

LITTLE DIBLEY, CRINOW, NARBERTH PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2017

(NGR SN 1276 1438)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Ms Rhian Pugh



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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NARBERTH, PEMBROKESHIRE:
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2017**

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the churchyard of Little Dibley (formerly St Teilo Church - Listed Building ID 6535; PRNs 4925, 17343, 46787, 60386), Crinow, Narberth, Pembrokeshire (NGR 1276 1438) in order to address an archaeological condition placed upon the planning decision for the proposed conversion and extension of the former St Teilo Church (Planning Application Number 15/0322/PA and Listed Building Consent 15/0320/LB).

The church was made redundant in 2011 and offered for sale by The Representative Body of the Church in Wales for residential conversion. The present owner, Ms Rhian Pugh commissioned the required archaeological evaluation and photographic survey from DAT Archaeological Services.

The development site lies on the northeastern side of the church in an area where there are no marked graves. Some 20th century graves lie to the north and west of the proposed extension. The development is located on higher ground than the church floor, therefore the ground level in the cemetery will need to be reduced so that the extension is at the same floor level as the rest of the church. This would significantly impact on any archaeological remains which may be present.

The cemetery is a sub-rectangular enclosure and occupied by Crinow Parish church. The church has a Celtic dedication - St Teilo - which might suggest an early medieval origin for its foundations.

A single trench, covering the proposed footprint of the extension was opened using a mechanical excavator. It measured approximately 11m long; 7.5m wide at the east end and 2m wide at the west end. A difference of c.0.5m was noted between the probable natural ground surfaces at the eastern and western halves of the trench.

Significant archaeological remains were encountered at a depth of between c.0.2m and 0.8m in the eastern half of the site and 0.9m below the current ground surface in the western half.

The eastern half of the site revealed six sub-rectangular features aligned in a NE – SW direction, similar to the orientation of the church. They are assumed to be cut into the natural ground surface but until further investigations are made this is not certain. None of these features were excavated but their dimensions, form, alignment and grouping suggest possible burials of likely medieval origin.

At the west end of the trench a well preserved lime-mortared wall running parallel with the church was revealed; its southern face truncated by an 18th/19th century grave. It is evident that the western half of the site has been the focus of numerous activity in the past ranging from the construction of the mortared wall; the excavation of the grave; the building of a boiler house and the digging of a pit to accommodate the ash created by the boiler house. The NE and SE facing sections in this half of the site suggest two phases of backfilling.

The few artefacts recovered during the excavation included coffin nails with attached timber from the 18th/19th century burial and a piece of lime plaster with wattle impression recovered from the rubble infill, possibly originating from one of two cottages demolished nearby. The features revealed during the excavation (apart from the 18th/19th century burial) suggest that this part of the churchyard was used for burials in the medieval period. It is likely that further archaeological mitigation will be required if the development is to proceed because of the potential significance of the archaeological deposits.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Ms Rhian Pugh to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed extension to Little Dibley (formerly Crinow Church), Crinow, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, situated in the northeastern area of the encompassing churchyard. (Planning Application number 15/0322/PA).

1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the development by Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Authority but under the guidance of the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services) the following condition was placed on the planning application decision:

No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority Reason: To protect archaeological interests within the site and to accord with policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).

1.1.3 The requirement for the archaeological investigation had been placed upon the development as the church is deemed to have medieval origins and the proposals could impact upon burials and/or structural remains of earlier phases of the church.

1.1.4 The purpose of the evaluation was to provide information on the character, and significance of any below ground archaeological remains that may be present within the development area.

1.2 Scope of Project

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works, which was approved by the local planning authority.

1.2.2 The evaluation was designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area. The evaluation would record the identified remains and make a judgement in terms of whether a more detailed programme of archaeological works should be implemented in advance of the development.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results, and puts those results within their regional and national context.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMW – Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 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.

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 ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

² 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 Site Location

- 2.1.1 Crinow is a small settlement situated approximately 1.5km from the centre of Narberth, Pembrokeshire. The settlement lies at the end of a cul-de-sac some 300m NE of the B4314. The surrounding area is predominately agricultural with gently rolling hills and wooded valleys.
- 2.1.2 The development area is located within the raised, sub-rectangular cemetery of Crinow Church, on the northeastern side of the building. The southern edge of the excavation runs parallel, c.0.6m away, with the church and its boiler house. In the vicinity of the of the development the ground surface slopes gently down from north to south but there is a marked break of slope west of the boiler house c.1m from the church.
- 2.1.3 The cemetery is surrounded to the north, east and west by several dwellings and agricultural buildings. Several large trees had also been removed in the vicinity of the site, prior to the archaeological evaluation.

