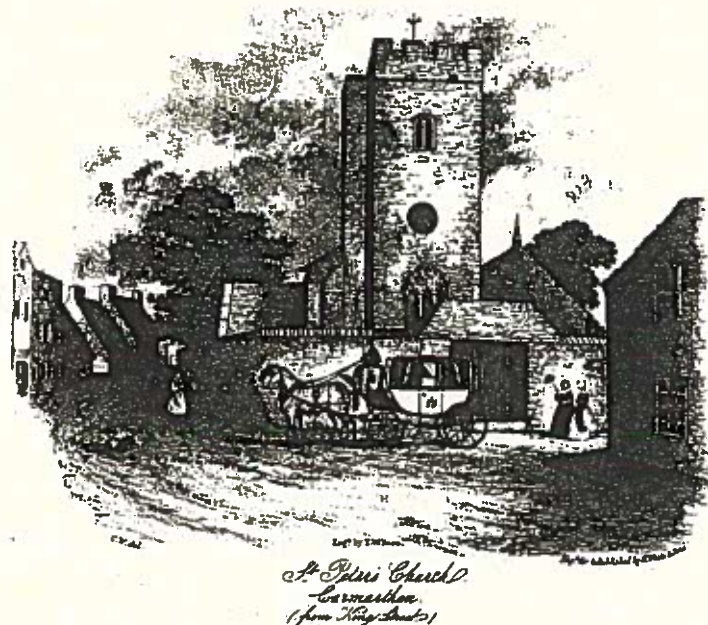




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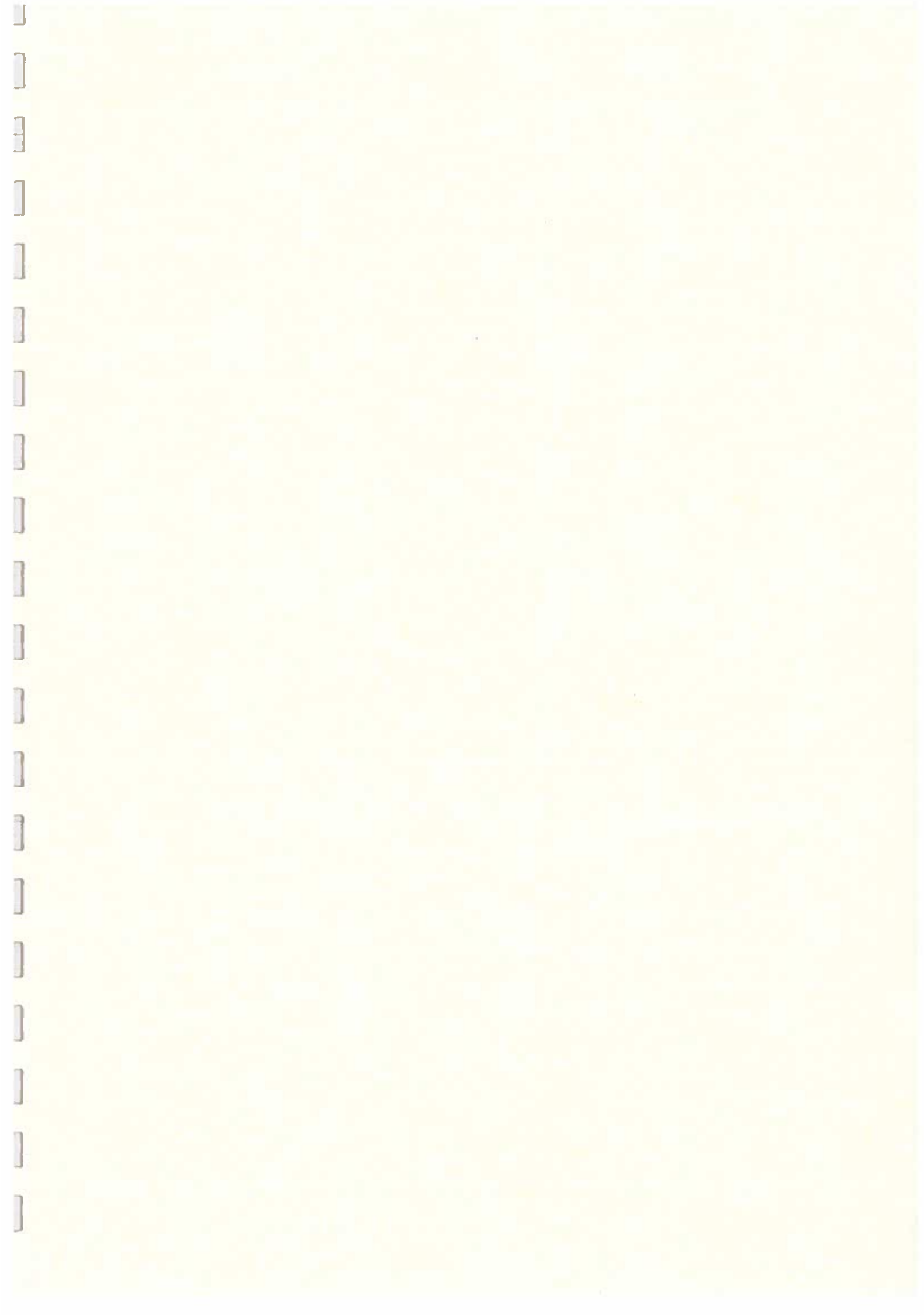
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## WELSH HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT:

CARMARTHENSHIRE AND  
CEREDIGION

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# **THE CARMARTHENSHIRE AND CEREDIGION HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT, 1996-7 (DAT 48)**

## **CONTENTS**

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF**

<b>1.1 The scope of the project</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.2 Research objectives</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.3 Alphabetical list of churches within the project brief</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.4 Presentation of results and end products</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.5 The contribution made by the project</b>	<b>9</b>

### **2.0 THE NATURE OF THE RESOURCE**

<b>2.1 Criteria for inclusion</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2.2 Church type and usage</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2.3 Survey limitations</b>	<b>12</b>

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>2.1 Statutory protection</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2 List of churches with areas of general concern</b>	<b>16</b>

### **4.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY**

<b>4.1 Examination of source documentation</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4.2 Field recording</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>4.3 Database Structure</b>	<b>22</b>

## **5.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

<b>5.1 Condition</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5.2 Archaeological implications</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5.3 Structural analysis</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>5.4 Fixtures and fittings</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>5.5 Churchyards</b>	<b>33</b>

## **6.0 FEATURES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST**

<b>6.1 Site categories</b>	<b>35</b>
6.1.1 Medieval churches (aisled or unaisled)	
6.1.2 Pre-19th century post-medieval churches	
6.1.3 Churches entirely rebuilt in 19th century or later on a different site	
6.1.4 Churches entirely rebuilt in 19th century or later on same site	
6.1.5 Churches partly rebuilt in 19th century or later	
6.1.6 Largely unrestored churches	
<b>6.2 Archaeological potential</b>	<b>41</b>
6.2.1 Churches associated with earthwork evidence	
6.2.2 Churches with structural/documentary evidence for former components (beyond present building)	
6.2.3 Churches lacking evidence for floor level changes	
6.2.4 Churches without evidence for underfloor voids/excavation	
6.2.5 Churches without deep secondary external cuttings/drainage	
<b>6.3 Structural value</b>	<b>46</b>
6.3.1 Churches with medieval towers	
6.3.2 Churches with pre 19th century family chapels	
6.3.3 Churches with medieval vaults (except in towers)	

