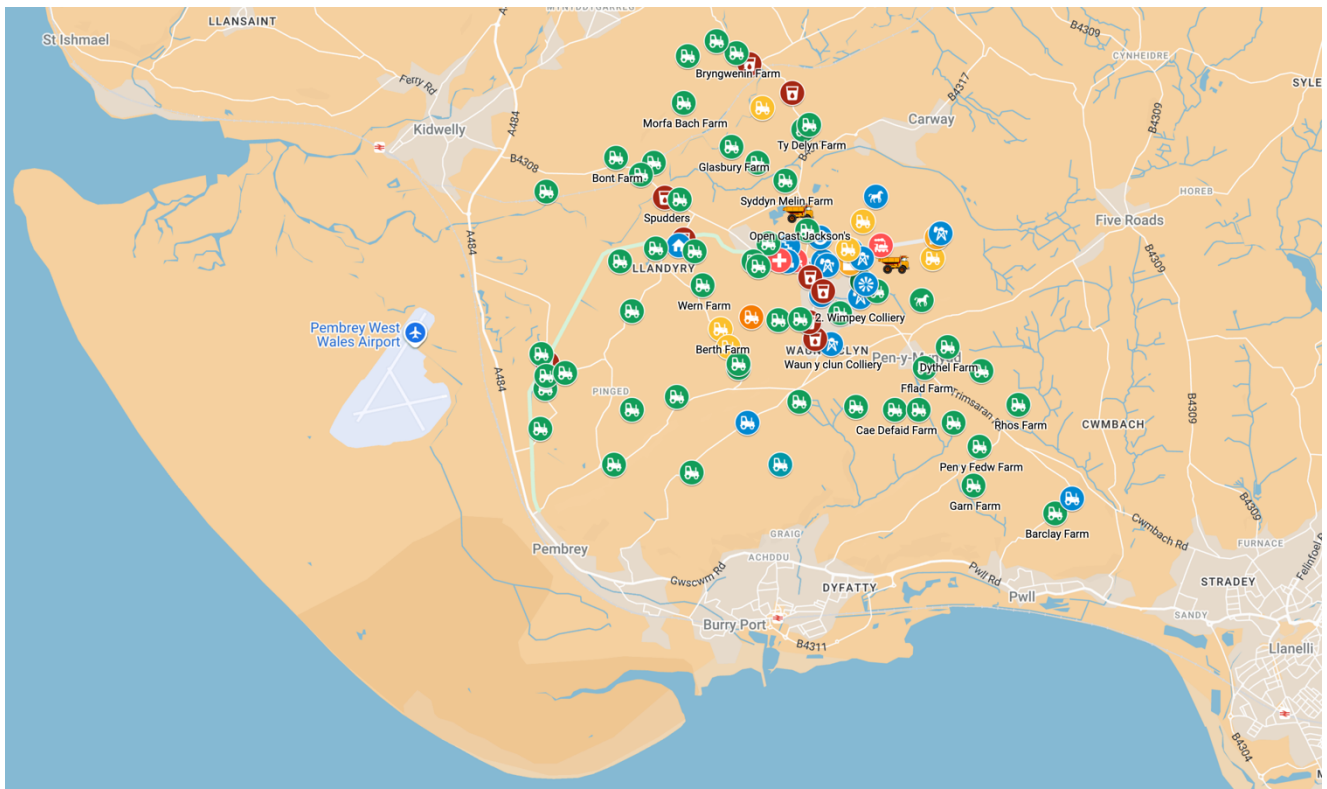


Trimsaran Village Heritage Sites

A Heritage Survey of Collieries, the Plas, Public Houses and Farms



Interactive map: <https://tinyurl.com/Trimsaran-Heritage-Map>



Compiled in collaboration with local historian John Gravell

Trimsaran Village Heritage Sites

This survey gathers the heritage sites of Trimsaran in the Gwendraeth Valley, drawing on information compiled in collaboration with local historian John Gravell, who has spent years recording the locations of the collieries, farms and public houses that shaped the social life of the village. Together these places tell the story of a community built on coal, agriculture, and the everyday gathering places of its people.

