

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

<b>CONSERVATION AREA</b>	Sketty
<b>Date of Notification:-</b>	05.06.1996
<b>National Grid Reference:-</b>	SS 628092450
<b>O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-</b>	SS 69 SW
<b>Conservation Area No.:-</b>	CA:031

### **Notes:-**

Like a number of names in and around the Gower Peninsula, Sketty is probably of Scandinavian origin. As a village community, Sketty owed its existence, in the first place, as a meeting point where roads met and crossed each other. As a locality, Sketty grew just outside the western borough of Swansea, and even during the closing years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and up to the outbreak of World War I, Sketty Village was very much a picturesque rural setting of country seat, forming hamlets, detached or terraced cottages, narrow lanes and acres upon acres of unspoilt meadow and pasture land. What growth that did occur through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, much can be attributed to prosperous local land owners and industrialists who tended to establish their 'seats' within the picturesque setting afforded to Sketty.

Early in the last Century, John Henry Vivian, one of Swansea's most successful industrialists bought up over a dozen farms west of the town to create the estate which he called Singleton. Today much of that estate forms Singleton Park, one of Swansea's finest. Within Sketty ward there are 20 listed buildings, 14 of which are within the proposed Conservation Area. These include Sketty Hall, built as early as 1716 and originally known as New Hall, and Singleton Abbey which was originally built as an Octagonal Villa to the designs of William Jeregan and was known as Marino.

As well as the large houses which stood on the Singleton Estate and those nearby occupied by members of the Vivian family, there are many small cottages and lodges still in existence, which housed the numbers workers employed there. Buildings such as Veranda (1853), Swiss Cottage (1826), Brynmill Lodge (1850), North Lodge (1850) and Lower Sketty Green Lodge (1841).

Also of great importance is Singleton Farmhouse which was built around 1764 and formed part of the extensive landholdings of the Chief Lord of the Lordship of Gower until 1829 until where after it became attached to the Vivians main residence. St. Paul's Church was erected in 1850 by the Vivians as an idealised version of an English Parish Church. Sketty subsequently became a parish in its own right, by Royal command, in 1851. It was the Vivians who built Stuart Hall as a school in 1853 to educate children of the Parishioners of St. Paul's Church.

Some of the domestic architecture is also of significance. For examples No's. 1-11 De La Beche Road, rows of terraced housing, were built by C T Ruthin in 1905 and 1906 respectively.

For summarise, the special character of Sketty comprises some of Swansea's finest mansion houses, beautiful parkland, picturesque lodges, detached and terraced cottages, individual houses and a traditional parish church. The heart of the proposed Conservation Area is based on the largest concentration of Listed Buildings in Swansea.