

CPAT Report No 1095

**Medieval and Early Post-Medieval
Monastic and Ecclesiastical Sites in East
and North-East Wales**

**The Scheduling Enhancement Programme:
Recommendations**

Confidential



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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R J Silvester and R Hankinson

March 2011

Report for Cadw

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

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Monastic Sites

Basingwerk Abbey, Flintshire

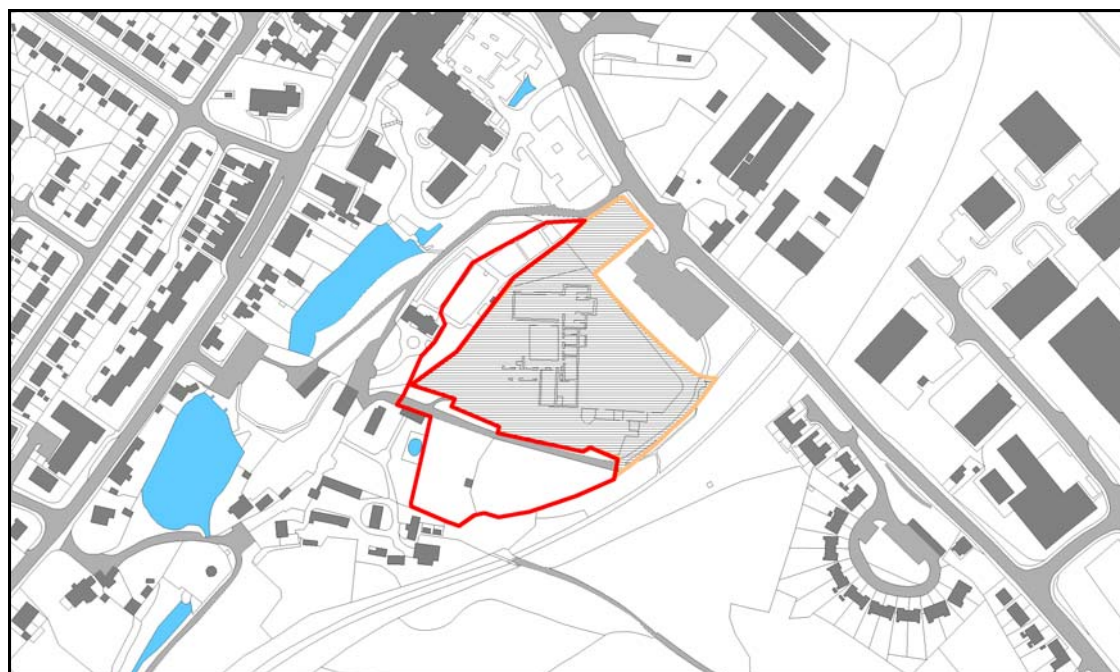
Scheduling Recommendations. The existing scheduled area (F1001) covers approximately 1.4ha. It does not extend to the car park below the abbey and, while in the interests of comprehensiveness, a case could be made for extending the scheduled area across the fishpond, it is more difficult to justify its inclusion on geographical or visual grounds, let alone some of the standard scheduling criteria.

The same cannot be said, however, of the areas in local authority ownership to the south and to the north-west of the abbey ruins. The 1994 evaluation may have produced negative results, but the archaeological evidence from better preserved monastic sites suggest that the ancillary buildings and other features to be found within a monastic precinct were spread quite widely where there were no topographical constraints. It is difficult to believe that there was no activity in this area now covered by two pasture fields to the south of the abbey remains.

The area to the north of the abbey church is given over to gardens though one triangle of land within the curtilage of the house is already scheduled. Although these gardens lie on ground which is falling away gently from the ridge, this is again ground that might well have been used in the medieval period.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X		X	X	X



Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Basingwerk Abbey, Flintshire. The existing scheduled area is shaded, the recommended area outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Cwmhir Abbey, Powys

Scheduling Recommendations. The existing scheduled area (Rd012) covers 1.18ha in a quadrilateral block centred on the abbey church. Despite earlier clearance, it can be assumed that some sub-surface remains exist further to the south and east and a geophysical survey certainly seems to confirm the latter. It is thus suggested that the existing scheduled area be extended in these directions and fractionally to the north.