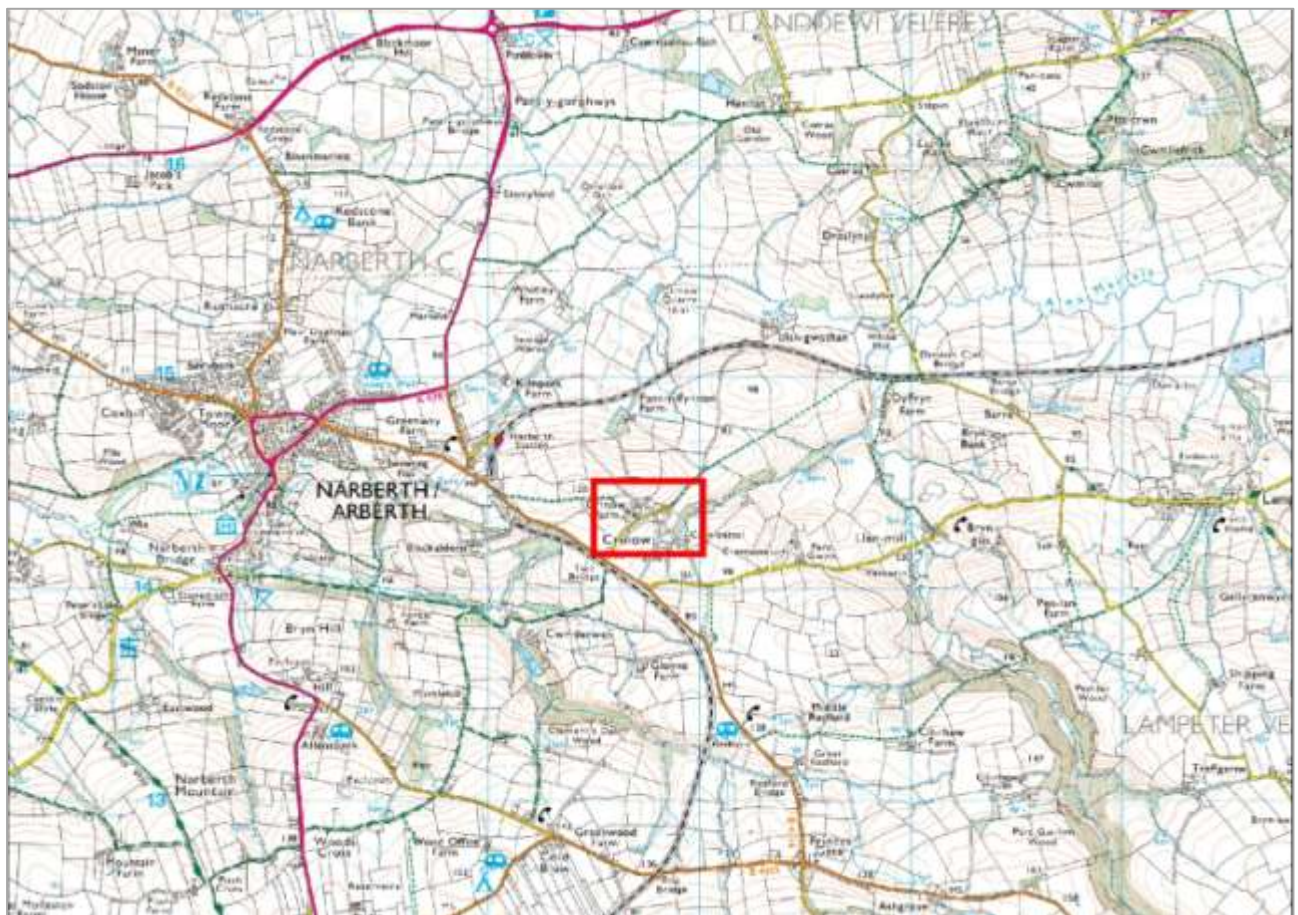


Figure 1: Site location of proposed development based upon the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer 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.

2.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Potential

- 2.2.1 The information described in Table 2 is taken from the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and describes sites lying within close vicinity to the proposed development.
- 2.2.2 Besides Crinow church (PRN 4925) and its cemetery (PRN 46787) a search of the Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed three further sites of archaeological and historic interest within 250m of the proposed development site.
- 2.2.3 Approximately 90m to the west of the proposed development area lies Pant Glas, (PRN 6743), a Grade II Listed 18th/19th century country house.
- 2.2.4 The other two sites are situated some 230m south of the development and are evidence of medieval activity within close proximity of the development site. The nearest is Green Castle (PRN 3764, PE412) a sub-circular medieval motte up to 34m in diameter and 4.5m high with traces of a ditch to the south and west. No recorded history is known about this site but mottes were defensive strongholds erected to control and oversee an area in the earlier part of the medieval period. A linear ditch (PRN 13309) is situated a little to the south of the motte which possibly might be associated with its defensive arrangements.
- 2.2.5 The former St Teilo's church was included in the South Pembrokeshire part of the Historic Churches Project (Ludlow 2000) and the following information is summarised from that study:
- St Teilo's church may have early medieval (pre-1086) origins due to its dedication to a Celtic saint.
 - The church is recorded as being a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Carmarthen during the medieval period.
 - It was in Crown patronage by 1594.
 - The church was recorded as being in poor repair in 1710 and again in 1833, the same year that Crinow became a parish.
 - The existing church may retain some medieval fabric, but was largely restored in 1839 and 1894.
 - The church was reroofed in 1839 and at the same time the south porch is likely to have been added. The south wall and chancel were also rebuilt at this time and the west window of the nave may also have been added at this time.
 - The 1894 renovations included the addition of the small vestry and boiler house to the north. The windows, other than that in the west wall of the nave were inserted at this time, replacing earlier openings. The floors were replaced (including the underfloor heating system) with the stone slabs probably being reused. The interior was replastered and the wooden pews, pulpit and vestry screen added.
- 2.2.6 The following is a transcript of Edward Tenison's, Archdeacon of Carmarthen, account of his visit to Crinow Church in 1710, as part of his remit to visit all churches in the Archdeaconry.

'The walls of the Chancell & the Church from one end to the other want rendring & whiting. A very great part of the Tiling of the roof of the Church is dropt down. The windows of the Chancell are without Glass. The floor of the Church and Chancell are uneven. Stones and rubbish lie scatter'd over the church floor in many places. The Fence of the Church

yard is down. Minister Thomas Morgan, who lives in Llan Ddewi welffri. Reputed value about 10£ a year. He is vicar of Llan Ddewi welffri & Llan Fallteg. The first is about a mile distant, the last about two miles. He reads prayers once every Sunday. He preaches once a fortnight, one time in Welsh & another in English. No Catechizing. Bread & Wine at Easter provided at the charge of the Minister. Sacrament administred only at Easter and Whitsuntide. Four poor people can read Welsh. About ten families in the Parish. The east End of the Chancell roof wants ripping, & so doth most of the church roof. Elders on the northside of the Church near the wall to be destroy'd.'

'Elders' in the above text refers to the elder trees that needed removal.

PRN No.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
3764	Green Castle; Clyn Pattel - Motte	Earthworks thought to represent a medieval castle mount; steep sided sub-circular mound some 32-34m across and 4.5m high, having a rather irregular summit area, some 17 to 20m across. There are traces of ditch on the south and west, elsewhere the mound rises above two minor watercourses Scheduled Ancient Monument PE412.	SN12841418	Medieval
6743	Pant Glas - Dwelling	Grade II Listed 18 th /19 th century country house Listed Building Ref No 6534	SN12851435	Post medieval
13309	Crinow – Linear ditch	A drain possibly associated with the defensive arrangements at Crinow motte. Appears to link with a linear ditch or former hedgebank.	SN12821415	Medieval
4925	Crinow Parish Church; St Teilo	Medieval parish church, small, comprising chancel, nave. Much rebuilt in 18 th -19 th centuries.	SN12761437	Medieval Post medieval
46787	Crinow Parish Church; St Teilo - earthwork	Early medieval C site, ie. low –probability early medieval origins. Possibly represents church/chapel site of 'Llandeilo Tref y Cernwy' mentioned in 12 th century Llandaff Charter.	SN12761437	Early medieval

Table 2: Archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER lying within 250m of the proposed development; illustrated in Figure 4.

