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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Swn-y-don**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/13/7125**

**DAT Report No. 2008/93
Project Record No. 63668**

Prepared by Will Steele

**Other documents enclosed:
Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions 362: Holmhouse - Tycanol; 363:
Bryn - Henllan**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

The farm is situated on the coastal plain north of Mynydd Carningle, within the community of Dinas Cross, Pembrokeshire.

The surrounding landscape is designated as the Newport and Carningli Landscape of Historic Interest in recognition of its considerable landscape value. The area has been further assessed under the Historic Landscape Characterisation project. These holdings fall between areas 362: Holmhouse - Tycanol and 363: Bryn - Henllan. The character of this landscape is relatively open characterised by farms and fields with little woodland present. Field boundaries follow the lines of strip fields, which are reminiscent of medieval open field agriculture and are probably rooted in patterns of native land tenure.

Archaeological and Historic Content

The presence of a number of monuments, including standing stones suggest that the surrounding area was an important ritual landscape during the neolithic and bronze age periods, within view of Carningle hillfort, other upland monuments and coastal sites.

There are no confirmed sites of this date within the farm boundary however, although a possible defended enclosure in woodland to the west of Swn-y-don may have prehistoric origins. The site was recorded initially by W M Jones in 1997 although it remains little understood. It occupies a broad promontory above Cwm Dyffryn and comprises a sub-circular interior defended by substantial banks and ditches on two sides with a steep scarp on another. Tree cover and scrub growth hinders classification although the form and location of the earthworks share similarities with the Iron Age promontory forts of the region. Excavation of these sites often shows the banks to have had a palisade for extra defence or a timber rampart, whilst evidence of round houses, four post structures and rubbish pits are often revealed inside.

In the lee of the earthworks is the former farmstead of Dyffryn-isaf. Its origins are unknown although it is recorded on the Ordnance Old Series map (1819) and could be consistent with *Dyffryn Trevaar* mentioned in land tax returns of 1793 (Charles 1992, 39). The farmstead is in an advanced state of decay and its original appearance is now difficult to interpret although a corbelled arched fireplace in the end gable wall suggests that the house may be of some antiquity. The tithe map (c.1843) mentions an old road which may have led up from the farmstead past the defended enclosure in the general direction of Bridge Farm and the road between Dinas Cross and Newport.

Historic maps indicate that Bridge Farm had its origins as a public house: it is recorded as an inn on the tithe apportionment (c.1843) and named Bridge Inn on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). The old inn building is now the farmhouse and is surrounded by a complex of modern agricultural buildings.

Swn-y-don itself is a modern cottage, established fairly recently.

Key Objective

The management priority is the sensitive management of the defended enclosure (PRN 94219). Specific management recommendations are provided in the gazetteer below.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

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

These are divided into three types:

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

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

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

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

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

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to

buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

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

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

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

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the 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
1	DYFFRYN-ISAF (64489)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN02243899	B	Specific

A ruinous small farmstead complex, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) with two loosely opposing main ranges and a separate smaller building to the rear.

It is not clear if this is the *Diffryn Trevaur* mentioned in land tax returns of 1793 in the parish (Charles 1992, 39). The site is on a terraced natural shelf above Cwm Dyffryn and today lies within mature deciduous woodland. The farmhouse ruin in the west of the complex consists of two rooms, the north of which has a partially surviving end chimney, its corbelled arched fireplace suggesting some antiquity. The plan of the outbuildings is no longer discernible.

The complex lies within deciduous woodland and is currently in a fairly stable condition. Stone and slate has been taken from the building in the past and used to create bivoacs and other structures. This activity seems to have stopped now.



Facing south – the north-east end gable wall of the farmhouse.



Facing north-east- the remains of a corbelled fireplace surviving inside the farmhouse.

