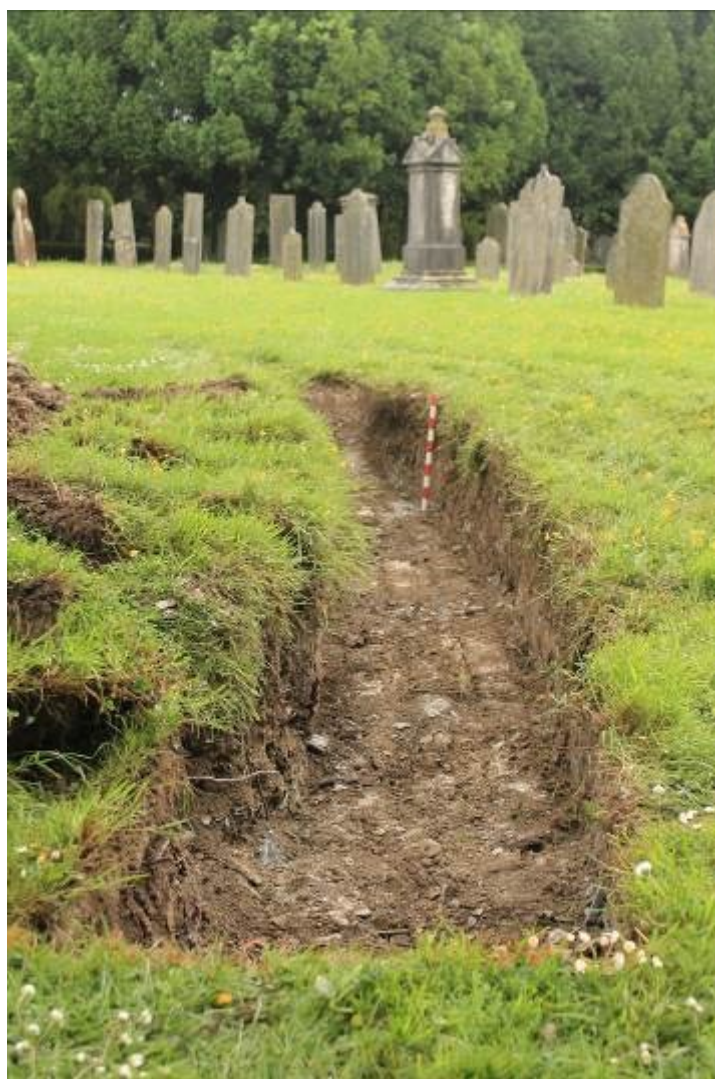


NEW DRAIN AND SOAK AWAY AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CARDIGAN, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Reverend John Bennett



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Gan / By

Alice Day

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain and soakaway close to the north side of St Mary's Church, Cardigan, Ceredigion (NGR SN 18101 46044). An archaeological watching brief was recommended by the archaeological advisor to the Diocese as the works had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains associated with the church. DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to do the work by Reverend John Bennett.

St. Mary's Church is a grade II listed building of twelfth century origin, although little of the medieval stonework remains as it was extensively rebuilt in the eighteenth century. The chancel of the church was originally attached to a medieval Benedictine Priory, probably a little older than twelfth century.*

One visit to the site was made to carry out a watching brief, in July 2016. Some archaeological features of low significance were observed and removed during the watching brief: An old pathway, buried beneath the current pathway near to the eastern end of the excavation and a ceramic drainage pipe, also near to the eastern end of the works.

Four graves were encountered at the base of the new drainage channel cut through the tarmac path along the northern side of the church, in line with the trench and spaced evenly every two metres along it. All four graves were covered with re-used, thick roofing slates, probably used for roofing in the medieval period and reused for the graves in the post-medieval period. The slate from two of the burials was within the required depth of the trench and was therefore removed and recorded by photography. The tops of human long bones could be seen when these slates had been moved. The graves were orientated east – west, as would be expected in a Christian graveyard.

It is possible that the roof slate reused to cover the burials originated from an earlier church roof or conceivably from structures associated with the former priory. No remains of former priory buildings were revealed within the trenches, excluding the potential reused roof slates, but the area surrounding the church still has the potential for archaeological remains of the priory to be present. These could be considered nationally significance if present. Remains of the priory and other associated buildings will have been disturbed through the construction of the adjacent hospital buildings and activity within the churchyard, but overall there is still a high potential for remains of the medieval priory to survive within the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Reverend John Bennett to undertake a watching brief at groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain and soakaway close to the north side of St Mary's Church, Cardigan, Ceredigion (NGR SN 18101 46044; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the archaeological advisor to the Diocese requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) document for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix I). The WSI outlined methodologies for:
- Monitoring groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
 - Establishing the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks;
 - Appropriately investigating and recording any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks;
 - Producing an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: *Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain to take rainwater away from the building of St Mary's Church, Cardigan, Ceredigion. The works will entail installing the drain below the surface through the churchyard. The works will also include the production of a report and archive.*

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results. Some archaeological background to the church is included. It is based and uses some of the information included in a report written for a previous watching brief undertaken at the church in the last few years.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), Listed Building (LB). Sites are located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Altitude is expressed to 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

The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 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 ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

¹ The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 St Mary's Church, is located at SN 18101 46044, on the east side of the town of Cardigan, Ceredigion. It lies on the north side of the River Teifi, and on the south side of the Pont-y-Cleifion road (Figure 1).

