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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

Prepared for: Cwmcowddu



Tir Gofal Reference No W/12/6575

DAT Report No. 2008-113 Project Record No. 63666

> Prepared by Mike Ings

Other documents enclosed:

HLCA descriptions: nos 207 Cefngornoeth, 208 Ystrad Tywi - Llangadog-Llandovery 228 Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood, 235 Maes Gwastad, 257 Llanwrda Parish

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Cwmcowddu Farm comprises four land holdings, labelled for the purposes of this report 'A' - 'D', within the communities of Myddfai and Llanwrda, North Carmarthenshire.

Holding 'A' is centred on NGR SN 71253395 and lies within Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 257: Llanwrda Parish. These areas are intended to define places where local landuse patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape (Murphy & Ludlow, 2000). HLCA 257 lies across rolling hills to the north of the Tywi Valley and consists of small, irregular fields, dispersed farms and scattered woodland. The present pattern of fields suggests enclosure by the earlier post-medieval period and the landscape is more-or-less unchanged from that depicted on the 1837 Llanwrda tithe map.

Holding 'B' is centred on NGR SN72372930 and lies on the boundary between two HLCAs. The westernmost field is within HLCA 207: Cefngornoeth, where the enclosure into small, irregular fields may be at least late-medieval in date, while the rest of the holding is within HLCA 235: Maes Gwastad, a landscape of medium-large fields that vary from the fairly regular to the irregular. Some of these fields are strip-shaped, indicating enclosure from a medieval open-field system. Such fields are again evident within holding 'C', where HLCA 235 runs through the centre.

Holding 'C', centred on NGR SN 72593116, is also within Cadw Registered Area 7: Tywi Valley, classified as of 'Outstanding' historic interest (Cadw, ICOMOS, 1998) and is located on the convergence of four HLCAs. The western side of the holding lies within HLCA 208: Ystrad Tywi - Llangadog-Llandovery, on the lower slopes and floodplain of the Tywi Valley. Here the field pattern is of medium-sized, fairly regular enclosures that probably dates to the 18th century and was definitely in place by the mid-19th century tithe maps. The probable late-medieval and medieval enclosures of HLCAs 207 and 235 constitute the centre of the holding while the far eastern side is within HLCA 228: Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood. Here virtually the whole area seems to have been subjected to estate landscaping during the 18th and 19th Centuries and the parkland established around Dolygareg House is evident within the farm boundary (PRN 25595).

Holding 'D' is centred on NGR SN72343029 and again lies within HLCA 235, composed of large, regular fields of probable late 18th-19th century date. The landscape has changed little since it was recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

Full descriptions of all the relevant HLCAs are provided at the end of this report and their distribution is mapped on figure 8.

Archaeological and Historic Content

With the exception of the undated cropmark Gwaun-Gyd (PRN 12089) within holding 'D', all the recorded archaeology within the farm holdings dates to the post-medieval period. This includes two working farmsteads, Cwmcowddu (PRN 64775) and Bwlch-y-gwynt (PRN 64778), where traditional buildings are likely to survive, and a ruined smallholding, Glan-Towy (PRN 64776).

A gazetteer of the recorded archaeology within the farm boundaries appears below.

Key Objective

The management priority for this farm is to retain the landscape continuity through the sympathetic maintenance of field boundaries and the upkeep of traditional buildings. Particular attention needs to be paid towards the preservation and maintenance of the parkland landscape within holding 'C'.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.

- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (http://www.finds.org.uk) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-todate record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
2	GLAN-TOWY (64776)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN723331	19 B	Specific

Recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as a smallholding comprising a dwelling, range with associated horse-engine and one other outbuilding. The house is only shown in outline on modern mapping with a 'sheep dip' marked on the position of the former range.



Glan-towy farmhouse.

The Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008) confirmed that Glan-towy farmhouse is now derelict and that most of the stone-rubble long farm building has collapsed, leaving just a standing central gable wall and wall remnants comprising the southern half of the building. These remains stand to an approximate height of 0.60m and have been incorporated into a breezeblock and concrete sheepfold. The additional outbuilding, marked on the late 19th century map to the east of the long farm building, has now gone.



