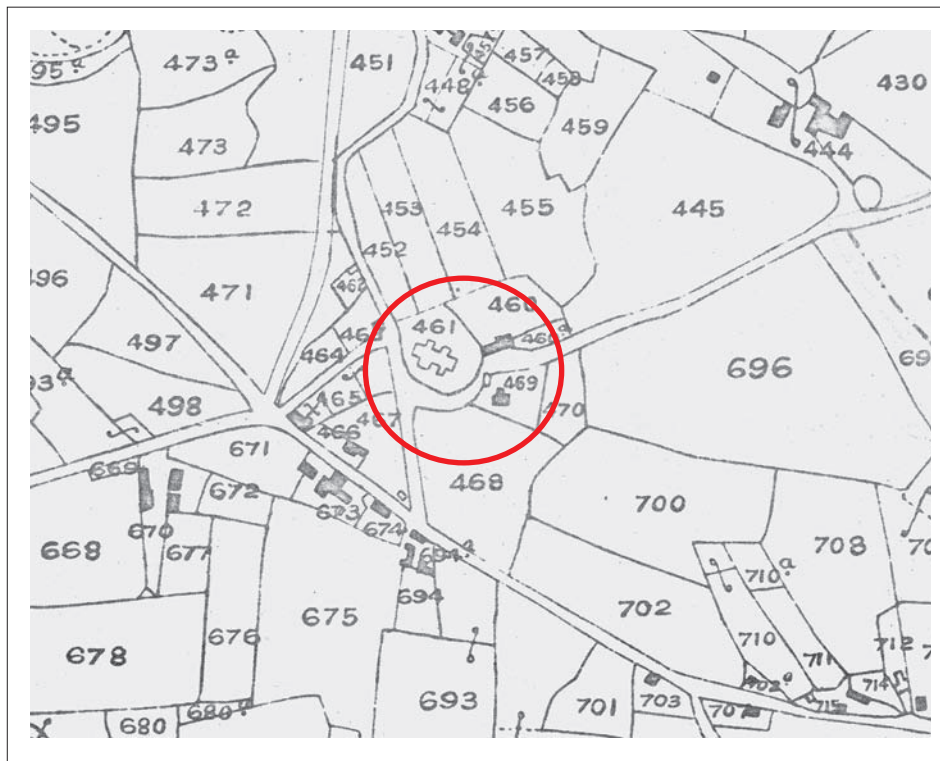




CAMBRIAN  
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PROJECTS

## Llansantffraidd Ym Mechain Church Car Park, Powys

Archaeological Evaluation & Desk Based Assessment



By  
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Report No. 629

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Archaeological Evaluation & Desk Based Assessment

Prepared For: Roger Wilyman

On Behalf of: Parochial Church Council of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain

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Report No: **629**

Date: **May 2010**

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## CONTENTS

1	Introduction .....	3
1.1	Location and scope of work .....	3
1.2	Geology and topography .....	3
1.3	Archaeological and historical background .....	3
2	Aims and Objectives .....	4
2.1	Desk Based Assessment .....	4
2.2	Field Evaluation .....	4
3	Desk Based Assessment Methodology.....	5
4	Field Evaluation Methodology.....	5
4.1	Scope of Fieldwork.....	5
4.2	Finds .....	6
4.3	Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	6
5	Desk Based Assessment Results.....	6
5.1	Church Data.....	6
5.2	Map Regression Analysis.....	11
5.3	Map Regression Summary.....	11
5.4	HER Data.....	11
5.5	Aerial Photographs.....	13
5.6	Portable Antiquities Scheme.....	13
6	Desk Based Assessment Conclusions.....	13
7	Evaluation Results .....	14
7.1	Soils and ground conditions .....	14
7.2	Distribution of deposits .....	14
7.3	Descriptions of trenches.....	14
8	Finds.....	16
9	Palaeo-environmental.....	16
10	Discussion and Interpretation .....	17
10.1	Reliability of field investigation .....	17
10.2	Evaluation interpretation .....	17
10.3	Significance .....	18
10.4	Recommendations.....	18
11	Acknowledgements .....	18
12	Bibliography and Sources.....	18

Appendix I	HER Data Gazetteer
Appendix II	Figures
Appendix III	Plates
Appendix IV	Archive Cover Sheet

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1	General location plan
Figure 2	Map showing assessment area and trench locations
Figure 3	1836 1st Series OS Map
Figure 4	1840s Tithe Map
Figure 5	1891 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6 Inch OS map
Figure 6	1903 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition 6 Inch OS map
Figure 7	1945 New Popular Edition OS map
Figure 8	Locations of know archaeological features
Figure 9	Trench Illustrations

## **List of Plates**

Plates 1-3	View of Trench 1
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## **Non Technical Summary**

*This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Mr Roger Wilyman, On behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain. The development proposal involved utilising an area of Glebe field as an additional parking area for the church.*

*The work involved a desk based assessment of the area of the proposed development followed by an archaeological field evaluation. The desk based assessment highlighted the development area as being located adjacent to the medieval church and churchyard, therefore raising the possibility of medieval activity in the area. The field evaluation confirmed the presence of a post-medieval ditch feature adjacent to the road. No medieval activity was observed.*

### **1 Introduction**

#### **1.1 Location and scope of work**

- 1.1.1 The site is located on land adjacent to the south side of St. Ffraid's church, just north of the A495 road through Llansantffraidd-ym-Mechain. The assessment area is centred on national grid coordinate SJ 22053 20374 (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment and field evaluation were deemed necessary as part of the planning conditions imposed on the site. A brief for the works was drawn up by Mark Walters of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust against, which a works specification was drawn up by Mark Houliston (CAP).

#### **1.2 Geology and topography**

- 1.2.1 The site of the proposed development lies approximately 455m to the north of the Afon Cain. The area of Llansantffraidd-ym-Mechain is located at the base of Foel Hill to the west and Pen-y-Bryn to the north. The church of St. Ffraid is located on the top of a small hill rising some 93m above ordnance datum.
- 1.2.2 The solid geological formations beneath the assessment area are mainly composed of Ashgill rock formations of the Ordovician era (British Geological Survey 2001).

#### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 Lewis (1833) states that: LLANSANTFRAID YN MECHAN (LLAN-SANTFRAID-YN-MECHAIN), a parish partly in the upper division of the hundred of DEYTHUR, and partly in the lower division of the hundred of POOL, county of MONTGOMERY, NORTH WALES, 6 miles (E. by N.) from Llanvyllin, containing 1365 inhabitants, of which number, 808 are in the main body of the parish, on the northern side of the river

Vyrnwy, and the remainder in the several townships of Collvryn, Llanerchila, Tredderwen-Vawr, and Trewylan, on the southern side of the same stream : the portions in the several hundreds maintain their poor by a separate assessment. The parish is beautifully situated in a very picturesque part of the Vale of Vyrnwy, and is divided into two parts by the river which gives name to that rich and fertile vale : it comprises a very extensive tract of rich arable and pasture land; and in some parts of it is found abundance of peat, which forms the principal fuel of the inhabitants. The surrounding scenery is beautifully varied, and from the higher grounds the extensive vales of Salop and the Severn, with the lofty hills by which they are bounded, are pleasingly conspicuous. The turnpike road from Shrewsbury, through Llanvyllin, to Bala passes through the village, in which fairs are annually held on the Tuesday before Easter, May 22nd, and October 3rd. The living consists of both a rectory and a vicarage, locally in the archdeaconry, and in the diocese of St. Asaph : the rectory, which is a sinecure, is rated in the king's books at £ 14. 6. 8., and the vicarage, which is discharged, at £ 5. 17. 6.: both are in the patronage of the Bishop of St. Asaph. The church, which appears to have been built at different periods, is a neat structure, principally in the early style of English architecture, and contains some good monuments : the interior was greatly improved in 1830, by the removal of the old benches and the substitution of regular pews. There are places of worship for Independents and Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodists. A parochial school is supported by subscription, and from sixty to eighty children are at present gratuitously instructed in it. There are remains of several ancient British camps in this parish. In the hamlet of Trewylan, in a meadow of which the situation is very low, and has the appearance of having once been a morass, is a post corresponding exactly with the description given by Caesar of the ancient British posts : it is seen very distinctly from the Meivod road, about a quarter of a mile from Pont y pentre. On the hill called the Voel, on the Llanvyllin road, are the remains of an old British camp, the site of which is in some degree concealed by the partial plantation of the hill ; but the fosse and dyke are clearly discernible from Pont y pentre and the Llangedwin road. There was also a post on the latter road, occupying the summit of Winllan hill, of which the intrenchments, though not so clearly defined, may still be traced. About two miles distant are the remains of an ancient encampment, called Clawdd Coch, which from its form is supposed to have been of Roman construction. The situation of this post near the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Vyrnwy, and commanding the entrance into the vales of the Severn and Tanat, and also into that of Llansantfraid, was highly advantageous for the defence of the mines of Llanymynech, which are supposed to have been worked by the Romans. Being so close to the river Vyrnwy, it has suffered some demolition, part of the intrenchment on that side having been washed away by the river. This post, which is but little known, has been thought by some antiquaries to be the *Mediolanum* of Antoninus ; but its relative distance from *Heriri Mons*, or Tommen y Mew, on one side, and from *Rutunium* and *Uriconium*, on the other, does not agree with that mentioned in the Itinerary. The average annual expenditure for the maintenance of the poor amounts to £ 636. 9., of which sum, £ 253. 6. is raised on that portion of the parish which is in the hundred of Deythur, and £383. 3. on that which is in the hundred of Pool.

## 2 Aims and Objectives

### 2.1 Desk Based Assessment

2.1.1 The main scope and objectives of the desk based study were to reveal the nature, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development. The purpose of the desk-based assessment, in accordance with standards and guidance as laid down by the *Institute for Archaeologists*, is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the given area (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource;
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised;
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a program of research.

### 2.2 Field Evaluation

The main purpose of the Field Evaluation was:

- 2.2.1 To establish the presence/absence of intact archaeological remains within the assessment area;
- 2.2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.2.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features
- 2.2.4 To appraise the likely impact of any development on any surviving archaeological deposits and if appropriate to make suggestions for a mitigation strategy or, where areas contain archaeology of national importance, for preservation *in situ*.

