

COWBRIDGE



RURAL
DISTRICT
GLAM.

The OFFICIAL GUIDE

Souvenir Edition 1969-
Investiture Year H.R.H.
Prince of Wales

V.G.A.UPTON & CO. LIMITED

SPECIAL WHEELS FOR ALL INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

TYRE PRESSING FACILITIES

STEEL FABRICATORS
AND
WHEEL MANUFACTURERS

150
TON
SOLID TYRE
PRESS



LLANDOW INDUSTRIAL
ESTATE
· COWBRIDGE ·

Telephone Cowbridge 2061
Telex 49522

COWBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

This area in the heart of the lovely Vale of Glamorgan welcomes prospective residents and industries. The Officers of the Council will be pleased to be of service at all times.

The Council also invite investment in their local authority bonds. Trustee Securities. Premature repayment upon death of holder. Details from the Treasurer

Rural District Offices, Cowbridge, Glam.

HERBERT R. THOMAS SON & EDWARDS

chartered auctioneers

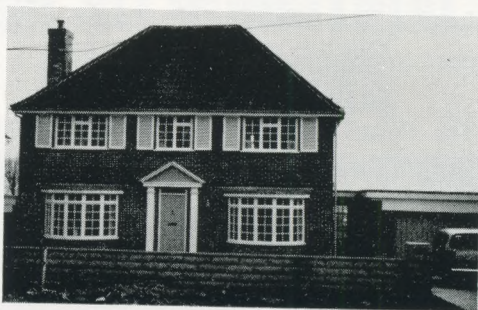
estate agents and valuers

*Valuations for All Purposes
Compensation and Rating Valuations and Appeals*

CONTACT US

For details of

Houses, Bungalows, Smallholdings and
Cottages



FOR SALE

in Cowbridge and all other towns
and villages throughout the delightful
VALE OF GLAMORGAN

59 High Street - Cowbridge

Telephone: Cowbridge 2911/2

COWBRIDGE

GLAMORGAN

<i>Clerk and Solicitor</i>	...	...	Lewis Murphy
<i>Deputy Clerk</i>	...	...	A. J. Charles, A.C.I.S.
<i>Treasurer</i>	...	...	C. F. England, F.I.M.T.A., F.R.V.A.
<i>Deputy Treasurer</i>	...	...	G. Shuttleworth, A.A.C.C.A.
<i>Surveyor</i>	...	...	W. R. Hawkins, A.R.I.C.S.
<i>Deputy Surveyor</i>	...	...	Howard Thomas
<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	...	...	Dr. N. K. Contractor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	...	...	Hubert Thomas, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Public Health Inspector</i>	...	...	D. G. Watkins, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Official Guide

with Map and 13 illustrations

Issued by Authority of the
Cowbridge Rural District Council

Through the ages this rich and fertile area has been coveted and settled by a succession of conquerors and the record of their occupation now remains in the form of Bronze and Iron Age tumuli and earthworks, Roman buildings and pavements, Norman castles and mottes. The parish churches are an epitome of the Romanesque and Gothic periods, with votive crosses and fountains of especial beauty.

It is in this region that the early missionary efforts, which spread Christianity in Wales, were centred, and the Age of the Saints with their churches and colleges is reflected in the place names of the village settlements which now occupy the sites of past endeavours.

Wales is indebted to the culture fostered in the villages of the Vale. There, much of the Bardic lore was preserved, and the traditions of the Eisteddfod maintained.

Within this broad framework are contained the beauty, culture and history which makes this one of the most interesting and lovely districts in the Principality.

Communications: The main highway approach is the trunk road, A.48, which runs from Cardiff to Swansea, by-passing Cowbridge and bisecting the area. Slip-roads leading to Cowbridge give easy access to Cowbridge Borough and other highways serving the remainder of the Rural District Area.

Serving the area in the north, A473 from Llantrisant to Bridgend, passes through the village of Llanharan. The coastal road is B.4265 from Barry to Bridgend, with secondary roads leading to the villages on the coast. The highways northwards from the coast link up the road system with the centres of population in the mineral areas.

On all the highways bus services are operated by the Western Welsh and Rhondda Transport Companies and reach all the smaller villages and points of interest, while the Neath and Cardiff Coaches provide additional long-distance facilities from Cowbridge.

Railways: All railway passenger services within the area have now been withdrawn.

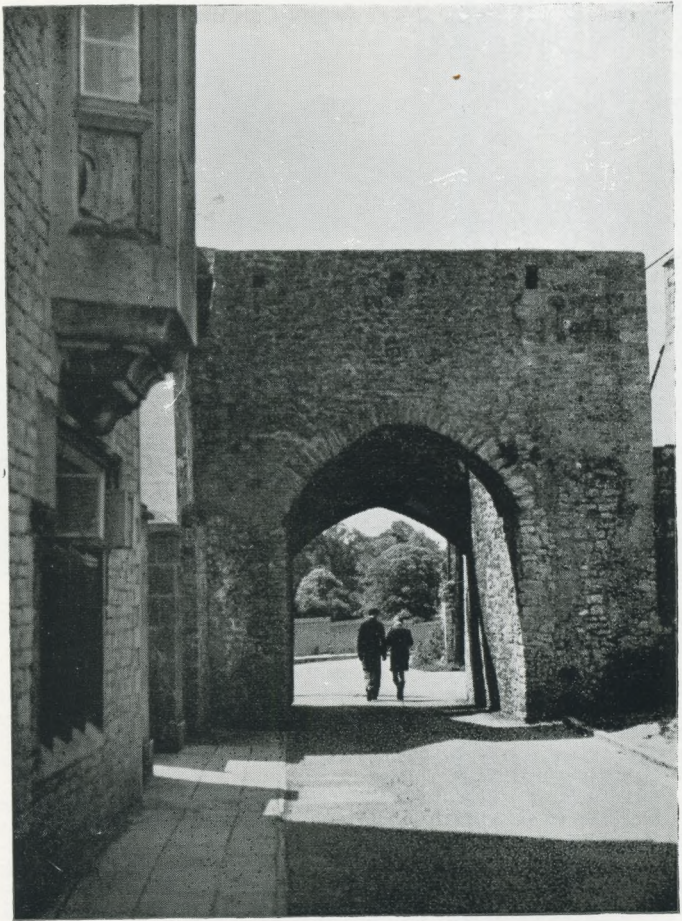
Air Stations: At St. Athan is sited an important and permanent R.A.F. station.

