

CADW: WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS
HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES (DAT 48)

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHURCHES OF CARMARTHENSHIRE



St Margaret, Pendine

By Neil Ludlow
Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
March 1997-8/August 2000



A R C H A E O L E G

CAMBRIA

A R C H A E O L O G Y

This overview report on Carmarthenshire's historic churches has been produced at Cadw's request by combining the original yearly project overviews for Carmarthen, Dinefwr and Llanelli Districts in order to achieve consistency across Wales by production of reports ordered by new Unitary Authority County Council areas. The Welsh Historic Churches project was originally conceived as a database rather than a paper record. Editing and correction of this database for the historic churches of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire is nearing completion and this will be deposited within the regional archaeological Sites and Monuments Record for the three counties maintained by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology with the support of the Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, and in the National Monuments Record at the Royal Commission in Aberystwyth. Users of these reports wishing to pursue the more sophisticated search, quantification and combination queries which only databases can answer are advised to consult the regional SMR at Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology or the NMR. The analytical lists of churches falling into different categories within the overview reports indicate the potential of the database itself. New and updated information on the churches continues to be collected by both the regional SMRs and the NMR in addition of course to the Church in Wales's own records.

*Neil Ludlow, Welsh Historic Churches Project Officer,
Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology
August 2000*

THE CADW WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE CHURCHES

CONTENTS

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF	3
1.1 The scope of the project	3
1.2 Research objectives	3
1.3 Alphabetical list of churches within the project brief	3
1.4 Presentation of results and end products	5
 2.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY	 7
2.1 Examination of source documentation	7
2.2 Field recording	8
2.3 Database structure	8
 3.0 THE NATURE OF THE RESOURCE	 9
3.1 Criteria for inclusion	9
3.2 Church type and usage	9
3.3 Survey limitations	10
3.4 Statutory protection	10
 4.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS	 13
4.1 Condition	13
4.2 Archaeological implications	13
4.3 Structural analysis	14
4.4 Post-medieval building	17
4.5 Restoration and rebuilding: the 18th and 19th centuries	18
4.6 Fixtures and fittings	19
4.7 Churchyards	19
 5.0 FEATURES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST	 21
5.1 Site categories	21
5.1.1 Medieval churches (aisled or unaisled)	22
5.1.2 Pre-19th century post-medieval churches	22
5.1.3 Churches entirely rebuilt in 19th century or later on a different site	22
5.1.4 Churches entirely rebuilt in 19th century or later on same site	22
5.1.5 Churches partly rebuilt in 19th century or later	23
5.1.7 Churches with, or with evidence for post-medieval, pre 1850 work	23
5.1.6 Largely unrestored churches	23
 5.2 Archaeological potential	 24
5.2.1 Churches associated with earthwork evidence	24
5.2.2 Churches with structural/documentary evidence for former components	24
5.2.3 Churches with raised or ?unchanged floor levels	24

5.2.4	Churches without evidence for internal below-ground disturbance	25
5.2.5	Churches without deep secondary external cuttings/drainage	25
5.3	Structural value	26
5.3.1	Churches with medieval towers	26
5.3.2	Churches with pre-19th century family chapels	26
5.3.3	Churches with medieval vaults (except in towers)	26
5.3.4	Churches with pre-19th century timber roofs	26
5.3.5	Churches with pre-19th century floors	27
5.3.6	Churches with pre-19th century chancel arches or arcades	27
5.3.7	Churches with, or with structural evidence for, pre 19th century openings	28
5.3.8	Churches with pre-19th century window tracery	28
5.3.9	Churches with, or with evidence for Sanctus bellcotes	29
5.3.10	Churches with, or with evidence for, opposing north and south doorways	29
5.3.11	Churches with 'choir-recesses'	29
5.3.12	Churches with tomb-recesses	29
5.3.13	Churches with evidence for sediliae	29
5.3.14	Churches with evidence for Easter sepulchres	29
5.3.15	Churches with evidence for skew passages	30
5.3.16	Churches with evidence for squints	30
5.3.17	Churches with evidence for porch parvises	30
5.3.18	Churches with evidence for pre-19th century baptisteries	30
5.3.19	Churches with clerestoreys	30
5.3.20	Churches with pre-1850 external finishes	30
5.3.21	Churches with evidence of wall paintings	30
5.4	Fixtures and fittings	31
5.4.1	Churches with medieval fonts (<i>in situ</i> or otherwise)	31
5.4.2	Churches with medieval piscinae	31
5.4.3	Churches with medieval stoups	31
5.4.4	Churches with evidence for medieval rood screens/lofts	32
5.4.5	Churches with monumental tombs/effigies	32
5.4.6	Churches with pre-19th century stained glass	32
5.4.7	Churches with pre-1850 seating	32
5.4.8	Churches with pre-1850 altar rails	33
5.4.9	Churches with pre-1850 pulpits	33
5.4.10	Churches with other pre-1850 fittings	33
5.5	Group value	34
5.5.1	Circular churchyards	34
5.5.2	Churches associated with <i>in situ</i> ECMs	34
5.5.3	Churchyards with earlier features	34
5.5.4	Churchyards with wells/springs	34
5.5.5	Churchyards with, or associated with cist cemeteries	35
5.5.6	Churchyards with evidence for medieval crosses	35
5.5.7	Churchyards with other features	35
5.5.8	Churchyards with physical evidence for differing earlier boundaries	35
5.6	Dedications	36
5.6.1	'Celtic' dedications	36
5.6.2	Latin dedications	37
5.6.3	Mixed dedications	37
6.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	39
7.0	REFERENCES	39

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF

1.1 The scope of the project

The Carmarthenshire Historic Churches Project was a contribution to the thematic pan-Wales Historic Churches Survey promoted by Cadw. This begun in 1994 as a pilot study commissioned from the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, after which Cadw commissioned the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts to undertake a survey of all pre-historic churches under Church in Wales ownership in their own Trust areas. In 1996-7 Cambria Archaeology selected the former Districts of Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Llanelli, and in 1997-8 the former district of Dinefwr.

The results of the survey in these areas, without Ceredigion, form the basis of this regional overview as the present (2000) county of Carmarthenshire.

1.2 Research objectives

The scope, aims and objectives of the survey followed the guidelines established by Cadw:-

To provide a record of all pre-19th century churches within each project area that are under the ownership of the Church in Wales. This excluded 19th century Anglican churches on greenfield sites, Nonconformist chapels, Roman Catholic churches, cemeteries and monastic houses. Deserted church sites were to be noted but not surveyed. Pre-19th century churches rebuilt in the 19th century were investigated and where earlier features survived, the church was subject to survey.

The data obtained forms the basis of a database. The purpose of the database is to make possible a structured response to threats to the standing historic fabric and to the below-ground archaeology of each church. It will enable the Trust and others to respond to proposals for repair and alteration put before the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the HBC, local authorities and others; to assist in the assessment of the impact of any HBC grant-aided work; enable the conservation bodies to readily react to any planning applications affecting individual historic churches.

1.3 Alphabetical list of churches within the project brief

In Carmarthenshire, 67 churches satisfied the criteria for inclusion within the project: -

Abergorlech (PRN 1195)	Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)
Abergwili (PRN 17407)	Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)
Abernant (PRN 2251)	Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)
Betws (PRN 4872)	Kidwelly (PRN 1629)
Brechfa (PRN 20697)	Laugharne (PRN 2163)
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llanarthne (PRN 728)
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llanboidy (PRN 3958)
Cenarth (PRN 17355)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llanddarog (PRN 17373)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)	

Llanddowror (PRN 3907)	Llannon (PRN 664)
Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Llanpumsaint (PRN 17380)
Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352)
Llandybie (PRN 824)	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)
Llandyry (PRN 16233)	Llansawel (PRN 1870)
Llanedi (PRN 674)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Llanegwad (PRN 17392)	Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
Llanelli (PRN 690)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381)
Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llanybydder (PRN 738)
Llanfihangel Aberbythych (PRN 4726)	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)
Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)	Marros (PRN 3833)
Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)	Meidrim (PRN 3972)
Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377)	Merthyr (PRN 17356)
Llanfynydd (PRN 678)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Llangadog (PRN 4049)	Newchurch (PRN 2253)
Llangain (PRN 17349)	Penboyr (PRN 17348)
Llangathen (PRN 709)	Penbre (PRN 1644)
Llangeler (PRN 5263)	Pencader (PRN 5388)
Llangennech (PRN 17374)	Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)	Pendine (PRN 3839)
Llangyndeym (PRN 1703)	Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)
Llangynin (PRN 3871)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)	St Ishmael (PRN 2117)
Llangynog (PRN 2174)	Taliaris (PRN 17324)
Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)	Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)
Llanllwch (PRN 5241)	Whitland (PRN 5045)
Llanllwni (PRN 1833)	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)

Exemptions

Castell Dwyran (PRN 3730) - Derelict

Cilymaenllwyd (PRN 17390) - Privately owned

Eglwys Fair a Churig (PRN 5076) - Ruined

Egremont (PRN 1414) - Ruined

Llandeilo Abercywyn (PRN 2186) - Ruined

Llandyfan (PRN 17376) - Different site from medieval chapel

Llandyfeisant (PRN 861) - Privately owned

Llanfihangel Abercywyn (PRN 2160) - Ruined

Llanfihangel Cilfargen (PRN 4756) - Privately owned

Llanybri St Mary (PRN 2184) - Ruined

Talley (PRN 1891) - Monastic site

1.4 Presentation of results and end products

The primary objective of the project was the construction of a database compatible with the regional SMR and forming a part of it. It is Cadw's request that it feed into the RCAHMW ENDEX. The paper record, including the *pro forma* recording sheets, is deposited with the regional SMR.

The end product consists of a database constructed in Foxpro and compatible with the regional SMR, accompanying paper records, an archive of selective photographs which, though not requested, were considered necessary, a research archive and a summary report.

2.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Project methodology included both examination of source documentation including, where available, faculty applications for conversion as well as general analysis of historic map and plan evidence, and field recording. The latter encompassed all aspects of the constructional history of each building, its condition, archaeological/cultural importance and potential, and the degree of survival of below-ground deposits in church and yard as a integrated archaeological resource.

