

**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

**THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE  
HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT**



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**THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES PROJECT, 1995-6  
(DAT 48)**

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## 1.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT BRIEF

### 1.1 The scope of the project

The South Pembrokeshire 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. Dyfed Archaeological Trust selected South Pembrokeshire District as its initial project area. 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 65 such historic churches was represented within the 1995/6 project area of South Pembrokeshire. In fact only 40 churches satisfied the criteria for inclusion within the project.

### 1.3 The nature of the resource

There is a total of 54 churches of medieval origin in South Pems. Of these churches, 40 satisfy the criteria for inclusion within the present study, that is all those of medieval origin still under Church in Wales ownership.

Of the 52 medieval churches, 47 are parish churches. Two formal chapels of ease were established for the parish of Pembroke St Mary, two of the present parish churches were formerly chapelries and a further possible chapel of ease, Flimston, lies in Castlemartin parish. The two medieval churches on Caldey Island were always extra-parochial; one was a monastic house, and both are currently under the ownership of the Roman Catholic Church. There were many more devotional chapels.

The 47 parishes that the remainder served still persist as civil administrative units, although today an average of three churches are united as one benefice. However, the parish churches themselves are not all subject to ecclesiastical use. Six are now in private hands, Warren Church is owned by Trustees that include the Church in Wales and is used for ecumenical worship, Yerboston is redundant and a further church, Rhoscrowther, is closed. That means only 41 still hold services.

Of the six in private hands one, Slebech, was replaced by a 19th century church which is itself now empty and for sale. Another, Pwllcrochan, was purchased privately in 1982; a fine medieval church with a spire, it has been the subject of much recording and maintenance through the Historic Buildings Council. Coedcenlas Church is ruinous and has been subject to recent repairs by the owner. Mounton and Newton North are inaccessible to wheeled traffic; Newton North is a total ruin but Mounton is largely intact and a small church on a network of recognised footpaths with potential for preservation in private hands - a similar situation prevails for Yerboston (CinW), the redundant church. Upton has only recently been acquired privately and has been subject to a comprehensive record by RCAHM(W).

Rhoscrowther Church (CinW) was closed when the village was evacuated by the nearby Texaco refinery in 1994 and its future is in doubt.

Of the three chapels of ease one, Pembroke St Patrick, is now a ruined tower in private hands, another, Flimston Chapel is used privately. Pembroke St Daniels is still under CinW ownership but holds a service only once a year.

It is the above churches that are under the most threat, a threat that for some it is rather too late to make a significant response to. This has been recognised by RCAHM who have undertaken the detailed surveys noted. However, a structured management strategy is urgently required.

Monkton Church is not included in the project on the basis of its being a monastic site.

The remaining 40 churches that meet the criteria for the current survey are, in the main, very well maintained. However, a number do constitute an area of concern (see 2.2).

#### **1.4 Alphabetical list of churches within the project brief**

Amroth (PRN 3663)

Angle (PRN 3091)

Begelly (PRN 3641)

Bosherston (PRN 627)

Carew (PRN 3492)

Castlemartin (PRN 562)

Cosheston (PRN 3520)

Crinow (PRN 4925)

Crunwear (PRN 3803)

East Williamston (PRN 3521)

Gumfreston (PRN 3687)

Hodgeston (PRN 4187)

Jeffreyston (PRN 3478)

Lampeter Velfrey (PRN 3790)

Lamphey (PRN 3511)

Lawrenny (PRN 3463)

Llanddewi Velfrey (PRN 3728)

Llawhaden (PRN 3582)

Loveston (PRN 3481)

Ludchurch (PRN 3784)

Manorbier (PRN 4219)

Martletwy (PRN 3598)

Minwear (PRN 3595)

Narberth (PRN 3745)

Nash (PRN 4416)

Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279) - not parish church

Pembroke St Mary (PRN 3278)

Pembroke St Michael (PRN 3280)

