

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD,  
PEMBROKESHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
(NGR SM 95801 37041)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Bluestone Builders



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol  
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PEMBROKESHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

By

F Murphy

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**ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of an extension to St Mary's Church, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SM 9580 3703). The existing Grade II listed church was built in the 1850s but it is believed to have been built on the same site as a medieval church that was a possession of St. Dogmael's Abbey.*

*The evaluation of the area of the proposed extension on the north side of the church identified numerous intercutting grave cuts but did not disturb any articulated human remains. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded. The proposed shallow nature of the raft foundations for the extension are unlikely to impact upon any buried human remains that appear to lie at greater depth.*

*A large amount of disarticulated human bone was recovered during the evaluation. This was boxed for later reburial within the church yard.*

**CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

*Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i gynnal gwerthusiad archeolegol cyn adeiladu estyniad i Eglwys y Santes Fair, Abergwaun, Sir Benfro (wedi'i ganoli ar NGR SM 9580 3703). Adeiladwyd yr eglwys restredig Gradd II bresennol yn y 1850au ond credir iddi gael ei hadeiladu ar yr un safle ag eglwys ganoloesol a oedd yn feddiant o Abaty Llandudoch.*

*Nododd y gwerthusiad o ardal yr estyniad arfaethedig ar ochr ogleddol yr eglwys nifer o doriadau bedd yn torri ond ni darfu ar unrhyw weddillion dynol cymalog. Ni chofnodwyd unrhyw nodweddion neu ddyddodion archeolegol arwyddocaol eraill. Mae'n annhebygol y bydd natur fas arfaethedig y sylfeini rafft ar gyfer yr estyniad yn effeithio ar unrhyw weddillion dynol claddedig sy'n ymddangos yn gorwedd yn dyfnder mwy.*

*Cafwyd hyd i lawer iawn o asgwrn dynol ancymalog yn ystod y gwerthusiad. Cafodd hwn ei focsio ar gyfer ailcladdu diweddarach ym mynwent yr eglwys.*



## **ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

##### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 The Grade II listed current church of St Mary's in Fishguard was built in the 1850s (PRN 17326, Grade II LB 12299) (Figure 1, Photo1). However, it is believed to have been built on the same site as a medieval church (PRN 2535), recorded in the 1291 Taxatio, when it was in the possession of St. Dogmael's Abbey. Roughly 20m to the north of the church is a sepulchral stone dated to c1500 (PRN 58601).



**Photograph 1:** St Mary's Church, Fishguard.

- 1.1.2 St Mary's Church Parochial Council was granted planning permission to undertake the construction of a new extension on the north side of the church that will be accessible internally from the west end, as well as reconfiguration of the entrance steps at the west end of the church (Planning Application No 17/0178/PA) (Figure 2).
- 1.1.3 The requirement for a scheme of archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development proposals by Pembrokeshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.4 Following discussions with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority and the archaeological advisor to the DAC it was agreed that the best way of determining the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area was through the implementation of an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed extension, as the development had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains associated with burials and possibly evidence for earlier structural remains.
- 1.1.5 In August 2017 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by the Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Church to prepare an archaeological written scheme of

investigation (WSI) detailing the required archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed extension that measured approximately 7.0m by 13.0m (outlined in red in Figure 3) and lay on the north side of the church in an area where there were no marked graves.



**Photograph 2:** View looking west showing the approximate position of the smaller extension proposed in April 2019 outlined in blue.

- 1.1.6 In April 2019 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Bluestone Builders to undertake the archaeological evaluation. However, due to funding constraints a smaller extension was now planned measuring approximately 6.5m by 5m (outlined in blue in Figure 2, Photo 2). In addition a change had been made in the design of the building's foundations from standard excavated foundations to a raft foundation; which would require a shallower depth of only 450mm to be excavated within the footprint of the extension. The arrangement for a soakaway had also been withdrawn. Drawn plans for this change in design were not available at the time of the evaluation. The evaluation was undertaken across the whole footprint of the proposed smaller extension as shown in Figure 2.

## **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 A WSI for the evaluation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works (Appendix I). The specification outlined the methodologies by which the evaluation should be undertaken.
- 1.2.2 The purpose of field evaluation as laid down in the CIfA Standard & Guidance Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014) is:

to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:



- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

1.2.3 The overall scheme of work was summarized as follows:

*A scheme of archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new extension on the north side of St Mary's Church, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. The preparation of a report and archive on the results of the evaluation and all finds, records, photographs and plans created by this mitigation strategy.*

### 1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the study area, reviews the historical and archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the evaluation results.

### 1.4 Illustrations

1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. On maps, north is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