- 2.2.7 A review of earlier maps shows that the shape of the churchyard was previously more rectangular, with rounded corners, as shown on both Tithe Map of 1841 (Figure 2) and the 1889 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). By the 1908 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), a former garden area to the southeast had been incorporated into the churchyard.
- 2.2.8 The map also shows two dwellings formerly located directly to the north of the churchyard. The first, a cottage, was situated 15m NW of the development site on the other side of the cemetery enclosure. It is shown on the 1840 Tithe map (Figure 2) and the 1889 first edition OS (Figure 3), but by the time of the 1908 OS it has been demolished. The other dwelling is the original East Farm, located 30m to the north of the development. It also appears on the 1840 Tithe map (Figure 2) and the 1889 OS map (Figure 3) but by the 1908 OS map, a large amount of the building had been removed.

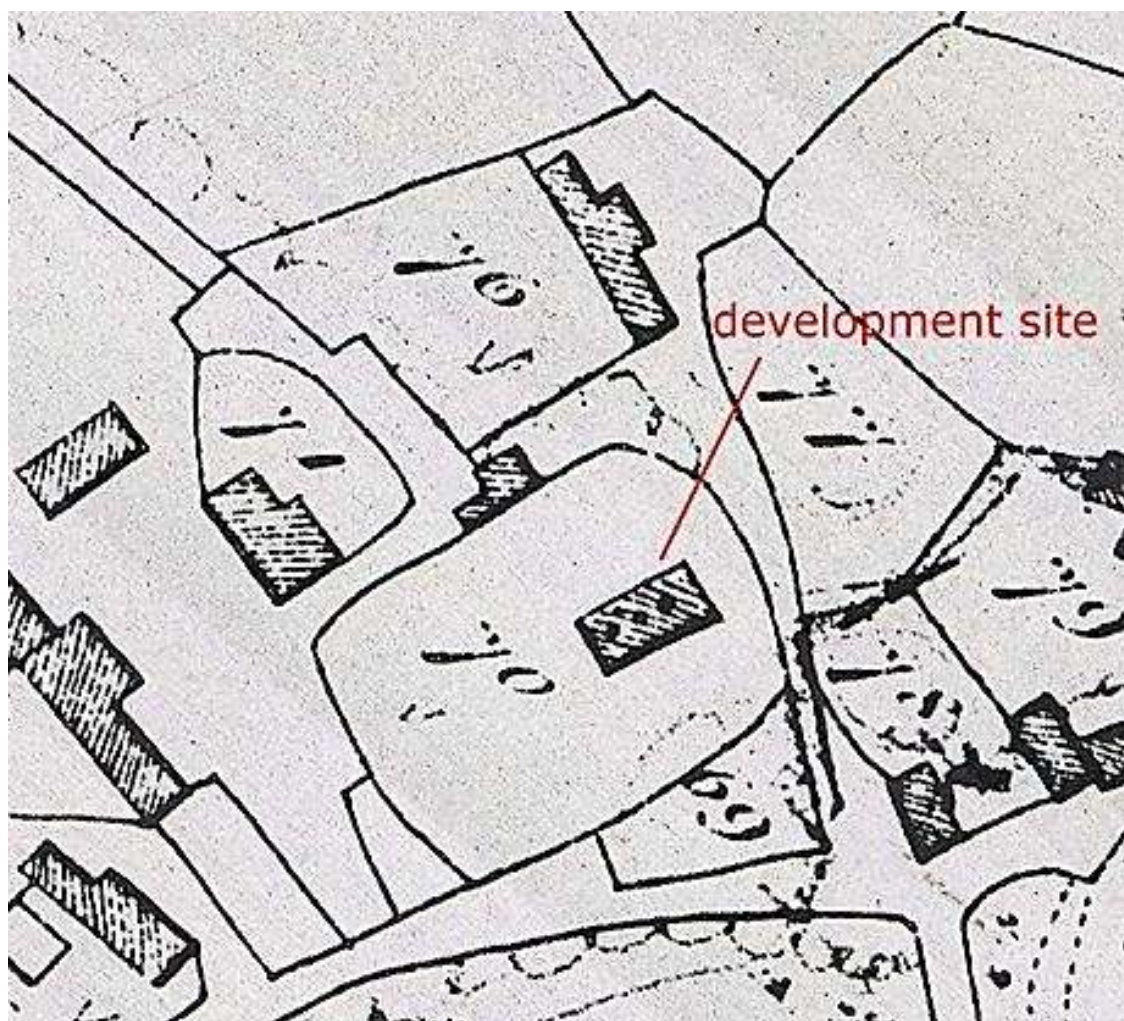


Figure 2: Extract from 1840 parish tithe map.



Figure 3: Extract from 1889 1st Edition OS 25" map. Evaluation trench in red.

