

**ST DAVID'S CHURCH, LLANARTHNEY,
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OCTOBER 2013 and NOVEMBER 2015
(SN 53437 20264)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr Grey, St David's Church



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Gan / By

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SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Grey, Treasurer of St David's Church Llanarthney, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation works within the church associated with the proposed re-siting of the font from the south aisle to the west end of the nave in October 2013.

The archaeological watching brief revealed that waste mortar from late 19th century restoration work on the church had been dumped on the area following the construction of dwarf walls erected to support the church pews. The construction of these walls appears to have caused below ground disturbance as evidenced by the large numbers of disarticulated human bones recovered from the excavation area. Whether these burials were originally laid within the church or represent earlier burials over which the church was extended is not known.

It was possible to identify a surviving former floor surface, underlying the 19th century deposits. This was left in situ as it lay at level below that required to be disturbed for the excavation area. It was also possible to view part of the footings of the nave west wall which may date from the medieval period.

No evidence for any in situ human burials or grave cuts was revealed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

An extension to this watching brief was commissioned by Mr Grey in November 2015 during later excavation works related to the re-siting of the lectern to the northern side of the nave at the entrance to the chancel.

Similar deposition within the church was encountered during this second phase of work, as had been recorded during the first, with numerous disarticulated human bones recovered in large numbers distributed throughout. Although excavated to a similar depth as the earlier works no evidence for a former floor surface was encountered at the maximum depth reached by the groundworks.

Some denser concentrations of disarticulated remains were encountered, which may relate to later reburial events, but none could be identified in plan as lying within specific grave cuts or reburial pits.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Grey, Treasurer of St David's Church Llanarthney, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation work within the church for the installation of a limecrete base ahead of the removal of the font from the south aisle to a position at the west end of the nave. This was undertaken in October 2013.

1.1.2 A similar limecrete base was installed during the re-siting of the lectern further to the north, near the entrance to the chancel. This work was carried out in November 2015.

1.1.3 The requirement for the archaeological watching brief during the groundworks at the church were required as part of the Faculty granted for the repair works by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The project objectives were:

- To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks;
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks; and
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the results of the watching brief.

1.3.2 this version of the report includes the original report produced for the 2013 watching brief, with additions relating to the results of the watching brief in November 2015.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found at the back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4000 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4000 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