Climate: The general prevailing wind throughout the year is from the south-west, with very mild temperature conditions to the south of the trunk road, and a rainfall of about 46.49 inches on the average. North of the trunk road the conditions alter, the temperature being lower generally, while the rainfall increases to about 59.77 inches per annum.

Industries: Throughout the area the primary industry is agriculture on a mixed basis, with milk production on a large scale. In the northern districts coal-mining has been extensively developed with by-product plants operating under the National Coal Board. The National Coal Board also propose to work coal by open cast methods on an 800 acre site in the Llanharan/Llanilid area.

Services: Although the area is so predominantly rural in character, a water supply from public services reaches 95 per cent. of the houses while urban standards are reached in electricity supplies, sewers and public cleansing.

Municipal Administration: The Rural District Council, consisting of 29 members, administers the area from its administrative centre at Cowbridge. Housing has received priority and upwards of 2000 council houses have been erected in several parishes; water-borne sewerage has also been provided in all the larger villages.



"PORTE MELIN", SOUTH GAGETOWN WALLS, COWBRIDGE
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

Atlantic College: An interesting development recently has been the foundation of the Atlantic College of St. Donats Castle, the first of a number of similar colleges planned in Western countries. Further reference to this College can be found under the heading "St. Donat's" on page 19.

Cowbridge

The Town

Cowbridge, an old Borough Town, until the Reform Act returned a Member of Parliament in conjunction with Cardiff and Llantrisant. It shares with Boverton a claim to be the Roman station of Bovium mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary, and the layout of the town within the walls, coupled with the discovery of Roman coins and remains from time to time, give substance to the idea.

Charter: The original charter of the Borough dates back to the fourteenth century, and this was confirmed during the reign of Charles the Second. In 1887 a new Charter was granted and the Coat of Arms with its motto *Awn Rhagom* was then adopted, following on the pattern of the old Borough Seal.

The silver maces now in use date to 1606, while the Mayor's gold chain was presented to the Borough about 1883 by Alderman Thomas Rees, who was for many years a solicitor practising in the District.

Town Hall: The old Town Hall formerly occupied a site at the junction of High Street with Church Street, but about 1830 it was removed and the present Town Hall was then built on the site of the old county prison. In the lower part of the building the old prison cells may still be seen. Here also is the administrative centre and Council Chamber of the Borough Authority.

Town Walls: The town walls with two towers on the south side of the town appear to date from the fourteenth century, but tradition insists the town was walled by Robert St. Quintin in A.D.1091.

Town Gates: Of the three gates the south gate "Porte Melin" remains; its much-restored masonry containing elements of an earlier date.

Grammar School: Adjacent to the south gate is the Boy's Grammar School formed about 1608 and endowed in Charles the Second's reign by Sir Leoline Jenkins, the Secretary of State, who was formerly a scholar there.

The school is now under the joint control of the Trustees of Jesus College, Oxford, and the Glamorgan Education Committee.

Church of the Holy Cross: The church of the Borough adjoins the Grammar School and is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

It dates from the twelfth century and possesses no transept.

The Llanquian aisle on the south side was built in 1473 for Lady Anne Nevill, and there is also a guild chapel at the north-east corner of the church.



THE OLD MILL AT LLANBLETHIAN
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

The mural tablets are interesting and will repay study. Among them are tablets to Judge Jenkins of Hensol and to Benjamin Heath Malkin, a local historian.

In the garden of Rhos Celyn House stands a broken monolith called "Y Garreg Wen."

The houses in the main street present a most interesting study of Georgian domestic exteriors with Tudor detail giving colour and background.

In the west end is Ramoth Baptist Chapel, founded in 1828. The old Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in the Limes is dated 1825.

To see Cowbridge in its proper setting it is necessary to select a spot preferably on the high ground east or west of the town.

From this vantage point the walled town can be observed in conjunction with the outlying Norman castles at Penllyn, Talyfan, St. Quintins and Llanquian.

Around the Parishes

LLANTWIT MAJOR. Llantwit Major, the principal town in the southern area, is the apex of a road system which leads to the principal points of the county.

The old town is formed of small enclosures each completely encircled by small winding roads, showing the development of an extensive British village.

The Tudor Town Hall and the Swan Inn opposite of the same period, occupy commanding sites and are in close proximity to the site of the Bronze Age tumulus, now the garden of the Social Club, during the excavation of which a remarkable hoard of weapons and implements of that age were recovered.

War Memorial: In the centre of the village the base of the Great Cross has been restored and a War Memorial erected to the men of the 1914-18 and the last war.

In the fifth century the missionary movement which brought the Christian faith to Wales founded here a monastic institution and college, and the site of "Cor Tewdwr" is near Plymouth House. St. Illtyd, described as knight and saint, founded here seven churches and was also the principal of the eight colleges of Bangor Illtyd, and from him the town takes its name Llanilltyd Fawr. Among the students who are said to have received instruction here were St. Patrick, St. David, St. Sampson and many others.

None of the buildings of that early period remain, but the ornamented and inscribed cross shafts may be seen in the western portion of the Parish Church.

The Parish Church: The Parish Church is of twelfth-century foundation; but the western part of the church is distinct from the Parish Church and appears to belong to the fifteenth century.

In the south aisle of the church is a thirteenth-century Jesse rod niche. The reredos of stone dates to the fourteenth century.

In the western church is stored a large and interesting collection of inscribed stones and effigies.

Chantry The chantry building, then very dilapidated, to the south of the church, was finally destroyed by a direct hit during the bombing of Llantwit Major on 22nd August, 1940, when nearly every house in the village suffered damage.

Monastic Buildings: To the west of the church enclosure on Hill Head are the remains of the thirteenth-century monastic buildings. The great Barn has been taken down, but the Gate House and the detached dove house remains, the nesting boxes being practically intact.

Caer Mead: Slightly to the north of the main road and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles out is Caer Mead, the site of a Roman villa, probably destroyed in 432 A.D.

The site has been excavated and a geometrical mosaic pavement *in situ* was disclosed, with the foundations of a considerable establishment of the period.

