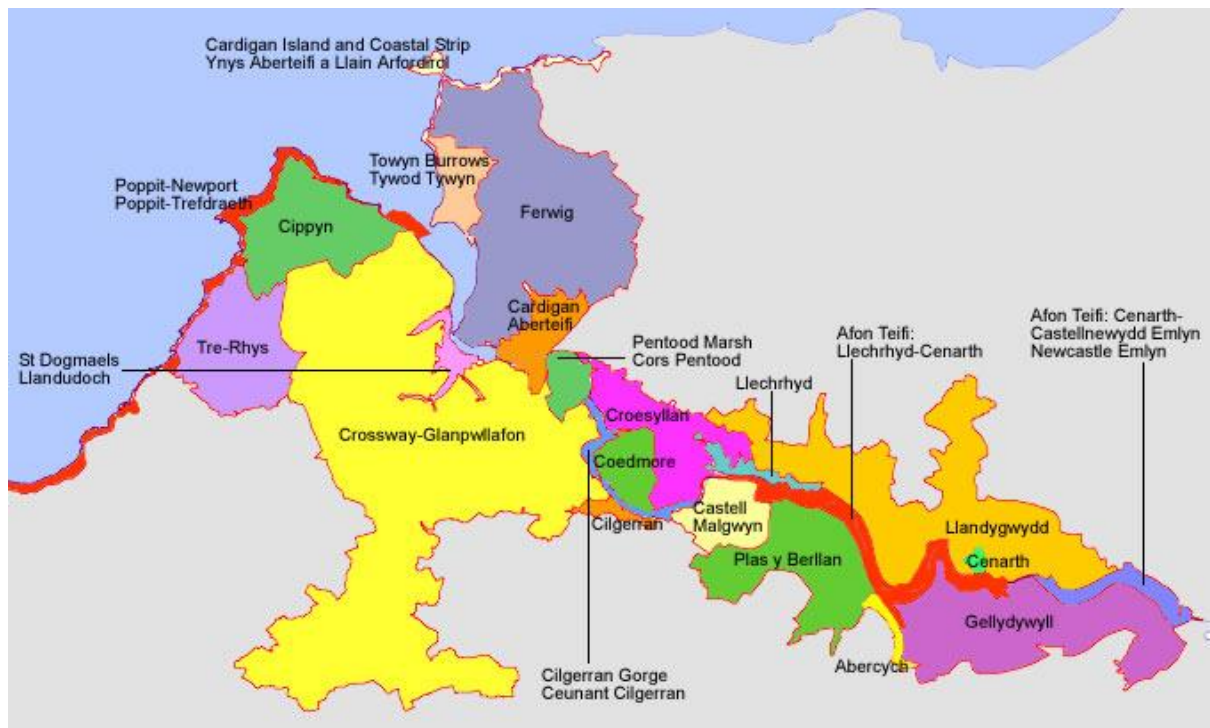


## Lower Teifi Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation



## CILGERRAN



GRID REFERENCE: SN194429

AREA IN HECTARES: 35

### Historic Background

This is the built-up area of the small, handsome town of Cilgerran, Pembrokeshire. It lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223, when William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, took it. It was held of the Earldom of Pembroke until it passed to the crown in the late 15th century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran.

The castle may not occupy the site of the pre-Norman commotal centre, as it does not appear to have acquired the name of the lordship, Cilgerran, until the mid 12th century, being referred to as 'Cenarth Bychan' when it was the scene of a daring Welsh raid in 1109. William Marshall started rebuilding the castle in stone in 1223, and it was largely complete by the late 13th century. Its two massive 'drum' towers still dominate the landscape.

A settlement developed outside the gates of Cilgerran Castle, large enough to be termed a 'town' in 1204. It was regarded as a borough, but by prescription only, as no charter is known. Its regular plan, comprising burgage plots laid out either side of a long main street, with a broad market place, and a second street at right-angles, suggest that it was planned. Twenty-two taxpayers were recorded in 1292 - rather less than the 70 or so burgage plots still discernible - and it appears that the town was still growing. In c.1610 Speed listed it among the principal market towns of Pembrokeshire. The predominantly Welsh demographics of the lordship are reflected

in the Welsh names of the taxpayers. The town had its own gaol, and stocks. It appears always to have kept its links with the land, and the chief occupations of the townspeople during the post-medieval period were farming, salmon-fishing and slate-quarrying.

Cilgerran and the quarrying industry had long been closely linked, burgesses having had the right to dig for stone within the Teifi Gorge, where all the major quarries were located. Some of the stone-processing buildings, including a dressing-shed, were located in the town. The wealth of the industry at its peak, in the late 19th century, is reflected in the town's buildings, many of which were clearly built or rebuilt at this time using local stone. Some further growth of the town occurred, doubtless encouraged by the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, which was incorporated in 1869 (but closed in the 1960s). A chapel was established, and a brickworks, although brick is not a common building material in the town. However, the weekly market recorded by George Owen ended in the early 1900s; the fair had been discontinued many years previously, while quarrying ceased in 1938. The abolition of the lordship in 1536 had already seen the abandonment and decline of Cilgerran Castle. It saw no action during the Civil War and was allowed to become a ruin, albeit the source of inspiration to Romantic painters. The ditch became the town pound, and as a result of quarrying carried out around the castle, a large stretch of the castle wall itself fell in 1863. However, it has been in the care of the state since 1943 and is now one of the chief visitor attractions of the region.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This is a relatively small, built-up historic landscape character area consisting of the small town of Cilgerran, lying on relatively flat land at about 35m above sea level immediately to the south and above the Teifi valley gorge. It is essentially a linear settlement, with houses tightly packed along a main street, and the old triangular-shaped market place of Castle Square (encroached upon by 19th century buildings) with the large, ruined, 13th-14th century stone castle to the north, and the church of St Llawddog detached some distance to the west. The church, except for the medieval tower, was twice entirely rebuilt during the 19th century. Burgage plots (house plots) flank the market place and main street. These together with the settlement morphology indicate a small medieval planned town. Medieval planning

has dictated the modern form of the settlement, with houses of a standard burgage plot width squeezed tightly against their neighbours, lying hard against the street frontage. This has resulted in terraces of individual buildings – there are few examples of single-build terraces – as there is little space for detached buildings in the narrow plots in the centre of the settlement. There are some detached- and semi-detached houses, particularly on the edge of the settlement. Apart from the medieval church tower and the castle ruins, virtually all the older buildings in Cilgerran date to the 19th century, with most belong to the second half of the century. Teifi valley slate (Cilgerran slate) is used exclusively on the oldest buildings, with red brick appearing towards the end of the 19th century. The majority of the buildings are cement rendered (stucco). North Wales slate is used on roofs. Along the main street, and on Castle Square, houses are mainly two-storey mid to late 19th century with their symmetrical front elevations and large window openings placing them firmly in the ‘polite’ Georgian tradition. However, some vernacular and probably early traits such as smaller windows, asymmetrical frontages and large, squat chimneys survive on some houses. Teifi valley slate masonry, where not covered by cement render, is of very high quality, with squared- and sawn stone laid in courses. Decoration is confined to chisel pecks on the sawn surfaces. Several examples of these buildings are listed, as is the mid 19th century architect-designed ‘Georgian’ Rectory. Cement render is used probably on buildings with poorer quality masonry, or over brick on later buildings. Terraces and individual houses with many more vernacular traits lie to the west of the main settlement core at Cwm Plysgog and to the east at Cnwcau. A former stone-built stone-dressing shed is located at this latter location, although most of the quarries have been assigned to another historic landscape character area. Other buildings in Cilgerran include a 19th century chapel, a 20th century school, a coracle fishing/visitor centre, and limited modern housing on the outskirts of the settlement. There are few recorded archaeological sites here other than those related to the standing buildings.

Cilgerran is a very distinct historic landscape character area. Its built up nature contrasts with its neighbouring rural areas.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, Cilgerran Castle, London; Fenton, R., 1811 A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London; Hilling, J B, 1992, Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey, Cardiff; Jones, T, 1952, Brut y Tywysogyon, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; King, D J C, 1988, Castellarium Anglicanum, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, ‘The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches’, unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Ludlow, N, 2002, ‘The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire’, unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes 2, London; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records, 2, London; Price, M R C, 1984, The Whitland and Cardigan Railway, Oxford; Rees, W, 1932, ‘Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century’; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Richards, A J 1998 The Slate Quarries of Pembrokeshire, Llanwrst; Soulsby, I, 1983, The Towns of Medieval Wales, Chichester; Slater & Co., 1850 Royal, National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of....., London; Weeks, R, 2002, The ‘Lost Market’ settlements of Pembrokeshire, Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report 17, 21-30*





## LLECHRYD



GRID REFERENCE: SN221439  
AREA IN HECTARES: 56

### Historic Background

A small area within modern Ceredigion, comprising the built-up area of Llechryd village and its environs, on the north bank of the Afon Teifi. During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedryaur. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'.

As a toponym, if not a settlement, Llechryd may have earlier origins - it has been tentatively identified with the 'Llech-y-crau', recorded in 1088 as a battle-site and which was clearly a recognised location, and this area lies within a division of Is-Hirwern commote, Gwestfa Camros, which may have pre-Norman origins. Nevertheless Llechryd, and its history, are dominated by the bridge over the Teifi. The present structure is 17th century, but the crossing point has documented medieval origins, probably as a ford. The crossing was clearly the impetus for the development of a medieval settlement in the form of a vill which, unusually for the region, appears to have developed into a nucleation at an early date. This development may have been encouraged by the crown, or by the Bishops of St Davids to whom the parish of Llangoedmor, within which Llechryd lay, was appropriated from the late 13th century onwards. A chapelry to Llangoedmor,

dedicated to the Holy Cross, was built to serve this emerging community, probably during the 14th century after the establishment of the parish. Its remains lie on the bank of the Afon Teifi, at the centre of the village.

The (re)building of the bridge in the 17th century was a further spur to this development, which may have continued uninterrupted from the medieval period. Holy Cross became a parish church in its own right, remaining parochial throughout most of the post-medieval period. Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi, just south of this area at Penygored. The works were successful, passing through several hands until purchased by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. It ceased operating in 1806. There is no evidence of worker housing in the vicinity of the tinworks site and so it is likely that the workers settled in Llechryd. Further impetus for growth occurred when the A484 through the village was turnpiked in the late 18th century, the section leading eastwards out of the village along the north side of the Teifi having been newly built for the purpose. The section leading northwest from the village may have medieval origins and most later development has occurred along this road. The tithe map of 1839 shows c.12 buildings in a cluster north of the bridge, all of which were rebuilt during the 19th century expansion of the village. This expansion meant that Holy Cross Church fell into disuse and was superseded by a new church, alongside the A484, in the later 19th century. The village continues to expand.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

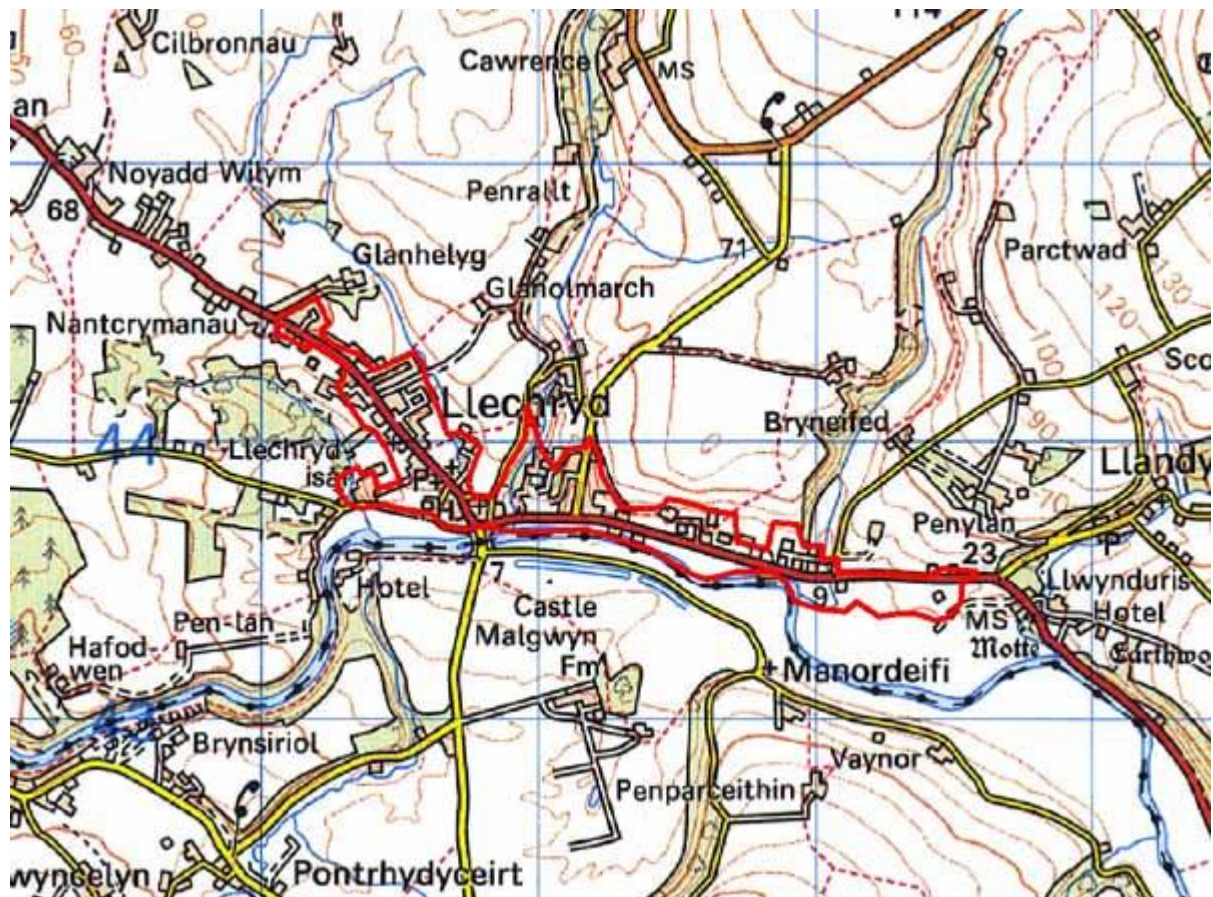
Llechryd is a small, built up historic landscape character area lying on the gently sloping north bank of the Afon Teifi between 10m and 50m above sea level. The core of the settlement consists of a cluster of 19th century buildings to the north of the 17th century Llechryd Bridge. From this core dispersed linear settlement spreads eastward along the edge of the valley floor on the north side of the A484 and northwards along the same road. Older buildings date to the 19th century and are constructed from Teifi valley slate. This is roughly squared into blocks or slabs and roughly coursed. Included in the village core are substantial mid to late 19th century middle class detached houses in the Georgian tradition (including one listed example), but most of the mid- to late-19th century domestic buildings in Llechryd



are more modest worker houses, short terraces, semi-detached and detached. Having said that, there is a very strong estate character to some of the buildings in the village, with a 19th century Tudor-gothic villa, a cottage with gothic detailing, a lodge to Pencraig Farm and a gated entrance to Glanarberth alongside the main road. Listed outbuildings to the Glanarberth estate are included in this area, although the house has been demolished. Other assumed estate influence is a series of houses, usually with small agricultural outbuildings, evenly spaced along the A484 north of the village. The line of these house extends beyond the village limits into Croes-y-Llan historic landscape area, and are dealt with in more detail there, but they are included here as 20th century housing has subsumed them into Llechryd. As mentioned above there is modern housing. This has mainly developed along the main A484 northwest of the village, both linearly and in small housing estates. As well as secular buildings the village has a strong ecclesiastical element with a listed 19th century chapel and church, and the ruined medieval church of Holy Cross at the heart of the village. A modern water treatment plant lies on the outskirts.

*Sources: Brooke, E H, 1932, Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain, Swansea; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire; Jones, T, 1952, Brut y Tywysogyon, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Llechryd parish tithe map 1842; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Ceredigion', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Meyrick, S R, 1810, The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Willis-Bund, J W (ed.), 1902, The Black Book of St Davids, London*





## PENTOOD MARSH



GRID REFERENCE: SN186453

AREA IN HECTARES: 88

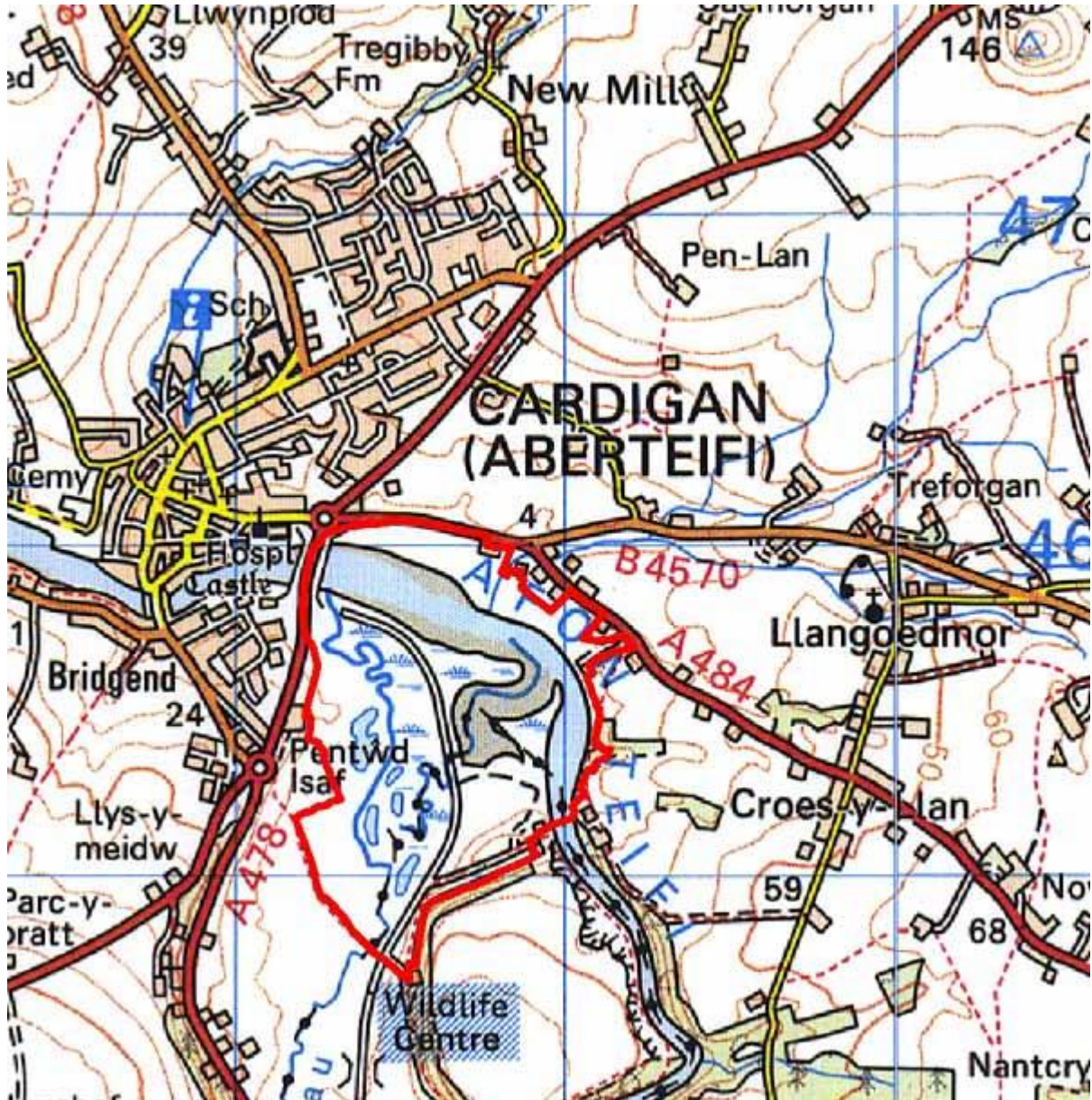
### Historic Background

This is a small area within modern Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire comprising marsh, on the southern bank of the Afon Teifi. It is a nature reserve. Until recently, the area lay entirely within Pembrokeshire. It is divided in two by the **Afon Piliu**, a tributary of the Teifi, which during the medieval period was the boundary between Cantrefs Cemaes and Emlyn, and their successor Anglo-Norman lordships, Cemaes and Cilgerran, which were established in c.1100 and absorbed into Pembrokeshire when it was established in 1536. However, the area occupied the 'Welshries' of both lordships, within which Welsh law, customs and tenorial patterns were maintained throughout the medieval period and into modern times. This area has always comprised marginal land and was once probably less extensive than today, the salt-marsh accruing at the confluence of the Piliu with the Teifi. The marsh had, however, reached its present extent by the 1840s, when it was recorded as marginal land on the tithe maps. The old Whitland - Cardigan railway line (constructed in 1869) crosses the marsh and is now a footpath/cyclepath. The line - which gained a place in local affections and was nicknamed the 'Cardi Bach' - was operational until the 1960s, mainly conveying milk and holiday traffic to Cardigan and St Dogmaels.



