

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS OF THE TYWI VALLEY



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology



ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2007/17
PROJECT RECORD NO. 62758

March 2007

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS OF THE TYWI VALLEY

Gan / By

A Pyper

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd
yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can
accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the
information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Epost: cambria@cambria.org.uk
Gwefan: www.cambria.org.uk

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@cambria.org.uk
Website: www.cambria.org.uk

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
OBJECTIVES	5
METHODOLOGY	6
FARMING IN THE TYWI VALLEY	7
The traditional farming economy	7
Agricultural reform	7
Overview of Traditional Farm Buildings in the Tywi Valley	8
Plate 1: Ty Gwyn farm	8
Figure 1: Historic Landscape Character Areas	10
Figure 2: Listed Farm Buildings	11
Figure 3: Farm Buildings recorded on 1 st ed OS maps	12
SURVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS AND FARMSTEADS	13
FARMSTEAD LAYOUT	13
Figure 4: Glan'r-wyth isaf, Manordeilo	13
Figure 5: Golden Grove farmstead	14
DATE RANGE	14
Plate 2: The old farmhouse at Gilwen, Cilycwm	15
BUILDING TYPES	15
Buildings for storage and processing of crops	15
Plate 3: Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda	16
Livestock buildings	16
<i>Cow sheds</i>	16
Plate 4: Gilwen, Cilycwm	17
<i>Stables</i>	17
Plate 5: Glanmynys farm, Llanwrda	17
<i>Pigsties</i>	18
Plate 6: Abergwenlais Farm, Cilycwm	18
<i>Combination farm buildings</i>	18
Plate 7: Diflyn, Cilycwm	18
BUILDING MATERIALS	19
Stone	19
<i>Sources of stone</i>	19
<i>Geology</i>	19
<i>Dressings</i>	19
<i>Quality of stonework</i>	20
Plate 8: Tir Domen, Llanegwad	20
Earth	20
Plate 9: Ty Pica farm, Llanegwad	21
Brick	21
Plate 10: Felin-y-coed, Salem	21
Lime	21
<i>Limewash</i>	22
<i>Pointing</i>	22
Roofing Materials	22
<i>Stone Tile</i>	22
<i>Slate</i>	23
Plate 11: Cilsan, Llanegwad	23
<i>Torching</i>	23
Thatch	24
Corrugated Iron	24

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION ISSUES	25
Construction and Materials	25
<i>Building Materials</i>	25
<i>Roof</i>	26
<i>Joinery</i>	26
<i>Interiors</i>	27
SPECIFIC CONSERVATION NEEDS	27
FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	28
CONCLUSION	28
BIBLIOGRAPHY	30
FURTHER READING	30
CONTACTS	31
APPENDICES	32
APPENDIX A: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS	33
APPENDIX B: EXTRACTS FROM LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS	81
APPENDIX C: LIST OF FARMSTEADS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT WHICH FALL OUTSIDE THE PROJECT AREA	90

INTRODUCTION

Traditional farm buildings form an integral element of the historic landscape and lie at the core of the relationship between human activity and the landscape. Agricultural buildings and associated structures are a rich cultural resource in understanding social and economic history; every farm building is a piece of material evidence documenting the history of farming and collectively they demonstrate the ebb and flow of the farming economy in Wales. In a largely agricultural area, farm buildings make a significant contribution to local distinctiveness.

The importance of farm buildings as an archive of material culture has been raised in 'Carmarthenshire Farm Buildings: a source for socio-economic history' (Alfrey 2000). Recent work undertaken by Cambria Archaeology in describing and characterising the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape has also provided a level of understanding of the contribution that farm buildings make to landscape character (Murphy & Ludlow 2000).

As farming practises continue to develop over time, the demands on the farmstead and the buildings within it also change. Increasingly traditional farm buildings are superseded by new agricultural structures constructed for modern farming methods and old farm buildings no longer play such a vital role within the farmstead. As a consequence priorities shift within the farmstead and with them the application of resources to carry out necessary maintenance on the historic building stock.

Knowledge and understanding of traditional building materials and methods has also dwindled; once common skills for maintaining and repairing historic buildings have now become rare amongst both contractors and owners. This has been highlighted recently both in relation to funding of traditional farm building restoration through the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme and also Listed Building applications for conversion of farm buildings. The historic value of farmsteads, and the need for their careful conservation, is recognised in the recent Cadw publication 'Traditional Agricultural Buildings in Wales' (2006).

OBJECTIVES

This report constitutes an initial assessment of the traditional farm buildings within the Tywi valley. It has been commissioned by the Tywi Afon Yr Oesoedd Landscape Partnership in order to inform plans to develop a Traditional and Sustainable Building Centre at Home Farm, Dinefwr. The Tywi Afon Yr Oesoedd project area lies between the river bridges at Dryslwyn in the west and Llangadog to the northeast. Although this area is the focus of the project, wider issues concerning Tywi valley farm buildings are considered.

The main subject areas covered by this assessment are the levels of survival of the historic building stock and the type, nature and date of traditional farm buildings. Of special interest are the building materials and constructional techniques employed in the Tywi valley and in particular those which are specific to the Tywi valley and contribute to its distinctiveness. As a result, a number of specific conservation issues are raised. Recommendations are made for developing further the themes within this assessment, some of which could be achieved by involving local communities.

METHODOLOGY

The report is based on a desktop assessment of available information from various sources including:

Mapping

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition maps of the 1880s are the earliest maps which provide a sufficient level of detail to analyse each farmstead layout which, when compared with the current Ordnance Survey mapping, can indicate the levels of survival of traditional farm buildings. Whilst this is generally true it is likely that small farmsteads or farmsteads which lie within settlements are not easily recognised and are therefore under represented. Whilst comparisons of this nature can indicate whether the footprint of a historic building survives, it will not show the extent of the historic fabric which survives above ground level.

Historic Landscape Character Areas (Figure 1)

Information on farm buildings at a landscape scale is provided within the historic landscape characterisation of the Tywi Valley. This is currently the only source which considers buildings within their wider context and in relation to historic settlement patterns, local industries and enclosure patterns. The historic landscape character area descriptions for the project area are appended to this report (See Appendix A).

Statutory list (Figure 2)

A key source of information on historic buildings is the statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, maintained by Cadw. However, the late date of most farm buildings in the Tywi valley precludes many of them from the list in their own right, as only substantially intact pre-1840 buildings, or the best examples of buildings which post date 1840, are selected for listing. Listed building descriptions for buildings within the project area are appended to this report (See Appendix B).

Other sources

Other sources of information which have also been consulted include the Regional Historic Environment Records (HER), and information and descriptions collected from visits to farms as part of the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme.

Fieldwork

A limited amount of fieldwork was also undertaken to allow a brief overview of the dominant characteristics of farmstead type and date, building materials and methods of construction. This was not extensive and was limited to those buildings which were visible from the public highway. More detailed field-work and analysis would undoubtedly give a more refined picture of the distinctive character areas.

FARMING IN THE TYWI VALLEY

The rural landscape of the Tywi valley, as in much of Carmarthenshire, is dominated by agriculture. The landscape of the valley, incorporating the course of the river from the headwaters above Rhandirmwyn to the mouth of the river at Llansteffan, is rich and varied, providing a range of productive agricultural land. One would expect to see obvious contrasts between the farms which lie on the rich, fertile floodplain, described by the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain in 1946 as 'the best quality dairying land in the county' and those situated on the marginal steep valley sides and uplands.

Early systems of agriculture included (in upland areas at least) the tradition of transhumance where livestock and people spent summer months grazing upland pasture, *hafodydd*, returning to the main homestead, the *hendre*, over winter. Enclosure of land gathered pace towards the end of the 18th century and the 19th century saw large tracts of land, once held in common, divided up under the Enclosure Acts. The landscape pattern which we recognise today was largely established in the early 19th century and recorded on the tithe maps of that period. However, further landscape study would, no doubt, tease out earlier traditions of agriculture and settlement which are enshrined within it.

The traditional farming economy

Writing at the end of the 18th century, Charles Hassall described a rural economy in Carmarthenshire that was dominated by mixed farming;

'the lands are generally employed in mixed husbandry; every Farmer having dairy-stock, breeding stock of cattle and colts and also a portion of their Farms in tillage'

He found sheep rearing confined to those

'whose lands lie contiguous to, or near the hills; but not many breeding flocks of sheep are kept by the Vale or Upland Farmers, who live at a distance from unenclosed sheep walks.' (Hassall 1793, 12).

This mixed husbandry system is preserved in the historic landscape pattern and the traditional farm buildings of the Tywi valley. However there is also evidence of more specialised farming practices within the Tywi catchment. An example of this at the very head of the Tywi watercourse, above Llyn Brianne reservoir is the farmstead of Nantystalwyn, Llanwrtyd (Rec 24524). A large, early 19th century farmhouse in an upland setting with parallel ranges of farm buildings, it reflects a change from mixed farming to specialist sheep rearing. This is an interesting case of an upland farmstead deviating from the traditional longhouse arrangement typical of mixed farming methods. Within the farmed landscape are other structures which will reflect these specialist functions, in this instance the sheep dip and stone walled sheep folds are as significant an element as the buildings themselves (Pyper 2005).

Another example of specialist farms are the dairy farms which appear to be a characteristic of the lower Tywi valley. These farms, at diverse ends of the agricultural economy, demonstrate the immense range of farm types within the Tywi valley.

Agricultural reform

The turn of the 18th and 19th century was a great age of agricultural reform, when figures such as Hassall were examining agricultural practises and advising on improvements to existing farming methods. Many of the wealthy landowners were instrumental in this movement for change. One of the pioneers of the Tywi valley was George Rice of Dinefwr who was also a founder member of the Carmarthenshire Agricultural Society.

The age of agricultural improvement led to shifts in farming practises, new crop varieties, crop rotation and fresh ideas of livestock husbandry which included the remodelling of farmsteads. In this respect Hassall recommends:

'a proper farm yard of a moderate sized barn, a stable, with a granary over it; ox-house, cow-house, wain-house, calves-cott, and piggery with a shed on the west side to shelter the yard and for the outlying cattle to run under in severe weather.' (Hassall 1793, 32).

This mention of the ox-house demonstrates that oxen were still used on the farm at the end of the 18th century, although they were increasingly being replaced by horses to carry out heavy work.

Overview of Traditional Farm Buildings in the Tywi Valley

A number of factors will combine to affect the layout and construction of the farmstead and the buildings within it; the farm's size is directly reflected in the scale of the buildings which was closely related to the number of stock or the amount of crops to be processed and stored. The economic balance of stock to arable will be demonstrated by the size and dominance of different types of farm buildings within the farmstead complex.

Farm ownership will have a major influence on the farmstead and particularly on the architectural style employed in construction. Farms owned and managed by an estate or some tenanted farms may display a distinctive architectural 'signature' or architectural details such as the hipped or half-hipped roof - or even a particular paint colour. These features can set the farmstead apart from the independent farmer or small holder whose resources could not stretch to architectural extravagance.



Plate 1: Ty Gwyn farm, Llangunnor shows a level of architectural detailing which suggests estate patronage.

Although a number of small estates also owned land at the end of the 18th century, the major landowners in the Tywi valley were the Cawdor, Dinefwr and Edwinsford estates. However, even on estate owned farms the tenant was often responsible for the building and repairing of the farm buildings - an arrangement which led to many buildings being in a poor state of repair at the end of the 18th century;

'no country exhibits more wretched conveniences for farm uses than are generally to be seen in this district' (Hassall 1793, 47-48).

Hassall directly blames this arrangement between the landlord and tenant as the principal cause for the poor state of most farm structures, although he noted that some landlords have a more progressive attitude to the maintenance and repair of the farmstead.

In constructing new farmsteads Hassall advises landlords that;

'the strictest regard should be paid to economy; the buildings should be just large enough to answer the purpose and no more – erected upon the cheapest plan possible: - built firmly, and well secured against the effects of storms; so as to prevent, as much as may be, the expence (sic) of future repairs.' (Hassall 1793, 33)

Increasingly during the 19th century some estates took the maintenance and repair of farm buildings in-house, and employed carpenters and stone masons to undertake this work. Indeed during the 20th century the Cawdor estate employed and housed a stonemason and joiner in Rhandirmwyn expressly to maintain estate properties.

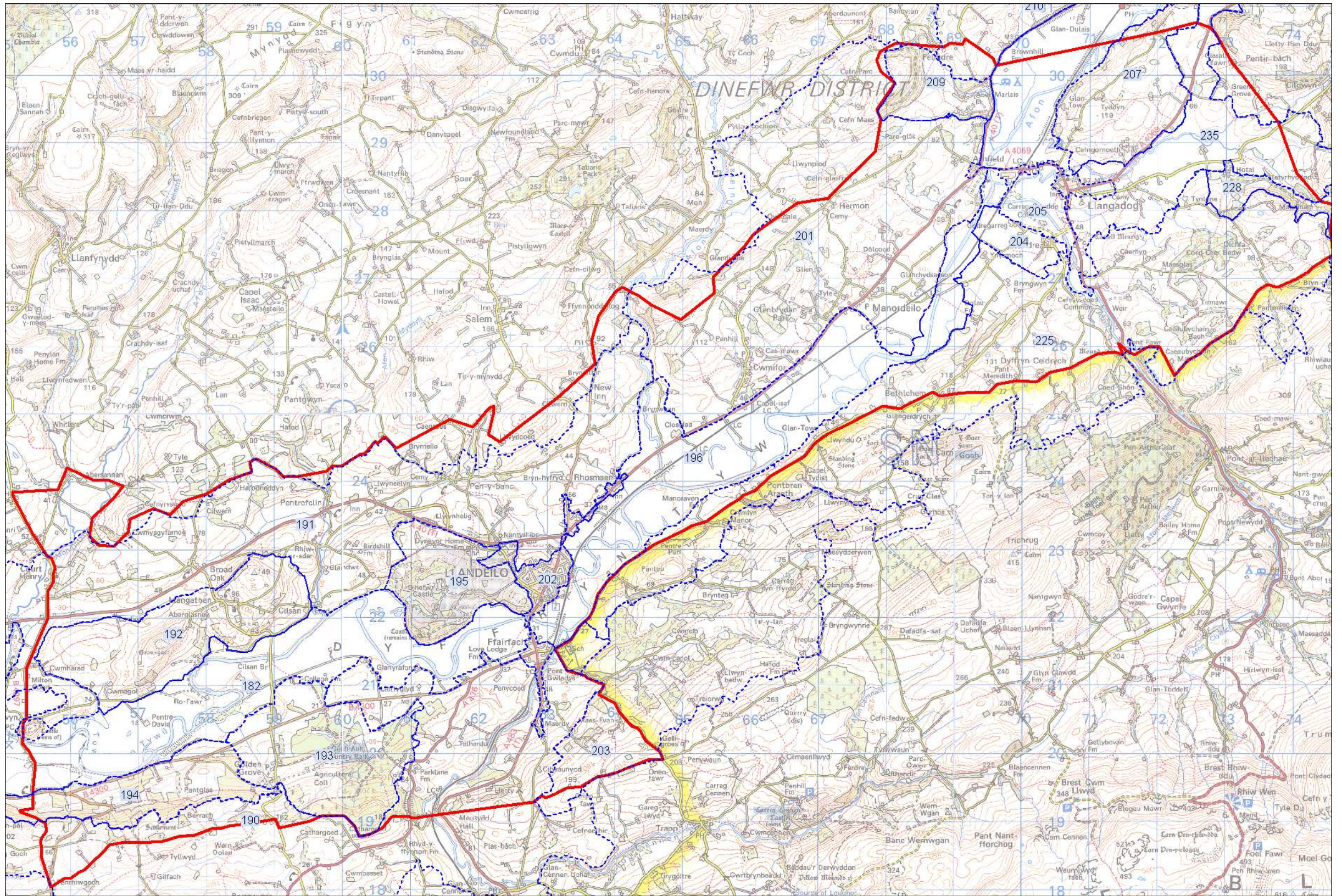


Figure 1: Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd project area, showing Historic Landscape Character Areas
Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
© Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

An Assessment of the Traditional Farm Buildings of the Tywi Valley

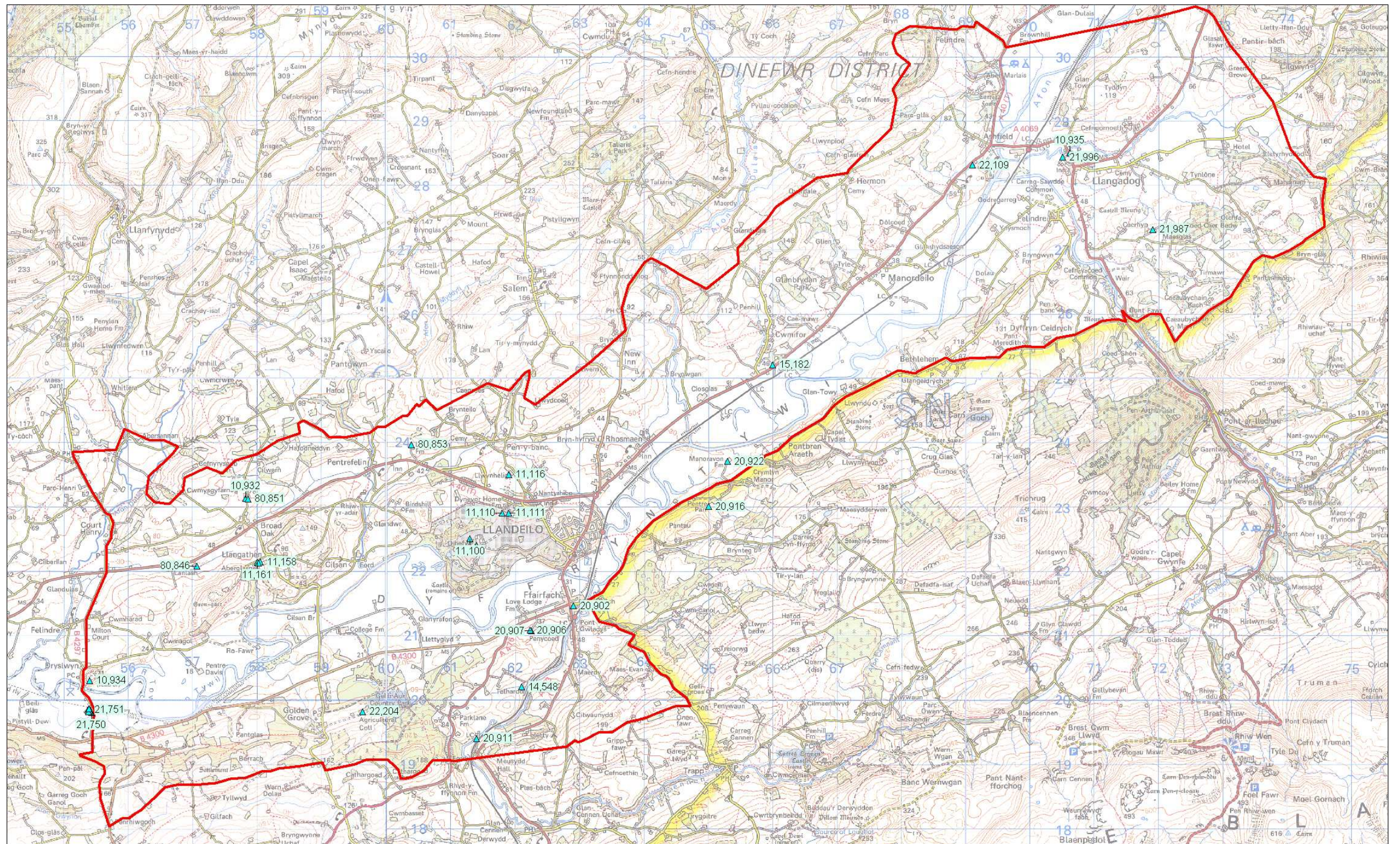


Figure 2: Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd project area, showing Listed Farm Buildings
 Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
 © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

An Assessment of the Traditional Farm Buildings of the Tywi Valley

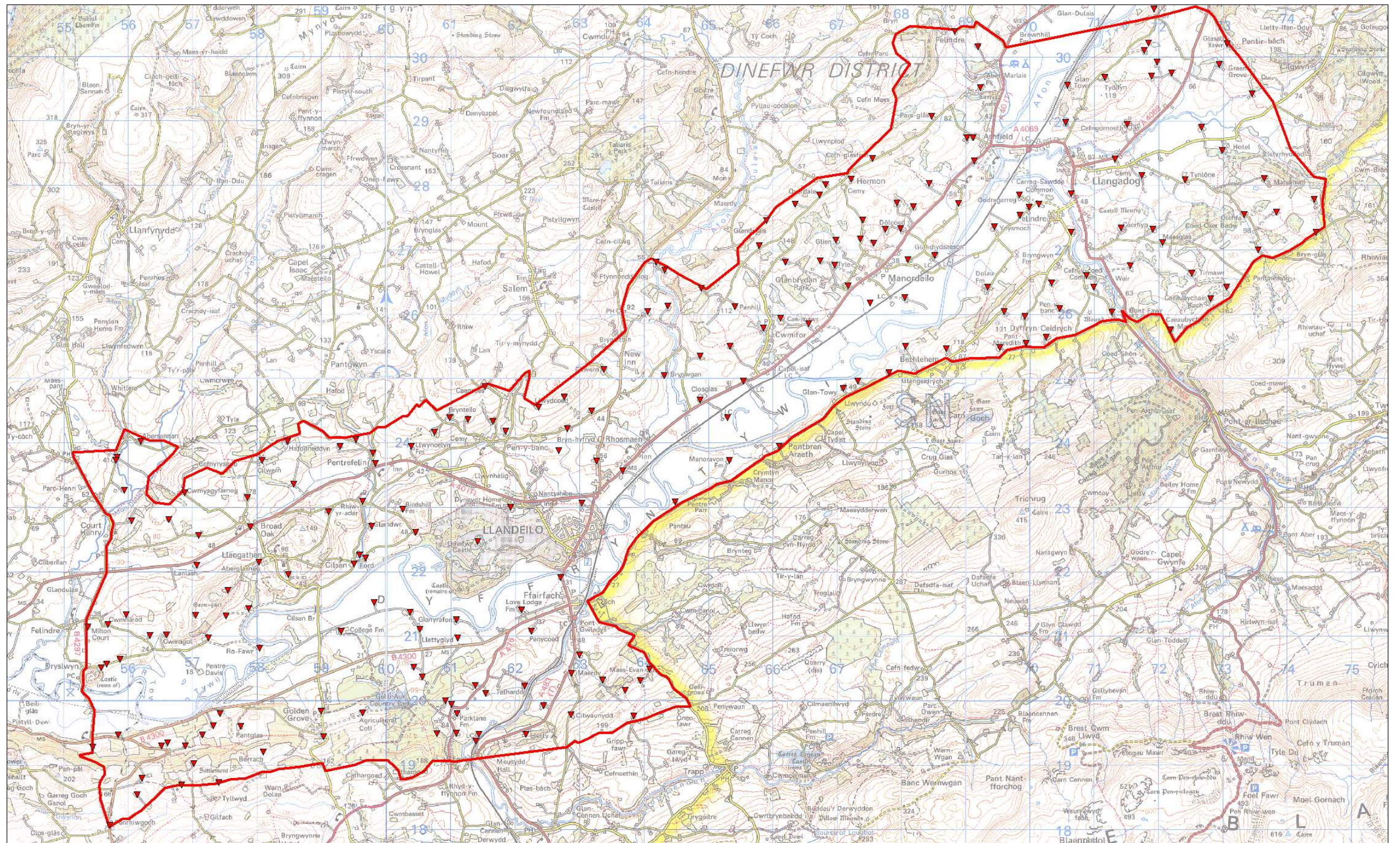


Figure 3: Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd project area, showing Farm Buildings recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880's
 Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
 © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

SURVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS AND FARMSTEADS

Within the specific project area of Tywi Afon Yr Oesoedd, of 226 farmsteads that have been identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s only ten farmsteads have been completely lost, (ie there is no trace of the farmstead surviving on current mapping). The vast majority of farmsteads recorded on the 1st edition maps continue to be represented on current maps, demonstrating that farmsteads established before the end of the 19th century generally survive in the landscape we see today (Figure 3).