6.3.4	Churches with pre 19th century timber roofs	
6.3.5	Churches with pre 19th century floors	
6.3.6	Churches with pre 19th century chancel arches or arcades	
6.3.7	Churches with, or with structural evidence for, pre 19th century openings (except in towers)	
6.3.8	Churches with evidence for skew passages	
6.3.9	Churches with evidence for squints	
6.3.10	Churches with pre 19th century window tracery	
6.3.11	Churches with evidence for medieval rood screens	
6.3.12	Churches with evidence of wall paintings	
6.4	Fixtures and fittings	53
6.4.1	Churches with medieval fonts ( <i>in situ</i> or otherwise)	
6.4.2	Churches with pre 19th century stained glass	
6.4.3	Churches with pre 19th century seating	
6.4.4	Churches with pre 19th century pulpits	
6.4.5	Churches with pre 19th century organs	
6.5	Group value	55
6.5.1	Circular churchyards	
6.5.2	Churchyards with earlier features	
6.5.3	Churches associated with ECMs ( <i>in situ</i> or otherwise)	
6.5.4	Churchyards with medieval crosses etc	
6.5.5	Churchyards with former boundary evidence, medieval-early post-medieval	
6.6	Dedications	58
6.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	62
7.0	REFERENCES	62

## 1.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF

### 1.1 The scope of the project

The Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Historic Churches Project was a contribution to the thematic pan-Wales Historic Churches Survey promoted by Cadw. In its Strategic Framework for Funding Archaeological Work in Wales Cadw indicated that it would give a higher priority to church archaeology than had been previously possible, and as a result, after a pilot study commissioned from the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Cadw commissioned the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts to undertake a survey of all pre-19th century churches under Church in Wales ownership in their own Trust areas.

The project began in 1995/6 with each Trust selecting a district in its area to be subject to a survey project extending over the financial year. Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology selected South Pembrokeshire District as its initial project area. The 1996-7 project, dealt with in this report, covered the pre-April 1996 Districts of Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Llanelli. It is proposed that the church survey in the remaining districts in each Trust area shall be completed by the end of the 1997/8 financial year.

### 1.2 Research objectives

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

*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.

The initial SMR search suggested that a total of 113 such historic churches was represented within the 1996/7 project area. In fact 125 churches satisfied the criteria for inclusion within the project.

### 1.3 Alphabetical list of churches within the project brief

#### *Carmarthen and Llanelli*

Abergwili (PRN 17407)	Llanfihangel uwch Gwili (PRN 5377)
Abernant (PRN 2251)	Llangain (PRN 17349)
Carmarthen St Peter (PRN 50)	Llangan (PRN 15341)
Cenarth (PRN 17355)	Llangeler (PRN 5263)
Cilymaenllwyd (PRN 17390)	Llangennech (PRN 17374)
Cyffig (PRN 3897)	Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)
Cynwyl Elfed (PRN 2237)	Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703)
Eglwyscymmun (PRN 5059)	Llangynin (PRN 3871)
Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967)	Llangynnwr (PRN 1736)
Kidwelly (PRN 1629)	Llangynog (PRN 2174)
Laugharne (PRN 2163)	Llanllawddog (PRN 5367)
Llanarthne (PRN 728)	Llanllwch (PRN 5241)
Llanboidy (PRN 3958)	Llanllwni (PRN 1833)
Llandawke (PRN 3905)	Llannon (PRN 664)
Llanddarog (PRN 17373)	Llanpumsaint (PRN 17380)
Llanddowror (PRN 3907)	Llansadurnen (PRN 17352)
Llandyfaelog (PRN 5360)	Llansaint (PRN 2118)
Llandyri (PRN 16233)	Llanstephan (PRN 2208)
Llanedi (PRN 674)	Llanwinio (PRN 17353)
Llanelli (PRN 690)	Llanybydder (PRN 738)
Llanfallteg (PRN 17377)	Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)
Llanfihangel ar Arth (PRN 1793)	Marros (PRN 3833)
Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742)	Meidrim (PRN 3972)

Merthyr (PRN 17356)

Newchurch (PRN 2253)

Penboyr (PRN 17348)

Penbre (PRN 1644)

Pencader (PRN 5388)

Pencarreg (PRN 17354)

Pendine (PRN 3839)

Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)

St Clears (PRN 3880)

St Ishmael (PRN 2117)

Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)

Whitland (PRN 5045)

*Ceredigion*

Aberporth (PRN 5235)

Bangor Teifi (PRN 5283)

Betws Bledrws (PRN 9642)

Betws Ifan (PRN 17491)

Betws Leucu (PRN 5130)

Blaenpennal (PRN 5162)

Blaenporth (PRN 5224)

Brongwyn (PRN 5230)

Capel Cynon (PRN 5276)

Capel Dewi (PRN 18244)

Cardigan (PRN 5302)

Cellan (PRN 17335)

Cilcennin (PRN 4823)

Ciliau Aeron (PRN 20737)

Dihewyd (PRN 5660)

Eglwysfach (PRN 5340)

Eglwysnewydd (PRN 5419)

Ferwig (PRN 17358)

Gartheli (PRN 17118)

Henfynyw (PRN 5911)

Henllan (PRN 5282)

Lampeter (PRN 17273)

Llanafan y Trawscoed (PRN 5179)

Llanarth (PRN 12396)

Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4847)

Llanbadarn Odwyn (PRN 5161)

Llanbadarn Trefeglwys (PRN 17122)

Llanddeiniol (PRN 4834)

Llanddewi Aberarth (PRN 17367)

Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135)

Llandyfriog (PRN 16017)

Llandygwydd (PRN 20773)

Llandysiliogogo (PRN 5291)

Llandysul (PRN 5643)

Llanerch Aeron (PRN 17364)

Llanfair Clydogau (PRN 5146)

Llanfair Orllwyn (PRN 5281)

Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn (PRN 5190)

Llanfihangel Lledrod (PRN 20473)

Llanfihangel y Creuddyn (PRN 5176)

Llanfihangel Ystrad (PRN 17370)

Llangeitho (PRN 5163)

Llangoedmor (PRN 5305)

Llangrannog (PRN 16987)

Llangybi (PRN 5145)

Llancynfelyn (PRN 17366)

Llangynllo (PRN 16053)

Llanilar (PRN 17361)

Llanina (PRN 5656)

Llanllwchaiarn (PRN 10509)

Llanrhystud (PRN 4814)

Llansantffraed (PRN 4813)

Llantrisant (PRN 5490)

Llanwenog (PRN 5636)

Llanwnnen (PRN 4766)

Llanwnnws (PRN 5158)

Llanychaearn (PRN 4850)

Mwnt (PRN 5324)

Nantcwnlle (PRN 17368)

Penbryn (PRN 5397)

Silian (PRN 17375)

Trefilan (PRN 17369)

Tregaron (PRN 5136)

Tremain (PRN 5219)

Troed-yr-Aur (PRN 5271)

Ysbyty Cynfyn (PRN 5479)

Ysbyty Ystwyth (PRN 5489)

Ystrad Meurig (PRN 19648)

## Exemptions

### *Carmarthen and Llanelli*

Castell Dwyran (PRN 3730) - Derelict

Cilymaenllwyd (PRN 17390) - Private

Eglwys Fair a Churig (PRN 5076) - Ruined

Egremont (PRN 1414) - Ruined

Llandeilo Abercywyn (PRN 2186) - Ruined

Llanfihangel Abercywyn (PRN 2160) - Ruined

Llanybri St Mary (PRN 2184) - Ruined

### *Ceredigion*

Llanfihangel Rhostie (PRN 883) - Ruined

Strata Florida (PRN 17363) - 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 RCAHMS ENDEX. The paper record (the pro forma recording sheets) is deposited with the SMR.

