

45. Aberstrincell Limekilns

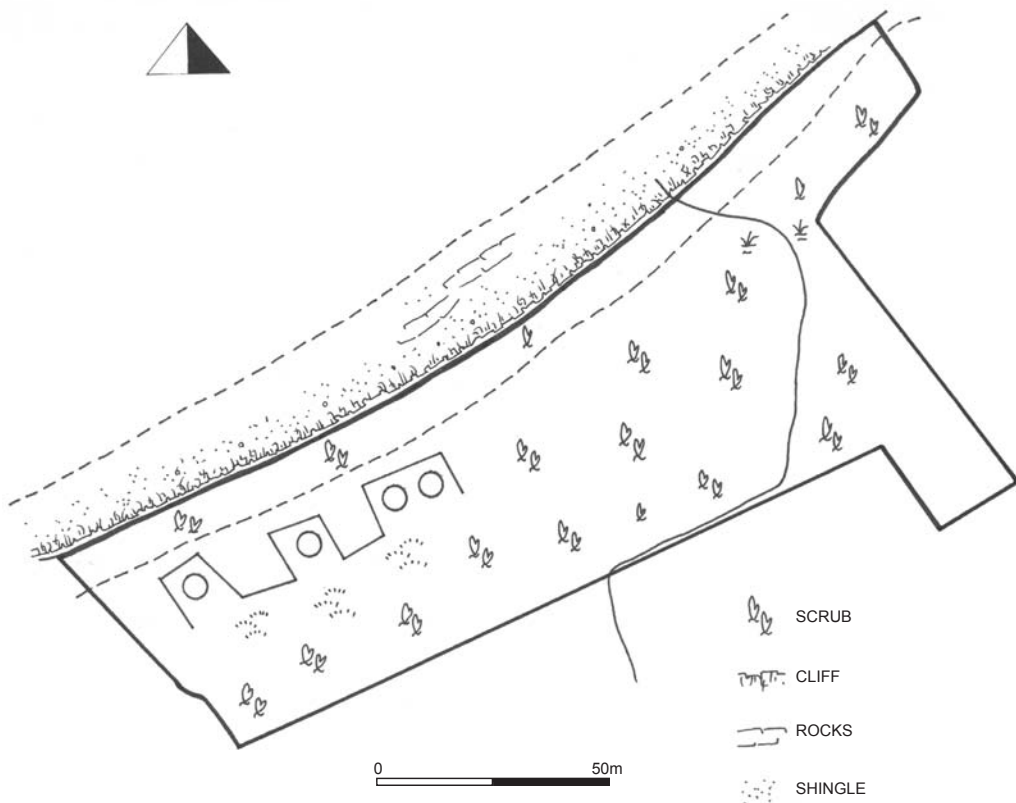
Llansantffraed, Ceredigion

Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 213 Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol. Main entrance: SN519684, Site centre: SN519683
Status	The 4 kilns are a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
Tenure	Leased from a private owner for 25 years from 1994.
Size	0.63 ha (1.6 acres).
Location and Access Notes	2 km south of Llanrhystud, 1 km north of Llansantffraed. Public footpath (coastal path runs through the site); not accessible for wheelchairs. Lime kilns are unstable and potentially dangerous.
Public transport	Bus numbers X40 to and from Aberystwyth/Aberaeron/Lampeter /Carmarthen, X50 to and from Aberystwyth/Aberaeron/Cardigan and 550 to and from Aberystwyth/Aberaeron on main A487 road at either Llanrhystud or Llanon. The site is approximately equidistant and accessed by the coastal path.

Description: Coastal flora, Blackthorn. Six derelict limekilns on the coast, of which four remain visible. Aberstrincell Limekilns is part of a fragmented boulder clay glacial deposit. It has a soft rock sea cliff frontage which is eroding. The 1.6 acre site is important historically with the impressive remains of 4 disused limekilns. This industry is probably responsible for the development of a more calcareous flora in an area where the soils are predominantly acidic.

The site is relatively undisturbed and although not 'rare' in itself the flora is unusual for Ceredigion. The naturalised Snowdrops are a feature, and include *Galanthus nivalis* and the hybrid *G. nivalis x plicatus* which is uncommon in the county. The dry turf on top of the kilns is still quite rich and Lady's Bedstraw and Rest Harrow proliferate there. The site is protected on the seaward side by dense Blackthorn which provides a haven for Foxes, Rabbits and hedgerow birds.

Fine views are afforded across the shoreline, which supports a wide variety of waders including Redshanks, Curlews, Turnstones, Ringed Plovers, Grey Plovers and Oystercatchers. Peregrine Falcons can be seen hunting over the reserve. The local rarity *Porcellio dilatatus*, a woodlouse species, is a resident (presumably an ancient introduction with imported limestone). This is one of only three sites where it can be found in Ceredigion.



Management Objectives: The kilns are managed to retain their archaeological interest and safety. Blackthorn is cleared selectively to protect the grassland areas of interest.

Good times to visit

May - Jul	Breeding birds & butterflies
Jun - Oct	Flowering plants
All year	Shore birds & sea watching