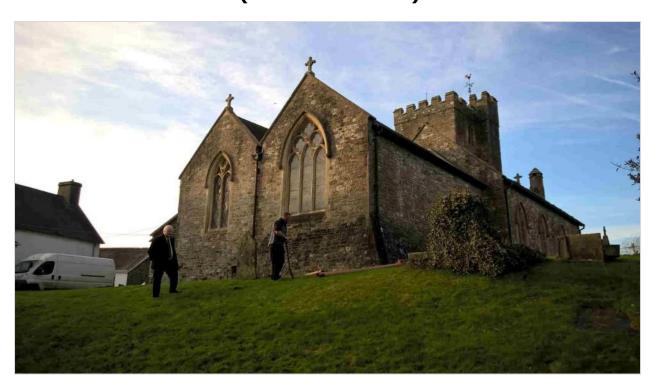
# DRAINAGE WORKS AT ST TYBIE'S CHURCH, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (SN6182315550)





Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: Mr Ken Griffiths, Chairman Llandybie Church Churchyard Committee





#### DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/09 RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO.110315

Chwefror 2017 February 2017

## DRAINAGE WORKS AT ST TYBIE'S CHURCH, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (SN6182315550)

Gan / By

#### Menna Bell

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Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121 Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131 Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Corner House, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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### DRAINAGE WORKS AT ST TYBIE'S CHURCH, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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#### DRAINAGE WORKS AT ST TYBIE'S CHURCH, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### **SUMMARY**

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Ken Griffiths, Chairman of St Tybie's Church, Llandybie (SN6182315550), Churchyard Committee to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of two new rainwater drains through a short section of the eastern end of the churchyard.

St Tybie's Church (PRN 824) is a Grade II\* listed building (ref: 10915) and is located within the village of Llandybie, itself situated approximately 3km northwest of the town of Ammanford in Carmarthenshire. Popular historical narratives suggest that the Church of St Tybie has origins in the Early Medieval period, possibly as early as the  $5^{th}$  century where it is attributed to the martyrdom of Tybie a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog who was the ruler of the kingdom of Brycheiniog.

The earliest construction date of the present church is thought to be the 14<sup>th</sup> century although it was subsequently extensively altered during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The present church comprises a large chancel, nave, south chapel, south aisle and west tower. The west porch, south porch, vestry and boiler house date from 1853-7. A mausoleum built by Lady Stepney in the 18<sup>th</sup> century abutting the external side of the north wall of the Chancel, was demolished in 1971. Earthworks suggest that the original churchyard was circular. Presently, the north-eastern end of the churchyard encompasses a large linear burial ground with modern burials.

The area of the churchyard subject to this watching brief was subjected to gravestone removal and landscaping during the late 1960s. It appears that many of the gravestones removed during this phase of activity were re-laid around the perimeter of the church and concrete drains were cast to receive roof runoff rainwater.

The two narrow drainage trenches did not exceed a depth of 20cm and revealed a medium-brown, friable, silty-clay topsoil which contained stone rubble, fragments of mortar and occasional fragments of human bone. The two drainage trenches converged into a junction box to accommodate a water outlet.

A 20<sup>th</sup>-century recumbent gravestone was partially revealed in the northern side of the junction box. The gravestone was dedicated to the wife of Henry Michael of Glyngoch, Trap, whom died in September 1914. The mason's mark was that of Thomas of Llandybie. The gravestone was not removed as it did not hinder the works. No other features or deposits of archaeological importance were observed. However, the groundworks did not exceed beyond the depth of topsoil and therefore the possibility still remains that any future groundworks in this area could disturb burials or other surviving archaeological remains.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Ken Griffiths, Chairman of St Tybie's Church, Llandybie (SN6182315550), Churchyard Committee to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of two new rainwater drains through a short section of the eastern end of the churchyard (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for this scheme of archaeological mitigation had been placed upon the works by the archaeological advisor to The Church in Wales.

#### 1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to The Church in Wales. The project objectives were:
  - Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
  - 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.
- 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 Tybie's Church, Llandybie, Carmarthenshire. The works will entail installing the drain below the surface through the old churchyard. Production of a report and archive.