The end product consists of a database constructed in Foxpro and compatible with the regional SMR (see section 4.3), accompanying paper records, an archive of photographs which, though not requested, were considered necessary, a summary report and a hard copy of the database for Cadw.

This is the summary report including a synthesis of the project, prepared for Cadw. A hard copy of the database is included. The former element shall also be housed in the SMR. Subject to discussion with Cadw, a report may be prepared for publication.

The paper record is contained within a unique file for each church. Each file is catalogued and archived and contains the following:-

- a hard copy of the database for the individual church PRN
- the pro forma field recording sheets
- the photographic archive
- copies of Ordnance Survey and tithe maps, and estate maps where present
- transcriptions and/or photocopies of primary source documentation (faculties, vestry minutes etc) where present
- a photocopy of the most recent Quinquennial Report
- a summary of the NMR archive
- copies, transcriptions and/or photocopies of secondary source documentation (published accounts, guidebooks etc) where present
- a list of the above

## **1.5 The contribution made by the project**

The project made a positive contribution to the rapid assessment of the upstanding and below-ground archaeology of the pre-19th century churches within West Wales:-

The churches within the project area had not hitherto been subject to any proper archaeological study. Individual churches have been subject to quinquennial surveys which summarised their architectural history and often the fixtures and fittings at some length, and some individual accounts had been produced. However, this was the first occasion on which any overall coherent strategic study had been undertaken. Therefore the nature and quality of source material upon which the fieldwork was based was rather poor. The project dictated all new recording, with much emphasis on the fieldwork element. Overall, then, the project represents an important advance in church studies in South-west Wales.

The methodology behind the structure of both Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology's pro-forma record sheets and its database are a contribution to the development of rapid building recording techniques, which will have many useful applications in the future survey of ecclesiastical buildings. Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology took great pains to perfect an analytical system of recording, built around the building structure, that could be entered directly into the database (see sections 3.2 and 3.3 below).

The methodology was not quite consistent with that followed in the pilot study, it being considered that the recording methodology and database adopted by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was not suited to the quantity of new recording necessary to the project.

Liaison with church authorities and organisational/individual expertise was maintained throughout:-

The project manager, Heather James BA FSA MIFA, is actively involved with the church authorities being on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for St Davids, bringing her into regular contact with representatives from the diocesan authorities. It is hoped that providing the Diocesan Office with a hard copy of the database and a copy of the report will further working relationships between the project officers and the CinW authorities.

Close co-operation was maintained with all specialists and interested parties, including the Architectural History section at RCAHM(W), the Cathedrals and Churches Commission, the Redundant Churches Committee, and the Friends of Friendless Churches. Close liaison was also maintained with the relevant investigating staff at RCAHM(W) in establishing the database, data standards, glossaries etc feeding in to ENDEX.

Close contact was maintained with the church survey project officers from the three other Welsh Trusts throughout the year, resulting in much useful debate and information exchange.

Added value was brought to the project through the involvement of voluntary staff and MA students from SDUC, Lampeter, and undergraduate volunteers from Trinity College, Carmarthen, in the field recording. The establishment of a working database represents an additional value add-on.

## 2.0 THE NATURE OF THE RESOURCE

### 2.1 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.

In the case of churches such as Llangorwen (PRN 5412) and Llangwryfon (PRN 4833), Cer., where new sites were chosen for both church and churchyard in favour of the medieval sites in 1841 and 1880 respectively, similar criteria apply and the church is not included within the present study.

Churches that are closed have been included at a reduced level of field recording. Ruined churches still under CinW ownership, such as Llanfihangel Rhostie (PRN 883), Cer., have been excluded on the basis that management strategies are inherently different.

### 2.2 Church type and usage

A total of 125 churches in the former Districts of Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Llanelli satisfy the criteria for inclusion within the project. The variety of building types present will be discussed in Section 5.0.

Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion were 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), Carm., and Eglwysnewydd (PRN 5149), Cer., have their origins during the pre-19th century post-medieval period.

Of the 68 CinW pre-19th century churches in Ceredigion, 43 are now parish churches. However, the parish system within the area has greatly altered since the medieval period, the changes having occurred predominantly during the 19th century. Most of the churches in the project - 60 - were parish churches during the Tithe surveys of the second quarter of the century (the other two parish churches of the time now being ruins). The remainder were chapelries serving the townships into which the larger Ceredigion parishes were subdivided, and originated for a variety of reasons (see below) but it may indeed be that during the medieval period every township had its chapel, to which can be attributed the large number of upland churches. There were many chapelries and devotional chapels during the medieval period, few of which have survived in any form and some of which, as depicted on for example Speed's map, occupied sites as yet not firmly identified. It appears that no formal chapels of ease from this period, such as those of Llandysul parish, have survived for re-use.

Parishes within Carmarthen and Llanelli districts, in which lie 57 CinW pre-19th century churches, 46 of which are now parish churches (out of 51 parishes), have also altered since the Tithe survey which records 59 parishes. The changes have been less considerable than in Ceredigion except towards the western end of Carmarthen. The numerical discrepancy is

accounted for by the fact that towards this western end two of the parish churches, Llandysilio and Cilrhedyn, actually lie (and lay) in Pembrokeshire, the parishes lying in both counties, while five eg. Eglwys fair a Churig (PRN 5076), Llandeilo Abercywyn (PRN 2186) and Llanfihangel Abercywyn (PRN 2160)) are now ruined and exempt from the project, and Cilymaenllwyd (PRN 17390) is now in private hands. Many parishes at this western end 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), Llanstephan 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).

St Clears (PRN 3880), Carm., Cardigan (PRN 5302), Cer., Llanbadarn Fawr, (PRN 4847), Cer. and Kidwelly (PRN 1629), Llan., are former monastic churches, but functioned also as parish churches from the medieval period until the Suppression. Abergwili (PRN 17407), Carm., and Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135), Cer., were collegiate churches of the Bishopric of St Davids, and many churches were the advowsons of religious houses or collegiate establishments, for example Llanboidy (PRN 3938), Carm., a prebend of Llanddewi Brefi. The South Aisle of Carmarthen St Peters (PRN 50) has traditionally been the site of the Consistory Court of the Chancellor of the Diocese. In Ceredigion Blaenpennal (PRN 5162) and Gartheli (PRN 17118) were formerly grange chapels of the Bishopric of St Davids, similarly Ysbyty Ystwyth (PRN 5489) was a grange chapel for Strata Florida Abbey and may be associated with a hospice of the so-called 'Pilgrims' Way'. Ysbyty Cynfyn (PRN 5479) and Ystrad Meurig (PRN 19648), with similar associations, were chapelries of the Knights Hospitaller.

