

EARLY MEDIEVAL INSCRIBED STONES AND STONE SCULPTURE: PEMBROKESHIRE, 2004-5 (DAT 76)



The Penally cross-shaft fragment

Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer Cadw
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Cadw



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Gan / By

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Neil Ludlow

Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 31 March 2005

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

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 31 March 2005

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

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have on the content or presentation of this report

SUMMARY

The Early Medieval Stones project is a pilot project. The objective was to identify the condition of the early medieval inscribed stones and stone sculpture of Pembrokeshire (EMS), their location, ownership and method of storage and presentation, and identify any threats. This assessment identified two groups of EMS – within Penally and St Ishmaels parish churches – as either partly or wholly at risk, but with potential for positive management outcomes. The project will facilitate the preparation of costed management recommendations for these groups which will then be submitted to the National Committee for the Recording and Protection of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture. If approved by the Committee, the Project Officer will assist the owners in costing, coordinating and progressing these recommendations, liaising with community groups etc., resulting in the submission of grant applications to funding bodies such as the Big Lottery Fund 'Awards for All Wales'.

INTRODUCTION

This project is concerned with the curation, care and presentation of the early medieval inscribed stones and stone sculpture of Pembrokeshire (EMS). They are the single most accessible archaeological resource from a period with few recognised sites. Their inscriptions provide historical data and information on individuals. They indicate the nature of early Christian burial cults and practices, and many mark the sites of cemeteries. They are also important works of art in their own right. In the words of Nash-Williams, in *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales*, they remain 'the principal material remains of the centuries that elapsed between the end of Roman occupation and the coming of the Normans'.

However, they are a fragile resource. They are highly mobile and many may not be *in situ*, having been put to a variety of uses during the succeeding centuries, most often as gate-posts. The majority of Pembrokeshire inscribed stones and stone sculptures are now located within churches and churchyards, where some may be *in situ* whilst others may be medieval – post-medieval imports. However, others are under a variety of different ownerships, with a variety of management regimes. Some are entirely unmanaged.

The ECMs of Wales have been subject to a recent re-assessment by Dr Nancy Edwards, John Lewis and Dr Mark Redknap (Edwards, N., et al. forthcoming *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales*). As part of this re-assessment, threats and management implications, whilst considered, were necessarily secondary to the analytical nature of the study. This project partly arises from the findings of the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales, in their Annual Report, 2000-01, in which the continuing threat to EMS was highlighted. These concerns resulted in the establishment of a National Committee for the Recording and Protection of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture.

The project objective is to identify the condition of the EMS of Pembrokeshire, their location, ownership and method of storage and presentation, and to identify any threats. Visits will then be made to the owner/managers of the most vulnerable stones to try and formulate options for their future protection and presentation. This will be undertaken in consultation with the owners, the Diocesan Archaeologist, the Conservation Officer and regional archaeological curator, Nancy Edwards, and Cadw where the stones are scheduled. The objective will be to facilitate the future production of costed management recommendations that can be considered by the National Committee.

The potential threats to early medieval inscribed stones and stone sculpture are tangible, many and varied. Not all are scheduled. Many are in exposed, outdoor locations, and are actively weathering, including inscriptions in many cases. A number have been lost since first recorded in the 19th – early 20th century. Damage and destruction still poses a considerable threat. Those in churches are often loose, and vulnerable to neglect, export or even theft.

METHODOLOGIES

Stage 1 - Assessment

The first stage of the project was an assessment of the EMS of Pembrokeshire in order to identify those at risk. The assessment was largely based on Dr Edward's drafts of the new *Corpus*, supplemented with personal knowledge of the resource. The results of the assessment were presented, as a Powerpoint presentation, to the National Committee in Cardiff meeting, on 21 May 2004.

A provisional list of 50 stones considered to be 'at risk' emerged from this assessment. In consultation with Jon Berry, of Cadw, this list was subsequently updated and rationalised, resulting in a final list of 40 stones.

Shortlist of EMS at risk in Pembrokeshire

TOTAL - 40

EMS identified as at risk by Dr Nancy Edwards are underlined

PRN = Regional Primary Record No.
SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument No. (Pembs.)
NW = Nash-Williams No.

