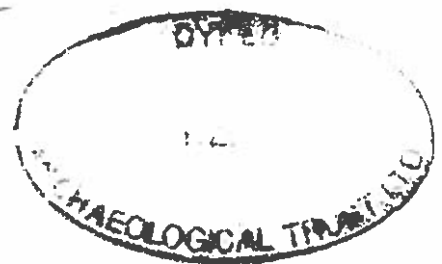


LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL .



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
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RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO.102639

Mawrth 2012

March 2012

LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES - SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

Gan / By

F. Murphy

Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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**Project: LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT
RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK: MONASTERIES**

A) Recommendations for further investigative work on sites that are currently designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments

PRN: 1897

Site Name: TALLEY ABBEY, ST MARY & ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

SAM No: CM013

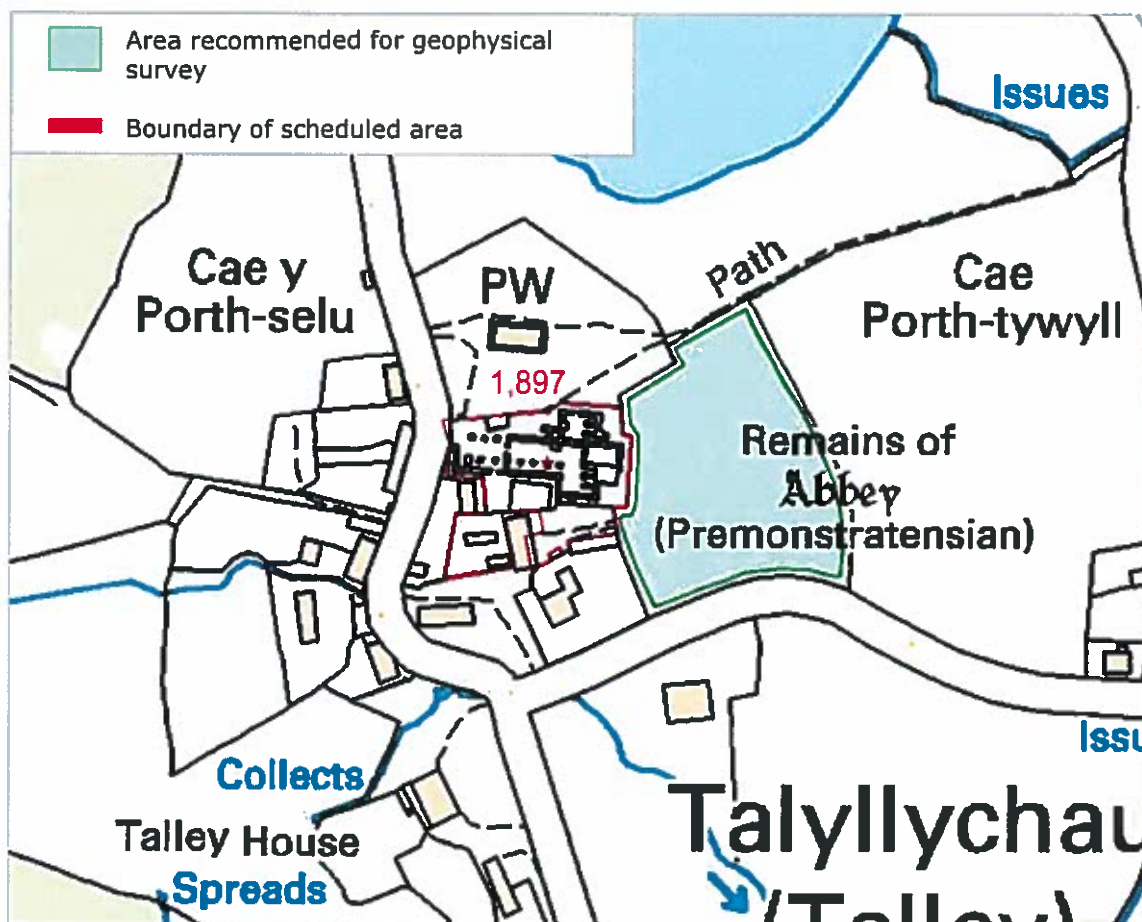
RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM A POSSIBLE REVISION
OF SCHEDULED AREA

NGR: SN63273277

SN63SW

Altitude: 110m

Location map:



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Description:

The remains are those of an abbey founded c.1200 for the Premonstratensian canons by the Lord Rhys (d. 1197) dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St John. This abbey was never completed as first intended. The original plan appears to have been for a church 240ft long with a tower over the crossing and probably two western towers. The foundations for most of the north and part of the west wall of the planned nave seem to have been laid but the church was completed with the nave only four bays long, rather than eight. Only the north and east sides of the tower now stand and a stair can be seen in the wall passing across both portions. There are some traces of the east range, which usually housed the dormitory above the chapter house. The southern range, where presumably the dining hall would have lain, probably lies somewhere beneath the farm buildings to the south, while no buildings appear to have been completed on the west, which was closed off by a plain wall. All these would have stood around a central cloister of which only the northern footings now remain.

The choir and presbytery were retained to serve as a parish church after 1536 and did not fall completely out of use until 1772-3 when the present church of St Michael was built. The ruins are shown as partially cleared on the OS County series 2nd edition (Carmarthen. XXV.8 1906) and further clearance and consolidation followed from 1933 when the remains were taken into state care.

The scheduled area was extended in 1989 to include two modern gardens to the south of the cloister ruins that are thought to cover the remaining parts of the claustral buildings of the abbey.

Reason for recommendation:



The aerial photograph above taken in 1986 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust shows a substantial bank and ditch curving across the fields to the east of the Abbey church remains. This is possibly the boundary to the inner Abbey precinct. There are also other, slighter earthworks in the field named *Cae Berllan* in Welsh or Orchard Field in English. The extent of the abbey precinct and the location of its entrances may be indicated in the fieldnames. The field further east is called *Cae Porth Tywell* (Field of the Dark Gate) perhaps indicating the position of a gate through the outer precinct. Further field names *Cae y Porth selu* and *Cae Porth* suggest gates to the west and south respectively. No archaeological excavation has ever taken place adjacent to the Abbey church but it is likely that within this area one might find buildings and structures that formed part of the larger Abbey complex. It is recommended that at least the area shaded green on the above map is subjected to a geophysical survey in order to define any features associated with the medieval priory. This data would better inform a decision whether or not to schedule this area. In the early 1990's a house was built in the field *Cae Porth* to the south of the road (see map above) but unfortunately no archaeological recording was undertaken at that time.



Looking southeast from the ruins of Talley Abbey, showing the field in which it is recommended that geophysical survey is carried out.

PRN: 2043

Site Name: STRATA FLORIDA ABBEY; YSTRAD FFLUR

SAM No: CD001

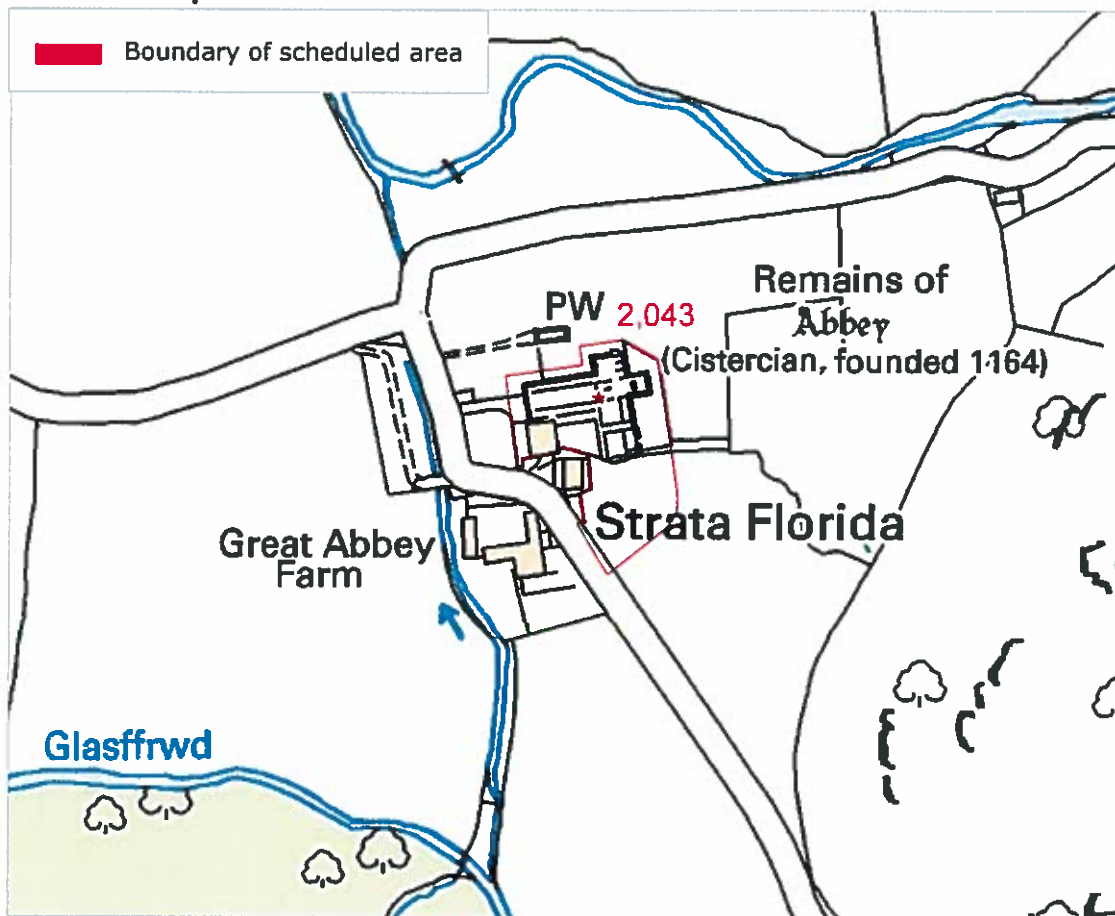
RECOMMENDATION: FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY ST DAVID THE SCHEDULED AREA SHOULD BE REVISED

NGR: SN7467665729

SN76SE

Altitude: 195m

Location Map:



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Description:

Site of the now ruined medieval Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida. Said to have been first founded with monks from Whitland Abbey, Carmarthenshire in 1164 by Robert Fitz Stephen, at Old Abbey Farm, some 3 km away, but the next year Norman control was lost to Rhys ap Gruffydd. The building of the abbey began before 1200 but it is probable that the Abbey was still not totally completed by the middle of the thirteenth century. Through the course of the thirteenth

century, the Abbey was an ardent supporter of the Welsh cause, occasionally resulting in the hostility of the kings of England. The abbey at Strata Florida suffered damage during the Welsh wars of King Edward I in 1276-77 and again in 1282-83. As a consequence, Strata Florida was certainly remodelled in the early fourteenth century. The Black Death (1348-49) and the revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr (1400-09) took their toll and despite late medieval revivals Strata Florida closed in 1539.

