

**ST. INA'S CHURCH, LLANINA,  
CEREDIGION  
(SN 4049 5982)  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**January 2010**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Reverend Hew Gregory-Smith



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## ST. INA'S CHURCH, LLANINA, CERIDIGION (SN 40494 59826) ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**ST. INA'S CHURCH, LLANINA, CEREDIGION:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*To assess the potential impact of a proposed extension to St. Ina's Church, Llanina, Ceredigion (NGR SN 4049 5982) the archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to characterise the nature of any archaeological deposits within the area of the planned extension.*

*St. Ina's Church lies in close proximity to a number of sites of archaeological and historical interest, dating from the early medieval period through to the post medieval period. Given the archaeological potential of the area to the north of the present day church vestry, it was considered that the proposed works had the potential to damage or destroy archaeological features of possible national significance.*

*The evaluation revealed evidence of five inhumations. Four of the graves revealed were overlain by a layer of building debris, considered to be associated with the construction of the present day church in 1810, indicating that the burials were earlier.*

*No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the excavations.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services was commissioned by the Reverend Hew Gregory-Smith, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in November 2009 at St. Ina's Church, Llanina, Ceredigion (NGR SN 4049 5982, PRN 5656<sup>1</sup>) to provide information regarding the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

The evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent, to provide sufficient evidence about any archaeological remains (including their date, character, extent, depth, state of preservation and significance), to ensure that any impact upon buried archaeological remains from the proposed development, can be appropriately mitigated, and that the scope and cost of mitigation can be ascertained prior to commencement of the development.

This report summarises the background to the site and presents the results and conclusions of the evaluation.

### **1.3 Methodology**

A single north-south aligned trench measuring 3.60m by 1.20m was opened using a 1.5 Ton Volvo 'mini digger' fitted with a 0.56m toothless grading bucket. The trench was located within the area of the proposed extension on the north side of the church, 1.0 m north of the present vestry of the church. The trench was excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits, under controlled supervision, which were revealed cutting through the underlying natural clay subsoil.

### **1.4 Illustrations**

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

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<sup>1</sup> PRN – Primary Record Number, unique identification reference allotted to known archaeological sites, findspots and monuments on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

St Ina's Church is located near the village of Llanina, Ceredigion at NGR SN 40494 59826, on a coastal spur overlooking Cardigan Bay at a height of c. 12m OD.

### **2.2 Archaeological Background**

The present Church at St. Ina's was built in 1810. It is considered likely that the existing church replaced an earlier medieval chapelry (PRN 8,297), but no evidence of an earlier building is visible in the present church fabric (Ludlow, 2004).

The dedication to St Ina is most likely a Celtic dedication to a local saint, rather than to King Ina of Wessex as has been traditionally accepted. This Celtic dedication may suggest that the site was an ecclesiastical centre established during the early medieval period at some time between 410AD and 1066AD (Ludlow, 2004).

The coastal location of the church and churchyard (PRN 50150) is also suggestive of a possible early medieval foundation (Ludlow, 2004).

The 'taxatio' of 1291 lists the church as being within the parish of Llanarth and worth £6/13/4.

It is considered likely that a number of earlier churches or chapelrys may have been present at the site, but that the sites of the earlier churches have been lost to coastal erosion, although there is no evidence to confirm this.

([www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/db/taxatio/printbc.jsp?benkey=DA.CG.SA.17](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/db/taxatio/printbc.jsp?benkey=DA.CG.SA.17))

### 3 RESULTS

Underlying the topsoil was a layer of building debris (113), probably derived from the construction of the church in 1810. Below layer (113) was a possible a buried soil (114). Several cut features were identified beneath this layer, cutting through the natural clay subsoils. These were partially excavated to confirm the assumption that they were burials. A total of five intercutting east-west aligned burials were revealed within the trench. Grave [108] appeared to be cut through layer (113), suggesting it was later than 1810. Graves [110], [112] [116] and [106] appear to have been cut through layer (114) and were sealed by layer (113), suggesting that these graves were cut before 1810.

Grave [112] cuts grave [110], demonstrating that grave [110] is the earlier burial of the two, but no finds or dating evidence (such as pottery fragments,) or other finds such as coffin nails or shroud pins (which might help to date the burials) was found within the partially excavated fills of the grave cuts.

Four of the burials are at least 0.46m below the ground surface, Burial [116] on the southern edge of the trench, is situated at 0.31m below the ground surface. The shallow depth of the burials would suggest they are of relatively early date, but this remains speculative. The slight variation in east-west alignment demonstrated by some of the graves may also suggest a significant time depth to the burials.

No evidence of built structures was revealed within the evaluation trench. Other than confirming the presence of burials, no further excavation was considered necessary.

#### Context Descriptions

Context Number	Description	Depth
Layer (101)	Topsoil  Mid-brown homogenous silty clay, containing post medieval pot, roof tile and 15% small sub-angular and sub -rounded stone.	0.29m Thick.
(102) Same as (113)	Building debris layer  Mid greyish-brown silty clay. 60% Small medium sized angular and sub-angular stones. Occasional mortar fragments.	0.30m Thick.
(103) Same as (113)	Building debris layer  Mid-brown silty clay. 40% small angular shales. 1% mortar, one roofing tile and occasional Post-Medieval ceramics	0.30m Thick.
(104) Same as (113)	Building debris layer  Mid-brown silty clay. Rare small pieces of sub-angular shale.	0.30m Thick.
Layer (113)	Building debris Layer  Dark brown friable silty clay. 40% small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. With occasional medium and large stones, possibly dressed building stone.	0.30m Thick.
Fill (107)	Fill of Grave [108].  Firm mid blackish-brown silty clay. 30% stone mostly sub-rounded. The fill contained one piece of butchered animal bone. This grave contained a possible juvenile inhumation in a poor state of preservation.	Excavated to 0.55m below ground level.

Cut [108]	Grave cut containing fill (107). The cut was 0.45m wide. The grave was aligned east-west.	Grave cut visible 0.22m below ground level.
Fill (109)	Fill of Grave [110]. Mid brown friable silty clay with 30% small sub angular and sub rounded stones.	Unexcavated.
Cut [110]	Grave cut containing fill (109). This grave was cut by later grave [112]. The grave cut was 0.19m wide and protruded 0.58m from the western section.	Unexcavated.
Fill (111)	Fill of grave cut [112]. Friable dark brown silty clay. 10% small sub-angular stones.	Burial at 0.66m below ground level.
Cut [112]	Grave cut containing fill (111). The grave extended from the east section to the west section of the trench and at maximum was 0.45m wide. This grave truncates earlier grave [110].	Grave cut visible 0.44m below ground level.
Fill (114)	Possible buried soil This fill was a friable dark greyish-brown silty clay. Particle size 0.02mm-0.06mm with 10% small sub-angular stones.	0.18m thick.
Fill (105)	Fill of grave [106]. Mid brown silty clay. 20% small sub-angular stones. Grave unexcavated	Excavated to 0.22m.
Cut [106]	Grave cut containing fill (105). Protrudes slightly from east section.	Grave cut visible 0.36m below ground level.
Fill (115)	Fill of grave [116]. Light greyish-brown silty clay with 20% small sub angular stones	
Cut [116]	Grave cut containing burial at the southern extremity of the trench.	0.31m below ground level.
Natural subsoil (117)	Yellowish brown silty clay.	0.67m below ground level.
Fill (118)	Yellowish brown silty clay. This fill is possibly spoil from grave [108].	0.20m thick.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The archaeological evaluation trench revealed no structural remains within the area of the proposed extension. Such remains may have been associated with earlier phases of construction of the church building. The evaluation has revealed that articulated skeletal material is present at a minimum depth of 0.30m, demonstrating that cemetery activity predating the 1810 church is present within the area of the proposed extension.

With an appropriate scheme of proposed development works, the need for further archaeological mitigation can be avoided. It is recommended that if possible the proposed extension should avoid or minimise potential disturbance of burials through sympathetic architectural design of the foundations (using a raft foundation – as is already the preferred option for the development proposals).

Following a review of the proposed development, if the need for further archaeological mitigation cannot be avoided, the required scope of work should be discussed with the local Diocesan Advisory Committee, but archaeological excavation of burials, or removal of skeletal material from the site is not recommended, as this undoubtedly would be costly, unnecessary and of little archaeological value.

## **6 SOURCES**

### **Map**

Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire Sheet. XXIV NW 1<sup>st</sup> edition. 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire Sheet. XXIV NW 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 1:10,560

Ordnance Survey 1997 1:50000. Lampeter & Llandovery.