BLUE - CinW - 29
Scheduled/CinW at risk - 2
Unscheduled/CinW at risk - 27

BLACK - Private/Other - 11
Scheduled/private at risk - 5
Unscheduled/private at risk - 6

SCHEDULED EMS AT RISK - TOTAL 7

<u>Llanllawer (St David), ECM</u>	PRN: 2566; SAM 228 (NW 323)	<u>gatepost to redundant churchyard</u>
<u>Llanllawer (St David), ECM</u>	PRN: 2567; SAM 228 (NW 324)	<u>gatepost to redundant churchyard</u>
Llanwnda, Llanwnwr Farm stone I	PRN: 2843; SAM 072 (NW 326)	in farmyard
Llanwnda, Cemetery crossroads ECM	PRN: 2500; SAM 258 (NW 333)	in hedgebank
Llys-y-fran, Velindre Farm stone	PRN: 1303; SAM 236 (NW 344)	loose, by farm track
Marloes, Martin's Haven ECM	PRN: 11050; SAM 431	loose, in wall
Nevern, Trebwlch Farm II ECM	PRN: 1482; SAM 234 (NW 358)	loose, in field

NON-SCHEDULED EMS AT RISK - TOTAL 33

<u>Camrose (St Ismael), ECM</u>	PRN: 46775	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
Clydau (St Clydau), Solini stone	PRN: 1212 (NW 307)	loose in church
<u>Fishguard, Penwaun, Maen Dewi stone</u>	PRN: 46792	<u>gatepost in field boundary</u>
<u>Llandysilio (St Tysilio), Clutorix stone</u>	PRN: 919 (NW 315)	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>Llandysilio (St Tysilio), Evolenggus stone</u>	PRN: 1200 (NW 316)	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>Llandysilio (St Tysilio), Riat stone</u>	PRN: 1201 (NW 317)	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>Llandysilio (St Tysilio), StTysilio's Cross</u>	PRN: 1202 (NW 318)	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>Llanllawer (St David), ECM</u>	PRN: 2568 (NW 336)	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>(redundant)</u>		
<u>Llanllawer (St David), ECM</u>	PRN: 2569	<u>fixed in external church wall</u>
<u>(redundant)</u>		

Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8962 (NW 328)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8963 (NW 329)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8964 (NW 330)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8965 (NW 331)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8966 (NW 332)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8967 (NW 334)	loose in churchyard
Llanwnda (St Gwyndaf), ECM	PRN: 8968 (NW 415)	fixed in external church wall
Llanwnda, Llanwnwr Farm stone II	PRN: 46824	in farmyard
Llawhaden (St Aidan's), ECM	PRN: 3583 (NW 343)	fixed in external church wall
Moylgrove, Blaenawen stone	PRN: 13359	loose beside track
Nevern, Cilgwyn (St Mary)	PRN: 1508	fixed in external church wall
Nevern, Trebwlch Farm III ECM damaged	PRN: 1483 (NW 356)	loose in garden; recently
Nevern, Trehaidd ECM	PRN: 1503	loose in garden and portable
Penally (SS Nicholas), cross shaft	PRN: 4231 (NW 366)	loose in church
Penally (SS Nicholas), cross base	PRN: 4230 (NW 365)	fixed in churchyard
Penally (SS Nicholas), ECM	PRN: 46846	fixed in church external wall
St Dogmaels Church, Sagranus stone	PRN: 1215 (NW 384)	loose in church
St Dogmaels Church, ECM	PRN: 1216 (NW 388)	loose in church
St Edrens (St Edren), ECM	PRN: 4295 (NW 392)	loose in Mathry Church
St Edrens (St Edren), ECM	PRN: NONE	loose in former church, now dwelling
St Elvis (St Ailyw), ECM	PRN: 2791 (NW 395)	loose in Solva church porch
St Ishmael's (St Ishmael), ECM	PRN: 3000 (NW 396)	loose in church
St Ishmael's (St Ishmael), ECM	PRN: 3001 (NW 397)	loose in church
Walton West (All Saints), ECM	PRN: 3169	loose in church

Stage 2 – Selection of sites

The National Committee recommended, at the meeting in Cardiff on 21 May 2004, that two Pembrokeshire assemblages should be selected for progression through the project. They were –

- The Group of two EMS at St Ishmaels parish church (PRNs 3000, 3001). A third EMS from the site (PRN 47487) is currently in Scolton Manor Museum. A Group II ECM (no PRN) was recently recovered from the nearby cist cemetery site at Longoar Bay, and is currently at NMGW.
- Two of the four EMS in Penally parish church. The two important crosses at Penally (PRNs 4229, 4230) were recently remounted in the south transept of the church during a project that was part-funded by Cadw. However, two other ECMs in the church may be eligible for further grant-aid towards their management. One is a fragment of cross-shaft currently loose in the south transept (PRN 4231), the other is a cross-carved stone built into the external east wall of the north transept (PRN 46846), identified by Dr Edwards.