#### 1.3 Report Outline

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

#### 1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). 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). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

#### 1.5 Illustrations

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

#### 1.6 Timeline

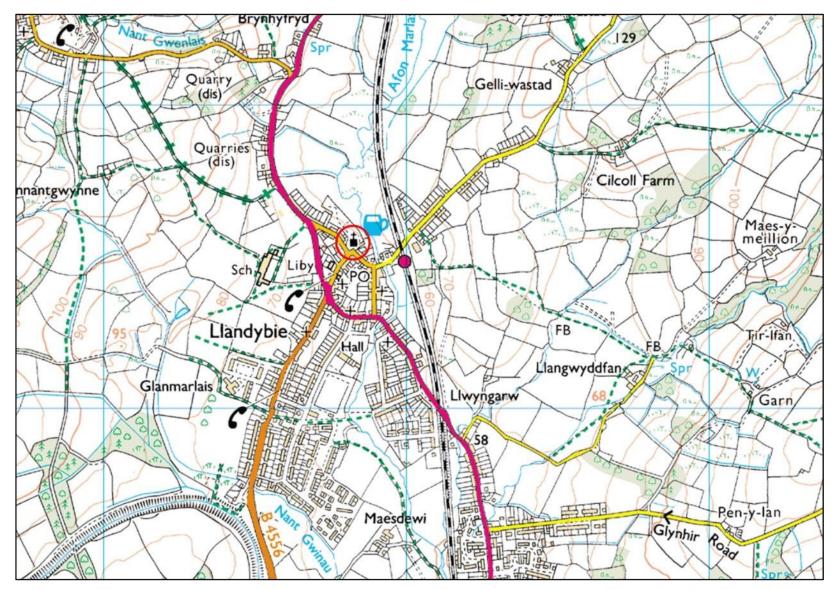
1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic -	c.450,000 - 10,000 BC	
Mesolithic -	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	Pre
Neolithic -	c.4400 - 2300 BC	Prehistoric
Bronze Age –	<i>c</i> .2300 – 700 BC	oric
Iron Age –	c.700 BC - AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	Hist
post-medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 - 1750	Historic
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	
modern –	20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



**Figure 1:** Location map showing the location of St Tybie's Chruch (outlined red) in Llandybie, Carmarthenshire Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Corner House Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No. 100020930

#### 2 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 St Tybie's Church (PRN 824 and NPRN 100804) is a Grade II\* listed building (ref: 10915) and is located within the village of Llandybie, itself situated approximately 3km north-west of the town of Ammanford in East Carmarthenshire (SN6182315550). The Church is located in the northern end of the village within a polygonal churchyard (PRN 49269) from which an extensive, modern burial ground extends towards the north-west. The area of new drainage is located in the eastern area of the old churchyard, diverting rainwater away from eastern end of the church's double nave (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology is Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone of the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation. This is Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 312 to 313 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period (Source: British Geological Survey mapping portal).



**Figure 2:** A satellite image showing St Tybie's Church and its extensive modern burial ground. The area of works is located within the eastern area of the churchyard and is outlined in red. (© Google Images 2017)

2.3 The area of work is confined to a small pocket of churchyard located immediately east of the nave of the church, in an area of burial ground which was landscaped during the late nineteen-sixties and early nineteen-seventeens. During this time, gravestones were removed or laid flat and an eighteenth-century mausoleum abutting the north-eastern side of the nave was demolished (B Hopkins, pers comm 2016). This area is largely devoid of gravestones save for the presence of one upright gravestone and an ivy clad concrete monument (Photo 1).



**Photo 1:** The eastern end of the double nave from which the rainwater will be diverted. Church Warden Brian Hopkins is pictured in the foreground whilst the contractor begins the hand digging of the drainage trenches (DAT Photo 110315-0001)