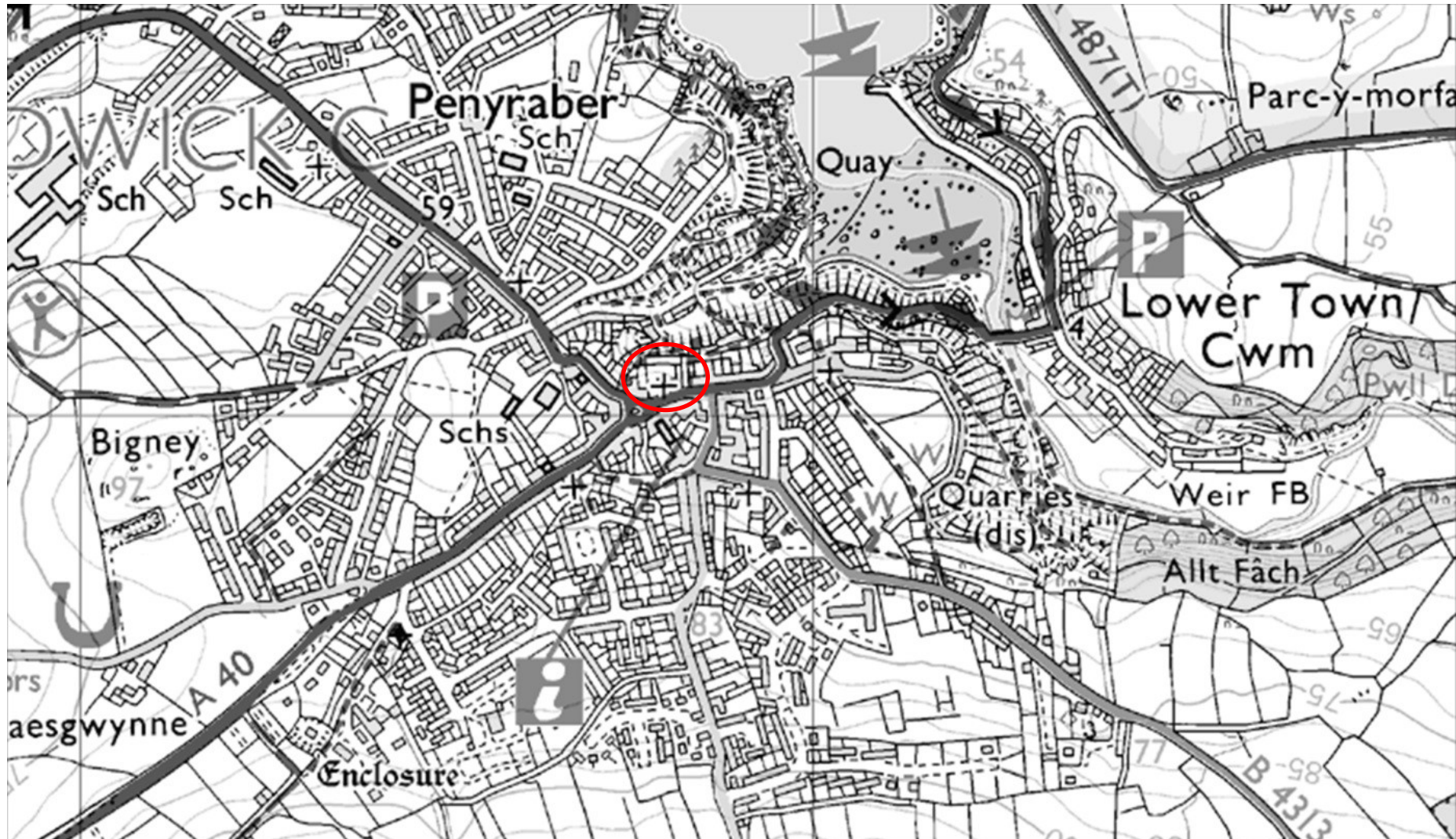
### 1.5 Timeline

1.5.1 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.

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

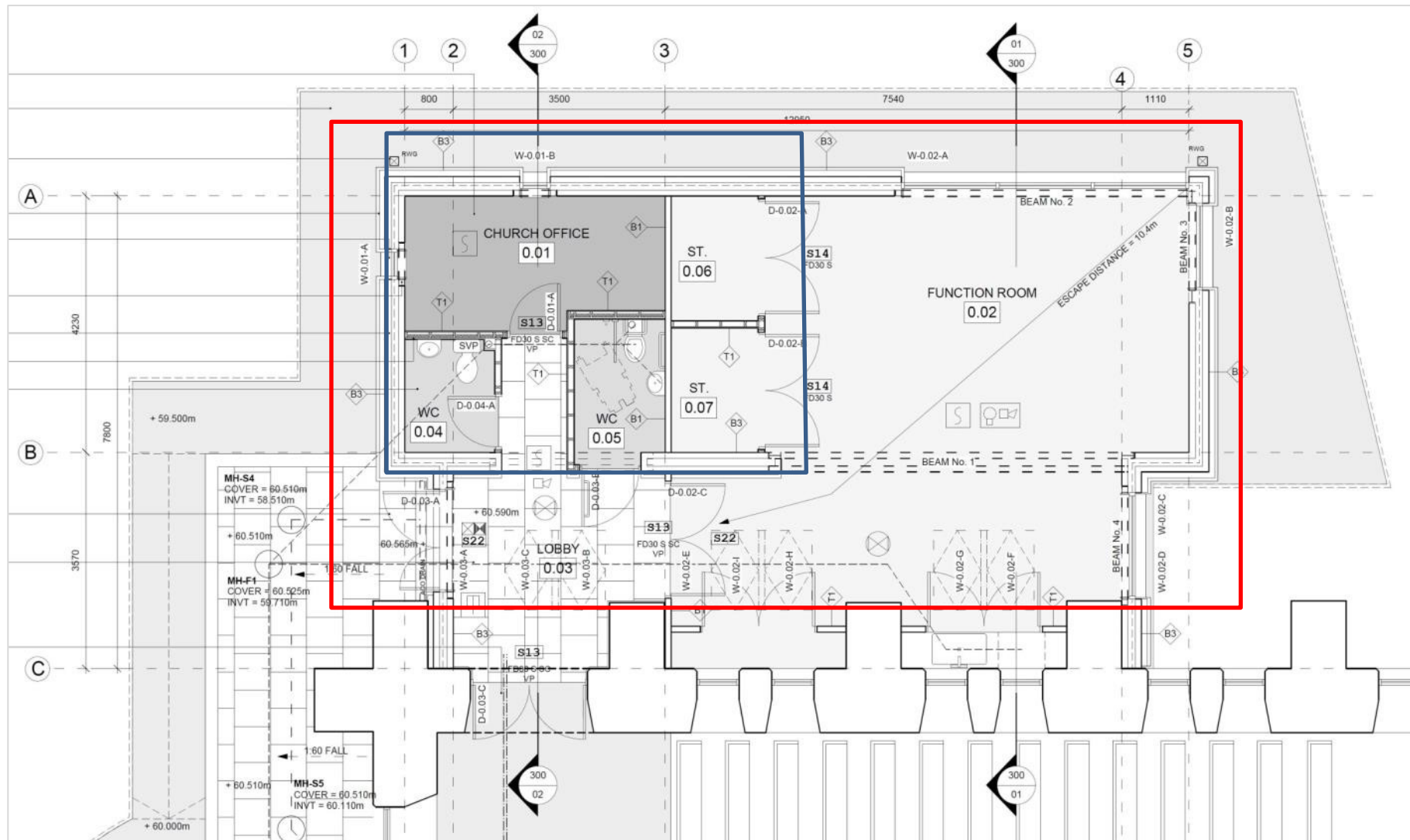
Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410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

<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:** Map extract showing the location of St Mary's Church in Fishguard (outlined in red).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 100020930



**Figure 2:** Ground floor plan of the proposed development supplied by client (25/05/2018). The original area to be subjected to archaeological evaluation is outlined in red and the actual area evaluated in April 2019 is shown outlined in blue.



## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location, Topography and Geology**

- 2.1.1 St Mary's Church lies within the coastal town of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SM 9580 3703). Modern Fishguard consists of two parts, Lower Fishguard and the "Main Town". The main town contains the parish church, the High Street and most of the modern development, and lies upon the hill to the south of Lower Fishguard which is clustered around a quay. The two areas are joined by a steep and winding road.
- 2.1.2 The church is surrounded by a small churchyard. The last burial within the churchyard took place sometime in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years many of the gravestones have been moved to the perimeter of the churchyard (Photo 3)



**Photograph 3:** View of St Mary's churchyard showing the gravestones moved to the perimeter of the area.

- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology is the Aber Mawr Shale Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 461 to 478 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. There is no superficial geology recorded. Geological information has been obtained through the British Geological Survey mapping portal.

## 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 The village of Fishguard remained a small fishing village until the sixteenth century. Following the arrival of the Normans in Britain the Anglo-Norman leader, Robert FitzMartin took Fishguard and assigned the village and surrounding district to his follower Jordan de Cannington. The estate was gifted to St. Dogmael's Abbey in whose possession it remained until the sixteenth century and indeed, the 1291 Taxatio lists the medieval church in Fishguard as a possession of the abbey. It stood in the same position as the existing church of St Mary's (PRN 17326) that was built in 1855-7, entirely replacing the earlier church that had fallen into disrepair and completely removing any above ground trace of that church.

