

Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol
The National Trust

PARC DINEFWR

Designed Landscape Survey

April 2003



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PARC DINEFWR - DESIGNED LANDSCAPE SURVEY

APRIL 2003

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Acknowledgements

This report could not have been prepared without the assistance of National Trust staff, in particular Margaret Evans who has over the years gathered together a comprehensive archival reference about Newton House and Dinefwr Park. Most of the significant new material, and insights into the character of the Park, have come through Lord Dynevor's hospitable and generous assistance. Mr Thomas of Newton Farm has provided helpful information.

Colleagues carrying out parallel studies have illuminated in the field data from archival research, in particular Ken Murphy of Cambria Archaeology, Neville Fay of Treework, John Phibbs and Sal Garfi. Exceptional assistance has been given by the National Library of Wales, the Carmarthenshire Archives Service (Record Office) and Jennie Gammon of Carmarthenshire Record Library.

In Colvin and Moggridge, Simon Hoare carried out the principal archival research; Iona Harris, Jon Bonham and Beth Rowling prepared the illustrations for the report. Anne Sherriff typed and assembled the text.

Hal Moggridge

PARC DINEFWR

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c. 1700	Newton House from north	Original painting at Newton House	by permission of Lord Dynevor
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1798(v)	Dinefwr Castle above A Tywi looking east	watercolour by J M Turner 330mm x 225mm	Tate DO 1274; " " "
			Tate DO 1275; " " "

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c. 1811	Dinefwr Park from Pen Lan Fawr	pencil drawing perhaps by Rev John Breendon DD	NLW dwg. volume 63
1812(i)	Park with Llandeilo and Tywi valley	by I G Wood	Cardiff Library
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1962(i)	Aerial Photograph of Castle and east park	aerial photograph	© Aerofilms A104676
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1971	Aerial Photograph of Castle and west park	aerial photograph	© Aerofilms A215756
c. 1990	White Cattle in the north west of the park	photograph	NT
2000	Dinefwr Castle from Golden Grove	watercolour by Wendy Powell Jones	from Bridge Gallery, Llandeilo
2001	Dinefwr Castle from north	" "	" "
			compiled by H T Moggridge April 03

LIST OF SOURCES RELIED UPON IN REPORT
(Separately appended, with the exception of A and D)

Reference used in text margin	
	A R.A. Griffiths, <i>Sir Rhys ap Thomas and his family</i> (1993)
	B R.A. Griffiths, 'A tale of two towns; Llandeilo Fawr and Dinefwr in the Middle Ages, <i>Sir Gar Studies in Carmarthenshire History</i> ed. Heather James (1991) pps 205-226
	C Richard Lord Dynevor, 'Notes of an informal discussion' (27th February 2003)
Dyn. C1 and C2	© Lord Dynevor, Photocopies of original documents: C1: Mr Rice's intentions & Mr Brown's directions, transcription attached (probably 1776) C2: 'Path', transcription in report (c. 1780)
	D C. Dignam, 'Dinefwr Historical Report', <i>Dinefwr Park Survey Report</i> , The National Trust (1989) pps 6-82 and a card index held by The National Trust
	E E.A. Lewis: 'Materials Illustrating the History of Dynevor and Newton, Chronological Syllabus of Documents', vol I pps 152-223 up to 1399; Vol II pps 105-133 - 1400 to 1651, Historical Society of West Wales Transactions Vols I and II (1911)
N.L.W.	National Library of Wales, <i>new search for Rice of Newton</i> , Dynevor pps 1-46 (search carried out 13.1.2003)
Dyn B(ii) Dyn A Dyn B(i)	DOCUMENTS CATALOGUED BY I.H. JEAVERS II UNCATALOGUED DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS - 28 parcels I DYNEVOR A : A1-A105 AND SUPPLEMENT I DYNEVOR B(i) : items 1-884
	F Extracts from the above search ordered in relevant groups 1592 - 1624 : 3 pages 1622 - 1658 1659 - 1675 1748 - 1776

G SELECTED TOPOGRAPHICAL WRITINGS

William Gilpin, *Observations of the River Wye and Several Parts of South Wales etc. relative chiefly to Picturesque Beauty; made in the Summer of the year 1770.* pps 60-65. (1782 republished by Richmond Publishing Ltd 1973)

James Baker, *Picturesque Guide* pps 89-91 (1794)

Mandet de Penhonet (1797)

Lord Grenville, *Journal of a Tour in South Wales and West Country Vol II* (1801)

J.T. Barber, *A Tour Throughout S. Wales and Monmouth Chap. IX* (1803)

B.H. Malkin, *The Scenery, Antiquities and biography of S. Wales Vol II* pps 571-574 (1804)

Captain Jenkin Jones's Diary, Transactions of Historical Society of West Wales Vol 1, 1912 pps 113-116 (1819)

Helen Palmer, 'Administration and the Workforce - Dynevor Castle 1856. *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* (1994) pps 113-123

E.W. Jones 'The First Carmarthenshire Agricultural Society' *The Carmarthen Antiquary* Vol III (1961) pps 152-156

H PHOTOCOPIES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

NLW Dyn
A99w

Trans. by Prys Morgan Jan 1988 of (1622) schedule of lands owned by Sir Walter Rice

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John Ogilby, *BRITANNIA* part of Presteigne to Carmarthen road (1675)

NLW Dyn B(i)
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Carmarthenshire quarter sessions Inquisition at Llandilovawr into diversion of footway in The Parish of Llandevoysen for George Rice Esquire (1748)

Carmarthen-
shire Archives
Service (CRO)
Dyn 201/2

Disbursements for work at Newton, grubbing up trees etc. (1757)

CRO Dyn
201/10

Payments for building park wall (1773)

CRO Dyn
154/3

Letter from Thos. Beyrron about Llandefison Church-yard (1774)

© Lord
Dynevor

List of Trees planted (1810-1872)

Notes by Ticehurst, farm bailiff, on sizes of certain trees in 1866-1888, (planted 1853-1868)

Dynevor Notes by the 7th Lord Dynevor, (1911-1939)

(see also Dyn C1 and C2 above)

J MAPS		<u>Scale of reproduction</u>
1748	Accurate Map of Carmarthenshire drawn from an actual survey with various improvements. Illustrated with historical extracts relative to the Air, Soil, Natural produce, Trade and Manufactures by Tho: Kitchin - Geographer. Original scale: 2 miles:1" - extract from map	NTS
1756	Field layout on Pen Lan Fawr. Scale not known	NTS
1811	O.S. Surveyors drawing. Scale not known	NTS
1832	O.S. map 1 mile:2" (1832)	NTS
1839	Tithe Map. Surveyor E J Griffiths. Scale not known (1839)	1:10,000
c.1850	Dynevor Castle Farm - Field Names (NLW Dyn Bii - Parcel 18)	NTS
1885	1st Edition O S Survey. 1:10560 (1885)	1:10,000
1886	1st Edition O S Survey. 1:2500	1:10,000
1906	2nd Edition O S Map 1:2500	1:10,000 & 1:5,000
c.1908	Map from Deeds for creation of Penlan Park	NTS
1963	O S Map 6": 1mile	1:10,000

1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The primary purposes of the National Trust as regards lands, as stated by Schedule 1, Section 1 p84 of the Report on the Governance of the National Trust, April 2003 are:-

(i) *permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands ... of beauty or historic interest*

(ii) *the preservation (so far as practicable) of their natural aspect features and animal and plant life*

(iii) *providing public access (from*

1.2 This report has been commissioned to provide a factual background for deciding how best to balance and achieve these three objectives at Dinefwr Park.

1.3 The brief for the report required in summary:-

- archival research to test the body of knowledge about Dinefwr already assembled
- field study
- an assessment of the significance of the landscape as a whole
- attention to a list of significant issues defined by paragraph 5 of the brief

1.4 In 1989 Dr C Dignam carried out an extensive historical review for the National Trust, included in the Dinefwr Park Survey Report. Subsequently much additional material has been assembled, all of which has been made available. A major problem at Dinefwr is the vast extent of the archive, collected on a literary or genealogical basis or in time order rather than in relation to the making of the landscape. Undoubtedly future knowledge will find errors in some of the conclusions of this report for this reason alone.

1.5 This analysis commenced by inspecting the principal archives at Carmarthen Record Office and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. In the latter case every document related to Dinefwr/Dynevor was helpfully tabled for inspection. Only a few new documents were discovered. It is therefore concluded that the historical survey in the 1989 Dinefwr Park Survey Report was reasonably comprehensive and that repetitive archival search would not be useful.

In that survey there is a comprehensive description of persons and political history; there is no basis to question this valuable assessment. There are however also some speculative conclusions, based on assumption rather than evidence, about the spatial development of Dinefwr Park.

1.6 Therefore a careful and limited selection of key historic documents concerned with the spatial character of Dinefwr Park was carried out. Copies of the original

documents and Dr E A Lewis's 1911 record of texts for documents up to 1651 were assembled, and are provided as an appendix to this report.

- 1.7 For the period after 1775, Lord Dynevor's loan of new documentary material previously not analysed, which remains in his copyright, has proved immensely helpful.
- 1.8 Conclusions about the medieval and Tudor layouts at Dinefwr were reached by calculating the areas of land uses described in historical schedules and transferring these areas onto the modern O S map.

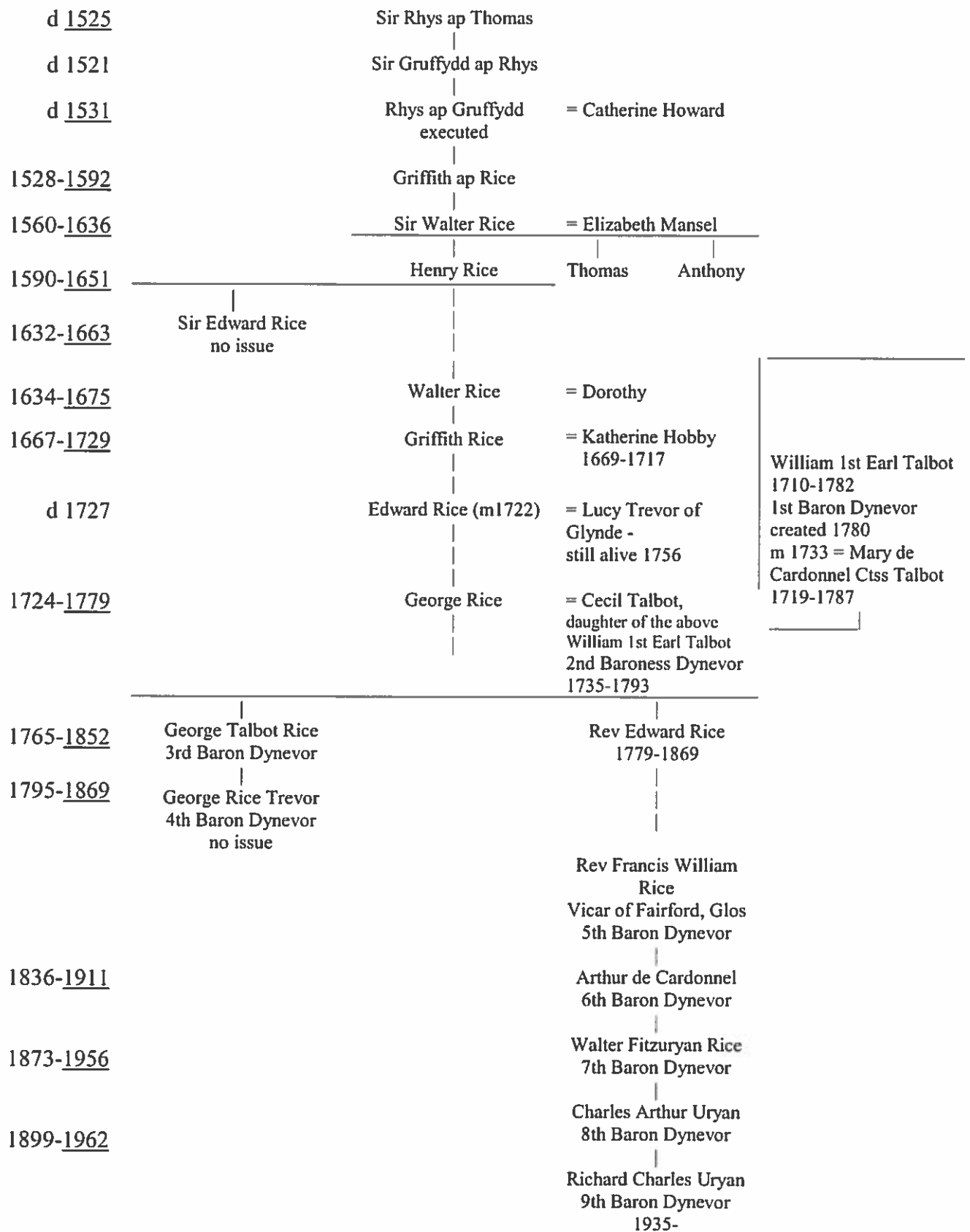
Findings from Cambria Archaeology's field survey and available knowledge about Newton informed assumptions about location. The principal conclusion has been that both the Borough of Newton and a separate Dynevor community were much larger in size than previously assumed.

- 1.9 It is still not known where the pre-1659 house was located or whether there was an older deer park. It has proved impossible to locate the numerous properties and fields mentioned by name in older texts. The dates of buildings still in existence on site remain vague.
- 1.10 Determination of probable layouts after 1660 has been greatly assisted by field survey, combined with careful reading of topographical writings and plates from around 1800. Most important has been precise analysis of descriptions contained in the various available historical documents scheduled under items G and H of the list of sources above.
- 1.11 Three additional sources, not examined, may prove to be of assistance in future. Original drawings in the Bodleian Library have not been inspected. The uncatalogued deeds and documents in the National Library of Wales, Parcels 1-28, may include plans and accounts which further illuminate the history of the Park.

The archive at Barrington Park, a family property in the early 19th century, certainly contains pictures of Dinefwr and probably other valuable material; permission to inspect this material has not been granted.

- 1.12 Notwithstanding gaps in information, the process of creating the landscape described in Section 3 below and the assessment of significance which follows are believed to bring up to date current knowledge about Dinefwr Park.
- 1.13 The National Trust are not owners of all the land within Dinefwr Park. However this report treats the park as a totality, giving no consideration to the implications of modern divisions of the land holding. It is presumed that the National Trust will have no difficulty in working in partnership with the smaller landowners within the Park to achieve a common goal in the future.
- 1.14 Table 1 overleaf is the family tree of the Rices who have lived at Newton since 1485.

TABLE 1 : THE RICE FAMILY TREE



PARC DINEFWR : DESIGNED LANDSCAPE SURVEY - APRIL 2003

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 Time Line of the Process of Creating Dinefwr Park

10th-12th Centuries: Myth, which contributes to Dinefwr's glorious Welsh past, and was assembled in the 13th century.

c.1175 Dinefwr Castle built, near which a small township developed. It was set in woodland.

1277 The English took over governance of Dinefwr.

1298 An English colony was planted at Newton, north of Dinefwr.

1360 A land use schedule of this date suggests that Newton had 46 burgage plots and 102ha of agricultural land, while Welsh Dinefwr contained about 25 plots in various locations and 144ha of cultivated land; the river meadows and about the same area of woodland were directly administered by the constable.
(Hypothetical Layout in 1360 : Figure 1)

1525 Sir Rhys ap Thomas, a man with a passion for parks and hunting died. He owned numerous Welsh properties, Dinefwr being one of the smaller, in which stood the eight bedroom Newton mansion (not the present day house). It is possible that he had a deer park at Dinefwr, but no evidence has been found.

1531 Rhys ap Gryffydd attainted and executed and the estate again taken by the Crown. Any deer park would have been abandoned.

1563 Newton and Dinefwr together had diminished to 28 dwellings, compared to about 70 in 1360. By this time Griffith Rice, son of Rhys ap Gryffydd had regained Dinefwr and other lands, though full restitution was not confirmed until 1623.

1592-1622 Sir Walter Rice set about buying out as many properties in Newton and Dinefwr town as possible. He also purchased numerous adjacent land holdings outside Llandefeisant parish, and elsewhere. Unfortunately he over extended himself and had to be bailed out by his sons and by selling land purchased further afield to his in-laws. However at Newton he had accumulated 950 acres which his sons bought out. Nonetheless there were still numerous landowners, other than the Rices, in the townships of Newton and Dynevor,. The old Newton House had to be let to help pay off debts.
(Hypothetical Layout in 1622 : Figure 2)

- 1651 Since 1622, The Rices had purchased 57 acres of land and at least 7 properties. However in 1651 there were still 11-15 houses and 14-18 acres of land in other ownership.
- 1659 Sir Edward Rice and his brother Walter, who inherited, set about improving the property. Old Newton House and its demesne was regained from the tenant. The public highway through Newton and Llandyfeisant, King's Road, was diverted to a new line along the north side of the present park boundary. The former road became a private drive with a new link and avenue northwards to the diverted road.
- 1660 onwards Newton House, in its present massing, was built. Around it were formal gardens. The farm was south of the House. Outlying land to the east was ornamented with avenues and walks. Enough common lime and Spanish chestnut trees remain to make it possible to guess the layout, guided by various later textual references. To the west of the House, the walled deer park was created (or recreated). Further west the old Dinefwr Castle was made an ornamental feature.
- 1660 onwards The estate was strikingly well treed. Many of the oak woodlands which survive today either originated from the Restoration period or had pre-existed and were retained, including the long south facing wooded escarpment, The Heronry wood and part at least of The Rookery wood and The Grove on Cae Lan. Dinefwr Park originates from the Restoration period, including its well wooded prominences, a feature not characteristic of contemporary English parkland illustrations.
(Probable layout in 1700 : Figure 3)
- 1748 George Rice successfully bought out the largest remaining landowner intermingled with the park to the east of the House, a William Thomas Harry. In the same year a public footpath running beside Newton House was re-routed north of the park, then diagonally towards Llandeilo well away from the House. These two actions cleared the ground to remodel the park.
- c.1750 Home Farm was moved away from Newton House to its present location. George Rice was active in modernising agriculture.
- 1756 George Rice married Cecil Talbot.
- 1757 The formal walks to the east of Newton House were grubbed up or 'clumped' as a start of the process of creating a naturalistic landscape, "*a complete rotund of woods, shrubberies, hills, dales, slopes and sweeps*". The formal gardens were removed from round the house to south of the buildings.
- 1764 New clumps were planted in Park Sir David.

- 1765 The picturesque new drive down above Llandyfeisant Church was constructed, leading on to Llandeilo bridge and making it possible to empark the land west of the church.
- 1773 The whole of the eastern part of the present park was enclosed by a new wall 2.3km long.
- 1774 Llandyfeisant churchyard was enclosed and the church made an eyecatcher.
- 1775 Lancelot Brown was invited to visit. Up to that time *"there are a few, and but a few, young plantations"* (Gilpin 1770). Though several refinements followed Brown's visit, Dinefwr Park had in essence been created. (Park Creation 1745-1775 : Figure 4)
- 1775-1793 Brown made the following recommendations (a new source document):-
- (a) Move the kitchen garden to Little Newton - carried out, narrower
 - (b) Screen kitchen garden and farm with trees - carried out, narrower
 - (c) Plant a shelter belt Little Newton to Llandeilo, 50-60ft wide - carried out but probably too narrow
 - (d) New approach at high level with new lodge - carried out but without the ornamental gates for which a design was later sent
 - (e) Throw Llandyfeisant meadows into park - carried out
 - (f) Bring Castle Field into deer park by removing Bog Wood.
A Sandby drawing of 1777 appears to show that this was carried out; subsequently abandoned.
 - (h) Lawn near Cold Bath enclosed for pleasure ground - probably NOT carried out
 - (i) Ha-ha at top of Cae Lan and remove old walled garden - NOT carried out
 - (j) Rail along the Grove - ?
 - (k) Move barn to Little Newton - carried out
 - (l) Wall from Carmarthen Gate to House to be removed - carried out, presumably for a time enlarging the deer park to the trench
 - (m) Turf paths; this is believed to be the path described in a second new document, though this is impossible to prove - carried out with exquisite picturesque taste, creating a magnificent series of views out from a skilfully manipulated woodland edge. A fine high level path with a sudden view was also made, as were 'Brown's Walk' and 'Precipice Walk' to west and east of the Castle (date unknown)
 - (n) Pen Lan clumps, a spectacular feature, were made after Brown's visit but there is no documentary evidence to attribute them. The whole East Park is a huge scale simple composition of clumps on swelling lawns, with distant outward views to borrowed landscapes, a perfect example of its genre (sadly declined in quality today)
 - (o) Pine trees were planted to mark hill crests; other subtle planting took place

- (p) When the turnpike road was diverted, c.1800, the north drive was realigned and extended. The old road north of the park wall was abandoned. (This must be post Brown)
(Park Creation 1775-1810 : Figures 5, 10, 11 and 12)
- 19th Century The essence of the park was sustained by caring management. Several interesting new trees were introduced, wellingtonia in particular doing well in its native habitat by Bog Wood. New plantations in some places. Newton house was reclad in second-rate gothic and small new adjacent gardens enclosed with ha-has. Considerable new planting in late 19th century, some to make a good shoot.
- 20th Century Some anomalies.

2.2 Evaluation

- 2.2 Contemporaries particularly valued the contrived naturalistic landscape, as illustrations and topographical texts around 1800 demonstrate. A separate booklet of plates includes views considered significant in 1777-1844. Several writers ranked Dinefwr as '*one of the most beautiful parks*', some as '*unquestionably to be the first*'.
- 2.3 Brownian and picturesque designed parkland is interwoven into a united composition, an excellent example of the genre. The alignment of the south and east drives and the circular 'Path' through The Rookery wood and over Castle Hill unfold a series of captivating views. Views east from Newton House command a distant borrowed landscape, composed between skilfully disposed clumps; slight confusion is caused by some recent planting, but the integrity of the original composition could be restored without difficulty.
- 2.4 A special and unusual significance of Parc Dinefwr is that it has always been admired from without. Both the Castle on its wooded hill rising above the flat floodplain of the Tywi, and the two great clumps on Pen Lan Fawr are eyecatchers from many places round about.
- 2.5 Some fine evergreen trees were added in the 19th century, mostly well sited though many removed in the 1970's. The wonderful Wellingtonias in Bog Wood between the Castle and Newton House somewhat conflict with the eighteenth century design intention, probably the only anomalous problem in the park not suitably solved by removing the anomaly.
- 2.6 There are several remnant trees from the Restoration landscape created after 1660, when Newton House was built. They are numerous enough to suggest the probable layout in 1700, a layout of more historic interest than obvious quality.
- 2.7 The park is enriched by a variety of structures and by sparkling water. Llandyfeisant church, medieval in origin with an eighteenth century eyecatching setting, Newton Farm and the nearby collapsing walled garden, the ice house, a few

small stone bridges and lengths of park wall are the principal artefacts. The little streams and pools along the south side of the park are particularly appealing.

