

In archaeology, field reports and surveys are largely important tools for documenting, interpreting, and preserving evidence of the past of humanity. A field survey is conducted through gradual examination of a certain landscape to identify and record any archaeological remains, such as; artefacts, architecture of buildings or relevant data about the environment, all collected without heavy excavation. Surveys can be done in a variety of ways, which may be walking the terrain, using drones or satellite imagery, or geophysical through the use of ground-penetrating radars. The information is then compiled into a field report as a detailed written record that describes the methods used, locations investigated, findings discovered, and any interpretations.

Field reports are also vital in that they act as official documentation of new or preliminary archaeological work. They ensure that the data is preserved beyond the life of a project, and can be accessed in the future by other researchers or archaeologists, or careers around or involving archaeology like curators, heritage managers and government/local councils. The reason field surveys are used at the beginning or before a project starts is that excavation is destructive - once a site is dug, it can't be returned to its original state; therefore, the usage of reporting is essential for maintaining a permanent record of what was uncovered. Documentation then also allows studies in the future the ability to reanalyse any findings with newer methods or interpretation.

Surveys and field reports are an important requirement for cultural recordings, where archaeologists need to assess sites before construction or any development projects. By identifying significant remains early, if there are any, surveys help protect the local cultural heritage and encourage responsible planning. Ultimately, field reports and surveys provide a foundation for archaeological interpretation, transforming forgotten or unfound material into meaningful narratives about local past societies.

This field report will be based around the old and new educational establishment buildings used within the Lampeter campus.



St. David's University College

St. David's University College (Figure 1¹), also known as 'The Old Building', is the fourth oldest university within the UK and was the first built within Wales. The building holds a strong connection to St. David's Cathedral in southwest Wales, as the university was established by their Bishop, Burgess, in 1822. Its purpose was to teach "future Anglican clergymen" who would have been too poor to afford university outside of Wales, in England.

The building was listed by Cadw as a Grade II on the 21st September, 1964, and sits on a large plot of land with two gardens in the front, and an exterior wall that is also listed as a Grade II by Cadw. The train line, now unused, was built quite close to St. David's College, and likely would have been used as easy transport by past students, and would've been vital to non-local students around Wales to travel and attend.

The college originally only taught boys as girls' education extended mainly to stay home and be taught by their mothers in domestic chores - for Wales especially, the opening of a more local and focused college for poorer boys was still a major step forward. The Old Building has three halls that extend outward from the main building and around a courtyard and fountain, and above the main gate. These would have been the dormitories for the boys, and not dissimilar from how students today will move into university halls for their studies.

The Old Building houses a local Chapel (Figure 4²) that the local community uses regularly, and the Porter's Lodge, who look after the students as caretakers, property and maintenance of the dormitory buildings, laundry rooms, classroom and staff buildings that are owned by UWTSD.

¹ BBC, 'Undergraduate teaching at Lampeter stretches back to 1822 when it was founded as St David's College', 12 June, 2025, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8xgzjvye5vo>

² Barton, Allan, 'The University Chapel of St David at Lampeter in Wales.' 28 June, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/churchcrawling/posts/384621695393031/>



As one of the establishing features of Lampeter, the architecture in comparison to all other buildings on the campus is entirely different - Coflein and Nation Cymru both describe the “pre-eminent neo-classical” architect, Cockerell, as designing the building in a “simplified Tudor Gothic” style, and remodellings were made in the 19/20th century to the Chapel and Old Hall.

In regard to modern education, the Old Building (before the closing of UWTSD) wasn't used often as a teaching facility for UK students - the education taught in the building is now largely for the Chinese exchange students from the connection between the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) and the Wuhan and Lanzhou Universities³ in China. The halls are still dormitories, but for the exchange students, and there are some classrooms and offices on the bottom floor, but most are for the use of staff and students learning Sinology.

