

Heartlands Hub Heritage and Natural Environment Audit

Part D Letterston Community Audit



For: PLANED

May
2012



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By

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Trysor

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Cover photograph: Inside Letterston church, September 2011

Heartlands Hub Heritage & Natural Resources Audit Letterston Community

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

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LETTERSTON COMMUNITY

1. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Letterston is a small, inland community, covering an area of just over 9km², see Figure 1. The community area is based on the historic ecclesiastical parish of Letterston and has the historic settlement of Letterston at its centre. It is situated about 5km to the south of Fishguard, in the heart of north Pembrokeshire. Two main communication routes run through the community, namely the A40 road and the main South Wales railway line, both of which link Fishguard port with South Wales. These routes follow the line of the Western Cleddau (Cleddau Wen) valley and the river forms the western boundary of Letterston community.

Historically, the area lies within the Hundred of Dewisland, which was created out of the ancient Welsh *cantref* of Pebidiog in 1536. Dewisland formed the core of the Lordship of St David's which was held by the Bishops of St David's from medieval times onwards. The district lies to the north of the Landsker line, where the Welsh language and culture has remained strong throughout the centuries.

1.1 Landscape and Geology

The community is underlain by sedimentary rocks of Cambrian and Ordovician age. The youngest rocks lie to the south of the village and are mudstones of the Abermawr Shale Formation, which date to the Ordovician Period and are between 460 and 485 million years old. The bedrock becomes progressive older northwards through the community. Much of the village lies over Ordovician mudstones of the Penmaen Dewi Formation, between 470 and 485 million years old. North of this is a band of Triffleton sandstones, some 475 to 485 million years old. The northern portion of the community mostly lies over sandstones of the Lingula Flags Formation, which date to the Cambrian Period, which were laid down in a shallow sea between 495 and 518 million years ago. The bedrock is generally overlain by deposits put down at the end of the last Ice Age, such as boulder clays, with glacial clays and silts found along the stream and river valleys of the community.

The highest point in the community is found at its northeastern corner, on Ysgubor Mountain, where the altitude rises to about 220 metres above sea level. The landscape falls gradually westwards towards the Western Cleddau where it falls to around 50 metres. Letterston village is surrounded by a particularly interesting field pattern, characterised by long, narrow fields. This is a fossilised strip-field system of early post medieval or possibly medieval origin, an echo of the time when the settlement was a small, agricultural village.

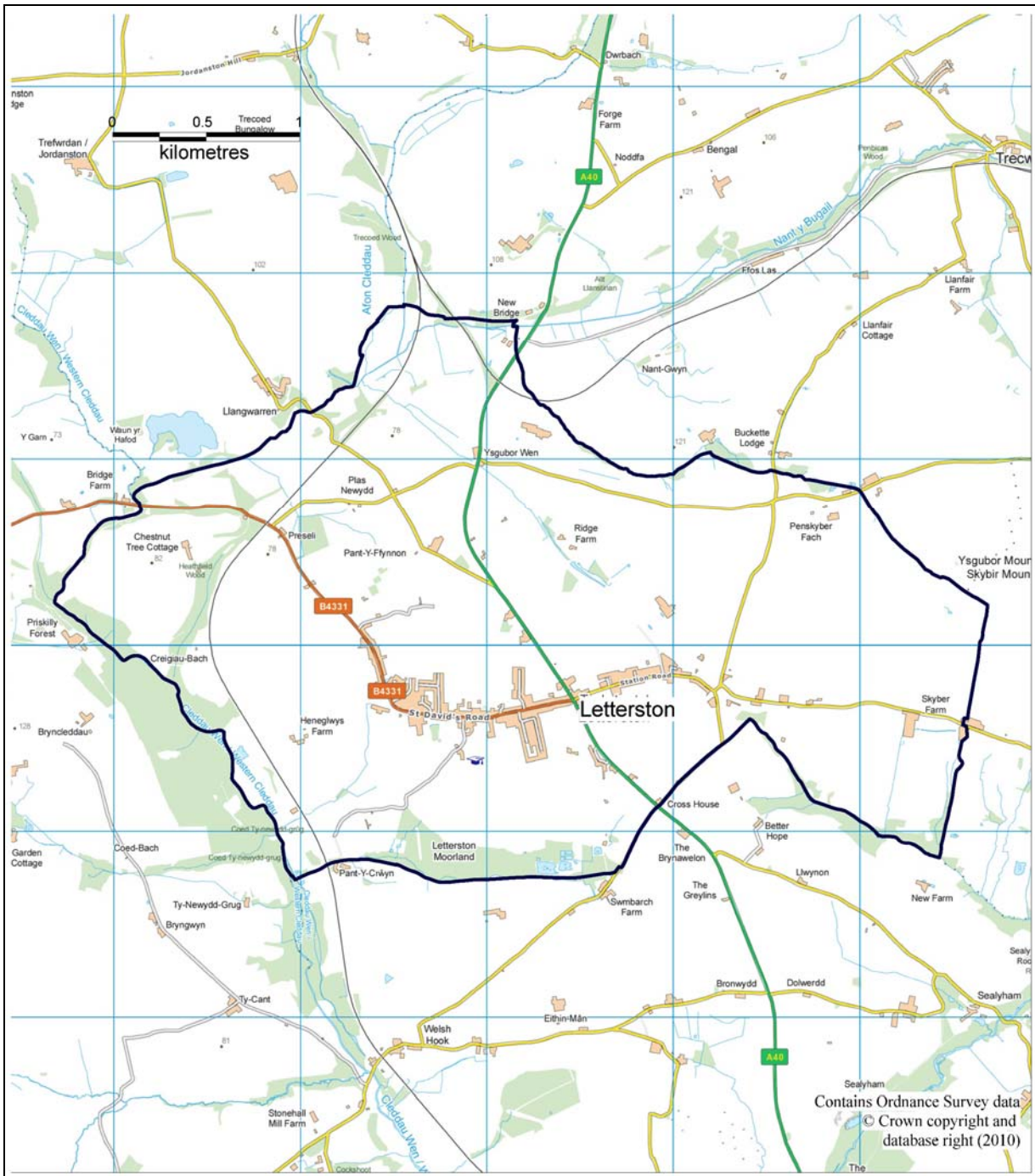


Figure 1: Letterston Community

2. NATURAL HERITAGE (Designations and Attractions)

Letterston community is located to the east of the Western Cleddau river, which forms the community's western boundary. The river is recognised internationally for its environmental quality and importance by its designation as a Special Area of Conservation and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

These are the only designated landscapes in the community. Most of the landscape of the community has been heavily modified and managed by human activity, and now consists mostly of productive farmland or has been built over by the expanding village.

Natural Attractions and Natural Designations within the community are listed in the table on the next page and shown in Figure 2. The numbers in the sequences 30000-39999 and 50000- 59999 are the Id numbers used in the Natural Attractions and Designated Areas tables respectively in the project database, see the Part I Methodology report for the Heartlands Hub for further details about these tables.

Cwm Gwaun; Mynachlogddu; New Moat; Maenclochog; Llandysilio; Clunderwen; Puncheston; Letterston; Hayscastle; Wolfscastle; Camrose; Nolton and Roch; Rudbaxton; Spittal; Ambleston

Special Area of Conservation

50077	AFONYDD CLEDDAU/CLEDDAU RIVERS	SM9720034400
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Cwm Gwaun; Puncheston; Ambleston; Spittal; Rudbaxton; Camrose; Nolton And Roch; Wolfscastle; Letterston; Hayscastle