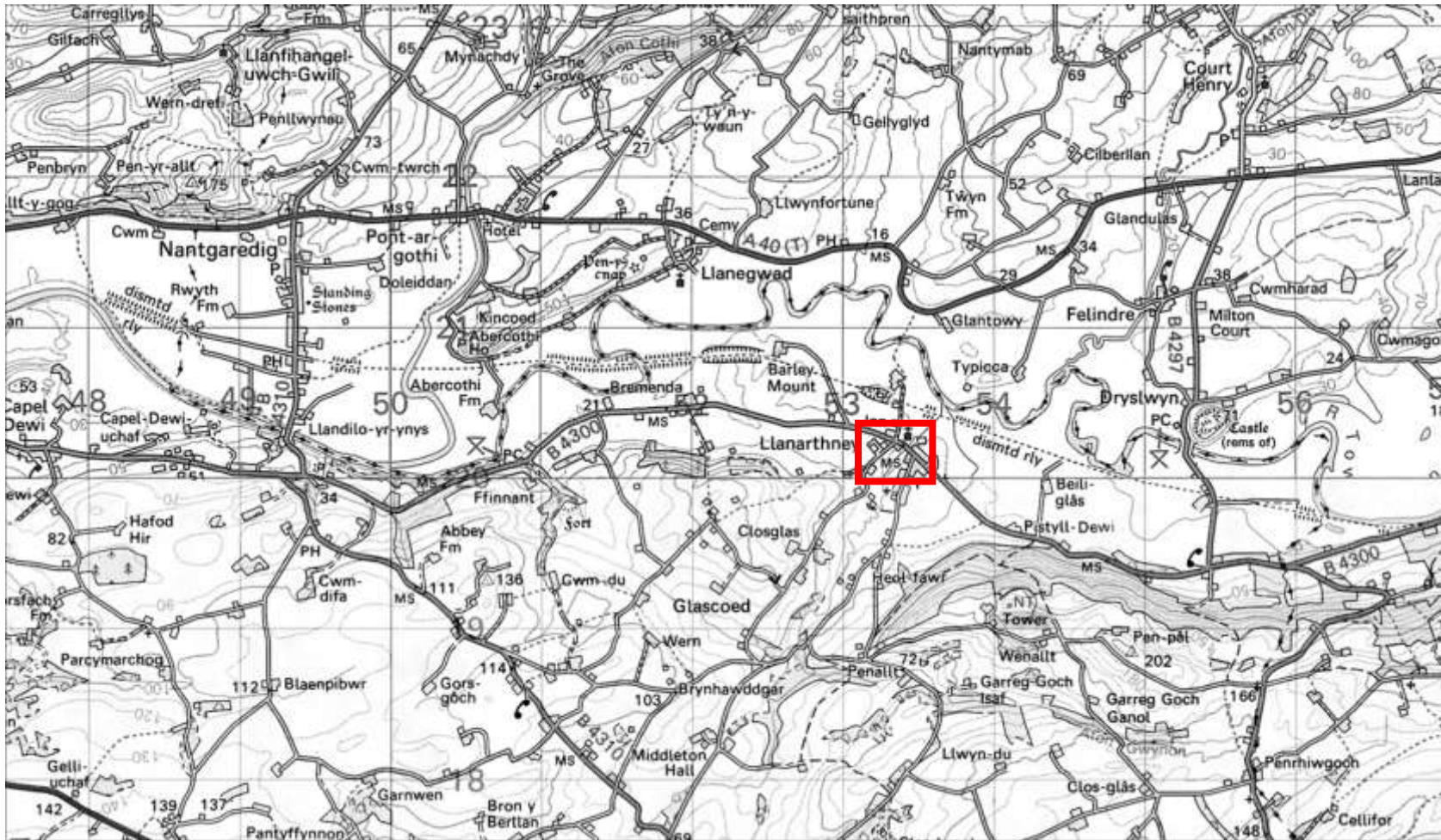


Figure 1: Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 St David's Church lies within the village of Llanarthney at NGR SN 53430 20280. Llanarthney is located c.11km to the east of Carmarthen. The B4300 road lies to the south of the site whilst to the north lies the River Towy and its floodplain. To the east of the site lies the Emlyn Arms public house whilst to the west is the former Golden Grove Inn.

2.1.2 The underlying geology consists of Arenig epoch rocks of the Early Ordovician period, which is overlain by glacial till of the Devensian period. The site lies near to several geological boundaries and so some variation may exist in the predicted below ground geology.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The following historical and archaeological description of St David's Church is taken from Ludlow 1998:

DESCRIPTION

The present church

St David, Llanarthney, is a multicell church, of large size. It retains approximately 60% medieval core fabric.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a single-bayed south chapel (now vestry), a 3-bayed south aisle, a boilerhouse between the chancel and south chapel, and a 3-storey west tower. Construction is in limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble throughout. There are extensive remains of late 18th-early 19th century external render (pre-1826), limited later 19th century pointing and there has been some 20th century cement repointing. The interior is plastered. The arcade between the nave and south aisle was removed in 1826. Roofs are slated gables, the nave and south aisle roofed as one unit; the boilerhouse (now demolished) has a slated lean-to roof; the west tower roof was not seen.

The chancel has an external basal batter up to a plain string-course, medieval. The 3-light east window has Geometric tracery inserted, with infill, in the later 19th century, and there is a single cusped lancet of similar date in the north wall. The plain 2-centred chancel arch is medieval. The softwood 'wagon-roof' ceiling appears to be later than the 1826 restoration, and, like the tiled floor may belong to the later 19th century restoration.

The nave eastern gable, above eaves level, was entirely rebuilt in 1826 when the south aisle was absorbed and the former arcade was removed. The north wall has 3 windows like the chancel east window but with 2 lights and string-courses which were inserted, with infill, in the later 19th century. The nave west wall is battered externally, and has a door with 2-centred surround, late 15th century but partly rebuilt in the later 19th century.

The nave and south aisle are roofed as one; the roof structure is not known, but is from 1826 and lies above a flat plaster ceiling with decorative panelling and medallions, from 1826. The passages are flagged, from 1826?, with suspended board floors from the later 19th century.

The south chapel has an external batter and string-course like the chancel. It formerly communicated with the chancel west bay through a segmental-headed arch into the south chapel which is medieval but has been blocked, probably in 1826; a doorway was inserted through the blocking. The simple 2-centred arch

from the chapel into the south aisle is also blocked. A window in the east wall is like the nave windows and also later 19th century, and there is a blocked window in the south wall with a square Old Red Sandstone surround of possible 17th century date (1682?); the blocking is interrupted by a door, probably from the later 19th century. There is a chimney in the east wall, with a square brick stack, shared with the boilerhouse flue and late 19th century. The chapel is now used as a vestry.

The south aisle has 3 windows in the south wall like those in the nave, and also later 19th century. The west wall is battered like the nave west wall and pierced by a door with a 2-centred surround from the 15th century. The aisle is floored as the nave.

The west tower is from the late 15th century and comprises 3 storeys. A spiral rises in the thickness of the south wall, entered through a 4-centred, 15th century doorway in the nave west wall and lit by simple square slits of similar date. There is an external batter up to a string-course. The west door is a plain 2-centred arch, late 15th century. The ground floor formerly had a barrel-vault with a segmental profile, the remains of which can be seen; it is flagged as the nave passages. There are 15th century loops in the north, south and west walls of the second storey. The belfry stage has large, cusped, 2-light openings in the north and west walls (the latter mullion gone) from the 15th century, and a similar single light in the east wall. The large opening in the south wall, with a segmental brick head, is probably from 1826. A string-course lies below a crenellated parapet, which displays a 15th century gargoyle.

The lean-to boilerhouse is in brick and from the late 19th century. It has a slated lean-to roof. An external oil-tank, from the later 20th century, lies adjacent.

There is neither an external cutting nor a drain around the church. The floors are suspended over heating ducts. The boilerhouse floor may be below-ground. External memorials lie significantly close to the south walls.

Structural development

The nave is medieval, but cannot be closely dated; the original chancel may have been shorter. The south aisle exhibits 15th century detail. The west tower is from the late 15th century; it contained 3 bells in the 16th century. The chancel and south chapel share an external batter and string-course, and the arch from the south aisle into the chapel arch is similar to the chancel arch; they appear to share the same, early 16th century date. The boilerhouse is from the late 19th century.

There appears to have been a restoration in 1682; a stone bearing that date is set in the nave north wall. The chancel had been 'out of repaire' in 1678 but was in good order in 1705 ;a blocked south chapel window may also be from the 1682 restoration. In 1720 the chancel roof was again 'out of repair, the floors and seats out of order and the wheel of one of the bells decay'd'. A west gallery was present by 1802 , and the roofs were 'tiled'. The chancel east wall was (partly?) rebuilt in 1806. The old 'oak' seats were removed in 1807, and the following year the church is described as 'seated and flagged', and whitewashed within. The church door was repaired and 3 new window frames, presumably of timber, were made; the 'fireplace in the church' was also repaired - a pew fireplace?.

The church was restored in 1826;the restoration was high-impact and in the Non-conformist idiom, and cost £324 17s 5d. The nave and south aisle were united by the removal of the arcade (cf. Llannon). The existing west gallery was presumably removed. The west tower was mentioned by Lewis in 1833 who otherwise described the church as 'a plain neat edifice' presenting 'no architectural details of importance'.

Most of the present fenestration dates to the later 19th century, as do the present flooring arrangements (if not materials), and the chancel and south chapel roofs. The softwood pews are from this restoration, as is the pulpit; there are no stalls. There is an organ in the south aisle from c.1890.

The limestone font is one piece, octagonal and dates from the 13th-14th century.

In 1906 a broken, cross-incised stone altar table lay in the porch - now represented by a fragment in the chancel?

The church was Grade II in 1998 (listed building No 18982).

The 'Cross of Elmat', a large 11th -12th century wheel-cross within the tower ground floor, is not in situ, having apparently been brought from the nearby promontory fort of Cae'r Castell. A 'perforated and grooved stone' (prehistoric? Early Christian Monument?) was apparently found in the churchyard during a grave excavation. Fragments of Early Christian Monument(s) are apparently built into the churchyard wall.

SITE HISTORY

There is some evidence for the pre-Norman conquest religious use of the site -

Pre-Norman conquest dedication; Early Christian Monuments? and/or prehistoric stone?; 12th century documentary reference.

St David, Llanarthney, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy. It was a possession of the Bishop of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church at Brecon, rated in the king's books at £15. The prebend was appropriated to the Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in England by Bishop Bek in 1290, confirmed by Edward II in 1328. There were formerly two chapels-of-ease in the parish.

The patronage was unchanged in 1833, when the living was a discharged vicarage rated in the King's books at £8 and endowed with £200 royal bounty

In 1998 St David, Llanarthney, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Llanddarog in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of Carmarthen.

Llanarthney may be the 'Llanadneu' mentioned as a 'Dewi' church in the 12th century 'Poem to Dewi' by Gwynfardd Brycheiniog. The dedication is given as St David in 1833 but the later Ordnance Survey First Edition gives 'St Arthen'.

2.2.2 The church also lies within the wider Llanarthney Historic Landscape Categorisation Area (HLC Area 189) which is summarised as follows:

'Historic Background

A small area around the nucleation of Llanarthney, roughly coterminous with an area that lay within the commote of Iscennen but belonged to the Bishops of St Davids, probably as the result of a pre-Conquest grant. Field names immediately south-west of the village containing Henllan and Llandre elements suggest the presence of a clas church, and a rectangular cropmark has been observed which belongs to a later successor. Either this, or the present church which is dedicated to St David, may be the 'Llanadneu' mentioned as a 'Dewi' church in the 12th century 'Poem to Dewi' by Gwynfardd Brycheiniog. St Davids was not a parish church during the post-Conquest period. It was a possession of the Bishop as a prebend of the collegiate church at Brecon, appropriated to the Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in England by Bishop Thomas Bek in 1290. Iscennen, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent until 1284, and native systems of tenure were maintained. The present nucleation, which is informal and rather dispersed, is therefore probably Post-Medieval in origin and only about 10 dwellings are depicted on the Llanarthney

tithe map of 1848. The western half of the area is occupied by three farms bearing the name 'Bremenda' which represent the break-up of a larger holding. This appears to have occurred between 1697 and 1789 when it was a possession of the Golden Grove estate. The estate may be responsible for the present pattern of large regular fields which are probably 18th century in origin. The LNWR main West Wales railway line formerly passed through the area, with a station at Llanarthney. It was opened, as the 'Vale of Towy Line', by the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company in 1858, which provided impetus for further development, although the Golden Grove Arms inn had already been established under the patronage of the estate. Small-scale development has continued into the late 20th century.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llanarthney village and historic landscape area lies on a gently sloping terrace on the south side of the River Towy. The northern edge of the area lies at a level of 20 m, just a few metres above the flood plain of the Towy, while the southern limit, against the steep valley side achieves a height of 30 m - 40 m. The area is centred on the village of Llanarthney. The historic elements of the village now consist of the medieval church and two public houses of 19th century date. Post-war housing development, mostly late 20th century and in a variety of styles and materials, surrounds the historic core and includes a council estate. The village sits in a landscape, probably 18th century in origin, which comprises medium-large fields of rich, improved pasture and dispersed farms. Earth banks topped with hedges are ubiquitous. Hedges are well maintained, and many possess distinctive trees. There is little woodland. A disused quarry lies to the west of the area. The B4300 and the abandoned LNWR railway line both run through this area.

Recorded archaeology is represented by the clas/chapel site and the present church of St David, which is Grade B listed. There is also a possible Bronze Age standing stone, a possible holy well, a fulling mill site and a possible kiln.

There are a number of distinctive buildings, including a Grade II listed smithy. Bremenda-ucha, Bremenda-ganol and Bremenda-issa are 'commodious farmhouses of superior type', much altered in the mid-19th century (Jones 1987, 13). Generally farmhouses are stone-built with slate roofs and of two storeys, of the late 18th- and 19th-century, and in the polite Georgian tradition rather than the vernacular, though examples of the latter are present. Stone-built 19th century farm outbuildings tend towards a formal layout on the larger farms, less so on smaller farms. Most farms have large modern farm buildings. Other buildings include a bridge, two inns and two chapels. The railway station has gone.

Llanarthney historic landscape area is not easy to define as it shares many historic landscape components with its neighbours. However, to the south the steep and wooded valley side of the Towy does provide a reasonably clear-cut border between this area and its neighbours. To the north the flood plain of the Towy is very similar to this area in many respects. Here there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border.

PRN No	Period	Site Name and Description	Grid Reference
61169	Post-medieval	Grade II listed milepost	SN 53411 20225
61167	Post-medieval	Grade II listed national school	SN 53362 20231
761	Early Medieval	Group III Early Medieval Cross Large, free-standing cross with Latin and Norman French inscriptions, of post-Conquest late 11th - early 12th century date. Now fixed against the interior of the west tower of Llanarthney parish church PRN 728. It was first recorded in 1833 when it was part of a stile at the entrance to the churchyard PRN 49262, where Edwards suggests it was +/- in situ, regarding the claim by the RCAHM that it had been brought from the nearby Cae'r Castell hillfort as dubious. The cross was moved to its present position in c.1913. NDL 2003, from N Edwards forthcoming	SN 5344 2025
22131	Post-medieval	Grade II listed blacksmiths workshop The smithy is still in use today, and has a large forge at one end. It incorporates two cottages on the same site, which are mentioned in the Llanarthney Tithe map and Apport 1847. There is no mention of the smithy in this document so the cottages must predate it. Sections of thatch are still present in the cottage roof although this has been covered over on the outside by zinc sheets. The cottages used to have an upstairs section but the floors have been removed. The partition walls remaining are made of lathe and plaster. Two large fireplaces are also present. ER Evans 1983	SN 5346 2018
97343	Post-medieval	Blacksmiths workshop	SN 5347 2019

Table 2: HER entries within a 100 metre radius around Llanarthney Church

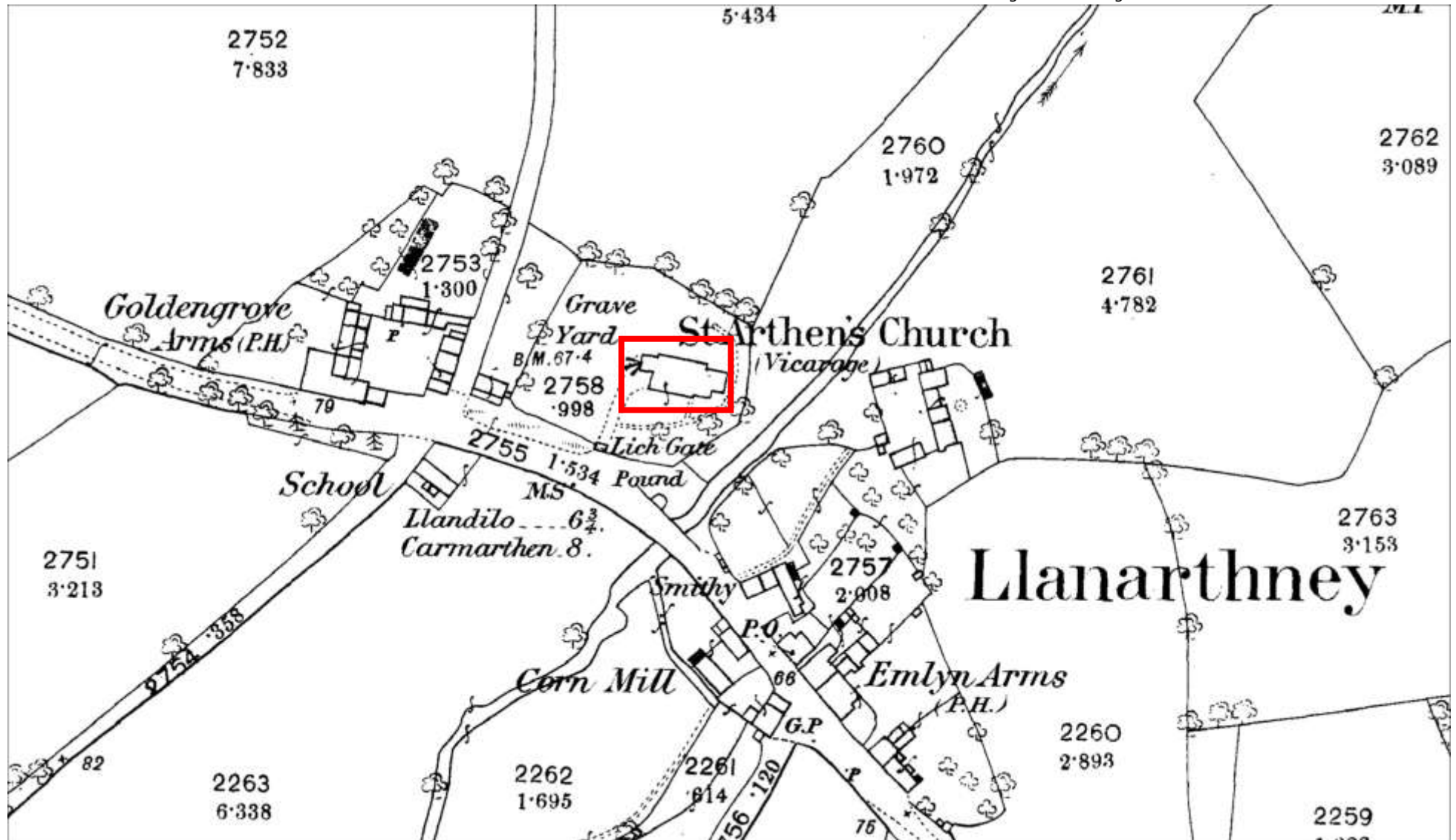


Figure 2: Extract from 1:2500 scale OS map of 1888

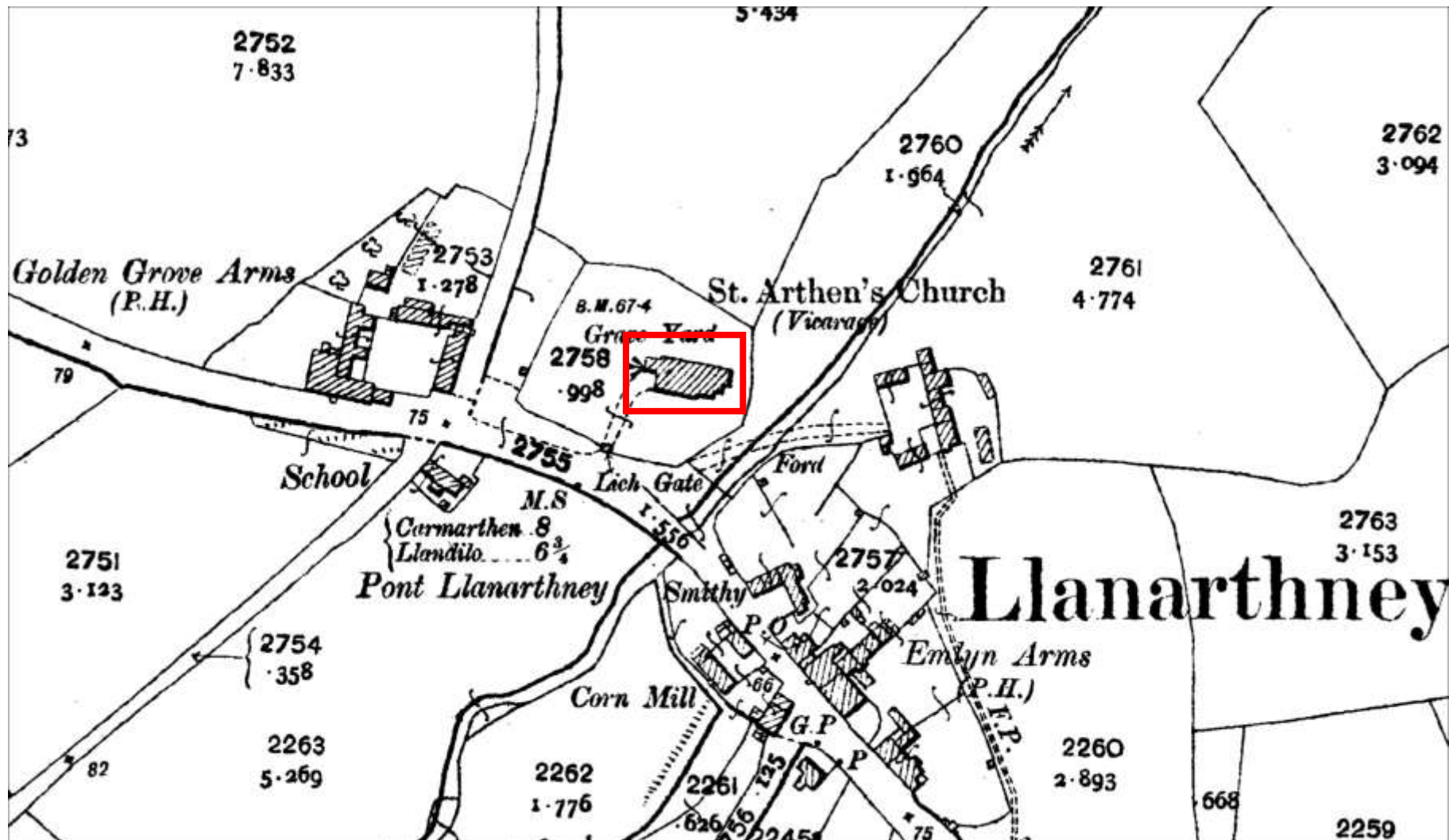


Figure 3: Extract of 1:2500 scale OS map of 1906

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 A 'watching brief' was undertaken during ground level reduction works at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.

3.1.2 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological Services.

3.1.4 Written Schemes of Investigation were prepared for both stages of the archaeological watching brief.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.

3.2.3 This report is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork.

3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.3.1 The watching brief methodology involved monitoring of, and assisting in the excavation of a new base ahead of relocating the font which was undertaken on Wednesday 2nd October 2013.

3.3.2 The methodology was extended to include the monitoring of the excavation for a limecrete base for the re-siting of the lectern on the 26th November 2015.

³ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Watching Brief October 2013

4.1.1 A site visit was made on Wednesday 2nd October 2013 to monitor and assist Mr Cennydd Jones to excavate a 3.3m x 1.5m trench in the southeast corner of the church nave (Watching Brief Area 1, Figure 4). The proposed depth of the excavation area was to be 0.33m below the present floor of the church.