2 [\(94219\)](#) **Iron Age? defended SN02263895 C** **Specific enclosure?**

A possible defended enclosure occupying a blunt inland promontory on the coastal slope between Dinas Cross and Newport. The site was recorded initially by W M Jones in 1997 at the invitation of the landowner and has only recently become known to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

The enclosure is naturally defended by the steep slopes of Cwm Dyffryn to the north and west whilst the land rises gently away to the east and south.

Internally the enclosed area measures 45m E-W by 70m N-S, defined by a curving ditch and bank on the steeply sloping north side, and a ditch on the east. Beyond this a deep stream gully (tributary of Cwm Dyffryn) could have provided a further line of defence. The defences on the southern side (the neck) no longer survive; low ramparts are remembered here by the landowner although these have since been spread by ploughing. Jones describes "*hummocks or banks*" and although not currently visible these could lie beneath the scrub. Traces of scarping can be discerned in the undergrowth on the steeper west side.

A number of hedge banks cross the area, apparently relating to the later farmstead of Dyffryn-isaf; this and other landscaping may have confused the original appearance of the monument. The tithe apportionment (1843?) gives the field name as "*waste and old road*" and it is possible that an old trackway may have skirted the eastern part of the site whilst a gap has been driven through the rampart on the north-west side.

The interior of the enclosure lies under improved pasture which is kept mown by the owner, the defences and slopes are under scrub and woodland. A history of tree cover makes interpretation from the air difficult. A late winter visit would better establish the true nature and form of this monument.

[\(64490\)](#) **Post Medieval well SN02183906 C** **Generic**

A well, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Possibly associated with nearby Dyffryn-isaf farmstead.

Site not visited. According to the owners there are no obvious built traces of the well now surviving.

[\(64492\)](#)

**Post Medieval
cottage**

SN02323920 B

Generic

Former cottage site in woodland. Identified on the tithe map (c.1843) but absent by the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). The ruinous remains are now entirely gone with only one section of standing wall remaining, possibly part of an end gable.

A dense under storey of brambles makes further interpretation of the layout of the cottage and its enclosures difficult.

[\(94215\)](#)

**Unknown standing
stone?; gatepost?**

SN02253903 B

Generic

A roughly shaped semi-circular sectioned stone, standing approximately 0.6m high by 0.5m wide at its base, tapering to a rounded top.

The stone is situated at a break in a relict hedge bank, defining a small paddock enclosure and may have served as a gatepost, although the possibility that it could have been a standing stone in the prehistoric or medieval periods cannot be discounted.



Facing north-west to the standing stone

[\(94218\)](#)

**Unknown
gravestone**

SN02393919 U

Generic

According to the owners a gravestone survives in this general location, with a Welsh dedication (? Jenkins). There is no known evidence of a burial ground at or near to this location.

This site was not visited at the time of the archaeological farm visit. No further information known.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

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

Site 1 on MAP 1

DYFFRYN-ISAF ([64489](#))

SN02243899

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

Management should consider how best to protect the farmhouse ruin in the long term.

- Monitor mature trees growing on or close to the building. Fell mature trees which are at risk of damaging standing remains by windthrow.
- Fell derelict trees on the structure which pose a threat by leaning on the walls, through falling limbs or root bowl damage.
- Cut or spray back young trees on the standing remains leaving the roots in situ. Consider spot treating to prevent re-growth.

Site 2 on MAP 1

([94219](#))

SN02263895

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

The site is current in a stable condition with no management threats identified or erosion present. The enclosure interior is currently under improved pasture, the defences and slopes are under scrub and woodland.

Future management should aim to keep the site in a stable condition, whilst preventing damage to below ground and upstanding archaeological remains.

- Monitor mature trees growing on or close to the defended enclosure. Fell mature trees which are at risk of damaging standing remains by windthrow.
- Ideally the interior of the enclosure should be kept under a low grass cover which will protect buried archaeological deposits by preventing potentially damaging scrub growth which could encourage burrowing animals or promote damaging root growth.

