CEREDIGION police's senior detective this week vowed to stamp out drug farming in the county after smashing a cannabis-growing business near New Quay.

Detective Inspector Greg Williams said the conviction and jailing of Brian and James Impsey for running a 'sophisticated' drug farm in Cross Inn was a major step forward in the fight against the illicit trade.

He said officers were determined to seek and destroy other cannabis growing operations in the county.

DI Williams said: "Those two individuals had invested a large amount of capital in their illegal business and they were operating on a commercial scale.

"We will not tolerate this kind of criminal activity in our area and our message to any others involved in it is we will catch you and you will be prosecuted!"

Detective Sergeant Richard York, who led the investigations into the Cross Inn cannabis farm, added:

"This was a highly sophisticated cannabis factory at Cross Inn in the New Quay area of Ceredigion.

"The lengthy investigation identified Brian Impsey from the Herston area as the money man behind the operation and as such he was convicted following a trial. His son

James Impsey pleaded guilty at an early stage.

"Brian Impsey benefited by £138,010 from the crime and James Impsey by £33,350.

DI Williams said: "The plants were supported by sophisticated growing equipment and an elaborate irrigation system. Officers also discovered a dangerous diversion to the premises electricity supply system, routed from the national grid power lines.

"Specialist crime investigators from Dyfed Powys Police investigated the gathering of evidence, before officers dismantled the illegal cannabis growing operation."

James Andrew Impsey, aged 27 from Herston, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of being the farmer. Other officers travelled to his home village of Dorton, Herefordshire, where his father, 55-year-old Brian Ralph Impsey was arrested.

DI Williams said: "His house and business premises were searched, with officers seizing several items that were to prove valuable evidence in the subsequent investigation."

"Over the next 12 months the investigation progressed to a point where police charged the father and son on three counts, namely being concerned in the production of cannabis, possession with intent to supply cannabis, and unlawful abstraction of electricity at the premises."

Following a four-day trial at Swansea Crown Court, which started on 1 June 2009, both Impseys were convicted on all counts.

On 28 October the pair were both given jail sentences. The total street value recovered at the premises amounted to approximately £335,000, with an annual potential street value being estimated at £240,000.00

A 'highly sophisticated' cannabis factory was found at this Cross Inn farm. Below: the "large, professionally-equipped growing room"