

Archaeoleg Cambria
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost:
cambria@cambria.org.uk



Cambria Archaeology
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email:
cambria@cambria.org.uk

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Pentre Meurig**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5322**

**ACA Report No. 2006/2
Project Record No. 55277
Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

Other documents enclosed:

**Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of
Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Areas 208 Ystrad Tywi:
Llangadog - Llando, 207 Cefngornoeth & 257 Llanwrda Parish.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

This farm holding consists of two adjacent farm holdings lying in the Twyi valley on the southern edge of Llanwrda. The river runs through the centre of the main holding, and both holdings lie on the fertile alluvial floodplain. This area lies within the Twyi Valley Area of Outstanding Historic Interest. The majority of the main holding also lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 208 Ystrad Twyi: Llangadog - Llandovery, with the south-eastern edge of the main holding within HLCA 207 Cefngornoeth and the smaller holding within HLCA 257 Llanwrda Parish. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape.

The field pattern is one of medium to large, irregular enclosures, with more regular fields occupying the western side of the main holding. The date when this enclosure occurred is difficult to ascertain. Many of the current field boundaries are marked on an estate map of 1782, although the shifting course of the river, the arrival of the railway and the construction of the new main road has led to the abandonment and shifting of several field boundaries, most notably on the south side of the river. The field pattern has remained largely unchanged since the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was created in 1887, with the exception of the south side of the river.

The settlement pattern within and around the holding is similar to that visible on historic map sources. The settlement of Llanwrda itself is thought to have medieval origins. There has been some twentieth century settlement growth in the area, but this has not dramatically altered the character of the historic landscape.

Archaeological and historical content

The Twyi valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales, and it has been known for some time that the route of the Roman road (PRN 33975) between Llandeilo and Llandovery runs close to the course of the present A40. Recent research using aerial photography has identified the exact course of the road, and this crosses the main holding in two places.

The former 'Vale of Towy Line' (now the 'Heart of Wales Line') runs through the centre of the holding. The railway is still operational, as is Llanwrda Station (PRN 19268), which lies within the main Pentre Meurig holding.

Pentre Meurig mansion (PRN 7127) has records stretching back to the sixteenth century, becoming part of a later farmstead (PRN 53118), and just to the south lies a former woollen mill, present on nineteenth century map sources, and now a Cadw Grade II listed building.

Key objective

The management priority for this farm is to protect and preserve remains of the Roman road that crosses the main holding. The maintenance and preservation of the complex of traditional farm buildings at Pentre Meurig is also a priority.

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	PENTRE-MEURIG <u>(33975)</u>	Roman/ Road	SN71163114	A	Specific
	<p>The Roman road which runs between Llandeilo and Llandovery. It has been suspected for a long time that the route runs close to the course of the present A40. Recent research using aerial photography has identified the exact course of some stretches of the road (PRNs 33,975; 33,974), whilst other stretches represent the likely course of the road between the cropmarks (PRN 11,089).</p> <p>The road crosses fields on the main holding in two places, the first runs in front of the farmstead before crossing the river and continuing northeast. The second crosses the field at the southwestern corner of the holding. Although identified from aerial photography the road can also be traced on the ground, visible as a low grass covered agger c13m across as it runs close to the farmstead, becoming less distinct to the northeast. Only slight remains of the road are visible in the southwestern corner of the holding. The fields through which the road runs are currently used for silage and have been ploughed in the past. <i>Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)</i></p>				
					
	<p>Looking SW along the line of the roman road in the field to the northwest of Pentre Meurig farmstead. The agger is visible as it meets the large trees in the hedgeline.</p>				

(19268)

**Post Med/ Railway SN71463100 B
station**

Generic

The former 'Vale of Towy Line' (now called the Heart of Wales line) runs through the centre of the main holding. The railway line and Llanwrda Station, which lies centrally within the holding, are both still operational. No evidence of old station buildings or associated features could be located within this farm holding during the farm visit, although the boundary between the railway station and the fields is still formed by the original stone wall in places. *Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)*

