

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Caersws Basin

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION



Caersws with the Roman fort in the foreground and the river Severn beyond. Photo CPAT 06-C-024

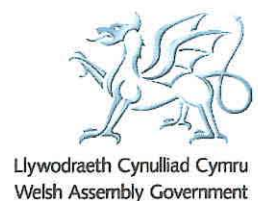
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The Caersws Basin

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERIZATION

by **W J Britnell**
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Contents

	page
<i>Preface</i>	3
<i>Introduction</i>	5
<i>The Caersws Basin historic landscape area</i>	12
<i>Methodology</i>	16
<i>Historic Landscape Themes</i>	
The natural environment	17
The administrative landscape	19
Settlement and land use	20
Industry	30
Transport and communications	31
Associative landscapes	34
<i>Historic Landscape Character Areas</i>	
1178 Penbedw	36
1179 Llanwnnog	39
1180 Glascoed	43
1181 Cerist	45
1182 Caersws	48
1183 Maesmawr	51
1184 Carnedd	55
1185 Rhos Ddiarbed	58
1186 Moel Iart	62
<i>Bibliography</i>	64
<i>Appendices</i>	
Appendix 1: chronological guide	69
Appendix 2: historic landscape types	70
<i>Photographs of character areas</i>	72
<i>List of Maps</i>	
Figure 1. Location	14
Figure 2. Community Councils	15
Figure 3. Historic landscape character areas (HLCAs)	35
Figure 4. Historic landscape types	71

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 naturiol a'r gweithgaredd dynol a fu'n gweithredu ar y cyd dros y chwe mil o flynyddoedd diwethaf wedi cyfrannu at y broses o gynhyrchu tirwedd o harddwch ac amrywiaeth hynod yng Ngymru, ased cenedlaethol 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 broseu sy'n llunio, ac a fydd yn yn parhau i lunio'r tirwedd.

Bu cydnabod a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o bwysigrwydd a chyfoeth ffariog hanesyddol 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 efgan Ymddiriedolaethau Archaeolegol 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 Hanesyddol, 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.

Cydnabyddia'r Gofestr o Dirweddau o Ddiddordeb Hanesyddol 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 <u>dominant patterns</u>	→	<u>coherent character</u>
<u>coherent character</u> with definable limits	→	<u>character area</u>
one or more <u>character areas</u>	→	<u>historic landscape area</u>

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 <u>components</u>	→	retain <u>character</u>	→	conserve <u>diversity</u>
boundaries, buildings,				and <u>character areas</u>
archaeological sites etc				

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 Caersws Basin historic landscape area

The *Caersws Basin* 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, 84-6), identifies the essential historic landscape themes in the historic character area that are considered in greater detail in the sections which follow.

Landscape description

Topographically, the Caersws Basin presents a striking natural arena in the centre of Mid Wales. Visual prospects out of the basin are confined in almost every direction by the surrounding, seemingly unbroken, rim of low hills and ridges between about 300m and 400m above OD. The apparently enclosed but wide basin floor is essentially flat, rising only 20m in 5km, from 115m to 135m above OD, east-west. This remarkable, albeit shallow, natural arena has made the basin an area of exceptional strategic and historical importance in Wales, while the confluence of the Rivers Carno and Trannon with the Severn has also made Caersws in the centre of the basin a natural focus for communications. This was most clearly evidenced during the Roman period when a network of roads emanated from the Roman fort there, leading along the valleys and over the hills to the north. The remains of some roads are still visible in places. The combination of natural topography and evidence of man's determination to control access and communication routes has thus created a landscape high in historic interest and integrity.



A series of small Iron Age enclosures, now largely visible only as crop-marks, provide an indication of the prehistoric occupation of the area. A large oval enclosure surrounded by an interrupted bank and ditch has recently been discovered just to the north of Caersws, and excavations have provided an Iron Age date from the ditch silts. To the south west of Caersws the elaborate multivallate hillfort of Cefn Carnedd is one of the many sites put forward as a contender for the last stand of Caradog, although the association is somewhat tenuous. However, all these remains are clear evidence of intensive Iron Age settlement, and presumably farming, in the area.

The Roman influence began with the early campaigns against the Ordovici, the Iron Age tribe occupying North Wales. A fort was constructed to the east of the present village of Caersws, but by about AD 75, this was replaced by a new fort sited near the confluence of the Rivers Carno and Severn. At its height, during the 2nd century, the fort would have been an impressive structure defended as it was by a substantial red sandstone rampart and a series of up to three external ditches. Inside the fort, successive excavations have revealed the plans of the main ranges of stone buildings and the remains of the timber barracks and stables. Around the fort, to the south and east, a sizeable civilian settlement or vicus became established, containing workshops, taverns, and a small temple as well as domestic buildings. The bath house, which was discovered in 1854, now lies beneath the railway yard.

Little is known of the medieval history of this area. On the southern side of the basin, at Bronfelin and Moat Farm, are two motte and bailey castles, with evidence for possibly earlier enclosures. Caersws itself has a street plan which one would normally associate with a medieval settlement, although there is no archaeological evidence to support this.

The local parish is in fact centred on Llanwnnog which was reputedly founded during the 6th century by St Gwynnog and which retains a medieval church. In recent times, the area is associated with the popular 19th-century Welsh poet and lyricist, John Ceiriog Hughes, who was sometime stationmaster at Llanidloes, and later, the line supervisor on the Cambrian Railways branch from Caersws to Van. He is buried at Llanwnnog.

The branch line to Van was constructed to carry the ore from the important lead mines at Van and Dylife, and like many of the original lines of the Cambrian Railways in the area, it was the creation of the industrialist and entrepreneur, David

David Davies. He made his greatest mark in South Wales, extracting coal from the Rhondda and exporting it along his own railway and through his own dock at Barry. His house at Llandinam, Broneirion, overlooks the village and is today the Welsh Girl Guide Training Centre. In the later part of the 19th century, the Davies family built Plas Dinam, which now dominates the northern approaches to the village, much of which was, in fact, created by Davies. Llandinam is notable as one of the first Welsh rural parishes to have electricity, in 1904. The origins of the village, however, are much earlier, as the church is reputedly an early Celtic *clas* or mother church foundation.

Summary

Reference number	HLW (P) 5
Index map number	56
OS Map	Landranger 136
Former county	Powys
Unitary authority	Powys
Principal area designations	The area includes: Caersws Roman site, Roman earthwork (revealed by aerial photography) NE of Caersws Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Llandinam and Llanwnnog Conservation Areas.
Criteria	3, 4, 5
Contents and significance	As a remarkable natural focus of communications, the Caersws Basin has been of exceptional strategic and historical importance in Wales. It contains evidence of human occupation and activity from the late prehistoric period to the recent past, including: Iron Age hillforts and enclosure crop-marks; Roman forts and roads; medieval defensive works and settlement; early developments built by David Davies of Llandinam; significant historic literary and legendary associations.

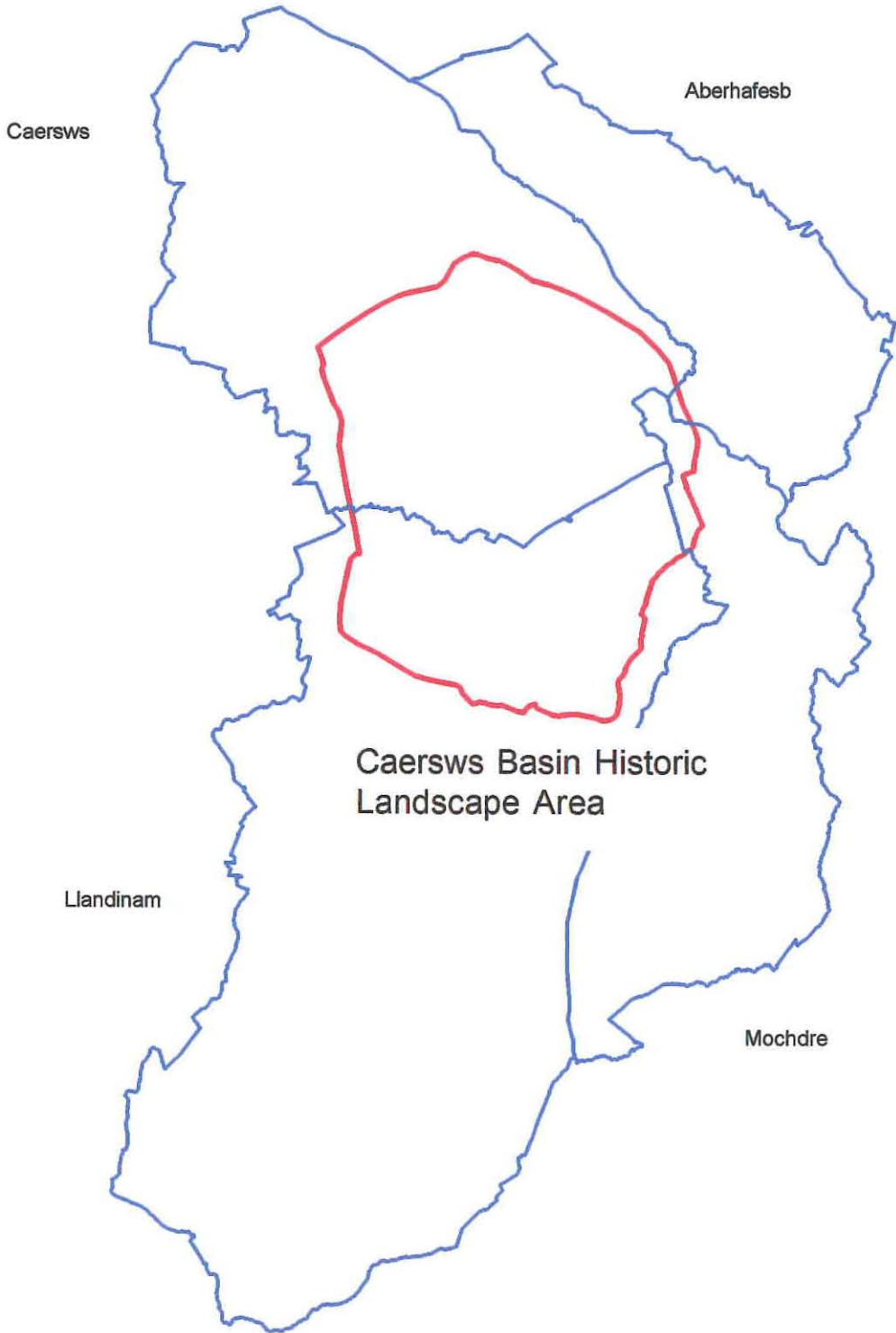
Caersws Basin

Historic Landscape Area



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Caersws Basin
Communities forming the Historic Landscape Area



Methodology

GIS workspace

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.

Mapping historic landscape types

The landscape covered by the historic landscape area was mapped by adopting a methodology similar to characterization work currently being undertaken in England (Aldred and Graham 2003). A total of 259 polygons (Figure 4) were drawn and categorized in terms of a customised list of historic landscape types (Appendix 2) intended to give a broad indication of landscape history of particular areas of land. (The sources and methodology used for mapping the landscape are given in Appendix 2.) The potential historical significance of these historic landscape types is discussed more fully below in the section on historic landscape themes.

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, dykes, Roman roads, 19th-century tithe parishes, historic common land in Montgomeryshire, and medieval ecclesiastical land holdings. 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 9 historic landscape character area (HLCA) polygons were defined (Figure 3) on an intuitive and subjective process on the basis of the historic landscape types 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 elsewhere 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.

Historic Landscape Themes

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Topography

The Caersws Basin occupies the floor of the upper Severn between Newtown and Llandinam centred upon the village of Caersws, at a height of between about 120-230 metres, at the point where it broadens to between 1-1.5 kilometres at the confluence of the Severn with the Garno, the Trannon and the Cerist. The valley of the Garno narrows to about 200 metres near Pontdolgoch towards the north, and the Severn valley narrows to about 300 metres near Llandinam and just begins to narrow slightly towards Newtown towards the east.

South of the river the hills rise gently at first to a height of about 220 metres and then with steeper slopes up to the moorland rising to about 430 metres on the south-eastern boundary of the historic landscape area. To the west the basin is bounded by two hilly spurs flanked by steep slopes, one between the Severn and Cerist which rises to a height of about 270 metres, and the second between the Cerist and Garno which rises to about 290 metres. The land generally rises more gently to the north to a height of about 250 metres but more steeply immediately north of Llanwnnog where the hills reach a height of 350 metres.

Geology and soils

The solid geology underlying the whole of the area is composed of Silurian sandstones and slates in the central and south-western parts of the area, with shales and grits to the north on Alltwnnog and to the south-east on Allt y Gaer and Penstrowed Hill.

The valleys of the Severn, Garno and Trannon are deeply glaciated troughs. The main valley floors are underlain by thick deposits of clay overlain by gravelly layers deposited by glacial meltwaters, together up to 68 metres in depth, which are overlain by silty alluvial sediments deposited by river action with some gravel bars resulting from reworking of earlier gravels. Drumlins which survive as distinctive low hillocks composed of Boulder Clay were formed in the Cerist valley, in the stream valley to the west of Cefn Carnedd, and between Caersws and Llanwnnog and to the north-east of Caersws in the direction of Gwynfynydd.

The soils in narrow zones along the floodplain of the Severn and Garno valleys belong to the Soil Survey's Teme series, being deep stoneless permeable silty soils with gravelly subsoil in places, most suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent and short-term grassland with some cereals where flood risk is low. The Cerist valley and the area along the Manthrig Brook north of Caersws towards Llanwnnog belong to the Conway series, which are deep stoneless fine silty and clayey soils affected by groundwater and most suited to permanent grassland for dairying and stock rearing. Soils on the rising land below the hills north of Cerist, parts of the rising land encircling Cefn Carnedd between the Cerist and the Severn, the gently sloping ground in the Garno valley to the west and north-west of Llanwnnog, and the lower western hillslopes of Penstrowed Hill in the area between Moat Farm and Bronfelin Hall belong to the Denbigh 1 series. These are well drained fine loamy and silty soils overlying rock, suited to dairying and cereals in the more lowlying areas and stock rearing, woodland or rough grazing on higher and steeper sloping ground. The soils on the gently rising ground to the north-east of Llandinam and to the north Caersws and east of Llanwnnog belong to Brickfield 3 and Cegin series respectively. The former are seasonally-waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils though well drained fine loamy soils in places, and are most suited to stock rearing and some dairying on permanent grassland and grassland and some cereals in drier areas. The latter are similar soils most suited to stock rearing on permanent grassland and dairying on lower ground.

Rivers and streams

Parts of the valley floors of the major rivers are regularly flooded for periods, but flooding of the Severn valley has been reduced with the construction of the Clywedog dam in the 1960s and the improvements to flood defences near Caersws

probably in conjunction with the construction of the Cambrian Railway in 1863 and Van Railway in 1871 and during the 20th century.

The floodplain and valley floor margin of this stretch of the Severn is of some interest and forms part of the upper Severn Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site. A detailed history of the river channel and valley floor evolution has been established from studies of ancient and more recent geomorphological features of the Severn valley floor that have developed in response to natural changes, such as the climate, as well as human activity.

The valley floor displays a series of river terraces, palaeochannels and alluvial fans of Holocene and Pleistocene age (periods up to about 12,000 BC) which demonstrate that active channel migration and alluvial sedimentation has taken place over the last 10,000 years. The earliest terrace probably dates to the Late Devensian period (about 23,000 to 8,000 BC) as an accumulation of thick, gravelly, glacial meltwater outwash deposits, buried by later deposits within the historic landscape area. There are suggestions that the river Severn at least periodically had a more braided course. Most of the floodplain has been relatively stable and with a single river channel probably since at least 2,000 BC and certainly since about AD 70, when the Roman road east of Caersws was built on its surface close to the present river channel. Sedimentation since that time has led to the Roman road east of Caersws being partly buried by several centimetres of fine-grained alluvium. Locally, the Roman road has had an effect upon sedimentation within the valley, the alluvial valley floor to the north of the road having a greater topographic variability than to the south. Studies have shown that the river channel of the Severn continues to be reworked by a complex of meanders which have been active since the 3rd to 6th century AD, which work themselves downstream in a zone between several metres to several hundred metres across in places. A clear demonstration of this is shown by the former river meander east of Caersws which has clearly destroyed a section of the Roman road north of the river leading to the Roman fort.

The gradient of the river in the section of the flood plain of the Severn within the historic landscape is less than in the areas both upstream and downstream. This, combined with increased sediment supply in the Severn valley in historic times due to a number of factors including the climatic deterioration associated with the Little Ice Age about AD 1590 to 1850, the extension of arable farming and the widespread enclosure of fields in the 19th century, and the intensive period of metal mining that occurred in the upper Severn catchment in the later 19th-century, led to increased rates of sedimentation in the floodplain of the river.

Artificial changes to the river channel of the Severn downstream of Llandinam were made in 1859 with the construction of the railway to Llanidloes. The river channel was also straightened by means of an engineered channel over a one kilometre stretch of the river near Llandinam Hall probably between 1840 and 1886, probably to avert the threat to property, though the river has since reverted to a meandering course. The course of the lower Cerist/Trannon was straightened between the early 1830s and the later 1840s probably in an attempt to ameliorate flooding. In about 1871 about 5 miles of the river Cerist was diverted into a deep artificial channel to enable the construction of the Van Railway west of Caersws. Substantial river engineering on the Trannon was undertaken in the late 1970s.

Grazing of the most valuable floodplain land right up to the river's edge has been blamed for the loss of streamside trees and consequent damage to river banks in the Severn valley between Welshpool and Shrewsbury.

Environmental history

Analysis of peat deposits just to the west of Caersws on the flood plain of the river Severn near its confluence with the Cerist and Trannon has provided some evidence of early vegetation history for the Caersws Basin. The peat deposits represent a rapid accumulation in an area of impeded drainage near the confluence of the Severn and Garno in the Neolithic period about 3,500 BC over a period up to about 300 years. Following this there was a lapse of about 2,000 years between the uppermost peats and the construction of the Roman road west of Caersws which possibly served lead mines in the vicinity of Van and Dylife or was en-route to the minor fort at Cae Gaer near Llanidloes. Plant remains during the Neolithic part of the sequence show a transition from an open-waterlogged habitat to fen carr with alder.

Accumulating peats include regional pollen from mixed oak woodland in which oak, hazel, lime, pine and some alder appear to have been dominant. Large areas of relatively closed wood and scrub persisted in the vicinity of the site. Subsequently there was some drying out, with a rise in hazel and pine and a drop in alder, though later expansion of alder suggests the creation of alder fen and the persistence of mixed oak woodland, but there is still no certain indication of early human influence upon the environment at this period.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE LANDSCAPE

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 the area came to form part of the small kingdom or *cantref* of Arwystli, first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 (as the 'hundred of Arvester') whose name appears to be derived from a personal name.

During the earlier medieval period the small kingdom of Arwystli lay between and became a subject of violent disputes involving 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, especially in the valley of the river Severn and its tributaries, and was 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.

The historic landscape area formed the easternmost commote or administrative subdivision of the *cantref*, called Arwystli Iscoed (literally 'Arwystli below the wood') administered by stewards probably from the early 13th century. By the late 1290s Pen-prys in the parish of Llanwnnog, now a farm known as Park about 2 kilometres to the west of Caersws, had become the manorial centre of Arwystli Iscoed. The two moated sites in the historic landscape area, The Moat and Rhos Ddiarbed, are set on the rising ground to the south of the valley, remote from early centres of population, and seem likely to represent relatively short-lived administrative centres associated with the campaigns of Roger de Montgomery in the late 12th century.

