Llandegley

SO 139629
16162

Introduction

Placed between the Mithil Brook and its rather smaller tributary the Logyn Brook, Llandegley occupies a relatively low-lying position overshadowed by the craggy outcrops of Llandegley Rocks, and with Radnor Forest forming an impressive backdrop to the east. The ground between the two streams undulates gently and Llandegley church surmounts a slight rise, the highest point in the immediate neighbourhood. The turnpike road from Penybont to Kington, 17km to the south-east, originally passed through the village, but the road, now the A44, has recently by-passed the heart of the village.

This brief report examines Llandegley's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

We have not referenced the sources that have been examined to produce this report, but that information will be available in the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Numbers in brackets are primary record numbers used in the HER to provide information that is specific to individual sites and features. These can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).

History of development

An origin in the early medieval period must be suspected for Llandegley on the basis of its church dedication and churchyard morphology, despite the absence of firm evidence. 'The church of Tegle' is first named in the early 13th century as *Lanteglin, ecclesiam sancta Tecla*, and appears as *Landegla* in 1291.

Its later history is obscure, and there are no indications at present that a settlement developed around the church in the Middle Ages. At the time of the Tithe survey, the church was accompanied by a farm (then Tanyllan, now Tynllan), an inn and no more than half a dozen cottages, and these appeared to spread in ribbon-development fashion along the road.
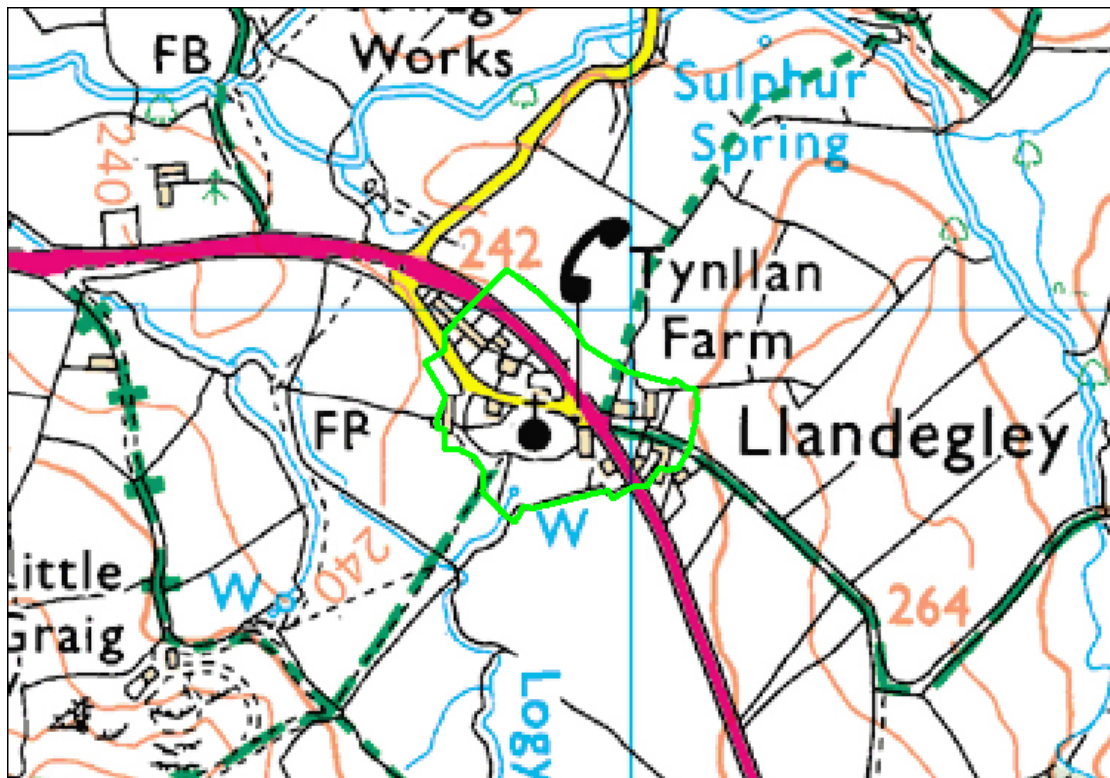
The heritage to 1750

St Tecla's Church (16026; Grade II listing) was rebuilt as a nave and chancel with a west tower in 1876, and the tower was rebuilt again in 1953 after a collapse. The north and south walls of the single-chamber medieval structure survive, the fine priest's door on the south may have come from Abbeycwmhir and there is a reconstructed late medieval screen and a font of c.1200.

The churchyard (16279) is sub-oval in shape, extended in modern times to the west. The original enclosure is raised by 0.7m on the west and upwards of 2.0m on the south.

Low earthworks (16276; OS plot 8186) survive in pasture to the south-west of the churchyard, but their nature is unclear. Between the village and The Pines to the west, an artificial platform (16277; OS plot 7012) abuts the roadside hedge. Its function is likewise uncertain.

Ridge and furrow (16278) can just be discerned in fields to the north-east and south-east of Tynllan Farm, though it could be of post-medieval rather than medieval date.

Burton House (16072; Grade II listing), a stone and timber building beside the churchyard, possibly has 17th-century origins, although the building now there is a largely unaltered early 19th-century coaching inn.