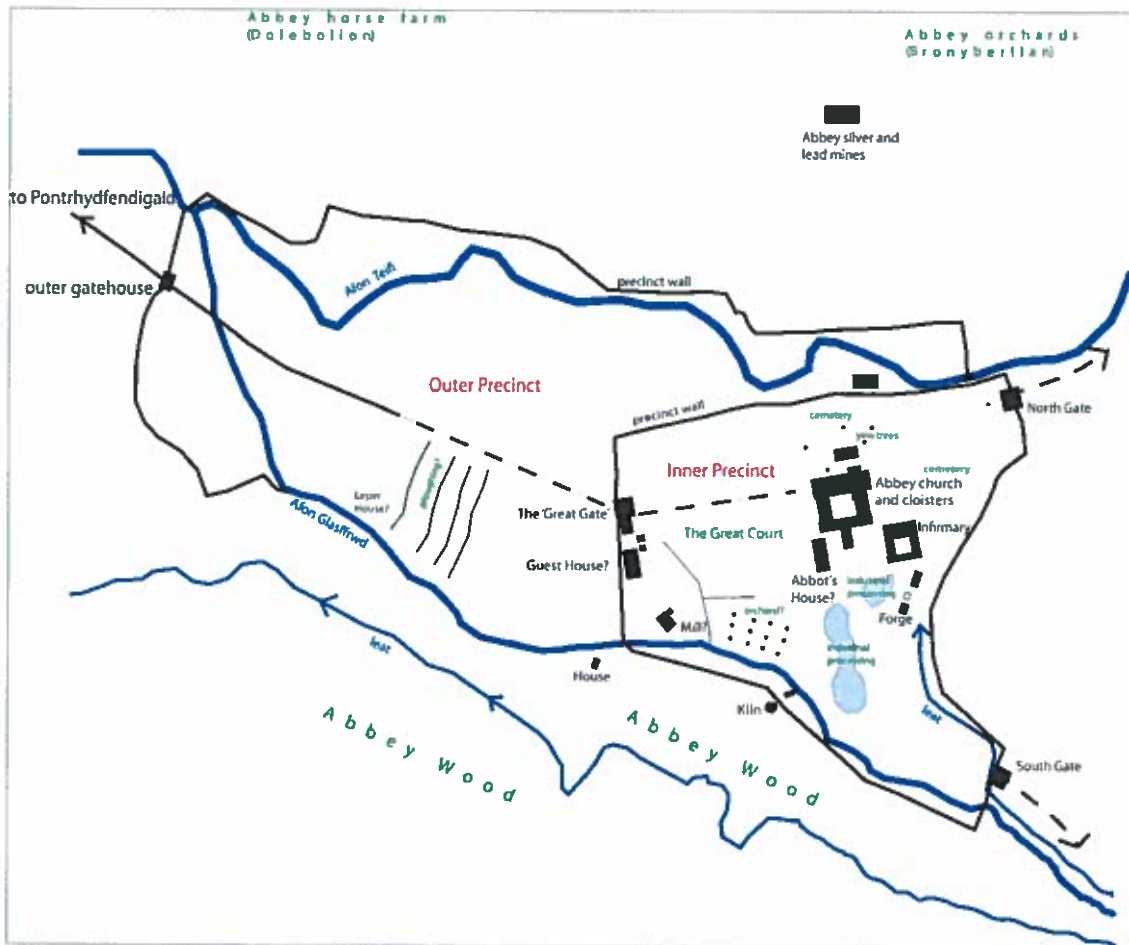


Looking down at the ruins of Strata Florida Abbey, from the hillside to the southeast.

Recent Archaeological Fieldwork:

In 1998-9 Professor David Austin of the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology in the University of Wales, Lampeter conceived the idea of a major research and development program centred on the former Abbey of Strata Florida. One project undertaken as part of the research is an in depth study of the Abbey Precinct and the area immediately around it, a demesne of about 2 km², as this is where the landscape seems to have been most radically altered by the Cistercians during their time at Strata Florida. The study has included geophysical survey, targeted excavation, environmental sampling and topographic survey. The project is still on going, now under the auspices of the University of Wales Trinity St David, and a detailed picture of the Abbey and its immediate environs is beginning to be constructed. This will no doubt inform any changes in the future scheduling of the site and will provide a valuable study to use when assessing similar sites across Wales.

The project has, so far, estimated that the size of the precinct is an impressive c. 45 ha. Geophysical survey has shown that stone buildings are restricted to the Inner Precinct area as they are in most Cistercian houses, but that they are laid out over a larger area (16 ha.) in a much more dispersed pattern than would normally be found. A large inner gatehouse to the west, an infirmary and mill to the south and perhaps a guest-house just south of the gatehouse are suggested. Other buildings seem to include 'back' gates and the refectory. The Outer Precinct, again as at other Cistercian Abbeys, seems from the geophysics evidence to have no substantial stone buildings with the likelihood that this area was reserved for specialist agrarian and minor industrial activities.



Projected plan of the Inner and Outer Precincts of Strata Florida Abbey (does not include the results of 2011 fieldwork). By kind permission of Department of Archaeology, History & Anthropology University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

PRN: 2657

Site Name: ST DAVIDS HOSPICE

SAM No: PE482

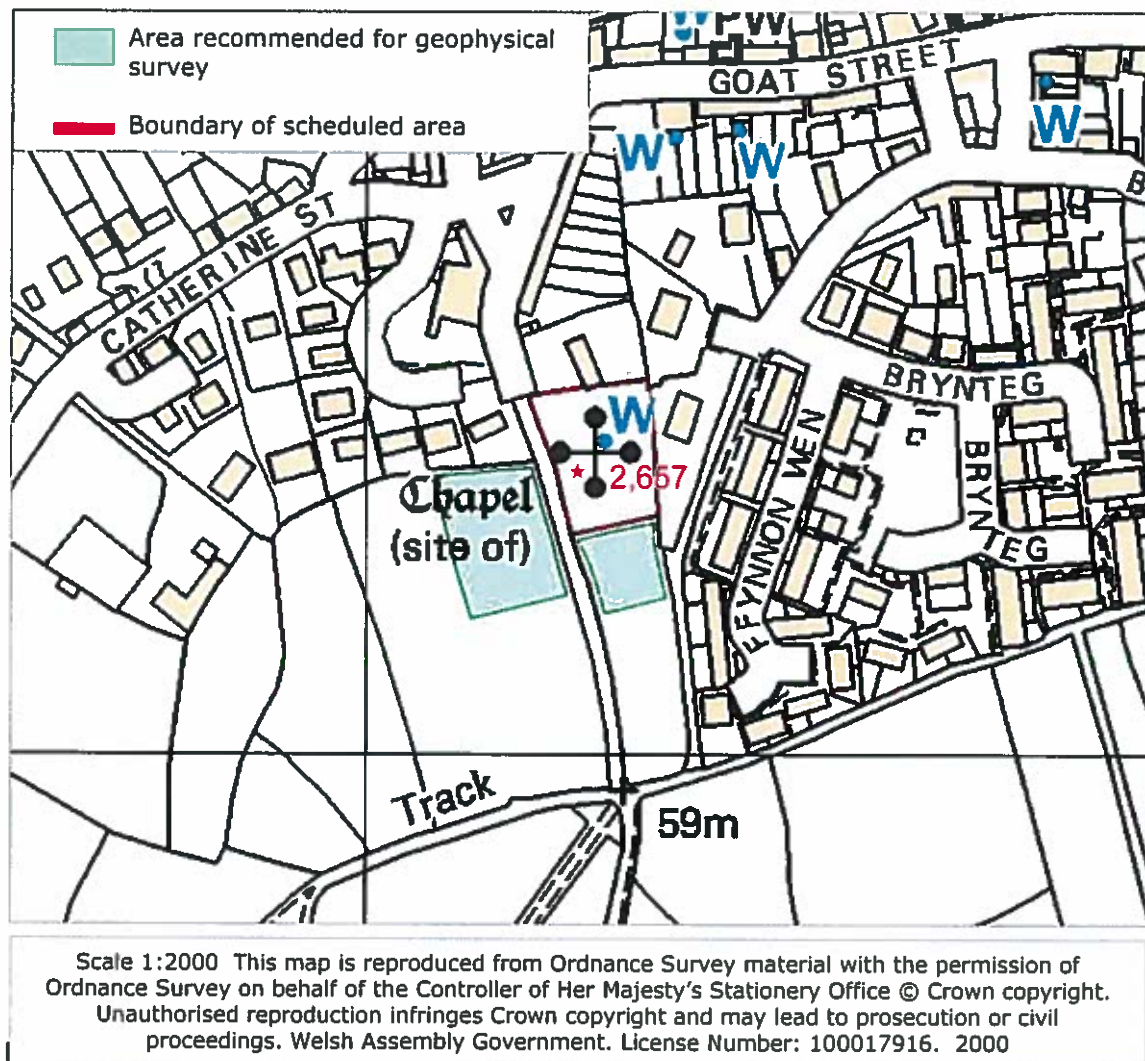
RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM A POSSIBLE REVISION OF SCHEDULED AREA