2.1 Examination of source documentation

The examination of source documentation included the National Monuments Record and, where available, diocesan records held by the Clerk to the Diocese, Faculty minutes, quinquennial reports, architects drawings, and other relevant sources both printed and manuscript, as well as general analysis of historic map evidence.

The extent of source material varies widely from church to church. For some churches there is a considerable body of source material, both primary and secondary, whilst for many of the smaller churches, particularly in Ceredigion, there is very little. Many church restorations have surviving faculties but not all feature drawings, which diminishes their usefulness in assessing the impact of the restoration; in addition, such drawings are often the only source for the appearance of the pre-restoration church. The survival of vestry minute books, churchwardens' account books etc is very selective - many were simply discarded - and often bears little relationship to the importance of the individual church.

Methodology included: -

- a) Collation and analysis of data, including maps, held at the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- b) Examination and selective transcription of Church in Wales Records, including Faculties catalogued under SD/F/ in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; the 5-yearly architect's Quinquennial Reports on individual churches commissioned and held by the Church in Wales; Archdeacon's Certificates, Architect's reports, Parish miscellanea, Vestry Minutes and Churchwarden's' Account books held in the parish records at Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen, in the parish files as CPR/-/, and many of which contain entries relating to building works.
- d) Examination and selective copying or transcription of historic map evidence, including estate maps and tithe maps held at the National Library of Wales, Map and Print Room and at Carmarthenshire Record Office, Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition 1:2500 maps held with the National Library of Wales and the County Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The usefulness of these maps varies - for example, 19th century church restoration normally occurred before the OS surveys had been conducted, ie. during the 1880s.
- e) Examination and selective transcription of antique pictorial evidence including the picture collections at the National Library of Wales Map and Print Room
- f) Examination of source material held with the National Monuments Record, RCAHM(W), Aberystwyth.
- g) A rapid search through relevant secondary (printed) sources including eg. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society*/ *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary*, the relevant entries in the RCAHM(W) Inventory, *Carmarthenshire* (1917), and church guides where present - the latter vary in quality but eg. the Carmarthen St Peter guide is a reasonable account.

2.2 Field recording

Field recording was realised through the use of pro forma field record forms. The structure chosen for the format of the forms was intended to replicate the chosen database structure. Methodology followed the general pattern of, but is not quite consistent with, that followed by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

The Primary Record Number allocated to the church is treated as being divided into a number of sub-fields, that may include church building, yard, buildings within the yard, source documentation etc. Within the church building a hierarchical method of recording is likewise employed. The church building, allocated its own overall record form, is divided into its constituent cells, each allocated a unique numbered record form. Each cell is likewise divided into its constituent spaces based upon the spatial arrangement of the interior - bay or room/storey accordingly. These are numbered sequentially, continuing the numeration from the cell record forms. The space record forms form the basic unit of recording and the largest element of the building that is considered capable of being recorded effectively. In the field, the record forms proved ideally adapted to very rapid recording and have the advantage of being capable of entry, more-or-less unchanged, into the database.

2.3 Database structure

The database entries are based on the input field record forms, augmented with the information obtained through the documentary search.

For each individual church there is a hierarchy of records, interlinked via the PRN through a series of tables, based on the tiers described above. The database can be interrogated from a number of different levels, while at the same time can be rapidly searched for any individual feature:-

3.0 THE NATURE OF THE RESOURCE

3.1 Criteria for inclusion

Broadly, the brief covers all churches with pre-19th century origins under Church in Wales ownership, except monastic sites. Excluded are 19th century (and later) churches founded *de novo* along with contemporary yards. Included, however, are 19th century churches built within earlier yards, but at a reduced level of recording.

Churches that are closed have been included at a reduced level of field recording. Ruined churches still under Church in Wales ownership, such as Eglwys Fair a Churig (PRN 5076) and Llanfihangel Abercywyn (PRN 2160), have been excluded on the basis that management strategies are inherently different.

3.2 Church type and usage

Carmarthenshire was organised on parochial lines following the Anglo-Norman conquests of the 11th-13th centuries. It was during this period that the majority of the churches covered in the survey were established along Anglo-Norman lines, though many occupy the sites of early medieval religious establishments. Just two churches within the project, Whitland (PRN 5045) and Taliaris (PRN 17324), have their origins during the pre-19th century post-medieval period, and of these Whitland may have earlier origins.

Of the 67 Church in Wales pre-19th century churches in Carmarthenshire, 62 are now parish churches. The area includes a number of large, upland parishes (eg. Llanfair-ar-y-bryn and Llangadog), formerly served by dependent chapelries, but on the whole the parish system in Carmarthenshire has proved remarkably stable. There are some exceptions, particularly to the west where two of the parish churches, Llandysilio and Cilrhedyn, actually lie (and lay) in Pembrokeshire, the parishes lying in both counties, while many nearby parishes have now merged. A number of formal chapels of ease were established in the medieval period, some of which had been elevated to parish church status by the 19th century when there were three - Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377), Abergwili parish; Llansaint (PRN 2118), St Ishmael parish; and Llanybri (PRN 2184), Llansteffan parish (now ruined). There were, of course, many more chapelries, the abandoned sites of two of which were re-used for Pencader (PRN 3839) and Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690). Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) and Llanwrda (PRN 17381) were both chapelries which became parochial early on in the post-medieval period, and Llandovery Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) only lost its status during the 19th century, to a new parish church. Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406) was always an upland chapelry of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn parish, while Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) was a hamlet chapel of Llangadog, one of a possible former six. Abergorlech (PRN 1195) is a chapelry of Llanybydder parish, and Taliaris (PRN 17324) is a 17th century estate chapel in Llandeilo Fawr parish. In addition, five former parish churches, eg. Eglwys Fair a Churig (PRN 5076), Llandeilo Abercywyn (PRN 2186) and Llanfihangel Abercywyn (PRN 2160) are now ruined and exempt from the project, while three, eg. Cilymaenllwyd (PRN 17390), are now in private hands.

St Clears (PRN 3880), Kidwelly (PRN 1629) and - briefly - possibly Llandovery Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) were formerly monastic churches, also functioning as parish churches from the medieval period until the Suppression. Abergwili (PRN 17407) and Llangadog (PRN 4049) were collegiate churches of the Bishopric of St Davids, and many churches were the advowsons either of the Bishop, religious houses or collegiate establishments, for example Llanboidy (PRN 3938), which belonged to Whitland Abbey before becoming a prebend of the college of Llanddewi Brefi in Ceredigion. Nearly 30% of churches in Cantref Mawr in the northeast of the county were formerly possessions of Talley Abbey. Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) has traditionally been the site of the Consistory Court of the Chancellor of the Diocese. However, in absence of documentary evidence the association between size and sophistication, and patronage, would often not be apparent. Collegiate churches such as Abergwili and Llangadog were really only 'typical' churches for their areas, and St Clears was always small.

The majority of the Church in Wales churches with pre-19th century origins are, in the survey area, still open and used for regular worship although today an average of three churches are united as one

benefice. A characteristic of many churches within the project area, however, is the extent of 19th-20th century rebuilding, particularly in the north and west of the area many of which were either entirely rebuilt or restored so drastically as to be almost total rebuilds. In a number of churches, for example Llandeilo (PRN 888) and Llanddowror (PRN 3907), only the tower was retained from the medieval church. Others have been subject to successive restorations. However, such restoration has contributed to their general good condition. Of those churches that are open and used, however, Llandawke (PRN 3905) does constitute an area of major concern.

3.3 Survey limitations

While the project excludes 19th century churches founded with contemporary yards, 19th century churches built within earlier yards are included, but at a reduced level of field recording.

The characteristic 19th century rebuilding of so many churches was undertaken to varying degrees. In only three cases was the pre-19th century structure demolished and the 19th century church built in a different location in the earlier yard, at Brechfa (PRN 20697), Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) and Llangain (PRN 17349). Where the earlier church was demolished, however, the 19th century church was generally built on the same site, if on a different alignment and to a different plan. Many churches were not demolished, but altered so drastically as to comprise little earlier masonry, whilst in others the 19th century work is superficial and limited mainly to openings. A list of churches in these various categories of alteration is in Section 5.0.

Those churches which were heavily altered pose the biggest problem to structural analysis. In the absence of any earlier architectural features. It is often impossible to be certain just how much of the pre-19th century fabric has survived to be incorporated in the existing building. In some cases, contemporary documentation such as architects' drawings etc will provide this information, but where these are lacking the process of analysis becomes difficult. Unfortunately, fundamental to the survey methodology is establishing which churches incorporate pre-19th century fabric, regardless of quantity, and to subject such churches to a detailed level of recording. If this is unknown, then the methodology is rendered imprecise. It is fortunate from the viewpoint of analysis that churches displaying both external and internal finishes are very few.

As an academic survey of the churches of West Wales as an archaeological or cultural resource, the survey is limited in being restricted to Church in Wales ownership sites, rather than a representation of the total resource. This was not the purpose for which the survey was commissioned, but it is worth noting that care should be taken by end-users in drawing overall observations upon the nature of the resource. This should particularly be borne in mind when consulting Section 5.0 of this report.

3.4 Statutory protection

It is not intended, within the brief and scope of the present project, to present a detailed list of recommendations. The primary requirement was a database which will form the basis of future structured responses. However, though a re-listing survey was being undertaken independently during the project, 27 churches in Carmarthenshire remained, as far as Cambria Archaeology were aware, unlisted in 1998. The listed Llandawke (PRN 3905) is disused, in poor condition and constitutes an area of major concern.