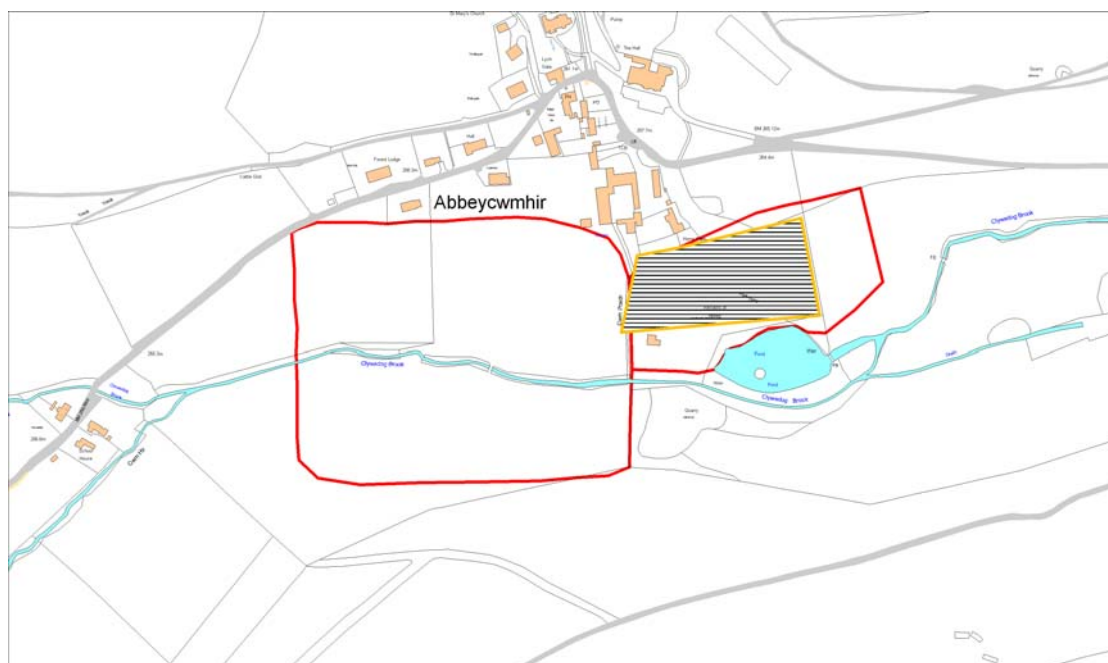
We are more ambivalent about a larger extension to the west to take in the putative precinct boundary. There are surely no grounds for contradicting the view that an abbey should be viewed in its totality and not just as a church with some buildings attached to it. The best understood and appreciated monastic sites are those where most if not all the integral elements are known and which lie in open countryside. Cwmhir conforms to the latter if not (at present) the former.

The case for the line of the precinct boundary has now been made in print and it is argued that where this is definable (on the west) rather than just hypothesised (on the east) the scheduled area should be extended to accommodate this, in the belief that there would have been monastic activity within the precinct. Our reservations hinge solely on the fact that there is no surface evidence of this activity.

The scheduling criteria laid out below are the standard ones for well-preserved monastic sites. To these we would argue too for *Documentation* in that in historical terms this is one of the most important monuments in the country because of its link with Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, warranting its preservation on an extensive scale.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X	X	X		X	X	X



Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Cwmhir Abbey, Powys. The existing scheduled area is shaded, the recommended areas outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Strata Marcella Abbey, Powys

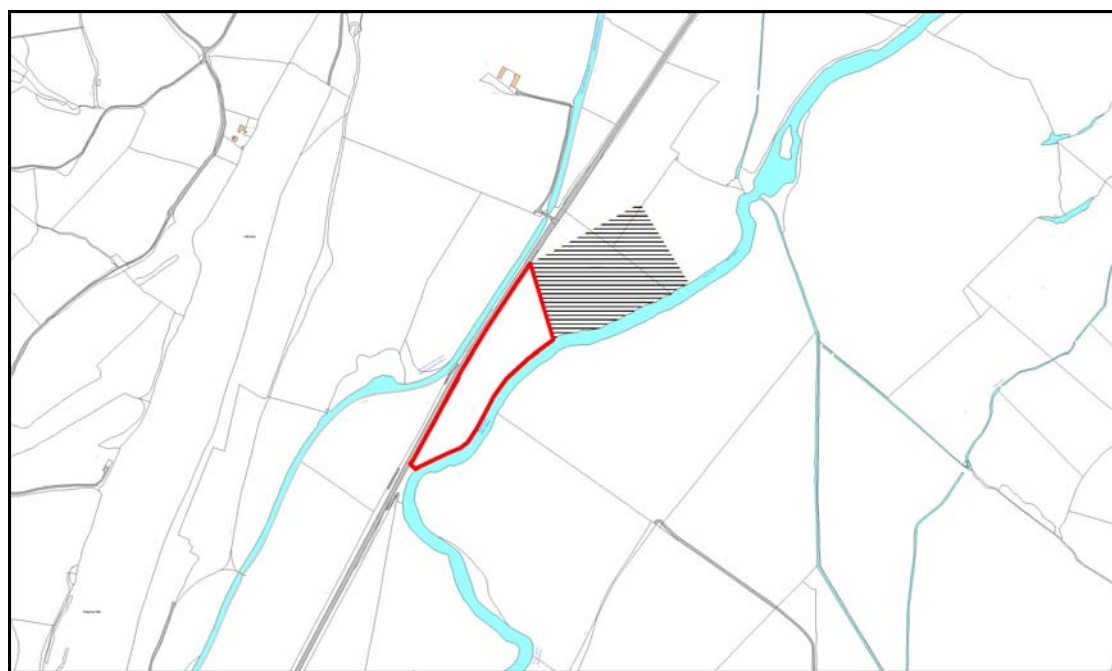
Scheduling Recommendations. The existing scheduled area (Mg120) covers approximately 3.8ha. It forms a quadrilateral block centred and aligned on the abbey church and extends as far as the river bank. It takes in portions of three fields, the two more northerly ones being more plough-damaged than that to the south which accommodates the abbey church.