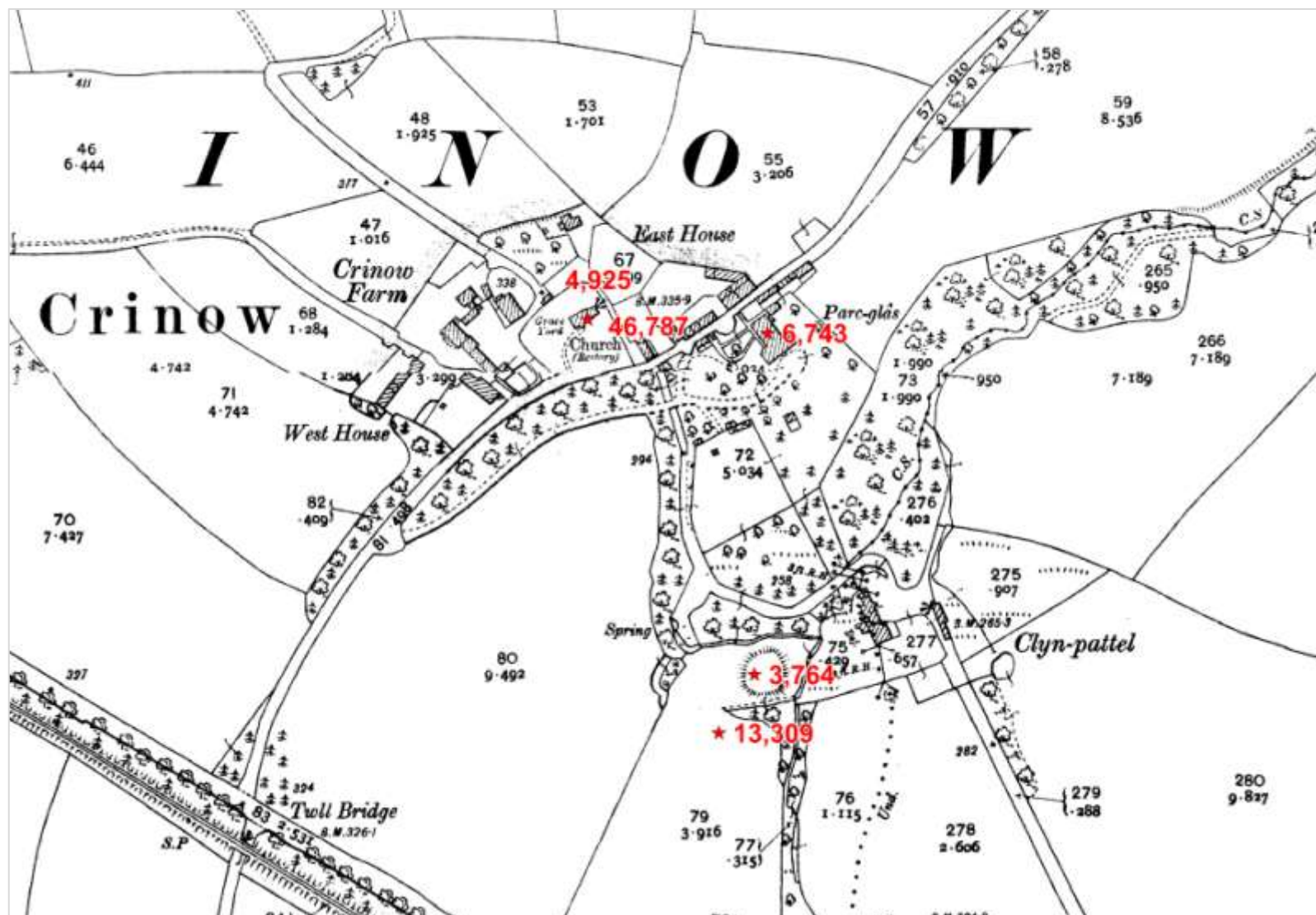


Figure 4: Extract from 1908 2nd Edition OS 25" map showing the archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER lying within 250m of the proposed development; listed in Table 2.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 To ascertain the significance and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits within the development area a trench was excavated corresponding to the footprint of the proposed extension.
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed, and the trench was excavated down onto archaeological levels.
- 3.1.3 At the western end of the trench the proximity of two modern graves (c. 0.5m to the north) and the location of the brick boiler house (2.3m long and extending 1.8m from the north wall of the church) impeded the mechanical excavator to an extent; consequently in order to reach the appropriate depth a sondage, 0.4m wide, was excavated by hand along the bottom of the west section, extending for 1.5m along the north section.
- 3.1.4 Following machine excavation, the trench was hand cleaned using trowels to sharply define the cuts and deposits. Certain areas were re-troweled a number of times to improve the definition of features.
- 3.1.5 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context recording sheet, scale drawing, photography and site note books. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services Recording Manual³. Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured drawings and sketches. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.1.6 The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble 5600 TST and the results imported into GIS.
- 3.1.7 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of January 2017.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.2.1 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 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2.2 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 DAT Archaeological Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

