

Dolhelfa: Continuity and change in the area occupied by a former grange of Abbey Cwmhir

By Angela Swindell

Introduction

The busy A470 road, 300 km long, is today Wales's longest road. It links Cardiff in the south to Llandudno on the north coast. Between Llangurig and Rhayader for about 5 km this descendant of the eighteenth century Turnpike Road passes through the area of Dolhelfa.

The Abbey Cwmhir Demystifying Project has been researching the Granges which belonged to the Abbey; Dolhelfa is one of these. Fig 1 shows the Abbey's land holdings in blue. The boundaries, based on Williams's Atlas, (Williams 1990), are now being revisited and revised as a result of further research. These lands were donated to the Abbey over a considerable period and would not have been all been owned by the Abbey at the same time. The boundary of Dolhelfa is, however, more clearly defined in the donation charter of Roger Mortimer in 1200CE, Fig. 2.

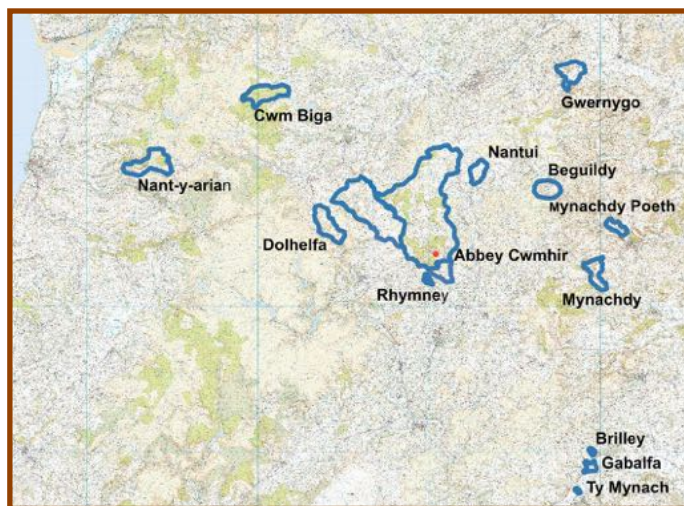


Fig 1: Abbey Cwmhir lands and its 'granges'

This article examines the history of Dolhelfa using place names, boundary information and documentary evidence of ownership; it examines the reasons

why Dolhelfa was deemed important in 1200 and later; considers why it became a ‘Grange’ and explores how the land use has continued to be predominately pastoral but has evolved to reflect economic changes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Particular reference will be made to the properties known as Neuadd Ddu, Dolhelfa Ganol, Dolhelfa Isaf and Dolhelfa Uchaf although the Dolhelfa boundary stretches from Glascwm in the north to Bwlch Gwyn in the south and has been the focus of recent research.

After the dissolution of the Abbey this grange had several short term owners until the Fowler family purchased it in 1587 and held it until sales of parts in 1764 and 1781 after which it was split into smaller estates, (Lovell 2019). This process continued throughout the nineteenth, twentieth and into the twenty first centuries.

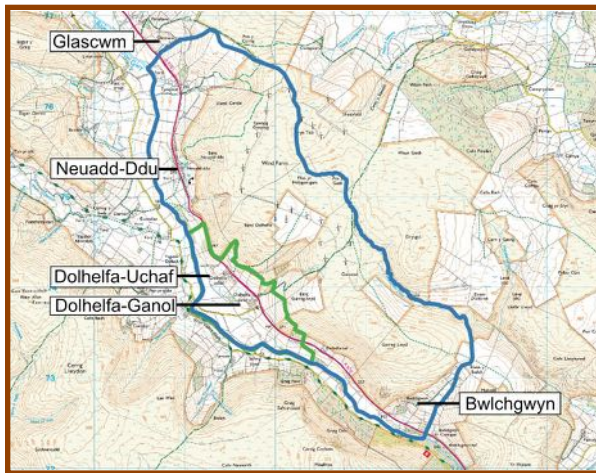


Fig 2: Dolhelfa with principal farms: Mortimer 1200 boundary shown in blue, Williams' boundary in green.

Medieval period

Dolhelfa today is the descendant of a peripheral ‘Grange’ which belonged to the Cistercian Abbey Cwmhir between 1200 and 1537. The Cistercians established ‘Granges’ on ‘unencumbered lands on the margins of existing settlements’ (Platt, 1969) but within easy reach of the Abbey. Although not all of these conditions apply to Dolhelfa it does generally fit this model, being at a distance of 19 km, or 4 and a half hours walking time, from Cwmhir. This route is defined by today’s roads, though it would be a similar distance on tracks over the hills. It would have been controlled by a ‘cellarer’ based at Abbey Cwmhir and farmed by ‘conversi’, lay monks. There is currently no evidence that there was a chapel here. The Cistercian monks were renowned for bringing new farming methods to hill areas and flood plains, (Williams, 1970) so they would have been up to the challenge of farming the land beside the Wye and into the

uplands beyond. As a ‘grange’ of Abbey Cwmhir, Dolhelfa would have been expected to contribute to the production of food so the limited arable land on the valley floor would have been an asset to its function as a ‘bread basket’. This together with sheep farming on the uplands, cattle rearing on lower slopes, fishing in the River Wye, possibly horse breeding, as well as proximity to the markets in St Harmon and Rhayader established during this period would have formed the basis of the economy of Dolhelfa. As diverse as it could be!