In later medieval times the commotal courts, the court leets for Arwystli Iscoed, were held alternately at Llandinam and Caersws, two of the principal centres of population in the area. The bishop of Bangor held significant lands in Llanwnnog in the early 14th century, whose tenants were probably also subject to the jurisdiction of the episcopal court.

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 was 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 comprise Escob and Castle, Wig (Weeg), Caersws and Surnant in the parish of Llanwnnog, Trywythen, Carnedd, Gwerneirion, Maesmawr and Llandinam in the parish of Llandinam, Bodaeoch in the parish of Trefeglwys, and Penstrowed in the parish of Penstrowed.

Following the Act of Union the area became administered as part of Arwystli Hundred, subsequently renamed Llanidloes Hundred during the post-medieval period. It was divided into upper and lower divisions which loosely corresponded to the medieval commotes of Arwystli Uwchcoed and Iscoed. The Caersws Basin fell into the lower division, which included Llandinam, Llanwnnog and Penstrowed parishes and part of Carno parish.

At the present day the historic landscape area falls largely within the communities of Caersws and Llandinam, but includes small parts of the communities of Mochdre and Aberhafesp. 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 ecclesiastical parishes in the greater part of the area fall within the deanery of Arwystli in the diocese of Bangor, the only exception being a small area of the parish of Aberhafesp which falls within the diocese of St Asaph.

Two churches of medieval origin are known, at Llandinam and Llanwnnog. Llandinam is the only one of the two listed as a church (*ecclesia*) in the Pope Nicholas taxation of about AD 1291. It was also a portionary church whose benefice was shared between a number of priests, which suggests that it probably originated as an early medieval *clas* foundation, a regionally important ecclesiastical centre, and together with Llangurig was one of the two mother-churches in Arwystli, one falling in each of the two commotes.

The status of Llandinam church in the later 13th century is emphasised by the figure of Cynyr ap Cadwgan, abbot of the *clas* at Llandinam, who was an authoritative compiler of Welsh law texts and founder of a dynasty of men learned in the law.

SETTLEMENT AND LAND USE

Historical development

Historic settlement and land use patterns in the historic landscape area are influenced markedly by the topography. The area radiates from a nucleus of river confluences at Caersws, with the valleys of the Severn, Garno and Cerist/Trannon dividing distinct blocks of higher ground around the rim of the basin. At all periods, settlement generally appears to have avoided both the highest ground and the lower-lying ground along the principal rivers where there is a period risk of flooding. Arwystli was a relatively poor area, with substantial areas of moorland in the western part of the *cantref*. Historically, therefore, the more fertile lowlands of the Caersws Basin have tended to form an important regional focus for settlement and intensive land use.

Earlier prehistory

As noted in a section on environmental history above, a study of a valley-bottom peat deposit just to the west of Caersws suggests that in the Neolithic period, about 3500 BC, the local environment was characterised by broadleaved woodland and scrub in which oak, hazel, lime, pine and some alder were dominant. There is as yet no clear evidence of major human impact upon the local environment at this period, although there is clear evidence for clearances and settlement further downstream already by this time, especially in the area between Berriew and Four Crosses, and it is likely that from at least the later Mesolithic period, in the period between about 8,000–4,000 BC onwards, that the at least seasonal

exploitation of the natural resources of the Caersws Basin by human groups and communities had started though no certain evidence of this has yet been found.

The earliest evidence of human activity is provided by a cluster of chance finds towards the western side of the area, on lowlying land in the lower Cerist, Trannon and Garno valleys. These include a fragment of early Neolithic pottery from near Blackhall Cottages to the south of Llanwnnog, and Neolithic stone axes found near Perth-eiryn and near Park. A perforated mace-head of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date is also known from Pontdolgoch.

Confirmation of probable early prehistoric activity in this area of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date is provided by a cluster of about 5 ring-ditches known from cropmark aerial photography in a small area west of the Garno and north of the Cerist near Maesgwastad and Tyddyncanol on ground slightly elevated above the valley floor. Two further ring-ditches have been identified in this area, to the east of the Garno in the area between Blackhall Cottages and Llanwnnog. The ring-ditches perhaps represent burial monuments, or possibly roundhouses in some instances, of communities permanently settled in the area in the late 3rd or early 2nd millennium BC. Possible Bronze Age burnt mounds have been identified close to the bank of the Garno near Maesteg, between the two groups of ring ditches. Other similar sites, possibly representing other distinct communities, have again been identified from the air at similar topographical locations elsewhere within the Caersws Basin historic landscape area, including a cluster of three possibly penannular ring-ditches to the north of Porth Farm, south of the Severn, and a possible ring-ditch to the south of Red House farm.

Later prehistory

Tribal structure probably continued to develop during the Middle and Later Bronze Age and by Iron Age the dominant tribal grouping in the region in the later prehistoric Iron Age appears to have been the Ordovices which like later Celtic society is likely to have had an hierarchical organisation in which lesser tribal chieftains at the head of local clans owed allegiance to more powerful leaders above them.

At some period during the Iron Age it seems likely that the prominent hillfort at Cefn Carnedd west of Llandinam was built as a fortified settlement on the upland spur between the Severn and the Cerist. It has multiple banks and ditches which enclose an area of over 3 hectares, and it may represent the focus of one of the lesser tribal groupings whose leader exercised power and authority over the Caersws Basin, the nearest comparable fortified sites of this period being between 7-10 miles away in either direction along the Severn valley. The site is unexcavated, but evidence from similar sites elsewhere in the region suggests that it may have been occupied intermittently or more or less continuously during the period between the end of the Bronze Age in about 700-800 BC through to the Roman conquest in the 1st century AD, taking the form of a fortified village composed of numerous roundhouses and other buildings and structures.

A group of smaller, rounded defended settlements of possible later prehistoric date is known on the higher ground on the north-west side of the basin. Wyle Cop enclosure lies on the side of a stream to the north of Llanwnnog and the Gwynfynydd enclosure lies on sloping ground north of Caersws, both enclosing areas of about 0.3 hectares. A larger possibly unfinished enclosure, enclosing an area of up to about 4 hectares has been identified just to the east of the Manthrig Brook, to the north-east of Caersws village, which has been shown by radiocarbon dating to probably date to the period 550-150 BC.

Little is known of the economy or nature of land use during this period, but the nature and location of the later prehistoric hillfort and smaller defended enclosures and the scarcity of evidence for occupation on the valley floor may suggest a predominantly pastoral economy, dependant upon the exploitation of lowland pastures during the winter months and upland pastures during the summer, together with some arable cultivation.

The Roman period

Despite the resistance of certain native British tribes, much of the south and east of Britain was rapidly conquered following the landing of the Roman forces in the south-east of Britain in AD 43. Within a handful of years Rome had established a heavily policed frontier to the new and valuable province of Britannia along an at least temporary boundary

which excluded what is now Wales and Scotland. Early resistance to the Roman army appears to have been orchestrated by Caratacus (also known as Caractacus, Caradoc), a native prince who had fled into Wales from his tribe, the Catuvellauni, in south-east Britain. The Roman army probably first campaigned in pursuit of Caratacus under the governorship of Ostorius Scapula in about AD 51. The Roman historian Tacitus tells us of a final battle held in Ordovician territory at a point where Caratacus had mustered a native army on a steeply-sloping hill approached across a treacherous river. The precise location is unknown, though the Iron Age hillfort of Cefn Carnedd to the north-west of Llandinam, is one of the places which it has been thought may have been the site of the battle. The native forces were overcome by an army composed of up to 20,000 men drawn from several Roman legions and various auxiliary units, though Caratacus himself fled and the army failed to secure control of the territory. Further campaigns were undertaken during the 50s and 60s, until Ordovician territory was finally subdued by about the year AD 78, during the governorship of Julius Agricola.

The conquest and subsequent policing of the territory of the Ordovices is represented by a network of Roman forts and military roads including the two successive forts for Roman auxiliary soldiers at Caersws, an early campaign base at Llwyn-y-brain, on the banks of the river Severn, just to the north-east of the village, and a later, more permanent fort just to the north-east of the village core.

The more permanent fort at Caersws covered an area of about 3 hectares and probably housed cavalry units initially lay in advance of a legionary fortress at Wroxeter and an intermediate fort at Forden Gaer, before the legionary base was moved to Chester in the 80s. Caersws is probably to be equated with the name *Mediomannum* which appears in the 7th-century Ravenna Cosmography, a 7th-century manuscript based on earlier sources. Stamped tiles found at Caersws suggest that at one stage the fort was garrisoned by a military unit raised in the Roman province of Iberia.

Towns, which were the usual centres of civilian administration throughout the Roman world, failed to develop in the region and it is possible that legal and financial affairs continued to be administered by the Roman army throughout the Roman period, between the later 1st century and the beginning of the 5th century AD.

A civilian settlement, known as a *vicus*, was developed on the southern and eastern sides of the Roman fort in the village at Caersws which housed merchants and craftsmen drawn from elsewhere in the Roman empire. The settlement, which appears to have covered an area of up to about 8 hectares, may have consisted of up to several hundred probably mostly timber buildings, would have been sanctioned by the Roman army and was laid out within a carefully laid out grid of streets and lanes which stretched almost to the floodplain of the Severn to the south and beyond the Manthrig Brook to the east.

The civilian settlement was evidently a flourishing industrial and commercial centre, supplying goods and services to the garrison. Excavations have shown that bakehouses and a tavern or gaming-house were set up and that smithies and workshops were set up for the production of iron weapons and bronze jewellery. A tile kiln was built for the production of floor tiles. A bathhouse probably drawing water from the Garno was built to the south of the fort and a cemetery also appears to have been set up in this area. A large range of exotic merchandise was imported from throughout the empire, including fine tableware and glass, querns for grinding corn, wine, cooking oil and pigments, creating a small enclave of Roman citizens which may have remained culturally distinct from the native population in the surrounding countryside.

A cluster of small, single or double-ditched rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures up to about 0.3 hectares in extent have been found by aerial photography lying within 1-2 kilometres of the Roman fort at Caersws, some of which lie fairly close to the line of Roman roads north and west of the fort and might be associated with them. Examples are known between Henfryn and Gwynfynydd to the north of Caersws, near Maesgwastad to the west, and near Gellidywyll to the south. Smaller sites are known on the valley floor south of Dolhafren and on a slight rise to the south of Llandinam Hall. This group of enclosures are undated and some may be much earlier or later in date, but they may represent part of a more widespread pattern of Roman farmsteads in the Caersws area.

Possibly during the course of the Roman period much of the Caersws Basin became fairly intensively farmed, with the more valuable ploughlands and meadows on the lower-lying ground already partitioned into fields, encircled by hillslopes cloaked in remnant ancient woodland and higher ground providing rough summer grazing for herds of cattle and sheep.

The civilian settlement at Caersws appears to have been relatively short-lived, however, and seems to have rapidly declined after about AD 120 when the larger part of the garrison of the Roman fort was moved to help secure the northern frontier of the province. The fort at Caersws seems to have been maintained until at least the 3rd or 4th century, possibly as an administrative centre with a much reduced garrison.

Early medieval and medieval periods

By the end of Roman rule at the beginning of the 5th century AD it seems likely that at least the lowland areas of the Caersws Basin were reasonably intensively farmed, with perhaps a fairly close-knit network of lowland farms and fields with a mixed farming economy taking advantage of the better grade arable lands above the floodplain of the major rivers, summer meadows and winter grazing along the river edge and woodland resources and summer grazing. The meadow land was particularly valuable since it governed how many animals could be overwintered.

Little is yet known of the political, religious or judicial institutions that came into being during the early medieval period, between the 5th and earlier 11th centuries AD, within the kingdom of Arwystli and its constituent commotes, but the development by the Middle Ages of nucleated settlements, the collection of tribute and the sharing of common land by neighbouring communities all suggest the emergence of a hierarchy of lesser native lordships with the ability and authority to organise the landscape, and perhaps based upon an evolving pattern of parishes and townships that are known from later times.

Elements of the present-day landscape of settlement and field pattern had probably also become established in the early medieval and medieval periods. Parts of the area, notably on the rising ground around the margins of the Caersws Basin, probably continued to be farmed from dispersed farmsteads which originated in the Roman period, held by families of free farmers or tenants of larger estates, and though there is as yet no clear evidence of the form or distribution of farmsteads of this period it is likely that some are represented by present-day farms. Many of these farms are probably to be associated with patterns of large or small irregular fields which represent a landscape which evolved over the course of many centuries by the gradual and piecemeal clearance and enclosure of woodland and scrub from later prehistoric times onwards. At the present day these fields are often bounded by ancient hedges composed of many different species of trees and shrubs, and on more steeply-sloping ground are sometimes associated with lynchets indicating where ploughing for cereal production was once more prevalent. The surviving unenclosed common lands or 'wastes' were the joint property (*cyd-tir*) of freeholders and could be used for grazing livestock such as cattle, sheep and ponies, and as at later periods a source of building stone, fuel, and animal bedding.

A different pattern of settlement and land use originating from the early medieval and medieval periods is represented by the small nucleated church settlements at Llandinam to the south and Llanwnnog to the north of the river, both of which, to varying degree, are associated with reasonably distinct patterns of long, elongated strip-like patterns of fields, more distinct in the case of Llanwnnog, and generally bounded by hedges which have the appearance of having derived from the enclosure of former open, jointly cultivated arable fields, some of which are still associated with surviving traces of broad ridge and furrow. This suggests that the nucleated settlements may have arisen from the evolution of manorial and associated ecclesiastical centres, to which houses and cottages may have become either drawn or which were deliberately created by the enforced evacuation and creation of open fields.

It is possibly significant that the administrative focus of the area had moved away from Caersws by the early medieval period, when it seems possible that the two new church settlements at Llandinam to the south and Llanwnnog to the north of the river had come into being, and perhaps even deriving from ownership patterns that had already emerged during the later Roman period. The demise of the former military administrative centre at Caersws is further marked by the dismantling

of the defences of the former Roman fort at Caersws, a process which is thought to be represented by the squared blocks of red sandstone that form part of the earliest surviving fabric of Llanwnnog church.

The two earthwork castles within the historic landscape area, the Bronfelin and Moat Farm motte and baileys on the rising ground to the south of the Severn, both appear to be associated with the period of Anglo-Norman conquest in the late 11th century, and although they may only have had a short-lived military significance they appear to have continued, perhaps as manorial centres, into the later medieval period. Other small manorial centres had developed at Park (Penprys) by the later 13th century and by the early 14th century part of Llanwnnog parish was held formed an ecclesiastical manor held by the bishop of Bangor.

There are suggestions that attempts were made perhaps during the 13th or 14th century to establish a borough with weekly markets at Caersws by the lords of Arwystli or Powys, between those which were created further upstream at Llanidloes and further downstream at Newtown. By the 16th century, however, it was simply a small hamlet within the smallest township within the parish of Llanwnnog, probably simply having failed to develop.

A little can be gleaned of the social and economic life of Arwystli in the Middle Ages from slight documentation relating to a number of the larger holdings. The *cantref* was evidently relatively poor and like most of Wales was an area of mixed farming, though some areas were only suited to rough grazing in the summer months. The early 14th-century tenants of the bishop of Bangor at Llanwnnog paid cash rents which had replaced former renders of ground oats and reaping services. The tenants of the lord of the manor at Park in the early 13th century, likewise paid cash rents which had replaced renders of ground oats, flour, poultry and milk, reaping and weeding services and billeting for the lord's huntsmen and hounds, which indicated that Park was the centre of a hunting park in the Middle Ages. Herds of pigs belonging to the Augustinian canons of Haughmond Abbey in Shropshire were allowed forage in the wood of Pen-prys. Livestock husbandry was probably an important element of the economy of the area during the Middle Ages, but although by the early 16th century it is evident from the ecclesiastical tithes owed to the portionary rectors of Llandinam that produce included corn, lambs wood and milk, there is no direct mention of cattle.

Hostilities between the Welsh kingdoms of Gwynedd and Powys during the 12th and 13th centuries, the plagues of the 14th century and the Glyndŵr rebellion at the beginning of the 15th century are all likely to have had a significant impact upon the development of settlement and land use in the historic landscape area and probably led to marked changes to customary tenurial and land use patterns.

Post-medieval and modern periods

As noted below in the section on buildings, a resurgence in the rural economy in the 16th to early 17th centuries appears to be marked by the construction of a cluster of larger lowland farmhouses and high status manorial or estate centres at Llandinam Hall, Maesmawr, Perth-eiryn, Park, Carneddau and Llwyn-y-brain. The distribution of these buildings suggests widespread changes in patterns of ownership, particularly in the lowlying lands along the Severn, Garno and Cerist and Trannon valleys, involving enclosure and emparkment of fairly extensive areas of lowland common meadow for animal husbandry in association with farms which evidently developed specialized agricultural economies.

Renders paid by the tenants of the manor at Park in the early 13th century, note above, make it clear that this was a hunting park in the Middle Ages, which was probably one of the reasons why it became a royal horse stud by the later 16th century, in the reign of Elizabeth I. The earls of Pembroke had been granted all demesne, lands, and meadows in 'Park Penprise' in 1562, and it is probably significant that during this period William, earl of Pembroke and Robert, earl of Leicester, successively the steward and lord of Arwystli, also both held office of Master of the Horse. Powys had been a noted centre of horse breeding since the Middle Ages, Gerald of Wales surmising that the blood-stock in the later 12th century could be traced back to Spanish horses imported by the earl of Shrewsbury, in the late 11th or early 12th century.

Disputes about the enclosure of lowland common meadows in the Caersws Basin were probably the basis of complaints,

possibly during the reign of Edward VI, that the 'parkes of Caersouse [Caersws]' had been 'given awaie . . . from the burgesses to keep the king's breeding mares' at Park. Continued clearance and enclosure of woodland around the margin of the basin are also indicated at this period. At about this time, in the later 16th century, 'Park Penprise' was said to fall within 'the forest of Fryth called Frith Penryse'. The term *ffridd* implies enclosed land on the upland edge, and probably relates to the rising ground north of Park which forms the north-western rim of the basin, in the area in of the former wood of Pen-prys in which the canons of Haughmond had pannage for their pigs. 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.

During the course of the later 16th and 17th centuries many of the larger farms and estate centres that had arisen during the 15th and 16th centuries continued to gain greater prominence by the purchase and amalgamation of holdings and by intermarriage, until by the later 17th and early 18th century no more than a handful of landed families owned a disproportionately large share of the best agricultural land in the Caersws Basin. Prominent families by this time included the Pierces of Llwyn-y-brain, the Prices of Park, the Davieses of Maesmawr Hall, the Glyns of Maesmawr Farm, the Joneses of Trewythen, and the Reads of Llandinam.

Various 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. 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 enclosure act affected an area of almost 6 square kilometres, just under 20 percent of the total area of the historic landscape area. Most of the enclosed land was rough pasture on which freeholders had turned out their sheep and cattle, whose boundaries had in most instances never previously been mapped or defined and which under the terms of the enclosure act were now subdivided between the lord of the manor and those landowners who had rights of grazing. It included part of the higher ground west of Pontdolgoch, a swathe of rising ground near Gwynfynydd to the north-east of Caersws, the spur of higher ground encircling Cefn Carnedd to the north-west of Llandinam, a substantial area of the higher ground between Moel Iart and Penstrowed Hill along the southern edge of the Caersws Basin, but also included were significant areas of lowland meadow in an around the village of Caersws, the lower Garno near its confluence with the Severn and the lower Manthrig Brook just north of Caersws. Distinctive fieldscapes were created as a result of the enclosure movement, characterised by small, large and very large straight-sided fields or moorland enclosures often defined by single species hedges or by post and wire fences. Some relatively small areas of 'sheepwalks' (areas of rough grazing) in Llandinam, part of Moel Iart remained as unenclosed common land. Allotment of the landscape led to the better control of stock and a decline in the importance of animal pounds of the kind that once existed at Pound just next to a former area of unenclosed land on the road running north from Caersws.

