

River Place Names on the Cleddau and Daugleddau Rivers



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River Place Names on the Cleddau and Daugleddau Rivers

The name Cleddau is Welsh for 'sword' and Daugleddau for 'two swords'. Where the names originated has been lost in the mists of time but on a bright, sunny morning with the sun sparkling on the water, it is easy to see why some ancient Celt would have chosen the name. Perhaps less romantic and with origins unknown, is why the Daugleddau at Llangwm is shown on some old O.S.maps as Cleddau Ddu or Black Sword. A look at an Admiralty chart of the Upper Reaches of Milford Haven includes the names of the main tracts of water on the estuary above the Cleddau Bridge. Local to Llangwm, names like Castle Reach, Beggars' Reach and Llangwm Pool will be familiar to many people. Perhaps less well known are the names ascribed by people of previous generations to locations within these areas. Some are still used by those who fish these waters but many have been lost over time.

Few of the names were ever written down so it is no surprise that in some cases the original name has been lost. Also one of the problems of oral history is that due to someone's interpretation of a local accent, what might have been written down bears little resemblance to the true name. An amusing anecdote is the name "Kerlinsky's" which appeared in Rob Scourfield and Keith Johnson's local history publication 'Below the Landsker' and referred to a fishing spot on the Eastern Cleddau. Research has shown that the true name is 'Curlews' Quay' but what was heard in conversation was its Polish sounding equivalent. Similarly, I was brought up to refer to the small bay at the northern, Benton side of Castle Reach as 'Coe Beach' whereas its true name is 'Cow Beach'.

The following maps of the river together with the key to place names have been put

together from knowledge handed down through my family and that of local fishermen. The location names may have been derived from actual descriptions of a feature or the historical significance of that location. For example, the Vitalin Rock just up from the slipway at Black Tar owes its name to the practice of the women of the village leaving food or victuals here for their menfolk whilst they were in hiding from the press gangs that roamed the area in the time of the Napoleonic wars and when Milford Haven was a significant base for the fleets of the Royal Navy. Similarly two of the salmon fishing posts on the Western Cleddau at Hook have the names Ormond and Edwards, after the men who brought compass net fishing to the area from their original home on the Severn estuary.

Other names are more difficult to interpret or have changed over time. The name of the wood on the opposite side of the river to Llangwm is shown on the O.S. map as Sam's Wood presumably after Sam Eynon who had a cottage on the shoreline (there are still fruit trees growing in his old garden). But the original name by which locals knew the wood is 'Kentigan' and the source of that name is difficult to find.

The Brickyard, the white house on the banks of the river opposite Knapp Wood was indeed a brickyard making bricks for the coal mines at Landshipping and Hook. Evidence of its original function can still be found scattered on the foreshore below the house.

Several of the names along Beggars' Reach are interesting to analyse. 'Ship's Stern' is a rock formation below the Cockshut which takes the shape of the side view of an old sailing ship's aft section. The origins of the name Cockshut itself are a mystery. Do they refer to a 'cock shoot' possibly dating back to Victorian times and linked to the Benton Castle estate? Interestingly, by chance I discovered that a person by the name of 'Cockshut' was responsible for the design and development of the Lily Ponds at Stackpole. As the main architect he designed the eight arch bridge. Is there a connection here?