The remnants of 19th century farm building incorporated into a modern sheepfold.

3 GWAUN-GYD (12089) Unknown SN72553034 U Specific cropmark

A sub-rectangular ditched (?) earthwork, c 35 by 30m, 350 northeast of Fforest, adjacent to the A4069. Of unknown significance. RPS October 2001. The site was picked up on an aerial photograph (Mm AP vertical Meridian Airmaps, 1955, 270-230, 29204-5). The cropmark is indistinct and it has been suggested, in the Dyfed HER, that this cropmark may be a natural feature.

However, a close examination of the 1955 aerial photograph reveals a sub-rectangular outline with a possible gap at the northwest corner (centred on NGR SN72393027), measuring approximately 30metres east-west and 15 metres north-south, and it may be an enclosure with an entranceway. An internal division possibly exists on the eastern side of the feature.



Looking west across the area of the potential cropmark.

The site was visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 27/11/2008. The field is under pasture and generally level. No evidence for the potential archaeological feature were seen in the form of earthworks or surface finds but if the markings identified from the aerial photograph are archaeological it is probable that archaeological deposits are preserved below ground.

<u>(64777)</u>	Post Medieval	SN72333129	C	Generic
	footbridge			

Footbridge shown on 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Not shown on modern mapping. This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008).

<u>(64779)</u>	Post Medieval	SN71033419	C	Generic
	quarry			

Quarry recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008).

<u>(64780)</u>	Post Medieval	SN72202913 C	Generic
	footbridge		

Footbridge shown on 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Not shown on modern mapping. This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008).

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

- 1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
- 2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
- 3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.

- 4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
- 5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
- 6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
- 7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
- 8. Do not burn materials on site.
- 9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
- 10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

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

Site 2 on MAP 1 GLAN-TOWY (64776) SN72333119

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

Only half the original outline of the Glan-Towy long farm building survives and this, with the exception of one gabled wall, has been reduced in height and incorporated into the construction of a modern sheepfold. These wall remnants are now under threat from encroaching vegetation and some control of this would be advised. The remaining wall tops might also benefit from consolidation.

Option 1: Preventative maintenance

The management aim is to prevent the progressive decay of the building

- Consider capping the wall tops of derelict and ruinous structures in order to prevent water from washing out lime mortar bonds and accelerating collapse.
- Consider cutting back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

Site 3 on MAP 1 GWAUN-GYD (12089) SN72553034

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

Although no evidence for an archaeological feature was seen during the field visit it is still possible that archaeological deposits survive below the ground in the area of the possible enclosure identified from

aerial photography. It is therefore important to preserve the archaeologically sensitive area and the current regime of low-intensity grazing is ideal.

Should the field be utilised as arable land in the future then, within the Tir Gofal agreement, no ground breaking activities should be undertaken within the area of the enclosure or a ten metre buffer zone around the edge. The area deemed to be archaeologically sensitive is marked on Figure 7.

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
1	CWMCOWDDU (64775)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7256310	00 B	Specific

Farmstead recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as an informal series of buildings, including a range with possible associated horse-engine, and orchard. The main buildings of the 19th century farmstead still stand, located within the centre of a much-expanded complex. These gable-ended buildings are of whitewashed rubble stone construction with roughly squared quoins and pitched slate-roofs.



Traditional buildings at Cwmcowddu- cartshed, granary and ?stable on the left, threshing-barn on the right.

The northernmost, 'L'-shaped farm building comprises a cart shed with a granary loft above and a possible single-storey stable block. The cart shed has two square entrance bays and the granary is reached by external stone steps on the western side of the building. The adjacent area was not accessed during the Tir Gofal visit and its interpretation as a stable is not certain. However, the presence of a cart shed and a horse-engine in the 19th century farmstead shows that horses were used and this single-storey building with windows matches the style of stables from this period (Brunskill, 1982). The south-facing frontage of the building and where it joins the cart shed are gable-ended while the north-east corner is hipped. A wide modern metal door now covers the main entrance.





The cartshed and, granary(left) and possible stable-block (right).