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
BRIDGE END (64488)	Post Medieval public house; farmstead	SN02513871	B	Generic

Historic maps indicate that the present day farmstead was once the site of a public house, identified as Bridge End on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). The farmhouse now occupies the site of the old inn and a complex of modern agricultural buildings has since been added to the north-west.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate

traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)

8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area

WS - 08/10/2008 (12:38:24) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Project record number 63668.

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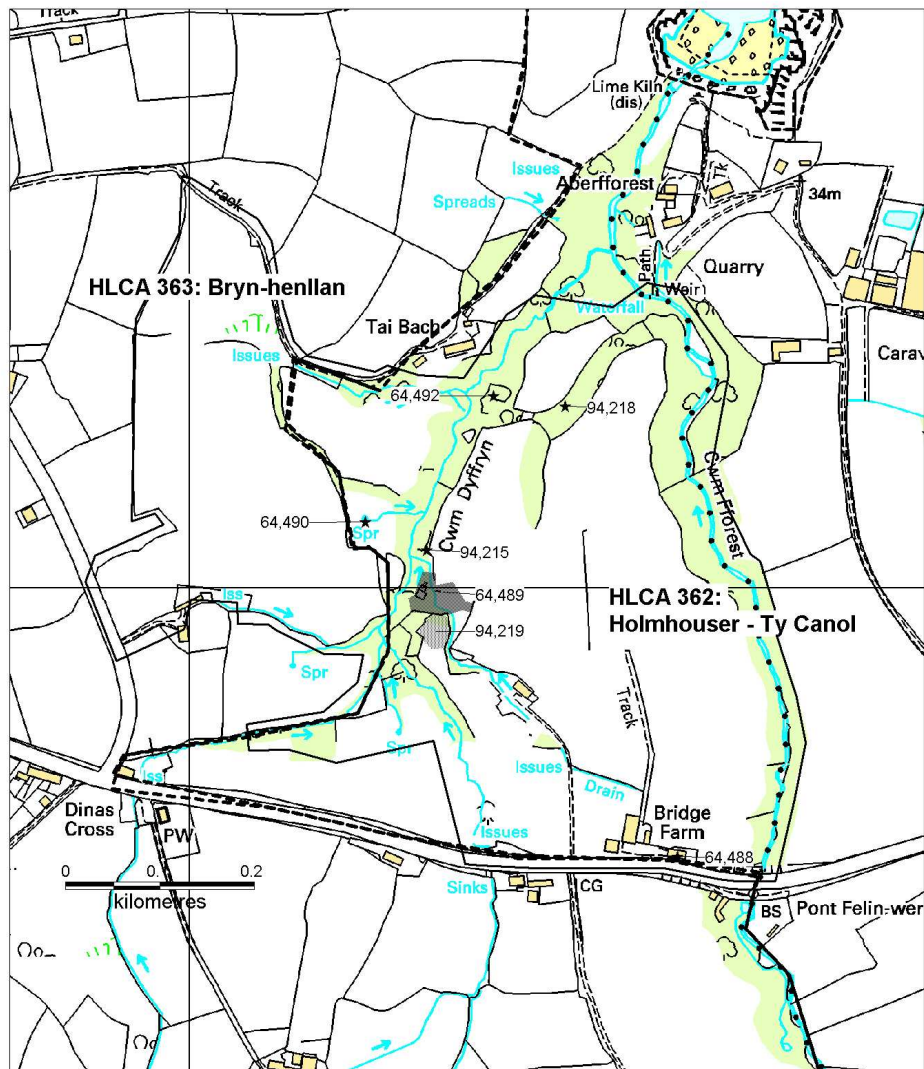
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This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.