Woodland plantations were established during the 19th century in some areas which were enclosed as a consequence of the Arwystli enclosure act, notably on the hills to the west and north-west of Llandinam. Other areas of woodland were planted in the 20th century, as for example the Alltwnnog conifer woodland, planted in 1954.

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 'illegal' encroachments or cottages were eligible for compensation if their inhabitants were poor. Clusters of cottages in the area of Little

London, on the hills north-east of Llandinam, and in and around the village of Caersws, thus both appear to represent encroachments of more than 20 years standing, dating from the late 17th century or earlier, that became legitimized by the enclosure act of 1816. Some of these cottages became unsustainable and there are now a number of house sites abandoned in probably the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries in some marginal areas, as for example near Little London and Belan Hill.

Land improvements to increase agricultural productivity in the 19th and 20th centuries have left their mark in some upland and lowland marginal areas. Drainage schemes involving drainage ditches and buried ceramic drains were being undertaken probably from the earlier 19th century onwards, including extensive systems on seasonally waterlogged ground around Llwyn y Brain north-east of Caersws, on land bordering the Manthrig Brook to the north of Caersws, and in the lower Cerist and Trannon valleys west of Caersws. Narrow ridge and furrow was probably also created to improve drainage in some areas, as for example near Gwynfynydd Farm north of Caersws. Visible evidence of land clearance and the improvement of upland pasture is represented by stone clearance cairns in some areas, as for example on Moel Iart,.

The villages of Llanwnnog, Llandinam and the hamlet of Caersws continued to develop and expand in piecemeal fashion, gradually accruing semi-urban functions. A school had been established at Llandinam during the Elizabethan period under the patronage of local landowners, and later at Llanwnnog and Caersws. Manorial courts, the court leets, at which various local disputes were settled, came to be held twice a year, alternately at Llandinam and Caersws. Improvements to the road network and the construction of new or improved bridges as a result of the turnpike roads in the later 18th and early 19th century resulted in the appearance of inns at both these centres and at Llanwnnog.

The hamlet at Pontdolgoch may have begun to develop in the Middle Ages, in the vicinity of a corn watermill harnessing the power of the Garno. Between the 17th century and the later 19th century is gradually expanded, to include a sawmill, corn mill and woollen mill with associated mill houses and workers cottages. The coming railways in the early 1860s had some slight impact upon development of Pontdolgoch and Llandinam, though the impact was most marked in the case of Caersws, close to the junction of the Cambrian and the Mid Wales lines and from the early 1870s the junction of the Van Railway serving the lead and barytes mines north of Llanidloes. The decline of the woollen industry in the early 19th century added to the problem of rural poverty and was a contributory factor in the construction of the Caersws and Newtown Poor Law Union Workhouse built on the eastern outskirts of Caersws in the 1830s, which at its peak housed 258 paupers, many from the woollen industry.

The modern rural landscape is characterized by scattered farms of varying sizes. Permanent grassland on the better grade land and rough grazing on the hill land is now the dominant land use throughout the area. Some dairying is still undertaken on lower-lying ground, herds being overwintered indoors during the winter months. Cattle production is largely for calves for store market, most cattle being overwintered in yards and loose boxes. Moorland pastures are used only in the summer months, largely for sheep production, with fattening and lambing mostly on lower-lying ground during the winter months. Little or no arable crops are now grown. Small-scale pig farming was once more important judging from the late 19th and earlier 20th-century pigsties surviving at a number of farms and smallholdings but is now uncommon. Many farms originally part of larger estates that were sold during the 1920s to sitting tenants who continued with family enterprises though many farms are now operated by a single farmer. The intensification of farming in the later 20th century led to the amalgamation of smaller farms especially, to create more viable units. The rural income is supplemented by estate pheasant shoots and by trout fishing in the Llandinam area.

Buildings in the landscape: the character of settlement

The three nucleated settlements at Llanwnnog, Caersws and Llandinam have very different characters. Llanwnnog is focused on the medieval church, and includes at least one building of 17th-century date. The village is dominated by a series of farms, and retention of farm buildings contributes much to its character. Notwithstanding its Roman origins, Caersws has the character of a roadside village developed at an important river crossing, road junction and former railway junction. Although there is at least one traditional vernacular building in the village, its character is in many

respects much more urban and industrial than rural, albeit on a very small scale. Thus development includes a series of terraces, one of which is three-storeyed, probably of early 19th-century date, and is reminiscent of the rows associated with the woollen industry in Penygloddfa, Newtown. Much of the rest clearly post-dates the railway and there are a number of small units where light industry is carried out. The earliest part of Llandinam appears to have early origins, with a number of buildings surviving from 17th century, and there are several small vernacular buildings clustered in an informal pattern reminiscent of squatting. To this informal settlement, an overlay of planned development has been added by the Dinam Estate, and the focus of later building shifted to the main road.

Building traditions

The extant buildings of the Caersws Basin make a significant contribution to both the character and coherence of the historic landscape area, within which a number of significant architectural themes can be identified. The area is notable for its long chronology of building, with surviving medieval fabric in the churches at Llandinam and Llanwnnog and with a number of houses from at least the 16th and early 17th centuries, some indicating a period of relative prosperity at this time. It is interesting, however, that some relatively small buildings have survived from the 17th century. There are some good 18th-century houses, but a distinct flurry of building activity evidently took place during the 19th century, associated with improvements in the network of turnpike roads, the development of a number of the larger estates, and the coming of the railways. Although smallholdings from this period are still firmly in the vernacular tradition, many of the farmhouses and other buildings spring from polite architectural traditions. 20th-century building includes the county council smallholding movement, continued building on the Plas Dinam estate, and some council house building. There has also been significant private development in the countryside, notably in the block of land north-east of Llanwnnog in the 20th century.

Building materials

The area as a whole is remarkably diverse in the use of building materials. Timber framing was used in the earliest buildings but appears to have continued for longer in the case of those of lesser status. The survival of several cruck-framed buildings in the area suggests an earlier tradition. The farmhouse at Llwyn-y-brain, to the east of Caersws and Porth-gwebedyn on the south side of the valley to the south-east of Caersws both originated as cruck-built hall houses in probably the 15th or early 16th century. A cottage at Pontdolgoch includes both cruck- and box-framed trusses.

Cruck-framed barns of perhaps 16th-century date are known at Berthddu just beyond the south-west margins of the historic landscape area. A cruck-framed barn with timber-framed walls at Tre-gastell, towards Aberhafesp, which was demolished in the 1980s, is a relatively recent loss of a building of this kind, though no doubt many others of this tradition have disappeared from the area without record.

A number of isolated, lowland, gentry houses survive in the area, such as Llandinam Hall and Maesmawr Hall just above the floodplain of the Severn and Perth-eiryn near Llanwnnog, which illustrate the conspicuous use of timber continuing into the 16th and throughout the 17th century for box-framing with close-studding, which is a particular indication of high status. Llandinam Hall was acquired by John Read, high sheriff from the Herberts of Chirbury in the mid 17th century. Maesmawr (now a hotel) was the home of Griffith Lloyd, high sheriff in the 1570s, and was again home to high sheriffs in the 1660, during the Civil War. A number of other prominent houses and farmhouses also began life as timber-framed structures, and were probably all originally thatched. A house of the Herbert family at Park, formerly Pen-prys, near the confluence of the Garno and Trannon, was similarly built in closely-studded timber towards the end of the 17th century. Carnedd, between the Cerist and Severn was again originally of half-timbered construction, and a timber-framed cross wing was added to the earlier cruck-framed hall at Llwyn-y-brain farmhouse at this period.

Timber-framed construction probably continued in common use for lesser buildings into and beyond the 17th century. The Little House north-west of Llandinam, dated 1692, probably being a rare survival of a small, single-storey half-timbered rural building that was once much more common in the area. There are several cottages including, for example in Llandinam village and on the roadside south of it, which have the spindly timbers characteristic of later timber-

framing traditions as late as the 18th or even early 19th century. Weatherboarding is the almost ubiquitous finish for timber-framed agricultural buildings whereas domestic buildings are typically 'black and white', with the box framing infilled with plastered panels.

Stone was adopted early on for the construction of the medieval churches at Llanwnnog and Llandinam where there is some surviving medieval stone fabric of the 13th to 15th centuries which is thought to include, in the case of Llanwnnog at least, some reddish sandstone taken from the defences of the Roman fort in the village of Caersws. Stone was in widespread use for domestic, agricultural and small industrial buildings, probably from the early 17th century onwards and there are distinct variations in the way that it was used, ranging from rough rubble to well squared and coursed blocks. A number of small quarries scattered across the area were probably early sources of building stone but from the earlier 19th century and probably earlier the existing commercial stone quarry at Penstowed, just beyond the south-eastern boundary of the historic landscape area, was in production. These variations reflect social status and the organisation of building work as much as building chronologies.

Brick was employed at number of higher status houses in the 18th-century and came into more widespread use during the course of the 19th century, whilst often remaining the material chosen for relatively high status buildings. Until about the first half of the 19th century it appears that bricks were produced locally, using based glacially-derived deposits of good brick clay which occur in a band running from the Cerist and Trannon valley, north of the Severn to the area north and north-west of Caersws, Roman tile kilns being known in the village of Caersws itself. There is an 18th-century house in the village of Llandinam which uses brick decoratively in a manner which suggests considerable confidence in the material, and indicates its status. Perth-eiryn, the high-status 17th-century timber-framed house in Pontdolgoch has an 18th-century brick front. The former Caersws and Newtown Poor Law Union Workhouse at Caersws (subsequently Llys Maldwyn Hospital, and recently converted to residential accommodation) was built between 1837-40, partly in bricks produced in brickworks set up in the fields just to the north-east and partly in stone from the Penstowed quarry. Local handmade bricks also appear to have been used for the construction of complexes of farm buildings in the area, as at Carnedd and Trewythen-fawr.

In the later 19th century the use of coloured bricks came into vogue alongside the more traditional red, this use of polychrome possibly indicating local production though it is sometimes thought to be a post-railway feature when transportation became easier. The use of coloured brick is also often seem to be associated with estate patronage, such as Church House Farm, the largest farm in Llanwnnog which has a number of features including diagonally offset chimneys which suggest an estate character. A number of commercial brickworks had become established in the neighbourhood by the second half of the 19th century, including the Parry and Jones brickworks just to the north of the Severn at Newtown. Various buildings in both Caersws and Llanwnnog display a particularly good variety of brick types and colours for both houses and other buildings, including the use of yellow brick for the Van Railway engine shed built in 1871.

Another more obviously industrial material is corrugated iron which began to be widely used from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century for sheds and outbuildings, such as those associated with Ty Coch mill at Pontdolgoch, and especially hay-barns. It occasionally also appears as cladding for vulnerable gable-ends of houses.

Although there is broadly a succession of building materials from timber to stone to brick, the use of materials is also closely linked to social status and timber was used for smaller buildings long after stone or brick had been adopted for buildings of higher position. The succession of materials is graphically illustrated in those buildings rebuilt or partially rebuilt in a 'new' material, but materials could also be used in combination and there are examples of buildings using timber-framing between stone gables: these may be seen as stages in the development of building techniques, but the use of a 'new' material may also be a status marker. North Welsh slate became ubiquitous as a roofing material from the 19th century.

Building types and social and economic history

Caersws and Llandinam have numbers of houses without land, but outside these settlements, most of the buildings have an obvious connection to agriculture, whether as farms or smallholdings. There are clear variations in the size of farm, including several large ones west of the Severn, but also a series of much smaller holdings in this area and elsewhere, including some with minimal agricultural outbuildings. There remain some farm cottages scattered across the area, of which a number date from the 17th century.

A distinction can perhaps be drawn between smaller upland farms (typically with buildings in-line) and the larger lowland farms where buildings are detached. Some of the smaller holdings often look like encroachments, but many of the larger farms have the appearance of estate farms, both by the architectural character of the farmhouses and the form and layout of the farm buildings themselves, which include a number of examples of well-planned 19th-century brick-built ranges, as for example at Carneddau and Trewythen-fawr, mentioned above. These seem generally dedicated to the accommodation of stock, and are sometimes in addition to much earlier timber-framed and weather-boarded farm buildings, also probably associated with stock. These complexes of buildings seem to represent the impact of farm improvements implemented by a number of the larger estates during the 19th-century, such as the Reads and Crewe-Reads of Llandinam Hall and Plas Dinam and the Williams Wynns of Wynnstay.

Corrugated iron haybarns, which appear to be a feature of estate farms in particular, represent a further period of investment towards the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century, emphasising the continued importance of stock-rearing in the agricultural economy. There is also an important series of early county council smallholdings in the area, including, for example, Maesteg, Wig Lane, Caersws.

Architectural character

A number of the larger houses and farms in the area, such as Llandinam Hall, Maesmawr Hall and Park had been formed as estate centres from the 16th and 17th centuries, but this earlier phase of estates seemed to exert little influence beyond the immediate affluence of the main house itself. In the 19th century the influence of the estates on the character of buildings in the historic landscape character area became much more pronounced. The high architectural language of the Italianate Broneirion (now a conference and residential training centre for the Guide movement) with its associated Gothic lodge and other buildings (Fron Haul and Bryn-Hafren) gives the first indication of this. The complex, which lies just above the floodplain at the foot of the hills to the west of Llandinam, was built for the eminent industrialist David Davies in 1864-65 to a design by David Walker of Poundley and Walker. Plas Dinam is an exceptionally fine country house, with which are associated a series of offices east of the house was built. The house, designed by W. E. Nesfield in an English medieval vernacular style, was built on a new site in 1873-74 for Captain J. O. Crewe-Read of Llandinam Hall, and subsequently occupied by David Davies's descendants.

The village of Llandinam also carries the mark of estate patronage, in the series of cottages along the roadside north of the village which employ a distinctive Arts and Crafts vocabulary with their white roughcast walls and small-paned casement windows, but also in the village institute, school and lavishly endowed chapel. Elsewhere, the scale and character of farm-buildings also suggests estate-sponsored work, and there are some farmhouses which were probably also rebuilt through estate patronage, including Middle Gwern-eirin to the west of Broneirion, and Caetwp to the north-east of Plas Llandinam, which are both examples of later 19th-century building in a Gothic style. Neuadd Lwyd, south of the village, belongs to an earlier generation, about 1830-40, but its polite Georgian character and hipped roof may also be indications of estate patronage. On the whole, though, the evidence suggests that the estate underwent a period of enlargement during the 19th century, its building work overlying or adding to earlier established prosperous farms as a clear phase of improvement. The village of Llandinam appears to have undergone a similar history, in which the existing village was enlarged under the auspices of the estate.

Other estates may also have had a hand in shaping the landscape. In Caersws for example, Dolaethnen is a mid 19th-century house of polite architectural character associated with the Williams Wynn estate. The tall, stone-built estate

house of mid 19th-century date at Pen-y-borfa fawr, on the main road north-west of Caersws village, may again have been built for the same estate.

For earlier periods, whilst building work all belongs within a vernacular tradition, there is a notable range of size of house and sophistication in planning and construction. Thus Llandinam Hall and Maesmawr Hall are significant not only for their considerable size and lavish use of materials, but also for their regionalised planning, having a lobby-entry plan characteristic of the Severn Valley in the early 17th century. Many other 17th- and 18th-century buildings were much more modest, both in construction and planning, but in the 19th-century there was another burst of building activity in which vernacular traditions were abandoned for all but the most lowly buildings. This is marked firstly by the introduction of brick, and then by the use of polite Georgian vocabulary. Later, as noted above, other styles were introduced including Italianate and Gothic at Broneirion, and an English medieval vernacular style at Plas Dinam.

INDUSTRY

Extractive industries are represented by a small quarries, probably for building stone in the post-medieval period, which have been recorded in the more hilly parts of the historic landscape area, to the south, the north-west and the north-east. The larger, commercial stone quarry at Penstrowed lies just outside the south-eastern boundary of the historic landscape area and was in operation by at least the early 19th-century.

Glacial clay deposits in the Caersws area are known to have been quarried for supplying kilns producing tiles in the Roman period and for the production of bricks for the construction of the workhouse at Caersws in the 1830s.

Trial mine shafts or levels are recorded near Little London (on the hills south-east of Llandinam), at Carnedd Mine Wood (north-east of Llandinam), and at Llwyn-y-brain Cottage (north-east of Caersws). Little has been traced of the history of these enterprises, though it seems likely that they may have been dug in the late 19th century in an attempt to trace an eastwards extension of the lead-rich lode being actively exploited at Van north of Llanidloes at this period.

Water power was in use in a number of locations in the historic landscape probably from at least medieval to modern times, supporting a number of processing industries. A fulling mill and a corn mill are documented at the hamlet of Pontdolgoch to the north of Caersws by the 1670s, but by the early 20th century included a sawmill, all exploiting the fast-flowing Garno stream. Pontdolgoch corn mill, formerly known as Pont y Ddol Goch Mill, is now redundant, but is represented by a stone-built, three-storey mill building with a drying kiln and an adjacent brick-built mill house. The mill was refurbished in the 1880s and once had two overshot wheels. The former fulling mill, now known as Walk Mill (an alternative English name for fulling mill), was once called Pandy y Ddol Goch, is a half-timbered house, now converted to a house. Pontdolgoch water-powered sawmill, which remains in operation, was established in 1913, replacing an earlier watermill. Earlier timber processing is represented by a sawpit at Henblas Farm to the east of Pontdolgoch, recorded in the 1880s. Other surviving features associated with the use of water power include a millrace which took water from a weir on the Garno upstream of Pontdolgoch, and a millpond which lies between the river and the road at Pontdolgoch.

Slightly further downstream, the Garno was also harnessed to operate a woollen mill at Maesteg near Wig Bridge, formerly known as Gwig Manufactory and Weeg Woollen Factory, which is now demolished although traces of the millrace survive. Several other former fulling mills in the historic landscape area are suggested by placename evidence, including Pandy Rhos and Pandy Bach in Llanwnnog community which include the Welsh placename element *pandy* ('fulling mill'), and Waulk Mill on the Ffynnant stream, just to the north of Llandinam ('waulk' being an alternative English term for 'walk'), which in the early 19th century was called 'Upper Mill'.

The Llandinam area was active in the production of charcoal in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, having been said

to have supplied the ironworking forges of the Lloyds at Dolobran near Meifod, in the Vyrnwy valley about 20 miles to the north, though no surviving evidence of this industry has so far been recorded.

Two former 19th-century and possibly earlier smithies are known at Pontdolgoch: one is shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s and the other is indicated by the placename element *efail* ('smithy') in the name of the house Efail Troed-y-rhiw. Other smithies are similarly recorded at Caersws and Llandinam.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout history the Caersws Basin, lying at the confluence of the river Severn and its tributaries, the Trannon, Cerist and Garno, has formed part of an important communications corridor giving access to central and west Wales from the borderland and English Midlands to the east.

