

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

<b>CONSERVATION AREA</b>	Penclawdd
<b>Date of Notification:-</b>	1976
<b>National Grid Reference:-</b>	SS 5420095830
<b>O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-</b>	SS 59 NW
<b>Conservation Area No.:-</b>	CA:015

### **Notes:-**

Set on the south-eastern side of the Loughor Estuary, Penclawdd nestles below a chain of hills, which, with slight interruption, bound Loughor Bay till they terminate, with a certain degree of grandeur in Llanmadoc hill. The village surrounds the remains of the harbour and looks out over the flat and marshy estuary.

Penclawdd is primarily residential, although there is a strong mix of local industry, shops and pubs. A certain amount of boating and fishing still exists.

Unlike the rest of Gower, Penclawdd historically has been welsh speaking and has been based on industry and shipping in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries rather than agriculture. It has long been famed as the processing centre for cockles and laverbread – in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it is recorded that the town was processing over 5 tons of cockles per day. Owing to pollution in the estuary, the cockles are now brought largely from King's Lynn.

Copper was smelted in Penclawdd as early as 1788 and the Cheadle and Brasswire Company were working copper and lead between 1792 and 1811. Lead and silver were also worked in the 1870's, along with tinsplate. Penclawdd straddles a deep coal seam, and many collieries existed through the town. Most of the terraced houses were built for local industrial workers and their families.

Penclawdd has no examples of classically fine architecture, although its indigenous character as an entity is strong and bold, and very expressive of the traditional semi-industrial Welsh townscape, with its chapels still dominating the terraces.

The Bethel Chapel and Sunday School, which overlooks the town from the vantage point of the hill, is an excellent example of a well maintained chapel. Penclawdd is unique, with the number of pedestrian lanes which run steeply up the incline and connect to the settlements on top of the hill.