## Description and essential historic landscape components

Penttodd and Rosehill are tidal marshes dominated by reed beds, immediately upstream of the Cardigan bypass Bridge at the confluence of the Afon Teifi and the Afon Piliaw. It is not a large area, measuring just 1.3km by 0.8km, but distinct, and contrasts with the neighbouring landscapes of fields and farms. It is a nature reserve. A visitor centre is located here and the old railway line has been converted to a footpath. There are no recorded archaeological sites.



## CASTELL MALGWYN



GRID REFERENCE: SN215428  
AREA IN HECTARES: 173

### Historic Background

A small area within modern Pembrokeshire corresponding to the late 18th - 19th century Castell Malgwyn Park and its environs, an estate landscape on the gently sloping ground south of the Afon Teifi.

This area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223. From 1339 it was held of the Earldom of Pembroke, which passed to the crown in the late 15th century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran. The medieval lordship, administered as a 'Welshry', remained subject to Welsh laws, customs and tenorial systems throughout the period. This - - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Although Castell Malgwyn has been regarded as the site of a medieval castle, this is unlikely. However, there is a strong tradition that it was a high-status house of the Welsh princes during the medieval period, and it was first recorded in c.1400 when it was held by a descendent of the legendary Cadifor Fawr of Blaen Cych. Earlier records refer to the original house, which is now a farmhouse on a high wooded bluff. The an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Penygored, on the banks of the Teifi, between 1764 and 1770. A canal (or leat) supplied water to the works, materials were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The works were successful, passing through



several hands until they closed in 1806. Sir Benjamin Hammet, who had acquired the estate in 1792 when he purchased the Penygored Company, began the present Castell Malgwyn House, parks and gardens in 1798. This area is now characterised by the park and gardens. Castell Malgwyn House is now a hotel.

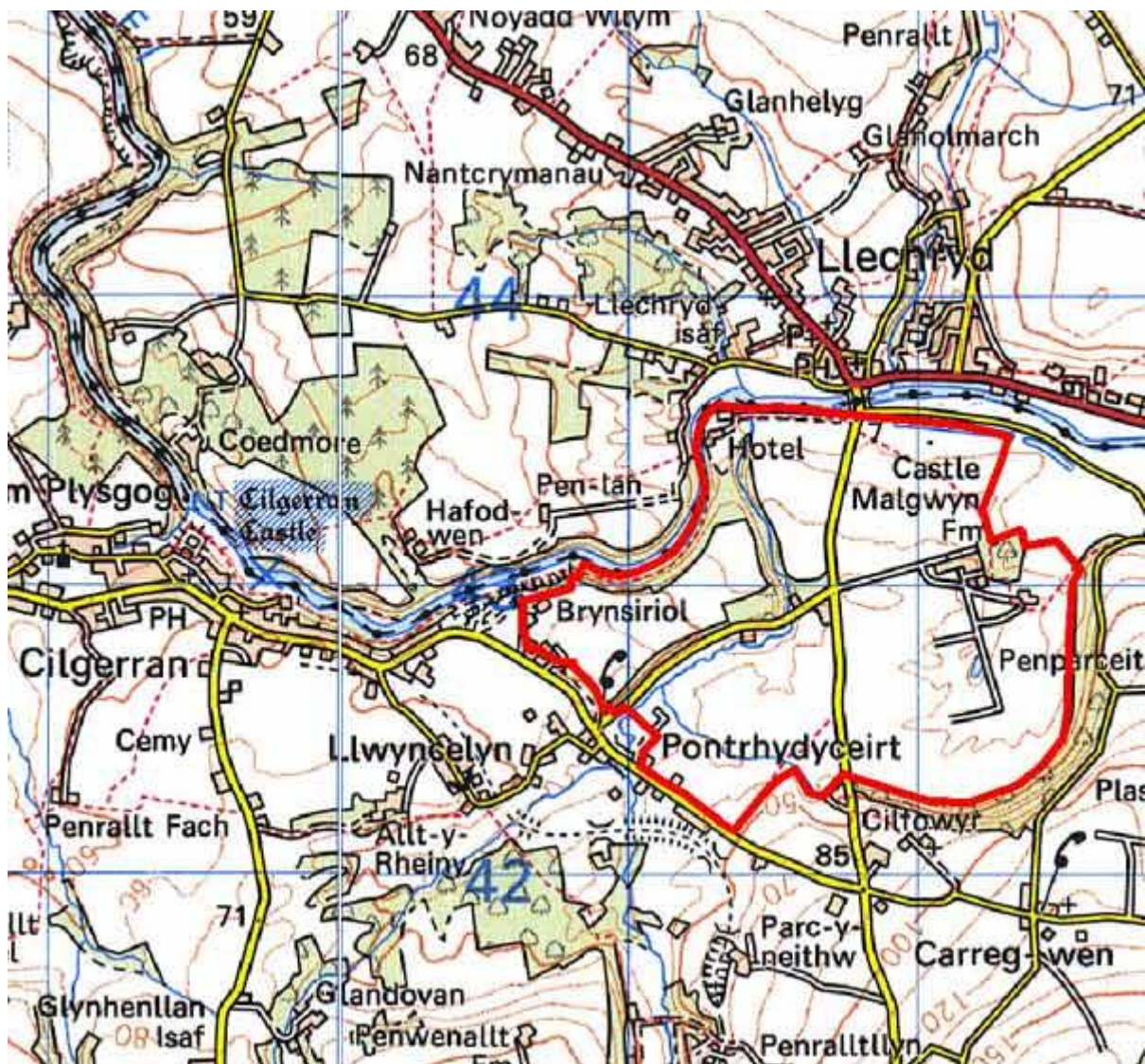


### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Castell Malgwyn is an estate dominated historic landscape character area lying on north-facing gently sloping ground rising from the Afon Teifi at less than 10m above sea level to 70m at its southern edge. It consists of the Castell Malgwyn mansion, parkland and associated land and buildings. The core of the estate consists of the three storey Georgian style house built in about 1795 of Teifi valley rubble slate and the nearby mid 19th century stable block and service wing of cut and coursed Teifi valley slate. The mansion is a hotel and the stable buildings and service buildings converted to tourist accommodation. A small park, entered through mid 19th century gates with flanking lodges of similar date, lies immediately to the east of the house, and wooded pleasure grounds flank the Afon Teifi to the north and west. Further out tree clumps indicate the former extent of the surrounding parkland, which is now subdivided by well-maintained hedges on earth banks into large regular fields. The home farm, consisting of a substantial late 18th century house with a very formal set of stone-built outbuildings, kitchen garden, other gardens and extensive modern agricultural outbuildings, lies in the parkland. The estate constructed other buildings, such as the mid 19th century Elizabethan timber frame style Mount Pleasant house. Nearly all the estate-constructed buildings are listed. An old stone built mill is located in this area. The only substantial modern building is a bungalow constructed in the former parkland close to the Castell Malgwyn entrance. Recorded archaeology is mostly related to the mansion and park; although two place-names possibly suggest Bronze Age round barrows which may indicate an extended human presence in the area. Two limekilns on the banks of the Teifi and a section of the canal/leat are the only surviving remains of an old tinplate and iron works.

This is a distinct historic landscape character area. The parkland and estate buildings distinguish it from the surrounding areas of farms and fields.

Sources: Brooke, E H, 1932, *Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain, Swansea*; Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, *Cilgerran Castle, London*; Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London*; Howell, D, 1987, 'The Economy 1660-1793', in D Howell *Pembrokeshire County History Volume III: Early Modern Pembrokeshire, 1536-1815*, 299-332, Haverfordwest; Jones, F, 1996, *Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families, Newport*; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London*; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, *Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records*, 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales, London*; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust





## COEDMORE



GRID REFERENCE: SN197437  
AREA IN HECTARES: 136

### Historic Background

Coedmor historic landscape character area lies within modern Ceredigion and corresponds to the 19th century Coedmor Park and its environs, a wooded estate landscape on the undulating plateau north of the Afon Teifi.

During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, divided between the commotes of Uwch-Hirwern and Is-Hirwern, which were separated by the steep, north-south valley of the Afon Hirwaun. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. The cantref, in the main, remained subject to Welsh law and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. However this area - as 'Coed Mawr' - formed part of the formal, demesne attached to Cardigan Castle, which had been established by the de Clares by c.1110. In contrast to its environs, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164, It was relinquished it to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, which corresponded to Is-Hirwern commote. A further period of Welsh rule followed in 1215-1223, but otherwise Cardigan remained in the hands of the English crown for the remainder of the medieval period. So although Coed Mawr may have been constituted as a demesne in c.1110, it was not re-united with the castle until 1201. Demesne was that part of the manor that was the lord's own land, meaning that it was subject to an Anglo-Norman manorial regime. Normally, demesne land was worked by unfree tenants for 2 or 3 days per week in return for

strips of land. However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The name Coed Mawr suggests that this area too was always wooded and exploited for the economic value of the woodland. Cardigan Castle remained crown property. However, Coed Mawr was apparently farmed out at an early date, and Earl Roger of Chirk was recorded as holding the manor during the late 13th century.

Little is known of the later medieval and early modern history of Coedmore. It formed part of the estates of the Mortimer family, who sold it to Sir John Lewis in 1614-15. It eventually passed into the Lloyd family of Cilgwyn. In 1813, it was described as 'nothing very remarkable', but by 1833, under the ownership of Thomas Lloyd, it had become a 'noble mansion'. It seems likely that the surviving gardens and parkland were laid out by Thomas Lloyd.



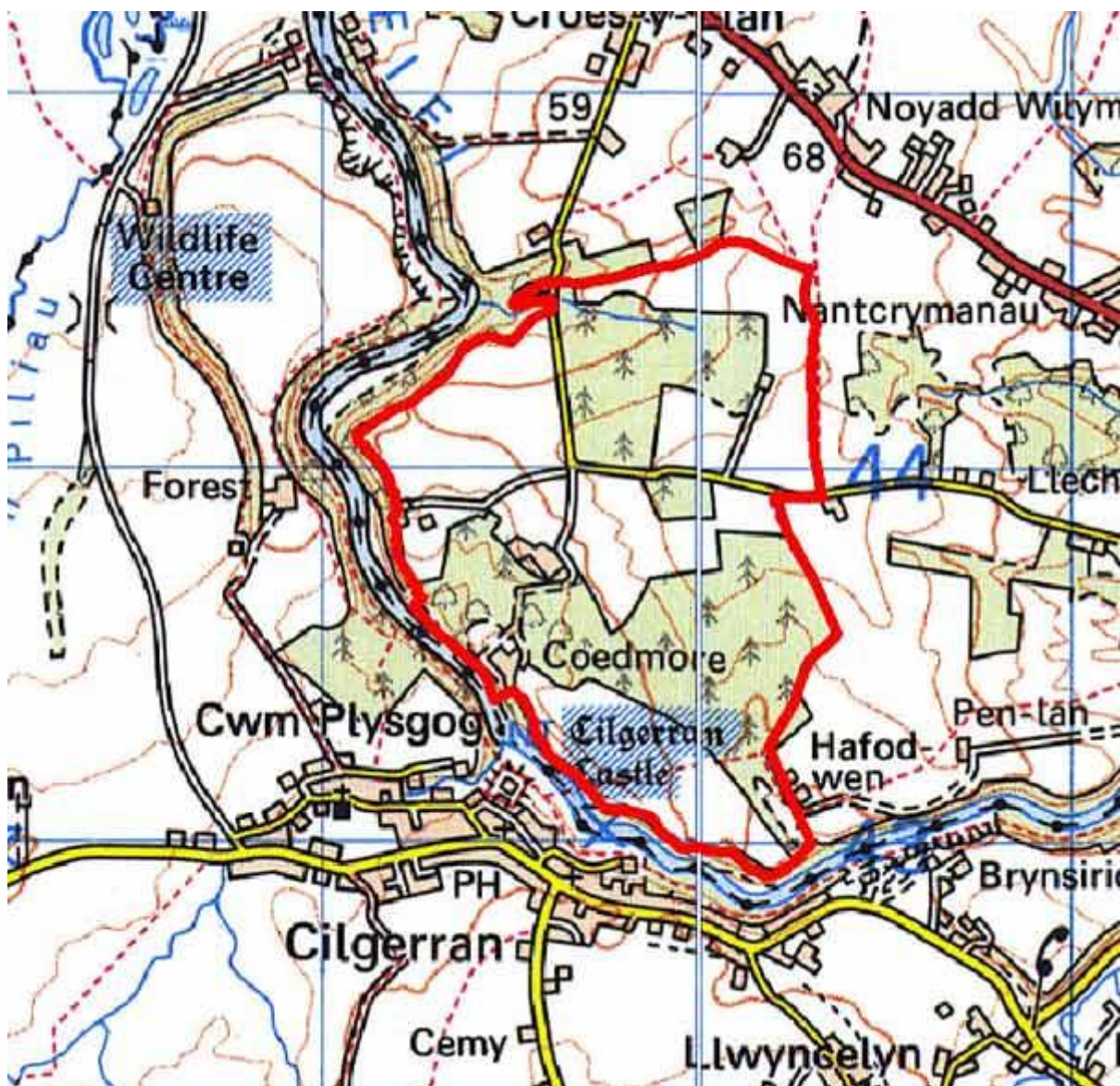
### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Coedmore is an estate-dominated historic landscape character area lying on the north side of the Afon Teifi. Most of this area lies on gently undulating land between 40m and 60m above sea level edged to the west and south by the very steep wooded slopes of the Teifi gorge. Coedmore House, a substantial early 19th century Georgian style listed house of Teifi valley slate with a later 19th century octagonal tower and large service wing, lies at the heart of this area. Gardens lie around the house, wooded pleasure gardens beyond these to the northwest, and a walled kitchen garden further to the northwest. Included is the home farm with some of its farmland. Fields are relatively large and regular and bounded by well-maintained hedges on earth banks. Agricultural land-use is improved pasture. However, many of the fields have been planted with coniferous trees intermixed with a little deciduous woodland, which may be relict. It is this woodland that is the main characteristic of this area outside the parkland. There is no recorded archaeology in this area apart from those sites associated with Coedmore House and gardens.



Parkland and woodland distinguish this area from its neighbouring areas of farmland and from the Teifi gorge to the south and west.

Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cadw 2002, *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire*; Jones, F, 2000, *Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families*, Newport; Lewis, S, 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2*, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1842; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Meyrick, S R, 1810, *The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire*, London; Murphy, K, and O'Mahoney, C, 1985, 'Excavation and Survey at Cardigan Castle', *Ceredigion 10*, No. 2, 189-218; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust



## CROSSWAY - GLANPWLLAFON



GRID REFERENCE: SN143437

AREA IN HECTARES: 3004

### Historic Background

This is a large area within modern Pembrokeshire comprising good mainly pastoral agricultural land, between Eglwysrw, to the south, and St Dogmaels on the Teifi estuary. A number of burnt mounds, of possible prehistoric date, attest to early occupation in the area, as do several Bronze Age round barrows on the high ground at the north end of the area.

During the historic period, the area (with the exception of a small area at the far east end) lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote, in the division of Uwch Clydach. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes until 1326, when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was coterminous with the later Hundred of Cemaes, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. This character area lies within Eglwysrw, Llantwyd, Monington and St Dogmaels parishes.

Eglwysrw parish was coterminous with the manor of Eglwysrw which was held from the 13th century onwards as a sublordship of the barony, comprising one knights fee. It maintained its own manorial court 'baron' every 15 days and a biannual court leet. However, its early post-Conquest history is vague. Pengelli Forest, just east of this area, which was always part of the manor, could have provided its original name, as a 'lord of Pengelli' was recorded before 1231. It may even have early medieval origins - a study of deserted rural settlement sites by Sambrook has identified seven potential settlement foci within the sublordship of Eglwysrw, that, perhaps correspond to Jones' model of an early 'multiple estate'. By the time Cemaes was recaptured from the Welsh, in 1204, the Cantingtons appear to have been lords of the manor of 'Eglwysrw'. It reverted to the Audleys, via a female heir, in 1326 and was henceforth held in demesne by the lords of Cemaes, and in the 16th century, was in the inheritance of the Owen lords of



Henllys. The original caput of the sublordship of Eglwysrw, originally in the village, was later re-established at Court Farm, a moated site 1km to the northwest, and at the southern end of this character area. It was in ruins by the 16th century but 'huge walls' could still be seen. It appears to have become a mere tenant farm at an early date. Eglwysrw's importance as an economic centre is illustrated by the fact that, in the 16th century, there were four markets and fairs within Cemaes, three of which were held at Eglwysrw, and the manor was responsible for levying the militias of the Hundreds of Cemaes and Cilgerran. It was included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the 'Extent of Cemaes'. Welsh systems of tenure appear to have persisted throughout the sublordship, with the subsequent development of a number of small landholdings. Each of these was associated with a gentry house of varying status, but by the 16th century the landholdings had mainly become amalgamated under the Owens of Henllys. Among those listed in the 'Extent' were the present farmsteads of Trewilym, traditionally a seat of the 13th century Cantigtons, and Berllan which also had medieval origins. Both were later owned by the Owens of Henllys. The sublordship also included farmsteads of later establishment, such as the 17th century Tredefaid.

The parish of St Dogmaels was coterminous with the manor, which comprised one knight's fee held as 'St Dogmaels patria alias Cassia', of the barony by the abbots of St Dogmaels. At the dissolution, it passed to John Bradshaw who had purchased the abbey in 1543. The Manor of St Dogmaels survived into the 19th century. It had been acquired by the Neuadd Trefawr estate during the 17th century and was sold to David Davies of Castle Green, Cardigan, in 1862. Manian Fawr, at the north end of this area, may be the site of an early earthwork castle. It was part of the manor and later became a gentry-house. The Manor of Monington was also held of the barony. Not being 'parcel' of the barony, the manors of Monington and St Dogmaels were not included in the 'Extent of Cemaes'. Llantwyd was not a manor at this time, and reckoned only as a vill. However, it has a fine motte-and-bailey castle, which is perhaps a re-used hillfort, at 'Castell Pen-yr-allt', although without a recorded history, it shows signs of having been fortified in stone. It lies within 400m of Llantwyd parish church, and the two may be contemporary Anglo-Norman institutions. It appears, therefore, that Llantwyd was an early manor that 'failed'. It is now a farm. The church was rebuilt in the 19th century, immediately to the north of its predecessor. There is some common land throughout the area, but it is associated with village rights, as at Eglwysrw, rather than relict.

