CANOL DYFFRYN WYSG: ABERHONDDU A LLAN -GORS
MIDDLE USK VALLEY: BRECON AND LLANGORSE

Disgrifiad

Mae'r rhan o ddyffryn Wysg a nodir yma yn gorwedd i'r dwyrain a'r gorllewin o Aberhonddu yn ne Powys;ardal a ffinnir i'r de gan lethrau dwyreiniol Bannau Brycheiniog ac i'r gogledd gan odrau deheuol Mynydd Epynt.I'r dwyrain,mae ochr orllewinol llethrau'r Mynyddoedd Du yn edrych dros y basn bas sy'n cynnwys Llyn Syfaddan sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn yr ardal.Mae dyffryn Wysg yn ffurfio tramwyfa nodedig sy'n hawdd ei chyrraedd ar draws yr ardal, gyda'i lawr llydan, gwastad yn codi'n raddol o 120m uwchben SO yn Llansantffraid yn y dwyrain i 150m uwchben SO yn Aberbrân yn y gorllewin.Ar bob ochr i'r dyffryn,mae'r llethrau'n codi i dirwedd dyranedig,tonnog o fryniau isel,esgeiriau a dyffryn-noedd bas rhwng 150m a 300m uwchben SO.

Mae'r argraff weladwy o'r ardal wedi'i goruchafu gan y caeau bychain â chloddiau sy'n amgáu'r tir amaethyddol cyfoethog ar waelod y dyffryn,ac mae mewn sawl ffordd yn olygfa nodweddiadol yng Nghanolbarth Cymru.Deillia'r patrwm cyfoethog hwn o ddefnydd tir o'i hanes ffermio ac aneddiad cymhleth o ffermwyr Neolithig cynnar drwy 'ores-gynwyr' Rhufeinig a Normanaidd,y Saint Celtaidd,i olion amaeth a masnach ganoloesol a diweddarach.Mae pob cyfnod o ddefnydd tir wedi ffurfio'r tirwedd a chafodd pob un yn ei dro ei orgyffwrdd gan a'i guddio'n rhannol gan y cyfnod a'i olynodd.Mewn cyferbyniad bron â'r parhad hwn,mae Canol Dyffryn Wysg hefyd yn enghraifft glasurol o dirwedd Cymreig o oruchafu, goresgyniad a newid gwleidyddol,ac mae llawer o'r elfennau archaeolegol a hanesyddol sy'n weladwy heddiw wedi deillio o'r ffordd y mynnodd dyn reoli'r tirwedd,nid yn unig yn y cyfnodau Rhufeinig a chanoloesol a chyfnodau diwed-darach,ond hefyd yn y cyfnod cynhanesyddol.

Mae beddrod hir â siambrau claddu Neolithig Tŷ Illtud yn nodweddiadol o olion cynhanesyddol cynharach, ac mae'n gor-wedd yn nwyrain yr ardal rhwng Aberhonddu a Llyn Syfaddan. Mae'r beddrod megalithig 5000 mlwydd oed hwn yn cynnwys cyfres o siambrau adeiledig o gerrig sych a orchuddiwyd unwaith gan domen hir o bridd.Mae'r gofadail yn un o grŵp o feddrodau tebyg ym Mannau Brycheiniog a'r Mynyddoedd Du. Er mai cymharol brin yw'r olion o'r cyfnod pellennig hwn sydd wedi goroesi yn y tirwedd hwn, neu unrhyw dirwedd arall yng Nghymru, mae'r tomenni claddu cymunedol hyn yn rhoi cipolwg difyr ar fywyd a marwolaeth y ffermwyr Neolithig a oedd yn byw yng Nghanol Dyffryn Wysg.Yn ôl traddodiad lleol defnyddi-wyd siambrau gwag Tŷ Illtud yn ddiweddarach fel cell meudwy gan Sant Illtud yn y 6ed ganrif,ac ar yr adeg honno cerfiwyd nifer
o groesau a symbolau Cristnogol eraill ar eu muriau.

Cynrychiolir cynhanes diweddarach Oes yr Efydd gan nifer o feddrodau crwn a charneddau claddu ar y tir uwch sy'n edrych dros lawr cyfoethog dyffryn Wysg,sydd yn ei dro yn cynnwys nifer o feini hirion enigmatig.