(53117)

**Post Med/
Building**

SN7091830384 U

Generic

A small building with enclosure is marked in this location, on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 only. The enclosure is still marked on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map but there are currently no above ground remains of this building or its enclosure. Its location and lack of footpaths would suggest this was formerly an agricultural building. *Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)*

**PENTRE-MEURIG
(53118)**

**Post Med/
Farmstead**

SN7146131399 B

Generic

A working farmstead complex that incorporates Pentre Meurig mansion (PRN 7127) now a farmhouse, with a group of farm buildings to the west. A mansion is recorded here from the 16th century onwards, although it is unclear when it became part of a farmstead complex. The surviving traditional farm buildings are arranged around three sides of a central yard, a layout typical from the early 19th century. The buildings are marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. Traditional buildings are described in section ii. *Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)*

(53119)

**Post Med/
Milepost**

SN7127130749 C

Generic

A milepost lying adjacent to the railway track, marked on the 1st (1887) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps. The post is no longer visible, remains may lie within scrub covered banks of the railway but that is presumably outside the bounds of this farm holding. *Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)*

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is

not increased.

6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.

7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).

8. Do not burn materials on site.

9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.

10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

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

PENTRE-MEURIG ROMAN ROAD (33975) SN71163114

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

The aim of the management for this site should be the preservation of underground remains of this important archaeological feature. This road would have been an important route between the Roman forts at Llandeilo and Llandovery. The line of the road runs through fields of improved pasture that have been ploughed in the past, many of these fields are currently used for silage. Further or deeper ploughing could cause serious damage to the underground remains of this road.

- Ground breaking activity such as ploughing should be avoided over the line of this road. Root crops should also be avoided in this area.

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	PENTRE-MEURIG <u>(53118)</u>	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN7146131399	B		Specific
<p>A working farmstead complex that incorporates Pentre Meurig mansion (PRN 7127) now a farmhouse, with a group of farm buildings to the west. A mansion is recorded here from the 16th century onwards, although it is unclear when it became part of a farmstead complex. The surviving traditional farm buildings are arranged around three sides of a central yard, a layout typical from the early 19th century. The buildings are marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887.</p> <p>The farmstead includes a large mortared stone built barn with a slate roof, forming the south-western side of the complex. Two sets of large opposing doorways indicate this was a former threshing barn, with a stable at the southern end. To the south-east lies a single storey stone built and slate roofed milking shed. The north-western side is formed by two similar cart shed/barns, built of stone to 1st floor level with brick above and slate roofs. The lower storey is open to the farmyard, although this has now been filled in with breeze blocks on the northernmost building. The 1st floors contain hay lofts, with access via external staircases. A slate roofed open-sided cartshed also lies against the northern gable wall of the main large barn. Modern farm buildings lie to the northeast and southwest. The farm buildings are in use and generally in good condition although there is some roof deterioration on some buildings. <i>Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)</i></p>						



The large barn forming the south-western side of the complex of traditional farm buildings.



One of the two cartshed/barns that form the north-western side of the complex.

PENTRE MEURIG
(7127)

**Post Med/
Mansion**

SN7147031417 A

Generic

Pentremeurig Mansion has sixteenth century origins and was assessed for 7 hearths in 1670, indicating a large residence. In 1794 Pentre Meurig formed part of the Dinefwr Estate, and at this time the house, grounds and gardens covered 5 acres. (Jones 1987, 155). A large farmhouse now lies on the site, it is unclear if it retains any elements of previous mansion buildings. *Visited 21/12/2005 (PP)*

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

PENTRE-MEURIG (53118)

SN7146131399

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to ensure the survival of the traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of traditional farm buildings as a whole. The traditional farm buildings are still in use and are generally in a fairly good state of repair. However, there is some deterioration in the roof of the open-sided cartshed on the northern end of the large barn that should be addressed to ensure its survival. The roofs of the two cartshed/barns have a few loose slates and are also apparently deteriorating, as are the wooden hayloft floors.

