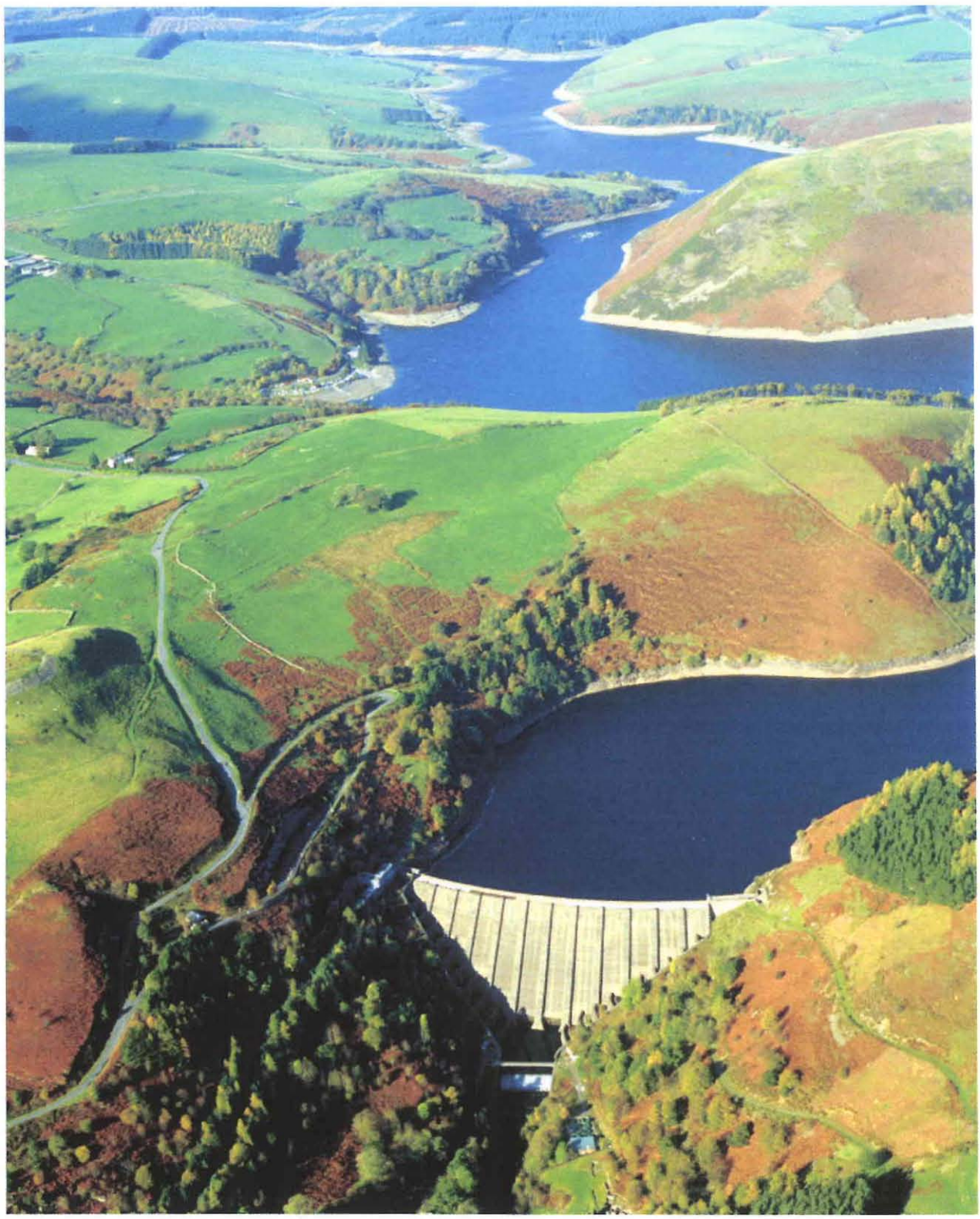
THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Clywedog Valley

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION



The Clywedog Dam and Reservoir. *Photo CPAT 06-C-246*

CPAT Report No 832

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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION

by W J Britnell

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Cadw

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Preface

Natural forces and human activity acting together over the last six thousand years have contributed to produce a landscape of great beauty and variety in Wales, a national asset that is essential both to our national identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and well-being. The diversity and imprint of human activity on the landscape is everywhere to be seen, from the enigmatic stone monuments of the prehistoric period and the magnificent castles and abbeys of the medieval period, to quite commonplace and typical features like field boundaries that can often be of great age. But the landscape is more than just attractive scenery or a record of the past; it also provides a place for us to live, work and sustain ourselves, through farming, forestry, tourism and so on, processes that all shape, and will continue to shape, the landscape.

Recognising and raising awareness of the importance and wealth of the historic fabric of the landscape has been the central theme and message of the non-statutory, *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*, the first part of which, covering thirty-six 'outstanding' landscapes, was published in January 1998. This is being compiled as a joint initiative between Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), working in collaboration with the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the Welsh unitary authorities.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* provides a first step, a national overview of the historic content of the Welsh landscape. The next step, so essential to the process of informing the way in which aspects of the historic landscape may be managed, is to make available more detailed information about the character of this landscape at a more local level. This is achieved through a process known as historic landscape characterisation which has been developed in Wales jointly by Cadw, the CCW and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. This involves the identification of geographically definable and mappable areas of historic character, as determined by the range and distribution of surviving archaeological and historical

Rhagair

Mae'r grymoedd nuturiol a'r gweithgaredd dynol a fu'n gweithredu ar y cyd dros y chwe mil o flynydddoedd diwethaf wedi cyfrannu at y broses o gynhyrchu tirwedd o harddwch ac amrywiaeth hynod yng Ngymru, ased cenedlaehtol sy'n hanfodol i ni o ran ein hunaniaeth henedlaethol a hefyd o ran ein lles a'n 'hymdeimlad o berthyn i le' unigol. Gellir gweld ymhobman yr amrywiaeth a'r olion a adawyd ar y tirwedd gan weithgaredd dynol, o henebion cerrig enigmatig y cyfnod cynhanesyddol a chestyll ac abatai gwych y cyfnod canoloesol, i'r nodweddion eithaf cyffredin a nodweddiadol fel ffiniau caeau a all yn aml fod yn hen iawn. Ond nid dim ond golygyfeydd deniadol neu gofnod o'r gorffennol yn unig yw'r tirwedd; mae hyfyd yn darparu lle i ni fyw, gweithio a chynnal ein hunain ynddo, drwy gyfrwng amaeth, coedwigaeth, twristiaeth ac ati, oll yn broseau sy'n llunio, ac a fydd yn yn parhau i lunio'r tirwedd.

Bu cydnabod a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o bwysigrwydd a chyfoeth ffarig hanessyddol y tirwedd yn thema ac yn neges ganolog y gofrestr anstatudol, Cofrestr o Dirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol Eithriadol Yng Nghymru, *y cynoeddwyd y rhan gyntaf ohoni, sy'n cwmaus trideg chwech o dirweddau 'eithriadol' ym mis Ionawr 1998. Caiff y Gofrestr ei llunio fel menter ar y cyd rhwng Cadw, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru a'r Cyngor Rhyngwladol ar Henebion a Safleoedd (ICOMOS) sy'n gweithio mewn cydweithrediad â phedair Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Cymru, y Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru ac awdurdodau unedol Cymru.*

Cofrestr o Dirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol *yw'r cam cyntaf, trosolwg cenedlaethol o gynnwys hanesyddol tirwedd Cymru. Y cam nesaf, mor hanfodol i'r broses o lywio'r modd y gellir rheoli agweddau ar y tirwedd cenedlaethol, yw trefnu bod gwybodaeth fwy manwl ar gael ynglyn â chymeriad y tirwedd hwn ar lefel fwy lleol. Cyflawnir hyn drwy broses a elwir yn nodweddiad tirweddau hanesyddol y gellir eu diffinio a'u mapio'n ddaearyddol, yn ôl yr hyn a benderfynir gan ystod a dosbarthiad y nodweddion archeolegol a hanesyddol sy'n goroesi a'r prif fathau o batrymau defnydd tir hanesyddol neu 'themâe' hanesyddol*

features and the main types of historical land use patterns or historic 'themes' that have shaped the area. The key historic characteristics of the area are then identified along with recommendations for their positive management.

This report is one of a series of landscape characterisation exercises being undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts with grant-aid from Cadw. These studies will initially concentrate on those areas identified on the *Historic Landscapes Register*, although it is accepted that the whole of the Welsh landscape can be said to be, in one way or another, historic. Information is being prepared in a form which is compatible to the CCW's landscape assessment and decision making methodology, known as *LANDMAP*. It will be made available to a wide range of organisations and will feed into various initiatives to protect and manage the Welsh countryside, most notably the *Tir Gofal* agri-environment scheme. It is also seen as making a particularly important contribution to raising awareness and heightening a feeling of local distinctiveness.

The *Historic Landscapes Register* and these characterisation exercises fully acknowledge the dynamic and evolving nature of the landscape. They promote the view that protecting the legacy of the past in the landscape is not to be achieved by preventing change or fossilising the landscape but rather by informing the process of change, creating tomorrow's landscapes without necessarily sacrificing the best of yesterday's.

sydd wedi llunio'r ardal. Nodir nodweddion hanesyddol allweddol yr ardal felly ynghyd ag argymhellion ar gyfer eu rheli'n gadarnhaol.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn un o gyfres o ymarfeirion nodweddiad tirweddau hanesyddol yr ymngmeirir ag ef gan Ymddiriedolaethau Archaeoloegol Cymru gyda chymorth grant gan Cadw. Bydd yr astudiaethau hyn yn canolbwyntio yn y lle cyntaf ar yr ardaloedd hynny a nodwyd yn y Gofestr o Ddiddordeb Hanessyddol, *er y caiff ei dderbyn bod modd disgrifio tirwedd Cymru gyfan, mewn un ffordd neu'r llall, fel yn hanesyddol. Mae gwybodaeth yn cael ei pharatoi ar ffurf sy'n cydweddau â methodoleg asesu tirweddau a gwneud penderfyniadau Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, sef* LANDMAP. *Bydd ar gael i ystod eang o sefydliadau a chaiff ei fwydo i fentrau amrywiol er mwyn diogelu a rheoli cefn gwlad Cymru, yn bennaf y cynllun agri-amgylcheddol sef,* Tir Gofal. *Caiff ei weld hefyd yn gwneud cyfraniad arbennig o bwysig i'r broses o godi ymwybyddiaeth a dwyshau'r ymdeimlad o arbenigrwydd lleol.*

Cydnabydda'r Gofestr o Dirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanessyddol *a'r ymarfeirion nodweddiad hyn yn llawn natur ddeinamig y tirwedd sy'n parhau i esblygu. Hyrwyddant y farn mai nid trwy rwystro newid neu ffosileiddio'r tirwedd y mae diogelu treftadaeth y gorffennol yn y tirwedd, ond yn hytrach drwy lywio'r broses o newid, gan greu tirweddau'r dyfodol heb o anghenraid abethu tirweddau gorau'r gorffennol.*

Richard Avent
Cadw

Richard Kelly
Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru/Countryside Council for Wales

Introduction

THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

This study is a contribution to the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic landscape. The following uses of historic landscape characterization were identified by Cadw:

- Planning, including large-scale intrusions such as roads, windfarms, mineral extraction, large-scale landfill/ waste disposal, reclamation, water schemes, major settlement schemes, and major industrial developments
- Landscape management by large corporate landowners, farmers, industrial companies, water and electricity companies, the forestry industry, and the National Trust
- Advice to conservation bodies such as Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, local authorities, national parks
- Local landscape conservation initiatives and management agreements by Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, local authorities
- To enhance our understanding of the historic aspects of landscape, stimulating further research, raising public perception of the landscape, and the preparation of policy statements by public bodies

EVOLVING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION METHODOLOGY

Historic landscape characterization is a contribution towards the overall historic landscape initiative currently being funded by Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK. Its principal aim is to provide information to aid the management of the historic environment.

Historical landscape characteristics are the tangible evidence of the activities and habits of the people who occupied, developed, used and shaped the land to serve human needs in the past; they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of these people. They include the physical remains of all aspects of human activities and the exploitation in the past (above and below ground, known and potential), and our understanding, interpretation and even perception of those remains. They may reflect a variety of activities occurring at one time, or evolving functions in different periods of time.

The Countryside Commission (in its document *Views from the Past*, 1996) states that as managers we should be concerned with the historic character of the present landscape, and not with the study of the past for its own sake. It places the idea of 'historic landscape character' at the centre of these ideas. Characterization is defined as the process of identifying and defining the particular characteristics which make each area distinctive, and is rapidly emerging as the basis for describing and understanding the environment. Historic landscape characterization is one dimension of this approach: it sets out to identify the principal historic components within the current landscape. It is the great depth of human activity which underpins much of that which we feel is important and helps to give an idea of its local distinctiveness.

The term 'historic character' is generally preferred to 'historic landscape', as it is now accepted that all landscape is historic in that it reflects, to a greater or lesser degree, the processes which have occurred in history and which have formed its present appearance.

At present there is no standard, accepted methodology for establishing the historical characterization of landscape, but work on Llyn and elsewhere in Wales has suggested a practical approach based on considering the evidence as a series of themes which may provide an answer. At a landscape level, what is significant in historical terms includes field boundary patterns (whether they are irregular or regular, their size, their date etc); settlement patterns (whether they are scattered, nucleated, their date of origin etc); the relict remains of earlier periods which are to be found in upland or marginal landscapes; the effect of 18th- and 19th-century estates on the landscape; the impact of industry, military installations and so on.

The dominant historic themes or patterns in a locality help define local historic character. The combination of these characteristics give an area its local distinctiveness, and it is the definition of areas of local distinctiveness which leads to the definition of 'character areas'.

The concept of 'character areas' differs somewhat from comparable studies in England, which are based on 'historic landscape types', where the predominant form of the present landscape is identified principally by the existing patterns of enclosures within areas of landscape.

The process of characterization adopted here can be summarised as follows:

one or more dominant patterns	→	coherent character
coherent character with definable limits	→	character area
one or more character areas	→	historic landscape area

Characterization is a practical tool intended to aid management in its broadest forms. In order to be of any practical use, this has to be translated into the management of 'landscape tangibles' (ie the evidence for historical processes and periods in the present landscape). It is essential, therefore, that the key historic landscape characteristics are features and/or patterns to which can be applied management prescriptions whose success or otherwise can be measured for monitoring purposes.

The reports emanating from this work contain a number of elements: the description of each character area split into three parts — historical background, key historic landscape characteristics, and key historic landscape management priorities — accompanied by a map and a photograph. The historical background provides a straightforward description of the archaeological and historical development of the area. The section on key historic landscape characteristics lists the principal characteristics which make that area distinctive and which future management should therefore concentrate on. The section on key historic landscape management priorities begins to define the scope for creative action within a number of initiatives (including LANDMAP, Unitary Development Plans, and Tir Gofal, the all-Wales agri-environment scheme) which can sustain or even enhance elements considered essential to the historic character of the areas.

MANAGING HISTORIC CHARACTER

Rural land-use change

There have been many pressures on the rural environment and the countryside over the last 50 years as a result of changes in land use and shifting priorities for agriculture (the principal rural land use). Agricultural intensi-

fication and the maximization of productivity were the priorities up until the mid-1980s, and as a consequence the character of rural landscapes changed dramatically during this period as hedgerows and trees were removed to create more efficient farming systems. Reclamation of the hills and marginal land led to the removal of significant upstanding archaeological sites and palimpsest landscapes.

Currently, due to agricultural overproduction and a general greater awareness of and concern for the quality and protection of the rural environment, the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy provides a number of incentives to farmers and landowners to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive manner. The all-Wales Tir Gofal scheme includes provision for the conservation of certain habitats as well as sites and features of archaeological and historic landscape interest.

However, of the estimated 27,000 farms in Wales, only about 600 farms per year are currently entering into such agreements, which leaves the vast majority outside any formal management scheme, and so many important archaeological sites and landscape features continue to be lost. The challenge therefore is to identify historic landscape priorities for conservation, protection, enhancement or even restoration both within the scheme and without it.

Three of the principal advantages of an approach using character areas are that (a) it is able to identify and map both local distinctiveness and national importance; (b) by identifying physical features which can be managed it can feed directly into land management and development planning strategies; and (c) it sets the management of individual features within their local landscape context, allowing emphasis to be placed on those features which best define local landscape character. It can assist in management plans by setting priorities for management and enhancement, highlighting intrinsic values, and encouraging links to multi-purpose management.

Characterization is about management: if we are going to manage effectively, we must know what is there, what is important and what we want to do with it. Character areas can tell us what is distinctive (ie important both locally and nationally) about a particular area, and therefore what needs to be managed in order to retain that area's distinctiveness (character).

General considerations

Positive management should be aimed at halting and, if necessary, reversing any trends that can be shown to be causing unacceptable damage to the historic landscape resource. If at the same time management can actually enhance the historic landscape, then that is even better. It is essential that such management is continuous, and contains provisions for monitoring and review.

One of the basic tenets underpinning management is that we should be aiming to continue (rather than halt) the past evolution of the landscape: to do this we must first identify what is important and significant in historic landscape terms. It is the overall historic character of the present landscape (as evidenced in important and significant groupings and patterns) which we should aim to retain, but in order to do this we must concentrate management actions at the level of individual components. We must identify, conserve and enhance the local and regional historic diversity of our landscapes.

Agri-environment and other rural initiatives offer the opportunity to integrate the needs of the historic environment with modern land-use requirements to produce a workable, effective management system. More importantly, they should result in a working, viable landscape, which should provide ways and means for the various human activities in an area to be integrated with each other and with conservation, at the same time providing opportunities for study, research, education, interpretation and quiet enjoyment.

This means that sites and features of historic landscape interest are positively managed for their own sake, rather than just left unimproved. It is important that the management of such features is integral to the management of the farm, or the scheme, as a whole, rather than an isolated, unrelated activity.

By working at the most basic level, management can be used to retain the general historic character of the area.

management of components boundaries, buildings, archaeological sites etc	→	retain character	→	conserve diversity and character areas

A management plan should specify conservation objectives for a site/area and how they will be monitored: it should identify points at which some response will be made if monitoring shows that a feature is changing: it should establish what activities/processes will be the subject of monitoring: it should establish what management of on-going activities is required; and identify the types of development or activities which might adversely affect the site.

Not all the sites and features which comprise the historic environment require the same detailed level of management: some sites can be adequately managed by the application of simple, general strategies, while more complex sites merit more detailed, site-specific, problem-led responses.

General mechanisms

It is envisaged that characterization has many potential applications to management including the following:

- assisting in developing landscape conservation and enhancement projects, by identifying elements and patterns of the historic environment which are considered either typical of a local area (provide local distinctiveness) or are of particular importance (rare at a national level)
- targeting resources within grant-aid by government and other organisations towards conserving elements and patterns of the historic environment in the same way
- developing policies for unitary development plans
- assisting in determining planning applications, especially large-scale developments such as roads, windfarms, mineral extraction, large-scale landfill, waste disposal, reclamation, water schemes, major settlement and major industrial development
- aiding the management of land by farmers, and large corporate landowners such as industrial companies, water or electricity companies, the forestry industry and the National Trust
- providing baseline information for local areas against which future change can be monitored, for example as part of the Tir Gofal scheme
- providing general information not already on the SMR which can be used to inform advice given as part of a number of rural initiatives such as Tir Gofal, Woodland Grant Schemes etc
- providing advice in a rural framework to conservation agencies including Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, local authorities, national parks and others

- providing information to a number of wider initiatives, including contributing to our academic understanding of landscape, stimulating further research, raising public perception of the landscape, and the preparation of policy statements by public bodies

Specific mechanisms

Tir Gofal is open to applications from farmers throughout Wales. Within the scheme, payments will be made to farmers for observing 'codes of good environmental practice', one of which is care and enhancement of the historic environment. As the scheme is a 'whole farm' scheme, it will allow archaeological management strategies sensitive to the character of the landscape as a whole to be integrated with farming practices. Characterization is useful for monitoring purposes, as it sets out the wider historic environment framework within which individual farm plans will sit. It can also help prioritise management within a broader landscape context.

Unitary Development Plans address 'land use' issues and are currently being compiled by unitary authorities in Wales and England.

Countryside strategies are the responsibility of local authorities (together with others), which have a general duty under section 1 of the Countryside Act, 1981, to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of their functions relating to land. Countryside strategies principally address management of the countryside in areas outside settlement limits, but they are also a mechanism, at least in part, of implementing development plan policies. In Wales, such strategies are supported by the Countryside Council for Wales and in England by the Countryside Agency.

Local authorities have a number of powers which have implications for the management of the historic environment including the power to establish Country Parks (section 7 of the Countryside Act 1968); the ability to declare Local Nature Reserves (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to enter into access agreements with landowners (section 64 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the ability to buy derelict land (often of industrial archaeological interest) for reclamation purposes (section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949); the duty to make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate (section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990); and the duty to apply The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 which controls the removal of certain important hedgerows (from section 97 of the Environment Act 1995). Other powers are treated separately below.

Local Agenda 21 programme At Rio, governments committed themselves to setting up national targets for safeguarding and improving the environment. Local Agenda 21 and Local Biodiversity Action Plans provide the means of meeting these targets, and of promoting the principles of sustainable development, at a local level. Both initiatives are about embracing a conscientious vision of the long-term future by identifying what matters locally and paying serious attention to the global costs of maintaining local lifestyles.

This has implications for archaeology and the historic environment. At a local level, sense of place is a fundamental aspect of quality of life. The present-day landscape underpins our sense of the place in which we live. Much of its character and distinctiveness is derived from the historic environment (archaeology and the built heritage in all its forms). The historic environment is of course both fragile and non-renewable. We have a responsibility to maintain it so that future generations can also appreciate and benefit from it in the same way that we do. However, the landscape is not static. Just as today's landscape is a product of the changing relationships between people and their environment through time, so it must be allowed to continue to change.

The point of sustainability is that it promotes change which meets the needs of the future whilst retaining the integrity

of the historic environment. In order to do so decisions have to be made about the relative importance of different elements. Traditionally, evaluation has been based on individual sites, with particular examples being selected out for special protection (known as scheduling). However, it is the sum total of archaeological features not individual sites which give landscape its grain and it is often the more ordinary features that create 'local distinctiveness'. In order to ensure that decisions about the future of the historic environment are made on a secure basis, sound information needs to be gathered. Historic landscape characterization work of the kind being carried out by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts provides historic environment audits, from which decisions of this kind can be made.

Biodiversity Action Plans Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) are a means by which Local Government Authorities can implement the biodiversity recommendations established after the Rio Summit. They achieve this by building up local partnerships and taking account of both national and local biodiversity priorities to develop strategies for the conservation of species and habitats of local significance. As we are still at the early stages of our involvement, more information will be forthcoming at a later date, but it is already obvious that the type of general information coming from characterization projects will be able to feed into such plans.

At a general level, archaeology is of relevance to LBAPs because it raises awareness of the historical origins of the contemporary environment. There are no purely 'natural' environments in Britain; the landscape is the product of millennia of human activity. Our knowledge of the changing relationship between people and their environment through history allows us to understand the land-use activities which have led to the creation of contemporary landscapes, and comment from an informed historical perspective on those practices which could be encouraged in order to protect and conserve particular landscapes and ecosystems.

Access is a key issue in the countryside, if we are to enjoy the landscape and all its inherent interests and in turn engender understanding and respect for the countryside and the way it works. In addition to the rights of way network, a bill has recently been passed by Parliament with proposals to provide greater public access to open areas of countryside. As many of the best-preserved and most fragile palimpsest archaeological sites and landscapes lie within open areas of countryside, this has potential implications for archaeological management.

Historic landscape characterization can identify these areas (ie where there are well-preserved yet fragile archaeological remains) and thus highlight the potential management problems if the areas are 'opened up' to public access. It may even be that such areas could be excluded from unfettered access under new legislation, either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Characterization also has the potential to inform leaflets, trails and other interpretative material.

Leisure strategy Historic landscape characterization may have a bearing on local authority leisure strategies.

Tourism The Tourist Boards for Wales and England have the strategic responsibility for encouraging people to visit the borderlands and for the provision of tourist facilities. In recent years tourism has become one of the most important growth sectors of the economy. Unitary authorities all have a tourism strategy of some description, and historic characterization has a part to play in sustainable 'green tourism' in that it can help identify local distinctiveness which can be used both to attract visitors (by way of advertising), create atmosphere and to inform quality initiatives such as local walks, guides and other recreational activities. It can also direct visitors to areas with a robust historic environment, and away from those which are particularly fragile.

Management agreements In addition, local authorities have the ability (under section 39 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981) to enter into management agreements with landowners. This is an area which could be explored further from the historic environment perspective, as such agreements could cover not only individual monuments but also historic landscape characteristics (such as boundary types).

Other local authority programmes Local authorities have programmes for economic development, highways maintenance, environmental education and coastal protection. These would all benefit from the information which is being compiled through the characterization projects, and, in the other direction, the safeguarding of the historic environment would benefit from those drawing up these programmes having direct access to historic landscape characterization data. In fact, information at this broad level would probably be more useful than detailed, site-specific SMR data.

Forestry Commission Information from characterization projects will be invaluable in contributing to national and regional indicative forestry strategies, indicating where new proposals for planting are likely to be acceptable (or unacceptable) from an historic environment perspective. On a day to day basis, it can provide information at a landscape level which can inform proposals for new planting. It will be particularly useful when considering proposals under any of the challenge schemes.

Environment Agency is responsible for producing Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs) and Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The historic environment does not have a high profile in either of these, and both could therefore benefit from information which characterization can provide.

Other bodies Historic landscape characterization information can be used to educate and inform a wide range of organisations and individuals including statutory agencies, voluntary bodies (RSPB, Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trusts, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, National Trust) town councils, community councils, farming unions and others. It is our experience that often it is easier to explain the importance of, and inherent interest of, the historic environment by using historic characterization, than by the more traditional means of individual archaeological sites and excavations.

Local distinctiveness and a sense of place, which are of undoubted interest to people, can all be conveyed by such means, and the potential importance of this aspect of characterization cannot be emphasised too strongly.

David Thompson and Dafydd Gwyn
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

The Clywedog Valley historic landscape area

The *Clywedog Valley* represents a diverse and well-preserved historic landscape. The following description, taken from the *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales* (Cadw 2001, 87-90), identifies the essential historic landscape themes in the historic character area that are considered in greater detail in the sections which follow.

