



St Twrog's Church Maentwrog 2015

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Dr Kevin Blockley MIfA, MPhil, FSA

Report No. 689
Project No. 1232

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd
Old Chapel Farm, Llanidloes
Powys SY18 6JR
Telephone: 01686 413857
E-mail: info@cambarch.co.uk





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Non Technical Summary

This report results from a one-day watching brief on the cutting of a service trench for mains drainage from the boiler room to the east boundary of the graveyard. No significant archaeological levels were found.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 The site is located at the east end of the church adjacent to the north wall of the boiler room and extending east to the boundary wall of the graveyard (Fig 1).

1.1.2 The work is situated at National Grid Ref: SH 6645140596.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The solid geological formations beneath the assessment area are mainly composed of Cambrian rocks (British Geological Survey 2001). Natural rock was not located in the watching brief although the lower layer was probably a glacial clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The church was rebuilt in its entirety in 1819 on its old foundations. It was again remodelled in 1896 when the chancel was replaced.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The archaeological investigation

2.1.1 The main scope and objectives of the archaeological watching brief was to keep a close watch on the machine excavation of the service trench to ensure that no burials were disturbed and any archaeological deposits recorded.

2.1.2 The work was conducted in accordance with standards and guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

3 Methodology

3.1 Scope of Fieldwork

3.1.1 The watching brief was supervised by Dr Kevin Blockley of Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP).

3.1.3 A watch was kept on the excavation of the service trench and cutting through the boundary wall.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were made during the investigation.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No palaeo-environmental samples were taken from the site.

4 Results of the work

4.1 Soils, ground conditions and contexts

4.1.1 Conditions on site were good.

4.1.2 All numbers in brackets within the text refer to context records in the investigation. A site plan, context information and digital photographs are held in the archive.

4.2 Archaeological watching brief

4.2.1 The area being investigated at the east end of the church measured around 1m in length (Fig 1).

4.2.2 The sequence of deposits comprised four general contexts: The natural glacial clay with boulders (9), overlain by a layer of clayey loam with boulders (5) 0.3m thick, overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of topsoil and turf (6), and chipping path (4). Also record was the stone and boundary wall of the church (8), wall of the boiler room (1), electric cable (2), water pipe (7) and plastic manhole with ceramic drain (3). A location sketch of all these deposits and features are housed in the site archive.

4.2.3 The service trench was cut to a depth of 0.3m at the west end of the trench adjacent to the boiler room, and 0.7m at the east end where it cut through the stone boundary wall of the graveyard.

4.2.4 No datable finds were made during the work and no deposits associated with the rebuilding of the church in 1819 or 1886 located.

4.2.5 The boundary wall is thought to date to the 19th century, to judge from the mortar used in the wall and the Boiler room to the 1896 work on the church. The water pipe, electric cable and ceramic drain are all 21st century in date.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The results of the work and interpretation of the remains found are considered reliable.

5.2 Overall interpretation

5.2.1 The service trench located no significant archaeological levels. As notes above both the boundary wall and boiler room were built in the 19th century. No earlier datable deposits were found.

5.3 **Significance**

- 5.3.1 The levels recorded indicate that no early remains are to be found to the east of the present church.