Of these historic farmsteads the footprint of individual farm buildings have substantially survived with further farm buildings added to the farmstead. It appears that, although farming practices have developed dramatically over the last 60 years, with greater mechanisation employed on the farm, farmers have responded largely by adding buildings to the farmstead rather than wholesale replacement. It is heartening to see that traditional farm buildings have not been lost in this transition and still survive in substantial numbers with the farmsteads of the Tywi valley.

Some examples of conversions of farm buildings to residential uses were noted in the fieldwork, and although the full extent of such conversions is not known, it appears to be relatively limited. Conversion can pose a serious threat to the historic integrity of a farm building if it is carried out insensitively. These conservation issues are addressed in the recent Cadw publication, 'Converting Farm Buildings in Wales; A Guide to Good Practice' (2004).

FARMSTEAD LAYOUT

Early survivals of traditional farmsteads in the region are often farmhouses with the byre attached, positioned running down slope. The true longhouse type was characterised by a single entrance located in the byre feed passage, serving both the domestic quarters and the animal accommodation, while other linear type farmsteads had the byre below the house but had independent access.

Longhouses or longhouse derivatives are typically associated with smaller mixed farms on marginal land. Surviving examples in the Tywi catchment are found northwest of the river in the communities of Cynwyl Gaeo, Llansadwrn, Talley and Llanwrda. Their survival may be down to a lack of resources to undertake the rebuilding which was so widespread in the valley floor.

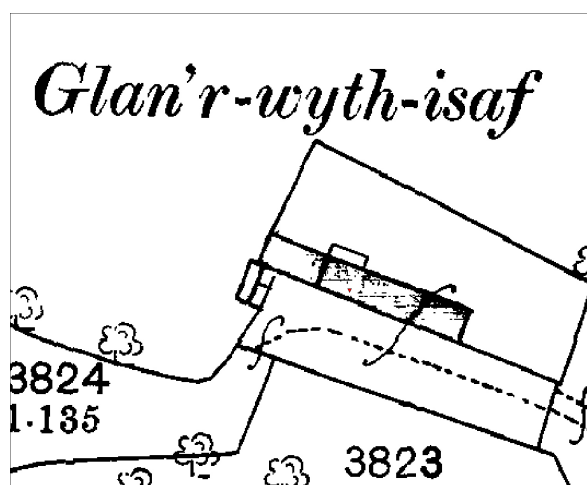


Figure 4: Glan'r-wyth isaf, Manordeilo demonstrates a classic linear layout

Small-holdings characterised by simple linear farmsteads, are to be found dotted along the upland margins of the Tywi valley and predominate on the northwest side of the river within the project area.

The great reformers and commentators such as Hassall were, at the end of the 18th century, recommending a well laid out farmstead arranged around a central yard where stock could be over wintered and the most precious commodity, manure, collected to be used to improve the fields.

The complete rebuilding of a farmstead in one coherent episode however was an expensive process and one that only wealthy landowners could undertake. Therefore, those farmsteads which demonstrate the most orderly arrangement of buildings are most likely to belong to an estate and may even be experimental in their arrangements; such as at Manorafon (20922) and Dryslwyn Fawr (21750). More piecemeal replacement of buildings is a common feature of farmsteads which results in a less coherent whole.

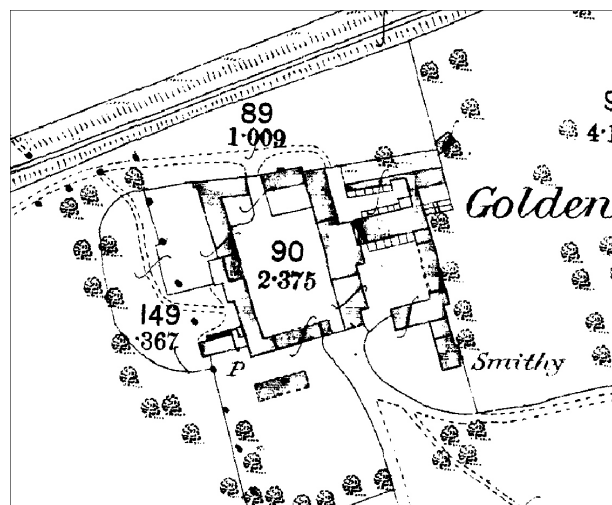


Figure 5: Golden Grove farmstead demonstrates estate investment in a highly organised and tightly planned layout.

A wide variety of farmstead layouts ranging from the simple linear farmsteads to large planned courtyards - each relating to different agricultural economies and different ownerships - are represented within the valley

DATE RANGE

Initial assessment suggests that there are subtle differences in the date range of farmsteads represented in various areas, although this information is currently only available from the descriptions provided from Listed Building records and Tir Gofal Farm Visits and further research would provide clarity. Relatively few early farm buildings survive - there are no listed farm buildings which predate the 18th century - and few examples which predate the 19th century. Dinefwr Home Farm may be one of the earliest farmsteads and is thought to date from the early 18th century. (National Trust report).

No recorded examples of early longhouse types lie within the specific project area. However within the catchment of the Tywi, on the north side of the river, lie the possible 17th century remodellings of late medieval cruck framed halls at Aberdaunant and Gellicefnyrhos (Llansadwrn and Talley) (Lloyd 2006, 71).

The majority of recorded farmsteads are largely 19th century constructions, exhibiting some degree of planning around a central yard, which accords with the great age of agricultural reform and the widespread rebuilding of farmsteads.

The pinnacle of this type is the planned, or model farms which were constructed all of a piece and examples of this type within the Tywi valley include, Manorafon Dyffryn Cennen; Dryslwyn Fawr, Llanarthne; Golden Grove, Llanfihangel Aberbythryth (figure 5) and Cilsan, Llangathen.

There are a number of instances where new farmhouses have been built on or near the farmyard, superseding the earlier house which was then reused or adapted for agricultural purposes (Gilwen, Cilycwm)



Plate 2: The old farmhouse at Gilwen, Cilycwm has been superseded by a new bungalow, and has since been used to accommodate calves and as a workshop

In some areas extensive early 20th century replacement of traditional farm buildings has taken place, particularly to the south of Carmarthen with a high percentage of rebuilding during the 1st half of the 20th century. Indeed the landscape itself seems to exhibit a phase of rationalisation and widespread pasture improvement.

A phase of early 20th century brick replacement and additions to the farmstead are also demonstrated within the fertile floodplain of the Tywi valley and may indicate a shift to specialist dairy units, eg Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda.

BUILDING TYPES

The variety of building types, their size and construction is governed by the organisation of the farm as a whole and its predominant economy. Each element has a specialised building type which is broadly divided into crop storage / processing and livestock accommodation. Some buildings house a number of functions under one roof, but characteristic features such as the pattern of openings and its size give clues to the primary function within.

Buildings for storage and processing of crops

Barns are perhaps the most easily recognisable form of building within the farmstead, usually characterised by opposing doors to allow a through-draught for winnowing and a solid floor to thresh grain. Other than doorways the openings within barns are usually restricted to ventilation slits.

The Tywi valley floodplain is characterised by very large-scale barns, often with two sets of threshing floors and large double doors, dominating the farmstead, (Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda; Glanmynys, Llanwrda; Dryslwyn Fawr, Llanarthne).

South of Dryslwyn barns play a less obvious role in the farmstead and are often not immediately recognisable. This suggests a more specialist stock farming economy where land cultivation is predominantly carried out only on a subsistence level to provide grain for animal feed, rather than a marketable product.



Plate 3: Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda, has a large barn with double threshing floors; typical of the Tywi floodplain

A small canopy, or pentice roof, over the threshing door is a distinctive but rare feature found in the Tywi valley; the barn at Pwllagddu, Llanwrda demonstrates this feature but it is also known to have existed at Llandeilo'r-ynys, Nantgaredig (Wiliam, 1985, p153) and Pantllwyfen, Llanwrda.

Machinery

In the 19th century machinery was increasingly employed to carry out crop processing, usually powered by horse engines or water power - harnessed from a near-by watercourse. Processing was powered by steam engines on wealthier farms. However, these were rare and it is a more common feature in the Tywi valley to see traces of a circular horse-walk to the side of the barn (Erryd, Cilycwm). Crop processing from water power is not common in the study area, but does occur in the higher reaches of the valley (Felin y Coed, Manordeilo and Salem).

Livestock buildings

Cow sheds

Cattle husbandry formed a central element to the Tywi valley agricultural economy and almost every farmstead had accommodation for a beast. The early examples of cow sheds are characterised by a long, low building with a loft above, commonly without any windows at all or at most a ventilation slit or two. In the nineteenth century, however, ideas about cattle housing changed and ventilation was increased, often by removing the loft or building a single storey structure internally open to the roof.

The arrangement of the openings is key to understanding the functioning of buildings. In early cow sheds the beasts were tethered in rows across the building, often with a central feed passage and manure passages at either gable end. Later cow sheds had a long feed passage running the length of the building with entrances in the gable ends - an example of this type is found at Dryslwyn Fawr, Llanarthne.

Housing for cattle is a dominant feature of the Tywi valley and the scale of these buildings, the footprint they occupy within the farmyard and their relationship to

other buildings, indicates the economic dominance of cattle husbandry within the organisation of the farm.

A characteristic feature of cow housing is the manner in which the roof slate is laid. 'To brat' or open slating is distinctive because a small space is left between every slate in each course increasing ventilation for the beasts below. This is quite a defining characteristic of the lower Tywi valley and is often seen within the study area although it is also present elsewhere in southwest Wales. This type of slating is further discussed in the section on roofing materials.



Plate 4: Gilwen, Cilycwm, cow shed, a typical arrangement of low openings with loft above.

Stables

Stables often appear to be the highest status buildings within the farmstead, reflecting the fact that horses were the most valuable beasts on the farm. Increasingly horses took over from oxen in cultivating the fields from the 18th century. Stables are distinguished by usually being two storey with a hay loft or farm workers' accommodation above. Stables are generally better ventilated and well lit in comparison to cowsheds and often demonstrate a greater degree of investment in construction. Internal arrangements show that horses were most commonly stalled along the length of the building.



Plate 5: This stable at Glanmynys farm, Llanwrda has a higher roof line than the cow shed (to the right) and is well lit with two flanking windows.

Pigsties

Pigs were a common feature in the rural economy and every farm including small holdings would keep pigs. A traditional but now extremely rare form of pigsty is the circular beehive sty of which none are recorded in the Tywi valley. A later and far more common type of pigsty is the low covered building with external open yard. This building is possibly the most vulnerable type within the farmstead, as their small size does not lend itself well to adaptation and pigs are no longer reared on such a small subsistence scale.



Plate 6: These pigsties at Abergwenlais Farm, Cilycwm, follow the typical arrangement of small covered pens with external yards.

Combination farm buildings

Commonly, the integration of a number of building types is seen under one roof, such as the barn, cart shed and stable seen at Nantddu, Llanfair ar y Bryn.



Plate 7: This combination farm building range at Diflyn, Cilycwm includes cart sheds and stables with lofts above.

The range of farm building types represented on each farmstead reveals the detailed workings of the farm; they provide evidence for the organisation of land-use and the variety within the agricultural economy of the area.

BUILDING MATERIALS

The use of different building materials in construction is influenced by a number of factors including the location and accessibility of materials, the ease of haulage, the availability of labour and the skills to prepare it. Each of these factors will also be affected by issues such as ownership and economic resources; the relationship between landowners and tenants and the agreements between them will have had a direct influence on the construction, maintenance and repair of traditional buildings (Alfrey 2007). Increasingly in the 19th century landlords took on the construction and maintenance of farm buildings and this is demonstrated by the number of farmsteads that exhibit some degree of replacement and planning in their construction and layout (Lloyd et al 2006, 71).

Stone

Stone is the dominant building material found in the Tywi valley, and is ubiquitous amongst the listed building records for farm buildings. However, there is an enormous range to the geological type of stone used, the manner in which it is prepared, how it is used in construction and how it is finished.

Sources of stone

Building stone might be obtained from quarries, gathered from field clearance, or extracted from the rivers. Records show that on estate owned farms, tenants might be expected to use stone from an estate quarry, even though there may have been nearer alternative sources (Alfrey 2007, 55). The rivers were clearly a great source of building material; the great meanders of the Tywi provide river cobbles that are replenished with frequent winter floods.

Geology

An appreciation of the complex geology of the Tywi valley is key to the understanding of the built environment; the use of locally acquired building stone is a principal element in defining the character of an area. The course of the river Tywi forms an approximate boundary between the Ordovician shales and impure limestones that lie to the northwest of the river and the Silurian siltstones, sandstones and limestones found to the south.

Of major importance to the building traditions of the Tywi valley is the Old Red Sandstone which outcrops in the Llangadog region and is exposed along the course of the river Sawdde. The use of river stone including Old Red Sandstone is a defining characteristic of the buildings in this area. In some estate owned buildings this is employed to decorative effect eg. Glan Sawdde farm; Dan-yr-Allt stables; Cwrt-y-plas, Llangadog.

Although stone is a plentiful resource in the Tywi valley there is always a cost either in terms of availability, haulage or labour, ease of preparation and dressing of stone and the necessity for a bonding material.

Dressings

Although the majority of farm buildings are constructed out of locally available stone, a number of farm buildings exhibit freestone dressings, such as quoins, voussoirs and jambs, which must have been imported (Cwrt-y-plas, Llangadog; Dryslwyn Fawr, Llanarthne). A source of limestone dressings might be the limestone quarries at Llandybie. Wealthier or estate owned farms are likely to have called on 'in-house' resources in terms of estate quarries and skilled stone masons who might have prefabricated dressings in estate workshops.

Quality of stonework

Even modest farms however, often demonstrate a high quality of craftsmanship. Tir Domen, Llanegwad exhibits a hierarchy of building materials and techniques within a single building; the stonework facing the road in the gable end is of high quality faced rubble stone, brought to courses in line with dressed (limestone?) quoins giving an orderly, decorative effect. The diminishing quality of stonework represented on each elevation corresponds with those wall faces which are most readily visible. The rear wall is constructed in an unremarkable random rubble stone. This building also demonstrates the use of brickwork to decorative effect in a second phase of building involving the raising of the roof and heightening of wall tops; a quality which may be repeated throughout the survey area.



Plate 8: This modest farm building at Tir Domen, Llanegwad exhibits a hierarchy of building materials and techniques relating to the visibility of elevations.

Due to the porosity of much of the stonework many of the farm buildings had a weather coating of lime render or lime wash. However this is not ubiquitous across the farmsteads of the region, neither is it ubiquitous across the buildings of the farmsteads themselves. Often limewash will be reserved for the elevations facing the prevailing weather, and in some cases the limewashing may be reserved for those most visible elevations and applied with the aesthetics of the farmstead in mind.

Earth (Clom)

The proximity of stone would not necessarily mean that it was always used, it is widely recorded that even in those areas where stone was abundant cottages were often built of earth and thatched (Alfrey, 2007; 55). Survival of earth built buildings is poor within the project area, and there are no listed farm buildings of earth construction. However, they are known to have existed in this area and information was brought forward recently about a small apple store at Ty Pica, Llanegwad. It is likely that further examples exist which are as yet unrecorded. Earth buildings are not easily recognised and this may be one of the reasons so few are identified; the limewash or render commonly applied to protect them obscures the wall fabric and therefore the material and method of construction. In addition earth construction may not be the predominant constructional method within a farmstead, or even within a specific building, often earth is used for

repairs or alterations. Further investigation into the extent of the survival of this method of building would be advantageous.



Plate 9: This small building in an orchard at Ty Pica farm, Llanegwad is constructed out of earth, built up on dwarf stone walls.

Brick

Brick is not usually represented as the main constructional material until the early 20th century, when a number of farm buildings, particularly on the lower reaches or floodplain of the Tywi valley were built in brick (Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda). It was however, used on a small scale in the 19th century. Wealthy farms such as Dryslwyn Fawr, whilst not using brick extensively, used it for the front wall of the stable and for dressings around the openings elsewhere on the farmstead. Later 19th century buildings may also demonstrate the use of coloured brick as a decorative feature in some of the higher status buildings such as the yellow brick used at Awelaur coach house (Llanfihangel) and the black engineering bricks used for the openings at the stables at Danyrallt, Llangadog.



Plate 10: This cow shed situated below the house at Felin-y-coed, Salem demonstrates different coloured brick used for decorative affect.

Lime

Lime is a fundamental material for buildings; not only used as a bonding material in the construction of stone or brickwork, but also as a protective,

weatherproofing layer either of render and / or limewash. That said, it was also costly and some poorer buildings may reveal that the main bonding material was largely earth, possibly with lime mortar used only in pointing up the masonry or as a shelter coat of limewash.

Limewash

In some areas pigments were added to limewash to give a colour wash. There is only one recorded example of a colourwash within the project area – that is the combination farm building at Pistyll Dewi, Llanarthne, which is currently limewashed in a yellow ochre. Whether this is a historic colour or a recent adaptation is unrecorded, a reference in Williams (1986, p60) suggests that it was whitewashed. It may be that historically colour was used to a greater extent, but has gradually given way to whitewash and the evidence has not yet been recorded. It is known that in some areas, colour was used to differentiate between building types, particularly in the longhouse tradition where the domestic end might be coloured and the agricultural end whitewashed. Limewash was often applied to the interiors of cowsheds and granaries due to its disinfectant qualities.

Incidences of limewashing are abundant amongst the traditional farm buildings of the Tywi valley, but there is little evidence that it was used on the 'polite' farmsteads attached to an estate. The use and distribution of this characteristic would have to be explored further, however it may be the quality of masonry which influences its distribution; limewash or lime render is not likely to be used where high quality stonemasonry and the decorative use of stone has been employed. A complicating factor in this analysis is the possibility that some buildings have lost their limewash covering and the tradition of regular limewashing is diminishing.

Pointing

Where masonry has been left exposed the pointing is a critical element in the visual impression of a building and whether it is flush, proud or recessed and in lime or a sand:cement mortar will have a significant impact on the appearance of a building. This is particularly noticeable in those buildings where the masonry has been constructed with a decorative effect and there may be buildings where pointing was also consciously used to decorative effect. One possible example of this is Glan Sawdde farm, Llangadog where raised pointing has been used on the boundary walls. This may be relatively recently repointed, however it is thought that elsewhere this kind of raised pointing more commonly seen in late 20th century work, may have earlier origins (Alfrey, pers comm.). It is important to recognise that pointing is an integral part of the historical construction of a building, and that variety in both mortar mix and application make their own contribution to built character.

