

Llanddewi Ystradenni

SO 10826867
16161

Introduction

Both church and village lie on the valley floor of the River Ithon to the east of the river where it is joined by a small stream rising in the hills further east. Llandrindod Wells is 9km to the south-west.

This brief report examines Llanddewi'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

Nothing is known of the early history of the settlement or of its development in the medieval period. The church may have an early medieval origin: the churchyard's shape and the dedication hint at this, and an inscribed stone of the 10th-11th-century is incorporated into the blocked priest's doorway, though the original setting of that stone is, of course, unknown.

The name is first encountered as *Thlandewy* in 1297, while the second element appears earlier, in the 12th century, as *ystrad nynhid*. The meaning is seen as the 'church of St David in the vale of Nynnid'.

Describable as a compact village with church, inn, manor-house and former mill, there may possibly have been a patch of common ground forming a 'green' on the west side of the churchyard, though this had been encroached on by the mid-19th century. There is nothing, however, to suggest that there was a nucleated settlement here in the medieval era.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16025) with its nave, chancel and west bellcote was rebuilt in 1890. A Romanesque priest's door on the south side was reassembled at that time, one fragment containing part of a 13th-century inscription. An early 14th-century font and a range of funerary monuments from 1673 onwards remain.

The churchyard (16089) reveals the raised rim of an earlier and smaller 'llan' within its west and north quadrants, and generally gives the impression of having been a curvilinear enclosure.

Llanddewi Hall (20626; Grade II listing) incorporates 16th-century work: stone walls, a re-used stone doorway and Tudor woodwork. It is thought to have been built around 1575, while the associated barn range could be of 18th-century date. There are no other buildings of any age in the village.

Distinctive but unintelligible earthworks (16090) lie beyond Llanddewi's historic core.



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