NGR: SM75092512

SM72NE

Altitude: 50m

Location map:



Description:

Site of medieval priory or hospice, established by Bishop Bek in the late 13th century, called 'the priory of Whitewell and the chapel there' in a mid-15th century account. The 'chapel' has the separate PRN 2673. In the early nineteenth century, Fenton noted 'the faint traces of a handsome building (with) fragments of fine masonry scattered about' and the well retained its arched covering with fragments of fine masonry in the vicinity but it is not sure if Fenton was referring to chapel or hospice. The site was ploughed in 1977 and subsequent ground

survey and field walking by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, revealed a number of building platforms, and spreads of building debris, ridge tiles and window glass, with medieval finds concentrated towards the south-west corner of the site in the area of a platform, at location marked as 'site of chapel' on OS County series (Pembroke. XX.3 1889). Some 30m to the north-west is the 'White well', where (in 1966) a trapdoor in a hedgerow opened onto a water-filled well, an arched covering being noted in the early 19th century.

The site of the well and the platforms of the associated buildings are in a trapezoidal field to the south of the Cathedral Close. The eastern side of the field forms a broad terrace 8m wide whose western edge shows as a collapsed wall with a scatter of field clearance stones to either side. A more regular platform forms the southern third of the field and a third more distinct rectangular measuring 15m by 7m lies on the western side. These terraces and platforms surround a natural spring which rises a few metres behind the surviving well structure.

Reason for recommendation:



Looking southeast across the scheduled area of St David's Hospice at Whitewell.

Field walking has identified areas of medieval occupation associated with earthworks within the field shown in the photograph above. There are documentary references to a possible priory or hospice, as well as a chapel and a holy well within the area of the field. The possible survival of the foundations and floor layers of these structures would appear to be good, as little activity has occurred in the area in the intervening years, but their extents are not known.

The area scheduled, as shown in the map above, is an arbitrary one defined by the field boundaries within which the site lies. However, the true extent of the structures is not known and may well lie outside this field. Geophysical survey has never been undertaken within the scheduled area. Therefore geophysical survey within the area of the field would better define what currently exists within the scheduled area and delineate whether the scheduled area should be extended further, in order to protect this important site.

PRN: 3176

Site Name: PILL PRIORY

SAM No: PE070

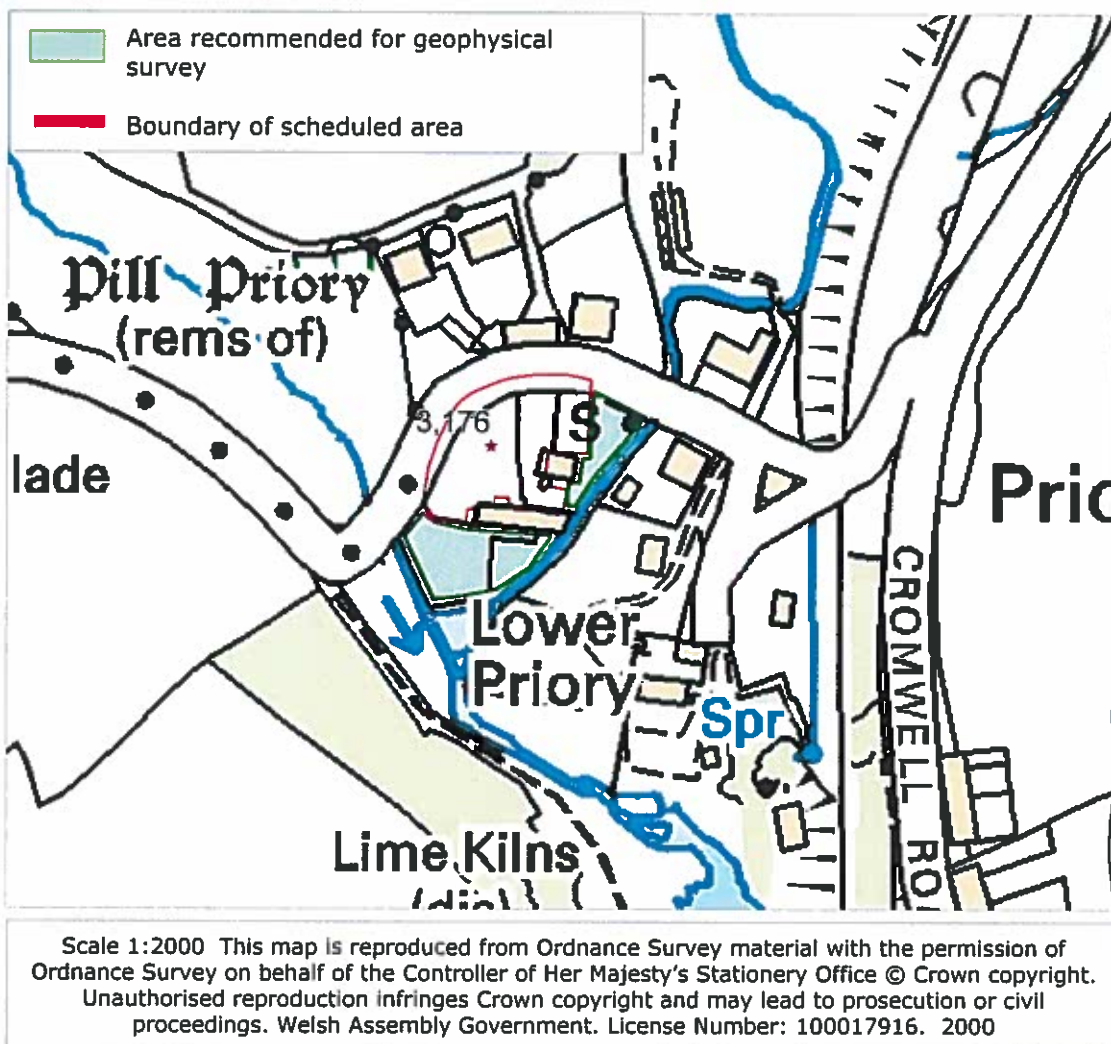
RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM A POSSIBLE REVISION OF SCHEDULED AREA

NGR: SM90230727

SM90SE

Altitude: 10m

Location Map:



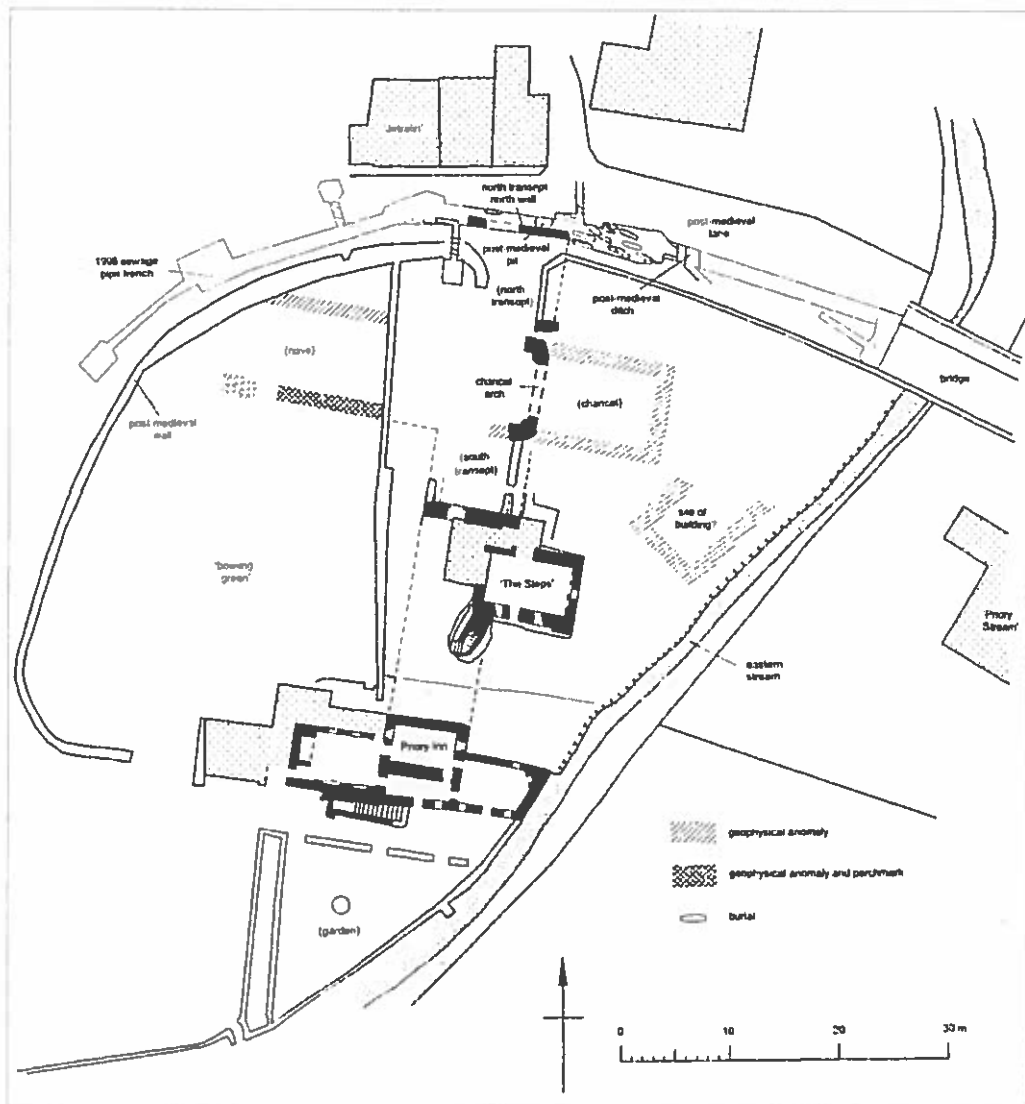
Description:

Priory of the Order of Tiron, dedicated to St Budoc and the Blessed Virgin: thought to have been founded in the 12th century, possibly as early as about 1113, or as late as 1200; dissolved in 1536. The remains of the Priory are set on generally level ground at the junction of two valleys, at the head of Hubberston Pill. Recording & survey work, 1996 & 1999, have provided a reasonably clear outline of the Priory, which centred on a cruciform church, at least 40m east to west overall. It comprised an aisle less nave and chancel, north & south transepts

& a central crossing tower, with claustral buildings on the south & burials recorded on the north. The visible remains comprise the chancel arch & broken north transept arch, with elements of the central crossing tower above. The modern residence & public house: 'the Steps & Priory Inn' (PRN 59083 /4) incorporate parts of the eastern cloister range in their fabric. The 'Steps' is thought to be based on the priory chapter house. A pond bay to the north has been associated with the medieval priory.

