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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for: Henllys
Tir Gofal Reference No W/12/5595**

**ACA Report No. 2006/55
Project Record No. 54247**

Prepared by Alice Pyper

**Other documents enclosed:
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
214 LLWYNHOWELL**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Henllys Farm consists of a single holding which lies in the community of Cilycwm. The holding extends from the banks of the river Twyi up the gentle valley slopes to the west. This area forms part of the Twyi Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 5) and has been further assessed in the Historic Landscape Character Areas descriptions (HLCA 214 Llwynhowell). The field pattern differs across the holding; those enclosures in the valley bottom are straight and regular, to the west of the historic country house of Henllys and generally occupying higher ground, they are medium sized and irregular. Parkland is a characteristic feature of the lower slopes and valley floor below the country house of Henllys, a house with origins prior to the 16th century (Jones 1987, 94, 118-9).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

The historic features of the farm are predominantly associated with the country house of Henllys (PRN 7126), a Grade II* listed building. A number of the farm buildings are listed in their own right (the coach house and stable listed Grade II*) and are therefore highly significant buildings. The former coach house / stables and cowshed range have been converted for residential or holiday accommodation.

The sites of a number of other buildings, marked on historic maps, are scattered around the holding. One is thought to have been an estate kennel (PRN 55900) but the others are of unknown function but are probably related to the running of the Henllys estate (PRN 55896, 55902, 55903, 55904). The area to the east and south of the house and farmstead have been landscaped to achieve a parkland setting for the house with pleasing views across the Twyi valley. A large pond to the south of the house was in existence in the 19th century. It has recently been enlarged to provide a large fishing lake with woodland walks skirting around it established for the enjoyment of guests.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective for the management of the historic environment of Henllys is the maintenance of the historic parkland which lies to the south and east of Henllys. Aside from Henllys and its associated farm buildings the parkland is the most significant aspect of this farm and any opportunities to maintain and restore the parkland by planting trees or repairing parkland railings to the main driveway should be welcomed. Specific management recommendations follow in the gazetteer.

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 | HENLLYS (<u>56219</u>) | Post Medieval driveway | SN7555336513 | C | | Specific |

The driveway to Henllys country house skirts the south and western extent of the parkland, following a straight course largely except where the driveway turns a 90 degree angle to proceed north-northwest to the house. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 indicates that it was once tree lined. The owner relates how the previous occupant of the house had the magnificent avenue of trees removed to prevent the drive itself from being damaged by root action. The current owner has now replanted the driveway. The stretch of driveway which leads from the house to the right angle turn appears to have been lined with parkland railings. These are now in a mixed condition and some are damaged. The owner hopes to be able to repair these railings and reinstate them along this stretch of the drive. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The gateway (PRN 56218) and driveway beyond, which the current owner has replanted with trees.



Parkland railings which line the driveway towards the house

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | HENLLYS (<u>56220</u>) | Post Medieval pond | SN7563936571 C | Specific |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

A small pond is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Carms sheet 18.09). The pond is still present within the parkland although it is now fenced out and vegetation has now grown up around it, which makes it less visible. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | HENLLYS (<u>56221</u>) | Post Medieval pond | SN7561036670 C | Specific |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

A small pond is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Carms sheet 18.09). The pond is still present within the parkland although it is now fenced out and vegetation has now grown up around it, which makes it less visible. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| HENLLYS (<u>6225</u>) | Medieval llys | SN75563665 U | Generic |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|

A "Henllys" place-name which is taken to be indicative of this being the site of a medieval court, which would have been an administrative centre in pre-Norman society. RPS Nov 2002.