- 2.2 The existing church is a Grade II listed building (LB Ref 12299). The listing describes it thus:

*Anglican parish church of 1855-7 in a simplified Romanesque style using terracotta for dressings, unusually early for the region. The design was supplied for free by a holidaymaker, Thomas Clark (1819-99) of the noted clothier family from Trowbridge, Wiltshire, after plans from John Prichard of Llandaff and James Stone of Narberth had been deemed too expensive. Clark gave the design, visited 3 times to supervise and donated Cilgerran stone gatepiers to the churchyard, freestone for the mouldings of the W door and the communion table cloth embroidered by his mother. The principal aim of the design was economy and maximum space, and the cost was £1600. For this sum Clark achieved a 60' by 40' (18.3m by 12.2m) nave the wide span roofed in timber. The builder was James Hughes of Fishguard. There was a font for total immersion from the beginning, and the chancel was to be flanked by apsed 'chapels' intended as vestry and baptistery (though the latter was never built). Repairs are recorded in 1912 including new chancel windows.*

- 2.3 In the churchyard many of the gravestones have been moved to the perimeter of the churchyard (Photo 3).

- 2.4 Standing within the churchyard is an inscribed stone (PRN 58601) situated some 20m north of the church front door (Photo 4). It is Grade II listed (LB Ref 12300), and its listing describes it thus:

*Sepulchral stone dated to c1500, but possibly of several dates. The stone was noted in the churchyard in 1856. The stone is approximately 1.5m high and inscribed with a Latin cross with trifoliated terminals on a 4-step base. Small and crude square Celtic knot above and 2-cord plait to left, trefoil to right formed of 3 interlocked hearts, and an inscription 'Dauid Medd' ', interrupted by the cross shaft. The 2 thin sides are also lettered. The left side has Gothic lettering 'dne miserere & ddme' while the right side has Celtic letters 'ihcpc a' d' m'd'i' .*

*The inscription David Medd is in letters dated to the C13-C14, the Gothic left side inscription has been read as Domine miserere me with the '& dd' representing 'uie David' or son of David, in Greek. The right side is interpreted as ihc xpc Ano Dni Mdi, or Jesus Christ AD 1501. The memorial has been linked to David Mendu, vicar in 1535, but the lettering generally looks earlier.*





**Photograph 4:** An inscribed stone dated to c. 1500 that stands within St Mary's churchyard.

## **2.3 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 2.3.1 The area of St Mary's Church and its churchyard have not been subjected to any known previous archaeological investigations or surveys.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 An area approximately 6.5m by 5m (Figure 2, Photo 2) was stripped by mechanical excavator using a flat bladed bucket, under archaeological supervision. The area was machine excavated to remove all non-archaeologically significant overburden down to a depth of 600m, unless before this depth either significant archaeological levels or the underlying natural undisturbed ground surface were reached.
- 3.1.2 Following machine excavation, the excavation area was appropriately cleaned to demonstrate the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing/detailed survey, photography and site notebooks. Drawn plans were related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.1.4 No articulated human remains were uncovered during the evaluation but a large number of disarticulated human bones were collected during the evaluation, randomly spread across the evaluation trench. The bone was boxed for re-burial in the churchyard by the church at a later date. No human remains were removed from the site.
- 3.1.5 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

#### **3.2 Timetable of Fieldwork**

- 3.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken over 3 days on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2019. A further visit was undertaken on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

#### **3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving**

- 3.3.1 The WSI stated that an archive would be prepared if it would meet the requirements of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust archive retention policy (2018). In this case, due to the archaeological results, the project does not meet the requirements and as such this report forms the archive for the project.
- 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.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Evaluation

- 4.1.1 All numbers within the text within square brackets [] refer to the unique context number given to all individual deposits using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual<sup>2</sup>
- 4.1.2 Immediately under the turf and topsoil a number of surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century foot stones, a recumbent gravestone and remnants of grave kerb stones were revealed (Photos 5 and 6). These were lifted and stored by the side of the church.



**Photograph 5:** Looking east showing 19<sup>th</sup> century foot stones and surviving grave kerb stones revealed after removal of turf and topsoil. 2 x 1m scales

- 4.1.3 Below the turf and shallow topsoil, across the whole of the evaluation area a consistent deposit of shattered mudstone within a silty, dark greyish-brown matrix [102] was recorded. The 19<sup>th</sup> century grave kerb stones and foot stones had been placed within this deposit. At this level (as seen in Photo 5) it was impossible to see any grave cuts, although it was clear that graves were located here.
- 4.1.4 Beneath the recumbent gravestone shown in Photos 6 and 7 was a small pit filled with disarticulated human bone including several skulls. The gravestone was inscribed with the name of Jacob William who died on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1818.
- 4.1.5 Once the grave kerb stones and foot stones had been removed deposit [102] continued to be excavated (Photo 8) until a depth of 600mm was reached across the trench; which would allow a buffer of 150mm below the required depth for foundations of 450mm. No other significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded during its excavation; although a large amount of disarticulated bone was recovered from this deposit. This bone was boxed and stored for re-burial within the cemetery at a later date.

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<sup>2</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.





**Photograph 6:** Looking southeast showing a recumbent 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone revealed after removal of turf.



**Photograph 7:** The recumbent gravestone of Jacob Williams who died in 1818.





**Photograph 8:** Looking southeast showing removal of deposit [102] across the evaluation area.

- 4.1.6 Once a consistent depth of 600mm had been reached across the evaluation trench, the trench was hand cleaned. This process enabled the identification of numerous intercutting grave cuts at the bottom of the trench (Figure 3; Photos 9 & 10). The grave cuts were filled with near identical material to that of [102] making it very challenging to see the edges of the cuts during machining.



**Photograph 9:** Looking roughly west at the evaluation trench after a depth of 600mm had been reached. Note the in-situ grave stone of Ebenezer Davies on the edge of the trench to the west. 2 x 1m scales





**Photograph 10:** Looking south at the evaluation trench showing a number of identified grave cuts. 2 x 1m scales

- 4.1.7 It was clear that this area had been greatly disturbed over many years by the excavation of numerous graves that had cut through earlier graves resulting in the disarticulated human bone seen throughout deposit [102].
- 4.1.8 Undisturbed natural ground was not encountered in any area of the evaluation trench.
- 4.1.9 No in-situ human burials were disturbed during the evaluation. It is probable that the last burials in this area were interred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and would probably have been excavated to a depth of approximately 5-6ft (1.5-1.8m) deep and therefore would not be disturbed by this evaluation or by the construction of a raft foundation at a depth of 450mm.
- 4.1.10 One grave could be identified as that of Ebenezer Davies who died in 1877 and whose gravestone stood outside the evaluation trench on the west (Figure 3, Photo 11).
- 4.1.11 The southern edge of the evaluation trench ran along the northern wall of the existing church boiler house (Photo 12). Below this wall was a sequence of archaeological deposits including the remains of what appeared to be the foundations of a substantial stone wall or structure (Figure 4).