Site of Special Scientific Interest

50067	AFON CLEDDAU GORLLEWINOL/WESTERN	SM9529034470
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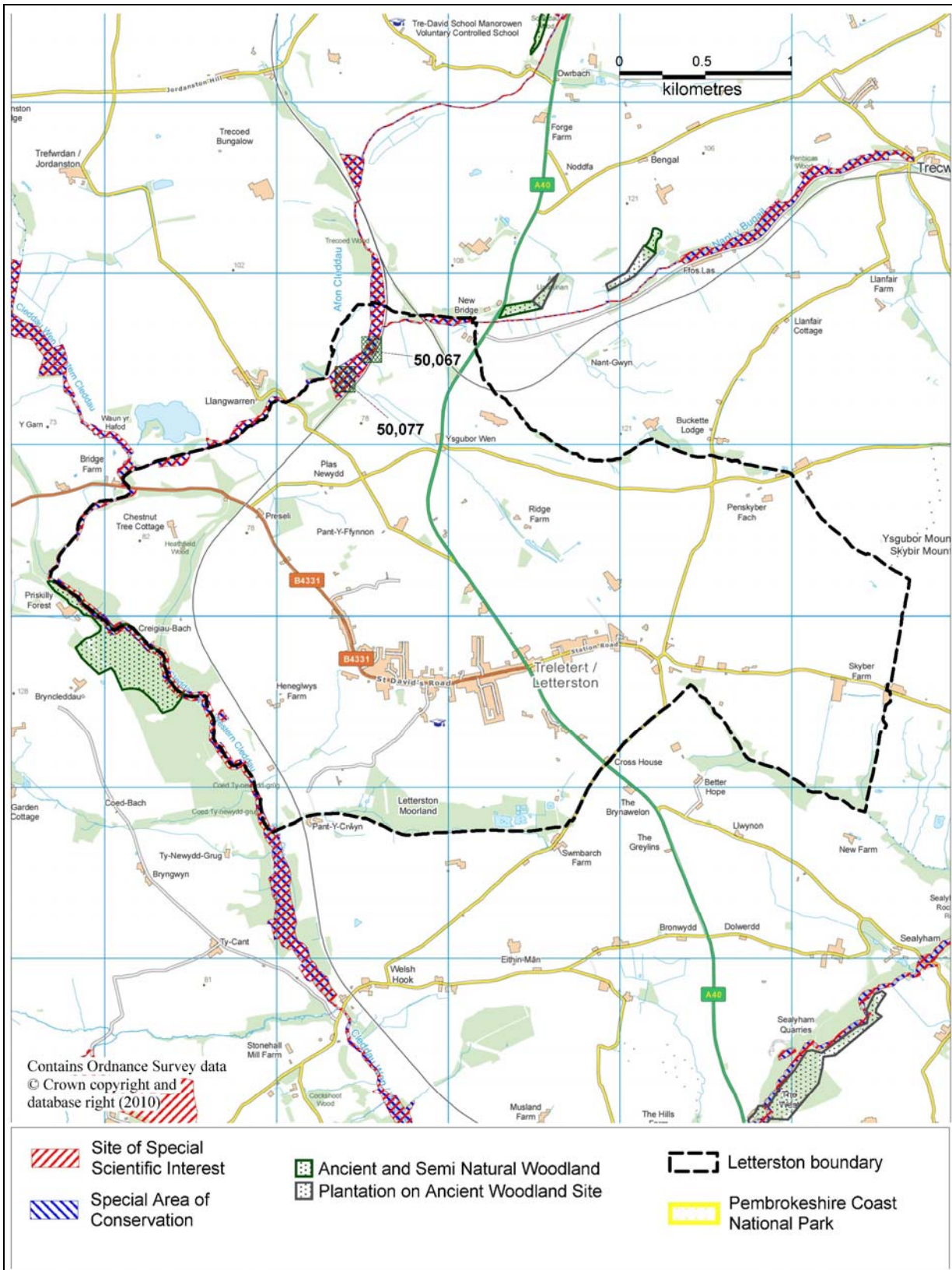


Figure 2: Natural Heritage in Letterston Community

3. HERITAGE (Archaeology, History & Culture)

The Id numbers in the sequences 1 to 9999 and 10000- 19999 are the Id numbers used in the Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage tables respectively in the project database and are referred to throughout the following text. The Part I Methodology report for the Heartlands Hub gives further details about these tables. A printout of the relevant records from the database as it stood at the time of writing this report are included in two gazetteers at the end of this report.

3.1 Heritage Overview

3.1.1 Neolithic Period (4,000BC – 2,200BC)

The archaeological record of Letterston Community extends back to the Neolithic period, during which the first farming communities developed in the country. North Pembrokeshire is well-known for its Neolithic chambered tombs or cromlechs, which tell us that there must have been a settled society in the wider district during the period. The evidence of Neolithic activity in Letterston is more modest however. A Neolithic stone axe-head (Id number 1901) was found in 1860 in the vicinity of what is now the village Recreation Ground. This simple find is in itself evidence that a Neolithic community must have existed in the area.

A Neolithic henge is said to underlie the Letterston III Bronze Age round barrow (Id number 1894) which was first excavated by Richard Fenton in the early 19th century. Fenton reported that he discovered cremated bone and charcoal within the barrow. H.N. Savory returned to the site in 1961 and carried out a fuller excavation, which identified an embanked “stone circle” beneath the round barrow, some 12 metres in diameter. Arguably, this may have been part of the Bronze Age barrow’s original structure, but the feature has been scheduled as a Neolithic henge monument.

3.1.2 Bronze Age Period (2,200BC – 700BC)

The Bronze Age in Wales began about 2,200BC and marked the widespread introduction of metal tools and weapons in place of the stone tools of earlier periods. This technological advance was matched by changes in society and culture which are represented by a major difference in the way that the dead were buried. Whereas Neolithic communities interred the remains of at least some of their dead in communal tombs, Bronze Age people generally appear to have cremated the dead. The ashes were then buried in funerary urns beneath stone cairns or earth and stone barrows, or in cremation cemeteries, some of which were marked by standing stones.

Although Letterston is a small community, there is ample evidence for Bronze Age activity recorded here. The evidence is limited to burial sites which have mostly now been destroyed or badly damaged, but which had been studied whilst still intact.

Interest in the Bronze Age archaeology of Letterston was first raised by Richard Fenton in the early years of the 19th century. He described a group of round barrows on what was at that time an area of common land to the east of the old village. The common was later enclosed and the monuments damaged or destroyed when the village grew eastwards and houses and gardens appeared. Fenton identified three round barrows (Id numbers 1893, 1895 & 1896) and excavated two of them (Id. Nos. 1893 & 1895), reporting evidence of cremation burials from both.

All three of the barrows were excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 and 1961. Savory found evidence of a cremation burial within Letterston III round barrow (Id number 1893). He found the primary cremation burial in the Letterston II barrow (Id number 1896), which included an intact funerary urn, accompanied by a flint knife, within a stone cist, as well as three later cremation burials. Letterston II also had traces of a wooden palisade beneath the barrow. A similar wooden palisade

was noted beneath the Letterston I barrow (Id number 1895) but no other archaeological finds of note were made at this site.

There is a possible fourth round barrow at Parc Moat (Id number 1881), which is a circular mound, 18 metres in diameter and originally up to 1.8 metres high, surrounded by a slight ditch. The ditch has given rise to an argument that the mound actually represents a denuded medieval castle motte. Without archaeological excavation this debate cannot be resolved.

During his visit to Letterston, Fenton described a curious stone setting (Id number 1898) of three upright stones on a “pavement”, which he called a “trilithon.” No trace of this monument has survived and even its location is uncertain. Fenton also refers to a large Bronze Age standing stone (Id number 1897) in the vicinity of Longstone Farm, which was located 300 metres further to the southeast in his day. This stone was moved later in the 19th century, and the North Pembrokeshire Railway had cut through its site by the start of the 20th century. Standing stones would have been erected as markers for groups of pits where cremation burials were interred, therefore the archaeological interest associated with a standing stone is not restricted to the stone itself.

3.1.3 Iron Age Period (700BC – 70AD)

Pembrokeshire is well-known for its Iron Age hillforts and defended enclosures, which protected small settlements or farmsteads. Sometimes evidence of further enclosures and field systems also survive around such sites. These generally date to the period c.700BC to c.AD70 and are the first firm archaeological evidence we have of settlement of the landscape, showing that the region was farmed and settled centuries before the Roman conquest. In some instances archaeological excavation has shown that the enclosures have Bronze Age origins, and others have been shown to have still been in use during Roman times.

There are no Iron Age sites known within Letterston community, although a number of defended enclosures dating to this period are found in adjacent communities. One of the closest is the well-preserved Castle Bucket, which is located less than 100 metres to the north of the community boundary. Excavations here have identified two cremation burials just outside the ramparts of the enclosure, radiocarbon-dated to the 4th century BC. Evidence of Iron Age burials is extremely rare in southwest Wales.

3.1.4 Roman Period AD70 – AD410

The Roman conquest of Wales in AD70 brought the prehistoric era to an end and instigated many important changes to society, some of which resonate to the present day. Pembrokeshire has many tantalising clues demonstrating that the Roman influence on the region was significant, but even today the full extent of Roman activity is not clear. It is now evident that the Roman road network extended to the west of the regional Roman capital of Moridunum (Carmarthen) but its course has only been identified with certainty as far as Llawhaden, with other intermittent sections apparently visible from the air westwards to Haverfordwest. The relationship between this road and communities further north is unknown, although there is no doubt that the impact of the road network on trade and the local economy must have been significant. It is possible that the Roman road network extended northwards along the Western Cleddau valley towards the coast at Fishguard or Abermawr, or that it possibly ran further to the northwest towards St David’s.

There are no known archaeological sites or artefact finds of Roman date from Letterston community. However, excavations on Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites across Pembrokeshire have shown in the past that Roman artefacts such as coinage and pottery were being used by the native population before, during and after the conquest.