## 3 Desk Based Assessment Methodology

3.1.1 For the purposes of the archaeological desk based study the following repositories were visited/consulted;

- Regional Historic Environment Record, Welshpool

- Portable Antiquities Scheme (Powys)
- National Library, Aberystwyth
- RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
- Archaeology Data Service
- Cadw

3.1.2 At these repositories the following sources were consulted:

- All Ordnance Survey Maps
- Tithe Enclosure Award and Parish Maps
- Estate Maps
- Historical documents pertaining to the site
- Archaeological books and journals
- Unpublished reports
- Aerial photographs
- SAM data

3.1.3 At the Welshpool Historic Environment Record a search of all sites recorded in the HER as being located either within or up to 1km from the edge of the proposed development area was undertaken. This was then supplemented with a similar search of data held by the Archaeology Data Service.

3.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk based assessment*.

## 4 Evaluation Methodology

### 4.1 Scope of Fieldwork

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of a single machine excavated trench (Fig 2).

The trench measured 10m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below the current ground surface.

4.1.2 Project Manager Chris E Smith and Project Assistant Michael Blake undertook the evaluation. The trench was cleaned by hand. Plans and sections were recorded and drawn at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All trenches were photographed using high resolution digital photography.

4.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

### 4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.



### 4.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 4.3.1 Deposits suited to environmental sampling were not located during the course of the evaluation.

## 5 Desk Based Assessment Results

### 5.1 Church Data

The following is taken from the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trusts Montgomeryshire Churches Survey.

#### *Summary*

The church of St Ffraid lies on the northern edge of the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain about 8 miles to the north of Welshpool. At its core supposedly lies a 12thC building, extended in the 14thC. A south porch and western bell-turret were added in the 17thC and a north transept in the 18thC. It is a complex building revealing various stages of reconstruction, and is interesting for the series of dated windows in the south wall. Inside is a medieval font and piscina, 17thC and 18thC wooden furnishings, and a few pre-19thC monuments. It stands in a sub-rectangular churchyard that has been extended in the last hundred years and this retains an early 19thC sundial and several interesting grave markers.

The conventional view is that, on the basis of a single window in the north wall, a single-chamber church originating in the Norman period was extended eastwards probably in the early 14thC. Against this is the evidence of a quoin line which seems to indicate that the eastern part of the nave and the chancel are the earlier and that the western half of the nave is added on.

The sequence is however unclear. The survival of Norman masonry is unproven, though the blocky sandstone of the chancel could be that early, and the tidiness of the zoned masonry in the south wall of the chancel could indicate this is the earliest of all. The small Norman window in the north wall does not appear to be in its original position, and may even be reconstructed. The blocked priest's doorway could be an original south doorway which would then give an alternative date of the 13thC or 14thC for the east end.

The present south doorway, in its present form almost round-headed, is not convincingly Norman, but nor is it of the 14thC or 15thC. Its eccentricity and slightly skewed reveal suggests it might be reset.

The west window of the nave is of early 14thC origin, but until the late 19thC it was in the east wall.

Later modifications are more tangible: in the 17thC and 18thC new windows were inserted into the south wall, the bell turret was erected, probably around 1618, and during this century the long porch was constructed. A gallery may have been added after the Restoration, hence the dormer window dated to 1669. A north transept was added in 1727 when the rood loft together with its supporting pillars was taken down to provide timber for the transept. Earlier, on the evidence of a quoinstone, some work was done at the west end in 1704. The west wall was re-faced, probably at the time of restoration in 1891-3, and at the same time the east window was moved to the west wall. Other work at this time included the restoration of the spire.

One possible sequence for the medieval period is: i) earliest part of the structure is the east end of the building with zoned masonry. ii) church extended westwards with new quoins at the south-west angle, the original west wall taken down and its stone re-used in haphazard fashion in the south wall, a new south doorway put in place, and perhaps a new east window. Therefore early 14thC iii) church extended westwards, another south door added, but probably re-used and re-set eccentrically. Conceivably this could be a 17thC addition to the building. iv) the small north window re-set, possibly as late as the 18thC when the building of the north transept will have led to demolition of parts of the north chancel wall.

### ***History***

The church's dedication to St Ffraid (otherwise known as St Bride or St Bridget), together with its location on the edge of the Cain valley, point to an early medieval foundation, though there is no surviving trace of any early structure. A small Norman window indicates the age of the first building survivals.

The church is first recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Cap'lla de Llansanfret' at a value of  $\text{œ}2$ , and appears again in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 as 'Ecc'lia de Lansanfret' at  $\text{œ}12$ .

Much damage to the building occurred at the beginning of the 15thC during the Glyndwr rebellion.

Some alterations took place in the 17thC. The south porch was added and the priest's door blocked up. The south wall windows were inserted at this time, possibly around 1618: the bells date from this period and a 1618 beam was found in the bell turret during 19thC alterations.

In 1727, a north transept was added in Georgian style, the vestry minutes recording the removal of the north wall. The roodloft and screen seem to have been moved at this time.

A new gallery was erected in 1830 and some restoration took place in 1866.

Glynne visited Llansantffraid in 1858. He noted the basic details and the fact that the church had been partly modernised, including 'several bad windows'. The half piscina in the chancel was recorded as were some of the dated 17thC windows, and also pews of 1624 and 1630.

Considerable repairs and restoration work were carried out in 1893, to the design of John Oldrid Scott of London. The former east window was moved to the west wall of the nave which was rebuilt (or at least refaced) at this time, galleries were removed from the nave and north transept, the chancel was re-roofed and refurnished, new seats replaced the pews, and the floors were relaid in woodblocks. The framework of the bell turret was repaired and the spire was covered in oak shingles; the porch was also repaired.

There have been recent restoration works.

### *Architecture*

The church comprises a single main chamber with a short north aisle and north transept, a vestry on the north side of the chancel, and a south porch. A bell-turret with broach spire rises above the west end of the nave. The church is aligned north-east to south-west but for the purpose of description 'ecclesiastical east' is adopted.

Fabrics: 'A' comprises small to medium blocks and thinnish slabs of grey shale with occasional pink and mustard yellow sandstone; random coursing except for sandstone. Red sandstone quoins. 'B' consists of small slabs and lumps of black and grey shale; uncoursed. 'C' is a mix of small blocks, used for infilling around windows. 'D' is irregularly cut red sandstone with blocks of grey shale, though the former is the more distinctive; yellow sandstone dressings. 'E' is of medium-sized blocks of distinctive brown sandstone, sometimes quite well shaped. 'F' is of small blocks of limestone. 'G' is of medium to large blocks of shaped grey (?) sandstone with some slabs of limestone and some re-used material including red sandstone with some limewash residue, and even two lumps of brick. 'H' is of regular blocks of stone, perhaps limestone, but larger than 'F'.

'A' is undated, but perhaps later medieval, 'B' and 'E' are early; possibly even Norman. 'C' seems to be 17thC and 18thC. 'D' and 'G' are 19thC, more specifically 1891-3. 'F' and 'H' are undated, although a date in the 17thC/18thC is possible.

Note: the 1727 north transept is completely rendered over.

Roofs: slates with red ceramic ridge tiles; these are more highly decorated above the chancel. A wrought iron cross finial is located on the ridge a little to the west of the nave/chancel juncture. There is a stone cross finial at the east end of the chancel.

Drainage: highly decorated cast-iron cisterns, guttering and downspouts lead to soakaways. Along the south side of the church the ground has been cleared and dug-out

around the walls, revealing the foundations, so almost certainly a trench on the south and also on the east, perhaps too on the north side of the north chapel/transept.

### *Exterior*

Bell turret. General. Western bell turret protrudes from the nave roof. It is believed to have been constructed during the early 17thC, on the basis of the bells' dates. A square shingled turret rises to an octagonal broach spire with a weathervane.

North face: turret has three louvred apertures with trefoiled heads set in rectangular wooden frame.

East and west faces: plain except for wooden frieze with trefoils at top of the turret stage.

South face: clock face.

Nave. General. Although there is no differentiation between the nave and chancel externally, except for the change in the ridge tiles on the roof, the end of the nave can be gauged from the eastern edge of the pulpit that lights the window. A second change, this time in the height of the roof is visible in line with the quoinstones immured in the south wall.

North wall: in 'A', but considerably patched with worn sandstone, particularly at higher levels, and this might indicate that there has been some rebuilding of the higher levels, for the lower parts of the walls are largely of shale alone (as seen in that part of the wall now hidden in the boiler house). A 19thC diagonal buttress to the north-west wall corner predates the restoration, appearing on an earlier engraving. Next a wooden lintel immured in the wall but there is no evidence of a blocked embrasure. No sign of the blocked window which is depicted on Salter's plan. Then a single round-headed window supposedly of the 12thC - this is in red sandstone, but the jambs are in slightly different stone from the head and, showing little wear for such an old feature, are probably not original. Underneath the window is the modern boiler house.

South wall: a patchwork of different stone, not all of it intelligible. Features from the west are: i) masonry in 'A' with a foundation course (to c.0.1m), projecting slightly at the base which is largely buried further to the east; higher up there is more sandstone in the masonry, some certainly shaped and some lumps might be re-used dressings. Thus the upper part of the wall rebuilt (perhaps in the 17thC?). Church noticeboard. ii) porch. iii) east of the porch the mixed masonry continues with 'A' at the base and more heterogeneous stonework above; an irregular zone of red sandstone, more obvious than on the west side of the porch can be seen as a band below a dormer window. This window has four rectangular leaded lights in an oak frame sited above and to the east of the porch; 'E T O 1669' is carved on it. iv) a square-headed window with three foiled, round-headed lights with raised mouldings; small blank shields in the central spandrels;

the lights are recessed and have a dated inscription immediately above: 'John Edwards Anno Domini 1619'; a second, Latin inscription runs around the head of the window immediately below the label. It cannot be shown that this window is inserted, so the wall may be of this date. v) original red sandstone quoins of the early church visible as a continuous line in the upper part of wall, and intermittently to ground level. East of this divide are three or perhaps four fabrics; at the base of the wall is 'B', much more obvious and distinctively zoned in the chancel. But in the eastern part of the nave 'B' is still visible, though there is some 'E' mixed with it. 'E' forms a second band above the shale and up to window sill level; again it is much more distinctively zoned in the chancel. Above this is 'A'. vi) window with rectangular stone frame containing two segmental-headed lights with smaller lights above; inscribed 'John Davies 1703 Thomas Morris' on the sill; this appears to have been inserted into the 'A'. vii) a two-centred arch of a blocked doorway; sandstone dressings, chamfered with broach stops which are just visible about 0.2m below ground level. The blocking is interesting for it mimics the zoning of the wall on either side though there is a subtle difference in the appearance of the masonry that was used. viii) a single light with a cusped head, set in square-headed frame. ix) a two-light window comparable with vi) and presumably of 1703, though with a renewed sill.