I'r gorllewin o Aberhonddu mae olion trawiadol Caer Aberhonddu,yr enghraifft wychaf o gaer Rufeinig sydd wedi goroesi ym Mhowys. Wedi'i hadeiladu o fewn golwg i

Landscape Description

The section of the Usk valley identified here lies to the east and west of Brecon in southern Powys; an area confined on the south by eastern flanks of the Brecon Beacons range and on the north by the southern foothills of Mynydd Epynt. To the east, the western end of the Black Mountains scarp overlooks the shallow basin containing Llangorse Lake which has been included in the area. The Usk valley forms a distinctive and easily accessible corridor across the area, with its wide, flat floor rising gently from 120m above OD at Llansantffraed in the east to 150m above OD at Aberbrân in the west. On either side of the valley, the slopes rise to a gently rolling and dissected landscape of low hills, ridges and shallow valleys between 150m and 300m above OD.

The visual impression of the whole area is dominated by small hedged fields enclosing the rich agricultural land of the valley bottom, and it is in many ways a typical Mid Wales vista. This rich pattern of land use is a product of its complex farming and settlement history, from early Neolithic farmers, through Roman and Norman 'invaders', via the Celtic saints, to the remains of medieval and later agriculture and com-merce. Each period of land use has moulded the landscape and each in turn has been overlain and partly obscured by its successors. Almost in contradiction to this continuity, the Middle Usk Valley is also a classic example of a Welsh landscape of domination, conquest and political change, and many of the archaeological and historic elements visible today result from man's imposition of his control on the landscape, not only in the Roman and medieval and later periods, but also in the prehistoric period.

The earlier prehistoric remains are typified by the Neolithic chambered long barrow of Tŷ Illtud, lying in the east of the area between Brecon and Llangorse Lake. This 5000-year-old megalithic tomb comprises a series of drystone-built chambers once covered by a long earthen mound. The site is one of a group of such barrows in the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. Although relatively few remains of this remote period survive in this, or in any other, landscape in Wales, these communal burial mounds provide an intrigu-ing glimpse into the life and death of the Neolithic farmers who occupied the Middle Usk Valley. Local tradition says that the empty chambers of Tŷ Illtud were later used as a her-mitage by St Illtud in the 6th century, at which time a number of crosses and other Christian symbols were carved into its walls.

The later prehistory of the Bronze Age is represented by a number of round barrows and burial cairns which occu-py the higher ground overlooking the rich valley floor of the Usk, which in turn plays host to a number of enigmatic standing stones.

To the west of Brecon lie the impressive remains of Brecon Gaer, the finest surviving example of a Roman fort in Powys. Built within sight of the native Iron Age settlements at Coed Fenni-fach and Pen-y-crug, it guards the Roman road

crug,mae'n gwarchod y ffordd Rufeinig sy'n arwain i Orllewin Cymru o Gaerllion wrth ei chyffordd â Sarn Helen wrth iddi ddod i lawr o Fforest Fawr i groesi'r Wysg a theithio tua'r gogledd i Ganolbarth Cymru.I'r dwyrain o Aberhonddu mae olion yr unig fila Rufeinig ym Mhowys lle y datgelodd gwaith cloddio yn y 18fed ganrif faddondy gwych â llawr mosäig.
Nid yw maint yr aneddiad Rhufeinig yn yr ardal yn hysbys, ond does dim amheuaeth bod y Rhufeiniaid wedi efelychu a manteisio ar y patrwm aneddiad eisioes mewn bodolaeth a'r defnydd o'r tir y buasent wedi ei ddarganfod o amgylch y bryngaerau mawr Oes yr Haearn yn Allt yr Esgair, Slwch Tump, Pen-y-crug a Choed fenni-fach.