Sources consulted:

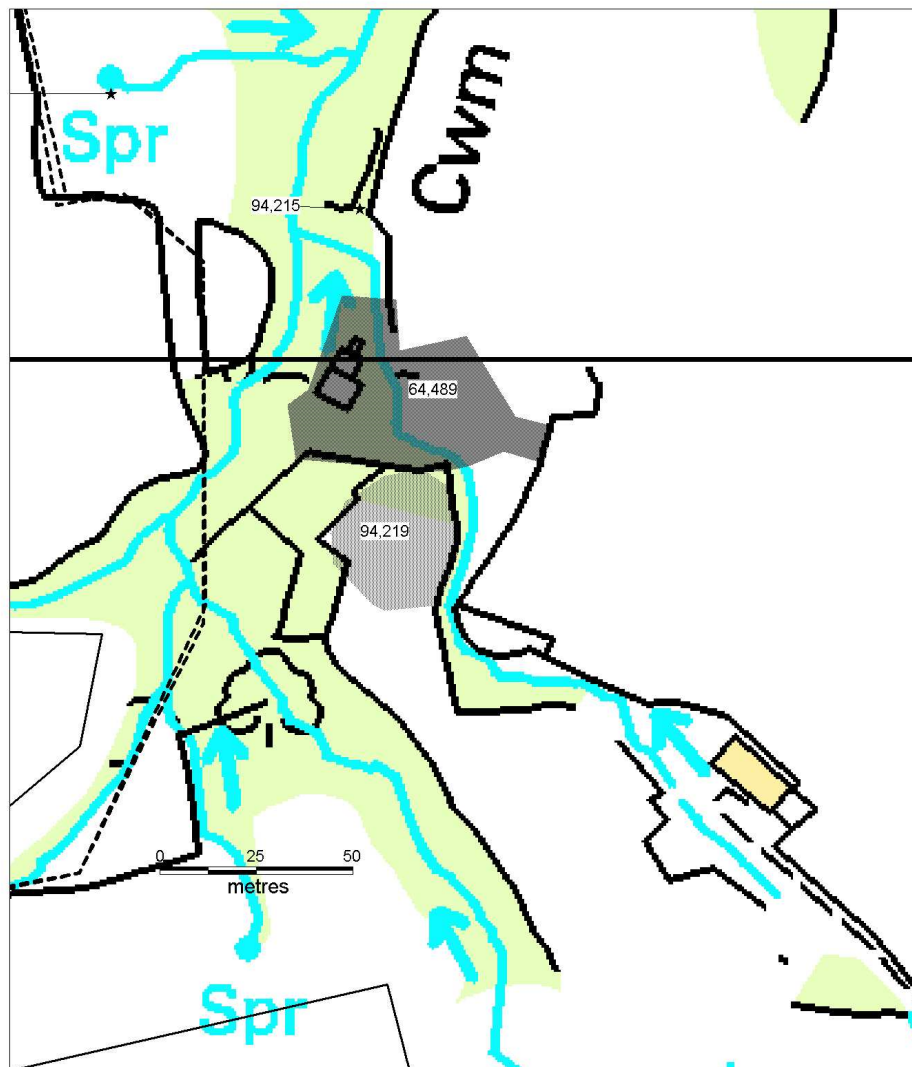
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Cadw
Ordnance Survey 1889 1st edition Pembrokeshire Sheet 05.10, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1907 2nd edition Pembrokeshire Sheet 05.10, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1889 2nd edition Pembrokeshire Sheet 05.14, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1907 2nd edition Pembrokeshire Sheet 05.14, 25"



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

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| — | Farm Boundary | ▨ | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) |
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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 362 HOLMHOUSE - TYCANOL