The more southerly field also has contains a significant and well-preserved length of the abbey leat or watercourse, and an unscheduled portion of what is considered to be a precinct boundary. It is therefore suggested that the scheduling at Strata Marcella be extended to cover the rest of this pasture field.

The scheduling criteria laid out below are the standard ones for well-preserved monastic sites. To these can be added *Survival*. Not only do the earthworks define the features mentioned above, but exposures in the river bank demonstrate a degree of silting that should ensure that there is good below-ground level preservation of monastic features.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X	X	X	X	X



Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Strata Marcella Abbey, Powys. The existing scheduled area is shaded, the recommended area outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

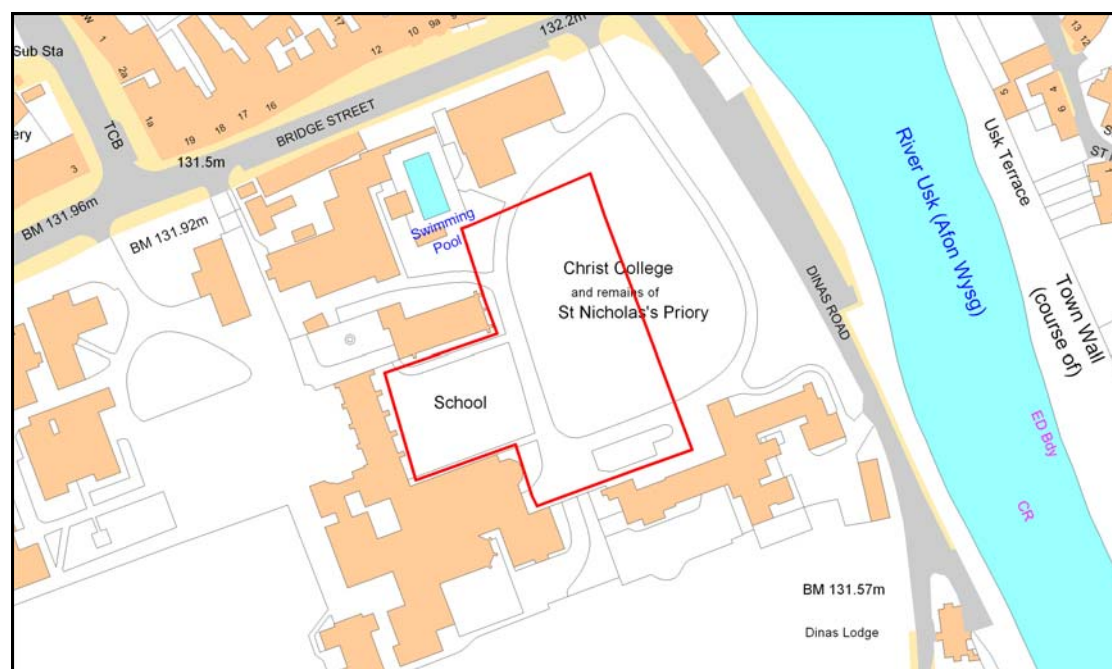
Brecon Friary, Powys (Breconshire)

Scheduling Recommendations. Brecon Friary, otherwise known as Christ's College, has avoided any scheduling designation, even though its standing buildings are listed as Grade I and II*. This is perhaps unfortunate. Friaries are few in Wales and almost all of them lie in towns and are built over to a greater or lesser degree. Open space is a feature of Christ's College, and not only is the cloister garth still in evidence, but the claustral range to the east is in open space. It is recommended that this area be protected.