Landscape description

The River Clywedog in Mid Wales drains the north eastern flanks of the Cambrian Mountains, into which its narrow, winding valley has been deeply incised. The Clywedog is a tributary of the much larger River Severn which it joins at Llanidloes. From the site of this distinctive and picturesque historic market town, the hills and ridges on either side of the Clywedog Valley rise gradually from 300m above OD to reach 500m above OD near Dylife, just beyond the watershed in the north west. The fortunes of the Clywedog Valley and the area of its catchment identified here are generally linked with the contrasting industries of lead mining and wool, which have had a considerable impact on the landscape.

The early importance of local lead ore is demonstrated by the large, late Bronze Age/Iron Age hillfort at Dinas, the size and location of which has been assumed to be a result of a wish to guard and exploit the rich natural resources. There are also smaller Iron Age settlements that ring the edges of this area. However, the later development of the area, its land use and settlement patterns, are inextricably linked with lead mining. The earliest evidence is possible Roman working at Dylife, which lies adjacent to the Roman fort at Penygrocbren, but the main period of mining began during the 17th century and continued until earlier this century. The village itself is a good example of a small mining settlement little altered in recent years. The influence of mining is still clearly evident, with remains of shafts, tramways, and two reservoirs which provided power for the dressing floors.

Dylife is the focus of several folk tales, the most famous of which dates to the early 18th century and concerns one of the most horrific murders in Welsh history, when the local blacksmith murdered his family and threw their bodies down a mineshaft. He was soon discovered and when found guilty was forced to make his own head and body cages and the gibbet iron. In the 1930s, the iron head cage with the skull still inside was found at Penygrocbren, the site of the gallows, and is now kept at the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans, Cardiff.

The other concentration of mining stretches in an eastwest band to the north of Llanidloes, incorporating the mines of East Van, Van, Bryntail and Penyclun. All of these were active mostly during the latter half of the 19th century, when the Van Mine was the largest in the world, and much of the mining landscape remains despite land reclamation projects. Between 1870 and 1878, Montgomeryshire produced between 7000 and 9000 tons of lead ore per year, almost all of which came from the Van-Dylife complex. In 1879, lead production in Wales fell rapidly, because of large ore finds elsewhere, and Van produced only 200 tons that year.

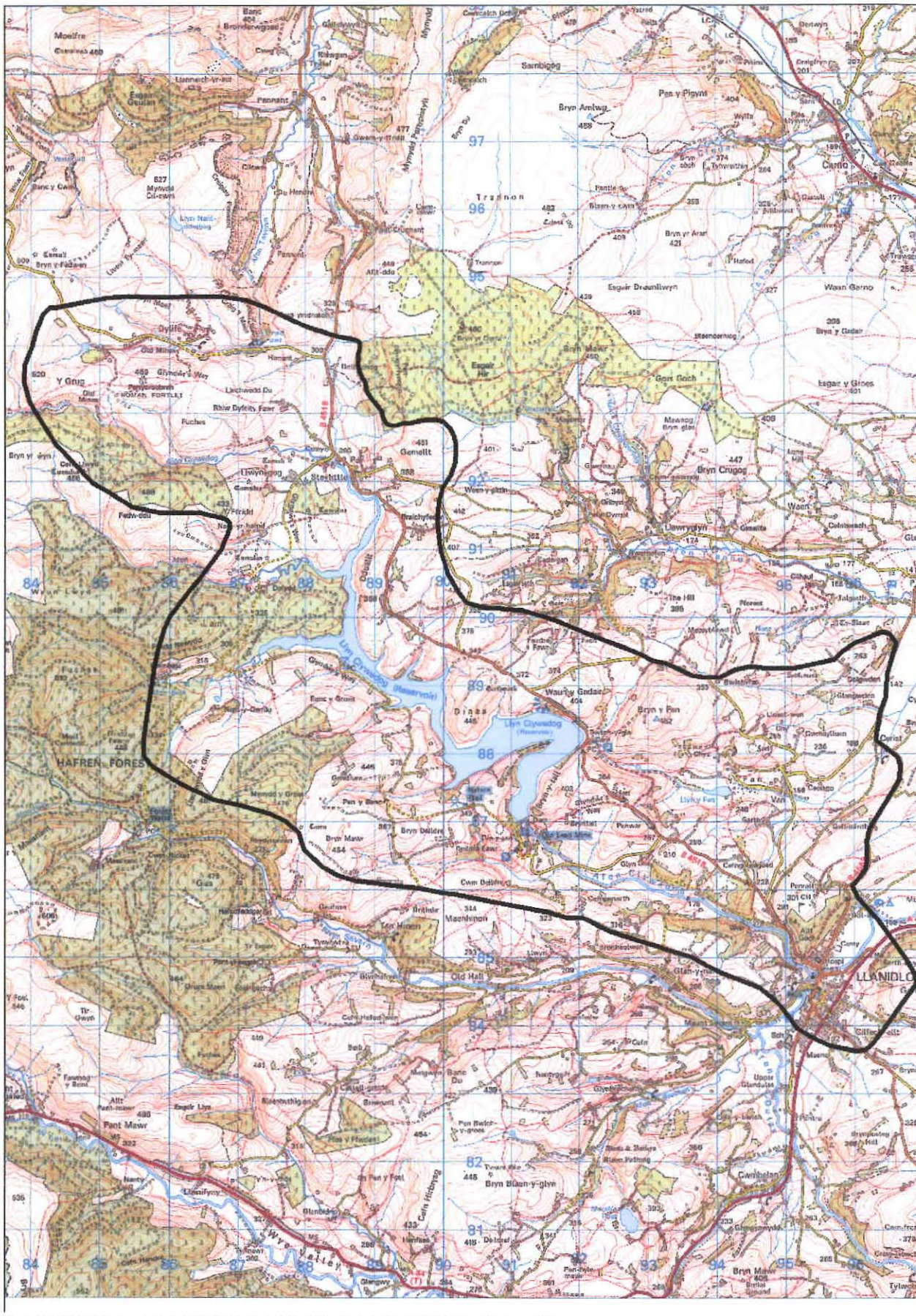
The origins of Llanidloes are set firmly in the medieval period, with the town being granted a charter by Edward I in 1280. At the centre of the town stands the timber-framed market hall dating to around 1600, which is the finest in Wales. The prosperity of the town is linked historically with the fortunes of the woollen and textiles industry and the important lead mining area to the north west. During the 1830s Llanidloes was one of the most active centres of the Chartist movement and during the height of the riots local weavers held the town for five days before they were overwhelmed.

from Llanidloes to Bristol, its principal function is to smooth out natural fluctuations in rainfall which would otherwise cause erratic flows, thereby reducing the risk of flooding in the more low-lying areas of the upper Severn valley. The 72m high structure of the main dam was completed in 1966, utilizing 200,000 cubic metres of concrete to become the highest mass concrete dam in Britain. More recently, the dam and its reservoir have developed as a popular tourist attraction.

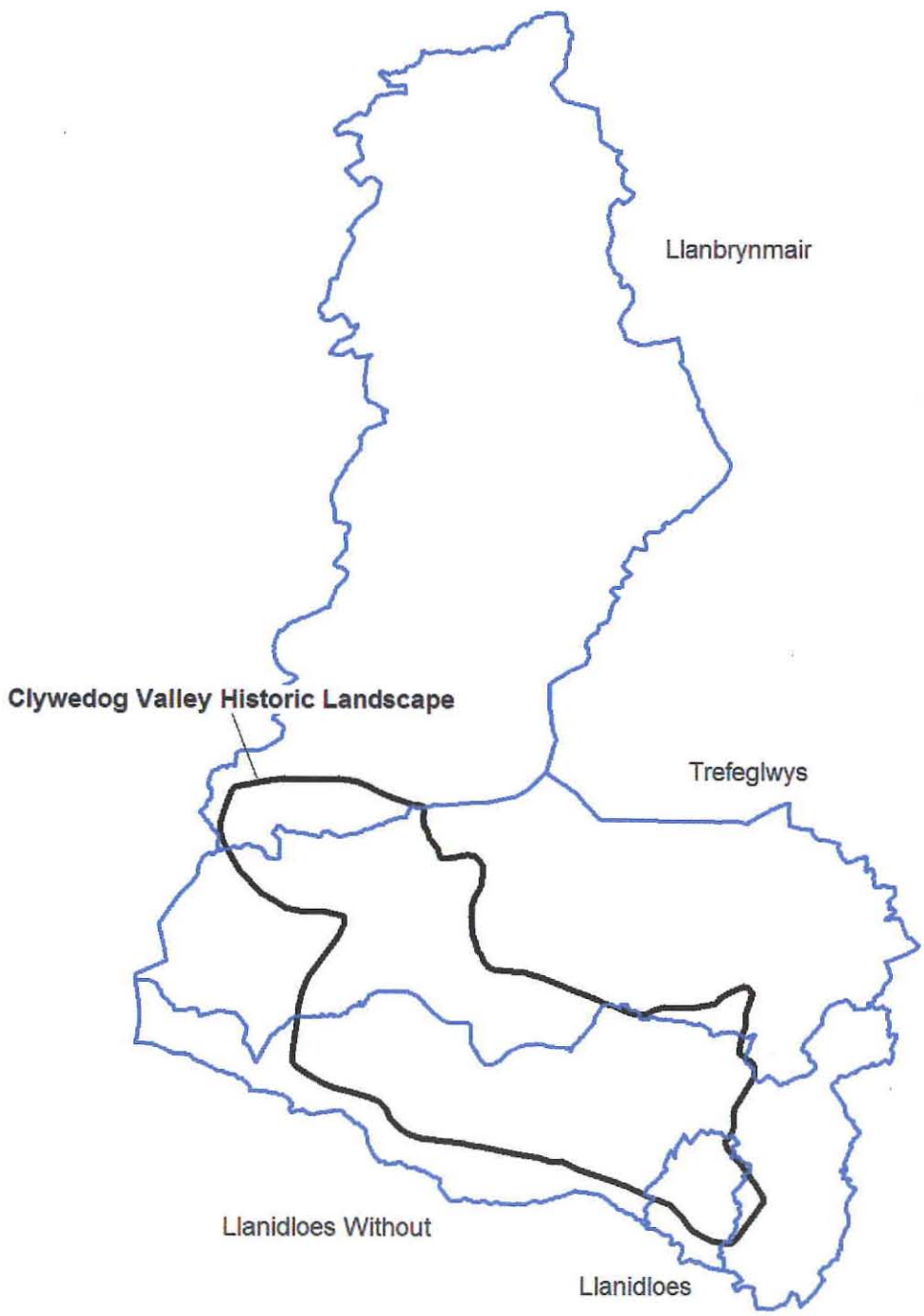
Summary

Reference number	HLW (P) 6
Index map number	57
OS Map	Landranger 136
Former county	Powys
Unitary authority	Powys
Principal area designations	The southern half of the area is within the Cambrian Mountains Environmentally Sensitive Area. The area includes: Bryntail lead mine Guardianship Site; Llanidloes Conservation Area.
Criteria	1, 2, 5
Contents and significance	The Clywedog Valley and its catchment adjoining the upper reaches of the Severn valley in Mid Wales, contain significant evidence of human activity from the late prehistoric period to the recent past. The area includes: Iron Age hillforts and settlements; a Roman fort; important post-medieval and recent lead mines and related remains; Llanidloes town and historic centre of the woollen and textile industries; the Clywedog dam, the highest mass concrete structure in Britain; significant historic social and legendary associations.

Clywedog Valley
Historic Landscape Area



Clywedog Valley
Community Councils



Methodology

GIS space

The mapping element of the project was undertaken within a MapInfo GIS workspace. Cartographic sources that were used included modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 and 1:25,000 raster maps, and historic (Landmark) 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 raster maps. Mapping undertaken within the project is generally accurate to a scale of approximately 1:10,000.

Other sources consulted

A number of MapInfo tables with historical and archaeological data held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) were consulted as part of the project including those relating to the HER, Roman roads, 19th-century tithe parishes, historic common land in Montgomeryshire, medieval ecclesiastical land holdings and mining landscapes. MapInfo tables supplied by Powys County Council relating to registered Common Land and Woodland were also consulted.

Definition of historic landscape character areas

A total of 11 historic landscape character (HLCA) polygons were defined on an intuitive and subjective process on the basis of a map-based visual assessment of field and settlement patterns and the other sources noted above which were consulted as part of the study. The areas have been defined in a way which is broadly similar to the HLC work undertaken elswhere in Powys and elsewhere (Britnell 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; Britnell and Martin 1999; 2000; Britnell, Martin and Hankinson 2000; available on-line at www.cpat.org.uk) on the historic landscape areas in the historic landscapes registers (Cadw 1998; 2001).

Buildings

The text incorporates notes on buildings provided by Judith Alfrey of Cadw.

The Making of the Clywedog Valley landscape

The following summary outlines some of the forces which have helped to create the present-day landscape of this landscape of special historic interest in Wales.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Topography and geology have played a considerable role in the land use, settlement and industrial history of the historic landscape area.

Topography and drainage

The historic landscape area extends from the moorland at the foothills of Plynlimon (Pumlumon) in the west at the head of the Clywedog valley, at a height of about 520 metres above sea level, down to the Severn valley at Llanidloes to the south-east at a height of about 160 metres. Towards the headwaters of the Clywedog the valley opens out into a shallow basin a kilometre or more across but lower down towards its confluence with the Severn it formed the dramatic, now flooded, steep-sided, deeply glaciated and serpentine valley, several hundred metres deep and only 150-500 metres wide, which inspired the name Ystradhynod, first recorded in the 1570s as one of the townships which encompasses the valley cutting through the upland plateau, which probably derives from the roots *ystrad* ('river valley') and *hynod* ('remarkable'). It is joined from the north and the west by a number of equally steep-sided tributary valleys, notably the Afon Bachog, Afon Lwyd, Afon Biga, Nant Felen, Nant Pen-y-banc, and Afon Gwestyn. To the north-west the Afon Twymyn and its tributaries the Nant y Iâr, Nant Dropyns, and Nant Bryn-moel drain north-eastwards into a deep, 200-metre deep gorge created initially by glaciation and subsequently deepened by river erosion following the capture of what was formerly part of the Severn river system by that of the Dyfi. To the north-east the area is drained by tributaries of the Trannon, including the narrow and steep-sided valley of the Nant Cwmcarreg-ddu, and the broader valley of the Cerist and its steep-sided tributary the Nant Gwden.

The name of the river Clywedog (also applied to several other rivers in Wales) is thought to derive from the *clywed* ('to hear') and thus have the meaning 'noisy'. Rushing water also explains the origin of the name Dylife which is derived from *dylif* ('flood, deluge, torrent').

Drainage patterns in the Cerist valley were affected by the canalization of the river undertaken in the 1870s when the Van Railway was constructed. Drainage in the Clywedog valley has clearly been profoundly affected by the creation of the Clywedog Reservoir in the 1960s. More locally, patterns of drainage in a number of areas were affected temporarily or permanently as a result of the creation of smaller reservoirs, leats and sluices for the exploitation of water power in support of corn milling, textile production and metal mining particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries and as a consequence of extensive afforestation schemes in th 20th century.

Geology and soils

The solid geology underlying the whole of the area is dominated by slates, shales, grits, sandstones and mudstones of Ordovician and Silurian age. The older Ordovician mudstones and grits underlie some of the central parts of the area, between the Afon Biga in the south-west, Fairdre Fawr in the north-west, Y Fan in the north-east and Cwm Deildre in the south-east. The uppermost beds consist of soft black mudstones which can weather to clay-like deposits, whilst the lower beds consist of hard grits divided by shale beds. The lower part of the overlying Silurian rock consists of black shales which readily weather to an orangey-yellow colour due to the high iron sulphide content together with thin beds of sandstone which are well exposed in the Clywedog valley and around Dylife.

In a subsequent period of earth movement (known as the Caledonian orogeny) t9he Silurian and Ordovician rocks were uplifted and folded and a number of north-south and east-west faults subsequently developed across the area. The east-west faults in particular attracted mineralisation which filled the fault and fracture voids with economically

viable lead, zinc and copper ores such as galena, sphalerite and chalcopyrite together with less valuable minerals like quartz, calcite and barite. Two significant east-west faults cross the historic landscape area, one towards the north-west from Dyfngwm at the head of the Clywedog valley to Pen Dylife and then to Dylife itself, the second towards the south-east from Gwestyn and Aberdaunant in the valley of the Nant Gwestyn to Bryntail, Y Fan and Cwmdylluan and beyond in the Nant Gwden valley. The mineral veins vary in thickness from a few centimetres to a maximum at Van of 15 metres in width. The veins are exposed in rock outcrops in places but are typically steeply inclined along dipping fault planes.

In the river valleys the solid geology is masked by fluviglacial drift and later alluvial deposits. A variety of soil types have resulted from the weathering of the solid and drift geology which have historically had a profound impact upon the agricultural potential of the land. The soils on the upland plateaux in the west and south of the area (belonging to the Hafren soil type), on Bryn Moel, Pen Dylife, and Bwlch y Garreg-wen, and on Mynydd y Groes and Bryn Mawr are loamy though often wet upland soils frequently with a peaty surface horizon and thin underlying ironpan, best suited to moorland, rough grazing and conifer woodland. The soils on the hillslopes throughout much of the area (belonging to the Manod type) are well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils best suited to stock rearing on permanent grassland and woodland. The upper basin of the Clywedog together with the valleys of the Afon Biga, Afon Lwyd, and Afon Bachog, includes soils (belonging to the Wilcocks 2 type) which are seasonally waterlogged loamy upland soils with a peaty surface horizon best suited to stock rearing on wet moorland of moderate grazing value, some permanent, improved grassland, and conifer woodland. The area of the lower Clywedog and lower Gwestyn valleys again has fine silty and clayey soils (belonging to the Cegin series), subject to seasonal waterlogging, best suited to stock rearing and dairying on permanent grassland. Soils on the lower upland to the north of the Clywedog Reservoir, between Fairdre Fawr and Bryn y Fan and the valley of the watershed of the Cerist (belonging to the Brickfield 3 series) are fine loamy soils overlying more clayey soils, again subject to seasonal waterlogging, which have been suited to stock rearing and some dairying on permanent grassland and some cereal cultivation in drier areas.

Environmental history

Some evidence of the environmental history of the area since about 11,000 years ago has been provided by studies of pollen sequences in peat deposits in the Pumlumon (Plynlimon) area. In the earliest, late-glacial phase of the sequence tree pollen is low, but includes alder, pine, birch and hazel, ferns, mosses. A second phase, corresponding to perhaps the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic periods is dominated by oak woodland, with some elm, pine, alder, birch and hazel, woodland probably, depending upon aspect, initially extending to a height of up to about 600 metres above sea level. A subsequent phase, corresponding with the later Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods saw a decline in oak and birch and an expansion of alder and hazel woodland with some blanket peat formation in wetter areas and minor clearance episodes beginning in perhaps the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Later changes in flora and the proportions of tree and grass species and evidence for deforestation and woodland regeneration have been interpreted as reflecting historically attested episodes of land use during the medieval period and the 19th and 20th centuries.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE LANDSCAPE

Secular boundaries

The earliest political grouping known in the area is the native tribe known as the Ordovices who inhabited central Wales at the time of the Roman conquest in the 1st century AD.

There is no evidence for the establishment of civil administration during the period of Roman rule between the mid to late 1st century AD and the early 5th century and it is possible that the area continued to be subject to administration by the Roman army throughout this period.

It seems possible that by the early medieval period most of the area had come to form part of the small kingdom or

cantref of Arwystli, first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as the hundred of *Arvester*, with the north-western part forming part of the commote of Cyfeiliog in the kingdom of Powys.

During the earlier medieval period the small kingdom of Arwystli lay between and became the subject of violent disputes between the two more powerful kingdoms of Gwynedd to the west and Powys to the east. Its early history is obscure though by the late 11th century it was held by the Norman earl, Roger de Montgomery, who had annexed the territory from his power base further east, but returned into the hands of a native dynasty during the first half of the 12th century. Arwystli continued to be hotly contested by the kings of Gwynedd and Powys for a period of about a century and a half during which much slaughter and destruction of buildings is recorded. Though much of the *cantref* was composed of no more than moorland it included some scarce, fertile valley land, which in the historic landscape area included the valley of the Severn and its tributaries the Cerist and Clywedog. The Severn and the Clywedog valleys were also of some strategic significance in terms of providing a corridor of communication between central Wales and the Marches. During this period allegiances ebbed and flowed between the local dynasty and the house of Gwynedd, the local dynasty and the house of Powys, between the house of Powys and the Crown of England, and even between the competing kingdoms of Gwynedd and Powys, until a period of relative stability following the conquest of Wales by Edward I in the 1280s when it reverted to Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn, the then ruler of Powys.

With the exception of the north-west corner which fell within the commote of Cyfeiliog, most of the historic landscape area formed part of the easternmost commote of Arwystli known as Arwystli Uwchcoed (literally 'Arwystli above the wood') administered by stewards probably from the early 13th century. By the late 1290s Talgarth in the parish of Trefeglwys, now a farm about a third of kilometre to the north of the historic landscape area, had become the manorial centre of Arwystli Uwchcoed.

Arwystli together with the lordships of Cyfeiliog and Caereinion were regained by the Cherltons, lords of Powys in 1401, during the Glyndŵr uprising, from the prominent marcher lord Sir Edmund Mortimer who had formerly seized them. The lordship subsequently passed through the Tiptoft family to the Dudleys who sold the lordships to the Crown during the reign of Henry VIII.

At the Act of Union in 1536 the lordship of Arwystli formed Arwystli Hundred, subsequently renamed Llanidloes Hundred, a part of Montgomeryshire, divided into upper and lower divisions which loosely corresponded to the medieval commotes of Arwystli Uwchcoed and Iscoed. The two divisions were subdivided into manorial townships which had probably originated during early medieval and medieval times and which were to continue to have significance until the mid 19th century. Townships within the area bounded by the historic landscape comprised Penegoes Uwchycoed, Esgeiriaeth, Ystradhynod, Glyntrefnant, Brithdir, Manledd, Dolgwden, Glynhafren Iscoed, and Cilmachallt.

At the present day the historic landscape area falls largely within the communities of Llanbrynmair, Trefeglwys, Llanidloes Without, and Llanidloes. Following local government reorganisation in 1974 these communities fell within the newly-created county of Powys, which became a unitary authority in 1996.

Ecclesiastical boundaries

The area formed part of the 19th-century ecclesiastical parishes of Llanidloes, Trefeglwys, Llanbrynmair and Penegoes within the deanery of Arwystli in the diocese of Bangor.

A single medieval church lay within the historic landscape area, St Idloes Church at Llanidloes. The church is first recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as *capella de Lanidloes* but is thought to be of early medieval origin and to be a daughter church of the *clas* church at Llandinam.

A new ecclesiastical parish was created in 1856 out of the parishes of Llanbrynmair, Darowen, Penegoes and Trefeglwys,

focused on St David's Church, Dylife, which was demolished in 1962.

RURAL SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

Prehistoric and Roman settlement and land use

Though there is relatively little direct evidence of land use in the historic landscape area before the medieval period, it is nonetheless quite evident from field monuments and chance finds that human communities were active within the area, no doubt in ever increasing numbers, during the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic period and throughout the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. From evidence elsewhere in Wales it seems likely that earlier, nomadic hunter-gatherer groups were replaced by more sedentary lifestyles with the introduction of farming from the Neolithic period onwards. Evidence of Mesolithic activity, dating to between about 4600-4000 BC, was recovered from below a Bronze Age barrow and associated standing stone at Ystradhynod at the very heart of the Clywedog valley, excavated before the valley was flooded in the 1960s. Further widespread activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age has mostly come from upland sites, though it is likely that this is due to the fact that intensive cultivation of the more valuable low-lying fields has tended to obscure evidence of early settlement in these areas. In addition to the Ystradhynod barrow, a significant cluster of 6-7 burial mounds is known from the upper basin of the Clywedog, in the Staylittle area, as well as a cluster of upland burial mounds and possible standing stone on Cefn Llwyd, and single burial mounds on a hillslope at Pengeulan and a hilltop at Pen-y-cerrig. Further evidence of activity is indicated by a thin scatter of chance finds including a flint scraper from Nant-yr-Hafod towards the headwaters of the Clywedog, a polished axe from Croes Uchaf, a flint dagger of Beaker type from near Ysgubor Pen-y-bryn, and a stone axe-hammer near Pen-y-banc farm, all on the hills south-west of the Clywedog, and an axe hammer from near Faidre Fawr to the north-east of the Clywedog. Although evidence of permanent settlement has still to be identified within the area, the general nature and distribution of these sites and finds suggests that a wide range of both lowland and upland resources were being exploited during the earlier prehistoric period, probably in support of a mixed farming economy and involving the exploitation of woodland resources and the clearance of areas of native woodland to create land suitable for both grazing and cultivation. Possibly from an early date there was seasonal movement from permanent settlements in the valley bottoms to temporary settlements in the uplands during the summer months.

A network of enclosures of varying size with defensive banks and ditches and probably of later Bronze Age and Iron Age are known towards the eastern side of the historic landscape area. They occupy prominent hills around the upland edge, between height of 250-400 metres above sea level, and are spaced up to 2 kilometres from each other. They include the large and possibly unfinished Dinas hillfort occupying a prominent hill jutting southwards into the Clywedog valley, the Pen-y-gaer defended enclosure overlooking Clywedog dam, the Pen-y-clun enclosure towards the head of the Cerist valley, Pen-y-castell occupying hill spur overlooking Y Fan between the Cerist and Nant Gwden valleys, and the Dolgwden enclosure occupying a spur on the northern side of the Nant Gwden valley. The Dinas hillfort, which covers a substantial area of about 14 hectares, seems likely to represent a tribal centre which once accommodated a substantial community, around which the smaller defended enclosures are scattered which perhaps housed extended family groups. It is uncertain at this stage, however, whether these enclosures were permanently occupied or whether they were all in use at the same date. Their siting, however, fringing the uplands, suggests that as well as having a defensive function they played a role in controlling the exploitation of upland and lowland resources. It is likely therefore that they were associated with fields, farms and meadows in neighbouring low-lying areas, of which as yet we have no evidence.