The list below is of some concern given that the fabric of 11 unlisted churches is substantially medieval, or has medieval elements, and of these churches Cyffig (PRN 3897), Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360), Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) and Meidrim (PRN 17356) are important both structurally and culturally. The remainder are 19th century rebuilds but it must be stressed that they all occupy the sites of their medieval predecessors. The 27 unlisted churches were, in 1998 :-

Abergwili (PRN 17407)

Betws (PRN 4872) - *medieval*

Abermant (PRN 2251) - *medieval*

Brechfa (PRN 20697)

Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352)
Cyffig (PRN 3897) - <i>medieval</i>	Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381) - <i>medieval</i>
Llanboidy (PRN 3958) - <i>medieval</i>	Meidrim (PRN 3972) - <i>medieval</i>
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360) - <i>medieval</i>	Merthyr (PRN 17356)
Llandry (PRN 16233) - <i>medieval</i>	Newchurch (PRN 2253)
Llangain (PRN 17349)	Pencader (PRN 5388)
Llangennech (PRN 17374)	Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)
Llanglydwen (PRN 17379) - <i>medieval</i>	Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)
Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) - <i>medieval</i>	Whitland (PRN 5045)
Llangynog (PRN 2174) - <i>medieval</i>	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)
Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)	

4.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This section is a sample and synthesis of new information entered into the SMR as a result of the project, and an overview of the resource. Lists of selected sites according to various categories of potential can be found in section 5.0.

However, as an analytical overview of the architectural history and archaeological potential of West Wales churches as a discrete group, the study is compromised by the exclusions from the project noted in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.

4.1 Condition

The Church in Wales owned churches are, in the main, in good condition, and their general maintenance is treated within in the Quinquennial Architectural Reports.

The Church in Wales owned churches are, in the main, in good condition, and their general maintenance is treated within in the Quinquennial Architectural Reports.

Most churches were restored during the 19th century, often very extensively, and many were rebuilt with the result that windows etc. are in good repair, but a number still display medieval openings. The main areas of concern are, in the churches that exhibit them, the towers, and the roofs. 19th century restoration rarely extended to the towers which are often, apart from repointing, much as built. Most are damp and in urgent need of consolidation. Likewise, a number of churches do or will require reroofing and those that do not require more-or-less continuous roof maintenance. Most churches display timber roofs, which, with the exception of the 11 churches discussed below in Section 4.3, are 19th century. All are in good condition but the implications are clear. Memorials, too, are often in poor condition and may be subject to independent grant applications.

4.2 Archaeological implications

Fundamental to the project was an identification of the potential for survival of below-ground archaeology, its sensitivity and the relationship between potential deposits within the church and in the churchyard.

Many of the churches occupy distinct and regular platforms, some of which may be primary. At Myddfai (PRN 4090), for instance, the platform is associated with a distinct semicircular earthwork/parchmark at the east end. In rebuilt churches such as Brechfa (PRN 20697) the platform derives from the demolition debris of the earlier church, which will have the effect of sealing the associated deposits. In others, such as Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059) and Llansteffan (PRN 2208) lesser earthworks can be assigned to restoration/rebuilding debris.

Few churches display good structural evidence for former cells occurring beyond the confines of the present buildings. This is in direct contrast to churches in, for example, Pembrokeshire, where contraction of larger buildings due largely, no doubt, to demographic causes, is frequently encountered. In the main, it can be fairly confidently asserted that the churches of Carmarthenshire were rarely any larger than they are today. There are few exceptions. The nave at Kidwelly (PRN 1629) was truncated by an unknown number of bays during the late medieval period, and a south chapel at Llandovery Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) was demolished in c.1800. The tithe map of Llanboidy (PRN 3938) shows a building at right angles to, and adjoining, the nave; its nature is unknown but they occupy a location sometimes favoured for schoolrooms in the earlier 19th century (eg. at Eglwyswrw, Pembs.). There is now no structural evidence suggesting that it was not keyed into the existing nave walls.

About half of the churches within the project area are separated from their earlier archaeology by drainage ditches which, however, do not always surround the entire church and perhaps are not always deep enough to fully cut all horizons.

Few churches display evidence - door sills, pier bases etc - for changes in floor level. This is in part due to the structural nature of the churches within the project area - unaisled, and often single celled. In other cases 19th century rebuilding of doorways and arcades has removed such evidence.

Twenty-five churches were entirely rebuilt, and a further 11 churches at least partly rebuilt in the 19th century within the area. Many more were restored to varying degrees. In the most heavily restored/rebuilt churches, pre-existing interior surfaces were generally truncated throughout the building, to depths of up to 0.5m. This occurred for the best of reasons, but will have entirely removed archaeological evidence from within the church.

Those less-heavily restored churches were still normally equipped with shallow underfloor voids, particularly below the seating, often associated with below-ground flues from heating apparatus. The heating apparatus themselves normally occupy below-ground chambers.

Further disturbance occurs at some churches through the provision of coal cellars, normally (but by no means exclusively) below or adjacent to the contemporary vestries and therefore the chancels. A few, for example Kidwelly (PRN 1629), Llanedi (PRN 674) and Llannon (PRN 664), are disturbed by below-ground mortuary vaults, and many more will have burials crowding their internal below floor spaces, as have been revealed - and removed - at Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703).

However, many churches display good *above-ground* archaeology in the form of their built structural history (see below, Section 5.3). Six churches within the study area display, or possess beneath internal render, wall-paintings, which constitute a vital archaeological resource in their own right (Section 5.3.17); the paintings at Myddfai (PRN 4090) and Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856), and the restored 18th century work at Cilycwm (PRN 4111), are particularly noteworthy.

4.3 Structural analysis

Architecturally the churches within Carmarthenshire form a disparate group, with few characteristic features held in common. However, the churches of the former Cantref Mawr (and Cantref Bychan) in the north-east of the county - the medieval Deanery of Ystrad Tywi - share many similarities and form a close-knit group of late buildings, usually of one main build in the 15th and 16th centuries, with large, double 'preaching' naves, late 16th or early 17th century west towers and early timber roofs.

Elsewhere, the larger churches, as one might expect, were those either originating as monastic houses, those in the gift of a monastic house or those lying within population centres. The largest church, and one of the largest parish churches in Wales, Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) achieved that distinction by dint of serving one of Wales' largest medieval towns. The area around Laugharne was an Anglicised lordship and the churches more substantial, but rarely large except for the large urban church at Laugharne itself (PRN 2163) - the only cruciform church around a central tower to survive in the county. Chapels of ease meanwhile can be much larger than the parish church, for instance, Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) is one of the larger aisled churches while Abernant (PRN 2251) was always a tiny two-celled church.

The two definite monastic parish churches - St Clears (PRN 3880) and Kidwelly (PRN 1629) - have almost nothing in common, beyond the lack of any structural evidence for conventual buildings. Both are unaisled; though Kidwelly is cruciform. St Clears was always a simple three-celled church of no great size, with a very small convent. However, it appears that it was the only church associated with an adjoining, formalised conventual arrangement - recent geophysical study undertaken on behalf of *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology* demonstrated the presence of buildings to the south of the church, associated with a number of blocked openings.

4.3.1 Regional variation

Churches within the former Lordship of Laugharne in the southwest of the area are often spoken of as a homogenous group, but even here there are few features held in common. The area occupies the border with South Pembrokeshire, where vaults are diagnostic, but are here confined to towers, the nave and south porch at Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059), the north transept at Llangynin (PRN 3871) and the south porch at Marros (PRN 3833).

Churches in the west of the county tend to be small and simple, and often many-times rebuilt, and the very simple two-cell churches at Llanglydwen (PRN 17379), and Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967), for example, are like similar churches in Ceredigion and north Pembrokeshire.

North Carmarthenshire churches share some affinities with the larger Ceredigion churches; the aisled Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) and Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742), for instance, share affinities with the

former churches of Lampeter and Llanfihangel Ystrad in Ceredigion, while the towers of Llanllwni (PRN 1833) and Llanybydder (PRN 738) are part of a group that also includes Llanwenog in Ceredigion. The rood-loft door and straight stair surviving in the north wall of the single-celled church at Llanycrwys (PRN 1917), is very like those remaining at the similar churches of Mwnt and Llanwnnw, both also in Ceredigion.

The 'typical' northeast Carmarthenshire churches are Cilycwm (PRN 4111), Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881), Llanddeusant (PRN 4055), Llandeilo Fawr (Dyfed PRN 888), Llandingat (Dyfed PRN 4093), Llandybie (Dyfed PRN 824), Llanegwad (Dyfed PRN 17392), Llanfynydd (Dyfed PRN 678), Llangadog (Dyfed PRN 4049), Llangathen (Dyfed PRN 709) and Myddfai (PRN 4090). All of these churches have large, spacious late medieval aisles, although Llandeilo Fawr and Llanegwad have been rebuilt. The surviving original aisles are large, being gabled, extending the entire length of both the chancels and naves to which they were added and equalling them in width and height. In many cases it would appear, in fact, that the chancels and naves were rebuilt when the aisles were added, but in the absence of all detail this cannot always be proven. The aisles can lie either to the north or south. The internal space that results approaches that of the 'hall-churches' inspired by medieval Mendicant practice. The arcades are of plain Perpendicular character, dateable to the 15th and 16th centuries. Five of the churches have retained the contemporary oak wagon roofs, namely Cilycwm, Llanddeusant, Llandybie, Llanfynydd and Myddfai. Several of these churches, doubtless due to their isolated location and dwindling populations, have escaped the worst excesses of both the Protestant rebuilder and Victorian restorer and have retained, in addition, Perpendicular window tracery of good quality, if plain, occupying openings of a relatively large size in comparison with those in West Wales as a whole.

The remaining northeastern churches are of more varied form. Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) is a wide, single cell with a plethora of surviving openings, some of which are early in form and of convincing 12th century date. It too has a 16th century west tower, and a medieval roof, this time an oak king-post roof from the 15th century. A secondary south transeptal chapel has been since demolished, but otherwise the building is noteworthy as one of the least altered medieval churches in West Wales. Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) and Llanwrda (PRN 17381) were medieval chapelries of Talley Abbey which achieved parochial status in the years immediately following the Dissolution. Accordingly, perhaps, neither is an aisled church although Llansadwrn has a large, 2 bayed south chapel similarly from c.1500; neither, moreover, displays a west tower. However, Llansadwrn also features the Perpendicular window tracery seen at the aisled churches, has a 17th century timber porch roof and is largely unrestored. Llansawel (PRN 1870) was a parish church but is of simple, two celled form, largely from the 14th century and is the only church in the region to display squints. The only church within the region that belonged to the upland church tradition of Ceredigion and North-west Carmarthenshire was the former church at Brechfa (PRN 20697), demolished in 1897 to make way for a new church. Surviving photographs show a low, single cell, with a western bellcote, sash windows and externally whitewashed walls. Like many of its kind, the structure depicted may have been largely post-medieval.