GRID REFERENCE: SN 043387

AREA IN HECTARES: 446

Historic Background

A large area of modern Pembrokeshire, comprising the coastal plain lying between Mynydd Carningli and the sea-cliffs to the north, surrounding the town of Newport. It mainly comprises long, narrow rectangular fields, of both arable and pasture. The presence of a number of monuments, including a standing stone and possible stone pair, suggest it was an important ritual landscape during the neolithic and bronze age periods, within view of Carningli hillfort, other upland monuments, and coastal sites. The area lies within the medieval *Cantref* Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326, when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was coterminous with the later Hundred of Cemaes, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. Most of this character area lay within the boundary of the borough of Newport, which, according to a charter of 1278, is more-or-less coterminous with Newport parish, and represented land over which the burgesses had right of common. The burgesses appear to have been free from rent or dues, possibly this represents a legacy from a pre-existing Welsh tenurial system. Many of the fields of this area appear to have been strip-fields, and were depicted as such on a map of 1758. At this date to the west of the town these fields were still largely unenclosed, with quillies of long narrow strips extending from the town west to the parish boundary and from the sea to one or two hundred metres south of the main A487(T). To the east of the town and in small pockets to the west amongst the strips lay small fields, the long narrow shape of which showing that they had been enclosed from blocks of several field strips. However, there is no clear evidence that these strip-fields represented arable open fields. Indeed, archaeological evaluation in 2001 revealed very shallow topsoil which did not appear to exhibit evidence of a long history of ploughing; moreover, it was recorded by Thomas Phaer, in 1552, that the Newport area was 'bare in corn but plenty enough in cattle'. The strips may therefore represent land divisions according to native forms of tenure, as in the strip fields of the St Davids peninsula and Pen Caer. Lying centrally within the area, alongside the A487(T) – a medieval and earlier routeway – was the medieval pilgrimage chapel of Capel Dewi, but such chapels rarely appear to have been accompanied by any form of settlement. Also lying within the area are two former demesne holdings, also mentioned within the charter of 1278, both of which are surrounded by a patchwork of larger enclosures. Rhigian demesne, on the coastal plain, lies in a valley and features irregular enclosures, while Parc-y-marriage, lies on the slopes of Carningli and features more regular enclosures, which may be later in origin. Holm House, in the centre of the area, was mentioned in 1276 when it was a possession of the burgess William Pecke, of Newport; later a gentry house it has now devolved into two farms. It too lies within a pocket of small irregular fields. It seems likely that Parc-y-marriage and Holm House were established on the boundary between the strip-fields and higher unenclosed land to the south. The strip-field pattern extends into the parish of Dinas, which was a medieval knight's fee, held of the Barony of Cemaes by Welsh tenure. Within this section is another holding, Trewreiddig, which also has a recorded medieval date and occupies a similar location to Holm House and Parc-y-marriage. It is this mixture of medieval strip-fields held by the community and demesne holdings with more regular fields that has produced the distinctive field pattern of this area. Superimposed over these earlier systems are farms founded in the 18th century such as Ty-canol, which carved regular-shaped, large fields out of the strip-fields. This process of enclosure and farm foundation was just about complete by the tithe survey of 1844 and has resulted in the landscape we see today.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This historic landscape character area consists of an undulating coastal plain. The general trend of the land slopes from the south, from Mynydd Carningli, to the north coast. It is a landscape of fields and farms. Improved pasture is the chief agricultural land-use, with a little arable land and even less rough ground. Parts of this area are windswept, and therefore it is not characterised by trees: there are few large hedgerow standards and the only woodland comprises small, scrubby deciduous copses in

sheltered hollows and valleys. Non-agricultural land-use includes campsites and caravan parks. Pockets of long narrow fields attest that parts of this area formerly comprised strip-fields. However, most fields tend towards the large and regular. Boundaries are of substantial stone-faced banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained, with some overgrown examples in the more sheltered locations. The agricultural holdings of this area are relatively large, with the majority regularly distributed along the steeper north-facing slopes to the south of the A487(T) road which crosses from west to east. Farmhouses and other dwellings are in a variety of styles, built of local stone, but frequently cement rendered, with slate roofs, and mainly date to the 19th century. An exception is the former rectory, Gelli Olau, a substantial three-storey 18th century house in the Georgian tradition. Pen-y-feidr, the only other three-storey house in the area, is also in the polite Georgian tradition, but is mid 19th century in date. Associated with it are substantial stone-built agricultural buildings set informally around the yard. Some of these date to the early 19th century and are two-storey, others to later in the same century. There are examples of houses dating from the mid 19th century in the vernacular tradition and in the Georgian style. Twentieth century houses are also present. Most farms have one or two ranges of 19th century stone built outbuildings and 20th century steel, concrete and asbestos agricultural buildings, but these are not the dominant landscape components as found in some agricultural historic landscape areas. There are several small historic bridges along the main road, including a listed example dated 1811. Archaeological sites are numerous and varied, but do not strongly characterise the historic landscape, other than two bronze age standing stones and the neolithic chambered tomb of Carreg-y-Gof. Other sites include a holy well, the site of a dark age inscribed stone and the site of a medieval chapel.

