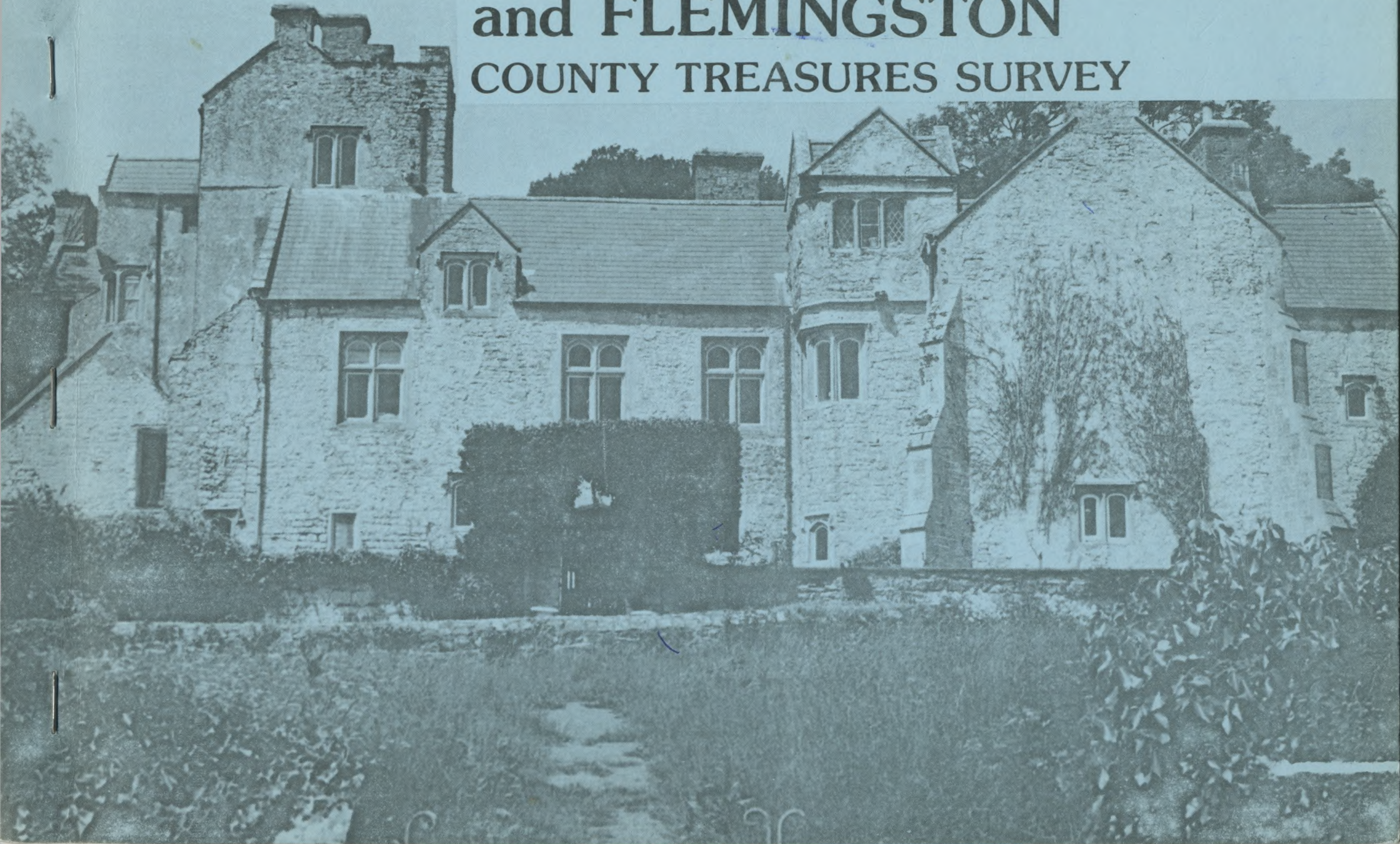


County of South Glamorgan
**LLANMAES, LLANMIHANGEL
and FLEMINGSTON**
COUNTY TREASURES SURVEY



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The Old Malt House, Sigingstone



Historical Preface :

Llanmaes, Llanmihangel and Flemingston

This booklet covers the Community of Llanmaes and the new Community Wards of Llanmihangel (part of Llandow Community) and Flemingston (part of St. Athan Community). Prior to April 1982, when boundary changes occurred, the area covered the smaller communities of Llanmaes, Llanmihangel, Flemingston and Eglwysbrewis. Some Treasures in the Llandow Industrial Estate area have already been included in the County Treasures Survey booklet for Llantwit Major (printed in August 1981, price £1.00).

