

Results of Archaeological Works at

Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn, St Mary's Church, Nefyn (Works to Boundary Wall)



NGR SH30870 40646

Report Number CR108-2016



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees & Matt Jones
on Behalf of Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn

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Results of Archaeological Works at Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn, St Mary's Church, Nefyn

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1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn to conduct archaeological works at St Mary's Church, Nefyn.

St Mary's Church, Stryd Y Llan, Nefyn (figure 1) is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID: 4371) within the ancient community of Nefyn on the north-western coast of the Llŷn Peninsula. Previous works have been undertaken at the site to rectify structural problems with the church, provide drainage, erect a new storage shed with solar panels and to create pathways and a play area.

The works detailed in this report were remedial and required to rectify a structural problem with the churchyard boundary wall. The structure was bowing badly and was in danger of collapse and it was therefore necessary that a 25m wall section be taken down, strengthened and rebuilt.

This required the removal of graveyard material from behind the wall which led to the uncovering of human remains. The site is in the ownership of the Church in Wales but is no longer in use for active worship and as such is no longer subject to Ecclesiastical Exemption. The Church was consulted prior to the production of a specification for archaeological works. The building is rented by Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn and is currently in use as a museum and café.

The current church building was erected 1825-7 on the site of a much earlier building. Little is known of the architecture of the previous building although it is known to have important historical associations. The earliest surviving records date from the Mid 12th Century and detail how Cadwaladr, son of Gruffudd ap Cynan and brother of Owain Gwynedd, granted Nefyn Church, its appurtenances and the associated land to the Augustinian Abbey of Haughmond. In 1535 the church had the status of vicarage of the Abbey. St Mary's Nefyn survived the reformation and became a parochial church.

During a previous phase of works a 1m wide section of Medieval wall was uncovered in the church yard, although it was unclear as to the form or function of the structure to which this wall belonged. Also excavated during previous works were a Medieval ring brooch and a Medieval cist grave containing an articulated female skeleton. Previous works also demonstrated the presence of disarticulated and articulated human remains, box graves and cut graves within the top 0.50m of the existing ground level.

A specification (included as Appendix A) was written following a site meeting between C.R Archaeology, Meinir Pierce Jones of Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn, Gareth Jones of Adeiladol Cyf, Susan Booth and Frances Lynch of the Church in Wales Bangor Diocese and Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of GAPS on the 8th October 2015 as a methodology for a programme of works at the site. The Ministry of Justice were contacted and an application was approved for an "Authority to Excavate Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes" prior to the commencement of works.

The archaeological works at the church revealed that the area of church grounds behind the bowing boundary wall had been extensively remodelled during the nineteenth century. During this remodelling a vast collection of charnal material had been spread over a wide area and buried. This had allowed water to percolate easily through the remains and flow towards the wall. This coupled with the sheer weight of the material held behind the wall is believed to have resulted in the current structural problems.

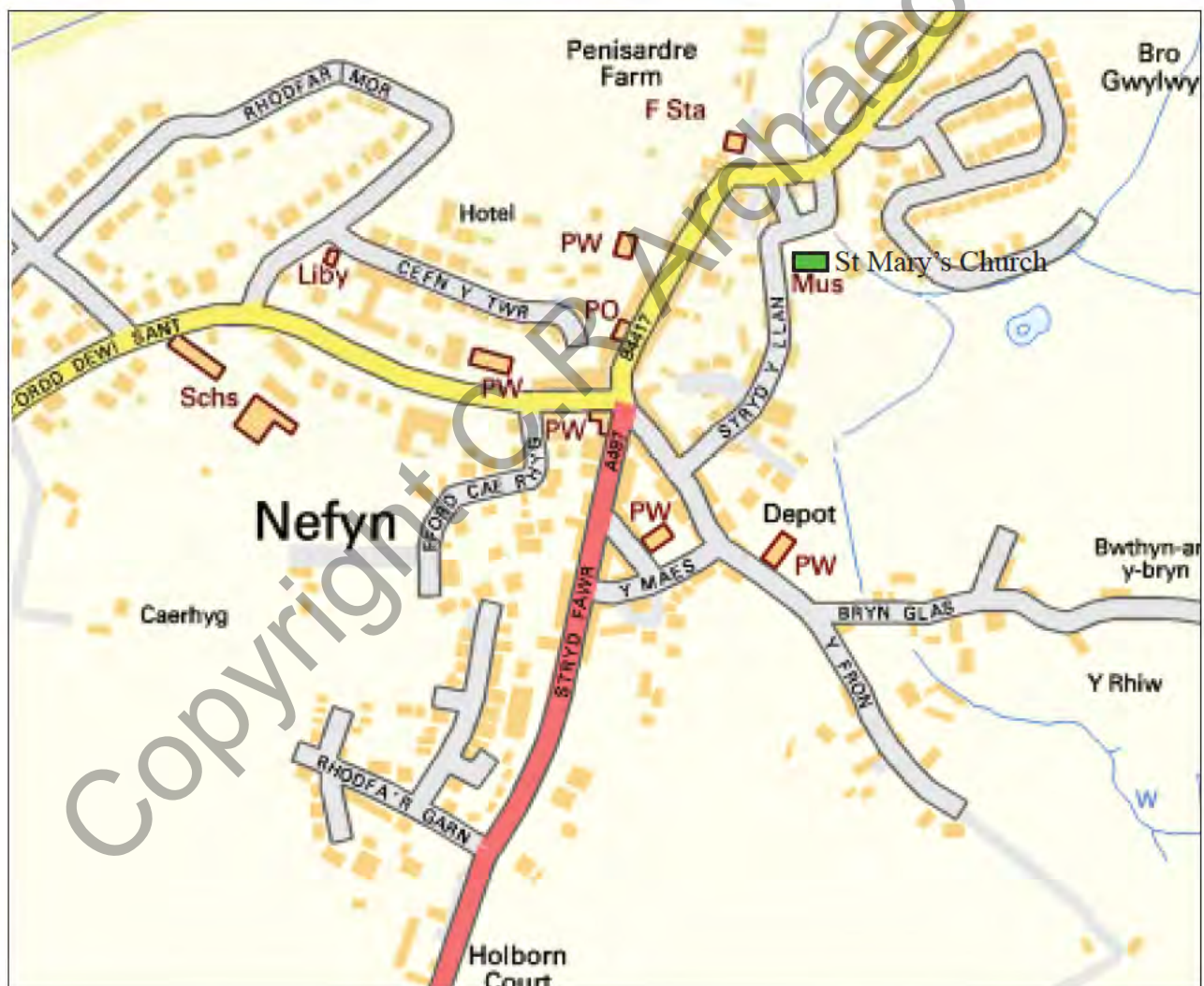
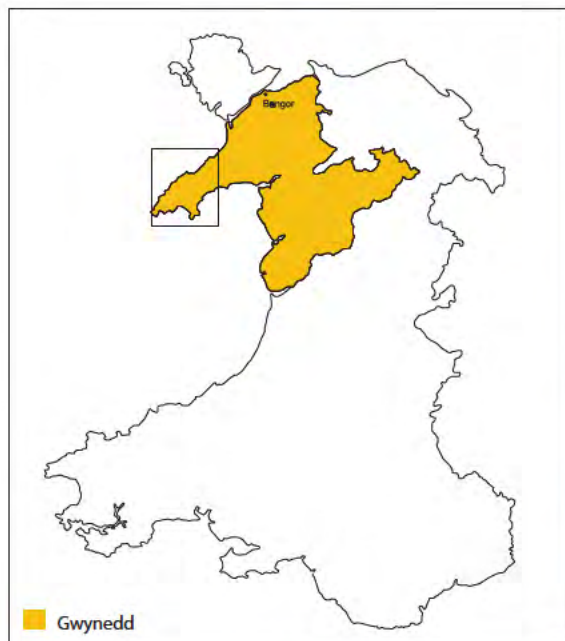


Figure 1. St Mary's Church Location Map
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data
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Three nineteenth century stone built graves were encountered during the works. These graves were recorded but the remains were not lifted as it was possible to remove only the stone work from the head end of the graves. Once this was removed the portion of the skeleton which lay within the development area was moved into the existing grave void. The grave ends were then rebuilt using breeze blocks to close the graves. Disarticulated material was reburied at the site following a reburial service which was conducted by the local minister.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aims of this programme of works were to monitor all ground works associated with the remedial works to the church wall and to collect and record all archaeological remains (including articulated and disarticulated human remains) uncovered during the works. A basic photographic record of the church wall was also made.

The objective of the archaeological programme was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3.0 Historical Background

As an element of previous works at the site a history of the church at Nefyn was compiled (see document CR56-2015). This is included (without figures) below.

Prehistoric

Mesolithic

There were no Mesolithic remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of flint and stone tools found within the Nefyn parish area although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Neolithic

There were no Neolithic remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of flint and stone tools found within the Nefyn parish area although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Bronze Age

There were no Bronze Age remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of urns and tools within the Nefyn parish and he lists a number of standing stones although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Iron age/ Romano-British

There were no Iron Age remains within the 500m search radius. There is a large promontory fort - Trwyn Porth (NPRN 302273) located to the west of the study area and the 1936 RCAHMS Inventory includes a possible hut circle settlement to the east of the church (RCAHMS 1936: 85).

Early Medieval

A stone with an inscribed cross (NPRN 275727) was discovered at Ty'n-y-Cae farm and is now used as a lintel for a barn/cow shed. The stone has been dated to the 7th century (Bond 2008: 12). The stone was originally placed on top of a mound facing towards the sea. The mound has since been destroyed but it was noted that it was located in a field called Cae Pen-y-maen and was found to have contained human bones (Owen 1896: 170-171).

The field where the cross was found was locally known as an area which had produced small copper coins (Owen 1896: 170-171).

It has been suggested that the church of St Mary's (PRN 4316) which was completely rebuilt in 1825 has an Early Medieval foundation date. The church is located on the Pilgrimage Route to Bardsey Island.

Medieval

The earliest documentary reference to Nefyn is as a landing place for Gruffudd Ap Cynan in the mid 11th century (Evans 1990) although it is unclear as to the precise nature of the settlement there at this time.

Further information can be found in grants of land in Nefyn which were granted by Cadwaladr ap Owain to the Augustinians of Haughmond in Shropshire in documents dated 1155-6 and 1161-2 (Bond 2008: 17).