Penally (PRN 4235)  
Redberth (PRN 4424)  
Reynalton (PRN 3483)  
Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240)  
Robeston Wathen (PRN 3587)  
St Florence (PRN 3539)  
St Issells (PRN 3642)  
St Petrox (PRN 596)  
St Twynnels (PRN 569)  
Stackpole Elidor (PRN 593)  
Tenby St Mary (PRN 3713)  
Yerbeston (PRN 3480)

### **1.5 Presentation of results and end products**

The primary objective of the project was the construction of a database compatible with the regional SMR and forming a part of it. It is Cadw's request that it feed into the RCAHMW Extended National Database. 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 3.3), 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

It may here be noted that the Diocesan authorities have shown concern over the unrestricted access to the record implicit with its deposition in a regional SMR. Useful discussions may be undertaken between Cadw and the Church in Wales viz. management of the record.

## **1.6 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 South Pembrokeshire:-

The churches within the project area had not hitherto been subject to any proper archaeological study. In 1993 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park commissioned the Alex Gordon Partnership to undertake a survey of South Pembrokeshire churches as part of a redundancy strategy, which contains very brief descriptions of each church, their (then) listed status, and cultural importance, potential etc. Individual churches have been subject to quinquennial surveys which summarised their architectural history and often the fixtures and fittings at some length. 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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust'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. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 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 the Extended National Database.

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 undergraduate volunteers from Trinity College, Carmarthen, in the field recording. The establishment of a working database represents an additional value add-on.

## **2.0 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, re-listing of Welsh churches - under the secular system ie Grades I, II\* and III - has been under way for some time and has yet to be brought fully up-to-date; there may be an opportunity for liaison with the 4 Welsh Trust's Churches 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 5.0).

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

### **2.1 Statutory protection**

Llanddewi Vefrey Parish Church (PRN 3278) is, according to the most recent list made available, currently unlisted.

It is of some concern that, for example, the removal of the box-pews from Loveston Church (PRN 3481) during the 1970s may affect its listing status.

In section 5.1 is a list of largely unrestored churches (including Loveston) 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.

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

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

Llanddewi Velfrey (PRN 3728) - unlisted, see above

Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279) - general condition and future  
usage

Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240) - closed: future usage, fittings (to be  
moved)

Yerbeston (PRN 3480) - redundant: general condition, future  
ownership and usage - becoming ruinous

### 3.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Project methodology comprised 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.

#### 3.1 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, Tenby St Mary being a particular example, there is a considerable body of source material, both primary and secondary, whilst for Llawhaden, for example, there is very little good primary evidence. This 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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust, 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 a 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 Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest - the latter also comprising some later 20th century faculties. 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 only a few churches within the survey area. Faculties for minor works such as the erection of chancel screens, the introduction of electric lighting etc pertain to many more. In only 2 cases do the faculties include a plan of the church as it existed prior to restoration, but 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. 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 Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest. Again it must be emphasised that the coverage is undoubtedly far from complete. 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 the photocopies contained within the paper record for the Deanery of Narberth 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 Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest, under **HPR**:-

i) Vestry minute books - the minutes of vestry meetings. In total vestry minute books for 12 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 15 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

or 'Grundy's' underground heating apparatus; reports on the condition of bells etc; correspondence, some of it useful; and for one church (Tenby St Mary) newspaper reports, the only detailed primary source its mid 19th century restoration. Selective transcriptions of individual parish miscellanea form part of the paper record.

(Omissions - Cawdor Estate Papers deposited at Carmarthenshire Record Office, Carmarthen, which include records relating to four churches within the project area.)

