ST CARADOG'S CHURCH, LAWRENNY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust For: The Parochial Church Council of St Caradog's Church, Lawrenny





DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2013/32 RHIF Y DIGWILLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 105580

> Ebrill 2013 April 2013

ST CARADOG'S CHURCH, LAWRENNY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Gan / By

James Meek

Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121 Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131 Ffacs: 01558 823133 Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121 Heritage Management Section 01558 823131 Fax: 01558 823133 Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616) CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: PROF B C BURNHAM CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA

ST. CARADOG'S CHURCH, LAWRENNY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

CONTENTS

| | SUM | MARY | 1 |
|----|--------------|---|----|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | | |
| | 1.1 | Project Commission | 2 |
| | 1.2 | Scope of the Project | 2 |
| | 1.3 | Report outline | 2 |
| | 1.4 | Illustrations | 2 |
| 2. | THE SITE | | 3 |
| | 2.1 | Location | 3 |
| | 2.2 | Archaeological and Historical Background | 3 |
| 3. | RESULTS | | 6 |
| | 3.1 | Initial visit on 5 th April 2013 | 6 |
| | 3.2 | Second visit on 16 th April 2013 | 12 |
| 4. | CON | CLUSIONS | 19 |
| 5. | SOURCES | | 20 |

FIGURES

| Figure 1: | Site location map | 4 |
|-----------|---|----|
| Figure 2: | Plan of West Tower of St Caradog's Church | 8 |
| Figure 3: | Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 showing St Cawdra's Church and its environs. | 11 |
| Figure 4: | Elevation of northern wall of West Tower | 17 |
| Figure 5: | Elevation of western wall of West Tower | 18 |

PHOTOGRAPHS

| Photo 1: | The inside of the West Tower at the start of the works showing the stepped nature of the floor and sleeper walls | 6 |
|----------|--|----|
| Photo 2: | The remains of the plinth wall along the inside of the west wall of the tower (viewing south) | 7 |
| Photo 3: | The foundations for the wall along the inside of the north wall of the tower (viewing west) | 7 |
| Photo 4: | Surviving part of superstructure of western plinth wall and adjacent fragment of loose masonry on mortar floor | 9 |
| Photo 5: | Foundations of wall on the inside of the south wall of the tower, with the gap in the foundation to the west with the large fragment of masonry upon it, and plinth wall to west | 10 |
| Photo 6 | Collapsed area in mortar floor in northwest corner of tower | 10 |

| Photo 7 | Remains of foundations for southern wall around the inside of the tower, with fragmentary mortar spread to east of sleeper wall (view south) | 11 |
|----------|--|----|
| Photo 8 | Dressed stone block aligned with northern wall around the inside of the tower, with rough rubble sleeper wall above | 12 |
| Photo 9 | Collapsed area in third step down within church tower adjacent to stair tower doorway (view north) | 13 |
| Photo 10 | View of northern wall of West Tower, showing panelling, stair tower doorway and outlines of former pews | 14 |
| Photo 11 | Composite photograph showing full width of North wall | 15 |

ST. CARADOG'S CHURCH, LAWRENNY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment and recording exercise was undertaken during groundworks associated with renovations at St Caradog's Church, Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire. The work was commissioned from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services by Frans Nicholas Architects on behalf of his clients The Parochial Church Council of St Caradog's Church, Lawrenny.

Two visits were made to the site to record the surface archaeology and the wall elevations to determine the former layout of floors and seating within the tower. This information will be used to inform further design and mitigation to be implemented during the continued renovation works at the church.

A small plinth wall was present on the inside of the west wall of the tower which was partially demolished during the present works. The wall formerly continued on the inside of the north and south walls also, but had been previously demolished. The walls are likely to be late medieval/early post-medieval in date associated with the initial construction of the tower in c.1600. The floor of the tower was covered with a lime mortar which was also used to render the insides of the internal walls. The walls may have formed bench seating around the perimeter of the tower. Breaks in the walls suggest former alcoves.