The majority of the CinW 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 within Ceredigion. Many were either entirely rebuilt or restored so drastically as to be almost total rebuilds (see below). In a number of Carmarthen and Llanelli churches, for example 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 being, in the main, very well maintained. Of those churches that are open and used, only Llandawke (PRN 3905) constitutes an area of concern; recommendations will be treated in Section 3.2.

### 2.3 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 some cases, the pre-19th century structure was demolished and the 19th century church built in a different location in the earlier yard, for example Lampeter (17273), Cer., and Llangain (17349), Carm.. 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 6.1.

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 CinW 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.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is not intended, within the brief and scope of the present project, to present a detailed list of recommendations. The primary requirement was that a database be compiled which will form the basis of future structured responses.

Furthermore, a resurvey of Wales is being carried out and previously unlisted churches are being added to the list, while the grades are being revised for those listed before 1977, under the secular system ie Grades I, II and II\*. There may be an opportunity for liaison with the Church Project Officers to this end.

However, the opportunity has been taken within this report to signal some immediate areas of concern, although this is by no means a comprehensive list (see also section 6.0).

Areas of concern such as routine maintenance of fabric, churchyards etc lie outside the scope of the report.

#### 3.1 Statutory protection

Unlisted churches (latest listing information from Diocesan Advisory Committee)

*Carmarthen and Llanelli*

Cyffig (PRN 3897) - Medieval, largely unrestored

Henllan Amgoed (PRN 4967) - Medieval, partly rebuilt

Llandyri (PRN 16233) - Medieval

Llangennech (PRN 17374)

Llanglydwen (PRN 17379)

Llansadurnen (PRN 17352) - Medieval?

Llanwinio (PRN 17353)

Merthyr (PRN 17356)

Newchurch (PRN 2253)

Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)

Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)

*Ceredigion*

Betws Bledrws (PRN 9642) - Medieval?

Betws Ifan (PRN 17491)

Betws Lleucu (PRN 5130)

Brongwyn (PRN 5230) - Medieval

Cilcennin (PRN 4823)

Dihewyd (PRN 5660)

Gartheli (PRN 17118)

Llanfihangel Lledrod (PRN 20473)

Llangeitho (PRN 5163)

Llantrisant (PRN 5490)

Nantcwnlle (PRN 17368)

Silian (PRN 17375)

Ysbyty Cynfyn (PRN 5479)

Ystrad Meurig (PRN 19648)

The above list is interim only given that relisting is currently being undertaken. It is, however, of some concern that an unrestored medieval church such as Cyffig (and of a defining structural type - see section 5.0) should currently be under no statutory protection. The fabric of a further three is substantially medieval, whilst two have possible medieval elements. The remainder are 19th century rebuilds but it must be stressed that they all occupy the sites of their medieval predecessors.

In section 6.1 is a list of largely unrestored churches which by definition are the most sensitive in terms of structural history and archaeological potential. It is recommended that the list become a factor in their future statutory protection.

### **3.2 List of churches with areas of general concern**

Below is a short list of churches of general concern which require immediate attention.

#### *Carmarthen and Llanelli*

Llandawke (PRN 3905) - Medieval; condition fair/poor, infrequent usage

Llanfallteg (PRN 17377) - Medieval; closed

Llangan (PRN 15341) - closed, condition poor

#### *Ceredigion*

Llandygwydd (PRN 20773) - closed; due to reopen

Of the three closed churches, Llangan is in the worst condition with many fittings stripped. Llanfallteg is a medieval church, Llangan occupies a medieval church site, whilst Llandygwydd is a new 19th century church in an extended medieval yard. Of great concern is the future management of Llandawke, an unrestored medieval church with many original openings, occupying an early medieval site.

Reference should also be made to the list of ruined/derelict churches in Section 1.3.

## 4.0 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 coherent archaeological resource.

### 4.1 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, Carmarthen St Peter being a particular example, 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 bears little relationship to the importance of the individual church. These factors must be borne in mind when interrogating the database - the source lists are contained within the Overall Church Building Record fields and should always be consulted.

#### *Methodology*

a) Collation and analysis of data, including maps, held at the County Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology, as the normal first stage of an archaeological project. SMR source lists for each church form part of the database and paper record. However, little source material existed in the SMR itself.

b) Examination and selective transcription of Church in Wales Records:-

i) Faculties. The internal planning procedure of the Church in Wales depends on the grant of faculty (for major works) or Archdeacon's Certificate (for minor works). Faculty minutes for later 19th century and early 20th century works are catalogued under SD/F/ in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, and in the records of individual parishes at the Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Record Offices. However, it must be emphasised that the coverage in both depositories is undoubtedly far from complete. Faculties for major rebuilding, with detailed specifications and plans, pertain to a number of

churches within the survey area (see above) but faculties for minor works such as the erection of chancel screens, tablets and the introduction of electric lighting etc pertain to many more. In some cases the faculties include a plan of the church as it existed prior to restoration, and the specs will usually contain a description of the existing fabric. However, where detailed specs exist the degree of ground disturbance, new drainage etc is often specified, and faculties remain one of the most useful sources for analysis of structure and past disturbance. Faculties for a total of 104 churches were examined; selective transcriptions of individual faculties form part of the paper record.

ii) **Archdeacon's Certificates.** Archdeacon's Certificates for minor works from the early 20th century are held in the records of individual parishes at Carmarthen and Ceredigion Record Offices. Again it must be emphasised that the coverage is undoubtedly far from complete, and there are none for churches in either Carmarthen or Llanelli Districts. Archdeacon's Certificates pertain to minor works such as the provision of fixtures and fittings (altar tables, etc) and so for the purposes of the survey are of limited use. Selective transcriptions of individual Archdeacon's Certificates form part of the paper record.

iii) **Quinquennial Reports.** Quinquennial Reports are the 5-yearly architect's reports on individual churches commissioned by the Church in Wales. They form an invaluable initial source containing a summary of the building history, fixtures and fittings, plan (not always to scale) and analysis of condition. Quinquennial Reports are held in the Diocesan Offices (St Davids), Abergwili, Carmarthen and were consulted for most churches within the project area. It must be emphasised that they are the property of the Church in Wales and most of the photocopies contained within the paper record omit the conditional accounts. Only the most recent reports were seen.