6 **Recommendations for further work**

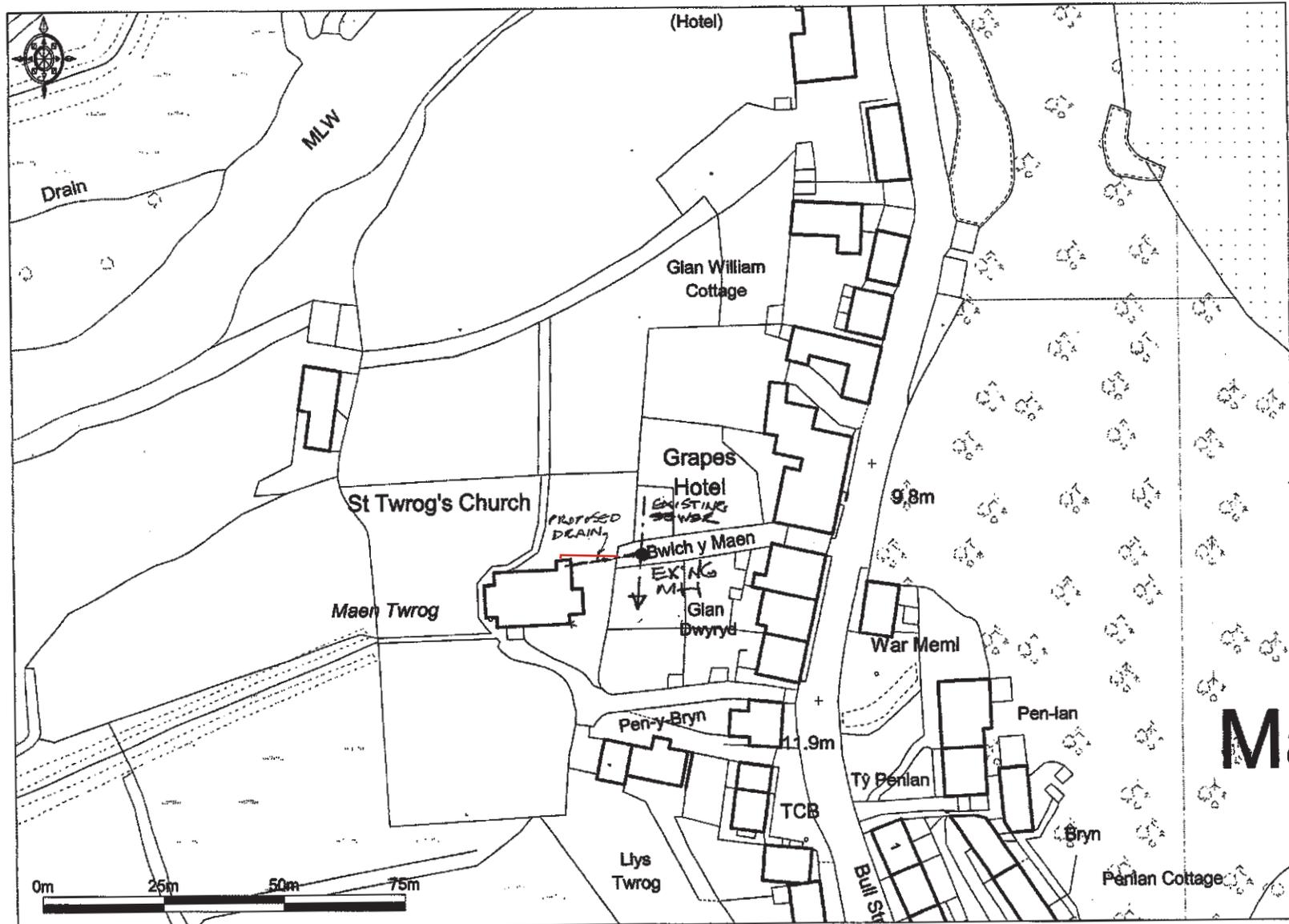
- 6.1.1 The results will be held in archive and copies of the report deposited with St Twrog's Church, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the Royal Commission (RCAHMW). No further work is recommended.

7 **Acknowledgements**

- 7.1.1 My thanks go to the Architect and building contractors (TIR Construction) who were most helpful on site.

8 **Bibliography**

British Geological Survey 2001 *Solid Geology Map. UK South Sheet. 1:625000 Scale. 4th edition*



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FIG 1: Location plan of St Twrog's Church showing line of service trench in graveyard

APPENDIX I:

Context List

<i>No</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Boiler room wall
2	Electric cable
3	Plastic manhole and ceramic drain
4	Chippings path
5	Layer of clayey loam with stones
6	Layer of topsoil and turf
7	Blue plastic water pipe
8	Stone and mortar boundary wall to graveyard
9	Natural orange clay with boulders

APPENDIX II

List of site photos

<i>Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Direction of view</i>
01	General view of church	NW
02	General view of church	N
03	General view of church	N
04	General view of church	N
05	Location of trench	E
06	Location of trench	E
07	Excavation of trench	E
08	Excavation of trench	E
09	Trench adjacent to wall 1	S
10	Sample section of trench	N

