

LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES



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LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES

Gan / By

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SUMMARY

In 2010 a scoping study was conducted by all four Welsh archaeological trusts to examine the range of medieval and early post medieval (pre 1750) site types that might warrant further assessment with a view to enhancing the schedule of designated sites. Of the sites collated under the designation of 'Religion' five sub-groups were identified:

- *Chapels and churches*
- *Crosses*
- *Holy wells and wells*
- *Monasteries*
- *Monastic Landscapes*

The group of sites gathered by Dyfed Archaeological Trust under the title 'Monasteries' numbered 77 and proved a disparate group of sites, ranging from existing abbeys and priories, through to cells for which no known physical evidence survives. The sites were then filtered to remove sites that:

- *Are still in use*
- *The documentary evidence is too vague*
- *Post-date AD1750*
- *Early medieval sites (visited as part of the Early Med Ecclesiastical project 2001/4)*

Sites were included that met the following criteria:

- *Archaeological site (earthwork, cropmark, ruinous etc.)*
- *Redundant*
- *Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)*
- *Good documentary evidence available*

From this analysis a list of 48 sites were identified that required a desktop appraisal. Site visits were made to 23 sites, the majority of which were located in Pembrokeshire. The condition of the sites varied considerably. The majority of the scheduled sites were in a reasonably good state of preservation consistent with their condition being regularly monitored by Cadw field monument wardens. Of the unscheduled monastic sites that were visited many were found to be in a less stable state of preservation. One had been completely destroyed in recent years and others had suffered damage or redevelopment.

It is recommended that further investigative work is undertaken at 5 scheduled monastic sites with a view to revising the extents of their scheduled areas. It is also recommended that 2 currently unscheduled sites are worthy of protection by scheduling, and that a further 2 require further investigative work to inform a scheduling decision.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this project is to assess the potential for enhancing the schedule of ancient monuments for medieval or early post-medieval monasteries. This site type is currently under-represented on the schedule of ancient monuments and where sites are scheduled it is suspected that the scheduled areas do not always reflect the true extent of archaeological remains.

In 2010 a scoping study was conducted by all four Welsh trusts to examine the range of medieval and early post medieval (pre 1750) site types that might warrant further assessment with a view to enhancing the schedule of designated sites. Of the sites collated under the designation of 'Religion' five sub-groups were identified:

- Chapels and churches
- Crosses
- Holy wells and wells
- Monasteries
- Monastic Landscapes

The group of sites gathered under the title 'Monasteries', in the 3 counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, numbered 77 and proved a disparate group of sites, ranging from existing abbeys and priories, through to cells for which no known physical evidence survives. The sites were then filtered to remove sites that:

- are still in use
- documentary evidence is too vague
- post-date AD1750
- were early medieval sites (visited as part of the Early Med Ecclesiastical project in 2001/4)

Sites were included that met the following criteria:

- archaeological site (earthwork, crop mark, ruinous etc.)
- redundant
- scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
- good documentary evidence is available

From this analysis a list of 48 sites were identified that required a desktop appraisal. Of these, 23 were visited during this project.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this project is to assess the potential for enhancing the schedule of ancient monuments for medieval or early post-medieval monastic sites within Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire on the regional Dyfed HER.

The overall project aims are:

- A review of the definition, classification, quantification and distribution of these sites in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
- Assessment of the archaeological significance of these sites in both a regional and national perspective.
- Assessment of the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource, review of scheduling criteria, and recommendations for future management strategies.
- Enhancement of the regional HER.

The overall project objectives are:

- To carry out a site visit to each site identified as requiring a visit in the desk-top element of the project.
- To assess whether the protected areas of Scheduled Ancient Monuments are a true reflection of the extent of the archaeological remains for each site.
- To incorporate all the information into a database and enhance and update the main records on the regional Dyfed HER.
- To report on the project results.
- To advise Cadw on those scheduled sites whose scheduled areas need revising.
- To advise Cadw on those sites which are of national value and currently without statutory protection.

METHODOLOGY

The desk-top element of this project identified a list of sites that could potentially require a desk-top appraisal and possible field visit.

The desktop appraisal collated all the available information on each site as held in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER). This included reference to the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps, tithe maps, SAM and Listed Building records, Ordnance Survey record cards, Royal Commission inventories and archived reports. The information provided on the Royal Commission for Historic Buildings and Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) coflein website and the comprehensive database website *Monastic Wales.org* were also consulted.

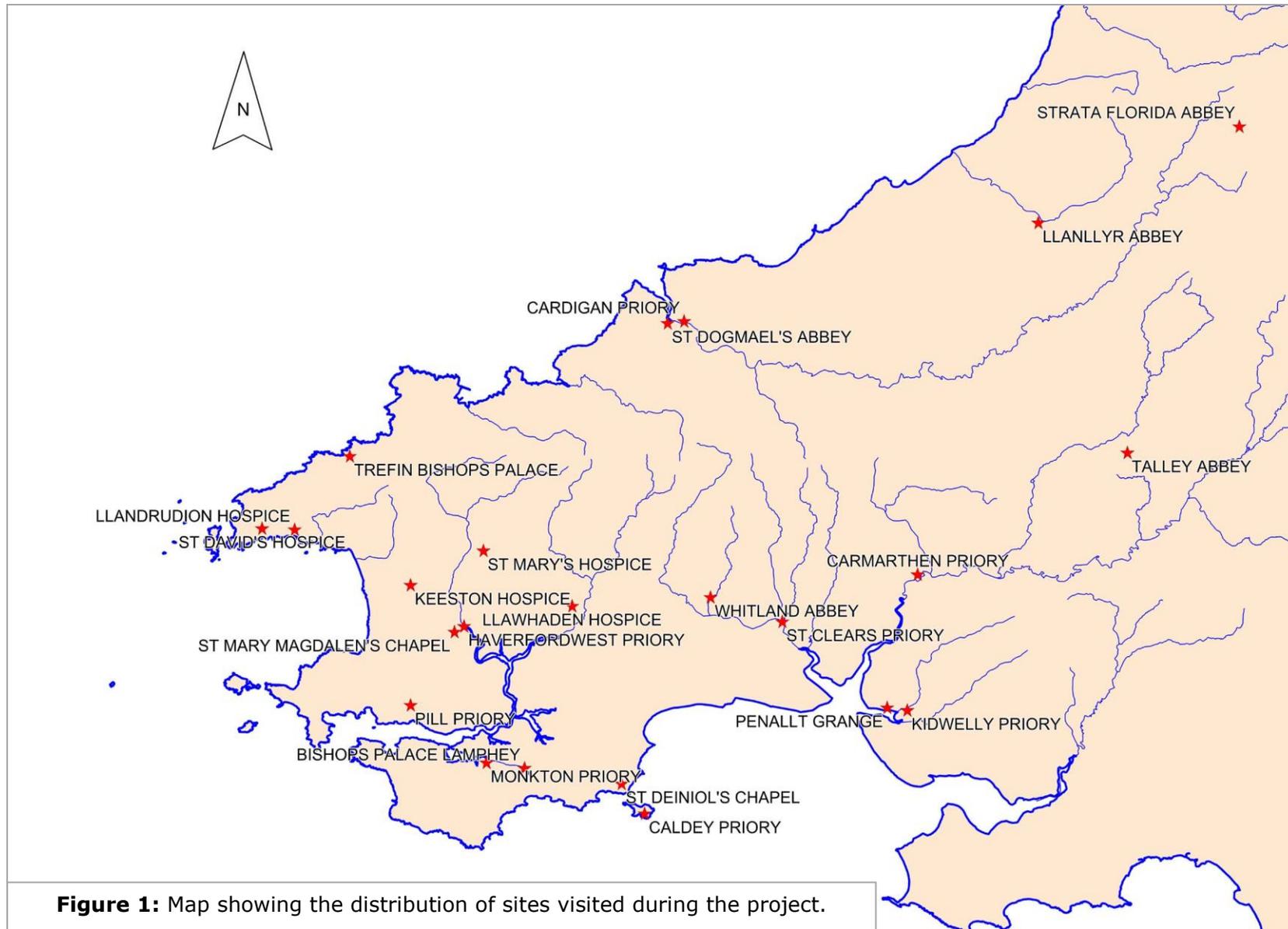
From this collection of 48 sites 23 were judged to be worthy of a site visit and the following methodology for the further study of the 23 sites was as follows:

- Field recording. Descriptions were completed for all sites and sketches and plans were made where required. Digital photographs were taken to record significant aspects of each site. An accurate grid reference for each site was recorded using a Global Positioning System device.
- Database records. Data collected was used to update the main HER.
- Reporting. A project report was compiled. A second report containing scheduling recommendations and other recommendations was produced for Cadw.

ABBREVIATIONS

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.



MONASTIC SITE TYPES VISITED DURING THE PROJECT		Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN No)	Not scheduled (PRN No)
Abbey	<p>A monastery ruled by an abbot.</p> <p>A monastery denotes the building, or complex of buildings, that houses a room reserved for prayer (e.g. an oratory) as well as the domestic quarters and workplace(s) of monastics, whether monks or nuns, and whether living in community or alone.</p>	<p>St Dogmaels (1090)</p> <p>Strata Florida (2043)</p> <p>Talley (1897)</p> <p>Whitland (3870)</p>	
Priory	<p>A priory is a house of men or women that is headed by a prior or prioress. They are usually dependencies of abbeys. Their 'prior' is subject to the abbot of the mother house.</p>	<p>Carmarthen (44)</p> <p>Haverfordwest (3322)</p> <p>Pill (3176)</p> <p>St Clears (12924)</p>	<p>Caldey (4278)</p> <p>Cardigan (6602)</p> <p>Kidwelly (1629)</p> <p>Llanllyr (4786)</p> <p>Monkton (3276)</p>
Bishops Palace	<p>Medieval palace and its associated estate for the use of the Bishops of St Davids.</p>	<p>Lamphey (3507)</p>	<p>Trefin (2846)</p>
Hospice	<p>Term used to cover a building/chapel with evidence for its medieval use for the care of the sick or poor, often associated with an abbey or priory</p>	<p>Llawhaden (3577)</p> <p>St Davids (2657)</p>	<p>Keeston (3293)</p> <p>Llandrudion (2671)</p> <p>Spittal (2474)</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene, Haverfordwest (3335)</p>
Other	<p>Sites found to be incorrectly labelled as priory or having a monastic foundation</p>		<p>Penallt Grange (formerly called priory) (2115)</p> <p>St Deiniol's Chapel (4233)</p>

Table 1: The types of monastic site visited during the project and the names of the individual monuments visited within each group type.