Roofing Materials

Prior to the opening up of the railway network in the mid-late nineteenth century which allowed thin uniform slate to be imported from commercial quarries most farm buildings in the Tywi valley would have either been roofed in stone tile or thatched with local straw. The majority of farm buildings are now roofed in uniform non-local slate, but different roofing techniques were employed even in the use of this dominant material, imparting significant variety and distinctiveness. Historically ridge tiles were constructed out of clay or stone and were butt jointed rather than overlapping.

Stone Tile

The source of stone tiles is limited to a narrow band of 'Tilestone' which runs continuously from the Cennen at Ffairfach, along the southern slopes of Trichrug

ridge and Mynydd Myddfai to the Wye Valley near Builth Wells. It has been extensively quarried for roofing slate. Stone tile roofs are distinctive, not only in the material but the method with which it is used. The stone tile roofs of the Tywi valley are invariably laid with diminishing courses, a method which allowed the economical use of all the available stone and produces an attractive finish. Historically stone tiles were fixed to the battens by wooden pegs.

Due to the thickness of the tiles the weight of a stone tile roof is considerably heavier than a modern slate roof. This necessitated a much more robust roof using greater timbers capable of bearing heavy loads. Consequently, this type of roof demonstrates a considerable investment of resources in terms of finances, labour and craftsmanship. Examples of stone tile roofs are confined to those areas in close proximity to the Tilestone quarries, and examples in the Tywi valley project area include; Pentre Parr, Dyffryn Cennen; Dinefwr Home Farm, Llandeilo and Bridge Farm, Llandeilo (unlisted).

Slate

The widespread use of slate brought into the area from the mid-to-late 19th century has its own distinctive characteristics. The 'To brat' roof or open slated roof is distinct due to the gaps left between the horizontal courses of slate. This is commonly seen on those roofs where greater ventilation was thought advantageous and is usually identified over livestock accommodation. It also has the advantage of being more economical in materials. This feature can be seen at Dryslwyn Fawr, Llanarthne and Pencoed, Dyffryn Cennen.

To imply that this method of slating was used on a purely functional or economical basis would be misleading, there are examples where it was clearly used with decorative intent, such as at the small scale but architecturally 'polite' complex at Cilsan isaf, Llanegwad. This method of slating has not been recorded in the upper reaches of the Tywi valley, and it is interesting to speculate the reasons for this.



Plate 11: Cilsan, Llanegwad, this wonderful example of a small scale courtyard plan farmstead exhibits open slating, which was obviously used for decorative effect.

Torching

Historically where the roof may have required additional weatherproofing the underside of the slates would be sealed with haired lime mortar; a process known as 'Torching'. This might be single torched (where the top edge of each batten is sealed), double torched (top and bottom edge sealed) or fully torched (filling up the gap between battens with lime mortar). Unfortunately this level of detail is not recorded and can only be seen with internal inspection so it is unknown to what extent this characteristic survives in the Tywi valley.

Thatch

Perhaps the most abundant roofing material on any farm would have been straw, a natural by-product of arable farming and obviously the cheapest form of roofing material. In addition, thatch is the lightest historic roofing material (other than the more recent use of corrugated sheeting) so the timber roof frame did not have to support such great weights nor did it have to be even and level. Although there are no records of surviving thatched roofs on farm buildings within the Tywi valley project area, there is evidence for the widespread use of thatch in the Tywi valley and indeed the apple store previously mentioned at Ty Pica farm, Llanegwad, is said to have been thatched (Plate 9).

Corrugated iron was commonly used to cover deteriorating thatch and it is likely that further thatched roofs survive that are as yet unrecorded. Those that are known of, such as Troed-y-rhiw, Llanwrda, demonstrate a traditional roof construction of raised crucks, laid with rough poles, upon which a mixture of gorse, bracken and heather are laid as a bed of underthatch. This is laid with longstraw – straw which has been subjected to threshing and the heads and butts mixed. This is a distinctive style of thatching predominant in southwest Wales and quite unlike the combed wheat reed common in Devon and which now pervades the rest of the country.

Close examination of thatch can reveal the economy of the farm, providing information on the varieties of arable crops, some which may no longer be cultivated, and once common weed species. In addition they provide valuable information on the surrounding environment of the farmstead by preserving locally available materials such as bracken, turves or heather.

Corrugated Iron

Due to industrial developments in the late 19th century the use of corrugated iron as a building material became widespread and can be seen on almost every farm. Corrugated iron sheeting was most commonly used as a roofing material and was often used to cover over failing thatched roofs. It is thanks to the weatherproof, durable nature of 'tin' that a number of examples of thatch survive underneath.

In the later nineteenth century pre-fabricated hay barns were manufactured; these barns, often with 'hooped' roofs although sometimes pitched, are a distinctive feature of the farm building stock. Although commonly found situated on the periphery of the farmstead, in some areas, particularly on the Tywi floodplain they have been constructed in remote locations in order to avoid the time and effort of transporting hay back to the farmstead. These buildings have, in their own right, become a distinctive feature of the landscape and now corrugated iron is becoming correctly acknowledged as a traditional building material.

There is a wide variety of building techniques and applications within an ostensibly limited range of building materials (ie largely stone and slate) which contribute a great diversity to the different areas in the valley. This range of building techniques is key to the local distinctiveness and portrays the social history of the farming community within the valley. Retaining this diversity is crucial to preserving local character.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION ISSUES

'To repair old buildings well, they must be understood. Appreciation of a building's particular architectural qualities and a study of its construction, use and social development are all enlightening. These factors also help us to see why decay sets in and how it may be put right.' SPAB

In order to retain the special characteristic qualities of the traditional farm buildings of the Tywi valley there a number of key points raised by this initial assessment of the historic farm building stock which need to be addressed.

General conservation principles should be observed:

- Repair historic fabric rather than replace
- Where replacement is necessary it should be undertaken on a like for like basis
- Local traditions should be observed and maintained in repairs
- Modern techniques can be appropriate where they allow the retention of historic fabric eg the reinforcing of structural timbers with steel plates
- Historic alterations should be respected, they provide valuable evidence of buildings changing role

Works to a historic building need to be carried out based on sound knowledge and a proper understanding of the building. This information will not only place the building in its historical context but will also help to show how the building functions and should therefore direct any proposals.

In general where a building is in a sound condition, maintenance only should be necessary. Any work should only be undertaken where there is a demonstrated need for intervention. When works are deemed necessary, then only minimum intervention should be carried out, with the intention of retaining as much historic fabric as possible rather than unnecessary replacement giving the impression of a building 'over restored'.

Construction and Materials

These general conservation principles should be adhered to when approaching works to a traditional farm building.

Building Materials

1. Materials and the way they were used varied enormously. Any particular style of stonework, types of stone and dressing should be maintained. Subtle variations in masonry techniques need to be recognised, and new work should matched as closely as possible to the historic fabric. That said materials should not be artificially 'aged' in order to blend in completely, honest repairs give the building its historic integrity.
2. The buildings themselves should guide the works: where specific materials have been used, this tradition should be continued unless there is good reason otherwise.
3. The bonding material or mortar within the fabric will be made up of different mixes of local aggregate and may contain a substantial amount of earth. This mix should be respected and closely matched in new work.
4. Pointing should also follow the historic style - often it is preserved in sheltered places, for example under the eaves.

5. The sourcing of stone for repairs is a significant concern;
 - 5.1. Building stone within the Tywi valley varies widely over a relatively small geographical area therefore sourcing suitable stone may be difficult due to a lack of suitable quarries.
 - 5.2. Of particular concern is the sourcing of stone roofing tile which is no longer quarried commercially in the Tywi valley. Increasing the demand for second hand tilestone is problematic due to the increased risk of existing roofs being stripped and sold in response to this market.
6. Clom (earth) buildings or buildings which might contain an element of clom construction need to be recognised and maintained. Earth is vulnerable when exposed to weather, where it survives it can be repaired.
7. The location and colour of external finishes should be respected and the historic use of limewash should be studied, as limewashing may have been limited only to significant façades. Sheltered locations, such as under the eaves, should reveal the extent and colour of historic finishes.

Roof

8. Maintenance of the roof is key to the survival of the building, and repairs should be carried out as and when necessary to ensure the buildings keep watertight. The historic form - height, pitch, covering - is key to the character of the building. The majority of the farm buildings of the Tywi valley are slated roofs, however there are some distinctive characteristics which should be maintained, the coursing, size of slates and their fixings should be matched as closely as possible.
9. The 'to brat' or open slated roof is a particular characteristic in the lower Tywi valley, the position and extent of this roofing style should be maintained in repairs.
10. Pegged slate roofs are diminishing and it is unknown how many survive in the Tywi valley. Where-ever possible however this technique should be retained and sustained in repairs.
11. Details such as ridge tiles, roof lanterns and pentice roofs over barn doors should be retained and repaired to maintain local character.
12. Where thatch survives it has the potential to provide an enormous amount of information, and should never be removed without analysis and recording. Traditionally longstraw thatch – the historic thatching style in the Tywi valley – was never wholesale replaced, new coats were added to the base coat. Thatch should be retained either under corrugated iron or repaired incorporating the existing thatch.
13. Corrugated iron is recognised as a traditional building material and a distinctive feature of the Tywi valley. While it is still being used widely, there is a danger that the box profile sheeting will become predominant.
14. Corrugated iron should not be replaced with slate unless there is sound evidence for its earlier use: the roof may have been thatched or stone tiled

Joinery

15. Distinctive local style is also evident in the joinery and this is particularly pertinent on estate owned farms which had 'in-house' joiners and carpenters. Although there has not been sufficient detail observed in scope of this report

to define local or regional characteristics. The construction, proportions and details of joinery should be respected and maintained.

16. Paint finishes to joinery, including windows and doors, should be retained. These may reflect a livery which gives the buildings an immediate association with an estate or landlord.

Interiors

17. The interiors of farm buildings have not been explored as part of this project due to a lack of detailed information. In relation to conservation needs though, there are particular issues relating to the laying of slabbed, cobbled or pitched stone floors and other fixtures and fittings of historic interest.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION NEEDS

To respond to these identified conservation needs there are a number of skills which are relevant to maintaining strong local traditions:

1. Skilled stone masons able to recognise the distinctive features of a given building and the flexibility to respond to different types of stonework and its construction.
2. Access to suitable sources of material, in particular building stone and stoneware for roofing
3. Specialist roofing skills need to be fostered in particular;
 - 3.1. Recognition of the extent of the historic use of To brat or open slating which is a distinctive feature of the Tywi valley area and the importance of maintaining these historic traditions.
 - 3.2. Skills in the repair of stone tile roofs laid in diminishing courses, also a characteristic feature of the Tywi valley area.
 - 3.3. Where torching with haired limed mortar has been used to the underside of roofs this feature should be maintained. The introduction of roofing felt is not normally appropriate in a historic farm building unless there is sound justification for it.
4. Knowledge and use of lime as a construction material and weatherproofing material should be promoted. Lime for mortar, render or limewash was used on all historic farm buildings in the Tywi valley and is therefore integral to the functioning and 'breathability' of the buildings. It is essential that to maintain these buildings and their historic character owners, contractors and professionals are all aware of the benefits of continuing this tradition.
5. Clom construction is a method which has largely fallen out of use, however, there are probably clom buildings surviving and the skills required in their repair, consolidation and construction should be fostered in order to ensure their long term survival.
6. Skills in thatching with longstraw are almost redundant in this area, but there may be limited opportunities for this skill to be practised on traditional buildings in the Tywi valley.
7. The interiors of farm buildings are unexplored in this project. However in relation to conservation needs there are particular issues relating to the laying of slabbed, cobbled or pitched stone floors.
8. The best insurance for the long term survival of historic farm buildings is their continued use and role within the farmstead, however, where this becomes

untenable suitable alternative uses should be sought. Conversion to residential uses may not be the most appropriate. Professionals need to be skilled in identifying the buildings' significant characteristics and imaginative ways of maintaining these characteristics need to be incorporated into future design. This topic has been more fully discussed in Cadw's 'Converting Historic Farm Buildings in Wales' (2004).

Listed Buildings have statutory protection and therefore any works to a listed building should be discussed with the local planning authority in advance even where repairs are being carried out. Works which affect the character of a listed building will require listed building consent. It is also important to realise that buildings which fall within the curtilage of a listed building are also subject to the same controls; this is particularly applicable to farm buildings which form the curtilage to a listed farmhouse. Where buildings are not listed it is often wise to seek advice from conservation organisations; a list of advisory bodies is appended to this report.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

This assessment of the traditional farm buildings of the Tywi valley is a broad analysis of the major conservation issues evident from a rapid examination of the available evidence. This limited exercise has shown how much character is contributed by the enormous variety of building types and the materials used in them. On this basis the following recommendations are made:

1. A more detailed inventory of the farm building stock should be undertaken based on fieldwork evidence. This will provide much needed base-line data which is essential for identifying conservation priorities, setting policy guidance for conversions, grant aiding schemes for repair and also flagging up buildings at risk – which in turn would set priorities for recording farm buildings.
2. Further analysis of the historic building stock including other classes of building; both domestic and industrial should also be carried out. Farm buildings are one element of the historic building stock and many of the issues discussed in this report will also apply to other types of buildings, however there will be other conservation issues relevant to other types of buildings.
3. Opportunities should be developed to engage with local communities to raise awareness of the historic building stock in order to foster good practice in their repair, maintenance and sympathetic alteration.

There are enormous opportunities to engage with local communities in the compiling of this information. This would both foster a sense of local pride in and also raise awareness of historic landscape character. Opportunities should be explored for engaging local schools or community groups for recording and carrying out field work.

CONCLUSION

Farm buildings make a significant contribution to the character of the historic landscape and help to define areas of local distinctiveness. This is conveyed by a subtle combination of characteristics including building types, farmstead layout, building materials and techniques of construction. It is important therefore, to identify those features which are significant to each specific area and which contribute it its special qualities.

The key to preserving local character is to understand the historic building stock and to respect its historic or traditional qualities. Before work is carried out to a

building or complex it should be appraised, recorded and evaluated within its context. This knowledge is crucial to making informed decisions about its management.

Local distinctiveness can easily be eroded through the use of inappropriate materials or building methods in the maintenance, repair or unsuitable alterations of historic farm buildings. Fostering a skills base of traditional crafts and building skills would undoubtedly be of benefit to the historic farm building stock of the Tywi valley.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alfrey J, 2007. The Language of its Builders: Stone in the Vernacular of Rural Wales during the Nineteenth Century, *Vernacular Architecture* Vol 37

Alfrey J, 2000. Carmarthenshire Farm Buildings: a source for socio-economic history, *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* **XXXVI**. 126-137

Cadw, 2006. *Traditional Agricultural Buildings in Wales. Care and Conservation*. Cadw

Cadw, 2004. *Converting Historic Farm Buildings in Wales. A Guide to Good Practice*. Cadw

Hassall C, 1793. *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Carmarthen*. Board of Agriculture

Lloyd T, Orbach J & Scourfield R 2006. *The Buildings of Wales: Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion* Yale University Press

Murphy K & Ludlow N, 2000. *Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation - Black Mountain And Mynydd Myddfai, Tywi Valley, Dolaucothi, Taf And Tywi Estuary Volume 1*

National Trust undated. *Home Farm Dinefwr: Significance*. National Trust Report

Pyper A 2005 *Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report: Llwynceiliog* DAT unpublished report.

William E. 1986. *The Historical Farm Buildings of Wales*. Donald Publishers Edinburgh

FURTHER READING

Brunskill R 1982. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation*. Gollancz

Giles C and Wade Martins S. (ed) 1994. *Recording Farm Buildings*. Proceedings of a One Day Conference

Jones G, Lake J and Wade Martins S. (ed) 2002. *Rural Regeneration – A Sustainable Future for Farm Buildings*. Papers presented to the Historic Farm Buildings Group: One Day Conference.

Wade Martins S. (ed) 1991. *Old Farm Buildings in a New Countryside: Redundancy, Conservation and Conversion in the 1990s*. Papers presented to the Historic Farm Buildings Group: One Day Conference.

CONTACTS

Ancient Monuments Society

<http://www.ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk/>

Cadw

<http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/>

Cambria Archaeology

<http://www.cambria.org.uk>

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

<http://www.cprw.org.uk/>

Countryside Council for Wales

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/>

Council for British Archaeology

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/>

Institute of Historic Building Conservation

<http://www.ihbc.org.uk/>

National Trust

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/>

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

<http://www.rcahmw.org.uk>

Save Britain's heritage

<http://www.savebritainsheritage.org/main.htm>

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

<http://www.spab.org.uk>

The Georgian Group

<http://www.georgiangroup.org.uk/docs/home/index.php>

Victorian Society

<http://www.victorian-society.org.uk/>

Historic Farm Building Group

<http://www.hfbg.org.uk/journal.htm>

Vernacular Architecture Group

<http://www.ccurrie.me.uk/vag/>

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Historic Landscape Character Descriptions

APPENDIX B: Listed Building Descriptions

APPENDIX C: List of Farmsteads mentioned in the report (unlisted)

APPENDIX A

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS WITHIN THE TYWI AFON YR OESOEDD PROJECT AREA

182	40214	YSTRAD TYWI: CARMARTHEN - LLANDEILO
190	40222	LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH
191	40223	NANTGAREDIG - DERWEN FAWR
192	40224	LLANGATHEN
193	40225	GOLDEN GROVE/GELLI AUR
194	40226	ALLT PANT MAWR
195	40227	DINEFWR PARK
196	40228	YSTRAD TYWI: LLANDEILO - LLANGADOG
201	40233	CWM-IFOR - MANORDEILO
202	40234	LLANDEILO
203	40235	ALLT TREGYB
204	40236	FELINDRE
205	40237	CARREG-SAWDDE COMMON
207	40239	CEFNGORNOETH
208	40240	YSTRAD TYWI: LLANGADOG - LLANDOVERY
209	40241	ABERMARLAIS
210	40242	LLANSADWRN - LLANWRDA
225	40257	BETHELEM
228	40260	CILGWYN - LLWYNWORMWOOD
235	40289	MAES-GWASTAD

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 182 YSTRAD TYWI: CARMARTHEN - LLANDEILO

GRID REFERENCE: SN 530209

AREA IN HECTARES: 1752.00

Historic Background

A very long, but narrow area stretching from Carmarthen in the west to Llandeilo in the east, which lies in the fertile alluvial floodplain of the River Tywi and includes short stretches of two of its tributaries, the Afon Cellyn and Afon Dulas. The valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales. The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery followed the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi, and is more-or-less followed by the modern A40(T). The Roman road forms the northern edge of this area between White Mill and Nantgaredig. Here it crosses alluvial deposits, which suggests that the course of the Tywi has been fairly stable since an early period, perhaps as far back as the Bronze Age as three round barrows are situated near White Mill. During the Medieval period, moreover, one of the ox-bow lakes, near Abergwili, was used as a fish-pond by the Bishops of St Davids. During this period the river formed one of the major boundaries of Carmarthenshire, separating Cantref Mawr on the north bank from Cantrefs Bychan (specifically Iscennen) and Cydweli 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 remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284, Cydweli had been in Anglo-Norman hands since c.1110 but Iscennen remained nominally independent, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan, until 1284 (Rees 1953, xv). Three bridges cross the Tywi between Carmarthen and Llandeilo, all with Medieval origins, and a ferry operated at Glantowylan. The Tywi breaks its banks at least once a year., while the wooded nature of the valley was commented upon by contemporary writers who appear to be including the floodplain. Leland, in the 1530s, remarked that the Dryslwyn area for instance 'was a place full of difficulte and encombrance to passe through' (Smith 1906). However ridge and furrow, which has been noted throughout the area, attests to former arable cultivation of this very fertile soil by the later Medieval period at least. Settlement on the floodplain itself has always been minimal but does occur on raised 'islands' within the alluvium, of which that at Glantowylan may have been the site of a *vill*. Settlement, however, is mainly in the form of isolated farms of which Beili-glas, Pentre Davis and Ro-fawr may have early origins. The landscape had been enclosed with the present pattern of regular fields by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century, a process which was probably undertaken during the 18th century. No major estate cores lie within this area. Later forms of transport also utilised the valley. A turnpike, established in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) more-or-less followed the line of the Roman Road and the entire area 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). A canal, the Golden Grove Canal, cut through part of the eastern half of the floodplain in the 17th century, and was used to convey coal from the Tywi to Golden Grove Mansion in Area 193 (Sambrook 1995, 75). There is, however, no real industrial history and the area was always agricultural; leisure meanwhile is represented by an 18th- or early 19th-century racecourse in a loop of the river at Glantowylan.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The alluvial flood plain of the Tywi was described in the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, of 1946, as 'the best quality dairying land in the county' (Cadw/ICOMOS, 1998, 27). The area averages one kilometre in width and gains less than 20 m in height over the 20 km between Carmarthen and Llandeilo. Sections of the river are in a cycle of erosion and deposition; some meanders of the Tywi are active, and oxbow lakes are present most notably to the east of Abergwili where the Bishop's Pond is now a nature reserve, and to the west of Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, but these are old and the majority of the flood plain is stable and has long been enclosed. The fields are small- to medium-sized and tend towards the regular, though many different patterns from the small irregular to the large regular are present. Field boundaries comprise hedges without banks and earth banks topped with hedges. The former are planted on the valley floor presumably to facilitate flood-water drainage. The condition of these boundaries varies. In some locations, such as between Abergwili and Whitemill, they are well maintained and in good condition, but elsewhere they have broken down completely and the hedges are either derelict or gone. Ditches also form some boundaries. Wire fences supplement all historic boundaries. Virtually the whole of the valley floor is now under improved pasture. Woodland is now virtually non-existent, but distinctive trees, in hedgerows, isolated or in small clumps right along the valley, but particularly those close to the estate cores of Dinefwr and Golden Grove/Gelli Aur, provide a 'parkland' aspect. Apart from 'islands' of slightly higher ground, the whole of this area is subject to at least one episode of flooding each winter. It is on these 'islands' that the several farms are located. Of the major routeways the A40(T) runs on elevated ground to the north, and the area is skirted by the B4300 to the south. The old railway line which was built on a low embankment to avoid flooding is a distinctive feature of the floodplain.

