

Holy well to be protected by Cadw for St David link



Pistyll Dewi - Owen Howells Photography

A holy well covering a spring said to have arisen during the baptism of St David, has gained scheduled protection from Cadw.

The Pembrokeshire monument is known as 'Pistyll Dewi' or 'Ffynnon Dewi' and its water is said to have restored the sight of St David's godfather, who held the baby for the baptism.

A stone built, squared off wellhead is associated with the remains of a chapel, with some accounts saying the water is sanctified by running under the chapel's altar.

Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, decided to schedule the ancient monument because of its national importance and association with St David as well as being a manifestation of the early church's links with Ireland through St Elvis — known in Ireland as 'Ailbe' or 'Ailbhe'.

"It is fitting that this fascinating monument has gained formal protection in

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2017 — Wales' Year of Legends," said Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure.

"The strength of legend and tradition associated with the well lends it significant communal value, while the stone structure itself is likely to originate in the medieval period and retains the potential to inform us about medieval religious structures and rites associated with them.

"It's crucial that we continue to identify and protect monuments like these to safeguard Wales' rich heritage for future generations to explore."

Pistyll Dewi is latest of more than 4,000 monuments scheduled across Wales.

All monuments are of national importance and cover a diverse range of archaeological sites.