Dol Heluein autem que est in Wartreignon huic modo terminatur. ab introitu Lleuessic in Guy susum usque Pant Bieting. Pan Bieting per longum usque Marchini deinde Trosgel usque lucum salicinum et rotundum. a luo predicto usque Keuenfort. Keuenfort per longum usque Main Urua. a Main Urua per transversum usque Glascum. deinde Glascum usque Gvi. Guy per longum usque introitum Lleuessic.

Fig 3: Transcription of Dolhelfa section of Mortimer charter

Dolhelfa is a relatively small Grange. It covers an area of 7.6 sq km when the boundaries used are those of the 1200 Charter shown in Fig. 2, the land rising steeply from the Wye Valley at 250 metres to 500 metres on the eastern boundary.

Julian Ravest, (Ravest, 2023) describes this boundary in detail, with a possible extension to the north-east, as part of the wider lands identified in the donation that Roger Mortimer gave the Abbey in 1200. The Mortimer charter provides a demarcation of Dolhelfa using landscape features such as streams, rivers and tracks. This describes the limits of the Grange in terms of physical features such as Marcheini Fawr, Trosgel (Drysgol Hill), a willow grove, (possibly Ffos yr Helygen-gam), a ridgeway leading to a stone, the farmstead Glascwm and the River Wye (Charles, 1970).



Fig 4: Boundary bank on upland above Bwlchgwyn

Standing stones and other prehistoric evidence in the adjacent areas suggest prehistoric use of the upland areas while later evidence such as boundary banks and relict field systems from the medieval period survive to this day, for example, in the upland above Bwlchgwyn at the southern limit of Dolhelfa.

The Mortimer Charter (1200) records that the Abbey was granted all the lands within the boundaries of the Cantref of Gwrtheyrnion (which includes Dolhelfa) including ‘woods, meadows, streams and pastures including Common Pasture, except that reserved for the donor’. (Charles 1970, Percival 1994, Ravest 2023). This at a time when the Abbey was newly established (1176) and gaining in prestige.

Gwrtheyrnion, together with the cantref of Maelienydd and the commote of Cwmwd Deuddwr, was part of the area known as Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, that is, the lands between the Wye and the Severn.

Maelienydd appears to have absorbed the smaller, more remote commotes after Roger Mortimer conquered this area and endowed the Abbey, (Hume, 2020). It is described it as a Cantref in Medieval Mid Wales north of the River Wye which was named after Vortigern (Gwrtheyrn/Wartreigon) who fled from Gloucester to this remote area at the end of Roman rule or shortly afterwards when the Saxons defeated the British in 577CE. It was ruled from Buellt. It was much fought over after the Norman Conquest when the Welsh sought to defend it against the incoming Marcher Lords who only finally established their rule here after 1277.

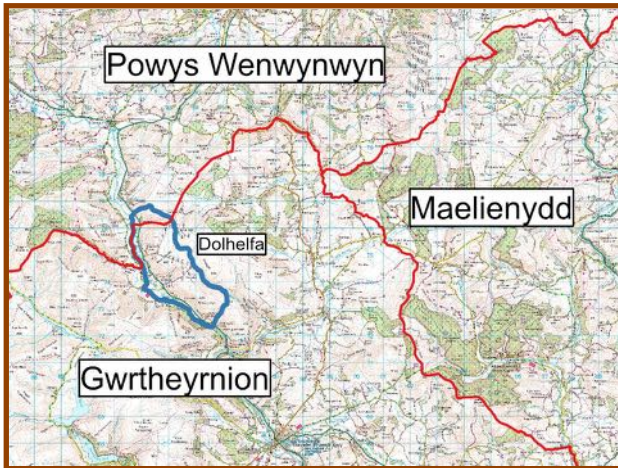


Fig 5: Map showing Dolhelfa in relation to Cantref boundaries

Gwrtheyrnion was a border cantref and so of political significance. As a mountainous area it deterred ‘alien’ colonisation. Welsh princes fought over it before the Normans began to take an interest in the Welsh Marches and the Mortimer aggression and continual skirmishes with the Welsh in this area are well documented, (Hume 2020). Eventually on 10 March 1200 Roger Mortimer donated Dolhelfa, referred to as Dol Heluein in the charter, to Abbey Cwmhir, witnessed by four of his own Barons and four Welshmen who may have preferred the prospect of Mortimer control of the area to the continual feuding between

rival Welsh factions. Roger Mortimer may well have given this land to Abbey Cwmhir to ensure the salvation of the souls of his fallen soldiers but possibly his generosity was also informed by the desire to keep this area out of the hands of the Welsh Princes. In this latter he was not immediately successful as battles continued and it is recorded that Llywelyn ap Gruffydd moved 160 cavalry and 7,000 foot soldiers into Gwrtheyrnion on 11 December 1282 before moving them onwards. He then went to Abbey Cwmhir for a meeting with the Marcher Lord but was enticed away, ambushed and killed, (Remfry, 2004).