In his tour of 1188 Gerald of Wales stayed at Nefyn on the 9th of April and it is thought that Nefyn held an important place as part of the pilgrimage route with a religious house (priory) with boarding which catered for pilgrims on their way to Bardsey Island (Thorpe 2004: 183).

Turvey records that Nefyn was established as a borough some time before AD 1200 but notes that it does not seem to have been fortified and may have been centred around the mote (Turvey 2007: 6). There are also suggestions that there may have been a Princely Llys (PRN 6622) within the area although no evidence of this has been found.

Nefyn Priory (PRN4317) is mentioned in the records of Caernarvon dated to 1252. The site of the priory is suggested to have been sited to the south-east of St Mary's Church. This location is attributed to a title deed of 1585 discussing land called Tir y Manach (Monks land) and tithe map field name evidence naming Bryn Mynach and Cae Mynach (Hill and Monks Field) (Bond 2008: 16).

Later grants of land in Nefyn were recorded to the Haugmond Abbey by Dafydd ab Owain in 1177 and 1190 and later by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1230. During the same period there is evidence for the town of Nefyn expanding as a trading centre and records show the a grant of bondsman was witnessed by two burgesses of the town (Carr 1995:70).

The town was served by a mill with two other mills listed as operating within the associated manor (Bond 2008: 20). In 1252 William, Prior of Nefyn was a witness concerning an agreement about tenurial arrangements in Aberdaron (GAT Report PRN 33497).

There are the remains of a mote (NPRN 308100, PRN 1535) to the east of the site. The area is surrounded by the remnants of a Medieval farming landscape which was identified through a Gwynedd Archaeological Trust landscape project (PRN 3408). This system includes strip field systems (PRN 13936,13937,13934,13935), field banks (PRN 17197,17199) and lynchets (PRN 17198).

Nefyn came under the control of the English Crown following the collapse of the House of Gwynedd with the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd. In 1284 Edward I held an elaborate tournament at the town to celebrate his victory and his choice of site would suggest that Nefyn (PRN 6529) held a elevated position within Welsh society. Nefyn expanded greatly at this time and its expansion in trade and social position meant that, like many Medieval towns, Nefyn was severely affected by the Black death in the mid 1300's (Bond 2008: 20).

Tokens made from tin-plate which appear to copy a design of Charles VI of France which were struck in 1389 and thought to come from the low countries or German (PRN 5554) have been discovered within 500m of the development site.

The revolt of Owain Glyndwr in 1400 focused on the town as it had expanded and flourished under English rule and his attack on Nefyn was so systemic and the damage so great that it was reduced to the status of a village (Hodges 1995: 169).

In 1535 on the eve of the Dissolution of the Monasteries the church had the status of vicarage of the Abbey (PRN 33497).

Post-Medieval/ Modern

The town of Nefyn developed throughout this later period and become well known for herring fishers, agriculture and boat building. The development of quarries to the east of the town in the 1800's was also undertaken.

A watch tower (NPRN 34168, PRN 12718) was built on the remains of the motte in the early 19th century and is associated with the protection of the large herring fishing fleet.

In this period the town developed and expanded this can be seen by the large number of buildings constructed during the 1800's. The Royal commission lists sixteen important buildings dating from this period.

The current church of St Mary's was constructed in 1825-1827 (NPRN 43787, PRN 4316).

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

The site is located within the ancient town of Nefyn and is the original Parish Church. Nefyn is a small town on the north-western coast of the Llŷn Peninsular.

4.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as “glacial sand and gravel”. The deposit is described as “sand and gravel with rare clay interbeds; often cross-bedded; of glacial origin.” The bedrock is recorded as “Llanvirn Rocks (Undifferentiated)” and no further detail is given (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

5.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site was compiled during the previous phases of work (see document CR56-2015) and no further research was necessary following this phase of works.

The works were carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance (2014).

5.2 Photographic Survey

A basic photographic survey of the affected area of the St Mary's Church boundary was undertaken. All accessible elevations were photographed with scales from a variety of angles, including front on where possible. The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 1 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016) and included works specified in points 1-2.

A basic photographic record of the affected area within the enclosure wall was also made and the affected gravestones photographed with scales. The location of each stone was surveyed by staff from C.R Archaeology using an EDM and the results are included in this report. It was proposed that any displaced gravestones be returned to their previous location following the completion of works but in this instance it was possible to conduct works without the disturbance of any of the stones.

5.2.1 Equipment

A photographic survey of the wall and affected internal area was undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony Alpha-350 digital camera with a standard lens using a tripod where necessary. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

5.3 Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief

There were a number of gravestones located within the area affected by the forthcoming works and prior to the commencement of works the gravestone locations were recorded by C.R Archaeology. The principle contractor was to be responsible for the lifting and safe storage of the stones for the duration of the project and ensuring that they were re-laid in their previous location following the completion of works. This work was not however required in this instance as it was possible to conduct works without the disturbance of any of the stones.

All intrusive ground works at the site were monitored by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. It was initially proposed that a mechanical excavator would be used to remove the topsoil and then all further material was to be removed by hand, but once on site it was evident that it was not feasible to use a machine. All groundworks were therefore carried out by hand. Following the removal of the topsoil the location of grave cuts were recorded photographically and in plan prior to the continuation of the excavation.

All archaeological features, structures or articulated human remains identified during the works were trowel cleaned. Investigation of features, structures or deposits was sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. No features yielded suitable material for dating/environmental processing and no samples were therefore taken.

It was agreed that should structural remains be encountered the preference would be for preservation in situ, and following the recording of the features, every effort was made to avoid any damage being caused by the structural works. It was necessary to partially dismantle the remains of two stone built graves of nineteenth century date and following consultation between C.R Archaeology, the client, the Church in Wales and GAPS the head ends of the graves were dismantled and the human remains which were within the development area were lifted and replaced within the remaining portion of the grave structures.

5.3.1 The Recovery and Recording of Human Remains

During the previous phases of works human remains were encountered and it was considered almost certain that further remains would be uncovered during these works. Different methodologies were therefore devised depending on the nature and position of the remains encountered.

As stated in the English Heritage Recording Manual (2010: Module 10) "*For each grave forethought is needed so that procedures can be completed before the end of the working day*". Therefore graves which were encountered towards the end of the day were left in situ for the following day and excavation was not undertaken unless it could be completed before the end of works. Skeletal remains were not left exposed overnight.

5.3.1.1 Disarticulated Human Remains Recovered During Excavation

Where disarticulated human remains were encountered, they were collected, bagged and a note was made of the location of bone concentrations. They were then securely stored on site and were reburied on completion of the project. They were not subject to any analysis.

5.3.1.2 Articulated Remains Uncovered During Excavation

When articulated remains were uncovered the extent of the grave cut within the development area was defined in plan and the skeleton exposed, recorded and planned. They were assigned a Skeleton Number and a written record compiled on pro-forma sheets. The exposed skeleton was photographed vertically with an appropriate scale. Additional close-up shots and photographs from a variety of different angles were also taken. The skeleton was drawn at a scale of 1:10.

The bones which lay within the development area were lifted and it was possible to rebury the remains within the original grave structure. A photographic record of the associated grave items was made before they were replaced within the graves.

This was in line with the English Heritage Annex E5 Point 183 in “*Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*” (the recommendations of which also apply to Christian burials in Wales). The section entitled “*Excavation of Skeletons Lying Partly Under Baulks*” specifies that when a skeleton lies partly beyond the excavation trench limits only that part of the skeleton which lies within the trench area was to be lifted, with the remainder left insitu.

All grave locations were recorded using an EDM.

5.3.1.3 Excavation Methodology for Medieval and Earlier Burials

No Medieval or earlier burials were encountered during this phase of works.

5.4 Recording

The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record comprised completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations were produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections were prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established on the site and plans, elevations and sections contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers were cross-referenced to written site records.

A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. This was comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view was maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case “*.TIF”.

A 'harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

5.5 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

A Ministry of Justice license for the “Authority to Excavate Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes” had been secured prior to the commencement of works. No further mitigation measures were necessary.

5.6 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material was retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001). The aim was to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2014).

All artefactual material was bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to removal from site.

Each assemblage was examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all material was produced by Matthew Jones.

Following analysis all archaeological material, not to be re-interred with the remains to be reburied, was retained by the Maritime Museum. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition.

It must however be noted that the Church in Wales retains full ownership of all artefactual material and should the museum cease to operate/dispose of its collection then the material is to be returned to the Church for deposition elsewhere – the likely recipient being Bangor Museum.

The works will be carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Revised 2014).

5.7 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork were checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive contains all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It is ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria.

Nefyn Maritime Museum will retain all artefactual material. The exception to this is the human remains/material associated with specific burials which were reburied at the site. The site archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW in accordance with the Commission's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

5.8 Timetable for Proposed Works

Works for this phase of works at St Mary's Church commenced on the 2nd November 2015 and were conducted on a day rate basis. Works took approximately 4 weeks.

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and The Church in Wales were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

5.9 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (MICfA, MA – Archaeology, BA – Archaeology, PgDip – Historic Environment Conservation). Site work was conducted by Catherine Rees, Matthew Jones (BA - Archaeology, MA - Archaeological Practise) and Dr Ian Brooks (MICfA, PhD).

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

5.10 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and The Church in Wales archaeological consultant Frances Lynch. The monitors were given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

5.11 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work.

This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

All staff have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at operative level and carried a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363) or a Site Visitor card.

The principle contractor was responsible for the overall H&S on site and for the implementation, erection and maintenance of safety equipment such as shoring, acrows or scaffolding. C.R Archaeology staff were compliant with all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

Due to the antiquity of the skeletal material it was felt unlikely that any pathogens or fungal spores will have survived in the burial environment. However as an additional precaution disposable gloves were worn during excavation.

5.12 The Report

The results of the works are presented in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

This report includes:

- A copy of the agreed specification
- A location plan
- Drawings detailing the locations of all excavated areas
- All identified features plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development site

- Appropriately scaled plans and sections showing identified features and significant finds
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified features
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of any photographs or drawings
- All specialist reports in full
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of the completion of post excavation work. At present the time scale for report production following the completion of fieldwork is unknown. This is due to the variable nature and duration of post excavation works.

In the event of the discovery of archaeological material articles detailing the results of the works will be submitted to relevant publications. As a minimum this will be Archaeology in Wales but dependant upon the results is likely also to include Medieval Archaeology, Current Archaeology and the Council for British Archaeology magazine.