- The roofs of the both the open-sided cartshed and the two cart shed/barns should be repaired using materials and techniques appropriate to the historical character of the farmstead complex.
- Missing and loose slates should be replaced.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

PP - 06/01/2006 (09:33:35) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 55277.

Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@cambria.org.uk, website www.cambria.org.uk

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

Sources consulted:

Maps

Estate Map 1782 Pentre-Moerig. Situate in the Several Parishes of Llanwrda & Mothvey.

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

Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire XXVI.7 & 11

Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire XXVI.7 & 11

Tithe Map 1837 Llanwrda Parish

Tithe Map 1840 Myddfai Parish

Other Sources

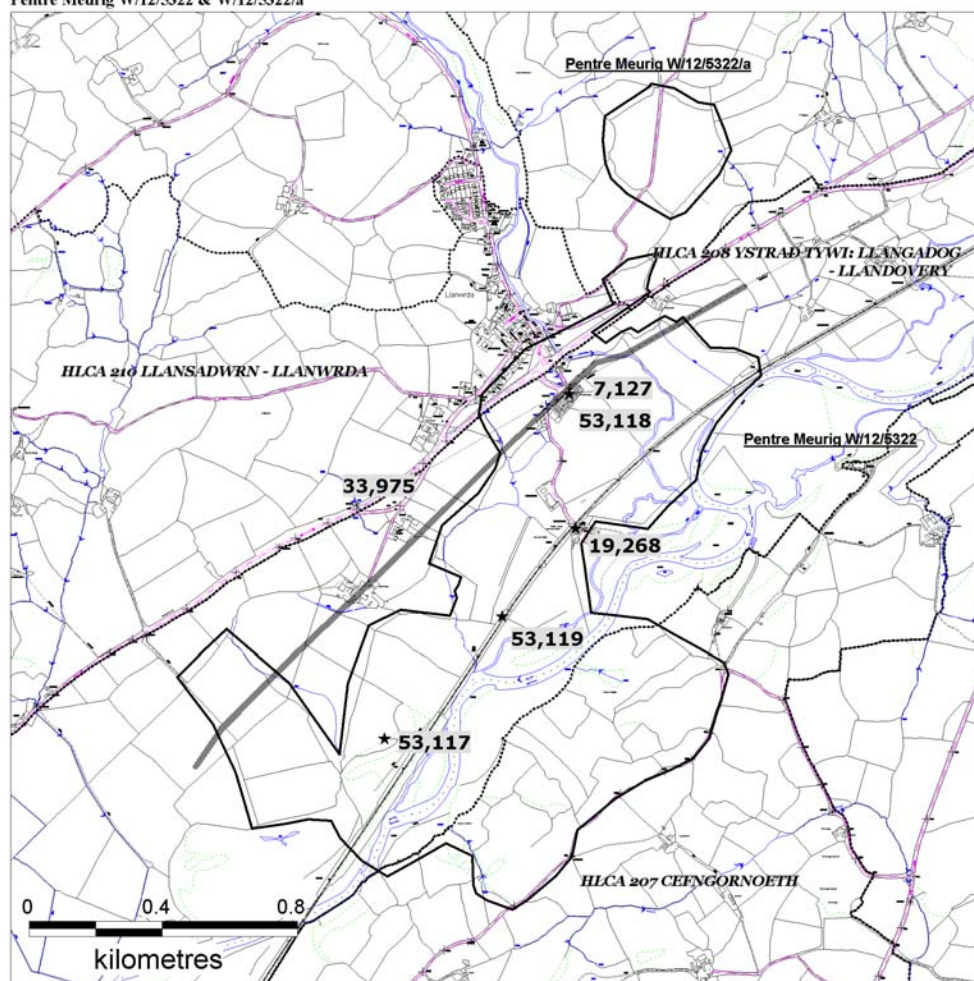
Jones, F. 1987: Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families.