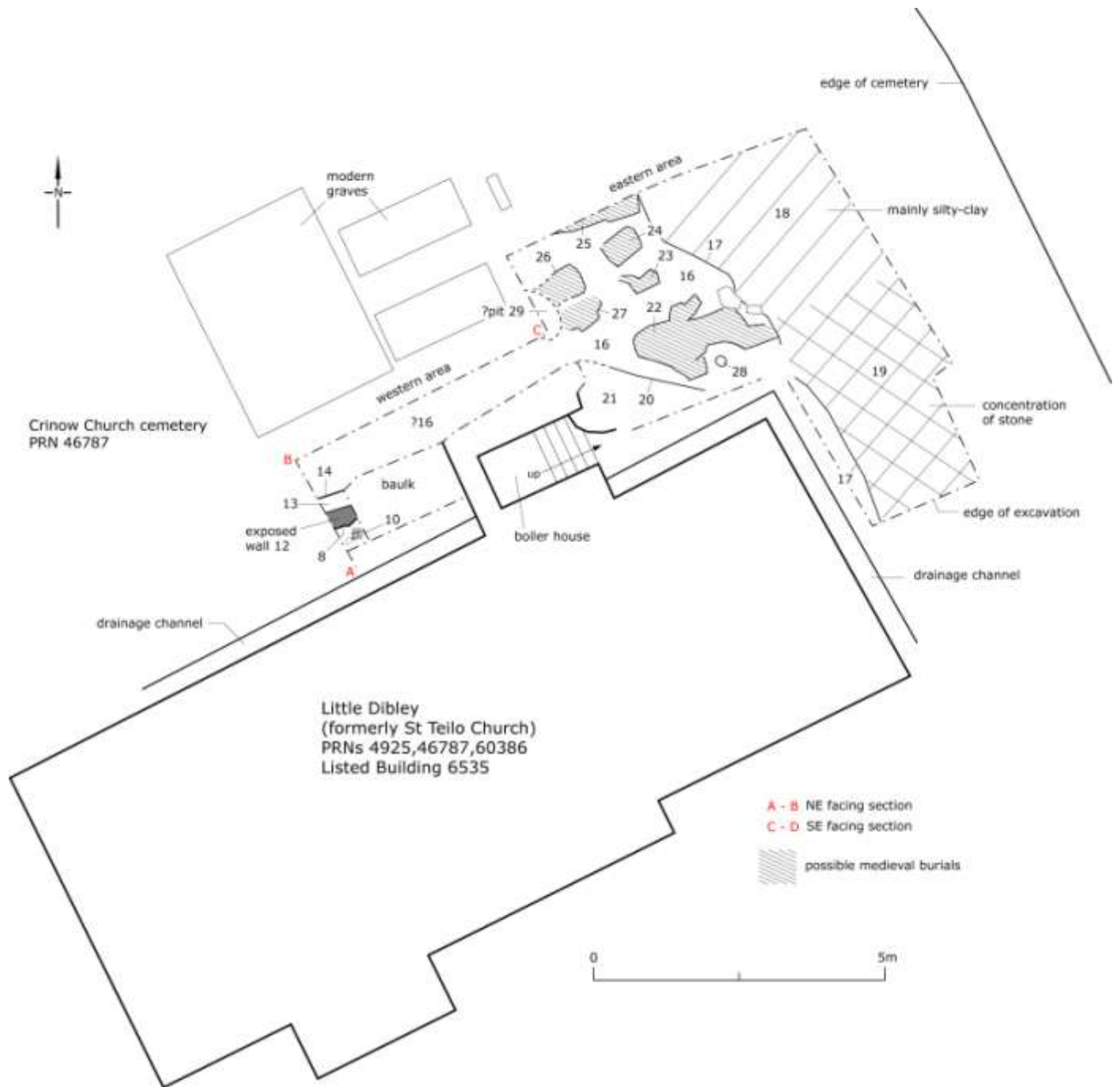


Figure 5: Plan of archaeological features within evaluation trench

4. EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 An evaluation trench corresponding to the foot print of the proposed extension was excavated along the eastern half of the north wall of the church. It measured 11m long and its width ranged from 2.1m at the west end to 7.6m at the east end. It extended 3.3m beyond the east wall of the church. For the purpose of this report the trench has been divided into western and eastern areas (Figure 5).

4.2 Western area

4.2.1 The western area measured 5.1m x 2.1m wide at the west end, narrowing to 0.85m at the east end where the boiler house protrudes out from the church wall. The southern edge of the trench ran alongside a concrete drainage channel and was approximately 0.6m from the church wall. The area's small size and the fact that it has been very disturbed in the past by a number of separate events made identifying what constitutes the surface of the natural ground difficult.



Photo 1: Northeast facing section. 1m scale.

4.2.2 The top of the east-facing section sloped down gently towards the south, but 1.2m from the church wall it turned sharply down (Photo 1, Figure 6). The topsoil (1) was a medium-brown, silty-clay containing occasional small stones, brick and roots. It was cut on the south side by feature (02) the fill of which (3) was a dark-brown almost stone-free, silty-clay. This cut was probably associated with the construction of a concrete drainage channel that runs alongside the church wall.

4.2.3 Below the topsoil a c.0.38m thick layer of grey-brown, silty-clay (04) containing small lumps and flecks of plaster and pieces of slate was observed, beneath which stood a layer of rubble [05]; a grey-brown, silty-clay containing medium to large angular and sub-angular stones, pieces of

slate and flecks of plaster. These layers were probably deposited in order to level the ground surface at some point in the past. The rubble could have originated from the church or possibly from two dwellings formerly located to the north of the site.

- 4.2.4 The most salient feature in the section exposed in this area was wall (12) (Photos 1 and 2). It was 0.55m high and approximately 0.35m wide at the base, narrowing to 0.15 at the top. The top of the wall lay 0.9m below the present ground surface. It was of rubble construction and utilised lime mortar (cream coloured mix containing small shale fragments). The north face was relatively undisturbed, but the south face has been truncated by grave cut (8). Whether the top of the wall had also been truncated was not certain. The short (0.35m) length of wall visible in plan between the east facing section and the baulk showed an alignment similar to the church (Photo 3, Figure 4). Whether the wall was part of a building or for revetting purposes is unknown. There was no indication in the south facing section of any corresponding structure, therefore it is reasonable to assume that if there was a angle it would turn towards the church. If the wall continued beneath the boiler house it is unlikely that any remains would survive, as the floor of the boiler house was c.1.7m below the top of the surviving wall and would almost certainly have completely removed any remains or footings.



Photo 2: View East of wall (12) in sondage. Grave (8) right of wall (skull having been removed). 0.5m scale



Photo 3: Green stain on skull produced by copper shroud pin. 0.5m scale.

- 4.2.5 The south facing side of wall (12) is ragged, having been truncated by the grave cut (8) to accommodate burial (10). When investigated the grave was found to contain articulated skeletal remains buried in an east-west alignment. Green stains, typical of copper shroud pins were visible on the cranium and mandible (Photo 3). Four coffin nails with small pieces of timber attached were retrieved from the upper fill of the grave. The grave-fill was a dark brown, silty-clay containing mortar/plaster flecks and small pieces of slate.
- 4.2.6 The top of the burial was capped with medium sized pieces of broken slate (09) (Figure 6). Above the slate, was a layer of c.0.8m depth comprising ash (07) - presumably wood ash, as no cinder or coal was observed. The tip-lined ash butted up against the truncated south side of the wall and was visible in the east and north facing sections (Photos 1 and 4; Figure 6). It is probable that during the time that the boiler room was operational, a pit was excavated to dispose of the ash it produced, and whilst excavating the lower levels of this pit, burial (10) was discovered. The top of the burial was probably exposed and to protect it a layer of slate (09) was then placed over it. The dimensions of the pit are not known as it extended beyond the limits of the evaluation area (footprint of the proposed extension) to the east and continued under the southern and western sections. To the north it was bounded by wall (12). It is uncertain whether the upper half of grave cut (08), which is more jagged, is a recut associated with excavating the pit or the original grave cut for burial (10).



Photo 4: North facing section showing tip-lined ash deposit (07). 0.5m scale



Photo 5 : View Southwest; slate layer (13) covering burial prior to removal.
1m scale.

- 4.2.7 Cut (14) was visible in what was probably the undisturbed natural substrat (15), a hard, clean, orangey-brown, silty-clay containing small to medium stones. The cut seemed to be part of the construction trench for wall (12). The trench was filled by (13) a deposit of mainly small angular stones, also containing some large stone and boulders up to 0.4m long. This deposit butted up to wall (12), and continues along the south-facing section for approximately 4m. This could be levelling material possibly derived from the groundworks associated with the building of the wall. (Photos 6 and 7; Figures 6 and 7).
- 4.2.8 Above (13) in the east facing section was a layer of broken, clean slate up to 0.35m thick. This layer butted up to the wall. It was also visible in the south facing section but only as a very thin layer extending for approximately 1m. This probably represented dumped material, but a surface of some kind cannot be ruled out (Photos 1,5 and 6; Figures 6 and 7).
- 4.2.9 Layers (1), (4), (5), (6), (13), and (15) were also visible in the south-facing section (Photos 6, 7 and 8; Figure 7) with (1), (4), (5) representing a later phase of backfilling and levelling. It is unclear whether context (6) belonged to the earlier or later phase.
- 4.2.10 At the base of the east end of the section a deposit of pale orange-brown, silty-clay containing small fragments of stone (16) was revealed. Its relation to context (13) was obscured by context (5) intruding between the two deposits. Layer (16) continued eastwards and was cut by all the features in the eastern half of the site (see below). The base of the outside wall of the church lay below the top of this layer, so it could possibly represent a layer of redeposited natural ground.