The second farm building comprises a threshing-barn, with numerous ventilation slits and tall, wide entrances to the front and back, and a possible single-storey cowshed. The roof of the latter has been replaced with box-profile corrugated iron and the frontage is now red-brick and breeze-block with metal doors. The location of the horse-engine, as shown on the 1887 map, is now under the tarmacked drive in front of the farmhouse.





The threshing-barn and (right) the probable cowshed.

BWLCH-Y-GWYNT Post Medieval SN71223405 B Generic (64778) Farmstead

Farmstead recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as an informal complex including a range, possible pigsty and a probable horse-engine. Modern mapping suggests that traditional buildings may survive, although the farmstead has expanded and altered since the end of the 19th century. This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008).

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

- 1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
- 2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- 3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
- 4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
- 5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
- 6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
- 7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
- 8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

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

Site 1 on MAP 1 CWMCOWDDU (64775) SN72563100

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

Grant aid is available through Tir Gofal for the maintenance and repair of traditional buildings. Tir Gofal advice advocates the use of materials that match those used originally. Repairs should be undertaken on a like for like basis, modelled on the originals using similar materials and methods of construction. Future maintenance should consider how best to keep the character of the farmstead group as a whole, rather than focusing on one particular building at the expense of the others.

Option 1: Repair

As a general rule remedial work should be guided by the need to ensure long-term survival, whilst maintaining the character of the building. It should be noted that this report does not comment or advise on the structural state of the buildings.

The most pressing need for repair on the buildings is the roof on the possible stable block, where missing or dislodged slates are allowing water in.

Repair is always preferable to replacement, keeping as much of the original fabric of the building in place as possible. Replacement is only to be carried out where necessary.

Option 2: Preventative maintenance

The weather-facing elevations of the buildings are painted with whitewash, providing weather-proofing for the stonework. The need for this coating to be renewed was discussed and agreed with the farmer and the Tir Gofal Project Officer during the visit.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

Location and Description:

A historic park or garden is a discrete area of land laid out in an ornamental way, originally for the pleasure and use of its owner. A sub-category of park is the deer park, laid out for management and containment of deer.

Historic parks of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.

The following parks and gardens have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
4	DOL-Y-GAREG (25595)	Post Medieval	SN734031	49 B	Specific

Parkland landscaping around Dol-y-Gareg Mansion (PRN 19278), rebuilt in 1842. Part of Historic Landscape Character Area 228: Cilgwyn-Llwynwormwood, southeast of the River Tywi between Llandovery and Llangadog, where virtually the whole area has been subjected to estate landscaping in the 18th and 19th centuries. Cwmcowddu today incorporates some of the former lands of Dol-y-Gareg, including an extensive area of its parkland. The grounds, as depicted on the tithe (1840) and Ordnance Survey maps (1887), comprise open grassland punctuated by scattered individual trees and occasional clumps.

Several mature oak trees, individually planted and in small groups, and Scots pines were noted within the undulating pastoral fields to the northeast of Cwmcowddu farmstead during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (27/11/2008) and the area retains its parkland aspect. The extent of the park landscape within Cwmcowddu farm was discussed and agreed with the farmer and the Tir Gofal project officer (see Fig. 5).



 $Looking\ west,\ the\ parkland\ landscaping\ of\ the\ former\ Dol-y-Gareg\ estate.$

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management prescriptions

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

Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:

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

Site 4 on MAP 1 DOL-Y-GAREG (25595) SN73403149

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

The area retains a parkland feel today with its open character largely intact and a few individual native and exotic parkland trees remaining. It is noticeable however that a number of trees have been lost, whilst others may be reaching the end of their natural lives.

Future management should address how best to maintain the historic configuration and visual character of the parkland.

Tir Gofal management recommendations:

- 1. Take care to maintain open vistas within the parkland. Do not plant new hedgerows along fence lines within the parkland.
- 2. Consider planting replacement parkland trees.
- · The 25 inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is most appropriate and accurate map to be used as the baseline for any future restoration of the parkland. Positions of parkland trees should follow as closely as possible the planting scheme represented on it (Ordnance Survey 1887).
- \cdot Tree species should be based on the evidence of species represented in the parkland. No one species should dominate.
- \cdot It may be possible to provide further advice on appropriate tree species following consultation with the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust or other parks and garden specialists at a later date.

