

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Application by Hendy Wind Farm Ltd  
to Powys County Council  
ref P/2014/0672

**Proposed construction of 7 x 110m (361ft) turbines  
and associated works**  
on land south of Penybont, Llandegley,  
Powys LD1 5UG

**Objection to the submitted information relating  
to landscape and visual impact assessment**  
and  
**Alternative Assessment of impacts on  
Coed Mawr**  
Hundred House, Powys LD1 5RP

by  
**Diana Hulton**

September 2014

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1. Our farm, **Coed Mawr SO 118 570** is situated on medium high ground (220 -310m altitude) overlooking the upper reaches of the Edw valley. See Fig.1 for contextual panoramic view. The farm precinct, footpath and fields command magnificent framed views towards and beyond the Hendy wind farm proposal site in which the eye is magnetically drawn further to the distinctive rocky skyline of the Llandegley Rocks (typical height 400m AOD at a distance of 4 - 5 km). At 2.7km from the farm-house and 2.2km from the boundary of the holding, the proposed 110m turbines are sited at an elevation of 300 - 330m (tip heights of 410 - 440m). They would thus interrupt these views and create a major discordant and detrimental influence on this prized landscape and destroy its present character.
2. The extraordinary nature of our views of the Hendy project may be attributed to this unexpected coincidence of **the distinctive and charismatic crown of Llandegley Rocks** beyond and above the long and gradually sloping moorland basin, now proposed as the Hendy site. This coincidental visual fusion lends great interest and distinction to the views from Coed Mawr. Fig. 8.2
3. The principal north-south axis of the historic Coed Mawr homestead is founded on a platform (250m altitude) that commands **a key view of the Hendy/Llandegley summit**. This signature view is framed by a pair of stone piers forming the gateway to the northern end of the homestead precinct. Fig 2.
4. Associated with the same north-south axis of the historic homestead is **the public footpath on Coed Mawr that likewise benefits greatly from the signature view** formed by the coincidental framing of the distant crown of Llandegley Rocks/Hendy between the gate piers. Ref. Fig. 2
5. Apart from its international geological and ecological significance, **the unusual summit of Llandegley Rocks, is a peculiar and memorable landmark of the Edw Uplands** known and appreciated by a wide audience for its rugged formation and uncommon characteristics that dramatically announce the gateway to Wales on the A44.
6. The manner in which the distinctive crown of Llandegley Rocks would be visually disrupted and dwarfed by the installation of the seven 110m turbines may be deduced from our photograph of the

**70m anemometer mast, placed prominently on the Hendy slope and taken from Coed Mawr.** The mast extends upwards through the landscape to break through and extend beyond the sky-line for a distance of 47m of its total 70m height. Thus the crown of Llandegley Rocks is dwarfed by two thirds of the mast. This is only the beginning of the extent of the projected vision. The hub of the proposed turbine is about as high as the mast at 69m and the blades will project a further 41m above the hub to reach 110m. The anemometer marks a more or less centralised part of the proposed site, which is designated for two turbines in a north south alignment. To the left and to the right of this view we must add 5 more turbines to complete the imagined picture of 7 enormous projections into the sky. The applicant does not provide a visual projection of this view towards Llandegley Rocks because this view shows the dramatic way the turbines break the sky line and would be doing so with blatant disregard of the LANDMAP principles. Fig. 6 (mast)