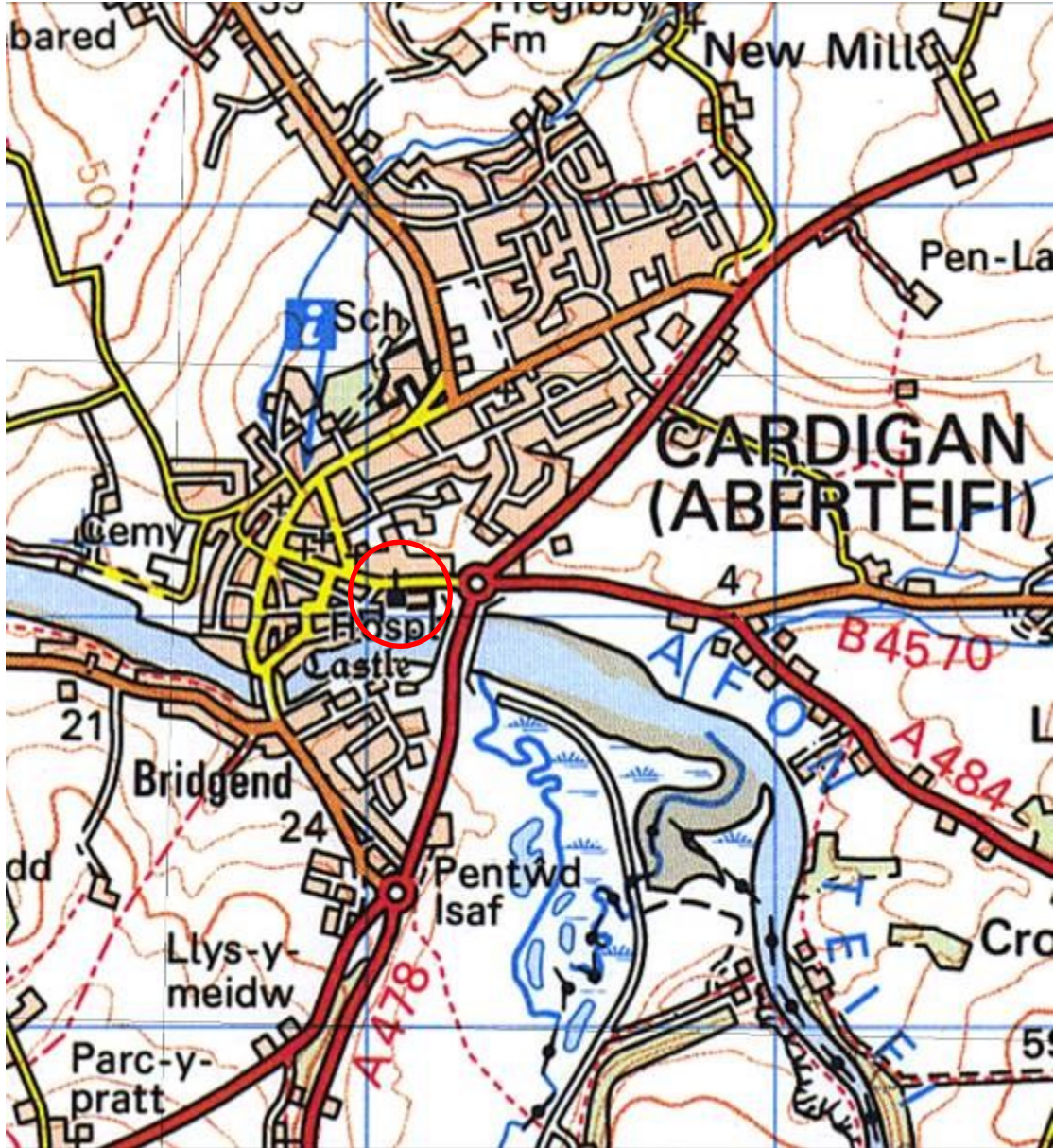


Figure 1: Location map for St. Mary's Church, Cardigan, with a red circle outlining the church

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The town of Cardigan is part of a Registered Historic Character Area, the Lower Teifi Valley. Detailed characterisation studies have been compiled by the DAT of smaller parts of this Area (see DAT website). Cardigan has been characterised in its own right and is summarised as:

A complex urban landscape, focused upon the remains of a medieval castle and bridge over the Afon Teifi. Towards the end of the 19th century brick replaces stone as the main building material. There is extensive modern development on the fringes of the historic town core.

