

CROESO I DDINEFWR

DINEFWR IN LLANDEILO IS BEYOND THE BORDER'S NEW HOME AND WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR NATIONAL TRUST ESTATE NEAR LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE.



© NT Dinefwr

Steeped in Welsh history and a National Nature Reserve for its 18th century parkland, Dinefwr has been a magical land of power and influence for more than 2,000 years with an iconic place in the history of Wales. The powerful Lord Rhys, Prince of the Deheubarth held court at Dinefwr and influenced decisions in Wales.

Standing proudly at the heart of the estate is Newton House, family home to the descendants of Lord Rhys for over 300 years. Cared for by the National Trust since 1990, restored and opened to celebrate the wealth of Dinefwr and as a place to enjoy, relax and refresh.

Dinefwr has a vast history of cultural and artistic happenings, with our latest programme of exhibitions taking inspiration from Newton House itself and the collections stored away for years, unveiling some of the objects for the first time. They reflect on the many and varied aspects of life at Dinefwr over the centuries, providing a glimpse into the history of the estate and its people. Our Archaeology of Home exhibition features fragments and materials from our collections that offer a fascinating glimpse into the historical building materials and decorative techniques used at Newton House. We also provide a platform for contemporary artists to exhibit their works, such as Hannah Walters in the new Y Cabinet series and fantastic showcase of works planned by Ainsley Hillard, opening in July 2021.



Visit the house to see the exhibitions and take a moment to relax on the sofas in the Drawing Room, you can even enjoy your coffee on the ground floor or take some time to dwell in the second hand bookshop and see what treasures you'll discover.

The visionaries, George and Cecil Rice designed the superb 18th century landscape, which is protected as a parkland National Nature Reserve, from flower-rich meadows to dense ancient woodland, it's all here for you to discover.

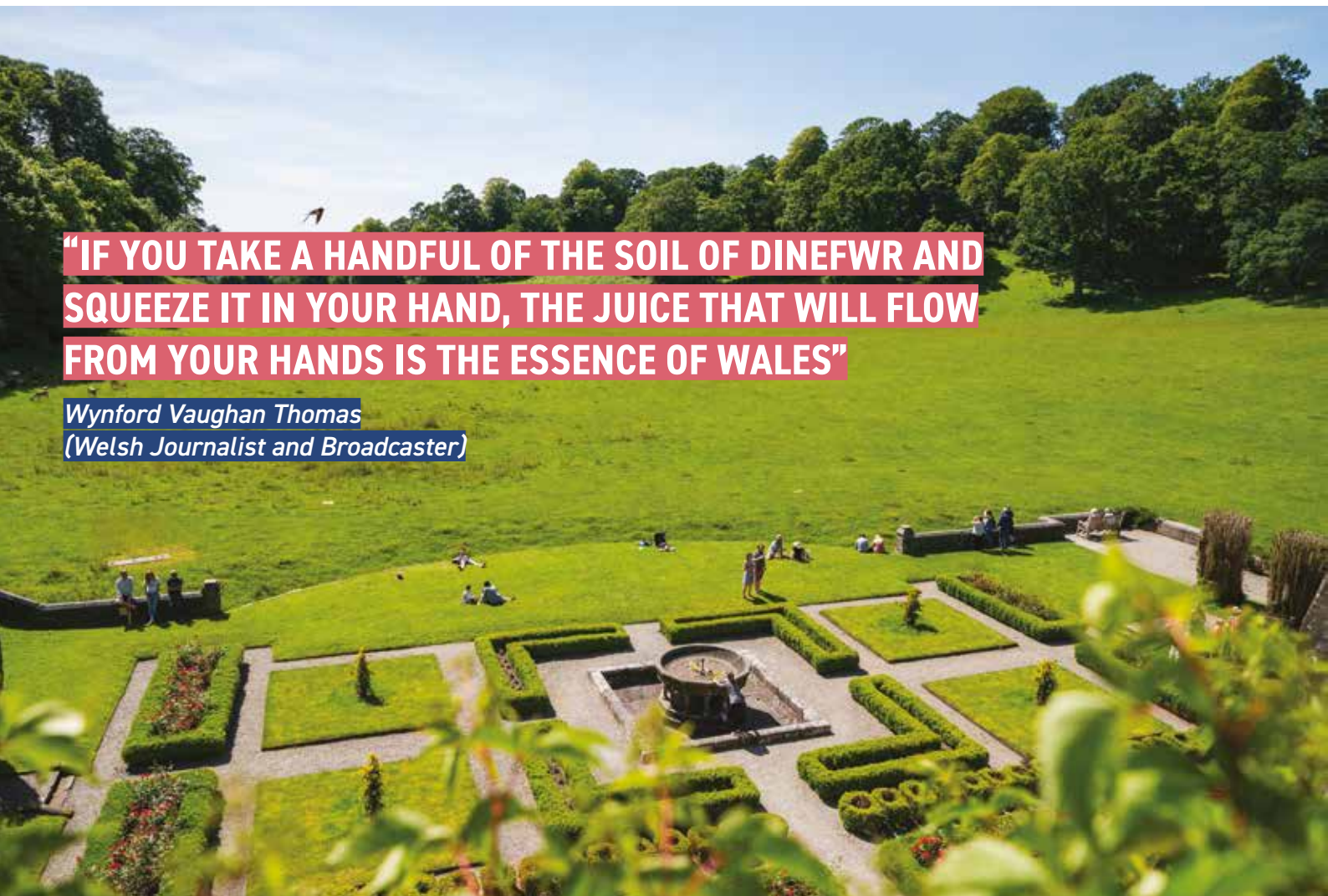
Explore the vast network of footpaths throughout the estate, walk through the Deer Park and see the deer herd or the majestic White Park Cattle in their ancestral home in front of the house.