West wall: in fabric 'G', with large quoins in light-grey sandstone. Contains a re-inserted three-light window with intersecting tracery, in a two-centred arch with a slim hoodmould and corbel-like stops, but the grey freestone is unweathered and has sharp arrises, and is almost certainly totally renewed; stone voussoirs form a decorative relieving arch; transferred from the east end of the church in 1893. Above it is a rose window in red sandstone and of 19thC date. The width of this wall suggests that the original wall was clad externally in the 19thC. However, it should be noted that the topmost quoin at the north-west angle bears the initials J P and C W with the date 1704.

North chapel. General. On the north side of the nave. 19thC addition on west side of 18thC transept. In fabric 'D', North wall contains windows with two and three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery in red sandstone with hoodmoulds and voussoir arches. West wall has a two-light window, as does the north wall.

North transept. General. Georgian-style addition of 1727, heavily rendered with signs of modern replastering; exposed yellow sandstone quoins to east and west angles.

North wall: semi-circular headed arch with projecting keystone, capitals, and sill, the last supported on corbels. Below this is a square-headed doorway, the lintel having a central projection like the keystone above; a heavy studded door in a timber frame.

### ***East and west walls***

Vestry. General. 19thC addition to the north-east corner of church in fabric 'D'. Set back fractionally from the line of the chancel east wall. Long trefoiled light in the north wall and two lights in the east wall.

Chancel. General. East and south walls only. The only division between nave and chancel is provided by a downpipe and subtle changes in the masonry.

East wall: a remarkable mix of fabrics. 'B' is just visible towards the base, then rising up to window sill level is 'E' incorporating a couple of large blocks of red sandstone. Next a band of 'F' and then some 'A'-type material. Then another band of limestone ('H'). Finally, blocks of grey and grey-black shale with iron staining form the apex of the gable and also a band dropping down beneath both roof edges; this is almost certainly Victorian and may indicate some rebuilding. The east window is also Victorian, of three foiled lights with intersecting tracery in and above the lights, all in red sandstone; hoodmould with corbel-like stops, and a voussoir relieving arch. Put in place in 1893. Victorian sandstone quoins at angles.

South wall: 'B' forms a distinctive foundation about 0.4m high, much of which would have been buried before the drainage trench was dug. Above this is a clear zone of 'E' up to a height of around 2m. The sanctuary is lit by a single light with a foiled, ogee head, 19thC. East of this is a patch of limestone blocks, 'F', with patching in an 'A'-type material above it, suggestive of rebuilding. To the west of the sanctuary window is a square-headed window of four lights which are identical to the window of 1619 in the south wall of the nave.

Porch. General. 17thC oak-framed porch which has seen extensive restoration. The open timberwork superstructure with fretwork balusters is supported on shale dwarf walls with red sandstone dressings, and these must be 19thC. On the south is an arch-braced, two-centred arched entrance way with cusped barge boards above

### ***Interior***

Porch. General. Stone slabbed floor of early gravestones, one of 1816, but most too worn to be legible. Roof of three arch-braced tie-beam trusses, including that at the front of the porch (above); fluted mouldings on the two inner ones and raking struts above the peaked tie-beam of the middle truss; through purlins. Some original timbers remain, amongst them the inner two arch-braced trusses.

North wall: a doorway that is almost round-headed, not pointed, but is not symmetrical; the chamfer has sharp arrises but no stops, the sides narrow towards the floor. It does not give the impression of being an authentic early doorway. Haslam puts a 15thC date on the wooden door itself.

Nave. General. Floor of black and red Victorian tiles, partly carpetted; woodblock floors beneath benches, some heating grilles. Walls plastered and painted, and plain pew panels form a dado around the west end; higher panelling beside the seats. Roof in three sections. At the west end below the bell turret the ceiling is lowered and has tongue and groove panelling, supported by a single tie beam with short arch braces from stone corbels, formerly for the gallery. Over the western half of the nave and corresponding with the slightly lower roof line externally, there is a panelled ceiling of three large square bays, with exposed ribs, decorated bosses, and wallplates. Finally, the eastern part of the nave which is slightly higher is ceiled with fifteen panels of irregular size, decorated bosses and moulded cornices. The change from one level to another is marked by a braced collar truss bearing a painted inscription. Despite the difference in level, the nave ceiling is all of one design and presumably of one date, which could be 18thC on the basis of similarities with the north transept ceiling.

North wall: a red sandstone arcade of three bays, on the line of the pre-18thC north wall, separates the nave from the north chapel and transept. Two-centred arches of two orders resting on moulded capitals and octagonal pillars. Four benefaction boards are sited beneath the bell turret. One 19thC marble memorial and a brass of 1770.

East wall: one step up to the chancel, the Victorian screen and a change in the appearance of the ceiling separate the nave from the chancel.

South wall: the wall is slightly battered and the alignment of the western end is faintly differently from the more easterly part. At the west end the dormer window would have lit the gallery which was removed in 1893. The embrasure for the south door is almost round-headed with large blocks of stone for the soffit, but the whole is eccentric to the doorway itself. The blocked priest's door has a slightly splayed reveal with a segmental head, and the quoins are painted over. Some memorials: three stone tablets of 1784, 1798 and 1812, a brass of 1800; several marble tablets of the 19thC, and two benefaction boards of 1876 and 1879.

### ***West wall***

North chapel. General. Tiled floor, with woodblocks under seats; walls plastered above the dado of pew panels. Ceiling of wooden panels with moulded ribs and decorated bosses. South wall consists of two bays of the arcade. West wall contains a large heating grille.

North Transept. General. Tiled floor; walls plastered above dado in places. Benches continue from the nave. A panelled wooden screen divides the aisle leading to the north entrance from an area to the east now used for storage. Ceiling is plastered with fifteen panels of chamfered ribs and bosses. North wall has Georgian entrance. West wall has two arches to the north chapel dating from the 1893 restoration. Memorial tablets of 1712

and 1801 on west wall. On the east wall, a stone tablet of 1796, a wooden panel of 1729 and three later marble memorials.

Vestry. General. Of 19thC date. Contains the organ, and there is a fireplace in the north-east corner. Woodblock floor; plastered walls; vaulted ceiling with exposed ribs and wallplates. Wooden memorial of 1756 on west wall.

North wall: stone sill of window has partial inscription 'Obiit 1847'; the remainder of the sill is plastered.

West wall: wooden memorial board of 1756/1768.

Chancel. General. One step up from nave, one to sanctuary, and one to altar. Floors of black and white marble date from 1893. Walls plastered above plain panelled wainscoting. Vaulted ceiling of twenty decorated panels, subdivided; crenellated wallplates with blind trefoiled panels to the cornice. 19thC if not later.

North wall: two-bay arcade to vestry and north transept. Two brasses, one of 1696, the other of 1803; four marble tablets, one of 1760, one illegible, the others 19thC.

South wall: half of a foiled piscina arch, probably 14thC, in the sanctuary. Four 19thC marble memorials (though one is blank and another illegible) and a fifth of 1798.

West wall: screen to nave dating from 1893 restoration.

### ***Churchyard***

The sub-rectangular churchyard, was extended to the north in 1903 and again in the 1970s. It is well-maintained and there are modern cremations just to the east of the chancel.

Boundary: a stone revetment wall follows the original boundary on the south and west sides; a modern wooden fence on the north-west with modern housing beyond; and an iron railed boundary to the vicarage on the north-east.

Monuments: memorials throughout the churchyard though work in the 1970s included the removal of some and also the railings enclosing older graves. Gravemarkers have also been removed from the immediate south side of the church within the last century. The earliest slab noted is of 1679. Two carved stones, perhaps late 17thC or 18thC grave markers, are now free-standing against the north wall of the church; one shows a skull and cross bones surmounted by a Latin memorial inscription, the second has a rectangle enclosing an hour glass with a spade underneath.

Furniture: sundial of 1810 with brass gnomon, on a baluster pillar with a square plinth on a circular base; opposite the south porch among 18thC memorials.



Earthworks: raised churchyard. There is a scarp bank, 1m or more high to the north-west of the church marking the original extent of the churchyard before the extensions. There is another scarp along the south-east, perhaps also an earlier boundary, and a considerable drop to the south-west.

Ancillary features: the original entrance appears to be the single gate at the south corner, where the oldest yew tree is sited. A pair of modern iron gates now forms the main west entrance, set between two Irish yews. Tarmac paths lead to the south porch and the later north entrance. A stone-built grave-diggers' hut, now covered in ivy, is sited alongside the north path to the graveyard extension.

Vegetation: mature yew trees are located around the original churchyard perimeter, particularly on the south and south-west sides. Broad-leaved species around the south-east perimeter.

## 5.2 Map Regression Analysis

- 5.2.1 The 1836 First Series OS map (Fig 3) shows the assessment area though not in great detail. The church and churchyard are clearly marked, though no features are shown within the assessment area.
- 5.2.2 The 1840s Tithe Map (Fig 4) shows the assessment area in much clearer detail than the earlier 1836 map. The church and churchyard are shown, as is the area of proposed development. The rectory to the east of the church is shown in reasonably clear detail. The road appears to widen at the rectory. Within the assessment area, the field located to the south of the rectory, a single structure is marked. A further feature is also shown on the boundary between the road and the assessment area though detail is vague as to what this actually represents.
- 5.2.3 The 1891 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:10560 OS map (Fig 5) again shows the area in reasonably clear detail. Both the church and churchyard are shown, as is the rectory. The structure which was marked as being within the area of proposed development is no longer shown as being present. A building marked as being a school is now shown to the south of the church, just outside the churchyard boundary. The field of the proposed development is also named on this map as 'Corpse Field'.
- 5.2.4 The 1903 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1:10560 OS map (Fig 6) again shows the area in very clear detail. The church and churchyard are again clearly marked, as are the rectory and the school building. The feature marked south of the rectory on the Tithe map is also not shown on this map.
- 5.2.5 The 1945 New Popular Edition OS map (Fig 7) shows the assessment area though only in similar detail to that seen on the 1836 OS map. The church is clearly marked though no further details are shown.

### 5.3 Map Regression Summary

- 5.3.1 The map regression analysis has raised the possibility that, within the area of proposed development, a structure stood between at least 1840 and 1891. The structure is marked on the 1840 Tithe map though appears to have been removed by the time the 1891 map was drawn up. No further features or significant changes are noted.