APPENDIX III: Archive cover sheet

St Twrog's Church. Maentwrog

Site Name:	St Twrog's Church. Maentwrog
Site Code:	STM/15/WB
PRN:	N/A
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	CAP Project No. 1232
NGR:	SH 6645140596
Site Type:	Urban
Project Type:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Officer:	Kevin Blockley
Project Dates:	16 February 2015
CAP report number:	689
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of duplicate Archives:	N/A
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	N/A
Copyright:	CAP Ltd
Restrictions to access:	None



Plate 1: General view of area before cutting service trench, looking east. Scale 2m

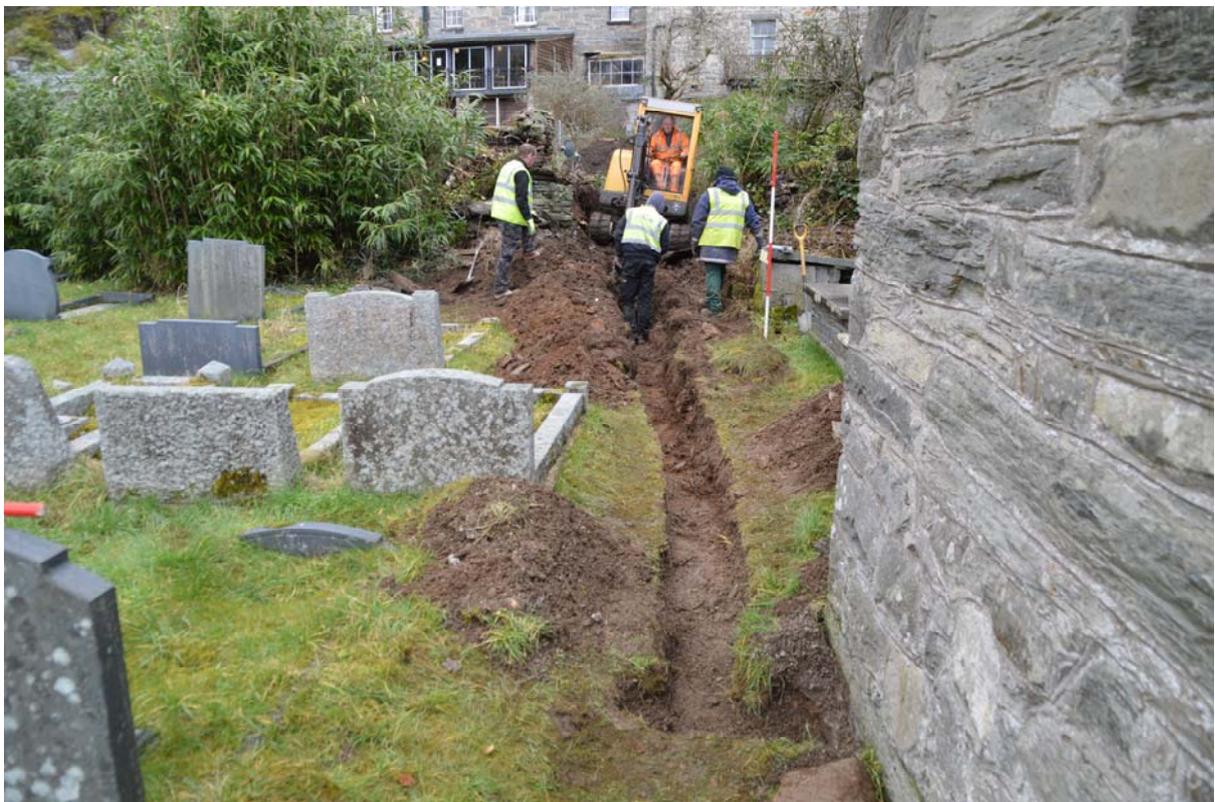


Plate 2: General view of service trench nearing completion, looking east. Scale 2m



Plate 3: North wall of boiler room with service trench, looking south . Scale 0.5m



Plate 4: Sample section of service trench showing build up of layer, looking north. Scale 0.5m