

DWR CYMRU WELSH WATER: LLANELLI – FELINFOEL PHASE 2 WATER MAIN REFURBISHMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Laing O'Rourke / Dwr Cymru



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DWR CYMRU WELSH WATER: LLANELLI – FELINFOEL PHASE 2 WATER MAIN REFURBISHMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

S. Ratty

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**DŴR CYMRU WELSH WATER: LLANELLI – FELINFOEL PHASE 2 WATER
MAIN REFURBISHMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Cover: Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1880

DŴR CYMRU WELSH WATER: LLANELLI – FELINFOEL PHASE 2 WATER MAIN REFURBISHMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

Laing O'Rourke acting as contractors to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water undertook Phase 2 of the Llanelli – Felinfoel water main refurbishment scheme. A section of the scheme runs through the historic core of Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, close to the medieval church of St Ellwys along with its associated graveyard. Additionally, the find spot of a Roman coin of the Emperor Diocletian has been recorded from the area of the church and it is thought that Roman military remains and roads may be present in the vicinity of the refurbishment scheme.

Given the potential for the presence of archaeological remains along the route of the refurbishment programme, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all episodes of earth moving or groundbreaking within the vicinity of St Elli's Church.

In order to comply with this recommendation, and to protect the area of archaeological interest, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during this phase of the refurbishment works.

In the event Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were only notified to attend the refurbishment groundworks on one occasion, that of the area close to the medieval church of St Elli. One trench was inspected and found to contain no significant archaeological features or deposits.

It was unclear whether the backfilled excavations noted during the watching brief had any impact on the buried archaeological resource, or if any further excavations were subsequently undertaken within the area of archaeological interest.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

A recommendation was made by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management¹ that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all episodes of groundbreaking within the historic core of the town of Llanelli, centred around the parish church of St Ellwys.

To comply with this recommendation, and protect the area of archaeological interest, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services, to undertake an ongoing watching brief on all episodes of groundbreaking within the vicinity of the church of St Ellwys

Methodology

The proposed methodology consisted of site visits being made to monitor all episodes groundbreaking within the designated area of archaeological interest. It was envisaged that Laing O'Rourke, the contractors undertaking the water main refurbishment works on behalf of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, would contact Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to inform them when groundbreaking operations were being undertaken within the area of archaeological interest.

Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record² (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

Illustrations

Photographic images are to be found at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, acting as curatorial archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority and Dŵr Cymru made the recommendation in a letter to Laing O'Rourke dated 14th November 2007.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

THE WATCHING BRIEF AREA

Location

The watching brief area was located at NGR SN 5069 0053 within the town of Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. Much of the area is heavily developed with buildings ranging from the medieval church of St Ellwys to post medieval and modern retail outlets, offices, recreational and residential properties. The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Westphalian Coal Measures of the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey, 1994).

Archaeological Background

The location of the excavated trench monitored contains no known archaeological sites. However, nine known archaeological sites exist within close proximity to the trench location (see Table 1).

PRN	NGR	Site Name	Form	Period
690	SN 5069 0053	Llanelli Parish Church: St Ellwys	Church	Medieval/Post Medieval
1187	SN 5069 0053	St Ellwys	Cross	Medieval
2073	SN 5069 0053	Llanelli Church	Finds	Roman
25748	SN 5064 0051	St Ellwys	Lych Gate	Post Medieval
25749	SN 5064 0051	St Ellwys Churchyard	Commemorative Monument	Post Medieval
25750	SN 5067 0048	Bridge Street No's 2-4 Llanelly House	Dwelling	Post Medieval
25751	SN 5067 0050	Bridge Street No's 6 & 8	Dwelling/Shop	Post Medieval
25763	SN 5061 0053	The Mansel Arms	Inn	Post Medieval
49280	SN 5069 0053	Llanelli Parish Church: St Ellwys	Churchyard	Early Medieval

Table 1: Known archaeological sites within close proximity of watching brief site

Central to the area of archaeological interest is the medieval church of St Ellwys (PRN 690; NGR SN 5069 0053) and its associated graveyard (PRN 49280; NGR SN 5069 0053). It is likely that the church would have formed the nucleus of any medieval settlement at Llanelli. However, the dedication of the church to St Ellwys, a 'Celtic' saint as opposed to one of the church in Rome, may suggest the presence of an early medieval ecclesiastical foundation in the vicinity

In addition to the possible presence of medieval settlement and early medieval ecclesiastical foundation in close proximity to the trench monitored, the potential for Roman archaeological features and deposits to be present in the area is also high. The find spot of a Roman coin of the Emperor Diocletian (PRN 2073; NGR SN 5069 0053) and the presence of the suggested line of the Roman road between Carmarthen and Loughor (Schlee, 2005) may indicate that Roman military remains or a civilian settlement may once have been located within the area of archaeological interest.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Following notification from Laing O'Rourke that refurbishment works were being carried out, a site visit was made to monitor excavations being undertaken on Thomas Street which runs along the eastern boundary of the churchyard of St Ellwys. On arrival it was apparent that excavations had been undertaken and backfilled without any archaeological monitoring.