Recorded archaeology is of relatively low density. Findspots include Bronze Age finds and a Roman coin hoard. There are three Bronze Age round barrows near White Mill, one scheduled, and at least one Bronze Age standing stone. The Roman Road and the LNWR railway line survive as field evidence, and the line of the Golden Grove Canal is just visible. There are watermill sites, and two lost chapels, from the Medieval period.

There are few distinctive buildings. Of the three Tywi bridges the stone-built Pont Llandeilo Rwnws, built in 1786, is Grade II listed; there are several minor bridges. Golden Grove and Dryslwyn station buildings survive within the area and are now private dwellings, as is one of the Golden Grove lodges. There are few farmsteads and cottages but Glantowylan, Beili-glas, Pentre Davis, Ro-fawr and the home farm of Abercothi mansion, which was established by 1857 (Jones 1987, 1), are substantial. These and other farmhouses are generally 18th- or 19th-century stone-built structures in the 'polite' Georgian style. Farms have substantial ranges of stone-built outbuildings, some arranged semi-formally around a yard. Most farms have large modern agricultural buildings.

This section of Ystrad Tywi is very distinctive and has boundaries defined by the foot of the valley sides. In most locations this boundary definition is very strong, but close to Nantgaredig (Area 191) and on the south side of the valley near to Llandeilo (Area 190) there is a zone of change, rather than a distinct border.

Conservation priorities

Most of the landscape components in this area are in good condition. 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 190 LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 585189

AREA IN HECTARES: 2294.00

Historic Background

A very large character area bisected by the valley of the Afon Cennen. It occupies the central part of Iscennen commote which, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent of Anglo-Norman rule until 1284 when it was acquired by John Giffard. In 1340 it became a member of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees 1953, xv-xvi). The nature of this tenure may be reflected in the pattern of small- and medium-sized irregular fields which characterise the area, and may be late Medieval in origin, like similar fields in Area 185 towards the west end of the Tywi Valley which appear to pre-date the late 16th-century enclosure of their margins. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation, however, has been recorded in the western part of Area 190. The present pattern of enclosures and farms had nevertheless evolved by at least the early 19th-century, and is depicted as such on the tithe maps of Llanfihangel Aberbythych (1837) and Llanarthne (1848) parishes, though all early settlement is shown as dispersed. Possible ecclesiastical land lies to the west of the area and the origins of Talhardd, a farmstead on the low-lying ground on the west side of the Cennen, are said to be as a 13th century grange of the Premonstratensians at Talley (Rees 1932). However, it is not listed among the former possessions of the abbey in an early 17th-century rental (Owen 1894, 92) which may have been compiled after it had spilt from the estate. The present house is sub-Medieval but a nearby *maerdy* place-name, derived from a reeve or *maer*, may be associated with a monastic holding or the Tregîb estate in Area 203 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 17). The only other early gentry house is Derwydd, to the south-east of the area, an important holding which was referred to in 1550 as the home of Rhydderch ap Hywel ap Bedo (Jones 1987, 55), with a garden remodelled in 1889 (Whittle 1999). Cellifor to the west is at least late 17th-century (Jones 1987, 29), now rebuilt, while Caeglas and Cefncethin to the east were established in the late 18th-century (Jones 1987, 20, 27), though none of the latter houses were associated with large estates. A railway was constructed along the Cennen Valley between Ammanford and Llandeilo in 1841 by the GWR, but 19th- and 20th-century development has been limited. Although there was some limestone extraction in the area, immediately beyond to the southeast intensive extraction was undertaken from the 19th century onwards giving rise to a number of settlements. These are concentrated on the fringe of the area, which also features new concentrations at Carmel, Milo and Pant-y-llyn.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llanfihangel Aberbythych character area rises from the Tywi valley on its northern edge at 20 m above sea level to over 250 m on its southern boundary. It includes the lower valley of the Cennen and the Marlais valley. It essentially consists of land that is entirely enclosed by small- and medium-sized irregular fields with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms. Land-use is almost entirely pasture, with a little arable. The pasture is mostly improved, though there is rougher and rushy ground in the Temple Bar/Milo area. There are numerous small stands of deciduous woodland, particularly on steep valley sides, some of which may be ancient. Field boundaries are of earth banks topped with hedges, and may be late Medieval in origin. Hedges are generally in good condition, though there is

evidence of some neglect and dereliction at higher levels. Occasionally hedges are overgrown, and a few possess distinctive trees. At lower levels towards the Tywi valley farms tend to be larger than on higher ground. Superimposed over the ancient settlement pattern of dispersed farms are 19th- and 20th-century villages and hamlets, linear development and dispersed dwellings. Both Milo and Carmel villages have 19th century cores consisting of stone-built dwellings and chapels, but both have late 20th-century additions in the form of dwellings in a variety of styles and materials. Pant-y-llyn is a 19th century row of workers cottages built to serve limestone quarries close by. Dispersed and linear 19th- and 20th-century residential development is mostly strung along the A476 and A483(T) roads, with concentrations close to Llandeilo and at Derwydd.

Recorded archaeology is of relatively low density and low diversity. A group of Bronze Age burnt mounds lie near the Cennen, and there are possible round barrow and standing stone sites. There are two Iron Age hillforts. A Roman road south of Llandeilo may be preserved in the line of field boundaries. There is an inscribed stone in the eastern part of the area, which appears to relate to the pre-Conquest church at Llandeilo Fawr (Area 202), and possible holy wells and crosses are recorded as place-names. Post-Medieval features include quarries, lime-kilns and possible kilns to the south of the area, bridges, a mill, a possible smithy, a possible pound or fold, and cottages. The railway opened by the GWR in 1841 is still operational and a dominant feature of the landscape.

There are some distinctive buildings. Talhardd farmhouse, which is Grade II listed, is largely sub-Medieval, probably of 16th century date, with 17th century fittings and late-Georgian remodelling; it was once thought to have been moated. Derwydd is Grade II* listed and incorporates an early 16th century house and possibly also the remains of a 15th century house. It contained 18 hearths in 1670 and was thus among the largest in Carmarthenshire at the time (Jones 1987, 55). House and garden are entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 6 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle, 1999). The far west end of the area is dominated by Paxton's Tower, a Grade II listed folly erected on an outlying part of the Middleton estate in c.1807-10, and there are two Middleton lodges. Farms lying at lower levels towards the Tywi valley tend to be larger than those on higher ground, and their respective buildings are of a higher quality, often with three-storey 18th- and 19th-century dwellings in the Georgian tradition. The stone-built buildings on the larger farms, which are mostly 19th century, are also larger and often arranged in a formal basis around a yard. However, the predominant farmhouse style is the stone-built, slate-roofed dwelling of two storeys and three bays in the vernacular rather than the polite tradition. The masonry, mostly 19th century farm buildings on these smaller holdings tend to smaller and less formally arranged, often consisting of just one range. Most farms have large modern farm buildings associated with them. There are a number of 19th century chapels.

This character area is fairly well defined along its northern edge with on its boundary with Areas 182, 193, 194 and against the town of Llandeilo (Area 202). To the south character areas have yet to be defined, but there is at least in part a clear border between this area and a limestone ridge. To the east there is no clear definition between this area and Areas 197, 203, as all three areas possess similar historic landscape components, but rather a zone of change.

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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 191 NANTGAREDIG - DERWEN FAWR

GRID REFERENCE: SN 535233

AREA IN HECTARES: 2789.00

Historic Background

This is a very large character area lying on the northern side of the Tywi valley and stretching from Nantgaredig in the west to beyond Llandeilo in the east. The valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales and the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery followed the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology on the north side of the Tywi, whose course is now more-or-less followed by the modern A40(T). During the historic period most of the area lay within the southern half of the commotes, and later hundreds, of Cetheiniog and Maenordeilo (Rees 1932). The two commotes were held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. The relative homogeneity of the present landscape may represent a historical unity of land-use. Ridge and furrow cultivation has been recorded in the Tywi floodplain but this northern margin may always have been largely pasture, and north of Llanegwad lay an area of waste or common called 'Killardun Forest' (Rees 1932). Enclosure within the area, furthermore, may have been of relatively late date, the majority of the fields being medium-sized and regular. Llanegwad is the only early nucleation within the area. It may represent a pre-Conquest church and settlement with a radial system of boundaries possibly perpetuating an infield-outfield system (Sambrook 1995, 59). It is the site of a parish church, a motte and later - under the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids - a small borough, now a village. To the north at Allt-y-ferin is a second motte which belonged to the Lordship of Carmarthen to the east (Area 183), and may be the site of the 'Dinweilir' taken by the Welsh and recaptured in 1159 (Jones 1952, 61). It was associated with a former chapel. The remainder of the area is divided between the parishes of Llangathen and Llandeilo Fawr. At the confluence of the rivers Cothi and Tywi lay the core of Maenor Brunus, mentioned in the 12th century Llandaff Charters but probably pre-Conquest in origin (Richards 1974, 119), with a chapel at Llandeilo Rwnws on the banks of the Tywi and another near Pontargothi. The significance of the location was such that it was named (as 'Ystrad Brwnws') as the site of a battle between the Normans and the Welsh in 1116 (ibid.); the use of the Tywi Valley as a routeway led to its being the site of a further battle, near Derwen Fawr, in 1257 (Rees 1932). Maenor Brwnws was granted, at an unknown date but probably during the late 12th century, to the Premonstratensians at Talley (ibid.). The post-dissolution grange was represented by the gentry houses of Wythfawr and Ystradwrallt, which had been established by the 1540s (Jones 1987, 199); the latter may retain the 'Ystrad' element from Ystrad Brwnws. Penllwynau also lay in Llandeilo Rwnws estate and was later a gentry home (Jones 1987, 150). Cilsaen near Llangathen is a late Medieval house that became part of the Golden Grove estate in the 17th century (Jones 1987, 32) but its origins are earlier, being associated with the later princes of Deheubarth and termed 'manor' in early Post-Medieval documentation. Court Henry has 16th century origins and is associated with a small area of 19th century parkland and a *de novo* 19th century church (Lloyd 1991, 37-46), while a second area of parkland at Allt-y-ferin is contemporary with the house of 1869 (Jones 1987, 6). The establishment of modern communications also influenced the settlement pattern. A turnpike, established in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) more-or-less followed the line of the Roman road. The straight courses through

Pontargothi and Derwen Fawr were however constructed under Thomas Telford in the 1820s (Carms Record office, Cawdor Maps 172) with the subsequent development of the two villages, and Felindre. The area is also crossed by the former LNWR main West Wales railway line which was opened, as the 'Vale of Towy Line', by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company in 1858 (Gabb, 1977, 76). The present settlement of Nantgaredig is entirely modern and developed around the railway station.

Description and essential historic landscape components

A very large character area on the north side of the Tywi Valley and including part of the lower Cothi valley. It rises from the flood plain of the Tywi at 20 m OD in a series of low rounded hills that achieve a maximum height of over 120 m. The whole area is enclosed by medium-sized fields which are under pasture, nearly all of which is improved - there is very little rough or rushy ground. The fields are divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained and in good condition. Many possess distinctive trees. There are numerous small stands of deciduous woodland, particularly on steep valley sides where it may be ancient, with conifer plantations on the very steep valley sides of the Cothi. Dispersed farms provide the dominant settlement pattern. Older survivors, such as Llethr Cadfan provide time-depth to the settlement pattern not readily obvious in the extant buildings. Superimposed on to this ancient pattern of dispersed farms is a more recent nucleated settlement pattern. Llanegwad village has Medieval origins but surviving buildings indicate that its development belongs to the 18th- and 19th-century, with rapid expansion in the 20th-century. Felindre is a loose cluster of 19th- and 20th-century dwellings, but other nucleated, clustered and linear villages such as Nantgaredig, Pontargothi and Derwen Fawr, while having a small core of 19th-century buildings, are now essentially late 20th-century developments. The area has, like much of the Tywi Valley, a parkland feel and small areas of 19th century emparking surround Allt-y-ferin House and Court Henry. The low accessible hills to the north of the flood plain allowed for the development of an important east-west routeway along the Tywi valley, from the Roman to the modern period, represented by the present A40(T). The modern settlements described above, except for Nantgaredig which developed around a railway station, tend to be located along this road.

The recorded archaeology of such a large landscape area includes a range of sites from all periods. The majority of archaeological features relate to agricultural land-use but there are also two motte castles, of which Allt-y-ferin was added to an Iron Age inland promontory fort, Bronze Age standing stones and a henge monument at Nantgaredig.

The parish church of Llanegwad was rebuilt in the 1840s and like the 19th century church at Court Henry is unlisted. The Grade II listed Llethr Cadfan farmhouse and its Grade II* listed granary are both 17th century, and the early 19th-century Llwynhelig House and stable-block are also both Grade II listed. The area otherwise has a relative lack of distinctive buildings but the largely 18th- and 19th-century Court Henry, which is Grade II* listed, preserves an earlier core and the home farm has good quality masonry buildings. Farmhouses are generally of 18th- and 19th-century date, stone built with slate roofs. Most are of two storeys and three bays, in the Georgian tradition, but larger examples are present. Associated with the larger farmhouses are large assemblages of farm buildings, these are often arranged in a semi-formal basis reflecting the higher status of the holdings. Farmhouses in the vernacular tradition are present, but in a lesser number than those in a polite style. Smaller farmhouses and those in the vernacular tradition tend to have a more limited and smaller collection of farm buildings, often compacted into a single range.

The boundaries of this area are not clear cut as most of the neighbouring areas share similar historic landscape components. Part of the boundary to the south lies against the flood plain of the Tywi (Area 182), Dinefwr Park (Area 195) and Llandeilo town (Area 202); these provide reasonably clear definition. Elsewhere to the south, and to the west and east there is no hard-edged border between this area and Areas 183, 192 and 201, but rather a zone of change.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a good state of preservation. However, some consideration should be given to the maintenance of hedgerows and to the management of old deciduous 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. Llanegwad village is a proposed Conservation Area. Development here should respect this proposal.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 192 LLANGATHEN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 575217

AREA IN HECTARES: 418.20

Historic Background

A compact landscape area on the north side of the River Tywi which has been occupied since at least the Iron Age, and has always contained at least one high status holding. The area lies between the river and the Tywi Valley Roman road (see Area 191), and is dominated by Grongaer Hill and its large Iron Age hillfort, which may have been the centre of a large territory covering all of Area 192 and beyond. During the historic period most of the area lay within the southern half of the commote, and later hundred, of Cetheiniog (Rees 1932), held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. The hillfort may have continued to influence prestige and tenurial patterns into the Medieval period. The Medieval Lordship of Allt-y-gaer, centred on Cwm Agol to the south of Grongaer Hill, possibly evolved from a pre-Conquest estate held as a *maerdref* or under similar, or communal tenure (Owen 1892). A second high-status Medieval site, later a possession of the Golden Grove estate, lay at Cilsan to the east (Jones 1987, 32). The nearby Berllan-dywyll may also have Medieval origins (Jones 1987, 8). The area moreover contains the church of St Cathen, Llangathen, which may have pre-Conquest origins (Ludlow 1998) and is the centre of a large parish of some importance, as reflected in its size, although it is not accompanied by any significant nucleation. By the late Medieval period, however, a further high status dwelling had been established at Aberglasne immediately east of the church (Jones 1987, 2). It was acquired by Bishop Rudd of St Davids c.1600 and was later the home of the Dyers, one of whom, John Dyer, composed his famous poem 'Grongar Hill', an early celebration of the Romantic, in 1726 (Andrews 1989, 79). A small area of parkland landscape accompanies Aberglasne House, and the environs of Cilsan have been remodelled along 'polite' principles. The comparative regularity of the medium-large fields in the remainder of Area 192 suggests enclosure within the 16th-17th centuries. Llangathen village developed under the patronage of the Phillipses of Aberglasne during the 19th century. It has remained small, despite the development of a later 20th century housing estate.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llangathen character area consists of two low hills with the village of Llangathen and Aberglasne house and gardens nestling in the saddle between them. The hills rise steeply from 20 m OD from the flood plain of the Tywi to a maximum of 143 m. All the farmland is enclosed and divided into small- to medium-large irregular fields and is under a regime of improved pasture. There is very little rushy or rough ground. Boundaries are earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are well maintained on the lower slopes, but neglected and derelict at higher levels. Indeed, the hedges on the summits of the hills are now entirely broken down and the land here is taking on an unenclosed appearance, although here, as elsewhere, wire fences provide and or supplement older boundaries. Distinctive hedgerow trees are present, particularly close to Aberglasne, and these, together with stands of woodland on steep hillsides and the hedgeless hilltops, lend a parkland aspect to the landscape. Farms are dispersed, but concentrated on the south-facing slopes overlooking the Tywi valley. Farmhouses are generally of late 18th- and 19th-century date. The settlement at Llangathen, centred on the

Medieval church, comprises a loose cluster of 19th century farms and houses and 20th century dwellings. Below the village lie Aberglasne house and gardens.

The landscape area is dominated by the Iron Age Hillfort on Grongaer, while there is a possible round barrow and a possible further hillfort. Other possible archaeological sites include a moated enclosure at Cwm Agol and a holy well. Post-Medieval quarries lie south of Llangathen.

Distinctive buildings include the Grade B listed Medieval parish church of St Cathen, Llangathen which has an early 17th century south aisle and chapel with a fine contemporary monument to Bishop Rudd. Aberglasne House is a Grade II* listed building and has early elements, but externally seems to be a three-storey house dating to the late 18th- and early 19th-century. Associated with the house are other buildings and garden features, including a gatehouse, former domestic outbuildings, a lodge, two courtyard ranges and two coach-houses, all individually Grade II listed (7 in all), walled gardens and a pond, and a Grade II* listed arcaded walk that dates to at least 1783. The house and gardens, entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 5 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle, 1999), are currently being restored. Associated with the house and Llangathen village are the half-timbered, early 20th-century Village Hall, a poorhouse, primary school and Post Office, while two nearby buildings are known as Bishop Rudd's bath and pigeon house. Further distinctive buildings within the village include the Farmers Arms public house, Hill House, a Post-Medieval chapel and the later 20th-century Gellinewydd housing estate. There is a Medieval - Post-Medieval fortified dwelling at Allt-y-gaer, and earlier Post-Medieval houses at Cilsan and Berllan-dwyll. Farmhouses are stone-built with slate roofs, of two storeys and generally of late 18th- and 19th-century date with examples in the polite as well as the vernacular tradition. Farm outbuildings are stone-built and of 19th century date, some with a semi-formal arrangement.

This character area is well defined to the south where it rises from the Tywi valley (Area 182), less well to the north, where it tends to merge with Area 191.