Hefyd i'r dwyrain o Aberhonddu,ger Llan-gors,mae Llyn Syfaddan,sy'n bwysig yn hanes a chwedloniaeth Cymru. Crëwyd yr ynys fechan,neu'r grannog,a wnaed gan ddyn, fel palas caerog gan Brychan,brenin Brycheiniog,ar ddiwedd y 9fed ganrif ac fe'i dinistriwyd,yn ôl Croniclau'r Eingl-Sacsoniaid,yn AD 916.Mae chwedl leol yn sôn am sut mae'r llyn yn cuddio olion dinas a reolwyd gan dywysoges greulon a barus a gytunodd i briodi gŵr tlawd dim ond os byddai'n dod â chyfoeth mawr iddi.Llofruddiodd y dyn fasnachwr cyfoethog er mwyn ennill llaw y dywysoges,ond er mwyn dial,creodd ysbryd y masnachwr storm ofnadwy a foddodd y deyrnas.Nid yw'n hysbys pryd y dechreuodd y chwedl,ond mae'n gyn-harach na'r gwaith cloddio archaeolegol cyntaf yn y grannog ym 1850 ac mae'n atgof gwerinol difyr a sylwgar.Yn fwy credadwy, fel canolfan frenhinol ac eglwysig bwysig ym Mrycheiniog,gallai'r grannog fod wedi bod yn fan cyfansoddi'r penillion Cymraeg cynnar, Canu Llywarch Hen,a ysgrifennwyd fwy na thebyg rhwng yr 8fed a chanol y 10fed ganrifoedd,yn ystod oes aur brenhinlin Llan-gors a Brycheiniog.Datgelwyd olion yr ynys yn llawn drwy waith cloddio ar ddechrau'r 1990au.Llyn Syfaddan yw'r unig grannog hysbys yng Nghymru, er ei bod yn ffurf gyffredin yn yr Iwerddon; awgrymir y cysylltiad Gwyddelig posibl hwn gan y nifer fawr o arysgrifau Ogam mewn eglwysi lleol.Mae gan bentrefi glan llyn Llan-gors a Llangasty sylfeini mynachaidd Celtaidd cynnar fwy na thebyg.

Cynrychiolir gorchfygiad ac aneddiad o'r cyfnod canoloesol yma hefyd ac mae hanes a thraddodiad yn awgrymu i'r frwydr derfynol rhwng byddinoedd Cymreig Bleddin ap Maenarch a byddin oresgynol Normanaidd Bernard de Neufmarché gael ei hymladd ger Y Batel ym 1092.Arweiniodd y fuddugoliaeth Normanaidd at orchfygu'r boblogaeth frodorol a thwf tref Aberhonddu.Roedd y castell cynharaf yn Aberhonddu yn un tomen a beili,ac fe'i disodlwyd yn ddiweddarach gan gastell o gerrig.Mae gan y dref hefyd olion priordy Benedictaidd, a sefydlwyd yn wreiddiol ym 1100,sydd,er gwaethaf iddo gael ei adnewyddu'n sylweddol gan y pensaer Fictoraidd mawr Syr Gilbert Scott,yn parhau i feddu ar nifer o nodweddion diddorol,megis ffenestri pigfain Cynnar Seisnig prin a'r adeiladau cwfeiniol o'r 16eg ganrif.Ym 1923,dewiswyd y priordy, a oedd erbyn hynny wedi dod yn Eglwys Blwyf Aberhonddu, fel Eglwys Gadeiriol Esgobaeth Abertawe ac Aberhonddu,a oedd newydd gael ei ffurfio, un o ddwy esgobaeth newydd a sefydlwyd gan yr Eglwys yng Nghymru newydd, yn dilyn ei gwahanu o Eglwys Loegr. Mae'r dref hefyd yn cynnwys mynachlog Ddominicaidd,a sefydlwyd yn wreiddiol yn y 13eg ganrif,ac er ei bod bellach yn ysgol ac wedi cael ei newid llawer, dyma yn ôl y sôn yw'r grŵp unigol mwyaf o adeiladau Dominicaidd sydd wedi goroesi ym Mhrydain.

as it descends from Fforest Fawr to cross the Usk and march north into Mid Wales. To the east of Brecon lie the remains
of Powys's only Roman villa, where excavations in the 18th century revealed an outstanding mosaic-floored bath-house. The extent of Roman settlement in the area is unknown, but there is little doubt that the Romans quickly assimilated and exploited the existing pattern of settlement and land use that they would have found surrounding the major Iron Age hill-forts at Allt yr Esgair, Slwch Tump, Pen-y-crug and Coed Fenni-fach.