Photo 6: West end of southeast facing section (see Figure 7).



Photo 7: Central area of southeast facing section (see Figure 7).



Photo 8: East end of southeast facing section (see Figure 7).

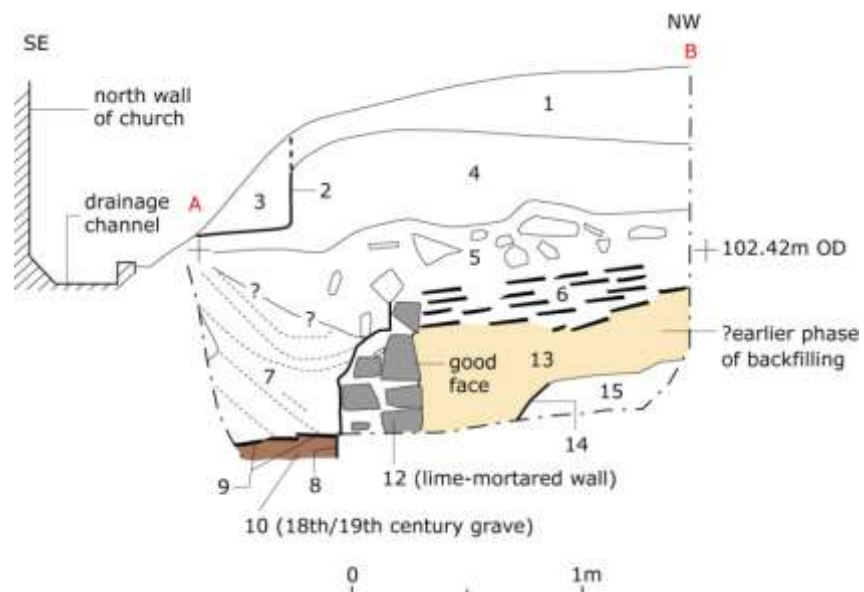


Figure 6: Northeast facing section at west end of site.

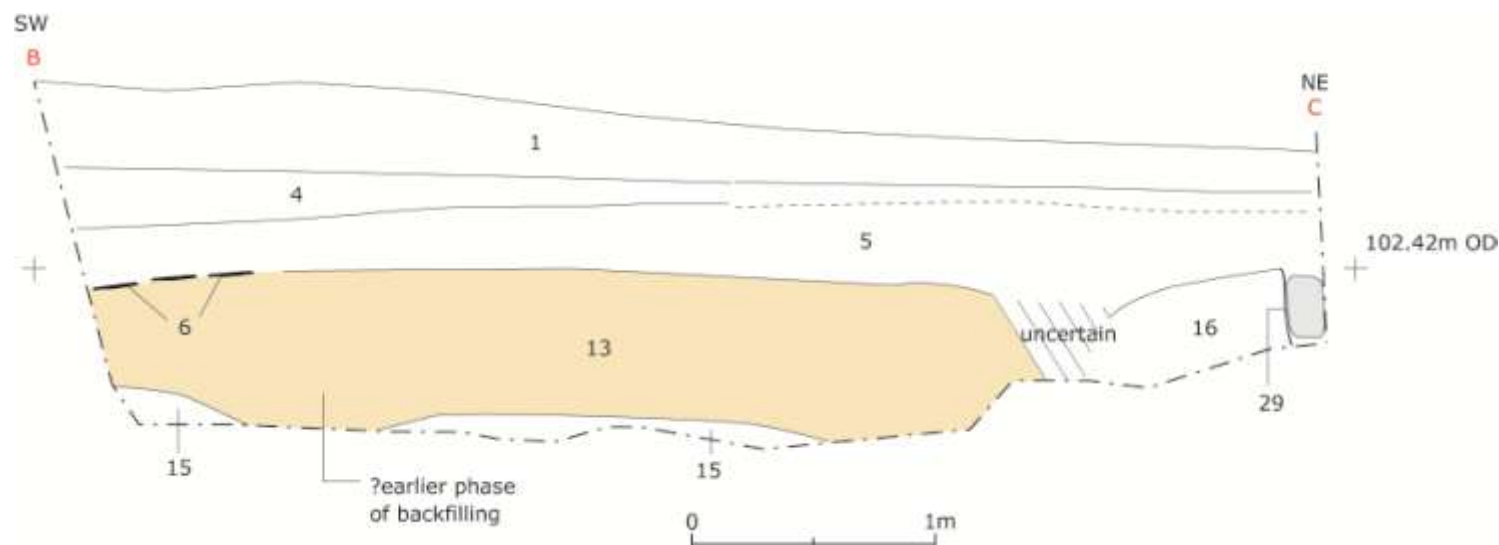


Figure 7: Southeast facing section in western half of site.

4.3 Eastern area

- 4.3.1 All of the features in this area were revealed in plan; the sections around the edges of the trench consisted of a mixture of topsoil and stone with numerous roots. A possible grave cut (26) was visible protruding from the south facing section, but it very unclear. The locations of features discussed are shown in Figure 8..
- 4.3.2 The eastern area (Photos 9, 10 and 11; Figure 5) measured 5.6m east-west by 7.6m north-south; its southern and western edges were adjacent to the concrete drainage channel that bordered the church.



Photo 9: View Southwest across eastern half of site. Possible medieval graves in middle ground; features (18) and (19) in foreground. 2m and 1m scale.