The area is situated entirely on Liassic limestones of the Jurassic Age (approximately 70 million years ago) which cover large parts of the southern Vale of Glamorgan. The gentle dips and general softness

of these rocks offered little resistance to the seas which once covered this area, and which created by erosion the low-relief land surface seen today. Across the majority of the area, the plateau generally remains a constant 60 to 75 metres (200 to 250 feet) above sea level.

Occasionally streams, such as Nant y Stepsau between Eglwysbrewis and Flemingston, cut deeply into the land surface. The River Thaw is one such incised water-course. It flows in a valley exploited by meltwater rushing down from upland glaciers during the last Ice Age. But now, as a result of the valley filling up with alluvial deposits, it meanders across a wide, flat valley floor. Both this area - although prone to flooding - and the limestone plateau are intensively

farmed, grazing by cattle and some cereal production being the predominant land use. Tree cover is sparse, with woodland being confined to valley sides - although the hedgerows are still an important landscape feature and are often many hundreds of years old.

Many small quarries are to be found: the local limestones are an ideal building material and constitute the traditional building material in the area. Thatch is still often seen, although slate has taken its place as a roofing material.

The earliest settlers in the area were probably the Beaker folk (so called because of the pots found in their graves) - primitive nomadic herdsmen and traders who settled at Sutton, near Llandow, in the 17th century B.C. There is actual evidence of Bronze Age (15th and 16th centuries B.C.)

settlement in the area, both in the many barrows and cairns at Llandow Industrial Estate and Domen Fawr Round Barrow near Llanmihangel. These contained cremated burials and evidence of religious ceremony. These early settlers, with their newly-found abilities to make and use metal tools, were able to clear the dense tree cover, drain the marshy valley bottoms, and till the land. They began the tradition of pastoralism which is prevalent in the area today.

The Roman influence is not very strong in the area, although there is a site of probable Roman occupation north-west of Pen-y-Bryn, Llanmihangel (LL.2). The Celts who settled in the area between 450 and 1100 A.D., however, left a legacy of dedications to their saints in the names of churches and parishes, such as St. Cadoc at Llanmaes and St. Michael at Llanmihangel. The latter, in fact, means 'parish of Michael the Angel'. Flemingston

church is also dedicated to St. Michael, but is an example of the Normans establishing a church in a village without one, as is also the case at Eglwysbrewis.

The Normans, having chosen to inhabit the 'Bro' ('Vale': 'Fro Morgannwg' meaning 'Vale of Glamorgan') in preference to the upland 'Blaenau', farmed the area intensively. This is exemplified by place names such as 'West Orchard': large scale attempts were made at fruit, and even vine, production on the suitable soils of the southern Vale whilst that period enjoyed a more equable climate.

The mediaeval period saw a spate of castle building, such as Malifant Castle, Llanmaes (built in about 1450), Flemingston (in the grounds of Flemingston Court Farm, founded in 1315) and

West Orchard. These were generally fortified manor houses, built to withstand purely local feuds. Paradoxically, the Middle Ages were an era of depopulation, with a village at Flemingston Moor and settlement at Gadlys, Llanmaes being deserted - probably as a result of plague outbreaks and changing economic fortunes. It was soon realised that, to survive, settlements should be grouped together. Arable farming required co-operation between farms and families, who often shared ploughs and oxen: dwellings were thus clustered, generally around church and manor house, with unpopulated fields beyond. This pattern of nucleation is very distinctive, and is classically demonstrated in the area.

The period of comparative peace and growing prosperity in the Tudor period is reflected in the construction of large manor houses, such as

Llanmihangel Place, Flemingston Court and (later) Great House, Llanmaes. These great houses all reflect the way the gentry wished to display their wealth and importance. Lesser mortals found enjoyment in such events as the 'mabsant' - an annual excuse for a good deal of dancing, game-playing, eating and drinking, despite being originally a religious festival. In 1741, Charles Wesley visited the Llanmaes mabsant in order to dissuade the populace from such activity, so prevalent had the tradition become.

One of Glamorgan's most famous sons, Edward Williams (better known as Iolo Morgannwg), recorded the life and countryside of this part of the Vale. It was he who first used the expression 'garden of Wales' for the Vale of Glamorgan, and was the creator of the 'Gorsedd y Beirdd' in the National Eisteddfod. A stonemason by profession, but writer, poet and

antiquarian by inclination, he lived almost all his 80 years until his death in 1826 in a cottage - long since demolished - in Flemingston. He is buried in the church, where there is a memorial to him and his son, Taliesin.