3.1.5 Early Medieval Period (AD410 – AD1100)

The Roman period ended in AD410, although the effects of Roman civilisation and administration did not immediately or completely disappear. Contact with the Roman Empire had changed the economy, settlement pattern and communications network of most of the British Isles by the time the links with Rome were broken. Latin had become the language of administration and law, and contact with the wider empire had introduced Christianity into the British Isles at an early date. These factors all influenced society during the centuries after the Roman withdrawal.

Relatively little is known about secular society in early medieval Pembrokeshire. We know that Letterston has developed in the area that falls within the boundaries of the ancient *cantref* of Pebidiog. The *cantref* was divided into two commotes, Mynyw and Pencaer, with the Letterston area lying within the Pencaer commote. Much more archaeological work is required in the county to provide more clues as to how and where the population lived during this period.

We know a little more about the religious practices of the time however. In Welsh tradition, the early medieval period is often known as “Oes y Saint” or “The Age of the Saints.” This was a period during which the Christian church grew rapidly, a phenomenon which is reflected in the archaeology of the period across southwest Wales. Pebidiog, later known as Dewisland, is an area forever associated with Dewi Sant or St. David, the patron saint of Wales. He lived during the 6th century and was the head of a monastic community at Mynyw, which is known as *Menevia* in Latin and St David’s in English.

The early church would undoubtedly have had a presence in the Letterston area during this period, although there are no confirmed early medieval sites recorded here. The only candidate for an early medieval site in the community at present is Heneglwys (Id number 1880), or “Old Church” in English, which is thought to predate the present parish church of St. Giles. However, no evidence of an early church has survived there, apart from the place-name.

3.1.6 Medieval Period (AD1100 – AD1536)

The opening of the medieval period is marked by the Anglo-Norman incursions into Wales and the rapid conquest of Pembrokeshire, at the end of the 11th century AD. The Letterston area lies outside the main area of Anglo-Norman settlement in southern Pembrokeshire, as it fell within the commote of Pencaer in the *cantref* of Pebidiog, which was associated with the important ecclesiastical centre of St David’s.

Pebidiog rapidly came under Anglo-Norman control, but under their administration, it remained part of the extensive estates held by the Bishops of St David’s. There was a limited amount of Anglo-Norman settlement within Pencaer commote and it would appear that by the 12th century an Anglo-Norman manor or Knight’s Fief had been established by the Letard family, which was known as *Littardston* in medieval times. The name has survived to the present day as Letterston. The area remained largely Welsh in language and culture however and is to the north of the Landsker line, which divided Welsh and English-speaking Pembrokeshire.

The most significant survival of medieval settlement at Letterston is St Giles’ parish church (Id number 1884), which has been a focus for the community since the 12th century. It was probably founded at the same time as the Anglo-Norman manor and is known to have existed by AD1130, for in that year it was granted to the Knights Hospitallers of Slebech. A later medieval piscina and tomb effigy can be seen inside the church, but much of the present church building dates to the 19th century.

Just outside the churchyard was the reputed holy well known as Ffynnon Shan Shilin (Id number 1883), which is no longer visible. There are strong grounds to believe that this well might

originally have been known as Ffynnon San Silin – or St Sulien’s Well. It is possible that the Welsh Sulien was the original dedication to a church at nearby Heneglwys (Id number 1880), with the name transferred and anglicised to St Giles when the church moved to its present location in the 12th century. Great importance was attached to the properties of such springs in medieval times, when their waters were thought to possess holy or curative powers. Even though such superstitious beliefs were frowned upon after the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, such practices persisted in many rural areas.

Surprisingly, Letterston has no identified medieval castle or manorial centre. As mentioned previously, in 3.1.2, it has been suggested that the possible round barrow at Parc Moat (Id number 1881) actually represents a denuded medieval castle motte, but this remains unproven.

The modern village of Letterston has spread outside the boundaries of the original layout of the Anglo-Norman settlement, which must have been focused on the area of the church. Modern development has extended the village westwards and eastwards, but it is noticeable on any aerial photograph or historic map that a medieval or early post-medieval strip field system exists to the north and south of this historic, central section of the village. The long, narrow fields either side of the village were created by the 19th century by enclosing and hedging previously open strips or “quilletts”. Such field systems were typical of medieval villages, when the quilletts would have been divided between the villagers to be farmed collectively. In some Pembrokeshire villages this pattern of farming survived until the late 18th century, but the 19th century brought social and agricultural changes that saw the remaining open fields enclosed and often amalgamated into larger parcels.

3.1.7 Post Medieval Period (1536 – 1900)

Estates and landownership

Rural Pembrokeshire saw increasing changes to its economy and society after the reforms of the Tudor period. Medieval Pembrokeshire had been largely controlled by the crown, marcher lords and church authorities, but by the 17th century the old system of lordships and monastic estates had broken down and been replaced by private estates, often in the hands of minor gentry families. These estates were focused on homesteads which were increasingly replaced with country residences and mansions, set in landscaped gardens and parklands and in possession of groups of farms and lands of varying extent.

There were no landed estates based within Letterston community in post medieval times. Much of the land here was owned by landlords from outside the district. The only historic home recorded in the community is Heathfield Lodge (Id number 1876) which was owned by the Harries family of Priskilly Lodge in the 18th and 19th century.

It was in the interests of the private estates to ensure that the land they owned was well-farmed by their tenant farmers and throughout the 17th and 18th centuries there were gradual improvements in agriculture and an expansion of the land under the plough. Rising populations in the post medieval period made it necessary to produce more food. It was during this period that the pattern of enclosed fields was laid down in the Pembrokeshire countryside.

By the 19th century, further population increases put more pressure on the land and much of the surviving common or waste land was also enclosed and improved in order to increase the area of productive farmland; in general this too was carried out by the private estates. An excellent example of this process is seen at Letterston itself. When Richard Fenton described the area at the start of the 19th century, he noted that a tract of open moorland, Letterston Common, existed to the west of the village, in the area where Station Road later developed. This land was enclosed and ploughed by the middle of the 19th century.

Nonconformism

Following the Civil War of the 1640s, and the period of Commonwealth government and the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, significant changes took place in terms of religious practice and affiliation in rural Wales. Dissenting Protestants, such as Independents, Presbyterians and Baptists were able to practice their religion more freely for over a decade, but the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 saw limitations placed on worship and a period of persecution of dissenters followed. Nonconformism grew in strength in most Welsh communities during the 18th century, but it wasn't until the early 19th century, when the Calvinistic Methodist movement finally broke away from the Anglican church, that all the main denominations were in place (the Baptists and Congregationalists were well-established by this time).

The 19th century represented the high-water mark of Welsh nonconformism and it was during this century that the first nonconformist chapel was built in Letterston. This was Saron Baptist chapel (Id number 1888), which appeared in 1828, a period when the Welsh Baptists were particularly active in Pembrokeshire. It was not until 1901 that the community saw its second chapel built, namely Horeb Independent Chapel (Id number 1899). Both chapels were still in use in 2011.

Road and Rail

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries considerable efforts were made to improve the road network in Pembrokeshire by Turnpike Trusts. These established a toll road system in order to pay for the upgrading of existing parish roads or the construction of some new routes. Letterston stands directly on the route of the turnpike road built between Haverfordwest and Fishguard, a development which undoubtedly benefitted the local economy. Plans to connect Abermawr, on the north Pembrokeshire coast, with the main South Wales Railway line near Haverfordwest were laid by I.K Brunel in the 1850s, but never came to fruition. It was not until the construction of the North Pembrokeshire & Fishguard Railway (Id number 1636) during the 1890s, linking Maenclochog and Fishguard, that the railway arrived in the Letterston area. In 1895 a railway station was opened on this line at Letterston itself (Id number 1900). In 1898 the line was bought by the Great Western Railway and thereafter remained in use for passenger services until 1937 and as a freight line until final closure in 1949. The site of the old railway station yard is still recognisable at the end of Station Road, to the east of Letterston village. A second railway line was built through the community shortly afterwards, when the main South Wales line (Id number 927) – envisaged by Brunel 50 years earlier – was finally built between Haverfordwest and a new terminus at Goodwick. By around 1908 a second railway station served Letterston. This was the Mathry Road Station ((Id number 1878), located to the west of the village. It had a platform, station house and cattle pens. It was closed in 1965, following the “Beeching Cuts.” The development of the A40 along the line of the former turnpike road in modern times has kept Letterston on a main communication route and made it into an accessible and popular place to live.