- 2.8 The park contains just one major structural eyecatcher: Dinefwr Castle. This is so striking and so important historically that no other is required. It commands magnificent views in all directions, an unrivalled climax to any journey to reach it, even though the walks from east and west are themselves so full of picturesque interest. It is an attractive ruined castle in its own right. Dinefwr Castle is a present symbol of the Welsh past of Parc Dinefwr, a past which mingles ancient reality with myths gathered by poets seven hundred years ago.
- 2.9 The character of the western side of the park is completely different from the spatial composition of the centre and east of the park, where open space flows across rolling landforms accented and framed by bold clumps of trees. Here clearings seem to have been cut out of an ancient wooded landscape. Yet the two characters drift so delicately into each other that the whole is unified. The eighteenth century scalloped woodland edges and marked hill tops with Scots pines, without removing the character of this older landscape.
- 2.10 In eighteenth century descriptions and illustrations the old landscape dropping from Fern Hill across The Heronry receives scant attention. Yet today's observer is enchanted by the medieval feel of the place, its ancient trees, its fallen branches (when appropriately located), its signs of older human occupation mingled with the richness of natural habitat. In 1194 Giraldus Cambrensis wrote that Dinefwr Castle was '*surrounded by woods*;' parts of the deer park evoke a feeling of continuity from that time, the outcome of successive Dynevors sensitivity which '*carries the preservation of his woods almost to a fault*'.
- 2.11 Parc Dinefwr is still exceptionally beautiful

3. THE PROCESS OF MAKING DINEFWR PARK

Reference

(G = topographical writing appended
H = photocopy of document appended)

3.1	Upto to 1531 : Welsh hilltop castle and English new town
(B p208-209)	<p>c.1165 Dinefwr Castle was built in about 1165 on a precipitous ridge overlooking Afon Tywi. <i>"Myth and tradition crystallise into history only in the twelfth century, as far as Dinefwr is concerned; (in 1163) Rhys ap Gruffydd submitted to the king (Henry II), and in return was allowed to take Cantref Mawr, which was a large district, along with land that was at Dinefwr as his own. This lordship became a foundation of Rhys's subsequent power in South Wales, and Dinefwr one of his chief residences. The poet Gwynfardd Brycheiniog (c.1180), in an awdl composed for Rhys, speaks of 'the host of Rhys in the court of Dinefwr' ". No evidence has so far come to light to suggest that there was a fortress on the site of Dinefwr castle before Rhys occupied the place.</i></p> <p>Late 12th century During Rhys ap Gruffydd's lordship at the end of the twelfth century, a tradition grew up about Dinefwr's antiquity, <i>"which may have been created and popularised in the preceding decades in the interest of Rhys ap Gruffydd and his overlordship of Deheubarth"</i>. The castle was given a special place in the annals of Welsh history as an important residence of earlier kings of Deheubarth. Geraldus Cambrensis wrote: <i>"Dinefwr is held to be the royal seat of the princes of South Wales"</i> (1191) and <i>"Dinefwr is where the royal palace of South Wales used to be: it is well protected by its site and surrounded by woods"</i>(1191). The Book of Blegywryd, compiled about the same time, referred to The Law of Hywel Dda and his privilege related to white cattle with red ears and monopoly of gold. These myths are part of Dinefwr's medieval heritage.</p> <p>13th century During the 13th century Dinefwr Castle was dismantled and rebuilt in the course of the various quarrels of Welsh princes. It was nonetheless a centre of cultural, religious and medical patronage. By 1271 <i>"Dinefwr was a formidable stone fortress, housing a seigniorial court that was in every sense the centre of an important Welsh lordship in Ystrad Tywi"</i>. A small township grew up nearby. In this period too Llandyfeisant church was probably built, a parish distinct from the adjacent saintly Llandeilo.</p> <p>1277 The English king acquired Dinefwr Castle as part of the suppression of Wales in 1277. Thereafter, meticulous accounts were kept. Dinefwr remained under royal control to avoid recurrence of its importance for the Welsh.</p> <p>1298 In 1298 an English colony, called Newton, was planted on the south facing plateau of the hill to the north of the castle.</p> <p>(B p215 col 2) In 1310 Edmund Hakelut was made life constable of Dinefwr and Newton, followed in 1338 by his son. They appear to have been conscientious administrators.</p>

1360 (Figure 1)

By comparing three sets of records which include information about land uses it is possible to create a reasonable hypothesis about the character of Dinefwr and Newton in 1360 when the Hakelut's rule came to an end. Table 3.1 below is a land schedule derived from Public Records Office rolls. Distribution of these elements can only be hypothetical; nonetheless Figure 1 attempts to show something of the relative size and distribution of land uses across Llandyfeisant parish.

The data available from the documents shows that the total land area occupied by the two communities was extensive. Analytical land survey by Cambrian Archaeology during early 2003 has identified, in the ancient north-western part of the present day Park, both the route of the medieval road approaching Newton from the west and one or two former agricultural enclosures about 8 acres in size. This is the probable size of a Welsh acre, the amount of land allocated to English settlers in Newton. Old Dinefwr and Newton co-existed in reasonable buoyancy in 1360, it appears. .

1363

(B p216 col 2;
p217)

Soon afterwards in 1363, Newton was formally created a chartered borough. It was allowed to constitute a gild merchant, enabling the English burgesses to monopolise commercial as well as administrative affairs. A weekly Wednesday market was confirmed, and two 3 day fairs in September and October each year.

1392

(B p216 col 2;
p217)

In 1392 the burgesses of Newton received privileges over the Welsh population. In retrospect, however, these charters seem to mark the high-point of the urban fortunes of Newton/Dinefwr. Over the succeeding century land holdings and burgages were amalgamated or subdivided and population numbers gradually reduced.

1485 - 1525

(A pps73-75
p59, 63, 81-82)

Dinefwr/Newton was one of the smaller of the many Welsh estates accumulated by Sir Rhys ap Thomas, who died in 1525 after a magnificent career built upon the assistance he gave to Henry Tudor (Henry VII) in winning the throne of England and Wales in 1485. The Welsh properties of Sir Rhys ap Thomas included Carew, Carmarthen, Abermarlais, Narbeth, Newcastle Emyln, Weobley on the Gower and Newton. Newton differed from his other properties both in being the home of his family and because there were still many burgages and land holdings in other ownerships in the adjacent village. He was a patron of numerous Welsh poets. He was also a man with *"a passion for parks and hunting"*, who *"spent considerably on buildings and parkland"*. Therefore, though no evidence has been found, it is not unlikely that his 8 bedroom Newton House, certainly not his main residence, was used as a hunting lodge, for which a park would have been needed.

1531

(A
p283 et seq
Appendix III)

In 1531 Rhys ap Gruffydd, grandson of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, was executed in the Tower of London on five unsubstantiated charges of high treason against Henry VIII. His property including Dinefwr, was attainted, that is forfeited by the crown. He was a headstrong young man of 23. By this time Newton was *"sumtime a long street nowe ruinus"*. The possessions in Llandavayon parish handed back to the King contained 30 tenants holding 42 premises of various sizes, about half being land only, according to the Ministers' Accounts. There were also eight premises vacant for want of tenants or at

(A p74)
(E p116-117)

reduced rents. No separate mention is made of upper Dinefwr. This shows a substantial population decline from the 60 burgages and messuages present in 1302, which were more numerous by 1360 (c.f. Table 3.1).

(E p118)

The mansion of Newton, though described as *haith but small commodities apperteynyng to the same*", was quite substantial. It lay on an east-west axis with eight chambers, loo and study grouped at both ends of a hall 33ft x 20ft. Somewhere on the south side was a stone tower including a chapel. The premises included kitchen, larderhouse, bakehouse, brewhouse, corn store, buttery, and a wine cellar beneath the hall. There were substantial outbuildings, slate roofed stable and adjoining thatched barn and two further derelict stables. If there was a deer park associated with the house, it would have been abandoned after 1531.

Medieval features surviving in Dinefwr Park today

No houses survive today unless either of the two small stone cottages by Llandyfeisant churchyard are very old. Llandyfeisant church, rebuilt, and the fine ruined Dinefwr castle still "*surrounded in woods*" as in 1191 remain.

Wooded parts of the southern and western park and the open flat riverside meadows are probably similar in appearance to the Tudor landscape. The line of the medieval road and one, possibly two, 8 acre agricultural enclosures probably allocated to settlers about 1300 are still perceptible in the N-W corner of the park as spaces defined by oak trees.

An equally significant survivor from medieval times is the mythology of the place, interwoven with genuine history.

TABLE 3.1 Land Use Schedule in 1360

Notes to Table 3.1 overleaf

a. The number of plots in the Town of Dinefwr and additional land plots in Newton are derived from 1303 information, making this table inconsistent in detail for 1360. However the derivation of general land areas for the latter date is considered acceptable.

(E p179)

b.(i) In 1300 "*Of this town nothing for the burgages and lands, because they are not yet arrented*"

(E p118 L8)

b.(ii) The location of Newton is known. "*The Mansion of Newton stendeth within the town of Newton*"

(C. note 14)

The army came across old foundations when digging new footings for nissen huts at the S-E end of Newton (c.1941)

(B p220 col 2)

In 1804 Richard Fenton noted "*Behind the House to the West was the town called Trenewydd (Newton) - and indeed the daily appearance of fragments of buildings as dug up in almost every part confirms it.*" This was towards the N- W of the town.

E S Wood
Historical
Britain 1995

b.(iii) The size of the burgages at Newton is not known. Burgages in English towns vary in size from 4.5-18m wide and 60-200m long. Here the approximate size of the burgages in Northleach/Burford has been adopted, at 10m wide by 100m long.

(Notes to Table 3.1 continued)

- (A p74) b.(iv) In the mid 1530's John Leland described Newton as "*sumtime a long streat nowe ruinus*". This confirms a single street town.
- (B/E) c.(i) Literature, including the authoritative R A Griffiths, has assumed that all the tenants of Dinefwr lived in the Upper Town by the Castle. However the original Roll for 1302/03, quoted by Dr E A Lewis, clearly differentiates '*Gable Tenants of the Upper Town*' from two other categories, '*Gable Tenants*' and '*Gable Tenants of the New Town*'; it is here assumed that the latter two categories lived below the Castle on lands once part of the Dinefwr Castle demesne, 48 Welsh acres in 1280.
- (B p213 col 2 bottom) This is consistent with the policy that: "*When Pain de Chaworth took Dinefwr castle and its demesne into the king's hands on 5 June 1277, he was authorized to allow 'the men of Rhys [Wyndod] to hold their lands and tenements as before until the king shall have decided what further is to be done*". It also makes spatial sense for it would be impossible for so many tenants with their lands to fit in adjacent to the castle.
- (A p214) Furthermore in 1531/32, at least three substantial properties were listed "*near Llandavyson*".
- (B p213 col 2 bottom) c.(ii) In 1298, there were 26 burgages attributed to Dinefwr, before Newton existed.
- (B. p224 note 57) d.(i) A '*Welsh acre*' was of variable size, but in the *Welshry of Kidwelly, near the castle, it was eight times the size of an English acre: William Rees, South Wales and the March. 1284-1415 (Oxford 1924) pp 7, 217.*" A size of 3 hectares, just under 8 acres has been adopted here.
- (E. p120) d.(ii) In 1563 a premises owned by Griffith ap Rees was "*8 acres of land, and 1 close called Park y Capell, pertaining to Denevor.*" Rees David ap Rees had "*8 acres of land*" and Ienan David ap Rees "*16 acres of land*". No other acreages are quoted in the 1563 list of Rentals. This suggests that all the Welsh acres referred to in the documents quoted in the schedule were indeed 8 English acres.
- (E. p210-11) e. The meadows are riverside meadows to the south of the Castle, named 'King's meadow', 'Russhemed', 'the meadow of Llandeuyayson' and 'Manathelok'. They were an unreliable source of income due to the violence of the river Tywi, subject to spates from its moorland catchment; for instance in 1394/95 'Kyngesmede' yielded only 14% of its usual rent as it "*now is much destroyed by the violent (vehement) river, as the reeve says on oath.*"
- (E. p220) In 1535 Leland described "*the River of Tewe the which ther oftentimes dronith in winter divers menne for lakke of a bridge*" near Llandovery.
- (E. p211) f. If the rent from the large riverside meadow was 40s per annum the underwood at 50s per annum implies a large area of woodland. Underwood was no doubt the principal source of energy for cooking and heating. The underwood was in "*Le helde and arles*"; the latter is alder presumably coppice. This must mean that wet land, for instance in the

(L. p212)

west part of the modern park, was wooded in 1360. The steep slopes unsuited to cultivation are also assumed to have been woodland. *"By 1270 woods were valuable property; the return from underwood alone averaged 6d per acre per year, which was more than from arable land."*

- g. The mill was boarded in 1360: *"30 boards bought for the repair and mending of the mill, 3s.9d. In 300 board-nails bought for the said mill, 18d."* Probably at this date many buildings would be timber, wattle and daub and thatch.

TABLE 3.1 Land Use Schedule in 1360

(some figures, as noted, carried forward from earlier years)

Sources: 1303 : E pps181-183 Rentals and Surveys PRO Roll 773
1360 : E pps210-213

Notes	Type of Tenant	Number of Plots		Rents paid in 1360
		House Plots	Welsh acre farm plots	
b	<u>In New Town</u> English burgesses Additional areas of land (in 1303 - note a)	46	(note d) 34	(46s)
c	<u>In Town of Dinefwr</u> (in 1303 - note a) Gable Tenants of the New Town: 1 messuage & 1 acre	7	7	Rents of divers bondmen: (35s 4d)
d	Gable Tenants:- ½ burgage	7		
	Gable Tenants:- 1 messuage & 1 acre	5	5	
	Gable Tenants of the Upper Town ½ burgage	6		
e				meadows (40s)
f				underwood (50s)
				orchard (nil)
g				mill (8s 10½d)

3.2 1532 - 1659 : LAND ACQUISITION (Figure 2 for 1622)

1544 - 1554

A
p117-121

When Rhys ap Gruffydd was executed and his lands attained in 1531, he left two sons Thomas and Gruffydd Rice who was three years old. Thomas was killed in battle in Scotland in 1544. Gruffydd Rice spent his life restoring the family fortunes in Wales. In 1548 he was restored to his blood. In 1554 a little Welsh land was returned to him.

1560

NLW
Dyn A6

Unfortunately he then committed a "*shamefull murdre*" in County Durham in 1557 and his recovered lands were forfeited. Subsequently following persistence, Queen Elizabeth I was persuaded in 1559 to grant a pardon for the murder, described as follows: "*...and the said Griffith, with a sword of the value of 10 shillings which he had in his right hand did of malice aforethought strike the said Matthew on the back part of his head, and give him a mortal blow, seven 'lez enches' in length and three 'lez enches' in depth, even to the brain, of which blow indeed the said Matthew did then and there instantly die; and the said Griffith did then give him another huge mortal blow on the right side of his head four inches long, and in depth to the brain, of which blow the said Matthew would have died, 'if the first blow had not killed him', together with two other similar blows either of which would have killed him if he had not been already dead:*" In 1560 the Queen also returned the family lands in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. The Rices thus regained "*the lands at Newton and Dinefwr, with which the family had been associated since at least the beginning of the fourteenth century.*" From 1560 the development of Dinefwr Park was carried out by succeeding generations of the Rice family.

A p125
& 129

1563

E p119-121

The survey of 1563 shows the distribution of land at Newton/Dinefwr at that date. A certain Hugh Appowell held the lease "*of the manor of Dynevor and all its appertenances, together with the fiery of the Towy, the rent of the town of Newton, and the price of beer in Llandeilo*". The lease seemed to cost more than the income from this diminishing establishment. Gruffydd ap Rees (Rice) was the tenant of "*8 acres of land, and 1 close called Park y Capell, pertaining to Denevor*". It is not possible to decide how many other tenancies were held by the Rice family. David ap Rees, Rees David ap Rees and Ienan David ap Rees were between them tenants of 5¼ messuages, half of 8 burgages and 24 English acres of land; however they were probably another family.

E p119-121

Altogether the survey of 1563 reveals that there were at this time separate tenancies on 17 land holdings of various sizes amounting to 123 acres (50 ha) of agricultural land (where areas not given, rent assumed to be 4d per acre), 5 acres wood round the castle, 1 close, 1 messuage, 1 quarter messuage, 5 burgages, 13 half burgages and 3 quarter burgages. If each premises included one house, as is the case now in surviving burgage towns, then there were 28 dwellings in Newton/Dinefwr. Occupation of Dinefwr Castle had recently ceased; the list refers to "*5 acres of wood around the late castle, 12d*", whereas in 1532 rent was respited "*to the constable of the King's castle there*".

E p117

The manor house of Newton described above would still have been in existence, exact site unknown, for it is war or property exploitation rather than judicial execution of people which destroys buildings and landscapes.

1592 - 1615

A p126-129

Walter Rice inherited in 1592. He lived until 1636, and had married the wealthy Elizabeth Mansel of Margam when he was 16 years old. He was knighted by James I in 1603, while serving as MP for Carmarthen Boroughs. He obtained allocation of Newton manorial rights in the Court of Wards in 1594, though this was only to be finally confirmed in 1623. Sir Walter Rice set about buying land and property. Between 1592 and 1615 he made some 40 purchases of Newton burgages and land holdings and Llandyfeisant messuages as they became available (see extracts from NLW Search in Appendix). He also in the same period made at least 8 land or property purchases in Bettws (modern Ammanford), 12 in the parish of Llandeilo and 25 in the parish of Llandibie as well as other purchases elsewhere. He thus acquired the estate where subsequently Newton House and Dinefwr Park were created by his descendants.

F
NLW B(i)
37-67,
468-523,
687-747

1619

Sir Walter also had high personal expenses, 11 children and "*a taste for immoderate living*". As a result by 1619 he had accumulated large debts which his wealthy relatives paid in return for assignment of the family lands in Pembrokeshire. His sons also acquired lands from him in return for paying off his debts. In 1622 he was forced to raise a mortgage of £3000 together with an assured income of £200 a year for his life on the Newton estate.

A p 129

NLW
B(i) 240

Newton House and demesne itself had to be leased to a tenant. Mortgages were raised on numerous properties. Henry Rice, Sir Walter's son, was to spend the rest of his life struggling to restore the financial stability of the estate, while keeping the Carmarthenshire properties in family ownership.

1622 (a) The size of the Rice estate

When Newton estate was valued in 1622 for mortgage purposes, it was extensive. This valuation makes it possible to assess the character of the estate at that date. Figure 2 shows a tentative layout plan of the distribution of the main land uses in 1622, based upon Tables 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 at the end of section 3.2.

1622 (b) Houses and Land held by others

It is possible to estimate how many houses and how much land remained in his neighbours hands intermingled with Sir Walter's land in 1622, by analysis of the 1651 Parliamentary Surveys separately carried out for "The Borough of Newton", where Henry Rice was living and "the Principality of Dynevor", which was owned by his elder brother Edward Rice. To these must be added the tree purchases made by the Rices between 1622 and 1651, namely:-

E pps 121-25

NLW
Dyn B(i)
229, 270,231

1624: Edward Walker's house in Llanderveyan £20

1636: The castle lands 57.5 acres - a tripartite indenture for which the annual rent was 18s.8d (224d), which is 3.9d per acre

1640: William David Beavan 2 tenements in Llandervayson in exchange for 2 messuages in Llandilo Vaur.

The total premises owned by others is listed in Table 3.2.2 below. This does not account for the 8 acre plots (1 Welsh acre) originally distributed to 34 English burgesses after 1298. For 120 acres of Rice land to be intermingled with his neighbours, some of these must still have been in other ownership; in this respect Figure 2 is a diagrammatic guess.

1622 (c) Discussion of Figure 2

A map such as Figure 2 is inevitably tentative as the exact location of the elements is unknown. Castle lands are obviously near the Castle. The position of Newton with its fragmentary burgages and "ruinous street" is known, but which are the surviving burgages is not clear. The large areas of land remaining in Dynevor suggest that the surroundings of Llandyfeisant Church were not yet a coherent part of the estate. Parc Sir David and Pen Lan-fawr were acquired later so cannot have been owned at the time.

The route of the road is visible on the ground north west of The Rookery having been identified during the 2003 Cambria Archaeology land survey. It followed a street through Newton and then is visible dropping across the field to Llandyfeisant Church beyond which is a clear road to the bottom of Llandeilo-fawr. The recent resistivity survey gives a possible indication of the route of the road at Newton House. A ditch is identified rising uphill from the N-W corner of the house. Very faint on the survey itself is a second ditch about 6m away. This suggests a possible road between the ditches.

The population of Newton and Dynevor townships were clearly drifting into Llandeilo. Dinefwr Castle Town had long disappeared. Newton had failed as a place.

The 1700 picture of Newton House shows groups of trees mature at that date to the north and west of the House. Therefore these must have been present in 1622. They look rather circular in layout. Sir Walter seems to have been ornamenting The Rookery and The Grove with clumps of trees before financial problems struck him, thus adding to the richness of the setting of the future mansion.

1622 (d) House and Deer Park

According to the Carmarthenshire Parks and Gardens Register: *'Sources suggest that the house described in 1532 made way for a successor that was built sometime between 1595 and 1603. However, recent excavations undertaken by the National Trust in the area of the Victorian garden to the west of the mansion, revealed walls, passages and so on, that correspond with the description and the layout of the rooms of the 1532 survey.'* This rather suggests that any modifications to the Tudor house were in the nature of minor improvements. It is possible that the deer park was established (or re-established) by Sir Walter in about 1600; indeed the oldest deer park walls could be early Jacobean or late Tudor. However no evidence has yet been found for the presence of a formal deer park before 1660.

1651

Henry Rice had acquired Dynevor and Newton from his father, Sir Walter, as part of the deal to pay off his debts. However to deal with the difficult financial situation he had had to dispose of much property in other places and raise mortgages. The family were having to let Newton House. In 1651 a Parliamentary Survey was prepared, showing that Newton House was still surrounded by neighbours and that the situation was not very different from that in 1622.

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(CAM)

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Dyn N A79

E pps 121-
125

In Dynevor:-

Edward Rice held Parke y Cappell, the purchased lands, the site of the Mill and the Castle lands. There were thirteen other tenancies held by eight tenants; 3 of these might include houses.

In Newton:-

Henry Rice (who died during the year and Edward inherited) held purchased lands and Newton demesnes. There were sixteen other tenancies held by ten tenants. 11-12 of these were houses.

There were therefore 11-15 houses with plots remaining in Dynevor and Newton in 1651 and 14-18 areas of land not owned by the Rice family, 29 parcels in all in what is now Dinefwr Park.

TABLE 3.2.1
Valuation of Sir Walter Rice's land in 1622

	acres	hectares
The valuation states that <i>"the demesnes belong to Sir Walter Rice his house at Newton containeth as we estimate some seven hundred acres"</i> (all acreages are now English acres):-		
pasture	300	120
good arable	200	80
meadows, woods and waste ground	200	80
	700	280
<i>"Besides the demesnes Sir Walther hath in his own hands also near unto Newton outlands in the fields intermingled with his neighbours being all good meadow, pasture and arable"</i>	120	50
<i>"The Castle of Denevor hath belonging to it in one place in good arable and pasture ...</i>	80	30
<i>in another place in meadows pastures and woods" - about</i>	50	20
<i>"All which Sir Walter likewise hath in his present possession and in his own hands. All comes to - "</i>	950	380

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NLW
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TABLE 3.2.2

Town Lands held by Other and the Rice Family in 1622:-

In Dynevor A Rental of the Free Rents payable yearly	pence annually	acres @ 4d	hectares
Edward Rice Esq., for certain lands called 'Parke y Cappell'	52d		5
Edward Rice Esq., for certain lands called 'the purchased lands'	120d		12
Edward Rice Esq., for site of Mill called Millin Vaghan alias Millin Vahg	12d	Mill	
Sir William Morgan et al for the 'Castle lands'	224d	57.5	23.3
William Beavan	-	house	1 messuage
William Beavan	-	house	1 messuage
William David Byvan, for his lands	80d	20	8.1
David Thomas, for all his lands	66d	16.5	6.7
Thomas John Rosser, for all his lands	46d	11.5	4.7
John Rees David	56d	14	5.7
David King, for 'Erwtuell y Bant'	-	house	1 messuage
John Rees David	-	house	½ messuage
William Beale, for late lands of David Gwins)	30d	house	? messuage
William Beale, for lands he holds with David John)			
William Beale, for 'y wayne vacke')			
William Beale, for certain lands he hold with William Thomas Harry,)			
which is called 'Randeer-cher ytchoys')			
William Thomas Harry, for divers lands)	35d	8.7	3.5
William Thomas Harry for G. at the end of the town)			
William Thomas Harry, for lands which he holds with William Beale)			
Edward Walker		house	messuage
TOTAL			55ha
In Newton A Rental of all the Free and Burgage Rents Payable by the said Frecholders	Burgages	pence annually	hectares
Henry Ryce Esq., for certain lands called the purchased lands		126d	13
Henry Ryce Esq., for Newton demesnes		168d	17
John Harres and David John, for a garden which)	1½		
they jointly hold)			
John Harres for his dwelling house, orchard)			
and garden)			
John Morgan, for his house and garden	1		
William Prymery, for his house, orchard, and garden	2		
Thomas David, for his house and garden	?		
Thomas John Richards, for his house and garden	?		
John Richards, for his house and garden	2?		
David Evans	½		
William Thomas Harry, for house late of Phillipp Lewis	½		
William Thomas Harry, for house late of David David Johnes	½		
William Thomas Harry, for a garden late of)	1½		
John Dyor)			
William Thomas Harry, for his dwelling house)			
William Thomas Harry, for his father's house	?		
John David Thomas, for a garden	?		
William David Byvan, for his house)	1		
William David Byvan, for lands late of Griffith)			
Harry Williams			

3.3 1659 - 1745 MANSION AND RESTORATION LANDSCAPE (Figure 3)

1659 (a)

NLW
Dyn B(i) 270
Dyn
B(i)229/231/
S45/237/360

In 1659, a year of political turmoil in England, the two elder sons of the late Henry Rice, Edward and Walter, initiated a bold development project at Newton. Henry had died in 1651, when his sons were nineteen and seventeen years old. The family's ancestral properties at Dinefwr had been finally confirmed. Since 1622 important acquisitions had been made: 56.5 acres (23ha) of Castle lands, making the Castle a continuous part of the demesne, and at least 7 properties in Newton and Llandeivayson.

NLW
Dyn B(i) 240

The first action was to regain control of Newton House from the tenant John Rees David, together with the demesne lands. The lease was released on July 25th 1659.