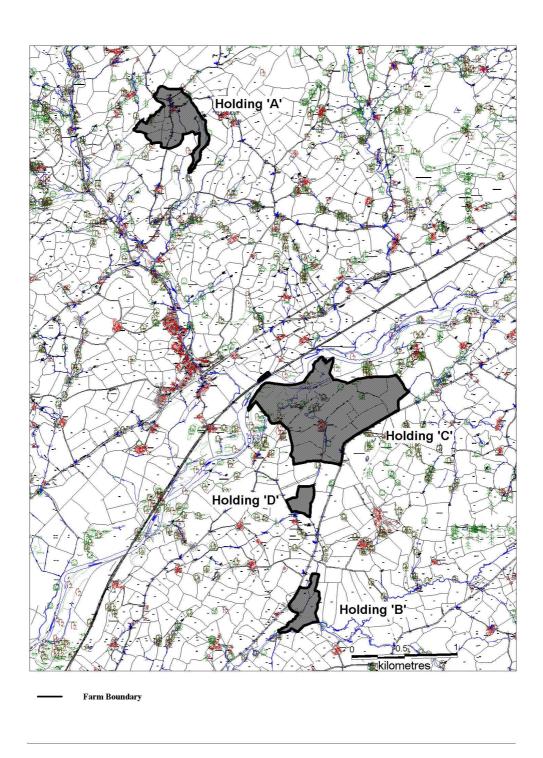


Fig 1: Location Map of farm holdings

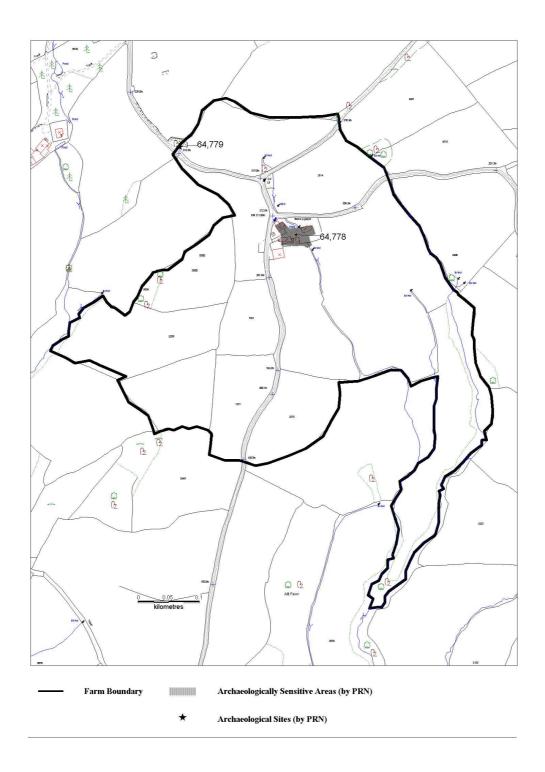


Fig 2: Map showing holding 'A'

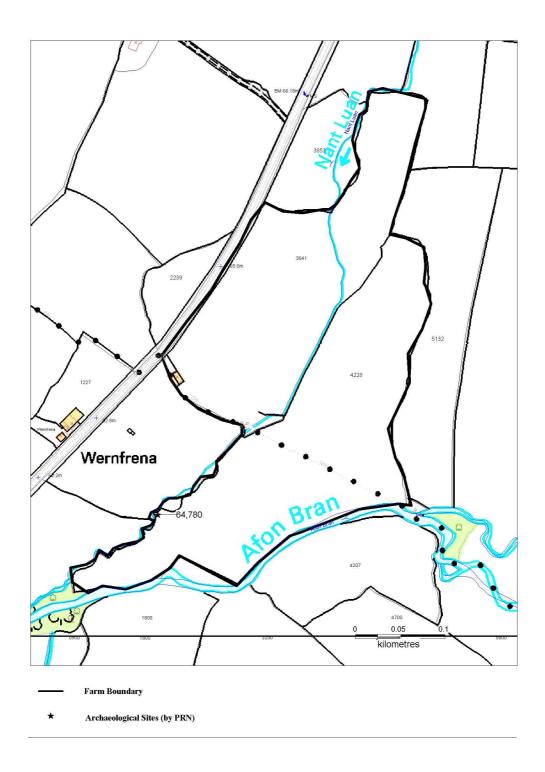


Fig 3: Map showing holding 'B'