The Village

Letterston village has grown into a substantial settlement during the past 120 years. As suggested above, this is largely due to the combination of good road and rail links at important times in the history of the county, which sustained the small, rural village and then allowed it to begin to grow as a focal point for its rural hinterland. The church was undoubtedly the most important feature in the pre-19th century community, but with the turnpike road appearing by the early 19th century and a Baptist chapel being added in 1828, the village was able to maintain its population. Growth was evidently occurring by the mid-19th century, when most rural parishes were experiencing depopulation. In 1852, a National School, or Church School (Id number 1882) was opened close to the parish church. By the 1880s, the Baptist chapel had no more room for burials and a large cemetery (Id number 1890) was opened to the east of the crossroads, on what would later become Station Road. The opening of a railway station at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, with a goods yard for freight, greatly increased the potential for growth in Letterston, and during the 20th

century it has expanded considerably outwards from its historic core. A second chapel appeared at the start of the 20th century, and the Jubilee Hotel public house also opened around the same time. Housing continues to spread along Station Road to the east, and in the last quarter of the 20th century there was also considerable new build along the road to the west of the village.

3.2 Designated Heritage Sites and Areas

There are 2 sites with Listed Building status in Letterston community. These include Saron Baptist chapel (Id number 1888), which is a prominent feature in the village streetscape.

There is only 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument in the community, which is the now badly denuded Letterston II round barrow (Id number 1896). It lies divided between two private gardens and is not accessible.

Details of these can be obtained via the Historic Wales website, which includes Cadw's Listed Buildings Register and the details of all Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3.3 List of Heritage Sites by Period

Further details of these sites can be found in the gazetteer at the end of this report. Use the Id number to find the record in the gazetteer you are interested in.

Neolithic

1901	LETTERSTON	FINDSPOT	SM9381329562
1894	LETTERSTON III	HENGE	SM9473829764

Bronze Age

1895	LETTERSTON I	ROUND BARROW	SM9475629822
1896	LETTERSTON II	ROUND BARROW	SM9479129872
1893	LETTERSTON III	ROUND BARROW	SM9473829764
1897	LONGSTONE	STANDING STONE	SM9523029760
1898	LETTERSTON COMMON	STONE SETTING	SM9460030000

Bronze Age?

1881	PARC MOAT	ROUND BARROW?	SM9374929485
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Early Medieval?

1880	HEN EGLWYS	CHURCH	SM9300029500
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Medieval; Post Medieval

1884	ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH, LETTERSTON	CHURCH	SM9390429576
1885	ST GILES' PARISH CHURCHYARD, LETTERSTON	CHURCHYARD	SM9392529566
1892	LETTERSTON	HISTORIC SETTLEMENT	SM9446129795

19th century

1882	LETTERSTON NATIONAL SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SM9389529521
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19th century; 20th century

1888	SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL	CHAPEL	SM9428229638
1889	SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL, BURIAL GROUND	GRAVEYARD	SM9428629653

Post Medieval

1876	HEATHFIELD LODGE	HISTORIC HOME	SM9240130507
1883	FFYNNON SHAN SHILIN	HOLY WELL?	SM9384229606
1877	HEATHFIELD LODGE	LODGE	SM9271330677

20th century

1890	LETTERSTON CEMETERY	CEMETERY	SM9457329791
1899	HOREB WELSH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL	CHAPEL	SM9511029802
1891	LETTERSTON MEMORIAL HALL	MEMORIAL HALL	SM9467829749
1887	THE JUBILEE	PUBLIC HOUSE	SM9382329631
1878	MATHRY ROAD RAILWAY STATION	RAILWAY STATION	SM9278930598
1900	LETTERSTON RAILWAY STATION	RAILWAY STATION	SM9540229674
1886	LETTERSTON WAR MEMORIAL	WAR MEMORIAL	SM9388729599

Second World War

1879	LETTERSTON PRISONER OF WAR CAMP	PRISONER OF WAR CAMP	SM9333130260
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3.4 Cultural Sites

Just one theme of cultural importance has been identified within the community but this list is not intended to be exhaustive and undoubtedly be extended.

10156	SIR GORONWY DANIEL	HISTORICAL FIGURE	SM9509929786
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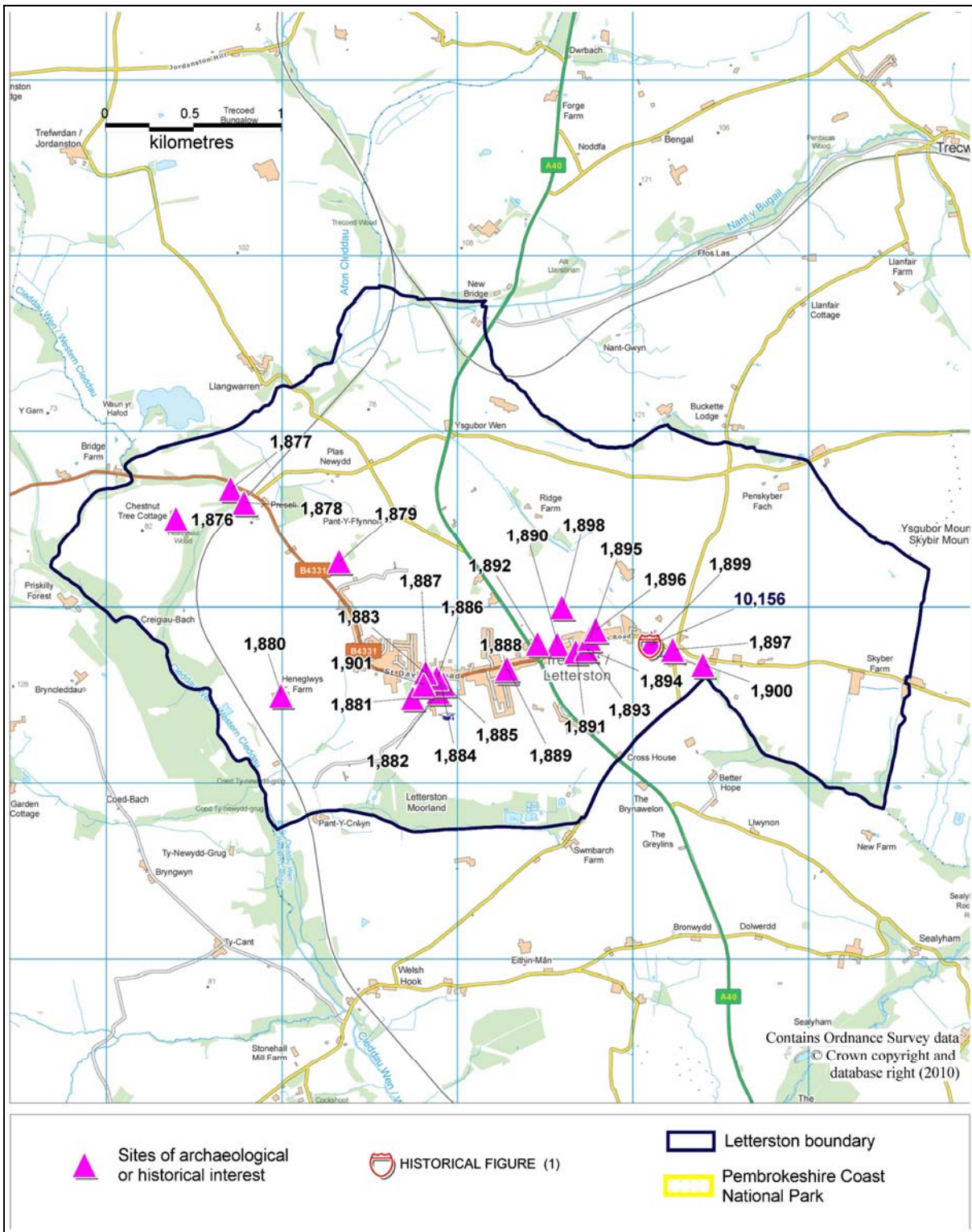


Figure 3: Heritage in Letterston Community

4. INTERPRETATION

At the time of this survey, there were only two identifiable examples of interpretation within Letterston community. St Giles church has a set of laminated sheets giving some details of the church and village history, and is open during the summer. It is also promoted on the Church Tourism Network website, www.ctnw.org.uk. This is a cycle route between Fishguard and Llysyfran, which follows minor roads through the community.

The Id numbers in the sequences 20000 to 29999 and 80000- 89999 are the Id numbers used in the Interpretation and Tracks and Trails tables respectively in the project database and are referred to through out the following text. The Part I Methodology report for the Heartlands Hub gives further details about these tables.