For the next 300 years it may be assumed that life in Dolhelfa continued to centre around mainly pastoral farming. This was not an area of mining such as is known to have taken place in other grange areas, e.g. Nant-y-arian, 24 km from Llangurig. While Dolhelfa Ganol appears to have been the focus of the grange there is at present no evidence to suggest that it was on a scale which would have provided other functions associated with granges such as hospitality. Indeed, it is relatively close to Abbey Cwmhir and so the *conversi* or Lay monks would have been able to reach the abbey for worship on feast days across the hills via St Harmon without too much difficulty. That said, it would have been a convenient stopping point on any journey between Abbey Cwmhir and Nant-y-arian.

However, this area cannot have been untouched by of the turmoil of the times. In addition to the political disputes between the Welsh and the English in the persons of the Mortimer family, there were local upsets between Cistercian Houses. Across the River Wye the land was held by Strata Florida, a powerful Cistercian house situated 40 km west of Llangurig. The foundation of the daughter house of Cymer Abbey in 1198 also drained Abbey Cwmhir's manpower resources. There were internal disputes, too, such as in 1195, just before Dolhelfa was granted to the Abbey, when it was reported that the then *conversi* 'stole the Abbot's horses as he refused them beer', (Williams, 1970). There was economic turmoil too; the Black Death which hit the area in 1349 and the lack of lay help, bad harvests, the high price of corn during Tudor times would have made a big impact on a small grange.

At the time of the Dissolution of Abbey Cwmhir in 1537 there were only three monks left and its income was under £30 per year. Thus it was not drawing much from its granges or other economic activities. There had been a period of instability at the Abbey including changes of Abbot ahead of this which cannot have helped morale in the granges.

According to Pugh, (Pugh, 1934), Dolhelfa is a corruption of 'Dolefy'.

Various other spellings occur on maps, charter and sales particulars. However, the prefix of the name Dolhelfa, 'dol' means a space of open, level land, often a small meadow. Perhaps this is why Williams, in his Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales, confines the grange to such a small area as there is little level land suitable for arable in the area delimited by the Charter of 1200. He ignored the prehistoric remains, the boundary banks visible on the higher areas and even the

1200 Charter itself.

Helfa means a hunt or a chase. This area has been used for this purpose from at least the medieval period and it has continued to be so within living memory as many of the properties were used as hunting lodges in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Indeed the name Neuadd Ddu, one of the main properties in the Dolhelfa Grange area, could mean not only Black Hall but also ‘meeting place’, that is where the hounds were kept before they went after the fox. However, it could be a corruption of Newydd, perhaps reflecting the idea that Dolhelfa Ganol (middle) was the main focus of Dolhelfa while newer settlements were established at later dates. Dolhelfa Ganol today remains the largest of the farms and it is in the centre of the lower land.



Fig 6: Dolhelfa Ganol in 2023



Fig 7: Neuadd Ddu in 2023



Fig 8: 1807 date stone from previous Neuadd Ddu incorporated into 2010 rebuild.

Why was this area of interest? It has steep slopes, high altitude, a westerly aspect and it was remote. This harsh environment was not conducive to profitable

economic activity, except for sheep farming. This has been the predominant land use since at least the start of the Monastic era, it was recorded as such on the Tithe Map, 1839 and the Enclosure Map, 1857, on all the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth Century sales transactions and it continues to be so today. There was some arable land on the lower slopes and some cattle rearing was evident until recently. Thus, it was not the profitability of the land use alone which made this area one of interest; it had political significance.

