

# CONSERVATION

I.27 What elements are essential to the character of the two conservation areas and what measures should be taken to protect them?

27.1 Public Opinion - Respondents indicated their concern that the environment should be protected. Elements of character mentioned include : old buildings; picturesque views: agricultural heritage: 17th/18th Century frontages in High Street; burgage plots; the following open spaces - Bearfield,, field behind Police Station, school playing fields south of the Market, The River Walk, The Old Grammar School Garden, Stalling Down, St. Hilary Down, The Bowman's Well area, Llanblethian Castle Gatehouse, works and surroundings, Llanblethian Hill and Caer Dynnaf.

27.2 History of Cowbridge - An important part of the character of the plan area is its history. The following chronology indicates some of the known events in the development of the settlement.

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|--------------------|---|
| 1600 - 500 B.C.    | Bronze age settlement in Cowbridge area. Dagger and skeleton found in grounds of High School : standing stone in garden of Rhoscelva, Rantgate. |
| 500 B.C - 400 A.D. | Possible Iron age and later occupation of Llanblethian Hill Fort; also smaller hill fort at Llanquian Wood.                                     |
| 200 - 350          | Roman settlement - possibly on site of Cowbridge High Street, from the river to Old Hall.   |
| 400 - 1250         | The dark ages - no evidence of settlement at Cowbridge.   |
| 1040               | Possible documentary reference to a settlement at Aberthin.   |
| 1250               | Cowbridge founded as a borough by Richard De Clare.   |
| 1300               | Building of Town walls  |
| 1307 - 1314        | Beginning of St. Quentin's Castle<br>Completion not confirmed, but may have been finished by 1375   |



Late 13th Century to 15th Century.	Building of Church of the Holy Cross, Cowbridge. (Nave and chancel 13th Century Tower, early 14th Century arcade and south aisle of nave 15th Century).
1477	Documentary record of St. Quentin's Castle gatehouse in use as a prison.
1618	Cowbridge Grammar School founded.
1625 - 1650	Building of Great House, Aberthin
1681	Charter of incorporation granted by Charles II - final recognition of the Town's status.
1702	Building of Great House, Llanblethian.
1749	First methodist chapel in the Vale built at Aberthin.
1753	West Gate demolished
1768 - 1775	East Gate demolished.
1828	Date of Ramoth Chapel
1830	The House of Correction enlarged to become the present Town Hall.
1832	The first bank in Cowbridge opened; then a branch of the National Provincial bank, now Barclays.
1847 - 1852	Cowbridge Grammar School Buildings constructed.
1850	Cardiff - Swansea railway opened (by passing Cowbridge).
1862	Police station built.
1862	South gate repaired.
1865	Railway from Cowbridge to Llantrisant opened.
1892	Railway from Cowbridge to Aberthaw opened.
1896	Cowbridge High School for Girls opened.
1930	Cowbridge - Aberthaw Railway closed.
1951	Cowbridge - Llantrisant line closed 30th November, 1951.

For a detailed description of the history of the  
plan area the following books are recommended.

South Glamorgan - A County History - B. Ll. .  
James (Ch.7).

Cowbridge and Llanblethian Past and Present  
- B. Ll. James  
& D. J. Francis