RESULTS

- This study examined only those sites that were established after the Norman Conquest. Monastic sites whose origins lie in the period before the Conquest were assessed in the Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites project of the early 2002-4.
- Table 1 above lists the sites visited during this project and their site type. The map shown in Figure 1 above shows the distribution of the sites visited.
- All 4 abbey sites that lie within the study area were visited as part of this project.
St Dogmaels Abbey, Ceredigion – Order of Tiron
Strata Florida, Ceredigion – Cistercian Order
Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire – Premonstratensian Order
Whitland Abbey, Carmarthenshire – Cistercian Order
- Of the priory sites within the study area only 2 were not visited, Llandovery (PRN 4071) and Llanbadarn Fawr (PRN 4840). The exact location of the short lived priory at Llandovery is not known and Llanbadarn Fawr has early origins, being a Celtic monastery of great renown.
- It was decided to include Bishop's houses or palaces within the group as they are an ecclesiastical asset, in the same way that chapels or hospices are. Of this group it was not considered necessary to visit the scheduled sites of St Davids Bishop's Palace (PRN 2705, SAM PE006) or the Bishop's residence of Llawhaden Castle (PRN 3580, SAM PE024), as it was felt that the scheduled areas of both sites could not be improved upon.
- In total 23 sites were visited ranging from scheduled sites in guardianship to sites that had not been visited or recorded in over 30 years. In general abbeys are better known, studied and better protected. The abbey ruins were found to be in a relatively good and stable condition, although the remains at Whitland Abbey are looking much neglected. The priories vary in the level of preservation and protection they enjoy. Four priory sites are scheduled and of the remaining 5, 4 have some part of their standing buildings, or associated buildings listed. This, though, has not always prevented them from suffering from neglect or lack of repair but generally they are, where standing buildings remain, in a stable condition. Of the remaining sites including chapels, hospices, and bishops houses/palaces it is the unprotected sites that have suffered most since they were first recorded. Very little is left of Spittal Hospice (PRN 2474) and the site at Keeston (PRN 3293) has been completely destroyed. The ruins at Llandruidion (PRN 2671) have by chance survived and by their rarity warrant future protection.
- The abbey or priory estate can be commonly divided into an inner and outer precinct or court. Within the inner precinct is found the church and claustral buildings (see plan below), the infirmary, gardens, almonry and guesthouses but also fishponds, brew houses and stables.

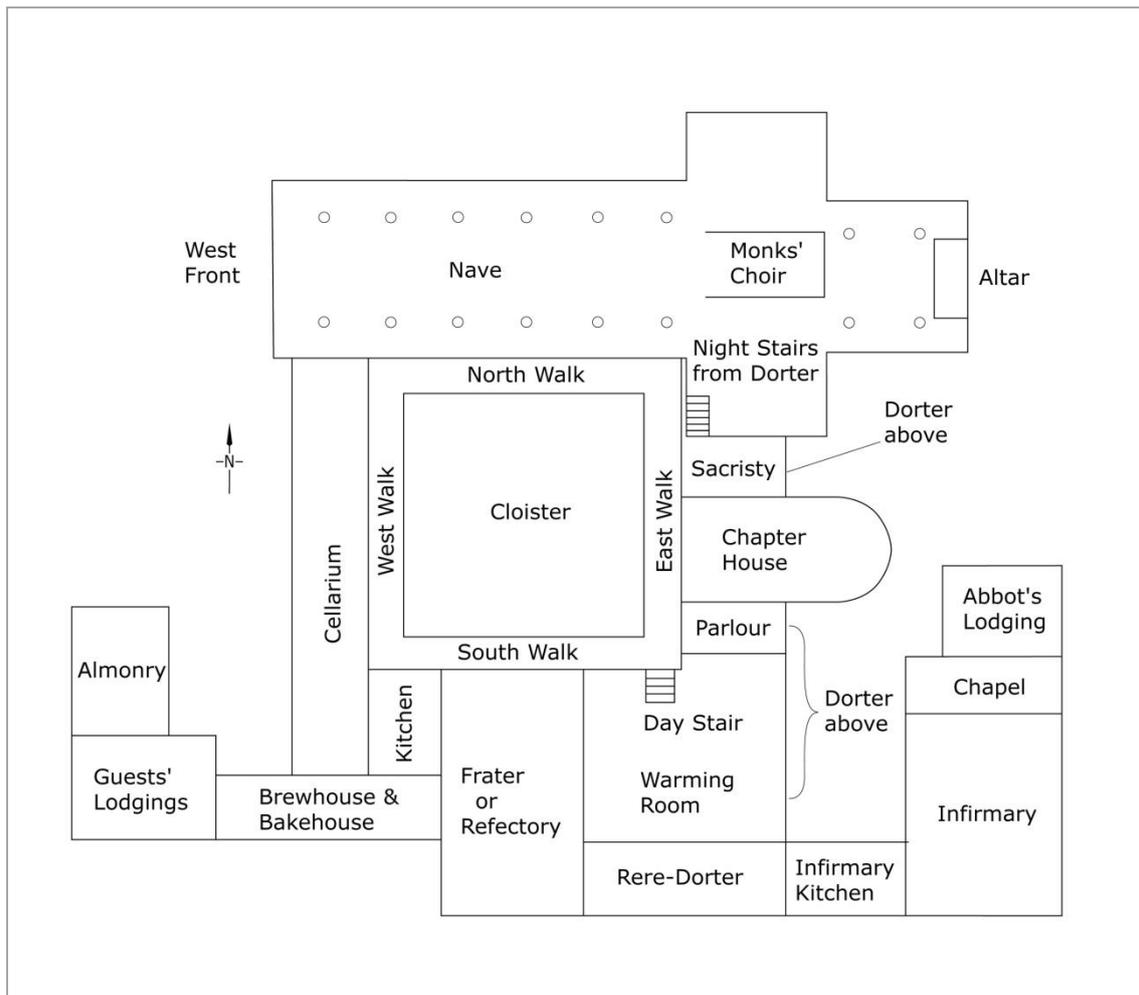


Figure 2: A sketch plan showing the common arrangement between the church and claustral buildings situated within the inner precinct of a medieval monastery.

- Where the inner precincts can be identified they represent defined, integrated, functional and therefore eminently schedulable areas. Unfortunately it is not easy to define them as monastery buildings and their surrounding landscapes have often been destroyed, adapted and built over. In many cases there is little documentary evidence of the layout of the monastery and the existence and size of buildings can only be inferred.
- The fortunes of monasteries, their allegiances and prosperity fluctuated through their lifetimes and this affected when and what monastic buildings were constructed. Some were never wealthy foundations, situated on marginal land and may never have had a layout as that shown in the plan above. Others started life as alien dependencies of French abbeys so that during the wars with France they suffered financially, some even being dissolved. Talley Abbey (PRN 1897) has an abbey church that was obviously intended to be far larger and grander than the church that was eventually built, an indication perhaps of the financial burden of funding such a project. So although we have a common idea of what would have existed within an inner precinct, the layout of monasteries varies from site to site.

- The outer precinct enclosed the agricultural and industrial activities of the monastic estate, often including a mill, probably served by a millpond and leats. The precinct boundaries were commonly stone walls or earth banks but could additionally be formed by natural features such as streams, rivers or steep slopes. Caldey Priory (PRN 4278) may have had no outer precinct as such, and being situated on an island may not have required one. The size and position of the monastic buildings and precincts were largely dictated by the wealth of the monastery, how much land was available and the local topography.
- Of the abbey sites it is perhaps Whitland Abbey (PRN 3870) and Strata Florida (PRN 2043) Abbey's precincts that have best been defined, by Neil Ludlow and the University of Wales Trinity St David respectively (please see details of both sites in the gazetteer). It is hoped that these studies will inform the future revision of the scheduling of these two key sites.
- The inner precincts of monastic sites such as Talley Abbey, and the priories of Monkton and St Clears, are suggested by aerial photographs or old maps. The precinct at Pill Priory is now ill-defined but fieldwork in the 1990's proved the existence of an extensive cemetery to the north of the standing ruins, and a possible infirmary building to the east – perhaps one of the buildings shown in a similar position on antique prints. Targeted geophysical survey, based on these types of evidence, could well help define the precinct boundaries and the buildings within them. The scheduled areas of these sites, where applicable, should then reflect this increased knowledge.
- Abbey churches that, post dissolution, became parish churches such as Kidwelly (PRN 7361), Cardigan (PRN 6602) and Monkton Abbey (PRN 3273) churches, pose a particular problem, as they are in Church in Wales ownership and much of the surrounding grounds have been used as burial grounds. The location of the claustral buildings of all 3 sites is difficult to pin point but at Monkton Priory there is evidence that they lay to the north of the church, in an area of lawned garden that surrounds the Victorian vicarage. Map evidence suggests that this area has not been used for burial in the past. Targeted geophysical survey in this area could locate the former cloister and such information would be extremely useful in deciding on the future protection of the site.
- The scheduled areas of sites such as St Dogmael's Abbey (PRN 1090), Haverfordwest Priory (PRN 3322), Carmarthen Priory (PRN 44), Llawhaden Hospice (PRN 3577) and Lamphey Bishop's Palace (PRN 3507) reflect current archaeological knowledge and do not appear to need revising.
- As the bibliographic sources for monastic sites are so numerous; few are listed in this report. Instead for historical sources please refer to the Monastic Wales website (www.monasticwales.org) where a full list of bibliographical and archival sources is available for every site, and for more recent archaeological work please refer to the Archwilio online searchable database (www.archwilio.org.uk) for the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, where details for each site are listed under their PRN.

