

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Perimeter Wall of The Vile open field system, Rhossili, Swansea
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	19.01.00
National Grid Reference:-	SS4069087400
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	SS48NW
CADW Reference No.:-	22786
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:403

Notes:-

Location:-

Surrounding the western part of The Vile open field, west and south of Rhossili Village.

History:-

The Vile is a remarkable mediaeval open field system integral to a landscape of outstanding historic interest. The village system of open fields including the Vile is likely to date from the same period as the village and the present church. The succeeded an earlier settlement and were properly established at latest by the C14. Although it has been conjectured that the perimeter wall may enclose some later mediaeval or post-mediaeval encroachments onto the coastal commons, its line is probably substantially mediaeval and certainly the line is unaltered since mapped by John Williams in c1780.

Exterior:-

A drystone wall up to about 2 metres in height, forming part of the perimeter of the Vile open field against the clifftop grazing commons. The oversailing profile of the wall is said to be a device to discourage sheep and other animals grazing on the commons from attempting to trespass within the open field. Many small headland pits particularly along the southern and western parts of the wall are thought to have been stonepits used for the construction and repair of the wall.

The drystone wall commences at Grid Ref. 24167.18746, about 10 metres south of a steel ladder on Rhossili Parish Footpath no.12. The southern part of the wall continues west and south in an irregular line to Grid Ref. 24089.18713 the western part continues thence north and east in an irregular line to Grid Ref. 24057.18768 the northern part continues thence north and east in an irregular line to the corner of a car park near the old Coastguard Station at Grid Ref. 24119.18799. The northern part is in even better repair but has lost its characteristic profile in many places.

Listed:-

The perimeter wall of a surviving open field, a rare monument of a land system formerly characteristic of the southern lowland fringe of Wales.

Reference:-

Margaret Davies, Rhossili Open Field and related South Wales field patterns. Agric Hist Review, IV2 (1956) pp.80-96

Margaret Davies in A R H Baker eds., Studies of Field Systems in the British Isles (1973) pp.450.507-8

WGAS D/D P822: John Williams' maps of Penrice estates: Rhossili (1780)

RCAHM Glamorgan III ii (1982) p.309