorities

The loss of historic buildings is a cause for concern. New uses should be sought for old agricultural buildings if they are not to be lost. Other historic landscape components are in reasonable condition and therefore maintain as existing.

Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, maps 70, 72, 76, 80, 82, 87, 89; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle*, London; Jones, D E, 1899, *Hanes Plwyfi Llangeler a Phenboyrr*, Llandysul; King, D J C, 1988, *Castellarium Anglicanum*, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1 & 2, London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire*, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘Spiritual and Temporal: Church-building in medieval and later Carmarthenshire’, *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* 36, 71-86; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Carmarthenshire churches’, unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology; Penboyrr parish tithe map 1840; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology