

Llananno

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Introduction

The isolated church of Llananno is set into the bottom of the steep slope on the north side of the Ithon valley, the river itself less than 10m away. Llandrindod Wells lies down river some 12km to the south.

This brief report examines Llananno's origins 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).



Llananno church, photo 95-C-305 © CPAT, 2011

History of development

St Anno is one of the most obscure of Welsh 'saints', no other churches were certainly dedicated to him and nothing is known of his story. Notwithstanding, a late 7th or 8th-century date has been attributed to him. While an early medieval origin for the first church at Llananno seems plausible, even if a curvilinear churchyard is ruled out by the terrain, the history of its foundation and development is completely unknown.

As *Thlananno*, the name first appears in 1304, and means 'the church of Anno'.

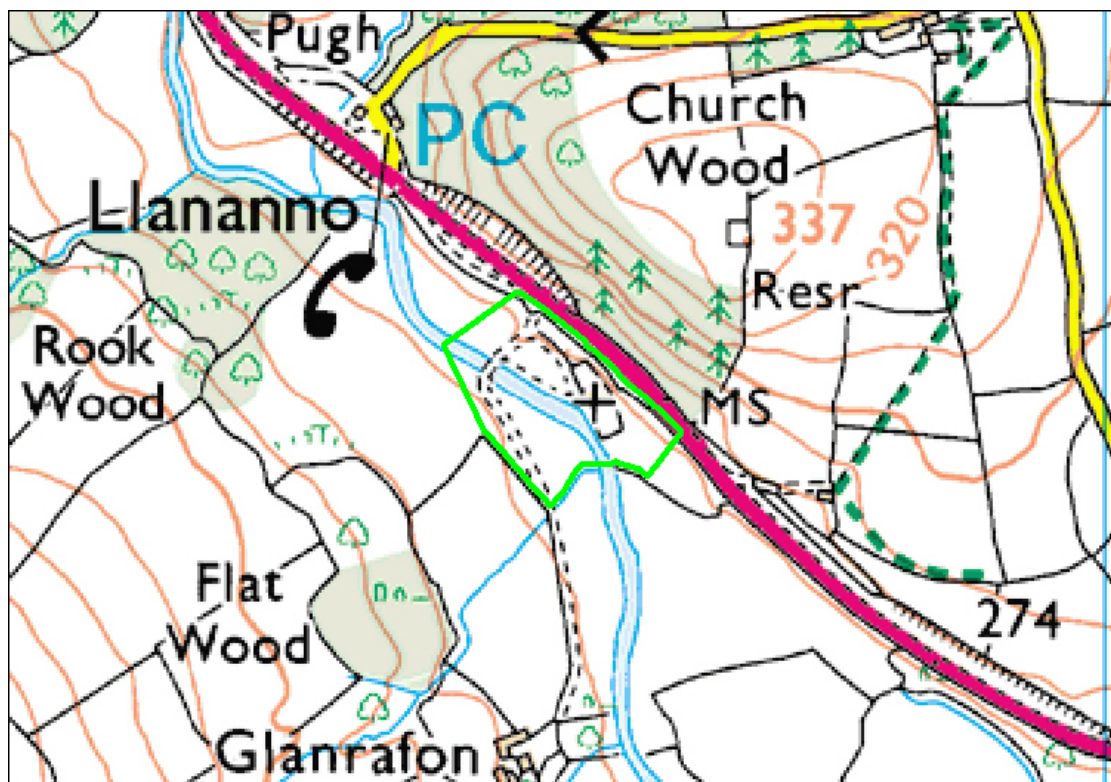
There is nothing on the ground or in existing records to suggest that this has ever been anything other than an isolated church beside the Ithon, though a ford across the river at this point is a strong possibility. It should thus be classed as a church rather than a nucleated settlement.

The heritage to 1750

St Anno's Church (16020) was totally rebuilt in 1876-7. The screen dating to around 1500 was preserved and is reputedly the best surviving example of its kind, and there is too a medieval piscina, a 15th-century font and a box pew dated to 1681.

The churchyard, now long and rectilinear, reflects the restrictions of the local topography.

The low-lying pasture fields edging both sides of the river close to the church do contain earthworks but these are primarily the result of drainage, both natural and man-made.



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