The exploitation of upland and lowland resources in support of a mixed farming economy is likely to have continued unabated throughout the subsequent Roman and early medieval periods, between the later 1st century AD and about the mid 11th century AD, but evidence of the kinds of settlements that may have been occupied during this period is currently lacking. The Roman fortlet at Penycrocbren on the hills near the head of the Clywedog valley, south of Dylife, lies midway between the Roman forts at Caersws in the Severn valley to the east and Pennal in the Dyfi valley to the west and is approached by a Roman road which is thought to run across the northern side of the area from the

Trannon valley via Gwartew and Staylittle. The fortlet and road, which appear to have been in use during at least the earlier 2nd century, were probably of military significance but may have played a role in the administration of the lead mining industry during the Roman period.

Medieval and earlier post-medieval settlement and land use

The upland areas of Arwystli are amongst the least well documented parts of Wales during the Middle Ages, and whilst it is difficult to be certain about the nature of land use or settlement within the historic landscape area during this period some pointers are provided by fieldwork and placename evidence, meagre documentary sources, and by ancient customary practices and administrative institutions which survived up to the later 18th and earlier 19th century.

In agricultural terms the area has always been relatively poor, but historically land use in the area has been based upon a mixed farming economy, with extensive upland areas that have offered little more than rough grazing, steep hill slopes around the upland edge that have been less suited to agriculture but which have been important for providing woodland resources, and lower hillslopes and valley bottoms which provided areas suitable for arable in better-drained areas and meadows and hay fields in wetter areas.

It is likely that the pattern of manorial townships that are known to have emerged in the area by the early post-medieval period, including Penegoes Uwchycoed, Glyntrefnant, Esgeiriaeth, Brithdir, Manledd, Dolgwden, Glynhafren Iscoed, Ystradhynod, Cilmachallt, had emerged as administrative groupings of farms and other holdings by the earlier Middle Ages, including lands that were either freely held according to native custom, lands directly owned by local rulers, or bond settlements whose inhabitants owed services and duties to local rulers.

Clearance and enclosure of the more valuable arable, pasture and meadow appears to have been undertaken throughout the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods in piecemeal fashion. This is recognisable by patterns of larger or small irregular fields, generally below 250 metres, which characterize parts of the lower-lying ground towards the south-eastern side of the historic landscape area, in the middle Clywedog valley (before it was flooded), the lower valley of the Clywedog, the middle valley of the Cerist and the lower valleys of the Nant Gwestyn and Nant Gwden. Similar patterns are also evident on the slightly higher ground at the headwaters of the Nant Cwmcarreg-ddu, a tributary of the Trannon, near Fairdre Fawr and Fairdre Fach. These two latter farms occupy a pocket of relatively fertile soil on the edge of the uplands which by the later 13th century formed part of an upland *maerdref* or bonded settlement attached to the *maenol* of Talgarth, the principal administrative centre (analogous to the English manor) of the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed, centred in the valley of the river Trannon near Trefeglwys, about 4 kilometres to the east, where the lord's principal arable lands lay.

In addition to this more valuable farmland were more extensive commons including extensive moorland pastures, woodland and some lowland meadows over which rights were exercised by neighbouring holdings. By the early post-medieval period the control of the commons was in the hands of the lord of the manor who arbitrated on disputes about illicit enclosure and other infringements of common rights through manorial court leets.

Substantial areas of upland grazing in the historic landscape area were granted by the rulers of southern Powys and of Arwystli to the Cistercian monastic order in the period between the late 12th and mid 13th centuries. These included a substantial area towards the headwaters of the Clywedog, between the Afon Bachog and the Afon Lwyd granted to the abbey of Strata Marcella, an area west of the headwaters of the Clywedog, between the Afon Lwyd and the Afon Biga granted to Cwmhir abbey, and a more low-lying area further downstream, between Bryntail and Hiriaeth, again granted to Strata Marcella. These properties appear to have continued to function as monastic granges until the dissolution of the two abbeys in about the middle of the 16th century. There is little evidence of how these monastic granges and other secular holdings were managed during the medieval period, though it is likely that this was largely accomplished by means of temporary upland settlements occupied by those tending herds of cattle and sheep during the summer months before returning to grange centres and farms on lower-lying ground, once the arable crops and

meadow hay had been harvested. Thomas Pennant spoke of this tradition in describing the area around Llanidloes in his *A Tour in Wales*, published in 1793:

> 'This is a country of sheepwalks. The flocks, like those of *Spain*, are driven to them from distant parts to feed on the summer herbage. The farms in the vallies are only appendages, for winter habitation and provisions'.

Though Pennant perhaps understated the economic importance of the lowland farm, it appears to be corroborated by a remark John Evans's *A Tour through North Wales*, published in 1798, which refers to farms and cottages in the Llanidloes areas 'which were only winter habitations', though this may be a borrowing from Pennant.

Evidence of this seasonal land use pattern is suggested by placenames of potential medieval or early post-medieval origin in some of the remoter areas towards the head of the Clywedog valley and the foothills of Pumlumon to the west of the river which contain the element *hafod* (plural *hafodydd*, 'summer house'). These including the stream and farm name Nant-yr-hafod and the names Cefn Hafodcadwgan and Hafod Cadwgan between about 300-400 metres above sea level to the south-west of Staylittle, of which only Nant-yr-hafod survives as a place of habitation today. Physical evidence of possible early upland seasonal settlements of the medieval to early post-medieval periods is suggested by a cluster of abandoned house platforms around the headwaters of the Clywedog and by existing or former small, dispersed farmsteads such at Hirnant, Dolbachog, Dolydd, Llwyn-y-gog, Pant-y-chwarel and Pant-y-rhedyn which are associated with small islands of irregular fields. These have the appearance of discrete encroachments onto formerly unenclosed upland grazing and may have originated as *hafodydd.*

Another series of upland settlements, again on placename evidence, appear to have originated as small-scale or temporary habitations in the area of upland pasture south-east of Staylittle, parts of which remained unenclosed until the earlier 19th century. Lluest-y-dduallt and the now-abandoned settlement of Lluest-y-fedw both contain the element *lluest* ('hut, cottage, shieling') and are shown on early editions of the Ordnance Survey as small islands of irregular fields up to 2-3 hectares in extent in a sea of rough grazing.

Placename evidence also perhaps provides a clue about some particular aspects of early land use in these areas. The second element of the name of the farm Cwmbiga first recorded in the early 13th century at the head of the Afon Biga, a tributary of the upper Clywedog, is thought to be related to *buarth* ('farmyard') and *buwch* ('cow'), suggesting an association with medieval stock rearing or dairying. The former farmstead of Ty'n-y-fuches in the Clywedog valley and Fuches which applies to the extensive area of grazing north of the Clywedog valley both contain the element *buches* ('herd, fold') which indicate an historical association with upland grazing. The farm Gwartew (formerly Gwair-tew) to the east of Staylittle derives from the elements *gwair* ('hay') + *tew* ('thick') whilst the names Dolbachog, Dolydd Llwydion and Dol-gwyddel-uchaf around the headwaters of the Clywedog contain the element *dol/dolydd* ('meadow/meadows'). The names Cwm y Ffridd, Banc y Ffridd, Ffridd Newydd and Ffridd Fawr to the west of the headwaters of the Clywedog and all contain the element *ffridd* suggesting mountain pasture or perhaps more particularly enclosed rough pasture on the mountain edge, the element being recorded locally in the name *ffreeth Cwm Bigga* in the 1540s.

By the later medieval and earlier post-medieval periods a pattern of fairly small and dispersed farms associated with irregular field patterns appears to have emerged in the valleys of the lower Clywedog and Cerist and their tributaries and in more favourable areas of the adjacent upland margin, associated with a scattering of *hafodyd*d ('summer houses') some of which may have already become inhabited throughout the year, possibly as upland dairies. Many of these farms will have been freehold properties, though some as noted above at an earlier period belonged to bonded settlements or were probably attached to monastic granges. Specific reference to encroachments on the wastes of Arwystli, formerly unenclosed upland and possibly lowland commons, is given in a survey of the lordship of Arwystli prepared on behalf of the earl of Leicester in 1574.

By their very nature it is unsurprising that no *hafodydd* have survived as standing buildings within the historic landscape area. There are also no surviving medieval or late medieval rural houses, though a number of early post-medieval and later buildings and former buildings may point to earlier traditions of timber-framing that probably characterised the area during the Middle Ages, such as the timber-framed houses and cottages at Glangwden, Pant yr Ongle and Cwmeryr Bach, all in the lower-lying areas to the south-east. At least two former timber-framed buildings at Ystrad-hynod and Coppice-llwyd, with wattle and daub infill panels, were demolished when the Clywedog valley was flooded in the 1960s. The use of timber appears to have been giving way to stone perhaps from the 17th and 18th centuries, though it was not unusual for timber and stone to be used in combination during this period of transition. A relatively late example of timber building tradition is represented at Hiriaeth, a property first recorded in charter granting lands to Strata Marcella abbey in the early years of the 13th century, where the farmhouse is dated 1722.

The earliest surviving rural buildings of 17th- and 18th-century date are predominantly of stone, however, and usually constructed of rough rubble, sometimes, particularly in the case of domestic buildings, rendered and/or limewashed. Farmhouse seem to have been relatively small, being generally 2-3 unit houses, forming part of a farm complex that was either planned as a single range or as a simple cluster, with much of the accommodation in the case of older farm buildings evidently being for cattle. Long-houses with living accommodation at one end and accommodation for cattle at the other do not appear to have been specifically recorded within the historic landscape area, though Iorwerth Peate's *The Welsh House,* published in 1940 describes a house of this type just outside, at Bryndu, to the south-east of Llanidloes, which had 'a two-feet drop from the dwelling-end to the cow-house'. These were probably once much more common. The relatively low-lying farm at Cwmdylluan, just north-east of Y Fan, comprises a probably 17th-century farmhouse with early farm buildings including a barn and cow-house. In the case of the small farmstead on the upland edge at Cwmbiga (once part of a monastic grange) the farmhouse is of late 18th-century date but retains fragments of earlier buildings.

Before the 19th century most of the rural buildings within the historic landscape area fell firmly within a vernacular tradition. Perhaps the one exception is the farmhouse on the edge of the Clywedog at Glyn Clywedog, which was a major Renaissance building, built as the lodge to a mansion of the Glynne family that was probably never built.

The only nucleated settlement of medieval origin in the historic landscape area is the town of Llanidloes, in the Severn valley towards the extreme south-east. The town, first documented in 1263, appears to have essentially a new town created by the lords of Powys in the second half of the 13th century as an administrative and commercial centre for the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed, perhaps to balance the failed borough 10 kilometres further downstream at Caersws in Arwystli Iscoed. Its grid-like street layout is highly characteristic of planted medieval towns, its principal roads focusing on the original market cross, the raison d'etre of its creation, where the Old Market Hall is now sited. The town remained relatively small, though its markets and fairs serving the surrounding rural area were evidently of some economic importance. The date of the earliest settlement is uncertain, but the presence of the church dedicated to St Idloes, first recorded in the mid 13th century and the only medieval church within the historic landscape area, may suggest an early medieval origin.

Agricultural improvements in the 18th and 19th centuries

A number of radical changes to patterns of settlement and land use were to follow from the improvements in agricultural practices and road transport that swept the country during the later 18th and earlier 19th century, notably the introduction of land drainage in more poorly-drained low-lying areas, the improvement of agricultural implements and the introduction of mechanisation, and the introduction of improved breeds of sheep and cattle. Other innovations at this period included the adoption of new crop rotations to improve soil fertility, the growing of root crops such as turnips to assist in the overwintering of livestock, and the introduction of potatoes as part of the human staple diet, which here as elsewhere helped to sustain small-scale subsistence agriculture in more marginal areas. Further stimulus was provided by improvements to roads and bridges during the later 18th and earlier 19th century, by the extension of the Montgomeryshire canal to Newtown by the early 1820s and by the construction of the Newtown and Llanidloes Railway in 1859, which made the importing of lime and other materials and the export of agricultural produce much

easier and cheaper.

An indication of the state of agriculture in the area in the middle and later 19th century is provided by the tithe surveys and a number of local histories which show that about 5% of the historic landscape area was wooded, about 65% was down to meadow and pasture, with the surprisingly high figure of almost 30% under cultivation, producing crops such as wheat, barley, oats, rye, beans, peas, cabbages, potatoes and turnips. Whilst it was common in the 19th century for lower-lying farms in the river valleys as well as upland farms to have at least a few fields under cultivation, today, by comparison, the amount of arable within the area is negligible and woodland accounts for about 12%.

Parliamentary enclosure of the commons and wastes was also influential in the agricultural improvements that took place in the area during the earlier 19th century. The manorial rights of Arwystli were inherited by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn of Wynnstay, a prominent improving north-Walian landowner, accorded the unofficial title of 'Prince of Wales', who actively promoted the enclosure of the commons and wastes of the hundred which were said to be 'of little value in their present state'. Enclosure would permit investment to be made in clearance, fencing and drainage which would improve the productivity of the land, would allow for the cultivation of fodder crops to assist with the overwintering of stock, and play an important role in controlled breeding programmes. The enclosure act for Arwystli was passed by Act of Parliament in 1816 and came fully into force in the 1820s.

The Arwystli enclosure act affected an area of over 18 square kilometres of the historic landscape area, just under 30% of the total area of the historic landscape area. Most of the previously unenclosed land was rough pasture on which freeholders had turned out their sheep and cattle, whose boundaries had in most instance never previously been mapped or defined and which under the terms of the enclosure act were now subdivided amongst the landowners who had rights of grazing and the lord of the manor. The enclosed areas were as follows: much of the higher ground on Mynydd y Groes and Bryn Mawr to the south of the Clywedog; land on the hills to the north of Staylittle towards Pant-y-chwarel; the area south of Lluest-y-dduallt towards Dinas to the north of the Clywedog; the upland area of Bryn y Fan; patches of the higher ground to the north of Y Fan and around the valley of the Nant Gwden; the area of Garth Hill southwards to Cringoed, across the lower Clywedog valley; the hills to the north of Llanidloes, from Alltgoch to Gellilefrith. It also included lowland commons in the valley bottom to the north and south of Llanidloes, and the summit of Gorn Hill to the east of Llanidloes.

Distinctive new fieldscapes were created as a result of the enclosure movement, characterized by small, large and very large straight-sided fields or moorland enclosures often defined by single species hedges and particularly by the use of post and wire fences whose use became more widespread from the first decade of the 19th century and permitted the economical enclosure of large tracts of upland pasture. Various areas remained unenclosed following the passing of the Arwystli enclosure act, notably an area to the south and east of Staylittle, on the hills north of Lluest-y-dduallt towards Esgair-goch and Gamallt to the north-east of the Clywedog. These appear to have been enclosed by private agreement between the 1820s and 1880s and are likewise characterized by large and small straight-sided enclosures. An area of hill land on Mynydd Du and Banc y Groes south of the Afon Biga and west of the Clywedog survives as registered Common Land but is now partitioned into large, straight-sided fields.

The significant amount of native oak woodland being felled in the historic landscape area during the second half of the 18th century encouraged a number of the larger landowners to carry out planting schemes during the 19th century, such as that at Berth-lwyd on Gorn Hill to the east of Llanidloes. Other areas of woodland appear to have been planted or replanted during the 19th century on land that had recently become available through enclosure, as for example at Allt Goch and Pen-yr-allt on the west side of the Severn valley north of Llanidloes.

Excluded from the enclosure act were areas of over 11 square kilometres belonging to the manor of Talerddug which had formerly formed part of the holdings of the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella, which included some of the hill land north of Bryntail towards Penyclun, and a substantial area of the upper Clywedog basin, between Dolydd,

Llwyn-y-gog and Staylittle and on the hills to the south and west, including Bwlch y Garreg-Wen to the south of the Clywedog river and Fign Aberbiga southwards to the Afon Biga. Some of the previously unenclosed areas in the former manor of Talerddig appear to have been enclosed by private agreement during the course of the 19th century.

The Arwystli enclosure act made provision for the compensation of cottage encroachments. All encroachments which were over 20 years old for which no rent or fines had been paid, became the occupier's property, but were not entitled to any allotments of the commons. Where encroachments were less than 20 years old or where rent had been paid such encroachments were counted as the property of the person to whom the rent was paid, but these illicit encroachments or cottages were eligible for compensation if their inhabitants were poor. In some instances older encroachments appear to be marked by small islands of enclosed land in the land designated for enclosure by the Arwystli enclosure act, as for example near the farms of Bryn Mawr and Gwestyn on the hills south of the Clywedog of which only the latter now survives, and the now-abandoned farm of Lluest-y-fedw to the south of Lluest-y-ddualllt on the hills to the north of the Clywedog. The former upland cottage at Potatoe Hall on the hills north of Llanidloes, surrounded by fields enclosed by parliamentary enclosure, may represent an instance of an encroachment which under the terms of the Arwystli enclosure act of 1816 was less than 20 years old or where the occupant had paid rent, and where there was thus no entitlement to an allocation of land. Little record has survived of the form and structure of upland cottages of this kind though the reference to the former roadside house known as Clod Hall near Bidffald, mentioned in Hamer's history of Llanidloes, indicates the kind of lesser dwelling built of mud and turf of the kind frequently referred to in other parts of Wales in the first half of the 19th century.

The enclosure of common land opened up the opportunity for improvements to existing farms and the creation of new 'improved' farms by a number of the estates as a consequence of enclosure. The farm with brick-built farmhouse and courtyard like arrangement of farm buildings at Gellilefrith was built within an area of former unenclosed common on the hills north of Llanidloes between the enactment of enclosure act in 1826 and the tithe survey of 1846. Garth farmhouse and farm buildings of 1870, just south of Y Fan, have a clear estate character, and again lay on land enclosed during the early 19th century. The farm was the property of Earl Vane, lessor of the Van lead-mines, and provides an interesting illustration of the relationship of industry and agriculture in the area at this period. A number of other smaller farms in the Y Fan area such as Penisafmanledd, again on the edge of former common land, suggest investment in the later 19th century. Other new settlements on the edge of former unenclosed commons are suggested by houses in existence by the 19th century whose name includes the element 'new' or '*newydd*', as for example at New House south of Y Fan and Borfa-newydd below the western flanks of Bryn y Fan.

Some large-scale landscape reorganisation involving the creation of a more orderly partitioned landscape was also undertaken alongside the drainage schemes which accompanied the construction of the Van Railway in 1871, a private venture of Earl Vane, when part of the river Cerist was canalized.

Land use since the 19th century

Various widescale changes have taken place in land use in the historic landscape area since the beginning of the 20th century. The 1920s and 1930s, in particular, saw a marked decline in the profitability of farming which resulted in the amalgamation of some holdings and the abandonment of some of the more remote farms and rural cottages, such as Ty'n-y-fuches and Rhol-y-felin in the upper Clywedog valley and Lluest-y-fedw on the hills south of Lluest-y-ddualllt. Land use surveys of the 1940s show that at that period only the margins of the moorland within easy reach of the farms tended to be used and that some of the remoter areas and steeper hillslopes that had formerly been grazed had reverted to bracken and gorse as stocking levels had decreased since the end of the 19th century. The amount of arable land had also declined dramatically within the area and has continued to do so to the present day.

The depression in agriculture increased the availability of land for afforestation. The creation of the Hafren Forest involved the purchase of 12 upland sheep farms by the Forestry Commission. The first plantings were undertaken during the winter of 1937/38 and reached a peak in 1950. Following a temporary pause, planting resumed in the 1960s

and the forest now covers about 40 square kilometres mostly composed of pine and spruce, of which parts fall within the historic landscape area. Early planting was undertaken by hand, but from the 1940s took place on ploughed ridges. Harvesting of the first generation of plantings has been carried out now for a number of years and consequently large areas have been felled and replanted.

Llwyn-y-gog, hailed by a contemporary commentator as a typical example of one of 'Britain's new forest villages', is interesting historically as an experiment in rural housing in mid Wales in the immediate post-war years. The initial workforce of about 50 men employed by the Forestry Commission for planting the forest was composed of local cottagers and teams transported daily by motor lorry from Llanidloes. By the late 1940s a more stable workforce was required to carry out a thinning programme and consequently, following consultation with Montgomeryshire County Council the Commission between 1949 and 1951 began what had been intended as the first phase of construction of the forest village at Llwyn-y-gog. The scheme was designed by the prominent Welsh architect, T. Alwyn Lloyd of Cardiff, who in the inter-war had been engaged on the progressive and utopian designs of the Welsh Land Settlement Association's 'garden villages', intended for unemployed miners in south Wales. The settlement was designed to include 80 terraced houses housing a population of up to about 300, a shop, a school and a village hall. In the event only 20 houses for a community of about 70 was built, together with a detached forestry officer's house. Communal buildings at first included a temporary village hall, a general shop and a range of lock-up garages to house cars and motorcycles. A shelter belt of broadleaved and coniferous trees was planted around the southern side of the village. None of the houses are now directly associated with the forestry industry.

A second major land use change which has had a significant impact upon the area is of course the construction of Clywedog Reservoir, Llyn Clywedog, between 1964 and 1967 following the passing of an enabling Act of Parliament. The reservoir is contained by one principal dam across a narrow part of the Clywedog valley, the tallest concrete dam in the United Kingdom, designed by Sir William Halcrow & Partners, with a subsidiary embankment dam at Bwlch-y-gle. The reservoir involved the flooding of former agricultural land within the valley together with the loss of about 9-10 existing or abandoned farms and cottages, many of which were probably of medieval to early post-medieval origin. The prime purpose of the reservoir is to enable public water supply abstractions from the entire length of the river Severn to be sustained during dry summer months, whilst ensuring sufficient flow in the river to sustain environmental needs, though it also plays some role in flood prevention, particularly in the upper reaches of the Severn.

Since the 1960s the amenity and conservation value of both the Clywedog Reservoir and the Hafren Forest have been enhanced by the agencies responsible for them, Severn Trent Water and the Forestry Commission. The reservoir is the focus of a range of recreational activities including walking, cycling, bird watching, angling, windsurfing and sailing as well as picnic areas and view points overlooking the south side of the dam and to the north, near Waun y Gadair. New plantings in the Hafren Forest have followed revised guidelines in which the visual impact upon the landscape and the creation of more diverse habitats along rivers and streams play an important role. The recreational value of the woodland has been further enhanced by the creation of the Rhyd-y-Benwch picnic area which lies at the focus of a network of woodland walks and tracks. Other important recreational initiatives in the area have included the creation of Glyndŵr's Way, granted National Trail status in 2000, which runs through the area from near Dylife, across Pen Dylife to the Hafren Forest and beyond via Staylittle, Llwyn-y-gog and Cwmbiga.

There is some evidence for cyclical patterns of land use around the upland margin during the coure of the19th and 20th centuries involving the conversion of rough pasture to improved grassland followed by reversion to rough pasture, though the rate of conversion to improved grassland appears to have gained ground since the 1950s. The period between the 1960s and the 1990s in particular witnessed a renewed intensification of agricultural activity throughout the historic landscape area as a consequence of various grant schemes promoting land drainage, upland pasture improvement, improvements to vehicle access and programmes of ploughing and reseeding, all designed to boost agricultural productivity by supporting considerably larger flocks of sheep. As a consequence of this and the conversion

to coniferous forest, the area of moorland and unimproved grazing within the area shrank to a fraction of its former extent and is now largely confined to isolated pockets on some hill summits such as Y Grug near the headwaters of the Clywedog and on parts of Bryn y Fan and Dinas.

The 1990s saw the introduction of a number of agri-environment schemes, such as Tir Gofal, which saw a shift in grant aid away from livestock production to the maintenance to a wider range objectives including the enhancement of the agricultural landscape, its wildlife, buildings and cultural and historical features and encouraging people to visit the countryside. This, combined with the particular crisis in the economic viability of hill and upland farming which arose in the 1990s may eventually lead to another retreat in the moorland edge and further farm amalgamations.

INDUSTRY

Llanidloes and the surrounding district became an important centre of the woollen and metal mining industries in mid Wales for a period of about a century between about 1820 to 1920. The impact of these industries upon the landscape has been both transient and muted, and consequently the historic landscape has retained its essentially rural character. Significant remains of these and other processing and manufacturing industries survive as prominent visual landmarks though others have been reabsorbed back into the agricultural landscape.

Corn milling

As noted above, cereal cultivation was probably a relatively small but important component of the agricultural economy of the area from the Middle Ages up until perhaps the early decades of the 20th century and the processing of cereals for both human and local consumption was probably carried out locally throughout this period, making use of water power. Medieval water mills are first recorded in operation at Llanidloes and at Y Fan in the 1290s. Other, probably small mills are recorded here and elsewhere in the 17th and 18th centuries, such as Melin-y-wern on the Cerist at Y Fan, Y Felin Fawr on the Nant Melin (a tributary of the Clywedog) recorded in the 1670s, and Felin-newydd on the upper Clywedog in the 1790s. Some mills, such as Glan Clywedog Mill on the Clywedog just to the west of Llanidloes and Melin-y-wern appear to have been converted to woollen mills between the later 18th and earlier 19th century, though others such as Y Felin Fawr had already gone out of use by the later 19th century. Few visible archaeological remains of early corn milling survive within the area, the exception being Felin-newydd, abandoned some time between the late 1880s and the beginning of the 20th century, where visible remains of leats, millponds and mill stones still survive.

Stone quarrying

Small old stone quarries of later medieval to post-medieval date are to be seen scattered throughout the area, particularly in the area encircling Llanidloes. Though few of these are well dated, many no doubt belong to a distinct phase following the end of local vernacular timber-building traditions in about the middle of the 17th century and the widespread adoption of brick in the earlier 19th century when local stone was in widespread use for the construction of domestic buildings and farm outbuildings. Some quarries were evidently in use throughout the 19th century, however, for building material for mine buildings and also for field walls in some areas.

The woollen industry

From about the middle of the 16th century Montgomeryshire became one of the most important centres of the woven textile industry in Wales. Until the last decade or so of the 18th century it remained an essentially domestic industry, sheep wool being carded, spun and woven into cloth, particularly flannel, in perhaps a majority of farmhouses and cottages, especially during the winter months, and either sold at local markets or to wool traders.

