

EXPLORATION TYWI!

ST TEILO'S CHURCH, LLANDEILO

GRAVEYARD SURVEY



Menter Bro Dinefwr



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March 2011

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Gan / By
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Exploration Tywi – St Teilo’s Church, Graveyard Survey, Llandeilo

SUMMARY

As part of Exploration Tywi! Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) led a series of community-based projects within the middle reaches of the Tywi valley.

The graveyard survey of St. Teilo’s church was an activity which formed part of Exploration Tywi!, taking place in Llandeilo, between 2009 and 2011. Following the survey of the eastern section of the graveyard by the Women’s Institute in the early 1980’s it was proposed to update and complete the graveyard survey by targeting the as yet unrecorded western section. The graveyard was divided into sections and various local participants carried out the systematic survey of the memorials using recording sheets and guidelines designed specifically for the project. These resources are available to download or obtain direct from DAT for other community groups to use.

Whilst carrying out the survey a number of interesting gravestones were recorded, and in particular the tale of Capt. Enderby, a volunteer aboard the HMS Defence at Trafalgar caught the imagination, sparking further areas of research. Exploration Tywi! participant Tony Coombe developed a database which is now on-line and available for researchers to query:
www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/llandeilograveyard

This report describes the location of the site, the method of data collection, results and conclusions and future use of the collected data.

INTRODUCTION

Exploration Tywi! is part of Tywi a River Through Time (Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd) a £2.4 million Landscape Partnership Scheme led by Carmarthenshire County Council. It is aimed at conserving the area's landscape, biodiversity and history, as well as creating a legacy for future generations.

The project has received £1.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and £557,378 through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. It has also received funding from the Countryside Council for Wales, and support from the National Trust and Menter Bro Dinefwr.

St. Teilo's Churchyard is divided in two by the A483, which runs south to Llanelli and north to Llandovery. The east side of the churchyard had been recorded by the Women's Institute in 1981, but the west side had never been tackled because the ground was so uneven and overgrown. So it was the west side of the graveyard which was identified for recording through the Exploration Tywi! project. Recording guidelines and a recording proforma were devised and an initial training day organised in February 2009.

As part of the Exploration Tywi! Project Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) undertook a series of community-based projects within a section of the Tywi valley. The graveyard survey of St. Teilo's church was one such activity within the remit of the project and took place in Llandeilo itself, between 2009 and 2011. This report describes the location of the site, the method of data collection, results and conclusions and scope for future use of the collected data.

Aims

A survey of the gravestones in one part of Llandeilo Churchyard was undertaken by the WI in the 1980s. The aim of the project is to update this and complete a full survey of the gravestones and tombs within the churchyard. In addition the results would provide information for the study of the history of Llandeilo and provide an important resource for family history researchers and members of the community. It also has provided useful information to feed into the preparation of a conservation plan for the whole churchyard.

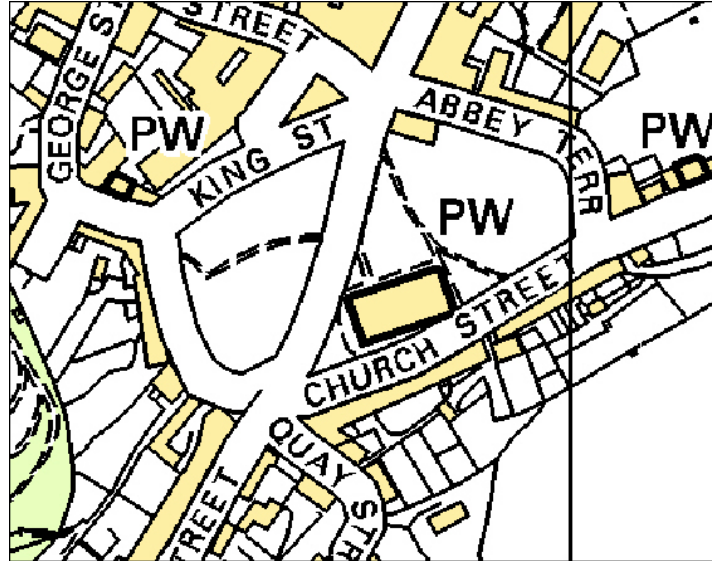
Acknowledgements

A number of individuals have been invaluable to the project; Tony Coombe has committed an enormous amount of time and effort to seeing the project through to completion and has developed and maintains the database and website through which the information is accessible and reaches a wide audience. Ann Williams, secretary to the Church, has been very helpful in arranging access to the church and its facilities on training days, and also publicising the project through the church newsletter. Many members of the community and the congregation have given up their time to help with the recording of the memorials and have shared their stories of the churchyard and its inhabitants.