Letterston

INTERPRETED SITE

20116	LETTERSTON CHURCH
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Cwm Gwaun;Puncheston;New Moat;Ambleston;Letterston

CYCLE ROUTE

80096	FISHGUARD TO LLYS-Y-FRAN
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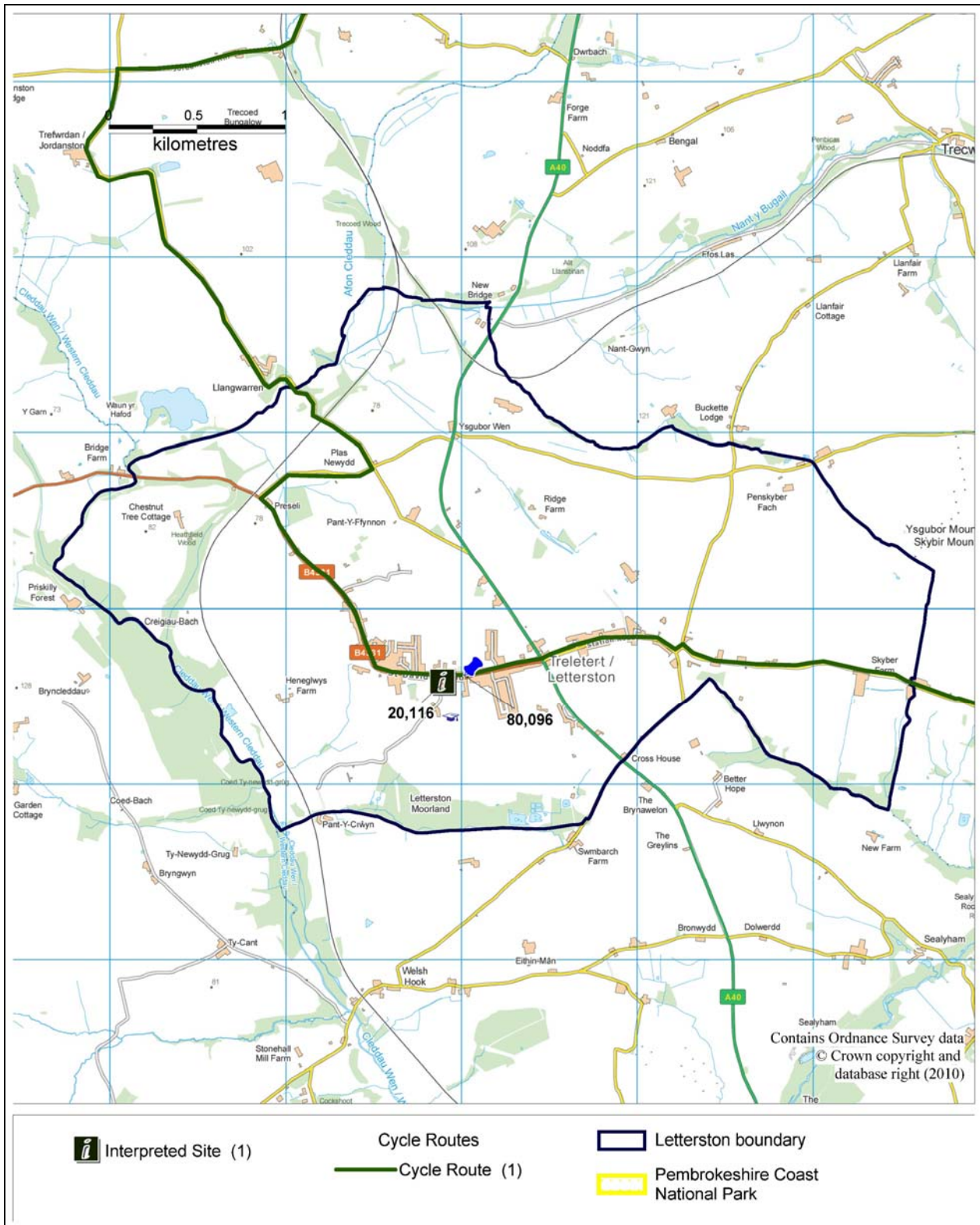


Figure 4. Interpretation in Letterston community

5. TOURISM-RELATED COMMERCE

At present the level of tourism-related activity within Letterston community is very low, especially when compared with neighbouring areas which are closer to the Pembrokeshire coast or the Preseli hills.

The community has the advantage of being located on the route of the main London to Fishguard railway line as well as the main east to west A40 road, which runs through the community and village and on to Fishguard. These are busy communications routes and popular with tourists during the summer months. As a result there is some potential for strengthening this sector.

The Id numbers in the sequences 40000- 49999 are the Id numbers used in the Commerce table in the project database and are referred to in the list below. The Part I Methodology report for the Heartlands Hub gives further details about this table.

Letterston		
Public House		
40613	THE JUBILEE HOTEL	SM9382029629
Restaurant;Takeaway		
40614	SOMETHING'S COOKING	SM9449729687

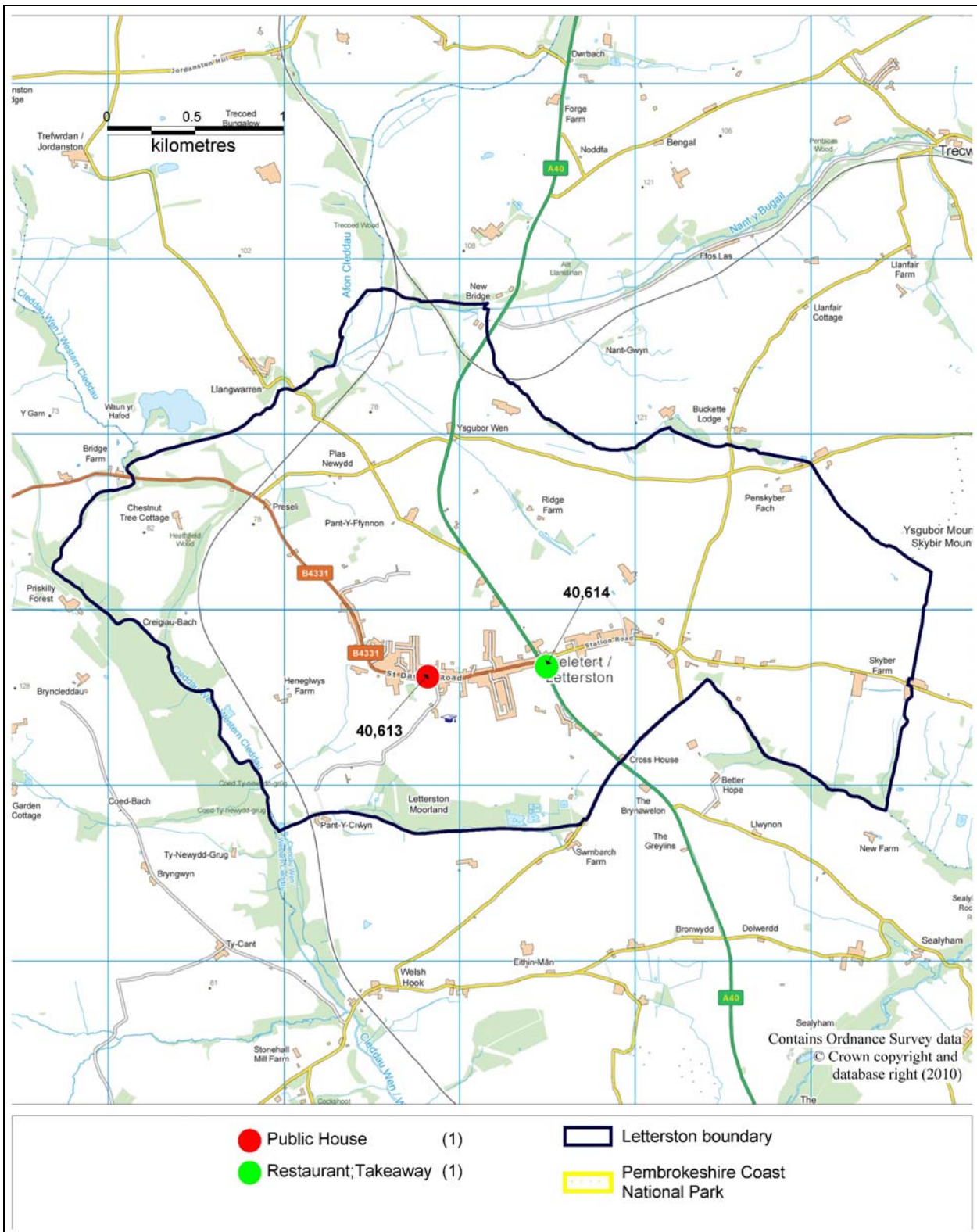


Figure 4: Tourism-related Commerce in Letterston Community

6. OBSERVATIONS

6.1 Strengths

Despite being a small community, Letterston has a range of archaeological and historic themes. These include prehistoric monuments, although only one of these sites now survives and is accessible to the public. The parish church is generally kept open during the summer and is an attractive and interesting place to visit. The story of the development of the village and its landscape since medieval times is itself an interesting theme worthy of interpretation.

Letterston is ideally located on a busy road network and has facilities such as parking, toilets, shop, pub and popular fish and chip restaurant.

6.2 Issues

There is currently little on-site interpretation of local heritage.

Signage for local places of interest and trails is poor.