**Photograph 11:** Looking west at the gravestone and identified grave cut of Ebenezer Davies who died in 1877.





**Photograph 12:** Looking south at the stonework seen just protruding from under the northern boiler house wall. 2 x 1m scales

- 4.1.12 In this north facing section of the evaluation trench beneath the boiler house the substantial stone wall[108] measured c. 2.0m wide and 0.70m deep (Photo 13). The large angular stones were bonded with a hard mortar mix containing lumps of chalk, clinker and ash, fragments of broken slate, as well as dark reddish brown silty clay. The top course of large flatter stones appeared very level.
- 4.1.13 The eastern edge of the foundation appeared to have been removed by the construction of the doorway for the boiler shed.
- 4.1.14 As shown in Figure 4 the construction for the foundations cut through several deposits seen either side. Of particular interest is layer [105]; a medium orangey brown silty clay containing numerous voids filled with broken roofing slate and rounded medium and large stones. This deposit appeared characteristic of demolition material from a nearby building
- 4.1.15 Within the other trench sections small remnants of this deposit [105] could be seen in patches towards the bottom of the trench. This suggests this deposit existed across the area of the trench but has been all but removed through the continuous excavation of graves.
- 4.1.16 Beneath the substantial stone wall a single course of medium sized stones [104] c. 1.2m wide sitting within layer (103) was recorded. The stones were completely different from that of the stone work above, were not as wide and would appear to be unrelated and may represent an earlier phase of building.



**Photograph 13:** Looking roughly southwest at the substantial stone work seen protruding from under the northern boiler house wall. 1m scale

- 4.1.17 No dating material was recovered from the deposits within the section to help understand the sequence of deposits but it appeared probable that there were earlier phases of structure beneath the current brick walls of the boiler house.

## **4.2 Boiler House**

- 4.2.1 Proposed work to the boiler house allowed for further investigation into the meaning of the stone foundations revealed in the north facing section of the trench.
- 4.2.2 Following the dismantling of the brick walls of the boiler house a site visit was made on 21st April 2020.
- 4.2.3 Inspection of the stonework revealed that it was of recent construction probably associated with a later phase of boiler house (Photo 14). The wall had an internal face and had been built into the ground slope, hence the rough appearance of the stone work on its northern face. This stone wall filled a cut or void seen in the north facing section of the evaluation trench.
- 4.2.4 It appeared that there had been many alterations to the boiler house and the infilled stonework formed one alteration (Photo 15). However, the nature and size of the stones suggested they could have been re-used from an earlier demolished building, and it is conceivable that that building might be the former medieval church.



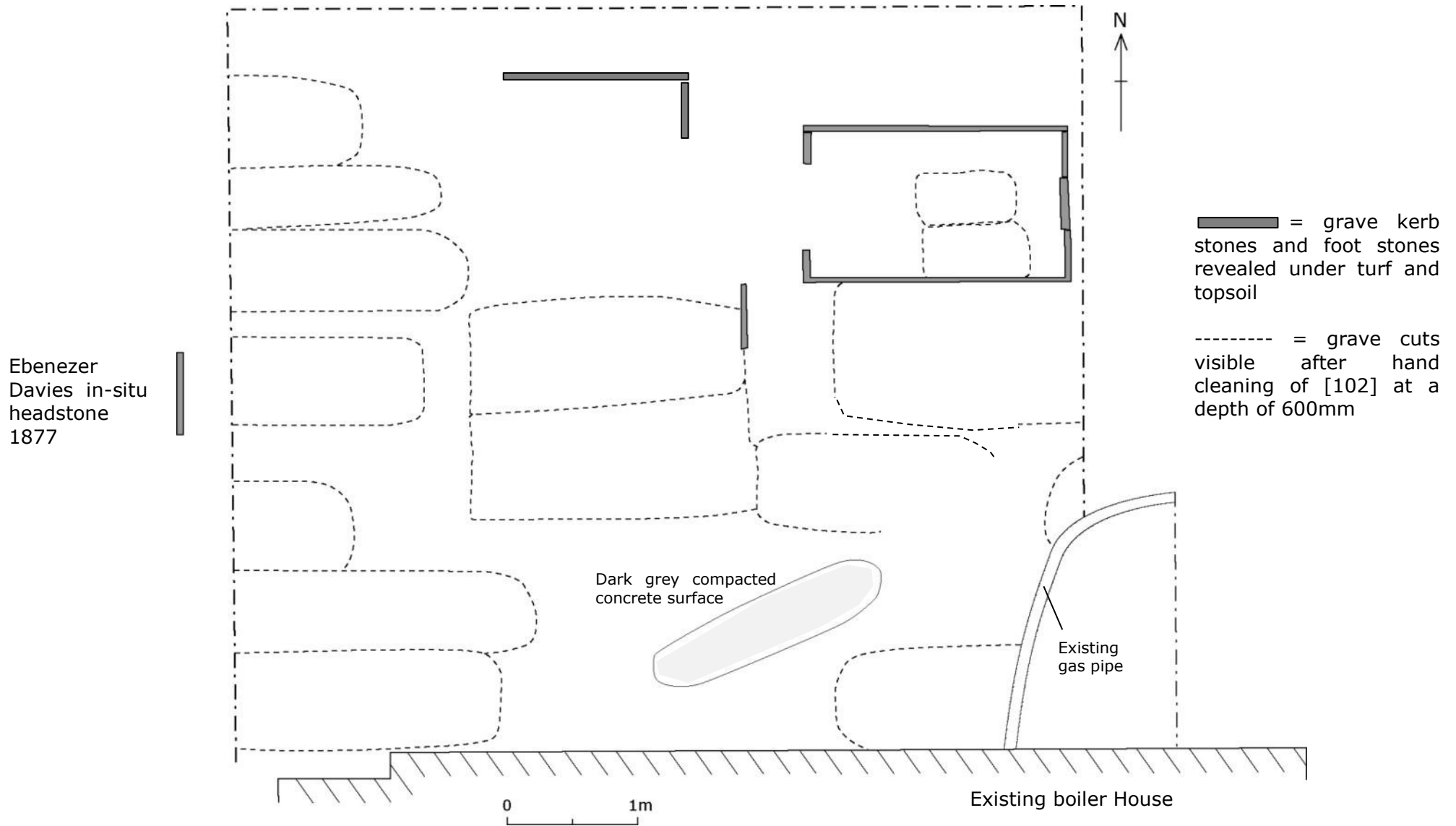


**Photograph 14:** Looking roughly west at the internal face of the substantial stone work seen protruding from under the northern boiler house wall. 1m scale