The Plas and the Trimsaran Estate

At the heart of the older village stood Y Plas, the mansion that gave Trimsaran its name and which stood from around 1400 until 1980. It was home to the Fychan (Vaughan) family between about 1500 and 1684, and afterwards to the Mansel family until 1788, before later passing to Mr Evan Jones between 1916 and 1925.

Both the Vaughan and Mansel families held the office of High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire on six occasions between them, and in 1686 Edward Mansel became the first Baronet of Trimsaran. When the second Baronet died, his widow Mary Mansel married Lieutenant Colonel Barry St Leger in 1773; his brother Anthony St Leger went on to found the St Leger horse race, giving Trimsaran an unexpected connection to the world of British racing.

Nearby, the land and house known as Trimsaran Fach, or Trimsaran Canol, dating from 1610, formed part of the wider Trimsaran Estate, the administrative and landholding heart from which much of the surrounding farmland was managed.

Anthracite Mining and the Collieries

Coal has been worked in the Trimsaran area since Tudor times. In 1606 Philip Vaughan leased the underground minerals from the Crown, beginning a mining history that would shape the village for more than three centuries. The major collieries of the modern era opened in 1874: the Caeduan Slant, the Waunhir Slant and the Upper Colliery, connected to the surface and eventually to each other underground by a network of tramways. By 1931 some seven hundred men were employed in the pits, and over the years more than fifty miners lost their lives in the workings.

Cae'r Plwmp, recorded on the 1856 survey as Caeduan or the Cae'r Plwmp pit and dating from around 1776, originally comprised five cottages near the pit. One of these cottages was later converted into the colliery offices and first aid room, a reminder of how closely housing and industry were intertwined in the village.

The most serious disaster associated with the mines occurred at the Caedean Drift, which operated under several owners including the Trimsaran Company from 1908, Ashburnham Collieries from 1925, and the Welsh Anthracite Collieries Company from 1930. As the morning shift ended, a string of trams carrying miners and tools was being hauled up the 1,400-yard drift when a shackle link snapped about three hundred yards up. Five trams ran away, derailed, and piled up in the workings below. Seven miners were killed outright and two more died on

the way to Llanelly Hospital; around five more were seriously injured and some twenty others hurt. Those who died were David Tom Davies, aged nineteen and single; Morgan W. Davies, aged thirty-five; Thomas John, aged seventy and married with a grown family; William Jenkins, aged forty-four, an under manager married with four children; Harold Herbert Parry, aged twenty-four and single; Harold Probert, a fifteen-year-old; William John Rees, aged twenty-eight and single; Thomas Rogers, aged twenty and single; Sidney Williams, aged twenty-five and married with one child; and Thomas Williams, aged forty-seven and married with a grown family.

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1751540>

Other named workings in the area included the Star Colliery, which passed through the hands of Harris and Company from 1855, Edwards and Company from 1860, Henry Pratt in 1869 and the Star Coal Company from 1870, and Waun y Clun Colliery, run by G.D. Thomas (Refractories) Limited between 1960 and 1965. The Waunhir Colliery completes the picture of the smaller pits that once dotted the valley.

Waunffynhonnau Colliery and the Wimpey Era

The Waunffynhonnau Colliery, known locally as the Wimpey, operated between 1944 and 1954 and was the last of Trimsaran's main drift workings, replacing the older Caeduan and Waunhir pits. The Wimpey company was brought in to open the new drift, and at its height over three hundred men and thirty-two horses worked underground. The associated winding house and a tramway path linking the workings survive as features in the landscape, alongside the Old Caedean engine house of 1982, a later reminder of the mine's long afterlife in memory and infrastructure.

The Crusher, the Washery and the Railways

Coal raised from the pits travelled by an internal railway to a crusher, then on to a washery and coal yard, before joining the main Great Western Railway line at Pinged. The washery was demolished in the late 1960s, though the weigh bridge at the coal yard survives even though the yard itself has since been landscaped.

The Trimsaran branch of the Burry Port and Gwendraeth Valley Railway, in operation between 1865 and 1955, was built to replace an earlier tramway and canal that had served the same purpose. It carried coal from the collieries to the main line at Trimsaran Junction, Pinged, and the engine house associated with the line stood next to Ar Lan Morlais. Several rail and tramway routes can still be traced across the village: the line linking the brickworks to the coal mines, the coal yard branch, and the Pembrey to Trimsaran line, which ran from the heart of the village out towards the coast.