7. In addition to the vision given above, we must **add the visual disruption caused by the incessant movement of the blades.** The calculation given by Geoffrey Sinclair of EIS states that the sweep of the 7 turbines will occupy 9 acres of sky above and to the fore of the crown of Llandegley Rocks. This equates to 9 acres of moving Television Screen imposed on our signature view. As there are **no mitigating factors and the views are full on, we conclude that the adverse effect on Coed Mawr must be classified as severe in the extreme.** (Ref. EIS Report 2014).
8. **The obliteration and visual disturbance of the Llandegley Rocks view** from Coed Mawr (Bettws) may be projected in turn for the views from Hirllwyn (Hundred House) as shown in the photograph of the anemometer mast from the latter location, which is close to Hundred House route A481. [SO 10 4554] It is obvious that **the adverse impact on Coed Mawr will be replicated in a multitude of locations.** The hilly nature of the related upland terrain inevitably offers an incalculable number of reciprocal hillside views of the Hendy site. Fig. 7
9. We now examine a **marvellous reciprocal landscape viewed from the foot of the mountain way back and above the Hendy site. This view is from the north to the south and plumb in the direction of Coed Mawr. The view is published by the applicant as Fig. 8.9 and we retain this reference number**

**throughout this report.** We have taken the liberty of adding our notations to Fig. 8.9 submitted with this report. The annotations help the reader easily identify the significant geographic landmarks of this central section.

In the panorama we see a photographic montage of all seven turbines looking south towards Coed Mawr. In this extensive view, taken by P. D. Marsh, we find the **hill of Coed Mawr in the middle distance of the landscape, centrally positioned** in the photograph as it appears **against the background of Gilwern Hill. Then in the layer behind Gilwern Hill, on the sky line, we see the glorious peak of Pen y Fan.** We note how all three layered features will be interrupted and overlapped by the sweep of the twin turbine blades. This extraordinary panorama **clearly shows that the orientation of Coed Mawr, Gilwern Hill and Pen y Fan is directly towards the Hendy site.** See Fig. 8.9, in this report as well as two close up details from Fig 8.9 numbered Fig.9 and Fig.10

10. It is unnecessary to emphasise **the internationally recognised significance of Pen y Fan.** One of the main aims of this report is to demonstrate **the marvellous variety within the unity of Welsh landscape and the context and visual significance of the Edw Uplands** to which we belong. In this view, the peak of Pen y Fan is reliant for its scale on the foreground presence of Gilwern Hill, and the layer of Coed Mawr, plays an essential part in the transition to the foreground layer of the Hendy. We see how the invasion of turbines would greatly damage this heritage landscape. See details of Fig 8.9 numbered Fig.9 and Fig.10 for further confirmation of the distinctive outline of Pen y Fan.
11. One of our **views of the same Coed Mawr hillside** Fig. 4 taken from the north western end of the moorland near the Hendy site at Bwlchau, shows **the topography of Coed Mawr in a more human scale** compared with the distant hill depicted in Fig.8.9 which is overlapped by the superimposed turbines.
12. It follows from the previous points that **Coed Mawr is fully exposed to the maximum height impact possible for destroying the signature view of Llandegley Rocks and this is not limited to Coed Mawr but applies to the entire complex of surrounding moorland hills.** A selection of Diana Hulton's Photographs and Paintings are published with this report to raise

awareness of the fine quality of the landscapes in question.  
Figures: 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 11 and 12

13. The diminishing, distant hill effect of the panorama presented by the applicant in Fig. 8.9 is of course **an expedient way of showing the turbines as if they are placed below the horizon of the Gilwern/Glascwm moorland.** We discuss the implications of the applicant's reliance on this viewpoint in item 15 of this report.
  
14. Coed Mawr is walled in to the West by the grand and beautiful conformation of high rocky moorland known as **Gilwern Hill.** See Fig. 1, which shows the Country Life panorama of Coed Mawr in its wider context; and Fig. 8.1 of Gilwern Hill photographed as a significant landscape from Coed Mawr. This moorland slopes steeply towards the Edw River and the **Wye Valley Tributaries Site on Coed Mawr, a registered environmental site of European Importance (2007)** and provides a dramatic and changing backdrop to the West that continues and connects geographically with the equally dramatic landscape of Llandegley to our north. The series of photographs in this report shows the aspect of **the Gilwern slopes opposite Coed Mawr, which would be vulnerable to the same views of the windfarm i.e. all 7 turbines will be visible. Likewise Coed Mawr Farm is a prime aspect area to lose its views to the wind farm.** We note that the Nant is frequently mentioned but the Coed Mawr aspect is not considered in the Hendy analysis. Fig. 8.1; and Fig 8.9.
  