The earliest known historical background of the town is also described:

Cardigan town lies within the medieval Cantref Iscoed, in the commote of Is-Hirwern. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls, who built a castle at Cardigan on a hillock overlooking the Teifi. A castle had already been established during an earlier incursion, in 1093, but was short-lived. It is usually thought to be represented by the earthwork at Old Castle Farm, but it could have been located at the present castle site. Anglo-Norman control in Cantref Iscoed was brought to an abrupt end in 1136, when Welsh forces won a decisive victory at Crug Mawr, 3km northeast of the town.

- 2.2.2 St Mary's is recorded as a site in the national HER database (PRN 5302), where it is described thus:

A parish church with medieval origins. The church was extensively rebuilt in 1711 and 1748 but some medieval stonework survives.

St Mary's is a large church, but has been largely rebuilt. Only the 14th century chancel, with 'decorated' openings including a wave-moulded chancel arch, survives from the medieval building. The nave and west tower were rebuilt during the early-mid 18th century, while the 17th century south porch was retained. The vestry and organ chamber are late 19th century. The church was listed in the 'Taxatio' of 1291 and was probably purpose-built to serve the priory, which was granted to Llanbadarn Fawr and established in c.1115. The rectangular churchyard is 12th-14th century in present form, nuclear to and integrated with post-Conquest borough suburb. There is currently no evidence that the site might have had early medieval origins.

- 2.2.3 The chancel of St Mary's church was originally attached to a medieval Benedictine Priory, which was on land adjacent to the eastern side of the church on a site now occupied by the Cardigan and District hospital. The HER description for Cardigan Benedictine Priory (PRN 6602) is as follows:

The beginnings of Cardigan Priory are obscure, and the exact time of its foundation cannot be known with certainty. It is first heard of after Rhys ap Gruffudd, Prince of South Wales, had recovered Cardigan from the Normans in 1165. A charter given by him, probably soon after that date, grants and confirms to the great Benedictine abbey of St Peter, Chertsey, Surrey "the cell of Cardigan with all its appurtenances." The priory, with its church of St. Mary of Cardigan, and the chapel of St. Peter in the castle, were already in existence at that time.

Cardigan was always a very small priory and it probably never housed more than a few monks.

On the eve of the Dissolution the priory was a centre of pilgrimage, famed for the Burning Taper of Our Lady. However, the Dissolution of the Monasteries saw Chertsey forced to "surrender" its possessions to the

king on July 6th, 1537. A brief respite ensued when Henry VIII re-founded Bisham as a Benedictine Abbey on December 18th, 1537, and the abbot of Chertsey and his monks were established there. This meant that the priory of Cardigan also continued under the new house. In the following year both Bisham and Cardigan had to be "surrendered" anew on June 19th, 1538. Just a week later an order was issued to remove the prior and to confiscate the priory and its belongings.

The priory subsequently fell into private hands and a succession of large houses were built on the site. An earlier 17th century house was the residence of Catherine Phillips 1631-1664. In 1805 a large country house was designed by John Nash and built by John Bowes. This building was essentially rectangular in shape and was enlarged in 1922 when it became Cardigan hospital that stands today in 2012. The site is now occupied by Cardigan hospital. No remains of the former Benedictine priory are visible above ground.

- 2.2.4 St Mary's Church has statutory protection as a Grade II* Listed Building (No. 10476). Its listing description is as follows:

History: C12 origins, C15, C18 and C19 parish church in blue lias stone, ashlar for west tower, chancel and organ chamber, rubble for nave. Slate roofs, hipped to chancel east end. West tower, broad aisleless nave with south porch and embattled chancel with north organ chamber and low vestry. Nave is medieval but substantially rebuilt according to plaque in porch in 1702-3. Windows, much renewed in later restorations, are of flat-headed mullioned type with arch-headed lights typical of C17 and south door has post Reformation segmental-pointed head. Another plaque in porch of 1639 may refer to alterations or to a new porch. Present porch is early C20, Gothic, with carved heads of Archbishop Davidson and Bishop Owen. Tower fell in 1705, was rebuilt up to 40 ft in 1711 and completed in 1748, and is large with minimal Gothic detail, single bell-openings and low west door. Big diagonal stepped buttresses to front angles. North east stair tower. Chancel is of exceptional quality for West Wales, C15, Perp. style, with ashlar traceried 3-light windows, 3-bay, buttressed, embattled and pinnacled (most of pinnacles taken down) with north east corner stair. North side has High Victorian organ chamber of 1877, extensively dressed in red brick and low flat-roofed vestry probably of ca 1926. One original window is lost to organ chamber.

Restoration: Restoration history is unclear, 1702-3 plaque says that 'body of the church' was rebuilt. Engraving in Meyrick (1810) shows nave south windows of early C19 type, yet existing mullion windows look earlier. The C15 chancel roof was already removed by 1810. In 1847 easternmost nave south window was enlarged to design of Mr Waugh; alterations including reseating are recorded in 1855 by H Woodyer, architect; the organ chamber dates from 1877; small ICBS grants are recorded for 1882-6; a restoration occurred in 1904-6 by L Lewis of Cardigan. Then from 1924-7 a further restoration was undertaken under W D Caroe when chancel ceiling was replaced and progressively the chancel was refurnished (reredos and pulpit 1926, lectern 1931).

Interior: Plastered nave with C18 5-sided plastered ceiling. Two sections of corbelling in nave walls and moulded pointed niche, possibly a door-head in north wall. North east rood stair door. Chancel arch C15, blue lias with chamfered piers and moulded arch. Chancel has 2 surviving finely carved stone roof corbels (of 8 illustrated by Meyrick 1810) and 1926 panelled timber ceiling. Fine ogee-headed crocketed piscina. Extensive early to mid C20 pale oak furnishing and 2 stained glass

windows, east and south of 1924-5 by Walter Wilkinson. East window preserves some fine fragments of C15 glass, sole survivors of the outstanding medieval glass removed by T Johnes to Hafod and burnt in the 1807 fire. Three 1906 stained glass chancel windows with floral plaques and one nave stained glass window of 1910. Chancel north window of ca 1950. C15 panelled font.

Some marble plaques of late C18 to mid C19 by Wood of Bristol, Phillips of Haverfordwest and W Behnes of London.

Church was founded after 1110 by Gilbert de Clare as Benedictine priory, under Chertsey Abbey, Surrey, first unequivocally recorded in charter of the Lord Rhys ca 1165.

- 2.2.5 In 2012, a watching brief was undertaken at St Mary's during installation of a main's gas supply (Schlee 2012). No burials, burial cuts or features relating to the early history of the church were revealed, and artefacts discovered were restricted in date to the nineteenth/twentieth centuries.
- 2.2.6 No other previous archaeological work is known to have taken place at St. Mary's Church.
- 2.2.6 Figure 2 shows the oldest Ordnance Survey map of the church, the 1st edition 1:2500 scale map of 1891. The building to the right of it is the large country house was designed by John Nash, which is now Cardigan's hospital.

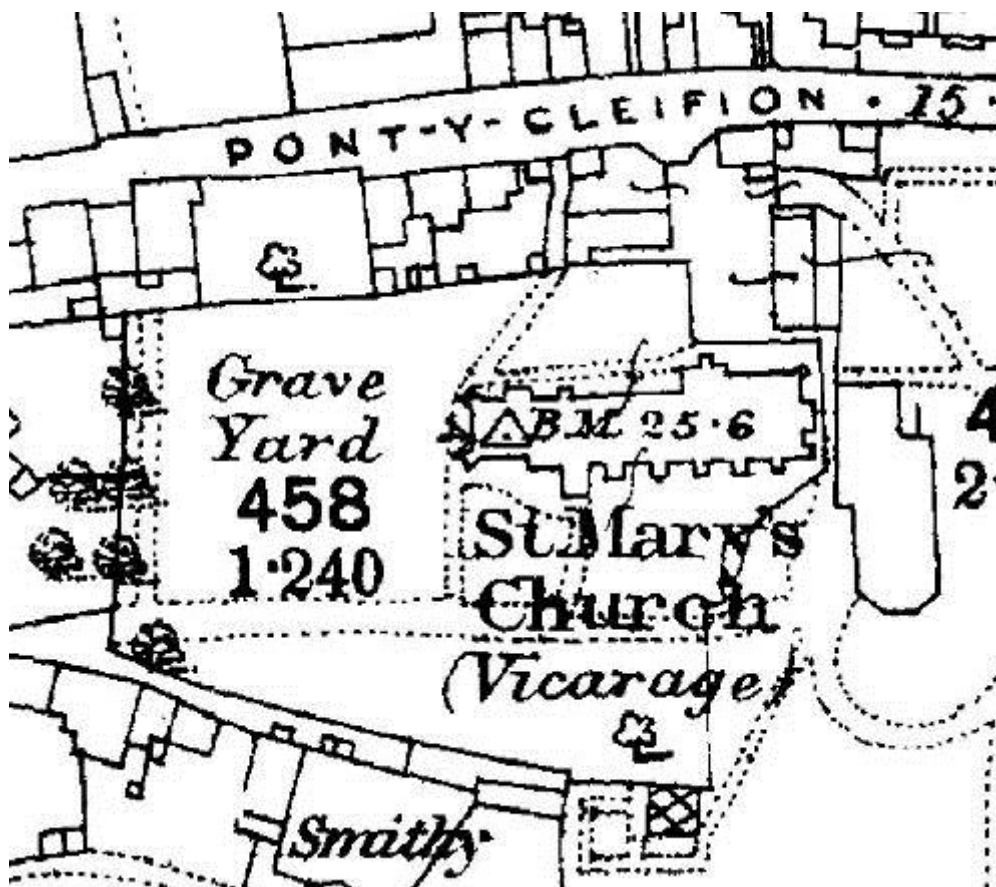


Figure 2: Extract from the First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map of 1891 showing St Mary's Church and its Environs

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014). The Written Scheme of Investigation, detailing the archaeological works proposed, was approved by the archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee prior to the works commencing.
- 3.1.2 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place over one day at St. Mary's Church, Cardigan, 14th of June 2016.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

² DAT Archaeological Services has adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1 Figure 3 shows a plan of the position of the works to the north of the church. Photo 1 shows the location of the eastern end of the new drainage trench, dug through the tarmac pathway along the north side of the church. The channel terminated approximately opposite the west wall of the north transept, and was 0.3m wide and 0.4m deep.