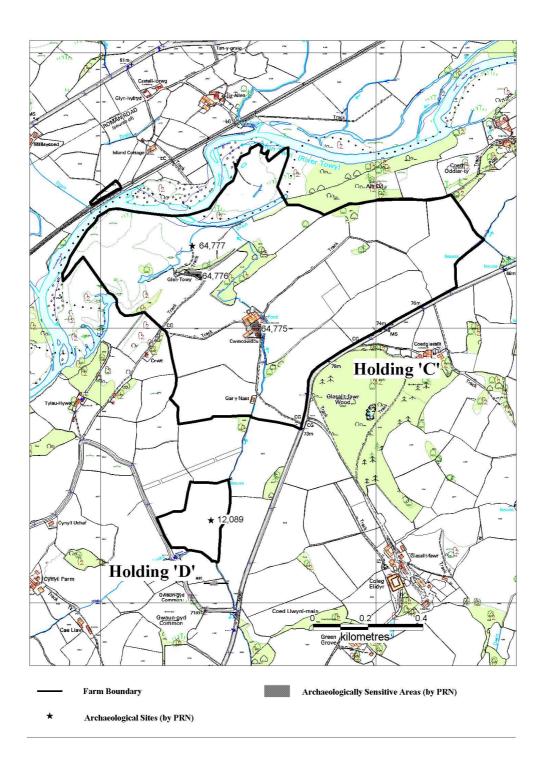


Fig 4: Map showing holdings 'C' and 'D'

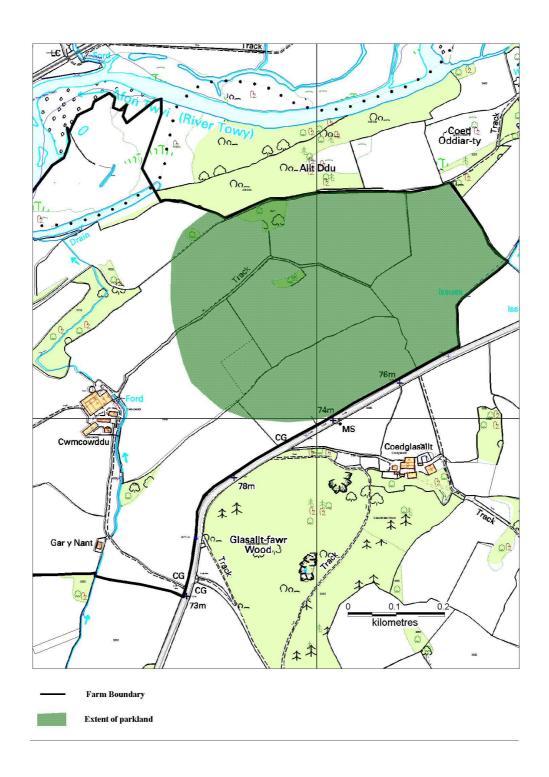


Fig 5: Map showing the extent of parkland landscaping (PRN 25595) within farm boundary 'C'

