

ST DAVID'S CHURCH, HENLLAN AMGOED, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013/14



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**ST DAVID'S CHURCH, HENLLAN AMGOED,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013/2014**

Gan / By

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with Hubert Wilson and James Meek

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013/2014**

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ST DAVID'S CHURCH, HENLLAN AMGOED, CARMARTHENSIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Ian Hartshorn to undertake archaeological recording and excavation during the conversion of St David's Church (PRN 4967), Henllan Amgoed, Carmarthenshire to a residential property (NGR SN 1852 2072).

The archaeological works comprised the excavation of several areas within the D-shaped enclosure that surrounds the church and encloses the cemetery, including a section of the enclosing bank, an area for a proposed driveway and garage, an area surrounding the perimeter of the church building, the interior of the church and an area for a septic tank and reed beds. A range of archaeological features were recorded across all areas, including a total of at least forty-five graves within the area for the garage and driveway. Another fourteen graves were revealed in other areas. There was no requirement to excavate the majority of the features as the development works were designed to cause minimal disturbance to archaeological remains. Evidence for zoning of the cemetery was apparent through rows of infant/child burials, a gully defining the western edge of a burial area and lack of burials north of the church.

Within the church evidence for 19th century renovations and later works was apparent in the layers of 19th century and later wall plaster and mortar floors in the chancel. The remains of possible scaffolding associated with the 1866 rebuilding of the chancel arch was also apparent.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan Mr Ian Hartshorn i ymgymryd recordio a chloddio archeolegol yn ystod trosi Eglwys Dewi Sant (PRN 4967), Henllan Amgoed, Sir Gaerfyrddin yn eiddo preswyl (NGR SN 1852 2072).

Roedd y gwaith archeolegol yn cynnwys cloddio sawl ardal yn y lloc siâp D sy'n amgylchynu'r eglwys ac yn amgáu'r fynwent, gan gynnwys rhan o'r clawdd amgáu, ardal ar gyfer dreif a garej arfaethedig, ardal o amgylch perimedr adeilad yr eglwys. , y tu mewn i'r eglwys ac ardal ar gyfer tanc septig a gwelyau cyrs. Cofnodwyd ystod o nodweddion archeolegol ar draws pob ardal, gan gynnwys cyfanswm o bedwar deg pump o feddau yn yr ardal ar gyfer y garej a'r dreif. Datgelwyd pedwar ar ddeg o feddau eraill mewn ardaloedd eraill. Nid oedd unrhyw ofyniad i gloddio'r mwyafrif o'r nodweddion gan fod y gwaith datblygu wedi'i gynllunio i achosi'r aflonyddwch lleiaf posibl i weddillion archeolegol. Roedd tystiolaeth o barthau'r fynwent yn amlwg trwy resi o gladdedigaethau babanod / plant, rhigol yn diffinio ymyl orllewinol ardal gladdu a diffyg claddedigaethau i'r gogledd o'r eglwys.

O fewn yr eglwys roedd tystiolaeth ar gyfer adnewyddiadau o'r 19eg ganrif a gwaith diweddarach yn amlwg yn yr haenau o blastr wal a lloriau morter o'r 19eg ganrif ac yn ddiweddarach yn y gangell. Roedd olion sgaffaldiau posibl yn gysylltiedig ag ailadeiladu bwa'r gangell yn 1866 hefyd yn amlwg.

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Ian Hartshorn to undertake archaeological recording and excavation during the conversion of St David's Church (PRN 4967), Henllan Amgoed, Carmarthenshire to a residential property (NGR SN 1852 2072).

Following the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in 2012 (Meek 2012) a recommendation for further archaeological mitigation was placed on the development (Planning Application No: W/26996) by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council planning authority, as the evaluation had demonstrated that significant archaeological remains lay within the area of the proposed development.

Following discussions with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority a written scheme of investigation (WSI) detailing the archaeological works, in order to fulfil the condition, was prepared and approved by Carmarthenshire County Council prior to the works commencing.

The archaeological works comprised the excavation of several areas within the D-shaped enclosure that surrounds the church and encloses the cemetery, including a section of the enclosing bank, an area for a proposed driveway and garage, an area surrounding the perimeter of the church building, the interior of the church and an area for a septic tank and reed beds. A range of archaeological features were recorded across all areas, including a total of at least forty-five graves within the area for the garage and driveway. Another fourteen graves were revealed in other areas. There was no requirement to excavate the majority of the features as the development works were so designed that archaeological remains would stay undisturbed and preserved in-situ wherever possible.

Very few of the identified graves were intercutting, and the majority of the graves recorded in plan within the driveway and garage area, the largest area investigated, appear to have been excavated with regard to the position of nearby graves. This suggests that the cemetery was managed but also suggests that the community served by the church, an area of dispersed hamlets and farmsteads, was not a populous one and did not exert pressure upon the cemetery space. It is clear that burials avoid certain areas of the churchyard where an absence of other archaeological features or evidence of very different features was recorded. The reasons behind this are unknown but it suggests that there were features, perhaps earthworks or structures, within the boundaries of the cemetery where graves should not be excavated.

The evidence of archaeological features within the trench excavated for the septic site and reed beds, in the far southwestern quarter of the churchyard, suggests that this area to the south of the church could be fully occupied with surviving archaeology; not only graves but a variety of features indicating diverse activities; perhaps even settlement. Unfortunately without any dating evidence it is impossible to establish whether these features date from the medieval period or are earlier and suggest the site does have earlier origins. The absence of pottery or any other dating evidence from these features is a recurrent problem in establishing when the site was in use.

The archaeological investigations have indicated that the cemetery enclosure around St David's Church is very likely to contain a substantial quantity of further burials and other archaeological features of medieval and later date, although features of earlier date cannot be ruled out. The results of the archaeological work have indicated the complexity of the surviving archaeology and that the area enclosed by the earthen banks is far from just a simple churchyard.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Ian Hartshorn to undertake archaeological recording and excavation during the conversion of St David's Church, Henllan Amgoed, Carmarthenshire to a residential property (NGR SN 1852 2072; Figure 1). The church had been made redundant by the Church In Wales and it was determined that it should be sold on for conversion to a residential property.
- 1.1.2 Following the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in 2012 (Meek 2012) a recommendation for further archaeological mitigation was placed on the development (Planning Application No: W/26996). The condition was placed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council planning authority, as the evaluation had demonstrated that significant archaeological remains lay within the area of the proposed development.
- 1.1.3 The condition placed upon the planning decision stated:
'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall then take place in accordance with the approved scheme.'
- 1.1.4 Following discussions with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority a written scheme of investigation (WSI) detailing the archaeological works that DAT Archaeological Services proposed, in order to fulfil the condition, was prepared and approved by Carmarthenshire County Council prior to the works commencing.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 The excavation works were designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the site area that would be impacted upon by the proposed development.
- 1.2.2 The works involved a mix of archaeological excavation and watching brief.
- 1.2.3 A burial licence was obtained from the Ministry of Justice prior to the works commencing complying with both the Burial Act of 1857 and the Disused Burial Grounds (amendment Act) of 1981.

1.3 Report Outline

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

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). Levels will be expressed as above Ordnance Datum (OD).

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.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following table illustrates the approximate dates for the archaeological periods discussed in this report:

Period -	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic -	c.450,000 - 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic -	c. 10,000 - 4400 BC	
Neolithic -	c.4400 - 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 -	1536 - 1750	
Modern -	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

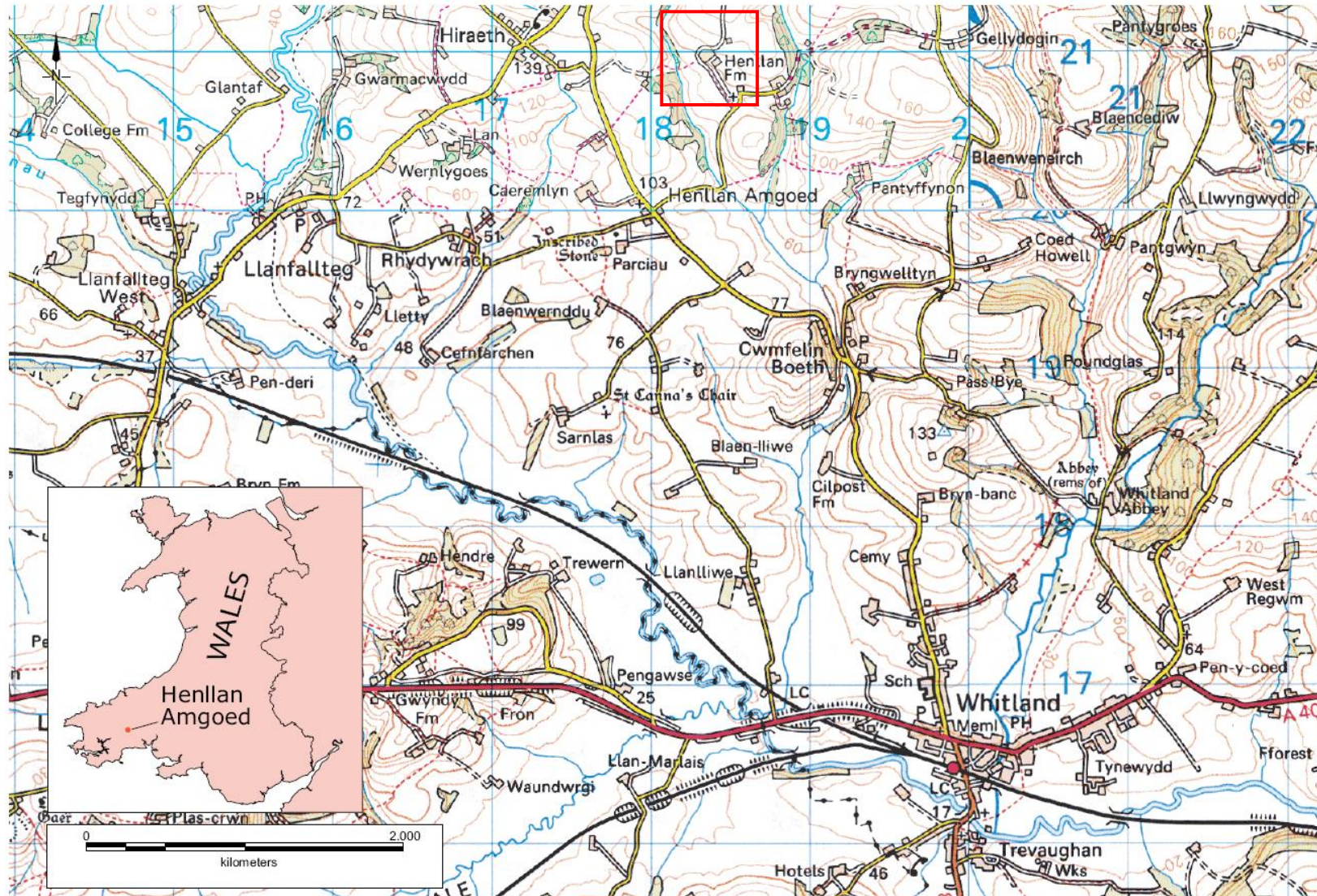


Figure 1: Location map based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1987 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 St David's Church is situated within a D-shaped churchyard with an unclassified road defining its east and south boundaries (NGR SN 1852 2072, Figures 1 & 2, Photo 1). Its west boundary is demarcated by a track leading to Henllan Farm, some 250m to the north. The whole grave yard is surrounded by a roughly continuous boundary bank.
- 2.1.2 The proposed driveway, parking, turning area and garage for the residential conversion of the church were located within the northeast corner of the church yard (Figure 3).
- 2.1.3 A modern bungalow, Beeches, lies to the north of the proposed (Figure 3).
- 2.1.4 Topographically the site is located on a moderately sloping south-facing hill side. The underlying geology comprises Llanvirn and Arenig Ordovician sedimentary bedrock (shales).



Photo 1: Aerial photograph taken in 1984 before the construction of The Beeches bungalow to the south (© DAT).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The D-shape of the churchyard of St David's (Photo 1) suggests it could have been established in the early medieval period (PRN 11789), although no archaeological evidence has as yet been recorded to confirm this. In alternative theory is that it is the reuse of an earlier circular Iron Age enclosure. Examples of the reuse of prehistoric defended enclosures for Early Medieval cemeteries have been recorded as at Caer, Bayvil in Pembrokeshire (James 1987) and it has been argued that enclosed early cemeteries could well be the predecessors of the medieval parish church and churchyard (Thomas 1971). Examples of Iron Age enclosures survive as cropmarks in close vicinity to St David's Church at Henllan Farm; 500m to the north (PRNs 11790, 11791 & 11792).

- 2.2.2 Little is known about the early history of the church (PRN 4967). No reference to the church is included in any of the surviving Episcopal Acta issued by the Bishops of St Davids between 1085 – 1280 (Barrow, 1998), nor does the church appear to have been recorded in the Taxatio of 1291. A pre-conquest (pre-1200) religious use of the site is indicated by the St David's dedication of the church which could indicate an early medieval foundation, and secondly by the Henllan place name (Old Church). The place-name of Henllan Amgoed roughly translates into English as "The Old Church in the Wood", although the possibility that it could mean 'the old wooden church' has been suggested. Ludlow (2000) describes the church in the Carmarthenshire Churches report as:

St David, Henllan Amgoed, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen. The benefice appears always to have been in the patronage of the freeholders of the parish, a 'Welshry' of the Lordship of St Clears (ibid.; Lewis, 1833).

Henllan Amgoed had become a parish by 1790 with a chapel-of-ease, now ruined, at Eglwys Fair a Churig (Evans, 1915, 44). In 1833 the living, a discharged rectory in the patronage of the freeholders, was rated in the king's books at £6 10s 5d (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Henllan Amgoed, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Whitland, Cyffig and Llangan (Benefice no. 826) in the Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, Rural Deanery of St Clears (St Davids, 1997-8).

- 2.2.3 The church is also listed among the possessions of the Cistercians of nearby Whitland Abbey and it lay within the boundaries of their Iscoed Grange (Williams, 2001, 313-314).

- 2.2.4 Although it appears clear the church has its origins in the medieval period (PRN 11667) the majority of any medieval building fabric has been destroyed or obscured by the significant rebuilding in the late 19th century. The RCAHMW describe the existing church (NPRN 401341) thus:

'.....constructed of limestone rubble and consisting of two-bayed chancel, three-bayed nave, south porch and vestry north of the chancel west bay. The nave is thought to be pre-nineteenth century. There are known to have been two bells in 1552, but only one in 1684. The square oolite font dates to around 1820. The chancel was rebuilt and probably lengthened in the later nineteenth century, and the moulded chancel arch was inserted at that time, as was the porch. The nave west gable was largely rebuilt at this time, and the bellcote was added. The church was also re-fenestrated, re-roofed, re-plastered, re-seated and re-floored, and buttresses were added. The chancel roof is softwood, as is that in the nave. The vestry, connected to the chancel by a door with two-centred surround, is thought to date to around 1900. Its lean-to roof is constructed of corrugated asbestos sheeting'.

- 2.2.5 Meek (2012) noted that substantial amounts of probably medieval fabric could be identified within the structure of the nave. Large stones visible within the walls stand out incongruously against the regular stones of the 19th century re-building and indicate re-use of earlier building materials. On the northern wall of the nave, for example, at its western end a group of quartz blocks are used in the lower plinth of the church wall (Photo 3). These are very different to the neatly cut stone blocks used throughout the remainder of the plinth.



Photo 2: View looking southeast of St Davids Church, Henllan Amgoed, as it appeared during a site visit in 1996 (© DAT). Note the upstanding gravestones to the west and south but not to the north or east.



Photo 3: View of quartz blocks within later wall structure of nave.

- 2.2.6 The church closed in the late 1900s but the church yard continued to be used into the 21st century with burials evident on the western side of the church, as are a number of 20th and 19th century graves. A few 19th century graves are present close to the south of the church and an 18th century grave stone dedicated to a former priest stands on its own approximately 5m from the eastern end of the church.



Photo 4: An example of one of the 19th century gravestones located to the south of the church.

- 2.2.7 However, apart from these gravestones the church enclosure is largely free of evident graves, in contrast to the densely packed cemetery associated with the 19th century Congregational Chapel graveyard in the centre of Henllan Amgoed, a clear indicator of the change in religious belief during the 19th century in this part of Wales.
- 2.2.8 Directly to the southwest of the churchyard enclosure lies the former site of 'T'yr-Eglwys', as shown on both the first (Figure 2) and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The date of construction of the building is not known. The building is now ruined and despite its name its association with St David's Church is not known.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.2.9 DAT Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological evaluation within the churchyard of St David's Church, Henllan Amgoed in 2012 (Meek 2012).
- 2.2.10 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of a single trench within the area of a proposed driveway, parking, turning area and garage associated with the proposed conversion of the church to residential use. A total of twenty-eight graves were revealed within the evaluation trench.
- 2.2.11 The narrow widths of the graves suggested they were intended for uncoffined burials. The graves were relatively shallow; cut through the underlying bedrock and the lack of any indication of stone lined cist burials

advocated that they are not early medieval burials. It was considered likely that they were of medieval date, possibly from the 12th to 15th centuries based on typology and their location within the churchyard.

- 2.2.12 Further evidence for a medieval date was indicated by a series of stones placed in the foot end of one grave; a feature of burials dating between the 11th and 13th centuries.
- 2.2.13 Evidence of zoning within the churchyard was indicated by at least three rows of child burials within the evaluation trench. Few of the identified graves were intercutting, which suggested that the cemetery was managed.
- 2.2.14 The evaluation indicated that the cemetery enclosure around St David's Church was very likely to contain a substantial quantity of further burials of medieval and later date. The evaluation indicated that there was little or no survival of any human bone within the graves.
- 2.2.15 No evidence indicating when the churchyard was originally constructed was revealed by the evaluation; although the roughly D-shaped or potentially circular form of the churchyard within which St David's church is located, could indicate the reuse of an Iron Age enclosure or that it was first established in the early-medieval period.