The Victorian era saw comparatively few physical changes to the area. St. Michael's Church in Flemingston was 'restored' in Victorian fashion, and a number of houses, such as Great House Farm, were built. However, it was not until the Second World War that greater change took place. The flat, undeveloped terrain and proximity to the coast of northern France made the area ideal for runways for use by wartime aircraft. In a comparatively short period of time an extensive network of taxiing lanes, runways and hardstanding areas covering many square kilometres was developed from Llandow to St. Athan - a distance of some 8 kilometres. The

hangars and areas of hardstanding were so dispersed to avoid concentrations of grounded aircraft being damaged during enemy bombing raids. Today, St. Athan is a very large Air Force base and airfield, whilst Llandow airfield has been converted into an industrial estate. Many of the former taxiing routes have now been dug up, grassed over or are used for farm tracks and storage. Old aircraft can still be seen near Eglwysbrewis and Picketstone (ST 001693).


Overall, however, the villages in the area have been little affected by development. Llanmaes, Flemingston and, to a lesser extent, Sigingstone, have been expanded by recent small housing estates; but the quiet, agrarian nature of these communities has changed very little. Llanmaes has become primarily a dormitory village, but otherwise farming remains the predominant occupation.

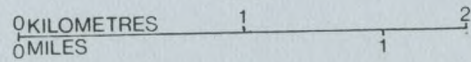
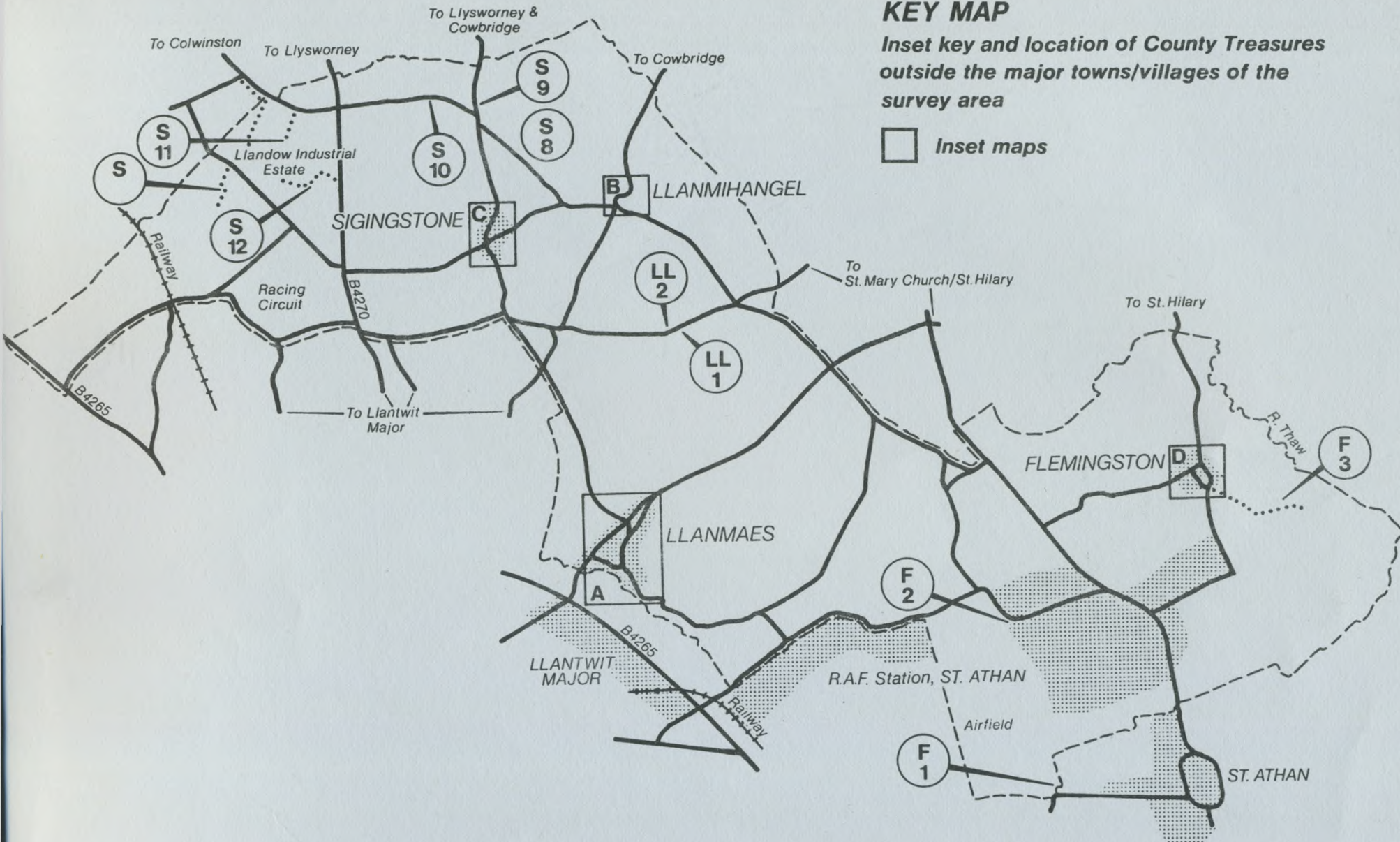