From the end of the 18th century the industry became focused on the Montgomeryshire towns of Welshpool, Newtown and Llanidloes along the Severn, gradually transforming from a cottage-based industry to one that became increasingly industrialised and based upon large woollen mills which harnessed the power of the local rivers. A wide range of skilled workers were employed directly or indirectly by the industry including flannel drapers, wool carders, spinners,

and fullers, fulling being the process of thickening and cleaning material which was locally accomplished by pounding the cloth in water-driven mills.

In the early years of the industry weaving was often carried out on hand looms in the homes of the workers and later on increasingly in open workshops on the upper floors of buildings, often with large windows to improve lighting, with living accommodation below. By the 1830s it has been estimated that there were numerous weaving workshops in the town, which together with other allied businesses employed upwards of 2,500 people. Llanidloes established its own flannel market in 1838, obviating the need to trade at the Newtown and Welshpool flannel markets. Poor working conditions and periodic depression in the industry, however, gave rise the Chartist riots in Llanidloes in 1839 which resulted in the imprisonment and in three instances the transportation of those held guilty of fomenting the disturbances, though the town continued to gain in prosperity largely because of the woollen industry.

The later, larger and more industrialized mills such as the Short Bridge Street Flannel Mill, Llanidloes Flannel Mill, Glan Clywedog Mill, Phoenix Mill and the Cambrian Mill, combined all the manufacturing processes under one roof, producing products such as flannels, tweeds and shawls. By the 1850s there were 9 such factories employing about 800 workers. The industry was still largely dependent upon water power and mills were mostly sited on the banks of the Severn and on the lower Clywedog west of Llanidloes, though with the coming of the railways and consequently the greater availability of coal from the late 1850s steam power became more economical and was introduced into several of the local mills, as at Spring Mill built in the 1870s.

The finished flannels were stretched out to dry on tenters close to the mills, which in the case of the Glynne Factory west of Llanidloes, as shown on contemporary maps and photographs, took the form of a wooden frames laid out along a series of six parallel tracks a furlong (220 yards) in length on the steeply sloping northern banks of the Clywedog.

By the 1860s the local woollen industry was already feeling the effects of competition from the mill towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire. By 1912-13 the woollen industry in the area finally came to an end. Some of the woollen mills were converted to other uses, such as Spring Mills which became a leatherworks, though many other mills failed to find alternative uses and have since been demolished. The surviving legacy is largely architectural, though there are now relatively few visual clues of the the importance of Llanidloes in the history of the woollen industry in mid Wales. The earlier domestic phases of the industry are represented at Highgate Terrace on Penygreen Road, where an open weaving loft survives. One of the surviving mills is the former Bridgend Mill near the Short Bridge across the Severn, the last of the Llanidloes mills to close.

Metal mining

An ancient iron bloomery site, possibly of medieval date, is known near the Nant Gwden stream to the south of Cwmbernant Farm. An iron mine is recorded in operation in the 1290s in the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed, though its location is unknown. Small-scale industry was probably based on local deposits of sedimentary bog iron which were widely exploited in upland areas of Britain for the production of iron, probably in this instance deriving from the precipitation of iron from the local Silurian black shales which are rich in iron sulphide.

Mining for the production of lead as well as copper and zinc ores was a major industry, relict mining landscapes being a notable feature of parts of the Dylife, Hafren Forest, Banc y Groes, and Manledd historic landscape character areas. The remains illustrate a significant progression in both mining and processing technology from perhaps Roman and medieval times up to the early decades of the 20th century when the industry finally came to an end. Other minerals that were extracted included barytes, used as an inert and non-toxic filler for papers and paints, and calamine, use in the production of brass and skin lotions.

The mines are scattered and generally small but the area contains the largest single lead mine site in mid Wales, at Y Fan. The geographic distribution of mining remains in the area closely matches a number of rich mineral veins, giving

rise to linear patterns of workings striking across the landscape with little or no regard for the local topography. One such band of workings runs across the open mountain for a kilometre and a half between Dyfngwm in the Clywedog valley to Dylife in the Twymyn valley. Another is the line of workings which extends for over seven kilometres from Gwestyn in the valley of the Nant Gwestyn to Cwmdylluan in the valley of the Nant Gwden via the mines at Bryntail, Penyclun and Van.

Some earlier workings are documented from about the mid 17th century when various leases were issued, though it seems likely that the industry had its origins in the Roman and medieval periods, though in many cases it is likely that early workings have been obscured by those that were extensively reworked at later periods. There is no explicit evidence of prehistoric mining activity in the area but Roman workings have been suggested by the presence of the Roman fortlet at Penycrocbren on Pen Dylife, which it has been suggested may have played a role in policing the local mining industry during the Roman period. There is likewise little certain evidence for mining during the medieval period, though it has been considered significant that a confirmation of the grant of the upland grange at Cwmbiga to the Cistercian abbey at Cwmhir in the 1198 contains the unusual phrase specifying that the grant applies to 'all its uses and usages, above and below the same land' (*super eandem terram et subter*) as well as the more usual rights to woodland, pasture and fishing, implying at least some knowledge of the local mineral wealth.

Mining technology remained little changed from Roman times until about the 17th century, and is generally characterized by numerous relatively small mining ventures, often of a seasonal nature, with relatively shallow workings due to flooding and the power needed to haul mined ore to the surface. Potentially early workings have been suggested in a number of areas, notably at Dylife, Pen Dylife, Dyfngwm and Gwestyn, on the basis of discarded stone mortars at Dyfngwm, narrow opencast workings known as open-cuts identified at Dylife, and by shallow shaft and mound workings of the kind visible on Pen Dylife and at Gwestyn. The possible use of hushing at Pen Dylife, a process involving the artificial channels dug on sloping ground to channel water collected in reservoirs to expose mineral veins in the underlying bedrock, may also indicate early workings.

Surface exposures of mineral veins would have been the first to be exploited and are likely to have become exhausted early on. The steeply dipping nature of the mineral veins in the area required the adoption of deeper and more sophisticated mining techniques locally, including the use of crosscuts (levels from a shaft to intersect with a mineral vein) and stopes (chambers dug above or below a level or crosscut to exploit a vein). One of the few mechanical innovations to be introduced before the Industrial Revolution was the use of the horse whim to raise and lower buckets in the shaft, sometimes recognisable as flat circular areas sometimes with an outer kerb, of which good examples of post-medieval date are known at Pen Dylife.

Further rapid advances in mining technology were made during the course of the 18th and 19th centuries, a period of considerable capital investment by individual speculators and mining companies. For a period in the 1870s the Van Mine was the world's largest producer of lead ore, employing many hundreds of workers above and below ground. The harnessing of water power and the subsequent introduction of steam engines enabled mines to be dug to greater and greater depths by facilitating drainage and allowing ore to be hauled up from greater depths below ground. From the mid 18th century explosives became more commonly used and considerable improvements were also made to ore processing with the introduction of mechanisation, again by the exploiting water and steam power. Steam was more reliable but was costly to install and run given the distance from the coalfields, though it became more affordable with the coming of the railways. Water, by contrast, was readily available and relatively cheap to exploit and though unreliable during periods of drought it remained an important source of power until the decline of the mining industry in the area.

A vast range of distinct field monument types survive from this industrial period of activity. Mining setts may extend over many hectares and provide a detailed physical record of the extraction and processing techniques that were used. Deep shafts and adits were dug below ground and often connected by crosscuts, for removing ore, for drainage or for

ventilation. Reservoirs and leat systems were constructed at various mine setts, including those at Dylife, Pen Dylife, Dyfngwm, Glyn, Gwestyn and Van to collect and distribute water to drive waterwheels used for winding, pumping and ore processing or in some instances to feed steam engines. Engine houses with attached boiler houses and chimneys were built, of which visible remains of one kind or another can be identified at the Pen Dylife, Penyclun, Aberdaunant, Glyn, Van, East Van, and Gwestyn mines. Tramways, tramway embankments, ore slides and inclines for transporting ore to processing areas survive at Dylife, Dyfngwm, Bryntail and Van. Different stages of processing and concentration of ores are well represented at a number of sites, including the remains of ore bins, crusher houses and associated wheelpits, platforms for jiggers, buddles, slime pits and waste tips at various of the mine sites. Early stamps mills are suspected at Dylife where hollowed mortar stones have been found at Esgairgaled. Investment was also made in the construction of various buildings including mine offices, stables, smithies and explosives magazines, of which there is surviving evidence at a number of mines, including Gwestyn, Bryntail, Aberdaunant and East Van.

Due largely to the shortage of local fuel, smelting was mostly carried out at distant smelteries. Concentrations of slag associated with Roman finds suggest that smelting was being undertaken at Caersws and Trefeglwys. During the 17th to mid 19th centuries processed ores were mostly taken westwards by horse-cart 20 kilometres or more over the hills by road to be loaded onto ships at Derwenlas on the estuary of the river Dyfi, to be carried by sea to smelteries at Bristol, Swansea, the Dee estuary and latterly to furnaces established in the Aberystwyth area. Some local smelteries were established, as for example at Penyclun in the 1850s, though it uncertain how successful this were. From the late 1850s ores from the eastern mines were carried to the railhead at Llanidloes, and from the early 1870 by means of the Van Railway. From 1862 ores from the western mines at Dylife and Dyfngwm were more economically carried northwards down the Twymyn valley to Llanbrynmair, to be put in wagons on the Newtown-Machynlleth railway.

Between 1870-78 the mines in the Dylife and Van area were producing many thousands of tons of processed lead ore each per year, but by the end of the 1870s lead production as in other parts of Wales fell dramatically, due to competition from elsewhere, resulting in the closure of many mines. Production in the area dropped to a fraction of its former level and the industry finally drew to a close locally in the 1920s and 1930s. With the introduction of more sophisticated processing equipment it sometimes become profitable to rework earlier spoil heaps for the recovery of metal ores, a process carried out at Dylife for example. The expansion of the paint and paper industries also made it worthwhile recovering barytes, as undertaken at Bryntail and at Penyclun, for example, in the 1930s.

Considerable quantities of sediments were carried downstream as a result of mining operations in the Clywedog valley area during the 18th and 19th centuries. Studies of floodplain sediments in the Severn valley at least as far downstream as Welshpool have shown that the metal content resulting from mining upstream can be used to establish the age of alluvial deposits during the historic period and assess rates of floodplain sedimentation.

Since the middle of the second half of the 20th century there has been a growing awareness not only of the significance of the metal mining remains in the industrial and social history of mid Wales but also the contamination caused by the waste heaps and tailings in some areas which have raised heavy metal levels in adjacent farmland and rivers, notably the Cerist and the Twymyn. This has resulted in some conflict of interests between the requirements of archaeological conservation on the one hand and pollution control on the other. Reclamation of derelict land and the making safe of extraction and processing remains have also been considerations. Nonetheless, in some cases, particularly early on, there has been the perception that important archaeological were destroyed without record.

The 18th and 19th-century mining settlements at Van and Dylife

Because of the often unpredictable and seasonal nature of early mining ventures in the mid Wales orefields, underground working, ore processing and the transporting of ores to distant smelteries were seen as occupations to be combined with agricultural work or work in other industries such as the woollen industry. It is clear from 19th-century census records for the area around the Van mine, for example, that miners either travelled to work from Llanidloes on a daily basis or were accommodated in farms in the surrounding area. Consequently early on there was little incentive for the

creation of mining settlements. It was only during the later phases of the industry, during the 1870s and 1880s that some worker's housing was provided. Van Terrace, a single row of about 18 simple two-storey dwellings, was built during period near the processing works and alongside the railway, forming the core of a small workers' settlement which also included the mine manager's and engineer's houses, a shop, smithy, and Calvinistic Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist chapels. The bulk of the workforce, however, continued to be drawn from local farms and cottages, from Caersws and other stops along the Van Railway, and from Llanidloes.

A similar dispersed mining community at Dylife included the less formal row of about 20 miners' cottages at Rhanc-y-mynydd ('Mountain Rank'), each originally with their own small vegetable allotments on the northern bank of the Twymyn river. A shorter row of cottages at Bryn-goleu and a scatter of other houses or short rows were probably also related to the mining industry, all bleakly perched on the edge of the moorland. At one time the settlement also included Independent, Baptist and Calvinistic Methodist chapels, St David's Church and vicarage, and school, which were all in existence by the 1850s, as well as a smithy and several inns. As in the case of Van, the bulk of the workforce continued to travel to the mine daily from more scattered farms and cottages. The collapse of the mining industry led to the gradual demise of the settlement, charted by the closure of the school in 1925, the disrepair of St David's Church early in the 20th century and its eventual demolition of the church in 1962, and the recent conversion of two of the chapels to houses.

Elsewhere, there is some evidence for an industrial settlement pattern, with a surviving miner's smallholding near Bryntail, and the remains of other small cottages in the area.

Roadside settlement at Staylittle

A dispersed settlement at Staylittle (Penffordd-Lâs) had emerged by at least the later 17th to early 18th century by virtue of its position beyond the deep gorge of the Clywedog, on ancient routeways roughly midway between Llanidloes, Machynlleth and Llanbrynmair, and close to the watershed between the Severn and Dyfi river systems. Its development was no doubt fostered by the fact that it occupied a kind of no-man's-land on the edge of unenclosed common land close to the boundary between the ancient territorial division between Cydewain and Arwystli and parishes of Trefeglwys and Penegoes. In the early 18th-century the farm at Esgair-goch became an important focus of Quakerism in Montgomeryshire, with a Meeting House to which a burial ground, the Quakers' Garden, was attached. By the early 19th century, as noted above, it lay on the turnpike road between Llanidloes and Machynlleth, which fostered the establishment of the former smithy and the roadside inn, the Stay-a-little. During the 19th century it became a significant rural centre of nonconformist worship for the local farming and mining communities. The Baptist Chapel, first built in 1805, was rebuilt in 1859. The Methodist chapel, formerly at Rock Villa, was established in 1806, and rebuilt in 1875. A new school was built which opened in the 1874. Rural depopulation resulting from the collapse of the mining industry and farm amalgamations during the 20th century led to the abandonment of farms, cottages and chapels, some of which have been renovated as second homes.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout history the valleys of the river Severn valley and its tributaries the Clywedog and Trannon formed important communications corridors giving access to central and west Wales from the borderland and English Midlands to the east.

Roman roads

The Roman fortlet at Penycrocbren on the hills near the head of the Clywedog valley, south of Dylife, lies midway between the Roman forts at Caersws in the Severn valley to the east and Pennal in the Dyfi valley to the west and is approached by a Roman road which is thought to run across the northern side of the area from the Trannon valley via Gwartew, Staylittle and Pen Dylife. The fortlet and road, which appear to have been in use during at least the earlier 2nd century, were probably of military significance but, as noted above, may have played a role in the administration

of the lead mining industry during the Roman period. No certain traces of this road have been identified within the historic landscape area, however, and though its course is therefore very largely conjectural it probably largely underlies later tracks and roads.

Medieval to early post-medieval roads, drovers' roads and miners' tracks

It is assumed that much of the present-day network of local and long-distance footpaths, lanes and roads was already in existence by the early post-medieval period. Most of these would not have been surfaced in any way, however, and were in a notoriously poor condition before the improvements that were introduced from the second half of the 18th century. By the Middle Ages Llanidloes lay at the hub of long-distant routes along the Severn valley between settlements of medieval origin at Llandinam to the north-west and Llangurig and Rhayader to the south-west, and across the hills north of the Clywedog valley to the medieval town at Machynlleth. Lesser trackways would have linked outlying farms with upland pastures and seasonal settlements in the hills.

Llanidloes also lay at the confluence of two important drovers' routes in operation between the later medieval period and the coming of the railways in the later 19th century, taking cattle from west Wales to the market towns along the Welsh borderland, which again ran down the Severn valley from Llangurig and across the hills from Machynlleth.

Until almost the end of the 19th century the numerous metal mines that were opened in the area, largely during the period between the later 17th century and the mid 19th century relied almost exclusively on horse-drawn transport and packhorses for transporting men and equipment to the mines and carting processed ores to the smelteries. A distinctive feature of many of the mining landscapes in both mid and north-east Wales feature are consequently the so-called 'miners' tracks' often in remote locations, linking the various elements of the mine workings, the places where the miners lived, and the routes by which processed ores were transported to distant smelteries. The transport of considerable tonages of ores on unmade-up roads resulted in the braided tracks that are characteristic of some mining sites in the historic landscape area, notably Pen Dylife and Gwestyn.

Turnpike roads and improved bridges

Major improvements were made to the network of major network of roads in the later 18th century following the passing of the Montgomeryshire Turnpike Act of 1769, enacted from the 1790s onwards, which gave powers for the repair and widening of various specified roads and to pay for these works and continuing maintenance by raising tolls by means of turnpike gates.

The improved turnpike roads within the historic landscape area that were improved during the later 18th and early 19th centuries comprised the Newtown to Aberystwyth road through the middle of Llanidloes, and the turnpikes running northwards to Trefeglwys and westwards to Machynlleth, all originally provided with toll gates on the outskirts of Llanidloes. The now demolished toll house to the north of the town lay across the Long Bridge in the fork of the roads leading to Trefeglwys and Machynlleth, which were consequently named Westgate Street and Eastgate Street. The old toll house on the road to Newtown, which originated as a half-timbered cottage, survives on Hafren Street though not in a recognisable form. The Trefeglwys road followed the line taken by the modern minor road (B4569), via Dol-llys Hall, Gellilefrith and Cerist Bridge, which forms much of the eastern boundary of the historic landscape area. The turnpike road to Machynleth took a quite different and more circuitous route to the modern main road, following what is now the unclassified road from Pant-yr-ongle, just west of Llanidloes, via Y Fan and Borfa-newydd, to rejoin the modern main road again just to the east of Dinas. Further west it followed the unclassified road northwards via Gwartew to Staylittle and west of Staylittle followed the bleak, predicted route of the Roman road across Pen Dylife past the Roman fortlet at Penycrocbren, rather than the modern route via Dylife in the Twymyn valley.

Milestones, a characteristic feature of the turnpike road improvements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, are recorded on each of these roads on early editions of Ordnance Survey maps, though possibly only one of these still survives within the historic landscape area, near Borfa-newydd. Another feature which is typical of this period of road

improvement is the presence at regular intervals of small roadside quarries, especially in some of the remoter areas, as for example to the north of Dinas. A further major improvement to the road network in the early 19th century was the repair or replacement to bridges, of which the two bridges crossing the Severn at Llanidloes are notable examples. These two bridges known as the Long Bridge and the Short Bridge were both designed by Thomas Penson, the Montgomeryshire county surveyor. They were originally built in 1826 and 1850 respectively, in the first instance replacing an earlier timber bridge and in the second instance an earlier stone bridge. The impact of these improvements can be gauged by the following comment in Evans's *The Beauties of England and Wales,* published in 1812.

> 'The entrance to the town over a long wooden bridge, erected in 1741, that crosses the Severn, is by no means calculated, to prepossess the traveller in favour of the place'.

Llanidloes acted as an important staging point along the turnpike roads, where various inns provided refreshment and accommodation for travellers. An additional rural roadside inn formerly existed between 7-8 miles west of Llanidloes at the New Inn near Gwartew, named on Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s, and the Stay-a-little Inn, recorded in the early 19th century but gone by the later 19th century, which gave its name to Staylittle.

Other buildings and structures directly or incidentally associated with the turnpike roads included former smithies recorded at Staylittle and at Y Fan, and more somberly the site of a former gibbet near the roadside and more or less on the summit of Pen Dylife, about 100 metres to the west of the Roman fortlet at Penycrocbren. Excavations here in the 1938 found the central posthole of a gallows as well as gibbeting irons and a skull, thought to date to about 1700, now in the National History Museum at St Fagans. The gallows (Welsh *crocbren*) is the origin of the name for the Roman fortlet, which translates as 'Gibbet Hill'. Folklore associates the gallows with a local blacksmith ('Sion y Gof') who is said to have murdered his family and disposed of their bodies down a mineshaft, and subsequently made to forge his own gibbeting irons, now in the National History Museum at St Fagans. Little appears to have been written about the sites of early capital punishment in rural Wales, though there appears to be a tendency, as elsewhere in Britain, for gallows as here to be sited on a hilltop, close to a roadway, and close to the boundary of a particular legal jurisdiction. In this instance the site lies on the boundary between the hundredal courts of Machynlleth and Llanidloes, which followed the former medieval territorial divisions of Cyfeliog and Arwystli.

Access to the canal and railway networks

As noted above, the Montgomeryshire canal had been extended to Newtown by the early 1820s and for almost the next 30 years the road link from Llanidloes to the canal terminus at Newtown became an important means of carrying goods to and from the historic landscape area.

The coming of the railways at the end of the 1850s was to have a considerable impact upon the social and industrial development of Llanidloes and its hinterland. Contruction of the railway from Llanidloes to Newtown began in 1855 and after an interruption in 1857 due to shortage of funds was finally completed in 1859, with a single large and impressive railway station within the historic landscape area on the eastern side of Llanidloes. The line ran independently of the rest of the national railway network for several years, carrying passengers and goods for transfer to or from the canal until the completion of first the Oswestry to Welshpool Railway in 1859/1860 and the Welshpool to Newtown line in 1861. The line was built using local labour and capital, the principal contractor being David Davies of Llandinam, in partnership with the railway engineer Thomas Savin of Llwyn-y-maen near Oswestry. The first locomotives, carriages and wagons to run on the line had to be brought to the railhead at Newtown by road on specially-made wagons, with other materials brought by canal. In 1864 the Mid Wales Railway line skirting the eastern side of Llanidloes to Rhayader and on to Builth Road and Three Cocks also opened, which amalgamated with the Cambrian Railway Company.

The Llanidloes Railway Works on the north-east side of the town was amongst the engineering industries that developed in the town during the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries by virtue of the railway. The works specialised in the

production of rails and other heavy castings.

The Van mine near Llanidloes, which had become one of the most productive and profitable lead mines in western Europe by the 1870s, was unique in mid-Wales in being provided with its own railway line. In 1871 the standard-gauge Van Railway was built branching from the Newtown to Machynlleth line at Caersws and running westwards along the valley of the Cerist and Trannon rivers, with former halts within the character area near Penisafmanledd and just to the east of Y Fan. The railway possessed an impressive underground railway portal, unique amongst lead mines in the United Kingdom, which has been restored and gated at the mine site. From 1873 the line also carried passengers and after some difficulties was reopened for the carriage of freight by the Cambrian Railways in 1896. The railway was a private venture by Earl Vane who leased the mine to the mining company and was at the same time the chairman of the Cambrian Railway Company. The line finally closed in 1940 but much of the line survives amidst the rural agricultural landscape today where the original embankments, cuttings and track bed can still be traced.

Following the first world war the Cambrian Railway became part of the Great Western Railway (GWR). The Van Railway finally closed in 1940, outliving the closure of the Van lead mines by about 20 years whilst GWR was nationalised along with the rest of the rail network as British Railways in 1948. From the 1950s the railways came under increasing competition with road transport. The Newtown to Llanidloes line was closed to passengers south of Moat Lane Junction near Caersws in 1963, but continued to carry some freight until 1967, having been kept open to transport materials used for the construction of the Clywedog reservoir west of Llanidloes.

The modern road network

Remarkably widespread changes were made to the road network throughout the historic landscape area during the course of the 20th century, in response to various stimuli, notably the dislocation caused by the general demise of the local mining industry from about the 1890s, the creation of Hafren Forest from the late 1930s onwards, and the construction of the Clywedog Reservoir in the 1960s.

North and west of Llanidloes and the Clywedog Reservoir the route of the main road from Llanidloes to Machynlleth was substantially altered to the one it now occupies. The upgrading of former minor lanes and tracks and the construction of some new stretches of road was carried out over the 5-kilometre stretch from Pant-yr-ongle, west of Llanidloes, to the east of Dinas via the new earthwork dam at Bwlch-y-gle, superseding the former turnpike road taking the northern route via Y Fan and Borfa-newydd. Further west a new almost 4-kilometre stretch of road was constructed from just to the west of Dinas to Staylittle via Lluest-y-dduallt, superseding the former turnpike which ran via Gwartew. More dramatically, the course of the turnpike road across Pen Dylife via Rhiw Dyfeity Fawr now taken by Glyndŵr's Way was abandoned in favour of the more northerly route through Dylife and Esgair-galed that had probably previously been avoided by the main road due to the intensive mining operations in this area up to the second and third decades of the 20th century.

Substantial changes were also made to the course of minor roads to the south and west of the Clywedog Reservoir, involving the construction of an essentially new 14-kilometre road branching from the Llanidloes to Machynlleth road near Dyffryn and running via Bryntail and Llwyn-y-gog to just west of Staylittle.

The Llanidloes bypass, to the east of the town, which had been first proposed in the late 1960s due to traffic congestion in the town was eventually opened in 1991, built in a new cutting which largely followed the course of the dismantled GWR line to Rhayader.

Modern long-distance footpaths and cycling routes

The Glyndŵr's Way footpath, granted National Trail status in 2000, runs through the area from near Dylife, across Pen Dylife to the Hafren Forest and beyond via Staylittle, Llwyn-y-gog and Cwmbiga. A second National Trail, the

Severn Way, also passes through Llanidloes. Two National Cycle Network on-road routes crossing the historic landscape area have also been developed in recent years, Lôn Cambria (route 81) which runs between Rhayader and Newtown via Llanidloes, and Lôn Las Cymru (route 8) which follows the route to the west and south of the Clywedog Reservoir, via Dylife, Staylittle and Llanidloes.

THE ORIGINS AND GROWTH OF LLANIDLOES

Although distinct in character from the surrounding area, the origins and development of Llanidloes reflect many of the themes so far discussed.

The date of the earliest settlement is uncertain, though it possibly originated as a church and associated settlement in the early medieval period. The borough, created by the lords of Powys in the second half of the 13th century is first documented in 1263, and as noted earlier has a grid-like street layout characteristic of planted medieval towns with four principal roads focused on the original market cross where the Old Market Hall is now sited. The right to hold weekly markets and twice-yearly fairs was in 1280. A corn mill was in operation by the 1290s. The town grew rapidly during the final decades of the 13th century and the end of the first decade of the 14th century but remained relatively small and of little more than local importance. It is thought to have been provided with defences during the Middle Ages, probably with a number of gateways.

St Idloes' Church, with some surviving 14th- and 15th-century fabric and possibly the only surviving medieval building in the town, underwent considerable rebuilding in the middle of the 16th century when the hammerbeam roof was built and when substantial parts of the former fabric of the Cistercian abbey at Cwmhir were incorporated within it.