Rees 1981 notes that 'it is interesting that the road curves around what must have been the end of the nave of the church and the west range of buildings, and much of the modern garden lies where the cloister might have stood'.

Reason for recommendation:



A composite plan of the priory features (Ludlow 2002).

In 1996-7 during excavations for a new sewage pipe the north wall of the north transept and at least 31 burials were revealed. The normal planning procedure had been bypassed and a watching brief was undertaken as an emergency measure by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The position of the burials suggested that

they may have been interred just inside the northern boundary of the priory precinct and that their placement follows the line of the northern boundary (Ludlow 2002). Hubberston Pill may have formed the southern limit of this precinct, from which the western stream may represent a boundary which joined the northern boundary somewhere north of the lane. The eastern boundary is probably represented by the foot of an uphill slope, the line of which is followed by the 19th-century sawmill leat now culverted along the edge of the site.

Within this possible precinct area the nave and chancel wall-lines were observed as geophysical anomalies in July 1999 as was a detached building, possibly an infirmary (see plan above). This building lies immediately south-east of the chancel and appears to be aligned NE-SW, lying alongside the eastern stream that runs through the site. This building does not fall within the current scheduled area and is therefore not protected.

It is recommended that the scheduled area is increased to include the proposed inner precinct of the former priory, defined by the current road, Hubberston Pill and the stream to the east.

To inform this decision it is recommended that further geophysical survey is undertaken to the south of the Priory Inn building. The area labelled on the plan above as a former 'bowling green' was subject to geophysical survey in 1999 but the results were inconclusive. This may be due to the remains being buried too deeply to be detected. It is recommended that a test pit survey is undertaken in order that the lack of geophysical evidence may be explained and to assess the nature of any archaeological deposits that may exist.

Ref:

Ludlow, N.D., Ramsey, R.S.F. & Schlee, D.E., 'Pill Priory 1996-1999: recent work at a Tironian House in Pembrokeshire' *Medieval Archaeology* (2002) pp. 41-80

PRN: 3870

Site Name: WHITLAND ABBEY

SAM No: CM014

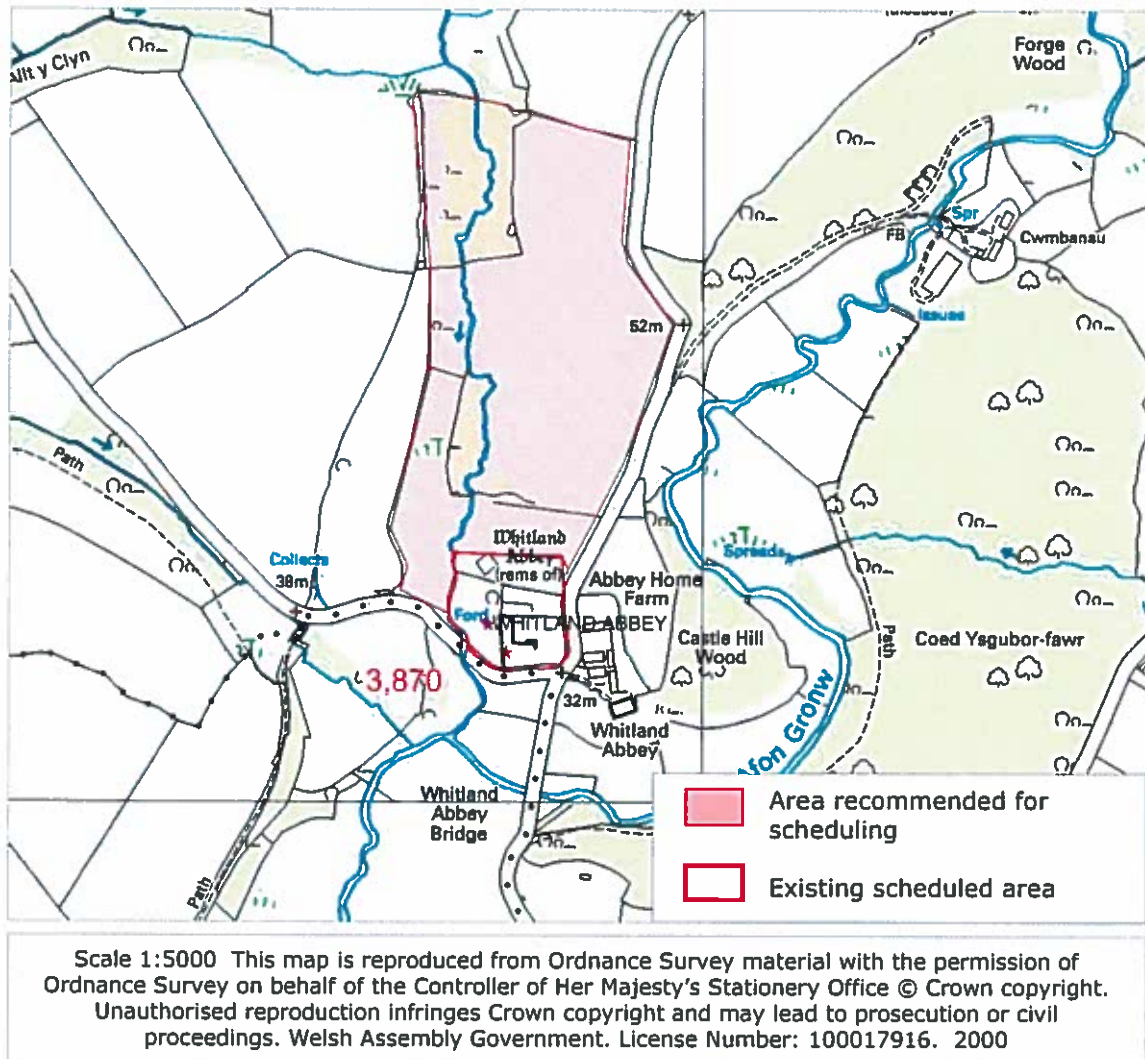
RECOMMENDATION: EXTENSION OF SCHEDULED AREA

NGR: SN20791816

SN21SE

Altitude: 30m

Location map:



Description:

The ruins of a mid to late 12th century Cistercian Abbey that lie about 2km north of Whitland, in a wooded valley between the Afon Gronw and a small stream, the Nant Colomendy. Whitland flourished to become the premier Cistercian house in west Wales. From Whitland seven new Welsh abbeys were founded: Abbey Cwmhir (1176), Cymer (1198), Strata Florida (1169), Llantarnam (1179), Aberconwy (1186), Strata Marcella (1170) and Valle Crucis (1201). In 1539 the

house was suppressed as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the buildings sold into private hands. Today the upstanding remains include fragments of the west range and the gatehouse within an area of rough grazing. The footprint of the south and east ranges that would have surrounded the cloister lie in the private garden of Abbey Home Farm. The area of the church is open to the public.

Excavation by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in the 1990's established that the abbey church was of simple 'Bernadine' form, without a tower and the presence of a full conventual plan was demonstrated by geophysical survey. The boundaries of the inner and outer precinct can be partly defined. A complex of earthworks in the surrounding landscape was surveyed and it would appear that they are associated with a monastic water system which included fish ponds, supply and drainage channels, and the possible diversion of the river alongside the site.



