



# **PEMBROKESHIRE DROVERS**

**KAREN INGHAM**



**An Artist's Book Based on The Film and Exhibition  
Pembrokeshire Drovers  
Karen Ingham 2016**

Commissioned by Confluence, a creative collaboration between PLANED, spacetocreate, iDeA Architects,  
Pembrokeshire County Council and Transition Haverfordwest in partnership with Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park Authority

Funded by Arts Council of Wales and Pembrokeshire County Council

Wedi'i gomisiynu gan Confluence, cydweithrediad creadigol rhwng PLANED, spacetocreate, iDeA  
Architects, Cyngor Sir Penfro a Thrawsnewid Hwlfordd mewn partneriaeth ag Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol  
Arfordir Penfro

Wedi'i ariannu gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Sir Penfro







An aerial photograph of a field with dry, brownish grass and some darker patches. The word "DROVERS" is overlaid in white, uppercase letters in the center of the image.

DROVERS

Pembrokeshire is a landscape that is geographically, historically and culturally complex, and as such requires a different view of mapping. The Pembrokeshire Drovers film is not a documentary, nor is it a journey based on conquest, ownership and grid points, but rather a layered, nuanced palimpsest. A palimpsest was originally a manuscript that was used for writing and re-writing text, erased and re-written anew, yet each time leaving faint traces of prior narratives and histories.

Sara Maitland (2012) suggests that the palimpsest is a useful metaphor when considering the notion of a 'double map', which encompasses time, geography, and imagination. This is the kind of mapping I have explored over the past seven months, following the old drovers roads in and around Haverfordwest as I created a filmic 'palimpsest map', which evokes past, present and future.

Droving - cattle, sheep, pigs, and geese - was vital to the Welsh economy from medieval times until the early 20th century. In 1625 up to 60,000 cattle a year left Wales for London. By 1851 over 275,000 Welsh cattle made the trip as well as a million sheep with one of the most famous droving routes between Haverfordwest and Smithfield Market in London. The drovers and their trade were so important to the Welsh economy that in 1799 the Welsh Black Ox Bank was established, and eventually bought by Lloyds, the now familiar black horse replacing the iconic Pembrokeshire Black Bull.

The migration of Welsh drovers to America and Australia even provided a model for the iconic cowboy but by the late 1800's the railways superseded the drover roads and the droving way of life gradually disappeared.







Pembrokeshire now has a different kind of droving in the form of 'droves' of tourists flocking to visit the stunning National Park Coastline, the varied countryside and towns, and Britain's smallest city, St. David's. They travel routes that are time weathered yet timeless. Multiple tracks and faint marks on myriad surfaces, dirt, cobbles, tarmac, sand and water, offer a manuscript for decoding different forms and points of passage. Driving, walking, boating, pausing, observing.

In making this film I have approached each journey as if entering an archaeological dig, peeling back layers of time and history to subtly excavate the past and re-imagine the present. What emerges is a multi-layered representation: an act of creative mapping that leaves wide open the potential for future directions.