THE SURVEY

The Churchyard

St. Teilo's church is located within Llandeilo, on Rhosmaen Street (the A483). The church is situated on the east side of the road whilst the graveyard is divided into two by the A483 travelling south.



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St Teilo's Church and associated graveyard divided by the A483.

Methodology

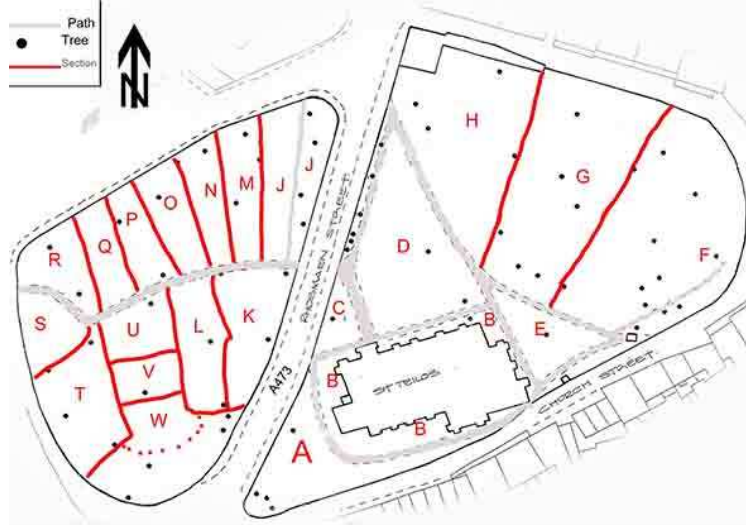
The east Graveyard which is adjacent to the church had been previously surveyed by the Llandeilo Women's Institute group between 1981 and 1982. They had carried out a detailed survey of the gravestones themselves, complete with full transcriptions and diagrams of some of the more ornate gravestones in some cases. These records were kept in the archives of St. Teilo's church. There were no known surveys or records made of the west graveyard and this site would become the main focus of Exploration Tywi! activity. A copy of the Llandeilo Women's Institute was made available to DAT and the Exploration Tywi! participants for the purpose's of the project.

The methodology was closely aligned with that described in Harold Mytum's 'Recording and Analysing Graveyards, (2000) and also the Council for Scottish Archaeology's Carved Stones Project (www.scottishgraveyards.org.uk). The west graveyard was surveyed using total station Theodolite (TST) and landmarks such as notable Monuments and trees were used as reference points for dividing up the site for logical surveying and recording.



A TST survey was carried out of the landmark memorials

Each gravestone was given a unique identifier. Firstly the record was identified by the letter of the section it was in, then given a number relating to that section. For Example, J16 would indicate that the record was in section J, grave number 16. This could then be identified on the section plan, which was annotated as accurately as possible at the time of recording.



The graveyard was subdivided into sections for individuals to record

A proforma record form was designed to include the following details:

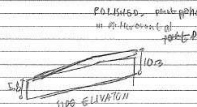
- The dimensions of the monument, including its orientation.
- The condition of the monument.
- The condition of the inscription.
- The materials of construction.
- The monument type.
- Any additional features (such as railings, kerbs etc).
- The type, style and orientation of the inscription on the monument.
- The presence of any decorative features or motifs.
- Evidence of mason marks.
- The visibility of foundations.

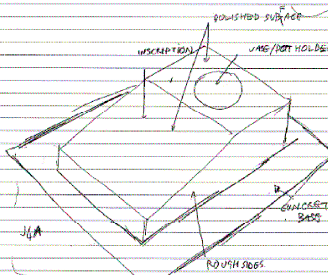
- A true and accurate transcription of the text (inclusive of spelling or grammatical errors).

Individuals were encouraged to take photos and if possible sketch features of note regarding the monument they were recording. Also to include their own name, date of recording and the unique identifier serial number of the monument.

The recorder's pack consisted of a clipboard, recording forms, compass, tape measure, and guidance notes put together for Exploration Tywi! with a list of all the gravestone types, inscription types and possible materials, to aid the recorders in accurately identifying the monuments and to a uniform standard.