(Omissions - any faculty minutes held at the Diocesan Offices (St Davids), any past Quinquennial Reports held at the Diocesan Offices)

**c) Examination and selective transcription of Parish Records deposited at Ceredigion Record Office, Aberystwyth, and Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen, under CPR:-**

i) **Vestry minute books** - the minutes of vestry meetings. In total vestry minute books for 48 churches were examined. While some parishes concentrated upon Poor Relief, parish appointments etc in vestry meetings, others kept detailed records of proposed building works and in the case of a few are the only record of past structural work. The majority of surviving minute books are no earlier than the late 18th century. Selective transcriptions of individual vestry minute books form part of the paper record.

ii) **Churchwardens' account books.** Churchwardens' accounts for a total of 62 churches were examined. The accounts of the expenditure of churchwardens vary greatly in usefulness to the project through time. The majority of surviving

account books are no earlier than the late 18th century, but Carew parish's go back to the early 17th century. These early books, continuing until the mid 19th century, are a valuable source of information upon expenditure on the fabric of the church, and are usually itemised. In the case of a few, like the vestry minutes they are the only record of past structural work. After the mid 19th century expenditure on the fabric is no longer in the churchwardens' hands. Selective transcriptions of individual churchwardens' account books form part of the paper record.

iii) Architect's reports, structural reports etc. The records for several parishes contained architect's reports, structural reports etc from the later 19th century through to the present, providing a valuable source of information. Selective transcriptions of individual architect's reports, structural reports etc form part of the paper record.

iv) Parish miscellanea. This category includes such items as parochial registers, which in the case of two churches were used by the incumbent as notebooks on the church fabric and structural history; lists of subscriptions to restoration funds including expenses, giving some idea at least of the scale of the works; estimates and invoices, rarely for building work but sometimes, for example, for 'Porritt's' or 'Grundy's' underground heating apparatus; reports on the condition of bells etc; correspondence, some of it useful; and newspaper reports. Selective transcriptions of individual parish miscellanea form part of the paper record.

**d) Examination and selective copying or transcription of historic map evidence:-**

i) Estate maps. Only those estate maps held at the National Library of Wales, Map and Print Room, were examined. Estate maps were found on the whole to be of very limited use, only very sketchy outlines of the church building normally being represented. In a few the church is shown as a conventionalised drawing. They can also be rather unreliable, the outline plans containing components for which there is good contradictory evidence. Nonetheless 22 estate maps were examined and selective transcriptions of individual estate maps form part of the paper record.

ii) Tithe maps. Copies of tithe maps dating from the 1830s and 1840s, and drawn for each parish, are held at the National Library of Wales, Map and Print Room and at the County Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology. Tithe maps are frequently handicapped by the same lack of detail seen in the estate maps but are, however, an invaluable source for churchyard studies. In the case of a few parishes, the church building is omitted, and where churches occur in towns, the yard likewise. Nonetheless the tithe map for each parish in the survey area was examined, and photocopies of most form part of the paper record.

iii) Early Ordnance Survey Maps. Copies of out-of-copyright Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition 1:2500 maps are held with the National

Library of Wales, Map and Print Room and at the County Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The usefulness of these maps varies - 19th century church restoration normally occurred before the OS surveys had been conducted, ie during the 1880s. Those First Edition maps bearing survey dates in the 1860s can be proved to have been updated prior to their publication. Nevertheless, they provide information on later alterations and the OS First and/or Second Edition map for each quarter sheet in the survey area was examined, and photocopies of most form part of the paper record.

e) Examination and selective transcription of antique pictorial evidence:-

The picture collections at the National Library of Wales Map and Print Room were consulted for pictorial evidence, particularly for the pre-restoration layout(s) of the churches. This proved to be a useful source if somewhat limited in its scope - contemporary artists were generally concerned with the 'Romantic' and this biased their subject matter and area of operation. Transcriptions of individual drawings form part of the paper record.

f) Examination of source material held with the National Monuments Record, RCAHM(W), Aberystwyth.

A variety of material is held within the NMR. Some churches within the project area are the subject of a brief account. There is much photographic coverage, most of it dating to the 1940s surveys but including several earlier photographs. RCAHM(W) have however tended to concentrate their efforts upon those churches under the most threat, ie the closed, redundant or for sale. A list and selective transcriptions or copies of the relevant NMR sources is contained within the paper record.

g) A rapid search through relevant secondary (printed) sources was undertaken, but again it must be stressed that there is no good, recent, analytical overall study:-

i) The relevant entries in RCAHM(W) Inventory, *Carmarthenshire*, 1917, were consulted, but as a source this is rather poor. The accounts area in the main short and purely descriptive, and few include plans. There are few attempts at analysis. Ceredigion has no RCAHM(W) Inventory, and the medieval section of the *Cardiganshire County History* is still forthcoming. Copies are contained within the paper record for the individual church.

ii) The indices of *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, *Transactions of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society/Ceredigion*, and *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society/The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* were consulted for relevant material. In the absence of primary source material for many churches these publications were invaluable, and a number of churches are the subjects of accounts, albeit short, of their pre-restoration appearance and condition, by S. R. Glynne and G. E. Robinson (Arch. Camb., 1897 and 1898). The restoration of Llanrhystud Church was the subject of a lengthy

account in *Ceredigion*, 1972, while Carmarthen St Peter, Eglwyscymmun and Llandysul have been subject to a number of accounts. George Eyre Evans' transcriptions of Churchwardens' presentments in both *Archaeologia Cambrensis* and *Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society* are a valuable source for material frequently difficult to access. Copies are contained within the paper record for the individual church.

iii) A range of other printed material was examined. Salter, M., 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales* includes a short account of some of the churches, and for many includes a phased scale plan of varying usefulness. Individual accounts in varying other sources were examined including, for example, sections on Carmarthen St Peters and Llanllwch in James, T., 1980, *Carmarthen: an Archaeological and Topographical Survey*, and Lodwick, M., 1972, *The Story of Carmarthen*, Kidwelly, by Evans in James, H., 1991, *Sir Gar: Studies in Carmarthenshire History* and Newchurch in Owen, T. M., 1911, *The History and Antiquities of Newchurch*. Copies are contained within the paper record for the individual church.

iv) Church Guides. These were only available at 13 churches and vary in quality. Llanwenog, Llandysul and Carmarthen St Peters church guides are reasonable accounts; others are rather more general. Copies are contained within the paper record for the individual church.

## 4.2 Field recording

Field recording treated 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 - both in church and yard - as a coherent archaeological resource. An inventory of fixtures & fittings, funerary monuments, and facilities was also compiled. Recording was achieved using a series of themed pro forma record sheets, with some limited employment of colour and monochrome photography.

### *Methodology*

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.

### **4.3 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:-

- i) The overall unit is the Church Administration Record, which includes site name, dedication, Listed Building status, benefice type, usage details, relevant historical notes etc. This interlinks via a table with the Churchyard Record and the Church Building Overall Record.
- ii) The Churchyard Record concentrates upon the physical relationship between the church and its immediate environs, considered vital in view of the earthwork evidence for former church cells encountered at a number of sites (see 5.2). Boundaries, further earthworks and memorials are also noted.
- iii) The Church Building Overall Record lists the church's components, its general archaeological potential, and the source documentation, as well as a free-text field with a structural history and analysis. It interlinks with the numbered Building Cell Records.
- iv) The Church Cell Record is a briefer record, listing the elements of the particular component by number, and general attributes. It in turn interlinks with the numbered Building Space Records.
- v) The fundamental record, describing attribute structure, archaeological potential, spatial & chronological relationships, and inventory of fittings etc is contained within the Building Space Record. It also includes a free-text field with a detailed structural description.

## **5.0 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 6.0.

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 section 2.0.

### **5.1 Condition**

The Church in Wales owned churches are, in the main, very well maintained. Most were restored, often very extensively, and many were rebuilt during the last century 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 37 churches that display 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 eight churches discussed below in Section 5.3, 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.