15. **Conclusion regarding Fig 8.9: A high viewpoint looking down towards tall elements in a landscape reduces their apparent scale.** We shall understand the enormous impact and monstrous scale of the turbines more forcibly if we are to take two alternative views: either marginally **down the slope towards the turbine site for this southern orientation** or take a position **from the south looking north upwards or across at an even height**, as we would be accustomed to do from Coed Mawr, or Gilwern Hill. These alternative views are as recommended by LANDMAP. **We therefore understand why:**  
  
**15(a) the applicant only provides the single directional view in their report,**

**15(b)** the applicant produces the photomontage from an unnecessary but obviously intentional, extreme distance from the 7 turbines far back up the slope of Llandegley Rocks, and **15(c)** the applicant does not publish the companion view from the south looking north towards Hendy.

At the same time Fig.8.9 remains a key view demonstrating the visual destruction of a magnificent vista to the south that also contains a famous heritage landmark. We note that both companion views are magnificent and both would be destroyed by the applicant's proposal. If the applicant had moved the camera tripod down the slope towards the turbines, only a few meters, the blades that we see already breaking the sky line would obviously totally defy the LANDMAP principle. It does not take much imagination to visualise the profound impact on this key view to the south as we make our gradual descent down the moor in this picture towards the platform of the distant turbines.

Fig 8.9; Fig. 9; Fig.10; Fig.6 (mast)

- 16. The Ancient Native Woodland on Coed Mawr, (6.5 hectares)** visible as a dense mass of trees when viewed from the north is indicating a local bird and bat population of high significance and sensitivity to change in the environment. **The entire farm including the Native Woodland is considered by the environment protection authorities to be one of the most important multiple wildlife habitats in Radnorshire.** Welsh Government, through its main environment protection agencies, invests very significant sums of public money in protecting the Coed Mawr landscape habitat from change. See Fig. 4 and Fig. 5.

**See the important and detailed Environment Report on Coed Mawr by Julian Jones, Director of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust 2001.**

See also **Native Woodland Plan for Coed Mawr by Simon Ayres, Coed Cymru 2005**, which identifies this mixed broadleaved woodland with bluebell as an important asset for conservation. It further includes inter alia a list of 34 species of birds and 132 species of woodland ground flora. Item 1.2.2 of this report describes the surrounding context: *Coed Mawr farm lies between 230-310m altitude and consists of several woodland areas around some important areas of unimproved pasture, some*

*of which are SSSIs. The land lies alongside and uphill from the River Edw, a tributary of the Wye, and part of the River Wye SSSI. (p. 4)*

17. **Coed Mawr is the recipient of special funding from Welsh Government aimed at maintaining the following three key aspects: The Character of its Rural Landscape; the maintenance of its Historic Environment; and Habitats of Importance to Wildlife.** Total WG funding for the above aspects invested in the period of our ownership to date amounts to £89,071.00 (1995-2013). We, the owners, have contributed at least the same match funding. The doubling of this investment to £178,142.00 makes a very significant contribution to the amenity of the wider communities we serve. The unbroken continuity of this funding began 20 years ago and currently signed up to 2018, will amount to a quarter century of investment in environmental protection on Coed Mawr.

We note that Welsh Government expects to see this material gain in quality of amenity, preserved and supported by appropriate planning decisions. *“Planning Policy Wales” issued by WAG places environmental protection at the heart of the plan-making process by requiring land use plans to: Maximise environmental protection for people, natural and cultural resources. (Powys UDP, 4.2.1)* and in order to meet this objective there are specific environmental protection measures including: ***The avoidance of most new development within or adjoining designated areas of environmental importance, which maintain biodiversity and landscape impact.*** (Powys UDP, 4.2.2)

Likewise, we the owners, expect to see the UDP policy enforced so that our reciprocal 50% of the total *investment in our designated area of environmental importance* at Coed Mawr remains protected from the damage inflicted by alien new development.