### **Unpublished Sources**

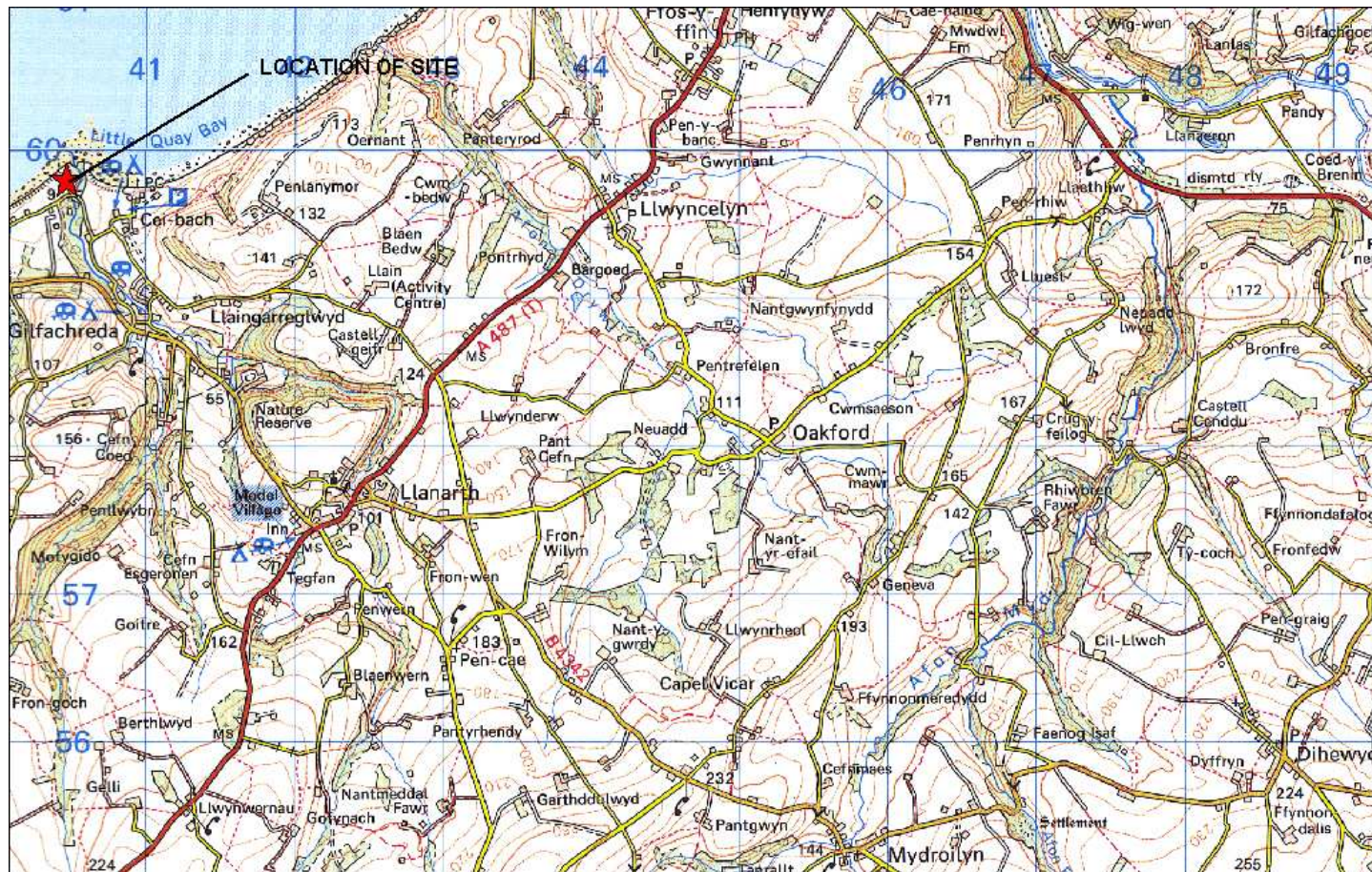
Ludlow N 2000 CADW. *Welsh Historic Church's, Project, Ceredigion Church's*. Cambria (DAT) Archaeology Report Number 2000\48

Ludlow N 2002 CADW. *Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Ceredigion Part 1*. Cambria (DAT) Archaeology Report Number 2004/31

### **Internet Sources**

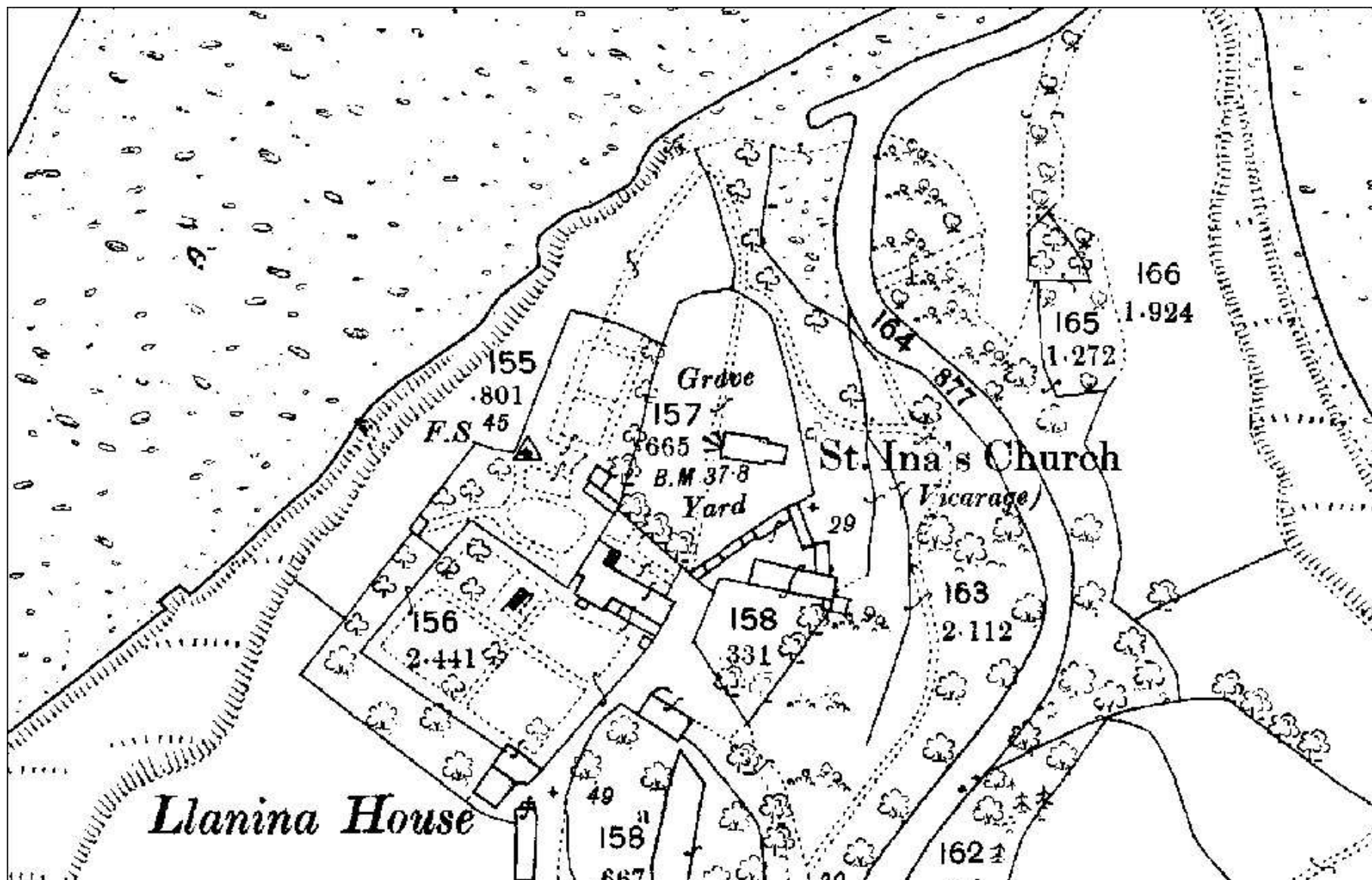
[www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/db/taxatio/printbc.jsp?benkey=DA.CG.SA.17](http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/db/taxatio/printbc.jsp?benkey=DA.CG.SA.17)