#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 The Historic Background

- 3.1.1 Popular historical narratives suggest that the Church of St Tybie has origins dating to the Early Medieval period, possibly as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> century where it is attributed to the martyrdom of Tybie a daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog who was the ruler of the kingdom of Brycheiniog. Tybie is thought to have founded a Christian community within the area but was killed by passing marauders and a church was raised in commemoration of her.
- 3.1.2 The earliest documented evidence referring to a church within this area appears as an 8<sup>th</sup> century marginal entry in the St Chad Gospels (formerly known as the Lichfield Gospels). The marginalia are thought to be the earliest surviving written examples of Welsh and refer to land within 15 miles of Llandeilo Fawr. Specifically, they refer to a "Gwaun Henllan" (i.e the "field of the old church") within Maenor Meddynfych (PRN 7675), a medieval apportionment of land largely coterminous with the present Llandybie parish. This place name evidence suggests that there was once an early medieval church of Meddynfych and that it was no longer in use at the time of the writing in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Instead, it is possible that the earlier church was supplanted by the present church of St Tybie (Ludlow, 2003).
- 3.1.3 The earliest construction date of the present church is thought to be the 14<sup>th</sup> century although it has been extensively altered during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The present church comprises a large chancel, nave, south chapel, south aisle and west tower. The west porch, south porch, vestry and boiler house date from 1853-7. A mausoleum built by Lady Stepney in the 18<sup>th</sup> century abutting the external side of the north wall of the Chancel, was demolished in 1971 (Photo 2). Earthworks suggest that the original churchyard was circular but progressed to a

small, polygonal/subsquare shape. Presently, the north-eastern end of the churchyard extends into a vast linear burial ground with modern burials. The church is located in the centre of the village.

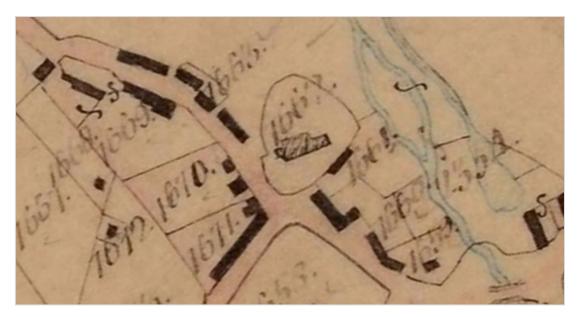


Photo 2: The demolition of the Stepney Mausoleum in July 1971 (© Llandybïe Parish Church)

#### 3.2 Historic Mapping

#### Llandybie Parish tithe map c.1842

3.2.1 The Llandybie parish tithe map depicts the church in the center of the village, enclosed by an irregular oval shaped *llan* or churchyard (Figure 3). A split in the river Marlais is shown to the east of the churchyard and arable land lies to the north.



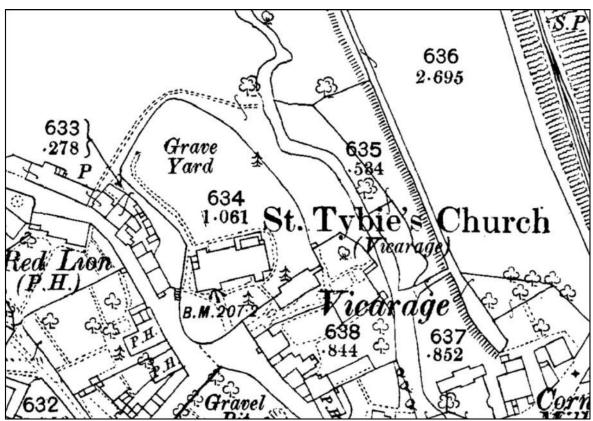
**Figure 3:** The 1841 tithe map of the parish of Llandybie showing St Tybie's Church enclosed by its irregular, oval shaped churchyard.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> edition Carmarthenshire Ordnance Survey map of 1878