It is apparent that the entire area was settled, and probably enclosed with the present system of regular fields, by the early post-medieval period. The tithe maps of the 1840s show the landscape much as today. The character area has been crossed by the main Haverfordwest-Cardigan route since the medieval period, which was later turnpiked and is now the B4329. The Fishguard-Cardigan route (A487T) is of similar age to the B4329. Although industry is never a major factor in the development of this landscape, there was some small-scale lime production. Its overwhelmingly agricultural character is relieved along its western edge by the Whitland - Cardigan railway line, which was incorporated in 1869. The line - which gained a place in local affections and was nicknamed the 'Cardi Bach' - was operational until the 1960s, mainly conveying milk and holiday traffic to Cardigan and St Dogmaels. However, these developments have had little effect on the settlement pattern which remains chiefly dispersed.



### Description and essential historic landscape components

This is an extensive historic landscape character area lying on the southern bank of the Afon Teifi. Although most of this landscape lies across gentle slopes with a general north-facing trend down to the tidal river, some steeper slopes lie in tributary streams valleys. Higher hills rise to over 200m above sea level. It is an agricultural character area dominated by medium-sized fairly regular fields and dispersed farms. Fields tend to be larger and more regular on higher ground and smaller and more irregular on lower-lying land. Apart from pockets of rough ground along the floor of the **Piliu valley**, land-use is almost entirely improved pasture with a very small amount of arable. There is some deciduous woodland and a little coniferous plantation on some of the steeper slopes, but apart from these locations woodland does not strongly characterise the area. Hedges on earth banks divide the fields. Hedges are generally well maintained, but thinner, and more straggling at higher altitudes, and more lush and overgrown in sheltered locations. As noted above woodland is not a feature of this landscape. However, in a few locations such as close to Pantirion farm substantial trees have grown in the hedges.

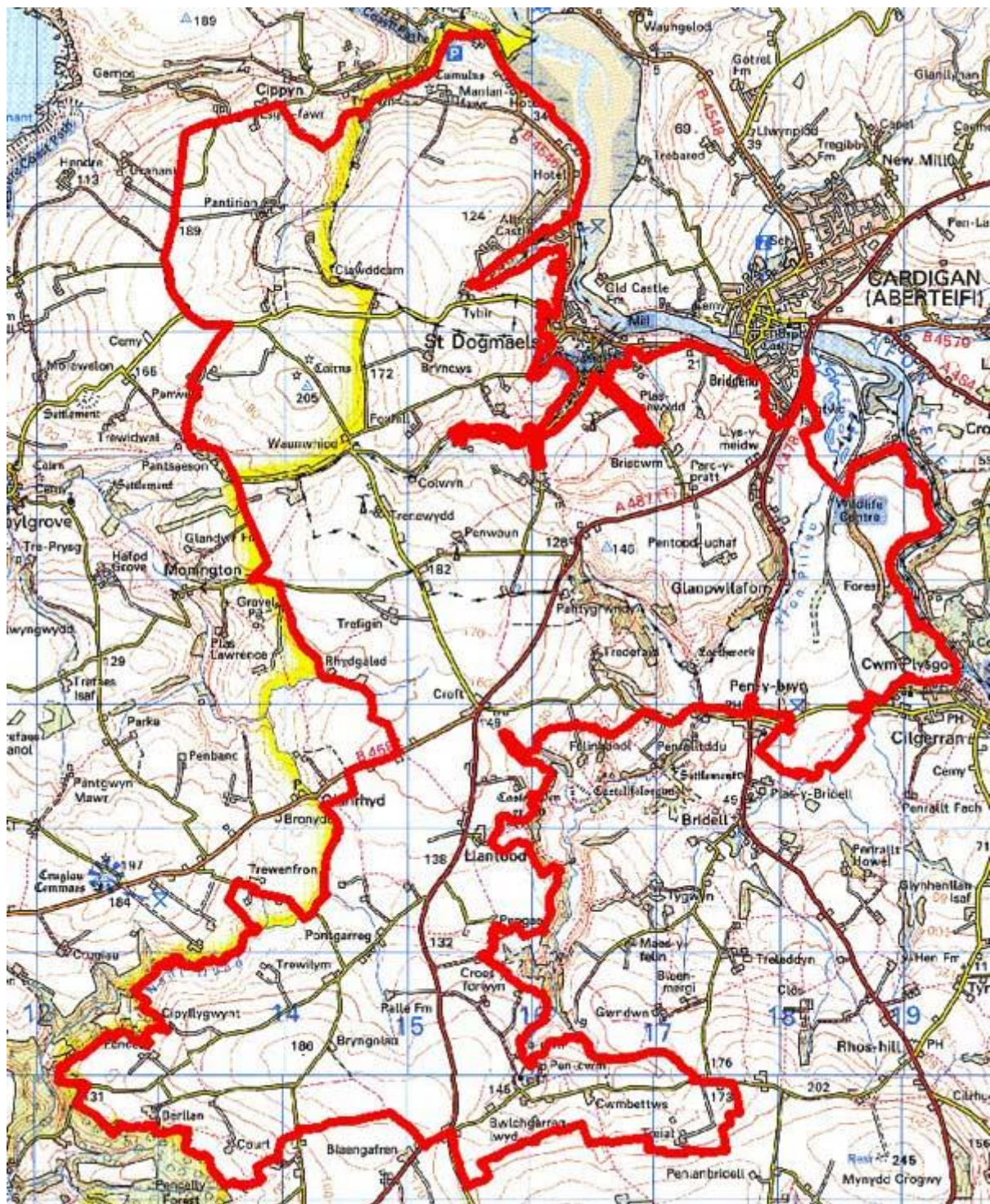
Lower Teifi valley slate is the main pre-20th century building material, with north Wales slate commonly used for roofs. On the better quality 19th century buildings the Teifi valley slate is cut and coursed, but used as uncoursed rubble pre-19th century structure and poorer quality houses and farm outbuildings. It is left unrendered on farm buildings but smaller houses are frequently cement covered. Although the building stock dates mainly to the 19th century, minor gentry houses of the 17th and 18th centuries such as the listed Tredefaid demonstrate that stone was the principal building material in earlier periods, at least for major buildings. There is a wide range of 19th century social-economic groups represented in the buildings. Georgian styling in most houses is a uniting element in the buildings stock, from substantial early 19th century houses such as the listed Parc y Pratt to the more common simple later 19th century farmhouse in the typical southwest Wales style – two storey and three-bay with a central front door and five symmetrically arranged windows. A very good example of this is the listed Glanpwllafon farmhouse. Houses with stronger vernacular traits, including single-storey houses with attached, in-line farm buildings are present, but are not as common. Close to Cardigan and St Dogmaels there is a scatter of 19th century



worker houses. These mostly date to the later 19th century and as with the farmhouses most have strong Georgian style traits, but a few have clear vernacular elements. There is also a scattering of modern housing, again with a concentration towards Cardigan and St Dogmaels, with some clustering as at Briscwm. Most farms are large. Tredefaid has a late 18th century farm building, but as with the houses the majority of the older farm buildings date to the 19th century, and mostly the second half of that century. The large, formally arranged stone farm buildings at Parc y Pratt are typical of a gentry house. Usually one or two ranges of stone outbuildings are present, with extensive modern concrete, steel and asbestos buildings on most working farms. Owing to the numerous modern farm buildings some of the older stone structures are disused or have been converted to other uses. There is a large number (over 120) and wide range of archaeological sites, including Bronze Age round barrows, a hillfort, early medieval inscribed stones, medieval defended sites, Llantwyd parish church and numerous post-medieval quarries and other sites. Apart from the scheduled Bronze Age round barrows, which are found on the highest points, few of these sites help characterise this area.

This is not an easy historic landscape character area to define apart from along its northern boundary where it meets the Teifi estuary, St Dogmaels, Cardigan and Cilgerran. Elsewhere there is a broad zone of change between this area and its neighbours.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Charles, B G, 1948, 'The Second Book of George Owen's Description of Pembrokeshire', National Library of Wales Journal 5, 265-285; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Fenton, R., 1811 A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, The Extent of Cemaes, 1594, Haverfordwest; ; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Llantoed parish tithe map 1839; Jones, F, 1996, Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families, Newport; King, D J C, 1988, Castellarium Anglicanum, New York; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Ludlow, N, 2003, 'St Cristiolus' Churchyard, Eglwysrwrw, Pembrokeshire: a Post-Conquest Cist Cemetery', Archaeologia Cambrensis 146, 20-48; Maynard, D, 1993, 'Burnt Mounds in the St Dogmaels area of north Pembrokeshire', Archaeology in Wales 33, 41-43; Monington parish tithe map 1838; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes 2, London; Price, M R C, 1984, The Whitland and Cardigan Railway, Oxford; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Sambrook, P, 1997 'Medieval or Later Deserted Rural Settlements: 1996-7 Pilot Study, an Interim Report', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838*





## CILGERRAN GORGE



GRID REFERENCE: SN190439  
AREA IN HECTARES: 82

### Historic Background

This is a long, narrow, sinuous area comprising the incised meanders of Cilgerran Gorge, where the Teifi Valley suddenly narrows from a floodplain at Llechryd into a narrow, rocky gorge. It has long been a renowned beauty spot.

This area lies within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Is-Cych commote. Cantref Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Cilgerran remained a marcher lordship, administered from Cilgerran Castle, which was established in c.1100. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under their rule until 1223. From 1339 it was held of the Earldom of Pembroke, which passed to the crown in the late 15th century. It was eventually abolished in 1536, when the lordship was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cilgerran. The medieval lordship, administered as a 'Welshry', remained subject to Welsh laws, customs and tenorial systems throughout the period. This - - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

The gorge passes below Cilgerran Castle itself, which was rebuilt in stone during the 1220s-1230s and still dominates the landscape. The gorge below the castle is noted for its fishing, particularly salmon, which has a long history. By 1270, the Lord of Cilgerran's salmon weir below the castle had six traps, and complaints were made that they impeded river traffic carrying stone downstream for the king's building works at Cardigan Castle. The traps were ordered to be removed, but were rebuilt in 1314 by the Lord of Cilgerran, in manner that did not interfere with river traffic. The six traps were described by George Owen in 1603 as 'the greatest weir of all Wales'. The fishery continued to be operated by the burgesses of Cilgerran through the post-medieval period, the building where the fish were taken to be weighed - 'Ty'r

goved', being located immediately below the castle. Coracle fishing was also undertaken in the gorge until recent years.

Another economic asset of the gorge that had been exploited since the medieval period is stone - the durable Teifi Valley slate stone that characterises so many buildings in the region. It is the stone from which Cilgerran Castle itself is made, physical evidence of an industry which is recorded in the reputed rights of the burgesses of Cilgerran to dig for stone, without payment, for their own use. A fee was payable if the stone was taken outside the borough. Seventeenth century leases also refer to slate quarrying . Despite this long history of quarrying for both building stone, and roofing slate, the industry seems to have been limited to numerous small workings until the mid 19th century. However, from the 1850s-1860s onwards, the industry was mechanised using steam power, and the arrival of the Whitland and Cardigan Railway at Cilgerran, in 1885, allowed for greater export. These factors led to the emergence of larger enterprises, with smaller quarries still serving local needs. The decline in the slate industry began in the early decades of the 20th century, and production of stone and slate ceased in the 1930s, although some bulk extraction was undertaken in the latter part of the century. There are two main groups of quarries, the Town Quarries on the slopes below the town and Fforest a little way downstream. Despite all this activity the valley retained a rural aspect, and even at the peak of the industry contemporary maps, such as the tithe map of c.1840, show the sides of the gorge as heavily wooded. These wooded slopes, with the castle, and the river below, have long been renowned as a beauty spot, attracting the attention of Romantic tourers and artists of the 18th and early 19th centuries, In search of the 'Picturesque', they would slowly coast downstream in order to view, sketch and paint the ruins of Cilgerran Castle. They included Richard Wilson, and J M W Turner who made several studies of the castle. The gorge itself attracted their attention - Samuel Lewis, in 1833, described the 'sylvan beauties of the scene... rich groves, alternating with the naked rock, continue to excite the admiration of the traveller'.



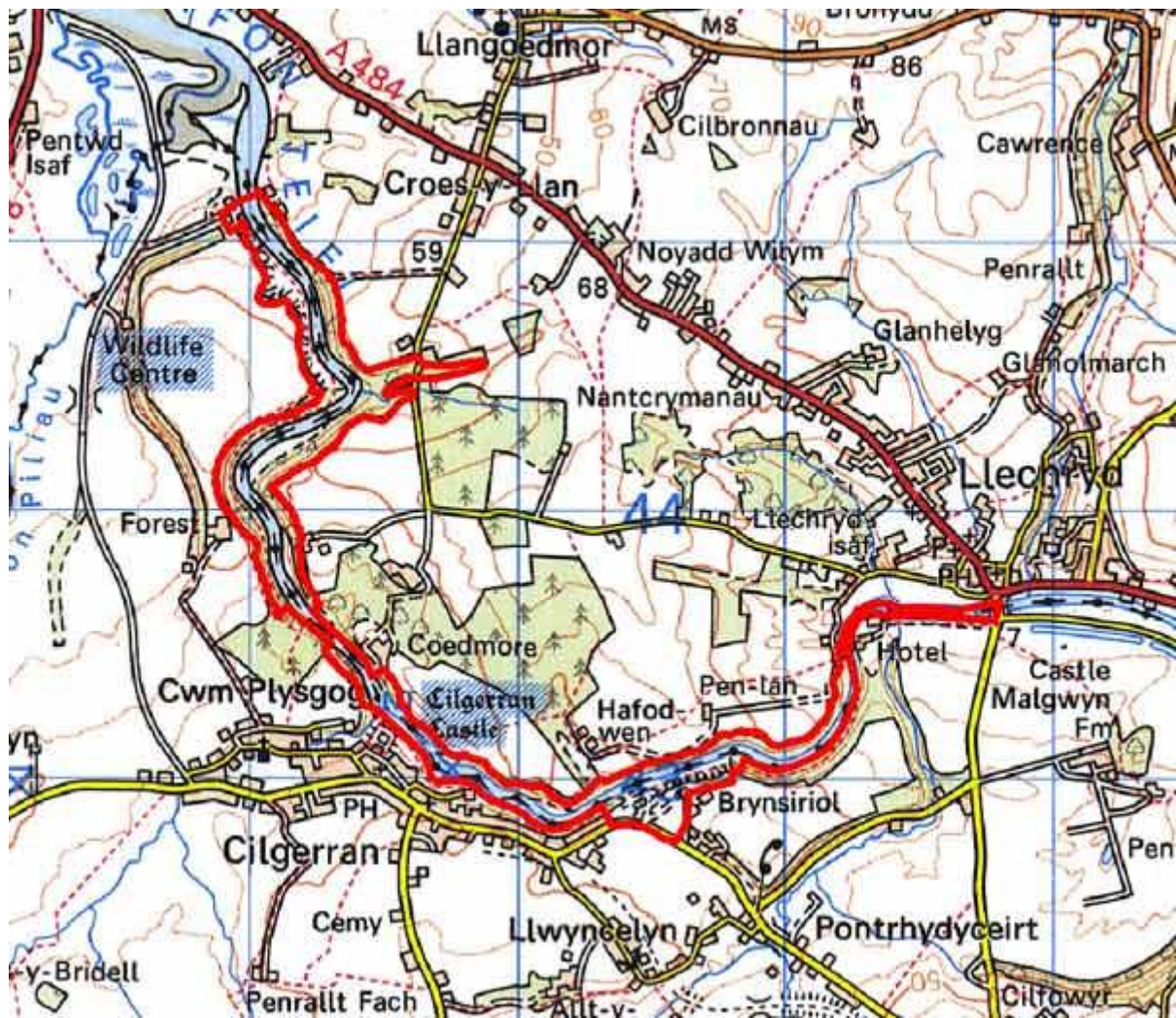
**Description and essential historic landscape components**



This historic landscape character area consists of approximately 5km of the Teifi valley from where it suddenly narrows from a floodplain upstream at Llechryd to where it enters tidal marshes at Rosehill/Pentood. The lower stretches of the river are tidal. From the river the valley sides rise steeply to over 50m above sea level. Numerous extensive, old stone quarries scar the landscape, particularly on the southern bank. Much of these old workings are cloaked in deciduous woodland, in common with the whole valley. There are no buildings in this area, and apart from a fishing weir close to Llechryd the only recorded archaeology is associated with the stone extraction industry. Three sections of the gorge, that below Cilgerran which contains a car park and coracle visitor centre, the gardens below Coedmore House, and the gardens/parkland of Castell Malgwyn have been assigned to different historic landscape character areas.

Cilgerran gorge is a distinct historic landscape character area with clearly defined boundaries. It contrasts with the neighbouring areas of Cilgerran, Coedmore gardens, Castell Malgwyn park, and farmland and fields.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cilgerran parish tithe map 1844; Craster, O E, 1957, Cilgerran Castle, London; Hilling, J B, 1992, Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey, Cardiff; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1841; Owen, H (ed.), 1914, Calendar of Pembrokeshire Records, 2, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Richards, A J 1998 The Slate Quarries of Pembrokeshire, Llanwrst; Soulsby, I, 1983, The Towns of Medieval Wales, Chichester; Weeks, R, 2002, The 'Lost Market' settlements of Pembrokeshire, Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report 17, 21-30*



## AFON TEIFI: LLECHRYD - CENARTH



GRID REFERENCE: SN243421  
AREA IN HECTARES: 207

### Historic Background

This is a small, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, comprising the rich, scenic floodplain of the lower Afon Teifi between Llechryd to the west and Cenarth to the east, and includes the confluence with the Afon Cych. It is entirely farmland, consisting of fairly large, regular fields of pasture. The Teifi and Cych form the boundaries between the three counties, and the medieval and later history is different in the three counties.

Cantref Is Aeron (Iscoed commote) north of the Teifi largely remained in Welsh hands until the 13th century, with a brief period of Anglo-Norman control between 1100 and 1136. The English crown finally annexed it in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created.

South of the Teifi, Cantref Emlyn was divided into two commotes by the Afon Cych; Emlyn Uwch-Cych and Emlyn Is-Cych. Emlyn Is-Cych, the the east of the Cych, was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when it was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. It may not have been fully subdued and it was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, at least, where it remained throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire.

To the east of the Cych, Is-Cych) remained a marcher lordship (Lordship of Cilgerran) with intermittent periods of Welsh rule, until the late 15th century when it



passed to the crown, eventually being incorporated into Pembrokeshire (Cilgerran Hundred) in 1536.

This character area was possibly the scene of an earlier struggle, Llechrhyd being tentatively identified with the 'Llech-y-crau' recorded in 1088 as a battle-site and which was clearly a recognised location. The area in general remained subject to Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither vill nor knight's fees - which has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region; this and periodical flooding, have militated against settlement within this area.

However, a farmstead known as Ddol was once located on the valley floor, but there has been no record of it since the 1840. The present Stradmore Mansion - first recorded in 1610 - was also formerly located on the floodplain, where its walled garden can still be seen, but it was ruined by flooding in the early 19th century and relocated to its present site on an overlooking spur (beyond the character area).

The landscape of large, regular fields appears late post-medieval in date and had assumed its present form by the late 18th century when estate maps show it as it is today. However, it would have been more isolated during the historic period, as the road that now flanks the north side of the floodplain - the A484 - did not exist until newly constructed as a turnpike in the late 18th century. Before this, access to the valley floor would have been via farm tracks and lanes. The history of this landscape has thus been overwhelmingly agricultural. However, an industrial element has helped to shape it. Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive iron- and tinplate works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi at Penygored which lies just west of this area. The canal (or leat) that supplied water to the works still runs through this area just south of the river. Materials for the works were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The works were successful, passing through several hands until purchased by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. They ceased to operate in 1806.