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. The gardens and buildings at Aberglasne are currently undergoing a programme of restoration and conservation. Llangathen village is a Conservation Area. Historic landscape conservation priorities must not conflict with this designation.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 193 GOLDEN GROVE/GELLI AUR

GRID REFERENCE: SN 597199

AREA IN HECTARES: 385.90

Historic Background

A small area on sloping ground to the south of the River Tywi. It is coterminous with the northern half of Llanfihangel Aberbythych parish and largely comprises Golden Grove Park, an estate landscape of the 17th- to 19th-century. It occupies the central part of Iscennen commote which, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent of Anglo-Norman rule until 1284 when it was acquired by John Giffard. In 1340 it became a member of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees 1953, xv-xvi). The parish church of St Michael, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, has a circular churchyard and a possible early Michael dedication. Although there is no documentary evidence for a church here prior to the early 17th century, the tradition that it was originally located elsewhere is highly dubious (Ludlow 1998). A high-status house appears to have been present at Golden Grove from the 16th century under the Vaughans, later Earls of Carbery, and afterwards, under the Earls of Cawdor (Jones 1987, 84). There is no evidence for any previous settlement or dwelling of importance (Jones 1962, 259). The house was rebuilt in 1754-7 and again in 1826 after the early 18th century house had apparently been demolished. The former site, however, continued to be used as a walled kitchen garden and was modified several times until the present day. On a more elevated position and about a kilometre from the sites of the earlier mansions, the new house was designed by the architect Wyattville (Whittle 1999). The Vaughans were pioneers of agriculture and silviculture and, at its height, the Golden Grove estate comprised over 50,000 acres spread through southwest Wales (Jones 1962, 258). Under estate management, the village of Golden Grove/Gelli Aur was developed around St Michael's church, and later in the 20th century, council housing was erected to the north. Golden Grove house was occupied by the US Air Force during World War II and in 1952 a lease on the house and park was granted to Carmarthenshire County Council who used the site as an Agricultural College (Jones 1987, 84); the buildings are now a satellite for Carmarthen College of Technology and Art (Wildlife Illustration), whilst part of the grounds is designated as a country park.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The core of this area, which lies on gentle north-facing slopes between 20 m and 180 m on the south side of the Tywi valley, comprises the demesne of Gelli Aur. As much of the former parkland of Gelli Aur has now decayed and taken on a character similar to the surrounding landscape, this character area is somewhat larger than the former demesne. Tree planting, garden terraces and pleasure grounds of the 19th century, including an arboretum, survive, but much of the grounds and land outside the former parkland to the south of the mansion have been planted with conifers during the second half of the 20th century. To the south of the extant mansion, the site of the old mansion is marked by a walled garden, a lake and a canal. The demesne is surrounded by a mortared wall, but this is now in a poor state of repair. Included in this area is the village of Llanfihangel Aberbythych. This is essentially an estate village, and the mid 19th-century church, a school, dwellings and lodges built in a Victorian Tudor Gothic style, together with other estate buildings away from the village provide a

distinctive architectural signature to this area. To the south of the old mansion the straightened length of the B4300 and the straight road that leads to Cilsan Bridge across the Tywi attest to former estate management. Outside the demesne farmland has been enclosed into small- to medium-sized fields by earth banks and hedges. Hedges contain distinctive hedgerow trees and these together with small stands of trees extend the parkland aspect of Gelli Aur beyond the former demesne. Modern development is limited to dispersed dwellings close to the B4300 and to a small estate of clapper board Council houses.

Recorded archaeology is dominated by estate features such as the park and gardens which include a possible deer park and rabbit warren. A possible holy well site lies within the curtilage, as does a Post-Medieval quarry.

Golden Grove house, a large mansion in 'Tudor-Gothic' style, erected in 1826-32, is Grade II* listed, and with the gardens is entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 10 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle 1999). The park also contains lodges and a cottage. A toll house lies beyond the park to the west, as does the village with its distinctive estate buildings. St Michael's church was entirely rebuilt in c.1850 to the designs of the architect (Sir) George Gilbert Scott and is currently unlisted.

With the demise of Gelli Aur estate this once distinct character area has become similar to bordering areas. However, the combination of a particular building signature, surviving garden and park elements and conifer plantations serve to mark it out from its neighbours (Areas 182, 190, 194).

Conservation priorities

The main conservation priorities in this area concern Gelli Aur. Although some elements of the old park, gardens and associated buildings are in good condition many are not; consideration should be given to a programme of restoration/conservation. Care should be taken during felling of conifer plantations that no damage occurs to historic landscape elements. Outside the park, 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 194 ALLT PANT MAWR

GRID REFERENCE: SN 561195
AREA IN HECTARES: 294.10

Historic Background

A relatively small landscape area mainly occupying steeply sloping ground to the south of the River Tywi. It lies within the parishes of Llanarthne and Llanfihangel Aberbythych in the central part of Iscennen commote which, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent of Anglo-Norman rule until 1284 when it was acquired by John Giffard. In 1340 it became a member of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees 1953, xv-xvi). Rhydarwen, a farmstead at the centre of the area, has Medieval origins (Jones 1987, 171), and the pattern of small fields beneath the wooded slopes of Allt Pant Mawr may have been established before the Post-Medieval period. Visually, the west end of the area is dominated by Paxton's Tower, a folly built for the Middleton estate within Area 188. The B4300 along the south side of the Tywi valley, established by the early 19th century, passes through this area. The upper slopes of Allt Pant Mawr were subject to conifer plantation in the later 20th century.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Lying on the south side of the Tywi valley, this character area consists of steep and heavily wooded north-facing slopes below which lies a sloping shelf of farmland and woodland that runs down to the flood plain of the Tywi. From the Tywi at 20 m OD the land rises to over 150 m at its southern limit. The woodland on the steep slopes is a mixture of conifer plantation and deciduous trees. The more gently sloping land, which lies in the shadow of the steep slope, is enclosed into a system of small regular fields which have a strong north-south, down-slope trend and possible early origins. Boundaries are of earth banks and hedges. Hedge quality varies from the well maintained to the overgrown and semi derelict. Wire fences supplement the hedged boundaries. Distinctive hedgerow trees are common. Some land is under improved pasture, but there is much rushy and unimproved ground, and scrubby woodland has invaded some former fields. This latter feature in combination with the distinctive hedgerow trees and conifer and broadleaf trees lends a heavily wooded appearance to the area. Settlement is one of dispersed small farms, smallholdings, cottages and other dwellings along the B4300.

There is little recorded archaeology within this predominantly sloping area, being limited to a burnt mound, a prehistoric findspot and two Post-Medieval quarries.

Distinctive buildings include Rhydarwen, a Grade II* listed medieval house, 'strongly-built' with a stair turret at each end and a 16th century wall painting (Jones 1987, 171), altered in the 18th century. Most farm buildings are 19th century, two-storey, stone-built with slate roofs in the vernacular tradition, although some in the Georgian tradition are present.

This is a distinct area, distinguished from its neighbours (Areas 182, 189, 190, 193) by its high density of woodland, its north-south field system and the modest size of its farms and buildings.

Conservation priorities

An Assessment of the Traditional Farm Buildings of the Tywi Valley

The decay that is 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 195 DINEFWR PARK

GRID REFERENCE: SN 617225

AREA IN HECTARES: 229.20

Historic Background

These background notes have been taken from Professor Ralph Griffiths's recent study (1991) of the castle and borough of Dinefwr, and from the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle 1999). It has long been thought that Dinefwr was the seat of the Welsh princes of Deheubarth. Griffiths has demonstrated, however, that this was not the case and that it is likely that nothing of note existed on the site until Rhys ap Gruffydd (Lord Rhys) erected a castle soon after 1163. It is possible that Lord Rhys built a masonry castle, as a reference of 1213 implies stone walls. At this date Lord Rhys's youngest son, Rhys Gryg, was besieged in the castle by two of Lord Rhys's grandsons. It is likely that the round keep at the castle was built by Rhys Gryg between 1220 and 1233. The castle remained in family hands until the reign of Edward I. Extensive repairs and additions were made to the castle by the English Crown in the 1280s. During latter years of Welsh rule a small settlement - 'Trefscoleygyon' or 'vill of the clerks' - developed outside the castle. By 1294 the town of Dinefwr had 26 burgages, a weekly market and annual fair. The end of the 13th century saw Dinefwr become a twin-town. This consisted of an 'old' town on the hill containing 11 Welsh burgesses, and a 'new' town - soon to be called 'Newton' - containing 35 burgesses of mostly English descent. Newton was located some distance away on the site of the later mansion, Newton House. In 1310 the castle, towns and demesne of Dinefwr were granted to Edmund Hakelut and later to his son. The Hakelut family held their position, apart from a short break, until 1360. Repairs to the castle were carried out under the Hakeluts. A survey of 1360 indicates that Newton was a successful settlement with 46 burgesses. A charter was granted to the towns in 1363, but this seems to have marked a high point in the towns' fortunes. The castle and towns were besieged in 1403 during the Glyndwr rebellion. Following the revolt the towns and castle were granted to Hugh Standish. The Standish family had little interest in south Wales, and both the castle and towns went into decline. In 1433 responsibility for the towns and castle was separated, and the towns and demesne were granted to John Perrot. His cousin married Gruffydd ap Nicholas, and so began the long association with the Gruffydd family. By the time that Gruffydd ap Nicholas's grandson, Rhys ap Gruffydd, was attainted of treason in 1531 his family had built a mansion among the ruins of the former town of Newton, although 'Newton' was still marked on Saxton's map of Carmarthenshire of 1578. The age of the towns and castle had come to an end. However, Newton Mansion continued to be occupied by the Rice (Rhys) family and was partly rebuilt between 1595 and 1603, again in c.1660, and in c. 1757-1779, and then in its present form in 1856-1858 by Richard Kyrke Penson, retaining many features from c.1660. The present landscape was emparked between c.1590 and c.1650 (Milne 1999, 6). The park walls were completed in c.1774 and enclosed a large landscaped area of over 200 ha with a small formal garden, walled gardens and a suite of domestic structures. There are some remains of underlying landscapes, including an east-west terrace that may represent part of the Carmarthen-Llandovery Roman road, and traces of roads and trackways that may be Roman and/or Medieval. A Roman milestone and a coin hoard have also been recorded near Dinefwr Castle while sherds of amphorae and Samian ware have been found in the vicinity of Dinefwr Farm

(Crane 1994, 6). The central part of the area includes the old parish church of St Tyfi, Llandyfeisant, which has Medieval origins. It is now redundant and used by the Wildlife Trust *West Wales*; the record in RCAHMW 1917, 110, of 'Roman tesserae' beneath the church appears to be entirely erroneous.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Dinefwr character area includes the whole of Dinefwr Park, plus small areas outside which were associated with the estate such as the Home Farm. The park lies on hilly ground on the northern side of the Tywi valley, immediately to the east of Llandeilo town, and achieves a height of over 90 m. Tree-covered slopes rise sharply from the valley floor to Dinefwr Castle which forms, along with Newton House, the two main foci of the park. The castle stands in a commanding position, overlooking long stretches of the valley. The masonry remains mostly belong to the 13th- and 14th-century, and to estate repairs of the 18th- and 19th- century. The castle is currently being conserved by Cadw. Earthworks outside the castle form part of the outer defence, but probably also mark the site of the small town of Dinefwr. Newton House, the main residence of the Dinefwr estate, provides the second focus in the park. Nothing now remains above ground of the Medieval town, Newton, on which the original mansion was built. The current house dates to the mid 17th-century, but had a new facade built in the 1850s in a Gothic style. The house and most of the parkland is owned by the National Trust. A fine collection of stone-built service buildings arranged around a courtyard lies close to Dinefwr House. Other elements of the gardens and park such as a walled garden, icehouse, dovecote and ponds survive. The 18th century park retains much of its planting. Individual trees, clumps, and more extensive stands of woodland survive. The open character of the park remains - especially the deer park on the western side - though wire fences divide the eastern part of it into large enclosures of pasture. The southeastern corner of the park - Penlan Park - has been municipalised and laid out with tarmac paths. The isolated and redundant Medieval church of Llandyfeisant lies in the area. Those field boundaries that surround the park are earth banks topped with hedges.

Recorded archaeology mainly relates to the parkland landscape and its features, including a rabbit warren, but underlying features include a possible Bronze Age ring ditch. Roman archaeology includes a milestone, possible roads and tracks and a coin hoard. Features relating to the Medieval settlement of Newton probably underlie present enclosures.

Dinefwr Park contains many distinctive buildings, and with the garden is listed as PGW (Dy) 12 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle 1999). The Medieval Dinefwr Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade I listed building. St Tyfi's Church, Llandyfeisant, heavily restored in the 19th century, is a Grade II listed building. Dinefwr (Newton) House, the summer house, and the inner and outer courtyard ranges are Grade II* listed while the ha-ha, fountain, dairy cottage, dovecote, deer abattoir, icehouse, home farmhouse, corn barn and byre/ stable range are individually Grade II listed (9 in all). A bandstand lies in Penlan Park.

Dinefwr park is a distinct character area and stands in sharp contrast with the surrounding farmland (Areas 182, 191) and with the urban setting of Llandeilo (Area 202).

Conservation priorities

No conservation priorities are given here as most of this area is owned and managed by the National Trust and by Wildlife Trust *West Wales*, while Dinefwr Castle is managed by Cadw. Most of the area also lies within a Conservation Area and also contains a number of SSSIs.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 196 YSTRAD TYWI: LLANDEILO - LLANGADOG

GRID REFERENCE: SN 662250
AREA IN HECTARES: 769.40

Historic Background

A long, narrow area stretching from Llandeilo in the west to Llangadog in the east, which lies in the fertile alluvial floodplain of the River Tywi and includes a short stretch of one of its tributaries, the Afon Dulais. The valley was the major historic route corridor into West Wales and the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, which forms the north-western edge of this character area, was constructed along the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi, and was more-or-less followed by a later turnpike and the present A40(T) - see also Area 182. The River Tywi in this area is particularly active and subject to constant and radical course change across its valley floor, cutting and re-cutting its way through the alluvium and leaving behind a complex of meanders and ox-bow lakes (Ludlow 1999, 21). Evidence from maps, documents and aerial photography suggests that the course has changed greatly even since the Post-Medieval period. The Roman road was therefore directed along the higher ground just off of the valley floor, and settlement on the floodplain itself has always been minimal; there are now no farms or dwellings within the area. However, the landscape had been enclosed, in the present pattern of regular fields, by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century; the process was probably undertaken during the 18th century. Earlier and prehistoric environments and settlement patterns of the Tywi Valley are among 'the least known' (Cadw/ICOMOS 1998, 28), but the interface between the floodplain and higher ground would have been an important area of activity for early human communities in the region, providing easy access to the resources of the river and its associated wetlands whilst providing a dry occupation site. *Ad hoc* archaeological work has suggested that there are glacially deposited raised areas of ground on the valley floor (*ibid.*), and peat deposits have been noted between the alluvium and the underlying geology elsewhere within the Tywi Valley, for example at Abergwili and Pensarn, near Carmarthen (Page 1994, 4,9). Here they were thought either to represent 'islands' in the floodplain, or a drying of the floodplain, while Bronze Age stray find sites, and possible round barrows, testify to prehistoric activity within the area. 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). There never appears to have been a bridge across the Tywi between Llandeilo and Llangadog, but a possible ford, and perhaps a Medieval battle site, are suggested by the name 'Rhyd-y-Saeson' near Llangadog. A turnpike, established in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) more-or-less followed the line of the Roman road although the course through Cwm-Ifor was straightened under Thomas Telford in the 1820s (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cawdor Maps 172) with the subsequent development of the village. The entire area is crossed by the former LNWR main West Wales railway line which was

opened, as the 'Vale of Towy Line', by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company in 1858 (Gabb, 1977, 76).

Description and essential historic landscape components

The flood plain of the River Tywi between Llandeilo and Llangadog rises a little over 20 m over 9 km. It averages 1.5 km in width. This stretch of the Tywi, unlike the lower section between Carmarthen and Llandeilo (Area 182), has an active erosion and deposition cycle over long stretches of its course, with shifting meanders. In these locations the marshy, scrubby and rough ground is present. Elsewhere the floodplain has been divided into a rather loose pattern of medium-to large-sized irregular and regular fields of improved pasture by hedges without banks and earth banks topped with hedges. The former are planted on the valley floor presumably to facilitate flood-water drainage. The condition of these enclosures varies considerably. In certain locations, particularly close to the river, hedges are virtually redundant and wire fences run along the earth banks. In other areas hedges are well maintained and in good condition. Many hedges possess distinctive hedgerow trees. There is no woodland and no settlement in this character area. The wooded nature of the valley, however, was commented upon by early writers including Leland in the 1530s (Smith 1906), who appears to be describing the floodplain. The railway line which runs along the floodplain on a low embankment is a distinctive landscape element.

Recorded archaeology is limited but includes Bronze Age finds and possible round barrow sites near Llandeilo and Cwm-Ifor. Other later features include road and rail bridges, stations and other railway furniture. The importance of buried deposits within the floodplain cannot, however, be overstressed.

There are no distinctive buildings.

The loose field systems and lack of settlement and woodland on the flood plain of the Tywi provides a distinct character area and stands in contrast to the surrounding area of occupied land (Areas 191, 201, 202, 204, 205 and 225).

Conservation priorities

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area, but some consideration should be given to the management of hedgerows, the decay of which is beginning to affect the character of this area.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 201 CWM-IFOR - MANORDEILO

GRID REFERENCE: SN 667276

AREA IN HECTARES: 1509.00

Historic Background

This is a large character area lying above the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the Tywi, and part of the main historic route corridor into West Wales. The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery followed this interface. It forms the southeast edge of the character area (see Area 196) and its course has been more-or-less followed by the modern A40(T). The Roman road may perpetuate the line of an earlier routeway, or at least activity, as testified by stray finds of Bronze Age date found on or close to the road, including a gold hoard. The line of the Roman road was, however, abandoned during the Medieval and earlier Post-Medieval periods, until it was turnpiked in the 18th century. During the intervening period a routeway from Llandeilo to Llandovery, later with a toll-house, was established along the higher ground through the centre of this character area (Ludlow 1999, 24), when it lay within the southern half of the commote, and later hundred, of Maenordeilo (Rees 1932) which was held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. The relative homogeneity of the present landscape may represent a historical unity of land-use. The landscape had been enclosed, in the present pattern of irregular fields, by the time the tithe surveys were conducted in the second quarter of the 19th century, but the process may have been undertaken at an earlier date, possibly during the late Medieval period. Settlement on the floodplain itself has always been minimal but does occur on raised 'islands' within the alluvium, mainly in the form of isolated farms of which Glanrhyd-isaf may have early origins. The remains of an adjacent field system may be Medieval. On the higher ground, Post-Medieval building platforms, trackways etc. attest to former settlement around Banc-y-gwyn. The character area lay within the large parish of Llandeilo Fawr and has a strong ecclesiastical signature, perhaps representing the core of the pre-Conquest *Patria* of St Teilo. The many chapels-of-ease to the parish may have early origins and include several within this character area. One of these chapels was still visible in the early 19th-century when it became the site of a dwelling, Capel Isa, built on land originally belonging to the Abermarlais estate in Area 209 (Jones 1987, 21). The lower valley side is occupied by two, formerly three, more 'polite' houses and gardens, with a degree of emparking which has characterised the landscape. The most important is Glanbrydan, established during the later 18th century but extended, and laid out as a parkland landscape, between 1838 and 1887 with the construction of a lodge (Ludlow 1999, 26). Down Farm, is little more than a large farm whilst Dirleton near Llangadog Bridge has now largely been lost. The pattern of small farms within and around the area had been established by the early 19th-century, but there have been landscape changes including the loss of further farmsteads and the coalescing of fields near the valley floor, and the diversion of the turnpike road in the 1820s with the subsequent development of a village, with a church, at Cwm-Ifor (see Area 196). The nucleation at Manordeilo, too, is a creation of the 19th century and is not even named on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawings, Sheet 189, of 1812. Its greatest expansion has in fact occurred since 1964 (Ordnance Survey, 1:10000), and is still going on with new dwellings under construction at the northeast end.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The Cwm-Ifor - Manordeilo character area occupies an area of rolling hills on the north side of the Tywi valley. From the valley floor at approximately 40 m the hills rise to a maximum of 160 m, though generally they lie between 50 m and 90 m. This is essentially a landscape of small irregular fields and dispersed farms. Land-use is almost entirely of improved pasture. Fields are divided by earth banks and hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition and well maintained, but there is some dereliction on low ridges north of Cwm-Ifor, close to Abermarlais (Area 209) at the eastern end of the area and on high ground to the north. Distinctive hedgerow trees are common, particularly in the areas of derelict hedges north of Cwm-Ifor. There are numerous copses and woodland stands, some possibly ancient, particularly on east and north-facing slopes of the Afon Dulais. The parkland at Glanbrydan and to a limited extent the old park of Dirleton merge and influence the surrounding agricultural landscape. The old established settlement pattern of dispersed farms consists mainly of stone-built houses of the 18th- and 19th-century. Although the date range of these surviving buildings is limited, a considerable economic and social range is present from gentry houses such as Glanbrydan House with its lodges and associated home farm, down to small dwellings in the vernacular tradition. Superimposed over the pattern of dispersed farms is a more recent linear and nucleated settlement pattern. Buildings of this pattern mostly date to the 20th century and tend to be concentrated along the A40 road, though the 19th century hamlet at Cwm-Ifor has been transformed into a small nucleated settlement by modern housing development.

Recorded archaeology mainly relates to the settlement already discussed, but includes an unknown cropmark, a possible round barrow and standing stone, as well as the gold hoard and stray finds. There are at least three Medieval chapel sites, a field system and a possible well, and Post-Medieval building platforms, leats, trackways and bridges around Banc-y-gwyn. The site of Dirleton House and park still contains landscape features.

Distinctive buildings include the Grade II listed Capel Isa, built in 1812-13 by Thomas Bedford of Llandeilo as a large, two-storeyed building, originally square in plan but extended west by one bay in the 19th century and now with a three-bayed southern facade. There is an associated, Grade II listed stable-range. The present Glanbrydan House and lodges are not listed, but the 'tower house' (former coach-house) is Grade II listed, probably built in 1885 to designs by S W Williams of Rhayader. Larger farms with concomitant larger farmhouses often in the Georgian tradition tend to be located on the lower slopes closer to the Tywi valley. These larger farms usually have a large assemblage of stone outbuildings in a formal arrangement. However the most common type of farm is a simple two-storey, three bay house in the vernacular tradition with a small group of outbuildings, sometimes compacted into a single range. Most farms have large, modern agricultural outbuildings associated with them. There are a number of early 19th-century cottages. St Paul's Church, Cwm-Ifor, is late 19th-century and on a new site but the chapel is from 1836. Further nonconformist chapels lie at Manordeilo and Hermon. An early 19th-century turnpike trust milestone on the A40(T) is Grade II listed, and an earlier toll-house lies on the old mail road.