Village Pump, Llanmaes

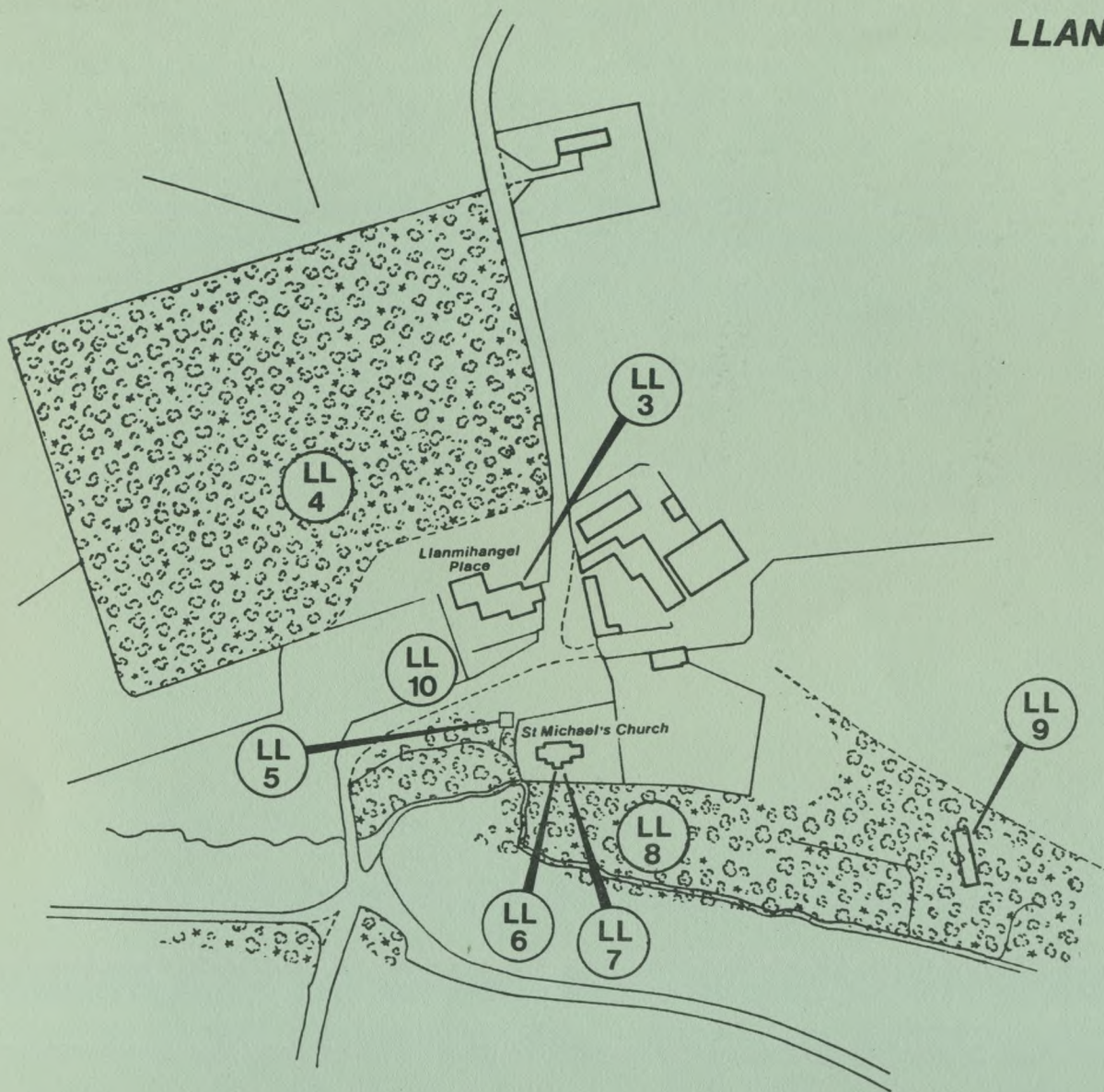
KEY MAP

Inset key and location of County Treasures outside the major towns/villages of the survey area