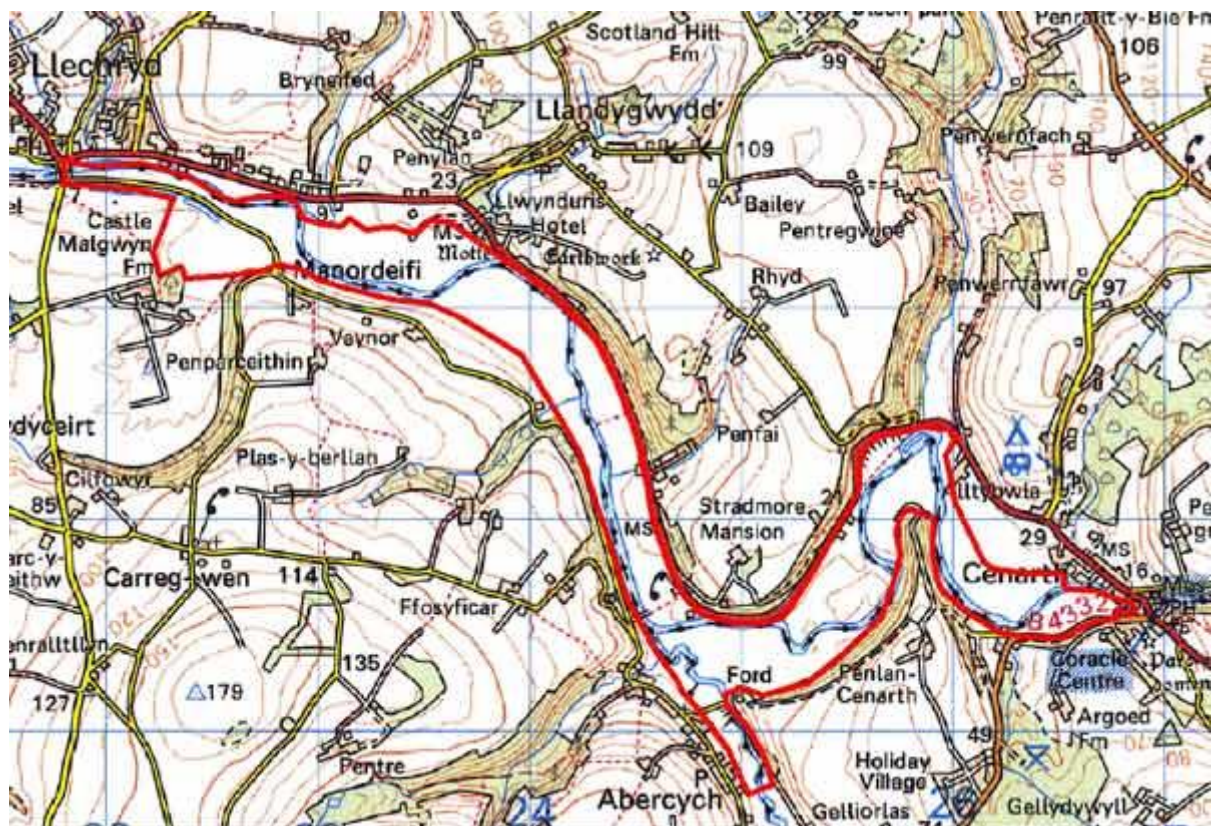
### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This historic landscape character area consists of 7km of Afon Teifi floodplain between Llechrhyd and Cenarth. It averages 300m wide and lies at 10m above sea level. Land-use is almost entirely improved pasture with a little arable. Fields are relatively large and bounded by hedges. These are planted on low banks or alongside drainage ditches. Many of them are overgrown, with some reduced to straggling lines of bushes and trees. Apart from an 18th 19th century substantial walled garden and associated buildings on the floodplain (the former site of Stradmore Mansion), and a modern timber yard there are no standing structures in this area. The A484 running along the edge of the floodplain provides a hard boundary to the northern side of this area. The course of a partly infilled canal - more properly a leat - that fed water to a tinplate works downstream, is visible at the western end of this area. Archaeological sites are few and consist of a deserted farm site called Ddol, and a bridge.

The Afon Teifi: Llechrhyd - Cenarth historic landscape character area is well defined on account of its flat nature in contrast to the surrounding rolling farmland.

*Sources: Brooke, E H, 1932, Monograph of Tinplate Works in Great Britain, Swansea; Cadw 2002, Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Part 1 Parks and Gardens, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion &*

Pembrokeshire; Carmarthen Record Office c/v 5885 Newcastle Emlyn Estate – The Property of John Vaughan 1778, map 9; Carmarthen Record Office Cawdor 227, 1768, p3; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Craster, O E, 1957, Cilgerran Castle, London; Fenton, R., 1811 A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London; Jones, F, 1996, Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families, Newport; Jones, F, 2000, Historic Cardiganshire Homes and their Families, Newport; Jones, T, 1952, Brut y Tywysogyon, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Llangoedmor parish tithe map 1839; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Llechryd parish tithe map 1841; Lloyd, J E, 1935, A History of Carmarthenshire, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; National Library of Wales Map 7616 1758; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Meyrick, S R, 1810, The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust



## ST DOGMAELS



GRID REFERENCE: SN163462

AREA IN HECTARES: 71.6

### Historic Background

This is a small historic landscape character area represented by the built-up area of the large village of St Dogmaels. During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100, under Robert FitzMartin, and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemaes. Cemaes remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer commote represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20th century. The Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223, held this northeastern part of the Is-Nyfer.

St Dogmaels is dominated by an ecclesiastical presence, in the form of the Tironian (Benedictine) abbey of St Dogmaels. This was established by Robert FitzMartin as a priory in 1113; it was raised to abbey status in 1120. It occupies a much earlier monastic site. FitzMartin's foundation charter described the house as the 'old church' of Llandudoch. The six Early Christian Monuments from the site suggest a continuous ecclesiastical presence from the 6th century onwards, which was wealthy enough to be attacked by Vikings in 988. A possible earlier monastic enclosure observed as a line of continuous property boundaries at St Dogmaels may or may not continue a curving bank recently recorded through geophysics south of the later abbey buildings. The abbey church was begun during the early 12th century. Although never completed to its original extensive plan, it had developed into a large church by the mid 13th century, central to an extensive range of masonry conventual buildings occupying a precinct that was at least 4ha in extent. The complex still forms the defining element of today's landscape.



A settlement had developed outside the abbey by the later medieval period, directly held by the barony which may have been keen to exploit the economic potential provided by the abbey's presence. The lords of Cemais are also recorded as having established a market here. The settlement was a manor, described as one of the 'three corporate towns' of Cemais in 1603 (along with Newport and Nevern), but it never appears to have been a borough. It may have remained fairly small through the medieval period. However, it was large enough to be served by a parish church dedicated to St Thomas (the abbey church being non-parochial), which stood opposite the abbey, but which has now gone. The abbey, and perhaps the settlement, were served by a mill immediately east of the abbey, and the monks had rights to an extensive fishery on the Teifi estuary. A devotional, or pilgrimage chapel was established in the steep valley of Cwm Degwell to the south.

The abbey was dissolved in 1536 when the buildings were leased to John Bradshaw of Presteigne. He built a mansion for himself within the precinct, from stone robbed from the conventual buildings, but this was short-lived and the site was described as a ruin in 1603. It was bought by David Parry of Neuadd Trefawr in 1646, but does not appear to have been inhabited, and the ruins passed into the ownership of the Anglican Church, who may briefly have relocated the parish church into the abbey. However, a new parish church was established, on its present site, in the early 18th century (which was rebuilt in 1847) followed by the construction of the vicarage (and the coach-house) in 1866.

There are some early references to seine net fishing at St Dogmaels. A medieval source mentions a salmon fishery in association with the abbey, and there is also a later record of a complaint in the reign of Elizabeth I for fishing with nets called "sayney." Whereas seine net fishing was practiced along the shores of the estuary, the 18th century saw St Dogmaels develop into an important herring fishery. During the second half of the 19th century, St Dogmaels grew rapidly. This undoubtedly owed much to the busy trade along the Teifi, with the Port of Cardigan burgeoning and associated activity spreading to St Dogmaels. The most obvious physical symbols of this upturn in economic activity within the parish of St Dogmaels are the fine 19th century warehouses seen along the river at both Bridgend and near the Pinog. There are also a number of 19th century lime kilns along the river. Otherwise there are few structural remains to indicate the former importance of the sea trade to the community.

The settlement had become fairly sizeable by 1838, when the tithe map shows a loose nucleation of about 100 buildings centred on the abbey, though there are many gaps between them. Much rebuilding and development occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with good-quality buildings, both terraced and detached. Analysis of 19th century maps graphically shows how the village grew. By the time of the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, gaps have been infilled. In addition, a coastal gun battery was built on the southern bank of the Teifi in the 1880s. This ruined fort is now almost unrecognisable on the shore below the Webley Hotel. A workhouse was established at Albrow Castle, north of the village, later in the 19th century. Another interesting development during this period was the settlement of common land along Cwm Degwell and on high ground to the south of the village. This land was virtually unsettled in the 1840s, but by 1891 formed a significant part of the village. A few of these cottages were probably *tai unnos*, characterised by the single dwelling standing in an enclosed garden plot.

St Dogmaels is now a popular holiday destination. The abbey has been in the care of the state since 1934 and is now one of the visitor attractions of the region. The early

19th century mill is also preserved and open to the public. However, there has been little modern commercial development.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

St Dogmaels is a small, built-up historic landscape character area located on the southern bank of the tidal Afon Teifi. Most of the settlement lies on relatively level ground between sea level and 30m, but on the southwestern periphery streets and houses are located on very steep slopes up to 80m above sea level. Also included are two wooded minor valleys, the larger of which, Cwm Degwell, has a minor road with dwellings along its floor. An open area containing the imposing ruins of a medieval abbey with the adjacent mid 19th century parish church lies at the centre of village. An early 19th century stone-built corn mill in working condition lies immediately to the east of the abbey ruins, on a medieval site. Streets meander from this centre in an organic fashion. There is no indication of planned settlement. Tightly-packed buildings, usually two-storey terraces, curving and straight, with some semi-detached and detached houses line these streets. Almost the whole pre 20th century housing stock dates to the 19th century, and most to the mid 19th century, with very little evidence of anything earlier. Terraces are generally multi-build, that is buildings have been fitted between existing buildings. However, there are a few examples of short single-build terraces. This pattern suggests buildings had to be fitted into existing building plots, plots that may have been established several centuries prior to the rebuilding during the 19th century. Teifi valley slate is the principal building material and north Wales slate the roofing material of these 19th century houses. Many houses are cement rendered (stucco). Occasional use is made of red brick – sometimes cement rendered. A very distinctive characteristic of some of the St Dogmaels houses is the use of pale blue/silver Teifi valley slate laid in strongly coursed bands which is separated by courses of rich brown squared stone (possibly Preseli dolerite). In some instances the slate banding has been emphasised by paint. This banding technique has been noted elsewhere, such as at Newport and Dinas in Pembrokeshire and at Cardigan, but no other location has the strong polychrome effect seen on the St Dogmaels houses, several of which are listed. Many of the 19th century houses have good period detail, such as door cases, bay

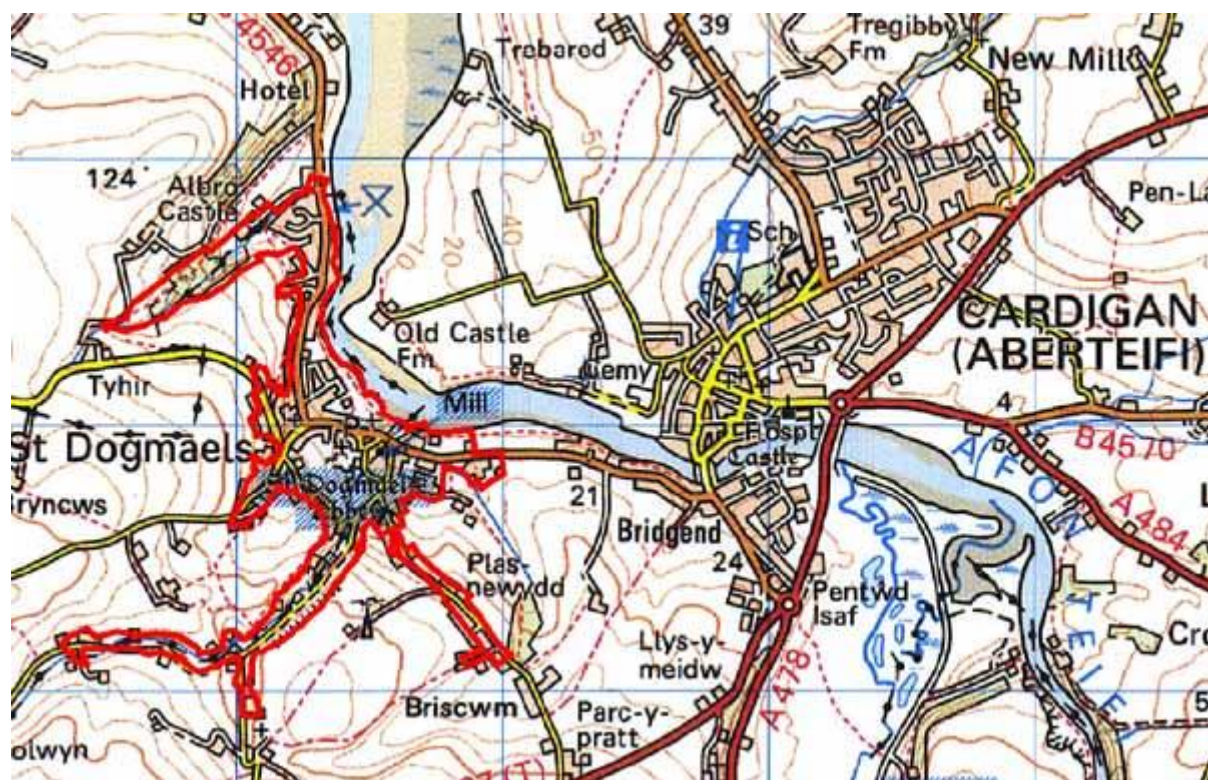
windows, bargeboards and low street frontage walls with railings. Few of the terraces are single build. This mixture of narrow crowded streets rising up the steep valley side and small houses of great individual variety, but with an overall coherence of date and design, provides St Dogmaels with its strong historic landscape character.

Modern housing, individual dwellings and small estates lie at the periphery of the village and infill gaps in the historic core. Albro Castle, one of the best examples of a 19th century workhouse in Wales is located on the periphery of this area. There is a school, but few shops in the village and little in the way of modern commercial development. Concrete slipways and other facilities are provided for the launching of small boats along the river frontage, but apart from limekilns and 19th century warehouses in banded stone (now converted to other uses), there are few structural remains to indicate the former importance of the sea trade to the community. Recorded archaeology mainly consists of standing structures and buildings as described above, but also included are the early medieval inscribed stones in the abbey, church and chapel sites, burnt mounds and a Roman coin hoard.

St Dogmaels is a very distinctive historic landscape character area and contrasts strongly with the neighbouring areas of fields and farms.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Hilling, J B, 1992, Cilgerran Castle/St Dogmaels Abbey, Cardiff; Fenton, R., 1811 A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London; Howells, B E and K A (eds.), 1977, The Extent of Cemaes, 1594, Haverfordwest; James, T, 1992, 'Air photography of ecclesiastical sites in south Wales', in N Edwards and A Lane, The Early Church in Wales & West, Oxford, 62-76; Jones, T, 1952, Brut y Tywysogyon, Peniarth MS 20, Cardiff; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Pembrokeshire', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Maynard, D, 1993, 'Burnt Mounds in the St Dogmaels area of north Pembrokeshire', Archaeology in Wales 33, 41-43; Owen, H (ed.), 1897, The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes 2, London; Pritchard, E M, 1907, The History of St Dogmael's Abbey, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Sambrook, P, 2000, 'St Dogmaels Historic Audit', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838; Weeks, R, 2002, The 'Lost Market' settlements of Pembrokeshire, Medieval Settlement Research Group, Annual Report 17, 21-30*





## CARDIGAN



GRID REFERENCE: SN180463  
AREA IN HECTARES: 160

### Historic Background

Cardigan town lies within the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle at Cardigan on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. A castle had already been established during an earlier incursion, in 1093, but was short-lived. It is usually thought to be represented by the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, but it could have been located at the present castle site. Anglo-Norman control in Cantref Iscoed was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town.

Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164. It is recorded that the Welsh prince Rhys ap Gruffudd after gaining Cardigan immediately rebuilt the castle in stone, although the scant remains visible today appear, in the main, to be late 13th century. Rhys' sons relinquished Cardigan to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, which corresponded to Is-Hirwern commote. A further period of Welsh rule followed in 1215-1223, but otherwise Cardigan remained in the hands of the English Crown for the remainder of the rest of the medieval period.

The origins of the town, which later became a borough, are generally thought to belong to the period 1110-1136, as is the construction of a bridge over the Teifi, and the foundation of St Mary's Church as a Benedictine priory, to the east of the town. It was also the parish church, survived the Dissolution to remain the parish church until the present day.. It has a fine 14th century chancel, and a west tower that was rebuilt in 1748. A further chapelry, now gone, was established near the southern end of the town bridge, after a visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1188. A

weekly market was held from the mid 12th century until the early 20th century. Although many burgess privileges had been granted the town was not formally recognised as a borough until 1284, when it received its first charter. The town wall was constructed during the 1240s when the English Crown extensively rebuilt the castle, although the defensive line may already have been in existence. The medieval street-pattern has survived, but little of the town wall, which was already becoming ruinous in 1610. The walls enclosed 4.3 ha, taking in High and Bridge Streets, and their side streets between the Afon Mwldan and the priory. The population of the town increased from 128 burgages in 1274 to 172 in 1308. The borough was incorporated in the early 16th century, with a mayor and corporation, and the grant of further privileges. The castle became the administrative centre for the County of Cardiganshire, which was created in 1284, but this role came to an end with the Act of Union of 1536. It was neglected, and by 1610 was ruinous. It saw action in 1644-5 during the Civil War when it was damaged and taken by Parliamentary forces. John Bowen acquired it by 1810 and began converting it into a mansion and landscaping the interior. It was occupied until the end of the 20th century. Consolidation of the ruins is due to commence shortly.

The town contracted during the late medieval period. There are only 55 houses recorded in the mid 16th century, while it was 'ruinous and decayed'. In 1610, Speed's map showing extensive open areas, and only one mill still existed of the three recorded on the Afon Mwldan in the 13th century. However, from 1536 onwards, Cardigan became the county town, which may have given impetus for growth - Speed's map also shows extensive extra-mural suburbs to the north, and especially to the east of the town wall. The County Assizes were held in the town from 1536, a shire hall was built in 1764, and a County Gaol built by John Nash, in 1793, to the north of the town.