The area lay far beyond the point at which the river Severn was considered to be navigable in the 18th century, though it seems possible that as well as carrying light craft the river had been and continued to be used until perhaps the earlier 19th century, at least seasonally, for the transport of timber and perhaps other goods downstream, though there is little certain evidence for this activity.

Roman roads

The Roman fort and civilian settlement in the village of Caersws lay at the hub of a strategic network of military Roman roads linking with Roman forts elsewhere.

One of the principal roads led eastwards towards the fort at Forden Gaer and then on to the successive legionary fortress and Roman city at Wroxeter. Well-preserved stretches of the Roman road survive as an upstanding earthwork in the historic landscape area in fields to the south of the river Severn, between Maesmawr Hall and Red House, from which point eastwards it probably underlies the present-day road towards Newtown. The road evidently cross the Severn to the west of Maesmawr Hall, to enter the south gate of the Roman fort near the former primary school in Caersws, but most of this stretch the road and the Roman bridge across the river have probably been destroyed by gradually shifting river meanders.

The course of the road leading from the east gate of the fort has been traced from both cropmark and surviving earthwork evidence, taking a course parallel to Manthrig Lane, Caersws, and then swinging to the north of Llys Maldwyn and running out of the historic landscape area roughly along the line of the modern road at Llwyn y Gog. The road has been intermittently traced about 10 miles towards Dolanog in the Banwy valley. Its ultimate goal has not yet been established but it may have continued across the Berwyns towards the Roman forts at Llanfor or Caer Gai near Bala, in the Dee valley.

The course of the Roman road leading from the north gate of the Roman road has been established for a distance of about 100 metres, running in the direction of Llanwnnog. Thereafter its course is uncertain, though it is thought to run along the Garno valley more or less along the line of the A470 and possibly on towards the Roman fort at Pennal in the Dyfi valley west of Machynlleth.

The road leading from the west gate of the fort can be traced for a distance of about 1.5 miles to the point it leaves the historic landscape area within valley of the Trannon and Cerist streams. After crossing the river Garno its course is represented by intermittent stretches of earthwork and partly as the course of the modern road between Tynrhos and Coedyparc. The road is thought to run westwards to the Roman fortlet at Penycrogbren and possibly then also on towards the Roman fort at Pennal.

The course of the Roman road south from Caersws towards the Roman fort of Castell Collen near Llandrindod Wells is less certain, though a section of the road have been identified in the playing fields just to the south of the river of Caersws, from where it is thought to run for a distance along the Severn valley past Llandinam more or less along the line of the modern road before cutting across the hills to the south.

It is unknown how long the Roman road network remained in use, but there is evidence that the forts at Forden Gaer and Caersws remained in commission, perhaps on a reduced basis, into the 3rd or 4th century AD and it therefore seems likely that some elements of this local network remained in use until that period.

Medieval and later roads

Little is known of the course of medieval or later roads in the area until the widespread improvement that were made during the course of the later 18th and early 19th century. Early maps by Saxton (1578) and Camden (1637) indicate the main centres of population but generally give little detail of the principal through routes during this period.

Cattle drovers' roads

By the 18th and earlier 19th centuries the Caersws Basin had become a significant nodal point on drovers' roads that had developed to transport cattle on the hoof from mid and west Wales to markets in towns along the borderland and further afield. Two distinct routes through the area appear to have become important. One route from the Machynlleth area ran through Staylittle and Trefeglwys via the valley of the Trannon and Cerist to Caersws, then taking a lowland route along the upper Severn valley to Newtown, Welshpool and Shrewsbury and beyond. A second route from the Cwmystwyth and Rhayader areas, led to Llangurig, and Llanidloes to enter the historic landscape area at Llandinam, and then took the higher ground south of the Severn valley past Little London, splitting east of Mochdre either along a more northerly route along the Kerry Ridgeway to Bishop's Castle or southwards via Bettws y Crwyn in the direction of Ludlow and beyond. By the later 19th century a number of cattle traders had become established in the Caersws area to exploit this trade.

Turnpike roads and improved bridges

Significant 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. These improvements can be traced on a new series of road maps that were published from this period onwards, including John Evans' *Map of North Wales* (1797), G. Coles' *Map of Montgomery* (1809), and Philip and Sons' *Map of North Wales* (1853).

Early on, improvements were made to the road from Newtown to Machynlleth running north of the river Severn via Aberhafesp (B4568), which crossed the historic landscape area via Llwyn-y-brain Cottage, Llanwnnog and Pontdolgoch. Subsequently the new turnpike to the south of the river called the 'Long Length' (A489) was constructed, which ran through Llandinam and on to Llanidloes and also branched northwards to Pontdolgoch via Caersws. A new turnpike was also constructed from south of Pontdolgoch towards Trefeglwys via Wig (along the line of the B4569). Milestones were erected along at least a number of these roads, of which several probably late 18th-century examples survive, including ones near the entrance to Ty-mawr and opposite the driveway and lodge to Plas Dinam, on the A489, and near Aelybryn and to the west of Llanwnnog on the B4568.

Roadside inns serving the increasing number of road travellers during the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries came into being at Caersws (Unicorn Inn), Llandinam (Lion Inn) and Llanwnnog (Temperance Hotel, now renamed Talbot House).

A number of road bridges were also built or rebuilt during this period as part of the general improvements. Caersws bridge with its three stone arches was rebuilt shortly after 1821 once taken over by the county, and designed by Thomas Penson, the County Surveyor for Montgomeryshire, replacing an earlier stone bridge said to have had two arches and described as being 'in a very bad state'. The Wig road bridge with a single stone arch was built in 1847, again to design

by Penson, to replace two smaller bridges across the river Garno. Two other bridges across the Garno by Penson have been substantially altered. These include the stone bridge with a single arch at Pontdolgoch, rebuilt in about the 1870s and topped with concrete and metal rails when the road was widened in the 1980s, and a second bridge just west of Caersws, on the former turnpike to Trefeglwys, that was rebuilt in 1835 replacing two earlier bridges but subsequently reconstructed in concrete and metal in about the late 1980s.

The cast-iron road bridge with a single arch across the Severn at Llandinam, was again to a design by Penson. It was completed in 1846 and was Montgomeryshire's first iron road bridge, replacing an earlier timber bridge. The components were cast by the Hawarden Ironworks and adopting similar type of construction to that used by Telford. The contractor for the new road approaches and the retaining wall for the road was the famous industrialist David Davies of Llandinam, this being his first public contract.

The footbridge known as Festival Bridge across the Severn near the eastern boundary of the historic landscape area near Ty-mawr is said to date from 1951 Festival of Britain.

The Railways

The Llanidloes and Newtown railway was completed in 1859, with a station within the historic landscape area at Llandinam. The line, which was isolated from the rest of the national railway network for several years, was built using local labour and capital and helped to launch the career of the Welsh industrialist David Davies of Llandinam. David Davies was also involved in the construction of the Oswestry to Welshpool Railway in 1859/1860 and the Welshpool to Newtown line in 1861, to which the Newtown and Llanidloes Railway was connected at Newtown. In 1862 the Newtown and Machynlleth line was built, branching from the Newtown and Llanidloes line at Moat Lane, south of Caersws, where there was a halt and engine sheds. The line became part of the Cambrian Railway network in 1864. Stations on this line were built in the area at Caersws and Pontdolgoch. In 1864 the Mid Wales Railway line south from Llanidloes to Rhayader and on to Builth Road and Three Cocks had also been opened, which amalgamated with the Cambrian Railway Company in the 1860s. In 1871 the Van Railway was built which served the lead and barytes mine at Van, north of Llanidloes, branching from the Newtown to Machynlleth line at Caersws and running westwards along the valley of the Cerist and Trannon streams, and also carried passengers from 1873 and after some difficulties the line was reopened for freight by the Cambrian Railways in 1896. An engine shed and the railway manager's office were built at Caersws.

The construction of the railways had some impact upon local drainage patterns. The channel of the river Severn was altered downstream of Llandinam during the construction of the railway to Llanidloes in 1859, and in 1871 about 5 miles of the river Cerist diverted into a deep artificial channel to enable the construction of the Van Railway.

Following the first world war the Cambrian Railway became part of the Great Western Railway, which was nationalised as British Railways in 1948, and denationalised in the 1990s. The Newtown to Machynlleth line remains in operation but the other lines the area are now closed. The Van Railway was closed in 1940, lingering on for 20 years after the closure of the Van lead mine in 1920. The Newtown to Llanidloes line was closed to passengers south of Moat Lane Junction in 1963, but carried 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.

Caersws Station with stationmaster's house and attached signal box continue in use but the former railway station and stationmaster's house at Pontdolgoch has now been converted to a house and only the sites of former station at Llanidloes and halt and engine sheds at Moat Lane survive. The Van Railway engine shed survives on the western outskirts of the village of Caersws, now used as a store in an industrial yard. The course of the dismantled Mid Wales railway line running along the south side of the Severn valley south of Moat Lane and of the former line of the Van Railway line west of Caersws continue to form prominent landscape features, with cuttings and embankments transecting earlier field boundaries and culverted streams.

ASSOCIATIVE LANDSCAPES

The historic landscape area is associated with a number of individuals prominent in the industrial and cultural life of Wales in the later 19th and earlier 20th century.

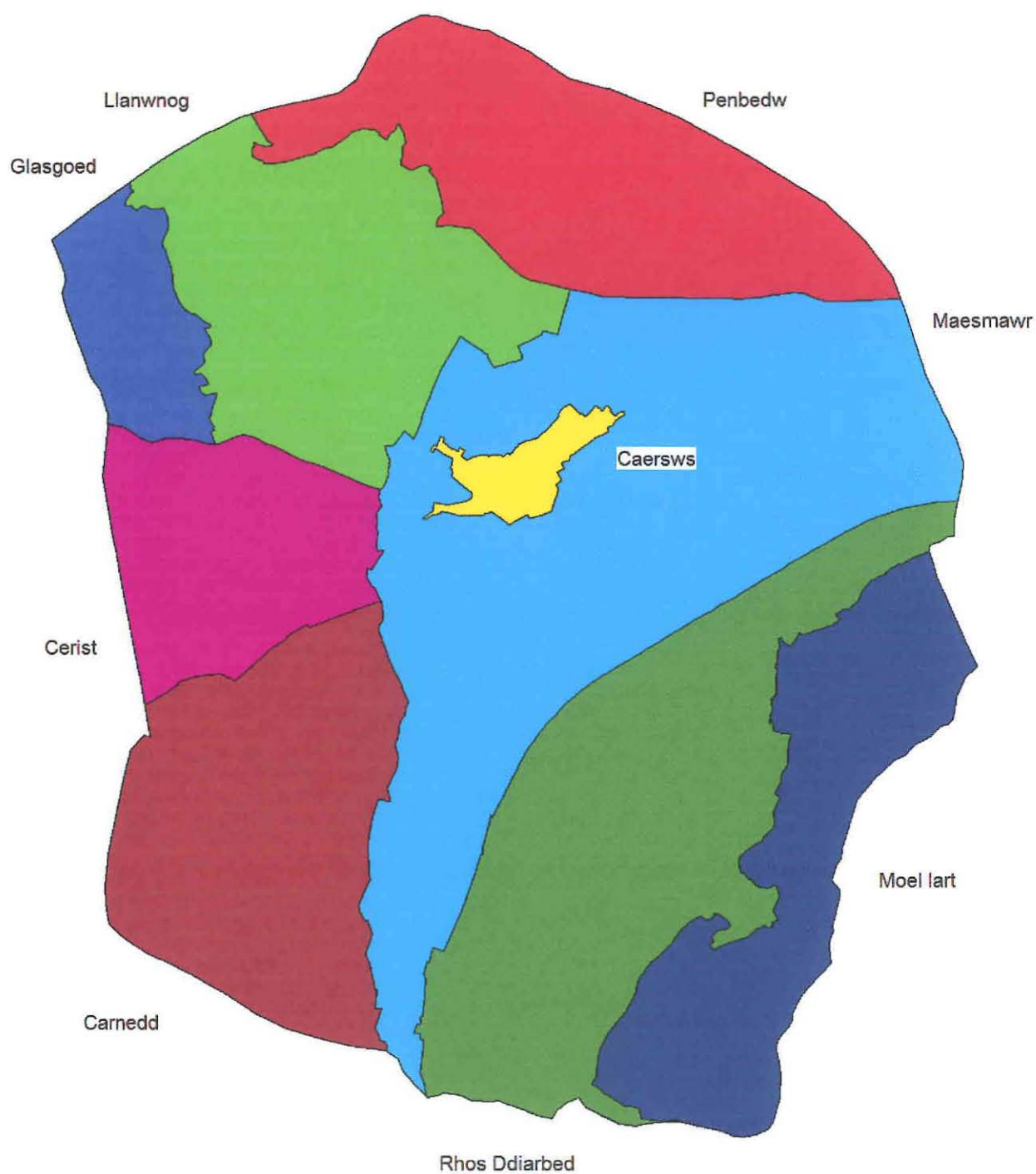
David Davies (1818-90), the so-called 'first Welsh self-made millionaire', was born at Llandinam and started his working life as a jobbing labourer and saywer. From the profits made from early contracts for building road bridges in Montgomeryshire, such as the cast iron bridge across the Severn at Llandinam in 1846, he became a contractor for the major programme of railway construction being undertaken in mid Wales, including the Newtown and Llanidloes line completed in 1859, the Oswestry to Newtown line completed in 1861 and the Newtown to Machynlleth line completed in 1862. He subsequently invested in the rapidly developing mines on land leased from the Crawshay family in the Rhondda. From successes at the Cwmparc Mine in Treorchy the Ocean Coal Company was formed, from which he was accorded the sobriquet 'Davies the Ocean'. He established the Barry Docks for the export of coal, in competition with the powerful Bute family who controlled Cardiff Docks.

He continued to live at Llandinam throughout his life and to worship at the Calvinistic Methodist chapel there. He commissioned the Italianate mansion at Broneirion, across the river from Llandinam as his home in 1864-65, whose grounds were made available for games and other activities by the local community. He later purchased Plas Dinam, just to the north of the village, for his son Edward and family, as well as the estate associated with it. He became an important local benefactor of building project such as the almshouses in Llandinam, and also played a major role in establishment of the University College at Aberystwyth. He was a Calvinistic Methodist elder and a generous supporter of the Forward Movement which sought to bring the gospel to the industrial towns and valley communities of South Wales. David Davies's Statue, a bronze replica of the statue at Barry Docks, stands near the southern abutments he built for the road bridge across the Severn at Llandinam.

David Davies left a considerable fortune to each of his two granddaughters, Gwendoline (1882-1951) and Margaret Davies (1884-1963). The two sisters were nonetheless brought up in a strict Welsh Nonconformist tradition and remaining strict sabbatarians and teetotallers until their deaths, becoming major benefactors of charities and cultural institutions in Wales. From a beginning in 1906 they had by 1924 amassed the largest collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works in Britain.. Together they bequeathed a visually stunning collection of over 260 works to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, which completely transformed the character of the Welsh national art collection. The two sisters became closely associated with the large mansion at Gregynog which they purchased in 1920, but they had begun to amass their collection of paintings while living at Broneirion, Llandinam, which they had inherited from their grandfather. Amongst their purchases were a number of poignant though fashionable depictions of the 19th-century rural poverty by Millet, Daumier and others, which has been said 'hint at the depth of their social concern and foreshadow their decision, in later life, to forewear art for charitable works'.

A further important figure in the cultural life of Wales who is associated with the historic landscape is the famous Welsh lyrical poet and collector of Welsh tunes, John Ceiriog Hughes (1832-87), whose works include 'Dafydd Garreg Wen' (David of the White Rock) and 'Clychau Aberdyfi' (The Bells of Aberdovey). Hughes, a churchman, whose grave lies in the churchyard at Llanwnnog church, returned to Wales to take up the post of stationmaster at Llanidloes in 1868 and two years later was appointed the first superintendent of the newly-opened Van Railway. Working from his office at Caersws, this began an important and productive period in his literary activity, which included many popular and often sentimental Welsh poems.

Caersws Basin Historic Landscape Character Areas



Penbedw

Historic Landscape Character Area 1178

Caersws community, Powys

Fieldsapes and dispersed farms on sloping land and lower hills forming the north-eastern rim of the Caersws Basin, partly representing piecemeal enclosure probably from medieval times onwards and partly early 19th-century enclosure of former common, with evidence of probable later prehistoric defended settlements. Course of Roman road north-east of the Roman fort at Caersws.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial township of Escob and Castle in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanwnnog.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Mixed fieldsapes on the generally gently rising ground to the north of Caersws and west of Llanwnnog but with steeper slopes skirting Alltwnnog to the north of Llanwnnog, between a height of 130-350 metres with low elongated ridges representing glacial drumlins which have affected local drainage patterns. The soils are mostly seasonally waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils though well drained fine loamy soils in places, economically most suited to stock rearing on permanent grassland and dairying on lower ground. Predominantly large and small irregular fields probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure during the medieval and late medieval periods but with a distinctive pattern of both large and small straight-sided fields in the central part of the area, between Gwynfynydd and Penbedw, representing early 19th-century enclosure of former common grazing. Residual areas of ancient semi-natural and ancient replanted woodland at Tregastell Wood, Penbedw Wood, Coed Llwyn-gwyn and flanking the lower slopes of Alltwnnog. Recent conifer woodland on Alltwnnog, planted in the 1950s.

Placename evidence provides an indication of historic land use, perhaps suggesting relatively late woodland clearance and enclosure for animal grazing. In addition to the names of existing woods, such as Coed Llwy-gwyn and Tregastell Wood, the placename element *coed* ('wood') also occurs in Goleугоed ('light wood'), Gwastadcoed, Gwastadgoed-uchaf ('?level wood'), whilst the element *llwyn* ('grove') appears in Llwyn-y-gog and *fedw* ('birch') appears in Penbedw Wood. Rough grazing is suggested by the element *rhos* in the name Rhos-goch. The penning of livestock is indicated by the plural of *buarth* ('yard, animal pen') in the name Buarthau.

Probable pre-Roman Iron Age settlement and land use is indicated by the Wyle Cop enclosure lies on the side of a stream to the north of Llanwnnog and the Gwynfynydd enclosure which lies on sloping ground north of Caersws, both enclosing areas of about 0.3 hectares. The course of the Roman road north from the Roman fort at Caersws passes roughly along the line of the modern road at Llwyn y Gog running in the direction of Dolanog in the Banwy valley.

The earliest surviving element in the modern settlement pattern is represented by a number of widely-dispersed farms set off the main road such as Gwastadcoed, Gwastadgoed-uchaf and the former farm at Gwynfynydd and possibly of medieval or later medieval origin. Early maps suggest that these formerly took the form of a single range of buildings in line. Some farms have ceased to exist following the amalgamation of farm holdings whilst others, such as Gwastadcoed grew significantly during the 20th century, with the erection of steel-framed buildings. Some later farms, such as Llwyn-y-gog, were created in the later 19th-century following the enclosure of former common land. Some smaller cottages which perhaps began life as roadside encroachments. The area also includes a significant number of new small detached roadside houses.