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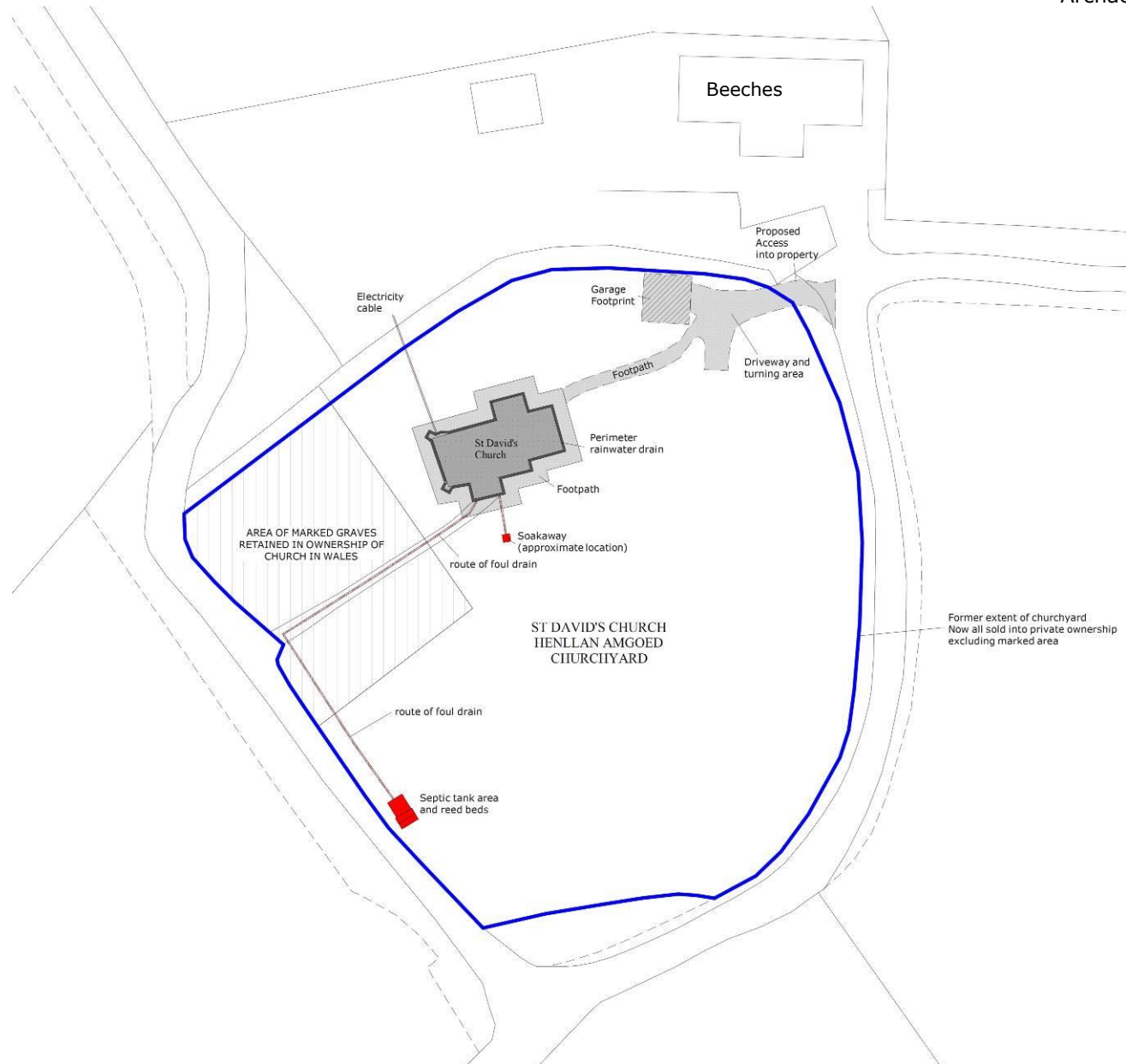


Figure 3: Proposed development plan as supplied by client

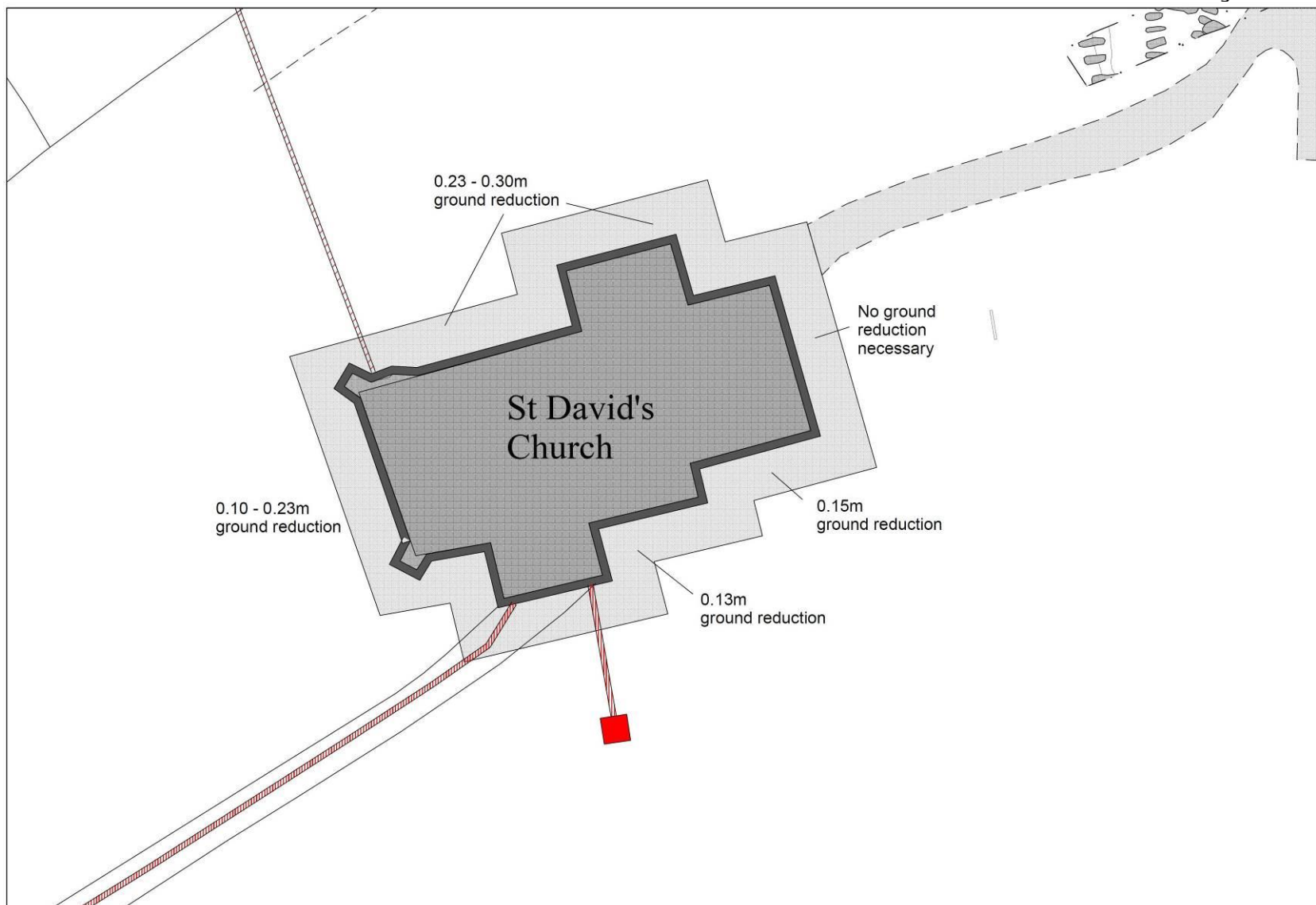


Figure 4: Proposed ground reduction works in areas surrounding church building as supplied by client.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology for archaeological mitigation to be implemented at St David's Church, Henllan Amgoed, during its conversion to a residential property was defined in a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This methodology was informed by the archaeological evaluation of the area of undertaken in 2012 (Meek 2012) prior to the determination of the development planning decision.
- 3.2 This written scheme of investigation was approved by Carmarthenshire County Council prior to the works commencing.
- 3.3 The proposed works were divided into the following tasks across five separate areas (Figure 5) with the relevant methodologies summarised below:

3.4 Area A – Enclosure Bank

Excavation through bank to the northeast of the church

- 3.4.1 A 4m wide access way was placed through the north-eastern bank surrounding the churchyard. A machine was used, under archaeological supervision, to remove the bank material to the level of the inside of the churchyard. Any archaeological structures or deposits revealed in the bank during machining were recorded before removal. Any layers identified within the bank were recorded as the bank was lowered.
- 3.4.2 Following the machining of the bank to churchyard level a record was made of the two sections at either side of the access way. Any layers identified beneath the bank material were recorded to try and determine the date of the material under the bank.

3.5 Area B – Driveway and Garage Area

Topsoil strip of the area of the driveway and garage area, including footpath to church

- 3.5.1 The topsoil strip of the area for the driveway, garage and footpath to church was undertaken under archaeological supervision.
- 3.5.2 The exposed area was then hand cleaned, planned and recorded. As the development in this area did not involve any further below ground disturbance, there was no need for any excavation of features. This excluded the area immediately inside the bank, where an area of the proposed driveway was reduced in level to create a ramped access into the churchyard from the lower level of the road to the northeast. Any archaeological remains present in this area were fully excavated.

3.6 Area C – External Area around Church

Lowering of ground level around the immediate perimeter of the church

- 3.6.1 It was proposed that the ground level around the perimeter of the church was reduced in a 2m wide strip to ensure that the floor level of the inside of the church was above or at the same level as that outside. A new perimeter rainwater drain was also installed; in places replacing an existing drain.
- 3.6.2 To the east there was no need for any ground reduction other than a vegetation strip to enable a perimeter path and the replacement of an existing French drain.
- 3.6.3 It was proposed that a watching brief was maintained during all of these ground reduction works. If any significant remains or structures were

revealed during these works, they were halted until the remains were recorded.

Installation of an underground electrical service to the church

- 3.6.4 The currently existing over-ground electricity cables to the church were re-laid in a small underground trench. This passed through the proposed garden area to the north of the church and regulations insisted that this would need to be put in beneath any surcharge material.
- 3.6.5 A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of this trench, a mitigation strategy that is deemed appropriate for similar installations on other churches in the region.

Installation of rainwater drainage around the church and a soak-away to the south

- 3.6.6 A perimeter drain was installed around the church, replacing in parts an existing concrete drain. A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the area for the drain. It was intended that the trenches for the drain would be 0.20m in width and 0.30m in depth.
- 3.6.7 A further drain was planned to exit from the south eastern end of the church for a length of approximately 5m. This replaced an existing 19th century ceramic drain. At the end of the drain a small soak-away was excavated.
- 3.6.8 The excavation of the drain was monitored by a watching brief. The area of the soak-away was machined under archaeological supervision to the top of the archaeological level and any remains cleaned, excavated, planned and recorded.

3.7 Area D - Interior of Church

Removal of 19th century plasterwork inside the church

- 3.7.1 The outer layer of internal plasterwork, dating to the 19th century, was removed from the internal walls of the church by the owner, who was experienced in dealing with lime rendering, and was primed to observe any underlying surface decoration. In the event that any decoration was revealed DAT Archaeological Services were to be contacted and a record made of the remains. An intermittent watching brief was undertaken during this work.

Removal of existing floor surfaces within the church and partial removal of underlying rubble and debris

- 3.7.3 The floors of the church included suspended timber flooring to the north and south of the tiled passageway through the middle of the nave. These were suspended on small dwarf walls adjacent to the outer wall and central passage. These are likely to date from either the 1820s or later renovations. The timber floors and dwarf walls were removed in the nave and a small amount of ground reduction was undertaken underneath to remove loose 19th century debris. The tiled floor of the chancel was removed.
- 3.7.4 It was not anticipated that any earlier surviving floor levels would be removed. The owner has worked in churches before and was able to recognise earlier floor surfaces if present. If any such surfaces were identified then DAT Archaeological Services were to be contacted and a record made of any such remains before they were covered. An intermittent watching brief was maintained during these works to observe the works on the church floors.

3.8 Area E – Septic Tank and Reed Bed Area.

Installation of foul drain from the western end of the church along the existing pathway and connection to septic tank and reed beds adjacent to the western boundary of the church

- 3.8.1 A proposed foul drain exited from the western end of the church and ran along the line of the existing footpath before turning to the south adjacent to the perimeter of the churchyard and running down to the area of the proposed septic tank. A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the drainage trench and any archaeological remains were recorded. It was planned that the drain would measure 0.20m in width and 0.30m in depth,
- 3.8.2 The area of the septic tank required an area of 2.2m square and 2.3m depth being excavated. The two adjacent reed beds to the south were 2.5m in length, 0.80m each in width and required a 0.80m deep excavation. As these was likely to severely truncate or remove any archaeological remains that were present within this area, the combined area of the septic tank and reed beds was machined to the top of the archaeological levels under archaeological supervision. The remains were then hand excavated and fully recorded; thereby removing any archaeological remains within the area prior to the area being machine excavated to the required depths for the septic tank and reed beds.
- 3.9 Any topsoil stripping and excavation of the trench for the shed, septic tank and reed beds were undertaken using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. The drainage trenches were excavated using a narrow toothed bucket
- 3.10 Following machine excavation the opened areas, including the trenches for the shed, septic tank and reed beds were hand cleaned using trowels to elucidate the character, distribution and extent of the archaeological remains. Certain areas were re-troweled a number of times to improve definition of the features. Limited sample excavation was undertaken of the archaeological features.
- 3.11 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual². Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured drawings, sketches and accurate surveying using an EDM. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.12 The recorded archaeology was surveyed using an EDM, related to Ordnance Datum and existing boundaries and the church.
- 3.13 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken intermittently between 15th November 2013 and 22nd February 2014; with a concentration of visits between 19th November and 5th December 2013.

² DAT Archaeological Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.



Figure 5: Overall site plan showing the five areas of archaeological investigation.



Figure 6: Areas A and B - Plan of recorded archaeological features.

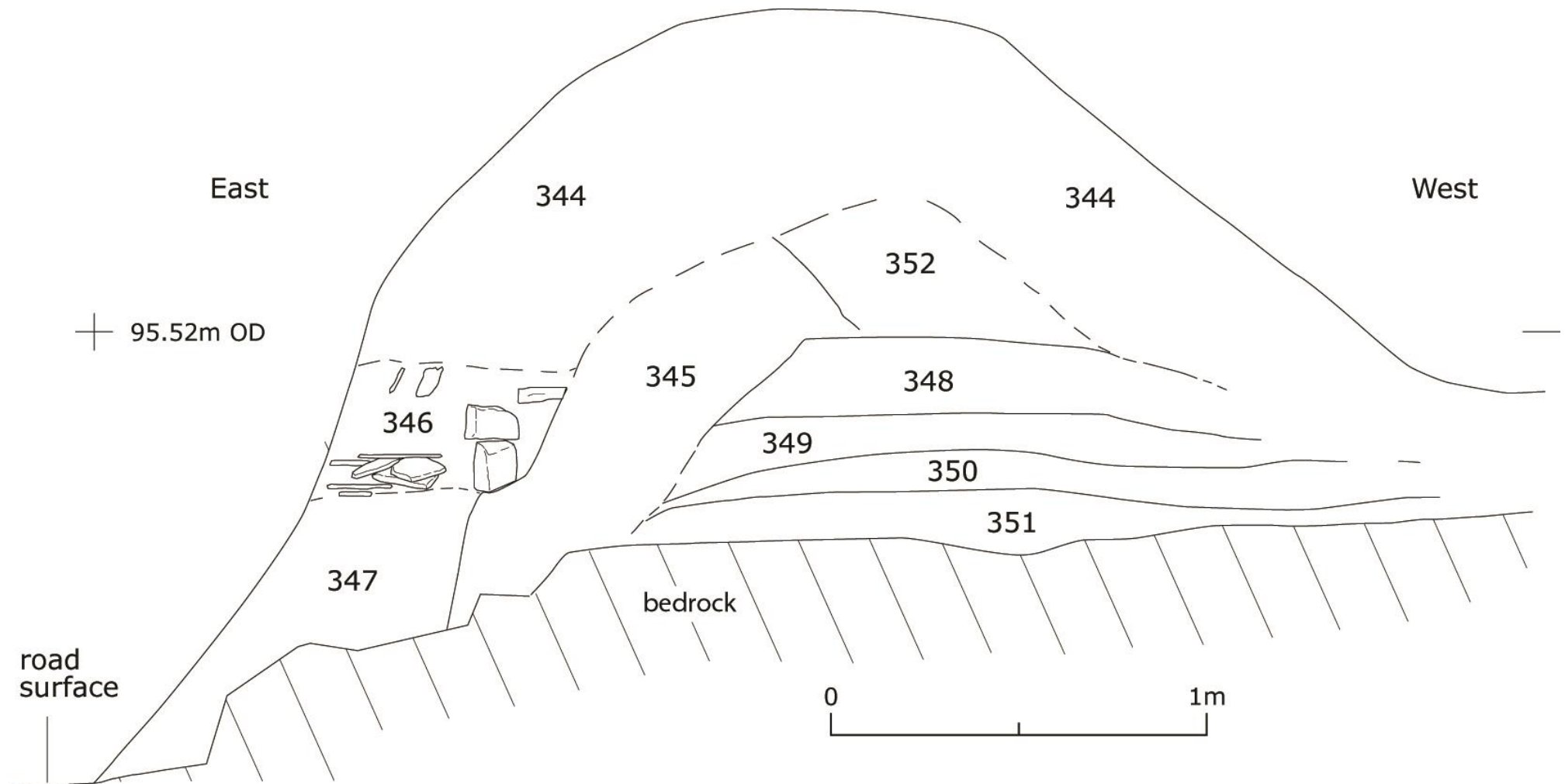


Figure 7: The north facing section through the boundary bank within Area A. Descriptions of individual contexts are listed in Appendix I.

4. RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATION

In this report the individual context numbers attributed to each archaeological deposit (including layers and fills) are given within rounded brackets (), whilst cuts are given in square brackets []. A full list of context descriptions is given in Appendix I.

4.1 Area A – Enclosure Bank (Figures 6 & 7)

Excavation of access through the bank to the northeast of the church

- 4.1.1 The near continuous bank was on average c.3.0m wide and c.1.5m high. On the west side there was a small gap for footpath access to the church. The vegetation covered bank was in places populated by trees.
- 4.1.2 A 4m wide length of bank was removed by a 360° mechanical excavator with a grading bucket under archaeological supervision; to provide future vehicular access into the site (Photo 5).
- 4.1.3 The bank was roughly removed to the level of the churchyard that was some 0.75m higher than the level of the public road (Photo 6).
- 4.1.4 The excavations revealed a sequence of deposits forming several different phases of bank. As recorded in the north facing section (Figure 7) lying above the natural shale bedrock was evidence of a buried ground surface (350) and buried subsoil (351) beneath. On this buried surface a bank had been built from clay and broken shale (348 & 349). Above this a later bank had been built (345, 347 & 352) that had a stone revetment on its east side (346). Finally the bank was capped by a looser clayey silt (344) deposit populated by hedgerow plants. No artefacts or any dating evidence were recovered from any of the deposits within this area.
- 4.1.5 Towards the west edge of the bank the soils became increasingly disturbed. The bank deposits had protected the buried soil (350 & 351) but this buried soil appeared to peter out where the soils became more mixed at the western edge of the bank and merged with the layer of topsoil within the area of the churchyard (Photo 7).
- 4.1.6 Once the bank was recorded and it was ascertained that no archaeological features were preserved beneath it, the level of the underlying shale bedrock was reduced to create a graduated access from the road. This was done without damaging any archaeological features identified during the excavation.



Photo 5: Removing the boundary bank to provide access into the site.
Facing west



Photo 6: Looking southwest at the north facing section through the boundary bank – showing the natural bedrock protruding along the bottom outside eastern edge. 1m scale



Photo 7: The north facing section through the boundary bank – showing the stones used to revet the east side of the bank. 1m scale

4.2 Area B - Driveway and Garage Area (Figure 6)

Driveway and garage area, including footpath to church

- 4.2.1 The topsoil strip of Area B, including the area for the driveway, garage and footpath to church was undertaken under archaeological supervision (Photos 8 & 9). The ground levels necessary for the development required the removal of between 0.20-0.25m of topsoil by mechanical excavator within the area of the driveway and garage; to the top of the underlying bedrock.
- 4.2.2 The irregular shape of Area B measured a maximum of 27.0m east-west from the western edge of the excavation area to the east edge of the boundary bank, and a maximum of 8.0m north-south. The excavated area was slightly terraced into the gentle south facing slope; being slightly deeper towards the north. The depth of topsoil removed varied from c. 0.40m at the NE corner to 0.20m at the SE corner of the trench.



Photo 8: Looking east across the area of the driveway and garage stripped of topsoil. In the background can be seen the gap in the boundary bank after its removal.

- 4.2.3 To the south of the garage area it was only necessary to remove 0.10m of topsoil for the construction of the footpath to the church. In this area a remnant of topsoil remained and no archaeological features were revealed. This is the area shown as unexcavated in Figure 6. No further recording was undertaken once it was ascertained that no archaeological features were exposed at this depth in this area. As there was no requirement to lower the ground level any further the archaeology would remain undisturbed and not require recording.
- 4.2.4 The remaining extent of Area B was hand cleaned and recorded in plan. At least forty-five graves were revealed cutting into the bedrock (Table 2). The fills of the graves were noticeably darker than the surrounding shale

bedrock (Photo 10) and were sealed by topsoil (300). All the graves were orientated approximately west-east.

- 4.2.5 The unexcavated graves all appeared to be filled with relatively uniform fills comprising redeposited shattered bedrock mixed with a brown to dark brown silty sand clay soil matrix. The edges of the unexcavated graves were clear in the majority of cases but only after hand-trowelling the area several times (Photos 11 & 12).
- 4.2.6 As the proposed development would not involve any further below ground disturbance, there was no requirement to excavate any of the graves (Photo 13).
- 4.2.7 As recorded in the 2012 evaluation (Meek 2012) the child/infant burials were grouped together in rows in close proximity to each other (Figure 6). As has already been suggested this could be evidence of some form of management of the cemetery, avoiding sites of pre-existing graves as much as possible. This may also indicate a broad contemporaneity between the graves within each row. No more child burial groups were identified in the larger excavation area confirming this as a discrete zone for child burials.
- 4.2.8 Although there was little evidence of intercutting graves a number of juvenile and adult graves ([395], [396] & [405]) appeared to cut child graves (Photo 14).
- 4.2.9 It is of interest that the area where juvenile or adult graves cut child graves is also where there is the only clear evidence of juvenile/adult intercutting graves. Grave [395] cuts adult grave [396] as well as child grave [421] and grave [406] appears to be two adult intercutting graves on exactly the same alignment.
- 4.2.10 The 2012 evaluation (ibid) recorded four graves with evidence for post holes lying in close proximity to their eastern (foot) end. The 2013 excavation recorded one more instance. Therefore in total five graves (cuts [374], [410], [413]; [414] & [416]) had small postholes near their eastern ends. They are considered to be associated due to their apparent uniformity in location in relation to the adjacent graves.



Photo 9: Looking WSW during the machine removal of the topsoil.



Photo 10: Looking west across Area B after machine removal of topsoil; showing the darker fills of the graves being revealed during cleaning of the area by hand. Note the shallow depth of topsoil removed.



Photo 11: Looking east at typical example of an unexcavated grave [374]. 2m and 1m scales

2013 Excavation Grave Cut No	2012 Evaluation Grave Cut No	Adult (A)/ Juvenile (J) or Child (C)	Length (m)	Width (m)
339		A	1.65	0.45 / 0.45m deep
372		Unknown	Unknown	0.56
374		A	1.86	0.58
376		A	1.84	0.73
381		C	0.70	0.26
382	144	C	0.98	0.27
383	140	C	0.82	0.27
384	142	C	0.84	0.34
385		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
386	146	C	0.73	0.22
387	148	C	0.71	0.26
388	150	C	0.75	0.20
389	152	C	0.85	0.24
390		J	1.00	0.52
391	156	C?	Unknown	0.24
392	158	C?	Unknown	0.22
393	160	C	0.64	0.29
394	162	C	0.57	0.25
395	128	J	1.56	0.51
396	124	A	1.72	0.76
397	130	J	1.45	0.52
398	174	J	1.42	0.66
399	134	A	1.87	0.66
400		A	2.30	0.70
401		J	1.54	0.38
402		J	1.05	0.38
403	114	A	1.94	0.39
404	116	J	1.07	0.38
405	122	A	2.05	0.64
406		A*	3.56	0.68 *Probably 2 adult graves cutting each other
407		A	1.96	0.67
408		J	1.10	0.33

409	112	C	0.85	0.27
410	110	A	2.29	0.55m / 0.52m deep – recorded in 2012 evaluation
411		J	1.48	0.78
412		A	2.02	0.53
413	180	A	2.04	0.53
414	106	A	2.13	0.61 / 0.47 deep – recorded in 2012 evaluation
415		J	1.38	0.67
416	118	J	1.52	0.51
417		J	1.45	0.52
421		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
423		C	0.92	0.31
430		J?	Unknown	Surviving articulated skeleton found just underground surface.
431		J?	Unknown	Surviving articulated skeleton found just underground surface.
432	120	C	0.93	0.39
433		C	0.68	0.33
434		J	1.19	0.60
436		J	1.30	0.40
438		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
440		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
442		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
444		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
446		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
448		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
450		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
452		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Table 2: Graves revealed within Area B and C; with dimensions if known.

4.2.11 Table 2 lists the recorded graves as recorded within both Areas B and C. Grave length has been used to roughly categorise the graves into 3 groups: length > 1.6m = adult; length between 1.0-1.6m = juvenile; and length < 1.0m = child/infant (after Britnell 1990). Using these parameters 13 adult, 13 juvenile and 16 child graves were recorded within Area B. The length of a further 3 graves could not be determined. Within Area C 1 adult and 3 juvenile graves were recorded; with a further 8 graves undeterminable.

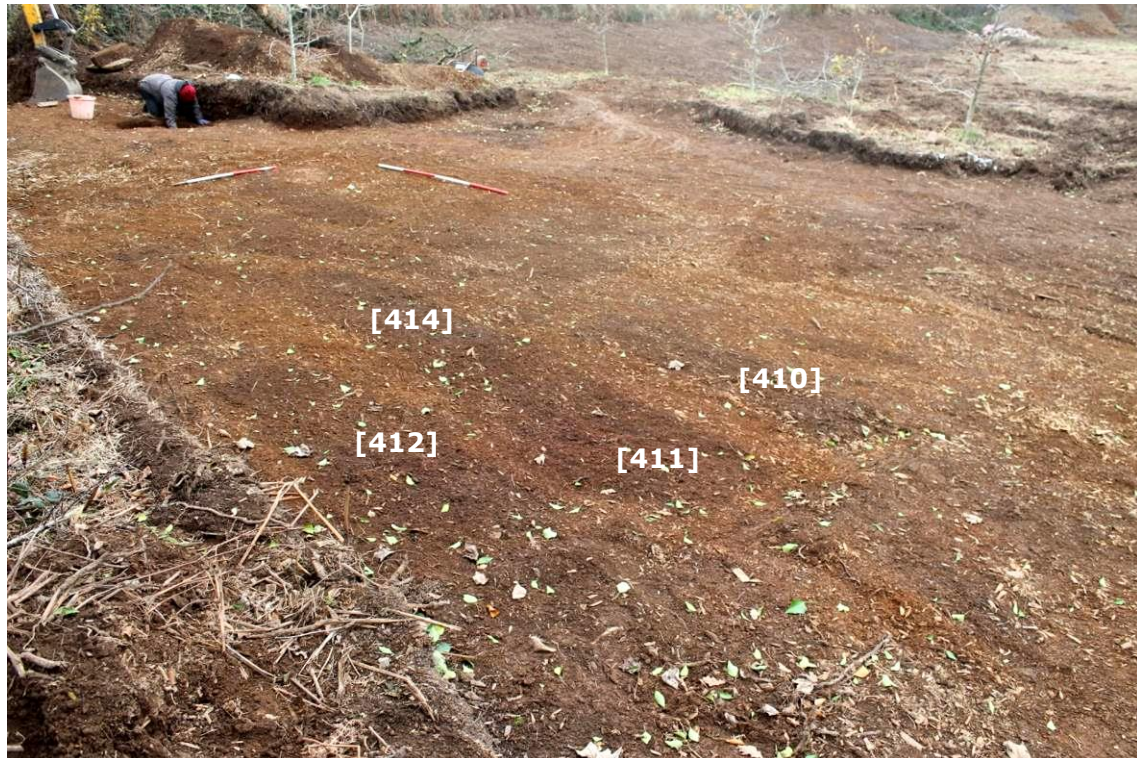


Photo 12: Looking southeast across the proposed area of the garage showing graves visible as rectangular areas of darker soil against the lighter natural shale bedrock. 1m & 2m scales

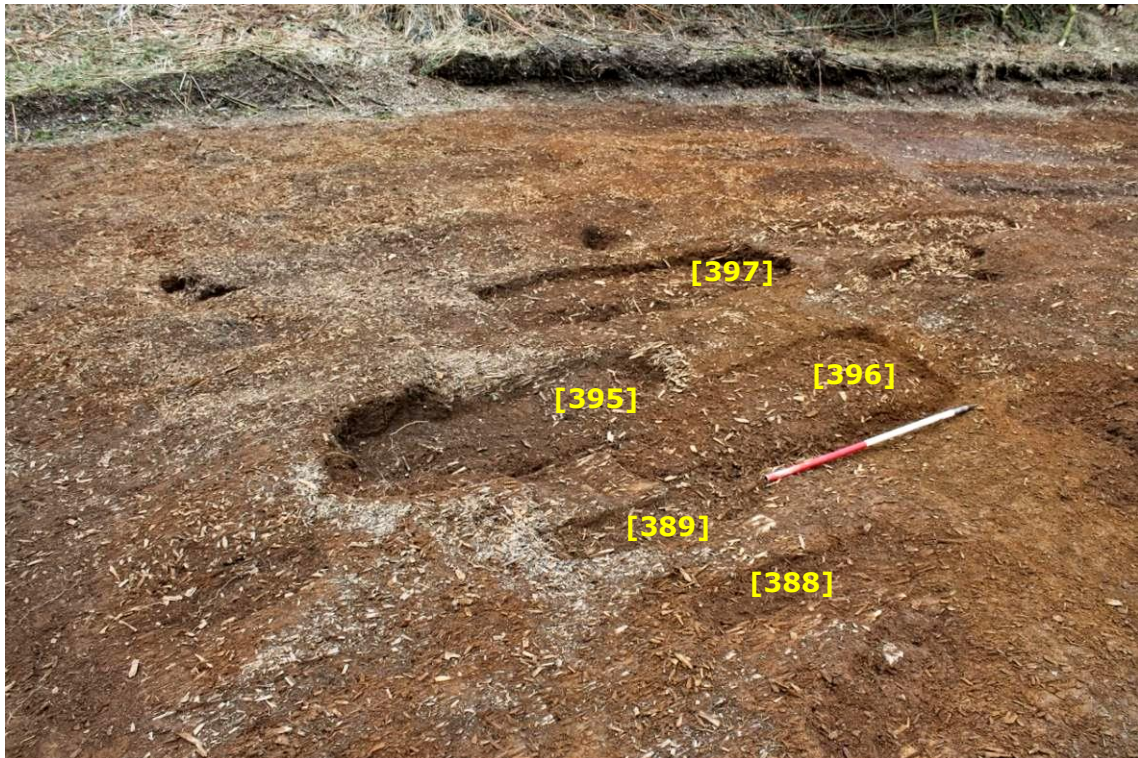


Photo 13: Looking northeast at a sample of the adult and child graves, whose edges have been scored to aid their definition. 1m scale



Photo 14: Looking north at a row of 4 unexcavated child graves. The most northerly grave [389] was just cut by adult grave [396]. 0.5m & 1m scales

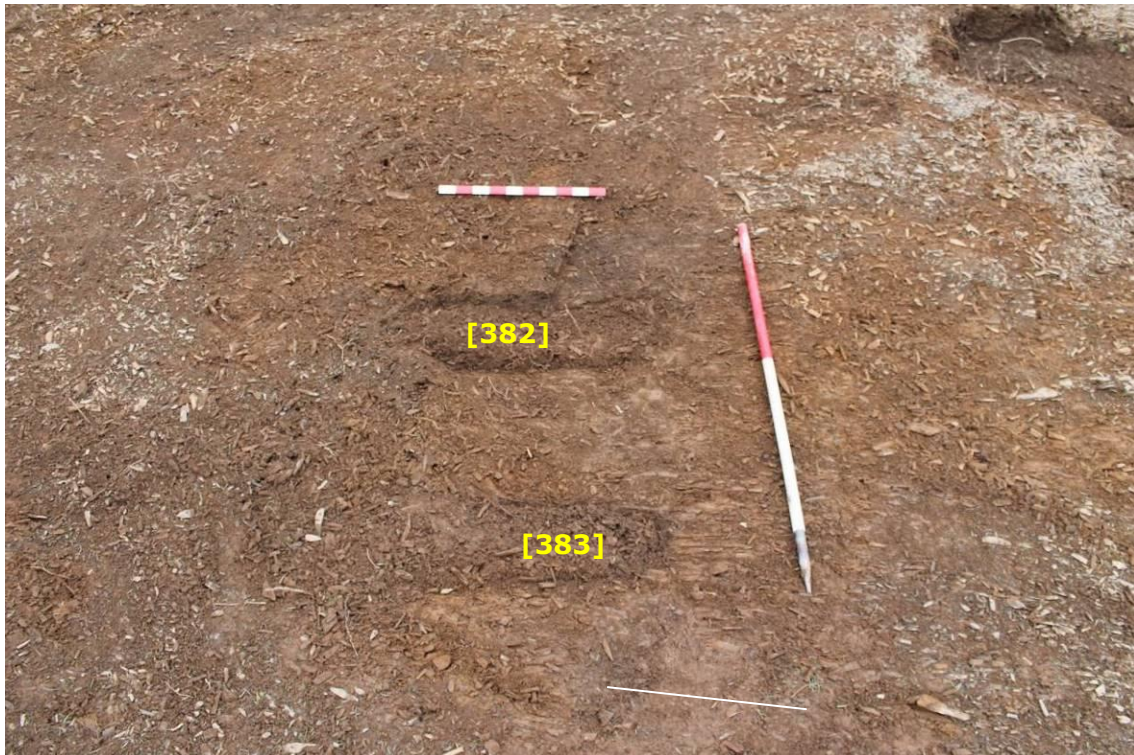


Photo 15: Looking north at 2 unexcavated child graves. Hand cleaning the area showed that the fill of shallow gully [380] was cut by the infant/child graves.
0.5m & 1m scales



Photo 16: Looking roughly east at the section excavated through gully [379].
0.5m scale

4.2.12 Two curvilinear gullies [379, 380] were recorded at the western end of Area B (Figure 6). Gully [380] survived as no more than a very shallow curving depression. The gully appeared to be cut by infant/child graves [381], [382], [383] & [384] indicating it is an earlier feature than the graves (Photo 15).