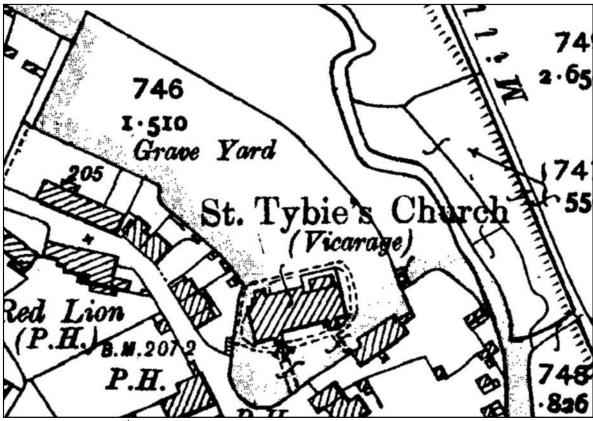
3.2.2 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Carmarthenshire 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1878 shows the enlargement of the churchyard north-westwards and development within the village itself (Figure 4). The Stepney mausoleum is visible on the north side of the church and a footpath encircles the church and continues to the north-west corner of the burial ground (annotated as "Grave Yard"). There is a small, square building, tucked in the corner between the eastern side of the church yard wall and the northern boundary wall of the Vicarage. This is the toilets for the church (pers comm, B Hopkins, Dec 2016). A mill race is shown running north-west/south-east, to the east of the river Marlais, which feeds the corn mill situated to the south-east of the church.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Carmarthenshire Ordnance Survey map of 1906

3.2.3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Carmarthenshire 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1906 shows a larger churchyard and burial ground (Figure 5). The burial ground now borders the new housing plots to the north-west of the church whilst there has been no change in the southern end of the church yard. The mill race is still extant, as are the outdoor toilets east of the church.



**Figure 4:** The 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1878 1:2500" Ordnance Survey map showing the extended polygonal church yard towards the north-west of the village.



**Figure 5:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500" Ordnance Survey map of 1906 showing the further extended church yard and burial ground to the north-east of the church.

#### 4 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).
- 4.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to The Church in Wales.
- 4.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief, a summary of which is presented in Appendix 2. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded and assigned a unique context number. These numbers are enclosed in brackets in the following text.
- 4.1.4 Excavation of the drain was done by hand by a contractor and all archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

#### 4.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

4.2.1 This watching brief took place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 during fine weather conditions.

#### 4.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

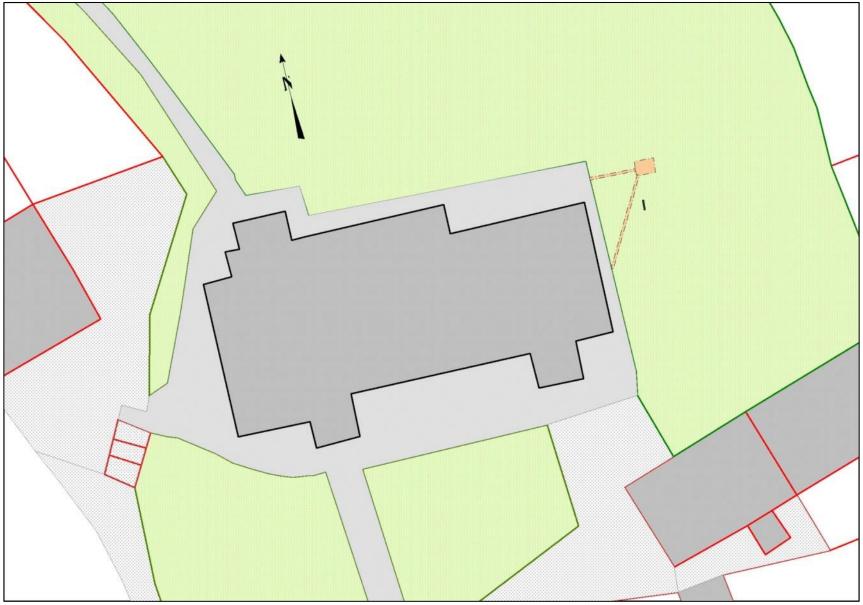
- 4.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.3.2 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.