A single open trench c.3m long with a width of c.1.5m and depth of c.1m was noted at the junctions between Thomas Street, Bridge Street and the A484 (NGR SN5074300543). It was not possible to access the trench as it was fenced off and appeared to contain live electric cables.

No significant archaeological features or deposits appeared to be present within the trench. All that was revealed were previously disturbed deposits from the laying of the original water main.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench recorded during the watching brief. It was not possible to determine whether the backfilled excavations had any impact on the buried archaeological resource.

SOURCES

Map

British Geological Survey 1994 1:250,000 The Rocks of Wales. London

Ordnance Survey 1880 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet LVIII NE

Ordnance Survey 1907 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet LVIII NE

Ordnance Survey 1997 1:50,000 Landranger

Unpublished

Schlee D 2005 *Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici in Southwest Wales Project 2005*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No 2004/109



Photo 1: West facing view of excavated pipe trench.



Photo 2: Southeast facing view of excavated pipe trench.

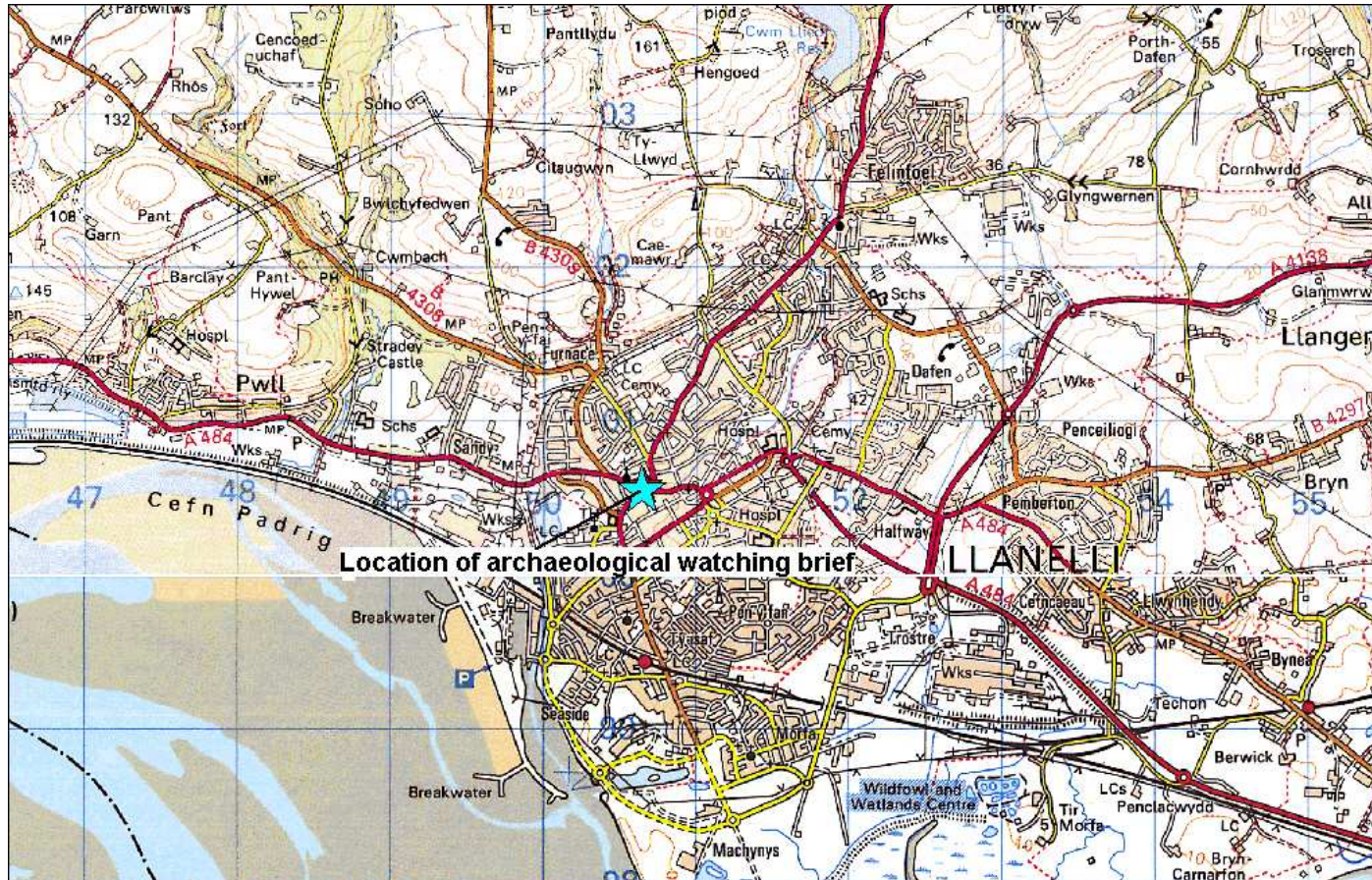


Figure 1: Location map based on the Ordnance Survey

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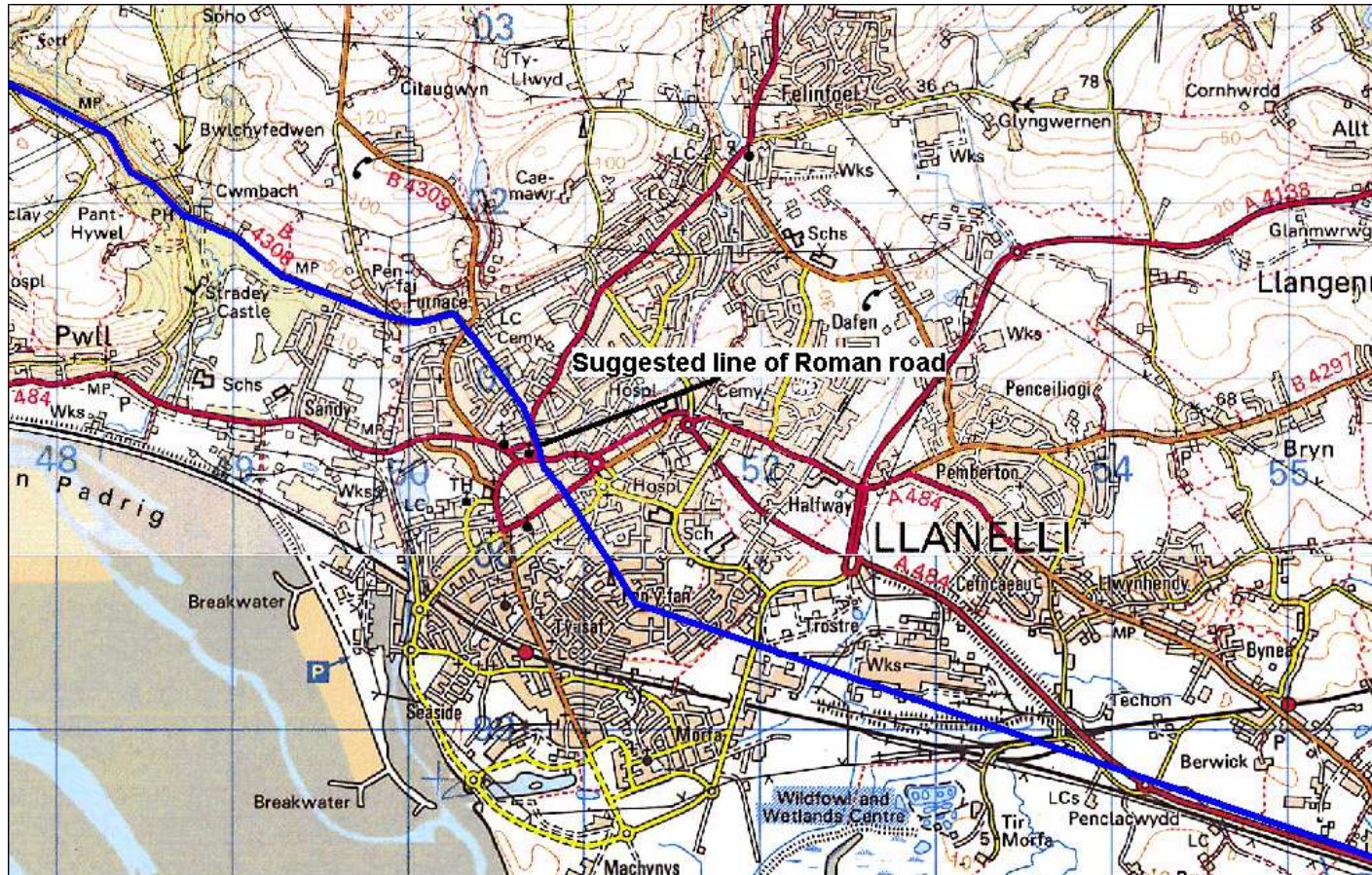