- 4.2.13 To the southwest of gully [380] another curving gully [379] could be seen in plan following a similar alignment; approximately 2.5m inside of the curve of [380]. A section of the fill of gully [379] was excavated and this showed that the cut measured 0.66m wide by 0.21m deep; straight sided in profile and flat bottomed (Photo 16). The gully was cut into the shale bedrock and was filled with mid-brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. Three very abraded red earthenware brown glazed sherds of possible ridge tile of potential late medieval date were recovered from the top of the fill of the gully.
- 4.2.14 Apart from the group of child graves [381, 382, 383 & 384] no further evidence of grave cuts was recorded to the west of both gullies.
- 4.2.15 Immediately inside the boundary bank, an area of the proposed driveway had to be reduced in level to create a ramped access into the churchyard. In this area a discrete group of archaeological features was recorded; some of which were fully excavated (Figure 6, Photo 17).
- 4.2.16 This group of features were very different in character to the area of graves to the west. They comprised what appeared to be a number of pits, postholes and other features; some of which were intercutting.
- 4.2.17 In the time available two of the pits were excavated (Photos 18-21). Both had been excavated through the shale bedrock. Circular pit [354] measured c.0.62m in diameter and was 0.29m deep; straight sided and flat bottomed. It was filled with compact dark brown silty loam (353) containing shale fragments, pieces of charcoal, heat affected quartz, one small fragment of unidentifiable bone and two abraded pottery sherds from a medieval handmade cooking jar/pot that have been identified as a local ware of 12th or 13th century date .
- 4.2.18 Another circular pit [358] cut pit [354] and was slightly wider and deeper being c.0.70m diameter and 0.36m deep. The pit had straight sides and a flat bottom. It held two fills; an upper fill (357) of loose dark reddish-brown silty loam and frequent shale fragments above a lower fill (377) of dark brown silty loam, containing significantly less shale fragments than the upper fill (357). This lower fill in contrast also contained small lumps of clay, a small piece of heat affected quartz, visible charcoal and six pottery sherds. The pottery has been identified as medieval of 12th/13th century date and included sherds of similar fabric to that recovered from pit [354].
- 4.2.19 Towards the base of pit [358] a flat stone had been placed level with the base of the pit (Photo 20) and beneath this stone and surrounding it was an area of denser charcoal and small fragments of burnt bone.
- 4.2.20 No further excavation of the features was undertaken as the proposed development did not plan any further ground reduction works in this area.



Photo 17: Looking east at the group of unexcavated features to the west of the boundary bank. 2m and 1m scales

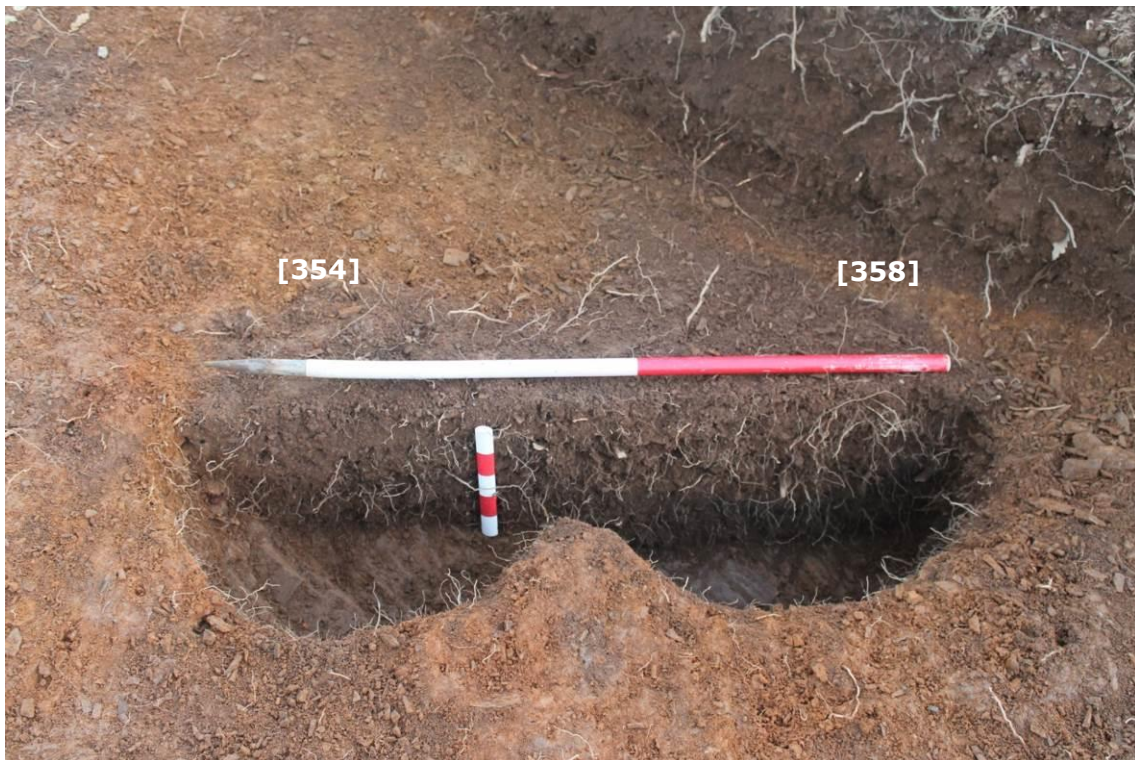


Photo 18: Looking southeast at two intercutting pits [354] and [358] after they have been half-sectioned. Pit [358] just cuts pit [354]. 0.25m and 1m scales



Photo 19: Removing the remaining fill from pit [358].



Photo 20: The flat stone lying towards the bottom of the fill of pit [358].
0.25m scale



Photo 21: Looking southeast at fully excavated pits [354] and [358]. 1m scale



Figure 8: Area C – Area subjected to ground reduction works around perimeter of church building; also showing location of perimeter drainage trench.

4.3 Area C – External Area around Church (Figure 8)

Lowering of ground level around the immediate perimeter of the church

- 4.3.1 The level of the ground around the external perimeter of the church building was reduced in depth (Photo 22) according to development requirements as shown in Figure 4 and described in paragraph 3.6.1 in this document.
- 4.3.2 Once the soil had been removed by machine the areas were cleaned by hand which revealed the features as shown in Figure 8.
- 4.3.3 At the eastern end of the church few archaeological features were revealed because only a small depth of topsoil was removed. It is likely that many more features would have been discovered if additional soil depth had been excavated.
- 4.3.4 At the opposite western end rubble and mortar spreads (330), (333) and (334) were recorded (Photo 23); a likely consequence church of renovations in the 19th century.
- 4.3.5 At least two graves were identified during these works both of which were aligned west-east; one was an adult grave [339] and the other a juvenile grave [436]. Their measurements are shown in Table 2. Grave [339] had evidence of a posthole [337] at its western end. A section of grave fill (338) at the eastern end of grave [339] was excavated and, similarly to other graves, the fill comprised re-deposited shattered bedrock within a dark brown silty clay soil matrix (Photo 24). The shallow grave cut measured 0.25m deep, had vertical sides and a flat bottom and was cut into bedrock.



Photo 22: Ground reduction works around the perimeter of the north side of the church building. Facing roughly southwest



Photo 23: Rubble spread (330) outside the western end of the church building. Facing roughly north. 1m scale

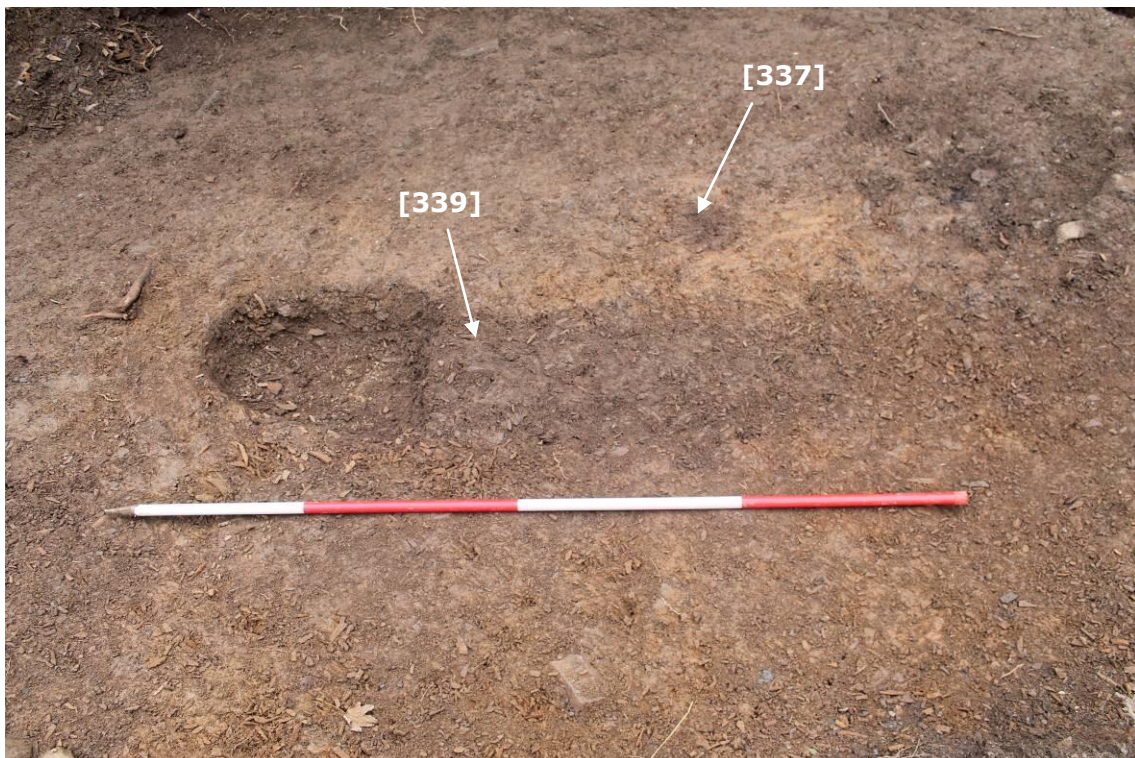


Photo 24: Grave [339] after it has been partially excavated. A small posthole [337] can be seen at the western end of the grave. Facing south. 2m scale

- 4.3.6 Just under the turf to the west of the south porch the partial remains of two human skeletons [430] and [431] were discovered (Figure 8, Photo 25). No grave cuts for either skeleton were visible. Both skeletons were aligned west-east with their heads to the west and their small size indicates they are probably juvenile burials. Renovations in the 19th century including the insertion of a drain running parallel with the south wall are the likely cause of the obvious damage to the skeletons. The skull of [431] did not survive (Photo 26) nor had the left arm, leg and foot of either skeleton. The surviving right arms of both were laid over their navels (Photo 27). Skeleton [430] measured 0.97m from top of skull to bottom of the right femur. Interestingly in both skeletons the base of their spines appeared distorted.
- 4.3.7 It is difficult to date the burials. The burials are later than the graves recorded elsewhere within the graveyard where no bone survives. The condition of the bones suggests they could be 16th/17th century in date. The skeletons were recorded and then lifted for immediate reburial elsewhere in the graveyard. No cuts for the burials could be determined during this work.

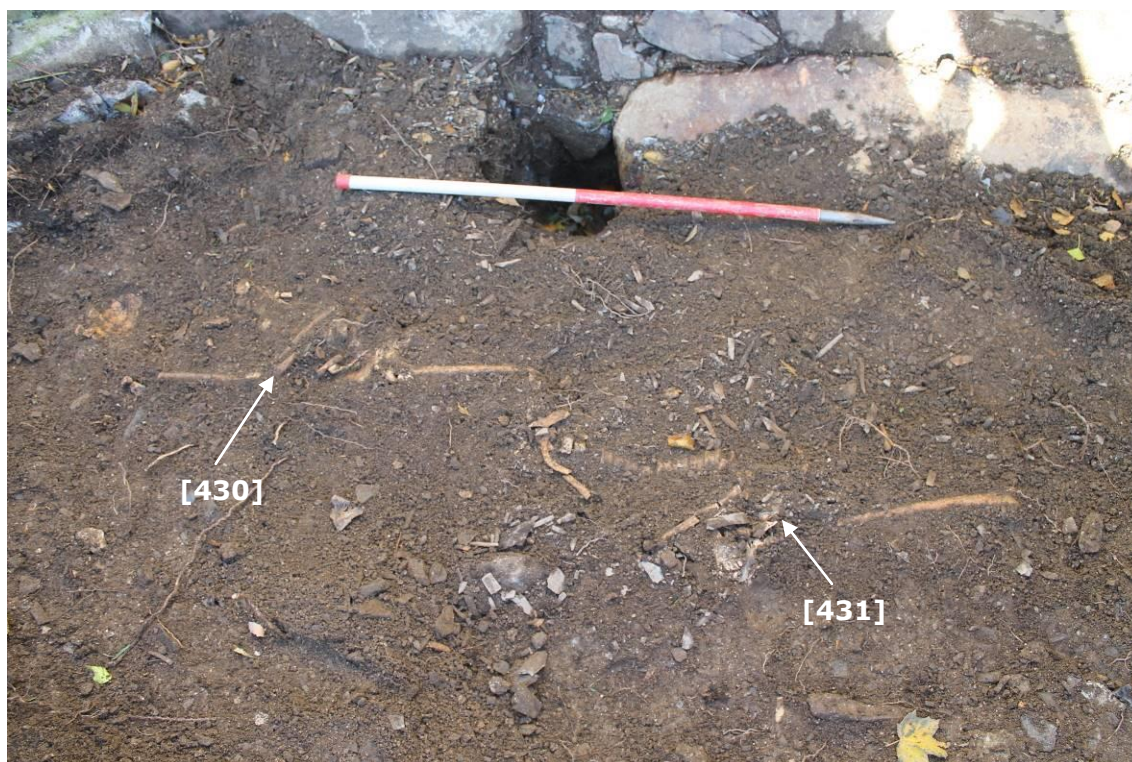


Photo 25: The remains of two skeletons [430] and [431] discovered after turf removal to the west of the south porch. Facing north. 1m scale



Photo 26: The partial remains of skeleton [431] discovered after turf removal to the west of the south porch. Facing north. 1m scale



Photo 27: The partial remains of skeleton [430] discovered after turf removal to the west of the south porch. Facing north. 1m scale

- 4.3.8 The ground reduction works around the external perimeter of the church exposed a number of large foundation stones protruding from beneath the base of the walls (Figure 8, Photo 28).



Photo 28: The large foundation stones protruding from beneath the north wall of the church building. Facing south. 1m scale

Installation of an underground electrical service to the church

- 4.3.9 Following the ground reduction works, the over-ground electricity cable to the church was re-laid in a 10m length of underground trench measuring approximately 0.40m wide and 0.70m deep (Figure 8).
- 4.3.10 A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of this trench. The width of the proposed trench was minimal and no significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during its excavation.

Installation of perimeter rainwater drainage around the church and a soak-away to the south

- 4.3.11 A perimeter drain was installed around the church, some of which replaced an existing concrete drain. The trenches for this drain were on average 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep (Figure 8, Photos 29 & 30).
- 4.3.12 During excavation of the drains the watching brief recorded a number of possible graves within the trench sides [438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450 & 452], particularly on the north and west sides of the church. The shape, size and orientation of the features led to the opinion that they were graves; although it is possible they had other origins. They were all filled with re-deposited natural broken shale within a dark silty soil matrix; very similar to the natural shale bedrock they were cut through. This made it very difficult to identify the cuts other than in section once the trenches had been excavated, appearing as areas of disturbed bedrock. No human bone or any other finds were recovered from any of the presumed graves, or from anywhere else within the excavated drainage trenches.

- 4.3.13 A further trench was excavated from the south western end of the church for an approximate length of 3.5m (Figure 8, Photo 32). This replaced an existing 19th century ceramic drain. At the end of the drain a small soak-away was excavated measuring approximately 1.8m x 1.5m and 0.8m in depth (Photo 31). A watching brief monitored the excavation of both the trench and soak-away but no archaeological features or deposits were recorded during these works.
- 4.3.14 To the north of the church a small rectangular trench for a proposed shed measuring approximately 3m by 4m was excavated to a depth of 0.30m under archaeological supervision. The trench was trowelled by hand (Photos 33 & 34) but no archaeological features or deposits were identified in this area.