Eighteenth Century

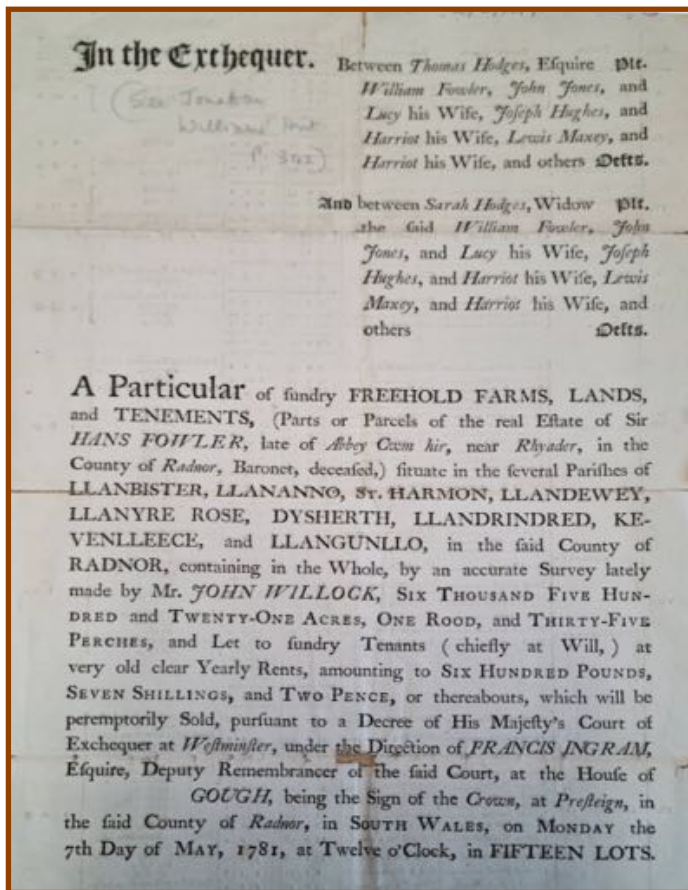


Fig 9: 1781 Announcement

The whole estate, including Dolhelfa, was eventually bought by William Fowler and Edward Herbert in 1558, (Coward, 2014). Although the Fowlers held Abbey Cwmhir lands for 266 years Dolhelfa properties were sold off in 1763 and

1781. In 1763 Dole Elvan Isaf, Dole Elvan Uchaf (Dolhelfa Isaf and Uchaf), plus other properties totalling 451 acres were sold from the Estate of William Fowler to Charles Gore, an absentee landlord and Jonathan Field for whom Richard Heron acted as nominee. In 1781 the Particulars of Sale of Dolhelfa mention Bwlch Gwynne, Glan Gwy and Noyddu which together had a total of 217 acres and a value of £21 2s10d. Bwlch Gwynne's tenant, Lewis Williams paid a rent of £4 whereas Noyyddu's tenant, Widow Lewis, paid £11 2s 10d for her 111 acres.

II.	Kewlithel	Philip Price	Welsh Lays	115 8 7 1/2	10 0 0	At Will	* 4 *
III.	Lluchindal and Kewlithel	Widow Jones	Cartmeliter	222 2 4 1/2	12 7 1/2	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	* 6 *
IV.	Llayne Rali	Thomas Stephens	Cyrt side Gwarch	27 0 11	3 0 0	At Will	} * 12 *
		Richard Price	Dole Wynn	0 2 0 1/2	0 3 0	At Will	
V.	Dybach	John Jones	Wood Cello	228 0 0 1/2	21 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 12 *
		Thomas Jones	Tra y Llan	22 2 3 1/2	2 0 0	At Will	
		Merchid Dole	Byan Isafon	1 0 0 0	1 0 0 0	At Will	
				200 4 3 1/2	41 3 0 0		
V.	Llanfryn	Edward Jones, Esq.	Glan y terna	25 8 3 1/2	1 1 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	* 2 *
VI.	St. Heron	Lewis Williams	Welsh Gwynne	61 8 11	4 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 2 *
		Widow Lewis	Noyddu	114 8 0 1/2	14 8 0 0	At Will	
		Edward Jones	Glan Gwy	47 2 3 1/2	6 0 0	At Will	
				217 8 3 1/2	21 8 10 0		
VII.	St. Heron	John Price	Kewlithel Mill	16 0 0 1/2	3 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 2 *
		Morgan Thomas	Ceryn	12 8 1 1/2	1 0 0 0	At Will	
		Edward Jones	Yr Ynion	0 0 8 1/2	0 0 0 0	At Will	
		John Jones	Cyrt Llan	24 0 0 0	18 0 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Edward Davies	Llanfryn	200 2 1 1/2	0 0 0 0	At Will	
		J. and T. K. Jones	Tyfach	69 2 1 1/2	0 0 0 0	At Will	
		Benjamin Bond	Ynion	127 2 1 1/2	10 0 0 0	At Will	
		John Meredith	Cyrt Llan	15 8 0 1/2	0 0 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Thomas	Cyrt Llan	15 8 10 1/2	2 0 0 0	At Will	
		Lewis Williams	Ynion	10 2 0 1/2	0 0 0 0	At Will	
John Jones	Gwynne	114 8 0 1/2	14 8 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784			
Thomas Jones	Ynion	48 4 3 1/2	6 0 0 0	At Will			
John Jones	Ynion	22 0 0 0	2 0 0 0	At Will			
				1902 3 4 1/2	17 11 0 0		
VIII.	St. Heron	John Price	Kewlithel	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 2 *
		John Jones	Cyrt Llan	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Edward Jones	Cyrt Llan	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		David Samuel	Clonid Du	20 0 1 1/2	1 0 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Mary Lloyd	Kewlithel	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		John Jones	Cyrt Llan	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		John Jones	Cyrt Llan	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
IX.	Llanfryn	John Jones	Tyfach	20 0 0 1/2	2 0 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 2 *
		Richard Jones	Cyrt Llan	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		David Samuel	Rhydyfryn	20 0 1 1/2	1 0 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
				112 4 0 1/2	12 11 0 0		
				1247 1 1/2	12 11 0 0		
X.	Llanfryn	Elizabeth Lewis	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	} * 2 *
		Thomas Price	Billy Bog	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Thomas Price	Billy Bog	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Thomas Wynn	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Thomas Davies	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		John Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Edward Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Edward Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Thomas Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
		Edward Jones	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	At Will	
		Elizabeth Lewis	Ynion	12 8 0 1/2	17 0 0	Leads for 21 Years from Lady-day 1784	
				12 8 0 1/2	17 2 4		