Cardigan was a seaport from the first, and maritime trade - which underwent a revival from the 17th century onwards - also contributed to the redevelopment within the medieval town and the expansion of the suburbs. The Port of Cardigan had jurisdiction over Newport, Fishguard, Aberaeron, Aberporth and Newquay during the 18th and 19th centuries, with a combined fleet, in 1833, of 291 registered vessels. Ship-building was also an important occupation, but its decline had begun by c.1800. The quay was located immediately west of the Afon Mwldan. The town was involved in considerable coastal trade, as well as some foreign trade, exporting oats, butter, oak bark, and - especially from the late 19th century onwards - locally-quarried slate. The town was supplied with piped water in 1831 from a reservoir on the northern edge of the town, and a number of new places-of-worship had been established by 1833. A brickworks had been established in Cardigan, by William Woodward, by the 1870s. Development took place to the north of the medieval town, along the turnpike road to Aberystwyth (now the A487(T)), which already comprised 'shops, and few good houses' in the early 19th century. This development is shown on the tithe map of c.1840, which also shows a small secondary development at Netpool, and about 10 buildings south of Cardigan Bridge. Apart from these developments the town had not expanded outside its boundaries depicted by Speed in c.1610.

A further boost to Cardigan's trade, industry and growth came when the Whitland-Cardigan railway was incorporated in 1869 (closing in the 1960s), with its station on the southern bank of the Teifi. A substantial suburb developed here. However, subsequent development has mainly occurred north of the town, with rows of good-quality late 19th - early 20th century terraces, and villas, either side of the A487(T) and B4548. Schools, and a hospital, were established during the 20th century. The



main maritime industries rapidly declined during the early 20th century, although coastal herring fishing, and a salmon fishery on the Teifi - including coracle fishing - were undertaken into the middle of the 20th century. The town is now a regional administration centre, with tourism and leisure playing an important role in its economy.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

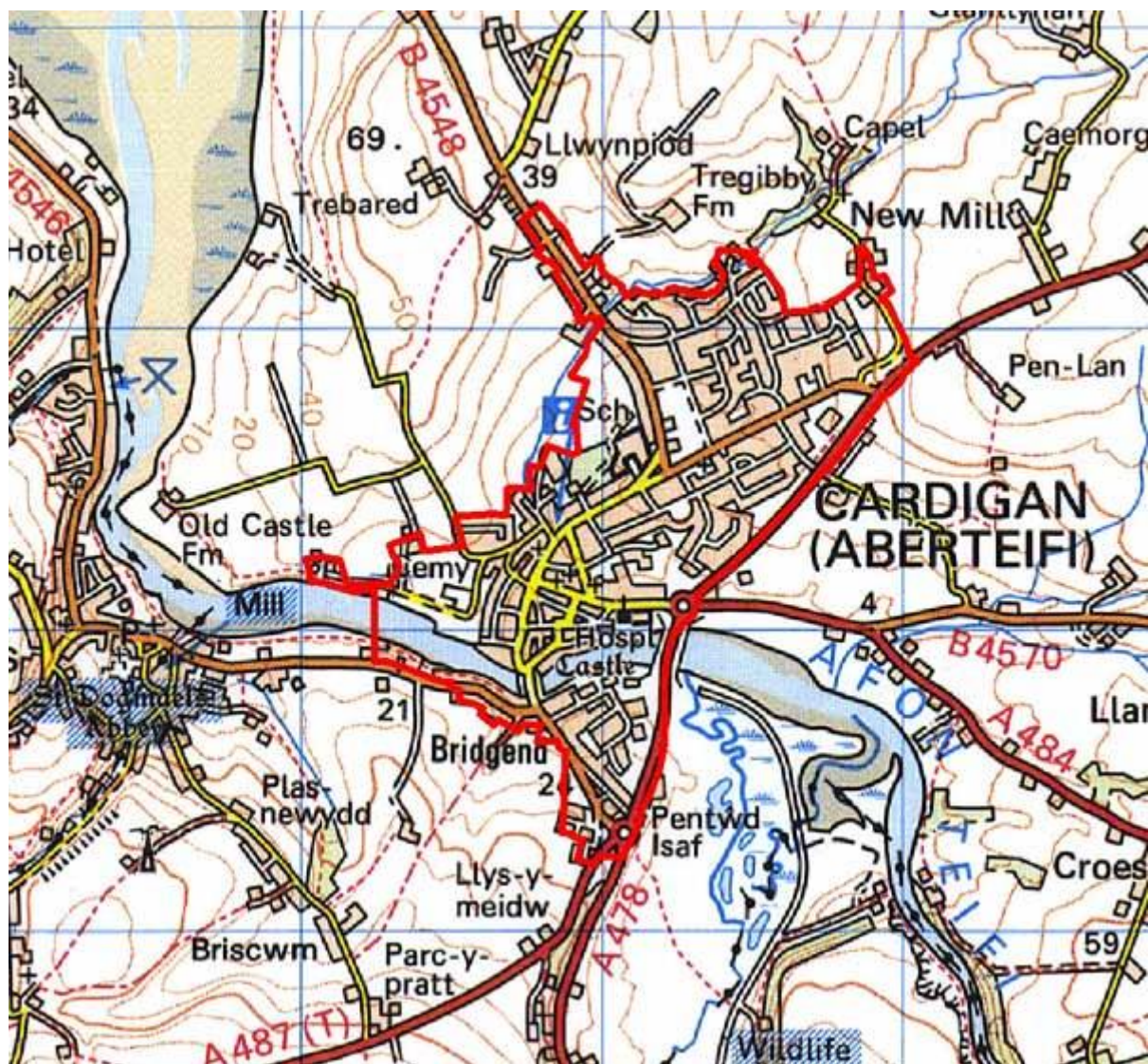
Cardigan is a complex urban historic landscape character area lying mainly on gently sloping south-facing land on the north bank of the Afon Teifi, but including a smaller but nevertheless substantial component on the opposite bank. Older elements of the town are mainly confined within the circuit of the medieval town walls (now almost entirely gone), with a focus on the remains of the medieval castle and bridge at the southern end of the High Street. The medieval urban topography of the High Street, and St Mary's Street leading to the parish church located a little distance to the east of the walled town, is perpetuated in the modern town plan. Mid to late 19th century development, mostly housing, lies along North Road, to the east towards St Mary's Church and on the south bank of the river across the early 18th century stone bridge. Extensive 20th century (mostly later 20th century) housing and commercial development lies further out to the north and south. Teifi valley slate is the principal building material in the older buildings – the medieval remains of Cardigan Castle, the medieval St Mary's Church and Cardigan Bridge – and was used down to the end of the 19th century. On better quality buildings it is cut and coursed, but is uncoursed rubble on many structures. It is assumed that the cement render, common on many buildings, covers rubble. Banded Teifi valley slate in conjunction with squared, warm brown stone (Dolerite?) is used on some buildings; it is particularly noticeable on the three-storey early to mid 19th century warehouses close to the river. A couple of late 18th century buildings survive, but most stone-built domestic and commercial properties date to the early to mid 19th century. Numerous two- and three-storeyed Georgian style buildings are present (most are listed), but most, though generally in the Georgian tradition are relatively small terraced houses. Within the confines of the medieval town it is usual to find these terraces made up of buildings of different styles and dates – the available space for

building dictated by the medieval burgrave plots. Outside the medieval town single-build terraces are more common. The 18th century brick-built Black Lion is unusual, if not unique, in southwest Wales as brick was not commonly used until the late 19th century. The opening of a brickworks at Cardigan in the late 19th century marked the decline of stone. Brick buildings are particularly evident along North Road, many displaying moulded designs and period details such as gothic and classically inspired architectural details. Some of these are listed, as are brick-built shops/commercial premises in the town centre. Cement rendering probably covers many smaller domestic brick-built buildings. North Wales slate is used on roofs of stone-built and brick buildings. Early 20th century development along North Road includes several substantial, pebbledashed, detached villas with towers, turrets and red tile roofs, as well as more modest semi-detached suburban style housing. Substantial later 20th century housing estates in a variety of styles and materials and commercial and light industrial development lie on the fringes of the historic town core.

The urban character of Cardigan distinguishes it from the surrounding areas of fields and farms.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; James, T, 1983, 'Excavations at Woolworth's, Cardigan, 1978', Ceredigion 9, No.4, 336-342; King, D J C, 1988, Castellarium Anglicanum, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion churches', unpublished reports by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Meyrick, S R, 1810, The History and Antiquities of Cardiganshire, London; Murphy, K, and O'Mahoney, C, 1985, 'Excavation and Survey at Cardigan Castle', Ceredigion 10, No. 2, 189-218; Pritchard, E M, 1904, Cardigan Priory in the Olden Days, London; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; St Dogmaels parish tithe map 1838; St Mary's parish tithe map 1846; Slater & Co., 1850 Royal, National and Commercial Directory and Topography of the Counties of....., London; Smith, L. T. (ed.), 1906 Leland's Itinerary in Wales, 2; Soulsby, I, 1983, The Towns of Medieval Wales, Chichester; Thorpe, L (ed.), 1978, Gerald of Wales: The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales, Harmanworth*







## ABERCYCH



GRID REFERENCE: SN250406  
AREA IN HECTARES: 29

### Historic Background

A small, narrow area within modern Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, comprising the industrial hamlet of Abercych, which is represented by 19th - 20th century linear development along the Afon Cych near its confluence with the Afon Teifi. The Cych forms the boundary between the two counties, consequently the medieval and later history of the area is rather different either side of the river. The Afon Cych divided the medieval Cantref Emlyn into two commotes, Emlyn Uwch-Cych and Emlyn Is-Cych.

Emlyn Is-Cych, to the west of the Cych, was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when it was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. However, it may not have been fully subdued and it was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, where it remained throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. It was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. In 1536, it formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire. Emlyn Is-Cych to the east remained a marcher lordship, with intermittent periods of Welsh rule, until the late 15th century when it passed to the crown, eventually being incorporated into Pembrokeshire (Cilgerran Hundred) in 1536. Nevertheless, the area in general remained subject to Welsh tenorial patterns which have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement.

Indeed, no settlement is recorded in the Cych valley until the establishment of a forge, now gone, at Forge Cych at the bottom of the valley. The forge became the focus for settlement, mainly comprising worker houses. By the time of the tithe surveys of the early 1840s the settlement consisted of about 30 houses spread along the valley side. Two chapels were built to serve this community during the 19th century, and an iron church, now closed, was added in the 20th century, testifying to the importance of the new community. Development of the settlement,

with further service industries, has continued through the 20th century and into the 21st century.



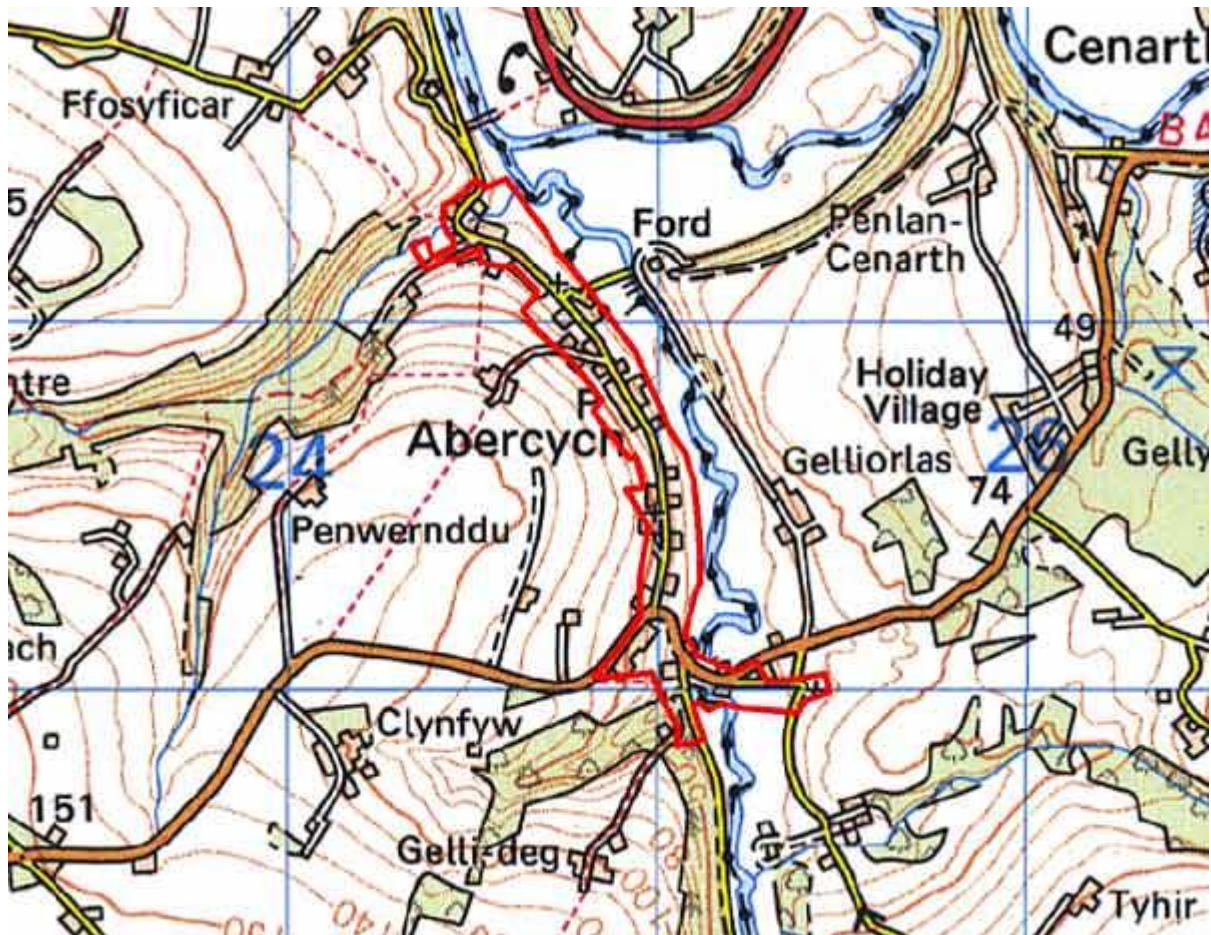
### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

Abercych is a very small, built up historic landscape character area mainly lying on steep east- and northeast-facing valley sides of the Afon Cych, between 10m and 30m above sea level. It is a linear village, or rather an amalgam of several hamlets – Pont Hercws, Forge Cych, Abercych, Penrhiw and Pont Treseli – spaced along a minor road that runs along the steep valley sides and down onto the floodplain of the Cych alongside the B4332. Owing to the steep slopes houses are either located on terraces cut into the hillside upslope of the road or built out over the valley side on the downslope side. Most dwellings are worker houses dating to the later 19th century and built of uncoursed Teifi valley slate. This is either left bare or cement rendered. North Wales slate is the most common roofing material. There is a mixture of building styles, but most houses are two-storeyed and three-bayed - as terraces, semi-detached and detached houses – with brick door- and window-jambs complementing the stonewalls. Much modified single-storey cottages are present, as are some late 19th century detached, slightly larger workers' houses with period details such as bay windows and bargeboards. At Pont Hercws, a now disused single storey cottage with corrugated iron over thatch, perhaps dates to the early 19th century and is an indication of the type of building replaced by those described above. At least one old smithy survives indicating the industrial origins of this settlement. Buildings to serve the community include two 19th century stone-built chapels (one listed), the 20th century iron church of St John, and two public houses. Many of the former open spaces between the 19th century houses have been filled by late 20th century and 21st century detached houses; this process is continuing. Pont Treseli, a 19th century road bridge is a listed building. Recorded archaeology consists of some of the buildings described above and documentary references to Forge Cych.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Fenton, R., 1811 A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire, London; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2,*



London; Lloyd, J E, 1935, *A History of Carmarthenshire, Volume I*, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2000, 'The Cadw Welsh Historic Churches Project: Pembrokeshire churches', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Manordeifi parish tithe map 1842; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, *An Historical Atlas of Wales*, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust





## CENARTH



**GRID REFERENCE: SN267417**

**AREA IN HECTARES: 25**

### Historic Background

Cenarth is small area within modern Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion comprising the built-up area of the village of Cenarth. It lies either side of Afon Teifi and Cenarth Falls, a renowned beauty-spot which attracts many visitors and is one of the main raisons d'être for the development of the village. The bulk of this character area lies to the south of the Teifi, within the medieval Cantref Emlyn, in Emlyn Uwch-Cych commote. Emlyn had been partly brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 when Emlyn Is-Cych commote was reconstituted as the Lordship of Cilgerran. Numerous castles were established in Uwch-Cych - none of which has any recorded history. Cenarth (or 'Cenarth Mawr' as it was then called) was the commotal centre of Emlyn Uwch-Cych, and a motte-castle (now 'Parc-y-domen') was established here. However, the commote was back under Welsh control by the 1130s, and remained such throughout the 12th -and early 13th centuries. It is possible that the pre-Norman administrative centre may have occupied the site of Parc y domen castle, which lay immediately south of Cenarth parish church.

The church was an important early medieval ecclesiastical foundation, mentioned in a text of the Llandaff Charters from the 6th century. It was rebuilt in the 19th century and still dominates the village from its circular churchyard high on a prominent knoll south of the Teifi. We have an important - and unique - eye-witness description of Cenarth during the 1180s, when Gerald of Wales described it as 'a flourishing (salmon) fishing-station. The waters of the Teifi run ceaselessly over (the falls), falling with a mighty roar into the abyss below. Now it is from these depths that the salmon ascend to the.. rock above.... The church dedicated to St Llawddog, his mill, the bridge with its fishing-station and a most attractive garden all stand together on a small plot of ground.' It is interesting to note that a bridge and mill, presumably on the same site as the present structures, were already present, but it would seem that the castle had become disused. Neither the castle nor the church became a focus for settlement.

The commote of Uwch-Cych was appropriated by the Anglo-Norman Marshal Earls of Pembroke in 1223, but was granted to Maredudd ap Rhys, with whose family it remained until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283. It eventually formed part of the Hundred of Elvet in Carmarthenshire, in 1536. Uwch-Cych was granted to royal favourite Sir Rhys ap Thomas in the late 15th century, reverted to the crown in 1525 and was to be granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Jones of Haroldston, Pembrokeshire. It remained in this family for several generations, eventually passing by marriage to the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which in the 19th century still owned almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentre-cwrt in the east to Cenarth in the west. The medieval Welsh tenurial pattern - with neither villis nor knight's fees - has been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region.