Also to the east of Brecon lies Llangorse Lake, which has an important place in Welsh history and mythology. The small man-made island, or crannog, was constructed as a fortified palace by Brychan, king of Brycheiniog, during the late 9th century and destroyed, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, in AD 916. A local legend recounts how the lake covers the remains of a city ruled by a cruel and greedy princess who agreed to marry a poor suitor only if he brought her great wealth. The man murdered a rich merchant to gain the princess's hand, but in revenge, the merchant's ghost raised a terrible storm which drowned the kingdom. It is not known when the legend originated, but it predates the first archaeological excavation of the crannog in 1850 and is an interesting and perceptive folk memory. More plausibly, as a major royal and ecclesiastical centre in Brycheiniog, the crannog could have a claim to have been the locus scribendi of the early Welsh stanzas, Canu Llywarch Hen, written quite probably between the 8th and mid-10th centuries, when Llangorse and the Brycheiniog dynasty were in their heyday. The remains of this artificial island were fully revealed by excavation during the early 1990s. Llangorse is the only crannog known in Wales, although it is a form common in Ireland; this possible Irish connection is also perhaps evidenced by the large number of Ogam inscriptions in local churches. The lakeside villages of Llangorse and Llangasty-Talyllyn both have probable early Celtic monastic foundations.

Conquest and settlement from the medieval period are also represented here and history and tradition suggest that the decisive battle between the Welsh forces of Bleddin ap Maenarch and the invading Norman army of Bernard de Neufmarché was fought near Battle in 1092. Norman victory led to the subjugation of the native population and the rise of Brecon town. The earliest castle at Brecon was a motte and bailey, later replaced by a masonry castle. The town also boasts the remains of a Benedictine priory, originally founded in 1100, which, despite its extensive renovation between 1862 and 1874 by the great Victorian architect, Sir Gilbert Scott, still retains many interesting features, such as rare Early English lancet windows and 16th-century conventual buildings. In 1923, the priory, which by then had become Brecon's parish church, was chosen as the cathedral of the newly formed Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, one of the two new dioceses founded by the new Church in Wales, following its separation from the Church of England. The town also contains a Dominican friary, originally founded in the 13th century, which, although now a school and much altered, is claimed to be the largest single group of Dominican buildings surviving in Britain.

The presence of the castle and these two important eccle-

pwysig hyn y sail ar gyfer tref ganoloesol lewyrchus ac erbyn y 13eg ganrif, roedd yr aneddiad wedi lledaenu i'r tir is ar ymyl Afon Wysg,sydd bellach â phont gerrig wych drosti sy'n dyddio o 1563, a rhoddwyd amddiffynfeydd o gerrig arni. Er bod peth o'r ffabrig canoloesol hwn wedi goroesi mewn mannau,heddiw prif nodwedd pensaernïaeth Aberhonddu yw tai trefol o frics
a cherrig cain o'r 18fed a'r 19eg ganrifoedd.Yn wir, roedd poblogaeth o 5026 yn ei gosod fel nawfed tref fwyaf Cymru ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwn.Mae llawer o'r bensaernïaeth ddi-weddarach hon yn parhau heb ei newid na'i difwyno gan ddatblygiad modern,ac mae hyn,ynghyd â'i gwreiddiau canoloesol yn ased bleserus a gwerthfawr, ac un sy'n gynyddol brin ymysg trefi eraill Cymru.Heddiw, mae Aberhonddu yn fyd-enwog am ei Gŵyl Jas flynyddol.

Adeiladwyd Aberhonddu, fel ei rhagflaenydd Rhufeinig, i gynnal dyffryn Wysg fel llwybr strategol i Orllewin Cymru,ac, fel y Gaer, fe'i gwarchodir gan aneddiadau brodorol cyfnod cynharach,megis Llanspyddid a Llanfrynach,sydd wedi'u lleoli o amgylch ymylon y dyffryn.Enillodd un o'r aneddiadau Cymreig cynnar hyn,Llanddew, fri yn y cyfnod canoloesol fel safle palas Esgobion Aberhonddu.Meddiannwyd y castell diymhongar hwn rhwng 1175–1203 gan Gerallt Gymro, sef Archesgob Aberhonddu,a ddisgrifiodd y castell fel un a oedd yn 'well adapted to literary pursuits and the contemplation of eternity' a dechreuodd ei daith enwog o gwmpas Cymru ar ddiwedd y 12fed ganrif.Mae gan y pentref gasgliad trawiadol o weithgareddau cloddiog canoloesol sy'n awgrymu ei faint a'i bwysigrwydd yn y gorffennol.