It is perhaps significant that the college wall which is certainly on the line of friary precinct wall and might embody sections of its medieval predecessor, is not listed, though whether this is due to a conscious decision on the part of past listers, or because it was overlooked, is unclear. No recommendation can be made about the wall, until a detailed structural assessment has been made of the present

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/ Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X		X	X	X



Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Christ's College, Brecon. The recommended area outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

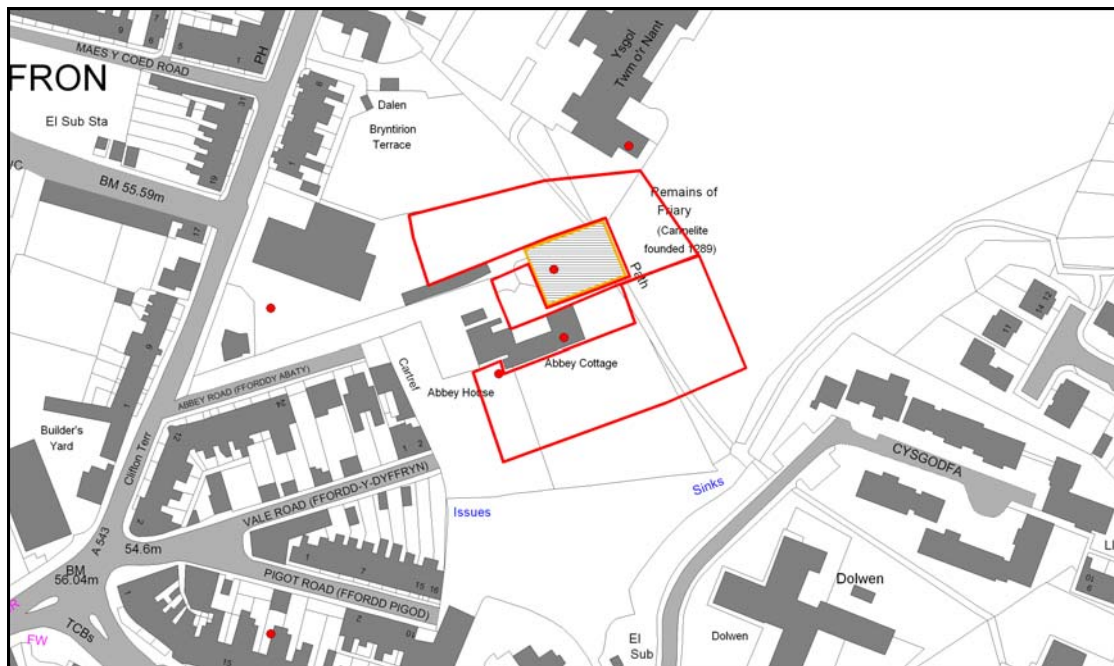
Denbigh Friary, Denbighshire

Scheduling Recommendations. It is quite remarkable that the only area of this friary to be scheduled is the eastern end of the church with a small zone around it. The only plan which shows the likely course of the precinct wall is John Speed's, both small and schematic. Nevertheless, it appears to show a plausible layout which would probably have extended south of Abbey Cottage. A friary burial ground might be expected out to the north and perhaps the east. Why is none of the school playing field scheduled?

An enlarged scheduled area is suggested to take in the site of the claustral buildings and likely graveyard. The majority of scheduling criteria are relevant here.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X	X	X		X	X	



Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Denbigh Friary, Denbigh. The guardianship area is shaded while the area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Church and Chapel Sites

Glasbury Old Church, Breconshire

SO 17633891

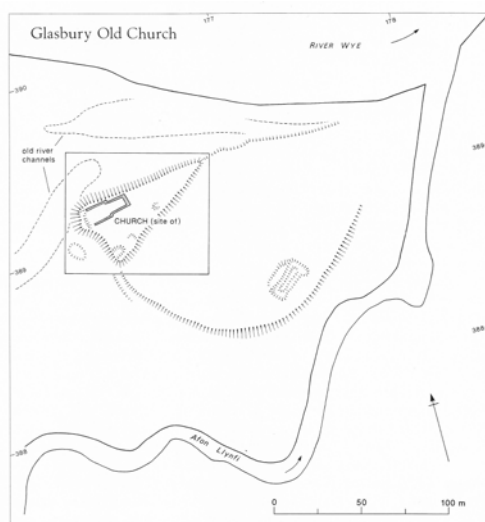
SAM Br350

The earthworks of the old church at Glasbury were recommended for scheduling in March 2004 (CPAT Report 624). This was followed up and the triangular mound on which the church was placed together with a buffer zone were subsequently scheduled as Br350.