18. Not only is Coed Mawr an **important conservation farm** but it is also the home of the **award winning business enterprise, Craig Hamilton Architects Ltd.**, which has invested significant funds in the rescue and preservation of the historic buildings it occupies. This has been recognised by the **CPRW Rural Wales Award for the Restoration of Coed Mawr (2004)**. Fig. 13. The company also assists financially in the preservation of the unique

environment of this rural landscape and the maintenance of the public footpath.

**Coed-Mawr hallhouse and Coed-Mawr cowhouse** is recorded in **The List of Late-Medieval Sites** in the definitive research work by **Suggett, R.** *Houses & History in the March of Wales Radnorshire 1400-1800*, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2005. p.301

**Welsh Office Agriculture Department** also recorded the significance of the buildings at Coed Mawr: This report was prepared by **ADAS** in 1997 *following a visit made to Coed Mawr Farm to give advice on the siting and appearance of the traditional range of buildings. The visit together with this report was funded with a view to drawing to the attention of farmers and landowners the valuable heritage which exists in our older farm buildings and which should, whenever possible, be preserved for future generations.*

19. Coed Mawr under our ownership has not only developed as a place of creative enterprise, it has grown in stature as **a place of recreation and peaceful enjoyment. Collectively our community is horrified by the prospect of 7 wind turbines in this rural landscape of traditional character** to which we have collectively contributed, maintained and enjoyed peacefully for its aesthetic qualities, in our time and in the footsteps of our predecessors through the centuries to medieval times.
20. The writer of this statement and co-owner of Coed Mawr, **Diana Hulton, is well known as a professional landscape painter who specialises in the local rural landscape.** This profession is uniquely dependent on landscape quality. **An artist's rendering or interpretation of the landscape is an activity regarded by LANDMAP in the "High Sensitivity" impact category.**

Consider Thomas Jones of nearby Pencerrig, that famous son of this same soil and how the local landscape may become a painter's chief asset. The landscape views from Coed Mawr towards the North-West include Gilwern Hill followed by the high point of Bwlchau and continue to connect with Llandegley Rocks and Craig Fawr of the Cwmmaerdy Turbine. These key landscape elements feature in Diana Hulton's drawings, paintings and photographs, which are exhibited in many venues, not only in

Wales. We note that by definition this is an important and recognised cultural use of the Welsh landscape. Poets and artists may bring world renown to the landscapes, which inspire their art. Consider Dylan Thomas, William Wordsworth, John Constable and J.M.W. Turner to name but a few of the great and famous. Today, the internet makes the links for us and if the reader enters *Llandegley Rocks* into Google, it is easy to find the entry ‘**Hulton, Llandegley Rocks – Art First**’ and ‘**Llandegley Rocks – Diana Hulton**’ with a link to the painting. The Hendy and Llandegley may be seen to belong to us and the community at large in the same visual way that Coed Mawr may be seen to belong to the Hendy site. In this way landscape makes a gift of itself to others. See Figures 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 11; 12

21. It seems important that the value of Coed Mawr to the community it serves should be recognised for the long term asset it represents, and that its essential historic character, in the surrounding landscape, be protected and preserved for posterity. Insensitive ‘modern’ contraptions that are out of scale with this landscape and its views are recognised by our community and the world at large to be alien intrusions on an important landscape.