Some evidence survives of a post-medieval tradition of timber-framed construction within the town but was more clearly apparent in the later 18th and earlier 19th century, as evident in the following description from Evans's *Beauties of England and Wales,* published in 1812, which also provides a graphic impression of the general sanitary conditions within the town at that time:

> 'yet having very few good houses, and, the greater number being built of timber frames, and the intermediate spaces formed with what is technically denominated, *wattle* and *dab*, that is, laths, or sticks, intertwined, and the insterstices filled up with mud: add, together with the irregularity of their position, to give an awkwardness to its appearance, not very inviting to the passing visitant. The width of the streets, which in most places is deemed a great advantage, here becomes an abominable nuisance, from the custom the inhabitants have of accumulating their ashes, &c. in large heaps before their respective doors; the exhalations from which in hot weather must be very offensive to persons'

Similar scenes are also evident from Hugh Hughes' painting, *The Llanidloes Pig Fair*, set in Great Oak Street, which shows the continuing impact of the market upon the town at about this date. As in the case of other towns in Wales during the earlier 19th century a local health board was established to try and remedy the insantiary conditions.

The use of wooden shingles is the locality is recorded in the following description in Thomas Pennant's *A Tour in Wales*, published in 1793:

> 'A coarse slate is found in the neighbouring hills; but there still remains, in many parts, the ancient covering of the country, shingles, heart of oak split and cut into form of slates'

The town underwent a period of rapid growth during the later 18th and 19th centuries due particularly to the local woollen industry which during the course of the early 19th century gradually developed from one that was essentially domestic to one based on large industrialized mills. During this period the town also became an important commercial

and communications centre and was strongly influenced by the development of the mining industry in its immediate hinterland. By the 18th century, if not earlier, the two main streets meeting at the market hall had become fairly densely built up. The 19th century saw the development of the open land behind the medieval street frontages as well as a considerable amount of rebuilding and the refronting of earlier buildings with brick facades. The rapid gentrification of the town during the first few decades of the 19th century is clear from the following description in Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, published in 1833, which clearly harks back to Evan's description of the town twenty years earlier:

> '[the town] has of late years been greatly improved by the erection of several more respectable buildings on the site of more ancient houses of timber frame-work and plaster, which formerly prevailed throughout the place, and by the removal of the numerous heaps of cinders which had previously been suffered to accumulate in front of the houses'

Significant variations in the size of house became evident during the 19th century, typically with substantial three-storeyed houses and purpose-built inns and shops close to the town centre and smaller two-storeyed terraces representing the houses of industrial workers especially in the back streets.

The domestic and commercial area of the town gradually expanded beyond its original medieval limits, with terraces extending along the approach roads to the town and suburban development to the south and east and across the river to the north of the Severn. The outer suburbs fringing the town, particularly those with a more picturesque setting to the north and west, include a significant number of substantial houses or rural 'villas' belonging to more wealthy landowners and industrialists, noted approvingly in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary*:

> 'On the south-eastern side is a very handsome large house, now in progress of erection, which, when completed and the grounds laid out, will form an ornamental feature in the scenery of the place. A little nearer the town a beautiful house has been lately built, having handsome grounds disposed with great taste, and planted with trees, flowering shrubs, and annuals. Dôl Llŷs, in this parish, commands a delightful view of the Vale of Severn, with the windings of the river and the rich and finely varied scenery on its banks, terminated by the high mountains in the distance'

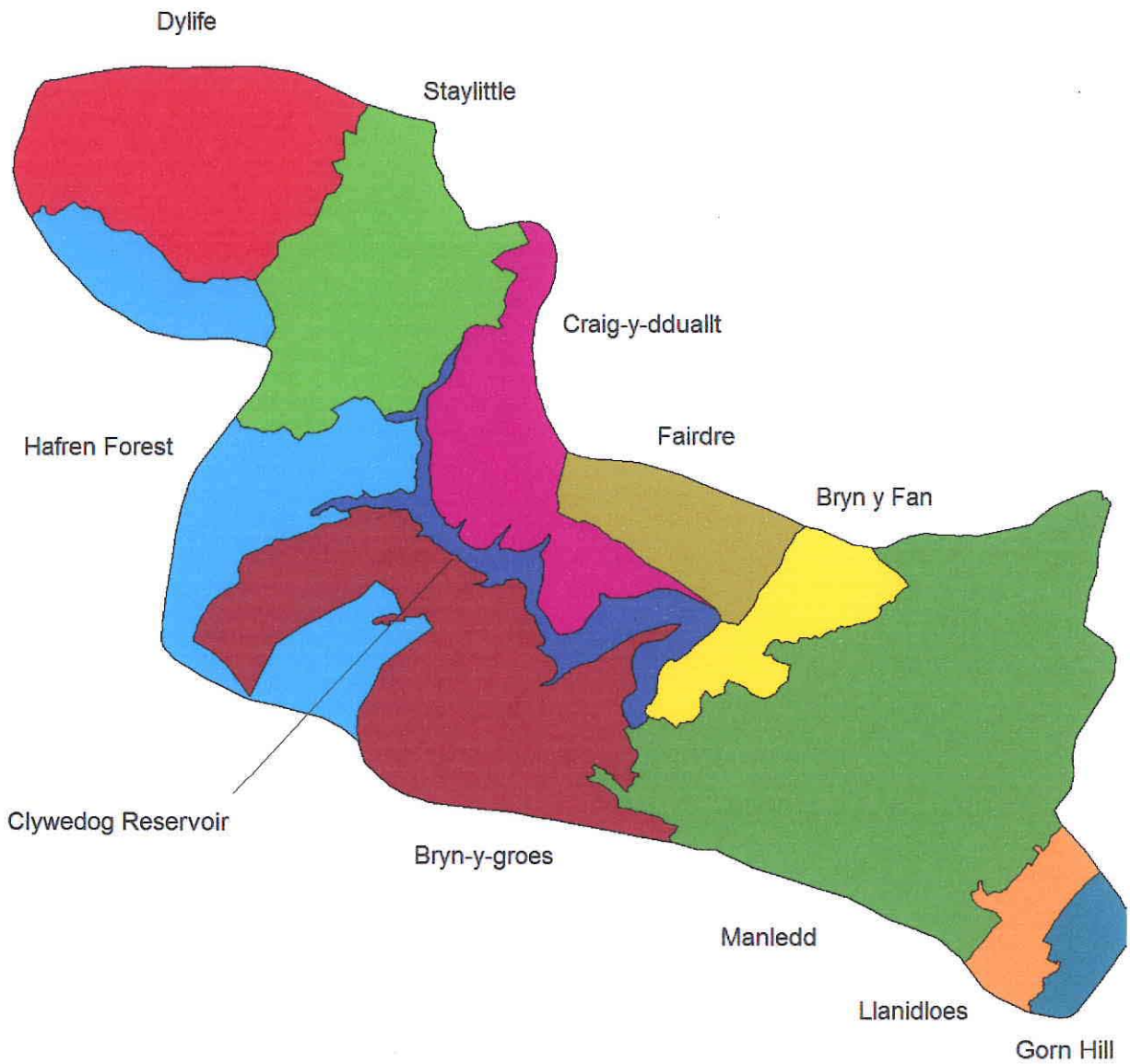
As a result, there is an exceptionally good sequence of 19th-century domestic and commercial architecture in the town together with some important public buildings and institutions, including the Gaol, the Police Station, Public Rooms built to include a flannel market as well as a court and concert room. The town also became an important regional centre of nonconformism, with chapels of a number of different denominations.

The later 19th-century industrialized woollen mills within the historic landscape area were generally sited to the west and north-west of the town, especially across the Long Bridge and Short Bridge, close to the banks of the Severn and Clywedog to exploit the use of water power, including the Cribynau and Glynne Mills up to 2 kilometres or more further up the Clywedog. The coming of the railway in the late 1850s gave a further boost to the industrial development of Llanidloes. Later industries which developed from this period onwards included the former gas works, railway works and iron foundry, which all being dependent upon access to the railway were sited together with the imposing railway station and other railway buildings and structures including a goods shed, engine shed and turntable, on the northern and eastern sides of the town. Additional housing was required for workers, a significant example being Foundry Terrace, built in about 1860 within yards of the railway works. During the course of the 20th century housing estates expanded, particularly on the south and south-eastern sides of the original core of the town. The town grew in importance as an educational centre and saw the development of primary and secondary school campuses to the south of the town during the 1950s and 1960s on land that had once formed part of the Lower Green common.

The woollen industry came under increasing pressure of competition with mills in northern England from the 1860s.

Some mills amalgamated, others were converted to other uses, such as the Spring Mills tannery and leatherworks which took over the premises of a former woollen mill in 1908. The Cambrian Mill was likewise converted to a leatherworks in the 1930s. With the closure and subsequent disappearance of most of the mills and smaller woollen factories, the railway works and iron foundry and the closure of the railway during the course of the 20th century Llanidloes lost many of the former landmarks of its industrial and transport history, though significant remains include the former Bridgend Woollen Mill, recently converted to domestic accommodation, occasional surviving open woollen lofts such as that at Highgate Terrace on Penygreen Road, representing the earlier 'domestic' phase of the woollen industry in the town, industrial workers' housing, such as Foundry Terrace, the Railway Station, and the Public Rooms of 1838, built to include a flannel market as well as a court and concert room. Other public buildings such as the Police Station, and inns, purpose-built shops and nonconformist chapels provide significant visual reminders of Llanidloes's importance as an administrative and commercial centre.

Clywedog Valley Historic Landscape Character Areas



Dylife
Historic Landscape Character Area 1187
Llanbrynmair and Trefeglwys communities, Powys

Upland plateau dissected by streams which formed part of medieval monastic grange, with early encroachments possibly originating from seasonal settlements, partly subject to parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century, with possible Roman and medieval and more extensive 19th-century metal-mining remains and associated settlement evidence.

Historic Background

A substantial part of the area, between the Afon Bachog and the *Dengwm* (perhaps the south-flowing tributary of the Clywedog at Defngwm-isaf) appears to have fallen within the grazing lands of *Bothreiswall* and *Pannaubacho* granted to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella near Welshpool by Gwenwynwyn, prince of southern Powys, in 1187 and probably held by the abbey up until its dissolution in the mid 16th century. The area formerly fell within the manorial township of Penegoes Uwchycoed in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Penegoes and subsequently within a new ecclesiastical parish based upon the former St David's Church at Dylife created in 1856 out of the parishes of Llanbrynmair, Darowen, Penegoes and Trefeglwys.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Upland plateau, generally between 380-520 metres above sea level, dissected by the stream valleys of the upper Clywedog and its tributaries which drain into the Clywedog Reservoir to the south-east, and by the Nant Bryn-moel, Nant Dropyns and Nant yr Iâr streams, tributaries of the Afon Twymyn, which drain north-eastwards into deep, 200-metre deep gorge which extends into the character area. Predominantly loamy permeable upland soils overlying rock, with peaty horizons, supporting moorland and grassland of moderate grazing which historically have been best suited to stock rearing and conifer woodland, with some dairying on improved ground. The area includes a number of small conifer plantations planted during the 20th century.

Recorded placenames in the area are mostly topographical, though that of the of former farmstead of Ty'n-y-fuches in the Clywedog valley and Fuches which applies to the extensive area of grazing north of the Clywedog valley contain the element *buches* ('herd, fold') which indicate an historical association with upland grazing. The name Dylife derives from *dylif* ('flood, deluge, torrent') and is first recorded in the 1640s when the first documentary references to mining in the area begin.

Early settlement and land use, possibly originating as upland seasonal settlements in the medieval to early post-medieval periods, is represented by a cluster of relict house platforms and by small farmsteads along the north side of the Clywedog valley and in the valley of the Afon Twymyn, some of which such as Dyfngwm-isaf and Ty'n-y-fuches have since been abandoned. These appear to represent encroachments onto formerly unenclosed upland grazing. Much of the modern pattern of large straight-sided fields, especially on the higher ground, represents patterns of enclosure carried out since the 1880s.

Despite the evidence of early agriculture, visible archaeological remains are dominated by the mining industry. Early metal mining activity is suggested by the presence of the Roman fortlet of Penycrocbren on the upland ridge between the valley of the Clywedog to the south and the Nant Dropyns and Afon Twymyn to the north. The fortlet has provided evidence of activity during the 2nd century AD, and may have played a role in the policing of mining activity in the area during the Roman period. The trackway to the north of the fortlet is thought to lie on the line of a Roman road from the Roman fort at Caersws along the Tanat valley. It has been suggested that the road may have continued

westwards towards the Roman fort at Pennal but as yet there is no evidence of this. Early workings, possibly of Roman date, are thought to be represented by opencuts, levels trials and shafts on the north-western slopes of Pen Dylife opposite the Rhanc-y-mynydd cottages. There are further early workings possibly of Roman date further south at Dyfngwm.

Further metal mining and processing in the period between about 1640 intermittently up to the 1930s is represented by extensive relict mining landscape scattered over an area of about 75 hectares stretching from Dylife in the valley of the Nant Dropyns to the north, across the exposed upland ridge at Pen Dylife and on to the mines at Dyfngwm in the Clywedog valley to the south. The mines exploited three principal veins known as the Esgairgaled, Llechwedd Ddu and Dylife or Dyfngwm lodes which yielded lead, silver, zinc and copper ores.

The earliest workings at Dylife consist of opencuts, levels trials and shafts which were superseded by a series of five main shafts from which ore was transported by a number of trackways to processing areas within the valley bottoms of the Afon Twymyn and Nant Dropyns which continued in operation up to the 1920s. One of the shafts was eventually sunk to a depth of 167 fathoms, making it the deepest in mid Wales. Reservoirs created on the streams at Pwll Rhydporthmwyn and on the Nant Dropyns carried water by a series of leats and launders which provided water power used to drive winding and pumping machinery at the main shafts and for driving stone crushers, jiggers and buddles. There are visible remains of most of the mining and working processes though the processing areas are now relatively poorly preserved.

The Pen Dylife mine workings extend for about a kilometre along the exposed upland ridge to the south of Dylife and cover an area of about 30 hectares, at a height of between about 400–450 metres above sea level, encompassing the Roman fortlet of Penycrocbren whose earthwork banks and single entrance remain clearly visible. Apart from its possible Roman origins, the old trackway to the north of the fortlet marks the line of the former turnpike road between Llanidloes and Machynlleth. A substantial bank to the south probably marks the boundary between the Pen Dylife and the Dyfngwm mining setts. The well-preserved mining remains at Pen Dylife are dominated by a line of small pits and larger shafts exploiting the mineral vein running along the ridge and which towards the west merge with the substantial opencast workings of the Dyfngwm mine. Earlier mining activity, probably mostly of the 17th and 18th centuries, is represented by the smaller shafts in this series as well as by earthworks representing a network of leats and small reservoirs which suggest that the process of hushing was employed. The scale of mining operations increased dramatically from the mid 19th century, accompanied by the sinking of a new shaft and the construction a steam-powered engine house, the highest to be installed in Wales, whose site is still visible. The absence of large spoil tips which tend to characterize 19th-century workings elsewhere was due to the fact that the ore mined at Pen Dylife was processed either at Dylife, or later at Dyfngwm. In 1865 the Dylife mine was connected to the deep adit at Dyfngwm, making a through passage about a kilometre long beneath the mountain.

Surviving remains of the Dyfngwm mine in the Clywedog valley includes substantial opencast workings in the north side of the valley where initially metal ores would have been exposed in the natural rock exposures, and a deep adit which connected with two substantial shafts further uphill, adjacent to the Pen Dylife mine, as well as numerous scattered trials. Early workings, perhaps of Roman or medieval date, are represented by opencuts, adits, shallow shaft-mound type workings, some of which have produced evidence of manual dressing in the form of stone mortar stones buried in the tips. Visible remains associated with the larger shafts include whim circles, an incline with the base of a winding drum, and the earthworks of a large square enclosure which like similar examples at a number of other mine sites in mid Wales, may have been used to impound horses employed at the mine. In the Clywedog valley below, there are significant remains of ore processing of ores including the poorly preserved remains of a crusher house and processing mill, extensive spoil-tips, a possible jigger platform and associated jigger waste, and a series of interconnected slime pits along the south bank of the Clywedog. Water power was harnessed for the ore extraction and processing, water being taken from a leat taken off the Clywedog further upstream in addition to the use steam-power. Working continued up until 1935.

The site of a former gallows (Welsh *crocbren*), thought to date to about 1700, is marked by a small mound to the west of the Roman fortlet of Penycrocbren which translates into English as 'Gibbet Hill'. The site was excavated in excavated in 1938 when gibbetting irons and a human skull were discovered, now housed at the National History Museum at St Fagans. Folklore associates the gallows with a local blacksmith (Sion y Gof) living at Felin-newydd, who is said to have murdered his family and disposed of their bodies down a mineshaft, and subsequently made to forge his own gibbeting irons.

The present-day settlement is represented by a pattern of small dispersed farms, which probably in some instances originated as seasonal settlements or encroachments upon former areas of open grazing and upland common during the medieval to early post-medieval periods, upon which was superimposed the dispersed mining community of mostly later 18th and 19th century date at Dylife. The latter includes the row of about 20 miners' cottages at Rhanc-y-mynydd ('Mountain Rank'), to which small vegetable allotments were attached, as well as the shorter row of cottages at Bryn-goleu and a scatter of other houses or short rows which may also be related to the mining industry. At one time the settlement also included Independent, Baptist and Calvinistic Methodist chapels, St David's Church and vicarage, and school, which were all in existence by the 1850s, as well as a smithy and several inns, including the extant Star Inn. The collapse of the mining industry led to the gradual demise of the settlement, charted by the closure of the school in 1925, the disrepair of St David's Church early in the 20th century and its eventual demolition of the church in 1962, and the recent conversion of two of the chapels to houses.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Barton 1999; Bick 1975; Bick 1977; Bick 1985; Bick 1990; Brown 2005; Burnham 1995; Davies and Jones 2006; Foster-Smith 1978; George 1970; Gregory 1997; Jarrett 1969; Jones 1922; Jones 1961; Jones 1994; Jones et al. 2004; Jones and Moreton 1977; Moore-Colyer 2002; Morgan 2001; Putnam 1961-62; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Thomas 1977; Timberlake 1996; Walters 1994; Williams 1990; Williams 2002; Williams and Bick 1992

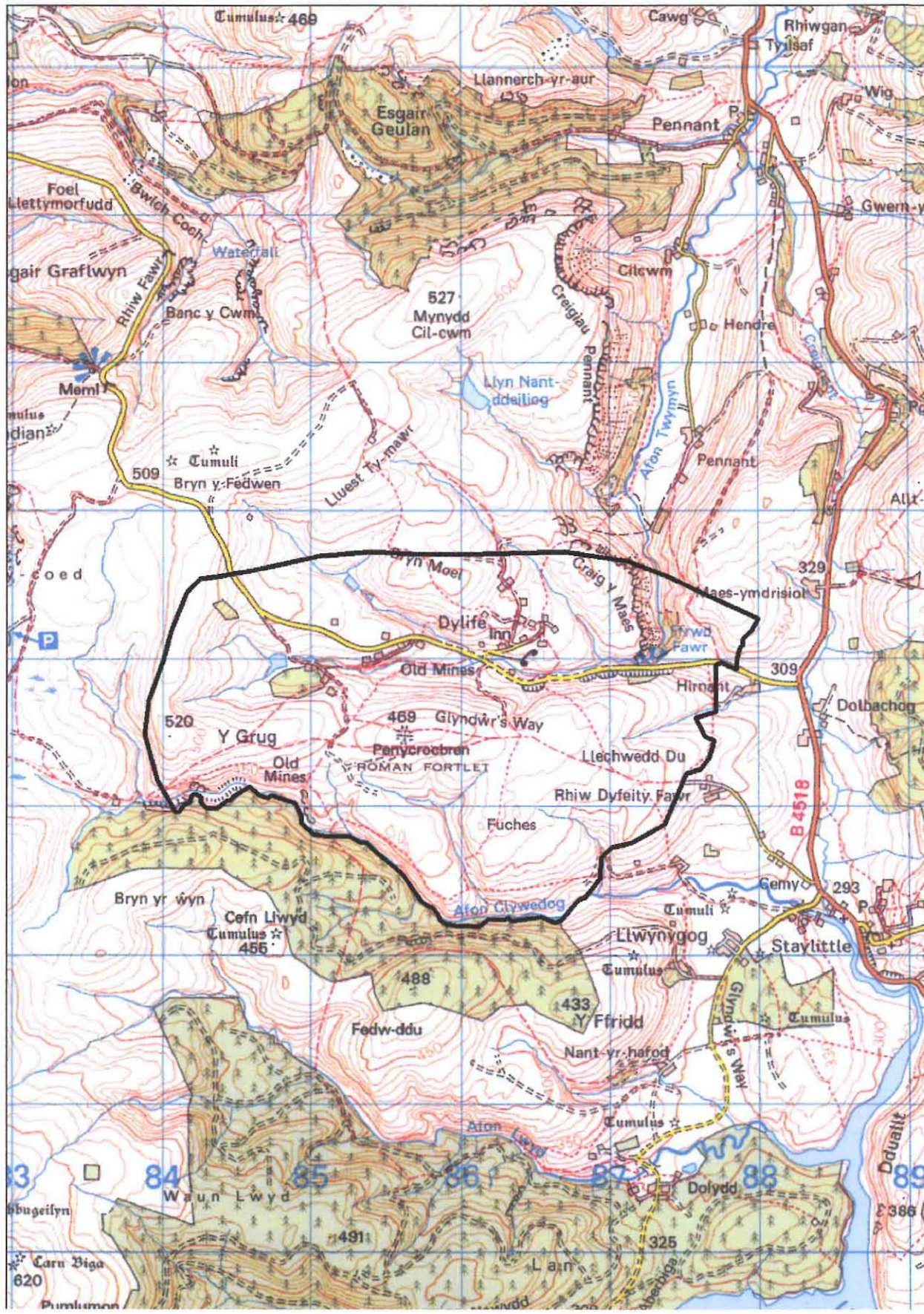
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of the Penycrocbren Roman fortlet and its setting and associated buried deposits*
- *Management of former gallows site, dating to about the early 18th century*
- *Management of buildings and structures and deposits associated with transport history, including the course of the Roman road from Caersws to Penycrocbren and beyond, and the former Llanidloes to Machynlleth turnpike road*
- *Conservation and management of existing and abandoned buildings and structures illustrating the social and economic history of settlement from medieval times onwards, including abandoned house and cottage sites, existing and abandoned farm complexes and cottages, buildings and structures associated with places of Anglican and nonconformist worship and burial*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*
- *Conservation and management of above and below-ground metal mining and ore-processing remains and their setting*

Dylife

Historic Landscape Character Area 1187

Llanbrynmair and Trefeglwys communities, Powys



Staylittle
Historic Landscape Character Area 1188
Trefeglwys community, Powys

Upland basin at the head of the river Clywedog with cluster of earlier prehistoric burial monuments; the area formed part of a medieval monastic grange and provides some evidence of seasonal upland settlement of medieval to early post-medieval date together with loose cluster of upland farms, nonconformist chapels, church and early Quaker cemetery that emerged during the later 18th and 19th century on the former drovers' road and turnpike road between Llanidloes and Machynlleth; new forestry village of 1949/50 associated with the planting of Hafren Forest.

Historic Background

The northern part of the area appears to have fallen within the grazing lands of *Bothreiswall* and *Pannaubacho* granted to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella near Welshpool by Gwenwynwyn, prince of southern Powys, in 1187. The southern part of the area appears to have formed part of the pasture lands between the Clywedog and Afon Lwyd granted by Cadwaladr ap Hywel, son of the ruler of Arwystli to Strata Marcella in about 1195-96. A confirmation of the latter grant in 1207 makes a specific reference to a field beyond the Afon Lwyd called *Llanerch Cwmllwyd* which seems likely to equate to the enclosed fields at Dolydd which are the only recorded fields south of the Lwyd. Both lands were probably held by the abbey up until its dissolution in the mid 16th century when it formed part of the manor of Talerddig. The area fell within the manorial townships of Esgeiriaeth and Glyntrefnant in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys and Penegoes Uwch-y-coed in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Penegoes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Shallow upland basin and surrounding hill edge slopes, at a height of between about 300-450 metres above sea level at the headwaters of the Clywedog and its tributaries, the Nant yr Hafod, Nantcriafol and Afon Bachog. Well-drained fine loamy or silty soils over rock on hill slopes, with slowly permeable upland soils, with some seasonal waterlogging, with peaty surface horizons on mudstone and shale drift deposits on the lower-lying ground. Historically the land has been best suited to stock rearing on moorland and some permanent pasture of moderate grazing value and some conifer woodland. The conifer woodland at Llwyn-y-gog was planted in the 1940s and 1950s partly as a shelter belt for the adjacent housing estate.

Placenames provide some evidence of historic patterns of land use and settlement in the area. A significant number of these names within the historic landscape area illustrate an historical association with grazing and stock rearing. The farm Gwartew (formerly Gwair-tew) derives from the elements *gwair* ('hay') + *tew* ('thick'). Dolbachog, Dolydd Llwydion and Dol-gwyddel-uchaf contain the element *dol /dolydd* ('meadow/meadows'). Grazing is further implied by Pen-y-ffridd which contains the element *ffridd* ('enclosed moorland') and Rhos-goch which includes the element *rhos* ('moorland'). The stream and farm name Nant-yr-hafod includes the element *hafod* suggesting that some habitations may have originated as seasonally-occupied upland settlements. The name Staylittle, first recorded as Stay-a-little, appears to date from the first decade of the 19th century and derives from the name of a former inn on the drovers' road and later turnpike road between Llanidloes and Machynlleth.

A flint scraper found near Nant-yr-hafod and a cluster of 6-7 Bronze Age burial mounds around the head of the Clywedog and its tributaries near Llwyn-y-gog, over an area of 1.5 kilometres across, provide significant evidence of early land use and possible settlement in this area at the head of the Clywedog. These are possibly to be associated with the exploitation of upland pastures during the summer months, conforming with a seasonal pattern of land use suggested by evidence from later periods.