Little domestic settlement appears to have occurred at Cenarth until the later 18th century. An estate map of 1768 records most of Cenarth village as part of the Gelly Dowill demesne. The village was then very small, just the church and 8 or so loosely clustered dwellings and small farms. However, the small amounts of land attached to the farms, either as small, enclosed fields or enclosed strips, appear to indicate the earlier existence of an open field system or, more likely, shared grazing strips within unenclosed land as seen elsewhere in Uwch Cych. Cenarth Mill, recorded in the 1180s, was a crown possession in 1298 when it was held by the Prince of Wales. It remained part of the royal estate until the early 17th century, and from c.1630 onwards was part of the estate of the Vaughans of Golden Grove, passing to the Earls of Cawdor who held it until 1970. It probably provided the economic mainstay of the small settlement, and its 19th century growth, along with the salmon-fishing mentioned by Gerald of Wales, which was traditionally undertaken in coracles. Tourism and leisure account for the 20th century development of Cenarth village, with the addition of a number of small housing estates.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

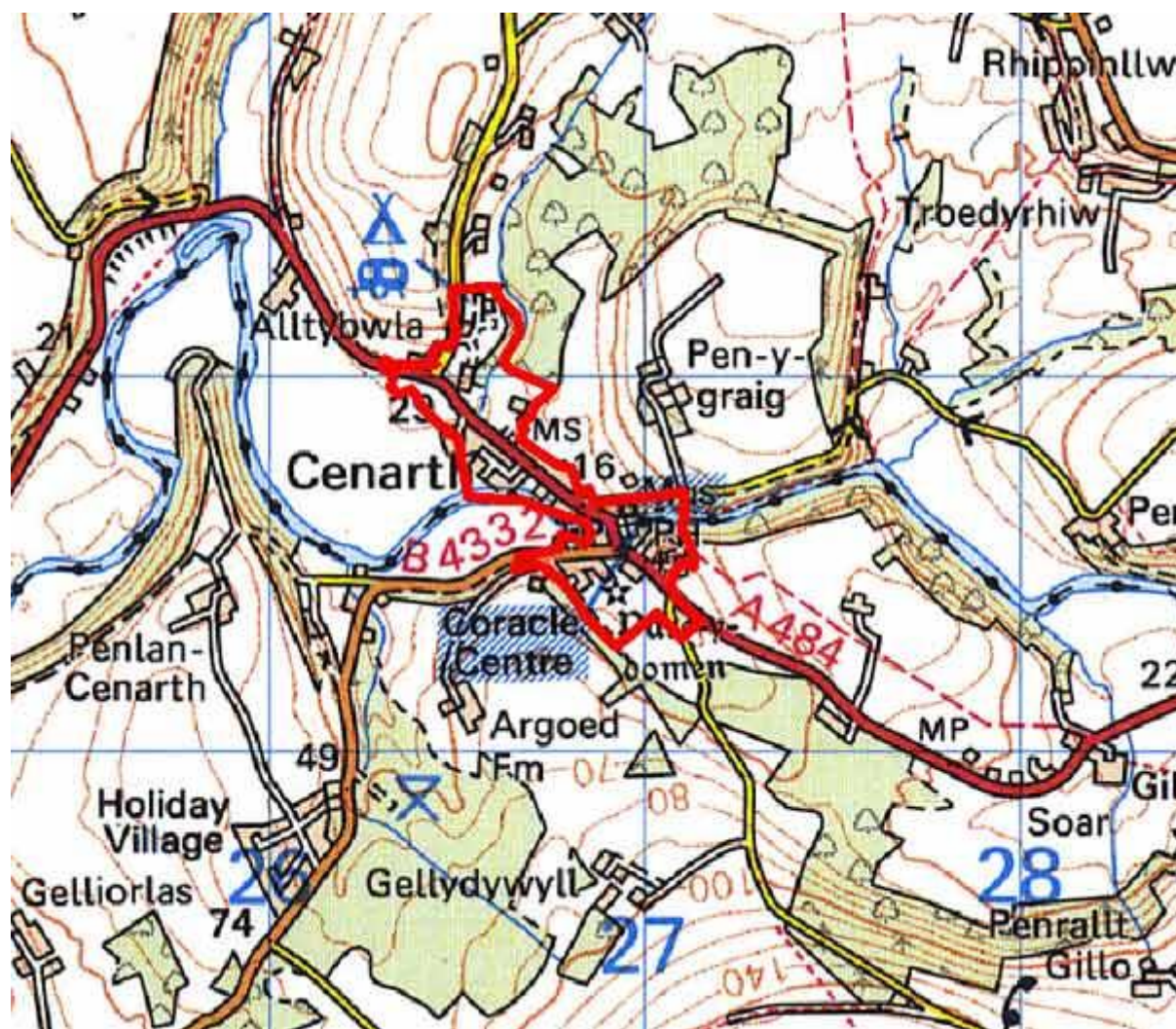
Cenarth is a very small built-up historic landscape character area that includes the old village core, the bridge over the Teifi, Cenarth Falls and a narrow section of river valley, and modern development at the village fringe. It lies between 20m and 30m

above sea level at a point where the constrained valley of the Teifi opens out into a floodplain. The old core of the village consists of a loose cluster of houses, cottages, shops, pubs and the church immediately south of Cenarth Bridge at the junction of the A484 and the B4332. The stone-built three-arch bridge dating to 1785-87 (on a 12th century site) is the oldest structure in the village. The parish church, although an ancient foundation, dates to the later 19th century, and stands to the southeast of the bridge on a slight prominence, with the earthworks of 'Parc-y-domen', the medieval motte-castle, to its south. Cenarth Mill is first recorded in the 1180s, but the present rubble-stone building on the banks of the river dates to the late 18th century and most of its machinery dates to the 19th century. Teifi valley slate, rubble or finely cut and coursed, is the building material of the older buildings. A listed cottage, now restored but formerly the old brewhouse of the Three Horseshoes, may date to the late 18th century, as does the White Hart. Most of the older domestic buildings in the village, however, date to the mid to late 19th century, with a strong estate or formal aspect to several of them, for example: Mill Cottage, Yet farmhouse with its semi-formal ranges of outbuildings, Teifi View house a dwelling in the Georgian style, and the former school and smithy. Most of these stone-built 18th and 19th century buildings are listed. Modern development in the form of small housing estates, a car park for visitors to the falls, a school and caravan park lie to the north of the bridge. Recorded archaeology consists of buildings or those sites mentioned above.

This is a distinctive area and contrasts with the surrounding landscape of fields and farms.

*Sources: Cadw – database of Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Carmarthen Record Office Cawdor 227 (1768) p11; Cenarth parish tithe map 1840; Craster, O E, 1957, Cilgerran Castle, London; Davies, W. (ed.), 1979 The Llandaff Charters, Aberystwyth; King, D J C, 1988, Castellarium Anglicanum, New York; Lewis, S, 1833, A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1 & 2, London; Llandygwydd parish tithe map 1842; Lloyd, J E, 1935, A History of Carmarthenshire, Volume I, Cardiff; Ludlow, N, 2002, 'The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Stage 1: Carmarthenshire', unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Parry, C, 1987, 'Survey and Excavation at Newcastle Emlyn Castle', Carmarthenshire Antiquary 23, 11-28; Rees, W, 1932, 'Map of South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century'; Rees, W, 1951, An Historical Atlas of Wales, London; Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust; Thorpe, L (ed.), 1978, Gerald of Wales: The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales, Harmanworth*





## COASTAL STRIP - POPPIT TO NEWPORT



GRID REFERENCE: SN102453

AREA IN HECTARES: 212

### Historic Background

This is a long, narrow area within modern Pembrokeshire, represented by the steep coastal cliffs between Poppit Sands, at the mouth of the Teifi estuary, and Newport to the west.

During the historic period, the area lay within the medieval Cantref Cemaes, in Is-Nyfer commote. Cemaes had been brought under Anglo-Norman control by Robert FitzMartin in c.1100 and reconstituted as the Barony of Cemaes. Cemaes remained a marcher lordship, administered from Nevern castle, and then from Newport Castle, until 1536, when the barony was incorporated into Pembrokeshire as the Hundred of Cemaes. However, most of Is-Nyfer represented the 'Welshry' of the barony and remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, many of which persisted into the 20th century. The Welsh princes between 1191 and 1201, and again in 1215-1223 moreover, held this northeastern part of Is-Nyfer. These Welsh tenorial patterns have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement within the region. This coastal strip, which is very narrow, has always been marginal land and was presumably used for rough grazing from an early period. It is shown as today on the tithe maps from the 1840s. No settlement sites from the historic period have been recognised within this strip, but evidence of post-medieval use of the area is provided by a number of quarries. Poppit Sands occupies a scenic estuary setting with extensive sands, which are very popular with visitors. A caravan park and its services - though just outside this character area - are the dominant feature of the landscape here. Meanwhile, the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, designated in 1952, starts at Poppit and gives unrivalled access to coastal scenery.



### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This historic landscape character area consists of the narrow coastal strip from Poppit sands on the Teifi estuary to Newport sands, a distance of approximately 19km. It is very narrow, rarely achieving a width of over 150m. It consists of vertical hard-rock sea cliffs rising to over 150m in places but generally lower, and a narrow band of rough ground sandwiched between the cliff top and farmland. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path runs along the cliff top. There are no inhabited buildings. Recorded archaeology consists of two Iron Age hillforts, burnt mounds and scatters of prehistoric finds and several post medieval sites including quarries.

The coastal strip is a distinct historic character area and contrasts with the fields and farms of neighbouring character areas.



## **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE THEMES OF THE LOWER TEIFI VALLEY, AND DREFACH AND FELINDRE HISTORIC ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS**

The pre Anglo-Norman administration of west Wales was founded on a number of small kingdoms or gwledydd, which had been established before the 8th century AD. The two register areas occupy the three current counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, whose boundaries roughly correspond with those of the ancient gwledydd. Ceredigion is coterminous with the gwlad of Ceredigion. Pembrokeshire, and Carmarthenshire west of the Tywi estuary, represent the gwlad of Dyfed, while Carmarthenshire east of the Tywi estuary was the gwlad of Ystrad Tywi. In the early 11th century the latter two gwledydd became part of the kingdom of Deheubarth which occupied most of southwest Wales (Rees 1951, 19).

Within each gwlad were smaller units of administration or estates known as maenoraau, attested to have existed since the 9th century. These were composed of a number of 'townships' or trefi. By the 11th century two additional administrative tiers had been introduced - the cantref, literally a group of 100 trefi, each of which was subdivided into a number of cwmwdau into which the trefi were grouped. Each cwmwd contained a maerdref, a special tref adjacent to the king's court or llys where the bondsmen who farmed the demesne lands lived, near or amongst the numerous officials and servants who served the court. In conjunction the king or lord was also provided with an upland township which would meet the requirements of summer pasture (hafodydd) for his livestock. It is not possible to identify the llysoedd and maerdrefi of all the cwmwdau within the study area.

The Anglo-Norman settlement of the region began in 1093 with the invasion of Dyfed and the establishment of castles at Cardigan, Carmarthen and Pembroke. Cardigan and Carmarthen castles were short-lived, and were re-established (both on different sites?) when the conquest began in earnest in c.1100. Cantref Cemaes, in north Pembrokeshire, was subdued by the Norman Robert FitzMartin to become the Barony of Cemais, while to the east Cantref Emlyn (in both north Carmarthenshire and north Pembrokeshire) was partly brought under control, with the west half, Emlyn Is-Cych, becoming the Lordship of Cilgerran. Ceredigion was taken in c.1110.

However, the Welsh princes regained much of the area during the anarchy of King Stephen's reign. Ceredigion was reconquered in 1136 and (with the exception of Cwmwd Iscoed around the castle - the Lordship of Cardigan) remained in Welsh hands until the late 13th century, as did the east half of Emlyn - Emlyn Uwch-Cych, which may never have been fully subdued. They were finally annexed to the English crown in 1284 when the counties of Cardigan and Carmarthen were created. The Welsh, briefly regained Cemais, in the late 12th century, but Anglo-Norman control was uninterrupted from the early 13th century onwards and it remained a marcher lordship until the creation of Pembrokeshire in 1536.

A loose form of Anglo-Norman administration was imposed. Pre Anglo-Norman territorial divisions remained largely unchanged after the conquest. The Anglo-Norman lordships largely remained subject to Welsh law, custom and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as 'Welshries'. No holdongs were held by knight-service within the register areas. This tenorial system - with neither villis nor knight's fees present - have been largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region, which is generally without significant

nucleations. However, the Lordships of Cardigan and Cemaes were subject to a more formalised manorial tenure, but again largely following Welsh custom, leading to a dispersed settlement pattern. The boroughs of Cardigan and Cilgerran (and St Dogmaels), as well as the manors of Eglwysrw and Cemaes (and a small manorial holding at Llandygwydd, Ceredigion), operated at least a partial Anglo-Norman manorial system.

## **PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AND BURIAL SITES**

Like many Welsh landscapes, the register areas and their environs have preserved much evidence of prehistoric activity, chiefly in the form of standing earthworks from the Bronze Age (2500 - 700 BC), and Iron Age (700 BC - 1st century AD). Preservation has been assisted by the low-intensity agricultural regimes traditionally practised within the region. Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity within the region as a whole is mainly limited to knowledge obtained through the examination of palaeoenvironmental evidence from peat deposits.

Although prehistoric monuments - standing stones, burial mounds and hillforts - are relatively numerous within the study area, their impact on the modern landscape is often insignificant. A number of Bronze Age burial mounds, usually in the form of stone cairns, and contemporary ritual cairns, are recorded in the area, and these are often prominent historic landscape elements on account of their location. For instance, groups of burial mounds on the high ground south of the Afon Teifi, and near Cemaes Head, are visible for many kilometres. The occurrence of large numbers of bronze age sites, in what are now considered to be quite remote areas, indicates a once settled population.

The location of Iron Age hillforts also ensures that they are also conspicuous elements of the landscape today, and again they attest to a significant population and a wide, settled hinterland. However, no obvious patterns of coincidence between hillforts and later territorial units can be discerned, nor can any present pattern of fields and boundaries be assigned origins within this period or the Bronze Age.

## **TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

The register areas consist primarily of agricultural land. Three medieval towns, Cardigan, Cilgerran and St Dogmaels, located within these areas, contrast sharply with the surrounding dispersed settlement. A fourth, Newcastle Emlyn (with Adpar) lies just outside the study area.

Cardigan's origins are generally thought to belong to the period 1110-1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. Anglo-Norman control in the region was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town. However, Cardigan itself held out against the Welsh until 1164. It was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became the centre of a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. The construction of the castle and a bridge over the Teifi, and the foundation of St Mary's Church as a Benedictine priory to the east of the town, appear to belong to the period 1110-1136. From the first, St Mary's was

also the parish church, surviving the Dissolution to remain the parish church. A weekly market was held from the mid 12th century until the early 20th century, and many burgess privileges had been granted in the 13th century, but the town was not formally recognised as a borough until 1284 when it received its first charter. The town wall's construction commenced during the 1240s when the English Crown extensively rebuilt the castle, although some form of defences may already have been in existence. The medieval street-pattern has survived more-or-less intact, but there are now no standing remains of the town wall. The walls, and the charter, had the effect of increasing the population from 128 burgages in 1274 to 172 in 1308. The borough was incorporated in the early 16th century, with a mayor and corporation, and the grant of further privileges. However, the town had been contracting during the late medieval period; only 55 houses are recorded the mid 16th century, and it was described as 'ruinous and decayed' in 1610. From 1536 onwards, Cardigan was the county town which may have given impetus for growth - Speed's map shows extensive extra-mural suburbs to the north, and especially to the east of the town wall. The County Assizes were held in the town from 1536, a shire hall was built in 1764, and a county gaol, by John Nash in 1793, to the north of the town. Cardigan became the chief port of the region, and a shipbuilding centre. It developed rapidly during the 19th and 20th centuries. Its main economic function is now as an entrepôt for the regional agricultural community, and an administrative centre.

Cilgerran lordship was administered from Cilgerran Castle, established in c.1100. It was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under Welsh rule, apart from a brief period between 1204 and 1214, until 1223 when William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, took it. It remained subject to Welsh law and tenurial patterns throughout the medieval period, and was administered as a 'Welshry'. A settlement developed outside the gates of Cilgerran Castle, large enough to be termed a 'town' in 1204. It was regarded as a borough, but by prescription only, as no charter is known. Its regular plan, comprising burgage plots laid out either side of a long main street, with a broad market place, and a second street at right angles, suggest that it was planned. Twenty-two taxpayers were recorded in 1292. In c.1610 Speed listed it among the principal market towns of Pembrokeshire. The predominantly Welsh demographics of the lordship were reflected in the Welsh names of the taxpayers. The town had its own gaol, and stocks. It appears always to have kept its links with the land and the chief occupations recorded during the post-medieval period were farming, salmon-fishing and slate-quarrying. However, the weekly market recorded by George Owen in c. 1600 ended in the early 1900s, the fair had been discontinued many years previously, while quarrying ceased in 1938.

St Dogmaels was a manor of the Barony of Cemais. It was the site of an early medieval monastic house which was re-established as a Benedictine Abbey by Robert FitzMartin in 1113-20, and which still forms the defining element of the town's landscape. A settlement had developed outside the abbey by the later medieval period, directly held by the barony, which may have been keen to exploit the economic potential provided by the abbey's presence. The lords of Cemais are also recorded as having established a market here. The settlement was described as one of the 'three corporate towns' of Cemais in 1603 (along with Newport and Nevern), but in reality it never appears to have been a borough. It may have remained fairly small through the medieval period. However, it was large enough to be served by a parish church dedicated to St Thomas (the abbey church being non-parochial), which stood opposite the abbey, but which has now gone. A mill immediately east of the abbey served the abbey, and perhaps the settlement, and the monks had rights to an extensive fishery on the Teifi estuary. The settlement



had become fairly sizeable by 1838, when the tithe map shows a loose nucleation of about 100 buildings centred on the abbey. A new parish church was established on its present site in the early 18th century. It was rebuilt in 1847, followed by the construction of the vicarage and the coach-house in 1866. Much rebuilding and development occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, fuelled by a maritime economy. St Dogmaels is now a popular holiday destination.

The three towns are very distinct from their hinterland. Welsh tenurial systems in Emllyn Uwch-Cych, Cilgerran and Ceredigion precluded the establishment of formal manors, and there were few vills, resulting in a dispersed settlement pattern. This is pattern that is still visible and, to a certain extent, still practised.

There is some nucleation within the partly feudalised lordships of Cardigan and Cemais. A vill had been established at Llandygwydd, within the Lordship of Cardigan, by the late 13th century. It was formally constituted as the Manor of Llandygwydd, probably under the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids who had acquired the parish of Llandygwydd, and who established a fair in the manor. However, it is today a small, linear village comprising post-medieval buildings with little sign of nucleation. A vill developed around the Teifi crossing at Llechryd, also within the Lordship of Cardigan. Unusually for the region it appears to have developed into a nucleation at an early date. This development may have been encouraged by the crown, or by the Bishops of St Davids to whom the parish of Llangoedmor, within which Llechryd lay, was appropriated from the late 13th century onwards. A chapelry to Llangoedmor, dedicated to the Holy Cross, was built to serve this emerging community. It became a parish church in its own right in the early post-medieval period. A third medieval settlement appears to have been located at Gwbert, also within the Lordship of Cardigan, where pits containing medieval shoes were exposed in an eroding cliff-section. The settlement was subsequently inundated with sand, and abandoned early. There is circumstantial evidence that it may have included a church. In Cemais some nucleation occurred with the formation of hamlets within the sublordship of Eglwysrwrw, where holding and tenure – whilst still Welsh – had been feudalised. A 'failed' Anglo-Norman manor may exist at Llantwyd.

Outside these areas, nucleation is entirely post-medieval. Whilst much of it may have occurred around pre-existing features eg. the churches at Cenarth, Llangeler and Henllan, there is no evidence that it significantly pre-dates the 18th century, and much of it is later still. In addition to pre-existing foci, settlement developed around 18th century non-Conformist chapels (eg. Saron, Carms. and Ponthirwaun, Cer.) and turnpike roads (eg. Rhos, Carms.). But industry was by far the greatest impetus to post-medieval nucleation. The Teifi Valley woollen industry, which reached its peak during the 19th century, led to the development of substantial villages at Drefach-Felindre (with its own Anglican church and chapels), Pentrecagal and Pentrecwrt (Carms.), and Henllan (Cer.). A forge at Abercych on the Carms. - Pems. border attracted settlement that developed into a fair-sized village, again with its own Anglican church and chapels. Most of these villages are still growing. In contrast, the Teifi Valley slate industry with its centre at Cilgerran, does not seem to have spawned any significant new nucleation.

## **OPEN FIELDS AND THEIR ENCLOSURE**

Virtually all manorial farmland was cultivated in open-field systems (also called sub-divided fields or common fields). In this system land was held communally, and

apart from small closes and paddocks attached to farmsteads, enclosures were rare. The land was divided into strips or shares within large open-fields. Uncultivated common and waste lay beyond the open-fields. Traditionally, strips within the open fields were not assigned to one farmer, but were rotated on an annual basis. However, by the 16th- and 17th-century rights of cultivation of certain strips within the open-fields became the prerogative of single farmers. By exchange and barter several adjoining strips could be amassed. It was then a simple process to throw a hedge around the amassed strips. By this process the open, communally-held fields were transformed into the privately-held field systems that still exist.