To the north against the coastal strip and the town of Newport the definition of this area is clear. Elsewhere there is a merging of this area with its neighbours, and it is therefore not possible to define a hard-edged boundary.

Conservation priorities

Historic landscape components are generally in good condition. This is an agricultural area which may come under stress if the town of Newport continues to expand and if the campsites and caravan parks become more common. Careful management will be required to mitigate these potential developments if the area is to retain its character.

Sources: Ludlow 2001; Charles 1992; Jones 1996; National Library of Wales Llwyngwair Map 7 (1758), Map 8 (1758), Map 11 (1758); Newport Parish tithe map 1844; Owen 1897; Pembrokeshire Record Office HDX/18/1 (1809), HPR/33/33 (1772)

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 363 BRYN-HENLLAN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 014388

AREA IN HECTARES: 461

Historic Background

A large area of modern Pembrokeshire, comprising the coastal plain lying between Mynydd Carningli and the sea-cliffs to the north. It lies within the medieval *Cantref* Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326, when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was coterminous with the later Hundred of Cemaes, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. This character area lies within the parish of Dinas, which represented 1 knight's fee, held of the Barony of Cemaes, by Welsh tenure. The Dinas name may come from Dinas Head, which itself may be named for its likeness to a *dinas* (large iron age defended enclosure) rather than from an actual fortification. In the *Extent of Cemaes*, of 1594, Dinas was held by a 'divers tenant' and valued at £4. The parish church of Dinas, St Brynach, lies within the area – Brynach was the 'patron saint' of Cemaes. Also within the area is the site of a cist cemetery at Bryn-henllan whose name suggests that it may have been the predecessor of St Brynach's. Both sites may have early medieval origins. The area around the church, now called 'Cwm-yr-eglwys', may represent the 'Trefawr', which was listed as a holding in the *Extent* along with Bryn-henllan and Fron Fawr, the latter now devolved into two farms. The present field pattern, of fairly small irregular fields, has the appearance of post-medieval enclosure. It is possible that a major landscape re-organisation may have taken place - the eastern half of the area, for instance, is labelled 'Forest' on Rees' map of 14th century south Wales. However, fossilised strip-fields are evident in the area immediately west of Bryn-henllan. The tithe map of 1841 shows some enclosed strip fields as well as small fields in a pattern not dissimilar to that of today, although some dwellings have disappeared, new clusters have developed and some of the smaller fields have been amalgamated. Dinas parish church was largely destroyed through coastal erosion in the mid 19th century and is now an incomplete ruin. A new church was built near what is now Bryn-henllan village, which, along with the earlier non-Conformist chapel nearby, became the nucleus for the new settlement. The A487(T), which crosses the area, more-or-less follows the line of a medieval (and earlier?) routeway. The ribbon-development at Dinas Cross, however, all appears to be post-medieval and the majority is 19th century and 20th century in origin. It now forms a settlement in its own right and has eclipsed Dinas and Bryn-henllan. Dinas/Cwm-yr-eglwys is now a popular holiday beach, with a nearby caravan park.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Bryn-henllan historic landscape character area lies on an undulating, sloping north-facing coastal plain between approximately 40m and 90m above sea level, with steeper, higher slopes up to 160m to the south. It is a complex area consisting of farms and fields, old hamlets and modern housing, and tourist facilities. Essentially it is an agricultural landscape that has experienced considerable change in recent years with many of the smaller farms converted to other uses. Agricultural land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with very little arable or rough ground. Although swept by the winds from the Atlantic, parts of this landscape has a wooded appearance on account of the many trees planted for shelter. There is also some scrubby deciduous woodland and steep, sheltered valley sides. Fields are generally small and irregular in shape, with groups of long curved strip-shaped fields attesting to the former presence of open field systems. Boundaries are stone-faced banks topped with hedges. The condition of these varies, with some well maintained and stock-proof, but with many overgrown and others, in exposed locations, straggling. Dwellings are centred on two core areas, Dinas Cross and Bryn-henllan. These were two separate centres, but recent housing development has merged them into one. Older, almost exclusively 19th century, buildings are united by the use of local blue-grey and warm brown local dolerite stone (not usually cement rendered) and machine cut slate roofs – these buildings are not dissimilar to those found at Newport, 5km to the east. On the better quality houses consideration has been given to the patterns produced by contrasting/matching stone colour, and the use of courses of Cilgerran slate slabs and/or limestone quoins provides a formality lacking in lesser structures. At Dinas Cross the older houses, and a shop and public house, are arranged in a terrace.