The house itself sits within an elliptical enclosure demarked by a hedge and park railings to the front and a stone boundary wall to the rear. No evidence of earthwork boundaries which may relate to medieval origins was observed during the farm visit. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <u>(55896)</u> | Post Medieval building | SN7568036798 C | Generic |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

A rectangular building lies adjoining the roadside boundary on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Carms sheet 18.09). There is no visible trace of a building in this location. The field was under pasture when visited in 2006, however it is currently cultivated in rotation. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| HENLLYS (<u>55899</u>) | Post Medieval farmstead | SN7551436663 A LB II* | Generic |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|

Farmstead complex and country house of Henllys. A number of buildings within the farmstead are individually listed including the coach house Grade II*, the Bailiff's house Grade II, the barn at the NE corner of yard Grade II, the Stable and carthouse range at NW angle of farm yard Grade II, the cow shed to the west of the farmyard Grade II. Other structures within the farmstead will be listed as curtilage structures.

A number of the farm buildings have been converted for residential / holiday accommodation (the coach house / stable and cow shed). The remaining buildings include the barn, and the carthouse range which form the north side of the farmyard. Part of the carthouse range is currently being used as a pig sty and woodshed, the barn is currently unused except as a low level store and there are concerns about the structural stability of the building. These buildings will also ultimately be adapted and reused.

Considering the status of these buildings, it is considered that an opportunity should be taken to ask the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales (RCAHMW) to conduct a survey of the remaining agricultural buildings. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

HENLLYS (55900) **Post Medieval** **SN7552736486 C** **Generic**
building

A rectangular building shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1888 (Carms sheet 18.09) located within a patch of woodland to the south of Henllys country house and farmstead (PRN 55899). The owner relates that this building was thought to be the kennels, although the owner has no recollection of any building remains being visible. The site of the building is defined by a terrace in the natural slope. A slight mound of building rubble has been tipped to the south of the terrace. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

HENLLYS (55902) **Post Medieval** **SN7547036763 D** **Generic**
building

A building is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map lying adjacent to the northern driveway to Henllys country house and farmstead (PRN 7126, 55899). No trace of this building survives and its location has now been quarried away to level out the site for the construction of a large agricultural shed. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(55903) **Post Medieval** **SN7531336818 C** **Generic**
building

A building is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Carms sheet 18.09) situated in the corner of the field. There is no visible trace of the building. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(55904) **Post Medieval** **SN7536936305 C** **Generic**
building

A building is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Carms sheet 18.09) located by a trackway. The site of this building is now located within woodland and its precise location is difficult to ascertain in these conditions, however no trace of a building was discovered. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(55905) **Post Medieval** **SN7550636321 C** **Generic**
pond

A pond is shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps to the south of Henllys country house and parkland (PRN 7126, 55897). It may have been an ornamental pond associated with parkland. This pond has recently been extended to the southwest and an enlarged revetment has been built over the earlier bank and a new overspill channel constructed. A boardwalk now skirts the edges of the pond. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)

HENLLYS (56218) **Post Medieval** **SN7577136462 C** **Generic**
gateway

Gateway to Henllys country house. Square set gateposts set back from the road, with flanking walls, curving and rising in height to a further set of posts on the roadside. The southern gatepost has unfortunately been damaged by recent works on the road and the gatepost has been dislodged. However in other respects the gateway survives in good condition. Ivy has encroached over the walls, but does not appear to be causing any problems. *Visited* 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)



The gateway to Henllys

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

HENLLYS (56219)

SN7555336513

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

It would be beneficial to repair the park railings in order to retain the parkland character of the driveway. It will be necessary therefore to restore and repair those that are damaged and new sections of railing may also need to be made up to same design to replace those which have been lost or severely damaged.

Site 2 on MAP 1

HENLLYS (56220)

SN7563936571

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

From a historical perspective it may be preferable to remove the vegetation around the ponds to make them more visible, however this is not a priority and should be weighed up with the relative habitat / environmental benefits.

Site 3 on MAP 1

HENLLYS (56221)

SN7561036670

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

From a historical perspective it may be preferable to remove the vegetation around the ponds to make them more visible, however this is not a priority and should be weighed up with the relative habitat / environmental benefits.