A further area of concern is the maintenance of churchyards, perforce usually left to volunteers, often elderly; many yards are in rather poor condition. A major concern among the clergy themselves is the high cost of church insurance.

Churches whose condition is an immediate cause for concern are noted in section 2.2; to these may be added Abernant (PRN 2251), Carm., Llangynin (PRN 3871), Carm., and Llanfair Orllwyn (PRN 5281), Cer., churches which are all damp throughout.

### **5.2 Archaeological implications**

Below-ground archaeology, its potential for survival and its sensitivity represents a focus of the survey. This should not be viewed from the perspective of that occurring within the confines of the building - its relationship with the archaeology of the churchyard is a prime concern.

Many of the churches occupy distinct and regular platforms. At Llangynfelyn (PRN 17366), Cer., the platform is associated with a distinct semicircular earthwork/parchmark at the west end, and the yards at Aberporth (PRN 5235), Cer.,

and Bangor Teifi (PRN 5283), Cer., for example, display possible evidence for the former east ends of longer chancels. At the latter site the earthwork lies south of the present church, respecting the different alignment of the church as depicted on the Tithe Map. Many churches occupy platforms which have been formed by terracing into the hillslope, and some of these terraces, for example Llanfair Orllwyn (PRN 5281), Cer., Llanfalteg (PRN 17377), Carm., and Penbryn (PRN 5397), Cer., are undoubtedly primary. In rebuilt churches such as Llandyfriog (PRN 16017), Cer., 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 Blaenporth (PRN 5224), Cer., Eglwyscymmun (PRN 5059), Carm., and Llanstephan (PRN 2208), Carm., lesser earthworks can be assigned to restoration/rebuilding debris.

The raised mounds upon which stand the churches of Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135) and Tregaron (PRN 5136), both Cer., have traditionally been held to represent bronze age round barrows. Evidence from churchyard excavation is yielding an increasing number of similar examples (see Section 5.6) and the pronounced earthworks below Mwnt church (PRN 5324), Cer., probably represent further examples.

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, South 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 Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ceredigion were never any larger than they are today - particularly within the latter area. There are few exceptions, but the nave at Kidwelly (PRN 1629), Carm., was truncated by an unknown number of bays during the late medieval period, the transepts at Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135), Cer., were demolished during the 19th century and not rebuilt, and the West Tower at Ferwig (PRN 17358) - the only surviving medieval component of the church - was demolished as recently as 1968. The Tithe Maps of both Llanboidy (PRN 3938) and Llandysiliogogo (PRN 5291) show buildings at right angles to, and adjoining, the naves; their 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 for either building suggesting that they were 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.

45 churches were entirely rebuilt, and a further 21 churches at least partly rebuilt in the 19th century within the area. A further 40 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 (it was thought), to prevent damp, but will have entirely removed

archaeological evidence from within the church. In some cases such as Llandyfriog (PRN 16017), Cer., however, the debris from the earlier church was built upon, protecting, to some extent, the earlier deposits.

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), Carm., Llanedi (PRN 674), Carm., and Llannon (PRN 664), Carm., are disturbed by below-ground mortuary vaults, and many more will have burials crowding their internal below floor spaces. These have been revealed - and removed - at, for example, Llangyndeyrn (PRN 1703), Carm., and Penbryn (PRN 5397), Cer..

However, many churches display good above-ground archaeology in the form of their built structural history (see below, 5.3). Three churches within the study area display, or possess beneath internal render, wall-paintings, which constitute a vital archaeological resource in their own right (see section 6.3.12).

### **5.3 Structural analysis**

Architecturally the churches within Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ceredigion form a disparate group. There are few characteristic features held in common even within the individual regions - the so-called 'typical Carmarthenshire church tower' in fact representing a number of widely differing styles. Churches within the south-west of the area, around Laugharne, are often spoken of as a homogenous group but even here there are few features held in common. The smaller churches of Ceredigion represent the most consistent building style, but here - as elsewhere - wholesale rebuilding may have masked all diagnostic features. Generally, however, there is a divide between Ceredigion and North Carmarthen and the rest of the area; this section will follow the divide and deal with the evidence relating to medieval fabric.

The churches repay close study, a study which hitherto has not been fully attempted.. 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 area around Laugharne discussed above was an 'Englishry' and the churches more substantial, but rarely large. Many of the smaller churches (and many of them rebuilt) are located in the upland areas of Ceredigion and North Carmarthenshire. But there is no general rule and some fairly substantial aisled churches, for example Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742), Carm., and Llanfihangel Ystrad (PRN 17370), Cer., were sited in this region.

The four monastic parish churches - St Clears (PRN 3880), Carm., Cardigan (PRN 5302), Cer., Llanbadarn Fawr, (PRN 4847), Cer. and Kidwelly (PRN 1629), Llan. - form a disparate group with almost nothing in common, beyond the lack of evidence

for conventual buildings. It appears that only St Clears was associated with a formalised conventual arrangement that adjoined the church - 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.

As discussed in the previous section, there is no evidence for contraction of any medieval churches in the area, apart from in a small number of the 19th century rebuilt churches.

### *Ceredigion and North Carmarthen*

In terms of the development of the church building, it makes sense to deal with Ceredigion and North Carmarthenshire first. The upland churches within this area have largely been rebuilt, but many were described, and a few illustrated, in 19th century accounts such as those by S. R. Glynne and G. E. Robinson (*Arch. Camb.*, 1897 and 1898). They are described in rather withering terms, due in part to a measure of Victorian bias, but the fact that rebuilding was so frequently thought necessary may indicate a certain lack of quality in their construction. Indeed, in many cases these churches underwent major rebuilds more than once during the 19th century, with an unknown number of previous undocumented rebuilds, and so in many cases the nature of the medieval church cannot be ascertained. Prior to its rebuilding the 'typical' small Ceredigion church was unaisled, often single-celled with no structural division between nave and chancel, without a porch, with a (west) door and west bellcote, square-headed openings, timber windows and was rendered externally. Where chancel arches were present they were simple. The only real survivor of this tradition is Mwnt (PRN 5324) but some of the characteristics can be seen at, for example, Capel Cynon (PRN 5276), Llanina (PRN 5656), Llangybi (PRN 5145) and Llandysiliogogo (PRN 5291), all Cer., and Llanycrwys (PRN 1917), Carm.. Despite their simplicity, these churches could often display wordwork of the highest quality; the late-medieval king-post roof of Mwnt has survived, and the elaborate double rood-screens formerly present at, for example, Llangetho (PRN 5163) and described by Meyrick have left structural evidence at Mwnt and Llanina.

The aisled former churches at Lampeter (PRN 17273) and Llanfihangel Ystrad (PRN 17370), both Cer. and rebuilt in the later 19th century, were described in similar terms but must have been something more akin to Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn (PRN 742), Carm., a fairly large church if rather simple. Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn (PRN 5190), moreover, was a large cruciform church, if again architecturally simple, possibly representing medieval work. It was entirely demolished during the rebuild of 1884.