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 34 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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust. 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, Tenby Museum and Art Gallery, Pembrokeshire Museum (Scolton Manor) and Haverfordwest Library were consulted for pictorial evidence, particularly for the pre-restoration layout(s) of the churches. This proved to be one of the most productive and useful sources if somewhat limited in its scope - contemporary artists were generally concerned with the 'Romantic' and their operations tended to be Tenby- and Pembroke-based. Nevertheless, antique drawings for 16 churches were consulted. In the case of Narberth Church, for example, they constitute the only record of its pre-1882 rebuild, the church not appearing on any estate maps consulted nor the Tithe Map, and its existing plan being absent from the rebuild faculty plans. Cosheston church is shown in the early 19th century with a markedly different chancel from that shown on the OS First Edition, and the former presence and form of openings, etc, is well represented. 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. Each church within the project area has been subject to a brief account by W G Thomas. There is much photographic coverage, most of it dating to the 1940s surveys but including several earlier photographs. Of note are the photographs, on loan from T Lloyd, taken by C S Allen of Tenby 1870-75, of which five churches form the subject. 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, 1925, were consulted, but as a source this is rather poor. The accounts are in the main short and purely descriptive, and few include plans. There are few attempts at analysis.

ii) The indices of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* and the West Wales Historical Records were consulted for relevant material. Most of this proved to be purely descriptive and in the main dealt with the post-restoration form of the church. One of the exceptions is Edward Freeman's illustrated accounts which appear in *Arch. Camb.*, 1852. Fully analytical accounts are restricted to W G Thomas' analysis of Tenby St Mary, *Arch. Camb.*, 1964.

iii) A range of other printed material was examined. In 1993 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park commissioned the Alex Gordon Partnership to undertake a survey of South Pembrokeshire churches as part of a redundancy strategy, which contains very brief descriptions of each church, their (then) listed status, and cultural importance, potential etc. Salter, M, 1994, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales* includes a short account of all of the churches, and for many includes a phased scale plan of varying usefulness. Individual accounts in varying other sources were examined.

iv) Church Guides. These were only available at 14 churches (though a few more had plaques) and vary in quality; Tenby and St Florence church guides were written by W G Thomas and are good analytical accounts, whilst T Lloyds guide to Jeffreyston contains much information on its restoration. Others are rather more general.

### 3.2 Field recording

Field recording covered 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.

### 3.3 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) This 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.

## **4.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

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

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

### **4.1 Condition**

The Church in Wales owned churches of South Pembrokeshire are, in the main, very well maintained. Most were restored, often very extensively, during the last century with the result that windows etc are in good repair - few still display any medieval openings into the body of the church. Indeed, five of the 40 were rebuilt, to varying extremes, during the last century.

The main areas of concern are (in the 32 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. In addition, although vaulting is a frequent - and distinctive - feature of South Pembrokeshire churches, it is often confined to towers, transepts and porches. Very rarely does it extend throughout naves and chancels meaning that there are a number of timber roofs. Almost without exception these are 19th century and in good condition but the implications are clear.

Memorials, too, are often in poor condition and may be subject to independent grant applications (eg Lampeter Velfrey).

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 Gumfreston, Hodgeston and St Florence churches which are all damp throughout - selective works, part-funded by Cadw, are currently underway at the latter.

### **4.2 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 Lamphey the platform is associated with a distinct semicircular earthwork/parchmark at the *west* end, and the yards at Ludchurch and Martletwy, for example, display possible evidence for the former east ends of longer chancels.

Many churches display good structural evidence for former cells occurring beyond the confines of the present buildings, for example the former South Chapel at Castlemartin (represented by a blocked arcade) and possible former North Transepts at Llawhaden and St Twynnells. However, few display complementary earthwork evidence - the earthwork representing the former South Chapel at Amroth, adjacent to the blocked communicating arches, is a rarity.

The majority of churches are separated from their earlier archaeology by drainage ditches which normally surround the entire church except for the tower. These are, however, perhaps not always deep enough to fully cut all horizons.

Many churches display evidence - door sills, pier bases etc - for changes in floor level, but for most 19th century rebuilding of doorways and arcades has removed such evidence.