However, approaches were also made to the private owners of those stones identified as 'at risk' in the shortlist but neither scheduled nor in Church in Wales ownership. They were –

Fishguard, Penwaun, Maen Dewi stone	PRN: 46792	gatepost in field boundary
Llanwnda, Llanwnwr Farm stone II	PRN: 46824	in farmyard
Moylgrove, Blaenawen stone	PRN: 13359	loose beside track
Nevern, Trebwlch Farm III ECM damaged	PRN: 1483 (NW 356)	loose in garden; recently
Nevern, Trehaidd ECM	PRN: 1503	loose in garden and portable
St Edrens (St Edren), ECM dwelling	PRN: NONE	loose in former church, now

The results were mixed. The owners of the Penwaun Stone (PRN 46792), the Llanwnwr Farm Stone (PRN 46824) and the Trebwlch Stone (PRN 1483) were out. A standard letter was left at all three addresses, but no response has yet been received. The status of the St Edrens stone (no PRN) is unknown. Attempts have been made to find out who currently owns the site, but without success. The Blaenwaen Stone (PRN 13359) lies on a track marked 'strictly private: keep out'. Access was gained to the Trehaidd ECM (PRN 1503) which is very fondly regarded by its owners, but they have no intention of moving it from its current location beneath a chestnut tree, which they feel to be appropriate.

RESULTS

Stage 3 – Penally

The incumbent at Penally was contacted and a meeting was held at the church on 24 November 2004. Present were Neil Ludlow, Revd. David Jenkins (Rector of Tenby with Penally and Gurfreston) and Mrs Valerie Paley (Churchwarden). Carol Cavill (County Councillor for Penally, Gurfreston and New Hedges, member of the church council in Penally and the Rectorial Council for the benefice) was contacted after the meeting.

It was agreed that the loose stones in the south transept should be securely fixed. It was also agreed that the question of the stones in the external east wall of the north transept should be addressed, with consultation with conservators etc. (The question of the cross-base in the churchyard SW of the church, was left open). The proposal was supported by the Community Council and the Rectorial Council.

It was agreed that the aim should be progressed through the Cadw EMS project and that the application will be made by the Rector and Churchwardens/PCC, with advice, assistance and facilitation by Neil Ludlow. In Penally, there already exists a Church School (Penally V(C) School) and the pupils and staff have regular contact with the church, being involved in worship several times a year, doing projects on the church and being visited by the clergy for assemblies etc., while clergy serve on the Board of Governors. The church is much visited by travellers, not just tourists and holidaymakers but also pilgrims, including those bound for Caldey Island. The recently constituted 'Priors and Pilgrims Trail' Trust, which promotes churches in the western half of South Pembrokeshire, have been contacted to enquire whether there is any intention to extend the trail eastwards. Penally is also on the leafleted 'South of the Landsker' heritage trail promoted by PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development). It lies just outside the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, but much of the parish is within the Park.

However, there is no flourishing local history group and no leader for the project was firmly identified. The Community Councillor, Carol Cavill, originally initiated the Cadw-funded remedial action and remounting of the south transept crosses. However, she was unable to lead this particular project. Ongoing correspondence with Mrs Cavill, Revd. Jenkins and Mrs Paley is attempting to identify members of the community who may wish to take on, and lead, the project. The possibility of forming a 'Friends' group within the community, or among interlinked communities, has been raised, but again a firm response is awaited.

Stage 3 – St Ishmaels

The situation at St Ishmaels is looking a little more promising. After a slow start, mainly held up because the church is currently without an incumbent, a network of contacts was built up within the community through Cambria's involvement with excavations at Longoar Bay, findspot of the fourth EMS (no PRN). In addition, the Area Dean became interested in the project and has helped drive it forward.

A meeting was held, at the church, on 21 March 2004. It had been well-publicised in the community and had an attendance of 10, mainly drawn from the active local history group, but also including the Area Dean, Revd. Dennis Wight, members of the PCC and churchwardens.

It was agreed that the two EMS lying loose in the church should be securely fixed, possibly in the porch, and that Scolton Manor Museum should be approached with a view to returning the third EMS, which would be similarly fixed. In addition, it was agreed that the fourth EMS, from Longoar Bay, currently at NMGW, should also be requested to be returned and fixed. Options for interpretation and display were also discussed.

St Ishmaels Church is currently considering an application for selective restoration of the church fabric, including the porch, and there was general agreement that the EMS component might form part of a wider grant-aid application. The timing of such an application is currently being debated; the churchwarden, Christine Llewellyn, is unhappy about progressing any work at the church until an incumbent is appointed.

However, an EMS 'steering committee' was informally established, and a 'leader' volunteered. A flyer will be sent around the members of the local history group in order to attract more members. General satisfaction was expressed that the project could be progressed, and ideas were raised for increasing community awareness, including an open day, with talks, in the Summer.

Stage 4

The objective of the next stage of the project will assist the owners in costing, coordinating and progressing these recommendations, liaising with community groups etc., resulting in the submission of grant applications to funding bodies such as the Big Lottery Fund 'Awards for All Wales'. However, it is dependent on the factors outlined above.