The outlines of former pews were present on the surviving timber panels on the north and south walls of the church. Using this and other evidence it seems very feasible that five tiers of seating were present in the tower, each rising around 0.20m above the last from east to west. The original mortar floor level of the tower was partially removed when the pews were inserted. The upper tier was probably removed in the early 20th century and a larger upper floor level constructed. These works may have been associated with the fitting of a new heating system which resulted in the removal of the pews, further ground reduction and the disturbance and damage of a skull from a burial. The skull was placed in an area of rebuilding of the western wall beneath concrete capping.

The archaeological remains exposed by the works should be retained and preserved in-situ. It is likely that the former five tiers of flooring will be reinstated in the tower, which will safely protect the buried archaeology beneath.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Frans Nicholas (Architect) on behalf of The Parochial Church Council of St Caradog's Church, Lawrenny to carry out an investigations and assessment of archaeological remains revealed during groundworks in the west tower of St Caradog's Church, Lawrenny. The works were associated with improvement works at the church, including the replacement of suspended flooring within the base of the west tower.

1.1.2 Removal of the wooden floors in the base of the tower and the partial lowering of a stone built bench or plinth along the western wall of the church revealed a human skull and indications of below ground burials. Once it was established that the works might damage archaeological remains and potential burials, the works were ceased pending archaeological investigation and assessment.

1.1.3 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) initially were contacted on Wednesday 3rd April 2013. It was recommended that the archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) was contacted in the first instance. Following further discussions between the architect and the archaeological advisor to the DAC, DAT-FS were contacted again on 4th April 2013 to provide fees for the works. Following commission the works were carried out on Friday 5th April 2013.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The scope of the work was discussed with the archaeological advisor to the DAC and comprised the following aims:

- 1. Assess the extent of the remains and confirm what they represent, through archaeological cleaning of the area, followed by an appropriate level of recording, photography and drawing;
- 2. To ascertain whether the skull that was found during the groundworks in the corner of the tower belongs to a complete burial or whether it had been disarticulated;
- 3. To determine the significance of the remains and date where possible;
- 4. Provide evidence for the layout of the pews within the tower prior to renovation works in the later 19th century;
- 5. Preparation of a report and archive on the works.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the results of the archaeological assessment and investigation. Some archaeological background to the church is included.

1.4 Illustrations

- 1.4.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report.
- 1.4.2 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 St Caradog's Church is located at SM 0164 0689, within the village of Lawrenny located *c*.6km to the north-northwest of Pembroke (Figure 1).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The following relevant extracts are taken from the description of St Caradog's Church, in the 'South Pembrokeshire Churches – Part 2 Jeffreyston to Ludchurch' report (Ludlow 1997-8):

ST CARADOG, LAWRENNY, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

PRN 3463; RB No. 2836; NGR SN 0164 0689

Listed Building No. 5971; Grade II* listed (1998)

SUMMARY

Medieval church; 90% medieval core fabric.

A multicell church, medium-large, cruciform. Consists of a chancel, 3 bays; nave, 3 bays; north transept, 2 bays; south transept, 1 bay; medieval. West tower, 4 storeys; *c*.1600. Vestry (east of north transept), 1 bay 1886. North Porch, 1896. Heating chamber (south of chancel west bay), early 20th century. Limestone rubble construction; internal walls with render/plaster. Slate gable roofs; vestry and heating chamber with slate lean-to roofs and tower with a pyramidal roof. Medieval windows, chancel arch, transept arches, sanctus bellcote, skew-passage with tomb recess and effigy, piscina, sedilia, squint and aumbries, with limestone and Old Red Sandstone dressings. Tower openings, parapet, pinnacles and vault from *c*.1600 with limestone dressings. Other openings, including chancel arch, are mainly from 1886, neo-Gothic, with grey oolite dressings.

Roofs, floors, finishes: 1886 - 96.

