

Rhos Swydd

Perchnogir Rhos Swydd gan ddisgynion Barwn Ormathwaite, arglwydd olaf Maenor Swydd. Buodd fe, fel arglwydd y faenor, yn gyfrifol am lywodraeth leol gan gynnwys cosbi troseddau is-raddol. Ar hyd y canrifoedd datblygwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r tiroedd yn amaethdir, a daeth y tiroedd, heb eu diwygio, yn ddiffeithdir y faenor. Erbyn heddiw, gall y 700 acer o dir comin yn arddangos y gilran olaf o'r faenor, parth hawliau a defodau cyfranadwy, efo hawl pori ar gyfer gwartheg, defaid a merlod. Efallai mai'r rhos yw'r darn olaf y gyfundrefn faenoraidd leol a sefydlwyd wedi'r goncwest Normanaidd.

Cynefin y comin, ar ran fflora a ffawna, yw'r adwaith i gynhedlaethau o gydweithiadau amaethyddol. Dros y canrifoedd, byddai wedi gweld graddau amrywiol o bori a goruwchwyliath yn gyson â chynnyrch ffermio a bywyd cefn gwlad hynafol. Roedd, ac eto fyth, yr anifeiliaid pori, yn gyfrifol am reolaeth, o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, eu cynefin. Mae yna ardaloedd, mawnog, glaswelltir sych a mignwernydd sy'n darparu cynefinoedd ar gyfer rhywogaethau amrywiol. Mae yma olion o breswylfeydd hynafol a ffermio ar y comin, gan gynnwys carneddau claddu, Oes yr Efydd. Mae amaethyddiaeth hynafol wedi gadael ei holion, gan gynnwys tyddynod canoloesol, â'r grwn a rhych, yn ogystal â chloddiau a hen chwareli. Mae olion heol Rhufeinaidd yn amlygu, yn ogystal ag olion heol dyrpeg o'r ddeunawfed ganrif, bellach yr A488 sy'n rhedeg at Dref-y-Clawdd.

Erbyn heddiw mae chwech porfawr gweithiol, er yn y gorffennol y byddai, mwy na thebyg, llawer mwy, oherwydd byddai pob tyddynwr cyffiniol i'r tir comin, wedi defnyddio eu 'patsh', efallai ar gyfer buwch neu ychydig o ddefaid, ac yng nghanol yr ugeinfed ganrif, buodd buchesi o ferlod. Y porfwyr sy wedi goruwchwylio'r comin hyd genhedlaeth a chenhedlaeth, ac y maen nhw'n parhau i droi allan y defaid, yn bennaf defaid Cymreig, brodorol, a gwartheg. Cyn gosodiad gridiau gwartheg yn y ffyrdd, crwydrai'r da byw hyd y pentref a cael eu canfod milltiroedd llawer o'u cartref. Arferai pob praidd gadw at eu tiriogaeth eu hunain, er gall c?n, a ballu, aflonyddu y ddefod oesol hon. Bydd cerbydau'r ffordd dros y comin yn cyflwyno problemau angheuol i'r anifeiliaid, efo rhai colledion pob blwyddyn.

Y dyddiau hyn, mae wedi bod yn ostyngiad yn niferoedd y bywyd gwyllt, er mae'n parhau i fod yn hafan i adar, fel yr ehedydd, sy'n canu y caneuon godidog hafaidd. Dim ond yr ambell ylfafir a chornchwigen sy'n dal i fyw yna, a niferoedd yr adar daear-nythu yn lleihau dros y 50 mlynedd diweddar. Mae yna ysglyfion yn yr awyr, megis barcutod cochion, tylluanod gwynion, a chudyllod coch, yn ogystal â llwynogod a moch-y-ddaear sy'n ymgartrefi yn yr eithin. Mae'r rhai hyn yn cael effaith niweidiol ar niferoedd adar a mamaliaid bychain.

Defnyddiwyd Rhos Swydd gan y gymuned leol am ganrifoedd maith. Mae'n dal yn boblogaidd gyda cherddwyr a grwpiau eraill, yn rhoi cynnig o le agored yn ein byd gorlawn.

Gan Maureen Lloyd

Cyfieithwyd gan Gareth Jenkins

Penybont Common

Rhos Swydd (Penybont Common) is perhaps the last residue of the local Manorial system. Manors were set up after the Norman Conquest. The Lord of the Manor was responsible for local administration, including the punishment of minor crimes. Over the centuries most land has been developed for farmland, with the unimproved commons being the Waste of the Manor. Today, common land represents the last remnant of the Manor, an area of shared rights and customs. Penybont Common is owned by the descendants of Baron Ormathwaite, the last Lord of the Manor of Swydd. It is 700 acres, with grazing rights for cattle, sheep and ponies.

The habitat of the common, for flora and fauna, is the response of generations of shared farming activities. Over the centuries, it would have seen various levels of grazing and management in line with the prosperity of farming and rural life. The grazing animal was, and still is, responsible for the year-by-year control of the habitat. There are areas of peat, dry grassland and wet bogs providing habitats for different species. There are many signs of ancient habitation and farming on the common, including Bronze Age burial cairns. Ancient farming has left its mark, with abandoned medieval homesteads, ridge and furrow ploughing, as well as enclosure banks and old quarries. The track of a Roman road is still evident, as well as the turnpike road of the 18th century, now replaced by the modern A488 as it speeds towards Knighton.

There are six active graziers at present, although in the past there would probably have been many more, as each small holder adjoining the common would have used their 'patch', perhaps for a cow or a few sheep and, in the mid 20th century, there were herds of ponies. It is the graziers who have managed the common over the generations and they still turn out both sheep, mostly native Welsh, and cattle onto the common. Prior to the installation of the cattle grids, the livestock would wander through the village and could be found many miles from home. Each flock or herd usually keeps roughly to their own area, although dogs and other intrusions can disturb this age-old custom. The vehicles on the road across the common also present a problem for the animals with some losses to road-kill every year.

In modern times there has been a reduction in some wildlife, although it is still a haven for birds such as the skylark, which provide wonderful summer music. A few curlew and lapwing remain, but these ground nesting birds have declined over the last 50 years. There are predators in the sky such as red kites, buzzards, barn owls and kestrels, as well as foxes and badgers who make their home in the gorse, these have an impact on birds and small mammals.

Penybont Common has been used by the local community for many centuries. It is popular for walkers and other groups, providing an open space in our much crowded world.

By Maureen Lloyd