In the most heavily restored churches, including Robeston Wathen and Narberth (both by T G Jackson), the pre-existing interior surfaces were 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.

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) adjacent to the vestries and therefore the chancels. Few are disturbed by mortuary vaults.

However, many churches display good above-ground archaeology in the form of their built structural history (see below, 4.3). Four 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 5.9).

#### **4.3 Structural analysis**

Architecturally the South Pembrokeshire churches are an interesting group and repay close study. The larger churches, as one might expect, are associated with the more important medieval holdings. However there is no general rule here and many of the aisled churches, sometimes with chapels, lie within minor holdings often of 1 knights' fee or less and not part of larger estates.

However the majority of churches in the district are rather small, simple unaisled structures, and architecturally plain. The most frequently occurring layout comprises variations on:-

An unvaulted chancel, a slightly wider nave, unaisled and unvaulted, vaulted transept(s) with skew passage(s) to the chancel, a vaulted west tower usually open to the nave, and a vaulted south porch with benching.

There may be variations - a west doorway through the tower, a nave vault, unvaulted transept etc but the general layout is distinctive and the shared characteristics form a coherent group.

The building material is the local Carboniferous Limestone, more rarely Old Red Sandstone. All vaults are 2-centred barrel-vaults; where rib-vaults occur they may be later insertions. In most churches repointing and/or render has obscured the evidence for earlier arrangements, and the account below must be read in the light only of what can now be seen, or for which there is source evidence.

The use of buttressing is almost unknown except in 19th century work, but nb Carew chancel where they appear to be medieval (shown on early 19th century prints). Windows and door surrounds still in use are almost without exception 19th century, and where dressed stone is used it is normally oolite (Bath or Doultong stone). Carew, Ludchurch and Manorbier are almost the only churches in which medieval window dressings survive and are glazed, but Loveston displays a fine 16th century mullioned E window. In many more 19th century dressings have been inserted in earlier openings. The nave windows at Gumfreston appear to be 17th century, and structural evidence for refenestration from this period can be seen at a number of churches eg Penally.

Towers are generally narrow, tapering and devoid of architectural decoration bar the corbel tables that support the (usually crenellated) parapets - the gargyles on the parapet of the tower at Llawhaden, and the Perpendicular tower at Carew (see below), are unique. Those churches without a tower are often, but by no means exclusively, confined to the Welshries of medieval lordships. In place of a tower is usually a bellcote which may be a simple gabled upstand or, as at East Williamston and Yerboston (in Englishries) a crenellated turret supported on corbels. These churches are generally simpler than those with towers, often of only two cells. Minwear and Cosheston display towers some way between the two types, erected over vaulted projections of the nave, that at Cosheston formerly carrying a spire. The double-tower at Llawhaden has been the source of much discussion - a likely explanation is that the earlier (and smaller) tower was added to the end of the South Transept (cf Stackpole Elidor), was found to be too small and a second, larger tower was built over the transept. Many towers display corbels for a ceiling/floor beneath the vault. The rather late tower at St Issells is unvaulted throughout.

The chancel at Hodgeston is unusually large, and appears to have been added to the tiny nave which it oversails. It has a fine suite of Decorated features - a piscina and tomb recess - undoubtedly connected to the occupancy of the adjacent moated site. It shares certain characteristics with the equally large chancel at Carew, and may be the work of the same architect.

A feature formerly at most churches is opposing north and south doorways. Normally it is the northern door that has been subsequently blocked but in a few (eg Begelly, Minwear, Pembroke St Daniel) the southern door has. These northern doorways appear rarely to have been associated with a porch, in contrast with the south doors whose frequently occurring porches often show corbels for, and stairways (usually altered) to, first floor 'galilee' chambers (eg Castlemartin, Begelly, Cosheston).

West doors occur infrequently, and where they do are almost always associated with a west tower. West porches are rarer still - that at Gumfreston is vaulted and appears to have been intended to carry a tower, moved at the last minute to the North Transept. Llawhaden's west porch is cited in all secondary sources as a *de novo* 19th century construction; it is however plainly shown on a Buck print of 1740.