GAZETTEER OF SITES

44 PRIORY OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

PRN 44 **NAME** PRIORY OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Documents **CONDITION** Near Destroyed

STATUS *Scheduled ancient monument CM236/ listed building in parts 9508-10 & 82135-7, Grade II*

NGR SN41892046 **COMMUNITY** Carmarthen **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

SUMMARY

The Normans established a Benedictine cell (PRN 220) here on the site of a native church dedicated to St. Teulyddog (PRN 71). The priory of St John the Evangelist of Augustinian Black Canons was founded c. 1148 (KA Hadock 1953), though RCAHM states c.1130 (RCAHM CARM 1917). It appears to have continued on the site of the Celtic Llandylyddog [PRN 71], and the fact that a Benedictine priory was founded at Carmarthen c.1110 (KA Hadock 1953) by a few monks from Battle Abbey probably provides the link between the Celtic establishment and the Augustinian. The Black Book of Carmarthen may have been written here during the 13th century. The priory of St John was valued at 178.8.8 by the VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS, placing it the 5th richest in Wales (R Griffiths 1973). But it has been argued that this figure was arrived at for political reasons - its actual value being 209.13.11, placing it outside the 200 limit of the order for the dissolution of minor houses. The priory itself was of considerable importance, for in 1180 Henry II conferred a grant to the priory which made them virtual rulers of "Old Carmarthen", and thus keeping a distinction between it and the walled town of New Carmarthen. Whilst no visible remains are extant, some fragments of floor tile were unearthed during deep drainage work in 1926 (TCAS, VOL XIX). Most of the priory buildings were pulled down during the last quarter of the 18th Century for the establishment of lead smelting works (Donovan 1804), and in the mid-19th Century houses were constructed on the site, which were themselves pulled down for the construction of the Carmarthen and Cardigan railway. There are no visible remains apart from the gateway (PRN 43), which has been incorporated into modern terraced houses, and a wall running eastward from the gateway.

In 1979 T. James excavated 610 square metres of the site revealing part of the east end of the priory church and its chapels, part of the monk's cemetery and the a portion of the west range of the cloister. One short stretch of medieval wall has been retained in the boundary wall of the playing fields. It is possible from the excavated evidence to estimate the plan of the remainder of the church and cloister. The priory site is unusual in having nearly all its former precinct area surviving as open and largely undisturbed ground. The former precinct area to the north-east of Old Priory road is a football field and that to the south-west is an area of allotments.



Looking southwest across the playing field and allotments that cover the area of the former precinct of St John's Priory, Carmarthen. The gateway into the precinct has been incorporated into the row of cottages on the right.



Aerial photograph of St John's Priory, Carmarthen. The area of the priory precinct lies within the red outlined box. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1992.

1090 ST DOGMAEL'S ABBEY

PRN 1090 **NAME** ST DOGMAEL'S ABBEY; ST MARY'S ABBEY

TYPE Abbey **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Damaged

STATUS *Listed building 13102, Grade I /guardianship ancient monument / scheduled ancient monument PE073*

NGR SN16414586 **COMMUNITY** St Dogmaels **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

Ruined site of the Norman Abbey of St Mary at St Dogmaels that was founded in 1115 by the Fitzmartin family, Lords of Cemais. It was a Tironensian monastery and was the 'mother house' of two nearby priories, Caldey and Pill. Originally the church was planned to have an aisled nave with an apsidal eastern end and transept chapels but was never completed. It was remodelled in 13th century, with a simple nave and a lengthened eastern end over a small crypt. Further altered in the 14th century, when the western end was built and a north-western door added, and in the early 16th century, when the north transept was given fan vaulting. South of the church lie the monastic buildings, and a detached building of the late 13th century, possibly an infirmary chapel or infirmary, lies to the south-east. Although the Abbey church walls survive to a substantial height, elsewhere, the monastery buildings are represented by low walls or foundations, except for the infirmary which has three intact walls, and part of the rough stone vault. During the 17th and 20th centuries much of the abbey site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, with some abbey buildings used as agricultural buildings and other buildings constructed over parts of the site. A great deal of stone robbing has obviously occurred and much reduced the abbey buildings. The location of the site of the Bradshaw family mansion is unknown. They are believed to have lived at the abbey after purchasing the property from the Crown in the late 1530's after the Dissolution of the abbey. It is possible that the present Vicarage, south of the abbey, overlies the mansion site. F Murphy 2012 based on many sources.



Looking east across the cloister garth of St Dogmael's Abbey. The remaining north wall and transept of the church can be seen on the left and the walls of the infirmary on the right.



Aerial photograph of St Dogmael's Abbey. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1992.

1897 TALLEY ABBEY, ST MARY & ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

PRN 1897 **NAME** TALLEY ABBEY; ST MARY & ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

TYPE Abbey **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Near destroyed

STATUS *Listed building 15767, Grade II / guardianship ancient monument / scheduled ancient monument CM013*

NGR SN63273277 **COMMUNITY** Talley **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

SUMMARY

The remains are those of an abbey founded for the Premonstratensian canons by the Lord Rhys (d. 1197) dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St John, that rise above the southern end of Talley Lakes. Although initially well endowed, the abbey was involved soon after its foundation c.1200 in a lengthy and damaging dispute with the Abbey of Whitland from which it never really recovered. This is probably reflected in that the abbey was never completed as first intended. The original plan appears to have been of a church 240ft long with a tower over the crossing and probably two western towers. The foundations for most of the north and part of the west wall of the planned nave seem to have been laid but the church was completed with the nave only four bays long, rather than eight. Only the north and east sides of the tower now stand and a stair can be seen in the wall passing across both portions. There are some traces of the east range, which usually housed the dormitory above the chapter house. The southern range, where presumably the dining hall would have lain, probably lies somewhere beneath the farm buildings to the south, while no buildings appear to have been completed on the west, which was closed off by a plain wall. All these would have stood around a central cloister of which only the northern footings now remain. The choir and presbytery were retained to serve as a parish church after 1536 and were not completely forgotten until 1772-3 when the present church of St Michael was built. The ruins are shown as partially cleared on the OS County series 2nd edition (Carmarthen. XXV.8 1906) and further clearance and consolidation followed from 1933 when the remains were taken into state care. F Murphy 2012 based upon CADW descriptive text 1986



Looking east across ruins of Talley Abbey showing the east wall of the church tower with its supporting arch.



Aerial photograph of Talley Abbey taken in the 1980's by Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

2043 STRATA FLORIDA

PRN 2043 **NAME** STRATA FLORIDA ABBEY; YSTRAD FFLUR

TYPE Abbey **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Near Destroyed

STATUS *Listed building 9913, Grade I / guardianship ancient monument / scheduled ancient monument CD001*

NGR SN7467665729 **COMMUNITY** Ystrad Fflur **COUNTY** Ceredigion

SUMMARY

Site of the now ruined medieval Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida. Said to have been first founded with monks from Whitland Abbey, Carmarthenshire in 1164 by Robert Fitz Stephen, at Old Abbey Farm, some 3 km away, but the next year Norman control was lost to Rhys ap Gruffydd. The building of the abbey began before 1200 but it is probable that the Abbey was still not totally completed by the middle of the thirteenth century. Through the course of the thirteenth century, the Abbey was an ardent supporter of the Welsh cause, occasionally resulting in the hostility of the kings of England. The abbey at Strata Florida suffered damage during the Welsh wars of King Edward I in 1276-77 and again in 1282-83. As a consequence, Strata Florida was certainly remodelled in the early fourteenth century. The Black Death (1348-49) and the revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr (1400-09) took their toll and despite late medieval revivals Strata Florida closed in 1539. F Murphy 2012 based upon CADW descriptive text & other sources



West doorway to Strata Florida Abbey church.



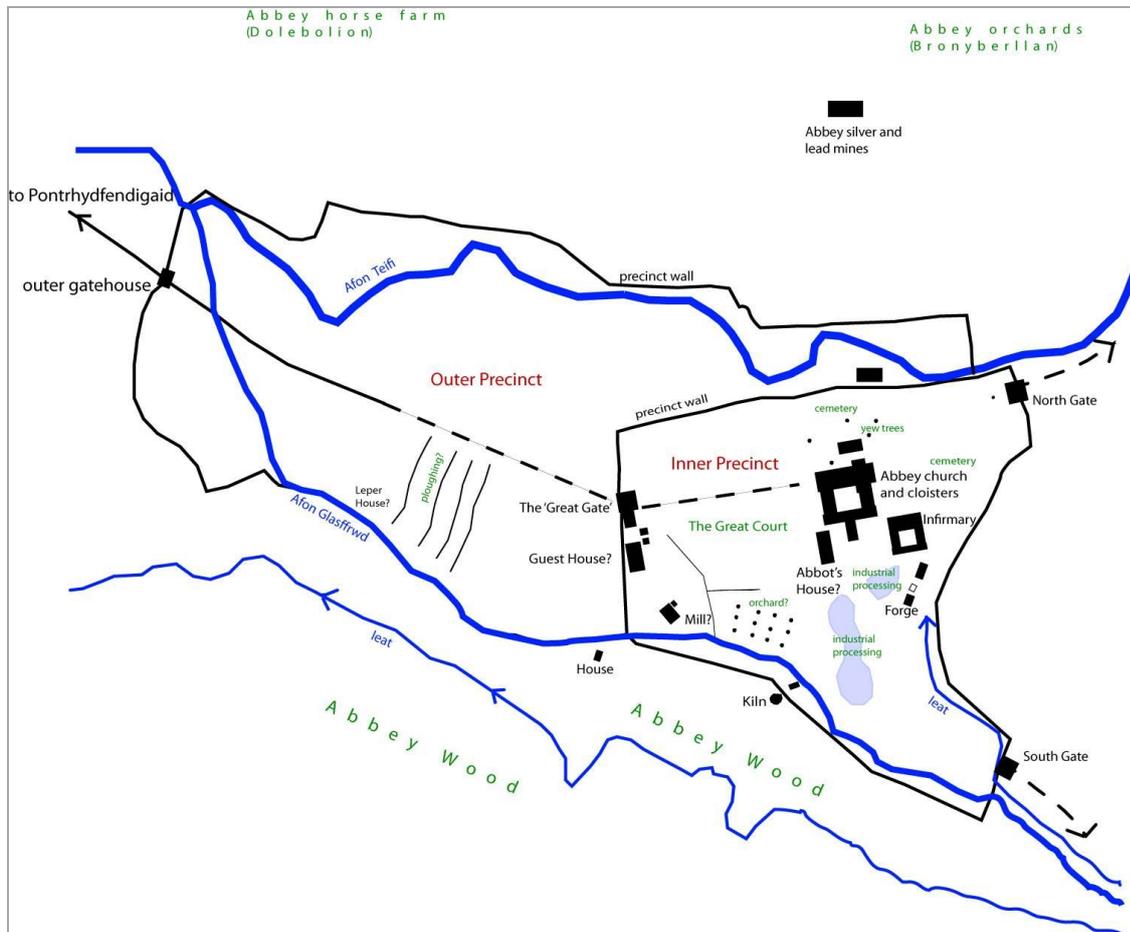
Looking down at the ruins of Strata Florida Abbey, from the hillside to the southeast.