Early settlement and land use, possibly originating as upland seasonal settlements in the medieval to early post medieval periods, is represented by a cluster of relict house platforms and by an underlying pattern of existing or former small, dispersed farmsteads such as Hirnant, Dolbachog, Dolydd, Llwyn-y-gog, Pant-y-chwarel and Pant-y-rhedyn. The farmsteads are associated with small irregular field patterns which have the appearance of discrete encroachments onto formerly unenclosed upland grazing which may have originated as *hafodydd* or seasonally-occupied houses. The north-eastern corner of the area, represented by a patchwork of relatively small straight-sided fields between Rock Villa and Pant-y-chwarel, was subject of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. Much of the intervening areas between the dispersed farm formed part of the manor of Talerddug that was excluded from parliamentary enclosure, but which appears to have been generally partitioned by large straight-sided fields since the 1880s.

The area sits astride an important historical lines of communication across mid Wales including the possible course of Roman road from Caersws to the fortlet at Penycrocbren which is thought to run across the northern side of the area, and possibly marked by a the line of the hollow-way near Hirnant farm and the later drovers' road and turnpike road between Machynlleth and Llanidloes. Before the construction of the Clywedog Reservoir in the 1960s the main road (B4518) south from Staylittle took the more circuitous route towards Dinas via Gwartew. A former water cornmill at Felin-newydd, operated by water sluiced by leat from the Clywedog, is recorded as being in operation in the later 19th century.

The dispersed settlement at Staylittle (Penffordd-Lâs) was in existence by the later 17th to early 18th century, probably due to its position on the edge of unenclosed common land roughly midway between Llanidloes, Machynlleth and Llanbrynmair. A number of small scattered quarries probably represent sources of building stone during the post-medieval period. In the early 18th-century the farm at Esgair-goch became an important focus of Quakerism in Montgomeryshire, with a Meeting House, to which a burial ground, the Quakers' Garden, was attached. Though not itself a mining village, houses here and elsewhere in the area probably provided accommodation for miners during the 19th century working at the Dylife and Dyfngwm mines to the east and south. It also became an a significant rural centre of nonconformist worship for the local farming and mining communities, with both a Methodist chapel, formerly at Rock Villa, established in 1806, and rebuilt in 1875, and a Baptist Chapel first built in 1805 and enlarged in 1859. A new school was built which opened in the 1874. Rural depopulation resulting from the collapse of the mining industry and farm amalgamations during the 20th century led to the abandonment of farms and smaller cottages and chapels, some of which have been renovated as second homes.

The small estate at Llwyn-y-gog was created as a new forest village by the Forestry Commission between 1949-51 to house workers needed for the newly-planted Hafren Forest. Originally planned as a village of 80 houses, shop, school and village hall, only 20 worker's houses and a temporary village hall and a forest manager's house were built, which were eventually sold off by the Forestry Commission.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Barton 1997; Burnham 1995; Carr 1992; Davies 1973; Edlin 1952; Godwin and Toulson 1977; Hamer 1879; Jones 1983; Moore-Colyer 2002; RCAHM 1911; Richards 1969; Silvester 1992; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Taylor 1989; Thomas 1997; Thomas 1955-56; Thomas 1997; Williams 1990

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of earlier prehistoric burial monuments and their setting and associated buried deposits*
- *Management of buildings and structures and deposits associated with transport history, including the course*

of the Roman road from Caersws to Penycrocbren and the former Llanidloes to Machynlleth turnpike road

- *Conservation and management of existing and abandoned buildings and structures illustrating the social and economic history of settlement from medieval times onwards, including abandoned house and cottage sites, existing and abandoned farm complexes and cottages, buildings and structures associated with early nonconformism and the Quaker movement, including places of worship and burial*

- *Management of traditional field boundaries*

- *Management of structures associated with the former mill at Felin-newydd, including leat and millponds etc*

Staylittle

Historic Landscape Character Area 1188

Trefeglwys community, Powys

Hafren Forest
Historic Landscape Character Area 1189
Trefeglwys and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys

Extensive conifer woodland planted by the Forestry Commission upland plateau and hill edge from 1937/38 onwards; the area formed part of a medieval monastic grange and prior to afforestation contained dispersed upland farmsteads of possible medieval to early medieval farmsteads, some possibly originating as seasonal settlements; discrete area of 18th and 19th century metal-mining remains.

Historic Background

The detached northern part of the character area at Bwlch-y-Garreg Wen fell formed part of the pasture lands between the Clywedog and Afon Lwyd granted by Cadwaladr ap Hywel, son of the ruler of Arwystli to Strata Marcella in about 1195-96. Some or all of the southern part of the character area formed part of the upland pastures at *Cwm-buga* (Cwmbiga) granted to the Cistercian abbey at Cwmhir by Gwenwynwyn, prince of southern Powys in the later 12th century, and which became the subject of dispute with Strata Marcella in the 1220s. The lands were probably held by the two monasteries up until their dissolution in the mid 16th century when they formed part of the manor of Talerddug, the dividing line between the holdings lying along the Afon Lwyd. The area fell within the manorial township of Esgeiriath in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys and the manorial township of Ystradhynod in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Modern conifer woodland dating from the 1937/38 onwards, on upland plateau and hill edge west of the Clywedog Reservoir, generally between a height of about 300-500 metres above sea level, dissected by the river Clywedog and its tributaries, the Afon Lwyd, Afon Biga, Nant Felen and Nant Croes. Well-drained fine loamy or silty soils over rock on hill slopes, with slowly permeable upland soils, with some seasonal waterlogging, with peaty surface horizons on mudstone and shale drift deposits on the lower-lying ground. Historically, prior to afforestation, the land has been best suited to stock rearing on moorland and some permanent pasture of moderate grazing value. The Hafren Forest, which falls partly within the historic landscape area, is a modern name taken from the Welsh name for the Severn. Planting of the commercial forest, which now covers an area of over 40 square kilometres, commenced in 1937 and continued up to the 1950s and beyond, superseding upland grazing belonging to a number of upland farms. Today, parts of the Hafren Forest are now a popular leisure amenity, particularly for walking and cycling.

A number of recorded placenames in the historic landscape area indicate an historical association with upland grazing and livestock husbandry. The placename Cefn Hafodcadwgan and Hafod Cadwgan (the latter just outside the western boundary of the area) contain the element *hafod* ('summer house'), suggesting the former existence of seasonally-occupied upland farms perhaps of the medieval to earlier post-medieval periods. The second element of the name Cwmbiga (*buga*) is thought to be related to *buarth* ('farmyard') and *buwch* ('cow'), suggesting an association with medieval stock rearing or dairying, although derivation from a personal name has also been suggested. The names Cwmy Ffridd, Banc y Ffridd, Ffridd Newydd, and Ffridd Fawr all contain the element *ffridd* suggesting enclosed rough pasture on the mountain edge, the element being first recorded as *ffreeth Cwm Bigga* in 1540-41. The name Fign Aberbiga includes the element *mign* indicating boggy ground.

Early prehistoric settlement and land use is indicated by a cluster of upland Bronze Age burial mounds and a possible fallen standing stone on Cefn Lwyd, and a barrow in the hillslope at Pengeulan, and by a number of chance finds including a flint dagger of Beaker type found near Ysgubor Pen-y-bryn and a polished stone axe from Croes Uchaf.

About 12 upland sheep farms were purchased for the creation of the Hafren Forest by the Forestry Commission but only a small number of structures are known within the character area, including buildings at Ysbubor Pen-y-bryn and Ysgubor Banc-y-ffridd and a number of sheepfolds. The two farmsteads are associated with early field systems shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s and may both represent earlier farmsteads reduced to the status of a field barn (*ysgubor*) by the later 19th century. The farmstead of possible medieval origins at Cwmbiga is also included within the area. Only part of the southern area of the character area was subject to parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. Some of the north-western part of the area at Fign Aberbiga and Bwlch y Garreg-wen formed part of the manor of Talerddug that was excluded from parliamentary enclosure. Unenclosed areas here and in the remainder of the area not subject to parliamentary enclosure formed moorland enclosed by private agreement, that was subdivided by large straight-sided enclosures at the time of its afforestation.

Metal mining activity is represented by the remains of the 18th and 19th-century mine sett at Nantmelin, towards the head of the Nant Felen stream, below Llechwedd y Glyn, towards the southern part of the area, which was worked for copper and lead ore. Visible working remains include a deep adit, an upper level, shaft and the remains of tramway track beds and waste heaps. Water power was harnessed to drive pumping and processing equipment.

One of the few surviving early buildings in the area is the small farmstead of Cwmbiga which is mostly late 18th century but retains fragments of an earlier building. In name the farm is associated with the medieval upland grange belonging to Cwmhir abbey and may in origin represent the emergence of a permanent upland farm on the site of an earlier seasonal settlement during the later medieval to early post-medieval periods.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Bick 1990; Burt, Waite and Burnley 1990; Carr 1992; Clough and Cummins 1988; Edlin 1952; Jones 1983; Morgan 2001; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Thomas 1955-56; Thomas 1997; Thomas 1998; Walters 1994; Williams 1990

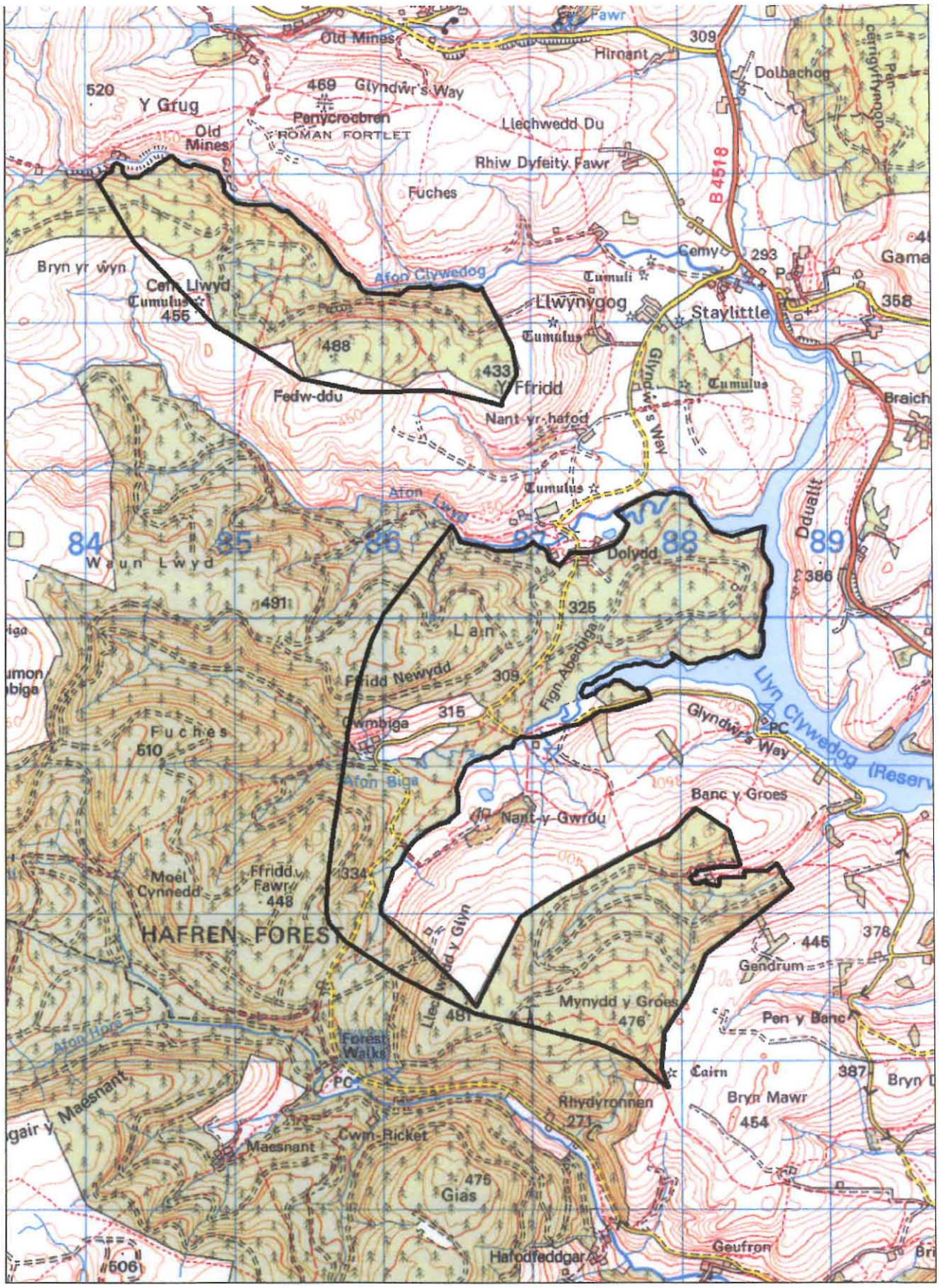
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of prehistoric burial mounds and associated structures and deposits*
- *Conservation and management of existing and abandoned farm complexes and cottages and associated deposits, illustrating the history of land use and enclosure from medieval times onwards*
- *Management of existing and abandoned traditional field boundaries*
- *Conservation and managment of above and below-ground metal mining and ore-processing remains and their setting*

Hafren Forest

Historic Landscape Character Area 1189

Trefeglwys and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys



Llyn Clywedog
Historic Landscape Character Area 1190
Trefeglwys and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys

Concrete dam and reservoir constructed during the 1960s in the steep-sided upper Clywedog valley to regulate water supplies in the Severn valley.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial township of Esgeiriaeth in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys and the manorial townships of Ystradhynod and Brithdir in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Sinuous modern reservoir at a height of about 290 metres above sea level, covering an area of about 240 hectares. Prior to flooding the valley floor would have been covered with slowly permeable and seasonally waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils overlying drift deposits derived from mudstones and shales, economically best suited to stock rearing and dairying on permanent grassland.

Following an enabling Act of Parliament, the dam and reservoir were constructed between 1964 and 1967 by damming the river Clywedog. The dam is 72 metres high and 230 metres long and is the tallest concrete dam in the United Kingdom. A second, much smaller embankment dam at Bwlch-y-gle, crossed by the Llanidloes to Machynlleth road (B4518) was built to prevent overflow into the Cerist valley. The reservoir and its dams were designed by the civil engineers Sir William Halcrow & Partners. The main contractors were Reed and Mallick of Salisbury. The dam is constructed of 11 independent concrete buttresses, the areas between the buttresses being hollow internally. It is unusual in curving downstream rather than upstream but its design was the result of concerns about the load-bearing properties of the rocks in the valley sides; rather than the pressure of the full weight of water being thrown onto the sides of the dam, which would have been the case if a single structure with an upstream curve had been constructed, the buttresses are designed to direct the thrust downwards to the valley floor. Construction involved a workforce of about 500 men who were accommodated in temporary buildings on the hillside above the dam near the present viewing area.

The reservoir involved the flooding of much of the former agricultural land represented by small irregular fields and a number of farms and former farms and cottages, including those at Aber-biga, Gronwen, Eldid, Croes-isaf, Grodir, Coppice-llwyd (Cwm-pwll-llwyd) and Llwybr-y-madyn, Ystrad-hynod, Merllyn and Draws-y-nant, many of which were probably of medieval to early post-medieval origin. Other archaeological sites affected included the Ystradhynod Bronze Age burial mound and standing stone, excavated in 1965-66 in advance of flooding, which lay on the valley floor below Dinas, sited relatively close to the banks of the river Clywedog. In addition to some local opposition, similar to that which had accompanied the construction of the Tryweryn reservoir near Bala a few years earlier, construction work was delayed for several months in 1966 by a bomb detonated within the construction site, for which it was widely suspected that a political extremist group, *Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru* (MAC), was responsible.

The reservoir generally fills with water over the winter months and at full capacity the reservoir holds about 50,000 megalitres of water. The prime purpose of the reservoir is to enable public water supply abstractions from the entire length of the river Severn to be sustained during dry summer months, whilst ensuring sufficient flow in the river to sustain environmental needs, though it also plays some role in flood prevention, particularly in the upper reaches of the Severn. The reservoir is currently owned and operated by Severn Trent Water Limited with oversight and regulation from the Environment Agency. The dam operating plant runs self-sufficiently via the use of a 500 kW hydroelec-

tric turbine. Llyn Clywedog is now a popular leisure amenity, offering a range of recreational activities including walking, cycling, bird watching, angling, windsurfing and sailing.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; ApSimon 1973; Hamer 1872; RCAHM 1911; Krause 1983; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales

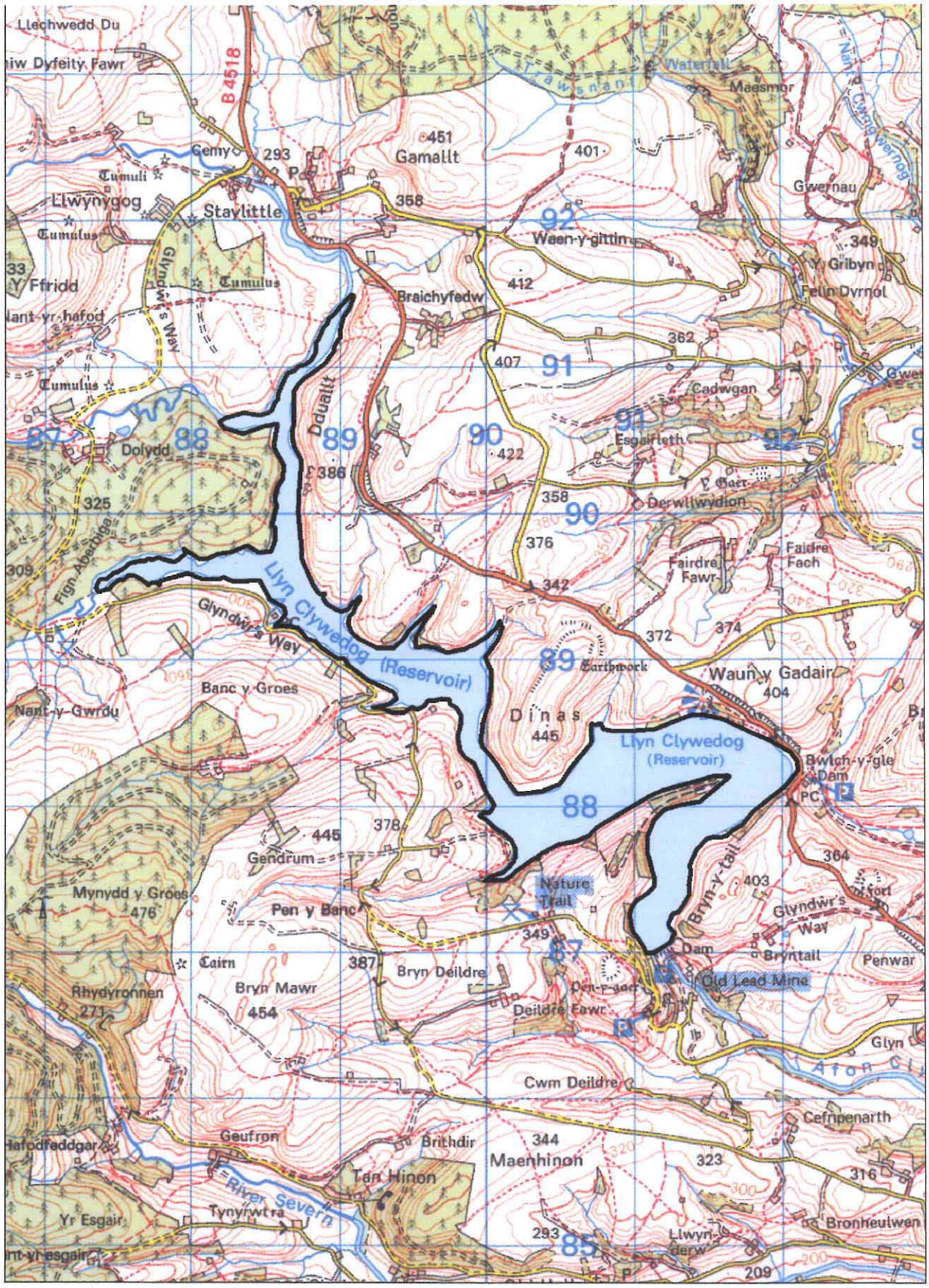
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of submerged structures and deposits illustrating the early history of the Clywedog valley*

Llyn Clywedog

Historic Landscape Character Area 1190

Trefeglwys and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys



Lluest-y-dduallt
Historic Landscape Character Area 1191
Trefeglwys community, Powys

Hill edge and prominent hilltops flanking the northern side of Clywedog Reservoir and including the large, later prehistoric hillfort of Dinas; fieldscapes predominantly representing 19th-century enclosure of former common land, with some earlier possibly seasonal settlements and encroachments resulting in widely dispersed farms.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial township of Esgeiriaeth in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys and the manorial township of Brithdir in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Hill edge and hilltops flanking the northern and eastern sides of the Clywedog Reservoir, between a height of 290-445 metres above sea level, dissected by steep-sided valleys of short streams feeding the Clywedog. Predominantly well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and woodland. The area contains a number of small, distinctive, isolated blocks of 20th-century conifer plantation.

Several placenames in the character area have elements which provide some evidence of historic settlement patterns. Lluest-y-fedw and Lluest-y-dduallt both contain the element *lluest* ('hut, cottage, shieling') suggesting an origin as small-scale or temporary habitations. The placename Bryn yr Hwrdd contains the element *hwrdd* ('ram') suggesting a traditional association with sheep husbandry.

Early settlement and land use is indicated by the Dinas hillfort on the summit of a prominent hill formerly within a loop of the river Clywedog and now overlooking the Clywedog Reservoir. The hillfort covers the substantial area of over 14 hectares and although its defences appear to be unfinished it seems likely to represent an important tribal centre of the later prehistoric Iron Age, possibly to be associated with the exploitation of extensive upland pastures around the headwaters of the Clywedog.

The predicted course of the Roman road from Caersws to the fortlet at Penycrocbren is thought to run through the northern part of the area and possibly underlies the line of the modern road at Gwartew.

A variety of mixed field patterns are represented in the area. Small irregular fields encircling some of the farms probably represent encroachments on former open grazing land, possibly in some instances originating as seasonal upland habitations during the medieval or early post-medieval periods, which subsequently became subsumed within patterns of large straight-sided fields representing more formal processes of enclosure. Some of the central part of the area, to the south and east of Lluest-y-dduallt, was the subject of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. Substantial areas to the northwards from Lluest-y-dduallt towards Gwartew and Gamallt survived as unenclosed common land at that time, having been enclosed since the 1880s.

A series of small roadside quarries recorded along the eastern part of the B4518 road were probably associated with improvements to the Llanidloes to Machynlleth turnpike road in the early 19th century. The western part of the road from just beyond Dinas to Staylittle is largely 20th-century in date, replacing the minor road further east.

A woollen mill formerly lay on the western margins of the area at Factory-isaf, powered by the river Clywedog.

Modern settlement is represented by widely dispersed farms which appear to have originated in the later medieval to early post-medieval periods as seasonally-occupied habitations or as encroachments on formerly unenclosed common land. The area also includes a number of abandoned and derelict farms possibly of medieval to early post-medieval origin, such as Lluest-y-fedw, resulting from the amalgamation of farm holdings during the 20th century.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Barton 1997; Hamer 1879; Hemp 1929; Hogg 1979; RCAHM 1911, Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Spurgeon 1972

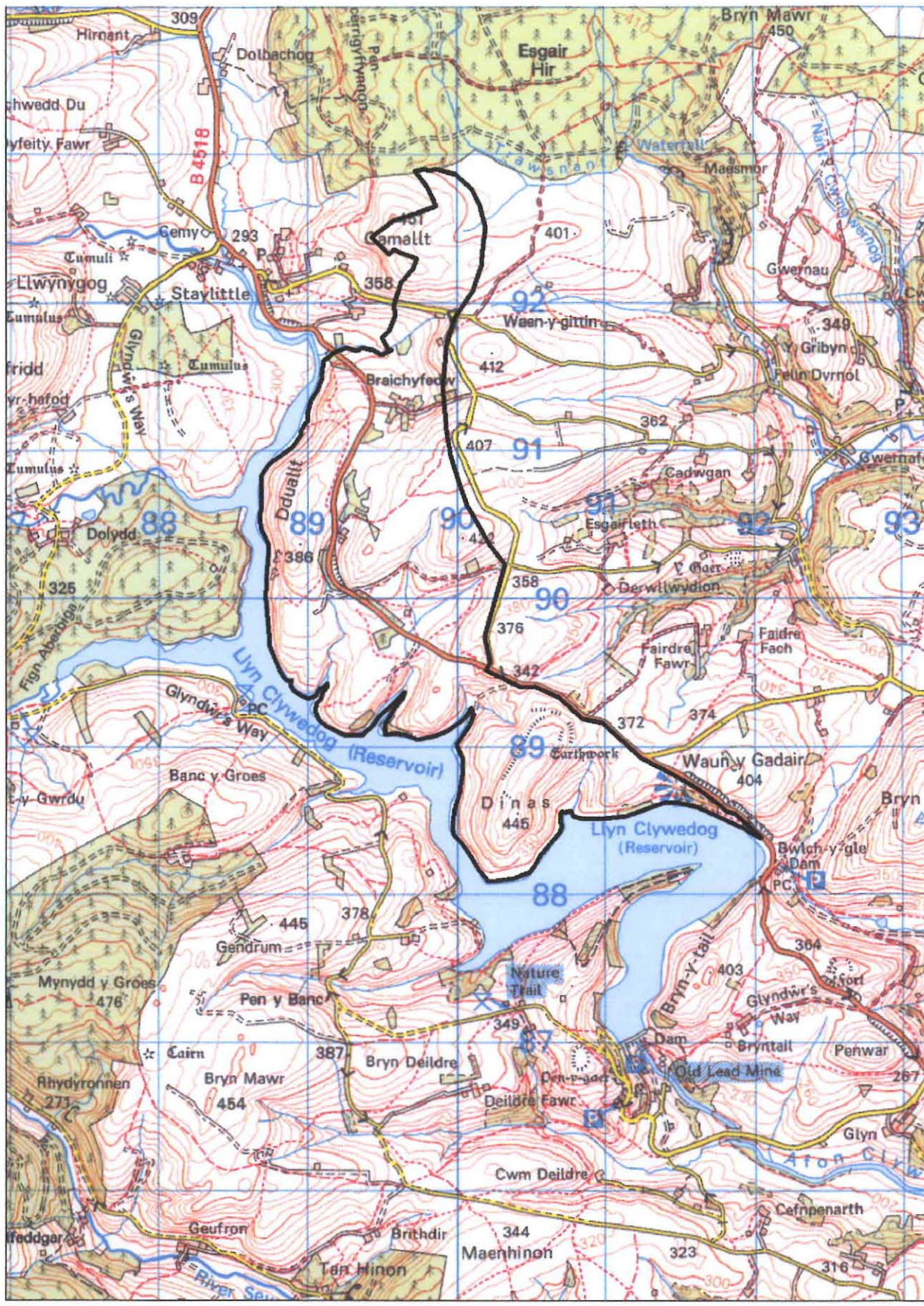
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of the Dinas later prehistoric defended enclosure, together with associated buried deposits and its setting*
- *Conservation of structures and deposits associated with transport history, including the course of the Roman road between Caersws and Penycrocrbren and the former Llanidloes to Machynlleth turnpike road*
- *Conservation and management of existing and abandoned farm complexes and cottages and associated deposits, illustrating the history of land use and enclosure from medieval times onwards*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*

Lluest-y-dduallt

Historic Landscape Character Area 1191

Trefeglwys community, Powys



Banc y Groes
Historic Landscape Character Area 1192
Llanidloes Without community, Powys

Upland plateau and hill edge south and west of the Clywedog Reservoir with widely dispersed farms of possibly medieval or early post-medieval origin associated with irregular fieldscapes and extensive 19th-century enclosure of former and existing common land; discrete mining landscapes.