However, Welsh tenurial systems in Emlyn and Ceredigion led to a dispersed, non-manorial settlement pattern, which was largely based on husbandry in the upland regions of Emlyn. There is little physical evidence of arable farming outside Cemais, either within the Anglo-Norman lordships or in the Welsh-held areas, although it was recorded in Emlyn during the early 19th century and it is assumed that the fertile Teifi floodplain would have been under the plough.

The prevailing field pattern within Emlyn and Ceredigion is one of fairly regular, large enclosures which appear to be new enclosure of the late 18th century – early 19th century. Indeed, the region – particularly the uplands of Emlyn – appears to have been largely unenclosed before the present pattern was imposed. Late 18th century estate maps show parts of this areas still unenclosed, with strips or 'slangs' marked in different ownership. These strips were probably not medieval in origin, and were certainly not the formal, arable open field strips characteristic of Anglo-Norman tenure. Instead, the strips appear to represent grazing rights assigned to neighbouring farms and it would seem that at least part of this area was open land, under multiple-ownership grazing, which was undergoing enclosure in the late 18th century. By the time the tithe maps were surveyed in c. 1840 most of these strips are gone and the field pattern of today is in place. It is, however, possible that this system of 'sharelands' associated with farms – held privately, in the traditional Welsh way – has its origins within the medieval period. A lack of contemporary documentation in this area is a hindrance to our understanding.

There is some evidence for a mixed pastoral/arable economy, again under Welsh tenurial systems, in the Barony of Cemais. Within the area around Cemaes Head, the present pattern of small- to medium-sized irregular fields suggests that the area was enclosed during the early post-medieval period, if not the later Middle Ages. Subdivided blocks are shown within some of these fields on the tithe maps, while closer to the coast, an unenclosed block of short narrow strips is shown. These strips may be lleini, relics of arable farming under Welsh tenure and are associated with a system of small, irregular paddocks. The sublordship of Egwysrwrw was included in the detailed assessment of 1594 that survives as the 'Extent of Cemaes'. Welsh systems of tenure here resulted in the development of a number of small landholdings. Each of these was associated with a gentry house of varying status, many of which were in existence by 1594. There is some common land throughout the area, but it is associated with village rights, as at Eglwysrwrw, rather than relict. It is apparent that the entire area was settled, and probably enclosed with the present system of regular fields, by the early post-medieval period. The landscape history of part of the Lordship of Cilgerran – a 'Welshry' – appears to be similar.

Anglo-Norman manorial tenure is apparent in the Lordship of Cardigan, the former commote of Is-Hirwern, where the Coed Mawr estate represents the rump of the demesne land attached to Cardigan Castle. Normally, unfree tenants worked demesne land for 2 or 3 days per week in return for rights over strips of land.

However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The Anglo-Norman Borough of Cardigan comprises c.800ha within the boundary of its liberty. The name Warren Hill, at the east end of the area, may indicate the presence of the burgesses' rabbit-warren. Relict open fields may be indicated by strips north of the town, shown on the tithe map but now gone. The map also shows a small pocket of common nearby.

## **CHURCHES AND CHAPELS**

The larger medieval churches– eg. Cardigan and Cilgerran - are highly visible and defining elements of the landscape. However, many of the churches are small, remote and as dispersed as the settlement. As noted above, few became the focus for settlement. They are therefore often not distinctive features of the landscape (although the tower at Ferwig - now gone - was a celebrated landmark during the 16th century).

The ecclesiastical landscape began developing at an early date. The wide Tefi Valley, the estuary and coastal fringe in particular exhibit evidence for early medieval cemeteries and ecclesiastical sites. St Dogmaels Abbey occupies the site of an earlier monastery, 'Llandudoch', whose six Early Christian Monuments suggest a continuous ecclesiastical presence from the 6th century onwards, while it was wealthy enough to be attacked by Vikings in 988. It was subsumed beneath the later abbey but its enclosure may partly survive as a cropmark. Stone lined 'cist' burials have been noted at the nearby Iron Age hillfort of Caerau Gaer, and it has been proposed as the original site of St Dogmael's monastery. A church at Cenarth is suggested in a 6th century grant. Llangeler appears to occupy an important early medieval multiple church site, while Cilgerran and Henllan, and Capel Mair in Llangeler parish, may also have early origins. A possible early, undeveloped cemetery at Llain Ddineu (Penboyr) is more doubtful – it doesn't really fit in with contemporary settlement patterns and may be Bronze Age.

Llandudoch was re-founded as the Tironian Abbey of St Dogmaels. Commenced in c.1113, it had developed into a large church by the mid 13th century, central to an extensive range of masonry conventual buildings occupying a precinct that was at least 4ha in extent. The complex still forms a defining element of today's landscape. The only other post-Norman monastic house in the region was at Cardigan, where the Benedictine priory was also the parish church. It was a very small house with a church, though much less grand than St Dogmaels, it has a high-quality, 14th century 'Decorated' chancel.

The system of parishes has its origins in the post-1115 period, after the appointment of Bernard as the first Anglo-Norman Bishop of St Davids. However, its formalisation within Ceredigion and Emlyn may be later. Nevertheless it was complete by 1291 when the majority of the present day parishes – with some subsequent minor changes - had been created.

With the exception of the monastic churches, and the borough church at Cilgerran, churches are small and simple, comprising just a nave and chancel. They appear to have been of poor construction, as all the medieval churches, except Cardigan and Manordeifi, and were largely rebuilt in the 19th century. At Cilgerran the medieval tower was retained, but the rest was rebuilt in the 19th century (twice, because the first attempt was so poor). The tower at Ferwig -formerly a celebrated landmark -



was also retained, only to be demolished in 1968. Llandygwydd and Llantwyd churches were rebuilt in different locations within their respective churchyards. However, Manordeifi remains a largely unrestored church with a full suite of unaltered, late 17th - early 19th century fittings.

Not only are churches rarely the foci for settlements or nucleations, but they rarely exhibit a close relationship with Anglo-Norman castles. This does not necessarily imply that they pre-date the Norman Conquest – many of these castles were short-lived affairs of the early 12th century, while many of the region's churches were clearly established by Welsh lords during the 12th century and early 13th century. Some of the earthwork castles may similarly be Welsh, and indeed where churches and castles co-exist they may both have been Welsh foundations of the post-1100 period (eg. Penboyr?). The close relationships between Llantwyd parish church and its castle suggest that here, in the Anglo-Norman Cemaes, they are Norman foundations. While Llandygwydd parish church may be contemporary with the nearby motte, it is more likely to have been built at the same time as its grant to St Davids in the late 13th century, as it lies 0.5km northeast of the motte (which appears to have been abandoned at an early date). However, the distance between the castle-borough of Cilgerran and its church suggests that the latter is pre-Conquest.

The dispersed settlement characteristic of the region led to the establishment of a large number of chapelries, most of them formal chapels-of-ease to their parishes, rather than devotional (or field) chapels. Most of them became disused in the post-medieval period, and few remains survive. However, the ruins of Llechryd Chapel - later a parish church -, while Capel Mair, a grange chapel to Whitland, near Llangeler was re-established, possibly on the same site, in the 19th century. The early medieval Decabarbalom Stone, found nearby, suggests early origins for this chapel. Other former chapels that no longer exist include the bridge chapel south of Cardigan town established by Archbishop Baldwin on his visit in 1188, Cilfowyr Chapel (Manordeifi parish), the old parish church at St Dogmaels opposite the abbey, and the old church at Drefach-Felindre, which may have been early post-medieval. Capel Degwel and Capel Carannog in St Dogmaels parish appear to have been pilgrimage chapels on the route to Nevern.

A degree of parochial reorganisation was undertaken in the 19th century. The parish of Newcastle Emlyn was created out of Cenarth parish, in response to the increasing population of the town, served by a new church (just beyond the register area). A new, iron parish church was built in a less peripheral location within Manordeifi parish. New Anglican churches were built within the rising population centres of Drefach-Felindre (replacing the earlier church), and at Abercych, the latter being built during the early 20th century.

Eighteenth- and 19th century non-Conformist chapels are ubiquitous. Many of them were located in Cardigan, St Dogmaels and Cilgeran, and in the textile-producing areas of the Teifi Valley. An early chapel at Drefach-Felindre, Capel Pen-rhiw, was converted from a barn in 1777; a classic of the 'primitive' type of chapel architecture, it was moved to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans in the late 20th century. Other chapels were established away from population centres, but became settlement foci eg. Saron (Carms.) and Ponthirwaun (Cer.).

#### MAENOR FORION GRANGE

Both Register areas include former monastic land, represented by Maenor Forion Grange. The grange was established during the second half of the 12th century,

when the land was granted to the Cistercian Whitland Abbey by the sons of the local Welsh lord Maredudd of Cilrhedyn. It comprised c.1800 ha between the Teifi and the high ground north of Cwmdud. Its nucleus appears to have been at Court Farm, where a granary was also present, and which was apparently a summer retreat for the abbot. Two mills, a corn mill and a fulling-mill (part of the leat of which can be traced) were located on the Afon Siedi at Geulan Felen, demonstrating that the abbey was an early pioneer in the cloth industry that would come to dominate other parts of this Register Area.

The grange chapel, 'Capel Mair', was probably on the same site as the present St Mary's, a chapel-of-ease to Llangeler parish. The early medieval Decabarbalom Stone, found near the chapel, suggests early chapel origins. It is associated with a motte, 'Pencastell', which may have been an earlier grange nucleus.

However, we know little of the land-use within the grange. Maenor Forion was one of the very few Welsh granges not to be subject to an Exchequer Proceeding (Equity) after the Dissolution, from which much of our knowledge of grange management is derived. Most of Whitland's estates were held at the Dissolution under various leases, tenurial systems, rents and obligations belonging to Welsh law. In general, the abbey's Carmarthenshire properties paid money rents, and contributions of cheese, capons and oats, while the Ceredigion properties made contributions of wool, sheep and lambs. However, it is far from clear whether or not these arrangements perpetuate long-standing arrangements of earlier origin. Nevertheless the survival of a diversity of rents, in both cash, kind and service, suggest that they correspond with earlier villein obligations, and it has therefore been proposed that Whitland exploited its granges along native lines from the first, and land-use and settlement were probably broadly similar to that outside the grange.

The grange became crown land at the Dissolution in 1536 and was sold during the reign of Charles I to John Lewis of Llysnewydd and Thomas Price of Rhydyppennau, the latter's portion passing onto D L Jones of Derlwyn. Apart from the disposal of small parts of the properties, the greater part of the former grange remained in the hands of these families until at least 1900, forming the core of two large estates.

## **MEDIEVAL CASTLES**

The Register areas feature one of the densest concentrations of medieval castles in Wales, with as many as 13 possible sites. Most of these are small earthwork mottes and ringworks with no recorded history, and few are defining elements of the landscape, and like the parish churches, few attracted any nucleated settlement.

There is a concentration of castles in Cantref Emlyn, particularly within the eastern half, Emlyn Uwch-Cych, which apart from a possible brief period of Anglo-Norman control during the early 12th century, remained in Welsh hands until 1283. A similar situation prevails in Ceredigion north of the Teifi. The most likely origin for most of these castles is the period 1100-1136 when the Anglo-Normans were stamping their authority on the region by founding castles on at the heart of pre-existing centers of Welsh administration, or during the remainder of the 12th century by native Welsh lords. Few are associated with contemporary villas, but that could mean either that they were short-lived Anglo-Norman constructions, or were part of the Welsh pattern of dispersed settlement and would thus not have acted as settlement foci. Some of the close church-castle relationships may be entirely Welsh, as at Cenarth,

and possibly at Penboyr where the church and castle could be new Welsh foundations of the 12th century.

However, the church/castle at Llantwyd in the Anglicised Barony of Cemais probably represents a 'failed' early Anglo-Norman manor. Cemais, like the Lordship of Cilgerran, was subdued at an early date and even though Anglo-Norman rule was by no means uninterrupted, both lordships feature a lesser concentration of castles.

With the exception of Llantwyd, which may feature some stonework, the only other masonry castles are at Cardigan and Cilgerran (and at Newcastle Emlyn just outside the Register areas). Unlike the earthwork castles, they are still defining elements of the landscape, with the ruins dominating their surroundings.

Cardigan castle, although badly damaged, commands the Teifi foreshore, the bridge and the town, and forms the axis of the town's street plan. A castle had first been established during an Anglo-Norman incursion in 1093, but was short-lived. It is usually thought to be represented by the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, but it could equally be at the present castle site which was certainly fortified in c.1110 under the Anglo-Norman de Clare earls. It became the centre of the Lordship of Cardigan, from c.1201 a royal lordship, and was the administrative centre for the County of Cardiganshire established in 1284. However, the castle's administrative role came to an end with the Act of Union of 1536. It was neglected, becoming ruinous by 1610, but saw action in 1644-5 during the Civil War when it was damaged and taken by Parliamentary forces. John Bowen later acquired it, and by 1810, had begun converting it into a mansion, erecting a house and landscaping the interior. It was occupied until the end of the 20th century. Consolidation of the ruins is due to commence.

Cilgerran Castle was established in c.1100 as the caput of Cilgerran lordship. The castle may not occupy the site of the pre-Norman commotal centre, as it does not appear to have acquired the name of the lordship, Cilgerran, until the mid 12th century, being referred to as 'Cenarth Bychan' during a daring Welsh raid in 1109. The lordship was regained by the Welsh in 1164 and remained under Welsh rule, apart from a brief period between 1204 and 1214, until 1223 when William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, took it. Rebuilding of the castle in stone began immediately and was largely complete by the late 13th century. Its two massive 'drum' towers still dominate the landscape. The abolition of the lordship in 1536 saw its abandonment and decline. It saw no action during the Civil War and was allowed to become a ruin, albeit the source of inspiration to Romantic painters. They included Richard Wilson, and J M W Turner who made several studies of the castle.

## **POST MEDIEVAL ESTATES**

Estates dominated the rural economy of the lower Teifi valley from the early 17th to the early 20th century, but more especially during their peak in late 18th century and 19th century. Greatest of these was the Vaughans' Golden Grove Estate, which at its height included almost all the land on the southern side of the Teifi from Pentrecourt in the east to Cenarth in the west. Land holdings of other estates were extensive, such as Castell Malgwyn, Llangoedmor and Noyadd, and some of the larger gentry houses - Gellydywyll, Pentre, Stradmore, Llwynduris and Parc y Pratt - had land attached. The effect of these estates on the landscape is both subtle and obvious. Great houses and the gardens and parks laid out around them are an



obvious legacy of how landowners shaped and manipulated the landscape for their own enjoyment. Buildings of a higher quality than the norm also indicate a strong estate presence. Gelligatti, a house and model farm constructed for the agent of the Golden Grove estate is an obvious example of this, as is the several small but nevertheless high quality 19th century buildings in Cenarth, a village that was almost entirely under the control of the Vaughan family. Smaller farmhouses and farm buildings are not generally indicative of estate control. Analysis of these buildings, however, reveals that those within the estate zone tend to towards the Georgian style (although often built towards the end of the 19th century), while those outside this zone have more vernacular traits. Subtler still is the control that estates had over the field layout and field systems. In other areas of estate dominated southwest Wales such as the Tywi valley and southwest Pembrokeshire medieval open field systems were swept away and replaced by regular large fields during the 16th or 17th century. This contrasts to areas where estates had less control. Here open fields persisted even into the 19th century, and their eventual enclosure resulted in a pattern of strip fields. In the Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape, and to a lesser degree the Drefach and Felindre landscape, there is very little topographic or historical evidence for open field systems, and late 18th century estate maps show a landscape very similar to that of today. All this strongly suggests that the estates of the lower Teifi Valley were instrumental in arranging the fields into the systems that exist today, during the early modern period.

## **WOODLAND**

Semi-natural deciduous woodland is a component of the Afon Teifi valley and its tributaries, and occurs in pockets between Eglwysrw and St Dogmaels. It is more-or-less absent from the coastal, western area of the Lower Teifi Valley. Within the Teifi Valley itself woodland is mainly confined to the steep-sided tributaries where it is at least semi-natural and has been subject to an informal management regime. It was clearly an important element of the economy but its use is usually not recorded. It has been augmented with estate planting during the 18th and 19th centuries, while there has been some regeneration over former fields and farms.

However, one estate north of the Teifi, Coedmore – which is still wooded – represents part of the formal demesne attached to Cardigan Castle. Demesne was that part of the manor that was the lord's own land, meaning that it was subject to an Anglo-Norman manorial regime. Normally, demesne land was worked by unfree tenants for 2 or 3 days per week in return for strips of land. However, it could also include forest, waste or woodland, as at Narberth Forest which was part of the demesne attached to Pembroke Castle. The name Coed Mawr (= Coedmore = big wood) suggests that this area too was always wooded, probably exploited for its economic value. Cardigan Castle remained crown property. However Coed Mawr was apparently farmed out at an early date, and Earl Roger of Chirk was recorded as holding the manor during the late 13th century. It later became a gentry estate and park.

Cilgerran Forest formed a large part of the Lordship of Cilgerran in the medieval period. It is mentioned in late medieval and 16th century accounts as one of the great woods of Pembrokeshire, along with Narberth, Coedrath and Canaston Forest. These were formal, manorial forests practising forest law. Much of the area is still wooded, although this part of the former lordship lies outside the Register areas.

Coniferous plantations dating to the second half of the 20th century are a characteristic component of the high ground south of the Teifi Valley. Much of it was planted over open moorland and abandoned fields, including some fields that were enclosed in the 19th century by Act of Parliament. It is often a prominent element of the landscape.

## **MARITIME TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Cardigan's maritime location has been important to its development since the medieval period, and the ability to remain supplied by sea led to its holding out against Welsh incursion through most of the 12th century. It may have declined during the 16th century, but during the 18th and 19th centuries the Port of Cardigan had jurisdiction over Newport, Fishguard, Aberaeron, Aberporth and Newquay, with a combined fleet in 1833 of 291 registered vessels. Shipbuilding was an important occupation, but its decline had begun by c. 1800. The town was involved in considerable coasting trade, as well as some foreign trade, exporting oats, butter, oak bark, and - especially from the late 19th century onwards - locally-quarried slate. This trade declined during the early 20th century although coastal herring fishing, and a salmon fishery on the Teifi - including coracle fishing - were undertaken into the late 20th century. The rapid growth of St Dogmaels during the second half of the 19th century undoubtedly owed much to busy trade along the Teifi, with the Port of Cardigan burgeoning and associated activity spreading to St Dogmaels.

There are some early references to seine net fishing at St Dogmaels. A medieval source mentions a salmon fishery in association with the abbey, and there is also a later record of a complaint in the reign of Elizabeth I for fishing with nets called "sayney." Where as seine net fishing was practised along the shores of the estuary, by the 18th century St Dogmaels had also developed into one of several important herring fisheries along the Cardigan Bay coastline. Seine net fishing is now only carried out under licence by a single team of fishermen, and the future of this ancient tradition is threatened.

Fishing on the Teifi below Cilgerran has a long history. The gorge below the castle was noted for its fishing, particularly salmon. By 1270, the Lord of Cilgerran's salmon weir below the castle had six traps, and complaints were made that they impeded river traffic carrying stone downstream for the king's building works at Cardigan Castle. The traps were ordered to be removed, but were rebuilt in 1314 by the Lord of Cilgerran in manner that did not interfere with river traffic. George Owen described the six traps in 1603 as 'the greatest weir of all Wales'. The fishery continued to be operated by the burgesses of Cilgerran through the post-medieval period, the building where the fish were taken to be weighed - 'Ty'r goved' being located immediately below the castle. Coracle fishing was also undertaken in the gorge until recent years.