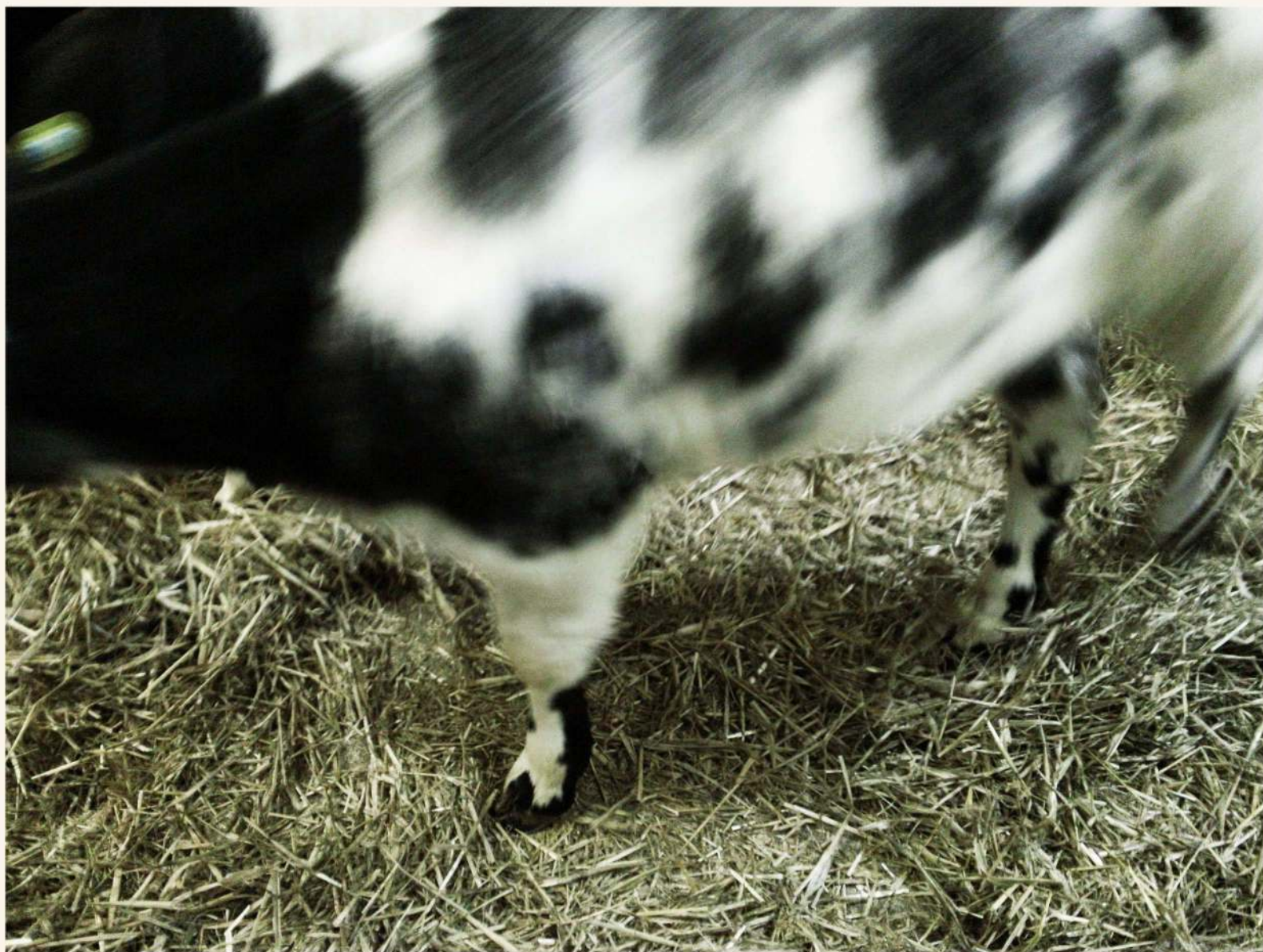
















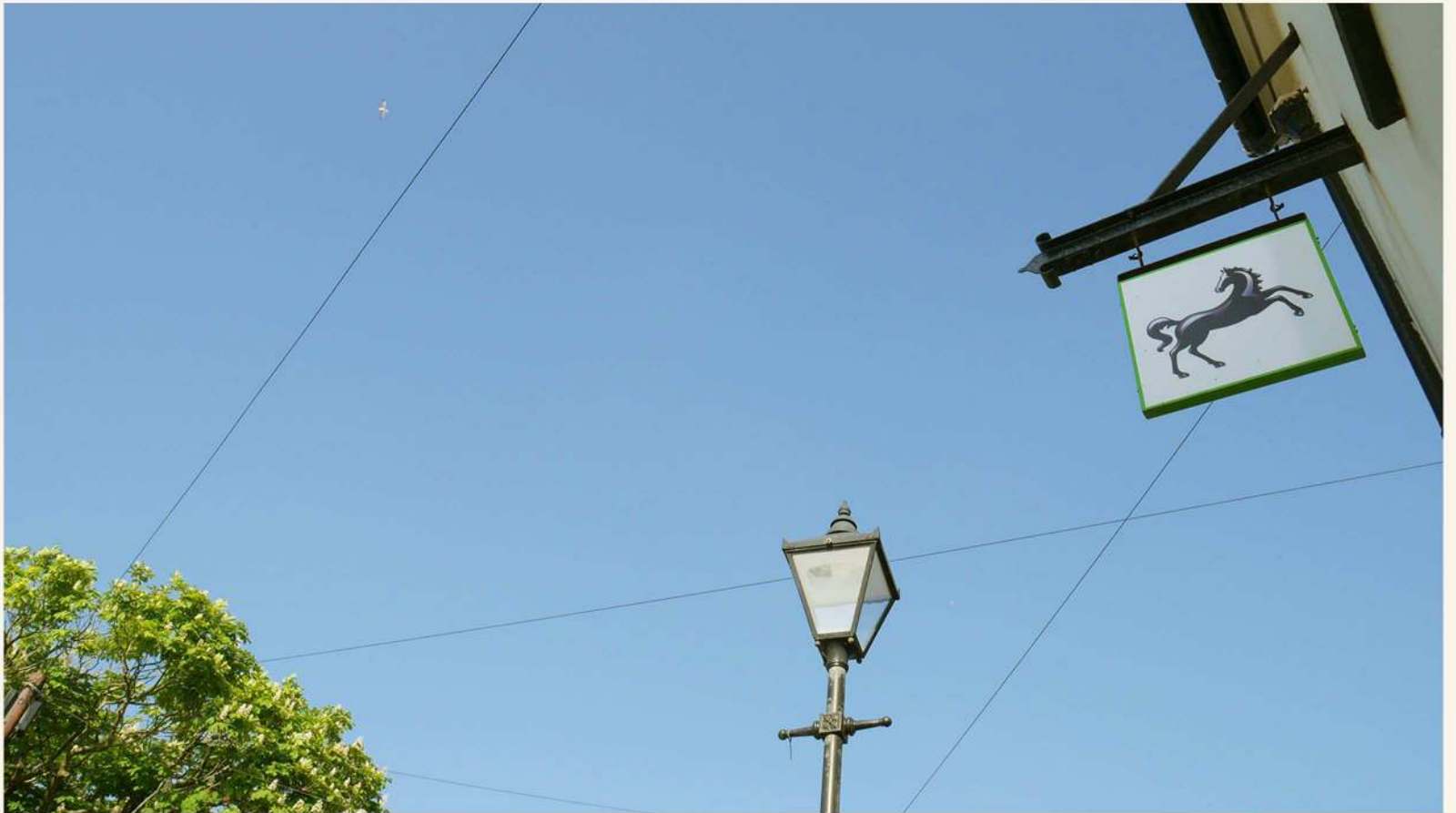










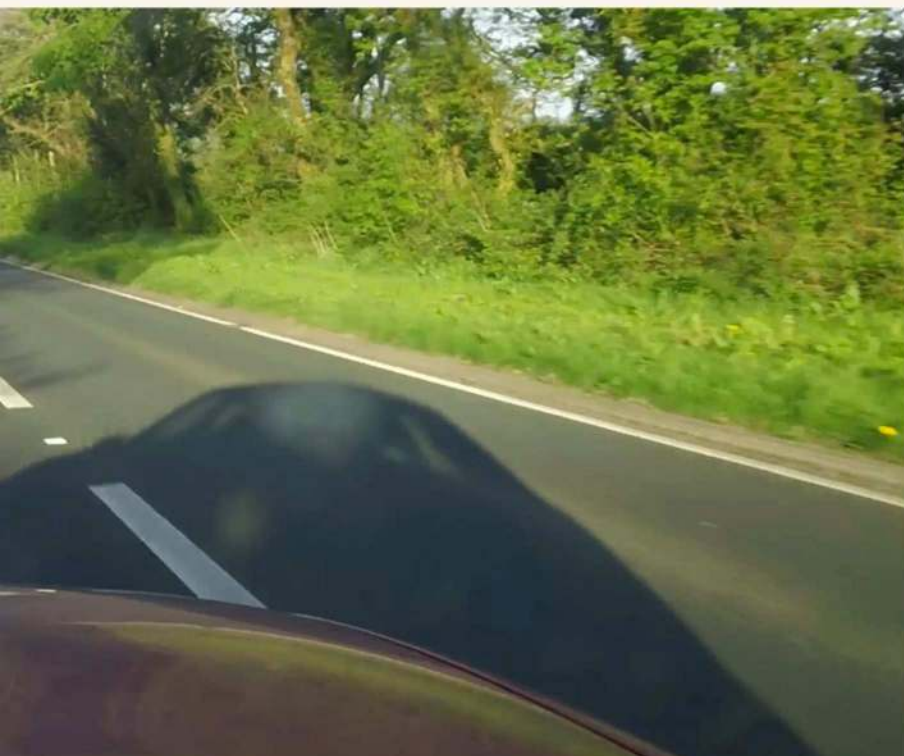




An aerial photograph showing a large area of land covered in brown, charred vegetation. A thick plume of white smoke rises from the center-left of the frame, drifting towards the top left. The ground is uneven, with darker patches of soil and lighter areas of ash or charred wood. The overall scene depicts the aftermath of a significant fire.

DRIVERS









RIVER









ROVERS









DROVES







OVER







An aerial photograph of a parched, cracked landscape. The ground is a mix of light tan and dark brown, with a network of deep, irregular fissures. Several distinct, rectangular, textured patterns are visible, resembling footprints or tire tracks. The word "PALIMPSEST" is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

PALIMPSEST









## Haverfordwest Drovers

This short accompanying film was made with the community of Haverfordwest as a public engagement event on the original drover route at the old bridge crossing point.

The participants are 'contemporary drovers' and their journey takes them back and forth across the artist's film screen, weaving through archive images and playful cowboy illustrations.





With thanks to the following for their help and support:

Dr. Sarah Beynon and family, Christopher Evans, Catriona Hilditch and Scolton Manor, Pip Lewis, James and Harley Morgan, Guy Norman, Graham Peake and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, The Park Gallery St. David's - Oriel y Parc, PLANED, Tangwen Roberts, Anna Smallman, Tim Stokes, Katie Withington, Kate Wood, The Lab Haverfordwest and the community of Haverfordwest, especially the 'Haverfordwest Drivers'











2016