The Brickworks

Trimsaran's last brickworks operated between 1900 and 1969 near the Upper Colliery. Its two kilns, with thirty-two chambers between them, produced some fifteen thousand red bricks. These bricks built the ornate terrace known as Caeduan View, opposite the park, as well as the

houses of the so-called Garden Suburbs and many of the council estates and other buildings that still stand in the village today.

The Ironworks

Mention of ironworking at Trimsaran dates to the Civil War period of the 1640s, and tradition holds that Oliver Cromwell acquired cannonballs from the works on his way to the siege of Pembroke. In 1842 two new furnaces were built by McDoodle and Bunyan, and in 1887 the site was adapted to manufacture steel directly from anthracite ores. The venture proved unsuccessful, however, and the works closed in 1900.

Opencast Mining and the Ffos Las Waterfall

After the deep mines closed, two phases of opencast extraction followed: a smaller operation between 1958 and 1961, and a far more extensive scheme between 1983 and 1997 at Ffos Las, considered at the time to be one of the most productive opencast sites in the United Kingdom. A further site, recorded as Open Cast Jackson's, adds to the record of surface working in the area.

Before work began on the Ffos Las opencast, the Morlais river was diverted around the site and later returned to its original course. A man-made waterfall at Cwmcathan was built as part of this scheme, designed to oxygenate the water and slow its flow as it dropped from its new, higher elevation back into the river.

Bridleways, Field Systems and the Two Pipes

Away from the industrial core, the area around Heol y Clappers and Cwm y Rhyfel preserves a prehistoric and medieval field system, together with a bridle path and a cattle pond, evidence of a much older pattern of land use that predates the coal era by many centuries. The feature known locally as the Two Pipes adds a further industrial landmark to this part of the village.

Public Houses of Trimsaran

The public houses of Trimsaran and its surrounding hamlets were central to the social life of the mining community. The Bird in Hand, the Miners Arms, the New Inn, the Pelican, the Royal Oak, the Star Inn and the Smiths each served their own corner of the village, while the Colliers, Bryn Fforest, the Plough and Spudders served the outlying farming areas towards Carway and Pen-y-fai.

Together they formed the social network that bound miners, farmers, and their families together outside working hours, and many of these names survive in local memory long after the buildings themselves have changed use or disappeared.

Farms of the Trimsaran Hinterland

Encircling the village, a substantial number of farms supplied the agricultural backbone of the parish. Among them were Baglan Farm and Ty Baglan, Barclay Farm, Berth Farm, Bigyn Farm, Bont Farm, Bryn Dias Farm, Bryngwenin Farm, Bryn Hwythan Farm, Cae Defaid Farm, Caedrim Farm, Caegwillt Farm, Cefen Farm, Cilrhedyn Farm, Clun Farm, Dythel Farm,

Emlych Farm, Fflad Farm, Ffos Las Farm, Ffrwd Farm, Gellirwydd Farm, the two farms at Glan Morlais, Isaf and Uchaf, Glanrhyd Farm, Glasbury Farm, Glanstone Farm, Pen y Fedw Farm, Waunhir Farm, Moat Farm, Morfa Farm, Morfa Bach Farm, Morfa Mawr Farm, Mudlescwm Farm, Parc Wilws Farm, the two Pen Llwyn farms at Teg and Uchaf, Pen y Bont Farm, Penrhyn Farm, Pwll y Llygod Farm, Rhos Farm, Rhriwlas Farm, Suddyn Farm and Syddyn Melin Farm, Treparridge Farm, Trilwm Farm, Ty Canol Farm, Ty Coch Farm, Ty Cornel Farm, Ty Delyn Farm, the two Ty Gwyn farms, Ty Mawr Farm, Ty Newydd Farm, Ty Wrth y Morfa Isaf and Uchaf, and Wern Farm.

These holdings, many still farmed or remembered by name today, formed the wider rural setting within which the industrial village of Trimsaran grew, and together with the collieries, the railways and the public houses they complete a picture of a community shaped equally by the land and by the coal beneath it.