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 |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| HENLLYS: HENLLYS FAWR (7126) | Post Medieval farmhouse | SN75513668 | A | LBII* | Generic |
| 18-19thC. Rendered Stone. 2 storey. Double saddle slate roof 2 gabled dormer. Window in reveals glazing bars. Early 16thC. first mention. Historic home described by Major Francis Jones in 1987. | | | | | |
| The name "Henllys" suggests that this has been a place of some importance since pre-Norman times, but the first reliable references date to the early 16th century. Francis Jones describes the present house as being a two-storey building of 18th or 19th century date, with rendered stone walls and a double-saddle slate roof. RPS Nov 2002 | | | | | |
| Cadw listed building description states; 'History: Circa 1825-30 remodelling of an earlier house, possibly late C17 or early C18. Owned by Lewis family from C16 to mid C18 and then various owners. Colonel David Williams owner 1788-1815. William Jones JP d1844 and his son David Williams d1861 are commemorated in the parish church, William Jones probably rebuilt the house. Owned by Thomas family of Brecon and rented out in earlier C20, Rev W. J. Constable tenant from 1917. | | | | | |
| Exterior: Colourwashed roughcast with two parallel slate roofs, low-pitched with four rendered end stacks. Two-storey, five-window long E front with flat boarded eaves. Formerly there were dormers in front roof. Hornless 9-pane sashes above and 12-pane below, centre tall door, half-glazed in big earlier C19 Doric porch with paired C20 stucco columns (replacing timber) and Greek cornice with triglyphs and mutules. N end has bargeboards and one first floor window. S end wall has single storey addition with hipped roof. Rear, probably built in two parts, has 12-pane sashes, in second bay arranged at mid-heights for stair lights. Doors between first and second window-ranges, and between third and fourth. | | | | | |
| Interior: Earlier C19 plasterwork inside with square hall, elliptical arch to inner hall, which has similar arch to N to stair hall. Room to right of entry is opened out by two plainer (?later) arches into stair hall and two similar to stair hall. Piers have similar slightly Gothic plaster mouldings. Cornices with dentils and roundels. Inner hall has W apsed recess. Dog-leg stick baluster stair, possibly partly C18. Panelled shutters and 6-panel doors. Within the roof are the remains of a steeper pitched C17 or earlier C18 stone-tiled roof. | | | | | |
| A well-preserved example of gentry house of the earlier C19 with good interior detail, and substantial remains of an earlier gentry house, notably the roof. F.Jones Historic Carmarthenshire Homes 1987 94 ' Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper) | | | | | |



The country house of Henllys

HENLLYS (55899)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN7551436663 A LB II*

Generic

Farmstead complex and country house of Henllys. A number of buildings within the farmstead are individually listed including the coach house Grade II*, the Bailiff's house Grade II, the barn at the NE corner of yard Grade II, the Stable and carthouse range at NW angle of farm yard Grade II, the cow shed to the west of the farmyard Grade II. Other structures within the farmstead will be listed as curtilage structures.

A number of the farm buildings have been converted for residential / holiday accommodation (the coach house / stable and cow shed). The remaining buildings include the barn, and the carthouse range which form the north side of the farmyard. Part of the carthouse range is currently being used as a pig sty and woodshed, the barn is currently unused except as a low level store and there are concerns about the structural stability of the building. These buildings will also ultimately be adapted and reused.

Considering the status of these buildings, it is considered that an opportunity should be taken to ask the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales (RCAHMW) to conduct of a survey of the remaining agricultural buildings. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The barn at Henllys farmstead

HENLLYS (55901)

**Post Medieval
lodge**

SN7545336841 B

Generic

A lodge is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey at the entrance to the northern driveway to Henllys. Still present on current Ordnance Survey mapping 2005. This lodge no longer falls within the holding of Henllys. *Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

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.