Colhugh and Castle Ditches: Through Colhugh Cwm along which runs Nant Colhugh, the public highway reaches the sea. The coast line at the Cwm mouth is open and the beach is accessible, but the cliffs rise rapidly east and west. Sea bathing should only be undertaken under experienced direction. Footpaths to Colhugh from the town provide very attractive walks in several directions.

Castle Ditches, on the eastern ridge, is a triple line of earthworks showing signs of Roman influence, but unfortunately, as is the case with all historical remains near the coast, it has suffered considerably from the sea erosion of the cliffs.

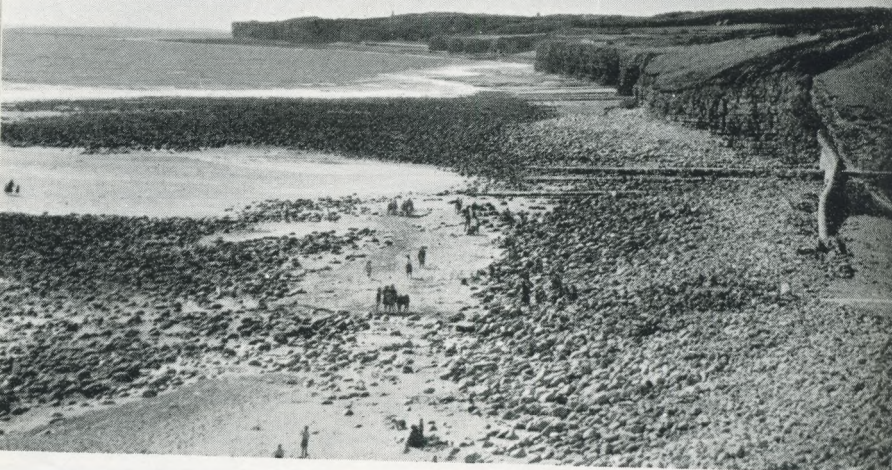
The port dues of the period show that Colhugh was a port trading like its neighbours with the other harbours in the Bristol Channel during the fifteenth century.

Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian and Baptist denominations have churches in the town. The shopping facilities are excellent. There is a very good cinema and social club and good inns and restaurants. At the bus terminus services are available for Barry, Bridgend and Cowbridge routes.

LLANBLETHIAN. Llanblethian is the large parish surrounding the Borough and within the Rural District.

TOWN HALL AND SQUARE, LLANTWIT MAJOR
Ernest Carver & Sons Ltd., Bridgend





COLHUGH BEACH, LLANTWIT MAJOR,
SHOWING ST. DONATS WALL AND TRESILIAN BAY
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

Church: The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist has a very fine tower dating from 1477.

Generally, the church and the Sutton Stone font are of an earlier date.

Castle: The castle of St. Quintins stands on a site formed by the horseshoe bend in the Thaw River. It was erected by Gilbert de Clare during the fourteenth century. The entrance gateways are good examples of the fortified work of the period and on the external ashlar work may be seen a large number of mason's marks.

On the high ground north-west of the village are earthworks of the Iron Age period.

ABERTHIN. The village of Aberthin lies to the north of the Borough.

Ty Mawr is a very fine Tudor House in the east side of the village, with a Bridge Gate House.

Iolo Fardd Glas (Edward Williams), bard and historian, was born at Penylan in 1770 and died at Bridgend in 1854.

Reference is made in Llydaf to the Villa Fratus at Aberthin.

The old Methodist Chapel at Aberthin is dated about 1740 but is not now in use.

Stalling Down and St. Hilary Down: The open space of St. Hilary Down and Stalling Down are common lands of the Manors of Llanblethian and St. Hilary and the summit of the Down is crowned by the beacon and the tree clump, forming a landmark for the surrounding vale.

On the north slope of Stalling Down is a monument erected to the men of the Glamorgan Yeomanry who fell in the 1914-18 war. Near the tree clump is the reputed site of the gallows for the execution of sentences on the prisoners from the gaol at Cowbridge.

The northern part of Stalling Down was the site of a battle during the Glyndwr Rebellion and, with the surrounding woods are connected stories of the patriots.

Near St. Hilary on the south slope of the Down are caves named after the highwaymen who took refuge there.

ABERTHIN
TY MAWR BRIDGE
GATE HOUSE

*Ernest Carver & Son
Ltd., Bridgend*



ST. HILARY. The village of St. Hilary is on the south slope of the Downs.

Church: The Parish Church, dedicated to St. Hilary, was restored in 1862, but despite this the interior contains much of interest. The font and the details belong to an earlier church.

Beaupre: To the south of the village, well off the main road, near the River Ddawen, is the Castle of Old Beaupre. The approach is by a long drive entering from the public highway by the railway bridge, or by the footpath from the road near Howe Mill. The main buildings date from the twelfth century, but successive owners during the centuries have added and altered in the style of their period.

The principal features are the two main entrances, one leading to the inner bailey and the other into the Tudor portion of the house.

Gateways: The outer gateway of Tudor Renaissance detail is dated 1586, while the inner gateway is a more florid rendering of Early Renaissance of three superimposed orders and dated A.D. 1600. A lettered inscription on three small stone panels records a very curious aphorism. A fine heraldic centrepiece carries the family motto of the Basset family, *Gwell Angau Na Chywilydd*—later used by the Welsh Regiment.

Tradition asserts that the draft of the Great Charter was prepared at Beaupre and read to the barons prior to presentation to King John at Runnymede.

A seat of Welsh culture, a famous Eisteddfod was held here in 1681; said to have been the final congress of bards under the old order.

SIGGINSTON. The small village of Sigginston is on the main bus route, Llantwit Major to Cowbridge, and is a convenient stopping place for Llanmihangel, a short walking distance away.

LLANMIHANGEL. Llanmihangel, with its church, Tudor mansion, bridge and lake, has a picturesque setting.

The manor belonged to the Norrises of Penllyn, and was successively owned by the Bawsons, Thomases, Edwins, and finally the Earls of Dunraven.