Conclusion

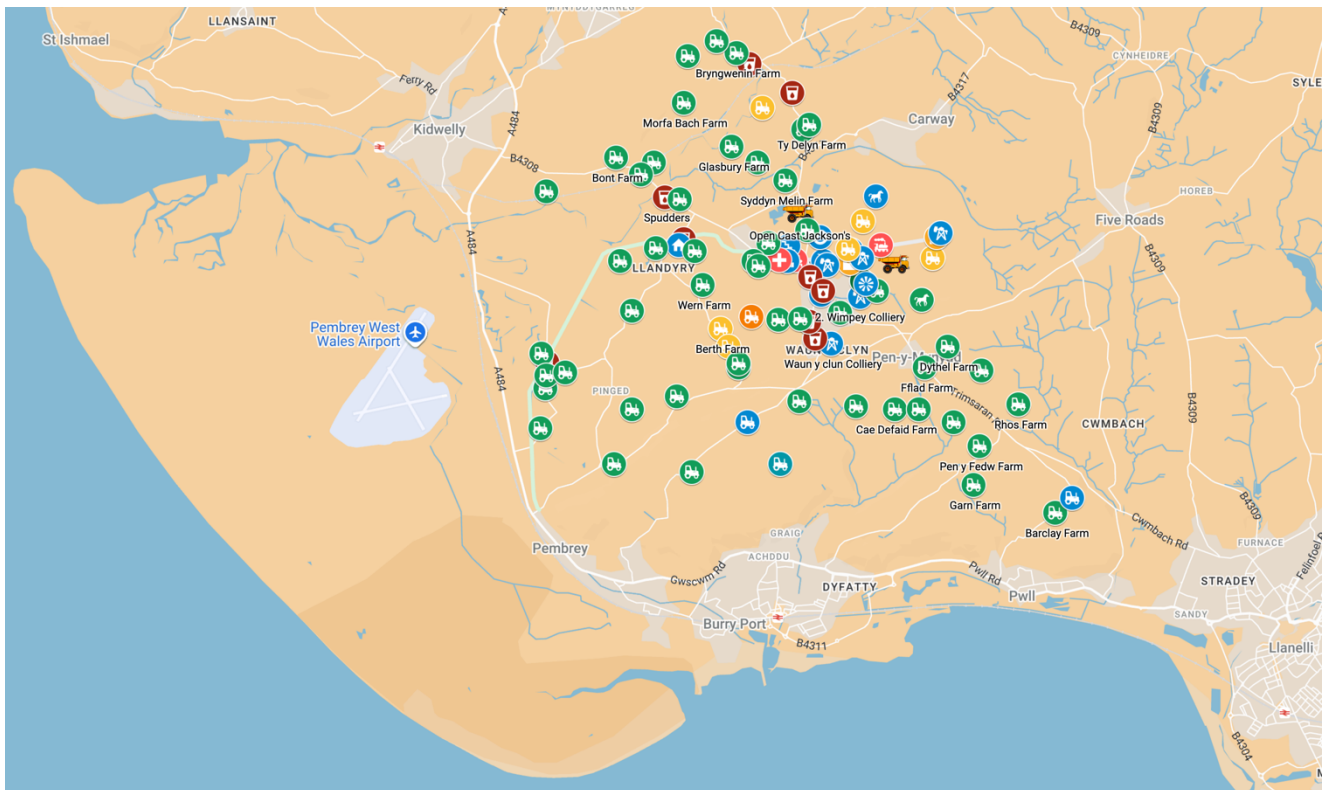
Trimsaran's story is written into its landscape as much as its records. The collieries and the brickworks that grew up around them gave the village its working life for the best part of two centuries, while Y Plas and the families who held it connected this small corner of Carmarthenshire to the wider history of the county and, through the St Leger line, to the world beyond it.

The chapels and the public houses, the farms ringing the village and the rail and canal routes that once carried its coal to Kidwelly Quay, together describe a community shaped by the land, by industry, and by the people who worked both. What survives today, whether as a standing wall, a place name, or a memory passed down, remains part of that same continuous story.

Vivit Post Funera Virtus — Virtue Lives On After Death | Graham Tudor Emmanuel, Kidwelly | 2026.