Unfortunately, the associated earthworks of the curvilinear churchyard were overlooked at that time and were not included in the scheduling envelope. We would suggest that this is rectified by enlarging the scheduled area. The churchyard earthwork is an integral part of the site, and as one of the early clas structures which continued in use as a parish church into the post-medieval centuries this is one of the most important sites of its kind in Powys, made all the more rare by the fact that it is now abandoned.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/ Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X	X	X	X			X



a) above. Recommended enhancement to scheduled area at Glasbury old church, Breconshire. The existing scheduled area is shaded while the area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. ©Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

b) left. Published plan of the Glasbury earthworks. After Silvester and Hankinson 2003.

Llanilltyd churchyard, Breconshire

SN97122611

The churchyard at Llanilltyd has always been recognised as a complex earthwork of more than one phase. There is a smaller curvilinear enclosure set into one side of a larger one. The current appearance of these earthworks suggest that the smaller earthwork is earlier and that the larger earthwork diverges from its line to join it. The implication is that the site probably originated as a prehistoric enclosure, and was subsequently adopted as a churchyard.

The earthworks thus have considerable interest and importance, and the writer is at a loss to understand why this site has been consistently overlooked for statutory protection. Of the eight scheduling criteria, it meets six if not seven.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X	X	X	X	X



Recommended scheduling area at Llanilltyd churchyard near Brecon. The area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Cae Henllan Church, Llanelwedd, Powys

S004275219

Cae Henllan has been claimed as the site of the first church of Llanelwedd (on the opposite side of the River Wye to Builth Wells), lying about half a mile north of the present church. Rees on his historic map of 1932 implied that the chapel was still in existence in the 14th century when the church at Llanelwedd would itself have been in use. The interior was partly excavated in 1910 when flooring and wall foundations were found.

The site occupies a slightly domed knoll (on the east side of the Royal Welsh Showground), though much of it is fairly flat and might even be artificially levelled, albeit with some surface irregularities. The highest point is in the south-east quadrant, perhaps the place for the church? But there is now no visible surface trace of the building. Around the west side of the knoll extending to the south-west is a low scarp bank, with perhaps a hint of an external gully. This appears to be curvilinear. Geophysical survey by ArchaeoPhysica reveals good sub-surface survival of church, churchyard and burials.

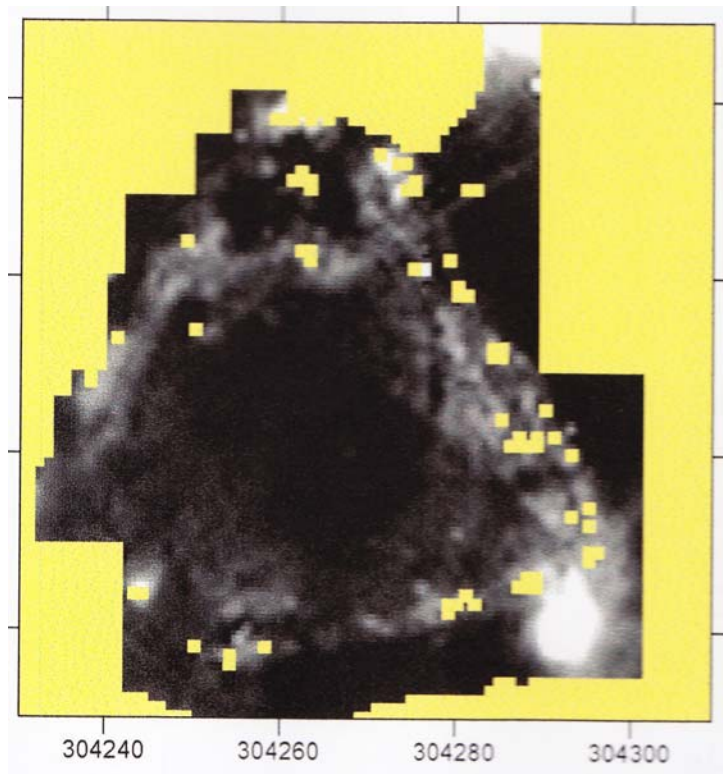
Henllan is a rarity in the region - a lost church with good sub-surface preservation, its associated features in place and, at present, a positive attitude on the part of the land owner to avoid any significant intrusion from development.