Aisles are rare but where they do occur are primarily to the north of the nave. In a number of churches an earlier North Transept was absorbed by the North Aisle, Pembroke St Mary and Castlemartin during the medieval period, Jeffreyston and Robeston Wathen during 19th century additions. North and South Aisles together are rare and confined to the large churches Tenby St Mary, Carew, and Manorbier. Aisles are normally gabled.

Chapels are likewise rare. Where they occur a South Chapel is normally primary - Llawhaden and Rhoscrowther still displays their South Chapels, while Castlemartin and Amroth show evidence for their former presence. North chapels are present at eg Llanddewi Velfrey and Begelly. Only St Florence and Tenby St Mary display both north and south chapels. Chapels are normally gabled, but at eg Llawhaden was formerly a lean-to.

At many churches where restoration has been slight the medieval chancel arch survives, and there is often evidence in the form of stairs, doorways, corbels etc for the former presence of a rood-loft (Bosherston, Hodgeston, Gumfreston, Manorbier, Rhoscrowther etc). Loveston displays unusual 16th century 2-light squints.

In the absence of architectural detail and original openings, dating many of the churches is difficult. 12th century work is rare but eg Llawhaden and Pembroke St Mary display Romanesque south doorways, Manorbier nave has a round-headed window and the chancel arch at Marthetwy appears 12th century in style.

In the main, however, one can state with some confidence (through joints, etc) that often the nave is primary (12th-13th cent), sometimes extended when the chancels were rebuilt/added (as at St Twynells, Reynalton and St Florence), and that at many churches the transepts are additions to the chancel. In a few, for instance Loveston and Bosherston, all three elements appear to be *de novo* work of a single phase. Porches are usually stylistically similar to the transepts.

All towers post-date the above elements. The former saddleback towers at Ludchurch and Castlemartin are squat and may, along with towers of similar bulk, be 13th century. The towers at Manorbier and Penally also show evidence for two builds but the form of their original summits is not known. The majority of towers share similarities with towers whose detail, where it survives, is 14th-15th century. A group of towers (inc Crunwear, Begelly and Lawrenny) share similar late 15th century detail while the tower at Carew is fully Perpendicular, ornamented and unique in the district.

Where aisles and chapels occur, the arcades are normally 14th-15th century in style.

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

#### 4.4 Fixtures and fittings

Internal fittings are generally rather plain, but box-pews are present at eg two of the threatened churches, Yrbeston and Rhoscrowdder. They are also present at eg Redberth, while those at Loveston were removed as recently as the 1970s. Pulpits are generally late 19th-20th century and single-decker. Organs are likewise usually of 20th century manufacture, often North American, but that at Jeffreyston traditionally belonged to Mendelssohn. Some churches display tiled redaltars. Glass is exclusively 19th-20th century.

However, a characteristic of South Pems churches as a group is the survival of early fonts, often 12th century and the earliest element within the church. The form that accounts for three-quarters of these fonts is a square, scalloped bowl on a cylindrical stem with or without a cable moulding.

Many churches also display fine early 18th century wall memorials, sometimes in poor repair. Earlier memorials, and effigies, are rather rare but occur at eg Tenby St Mary, llawhaden, and Carew. The early 17th century Lort mausoleum at Stackpole Elidor deserves mention.

#### 4.5 Churchyards

Churchyards, though strictly beyond the scope of the survey, have been surveyed, primarily for the reasons outlined in section 4.2. Further earthworks, not apparently associated with the church building itself, were noted at eg Ludchurch.

Churchyards are, in the main, rectangular and are shown as such on the earliest map evidence where this is available. This applies at churches with both 'Celtic' dedications and those with post-Conquest dedications.