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

Historic Landscape Character Areas 208 Ystrad Tywi: Llangadog - Llando, 207 Cefngornoeth & 257 Llanwrda Parish.

RCAHMW. Coflein Online Database

Pentre Meurig W/12/5322 & W/12/5322/a



- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------|
| — | Farm Boundary | ■ | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) |
| | Historic Landscape Character Area | ★ | Archaeological Sites (by PRN) |

This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License number: 100018813

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 207 CEFNGORNOETH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 716299

AREA IN HECTARES: 308.50

Historic Background

An area southeast of the Tywi, once part of Perfedd commote of Cantref Bychan, which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans advancing from the east under Richard Fitz Pons, who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.). It was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery. However, there were many episodes of Welsh rule and the area retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated into modern Carmarthenshire. Most of this character area formed part of the *patria* of Llangadog which was acquired by the Bishops of St Davids in the late 13th century (Rees 1932). A 'Tyddyn' farm name suggests Medieval settlement and formalised land-division, and the area is characterised by small irregular enclosures which may be at least late Medieval in origin. The present farm Wernfrena appears to represent the site of an early Post-Medieval house which has now been rebuilt (Jones 1987, 89).

Description and essential historic landscape components

Cefngornoeth character area lies over a low hilly ridge on the south side of the Afon Tywi, between the valleys of the Tywi and the Bran. The ridge rises from approximately 45m on the Tywi valley floor to over 110 m on the low rounded hills. This is essentially a landscape of small irregular fields, small stands of deciduous woodland, some of which may be ancient, and dispersed farms. Farmland is almost totally under improved pasture. Field boundaries are earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition, with very few overgrown or derelict. Some possess distinctive hedgerow trees. Close to Cefngornoeth house a small area of parkland merges with the surrounding landscape. The stands of trees on the valley side of the Tywi lend a wooded aspect to this side of the character area. Farmsteads are mostly 19th century date and vernacular, with informal farm buildings that include some modern buildings.

Recorded archaeology is limited to a Bronze Age findspot.

There are few distinctive buildings. Farmsteads are mostly of 19th century date, stone-built and in the vernacular tradition; associated old farm buildings are similarly stone-built and generally have an informal arrangement with the farmhouse, while most farms have a range of modern agricultural buildings. There is the usual scatter of Post-Medieval cottages and dwellings. Wernfrena and Cefngornoeth are more substantial houses in a more polite tradition.

This character area is not easy to define as it possess many historic components that are also possessed by its neighbours. To the north, where it meets the Tywi valley there is a fairly distinct border between it and the rather less intensely enclosed land of the flood plain (Area 208). There is also good definition to the west against the urban unit of Llangadog (Area 206). To the south and east there is a zone of change, rather than a clear-cut border, between this area and Area 235.

Conservation priorities

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area as most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in a few 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 208 YSTRAD TYWI: LLANGADOG - LLANDOVERY