The churches in the central and southeast parts of the county can be large, but have few internal similarities. They can be aisled, with no bias between the north and the south sides of the nave, but no churches are double-aisled, and aisles are (or were) all gabled. Llanarthne (PRN 728) and Llannon (PRN 664), Llan., are two very similar churches with west towers and south chapels, and at both the south aisle arcade was demolished in the earlier 19th century, opening up the nave as one large space. A similar process occurred at Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) but here the arcade was replaced by one of Classical columns. Transepts occur at a number of these sites, usually in pairs eg. Meidrim (PRN 3972), and even small, relatively unimportant churches may be cruciform, for instance Llandyry (PRN 16233), a chapel of ease to Penbre. There is no firm evidence for an earlier transept having been absorbed into an aisle at any church.

4.3.2 Plan-form elements

The so-called 'typical Carmarthenshire church tower' represents a number of widely differing styles. They are however generally plain, without external buttressing, pinnacles or spires, external treatment being normally limited to a square spiral stair turret, basal batter and string-course, and a crenellated parapet lying on a corbel table. These towers are generally dateable, by their contemporary openings, to the 15th and 16th centuries. Some, however, are earlier, and also more elaborate, but the buttressed late Decorated tower and spire at Kidwelly (PRN 1629) from c.1400, is one of the earliest in the area and unique, its only affinities being with Tenby St Mary in Pems. Llanddeusant (PRN 4055), Pendine (PRN 3839) and St Ishmael (PRN 2117) display saddleback towers, the latter over the south porch; they are rather dissimilar - that at Pendine is tiny - but appear to have always been of this form. Most towers can be dated by their openings to the mid 15th - mid 16th century, but Llandybie (PRN 824) and Llandeilo (PRN 888) have openings - contemporary with the fabric - which are characteristic of the early 17th century elsewhere in Britain. The odd squat towers at Llandawke (PRN 3905) and

Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377) are probably even later, from the late 17th- or early 18th century, while the detail of its doorway dates the west tower at Llanedi (PRN 674) to c.1800.

Side chapels proper are much less frequent, Llanarthne (PRN 728), Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) and Llannon (PRN 664) being almost exceptional; a chapel was never present, for instance, at either Kidwelly and Laugharne. What is more frequently seen is an aisle extending to the east end, with no evidence for a break in construction, as at Cyffig (PRN 3987).

At many churches where restoration has been slight the medieval chancel arch survives, but the elaborate Romanesque arch at St Clears (PRN 3880) is unique in West Wales, and there is a wave-moulded, Decorated chancel arch at Kidwelly (PRN 1629). Surviving evidence for rood screens is less frequent; but stairs can be seen at a number of churches including Kidwelly and Pencarreg (PRN 17354).

The aisled churches of the northeast normally lacked structural divisions between nave and chancel. However, chancel arches were present at Llandybie (PRN 824), Llanfynydd (PRN 678) and Myddfai (PRN 4090), where they are from c.1550 like the aisle arcades; the arches at Llangadog (PRN 4049) and Llangathen (PRN 709) were largely rebuilt during the 19th century. At Llansawel the chancel arch can be broadly dated to the 14th century and in this respect is exceptional for the region. Apart from within towers, there are few vaulted roofs, the rare exceptions being in the south porches at Llangathen (PRN 708) and Myddfai (PRN 4090), where they are late - 17th century at Myddfai. Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) features a rood-loft stair, conventionally located within the thickness of the north wall.

Only Llangynin (PRN 3871)v and St Ishmael (PRN 2117) display evidence for former skew passages, and squints are a area feature eg. Llansteffan (PRN 2208). Pendine (PRN 3839) may feature a choir-recess of Pembrokeshire type, possibly associated with choristers.

Buttressing is infrequent, but is a *motif* at Laugharne (PRN 2163) where it is used to great visual effect. Elsewhere buttresses are normally post-medieval additions due to structural necessity, as at St Ishmael (PRN 2117). Llangynin (PRN 3871) and Myddfai (PRN 4090) both display bold corbel tables, at the top of the nave north wall and chancel south wall respectively. These are unique features, at least as survivals - were they formerly parapetted?

Former opposing north and south doorways are seen at, *inter alia*, Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059), St Clears (PRN 3880) and St Ishmael (PRN 2117).. Invariably the northern door has been subsequently blocked. These northern doorways appear rarely to have been associated with a porch, in contrast with the south doors; south porches are not as widespread a feature as in Pembrokeshire and only Llandingat (PRN 4093) displays evidence for a first floor parvis chamber. West doors occur frequently, though normally - unless associated with a tower - they have been subsequently blocked, as at Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) and Llangynog (PRN 2174). Rarely are they left open, but it has happened at, for example, Abernant (PRN 2251), Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) and Llangynnwr (PRN 1736), which, like most churches where it has happened the entries are associated with a west porch - medieval at Llangynnwr, 19th century at Abernant and Cynwyl Elfed. Most of the northeastern churches display processional doorways through their west towers, those at Cilycwm (PRN 4111) and Llansawel (PRN 1881) having apparently always been the only entries. The majority, however, were entered through one of the side walls, normally through a south door which is sometimes, as at Llanddeusant (PRN 4055), disused. Llanddeusant also features a blocked north door, and formerly opposing north and south doors can also be seen at Llandingat (PRN 4093), Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) and Myddfai (PRN 4090); one or the other was normally blocked at the Reformation. Where door surrounds survive they are of Perpendicular character, but Llanfair ar-y-bryn exhibits 12th century openings, as noted above.

4.3.3 Dating

The building material is normally Carboniferous Limestone, Old Red Sandstone or a mixture which may include slate. Evidence for external render is apparent on most pre-19th century fabric, while Cilycwm (PRN 4111), Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) and Myddfai (PRN 4090) display internal wall-paintings of both medieval and post-medieval date (restored at Cilycwm).

Where medieval door and window surrounds survive they are generally simple, and are either local Carboniferous Limestone or Old Red Sandstone, while their 19th century successors are almost without exception in oolite (Bath or Douling stone). In all, two-thirds of the churches have retained evidence for pre-19th century openings in one form or another, usually as blocked openings - and not always medieval. However,

In the absence of architectural detail and original openings, dating many of the churches is difficult. 12th century work is rare but St Clears (PRN 3880), displays a Romanesque chancel arch and early openings occur at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856), see above, while Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059) and Pendine (PRN 3839) possess semicircular-headed lights which also appear to be early.

Outside of the northeast of the county, there is usually a complete lack of evidence for the relative dates of nave and chancel; it can be fairly confidently asserted, however, that at St Clears a 14th century chancel was added to the 12th century nave. At many churches the transepts are additions to the chancel, but Kidwelly (PRN 1629) appears to be largely a *de novo* construction of a single phase, displaying fine Decorated detail, while Laugharne (PRN 2163) is similarly of a single, early Perpendicular phase - it has retained some medieval window glass in the north transept.

Vestries are either converted from existing spaces or are 19th century constructions.

4.4 Post-medieval building

Post-reformation pre-19th century churches on *de novo* sites are an exceptionally rare feature of the West Wales landscape. However, they do occur. Moreover, an unknown number of churches were substantially or entirely rebuilt during the 17th-early 18th centuries; this was recorded at, for instance Abernant (PRN 2251) but at many of those churches in which the fabric cannot be closely dated, much of it may be from the early post-medieval period. A number of churches have been rebuilt many times during their history.

Whitland (PRN 5045) may have been the site of a medieval chapelry, but the church is thought to have instead been established early in the post-medieval period as a chapelry of Llanboidy parish. The form of the church is not known, having unfortunately been entirely rebuilt in the later 19th century. Holy Trinity, Taliaris (PRN 17324) was built as a 17th century estate chapel of Taliaris House, but has also been rebuilt.

It has been noted above that the towers at a number of churches within both Preseli and Dinefwr can be dated by their openings - which appear to be contemporary with the fabric - to the 16th century and are thus post-medieval, but are described in most accounts as medieval, while some of these towers, for instance Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888) are demonstrably later still, from c.1600.

A prominent feature at two northeast Carmarthenshire churches, Llanfynydd (PRN 678) and Myddfai (PRN 4090), is a large, 2-storeyed transeptal, gabled projection from the south wall at the junction of the nave and chancel. These projections formerly housed the rood-loft stairs, are dateable by their openings to the earlier 17th century where they may represent a 'Laudian' context, and occupy the south wall (as opposed to the more usual north side) due to the presence of pre-existing north aisles; they are unique within West Wales (although one was possibly present in the former medieval church at Prendergast, Pembrokeshire).

Most of these components, particularly their arcades, are constructed in a 'Gothic Survival' style and their true date is often revealed only by the use of full-centred or segmental arches, lack of cusping and sub-classical detail on imposts, etc. Many more such post-medieval components may occur disguised by neo-Gothic refenestration of the 19th century.

A number of churches were substantially altered, and added to, during this period. The towers at Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377), Llandawke (PRN 3905) and possibly even St Clears (PRN 3880), may be 17th century. The north chapel at Llansteffan (PRN 2208) is probably 18th century.

Many more churches exhibit evidence of fairly large-scale building activity prior to the restorations of the later 19th century. Such work can range from the provision of 17th century porches at eg. Myddfai (PRN 4090), and the insertion of early 17th century mullioned windows that was fairly widespread across the region, and seen to good effect at Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237). In summary, the Reformation and its aftermath appear not to have diminished building activity at its basic level, but little has survived complete from this period and no church is either area exhibits a comprehensive range of earlier post-medieval features. The post-Reformation removal of liturgical fittings, and rearrangement of interiors, was of course universal.

4.5 Restoration and rebuilding - the 18th - 19th centuries

The extent of late 18th-19th century rebuilding and restoration, and its impact upon the resource, has been noted above in Section 5.1.