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; Collens 1988; Lea 1975; Spurgeon 1972; Fisher 1917; Silvester 2004; Silvester and Owen 2003; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothorn and Drewitt 1991

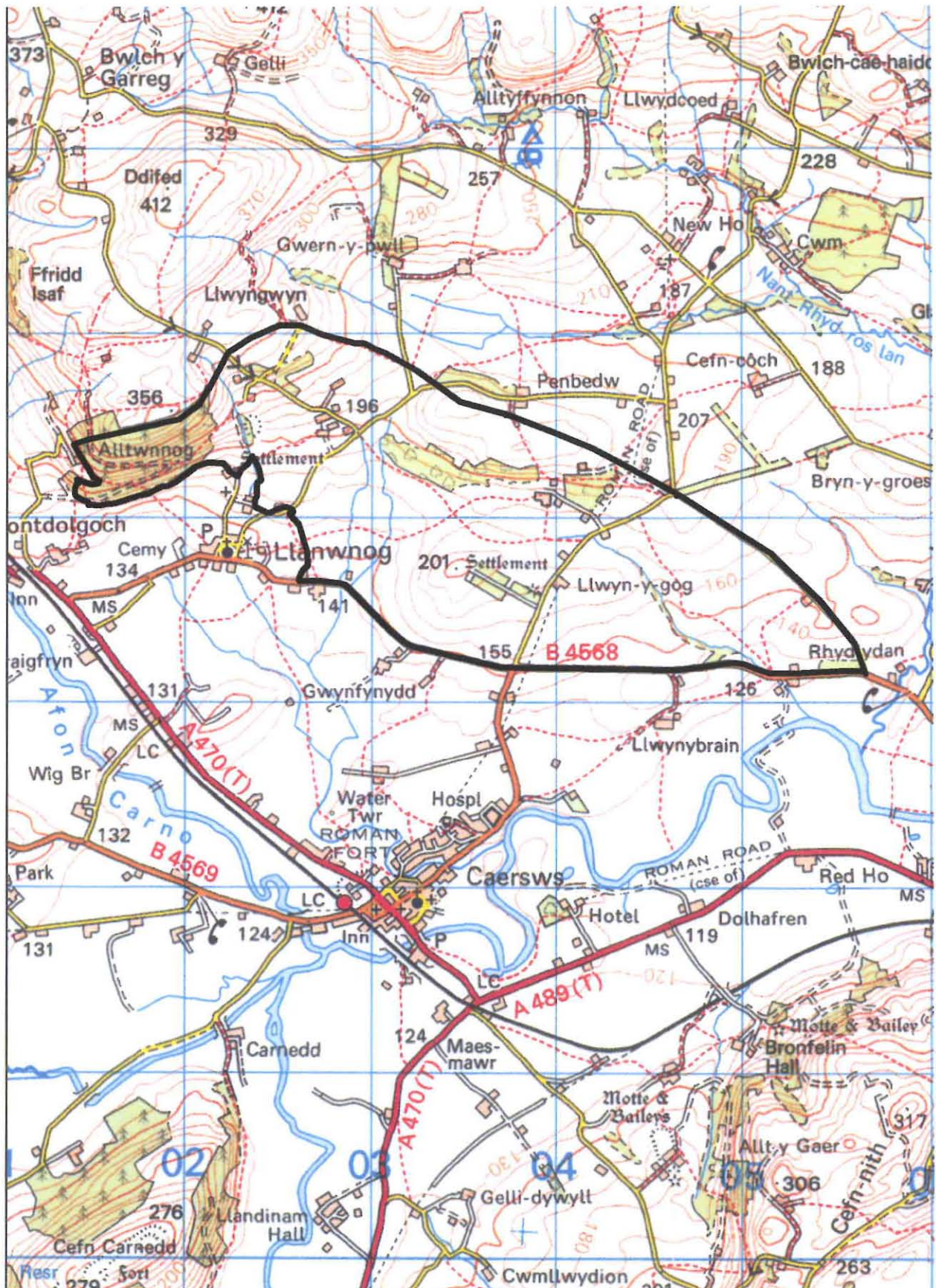
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of the Gwynfynydd and Wyle Cop defended enclosures whose interiors and defences are vulnerable to ploughing.*
- *Management of structures and deposits associated with the course of the Roman road running north from Caersws.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use.*

Penbedw

Historic Landscape Character Area 1178

Caersws community, Powys



Llanwnnog

Historic Landscape Character Area 1179

Caersws community, Powys

Some evidence of early prehistoric settlement and land use. Course of Roman road north of the Roman fort at Caersws. Mixed fieldscapes representing both piecemeal clearance and enclosure and the probable enclosure of former medieval open fields associated with the nucleated settlement of early medieval or medieval origin at Llanwnnog. Industrial hamlet exploiting water power at Pontdolgoch, and features associated with the development of the turnpike road and railway networks in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial townships of Escob and Castle, Wig, and Surnant in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanwnnog. The name of Llanwnnog is first recorded in the late 12th century and has the meaning ‘church of Gwynnog’, the saint to whom the church, like that at neighbouring Aberhafesp, is dedicated. In the early 14th century the bishop of Bangor held lands in the parish

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Mixed lowland fieldscapes on the valley bottom and lower hill slopes of the lower valley of the river Garno, between a height of 130-240 metres with several low hillocks in the area between Llanwnnog and Caersws representing glacial drumlins which have affected local drainage patterns. There is some variation in soil types in the area which historically had had an impact upon economic potential. Bordering the river Garno are deep stoneless alluvial permeable silty soils, suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent and short-term grassland and cereals. Around Llanwnnog is an area of well-drained, fine loamy and silty soils overlying shale bedrock or fluviglacial deposits, suited to dairying and cereal. Along the lower Manthrig Brook between Llanwnnog and Caersws are deep, stoneless, fine silty and clayey alluvial soils affected by waterlogging, which are best suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent pasture. Fieldscapes are predominantly composed of both large and small irregular fields probably representing piecemeal clearance and enclosure from medieval or earlier times though there is a distinctive and relatively extensive patterns of strip fields to the west and south of the village of Llanwnnog which appear to represent medieval open fields which had been enclosed in perhaps the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. Some small-scale reorganisation of field boundaries evidently took place to the south of Pontdolgoch at the time the Newtown to Machynlleth railway was constructed in the late 1850s.

A majority of the placenames are associated with settlement, industry and communications including, for example, the element *gefail* (‘smithy’) in Rhiw-yr-efail, *plas* (‘hall’) in Henblas, *pont* (‘bridge’) in Pontdolgoch and *wtra* (‘lane’) in Ty’n-y-wtra. Meadow land is suggested by the element *dol* in Pontdolgoch and woodland by the element *gwig* ‘wood, grove’ in Wig, first recorded in the later 16th century, towards the western side of the area. A traditionally boggy area is indicated by the element *morfa* ‘fen, bog’ in the name Pen-y-borfa in the poorly drained area alongside the Manthrig Brook north of Caersws. An ecclesiastical landholding, presumably belonging to the bishop of Bangor, is indicated by element *esgob* (‘bishop’) in Parc-yr-esgob just to the east of Llanwnnog, which is first recorded in the mid 16th century and formed an element of the name of the township of Escob and Castle in the parish of Llanwnnog.

Significant evidence of early prehistoric settlement and land use is provided by a scatter of chance finds along the Garno including a perforated macehead found at Pontdolgoch, a fragment of early Neolithic pottery from near Blackhall Cottages, and possibly two ring-ditches representing burial monuments in the area between Blackhall Cottages and Llanwnnog. A buried burnt mound close to the bank of the Garno just to the west of Wig bridge is perhaps of Bronze Age date.

The course of the Roman road leading from the north gate of the Roman road is thought to run along the Garno valley more or less along the line of the A470 but has yet to be identified where it crosses the character area.

The small nucleated settlement at Llanwnnog came into being in the early medieval or medieval period, and together with Llandinam south of the river Severn eclipsed the earlier administrative centre of the region which focused upon the Roman fort at Caersws. Although its origins are as yet obscure, the suggestion of former open field arable farming particularly to the west and south of the village centre and its association with a medieval church may suggest that it may have come to form an early manorial centre. Open fields are suggested by reasonably distinct patterns of long, elongated strip-like patterns of fields, some of which are still associated with relict traces of broad ridge and furrow. The church, dedicated to St Gwynnog, is first documented in the mid 13th century, but its siting within a curvilinear churchyard, which together with the *llan* ('enclosure') element in the placename suggests a possible foundation in the 8th to 9th century. Some of the surviving medieval fabric of the church is constructed of squared blocks of sandstone which are thought to have been taken from the defences of the Roman fort at Caersws. The fine medieval rood screen and loft and fragments of medieval window glass including an image of St Gynog hints at some form of patronage.

Most early buildings up to the earlier post-medieval period were probably of half-timbered construction. Surviving smaller buildings of 17th century date within the area include the cottage within the village of Llanwnnog dated 1664 and a cottage in Pontdolgoch. The larger, higher status timber house at Perth-eiryn, just south of Pontdolgoch, to which a brick front was added in the 18th century, is one of a number of isolated lowland gentry houses in the historic landscape area. These appear to indicate the development of estate centres in the open countryside in the 16th and 17th centuries, possibly in association with the enclosure of lowland common meadows bordering the Severn and its principal tributaries that was taking place at this period.

The village of Llanwnnog continued to develop in piecemeal fashion in the post-medieval period, its character strongly influenced by the presence of a series of farms which emphasise its agricultural origins and was influenced by the development of the turnpike road network in the later 18th and early 19th centuries, when new bridges were constructed across the Garno at Wig and at Pontdolgoch. The area to the north-east of the village expanded with modern housing development and rural roadside houses in the 20th century. The hamlet at Pontdolgoch, which may have originated in the Middle Ages, expanded with the exploitation of the power of the river Garno between the 17th and 19th centuries when a sawmill, corn mill and woollen mill were built, associated with mill leats, millponds, mill houses and workers cottages. A smithy, roadside inn and nonconformist chapel had been added to the settlement by the mid 19th century. The water-driven sawmill remains operational. Another woollen mill which is no longer extant was built further downstream near Wig Bridge. With the coming of railway in the early 1860s railway bridges was built across the road and river at Pontdolgoch. The railway is still operational but the former station and stationmaster's house at Pontdolgoch have now been converted to domestic use.

Some development of rural farms continued into the 20th century probably under the influence of a number of the larger estates. There is also an important series of early county council smallholdings in the area, as at Maesteg, Wig Lane, Caersws.

Bombs are said to have been inadvertently dropped on part of the village of Llanwnnog as a result of enemy action during the course of the second world war.

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; Barker 1997; Barton 1997; Barton 2003; Baughan 1980; Crossley and Ridgway 1947; Davies 1810; Davies 1829; Dempsey 1997; Eisel 1986; Ellis 1838;

Gibson 1997; Gibson 1998; Haslam 1979; Howell 1875; Jenkins 1969; Lewis 1833; Lunt 1986; Owen 1957-58; Morgan 2001; Parry 1998; Pennant 1783; Price 1998; Pryce 1886; Putnam 1961-62; RCAHMW 1911; Silvester 1992; Silvester 2003; Silvester 2004; Silvester and Hankinson 2002; Silvester and Hankinson 2003; Silvester and Owen 2004; Smith 1975; Stephenson 2005; Walker 1871

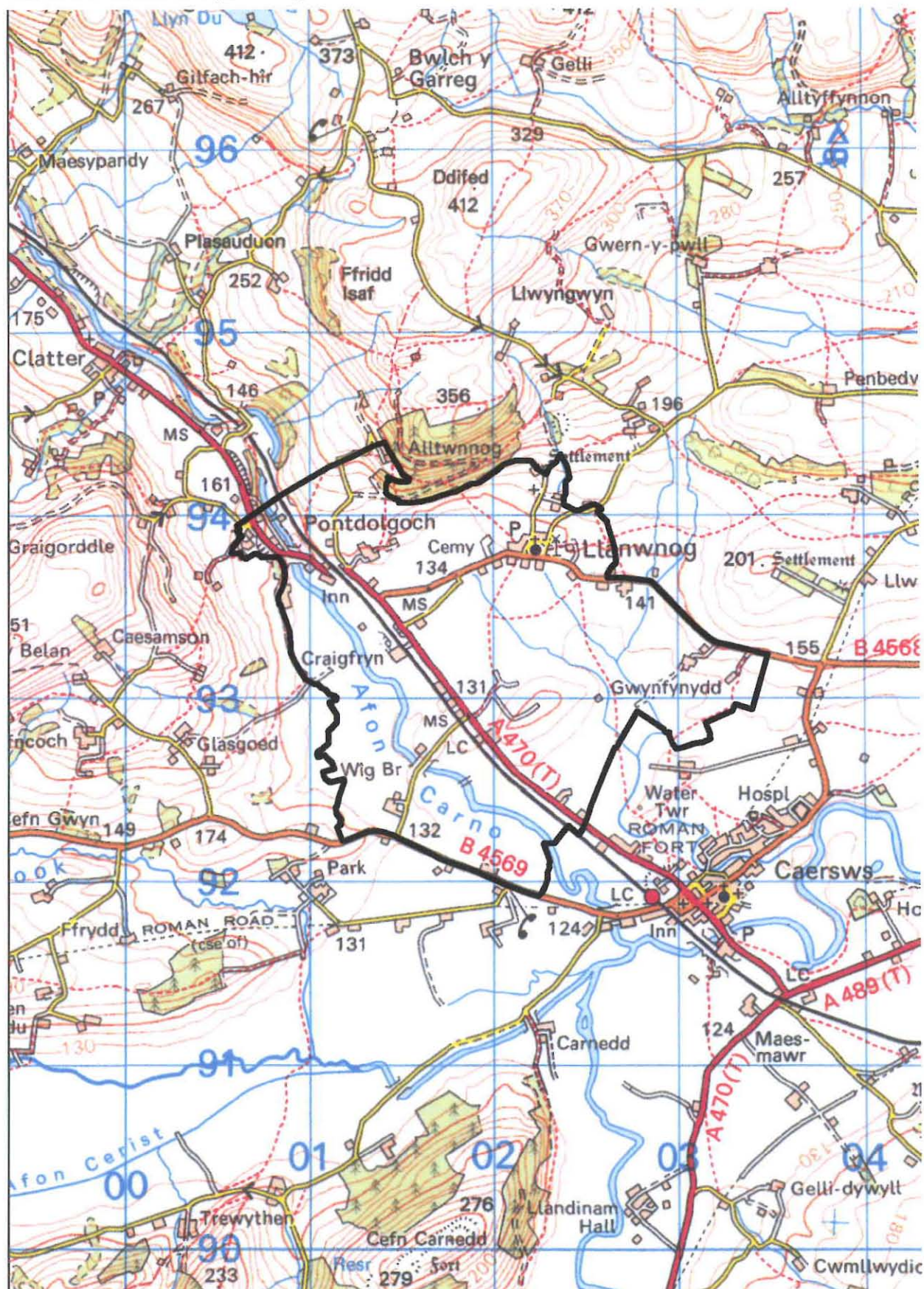
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to earlier prehistoric settlement and land use including a burnt mound, possible settlement traces and burial monuments.*
- *Management of structures and deposits associated with the course of the Roman north running north of the fort at Caersws.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use including traces of ridge and furrow cultivation and other evidence of medieval open field arable farming.*
- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to the early history of the nucleated settlement at Llanwnnog.*
- *Conservation and management of medieval and post-medieval vernacular buildings relating to the history of settlement and land use in the area, including those in the village core of Llanwnnog and farmhouses and farm outbuildings and their setting.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures relating to the history of turnpike roads and railways, including milestones and historic bridges.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures relating to the historic use of waterpower including mills and mill sites, mill leats and millponds.*

Llanwnnog

Historic Landscape Character Area 1179

Caersws community, Powys



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Glasgoed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1180

Caersws community, Powys

Predominantly irregular fieldscapes representing piecemeal woodland clearance and enclosure since at least early medieval times onwards.

Historic Background

The area fell within the manorial townships of Surnant and Wig in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llanwnnog.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Hilly spur with steeply sloping sides between the valley of the river Garno to the east and the valley of the Trannon and Cerist to the south, between a height of 150-290 metres. The soils on the higher ground are well drained fine loamy and silty soils, shallow in places and overlying rock, economically best suited to stock rearing and woodland. The soils on the sloping ground to the east and south of the area are fine loamy and silty with impeded drainage in places, overlying glacial drift deposits, and best suited to stock rearing on permanent grassland. Fieldscapes are predominantly composed of small irregular fields with some larger irregular fields, which probably represent a process of piecemeal clearance and enclosure probably from medieval times and earlier. In the north-eastern corner of the area are a number of straight-sided fields north of Pen-y-coed which represent enclosure of an area of former open common grazing enclosed in the early 19th century. Small residual strips of ancient semi-natural woodland along some of the stream valleys.

From hilly context predictable that Woodland names, Pen-y-coed, Coed-orddle, Glasgoed *glas* 'green, verdant' and *coed* 'wood, trees'.

Prehistoric settlement and land use is suggested by a stone axe found near Perth-eiryn.

The present-day settlement pattern is represented by widely dispersed farms of possible medieval or later medieval origin such as Pen-y-coed and Glasgoed, of which the latter expanded during the 20th century, with the erection of steel-framed buildings, together with a number of scattered cottages. The roadside house at Gate probably originated in the early 19th century, taking its name from the toll gate on the road to Trefeglwys which was formerly sited about 400 metres to the east.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Jones 1983; Lea 1975; Morgan 2001; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothorn and Drewett 1991

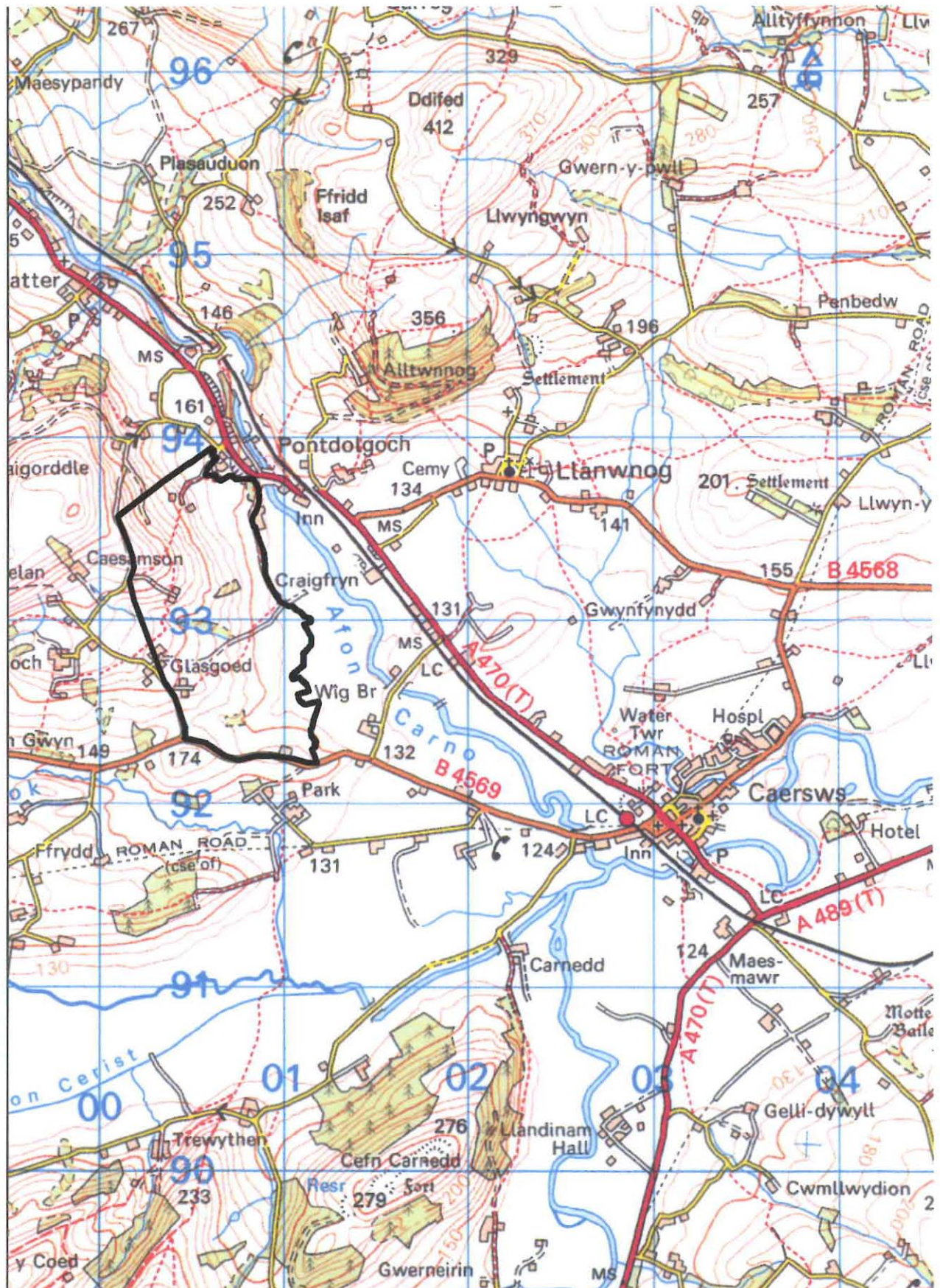
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use.*

Glasgoed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1180

Caersws community, Powys



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Cerist

Historic Landscape Character Area 1181

Caersws and Llandinam communities, Powys

Mixed fieldscapes on the relatively flat and lowlying ground along the lower Trannon and Cerist valleys, representing a combination of piecemeal clearance and enclosure from medieval times onwards, probable emparkment and landscape reorganisation in perhaps the early post-medieval period, and some reorganisation following the construction of the Van Railway and the diversion of a stretch of the river Cerist in the later 19th century.