Scheduling Criteria

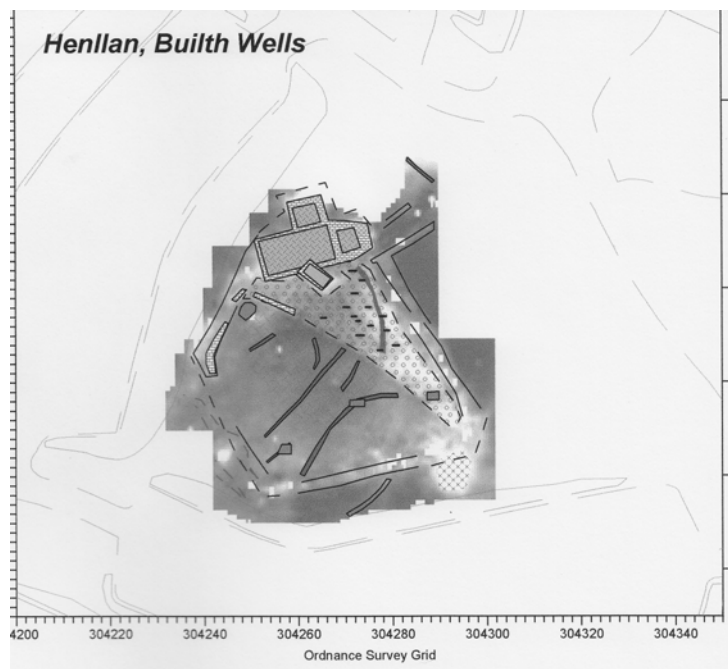
<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/ Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X	X	X		X



Recommended scheduling area at Henllan, Llanelwedd, Powys. The area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.



Geophysical survey of Henllan, Llanellwedd by ArchaeoPhysica, 2004.



Interpretation of geophysical survey of Henllan by ArchaeoPhysica, 2004

Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd Old Church, Denbighshire

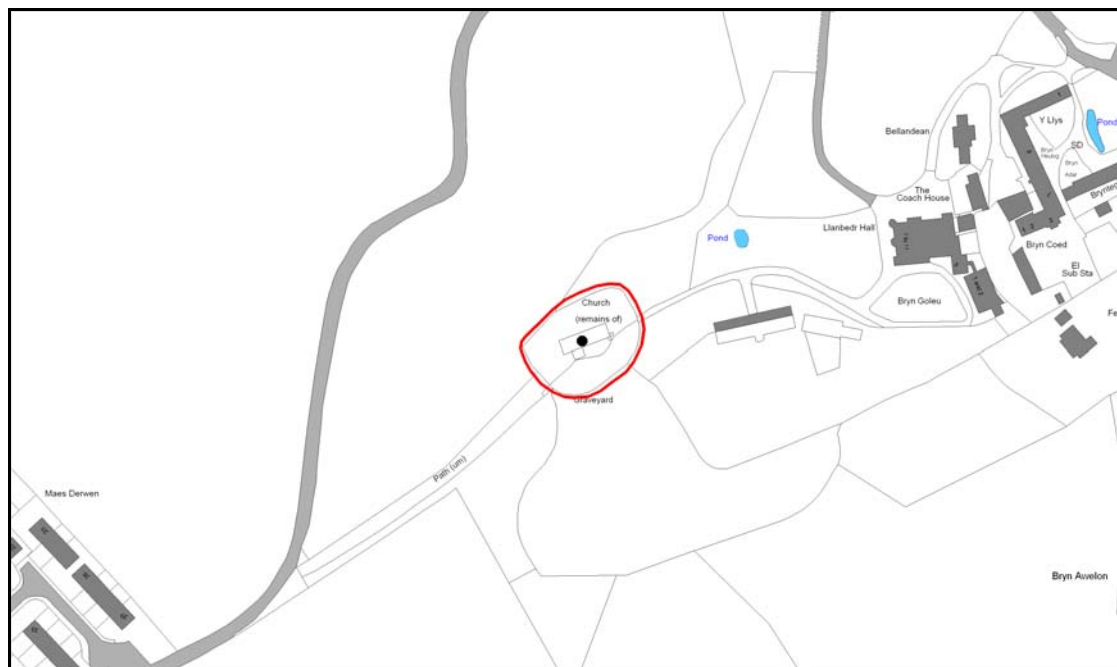
SJ14535981

The shell of St Peter's Church, otherwise Llanbedr old church, remains in a wooded area adjacent to Llanbedr Hall. Around it is a small, irregularly oval churchyard, much overgrown. It is raised above the surrounding ground level on the north by at least 1.5m with similar rises on the west and south. A significant number of marked graves are still visible, including chest tomb, ledgers are upright gravestone. There is a late 18th-century railed tomb on the west and two more of indeterminate age at the east end. The church (of course) is redundant and the graveyard closed.