West Tower

The west tower, comprising 4 storeys in squared and coursed limestone rubble, is typical of the region, but of rather better quality, and is late from c.1600. It is slightly tapered and has the 'typical' external batter and string course, but does not feature a west door. A square spiral turret projects from the eastern half of the north wall, entered through a plain, segmental-headed doorway, c.1600, and lit by simple loops. The 2-centred arch from the ground floor into the nave reflects the profile of the 2-centred barrel vault from c.1600, which has a central bell-raising port. The west wall is pierced by an uncusped, 3light window, with segmental heads in a square surround and a straight, plain label, rebuilt in chamfered limestone, with infill, in the 20th century but probably an imitation of an original c.1600; the outer arch is tall and 2-centred. There is a suspended board floor. The second stage is lit by a simple, square-headed light in the east wall from c.1600; there is a similar light in the north wall of the third stage, from which the second stage is divided externally by a plain string course. The belfry stage has 2-light openings with uncusped semicircular heads, in chamfered limestone from c.1600, in all 4 faces. The crenellated parapet lies on an external corbel table, from c.1600, with low, plain pinnacles at the corners, the north-eastern of which incorporates the head of the spiral stair. The pyramidal tower roof is slated.

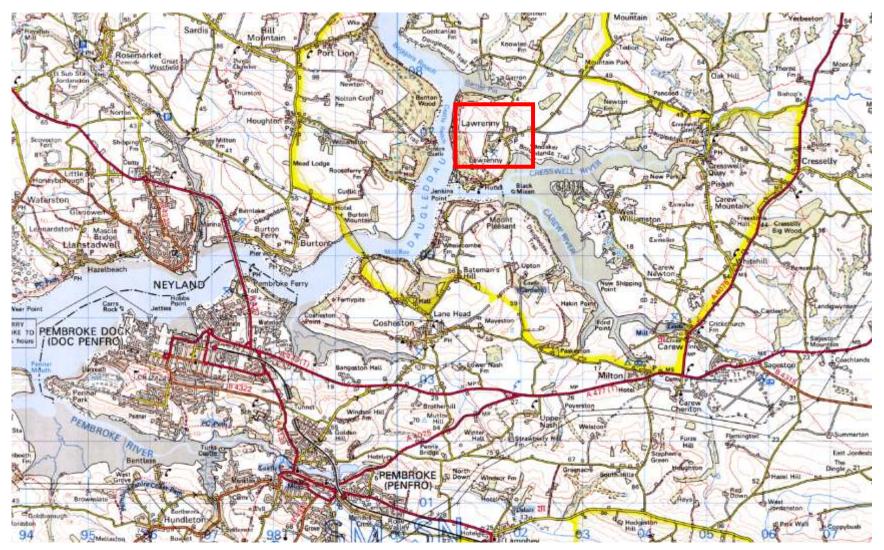


Figure 1: Site location map based upon the Ordnance Survey, with red circle showing the area of the watching brief

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

Basic phasing of church and structural development *Phasing*

Phase 1 – Nave, *c*.1200

Phase 2 – Chancel earlier, 14th century

Phase 3 – North and South transepts, later 14th century

Phase 4 – West Tower, c.1600

Phase 5 – Restored mid 19th century, vestry built

Phase 6 - Restored 1886, vestry rebuilt

Phase 7 - North porch, 1896

Phase 8 – Heating chamber, early 20th century

The semi-circular chancel arch appears to be original and suggests an early date for the nave, c.1200, although the doorways may be somewhat later. The chancel windows are early 14th century in style and may indicate a rebuild /extension of the chancel. The north and south transepts are probably also 14th century, but not contemporary; the north transept has a skew-passage while the south transept merely has a squint. The west tower can be given, on stylistic grounds, the late date of c.1600; it is similar to the slightly earlier tower at Begelly, Pembrokeshire. The vestry, north porch and heating chamber are $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century additions.

Restoration was undertaken in c.1860 when an 18^{th} -early 19^{th} century timber gallery was removed, the (contemporary?) timber window frames were replaced by masonry surrounds, plaster ceilings were introduced and the interior was reseated (Cadw 1997, 11). In 1867 Glynne thought the church too modernised (Glynne 1888, 137); he noted that the northern skew-passage was blocked but was able to view the effigy.

A photograph of 1871 (NMR 900175/7) shows the east end of the church prior to the second, main restoration; some restoration had however already been undertaken. A vestry occupies the site of the present vestry with which it is similar in scale and form; it probably dates from the early-mid 19th century. The present north window of the north transept may be shown; a similar, 4-light window occupied the chancel east wall; alternatively, both windows depicted may have been medieval. The medieval windows were still blocked.

The church was restored again in 1886 (HPR/42/42) to the designs of the architect T G Jackson, when the vestry was rebuilt and the church was refenestrated, including the re-opening of the medieval chancel windows, sedilia and aumbry. The plaster ceilings were removed and the church was re-roofed and the interior was refloored, reseated and replastered. The construction of the present north porch was anticipated, but not executed until 1896 to Jackson's design (NLW, SD/F/225).

The heating chamber , and underfloor heating ducts are from the early 20th century, the heating apparatus is now oil-fired, with an external oil tank.

The tower was repointed in 1986.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Initial visit on 5th April 2013 (Figure 2)

3.1.1 The initial visit to the site was undertaken to assess the character of the exposed remains revealed during initial clearance works within the base of the West Tower. These initial groundworks had removed the floors to expose the underlying sleeper walls which carried the floor joists (Photo 1). A concrete capped, small plinth wall along the inside of the west wall of the tower had been partially demolished. One sleeper wall had been removed in the upper western part of the tower.



Photo 1: The inside of the West Tower at the start of the works showing the stepped nature of the floor and sleeper walls

3.1.2 The tower floor was separated into four levels rising from the main floor level of the church to the east to its highest point at the western end of the tower (Photo 1). Each level was separated by a sleeper wall constructed of rough rubble stone in a brittle cement mortar, each aligned north to south. The walls were poorly constructed, their function to support the floor joists. The central two sleeper walls were separated into two levels to support the stepped floors. As noted above a further sleeper wall had been present at the western end of the tower to support the upper floor level, but this had been removed (as stated by the site contractor).

3.1.3 The remains of the plinth wall along the inside of the west wall of the tower comprised a section of upstanding masonry and the remains of foundations (Photo 2 and 4). The wall measured 0.40m in width at its widest point, but did seem to narrow at its northwestern end as though it had been partially truncated. This wall was of a different character to the sleeper walls, the surviving section of masonry being rendered on its internal face, constructed of larger limestone blocks and bonded with a hard lime mortar. The mortar contained small pieces of crushed anthracitic coal (available locally) which may have been used for its properties as a pozzolan, speeding up the setting time of the mortar and making a firmer mortar. The coal had not been burnt.

St. Caradog's Church, Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Assessment



Photo 2: The remains of the plinth wall along the inside of the west wall of the tower (viewing south)



Photo 3: The foundations for the wall along the inside of the north wall of the tower (viewing west)

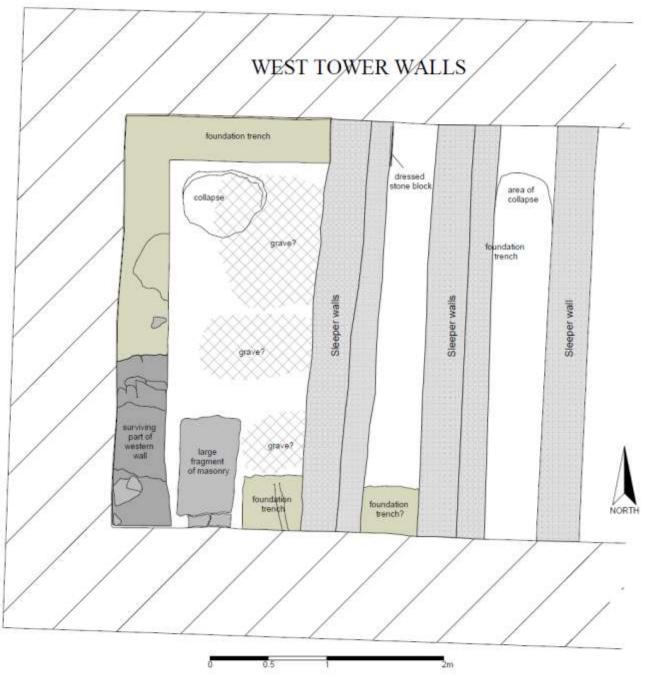


Figure 2: Plan of West Tower of St Caradog's Church

3.1.4 Unlike the sleeper walls the western plinth wall had a foundation comprising redeposited natural soils mixed with waste flecks of mortar, small stones and slate fragments. The foundations were at least 0.25m in depth.

3.1.5 The foundation for the plinth wall was also present on the inside of the north (Photo 3) and south walls within the upper section of the tower. No superstructure had been removed from these areas during the present phase of works and it is presumed they had been removed during an earlier phase of works at the church, probably when the stepped floor levels had been added.

3.1.6 A mortar floor survived within the upper section of the western part of the tower. This was made of a fine mortar with occasional small flecks of charcoal or coal. The removed sleeper wall had been constructed directly on top of this floor level, but had left no marks in the surface. It was clear that the floor was associated with the former walls on the inside of the north, west and south walls of the tower. The flooring merged with the render on the inside of the surviving part of the superstructure of the west wall, implying the floor and the render were laid in a single episode. The edge of the mortar floor adjacent to the foundations also implied this, as it could be seen that the mortar had been swept up the inside of the former walls.

3.1.7 To the east of the western plinth wall was a large fragment of masonry, again of around 0.40m in width and of very similar construction. This fragment was not in-situ and had been placed loosely on the mortar floor (Photos 4 and 5). It is presumed this originated either the north or south walls on the inside of the tower, but was either too large to move or was left on the mortar floor to support a timber floor above. The removed sleeper wall had been located directly to the east of this fragment of masonry (as stated by the site contractor). It was also noted in this area that there was a break in the foundations on the inside of the tower wall and that the mortar flooring continued directly up to the inside of south wall of the tower (Photo 5). This gap in the foundations was around 0.75m in width.



Photo 4: Surviving part of superstructure of western plinth wall and adjacent fragment of loose masonry on mortar floor (view west)



Photo 5: Foundation of wall on the inside of the south wall of the tower (with trowel upon it), with the gap in the foundation to the west with the large fragment of masonry upon it, and plinth wall to west (view south)



Photo 6: Collapsed area in mortar floor in northwest corner of tower

3.1.8 It was evident that a number of voids or areas of loose material were present below the mortar floor, due to hollow sounding areas and a small partial collapse of the floor level in the northwestern corner (Photo 6). This collapse was at most 0.14m deep onto firmer ground below. The implication is that a number of burials are present below the floor which have subsequently settled and caused small voids to form beneath the flooring above them. At least three of these voids were present. The collapse in the floor enabled the make-up of the mortar floor to be recorded. This showed that it was made of a number of different layers of mortar (perhaps repairs, re-flooring or merely the construction method needed to create a firm level) and was 0.01m in depth at its maximum thickness.

3.1.9 Within the lower floor level to the east of the upper western level the mortar floor level did not survive, presumably having been dug out when the stepped floor levels for the tower were inserted. The base of the foundations for the southern wall around the inside of the tower was visible as a fragmentary spread of mortar 0.40m in width and 0.02m in depth maximum (Photo 7).



Photo 7: Remains of foundations for southern wall around the inside of the tower, with fragmentary mortar spread to east of sleeper wall (view south)

3.1.10 The northern wall on the inside of the tower could not be seen within the next part of the floor level, although a single large dressed stone block was present directly below the sleeper wall which was aligned with the foundations (Photo 8). The dressed stone block was 0.30m in width and 0.20m in depth and was unlike any of the other stones used in the construction of the sleeper walls. If it is associated with the northern wall, it could imply a former feature in the internal wall.



Photo 8: Dressed stone block aligned with northern wall around the inside of the tower, with rough rubble sleeper wall above (view west)

3.1.11 The next step in the floor level of the tower revealed no further evidence for the mortar flooring or walls around the inside of the tower. The exposed areas of ground surface comprised a reddish sandy soil with frequent small stones, similar to the natural rab recorded in this area. No sign of a foundation cut for the West Tower wall was visible. On the northern side of this stepped area a void had formed in the floor adjacent to the doorway to the stair tower for the West Tower (Photo 9). Above the collapse a level of concreted sands and gravels was present, possibly through some form of mineralisation process as opposed to any man made flooring level. The collapse had been partially backfilled with small fragments of brick, stone and mortar. The area of collapse ran below the next sleeper wall to the east. This could suggest the presence of a further settled burial below.

3.1.12 The final step down in the floor level of the tower to the east corresponded with the floor level of the main body of the church. This retained many of its supporting floor joists. Features and pipework associated with the under-floor heating system was also present within the void beneath the floor joists. No sign of any archaeological remains was present at this level.