At eg the Celtic dedicated St Petrox the yard can be seen to have been grafted onto a pre-existing co-axial open field system - which recent work suggests may, however, have a pre-conquest origin (Kissock, 1993; Murphy, 1993) - demonstrating the circular nature of this kind of argument. Furthermore, a pre-Conquest date for all Celtic dedications has yet to be conclusively demonstrated. Lampeter Velfrey, with a post-Conquest dedication, lies within one of the few convincing circular yards. However, the circular yard at Jeffreyston is associated with radial field boundaries that lead from it and the church displays an Early Christian Monument.

During the project the former boundary of a previously circular churchyard was noted as a faint earthwork bank and ditch running in an arc east of the east end of Bosherton church - it occurs on no early maps. Likewise, the strong scarp delimiting the formerly small rectangular yard at Carew was noted immediately NW of the church and again predates map evidence.

The ECMs at Penally are well-known, and like St Issells and Rhoscrowdder, Penally is a well-established pre-Conquest ecclesiastical centre. Its relationship to Tenby, a pre-Conquest administrative centre, has been cited as a classic example of the putative model of pre-Conquest twin settlement. At several locations in SW Dyfed the church lies some distance away from the castle and/or civil settlement, in the study area at eg Manorbier, and at Carew and Castlemartin where a pre-Conquest origin for the castle sites has been proposed. These factors might be argued as conclusively demonstrating twin pre-Conquest ecclesiastical and civil settlements. By extension the argument can support a post-Conquest origin for St Florence, but the above is all, at present, only theoretical.

## **5.0 FEATURES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST**

This section contains lists of some of the more important features noted within the survey area. It is by no means exhaustive and is not a substitute for the database.

Attention is drawn in particular to section 5.1 **Largely unrestored churches**, and also section 5.2 **Earthwork evidence** with section 5.3 **Structural/documentary evidence for former components**.

### **5.1 Largely unrestored churches**

Carew (PRN 3492)

Gumfreston (PRN 3687)

Hodgeston (PRN 4187)

Loveston (PRN 3481)

Manorbier (PRN 4219)

Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279)

Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240)

### **5.2 Churches associated with with earthwork evidence**

Amroth (PRN 3663) - South Chapel

Angle (PRN 3091) - platform around church

Begelly (PRN 3641) - between S Transept and S Porch?

Bosherston (PRN 627) - at E end?

East Williamston (PRN 3521) - platform around church

Lampeter Velfrey (PRN 3790) - At E end?

Lamphey (PRN 3511) - semicircular earthwork and parchmark at  
W end

Ludchurch (PRN 3784) - platform around church - pronounced at E  
end

Martletwy (PRN 3598) - semicircular earthwork at E end

Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240) - on S side?

### **5.3 Churches with structural/documentary evidence for former components (beyond present building)**

Amroth (PRN 3663) - South Chapel

Castlemartin (PRN 562) - South Chapel

Llawhaden (PRN 3582) - North Transept?

Narberth (PRN 3745) - South porch and South Transept may extend  
beyond present building

Pembroke St Mary (PRN 3278) - C19 vestry

St Issells (PRN 3642) - South porch and South Transept may extend  
beyond present building?

St Twynnells (PRN 569) - North Transept?

Tenby St Mary (PRN 3713) - West Porch (excavated 1992)

### **5.4 Churches lacking evidence for floor level changes**

Begelly (PRN 3641)

Bosherston (PRN 627)

Carew (PRN 3492)

Castlemartin (PRN 562)

Crinow (PRN 4925)

East Williamston (PRN 3521)

Gumfreston (PRN 3687)

Hodgeston (PRN 4187)

Lampeter Velfrey (PRN 3790)

Llanddewi Velfrey (PRN 3728)

Loveston (PRN 3481)

Ludchurch (PRN 3784)

Manorbier (PRN 4219)

Martletwy (PRN 3598)

Minwear (PRN 3595)

Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279)

Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240)