Photo 1: The eastern end of the new drainage channel, cut through the tarmac path on the north side of the church

- 4.2 Approximately one metre west of the eastern end of the drainage channel, a stone kerb (Photo 2) was uncovered and removed. It was upright, perhaps indicating the placement of an earlier path. The drainage channel crossed it at an angle of about ten degrees, and no more such remains were encountered thereafter. Another two metres west of this, the new drainage changed direction to follow the tarmac path, and at this point a ceramic drain pipe of c.15cm in diameter was met at the southern trench edge (Photo 3). The pipe was at a depth of about 20cm and was not disturbed.

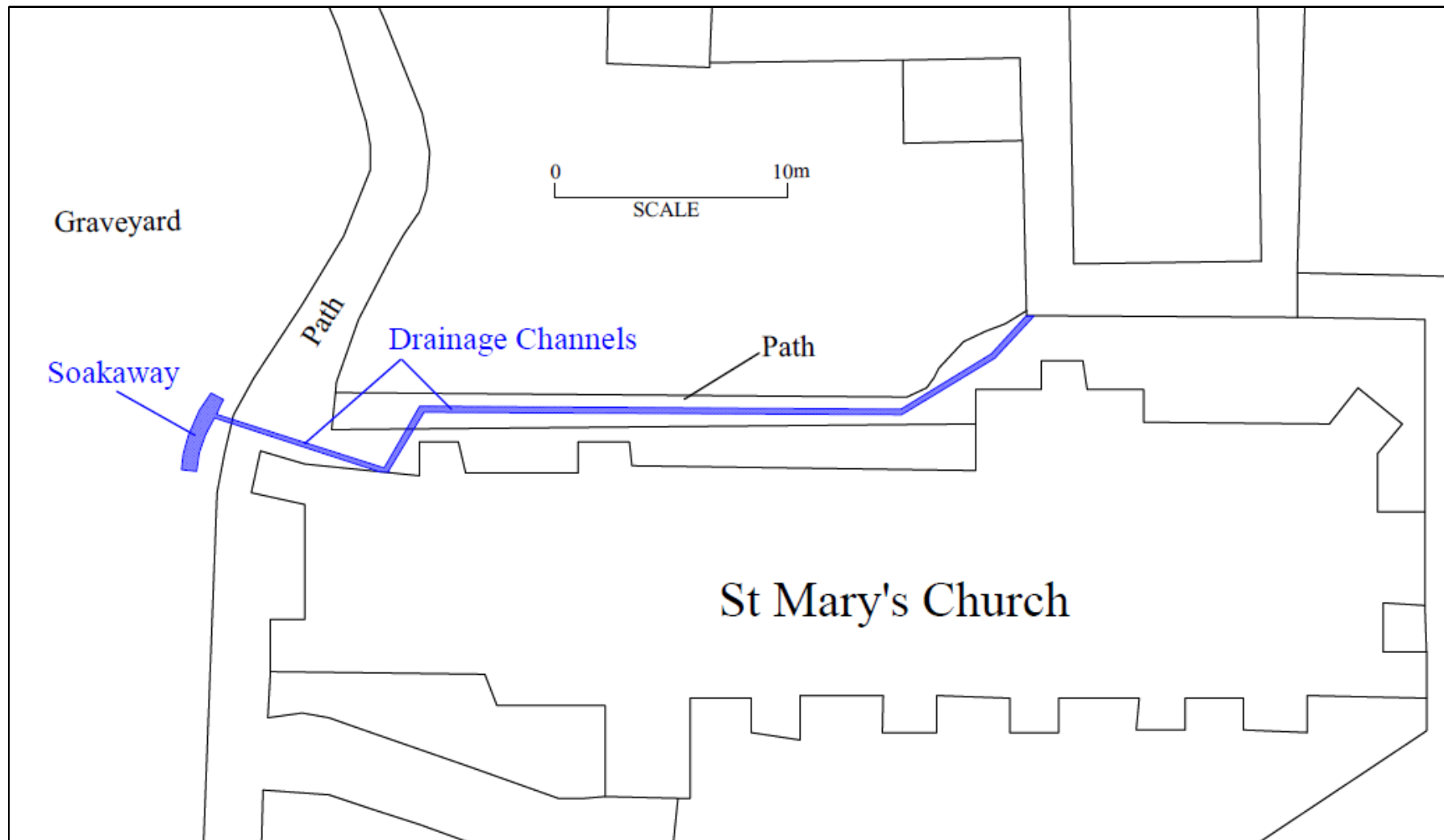


Figure 3: Plan of the works (shown in blue) at St. Mary's Church, Cardigan

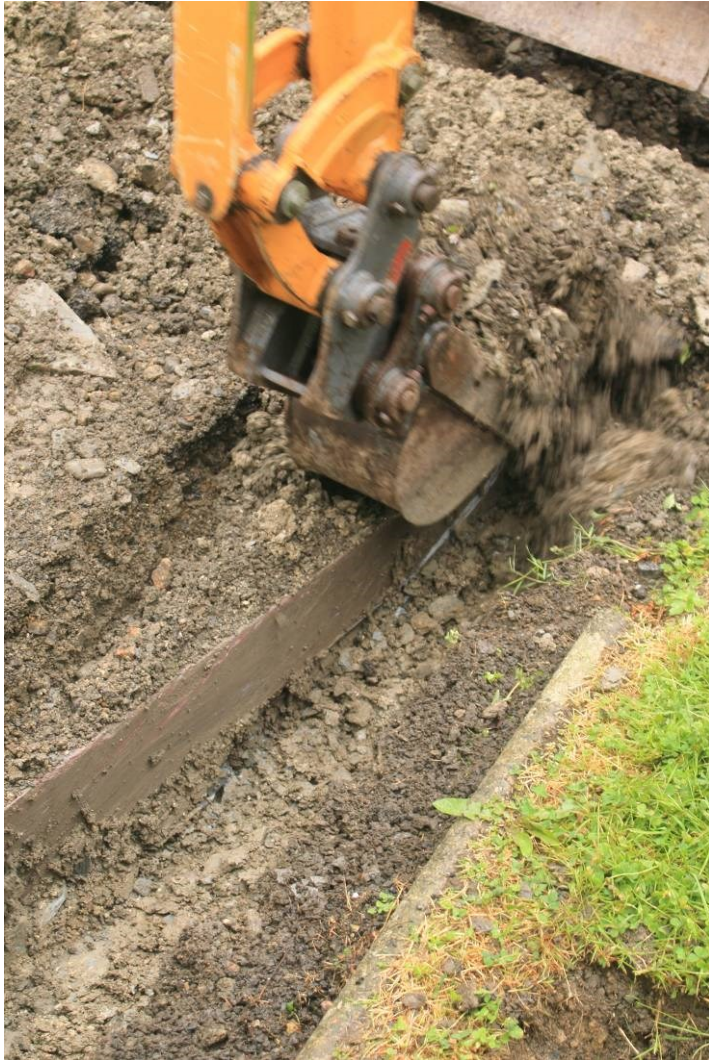


Photo 2: The kerb stone of an older pathway was discovered and later removed



Photo 3: A ceramic drainage pipe is revealed at the south edge of the trench

- 4.3 Along all of the north and south-facing sections of the new channel, underlying make-up layers of the tarmac path could be seen. A light yellowish-brown clay had been used below the current path, and also beneath what seemed to be an older path surface that showed as a thin dark brown layer. This layer was made up of buried soil and ash and was so dark due to its high humic content and the presence of fragments of coal/charcoal. Photo 4 shows these layers in section and the clay-silt pebbly river deposit seen at the bottom of the trench beneath them. Photo 5 shows a similar section but this time with a layer of slate near to the base, which occurred at regular intervals about two metres apart along the trench, indicating burials beneath.



Photo 4: South-facing section of the drainage trench, with a 0.5m scale



Photo 5: South-facing section of the drainage trench, showing slate indicating the top of a burial, about 3m west of the eastern end of the trench, with a 0.5m scale

