

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003215 • MANOR
ABERMARLAIS MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
Generated: 15 October 2026 11:17 UTC

Location: Carmarthenshire
Associated places: Carmarthenshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abermarlais was a medieval and early modern manor and high-status residential estate at Llansadwrn in Carmarthenshire, near the River Tywi. The site is recorded archaeologically as Abermarlais Castle, a probable fortified manor house and medieval manorial centre. The house was associated with the Rhys ap Thomas and Jones families and was later known as Abermarlais Park. The medieval house was replaced or substantially superseded by a later mansion, which was rebuilt by Admiral Sir Thomas Foley in the early nineteenth century and demolished after a fire in the late twentieth century. The historical estate included manorial rights, royalties of the River Towy, and the presentation to the vicarage of Llansadwrn, according to a nineteenth-century account quoting Foley's description of his 1795 purchase.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The securely evidenced history begins with the Griffith line of Abermarlais and the incorporation of the estate into the Dynevor possessions through the maternal inheritance of Rhys ap Thomas. In the early sixteenth century Abermarlais was held by Sir Rhys ap Griffith, also called Rhys ap Gruffydd FitzUrien, who was executed for treason in 1531; the estate and the neighbouring lordship of Llansadwrn then fell to the Crown. Sir Thomas Jones, a relative and administrator of the forfeited estate, obtained a lease of Abermarlais in 1546 and became associated with the designation 'of Abermarlais'. The estate remained with Jones's descendants into the later seventeenth century, although the intervening documentary descent has not been reconstructed securely here. By

the early eighteenth century it was held by Thomas Cornwallis and then by his son Francis Cornwallis. After the Cornwallis succession, the estate came into the hands of Sir Cornwallis Maude, from whom Captain Thomas Foley purchased Abermarlais in 1795. Foley expressly described the purchase as including Abermarlais Park, its manor, the royalties of the River Towy, and the presentation to Llansadwrn vicarage. After Foley's death in 1833 the estate continued in the Foley family; a 1839 tithe-map description records the Abermarlais estate as owned by the heirs of Admiral Sir Thomas Foley. The estate passed under Foley's will to his great-nephew Henry Foley after the death of Lady Lucy Foley in 1851. Further nineteenth- and twentieth-century descent requires confirmation from deeds, probate, or estate-sale records and is not supplied as a secure conveyance here.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1531 - 1546 | The Crown | Forfeiture following the execution of Rhys ap Griffith FitzUrien for treason; Abermarlais and the neighbouring lordship of Llansadwrn fell to the Crown. | | The Gatehouse Record, Abermarlais Castle, stating that after Rhys ap Gruffydd was executed for treason the estate and neighbouring lordship of Llansadwrn fell to the Crown.
- 18th century - 1795 | Sir Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Hawarden | Held Abermarlais before selling the estate to Captain Thomas Foley in 1795. The source does not establish the date or instrument by which the estate came to Maude. | | The Carmarthenshire Historian, account of Abermarlais and Admiral Foley, quoting Foley's description of his 1795 purchase from Sir Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Hawarden.
- 1833 - 1851 | Heirs of Admiral Sir Thomas Foley | Continuation of the Foley estate after Admiral Sir Thomas Foley's death in 1833; the 1839 Llansadwrn tithe evidence records the Abermarlais estate as owned by his heirs. | | Cadw listing description for Glandulais Farmhouse, citing the 1839 Llansadwrn tithe map and stating that the estate was then owned by heirs of Admiral Sir Thomas Foley.

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