The following statement adopted by the Powys UDP in its Strategic Environment Assessment (Adopted 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010) provides a good summary of what we as a community wish to see protected and why we agree that this is an extremely important issue for Powys and for our sensitive landscape of the Wye Tributaries and Edw Valley Uplands:

*A Landscape Assessment is.....being undertaken in Powys in accordance with LANDMAP, (a nationally recognised Landscape Assessment tool) which will provide detailed County-wide baseline information on the local landscape character, setting and condition of SAMs, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, registered Parks and Gardens and other sites of archaeological importance.*

*This assessment is important since the landscape of Powys is diverse and visually impressive with important views. Much of the area can be described as beautiful*

*and tranquil. The County adjoins the Berwyn and Shropshire Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is largely rural and characterised by dramatic scenery, farmed valleys and areas of Common Land.*



Figure 1 Paul Highnam, *Coed Mawr*. Published in *Country Life*,  
*A Very Personal Classicism: Coed Mawr, Radnorshire* (8.9.2010)  
Cover Photograph of essay by John Martin Robinson.

Landscape Photograph of Coed Mawr historic homestead. The precinct includes gardens and orchard, looking NW towards Gilwern Hill and Bwlchau, taken from Coed Mawr fields with shadow cast by trees on the left from the boundary of Coed Mawr semi-ancient natural woodland.



Figure 2 Coed Mawr historic homestead with public footpath and view of Llandegley Rocks/Hendy slope, framed by stone piers.



Figure 3 Framed view of Llandegley Rocks/Hendy slope, from Coed Mawr precinct showing orchard gate and orchard bench lost in shadow.



Figure 4 Coed Mawr Rural Landscape, Historic Environment and Habitats of Importance to Wildlife. Photograph from the NW of Semi-Ancient Natural Woodland on Coed Mawr.



Figure 5 Coed Mawr historic homestead and offices of Craig Hamilton Architects Ltd. Windows facing NW towards Bwlchau and Hendy moorland.



Figure 6 Photograph of Hendy moor with 70m anemometer mast breaking the sky line of Llandegley Rocks, taken from Coed Mawr, 2013.



Figure 7 Photograph of Hendy moor with 70m anemometer mast breaking the sky line of Llandegley Rocks, taken from Hirllwyn Farm, Hundred House, 2013.



Figure 8.1 Diana Hulton, *Gilwern Hill from Coed Mawr*.  
Landscape Photograph taken from within the homestead precinct,  
looking NW.