In some cases, late 18th and early 19th century work was merely a continuation of the necessary repair and rebuilding of the 17th century, and alterations were also necessitated by demographic changes. However, churches began to be rebuilt or restored to reflect changing architectural styles and the new intellectual attitude towards 'taste'. More importantly, developments within the church itself, and changing liturgical practices, are reflected within the historic fabric.

The effect of pre-Tractarian liturgical practice upon the church fabric is reflected by the number of references to derelict chancels in 18th century churchwarden's presentments, and often the first task of the Victorian restorer was to rebuild the chancel. It has been noted above that poor quality building, particularly in the upland regions of Ceredigion, necessitated successive, multiple rebuilds at many churches. Refenestration with plain, square openings of 'domestic' character was universal; it will be argued below that most medieval windows had been blocked or lost prior to Victorian restoration.

Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) and Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406) were rebuilt in the early 19th century, both in a manner possibly inspired by non-Conformist practice but at the latter betraying sub-Classical influence. The chapel, of Llanybydder parish, at Abergorlech (PRN 1195) was rebuilt in the later post-medieval period prior to its 19th century rebuild, while a west tower, of a convincingly medieval appearance that has resulted in past misattribution, was added to the church at Llanedi (PRN 674) in c.1800.

Other churches were radically altered prior to the Victorian period. The nave and aisle at Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) were united, in the 'meeting-house' tradition, by the demolition of the medieval arcade and its replacement with a fine neo-Classical arcade during the 1820s; Llanarthne (PRN 728) and Llannon (PRN 664), where the same process occurred, were not so fortunate and were left plain. This trend was a source of lament to many contemporary observers - in an impassioned delivery to the Cambrian Archaeological Association in 1875, the Bishop of St Davids himself railed against the 'meanness' of such architectural design.

The second quarter of the 19th century was marked by the spread of the architectural ideas of the Oxford Movement, with their emphasis on high church liturgy centred on the chancel. From the 1850s onwards, church restoration occurred on a grand scale and continued, in one form or another, well into the present century. Though there is no doubt that many of the churches affected were in very poor condition, many important features were lost. Most architects, moreover, chose to excavate up to 0.5m beneath the floors for ventilation, and/or dug deep cuttings around the church, destroying the below-ground deposits; few, moreover, made any record of the church that they saw. The architects responsible were competent enough, but few of Britain's best were active in the region. Sir George Gilbert Scott sensitively restored Kidwelly (PRN 1629) during the 1850s, but most churches were subject to the work of undistinguished architects such as R. Kyrke Penson, R. J. Withers, J. P. Seddon, Middleton, Prothero and Phillot, and E. H. Lingen Barker. A feature of most restorations was the indiscriminate stripping of original fittings, in many cases quite unnecessary and, in some parishes at least, the motive was largely ideological. However, some early 20th century restorers were rather more sensitive; this period is also characterised by the introduction of good 'Arts & Crafts' fittings at, for instance, Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059). It may be, moreover, that where medieval windows survived, they were replicated; this is certainly the case at eg. Kidwelly (PRN 1629) and Llandawke (PRN 3905) suggesting that, in the main, most medieval openings had been lost long before Victorian restoration.

Certain architects, notably W. D. Caröe, attempted as little disturbance to the fabric as possible. Others at least attempted to copy, often faithfully, such features as window and door surrounds; this is particularly apparent within the northeastern churches. However, in many cases it is not possible to be certain whether 19th century openings are copies or not, seriously hindering accurate dating of the fabric. Furthermore, in many cases the pre-19th century windows had been removed in the 18th and early 19th century and the Victorian restorer had no originals upon which to base his designs, meaning that the church was 're-Gothicised' according to universal pattern books *loci*.

In many ways, and perhaps ironically, the churches that were demolished and rebuilt on a new site may possess greater *archaeological* potential, if the old site has been undisturbed. Sites such as Brechfa (PRN 20697), where a new church was rebuilt 50 metres to the west of the old church, offer below-ground potential of possible high value.

4.6 Fixtures and fittings

Internal timber fittings are generally rather plain, and are very rarely earlier than the 19th century. 17th century altar tables survive at Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50), Llangathen (PRN 709) and Llangynin (PRN 3871), 18th century altar rails at Penbre (PRN 1644), and early 19th box-pews at Llangynnwr (PRN 1736). Organs/organ cases survive from the 18th century at Kidwelly (PRN 1629) and Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50), where the organ was allegedly built for George III. Pulpits are generally late 19th-20th century and single-decker, but an 18th century 'vernacular' pulpit survives at Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742). A number of further organs have survived from the peak 1870-90 production period, that at Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) being a typical, but fine, example.

No church has retained an 18th century gallery, but St Clears (PRN 3880) displays a 19th century west gallery with organs *in situ*.

Many churches possess a reredos, either tiled or in oolite, often finely moulded and normally late 19th-earlier 20th century but the reredos at Laugharne (PRN 2163) retains late medieval elements. Glass is almost exclusively 19th-20th century but the north transept at Laugharne (PRN 2163) again retains some late medieval glass and 18th century glass survives at Myddfai (PRN 4090).

Despite the lack of survival of early fittings, a characteristic of West Wales churches as a group is the survival of early fonts, often the earliest element within the church. There is no typical form within the area, a range of types and dates being represented from the 12th century square, scalloped bowl to the late medieval octagonal, panelled bowl.

Some churches display fine 17th century memorials, eg. the Rudd monument at Llangathen (PRN 709), for example, is from c.1600. Others churches display fine early 18th century wall memorials, occasionally in poor repair. Earlier memorials, and effigies, are rather rare but occur at eg. Kidwelly (PRN 1629), and Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) where the early 16th century effigy of Sir Rhys ap Thomas is one of the finest in Wales, but not *in situ* having been removed from Carmarthen Greyfriars. The later memorials at Carmarthen and Laugharne (PRN 2163) merit particular attention.

4.7 Churchyards

Churchyards are, in the main, rectangular or irregular and are shown as such on the earliest map evidence where this is available. This applies at churches with both 'Celtic' dedications and those with post-Conquest dedications. However circular churchyards, normally associated with pre-conquest sites, occur at a number of locations, distributed fairly evenly throughout the area. Very large yards such as Llangeler (PRN 5263) and Llansadwrn (PRN 1903), are undoubtedly significant; the circular outline of some of the smaller yards may be merely incidental. Many formerly circular yards have subsequently lost their shape and, unfortunately, the boundaries have often been removed as at Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) and Llanwrda (PRN 17381). Llangynog (PRN 2174) is associated with cropmarks/earthworks of much larger enclosures, possibly denoting pre-conquest areas of sanctuary.

During the project the former boundary - of a smaller, circular churchyard? - was noted as a faint earthwork bank running around the church at Llanwinio (PRN 17353). The banks of formerly smaller enclosures, extended before 18th-19th century mapping, were also observed at Llanllawddog (PRN 5367).

ECMs occur at a large number of sites, many of them well known, but not all are *in situ*. The greatest pre-conquest potential would traditionally be regarded as being presented by churches possessing both larger circular yards and *in situ* ECMs, but in Carmarthenshire only Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059) features both. Llandeilo (PRN 888) is mentioned in pre-Conquest sources.

Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059) is double banked in part of its circuit and is possibly a re-used prehistoric enclosure, and the triangular yard at Meidrim (PRN 1972) may likewise re-use a promontory fort. Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) and Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) are associated with the defences of a Roman town and fort respectively, while Laugharne may be associated with a Roman cremation. No Carmarthenshire churchyards are firmly associated with prehistoric cemeteries but observations have been made at Llanllwni (PRN 1833) possibly representing cremated bone.

A small number of yards display either medieval churchyard crosses or evidence for them, for example Llanelli (PRN 690) and Marros (PRN 3833). No medieval churchyard chantry chapel survives in Carmarthenshire, but the remains of one were observed north of the church at Llanpumsaint (PRN 17380) in 1710, and there may be similar unrecorded examples elsewhere.

5.0 FEATURES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

This section contains lists of some of the more important aspects of Carmarthenshire churches. It is not exhaustive and is not a substitute for the database.

5.1 Site categories

5.1.1 Medieval churches (aisled or unaisled)

Abernant (PRN 2251) <i>unaisled</i>	Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888) <i>aisled</i>	Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703) <i>aisled</i>
Betws (PRN 4872) <i>unaisled</i>	Llandingat (PRN 4093) <i>aisled</i>	Llangynin (PRN 3871) <i>aisled</i>
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>aisled</i>	Llandybie (PRN 824) <i>aisled</i>	Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) <i>aisled</i>
Cilycwm (PRN 4111) <i>aisled</i>	Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Llangynog (PRN 2174) <i>originally unaisled?</i>
Cyffig (PRN 3897) <i>aisled</i>	Llandyry (PRN 16233) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Llanllwch (PRN 5241) <i>originally unaisled</i>
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) <i>aisled</i>	Llanelli (PRN 690) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Llanllwni (PRN 1833) <i>unaisled</i>
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881) <i>aisled</i>	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>unaisled</i>	Llannon (PRN 664) <i>aisled</i>
Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059) <i>unaisled</i>	Llanfallteg (PRN 17377) <i>unaisled</i>	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380) <i>unaisled</i>
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967) <i>unaisled</i>	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) <i>aisled</i>	?Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352) <i>unaisled</i>
Kidwelly (PRN 1629) <i>unaisled</i>	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742) <i>aisled</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) <i>aisled</i>
Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>unaisled; cruciform with central tower</i>	Llanfihangel uwch Gwili (PRN 5377) <i>unaisled</i>	Llansaint (PRN 2118) <i>unaisled</i>
Llanarthne (PRN 728) <i>aisled</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678) <i>unaisled</i>	Llansawel (PRN 1870) <i>unaisled</i>
Llanboidy (PRN 3938) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Llangadog (PRN 4049) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>
Llandawke (PRN 3905) <i>unaisled</i>	Llangathen (PRN 709) <i>aisled</i>	Llanwrda (PRN 17381) <i>originally unaisled</i>
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055) <i>aisled</i>	Llanglydwen (PRN 17379) <i>unaisled</i>	Llanybydder (PRN 738) <i>unaisled</i>
Llanddowror (PRN 3907) <i>unaisled</i>		Llanycrwys (PRN 1917) <i>unaisled</i>