Historic Background

The area largely fell within the manorial township of Ystradhynod in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Upland plateau and hill edge to the south and west of the Clywedog Reservoir, generally lying between a height of 290-460 metres above sea level, dissected by a number of stream valleys including the Nant Gwestyn, Nant Pen-y-banc, Nant Croes, Nant Felen, and Afon Biga. Predominantly well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and woodland. The area includes a number of small, 20th-century conifer plantations and shelter belts as well as several small, residual, sinuous areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scrub on the lower-lying steep-sided stream valleys of the Nant Pen-y-banc and Nant Gwestyn streams.

Recorded placenames in the historic landscape area are mostly topgraphical and provide little evidence of historic land use or settlement history.

Early prehistoric settlement and land use is indicated by the chance find of a stone axe hammer of Bronze Age date found near Pen-y-banc Farm and by a hilltop burial mound at Penycerrig. The small defended, hilltop enclosure with stone ramparts overlooking the Clywedog dam at Pen-y-gaer probably represents a period of settlement and land use associated with the exploitation of upland grazing during the later prehistoric Iron Age.

A mixture of fieldscape types are represented in the area and notably include irregular patterns of smaller fields encircling the lower-lying farms in stream valleys, such as Pen-y-rhynau, Foel Pen-y-banc, Deildre-fawr, Deildre-fach, and Gwestyn, which in origin appear to represent former seasonally-occupied habitations or encroachments within areas of more extensive open grazing during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Extensive areas of the higher ground throughout the character area were the subject of parliamentary enclosure during the earlier 19th century, represented by both large and small straight-sided fields, with the exception of substantial areas of Mynydd y Groes and Bryn Mawr in the western part of the area, which though partitioned into large straight-sided fields remain as registered Common Land.

Metal mining remains mostly of mid to later 19th-century date survive in a number of areas, notably a probable drainage adit in the valley of the Nant Felen at Nant-y-Gwrdu, below the Nantmelin mine, several shafts in the Gwestyn valley associated with the Aberdaunant mine, and the more extensive remains at Gwestyn, above the valley of the Nant Gwestyn, all of which exploited mineral veins shared by the Bryntail, Penyclun and Van mines to the north-east, from which copper and lead were extracted. The mining remains at Gwestyn survive over an area of 3 hectares on the broad upland ridge at Gwestyn now forming semi-improved pasture land, which largely date from the period between the 1850s and 1870s. Visible remains include a run of shafts, trials and collapsed workings along the vein, spoil heaps, a whim circle and possible capstan circle, a stone-lined drainage adit lower down the hill near the

Nant Gwestyn, and by the foundations of former mine buildings including a former engine house, explosives magazine and mine office but little ore processing appears to have been undertaken at the site. Power for drainage was also provided by a waterwheel driven by water from the Gwestyn, the use of water power being indicated by a number of earthwork reservoirs and leats.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Burnham 1975; Hamer 1873; Jones 1983; Jones, Walters and Frost 2004; Moore-Colyer 2002; Spurgeon 1972; RCAHM 1911; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Thomas 1955-56; Walters 1994; Williams 1990; Williams 1997

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of early prehistoric burial mounds and the Pen-y-gaer later prehistoric defended enclosure, together with associated buried deposits and their setting*
- *Conservation and management of farm complexes and cottages illustrating the history of land use and enclosure from medieval times onwards*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*
- *Management of ancient woodland*
- *Conservation and managment of above and below-ground metal mining and ore-processing remains and their setting*

Banc y Groes

Historic Landscape Character Area 1192

Llanidloes Without community, Powys

Fairdre
Historic Landscape Character Area 1193
Trefeglwys community, Powys

Upland plateau and wooded hill edge and stream valleys with dispersed farms of medieval origin associated with irregular field patterns together with areas of more regular field pattern representing 19th-century enclosure of former common land.

Historic Background

Part of the area formed a *maerdref* or bonded settlement. The settlement was attached to the principal court of the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed based at Talgarth, about 4 kilometres to the east, in the valley of the river Trannon near Trefeglwys, where the lord's main arable lands lay. In the 17th century parts of the area are described at the 'village' of *Y Faerdref* and parts as *Tir Bwrdd*, denoting lands belonging to the lord's demesne. The settlement, perhaps represented by a cluster of farms, is first recorded in the 1290s, one of the few upland *maerdrefi* in north-west Wales, and has been considered to provide a rare demonstration of the integration of upland and lowland holdings in a single bonded structure during the medieval period. Subsequently, the area fell within the manorial township of Esgeiriaeth in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Upland plateau and hill edge generally between a height of 300-445 metres above sea level dissected by steep-sided stream valleys draining northwards to the river Trannon, including the Nant Cwmcarreg-ddu. The western part of the area is covered with well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and woodland. The eastern part of the area is predominantly covered with slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils derived from shale and mudstone drift deposits which has historically been best suited to stock rearing and some dairying on permanent or short-term grassland and some cereal cultivation. Extensive sinuous tracts of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland survive along the steep-sided stream valleys on the northern side of the area.

The two adjacent farms, Fairdre Fawr and Fairdre Fach, contain the placename element *maerdre(f)* indicating the presence of a medieval 'hamlet' attached to a chief's court (together with the elements *fawr* 'great' and *fach* 'small'), confirming the association with medieval settlement patterns noted above. The name Sofl-ceirch attached to a small farmstead towards the eastern side of the area is derived from the elements *sofl* ('stubble') and *ceirch* ('oats') suggests a traditional association with cereal cultivation. The area today is predominantly pastoral but small areas of cereal cultivation associated with the principal farms are indicated in the mid 19th-century tithe survey.

Early prehistoric activity in the area is suggested by the chance discovery of a probably Bronze Age axe hammer found near Fairdre Fawr.

Fieldscapes on the lower-lying ground to the north and east are dominated by large and small irregular fields probably representing a process of gradual clearance and enclosure of former woodland from perhaps prehistoric, Roman and medieval times, with larger straight-sided fields on the higher ground to the south and west probably representing the enclosure of former open grazing land. An area of straight-sided fields towards the western side of the area was the subject of parliamentary enclosure during the earlier 19th century.

Modern settlement is represented by dispersed farms, including some of probable medieval origin, Fairdre Fawr and Fairdre Fach, and Borfa-newydd which on placename evidence possibly originated as an encroachment on the

edge of the former upland common on Bryn y Fan, enclosed as a result of the Arwystli enclosure act in the early 19th century.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Evans 1949-50; Jones 1964; Jones 1983; Morgan 2001; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothern and Drewett 1991

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Conservation of farm complexes and cottages illustrating the history of land use and enclosure from medieval times onwards*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*
- *Management of ancient woodland*
- *Conservation of structures and deposits associated with transport history, including the former Llanidloes to Machynlleth turnpike road*

Fairdre

Historic Landscape Character Area 1193

Trefeglwys community, Powys

Bryn y Fan
Historic Landscape Character Area 1194
Llanidloes Without community, Powys

Distinctive hills east of Clywedog Reservoir with small Iron Age defended settlement on a lower spur; largely regular fieldscapes representing 19th-century enclosure of common land.

Historic Background

The southern part of the area probably fell within the lands of *Deupiu*, part of which was granted to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella near Welshpool by Gwenwynwyn, prince of southern Powys, in the early years of the 13th century, and probably held by the abbey until its dissolution in about the middle of the 16th century, when it formed part of the manor of Talerddug. The area subsequently fell within the manorial township of Manledd in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Distinctive, steep-sided hills at a height of about 250-480 metres above sea level to the east of the Clywedog Reservoir between the watershed of the Clywedog and Trannon-Cerist drainage systems. Predominantly well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and woodland.

Later prehistoric settlement and land use is indicated by the Pen-y-clun hillfort which encloses and area of up to about a hectare on a hill spur towards the head of the Cerist valley. The hillfort, which was probably built and occupied during the pre-Roman Iron Age, has been affected by some quarrying and mining activity possibly related to the Pen-y-clun mine, several hundred metres to the east.

Fieldscapes are predominantly composed of both large and small straight-sided fields and moorland enclosures. Bryn y Fan in the northern part of the character area was unenclosed upland common until it was the subject of parliamentary enclosure in the earlier 19th century. The hill of Bryn-y-tail in and Pen-y-clun in the southern part of the area formed part of the manor of Talerddig that was excluded from parliamentary enclosure, but appears to have enclosed by private enclosure, perhaps by the earlier 19th century.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Burnham 1995; Forde-Johnston 1976; Jones 1983; RCAHM 1911; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Spurgeon 1972; Thomas 1997; Williams 1990

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of later prehistoric Pen-y-clun defended enclosure sites, associated buried deposits, its setting*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*

Bryn y Fan

Historic Landscape Character Area 1194

Llanidloes Without community, Powys

Manledd
Historic Landscape Character Area 1195
Trefeglwys, Llanidloes Without and Llanidloes communities, Powys

Valley bottoms, lower hills and steep hill edge around the lower Clywedog and upper Cerist and their tributaries; dispersed farms, some of medieval and early post-medieval origin, associated with irregular field patterns; extensive 19th-century enclosure of former common land in intervening areas represented by more regular field patterns and associated with former encroachments and with new farms; widespread largely 19th to early 20th century mining remains along the Van lode; sites of former 19th and early 20th-century woollen mills along the bank of the Clywedog.

Historic Background

Some of the central part of the area fell within the lands of *Deupiu* (identified as Penyclun), together with land called *Hirard* (identified as Hiriaeth) part of which was granted to the Cistercian abbey of Strata Marcella near Welshpool by Gwenwynwyn, prince of southern Powys, in the early years of the 13th century, and probably held by the abbey until its dissolution in about the middle of the 16th century, when it formed part of the manor of Talerddug. The area fell within the manorial townships of Brithdir, Manledd, and Glanhafren Iscoed in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes and the manorial township of Dolgwden in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Trefeglwys.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Valley bottoms, lower hills and steep hill edge of the lower Clywedog and its tributary the Nant Gwestyn draining to the south-east and the Cerist and its tributary the Nant Gwden draining to the north-east, generally between a height of 150-300 metres above sea level. The hillslopes are predominantly covered with well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and woodland. The valleys of the lower Clywedog, Gwestyn, Cerist and lower Gwden are covered with slowly permeable and seasonally waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils derived from mudstone and shales drift deposits, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and dairying on permanent grassland and cereals in some better-drained areas. Relict areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scrub survive on some of the steeper hill slopes and valley sides of the Gwden, the upper Cerist, and bordering the lower Clywedog just to the west of Llanidloes and bordering the Severn valley north of Llanidloes. Some of the conifer and mixed woodland on the steep slopes of the Clywedog valley to the west of Llanidloes appears to represent ancient replanted woodland, replanted in the early 19th century following parliamentary enclosure of parts of this area.

Placenames provide some evidence of settlement and land use history in the character area. The name Cae-garw contains the elements *cae* ('field') and *carw* ('deer, stag'), whilst other names include elements associated with stock rearing: Pwll-yr-ebol contains the elements *pwll* ('hollow') and *ebol* ('colt'), and Bron-y-geifr appears to contain the element *geifre* ('flock of goats'). Bidffald (formerly Bitfal) is derived from the English *pinfold*, an animal pound. Grazing land is indicated by the elements *dol* ('meadow') in Dolgwden (first recorded in the 1570s) and the element *gwaun* ('mountain pasture') in Ty'n-y-waen. The farm Lluest-wen, north of Y Fan contains the element *lluest* ('hut, cottage, shieling') suggesting an origin as a small and possibly temporary habitation. Numerous placenames in the area, such as Coed Cefnpennarth, Coed Cwmeryr, Coed y Glyn, Cringoed, and Coed Glangwden include the element *coed* ('wood') most of which refer to areas of existing or replanted ancient woodland though others, such as Cefngoleugoed, probably refer to former areas of ancient woodland that have now disappeared.

Bronze Age activity is represented by a bronze axe found at Hiriaeth. Later prehistoric settlement and land use in the area is indicated by the defended earthwork enclosures at Dolgwden and Pen-y-castell on low hills north of Y Fan which enclose areas of up to 0.3 and 1 hectare respectively.

The character area includes a variety of different fieldscapes representing a number of distinct patterns of land use and enclosure. Characteristic large and small irregular fields, particularly on the more lower-lying and less steeply sloping ground, as in the valleys of the Clywedog and upper Cerist, often clustered around farmsteads of potentially medieval to early post-medieval origin, probably represent a gradual process of woodland clearance and enclosure from at least early medieval or medieval times. Cultivation in the area during the Middle Ages is to be associated with the evidence for a corn watermill operated by a leat from the river Cerist at Melin-y-wern at Y Fan, first recorded in the 1290s. A corn mill was still in operation here in the 1670s which had been converted to a fulling mill in the 1840s but closed by the 1880s probably due to ore processing operations in the same area.

About a quarter of the area, however, particularly of the higher and steeper ground and woodland, including the ridge running north from Llanidloes to Gellilefrith, Garth Hill southwards to Cringoed in the Clywedog valley, and hillslopes north of Y Fan and around the upper valley of the Nant Gwden, survived as unenclosed common grazing land until subject to parliamentary enclosure in the earlier 19th century which probably engulfed a number of earlier encroachments. This is reflected by the distinctive patterns of large and small straight-sided fields in the areas of more irregular fields representing an earlier process of more piecemeal enclosure. Some unenclosed land in the western part of the area, between Bryntail and Penyclun, which formed part of the manor of Talerddig were subject of private enclosure, being excluded from parliamentary enclosure. The pattern of straight-sided field in the Cerist valley appears to represent a process of landscape reorganisation following the canalization of the river when the Van Railway was built in 1871.

The character area includes an important series of archaeological remains of extraction and processing of metal ores. Amongst the earliest evidence is an ancient iron bloomery site possibly of medieval date near the Nant Gwden stream to the south of Cwmbernant Farm, probably based on local deposits of sedimentary bog iron which were widely exploited in upland areas of Britain for the production of iron. An iron mine is recorded in operation in the 1290s in the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed, though its location is unknown.

Later metal-mining, particularly of the second half of the 19th century, involved the production of lead as well as quantities of copper, zinc and barytes. The industry was based on the exploitation of a rich mineral vein striking across the area for a distance of 6 kilometres regardless of topography, from Aberdaunant Mine in the valley of the Nant Gwestyn in the south-east, via Bryntail Mine in the Clywedog valley, to Glyn Mine and Penyclun Mine, Van Mine in the Cerist valley, and East Van Mine (Cwmdylluan Mine) in the valley of the Nant Gwden and its tributaries in the north-east. Remains of the former mining industry lie widely scattered over about 180 hectares of what is now an essentially agricultural landscape.

The Aberdaunant Mine, which produced lead and copper ores, was worked from the late 18th century up until the late 1870s, in addition to some evidence of some early levels and trials of the later prehistoric, Roman or medieval periods. Visible workings, which are mostly of the later 19th century including several adits and an engine shaft, ore slide, wheel pit, leat, and the remains of an engine house and mine office building. Power was provided by a waterwheel supplied with water carried by a leat, rock-cut in places, from the Nant Gwestyn which operated rock crushers, jiggers and buddles though little visible trace of these survive.

Bryntail Mine, a Guardianship Monument in the care of Cadw, was worked between the late 18th century up to the late 1860s, producing lead ore and barytes. Visible workings are largely of 19th century date and include 3 main shafts and a deep adit, well-preserved remains of an earthwork incline, tramway track beds, a leat which once carried water drawn from the Clywedog further upstream, substantial remains of buildings including structures which housed pumping and winding machinery, a barytes mill, mine office, smithy and store building, a circular explosives magazine, together with wheelpits for winding and crushing machinery, ore bins, roasting ovens and precipitation tanks, jigger placements, a washing and picking floor area, buddles, slime pits.

The Glyn Mine, between the Bryntail and Penyclun mines, active between 1870 and the 1930s, produced lead ore and barytes, which was mostly processed at Bryntail. Visible remains include two shafts, opencuts and trial shafts, slight traces of a former engine house, and a small reservoir.

The Penyclun Mine lies within an enclosed lowland landscape on an east-facing slope, below the ramparts of Penyclun hillfort produced lead ore between the 1860s and the 1930s and was for a time the most productive mine in Montgomeryshire. Much of the former mining landscape at Penyclun, particularly the ore processing areas, have been largely obscured by a land reclamation scheme, but the site is of particular interest for the rare survival of a small Cornish engine house and chimney. Its setting, which includes the main shaft, connecting adit and other structures including two reservoirs, covers an area of about 1.5 hectares.

The extensive mining remains at Van were actively worked for the production of lead and zinc ores between 1850 and 1920. Visible and buried remains include 5 shafts, 3 adits and levels, and some early trials, inclines to carry ores to the processing areas and coal to an engine house, a waterwheel pit survive which was initially used for pumping and subsequently to drive a crusher, the remains of engine houses used for pumping, winding and for operating processing machinery including crusher houses, stamps, jiggers, and buddles, and a halvans mill built in the 1870s for reprocessing the spoil tips, slime pits, and a gas producer erected in 1916. Water for driving machinery and other processes was carried by a leat from the Cerist and the natural valley-bottom lake at Llyn y Fan and from the reservoir created towards the head of the valley about a kilometre to the west, beyond Manledd-uchaf. Other structures included a sawmill, coalhouses, carpenters shop, mine office and a loading bay or surge bin to hold ore trammed out of the main adit. Parts of the works were reused as a paintworks in the 1930s. The Van Railway, a dismantled standard-gauge railway connection to Caersws, was created in 1871 as a branch of the Cambrian Railway for hauling processed ore as well as passengers. Much of the course of this line remains visible running along the road past Van Terrace and by field boundaries alongside the river Cerist that was canalized and straightened at this period. Former stations on the line existed within the character area near Penisafmanledd and Garth and Van Station near Y Fan.

The East Van (Cwmdylluan) Mine was worked for lead ore in the valley of the Nant Gwyden and its tributaries to the north-east of Y Fan in the period between 1870 and 1882. Visible workings include 3 shafts as well as a long adit and 4 levels. The foundations of an engine and boiler house and possible coal store built in the early 1870s, survive together with a brick chimney to the east of Pwll-yr-ebol farm, together with a brick-built mine stables and possibly smithy, now used for agricultural purposes. There are no surviving remains of processing, which was probably undertaken at the Van Mine.

The woollen industry was active in the lower Clywedog valley to the west of Llanidloes during the later 18th and 19th centuries, exploiting the power of the river. The former Glynne Flannel Factory, near Glynne Cottages, was fed by mill race beginning about half a kilometre upstream. The former Cribynau Flannel Factory, near Cribynau Mill Cottage, was likewise fed by leat. A terraced tentering field on steep south-facing hillslope next to the factory is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s which is also shown in contemporary photographs.

The woodland area at Allt Goch, north of Llanidloes, owned by the town council, has been developed as an amenity area.

Present-day buildings and settlement patterns within the historic landscape area derive from a complex series of influences. An underlying pattern of widely dispersed farms and cottages associated with irregular and more anciently enclosed fields probably originated during the medieval and later medieval periods, of which at least some, such as Hiriaeth, were in existence by at least the early 13th century. There are no surviving medieval or late medieval buildings within the character area but a number of former or surviving later medieval to early post-medieval buildings indicate earlier traditions of timber-framing characterised in the area during the Middle Ages, including those recorded

at Glangwden, Pant yr Ongle and Cwmeryr Bach and Hiriaeth, of which Hiriaeth, dated to 1722, is a relatively late example.

The use of timber appears to have gradually been replaced by stone, probably during the 17th and 18th centuries, perhaps following a period of transition in which both materials were used in combination. Stone buildings of this period are built of rough rubble, sometimes, particularly in the case of domestic buildings, rendered and/or limewashed. Farms seem to have been relatively small (2-3 unit houses), sometimes planned as a single range or as a simple cluster, most of the accommodation in older farm buildings being largely for cattle, such as the farm at Cwmdylluan, just north-east of Y Fan, which has a probably 17th-century farmhouse with early farm buildings including a barn and cow-house. Before the 19th century most of the buildings within the character area fell firmly within vernacular building traditions, perhaps the only exception being the farmhouse at Glyn Clywedog, which was a major Renaissance building, most probably built as the lodge to a mansion of the Glynne family that was probably never built.

Some encroachments probably began to appear on the swathes of unenclosed commons from at least the 17th and 18th centuries onwards and although it is now difficult to point to certain surviving examples of dwellings of this kind, this was almost certainly the origin of the former cottage Potatoe Hall on the hills north of Llanidloes which has been demolished in recent years. This and other similar encroachment cottages may originally have been built turf and clay, as suggested in the case of the former roadside dwelling known as Clod Hall near Bidffald, mentioned in Hamer's history of Llanidloes.

The enclosure of common land opened up the opportunity for improvements to existing farms and the creation of new 'improved' farms by a number of the estates as a consequence of enclosure. The farm with a brick-built farmhouse and courtyard like arrangement of farm buildings at Gellilefrith was newly erected within an area of former unenclosed common on the hills north of Llanidloes between the enactment of enclosure act in 1826 and the tithe survey of 1846. Garth farmhouse and farm buildings of 1870, just south of Y Fan, have a clear estate character, and again lay on land enclosed, during the early 19th century. The farm was the property of Earl Vane, lessor of the Van lead-mines, and provides an interesting illustration of the relationship of industry and agriculture in the area in the later 19th century. A number of other smaller farms in the Y Fan area such as Penisafmanledd, again on the edge of former common land, suggest investment in during this period. Other new settlements on the edge of former unenclosed commons are suggested by houses in existence by the 19th century whose name includes the element 'new', as for example at New House and Ty-newydd ('New House').

