

Conservation— Glamorgan in the front line

GLAMORGAN HAS been several years ahead of the rest of Britain in conservation policy.

Seventy conservation areas have been identified in the county, including parts of the Vale

and the mining valleys, most of which have already been designated by the county council.

And the emphasis is on grass-roots involvement by local civic societies and residents to make the designations succeed.

... And
Aberthin
is next
in line



Great House, Aberthin.

THE village of Aberthin, near Cowbridge, is likely to become a conservation area.

Village buildings are predominantly colour-washed with slate roofs and illustrate a range of vernacular domestic design since Tudor times. Aberthin is a village of considerable antiquity and is presumed to be the site of Villa Fratus mentioned in the earliest of local records, the Book of Llandaff, though no remains of this early reli-

gious house have been positively identified.

The village is set in a picturesque steep-sided valley. From the valley mouth where it opens on to Newton Moor, the village was first developed along a stream and later on the lower slopes.

The stream flowing in an open green before a terrace

of late 18th century houses is an attractive element in the village scene.

An outstanding feature of the village is an impressive house described by a county council spokesman as "possibly the most picturesque and unaltered Tudor building in Glamorgan."

The spokesman said of Great House, a listed building: "It's gatehouse arch is the most significant surviving fragment of a 14th century building."

"The present house occupies the site of a much earlier building which is recorded as having been destroyed in the wars of Owain Glyndwr, probably following the battle at Stalling Down known as Bryn Owain."

"Aberthin is a typical example of a Vale of Glamorgan settlement retaining a pleasant village character within its older parts," he added.

The proposal for designation by the county council is being discussed with the local council as a matter of courtesy.

A county council spokesman said, "The Glamorgan planning committee and the county Conservation Group anticipated by several years the statement of Government policy made by Lord Sandford in a House of Lords debate on the quality of life in January this year.

"He said conservation can be realised within present plan making procedure.

"It should take account of the growth of public opinion in favour of conserving the familiar and cherished local scene.

"It should also have care for the conservation of existing communities and the social fabric," he said.

The spokesman added, "We are already thick on the ground with the new sort of conservation area."

Committee policy, he said, has extended conservation from places like the Vale to the historic interest of the mining valleys.

"There is a unique community spirit and social fabric which must be given a chance to survive or it will be lost for all time," he said.

"Conservation cannot succeed without actual involvement of residents and local civic societies in the area. Without grass-roots involvement, it's just words," he added.

Welsh farmers in prices protest

WELSH FARMERS lodged an official protest today about increases in the price of feeding stuffs.

Dittox pub

Mr. David Gibson-Watt, Minister of State, Welsh Office, was presented with three resolutions expressing

HOLYHEAD HOLD-UP

TRAVELLERS to Ireland with reservations on Holyhead ferries were warned by British Railways today that they faced an eight-hour delay.