The Plas: Llanmihangel Plas was rebuilt by James Thomas, who was sheriff of Glamorgan in 1550. His arms appear on the fireplace of the panelled hall, and the backplate of this fireplace displays the quarterings of the great Lord Burghley. In the same room are the arms of Queen Elizabeth I, which still show the Red Dragon as the sinister supporter. Behind the Plas is a pleasaunce and an avenue of 110 yew trees.

The Church: The Church of St. Michael is a small one consisting of nave, chancel, south porch and western tower. It contains a quaint Graunt effigy and two large Edwin memorials. Sir Humphrey Edwin, 1642-1707, Nonconformist Lord Mayor of London, who died at Llanmihangel 14th December 1707, is buried here.

On the bank between the church and the Plas is St. Ann's Well, a very interesting object which has suffered much neglect.

ST. MARY CHURCH. St. Mary church is a hill-top village clustering about the circular churchyard in which stands the church.

The Church: The church contains a Norman font and a pillar piscina of the same period.

Iolo Morganwg's wife was a native of the place, whilst the aged Welsh poet, Ioan Trithyd, spent the evening of his life in the parish.



CASTLE OF OLD BEAUPRE—MAIN ENTRANCE PORCH—ST. HILARY
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend



PLAS LLANMIHANGEL AND CHURCH
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

FLEMINGSTON. The village occupies a commanding site overlooking the flood plain of the Thaw River, and was the home of Edward William, Iolo Morganwg, bard and antiquary, 1746-1826. In the church is the tablet erected to his memory by the Countess of Dunraven. The site of his home is in the yard of Gregory Farm, but his birthplace is at Pennon on the other side of the river.

The Church: The church contains a fourteenth-century effigy of a Lady of the Fleming family, and is dedicated to St. Michael.

The Court: The court adjoining the churchyard was a seat of the Flemings and is a fortified manor house containing much Tudor work. Gregory Farm is a picturesque farm building of traditional construction.

LLANDOUGH. Llandough, St. Docheu, was with St. Marychurch, the property of the Le Waleys or Walsh family.

The Church: The church, which has been drastically restored, losing much of its character in the process, once contained an early effigy, doubtless one of the Le Waley's family, which now lies mouldering in the churchyard. It still retains one of the very few "brasses" to be found in the diocese. This records the death of Wenllian le Walsche in December, 1427.

The Castle: The castle has now been completely altered, but the remains of the Tudor gateway can still be seen.

The Reverend John Walters, 1721-1797, a former rector of Llandough compiled a Welsh dictionary during his incumbency.

Thomas Carlyle once visited the Redwoods who resided in the parish.

EGLWYS BREWIS. Eglwys Brewis, both parish and village, is now practically all included in the air station.

The Church: The Parish Church, dedicated to St. Brice, and one of the smallest in the Vale, is in the grounds of the manor house, and appears to be erected on an artificial mound. Interest is added to the exterior by a small bell cote of the Tudor period.

The font of Sutton stone indicates a twelfth-century foundation for the church.

On the walls are emblazoned the royal coat of arms, probably of the Stuart period, while lettered panels contain the Creed and the Commandments.

The manor appears to have taken its name from a daughter of William de Braose who held it in the thirteenth century. Many Roman and Mediaeval coins have been found in the vicinity from time to time. At nearby Fisher's Bridge St. Patrick, local tradition says, was captured by pirates and taken, a slave, to Ireland.

ST. ATHAN. St. Athan has changed greatly during the past 25 years. The presence of a large permanent air station has caused much building and increased the population of the village.

The parish takes its name from the church and extends to the estuary of the Thaw. It surrounds the adjoining parish of Gileston.

The Church: The church, dedicated to St. Tathan, is of twelfth century foundation, and contains some fine fourteenth century windows and effigies of the Berkrolles family.

In the churchyard is a memorial to John Williams, 1728-1806, the well-known hymn writer

East Orchard Castle, a fortified manor house near the estuary of the Thaw, was held by the Berkrolles, and it was here that the dramatic meeting between Owain Glyndwr, the Welsh soldier-patriot, and Sir Lawrence Berkrolles is reputed to have occurred, ending too tragically for the latter.

The Old Port: At the mouth of the Thaw River is the old port of Aberthaw, which formerly carried on a thriving trade with Bristol and the coast ports of the Bristol Channel.

The old Booth cellars remain, but the milestones on the roads leading to the port with the port distances were removed during the war and have not been replaced.

The celebrated Aberthaw lime, used in the construction of the Eddystone Lighthouse, is no longer produced; but across the river a large cement-making plant manufactures the modern equivalent of this material for similar limestone.

A Miner's Welfare Camp, on the high ground east of Gileston, well appointed and laid out, was engaged in welfare work in connection with young people from the mining area for many years. This has now been renovated and is used by the Boys' Clubs of Wales, the official opening having been performed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in April, 1962.

A coal-fired power station was recently constructed at West Aberthaw in the parish of St. Athan, and a second station is being constructed to the west of the first station.

GILESTON. The village centres round the manor house and the Parish Church of St. Giles.

The Church: The south door of the church has a series of carved armorial panels of the Tudor period.

The parish extends along the sea coast including Breaksea Point with its clanging bell buoy.

The name of the Gallant Acre upon a portion of the foreshore indicates the former site of the castle of Llandathan destroyed by the sea. The sea coast is here served by footpaths which lead east towards the river estuary, and westward towards Llantwit Major.

ST. ATHAN AIR STATION. The St. Athan Air Station takes in a large area of the parishes of St. Athan, Llantwit Major and Eglwys Brewis. The station is of permanent construction, its buildings arranged and grouped along the main road B.4265. This road has recently been diverted along a new road from the War Memorial at St. Athan to Boverton village, running practically parallel to the railway. Batsleys, a farm house lying between these two villages, will bring to mind the story of the Ladi Wen, the unfortunate wife of Sir Lawrence Berkrolles. Her ghost is still reputed to haunt the scene of her sufferings.

GILESTON

Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend



BOVERTON. Boverton, as previously mentioned, shares with Cowbridge a claim to be the site of the Roman station of Bovium.

The Plas: The Plas, a large Tudor building now in ruins, stood on the site of an earlier building. It provided a refuge for King John when, as Gerald Fitzalan, he was in hiding from the barons.

Anne Boleyn is also reputed to have stayed here.