Figure 2: Suggested line of Roman road in vicinity of watching brief site

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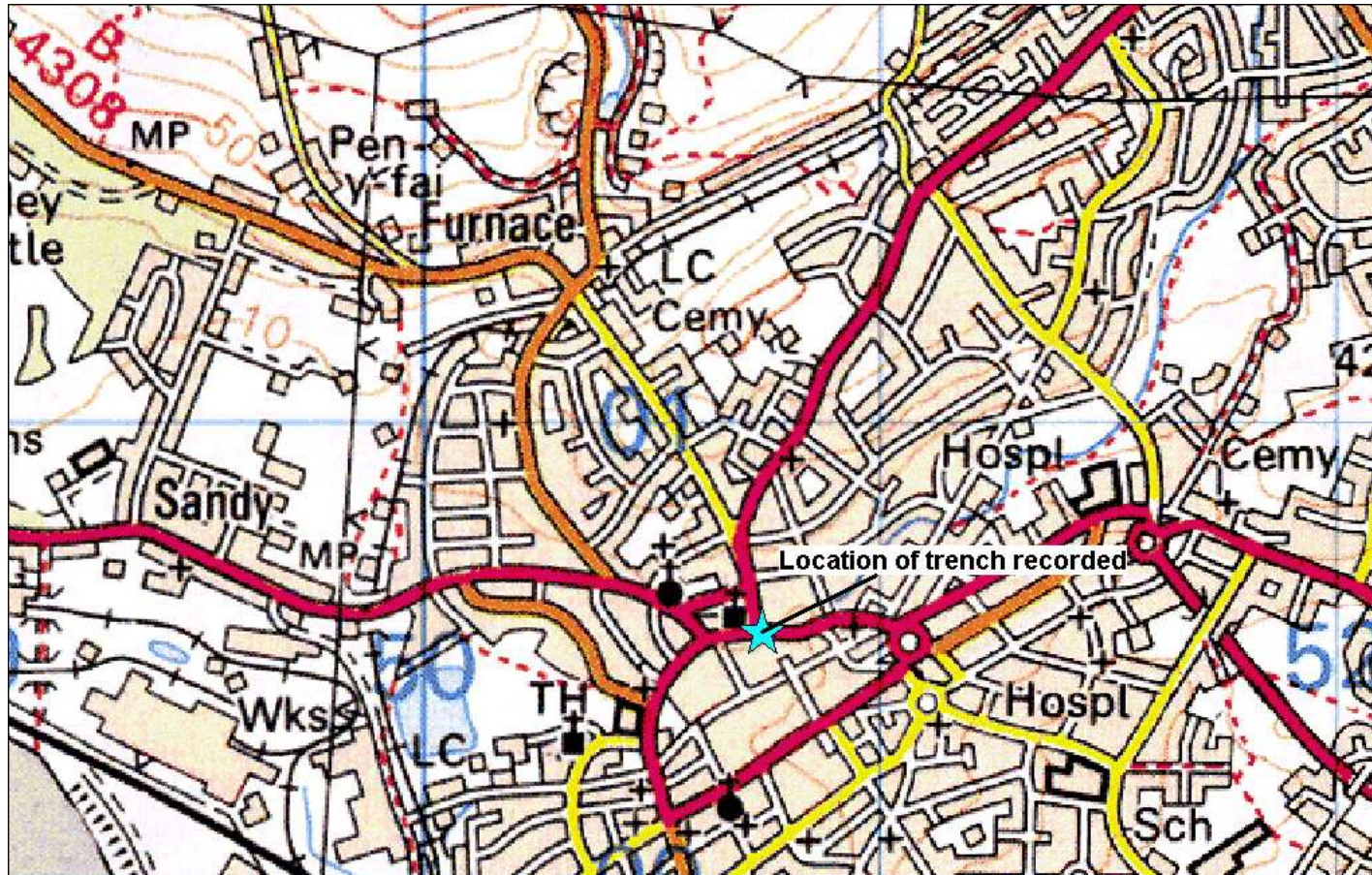