Mae Canol Dyffryn Wysg yn enwog am ei chestyll canoloesol,gan ei bod yn cynnwys enghreifftiau gwych o gestyll tomen a beili cynnar arglwyddi Normanaidd y gororau, megis
y rheini yn Aberyscir, Alexanderstone a Threberfydd,cestyll cerrig megis Pencelli,a thŷ tŵr canoloesol gwych diweddarach yn Scethrog.Mae llawer o'r dyffryn yn dal i gadw'r cymeriad canoloesol a gysylltir â'r cadarnleoedd hyn, gyda phentrefi bychain wedi'u cywasgu ac wedi'u hamgylchynu gan dir pori â gwrychoedd o'i hamgylch.Enghraifft drawiadol iawn o gyfoeth a phwysigrwydd blaenorol yr ardal hon yn ystod y cyfnod canoloesol yw Llanfihangel Talyllyn.Gellir gweld cyn-ffiniau'r pentref canoloesol yn glir yma, gyda gweithgareddau cloddiog yn nodi hen strydoedd a llwyfannau adeiladau a oedd unwaith yn llenwi bron i chwarter y pentref.Mae'r ardal hefyd yn enwog am ei thai gwledig mawr, o'r 18fed a'r 19eg ganrifoedd, megis Penpont a Peterstone Court,a'u stadau cysylltiedig sydd wedi 'trosargraffu' ar dirwedd eu rhagflaenwyr canoloesol ac ôl-ganoloesol cynnar megis Tŷ Mawr yn Llangasty Talyllyn.

Cysylltodd datblygiad Camlas Aberhonddu a Sir Fynwy (a ddechreuwyd ym 1799,a agorwyd gyntaf ym 1801 ac ymun-odd â Chamlas Mynwy ym 1812),sy'n troelli ar hyd ymylon deheuol yr ardal,y dyffryn ag economïau diwydiannol ffynian-nus De Cymru.Daeth y glanfeydd a'r stordai a ddatblygwyd yn sgîl hyn yn nherfynfa'r gamlas yn Aberhonddu yn ardal bwysig ar gyfer masnach amaethyddol a'r diwydiant brethyn.Yn yr 1860au,disodlwyd y gamlas gan Reilffordd Aberhonddu a Merthyr oedd yn cysylltu Aberhonddu â'r Rheilffordd Great Western yng Nghastell-nedd,trwy Ystradgynlais,yn y de ac yn ddiweddarach i Henffordd,trwy'r Gelli Gandryll,yn y dwyrain. Yn eironig mae'r cysylltiad gwythiennol hwn wedi hen ddiflan-nu tra bod y gamlas,sydd wedi'i chroesi gan bontydd sy'n codi