 **Inset maps**



LLANMIHANGEL Inset B



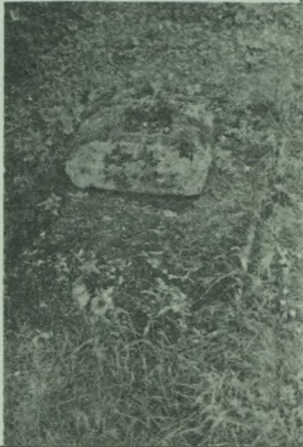

LLANMIHANGEL

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
LL.1	<p><u>DOMEN FAWR ROUND BARROW</u> (2)</p> <p>Shallow round barrow about twenty metres in diameter. Bronze Age.</p>	Ancient Monument	SS 98527104
LL.2	<p><u>ROMAN FINDS</u> (4)</p> <p>In field on opposite side of the road to Domen Fawr round barrow, archaeological finds of certain artefacts indicate a site of Roman occupation - probably a villa.</p>		SS 98407114
LL.3	<p><u>LLANMIHANGEL PLACE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>A picturesque, 16th century, rambling mansion, partly castellated. Slate roofs, stone stacks with moulded caps. Irregular two and three storey elevations. Numerous casement windows, some with drip moulds. Two three-stage angle buttresses. Inside there is a fine oak-panelled hall formerly hung by tapestries, an interesting, 16th century, carved wooden mantle-piece, a "prison" (vaulted apartment in the basement), circular stone staircase, and subterranean passage running in the direction of the church.</p>	Listed Building Grade II*	SS 98117195