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 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4 | HENLLYS <u>(55897)</u> | Post Medieval parkland | SN7562636569 | B | Specific |
| <p>Parkland shown on the Old Series Ordnance Survey of 1831 (sheet 41) and more extensively on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1888 (Carms sheet 18.09), framing the eastern aspect of the house on the gentle slopes and flood plain to the west of the river Twyi.</p> <p>The 1888 map shows scattered specimen trees, mostly deciduous but with some conifers, planted in a random spread across the parkland in front of the house and west of the Siloh road. At the time of the farm visit in 2006 many of these trees have disappeared and there are only a handful of specimen trees which survive. A couple of ponds are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (PRNs 56220, 56221) and these still survive, although they have been fenced out and are now shrouded in vegetation. Although there are some fences subdividing the parkland (largely consistent with those shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map) it still maintains the open aspect which is so characteristic of parkland. To the east of the Siloh road the parkland appears as it is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map with the same number of parkland trees represented. This area between the river and the road was evidently never as densely planted with specimen trees as that between the road and the house itself.</p> <p>The driveway to the house skirts the parkland on the south and west side, and this also was planted with an avenue of oaks (PRN 56218). The previous owner of Henlllys removed the trees lining the avenue, happily however, the current occupant has sought to re-establish the avenue by replanting the trees to either side.</p> <p>It was noted during the farm visit that there are a series of earthwork gulleys in the parkland immediately to the southeast of the house. These demonstrate no readily discernible form and are likely to be drainage channels. A footpath shown on the 1st edition Ordnance survey map which crosses the parkland from the garden and eventually crosses the Twyi is known locally as 'The Lady's Walk'. <i>Visited 24/04/2006 (Alice Pyper)</i></p> | | | | | |



The historic parkland has lost a number of parkland trees and would benefit from some replacement planting.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management prescriptions

1. Original features identified in the agreement must be retained and maintained. Repairs (including repairs to walling and fences) should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
2. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
3. Drives and historic tracks together with associated walling, revetment and bridges identified in the agreement must be maintained and, where necessary, restored using appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option).
4. New tracks should not be created.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:

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

Site 4 on MAP 1

HENLLYS (55897)

SN7562636569

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

The parkland still retains much of its open park character, however historic maps demonstrate that there was a greater number of trees scattered on the slopes below the house and on the west side of the Siloh road. There are only a few parkland trees still surviving and these are reaching a great age. It would be beneficial for the long term future of the parkland to consider a programme of planting specimen parkland trees to replace those that have been lost.

Parkland is a designed landscape laid out to achieve pleasing views and a suitable setting for the house; in order to maintain this essential parkland character restoration should be carried out with an appropriate plan so that the historic visual effects are maintained. The following guidelines about parkland restoration should be followed;

- The 25 inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is the most appropriate and accurate map to be used as a baseline for any future restoration of the parkland. The positions of parkland trees should follow as closely as possible the planting scheme represented on it (Ordnance Survey, 1888. 25 inch. Carmarthenshire sheet 18.09).
- Tree species should be based on the evidence of species represented in the parkland, (predominantly oak) any deviation from the species profile represented within the parkland should be discussed with the CCW Tir Gofal Project Officer and Cambria Archaeology. There may be a case for introducing conifers to the profile which appear now to have disappeared.
- The individual tree guards should be placed around each of the planted trees; these should be of an appropriate design within the parkland landscape.

Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

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

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record

Cadw Listed Building Database

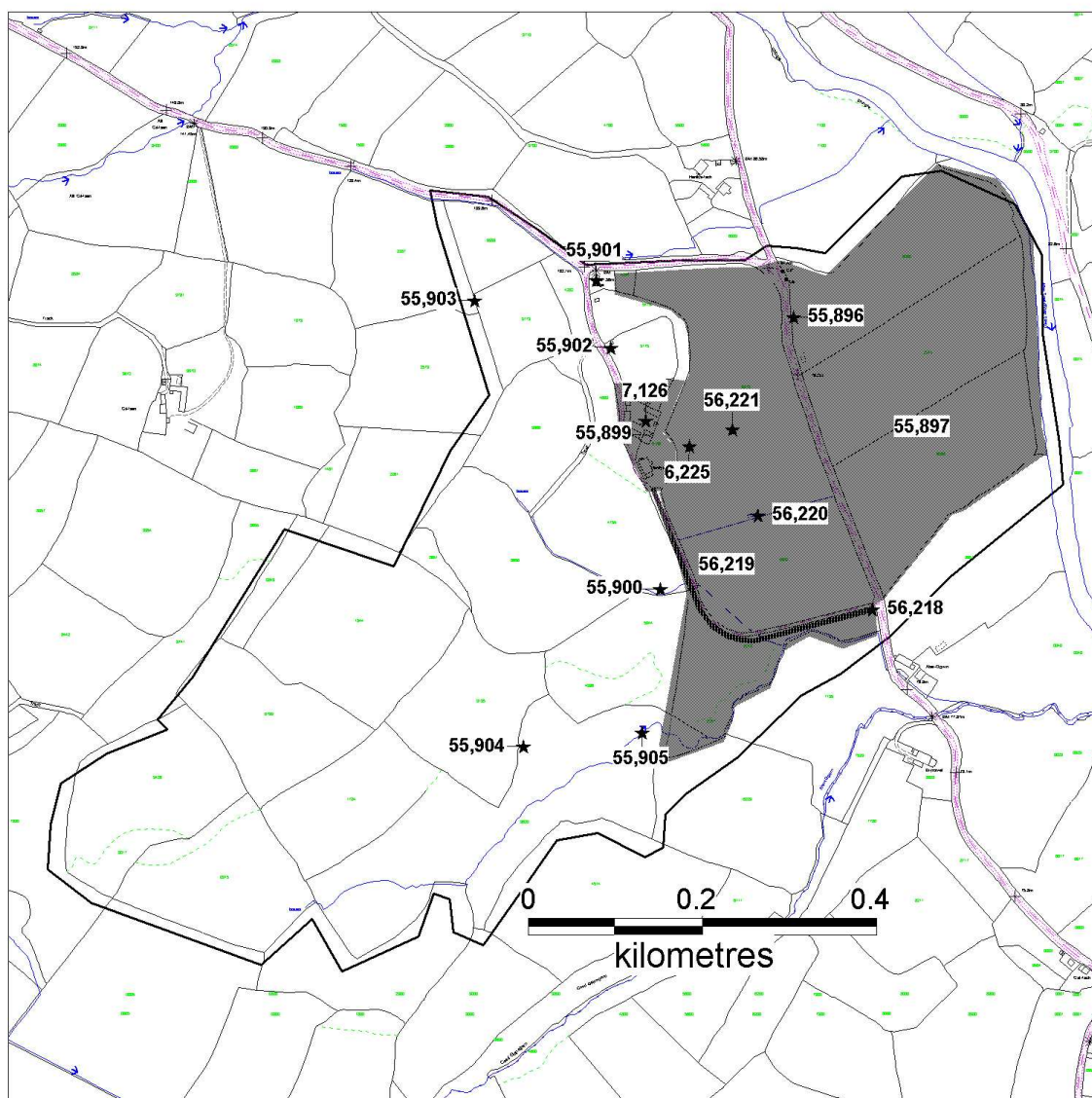
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 2002. Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, & Pembrokeshire. Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Part 1: Parks and Gardens.

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales online database

Jones F 1987, Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families

Old Series Ordnance Survey 1 inch to 1 mile. 1831 (Sheet 41)

Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1:2500 Carmarthenshire sheet 18.09



— Farm Boundary ■ Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)
 ★ Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

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CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 214 LLWYNHOWELL