Trimsaran Village Heritage Sites

GPS Site Ledger with Live Map Links – Collieries, the Plas, Public Houses and Farms















Interactive map: <https://tinyurl.com/Trimsaran-Heritage-Map>



Trimsaran Village Heritage Sites – GPS Site Ledger





This ledger records the named heritage sites of Trimsaran with their GPS coordinates, for the use of future historians and researchers. The sites are grouped into four sections: Heritage Sites, Public Houses, Points of Interest, and Farms. Coordinates are given in decimal degrees, latitude and longitude. Each entry carries a QR code which, when scanned, opens that site's exact position directly in Google Maps, allowing this printed ledger to be used as a live field reference.

Heritage Sites

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Notes	Map (QR)
1. Cae Plwmp Offices, c.1776	51.721966	-4.235828	Five cottages; one became colliery offices and first aid room	
2. Wimpey Colliery (Waunffynhonnau, 1944–1954)	51.718388	-4.234602	Last main drift, replaced Caeduan and Waunhir; 300+ men, 32 horses	
3. Trimsaran Fach / Canol, 1610	51.720099	-4.234180	House and land, part of the Trimsaran Estate	
4. Waunffynhonnau Farm, 1850	51.719022	-4.231610	Davies family from 1918; first silo of its kind in the area	
5. Heol y Clappers / Cwm y Rhyfel	51.718112	-4.223951	Bridle path; prehistoric and medieval field system and cattle pond	
6. Y Plas – The Plas, 1400–1980	51.724828	-4.221330	Mansion home of the Vaughan and Mansel families; St Leger connection	
7. Gwaith Brics – Brickworks, 1900–1969	51.723449	-4.236010	Two kilns, 32 chambers; bricks built Caeduan View and council estates	
8. Glofa Trimsaran – Colliery	51.725266	-4.220635	Anthracite mining since Tudor times; 700 men employed by 1931	
9. Malwr a'r Olchfa – Crusher/Washery (site 1)	51.723449	-4.236010	Linked by rail to the collieries; washery demolished in the 1960s	
10. Malwr a'r Olchfa – Crusher/Washery (site 2)	51.722250	-4.240929	Linked by rail to the collieries; washery demolished in the 1960s	
11. Gwaith Glo Brig – Ffos Las Opencast (Wimpey)	51.721942	-4.228781	Opencast extraction 1958–1961 and 1983–1997	
12. Rheilffordd Trimsaran – Railway, 1865–1955	51.722298	-4.245617	Burry Port and Gwendraeth Valley Railway branch; engine house at Ar Lan Morlais	




13. Gwaith Haearn – Trimsaran Ironworks	51.723161	-4.248146	Civil War era origins; furnaces built 1842; closed 1900	
14. Rhaeadr Cwmcathan – Waterfall	51.723837	-4.246968	Man-made waterfall built to oxygenate diverted Morlais river	
15. Iard Glo – Coal Yard	51.722290	-4.247150	Coal transferred to road transport; weigh bridge survives	
Wimpey Winding House	51.719836	-4.233444	Winding house associated with the Wimpey colliery	
Old Caedean Engine House, 1982	51.722060	-4.236300	Later engine house structure at Caedean	
Open Cast Jackson's	51.727396	-4.245171	Opencast working site	
Two Pipes	51.724774	-4.241338	Industrial pipe feature	
Waun y Clun Colliery	51.713400	-4.239560	Owned 1960–1965 by G.D. Thomas (Refractories) Ltd	
Star Colliery	51.718594	-4.241307	Owners: Harris & Co. (1855), Edwards & Co. (1860–1865), Henry Pratt (1869), Star Coal Co. (1870)	
Caedean Drift	51.721850	-4.240240	1908–1920 Trimsaran Co. Ltd; 1925 Ashburnham Collieries; 1930 Welsh Anthracite Collieries. Site of fatal 1920s tram disaster	
Waun-hir Colliery	51.722510	-4.234230	One of the main historic Trimsaran collieries	

Public Houses

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Notes	Map (QR)
Bird in Hand	51.720585	-4.243069	Public house	
Bryn Fforest	51.740200	-4.246283	Public house	
Colliers	51.724610	-4.264952	Public house	
Miners Arms	51.722201	-4.252140	Public house	