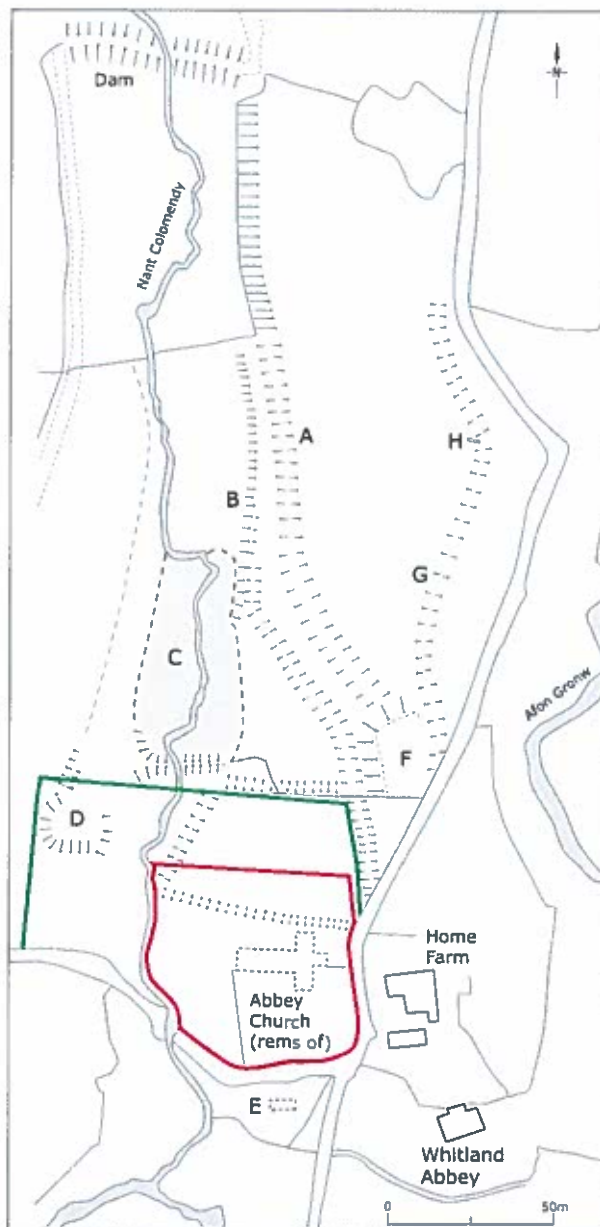
The ruins of the medieval gatehouse to Whitland Abbey.

Reason for recommendation:

Whitland Abbey was the premier Cistercian house in west Wales, and from Whitland seven other abbeys were founded. Archaeological excavation and geophysical survey have revealed the good preservation of the below ground archaeology and the area of the conventual buildings has been scheduled accordingly. However, the outer earthworks (see plan below), particularly to the north of the abbey, that show how important the provision of a water supply was to the abbey, and that so rarely survive, are not protected. A fresh water supply was needed to flush drains, fill ponds and provide water for motive power and it was this requirement that would have led the abbey to be located where it was. At Whitland these earthworks together with the possible remains of associated

mills and other outer precinct buildings may well survive below ground just as well as the conventual buildings.

The suggested inner precinct (outlined in green on the map below) may yield more evidence for structures than the claustral buildings already identified. Historical sources note that the inner precinct contained a guesthouse and a large stable (Ludlow 2002) and it is probable that an infirmary and an abbot's lodging were also located within its limits. Although not all the inner precinct area is suitable, it is recommended that targeted geophysical survey is undertaken within the inner precinct to the north and northeast of the abbey church, where we may at least be able to test the proposed precinct boundaries, and in the outer precinct to test the nature of sites F and H (as shown below). This information would help advise a decision on whether the scheduled area should be extended, to protect this rare survival of an abbey in its setting, especially such an important one in Welsh history.



Plan of outer earthworks identified at Whitland Abbey.

A= mill race

B= leat possibly connected to the abbey drains

C= fish or mill pond

D= fish pond

E= possible site of mill

F= probable site of mill

G=hollow way/former track predating the existing road
H= surface irregularities marked 'wall' on OS maps – note how the hollow way changes alignment suggesting this was a gateway perhaps through an outer precinct wall

The scheduled area is outlined in red.

The projected boundary of the inner precinct of the abbey is outlined in green.

The form of the abbey church was revealed during excavation by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and Trinity College in the 1990's and originally the outline of the church was represented in hedging and turf walling, to make it more visible to the public. However, over the intervening years it has fallen into rather a sad state (see picture below) and there is no sign from the road to make the public aware that it exists or that access is allowed. It would seem appropriate that remedial work is carried out to enable the outline of the church to be visible again, and signs erected to make it known to the public.



Photograph of the scheduled area of Whitland Abbey Church, taken from the west end of the nave. This part of the abbey ruins is open to the public.

Ref:

Ludlow, N. 'Whitland Abbey, Carmarthenshire: a Cistercian site re-examined, 1994-99', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (2002), pp 41-108

PRN: 12924

Site Name: ST CLEARS PRIORY

SAM No: CM290

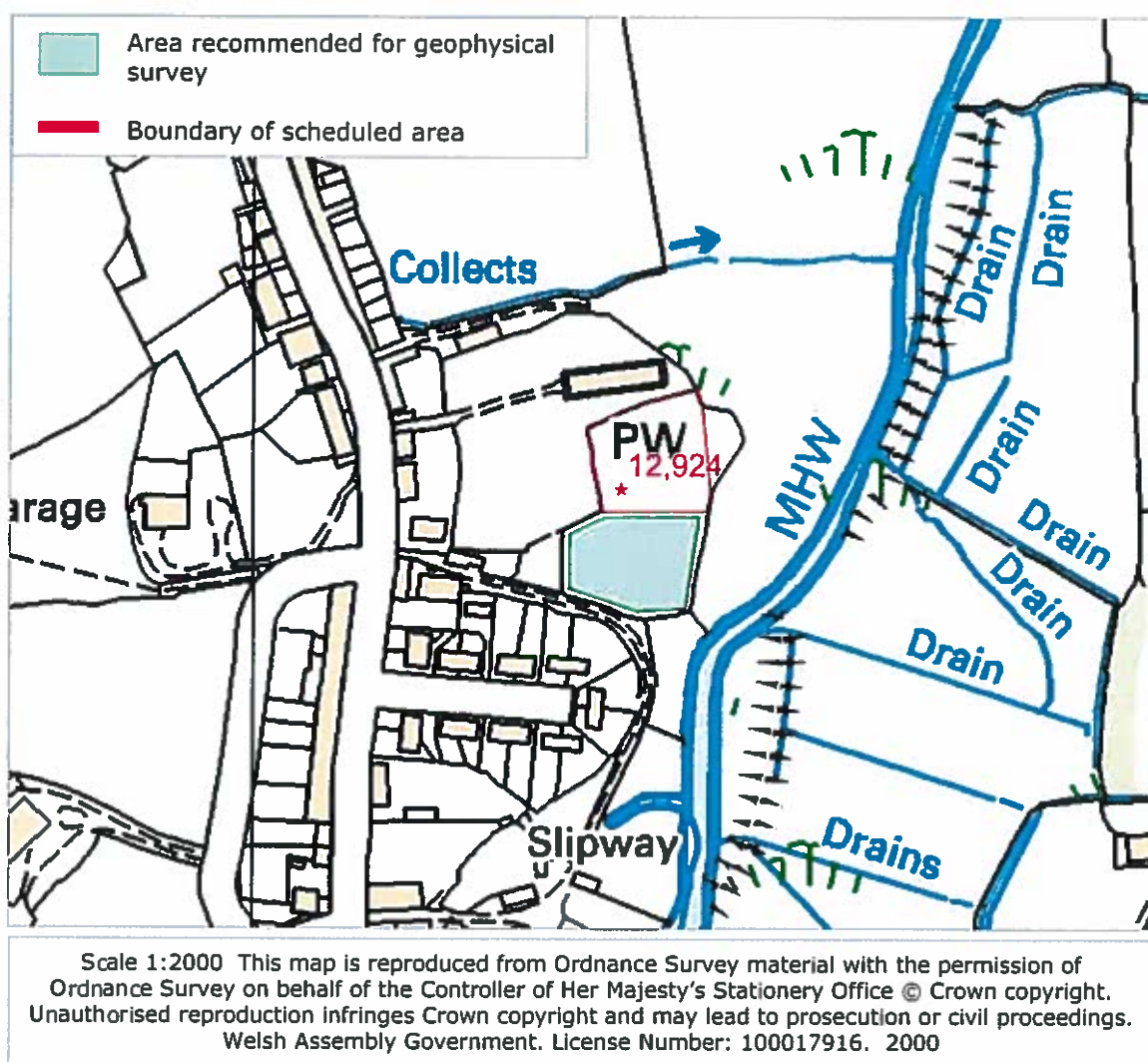
RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM A POSSIBLE REVISION OF SCHEDULED AREA

NGR: SN28161569

SN21NE

Altitude: 10m

Location map:



Description:

The priory, dedicated to St Mary Magdalene, was founded between 1147-84 as a Cluniac cell of the house at St Martin des Clunes, Pans. Initially it had only a prior and a monk and later just two monks. It was suppressed in 1414 and finally dissolved in 1442 as part of a move to dissolve 'alien houses'; the lands being given to All Souls, Oxford. The church was converted into the parish church. A field to the south of the church contains what appears to be a c.40m platform that may be orientated to a blocked medieval doorway in the southern

side of the nave. It is thought that this platform indicates the position of the claustral buildings of the small priory. Geophysical surveys in 1989 by Bradford University & by Deakin & Evans in 2003 indicate considerable activity in the area where the cloisters might be expected, but neither produces a clear plan. There are some signs of earthworks on the ground, possibly a c.40m square platform, and these have been scheduled.



Photograph taken looking north towards the priory church of St Clears, showing the recently created car park. The scheduled area is on the right of the fence line to the south of the nave.

Reason for recommendation:

Although geophysical surveys have been undertaken in the past neither has produced a clear plan of the claustral buildings and the true extent of the complex is not known. In the vicinity of the scheduled area, recent work has been undertaken removing hedgerows, constructing footpaths and a church car park (see picture above). This demonstrates the fragility of the archaeology as it would appear that no watching brief or archaeological recording was undertaken at the time of the works. It is recommended that a more thorough geophysical survey is undertaken of the scheduled area and the area shaded in green (shown on the map above); to better understand the extent of the archaeological deposits. Targeted test pitting shortly after receiving the survey results would help define the nature of deposits that survive. This information if recovered would be of enormous help in advising any decisions on changes of use in the surrounding area.



Photograph, taken looking northeast, showing the blocked doorway in the south wall of the nave that may have given access to the medieval claustral buildings.

Ref:

Deakin, G.C & Evans, W.E., 2004, *St Clears Priory (CM 290) Geophysical Survey Report on the Summer 2003 Fieldwork*, Unpublished report.