3.1.13 The skull recovered from the very northeastern corner of the church tower had been located within the west wall beneath the concrete capping on the inside of the church tower. The skull had presumably originated from one of the burials beneath the mortar flooring, which had been dug out when the stepped floors of the tower were constructed. The skull had indications of damage with the part of the upper jaw missing and the part of the right side of the skull having been removed. This damage occurred when the ground levels were reduced as opposed to being anything that happened to the individual to cause their death. The skull was located within the western plinth wall adjacent to the part where it turned to the north and had mortar upon it suggesting it had been crudely built into the wall.



Photo 9: Collapsed area in third step down within church tower adjacent to stair tower doorway (view north)

3.2 Second visit on 16th April 2013

3.2.1 Following a site meeting with Frans Nicholas it was agreed that a further site visit was needed to record the wall elevations to show the former arrangement of seating that was present within the church tower. The outlines of former pews were visible in surviving wooden panelling on the north and south walls of the tower demonstrating the stepped ground levels in the tower. The northern wall was subject to a detailed record in preference of that to the south as there was better preservation of detail (Photos 10 and 11).

3.2.2 At the eastern end of the tower the lowest pew was located at a very similar level to those within the main body of the church. The next pew to the east was positioned on the western side of the stair tower doorway at a level 0.25m above the first, 0.65m to the west. The next pew was located 0.63m to the west at a level 0.23m above the previous. The last surviving pew outline was located 0.64m to the west at a level 0.22m above the previous.

3.2.3 The pews measured 0.93m - 0.95m in height and 0.35m in width to the end of the seat (as shown on the two western benches). The outlines of book rests were also visible at the tops of the two central pews on their western sides (for hymn books etc).



Photo 10: View of northern wall of West Tower, showing panelling, stair tower doorway and outlines of former pews (view north-northwest)

3.2.4 The two western wooden panels measured roughly 1m x 1m, with simple, squared 0.09m width rails around the perimeter. The panels were linked by the central rail. In the centre of each panel a vertical muntin was present also of 0.09m width. The uprights of the pews were fixed to the western rails of each panel via a 0.03m wide and 0.07m tall mortice hole. Part of an additional panel was present to the east of these just before the stair tower doorway. Again the pew in this location was fixed to the western rail of the panel via a similar sized mortice hole. The easternmost panel was of slightly different construction with beading around the edges of the rails and muntin. The difference in the style of the panelling may demonstrate that the lowest level of benches within the tower were more visible than those further back.

3.2.5 Horizontal pencil lines were present on the walls above the panelling indicating construction marks drawn on the walls prior to the fixing of the panels. One of these marks aligns with the top of the surviving western panel, with another around 0.18m above that. This upper line could represent the fixing line for a further panel to the west which has subsequently been removed. This may have been associated with a further pew at the back of the tower.

3.2.6 A lower line was recorded on the northern wall of the tower that was seemingly formed by dirt accumulation, possibly associated with a former floor level. This line was located 0.23m above the base of the surviving western bench outline and just under 1m from the upper horizontal pencil line mentioned above. This suggests a further panel and floor had been present at a higher level in the western end of the tower. This could suggest that a further upper tier of pews was located at the very back of the tower. Overall this would give 5 tiers of pews within the church tower, the westernmost row being 0.86m above that to the east.



Photo 11: Composite photograph showing full width of North wall (view north)