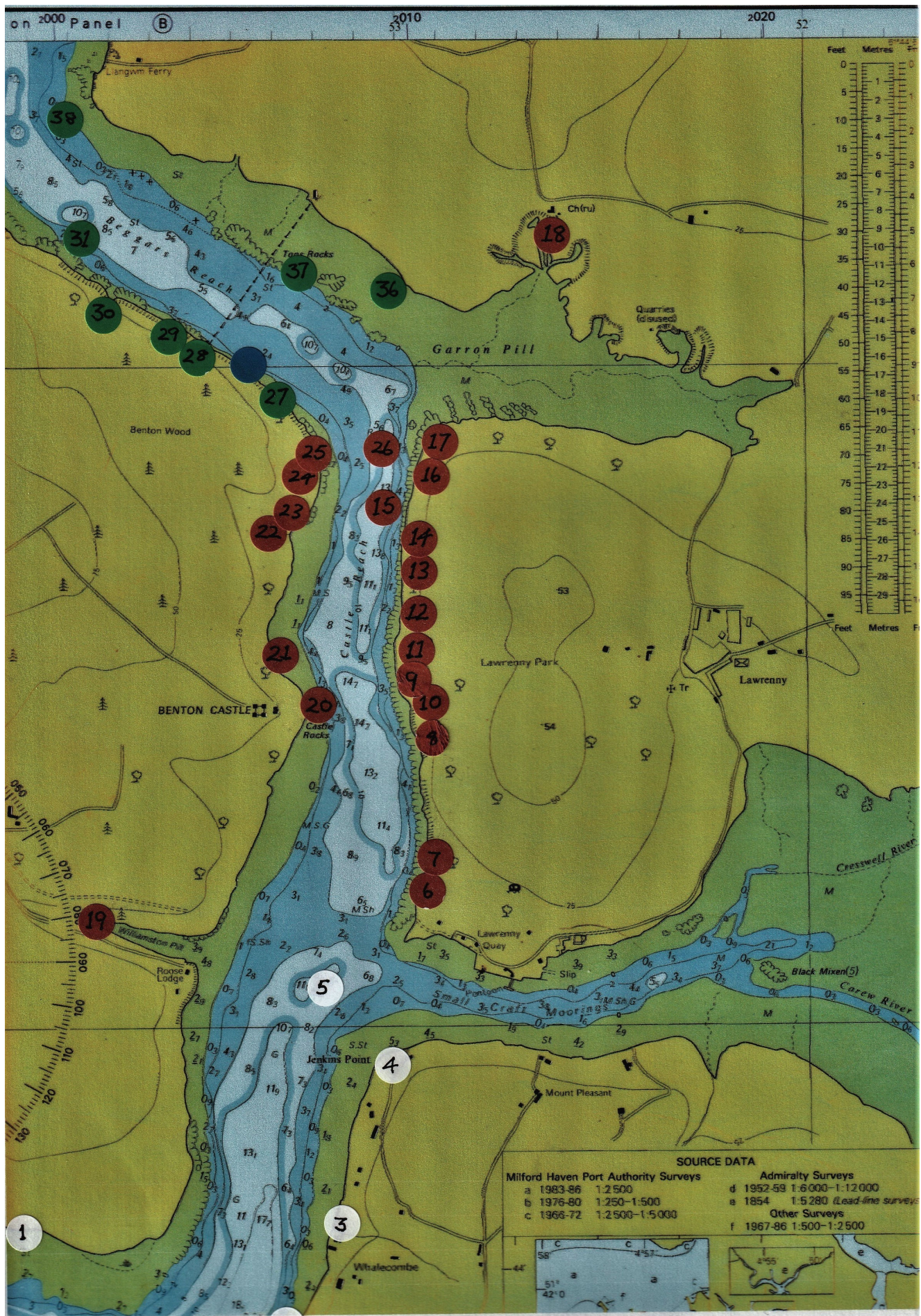
Anyone who has walked the foreshore below the Ferry Bay may have come across a large square shaped boulder near the high water mark. This is the 'Ladies Table'. Was it a popular spot for picnicking years ago? We will probably never know but it does conjure up a romantic image of ladies in crinoline dresses and large floral headwear picnicking on this natural riverside furniture.

On the opposite shore at Coedcanlas (Welsh for Lord's Wood) lie 'The Tuns', an outcrop of rocks only visible at low water spring tides. Tun is a name for a barrel so with a bit of imagination, one can easily envisage a collection of beer casks poking up from the river bed, normally hidden just below the surface, ready to provide a rapid wake up call for the unwary sailor.

Next to The Tuns is an area referred to in the past as 'The Barriets'. It is a name I came across in the diaries of my Great Great Grandfather from around 1912 when he wrote about collecting seaweed for the garden from The Barriets. It seems that barrriets were the rows of stakes running down the foreshore and presumably used as posts for wire fencing to prevent animals straying along the river bank.