CROESO I'R DINEFWR - NT DINEFWR TEAM



"IF YOU TAKE A HANDFUL OF THE SOIL OF DINEFWR AND SQUEEZE IT IN YOUR HAND, THE JUICE THAT WILL FLOW FROM YOUR HANDS IS THE ESSENCE OF WALES"

Wynford Vaughan Thomas
(Welsh Journalist and Broadcaster)



WOODS AND WILDLIFE

THE LAND AT CASTLE WOODS DINEFWR IS ONE OF 109 NATURE RESERVES THAT THE WILDLIFE TRUST OF SOUTH AND WEST WALES LOOK AFTER. REBECCA KILLA, THE WILDLIFE TRUST OFFICER FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE, SHARES WITH US A SHORT HISTORY, AND SOME OF THE EXTRAORDINARY WILDLIFE AND FAUNA YOU MAY SPOT WHEN YOU WANDER AROUND DINEFWR.

The woods around you were once an integral part of Lord Dynevor's estate. However, during the 1970s, much of the estate was broken up and sold off. Recognising the immense wildlife value of these woods, a local Wildlife Trust member, Ian Watt, launched a public appeal to enable the woods and the Castle to be purchased by the Wildlife Trust. Local people rallied to the appeal and the freehold of the woods and Dinefwr Castle was secured in 1979. Dinefwr Castle was subsequently restored by Cadw.

The woods, known as Castle Woods Nature Reserve, cover 25 hectares of land and are now owned and carefully managed for the benefit of wildlife by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.

The reserve is a broadleaved woodland with oak, ash, beech and sycamore the commonest trees. Elm was common until Dutch elm disease struck in the 1970s, but is now recovering. We are currently losing many of our ash due to ash dieback disease. These ancient woodlands contain a large number of 'veteran trees', which are extremely large and old. They themselves are home to a wide variety of other wildlife, such as lichens, bats and specialist invertebrates.

Watch out for tree-nesting birds such as Woodpeckers and Nuthatches. Other breeding birds you may see in the reserve include Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Treecreeper. Birds of prey hunting in the reserve include Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Tawny Owl.

Woodland flowers are at their best in early summer, when beneath the trees a carpet of Bluebells fills the air with a heady scent. Other spring flowers include Dog's Mercury, Primrose and Wood Anemone.

Quiet visitors may also be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a Fallow Deer, as these secretive animals occupy the wooded ridges.

To find out more visit www.welshwildlife.org/nature-reserve/castle-woods-llandeilo/



LLANDEILO

WE'VE ASKED CERI PHILLIPS, ONE OF OUR NEW VOICES IN STORYTELLING, TO PUT ON THE HAT OF A LOCAL HISTORIAN AND TOUR GUIDE AND SHARE WITH US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT LLANDEILO.



Llandeilo, historically known as Llandeilo Fawr (Greater Llandeilo) has been a cultural centre in Wales for centuries. The town began as a small clas (a monastic settlement), founded by St. Teilo in the 6th century. Not a whole lot is known about the life of this early Welsh saint, but he would have been quite a big deal in his day – a contemporary of

Wales' patron saint, Dewi, Teilo has lent his name to around 45 settlements from Wales to Brittany. The town found itself at the heart of the often-powerful Kingdom of Deheubarth throughout the early Middle Ages, the nearby citadel of Dinefwr (now home to a certain storytelling festival of some renown) being the main residence of the Kings and Princes of Deheubarth. Notable monarchs like Hywel Dda, Rhys ap Iweddwr, Yr Arglwydd (The Lord) Rhys and Rhys Gryg ('Rhys the hoarse'), all ruled from the great castle on the hill above the River Tywi.

Nowadays, Llandeilo is a bustling rural town, the beating heart of Carmarthenshire. It is known as a bit of a shopping capital - there are plenty of local shops to delight even the most discerning shopaholic. From fashion boutiques like Chess and Toast (Llandeilo is home to the ladies' fashion brand's first ever shop) to art galleries like Oriel Mimosa and Fountain Fine art, along with gift shops like The Cuckoo's Nest, The Little Welsh Dresser and Crafts Alive, Llandeilo's retail scene is vibrant and rich.

If you fancy a bite to eat, a cup of coffee or something a little stronger, Llandeilo has many fine eating and drinking establishments. The centrally located Cawdor Hotel contains a large dining hall open for evening meals and drinks. Or why not check out



Maryellen's@139, The Hangout or The Ginhaus for great lunchtime fare, a great cup of coffee and, in the case of the Ginhaus, a great choice of local and international gins (paired with a tonic, unless you want to buy a bottle!).

WITH STUNNING LOCAL ATTRACTIONS LIKE THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER TYWI, THE ANCIENT TREGIB WOODS, THE NEARBY BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AND, OF COURSE, THE STUNNING 800-ACRE NATIONAL TRUST SITE OF DINEFWR, THERE REALLY IS NO SHORTAGE OF THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN AND AROUND LLANDEILO FAWR.

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