4.1.2 On arrival it was found that three church pews and the timber boarding which they were sat on had been removed from the excavation area, revealing a 0.15m deep void beneath. Beneath the void a mortar rich ground surface was visible, along with two brick and stone dwarf walls to support the overlying pews (Photo 1). Following hand cleaning of this ground surface it was found to consist of a compacted lime mortar rich deposit with no indication of any grave cuts (Photo 2).



Photo 1: West facing view of area following removal of pews and timber floor

4.1.3 Following hand cleaning of this ground surface it was found to consist of a compacted lime mortar rich deposit with no indication of any grave cuts (Photo 2). Excavation of this mortar rich layer recorded it to be 0.02m deep overlying a mid-brown clay silt of moderate compaction. This second layer was 0.16m deep and contained substantial quantities of disarticulated human bone along with occasional fragments of building stone, coal fragments and a single stone roof tile. The human bone was collected and taken to the church vestry for future re-interment in the churchyard. Underlying this layer was a heavily compacted dark brown silty clay with frequent mortar inclusions which is considered to represent a former floor surface (Photo 3). No grave cuts were identifiable within.



Photo 2: West facing view showing mortar deposit and dwarf walls



Photo 3: West facing view of possible floor surface

4.1.4 At the western end of the excavation area part of the footings of the nave wall were revealed (Photo 4). The footings are very likely to date from the medieval period.