Fig 10: Part of Neuadd Ddu sale particulars 1781

Subsequently, the lands passed to the Penybont Hall estate, then owned by John Cheesman Severn, which acquired Abbey Cwmhir lands between 1728 and 1913. The deeds of these are in the National Library of Wales. However, although there is frequent mention of the Parish of St Harmon and ‘properties therein’ it is not clear which properties were sold when. There is a survey dated 1812 which mentions Dole Elven Farm and nearby lands totalling 169 acres, and a Transaction dated 1834 which refers to Dole Elor with ‘messuage, outbuildings and lands of 190 acres’ with a rent of £59 10s.

Nineteenth Century

Particulars of Sales together with the Tithe Award Map, 1839, the Enclosure Map, 1857 and availability of census records after 1841 enable a study to be made of the ownership and land use in Dolhelfa in the nineteenth century

The Tithe Award schedule of 1839 shows the value of land in Dolhelfa but not specifically the land use, other than what can be inferred from the names of fields. For Neuadd Ddu, for example, a nursery is mentioned (the site of which is identifiable near to the house) with an area of 2 roods and 34 perches, (0.7 acre). Another nursery has 1 rood and 26 perches, (0.4acre). The largest single piece of land is the Great Rhos (heath) which is 16 acres. There were in total 153a 1r 1p, (153.2 acre) and the Tithe payable to the Vicar was £4 5s 9d. However, this survey was only of the lower slopes and the land bordering the River Wye. Neuadd Ddu was owned and occupied by John Lewis whose initials are on the date stone of 1807 which is incorporated into the present house, Figs 7 and 8. It was still occupied by the Lewis family as recorded in the census of 1841 but by 1861 the occupier was Richard Price, a farmer born in Nantmel who employed 3 labourers to help him farm 132 acres. In 1839 Lower Dolelfey, 53 acres, was worth £2 1s 6d and was owned by John Cheesman Severn but occupied by David Pugh.

In 1857 the Enclosure Map reveals that land above Neuadd Ddu was ‘taken in’ giving an area of 407 acres. Most of this was on the hillside. It was owned by John Cheesman Severn.

Area	Description	Value
166	Land's Dole	
167		
168		
407.2.4	Total	

Fig 11: 1857 Enclosure.

In 1861, as mentioned earlier, the Price family lived in Neuadd Ddu and they had 3 employees who were recorded in the Census. In 1881 there were still 3 Price family members and 3 employees but the farm size had increased to 600 acres. The size had increased again, to 650 acres when Neuadd Ddu was sold in 1873 to the Bryntirion Estate.