Llanbedr is that rarity in eastern Wales, an abandoned church and churchyard which retains its integrity because it has not been subsequently disturbed or altered after its original function has ceased. As an ecclesiastical foundation, it is almost certainly of early medieval origin and continued in permanent use up until the 19th century.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X	X	X	X	X		X



Recommended scheduling area at Llanbedr, Denbighshire. The area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Llangynog Church, Breconshire

S002454599

Virtually no visible superstructure from Llangynog church exists, apart from some rubble, but the foundations certainly remain in place. The boundary of the churchyard survives as a grassy earthen bank, fronted in places by a stone revetment and there are also earthwork traces which together indicate the presence of an early curvilinear churchyard here.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
X	X		X	X	X		X



Recommended scheduling area at Llangynog, Breconshire. The area recommended for scheduling is outlined in red. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

Holy Well Sites

Based on the criteria identified by Cadw (above), those wells assessed during the current programme have been quantified below. Only one well is considered to have met the criteria to a degree which qualifies for a scheduling recommendation.

Name	Historic county	PRN	NGR	Form	Sorting score x/2	Scheduling criteria. X/4
Black Well	Rads	3559	SN96896810	Document	0	0
Brecon Priory, Priory Well	Brecs	6888	SO0452429060	Structure	1	3
Cefnlllys spring	Rads	81700	SO08646155	Earthwork	0	1
Crin Fynydd Penny Well	Rads	67041	SO1769159891	Earthwork		
Ffynnon Armon	Denbs	81733	SJ15733290	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Asa	Flints	81712	SJ0751778925	Structure	1	3
Ffynnon Cerog	Denbs	101207	SJ26194208	Document	0	0
Ffynnon Cynfran	Denbs	100465	SH89317759	Structure	2	1
Ffynnon Dadur Well	Monts	1725	SH82970182	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Dila Well	Monts	1226	SJ0816	Document	1	0
Ffynnon Drillo Well	Denbs	100539	SH91536497	Structure	1	0
Ffynnon Elian	Denbs	100460	SH86087691	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Erfyl Well	Monts	4289	SJ03350980	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Fael y Sulien	Flints	102078	SJ06657745	Landform	1	2
Ffynnon Fair	Denbs	81740	SJ08066311	Structure	1	0
Ffynnon Fair	Flints	102543	SJ152719	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Fair Spring	Denbs	102646	SJ27084567	Landform		
Ffynnon Fair Well	Monts	1826	SO28969544	Landform	1	0
Ffynnon Fair Well	Rads	5739	SO17067780	Structure	1	0
Ffynnon Gadferth Well	Brecs	3413	SN935473	Document	1	1
Ffynnon Garmon Well	Monts	1485	SJ19252013	Structure	2	?
Ffynnon Gwern Beuno	Mers	100794	SJ075464	Structure	0	0
Ffynnon Gyngar	Flints	81723	SJ31625821	Structure	1	0
Ffynnon Idloes Well	Monts	1539	SN95668468	Document	1	0
Ffynnon Madoc Wells	Monts	107	SJ12120454	Landform	0	1
Ffynnon Mihangel	Flints	102445	SJ12287292	Landform	1	2
Ffynnon Modrib Well	Monts	3804	SJ1818	Document	0	0
Ffynnon Newydd Well	Rads	3458	SO07257656	Document	1	0
Ffynnon Oswald	Flints	81722	SJ16867762	Structure	1	2
Ffynnon Santffraid	Mers	100973	SJ1043	Document	1	1
Ffynnon Tisilio	Denbs	24672	SJ12754640	Building	0	0
Ffynnon Trillo	Mers	100832	SJ03263750	Landform	1	0
Ffynnon Tudur Well	Denbs	102776	SJ12484915	Landform	0	0
Ffynnon Tydecho	Monts	118305	SJ83966251	Not known	1	3
Ffynnon Tysilio	Denbs	100959	SJ13104685	Landform	1	1
Ffynnon Wenfil	Denbs	81734	SJ18875708	Structure	1	1
Ffynnon Wnnod	Denbs	100711	SH96914438	Structure		
Ffynnon Wtra Heilyn Well	Monts	1241	SJ09501014	Structure	0	?
Ffynnon Wryrd	Flints	98438	SJ12117528	Structure	0	?
Ffynnon y Campiau Well	Monts	1329	SJ03780753	Structure	0	0
Ffynnon y Wrach Well	Monts	4291	SJ056096	Structure	0	0
Gelli Farm Well	Monts	4670	SJ23701940	Structure	0	0
Graig y Don Well	Rads	6090	SO262737	Document	0	0
Holywell Meadow, Burton	Denbs	100367	SJ362595	Placename	0	1