To go through every name on the maps would be a laborious task but hopefully, by documenting them here, they will not be lost to time and future generations will still be able to appreciate the rich history of the village and its ties to the waterway.

Graham Stephens
2020



**Key to landmarks along the tidal upper reaches of the Daugleddau and Cleddau Rivers
from Lawrenny Ferry to Hook Quay and Slebech Park (page 1)**

Below Lawrenny

1. Saltpool
2. Mill Bay
3. The Chemicals
4. Jenkins Point
5. Lawrenny Bank

22. Cowbeach (pr. Coe-Beach) /
Stream o'water
23. Sanders Rock
24. The Oven
25. Gravel Point
26. Gullidraft (upper stretch of Castle
Reach)

Castle Reach (East Shore)

6. The Coaches
7. Kite Stone
8. Oil Bay / The Hoyle
9. Oil Point
10. Lawrenny Cockshut
11. Tommy Thomas
12. The Withies
13. Stream o'water
14. Dun Cow
15. The Hole
16. Red Slop
17. Garron Point
18. Garron Quarries

**Beggars Reach (South side – Benton
Shore)**

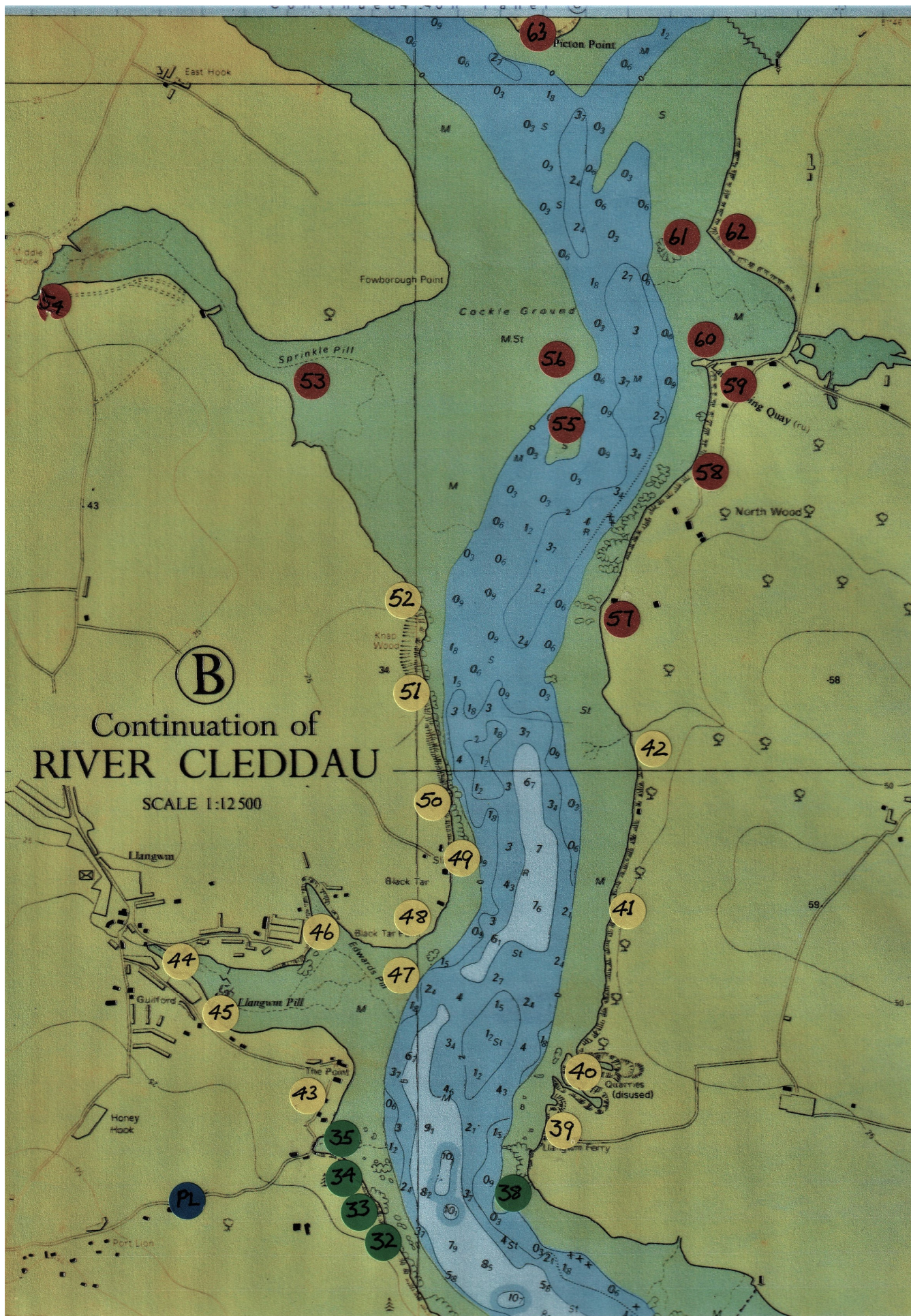
27. The Hollies
28. Pipeline
29. Ship's stern
30. Cockshut
31. The Rain of Rocks
32. Shandays
33. Ladies Table
34. Ferry Bay
35. Langum Ferry Pill
- PL Port Lion (NB: Residential area
not on the river)