This is not an easy area to define, as neighbouring areas possess similar characteristics. Only to the south against Area 196, the flood plain of the Tywi, is there good definition. Elsewhere it is a zone of change.

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: 202 LLANDEILO

GRID REFERENCE: SN 628221
AREA IN HECTARES: 131.30

Historic Background

Llandeilo occupies a central position within the Tywi valley, once part of the lordship of Cantref Mawr which remained independent of Anglo-Norman rule until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. However, settlement within the character area has earlier origins. The town stands astride the Llandovery (*Alabum*) -Carmarthen (*Moridunum*) Roman road, possibly at a junction with a further Roman road running south towards Loughor (*Leucarum*) suggesting that a bridge over the Tywi was present. A Roman fort midway between Carmarthen and Llandovery is to be expected in the area of the town and a possible site in the vicinity of Rhosmaen has been proposed (James 1992; Sambrook and Page 1995, 4). Settlement does appear to pre-date that at neighbouring Dinefwr (Area 195) in the form of the church of St Teilo (later the parish church of Llandeilo Fawr), supposed to have been established in the 6th century (Samuel 1868, 74), and mentioned in the pre-Conquest Lichfield Gospels (Ludlow 1998). By the 9th century Llandeilo Fawr was the most influential of the ecclesiastical communities in the district (Sambrook and Page 1995, 4), possessing two (formerly three) ECMs, and a spring in the large churchyard. It was appropriated to the Premonstratensian Abbey at Talley by Rhys Grŵg in c.1215 (Price 1879, 166). The town is believed to have its origins within this small ecclesiastical community. It had certainly been established by 1213 when the 'town' was attacked and 'completely burned' (Jones 1952, 87), but its growth appears to have been encouraged by the Bishops of St Davids who acquired the town and *patria* in the late 13th century, and by 1306 it contained 30 burgesses and 11 other tenants (Soulsby 1983, 160). The town was granted a weekly market and three annual fairs (Willis-Bund 1902, 263-9), held in the large marketplace northwest of the church. A mill was also present and at least one subordinate chapel lay within the character area, but the Medieval town appears to have been confined to the area around the churchyard, the marketplace, Bridge Street, and the lower part of Rhosmaen Street. A bridge is mentioned in 1289 (Soulsby 1983, 161) but the present structure was erected in 1848 by W Williams of Llandeilo replacing an earlier bridge downstream. Ffairfach developed as a settlement in the shadow of the town, south of the bridge, and was recorded as the site of an annual fair by George Owen in 1601 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 22). East of Ffairfach but within Area 202 lies the site of Tregyb, a former mansion established by the 16th century (Jones 1987, 186) on the site of a 14th century vill which may have had its own market (Rees 1932). A nearby 'maerdy' place-name, derived from a reeve or *maer*, may be associated with the monastic holding in Area 190 or the Tregyb estate (Sambrook and Page 1995, 17). Subsequent urban development was slow and probably did not occur until the 18th century. However, by 1841 the town had expanded to the north and west (Llandeilo Fawr tithe map) while the town was considered important enough to be the site for the County Midsummer Quarter Sessions (Soulsby 1983, 162). It was also a stage on the Mail Road which followed the course of the Roman road (and modern A40). It was turnpiked in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43) and was driven through the churchyard in the 1840s (Ludlow 1998). Rhosmaen grew as ribbon development either side of the road with, by the end of the 19th century, a

chapel and industry including a tannery. The former LNWR main West Wales railway line, which was opened as the 'Vale of Towy Line' in 1858 (Gabb, 1977, 76) established a railway station in the town, encouraging growth to the north towards Rhosmaen. A further station was established in Ffairfach at the junction with the Llandeilo-Llanelli line, which had been laid down in the 1840s (Morgan 1958). Expansion to the west is effectively limited by Dynevor Park (Area 195) but the 20th century has seen council development north of the park and the establishment, near its entrance, of both a fire station and a police station.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The historic town is situated on the north bank of the River Tywi, occupying a river terrace which slopes downhill from west to east between 40 m and 80 m. It is dominated by the 16th century church tower which overlooks the bridge. Ffairfach lies on the south bank and the character area includes ribbon development either side of the A40(T) to the north. The town comprises an axial main street, Bridge/Rhosmaen Street, running northeast from the bridge, originally to bifurcate around the large churchyard. Rhosmaen Street formed part of the Carmarthen-Llandovery turnpike and later the A40(T). The subrectangular churchyard, which was the primary nucleus, is now bisected by this street but is still a large, open green space. Bridge Street leads uphill from the graceful, single-span bridge and is characterised by attractive colourwashed earlier 19th century dwellings of 2-3 storeys, behind and to the west of which rises the wooded hill of Penlan Park (Area 195). The marketplace northwest of the church is now occupied by infill; Carmarthen Street, leading uphill west from the marketplace, is occupied by a number of good quality buildings including the square, stone-built provision market of 1838. Rhosmaen Street largely features 19th-20th century development. In 1800 it was occupied by 'straw-thatched houses of the poorest description' (Soulsby 1983, 162) but now features the town's main Coaching Inn, the Cawdor Arms, from c.1845 and built around a courtyard, and a number of good-quality civic buildings from later in the 19th century - banks, former Post Office etc. New Road was constructed between Rhosmaen Street and Carmarthen Street in the later 19th century to avoid the constricted roads around the churchyard. A feature of the townscape are a number of alleys and informal courtyards, not properly accessible to wheeled traffic but featuring 19th century buildings, often from early in the century and of good quality. A number of later 19th century terraces are concentrated on the northern fringe of the town around the railway station. Both Ffairfach and Rhosmaen are linear, ribbon developments of the later 19th-20th century with their own chapels. Twentieth century development has largely occurred west of the historic core and north of Dynevor Park (Area 195) and is characterised by council-built housing. Llandeilo is free from satellite development and there is no retail or business developments outside the town, despite the completion of the northern bypass in 1994 which took east-west traffic away from the town centre; north-south traffic still passes through. Tregyb House was demolished in 1974 and the park is now largely occupied by the town Secondary School and grounds. However, the house platform and terraces survive - the former is the site of the *Gorsedd* stone circle from the 1996 National Eisteddfod - while the park retains much of its character including many distinctive trees.

Recorded archaeology comprises features from the Medieval - Modern periods which have been largely discussed but includes Roman findspots and the two ECMs from the 10th-11th centuries.

There are a large number of listed buildings - c.75 in this landscape area - which are mainly town houses and civic buildings. Also included are the church which was largely rebuilt in 1848-51 to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott, and the spring (both Grade II listed), the road bridge (Grade II* listed), the present rail

bridge from 1898, the old provision market from 1838 and the Cawdor Arms (all Grade II listed), as well as several chapels.

Conservation priorities

Conservation priorities centre on the Conservation Area and individual listed buildings. Other than these it is important to maintain the nucleated coherence of the town by discouraging ribbon- and dispersed-development at the settlement fringes. A very small part of this area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995).

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 203 ALLT TREGYB

GRID REFERENCE: SN 657214
AREA IN HECTARES: 913.10

Historic Background

A large area occupying the south-east side of the Tywi Valley east of Llandeilo. It lay within Iscennen commote, specifically within Maenor Llys, of which Nant Breinant - which partly forms the northern edge of this area - was a named boundary in the 16th century (Rees 1953). Iscennen, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent of Anglo-Norman rule until 1284 when it was acquired by John Giffard. In 1340 it became a member of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees 1953, xv-xvi). The eastern half of the character area is marked as 'Brenaye Forest' on Rees' map of South Wales in the 14th century (Rees 1932), but the medium-sized irregular enclosures in this area contrast with the larger, regular enclosures to the north, south and further east - some of which are 19th century enclosure of former common - and are probably earlier, though possibly still Post-Medieval. Rees' map also shows a straightish, intermittent unclassified road running WSW-ENE across the spine of the area. The western end of the area belonged to the vill (later estate) of Tregyb (Area 202) and although there is little difference in the landscape here, it is more wooded and features the name Tregyb Warren. The later history of the area is overwhelmingly pastoral although a factory near Tregyb is marked on 19th century maps.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Allt Tregyb character area lies on north-facing undulating and hilly slopes of the Tywi Valley between 30m and 220m. The valley side has a heavily wooded appearance, but this is more apparent than real, for although there are considerable stands of ancient deciduous woodland, and recent more scrubby woods and small conifer plantations, the overall characteristic of the area is one of small irregular fields and widely dispersed farms. Improved pasture is common, but there are many fields of rougher- and rushy-ground, reflecting the pockets of poorer land on the north-facing slopes. Some fields have recently been invaded with scrubby woodland. Fields are usually divided by earth banks topped with hedges, but some stony banks and stone-faced banks lie at higher altitudes. Hedges are in a variety of states of management, but are usually either well-maintained and trimmed or overgrown with distinctive hedgerow trees. Farmhouses and cottages in the vernacular style of 19th century date are the chief types of dwellings. Larger farmsteads are present, but most are relatively small for Carmarthenshire and consist of a limited range of stone-built farm buildings, sometimes compacted into a single range. Some farms have large modern agricultural buildings associated with them. Stone-built, single storey 19th century cottages at Gurnos-Cwmdru suggest squatter settlement-encroachment onto common land that fringed part of this area.

Recorded archaeology is limited to a scheduled standing stone, a Bronze Age findspot and a possible enclosure (undated).

There are no distinctive buildings.

This is a fairly well defined area and contrasts with the less wooded, richer land and larger farms of areas that lie to the north, east and west (Areas 190, 197, 225, 226), and with the higher less strongly enclosed land to the south (Area 231).

Conservation priorities

Part of this area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). 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 also be given to the maintenance of other boundary types and 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: 204 FELINDRE

GRID REFERENCE: SN 699275
AREA IN HECTARES: 69.86

Historic Background

A small area to the south-east of the River Tywi lying immediately to the west of Carreg-Sawdde Common (Area 205). It was once part of Perfedd commote of Cantref Bychan, which was, with the exception of Iscennen, 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, Cantref Bychan was subject to episodes of Welsh rule until 1276 when it was granted - to be reunited with Iscennen - to the Gloucestershire knight John Giffard (Rees 1953, xv) and retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period. Carreg-Sawdde represents an area of remnant common within what may formerly have been an extensive tract of unenclosed grazing. However, by the 14th century Felindre was a demesne estate of the Lordship of Llandovery (Rees 1924, 100), presumably named from a pre-existing corn mill, and within which agriculture was practised; 15 bond men - the only bond tenants of the lordship - farmed 18 acres in 1317 (*ibid.*). Like the *maerdref* at Ferdre, Carreg Cennen (Area 198), Felindre had its own court and was administered by a reeve. In 1383 it was granted an annual fair by the successor to the Gifford Lords of Llandovery, Nicholas d'Audley (*ibid.*), which was still being held in 1601 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 22). However, the system of small, axial, regular rectangular fields which form a distinctive block to the west of the village may result from 18th century squatting on the edge of the common, rather than a fossilisation of Medieval strip fields; moreover the fields occupy a total of 172.60 acres. The system was in place - and Felindre was a nucleated settlement - by 1839 when the tithe map of Llangadog parish shows a landscape identical to the present.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Felindre is a small character area that lies on a terrace on the south side of the Tywi and west of the Sawdde at approximately 45 m OD, a few metres above the flood plains of the rivers. It consists of a small nucleation of dwellings at Felindre, and several dispersed small-holdings/farms. Felindre is a mixture of 19th- and 20th-century dwellings. Several stone-built small-holdings, in the vernacular tradition, are dispersed outside the nucleation and most have a small range of outbuildings associated with them. A distinctive but small enclosed strip field system is associated with the settlement. Earth banks with hedges comprise the boundaries to these fields. Hedges are generally well maintained and some have distinctive trees, but a few have gaps opening up in them. Wire fences support all hedges. There is no woodland in this area, and almost all ground is under improved pasture.

Recorded archaeology relates to the settlement and includes the present Post-Medieval watermill and the village with a pigsty and a smithy.

There are no distinctive buildings. Felindre itself has 19th century stone-built dwellings, in the vernacular style, intermixed with 20th century dwellings in a variety of styles and materials. The farmhouses of the several small-holdings

dispersed outside the nucleation are stone-built, of 19th century date, in the vernacular tradition and generally of two storeys with slate roofs.

The strip field system and nucleated settlement make this a very distinctive character area. It stands in contrast to unenclosed common to the east (Area 205), the Tywi flood plain to the north (Area 196), and areas of dispersed farms and irregular fields to the south and west (Area 225).

Conservation priorities

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area as most of the historic landscape components 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 205 CARREG-SAWDDE COMMON

GRID REFERENCE: SN 702279

AREA IN HECTARES: 78.59

Historic Background

Carreg-Sawdde represents an area of remnant common within what may formerly have been a more extensive tract of unenclosed grazing. It lay within Perfedd commote of Cantref Bychan, which was, with the exception of Iscennen, 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. The common appears to have become part of the *patria* of Llangadog when the area was acquired by the Bishops of St Davids in the later 13th century (Rees 1932), from which point the right of pasture appears to have belonged to the burgesses of Llangadog (Area 206). The common occupied more-or-less its present extent by at least 1839, when the tithe map of Llangadog parish recorded a landscape very similar to the present. There has been some limited subsequent encroachment particularly at the south-east end adjacent to Area 235 (Castell Meurig) and as 'islands' within the common, while some of the trackways depicted on early maps appear to have become disused.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Carreg-Sawdde Common lies on the flood plain of the Afon Sawdde at approximately 45m. The A4069 (turnpike) road crosses part of the south-east side of the common. A B-road from Llangadog to Felindre crosses the common towards its southern end, and the Afon Sawdde over a 20th century bridge (occupying the site of an earlier crossing). The common is open, rough grazing land apart from a small 'island' of tightly-packed buildings in the centre, and a modern sewage treatment works. The buildings are encroachments on to the common and comprise late 19th century two-storey houses through to late 20th century bungalows.

Recorded archaeology is limited to a findspot of uncertain date.

There are no distinctive buildings

This open common contrasts to the nucleated settlement and associated fields of Felindre (Area 204) to the west, with Llangadog urban character area (206) to the east, and with enclosed farmland and dispersed farms on other sides (Areas 208, 235).

Conservation priorities

There are no historic landscape conservation priorities in this area.

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 Ystradmynys 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: 209 ABERMARLAIS

GRID REFERENCE: SN 687298

AREA IN HECTARES: 128.60

Historic Background

A small area northwest of the Tywi floodplain corresponding to the former park and demesne of Abermarlais house. The area once lay within the Medieval Cwmwd Maenordeilo, held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. A high-status dwelling may have been established at Abermarlais as early as the 14th century (Rees 1932), when it was the residence of Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd who commanded the Welsh at Crécy (Jones 1987, 4). During the early 16th-century it was occupied by the great Tudor magnate Sir Rhys ap Thomas (*ibid.*) and upon his death it was inherited by his grandson, another Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd. He was executed by Henry VIII for treason and the estate, and the neighbouring 'lordship of Llansadwrn', fell to the crown (Sambrook and Page 1995, 21). Abermarlais was the subject of a laudatory poem by Lewis Glyn Cothi and was described by Leland in the 1530s as '*a well favorid stone place*' (Smith 1906), which may have been semi-fortified but having been '*new mendid and augmentid*' by Sir Rhys ap Thomas (Jones 1987, 4). Abermarlais was regarded as a manor, was recorded as the site of an annual fair by George Owen in 1601 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 22) and in 1670 was assessed for 21 hearths (Jones 1987, 4), all suggesting that the house may have been accompanied by some form of manorial settlement. It was later abandoned, and hut platforms and pillow mounds of probable Medieval date lie northwest of the house site. Alterations were made to the house during succeeding centuries when its surroundings were emparked. The Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery passed through the character area but appears to have become disused by the Medieval period and is not followed by any of the estate boundaries. During this period, and until the Roman road line was turnpiked in the 18th century (to become the present A40(T)), the routeway from Llandeilo to Llandovery ran along the higher ground through the centre of this character area (Ludlow 1999, 24). The old mansion was demolished in 1803 and replaced with a new house, itself demolished in the 1970s. Part of the estate is now a caravan park.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This relatively small character area is based on the former demesne and park of Abermarlais. It runs from the flood plain of the Tywi at approximately 40 m up the northern valley side to a maximum of just over 180 m. Abermarlais House is now demolished and the park and garden are decayed, but part of the estate boundary wall survives and also sufficient parkland character to warrant the separation of Abermarlais into its own character area. Although the area is partly divided into large enclosures by banks topped with hedges, the area has a open character, as many of the hedges are derelict and wire fences now provides the main divisor. Deciduous woodland surrounds the site of the former house, and at higher levels a 20th century conifer plantation has recently been clear-felled. In between these two woodland areas, improved pasture and rough grazing is the main land-use. The walled garden close to the former house survives; it is now the site of a touring caravan park. At least one lodge survives in a much modified condition.

Much of the recorded archaeology relates to the house and park and includes an ornamental garden, but hut platforms and pillow mounds of possible Medieval date have been recorded. In addition there is a Bronze Age standing stone and an unknown cropmark site, while a second similar site has been proposed as the site of a Roman fortlet, lying in association with the Roman road line.

Surviving buildings include a lodge and a bridge

It is not now easy to distinguish the former park of this area from the neighbouring areas of dispersed farms and irregular fields (Areas 201, 210, 208). There are sufficient differences, however, to justify the separation of this area.

Conservation priorities

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. However, consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland, and to the few upstanding elements of the former park and garden.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 210 LLANSADWRN - LLANWRDA

GRID REFERENCE: SN 701310

AREA IN HECTARES: 330.60

Historic Background

An area lying on the northwest side of the Tywi Valley. During the historic period the area has always been divided by an administrative boundary; the western half lay within Maenor Llansadwrn of the commote (and later hundred) of Maenordeilo, the late Medieval parish of Llansadwrn, while the eastern half lay within Gwestfa Llanwrda of the commote of Malláen, the late Medieval parish of Llanwrda and the later hundred of Caio (Rees 1932). Both commotes were held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until the establishment of the county of Carmarthen in 1284. There is evidence of early settlement; an Iron Age hillfort lies within the area while the present churches of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda may both have possible pre-Conquest origins. The latter church lies close to the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llandovery, now represented by the A40(T), which forms the long southeast edge of this character area, while both have churchyards that were formerly circular (the former yard being very large). However, neither became a parish church until the late (or even Post-) Medieval period, prior to which they were both appendent to the large parish of Cynwyl Gaeo, itself probably a pre-Conquest unit, and in turn subordinate to Talley Abbey from c.1200 onwards (Ludlow 1998). There is no evidence for accompanying Medieval settlement; a *maerdy* place-name southeast of Llansadwrn village, derived from a reeve or *maer*, may be associated with the neighbouring, Medieval Abermarlais estate (Sambrook and Page 1995, 17) rather than a settlement around the church. Maenor Llansadwrn was regarded as possessing minor lordship status by the early 16th century when, along with the Abermarlais estate (Area 209) it was in the possession of the great Tudor magnate Sir Rhys ap Thomas (Sambrook and Page 1995, 21). His grandson and heir Sir Rhys ap Gruffydd was executed by Henry VIII for treason and 'the manor, lordship, hamlet and town of Llansadwrn' fell to the crown. The term town in this context presumably refers to a township or *tref* rather than a built-up area, and there are no records of any liberties associated with borough foundations. Neuadd Fawr, a large 17th century house just outside Llanwrda, is likely to have been a single development but may be the site of the Medieval *llys* of Gwestfa Llanwrda. Both nucleations are in fact likely to have origins in the 18th century and the Ordnance Survey Old Series 1" maps of the early 19th-century show them with only scattered development. Llanwrda received impetus for growth when the Roman road line was turnpiked in 1763-71 (Lewis, 1971, 43), when it shifted away from the church towards the road. Both villages received Post Offices in the late 19th century, and Llanwrda in particular has been subject to 20th century development. Fields are mainly fairly large and regular which may suggest Post-Medieval enclosure.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llansadwrn - Llanwrda character area lies on the northern side of the Tywi valley, and includes: the very northern edge of the flood plain at about 45m, rising hills up to a maximum of 140m and the lower part of the Dulais valley in which Llanwrda village is situated. Essentially this area consists of two loosely nucleated villages - Llansadwrn and Llanwrda - dispersed farms and improved pasture enclosed into small irregular fields. Field boundaries are earth banks topped with

hedges. Hedges are generally well managed, though some are becoming overgrown, and at higher levels some are derelict. There are distinctive hedgerow trees in some of the hedges. Most hedges are supplemented with wire fences. Small stands of deciduous woodland are mostly confined to steep slopes on minor valley sides. Llansadwrn is unusual, compared with other villages of the Tywi valley, in that it is situated on a rounded hill-crest rather than on a valley bottom. It consists of a loose girdle of houses around the Medieval church. The stone-built houses and cottages of the village seem mostly to be of 19th century date. The scattering of more recent housing, in a variety of styles, does not detract from the essentially 19th century character of the village. Llanwrda is a valley bottom village that has developed at the junction of two turnpike roads, the present A40(T) and the A482, with early- and mid-19th century housing in a variety of styles along the A482, with later 19th-century housing along the A40(T). The latter road has now been bypassed. Small modern housing estates have been established on the fringes of the village core. Dispersed farmhouses are mainly 19th century in date, and in the vernacular tradition, with outbuildings of modest size, sometimes compacted into one range. Most farms have an assemblage of modern agricultural buildings. The A40(T) passes along the southern boundary of this area, along the Tywi valley route corridor but, apart from Llanwrda village, linear development has not occurred along this road.