Many of those Ceredigion churches with towers were apparently otherwise similar. Contemporary depictions of Llanrhystud (PRN 4814) and Llanilar (PRN 17361), both subsequently restored, show low single cells attached, with openings as described. Llanrhystud, however, formerly possessed a large and elaborate *sanctus* bellcote the loss of which during restoration is to be regretted; Llanilar was more fortunate in retaining its late medieval wagon roof. At Llansantffraed (PRN 4813) and Llanddewi Aberarth (PRN 17367) the bodies of the church were swept away during the rebuilds of 1840 and 1860 respectively but were undoubtedly again of a similar character. Their towers are no earlier than the 15th century and generally rather simple. A similar tower

at Llanwnnen (PRN 4766) has been restored with crow-stepped crenellations which are not a medieval feature here; it is not known whether those at Llanarth (PRN 12396) are original. The tower at Llanrhystud was in contrast a massive affair, now much altered and with a 19th century spire, with affinities to Llanwenog and Llanybydder (see below).

Three Ceredigion churches with towers can be seen as forming a group. The large, substantial cruciform church at Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4847), formerly monastic, has a massive central tower over the crossing, of probable 13th century date and thus one of the earliest in the region. It displays transitional openings and an elaborate south door (c.1220s). The nearby church at Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn (PRN 5176) is more-or-less a copy on a smaller scale; it has retained its late medieval wagon roofs. Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135) follows a similar plan though the transepts have now gone; rather later, the surviving evidence suggests a 14th century date for the church.

A further group may be represented in the South Ceredigion and North Carmarthen by the towers of Llanllwni (PRN 1833) and Llanybydder (PRN 738), both Carm., and Llanwenog (PRN 5636), Cer. All three are late 15th-16th century towers of great height and solidity, but where Llanllwni and Llanybydder are rather plain, Llanwenog is architecturally rather elaborate, displaying carvings of c.1500, apparently *in situ*. At the former two sites, the body of the church was partly rebuilt during the 19th century but Llanwenog has retained its long nave/chancel with a late medieval wagon roof and a number of original openings. It is also the only church in Ceredigion proper with an attached chapel, and one of only two aisled churches that have survived (the other being Llandysul, see below; see also above for Lampeter and Llanfihangel Ystrad), and only because the South Chapel also opens into the first bay of the nave.

Transepts occur only at the cruciform churches noted above, and at Llangynfelyn (PRN 17366), Cer. which is otherwise of small, two-celled type; there is accordingly, no surviving skew passage in the region.

Two churches in the area are without close parallels in West Wales. The priory church at Cardigan (PRN 5302), Cer., has an elaborate late 14th century chancel with pinnaced buttresses, a crenellated parapet, corner stair turret and mullioned windows with some original tracery and possibly glass. Its squared slate construction makes it a very impressive building. The nave is a much plainer affair, probably largely rebuilt in the 16th century, and the angle-buttressed slate tower is a later rebuild still, of the early 18th century. Llandysul (PRN 5463), Cer., is the only single-build double aisled church in West Wales, the aisles having lean-to roofs probably reflecting the original arrangements. It also possesses the only surviving squint in Ceredigion.

The building material in Ceredigion churches is Carboniferous Limestone, more rarely Old Red Sandstone, with local shale or slate featuring in the south of the area as at Cardigan and also, for example, Llanfair Orllwyn (PRN 5281); it can often be a combination of all three. Evidence for external render is apparent on most pre-19th century fabric. Five medieval timber roofs have survived, the four mentioned above and the roof at Penbryn (PRN 5397), a two-celled church and largely unrestored, with a number of original openings suggesting that the north wall at least is of 12th century

date and among the earliest dateable fabric in the region. Apart from within towers, and there rarely, there are no vaulted roofs in this region and probably never were.

At a small number of those churches that show a structural division, and where restoration has been slight, the medieval chancel arch survives. However they are generally rather plain and cannot be closely dated, except at the cruciform churches noted above, and Cardigan's elaborate arch. That at Penbryn (PRN 5937), Cer., appears to be 12th century, while at the demolished church of Lampeter (PRN 17273), Cer., the arch was said to be Romanesque, but this has to be treated with caution.

Rood-loft doors and straight stairs survive in the north walls of Mwnt (PRN 5324), Cer., and Llanycrwys (PRN 1917), Carm., single-celled churches formerly very similar in plan and arrangements. A similar arrangement, altered in the 19th century by the addition of a tower, can be seen in the south wall of the formerly single-celled Llanwnnw (PRN 5158), Cer.. Several timber rood screens survived into the 19th century as has been noted above.

A number of churches have retained window and door surrounds, from the bold Transitional windows at Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4847), Cer., to the Perpendicular windows of the chancel at Cardigan (PRN 5302), Cer. - albeit much rebuilt in both cases. The south door at Llanbadarn Fawr is a unique survival of the medieval art of the area and has been noted above. Most openings, however, are plain and window surrounds are often square-headed and mullioned, of the 16th-17th centuries, and normally of limestone or Old Red Sandstone; 19th century surrounds are invariably in oolite (Bath or Douling stone). Many more churches display blocked openings. Evidence for former opposing north and south doors is lacking, except at Cardigan; the west wall has remained by far the most frequent location for the entry, entries that have remained open, unlike elsewhere within West Wales. The entries are often through a West Tower but where towers are absent, are normally simple, West Porches being rare and normally post-medieval additions (though sometimes early post-medieval, eg Penrhyn PRN 5397). Buttressing is not seen except, again, at Cardigan, see above.

In the absence of architectural detail and original openings, dating many of the churches is difficult. 12th century work is rare but Penrhyn nave has been noted above, and a similar window can be seen in the chancel at Llanllwni (PRN 1833), Carm.. If the chancel arch of Lampeter's old church was Romanesque, then it too joins Ceredigion's earliest church buildings. Llanwnnen (PRN 4766), Cer., has retained its medieval nave with very thick battered walls; the chancel arch was formerly semicircular-headed.

With these exceptions, and the case of the greater churches, such as Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4847), Cer., mainly from c.1200-1250, and Cardigan (PRN 5302), Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn (PRN 5176) and Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135), all Cer. and noted above, it is not possible to date any fabric closely apart from the towers, also noted above. Llanfair Clydogau (PRN 5246) was described in the middle of the last century as possessing 'Perpendicular' windows, but these have now gone. Such, in fact, may have been the quality of the medieval work, or the frequency of rebuilding, that many churches may now be later than their towers - the reverse of the situation in Carmarthenshire and South Pembrokeshire. Contemporary drawings of pre-rebuild

**Llanpumpsaint (PRN 17380)**  
Present - SS Celynnin,  
Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno &  
Gwynoro  
Former - SS Celynnin,  
Ceitho, Gwyn, Gwyno &  
Gwynoro