The village of Trebeferad was erected for the Boverton Co-Operators who successfully organised a large market garden enterprise on a co-operative basis before the Second World War. This was wound up recently and the village is now the property of the Rural District Council.

On the coast are the remains of a large triple Iron Age earthworks, and an eighteenth-century summer house built in the centre gives it the name of Summerhouse Camp.

In the adjoining fields are the permanent buildings of a Girls' Camp organised by Miss Davies of Llandinam.

During the Battle of Britain, Boverton suffered one of the first air raids in Wales on 19th June, 1940.

LLANMAES. About 1½ miles in a north-easterly direction from Llantwit Major is the village of Llanmaes.

At the cross-road immediately before entering the village is Gallows Way, the site of the old gibbet of Llantwit Major.

The Church: The Parish Church is dedicated to St. Cadog.

On either side of the church are the remains of two Norman castles, one of the Bedford Castle, and immediately behind the Great House the Malefaunt Castle.

The Great House belongs to the Georgian period, and the entrance gates have very fine pillars.

To the east of the village is the old Independent Chapel of Bethesda y Fro, one of the best-known and loved of the places of worship in the Vale.

ST. DONATS.

The Church: The church is dedicated to St. Dunwyd and has a Romanesque chancel arch, and there is much detail belonging to the fourteenth century. The south door is called "the Soldier's Door", from its use by Cromwell's troopers when stationed in the castle. The Calvary in the churchyard is a beautiful example of the fifteenth century and is fortunately intact, the cross head depicting the Crucifixion and Adoration.

The Castle: The Castle dates from the early fourteenth century with Tudor and some more recent additions. The building has grown up around and between the two early concentric fortified walls. It contains a fine inner quadrangle of fifteenth and seventeenth century construction in which can be seen three terra-cotta roundels attributed to da Majano, similar to those at Hampton Court. The entrance gatehouse and portcullis chamber is particularly well preserved and the Mansell, Gibbet and Lady Anne Towers mark the line of the walls.

The Castle was the seat of the Stradling family for some four hundred years. Recent additions, which are in character, were made during the ownership of the late W. R. Hearst. They incorporate medieval relics of high quality. The terraced gardens, park and woodlands are notable for their beauty.

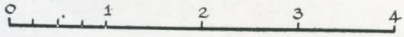
Parts of the Castle and grounds are open to the public at advertised times during the College vacation.

COWBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT ROAD MAP

Reference

Rural District Boundaries — — — — —
Parish Boundaries within R.D. }
(Names of Parishes underlined)

Scale of Miles

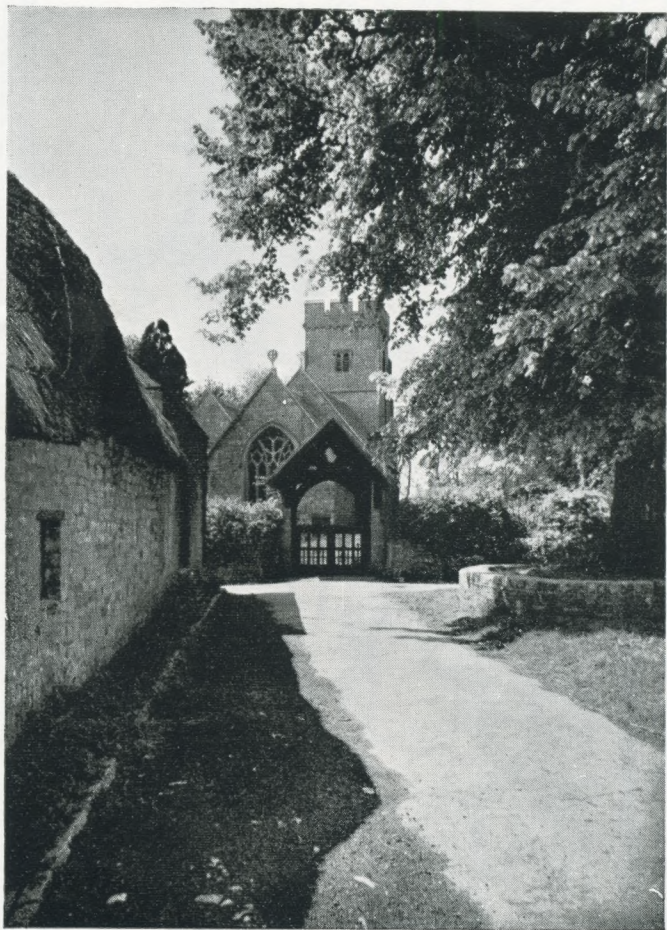


20

21

Crown Copyright Reserved

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.



CHURCH AND PARISH HALL, ST. HILARY
Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

The Atlantic College. The Atlantic College was established at St. Donat's Castle in 1962, under the auspices of a distinguished Council of eminent men and women. It is the first of a number of international all sixth-form boys' and girls' residential colleges planned in Western countries.

The aims of the College are to prepare sixth-form boys for university entry in an international environment and to provide an active training to develop character, will-power and feeling appropriate to the needs of the present day. The majority of the boys are financially assisted by their national or local education authorities but the College is an independant charitable foundation.

Lewis Thomas Stairs: At the east side of the castle park the footpath leading to the Lewis Thomas Stairs affords a very difficult access to the beach and the Stradling Well. A better pathway eastwards leads to Tresilian Bay and Cave.

Tresilian: On the main road towards Llantwit Major is the entrance to Tresilian House, marked by an interesting octagonal lodge. On the opposite side of the road a cross set in the wall indicates the site where human remains were discovered during road-widening operations. These form the basis of a well-known local ghost story.

On the shore near Tresilian House is Tresilian Cave, the flat stone lintel, called the Arch of Destiny, spanning its width, tempting visitors to peer into the future by the process of throwing stones over the arch.

Here, to show her defiance of the new church regulations, Cecil Powell of Llandow was married. She became the mother of General Sir Thomas Picton of Waterloo fame.

MARCROSS. In the centre of the village a road leads direct to the beach through Marcross Cwm.

The lighthouses at Nash Point provide warning to seamen for the Nash Sands and the Tuskar, the older lighthouse still standing adjacent to the one now in use.

On the western headland is a three-ring earthwork of the Iron Age period, now being greatly damaged by sea erosion.

The car park site and the approach road are private.