B) Recommendations for scheduling and further investigative work on unprotected sites

PRN: 2671

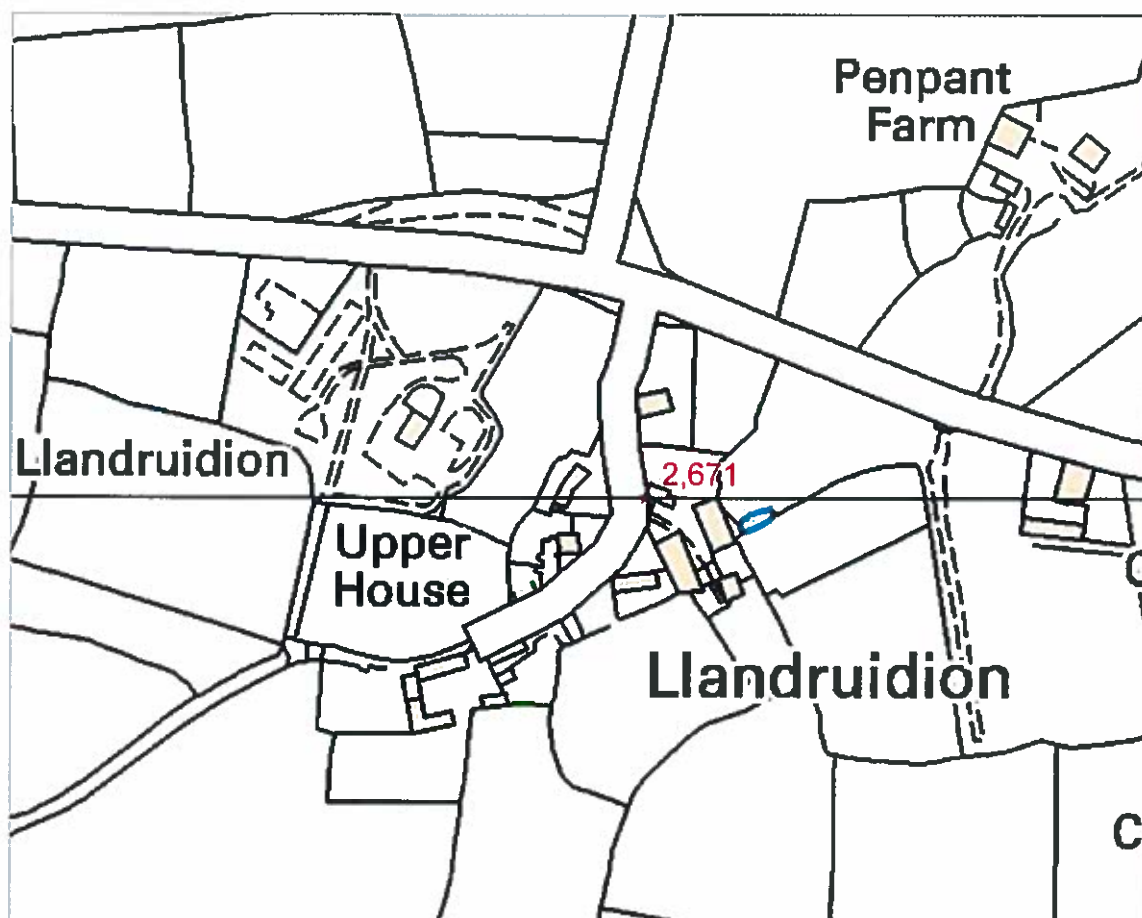
Site Name: LLANDRUIDION HOSPICE

RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR SCHEDULING

NGR: SM78422500

SM72NE

Altitude: 60m



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Description:

At Llandruidion, about 2 miles east of St Davids Cathedral, are the ruins of a rectangular building that would appear to be the remains of a chapelry or hospitium. It was a prebend of St Davids by 1224 (Conway Davies 1946, 355-6), and appears to have been situated in a field called 'Parc Croes' (RCAHM 1925, 335). The ruins sit within a small grassy enclosure defined by a dry stone wall, and comprise collapsed stone walls that average 0.8m thick. The western gable end still stands and internally there are at least 3 recesses/alcoves built into it with stone lintels. There would appear to be at least 2 internal walls. The building

measures approximately 14.0m NW-SE by 6.0m. The ruin is very overgrown with ivy and small trees grow inside it. There are no obvious doorways but the whole ruin is so overgrown it is hard to discern any features but it shows signs of having been rebuilt over the years. Although there is no direct evidence that the building is either medieval or ecclesiastical it is probably post-Conquest in origin and a hospice or chapel for those travelling the pilgrims' route to St David's.

Reason for scheduling recommendation:



Photograph of the ruins of Llandruidion hospice. Looking southwest.

Although the ruins show signs of having been rebuilt over the years, they represent the very rare survival of a domestic medieval building that may have ecclesiastical origins. The site visit established that no one locally knew who now owned the small enclosure in which the ruins sit, and that they communally look after it by keeping the grass and shrubs cut. However, the ruins are in a bad state of decay and the western gable end will not stand for much longer. It would be a terrible pity if it were destroyed or allowed to fall further into decline. An unprotected site of medieval date in nearby Keeston (PRN 3293), was visited during this project and found to have been completely removed in the late 1980's during development for housing. Local residents informed me of their astonishment when it was bulldozed one morning. It would be a great pity if this building were to befall the same fate. It is recommended that the ruins are scheduled and that to inform this scheduling the ruins are fully recorded, something the local community would be very keen to be involved in.

PRN: 3273

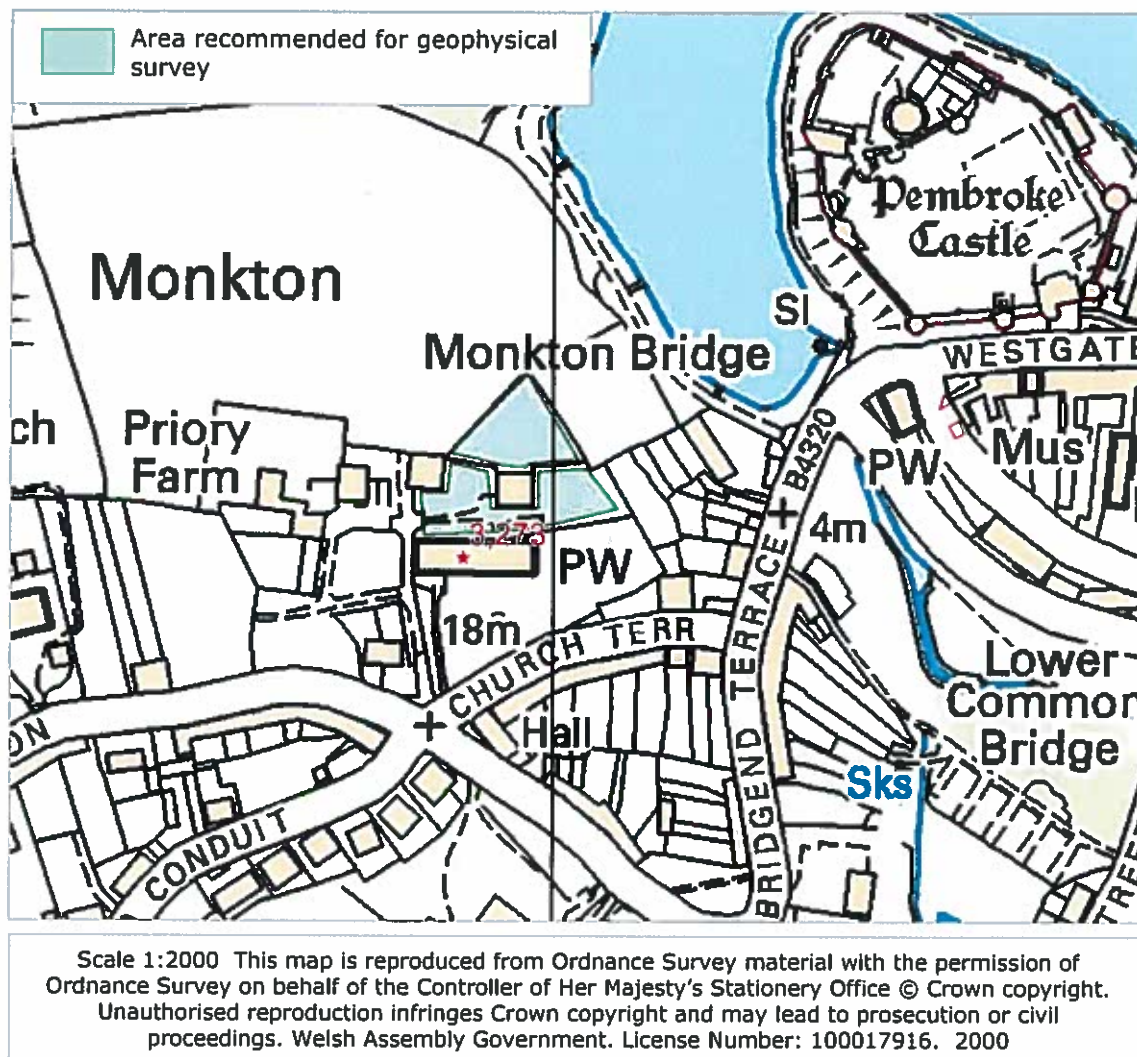
Site Name: MONKTON PRIORY

RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF LAWN AREA OF VICARAGE

NGR: SM97960145

SM90NW

Altitude: 20m



Description:

Monkton Priory Church is now a parish church but was formerly a Benedictine Priory church. It was established in 1098. The priory was finally suppressed in 1535-9. Little now survives from the conventual buildings, which were located to the north of the church. The remains of a vaulted undercroft in the church vestry appear to have formed part of the east range of the conventual buildings. These may have been arranged around a cloister to the north of the nave, and 'old walls' are labelled on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps to the north, in the area of the present vicarage. There are indications on the north wall of the nave of where it was attached to what one assumes are the conventual buildings. There is a blocked square headed doorway that the RCAHM note in 1925 would

have led into attached buildings ‘...the footings of which can still be traced’ (1925, 237-8, No 710). The extent of the priory precinct within which the conventual and other monastic buildings lay has not been certainly established but the churchyard appears coterminous with its eastern half, while Priory Farm almost certainly occupies its western half. Post dissolution the nave lived on as the parish church but the chancel was stripped of its roof and left to become a total ruin.