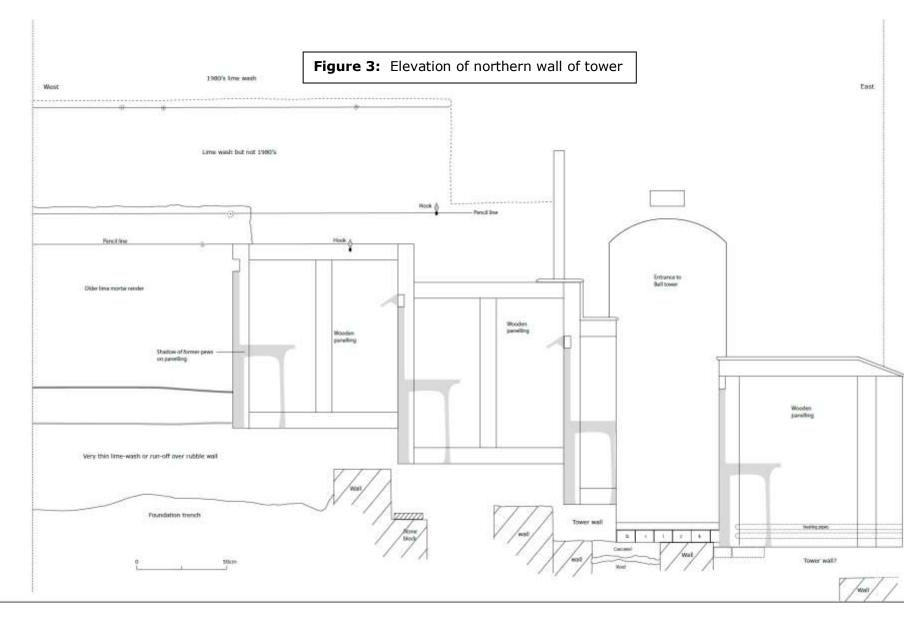
3.2.7 On the western wall of the tower the top of the former concrete capped plinth wall was visible across the entire width of the wall. This lay between 0.42m and 0.46m above the mortar floor level in the upper part of the church floor. The line of dirt accumulation associated with a probable former floor level seen on the northern wall was also visible, which lay 0.25m above the concrete capping line. This indicates that a former floor level was present above the timber floor removed during these on-going works.

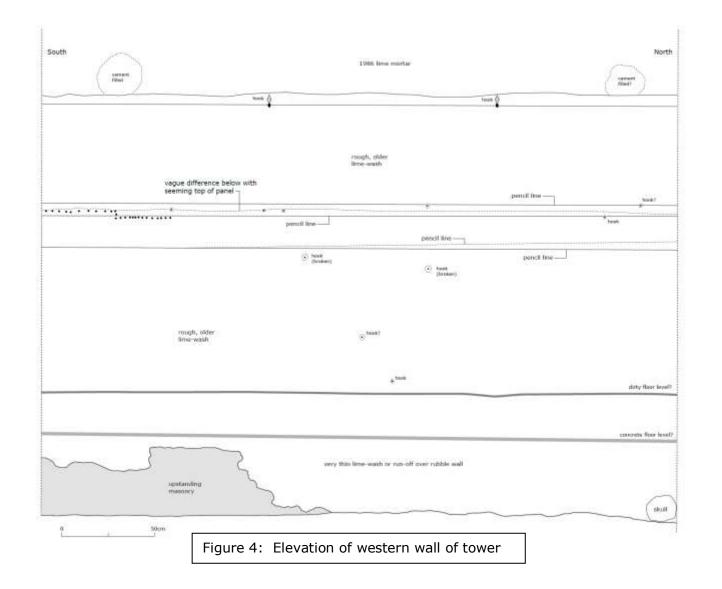
3.2.8 Further horizontal pencil lines were present corresponding with those seen on the northern wall and similar differences in the white wash / lime wash was present indicating the same chronology of wall finishes as seen on the north wall. One pencil line was slightly mis-aligned with the lower one and is presumably an error when first laid out which was corrected.

3.2.9 On both the northern, western and southern wall, occasional iron hooks were present. The iron hooks were merely hammered into the stone wall behind. There did not seem to be any format to their layout other than some corresponded with the horizontal pencil lines and are presumably contemporary. Others were placed randomly in the walls either surviving as hooks or just the iron shaft hammered into the wall. At the southern end of the wall two rows of small holes were present through the lime plaster on the wall. The function or origin of these is uncertain.

3.2.10 The upper pencil line seen on both the north, west and also partly on the southern wall marks the boundary between the 1986 white wash and an earlier white/lime wash. Some modern timber battens were present on the wall in this area, providing a framework for wall coverings. On the southern wall further modern battens were present which also incorporated fragments of earlier wooden panelling in their construction.