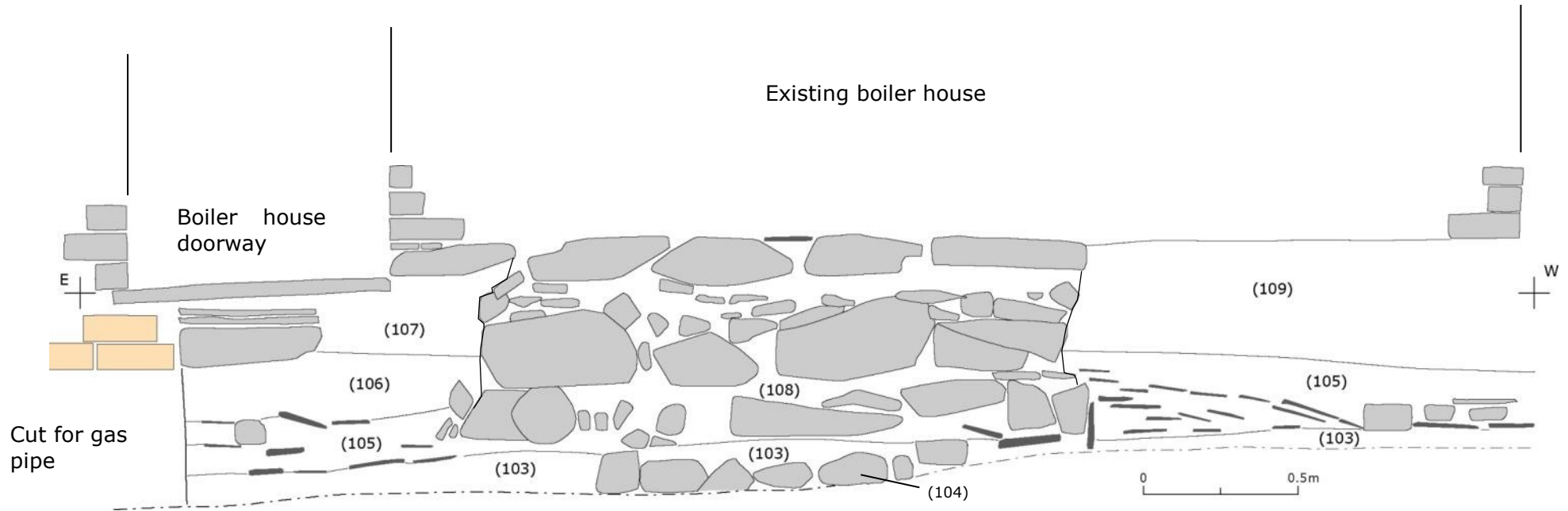


**Photograph 15:** Looking roughly west showing the internal area of the boiler house. 1m scale





**Figure 3:** Plan of the evaluation trench



**Figure 4:** North facing section of evaluation trench lying below boiler house.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 A trench measuring approximately 6.5m by 5m on the north side of the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Fishguard was archaeologically evaluated. Within this area an extension to the church is planned. It is proposed that the extension will be built upon a raft foundation at a depth of 450mm from the existing ground surface.
- 5.2 To fully determine whether archaeological deposits or features would be directly impacted upon by the proposed development the area was machine excavated, under archaeological supervision, down to a depth of 600mm.
- 5.3 Beneath the topsoil a consistent deposit of disturbed shattered mudstone containing modern pottery, coal and roofing slate, as well as disarticulated human bone was excavated to a depth of 600mm, across the whole area of the trench. The human bone was boxed for re-burial in the churchyard at a later date. No articulated human remains were uncovered during the excavations and no human remains were removed from the site.
- 5.4 At a depth of 600mm the evaluation trench was hand cleaned revealing the identification of numerous intercutting grave cuts. The grave cuts were filled with shattered mudstone; almost identical to the material the graves had been cut through. This had made it near impossible to see the edges of the grave cuts during machining. The ground had been greatly disturbed over many years by the excavation of numerous intercutting graves resulting in the disarticulated human bone seen throughout the area.
- 5.5 The evaluation has shown that it is unlikely that the proposed construction of the smaller church extension to that originally planned, using a raft foundation at a depth of 450mm, would have an adverse direct impact on significant archaeology.
- 5.6 The results of the evaluation suggested it is likely that any human remains within the identified graves would lie at lower depths and would not be disturbed by the proposed development.

## 6. LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context No	Location	Description
101	Trench	Topsoil – dark brown silty loam
102	Trench	Shattered mudstone fragments within a dark greyish/brown silt matrix. Disarticulated human bone, 19th/20th century pottery sherds, coal, roof slate frags.  After excavating to a depth of 600mm and after trowelling the trench. Edges of grave cuts were just about visible, usually as a very narrow void into which shale had tipped slightly.
103	North facing trench section	Compact dark greyish brown clayey silt containing large quantities of crushed shale
104	North facing trench section	A single course of medium sized stones c. 1.2m wide sitting within layer (103) and directly beneath wider substantial stone foundation (108)
105	North facing trench section	Medium orangey brown silty clay containing numerous voids filled with broken slate and rounded medium and large stones. Looser structure than (103). Visible on both side of wall (108) – possible result of demolition?  Within the other trench sections at the bottom of the trench small patches of this deposit can be seen in section through which graves have been cut. This suggests this deposit existed across the area of the trench but has been all but removed through continuous excavation of graves.
106	North facing trench section	Fairly compact dark brown clayey silt containing numerous crushed shale fragments – doesn't appear to have any age.
107	North facing trench section	Broken shale fragments within a silty matrix – appears to be a result of constructing shed & its doorway. Very similar to (103) and (109).
108	North facing trench section	Substantial stone wall c. 2.0m wide and 0.70m deep. The large angular stones are bonded with a hard mortar mix containing lumps of chalk, what appears to be clinker/ash, fragments of broken slate and a dark reddish brown silty clay that is much redder than (105). The top course of stones appear very level – floor surface?
109	North facing trench section	Very similar to (107) and very similar to (103) through which 19 <sup>th</sup> century graves cut, and which kerb stones etc were sat within.

## **7. SOURCES**

### **Publications**

Brown, D.H., 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA Standard & Guidance Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014)

### **Database**

British Geological Survey [online] Available at: [Accessed January 2019]

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

### **Websites**

British Geological Survey mapping portal. Available at:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



## APPENDIX I:

### ST MARY'S CHURCH, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared to detail the proposed archaeological fieldwork to be undertaken within the graveyard area of St Mary's Church, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, (SM 95801 37041; Figure 1, Photo 1).
- 1.2 St Mary's Church has been granted planning permission to undertake the construction of a new extension on the north side of the church that will be accessible internally from the west end, as well as reconfiguration of the entrance steps at the west end of the church (Planning Application No 17/0178/PA). The extension will create a new function room, church office and toilets (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The requirement for a scheme of archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development proposals by Pembrokeshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM).