5.12.1 Public Engagement

Due to the sensitive nature of the works to be undertaken and in order to comply with burial legislation the site was screen from public view and there was no unauthorised access to the site. Further outreach will be conducted in conjunction with the museum and dependant on the results of the works is likely to take the form of a blog and later public talk.

5.12.2 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

The works conducted during this phase of works were remedial and were required to rectify a structural problem with the churchyard boundary wall. The structure was bowing badly and was in danger of collapse and it was therefore necessary that a 25m wall section be taken down, strengthened and rebuilt. A photographic survey of the wall was made prior to the commencement of works and samples of these images are included as plates 1 – 9. The complete photographic archive is included on an accompanying compact disc.

An area measuring approximately 25m by a maximum of 2m was excavated in the area behind the north-western corner of the church yard (figure 2). The excavated area was cut at an angle and sloped down towards the base of wall. Due to the sensitive nature of the site a large wooden fence was erected within the church grounds to shield any human remains exposed from view and the road which was closed for the period of the development. This area was also screened from view using wooden boards. The postholes cut into the road area were excavated using a pecker an iron bar and did not go below the construction level of the road.

The fence construction required the hand excavation of eight post holes within the graveyard into which the supporting posts were placed. The post holes measured 0.40m x 0.40m in plan and we excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m.





Plates 1 - 5. St. Mary's Church Wall Prior to Remedial Works



Plates 6 - 9. St. Mary's Church Wall Prior to Remedial Works

One posthole, posthole 6 contained a significant quantity of disarticulated human remains. The remains were present from a depth 0.20m below the ground surface (see figure 2 & plate 10). The depth of the remains continued beyond the required depth of excavation (0.50m). Small quantities of human bone were also recovered from the topsoil within all the other post holes within the church yard. No other archaeological material was recovered from the post holes within the road area.

It is assumed that the disarticulated human remains uncovered within post hole 6 were part of a larger charnal deposit similar to (or quite possibly the same as) that excavated adjacent to the church boundary wall (context [02] - see below). It is believed that these remains were reburied during the mid-late nineteenth century – quite possibly when the church was remodelled.

The excavation of the area against the wall was carried out by hand and required the removal of the turf/top soil (context 01) across the entire development area (see figure 2 and plates 11-14). The topsoil was a very disturbed dark grey-brown clay loam with frequent inclusions of human and animal bone, Post Medieval and modern pottery, toys from the mid to late 20th century and a large quantity of late 20th century rubbish.

This deposit was between 0.20m - 0.42m in depth and following its removal the site was cleaned to define features which were identified at this horizon. Four features were identified at this level: a large charnal pit, two bases for table tombs and a grave cut. Below context (01) was a mixed brown grave yard soil material (context (11) which was up to 1.5m in depth in places. When this material was removed two further grave cuts and a small charnal pit were identified. These features were cut into context (10) which was a pinkish gritty sand silt. The base of deposit (10) was not reached.

The most northerly of the features uncovered was a large charnal pit [cut 02] located at the curve of the church yard wall (figure 3, plates 13, 15 – 17). It was approximately 6m in length and was 0.85m meters in depth. The cut of the bone pit ran into the eastern section of the trench and appeared to be roughly in-line with the large concentration of bones identified in Post Hole 6. Although one cannot be certain that these two bone pits are both part of the same feature, should they be connected then the width of the charnal pit would be over 3m. The charnal pit cut deposit (11) and was sealed by deposit (01). It was cut by grave [04].

The fill (03) of the charnal pit contained a large concentration of human bone (see plates 14 - 17). Within this deposit there was evidence of deliberate grouping within the bone placement and pockets of skulls were stacked within each other and bundles of long bones were identified. Other smaller bones were also represented within the soil matrix which was a dark grey-brown clay loam. Small quantities of post medieval Buckley style pottery were noted within this deposit and it is believed that the charnal material was deposited during the mid-nineteenth century and it is likely to be related to the rebuilding of the church at this time.

Grave cut [04] was cut through the pit fill (03) and was a single grave with a cut slate covering. As more than half of this grave lay outside the excavated area works involved only the removal of the head stone and the slight shortening the grave. It contained a single adult inhumation and the portion of the skeleton which lay within the affected area was moved within the grave and the grave resealed. The grave was thus recorded in section (figure 3).

Grave cut [04] (see plates 14 – 21) was approximately 1.00m in depth from where it was cut into the material below the topsoil to the base of the cut. It was 0.80m wide and approximately 0.50m of the grave was visible in plan. The cut went through charnal pit fill (03) and into a lower deposit (010). At the base of the grave cut [04], was context (05) – a mixed deposit lay within cut [30]. Cut [30] may be a continuation of cut [04] but it is unclear as to why there would be such a large over-cut made. It would seem most likely that there is an earlier grave cut (presumably for a family member)

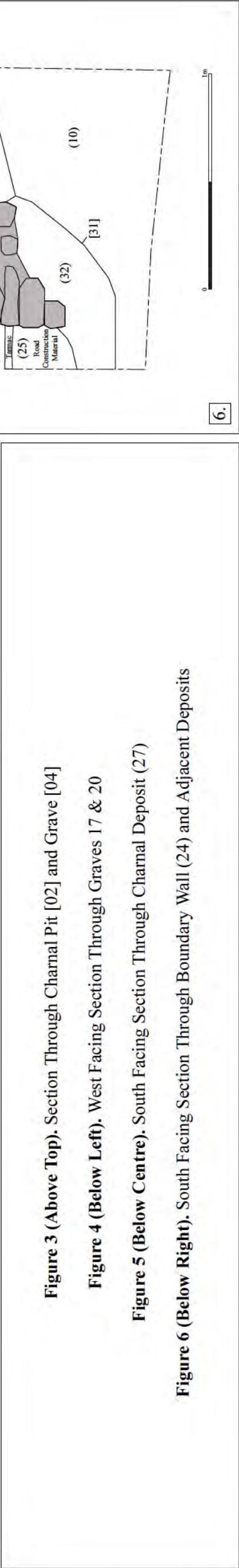
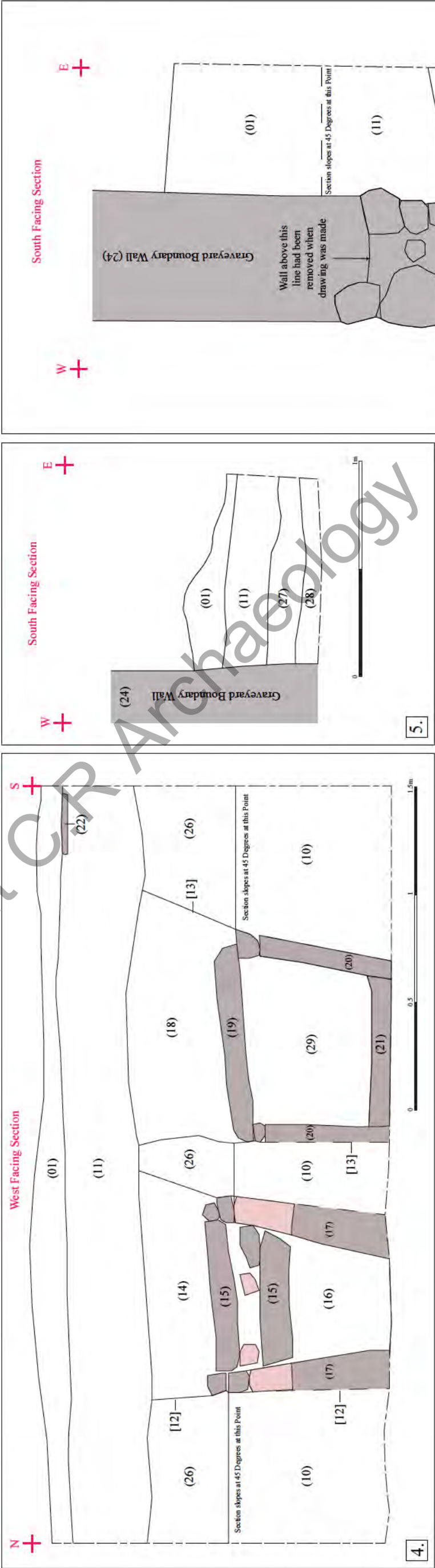
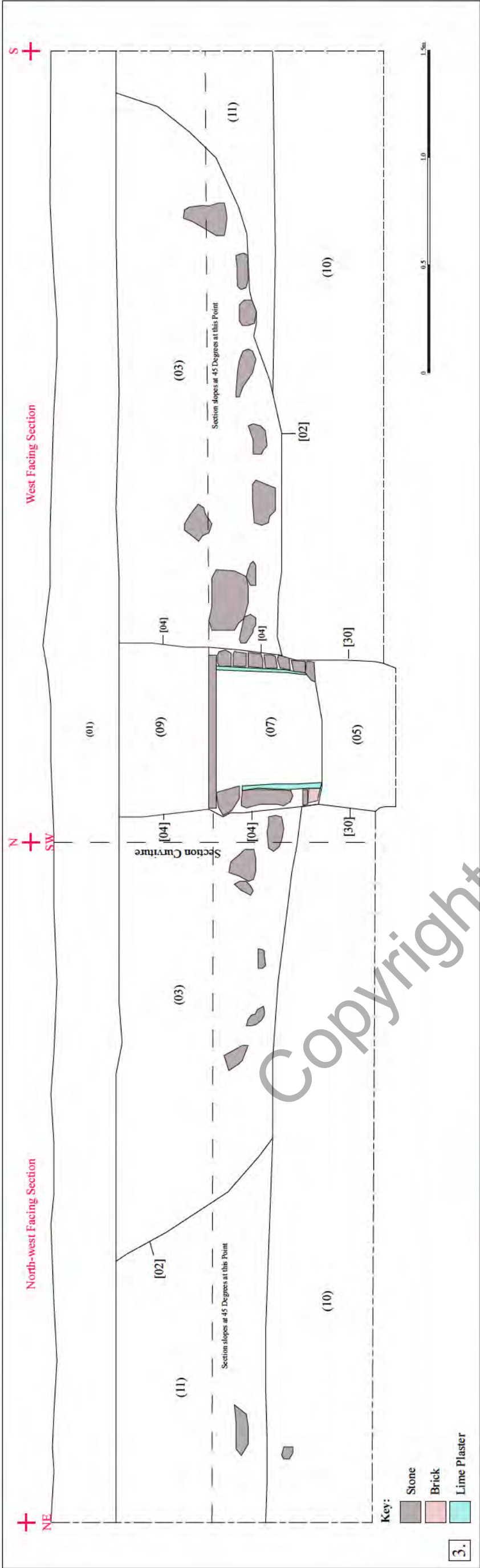