Castle Reach (West Shore)

19. Williamston Pill
20. Castle Rocks
21. Castle Bay / Castle Mud / Bight Bay

**Beggars Reach (North side – The North
Shore)**

36. The Barriets
37. TheTuns Rocks
38. Stinkard Point



**Key to landmarks along the tidal upper reaches of the Daugleddau and Cleddau Rivers
from Lawrenny Ferry to Hook Quay and Slebech Park (page 2)**

Llangwm Pool (East Shore)

- 39. Ginny's
- 40. Llangwm Ferry Quarries (1,2)
- 41. Kentigan Wood (see Sam's Wood
on OS maps)
- 42. Sam Eynon's (Cottage)

**SPRINKLE PILL, PICTON and
LANDSHIPPING**

West Side

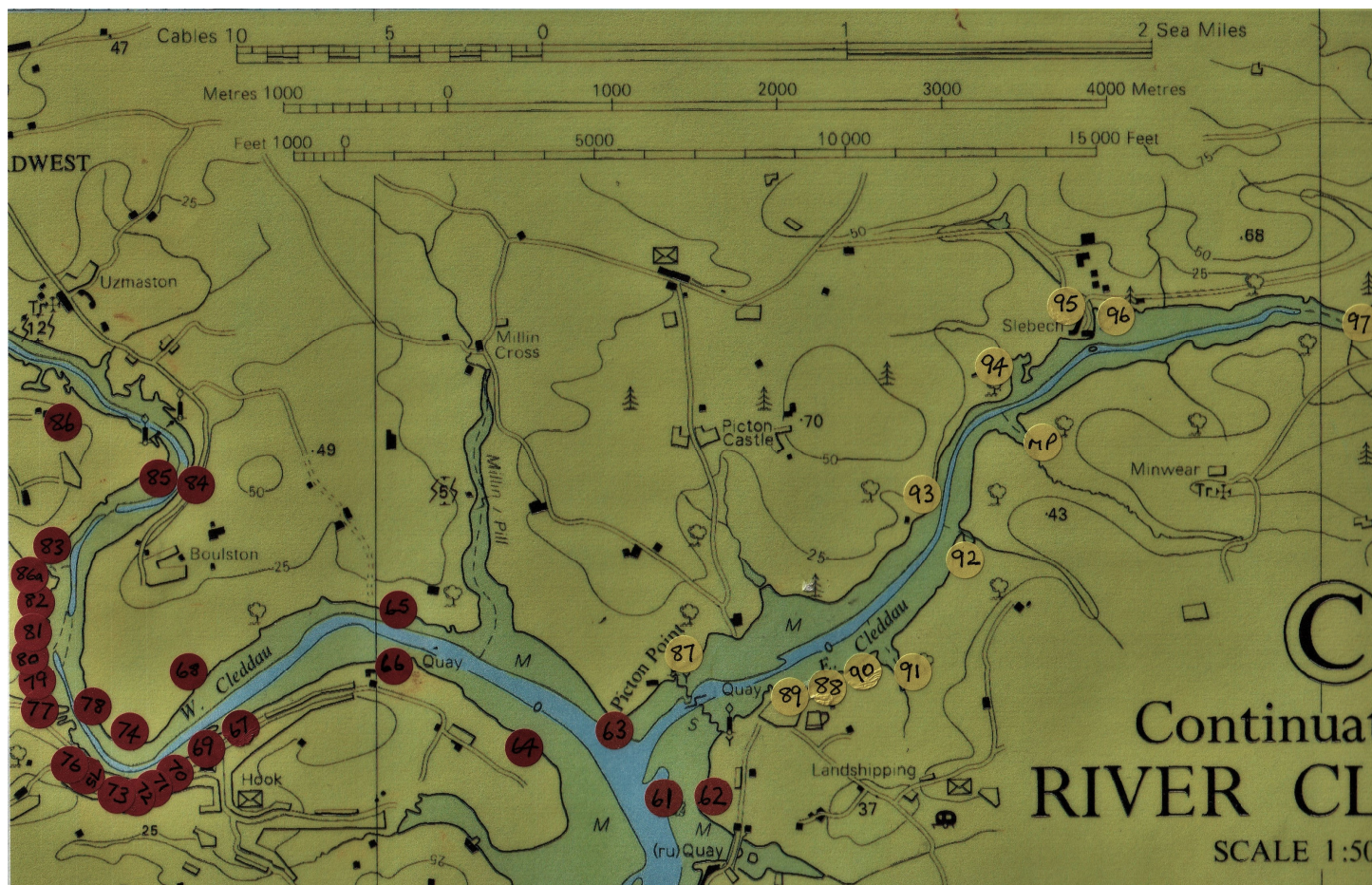
- 53. Sprinkle Pill
- 54. Charlie Palmer's Quay
- 55. Little Fowborough
- 56. Fowborough Point