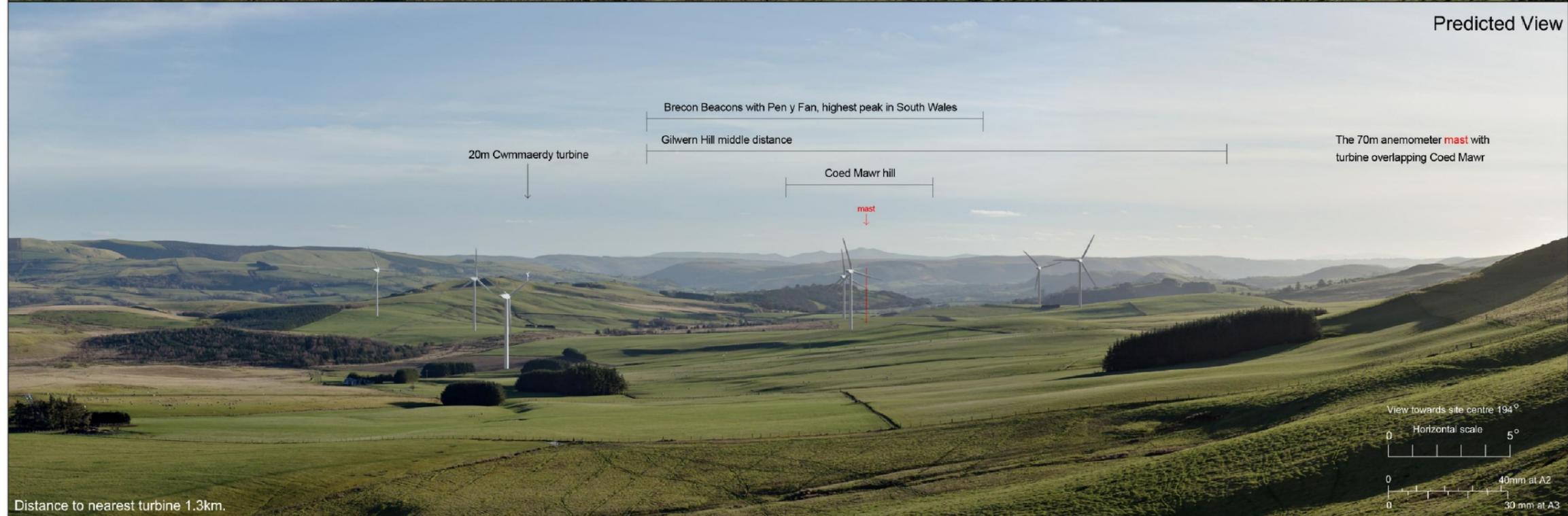


Figure 8.2 Diana Hulton, *Llandegley Rocks, from Coed Mawr*.  
Landscape Photograph taken from the Orchard within the homestead  
precinct, looking NW. The Hendy slope is clearly demarcated by the  
long shadow.



Figure 8.3 Diana Hulton, *Cmmaerdy moorland from Coed Mawr*.  
Landscape Photograph taken before the Cmmaerdy Turbine.

NOTE: ALL LANDSCAPE ANNOTATIONS, WITHIN FIG 8.9 ON THIS PAGE INCLUDING MAST, HAVE BEEN ADDED TO ILLUSTRATE POINTS IN THE STATEMENT OF OBJECTION, BY DIANA HULTON



**Hendy  
Wind Farm**

**Hendy  
Wind Farm  
Limited**

Viewpoint coordinates: 313485E 261840N 401m AOD  
Date and time of photograph: 07/03/14 16:25  
Viewing distance: 350mm at A3, 495mm at A2

Prepared for Viento Environmental Limited  
by P D Marsh (www.philmarsh.co.uk), April 2014  
Photography: P D Marsh (www.philmarsh.co.uk)

If the image is taken to the viewpoint, curved through 64° and viewed through one eye  
at the appropriate viewing distance (350mm if A3 or 495mm if A2), objects  
in the image will line up with the same objects in view

Looking south from Llandegley Rocks Hillfort Scheduled Monument (52)  
towards the proposed wind turbines and Craig Camp Scheduled Monument (9) beyond

Figure 8.9



Figure 9 Enlargement of HENDY FIG. 8.9, showing central two of seven turbines in front of Pen y Fan silhouette, Glascwm and Gilwern Hill moorland, Coed Mawr moorland.



Figure 10 Enlargement of HENDY FIG. 8.9, showing central three of the seven turbines in front of landscape with Pen y Fan silhouette, Glascwm and Gilwern Hill moorland, Coed Mawr moorland.



Figure 11 Diana Hulton, *Llandegley Rocks, from Coed Mawr*, Acrylic on canvas, 81 x 96.5 cm, 2002



Figure 13 Llandegley Rocks, Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 30 cm, 2007



**GWOBR CYMRU WLEDIG**  
gofal o'r amgylchedd lleol

**RURAL WALES AWARD**  
for the care of the local environment

*Cangen Sir Faesyfed / Radnorshire Branch*  
cyflwynwyd i / presented to

*Coed Mawr*

*am adferiad gwych o dŷ hir Cymreig yn cyfuno  
pensaerniaeth glasurol gyda'r cynhenid  
for a brilliant restoration of a Welsh longhouse  
unifying classical architecture with the vernacular*

*2004*

Ymgyrch Diogelu Cymru Wledig  
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Safle'r We/Web Site: [www.cprw.org.uk](http://www.cprw.org.uk)

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