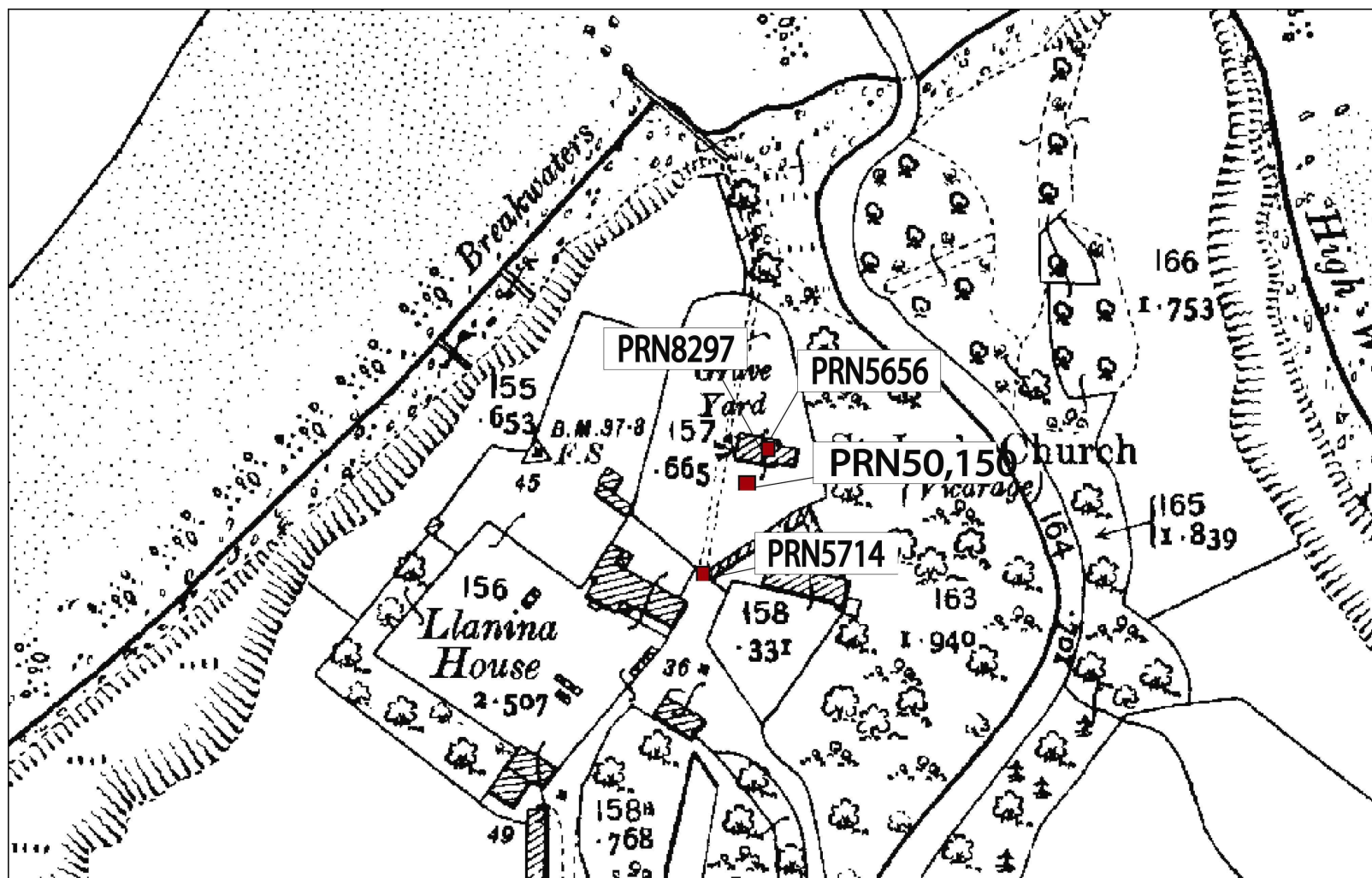
**Figure 1:** Location map of site based on Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 2002 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, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