Figure 3 (Above Top). Section Through Charnal Pit [02] and Grave [04]

Figure 4 (Below Left). West Facing Section Through Graves 17 & 20

Figure 5 (Below Centre). South Facing Section Through Charnal Deposit (27)

Figure 6 (Below Right). South Facing Section Through Boundary Wall (24) and Adjacent Deposits



Plate 10. Disarticulated Human Remains at the Base of Fence Post Hole 6

Plate 11. Post Medieval Tomb Bases Beneath Turf Layer - (Contexts 22 & 23)

Plate 12. Post Medieval Tomb Bases Beneath Turf Layer - (Contexts 22 & 23)

Plate 13. Charnel Material Layer Uncovered During Works. Human Remains Are Undated but the Charnel Pit (Context [02]) Itself is of Nineteenth Century Date

Plate 14. Grave [04] Slate Capping (08)



Plate 15. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave [04]
Cut Through Charnel Pit [02]



Plate 16. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave [04]
Following Removal of Slab at Head End



Plate 17. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave [04]
Following Removal of Slab at Head End



Plate 18. Grave [04] Following the Removal of
Capstone. Note In situ Iron Coffin Decoration



Plate 19. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave [04]
Interior Following Removal of Capstone



Plate 20. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave [04]
Interior Following Removal of Capstone and Coffin Plate



Plate 21. Remains of Iron Coffin
Plate within Grave [04]



Plate 22. Capstones of Two Post Medieval Stone Built Graves
Graves 17 & 20 Situated Beneath the Charnel Pit

beneath this grave which was reopened when this burial was inserted. Due to the location of this material this possibility was not investigated as to do so one would have had to undermine the trench section and the overlying stone built grave.

The grave structure itself [06] had roughly constructed stone and brick built sides and was 0.65m wide and 0.45m deep. It was evident from an examination of the grave interior that the structure was rectangular in plan and had been rendered internally with lime. There was no stone base to the grave. The grave was capped by a large cut slate slabs (08). There was evidence that this slate was cut using a Hunter Saw. The Hunter Saw was first introduced in the 1850's and the grave must therefore post-date this (Weaver 1987).

The grave contained a single supine interment (skeleton 1, within context 07) which had been laid out with the hands crossed over the groin. It was evident that the body had been buried within a wooden coffin and the copper alloy hoop handles survived, along with fragments of wood. A pressed tin alloy coffin plate was recorded on top of the skeleton. It was in the shape of a shield with flower decoration running on the outside top half of the shield (see plates 19 - 21).

The fill above the stone structure this grave (context 09) was a dark greyish-brown loam which contained human remains and small sub-angular stones. This material is most likely to be redeposited charnal pit fill. Following the excavation of the portions of charnal pit [02] and grave [04] which lay within the development area, the excavation area was then taken down to a depth of 0.80 - 0.92m and cleaned again.

Two further stone built graves were identified to the south of the charnal pit (figures 2 & 4). These features are both referred to by the context number attributed to the stone sided grave structures. Both grave 17 and grave 20 were cut into deposit (26) and were sealed by context (11).

Grave 17 (plates 22 – 25) was constructed of stone and lime mortar and was shaped in plan to conform to the predominant coffin shape of the Post Medieval period – the single break coffin (Cherryson et al 2012: 48). The capping stones on the grave were 0.40m thick and were made of a local sandstone. The upper capstones were sat upon a layer of mortar and brick which were in turn sat upon a lower cap stone supported by iron bars positioned width way across the grave (see plates 24 & 25). It is possible that the double capping may be the result of some subsidence within the grave structure at a later date as it would appear to be somewhat overengineered were this not the case.

The remains of a wooden coffin and human remains (16) were observed within the grave but were left undisturbed. The grave sat within a cut [12] which was recorded only in section. The cut was 1.15m in width at its widest point, tapering towards the top (head end) of the grave where the cut was 0.90m in width. The upper fill (context 14) within the cut (and above the stone structure) was a mid-brown silt clay which contained occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery and human bone, along with small sub-angular stones.

The majority of grave 17 was located outside the area affected by the new wall construction and in this instance it was possible that the plans could be altered slightly so that it was not necessary to remove this structure. One of the capping stones was removed to allow the interior to be photographed.

Grave 20 (see plates 22, 26 – 30) extended 1.05m from the eastern edge of the trench and therefore had to be partially removed during the scheme of works. The grave was constructed of stone and lime mortar and was shaped in plan to conform to the predominant coffin shape of the Post Medieval period – the single break coffin (Cherryson et al 2012: 48). Where excavated the base of the grave was of compacted earth but there was a single flat stone (21) beneath the upper body and head. The



Plate 23. Post Medieval Stone Built Graves (20) & (17) Post Excavation Photograph



Plate 24. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave (17) Following Removal of Capstone



Plate 25. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave (17) View of Lower (Foot) End of Structure - Unexcavated



Plate 26. Post Medieval Stone Built Grave (20) View of Lower (Foot) End of Structure - Unexcavated



Plate 27. Stone Lined Grave (20)
Following Removal of Capstones



Plate 28. Detailed Shot of Tin
Angel Design Coffin Plate



Plate 29. Post Excavation Shot of
Stone Lined Grave (20)



Plate 30. Post Excavation Shot of
Stone Lined Grave (20)

grave was capped with flat slabs of local sandstone which were 0.10m in thickness. The cut was 1.15m wide and 1.10m deep where seen. The upper fill (18) above the stone structure was a mid brown silt clay containing occasional fragments of post medieval pottery, human bone and small sub-angular stones.

Within the stone grave structure was a single well preserved adult skeleton (26) together with the remains of a wooden coffin. Many of the coffin fittings had survived including the iron coffin handles which were set within a triangular back-plate with impressed flower decorations. A tin coffin lid plate was also recorded. It had an embossed angel image and was found laying over the face/upper torso of the skeleton (plate 28). An iron shield shape coffin plate was also noted over the groin area.

Two table tomb foundation bases (figure 2, features 22 & 23) were uncovered which partially extended into the excavation area (see plates 11 & 12). These tomb bases jutted out approximately 1m from the western trench edge and were separated by approximately 0.10m. Both of the bases were constructed from a single course of rough cut schist stone which had been laid on top of a yellow-brown clay loam subsoil (11) and were below the topsoil (01).

A deposit of human bone (27) was identified against the boundary wall in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area (figure 5). The deposit was formed of a stack of skulls, long bones and ribs together with numerous smaller bones. The deposit expended beyond the excavation limits. Where uncovered within the excavation area the deposit measured 1.0m in length and 0.45m in width. It had a depth of between 0.08m and 0.21m. The deposit did not appear to sit within a cut. It was sealed by context (11) and lay above deposit (28). Context (28) was a mixed brown deposit similar to context (11). The base of this context was not reached.

The lowest deposit reached was deposit (10), a pinkish coloured gritty sand-silt. Where examined this deposit contained no artefactual material and appeared to be a natural deposit although it would seem likely that there are earlier graves cut into it and that it has been reworked over the centuries that the church has stood on this site. It would seem likely that this deposit formed a mound, natural or otherwise, upon which the church once sat in an elevated position above the surrounding area.

The boundary wall was clearly not of Medieval construction date and is believed to be of early nineteenth century date with later nineteenth and twentieth century repairs/rebuilding. Although the graves encountered during this excavation phase all lay entirely within the current boundary this does not preclude the possibility that there was once a wider mound surrounding the church which was cut into by the road. The support for this hypothesis is that the road and surrounding buildings are clearly at a much lower level than the church and the graveyard. When one examines the wall in section (figure 6) the underlying deposit (context 10) can clearly be seen to have been cut by the wall and continue beyond it.

6.1 Artefactual Material

Unless otherwise stated artefacts were recovered from the mixed top and subsoils and could not be attributed to any of the features excavated. They have been arranged by date and material type.

Stone artefacts

Prehistoric

Three prehistoric artefacts were recovered from the top soil. A single hammer stone was recovered during the previous excavations at the site and these artefacts represent further residual evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

Flint

A single large grey flint secondary flake was recovered. It was 4.5cm in length x 2.5cm in width and has had the striking platform removed. The flint is from pebble source. This artefact is undiagnostic beyond the broad attribution of a Prehistoric date.

Saddle Quern (Figure 7)

A possible saddle quern was uncovered during works. The saddle quern is produced by the repeated rocking or rolling of a handstone using parallel motions (i.e., pushing and pulling the handstone), which forms a shape looking like a saddle. These are the most ancient and widely used type of quern-stone.

Grinding stone (Figure 8)

One grinding stone was recovered from the topsoil. It was ovoid in shape and of roughly surfaced grit stone. It measures approximately 12 cm x 10cm with a central diameter of 37cm. Possibly of prehistoric date to be used with a saddle quern.

The stone was ovoid in shape and of roughly surfaced grit stone. It measured approximately 12 cm x 10cm with a central diameter of 37cm. It is believed to be of prehistoric date.

A possible hammer stone was also recovered and retained.

Medieval

Architectural Fragments

Eight pieces of roughly dressed stone were collected from the boundary wall during its dismantling. These stone pieces are not diagnostic in themselves but are likely to have been salvaged and reused from the previous church building when it was demolished to make way for the current structure.

Three identifiable pieces were collected – a Medieval roundel (recovered from the topsoil (figure 9) along with two pieces thought to have been part of Medieval stone window frames (figures 10 & 11).

Roof Tile (Figure 12)

A hand cut slate roof tile with large peg hole had been reused in the boundary wall. It measured c. 10.5cm x 20cm. It was not possible to accurately date this slate but it almost certainly came from the previous church building. It could be Medieval, in date but it is equally possible that it is of Post Medieval date.