- 4.4 Photo 5 shows the first slate grave-cover encountered, at about three metres west of the eastern end of the trench. No human remains were seen at this point, as they probably lay beyond the trench edge to the south and beneath it. The next three grave-tops encountered were directly in line with the new channel at its base. From two of these the slates were removed, revealing burials beneath, but the third was a little deeper and the slates were left in situ (Photo 6). Photo 7 shows the tops of long bones revealed upon the removal of slates in the second burial from the east (about 5m from the eastern end of the trench). The position of the bones revealed showed the conventional Christian burial style: supine with head to the west. No signs of wooden coffins or textile shrouds were observed, but these are likely to have perished long ago if they were present. No headstones were found, and no other upright stones were seen, indicating that that the slates only covered the graves rather than forming part of a stone coffin (known as a cist) seen in Early Medieval burial practice.



Photo 6: Burial at base of trench, indicated by its slate covering, about 9m west of the eastern end of the trench, with a 0.5m scale



Photo 7: Top of long bones of a burial revealed underneath slates approximately 5 metres west of the eastern end of the trench, with a 0.5m scale

- 4.5 The slates used to cover the burials were dark silvery-blue in colour, rough edged, and a number had nail holes indicating their previous usage as roofing slates (Photos 8 and 9). The slates measured 4cm thick on average, much less refined and far heavier than roofing slates today. Slates of similar size were found just north of this area and at a similar depth during a previous watching brief (Schlee 2012), although no nail holes were reported. At that time, two of the slates appeared to be intentionally placed vertically, and were interpreted as being so in order to prop up gravestones that had since been removed. It is difficult to give an age for these slates, but likely that they were used for roofing in the medieval period and reused for the graves in the Post-Medieval period.