4.1.5 No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.



Photo 4: East facing section showing wall footing

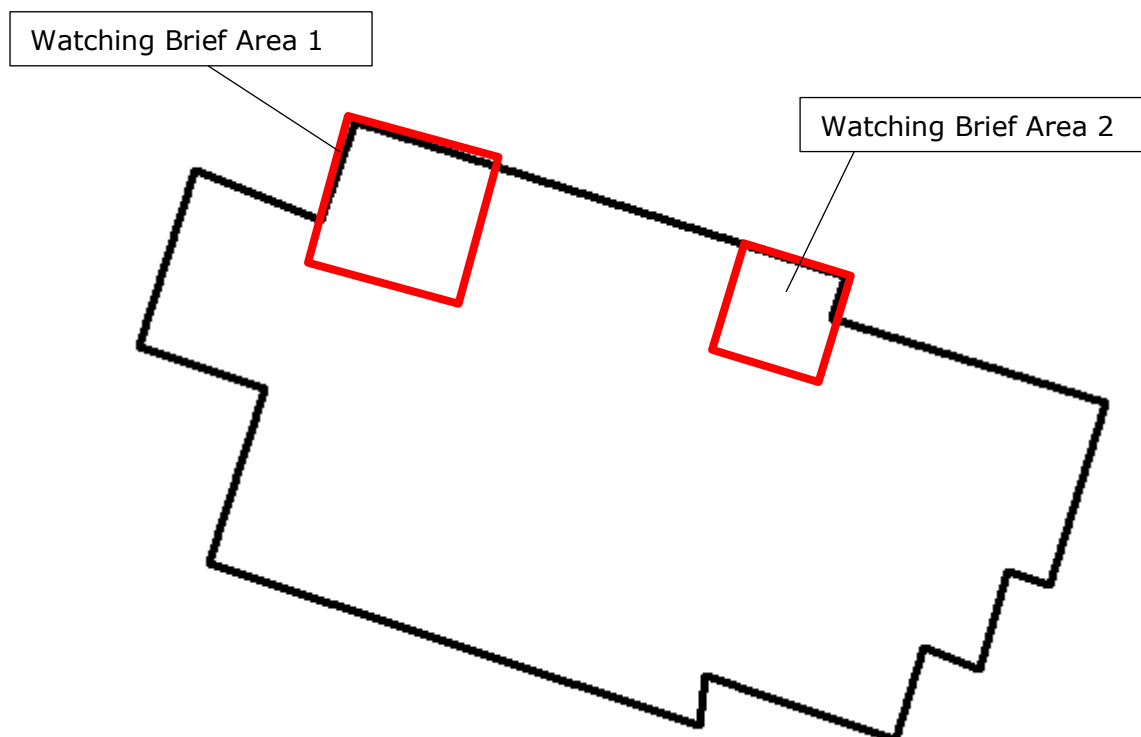


Figure 4: Location of watching brief areas shown on a basic floor plan church of the building (north to top)

4.2 Watching Brief November 2015

4.2.1 On 26th November a site visit was undertaken to monitor excavation works in the northeast of the Nave in preparation for the re-siting of the lectern (Watching Brief Area 2, Figure 4). An area of 2.5m by 2m was to be excavated by Mr Cennydd Jones by hand to a proposed depth of up to 0.35m. The area was located close to the chancel arch of the church on its northern side (Photo 7).



Photo 5: Photo showing clearly the location of the excavated area in relation to the Chancel arch. Facing west.

4.2.2 The pews and suspended wooden flooring had been removed on the preceding day in preparation for the ground works. The gap between the suspended floor and the ground beneath was 0.15m across the site. A rough mortar floor surface was visible at the commencement of works (Photo 6).

4.2.3 The mortar floor was 0.02m thick and beneath it was a brown sandy-clay silt, with a similar consistency to what was recorded during the previous monitoring programme. This deposit was excavated up to a depth of 0.18m over the site and no further deposits were encountered. Within this deposit numerous, disarticulated human remains were recovered along with finds such as nails, building stone and brick, modern glass, clay pipe and plaster; some of which had paint remnants visible, although all the encountered pieces were small.

4.2.4 The recovered human bone consisted of at least:

- 3 – mandible
- 1 – skull (minus mandible)
- 4 – femur
- 2 – pelvic girdle
- 2 – scapula
- Numerous tarsal, metatarsal, phalanges, metacarpals, vertebrae, ribs, teeth and coccyx

4.2.5 All of the bones had been previously disturbed and were disarticulated, but some were grouped together in concentrations. This suggests they may have been part of reburial events, however the cuts for these were not visible in plan.



Photo 6: View northwest of excavation area after pews and flooring had been removed, prior to excavation. Facing northwest.

4.2.6 Some of the recovered bone was vertically deposited, and extended lower than the intended depth of 0.35m below floor level. These were removed with as little disturbance as possible, in order for them to be removed safely for reburial, however this indicates strongly that the depth of this deposit is much greater than at the west end of the church. Once the excavation had been completed to the required depth the surface was cleaned and observed for any further features or finds, although none were present (Photo 7).