Carved Stone Bowl (Figure 13)

A fragment of a small carved stone bowl was recovered during the works. The use of stone bowls within the earlier church are quite common, Holy water fonts called stoups were usually placed at the main doors of churches and churches will usually have a special basin (Sacramentum or piscine) which

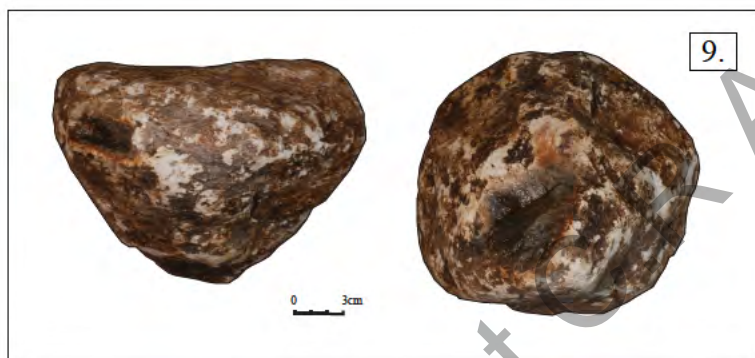


Figure 7. Possible Prehistoric Saddle Quern

Figure 8. Grinding Stone

Figure 9. Medieval Roundel

Figures 10 & 11. Architectural Fragments. Window Elements



Figure 12. Slate Roof
Tile with Peg Hole



Figure 13. Fragment of Stone Bowl



Figure 14. Amlwch Mines
Bronze Token

leads directly into the ground for the proper disposal of Holy water. It is likely that the early church would have had both of these features. It was not possible to accurately date this fragment beyond a broadly Medieval attribution.

Post Medieval

A variety of Post Medieval refuse dated from the late Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries had been thrown into the graveyard. This included glass and plastic bottles, ceramics, can, crisp packets and animal bone. The majority of this material was discarded on site although a small number of examples of complete glass bottles were retained by the museum including one stamped Holywell.

Industrial Token (Figure 14)

A bronze token from Amlwch mines was recovered from the top soil. These coins have an interesting history and whilst they were not the first copper token of the Industrial Revolution (this distinction goes to Halsall Penny struck to pay mill workers) they were the first copper tokens to be widely circulated. The coins were created by Thomas Williams for his Parys Mines Company and, although Williams' business papers have not survived, it is presumed that they were struck to pay his miners at a time when there was a shortage of lower denomination coinage throughout the country. It is also suggested that there was a secondary motive for the making of this coinage at this time. Made to facilitate the payment of the miners, thereby overcoming the dearth of small change experienced throughout the country, but there might also have been a little personal interest too. Sales of copper were beginning to decrease, and selling Druid tokens to other industrialists was a handy way of increasing turnover!

This is part of the second wave of production coins/tokens associated with the copper mines.

The chief design of druids head was chosen to commemorate Anglesey's long connection with this historic religion. On the reverse of the coin the inscription reads "*The Anglesey Mines Halfpenny 1788*" along the edge the inscription reads 'Payable in Anglesey, London or Liverpool' (Boon,1973. 2).

It is unknown whether the coin was a chance loss or if it was used as a grave goods either placed in mouth or over the eyes of the deceased.

7.0 Discussion

Charnal Pits

The remains of at least two, possibly three, charnal pits were uncovered during the works. These pits represent a common practice in the later medieval and post medieval use of graveyards. It came as a practical solution to the issue of space constraints within churchyards as their boundaries became fixed when the development of the community around the church no longer allowed for the expansion of the burial area. Earlier burials were removed and placed en mass in large pits which served a similar function to the formalised charnel house. The more desirable burial plots such as those within the church or immediately outside would have generated considerable revenue and could see a more frequent incidence of clearance to allow the plots to be reused. Often either no records or incomplete burial location records would be kept which results in the disturbance of previous graves when later inhumations are made. The practice of reusing grave plots continues to the current day, and burial plots maybe reassigned after a defined time has lapsed (Quigley 2001: 31, 41).

Whilst it was not possible to date the human remains within the charnal pits it is likely that they range in date from the Medieval period through to the early to late nineteenth century. It is thought most likely that the larger pit [02] was dug during the mid-late nineteenth century as it cut a layer (context 11) which covered a pair of burials which contained nineteenth century tin coffin plates. The pit was cut through by a further grave which contained late nineteenth century coffin plate designs.

The small charnal deposit (27) was placed against the wall but was not cut by it. This placement of this material is therefore contemporary with the building of the wall.

Stone Built Graves

Three stone built graves were identified during the works, although none lay entirely within the development area. All of the graves sides were constructed in the same manner with stone and lime mortared sides, and slate capping.

The slate capping on grave 06 had evidence of Hunter Saw marks on the stone and as this tool was first introduced in the 1850's (Weaver 1987) must postdate 1850. The two graves located stratigraphically below the charnal pit both contained depositum plates and handles with decorative motives. The use of depositum plates was widespread by the early 19th century (Cherryson et al 2012: 60) and would seem likely that graves 17 and 20 date from this period.

The construction of a stone lined grave is indicative of some form of status and/or wealth of the individual buried and these graves were certainly those of individuals with families of some social standing within the local community. Unfortunately as none of the coffin plates contained names or information about the deceased and all the associated gravestones had been removed, no information about the individuals interred within the graves could be recovered.

Graveyard Boundary and Formation

The graveyard boundary wall which defines the current limits of the graveyard allows phasing within the graveyard to be determined. The topsoil and mixed soil (11) have been shown to postdate the erection of the wall and have formed/been backfilled against it. The construction cut for the wall cuts context (10) which appears to be either the underlying natural or redeposited natural which forms the rise on which the church stands. It was not fully determined from the excavations whether the elevated position occupied by the church was an entirely natural landscape feature or whether it had been enhanced when the original church was built. The surrounding land would have increased in height as the graveyard was used for repeated burials.

As is common, particularly in the Post Medieval/industrial period, there had been episodic clearance of burials within the graveyard. As mentioned in the charnal pit discussion it is a practical solution to the issue of space constraints within churchyards as their boundaries became fixed and the development of the community around the church no longer allowed for the expansion of the burial area. Earlier burials were removed and placed en mass in large pits which served a similar function to the formalised charnel house.

8.0 Conclusion

The burial features encountered are as expected from a community church dealing with the pressures brought by the expansion of the population in the 18th and 19th century and it reflects the importance of being buried within the town church. Large mixed charnal deposits were uncovered along with stone built graves with slate capping.

The construction cut for the graveyard boundary wall cut a deposit believed to be the underlying natural or redeposited natural which form the rise upon which the church stands. It was not fully determined from the excavations whether the elevated position occupied by the church was an entirely natural landscape feature or whether it had been enhanced when the original church was built. The land immediately surrounding the church would have increased in height as the graveyard was used for repeated burials.

An interesting artefact assemblage was recovered during the excavation. This included worked and shaped stone originating from the now demolished Medieval church and Prehistoric artefacts which point to a longer history of occupation in the area.

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Appendix A. Specification for Archaeological Works

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Specification for Archaeological Works

**Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn,
St Mary's Church, Nefyn
(Works to Boundary Wall)**

NGR SH30870 40646

Report Number CR108-2015



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by Catherine Rees

on Behalf of Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn

Copyright C.R Archaeology

Specification for Excavation of Human Remains at Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn, St Mary's Church, Nefyn

Planning Application Number:	N/A
National Grid Reference:	SH30870 40646
Client:	Amgueddfa Forwrol Llyn
Report Author:	Catherine Rees
Report Number:	CR108-2015
Date:	11/10/2015

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Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Proposed Works

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn to conduct further archaeological works at St Mary's Church, Nefyn.

St Mary's Church, Stryd Y Llan, Nefyn (figure 1) is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw ID: 4371) within the ancient community of Nefyn on the north-western coast of the Llŷn Peninsula. Previous works have been undertaken at the site to rectify structural problems with the church, provide drainage, erect a new storage shed with solar panels and to create pathways and a play area.

The current works are remedial works to rectify a structural problem with the churchyard boundary wall. The structure is bowing badly and is in danger of collapse and it is therefore necessary that a 25m wall section be taken down, strengthened and rebuilt (figures 2 & 3). This will require the removal of graveyard material from behind the structure and will almost certainly lead to the uncovering of human remains. The site is in the ownership of the Church in Wales but is no longer in use for active worship and as such is no longer subject to Ecclesiastical Exemption. The Church has been consulted prior to the production of this specification. The building is rented by Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn and is in use as a museum and café.

The current church building was erected in 1825-7 on the site of a much earlier building. Little is known of the architecture of the previous building although it is known to have important historical associations. The earliest surviving records date from the mid 12th Century and detail how Cadwaladr, son of Gruffudd ap Cynan and brother of Owain Gwynedd, granted Nefyn Church, its appurtenances and the associated land to the Augustinian Abbey of Haughmond. In 1535 the church had the status of vicarage of the Abbey. St Mary's Nefyn survived the reformation and became a parochial church.

During a previous phase of works a 1m wide section of Medieval wall was uncovered in the church yard, although it is unclear as to the form or function of the structure to which this wall belonged. Also excavated during previous works were a cist grave containing an articulated female skeleton and a Medieval ring brooch. Previous works also demonstrated the presence of disarticulated and articulated human remains, box graves and cut graves within the top 0.50m of the existing ground level.

This specification has been written following a site meeting between C.R Archaeology, Meinir Pierce Jones of Amgueddfa Forwrol Llŷn, Gareth Jones of Adeiladol Cyf, Susan Booth and Frances Lynch of the Church in Wales Bangor Diocese and Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of GAPS on the 8th October 2015 as a methodology for a programme of works at the site. The Ministry of Justice have been contacted and an application approved for an "Authority to Excavate Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes" prior to the commencement of works.

2.0 Project Aims & Objectives

The aims of this programme of works are to monitor all ground works associated with the remedial works to the church wall and to record any archaeological remains (including articulated and disarticulated human remains) uncovered during the works. A basic photographic record of the church wall will also be made.