1659(b) Diversion of Public Roadway

H. NLW
Dyn B(i) 241

The next action was to realign the public roadway, King's Road through the middle of Newton. This involved filing a petition, which was granted, as stated:

"A record of the great sessions of Carmarthen viz a warrant admittance quod damnum for an inquisition as to the proposed enclosure of a way in the parish of Llandeivayson which leads from Riwardin (Rhiw-yr-adar; Bird's Hill) towards the east into the town of Llandilovawr by Edward Rice, esquire, for the enlargement of his house, etc. adjoining and the verdict of the jurors viz. "that the way shewed to the saide jurors ... beginnigne from the ould Roade or highway leading from Rhiwardin aforesaid at the place called Kwm Llygad Tavarne into the olde Roade or highway in the said parish of Llandilovawr ... to be made by the said Edward Rice insteade of the former ould way is ... altogether as convenient for all such persons as shall pass that way as the old way by him the said Edward Rice desires to be inclosed." Dated at Carmarthen 17 Sept 1659 Great seal of the Commonwealth." (Copy of the original exemplification is in the appendix papers.)

The road was diverted to the north of what has become the northern park boundary from Parc Llwyn eastwards to join the Pen y banc to Llandeilo Road at Little Newton (now Dynevor Farm). Thus the public road was now outside the park wall. This route is confirmed by Kitchen's map of 1749, which shows the diverted route clearly. Where the road left the former route at Parc Llwyn, the N-W corner of the Park, the old sunken road downhill has been blocked by a large pile of spoil presumably placed at the time of the diversion.

H. Ogilby

The main long distance road in the early 1670's, and presumably for many years previously, ran well to the north of Llandeilo. Ogilby's Britannia published in 1675 describes the route with precision, including the various turnings south to Llandeilovawr, so that the main road route shown on Figure 7 is certain. This information is helpful to a clear understanding of the local road system and the relative ease with which the road diversion was achieved.

1663

Edward Rice died without children in about 1663. His brother Walter inherited and with his wife Dorothy continued the enterprise. The outcome of the work is shown on Figure 3 and Plates 1700 and 1703. The plan remains tentative in several respects, though certain in some. The Plates, though artistically primitive give every impression of depicting a real scene in around 1700.

1665 - 1675(a) New House

After 1660 work on the new Newton House could start. The house which is shown by Plates 1700 and 1703 is the same house as can be seen in subsequent prints and which survives today inside its heavy "gothick" skin which was added in 1856-9. It is not known if it was on the same site as the pre-existing house, nor whether that was basically the house described in 1532 or a subsequent rebuild, perhaps unlikely under the trying financial circumstances of the family described above. The Tudor windows arranged irregularly on the back of the new house on Plate 1700 have formerly been taken as proof that the old house was absorbed. However this is not conclusive. It was not unknown to reuse well-made earlier mullioned windows on the back of a house when rebuilding in the 17th century, as an economy. The front and sides were in the modern classical manner.

1665-1675(b) New Gardens

The pictures show new gardens with the new house, though the freely drawn proportions make it hard to guess their exact size. The gardens are characteristic of the late 17th century or early eighteenth century, modest and without flourishes. Nothing of these gardens has survived.

1665-1675(c) New Grounds

On Plate 1703 there are interesting indications of the setting of Newton House beyond the immediate garden, all shown on Figure 3. The field observations recorded in Figure 9 add to the information produced by Plate 1703.

- (i) To the east of the long front of the house a drive and avenue is shown on Plate 1703 running away east on the centre line and perpendicular to the house. This could provide a direct new access to the Llandeilo road, also indicating that by 1700 land was owned in the northern part of Parc Sir David. Parallel to this drive the public footpath, diverted later in 1748, is shown emphasised by the gross red pedestrian in the foreground of the picture (perhaps a later addition to show the footpath route?).
- (ii) To the north (right hand side), the line of a walk passes through a gate through the low garden wall before it runs out of the picture up the hill on a line no longer in use.
- (iii) There is a new drive outside the east side of the garden, which would give access to Llandyfeisant southwards onto the line of the former road. The reproduction is cropped on the left side; the original picture shows the trees forming a rectangle with the roadway beyond. The drive is also shown running north. Old lime trees still surviving in a row north of The Rookery wood, as shown on Figure 9, indicate that this drive continued north to join the diverted road at Pen-parc in its former position (this cottage was moved between 1905 and 1925).
- (iv) South of the new house was the home farm. Though not shown the walled garden, which still survives including a length of Jacobean style wall coping, can be assumed to have been present as a vegetable garden, an essential rabbit free adjunct of a large house.
- (v) On Plate 1700 three half or third burgage plots are still present west of the House. The largest plot still had a house on it in 1700, a house which is almost identical to the little house still to be found as an outhouse to the N-E of

Llandyfeisant church, a door and two windows and probably a tiny attic room above as a bedroom.

1665-1675(d) Tree Clumps

The trees shown on Plates 1700 and 1703 are particularly interesting. Contemporary birdseye views by Kip, Knyff or Badeslade do not usually show mature trees, as if they were a matter of little concern to these famous print maker's clients. Yet in these primitive views, wide canopied clumps of trees have pride of place. There is a Rice tradition of conserving old trees. Kip's drawing of Sandywell, a house built in 1680 in Gloucestershire, is also shown for comparative purposes on Plate 1716

The location of the mature clumps on Plate 1703 coincides with the position of "ancient trees" identified in Treework's recent tree survey at Dinefwr, a further confirmation of the reality of these clumps of trees in 1700.

1665-1675(e) Avenues

As indicated on Figure 9, there is surviving field evidence of several avenues north, east and south of Newton House, characteristic of the period. The new access drive to the diverted public road northwards was lined by an avenue as shown vestigially on the 1906 OS map and confirmed by a few trees still in existence. To the south the remnant of a Spanish chestnut avenue still survives; this appears to have extended right across to Castle Wood, for in 1803 *"an avenue of trees extended from hence (the mansion) to the castle which has recently been broken into clumps"* (c.f. Plates 1803 (i) and 1805 which show the clumps on the line of the remnant avenue).

G
1803 Barber

The east of the Mansion also included avenues as shown on Plate 1703, though the original picture is a little longer to the left where the avenue returns round a rectangle. On the line of the trench, seven ancient lime trees survive as shown on Figure 9 in a line evidently part of a north south avenue. The tree clearance work undertaken in 1757 (see below) suggests that there were east/west avenues up to that time, for numbers of trees were cross sawn and the roots grubbed up, including in Middle Walk Field. If this is the walk shown on Plate 1703 perpendicular to the House, then there must also have been at least a north walk and a south walk.

1665-1675(f) The Wider Landscape

The wider estate is pictured on Plates 1705 and 1710, even more primitive views of Dinefwr Castle itself. Plate 1705 indicates the deer park to the left, together with a small pavilion which is believed to be the small building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition O S maps (see Figure 8). The horizontal lines could be walls or interpreted as areas of recent cutting or rolling, a management technique frequent for bracken control in deer parks (c.f. Plate 1926). Plate 1710 shows Dinefwr Castle from the northeast, including the recently purchased "Castle lands". Paths up to the Castle from the direction of Newton House are clearly indicated, together with the avenue of trees referred to in (e) above in the foreground. Furthermore the main keep has been ornamented with a gazebo, from which place indeed there are magnificent views in every direction. These features confirm that the Castle is now part of an ornamental parkland to the south west of Newton House.

To the east and south of Newton House there were still several other landowners of land fragments. The Rice's land there is therefore assumed to be agricultural, probably managed from Home Farm located immediately to the S-W of Newton House. The

Estate's agricultural holding spread out for a considerable distance northwards and north-westwards from the modern park.

F

Between 1659 and 1675, there were numerous property purchases, burgage plots and land, as noted on the schedule appended.

1675

In 1675 Walter Rice died and purchases of adjacent properties slowed down. By then most of Llandyfeisant parish except Park Sir David and Pen Lan Fawr were owned. His wife Dorothy survived him; Griffith Rice was only eight years old. Dorothy Rice must therefore have consolidated this great enterprise, if nothing more.

1700

Thus by the early 1700's several elements of today's Dinefwr Park had been established. Newton House itself had been built. Its location seems to have been constrained by the presence of nearby land holdings in other hands. The process of acquiring these was still incomplete. The walled deer park of a similar footprint to today's deer park, was well established. The Castle and the woodlands around it had become part of the pleasure grounds. The ancient woods around the Castle and in The Heronry, at the south-west corner of the park were already old, perhaps in parts even then ancient woods. Indeed below the Castle beside Bog Wood there stands an oak today, which must have been a fine old tree in 1700.

1720

By 1702 Griffith Rice, now aged 35, was an MP and resident in Pall Mall. The grounds appear to have been retained as created in the late 17th century. However around 1720 Newton House was modernised and the corner turrets which show on Plate 1790(i) were added. The north courtyard was created in its present form at the same time, though it was still separate from the House.

3.4 1745-1775 - A NATURALISTIC PARK AROUND NEWTON HOUSE (Figure 4)

1745

In 1745 George Rice reached the age of twentyone, having grown up fatherless since the age of three, presumably living with his mother Lucy at Newton House. He would have been brought up imbued with the romantic vision of Dinefwr Park expressed by the inscription to Sam: & Nath: Buck's 'South View of Denefawr-Castle' Plate 1740). *It was ye Royal seat of ye Princes of South Wales whilst they flourishedKing Henry the 7th made a Grant, of it to Sr. Rice ap Thomas Kt. of the Garter, in whose posterity it continues*" The Castle had been popularised nationally by the poem, Grongar Hill, written by his neighbour's younger brother John Dyer twenty years earlier.

*... a dark hill, steep and high
Holds and charms the wand'ring eye,
Deep are his feet in Towy's flood,
His sides are cloath'd with waving wood
And ancient towers crown his brow,
That cast an awful look below;
.....
Conceal'd in ruins, moss, and weeds;
While, ever and anon, there falls
Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls. etc.*

1748(a) Land Purchase

Though most of the immediate surrounds of Newton House had been owned by the Rice family for some 75 years an area called Park Harry was only purchased by the Rice's in 1748. It is not possible to determine the exact location of Park Harry, but it is notable that in 1651 William Thomas Harry paid burgage rates in the Borough of Newton for a garden and four houses (equivalent in rent of almost one and a half full burgages) and outside the Borough, in Dynevar, he paid 35d for lands which at 4d an acre is 8.7 acres (3.5 hectares). This land included "*G. at the end of the town*" hinting at a location near Newton itself, perhaps at the south end of town which would have been an obstruction to development of gardens or parkland south-east of Newton House.

1748(b) An Inquisition to re-route a public footpath away from Newton House

On July 13th 1748 an Inquisition was held into an application to re-route a footway away from Newton House. The essence of the wordy decision starting at page 2, 15th line from the bottom; was as follows:-

....."(The Jurors) do say that ye granting of George Rice Esquire in ye said writ named that he may Inclose a certain ffootway in ye parish of Llandeveyson in ye sd. County wich leads from a place called Killsane in ye parish of Llangathen towards ye. East into ye Town of Llandilowwawr in ye said Writ mentioned under and adjoining to ye said George Rice his House & Closes in Newton in ye said County is neither to ye damage or prejudice of our Said Lord ye King or others But ye same so Inclosed may hold to the said George Rice and his Heirs to ye enlargement of his House and Closes for ever.

F. NLW
B(ii)
Parcel 8

E : pps 121-
125

H. NLW
DynB(i)
parcel 251

And the Jurors aforesd. upon their Oath afs. do further say that ye Way showed to ye said Jurors at ye time of ye taking of this Inquisition beginning from ye old footway leading from Killsane aforesaid at ye entrance into the field called Kae Hithe Part of ye Desmesne Lands & Closes of Newton & thence by ye West Corner of Newton Park wall of ye. Outside of ye said Park cross ye Highway there into a certain ffield called Park y Llwyn and then thro' another field called Pante and thence by ye North Corner of the New Park Wall of Newton of ye Outside thereof to and thro' another ffield called Kae Cappell into ye Old ffoot way leading from Killsane afsd. to Llandilovawr afsd. all situate in ye several Parishes of Llangathen and Llandeveyson

signed by Hector Jones Esq. Sheriffe and others

1748(c) Analysis of Inquisition to re-route footpath

This detailed document provides the following information about the creation of Dinefwr Park.

- (i) Before 1748 the footway ran *adjoining to his House and Close in Newton*. Plate 1703 shows that the only unenclosed route adjoining the House was on the south side. Therefore it seems certain that the House was completely freestanding before 1748; this also would correspond with the words '*enlargement of his House*' in the Writ.
- (ii) A purpose of the diversion was *enlargement of hisCloses*. This would be the remodelling of the park discussed below.
- (iii) Cilsan is a kilometre to the west of Dinefwr on the river. The location of the field Cae Hithe is unknown. However Parc y Llwyn and Pante are known to be the western field outside the north-west park wall and the next field eastwards. Therefore without doubt the diversion route runs eastwards from Parc-Llwyn house site outside the north side of the old park wall.
- (iv) The footway had to *cross the Highway at the west corner of Newton Park wall*. This confirms the route of the road diversion of 1659, discussed above. It is interesting that even 250 years ago the footpath had to be routed separately from the highway and scheduled in detail to do so. Further confirmation of the road route is provided by James Baker's 1794 comment that "*the park and pleasure grounds of this domain for a great way adjoin the road that leads from Carmarthen to Llandeilo.*"
- (v) *thence by the north corner of the new park wall* At the 'Brown Doors' the older wall with its triangulated coping gives way to a newer coping detail to the east. In 1748 this was a new extension to the deer park, which made a north corner where it returned south towards Newton House (c.f. Brown's recommendation 3.5.4 xiii below).
- (vi) The footpath route then described is marked on the 1st edition O.S. Map (1885), from Pen-parc cottage (1885 position) south-east to the tree clump. Thence eastwards the route was unchanged, so that it is not clear whether Park-Sir-David was in Rice ownership in 1748.

MAP c.1850
NLW DynBii
Parcel 18

G.
James Baker
p89: 1794

NLW Dyn
B(i) : 289

- (vii) The description refers to a 'field called Cae Cappell' located where the new route joined 'into the old footway'. This locates Cae Cappell, a field often referred to in earlier references. For instance in 1538:-
QUIT CLAIM by Jevan ap Morgan ap John to David ap John ap Thomas of a messuag., garden, etc. in Newton near Dinevor "between the land of st John Baptist and the land called Parke y Cappell, and land called Garth y Krythor and the King's way called Heole y Coge". Dated 4 Sept 30 Hen. viii [1538]
Assuming Cae Cappell is the same as Parke y Cappell, this would locate a chapel of St John the Baptist (a very English saint) on the east side of Newton high street, called King's Way (elsewhere King's Road) at the north end of Newton.

c. 1750 Home Farm Relocated

In the mid 18th century, certainly before 1757, Home Farm was moved away from Newton House to its present location at Little Newton (Newton Farm). This established a new modernised more decorous site for agricultural activity away from the mansion. The walled kitchen garden remained south west of Newton House. Where the farmyard had been the South Courtyard was subsequently constructed.

G.
E W Jones
in The
Carmarthen
Antiquary
p.154

George Rice was extremely interested in modern agriculture and *stands out prominently at this time as a progressive farmer. According to one traveller Mr Rice brought a Berkshire man to be his farm-bailiff at Newton, and to instruct his tenants in both turnip and cabbage cultivation. His interest in turnip-culture is further illustrated by the following note: "The Mayor of Carmarthen has lately been presented with a turnip which grew on Mr Rice's estate at Newton in this county. It measures four feet in circumference and weighs 37 pounds 8 ounces. Mr Rice has a plentiful crop of these roots which he distributes to the poor neighbourhood who want them. By Mr Rice's introducing the culture of turnip we flatter ourselves at seeing very great advances in our agriculture if this laudable example is followed by other gentlemen and farmers."*

1753

NLW
DynB(i) 27

On April 7th 1753 the manors of Dynevor and Llandebye were recovered, having been sold off to recover debts in the previous century. This must have given satisfaction but would not have affected the landscape.

1756 Opportunity to make a new landscape

C. 6

The re-routing of the footpath away from Newton House, together with acquisition of Parc Harry, cleared the ground for George Rice to relandscape the eastern and southern surroundings of Newton House. An influential man, and a Whig, he would have been in touch with the modern ideas about naturalistic parkland. In 1756 he married Cecil Talbot, an heiress to whom is attributed a great love of Dinefwr Park. Frequently ambitious landscape projects are the shared inspiration of husband and wife, which is credible in this case, particularly as the first known actual work on the ground took place in late 1757.

1757 Clearance and Emparkment of Inner Park

H.
CRO Dyn
201(2)

Work on creating a landscape park had commenced by the winter of 1757, as the account book for the period shows. Work included removing 16 trees from Cae Cappel, east of Bookery Wood including some alongside 'The trench'. This trench still

Capel, east of Rookery Wood including some alongside 'The trench'. This trench still forms the boundary line between Front Park and Parc Sir David, and could well have been the outer boundary of Rice land for a long period earlier; hedgerow was also grubbed up including four oaks in the hedge. In Cae Ffynnon, 46 perches of hedge were removed and a ditch levelled; 93 trees were cross sawn and 87 trees grubbed up. Payment was made *for uprooting a Great Ash and 5 Chestnuts by the New Cowhouse* (at Little Newton).

In Middle Walk Field 47 trees were cross sawn and the roots grubbed up and 138 small trees were removed. The holes where the trees had been were filled. In Maessedd 20 trees and 98 saplings were removed. Removal of trees by cross sawing presumably is avenue removal. Small trees and saplings sounds like work on semi-abandoned land where natural regeneration was occurring. All these works were typical operations by which farmland with rows of trees was converted into sweeping parkland, where continuity of line and smoothness of profile were the ideal sought.

1764 Clumps in Park Sir David

By 1759 George Rice owned Parc Sir David and the small Park y Crochty to the north-east of Llandyfesant Church. Between 1756 and 1766, unable to purchase the fields on Pen Lan Fawr, he took out 99 year leases on them bit by bit. However the area remained fields, as shown by re-establishing a hedge in 1758.

NLW
DynB(ii)
Parcels 7 & 8
H. CRO Dyn
201(2)

By 1764 the two clumps in Park Sir David had been planted. "*Paid Thomas James for two clumps in Park Sir David of an acre and nine perches at 10d an acre being a year's rent at Michaelmas 1764*" was a disbursement from the Estate to the tenant farmer for land taken back from agriculture. An acre and nine perches is 4,960m²; this is the area of the two clumps shown in Park Sir David on the first edition O.S. map.

NLW
Dyn B(ii)
Parcel 12

1 acre=4 rods
=40 perches
=4047m²

1765(a) New Drive to Llandeilo

In 1765 "*Paid Grice as by several receipts for making a road to Llandeilo - £41.4s.2d.*" This was a very large sum of money, the same as the annual rent for nearly 1000 acres of farmland, or sufficient for over 3km of park wall. Previously the park drive to Llandeilo is believed to have run straight downhill to Llandyfeisant Church then up a steep zig-zag, before dropping gently through the bottom of Myrtle Hill Woods to Llandeilo Bridge. Before 1659 this had been the old public highway. The present drive bends along near the crest of the ridge above the part of this route west of Llandyfeisant. A southerly fork then descends the hill to join the former route above Llandyfeisant Church at the top of the steep zig-zag. The even gradients are suitable though steep for a horse drawing a carriage, which does not mind about bends. Travelling towards Newton House is also picturesque, looking down onto the church, crossing a stream, rising past rugged rocks exposed to make the road and on the last tight bend revealing a fine diagonal view of the house. The length of road above the Church is excellently engineered with a well constructed retaining wall and circular stone culvert at the stream, a type of construction achievable in the mid 18th-century. This is believed to be the road to Llandeilo referred to (c.f. paragraph 3.5.4(v) - below which discusses the upper drive to East Lodge).

NLW Dyn
B(ii) Parcel
12 quoted by
Dr Dignam
1989

Emparkment of Near Park and removal of walks there would have cut off Home Farm in its new position from the southern part of the park. However the south end of the

'trench', probably on older boundary, would now be accessible from this new drive. This therefore proved an ideal place to align a service drive. Farm carts and stock could pass to and fro along the sunk lane not too conspicuous from Newton House. Certainly on 1832 O S map there was a track on this alignment.

1765(b) Emparkment of Lower Park west of Llandyfeisant Church

The construction of this road would have enabled clearance to create sweeping parkland to be carried out in Lower Park west of Llandyfeisant Church. Former field boundaries and features surviving from vernacular agriculture would have been removed to create the flowing, though interestingly irregular, ground profiles which persist until today. The effect achieved is shown on Plates 1790(ii) and 1805.

1770 Gilpin's visit and Description

Gilpin visited Dinefwr in the summer of 1770, publishing his observations in 1782. Most of his description of *Denevawr-castle* was introspective literary criticism. However he makes a few perceptive comments of his own about the place itself. *The scenery around Dinevawr-castle is very beautiful; consisting of a rich profusion of wood and lawn. But what particularly recommends it, is the great variety of the ground. I know few places, where a painter might study the inequalities of a surface with more advantage*

The woods, which adorn these beautiful scenes about Dinevawr-castle, and which are clumped with great beauty, consist chiefly of the finest oak; some of them of large Spanish chestnuts. There are a few, and but a few, young plantations. The picturesque scenes, which this place affords, are numerous. (It is possible that Gilpin only visited the southern half of the park.)

From this description it is clear that George and Cecil Rice had by 1770 created the new area of parkland out of the pre-existing tree cover and farmland. The woods and formal restoration plantings east of Newton House had been reshaped with a perceptive eye. Interestingly though the vernacular farmland had been converted to naturalistic parkland, only a little new planting had taken place, including two clumps in Park Sir David and probably interplanting into existing woodland. There was certainly a young beech in The Rookery at the end of the century.

1773(a) Walls around the extended park

In 1773 extensive building of park walls was undertaken. The accounts for 1773 include:-

John and Edward Thomas, Masons for building park wall:-			
6th April	130 perches (from price)	654m	4.7.0
28th April	154 perches 12ft	778	5.3.0
20th May	146 perches	734	4.17.4
26 June	36 perches	181	1 .4.0
Totals	466.72 perches	2347m	£15.11.4
29th May	35 perches of Wall by Landevavson	176m	£1.0.5

G
Gilpin 1770

p62

p63

C2

H
CRO Dyn
201/10
1773
building park
wall

8 furlongs = 1
mile
1 furlong=40
poles or linear
perches
1 linear perch =
16.5ft = 5.03m

Evan Lake, James Thomas, Thos. John, John Griffith for quarrying stone of the said wall			
6th April	130 perches		3.2.2
20th May	259 perches		7.11.1
4th October	<u>223 perches</u> <u>612 perches</u>	3078m - 176 (chchyd) <u>2902m</u>	<u>6.10.0</u> <u>£17.03.3</u>

The park wall from the north corner (referred to at 1748b above) along the north and east edges of the park down to old Llandeilo bridge is some 2,300m long, the same length as that built in 1773. There is a slight inconsistency about the volume of stone quarried, which may account for the four month delay in settling the last bill with the quarrymen! The wall was built very quick if 2.3km were completed in half a year. This is 15m run per day. Much of it fell down in the early 20th century, unlike the older more substantial deer park wall.

1773(b) Llandyfeisant Churchyard

On May 29th 1773, payment was made to *John and Edward Thos' Masons for building 35 perches of Wall by Landevayson at 7d*, which is a length of 176m. The churchyard is today enclosed by about 155m length of wall, mostly crumbled away, within which are the ancient yews, probably more than 230 years old. The 1st edition O.S. map also shows an extra length of boundary enclosing the path down from the drive above.

1774 Letter about Llandefison Churchyard

The emparkment of the land to the west of Llandevayson is confirmed by Thomas Beyrron's charming letter to George Rice about the churchyard:

"Hon. Sir

Golden Grove September 23rd 1774

The Churchyard of Llandefison having been lately inclosed, your Steward applied to me in your name for it, to avoid the inconvenience of having a spot situated in the middle of your grounds in the Occupation of other persons; signifying at the same time that he apprehended you had an Intention of making some Improvements there, so as to render it a more striking object, and an addition to the scenery of the beautifully Landschape that surrounds it. Being desirous of contributing towards so desirable an end, and to accommodate you with every thing in my power, I replied that though I had had a prior application from another person, yet as you had a superior right, I was willing you should have it for 5 shillings per Ann. which was less than a moiety of what I had been offered for it. But upon farther consideration I think that even this sum is too much, as so small a spot of ground, considered in itself, exclusive of the convenience of it, can be no object to you.

Considering therefore that it must be a most pleasant thing to have unalienable land in so fine a Desmesne, and being desirous to render this circumstance as little inconvenient as possible, I shall beg your acceptance of it, during my Incumbency, for the annual consideration of one shilling, which I desire merely by way of securing the Property; and even this precaution I should have thought unnecessary, had not one of

H.
CRO Dyn
201/10

H
CRO Dyn
154/3

my Churchyards been irrecoverably lost to me, owing, I imagine, to the easing of some of my predecessors, in granting it to their Parish Clerks rent free for such a number of years as amounted to a Prescription against their Successors.