Photo 29: The machine excavation of the perimeter drainage trench south of the church. Facing east



Photo 30: Typical view of the perimeter drainage trench on the south side of the church. Looking north. 2m scale



Photo 31: The soak-away trench. Facing south. 1m scale



Photo 32: The machine excavated trench that ran from the church to the soak-away. Facing south. 2m scale



Photo 33: The trench excavated for the shed to the north of the church.
Facing north. 2m scale



Photo 34: The trench excavated for the shed to the north of the church.
Facing south. 2m scale

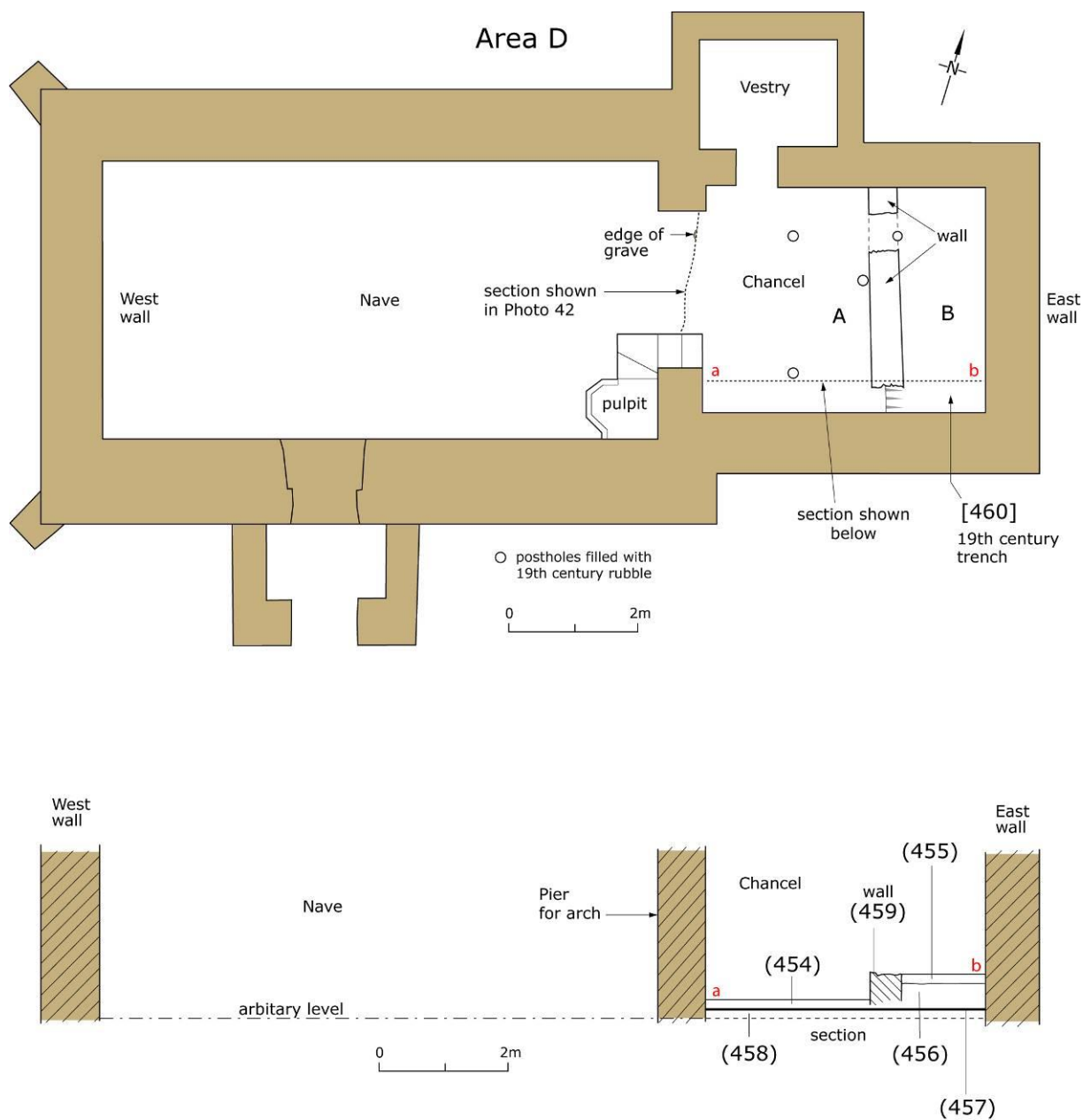


Figure 9: Area D – Internal area of church

4.4 Area D –Interior of Church (Figure 9)

Removal of 19th century plasterwork

- 4.4.1 The photographs below show the interior of the church before works started (Photos 35-38).
- 4.4.2 The 19th century wall plaster was almost entirely removed from within the church. It was carefully removed and observed in case any underlying wall decoration had survived (Photos 39-40). No evidence of any earlier wall decoration or wall paintings was seen during this work.
- 4.4.3 Three layers of wall plaster were identified during this removal and the owner suggested they could be associated with three periods of restoration during the 19th century; namely 1866, 1820 and pre 1820. The evidence from the plasterwork suggested that earlier 19th century base coat plaster had been spread across the majority of the underlying stonework prior to finishing coats being applied (Ian Hartshorn pers. comm.). This would suggest that any earlier plasterwork had been removed during the extensive 19th century renovations, or that the upper parts of the walls had been substantially rebuilt. The depth of plaster was not consistent across the entire church walls, perhaps indicating differences in rebuilding, repairs or replastering. No medieval plasterwork or paint survived.



Photo 35: The interior south west corner of the trench before the start of works showing the font.



Photo 36: The pulpit at the east end of the church before commencement of works.



Photo 37: The east chancel end of the church before start of works.

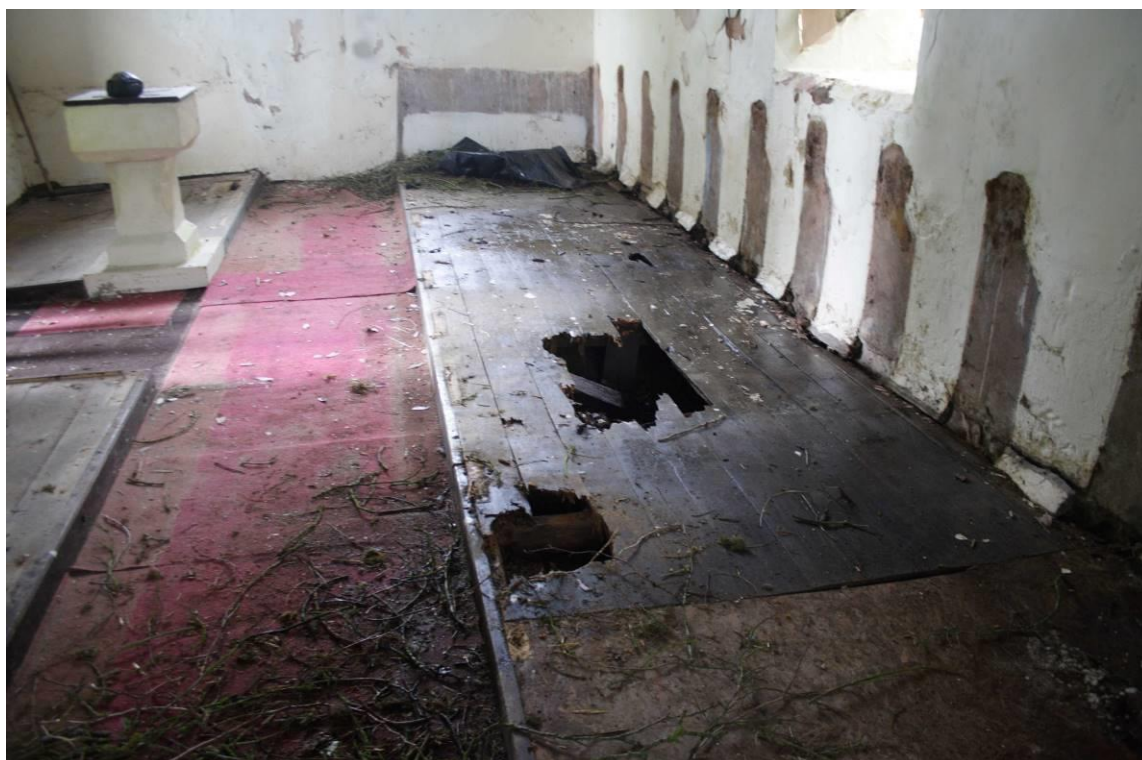


Photo 38: The rotten wooden flooring along the north side of the church.



Photo 39: A typical photograph of an interior church wall during the removal of the 19th century paint and wall plaster, showing the layers beneath.



Photo 40: The west end of the church after removal of the wall plaster showing the rough stone wall construction underneath.

Removal of existing floor surfaces within the church and partial removal of underlying rubble and debris

- 4.4.4 The rotten wooden floors were lifted, and the supporting dwarf walls and central mortar aisle floor removed within the area of the nave. These were all built directly upon a compacted soil layer, which could have been an earlier beaten earth floor. Disarticulated bone was noted in disturbed areas of this underlying level.
- 4.4.5 The works at the church included some removal of this beaten earth floor to achieve the correct floor levels across the interior of the nave. No archaeological features were identified within the deposit and there were areas of disturbance probably associated with works undertaken during the 19th century renovations.
- 4.4.6 Between the nave and the chancel was a step up in the floor level into the chancel of around 0.30m (Photo 36) with a further two step rise at the eastern end up to the altar. The upper part of the chancel by the altar was tiled, the remainder was carpeted on top of a hard mortar surface.
- 4.4.7 The area of the chancel was also lowered as part of the approved development plans. For the western part of the chancel this was removed and it was apparent that it comprised a sequence of potentially three mortar floor layers, indicating episodes of re-flooring or repairs (Photo 41). It was suggested by the owner, based on the similarities of the mortar compositions that they may have been similar to the three episodes of replastering of the walls. The step up between the nave and chancel enabled a visible section through the floor deposits to be seen (Photo 42).
- 4.4.8 The top layer (454) was a thick compacted layer of greyish cream lime mortar containing anthracite, small stones and ash (Photo 40). Below this

was an irregular and intermittent layer (456) consisting of friable grey brown silt mixed with broken natural shale, slate fragments. Beneath (456) was a thin but firm mortar spread (457) bedded into layer (458) below.



Photo 41: Removing 19th century mortar floor layer (454) within the area of the chancel, viewing northwest towards vestry doorway.

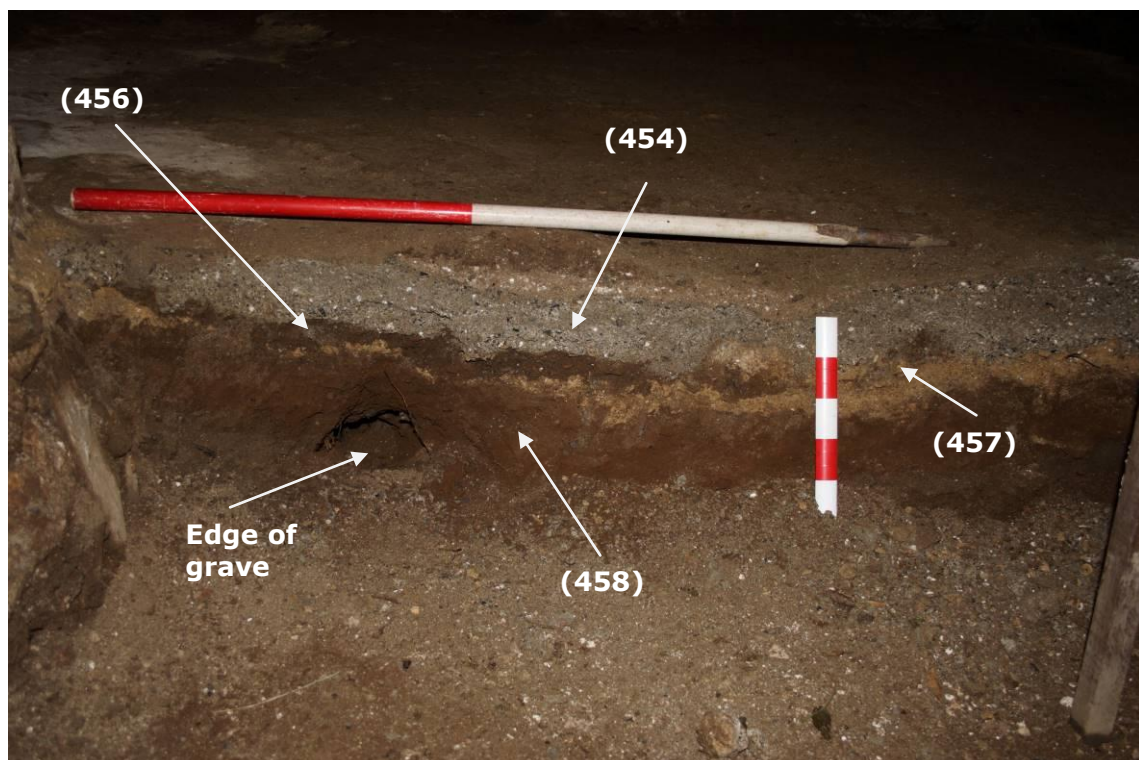


Photo 42: The exposed west facing section between the nave and the chancel showing the sequence of floor layers. 1m and 0.5m scales

- 4.4.9 Underlying (457) was a thick brown earthen clayey soil or beaten earth floor (458) a thin remnant of which survived in the nave underneath the 19th century floors. In places this material was slightly cut through by the current works and beneath could be seen a mixed dark layer of re-deposited broken shale, very similar to that seen within grave cuts.
- 4.4.10 In the northern part of the exposed step between the nave and chancel was evidence of a collapsed grave sealed by layer (458). A skull was just visible protruding out of the section and it is likely that the rest of the grave lies under the chancel (Photo 42). The small portion of the grave that was visible was carefully backfilled and protected and did not require excavation.
- 4.4.11 At the altar end of the chancel the remains of a north-south stone wall (459) were exposed after removal of the mortar floors. There was some evidence of a possible foundation cut through layer (458) for this wall but it was not excavated any further (Photo 43). The two steps up to the altar had been built to rise up over this wall. Wall (459) had evidently been disturbed in the past, with loose boulders at its southern end (removed as part of these investigations) but with substantial mortared elements surviving in its centre and at its northern end. These were left in place.
- 4.4.12 The tiled altar floor was removed revealing a different sequence of mortar layers east of wall (459). These had all been heavily disturbed by later activity.
- 4.4.13 Once the last mortar floor (457) was removed within the chancel it was possible to hand clean layer (458). The consistent nature of this layer suggests it was a beaten earth floor predating any of the later 19th century mortar floors. Clearly seen cutting through it were a number of small circular holes which were revealed beneath the first layer of mortar floor (Figure 9, Photo 43); these were possibly a consequence of a scaffold erected during 1866 for the construction of the chancel arch.
- 4.4.14 Small sections of floor layer (458) were removed close to the bottom of the chancel arch walls on both sides of the church. In these areas below the beaten earth floor (458) compact clean grey clay (461) was revealed (Photo 44). It was possible that this clay could have filled a foundation trench for the chancel arch walls but this possibility was not investigated further as the ground level did not need to be further reduced. This clay was very different to the broken shale found elsewhere under layer (458).

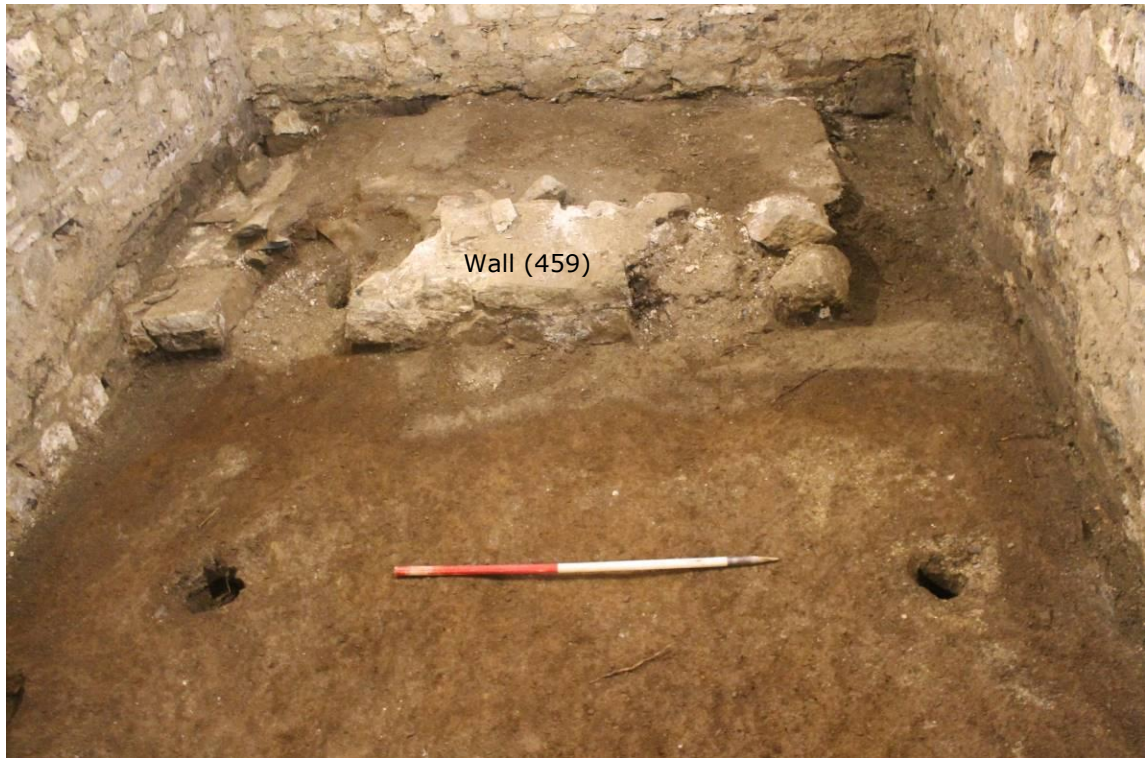


Photo 43: The firm compacted earth floor (458) revealed after removal of mortar floors (457) and (454). Note the small postholes that were possibly a result of a scaffold erected during 1866 for the construction of the chancel arch. Looking east. 1m scale



Photo 44: View of grey silty clay (461) exposed beneath brown beaten earth floor, in the northwestern corner of the chancel, with door to former vestry visible at top of photo. 0.50m scale

4.5 Area E - Septic Tank and Reed Bed Area – Figures 10 & 11

Installation of foul drain from the western end of the church along the existing pathway and connection to septic tank and reed beds adjacent to the western boundary of the church

- 4.5.1 A narrow trench for a foul drain was excavated along the existing path for approximately 27m from the western end of the church to the west gate (Figure 5, Photo 45). From this a connecting trench for the drain ran for roughly 28m southwards to a trench excavated for the proposed location of a septic tank. The foul drain trenches were on average 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep.
- 4.5.2 During the excavation of the foul drain trenches no archaeological features or deposits were recorded within the trenches.
- 4.5.3 The trench for the septic tank and associated reed beds measured 4.0m by 1.9m prior to their installation (Figures 5 and 10). Under archaeological supervision approximately 0.40m of topsoil was machine removed using a flat bladed bucket to the depth at which natural shale bedrock was reached.
- 4.5.4 The trench was hand cleaned revealing a number of archaeological features cut into the bedrock (Photos 46 & 47). No features had been evident within the topsoil. The features were clearly visible as areas of darker soil and broken shale against the lighter undisturbed shale bedrock (Photo 48).
- 4.5.5 The majority of the identified archaeological features were fully excavated and are shown in plan and section in Figures 10 and 11.
- 4.5.6 Evidence of two possible graves were recorded within the trench. Grave cut [310] appeared to be a child grave (Photos 49 & 50). It was aligned approximately west-east and measured 0.62m in length, 0.20m wide and 0.18m deep. The sides were nearly vertical and the cut had a flat base. It was filled with re-deposited broken shale within a sandy silt matrix. No bone survived and no finds or any other dating material were recovered from the grave cut.
- 4.5.7 Towards the eastern end of grave cut [310] the western end of a further possible grave [312] was just visible within the trench; the majority of it lying outside of the trench edge to the east (Photo 49). The 0.11m length of the cut within the trench was excavated and measured 0.43m wide and 0.37m deep. The sides were near vertical. No bone survived and no finds or any other dating material were recovered from the grave cut.
- 4.5.8 South of both graves was evidence of a possible curving gully [320] (Photos 48 & 49). This feature was partially excavated and measured 0.22m wide and 0.15-0.20m deep, with roughly vertical sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a sandy silt matrix surrounding much broken and crushed shale. No finds were recovered from the excavated fill.
- 4.5.9 In the west corner of the trench there were indications of a possible manmade feature [322], although as it was only caught in the corner of the trench it could not be fully defined and it may have been a natural entity. It appeared to be cut by posthole [329].

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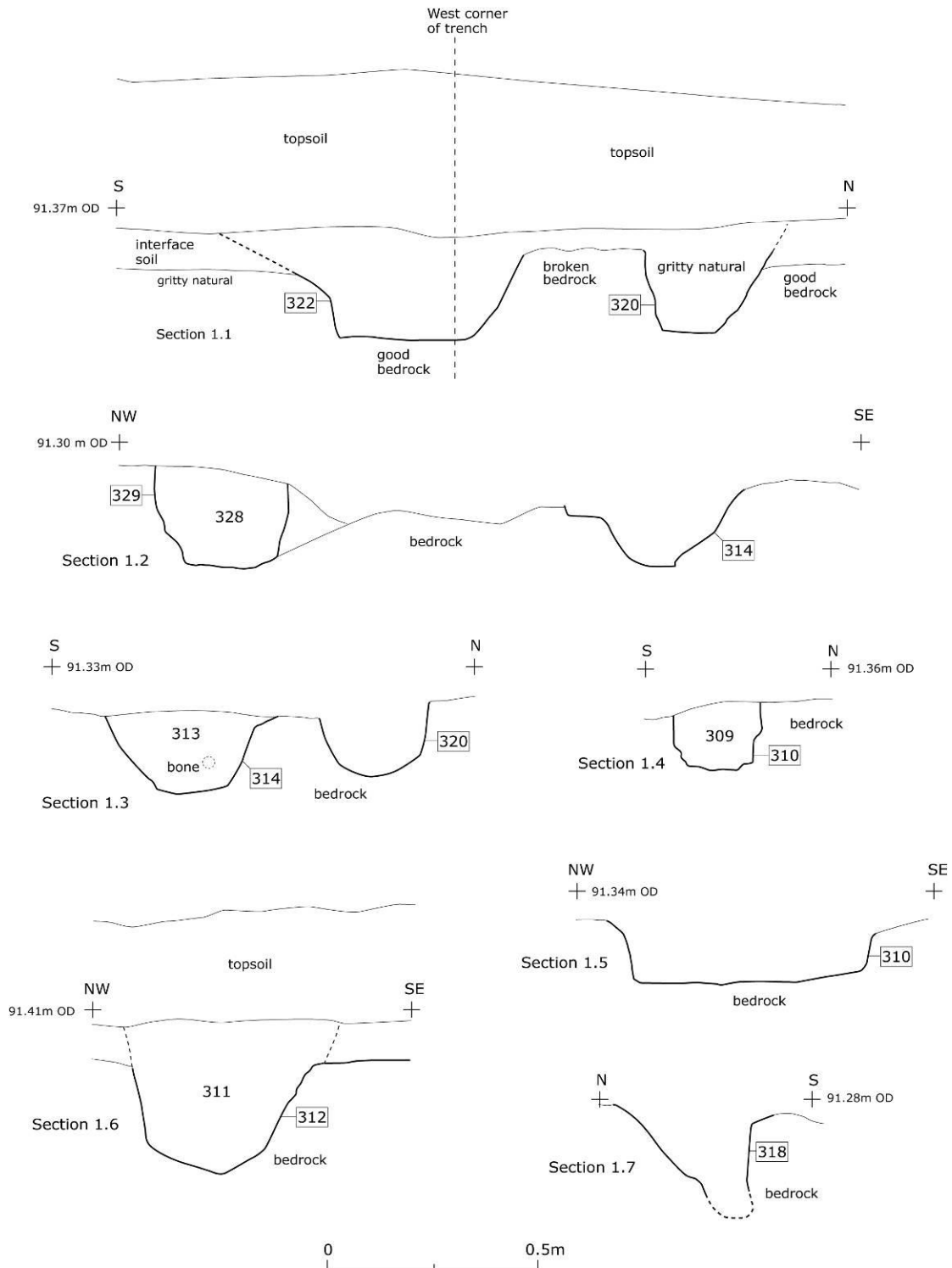


Figure 11: Area E – Sections through recorded archaeological features shown in plan in Figure 10.



Photo 45: The machine excavated drainage trench that ran from the church to the west gate. Facing west



Photo 46: View of Area E trench prior to excavation of archaeological features.
Looking NW. 2m scale



Photo 47: View of Area E trench prior to excavation of archaeological features.
Looking SW. 2m scale

- 4.5.10 Three postholes [329], [314] and [318] were excavated lying in an arc that paralleled the curve of gully [320] to the north, supporting the probability that the gully is a manmade feature and not an in-filled natural fissure in bedrock (Photos 49 & 51). Posthole [329] was approx. 0.28m in diameter and 0.24m deep. Posthole [314] was squarer in plan measuring 0.30m by 0.26m and 0.20m deep. Posthole [318] was roughly 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m deep. All three were filled with very similar material comprising large quantities of broken and crushed shale within greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt matrix. The fill of posthole [314] was distinctive in containing occasional flecks of cremated bone.
- 4.5.11 South of the three larger postholes was a number of much smaller postholes and/or stakeholes, some of which were excavated (Photo 51). Their distribution can be seen in Figure 10 and it does appear if the 3 most obvious stakeholes [304], [306] & [308] form a line; although in such a small area it is not possible to attribute much meaning to this arrangement.



Photo 48 (left):
Photograph of north end of Area E trench before excavation of archaeological features. Looking approx. W. 2m scale

Photo 49 (right):
Photograph of north end of Area E trench showing partially excavated features. Looking approx. W. 0.25m, 5m & 2m scales

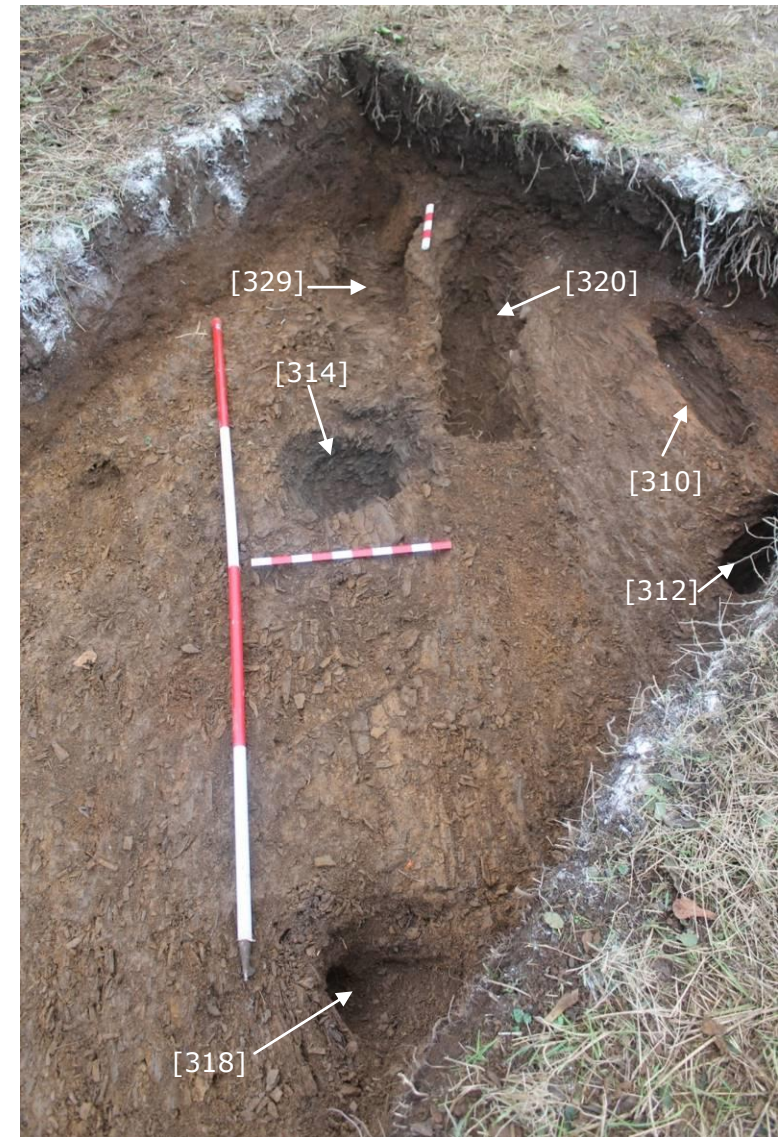




Photo 50: Looking roughly south at excavated child grave [310]. 0.5m scale

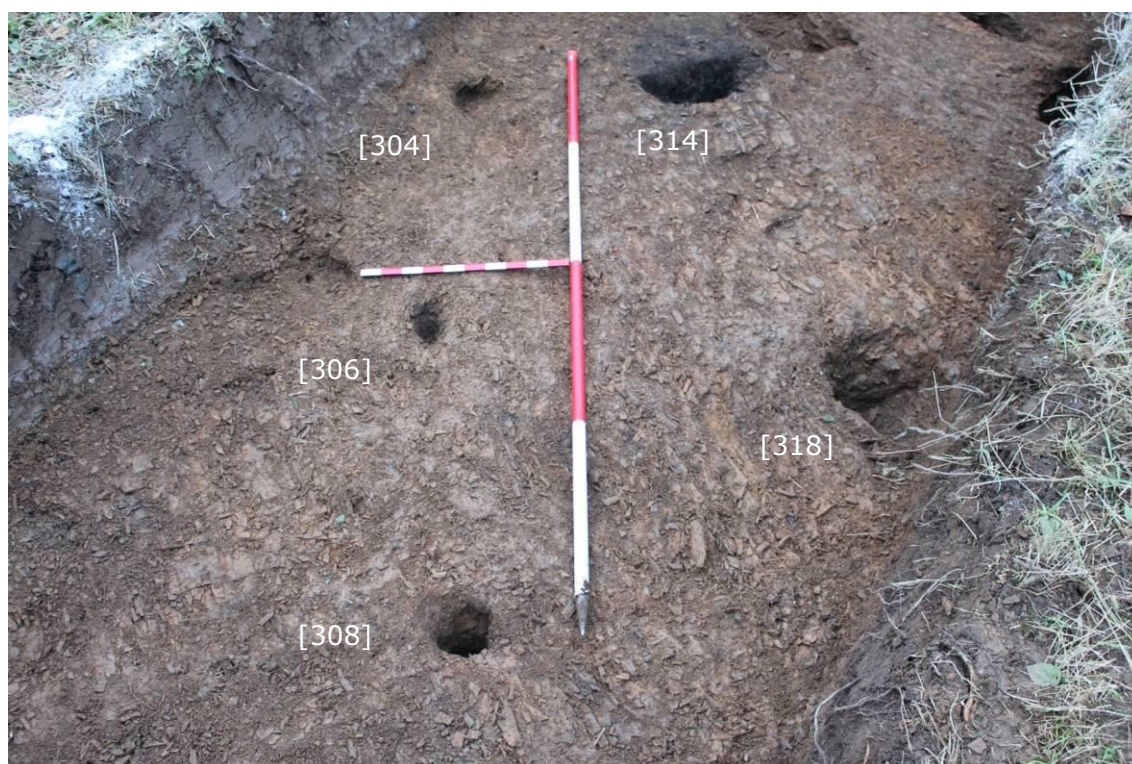


Photo 51: Looking approx. W at excavated stake holes [304], [306], [308] and postholes [314] and [318]. 0.5m and 2m scales



Figure 12: Overall site plan showing St Davids Church, the excavation areas and recorded archaeological features.

5. DISCUSSION

Archaeological remains (Figure 12)

- 5.1 The small church of St David in the hamlet of Henllan Amgoed is surrounded by a substantial D-shaped earthen bank that we can only presume defines the associated churchyard and cemetery.
- 5.2 A section excavated through the enclosure bank found that it was of at least two phases but unfortunately no dating material was recovered from any of the deposits.
- 5.3 As recorded during the evaluation (Meek 2012) there was good surviving evidence for graves to the northeast of the church in Area B; the area for a proposed garage and driveway. Within this area 45 potential graves were recorded. All the graves were aligned along a general west-east alignment; so that the head lay to the west of the grave and the feet to the east.
- 5.4 Evidence for another 12 graves was recorded in the area immediately outside and surrounding the church building; with another two possible graves found in the area proposed for the septic tank and reed beds to the southeast. It is very likely that many more graves would have been recorded if more of the development area had required further ground reduction works.
- 5.5 The graves were visible as areas of darker fill against the lighter coloured bedrock, through which the graves were cut and as there was no necessity to excavate all but a small sampled of the graves, they were mostly identified by their position, shape and size.
- 5.6 Investigation of two grave cuts during the 2012 evaluation (ibid) and one grave in 2014 established that they were excavated through shale bedrock and appeared to have used the general east – west alignment of geological strata within the shale to form squared edges to the cuts.
- 5.7 The investigated graves were fairly shallow cuttings being around 0.50m deep below the top of bedrock or c.0.70m below the current ground surface. The partial excavation of a grave on the north side of the church in 2014 recorded it had a similar depth of 0.45m. There was no evidence to suggest the manner of burial but the narrow width of the graves and the shallow depth suggest they were intended for burials wrapped in a simple shroud rather than within a coffin, and that the graves were dug to fit the body closely. It is thought the shallow nature of medieval graves is a product of the medieval practice of digging the grave only once the Requiem mass was finished and whilst in the presence of the funeral cortege (Daniell 1995); a practice that didn't lend itself to deep graves.
- 5.8 Unfortunately, due to the acidity of the soil no bone survived and nor was there any indication of a silhouette in the base of the graves resulting from decay of the former burials. No dating or cultural material was recovered from any of the graves.
- 5.9 The backfills within the grave cuts were all similar in nature being mostly re-deposited broken natural shale from the excavation of the grave cuts.
- 5.10 The lack of stone lined cist burials, a characteristic of early medieval cemeteries, suggests that the graves recorded so far within the cemetery at Henllan Amgoed are later in date; quite likely between 12th and 15th century but this does not exclude earlier burials being present in the churchyard.



Photo 52: (left) Post-excavation shot of grave cut [410] and posthole [419]. 0.5m & 1m scales.
East facing photographs taken during 2012 evaluation



Photo 53: (right) Partial excavation of grave cut [410], showing stones at eastern end. 0.5m & 1m scales.
East facing photographs taken during 2012 evaluation

- 5.11 Evidence for a medieval date is also indicated by the stones placed in one of graves excavated during the 2012 evaluation, a burial feature thought to date from the period 11th to 13th centuries (Daniell, 1998, 158-159) (Photo 52). This was recorded in a recent excavation of a sample of two graves within an undated cemetery at Meusydd, Powys (Jones & Hankinson, 2011), where within both graves groups of rounded stones had been placed within the graves; one group towards the eastern end of one grave. The authors of this report suggested the position of the stones reflected the position of the burial; where again no traces of any human remains survived.
- 5.12 Sixteen infant/child graves were recorded within the garage and driveway area northeast of the church. Twelve of these lay in 3 regularly arranged groups of 4 west-east graves laid side by side. The 3 remaining infant/child graves were scattered amongst the adult and juvenile graves. A number of the infant/child graves were cut by later graves but only towards the eastern side of the group and it is possible that this grouping or zoning of infant/child burials was marked in some way and efforts were made to avoid disturbance by later burials, until their existence was no longer discernable on the ground and the area reused.
- 5.13 Zoning of burials within medieval cemeteries was a relatively common practice especially in relation to infant and child burials (Daniell, 1998, 115). A study of medieval monastic cemeteries in Britain noted how infant burials were sometimes clustered along boundary walls or ditches or around features such as porches or paths (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005). By the post-medieval period the segregation of burials by age becomes a rare occurrence with a greater emphasis being placed on internment close to ancestors or in family groups (Tarlow, 2011, 108).
- 5.14 The presence of four postholes located on the northern side of the eastern/foot end of a group of four adult burials [410], [414], [413] & [416] suggests they are associated. Another grave [374] sited a little to the south of this group also may be associated with a small posthole in this position. One other grave in this area [433] had evidence of a posthole at the southern side at the western/head end, as did a grave [339] located on the northern side of church. It is possible they represent the positions of grave markers; perhaps simple wooden crosses driven into the ground. Good evidence comes from early medieval and medieval illustrations showing crosses at either the head or feet of graves (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005). The crosses not only marked the positions of graves, protecting them from disturbance by later internments (Hadley, 2001, 125) but also acted as a reminder to intercede through prayer on their behalf. Houlbrooke (1998, 361) records that the will of John Coote of Suffolk in 1502 asked for wooden crosses to be placed at both the head and foot of his grave; with writing requesting that passers-by should pray for his soul.
- 5.15 If a common, the lack of evidence for grave markers could be explained if crosses had just been pushed into the freshly dug soil backfilling the new grave (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005).
- 5.16 The purpose and date of the two curvilinear gullies at the western end of the area cleared for the garage and driveway is unclear. Both gullies follow a similar curve in plan; with approximately 2.5m separating them. It appeared that the most westerly group of infant/child graves cut through the fill of the very shallow eastern gully [380]; evidence that the gully is an earlier feature than the graves. No further graves lie to the west of this group leaving the gullies (as far as it could be seen) defining

an area absent of graves – or defining the western edge of the northeastern burial area.