The objective of the archaeological programme is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

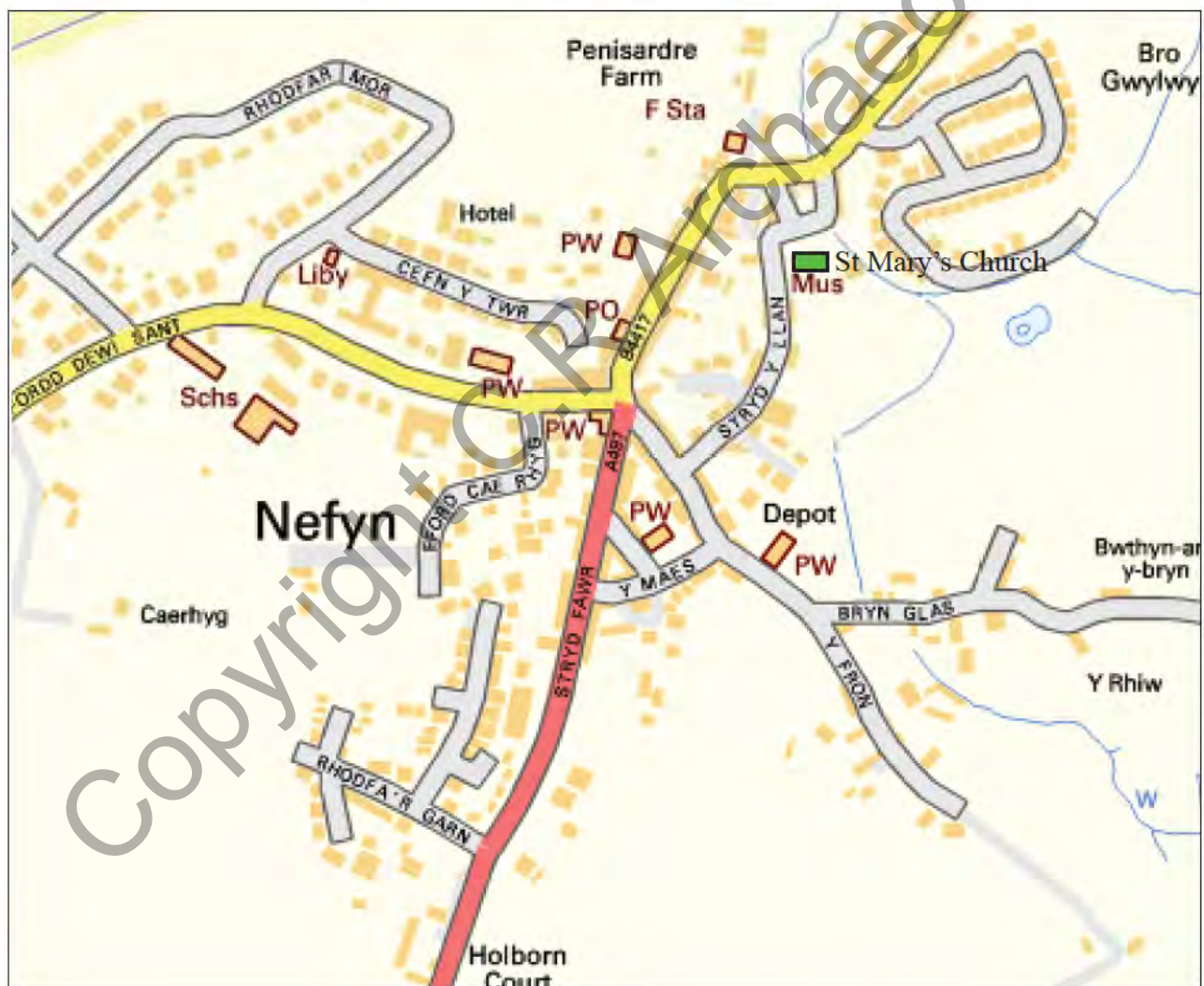
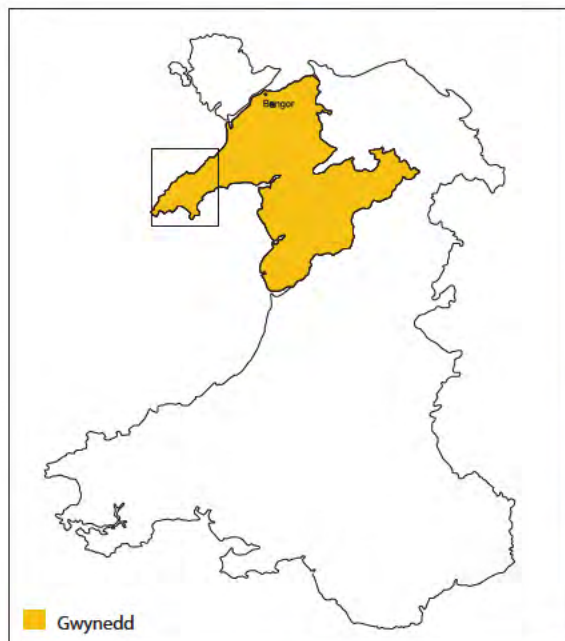


Figure 1. St Mary's Church Location Map
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data
 © Crown copyright and database right 2013)

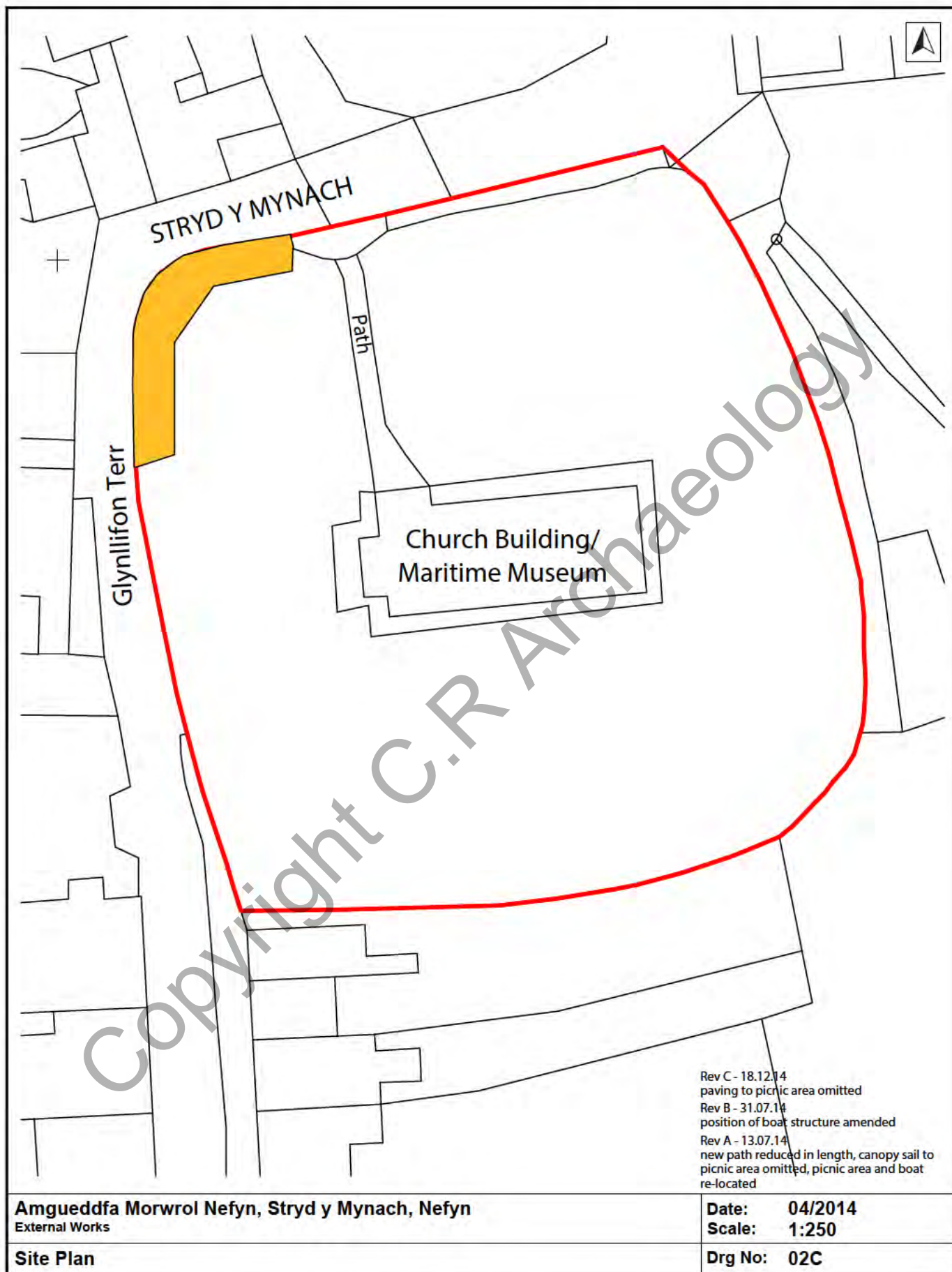
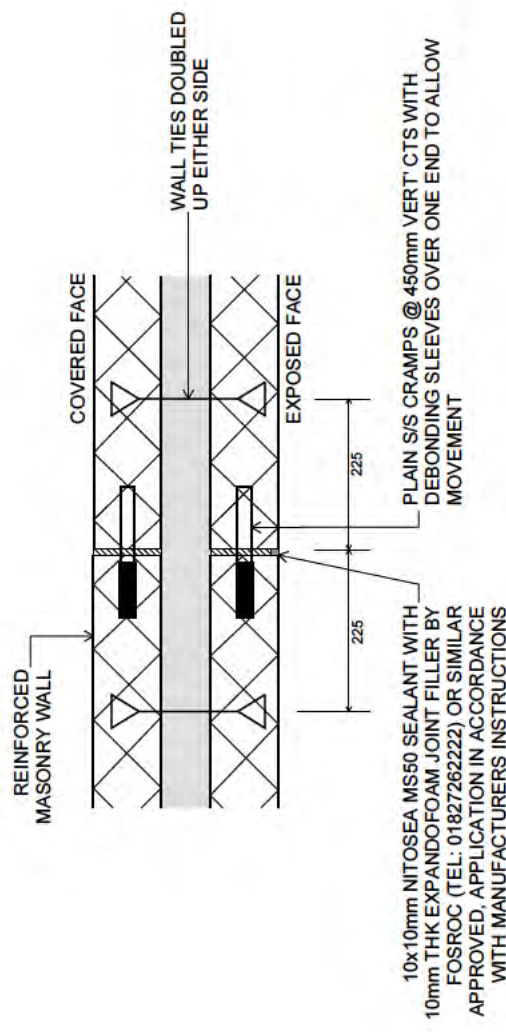


Figure 2. Works to Boundary Wall to be Undertaken at Amgueddfa Morwrol Nefyn.
 Affected Area is Marked in Orange (Drawing Produced by and Supplied by Adeiladol Cyf)



(VERTICAL JOINTS TO BE INTRODUCED @ MAX 6.00m CTS TYP.)