The planning condition states:

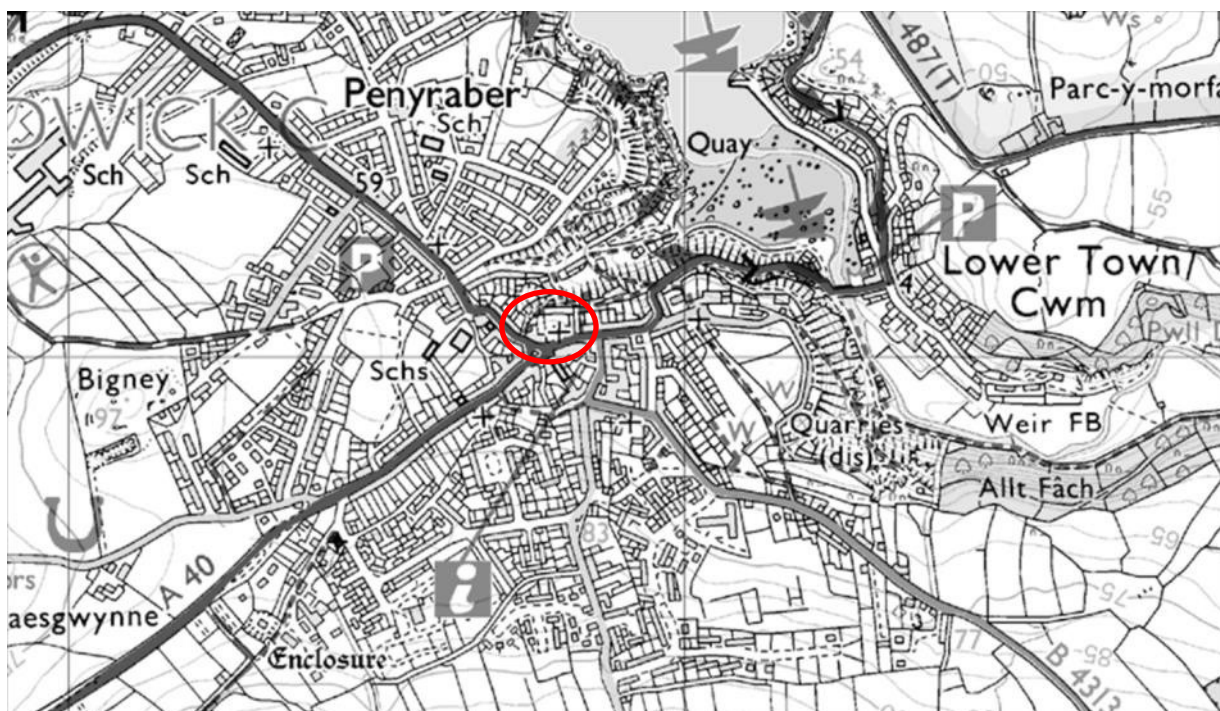
*No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (DAT-DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.*

*Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

- 1.4 This condition has been placed on the planning decision because although the current church was built in the 1850s (PRN 17326, Grade II LB 12299), it was built on the same site as a medieval church (PRN 2535), which was recorded in the 1291 Taxatio, when it was in the possession of St. Dogmael's Abbey. Roughly 20m to the north of the church is a sepulchral stone dated to c1500 (PRN 58601).
- 1.5 Therefore it is considered that there is good potential for remains associated with earlier phases of the church to survive, as well as centuries of burials. Burials, even if no longer marked by grave stones, are very likely to be present on the northern side of the church in the area of the proposed extension.
- 1.6 Following discussions with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority and the archaeological advisor to the DAC it was agreed that the best way of determining the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area would be through the implementation of an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed extension and soakaway, as the development has the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains associated with

graves and possibly evidence for earlier structural remains. There is some potential for archaeological remains of other periods to be present.

- 1.7 The footprint of the proposed extension measures approximately 7.0m by 13.0m (Figure 3) and lies on the north side of the church in an area where there are no marked graves. One 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone lies a short distance away to the west of the proposed extension (Photos 2 – 3).. The development area lies at a lower ground level than the church floor, and so the floor of the extension, which will run through from the church, will be raised and will be supported on block walls. The walls will sit on a concrete pad within a deep foundation cut (Figure 4). It is the machine excavation of the foundation trenches plus any associated services or ground reduction works that could damage or remove any archaeological remains which may be present in this area. An area encompassing the groundworks required to create a soakaway will also require evaluating.
- 1.8 This WSI outlines the methodology by which the contractor (on behalf of St Mary's Church, Fishguard) will carry out an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed extension on the north side of the church and the area encompassing the proposed soakaway, where groundworks could damage or destroy archaeological deposits associated with burials or earlier phases of the church. The approval of this WSI and its successful implementation will be required in order to satisfy the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.9 The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014).
- 1.10 The archaeological works should be undertaken by a Registered Organisation with CIfA and managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA).
- 1.11 The appointed archaeological contractor will need to comply with this approved written scheme of investigation, and any variance from it should be discussed and approved with DAT-DM.



**Figure 1:** The location of St Mary's Church in Fishguard (outlined in red).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 100020930