GRID REFERENCE: SN 758358

AREA IN HECTARES: 427.80

Historic Background

A small area to the north of the town of Llandovery, either side of the River Tywi. Settlement in the area has considerable time-depth - at the north end of the area is an Iron Age hillfort, and the line of a Roman road leading northwards from the fort at Llandovery (*Alabum*) crosses the valley floor. Henllys, to the south of the fort, may be the site of an early Medieval administrative centre. By the historic period the Tywi formed the boundary between Cantref Bychan to the east and Cantref Mawr to the west. Cantref Bychan was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery; the latter remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284. Both retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when they were united within modern Carmarthenshire but Area 214 lay within the Medieval borough of Llandovery (Rees 1932) and was subject to Anglo-Norman tenure, representing 'town lands'. The northern boundary of the borough was apparently present in physical form as the 'Ditch of Krenchy' (*ibid.*) which may now be represented by a stream, Nant Ogwrn. The name 'Dolauhirion' suggests the former presence of strip-fields, which may account for the linear field boundaries occurring throughout the area. However, unlike Area 213 there is no physical evidence for the practice of ridge-and-furrow agriculture. The present pattern of large, fairly regular enclosures may have been a product of the 17th- or early 18th-century, supplanting previous open-field systems. In the floodplain of the Tywi itself are larger, more regular enclosures which may be of later, 18th century date. The former enclosure may be associated with the gentry houses, particularly Llwynhowell and Henllys which have origins before the 16th century (Jones 1987, 94, 118-9), Manorafon whose estate is documented from 1749 (Judith Alfrey, pers. comm.) and Tonn, which was mentioned in 1759 but burnt down in 1916 (Jones 1987, 181). The Tywi is crossed at Dolauhirion via a bridge with Medieval origins and by a Medieval ford at Llwynhowell, while the bridge carrying the A40(T) into Llandovery has replaced a 19th century suspension bridge which itself succeeded a ferry. The southern part of the area is crossed by the railway from Llandovery to Llanwrtyd Wells, which had been established by 1871 as part of the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) Central Wales and Carmarthen Junction Line. It is still operational and forms part of the 'Heart of Wales' line.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llwynhowell character area lies across the valley floor of the Tywi immediately upstream of Llandovery, and includes the gently-sloping west side and lower slopes of the eastern side of the valley. The narrow floodplain of the Tywi lies at approximately 70 m, and the western valley side rises up to over 120 m. This is essentially a landscape of small- to medium-sized irregular fields, large dispersed farms and scattered woodland. Improved pasture dominates the agricultural land-use; there is little rough ground. Field boundaries are composed of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained at lower levels, but at higher altitudes there is a tendency for them to be overgrown and derelict. Wire fences supplement the hedges. Some hedges contain distinctive trees, and these together with small stands of deciduous woodland - mostly on steeper valley sides - lend a moderately wooded aspect to some parts of this area. There are areas of former emparking but these have not profoundly influenced the appearance of the landscape. Farms are distributed along the lower valley sides on both sides of the Tywi. Farms are generally substantial. Farmhouses are mostly 18th- or 19th-century in date, stone-built with slate roofs and tend towards the polite, with semi-formal, stone-built outbuildings, although most are also associated with modern agricultural buildings. In addition to the farms there are many dispersed dwellings across the area, but concentrated alongside roads close to Llandovery. These are mainly of two periods: late 19th century 'villas', and late 20th-century houses and bungalows in a mixture of styles and materials. This part of the upper Tywi valley is a route corridor, with a B road following the generalised line of a Roman road on the eastern side of the river.

Recorded archaeology is limited to the Roman road and Roman finds to the south, near the fort at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, and to the site of Tonn Mansion.

There are a number of distinctive buildings. The Grade I listed Dolauhirion bridge is by William Edwards from 1773, built on the site of a Medieval bridge. Manorafon, with model farm buildings from c.1800 (Judith Alfrey, pers. comm.), represents an important early example of farm planning, and Henllys is a Grade II* listed double-pile house associated with 6 Grade II listed outbuildings. There are also rebuilt gentry houses at Llwynhowell and Tonn, the latter - like Henllys - with an area of possible former emparking. Farms have generally been constructed with some architectural consideration, rather than in the vernacular tradition. There are some late 19th-century brick and stone-and-brick farmhouses present. Stone-built outbuildings are equally substantial and in some instances are in a semi-formal arrangement with the house

This is a very difficult area to define as, apart from its southern side against the urban area of Llandovery (Area 212), neighbouring areas contain similar historic landscape components (Areas 208, 213, 215 and 257). In these cases there is a zone of change, rather than a hard-edged border.

Conservation priorities

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