Ludchurch (PRN 3784)  
 Manorbier (PRN 4219)  
 Minwear (PRN 3595)  
 Nash (PRN 4416)  
 Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279)  
 Pembroke St Mary (PRN 3278)  
 Pembroke St Michael (PRN 3280)  
 Redberth (PRN 4424)  
 Robeston Wathen (PRN 3587)  
 Tenby St Mary (PRN 3713)  
 Yerboston (PRN 3480)

### **5.7 Churches with, or with structural evidence for, former openings (excluding towers)**

Begelly (PRN 3641) - blocked south door  
 Bosherton (PRN 627) - extant skew passage window  
 Carew (PRN 3492) - blocked north door, extant med. chancel windows, blocked nave windows  
 Cosheston (PRN 3520) - blocked north aisle windows  
 East Williamston (PRN 3521) - blocked south door  
 Gumfreston (PRN 3687) - blocked south door, extant C17? windows  
 Hodgeston (PRN 4187) - blocked north door, chancel window embrasures?, blocked nave windows  
 Llawhaden (PRN 3582) - blocked south door, blocked chancel windows  
 Loveston (PRN 3481) - extant C16 E window, blocked north door, extant med. south door  
 Ludchurch (PRN 3784) - extant and blocked windows, blocked south door  
 Manorbier (PRN 4219) - blocked south and west doors, extant north aisle windows, med.  
 Martletwy (PRN 3598) - extant med. chancel windows  
 Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279) - blocked south door

St Petrox (PRN 596)  
St Twynells (PRN 569)  
Tenby St Mary (PRN 3713)  
Yerbeston (PRN 3480)

#### **5.5 Churches without underfloor voids**

East Williamston? (PRN 3521)  
Gumfreston (PRN 3687)  
Hodgeston (PRN 4187)  
Loveston (PRN 3481)  
Manorbier (PRN 4219)  
Pembroke St Daniel (PRN 3279)  
Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240)  
Yerbeston (PRN 3480)

#### **5.6 Churches without deep external cuttings/drainage**

Angle (PRN 3091)  
Bosherston (PRN 627)  
Carew (PRN 3492)  
Castlemartin (PRN 562)  
Crunwear (PRN 3803)  
East Williamston (PRN 3521)  
Gumfreston (PRN 3687)  
Hodgeston (PRN 4187)  
Jeffreyston (PRN 3478)  
Lampeter Velfrey (PRN 3790)  
Lamphey (PRN 3511)  
Llawhaden (PRN 3582)  
Loveston (PRN 3481)



Penally (PRN 4235) - blocked C17 windows in nave and transepts

Rhoscrowther (PRN 3240) - Blocked south door, north porch doors,  
blocked transept windows

Robeston Wathen (PRN 3587) - west door, extant

St Twynnells (PRN 569) - blocked north door, blocked nave windows

Tenby St Mary (PRN 3713) - blocked west door, blocked north and  
south aisle windows

### **5.8 Rebuilt churches (fabric mostly 19th century)**

Narberth (PRN 3745)

Nash (PRN 4416)

Pembroke St Michael (PRN 3280)

Redberth (PRN 4424)

St Issells (PRN 3642)

### **5.9 Churches with evidence of wall paintings**

Gumfreston (PRN 3687) - extant, nave wall

Manorbier (PRN 4219) - extant, porch vault

Penally (PRN 4235) - sources, location?

Stackpole Elidor (PRN 593) - sources, south chapel

### **5.10 Churchyards with former boundary evidence, pre-18th century**

Bosherston (PRN 627) - bank of former circular churchyard around  
E end

Carew (PRN 3492) - corner of former boundary scarp NW of church

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## 7.0 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). The references below relate only to this report.

Kissock, J., 1993, *Historic Settlements Project; South Pembrokeshire* (copy held in Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record)

Murphy, K., 1993, *Castlemartin RAC Range Electrification Scheme, 1993: Report on Archaeological Monitoring* (copy held in Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record)