RECENT WORK

In 1998-9 Professor David Austin of the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology in the University of Wales, Lampeter conceived the idea of a major research and development program centred on the former Abbey of Strata Florida. One project undertaken as part of the research is an in depth study of the Abbey Precinct and the area immediately around it, a demesne of about 2 km², as this is where the landscape seems to have been most radically altered by the Cistercians during their time at Strata Florida. The study has included geophysical survey, targeted excavation, environmental sampling and topographic survey. The project is still on going, now under the auspices of the University of Wales Trinity St David, and a detailed picture of the Abbey and its immediate environs is beginning to be constructed. This will no doubt inform any changes in the future scheduling of the site and will provide a valuable study to use when assessing similar sites across Wales.

The project has, so far, estimated that the size of the precinct is an impressive c. 45 ha. Geophysical survey has shown that stone buildings are restricted to the Inner Precinct area as they are in most Cistercian houses, but that they are laid out over a larger area (16 ha.) in a much more dispersed pattern than would normally be found. A large inner gatehouse to the west, an infirmary and mill to the south and perhaps a guest-house just south of the gatehouse are suggested. Other buildings seem to include 'back' gates and the refectory. The Outer Precinct, again as at other Cistercian Abbeys, seems from

the geophysics evidence to have no substantial stone buildings with the likelihood that this area was reserved for specialist agrarian and minor industrial activities.



Projected plan of the Inner and Outer Precincts of Strata Florida Abbey (does not include the results of 2011 fieldwork). By kind permission of Department of Archaeology, History & Anthropology University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

2115 PENALLT GRANGE

PRN 2115 **NAME** PENALLT GRANGE
TYPE Abbey grange **PERIOD** Medieval
FORM Building **CONDITION** Near Destroyed
STATUS *Listed building 9412, Grade II*
NGR SN38790701 **COMMUNITY** St Ishmael **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

SUMMARY

Penallt Farm is 1km SSE of Llansaint and on the S side of the Ferryside to Kidwelly road. On the SW side of the farm are the remains of a once substantial monastic C16? grange belonging to Kidwelly Priory. The upstanding remains belong to the W side of what was probably originally an L-shaped block now overgrown with ivy.

It has been suggested more recently that the ruins are of a domestic C16 residence (Jones 1987) of the Dwnn family and that the reference to a monastic origin may select the possibility that Penallt was originally an ecclesiastical holding that later passed into secular ownership. The Dwnn family held land elsewhere in south Carmarthenshire at Iscoed, Pibwrlwyd, Llechdwnni and Muddlescwm.

The site was incorrectly labelled Penallt Priory. This was picked up during the 2011/12 CADW Monasteries Scheduling Enhancement project and changed to 'Grange' accordingly. No access was gained to the site in 2011.
F Murphy 2012



Looking south at the ivy covered ruins of Penallt Grange.

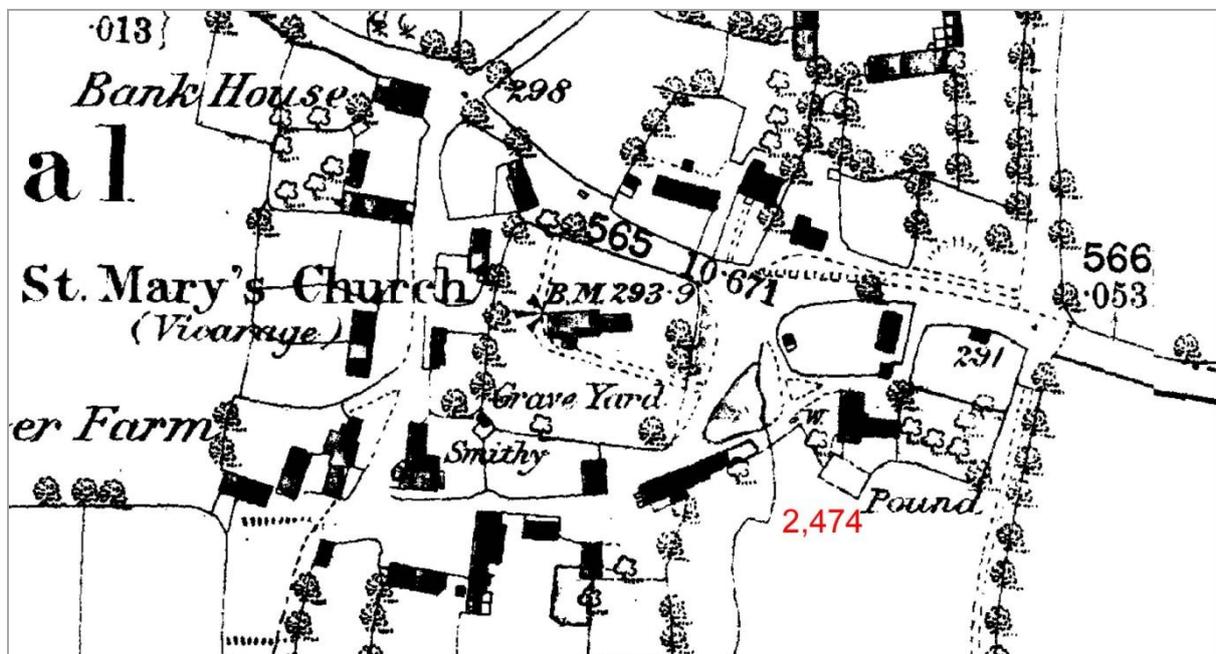
2474 ST MARY'S HOSPICE, SPITTAL

PRN 2474 **NAME** ST MARY'S HOSPICE
TYPE Hospice **PERIOD** Medieval
FORM Building **CONDITION** Near Destroyed
STATUS None recorded

NGR SM97652288 **COMMUNITY** Spittal **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

Remains of a late 13th century hospital, belonging to St Davids Cathedral, said to have been founded by Bishop Beck (1280-1293) situated 60-70m southeast of St Marys Church, Spittal, from which the place takes its name (called in Latin HOSPITALE). All that remains of this ancient building today is a short length of ruined wall that formed an east part of the south wall of a small rectangular building. This wall now forms part of the southern boundary of a modern garden. The north wall of the former building now lies (if any survives) within this garden. In 1966 the building was approximately 12m NW-SE and 7.0m NE-SW and it is shown as a 'pound' on the OS 25" map. The Ordnance Survey record that local people remember the building, that it had an arched window and that work on the modern house revealed some foundations of an earlier building. F Murphy 2012



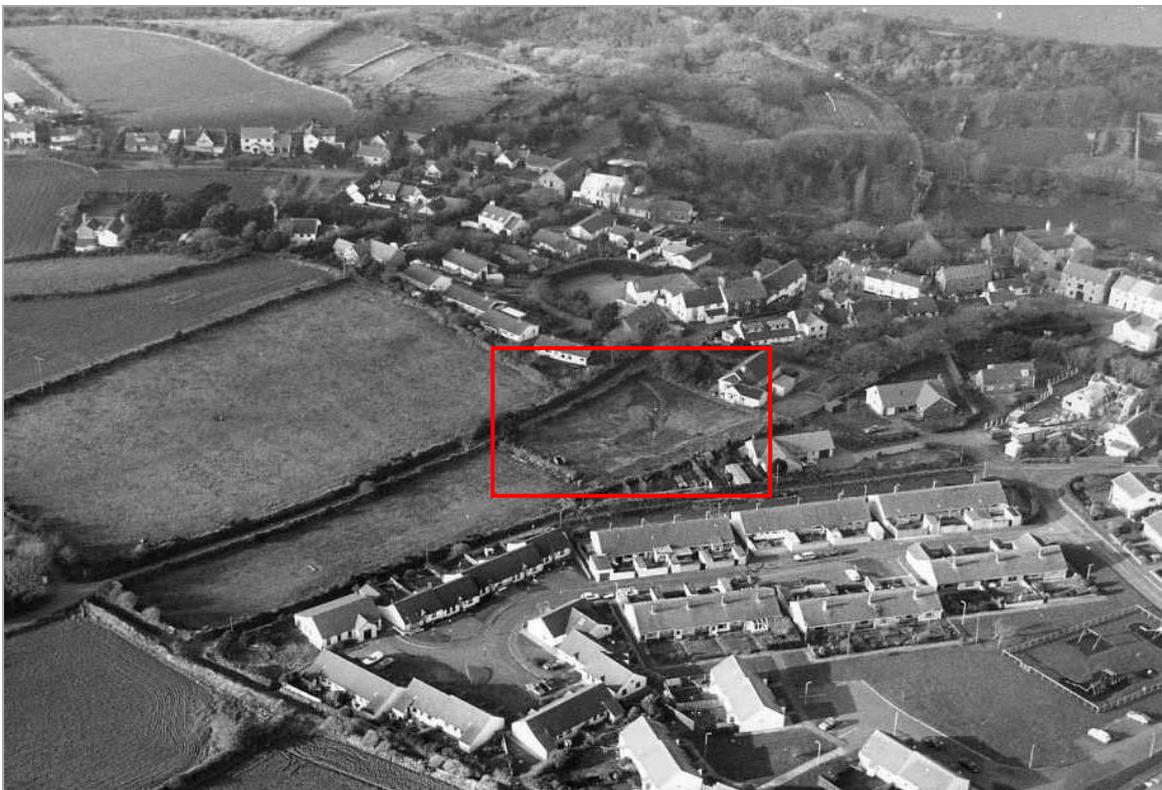
Extract from the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of Pembrokeshire. The building thought to have been the former medieval hospice (PRN 2474) is marked as 'pound'.



All that remains today of the medieval hospice of St Mary's is a short length of ruined wall that now lies at the end of a modern garden.



Looking southeast across scheduled area PE482 showing the natural spring of 'White well' towards the centre of the field and the rubble platforms to the east.



Aerial photograph of St Davids showing the scheduled area of PE482 outlined in red.
Dyfed Archaeological Trust c.1980.



Looking southwest at the overgrown ruins of the medieval Llandruidion Hospice.



The internal face of the western gable end wall showing detail of the stone lintels of a door and a small window.