To the southeast lies Monkton Old Hall (PRN 3272) possibly the priory gatehouse or guesthouse. To the west of the church lies Priory Farm and elements of the medieval priory are thought to be incorporated into these more recent farm buildings and include the farmhouse/tower house (PRN 7218), a late medieval fortified 1st floor hall or tower. The core of this building may have been the Prior's lodging of the priory as it is not unusual to find such buildings being adapted as high status residences following the Reformation.

Reasons for recommendation:



Photograph of the north side of Monkton Priory church showing the blocked doorway (left) and broken masonry (right) of where the nave and the northeast chapel respectively were attached to the former priory buildings.

On the map above a square building can be seen immediately north of the eastern end of the priory church. This is the current vicarage and to the west of this building lies an area given over to lawn and a tarmac drive to the vicarage. To the east and north of the vicarage are the former walled gardens associated with the medieval priory and parts probably date to this period, making them a

very rare example of a walled garden. These gardens form part of a Registered Park and Garden Ref: PGW (Dy) 40 (PEM) and are Grade II*.

The 1861 1:500 OS map of Pembroke (see map below) clearly shows that remains of the claustral buildings were still standing to the north of the priory church at this time. It is recommended that a geophysical survey be undertaken in this area around the vicarage to ascertain the extents and nature of the buildings that survive below ground. This data would better inform a decision whether or not to schedule this area.



The 1861 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of Pembroke clearly shows that remains of the claustral buildings were still standing to the north of the priory church at this time.

PRN: 4278

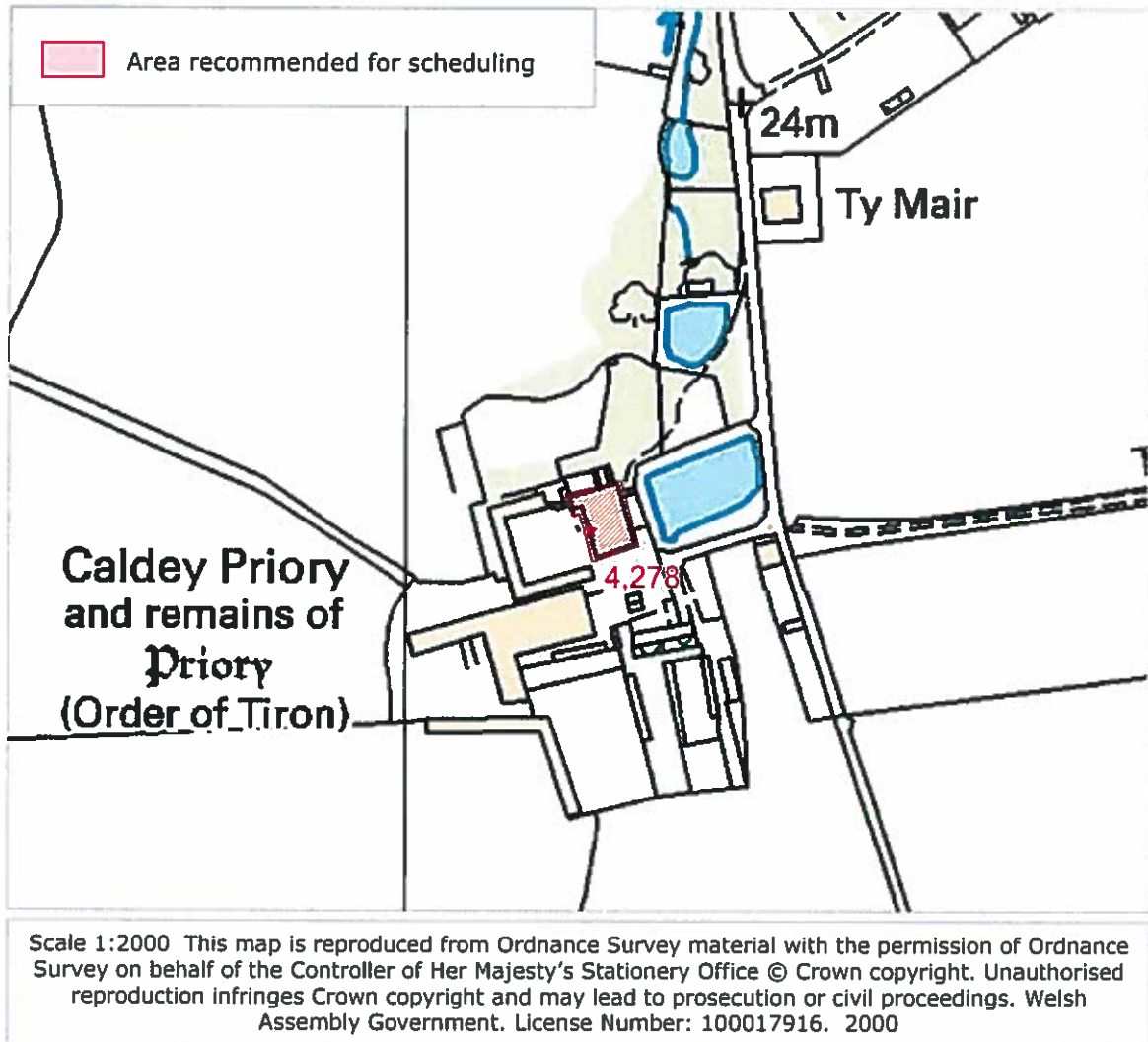
Site Name: CALDEY PRIORY

RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR SCHEDULING

NGR: SS14089631

SS19SE

Altitude: 40m



Description:

The priory ruins, now Grade 1 Listed (Ref 5932), lie roughly in the centre of Caldey Island. It was founded c.1113 as a cell to St Dogmaels and dedicated to St Mary. The complex comprises several buildings arranged around an irregular square courtyard or former cloister, with the remains of a separate building of uncertain date to the north. The priory church, comprising a vaulted chancel, monastic squire and a small tower with spire, forms the south side of the courtyard. A long range of buildings, with a heavily built square crenelated tower at its north end defines the east side. A shorter range to the west incorporates the two storey gate house, with a wide entrance arch at its southern end, the upper wall of which incorporates a pigeon loft. The refectory lay on the north of the cloister, but nothing of this now stands. To the northeast of the priory

buildings the medieval fishponds still survive. After the Dissolution, parts of the monastic buildings were incorporated into a house which has now been demolished.

The complex has been a key element of the history of the island from the medieval period onwards and is now an important focal point for the tens of thousands of people who visit the island each year.

Reasons for recommendation:

Though small, the priory is unique among medieval monastic remains in west wales, as most of the buildings, though much altered over the years, still stand and are in good condition. They have been listed Grade I but it is recommended that the priory complex is scheduled as the condition of such unique buildings needs to be monitored regularly.

In 1994 a detailed standing building survey and structural analysis of Caldey Priory was undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in advance of a consolidation work. Despite this, a site visit in 2003 by the Trust reported that the proposed works were not completed and the priory complex remains in a poor state of repair. The pitched roof of the eastern range is in need of attention. Many of the roof slates are loose and several are missing, particularly from the eastern pitch of the roof. Of particular concern is the heavy ivy growth over the eastern elevation of the complex, which is penetrating under the eaves and may be damaging the roof structure. Added to the specific concerns relating to distinct areas of the complex is the weathered nature of limestone mortar masonry bonds on many of the walls. It was not possible to undertake a site visit in 2011/12.

The scheduled area need not extend much beyond the footprint of the medieval priory complex but should take in the priory church, the possible former west range building – the north gable of which survives – the former kitchen, and the cloister garth. It could be argued that the ponds that lie to the north east of the priory should also be scheduled. They are important landscape features in their own right but they have a degree of non-statutory protection as they form part of a registered Park and Garden Ref: PGW (Dy) 60 (PEM).

Ref:

Ludlow, N.D 1994 *A Structural Analysis of Caldey Priory*, Dyfed, Unpublished report, Dyfed Archaeological Trust.



Aerial photograph of the medieval priory of St Mary taken in the 1980's by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The small priory complex can be seen within the red box. Surrounding the priory can be seen 18th and 19th century farm buildings and concrete yards.

