

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

CONSERVATION AREA	Langland Bay
Date of Notification:-	02.07.1992
National Grid Reference:-	SS 6060087300
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	SS 68 NW
Conservation Area No.:-	CA:024

Notes:-

During the 19th Century, small scale limestone and iron ore mining operations existing in the area. However, tourism had traditionally held the upper hand; as long ago as 1813 and the area's attractions were noted in "A Description of Swansea and its Environs" published by David Jenkin of Castle Street which describes the area as being "famous for its shells and beauty of its situation". In 1856 a new road connecting the bay with the City was opened, a contribution by the Duke of Beaufort, which served to increase the popularity of the area amongst day trippers as noted in "The Cambrian" in June 1856:-

"Few places in the kingdom present more attractions for excursionists and picnics that the delightful neighbourhood of Langland ... and we doubt not, with this improved mode of access, it will soon become a fashionable resort".

Today the bay is still a popular area being heavily frequented by City residents and tourists and is particularly popular as a day trip destination. The availability of sporting facilities such as golf, tennis, water skiing and surfing add to its attraction.

Langland Bay is characterised by large detached dwellings widely spaced and set in the hillside amongst a backcloth of mature deciduous woodland which is protected by Tree Preservation Orders. This serves to lend a special semi-rural air to the area. Amongst the trees are many fine buildings such as the Club Union Convalescent Home which originally was a mid 19th Century industrialist's villa. In recognition of its architectural interest it was designated a Grade II Listed Building in 1989.

The coastal area lies within the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and is also a part of the Heritage Coast. It is the most intensely used coastal tourist and recreation area in Gower offering a varied seascape of fine sandy bays and limestone rock. The popular coastal footpath between Limeslade and Caswell Bays runs directly along the bay front and is in need of some upgrading.

A unique feature of the Bay is the abundance of small summer chalets dating from the early 1920's which are used in the main as shelter facilities for bathers. They run intermittently along the foreshore for over a mile.

Langland Bay's special character and appearance are due to this combination of fine coastal scenery, accessible sandy beaches and a relatively uncommercialised seafront, epitomised by the extensive bathing-hut sites. This small but popular seaside resort is visually 'framed' by the mature woodland which forms the backcloth

to the bay. The gradation from sea to sand, promenade to beach-hut, hotels and flats to residential area above within the woodland setting, allows the resort to nestle within the bay rather than dominate it. "Green" areas still predominate visually; buildings, with a few exceptions, remain subservient.