I am, Hon. Sir, Your most respectful and obedient humble servant, Thos Beyrron"

Dinefwr Park in early 1775

The references in this letter to *"making some Improvements there, so as to render it a more striking object, and an addition to the scenery of the beautiful landscape that surrounds it"*, describe concisely the whole purpose of George and Cecil Rice's work on Dinefwr Park east of Newton House. It also points up the intention of making the Church an eyecatcher, visible from the high ground north of Bank of Battle. This was on the route of the least steep approach to the Castle, believed to be where *"an avenue of trees extended from (the Mansion) to the castle which has recently been broken into clumps, in harmony with the general laying-out of the park"*. This appears to be the treatment shown on the left hand side of Barber's fine engraving of the Castle, which also shows a hedgerow still retained between the Bank of Battle and Castle Wood. This line was presumably the end of open parkland at that date.

G
Barber 1803
(p2)

Plate 1803

G
Barber 1803
(p2)
c.f. Plate
1740 with
gazebo

Barber's engraving also indicates the disappearance of the gazebo from the castle. *"It was inhabited until within these 50 years, when the combustible part of it was destroyed by fire"*. Probably partly inhabitable rather than inhabited until fire in about 1750 made use of the castle interior impracticable though it remained an incomparable element in the scenery.

Figure 4 shows the work carried out by the Rices before 1775- extensive emparkment east and south-east of Newton House, concluded by enclosure by a long park wall. This wall also surrounded Penlanfawr, held on lease, but probably still small fields. A model farm had been established at Little Newton and the mansion and outbuildings modernised. Grazed lawns swept right up to the house.

The naturalisation of the parkland east of the house would have involved removal of the drive or walk running east from the front door towards Pen y banc to Llandeilo Road. This would have been desirable, in addition to removing the enclosed garden rectangles, so that polite lawns could sweep up to the house itself. Plate 1788 illustrates a visual ideal where all driveways around the house are invisible; certainly none must extend the architectural geometry at right angles to the mansion.

G
James Baker
1794 p89

Formality was swept away to be replaced with naturalism. *"The house is neat and elegant. The other parts of the premises are in great perfection, particularly its park, which is much admired for its exquisite diversity - it is a complete rotund of woods, shrubberies, hills, dales, slopes and sweeps."*

July 1775 Lancelot Brown's advice is sought

At this moment in July or August 1775 the great Lancelot Brown already 60 years old was asked to visit to give advice on what to do next. In essence the park was already created. As Brown wrote to George Rice after his visit *"I wish my journey may prove of use to the place, which, if it should, it will be very flattering to me. Nature has been truly bountiful and art has done no harm."* (August 20th 1775)

Dorothy
Stroud

3.5 1775 - 1810 REFINEMENTS FOLLOWING MR BROWN'S VISIT IN 1775 (Figure 5)

3.5.1 Mr Brown's visit in 1775

Dorothy
Stroud

Lancelot Brown made a special journey to Newton House in August 1775, travelling out from Oakley Park in Shropshire and returning to Eywood in Herefordshire followed by Fisherwick in Staffordshire. Here he received a letter from Mr Rice to which he wrote his reply. He was paid for his advice to the Rices in February 1778.

3.5.2 Mr Brown's Directions

C1

The advice he gave is recorded by a memo which has recently been discovered in Lord Dynevor's archive. A photocopy of the original, copyright Lord Dynevor, and recently deposited in the National Library of Wales, is appended. The author of the memo is unknown but it appears to be by the land agent, probably written in May 1776 when drawings of details were received from Brown, at least one of them personally initialled.

3.5.3 Brown's advice was for a series of additional works or modifications to the landscape already created by George and Cecil Rice. This is a common role for a consultant when owners feel the need to solve certain problems and add a professional polish to their own strategic concept. A great deal of Brown's advice was adopted as explained by the following paragraphs analysing the memo and comparing it with the realised landscape.

3.5.4 The memo opens with the words:-

C1

"That Mr. Rices intentions with relation to the improvement of this place and Mr. Browns directions with regard to it may not be forgotten I shall leave them with the plan given by Mr Brown." There then follow the directions given below, each analysed:-

C1

(i) *"first the Kitchen Garden etc. to be removed to Little Newton as by Plan but the Ground not admitting so great a width as then purposed without bringing it in sight of the House. It was determined to narrow the Garden within the walls ten yards and to increase it in length."*

OS Map
1885

The Kitchen Garden was moved to Little Newton, where it remains until today. Brown's plan has not survived but his detail for the construction of the wall (undated) still exists, as shown on Plate 1775. Notable features of the construction detail are the splendid foundations, the well detailed coping and the specification of materials, for instance *"B. To show the thickness of the Garden wall next the Turnpike Road its height to be surfaced with Brick on the Garden side."* This specification incidentally confirms that the turnpike road, for which a Bill had been passed in 1763, had been assigned by 1775. The record for the order for bricks survives:

NLW
Dynevor Bii
Parcel 18

verbal from
Carmarthen
Library

NLW
Dyn A92

"CONTRACT of Samuel Mason, brickmaker, to make for the Rt. Hon. George Rice, of Newton esquire, 150,000 bricks of statute size, at the rate of 7s per 1000 bricks. Dated, 28 December 1775."

OS Map
1885

(ii) *"the slip and plantation likewise to be reduced in width."*

This records that Brown designed the plantation on the south and east sides of the walled garden, the southern edge of which is a ha-ha facing the park. The reduction of the width of the walled garden and plantation may be judged an unnecessary

adaptation, both technically in that the overshadowing effect in the Garden would be increased, and aesthetically in that the bulk of the ornamental plantation, which screens the structural wall, was reduced.

(iii) *"The pond in the farm yard to be brought nearer the Farm house and the Garden Wall to begin about the middle of the present pond."*

Presumably this was part of the work; the farmyard has since been moved northwards and its former location is a garden.

C1 (iv) *"the plantation to be continued from the Kitchen Garden by the Park Wall to Landilo a verge of about 50 or 60 feet wide."*

OS Map
1885

This shelter belt was planted but according to the 1st edition OS map it was only 20-25 feet wide. This is too narrow and may account for its subsequent disappearance. Such a shelter belt, typical of Brown's work, was important to provide privacy and wind shelter within the park, and to give those outside the pleasure of trees overhanging the park wall, too tall to see over.

C1 (v) *"The entrance from Llandilo to be changed, a Lodge built, and the present approach changed from thence to the top of the hill in Park Sir David."*

NLW
Dynevor Bii
Parcel 18

The meaning of this sentence is not completely clear due to the inclusion of the words 'from thence'. It is taken to mean that Brown was directing that Landeilo entrance be moved from Landeilo Bridge to a new entrance at the top of the hill in Park Sir David. This is where the entrance is now, clearly a more convenient route into Llandeilo town. A new length of drive would then have been created joining the former drive near Burgoyne's view. Two drawings signed by Brown show a proposed Gothick Lodge and entrance, Plates 1776 a and b. The Gothick Lodge was not built. However the curved entrance area which exists today where the drive leaves the Llandeilo road is exactly the same shape as the plan shows. Instead of the Gatehouse there are railings allowing a wide view into the park from outside.

C1 (vi) *"A wall to be continued from Landilo Gate behind the Supervisors House to Landilo Bridge, a Gate made there."*

This work was probably carried out, but has been later adapted, first when Llandeilo Bridge was realigned in the 19th century and again when a new brick Lodge was built in about 1900.

(vii) *"Landevyson Meadows thrown together to make a third large meadow which would extend to the wall adjoining the Bridge."*

This proposal was carried out, though later. Plate 1790 (ii) shows a hedge still subdividing the meadow. Plate 1794 shows the undivided meadow united with parkland in the Lower Park. According to the 1st edition OS map the stream and water flash, not shown on these Plates, were part of the scheme. Furthermore the Turner pencil drawing from life, Plate 1798 (iii) shows the pool quite clearly, confirming that it was in fact present in the 18th century.

(viii) *"The Castle Field to be thrown in to Park the bottom between that and Cae Lland to be drained the wood brought into Clumps and the water carried in a curved stone drain to the river, the Mill Pond Head destroyed."*

Sandby's drawing, Plate 1777, suggests that this proposal was carried out, as smooth lawns flow continuously from the viewpoint in The Rookery to the Castle. Field

observation suggests that Bog Wood was converted into three clumps. The aesthetic intention is expressed clearly by Paul Sandby on Plate 1777 showing smooth sweeping parkland continuous from Rookery Wood across the valley and rising in delicate curves up to the old Castle. Subsequently Bog Wood has been reinstated and any stream culvert opened up. There is no sign that the Mill Pond Head was destroyed.

(ix) *"A gravel Path to be continued to the Castle."*

This may be the steep uphill path to the west of Coed Mynachdy, which according to the 1st Edn OS map was laid out to a sweet curve (now reinstated to an anachronistic straight line).

(x) *"...the Lawn near the Cold Bath to be inclosed with a Pale the Banks of the river sloped on each side and the inclosure allotted for pleasure ground."*

It is not known whether this proposal was carried out, but there is now no sign of a pleasure ground near the Cold Bath, nor is any shown on the 1885 OS map.

(xi) *"The present Keitchn Garden to be destroyed divided from Cae Land by a sunk fence, from the Grove by a rail, and allotted for pleasure ground."*

The Kitchen Garden wall was in fact retained, and pleasure ground (garden) created inside the former kitchen garden which had been moved to Little Newton. Between the Walled Garden and southernmost courtyard a Swiss chalet was built in later as part of the pleasure ground.

(xii) *"Barn etc. removed to Little Newton."*

All agricultural activities appear to have been removed to Little Newton as recommended.

(xiii) *"The wall between the House and Carmarthen Gate to be removed the Park to be fenced with hurdles which were to have been placed near to a large oak on the Carmarthen road where a new entrance and a Lodge were intended."*

The wall between the House and Carmarthen Gate (to the north) had been removed by the time Plate 1790 (i) was painted, as confirmed by Plate 1795. These two plates suggest that the deer park was carried all round the House in a continuous flowing lawn. However Plates 1815 and 1822, while indicating deer on the east side of the House, show a hurdle like fence running north eastwards from the corner of the House towards Little Newton. Such a low fence would control the movement of sheep or cattle, but allow deer to jump over it. Plate 1822, less crude than Plate 1815, clearly distinguishes a lower fence north eastwards from a tall deer fence on the south side of the House. This may be the truest representation of the way the park round the House was subdivided. Plate 1795 is crudely enough drawn to suggest a true representation of fencing at the south end of the trench; this does not seem to be a deer proof fence. Therefore the suggestion that the deer park was carried all round the House as far as the Trench must remain tentative.

This passage of the directions suggests that at this date Carmarthen road was still the road just outside the north side of the park wall, though the subsequent road past King's Lodge may have been under construction. It is interesting that a new entrance and a Lodge were intended, confirming a relocation of the north drive to the 'Brown. doors', whence it continued north to the A40 route shown on the 1811 OS survey.

(xiv) "*.. a turf path from the Castle by the edge of the wood across the Lawn to a single tree with a bench round it, and from thence to the large ash with a white bench.*"

This route is not certain but appears to follow a line which passes east of the Bank of Battle, a route with views across to Llandyfeisant Church and Llandeilo Bridge.

C1

(xv) "*A room to have been built in the circular tower of the Castle.*"

This proposal to replace the Castle gazebo, which had been burnt down in about 1750, was not carried out; no subsequent sketches showed a gazebo.

3.5.5 Path

C2

A second eighteenth century document has recently been discovered in Lord Dynevor's archive. This is entitled *Path* and is in a different hand from the memo of Brown's directions. It is not signed. A photocopy of the original, copyright Lord Dynevor, and recently deposited in the National Library of Wales, is appended.

The document describes the route of a circular anti-clockwise path westwards from Newton House, round to the Castle and back from the south. An alternative more direct return route from the Castle is described briefly. The description of the route of the path includes a few instructions for tree management.

3.5.6 It will be sensible to assess, by expert comparison with known texts, whether this document could have been written by the Baroness, Cecil Rice. The sprawling hand and cryptic text must reveal information about the author to an expert.

3.5.7 The document *Path* reads as follows. To make comprehension easier some punctuation has been added and the instructions on tree management placed in brackets.

Path

From House to Rookery: through young plantation along in sloping wood rather high; by a young Beech; down across old quarry head; so to pleasure ground; on round above it and by Slope in Wood [with view] across River; and across Mill Pond Head; and along wood to take the reach of the rivers; and up; and back to Lower Benches and along to upper Benches (and clean underneath and leave furnished above) and along by wood to Castle; pass underneath; the small path up, main path on towards Cottage; and so up (clean upon the right going up plant full upon the left)

Back towards Cottage: main path below it branching path by rails to benches on and through wood to the bottom by bench and across lawn.

Wood path to take down before you reach the Castle under Castle walls and so in wood to old pool head.

(Break into left hand wood to fall (fell) the forked ash clean to show Castle walls towards meadow and NW end) blot this five to six feet wide.

Plant above ash grove as far as Crab Tree.

- 3.5.8 The route described corresponds to paths shown on the 1885 and 1906 OS maps, as shown on Figure 11. These paths are mostly still perceptible on the ground. They are illustrated and described below on Figures V4 -V8
- 3.5.9 Particular correlations between the text and on site observations are as follows:-
- (i) Rookery: The wood along the ridge north of the House is still called The Rookery.
- (ii) *"through young plantation in sloping wood rather high:*
The Rookery north west of the House is mainly trees 225-250 years old; it is a sloping wood; the southern of two paths rises rather high but is not on the crest.
- (iii) *"a young beech":* a single old beech still stands in a position where there is a fine view of the Castle.
- iv) *"across Mill Pond Head and up and back and along by wood to Castle; pass underneath on small path:"*
C item 7 This is an apt description of the path rising from the mill pond to the Castle, known as 'Brown's Walk' according to Lord Dynevor.
- (v) *"on and through wood to the bottom by bench and across lawn:"* the latter part of the text is harder to identify on the ground with certainty. However Lord Dynevor's identification of the path eastwards from the Castle along the crest of the south escarpment, still identifiable on the ground, as 'Precipice Walk' suggests a picturesque origin. The return from the east end of this walk *across lawn* corresponds with the clumped walk identified by Barber in 1803 (see early 1775 above); this is indeed the least arduous walk between House and Castle.
C item 7
- 3.5.10 The instructions about tree management relate to views. *'Clean underneath and leave furnished above'* is an instruction to allow outward views between tree trunks while leaving the canopy intact. *'Plant full'* signifies solid planting to prevent outward views. *'Clean to show Castle walls towards meadow and N-W end'* is the clearance to produce the effect illustrated by Sandby on Plate 1777.
- Other Brownian Works
- 3.5.11 George Rice died in 1779, only four years after Brown's visit. Cecil Rice's father, Earl Talbot, was created 1st Baron Dynevor in 1780, to descend through the female line so that, on his death in 1782, Cecil Rice became the second Baroness Dynevor. George and Cecil's son George Talbot Rice was 14 years old when his father died and lived until 1852. By this time the Brownian landscape east and south of Newton House was reaching a splendid maturity.
- 3.5.12 The northern drive was realigned to pass through the gates known as Brown Gate and continue northwards outside the park through Pante, which at that time was not wooded. The drive then took an S-bend through Kings Lodge Wood to descend to the Swiss style King's Lodge. The old Carmarthen road gradually fell into disuse, though its eastern end was realigned in a curve to join the turnpike road at Newton Farm. However by 1811 it was no longer significant enough to be shown on the OS surveyor's field map. It is now a farm track.
C item 8(i)

- 3.5.13 There are other picturesque walks in the deer park, as well as that scheduled by the *Path* text. Most striking is the upper Rookery wood path to the hilltop, where there is a magnificent sudden view westwards. There are also several paths in the west corner of the park, to enjoy and the streams, including the alkaline formations below the recessed spring..
- 3.5.14 Clumps of Scots Pine survive on the hilltops of The Rookery and Castle Wood.
- 3.5.15 Pen Lanfawr was emparked late in the 18th century by removing the pattern of small fields, formerly in varied ownerships. The two hilltops were crowned with oval clumps which now, in their old age, are eyecatchers in the scenery above Llandeilo from east and south. They were already striking on Plate 1812. In 1790 they were still recently planted as shown by Plate 1790(iii) and confirmed by the circle top left on Turner's sketch, Plate 1798(a).
- 3.5.16 Thus by the addition of the works shown on Figure 5, the Brownian landscape of Dinefwr Park was completed following advice from Lancelot Brown himself. This landscape was created by the time of Cecil Baroness Dynevor's death in 1793. Its character and significance is described below. It is the same landscape which is shown in detail on the 1st edition OS Map of 1885.
- 3.5.17 By 1811 a new length of turnpike road had been built from Llandeilo towards Carmarthen, on the alignment of the modern A40 (until its recent diversion). The Carmarthen-Llandeilo-Llandovery turnpike was approved by an Act dated 1763, which was specifically for the improvement of roads already pre-existing. Thus the date of construction of the new length N-W from Home Farm is unclear. In 1765 the Rices '*paid Thomas James and Thomas Rowlands towards altering the Turnpike Road £2.2s.0d*'. This might have been to make the curved junction into the Turnpike at Home Farm, but could equally have been for minor improvement works.
- O S 1811
Surveyor's
drawing.
- Jenny
Gammon,
Carmarthen
Ref Lib.
NLW
DynB(ii)
Parcel 12
- G
James Baker
p 89
- The construction of Turnpike Roads was piecemeal after designation of an existing road for improvement. Therefore the new length north-westwards from Home Farm is likely to have occurred later. Indeed in 1794 James Baker wrote:- '*The park and pleasure grounds of this domain (Dynevor Castle) for a great way adjoin the road that leads from Carmarthen to Llandilo.*' This implies that the road still passed along both the north and east sides of the Park at that date. It must be assumed that the sweeping line of north drive down to King's Lodge is associated with the new curving main road alignment as it has no useful other function than reaching this road conveniently.
- 3.5.18 The 1811 O.S. Surveyor's Map shows the Park at its largest extent. There is much detail on the map including remnants of the earlier avenues and the complete system of drives at that date. The indications of planting are the same as those on the 1885 1st edition O.S. Map. Parkland extended to the River Tywi in the S-E and was within its present boundaries. Kings Wood existed.
- 1811 O S

3.6 1810 - MODERN TIMES

- 3.6.1 Thereafter the design of Dinefwr Park has not received substantial alteration. It is still a late eighteenth century park enriched by earlier landscapes which it has incorporated. Such changes as have occurred have been localised.

Re-cladding the Mansion

- 3.6.2 George Rice Trevor, 4th Baron Dynevor, decided to recase the old house in new cladding, designed by the architect Richard Kyrke Penson, County Surveyor for Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire. It was started in 1856 and completed in early 1859. *'Penson's design for the house retained the basic shape of the old building but added a portico to the front, a conservatory at the back and a Gothic feel to the structure as a whole'.*

Carmarthen
Antiquary
1994, p 114

- 3.6.3 *'In addition to the basic cubic structure of the house, the accounts make frequent mention of the 'new passage' which connected the house with the offices or servants' quarters. Thus the gap between the mansion and the outbuildings disappeared. The project also included the forecourt and side and west gardens which survive today separated from parkland by a ha-ha.*

ibid p 115

- 3.6.4 At the same time the Mill Pond was drained, cleared out and rewalled. This work took place on the same site as previously confirming that the mill pond had been in its present location in the previous century.

ibid pps 118,
120

- 3.6.5 Between 1853 and 1872, ornamental evergreen trees were added to the Park, sited with careful respect for the design. A small arboretum was created at Cae Genvie north of The Rookery. Ornamental evergreens were planted around the Walled Flower Garden. Wellingtonias were introduced one or two north of the mansion and with striking success along Bog Wood, a moist sheltered habitat similar to their native Californian cloud swept valleys. A few slightly anachronistic evergreens were planted elsewhere including 50 spruce in Castle Wood.

H. docs
© Lord
Dynevor

- 3.6.6 In 1863 50 oaks were planted.

- 3.6.7 The paths through The Rookery and on down to the mill pond then up to the Castle were still in use.

- 3.6.8 After 1894 a number of shooting coverts were established. They have now disappeared, but leaving stands of box and rhododendron. Around the beginning of the 20th century there were shoots at King's Lodge and Castle Woods.

C. no.9

- 3.6.9 Between 1880 and 1911, Arthur 6th Lord Dynevor carried out several modifications to park buildings. The old King's Lodge *"a Swiss house built of logs and wood with overhanging roof"* was replaced by the present house. East Lodge, South Lodge, the two Penparc Cottages on a new site, farm cottages, and Keepers Lodge were built in red brick.

C no 8

- 3.6.10 Wooden fences were replaced by Victorian metal park rail fencing. A tennis court was built N-W of the mansion, now gone.

The Heronry was fenced off from the old river, which had previously formed the deer park boundary.

- 3.6.11 The Billiard Room and Study extension were constructed, which has increased the mass of the house seen from the S-E. The eighteenth century design intention; shown on the Plates, was that all the outbuildings should be screened behind shrubbery.
- 3.6.12 Fire precautions were increased by building fire water tanks on the hill top in The Rookery.
- 3.6.13 In 1907, the eastern tip of Pen Lan Fawr was given to Llandielo as a public park, called Penlan Park. A desirable action, this has resulted in some very anachronistic planting completely at odds with the adjacent parkland.
- map from deeds
- 3.6.14 In the 1930's considerable lengths of the 1760's park wall collapsed, and is not now in existence.
- 3.6.15 In 1938 the '*new By-Pass at White Gate for motor cars*' was constructed; though sensible this results in the in carriageway dropping away from the beautifully designed burst view of the Mansion on the bend of the original drive (c.f. Figure 11).
- 3.6.16 In Park Sir David replanting has occurred in a rather disjointed manner during the 20th century as scheduled on Figure 13. The original clumps have been removed. This part of the park was intensively farmed. As a result this area of Dinefwr Park has lost its integrity.
- 3.6.17 The north east corner of the park, Cae William, has been made into a playing field. It is now 'uglified' in the grossest manner regardless of its location in lovely parkland.
- 3.6.18 Since the National Trust have acquired Dinefwr Park, a number of angular or straight gravel paths with upstanding crooked timber edging, board walks, obtrusive in places, an ill-placed fence in front of the Mansion (as recommended by the author of this paper!) and so on have caused local degradation of quality, in detail only but subtracting from the historic simple elegance of Dinefwr Park.
- 3.6.19 During the past 200 years, Dinefwr Park has miraculously, or more accurately through the love and care of the Dynevors, survived as a whole. A few blemishes as listed above have occurred, most serious in lowering the quality of the eastern part of the park. However these are but details in the overall survival of Dinefwr Park, ready now for restoration to its 19th century perfection.

4. THE ELEMENTS OF DINEFWR PARK

- 4.1 Figure 14 shows and names the distinct landscape compartments of Dinefwr Park. Though each part has its own characteristics, Parc Dinefwr is remarkable for its cohesive unity as a whole.
- 4.2 The Second Edition OS Map (1:2500) of 1906 shows the park substantially as it was created by 1810 and as it has survived to a large extent, though now somewhat degraded.
- 4.3 Between 1810 and 1905, Keeper's Lodge, South Lodge and East Lodge were added, together with two small strips of woodland along the north of The Rookery. Newton House was remodelled and courtyards added around the house in the mid 19th century. Coniferous trees were planted on Cae Genvie, in Bog Wood and in the Gardens.
- 4.4 Dinefwr Park was created generally from west to east. Thus a journey from the main entrance at East Lodge to Newton House and then onwards to The Heronry and Dinefwr Castle is a journey backwards through time into every increasing antiquity. The parts however were brought together in the eighteenth century into a single composition.
- 4.5 The recently discovered Roman fort was never part of the park and is located in the newer part of the park. It is an ancient example of the colonial history which was repeated in the Middle Ages.
- 4.6 Overleaf is a schedule of the periods exemplified by each landscape compartment.

TABLE 4: Schedule of periods exemplified by each landscape compartment

LANDSCAPE COMPARTMENT		ANCIENT FEATURES	17th CENTURY FRAGMENTS	1745-1775	POST BROWN 1775-1810	19th CENTURY ADDITIONS
DEER PARK	The Heronry	○	○		○	
	Far Deer Park	○	○			
	Fern Hill/The Rookery		○	○	○	
	Near Deer Park/Cae Lan	○	○			
	The Grove		○	○		
	Mill Pond/Bog Wood		○		○	○
NEWTON HOUSE AND GARDENS			○	○		○
CASTLE HILL	Castle Woods	○		○	○	
	Castle Field	○			○	
	Coed Mynachdy		○	○		
NEAR PARK	Cae Genvie		○			○
	Cow Park			○		
	East Rookery		○	○	○	
	Front Park/House Copse		○	○		
LITTLE NEWTON	Farmyards			○		○
	Walled Garden & Shelter Belt				○	
LOWER PARK	White Gate/Lover's Walk Woods			○	○	
	Western compartments			○		○
	Llandyfeisant Field			○		
	Churchyard	○		○		
	Llandyfeisant Meadow	○			○	
OUTER PARK	Brick Field			○		
	Cae William					
	Parc Sir David			○		
	Pen Lan fawr/y Crochty				○	
	Myrtle Hill Wood	○		○		
	Penlan Park					
BEYOND THE PARK	Castle Meadows	○				
	Pante/King's Lodge Wood			○	○	
	Parc y Llwyn/Home Fields			○		

5. STRUCTURES IN THE LANDSCAPE

- 5.1 Buildings and other structures are a very important part of many designed landscapes. In Dinefwr Park landform, woodland open spaces and views are generally more significant than structures, with the exception of Dinefwr Castle. This report does not consider buildings in themselves, only as they contribute to the landscape.