- 4.3.3 The average depth of the east-west section was 0.60m. The depth of the north-south section ranged from 0.7m at the northern end to 0.35 at the southern end.
- 4.3.4 The area was excavated down to the undisturbed natural substrata (16); this was a compact, orange-brown, silty-clay containing small sized stone fragments.
- 4.3.5 Cut (17) traversed the entire width of the site; running adjacent to the church wall some 0.9m away. In the northern half of the site the cut was filled by context (18) a grey-brown, silty-clay containing occasional stone. The southern half of the cut was filled by context (19) a similar soil matrix to (18) but with a much higher stone content. A sondage cut into (19) at the southern end of the trench showed that it was still present at a depth c.0.5m below the top of the exposed ground surface. The stratigraphic relationship between (18) and (19) was not investigated and the purpose of cut (17) is unknown but it may represent a ditch or trackway.
- 4.3.6 At the southwest corner of the trench the cut of the excavated area for the boiler room (20) was visible, though its fill (21) was not investigated.



Photo 10: Looking northwest across eastern half of site; possible graves cut into orange natural; (18) and (19) in the foreground. 1m scale

- 4.3.7 In an area bounded by cuts (17) to the east and (20) to the west, six elongated features were revealed (22), (23), (24), (25), (26) and (27). All were aligned NE-SW (a similar orientation to that of the church) and cut into the underlying natural, (16). Roots had disturbed these features making their edges a little amorphous, but clearly defined straight cuts were also visible and most retained a sub-rectangular form, apart from (22) and (25) which probably consist of a number of intercutting features similar in size to the others in the group. Their fills were fairly consistent, comprising stiff, grey-brown, silty-clays containing small fragments of

mudstone, red sandstone and quartz with frequent pieces of charcoal. Feature (23) also contained some small pieces of lime plaster. Features (26) and (27) contained some large stones and may have been contaminated by a later pit (29) (Photos 11 and 12). The straight cuts alluded to earlier suggest that these are not natural features such as tree holes, although this cannot be entirely discounted. Nevertheless taking into account their location, form, grouping and alignment it is almost certain that these features are Christian burials.

4.3.8 The approximate dimensions of each grave is as follows:

- (22) 1.9m x 1.35m. Probably contains several inter-cutting elements.
- (23) 0.45m x 0.3m.
- (24) 0.65m x 0.4m
- (25) 1.55m long; width under section. Probably composed of two inter-cutting elements.
- (26) c.0.58m x 0.45m. Unclear at west end.
- (27) c.0.75m x 0.35m. Unclear at west and north sides.



Photo 11: Looking northwest at possible graves [26] and [27].
1m and 0.5m scale.

4.3.9 Posthole (28) c.0.2m in diameter, was uncovered approximately 0.2m from (22). It may be associated with the renovation of the church or the building of the boiler house and if the hypothesis that features (22) to (27) are Christian burials is correct, it may be a grave marker.

4.3.10 A later ?pit/treehole (29) filled during the period of ground levelling, was observed in section and plan, intruding into features (27) and (28).