During the earlier phases of the metal mining industry within the character area the workforce was either drawn from the surrounding farms and villages or travelled in each day from Llanidloes. It was only during the later phases of the industry from the 1870s and 1880s that purpose-built housing was provided by the mining company, but still even so only for a relatively small proportion of workers. Van Terrace is a significant surviving example of miners cottages, consisting of a single row of about 18 simple two-storey dwellings built alongside the processing works and railway although some of the formality and unity of the rows has been lost by the indiscriminate painting and rendering of the original brickwork. Other surviving buildings which formed part of this dispersed mining settlement include houses provided for the mine manager and engineers and two nonconformist chapels of the Calvinistic Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist denominations, the latter originally provided with a library. The mine owners did not permit the opening of an inn at the settlement.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Barton 1997; Bick 1977; Bick 1990; Burt, Waite and Burnley 1990; Carr 1992; Cozens 1953; Cozens, Kidner and Poole 2004; Foster-Smith 1978; Grimes 1951; Hamer 1872; Jenkins 1989; Jones 1922; Jones 1954; Jones and Moreton 1977; Jones, Walters and Frost 2004; Morgan 2001;

Thomas 1955-56; Richards 1969; RCAHM 1911; Smith 1975; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothern and Drewett 1991; Spurgeon 1972; Thomas 1997; Walters 1994; Williams 1990; Williams and Bick 1992

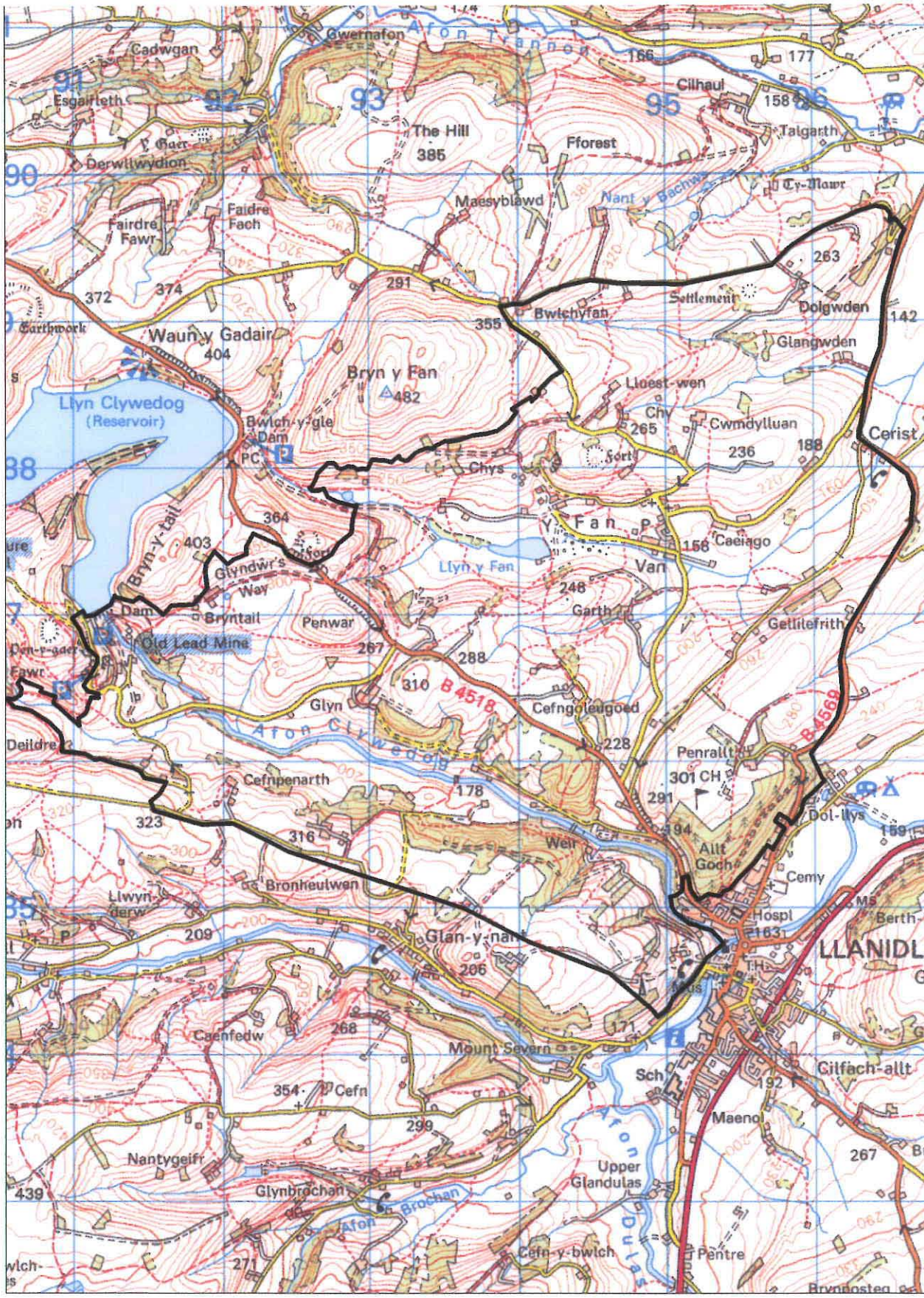
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of later prehistoric defended enclosure sites, associated buried deposits, their setting*
- *Conservation and management of existing and abandoned farm complexes and cottages and associated deposits, illustrating the history of land use and enclosure from medieval times onwards*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries*
- *Conservation and management of above and below-ground metal mining and ore-processing remains and their setting*
- *Management of buildings and structures associated with transport history, including the former Llanidloes to Machynlleth and Llanidloes to Trefeglwys turnpike roads and the Van Railway*
- *Management and conservation of buildings and structures associated with the woollen industry along the lower Clywedog valley*

Manledd

Historic Landscape Character Area 1195

Trefeglwys, Llanidloes Without and Llanidloes communities, Powys



Llanidloes
Historic Landscape Character Area 1196
Llanidloes community, Powys

Modern Severn valley town with medieval origins, which rapidly expanded to become an important regional industrial and commercial centre between the later 18th and earlier 20th centuries due initially to the woollen industry, later sustained by other manufacturing industries, and by metal-mining in its hinterland and its strategic siting on trans-Wales routes on former drovers' roads, turnpike roads, and railway network, and a modern trunk road.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial townships of Cilmachallt and Glynhafren Iscoed in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Modern town of medieval origins occupying the floor of the Severn valley near its confluence with the Clywedog, at a height of about 160-170 metres above sea level, recently described by Richard Haslam as 'one of the nicest towns in Wales'. The valley floor is covered with deep well-drained silty soils derived from river alluvium, gravelly in places, which have historically been best suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent and short-term grassland and with some cereal production where flood risk is low. The town is strategically sited at the junction of historically important communications routes linking mid and west Wales, at a locally wider part of the Severn valley, near its confluence with the Clywedog and Dulas rivers and close to a fording point on the Severn. The earlier part of the town occupies a terrace on the east bank of the river which rises gently to the east.

The date of the earliest settlement is uncertain, but the presence of the church dedicated to St Idloes, a daughter church of the *clas* church at Llandinam, suggests an early medieval origin. The holy well known as Ffynnon Idloes which formerly existed in the Lower Green area (close to the present football ground), may also date from this period. It seems possible that the church may have been attached to or become associated with a manorial centre by the medieval period, possibly associated with a poorly documented motte-and-bailey castle in the Smithfield Street and Mount Street area, though it is possible that this was associated with the borough created by the lords of Powys in the second half of the 13th century. The town, first documented in 1263, became an administrative and commercial centre for the commote of Arwystli Uwchcoed, with a grid-like street layout characteristic of planted medieval towns. The plan has two principal axes with four roads, now named Long Bridge Street, Short Bridge Street, Great Oak Street and Smithfield Street, originally focused on the market cross, where the Old Market Hall is now sited. The right to hold weekly markets and twice-yearly fairs was granted to Owain de la Pole, prince of Powys, by King Edward I in 1280. A corn mill was in operation by the 1290s. During the final decades of the 13th century and the end of the first decade of the 14th century its population expanded rapidly in size but possibly remained fairly stable during the later Middle Ages. The town remained relatively small and its predominantly Welsh inhabitants not particularly prosperous, and though its markets and fairs were only of local importance they were surprisingly lucrative. The town is thought to have been provided with defences during the Middle Ages which may have comprised a wooden palisade ditch, and though the course of these is uncertain at least two former gateways are indicated by the name High Gate on the west and Severn Porte on the north. Two bridges across the Severn, possibly both of timber, are shown on Saxton's map of 1578.

St Idloes' Church, with some surviving 14th- and 15th-century fabric, appears to be the only surviving medieval building in the town. The church underwent considerable rebuilding in the middle of the 16th century when the hammerbeam roof was built and when part of the arcade from the nave of the Cistercian abbey at Cwmhir was moved

there. Further substantial restoration work took place in the early 1880s. Some evidence survives of a post-medieval tradition of timber-framed construction survives within the town, some with later brick facades. Notable buildings including the Old Market Hall which it thought to date to about 1600, Perllandy on China Street, which dates to about 1630, as well as a number of fairly high-status buildings of 18th-century date such as the Trewythen Arms, but the Angel Inn, which is dated 1748, remains within a vernacular tradition.

The town underwent a period of rapid growth during the later 18th and 19th centuries which for a time placed it in terms of size amongst the top forty towns in Wales, borne of a prosperity based initially upon the expansion of the textile industry in the early 19th century though like the like other Montgomeryshire factory towns at Welshpool and Newtown it retained its essentially rural character. There are several small weaving factories in the town which exhibit an interesting typological diversity from small back-yard workshops to the later more substantial mills which harnessed water power provided by the river Severn. There is little evidence for a purely domestic industry, though Highgate Terrace on Penygreen is an important example, with an open weaving loft. Later larger mills include the Short Bridge Street Flannel Mill of 1834, the Llanidloes Flannel Mill, the Glan Clywedog Mill, the Phoenix Mill and the Cambrian Mill. The intense economic depression of the textile industry and the resulting poor working conditions, unemployment and poverty were seen as the root cause of the Chartist riots in the town in 1839, which despite the transportation and imprisonment of many of those that had played a leading role in the disturbances, fuelled an enduring radical political tradition within the town.

A further spur to the expansion of the town in the early 19th century was provided by the release of land resulting enclosure of the lowland commons known as Upper Green to the south of the town and Lower Green to the north of the town together with a strip of land running up to Dol-llys north of the Severn, which were subject to parliamentary enclosure. The town also benefited from its position as an important communications centre, acting as staging point on the turnpike road to Machynlleth and Aberystwyth, and also developed as a commercial centre by virtue of the numerous metal mines in the hinterland to the west and north as well as continuing to develop as a market town for sheep, cattle, agricultural produce and as a commercial centre for the surrounding area. The town was well-endowed with purpose-built inns and shops in the 19th century of which many survive with little alteration, providing a clear demonstration of the economic function of the town and a mark of its prosperity. Well-preserved shop fronts in particular make an important contribution to the architectural character of the town.

By at least the 18th century, if not much earlier, building had become relatively dense along the two main streets meeting at the market hall. During the course of the 19th century there was some development in the 'back-lands' as burgage plots, gardens and open land behind the medieval street frontages became infilled with ancillary buildings associated with street frontage properties and some minor additional streets which accommodated terraces of workers houses, as well as a considerable amount of rebuilding and refronting of earlier buildings. During the 19th century there was also some expansion of the built-up area beyond its original medieval limits with terraces extending along the approach roads to the town and suburban development to the south and east and across the river to the north of the Severn. Significant variations in the size of houses are evident during this period, those close to the centre of the town being typically three-storeyed and relatively substantial whilst further away, especially in the back streets, are predominantly, smaller two-storeyed terraces, many of which seem to have housed industrial workers. Foundry Terrace, built in about 1860 to house foundry workers, formed part of an important development including a possible manager's houses within yards of the railway works in Foundry Lane.

Although the town is located at a river crossing and has two bridges over the Severn, the focus of development is along the lines of through routes, and houses generally turn their back to the river. The two river bridges were designed by Thomas Penson. The Long Bridge, to the north of the town is a substantial stone bridge with three arches which was widened in the 1930s. The bridge was originally built in 1826 as part of the improvements to the turnpike roads northwards to Trefeglwys and north-westwards to Machynlleth and replaced an earlier timber bridge about 60 yards downstream and more directly in line with Long Bridge Street. The Short Bridge, on the road leading westwards to

Llangurig is a stone bridge with a single arch built in 1850 replacing an earlier stone bridge.

The outer suburbs fringing the town, particularly those with a more picturesque setting to the north and west, include a significant number of substantial houses or rural 'villas', built or extended by industrialists moving out of the town and rural landowners wishing to have property in close proximity to it. These 19th-century detached residences in the vicinity of the town, include Dol-llys Hall of 1803-13, Dolenog of 1837-39, Mount Severn, of 1826 (built for the town's mayor), Maenol of 1832, and Summerfield Park built by the Thomas Jones, owner of Cambrian Mills and Spring Mills. As a result, there is an exceptionally good sequence of 19th-century domestic and commercial architecture in the town together with some important public buildings and institutions, including the gaol of 1838-39, the Police Station, and the Public Rooms of 1838 (later the Laura Ashley shop), which was built to include a flannel market as well as a court and concert room. The town became an important regional centre of nonconformism, with chapels of various different denominations and possesses an important series of nonconformist chapels, with building or rebuilding dates of 1862, 1872-4, 1876, 1878.

Architecturally, building in the town displays an interesting sequence of development in the use of materials during the course of the 18th and early 19th centuries, in which timber framing was displaced by stone, frequently rendered, and by brick which came into more widespread use during the 19th century. Polite architectural fashion in the early 19th century dictated the use of render, sometimes lined-out to imitate ashlar, but from about mid century onwards there was greater 'honesty' in the use of materials within the town, which fostered a growing interest in the decorative properties of brick and slate. Although there is a range of materials and detail, not least a notable variety in brick colour, stylistically there is considerable uniformity, with Georgian symmetry and detail still being used well into the 19th century. Nonetheless, Llanidloes can also boast some extravagant interpretations of the domestic gothic style, most notably at 7-11 Cambrian Place and Brynderwen and Woodlands Road, whose exuberance also suggests considerable confidence in the adoption of this style. The transition from vernacular to polite architectural traditions is potentially an interesting indicator of rising levels of prosperity and sophistication. Traditional forms of planning such as the lobby-entry plan typical of the region, still occur in the 18th century, but polite architectural forms became dominant in the 19th century. This transition is also marked in alterations to existing building stock such as the refronting of timber-framed buildings in brick, for example, or their more comprehensive remodelling as at 40-42 High Street, which began as a row of single storeyed timber-framed cottages.

Whilst there are some examples of vernacular or regionally planned houses within the town (Perllandy, the Angel Inn, 4-6 Shortbridge Street, The Royal Head Inn, Shortbridge Street), much of the architecture takes the form of urban town houses and especially of terraced rows, the latter giving evidence for an organised, relatively formal building process associated with 19th-century urban development: composition was achieved either by the repeat of identical units, by reflected pairs, or other attempts at symmetry. There were also some examples of back-to-back housing, as for example at Brynhafren on Penygreen Road, again attesting Llanidloes's role as an industrial town. The unified frontages of some terraces, as in Long Bridge Street for example, conceal a much more complex building history revealed to the rear, suggesting that these terraces may have been the result of the amalgamation of previously more fragmented holdings. Although the terrace is dominant, there are some important examples of individual town houses, including the former Trewythen Arms Hotel, which was built as a private house in the late 18th century but later became an inn. Castle House, Shortbridge Street was another later 18th-century townhouse. Possibly like other houses in the town, it was divided into two properties in 1837, probably as a consequence of the growth of the town during the 19th-century and its changing economic and social structure.

Engineering industries developed and expanded during the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries following the collapse of the textile industry, notably based upon the former Llanidloes Iron Foundry which specialised in the production of agricultural and mining equipment, and the Railway Works which represented a substantial industrial development within the town. Other significant industries in the town during the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries included the former leather factory at Spring Mills tannery and leatherworks which took over the premises of a former

woollen mill, flour mill, malthouses, and the former gas works on Victoria Avenue, using coal brought in by rail. Printing became a significant industry in the town during the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries when the town developed a reputation as an active literary centre. Various printing works, generally occupying small premises within the town, were involved in the production of journals and other works of a religious nature for a number of nonconformist denominations, particularly in the Welsh language, Welsh choral music, travel guides for the burgeoning tourist market in mid Wales, and local newspapers.

The Llanidloes and Newtown railway was completed in 1859 and although somewhat unusually it remained detached from the national rail network for a couple of years it eventually became connected in 1861 once the Welshpool to Newtown line was completed. In 1864 the Mid Wales Railway line south from Llanidloes to Rhayader and on to Builth Road and Three Cocks was also been opened, which subsequently amalgamated with the Cambrian Railway Company. An unusually large and imposing railway station, built as the headquarters of the Cambrian Railway Company, was built on the south-east of the town centre in 1864. The station survives but many other former railway buildings and structures have now gone, including a goods shed, engine shed and turntable.

Due to increasing competition with road traffic by the middle of the 20th century the Newtown to Llanidloes line was closed to passengers south of Moat Lane Junction near Caersws in 1963, but continued to carry some freight until 1967, having been kept open to transport materials used for the construction of the Clywedog reservoir west of Llanidloes, whose construction was completed in 1966. The Llanidloes bypass, to the east of the town, first mooted in the late 1960s due to traffic congestion, was opened in 1991, partly occupying a new cutting created on the line of the former railway, well below the level of the former railway station.

Many of the industries which supported the town declined during the 20th century. As a consequence of local government reorganisation in 1974 the town lost its borough status.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Anthony 1995; Barton 1997; Beresford 1988; Carr 1992; Carter 1965; Davies 1861; Davies 1973; Davies 1985; Davies 2005; Evans 1812; Hamer 1872-76; Haslam 1979; Horsfall-Turner 1908; Howell 1875-83; Jenkins 1969; Jervoise 1936; Jones 1954; Jones 1984; Jones 1985; Lewis 1833; Miles and Suggett 2003; Morgan 1983; Morgan et al. 1991; Morris 1976-68; Morris 1993; O'Neil 1934; Owen 2003; Parliamentary Gazetteer 1843; Pennant 1783; Rees et al. 2007; Richards 1969; Robinson 2006; Silvester 1992; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Soulsby 1983; Smith 1975; Spurgeon 1966; Thomas 1955-56; Vaughan Owen 1969-70

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of buried deposits and structures associated with the history of the town*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures and their setting, illustrating the social, economic, industrial and cultural history the town as an important regional urban centre*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structure associated with transport history, including former turnpike roads, bridges, and railways*

Llanidloes

Historic Landscape Character Area 1196

Llanidloes community, Powys

Gorn Hill

Historic Landscape Character Area 1197
Llanidloes and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys

Steeply sloping hill edge south of the Severn valley with widely dispersed farms, woodland plantations of 19th-century origin and mostly regular fieldscapes probably representing enclosure of former upland grazing and former common land in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial township of Cilmachallt in the 19th-century Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanidloes.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Steeply sloping hill edge to the south and east of the Severn valley overlooking Llanidloes, between a height of 170-320 metres above sea level, dissected by steep-sided stream valleys including the Lletty Cochnant stream. The lower-lying parts of the area are covered with slowly permeable and seasonally waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils derived from mudstone and shales drift deposits, which historically has been best suited to stock rearing and dairying on permanent grassland and cereals in some better-drained areas. The higher parts of the area are covered with well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils overlying rock, which have historically been best suited to stock rearing, with woodland on steeper slopes. Substantial parts of the higher ground, including Berth-lwyd Coppice were already covered with woodland plantations in the later 19th century, parts of which have since been felled and returned to rough grazing. Areas of sinuous semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scrub survive along some steep-sided stream valleys and on steep slopes elsewhere in the area.

Only a small number of placenames are recorded within the area, but it is probably significant that the stream Lletty Cochnant, a tributary of the Severn at Llanidloes, includes the element *llety* ('small house, shelter') indicating the former presence of small and possibly seasonally-occupied dwellings. Few archaeological sites are recorded in the character area, mostly a scattering of small, disused stone quarries which probably provided building for Llanidloes and the surrounding area.

Fieldscapes are characterized by large and small straight-sided fields on the higher ground, probably representing enclosure of former open grazing in the later 18th century onwards, and by small irregular fields on the lower slopes which probably represent a more gradual process of clearance and enclosure from at least medieval times. Parts of the area were subject to parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century.

Sources

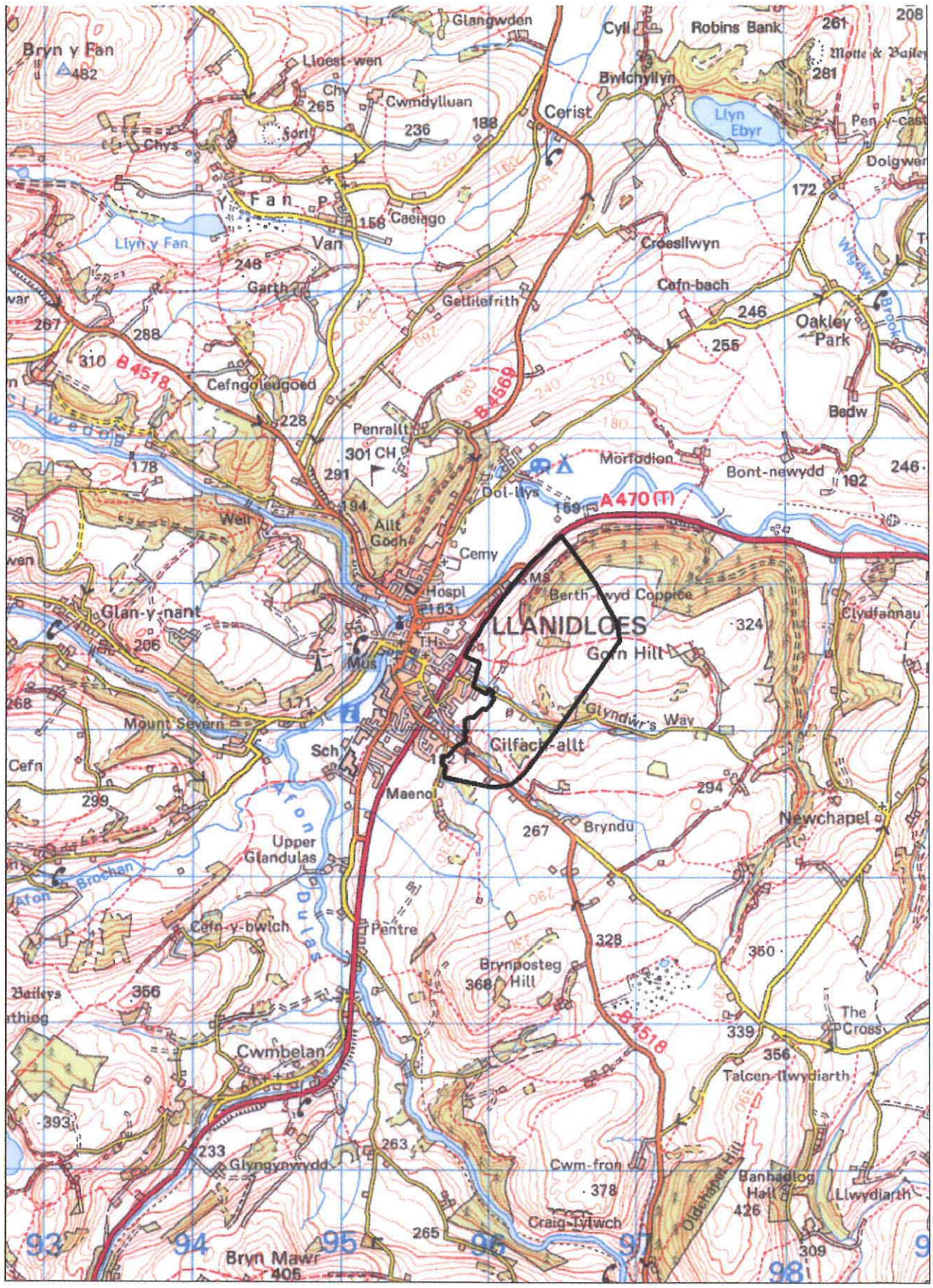
Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Jones 1983; Richards 1969; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothern and Drewett 1991; Thomas 1955-56

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of traditional field boundaries*

Gorn Hill

Historic Landscape Character Area 1197
Llanidloes and Llanidloes Without communities, Powys



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Appendix 1: Chronological Guide

The following chronological guide is adapted from that given in the Council for British Archaeology's online British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography, available at <http://www.biab.ac.uk/chronology.asp>. This provides an indication of the approximate span of each period in calendar years. These dates should not be taken as definitive or absolute and may well be debated.

Earlier Prehistoric

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000 BC

- Lower Palaeolithic 500,000-70,000 BC
- Middle Palaeolithic 70,000-35,000 BC
- Upper Palaeolithic 35,000-10,000 BC
- Early Upper Palaeolithic 35,000-20,000 BC
- Last Glacial 23,000-15,000 BC
- Late Upper Palaeolithic 15,000-10,000 BC

Mesolithic 10,000-4000 BC

- Earlier Mesolithic 10,000-8000 BC
- Later Mesolithic 8,000-4000 BC

Neolithic 4000-2300 BC

- Early Neolithic 4000-3400 BC
- Later Neolithic 3400-2300 BC

Bronze Age (BA) 2300-700 BC

- Early Bronze Age 2300-1500 BC
- Middle Bronze Age 1500-1200 BC

Later Prehistoric

- Late Bronze Age 1200-700 BC

Iron Age 700 BC - AD 43

- Early Iron Age 700 BC – 400 BC
- Middle Iron Age 400 BC – 100 BC
- Late Iron Age 100 BC – AD 43

Roman, Romano-British AD 43-450

Early Medieval AD 450-1066

Medieval 1066-1547

Post-medieval 1547-1900

Industrial 1700-1900

Modern 1901 to present

Dylife
Historic Landscape Character Area 1187

Mining and ore-processing remains in the valley of the Afon Twymyn looking from the north-west, with the Star Inn just to the left of centre. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-214*

Lines of metal mine shafts running along the vein on Pen Dylife, viewed from the north with the steep-sided upper Clywedog valley and the modern conifer woodland of Bwlch y Garreg-Wen in the background. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-205*

Staylittle
Historic Landscape Character Area 1188

Aerial view of Staylittle from the north-east, with Quakers' Garden in the left foreground. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-184*

View of Staylittle at the head of the Clywedog valley looking from near Rock Villa with the former forestry village at Llwyn-y-gog just visible in the middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 2273-104*

Hafren Forest
Historic Landscape Character Area 1189

Aerial view of modern conifer woodland management near Fign Aberbiga with the meandering course of the Afon Biga in the left foreground, just to the east of Cwmbiga. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-221*

Ground level view of modern conifer woodland near Fign Aberbiga with the Afon Biga in the foreground. *Photo: CPAT 2273-089*

Llyn Clywedog
Historic Landscape Character Area 1190

The Clywedog dam and reservoir from the west with the Iron Age defended enclosure of Pen-y-gaer in the foreground. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-243*

The Clywedog reservoir viewed from near Pen-y-gaer, looking towards the Bwlch-y-gle bridging dam towards the right middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 2273-062*

Lluest-y-dduallt
Historic Landscape Character Area 1191

Aerial view of the hills fringing the northern side of the Clywedog Reservoir just to the west of Dinas, viewed from the west. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-174*

Dinas, overlooking the northern side of the Clywedog Reservoir, viewed from the west. *Photo: CPAT 2273-073*

Banc y Groes

Historic Landscape Character Area 1192

Aerial view of fieldscapes near Deildre Farm, partly representing 19th-century parliamentary enclosure, with the Nant Gwestyn valley to the left. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-191*

Drystone field walls north-west of Deildre-fach Farm, probably pre-dating the parliamentary enclosures of the early 19th-century. *Photo: CPAT 2273-065*

Fairdre
Historic Landscape Character Area 1193

Aerial view of fieldscapes to the north of the Clywedog Reservoir, with Esgair-Main and Sofl-ceirch towards the right middle distance and the valley of Cwm Cidyn to the left. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-163*

Aerial view of fieldscapes near Faidre Fawr and Fairdre Fach farms to either side of the wooded valley of the Nant Cwmcarreg-ddu. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-164*

Bryn y Fan
Historic Landscape Character Area 1194

Aerial view of Bryn y Fan from the west, looking towards Y Fan, with the valley of the upper Cerist in the left foreground. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-164*

Distant view of Bryn y Fan from the south-east. *Photo: CPAT 2273-010*

Manledd

Historic Landscape Character Area 1195

Aerial view of fieldscapes near Y Fan from the west, with Llyn y Fan towards the right foreground and Van Terrace in the central background. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-145*

Ground level view of fieldscapes near Y Fan from the south-west with brick chimney stack to the right middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 2273-042*

Llanidloes

Historic Landscape Character Area 1196

Aerial view of Llanidloes from the south-east with the wooded slopes of Allt Goch to the back left and Gorn Hill to the back right and the Llanidloes bypass, on the course of the former railway down the middle. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-131*

Llanidloes Old Market Hall, thought to have been build in about 1600 on the site of the market cross at the centre of the medieval town. *Photo: CPAT 2273-102*

Gorn Hill
Historic Landscape Character Area 1197

Gorn Hill from the west with Chapel Farm in the middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 2273-003*

Berth-llwyd Coppice on the skyline, from the south-west. *Photo: CPAT 2273-007*