The completed sheets were then placed into an archive along with the master plans for the survey.

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST GRAVESTONE RECORDING SHEET			
Burial Ground: St. Tello's, Llandello		Memorial Ref No: J.A.A.	
Recorder: J.M. Williams		Date: 28 Dec 01	
Height: 10.5cm	Width: 11cm	Thickness/length: 5.6	Orientation: E/W
Condition of monument: <input type="checkbox"/> Sound in place / <input type="checkbox"/> Sound displaced / <input type="checkbox"/> Leaning-falling apart / <input type="checkbox"/> Collapsed / <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown			
Condition of inscription: <input type="checkbox"/> Mint / <input type="checkbox"/> Clean / <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly decipherable / <input type="checkbox"/> Traces / <input type="checkbox"/> Illegible-destroyed / <input type="checkbox"/> Not inscribed			
Materials Primary: Sandstone / Slate / Granite - state colour / Marble / Other - state			
Materials Secondary: NONE			
Other materials - please state: Sandstone / Slate / Granite - state colour / Limestone / Marble / Other - state			
Memorial type: <input type="checkbox"/> Obelisk / <input type="checkbox"/> Wall monument / <input type="checkbox"/> Ledger / Flat stone / <input type="checkbox"/> Kerbs / <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestal tomb / <input type="checkbox"/> Headstone / <input type="checkbox"/> Free standing cross / <input type="checkbox"/> Chest tomb / <input type="checkbox"/> Other monument - state / <input type="checkbox"/> Other tomb - state			
Associated features: <input type="checkbox"/> Railings / <input type="checkbox"/> Kerbs / <input type="checkbox"/> Footstone / <input type="checkbox"/> (None)			
Shape of panel text: <input type="checkbox"/> Square / <input type="checkbox"/> Lozenge (vertical) / <input type="checkbox"/> Lozenge (horizontal) / <input type="checkbox"/> Circle / <input type="checkbox"/> Oval / <input type="checkbox"/> Shield / <input type="checkbox"/> Cartouche / <input type="checkbox"/> Open book / <input type="checkbox"/> Rectangular (vertical) / <input type="checkbox"/> Rectangular (horizontal)			
Definition of text: <input type="checkbox"/> Incised / <input type="checkbox"/> Incised-painted / <input type="checkbox"/> Relief / <input type="checkbox"/> Relief-painted / <input type="checkbox"/> Inlaid-state / <input type="checkbox"/> Other-state			
Decorative motifs upper: NONE			
Decorative motifs central: NONE			
Decorative motifs marginal: NONE			
Text style - primary: <input type="checkbox"/> Roman / <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Italic / <input type="checkbox"/> Sans Serif / <input type="checkbox"/> Clarendon / <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian / <input type="checkbox"/> Copper plate / <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic / <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Text style - secondary: <input type="checkbox"/> Roman / <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Italic / <input type="checkbox"/> Sans Serif / <input type="checkbox"/> Clarendon / <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian / <input type="checkbox"/> Copper plate / <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic / <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
One Mason's name: NONE			
Are the foundations visible? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Stone / Brick / Concrete / Other: 5.8cm long 4.5cm wide			
Photograph: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No Ref No: 5.335, 5.336 (from 5.332)			
Other features, additional comments or sketch: Full height, single photo of Jack parts 			

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST GRAVESTONE RECORDING SHEET	
Inscription: Please note which face is being transcribed N, S, E, W or U (Upwards). Please transcribe conforms to the same layout as on the memorial, code areas (lozenges or ovals) or obscured with a dashed line.	
IN MEMORY OF JACK JAMES 1911-1980 ALSO HIS WIFE RENE JAMES 1917-1993 AT REST	
	

The proforma sheets are a mixture of simple checklists and a free text area for inscriptions and further descriptions of memorials.

Whilst taking rubbings of inscriptions were discouraged due to the fragile nature of some of the monuments, volunteers came up with some more conservative, but effective ways of gleaning information from some of the more difficult to read inscriptions.

Careful Clearing of Undergrowth

The simplest form of rectification was by clearing the undergrowth from around a grave.



Before clearance.....and after

Change in Weather Conditions/Light Levels

The change in light levels at certain times of day allowed shadows to be cast across the faces of some monuments allowing recorders to transcribe the more weathered faces.

Application of Chalk Dust and Water

The light application of chalk dust to the face of a monument increased the contrast, thus allowing the more weathered stones to be accurately transcribed.