2846 & 7573 TREFIN BISHOPS PALACE

PRN 2846 **NAME** TREFIN BISHOPS PALACE

TYPE Bishops Palace **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Documents **CONDITION** Not known

STATUS *None recorded*

NGR SM84043240 **COMMUNITY** Llanrhian **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

PRN 2846 - Possible location of medieval Bishop's Palace as suggested in historical documents. The nature of the bishop's residence is unclear. The lack of remains and relatively early disappearance suggest it might have been a mainly timber structure. Leland writes the bishop of St Davids 'hath a place'. in the village of Tredine. A manor house of the bishops, called in the 'Black Book' Trefdyn. Fenton says the site was traditionally known locally as Bishop Martin's palace (Bishop Martin was appointed in 1482) and possibly of his founding. He records that during his visit he discovered fragments of walls over a large vault, similar to those under the palace at St Davids. Approximately 1200m northeast is Long House Grange (PRN 2847) that Fenton notes was 'formerly the grange belonging to and adjoining the episcopal manor of Trefine or Tredyne, now a stragglng village'. In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales describes the parish of Llanrhian as containing '.....the large village of Trevine. A grange or palace of the Bishops of St. David's, was at Trevine; and a vault of it still exists'. Rees (1932) shows a court house in this area in the 14th century.



Aerial photograph of Trefin, Pembrokeshire. A putative site of the Bishop's Palace PRN 2846 lies in the location outlined in red. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1988.

PRN 7573 – Alternative location for the site of the medieval Bishop's Palace. Irregular surface markings at this location are thought locally to be the site of the bishop's palace. Some ill-defined marshy hollows (*PRN 7574*) may indicate remains of fishponds. It was not possible to gain access to the site in 2011. F Murphy 2012.



Aerial photograph of Trefin, Pembrokeshire. An alternative site for the Bishop's Palace *PRN 7573* lies in the field outlined in red. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1988.

3176 PILL PRIORY

PRN 3176 **NAME** PILL PRIORY

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Near Destroyed

STATUS *Listed building 12927, Grade II* / scheduled ancient monument*

NGR SM9026207251 **COMMUNITY** Milford **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

The remains of a medieval priory situated on generally level ground at the junction of two valleys, at the head of Hubberston Pill. It was founded probably around 1200 by the Norman Adam de Roche as a dependent priory of St Dogmael's Abbey. It belonged to the Tironensian order and was dedicated to St Mary and St Budoc. It was dissolved in 1536.

Recording & survey work, 1996 & 1999, have provided a reasonably clear outline of the Priory, which centred on a cruciform church, at least 40m east to west overall. It comprised an aisle less nave and chancel, north & south transepts & a central crossing tower, with claustral buildings on the south & burials recorded on the north. The visible remains comprise the chancel arch & broken north transept arch, with elements of the central crossing tower above. The modern residence & public house: 'the Steps & Priory Inn' (PRN 59083 & PRN 59084) incorporate parts of the eastern cloister range in their fabric. The 'Steps' is thought to be based on the priory chapter house. A pond bay to the north has been associated with the medieval priory. Rees 1981 notes that 'it is interesting that the road curves around what must have been the end of the nave of the church and the west range of buildings, and much of the modern garden lies where the cloister might have stood'. F Murphy 2012 based on Ludlow 2002



Looking east at the chancel arch of the priory church of Pill Priory.

3273 MONKTON PRIORY CHURCH

PRN 3273 **NAME** MONKTON PRIORY CHURCH

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Restored

STATUS *Listed building 6330, Grade I / Parks and Gardens Register Wales PGW (Dy) 40 (PEM)*

NGR SM9796201451 **COMMUNITY** Pembroke **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

Monkton Priory Church is now a parish church but was formerly a Benedictine priory church. It was established in 1098. The priory was finally suppressed in 1535-9. Little now survives from the conventual buildings, which were located to the north of the church. The remains of a vaulted undercroft in the church vestry appear to have formed part of the east range of the conventual buildings. These may have been arranged around a cloister to the north of the nave, and 'old walls' are labelled on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps to the north, in the area of the present vicarage. The extent of the priory precinct within which the conventual and other monastic buildings lay has not been certainly established but the churchyard appears coterminous with its eastern half, while Priory Farm almost certainly occupies its western half. The priory, as a parish church, came to be the focus of civilian settlement and a township - 'Monkton', from which the priory received its name (having been known as 'Pembroke Priory' throughout the medieval period) - had developed by the 14th century. The church has a Norman nave and a decorated choir but there has been much demolition and restoration in later periods. The tower (according to CADW's listing) is built upon the foundations of the south transept; the north transept has completely gone. Post dissolution the nave lived on as the parish church but the chancel was stripped of its roof and left to become a total ruin. To the southeast lies Monkton Old Hall (PRN 3272) possibly the priory gatehouse or guesthouse. To the west of the church lies Priory Farm and elements of the medieval priory are thought to be incorporated into these more recent farm buildings and include the farmhouse/tower house (PRN 7218), a late medieval fortified 1st floor hall or tower. The core of this building may have been the Prior's lodging of the priory as it is not unusual to find such buildings being adapted as high status residences following the Reformation. F Murphy 2012 (based on Ludlow 2002 and other sources)

PRN 7218 MONKTON PRIORY FARMHOUSE - *Listed building 6328, Grade II**

Situated in Monkton approximately 50m W of the Priory Church of Saint Nicholas is the much altered farmhouse of Priory Farm, that has medieval origins. Much altered 14th-15th century tower-house, part of the monastic buildings of Monkton Priory, possibly the Prior's house. It is not unusual to find such buildings being adapted as high status residences following the Reformation. Altered in 19th and 20th century as a farmhouse. CADW suggest it was probably a first floor hall and solar in the main range, over an un-vaulted ground floor, with a tower with chamber over a vaulted kitchen.

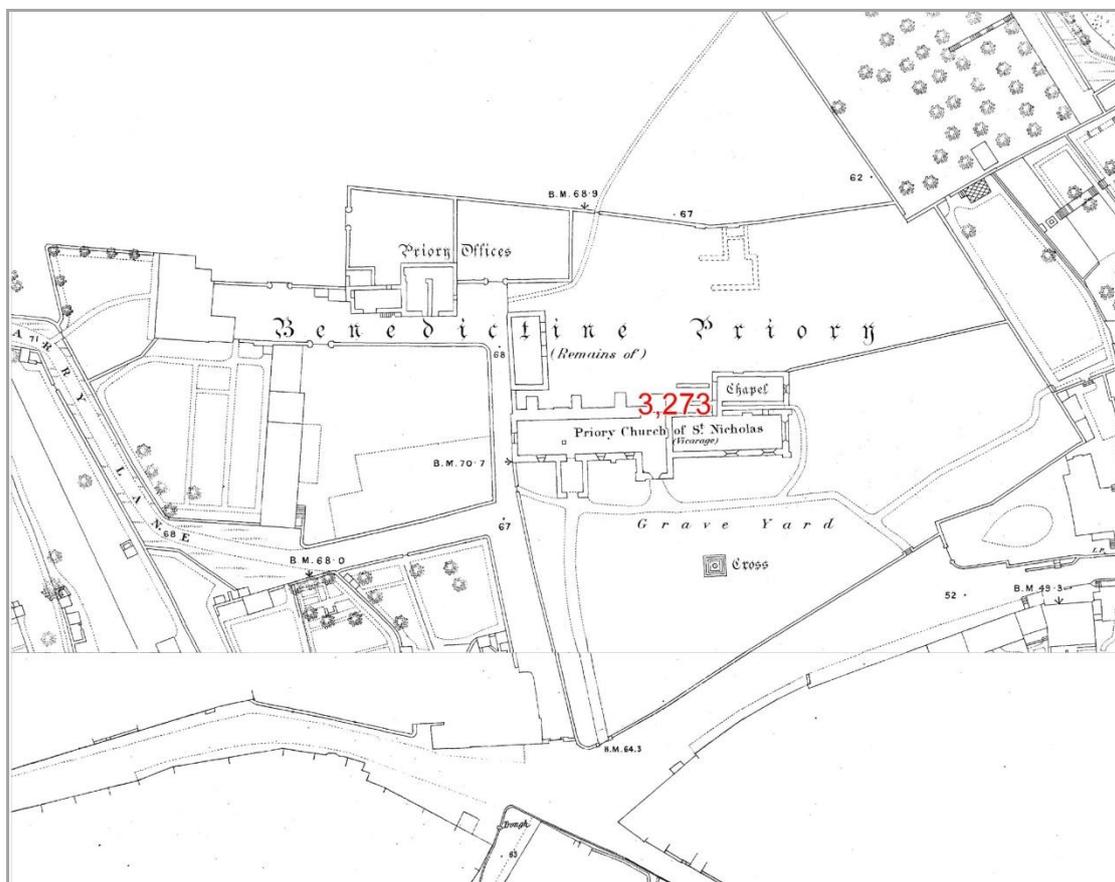
PRN 9673 MONKTON PRIORY FARM OUTBUILDING - *Listed building 6329, Grade II*

A rectangular E-W building to the east of the farmhouse of Priory Farm, comprising a single storey with loft over, constructed from locally quarried limestone rubble, beneath a slate gabled roof. There are 2 wide full-height arches in the north wall and the truncated respond for a third at the east end of the building. This suggests that the building originated as a medieval conventual building, although most of the present masonry is post-medieval. Some of the openings in the south wall have two-centred heads, possibly later rather than earlier.

PRN 60238 CHURCHYARD WALLS AND GATEWAYS TO PRIORY CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS - *Listed building 6331 II*

Grade II listed churchyard walls of Monkton Priory Church of St Nicholas.

Churchyard walls to Monkton church, uncertain date probably mostly C19, partly on high retaining walls that may be medieval.



The 1:500 Ordnance Survey 1861 map of Pembroke clearly shows that remains of the claustral buildings were still standing to the north of the priory church at this time.



Photograph showing the nave and tower of Monkton Priory Church. Looking north.



Photograph of the north side of Monkton Priory church showing the blocked doorway (left) and broken masonry (right) of where the nave and the northeast chapel respectively were attached to the former priory buildings.