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS & LEVELS IN METERS U.N.O ON THE DRAWING.

RETAINING WALL DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS 8002:1994 - EARTH RETAINING STRUCTURES, SAFE GROUND BEARING CAPACITY OF 100kN/m² ASSUMED FOR THE RC BASE FOUNDATION DESIGN. RETAINING WALLS DESIGNED FOR MAX SURCHARGE OF 2.5kN/m²

CONC INFILL TO BLWK CAVITY TO BE C28/35 WITH 10mm AGGREGATE. MIN 280kg/m³ CEMENT CONTENT

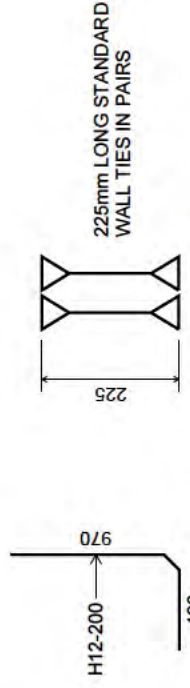
MORTAR TO BE DES II (1:3 CEMENT:SAND WITH PLASTICIZER)

CONCRETE BLINDING & TRENCH FILL TO BE C16/20 U.N.O

MIN REINFORCEMENT LAP 38 x BAR DIA.

ALL REINFORCEMENT TO COMPLY WITH BS 4449. HIGH YIELD REINFORCEMENT TYPE 2 DEFORMED BARS WITH A CHARACTERISTIC STRENGTH OF 500 N/mm² TYP.

Job No.	1415024	DATE	21.10.14	SCALE	Do Not Scale
DRAWN	SJ	CHECKED			
DRAWING No.		1415024/RW01			
		REV			



PART PLAN SHOWING
TYPICAL REINF'T IN WALL
1:10

STARTER BAR
WALL TIE DETAIL
N.T.S

<div>TITLE</div> <div>Retaining Wall Typical Section & Details</div>	<div>PROJECT</div> <div>Amgueddfa Forwrol Llyn, Nefyn</div>	<div>S P Jones</div> <div>Perianwr Ymgynghorol Consulting Engineer</div> <div>M: 07875589079 E: spjones.eng@gmail.com A: 43 High Street, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL55 5RT</div>
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Figure 3.3. Proposed Remedial Works to Boundary Wall to be Undertaken at Amgueddfa Morwrol Nefyn

3.0 Historical Background

As an element of previous works at the site a history of the church at Nefyn was compiled (see document CR56-2015). This is included (without figures) below.

Prehistoric

Mesolithic

There were no Mesolithic remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of flint and stone tools found within the Nefyn parish area although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Neolithic

There were no Neolithic remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of flint and stone tools found within the Nefyn parish area although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Bronze Age

There were no Bronze Age remains within the 500m search radius. Roland Bond (Bond 2008: 12) discusses finds of urns and tools within the Nefyn parish and he lists a number of standing stones although none were listed in the Royal Commission or HER search areas.

Iron age/ Romano-British

There were no Iron Age remains within the 500m search radius. There is a large promontory fort - Trwyn Porth (NPRN 302273) located to the west of the study area and the 1936 RCAHMW Inventory includes a possible hut circle settlement to the east of the church (RCAHMW 1936: 85).

Early Medieval

A stone with an inscribed cross (NPRN 275727) was discovered at Ty'n-y-Cae farm and is now used as a lintel for a barn/cow shed. The stone has been dated to the 7th century (Bond 2008: 12). The stone was originally placed on top of a mound facing towards the sea. The mound has since been destroyed but it was noted that it was located in a field called Cae Pen-y-maen and was found to have contained human bones (Owen 1896: 170-171).

The field where the cross was found was locally known as an area which had produced small copper coins (Owen 1896: 170-171).

It has been suggested that the church of St Mary's (PRN 4316) which was completely rebuilt in 1825 has an Early Medieval foundation date. The church is located on the Pilgrimage Route to Bardsey Island.

Medieval

The earliest documentary reference to Nefyn is as a landing place for Gruffudd Ap Cynan in the mid 11th century (Evans 1990) although it is unclear as to the precise nature of the settlement there at this time.

Further information can be found in grants of land in Nefyn which were granted by Cadwaladr ap Owain to the Augustinians of Haughmond in Shropshire in documents dated 1155-6 and 1161-2 (Bond 2008: 17).

In his tour of 1188 Gerald of Wales stayed at Nefyn on the 9th of April and it is thought that Nefyn held an important place as part of the pilgrimage route with a religious house (priory) with boarding which catered for pilgrims on their way to Bardsey Island (Thorpe 2004: 183).

Turvey records that Nefyn was established as a borough some time before AD 1200 but notes that it does not seem to have been fortified and may have been centred around the mote (Turvey 2007: 6). There are also suggestions that there may have been a Princely Llys (PRN 6622) within the area although no evidence of this has been found.

Nefyn Priory (PRN4317) is mentioned in the records of Caernarvon dated to 1252. The site of the priory is suggested to have been sited to the south-east of St Mary's Church. This location is attributed to a title deed of 1585 discussing land called Tir y Manach (Monks land) and tithe map field name evidence naming Bryn Mynach and Cae Mynach (Hill and Monks Field) (Bond 2008: 16).

Later grants of land in Nefyn were recorded to the Haugmond Abbey by Dafydd ab Owain in 1177 and 1190 and later by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth in 1230. During the same period there is evidence for the town of Nefyn expanding as a trading centre and records show the a grant of bondsman was witnessed by two burgesses of the town (Carr 1995:70).

The town was served by a mill with two other mills listed as operating within the associated manor (Bond 2008: 20). In 1252 William, Prior of Nefyn was a witness concerning an agreement about tenurial arrangements in Aberdaron (GAT Report PRN 33497).

There are the remains of a motte (NPRN 308100, PRN 1535) to the east of the site. The area is surrounded by the remnants of a Medieval farming landscape which was identified through a Gwynedd Archaeological Trust landscape project (PRN 3408). This system includes strip field systems (PRN 13936,13937,13934,13935), field banks (PRN 17197,17199) and lynchets (PRN 17198).

Nefyn came under the control of the English Crown following the collapse of the House of Gwynedd with the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd. In 1284 Edward I held an elaborate tournament at the town to celebrate his victory and his choice of site would suggest that Nefyn (PRN 6529) held a elevated position within Welsh society. Nefyn expanded greatly at this time and its expansion in trade and social position meant that, like many Medieval towns, Nefyn was severely affected by the Black death in the mid 1300's (Bond 2008: 20).

Tokens made from tin-plate which appear to copy a design of Charles VI of France which were struck in 1389 and thought to come from the low countries or German (PRN 5554) have been discovered with 500m of the development site.

The revolt of Owain Glyndwr in 1400 focused on the town as it had expanded and flourished under English rule and his attack on Nefyn was so systemic and the damage so great that it was reduced to the status of a village (Hodges 1995: 169).

In 1535 on the eve of the Dissolution of the Monasteries the church had the status of vicarage of the Abbey (PRN 33497).

Post-Medieval/ Modern

The town of Nefyn developed throughout this later period and become well known for herring fishers, agriculture and boat building. The development of quarries to the east of the town in the 1800's was also undertaken.

A watch tower (NPRN 34168, PRN 12718) was built on the remains of the motte in the early 19th century and is associated with the protection of the large herring fishing fleet.

In this period the town developed and expanded this can be seen by the large number of buildings constructed during the 1800's. The Royal commission lists sixteen important buildings dating from this period.

The current church of St Mary's was constructed in 1825-1827 (NPRN 43787, PRN 4316).

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

The site is located within the ancient town of Nefyn and is the original Parish Church.

Nefyn is a small town on the north-western coast of the Llŷn Peninsular.

4.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as “glacial sand and gravel”. The deposit is described as “sand and gravel with rare clay interbeds; often cross-bedded; of glacial origin.” The bedrock is recorded as “Llanvirn Rocks (Undifferentiated)” and no further detail is given (www.bgs.ac.uk).

5.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

5.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site was compiled during the previous phases of work (see document CR56-2015) and the direction of further research will be influenced by the results of the current works. It will be carried out as necessary to place the finds made in their contemporary local, regional and national context.

The works will be carried out accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance (2014).

5.2 Photographic Survey

A basic photographic survey of the affected area of the St Mary's Church boundary wall will be undertaken. All accessible elevations will be photographed with scales from a variety of angles, including front on where possible. The methodology employed will conform to the requirements of photographic recording to the equivalent of a Level 1 Survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2006) and will include works specified in points 1-2.

A basic photographic record of the affected area within the enclosure wall will also be made and the affected gravestones photographed with scales. The location of each stone is to be surveyed by the principle contractor on site and the data will be made available for the archaeological report. All displaced gravestones are to be returned to their previous location following the completion of works.

5.2.1 Equipment

A photographic survey of the wall and affected internal area will be undertaken using a 14.2 mega-pixel Sony Alpha-350 digital camera with a standard lens using a tripod where necessary. Images will be captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

5.3 Methodology for Archaeological Watching Brief

There are a number of gravestones located within the area affected by the forthcoming works and prior to the commencement of works the gravestone locations are to be recorded by the principle contractor who are responsible for the lifting and safe storage of the stones for the duration of the project. They are to be relaid in their previous location following the completion of works.

All intrusive ground works at the site will be monitored by an archaeologist from C.R Archaeology. It has been agreed between all parties present at the October 8th meeting (see introduction) that the topsoil will be removed using a mechanical excavator with toothless bucket. Following the removal of the topsoil the location of any grave cuts will be recorded photographically and drawn in plan. From this point onwards all excavation will be undertaken by hand.

Any archaeological features, structures or articulated human remains identified in the course of the excavation will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. If features yield suitable material for dating/environmental processing then samples will be taken for processing off site. The size of these samples will depend on the size of the feature but for smaller features a sample of up to 95% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres will be taken.

Should structural remains be encountered the preference will be for preservation in situ, and following the recording of any features, every effort will be made to avoid any damage being caused by the structural works. Should it be necessary to dismantle or partially dismantle the remains then consultation will first take place between C.R Archaeology, the client, the Church in Wales and GAPS as to the appropriate course of action.