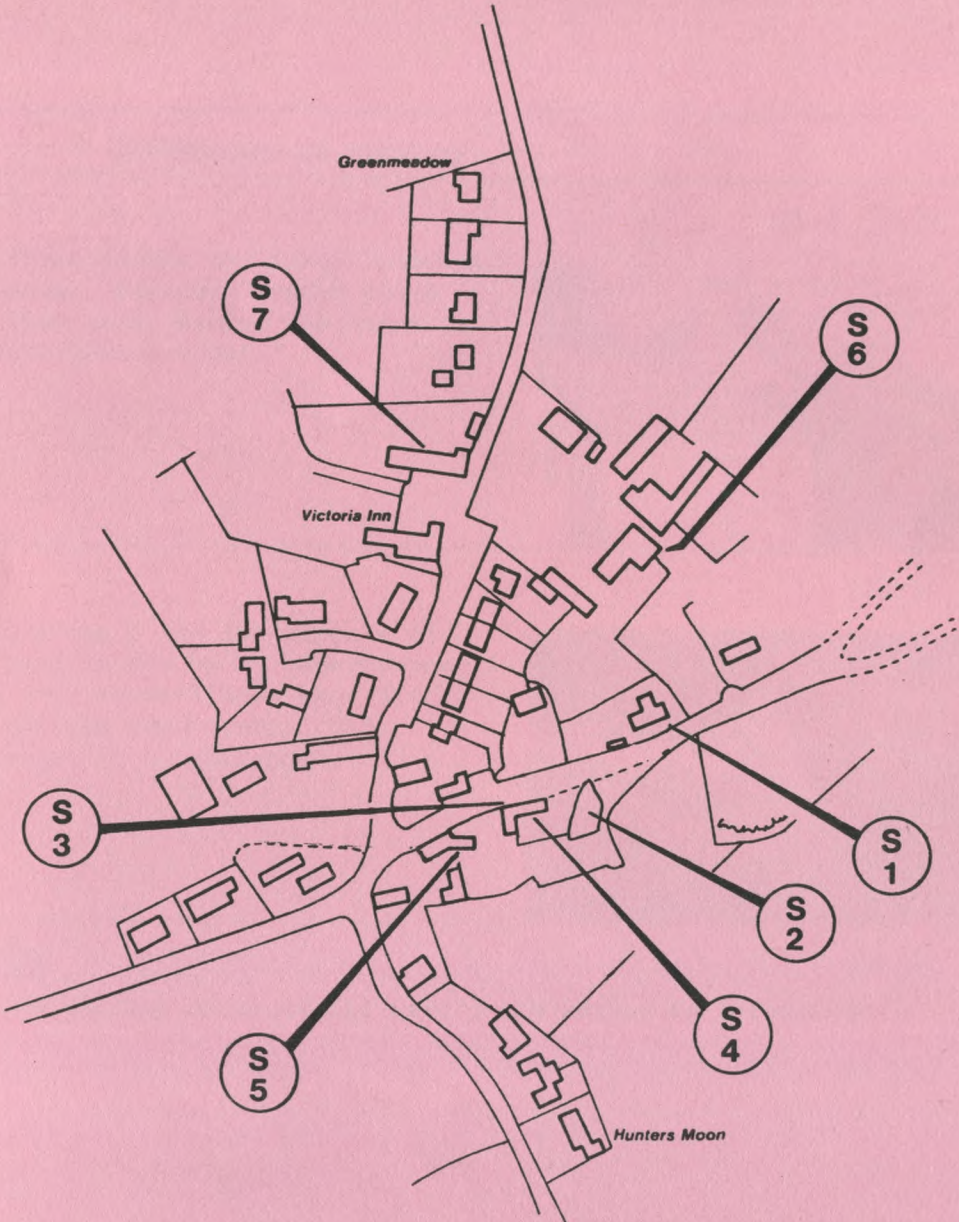


SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF
LL.4	<p style="text-align: right;">(22.1)</p> <p><u>YEW TREE STEPS AND TERRACE</u></p> <p>Formal terraces with over a hundred yew trees, part of which is said to have been planted by Queen Anne, although it is mostly of earlier origin. Broad flights of stone steps and a plantation of double rows of trees in the shape of a Maltese cross. No public access.</p>	Listed Building Grade II	SS 980720
LL.5	<p style="text-align: right;">(11.2)</p> <p><u>ST. ANNE'S WELL</u></p> <p>16th century or earlier. This reputedly holy well is situated in the grounds of Llanmihangel Place orchard. The water once flowed from the breasts of a woman on a bust carved in relief and placed in the wall of the well.</p>		SS 980171
LL.6	<p style="text-align: right;">(8.3)</p> <p><u>CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL</u></p> <p>Of 13th and 14th century origin with 15th century nave and chancel. 19th century south porch, slender west tower with saddleback roof. There are single, plain bell chamber openings and cross-loop openings in each face of the tower. Other windows are trefoiled single lancets and square-headed Perpendicular with cusped lights. Tomb of Grefith Grant, 1593. One of the earliest recorded Rectors was Norris, 1234.</p>	Listed Building Grade B	SS 981371








SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
LL.7	<p><u>CROSS IN CHURCHYARD</u> (8.5)</p> <p>The socket stone of former calvary is all that remains of a mediaeval cross. Mounted on a single step stone.</p> 		SS 98137188
LL.8	<p><u>LLANMIHANGEL POOL AND DELL</u> (20.1)</p> <p>The dell is supposedly visited by a mysterious apparition - a 15th century heiress of Thomas of Bettws. Credited with magic powers, she was branded as a witch and bore an iron ring upon her wrist by which, according to popular tradition, she was tethered during moments of frenzy.</p>		SS 981718
LL.9	<p><u>DISUSED MILL</u> (12.4)</p> <p>Now semi-derelict and hidden amongst trees, once the mill for Llanmihangel Place.</p> 		SS 98297184
LL.10	<p><u>LLANMIHANGEL CONSERVATION AREA</u> (19.3)</p> <p>Llanmihangel Place itself is picturesquely situated in a quiet, attractive valley. It can be seen from a great distance, and nestles beneath a wooded hillside. It forms a very interesting and agreeable group with the church and farm buildings.</p>	Conservation Area	SS 981719

SIGINGSTONE Inset C




SIGINGSTONE

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
S.1	<p><u>BROOKE LODGE</u> (10.3, 22.3)</p> <p>Whitewashed render with three stacks and barge boarding. Diamond-paned leaded windows. Pleasant wooden porch over the entrance. The tree group behind the house is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.</p> 	Tree Preservation Order	SS 97337167
S.2	<p><u>CASTLE POND</u> (23.3)</p> <p>Formerly the principal watering place for animals of surrounding farms. The pond is fed by an underground spring and flows into an old, stone-lined open ditch supplemented by further springs downstream. This becomes the Nant Llanmihangel at Llanmihangel.</p> 		SS 97317164
S.3	<p><u>SITE OF FORMER VILLAGE PUMP</u> (11.2)</p> <p>Formerly the site where the village obtained its water; now marked by a concrete manhole cover.</p>		SS 97287165