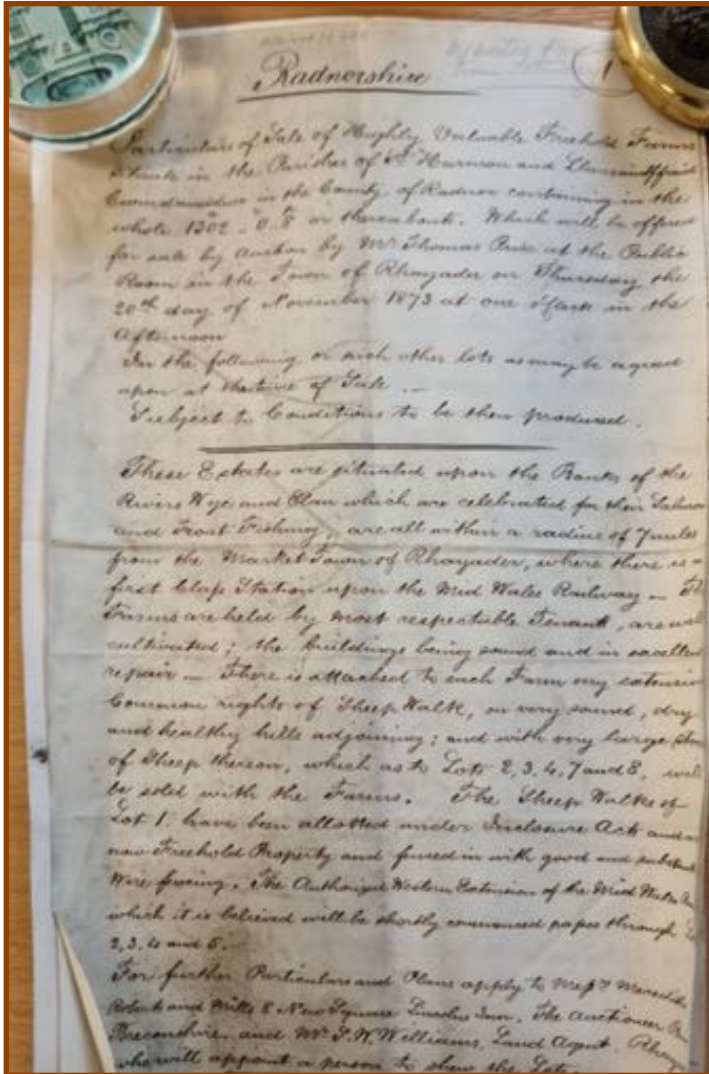


Fig 12: Sale to Bryntirion Estate, 1873

These particulars describe the idyllic location of the 3 properties, close proximity to Rhayader with its railway station, the River Wye with salmon and trout fishing and well managed farm lands. For sale with Lot 3, Neuadd Ddu, are the recently enclosed uplands including Neuadd Bank, Bryn Titley and Fosheligan Gam just above the farm with a total of 405 acres to add to the pasture, arable, meadow and wood of the original farm. There was still some expectation that the railway, (Kidner, 1990), would be extended to connect Llangurig to Aber Marteg, as proposed in 1863 which would have been an asset to those arriving from afar for the hunting, shooting and fishing available.

20	Toponnewydd	Meadow	2	0	12
21	Orchard	Pasture	0	2	8
22	House, Garden, Pasture and Plantation		1	2	38
23	Top general	Pasture	1	0	26
24	Plantation	Wood	0	2	20
25	Coarails	Pasture	6	2	38
26	Toponnewydd	Wood	1	2	8
27	Coar yrru	Pasture	3	3	36
28	Dolwyn	Meadow	6	1	26
29	Coar yrru	Pasture	7	0	20
30	Coarfallen	Arable	4	3	10
31	Coar rails isaf	do	3	0	26
32	Field by road on Hill	Pasture	1	1	10
33	Coar pantyglaw	do	3	1	8
34	Coarback pantyglaw	do	1	0	18
35	Plantation	Wood	0	1	28
36	Rhospantyglaw	Meadow	3	3	15
37	Plantation	Wood	0	1	30
38	Plantation on Hill	Wood & Past	0	1	20
			137	3	13
	Roads and Waets		3	0	32
	Half of River		2	3	11
			143	3	16
<u>Allotments under Gollon Inleture</u>					
155	1/2 Allotment	Sheep Walk	12	0	0
157	Herbage of Quarry	Sheep Walk			
158	Neuadd Bank, Fosheligan Gam and Bryn Titley	Sheep Walk	405	1	39
<u>Allotment under Yrarchwst Inleture</u>					
189	Allotment to Neuadd	Sheep Walk	88	3	
	Total		650		

Fig 13: Bryntirion sale details 1873

The Bryntirion Estate held Neuadd Ddu until 1893 when it was sold again and described as ‘ a highly important Sporting and Agricultural Property’.