- 5.17 It is very possible that the church and its churchyard sit within an earlier enclosure of early medieval or even prehistoric date. Aerial photographs of potential church sites with early medieval origins in Carmarthenshire indicate that many lie within enclosures of possible prehistoric date (Arnold, 2000, 182). Given that the gully is cut by graves of probable medieval date, it is possible that the gullies date from the early-medieval or even the prehistoric period. However, three red earthenware glazed sherds of possible late medieval ridge tile were recovered from the top of the fill of the western gully [379] indicating that the gullies may have been in use for a long period of time.
- 5.18 It is interesting to note that the area excavated for the shed to the north of the church was completely devoid of any evidence for burials, nor were grave cuts seen within the sides of the trench excavated for the underground electrical service that also lay to the north of the church. Burials on the north side in the immediate vicinity of the church building were recorded but it is possible that the reluctance to be buried on the north side, traditionally a place for the unbaptised and outcasts of society, and the fact that the cemetery provided enough space for burial elsewhere led to there being few burials in this area.
- 5.19 To the east of the main group of medieval graves, between them and the boundary bank, was evidence for a group of completely different features of a more domestic nature; including a group of pits and postholes. No pattern could be seen in the grouping. Three of the pits were excavated and found to contain heat affected quartz, bone fragments, and pottery sherds from medieval handmade cooking jars/pots that have been identified as a local ware of 12th or 13th century date. It is interesting to note that this group of features were not disturbed by any graves, suggesting that this area was avoided for burials.
- 5.20 The absence of pottery sherds recovered during the investigations is notable. Apart from the sherds described above from the group of pits located to the east of the graves, only eight sherds from pottery vessels and three sherds of ridge tile were recorded. The majority were not closely datable but fell into the medieval to late medieval range. The absence of any Early Medieval pottery suggests a medieval origin for the church but with such a small assemblage of pottery it is difficult to make any firm conclusions.
- 5.21 Evidence for two possible medieval burials was recorded within the small area excavated for the septic tank and reed beds to the southwest of the church. Even though it was a very small area it appeared that the graves were divided from an area of postholes and stakeholes by a shallow curving gully. It is difficult to attribute much significance to this but it again suggests the arrangement of burials was organised, and the possibility that burials filled much of the southern part of the cemetery.
- 5.22 Just under the turf to the west of the south porch the partial remains of two skeletons [430] and [431] were discovered. No grave cuts for either skeleton were visible. Both skeletons were aligned west-east with their heads to the west and their small size indicates they are probably juvenile burials. The 19th century renovations including a drain running parallel with the south wall are the likely cause of the obvious damage to the skeletons. The skull of [431] did not survive (Photo 26) nor had the left arm, leg and foot of either skeleton. The surviving right arms of both were laid over their navels (Photo 27). Skeleton [430] measured 0.97m

from top of skull to bottom of the right femur. Interestingly the lower parts of the spines in both skeletons appeared distorted.

- 5.23 It is difficult to date these burials but they are definitely later than the graves recorded elsewhere within the graveyard where no bone survives. The condition of the bones suggests they could be 16th/17th century in date. Alternatively the survival of bone in these burials near to the church may have been a result of lime from mortar in the church walls de-acidifying the soils closer to the church walls and thus leading to better bone material survival. The skeletons were recorded and then lifted for immediate reburial elsewhere in the graveyard. No cuts for the burials could be determined during this work.
- 5.24 Very little surviving disarticulated bone was recovered during the excavations outside of the church building, which is surprising considering how long the cemetery has been in use. Only during works within the interior of the church building were noticeable quantities of disarticulated bone recovered; due to the disturbance of the ground caused by the 19th century renovations. This would also be due to the differential ground conditions within the church, with less acidic soils caused by lime in its construction and the dry conditions.
- 5.25 The limited ground reduction works around the immediate exterior of the church revealed evidence of material dumped in this area probably during the extensive restoration works undertaken in the 19th century when the church was seemingly largely rebuilt.
- 5.26 The clearance works within the interior of the church building revealed evidence of phases of renovation works undertaken in the 19th century; including possible indications for the position of the scaffold erected during 1866 for the construction of the chancel arch. .
- 5.27 Removal of the 19th century mortar floors revealed a beaten earth floor at the chancel end that had been largely removed in the area of the nave. In areas where his floor layer had been cut through by later activity a mixture of broken shale and soil was seen to lie beneath the compacted floor. It was within this deposit that the only evidence of a burial was recorded sealed by the beaten earth floor layer. The very western edge of this grave was caught in the section created by the chancel step that had been created by cutting through the beaten earth floor layer and removing its depth in the area of the nave. The skull of the burial could just be seen in section. No further ground reduction works were undertaken in this area so the grave remained undisturbed. Burial within the church and particularly at the chancel end was a prime location for burial; one often given to priests who wished to be buried where they had celebrated mass.
- 5.28 The date of the burial is not known and it may well be a later burial and not contemporary with the majority of graves recorded outside of the church where no bone has survived. An alternative theory is that skeletal material has survived far better within the drier less acidic confines of the church building. Its shallow depth would indicate it dates from before the 19th century, after which time burials were dug deeper, especially within churches, to avoid the unpleasantness that might be associated with decaying bodies.
- 5.29 It is very probable that the removal of the earthen floor layer would have revealed many more burials but as efforts had been made to minimise the required depth of ground reduction during the current building works no further burials were disturbed.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Few excavations have taken place in medieval cemeteries in Wales so the conversion of St Davids church into a private house allowed for a rare opportunity to carry out such an investigation; albeit on a limited scale. A number of Early Medieval cemeteries un-associated with medieval churches have been excavated but the majority of churches of medieval date are still very in use and not available for larger scale archaeological study.
- 6.2 An early medieval foundation for St Davids's church has been suggested due to its dedication, but little supporting evidence for this hypothesis was recorded during the excavation. No dating evidence was recovered from the perimeter bank to indicate whether it was of Iron Age or Early Medieval date and no graves typical of the Early Medieval period were recorded, although it is still possible that such burials could be present in areas of the cemetery not explored during this investigation.
- 6.3 Traditionally it is thought that the most favoured areas to be buried, if not inside the church itself, were the east and south sides of the church as close to the chancel as possible and that the less favoured north side of the church, the customary area for the unbaptized, criminals or suicides, was normally used only when the rest of the cemetery was full. At St Davids the absence of graves within the area excavated for the shed to the north of the church suggest that this area was not required or used for burials.
- 6.4 Within the excavated areas outside of the church, to the northeast and the small area to the southwest, the lack of later disturbance, evidenced by the lack of disarticulated bone, and other artefacts such as pottery sherds, recovered during the excavation, and the absence of intercutting graves, suggests that the medieval layout of the churchyard may have survived.
- 6.5 The organisation of the graves excavated in Area B to the northeast of the church appears to show a definite arrangement avoiding areas characterised by very different archaeological features. Apart from one group of infant burials no other graves encroach upon the area defined by the two curving gullies [379 & 380]; indicating that it was an area to be avoided. The reason is unknown but it suggests that there were features, perhaps earthworks or structural boundaries within the cemetery, indicating where graves should not be excavated.
- 6.6 It is not known what the gullies define or enclose but it is possible that they could have formed the enclosure for an earlier phase of church, perhaps in the Early Medieval period; the possibility of which has been hinted at by the church's dedication. Is it possible that evidence of an earlier church persisted enough to inhibit people from burying their dead in these areas?
- 6.7 Another region avoided by burials in Area B is that comprising a distinctive group of more domestic features situated east of the graves. Their size and spacing does not permit reconstruction into any intelligible building form but the discovery of pottery of similar (if not the same) fabric and date from the features would indicate they are broadly contemporary, and evidence of a very different activity from burial. That is not to say that they could not be associated with burial practices; as the 12th or 13th century pottery from two of the pits points to the fact they were backfilled at a time when the cemetery was surely in use.

- 6.8 Although reuse of some ground within the cemetery is indicated by the small number of intercutting graves seen in Area B, the ability to avoid burying in particular areas of the cemetery, the avoidance of areas where other activities were taking place and the vacant spaces between the graves recorded in plan within Area B suggest the cemetery was never completely full and that the surrounding population served by the church was probably not a numerous one. It is possible, that the cemetery served a small, probably dispersed community in which the death rate did not exceed the area required to bury them. Of course without fully excavating the cemetery area to the west and south of the church, it is not possible to determine the scale of intercutting burials in these more areas to indicate population sizes in the parish.
- 6.9 It is of interest that the three lines of infant/child burials lie somewhat parallel to each other. It is not known in what order they were dug or whether the graves in each line were contemporary but their arrangement suggests they were marked in some way, and visible on the ground so that a new line of graves respects those already buried. Could they indicate a spate of child deaths from illness or accident? Could it indicate familial relationship? As noted above it may purely indicate an area of the cemetery specifically for infant burials, with the graves marked to avoid intercutting.
- 6.10 The evidence of archaeological features within the trench excavated for the septic site and reed beds, in the far southwestern quarter of the churchyard, suggests that this area to the south of the church could be fully occupied with surviving archaeology; not only graves but a variety of features indicating diverse activities; perhaps even settlement. Unfortunately without any dating evidence it is impossible to establish whether these features date from the medieval period or are earlier and suggest the site does have earlier origins. The absence of pottery or any other dating evidence from these features is a recurrent problem in establishing when the site was in use.
- 6.11 The absence for Early Medieval burials in the areas available for investigation during 2013/14 does not preclude them existing elsewhere in the churchyard. The areas now occupied by later post-medieval gravestones may be areas once occupied by Early Medieval burials; a fact that could have unconcerned those in the 18th century; if they were aware of it. Likewise the area of medieval burials to the northeast may have still been evident as an area of burials in some way and respected/avoided by later interments.
- 6.12 The majority of the development works were designed to cause the least disturbance to the underlying archaeology; information on the depths of surviving archaeology having been supplied by the evaluation. There was no requirement to excavate all the graves and other features as they would remain preserved in situ.
- 6.13 The archaeological investigations have indicated that the cemetery enclosure around St David's Church is very likely to contain a substantial quantity of further burials and other archaeological features of medieval and later date, although features of earlier date cannot be ruled out. The results of the archaeological work have indicated the complexity of the surviving archaeology and that the area enclosed by the earthen banks is far from just a simple churchyard.

7. SOURCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map of Carmarthenshire published in 1880

Database

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APPENDIX I: POTTERY by Dee Brennan

Area B – Fill (353) of pit [354]

Two abraded sherds from handmade jar/cooking pot. The fabric is the same as (377) (b) and (c).

Date: Medieval, 12th or 13th century.

Area B - Lower Fill (377) of pit [358]

(a) One rim sherd from a handmade cooking pot. A high-shouldered jar with a short simple rim that is slightly everted, inner edge of rim is rolled. The jar is made in a hard buff fabric that is partially reduced at the rim. Inclusions within the fabric are frequent rounded grey and reddish-brown gravels, sparse white quartz grits, and some fine background sands. The unglazed exterior surface is sooted and fire-blackened. Rim diameter 140mm.

Date: Medieval, 12th/13th century.

The fabric of this pot is typical of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware (O'Mahoney 1985a, 20; O'Mahoney 1995, 76). Also known as West Wales fabric, Cardigan Castle Types 1 and 6 (O'Mahoney 1985c, 205-6, 211-12), and Carmarthen Greyfriars fabrics A2 to A6 (O'Mahoney 1995, 9-11). The simple rim form of the Henllan Amgoed jar has no direct parallel, but is best compared with a group of jars found at Gwbert, Ceredigion (Benson et al. 1978, 26-39).

Until recently it has been thought that production of Dyfed gravel-tempered wares began in the 12th century, but new evidence from grain-drying ovens at Heol Y Myny, near Beulah, South Ceredigion (J. Hall and P. Sambrook, pers. comm.), suggests a possible start date at some time during the 11th century: there, charred material (sample HYM2014-005) found in association with a Dyfed gravel-tempered ware jar rim was given a radiocarbon date AD 1025 to 1190 (CAL BP 925 to 760).

The suggested terminal date for Dyfed gravel-tempered wares is in the 16th or 17th century (Papazian and Campbell 1992, 56-59).

Two kilns from the medieval and early post-medieval periods are identified in West Wales: The earliest at Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire (Early and Morgan 2004, 97-100), is understood to be thirteenth century in date. The later kiln site, at Newport, Pembrokeshire (Talbot 1968), is of a transitional or post-medieval date (O'Mahoney 1995, 11).

(b) Four body sherds (three are joining) from handmade jar/cooking pot in a fine granular fabric that has buff surfaces, red margins and a thin grey core. The fabric contains frequent fine sands and other sparse inclusions: quartz grits, red material (possibly grog) and flint. A little fine mica is also visible on the inner surface. Unglazed surfaces, sooted externally.

Date: Medieval, 12th or 13th century.

(c) One base sherd from handmade jar/cooking pot. The fabric is like (b) but the core is fully reduced. The smoothed surfaces are micaceous with a few small voids on the inner surface where inclusions have leached or fired out. The extant profile suggests a sagging base.

Date: Medieval, 12th or 13th century.

Sherds (b) and (c) are most likely to be from the one vessel. The fabric is a regional import and the most likely source is the Bath area (known as Bath "A" ware).

This ware is first seen in Bristol in the 12th century and was common there in the 13th and 14th centuries (Good and Russett 1987, 37). The type is uncommon in west Wales: only two sherds were recovered from Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney 1995, 17: Type fabric B7). Other find spots in south Wales are thought to be 12th or 13th century.

Area B – Fill (378) of gully [379]

Three sherds are possibly ridge tile rather than vessel. These are in a fully oxidised red fabric with lighter buff surfaces. The fabric is very sandy with only a few larger quartz grits and sparse small gravels. All three sherds are heavily abraded. The surviving upper surface has a thin brown coloured glaze. The Newport kiln is a possible source.

Date: Late medieval?

Area C - Layer (330)

One body sherd from a wheel-made jug or jar is in a hard fabric that is pinkish-red with a grey core. The clay body is tempered with frequent small rounded sands, some larger quartz grits and occasional grey and red gravels. Also present are sparse bright red grog inclusions. The exterior surface has a thin olive green glaze, the interior is unglazed.

This is a local late medieval ware, possibly from the Newport Pembrokeshire kiln (Talbot, 1968). See Carmarthen Greyfriars for similar (O'Mahoney 1995, 11-13: Type fabrics A8-9).

Date: 15th century possibly extending into 16th century.

Unstratified

(a) One sherd from a jar with rolled everted rim. A fairly hard fabric that is red with a grey core, and contains moderate quantities of rounded red and grey gravels as well as sparse white quartz grits and a little sand. Surfaces are unglazed. This is a Dyfed gravel-tempered ware vessel.

Date: Medieval. Not closely dateable.

(b) Two joining body sherds are from a wheel-made jug in a fabric that is hard and has a granular texture. The surfaces are patchy off-white to light grey in colour and the core is dark grey. The clay body has abundant fine sand inclusions and sparse red clay pellets. The surviving portion of the jug is unglazed with the exception of a few small specks visible on the interior surface. Wipe marks can be seen on the exterior surface.

This is a Redcliffe jug imported from Bristol. Jugs in this fabric were found at Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney 1995, 20-1: Type fabric B16), where it was present from phase I (mid-late 13th century). They are also present at castle sites including Llansteffan Castle (Papazian & Campbell 1992, 35) and Carmarthen (Courtney and Williams in N. Ludlow (2014), 279).

Date: medieval, mid-13th to late 15th century.

(c) Two joining body sherds probably from a handmade jug in grey granular fabric with a pink interior surface, heavily tempered with fine sands and frequent

grey gravels. There is no glaze surviving on either surface. A local West Wales source is likely.

Date: Medieval.

(d) One body sherd from thick-walled vessel of indeterminate form. Lacks diagnostic features and may even be part of a ceramic ridge tile. The fabric is Dyfed gravel-tempered ware. A thin olive green glaze survives on the exterior or upper surface.

Date: Medieval/early post-medieval.

(e) One very small fragment, probably of ridge tile in a fully oxidised fabric with numerous white and colourless angular quartz grits. The surviving under surface is sanded. The fabric is more typical of North Devon gravel-tempered ware but the sherd is too small to attribute with certainty.

Date: Late medieval?