Photo 8: Examples of the thick roofing slates that had been re-used to cover burials, 0.5m scale



Photo 9: The best example of the recovered roof slates re-used to cover burials, with two large nail holes, 0.25m scale

- 4.6 Photo 10 shows the complete extent of the drainage trench cut through the tarmac path along the northern side of the church before it changed direction west-southwest-wards towards the north wall of the church near its west end. From the same point at the church wall, another narrow trench about 0.5m deep was excavated in a northwesterly direction away from the church for about four metres. It crossed the tarmac path again and some of the grass-covered graveyard before terminating at the position of the new soakaway. A plan view of the groundworks at this end of the church was obtained from the top of the church tower (Photo 11). Within a metre of the church wall, the ditches were dug to depth of 0.9m in order to facilitate works to the church wall.



Photo 10: The western end of the long straight section of the new drainage channel cut through the tarmac path along the north side of the church

- 4.7 The same make up layers and earlier path surface at this point were the same as they had been all along the path. No slates or burials were found in this area, or during excavation of the soakaway. The subsoil to the west of the tarmac path, where part of the drainage channel and the whole of the soakaway were dug, was a light yellowish-brown silty-clay, with about ten percent medium to large angular stone and occasional fragments of slate. The soakaway was 6m long, 0.6m wide and 0.6m deep, and was slightly curved along its length. Photos 12-14 show oblique views of the two shorter sections of drainage channel and the soakaway after excavation
- 4.8 Fragments of slate (much thinner than the grave-covering examples) were a common find throughout the groundworks, as were sherds of green bottle glass, corroded ferrous nails, fragments of brick and tile and sherd of post-medieval pottery. There were infrequent oyster shells, mortar

fragments, and sherds of modern china and ceramic drainpipe. Two sherds of medieval pottery were found. Many fragments of disarticulated human bone were also observed.



Photo 11: Plan view of the groundworks at the west end of the north side of the church. Two drainage ditches leave the church wall, one heading northwest towards the new soakaway in the grass, and the other heading for the longer drainage channel cut through the tarmac path along the north side of the church



Photo 12: The short section of drainage channel excavated between the long section of drainage channel along the path and the north church wall near its west end, looking west-southwest, with a 0.5m scale



Photo 13: The short section of drainage channel excavated between north church wall near its west end and the soakaway, looking southwest

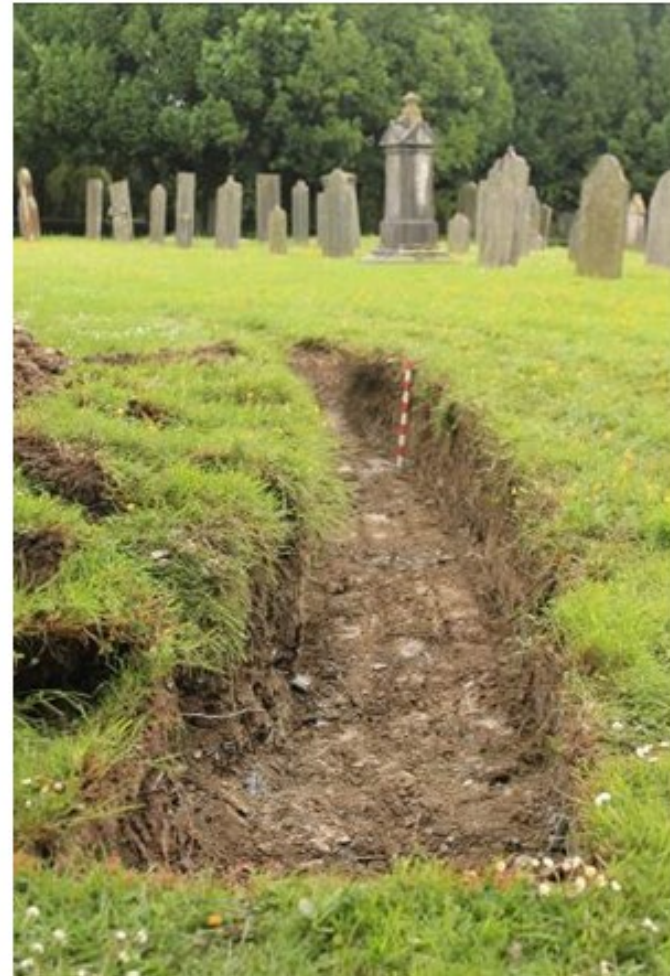


Photo 14: The new soakaway after excavation, looking northwest, with a 0.5m scale