Photo 12: Looking southwest at ?pit (29). 1m and 0.5m scales



Photo 13: Looking SW towards possible grave (22). 0.5m scale



Photo 14: Looking SW along possible grave (23). 0.5m scale

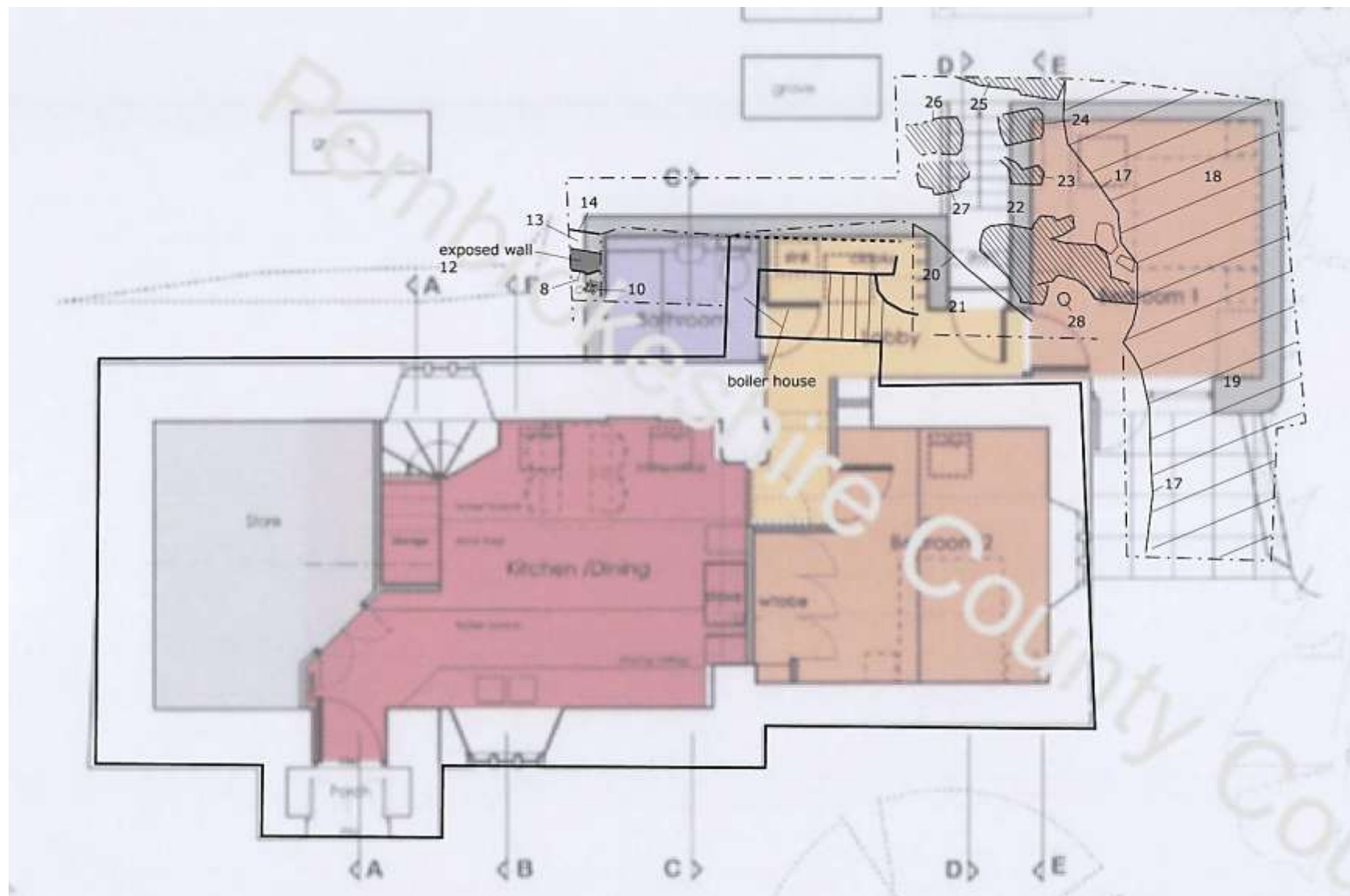


Figure 8: Plan of proposed development with overlay of archaeological features

Deposit/feature No.	Description
1	Topsoil – friable, medium brown silty-clay. Contains small to medium stones, brick and roots.
2	Cut – sharp cut into topsoil. Probably associated with modern drainage channel beside church.
3	Fill of [2]. Similar to topsoil but darker.
4	Friable, grey-brown, silty-clay. Contains small to medium size slate (roof remnants?) and pieces of plaster. Demolition material used for levelling.
5	Grey-brown, silty-clay containing large amount of stone. Demolition material used for levelling.
6	Layer of clean slate. Up to 0.35m thick in east-facing section. Butts up to top of wall [12] and extends along south facing section, where it's much thinner and stops after c.1m.
7	Deposit of wood ash up to 0.8m thick. Tip lines visible in section. Probably originated from firebox in boiler house.
8	Cut through south face of wall [12] for 18 th /19 th century grave. Upper level possibly recut for pit to accommodate ash [7].
9	Layer of broken slate above grave [10]. Laid when grave was disturbed when excavating pit to accommodate [7]?
10	18 th /19 th century grave. Only partially excavated. Top of fill a grey-brown, silty-clay containing small stone and fragments of slate. Upper half of well preserved, articulated skeleton seen, rest under baulk. Green staining from copper shroud pins on mandible and cranium. Coffin nails with wood attached in fill.
12	Lime-mortared rubble wall. Top of wall 0.9m down from present ground surface. 0.35m wide at base of trench. Good face on north side; south face truncated by [8]; top of wall probably truncated as well. Cream coloured mortar with small shale fragments.
13	Dense deposit of mainly small angular stones, also containing some large stone and boulders up to 0.4m long. Butts up to [12] fills cut [14] and continues along south-facing section for approximately 4m. Upcast from groundworks of wall [12]? and used as levelling material?
14	Construction cut for wall. Cut into natural [15]. Filled by [13].
15	Natural. Hard, orangey-brown, silty-clay containing small to medium stones.
16	?Natural. Not quite as convincing as [15] but may well be a variant. Compact, orange-brown, silty-clay containing small/medium pieces of mudstone with patches of grey-brown silty-clay.
17	Cut. Aligned NW-SE. Traverses entire width of middle of eastern half of trench. Purpose of cut is uncertain. Edge of ditch? Trackway?
18	Grey-brown, silty-clay. Some stone. Present in northern half of east end of trench. Fills [17]. Relationship to [18] uncertain.
19	Deposit of rubble in southern half of east end of trench. Fills [17]. Relationship between [18] and [19] uncertain
20	Construction cut for boiler house.
21	Dark brown, silty-clay. Fill of [20]
22 - 27	Similarly aligned SW-NE features. Edges are occasionally vague due to root action but straight cuts also exist. Fills are fairly consistent; stiff, grey-brown, silty-clay containing fragments of mudstone, red

	sandstone and quartz with frequent pieces of charcoal. [23] also contains fragments of plaster. [26] and [27] are possibly contaminated judging by stones in the fill. Possible graves.
28	Post hole. Similar fill to [22]. May be associated with church renovations or construction of boiler house. ?Possibly post for grave marker.
29	?Pit. Grey brown, silty-clay includes slate pieces and small to medium stone,

Table 3: Descriptions of individually recorded archaeological deposits and features recorded during the evaluation.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation at Little Dibley (formerly Crinow Church) has demonstrated that archaeological remains are present within the footprint of the proposed extension to the church (Figure 8). These include possible medieval graves (22 – 27), a lime-mortared rubble wall (12), and a likely 18th/19th century grave (10).
- 5.2 Due to time constraints it was not possible to excavate the possible grave features (22 – 27) in order to confirm they are burials, therefore the possibility of them having a natural provenance cannot be totally discounted. Nevertheless the dimensions, form, alignment and grouping of these features coupled with comparisons to excavations at other medieval cemetery sites would indicate that these are indeed graves, possibly of medieval date. These would be considered archaeologically significant and of regional importance. These would need to be exhumed prior to the construction of the proposed extension at the former church.
- 5.3 The lime-mortared rubble wall might be associated with an earlier structure within the churchyard or it could be an earlier retaining wall, but at this juncture it is impossible to date and only further excavation will reveal its age and purpose.
- 5.4 There is the possibility that more 18th/19th graves might lie beneath the baulk alongside grave (10) and between the trench section and church wall. If so they will have been significantly truncated by previous groundworks at the church for the boiler house.
- 5.5 The various layers recorded within the western end of the evaluation trench suggests that the ground level in this area has been raised, possibly at the same time as the installation of the vestry and boiler house in 1894. Presumably the church was originally terraced into the hillside to some extent, but this terracing was extended when the vestry and boiler house were built. The excavated material was then laid on the ground to the north, creating the significant difference in levels between the church floor to the south and the top of the ground level to the north. This relaid material would have been partly dug through by the 20th century graves directly outside of the footprint of the proposed extension and covered any earlier graves that were present. If any grave markers for these earlier graves had been present they would have been moved at this time – although we have no record of this. It is also likely that any markers for graves (22 -27) had long since gone.
- 5.6 Current plans to extend the building into the churchyard at the existing church floor level would significantly impact the surviving archaeological remains, which could be considered to be of regional importance

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 If the surviving archaeological remains within the development area cannot be preserved *in situ* then it is likely that further archaeological mitigation would be required prior to development. This is expected to include full excavation of all archaeological deposits and features that will be impacted upon by the development.
- 6.2 The excavation and removal (exhumation) of the likely graves (22 -27) and the later grave (12) will be required. Further investigation of wall (12) is also very likely to be required. A programme of reburial for the exhumed remains within the churchyard would be appropriate.

7. SOURCES

7.1 Publications

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7.2 Database

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LITTLE DIBLEY, CRINOW, NARBERTH, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2017

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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