A large fish-weir was also a feature of medieval and later Cenarth. It was positioned to take advantage of the natural traps and pools of Cenarth Falls. We have an important and unique eye-witness account of the fishery during the 1180s, when Gerald of Wales described it as 'a flourishing (salmon) fishing-station. The waters of the Teifi run ceaselessly over (the falls), falling with a mighty roar into the abyss below. Now it is from these depths that the salmon ascend to the... rock above...'. Salmon-fishing contributed to the economy of the small settlement until

comparatively recently. It was traditionally undertaken in coracles – it is now a tourist attraction.

## **THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY WOOLLEN INDUSTRY**

Extensive grazing land for sheep, an abundant supply of soft water and numerous fast-flowing streams and rivers to power machinery has ensured that cloth manufacture has had a long history in southwest Wales. Up to the end of the 18th century cloth was manufactured locally, with no clear centres of production. Towards the end of the century the increasing use of water powered machinery led to some centralisation of the industry. Within the Drefach – Felindre area fulling mills were established at Pentrecourt, Dolwynon, Drefach and Cwmpengraig. This marked the beginning of the woollen industry in north Carmarthenshire. Carding factories were established at Cwmpencraig and Dolwyon by 1820. Up to 1850 the term factory referred to a building where carding or spinning machines were powered by water. Weaving was done on the handloom, usually in houses or small workshops attached to domestic buildings. Greater use of water power, and other forms of power at a later date, plus the introduction of the power loom resulted in a rapid increase in the industry. By the early years of the 20th century over 23 factories were working in the Drefach - Felindre area, with others elsewhere in the Teifi valley such as at Lampeter, Llandysul, Newcastle Emlyn, Cardigan and St Dogmaels. Rural factories and non-rural factories produced cloth. The former were in remote locations and were family run businesses. The latter were more common in the Drefach – Felindre landscape. They employed 50-100 people, were generally located in or close to villages and usually close to a railway or good road communications. The industry was at its peak from 1880 to 1910, but by the 1920s it was in decline, although some mills continued production well into the second half of the 20th century.

## **STONE/SLATE QUARRYING**

The term lower Teifi valley slate or stone is used here in preference to the more commonly used Cilgerran slate. This is because many small quarries to supply local markets were worked in many different locations in the Teifi valley in addition to the large enterprises located in the gorge below Cilgerran. Roofing slate was produced, but it was not of good quality, and the main products were 'slab' and general building stone. Stone and slate extraction has a long history in the lower Teifi valley as attested by major medieval buildings such as Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle. However, the small-scale of the industry was generally only sufficient to supply the local market. It was not until the mid 19th century that the introduction of greater mechanisation, steam power and better transport links led to an increase in production of the Cilgerran gorge quarries. There were two main centres of quarrying: quarries below the town itself and Fforest, a few kilometres downstream. Production started to decline in the early decades of the 20th century, and the last quarry at Cilgerran closed in 1938.

The legacy of stone and slate quarrying in the lower Teifi valley lies not in the physical remains of the industry itself, which are slight and often tucked away on heavily wooded valley sides, but in the buildings of the region. Lower Teifi valley slate was ubiquitous until superseded first by brick and then by other materials. The use of building materials is discussed more fully below.



## **OTHER INDUSTRIES**

Between 1764 and 1770 an extensive tinplate- and iron-works was established at Castell Malgwyn, on the banks of the Teifi at Penygored. A canal (or leat) supplied water to the works, materials were brought up the navigable river and there was ample woodland on the valley sides for fuel. The Penygored Company was successful, passing through several hands until purchased in 1792 by Sir Benjamin Hammet, who also bought the Castell Malgwyn estate. It was operational until 1806. The site of the works has now gone. It appears that no worker housing was built specifically to cater for its workforce, who presumably lived in the nearby village of Llechryd.

## **EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURY ENCROACHMENT SETTLEMENTS**

In common with all of Wales, and indeed most of western Britain, rural settlement expansion during the period of a rapidly increasing population in the late 18th century and early 19th century was largely at the interface of cultivated land and common land. These squatter settlements, or tai unnos, seemed to have little legal basis, but in the landscapes described here their foundation seems to have been tolerated by other landowners and tenants. Their legacy is quite clear – small agricultural holdings and cottages set in a landscape of small irregular fields fringing open moorland or high ground. In the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes the morphology and character of smallholdings fringing the only one substantial tract of high, unenclosed moorland, that of Rhos Llangr, Rhos Penboyr and Rhos Kilrhedin, indicate that they originated as illegal encroachments onto common. Tithe maps of c. 1840 and the Enclosure Award map of the common of 1866 that marks some of these smallholdings as illegal encroachments confirms the surviving physical evidence. Smaller, lowland commons were vulnerable to the same process. Encroachment by loose clusters of workers's cottages onto common, as at Waungilwen and Cwmhiraeth in the mid 19th century, is unusual for southwest Wales, but perhaps more common in the more industrialised areas of the southeast and northwest of the country.

## **PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE**

By the late 18th century if not earlier the greater part of the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach Felindre historic landscapes comprised agricultural land. There was, therefore, very little open common land requiring an Act of Parliament for enclosure. A notable exception was Rhos Llangr, Rhos Penboyr and Rhos Kilrhedin, a high ridge of moorland on the watershed of the Afon Tywi and Afon Teifi in Carmarthenshire. In 1866 an enclosure award was granted to enclose this large tract of high moorland, transforming it into a landscape of large regular fields, whereupon shortly after farms were established. A little earlier, in 1855, an Act of Parliament had enclosed small pockets of common close to Drefach and Felindre. These were probably the last remnants of once extensive lowland common, and their formal enclosure was the final act of several centuries of piecemeal, and illegal, encroachment.

## **FIELD BOUNDARIES**

In common with the rest of southwest Wales the predominant type of field boundary consists of an earth or earth and stone bank topped with a hedge. These hedges are a major component of the historic landscape. The character of the hedges varies between and even within farms; some are well maintained with a few large bushes or trees, some have distinctive trees, others have been reduced to straggling lines or bushes and trees whilst others consist of bracken and gorse on massive banks. The critical criteria in determining the character of the hedge are elevation and degree of exposure. Generally the more sheltered the location the more lush the hedge. Clearly management has a role as well and poorly maintained hedges reduced to lines of bushes can be found on valley floors, but large hedges of vigorous bushes cannot live on the exposed coastal hills to the west. Indeed it is only in these areas that other types of boundary are found. These are predominantly stony banks, supporting low hedges of gorse and bracken, but with occasional dry-stone walls, now usually in a collapsed state.

## **BUILDINGS**

### **Rural buildings**

In common with most of southwest Wales most of the pre 20th century building stock belongs to the 19th century. There are very few pre 19th century domestic and agricultural buildings. Building analysis indicates that virtually all the smaller rural buildings were replaced during a period of great rebuilding from c.1840 to c. 1900, leaving just a handful of earlier survivors. These few survivors provide an insight into an almost extinct tradition for which evidence has all but vanished. They are small, single storey farmhouses, as at Rhyd, Llandygwydd (now used as an outbuilding), cottages, as at Cwmcych, or outbuildings. All these are of poor quality stone or earth (clom) under thatch roofs. They were small, simple and fragile and easily swept aside during the increasing prosperity of the 19th century. They were replaced by two-storey stone-built houses, cottages and farm buildings, which, though well constructed of rubble or coursed stone, have little architectural pretension. Most are within the Georgian tradition – two-storey and three-windows wide, regular plan and elevations, with relatively high ceilings and windows – although a few have one or more vernacular traits such as an asymmetrical plan, low ceilings, small windows and large chimneys. Almost all pre-20th century farm buildings are stone-built, with most farms having one or two ranges informally arranged around the sides of a yard. Smaller farms may just have a single range attached in-line to the house, and larger farms three or more ranges. Cow houses, stables, barns and other storage buildings indicate that a mixed farming economy was in operation during the 19th century. The vast majority of these houses and farms were estate provisions with others constructed by jobbing builders and/or self built. It is noticeable that outside the zone of the main estates, at the extreme far west of the Teifi valley and on higher ground to the south of Drefach and Felindre, houses have more vernacular traits than those within the zone, indicating a degree of standardisation in estate buildings.

A high quality stone-building tradition has been present for over 800 years as evidenced by Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle, but prior to the mid 19th century it had not filtered down to the smaller houses, cottages and farms. Surviving larger domestic and agricultural buildings earlier than the mid 18th century are rare, suggesting that the building stock was not of particularly high quality and had to be

replaced. It is not really until the end of the 18th century and the early 19th century that good quality stonework is used in domestic buildings and then on major houses such as Castell Malgwyn and Coedmor. Later good quality masonry was employed in smaller buildings.

There are few rural buildings dating to the first half of the 20th century. Rural development restarted in the 1960s and has accelerated since the 1980s with occasional new houses in isolated locations, clusters of housing on established village fringes as at Llandygwydd and Cenarth, and the rebuilding of older farmhouses. The latter phenomenon is not common except in the higher areas of the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape where the 19th century housing stock was probably poor. A more dramatic affect on the landscape has been the construction of modern concrete, steel and asbestos farm buildings.

### **Industrial villages and hamlets**

Buildings in the industrial villages and hamlets of Drefach and Felindre, Abercych and to a lesser degree Cilgerran date to the second half of the 19th century with a strong concentration in the last two decades. A mid 18th century terrace of low houses in the centre of Drefach provides an indication of the early type of housing stock, but in common with rural housing most of this early type of housing was replaced in the 19th century. All the industrial settlements in the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape experienced rapid growth from the mid to late 19th century. This was a result of the increasing scale of operation of the woollen industry, which is reflected in the numerous stone- and brick-built factories, the associated housing stock, chapels and churches and other buildings constructed at this time. A distinct settlement pattern of mill, mill owner's house, workers' houses and chapels clustered on the floors of narrow valleys is apparent as at Cwmpengraig and Cwmhiraeth. Worker houses are grouped into short terraces or semi-detached units either provided by mill owners or small-scale speculators by landowners are broadly in the Georgian style – symmetrical plan and elevation, high ceiling and large window openings – reflecting the aspirations of the workers in the late 19th century. There is social mixing within communities with the owner's house and/or manager's house close to or alongside those of the workers. However, none of these owner/manager houses is particularly large, and some stand a little distance from the rest of the community.

Buildings reflect the fortunes of the woollen industry as well as other industries. Very few new houses were constructed within associated settlements during the decline of these industries during the first decades of the 20th century. Owing to easy and quick transport links to larger communities development has now picked up, and new individual houses and small estates have been constructed since the 1970s at Drefach and Felindre, Cilgerran, and Cwmcych.

### **Urban and non-industrial settlements**

The greatest range of domestic and commercial buildings in the two historic landscapes is found at Cardigan. Constraints within the medieval town have produced a tightly packed plan with houses, shops and other commercial buildings, mostly dating to the late 18th and early 19th century squeezed into terraces. Away from these constraints the terrace is still the favoured house type of later 19th century houses, but in contrast to the early stone buildings brick is more commonly used. Later development is freer still, with detached villas, semi-detached houses and estates commonplace. Similar patterns, but on a lesser scale, are found at St Dogmaels and Cilgerran, and even in the small villages of Cenarth and Llechryd.



## **Walling materials**

A common building material – Teifi valley slate – unites all the pre-1870 buildings, including houses, cottages, farm buildings, churches, chapels, castles, mills, factories and bridges, in both the Lower Teifi Valley, and the Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes. The term Teifi valley slate is preferred to the more commonly used term Cilgerran slate as ‘slate’ quarries in the Teifi valley outside the gorge at Cilgerran were worked for building stone. The early recognition of this high quality building stone is evident by its use in a 13th – 14th century context at Cardigan Castle and Cilgerran Castle, and later in the 17th and 18th centuries on Cardigan, Llechryd bridges and other bridges over the Afon Teifi.

It is a versatile stone, usually grey-brown in colour but with silvery-grey hues in the finest-grained strata, and can be cleaved into large slabs, chisel shaped and dressed, and sawn into ashlar blocks. The full repertoire of Teifi valley slate is best displayed in domestic architecture. Un-coursed or roughly coursed rubble is common in the earliest surviving houses of the late 18th century and early 19th century, even in some substantial dwellings such as Castell Malgwyn mansion, and continues to be used in this form in more modest worker houses and cottages late into the 19th century and early 20th century. Quoins are often large, distinctive shaped slabs, even in rubble build, and window and door voussoirs are usually shaped. Chisel-squared regularly-coursed slabs and blocks with more finely dressed quoins and voussoirs were introduced in some finer buildings by the late 18th century, evidenced by several Georgian houses in Cardigan, for example. This form of construction continues throughout the 19th century, gradually being employed in houses lower down the social scale, such as some workers houses in Drefach and Felindre, and at Cilgerran. During the mid 19th century regularly coursed finely-sawn stone is introduced, using fine-grained grey Teifi valley slate from the Cilgerran quarries. Sawn stone laid in very regular courses is mostly found in high-quality, high-cost buildings such as the stable block and service buildings at Castell Malgwyn and mill owners’ houses at Drefach and Felindre, but is also used in more modest late 19th century houses close to the quarries at Cilgerran.

An unusual and highly decorative use of silver-grey Teifi valley slate slabs laid in strong horizontal courses interspaced with square blocks of warm brown Dolerite from the Preseli Mountains producing a banded effect, is employed in some mid 19th century houses at St Dogmaels. This style of construction is unusual, but can be seen in some warehouses at Cardigan and in houses at Newport and Dinas in Pembrokeshire, although in these examples the use of contrasting coloured stone is not so marked as that at St Dogmaels.

Outside the main sources of Teifi valley slate and away from good transport connections, other types of stone are occasionally used. For instance on higher ground in the Drefach and Felindre historic landscape and in the far west of the Lower Teifi Valley historic landscape locally quarried stone is used in farmhouses, cottages and farm buildings. Owing to the poorer quality of the stone dwellings are frequently cement rendered.

Better transport links allowing the importation of different materials and the opening Cardigan brickworks in the 1870s lead to a gradual decline in the use of stone, and by the early 20th century its abandonment as a building material. Apart from close to the brickworks at Cardigan, brick was initially used sparingly, as on workers houses at Drefach and Felindre where both yellow brick and red brick door- and window-jambs complement stone. Purely red brick buildings, many with decorative tile courses and other architectural features were constructed at Cardigan during the

1870s, and elsewhere soon after, but nowhere with the initial exuberance seen in the first houses and shops. The mid and late 19th century building boom, attested by numerous stone-built buildings, petered out towards the end of the century and the early years of the 20th century and therefore red brick buildings do not constitute a major element in the historic landscape. Only at Cardigan were a significant number of new buildings constructed during the first half of the 20th century. Suburban housing – red-tiled and stuccoed villas, semi detached middle-class dwellings and small estates – contribute to the urban landscape. A new and continuing building boom right across the southwest Wales landscape from the 1960s onwards, and particularly from the 1980s, has added many new houses and other structures to the landscape, this time in a variety of new materials.

Lower Teifi valley slate is a good quality building material and houses constructed from it rarely require a protective cement or stucco coat; stone-built farm buildings are always left bare. There are many reasons why some of the houses have a stucco coat: use of poorer quality stone, use of brick and for decorative purposes. Where poor quality stone is used stucco is generally applied for protection. At St Dogmaels, however, a tradition of high quality bare-stone houses indicates that stucco was probably not required for protection, yet well over half the buildings have applied cement render. The stuccoed buildings here have a highly decorative air, and wide repertoire - different coloured pebbledash, applied decoration around door and windows and house names is employed lending a jaunty seaside air to the village. Similar surface treatments can be found on houses at Cardigan and Cilgerran. Although there is decorative treatment to some of the houses in the industrial settlements of Drefach and Felindre, the main use of stucco here seems to be for protection.

The use of stone was ubiquitous by the mid 19th century, and had been used for major buildings prior to this. A few rare survivors, however, demonstrate an earlier building tradition. One or two cottages and disused, small farmhouses are constructed of clom (earth) on stone footings, with thatched roofs. It is highly likely that clom-built farmhouses, cottages and farm outbuildings were the most common building types in the Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes prior to a great rebuilding in stone during the mid and late 19th century.

### **Roofing materials**

Commercially quarried and cut north Wales slate is used throughout the region. Historic records indicate that lower Teifi valley slate was used as roofing material, but it is uncertain if its use was widespread prior to the mid 19th century and the dominance of the north Wales slate. Surviving small cottages and farmhouse demonstrate that thatch was probably common, if not universal, on smaller dwellings and farm buildings, prior to mid and late 19th century. Slate is still the main roofing material, with concrete tile, ceramic tile, steel and asbestos becoming more common.

## **TWENTIETH CENTURY AND LATER DEVELOPMENT**

Twentieth century and later development is similar to that of the rest of southwest Wales in that it is predominantly confined to the last three or four decades of the century and is concentrated on the fringes of existing towns, villages and hamlets. Between 1900 and the 1960s new housing consisted of small-scale social housing estates and small private housing estates, such as those on the northern fringes of

Cardigan, and low-key industrial facilities. There are of course exceptions to this, such as the continued programme of woollen mill construction at Drefach and Felindre; this, however, should be regarded as the final flourish of a mainly 19th century industry rather than as new development. By the 1960s larger scale housing projects were underway, and the pace of new housing development is still accelerating. There is no village or hamlet that does not have some modern housing, and in some instances the extent of the modern housing is sufficiently great to have nearly erased the community's historic core. Modern housing is at its most dense close to towns and villages. Thus a belt of late 20th century houses encloses Cardigan, and hamlets and villages within four to five miles from the town contain many modern elements. Beyond this distance the quantity of new houses begins to fall away, but nevertheless is always present.

## **PLANNING REGIMES AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

The Lower Teifi Valley and the Drefach and Felindre historic landscapes straddle four planning authorities: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Planning policies of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire have led to broadly similar landscapes, with new housing concentrated in or on the fringes of existing settlements, and very little new development in the open countryside. There is, however, very little modern development within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. This has resulted in a markedly different modern landscape on the north side of the Teifi estuary in Ceredigion to that on the south side in the National Park. Immediately pre- and post-World War 2 homemade houses/chalets and other low-key tourist facilities began to develop on both banks of the estuary. On the south side, however, this was halted and the only modern developments are a car park and a lifeboat station. To the north tourist related facilities have expanded -a caravan park, yachting park/yard and a golf club - and modern housing constructed, driven by the demand from Cardigan town a few miles away. In some locations such as at Ferwig new housing has swamped the historic village core, and at other places housing density has led to the creation of new communities.

## **TOURISM AND THE LEISURE INDUSTRY**

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the sandy beach of Poppit in the far west of the Teifi valley receive the most visitors, with a reduction in numbers as one travels east up the valley. There is no major tourist honey pot in the Lower Teifi Valley or Drefach and Felindre such as can be found in south Pembrokeshire and consequently the impact of the tourist and leisure industry on the historic landscape has been relatively insignificant. St Dogmaels Abbey, Cardigan Town, Cilgerran Castle and gorge and nature reserve, Cenarth Falls, Newcastle Emlyn Castle and the National Museums & Galleries' woollen mill museum at Drefach-Felindre attract visitors, but these locations are components of the historic landscape in their own right, and their associated tourist elements- car parks, toilets, shops - are very low key. Visitors to them may travel some distance on a daily basis or may be tourists staying in holiday homes, converted farm buildings or bed and breakfast accommodation - the type of facility that has no or minimal impact on the landscape. Some larger scale holiday accommodation is present such as a chalet and



caravan park outside Cenarth, but most tourist facilities are situated downriver of Cardigan towards the coast. Even so, apart from small car parks, housing and hotels at Gwbert and a caravan park and yacht park/yard on the river's edge, the impact of the tourist industry on the historic landscape is not great.