

Llanbadarn-y-garreg

SO 112487
16157

Introduction

Llanbadarn-y-garreg lies in the valley of the River Edw, some 4km upstream of its confluence with the Wye. The valley here is narrow and hemmed in by the a high, sheer-sided ridge on the south and more gently sloping, lower hills to the north; the settlement is set on the valley floor with the churchyard abutting the river. Builth Wells lies less than 8km to the north-west.

This brief report examines Llanbadarn-y-garreg's 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).

History of development

The origin and early history of this settlement are unknown. St Padarn was a 6th-century holy man, but there is no firm evidence to associate him directly with this remote locality.

The 'church of Padarn at the rock' first appears in the 1291 *Taxatio* as *Thlanbaden* and strangely but perhaps in an anglicised and slightly misleading form as *Lampeter* in 1401.

In the mid-19th century Llanbadarn was slightly larger than today, a chapel and a cottage having disappeared in the intervening years, but there was is no evidence for its size and appearance in earlier centuries. What evidence there is points to Llanbadarn being an isolated church settlement.

The heritage to 1750

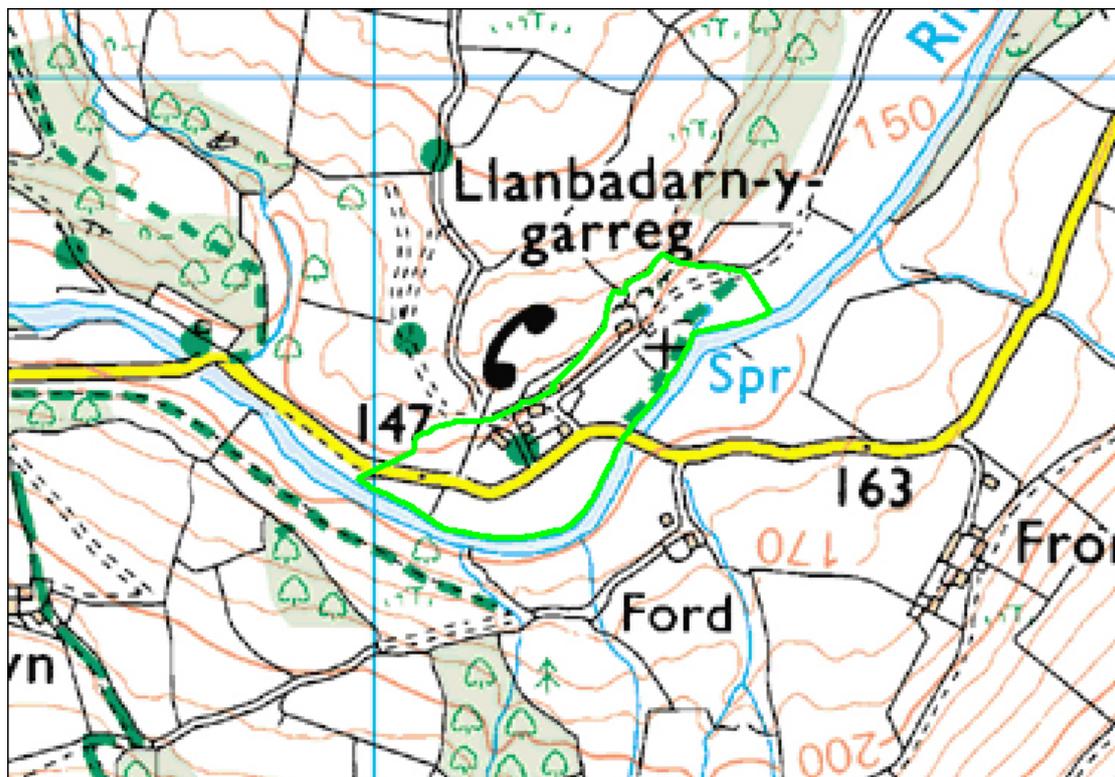
The single-chamber church with bellcote (16022) is dedicated to St Padarn. It may be 13th or 14th-century in date, and avoided restoration until 1960. The roof was restored in 1992. Both the roof and the font could be of the 14th century, the altar rails, formerly in Aberedw church, and pulpit are 17th-century and the wooden windows are from the 18th century.

The churchyard (16229) is sub-triangular in shape, curved on the north-west. Marginally higher internally than the surrounding ground, it cannot be classified as a typical early medieval 'llan', but is not likely to be medieval.

Two fields (OS plots 0365 and 1463) between the river and the road that passes through the village contain low earthworks (16230). These are amorphous and require more detailed examination, but there is a possibility that they are village earthworks associated with a sunken way.

No motte and bailey has been recognised at this settlement though the house now known as 'The Green', 100m south-west of the church, was curiously termed 'Castle Green' in 1839.

Buildings to the south-west of the church are the remains of what has been claimed as a drovers' inn, the Spread Eagle, and the nearby Pound Cottage might be associated. However, it can be pointed out here that the standard works on the drovers in Wales make no mention of a drovers' route along the Edw valley. There are no houses of any great age in Llanbadarn, and no listed structures other than the church.



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