#### 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

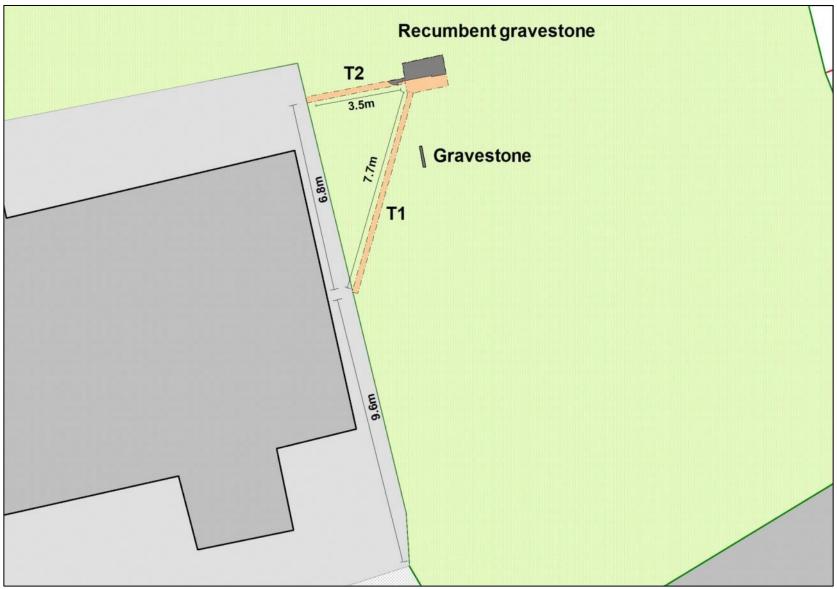
- 5.1 This watching brief monitored the hand excavation of two new rainwater drainage trenches in an area within the churchyard east of the nave (Figure 6). This part of the churchyard is now devoid of gravestones, owing to the landscaping of this area and the removal of the gravestones during the late 1960s. Many of these gravestones have been re-laid as flags around the perimeter of the church.
- 5.2 The drainage trenches are intended to accommodate a plastic pipe to receive rainwater channelled from the church roof by the guttering and drains (Photos 3 & 4). One drain was dug from the centre of the nave (referred to as "T1" hereafter) and was orientated north-east/south-west, where it intersected with the second trench ("T2") in a junction box orientated east-west (Figure 7).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.



**Figure 6:** Plan showing St Tybie's Church and the location of the drainage trenches (coloured orange) monitored during this watching brief.



**Figure 7:** Annotated plan showing the two drainage trenches and the recumbent gravestone uncovered in the junction box for the water outlet. Also shown is the location of the upright gravestone situated east of the nave (drawing not to scale).



**Photo 3:** Drainage Trench T1 (DAT Photo 110315-0002)

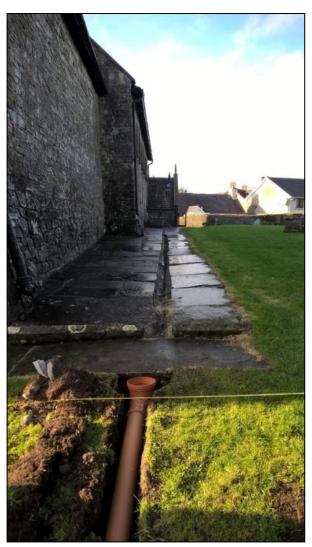


Photo 4: Drainage Trench T2 (DAT Photo 110315-0013)

- 5.3 T1 measured 20cm wide, 7.7m in length and only 22cm deep and therefore, did not exceed the medium brown, silty-clay, friable topsoil (101) which contained frequent mixed stone rubble, pieces of lime mortar and the occasional fragment of human bone. T2 was of equal width and depth to T1 but only 3.5m long, joining a junction box measuring approximately 1.45 wide and just over 1m in length.
- 5.4 A recumbent, modern gravestone (102) was partially revealed beneath 14cm of topsoil (101) in the northern side of the junction box (Photo 5). The remainder of the junction box was excavated to a depth of 20cm. The gravestone appeared to be comprised of limestone, conventional in style with engraved detail and arched at the top although its full height was not revealed. The gravestone measured 80cm wide, 8cm in thickness and a length in excess of 1.7m. The mason's mark was Thomas of Llandybie. The dedication was inscribed in block lettering and it was possible to transcribe the following (Photo 6):

"OF THE ABOVE AND WIFE OF HENRY MICHAEL, GLYNCOCH TRAP WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 22 1914 AGED 68 YEARS HYD ON I WAWRIO Y DYDD ACHILIO O CYSGODAU"



Photo 5: The partially revealed modern, recumbent gravestone in the junction box into which drainage trenches T1 and T2 terminate east of the church nave.
1m scale (DAT Photo 110315-0011)

5.5 The gravestone was not removed as it did not obstruct the work in any way. No other features or deposits were revealed during this scheme of works and the rare fragments of human bone unearth were reinterred in the trenches. The drain pipes were laid and the turves reinstated at the end of the day although the junction box remained open, awaiting the installation of the water outlet. Further to this work, the modern concrete drain running along the northern side of the church was scheduled to be demolished and replaced by a new drain (Photo 7). It was not considered necessary to watch this phase of work.