GRID REFERENCE: SN 723316

AREA IN HECTARES: 925.40

Historic Background

A large, narrow area stretching from Llangadog in the southwest to Llandovery in the northeast, which lies in the fertile alluvial floodplain of the River Tywi. The valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales and the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, which lies just within the northwest edge of this character area, followed the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi. A later turnpike more-or-less followed the course of this Roman road, as does the present A40(T) - see Areas 182 and 196. The River Tywi in this area is active and subject to course changes across the valley floor, and the wooded nature of the valley was commented upon by early writers including Leland in the 1530s (Smith 1906), who appear to be describing the floodplain. Therefore, the present pattern of regular fields is probably of later date, while. Enclosure may have been undertaken during the 18th century, but had definitely taken place by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century. In addition, settlement on the floodplain has always been minimal. There are, however, a few farms and dwellings in the area, also occupying the interface or situated upon glacially derived 'islands' within the floodplain; one of these, Pentremeurig, has 16th century origins and was assessed for 7 hearths in 1670 (Jones 1987, 155). The disposition of these habitations may then reflect earlier settlement patterns. Peat deposits have been noted between the alluvium and the underlying geology elsewhere within the Tywi Valley (Page 1994, 4,9), where they were thought either to represent such 'islands' in the floodplain, or a drying of the floodplain (see also Area 196) and while no prehistoric sites have been recorded within the area it must be stressed that within the Tywi Valley, this period is among 'the least known' (Cadw/ICOMOS, 1998, 28). During the Medieval period the river formed one of the major boundaries of Carmarthenshire, separating Cantref Mawr on the north bank from Cantref Bychan on the south bank (Rees, 1932). As such, the landscape area has experienced a chequered history of tenure and was troubled by warfare until the end of the 13th century; Cantref Mawr, unlike Cantref Bychan which was subject to 12th century conquest and reconquest, remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284 (Rees 1953, xv) and the Post-Medieval house at Ystrad may be the site of the Medieval *llys* of Gwestfa Ystradmyns within which this area partly lay. There does not appear to have ever been a bridge across the Tywi between Llangadog and Llandovery but there were at least two, possibly three historic fords. The turnpike, established in 1763-71 (Lewis 1971, 43) more-or-less followed the line of the Roman road and is now represented by the A40(T). The A4069 on dry ground between Llangadog and Llandovery on the south side of the valley also follows the line of a turnpike begun in 1779 (*ibid.*). The floodplain, meanwhile, is crossed by the former LNWR main West Wales railway line which was opened, as the 'Vale of Towy Line', by the Llanelli Railway and Dock Company in 1858 (Gabb, 1977, 76). Little industry has developed in this area although a woollen factory possibly operated at Pentremeurig.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area comprises the flood plain of the Tywi together with the lower, gently sloping valley sides. Within this area the flood plain of the Tywi rises some 20 m, from 40 m OD at the west end to 60 m OD at the east end, over a distance of 7 km. The lower valley sides rise up to a maximum of 60 m to 70 m. Above these lower slopes valley sides rise steeply, particularly on the northern side towards Llandovery, to over 150 m. This part of the Tywi valley provides a natural route-corridor. The Romans utilised the route for the Llandovery-Carmarthen road, and in more recent times turnpike roads were constructed on both sides of the valley. The course of the turnpike on the northern side is now followed by the A40(T), that on the south side by the A4069. The railway that runs along the flood plain on a low embankment also uses this route corridor. Where areas of deposition and erosion are evident on the Tywi there is no strong field patterning, and scrubby, rushy ground prevails. These areas are, however, fairly restricted and most of the area is divided into reasonably regular, medium-sized fields. Field boundaries are hedges without banks and earth banks topped with hedges. The former are planted on the valley floor presumably to facilitate flood-water drainage. Some hedges are accompanied by ditches. Most hedges are well maintained, though a significant number are becoming derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. Many hedges possess distinctive hedgerow trees, and these, together

with isolated trees and small copses lend a parkland aspect to the area. This may be a planned effect, designed to merge with the parks on the north side of the valley associated with gentry houses. Settlements are confined to low terraces which lie slightly above the flood plain and to the valley sides. A wide range of economic and social classes are represented by the buildings of the area from the gentry house of Ystrad, with an area of parkland, through to small roadside cottages. However, the settlement pattern is dominated by farms dispersed along a river terrace to the south of Llanwrda, on the lower slopes of both sides of the river. Farmhouses are quite substantial and tend towards the 'polite' with extensive, large semi-formal outbuildings, mainly supplemented with modern agricultural buildings.

Recorded archaeology is confined to buildings and the ford sites.

There are many distinctive buildings but none are listed. They include the gentry house at Glan-Dulais, the 18th- and 19th-century Ystrad house and park, and Pentremeurig with 16th century origins. Farmhouses are generally quite substantial - more so than the simple two storey, three-bay structures common elsewhere - and generally of 18th- or 19th-century date, stone built and polite, rather than vernacular. 20th century brick-built farmhouses are also present. Farm buildings are also large and are often arranged in a semi-formal setting with the farmhouse. 19th century stone-built examples and 20th century brick outbuildings are represented, and most farms possess large assemblages of modern agricultural buildings

This is a fairly distinct character area, and contrasts with the character areas of enclosed farmland with smaller farmsteads that bound it to the north and south (Areas 201, 207, 210, 214, 228, 257), with the urban areas of Llangadog and Llandovery (Areas 206, 212), and with former parkland to the northeast (Area 209).