3293 KEESTON HOSPICE

PRN 3293 **NAME** KEESTON
TYPE Hospice **PERIOD** Medieval
FORM Building **CONDITION** Destroyed
STATUS *None recorded*

NGR SM90221940 **COMMUNITY** Camrose **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

The former ruins of 3 detached buildings on the left of the road leading down from the village to Keeston Bridge. They may be the ruins of an early medieval house that was later converted into a hospice or spital, which existed for pilgrims on their way to St Davids. Pembs Arch Survey observes 'It is suggested that here we have the remains of a house belonging to the Keatings, some of whom left Pembrokeshire with Strongbow to found the Irish family of the Keatings. Keeston was properly called Keetingston, and in Charter Latin Villa Ketringe. The Welsh name is Tregettin.' In 1965 the Ordnance Survey record that extensive remains of a stone building were still visible; averaging 0.2-0.5m high but that they lacked datable features. Unfortunately in 2012 a site visit found no trace of the ruins. There is nothing to be seen on the ground. Local residents said during development of housing in this area in the late 1980's the ruins had been completely destroyed. It was pointed out that a manhole cover lies above the old well associated with the former buildings, just inside the boundary of 'The Manse' on the right hand side. F Murphy 2012

3322 HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY

PRN 3322 **NAME** HAVERFORDWEST PRIORY, ST MARY & ST THOMAS THE MARTYR

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building complex **CONDITION** Damaged

STATUS *listed building 12240, Grade I / scheduled ancient monument PE017*

NGR SM95681523 **COMMUNITY** Haverfordwest **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

Haverfordwest Priory founded in about 1200 for Augustinian canons, dedicated to St Mary & St Thomas the Martyr, lies on the banks of the River Cleddau on the outskirts of Haverfordwest town. The priory flourished until the sixteenth century despite the nature of the site's location which was prone to regular flooding, so that the priory was built on a platform. The priory appears rarely in historical record because it escaped major wars and fires/accidents that brought attention to other similar institutions. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 the site passed into private ownership. Over time the buildings were robbed of their decorative stonework and the site remained largely unused and forgotten until given into state care in 1981. There then followed extensive excavation and conservation works. The 13th century church is of one simple cruciform build together with a cloister and ranges to the south of the church which were redeveloped in the 15th century. A tower dates to this later period, as does a priory garden discovered through excavation.

F Murphy 2012 based on CADW descriptive text



Aerial photograph of Haverfordwest Priory. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 2003.



Looking west at the medieval monastic gardens of Haverfordwest Priory. The ruins of the priory church transepts can be seen in the background.



Looking west at the cloister garth of Haverfordwest Priory.

3335 ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHAPEL, HAVERFORDWEST

PRN 3335

NAME ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHAPEL

TYPE Hospice, Chapel

PERIOD Medieval

FORM Building

CONDITION Near Destroyed

STATUS *Listed building 13032, Grade II*

NGR SM94701466

COMMUNITY Haverfordwest

COUNTY Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

A possible remnant of a small medieval chapel or hospice dedicated to St Mary Magdalene situated on the E side of Merlin's Hill, Haverfordwest. One wall of a medieval building, possibly the former chapel of St Mary Magdalene, is incorporated into an outbuilding. The building comprises a thick S wall with on its south facing side 3 medieval lancet pointed windows, thus presumably the internal face of the N wall of the former chapel. The other sides of the building have been added at a later date, as part of a cottage or outbuilding re-use. The history of the site is very obscure, it was supposedly a leper hospital. The chapel is recorded in 1564 as having been seized and a survey of 1592 mentions a chapel and a churchyard of half an acre. In 2012 the outbuilding was being restored after a fire. F Murphy 2012



Looking north at the former internal face of the north wall of a medieval chapel, showing the three original blocked lancet windows.



Aerial photograph of Lamphey Bishops Palace. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1993.



Looking southeast at Lamphey Bishops Palace, showing in the foreground the gatehouse to the inner precinct, and in the background the inner precinct buildings.

3577 LLAWHADEN HOSPICE

PRN 3577

NAME LLAWHADEN HOSPICE

TYPE Hospice

PERIOD Medieval

FORM Building

CONDITION Damaged

STATUS *listed building 6070, Grade II/ scheduled ancient monument PE162*

NGR SN06691728

COMMUNITY Llawhaden

COUNTY Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

Site of the 13th century hospital at Llawhaden dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, St Thomas the Martyr and St Edward the King. It was founded in 1287 by Bishop Bek and dissolved in the 16th century. All that remains is a stone vaulted chamber, probably the chapel to the medieval hospice. It is located in what is known as Chapel Field, an adjacent field to the south being named Priory Field. The building stands to its original height, though some of the facing stones have been removed. The chamber measures 8m long, 6m wide, with walls c.0.60m thick. It is entered by a door on the north wall and has 2 single light windows in the east and west walls. The site was part excavated by DAT in 1984 and was followed by reconsolidation of the masonry. The scheduled area was also extended at this time as the excavations revealed that the ruin stands at the eastern end of an earlier chapel. There was evidence of a hall adjoining the western end of the earlier chapel. The hospice is likely to have had a refectory, an infirmary and a dormitory. F Murphy 2012



Aerial photograph of the village of Llawhaden. The medieval hospice chapel building is outlined in red. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1980.



Looking southeast at the chapel of the medieval hospice of Llawhaden.



Looking west at the stone
vaulted chapel of Llawhaden
Hospice.

3870 WHITLAND ABBEY

PRN 3870

NAME WHITLAND ABBEY

TYPE Abbey

PERIOD Medieval

FORM Building

CONDITION Near Destroyed

STATUS *listed building 9392, Grade II / scheduled ancient monument CM014*

NGR SN20791816

COMMUNITY Llanboidy

COUNTY Carmarthenshire

SUMMARY

The ruins of a mid to late 12th century Cistercian Abbey that lie about 2km north of Whitland, in a wooded valley between the Afon Gronw and a small stream, Nant Colomendy. Whitland flourished to become the premier Cistercian house in west Wales. From Whitland seven new Welsh abbeys were founded: Abbey Cwmhir (1176), Cymer (1198), Strata Florida (1169), Llantarnam (1179), Aberconwy (1186), Strata Marcella (1170) and Valle Crucis (1201). The 13th century saw changing political allegiances and their ensuing consequences. By the 14th century Whitland's finances were in a poor state which was made worse by the Black Death in 1349. In 1539 the house was suppressed as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the buildings sold into private hands. There are few upstanding remains. The area of the church is open to the public. The remainder of the complex is on private property and is part of the garden of Abbey Home Farm. Excavation by DAT in the 1990's established that the abbey church was of simple 'Bernadine' form, without a tower and the presence of a full conventual plan was demonstrated by geophysical survey. The boundaries of the inner and outer precinct can be partly defined (please see plan below). A complex of earthworks in the surrounding landscape was surveyed and it would appear that they are associated with a monastic water system which included fish ponds, supply and drainage channels. These were partly re-used in the 17th century by a nearby forge complex (PRN 8956).

F Murphy 2012 based on many sources



An aerial photograph of Whitland Abbey Home Farm prior to the excavations of the abbey church. The location of the abbey church is outlined in red. North is to the bottom of the picture. Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1988.



Looking west at the gardens of Abbey Home Farm. It is here that the claustral buildings of Whitland Abbey were located, to the south of the abbey church.



Plan of outer earthworks
identified at Whitland Abbey.

A= mill race

B= leat possibly connected to
the abbey drains

C= fish or mill pond

D= fish pond

E= possible site of mill

F= probable site of mill

G=hollow way/former track
predating the existing road

H= surface irregularities marked
'wall' on OS maps - note how
the hollow way changes
alignment suggesting this was a
gateway perhaps through an
outer precinct wall

The scheduled area is outlined
in red.

4233 ST DEINIOL'S CHAPEL, PENALLY

PRN 4233 **NAME** ST DEINIOL'S CHAPEL; PENALLY ABBEY HOTEL

TYPE Hall, Chapel **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Damaged

STATUS *listed building 6000, Grade II*

NGR SS11729933 **COMMUNITY** Penally **COUNTY** Pembrokeshire

SUMMARY

In the grounds of the Abbey Hotel, Penally, 50 m N of the house and close to St Deiniol's Well lie the ruins of a large single-cell medieval building with undercroft and the ruin of a single-storey building attached at the W side. The single-storey building is probably later in date but might overlie a fragment of earlier origin. The main building, with undercroft, is traditionally taken to be St Deiniol's Chapel. Fenton in 1810 considered it to be a chantry chapel. The group of buildings was altered before 1870 by the owner of The Abbey (named from its proximity to the ruins traditionally believed to have been part of an abbey), to create a fernery. F Murphy 2012

LONG DESCRIPTION

Extensive remains of medieval building, with no recorded history. It was called St Deiniol's Chapel by 1811, by which time the building had become disused (RCAHM 1925, 293). The building stands on the N side of Penally village in the grounds of the Penally Abbey Hotel, in a level, lawned area partly occupied by car parking. It is a complex structure, of two distinct elements, in limestone rubble. The earliest part is a two-storey, rectangular, gabled building, which is late medieval (probably 15th - 16th century). It is oriented E-W, measuring approx. 8 x 14m, and survives to a height of c.8m at the gables. The first floor lies over a bicameral basement, consisting of two narrow, E-W barrel-vaulted chambers divided by a wall. The basement is entered through a two-centred doorway on the S wall. The first floor is entered, via a flight of stone steps, through a tall, two-centred doorway in the W gable wall. The east gable wall is pierced by a substantial window with a two-centred head, but the surround and any tracery have gone. It is flanked by two small, square-headed lights. There are two large, square-headed lights in the south wall, and a two-centred light in the north wall. The gables have tall upstands. The roof and floors, and dressed stone, have all gone, but the remains of the building are substantially intact. It may have been part of a larger structure extending to the W, indicated by the corbelling, for floor- or roof-joists?, on the external face of the W wall above the door. However, this area is now occupied by a more ruinous, single-storey, rectangular post-medieval building, with a semi-circular headed entry in the south wall and the remains of a possible entry in the N wall. The W wall may be derived from the earlier building and exhibits a blocked, two-centred doorway, and also a large fireplace with a cylindrical chimney, at first floor level, and therefore also probably derived from the earlier building. There is also evidence of later additions, now gone, against the N wall of the earlier building. Although termed 'chapel' by Fenton, and with an ecclesiastical association also commemorated in the name of the Penally Abbey Hotel, it cannot be conclusively proven to have been an ecclesiastical site. It has no recorded history as a chapel. It is oriented E-W, has a W door and a large E window, but no evidence for a piscina was seen and the vaulted basement is more

typical of a domestic, first floor hall (with post-medieval alterations). The surroundings have been much altered through landscaping, but there is no evidence of eg. an enclosure or burials. Indeed, the antiquity, and origins of the name 'St Deiniol's Chapel' are unknown - it may be secondary, or be derived from another, unknown ecclesiastical site in the vicinity. NDL 2003