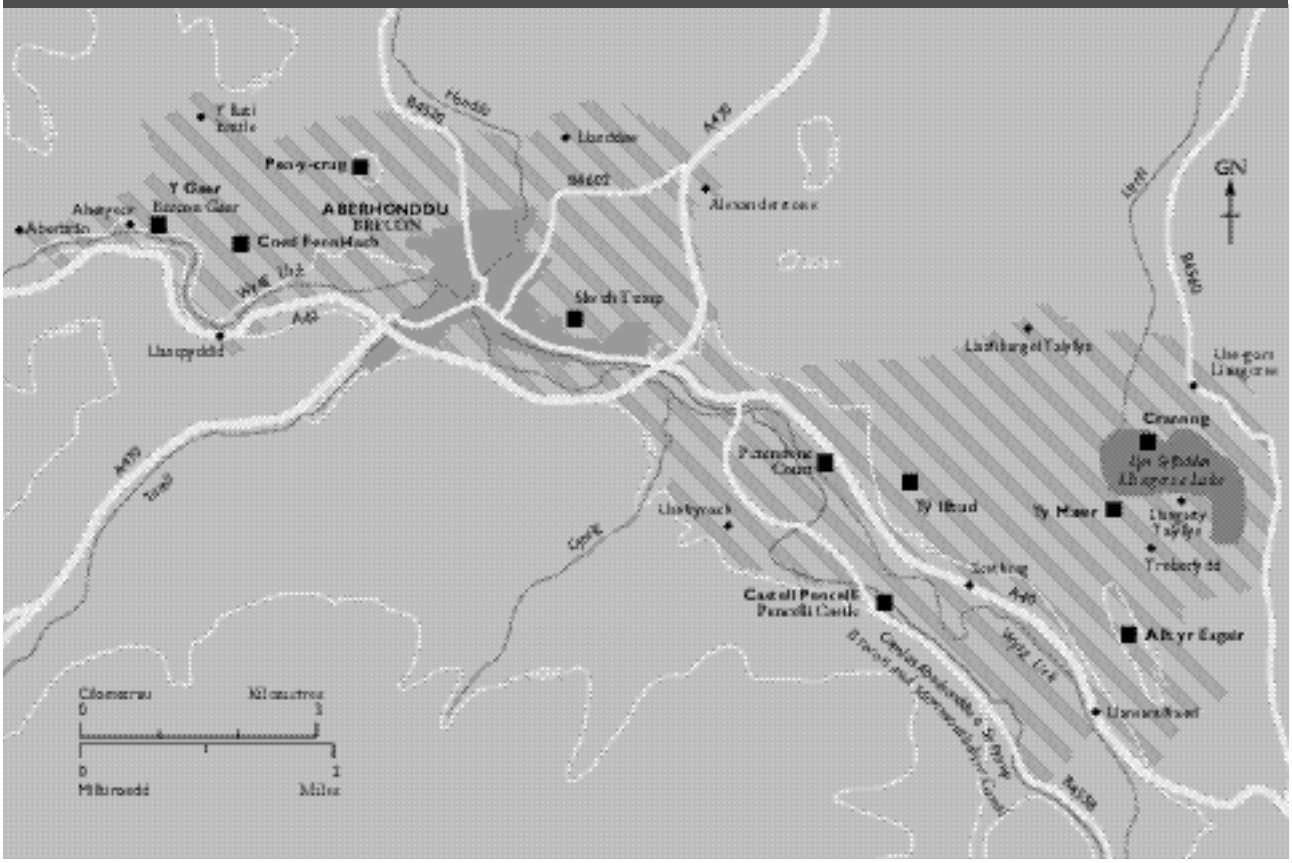
medieval town and by the 13th century, the settlement had spread to occupy the lower ground alongside the River Usk, now spanned by a fine stone bridge of 1563, and had been provided with stone defences. Although some of this medieval fabric survives in places, today Brecon's architecture is characterized by fine brick and stone town houses of the 18th and 19th centuries. Indeed, a population of 5026 placed it as the ninth largest town in Wales at the end of this period. Much of this later architecture survives unaltered and unspoilt by modern development, and combined with its medieval roots this contrives a particularly pleasing and valuable asset, and one that is becoming increasingly rare in other towns in Wales. Today, Brecon is internationally known for its annual Jazz Festival.

Brecon, like its Roman predecessor, was built to maintain the Usk valley as a strategic route into West Wales, and like the Gaer, it is watched over by native settlements of an earlier period, such as Llanspyddid and Llanfrynach, ranged around the rim of the valley. One of these early Welsh settlements, Llanddew, gained fame in the medieval period as the site of the palace of the Bishops of Brecon. This modest castle was occupied between 1175 and 1203 by Gerald of Wales who, as Archdeacon of Brecon, described it as being 'well adapted to literary pursuits and the contemplation of eternity' and started his famous tour of Wales from here in the late 12th century. The village displays an impressive set of medieval earthworks indicating its former size and importance.

The Middle Usk Valley is particularly notable for its medieval castles, containing as it does fine examples of the early motte and baileys of the Norman marcher lords, such as those at Aberyscir, Alexanderstone and Treberfydd, stone castles such as at Pencelli, and a fine later medieval defended tower house at Scethrog. Much of the valley retains a medieval character associated with these strongholds, typified by small shrunken villages surrounded by hedged pasture. A particularly impressive example of the former wealth and importance of this area during the medieval
period is that of Llanfihangel Talyllyn. Here the former extents of the medieval village are clearly visible, with earthworks indicating former streets and building platforms which once made up almost one quarter of the village. The area is also notable for its large country houses of the 18th and 19th centuries, such as Peterstone Court, and their associated estates, which have built on the landscape of their medieval and early post-medieval predecessors such as Tŷ Mawr at Llangasty-Talyllyn.