5.2 Roman Fort

The recently identified Roman Fort in Park Sir David was never part of the park. If it is decided to excavate, it will be important to do so in a manner compatible with its parkland setting. The composition of clumps and flowing open space are important to the park as a whole. The alignment of security fences as well as the desirability of retaining a clump close to the fort may need to guide where to excavate. It is surprising that the Fort appears to be remarkably intact, though it would have been likely to have left humps and bumps on the land surface. This suggests that the hillcrest may have been shaped in the 18th century by adding fill over the remains to create a sweet flowing line. Before excavation the surface profile should be precisely surveyed and, during excavation, the nature of overburden analysed to determine its post-Roman history.

5.3 Dinefwr Castle

The medieval Dinefwr Castle located on the southern peak of the Park is the most important building in Dinefwr Park. It is the focus of views from many places throughout the Park. It is visible from the drives entering the Park by both East Lodge, nowadays the main entrance, and South Lodge by Llandeilo Bridge; Dinefwr Castle is also widely visible from outside the Park to east, south and west. Numerous historic paintings and prints of Dinefwr are in fact from viewpoints in the public realm looking inwards towards the Castle in its parkland setting above the horizontal plane of the Tywi river meadows, for example Plates 1705, 1740, 1786, 1798ii-v, 1803ii. Thus, unusually, Dinefwr Park is given a powerful external presence; it is part of the long landscape of the Tywi valley as well as a designed landscape in its own locality. The bold beech clumps on Pen Lan fawr, a counterpoint to the Castle on its wooded hilltop, further emphasis this external presence of Dinefwr Park.

In the eighteenth century Landowners frequently built a mock castle to symbolise their ancient lineage, whether real or not. Castle Hill in Devon or Wimpole in Cambridgeshire are typical such examples. Opposite the fine Restoration House at Coleshill, a mere flimsy wall with false windows was built as a north elevation to Strattenborough Castle Farm. Dinefwr Castle is real, a splendid solid ancient castle with a beautiful craggy profile. Vanbrugh would have warmly approved, for the Castle fulfils all his arguments in favour of keeping an old ruined building in a landscape; *"There is perhaps no one thing, which the most Polite part of Mankind have more universally agreed in; than the Vallue they have ever set upon the Remains of distant Times Nor amongst the Severall kinds of those Antiquitys, are there any so much regarded, as those of Buildings; Some for their Magnificence, or Curious Workmanship; And others; as they move more lively and pleasing Reflections (than History without their Aid can do) On the Persons who have Inhabited them; On the Remarkable things which have been transacted in them, Or the extraordinary*

Occasions of Erecting them.' (from a letter by Vanbrugh to the Duchess of Marlborough 11.6.1709, giving reasons to preserve part of the old Woodstock manor).

Dinefwr Castle symbolises the special Welsh significance of Dinefwr Park. It is a genuine Welsh castle. It is surrounded with thirteenth century mythology about earlier noble Welsh history. It was a centre for the great Welsh poetic tradition.

5.4 **Llandyfeisant Church Churchyard (c.f. Figure S1)**

The little medieval church at Llandyfeisant, subsequently rebuilt, is also towards the south of the Park. It is an eyecatcher only locally visible. It is more significant for its aura of age and its fragmentary evocation of the two villages Welsh and English situated here in medieval times. Beside the church are three ruined houses, two as small as ancient cottages, and the ancient yew trees. The whole group was recomposed in 1773 as a picturesque 'ancient' scene, enclosed by a new wall, so that it is both a real old feature and a perceived part of the 18th century park.

5.5 **Newton House**

Newton House is a four square block, later turretted, situated plumb at the pivotal point of the Park. It is very hard to find a significant location beyond the central plateau of Dinefwr Park from which Newton House can be seen. Thus it is that the House is first seen as a sudden view from the White Gate on the drive, and even more dramatically coming over the ridge from the north (now obscured by trees). The exact location of the House may have been determined by the still incomplete land ownership in 1660. When first built and in the eighteenth century Newton House was pale in tone, possibly limewash. This would have been much less forbidding than the grey stone of the mid-19th century added skin, and more sympathetic with the elegance of 18th century park composition; perhaps a lime wash over the grey granite should be considered..

5.6 **Newton House Outbuildings**

The two courtyards south of Newton House are attractive open air spaces. However it was always intended that they should lie unseen within dense enfolding planting all around, so that Newton House stood in the flowing landscape in splendid isolation. The only exception appears to have been the north elevation of the north courtyard which formed a wall to the space immediately west of the Mansion. The dairy (/) also peeps through the trees of The Grove in an enticing way. The pigeon house was a late addition to the outbuildings.

5.7 **Home Farm, Little Newton**

This group of buildings, increased in number over the years since the farm was moved to Little Newton in about 1750, is a very important part of the eighteenth century Park. It was enveloped in a local shelter belt of trees, on L. Brown's advice, so that it is not intended as an eyecatcher. However the shelterbelt is placed well away from the buildings giving them a spacious local domestic setting. Agriculture was a subject of great interest to George Rice who '*stands out prominently at this time*' (mid 18th century) *as a progressive farmer*', capable of presenting to the Mayor of Carmarthen a turnip grown at Newton which '*measures four feet in circumference and weighs 37 pounds 8 ounces*'. Therefore the farm buildings and the fields to the immediate north of Dinefwr Park itself, are a significant though screened element in the eighteenth century landscape concept.

5.8 Cold Bath

This structure marked on the 1811 and 1832 O S maps, has gone. It appears to have been an important part of the leisure facilities in the Park, in particular due to the pure alkaline water emerging from the spring to the west of Fern Hill. Cold dipping was a popular eighteenth century pursuit. The spring is also part of the poetic aura of Dinefwr Park, itself of special significance to the place. Describing in 1782 his visit in 1770, Gilpin quoted Spencer's Fairie Queene:

*'And if you ever happen that same way
To travel, go to see that dreadful place:
It is a hideous, hollow, cave-like bay
Under a rock, that lies a little space
From the swift Barry, tumbling down a pace,
E'mongst the woody hills of Dinevawr.
But dare thou not, I charge, in any case
To enter into that same baleful bower,
For fear the cruel fiends should thee unawares devour'*

(Book III Canto 3)

5.9 Small Victorian Lodges

East Lodge, Pen Parc Cottage, South Lodge and Keeper's Lodge (now Mynachdy House?), the latter three of a harsh red brick, are park buildings which hardly contribute to perception of the landscape.

5.10 Little Bridges (c.f. Figure S2)

The Park contains three little stone bridges, only visible locally but each charming. Two carry footpaths over the parish boundary stream in The Heronry. Their significance is reduced by the heaps of fallen timber left lying across this little ravine. The bridges, seen in the context of a clear ravine, are surely meant to evoke in extreme miniature the sublimity of Alpine roadways. The third special bridge is the stone culvert above Llandyfeisant Church. This appears to be an example of well-made eighteenth century road engineering, and, though not easy to view, is enjoyable.

5.11 Water Management

(i) Mill

There has been at least one mill at Dinefwr since the Middle Ages; its location of this mill is uncertain but it is believed to be at the outflow of the valley descending from the Pigeon House through Bog Wood.

(ii) Ponds

The large pond at the foot of this valley was emptied and repaired, without being moved, in the mid 19th century. Upstream of this pond is another derelict dam indicating one or more ponds in Bog Wood in earlier times. A series of ponds is typical of older millponds in steep valleys, enabling a substantial volume of water to be retained without a large dam structure. At the head of this stream there are two or three ponds, almost certainly derived from ponds serving Newton village.

(iii) Pond at the N-W corner of the Park

The pond at the N-W corner of the Park was retained by a dam of 17th or early 18th century appearance. The dam carried a park drive after the road diversion of 1659.

(iv) Wells

The distribution of wells needs further study. There is a deep well by the dam at the N-W park corner for Parc Llwyn cottage. A well was constructed in Dinefwr Castle. There must be a fresh water well in the field east of the Pigeon House, presumably for Newton village, as the field is called Cae Ffynnon. Caer Ffynnon a former field on Pen Lan Fawr implies another well. There was a well at the head of the valley above Llandyfeisant Church, a useful location for the Roman fort.

(v) River Meadows

The management of the river meadows has not been studied. Nowadays the slack in Llandyfeisant Meadow hold water all the year. It is shown on Turner's pencil sketch of 1798, and is an eyecatcher from the top drive.

(vi) Water for Newton House

Water is supplied to Newton House from a 19th century Pumping House below Bog Wood up to a Reservoir in the Rookery. It was then carried by gravity to Newton House. In the early 20th century a large lagoon was built on the hilltop above The Rookery, to provide a reserve of water against possible fire.

(vii) The Ice House

The Ice House north of Newton House, was supplied with ice collected from the old river ponds north west of Dinefwr Castle. The ice was carried up the track below Castle Field and up past Newton House.

5.12 Park Walls (c.f. Figure S2)

A hundred years ago Dinefwr Park contained some four kilometres of tall park wall. The wall round the present deer park is the most significant surviving portion.

(i) Deer Park Wall

The oldest wall, with triangular coping stones, can be seen in the north west corner of the park and again in some lengths of the Flower Garden wall. Though the oldest wall, this is the best preserved, though rebuilt along several lengths. The Flower Garden was the Kitchen Garden until 1776 and so is enclosed by an old wall.

(ii) Park Wall Brown Door to Llandeilo

A short length of wall up to the old Pen Parc cottage was newly built in 1748. The rest of the wall to Llandeilo was built very rapidly in 1773 and largely fell down in the 1930s. Beside Llandeilo town it remains as a tall retaining wall, something of an obligation for the future. The rest of this park wall is so degraded as to have little significance now.

(iii) Walled Garden at Little Newton

This is in poor condition and the central cross walls have been removed. However, it is important as it was built on the direction of Lancelot Brown.



S1a above left:

Ancient yew and old cottage at the top of the churchyard.

S1b above right:

Gate from above in wall constructed in 1773.

S1c left:

The Castle seen from the westward path; this view could be revealed from the west door.



S1d left:

Llandyfeisant Church which is now without bells and becoming delapidated.

S1d: copyright Lord Dynevor

Parc Dinefwr
LLANDYFEISANT
CHURCHYARD
FIGURE S1



S2a
Garden wall with triangular coping, typical of the 17th century deer park walls.



S2b
The vertical junction between the wall which was new in 1748, left, and the long wall built in 1773, right.



S2c and S2d
The Brown gates in the north park wall now almost derelict; these are probably mid 19th century including the piers.



S2e
One of the two little footbridges over the stream in the well watered Heronry on the parish boundary; this miniature "Alpine" scene is degraded by the fallen timber across the stream.



S2f
The fine mid 18th century culvert below south drive above Llandyfeisant Church.

Parc Dinefwr
WALLS AND BRIDGES
FIGURE S2

6. TREES AND SPACE

Reference

6 Two Types Of Spatial Composition

- 6.1 The spatial distribution of trees in Dinefwr Park is significant historically and aesthetically. This is additional to their special value as individuals, revealed by Treework's recent report. Woodland occupies the Park in two distinct ways clearly demonstrated by aerial photography.
- 6.2 Aerofilms Plate 1971 shows the western part of the Park, where open space is cut out of enveloping woodland. Open ground is almost completely enclosed by woods as the 1906 O.S. map shows. If the site were level ground there would be no outward views. However the complex topography shown on Figure 6 provides views from high ground or outward facing slopes.
- 6.3 Aerofilms Plates 1962(i) and (ii) show the central and eastern parts of the Park, where open space flows across rolling landforms towards distant hilly scenery, accented and framed by bold planted clumps of trees.
- 6.4 Newton House (Dynevov Castle on early O.S. Maps) is located at the pivot between these two contrasting types of spatial composition. In contrast *'the ancient and princely palace of Dinefwr rises out of a dark wood, which harmonizes with the gloomy grandeur of the dilapidated towers'*. (c.f. Plate 1787)
- 6.5 The two types of woodland embrace one another. Myrtle Hill Wood, extending westwards from Llandeilo Bridge along the southern escarpment of Pen Lan Fawr, is an easterly outlier of the enclosing Castle Hill woods. The Rookery, along the ridge north of the mansion, and The Grove to the west have been planted and replanted, clumped and reclustered, over the centuries; their silhouettes echo those of the free standing clumps.
- #### Old Woodland Surrounding Dinefwr Castle
- 6.6 Already in 1194 Giraldus Cambrensis wrote of the recently built Dinefwr Castle: *"it is well protected by its site and surrounded by woods"*. This gives some support to Malkin's opinion that the site was chosen *"with a view to beauty and magnificence as well as security"*. The well wooded setting of Dinefwr Castle has continued to this day and is characteristic of every historic picture of the castle, as exemplified by Plates 1705, 1744, 1786, 1790, 1794, 1798b-e, 1803, 1840 and 1950 et. al, as well as Aerofilms Plate 1971. Castle Woods clothe the whole outer side of the hill on which the Castle stands and much land to the north of the Castle. Since, underwood was the main source of energy for heating and cooking in the middle ages, historically the woods would have looked tidier than nowadays.
- 6.7 At some historic periods woodland swamped the Castle. It is hardly visible above the top of the tree canopy on Plate 1957, when mature elm trees covered the escarpment before elm disease. In 1803 soon after the park was completed, Barber wrote: *"We often regretted that the picturesque ruin of the castle was excluded from our view by the lofty trees that surround it"*, and in 1797 Mandet de Penhonet that: *"The Ruins are so surrounded with wood, that there is no getting a good view of them at a distance, and*

G
Malkin 1804
p571

B p208

G
1804 Malkin
p571

G

G

when one is near the glance of the country is lost." Such over boskiness near the Castle clearly reduces an important part of the significance of Dinefwr Park. The Castle should be visible silhouetted against the sky from every direction.

- C2 6.8 The late eighteenth century document *Path* includes an instruction to clear a view of the castle from the N-W, a vital view angle from within the Park. This appears to have been carried out before Sandby made his view Plate 1777.

Picturesque Views

- G Barber 1803 6.9 Barber explained the obscuring of views of the Castle: *"the laudable jealousy with which Lord Dinwaur preserves the woody embellishments of his park appeared to us as extending too far in this instance; for were a few openings introduced a fine effect might be produced, and a picturesque contrast obtained to the numerous woody swells that abound in this beautiful domain"*.

A delicate approach to the creation of picturesque views in the western part of Dinefwr Park has been central to the quality of the design as demonstrated in Section 7 below. The sustained significance of the park as a work of art will depend upon judgments about the correct balance between tree management and picturesque scenery.

Ancient Woodland Around Clearings

- G. Malkin 1804 p573-574 6.10 Malkin in 1804 would have liked a somewhat more brutal approach to old woodland: *"Lord Dinevour, indeed carries the preservation of his woods almost to a fault; but there is no reason for fearing lest his fault should have many imitators. There is a great deal of old timber, which might be cut down without at all detracting from the sylvan character of the scene; and the young plantations which are thriving fast, would more than supply the loss. The storms every year split or root up many, which injure others in their fall, and are in themselves of less value, than if they were regularly felled; but his Lordship cannot be prevailed with to anticipate the stroke of the elements. This veneration seems to be hereditary; for the late Lady Dinevour preserved many large trees, by encircling their trunks with strong hoops"* The late Lady Dinevour was Cecil 2nd Baroness Dynevor and probably the primary creator of today's Dinefwr Park.

- Treework Survey p15 6.11 This conservative attitude to old trees, which had a few imitators in Great Britain but almost none in continental Europe or later in North America, has brought about one of the glories of Dinefwr Park. It is parkland rich in ancient trees. The third Lord Dynevor and his mother, who are referred to above, had an attitude in 1800 which is echoed at the beginning of the 21st century in Treework's recent tree survey. Oliver Rackham is quoted *"10,000 oaks of 100 years old are not a substitute for one 500 year old oak."* However in order to have one 500 year old tree in 400 years, many 100 year old trees are needed now. Today's aesthetic perception enjoys what the Dynevors, and Gainsborough (see picture T1b), enjoyed two hundred years ago. This attitude of mind is a central part of the design significance of Dinefwr Park.

- 6.12 The enfolding woodlands around the western part of Dinefwr Park are full of ancient trees mostly oaks as revealed by Treeworks tree survey. The woods themselves are an ancient organism, a mediaeval or older ornament to the western end of Dinefwr Park significant as a work of human endeavour as well as for its ecological value. As such

perception of its character has been, and should continue to be, part of its value.

- 6.13 The shapes of the spaces cut out of the woodland reveal some of the older history of the Park(c.f. Figure 8). The medieval road route has been identified by Cambria Archaeology defined by old oak trees in the N-W corner of the deer park. South of this road is a roughly rectangular old agricultural space about 3 hectares in size. This is one Welsh acre and could be a plot of land allocated in 1298 to an English burgess. To the south-west of this is a double open space subdivided by a steep bank with a deep cut track down the centre; the size of this double space is again about 3 hectares.

- 6.14 The texture of the ground in the west part of the Park is rough - ant hills, bracken, irregularities, damp patches, fallen branches all contribute to picturesqueness. The south facing deer park on Cae Lan opposite the Castle is made venerable by vast numbers of ant hills.

Restoration Planting

- 6.15 The geometric pattern of the Restoration landscape, made when the mansion was rebuilt after 1660 has been obscured by the later naturalistic designed landscape. However several remnants of avenue planting remain, enough to enable the elements which still existed in 1885 to be restored (c.f. Figure 9). They have little effect on the spatial character of Dinefwr Park but were retained after 1750 as a sub-theme.

- 6.16 Along the inside of the north west park wall there was an oak avenue. This is shown on the 1906 O.S. Map. A single old common lime towards the east end of this avenue survives, suggesting the possibility of alternate oak and lime outside the deer park which probably ended in the late 17th century at the Brown Doors. Other surviving trees are oak.

- 6.17 When the public road was diverted north of the Park wall after 1660, a new drive was built to join it at Penparc Cottage (1906 position). An alternating oak and lime avenue appears to have been planted, on both sides of the drive according to the 1906 O.S. Map. A few trees still survive, planted 12m apart.

- 6.18 A Spanish Chestnut avenue, perhaps a single line, runs south from the east side of the Mansion. A few veteran chestnuts survive on the old line. When first planted the avenue appears to have continued right across Cae Ffynnon to Castle Wood, but was later clumped and leaves no surviving trees to reveal the species used.

- 6.19 None of the avenues shown on Plate 1703 have survived, unless the upper left avenue is the chestnut avenue just referred to.

- 6.20 There was a common lime avenue along the top of the west side of the trench east of the mansion. Within the later clumps several lime still survive at 7 to 7.5m centres.

Pre-Restoration Plantations

- 6.21 Many of the ancient trees, oak, sycamore or Spanish chestnut, identified by Treework in their veteran tree survey are likely to be those shown in rather circular clumps of maturing trees on Plate 1703. These trees must have been planted around 1600, (rather than the 1660 suggested by Treework's text) when Sir Walter Rice was at the height of

G
J T Barber
1803
p2(centre)

his powers and activity. This means that these plantations, since absorbed into The Rookery and The Grove, are very early examples of Renaissance planting, a significant precursor of Dinefwr Park today. It is possible that the form of these clumps might be identifiable by analysis of the layout of surviving veteran trees.

Late Eighteenth Century Clumps

- 6.22 The 1906 O.S. Map shows six ornamental clumps in the flowing parkland of Park Sir David and Pen Lan fawr. The two beside the trench were planted partly in Front Park and partly to the east of the trench, the shape indicated by the boundary ditch shown by resistivity surveying. They subsume the remnants of the common lime avenue and were probably planted in 1757-58, after the old avenues had been grubbed up. They include oak, beech and Spanish chestnut in mixed species clumps. The two clumps planted in 1764 in Park Sir David, half a hectare in total area, were removed in the twentieth century.

- 6.23 confirmed by Roscoe 1837 p227 The two large clumps in Pen Lan fawr were beech nursed by pine. On Plate 1815(i) the pine nurse crop is dominant before removal in favour of the climax beech. These clumps were planted in the 1780's, being visible as a new plantation on Bretherton's view of Llandeilo, Plate 1790(iii) and well grown by the time of Wood's view, Plate 1812(i). This view also shows clearly the spatial effect of young clumps in open parkland, in contrast with Castle Wood to their left and the fields round about. These two clumps were excellently placed and shaped on the landform and have become important landmarks above Llandeilo. From Newton House they frame outward views towards Black Mountain. Such clumps are characteristic of the late eighteenth century; there can be few better examples anywhere.

The Rookery (c.f. Figure 10)-

- 6.24 The Rookery is a rich example of a mixed age ornamental wood. There are groups of trees with outliers from about 1600; these are mainly oak with some Spanish chestnut. Interplanting seems to have taken place in the late-eighteenth century. These included a group of beech north of the mansion and ornamental trees carefully sited to demarcate the position of key viewpoints. For this purpose a veteran oak (veteran even by 1800), a beech, a sycamore, a cedar, and a plane were used. The edge of the wood is carefully shaped to draw fan-shaped space back into the wood at places where there are fine outward views (c.f Figure V4-V6 below). The effect from Newton House is shown on Plate 1926(i).

The south-east edge of the wood, just above a footpath, was in contrast given a solid edge by planting a curvaceous row of oak as shown on Plate 1926(ii). This edge would have echoed the firm lines of the edges of the clumps further east in the park. Rookery Wood has been gradually softened in outline from the east, where clumps of trees separated long views across smooth pasture, to the west to echo the multiple texture and colour of the deer park. The actual line of the south edge of the wood is so coherent and so well devised that this change of character is hardly perceptible.

Late Eighteenth/Early Nineteenth Century Trees

- 6.26 The Park was gradually enriched by other trees planted into established woods. *"Nature has most lavishly spread about it her most diversified beauties, and the owner has displayed great taste in the arrangement of walks, etc; the old castle is a most beautiful object (but not seen from the mansion) situated on the top of a hill decorated with the*

G
Captain
Jenkin- Jones
1819 p114

finest trees from oaks as old as the ruin itself, to young birch, beech etc of perhaps 13 years growth.

- 6.27 Groups of Scots Pine were inserted into pre-existing woodland to pick out hill tops in winter, on Fern Hill at the west end of The Rookery (c.f. Figure T3f), to the west of the walled flower garden south-west of Newton House, planted in 1745 and now gone, and on the hill top east of the Castle. Some pine trees still survive on these hilltops.
- 6.28 The 1906 OS Map shows that there were scattered specimen trees in outlying locations in the park. Some which still survive were oak, chestnut or lime. Others were later 19th century plantings.
- 6.29 In the eighteenth century trees were seen as a means of defining space and of framing views. Species were diversified to produce texture and colour contrasts as a secondary enrichment to spatial composition. It is this which the 1906 O.S. Map and the aerial photographs Plates 1962(i) and (ii) and 1971 so powerfully portray.

Nineteenth And Twentieth Century Trees

- 6.30 During the nineteenth century between 1850 and 1875 the Dynevors introduced a few new evergreen trees to enrich the park in the fashionable manner of an arboretum collection. However this was mainly done with an admirable restraint, without changing the elegant design of the park and mostly keeping exotic specimens away from the principal spatial composition. A collection was planted at Cae Genvie north of The Rookery, where it could be enjoyed from the north drive, but did not impinge upon the views and spaces visible from the mansion. Bog Wood was used as a habitat for the sheltered moist valley loving species, Wellingtonia, which have thrived there. The Flower Garden was a natural place for exotics.
- 6.31 One or two less attractive locations received exotic trees. Below is listed what was planted and where. Only a small percentage of these trees still survive, partly because of the decimation of Cae Genvie in the 1970s. Firs within The Rookery and exotics on Cae Lan and Pen Lan fawr now appear to have been an ill-judged contribution compared to the numerous other trees on this list.

