

LLANGELYNIN CHURCH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF THE DRAINAGE WORKS
G1328
M. A. WARD
APRIL 1995

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The need for improved drainage in the churchyard of Llangelynin, involved the excavation of two shallow drains by The Chester Masonry Group in April 1995. The first drain consisted of a catchment pit at the corner of the nave and the north chapel on the north side of the church, with a drainage trench running off to the north-west. The second catchment pit was located at the junction of the chancel and north chapel at the east end, with a drainage trench running off to the south-east. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (contracts), in response to notification by Graham Holland Associates on April 19th, visited the site on 26th and 27th April 1995 in order to record and assess the nature, date and extent of any archaeological deposits, which were revealed during the excavation. A photographic record of the trenches was made.

2. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

The northern trench, approximately 8 m in length, 0.4 m wide and 0.3 m deep, ran into a pre-existing stone lined drain which pre-dated the conservation works of 1986. This earlier drain was subsequently re-used. The eastern drain, approximately 4 m in length, 0.4 m wide and 0.3 m deep, revealed the eastern end of a stone-lined and capped grave, 0.4 m wide and 0.35 m deep, orientated east-west. A small cutting was made on the south side of this trench to investigate this grave. The grave lining consisted of flat slabs built up to form the grave sides and bonded with mortar. This arrangement was then capped with flat slabs. Although first thought to be Early Medieval in date, the construction technique used does not match any known examples within this period. On the subsequent removal of some of the stones in the eastern end of the grave a plastic bag was recovered confirming that the stones had lined a modern unmarked grave. No other archaeological features or deposits were noted from either trenches.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

No further archaeological investigation of the drainage ditches was deemed necessary.