To the same extent, the use of spray water could perform the same effect, but to a lesser extent and for a shorter duration. Once the monument was recorded it was restored to its former state.



The careful application of chalk could reveal inscriptions

Results

With the Exploration Tywi! project now coming to an end the Graveyard survey is almost complete. As more of the undergrowth is cleared within the graveyard more and more gravestones are becoming visible. In response the volunteers are continuing to record and update the archive.

One of the project volunteers, Tony Coombe who worked extensively on the activity, has created an online database of the survey. He has uploaded every photograph and paper record to an online site hosted by the DAT which allows the general public to search and view

records of monuments in both the east and west graveyards of St. Teilo's. This has proved to be a very popular tool so far even though it is still in its testing stages, with a number of people contacting the Trust with compliments regarding how they have made progress with their own genealogical investigations by using the database. One such individual contacted the trust wanting to create a record of monuments in his parish and mentioned that the Exploration Tywi! survey was the model for his own version.

The database is able to provide a summary of statistics too, which included how many people are buried there, the ratio of burials to age groups, infant burials and a comparison between the 19 and 20th centuries. As the database is updated, the summary is automatically updated also giving an accurate, up-to-date dataset every time the database is accessed.

The graveyard survey is currently ongoing and so far over one thousand monuments have been recorded. With regards to the availability of the project to the general public, Tony Coombe has established the online database and it is now hosted by the DAT for read-only access by the public at: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/llandeilograveyard.

Working with the community has had other benefits too. Keith Jones joined the recording party and was able to share his experience of working in the monumental mason's workshop on the corner of Alan Road and Rhosmaen Street in Llandeilo producing grave stones which were erected in the graveyard. He provided an illustration dating from the first half of the 20th century, showing the interior of the workshop.