TABLE 6**SCHEDULE OF TREES PLANTED 1850 - 1875**

(Source: Lists written by Ticehurst, Farm Bailiff and 6th Lord Dynevor?
for Bog Wood Wellingtonias: Trees at Dynevor Castle 1934)

on Cae Genvie

1853	Abies Douglasii Batum of Gilead Fir Cedrus Libani Cryptomeria Lobbii Picea pinsapo Pinus strobus
1865	Excelsa (?)
1870	7 trees - not named

The Rookery

1863	50 Oaks (Prince of Wales's marriage)
1871/1872	Firs

Between House and Rookery

1853	Pinus spectabile
1862	2 Wellingtonia
1862	Beech
1865	Cedrus deodara
1869	Cedrus deodara

Deer Park

1870	Plantation
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in Flower Garden

1860	Pinus nobilis
1860	Cedrus deodara
1861	2 Cedrus deodara
1861	Cryptomena japonica
1861	Cedrus deodara
1861	Weeping Ash

Cae Lan

1853	Pinus Smithiana Pinus Morinda
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Bog Wood

1871	Wellingtonias (thriving)
1872	Firs

Castle Wood

1866	50 Spruce
------	-----------

White Gate

1869	Wellingtonias
------	---------------

Llandyveisant Church

1853	Cryptomeria japonica
------	----------------------

Penlanravr

1853	Cedrus deodara Pinus Maritima (raised from seed planted 1846 by Mr Wingfield)
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6.33
The 7th Lord
Dynevor's
vertical
notebook
(photocopy in
Appendix)

- Between 1885 and 1905 several plantations were made to improve shooting. In 1913 a copper beech clump was planted in Park Sir David. In 1918 a Spanish chestnut clump, to commemorate the Great War, was planted N-E of the White Gate. In 1933, a clump of 33 trees was planted in Park Sir David, called Caed Anne. These plantations slightly fragmented Park Sir David but were well placed. (c.f. Figure 13)
- 6.34 The park as a whole remained much as created by 1800.
- 6.35 In the latter half of the twentieth century more numerous, though still minor, changes were made. The most significant changes were loss of parts of the original composition in particular loss of all historic trees in Park Sir David and subsequent unsympathetic replacements. The upper part of the east end of The Rookery and much of Cae Genvie arboretum has also gone. Figure 13 shows a schedule of recent planting. Park Sir David is now a mess and deserves restoration to the layout on the 1905 O.S Map, possibly marginally modified to take account of the recent discovery of a Roman fort. However a balance of judgement will be needed between restoring a fine work of British landscape art correctly, and revealing every detail of Roman military history. Lancelot Brown's vanished shelter belt along the east side of the park should also be replanted at the correct original width.



T1a above left:

The western side of the Park is full of ancient trees, mostly oak, which are as venerable as the Castle itself.

T1b above right:

Such trees still exist because they were also valued two centuries ago (detail of Gainsborough's *Forest* painted c.1775)

T1c

The North drive line, made after 1659 to connect to the diverted Carmathern road, ran within a double avenue. A few trees survive including this trio—lime, oak, lime.

T1d

The same trees looking south towards The Rookery. The kink in the ground profile demarcates the old drive as it bends towards old driveside trees visible on the left. Note also the carton of agricultural chemical abandoned by the trunk of this historic tree.

T1e

The remnants of the Spanish chestnut avenue running south from Newton House.

When planted the avenue extended up to Castle Woods in the distance. A new tree has been planted on the line of the former walk, an anachronism repeated elsewhere in recent years.

**Parc Dinefwr
ANCIENT AND
RESTORATION TREES
FIGURE T1**



T2a left: Lime avenue c.1675 along the Trench east of Newton House, converted into clumps c. 1760.

T2b below left: Clumps of trees, as shown on Plate 1703, The Grove, left, and The Rookery with indented southern edge, merged into a single wood.

T2c below right: The eighteenth century trees in The Rookery are mingled with older trees surviving from earlier clumps.



T2d above left: Oaks in The Rookery planted to an irregular woodland edge line north-west of Newton House. The piles of cut timber in this position spoil the picturesque effect, compared with Plate 1926(ii).

T2e above right: Young people enjoying themselves out of doors in 1717 (from a painting by Watteau)

T2f left: The Grove, left, and the irregular south edge of The Rookery, right.

T2e: Staatliche Kuntsammlungen Dresden

Parc Dinefwr
RESTORATION MERGING
WITH 18th CENTURY
PLANTING
FIGURE T2



T3a above: Pen Lan Fawr clumps, planted c. 1790 are eyecatchers from far and wide.

T3b above left: view east from south of Newton House. Each carefully shaped clump stands out above open slopes.

T3c left: The clumps are arranged around space so that there are various views at different angles between them. For instance in this view from Newton House, Black Mountain is visible between clumps (Pen Lan Fawr; upper right) Note the sweet curves of the smooth landforms.

T3d left: View west from the edge of Cae Lan. Because the side slopes are open there are splendid panoramic views from the edge of hilltop clumps. Note the deer park anthills giving a rough texture to the ground.

T3e far left: The west side of The Grove on Cae Lan in silhouette against sky.

T3f near left: In the more extensive woodland on the ridges, Scots pine was used to mark the hilltops (photograph on Fern Hill by R. G. D. Gardner, November 1947)

T3f: copyright Lord Dynevor

Parc Dinefwr
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
HILLTOP PLANTING
FIGURE T3



T4a above: Following Lancelot Brown's advice open space flowed from this viewpoint at the edge of The Rookery uninterrupted to the Castle as illustrated by Sandby, Plate 1777. However the Wellingtonias planted at Bog Wood in 1871 have introduced another conflicting composition.

T4b centre left: The Wellingtonias are particularly beautiful and in excellent health due to the similarity of Bog Wood to a Californian coastal valley. They are still in full vertical growth, unlike Wellingtonias in lowland England the tops of which are wind cut, with a natural potential height of 50-100m.

T4c bottom left: View of Outer Park looking north east from the Castle. The modern poplars do not screen the houses but do screen the Black Mountain from Newton House forecourt. They are an unwanted anachronism.

Parc Dinefwr
19th and 20th
CENTURY PLANTING
FIGURE T4

7. VIEWS, DRIVES AND WALKS

- 7.1 The essence of 18th century landscape design is the composition of views arranged in three dimensions. Criss-crossing views from locations determined by the layout of drives and walks and the positions of buildings and seats determine the location of open space. The space seems to flow naturally between or over tree masses, but is so contrived that there are sequences of views. Some are sudden revelations; others follow each other or are grouped in several directions from a single spot. There are panoramas and keyhole views. The quality of the design arises from the composition of such views.
- 7.2 Figure 11 shows the drives and principle walks present in Parc Dinefwr in 1810, all of which are still perceptible. The drive to Newton Farm along the Trench and downhill from the courtyards past the Mill Pond to the water meadows both appear to be service routes. East drive, south drive and north drive were principle approach routes, east drive being the main approach.
- 7.3 Figure 12 identifies the key eighteenth century views from the picturesque drives and the principle path, a description of which has survived (Document C2). There are other paths and other views of less significance; indeed Parc Dinefwr is rich with lovely local scenes.
- 7.4 Because views are by definition seen, their essence is best captured in pictures. Figures V1 to V8 which follow, illustrate Parc Dinefwr's eighteenth century visual design. Figure V9 shows older tracks still present in the landscape.



V1 a: Castle. b: Paxton's Tower. and c: Grongar Hill above.

V1 d Brown's realignment, the modern east drive enters the Park with a burst. Beyond a sweet curving ground profile to the right, possibly remodelled artificially, can be seen the Castle, Paxton's Tower (1810) and Grongar Hill, enlarged individually above.



V1 e The Tywi valley, the far side of which is visible on the left of the drive at the entrance, gradually becomes more visible as the drive curves down to the hollow.



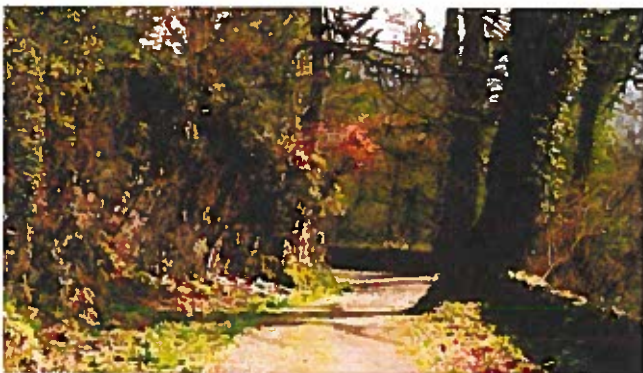
V1 f The drive then sweeps through trees round a right hand bend to join the earlier south drive at the gate on the left. (Continued by picture V3 a)

**EAST LLANDEILO DRIVE
CONSTRUCTED AFTER
BROWN'S VISIT IN 1775
FIGURE V1**



V2 a . left: Drive below Myrtle Wood, with Beech on upper side, probably present since the Middle Ages.

V2 b and V2 c below The new drive of 1765 passed above Llandyfeisant Church. There would have been a view of the church roof and castle (left) now obstructed by Laurel (right).

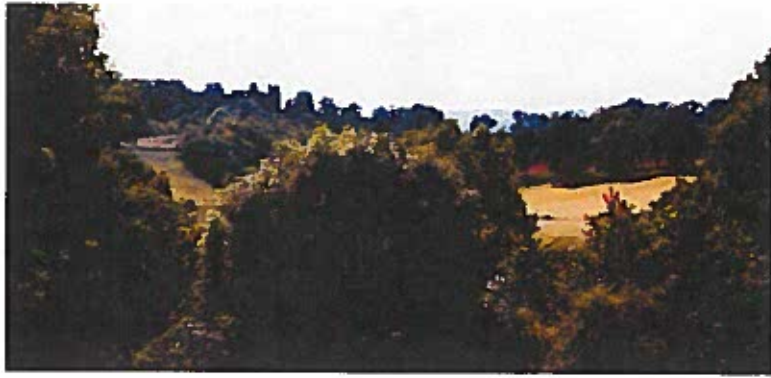


V2 d above left: The new drive of 1765 involved major construction work, as shown by this down hill view north-west of Llandyfeisant.

V2 e above left: It afforded picturesque views across the Tywi and Llandifeisant meadow-

V2 f left: and over the castellated retaining wall to the Castle.

**SOUTH LANDEILO DRIVE
REALIGNED IN 1765
FIGURE V2**



(continued from V1 f and V2)

V3 a As the drive bends round to the left, completing a long S bend from East Lodge direction, there is a splendid view of the Castle and parkland below it, called Burgoyne's view.



V3 b The drive then enters a dark wood at the start of a second tighter S bend.



V3 c As the drive sweeps into the left hand bend, the House suddenly comes into sight with The Rookery in the background. (c.f. Plate 1795)



V3 d View looking south down north drive towards the forecourt, the line of the drive visible as field markings on this photograph. Originally the east and north drives flowed in a continuous line past the east side of the House, as shown on the 1905 O.S. Map.

**EAST DRIVE CONSTRUCTED
AS PART OF THE 1765
REALIGNMENT
FIGURE V3**



The pictures are arranged in order of viewing when walking westwards.

V4 a The Lower Path looking west, possibly widened for a carriage to travel as far as the Beech tree. Fallen timber across the path undermine's perception of the historic landscape.



V4 b left View of the House where an open glade is drawn back through the woodland edge.

V4 c below Possibly the young Beech mentioned in the description of The Path (document C2).



V4 d Above left. Views of the Castle open to view where there is an open inset of the woodland edge. (Similar to Plate 1777).



V4 e Another view back to the House, this time with the Pen Lan Fawr clumps of the right and different hills above the House.

'THE PATH'
LOWER PATH Central Length
THROUGH THE ROOKERY
FIGURE V4



V5 a The upper path follows a line within The Rookery woodland, a little to the south of the crest of the ridge. In one place there is a Castle view, a location where there is an easy connection with the lower path.



V5 b The path curves round the north side of Fern Hill crest to a sudden burst view westwards.



V5 c Fern Hill, crowned with Scot's Pine which shelter the open hilltop, commands panoramic southerly views; a fine picnic spot.



V5 d The grandchildren of Thomas Mansel Talbot enjoying a hilltop picnic on a private estate near Swansea in 1855. (Collodion image by J. Dillwyn Llewellyn)

**'THE PATH'
UPPER PATH
THROUGH THE ROOKERY
FIGURE V5**



V6 a A little below the path, marked by an adjacent London plane, is a platform for a seat.



V6 b There is a sideways full front key-hole view of the House from this platform.



V6 c To the south is a sweeping view towards the castle high above and down to the Mill Pond; the stems of the Oaks above the pond appear to have been cleaned of branches so that the water is visible between them.



V6 d The final downhill slope commands westerly views of the Tywi valley.

**'THE PATH'
THROUGH THE ROOKERY
LOWER PATH- Western Length
FIGURE V6**



V7 a The historic path dropping from The Rookery to Mill Pond is fenced across; the bird hide, easily sited less conspicuously, spoils the sweet curve of the path.



V7 b Looking west along the Tywi valley from the path along the west side of Castle Wood. Paxton's Tower (c.1810), Dryslwyn Castle and Grongar Hill are visible.



V7 c Looking down the zig-zag.

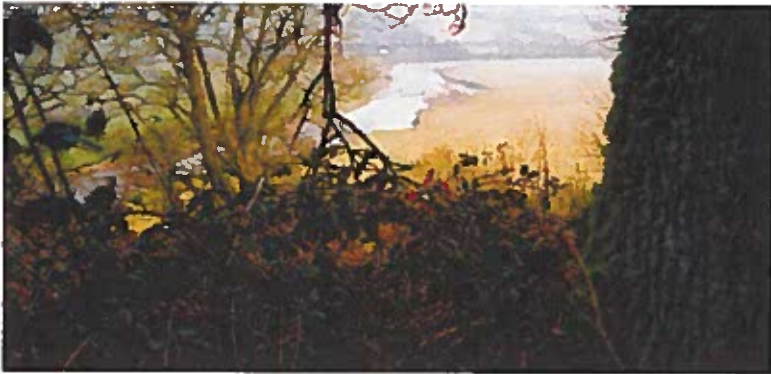


V7 d The western walls of the Castle seen suddenly as the path rises from the top of the zig-zag. (c.f. Plate 1812)

'THE PATH'
"BROWN'S WALK" UP
THROUGH WEST CASTLE
WOOD
FIGURE V7



V8 a Precipice Walk follows the crest of the south escarpment dropping to the Tywi meadows. As the gradient below is 1:1 a low safety wall was built on the outer edge of the path.



V8 b Here and there were views of the river as it meanders below.



V8 c The east end of Precipice Walk emerges onto the col for a gentle return across grass to the House (the line of the late 17th century avenue). From high ground north of Bank of Battle there is a fine view of Llandyfeisant church, Pen Lan Fawr clumps and Llandeilo bridge.



V8 d Llandyfeisant church is now partly obscured by oak branches, reducing the impact of the eye catcher in this composed scene.

**‘THE PATH’
“PRECIPICE WALK”
THROUGH EAST CASTLE
WOOD AND BACK ACROSS
CAE FFYNNON
FIGURE V8**



V9 a Old Oaks and terracework indicating the line of the medieval road to Newton, north of The Rookery.



V9 b On the right Oaks show the line of the medieval Newton road from Carmarthen direction. This is the north side of a probable 3 hectare (one Welsh acre) farm plot for English settlers, 1300-1350, extending from the viewpoint to the single Oaks and left to right between the rows of oaks.



V9 c An old track at the west end of Fern Hill crossing an older track way from bottom right to centre left. The west side of the deer park is criss crossed by old tracks of various dates.



V9 d The probable line of the medieval road between Newton and Llandeilo (seen looking west from Llandyfeisant) shows in the centre of the photograph. The fawn nettle patches could indicate old trees or former human habitation or both.

ANCIENT TRACK WAYS **FIGURE V9**

8. EVALUATION OF OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1 Significance depends upon a combination of quality of design, condition and survival of historic features, and rarity

Quality Of Design - Contemporary Appreciations

- 8.2 The historic Plates, bound separately from the main text, illustrate how earlier visitors evaluated Dinefwr Park. The information deduced from the Plates is supported by the numerous written texts produced in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Dr Dignam in his report for the National Trust in 1989 selects a few characteristic phrases, including:-

James Baker; 1794 - *"... the premises are in great perfection, particularly its park which is much admired for its exquisite diversity. It is a complete rotund of woods, shrubberies, hills, dales, slopes and sweeps."*

R Clutterbuck; 1794 - *"... art and nature have contributed numberless beauties to the scenery of the place, where the former has not introduced any of its formalities or the latter been suffered to run luxuriantly wild".* (Journal of a Tour from Cardiff Through South and North Wales)

G Sael; 1798 - *"... The house is placed in the centre of a charming Park, which runs down to the Towy. The woods are venerable and striking and the groups of trees scattered over a variety of ground ..."* (A Collection of Welsh Tours)

Thomas Lipscombe; 1802 - Upon entering the Park he passed *"a stately range of oaks, stamped with the mark of time, having arrived at maturity at least a century ago the south-west boundary of the park[is] adorned with noble plantations everything looks venerable - the very wall of the park is covered with moss and ivy."* (A Journey into South Wales)

Benjamin Heath Malkin; 1804 - *Newton Park appears to me unquestionably to be the first finished place in South Wales.*

Rev. T Rees; 1815 - The surface *"is diversified by gentle undulations, and has been planted with great judgement and taste."* (A Topographical and Historical Description of South Wales)

J T Barber; 1803 - *"Newton Park afforded the most extensive and picturesque viewsa scene so pregnant with the bounty and beauty of nature was a feast for the philanthropy and picturesque enthusiasm that I shall never forget."*

Joseph Gulston; 1779-83 - *"Newton is situated in one of the most beautiful parks I ever saw. The timber grows so fine"* (CRO Derwydd D-1)

Richard Fenton; 1807 - described the view from Llandeilo Bridge as *"a charming view of the loveliest spot my eyes ever beheld..... the magnificence of the woods ..., the disposition of their masses, the size and picturesque growth of particular trees*

...their great variety is unrivalled. There are some cherry trees of a vast growth."
(Tours in Wales 1804-13; manuscript notes in Cardiff Central Library)

- 8.3 During this period, Britain was cut off from continental Europe by the Napoleonic wars. The 'grand tour' to Italy via Switzerland had become impracticable. Instead those seeking inspiration from old monuments and sublime scenery had taken to touring Wales. Dinefwr was one of many beauty spots visited by tourists; the phrases quoted above demonstrate how much it was admired, even assessed by Lord Grenville as *"by far the most beautiful spot that we saw in the whole course of this tour - nor indeed do I recollect any scenery in this kingdom which I should on the whole prefer to Dinevor."*

- 8.4 The Plates of 1740 and 1777-1844, which accompany this report, illustrate the ways in which Dinefwr Park was perceived at that time. There are other similar illustrations in existence, several amongst the National Trust's own records; however they all repeat the same viewpoints.

The Park From Without

- 8.5 Half the views are taken from outside the boundary of the park. They show the Castle in a woodland setting seen from the east around Llandeilo, often across Llandyfeisant meadow, or from the west. Many of these views include the river Tywi. Other views show the Castle in its setting from the high viewpoint of Pen Lan Fawr.

- 8.6 A special, and unusual, significance of Parc Dinefwr is that it has always been admired from without. This is still the case. The whole southern part of the park is part of the scenery of the Tywi valley, not simply the Castle itself which is the focal eyecatcher of inward views. Castle Woods, a striking bluff rising sheer from the river meadows, the crest of which is emphasised by both the Castle and the clump of pines further east; Fern Hill, also crowned by Scot's pines, which is the western end of The Rookery ridge north of the Castle; the mighty clumps on Pen Lan Fawr, catching the eye from north-east of Llandeilo as well as from east and south; these bosky features contribute to making this part of the Tywi valley one of the most beautiful man-made landscapes in the British Isles.

The Brownian Landscape

- 8.7 Other views record the naturalistic landscape composition of the eastern half of Dinefwr Park, completed after Brown's visit in 1775. Some of this design can now be directly attributed to Brown, following the recent discovery of papers from the Dynevor archive. However successful naturalistic landscape compositions are created by an iterative process over a period of time, a process which includes nurture of the living elements as well as fabrication of beautiful landforms and drives and paths to reveal a series of composed views. For this reason the client is as important as outside advisors. At Dinefwr it seems clear that Cecil, 2nd Baroness Dynevor, was a central figure in the creation of the late eighteenth century park. She was the daughter of Mary de Cardonnel, Countess Talbot (1719-1787), who lived at Barrington in Gloucestershire where she spent her life creating a fine landscape, probably advised by both William Kent and Lancelot Brown. The modern realisation that women have always been as important as men in human endeavour gives present importance to this knowledge. George Rice 1724-1779, with his particular interest in agricultural

improvement, his wife Cecil Talbot, 2nd Baroness Dynevor, 1735-1793 and their son George Talbot Rice, 3rd Baron Dynevor, 1765-1852 created and nurtured this exquisite example of the British landscape park.

- 8.8 At Dinefwr the clumps are splendidly arranged in space, the smooth land forms a sequence of sweet lines. The subtle articulation of the southern edge of The Rookery wood, skilfully enriched by carefully placed exotic trees to reveal a series of outward views, remains intact. Eighteenth century drives and paths are still identifiable, from which the exquisite examples of views opening and shutting to sight can be enjoyed.

Condition And Survival Of The Brownian Landscape

- 8.9 No major later modifications to the landscape have occurred. Nonetheless the naturalistic park has suffered from numerous minor anachronistic intrusions some of which are illustrated on Figures E1, V4a, V7a, T2d and T4c. These interfere with perception and so interrupt full enjoyment of the designed park. They could without too much difficulty be rectified by removal of intrusive planting and minor elements. The future quality of this parkland will depend upon continuity of smooth open flowing space and careful restoration of planting as originally designed.

Ancient Landscape Features

- 8.10 Radclyffe's etching Plate 1844 illustrates a complementary significance of Parc Dinefwr. It shows a view westwards along the Tywi valley, over the rough textures of the western part of the Park. Here on Cae Lan, below Fern Hill and in The Heronry, there are numerous signs of an ancient landscape, made accessible for enjoyment of the picturesque around 1800. However it is notable that there are no historic prints or pictures of The Heronry area as if its qualities were less valued. Brown however recommended a pleasure ground near the Cold Bath, located in The Heronry on the 1832 OS map.
- 8.11 The presence of a medieval road route and land holdings, confirmed by archival data, and of numerous ancient trees, known to have been deliberately kept by the 2nd Baroness in the late eighteenth century add historical significance to the beauty of venerable age. Fallen branches and tree trunks, where appropriately sited, moss, anthills, crooked tree trunks, little streams and irregular land form - all add to the picturesque effect sustained from the distant past. An ancient landscape is still surviving, though there are perhaps too few young trees to assure its long term future.

Continuity Of Design

- 8.12 The smooth late eighteenth century landscape and the crumbly ancient landscape are interlocked into a seamless whole.
- 8.13 The landscape has also retained touches of its other eras. Pieces of Restoration avenues are absorbed by the eighteenth century plantations; a century ago these remnants were more numerous. There are also fragmentary nineteenth century plantings, mostly mingled happily with the older landscape; the small arboretum on Cae Genvie., north of The Rookery, which is separate from the rest of the park, was destroyed in the 1970s but could be reinstated.

Myth And History

- 8.14 Parc Dinefwr is specially enriched by its Welsh past. Real and imaginary Welsh princes and poets lived and sang here long ago. What looks like a romantic castle against the sky really is a romantic castle set in a romantic landscape. As Homer was to Athens so Dinefwr Castle is to South Wales.

Rarity

- 8.15 Many late eighteenth century landscape designs aspired to a Claudian atmosphere. However only those few with a rugged topography can hope to reproduce the appearance of a Claude Lorraine Italian scene, as Dinefwr does.
- 8.16 Some other parks, such as Knole in Kent, Moccas in Herefordshire or High Park at Blenheim have a sustained area of ancient pasture woodland. However Dinefwr is an unusual example where the ancient and the contrived landscapes seem to have been melded into a single united composition.
- 8.17 Dinefwr is perhaps unique in the history of its acquisition. Welsh princes were deposed and replaced by a colonial administration and a planted new town. Two centuries later a Welsh king was on the English throne and at Dinefwr a Welsh family had been granted a demesne. However to be able to make a park this family, subjected to curious misfortunes, bought out the descendants of the original settlers and landholders one by one, never having owned an estate village. Six centuries of continuous occupation by a single family, starting in a small way, may be part of the reason for the extraordinary unity of Dinefwr Park.
- 8.18 Very few parks are so striking from outside as is Dinefwr, while the mansion remains private from the outside world.
- 8.19 Above all Dinefwr Park possesses the rare distinction of extraordinary beauty, both its natural assets and its slowly created man-made landscape.



E1a and E1b above:

Damage to ground surfaces and even roots of old trees is frequently caused by maintenance vehicles.

E1c left:

An irregular crudely edged pedestrian path, not on an historic alignment.

These examples are in The Rookery near to Newton House.



E1d above left:

Insensitive farm installations at the centre of Lower Park.

E1e above right:

The historic curved path up to the Castle realigned dead straight.

E1f left:

Heavy fencing and walkway, acceptable in woodland, spoils the margin of the Mill Pond.