### 5.4 HER Data

- 5.4.1 A search of the Regional HER in Welshpool revealed a total of 39 known entries within a 500m radius of the assessment area (Fig 8).

5.4.2 Palaeolithic. No finds or features from the Palaeolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.3 Mesolithic. No finds or features from the Mesolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.4 Neolithic. No finds or features from the Neolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.5 Bronze Age. A single feature of Bronze Age date is recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area

PRN20 – Bronze Age Palstave find

5.4.6 Iron Age. No finds or features from the Iron Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.7 Roman Period. No finds or features from the Roman period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.8 Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking. No finds or features from the Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.9 Medieval Period. Four features from the Post Roman period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN7718 – Former churchyard

PRN31154 – 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church

PRN72419 – Maes y Llan placename

PRN81746 – Ffynnon y Foel – Holy Well placename

5.4.10 Post medieval Period. Thirty features from the Post-medieval period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area. A full list of all sites located within a 500m radius of the assessment area is contained within appendix one.

5.4.11 Modern. No finds or features from the Modern period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.4.12 Multiperiod. Two features of Multiperiod date are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN15728 – Llansantffraidd Multiperiod settlement

PRN16890 – Llansantffraidd Multiperiod Church

5.4.12 Unknown. Two features of unknown date are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN6143 – Corpse Field placename

PRN37007 – Bronhyddon track

## 5.5 **Aerial Photographs**

5.5.1 Aerial Photographs held at the Royal Commission, Aberystwyth, and Welsh Assembly collection were consulted as part of the desk based assessment.

5.5.2 The photographs were all taken at high altitude and thus showed very little detail of the assessment area. As none showed any features within the assessment area they are not reproduced within this report.

## 5.6 **Portable Antiquities Scheme**

5.6.1 A search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme finds database yielded no results for the assessment area.

# 6 **Desk Based Assessment Conclusions**

6.1.1 The HER data has shown that, of the thirty nine features located within 500m of the assessment area, the majority (30) are post-medieval in date.

6.1.2 This is likely to reflect a period from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in which the settlement of Llansantffraidd ym Mechain increased in size and population.

6.1.3 The relative lack of medieval settlement features identified around the site of the church is seemingly inconsistent with what would be expected given the churches medieval foundation date.

- 6.1.4 The map regression analysis shows that a possible structure may have been located within the assessment area. This structure is only shown on the Tithe map of the 1840s and has disappeared by the time the 1891 OS map was compiled.

## 7 Evaluation Results

### 7.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 7.1.1 The site and weather conditions were warm and dry. The ground conditions throughout the trench were dry.

### 7.2 Distribution of deposits

- 7.2.1 The topsoil (101) was a moderately compacted mid brown silt and reached a depth of around 0.3m on average. This deposit contained occasional sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern pottery.
- 7.2.3 Natural stoney clay deposits were reached at a depth of 0.4m. The natural was comprised of firmly compacted mid brown grey clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions.

### 7.3 Description of trenches

#### *Trench 1* (Figs 2&9) (Plates 1-3)

- 7.3.1 Trench 1 measured 10x2m and was aligned on a northwest - southeast axis (Plates 1-3).
- 7.3.2 Removal of turf and topsoil (101) revealed a reasonably thin subsoil deposit (201). This was present within the whole trench. It was comprised of a mid brown clay silt material with frequent small stone inclusions. The layer was thin, measuring only around 0.10m deep on average across the whole trench. Removal of (201) revealed a mid brown clay and stone deposit, which was taken to be natural (103), at the base of the trench. At the end of the trench nearest the road a relatively deep (2m) feature [104] was observed cutting into the natural. The pit contained 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic material throughout as well as faunal remains in the form of pig bones. The feature was seen to extend into both trench sections and may well represent a deep ditch rather than an individual pit feature. No medieval material was recovered with nineteenth century material being recovered from even the basal layers. No further features were noted within this trench.

## 8 Finds

- 8.1.1 A relatively large amount of finds were recovered during the evaluation. All the finds were datable to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and consisted of pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass.
- 8.1.2 This appears to form a domestic assemblage and may well have been dumped as refuse from adjacent structures.

## **9 Discussion and Interpretation**

### **9.1 Reliability of field investigation**

9.1.1 No factors were identified to have had a negative influence on the reliability of the field investigation

### **9.2 Evaluation interpretation**

9.2.1 The evaluation was designed to test for the presence or absence of archaeological features within the assessment area associated with activity around the outside of the church. It has shown that, in this area at least, only 19<sup>th</sup> century activity is evident.

9.2.2 Only one feature of significance was discovered, a ditch with a 'U' shaped profile, which ran roughly parallel to the road.

9.2.3 The finds assemblage located within the feature was domestic in its nature; this is likely to be refuse from adjacent structures. If a structure did indeed stand on the possible platform area to the south then the domestic refuse may well be associated with this.

9.2.4 The date of the assemblage from the feature is nineteenth century. This is consistent with the dates of the building identified in this area through map regression analysis.

### **9.3 Significance**

9.3.1 The desk based assessment undertaken at Llansantffraidd ym Mechain has shown that the majority of known features in this area belong to the post-medieval period.

9.3.1 Map regression analysis has located a possible structure within the assessment area. This is significant as it may relate to the flat terraced area observed on site and postulated as a possible house platform (M Walters, Pers Comm).

9.3.2 Material recovered from the evaluation trench is seemingly contemporary with any possible structure in the area.

## 10 Acknowledgements

10.1.1 Thanks to; Michael Blake for his assistance with the evaluation, Mark Walters at CPAT for monitoring and all the helpful staff at the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

## 11 Bibliography & Sources

British Geological Survey 2001. *Solid Geology Map. UK South Sheet. 1:625000 Scale.* 4<sup>th</sup> edition

Lewis, S. 1833. *A Topographic Dictionary of Wales*

<http://www.cpat.demon.co.uk/projects/longer/churches/montgom/16404.htm> - accessed May 2010

Search of regional HER, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

- 500m radius around the assessment area

Search of all readily available cartographic material held at the National Library, Aberystwyth

- 1836 First Series OS Map
- 1840-60 Tithe Map
- 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:10560 1891 OS Map
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1:10560 1903 OS Map
- New Popular Edition 1945 OS Map

Search of Portable Antiquities Scheme finds database – May 2010



CAMBRIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECTS

## **APPENDIX I:**

HER Data Gazetteer

## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Find

*NGR* :- **SJ2220** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **Bronze Age - Find** (Finds only - Unknown )

Bronze palstave found prior to 1941 reported National Museum Wales 1941-2.

Sources:-

**Fox, C** , 1942 , *Offa's Dyke* , 11

**Ordnance Survey** record card , 1954 , SJ22SW 1 ,

Finds:-

1 / Bronze / Axehead / Bronze Age / /NMW ? () - BRONZE PALSTAVE FOUND PRIOR 1941 REPORTED NAT MUS WALES 1941-2.

*SMR record created 31/12/80 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 6143 - Corpse Field Placename

*NGR* :- **SJ22112033** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **Unknown - Non antiquity** (Placename - Unknown )

*first alternative* :- **Medieval - Cemetery**

FIELD WITH POSSIBLY ARCHAEOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT NAME LYING ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH OF LLANSANTFFRAID (OS, 1964). NAME APPARENTLY DERIVES FROM THE FORMER TRADITION OF CARRYING BODIES THROUGH THIS FIELD ON THEIR WAY TO BURIAL IN THE ADJACENT CHURCHYARD AND HAS NO OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CPAT site visit, 1986). THREATENED BY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT 1986-7 THOUGH NO PREVENTATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY CPAT.

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1986 , ,

**Ordnance Survey** map , 1964 , , 1:10560

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1986(04/12/86) -



SMR record created 31/12/87 , last updated 29/08/02

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 7605 (part of 16890 ) - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (St Ffraid), yard

NGR :- **SJ2205220432** (SJ22SW)

Unitary authority :- **Powys**

Community :- **Llansantffraid**

Preferred site type :- **Post Medieval - Churchyard** (Structure - Intact )

In a circular raised churchyard (Haslam, 1979).

Survey of people buried in churchyard carried out in 1987 (Antur Tanat Cain, 1987).

The sub-rectangular churchyard, was extended to the north in 1903 and again in the 1970s. It is well-maintained and there are modern cremations just to the east of the chancel.

Boundary: a stone revetment wall follows the original boundary on the south and west sides; a modern wooden fence on the north-west with modern housing beyond; and an iron railed boundary to the vicarage on the north-east.

Monuments: memorials throughout the churchyard though work in the 1970s included the removal of some and also the railings enclosing older graves. Gravemarkers have also been removed from the immediate south side of the church within the last century. The earliest slab noted is of 1679. Two carved stones, perhaps late 17thC or 18thC grave markers, are now free-standing against the north wall of the church; one shows a skull and cross bones surmounted by a Latin memorial inscription, the second has a rectangle enclosing an hour glass with a spade underneath.

Furniture: sundial of 1810 with brass gnomon, on a baluster pillar with a square plinth on a circular base; opposite the south porch among 18thC memorials.

Earthworks: raised churchyard. There is a scarp bank, 1m or more high to the north-west of the church marking the original extent of the churchyard before the extensions. There is another scarp along the south-east, perhaps also an earlier boundary, and a considerable drop to the south-west.

Ancillary features: the original entrance appears to be the single gate at the south corner, where the oldest yew tree is sited. A pair of modern iron gates now forms the main west entrance, set between two Irish yews. Tarmac paths lead to the south porch and the later north entrance. A stone-built grave-diggers' hut, now covered in ivy, is sited alongside the north path to the graveyard extension.

Vegetation: mature yew trees are located around the original churchyard perimeter, particularly on the south and south-west sides. Broad-leaved species around the south-east perimeter. (CPAT Churches Survey)

Sources:-

**Antur Tanat Cain** survey , 1987 , ,

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**CPAT** visit form , 1999 , ,

**CPAT** , 2003 , *CPAT Project Archive - 930* ,

**Haslam, R** , 1979 , *Buildings of Wales: Powys* ,

**Silvester, B & Hankinson, R** , 2002 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: An Interim Report* , CPAT report 468 March .

**Silvester, B & Hankinson, R** , 2003 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: The Second Report* , CPAT report 534 April .

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**Silvester, R J** , 1999 , *Welsh Historic Churches Project. The Historic Churches of Montgomeryshire* , CPAT report 302 January .

**Silvester, R J** , 2004 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-East Wales. The Field Assessment and its Impact on the Overall Study* , CPAT report 612 January

.