Historic Background

The area formed parts of the manorial township of Wig in the tithe parish of Llanwnnog, the townships of Trywythen and Carnedd in the parish of Llandinam, and the township of Bodaeoch in the parish of Trefeglwys.

The farm at Park, formerly called Pen-prys, was a manor and possible administrative centre of the of commote of Arwystli Iscoed from at least the later 13th century with both arable and meadow land. The Augustinian canons of Haughmond were granted rights to feed their pigs in the wood of Pen-prys, presumably on more marginal land to the north or west of the manorial centre during the Middle Ages. Park had become a noted centre of horse breeding by the later 12th century and from at least the early 13th century appears to have been the focus of a hunting park. By the Tudor period, in the later 16th century it had become a royal horse stud, perhaps because of the quality of the lowland meadows in the valley of the lower Trannon and Cerist which were being enclosed at this time.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Generally flat and lowlying valley at a height of about 130 metres at the confluence of the Trannon and Cerist rivers and the Colwyn Brook, just to the east of the confluence of the Cerist and Garno with the river Severn. Several low hillocks to the north and west which rise to between 170-80 metres represent glacial drumlins which have had a local impact upon drainage patterns. The lower Cerist/Trannon below Carnedd was straightened presumably to ameliorate flooding between the early 1830s and later 1840s and in 1871 the channel of the Cerist upstream from Carnedd was realigned when the Van Railway was built. Soils in the valley bottom are derived from river alluvium and are composed of deep stoneless, fine silty and clayey soils which have been naturally affected by waterlogging in places and which have economically been most suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent grassland. The soils on the rising ground to the north are fine loamy or silty soils overlying either shale bedrock or fluviglacial gravel and drift, economically suited to stock rearing on permanent grassland and some cereals.

A localized prehistoric lowland peat deposit, up to 2 metres deep and several hundred metres across, spans the eastern boundary of the character area, close to the confluence of the Garno and Severn.

The fieldscapes on the more elevated land to the north and west are dominated by large and small irregular field patterns which are likely to represent a piecemeal process of clearance and enclosure from medieval times or earlier. A distinctive pattern of more regularly shaped fields to the south-east of Park appears to represent landscape reorganisation associated with the Pen-prys manorial estate, and possibly dating from the mid 16th century or earlier. Straight-sided fields bordering the southern boundary of the area represent landscape reorganisation associated with the construction of the Van Railway and the canalization of the river Cerist in 1871.

Early settlement and land use is suggested by the chance find of a Neolithic or Bronze Age stone axe near Park. The course of the Roman road west of the Roman fort at Caersws runs though the area, part of which survives as a visible earthwork. Iron Age or more probably Romano-British agriculture is indicated by a cropmark enclosure representing

a ditched enclosure near Maesgwastad, just to the north of the course of the Roman road.

The oldest surviving building in the area is the house of the Herbert family at Park (formerly Pen-prys) which was a high status building originally constructed in closely-studded timber towards the end of the 17th century parts of which survive behind a later exterior. This is associated with the adjacent farm complex of 19th century origin at Werglodd-Deg. Most of the houses and other buildings in the character area lie along the road to Trefeglwys or along the minor road to Park (following the course of the Roman road westwards from Caersws) are of 20th century date.

Sources

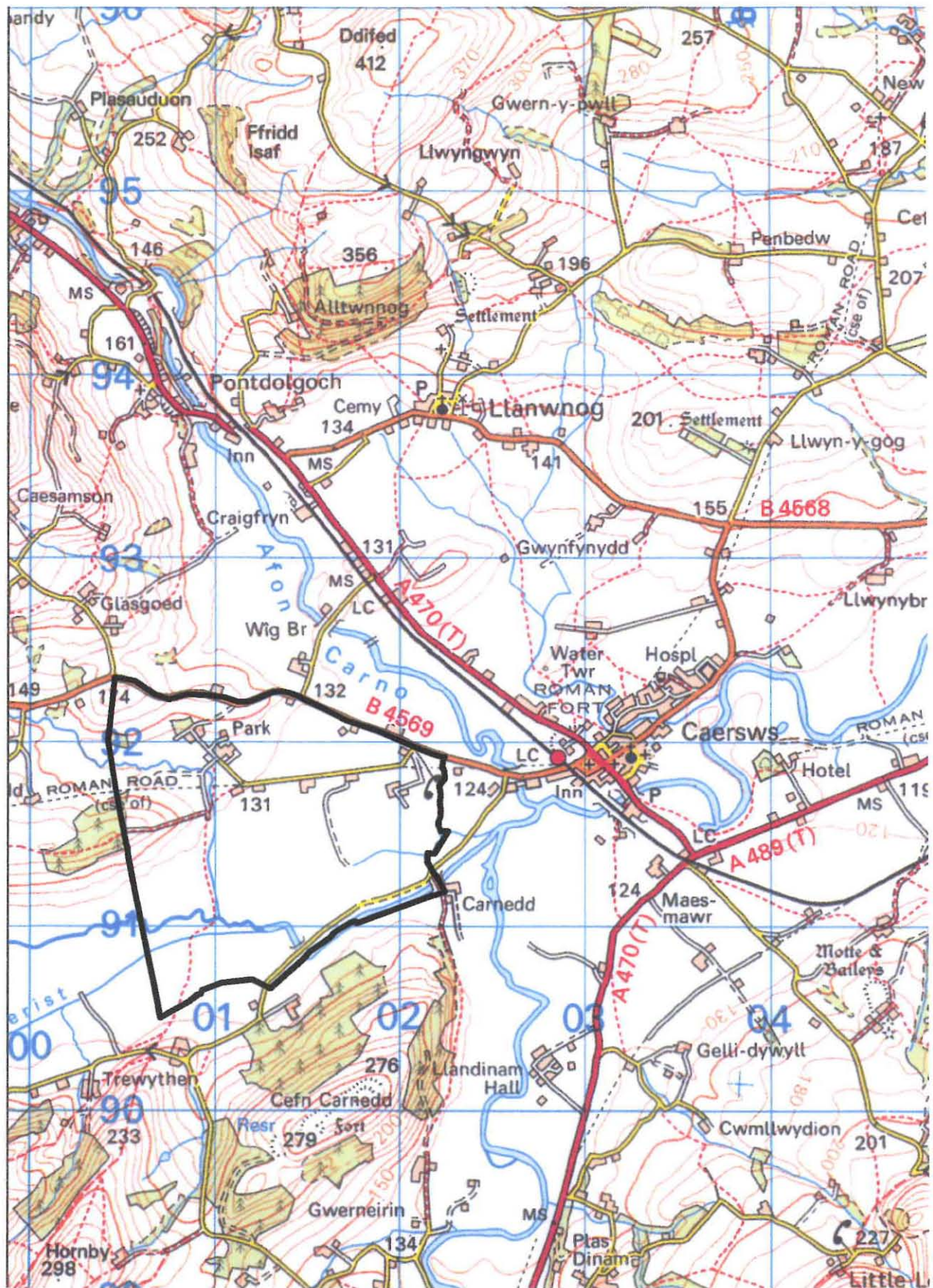
Historic Environment Record; Cadw Listed Building descriptions; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Anon 1883; Barker 1997; Baughan 1980; Bridgeman 1868; Carr 1992; Collens 1988; Conway Davies 1945-46; Cozens 1953; Cozens et al. 2004; Clough and Cummins 1988; Davies 1810; Gibson 1998; Lea 1975; Leeks, Lewin and Newson 1988; Peate 1940; Pennant 1783; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Stephenson 2005; Walker et al. 2000

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of buried peat deposits relating to the environmental history of the Caersws Basin.*
- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to earlier prehistoric settlement and land use including possible settlement traces and burial monuments.*
- *Management of structures and deposits associated with the course of the Roman road running westwards from the fort at Caersws.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure, land use and drainage.*
- *Conservation and management of post-medieval vernacular buildings and structures relating to the history of settlement and land use in the area, including farmhouses and farm outbuildings and their setting.*
- *Conservation and management of structures relating to the history of the Van Railway, including embankments, culverts and water management features.*

Cerist

Historic Landscape Character Area 1181
Caersws and Llandinam communities, Powys



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Caersws

Historic Landscape Character Area 1183

Caersws, Llandinam, Aberhafesp and Mochdre communities, Powys

Modern village, originating as a medieval borough, overlying a Roman civilian settlement alongside a Roman fort, which owes its development initially to its position on the road and rail networks of the later 18th and 19th centuries and latterly as a dormitory village for Newtown.

Historic Background

The area formed parts of the manorial townships of Caersws in the tithe parish of Llanwnnog.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Lowlying and relatively flat valley bottom mostly just above the floodplain of the river Severn, a height of a height of 120-130 metres. Flood defences along the Garno and Severn appear to have been built partly in the later 19th century in conjunction with the construction of the railways and partly during the 20th century.

A number of small lowland commons in and around the village Caersws were the subject of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century.

The Roman fort, whose defences still survive as earthworks just to the north of the modern village centre, was built in the angle between the Severn and Garno in the later 1st century, following the conquest period. The fort included a complex of both stone and timber buildings and was defended by stone walls and gate towers. It lay at the hub of a Roman road network connecting to the fortress and town of Wroxeter to the east, probably to a fort in the Bala area to the north, probably with the fortlet at Penycrocbren and the fort at Pennal to the west, and with the fort at Castell Collen near Llandrindod Wells to the south. A civilian settlement grew up over an area of at least 8 hectares on the southern and eastern sides of the Roman fort, much of it now below the modern village. It was formed of timber building set out on a grid of streets and lanes, which housed merchants and artisans supplying goods and services to the Roman army. The industries which were carried out here included kilns manufacturing floor tiles based upon local clay deposits, as well as ironworking and bronze casting. A bathhouse was built just to the south-west of the fort which was probably fed by water taken by a leat from the river Garno. There are suggestions that a Roman cemetery may also have been established in this area. Occupation of both the fort and associated civilian settlement appear to have rapidly declined in the first half of the 2nd century AD though there are indications that the fort at Caersws may have been maintained as an administrative centre until at least the 3rd or 4th century.

In the post-Roman period the administrative focus of the area appear to have shifted to the nucleated church settlements at Llandinam to the south of the Severn and Llanwnnog to the north. It appears that attempts during perhaps the 13th or 14th century to establish a borough with weekly markets at Caersws by the lords of Arwystli or Powys, lying between those which were created further upstream at Llanidloes and further downstream at Newtown, though this was evidently unsuccessful, and by the 16th century it was no more than a small hamlet. The name Caersws, first recorded in the 1470s, is thought to combine *caer*, a reference to the Roman fort a personal name, possibly *Swys*.

Areas of lowland common in and around the village of Caersws and the lower Manthrig Brook survived until the early 19th century when they were the subject of the Arwystli enclosure act.

The main period of development of Caersws came with the improvements to the turnpike roads in the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries and it consequently has the character of a roadside village developed at an important river crossing and road junction. Although there is at least one traditional vernacular building in the village, its character is in many respects much more urban and industrial than rural (albeit on a very small scale). Thus development includes a series of terraces, one of which is 3-storeyed, probably early C19 and is reminiscent of the rows associated with the woollen industry in Penygloddfa, Newtown. Much of the rest clearly post-dates the railway.

Several inns were built to serve travellers passing through the village and the village also includes the stone-faced, mid 19th-century house of Dolaethnen associated with the Williams Wynn estate. The Caersws Workhouse was built on the eastern side of the village in the 1830s to house up to 350 paupers, being partly built of bricks from local clay dug and fired in kilns to the north-east of the village centre. It subsequently became Llys Maldwyn Hospital and has recently been converted to alternative uses. The village further expanded with the coming of the railways in the 1860s and 1870s, when Caersws was provided with a single storey station with attached two-storey stationmaster's house and a detached signal box. Caersws was also the mainline junction for the Van Railway, the mineral line serving the lead mines north of Llanidloes, for which an office and engine shed were provided on the west side of the village. The engine shed of yellow brick with cast-iron windows survives, as does a much altered small red brick station building which stands on the original platform. Workers housing and shops were built in Caersws, as well as a church and two nonconformist chapels during the 19th century which together with other buildings display a particularly good variety of brick types and colours, including a distinctive yellow brick. During the 20th century there has been some infill housing in the village core, but the most marked expansion has been the housing estates and school to the east of the village centre, across the Manthrig Brook. The diversity of building, building functions and building materials all make important contributions to the distinctive character of the village core at Caersws.

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; Baughan 1980; Bosanquet 1909; Britnell 1989; Burnham 1995; Colt Hoare 1806; Cozens 1953; Cozens et al. 2004; Daniels, Jones and Putnam 1966, 1968, 1970; Davies 1829; Davies 1943-44, 1945-46; Davies 1943-44, 1945-46; Davies 1943-44, 1945-46; Davies and Jones 2006; Hankinson and Jones 2003; Haslam 1979; Howell 1875; Jarrett 1969; Jarrett 1994; Jones 1961; Jones 1983; Jones 1985; Jones 1987; Jones 1993; Lewis 1833; Morgan 2001; Owen 1990; Owen 1993; Pennant 1783; Pritchard 1962; Pryce 1940; Pryce 1931; Putnam 1961-62; Rivet and Smith 1979; Silvester 1992; Soulsby 1983; Stephens 1986; Thomas 1955-56

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of visible and buried structures and deposits relating to the Roman fort close to the village of Caersws and the associated Roman civilian settlement and bathhouse in and around the village.*
- *Conservation and management of post-medieval and modern buildings and structures relating to the settlement history of Caersws, particularly with regard to the diversity of scale and building materials which make an important contribution to the character of the village.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures relating to the history of turnpike roads and railways, including milestones, historic bridges, and railway buildings and structures.*

Caersws

Historic Landscape Character Area 1182

Caersws, Llandinam, Aberhafesp and Mochdre communities, Powys



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Maesmawr

Historic Landscape Character Area 1183

Caersws, Llandinam, Aberhafesp and Mochdre communities, Powys

Fieldsapes predominantly of large irregular fields along the floodplain of the river Severn and its margins, some of which appears to represent enclosure of meadow land associated with the a group of high status estate centres which came into being in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Historic Background

The area formed parts of the manorial townships of Esgob and Castle, Surnant, Wig, and Caersws in the tithe parish of Llanwnnog, the townships of Carnedd, Gwerneirion and Llandinam in the parish of Llandinam and the township of Penstrowed in the parish of Penstrowed.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Lowlying and relatively flat valley bottom and floodplain of the river Severn between Llandinam and Penstrowed between a height of a height of 120-130 metres and including the lower reaches of the river Cerist, Garno and Manthrig Brook and their confluence with the Severn. The solid geology throughout the character area is masked by fluviglacial drift deposits including with a number of glacial drumlins and Boulder Clay deposits on the rising ground to the east and north-east of Caersws, in the area of Llwyn-y-brain. The main valley floor is composed of a series of river terraces, palaeochannels and alluvial fans overlain in the river floodplain by silty alluvial sediments deposited by river action with some gravel bars resulting from reworking of earlier gravels. Parts of the main river channel are liable to frequent flooding and there are active river meanders and cut-offs. Some modification of the river channel downstream from Llandinam was carried out in conjunction with the construction of the railways between the 1860s and 1890s. In addition, over a 1-kilometre length of the river was straightened near Llandinam Hall probably between 1840 and 1886, but has since reverted to an irregular pattern of meanders. The soils within the floodplain are deep and silty and economically best suited to dairying and stock rearing on permanent and short-term grassland, and some cereal production where the risk of flooding is low. To the north-west of Caersws, is an area of impeded drainage along the lower Manthrig Brook and localized prehistoric lowland peat deposit, up to 2 metres deep and several hundred metres across, spans the north-western boundary of the character area, close to the confluence of the Garno and Severn.

Bordering the river is a characteristic pattern of large irregular fields, largely influenced by present and former meandering river channels, which probably mostly developed by a process of gradual enclosure during the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. The fieldsapes on the rising land to either side of the floodplain are dominated by both large and small irregular fields which again probably represent a gradual process of clearance and enclosure by free hold farms from medieval or earlier times. Distinctive patterns of more regular and straight-sided fields in the area of Maesmawr Farm and Maesmawr Hall, between Llwyn-y-brain and Gwynfynydd and to the east of Carnedd appear to represent landscape reorganisation associated with the development of a number of estates in perhaps late medieval to early post-medieval periods. A number of small lowland commons in the vicinity of Caersws were the subject of parliamentary enclosures in the early 19th century, namely Gwern Wyon along the Manthrig Brook to the north of the village, Upper Green, whose name is preserved as The Green, which lay on the floodplain of the Garno to the west of the village, and Lower Green which lay on the floodplain of the Severn to the south and east, each of which had been encroached upon by cottages by that time. Clusters of straight-sided fields resulted from landscape reorganisation associated with the construction of the railways between the 1860s and 1890s. Flood defences along the Garno and Severn appear to have been built at Caersws in the later 19th century, partly in conjunction with the construction of the railways, and during the 20th century.

Most of the placenames relate to relatively recent settlement and communications features though an indication of traditional land use may be indicated by the element *maes* in the name Maesmawr, indicating perhaps a large open field, *dol* in Dolhafren indicating meadow land, and perhaps light woodland by the element *llwyn* ('grove') in Llwyn-y-brain.

Prehistoric settlement and land use in the area, above the floodplain of the Severn is suggested by a cluster of penannular ring-ditches which have been identified by aerial photography near Moat Lane, north of Porth Farm and a single possible example to the south of Red House Farm which may either represent house sites or former burial mounds. Iron Age settlement and land use is indicated by a possibly unfinished ditched enclosure, enclosing an area of up to about 4 hectares, which has been identified just to the east of the Manthrig Brook, to the north-east of Caersws village.