**Llansadurnen (PRN 17352)**  
Present - St Sadwrnen  
Former - St Sadwrnen

**Llansaint (PRN 2118)**  
Present - All Saints  
Former - All Saints

**Llanstephan (PRN 2208)**  
Present - St Stephen  
Former - St Stephen

**Llanwinio (PRN 17353)**  
Present - St Gwynio  
Former - St Gwynio

**Llanybydder (PRN 738)**  
Present - St Peter  
Former - St Peter?

**Llanycrwys (PRN 1917)**  
Present - St David  
Former - St David

**Marros (PRN 3833)**  
Present - St Lawrence  
Former - St Lawrence

**Meidrim (PRN 3972)**  
Present - St David  
Former - St David?

**Merthyr (PRN 17356)**  
Present - St Martin  
Former - St Martin

**Newchurch (PRN 2253)**  
Present - St Michael  
Former - St Michael

**Penboyr (PRN 17348)**  
Present - St Llawddog  
Former - St Llawddog

**Penbre (PRN 1644)**  
Present - St Illtud  
Former - St Illtud

**Pencader (PRN 5388)**  
Present - St Mary  
Former - ?

**Pencarreg (PRN 17354)**  
Present - St Patrick  
Former - St Padarn?

**Pendine (PRN 3839)**  
Present - St Margaret  
Marlos  
Former - St Margaret  
Marlos

**Pontyberem Capel Ifan (PRN 1690)**  
Present - St John  
Former - St John (Baptist)

**St Clears (PRN 3880)**  
Present - St Mary  
Magdalene  
Former - St Mary  
Magdalene

**St Ishmael (PRN 2117)**  
Present - St Ishmael  
Former - St Ishmael

**Trelech a'r Betws (PRN 5251)**  
Present - St Teilo  
Former - St Teilo

**Whitland (PRN 5045)**  
Present - St Mary  
Former - St Mary

### Ceredigion

**Aberporth (PRN 5235)**  
Present - St Cynwyl  
Former - St Cynwyl

**Bangor Teifi (PRN 5283)**  
Present - St David  
Former - ?

**Betws Bledrws (PRN 9642)**  
Present - St Bledrws or St  
Michael  
Former - St Bledrws?

**Betws Ifan (PRN 17491)**  
Present - St John  
Former - St John

**Betws Leucu (PRN 5130)**  
Present - St Lucia  
Former - St Lucia

**Blaenpennal (PRN 5162)**  
Present - St David  
Former - St David

**Blaenporth (PRN 5224)**  
Present - St David  
Former - ?

**Brongwyn (PRN 5230)**  
Present - St Mary  
Former - St Ithel?

**Capel Cynon (PRN 5276)**  
Present - St Cynon  
Former - St Cynon

**Capel Dewi (PRN 18244)**  
Present - St David  
Former - St David

**Cardigan (PRN 5302)**  
Present - St Mary  
Former - St Mary

**Cellan (PRN 17335)**  
Present - All Saints  
Former - All Saints

**Cilcennin (PRN 4823)**  
Present - Holy Trinity  
Former - St Cenwyn?

**Ciliau Aeron (PRN 20737)**  
Present - St Michael  
Former - St Michael

**Dihewyd (PRN 5660)**

Present - St Vitalis

Former - ?

**Eglwysfach (PRN 5430)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Edwin?

**Eglwysnewydd (PRN 5419)**

Present - none

Former - ?

**Ferwig (PRN 17358)**

Present - St Pedrog

Former - St Pedrog

**Henfynyw (PRN 5911)**

Present - St David

Former - St David

**Henllan (PRN 5282)**

Present - St David

Former - St David?

**Gartheli (PRN 17118)**

Present - St Gartheli

Former - St Gartheli?

**Lampeter (PRN 17273)**

Present - St Peter

Former - St Peter

**Llanafan-y-Trawscoed (PRN 5179)**

Present - St Afan

Former - St Afan

**Llanarth (12396)**

Present - St David

Former - SS David &

Meilig

**Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4847)**

Present - St Padarn

Former - St Padarn

**Llanbadarn Odwyn (PRN 5161)**

Present - St Padarn

Former - St Padarn

**Llanbadarn Trefeglwys (PRN 17122)**

Present - St Padarn

Former - St Padarn

**Llanddeiniol (PRN 4834)**

Present - St Deiniol

Former - St Deiniol

**Llanddewi Aberarth (PRN 17367)**

Present - St David

Former - St David

**Llanddewi Brefi (PRN 5135)**

Present - St David

Former - St David

**Llandyfriog (PRN 16017)**

Present - St Tyfriog

Former - St Tyfriog

**Llandygydd (PRN 20773)**

Present - St Tygwydd

Former - St Tygwydd

**Llandysiliogogo (PRN 5291)**

Present - St Tysilio

Former - St Tysilio

**Llandysul (PRN 5643)**

Present - St Tysul

Former - St Tysul

**Llanerch Aeron (PRN 17364)**

Present - St Non

Former - ?

**Llanfair Clydogau (PRN 5146)**

Present - St Mary

Former - St Mary

**Llanfair Orllwyn (PRN 5281)**

Present - St Mary

Former - St Mary

**Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn (PRN 5190)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Llanfihangel Lledrod (PRN 20473)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn (PRN 5176)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Llanfihangel Ystrad (PRN 17370)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Llangeitho (PRN 5163)**

Present - St Ceitho

Former - St Ceitho

**Llangoedmor (PRN 5305)**

Present - St Cynllo

Former - St Cynllo

**Llangrannog (PRN 16987)**

Present - St Carannog

Former - St Carannog

**Llangybi (PRN 5145)**

Present - St Cybi

Former - St Cybi

**Llangynfelyn (PRN 17366)**

Present - St Cynfelyn

Former - St Cynlfelyn

**Llangynllo (PRN 16053)**

Present - St Cynllo

Former - St Cynllo

**Llanilar (PRN 17361)**

Present - St Hilary

Former - St Ilar (Hilary)

**Llanina (PRN 5656)**

Present - St Ina

Former - St Ina

**Llanllwchaiarn (PRN 10509)**

Present - St Llwwchaiarn

Former - St Llwwchaiarn

**Llanrhystud (PRN 4814)**

Present - St Restitutis

Former - St Rhystud

(Restitutis)

**Llansantffraed (PRN 4813)**

Present - St Ffraid

Former - St Ffraid

**Llantrisant (PRN 5490)**

Present - none

Former - ?

**Llanwenog (PRN 5636)**

Present - St Gwenog

Former - St Gwenog

**Llanwnnen (PRN 4766)**

Present - St Lucia

Former - St Gwnnen

**Llanwnnws (PRN 5158)**

Present - St Gwnnws

Former - St Gwynws

(Gwnnws)

**Llanychaearn (PRN 4850)**

Present - St Llwlchaearn

Former - St Llwlchaearn

**Mwnt (PRN 5324)**

Present - Holy Cross

Former - Holy Cross

**Nantcwnlle (PRN 17368)**

Present - St Cynllo

Former - St Gwynlleu

(Cynllo)

**Penbryn (PRN 5397)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Silian (PRN 17375)**

Present - St Sulien

Former - St Sulien

**Trefilan (PRN 17369)**

Present - St Hilary

Former - St Ilan

**Tregaron (PRN 5136)**

Present - St Caron

Former - St Caron

**Tremain (PRN 5219)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael?

**Troed-yr-Aur (PRN 5271)**

Present - St Michael

Former - St Michael

**Ysbyty Cynfyn (PRN**

**5479)**

Present - St John Baptist

Former - St John Baptist

**Ysbyty Ystwyth (PRN**

**5489)**

Present - St John Baptist

Former - St John Baptist

**Ystrad Meurig (PRN**

**19648)**

Present - St John Baptist

Former - St John Baptist

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## **8.0 REFERENCES**

A full list of references for the source material examined for each church is noted under the individual PRN in the database (in the Overall Building Record).