Marros (PRN 3833) <i>unaisled</i>	Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>aisled</i>	Pendine (PRN 3839) <i>unaisled</i>
Meidrim (PRN 3972) <i>unaisled; cruciform</i>	Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>unaisled</i>	St Clears (PRN 3880) <i>unaisled</i>
Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>aisled</i>		St Ishmael (PRN 2117) <i>aisled</i>

5.1.2 Pre-19th century post-medieval churches

Abergorlech (PRN 1195) <i>medieval origins</i>	?Llanedi (PRN 674) <i>medieval origins; 18th century?</i>	Taliaris (PRN 17324)
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) <i>medieval origins</i>		Whitland (PRN 5045) <i>medieval origins?</i>

5.1.3 Churches entirely rebuilt in the 19th century or later on a different site

Brechfa (PRN 20697) <i>medieval origins</i>	Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) <i>medieval origins; former church survives, yard extended for new church</i>	Llangain (PRN 17349) <i>medieval origins</i>
--	--	---

5.1.4 Churches entirely rebuilt in the 19th century or later on the same site

Abergorlech (PRN 1195) <i>?medieval origins</i>	Llangan (PRN 15341) <i>medieval origins</i>	Penboyr (PRN 17348) <i>medieval origins</i>
Abergwili (PRN 17407) <i>medieval origins</i>	Llangeler (PRN 5263) <i>medieval origins</i>	?Pencader (PRN 5388) <i>medieval origins</i>
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) <i>early 19th century; medieval origins</i>	Llangennech (PRN 17374) <i>medieval origins</i>	?Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690) <i>medieval origins</i>
Cenarth (PRN 17355) <i>medieval origins</i>	Llanllawddog (PRN 5367) <i>medieval origins</i>	Taliaris (PRN 17324) <i>post-medieval origins</i>
Llanddarog (PRN 17373) <i>medieval origins</i>	?Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352) <i>medieval origins</i>	Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251) <i>medieval origins</i>
Llanegwad (PRN 17392) <i>medieval origins</i>	Llanwinio (PRN 17353) <i>medieval origins</i>	Whitland (PRN 5045) <i>?medieval origins</i>
Llanfihangel Aberbythych (PRN 4726) <i>medieval origins</i>	Merthyr (PRN 17356) <i>medieval origins</i>	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406) <i>early 19th century; medieval origins</i>
	Newchurch (PRN 2253) <i>medieval origins</i>	

5.1.5 Churches partly rebuilt in the 19th century or later

Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	Llanedi (PRN 674)	Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)
Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Llanelli (PRN 690)	Llanllwch (PRN 5241)
Llanddowror (PRN 3907)	Llanfallteg (PRN 17377)	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)
Llandybie (PRN 824)		Llanwrda (PRN 17381)

5.1.6 Churches with evidence for post-medieval, pre-1850 major work

Betws (PRN 4872) <i>17th century roof?</i>	Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888) <i>early 17th century tower?</i>	Llanllwni (PRN 1833) <i>early 19th century nave wall</i>
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>17th century charnel-house (now boilerhouse); 18th century vestry</i>	Llandybie (PRN 824) <i>early 17th century tower?</i>	Llannon (PRN 664) <i>early 19th century buttresses and ceilings</i>
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516) <i>early 19th century church</i>	Llanedi (PRN 674) <i>late 18th century tower</i>	Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>18th century chapel and openings</i>
Cilycwm (PRN 4111) <i>early 17th century windows?</i>	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 4093) <i>17th century roof</i>	Marros (PRN 3833) <i>early 19th century transept</i>
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) <i>early 17th century windows?</i>	Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377) <i>17th-18th century tower</i>	Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>early 17th century porch, and stair recess?</i>
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881) <i>early 17th century windows, and tower?</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678) <i>early 17th century stair recess?</i>	St Clears (PRN 3880) <i>early 17th century tower</i>
Llanarthne (PRN 728) <i>late 17th century window?</i>	Llangathen (PRN 709) <i>early 17th century aisle, chapel, windows and porch</i>	Trelech a'r betws (PRN 5251) <i>early 19th century church</i>
Llandawke (PRN 3905) <i>17th-18th century tower</i>	Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) <i>early 19th century arcade, and windows?</i>	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406) <i>early 19th century church</i>
	Llangynog (PRN 2174) <i>17th century aisle and chapel?</i>	

5.1.7 Largely unrestored churches

Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)		Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)	Penbre (PRN 1644)
Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059)	Llangathen (PRN 709)	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)
Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llangynin (PRN 3871)	

5.2 Archaeological potential

5.2.1 Churches associated with earthwork evidence

Brechfa (PRN 20697) <i>earlier church</i>	Llangynog (PRN 2174) <i>platform</i>	Newchurch (PRN 2253) <i>platform</i>
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059) <i>debris?</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 17352) <i>platform</i>	Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>platform</i>
Llanedi (PRN 674) <i>detached platform</i>	Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>debris</i>	St Clears (PRN 3880) <i>geophysical anomalies</i>
Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>platform; Roman fort</i>	Merthyr (PRN 17356) <i>platform</i>	?Taliaris (Dyfed PRN 17324) <i>platform?</i>
Llanfallteg (PRN 17377) <i>platform</i>	Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>platform</i>	Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251) <i>platform</i>
Llanglydwen (PRN 17379) <i>platform</i>		Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406) <i>platform</i>

5.2.2 Churches with physical/documentary evidence for former components (beyond the present building)

Brechfa (PRN 20967) <i>documentary - former church beyond east end</i>	Llanboidy (PRN 3958) <i>documentary - west tower and building adjoining nave</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) <i>structural - north transept</i>
Cyffig (PRN 3897) <i>structural - south transept and west porch?</i>	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>structural - south chapel</i>	?Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>earthwork - longer chancel?</i>
Kidwelly (PRN 1629) <i>structural - longer nave</i>	?Llangadog (PRN 4049) <i>documentary - longer chancel?</i>	Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>structural - north transept</i>
	?Llanglydwen (PRN 17379) <i>structural - north porch?</i>	St Clears (PRN 3880) <i>documentary - convent adjoining south walls</i>

5.2.3 Churches with raised or ?unchanged floor levels

Betws (PRN 4872)	Llanboidy (PRN 3938)	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)	
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377)
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)	Llandybie (PRN 824)	
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llandyry (PRN 16233)	Llanfallteg (PRN 17377)
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	?Llanegwad (PRN 17392)	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llangadog (PRN 4049)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llanfihangel Aberbythych (PRN 4726)	Llangathen (PRN 709)

Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)	Meidrim (PRN 3972)
Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Llangynin (PRN 3871)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)	Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)	Llansawel (PRN 1870)	Pendine (PRN 3839)
Llangynog (PRN 2174)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llanllwch (PRN 5241)	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)	Taliaris (PRN 17324)
Llanllwni (PRN 1833)	Marros (PRN 3833)	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)

5.2.4 Churches without evidence for internal below-ground disturbance

Abernant (PRN 2251)	Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llangynin (PRN 3871)
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	?Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)
Llandawke (PRN 3905)		Myddfai (PRN 4090)

5.2.5 Churches without deep secondary external cuttings/drainage

Betws (PRN 4872)		Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Capel Gwynfe (PRN 5516)	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)	Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381)
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377)	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)
Llanarthne (PRN 728)		Meidrim (PRN 3972)
Llanboidy (PRN 3938)	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)	Merthyr (PRN 17356)
Llanddarog (17373)	Llangain (PRN 17349)	Penboyr (PRN 17348)
Llanddowror (PRN 3907)	Llangeler (PRN 5263)	Pendine (PRN 3839)
Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Llangynin (PRN 3871)	Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)
Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llangynog (PRN 2174)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)	Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)	Newchurch (PRN 2253)
Llandyry (PRN 16233)	Llanllwch (PRN 5241)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llanegwad (PRN 17392)	Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352)	Whitland (PRN 5045)
Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)
Llanfihangel Aberbythych (PRN 4726)	Llansawel (PRN 1870)	

5.3 Structural value

5.3.1 Churches with medieval towers

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llandybie (PRN 824)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llanelli (PRN 690)	Llansawel (PRN 1870)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)	Llanybydder (PRN 738)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629) <i>with spire</i>	Llangadog (PRN 4049)	Marros (PRN 3833)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llangathen (PRN 709)	Penbre (PRN 1644)
Llanarthne (PRN 728)	Llangydeym (PRN 1703)	Pendine (PRN 3839) <i>saddlebacked</i>
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055) <i>'turret'; saddlebacked</i>	Llangynin (PRN 3871)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llanddowror (PRN 3907)	Llanllwch (PRN 5241)	St Ishmael (PRN 2117) <i>saddlebacked</i>
Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Llanllwni (PRN 1833)	(Llanboidy (PRN 3958) <i>former - collapsed 1725</i>)
Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llannon (PRN 664)	

5.3.2 Churches with pre-19th century family chapels

?Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llangadog (PRN 4049)	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llangathen (PRN 709)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>formerly</i>	?Llangynog (PRN 2174)	

5.3.3 Churches with medieval vaults (except in towers)

Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059) <i>nave and south porch</i>	Llangynnwr (1736) <i>west porch</i>	Marros (PRN 3833) <i>south porch</i>
Llangynin (PRN 3871) <i>north transept</i>		Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>west porch</i>

5.3.4 Churches with pre-19th century timber roofs

?Betws (PRN 4872) <i>reused 17th century timbers?</i>	Llandybie (PRN 824) <i>15th-16th century</i>	Llangydeym (PRN 1703) <i>reused pre-19th century timbers</i>
Cilycwm (PRN 4111) <i>15th-16th century</i>	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>15th century</i>	?Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380) <i>retained pre-19th century timbers?</i>
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055) <i>15th-16th century</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678) <i>15th-16th century</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) <i>17th century</i>

Myddfai (PRN 4090)
15th-16th century

Penbre (PRN 1644)
17th century

5.3.5 Churches with pre-19th century floors

?Llandawke (PRN 3905)
18th century?

?Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn
(PRN 742)
relaid?

?Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
partly 18th century?

Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
18th century

?Llanfynydd (PRN 678)
18th century?