The Church: Marcross Church is transitional with a very ornamented Romanesque chancel arch, and a low side window of the thirteenth century.

Near the village, along the line of the stream, are a number of old buildings belonging to the Grange of Neath Abbey.

MONKNASH. Practically the whole of the land between here and Marcross was bestowed upon Neath Abbey by Richard de Granville, and remained ecclesiastical property until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

The layout of the Abbey Grange with the Dove Cot and main barn can be observed, and surrounding the site are earthworks of earlier date.

Access to the sea coast can be obtained by pedestrians through the Cwm, one of the most beautiful walks in the neighbourhood, and a footpath eastward along the cliff edge leads back to Marcross Cwm.

The Church: The church is of the usual twelfth-century foundation with examples of fourteenth and fifteenth-century work. The churchyard contains many graves of sailors whose vessels foundered or were wrecked on the dreaded Tuskar Rock.

The west boundary of the parish is Clawdd y Mynach—the Monks' Dyke, which is also the boundry of the Parliamentary Division and the Rural District.

COAST WALKS. The coastal walks on the cliff tops, with the exception of a short length from Nash Point to St. Donats and from Summerhouse Camp to the Limpert at Gileston, provide opportunities to inspect the whole coastline and the earthworks. The cliff tops are treacherous and care is required as sea erosion causes falls to occur without warning.

In traversing the beaches it is necessary to be well informed of the tide times, as the bays and caves in most cases are cut off at high water.

LLANDOW. The Church: The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and is of twelfth-century foundation. The chancel arch is of unusual design and the church has some interesting mural tablets.

NASH MANOR. Nash Manor, for long the residence of the Carnes, was in early times a possession of the Bishop of Llandaff. In the grounds are the remains of the Chapel of St. Andrew and a small pre-Norman cross.

LLYSWORNEY. Llysworney, with its church and interesting village well is traditionally associated with the sixth-century Chieftain, Nudd Hael.

The Church: The church, with its central tower, is dedicated to St. Tydfil.

To the north of the parish are some Bronze Age tumuli, while the Romano-British settlement at Mynydd Bychan has recently been excavated and explored by the National Museum of Wales. Between this site and the village are the Surges, probably the site of the ancient churches. The interesting Moat Farm was once an episcopal residence.

Llysworney, in Norman times, was closely associated with Llantwit Major.

There is a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel; and at Llysworney resided that well-known Methodist, the Rev. David Williams (1717-1792) who is stated to have influenced considerably the celebrated Rev. David Jones of Llangan.

COLWINSTON. Colwinston is said to have taken its name from Colwyn, the reputed chief shepherd to one of the ancient rulers of Glamorgan.

To the north-east of the parish is "Twyn Colwyn", known in Tudor times as "Y Filtir Aur" or the "Golden Mile". Here, tradition asserts, the Norman forces received payment for their services to Iestyn ap Gwrgan before returning to Porthkerry and thence to Bristol.

At "Twmpath", a large mound near the Golden Mile was found to contain seven urns, when excavated many years ago. They belonged presumably to the Bronze Age period.

The Church: The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of tower, nave, chancel and south porch. Among the features of this church is a Romanesque chancel arch, on either side of which are trefoiled niches and some wall frescoes. A thirteenth-century niche in the north wall of the chancel contains a Sutton stone effigy of early date, with scroll moulding and dog-tooth ornament.

The principal residence is Pwll-y-wrach, the old home of the Thomases and Prichards.

THE ATLANTIC COLLEGE, ST. DONATS CASTLE
Terence Soames (Cardiff) Ltd.





MONASTRY CHURCH AT LLANTWIT MAJOR

The Mustograph Agency

PENLLYN. The village to the north of the main road, centred around the new church and castle gates, replaces the village destroyed with the castle in the Glyndwr rebellion.

At Pentre Meyrick the old road from Llantwit Major, a ridge road of great antiquity, crosses the main trunk road A.48 and leads to the iron deposits in the vicinity of Llanharry and the lead mines in Llangan.

Along this route tumuli, graves and camp sites emphasise its antiquity and importance.

The Church: Penllyn Church is the modern building which replaces the older church of Llanfrynach, and is laid out in keeping with the castle entrance and lodges.

The Castle: The castle stands on a most prominent site to the north of the trunk road, and the occupied portion probably dates to 1790, but additions and extensions have frequently been made.

The Norman portion of the castle is represented by the keep, which stands on the edge of a precipitous ravine. The basis is of an unusual form of herring-bone masonry construction.

The village wells, now replaced by a modern piped water supply, are very beautifully situated, and the older well contains a niche in the rear wall. On the well nearest the road a tablet has the following inscription:

“Dwr Rhoddyr Hollalluog Dduw”.



Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

PENLLYN CASTLE AND PARK

The Graig Penllyn, a very beautiful and well-wooded valley, extends from the village to the old ford over the Thaw, passing Penllyn Court.

Llanfrynach Church: Llanfrynach Church reputed to have been founded by St. Brynach in the fifth century, lies secluded and deserted in the valley to the north of Llanblethian. The village which once surrounded it was destroyed in the Glyndwr rebellion. To the north of the church a Celtic field system can still be traced. The church was formerly the parish church of Penllyn, but now services are held only twice yearly.

Access to the church is by means of a sunken road, or alternatively across the fields by a series of curious "coffin" stiles.

The building is of transitional Romanesque to thirteenth-century date, with some Tudor additions, and was the burying place of the Turbervilles of Penllyn. Dr. Salmon, the celebrated centenarian of Penllyn Court is buried in the church.,

LLANGAN. The village is off the main road. In the vicinity lead ore has been mined, but the works have been abandoned many years.

The Parish Church is dedicated to St. Canna and is much restored. It contains a memorial window to the Rev. David Jones.

In the churchyard are two splendid examples of votive crosses, one a ninth-century Wheel Cross with the Crucifixion in slight relief and now much worn, and a fifteenth century cross, the head of which depicts the Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and Transfiguration.

ST. MARYS HILL.

The Fair: The great horse fair held on the open mountain on August 26th has now ceased.

The Church: The Parish Church of St. Mary has a thirteenth-century porch and the remains of a Calvary Cross.