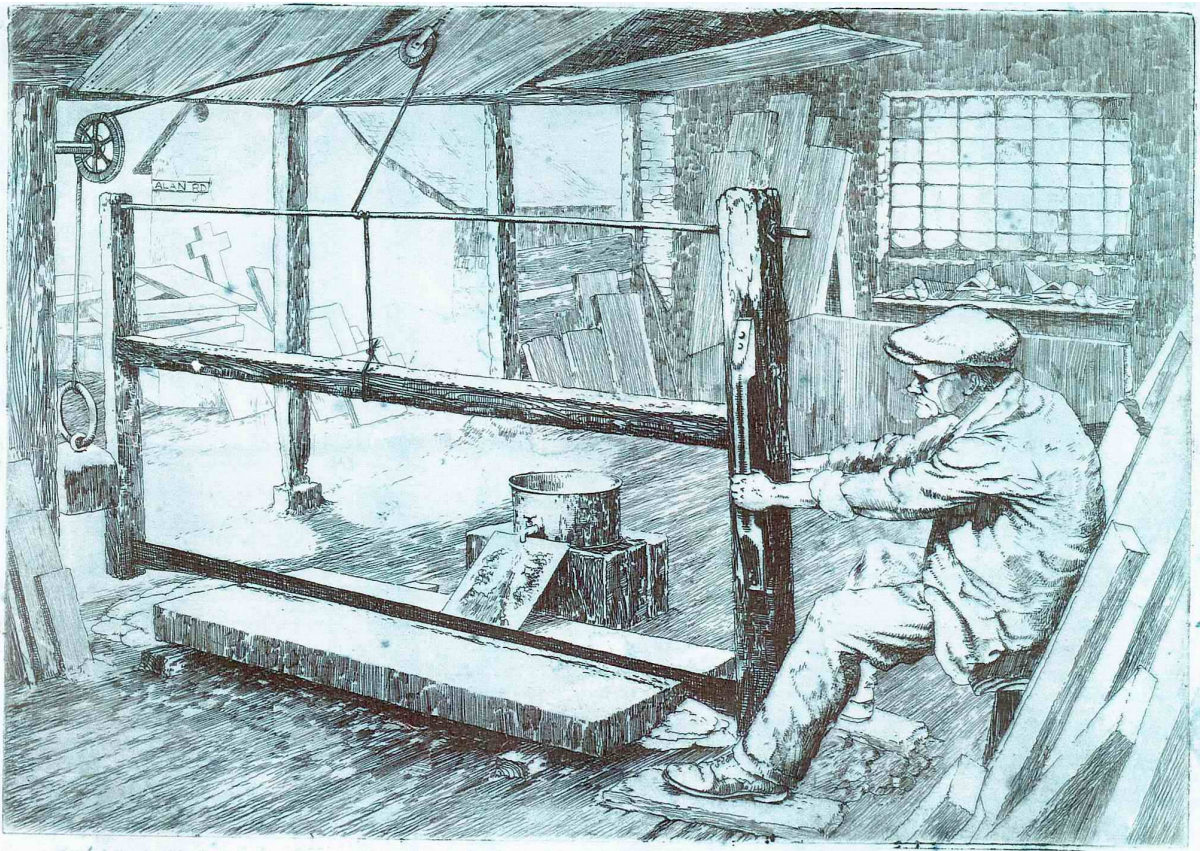


Image supplied by Keith Jones, showing Monumental Mason's workshop on the corner of Rhosmaen St and Alan Road Llandeilo, first half of the 20th Century.

Stories from the graveyard in Llandeilo

A lot of interest has been generated in the project due to a number of interesting individuals found buried in St. Teilo's. Most famously, the diarist and coffin-maker Thomas Jenkins is buried in the west part of the graveyard.

A number of the memorials are for individuals who fought and died overseas, particularly during the First World War. The Common War Graves Commission paid for a number of these monuments and only in some cases were the bodies returned for burial with them in the graveyard.

As well as lesser known individuals such as a Doctor David Lloyd Morgan (simply inscribed on his memorial as "Physician in ordinary to the Queen") and a Captain Samuel Enderby, late of the 16th Lancers and Trafalgar (see Appendices). Both these individuals have raised interest from local history enthusiasts wishing to investigate more about the lives of these two men.

Archiving

All the record sheets have been scanned and are held within the DAT HER, along with digital images of each memorial.

APPENDICES

SAMUEL ENDERBY

Tony Coombe and Matt Davies

In early March 2010, after the clearance of considerable overgrowth at St Teilo's Church in Llandeilo, an interesting grave appeared from shrubbery with the inscription: "To the memory of Samuel Enderby, Captain late H M 16th Lancers. Died Feb^y. 5th 1873, aged 84". The death announcement in *The Cambrian*, a Swansea paper of the 19th century, added the information: "Late Captain 16th. Lancers and the R.N., was a volunteer at Trafalgar".

Who was he? A most interesting life was soon to be exposed.

An internet search established that he had been a midshipman onboard *The Defence* at Trafalgar, aged 16, and fought at Waterloo as a Lancer before travelling to India with his regiment for a stay of many years during which time his first wife and daughter died.

Samuel was the eldest of five brothers and four sisters. He and his youngest brother, William, seem to have displeased their father, also Samuel, as the Kent based family whaling business started by their grandfather, another Samuel, was left to the three middle sons Charles, George and Henry. The business was founded in 1775, and some of Enderby's ships were reportedly chartered for the tea cargoes that were ultimately dumped into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party incident.

The fictional Captain Ahab, in the book *Moby Dick*, encounters another whaler, the *Samuel Enderby*, in his search for the great white whale. This "Samuel Enderby" was a real ship, and was among the three Enderby company ships (the other two were the *Fancy* and the *Brisk*) from England that arrived at Port Ross in 1849 carrying 150 colonists for the new Enderby Settlement in the Auckland Islands off Southern New Zealand. Unfortunately the settlement bankrupted the whaling company in 1854.

Samuel's first sister, Elizabeth, married Henry William Gordon who became a Major-General. Two of her sons, Samuel Enderby and Charles George, also became Generals. Samuel's nephew, Charles Gordon, is better known as Gordon of Khartoum.

Three marriages are reported for the Llandeilo buried Samuel. His first wife was a Mary Davis and the second Mary Whyte, whose daughter is the only child to survive into adult life and inherited an estate in Ireland from her mother's brother. At the age of 79 Samuel married in Kensington, Emma Jemima Cleaver whose father John was a painter and glazier in Rhosmaen Street, Llandeilo. Emma was 26 years old at her marriage to Samuel and had been living with her sister, Sarah Maddams and her family in Kensington in the 1861 census.

We now have a reason for his burial in Llandeilo at the end of a long and eventful life. The grieving widow appears not to have grieved for long as an Emma Jemima Enderby married in St George's Hanover Square by the end of June 1873.

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Llofnod / Signature .. Dyddiad / Date

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

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

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

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have on the content or presentation of this report