New Inn	51.722538	-4.250334	Public house	
Pelican	51.713952	-4.242246	Public house	
Plough	51.711430	-4.288406	Public house	
Royal Oak	51.715745	-4.243243	Public house	
Smiths	51.743291	-4.253666	Public house	
Spudders	51.729018	-4.268254	Public house	
Star Inn	51.719092	-4.240961	Public house	

Points of Interest
















Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Notes	Map (QR)
Ambulance Station	51.722304	-4.248433	Point of interest	
Ffos Las Racecourse	51.729189	-4.231764	Racecourse	
Old Sardis Chapel	51.723950	-4.265780	Former chapel	




Farms

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Notes	Map (QR)
Baglan Farm	51.710833	-4.255555	Farm	
Barclay Farm	51.695278	-4.200833	Farm	
Berth Farm	51.715000	-4.258611	Farm	
Bigyn Farm	51.705000	-4.253888	Farm	

Bont Farm	51.733333	-4.276667	Farm	
Bryn Dias Farm	51.707778	-4.266112	Farm	
Bryngwenin Farm	51.744445	-4.255833	Farm	
Bryn Hwythan Farm	51.713055	-4.257222	Farm	
Cae Defaid Farm	51.706388	-4.228611	Farm	
Caedrim Farm	51.715980	-4.248550	Farm	
Caegwillt Farm	51.744167	-4.264167	Farm	
Cefen Farm	51.724167	-4.250278	Farm	
Cilrhedyn Farm	51.723333	-4.263055	Farm	
Clun Farm	51.716068	-4.244806	Farm	
Dythel Farm	51.713055	-4.219445	Farm	
Emlych Farm	51.706667	-4.235278	Farm	
Fflad Farm	51.710833	-4.223333	Farm	
Ffos Las Farm	51.725555	-4.243611	Farm	
Ffrwd Farm	51.700555	-4.276945	Farm	
Gellirwydd Farm	51.726490	-4.234030	Farm	

Glan Morlais Isaf Farm	51.722270	-4.252890	Farm	
Glan Morlais Uchaf Farm	51.721740	-4.252010	Farm	
Glanrhyd Farm	51.732778	-4.270000	Farm	
Glasbury Farm	51.734445	-4.256667	Farm	
Glanstone Farm	51.712307	-4.289478	Farm	
Moat Farm	51.723611	-4.269722	Farm	
Morfa Farm	51.731464	-4.272247	Farm	
Morfa Bach Farm	51.739166	-4.265000	Farm	
Morfa Mawr Farm	51.722222	-4.275833	Farm	
Mudlescwm Farm	51.729729	-4.288550	Farm	
Parc Wilws Farm	51.710555	-4.213611	Farm	
Pen Llwyn Teg Farm	51.745720	-4.259243	Farm	
Pen Llwyn Uchaf Farm	51.699722	-4.263611	Farm	
Pen y Bont Farm	51.728888	-4.265555	Farm	
Pen y Fedw Farm	51.702500	-4.213888	Farm	
Penrhyn Farm	51.696944	-4.198056	Farm	

Pwll y Llygod Farm	51.738611	-4.251388	Farm	
Rhos Farm	51.706944	-4.207222	Farm	
Rhriwlas Farm	51.707222	-4.245000	Farm	
Suddyn Farm	51.716280	-4.253220	Farm	
Syddyn Melin Farm	51.730833	-4.247500	Farm	
Trepartridge Farm	51.704986	-4.218342	Farm	
Trilwm Farm	51.716751	-4.237999	Farm	
Ty Baglan	51.711246	-4.255463	Farm	
Ty Canol Farm	51.706388	-4.273888	Farm	
Ty Coch Farm	51.736274	-4.244355	Farm	
Ty Cornel Farm	51.716930	-4.273780	Farm	
Ty Delyn Farm	51.736777	-4.243290	Farm	
Ty Gwyn Farm (1)	51.706388	-4.224444	Farm	
Ty Gwyn Farm (2)	51.708606	-4.288770	Farm	
Ty Mawr Farm	51.704324	-4.289581	Farm	
Ty Newydd Farm	51.700555	-4.248333	Farm	

Ty Wrth y Morfa Isaf	51.710000	-4.288611	Farm	
Ty Wrth y Morfa Uchaf	51.710310	-4.285370	Farm	
Wern Farm	51.719722	-4.261667	Farm	

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