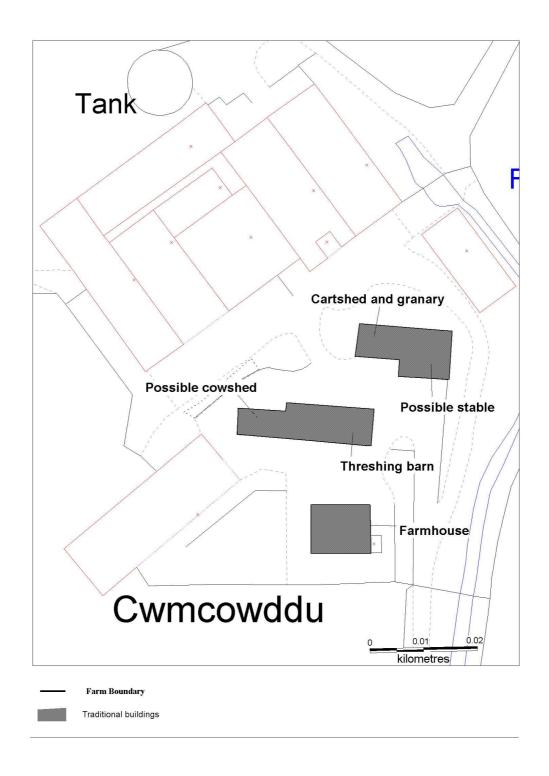


Fig 6: Map showing the Cwmcowddu farmstead

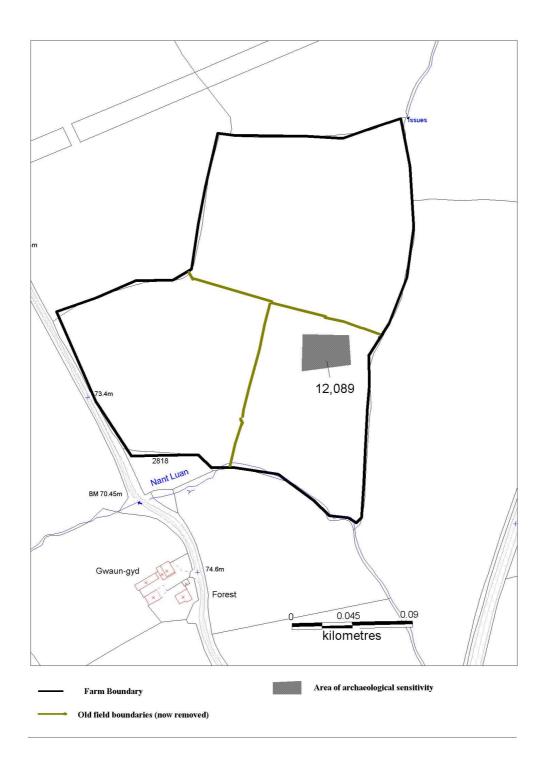


Fig 7: Map showing area of potential archaeological sensitivity within holding 'D'.

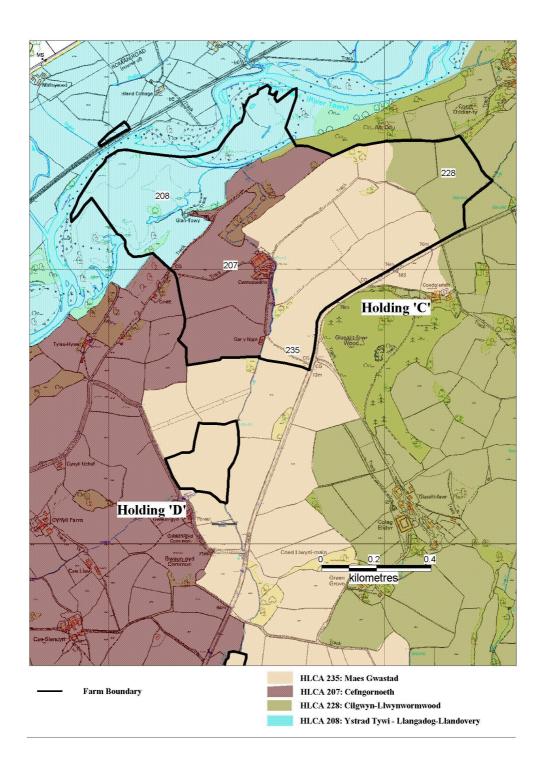


Fig 8: Map to show the distribution of HLCAs around holdings 'C' and 'D'.

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

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1887 Carmarthenshire Sheet26,03/26.07/26.08/26.11/26.15. Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales

Brunskill R.W., 1982, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain

Murphy,K & Ludlow,N 2000 Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation - Volume 1

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 Llanelly 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.

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 Llwywormwood 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 southwestnortheast 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 underplanted 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 lessor 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 polices 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 nonconformist 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 motteand-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.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: **257 LLANWRDA PARISH**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 727352 AREA IN HECTARES: 2058.00

Historic Background

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

Description and essential historic landscape components

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

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

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

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

Conservation priorities

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