Figure 3: Location map of trench recorded

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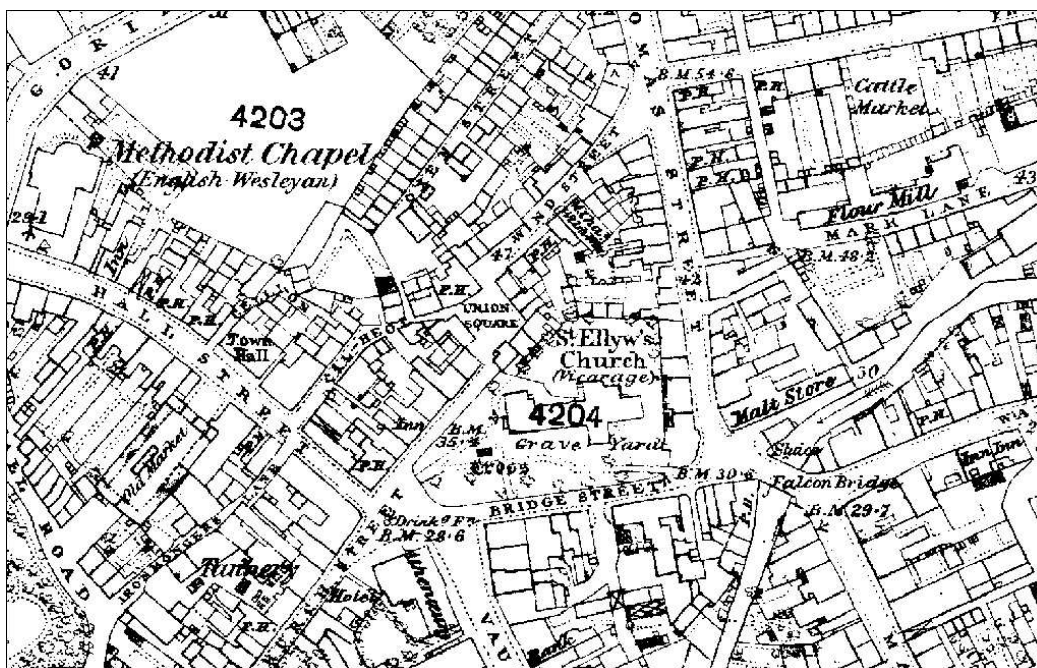


Figure 4: Area around St Ellwys Church as shown on 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1880)

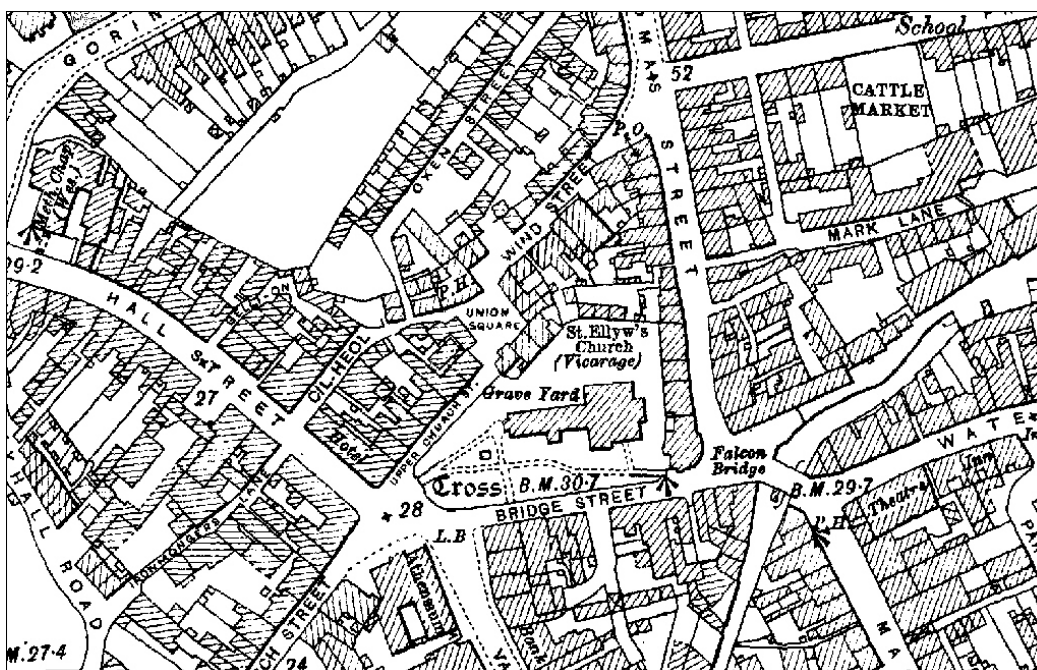


Figure 5: Area around St Ellwys Church as shown on 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1907)

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LLANELLI – FELINFOEL PHASE 2 WATER MAIN REFURBISHMENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Mawrth 2009
March 2009**

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

Simon Ratty

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 2.4.2009

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

Richard Ramsey

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

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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 2.4.2009

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

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

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