4.2.7 All of the recovered bone was bagged and placed in the vestry ready for appropriate reburial by the church officials.



Photo 7: Post excavation shot of site. Facing north.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken during the course of the excavations within St David's Church has revealed archaeological deposits mostly associated with 19th century renovations at the church.

5.2 Removal of the pews and associated floors in the northwestern part of the church for the first watching brief undertaken in October 2013 for the font relocation, revealed the underlying supporting dwarf walls, creating the suspended floor as exists over other parts of the church. These dwarf walls are likely to date from the late 19th century when the church underwent restoration.

5.3 At the base of the void beneath the floors in this area was a layer containing a large amount of mortar fragments, which are also likely to be waste material derived from the late 19th century restoration works.

5.4 Beneath this thin mortar rich layer was a second deeper layer of material containing large quantities of disarticulated human bone. This material is likely to have derived from the construction of the dwarf walls which supported the floor, which would have required a deeper amount of excavation for their foundations and presumably cut into burials which lay beneath. It is not known if these burials were originally located within the church or are of earlier date, over which the existing church footprint was built. These bones were collected and were deposited in the church vestry ready for future internment within the churchyard.

5.5 Within the font relocation area, beneath the layer containing human bone was a possible former floor surface. The date of this surface is uncertain, but it was presumably in use prior to the construction of the late 19th century suspended floor. There was no indication of dateable material in the exposed area. No features suggesting grave cuts or other intrusions could be seen within this probable floor layer.

5.6 The only other feature of archaeological interest was part of the footing of the west wall of the nave. It is very possible that these footings are of medieval date, although no dating evidence was recorded.

5.7 No further archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief in the area of the font relocation and it is considered that the excavation work had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological deposits underlying the church.

5.8 The second archaeological watching brief, undertaken for the moving of the lectern in November 2015, found very similar stratigraphic remains as were recorded during the first watching brief, although no features or deposits of archaeological significance encountered during the works (such as the dwarf walls for the suspended floors or foundations of the wall of the nave).

5.9 It is worth noting that there were greater concentrations of disarticulated remains that were also encased in looser, drier soils in some areas of the monitored area. It is likely that these reflect separate reburial events of disturbed remains from other areas within the church or church grounds, as well as during the 19th century renovations noted above. No grave cuts or pit cuts for re-deposition of these bones were visible.

5.10 Although no analysis of the bones was undertaken beyond a cursory inspection by the on-site archaeologist to identify bones types; it was noted that several of the bones were those of juvenile or infants. It is not known if there is any significance to this deposition or not.

5.11 It is likely that the deposit containing the human remains is post-medieval, but its age could not be exactly defined, nor that of the original burials (which could potentially be of medieval date). The conclusion for the previous phase of works stated it related directly to the 19th century construction of the dwarf walls

and new layout within the church. While that may be true at the west end of the church, it would seem that there is a difference at the entrance to the chancel, as reflected by the greater depth of the deposit and the evidence for purposeful reburial events dug through it. It is tentatively suggested here that the encountered deposit reflects an earlier post-medieval disturbance, of which there are many noted in Ludlow's description (see 2.2.1 above), and that the reburial events are the results of works in the grounds and church over the following years.

5.12 In summary the results of the watching brief appear to correspond with the known post-medieval and 19th century history of the church. It is known that the church was heavily restored in 1826 and again in the latter part of the 19th century and it is likely that these would have caused much disturbance to deposits beneath the church. The installation of the pews, which are believed to date from the latter part of the 19th century and the construction of their underlying dwarf walls have caused disturbance to underlying archaeological deposits in the form of graves, as evidenced by the large numbers of disarticulated human bones recovered from the layer above the earlier (1826?) floor surface. It is probable that the layer of disarticulated human bone deposits seen within the first area of watching brief represent material from disturbed graves along with building debris from this 19th century restoration work. The topmost layer is also likely to date from the 19th century and probably represents disposal of waste mortar. Within the second area of the watching brief, it is possible the redeposited human remains could be associated with earlier phases of alterations and restoration works at the church. In both cases the disturbed burials could originally be of medieval date.

6 SOURCES

6.1 Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1814 Original Surveyors Drawings

Ordnance Survey 1888 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXX.11

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXX.11

6.2 Published

Cadw 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*

6.3 Unpublished

Ludlow N 1998 *CADW Historic Churches Project: Carmarthenshire Churches*

ST DAVID'S CHURCH, LLANARTHNEY, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OCTOBER 2013 and NOVEMBER 2015

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

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..... Date 09/12/2015

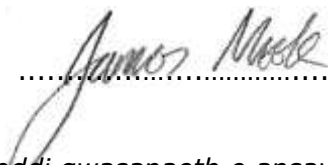
Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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..... Date 09/12/2015

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
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