The Roman conquest period, between about AD 50-78 is represented by an earlier Roman fort on a bluff overlooking the river Severn at Llwyn-y-brain, just to the east of Caersws that has been identified by aerial photography, superseded by the more permanent fort just to the north of the modern village of Caersws.

A cluster of small, single or double-ditched rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures possibly representing Roman farmsteads have been identified by aerial photography on the lower lying ground above the floodplain encircling Caersws, suggesting that during the Roman period the area became fairly intensively farmed. Example of one of these possible Roman farmsteads has been identified in the area between Henfryn and Gwynfynydd to the north of Caersws and near Dolhafren south of the river. Following the Roman period the administrative focus of the area appear to have shifted to the nucleated church settlements at Llandinam to the south of the Severn and Llanwnnog to the north and although there is little evidence of the nature of settlement and land use throughout the early medieval and medieval periods it appears that much of the character area, particularly along the floodplain of the river Severn, may have survived as unenclosed grazing land throughout this period.

The countryside around Caersws seems to have undergone a spurt of development during the 16th and 17th centuries with the erection of a number of widely dispersed, high status halls and farmhouses sited on the edge of the floodplain, as at Maesmawr Hall, Llandinam Hall, Llwyn-y-brain and Carnedd. Some of these properties became the focus of landed estates and may have been associated with the enclosure former common meadows along the Severn and its tributaries. Some areas of lowland common in and around the village of Caersws and the lower Mathrig Brook survived, however, until the early 19th century when they were the subject of the Arwystli enclosure act.

Changes to the landscape came with the improvements to the road network were undertaken during the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries and the building of the railways in the later 19th century. The earlier turnpike west of Newtown took the route north of the river, via Aberhafesp, though most traffic subsequently adopted the new route south of the river via the straight stretch known as the Long Length and the stone bridge crossing the Severn at Caersws, built to replace an earlier timber bridge in the early 1820s. The course of the railway lines from Llanidloes to Newtown and from Newtown to Machynlleth and from Caersws to the Van mines north of Llanidloes were built across parts of the character area in the 1860s and 1870s.

Artificial changes to the channel of the Severn downstream of Llandinam were made in 1859 with the construction of the railway to Llanidloes. The river channel was also straightened by means of a 1 kilometre channel near Llandinam Hall probably between 1840 and 1886, though the river has since reverted to an meandering course. Flood defences were built to the south and west of Caersws possibly in association with the construction of the railways in the late 19th century.

The present-day settlement pattern is dominated by a pattern of widely dispersed farms including those at Maes-

mawr, Maes-Mawr Farm, Dolhafren, Red House and Ty-mawr which may have developed as estate farms in the 19th century, to which additional buildings were added during the 20th century. Of the 16th and 17th-century halls and farmhouses within the area, Llandinam Hall, Llwyn-y-brain and Carnedd likewise were developed as working farms in the 19th and 20th centuries whilst Maesmawr Hall was converted into a hotel in 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; Anthony 1995; Barker 1991; Barker 1993; Barker 1997; Barton 1997; Baughan 1980; Collens 1988; Colt Hoare 1806; Conway Davies 1943-44, 1945-46; Cozens 1953; Cozens et al. 2004; Davies 1829; Davies 1977; Davies and Jones 2006; Evans 1949-50; Foster-Smith 1978; Gater, Gaffney and Gater 1990; Gater and Ovenden 1991; Gibson 1998; Grant 2003; Hooke, Horton, Moore and Taylor 1994; Howell 1875; Jones 1961; Jones 1983; Jones 1985; Jones 1987; Jones 1993; Lea 1975; Lewin 1987; Mass, Brewer and Macklin 2001; Morris 1979; Owen 1990; Owen 1993; Peate 1940; Pennant 1783; Pritchard 1962; Pryce 1886b; Putnam 1961-62; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Spurgeon 1966; Thomas 1955-56; Toller 1997

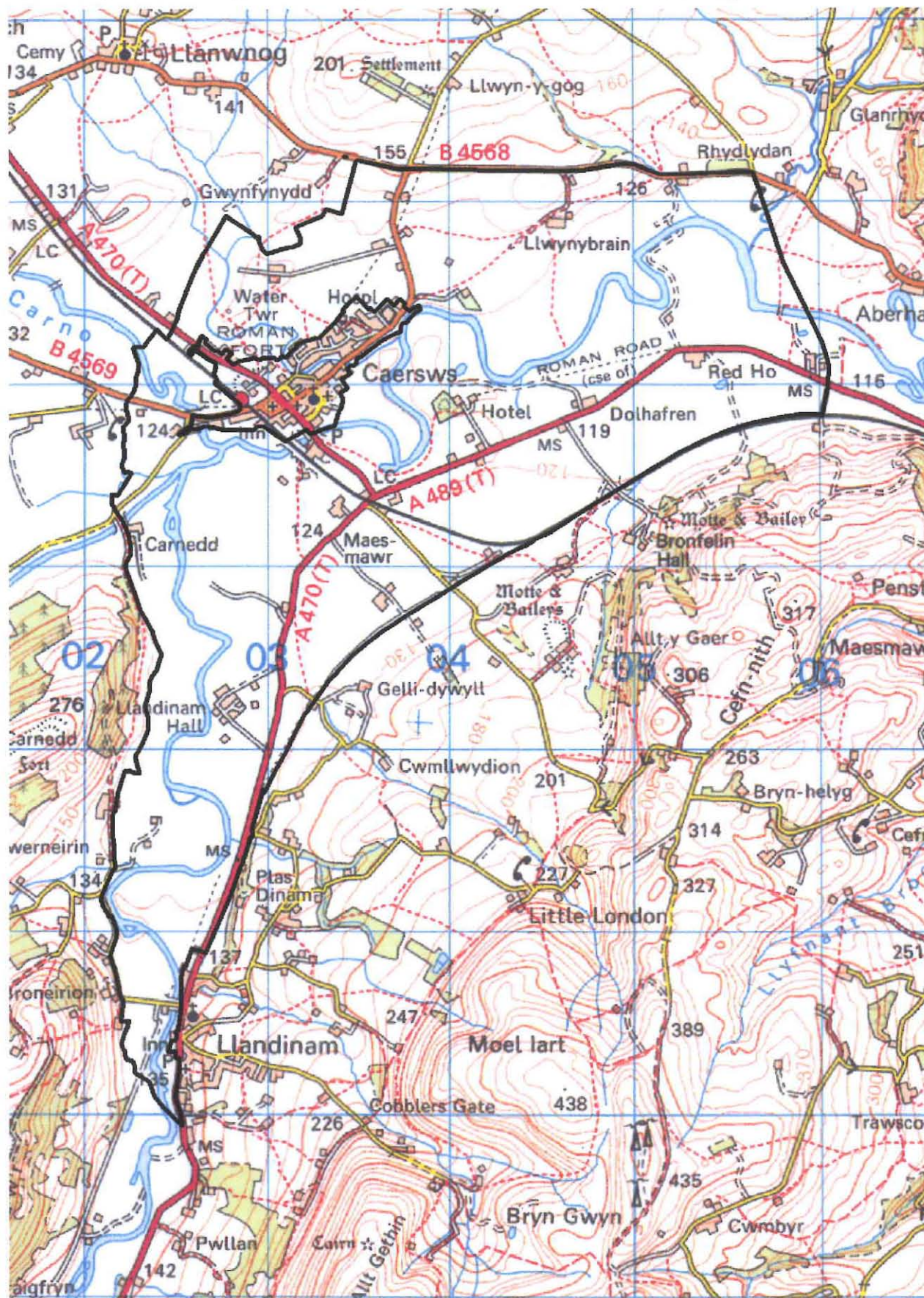
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to prehistoric settlement and land use including burnt mounds, possible settlement traces, burial monuments, defended enclosures and farmsteads in the countryside.*
- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to the Llwyn-y-brain Roman fort to the east of Caersws.*
- *Management of structures and deposits associated with the Roman roads to the north, south, east and west of the fort at Caersws.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use.*
- *Conservation and management of late and early post-medieval farms and halls in the countryside and their setting.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures relating to the history of turnpike roads and railways, including milestones, historic bridges, and railway buildings and structures.*

Maesmawr

Historic Landscape Character Area 1183

Caersws, Llandinam, Aberhafesp and Mochdre communities, Powys



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Carnedd

Historic Landscape Character Area 1184

Caersws and Llandinam communities, Powys

Iron Age hillfort on hilltop ridge. Irregular fieldscapes and disperse farms of possible medieval and later origin with areas of remnant broadleaved woodland on steeper slopes and conifer plantations and some open pasture on land first enclosed in the early 19th century. Country house landscape with associated gardens, lodge and other buildings built for David Davies at Broneirion.

Historic Background

The area formed part of the manorial townships of Trewythen, Gwerneirion, Carnedd and Llandinam in Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llandinam.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Hilly spur between the Cerist and Trannon rivers to the north and the Severn to the south, with steep hill slopes and dominated by the Cefn Carnedd ridge, lying between a height of 130-270 metres. Mostly well-drained fine loamy and silty soils overlying shale bedrock with some bare rock outcrops in places, economically best suited to stock rearing on the higher ground, and coniferous and deciduous woodland and rough grazing on the steeper slopes. Fieldscales are dominated by large and small irregular fields which appear to represent a gradual process of clearance and enclosure from medieval or earlier times, associated with dispersed farmsteads of which some are likely to be of medieval origin.

A significant portion of the hilltop of Cefn Carnedd as well some eastern parts of the area including Waun Dingle and the hillslopes above Broneirion were the subject of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. A distinctive element of the landscape are areas of both semi-natural and ancient replanted broadleaved woodland on steeper uncultivated slopes and steep-sided stream valleys as well as numerous parcels of particularly conifer woodland on the hill slopes flanking Cefn Carnedd much of it apparently first planted in about the mid 19th century in areas of former common land.

Placenames of little of significance other than recent wood names mostly relating to 19th-century plantations on the Dinam Estate though historical limitations on land use are also implied by the placename elements *gwaun* ('mountain pasture') in Waun Dingle, *gwern* ('swamp') in Gwern-eirin, *meirot* ('thorn bush') in the name Coed Meirot, and *rhedyn* ('bracken') in the name Caer'rhedyn (formerly Cae-rhedyn).

Later prehistoric settlement and land use in the area is indicated by the Iron Age hillfort on the hilltop ridge at Cefn Carnedd.

Present-day settlement in the area is represented by dispersed farms and cottages together with Broneirion and its associated complex of buildings. Earlier settlement of medieval to later medieval origin is represented by widely dispersed farms such as Middle Gwern-eirin and the neighbouring half-timbered, roadside cottage at Little House, dated 1692, which may have been its lodge. A further half-timbered cottage formerly existed at Lower Gwerneirin. The Middle Gwern-eirin farmhouse, has the appearance of an earlier farm, rebuilt in a Gothic style as an estate farm of the Dinam Estate during the later 19th-century. The dominant settlement in the area is the Italianate villa of Broneirion (now a conference and residential training centre for the Guide movement) built on a new site in a picturesque setting at the foot of steep, wooded hillslopes for the eminent industrialist David Davies in 1864-65. This forms part of a complex together with its associated gardens, Gothic lodge, other large houses at Fron Haul and Bryn-Hafren and a

terrace of estate workers' houses. Some additional houses have been recently added to the complex.

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; Guilbert and Morris 1979; Hogg 1979; Jones 1983; Morgan 2001; Sothern and Drewett 1991; Smith 1975; Smith and Owen 1955-56; Spurgeon 1972; Thomas 1938

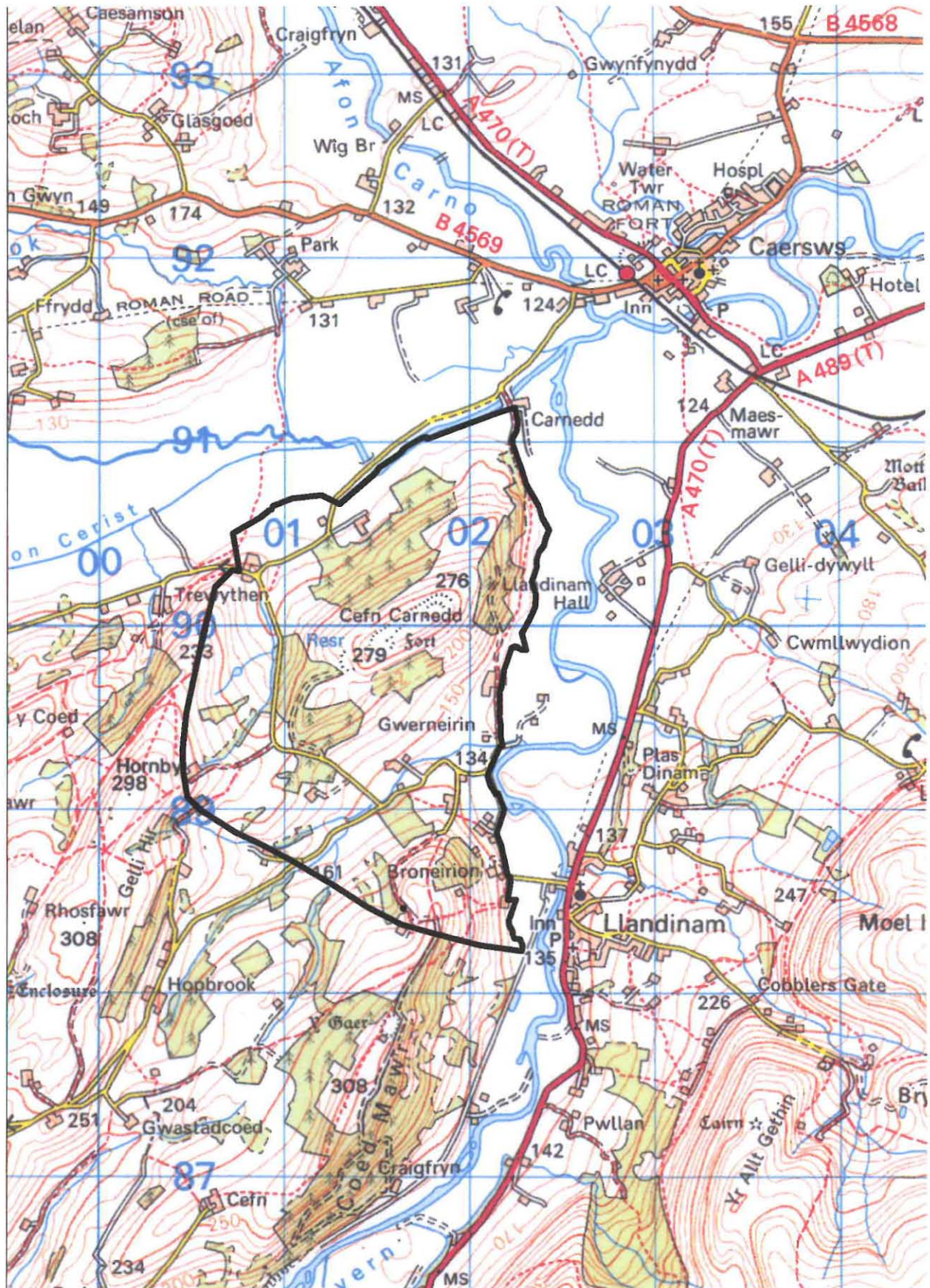
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of the visible and buried structures and deposits associated with the Iron Age hillfort at Cefn Carnedd.*
- *Management of structures and deposits associated with the probable course of the Roman road running southwards from the fort at Caersws towards the fort at Castell Collen.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use including traces of ridge and furrow cultivation.*
- *Conservation and management of vernacular buildings relating to the history of settlement and land use in the area.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings, gardens and other structures associated with David Davies's country house at Broneirion and the Dinam Estate.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and structures relating to the history of turnpike roads and railways, including milestones, historic bridges, railway buildings and structures.*

Carnedd

Historic Landscape Character Area 1184

Caersws and Llandinam communities, Powys



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Rhos Ddiarbed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1185

Llandinam and Mochdre communities, Powys

Irregular fieldscapes and dispersed farms possibly of medieval or earlier origin on the rising ground on the south and east of the Caersws Basin. Medieval motte and bailey castles associated with the Anglo-Norman conquest. Small nucleated church settlement of early medieval and medieval origin at Llandinam whose development was influenced by the turnpike road improvements in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and the coming of the railways and the patronage of the Davies family in the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries.

Historic Background

The area formed part of the manorial townships of Maesmawr and Llandinam in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llandinam and the township of Penstrowed in the tithe parish of Penstrowed.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Generally gently sloping toe slope along the southern side of the Severn valley between Penstrowed and Llandinam, between a height of 130-280 metres. The soils are mostly seasonally waterlogged fine loams overlying clayey glacial drift deposits which historically have been economically best suited to stock rearing and some dairying on permanent grassland with some winter cereals. Fieldscapes are predominantly composed of large and small irregular fields probably representing gradual piecemeal clearance and enclosure from medieval or earlier periods onwards but with more regular field and straight-sided field patterning, in the areas to the south of Caetwp and in the between Maesmawr Farm and The Moat respectively, which probably represent enclosure or landscape reorganisation associated with estate holdings in the post-medieval period. A small area of common encompassing the stream valleys just to the west of Plas Dinam was the subject of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. Sinuous strips of ancient semi-natural woodland along a number of steep-sided stream valleys, together with a number of relatively small areas of conifer plantation of 19th and 20th-century origin on some steeper slopes. Modern land use changes include the golf driving range established near The Moat.

Most of the placenames in the area relate to relatively recent settlement features but some indication of historic land use and vegetation is indicated by the woodland element *celli* ('grove, copse') in Gelli-dywyll and the implication of rough grazing by the element *rhos* in Rhos Ddiarbed.

Early land use and settlement of perhaps the Roman period is suggested by the cropmark of small rectangular ditched enclosures discovered by aerial photography near Gellidywyll and on a slight rise to the south of Llandinam Hall which appear to represent a cluster of such farmsteads in the Caersws area. The course of the Roman road southwards from Caersws to Castell Collen is thought to partly underlie the present A470 trunk road which runs through the area.

The church dedicated to St Llonio at Llandinam may have originated in the early medieval period. By the medieval period it was a *clas* church, one of the two mother-churches in the *cantref* of Arwystli and may have formed the focus of a small nucleated settlement from early times. The name of Llandinam first appears in the early 13th century and combines the elements *llan* ('church') and *dinam* ('little fort'), the latter not have been closely identified with any particular site. The two earthwork castles at Bronfelin and Moat Farm motte and baileys on the rising ground to the south of the Severn, both appear to be associated with the period of Anglo-Norman conquest in the late 11th century, and although they may only have had a short-lived military significance they appear to have continued, perhaps as manorial centres, into the later medieval period.

The historic landscape character area includes a number of quite diverse and distinctive settlement landscapes, including the small nucleated settlement of early medieval or medieval origin at Llandinam, a dispersed pattern of farms of medieval and later origin, a cluster of probably of later 18th- and 19th- century encroachment cottages at Little London, and the 19th-century country house and associated buildings at Plas Dinam.