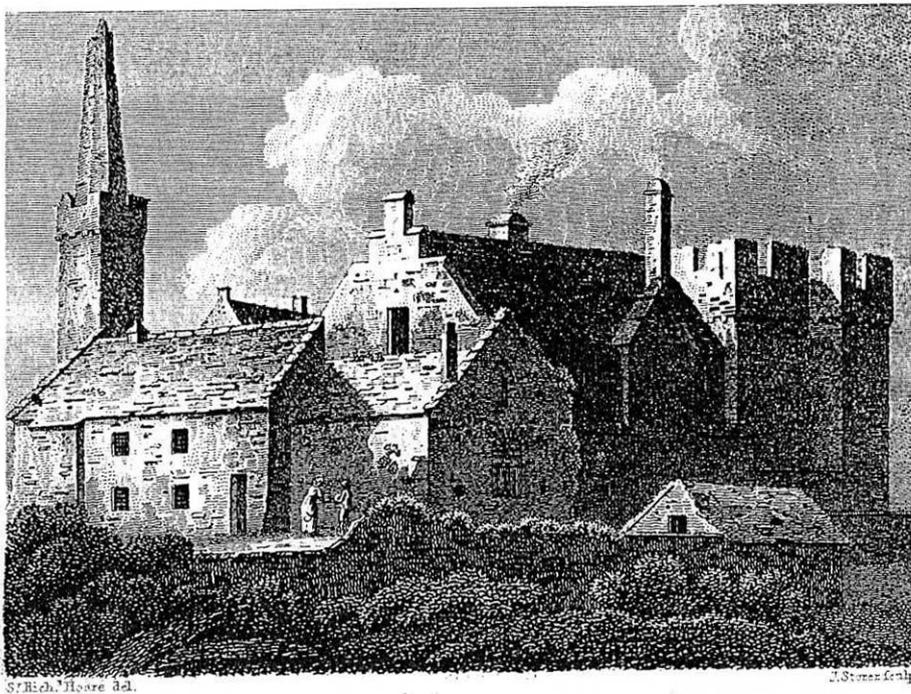
Looking northeast at the ruins of St Deiniol's Chapel, Penally.



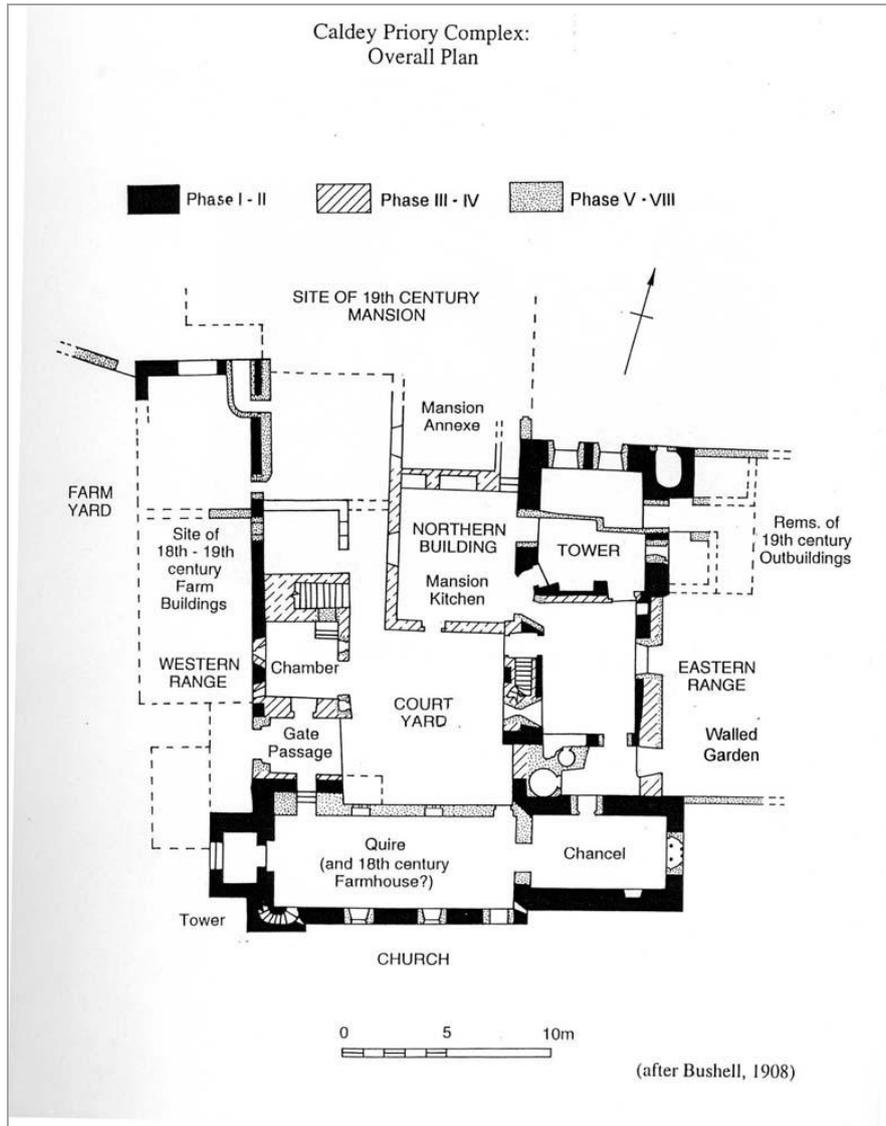
Looking north at the ruins of St Deiniol's Chapel, Penally.



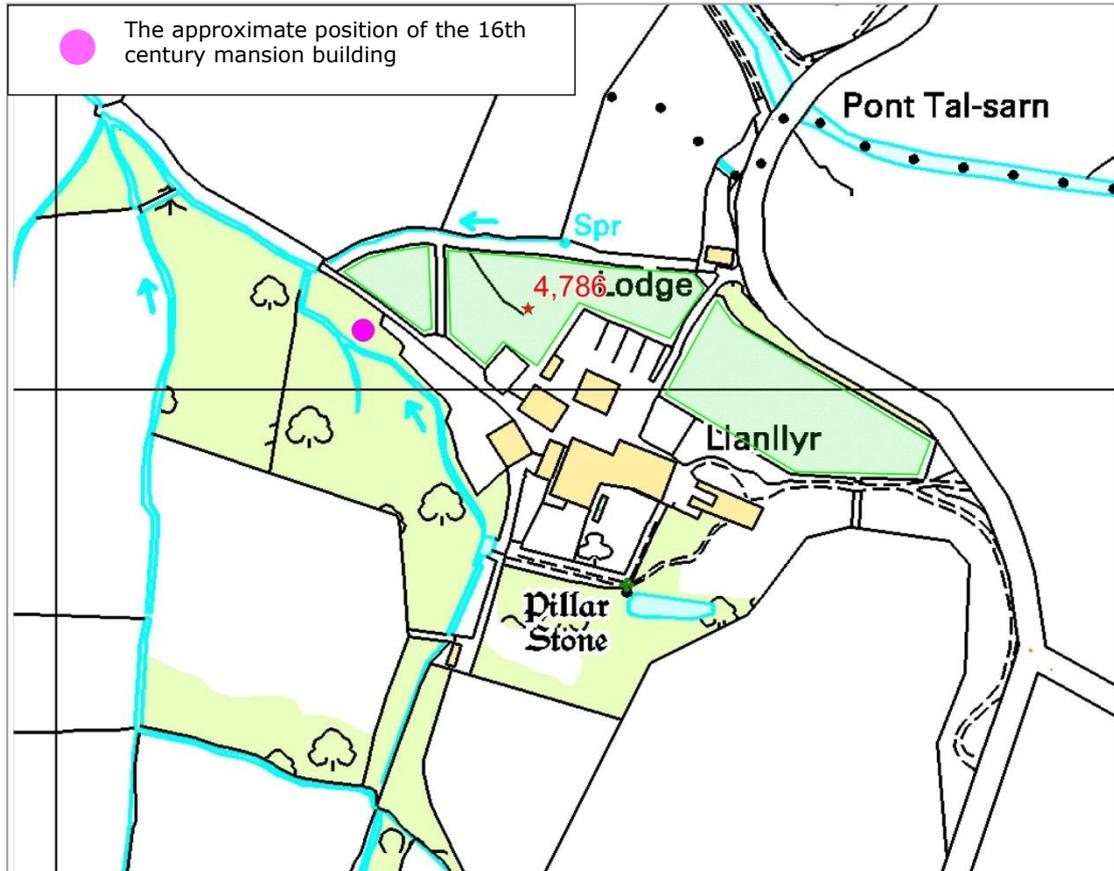
Aerial photograph of the medieval priory of St Mary taken in the 1980's by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The small priory complex can be seen within the red box. Surrounding the priory can be seen 18th and 19th century farm buildings and concrete yards.



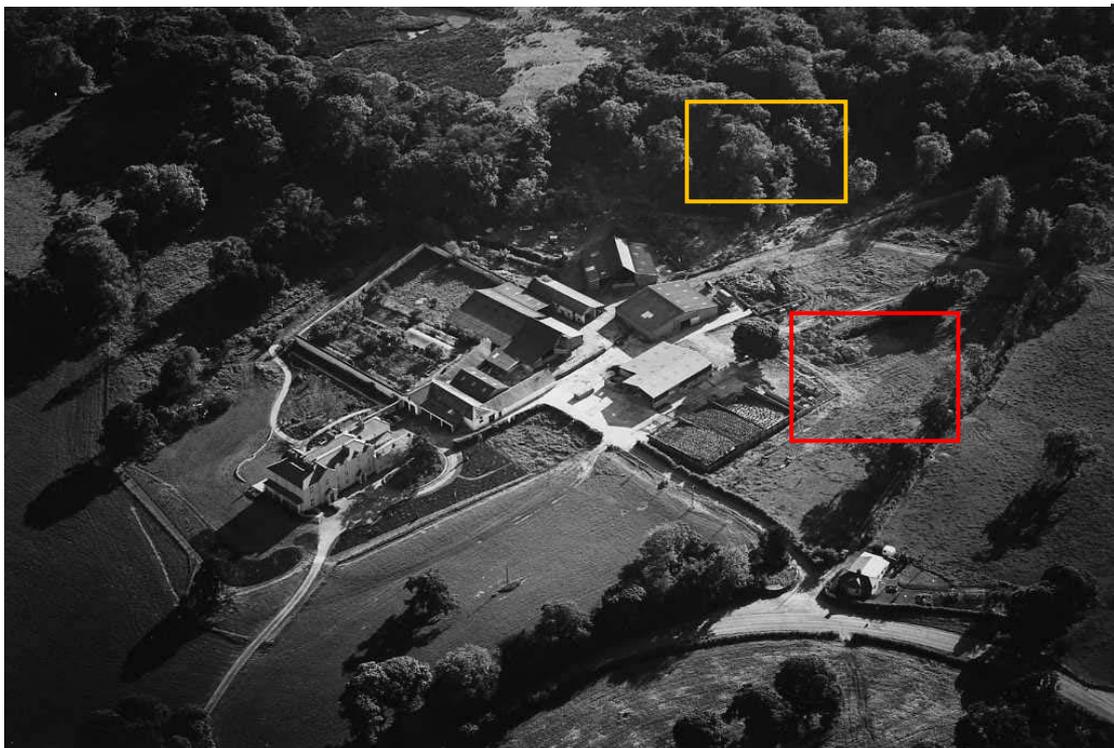
Drawing of Caldey Priory from SE c.1800, Sir Richard Colt Hoare (National Library of Wales, Topographical Prints, Pembrokeshire, 'A', PA2360, Top B12).