Myddfai (PRN 4090)
18th century

?Llangynin (PRN 3871)
relaid?

St Clears (PRN 3880)
partly 18th century?

5.3.6 Churches with pre-19th century chancel arches or arcades

Abernant (PRN 2251)
chancel arch

Llandingat (PRN 4093)
both

Llangynog (PRN 2174)
both

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)
both

Llandybie (PRN 824)
both

?Llanllwch (PRN 5241)
chancel arch?

Cilycwm (PRN 4111)
arcade

?Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)
both?

Llanllwni (PRN 690)
chancel arch

Cyffig (PRN 3897)
both

Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
arcade; blocked

Llannon (PRN 664)
both; arcade bases below floor level

Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)
arcade

Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)
both

Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
arcade; blocked

Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)
arcade

Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn
(PRN 742)
arcade

Llansawel (PRN 1870)
chancel arch

Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)
chancel arch

Llanfynydd (PRN 678)
both

Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
both

Kidwelly (PRN 1629)
both

Llangathen (PRN 709)
both

Meidrim (PRN 3972)
both

Laugharne (PRN 2163)
both

?Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)
chancel arch?

Myddfai (PRN 4090)
both

Llanarthne (PRN 728)
both

Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)
both

Penbre (PRN 1644)
both

Llanboidy (PRN 3958)
both

Llangynin (PRN 3871)
arcade

Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
both

Llandawke (PRN 3905)
chancel arch

Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)
both, and early 19th century arcade

St Clears (PRN 3880)
chancel arch (12th century Romanesque)

Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)
arcade

St Ishmael (PRN 2117)
arcade

5.3.7 Churches with, or with structural evidence for, pre-19th century openings (except in towers)

Abernant (PRN 2251) <i>windows</i>	Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380) <i>window</i>
Betws (PRN 4872) <i>doors</i>	Llandyry (PRN 16233) <i>door</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) <i>windows and door</i>
Cilycwm (PRN 4111) <i>windows and door</i>	Llanelli (PRN 690) <i>statuary niches on tower west wall</i>	?Llansadwrnen (PRN 17352) <i>Decorated aumbry - in situ?</i>
Cyffig (PRN 3897) <i>door, window and 18th century windows</i>	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>windows and doors (12th century)</i>	Llansaint (PRN 2118) <i>blocked 17th century windows</i>
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) <i>blocked door</i>	Llansawel (PRN 1870) <i>windows</i>
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881) <i>windows</i>	Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377) <i>blocked door</i>	Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>doors and blocked windows</i>
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678) <i>windows and door</i>	Llanwrda (PRN 17381) <i>rebuilt door</i>
Kidwelly (PRN 1629) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llangathen (PRN 709) <i>windows and door</i>	Llanybydder (PRN 738) <i>window</i>
Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llangynin (PRN 3871) <i>doors; blocked windows</i>	Marros (PRN 3833) <i>window and door</i>
Llanarthne (PRN 728) <i>doors, blocked 17th century window</i>	Llangynnwr (PRN 1736) <i>doors</i>	Meidrim (PRN 3972) <i>door, lights and aumbry</i>
Llanboidy (PRN 3958) <i>blocked window and door</i>	Llangynog (PRN 2174) - <i>blocked door</i>	Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>windows and doors</i>
Llandawke (PRN 3905) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llanllwch (PRN 5241) <i>blocked door</i>	Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>windows, doors and aumbry</i>
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055) <i>windows and door</i>	Llanllwni (PRN 1833) <i>door, aumbry, blocked window</i>	Pendine (PRN 3839) <i>windows (12th and 14th century) and aumbry</i>
Llandingat (PRN 4093) <i>windows and doors</i>	Llannon (PRN 664) <i>blocked windows and door</i>	St Clears (PRN 3880) <i>blocked doors</i>
Llandybie (PRN 824) <i>windows and door</i>		St Ishmael (PRN 2117) <i>blocked door</i>

5.3.8 Churches with pre-19th century window tracery

Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Kidwelly (PRN 1644)	Llandingat (PRN 4093)
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) <i>mullions</i>	Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)
	Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)	

Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)		Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>mullions</i>
Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>mullions</i>	Myddfai (PRN 4090)	Pendine (PRN 3839)

5.3.9 Churches with, or with evidence for, Sanctus bellcotes

none

(Cyffig (PRN 3897) <i>both tower and western bellcote</i>)	(Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) <i>two western bellcotes?</i>)	(Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>both tower and western bellcote</i>)
--	--	--

5.3.10 Churches with, or with evidence for, opposing north and south doorways

Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	?Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	?Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)	(Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>south and west doors</i>)
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)	Llangynin (PRN 3871)	St Ishmael (PRN 2117)
Llandingat (PRN 4093)	?Llangynog (PRN 2174)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)		

5.3.11 Churches with 'choir-recesses'

?Pendine (PRN 3839)
single - possible organ-chamber?

5.3.12 Churches with evidence for tomb recesses

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	?Llandingat (PRN 4093)	Llannon (PRN 664)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)	?Llansawel (PRN 1870)

5.3.13 Churches with evidence for sediliae

Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	Laugharne (PRN 2163)
---------------------	----------------------

5.3.14 Churches with evidence for Easter sepulchres

Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	?Llansawel (PRN 1870)
-------------------------------	-----------------------

5.3.15 Churches with evidence for skew passages

Llangynin (PRN 3871)

St Ishmael (PRN 2117)

5.3.16 Churches with evidence for squints

Abernant (PRN 2251)

Laugharne (PRN 2163)

Llansteffan (PRN 2208)

Cyffig (PRN 3897)

Llansawel (PRN 1870)

Penbre (PRN 1644)

Kidwelly (PRN 1629)

5.3.17 Churches with evidence for porch parvises

Llandingat (PRN 1093)
north porch

5.3.18 Churches with evidence for pre-19th century baptisteries

none

5.3.19 Churches with clerestoreys

none

5.3.20 Churches with pre-1850 external finishes (mainly 18th-early 19th century)

Cilycwm (PRN 4111)

Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili (PRN 5377)

Llanllwni (PRN 1833)

Cyffig (PRN 3897)

Llanfynydd (PRN 678)

Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)

Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)

Llangadog (PRN 4049)

Llansaint (PRN 2118)

?Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)

Llangathen (PRN 709)

Llansteffan (PRN 2208)

Kidwelly (PRN 1629)

Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)

Myddfai (PRN 4090)

Llandawke (PRN 3905)

Llangynin (PRN 3871)

Penbre (PRN 1644)

Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)

?Llangynog (PRN 2174)

St Clears (PRN 3880)

Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)

Llanllwch (PRN 5241)

5.3.21 Churches with evidence for wall-paintings

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)
medieval?

Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)
medieval and 17th century

Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
medieval

Cilycwm (PRN 4111)
18th century

Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
medieval?

Myddfai (PRN 4090)
medieval and 17th century

5.4 Fixtures and fittings

5.4.1 Churches with medieval fonts (*in situ* or otherwise)

?Abernant (PRN 2251)	Llanfallteg (PRN 17377)	Llansawel (PRN 1870) <i>partly rebuilt; redressed</i>
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	?Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208) <i>loose</i>
Brechfa (PRN 20697) <i>partly rebuilt; redressed</i>	Llangadog (PRN 4049)	?Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)
Cenarth (PRN 17355) <i>not in situ</i>	?Llangan (PRN 15341)	Marros (PRN 3833)
Cilycwm (PRN 4111)	Llangathen (PRN 709) <i>loose</i>	?Meidrim (PRN 3972)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llangennech (PRN 17374)	Merthyr (PRN 17356)
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Eglwys Gymun (PRN 5059)	?Llangynin (PRN 3871)	Pencader (PRN 5388) <i>in situ?</i>
Llanarthne (PRN 728)	?Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)	Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
?Llandawke (PRN 3905)	?Llanllwch (PRN 5241)	Pendine (PRN 3839)
Llanddeusant (PRN 4055) <i>partly rebuilt</i>	Llanllwni (PRN 1833)	St Clears (PRN 3880)
Llandingat (PRN 4093) <i>redressed</i>	Llannon (PRN 664)	St Ishmael (PRN 2117)
Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)	?Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)
	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)	

5.4.2 Churches with medieval piscinae (*in situ* or otherwise)

Abernant (PRN 2251)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llansteffan (PRN 2208)
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	?Llanddeusant (PRN 4055)	Meidrim (PRN 3972)
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)	Penbre (PRN 1644)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)		

5.4.3 Churches with medieval stoups (*in situ* or otherwise)

Betws (PRN 4872) <i>not in situ?</i>	Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)	Llandingat (PRN 1093)
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)
	Laugharne (PRN 2163)	

Llangynin (PRN 3871)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381)	Penbre (PRN 1644)
Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)	<i>not in situ</i>	Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
Llansawel (PRN 1870)	Marros (PRN 3833)	Pendine (PRN 3839)
Llansteffan (PRN 2208)	?Myddfai (PRN 4090)	

5.4.4 Churches with evidence for medieval rood screens/lofts

Abernant (PRN 2251) <i>corbelling</i>	Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>stair</i>	Llanllwni (PRN 1833) <i>door</i>
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>blocked stair</i>	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793) <i>blocked stair</i>	?Llanybydder (PRN 738) <i>stair light?</i>
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059) <i>blocked door</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678) <i>17th century stair recess</i>	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917) <i>stair</i>
Kidwelly (PRN 1629) <i>doors, stair-turret, corbelling</i>	Llangadog (PRN 4049) <i>blocked stair</i>	Meidrim (PRN 3972) <i>stair, door and light</i>
Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>corbelling</i>	Llangynin (PRN 3871) <i>corbelling</i>	Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>17th century stair recess</i>
Llandawke (PRN 3905) <i>blocked door</i>		Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>door</i>
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360) <i>stair?</i>		Pencarreg (PRN 17354) <i>stair</i>

5.4.5 Churches with medieval/earlier post-medieval monumental tombs/effigies

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>medieval and earlier post-medieval effigies</i>	Llandawke (PRN 3905) <i>medieval effigy</i>	Llangathen (PRN 709) <i>17th century memorial</i>
Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>medieval effigy</i>		Penbre (PRN 1644) <i>16th century memorials</i>