Late Nineteenth Century to Present

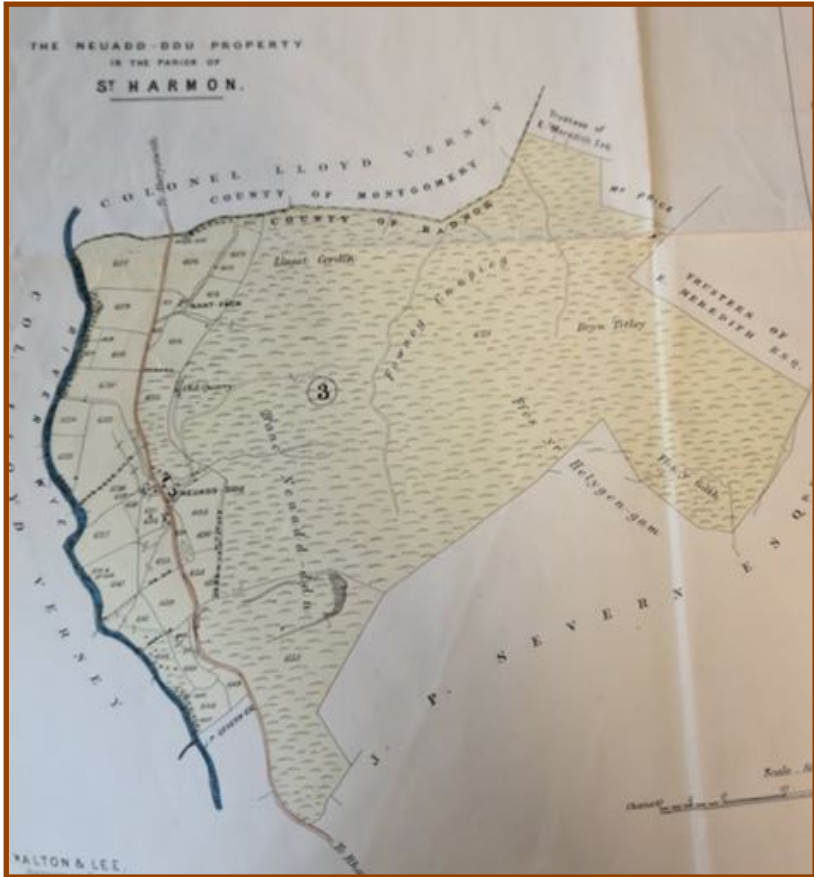


Fig 14: Map of Neuadd Ddu in sales particulars 1893

Dolhelfa Ganol, Isaf and Uchaf were part of the Penybont Estate , the sale of which took place in 1920.

At this time these 3 properties were becoming one farming unit and the smaller dwellings were being sold off as private dwellings. Those interested in the country pursuits available in the area bought up properties for example the Beddel and the Cory families from Pinner, Middlesex bought Garreg Llwyd to stay in while grouse shooting and Neuadd Ddu to rent out. They and their tenants were the ancestors of the current owners. Tenants eventually bought the properties and

there are still members of the Hughes family in Dolhelfa Ganol and Lewis/Price/Pugh descendants in Neuadd Ddu.

Analysis of Census information from 1841-1911 shows that these farms were occupied by farmers and agricultural labourers initially and then servants and ancillary trades such as carpenters became apparent. Bwlch Gwyn was the St Harmon Vicarage in 1861. In 1871 the Price family were occupying Neuadd Ddu farming 100 acres. Dolhelfa was occupied by the Rice family farming 170 acres. They had two servants. Dolhelfa Uchaf was occupied by the Hughes family where they farmed 70 acres while Dolhelfa Isaf has 'cottagers' living in it. By 1881 Neuadd Ddu has 600 acres, 2 men employed on the farm and 3 servants in addition to the farmer and his wife, James and Margaret Rice and their baby daughter, Emily Mary. James Hughes and his wife, Annie, together with their 3 sons farm 250 acres in Dolhelfa Uchaf; the Rice family and their servants farm 170 acres in Dolhelfa Isaf. Bwlch Gwyn is a farm of 150 acres but other occupations are beginning to creep in, such as 'Plate Layer', gardener and people of private means. By 1911 the Hughes family are the occupants of Neuadd Ddu and Dolhelfa Uchaf. Farm work still prevails here though nearer to Rhayader in Bwlch Gwyn a plate layer, engine fitter, labourer as well as a 'road man' are recorded.

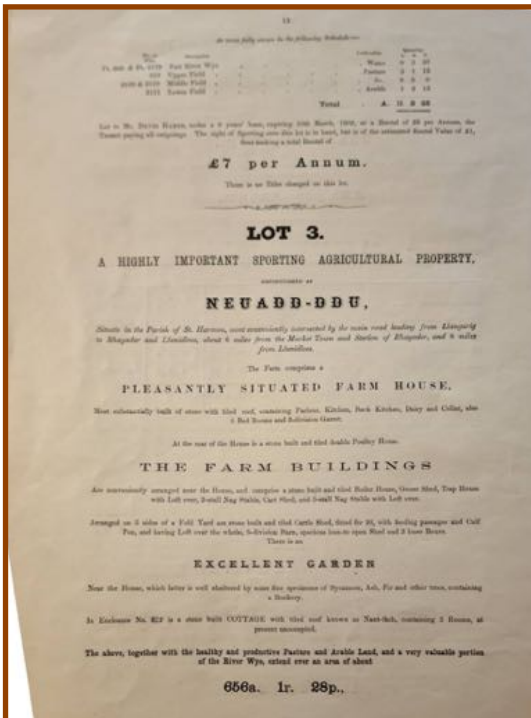


Fig 15: Neuadd-Ddu described as a highly important Sporting and Agricultural Property 1920