The advent of the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal (begun in 1799, first opened in 1801 and then joined to the Monmouth Canal in 1812), which winds its way along the southern fringes of the area, connected the valley to the vibrant industrial economies of South Wales. The resulting wharfs and store houses at the canal terminus in Brecon became an important area for agricultural trading and the cloth industry. In the 1860s the canal was, in its turn, eclipsed by the Brecon and Merthyr Railway which connected Brecon to the Great Western Railway at Neath, via Ystradgynlais, in the south, and later to Hereford, via Hay-on-Wye, in the east. Ironically this arterial connection has long since disappeared while the canal, crossed by its characteristic lifting and hump-backed bridges, now provides an idyllic and popular tourist route through the margins of the valley.

CANOL DYFFRYN WYSG: ABERHONDDU A LLAN -GORS
MIDDLE USK V ALLEY : BRECON AND LLANGORSE



Ffynonellau detholedi g/ Selected sources

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CRYNODEB

Rhif cyf	HLW (P) 7
Rhif map mynegai	58
Map AO	Landranger 160,161
Sir flaenorol	Powys
Awdurdod lleol	Powys
Prif ddynodiadau helaeth	Mae'r ardal bron i gyd o fewn Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog.Mae'n cynnwys:y cyfan o Lyn Syfaddan (Llyn Llan-gors) a rhan o Afon Wysg (Wysg Uchaf) sy'n Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig;Safle Gwarchodaeth Y Gaer, Aberhonddu;Heneb Rhestredig y crannog yn Llyn Llan-gors;Ardal Gadwraeth Aberhonddu.
Meini prawf	3, 5
Cynnwys ac arwyddocâd	Mae'r rhan o Ganol Dyffryn Wysg sy'n gorwedd i'r dwyrain a'r gorllewin o Aberhonddu,gan gynnwys Llyn Syfaddan,yn Ne Powys, yn enghraifft glasurol o dirwedd Cymreig o arglwyddiaeth a goresgyniad, ac mae ystod amrywiol wedi goroesi'n dda o dystiolaeth bwysig ac iddi arwyddocâd sy'n cwmpasu'r cyfnodau cynhanesyddol,Rhufeinig,canoloesol a diweddarach.Mae'r ardal yn cynnwys:siambr gladdu Neolithig;henebion defodol ac angladdol Oes yr Efydd;bryngaerau ac amgaeadau Oes yr Haearn; caer filwrol Rufeinig wedi'i chadw'n dda;trigfan llyn canoloesol neu grannog — yr unig un yng Nghymru;safleoedd Cristnogol a chanoloesol eglwysig a mynachaidd;ystod o safleoedd ac aneddiadau canoloesol,gan gynnwys tref Aberhonddu gyda'r drefwedd Fictoraidd ddiweddarach sy'n nodedig ac yn ddigyfnewid ar y cyfan;rhannau sylweddol o Gamlas Aberhonddu a Sir Fynwy; cysylltiadau hanesyddol, llenyddol a chwedlonol pwysig.

SUMMARY

Ref number	HLW (P) 7
Index map number	58
OS map	Landranger 160, 161
Former county	Powys
Local authority	Powys
Principal area designations	The area is almost entirely within the Brecon Beacons National Park. It includes: Llyn Syfaddan (Llangorse Lake) and part of the River Usk (Upper Usk) Sites of Special Scientific Interest; The Gaer, Brecon, Guardianship Site; crannog in Llangorse Lake Scheduled Ancient Monument; Brecon Conservation Area.
Criteria	3, 5
Contents and significance	The section of the Middle Usk Valley lying east and west of Brecon, including Llangorse Lake, in southern Powys, is a classic example of a Welsh landscape of domination and conquest, for which there is an important and significant range of diverse and well-preserved evidence spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later periods. The area includes: a Neolithic chambered tomb; Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments; Iron Age hillforts and enclosures; a well-preserved Roman auxiliary fort; an early medieval lake dwelling or crannog — the only one in Wales; Early Christian and medieval ecclesiastical and monastic sites; a range of medieval defended sites and settlements, including Brecon town with its later, distinctive and largely unspoilt Victorian townscape; significant sections of the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal; important historic literary and mythological associations.