The main road from Pentre Meyrick is a ridge road of great antiquity and excavations during road widening have from time to time disclosed many Bronze Age and early Christian remains.

On Ruthin the mountain limestone deposits have attracted lime-working, and the British Portland Cement Company and the Marley Tile Company have erected plants. During the Second World War Ruthin Common was the site of a large American camp.

LLANILID. Llanilid Church is approached from Felindre by Heo Porth Mawr, and stands up above the surrounding countryside.

Adjoining the church is a large mound of great antiquity while to the south is the site of a Roman encampment.

The Church. The Church, dedicated to St. Ilid and St. Curig, is much restored but is of the usual twelfth-century foundation.

The district is associated with Bran, the farther of Caractacus, the British Chieftain, and with the early Christian missionary effort of that period.

Bran, the son of Llyr Llediaith, is said to have brought the Christian faith first to this island from Rome and was, therefore, called Bran the Blessed. With him came St. Ilid who converted many to the Christian faith.

At Felindre, on the Ewenny River is, a small community surrounding the inn.

LLANSANNOR. The village of Llansannor possesses the uncommon name of City Llansannor, and stands near the source of the Thaw.

The Church: The church is dedicated to St. Senewyr and has a sixteenth-century porch and sundial. The tower and western door

probably are of much earlier date. There is a fine effigy said to be of Stephen Bauson of Brigam in fourteenth-century armour.

The Court: The Court is a fine Tudor mansion, beautifully situated, and still occupied.

YSTRADOWEN. The village is on the main road from Cowbridge to Pontyclun.

The Church: The dedication of the church is to St. Owain, and adjoining the church is a large tumulus in a grove of trees.

The Castle: Talyfan Castle, a Norman building now in ruins, was held by Sir Richard Seward, a most formidable and determined knight.

There is very little trace of the building known as Mury Llengau, and so far as can be ascertained, no investigations have been conducted on this site.

LLANHARRY. The parish of Llanharry was part of the Manor of Talyfan but later was held with Trecastle.

Of later years the village has increased in importance owing to the population being engaged in mineral workings in the area. The District Council have erected upwards of 500 houses at Llanharry.

The iron ore mines in the parish have been worked since earliest times. Near Naboth's Vineyard a tumulus excavated during road widening operations disclosed a Bronze Age burial with pottery and implements of the period, and Roman remains and workings were found near Llechau Farm. The present iron ore mines have been worked for many years by the Glamorgan Hematite Iron Ore Company.

At one time the forest of Mynydd Garth Maelwg was sold to the iron men for smelting purposes; this shows the importance of the workings at that date.

The Church: The church is dedicated to St. Illtyd.

The village has a Nonconformist place of worship, and the village hall is the centre of the communal life.

The road from Llanharry travels northwards passing the old farm house at Torgelli, and over the common land of Llanharry Meadows, where it enters the area of the coal measures at Llanharan.

LLANHARAN. Llanharan, in conjunction with the neighbouring village of Brynna, is one of the largest communities on the South Crop of the coal fields. Its population is largely dependent upon the coal-mining industry. Centred now (under the National Coal Board) at Coed Ely Collieries.

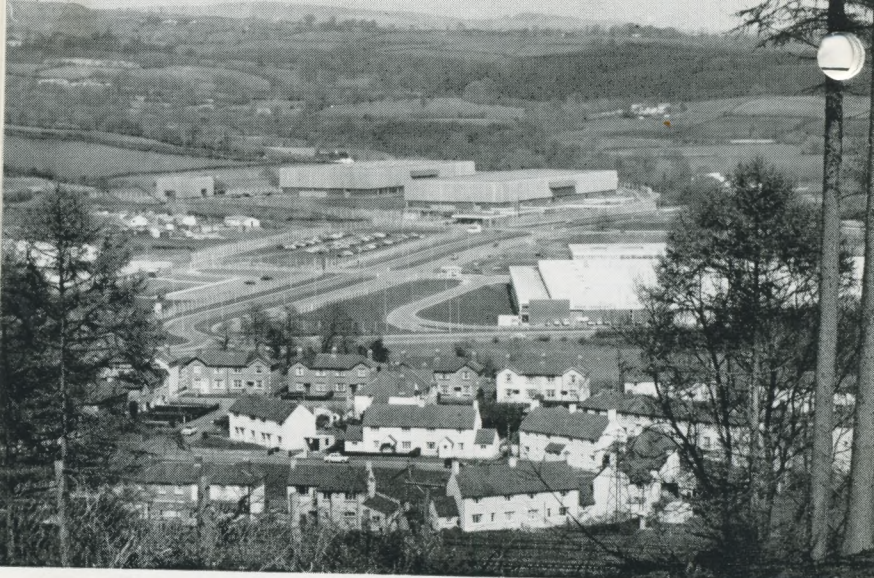
Industry: In the Coed Ely Colliery production has been extended to cover the full range of a by-product recovery organisation dependant upon the coal mining industry.

Metal forging, concrete products and other industries are sited in the eastern portion of the parish, near Lanelay.

The town is fully developed, and possesses good shopping facilities, recreation ground and places of worship of all denominations. The dedication of the Parish Church to St. Aaron and St. Julius indicates the origin of the name of the parish. The welfare grounds, St. John's Ambulance Hall and Ex-Servicemen's organisations meet the local needs for recreational facilities.

To the north and east the upper portions of Mynydd Garth Maelwg are under the control of the Forestry Commission, who have undertaken conifer production on a large scale.

At Brynna the village centre is well established round the shopping area, and the main road carries the bus services to and from Llanharan.



YNYSMARDY VILLAGE (WITH ROYAL MINT IN BACKGROUND),
FROM MYNYDD GARTH MAELWG

Ernest Carver & Son Ltd., Bridgend

On the ridge to the north of the town runs the old road from Llantrisant to Margam, crossing Mynydd Portref and passing the old church of Llan Bedr y Mynydd, from which the modern name of the parish of Peterston super Montem is derived.

From this road paths lead to the beacons of Mynydd Garth Maelwg, to the old sulphur well, Ffynnon Garth Maelwg, the fine earthworks and camp of Mynydd y Gaer and past Gelli Fedd Gaer to the old village and church of Llandyfodwg. From this ridge, rising in places over 900 feet above sea-level, wide views over the Vale and the Bristol Channel to Dunkery Beacon and the other heights of Exmoor may be obtained.