PRN: 4786

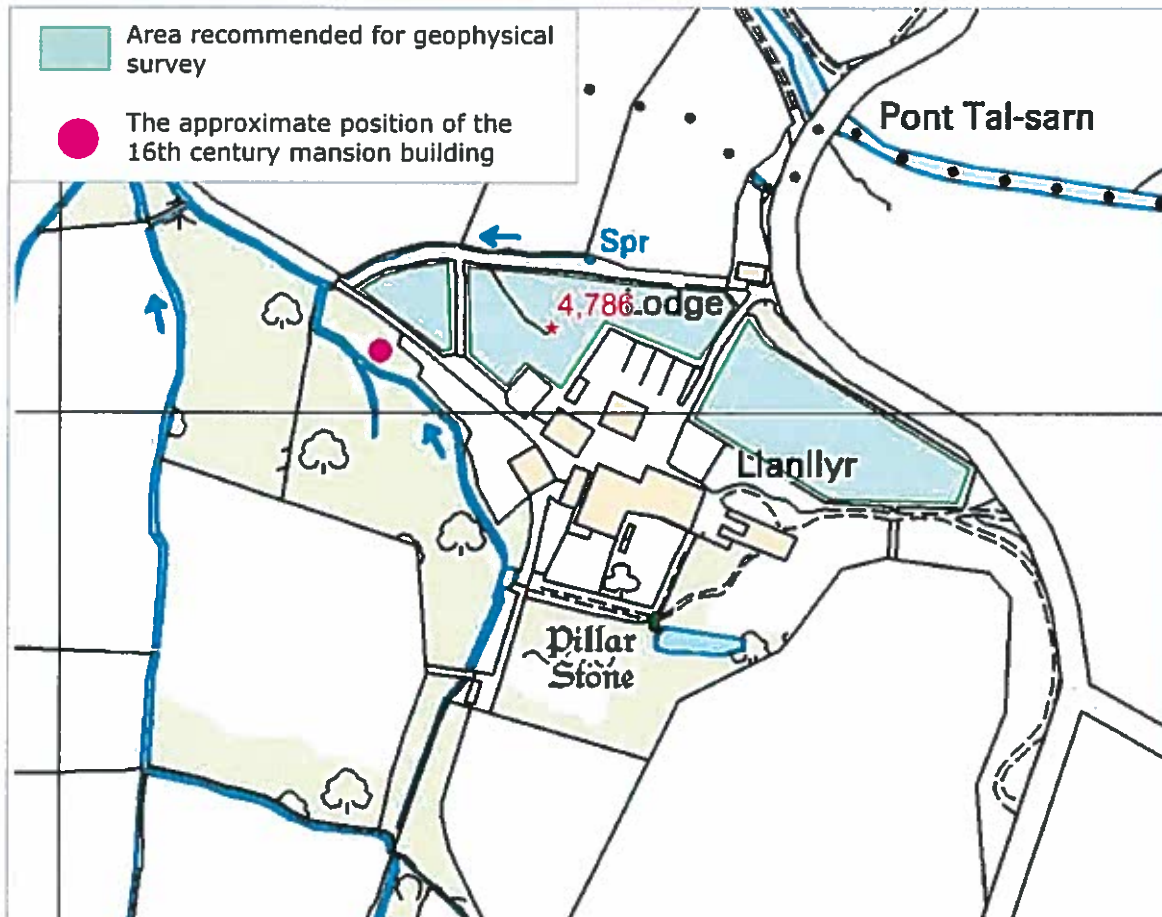
Site Name: LLANLYR PRIORY

RECOMMENDATION: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TO INFORM FUTURE SCHEDULING
RECOMMENDATION

NGR: SN54205600

SN55SE

Altitude: 70m



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Description:

Llanllyr Priory or Nunnery was founded c.1180 by Rhys ap Gryffydd as a daughter house of Strata Florida. It was suppressed in 1535. The exact site of the priory is not known, although extensive man-made ditches and watercourses provide some indication as to where the main features of the complex may have been. Ditches bring water from various sources to a small pond, possibly the millpond of the priory, to the west of the present garden. The main ditch from this continues through woodland to an area where depressions in the ground suggest that there may have been fishponds, the ditch then continues towards the river.

This evidence together with the position of a large stone built drain that leads from the present mansion house towards the river and traces of earlier elements

within the fabric of the current mansion house, suggest that the priory lay close to or beneath the present mansion and farm buildings.

The site of the priory chapel or church (PRN 4786 as shown on map above) is marked the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1891 (Sheet XXV.SE) on the south side of a stream that still runs SE-NW through the site, to the north of the present mansion. Dowsing has apparently revealed the outline of a rectangular building in the vicinity of this location. The chapel site lies in a field of pasture, the southeast part of which has been built-up as made ground, and concreted, during the late 20th century, possibly concealing the below-ground remains of any conventual buildings.

An alternative site for the priory might be at NGR SN 5420 5605, which is apparently the site of the earliest, 16th century mansion building (PRN 4580), as shown by Thomas Dineley in his map of 1684 (Loveday Gee, site owner, pers. comm.) and it is worth noting that it was normally the abbey buildings themselves that were converted into dwellings at the dissolution. This Tudor mansion was still in use until 1870 at which time it was demolished and the stone re-used in the construction of the present mansion house. In 1896 it was noted that part of the old mansion was being used as a stable and that to the south west was a circular tower and that a churchyard (possibly the priory churchyard) lay to the southeast. The foundations and cobbled surfaces of the early mansion are still just visible though they lie in woodland and are much overgrown. This dwelling was later demolished, in c.1830, and a new house built 200m to the SE, at 5440 5594 (PRN 9675).

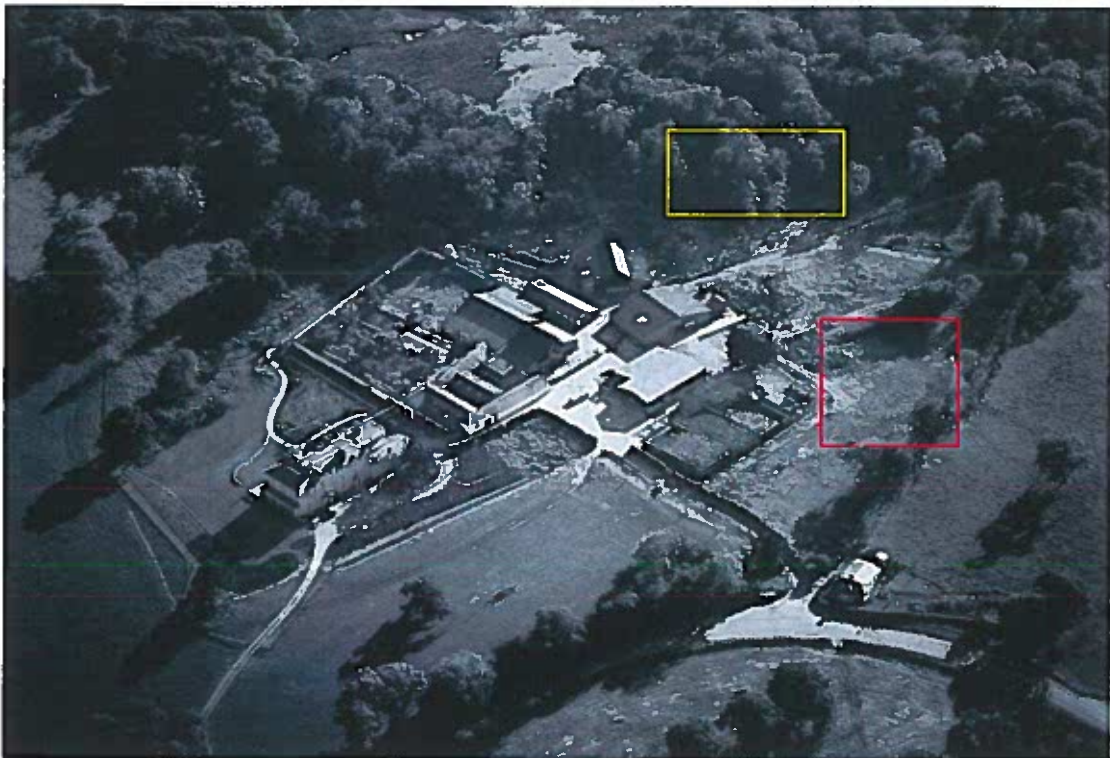
In 2000 geophysical survey was undertaken in the area of the former chapel (PRN 4786), under extremely wet conditions and with very inconclusive results. There were indications that buried features might be present but they were obscured by the later dumping of soil (Terra Nova, 2000; Project No. 40377).

Reasons for recommendation:

Although geophysical survey has proved inconclusive in the past it is recommended that it is undertaken again in the areas shaded green (as shown on the map above), as part of a larger project to record an estate whose history can be traced back to the early medieval period. An inscribed stone (PRN 4781, SAM CD 112) of 7th to 9th century date was first noted in 1859 but was probably discovered c.1830 during the demolition of the old 16th century house. It now stands in the garden. The name 'Llanllyr' suggests that there was probably an early medieval foundation here. The religious setting of the estate is continued with the foundation of the Cistercian priory for nuns in c.1180. Post Dissolution a Tudor mansion house was built, probably with stone from the destruction of the priory. Come the 1820s the present mansion house was built to the east of the old Tudor house and just to the south of a large E-W priory drain. Stone from the old house was reused in the new build. The extensive man-made ditches and watercourses constructed for the priory were used throughout these periods and have remained little changed over the years. The estate is a Registered Park and Garden Ref: PGW (Dy) 28 (CER). There is a clom or earth built walled garden and another clom built ruined building within the estate grounds.

As part of a larger recording project it is recommended that recording of the 16th century mansion and garden is undertaken with a view to informing the scheduling of the site. According to the owners it is still possible to trace the foundations of the building and the cobbled forecourt and the access drive from the west. An estate map of 1768 shows the later formal garden layout to the east of the house at that time, aligned to the main building.

The owners are very knowledgeable and interested and there is a possibility of working with University of Wales Trinity St David, who have already undertaken some recording of the watercourses here. Such a project would allow for the recording of a unique Welsh estate that contains a wide range of archaeological features. This in turn would inform any future protection of the estate buildings and their surrounding landscape.



Aerial photograph taken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust of the Llanllyr Estate in 1989. The red outlined box shows the possible location of the priory chapel or church. The orange outlined box shows roughly the position of site of the earliest, 16th century mansion building.



Looking north across the putative location of the Priory/Nunnery chapel.

LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES – SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO.102639

**Mawrth 2012
March 2012**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Fran Murphy

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature *F. A. Murphy* Dyddiad / Date 18/04/12

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature *[Signature]* Dyddiad / Date 19/04/12

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may
have on the content or presentation of this report



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