Parc Dinefwr

MINOR ANACHRONISMS

out of keeping with the historic context

FIGURE E1

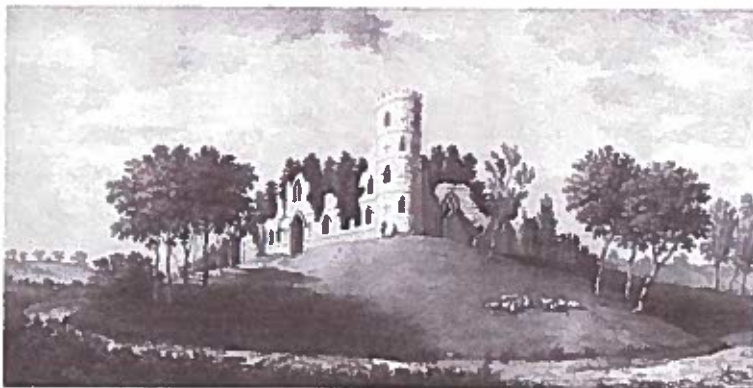


E2a: In The Heronry it is possible to imagine rural life, as lived from medieval to late 18th century times.

(From The Market Cart by Gainsborough c. 1790; National Gallery London)



E2b: Part of Claude Lorraine's 'Landscape with Hagar and the Angel' (National Gallery) Dinefwr achieves this landscape aspiration, (c.f. Plate 1794).....

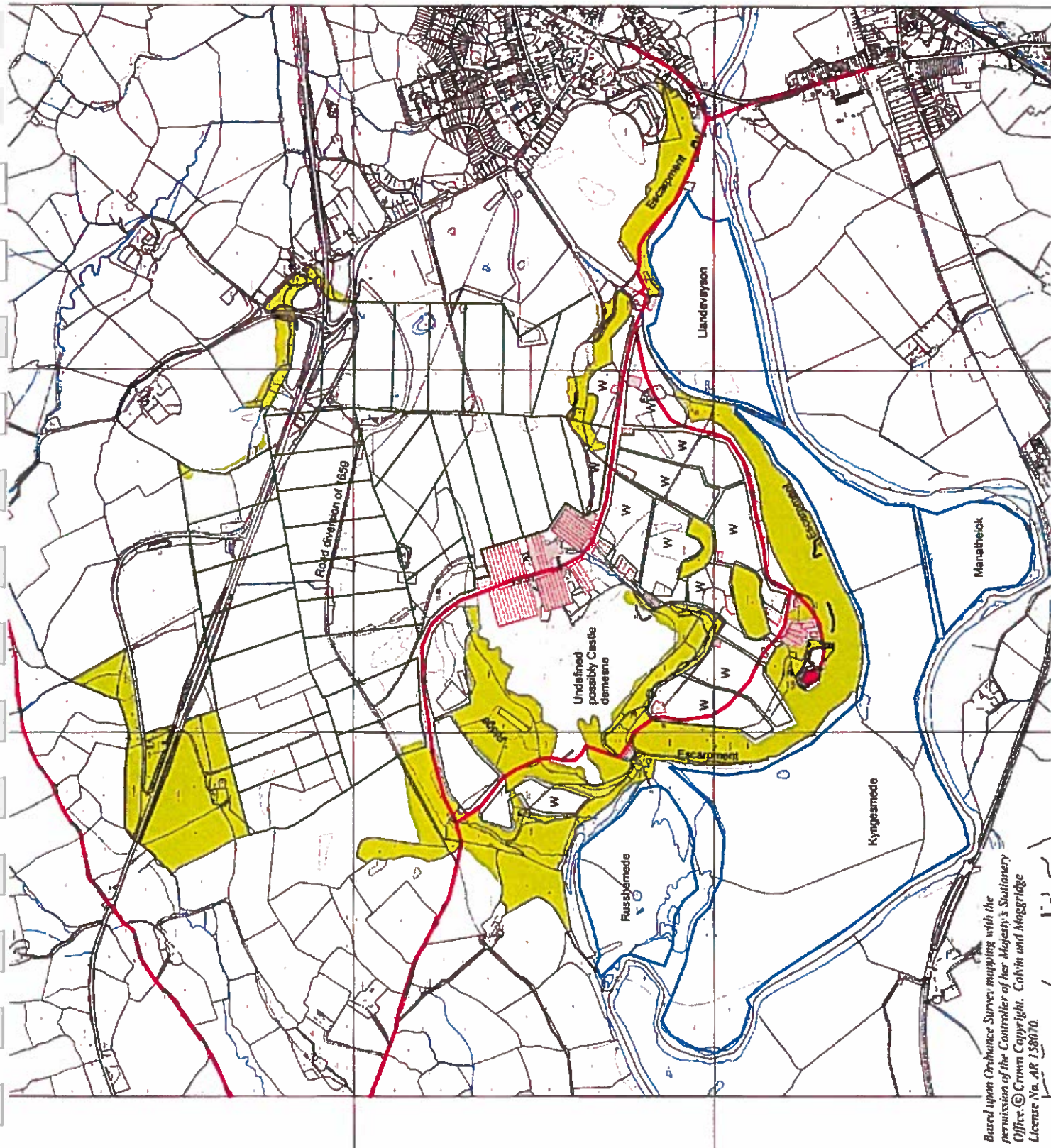


E2c:..... in a way which the mock castle at Wimpole fails to match. (engraving National Trust)

E2d below: Design for the landscape at Kedleston by Robert Adam 1759. (National Trust)



Parc Dinefwr
COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES
FIGURE E2



Key

Principal public road

12 plots of land for Welsh population, 2-3 ha each

34 plots of land for English burghesses of 1 Welsh acre i.e. 3 ha each

Burghage plot in Newton borough for English settler, 46 in 1360

Messages for gable tenants of town of Dinefwr:

Upper Town: 6 halves

Newton: 7 whole

elsewhere: 5 whole and 7 halves

Woodland for underwood

Riverside Meadows, administered from Castle.

Land Shown white assumed to be farmland subdivided into fields.

Overlaid on modern O.S. map

300 metres

NEWTON AND DINEFWR

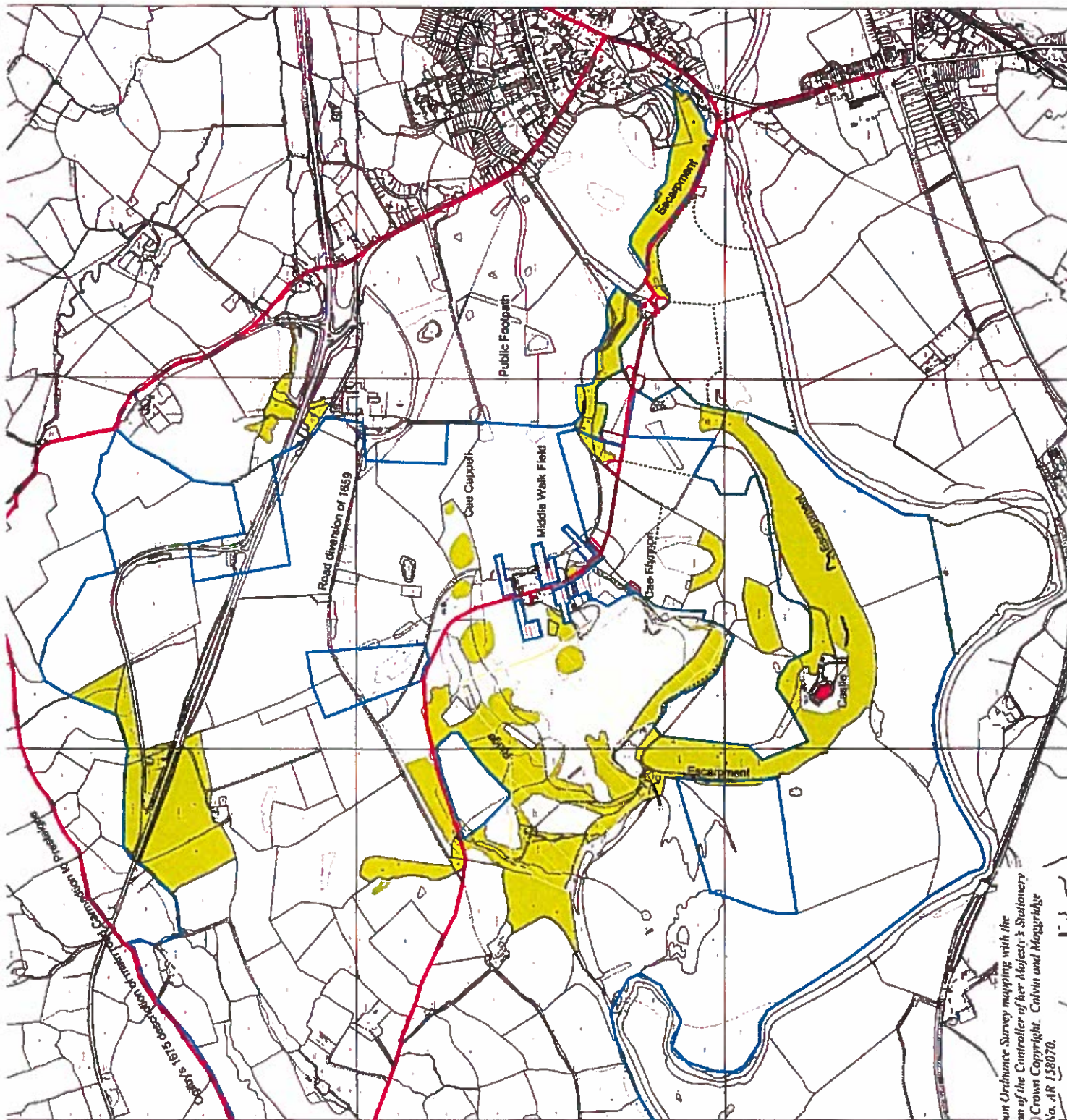
In about 1360

Hypothetical Layout

Scale 1:10,000

Date April 2003

Figure 1



Key

- Principal public road
- Former Newton burghage (land not part of Rice property)
- Former Dinefwr messuage (land not part of Rice property)
- Boundary between other landowners
- Generalised boundary of Sir Waller Rice's land
- Possible deer park before 1680 (c.f. left side of Plate 1705)
- Woodland

300 metres

PARC DINEFWR
In 1822
Hypothetical Layout
Scale 1:10,000
Date April 2003
Figure 2

Key to Restoration Landscape

- Principal public road
- Private drive
- Some walks / footpaths
- Park wall

Uncertain length, perhaps paling

Probable deer park (hatched yellow)

Avenue (strong evidence except for north and south walks)

Ornamental gardens

Woods and spinneys; single trees not shown

K Kitchen garden

Assumed Rice property boundary

Note: hypothetical locations of land owned by others assumed to be:
(i) Purchased from William Thomas Harry in 1748.

In Newton:
Garden and House 1 & 1/2 burgees
House plot 1/2 burgee
House plot 1/3 burgee
House plot (1/2 burgee plot purchased in 1874 AG90f)

These are taken to be the burgees west of the House shown on Plate 1700 and marked on plan.

In Dyseroth:
Dyseroth lands 25d 6.25 2.5
G. at end of town 7d 1.75 0.7
Lands 3d 0.75 0.3
(source Table 3.2.2)

(ii) Other land holdings west of Llandyfeisant Church of 1.5ha and 0.6ha in area.

Land shown white assumed to be farmland subdivided into fields.

Overlaid on modern O.S. map.

300 metres

PARC DINEFWR

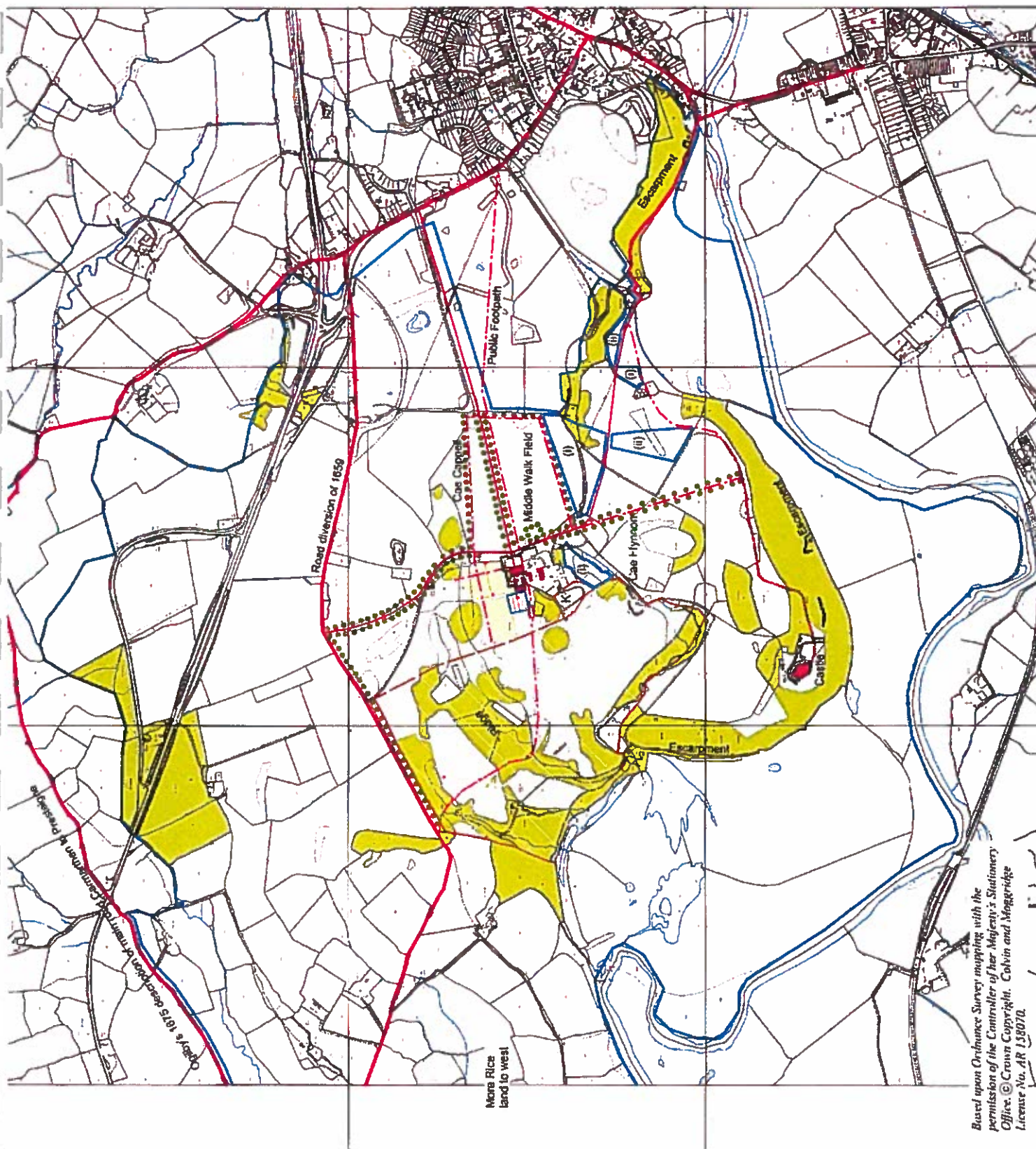
In about 1700

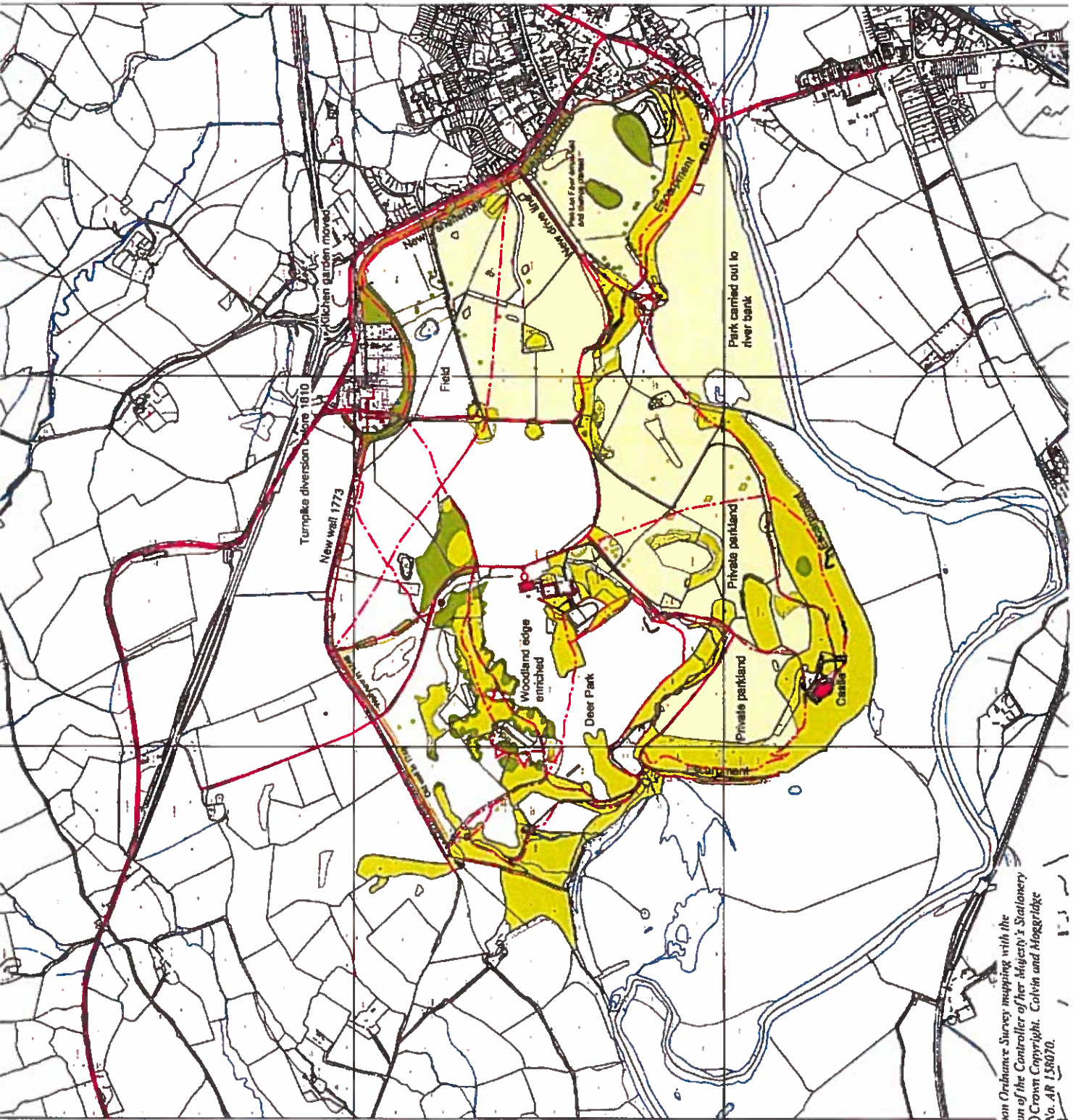
Probable Layout

Scale 1:10,000

Date April 2003

Figure 3





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PARC DINEFWR
 PARK CREATION 1775-1810
 Scale 1:10,000
 Date April 2003
 Figure 5