6.3 Opportunities

This report does not make any firm recommendations for action on the basis of an audit of the natural and human heritage of the community. Certain observations can be made however which may help inform future discussion.

6.3.1 Interpretation plan. There is clearly scope for greater interpretation of the community's landscape and heritage through panels, leaflets and other interpretive media (including digital and the internet). An interpretive plan for the community could help overcome this problem in future and help the community make appropriate use of its heritage assets.

6.3.2 Branding. The branding of Letterston in conjunction with neighbouring Heartlands communities could help draw attention to the heritage and landscape attractions of the area. Such a strategy could help strengthen tourism-based commerce in the district, supporting existing businesses and opening opportunities for new ventures.

6.3.3 Local walks. There is a need to create short trails within the community area which are less demanding and of interest to local people and visitors alike, promoting healthy living and wellbeing. There is scope for limited distance local trails, based on the existing public footpath network, focused on places of heritage or environmental interest within the community.

6.3.4 All-ability facilities. A specific opportunity exists to investigate the possibility of developing an all-ability trail or trails within the community to encourage disabled visitors to view this area as an attractive place to visit and explore.

6.3.5 Faith Tourism. Amongst the most interesting heritage sites of the community are its chapels and churches. Efforts should be made to investigate means of allowing public access, of funding on-site interpretation in order that the rich heritage of the chapels and churches, and their congregations, can be shared with the wider community. Churches and chapels may also offer potential locations for general interpretive material. Letterston church has already made positive movement in this direction through engaging with the Church Tourism Network, and opening the church to visitors. Simple laminated information sheets are available in the church which is a peaceful place.

6.3.6 Genealogy. Most local chapels and churches have their own burial grounds and are a rich store of genealogical interest. The gravestones themselves also tell us much about the social history of a community. Genealogy is a growing hobby across the world and the descendants of many families who left Pembrokeshire in past times are now seeking to research their family histories. An opportunity exists to encourage the identification and promotion of this outstanding heritage resource.

6.3.6 Events. Involvement in time-limited, low cost events such as the Civic Trust For Wales Open Doors could be a possible way of allowing access to places not normally open to the public such as the chapel. In this case the Civic Trust for Wales help promote the event so that a wider audience than normal may be engaged with.

6.3.7 Profile raising. Engagement with social media, crowd sourced and user-generated content could be a way of raising the profile of areas like Letterston. Costs are low or non-existent with more reliance on the amount of time people want to give to creating content and their enthusiasm. For instance adding content to the People's Collection and adding appropriate tags to the images may mean that Letterston is brought to the attention of more people.

**7. LETTERSTON
HERITAGE GAZETTEER
INDEX**

			Letterston
NAME	TYPE	ID	Number
FFYNNON SHAN SHILIN	HOLY WELL?	1883	
HEATHFIELD LODGE	LODGE	1877	
HEATHFIELD LODGE	HISTORIC HOME	1876	
HEN EGLWYS	CHURCH	1880	
HOREB WELSH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL	CHAPEL	1899	
LETTERSTON	FINDSPOT	1901	
LETTERSTON	HISTORIC SETTLEMENT	1892	
LETTERSTON CEMETERY	CEMETERY	1890	
LETTERSTON COMMON	STONE SETTING	1898	
LETTERSTON I	ROUND BARROW	1895	
LETTERSTON II	ROUND BARROW	1896	
LETTERSTON III	HENGE	1894	
LETTERSTON III	ROUND BARROW	1893	
LETTERSTON MEMORIAL HALL	MEMORIAL HALL	1891	
LETTERSTON NATIONAL SCHOOL	SCHOOL	1882	
LETTERSTON PRISONER OF WAR CAMP	PRISONER OF WAR CAMP	1879	
LETTERSTON RAILWAY STATION	RAILWAY STATION	1900	
LETTERSTON WAR MEMORIAL	WAR MEMORIAL	1886	
LONGSTONE	STANDING STONE	1897	
MATHRY ROAD RAILWAY STATION	RAILWAY STATION	1878	
PARC MOAT	ROUND BARROW?	1881	
SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL	CHAPEL	1888	
SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL, BURIAL GROUND	GRAVEYARD	1889	
ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH, LETTERSTON	CHURCH	1884	
ST GILES' PARISH CHURCHYARD, LETTERSTON	CHURCHYARD	1885	
THE JUBILEE	PUBLIC HOUSE	1887	

**8. LETTERSTON
HERITAGE GAZETTEER
INDEX**

1876**HEATHFIELD LODGE****Post Medieval****HISTORIC HOME**

SM9240130507 Open Countryside

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:*

Visible from road/path

Visitor Potential: Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Heathfield Lodge is a minor gentry house included in Major Francis Jones' "Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire". It dates to the early 19th century minor gentry house and was built by the Harries family of Priskilly. It was let to a succession of tenants during the 19th and 20th centuries. The mansion is still occupied, although its outbuildings have now been converted into separate dwellings and sold. Elements of the estate landscape still survive, such as parkland, a carriage drive and a lodge. The antiquarian Richard Fenton stayed here, the home of his friend Major Harries, when he visited Letterston and excavated a number of Bronze Age barrows on Letterston Common in the early 19th century.

A public footpath, PP36/3/2, runs to the south of the mansion.

NPRN: 22045*PRN:* 17579*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:*

Private

Bibliography:

Jones, F, 1996, Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and Their Families

Related Themes:

 Notes:

1877**HEATHFIELD LODGE****Post Medieval****LODGE**

SM9271330677 Open Countryside

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:* Visible from road/path*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Low

This attractive estate lodge stands at the entrance to the carriage drive which gives access to the country house at Heathfield Lodge. It is probably mid- to late-19th century in date as it is not shown on the 1831 Ordnance Survey 1 inch to 1 mile map. The lodge is still occupied and has been modernised and well maintained.

A public footpath, PP36/3/2, runs from the lodge through the area to the south of the mansion.

NPRN: 407399*PRN:* 17553*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:**Related Themes:*

 Notes:

1878**MATHRY ROAD****20th century****RAILWAY STATION****RAILWAY STATION**

SM9278930598 Open Countryside

Condition: Substantial *Accessibility:* Visible from road/path
 Destruction

Visitor Potential: Low *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Mathry Road Station was a small station opened on the main GWR line to Fishguard, probably during the first half of the 20th century (it is not show on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map). As early as 1898 there were detailed plans to build a new branch line from Mathry Road to St David's, via Mathry, but these were never realised and the GWR ran a bus link instead. Mathry Road was provided with a platform, a station house and had cattle pens to the north. In 1925 a signal box was transferred here from Wolfscastle. Mathry Road was closed in 1965.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 17591

Listed Building Number: *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:*

Ownership: Private *Management:* Private

Bibliography:

Related Themes:

Notes:

1879**LETTERSTON PRISONER OF WAR CAMP Second World War PRISONER OF WAR CAMP**

SM9333130260 Open Countryside

Condition: Substantial *Accessibility:* No Access
Destruction*Visitor Potential:* None *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

There was a small PoW camp and hostel here during the Second World War. It was set up in 1941 and was mostly used to house Italians, Ukrainians and Poles. Only eight huts stood in the compound, seven of which had been demolished by the late 20th century and the final hut appears to have been removed in the early 21st century. The site of the camp is now occupied by a private house.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 24350*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private *Management:* Private*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Military Heritage of Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1880**HEN EGLWYS****Early Medieval?****CHURCH**

SM9300029500 Open Countryside

Condition: Destroyed *Accessibility:* No Access*Visitor Potential:* None *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

The farm of Heneglwys lies just to the east of Letterston village. It is thought to be the site of an early church, predating the 12th century when Letterston was founded as a planted Anglo-Norman village. Nothing is known of this early church and there are no reported archaeological remains associated with it.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 2395*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private *Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Related Themes: Shedding light on the Dark Ages
Religious Sites

 Notes:

1881**PARC MOAT****Bronze Age?****ROUND BARROW?**

SM9374929485 Letterston

Condition: Damaged*Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Medium*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This mound has never been fully understood. It is thought to be a Bronze Age round barrow, as it shares the characteristics of round barrows in the district. It is 18 metres in diameter and up to 1.8 metres high. However, it has also been suggested that the mound is a decayed castle motte, which would fit in with the name of the site. There is a slight ditch around the mound, which may strengthen the argument in favour of this being a medieval castle motte. The site is overgrown and there has not been any archaeological investigation of the mound which might help better interpret its origins and purpose.