Chinese Teaching Facilities

Aside from the Old Building, the exchange students also have the Confucius Institute, a building adjacent on the road that is primarily for the teaching of Sinology, alongside half of the Founder's Library on the upper floor of the Old Building housing many Chinese books relevant to the course, and a big projector in front of many chairs that may also serve as a lecturing space. There are study rooms on the bottom (accessible) floor of the university

³ Owens, David. “*MakNation.Cymru, ing Connections on the Global Stage.*” 25 June 2025, nation.cymru/opinion/making-connections-on-the-global-stage/. Accessed 01 Mar. 2026.

Library that serve as private lecture rooms for the exchange students, and are usable by all students at any other time.



Student Support Buildings

There are many buildings surrounding the Old Building⁴ that each have a function to help the student body - the Canterbury Building (Figure 2⁵), and the Library that houses the Roderic Bowen Archives, are both directly opposite the Old Building. The former used to be the name of one of the later additions alongside the Old Building in 1897, but was demolished in 1971. The name has now been given to this building, which houses physical helpdesks that the Hwb provides for all students on its app, which include: Student Services, Learning Support, Finance, as well as teaching staff rooms. The latter is both the university library, run by volunteers until late, and also the local archive collection. It has a front desk and back room, printers and a research computer for locating books (besides the option to request them for staff to find), three accessible floors all with books and seating areas, and lastly a walkway that leads into the building that holds the Richard Bowen Archive Collections that are looked after by staff.

⁴ University of Wales Trinity Saint David, "Map CAMPWS Llambod/Lampeter Campus Map." Issuu, 14 Apr. 2022, issuu.com/trinitysaintdavid/docs/lampeter-campus-map. Accessed 01 Mar. 2026.

⁵ Lampeter Alumni, 'A nice picture of Canterbury Building to brighten up your Monday morning. Enjoy', 15 August, 2022, https://www.facebook.com/LampeterAlumni/photos/a-nice-picture-of-canterbury-building-to-brighten-up-your-monday-morning-enjoy-/3202129916692430/?_rdr



The Teaching Facility Buildings

There are a few dedicated buildings scattered around the campus that range from general classrooms and lecture hall(s) all equipped with projectors and cameras for recording lessons, and rooms with specialised equipment for certain purposes - the main teaching facility is the Arts Building, which has one large lecture and many smaller rooms that are booked out by Lecturers for lessons.

The Laboratories

There are four laboratories divided around the campus: Environmental Archaeology, Language (IT Lab), Red, and Blue labs that each have a specific purpose and has specialised equipment relative to them and their relevant courses - for example, the Environmental Archaeology lab has experiments around how dendrochronology can help date trees from centuries ago and their origins. Each has spaces within for students to be taught by Lecturers with equipment on hand to encourage visual and practical learning through handling, practicals or worksheets.

Conclusion

The Lampeter campus at UWTSD is unique not only because of its rural location in the near center of Wales, but also because of the way in which the history behind UWTSD shapes the physical and social structure of the town as well. As observed through this field report, the presence of St David's University College as the architectural centrepiece as the campus' identity creates a strong sense of cohesion between the university and the wider

community. Unlike larger campuses, Lampeter's layout is more compact and organised around this central building, allowing movement across the site to feel accessible.

The arrangement of the key facilities, like Student Support directly reflects a focus on functionality - the positioning of essential resource buildings opposite the main college building encourages continuous circulation of students, particularly those accessing the library and student support services through the Hwb. In doing research for the report, it was evident that this layout naturally concentrates activity within the central core of the campus, which strengthens social interaction while also making services highly visible and easy to access. Each building maintains a clearly defined purpose, and efficiently uses space while ensuring that all facilities remain within short walking distance of one another.

Overall, the Lampeter campus demonstrates how historical foundations, rural settings, and purposeful spatial design combine to create a distinctive academic environment. This field report shows that the campus is not only physically centered around its historic college building, but socially and functionally structured around accessibility, community, and practicality. This reinforces the idea that Lampeter is more than just a university site; it is an integrated community where design, history, and daily student experience are closely interconnected.