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) - Ecclesiastical

Visit CPAT - Silvester, R J / 1999(/ /) -

*SMR record created 31/12/91 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 7717 - Bodwen

**NGR :- SJ2202120285 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Preferred site type :- 18th century - House (Building - Intact )**

Late 18th c. - early 19th c. grade II listed building.

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**Silvester, R J** , 1992 , *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements* , CPAT report 40 October 1992

.

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) -

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **7718 (part of 16890) - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (St Ffraid), former churchyard**

**NGR :- SJ2208620369 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Prefered site type :- Medieval - Churchyard (Earthwork - Damaged )**

Minor earthworks relating to the original course of the churchyard.

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**CPAT** , 2003 , *CPAT Project Archive - 930* ,

**Silvester, B & Hankinson, R** , 2002 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: An Interim Report* , CPAT report 468 March .

**Silvester, B & Hankinson, R** , 2003 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: The Second Report* , CPAT report 534 April .

**Silvester, R J** , 1992 , *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements* , CPAT report 40 October 1992 .

**Silvester, R J** , 2004 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-East Wales. The Field Assessment and its Impact on the Overall Study* , CPAT report 612 January .

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) -

*SMR record created 04/02/97 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **7720 - Lion Hotel**

**NGR :- SJ2196620295 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Prefered site type :- Post Medieval - Hotel (Building - Intact )**

Grade II listed building.

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**Silvester, R J** , 1992 , *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements* , CPAT report 40 October 1992

.

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) -

*SMR record created 03/02/97 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 15728 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain

*NGR* :- **SJ2202820320** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **Multiperiod - Settlement** (Multiple - Intact )

#### 1 Location

1.1 Llansantffraid lies at the intersection of the A495 and B4393 in north-eastern Montgomeryshire. It is approximately 13km north of Welshpool.

1.2 The settlement has grown up at an important river confluence, Afon Cain joining Afon Efyrrwy just to the south and Afon Tanat debouching into the main river 2km to the east. Llansantffraid straggles along the north edge of the Cain valley with steep hills to the north and west, and the flood plain to the south. At the eastern end of the village, houses have spread to the lip of a steep scarp above the Vyrnwy.

1.3 Very much a linear development beside the main street, the eastern end of the village is largely Victorian and later, while the church occupies gently sloping land at the west end. Here, too, modern estates are expanding to fill a shallow valley, and the church is no longer surrounded by open fields.

#### 2 History

2.1 In 1254, the church was recorded as Llansanfret. 'Ffraid' is the Welsh version of Brigid, the name thus referring to St Brigid's church in Mechain.

2.2 The original sub-circular churchyard (below para 4.2) and its location suggests an early medieval foundation. However, direct information on both the early phase and the settlement's development in the medieval era is lacking.

2.3 In the late 18th century, Llansantffraid was very much smaller than today with a small group of houses scattered around the church and others well spread out along the road to the east. Most of the latter were probably of recent construction at that time.

### 3 Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Fraid's church (PAR 31154) has a complicated structural history revealed in its fabric. A small Norman window signals a 12th-century date for part of the nave, but Haslam notes that 'the whole building is made of odds and ends of repairs'. Certainly there is 14th, 15th and 17th-century work visible. There is also a good range of internal fittings but with the exception of the possibly 13th-century font, they are 17th century or later.

3.2 There are several Grade II listed buildings in Llansantffraid, including the Lion Hotel (PAR 7720), Bridge House (PAR 7719) and Bodwen (PAR 7717), but without exception these are either late 18th/early 19th century or undated.

4.1 The village is overlooked by the large, well-preserved hillfort of Soldier's Mount, without doubt an Iron Age fortification (PAR 22; SAM 116).

4.2 As depicted on the tithe map, the raised churchyard (PAR 7605) appeared circular. The original course on the north side can still be distinguished but in the area of the primary school it has been erased. Nevertheless, there are minor earthworks (PAR 7718) in the adjacent field which would require investigation in advance of development.

4.3 That the west end of the village around the church was the original focus of settlement might be suggested by the narrow lane leading past the Lion Hotel to the church, except for the fact that none of the adjacent houses are shown on the tithe map. The pattern here is disrupted by the road leading northwards along the valley which seems to be a 19th-century insertion. The pattern of lanes around the church has also changed for originally the track from Bronhyddon cut through what is now the vicarage garden.

4.3 Llansantffraid bridge at the east end of the village is late 18th-century in date.

Sources:-

CPAT visit form , 1992 , ,

Silvester, R J , 1992 , *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements* , CPAT report 40 October 1992

.

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(/ /) - Settlement

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) -

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## **16890 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (multiple site)**

NGR :- **SJ2205520398** (SJ22SW)

Unitary authority :- **Powys**

Community :- **Llansantffraid**

Preferred site type :- **Multiperiod - Church** (Multiple - Intact )

Parish church

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1999 , ,

**CPAT** , 2003 , *CPAT Project Archive - 930* ,

**Evans, Edith, with Davidson, Andrew, Ludlow, Neil and Silvester Bob** list , 2000 , ,

**Silvester, B & Hankinson, R** , 2002 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-east Wales: An Interim Report* , CPAT report 468 March .

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**Silvester, R J** , 1999 , *Welsh Historic Churches Project. The Historic Churches of Montgomeryshire* , CPAT report 302 January .

**Silvester, R J** , 2004 , *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical and Burial Sites in Mid and North-East Wales. The Field Assessment and its Impact on the Overall Study* , CPAT report 612 January .

Events:-

Visit CPAT - Silvester, R J / 1999(/ /) -

Watching brief CPAT / 1997(/ /) - Ecclesiastical

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **17692 (part of 16890 ) - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (St Ffraid), bells**

NGR :- **SJ2204820397** (SJ22SW)

Unitary authority :- **Powys**

Community :- **Llansantffraid**

Preferred site type :- **Post Medieval - Church bell** (Building - Unknown )

W TURRET HOUSES CHIME OF 4 BELLS TREBLE - J TAYLOR & Co FOUNDERS  
LOUGHBOROUGH SECOND - IHESVS BE OURE SPEDE 1618 THIRD - WILLIAM  
BLEWES & SONS BIRMINGHAM GOD SAVE HIS CHVRCH 1618 / RECAST 1871 /  
THE MJORITY OF R.O. PERROTT TENOR - PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD  
1718 AR

(EISEL, J.C., 1986, 187).

Sources:-

**Eisel, J C** , 1986 , "The Church Bells Of Montgomeryshire, Powys " , *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 135 , 187 .

*SMR record created 01/08/95 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20418 - Ty Brith House**

*NGR :- **SJ21882061** (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- **Powys***

*Community :- **Llansantffraid***

*Preferred site type :- **17th century - House** (Building - Intact )*

The remains of an early building. The rear wall is of brick, the gable rebuilt in stone, possibly replacing timber-framing and the cross-wing is of Victorian brick. The surviving timber-framed wall is in small squares with very large beams. Inside is a deep gable fireplace and axial chamfered beam with ogee stops, presumably 17th century. The roof has been replaced, a square-set purlin is a re-used wall plate. Close by (SJ 2187 2063) is an outbuilding of probably c1500, it is in three sections and the gable ends have been rebuilt in brick (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1985 , *NMR index* ,

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20419 - Victoria Terrace House**

*NGR :- **SJ22452033** (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- **Powys***

*Community :- **Llansantffraid***

*Preferred site type :- **Post Medieval - House** (Building - Intact )*

A row of two-storeyed brick built houses with slate roofs, dating to 1832. They are alternately single-fronted and double-fronted. Some original windows survive (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20420 - Gwyndu House Listed Building 82561 (II )**

*NGR :- **SJ22452031** (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- **Powys***

*Community :- **Llansantffraid***

*Preferred site type :- **Post Medieval - House** (Building - Intact )*

A small timber-framed Cottage in two square panels. There is a red brick chimney and secondary dormer window (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82561 ,  
**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20421 - Bronhyddon House**

*NGR :- **SJ22152075** (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- **Powys***

*Community :- **Llansantffraid***

*Preferred site type :- **18th century - House** (Building - Intact )*

A large, late 18th century House of classical design, with additions dated 1813 on the rear wing. Along the facade is a balcony with elaborate iron railings, under which is a pitched pebble paving. The original windows have three-centred arched heads. The hall and dining room have contemporary plasterwork. The stone porch is classical, possibly added (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*



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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20422 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Post Office**

**NGR :- SJ22432032 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - House (Building - Intact )**

Formerly a house and adjacent warehouse, built of stone. The warehouse has a tall doorway at first floor level. An added rear wing has timber-framed walls in large squares, probably c1800 (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **20423 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House**

**Listed Building 82568 (II )**

**NGR :- SJ22402032 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Preferred site type :- 19th century - House (Building - Intact )**

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82568 ,

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20424 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House Listed Building 82570 (II )

*NGR* :- **SJ22402032** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Prefered site type* :- **19th century - House** (Building - Intact )

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82570 ,

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20425 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House Listed Building 82574 (II )

*NGR* :- **SJ22402032** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Prefered site type* :- **19th century - House** (Building - Intact )

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82574 ,

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20426 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House

*NGR* :- **SJ22402032** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **Post Medieval - House** (Building - Intact )

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20427 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House

#### Listed Building 82576 (II )

*NGR* :- **SJ22402032** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **19th century - House** (Building - Intact )

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82576 ,

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 20428 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain House

*NGR* :- **SJ22402032** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **Post Medieval - House** (Building - Intact )

One of a terrace of seven Cottages, dated 1836. All are three-storeyed with brick walls, slate roofs and are single-fronted, in mirror pairs. The windows have flat brick heads. The ground and first floor ones are similar to those in Victoria Terrace and the second floor ones are small-paned casements in iron frames (NMR 1979).

Sources:-

**NMR** , 1983 , *NMR index* , 85

*SMR record created 31/12/88 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 31154 (part of 16890 ) - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (St Ffraid) Listed Building 7638 (II\* )

*NGR* :- **SJ2204620398** (SJ22SW)

*Unitary authority* :- **Powys**

*Community* :- **Llansantffraid**

*Preferred site type* :- **12th century - Church** (Building - Intact )

Church of St Ffraid, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain.

THE CHURCH DATES FROM THE 11TH CENTURY, THOUGH LITTLE REMAINS OF THIS DATE. THE NORTH TRANSEPT WAS ADDED IN 1727 AND THE CHURCH UNDERWENT CONSIDERABLE REPAIR AND RESTORATION IN 1871.

MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW 1921, IN MEMORY OF JANE HUGHES (MORRIS, E.R., 1986, 90)

Two freestanding stones, one on each side of the church porch. One is inscribed with a skull and crossbones surmounted by an inscription "memento ..." the other with a rectangle with two heart-shaped designs inside.

(SMR, 1995)

*The following is from Cadw's Listed Buildings database*

Parish church. (see M.C. Vol. 4.) Nave and N transept only. Transitional - W. end restored or added in style c1620. N transept 1727 with C18 doorway and w. over. Long open wood porch, "Gothic" manner, 1727. Dormer in chrch roof above porch. One bell is

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1991 , ,

**CPAT** visit form , 1999 , ,

**Cadw** listing database , 2000 , ,

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 7638 ,

**Department of the Environment** , 1946 , *title unknown - Llandyssil Old Church (St Tyssil)* , 13

**Haslam, R** , 1979 , *Buildings of Wales: Powys* ,

**Morris, E R** , 1986 , "Memorial Window In Llansantffraid Ym Mechain Church " , *The Montgomeryshire Collections* 74 , 90 .

**Ordnance Survey** map , 1954 , ,

**Ordnance Survey** map , 1963 , ,

**Ordnance Survey** record card , 1978 , ,

**Rowley-Morris, E** , 1892 , "History of the parish of Kerry (continued) " , *The Montgomeryshire Collections* 26 , 255-56 .

**Silvester, R J** , 1999 , *Welsh Historic Churches Project. The Historic Churches of Montgomeryshire* , CPAT report 302 January .

**Williams, S W** , 1887 , "Llansantffraid, Llanhamlach, and Llanfigan Churches " , *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 15 , 202-213 .

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1991(/ /) - Ecclesiastical

Visit CPAT - Silvester, R J / 1999(/ /) -

*SMR record created 31/12/91 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

**32658 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, 'Bod Wen'**

**Listed Building 7641 (II )**

**NGR :- SJ2202120286 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Prefered site type :- 17th century - House (Building - Unknown )**

Grade II listed house

*The following is from Cadw's Listed Buildings database*

Timber-framed, brick-nogged, white. 2 s., 3 ws., multi-paned. Projecting gabled W. end 2 thick brick stacks in roof. Windowless extension to East, part timber-framed, part brick (workshop).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2000 , ,

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 7641 ,

*SMR record created 20/04/94 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **32667 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, `Bron-hyddon' Listed Building 7639 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2205220040 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- 18th century - House (Building - Unknown )*

Grade II listed house

*The following is from Cadw's Listed Buildings database*

Late C18 - early C19. Brick, painted white. Slate roof. 2 s., 3 ws. Sides gabled and projecting. All ws. are 3-light with low moulded fan-fluted Regency tops. Tuscan porch and architrave.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2000 , ,

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 7639 ,

*SMR record created 20/04/94 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **32668 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, `Lion Hotel' Listed Building 7640 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2196520295 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- 18th century - House (Building - Unknown )*

Grade II listed house

*The following is from Cadw's Listed Buildings database*

Late C18 - early C19. brick, 2 s., gabled ends, slate roof. Front consists of deep 5-sided bays, ground to roof, 2 s., 3 ws., under slate roofs with lead ridges, on either side of Tuscan porch on steps. Plain brick curvilinear ped. over door (no ws).

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2000 , ,

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 7640 ,

*SMR record created 20/04/94 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **37007 - Bronhyddon track**

**NGR :- SJ2212020458 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Prefered site type :- Unknown - Road (Earthwork - Damaged )**

The remains of a now disused track running through the vicarage garden to Bronhyddon.

Sources:-

**CPAT** visit form , 1992 , ,

**Silvester, R J** , 1992 , *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements* , CPAT report 40 October 1992

.

Events:-

Visit CPAT / 1992(19/08/92) -

*SMR record created 04/02/97 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **42582 - Bronwylfa**

**Listed Building 82550 (II )**

**NGR :- SJ2192020400 (SJ22SW)**

**Unitary authority :- Powys**

**Community :- Llansantffraid**

**Prefered site type :- 19th century - House (Building - )**

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82550 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**42584 - Bryntirion**

**Listed Building 82552 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2191020430 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82552 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**42587 - Queen's Oak, cast-iron milepost**

**Listed Building 82554 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2239020280 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - Milepost (Building - )*

Grade II listed mile post.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82554 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### **42589 - Cleveland House Listed Building 82557 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2200020250 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- 19th century - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82557 ,

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### **42591 - Lion Hotel, former coachhouse and stable Listed Building 82559 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2198020310 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- Post Medieval - Stable (Building - )*

Grade II listed stable.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82559 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### **42592 - Glanaber Listed Building 82560 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2194020410 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*  
*Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-  
**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82560 ,

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**42593 - Llwyn Onn**  
**Listed Building 82563 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2193020400 (SJ22SW)*  
*Unitary authority :- Powys*  
*Community :- Llansantffraid*  
*Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-  
**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82563 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*  
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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**42594 - Llansantffraid Cemetery, lychgate**  
**Listed Building 82564 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2174020300 (SJ22SW)*  
*Unitary authority :- Powys*  
*Community :- Llansantffraid*  
*Preferred site type :- Post Medieval - Lych gate (Building - )*

Grade II listed lych gate.

Sources:-  
**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82564 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **42606 (part of 16890 ) - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Church (St Ffraid), sundial Listed Building 82586 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2204020370 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- 19th century - Sundial (Building - )*

Grade II listed sundial.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82586 ,

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

### **42613 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Victoria Terrace 7, with walled and railed forecourt Listed Building 82577 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2250020320 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Prefered site type :- 19th century - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82577 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**59449 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Victoria Terrace 3, with walled and railed forecourt**

**Listed Building 82572 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2250020320 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Preferred site type :- 19th century - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82572 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**59450 - Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Victoria Terrace 5**

**Listed Building 82575 (II )**

*NGR :- SJ2250020320 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Preferred site type :- 19th century - House (Building - )*

Grade II listed house.

Sources:-

**Cadw** listing database , 2006 , 82575 ,

*SMR record created 01/05/06 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## **CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record**

**72419 - Maes y Llan placename**

*NGR :- SJ22502029 (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- Powys*

*Community :- Llansantffraid*

*Preferred site type :- Medieval - Church land (Placename - Unknown )*

Field name recorded on the 1838 Tithe Apportionment. It is now the site of the present sewage treatment works and village allotments (Frost, P, 1997b, 4).

Sources:-

**Frost, P** , 1997 , *Llansantffraid Pumping Main: watching brief* , CPAT report 242 October 1997 .

Events:-

Watching brief CPAT / 1997(/ /) -

*SMR record created 04/09/98 , last updated 29/08/02*

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## CPAT Regional Sites & Monuments Record

### 81746 - Ffynnon y Foel

*NGR :- **SJ21612052** (SJ22SW)*

*Unitary authority :- **Powys***

*Community :- **Llansantffraid***

*Prefered site type :- **Medieval - Holy well** (Structure - Unknown )*

Well on top of the Foelat Llansantffraid. Water from the well was used in a ceremony on the fourth Sunday in Lent. (Jones, F 1992)

The Foel is also called Soldier's Mount.

*SMR record created 25/06/01 , last updated 29/08/02*

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*JS - 13/05/10 ( 13:35:01 ) - HTML file produced from CPAT's Regional SMR*

*Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, Curatorial Section, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7DL. tel (01938) 553670 , fax (01938) 552179, email trust@cpat.org.uk , website www.cpat.org.uk*



CAMBRIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECTS

## **APPENDIX II:**

Figures

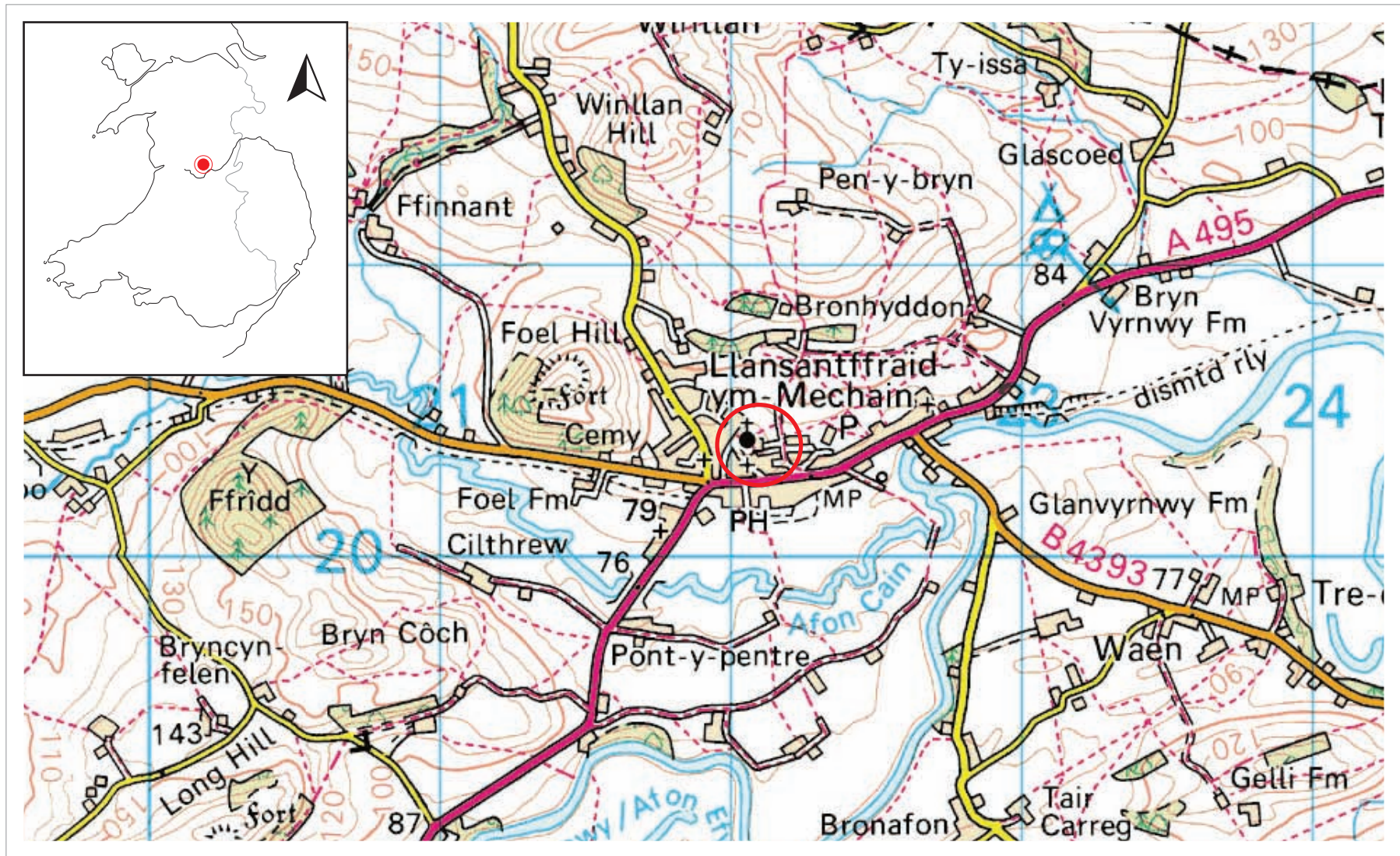


Fig 1: Map showing general location of assessment area

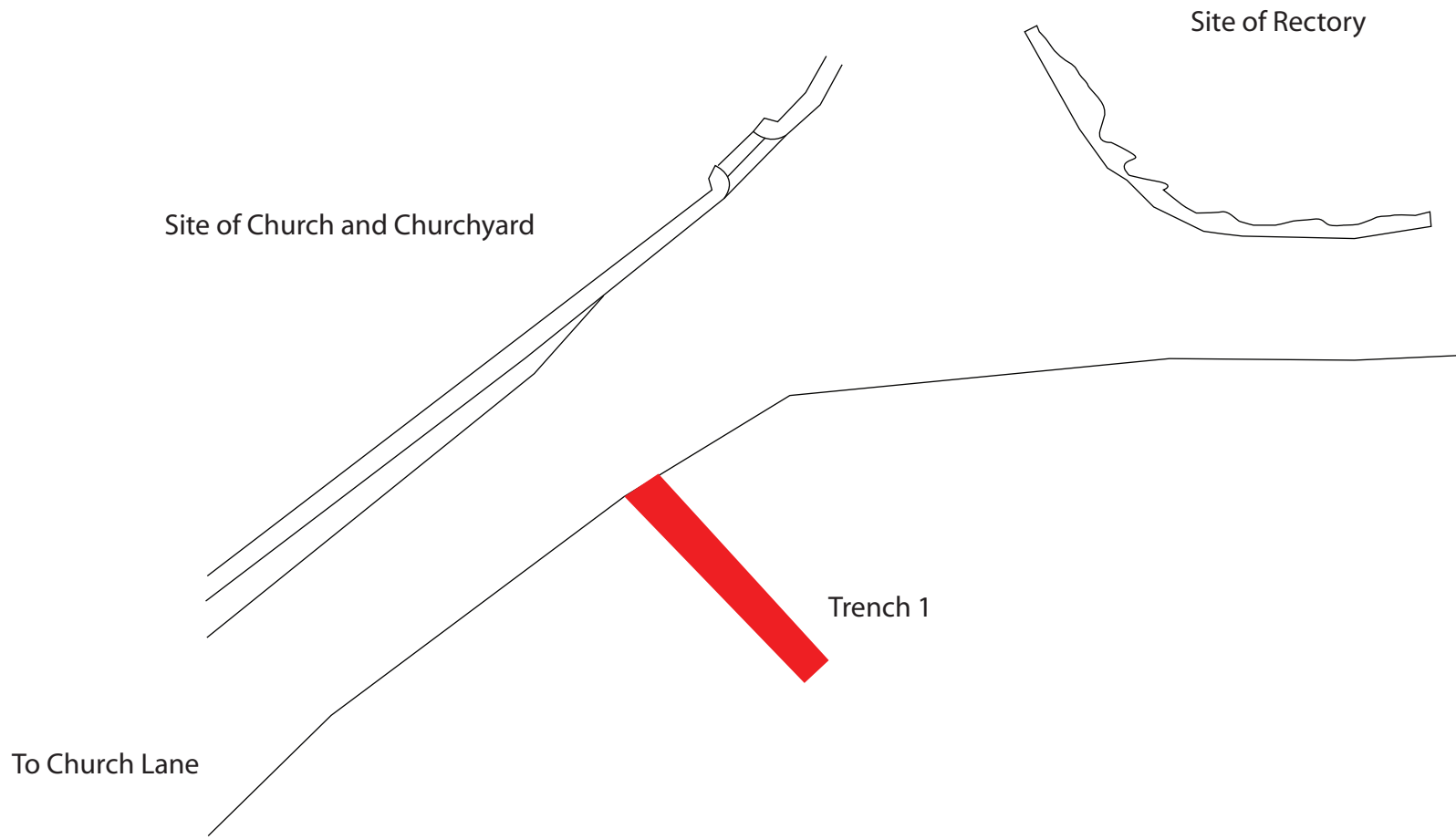


Fig 2: Map showing location of evaluation trench.