Most date to the early-to-mid 19th century and are in the polite 'Georgian' tradition, although many show a strong vernacular element. Other older houses include later 19th century two-storey, three-bay detached dwellings, some said to be built by retired sea captains, in the polite 'Georgian' style. Mid 20th century detached 'villas' lie alongside the main A487(T) that runs through Dinas Cross, and a small, early 19th century chapel is situated on the road to the east. Bryn-henllan originally seems to have contained several small clusters of buildings, including one centred on the stone-built chapel of 1842. Dwellings are in various styles, with several late 19th century two-storey houses in the polite Georgian style, a collection of single storey double-fronted vernacular cottages, as well as small, three-bay houses in the vernacular tradition probably dating to the early 19th century. A pair of listed semi detached houses dated 1872, Llwynhendy and Hafod Llwyd, in the Georgian tradition, are typical of dwellings of this date and are said to have been built by retired sea captains. Other listed buildings include a cottage, a farmhouse and a chapel, which generally reflect the older type of building stock of the area. Small ranges of stone-built farm buildings attached or associated with some of these dwellings indicate the agricultural origins of the houses, but most of these farm buildings have been converted to non-agricultural use or are derelict. Mid 20th century, late 20th century and current housing development, either in small estates or individual dwellings, in a variety of styles and materials has united Dinas Cross and Bryn-henllan into one village. Included in this area are the remains of the medieval parish church at Cwm-yr-Eglwys and 19th century and other buildings at Pwllgwaelod. Here, as in other exposed locations a cement skim has been applied to the slate roofs. Farms in the area are relatively small, with houses in the same tradition as those described above. Older farm buildings are stone-built and of just one or two ranges. Many have been converted to non-agricultural use. This and the few examples of 20th century steel, concrete and asbestos agricultural structures indicate that many farms are not now engaged in agriculture. There are also a school, sports field, caravan park and tourist car parks. Apart from the ruined parish church at Cwm-yr-Eglwys, archaeological sites do not strongly characterise this landscape. Archaeology includes bronze age standing stones, a cist cemetery, a holy well and a limekiln.

Bryn-henllan is not an easy historic landscape character area to define, except at its northern edge where it borders sea cliffs or the distinctive landscape of Dinas Island. Elsewhere there is a merging of this area with its neighbours, and no hard-edged boundaries.

Conservation priorities

Many of the individual historic landscape components are in good condition. However, traditional farm buildings are under stress, and new uses must be found for them if they are to survive. Residential development is continuing to expand across farmland. This should be carefully managed if the historic agricultural character of the area is to be retained.

Sources: Charles 1992; Dinas Parish tithe map 1841; Howells 1977; Ludlow 2002; Pembrokeshire Record Office D/CT/26 (1839); National Library of Wales Llwyngwair Map 5; Rees 1932