5.3.1 The Recovery and Recording of Human Remains

During the previous phases of works human remains were encountered and it is considered almost certain that further remains will be uncovered during these works. Different methodologies have therefore been devised depending on the nature and position of the remains encountered.

As stated in the English Heritage Recording Manual (2010: Module 10) “For each grave forethought is needed so that procedures can be completed before the end of the working day”. Therefore graves which are encountered towards the end of the day will be left in situ for the following day and excavation will not be undertaken unless it can be completed before the end of work. Skeletal remains will not be left exposed overnight.

5.3.1.1 Disarticulated Human Remains Recovered During Excavation

Where disarticulated human remains are encountered they are to be collected, bagged and a note will be made of the location of bone concentrations and larger bone fragments. They are then to be securely stored on site and will be reburied on completion of the project. They will not be subject to any analysis.

The possible exception to this would be if remains are encountered at depth with no apparent contemporary articulated remains or if they are recovered from within other feature e.g. cut feature under wall. This will be examined on an individual basis and GAPS will be consulted before reburial.

5.3.1.2 Articulated Remains Uncovered During Excavation

Where possible the extent of the grave cut within the development area will be defined in plan and the skeleton exposed, recorded and planned at a scale of 1:10. The bones which lie within the development area will be lifted and securely stored on site and will be reburied on completion of the project. A drawn and photographic record of any associated grave items will be made. Should items warrant further study then specialist analysis will be undertaken. Where items are identified as having an association with a specific grave then the items will be kept with these remains and if they are to be reburied will be placed with the deceased.

This is in line with the English Heritage Annex E5 Point 183 in “Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England” (the recommendations of which also apply to Christian burials in Wales). The section entitled “Excavation of Skeletons Lying Partly Under Baulks” specifies that when a skeleton lies partly beyond the excavation trench limits only that part of the skeleton which lies within the trench area is to be lifted, with the remainder left insitu.

The exception will be should any Medieval or earlier burials be encountered as these would be considered to be a significant discovery. Where possible it is proposed that these graves be excavated in thier entirety. This is once more in line with the English Heritage Guidance (ibid Point 187) which recommends remains considered to be osteologically or archaeologically important should be lifted in their entirety provided that it does not cause disturbance to other burials.

Where human remains are undated or are of Post-Medieval date the bones within the development area will be assigned a Skeleton Number and a written record compiled on pro-forma sheets. The exposed skeleton will be photographed vertically with an appropriate scale. Additional close-up shots and photographs from a variety of different angles will also be taken. The skeleton will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. If necessary this will be supplemented by the redrawing of certain areas at a larger scale to record the details of grave goods, coffin fittings etc. The remains lying within the development area will be bagged and labelled as belonging to a single individual and will be kept together for reburial on site. They will not be subject to any further analysis.

Where the remains of infants and babies are encountered special care will be taken to ensure that the remains are kept together and that all bones are collected. This may involve block lifting, and when infant burials are encountered the surrounding soil will be hand sieved with a fine mesh on site.

All grave locations will be recorded using an EDM.

Where human remains are clearly of Medieval or earlier date (for example as signified by the presence of a cist grave or distinctive grave goods such as ring brooch shroud pins) then following recording they will be lifted and retained for further study. This will include examination by oesteoarchaeologist Stephanie Vincent, radiocarbon dating and isotopic analysis. This is detailed below (section 5.3.1.3).

Following analysis discussions will be held between C.R Archaeology, The Church in Wales and Dr Mark Redknap of the National Museum of Wales as to the most appropriate long term future of the remains. This will either be reburial on site or deposition within the research collection at Cardiff.

5.3.1.3 Excavation Methodology for Medieval and Earlier Burials

Should cist structures be uncovered they will be trowel cleaned and fully exposed in plan before being photographed and drawn at a scale of 1:20. A written record will also be made. The top slabs will then be numbered and removed and the grave fill excavated to expose the skeleton. Once the grave fill has been removed any side and base slabs forming the cist will be photographed, drawn and recorded before being lifted and retained for possible future use in an exhibition. Each slab will be numbered for ease of reconstruction.

All Medieval and earlier remains will be assigned a Skeleton Number and a written record compiled on pro-forma sheets. The exposed the skeleton will be photographed vertically with an appropriate scale. Additional close-up shots and photographs from a variety of different angles will also be taken. The skeleton will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. If necessary this will be supplemented by the redrawing of certain areas at a larger scale to record the details of grave goods, coffin fittings etc.

For all Medieval and earlier remains all grave fill will be coarse sieved on site to recover all surviving human remains and any small artefacts such as shroud pins etc associated with the grave. A separate context number will be assigned to the material above and below the body and a written context record will be compiled for each deposit.

Once the recording of the bones is complete they will be lifted and bagged as follows: skull, torso, left arm, right arm, left leg, right leg. Four separate bags will also be used for the right and left hands and feet. Any disarticulated bones in the grave fill will be bagged separately. The various bags will all be stored together in a larger storage container prior to removal from site for analysis. Remains are to be sent to osteoarchaeologist Stefanie Vincent (MA) for initial analysis. Following this Stefanie will process the remains for radiocarbon dating at Beta Analytic (UK) and isotopic analysis.

Following the lifting of the bones any soil remaining on the grave floor will be recovered as four separate bulk samples: one from the head, one from the torso, one from the stomach area and one from the leg/foot area. If an area has to split due to excavation phases then a sample will be taken from both sides. The samples will be wet sieved and sorted to recover small grave goods/bones.

5.4 Recording

The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records will be made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record shall comprise completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations will be produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. A temporary benchmark (TBM) will be established on the site and plans, elevations and sections will contain grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records.

A high-resolution 14.2mp Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale, north arrow and a record board detailing the site name, number and context number. All photographic records will be indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '*.TIF'.

A 'harris matrix' diagram will be constructed for the excavated area.

5.5 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation C.R Archaeology will immediately inform the client, The Church in Wales and the development control archaeologist. Consultation will take place between C.R Archaeology and the parties detailed above with regards to the most suitable course of action.

Any artefacts recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the client, landowner, GAPS and to HM Coroner.

Although the church is leased by Amgueddfa Forwrol Llyn it is owned by The Church in Wales who retain all rights and responsibilities for the graveyard and those interred therein. Diocesan

permission has been granted for works to be conducted and the Diocese will be consulted regarding the reburial of human remains on site.

A Ministry of Justice license for the “Authority to Excavate Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes” has been secured prior to the commencement of works.

5.6 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001). The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CifA 2014).

All artefactual material will be bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds.

Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones and further specialists will be appointed as required. A list of specialists will be prepared prior to the post-excavation phase of works.

Specialist conservation will be undertaken by an approved conservator on advice provided by a suitable specialist. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis all archaeological material, not to be re-interred with the remains to be reburied, recovered will be retained by the Maritime Museum provided that there is suitable provision made for conservation and storage/display space. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition.

It must however be noted that the Church in Wales retains full ownership of all artefactual material and should the museum cease to operate/dispose of its collection then the material is to be returned to the Church for deposition elsewhere – the likely recipient being Bangor Museum.

The works will be carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Revised 2014).

5.7 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria.

It is envisaged that Nefyn Maritime Museum will retain all artefactual material. The exception to this is the human remains which are to be reburied at the site or deposited within the National Museum of Wales' reference collection in Cardiff. Archive material will be deposited in Bangor Museum in accordance with the museum's terms and conditions for archive deposition.

5.8 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that this phase of works at St Mary's Church will commence on the 2nd November 2015 and works are to be conducted on a day rate basis. It is currently thought that works will take a minimum of 6 – 8 weeks. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and The Church in Wales will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

5.9 Staffing

The project will be managed by Catherine Rees (MICfA, MA – Archaeology, BA – Archaeology, PgDip – Historic Environment Conservation). Site work is also to be conducted by Catherine Rees, Matthew Jones (BA - Archaeology, MA - Archaeological Practise) and Dr Ian Brooks (MICfA, PhD). Extra staff will be brought in if required. All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the IfA AIfA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request.

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

5.10 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services and The Church in Wales archaeological consultant Frances Lynch. The monitors will be given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. A projected time-scale and copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request to the monitoring body prior to the commencement of works. They will be notified in writing of the commencement dates for archaeological site work.

5.11 Health and Safety

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff will be familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit will be located in the site vehicle.

All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. Initially this is anticipated to consist of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

Any further PPE required will be provided by C.R Archaeology

All staff will have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363) or a Site Visitor card.

The principle contractor is responsible for the overall H&S on site and for the implementation, erection and maintenance of safety equipment such as shoring, acrows or scaffolding. C.R Archaeology staff will comply with any Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

Due to the antiquity of the skeletal material it is felt unlikely that any pathogens or fungal spores will have survived in the burial environment. However as an additional precaution disposable gloves will be worn during excavation.

It is recognised that psychological stress may occur during the excavation of human remains. Although this is more common amongst those working with human remains preserving soft-tissues it is a consideration here and if at any time staff are feeling uncomfortable/anxious then they are to withdraw from the excavation area.

Although considered unlikely should a lead coffin be encountered then gloves must be worn. If the ground conditions are dusty then a suitable mask covering the nose and mouth must also be worn to minimise the risk of lead inhalation.

5.12 The Report

The results of the works will be presented in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report will include:

- A copy of the agreed specification
- A location plan
- Drawings detailing the locations of all excavated areas
- All identified features plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development site
- Appropriately scaled plans and sections showing identified features and significant finds
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified features
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of any photographs or drawings
- All specialist reports in full
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of the completion of post excavation work. At present the time scale for report production following the completion of fieldwork is unknown. This is due to the variable nature and duration of post excavation works.

In the event of the discovery of archaeological material articles detailing the results of the works will be submitted to relevant publications. As a minimum this will be Archaeology in Wales but dependant upon the results is likely also to include Medieval Archaeology, Current Archaeology and the Council for British Archaeology magazine.

5.12.1 Public Engagement

Due to the sensitive nature of the works to be undertaken and in order to comply with burial legislation the site will be screen from public view and there will be no unauthorised access to the site. Specific site visits by groups will be allowed but these are to be prearranged through the Maritime Museum. Further outreach will be conducted in conjunction with the museum and dependant on the results of the works is likely to take the form of a blog and later public talk.

5.12.2 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

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Appendix B. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

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