Apart from the medieval church the earliest surviving buildings in Llandinam are of 17th-century date and include several small vernacular buildings without land, clustered in an informal pattern reminiscent of squatting. Timber-framing was used in the earliest buildings but appears to have continued for those of lesser status: there are several cottages, as for example in Llandinam village and on the roadside south of it, which have the spindly timbers characteristic of late 18th-century or even early 19th-century framing. There are also several good and more substantial 18th-century stone houses in the village. The later development of Llandinam was influenced by the turnpike road improvements in the later 18th and earlier 19th century, the coming of the railway in the later 19th century, and by the patronage of the Davies family in the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries. The roadside Lion Inn owes its existence to the turnpike road improvements, as does cast-iron Llandinam Bridge of 1846 crossing the Severn. The eminent Welsh industrialist, David Davies, a native of Llandinam, was one of the contractors for the bridge. Something of the character of the later focus of the village changed with the road widening and straightening schemes undertaken on the present-day A470 trunk road in the second half of the 20th century. The Llanidloes to Newtown railway which lay close to the river at Llandinam was completed in 1859, for which Davies was also the contractor. The railway finally closed in the 1960s, but the siting of the former station and sidings are still evident in the landscape. The fine bronze statue at the eastern end of the bridge of David Davies, shown wearing everyday clothes and examining a plan of Barry Docks, was erected 'by public subscription' in 1893, three years after his death. Davies was also the contractor and prime benefactor of the prominent roadside church of the Presbyterian Church of Wales (the denomination formerly known as the Calvinistic Methodists) built in a French Gothic style in 1873, where he and his family were regular worshippers. There was also formerly a Wesleyan Methodist chapel within the village. The character of the village is also influenced by several later buildings of which Davies's descendants were benefactors, notably the Llandinam Institute with library and meeting rooms, built between 1905-10, and Trelonydd, a small planned estate of cottages around an informal green, built in about 1918 to house retired estate workers. The cottages, with white roughcast outer walls and small windows are built in a plain Arts and Crafts style.

The rural landscape of the character area is characterized by widely dispersed farms, some probably originating as freehold farms in the medieval and early post-medieval periods (as probably in the case of The Moat and Bronfelin Hall) and some as a result of improvements by the Llandinam Hall and Dinam Estates in the 19th century. Late medieval building traditions in the area are represented by Porth-gwibedyn which originated as a cruck-framed hall-house. The small farm at Caetwp, built in a later 19th-century Gothic style, was probably built or rebuilt as part of the Dinam Estate.

The cluster of cottages and small houses on the upland at Little London to the north-east of Llandinam, first recorded under its Welsh name, *Lundain vach* ('Little London') in 1740, most probably originated as encroachments on the once more extensive unenclosed commons in the area. The trackway running along the contour of the hill at this point has been thought to represent an earlier drover's road.

The fine Victorian country house in a simple Arts and Crafts style at Plas Dinam and associated a series of offices east of the house and gardens was built on a new site in the 1870s for Captain J. O. Crewe-Read of Llandinam Hall. It was subsequently purchased by David Davies's and occupied by his son.

The former use of water power in the character area is indicated by the place name Waulk Mill on the Ffinnant stream, just to the north of Llandinam, suggesting an earlier woollen mill.

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; Anon 1886; Cadw 1999; Davies 1977; Evans 2004; Fisher 1917; Garbett-Edwards 1987; Lea 1975; Haslam 1979; Hogg and King 1963; Jones 1869; Jones 1983; Lewis 1833; Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society 1997; Morgan 200; Pryce 2002; RCAHMW 1911; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothorn and Drewitt 1991; Spurgeon 1965-66; Stephenson 2005; Zaluckyj 2006

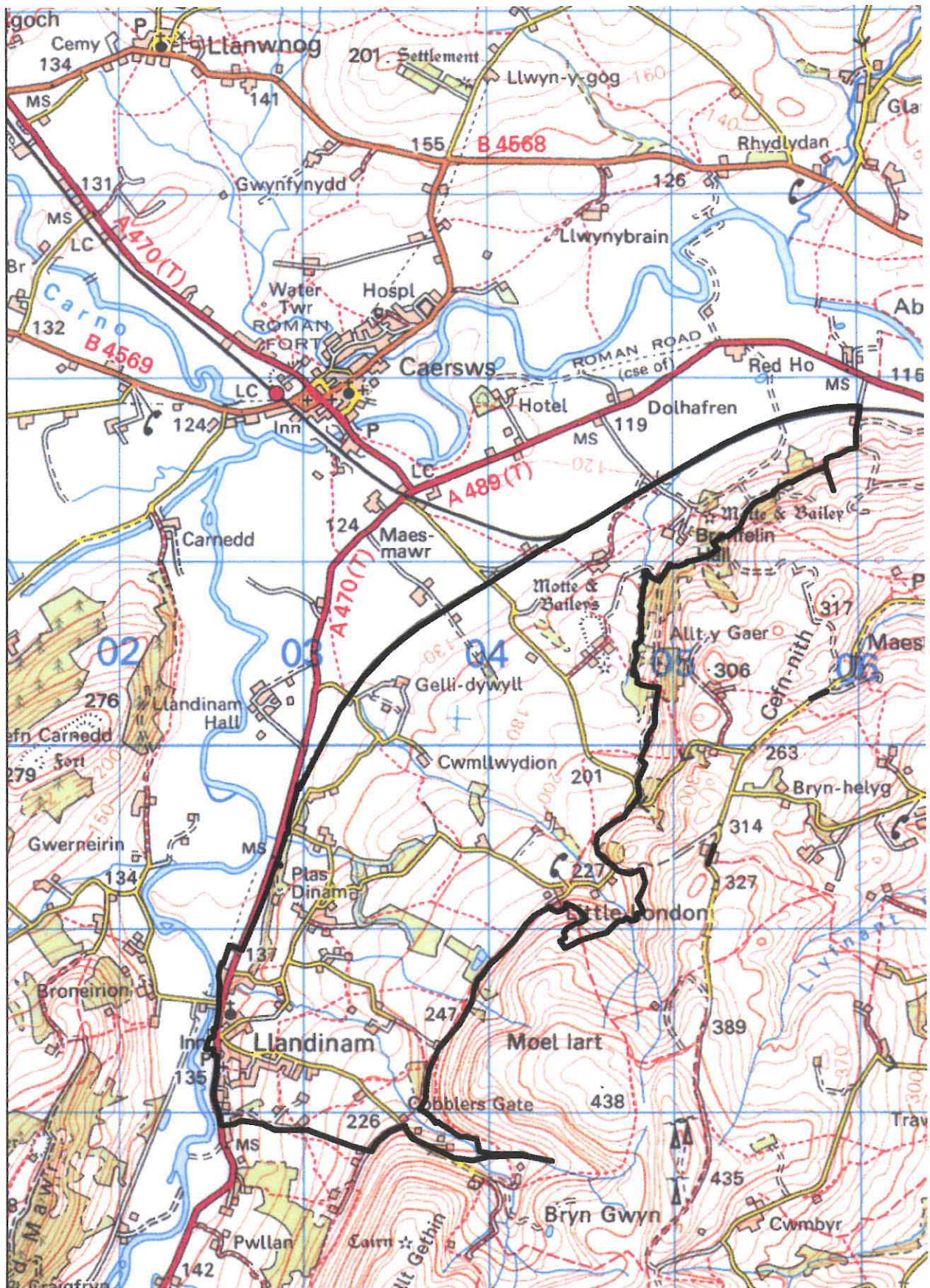
Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of the visible and buried structures and deposits associated with the medieval motte and bailey castles at Bronfelin and The Moat.*
- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use.*
- *Conservation and management of farmhouses, farm outbuildings and cottages relating to the history of rural settlement and land use.*
- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to the early history of the nucleated settlement at Llandinam.*
- *Conservation and management of buildings and other structures within and around Llandinam relating to the social and economic history of the settlement and its associations with the Davies family.*
- *Management of buildings and buried structures relating to the former mills and the use of water power.*
- *Conservation and management of Victorian and later buildings, gardens and other structures associated with Plas Dinam and the Dinam Estate.*
- *Management of structures relating to transport history in the area, notably those associated with the course of the Roman road south from Caersws, the turnpike roads, and the Llanidloes and Newtown railway.*

Rhos Ddiarbed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1185

Llandinam and Mochdre communities, Powys



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Moel Iart - Penstrowed Hill

Historic Landscape Character Area 1186
Llandinam and Mochdre communities, Powys

Enclosed moorland on the hills around the southern and eastern rim of the Caersws Basin, substantial parts of which were subject to parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century.

Historic Background

The area formed part of the manorial townships of Maesmawr and Llandinam in the Montgomeryshire tithe parish of Llandinam and the township of Penstrowed in the tithe parish of Penstrowed.

Key Historic Landscape Characteristics

Undulating hilltop running along southern side of the Severn valley, between a height of 190-430 metres. The soils are mostly well-drained fine loamy and silty, thin in places and overlying shale bedrock, which historically have been best suited to stock rearing on upland pasture with rough grazing and woodland on the steeper slopes. An small, residual area of registered Common Land survives at the southern end of the area, on the south side of Moel Iart. A small parts of the area, notably the area of small irregular fields near The Forest and leading up to Moeliart which appear to have been enclosed by perhaps the late 18th century, perhaps by a process of encroachment onto former common land. The remainder of the area, characteristically represented by large and small straight-sided and large irregular enclosures defined by post and wire fences, was enclosed by parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and some ancient replanted woodland exist on the steeper slopes of Allt y gaer to the south and east of Bronfelin Hall and The Moat.

Little indication of historic land use is provided by placename evidence though the name Moeliart is significantly derived from the elements *moel* ('bare hill') and *garth* ('enclosure'). The name Cefn Lladron, from the elements *cefn* ('ridge') and *lladron* ('thieves') on the northern side of Penstrowed Hill, towards the northern end of the area, is unexplained but would seem to refer to either an historical or traditional association of robbers with this area overlooking the narrow pass along the Severn valley.

Grassland improvement of unknown date is represented by a scatter of stone clearance cairns.

There is little settlement within the area at the present day.

Sources

Historic Environment Record; modern Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, 1:25,000 mapping and 1st edn Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 mapping; Ellis 1935; Jones 1983; Soil Survey of England and Wales; Sothorn and Drewitt 1991

Key historic landscape management issues

- *Management of traditional field boundaries and other structures relating to historic patterns of enclosure and land use.*
- *Management of buried structures and deposits relating to the history of settlement and land use in the area including abandoned house sites.*

Moel Iart - Penstrowed Hill

Historic Landscape Character Area 1186

Llandinam and Mochdre 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

Appendix 2: Historic Landscape Types

The following historic landscape types were identified and mapped as part of this study.

broadleaved woodland

Tracts of broadleaved woodland generally >1ha, generally mapped from symbols given on OS 1:10,000 raster data but with some information taken from OS 1:25,000 raster data, and having the appearance of semi-natural or re-planted broadleaved woodland.

conifer woodland

Conifer plantations, generally >1ha, generally mapped from symbols given on OS 1:10,000 raster data but with some information taken from OS 1:25,000 raster data

reservoirs

Larger reservoirs and dams, including ancillary works, mapped from OS 1:10,000 raster maps, generally >1ha.

irregular fields

Areas of irregular fields generally >1ha, probably representing a process of piecemeal clearance and enclosure. Mapped from OS 1:10,000 raster data. Small irregular fields are generally those <3 hectares and large irregular fields those >3 hectares.

enclosed moorland

Larger enclosed areas of moorland, including some registered Common Land, forming irregularly-shaped polygons, generally with straight-sided boundaries, lying on and around the edge of open upland areas, assumed to represent the 19th-century enclosure of former upland commons. The distinction between this category and the 'open moorland' and 'regularly enclosed moorland' is subjective in some instances. Mapped from OS 1:10,000 raster maps.

straight-sided fields

Contiguous blocks of straight-sided fields, generally >3ha, having the appearance of late enclosure of former open common grazing or late landscape reorganisation, or late partitioning of drained and reclaimed land. Mapped from OS 1:10,000 raster data. Small straight-sided fields are generally those <3 hectares and large straight-sided fields those >3 hectares.

strip fields

Contiguous areas of narrow elongated fields, generally 1ha, which in the context of the study area have the appearance of possibly early post-medieval enclosure or landscape reorganisation. Mapped from OS 1:10,000 raster data.

floodplain fields

Riverside fields and meadows of various shapes and sizes, liable to flooding.

former parkland

Former parkland landscape, retaining some parkland character.

small linear settlements

Usually extending along road, comprising >5 contiguous houses

small nucleated settlements

Small settlement focus, comprising >5 houses

large country houses

Country house complex, including house, stables and adjacent gardens and driveway etc.

reservoirs

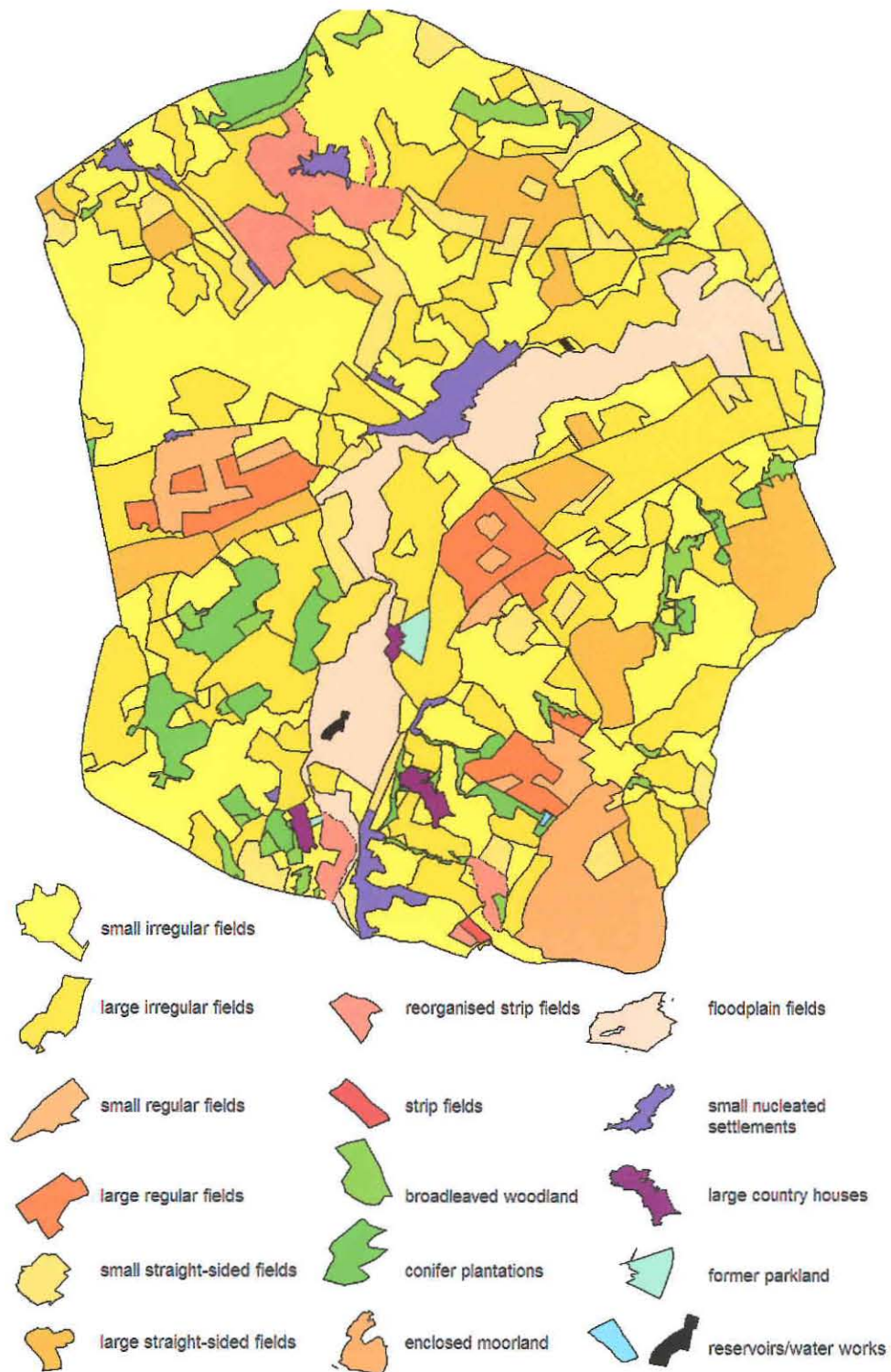
Usually >0.5ha

water treatment works

Including sewage works, usually >0.5ha

Caersws Basin

Historic Landscape Types



Penbedw

Historic Landscape Character Area 1178



Aerial view of straight-sided fields near Llwyn-y-gog on the road north of Caersws, representing early 19th-century enclosure of former open common. The earthwork remains of the probable Iron Age defended enclosure are visible just to the right of centre. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-14*



Straight-sided fields near Llwyn-y-gog, with ancient broadleaved woodland and modern conifer plantation on Alltwnnog in the background. *Photo: CPAT 2272-058*

Llanwnnog

Historic Landscape Character Area 1179



Aerial view of the village of Llanwnnog from the west. The distinctive pattern of long strip fields with dog-leg boundaries appear to represent enclosure of former medieval open fields. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-43*



Ground level view of Llanwnnog from the south-west, with the medieval church of St Gwennog visible to the right. *Photo: CPAT 2272-061*

Glascoed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1180



Irregular fieldscapes on the sloping ground to the east of Glascoed, looking towards Llanwnnog. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-65*



The uplands near Glascoed, on the north-western rim of the Caersws Basin. *Photo: CPAT 2272-068*

Cerist

Historic Landscape Character Area 1181



Straight-sided fields near the confluence of the Garno to the left and the canalized river Cerist to the right, looking towards Caersws in the background. The Roman road west of Caersws underlies the straight road to the left. The course of the Van Railway is clearly visible running from Caersws to the bottom right. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-074*



Straight-sided fields in the valley of the Trannon and Cerist valleys, looking northwards. *Photo: CPAT 2272-040*

Caersws

Historic Landscape Character Area 1182



Caersws viewed from the north-west with the ramparts of the Roman fort visible towards the foreground between the road and the railway, and with the river Severn beyond. *Photo CPAT 06-C-024*



Distant aerial view of Caersws from the east with the meandering river Severn in the middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-006*

Maesmawr

Historic Landscape Character Area 1183



Aerial view of river Severn meanders near Dolhafren, to the east of Caersws. To the left the Roman road to Caersws is visible as an earthwork and hedge boundary running roughly parallel with the 19th-century turnpike road visible in the top left corner. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-008*



Ground level view of the Caersws Basin from the south-east with the village of Caersws in the middle distance. *Photo: CPAT 2272-006*

Carnedd

Historic Landscape Character Area 1183



Cefn Carnedd Iron Age hillfort viewed from the south-west, with the floodplain and meandering course of the river Severn in the background. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-085*



Fields and woodland on the northern flanks of Cefn Carnedd ridge. *Photo: CPAT 2272-038*

Rhos Ddiarbed

Historic Landscape Character Area 1184



Aerial view of fieldscapes on the rising ground south of the river Severn looking westwards towards Llandinam and the Cefn Carnedd ridge in the background. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-106*



Fields on the rising ground south of the river Severn, looking towards Moel Iart and other hills forming the southern rim of the Severn Basin. *Photo: CPAT 2272-025*

Moel Iart - Penstrowed Hill

Historic Landscape Character Area 1185



Aerial view of Moel Iart, looking northwards to the Severn valley and Llandinam in the middle distance and the Cefn Carnedd ridge in the background. *Photo: CPAT 06-C-122*



Moel Iart, viewed from the north. *Photo: CPAT 2272-023*