Northward the ground rises in a succession of peaks to the Beacons, north of the county.

The presence of intensive agricultural activity on the south slopes of the mountains can also be noted, the mineral undertakings confining their operations, generally, to the valley floor.

From Brynna a mountain road passing the old farm of Gelli Fedi, and thence to the Ely Valley at Thomas Town, joins with the old ridge road; while on the eastern side, the road northwards along the west bank of the Ely River by Lanelay, makes a rapid entrance into a region of unexpected beauty.

Llanharan has a background of Welsh culture and Bardic tradition. Rhys Brydydd of Blaen Cynllan was the preceptor of Iorworth Fynglwyd the celebrated bard and scholar, who flourished in the latter part of the

fifteenth century. The Llyfyr Hir Llanharan, the work fo Llywelyn Sion (in manuscript) was deposited by Mrs. Blandy-Jenkins in the Cardiff Central Library.

The old house of Hendrewen has connections with the Turburville family of Ewenny Priory, while the name of Argoed Edwin brings to mind Sir Humphrey Edwin, Lord Mayor of London during the reign of William and Mary.

Llanharan House, with a beautiful setting and background, was formerly the home of the Blandy Jenkins family. Lanelay Hall, near the River Ely, has been acquired by the Glamorgan County Council as Fire Service Headquarters.

To attempt to present adequately within the limited space available, the area administered by the Council is an impossible task.

Much has been omitted that should have had attention and, places of great interest may have received notice entirely out of keeping with their importance.

The Council put forward this account in the hope that the interest it may arouse will encourage a desire to visit and enjoy one of the most beautiful and historic districts in the Principality.

Compiled by the late Edward Loveluck, A.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S. (Housing Architect to the District Council) in December, 1954, and revised by Wyndham R. Hawkins, A.R.I.C.S. (Surveyor to the District Council), in October, 1966. Amended 1969 (March).

Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this Guide, and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the Publishers and the Promoters of this publication cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.

A LUXURY HOME OF YOUR OWN

Set in the beautiful and peaceful grounds of the historic Ham Manor, near Llantwit Major. Choose a first class mobile chalet bungalow, fully furnished, carpeted, central heating and fitted kitchen with fridge.

Each mobile home has its own concrete base, water, electricity, flush toilets and main drainage.

For further details please write or call,

SOUTH WALES CARAVAN DISTRIBUTORS LTD.

CULVERHOUSE CROSS, ELY, CARDIFF

Telephone: WENVOE 276

- **TOURING, STATIC HOLIDAY AND RESIDENTIAL MODELS**
- **FIRST CLASS USED MODELS**
- **ACCESSORIES AND AWNINGS**
- **1969 TOURING HIRE FLEET**
- **EASY TERMS**

THE KING'S HEAD

HOTEL

LLANTWIT MAJOR
GLAMORGAN

W. A. BROWN & SON

TIMBER - GLASS - WALLBOARDS

*Specialists of
Purpose Made Joinery*

Office and Works:

HILL HEAD YARD, LLANTWIT MAJOR, Glam.

Telephone: Llantwit Major 489

*Estate,
Mortgage and Insurance
Office*

Gwyn Howell

Island House, Llantwit Major

Telephone: 505

*for all properties in
the Vale of Glamorgan and
surrounding areas*

from £2,500 to £20,000

Area Office for
ABBAY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY

For Investments and Mortgages

R. HICKS

LADIES

HAIRDRESSING

SALON

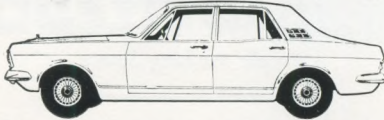
BOVERTON ROAD
LLANTWIT MAJOR

M.A.A.

Jenkin T. Elward Ltd.

UPPER HOUSE GARAGE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Telephone: Llantwit Major 412



Ford Retail Dealer — Spares and Service
Accident and Insurance Work - Cellulosing

ESTIMATES FREE

All Types of Repairs Carried Out
Any Make of Car Supplied

Renowned for Good Second Hand Vehicles

Ammonite Limited

of

Llandow Industrial Estate

AMMONITE LIMITED produce a wide range of well designed polished stone jewellery. Trade enquiries invited.

AMMONITE LIMITED also manufacture the world unique plastic fossil casts. Ideal for modern teaching methods. Apply for catalogue.

Main European agents for the famous Highland Park lapidary machinery.

COWBRIDGE, GLAMORGAN

TELEPHONE: 2029

Gordans Cafe

Proprietors: Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Williams

*Offer homely accommodation with good food. Ideally situated in the Vale of Glamorgan. Bus routes, etc.
Ample Parking Space*

Open All Year Round

**The Square
Llanharan, Glamorgan**

MALCOLM JOHNS

**THE LADIES
HAIRDRESSING SALON**

With Flair for Your Hair

Specialists in styling,
permanent waving and tinting.

*Also we do manicures
and special rates for Old Age Pensioners*



2 TY-ISAF - LLANHARRY - GLAM.

TELEPHONE: PONTYCLUN 759

Llandow Industrial Estate

sites available on lease

*FACTORIES ERECTED TO SPECIFICATION
FOR SUITABLE APPLICANTS*



*CENTRALLY SITUATED WITH GOOD ACCESS
TO ALL PARTS OF SOUTH WALES*



AMPLE ROOM FOR FUTURE EXPANSION



Full Details from Site Agents

SCOTT & BLOCK & WEBBS

Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents

53 BRIDGE STREET - NEWPORT
MONMOUTHSHIRE

TELEPHONE: NEWPORT 65341

THE LARGEST
STORAGE FACILITIES
IN WALES!

Glyn Day & Sons Limited

- CUSTOMER SERVICE SECOND TO NONE.
WE COLLECT, STORE AND DELIVER
- NO LIMIT TO TONNAGE OR VOLUME
- 160,000 sq ft OF FLOOR SPACE AVAILABLE
- MODERN MECHANICAL HANDLING
SYSTEMS AND PALLETISATION
EMPLOYED
- PACKERS FOR EXPORT

Llandow Airport
Near Cowbridge, Glamorgan
South Wales

TELEPHONE: COWBRIDGE 2844