Fig 3: 1836 First Series OS map showing assessment area

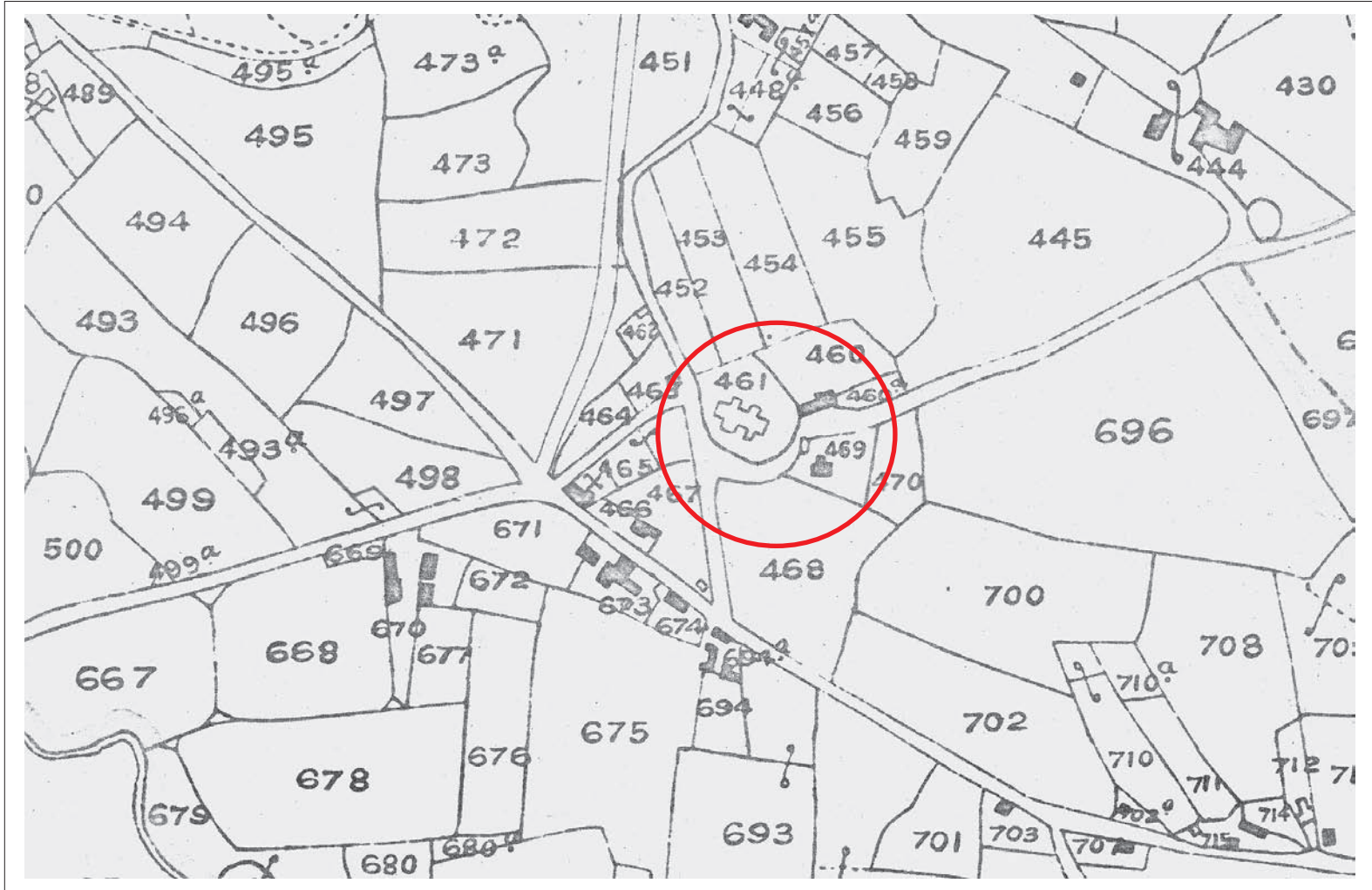


Fig 4: 1840s Tithe map showing assessment area



Fig 5: 1891 First Edition Six Inch OS Map showing assessment area

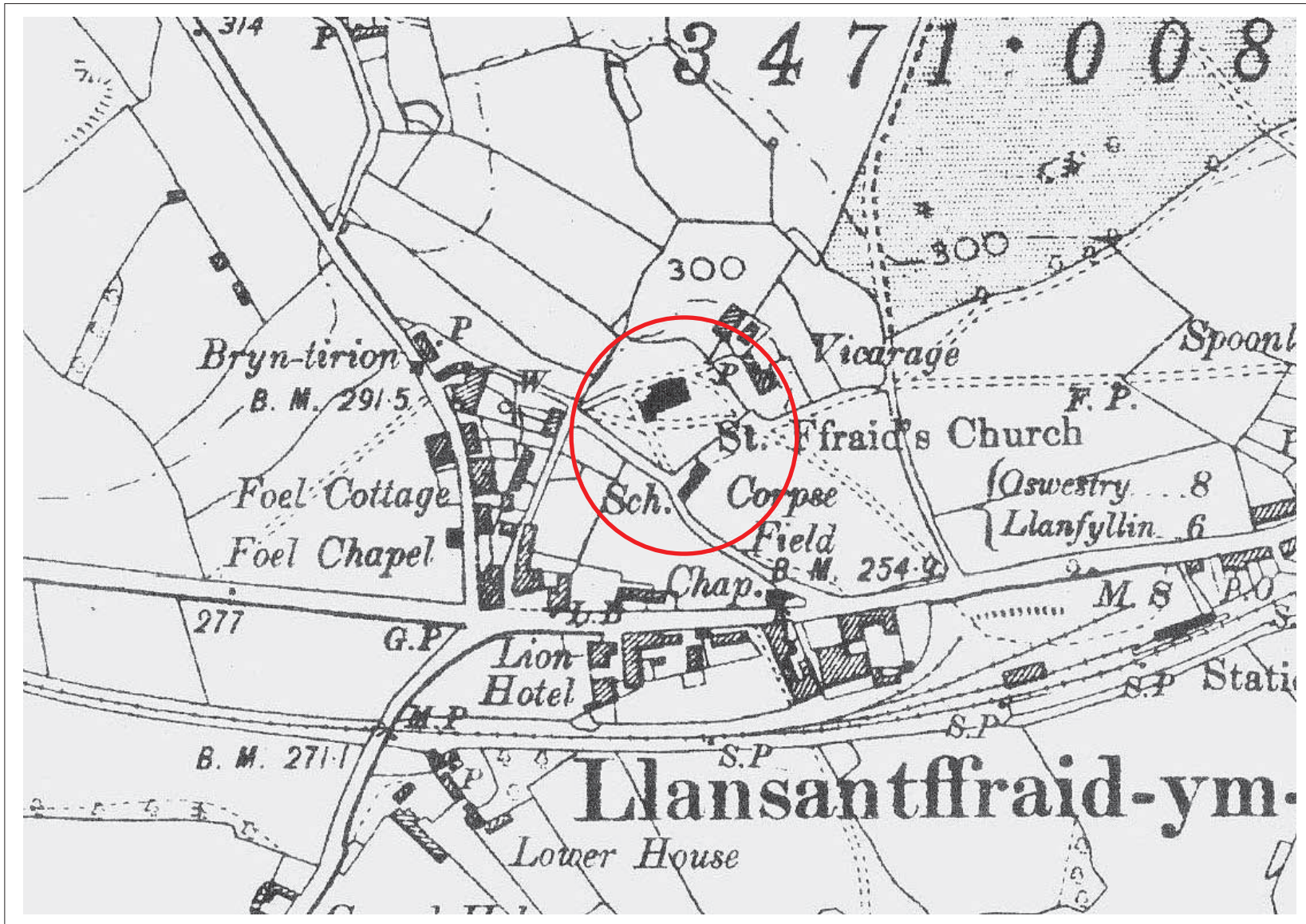


Fig 6: 1903 Second Edition Six Inch OS Map showing assessment area



Fig 7: 1945 New Popular Edition OS map showing assessment area

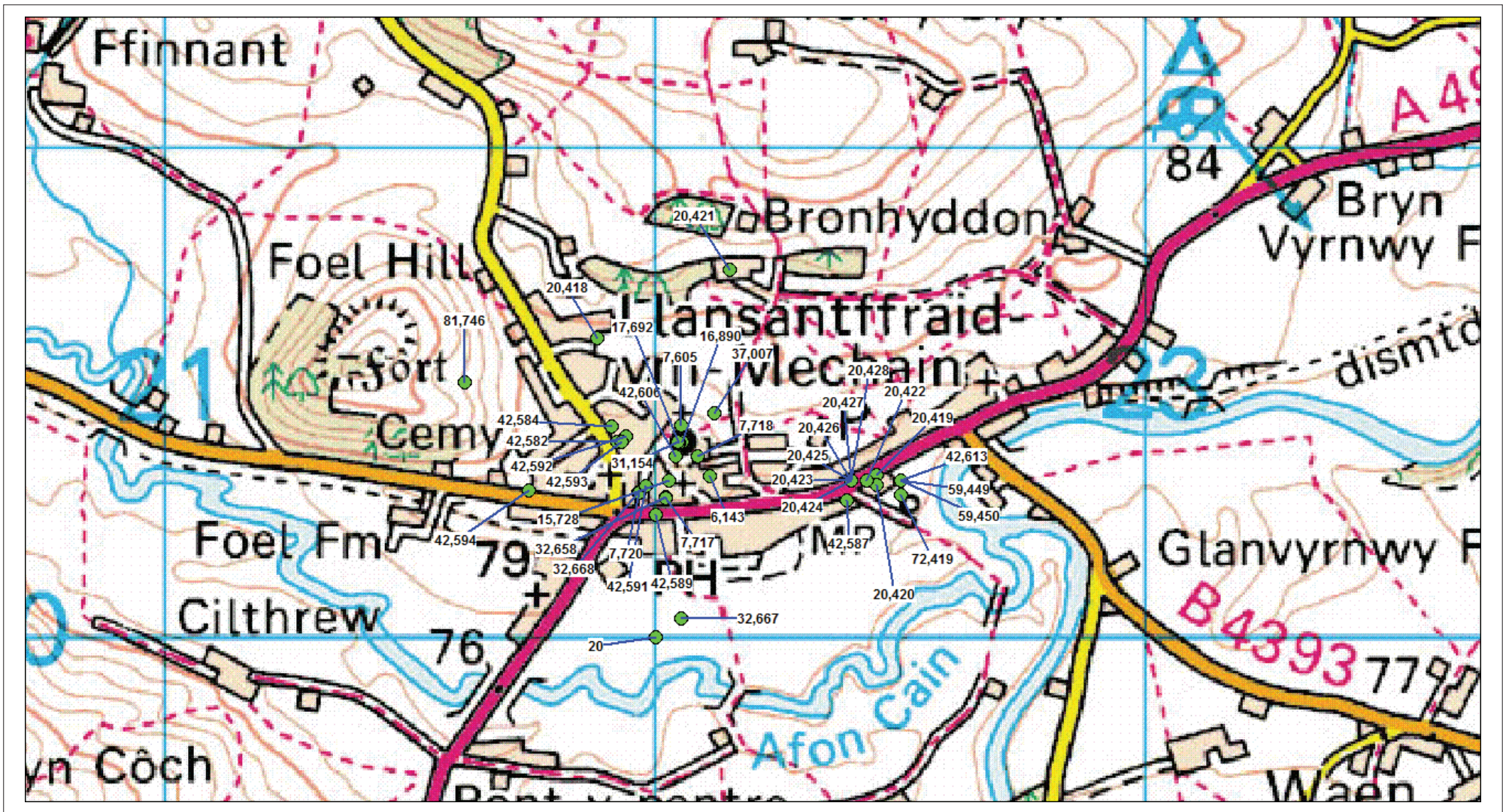


Fig 8: Map showing distribution of sites within 500m of assessment area. Sites are labelled by PRN no. for reference with Appendix 1.

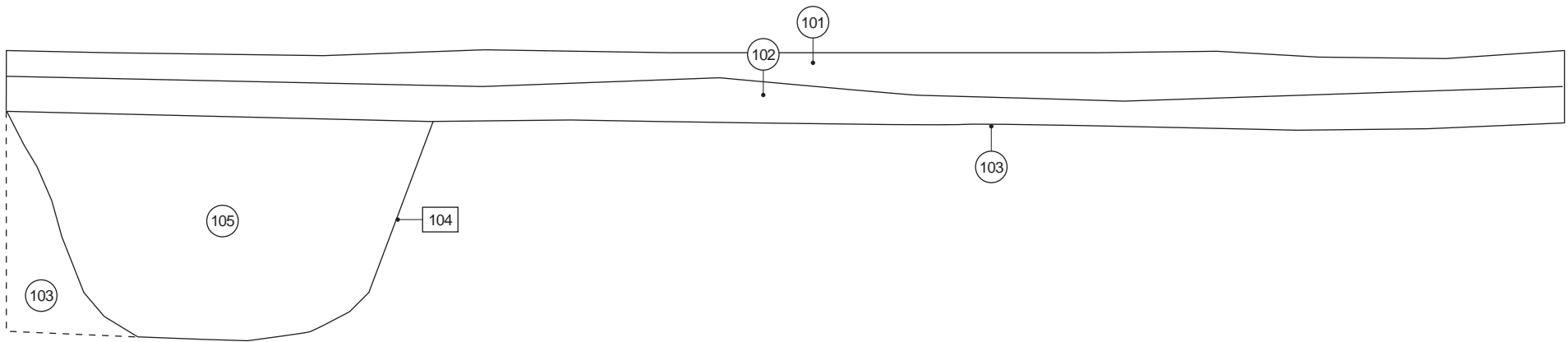
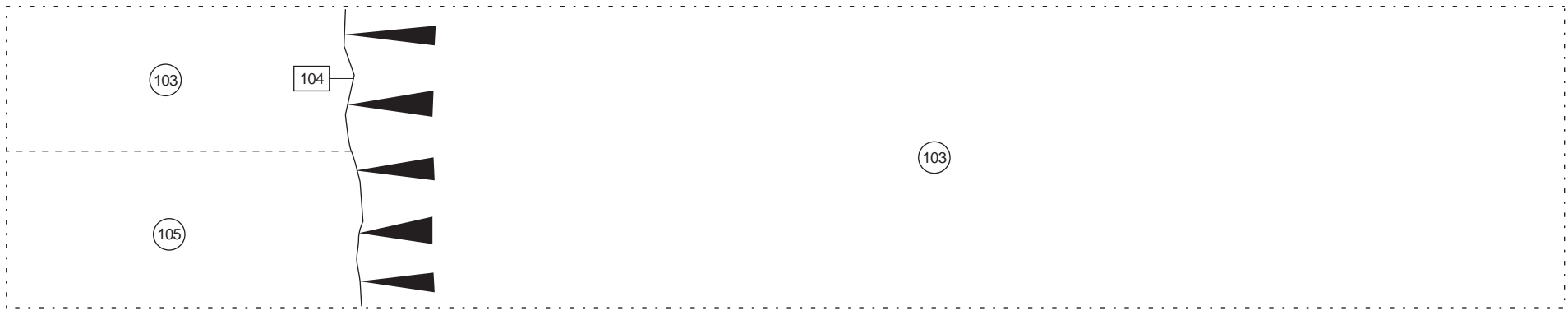


Fig 9: Plan and section of evaluation trench



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## **APPENDIX III:**

Plates





Plate 1: View of trench, looking northwest  
Scale 1x2m



Plate 2: View of trench, looking south east  
Scale 1x2m



Plate 3: View of south west facing trench section showing pit/ditch feature.  
Scale 1x2m



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## **APPENDIX IV:**

Archive Cover Sheet

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name:	Llansantffraidd Ym Mechain Church
Site Code:	LYM/10/EV
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
CAP Report No:	CAP Report 629
NGR:	SJ 22053 20374
Site Type:	Church
Project Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Project Manager	Chris Smith
Project Dates:	April & May 2010
Categories Present:	Nineteenth Century
Location of Original Archive:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAP Ltd.
Restrictions to access:	None



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