There is little recorded archaeology but time-depth is provided by the Iron Age hillfort and the Roman road. There is also a *ffos* place-name (possible boundary ditch) and a possible holy well site.

There are few distinctive buildings. Neuadd Fawr, Llanwrda, is a Grade II listed house, probably 17th century in origin with a massive chimney breast and later alterations. Llansadwrn Church is a Grade B listed landmark church, but neither church has a tower. Both villages feature chapels, schools, public houses and Post Office buildings, while Llanwrda also features an almshouse and a bridge. Farmhouses are mainly 19th century in date, stone-built, two-storey, and generally in the vernacular tradition. Stone outbuildings associated with the farms are of modest size. There is the usual scatter of Post-Medieval cottage sites.

This is not an easy area to define as neighbouring character areas share many of its historic landscape components. To the south the Tywi valley character area (Area 208) forms a reasonably distinct boundary, but to the west (Area 209) and east (Area 257) there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border. Areas to the north have yet to be defined, but here the landscape here is generally characterised by a more dense distribution of small farms, very small fields and woodland.

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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 225 BETHLEHEM

GRID REFERENCE: SN 690251

AREA IN HECTARES: 1737.00

Historic Background

A very large character area on the southeast side of the Tywi valley between Llandeilo and Llangadog, including part of the lower Sawdde valley. During the historic period the area lay within Cwmwd Perfedd 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 tenorial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated into modern Carmarthenshire. The eastern section of this character area formed part of the *patria* of Llangadog which was acquired by the Bishops of St Davids by the late 13th-century (Rees 1932). The area may have been a focus for human settlement with status and/or ritual associations from an early date. A Neolithic chambered tomb and a Bronze Age standing stone lie centrally within the area. The large Iron Age hillfort of Carn Goch, Area 222, intrudes into, and dominates Area 225, and was probably the centre of a large territory taking in most of the area south of the Tywi. There is evidence for early occupation of this site, possibly into the Neolithic, and the significance it gave to the area may have persisted after its abandonment under Roman rule - the most plausible villa site in southwest Wales, Llys Brychan, lies within Area 225 only 1.6km to the northeast of the fort (Jarrett 1962). Its name suggests that Llys Brychan was (re)occupied during the Medieval period as an administrative centre or *llys*, with connections - putative or otherwise - with Brychan, a dominant figure in early Medieval tradition. It is still the site of a dwelling. By the post-Conquest period, however, the majority of this area west of the Sawdde was administered within Cwmwd Perfedd as Maenor Vabon, from a centre, Llys Hendy, now represented by the Post-Medieval house at Manoravon/Crymlyn Manor (Rees 1932) recorded since the 18th century (Jones 1987, 130). The continuing status of this area is demonstrated by the perceived importance of the neighbouring Llangadog (Area 206) during the Medieval period, with a chapel-of-ease to Llangadog parish at Capel Tydist, the site of a house since at least the early 19th-century (Jones 1987, 21), and a further possible chapel site. Gentry houses are numerous within the area, and many of them were acquired by the Dynevor estate including Mandinam, established by the 17th century and said to have been the residence of Jeremy Taylor following his chaplainship to the Earl of Carbery at Golden Grove (Jones 1987, 7), and Tygwyn which was the residence of the Vaughans of Derwydd in c.1650 with a demesne which comprised 214 acres in 1879 (Jones 1987, 190). Llwynymendy has origins within the 17th century at the latest (Jones 1987, 121) as do Pentre Parr and Beili-Dyffryn (Jones 1987, 7, 153), which later became part of the Dirleton estate. Nevertheless the present pattern of enclosures, which was in place by the early 19th-century (Llandeilo Fawr and Llangadog tithe maps), may have been established by the Medieval period - they are very irregular with many stands of ancient deciduous woodland. The steep-sided valley of the Afon Sawdde is a natural line of communication and the A4069 was a major Post-Medieval droving route, turnpiked from 1779 (Lewis 1971, 43). Typical 19th century rural development is exemplified by Bethlehem which is a nucleation around Bethlehem chapel on the present Llandeilo-Llangadog road -

also a turnpike - and shown as a cluster of cottages in 1839, to which a post office and school were added later in the 19th century (Sambrook and Page 1995, 40). A 20th century housing estate has been added but overall there has been little recent development.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Bethlehem is a very large character area. It runs along the south side of the Tywi valley from just southeast of Llandeilo upstream past Llangadog and across the Sawdde valley. It rises in a series of low, rounded hills from 30 m on the Tywi floodplain to over 130 m on the southeastern flanks of the area. Dissecting the landscape are numerous small, steep-sided valleys. Essentially this is a landscape of dispersed farms, small pasture fields and small woods. Boundaries to the fields consist almost entirely of earth banks topped with hedges, but a few stone-faced banks lie on higher ground. Hedges are generally in good condition and are well maintained; many have distinctive hedgerow trees. Land-use is predominantly improved pasture, with very little rough and rushy land. Deciduous woodland is mostly confined to the steep valley sides, where it provides a distinctive landscape component. Close to the Tywi valley the landscape has a parkland character; this is emphasised close to Crymlyn Manor by single trees and small clumps which indicate old park planting. There are numerous small, and one medium-sized conifer plantations in the area, mostly on higher ground. There are no nucleated settlements, the loose cluster of houses, a school and post office at Bethlehem is the only aggregate settlement of note. Dispersed farms and other houses dominate the settlement pattern. Most buildings are of 19th- and 20th-century date and stone built. There is a range of farmhouse types, but the majority are two-storeys and three-bays and in the vernacular tradition or more polite 'Georgian' style of the early- to mid-19th century. Larger dwellings are present, and smaller houses and cottages. The range of old, stone-built, 19th century farm buildings also reflects prevailing social and economic class; most are substantial ranges, often semi-formally arranged around a yard, though single ranges of smaller buildings are present on the smaller farms. Nearly all farms have modern agricultural buildings. Superimposed onto the old-established pattern of dispersed farms is a scattering of a small number of later 19th- 20th-century dwellings, in a variety of styles and materials.

Recorded archaeology is rich and diverse, comprising one definite and one possible Neolithic chambered tomb/Bronze Age long barrow, a Bronze Age standing stone and a possible round barrow. Also there is a further Iron Age hillfort on the western slope of Carn Goch (Area 222), and another hillfort to the west. Llys Brychan was excavated in 1961 when it was concluded to be a probable Roman villa site (Jarrett 1961). From the Medieval period are a chapel site and possible chapel site, while from the early Post-Medieval period are possible pillow-mounds, a well and a rubbing stone, in addition to enclosures of unknown date.

There are many distinctive buildings, and high-quality farmhouses. Mandinam house is Grade II listed and mainly from the 18th- and 19th-century, with double-saddle roofs. The contemporary houses at Tygwyn, Llwynymendy, Pentre Parr with its lodge and park, and Beili-Dyffryn are unlisted. The present farmstead at Llyshendy was built for the Dynevor estate (Judith Alfrey, *pers. comm.*). The chapel, school and post office at Bethlehem should be noted, in addition to mills, cottages and dwellings, bridges and a smithy site.

To the north this character area is well defined by the flood plain of the Tywi valley (Area 196) and by Felindre character area (Area 204). Where this area borders higher ground boundary definition is also good - to the south against Carn Goch (Area 222), Garn-wen (Area 226) and others (Areas 229, 230), but

elsewhere (bounding Areas 203, 228 and 235) there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border.

Conservation priorities

This area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation and therefore there are few historic landscape conservation priorities. 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: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 228 CILGWYN - LLWYNWORMWOOD

GRID REFERENCE: SN 754308
AREA IN HECTARES: 1288.00

Historic Background

An area southeast of the River Tywi lying in the former Cantref Bychan which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans 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 but retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated within modern Carmarthenshire. The area was divided between two commotes, Hirfryn to the north and Perfedd, specifically Maenor Myddfai (and Myddfai parish), to the south. The latter may have been administered from Myddfai itself but Cilgwyn Mansion had been established by the 16th century (Jones 1987, 30), and the nearby mill is marked by Rees on his map of 14th century south Wales (Rees 1932). With 3820 acres in Myddfai parish in 1873, the occupants of Cilgwyn Mansion, the Gwynne-Holfords, were the chief family of the parish. A second gentry house nearby, Glasallt, is said to have been the home of the Owen family since 1508 (Jones 1987, 80). Llwynwormwood in the northern part of the area, now gone, was a later 18th century gentry house and home of the Williams family, also of Dolgarreg and the second family of Myddfai parish (Jones 1987, 122). A small emparked area also lies around Glansevin, at the southern end of the area, which had been the home of the Lloyd family since the 16th century and was assessed at 8 hearths in 1670 (Jones 1987, 78); it is now a hotel. The landscape within the area exhibits a varied pattern of enclosures; those to the south are irregular and may have been established by the early Post-Medieval period, while those to the north are more regular and probably later in date. The landscape around Cilgwyn and Llwynwormwood was extensively emparked in the 18th- and 19th-century with much tree-planting. Small-scale mining activity is represented by Allt Rhydings and Paradise Lode, small copper/lead shafts in the north of the area, and a lead/zinc shaft in the south of the area. There has been little recent development.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood character area lies across a wide hilly ridge which trends southwest-northeast on the south side of the Tywi valley between Llandovery and Llangadog. The ridge rises from approximately 60 m on the valley floor to achieve heights of over 180 m. The area is heavily wooded. This consists of deciduous woodland on steep valley sides interspersed with and under-planted by 20th century conifer plantations. There are also substantial conifer plantations on the ridge crests. Although some of the deciduous woodland is probably ancient, especially that on the steeper slopes, much has the appearance of 18th- or 19th-century plantations, part of the estate landscape. There are several large estates or former estates in the area. The mansion of one of the largest, Cilgwyn, still exists, along with various associated relict garden features, but the other main house of the area, Llwynwormwood is now a ruin. Dolgarreg and Cwm-Rhuddan, two lesser major houses still stand. Outside the wooded areas, the main land-use is pasture. This has been divided into fields which are large and fairly regular on higher levels, smaller and more irregular at lower levels. Earth banks with hedges form the boundaries to the fields, but apart from alongside

roads and tracks hedges are in very poor condition, especially so at higher elevation, and are either overgrown or derelict. Wire fences provide most of the stock-proof boundaries. Many hedges have distinctive trees, and there are individual trees and small clumps present across much of the area. Parkland is still present as at Cwm-Rhuddan, but virtually the whole area seems to have been subjected to landscaping by the estates in the 18th- and 19th-century. Outside the major houses, the settlement pattern is of dispersed farms and other dwellings. Farmhouses are substantial, stone-built, generally 19th century in date and have a wide range of stone outbuildings reflecting estate management. Most farms have modern agricultural buildings. Other dwellings are mostly 19th century cottages or houses, usually in the vernacular style, with a few 20th century buildings.

Recorded archaeology comprises a possible hillfort, three metal mines, estate and parkland features, and several unknown cropmark/earthwork/landform features.

There are many distinctive buildings of which the 18th century Cilgwyn house and one of the Llwynwormwood park lodges, from the 18th- or early 19th-century in picturesque 'estate' Gothic style, are Grade II listed. Glansevin, from the 18th- and 19th-century with Classical features, is Grade II listed.

Mansions, parkland and woodland distinguish this area and mark it out from the neighbouring areas of farms and small fields (Areas 208, 232, 234 and 235).

Conservation priorities

Part of this area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). 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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 235 MAES-GWASTAD

GRID REFERENCE: SN 727290
AREA IN HECTARES: 500.30

Historic Background

An area southeast of the River Tywi which once formed 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 later 13th century (Rees 1932). Medieval settlement and formalised land-division is suggested from place-name evidence in other areas that lay within the *patria* (eg. Area 207), and similarly the names within Area 235 suggest the presence of former open field strips, possibly belonging to the emerging borough of Llangadog (Area 206), and a quillet of such enclosed strips appears to lie at the north end of the area. The motte-and-bailey castle at Castell Meurig 1.5 km southeast of Llangadog appears to belong to the early, initial phase of Anglo-Norman campaign. It was captured 'by catapults and slings' by Prince Maelgwn ap Rhys in 1203 (Jones 1952, 82) after which it may have become disused; at any rate, it appears not to have influenced any subsequent settlement. The area's Post-Medieval history, during which the Lordship of Llandovery was held by the Vaughans of Golden Grove and later the Earls of Cawdor (James n.d., 87), was dominated by the gentry house at Glansevin which had been the home of the Lloyd family since the 16th century and was assessed at 8 hearths in 1670 (Jones 1987, 78). The dwelling itself, which is now a hotel, lies in Area 228 but the home farm and mill lie in this character area. Glansevin-issa, just to the north, is mentioned in 1634 when it was mortgaged for £100 to become part of the Dirleton estate in Area 201 (*ibid.*). The A4069 between Llangadog and Llandovery, which forms the northwestern edge of the character area, follows the line of a turnpike begun in 1779 (Lewis 1971, 43). Recent development, however, has been slight; a very small nucleation has developed around the 19th century non-conformist chapel at Sardis, off of the main route, whilst the northwest corner of the area, where it runs into Llangadog (Area 206), has seen some 20th century development.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Maes-gwastad character area occupies the wide valley floor of the Afon Brân to the east of Llangadog. It is relatively flat and lies between c. 60 m and 80 m above sea level. It is essentially a landscape of improved pasture fields and dispersed farms. Fields are medium- to large-sized and vary from the fairly regular to the irregular. Some are strip-shaped, indicating enclosure from an open field system. Boundaries are universally of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are very well maintained. The area has an open appearance owing to the fact that there are few hedgerow trees and very little woodland. The A4069 is a former turnpike; other routes are local lanes and tracks. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms. Farmhouses are stone-built, generally 19th century, two-storey and three-bays, with examples in the vernacular tradition as well as the

more polite 'Georgian' style. 19th century outbuildings associated with the farms are substantial, as are modern agricultural buildings.

The recorded archaeology is dominated by the scheduled earthworks of the large, well preserved motte-and-bailey castle at Castell Meurig. There are also Iron Age or Roman finds, the enclosed Medieval open fields, and two unknown earthworks.

There are some distinctive buildings, but none are listed, including Glansevin Bridge, home farm and mill, Glansevin-issa, a Sunday school, and further mills and bridges.

This is not an easy area to define, as the neighbouring character areas share similar traits. However, the generally more wooded character and smaller field size of bordering areas (Areas 225, 228 and 207) provide sufficient differences to draw a reasonably hard-edged boundary to this area.

Conservation priorities

There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. 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.

APPENDIX B

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATUTORY LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST: FARM BUILDINGS WITHIN THE TYWI AFON YR OESOEDD PROJECT AREA

LLETHR CADFAN 10,932 II Llangathen
FARMHOUSE

Farmhouse is probably of C17 origin, C18 and C19 alterations. Rendered, slate roof, eaves, end gable to right-hand, square stone stack at rear, tall square rubble stack rising from front eaves. Two storeys, irregular windows, C19 sashes and glazing bars. Full-height hipped roof projecting porch to left-hand with plain door in cambered-head opening. Small square casement above.

CWRT-Y-PLAS 10,935 II Llangadog

Mid C19 Danyrallt estate farmhouse. A house on the site on 1839 Tithe Map was owned by J W Jones of Danyrallt, occupied by James Jones. The detail of stonework, hoodmoulds and porch hoods is similar to that on the Danyrallt estate cottages. Farmhouse with lower outbuilding in line to left, purple Sawdde stone with sandstone quoins, slate roof and C20 stone end wall stacks. Roof has pronounced overhang at gables and eaves. House is a two-storey, three-window range, of C20 stained wood windows in original openings with stone voussoirs under stone hoodmoulds. Small square windows above long windows below, all 2-light with small panes and one opening top-light. Tudor arch to centre doorway with hoodmould and C20 door with radiating-bar fanlight. Gabled split stone hood. S end wall has one ground floor window and rear has 3-window range, stone voussoirs, C20 glazing. Long outbuilding to left with lower slate roof. One first floor triple casement with stone voussoirs to right of stone ridge stack. Ground floor openings have stone hoodmoulds and voussoirs. Centre stable door with two triple casements each side, and at far left a long hoodmould over garage door and window, possibly altered from original. C20 glazing and doors in original openings generally. Loft opening in N end wall.

OUTER COURTYARD RANGES 11,103 II* Llandeilo
(NEWTON HOUSE) DYNEVOR
PARK

U-plan ranges of former stables and coach houses attached to Inner Courtyard and enclosed by a screen wall on E side. This yard was formed by George Rice (d 1779) in mid-Georgian style, N range probably earlier.

One storey and attic flanking ranges to I storey W range with advanced and pedimented centre to coach house. Exposed rubble with freestone voussoirs to triple arches of coach house and to triple flanking arcades with glazed lunettes, slate roofs. Oculus to pediment, boarded doors, cobbled forecourt, with drains. S range with stone tile roof and 8 hipped dormers with sash and case windows, triple arched openings (two part-blocked, inset sash windows) to centre of ground floor. Bandy's and Coachman's cottages with assorted sash windows and doors with fanlights to (and sides of S range. South front with assorted stacks (two tall ones at eaves) cross gable, lean-tos and buttresses to main walls. N range is included with Inner Courtyard. Screen wall on E side with double outer gateways, tall square piers, modern workshop projects through screen. C19 lean-to opened on timber posts.

Reference: Dynevor Castle guide book. p 25

**CORN BARN TO N.OF
DYNEVOR HOME
FARMHOUSE, DYNEVOR
PARK** 11,110 II Llandeilo

Enclosing W side of farmyard to N of farmhouse.

Probably C18. Rubble-walled barn (splayed profile to wall base) with stone slate roof, oversailing eaves. Grouped ventilation slits to gable ends, angled drip stones to ground floor S; N end partly masked by modern 1 storey sheds (not of special interest). 2 pairs of full-height boarded threshing doors to farmyard, concrete and stone-slab floors within.

Collar and tie-beam roof, slender ridge beam.

**BYRE RANGE (FORMERLY
STABLES) TO NE.OF
DYNEVOR HOME
FARMHOUSE,DYNEVOR
PARK** 11,111 II Llandeilo

On E side of farmyard at right angles to Dynevor Home Farmhouse and Barn.

Probably early/mid C19, later alterations. Long rubble range with stone slate roof, central louvred ventilator and weathervane to E gable. S side is 1-storey rising to 2 storeys with falling ground to E, arched voussoir windows in (partly built-up) openings. 4 segmentally-headed doorways, modern door to gable end. Lean-to slabbed extension to N. Wide collar-beam roof construction.

**STABLE BLOCK AT
LLWYNHELIG
HOUSE,LLWYNHELIG** 11,116 II Llandeilo

Immediately beside Llwynhelig House which is set in its own grounds on the northern boundary of the Community Council area. ca 1800; contemporary with Llwynhelig house. 2-storey rendered rubble range with slate roof. Tall segmental central arch; gable above

has bullseye window and open pediment treatment. Flanking stable doors with loft doors over. Circular openings to 1st floor.

**NE.COURTYARD RANGE AT
ABERGLASNEY,INCLUDING
FORMER STABLES &
CARTSHED** 11,158 II Llangathen

To NW of Aberglasney house and at right angles to the lodge to which it is linked by the two stone archways. Faces SW across the courtyard now divided by a rubble wall abutting the end of the lodge. Aberglasney is set in its own grounds on the W edge of the village.

C19 rubble range with hipped slate roof; masonry breaks to the front indicate that this is not all of one build. Single row of dove-boxes, with ledge, below eaves. 2 camber-headed cartshed openings to left end, one blocked up; window over door immediately to right. The middle section has central entrance with boarded double doors flanked by casement window and a further loft window to

right. Square headed doorway to extreme right. The SE end has two rows of dove-boxes over twin lunette windows. Lean-to and rubble chimney stack at rear.

**SE.COURTYARD RANGE AT 11,160 II Llangathen
ABERGLASNEY,INCLUDING
FORMER BAKEHOUSE &
COWSHEDS**

To W of Aberglasney House, facing NW across the courtyard now divided by a rubble wall abutting the end of the lodge; attached to the large coach-house at the SW end. Aberglasney is set in its own grounds to the W edge of the village.

Long, C19, single storey rubble range with hipped slate roof. Chimney stack to the bakehouse at the left hand end. Square headed openings.

**LARGE COACH HOUSE TO 11,161 II Llangathen
SW.SIDE OF COURTYARD
AT ABERGLASNEY**

To W of Aberglasney, facing NE across the courtyard now divided by a rubble wall abutting the end of the lodge; attached to the former bakehouse and cowsheds at left hand end. Aberglasney is set in its own grounds on the W edge of the village.