NPRN: 305216*PRN:* 2394*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown*Management:* Unknown*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1882**LETTERSTON NATIONAL SCHOOL 19th century SCHOOL**

SM9389529521 Letterston

Condition: Intact *Accessibility:* Visible from road/path*Visitor Potential:* Low *Interpretation Potential:* Low

Letterston National School was opened c.1852, standing to the rear of the parish church. By the late 20th century the school had been replaced by a more modern building to the south, although the original school still stands, having been converted for use as a private dwelling. In 2011 a new school complex is under construction, due to open in 2012.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 17620*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown *Management:* Unknown*Bibliography:**Related Themes:*

 Notes:

1883**FFYNNON SHAN SHILIN****Post Medieval****HOLY WELL?**

SM9384229606 Letterston

Condition: Destroyed*Accessibility:*

Full Access

Visitor Potential: Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Ffynnon Shan Shilin was described by Major Francis Jones in his "Holy Wells of Wales"(1954). The well was located close to St Giles's church, Letterston, thought to be at the edge of the main road just to the northwest of the church. It is quite possible that "Shan Shilin" refers to St Silin (St Sulien) which has been anglicised to St Giles, although there are two fanciful stories which explain the name. One relates to an elderly lady named Shan falling into the well with a shilling in her pocket, the other has it that the curative waters of the well were at one time sold for a shilling a bottle. The well appears to have been piped and is no longer visible.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 2396*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown*Management:*

Unknown

Bibliography:

Jones, F, 1954, The Holy Wells of Wales

Related Themes:

 Notes:

1884**ST GILES' PARISH
CHURCH, LETTERSTON****Medieval; Post
Medieval****CHURCH**

SM9390429576 Letterston

Condition: Intact *Accessibility:* Restricted Access*Visitor Potential:* Medium *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

St Giles church is thought to have been first built on its present site during the early 12th century, when Letterston was founded as a planted Anglo-Norman settlement. It is said to have replaced an earlier church, probably pre-Norman in origin, which stood to the west of the village at Heneglwys farm. It has been suggested that the pre-Norman church may have been dedicated to a Celtic saint, Sulien or Silin, and that this name was transferred to the new church but anglicised as St Giles. By 1130 the church here was certainly in existence and in that year it was granted to the Knights Hospitallers at Slebech. It stood at the heart of the medieval settlement and has continued to serve the community to the present day, although it has been restored and rebuilt on many occasions throughout the centuries and the present building is of 19th century date. The church was rebuilt in 1844 and again in 1881, which means that there is little surviving of the medieval church. A 15th century piscina is built into the wall of the south porch and the font is thought to also be 15th century in date. A 14th or 15th century female effigy is also built into the north wall of the nave.

The church is open to visitors during the summer months and is a pleasant place to visit.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 4552*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Church in Wales *Management:* Church in Wales*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Religious Sites

 Notes:

1885**ST GILES' PARISH
CHURCHYARD,
LETTERSTON****Medieval; Post
Medieval****CHURCHYARD**

SM9392529566 Letterston

Condition: Intact *Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Medium *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

St Giles' church stands in a small but pleasant, rectangular churchyard, which has a number of graves and memorials of genealogical interest. There is a modern church vestry or hall to the northern side of the churchyard.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Church in Wales*Management:* Church in Wales*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Genealogy

 Notes:

1886**LETTERSTON WAR
MEMORIAL****20th century****WAR MEMORIAL**

SM9388729599 Letterston

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Medium*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This stone pillar stands at the edge of the parish churchyard, facing onto St David's Road, Letterston. It commemorates those local people who lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown*Management:* Unknown*Bibliography:*

Related Themes: Military Heritage of Pembrokeshire
Genealogy

 Notes:

1887**THE JUBILEE****20th century****PUBLIC HOUSE**

SM9382329631 Letterston

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Medium*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

The Jubilee Hotel is first named on the 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. It has served as a public house, with accommodation, throughout the 20th century and is still open in 2011.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:**Related Themes:*

 Notes:

1888**SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL****19th century; 20th century****CHAPEL**

SM9428229638 Letterston

Grade 2 Listed Building

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:*

Visible from road/path

Visitor Potential: Medium*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Saron Baptist chapel was first built in 1828. It was rebuilt in 1869 and had some renovation in 1884 and 1903. It remains in use as a place of worship in 2011.

NPRN: 11200*PRN:* 17622*Listed Building Number:* 22761*Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Congregation*Management:*

Congregation

*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Religious Sites

 Notes:

1889**SARON BAPTIST CHAPEL,
BURIAL GROUND****19th century; 20th
century****GRAVEYARD**

SM9428629653 Letterston

Condition: Damaged*Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Saron chapel stands in a small, rectangular graveyard which contains gravestones and memorials of genealogical interest. In modern times the gravestones have been removed from their original positions and placed against the boundary banks of the graveyard.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Congregation*Management:* Congregation*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Genealogy

 Notes:

1890**LETTERSTON CEMETERY 20th century CEMETERY**

SM9457329791 Letterston

Condition: Intact *Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* *Interpretation Potential:*

This cemetery was opened by the time of the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map, when the plot is shown as a coniferous woodland, but labelled as a "Burial Ground". It is now almost full of graves. A plaque on the gatepost says that the gate and path were rebuilt in 1953.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown *Management:* Unknown*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Genealogy

 Notes:

1891**LETTERSTON
MEMORIAL HALL****20th century****MEMORIAL HALL**

SM9467829749 Letterston

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:* Full Access*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This large and modernised village hall was originally built in the late 1940s. Originally money was raised to pay for "homecoming" concerts for servicemen and women coming home on leave during the war. After the end of the war, the remaining funds were put towards a new campaign to build a village hall in memory of those who had lost their lives. Land for the hall was donated by Captain Mathias of Llangwarren Hall and the hall itself was a second-hand building, purchased in 1948, from Messrs. Pauling & Nuttall of Trecwn. A permanent building replaced the first hall in 1961 and this was extended and refurbished in 2000. The Memorial Hall remains the focus of much community activity in Letterston and the surrounding district.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Letterston Memorial Hall*Management:* Letterston Memorial Hall*Bibliography:**Related Themes:*

 Notes:

1892**LETTERSTON****Medieval; Post
Medieval****HISTORIC SETTLEMENT**

SM9446129795 Letterston

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:*

Full Access

Visitor Potential: High*Interpretation Potential:* High

During the 12th century an Anglo-Norman manor or Knight's Fief had been established by the Letard family, known as Littardston., which later developed into the settlement we now know as Letterston. The most significant survival of the medieval settlement at Letterston is St Giles' parish church (Id. No. 1884), which has been a focus for the community since the 12th century. It was probably founded at the same time as the Anglo-Norman manor and is known to have existed by AD1130, for in that year it was granted to the Knights Hospitallers of Slebech. Surprisingly, Letterston has no identified medieval castle or manorial centre, but the Anglo-Norman settlement must have been focused on the area of the church. A medieval or early post-medieval strip field system exists to the north and south of the historic, central section of the village. The long, narrow fields either side of the village were created by the 19th century by enclosing and hedging previously open strips or "quilletts".

Letterston has grown outside the boundaries of the original layout of the Anglo-Norman settlement, and has become a substantial settlement during the past 200 years. Letterston stands directly on the route of the turnpike road built between Haverfordwest and Fishguard by the early 19th century, a development which undoubtedly benefitted the local economy. The church was undoubtedly the most important feature in the pre-19th century community, but with the turnpike road appearing by the early 19th century and a Baptist chapel being added in 1828, the village was able to maintain its population. Growth was evidently occurring by the mid-19th century, when most rural parishes were experiencing depopulation. In 1852, a National School, or Church School (Id. No. 1882) was opened close to the parish church. By the 1880s, the Baptist chapel had no more room for burials and a large cemetery (Id. No. 1890) was opened to the east of the crossroads, on what would later become Station Road.

By 1900 a railway station had opened at Letterston on the North Pembrokeshire & Fishguard Railway. The line was built to link Maenclochog and Fishguard, but undoubtedly provided a great boost to the fortunes of Letterston and allowed it to grow further as a focal point for its rural hinterland. A second chapel appeared at the start of the 20th century, and the Jubilee

 Notes:

Hotel public house also opened around the same time.

During the 20th century, Letterston has continued to expand, despite the closure of the railway in 1949, which was soon offset by improvements to the A40 road and the rise of road transport. In its heyday the village even had a branch of a high street bank. Housing development continues to spread along Station Road to the east, and in the last quarter of the 20th century there was also considerable new build along the road to the west of the village. A large, modern village hall stands to the south of Station Road, a symbol of a community which continues to grow and to look to the future.

NPRN: 0

PRN: 12373

Listed Building Number:

Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:

Ownership:

Management:

Bibliography:

Related Themes:

Notes:

1893**LETTERSTON III****Bronze Age****ROUND BARROW**

SM9473829764 Letterston

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Condition: Damaged*Accessibility:* Access by Permission*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This round barrow was excavated by the antiquarian Richard Fenton in the early 19th century. He describes the event in his "Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire" (p.341-342). Fenton dug into the centre of the mound without success, but eventually found cremated bone and charcoal close to the edge of the mound. The monument was again excavated by H.N. Savory in 1961. He interpreted the site as originating in the Neolithic, when the initial phase, an embanked stone circle, 12 metres in diameter, was built. The stone circle was then incorporated into a much larger round barrow during the Bronze Age. The barrow was defined by a stone kerb, 32 metres in diameter, around an earth and turf mound which was still 1.5 metres high in 1961. Savory found evidence of cremated bone and a collared urn beneath two large slabs on the eastern side of the barrow as well as some charcoal. The barrow is now divided between two garden plots to the rear of private houses in Station Road and has been denuded as a result of the previous excavations and later landscaping within the gardens.