**Photo 1:** Looking northeast at St Mary's Church, Fishguard.



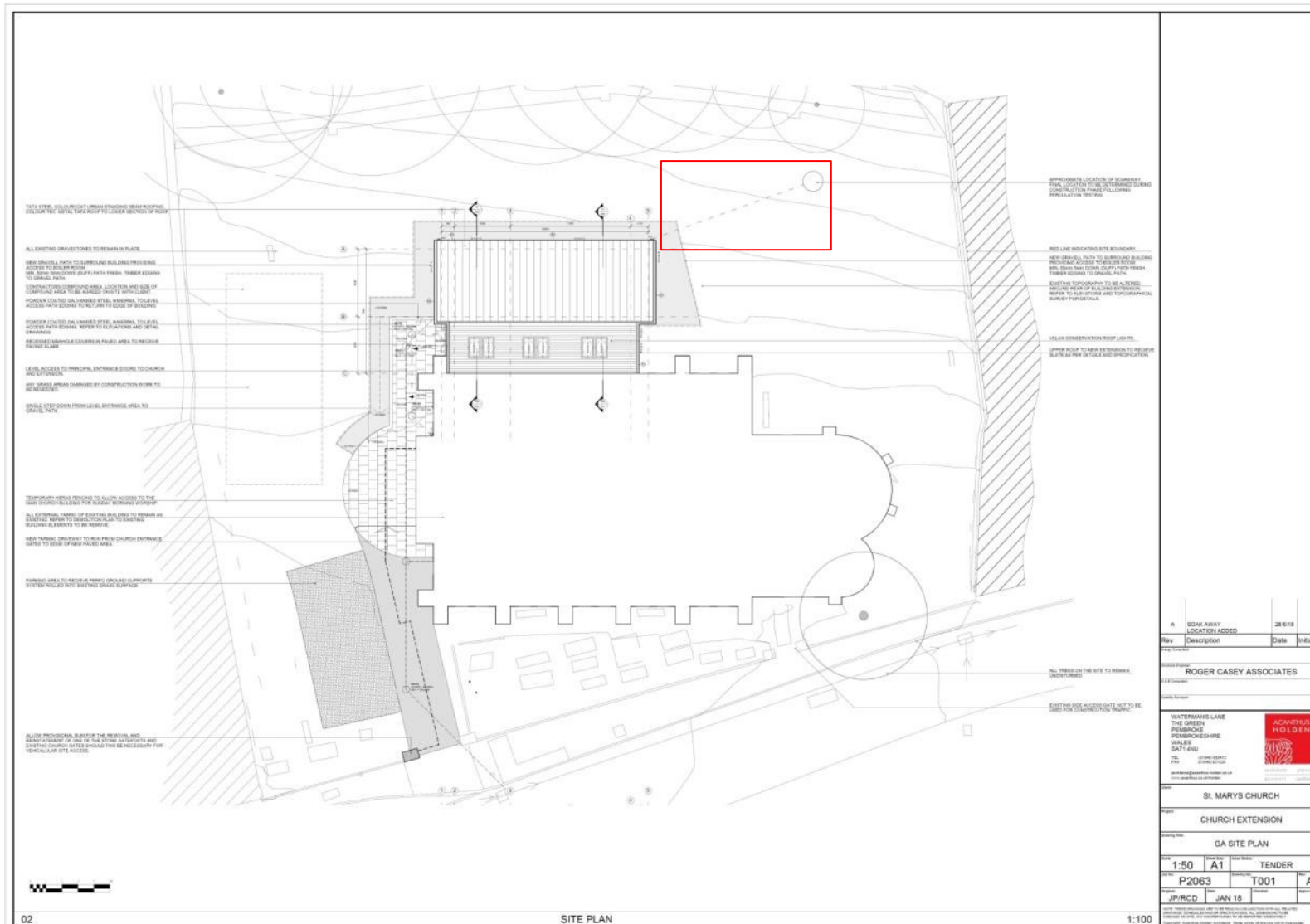


**Photo 2:** Looking south at the area for the proposed extension – note the gravestone to the right of the picture.

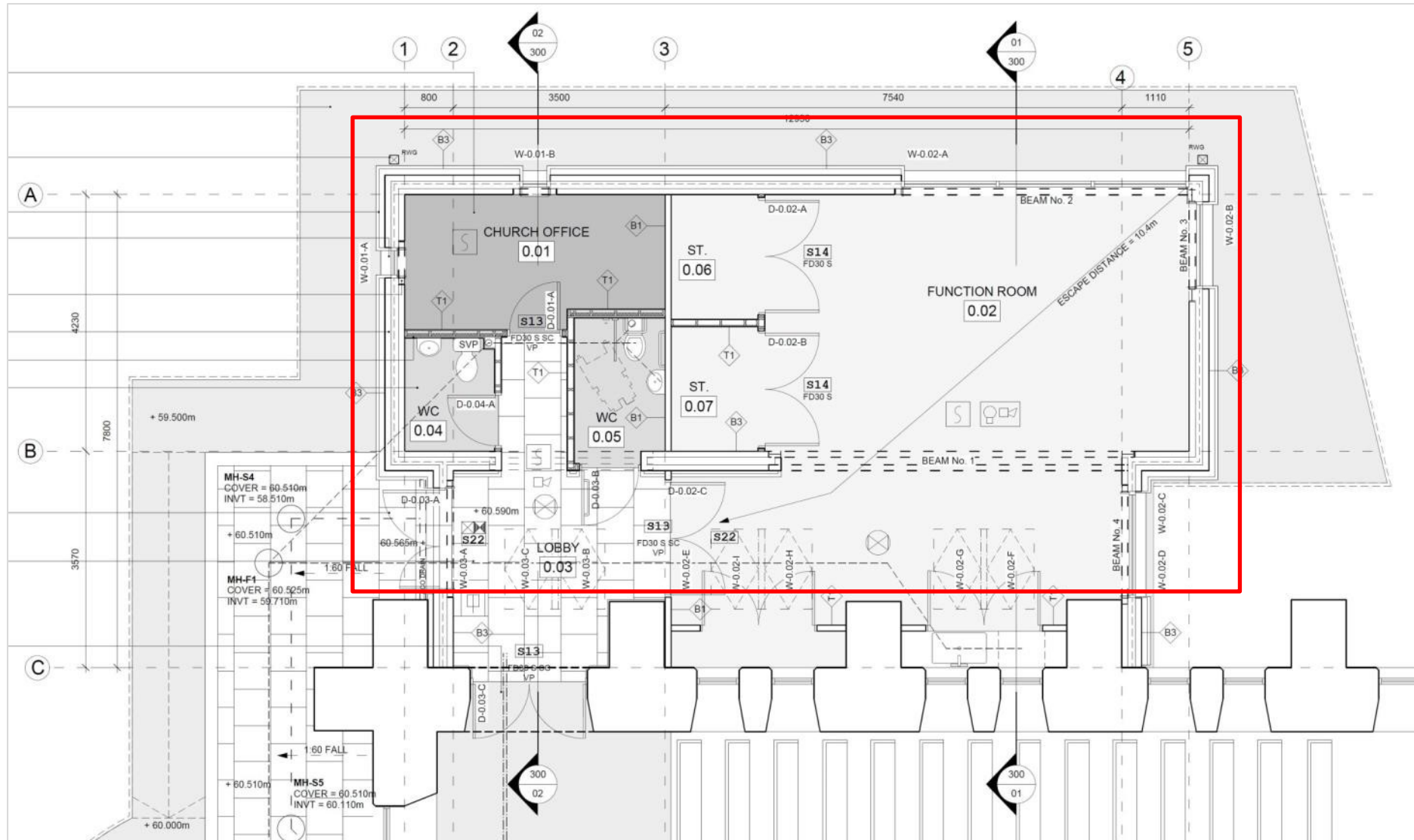


**Photo 3:** Looking east at the area for the proposed extension.

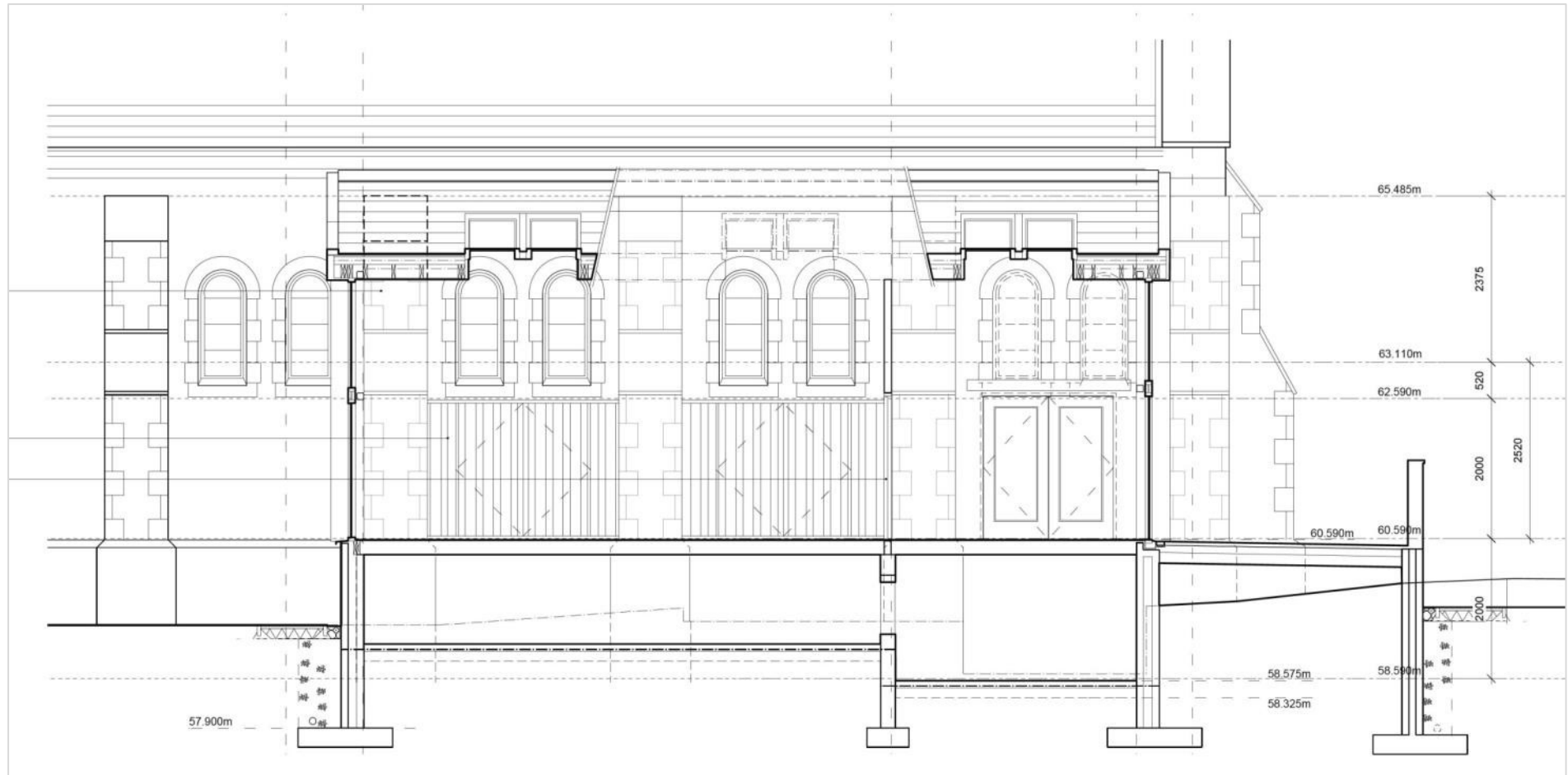




**Figure 2:** Overall site plan of the proposed development supplied by client (29/06/2018) that also shows proposed location of soakaway (outlined in red box).



**Figure 3:** Ground floor plan of the proposed development supplied by client (25/05/2018). The area to be subjected to archaeological evaluation is outlined in red.



**Figure 4:** Section drawing (looking south) showing the foundation arrangement. Drawing supplied by client (25/05/2018)



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## 2. AIM OF THE PROJECT

2.1 The definition of an archaeological evaluation taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA S&G: AFE 2014) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

2.2 The purpose of field evaluation as laid down in the CIfA S&G AFE is:

*to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:*

*a. The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*

*b. The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*

*c. The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research*

2.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:

**The implementation of a scheme of archaeological evaluation within the area of the proposed building extension and soakaway to St Mary's Church, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. The archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within this specified area using appropriate methods and practises. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. A report shall be prepared on the results of the evaluation and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created by this mitigation strategy. Further mitigation is possible where significant remains are identified; the scope of which would be determined following this stage of work.**

## 3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

3.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which the archaeological contractor will undertake the archaeological field evaluation.

3.2 To undertake an archaeological field evaluation in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

3.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

3.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

3.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

## 4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 To better ascertain the significance and state of preservation of the potential archaeology within the development site and whether the area was used as part of a burial ground, it is proposed that the entire footprint of the proposed extension and the area required for a soakaway will be evaluated (Figures 2-5). This would involve the machine strip of topsoil and immediate underlying soils (non-archaeologically significant) to the top of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural substrata (whichever is reached first).
- 4.2 The information from this scheme of works would identify the presence or absence of archaeology and specifically the number, date and state of preservation of burials.
- 4.3 The site area will be excavated using a mechanical excavator (JCB 3CX or similar). The machine will be fitted with a flat bladed bucket. Arisings will be stored adjacent to the stripped area (at a safe distance and avoiding marked graves).
- 4.4 Topsoil and non-archaeologically significant underlying soils will be machine excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural substrata (whichever is reached first). Once the machining is completed the area will be appropriately cleaned to prove the presence or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Following the site strip, the areas will be surveyed using accurate GPS or Total Station to record the identified features.
- 4.5 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled, if present. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- 4.6 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks, using a recognised archaeological recording system, which should be approved by DAT-DM. All deposits will be individually recorded and given context numbers. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and known boundaries.