Earlier C19 large 3-bay coach-house; rubble construction with hipped slate roof, overhanging eaves and dove-boxes with ledge running the full length of the courtyard elevation, similar to the NE range. 3-carriage openings, with voussoirs, to both sides providing through passage for carriages or carts. Tall segmental arch to centre with similar arch to rear; on both sides this is flanked by tall slit ventilators and beyond are camber headed openings of similar height, at the rear the left hand opening is infilled with timber boarding. At the SE end a small hipped roof barn is attached; slit ventilators.

Internally the large coach-house had king-post and strut trusses and rubble walls dividing it into 3 sections.

Talhardd 14,548.00 II Dyffryn Cennen

Farmhouse, whitewashed rubble, formerly with slate roof. Substantial stone chimneys at S end of crosswing and on N wallface of main range. Small brick stack on E gable of main range. Two storeys, L-plan, crosswing to W with 2-window farmyard front, formerly of three late C19 horned 12-pane sash windows with brick voussoirs and one 2-light casement window to ground floor left; boarded door to right reached by outside stairs, beside which is an outbuilding altered to monopitch garage. Massive chimney breast to the S gable-end, with two offsets on W, and now with modern brick head. N gable end has ground floor window with older and wider timber lintel. One window above. Main range, set back to left, had horned 4-pane sashes, one each side to first floor, one to left, one right of centre below. Front door to right with curious rectangular recess over. Said to have segmental pointed relieving arch over door, now boarded over. A tall rubble stone chimney rises from the front wall left of centre. A straight joint below stack may indicate a lost NE wing (indicated on 1841 Tithe map). That the W crosswing is later than the NE main range is indicated by internal detailing and by the fact that they are not bonded in to each other. Broad E gable has a battered base towards N and a straight joint. Left side has C20 window each floor to right of rubble stone projection with traces of blocked stone voussoir doorway.

The S wall has traces of a stair light and a former doorway into space at foot of stairs, now window. Running S from SE corner of the main range is a later single-storey outbuilding that contained a grain-drying kiln. Staggered (to'r brat) slates to roof, square rubble S end chimney stack and offset W door to centre, window to right.

ATTACHED STABLE RANGE 15,182.00 II Manordeilo and Salem
TO W OF CAPEL ISAF, CWM IFOR

Capel Isaf, including attached stable range to W
Situating on N side of A 40, some 300m E of turning to Cwm Ifor.

Exterior: House built 1812-13 by Thomas Bedford of Llandeilo for Thomas Lewis of Stradey with some later alterations. Called also Capel Bach and Capel Isa.

Description: Roughcast with slate hipped valley roof and roughcast stacks on N and S ridges. Bracket eaves. Roughly square plan originally but extended by one bay to W in C19. Two storeys, two-window E front with 12-pane sashes each floor, larger below. Three-window S front, originally two-window with centre ridge stack, square 6-pane upper windows, ground floor long narrow 10-pane window and 12-pane sash to right. Added section to left has 4-12-4-pane first floor oriel and small ground floor 12-pane sash. N front has horned 12-pane sash to first floor left, 4-12-4-pane oriel over door in renewed open pedimental doorcase, panelled reveals, door and elliptical arched fanlight. Added section to right has 12-pane sash each floor. W end wall has paired gables, right gable with stack.

A colourwashed rubble low range to W links to hipped stable-range, colourwashed rubble with ridge stack. W lean-to has two-storey front with two casement-pairs above, stable-door, window and coach-entry below. Curved SW angle. Single storey range to W.

Interior: Broad oak staircase with scrolled tread ends, stick balusters and ramped rail. Two main E rooms have plain marble fireplaces and plain cornices. Two bedrooms above have coved ceilings. Loft has oak trusses, tie-beam or collar-beam with queen posts and internal walls have W side slate-hanging indicating house has since been extended.

Cawdor Farmhouse 20,902.00 II Dyffryn Cennen

Farmhouse, possibly C18 in origin, altered in C19. It was the original Ffair Fach from which the settlement takes its name. Marked on the 1841 Tithe Map as Ffair Fach, owned by Lord Cawdor, occupied by G. Tracey, with 45.4 hectares. The facade shows sign Farmhouse, rubble stone with slate roof and squared-stone end stacks. Two storeys and attic. Evidence of alteration, probably raising and extension, in grey limestone quoins on upper floor right and whole of left angle. Also a blocked opening to first floor right of centre. Three attic 4-pane windows breaking eaves under C19 slate-roofed gables with bargeboards. Three first floor horned 4-pane sashes, wider spaced than attic or ground floor windows. Ground floor has 4-pane sash each side of centre boarded door with timber hood (like that on Llys Cariad, a Cawdor estate house W of Ffairfach), and third sash to right, smaller, only the last aligned with window above. Windows of main floors have limestone voussoirs to cambered heads. Service range in line to right has outside steps to loft door on right, ground floor small triple casement to left. E end wall has attic casement pair, first floor casement pair and 2 ground floor windows. Rear has centre first floor 4-pane window breaking eaves under small gable. Ground floor lean-to with roof in 2 sections, three windows to right, two

windows and door left. 3 modern roof lights in rear pitch. Rear of service wing to left has casement window each floor.

Penycoed 20,906.00 II Dyffryn Cennen

Late C18 or early C19 substantial farmhouse. One of a group of similar three-storey smaller gentry houses in the Community Council area, including Llys Cariad (Golden Grove estate c1800), Cae Glas (built for John Lewes 1786), Goetre (built 1787 by Morgan Farmhouse, unpainted roughcast with slate close-eaved roofs. Three-storey, three-window main range and non-matching two-storey service wings in line. Main range has roughcast end stacks, small-paned sashes, 12-pane to main floor, 6-pane to attic and centre 6-panel door in fine timber doorcase with panelled piers and console brackets to open pedimental hood. Wing to left has one 6-pane upper centre window and two ground floor 12-pane windows. Wing to right is taller with two-window range of 12-pane sashes. Neither wing has a chimney. Right wing has further lower outbuilding attached to end wall. Rear of main house has centre small 12-pane stair-light only. W wing has gabled porch on rear wall. E wing has lean-to rear and E end outside stone steps to loft door.

Outbuildings to rear of Penycoed 20,907 II Dyffryn Cennen

Farm buildings, whitewashed rubble stone with slate roofs. Long continuous range, with barn to left and two lofted ranges running downhill to W. Barn has two high doors with cambered-arched heads, and double boarded doors. Middle building, possibly originally lofted stable, has slightly lower pitch roof with the staggered slating (to'r brat) that is a regional type in the later C19. Loft has one boarded door to left and one boarded square window right. Ground floor has window-door-window with cambered heads to centre and door with timber lintel to extreme left and right (left door now window). Straight joint between this range and third section. Third range, lofted cartshed and outbuilding, has slightly lower pitched roof again, two cambered-arched cart-entries to left with one square boarded loft light over, then loft door over a window then ground floor door and window with cambered heads. Heads of openings appear generally to be stone voussoirs, some brick, but much overpainted.

Rear is not whitewashed. Centre range has staggered slating, door to extreme left and lean-to to right. Added single storey range running S at right angles with staggered slates, probably cow-shed, has window, door, window to left, then door and window, the windows square and under eaves, the doors with stone voussoirs to cambered heads. Rear of lower range has metal-sheeting to roof, right half built-out with one small window. A further low range runs S from its SW corner, comprising altered outbuilding and 3 pig-sties.

Tir Glan Cennen 20,910 II Dyffryn Cennen

Farmhouse, whitewashed rubble stone with large stone end wall stacks, larger to right. Roof formerly slated. Two storeys, 2-unit end entry plan. Front has two first floor windows under eaves, one near central, the other left of centre. Two ground floor windows one aligned with near-centre loft window, other to left, both with stone voussoirs. Right end wall has entrance door set inside attractive hipped early C19 stone porch arched on all three faces, but only entrance arch still unblocked. Stone voussoirs to arches. A lean-to to right of porch has been altered with low-pitched C20 roof. Rear wall has first floor casement-pair lighting stair to right of centre and two ground floor windows, that to left of centre with timber lintel, and square window to right with stone voussoirs. Blocked window with stone voussoirs to extreme left. Windows were generally small-paned casements

throughout. N end fine external stack offset 3 times on left twice on right. Blocked window with stone voussoirs left, door with timber lintel right.

Barn at Tir Glan Cennen 20,911 II Dyffryn Cennen

Barn, early to mid C19, at right angles to Tir Glan Cennen farmhouse. Not apparently marked on 1841 Tithe map. Barn, whitewashed rubble stone with corrugated iron roof. Full height entry near central to original range, but range has been extended W with added end and rear walls to form a full-height open bay at right end. Long vent loops to right and left of main entry, door further right. At extreme left, and at lower level due to slope another door with vent loop to right. Stone voussoirs to both left and right doors. E end wall has loft door, as does original W end, now internal, both with stone voussoirs. Rear wall of centre barn has lower door and one loop.

Barn at Pentre Parr 20,916 II Dyffryn Cennen

Barn, probably of the later C18, part of a former small gentry estate. The barn stands on its own behind the house and at right angles to the other remaining outbuilding, which has a datestone of 1730 with the arms of Thomas Philipps, a younger son of Ty Barn, rubble stone, part whitewashed, with stone tiled roof. E front has tall double doors with timber lintel to left, lower double door with timber lintel to right and three ventilation loops, to extreme left and right, and to centre. N end gable has three loops and 3 tiers of dove holes. Rear has loops to left and centre, low double doors with timber lintel to right; blocked low door to left of centre. S gable end has similar loops and traces of dove holes with stone shelves, and mark of roofline of a demolished addition.

Courtyard of farm buildings at 20,921 II Dyffryn Cennen
Manorafon

Late C18 or early C19 (pre 1807), model farm complex with buildings surrounding a square courtyard, and also with a centre building (listed separately). Manorafon was a gentry estate owned in 1749 by Thomas Thomas, agent to the Edwinsford estate. Four sided farm court, rubble stone with slate hipped roofs. Four sides, the two principal ranges the entrance range to W and the barn range to E, both originally partly lofted, with lower single-storey cowsheds on N and S. A later C19 cart-shed range has been added running W from the SW corner. W front is lofted with 7 square loft windows (one concealed by later C19 addition), and raised gable over centre window with roundel. On main ridge behind gable is octagonal lantern with lead roof and cockerel weather-vane. C20 slats to sides. Centre ground floor cambered-headed entry to broad thoroughway, similar broad arch blocked to left, and two similar to right obscured by C20 sliding door. Door at extreme left. All openings with stone voussoirs. Thoroughway is cobbled with plank door to S. Courtyard side (probably stabling) is 5-bay, similar gable, loft windows and through-arch, but window, door and window to right; door, added door, window and window, door, window to left. All original openings with stone voussoirs. S range of cowsheds has had front wall removed in C20 and replaced in timber slats. One original door survives each end. E barn range is hipped with tall cambered-arched barn door to centre and symmetrical arrangement each side of vent loop, broad cambered cart-entry and then door with loft door over. Vent-loop to left of barn door is enlarged, and cart-entries are blocked with inserted door. Rear of barn has centre projection with cambered arch. N range appears to have been cow-house; three doors visible, right side obscured by C20 addition.

Later C19 cart-shed range added at SW has slate roof hipped at W end. N front of rock-faced stone with 5 cambered-arched entries, stone voussoirs and keystones also rock-faced.

**Centre building of farm-court 20,922 II Dyffryn Cennen
Manorafon.**

Centre building to enclosed model farm court of c1800 at Manorafon. Marked on 1841 Tithe Map. The building seems to have been a calf-house since the C19, but may not have been that originally. An 1807 sale advertisement mentions stables for 6 horses. The Farm-building, latterly calf-house, rubble stone with slate hipped roof. Single storey with matching N and S sides of window, door, window; window, door, window. Stable doors, louvred and shuttered windows, all with stone voussoirs to cambered heads. Two similar windows each end wall. One of doors on S side is blocked.

Dryslwyn-fawr Farmhouse 21,746 II Llanarthney

A late-C18 farmhouse on the Cawdor estate. The house and most of its farmland is in Llangathen Parish. The date 1786 is found inside and may be reliable.

David Griffiths (1797-1869), who was recorded as the tenant in 1839 and 1847, was probably the tena

A symmetrical three-window farmhouse of three storeys, with a later additional two-storey range of two windows at left with a roof at slightly lower level. Single storey brick range leads forward into yard from left-hand extension. Rendered at front. The side and rear elevations are of uncoursed rubble. Slate roofs with tile ridge. Left end-chimney to the original part and an end-chimney to the additional unit, both rendered. At rear are several large extensions under catslide roofs. Modern rooflights at rear. At the front is an open porch with timber posts and a dentilled beam with an apron of coloured glass. Four-pane horned sash windows to the original part. Twelve-pane sash windows to the additional unit, including two at rear which are in brick-lined openings. The front door to the additional part is boarded, with transom and two-pane overlight.

Dryslwyn-fawr Barn Range 21,747 II Llanarthney

Part of the Cawdor Estate model farm at Dryslwyn-fawr; it appears to be represented on the 1839 Tithe Map. Double barn range with opposed barn doors to each of the two threshing floors; granary loft at south over two cartsheds; lower-roofed cattle-shed extension, perhaps originally a stable, at south. Rubble masonry with limestone quoins and dressings to openings. Slate roofs with tile ridges. Slit ventilators in walls. Segmental heads to the barn and cartshed doors. The hatches at front and rear of the granary have flat arches with large impost stones. Two windows to the front of the cattle shed, two blocked windows to the rear and a loft hatch in the gable have similar arches. Small brick extension to rear under catslide roof.

Dryslwyn-fawr Cartshed 21,748 II Llanarthney

Part of the Cawdor Estate model farm at Dryslwyn, mid-C19; it was not yet built at the time of the 1839 Tithe Map. Range of four cartsheds facing north with an altered lofted section to the west containing two loose-box stables. Sandstone coursed masonry in the original part with four limestone arches in sequence separated by square piers. Slate roof in tor brat ith tile ridge. The roof over the cartshed is of five bays. The west section is in rubble masonry including external loft stairs at the north side. The roof is a four-bay continuation of the cartshed roof. Brick alterations include door and window openings adjacent to the stairs

and an upper access to the stable loft. The stable elevation facing west consists of two heck-doors with cambered brick arches and an upper opening in the gable converted to a glazed window of two lights.

Dryslwyn-fawr Cowshed 21,749 II Llanarthney

Part of the Cawdor Estate model farm at Dryslwyn-fawr, mid-C19; it was not yet built at the time of the 1839 Tithe Map. A long low building in rubble local sandstone with limestone quoins and dressings, whitened at the front, which faces east to the yard. Slate roof with tile ridge. At both front and rear the arrangement of doors and windows has been altered. At front (the side at which livestock entered) doors and windows alternate regularly: low rectangular windows with cambered heads alternating with taller flat-headed doorways; at rear (the feeding walk side) most of the openings have been altered haphazardly but two slit windows and two typical Cawdor-estate windows remain, with flat-arch heads bearing against large impost stones.

Dryslwyn-fawr Former Stables 21,750 II Llanarthney

A late-C19 stable range for working horses on the farm, now used as a poultry unit. The building has been lengthened to the west. A low building facing north to the rear of the cartsheds range, with remnants of a paved yard between the buildings. Brickwork at front, much altered; rubble stone masonry at rear and sides. Slate roof with tile ridge, the slates laid in 'to'r brat' technique. The openings face north to the paved yard. Piers partly brick, partly stonework, with doors with heads at eaves height. One south opening only, a small high level barred window in the extension part.

Dryslwyn-fawr Pigsties 21,751 II Llanarthney

Part of the Cawdor Estate model farm at Dryslwyn, mid-C19; they were apparently not yet built at the time of the 1839 Tithe Map. A range of five pigsties and a shed, in rubble sandstone masonry with slate roof and tile ridge. The slates are laid in 'to'r brat' technique. Stone-walled front yards with limestone flag paving. One boarded gate survives. Rendered round copings to yard walls.

Plas Newydd and barn 21,987.00 II Llangadog

Barn not shown on 1839 Tithe Map. Farmhouse and barn. Whitewashed rubble stone and slate roof to farmhouse with C19 overhanging verges, and rendered end stacks, larger stack to left. Two-storey, three-window range of 4-pane sashes with stone voussoirs to cambered heads. Sills replaced in cement. Centre C20 door. Windowless W end wall. No outshut to rear. Lower service wing to left, with door in angle to barn, with stone voussoirs. Barn attached at right angles has asbestos roof to main pitch, slates to rear. Main door right of centre, loop to left and blocked door further left, with stone voussoirs. Rear has lower door with timber lintel, vent loop to right.

Former stables to Danyralit 22,109 II Llangadog

Later C19 large stable and coach house range said to have been built for the Peel family who bought Dirlerton, Llangadog from the Gulston family in 1881 and changed the name to Danyralit Park. The stables were at the head of a drive that crossed the Towy Stable and coach-house range in purple squared Sawdde stone with black engineering brick arches and grey limestone quoins, sills and sides to openings. Steep slate roofs, overhanging at gables. Louvred small lantern to main ridge left, black brick stack to N roof slope. One and a half storeys, long centre range with wings coming forward each end. Main range has 2 coach-entries to

right with double-doors and black brick relieving arches over flat timber lintels. Two gabled dormers above, with fretted bargeboards and casement pair windows. To left is domestic section with two similar dormers, but breaking eaves, each over cambered headed triple casement. Narrow window and door between, the door with small-paned overhead. Diagonally set gable in angle to SW wing, with single casement above similar door with small-paned overhead. Wing has eaves-breaking dormer over casement pair and similar door with overhead. S end gable has boarded loft door. SE wing has roof slope dormer on W similar to those above coach-entries, and casement-pair below. S gable has single casement above, door to left below. Rear wall has 7 small cambered headed ventilation windows with black brick heads. W end gable has loft door between two windows.

Golden Grove Stable Block 22,204.00 II* Llanfihangel Aberbythych

The stable block, designed by Sir Jeffry Wyattville, was the last domestic element to be constructed at Golden Grove for the first Earl Cawdor, following the mansion itself and its service wing. It was completed in 1834. The architect's drawings show the A stable block in neo-Tudor style, as the house, but simplified. The block is rectangular, about 45 by 30m with internal courtyard, linked by the coalyard and dairy yard walls and by a covered way to the service wing of Golden Grove. Three low ranges of one storey and an attic (the side towards the house is open except for low lean-to blocks against the corner buildings and a high wall with archway). Four corner buildings of two storeys. Hammer-dressed limestone masonry with ashlar details. Low-pitch slate roofs in graded courses, metal ridges.

The main entrance is to the south. The entrance range has a central high four-centred archway in an ashlar gable with coped parapet. Simple gothic wrought iron gates. This gateway is flanked on either side by single storey ranges of three bays, defined by sloping topped buttresses; three-light mullion and transom windows to bays 1 and 2 nearer the archway and two single light transom windows in the outer bays; these ranges terminate in the two-storey corner blocks. The latter have gables to all four elevations and a stack at each extreme corner rising to a cluster of four diagonal chimneys. The west elevation has a central four-centred entrance without gable, and two dormer windows above the eaves. The north elevation has three dormer windows, the middle one broader and taller than the others and crowned by a chimney. The eaves of the low ranges both externally and towards the courtyard are on stone corbels. The majority of the ground-storey windows are of mullion and transom type with three lights; a few single or two-light windows. The upper windows in the corner blocks, facing to the exterior, are in each case three single lights without transom. The attic windows in the low ranges are above-eaves dormers in masonry with prominent moulded copings to their gables and double-corbelled skew-stones. The courtyard interior is similarly detailed, with high gabled entrance arch on the south side, and flanking bays with dormers in the roof. The yard-facing elevation of the north range has six four-centred coach-arches, all now filled. At each side of these is a four-centred archway between single light windows. Two dormer windows here (and two on the exterior elevation also) are larger than the others, with chimney stacks on their gable apexes. The yard-facing elevation of the west range includes a central through-eaves dormer with a six-hole columbarium. Attached to the west elevation is the dung yard, a semi-circular enclosure with a high rubble masonry wall. External gatepiers and wrought-iron gates similar to the gates of the main entrance.

LIST OF FARMSTEADS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT WHICH FALL OUTSIDE THE PROJECT AREA

Ty Gwyn Farm, Llangunnor. SN42291978
Aberdaunant, Llansadwrn. SN66143058
Gellicefnyrhos Talley. SN64003130
Cilsan, Llangathen. SN59492211
Gilwen, Cilycwm. SN74713870
Pentre Meurig, Llanwrda. SN71493142
Ty Pica, Llanegwad. SN54192071
Glanmynys, Llanwrda. SN73293269
Pwllagddu, Llanwrda. SN72253224
Llandeilo'r-ynys, Nantgaredig.
Pantllwyfen, Llanwrda. SN75003329
Erryd, Cilycwm. SN75333806
Felin y Coed, Manordeilo and Salem. SN64302670
Glan Sawdde Farm, Llangadog.
Tir Domen, Llanegwad. SN54512275

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS OF THE TYWI VALLEY

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2007/17
PROJECT RECORD NO. 62758**

March 2007

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Swydd / Position: Project Manager – Heritage Management

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

Marion Page

Ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Historic Environment Record Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report