St. Caradog's Church, Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Assessment





4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The archaeological assessment of the archaeological remains exposed at St Caradog's Church at Lawrenny has demonstrated well preserved archaeological remains of significance survive at the church. The on-going ground works revealed an upstanding wall of probable late medieval or early post-medieval date and exposed an associated floor layer and probable underlying burials. It has been possible to retain some of this upstanding wall for its full height and all of its foundations. The works have also enabled a summary chronology of changing floor levels within the tower to be determined.

4.2 The following conclusions are laid in chronological order.

Construction of West Tower *c***.1600**

4.3 Around the inside of the north, west and south walls of the West Tower were the remains of a 0.40m wide wall. This survived to a height of around 0.40m along the western wall until the present works removed part of it assuming it to be of modern date (as indicated by the concrete capping on top). The walls were rendered with lime mortar which merged with a mortar floor level which survives in the upper part of the tower floor. At least three burials are likely to lie beneath this floor, presumably laid at the same time or after the construction of the walls.

4.4 It is assumed that this wall was constructed inside of the tower, perhaps to form stone benches around its walls.

4.5 The possibility that these walls pre-dated the church tower cannot be discounted. This is suggested in two places where possible entrances through the walls are present. The first lies in the southwestern corner and is evident as a break in the foundations for the wall where the mortar floor continues up to the south wall of the West Tower. The lime mortar does not rise up the tower wall in this area, as it does on the internal walls. The second possible entrance lies in the first step down to the east from the upper, western area. Here a large dressed stone block lies in the same place as the internal wall seeming to form a distinct edge, again possibly for an entrance. These breaks in the internal wall may of course have been purposeful alcoves for specific activities, structures or objects which have long since gone.

Tiered flooring and pews added, mid to late 19th century

4.6 The tiered pew seating recorded in the tower is thought to date from the mid-19th century or in 1886, associated with the restoration works undertaken at these times. It is possible that this may have occurred slightly earlier.

4.7 In a bid to attract more worshippers to the church or as a result of demand, additional seating was placed in the tower. This was erected on tiered flooring allowing those nearer the back to get a better view of the rest of the church and altar. At least four tiers of seating can still be made out in the tower, surviving as outlines in the remaining wooden panels.

4.8 The construction of the tiered floors resulted in parts of the original tower flooring being removed and lowered. Sleeper walls were constructed across the width of the tower to provide supports for floor joists. It is possible that the skull may have been disturbed during these works.

4.9 The north and south walls around the inside of the tower may have remained in place at this time supporting joists for the highest floor level along the western side of the tower.

Removal of pews and heating system added in early 20th century

4.10 The lowest level of pews within the tower were evidently removed when the heating system was installed in the early 20th century. Pipework associated with the heating crosses in front of the outline of the pews in this area. The pews would have to have been removed to install the pipes.

4.11 The remainder of the flooring in the tower also seems to have been altered slightly at this time. The upper tier is removed and lowered to correspond with the height of the next lower level. A sleeper wall is built across the centre of the upper tier, and at the same time the north and south walls on the inside of the tower must have been removed. One large block of masonry from one of these two walls was moved from its original location and left loose on the earlier mortar floor, possibly to aid support of the timber flooring above or merely left as the block was too large to move. This floor level runs as far as the west wall which is partially rebuilt where the north wall was removed and then capped in concrete.

4.12 On the eastern side of the tower works associated with the installation of the heating system may have required the ground level to be further dropped to allow for more pipework to the heating chamber. It is likely that the skull was disturbed at this time and damaged during the excavations. To dispose of the skull, it was inserted into the northwestern corner of the west wall following removal of the northern wall and addition of the concrete capping.

5. SOURCES

Ludlow, N. 1997-1998. '*Cadw Welsh Historic Church's Project-South Pembrokeshire Churches – Part 2 Jeffreyston to Ludchurch*, DAT 48

ST CARADOG'S CHURCH, LAWRENNY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2013/32 RHIF Y DIGWILLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 105580

> Ebrill 2013 April 2013

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

JAMES MEEK

Llofnod / Signature

Swydd / Position: FIELD SERVICES PROJECT MANAGER

James Mede

Date 30/04/13

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith This report has been checked and approved by

KEN MURPHY

Llofnod / Signature

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf. on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: TRUST DIRECTOR

K

Date 30/04/13

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report.