Jacket's Well	Rads	1141	SO27787183	Structure	0	0
Lady Well	Monts	1801	SO10909147	Structure	0	0
Lady's Well	Monts	115	SJ17910079	Landform	1	0
Llanllugan Well	Monts	1335	SJ05780233	Structure	0	0
Llanllwchaiarn Well	Monts	1800	SO1091	Landform	0	0
Nicholas Well	Monts	1252	SJ26961617	Structure	1	0
Pistyll Cablyd well	Monts	118304	SJ01552668	Structure	0	0
Pistyll Canpwll	Monts	1787	SO12199611	Structure	0	0
Saints Well Meadow	Denbs	100143	SJ372454	Placename		
St Anne's Well	Herefs	81707	SO3218464622	Earthwork		
St Benion's Well	Monts	29	SJ26642055	Structure	1	1
St Beuno's Well	Flints	102410	SJ18417619	Landform	1	1
St Chad's Well	Flints	100213	SJ45324037	Landform	1	0
St Eigon's Well	Brecs	1063	SO21523998	Structure	1	1
St Garmon's Well	Denbs	100939	SJ18555343	Structure	1	0
St Nicholas's Well, Brecon	Brecs	5691	SO042284	Document	0	0
St Peter's Well	Denbs	101536	SJ36725788	Landform	1	1
St Tysilio's Spout	Monts	3808	SJ23810970	Landform	1	1
Tre Owen Well	Monts	4001	SO110910	Buried feature	0	0
Trinity Well I	Monts	130	SJ26660780	Landform	0	1

Ffynnon Tydecho, Cemmaes

SJ 83966251

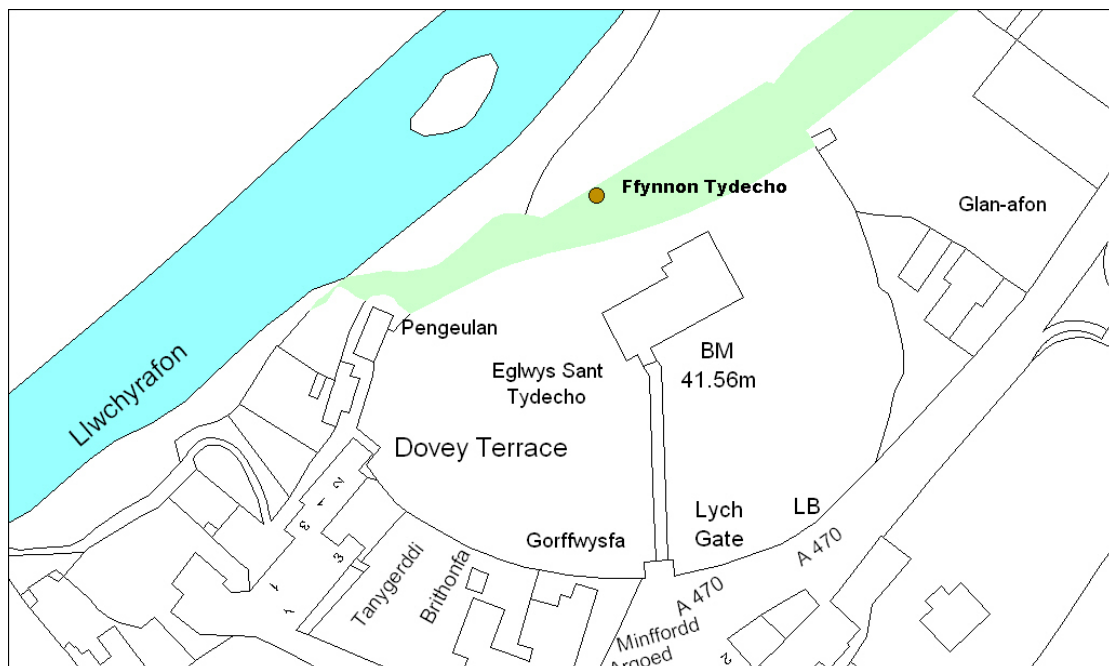
This well seems to have evaded both the Ordnance Survey and the compilers of the SMR/HER. Recorded by the Welsh Holy Wells group, it is a rectangular stone-built pool lying on the slope below the churchyard of St Tydecho's church at Cemmaes in western Montgomeryshire.

The stone-faced rectangular basin is about 1.6m high on the uphill side, 0.7m on the downhill side. A few stone steps are visible at the east-north-east corner leading down into the basin.

Ffynnon Tydecho passes the preliminary sorting phase in being named after the saint whose church lies on the river terrace above, and by having structural remains (though whether these are of pre-1750 date cannot be established). The scheduling criteria picked out as being particularly significant to holy wells are shown in bold below.

Scheduling Criteria

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rarity</i>	<i>Documentation</i>	<i>Group Value</i>	<i>Survival</i>	<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	<i>Diversity</i>	<i>Potential</i>
	X		X	X	X		X



Well site recommended for scheduling at Cemmaes (Ffynnon Tydecho), Montgomeryshire. The location is shown in brown. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.