Overall Plan of Caldey Priory Complex taken from 'A Structural Analysis of Caldey Priory, Dyfed' 1994, N. Ludlow, Unpublished Dyfed Archaeological Report, PRN 43253.



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Aerial photograph taken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust of the Llanllyr Estate in 1989. The red outlined box shows the possible location of the priory chapel or church. The orange outlined box shows roughly the position of site of the earliest, 16th century mansion building.



Looking north across the putative location of the Priory/Nunnery chapel PRN 4786.

6602 CARDIGAN BENEDICTINE PRIORY

PRN 6602 **NAME** CARDIGAN BENEDICTINE PRIORY

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Building **CONDITION** Unknown

STATUS *Priory church, now parish church, listed building 10476, Grade II**

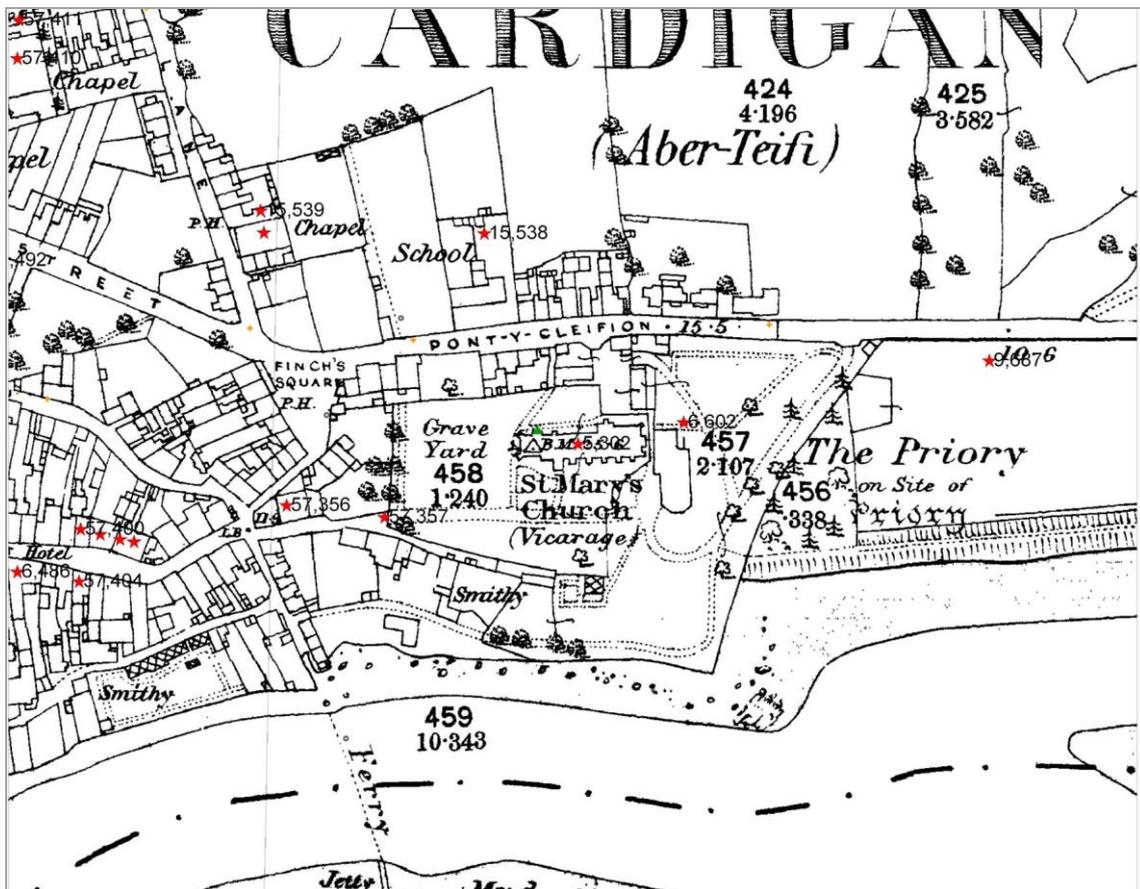
NGR SN1810246043 **COMMUNITY** Cardigan **COUNTY** Ceredigion

SUMMARY

The beginnings of Cardigan Priory are obscure, and the exact time of its foundation cannot be known with certainty. It is first heard of after Rhys ap Gruffudd, Prince of South Wales, had recovered Cardigan from the Normans in 1165. A charter given by him, probably soon after that date, grants and confirms to the great Benedictine abbey of St Peter, Chertsey, Surrey "the cell of Cardigan with all its appurtenances." The priory, with its church of St. Mary of Cardigan, and the chapel of St. Peter in the castle, were already in existence at that time. Cardigan was always a very small priory and it probably never housed more than a few monks. On the eve of the Dissolution the priory was a centre of pilgrimage, famed for the Burning Taper of Our Lady. However, the Dissolution of the Monasteries saw Chertsey forced to "surrender" its possessions to the king on July 6th, 1537. A brief respite ensued when Henry VIII re-founded Bisham as a Benedictine Abbey on December 18th, 1537, and the abbot of Chertsey and his monks were established there. This meant that the priory of Cardigan also continued under the new house. But by the following year both Bisham and Cardigan had to be "surrendered" anew on June 19th, 1538. Just a week later an order was issued to remove the prior and to confiscate the priory and its belongings. Subsequently the priory fell into private hands and a succession of large houses were built on the site. An earlier 17th century house was the residence of Catherine Phillips 1631-1664. In 1805 a large country house was designed by John Nash and built by John Bowes. This building was essentially rectangular in shape and was enlarged in 1922 when it became Cardigan hospital that stands today in 2012. No remains are left above ground of the former Benedictine priory. F Murphy 2012 based on many sources.



Looking north at the heavily restored priory church of St Mary, Cardigan.



Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of Ceredigion.

7361 KIDWELLY PRIORY, ST MARY'S PRIORY

PRN 7361 **NAME** KIDWELLY PRIORY

TYPE Priory **PERIOD** Medieval

FORM Documents **CONDITION** Not known/ Near Destroyed

STATUS *The priory church, now parish church is a listed building 11878, Grade I*

NGR SN40800675 **COMMUNITY** Kidwelly **COUNTY** Carmarthenshire

SUMMARY

The position of the priory is not known. There are no indications on the south side of the priory church (PRN 1629) of any buildings connected to it. On the north the church lies so near the left bank of the Afon Gwendreath that it would seem unlikely that the claustral buildings were built there. In 1917 the RCAM suggested that the tower's original position halfway between the transept and the western end (which is where it would have been before the nave was shortened) outside the line of the northern wall of the church, would not have allowed for the usual arrangement with a square cloister. Their suggestion is that the claustral buildings were at the east end of the church connected via the existing chantry chapel. This view was strengthened by 'the existence of foundations of buildings on the north side of the church on a line with and extending beyond the eastern wall, where the space between the church and the river widens sufficiently...' It is also possible that the claustral buildings were quite modest, as only two or three monks were ever recorded in the priory. On the north side of Causeway St, to the west of the priory, there survived until c.1932 a medieval dwelling known as the 'Priors House'. The RCAM dated the dwelling to the end of the 13th century.

F Murphy 2012



Looking northwest at the chancel and south transept of Kidwelly priory church.

12924 ST CLEARS PRIORY OF ST MAGDALENE

PRN 12924

NAME ST CLEARS PRIORY OF ST MARY MAGDALENE

TYPE Priory

PERIOD Medieval

FORM Documents, buried features

CONDITION Restored, unknown

STATUS *Scheduled ancient monument CM290*

NGR SN28171570

COMMUNITY St Clears

COUNTY Carmarthenshire

DESCRIPTION

The priory was founded between 1147-84 as a Cluniac cell. It had only a prior and a monk, later just two monks. It was suppressed in 1414 and finally dissolved in 1442, the lands being given to All Souls, Oxford. The church was converted into the parish church. A field to the south of the church contains the claustral buildings that may be orientated to a blocked medieval doorway in the southern side of the nave. Geophysics in 1989 by Bradford University & by Deakin & Evans in 2003 indicates considerable activity in the area where the cloisters might be expected, but neither produces a clear plan. There are some signs of earthworks on the ground, possibly a c.40m square platform, and these have been scheduled. F Murphy 2012 based on Cadw and other sources

1147-1184 AD Dependant of St Martin-des-champs, Paris. The church continued in use and has become the parish church. Delaney + Soulsby 1975



Looking north at the priory church of St Clears. The scheduled area of the claustral buildings lies in the field in the foreground of the picture.



Looking northeast at the blocked doorway in the south wall of the nave of St Clears priory church. This doorway is believed to be the exit from the church into the claustral buildings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks are due to the landowners who granted permission onto their properties and land. Frances Murphy visited the sites and wrote this report. Marion Page extracted the site data from the Historic Environment Record and verified the new data collected during this project.

LATER MEDIEVAL AND EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL THREAT RELATED ASSESSMENT WORK 2012: MONASTERIES

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2012/12
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102639

Mawrth 2012
March 2012

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

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature *F.A. Murphy* Dyddiad / Date 18/04/12

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

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

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature *[Signature]* Dyddiad / Date 19/04/12

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 rep



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