

## Llandeilo'r Fan

SN897346  
2575

### *Introduction*

Llandeilo'r Fan is a small, isolated nuclear settlement focused on its church on the south-western edge of Mynydd Epynt. It lies on the floor of the Nant Mawen valley where the stream converges on Nant Eithrim. There is a minor road junction here, and Brecon is 15km to the south-east.

This brief report examines its emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

We have not referenced the sources that have been examined to produce this report, but that information will be available in the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Numbers in brackets are primary record numbers used in the HER to provide information that is specific to individual sites and features. These can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website ([www.archwilio.org.uk](http://www.archwilio.org.uk)).

### *History of development*

The name Llandeilo'r Fan has been translated as the church of Teilo on the Mawen brook. In its earliest form it has been identified as the *Lann Guruaet* in the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Llandaff charters, but as a place-name this clearly reflects a much earlier tradition. It is not readily explained but could be an otherwise unattested personal name, *Gurmaet*. In 1503 the church was recorded as *Llantilio* and around 1566 as *ll[an] deilo ar faen*.

The sub-circular churchyard and the British dedication of the church point to an early medieval foundation for the settlement. So too does the appearance of *Lann Guruaet* which may have had currency as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> century, although this might reflect an estate with its *territorium* rather than a settlement or church.

Morphologically the village is typical of many small Welsh nucleated medieval settlements of the Brecknock uplands.

### *The Heritage to 1750*

The church of St Teilo (20119) appears to have been largely, if not wholly, rebuilt in 1873. The present building comprises an undivided nave and chancel without a tower, and contains an assortment of older woodwork including a late medieval roof and portions of a screen, as well as a 14<sup>th</sup>-century font. A 'ruined chapel' is recorded at Llandeilo'r Fan in 1836, and it may be that the church was in a very poor state before the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century rebuilding.

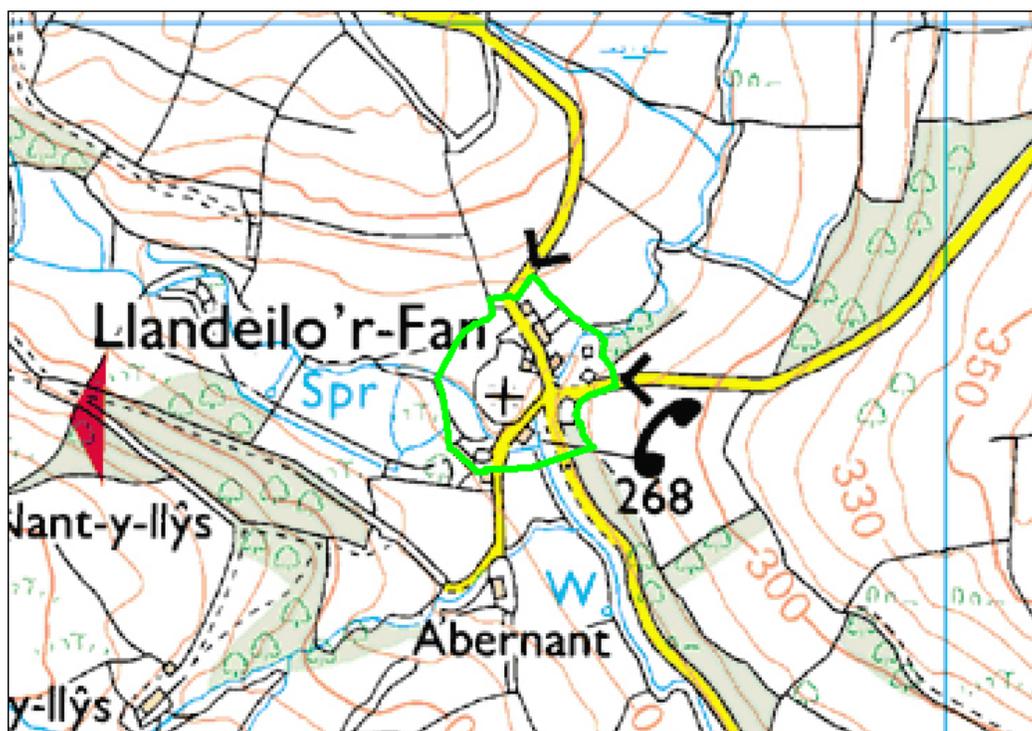
The church stands within a raised sub-circular, and possibly early medieval, churchyard (2950), originally some 60m across and now defined by a stone revetment wall. The circuit has been altered on the north-east where the perimeter now follows modern property

boundaries, and there is a recent extension to the enclosure on the north, although in both places the original line of the circular bank can still clearly be seen.

A small stone walled circular enclosure (2951) survives in front of Upper Mill which may be the remains of a village pound, though it could alternatively be perhaps an embanked pond associated with the mill. The feature is now a garden, but may have an archaeological potential.

Two large building platforms (2952) survive on the steep slopes to the east of the church. Both appear to be fairly modern and one is marked as a standing building on the 1972 Ordnance Survey map. Generally though there are no records of any historic buildings in the village, and little obvious surface evidence of settlement activity.

In summary, Llandeilo'r Fan could be another of Brecknock's church settlements, and as yet there is no evidence to indicate the contrary.



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