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. 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 257 LLANWRDA PARISH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 727352

AREA IN HECTARES: 2058.00

Historic Background

An area lying on the north-west side of the Tywi Valley. During the historic period it lay within the commote of Malláen, the late Medieval parish of Llanwrda and the later hundred of Cao (Rees 1932). The commote was held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284, and in this area was subdivided into Gwestfa Llanwrda, probably administered from a *llys* at Neuadd Llanwrda (Area 210), and Gwestfa Ystrad Mynys, probably administered from a *llys* at Ystrad (Area 208). There is evidence for settlement from an early period; a possible Iron Age hillfort lies within the area while the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, turnpiked in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) and now represented by the A40(T), partly forms its south-eastern edge. The road was probably the route taken by the Anglo-Normans advancing from the east under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and subdued Cantref Bychan to the south. This initial campaign may be the context for the establishment of the motte at Glan-Mynys, on the edge of the Tywi floodplain; it may, however, be an independent Welsh foundation lying as it does in association with the possible *llys* at Ystrad. There may be a Medieval settlement site at Cwmdwr in the west of the area, and a possible moated site lies just beyond the northern edge. The present system of medium-large irregular fields suggests enclosure by the earlier Post-Medieval period, by which time the present pattern of farms had probably developed. The landscape is more-or-less unchanged from that depicted on the Llanwrda tithe map of 1837. There are no villages within the area but there is an interesting late development at Siloh where an early 19th century chapel and public house, on the droving route from Cao to Llandovery which crosses the northern part of the area, became the focii for a small nucleation. There has been little recent development.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This very large character area lies on the northern side of the Tywi valley and includes much of the parish of Llanwrda. From the floodplain of the Tywi at approximately 60m the land rises steeply to over 130 m. To the north of this the area is characterised by rolling hills and small, steep-sided valleys lying between 100 m and 230 m. It is essentially a landscape of widely dispersed farms, small irregular fields and scattered woodland. Boundaries to the fields consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Over such a wide area there are differences in the management of hedgerows, but most are in good condition, though there is a tendency for them to become derelict at higher levels, and overgrown at lower levels. Many of the hedges have distinctive hedgerow trees, and these together with the numerous small stands of deciduous woodland (particularly distinctive on the steep valley sides) and medium-sized conifer plantations lend a wooded aspect to the landscape. Farmland land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with very little rough grazing and rushy ground. There is no aggregate settlement; the settlement pattern is dominated by dispersed farms. Farmsteads are generally 19th century, stone-built, two-store and three-bay. Clearly over such a large area there is variation in type, but most are in the vernacular tradition, with fewer examples in the more polite 'Georgian' style. Older farm buildings are stone-built. There is a considerable variation in size and layout of these buildings, but mostly they are limited to one or two ranges, but with some larger more complex examples arranged formally around a yard. Most farms have modern agricultural buildings. There is virtually no modern residential development. Apart from a B road which cuts across the northern part of this area and which replaces the route of a Roman road from Llandovery to Pumsaint a little way to the north, all transport links in this area are local and consist of lanes, tracks and paths.

Recorded archaeology comprises a possible Iron Age hillfort, a Medieval settlement site, motte and possible chapel site, and a possible signal station of unknown date.

There are few distinctive buildings including Siloh and Tabor chapels, a former public house, dwellings, bridges and former mills.

To the north and west character areas have yet to be described, but here land rises into a series of low unenclosed and semi-enclosed hills. On other sides neighbouring character areas (Areas 208, 214 and 215) have similar landscape components to this area; here there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged boundary.

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