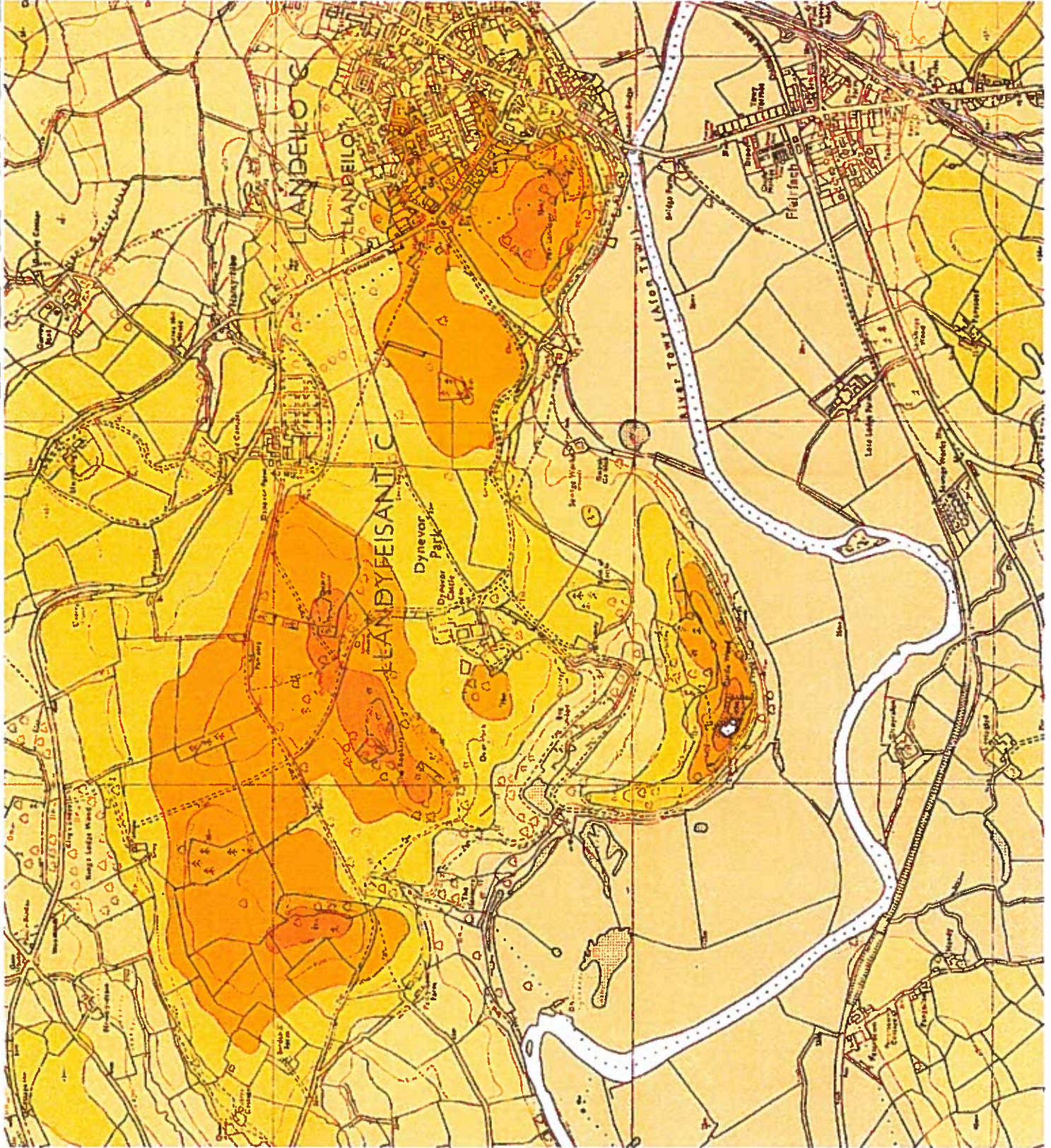
NEWTON AND DINEFWR

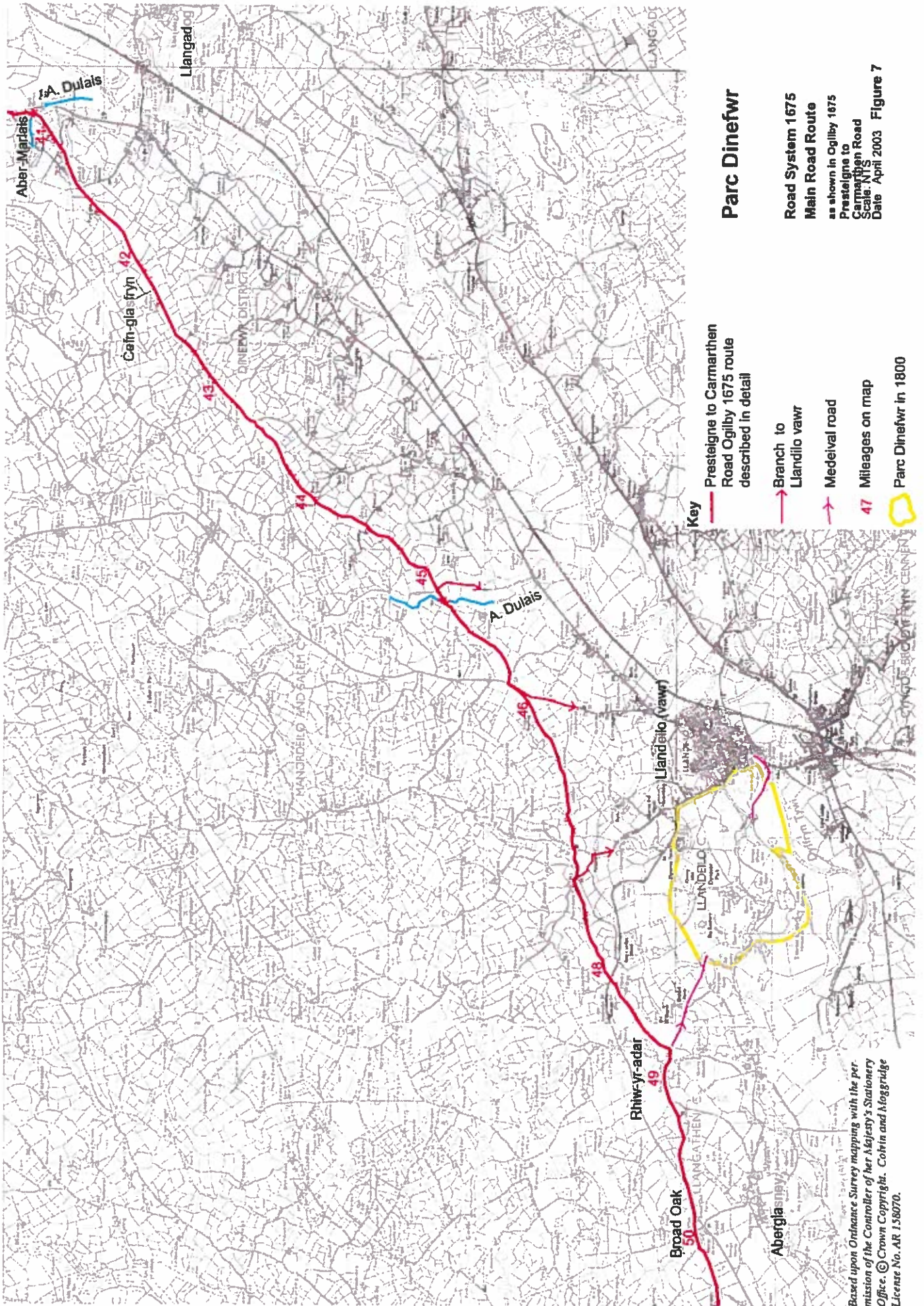
TOPOGRAPHY

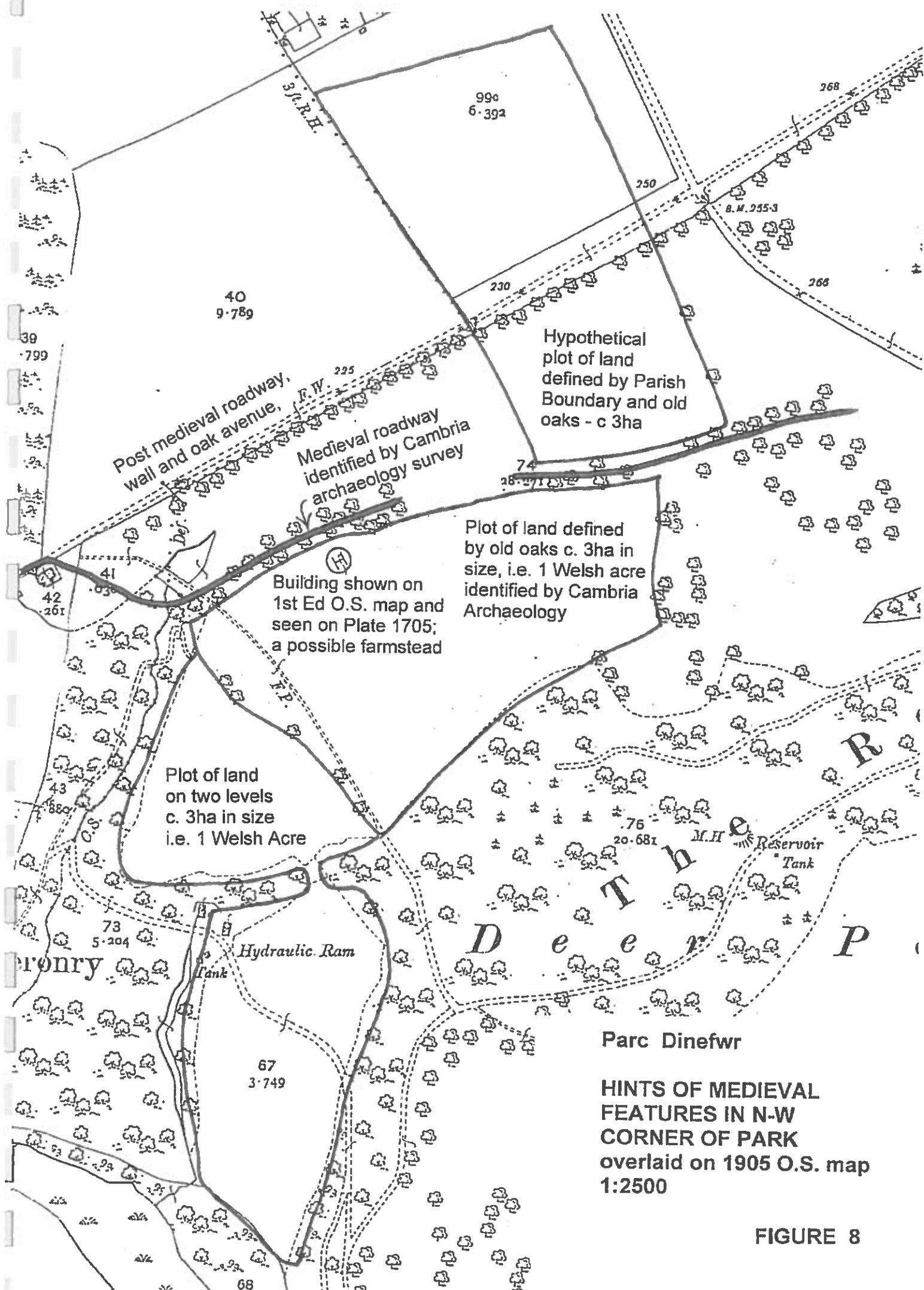
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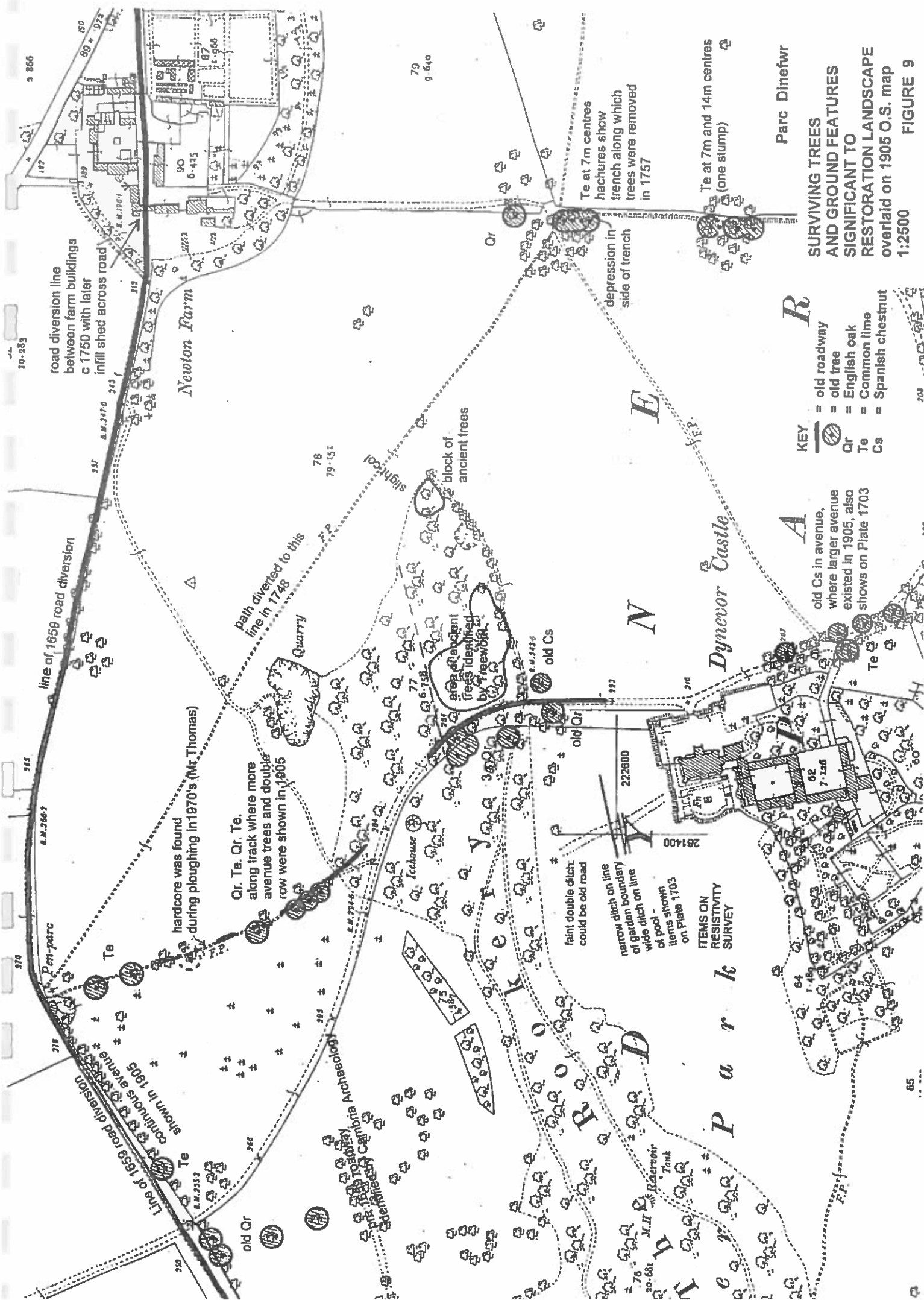
Date April 2003

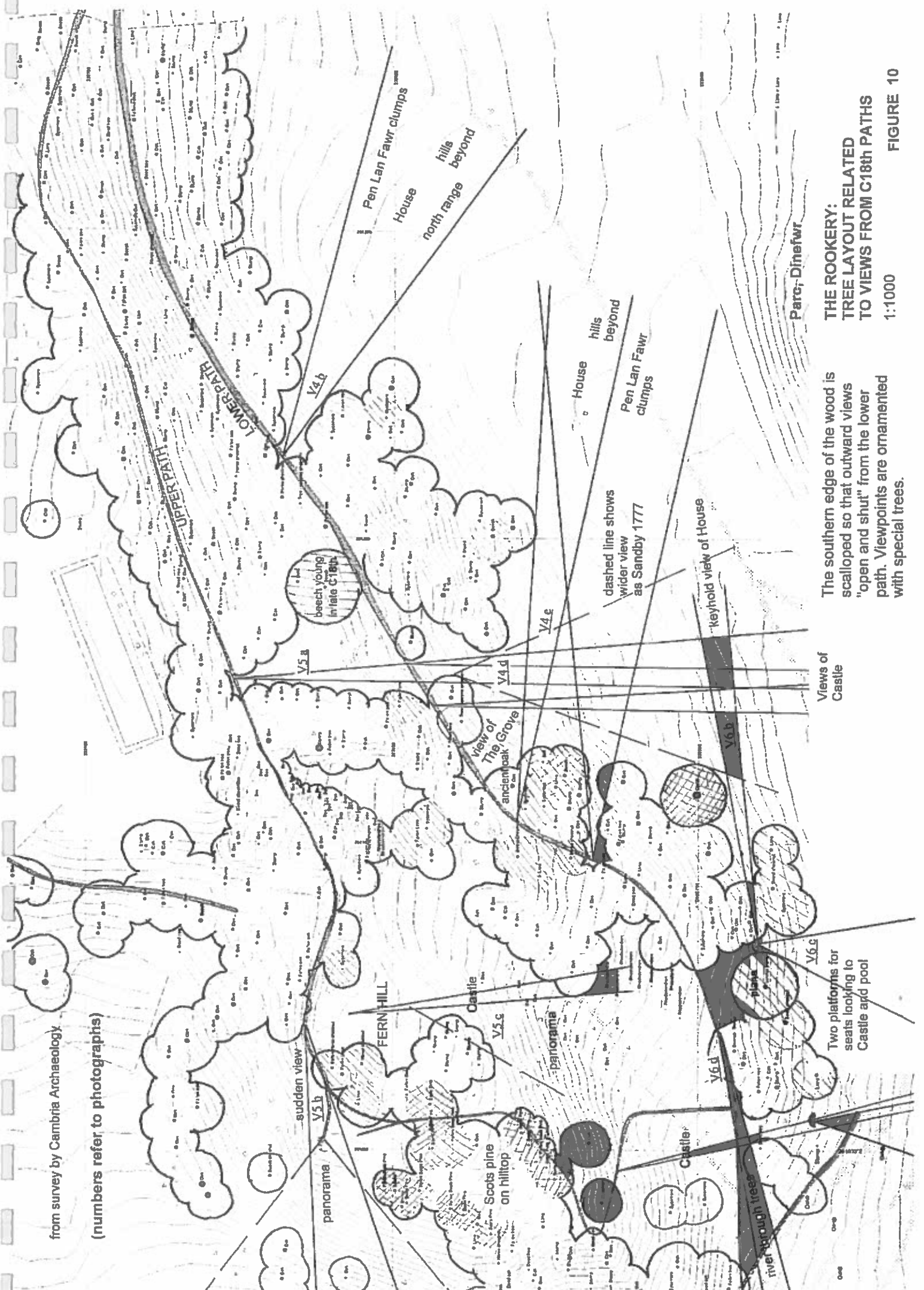
Figure 6











from survey by Cambria Archaeology
(numbers refer to photographs)

The southern edge of the wood is scalloped so that outward views "open and shut" from the lower path. Viewpoints are ornamented with special trees.

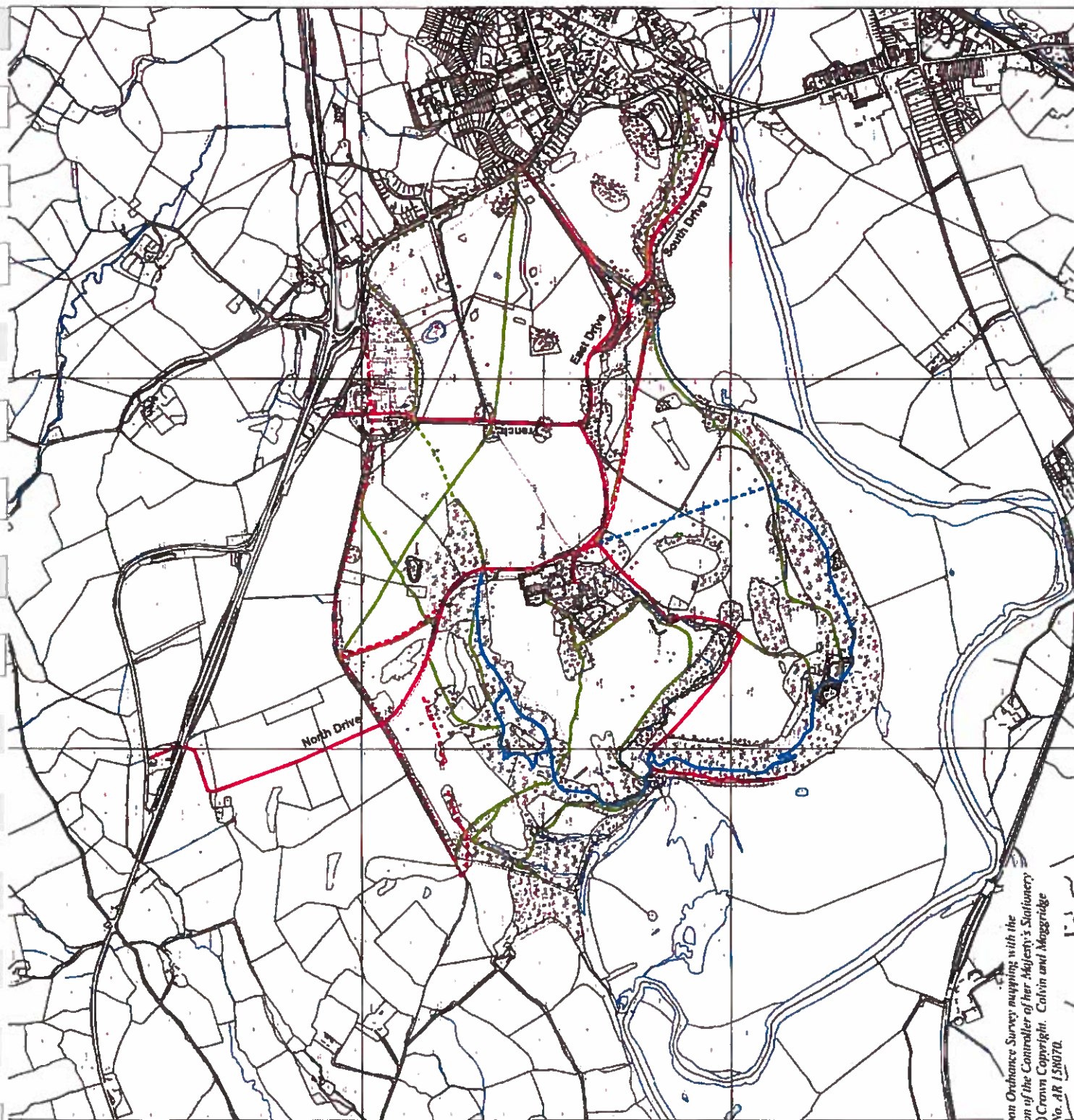
THE ROOKERY:
TREE LAYOUT RELATED
TO VIEWS FROM C18th PATHS

1:1000

FIGURE 10

Key

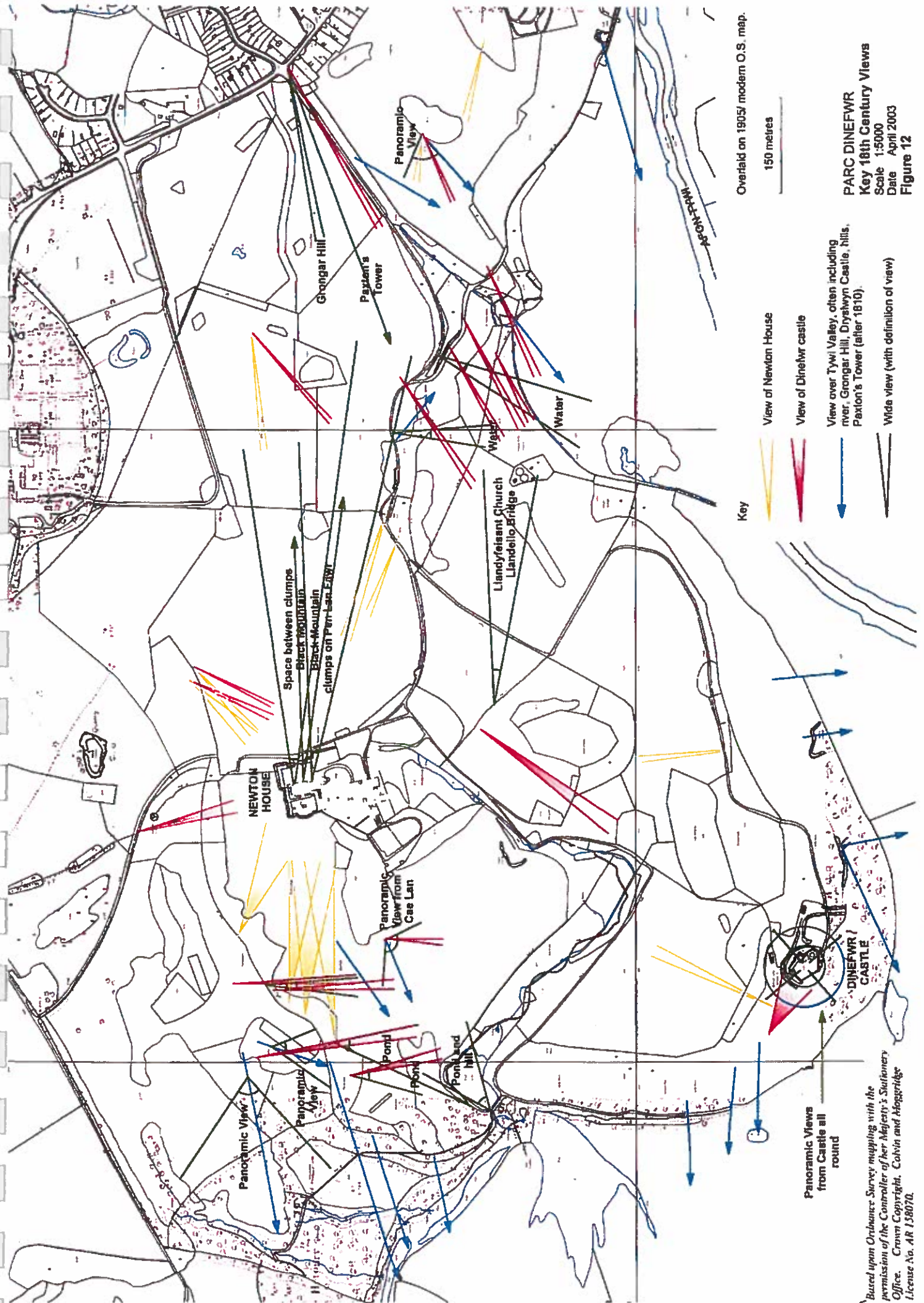
- Drive present in 1811
- Route of older road abandoned by 1800
- The Path's estimated route
- Older walk
- Other walks in 1885 probably present in 1800
- Guessed.



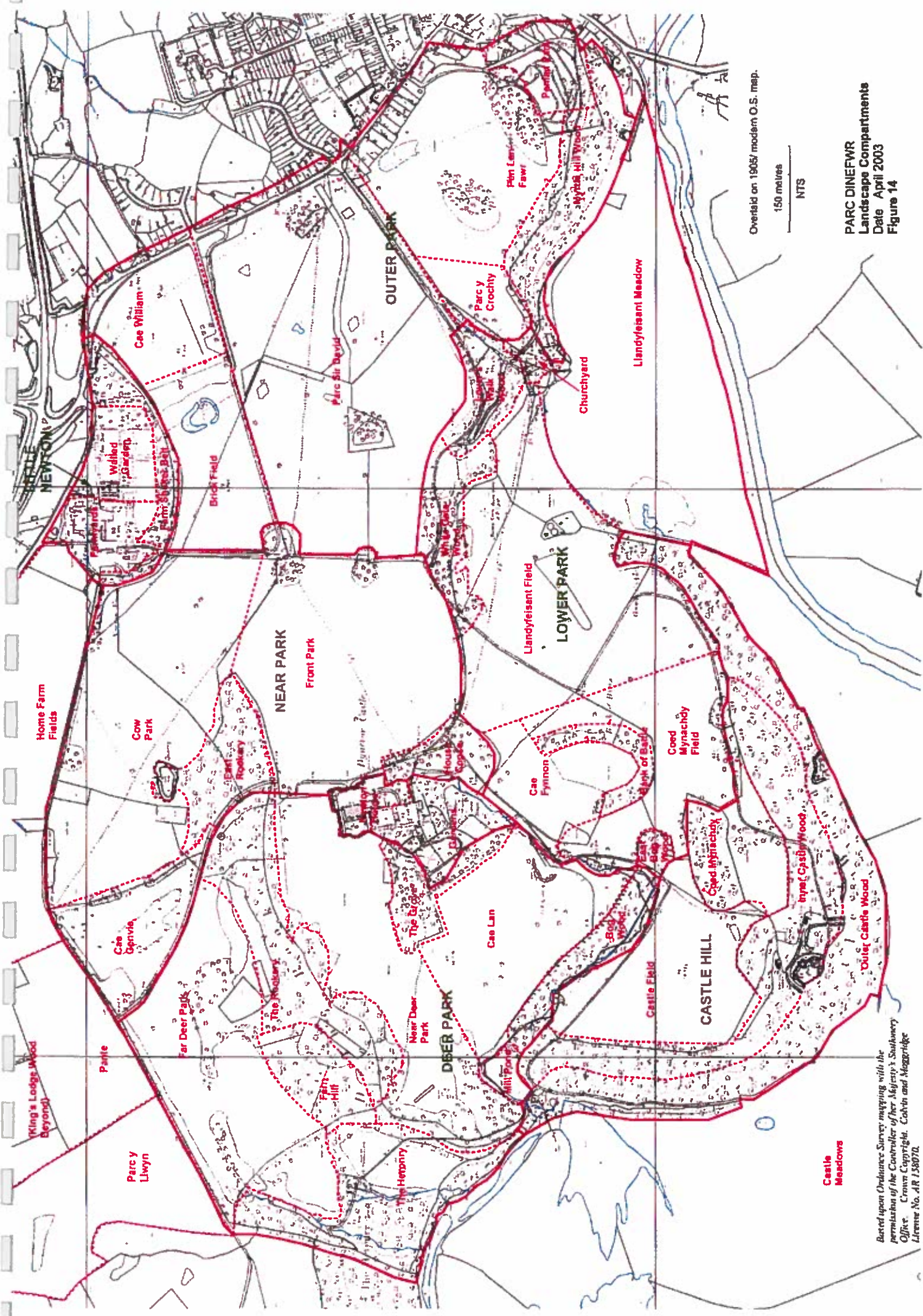
Overlaid on 1805/ modern O.S. map.

300 metres

PARC DINEFWR
Historic Drives and Walks in 1810
Scale 1:10,000
Figure 11



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Overlaid on 1905/1906 modern O.S. map.

150 metres
NTS

PARC DINEFWR
Landscape Compartments
Date April 2003
Figure 14

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