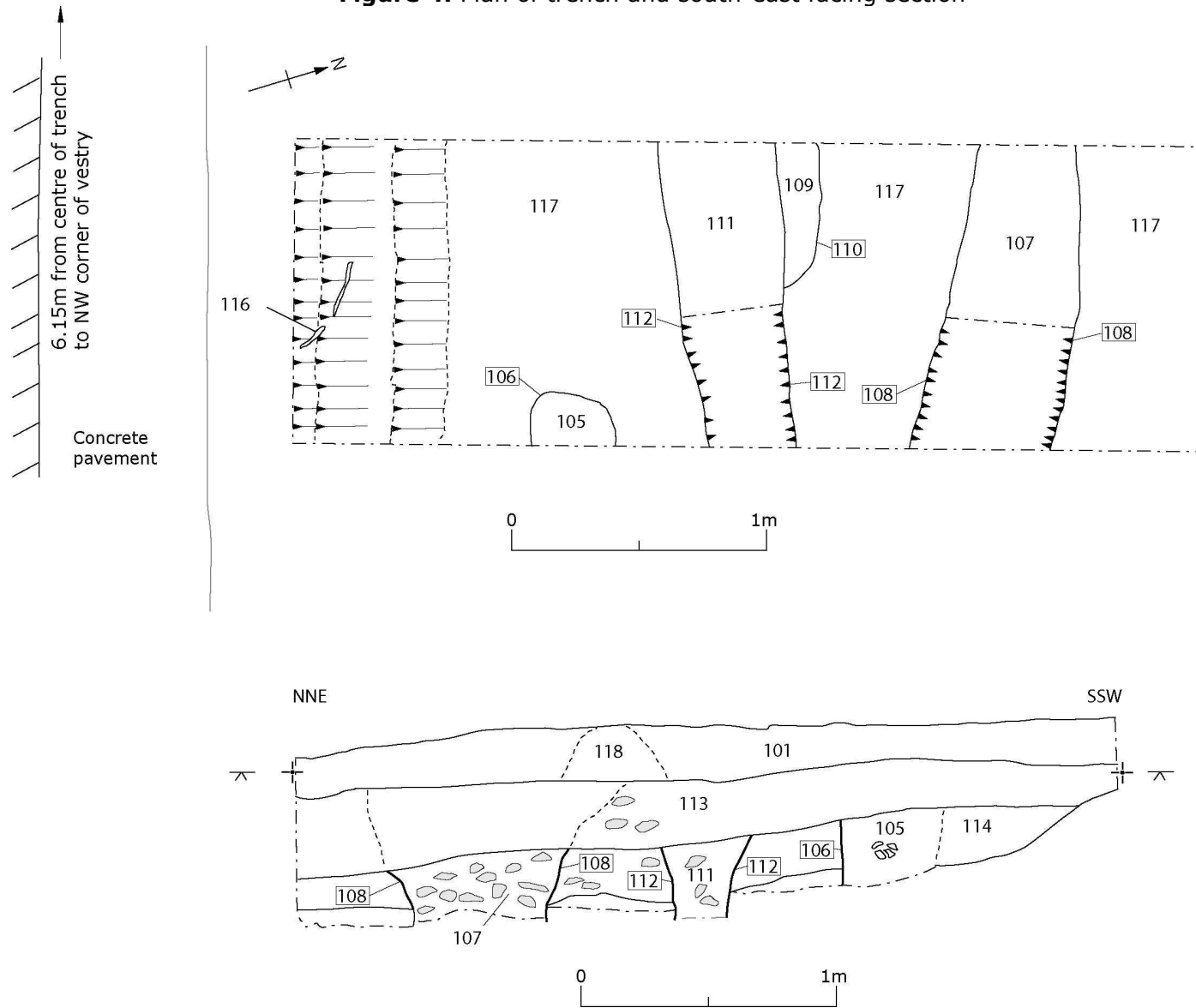


**Figure 2:** Extract of 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey Map 1888.

**Figure 3:** Extract of 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey Map 1906 showing PRN locations.



**Figure 4:** Plan of trench and south-east facing section



<i>Period</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

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

<b>PRN</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>FORM</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>
50,150	SN40495982	LLANINA PARISH CHURCH; ST INA'S	Earthwork	Medieval/Early Medieval
5,656	SN4049459826	LLANINA PARISH CHURCH;ST INA'S	Building	Post Medieval
57,514	SN4047659793	LYNCHGATE TO CHURCH OF ST.INA, LLANINA	Building	Post Medieval
8,297	SN40495982	LLANINA PARISH CHURCH; ST INA'S	Building	Post Medieval

**Table 2:** Recorded archaeological sites within close proximity to the evaluation area.



**Photo. 1:** South facing view of trench after removal of topsoil.



**Photo. 2:** South facing view showing grave cuts



**Photo. 3:** West facing view of graves [108] and [112].



**Photo 4:** East facing view of graves [108] and [112].



**Photo 5:** South facing view showing grave [116].

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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.

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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*