5.4.6 Churches with pre-19th century stained glass

Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>medieval?</i>
Myddfai (PRN 4090) <i>18th century</i>

5.4.7 Churches with pre-1850 seating

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>18th century pew</i>

5.4.8 Churches with pre-1850 altar rails

Penbre (PRN 1644)

5.4.9 Churches with pre-1850 pulpits

Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)
18th century

5.4.10 Churches with other pre-1850 fittings

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)
*18th century organ, and altar
table (loose)*

Kidwelly (PRN 1629)
*17th century door; 18th
century organ-case*

Laugharne (PRN 2163)
*medieval reredos, early 19th
century organ*

Llandingat (PRN 4093)
*18th century altar table,
disused*

Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)
?17th century altar table

Llangathen (PRN 709)
17th century altar table

Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)
17th century screen

Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)
early 19th century box-pews

Penbre (PRN 1644)
*16th century table; 17th
century door and chair*

5.5 Group value

5.5.1 Circular churchyards

?Betws (PRN 4872)	?Llanegwad (PRN 17392)	Llansawel (PRN 1870)
?Cenarth (PRN 17355)	Llanfihangel Aberbythych (PRN 4726)	Llanwrda (PRN 17381) <i>formerly</i>
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237) <i>formerly</i>	Llanfynydd (PRN 678)	Llanybydder (PRN 738)
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llangadog (PRN 4049) <i>formerly</i>	? Marros (PRN 3833) <i>formerly?</i>
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)	Llangeler (PRN 5263)	Myddfai (PRN 4090)
Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llangynog (PRN 2174)	?Pencarreg (PRN 17354)
Llandybie (PRN 824) <i>formerly</i>	Llansadwrn (PRN 1903) <i>formerly</i>	?Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)		

5.5.2 Churches associated with *in situ* ECMs

Cenarth (PRN 17355)	Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Llangan (PRN 15341) <i>not in situ?</i>
Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881)	Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059)	Llanegwad (PRN 17392)	Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	?Llanfair ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)
Llanarthne (PRN 728) <i>not in situ</i>	Llanfihangel-ar-arth (PRN 1793)	Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
Llanboidy (PRN 3958) <i>in situ?</i>		Merthyr (PRN 17356) <i>not in situ?</i>

5.5.3 Churchyards associated with earlier features

Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50) <i>within gateway area of Roman town</i>	?Laugharne (PRN 2163) <i>Roman cremation?</i>	<i>within Bronze Age cemetery?</i>
Eglwys Gymyn (PRN 5059) <i>within Iron Age enclosure?</i>	Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (PRN 3856) <i>within Roman fort</i>	? Marros (PRN 3833) <i>within Bronze Age cemetery?</i>
	?Llanllwni (PRN 1833)	Meidrim (PRN 3972) <i>within Iron Age enclosure?</i>

5.5.4 Churchyards with wells/springs

Cynwyl Gaeo (PRN 1881) <i>spring in church</i>	Llandeilo Fawr (PRN 888)	Ystrad-ffin (PRN 17406)
---	--------------------------	-------------------------

5.5.5 Churchyards with, or associated with cist cemeteries

?Laugharne (PRN 2163)

5.5.6 Churchyards with evidence for medieval crosses

?Abergorlech (PRN 1195)
cross-base?

Llanelli (PRN 690)
cross-shaft

Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)
cross-shaft

Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)
*later medieval cross-incised
stone*

Llansadwrn (PRN 17352)
cross-base

Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
cross-shaft

Marros (PRN 3833)
cross-base

?Trelech a'r Betws (PRN
5251)
cross-base?

5.5.7 Churchyards with other features

Abergwili (PRN 17407)
later medieval grave-slab

?Betws (PRN 4872)
*associated with larger
enclosure?*

?Llandingat (PRN 4093)
*associated with larger
enclosure?*

Llanddowror (PRN 3907)
later medieval grave-slabs

?Llangadog (PRN 4049)
*associated with larger
enclosure?*

Llangan (PRN 15341)
*associated with cropmark
enclosure(s)*

Llangynog (PRN 2174)
*associated with cropmark
enclosure(s)*

Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)
pound

Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)
*former detached chantry
chapel*

Penbre (PRN 1644)
pound

5.5.8 Churchyards with physical evidence for differing earlier boundaries

Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)
*smaller circular enclosure
bank*

Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)
smaller enclosure parchmark

Llansadwrn (PRN 1903)
*smaller circular enclosure
bank*

Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
*smaller circular enclosure
bank*

Llanwrda (PRN 17381)
*smaller circular enclosure
bank*

Penboyr (PRN 17348)
smaller enclosure bank

5.6 Dedications

5.6.1 'Celtic' dedications

Abergwili - St David (PRN 17407)	Llandybie - St Tybie (PRN 824)	Llanllwch - St Mary (PRN 5241) <i>original?</i>
?Abernant - St Lucia (PRN 2251) <i>originally St Lleucu?</i>	Llandyfaelog - St Maelog (PRN 5360)	Llannon - St Non (PRN 664)
Betws - St David (PRN 4872)	?Llanedi - St Edith/Edi (PRN 674)	Llanpumpsaint - SS Celynnin, Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno & Gwynoro (PRN 17380)
Brechfa - St Teilo (PRN 20697)	Llanegwad - St Egwad (PRN 17392)	Llansadwrnen - St Sadwrnen (PRN 17352)
Cenarth - St Llawddog (PRN 17355)	Llanelli - St Elli (PRN 690)	Llansadwrn - St Sadwrn (PRN 1903)
Cyffig - St Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llanfallteg - St Mallteg (PRN 17377)	Llansaint - All Saints (PRN 2118)
Cynwyl Elfed - St Cynwyl (PRN 2237)	Llanfynydd - St Egwad (PRN 678)	Llansawel - St Sawyl (PRN 1870)
Cynwyl Gaeo - St Cynwyl (PRN 1881)	Llangadog - St Cadog (PRN 4049)	?Llansteffan - St Ystyffan (PRN 2208) <i>formerly St Stephen?</i>
Eglwys Gymun - St Margaret of Scotland (PRN 5059)	Llangain - St Cain (PRN 17349)	Llanwinio - St Gwynio (PRN 17353)
Henllan Amgoed - St David (PRN 4967)	Llangan - St Canna (PRN 15341)	Llanwrda - St Cwrda (PRN 17381)
Llanarthne - St David (PRN 728) <i>formerly St Arthneu</i>	Llangathen - St Cathen (PRN 709)	Llanycrwys - St David (PRN 1917)
Llanboidy - St Brynach (PRN 3958)	Llangeler - St Celer (PRN 5263)	Meidrim - St David (PRN 3972) <i>original?</i>
Llandawke - St Odoceus (PRN 3905)	Llangennech - St Gwynog (PRN 17374)	Penboyr - St Llawddog (PRN 17348)
Llanddarog - St Twrog (PRN 17373)	Llanglydwen - St Cledwyn (PRN 17379)	Penbre - St Illtud (PRN 1644)
Llandeilo Fawr - St Teilo (PRN 888)	Llangydeyrn - St Cyndeyrn (PRN 1703)	Pencarreg - St Patrick (PRN 17354) <i>formerly St Padarn?</i>
Llanddowror - St Teilo (PRN 3907) <i>formerly St Cringat?</i>	Llangynin - St Cynin (PRN 3871)	St Ishmael - St Ishmael (PRN 2117)
Llandingat - St Dingat (PRN 4093)	Llangynnwr - St Ceinwr (PRN 1736)	Ystrad-ffin - St Paulinus (PRN 17406)
	Llangynog - St Cynog (PRN 2174)	
	Llanllawddog - St Llawddog (PRN 5367)	

5.6.2 Latin dedications

Carmarthen - St Peter (PRN 50)	Llanfihangel-ar-arth - St Michael (PRN 1793)	Newchurch - St Michael (PRN 2253)
Cilycwm - St Michael (PRN 4111)	Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn - St Michael (PRN 742)	Pencader - St Mary (PRN 5388) <i>original?</i>
Kidwelly - St Mary (PRN 1629)	Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili - St Michael (PRN 5377)	Pendine - St Margaret of Antioch (PRN 3839)
Laugharne - St Martin-des- champs (PRN 2163)	Llanybydder - St Peter (PRN 738) <i>original?</i>	Pontyberem Capel Ifan - St John Baptist (PRN 1690)
?Llanddeusant - SS Simon & Jude (PRN 4055) <i>originally 'Celtic'?</i>	Marros - St Lawrence (PRN 3833)	St Clears - St Mary Magdalene (PRN 3880)
Llanfair-ar-y-bryn - St Mary (PRN 3856)	Merthyr - St Martin (PRN 17356)	Taliaris - Holy Trinity (PRN 17324)
Llanfihangel Aberbythych - St Michael (PRN 4726)	Myddfai - St Michael (PRN 4090)	Trelech a'r Betws - St Teilo (PRN 5251)
		Whitland - St Mary (PRN 5045)

5.6.3 Mixed dedications

?Llanllwni - St Luke and/or St Llonio (PRN 1833)
original?

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements to: Heather James, project manager, Cambria Archaeology (and DAC member); Jenny Hall of Cambria Archaeology for assistance in designing the database and glossaries; Ian Darke, Claire Sampson and Maugan Trethowan of Cambria Archaeology for their assistance; Andrew Davidson, GAT, Bob Silvester, CPAT, and Edith Evans, GGAT, for much useful discussion; Terry James, RCAHM(W) and Chris Martin, CPAT, for database advice; Tony Parkinson, formerly of RCAHM(W) for initial advice; Louise Davies, Diocesan Office, for her assistance; Abacus Ltd for data input; Dee Brennan, SDUC Lampeter, and Eleanor Breen, Tegwen Burns, Simon Dick, Fran Grainger and Gemma Smith of SDUC Lampeter and Trinity College, Carmarthen, for voluntary fieldwork; staff at NLW, Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cardiganshire Record Office and RCAHM(W) for assistance; and the many clergy who allowed access to their churches.

7.0 REFERENCES

A full list of references for the source material examined for each church is noted under the individual church in the paper reports and under each PRN in the database.

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
The Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: (01558) 823121/823131 Fax: (01558) 823133
email: cambria@acadat.com