**Photo 6:** The partially revealed inscription on the recumbent gravestone (DAT Photo 110315-008)



Photo 7: The concrete cast drain running along the northern side of the church. This is due to be demolished and replaced with a new concrete drain.

0.5m scale (DAT Photo 110315-0014)

#### 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This watching brief monitored the hand excavation of two rainwater drainage trenches in a small area of churchyard to the east of the nave of St Tybie's Church, Llandybie.
- 6.2 This area of the churchyard was subject to gravestone removal and landscaping during the late 1960s. An 18<sup>th</sup>-century mausoleum abutting the north-eastern corner of the church was demolished in 1971. It appears that many of the gravestones removed during this phase of activity were re-laid around the perimeter of the church and concrete drains were cast to receive roof runoff rainwater.
- 6.3 The two narrow drainage trenches did not exceed a depth of 20cm and revealed a medium-brown, friable, silty-clay topsoil which contained stone rubble, fragments of mortar and occasional fragments of human bone. The mixed, friable nature of this topsoil is conducive the ground disturbance attributed to the landscaping. The two drainage trenches converged into a junction box to accommodate a water outlet.
- 6.4 A 20<sup>th</sup>-century recumbent gravestone was partially revealed in the northern side of the junction box. The gravestone was dedicated to the wife of Henry Michael of Glyngoch, Trap, whom died in September 1914. The mason's mark was that of Thomas of Llandybie. The gravestone was not removed as it did not hinder the works. No other features or deposits of archaeological importance were observed. However, the groundworks did not exceed the topsoil and whilst the area is known to have been landscaped, the impact on the burials is not known. It would be reasonable to assume that any further invasive groundworks would likely disturb burials and other archaeological remains in this area.

#### 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Fieldwork and reporting was undertaken by Menna Bell. The author would like to extend grateful thanks to Llandybie Churchyard Committee for their hospitality. Particular thanks are offered to Brian Hopkins for sharing his extensive knowledge of the church and the local area, and for donating a copy of The Church in Wales' "Llandybie Parish Church; History and Guide". The author would also like to thank the groundsman for his cooperation and assistance.

#### 8. SOURCES

#### **Published**

British Geological Survey: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html (Accessed February 2017)

Church in Wales. 2014. Llandybïe Parish Church; History and Guide

Ludlow, N,. D. 2002. *Cadw. Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project. Carmarthenshire Part 1.* Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

#### Cartographic

Llandybie tithe map c.1842

Ordnance Survey; Carmarthenshire 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 1878 Ordnance Survey; Carmarthenshire 2nd edition 1:2500 1906

#### **Database**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Corner House, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE

RCAHMW Coflein Database <a href="http://www.coflein.gov.uk/">http://www.coflein.gov.uk/</a>

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales <a href="http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en">http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en</a>

#### **APPENDIX I**

#### **Project Archive**

Project Number: FS16\_007

ERN: 110315

1 x Watching Brief Form

16 JPEG Digital photographs; Film Number 109392

16 TIFF Digital photographs

1x Photo catalogue

2 x MapInfo GIS table; FS16\_007\_WB & FS16\_007\_plan (.DAT, .ID, .MAP, .TAB)

#### **Context Register**

Context	Trench	Description
101	All	Friable. Silty – clay, medium brown topsoil containing stone
101		rubble, pieces of mortar and occasional fragments of human bone
102	Trench 1	20 <sup>th</sup> Century recumbent gravestone

### DRAINAGE WORKS AT ST TYBIE'S CHURCH, LLANDYBIE CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### **DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/09 RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 110315

Chwefror 2017 February 2017

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

#### **Menna Bell**

Swydd / Position:	Archaeologist DAT Archaeological Services
	Date: 21/02/2017
Liofnod / Signature	e Date: 21/02/2017

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

#### Fran Murphy

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

Swydd / Position: Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature ...... Date: 03/05/2017

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