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APPENDIX II: List of Contexts by Area:

Area A – Enclosure Bank

Context No	Simple Name	Description	Dimensions
344	Layer	Bank make up. Loose/friable dark brown clay silt with small stones, and shale. Uppermost make up of bank. Very rooty.	0.70m depth
345	Layer	Bank make up. Friable dark brown clay silt with shale fragments. This is similar to (344) but is not so friable. There is some resistance when trowelled.	
346	Layer	Bank make up. Friable medium/light brown clay silt with small pieces of slate, stone, and large blockish stone/roof slate. This deposit probably represents some form of revetting.	
347	Layer	Bank make up. Friable medium/dark brown clay silt with small fragments of angular stone. More compact than the layer above (346) but contained more stone.	
348	Layer	Bank make up. Light brown silt with 95% small shattered pieces of shale.	
349	Layer	Bank make up. Friable med/light orangey brown silty clay containing pea grit & small fragments of shale.	
350	Layer	Friable reddish/brown silty clay with small fragments of shale. Darker than (349). This possibly represents a buried soil horizon below the bank.	
351	Layer	Friable light orange brown silty clay with small shale fragments. Might represent the buried subsoil beneath (350).	
352	Layer	Bedrock	

Area B – Driveway and Garage Area

Context No	Simple Name	Description	Dimensions
353	Fill	Fill of pit/posthole [354]. Fairly compact brown silty loam with 15-20% small shale fragments, 5 lumps (med. sized) heat affected quartz, 1 small fragment of bone, obvious small lumps of charcoal and charcoal flecks, & 1 water worn pebble. Pottery sherds from top of fill. Much more compact than (357).	
354	Pit	Posthole/pit at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Circular in plan, straight sided and	0.62m diam

		flat bottomed. Cut by [358].	0.29m depth
355	Fill	Fill of pit/posthole [356]. Friable grey/brown silty loam containing approximately 40% small shale fragments and 1 medium flat stone found near top of fill. Similar to (377).	
356	Pit	Posthole/pit/ at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Excavated by Ian Hartshorn. Square shaped	c.0.36 square 0.30m deep
357	Fill	Upper fill of posthole/pit [358]. Loose friable dark reddish brown silty loam with 50% small shale fragments, containing some charcoal.	
358	Pit	Posthole/pit/ at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Straight sided pit/large posthole that just very slightly cuts smaller pit [354]. Cut into bedrock	0.88m E-W, 0.70m N-S, max. depth 0.36m
359	Fill	Fill of linear feature [360] – unexcavated.	
360	Linear	Linear cut located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Filled by (359). Appears to cut (361) in plan - unexcavated.	2.23m x 0.36m
361	Fill	Fill of feature [362] – unexcavated. Cut by [360] & [364].	
362	Cut	Cut of feature located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank Filled by (361). Not possible to see shape in plan as cut by other features - unexcavated.	n/a
363	Fill	Fill of square pit? [364] - unexcavated.	
364	Pit?	Cut of square pit located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Filled by (363). Cuts (361) - unexcavated.	c. 0.61m diam
365	Fill	Fill of [366] – unexcavated.	
366	Posthole?	Small posthole? located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank - unexcavated. Filled by (365).	
367	Fill	Fill of clay filled circular feature [368] – unexcavated. Pale pink/grey clay seen in plan.	
368	Pit?	Sub-circular pit? located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank. Filled by (367) – unexcavated.	c.0.48m diam
369	Fill	Fill of [370] – unexcavated.	
370	Posthole?	Small posthole? located at eastern end of Area B to west of boundary bank - unexcavated	

371	Fill	Fill of [372] – unexcavated.	
372	Grave	Grave cut at eastern end of Area B. Cut for possible grave. Only a small section of the grave can be seen as most of it continues under the eastern edge of trench – unexcavated.	n/a
373	Fill	Fill of [374] – unexcavated.	
374	Grave	Grave cut at eastern end of Area B. Very clear rectangular grave cut – unexcavated. Filled by (373)	1.86m x 0.58m
375	Fill	Fill of [376] – unexcavated.	
376	Grave	Grave cut at eastern end of Area B. Very clear rectangular grave cut – unexcavated. Filled by (375).	1.84m x 0.73m
377	Fill	Lower fill of cut [358]. Dark brown friable silty loam containing noticeable charcoal, small lumps of clay, 1 small fragment of heat affected quartz, small fragments of burnt bone, pottery sherds, and a medium flat stone (similar to (355)) that was lying flat near the bottom of the fill, underneath of which was a little burnt bone.	
378	Fill	Fill of gully [379]. Sectioned excavated through linear gully. Mid brown silty clay with charcoal flecks containing 3 red earthenware brown glazed sherds of pottery in very top of fill? Or interface with topsoil.	
379	Gully	Curving segment of gully cut seen in plan in SE corner of garage area. Shallow, straight sided in profile and flat bottomed. It curves somewhat parallel to curving gully [380] that lies between 2.5-3.0m outside of it – section excavated through fill.	0.66m wide x 0.21m deep
380	Gully	Curving segment of shallow gully cut seen in plan in SE corner of garage area. Curves parallel to gully [379]. The gully just cuts the fills of infant graves [381], [382], [383], & [384]. Very little of the gully survives; very shallow cut. Filled by (429).	0.55m wide
381	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill (429) of gully [380].	0.70m x 0.26m
382	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill (429) of gully [380].	0.98m x 0.27m
383	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill (429) of gully [380].	0.82m x 0.27m
384	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill (429) of gully [380].	0.84m x 0.34m
385	Grave	Grave cut at eastern end of Area B – unexcavated.	n/a
386	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.73m x 0.22m
387	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.71m x 0.26m
388	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.75m x 0.20m

389	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.85m x 0.24m
390	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.00m x 0.52m
391	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan the fill of this grave appears to be cut by grave [405].	unknown length 0.24m wide
392	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated. In plan the fill of this grave appears to be cut by grave [405].	unknown length 0.22 wide
393	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.64m x 0.29m
394	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.57m x 0.25m
395	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill of graves [396] & [421].	1.56m x 0.51m
396	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated. In plan the fill of this grave appears to be cut by grave [395].	1.72m x 0.76m
397	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.45m x 0.52m
398	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.42m x 0.66m
399	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.87m x 0.66m
400	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	2.30m x 0.70m
401	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.54m x 0.38m
402	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.05m x 0.38m
403	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.94m x 0.39m
404	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.07m x 0.38m
405	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated. In plan appears to cut fill of graves [391] & [392].	2.05m x 0.64m
406	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated. Probably represents 2 intercutting graves.	3.56m x 0.68m
407	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.96m x 0.67m
408	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	1.10m x 0.33m
409	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.85m x 0.27m
410	Grave	Grave cut – partially excavated in 2012 evaluation.	2.29m x 0.55m <i>0.52m deep – recorded in 2012</i>

			<i>evaluation</i>
411	Grave?	Possible grave cut – unexcavated.	1.48m x 0.78m
412	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	2.02m x 0.53m
413	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	2.40m x 0.53m
414	Grave	Grave cut – partially excavated in 2012 evaluation.	2.13m x 0.61m <i>0.47 deep – recorded in 2012 evaluation</i>
415	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.38m x 0.67m
416	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.52m x 0.51m
417	Grave	Grave cut – unexcavated.	1.45m x 0.52m
418	Posthole?	Possible posthole cut – unexcavated.	
419	Posthole	Posthole cut – half sectioned in 2012 evaluation.	0.29m diam <i>0.18m deep recorded in 2012 evaluation</i>
420	Posthole?	Possible posthole cut – unexcavated.	
421	Grave?	Possible grave cut – unexcavated. In plan the fill of this grave appears to be cut by grave [395].	n/a
422	Grave?	Possible infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	
423	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.92m x 0.31m
424	Cut?	Possible cut aligned N-S – unexcavated.	n/a
425	Cut?	Possible cut aligned N-S – unexcavated.	n/a
426	Cut?	Possible cut aligned N-S – unexcavated.	n/a
427	Fill	Fill of [428]. Compacted pale grey clay clearly seen in plan – unexcavated.	
428	Pit?	Possible sub-circular pit – unexcavated.	c.0.77m diam
429	Fill	Fill of shallow curving gully [380] seen in plan in SE corner of garage area.	
432	Grave	Infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.93m x 0.39m

433	Grave	Possible infant/child grave cut – unexcavated.	0.68m x 0.33m
434	Grave	Grave cut at eastern end of Area B – unexcavated.	1.19m x 0.60m
435	Cut	Edge of a possible cut just caught running under southern baulk at eastern end of Area B to south of pit [358]	n/a

Area C – External Area around Church

Context No	Simple Name	Description	Dimensions
330	Layer	Rubble deposit - firm dark grey/brown silty clay containing a large amount of large angular stone with occasional slate fragments, mortar, C19th pot sherd. Abuts outer west wall of church and extends beyond western edge of excavation area. Rubble from C19th church re-building?	
331	Layer	Spread of creamy white lime mortar – deposited during church re-building in C19th?	c. 0.30 diam 0.05m deep
332	Layer	Rubble spread – dark grey brown silty clay with frequent large angular stone that continues beyond western edge of excavation area. Rubble from C19th church re-building?	1.10m x 0.50m
333	Layer	Narrow linear spread of rubble – parallel with outer west side of church wall - light grey brown clay silt with frequent lime mortar fragments, occasional roofing slate. Rubble from C19th church re-building?	2.80m x 0.10m
334	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small roofing slate fragments, mortar fragments and medium/large angular stone. Full extent of layer not known as it continues beyond N side of trench. Rubble from C19th church re-building?	c. 4.96m E-W x max. 3.0m N-S
335	Layer	Mid brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of small shale fragments. Remains of possible up cast from adjacent grave [339]	1.60m x 0.40m
336	Fill	Fill of [337]. Firm mid grey brown silty clay with numerous fragments of broken shale and some charcoal	
337	Posthole?	Possible posthole cut at west end of grave [339]	c. 0.20m diam

338	Fill	Fill of [339]. Moderate mid grey brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments	
339	Grave	Grave cut on N side of church revealed during ground reduction works. A section of the grave was excavated at its eastern end.	1.55m x 0.43m 0.25m deep
340	Layer	Topsoil	
341	Layer	Firm dark brown clay silt with occasional small angular stones and some charcoal flecks	
342	Layer	Shale bedrock	
343	Layer	Friable/loose light grey brown silty clay containing shale fragments, and mortar flecks. This linear feature is possibly the fill of the construction trench for the church or may possibly represent a 'mortar line' formed whilst pointing walls.	
430	Skeleton	Western skeleton of 2 found west of porch recorded just below ground level. 0.97m from top of skull to bottom of thigh bone. Rest is missing. Articulated. Quite a distortion at the bottom of the spine. Left half of body missing including leg, arm and foot. Lower right leg and foot missing. Width of piece of skull = 0.14m Both burials have their surviving right arm crossed over the navel. Missing parts are probably due to the insertion of 19 th century drain and construction of porch. Burials were approx. 0.20m below soil mark (ground level) on porch. No cut for a grave was visible.	
431	Skeleton	Eastern skeleton of 2 found west of porch recorded just below ground level. This burial, nearest the porch wall, is articulated but the left half of the body including the leg, arm and foot is missing, as well as skull. Right lower leg and foot missing. Length of surviving thigh bone = 0.395m. 10 vertebrae Both burials have their surviving right arm crossed over the navel. Missing parts are probably due to the insertion of 19 th century drain and construction of porch. Burials were approx. 0.20m below soil mark (ground level) on porch. No cut for a grave was visible.	
436	Grave	Grave cut on W side of church revealed during ground reduction works around exterior of west end of church. Not excavated.	1.30m x 0.40m
437	Fill	Fill of [436] - moderate mid grey/brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments.	
438	Grave	Western end of a possible grave cut revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of west end of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
439	Fill	Fill of [438] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to	

		what the trench was excavated through.	
440	Grave	Western end of a possible grave cut revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of west end of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
441	Fill	Fill of [440] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
442	Grave	Western end of a possible grave cut revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of west end of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
443	Fill	Fill of [442] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
444	Grave	What appears to be the northern long side of a possible grave cut, aligned west-east revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of north side of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
445	Fill	Fill of [444] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
446	Grave	What appears to be the southern long side of a possible grave cut, aligned west-east, revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of north side of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
447	Fill	Fill of [446] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
448	Grave	What appears to be the northern long side of a possible grave cut, aligned west-east, revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of north side of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
449	Fill	Fill of [448] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
450	Grave	What appears to be the southern long side of a possible grave cut, aligned west-east, revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of north side of church. Not excavated further.	Not known
451	Fill	Fill of [450] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
452	Grave	What appears to be the northern long side of a possible grave cut, aligned west-east, revealed during excavation of perimeter drainage trench around exterior of north side of church. Not excavated further.	

453	Fill	Fill of [452] - moderate mid brown silty clay with abundant small shale fragments. Very similar to what the trench was excavated through.	
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Area D – Interior of Church

Context No	Simple Name	Description	Dimensions
454	Layer	Uneven thick compacted layer of greyish cream lime mortar with anthracite, some small stone and ash. Lies above (457).	
455	Layer	Thin layer of lime mortar 2cm thick within area between east chancel wall and N-S wall (459); an area 1.25m x 3.0m in size. Plaster contained small shale fragments and pieces of coal. Lies above (456).	
456	Layer	Underlying (455) was a thick layer consisting of friable grey brown silt mixed with broken natural shale, slate fragments and occasional patches of a weak mixture of lime mortar. This deposit lay between the east chancel wall and the N-S wall (459).	
457	Layer	Underlying (454) and (456) a thin but firm mortar spread bedded into layer (458). Clearly visible under layer (456) protruding out into the 19 th century trench.	
458	Layer	Underlying (457) was a thick brown earthen clayey level (soil or beaten earth floor?) Beneath this is a mixed dark layer of redeposited broken rab. Could it be suggestive of redeposited graves?	
459	Wall	Remnant of internal N-S wall within area of chancel. Appears to have been constructed across width of chancel. 19 th century E-W trench has removed the wall to the S. Wall to N has been reduced to rubble.	
460	Cut	Probable 19 th century rectangular cut running parallel with south wall of church in southeast corner of altar area. Filled with mortar cement – first thing to be removed. Allowed section through altar deposits to be viewed.	
461	Layer	Very compact clean grey silty clay revealed beneath (458) in areas surrounding base of chancel arch on both north and south sides.	

Area E – Septic Tank and Reed Bed Area

Context No	Simple Name	Description	Dimensions
300	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark red/brown clay silt with occasional small stones	0.31m
301	Subsoil	Firm dark orange/brown clay silt with angular stone. Not a plough derived soil but one that forms the interface between the topsoil and natural bedrock. Decayed bedrock in places.	0.09m
302	Natural bedrock	Shale bedrock – visible on the ground in folds and turns that create some probable false features such as [320]	n/a
303	Fill	Fill of stake hole [304] – mid grey/brown clay silt, occasional small stones	n/a
304	Stake hole	Small stake hole. U-shaped concave base. One of group of 3 together with [306] & [308].	0.16m diam 0.07m deep
305	Fill	Fill of stake hole [306] – mid grey/brown clay silt, occasional small stones	n/a
306	Stake hole	Small stake hole. U-shaped concave base. One of a group of 3 together with [304] & [308].	0.10m diam 0.10m deep
307	Fill	Fill of stake hole [308] – mid grey/brown clay silt, occasional small stones	n/a
308	Stake hole	Small stake hole. V-shaped concave base. One of a group of 3 together with [304] & [306].	0.12m diam 0.20m deep
309	Fill	Fill of infant grave [310]. Friable greyish brown sandy clay with abundant small pieces of shale bedrock. Suggests quickly backfilled with smashed bedrock from excavating grave?	n/a
310	Infant grave	Possible small grave cut orientated E-W. Shallow cut into shale bedrock. Near vertical sides and flat base. No bone survives.	0.62m x 0.20m 0.18m deep
311	Fill	Fill of grave [312]. Friable dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt with abundant small pieces of shale bedrock. Suggests quickly backfilled with smashed bedrock from excavating grave? No bone survives.	n/a
312	Grave	Possible grave cut orientated E-W shallow cut into shale bedrock. Only western end of cut visible in trench – rest under eastern baulk. Near vertical sides and flat base. Orientated E-W.	0.11m length visible in trench 0.43m wide 0.37m deep

313	Fill	Fill of square pit [314]. Friable very dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt with occasional flecks of what appears to be cremated bone but little or no charcoal. Not burnt in situ?	n/a
314	Grave?	Cut of roughly square pit cut into natural bedrock using the natural breaks in the rock strata to form sides and base.	c.0.30 x 0.26m 0.20m deep
315		DELETED	
316		DELETED	
317	Fill	Fill of [318]. Firm but friable greyish brown sandy clay with abundant broken natural stone	
318	Posthole	Possible posthole midway along eastern side of Area E. Partially falls under section.	0.20 deep
319	Fill	Fill of [320]. Firm orangey brown slightly clayey sandy silt with 80% crushed shale. No finds or charcoal or anything to say anthropogenic.	
320	Linear feature	Linear feature running NW-SE through trench. Possible natural fissure –edges not as clear as other cut features seen in Trench E. The lack of any base makes it seem most likely a natural feature.	Length unknown 0.28m wide 0.16m deep
321	Fill	Fill of [322]. Friable mid orangey/brown silty clay with occasional stones.	
322	Linear feature	Cut of feature seen only in NW corner of trench. Clear natural bedrock edges to west and also on base – cut through a very orange crushed stone natural (like 319) to east. Relationship with posthole [329] not known	
323	Fill	Fill of [324]. Firm dark brown sandy clay silt with occasional stone.	
324	Stake hole	Oval shaped stake hole in centre of Area E. Not as clear as [304], [306] or [308]. Steep sided to NW, shallow slope to SE.	0.24m x 0.16m 0.06m deep
325	Fill	Unexcavated fill of a possible stake hole that lies NW of [308]. Firm dark brown clay silt.	0.06m diam
326	Fill	Unexcavated fill of a possible stake hole that lies SW of [308]. Firm dark brown clay silt.	0.06m diam
327	Fill	Unexcavated fill of a possible stake hole that lies E of [308]. Firm dark brown clay silt.	0.06m diam
328	Fill	Fill of [329]. Friable mid brown sandy silt with common small bedrock stones.	
329	Posthole	Feature in NW corner of Area E. Seems to be a clear cut for a small circular posthole. Its relationship to [322] is not known	0.28m diam

ST DAVID'S CHURCH, HENLLAN AMGOED CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2013/2014

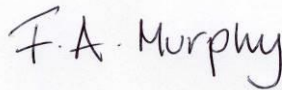
RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2013/75
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Medi 2019 / September 2019

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan /
This report has been prepared by: **Fran Murphy**

Swydd / Position: **Project Officer DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 11/09/2019

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith /

This report has been checked and approved by:
James Meek

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

Swydd / Position: **Head of DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 11/09/2019

*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*