Llangwm Pool (West Shore)

- 43. Point House
- 44. Guildford Pill (aka Llangwm Pill)
- 45. Stumpet (within Guildford Pill)
- 46. Edwards Pill
- 47. Hakin Mud
- 48. Cunnigar
- 49. Black Tar Quay
- 50. The Videlin (from "Victualling")
- 51. Knapp Wood Caves
- 52. Knapp Wood End

East Side

- 57. Brickyard
- 58. Freshwater Stream
- 59. WW2 Flying Boat target lookout
- 60. Lower Quay, Landshipping
- 61. Black Rocks
- 62. Upper Lookout



**Key to landmarks along the tidal upper reaches of the Daugleddau and Cleddau Rivers
from Lawrenny Ferry to Hook Quay and Slebech Park (page 3)**

North Side

63. Picton Point

81. 4th of the Lake (fishing mark)

82. 3rd of the Lake (fishing mark)

83. 2nd of the Lake (fishing mark)

Western Cleddau

64. Curlews' Quay ?

84. 1st of the Lake (fishing mark)

85. The Sand Ridge

65. Graven Bank

86. Fern Hill

66. Underwood

67. Bass stake (fishing marker)

Eastern Cleddau

68. Boulston Church (ruins)

87. Curlews' Quay

69. Hook Quay

88. Ormond's

70. Blockstones (fishing marker)

89. Upper / Top Quay, Landshipping

71. The Rail (fishing marker)

90. Edwards

72. The Level/ Lever (fishing marker)

91. Duggan's Pill

73. The Wooden Pin (fishing marker)

92. Golden Valley

74. Swan Island

93. Crafty

75. The Drott Pin (fishing marker)

94. Laird's Park / Layer's Park

76. The Top Drott (fishing marker)

95. Slebech Park

77. Little Milford Quay

96. Dog Island

78. The Flats

97. Lammas Ford

79. The Quay

MP Millin Pill

80. The Bag (fishing marker)

Thanks to John Brock, Jim Richards and Alun Lewis for their help in completing this study.

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