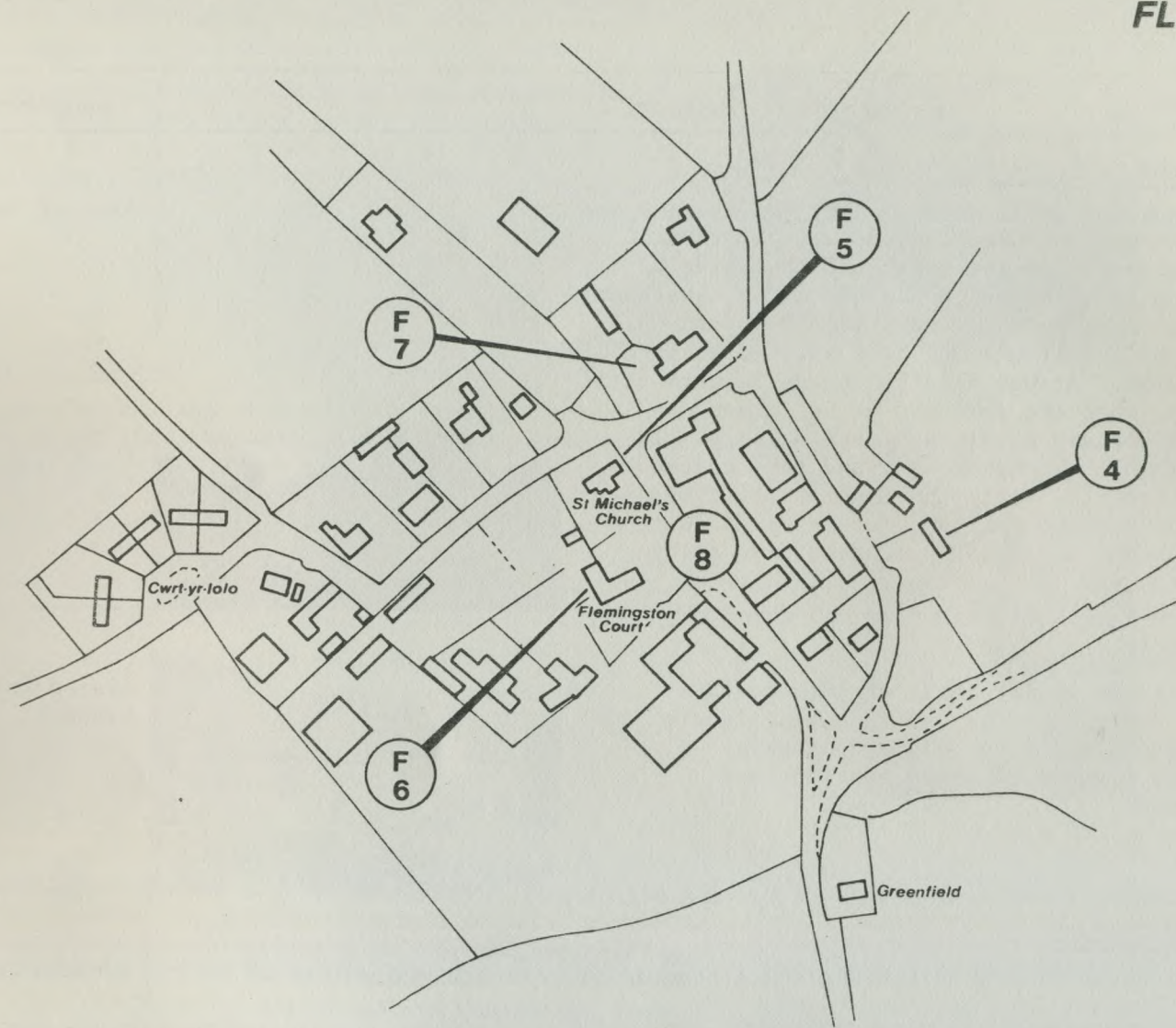
SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF
S.4	<p><u>PUMP HOUSE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>18th century house with whitewashed render. Former village pump situated outside the house. Once a public house. Pigsty converted into a garage.</p> 		SS 97287
S.5	<p><u>RUIN IN GROUNDS OF PUMP HOUSE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>Attractive, ivy-covered ruin of a cottage with evidence of fireplace and stairs, now utilised as a workshop.</p> 		SS 97257
S.6	<p><u>GREEN FARM</u> (10.3)</p> <p>Built circa 1600. Lateral and central chimneys. Corbelled fireplaces in ground and first floors. Timber stairs in a projecting wing, with dressed stone, sunk-chamfered windows. Beamed ceiling and exposed roof trusses.</p> 		SS 97327

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
S.7	<p><u>THE OLD MALT HOUSE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>Long, rendered former malt-house to the Victoria Inn opposite. Four dormer windows in front elevation, three of which are of early origin. Stable block now incorporated into the dwelling.</p>		SS 97257177
S.8	<p><u>WARTIME AIRFIELD AND HANGARS</u> (18)</p> <p>Extensive tracts of World War II taxiing runways, hardstanding for aircraft, and sometimes hangars are found throughout the area. Now often broken up or used as farm storage areas. These grouped runway spurs were connected with Llandow and St. Athan airfields, and were so dispersed in order to prevent enemy bombing damage.</p>		SS 976723
S.9	<p><u>MOORSHEAD FARM</u> (10.3)</p> <p>A two unit house with lobby and stair in a projecting structure. Beamed ceilings. Modernised with additions.</p>		SS 97197248








SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
S.10	<p><u>WILTON</u> (10.3)</p> <p>A three unit whitewashed house of circa 1650 with an added kitchen unit and barn. Baffle entrance at the side of the main central fireplace. Winding, stone stair and reed-moulded joist to the double ceiling over the hall. Two monopitch roofed extensions, one with original slit windows.</p> 		SS 9685725
S.11	<p><u>ROUND BARROW</u></p> <p>Bronze Age (16th and 15th centuries B.C.). Now a scarcely visible mound in Llandow Industrial Estate.</p>		SS 9592723
S.12	<p><u>SHEEPLAYS ROUND BARROW</u> (2)</p> <p>Bronze Age. Excavated in 1939, and comprises cairn ring, ditch, cremation stake holes, and inhumations.</p>		SS 9600720
S.13	<p><u>SIX WELLS ROUND BARROW</u> (2)</p> <p>Bronze Age. Excavated in 1939, and comprises a stake hole circle, cremation and cist.</p>		SS 9559718

FLEMINGSTON Inset D



FLEMINGSTON

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF
F.1	<p><u>WEST ORCHARD MANOR HOUSE, ST. ATHAN</u> (9.3)</p> <p>Once an undefended mediaeval manor house. No masonry now above ground, but many undulations in the turf remain. Buildings were probably on the north and east side of the courtyard. A small mound to the north may have been the site of a dovecote. It may have supplanted an earlier grange, or the grange may have existed at one of the farms nearby. It was held by the de Nerbers until the 14th century, when the lordship of St. Athan was divided and West Orchard obtained by the Walshes. It was later sold to Sir Thomas Raglan, and thus passed to the Earl of Worcester. During the English Civil War it was given to Col. Horton's brigade for its part in the Battle of St. Fagans, and later purchased from it by Col. Jones of Fonmon.</p> 	Ancient Monument	ST 007680
F.2	<p><u>CHURCH OF ST. BRISE, EGLWYSBREWIS</u></p> <p>Interesting small church, probably of 12th or 13th century origin. Nave, chancel, south porch. Square stone castellated bell-cot at west end of nave. Some 16th century windows. Norman tub font and inscriptions inside.</p> 	Listed Building Grade B	ST 005669
F.3	<p><u>SITE OF DESERTED VILLAGE</u> (6)</p> <p>Evidence of five house platforms and enclosure boundaries. Probably a mediaeval settlement.</p>	Ancient Monument	ST 025698

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF.
F.4	<p><u>GLEBE COTTAGE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>This building is said to represent the typical Vale cottage. It is a two storey, stone whitewashed cottage of 18th century origin with thatched roof and "eyebrows". Leaded casement windows.</p> 	Local List	ST 01807007
F.5	<p><u>CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL</u> (8.3)</p> <p>Stone church with slate roof on 11th century foundations. Much restored in the 19th century. Still retains some good 14th century features. The south transept is very large in proportion to the rest of the church. Effigy of a female member of the Fleming family inside. The grave of the bardic poet Iolo Morgannwg (Edward Williams) is in the churchyard; also a memorial tablet to him and his son, Taliesin, inside the church.</p> 		ST 01697007
F.6	<p><u>FLEMINGSTON COURT FARMHOUSE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>16th century, rubble, roughcast house with slate roof, tall stone end chimney stacks and exposed chimney breast. Two-centred arched and moulded doorways. Hollow chamfered, arched-headed mullioned windows with dripstones; transomed mullion window to the hall. Framed ceiling with moulded beams, carved overmantle, and chimney-piece dating from the 16th century. Detached 16th century kitchen. Remains of separate dwelling-house to the east with stone fireplace surrounds. There is a walled court, which appears to be part of the mediaeval undefended manor house of the Fleming family founded in 1315, and including remains of the keep of the old castle.</p> 		ST 01707003

SITE	DESCRIPTION OF TREASURE	PROTECTION	GRID REF
F.7	<p><u>SITE OF THE HOME OF IOLO MORGANNWG</u> (20.2)</p> <p>Bardic poet Iolo Morgannwg (Edward Williams), inventor of the Gorsedd in the National Eisteddfod, lived here from 1756 until his death in 1826.</p>		ST 0171
F.8	<p><u>FLEMINGSTON VILLAGE</u> (19.4)</p> <p>This quiet village is virtually unspoilt and still retains its original charm and agricultural lifestyle. Situated on the brow of a hill between the River Thaw and Nant y Creek. The street pattern is of great antiquity.</p>	Conservation Area	ST 01770