- 4.7 A digital photographic record will be maintained as a minimum, using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- 4.8 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by the appointed archaeological contractor in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure<sup>3</sup>, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission will be given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- 4.9 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
  - Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
  - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
  - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;

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<sup>3</sup> *If any material deemed Treasure is found, the Coroner must be informed.*



- Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
  - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 4.10 As the development area is situated within a churchyard, there is high potential for burials to be exposed. All human remains will, where possible, be left *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.
- 4.11 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*. If disturbed, disarticulated bone will be retained appropriately for reburial by the church authorities within the churchyard. Such remains will not require further analysis. No human remains will be removed from the site.

## **5. POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS**

- 5.1 An initial assessment of the results of the completed project will be put together for discussion with the client and DAT-DM to determine whether future mitigation is or is not required.
- 5.2 A grey literature report will be produced detailing the full results of the fieldwork which will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. This will include full specialist reports.
- 5.3 Appropriate specialists will need to be named by the appointed archaeological contractor for the analysis of artefacts and ecofacts, to include palaeo-environmental analysis and ceramic identification/analysis. Further specialists may also be required.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that a summary of, or short report on, the project results, excluding any confidential information, will be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals). A more detailed publication report will also be required to be placed in an appropriate journal or publication.
- 5.5 The grey literature report and specialist reports will be prepared to follow the relevant *Standard and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 5.6 Digital copies (and paper copies if required) of the grey literature report will be supplied to DAT-DM and the regional Historic Environment Record. Other copies of the report will need to be supplied to the client, the quantity and format to be determined at a later date.

## **6. STAFF**

- 6.1 The project should be managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA).
- 6.2 The on-site works will be undertaken by experienced archaeologists, with appropriate CSCS cards.

## **7 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- 7.1 The appointed archaeological contractor should have considerable experience of undertaking all categories of archaeological fieldwork and always operate to best professional practice; adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The archaeological contractor should be a Registered Organisation with CIfA and all staff should abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.

- 7.2 The appointed archaeological contractor should operate robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

## **8 MONITORING**

- 8.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management, in their role as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the works.

## **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 Service information should be obtained prior to the start of the works.
- 9.2 A health and safety risk assessment must be prepared prior to the works commencing to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 9.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 9.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures, H&S constraints and site rules of the client or any on-site contractor will be made known to the archaeological contractor at the start of the works.
- 9.5 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The developer will make all site staff aware of any other PPE<sup>4</sup> that may be required.
- 9.6 It is noted that geotechnical works (terrafirma 2017) identified asbestos (chrysotile bundles) in one borehole (WS01) at 0.5m depth. The report established that the risk to human health was very low but that remedial measures were still required with regard to site soils.

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<sup>4</sup> *Personal Protection Equipment*