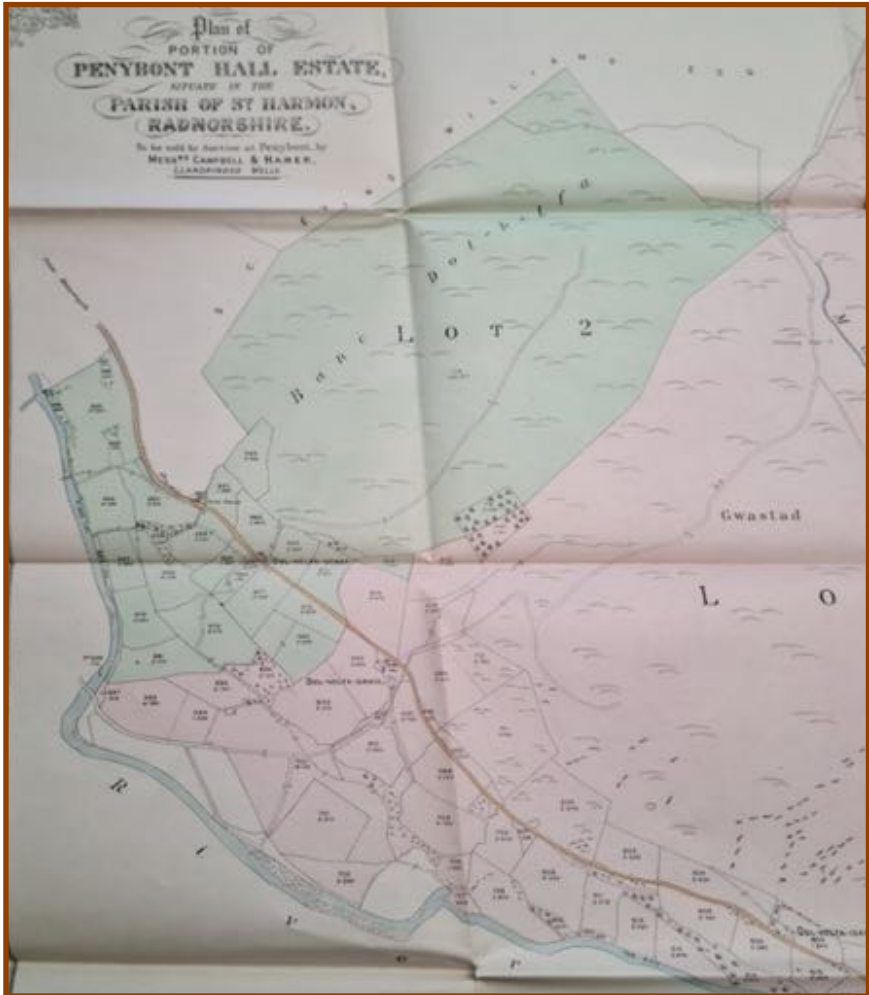


Fig 16: Map of Dolhelfa Ganol from sale particulars

When Dolhelfa Ganol was sold in 1920 it had over 1000 acres, as it does today, farmed by the Hughes family then and now.

Neuadd Ddu, Fig 17, was rebuilt in 2010 and the cowshed, stables and hay barn were converted into private houses and sold. The occupants ‘work from home’ now in 2023.

LOT 1.
(Coloured Red on Plan No. 1.)

DOLHELFA-GANOL

The DWELLING-HOUSE, which adjoins the Main Road leading from Rhayader (about 5 miles distant) to Aberystwyth, is Stone built and Slated, and in good repair.

The FARM BUILDINGS are substantially built, and consist of Cattle Sheds with large Hay Lofts over, Corn and Hay Bays, Barn, Implement Shed with Granary over, Stabling for four Horses, Hackney Stable, &c. There are also useful outlying Buildings.

This Farm is let to Mr. EDWARD RICE on a Yearly Lady Day Tenancy at a Rental of £180. The Water Wheel and connections are the property of the Tenant.

The Farm adjoins the left bank of the River Wye for upwards of one mile in length, and affords excellent Trout Fishing.

The Sporting Rights are in hand, and the Moorland is considered one of the best Grouse Moors in Radnorshire.

This and the adjoining Lots now offered for Sale represent one of the most compact and desirable Sporting Estates in Mid Wales.

The Timber and Plantations will be included in the purchase-money.

SCHEDULE.

NO. ON PLAN.	DESCRIPTION.	ACREAGE.
PARISH OF ST. HARMON.		
673	Pasture	5'395
674	Do.	4'390
675	Do.	0'372
683	Meadow	3'660
684	House, Yard and Buildings	'792
685	Arable and Clover	4'510
686	Hazel Scrub	'235
688	Pasture	1'020
689	Meadow	3'107
690	Pasture	2'702
691	Arable	3'023
692	Pasture, Road, &c.	'691
693	Meadow	5'530
694	Scrub	2'105
	Carried forward	45'442

(5)

Fig 17: Dolhelfa description from sales particulars



Fig 18: Neuadd-Ddu with cow sheds, stables and hay barn now converted to houses

In the twenty first century the main land use continues to be sheep pasture but the farm units have gradually increased in size since the lands began to be sold after the Dissolution of Abbey Cwmhir. There are wind turbines on the hills. Residents who are not engaged in active farming ‘work from home’. Leisure activities are in evidence such as the Wye Valley Walk, holiday cottages and camp sites. Families who were once tenants now predominate as owners. The Wye Valley continues to be a major routeway. Therefore, there is evidence here of continuity, e.g. of land use on the lowlands as well as the uplands, and change, as the occupations of inhabitants have changed as economic and social climates have evolved during the past 1,000 years of occupation.



Fig 19: Tourism now augments traditional farming and sporting incomes



Fig 20: Wye Valley looking towards Dolhelfa

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