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that the installation of new drainage channels and a soakaway at St. Mary's Church, Cardigan has not significantly impacted upon any archaeological features.
- 5.2 Archaeological features were observed: An old pathway, buried beneath the current path near to the eastern end of the excavation area; a ceramic drainage pipe, also near to the eastern end of the works; and earlier graves. The former path surface and ceramic drain are considered to be of post-medieval date and of low archaeological significance.
- 5.3 The four graves identified during the watching brief were encountered at the base of the cut for the new drainage channel along the northern side of the church. They were in line with the trench and spaced evenly every two metres along it, although the first one lay on edge of, and beyond the southern trench edge. The easternmost of these burials was about three metres from the eastern end of the new trench and the other burials were west of it. All four graves were covered with re-used thick roofing slates. The slate from two burials was within the required depth of the trench and was therefore removed and recorded by photography. The tops of human long bones could be seen when these slates had been moved, and were seen to conform in alignment with Christian burial tradition. The burials remained undisturbed and were re-covered within the base of the drainage trench.
- 5.4 Roof slates of similar size were also found just north of this area and at a similar depth during a previous watching brief (Schlee 2012), although no nail holes were reported and no associated burials identified. At that time, two of the slates appeared to be intentionally placed vertically, and were interpreted as being props for gravestones that had since been removed. It is difficult to give an age for these slates, but likely that they were used for roofing in the medieval period and reused for the graves in the post-medieval period. It is conceivable that they could have been associated with former priory buildings.
- 5.5 No archaeological remains associated with earlier church buildings associated with the former priory or earlier elements of the church were revealed during the watching brief (except for the potential roof slates). The burials identified may well be of late medieval or more likely post-medieval date.
- 5.6 The area surrounding the church still has the potential for archaeological remains of potentially national significance to be present (e.g. if the remains of the priory were located). Although the construction of the adjacent hospital buildings are likely to have resulted in the destruction of archaeological deposits, and the potential for the survival of features within the graveyard of St Mary's remains unknown, overall there is still a high potential for remains of the medieval priory to survive within the area.

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APPENDIX I:

PROPOSED NEW DRAIN AND SOAK AWAY AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, CARDIGAN, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2016 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Introduction

This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response from the Reverend Bennett to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain and soak away at St Mary's Church, Cardigan (SN 1810 4604). The works will entail installing the drain from the church, following the path through the churchyard to a soakaway.

The requirement for a watching brief has been placed upon the works by the archaeological advisor of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for The Church in Wales. The church has medieval origins, but was extensively rebuilt in the 18th century.

The works are seen as having the potential to expose remains associated with earlier phases of the church including burials.

The following written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. The approval of the written scheme of investigation and its successful implementation will be required in order to satisfy the archaeological advisor to The Church in Wales.

The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014)).

DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services is the contractual arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust that has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation and all permanent staff are CSCS registered.

1. WATCHING BRIEF

1.1 *The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.*

1.2 *The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:*

to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;

to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

1.3 *This document provides a scheme of works for:*

Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the installation of a new drain to take rainwater away from the building of St Mary's Church, Cardigan, Ceredigion. The works will entail installing the drain below the surface through the churchyard. The works will also include the production of a report and archive.

2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the archaeological watching brief.
- To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. FIELDWORK

3.1 A 'watching brief' undertaken at the commencement of groundworks at the site that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. This will require the presence of an archaeologist during all groundworks associated with the installation of the new drain and soakaway where there is a potential for archaeological remains to be present. It is anticipated that the works will take a single day on-site.

3.2 As it is intended to install the drain through the area of the churchyard, there is potential for burials to be exposed. It is intended that the trench for the drain will be excavated at as shallow a depth as possible so as not to disturb burials but this possibility cannot be ruled out. If any articulated

(complete) inhumations are encountered, then every attempt shall be made to leave these intact and in-situ. If such remains have to be exhumed/removed then further discussions and relevant permissions will need to be obtained (including a Burial Licence from the Ministry of Justice. It is not anticipated that any human remains will be removed from the site.

- 3.3 Being located within a churchyard it is very likely that disarticulated human bone may be uncovered during the works. All human remains will, where possible, be left in situ. Disarticulated bone will be removed and retained appropriately for reburial by the vicar within the churchyard. Such remains will not require further analysis. No remains will be removed from the site.
- 3.4 Any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.5 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 3.6 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, will remain the property of the landowner. It is assumed that permission will be granted for any finds recovered to be stored within the site archive for the project or within a local museum or other suitable repository.
- 3.7 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or that archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the curatorial officer, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the curatorial officer, DAT Archaeological Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances it would be necessary to employ extra resources to record such features to an appropriate standard.

4. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 4.3 A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties. As work has previously been undertaken at the church in

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

2012, the 2016 works will merely append to the existing report, updating references.

- 4.4 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 4.5 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure Trove) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 4.6 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

5. STAFF

- 5.1 This project will be managed by Fran Murphy, Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services.
- 5.2 Archaeological attendance during the watching brief will be undertaken by staff drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by DAT Archaeological Services.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 6.1 All DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS⁴ registered.
- 6.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 6.3 All known health and safety risk and the presence of any services etc must be made known to the attending archaeologist at the start of any groundworks by the client/site contractor.
- 6.4 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 6.5 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.
- 6.6 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE⁵ that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 6.7 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

⁴ Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

⁵ Personal Protection Equipment

**NEW DRAIN AND SOAK AWAY AT
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CARDIGAN, CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2016/45
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Medi 2016
September 2016

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

ALICE DAY

Swydd / Position: ARCHAEOLOGIST



Llofnod / Signature

Date 05/Sept/16

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

Date 05/Sept/16

*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.*