NPRN: 300421*PRN:* 2381*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:* PE062*Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Fenton, R, 1810, A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire

Savory, H., 1963, Excavations at a third round barrow at Pen-Dre, Letterston (Pemb.), 1961

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1894**LETTERSTON III****Neolithic****HENGE**

SM9473829764 Letterston

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Condition: Damaged*Accessibility:*

Access by Permission

Visitor Potential: Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This Neolithic henge or "embanked stone circle" lies beneath a Bronze Age round barrow which was excavated by the antiquarian Richard Fenton in the early 19th century. He describes the event in his "Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire" (p.341-342). Fenton dug into the centre of the mound without success, but eventually found cremated bone and charcoal close to the edge of the mound. The monument was again excavated by H.N. Savory in 1961. He interpreted the site as originating in the Neolithic, when the initial phase, an embanked stone circle, 12 metres in diameter, was built. The stone circle was then incorporated into a much larger round barrow during the Bronze Age. The site is now divided between two garden plots to the rear of private houses in Station Road and has been denuded as a result of the previous excavations and later landscaping within the gardens.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 9036*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:* PE062*Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Savory, H., 1963, Excavations at a third round barrow at Pen-Dre, Letterston (Pemb.), 1961

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1895**LETTERSTON I****Bronze Age****ROUND BARROW**

SM9475629822 Letterston

Condition: Destroyed*Accessibility:* No Access*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This was one of three Bronze Age round barrows described by Richard Fenton in the early 19th century and may be one of the two he excavated. Fenton failed to find evidence of a burial, but noted that a turf-cutter had uncovered a funerary urn and cremated bone from the edge of the mound some years previously. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 but no finds of note were made, apart from evidence of the postholes for an irregular wooden palisade, circa 18 metres in diameter, beneath the barrow. This barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation.

NPRN: 305219*PRN:* 2379*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Fenton, R, 1810, A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire

Savory, H., 1949, Two Middle Bronze Age palisade barrows at Letterston, Pembrokeshire.

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1896**LETTERSTON II****Bronze Age****ROUND BARROW**

SM9479129872 Letterston

Condition: Destroyed*Accessibility:* No Access*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* High

This is the northernmost of three round barrows which once stood on Letterston common. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 and was found to contain a number of cremation burials. The primary burial was discovered beneath the mound, consisting of cremated bone in an inverted urn, within a stone cist. A flint knife was also found in the cist. Three secondary burials had been inserted into the mound at a later date. Two of these were also of cremated bone contained in funerary urns, both put into poorly made cists; the cremated bone in the third was of the secondary burials was again in an inverted urn, accompanied by a pygmy cup. Beneath the barrow, evidence for a wooden palisade, 16 metres in diameter, was noted. The barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation. The finds are kept at the National Museum of Wales.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 2380*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Savory, H., 1949, Two Middle Bronze Age palisade barrows at Letterston, Pembrokeshire.

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1897**LONGSTONE****Bronze Age****STANDING STONE**

SM9523029760 Letterston

Condition: Destroyed *Accessibility:* Visible from road/path*Visitor Potential:* Low *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Richard Fenton, in the early 19th century, referred to a large standing stone at the extreme south-eastern corner of Letterston Common, near Longstone Farm. Some confusion arose later relating to the site of this now lost stone, partly due to the fact that Longstone Farm was originally located some 300 metres further to the southeast than at present. However, the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows the position of the stone, although it had already been moved by that time. By the early years of the 20th century, the railway line to Fishguard had effectively cut through the former site of the standing stone.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 2398*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private *Management:* Private*Bibliography:*

Fenton, R, 1810, A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

1898**LETTERSTON COMMON****Bronze Age****STONE SETTING**

SM9460030000 Letterston

Condition: Destroyed*Accessibility:* No Access*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Richard Fenton, at the start of the 19th century, described an unusual stone monument near Letterston. Unfortunately, his description was not precise enough to plot the position of this now lost site. He described a setting of three large, upright stones (the longest being 10 feet or 3 metres long), which had stood in a triangular arrangement, on a "pavement". The stones had been taken down several years before Fenton's visit, so it is not clear whether he described them from memory or from a description furnished by a local informant. In the absence of any surviving stones, we can only say that the site was "on the left side of the common... in an enclosed field." It is possible that Fenton means that the stones were in a field beyond the common boundary of course. In more recent times, the Dyfed Archaeological Trust have speculated that an earth bank in a field to the north of Station Road may represent a Neolithic henge, within which the three stones may have originally been set. However, the reported henge (PRN 2393) seems likely to be a misinterpretation of an old boundary bank, shown on 19th and early 20th century maps, which has been levelled, but survives as a curving earthwork in the field. The mystery of the location of Fenton's "trilithon" therefore remains unsolved.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 2414*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Unknown*Management:* Unknown*Bibliography:*

Fenton, R, 1810, A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire

Related Themes: Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

Notes:

1899**HOREB WELSH
INDEPENDENT CHAPEL****20th century****CHAPEL**

SM9511029802 Letterston

Condition: Intact*Accessibility:*

Visible from road/path

Visitor Potential: Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

Horeb chapel was built in 1901 and remains open as a place of worship in 2011. There are no burials here, although a memorial stone to the influential Welsh civil servant Sir Goronwy Daniel (1914-2003) and his wife Lady Valerie Lloyd George is located to the rear of the chapel building.

NPRN: 11199*PRN:* 17655*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Congregation*Management:*

Congregation

*Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Religious Sites

 Notes:

1900**LETTERSTON RAILWAY
STATION****20th century****RAILWAY STATION**

SM9540229674 Letterston

Condition: Substantial
Destruction*Accessibility:* Visible from road/path*Visitor Potential:* Low*Interpretation Potential:* Medium

This railway station was built in the early 1900s when the North Pembrokeshire & Fishguard Railway was extended from Rosebush to Fishguard. The station included sidings, goods sheds, an engine shed as well as a platform and station buildings. Most of the site was cleared after the line closed in 1949.

NPRN: 0*PRN:* 17656*Listed Building Number:**Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* Private*Management:* Private*Bibliography:**Related Themes:*

 Notes:

1901**LETTERSTON****Neolithic****FINDSPOT**

SM9381329562 Letterston

Condition: Lost *Accessibility:* No Access*Visitor Potential:* None *Interpretation Potential:* Medium

A stone axe was reportedly found by a peat cutter about 200 metres to the east of Great Letterston farm during the 1860s. If the description of the findspot is accurate, the area of the find is now occupied by the village Recreation Ground, formerly the village green.

NPRN: 0 *PRN:* 0*Listed Building Number:* *Scheduled Ancient Monument Number:**Ownership:* *Management:**Bibliography:**Related Themes:* Prehistoric Pembrokeshire

 Notes:

9. LETTERSTON CULTURAL GAZETTEER

10156

SIR GORONWY DANIEL

HISTORICAL FIGURE

SM9509929786

20th century

Sir Goronwy Hopkin Daniel was born in Ystradgynlais in 1914. His father was a colliery manager. After attending school at Pontardawe and Ammanford, he graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1937 and took a doctorate in Economic Statistics at Jesus College, Oxford. In 1940 he married Lady Valerie, a grand-daughter of Lloyd George.

From 1941, he enjoyed a long career as a public servant. He served as the Chief Statistician at the Ministry of Fuel and Power and as Under-Secretary in the Coal Division. In 1964, he was appointed as Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the newly created Welsh Office. Under his guidance the Welsh Office expanded its responsibilities and he ensured the success of these first steps in the devolution process.

He was Principal of Aberystwyth College from 1969 to 1979 and in 1969 he played a key role in the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales, for which he was knighted. In 1979, he retired to his farm in Letterston, Pembrokeshire. In 1980 he was awarded an honorary degree of LLD from the University of Wales in recognition of his outstanding service to the Welsh nation.

Daniels was an active supporter of the campaign to establish a television service for Wales. When the government reneged on a promise to establish a Welsh language channel in 1980 he was one of the influential lobbyists who met the Home Secretary to press the case. Within days the decision to establish S4C was announced and Goronwy Daniel was honoured with the appointment as the channel's first Chairman, a post he held until 1986.

Goronwy Daniel died on 17th January 2003 and was buried in Capel Horeb, Letterston, Pembrokeshire.

Notes: