St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD

June 2023 V 1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0284.1
Report no. 0403
Event PRN: 213828

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0284.1
Date: 05/06/2023
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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

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Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Graham Holland Associates ar ran Cyngor Eglwys St. Mary's i gynnal brîff gwylio archaeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â chloddio draeniau newydd i waith trin carthion ym mynwent Eglwys St. Mary's, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn.

Yn ystod y gwaith cofnodwyd pum carreg fedd a'u lleoli er mwyn caniatáu'r gwaith. Hefyd, yn ystod y cloddiad ar gyfer y gwaith trin, daethpwyd ar draws chwe chladdedigaeth, yn cynrychioli chwe sgerbyd dynol cymalog. Hefyd, yn ystod y cloddiad ar gyfer y gwaith trin, daethpwyd ar draws chwe chladdedigaeth, yn cynrychioli chwe sgerbyd dynol cymalog. Cafodd y claddedigaethau hyn eu glanhau'n barchus a gofalus, eu cofnodi, eu codi, eu dadansoddi, a'u hail-gladdu wedi hynny o fewn terfynau'r fynwent. Yn ogystal, casglwyd cyfanswm o 259 o ddarnau unigol o asgwrn dynol a'u hailgladdu.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Graham Holland Associates on behalf of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the installation of new external drainage to a sewerage treatment plant within the churchyard of The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn.

During the works 5 grave headstones were recorded and re-sited in order to facilitate the works. Also, during the excavation for the treatment plant, six burials, representing six articulated human skeletons were encountered. These burials were respectfully and carefully cleaned, recorded, exhumed, analysed, and subsequently reburied within the confines of the churchyard. In addition, a total 259 individual fragments of human bone were collected and reburied.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Graham Holland Associates on behalf of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the installation of new external drainage to a sewerage treatment plant within the churchyard. Also internally, re-siting the font within the grade II* Listed Building of The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD (**NGR SH 92708 70135**) (*figures 01-03*).

The Church and its churchyard are perched upon a promontory of rock lie situated between School Lane in the north (at the base), Water Street in the east (at the base), and Church Street in the south, with the graveyard situated primarily to the south and west of the church building.

Upon arrival on at the Church by the archaeologist on 30th January 2023 the font an pews had already been moved/removed and so were not recorded as part of these works. The programme of archaeological work was undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (**ref. 2020-005733**) which required that the archaeological work must proceed in accordance with the Aeon Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated October 2020 and in compliance with the following conditions:

2. The Parish to appoint an accredited Archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during all ground disturbance, internally and externally. A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) should be submitted by the Archaeologist to the DAC for approval, prior to the commencement of these groundworks. The person(s) actually carrying out the work detailed in the WSI should preferably be a registered CIfA individual or at the very least belong to a CIfA-registered organisation, and should be familiar with and must follow the Institute's Standards and Guidance. The Contractor must be made aware of the need to work closely with the Archaeologist during the on-site works; to this end the Contractor should expect to give the Archaeologist a minimum of five days' notice as to when they intend to start on the site. Sufficient time should be allowed during the on-site works for the Archaeologist to record any significant remains that are exposed, including buried gravestones. The Archaeologist shall also be responsible for collecting any human bone, fragmentary or complete, which is dug up, following the necessary legal procedures. It is expected that the Architect shall apply for a DoJ licence in advance of the commencement of works. In conjunction with the incumbent, the Archaeologist should make an appropriate decision as to how those bones or fragments are re-buried. Upon completion of the watching brief, the Archaeologist should produce a written report on the findings, regardless of whether they are positive or negative. This should be submitted to the secretary of the DAC for ratification. If there are any issues with this condition that need to be qualified at any stage during the works, the Parish or its appointed Archaeologist should contact the secretary of the DAC immediately, who may then seek clarification from the DAC's Archaeologist.

3. The Architect or if so instructed the Archaeologist shall take a full set of digital images of the interior of the church prior to the commencement of the works. These should include close-ups of the pews that are to be removed. For comparative purposes a second set of images should be taken after the completion of the work. Both sets of images to be archived with the secretary to the DAC to fulfil the condition.

It was stipulated in the WSI that; if any human remains were to become exposed or are otherwise encountered during the course of the work:

- All work in the vicinity must stop immediately.

- The remains must be lightly covered with soil.
- The Diocesan Registrar (or in their absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) must be notified.
- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar must be followed.

The work also adhered to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

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Figure 01: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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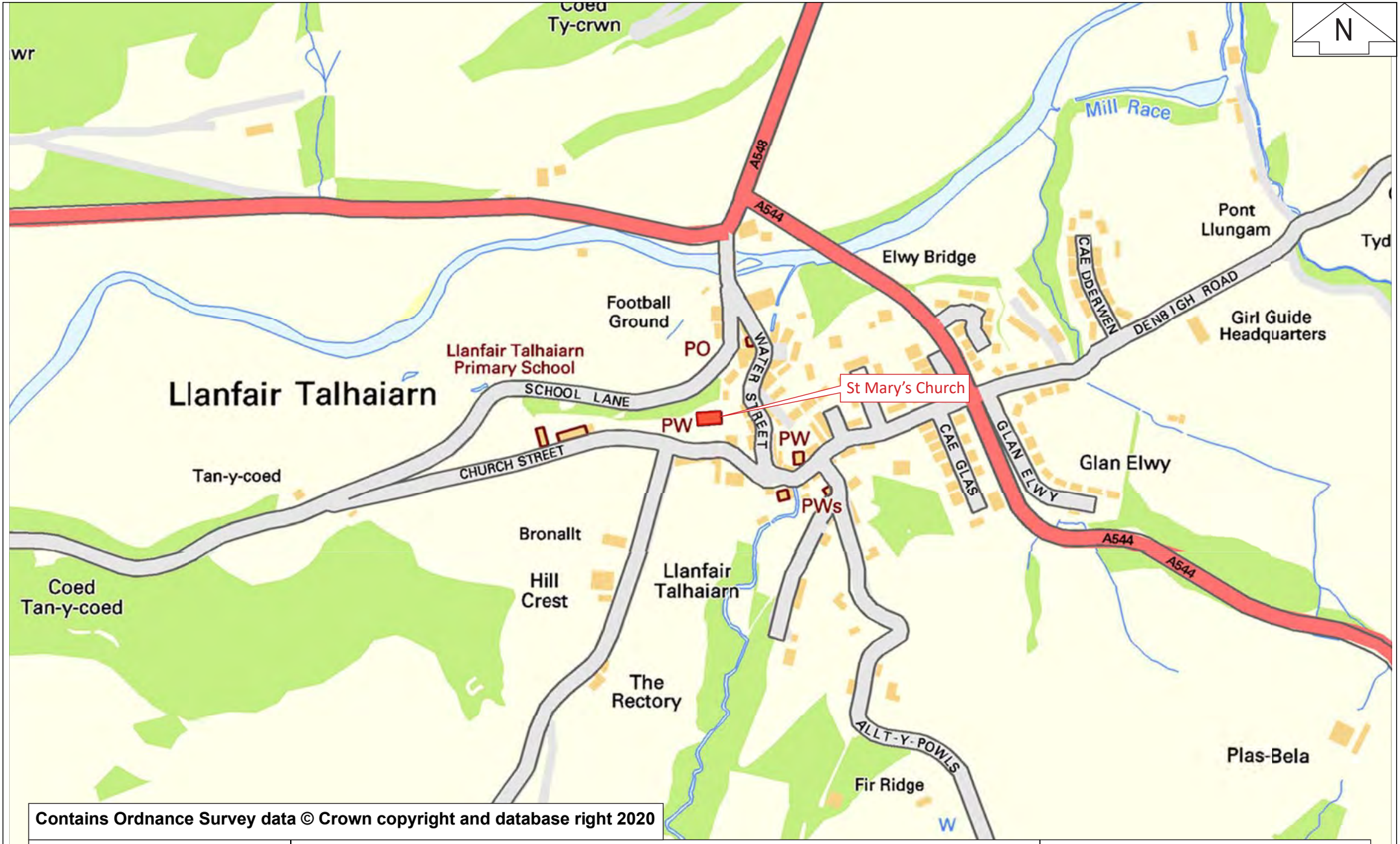

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Figure 02: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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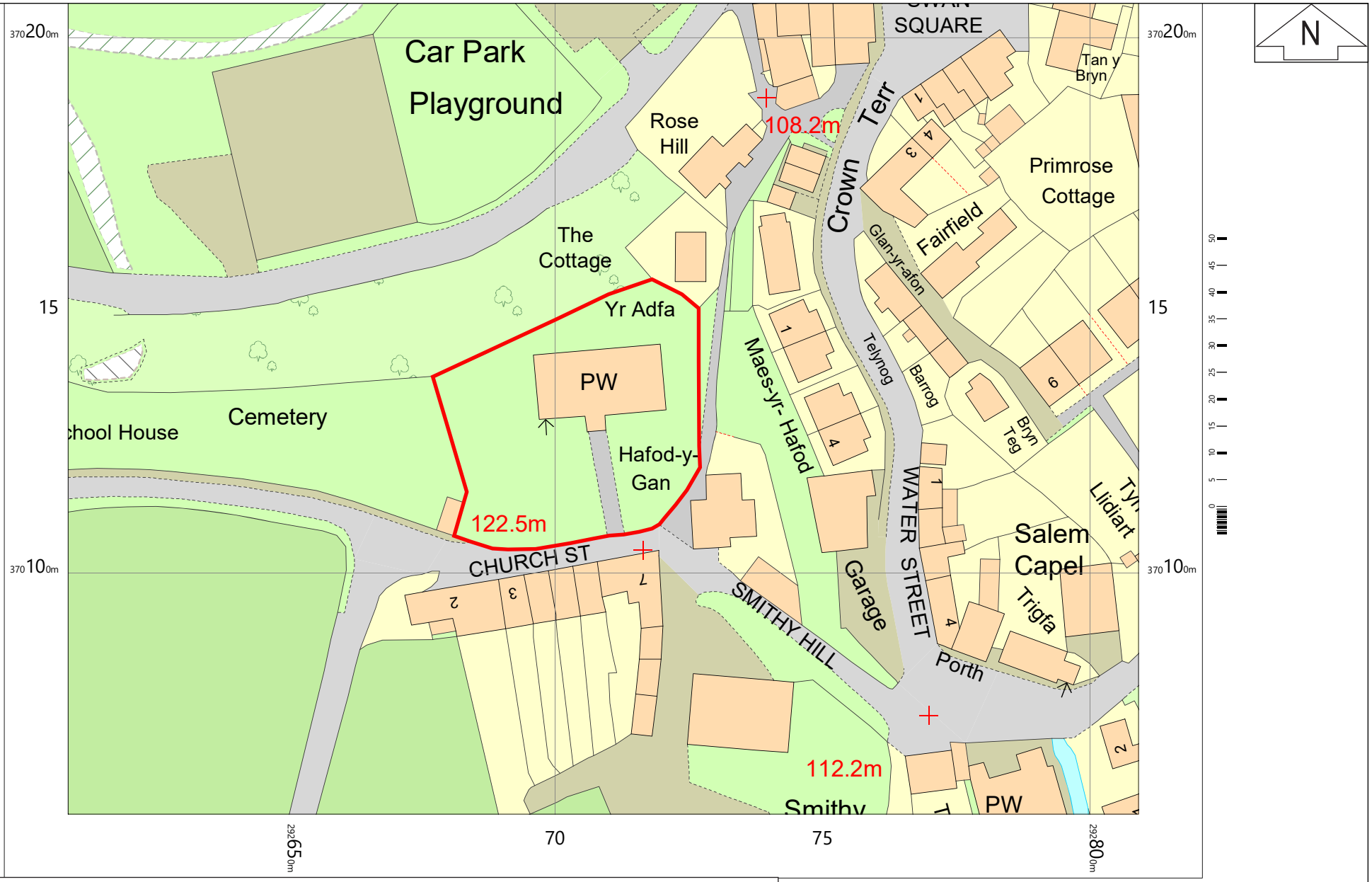

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Figure 03: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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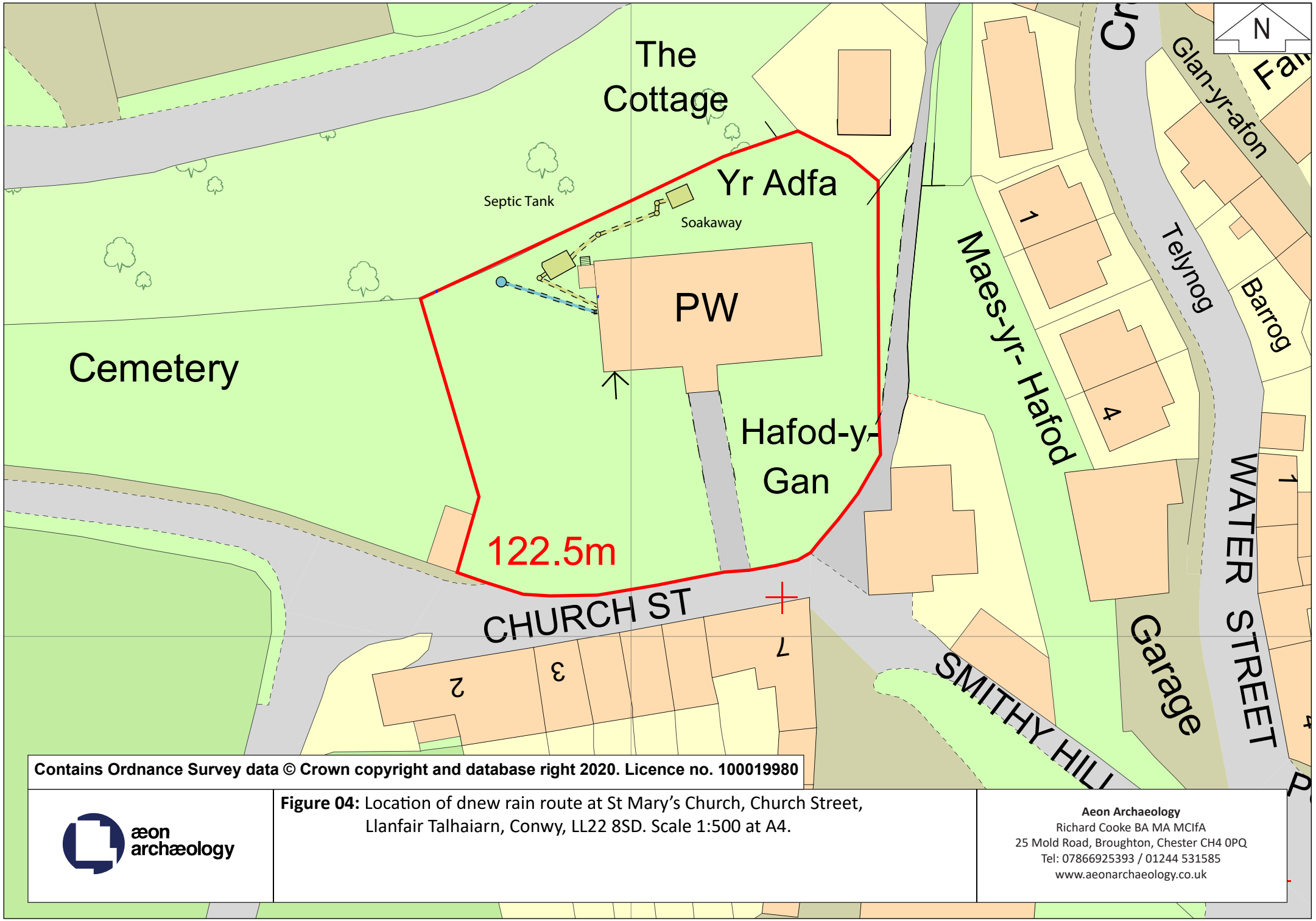

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Figure 04: Location of dnew rain route at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:500 at A4.

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3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The requirement for archaeological monitoring is in line with relevant UK legislation on heritage which includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN-24 2017), and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

Also of relevance is the *Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Order 2018*. This Order revokes and replaces the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 1994 for Wales.

Section 60(1) and (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides that ecclesiastical buildings which are for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes are not subject to sections 3A, 4, 7 to 9, 47, 54 and 59 of the 1990 Act. This is defined in article 2 as listed buildings ecclesiastical exemption. Those sections relate to listed building control, including: building preservation notices; restrictions on works of demolition, alteration or extension; compulsory acquisition of buildings in need of repair; urgent preservation works by a local authority and the Welsh Ministers; and offences in relation to intentional damage.

Section 75 of the 1990 Act provides that ecclesiastical buildings which are for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes are not subject to section 74 of the 1990 Act. Section 74 relates to the control of demolition of buildings in conservation areas. This is the conservation area consent ecclesiastical exemption.

This Order removes the listed buildings ecclesiastical exemption in the case of all ecclesiastical buildings other than for those cases falling within article 4. Under article 4 the exemption is retained in respect of church buildings of the Church in Wales, the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Baptist Union of Wales provided that the building in question's primary use is as a place of worship and subject to the restrictions set out in that article.

A church building includes—

(a)any object or structure fixed to the church building;

(b)any object or structure within the curtilage of a church building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land.

(This is now the case whether or not that object or structure is listed in its own right.)

Article 6 provides that if an application for listed building consent in relation to any object or structure within the curtilage of a church building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land (as defined in article 4(1)(b)) has already been made before the coming into force date of this Order, then this Order will not apply to that application and the local planning authority will continue to determine it.

This Order also removes the conservation area consent ecclesiastical exemption from all ecclesiastical buildings.

Article 1(3) provides that the loss of ecclesiastical exemption does not affect any works which have commenced, or in respect of which a contract has been made, before the Order comes into force

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and County Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

"In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses" (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the Town and Country Planning 1995.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and polices related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

4.0 PROJECT AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. Externally during the excavation in the churchyard for the new drainage and treatment plant;

2. Externally during the excavation in the churchyard for the new access steps;

3. Internally during the re-siting of the font.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

5.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Watching Brief

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

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A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

All excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 6000D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0284.1**.

5.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

5.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

5.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

5.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist, and will be logged with the RCAHMW. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0284.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

(*The following is largely reproduced from the CPAT website see section 11.0 for full reference*)

St Mary's church is situated above the small village of Llanfair Talhaiarn, which lies in the valley of the Elwy, about 5 miles to the south of Abergele. The double-naved church does have some medieval fabric surviving, but there was considerable rebuilding in the 19th century and all of the window's date from that time. There is also an attractive stained-glass window at the west end and many listed 19th century memorials to local families. Of interest is an Immersion Font (1849), an ancient font bowl in the porch, a Sanctuary Ring in the 17th century door and a fine Church organ (1880). The poet and architect John Jones 1810-1869, (bardic name *Talhaiarn*) is buried in the churchyard. Within the church only, the disused font bowl and a few of the roof timbers date back to the medieval era.

A minimum of two medieval phases on the south wall as is suggested by an inset, though there is no corroborative evidence. The north wall of the north nave retains old masonry, presumably of medieval origin, but upper part of the wall has been rebuilt or heightened. The east end is largely rebuilt in two different fabrics, the one a homogeneous mixture, the other freshly quarried material; the sequence in which these two were used is not entirely clear, particularly in the south chamber. The south wall of the south chamber has been largely replaced. Though the windows are all 19th century date, it is not clear whether all were replaced at the same time; because two different styles are represented here (perhaps representing faithful copies of earlier windows which were originally built in different styles). Hubbard (see Hubbard 1986), thought the windows were all of *one date* and replaced 17th century and 18th century examples, the south door perhaps representing a contemporary feature. The porch is 19th century and therefore likely associated with the with the Victorian remodelling.

The original churchyard is quite small, very well-kept and occupies fairly level ground. There are traces of curvilinearity on the south, which are more pronounced on the mid-19th century tithe map. An extension was added on the west side in 1879. The site overlooks the steep-side valley of the River Elwy, and the ground drops away immediately to the river on the north and into a tributary valley on the east. The boundary wall consists of a mortared stone wall and acts largely as a retaining wall on all sides.

Historical Background

During the 19th century there was a mine known as the *Tyddyn Clefi Mine* (approximately 1km to the east of the Church), which mined Lead, Zinc and Copper. This probably resulted in a minor population boom for the area during the end of the 19th century. However, it was also known to have been operational on a smaller scale earlier in the century. The mine came under the auspices of the Llanfair Company in 1891; when two north-south lodes were worked, the main veins being the Morgan Lode and the New Lode. These produced only a small tonnage of lead, zinc and copper ores (Archer 1959). Therefore, the area was worked probably as far back as the early 19th century. Despite considerable investment in plant by the Llanfair Company the workings only continued for a small number of years. The main mine area was later partly quarried out at the end of the track from Pont Llungam, which passes the renovated houses of Tyddyn Clefi and Ysgwbor Wen.

Disused levels and shafts were located along the trackway to the renovated mine buildings and on either side of the stream which falls north to meet the River Elwy. Water still runs from an adit level west of the Morgan's Shaft area (CPAT 1993) that has been cleared. Adits also run eastwards into the

hillside of Moel Iago amid areas of spoil. Ore was transported by horse and cart to Abergele; the return journey brought coal to power the mine machinery. Two reservoir-pools also appear to have served the sett (legal claim).

Given this industrial activity which was taking place in the area and combined with established agricultural operations it would appear as if Llanfair TH experienced a small boon in the mid-late 19th century. This is supported by the instances of larger Methodist congregations being present in the Village. The combined endeavours of creating necessary mining infrastructure; excavating adits and reservoirs, producing shoring for shafts, maintaining machinery and the need to establish regular trade routes between Llanfair Talhaiarn and Abergele would have attracted a large workforce to the area. This would have created a market for craftsmen and women of all sorts who could service the needs of the large workforce present in the area. This corresponds with at a time when non-conformist religious worship was arguably at its most popular as evidenced by the number of chapels in the village.

7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day sheets	7
Context Sheets	17
Digital photographs	120

7.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable archaeological deposits were encountered.

7.3 Artefacts

Any artefacts encountered during the archaeological watching brief are discussed in relation to the grave fills they were recovered in (*see section 9.2 Burials*).

7.4 Human Remains

For the analysis of the Human Remains please see***: APPENDIX II - Skeletal Report for St. Mary's Church, Llanfair TH*** *by Andrea Carlin BSc Msc.*

8.0 DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material, and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

Upon completion of the project copies of the report will be sent to the Client, regional HER and DMA at CPAT.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018 updated 2022) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

9.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.1 Type of study

An archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the installation of new external drainage to a sewerage treatment plant within the churchyard. Also internally, re-siting the font (see section *2.0 Introduction*) within the grade II* Listed Building of The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD.

8.2 Types of data

Photographs, measured plans, context sheets, context register, photographic register, trench sheets.

8.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

8.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

> *3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.*
>
> *3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate*

8.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

8.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

8.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

8.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

8.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

8.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

8.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (RCAHMW) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

8.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

8.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

8.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

8.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

8.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

10.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

9.1 Overview

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractor for Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on the 30 - 31st January, 1 - 3rd February & 16 - 17th May 2023. The weather conditions were variable with periods of overcast weather, with episodes of bright/high contrast sunshine. The excavation of the drainage trenches, tank trench and soakaways were all conducted using a tracked 1.60 tonne, 360° excavator which utilised a toothless ditching bucket. What follows is a combination of description and discussion with regards to the specific phases of excavation, also their stratigraphy is outlined with a detailed account of the headstones and burials, which were affected as part of these works.

9.2 The Sewerage Treatment Plant & invert/inflow drain run

(See figure 05; plates 11 – 12)

Stratigraphic Description & Disarticulated Bone

This phase of excavation produced 155 fragments of disarticulated bone. This bone was recovered from near the top of the stratigraphic column, suggesting that it was likely backfilled into graves after they had been excavated, during historic grave digging over at least the last 200 years. Disarticulated bone is often found in small assemblages such as the one recovered from Llanfair TH, when similar works take place in graveyards. All the disarticulated fragments found during these works, were not found to relate to any part of an articulated skeleton/burial. Therefore, these were deemed to provide limited archaeological context, beyond proof that burials have taken place within the graveyard over the centuries, which have disturbed earlier burials and distributed these disarticulated bones throughout the soil. In addition, many of the bones found in this manner exhibit post depositional damage which can mask bone pathology, rendering their research value quite low. At no point did any of these remains leave the confines of the consecrated ground of the churchyard at St. Mary's.

The trench for the Sewerage Treatment Plant measured 3.15m in length by 1.97m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.78m. The trench was orientated northeast to southwest and was excavated to the west of the boiler room extension of the Church. The trench removed 0.18m of firm, dark grey-black, sand-silt, topsoil (109) with abundant root inclusions from a nearby yew tree. Beneath this there was a 1.60m deep deposit of soft-quite firm, heavily mixed, dark red-brown, sand-clay-silt, generic graveyard subsoil (107) with infrequent (1-2%) sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, occasional disarticulated human remains, very occasional slate and lime mortar fragments and very frequent root inclusions. This trench then cut (by 0.20m) into the very firm/friable, mid yellow-brown, clay-silt-sand, natural (108), (glacial till), which lay over broken shale. At a depth of 1.62m (*5ft 3"*) below ground level (bGL) or 121.50 Ordnance Datum in meters (ODm) the first burial (SK02) was encountered, burials then persisted to a depth of 2.28m (*7ft 6"*) or 120.82 ODm – or the last burial (SK06) recovered.

Grave Slabs (Headstones)

(See figure 05; plates 01-09:38-40)

Headstone A

This had an *Ogee top* with pronounced *Ogee Shoulders*, and is made from Welsh Slate or similar fine-grained, homogeneous, metamorphic rock. The script for the headstone is in a mixed serif and script font. The Grave Slab was aligned with inscribed side facing east, furthermore it inclined slightly to the east. The headstone exhibited two long fractures which extended the length of the slab and emanated from the carved depression between the pronounced shoulders and the Ogee top.

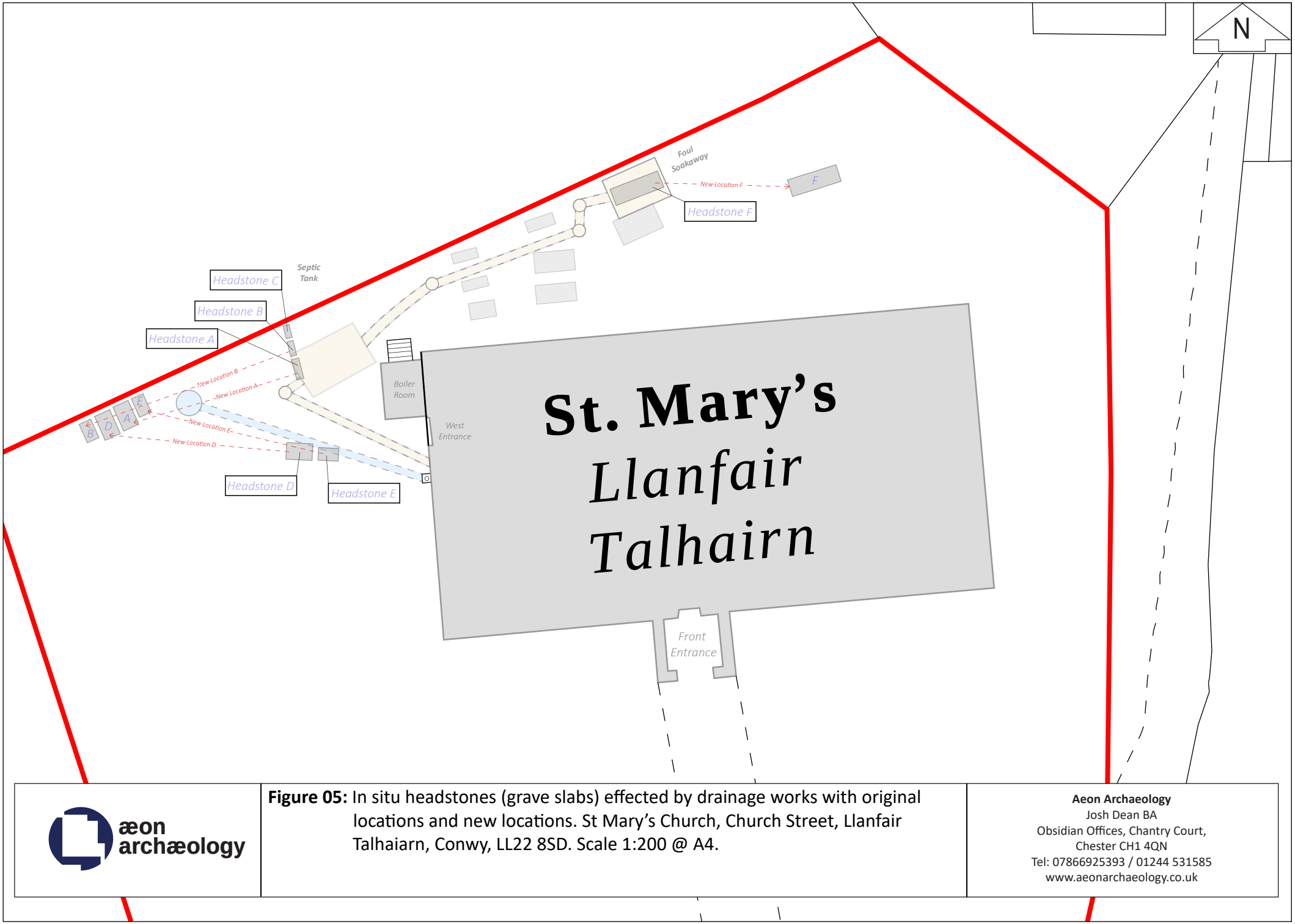

Figure 05: In situ headstones (grave slabs) effected by drainage works with original locations and new locations. St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:200 @ A4.

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Plate 01: Context shot of headstones A, B, & C (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 02: Context shot of headstones A, B, & C (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 03: Context shot of headstones A, B, & C (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale

Plate 04: In situ photograph of Headstone A, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 05: In situ photograph of Headstone B, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 06: Inscription on Headstone B, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - no scale

Plate 07: In situ photograph of Headstone C, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 09: In situ photograph of Headstones D & E, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 11: Section shot of inflow/invert trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 12: Section shot for septic tank trench, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 13: SK01 & SK02 context shot within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

The inscription for the grave slab reads;

In Memory of
THOMAS HUGHES
Nailor late of Llangefni
who died February 2nd 1855
Aged 41

Also
of Jane Hughes
wife of the above named
who died October 13th 1877
Aged 84

It is likely that the two burials, *skeleton 1* (SK01) & *skeleton 2* (SK02), represent the people inscribed on this headstone. SK01 is thought to be a probable female, of unspecified age, who was 5 ft, 1 *or* 2 inches *(+/- 3.7cm*) tall. SK02 is thought to be a probable male, middle adult, who was 5 ft, 7 inches (*+/- 3.9cm*) tall. Therefore, SK01, the most recent burial (second interred) to be interred in the grave plot was likely *Jane Hughes*, and was *aged 84*. Her husband *Thomas Hughes* is SK02, and was the primary occupant of the grave plot (although his grave cut into an earlier burial – *SK03, see below*), he was a nailor by profession and was aged 41.

Headstone B

This had a *Deep Ogee top* with *Scotia Shoulders*, and is made from sandstone or clastic sedimentary rock. The script for the headstone is in a serif font. The grave slab was aligned with the inscribed side facing east, but it inclined slightly to the northwest – likely with ground subsidence.

The inscription for the grave slab reads;

ER COFAM
MARY WILLIAMS
YR HON WYF A FU FARW
MAWRTH Y 15ED 1843 YN
41 MLWYDD OED

WILLIAM WILLIAMS JOINER
PRIOD YR UCHOD A FU FARW
MAWRTH YR 16FED 1868 EF OEDRAN 66
HEFO DAU O BLANT JOHN A
[MARIA MORRIS] MERCH YR UCHOD
FAN NY FAWRW EBRILL 25ED 1876
YN 14 MLWYDD OED

[Translated to English] on next page

In Memory of
Mary Williams
Who died
March 15th 1843 aged
41 years old

William Williams Joiner
Spouse of the above who died
March 16th his age was 66
Also two children of John and
[Maria Morris] Daughter of the above
Who died April 25th 1876
Aged 14

Headstone C

This had a *Deep Ogee top* with *Scotia Shoulders*, and is made from sandstone or clastic sedimentary rock. The script for the headstone is in a serif font. The grave slab was aligned with inscribed side facing east, but it inclined dramatically to the northeast – likely due to ground subsidence.

The inscription for the grave slab reads;

ER COFAM
WILLIAM
ANWYL BLENTYN JOHN
A ELIZABETH JONES NEW INN
BU FARW MEHN 15D 1858 YN 3
BLWYDD OED

HEFYD MARY FU FARW AWST
29N 1875 YN 15 MLWYDD OED

[Translated to English]

In Memory of
William
Dear child of John
And Elizabeth Jones New Inn
Who died June 15th 1858 aged
3 years old

Also Mary who died August
29th 1875 aged 15 years old

Burials

(*For any abbreviations see Appendix II - Skeletal Report For St. Mary's Church, Llanfair TH*)

(See figures 06-11; plates 03-33)

Skeleton 01 (SK01)

The first burial encountered was SK01 which was located in an ovoid/sub rounded grave cut [101], this had steep sides with a flat to mildly undulating base. The grave cut [101] was orientated east to west and measured >0.38m in length by 0.40m in width by 0.22m in depth. In addition, the eastern end of the burial was partially truncated during machining. This burial represented a recut of an earlier grave for SK02 (see discussion below) and consisted of only the lower limbs of the individual and represented <24% of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in a *fair* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a probable female, of undetermined age, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 157cm or *5ft 1" in height* (+/- 3.7cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.22m of fairly loose, dark brown-grey, clay-sand-silt (102) with frequent angular/ sub-angular pebble inclusions (10-15%). In addition, the grave fill (102) also produced a fragment of clay pipe stem with a bore of 2.2mm and a tapered profile, reminiscent of the pipes colloquially known as *cuttys* or *nose warmers* due to their stubby length, such pipes were popular after 1850 (CAFG 2012).

In all likelihood, this burial represented the mortal remains of *Jane Hughes*, as her name was noted as the secondary occupant of the grave plot denoted by *Headstone A* directly above the burial. That headstone recorded that she was the wife of Thomas Hughes (in all likelihood SK02, see below), and that she died on October 13th, 1877, at the age of 84.

Skeleton 02 (SK02)

The second burial encountered was SK02 which was also located in an ovoid/sub rounded grave cut [103], this had steep to gradual sides with a flat base. The grave cut [103] was orientated east to west and measured >0.89m in length by 0.58m in width by 0.18m in depth. In addition, the eastern end of the burial was partially truncated during machining. This burial represented the primary cut for a grave of two. The skeletal remains consisted of the lower limbs (as with SK01) of the individual and represented *25-49%* of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in a *fair* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a probable male, a middle adult, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 170cm or *5ft 7" in height* (+/- 3.9cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.18m of soft, dark brown-grey, clay-sand-silt (104) with frequent angular/ sub-angular pebble inclusions (10-15%) and had been cut by [101].

Also recovered from the grave was a single cast iron coffin handle and iron coffin nails, denoting a coffin burial. There was also an apparent grave good between the knees, possibly placed within the pocket of the deceased; a green medicinal phial. Medicinal bottles represent the largest and most diverse group of bottle types produced through the 19th to mid-20th centuries. Mid-19th century medicine bottles seem to possess a general shape (rectangular with indented panels); however, this example is a rounded (three-piece mold), yet the iron pontil scars on the base of the bottle is another signifier often indicative of a mid-19th century date (Lindsey 2019). Most medicinal bottles also had a narrow neck and mouth (aka bore or throat) since this configuration was most useful for pouring out the typically liquid contents. A narrow neck and bore also likely limited evaporation through or around the cork also (Fike 1987).

Likely, this burial represented the mortal remains of *Thomas Hughes*, as his name was noted as the primary occupant of the grave plot denoted by *Headstone A* directly above the burial. That headstone

Plate 14: SK01 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 15: SK01 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 16: SK01 & SK02 context shot within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 0.50m scale

Plate 17: SK02 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 18: SK02 context shot without board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 19: SK02 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 20: SK02 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m & 1.00m scale

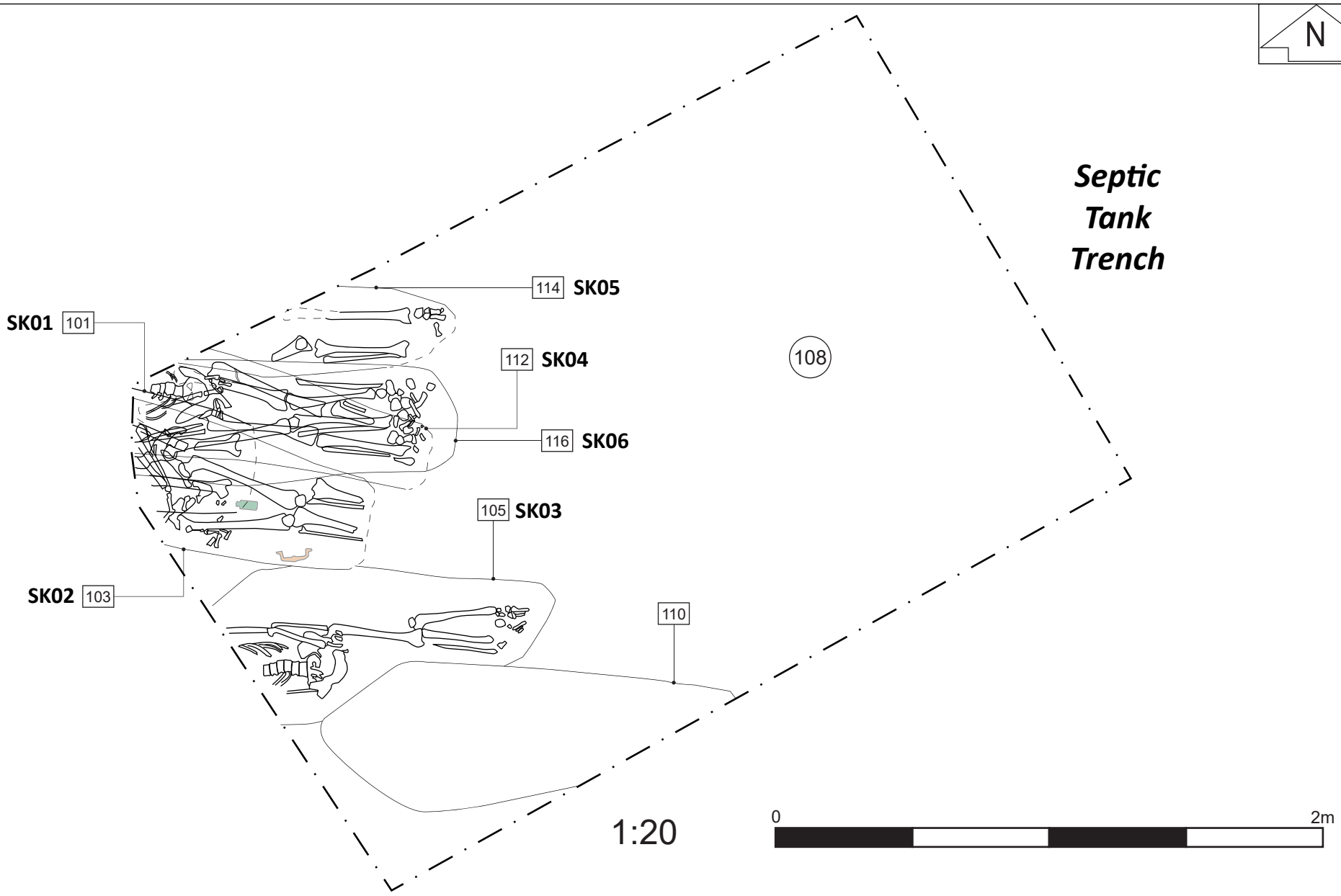

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Figure 06: Master Plan showing location of all burials within the septic tank trench, St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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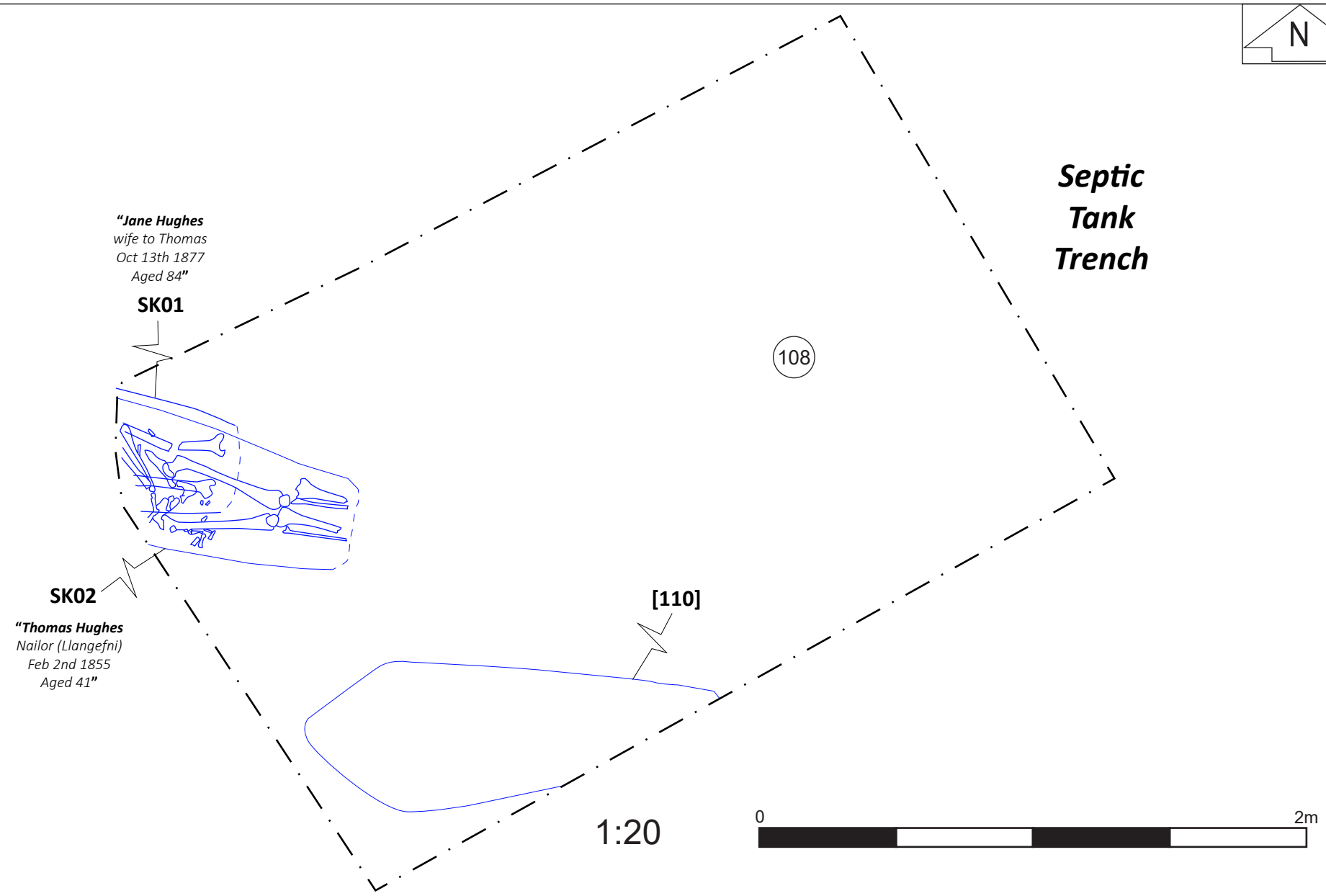

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Figure 07: Plan showing location of 19th century burials within the septic tank trench, St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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recorded he was a ***Nailor***, which meant he could have either possibly been a maintenance professional for a weaver's carding machine, or more likely a metalworker who produced nails. He is recorded as being late of Llangefni which is on the island of Anglesey. He died on February 2nd, 1855, at the age of 41 and was joined in his grave, by his wife 22 years later.

Skeleton 03 (SK03)

The third burial encountered was SK03 which was also located in an ovoid/sub rounded grave cut [105], this had steep to gradual sides with a flat base. The grave cut [105] was orientated east to west and measured >1.25m in length by 0.60m in width by 0.15m in depth. In addition, the southern side of the burial was partially truncated by a later grave cut [110]. This burial seemingly represented a cut for a single individual. The skeletal remains consisted of the left arm, lower ribs & spine, pelvis and left lower leg, which represented *50-74%* of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in a *fair* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a probable female, older adult, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 153cm or *5ft in height* (+/- 3.7cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.15m of soft, light brown-grey, sand-clay-silt (106) with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions (2-5%) and had been cut by [110] removing the right leg. This cut [110] is from a suspected 19th century burial which truncated this burial sometime after it was interred.

The grave fill (106) also produced a single sherd from a ***Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware*** cup or mug. Documentary evidence suggests that this ceramic ware was being produced in Staffordshire by the *mid-1670s* and was made at several other potting centres in the eighteenth century (Williams 2003:121). In Buckley, Wales, the production range was at least 1690 – 1720 but recent evidence has pushed that date back to 1780 and the ware is capable of being found in early 19th century assemblages. The peak of popularity for Manganese Mottled appears to have been during the late 17th century and the early decades of the 18th century (Philpott 1985, Elliott 1998). Therefore, the burial may date to the late 18th - early 19th century.

Skeleton 04 (SK04)

The fourth burial encountered was SK04 which was also located in an ovoid/sub rectangular grave cut [112], this had steep to gradual sides with a flat base. The grave cut [105] was orientated east to west and measured >1.15m in length by 0.40m in width by 0.20m in depth. This burial was adjacent to SK05 and overlay SK06. The skeletal remains consisted of the right arm, lower ribs & spine, pelvis, and lower limbs, which represented *50-74%* of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in a *fair* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a probable male, middle adult, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 165cm or *5ft 5" in height* (+/- 3.9cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.20m of soft, mid brown-grey, sand-clay-silt (113) with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions (10-12%).

This grave fill (113) also produced a single sherd from a ***Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware*** cup or mug. This fragment is of an identical to the one found in the grave for SK03; grave fill (106) and suggests to a similar date (*late 18th - early 19th century*), for interment with these two individuals.

Skeleton 05 (SK05)

The fifth burial encountered was SK05 which was also located in an ovoid/sub rectangular grave cut [114], this had steep to gradual sides with a flat base. The grave cut [114] was orientated east to west and measured >0.72m in length by 0.22m in width by 0.18m in depth. This burial was cut by SK06 and overlay by SK06 & SK04. The skeletal remains consisted of the lower limbs & left foot, which represented *<24%* of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in

Plate 21: SK03 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 22: SK03 context shot without board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 23: SK03 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 24: SK03 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 25: SK01 & SK02 context shot within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 26: SK04 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 27: SK04 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 28: SK05 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 29: SK05 context shot without board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 30: SK05 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale

Plate 31: SK06 context shot with board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 32: SK06 context shot without board, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 33: SK06 section shot, within trench for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

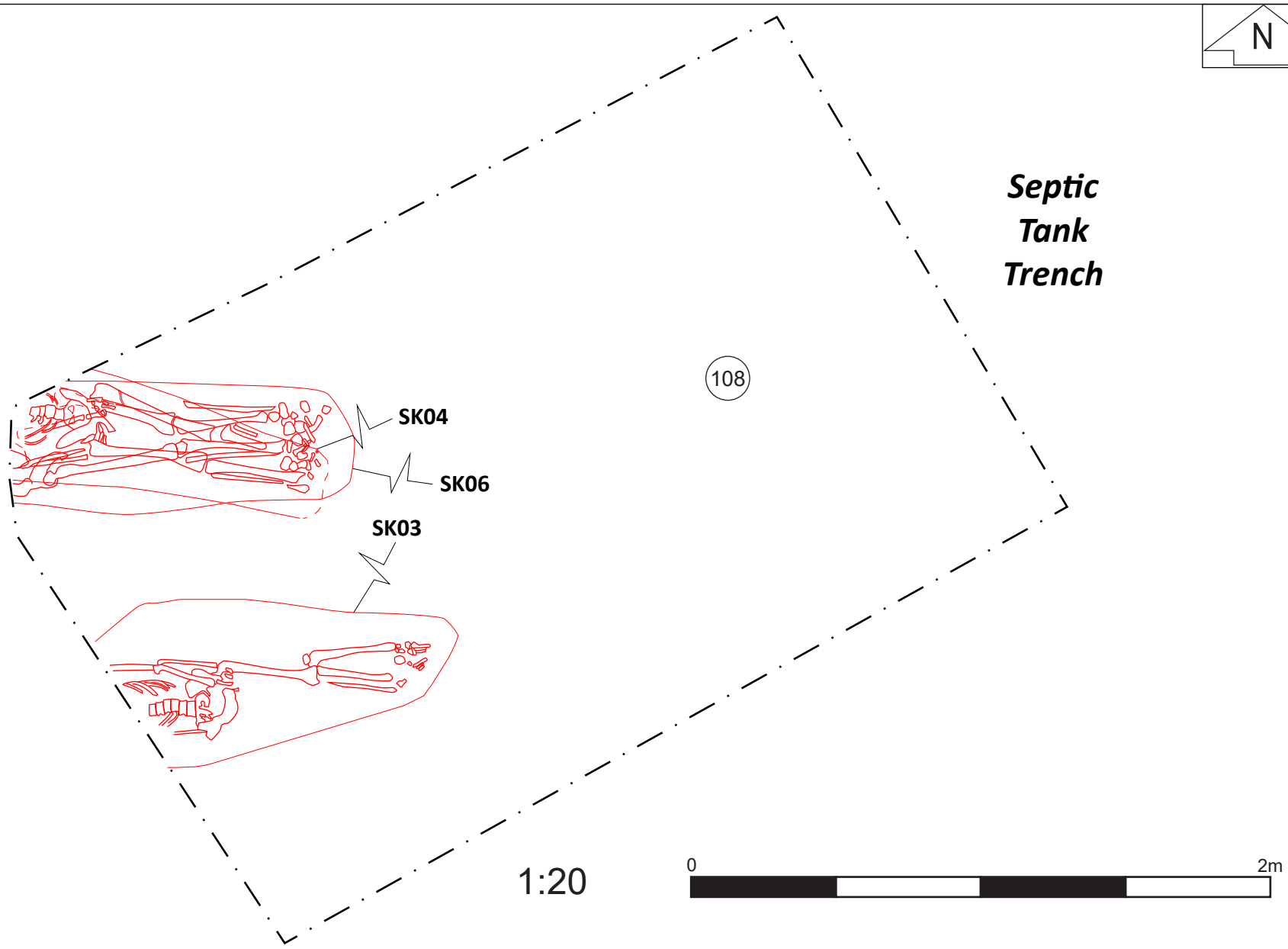

Figure 08: Plan showing location of suspected 18th century burials within the septic tank trench,St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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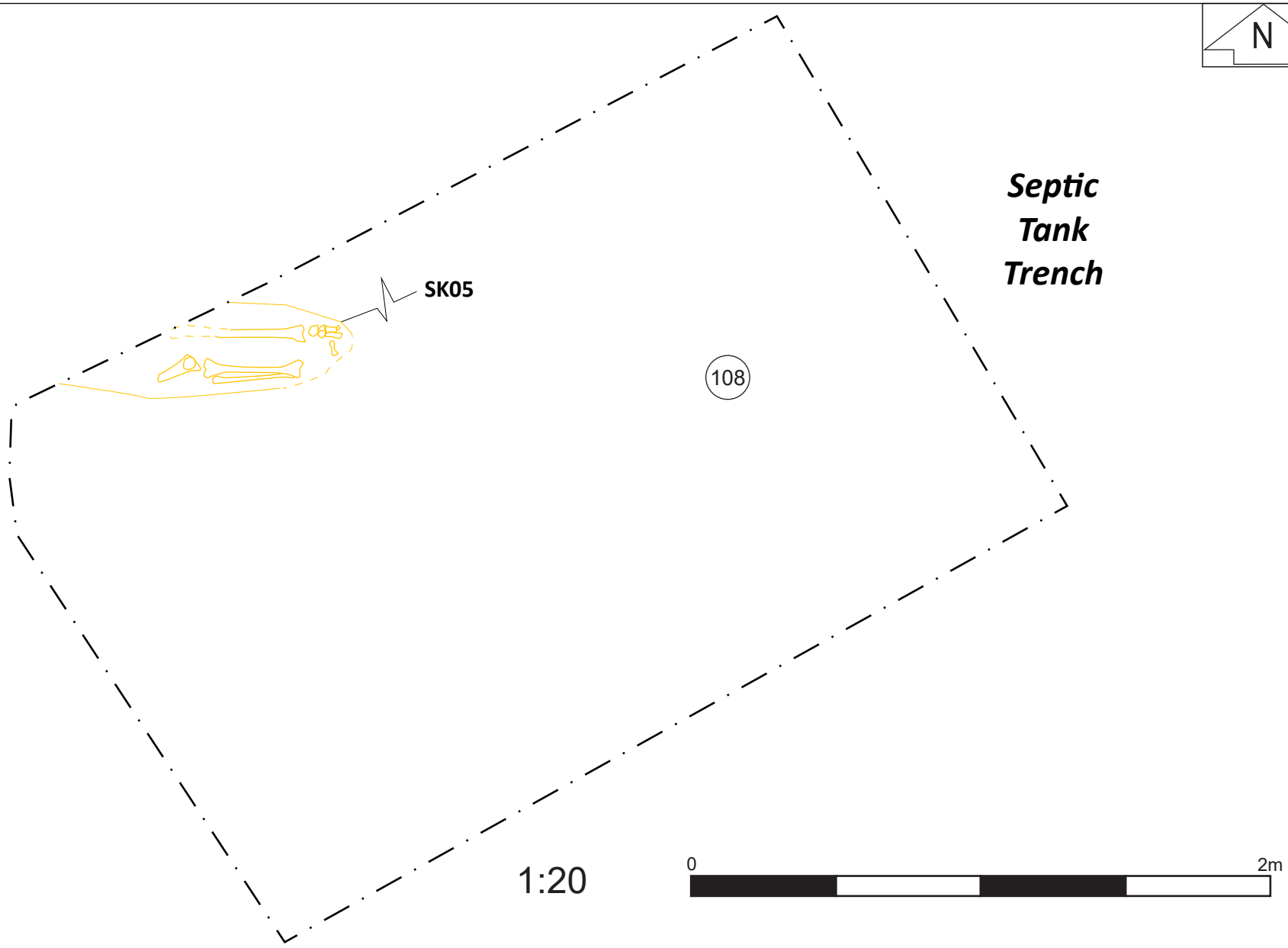

Figure 09: Plan showing location of suspected 17th century burial within the septic tank trench,St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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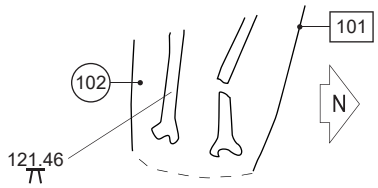
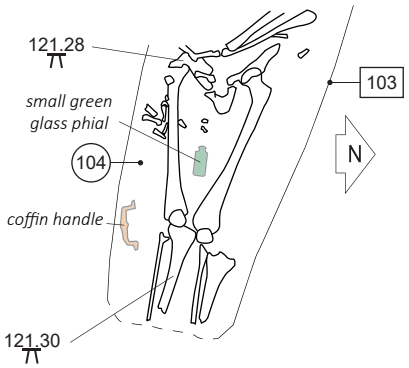


Jane Hughes (1877) Grave
secondary burial of
Thomas Hughes (1855)
Grave
late 19th Century

SK02

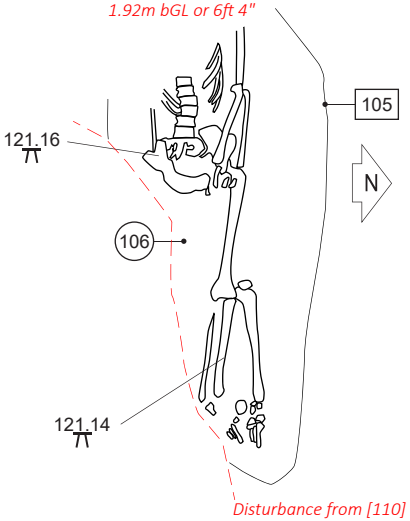
Buried depth of
1.80m bGL or 5ft 11"



Thomas Hughes (1877) Grave
primary burial
Thomas Hughes (1855)
Grave
mid 19th Century

SK03

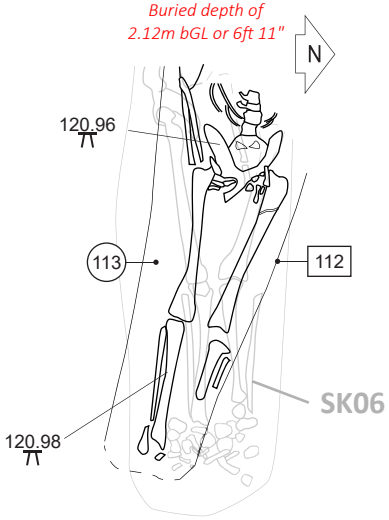
Buried depth of
1.92m bGL or 6ft 4"



Suspected 18th century grave
Disturbed by
Grave cut [110]
Similar level to SK04

SK04

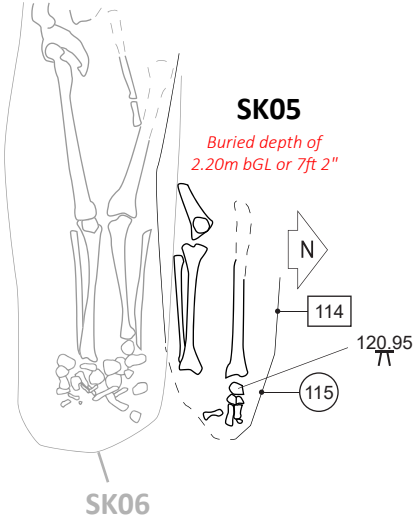
Buried depth of
2.12m bGL or 6ft 11"



Suspected 18th century grave
Below SK02 but cuts
burial of SK06
Similar level to SK03

SK05

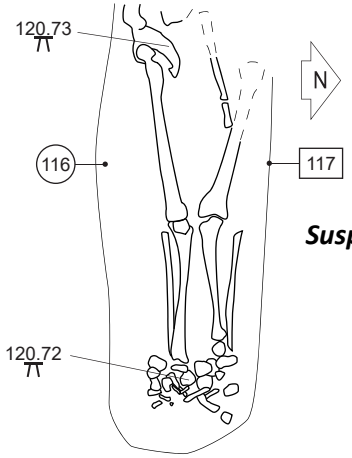
Buried depth of
2.20m bGL or 7ft 2"



Suspected 17th century grave
Cut by SK06
Lowest skeleton encountered

SK06

Buried depth of
2.28m bGL or 7ft 6"



Suspected (early) 18th century grave
Cut by SK04

1:20 0 2m

Figure 10 : Plan of individual burials with spatial and archaeological data collected, St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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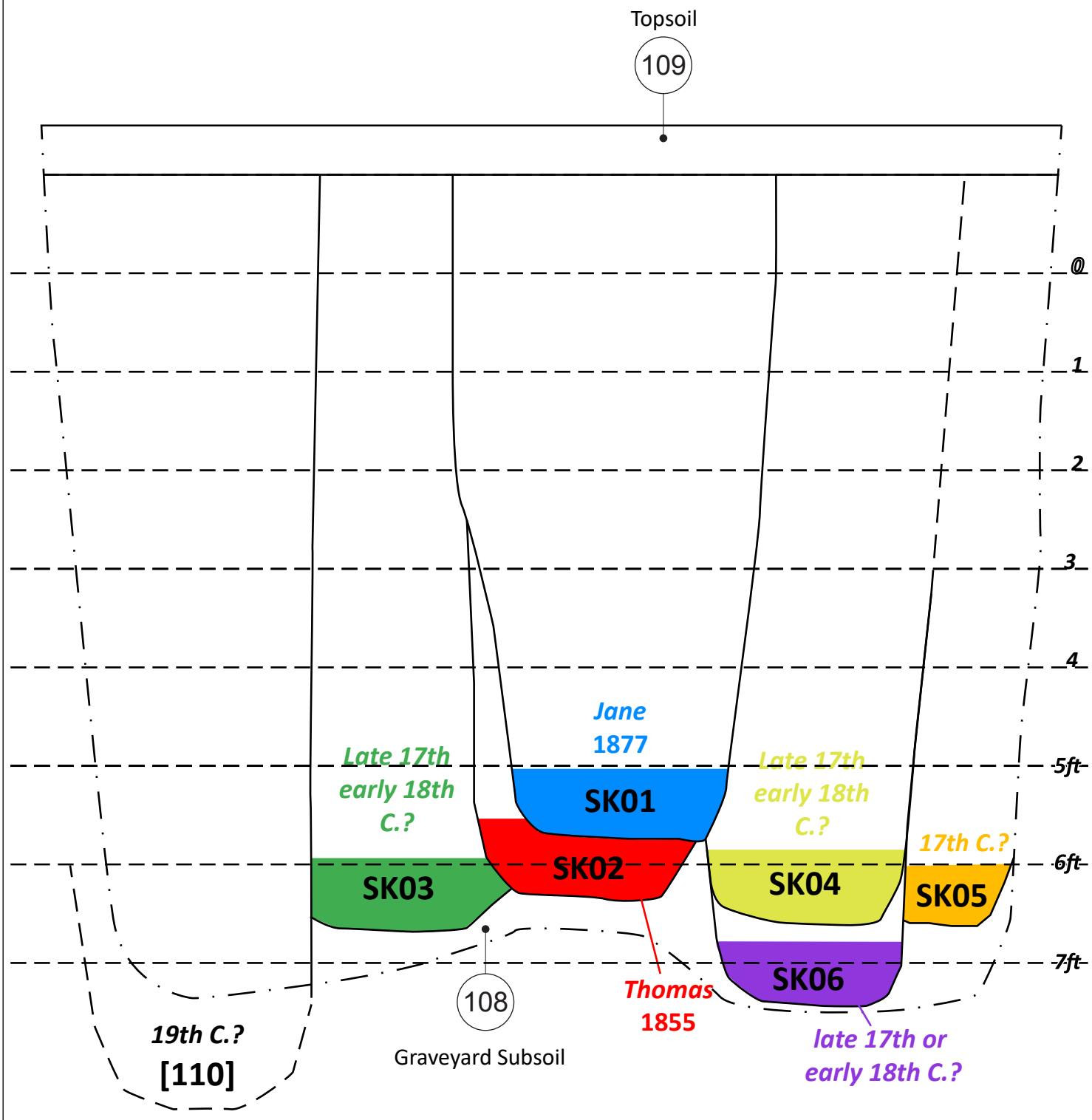

Figure 11: Representative section showing projected grave cuts and levels within soil stratigraphy at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:10 @ A4.

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a *good* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a possible male, unspecified (age) adult, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 167cm or *5ft 6" in height* (+/- 4cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.20m of soft/loose, light brown-grey, silt-clay-sand (115) with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions (10-12%). Therefore, this burial is the earliest in the sequence of burials encountered at Llanfair TH during this phase of works. Given the burial of SK06 is thought to date the 18th century (see below), it is possible that this burial dates to the late 17th century.

Skeleton 06 (SK06)

The sixth burial encountered was SK06, which was again located in an ovoid/sub rectangular grave cut [116], this had steep to gradual sides with a flat base. The grave cut [116] was orientated east to west and measured >1.20m in length by 0.30m in width by 0.23m in depth. This burial was recut by SK04 and likely represents the primary burial within this grave plot. Furthermore, it may have cut into the burial of SK05 for the second time (following the truncation by the grave cut [112] for skeleton SK04). The skeletal remains consisted of the part of the pelvis, right arm, lower limbs & both feet, which represented *50-74%* of the complete skeleton, with the condition of the bones being considered to be in a *good* state of preservation. The burial was considered to be a probable male, older adult, and likely to be somewhere in the region of 175cm or *5ft 9" in height* (+/- 4cm). The grave had been backfilled with 0.20m of soft, light brown-grey, silt- sand (117) with frequent sub-angular pebble inclusions (10-12%) with an iron coffin nail being produced from the grave fill. Given the stratigraphic position of the burial of SK06 it is thought to predate the burial of SK04, within the same grave plot and is therefore thought to date the early-mid 18th century.

Surface water drain & soakaway

Grave Slabs (Headstones)
(See figure 05; plate 09)

Headstone D

This had an *Ogee top* with pronounced *Ogee Shoulders*, and is made from Welsh Slate or similar fine-grained, homogeneous, metamorphic rock. The script for the headstone is in a mixed serif and script font. The Grave Slab was laid flat on the floor and was aligned northwest to southeast.

The inscription for the grave slab reads;

ER COFAM
WILLIAM
MAB ROBERT AC ANN LEWIS
FU FARW MAI 21AIN 1876
OED 18

[Translated to English]

In Memory of
William
Son of Robert and Ann Lewis
Who died 21st May 1876
Aged 18

Headstone E

This had an *Ogee top* with *Double Rounded Shoulders*, and is made from Welsh Slate or similar fine-grained, homogeneous, metamorphic rock. The script for the headstone is in a serif font. The Grave Slab was laid flat on the floor and was aligned northwest to southeast.

The inscription for the grave slab reads;

D.E.

This inscription is in all probability indicative of a pauper's grave perhaps for a single individual or maybe more. If it is a single individual the letters may be suggestive of the initials belonging to the name of the person buried.

Stratigraphic Description & Disarticulated Bone

(See figures 05; plates 47-49)

This phase of excavation produced 25 fragments of disarticulated bone. As with the Sewerage Treatment Plant trench and the associated drainage trench, this bone was recovered from near the top of the stratigraphic column, suggesting that it was likely backfilled into graves and/or subsequently moved by acute root growth activity from the yew tree in the vicinity.

The trench for the drainage measured 11.12m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. The trench was orientated northwest to southeast and was excavated to the south of the inflow/inlet trench for the Sewerage Treatment Plant. The trench removed 0.15m of firm, dark grey-black, sand-silt, topsoil with abundant root inclusions from adjacent nearby yew tree. Beneath this there was a 0.75m deep deposit of soft-quite firm, heavily mixed, dark red-brown, sand-clay-silt, generic graveyard subsoil with infrequent (1-2%) sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, occasional disarticulated human remains (18 fragments total), very occasional slate and lime mortar fragments and very frequent root inclusions.

This trench terminated to the northwest in a soakaway which measured 1.12m in length by 1.22m in width, and was 1.10m in depth. This soakaway was close to the boundary wall for the churchyard and was located to the east of the moved headstones (A, B, D & E). The trench cut trough 0.23m of firm, dark grey-black, sand-silt, topsoil with very frequent root inclusions (less that to the southeast) likely from the trees located outside of the church boundary, on the slope to the north. Beneath this there was a 0.87m deep deposit of firm, dark red-brown, sand-clay-silt, generic graveyard subsoil with frequent (10-12%) sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, disarticulated human remains (5 fragments total), and very occasional slate and lime mortar fragments.

Outflow drain (Sewerage Treatment Plant)

Stratigraphic Description & Disarticulated Bone

(See figure 05; plates 34-45)

This phase of excavation produced 56 fragments of disarticulated bone. As with the previous excavations, this bone was largely recovered from near the top of the stratigraphic column, and generally not found within the subsoil. The position of these disarticulated remains within the stratigraphic column suggests they likely represent evidence of previously disturbed burials. Therefore, the location at which they were found does not represent their primary context (situation),

Plate 34: Pre excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (west) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m

Plate 35: Pre excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (west) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale

Plate 36: Pre excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (east) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale

Plate 37: Pre excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (east) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 1.00m scale

rather these bones were historically disturbed and subsequently backfilled (redeposited) into newer grave cuts.

The trench for the drainage measured 14.62m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10 m. The trench was orientated southwest to northeast (and fell across its length in that same direction). It was excavated to the east of the Sewerage Treatment Plant trench and had 3 small (0.50m^2) inspection chamber excavations along its length. The trench removed 0.20m of firm, dark grey-black, sand-silt, topsoil with small sub angular/sub rounded pebble inclusions. Beneath this there was a 0.90m deep deposit of soft *to* quite firm, heavily mixed, dark red-brown, sand-clay-silt, generic graveyard subsoil with infrequent (1-2%) sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, occasional disarticulated human remains (56 fragments total), very occasional slate and lime mortar fragments and very frequent root inclusions. There was an area, approximately 2/3^{rds} of the way along its length that the subsoil became replete with lime mortar, fragments of worked micaceous siltstone and broken slate. It is thought that this area may have been where building waste, following the 19th century renovations of the church.

Soakaway (Sewerage Treatment Plant)

Stratigraphic Description & Disarticulated Bone

The outlet/outflow trench was terminated west with a large soakaway which measured 2.70m in length by 1.86m in width, and was 1.25m in depth. This soakaway was close to the boundary wall for the churchyard (north). The trench cut through 0.20m of firm, dark grey-black, sand-silt, topsoil. Beneath this *Headstone F* (see below) was uncovered. Beneath the headstone was a 1.05m deep deposit of firm, mid grey-brown, sand-clay-silt, subsoil with very frequent (12-15%) sub-angular cobbles and pebbles, disarticulated human remains (23 fragments total), and very occasional slate and lime mortar fragments.

Grave Slabs (Headstones)

Headstone F

In the area in which the soakaway for the Sewerage Treatment Plant was excavated a grave slab was uncovered underneath 0.55m of soil (*0.18m topsoil, 0.37 generic subsoil*). This headstone has a simple, flat top with square corners and measures 2.22m in length by 0.75m in width. It is made from a light grey sandstone or clastic sedimentary rock with a fine grain. The script for the headstone is in a roman/serif font. The Grave Slab was laid flat and was aligned west to east.

Yma mae yn Gorwedd corph Lucy
Merch John Morris or Llan a ola (?)
ddwyd yn y flwyddyn 1817 ei hoed
Oedd i blwydd

Hefyd Evan mab John Morris a
Gladdwd yn y flwyddyn 1820
Ei oed oedd i flywdd

Lucy Merch John Morris
A Glawdd Awst 20 1823 ei
Hoed i flwydd

[Translated to English]

Here lies the body of Lucy
Daughter of John Morris of Llan(*agla/a ola*?)
Buried in the year 1817 her
age was one year

Also Evan son of John Morris
Buried in the year 1820
his age was one year

Lucy daughter of John Morris
Buried August 20 1823
Her age was one year

There is some confusion with this headstone in that it refers to John Morris of "*Llanagla*" or "*Llan a ola"* which does not conform to a known village nearby or elsewhere in Wales. Perhaps this was a vernacular abbreviation for a local village; *Llanfair Talhaiarn* or perhaps the village over the hill at *Llansannan*. In addition, it bears noting that John Morris and his family experienced unimaginable tragedy in the loss of three successive children, each in the first year of their lives over a period of seven years.

Plate 38: In situ photograph of Headstone F, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 39: Inscription on Headstone F, (prior to removal), at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the east - 0.50m scale

Plate 40: In situ photograph of Headstone F, showing depth of soil above, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m & 0.50m scale

Plate 41: Post excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (west) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the southwest - 1.00m scale

Plate 42: Post excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (west) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale

Plate 43: Post excavation shot of drainage trench section , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the south - 1.00m scale

Plate 44: Post excavation shot of drainage route for septic tank to soakaway (east) , at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

Plate 45: Post excavation shot of soakaway for septic tank, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the west - 1.00m scale

Plate 46: Post excavation shot of soakaway showing section, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale

Plate 47: Post excavation shot of surface water drainage route, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the northwest - 1.00m scale

Plate 48: Post excavation shot of surface water drain, representative section, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the north - 1.00m scale

Plate 49: Post excavation shot of surface water drain soakaway, representative section, at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy - from the southeast - 1.00m scale

11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Aeon Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the installation of new external drainage, to a sewerage treatment plant within the churchyard of *The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn*. The reason for the watching brief was to adhere to the requirement for a phase of archaeological monitoring within the graveyard, so that if any human remains were to become exposed or otherwise encountered during the works, the Diocesan Registrar could be informed. This was indeed the case, and the Diocesan Registrar instructed that the burials were to be removed in accordance with the conditions set out by the Ministry of Justice exhumation licence (*no 22-0300*).

The orientation of the skeletons in west-east aligned graves, is in keeping with Christian burial practices and is a very rational discovery in such a well-established churchyard. The burial assemblage from the graveyard at St. Mary's, Llanfair Talhaiarn consisted of a minimum of 6 individuals (or articulated skeletons). Of the human remains, signs of disease were observed in skeletons 3, 4, and 6 comprising of intervertebral disk disease (IVDD), osteoarthritis (OA), Schmorl's Nodes, and non-specific infection. One case of trauma was observed in skeleton 5, where the right fibula exhibited an oblique fracture to the distal shaft (Carlin 2023 – *Appendix II*). Definitive conclusions about the population are limited because the assemblage is too small (*see below for brief discussion*).

The burials could span a range of 200 years, dating from the *mid-late 17th century* to the *mid-late 19th century*. These dates have been derived from a number of types of evidence, collated during the archaeological works; the dates provided by the grave marker or Headstone A (mid-late 19th century), the relative dates derived from ceramic sherds found in graves (SK03 & SK04, Manganese Mottled Ware, late-17th *to* late-18th) and by stratigraphic analysis of the interconnected grave cuts, which provides a *possible* mid-17th century date for SK05. This burial is cut by SK06, which is the primary burial in its grave, which was subsequently recut by SK04 (itself is possibly a late-17th century date at the earliest - via the relative date from ceramic).

A few individual observations are worth noting. There were two separate incidences, where two individual skeletons, were recovered within the same grave (SK01, located above SK02 & SK04, located above SK06). These burials represented occurrences where graves had been recut; an initial primary burial was then joined by a later burial, with the new burial being placed on top of the other via a physical recutting of the grave plot.

In addition, it has been possible to assign more data to both SK01 and SK02. The presence of *Headstone A* at the west end (cranium) of SK01 & SK02, demonstrates that these are the remains of *Thomas* and *Jane Hughes. Thomas* (SK02) represents the primary occupant of the 19th century grave cut (who *died - February 2nd, 1855, Aged 41),* whereas his wife *Jane* (SK01) joined him 20 years later (who *died - October 13th, 1877, Aged 84).* Also, we know that Thomas was a *Nailor* by profession, who was a migrant to Llanfair TH from Llangefni on Anglesey. The village of Llanfair TH is likely to have experienced a short but impactful population boom in the 19th century, connected with the prospecting for mineral wealth in the eastern hills above the settlement. This may explain why Thomas, a professional metal worker, was buried far from home in the churchyard of St. Mary's. This sort of movement of craftsmen and women, can be connected to a larger phenomenon of regional migration across North Wales at this time.

Given the established relationship between SK01 & SK02, it is likely that the same is true of SK04 & SK06, as they are also placed in the same grave plot. However, the information on *Headstone B,* located above the west end (cranium) of these burials does not offer a direct correlation; via osteological analysis these individuals were identified as both being *probable males* with SK06 (primary burial) being classed as an *older adult* and SK04 (secondary burial) being a *middle adult*, whereas *Headstone B* states that, the first to *pass away* was *Mary Williams - aged 41,* followed by *William Williams – aged 66,* as well as two children placed within the grave. Given the findings within the grave it would seem that this headstone does not represent the individuals found here. Therefore, this may represent an instance of where a headstone was moved to the periphery of the graveyard, where the original grave stone may have been lost or previously removed.

The archaeological watching brief can be seen as having addressed the archaeological condition, in that the human remains that were present at the site were identified and exhumed with due care and decency. Furthermore, the area of ground in which these individuals were interred was continually screened from public view, and in addition the remains were kept safely, privately, and decently within the church building and were stored securely during the time that they remained unburied. Considering the results of the archaeological watching brief it is therefore the recommendation of this report that the condition be discharged.

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APPENDIX II: SKELETAL REPORT FOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LLANFAIR TH

St Mary's Church, Llanfair TH: Human bone report
Andrea Carlin BSc MSc

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St Mary's Church, Llanfair TH: Human bone report
Andrea Carlin BSc MSc

1. Introduction

This report considers the human skeletal material excavated during works in the northern graveyard of St Mary's Church in Llanfair Talhairn, North Wales during February 2023. A total of six inhumations were recovered, cleaned, and subjected to a full osteological analysis following standard methods and guidelines (Brickley and McKinley, 2004; Mays *et al* 2004; Hillson, Waldron, 2009).

After skeletal remains were cleaned, dried, and inventoried, biological profiles (estimations of age at death, biological sex, and stature) were attempted for each of the individuals (methods are discussed in section 2.2). In addition, all skeletal elements were assessed macroscopically for pathological lesions and indicators of disease (section 2.3), non-metric traits were catalogued (section 2.4) and, where possible, long bones were measured using formal landmarks and standards to calculate shape indices (section 2.5).

2. Methods

2.1 Preservation

Preservation considers both *completeness* and *condition* of skeletons and their components. Completeness is calculated as a percentage of the total number of bones expected from an adult individual in the manner advocated by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). Condition considers the degree of fragmentation of the remains and the integrity of bone surfaces. Each skeleton was assigned a category from one to three and descriptions of each state are provided in table 1 below.

Category		Description
1	Good	Whilst there may be clean post-mortem breaks to some of the long bones and ribs, most elements are whole, and bone surfaces are smooth and fine-grained. Joint surfaces retain their morphology and there is no cortical peeling, cracking or deformation.
2	Fair	Post-depositional breakage may have fragmented some of the elements, impeding metrical analyses. There may also be some staining, peeling, and cracking of the cortical bone. However, a reasonable analysis is still possible because most of the cortical and joint surfaces that are present remain observable.
3	Poor	The remains are highly fragmented and/or weathered; many bone surfaces are unobservable due to cortical peeling, cracking, staining, or dissolution from water.

Table 1. Descriptions of condition

2.2 The Biological Profile

Biological sex was estimated by the assessment of dimorphic traits of the pelvis, and where the pelvis was absent, by dimorphism in the skull. As such, where remains were fragmented or incomplete, one of five categories were chosen to illustrate confidence in the determination:

1	2	3	4	5
Probable female	Possible female	Indeterminate	Possible male	Probable male

Skeletal age at death is estimated by assessing the stage of degeneration of the body's joint surfaces. The auricular surface (Lovejoy et al 1985) and the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990) of the pelvis were used here where available and individuals were assigned to one of the following age groups:

Age group	Age Range
Young adult	18-25 years
Prime adult	26-35 years
Middle adult	36-45 years
Mature adult	46-59 years
Older adult	>60 years
Unspecified adult	>18 years

Table 2. Age specification groups

Due to the incomplete and fragmentary remains, stature estimates were achieved using mathematical rather than anatomical methods. Regression formulae specific to each of the major long bones of the body were utilised with bones of the leg (femora and tibiae) preferred over those of the arm (Trotter, 1970; Ruff *et al*, 2012). Where long bones were incomplete or fragmented, estimation of stature was not attempted.

2.3 Skeletal pathology

Individuals were subjected to a macroscopic examination for pathological lesions and, where possible, a differential diagnosis was attempted using the operational definitions provided by Waldron (2009).

2.4 Non-metric traits

Non-metric traits (NMTs) are discrete non-pathological variations in the skeleton and teeth. Many of these traits, particularly those of the skull, are known to be a product of genetic heritage and thus provide insights into familial relationships within an assemblage. All non-metric traits were recorded following Berry and Berry (1967).

2.5 Metrics

Shape indices which describe the relative flattening of the shafts of the major bones of the leg provide insights into mobility and patterns of acclimatisation. Measurements to calculate standard indices of the femur and tibia were made using an osteometry board and a sliding calliper.

3. Results

3.1 Preservation

Table three below summarise skeletal completeness and condition, and table four indicates the presence or absence of bones from the major anatomical structures of the body.

Skeleton	Completeness				Condition		
	<24%	25-49%	50-74%	75%>	Good	Fair	Poor
1	*					*	
2		*				*	
3			*			*	
4			*			*	
5	*				*		
6			*		*		

Table 3. Summary of preservation

Skeleton	Skull	Spine	Pelvis	Shoulder		Arms		Hands		Rib cage		Legs		Feet	
				R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
1								*	*			*	*		
2		*	*			*	*	*	*			*	*		
3		*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4		*	*			*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	
5												*	*	*	*
6		*	*					*	*			*	*	*	*

Table 4. Skeletal completeness (where R= right side, L= left side)

There was some uncertainty regarding the minimum number of individuals in grave 3, however, the lower extremities (tibiae and feet) were consistent with the rest of the bones excavated in that grave. For instance, the carpal bones recovered were particularly diminutive, and comparable in size with the tarsals of the feet. In addition, joint widths of the distal femora were consistent with those of the tibial plateaux and appeared congruent when united. Of note, the fifth lumbar vertebrae and sacrum displayed a straight and uniform post-mortem fracture down their lengths which separated the elements into two halves. This damage is consistent with a shovel strike and is likely the result of burial disturbance during a later phase of the graveyard.

3.2 Biological Profiles

Two females and four males with a combined age-at-death range of 36 to 60+ years were identified. As the pelves of skeletons 1 and 5 were not present, sex estimation was achieved by comparing joint size of the femora (bicondylar width and vertical diameter of the head) with published ranges (Pearson 1917-1919; Stewart 1979). Because of the absent pelves, skeletal age-at-death could not be determined for these individuals. Table 5 below summarises the two parameters of the biological profiles.

Sk	Sex	Age	References
1	Probable female	Unspecified adult	Pearson (1917-1919), Stewart (1979)
2	Probable male	Middle adult	Lovejoy *et al* (1985), Brooks and Suchey (1990)
3	Probable female	Older adult	Lovejoy *et al* (1985)
4	Probable male	Middle adult	Lovejoy *et al* (1985), Brooks and Suchey (1990)
5	Possible male	Unspecified adult	Pearson (1917-1919)
6	Probable male	Older adult	Lovejoy et al (1985)

Table 5. Age and sex specifications

Table 6 summarises stature estimation including the element used in the calculation and the error margin. Considering the older age stage of skeletons 3 and 6, these estimates might be considered the maximum height achieved during life.

Skeleton	Sex	Stature	Error
1	Female	157cm	+/- 3.7cm
2	Male	170cm	+/- 3.9cm
3	Female	153cm	+/- 3.7cm
4	Male	165cm	+/- 3.9cm
5	Male	167cm	+/- 4.0cm
6	Male	175cm	+/- 4.0cm

Table 6. Stature estimations (Trotter 1970; Ruff et *al* 2012)

3.3 Skeletal pathology

Of the five skeletons, signs of disease were observed in skeletons 3, 4, and 6 comprising intervertebral disk disease (IVDD), osteoarthritis (OA), Schmorl's Nodes, and non-specific infection. One case of trauma was observed in skeleton 5.

3.3.1 Joint disease

IVDD and Schmorl's nodes are degenerative conditions of the spine associated with both aging and habitual activity/lifestyle. IVDD begins with the degeneration of the fibrocartilaginous disc which separates the vertebrae of the spine. The deflated disc causes characteristic responses including marginal osteophytes and pitting on the endplates of corresponding vertebral bodies. IVDD was observed in the thoracic (T10-12) and lumbar (L3-5) spine of skeleton 3, and in the fourth lumbar vertebra of skeleton 6 (figure1).

Schmorl's nodes are lesions in the endplates of vertebral bodies and occur in response to activity-related stress in the spine. Lesions were observed in the thoracic spines of skeleton 4 (superior and inferior plates of T8-10, inferior plate of T11) and skeleton 3 (inferior plates of T10 and 11, and both inferior and superior plates of T12), and the lumbar spine (superior and inferior plates of L3, 4, and 5) of skeleton 6.

Osteoarthritis (OA) was observed in the right carpus of skeleton 3 where the triquetral displayed eburnation across the entire articular surface for the pisiform. In addition, the greater multangular presented with marginal osteophytes and eburnation at the distal articular surface where corresponding changes were seen in the proximal surface of the first metacarpal (figure 2). No other signs of OA were observed in the remaining bones of the right carpus nor in the left carpus or metacarpus.

Also in skeleton 3, were signs of OA in the costal pits of the 10^{th}, 11^{th}, and 12^{th} thoracic vertebrae which presented bilaterally. OA was particularly well developed (pitting, osteophytes, and eburnation) on the transverse processes of the 10^{th} vertebra, corresponding with arthritic changes at the vertebral ends of ribs 8, 9 and 10 (figure 3).

3.3.2 Non-specific infection

A discrete raised patch of periosteal new bone (PNB) was observed on the anterior aspect of the left iliac blade of skeleton 6 (figure 4). PNB is a natural response to inflammation in the periosteal sheaf which covers all non-articular bone. Whilst a relatively common observance in individuals of all ages, the causes of inflammation and PNB deposition are peculiar to each case and, particularly when in isolated pockets such as observed here, further specification is not possible.

3.3.4 Trauma

The right fibula of skeleton 5 exhibited an oblique fracture to the distal shaft, superior to the distal tibiofibular syndesmosis. Fractures of this type typically cause instability in the ankle joint due to involvement of the stabilising ligaments. In skeleton 5, the fracture is well aligned, however, spicules of woven bone protrude from the fracture site and into the space for the anterior inferior tibiofibular ligament which would have, in effect, caused ankylosis at the joint (figure 5). Periosteal new bone was also observed on the anterior tibia, medial to the insertion of the ligament, suggesting active

secondary inflammation when this older male died. No corresponding changes were observed in the tarsus.

3.4 Skeletal non-metric traits

Third trochanters were observed in the femora of skeleton 1, the adult female (figure 6), and skeleton 6, the older adult male (figure 7). Third trochanters are accessory tubercles for the insertion of the tendon of the gluteus maximus muscle on the posterior aspect of the femur. Literature regarding the incidence, function, and development of the third trochanter is relatively scarce; incidence in anatomy collections and archaeological assemblages is up to 13% where it is seen more commonly in females than males; some authors suggest a genetic foundation, whilst others suggest developmental processes associated with posture and gluteal muscle activity to be causative (Ogut, 2022).

The third trochanters in skeletons 1 and 6 are very similar in presentation, with bilateral symmetry in location, shape, and size. The traits present as well-developed protuberances at the superior border of the gluteal tuberosities with sagittal lengths of 28mm in skeleton 1, and 19mm in skeleton 6.

3.5 Metrics

The platymeric index describes the cross-sectional shape of the proximal femoral shaft. Table 7 below shows crude measurements and calculated indices for individuals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

Skeleton	Antero-posterior subtrochanteric diameter (mm)	Medio-lateral subtrochanteric diameter (mm)	Index	Range
1	24	32	75	Platymeric
2	29	32	90	Eurymeric
3	20	30	66	Platymeric
4	27	38	71	Platymeric
6	32	33	96	Eurymeric

Table 7. Platymeric indices

The platycnemic index describes the cross-sectional shape of the tibial shaft at the nutrient foramen. Table 9 below displays the crude measurements and the calculated indices.

Skeleton	Antero-posterior nutrient diameter	Medio-lateral nutrient diameter	Index	Range
2	37	34	92	Eurycnemic
3	25	22	88	Eurycnemic
4	31	23	74	Eurycnemic
5	34.5	27	78	Eurycnemic
6	36	27	75	Eurycnemic

Table 9. Platycnemic Indices

Plate A. Lumbar vertebrae with IVDD and Schmorl's nodes, skeleton 6 (SK06) - scale 5cm

Plate C. Vertebral rib ends with OA, skeleton 3 (SK03) - scale 5cm

Plate D. PNB on left ilium, skeleton 6 (SK06) - scale 5cm

Plate E. Ankylosis of distal tibia and fibula, skeleton 5 (SK05) - scale 5cm

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Plate F. Third trochanter, skeleton 1 (SK01) - scale 5cm

Plate G. Third trochanter, skeleton 6 (SK06) - scale 5cm

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APPENDIX II: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

aeon archaeology

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

November 2020 v1.0

Project Code: A0284.1
Faculty Ref: 2020-005733

aeon archaeology

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD

November 2020

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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

Project Code: A0284.1
Date: 12/11/2020
Client: St Mary's Church
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Graham Holland Associates on behalf of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the installation of new external drainage to a treatment plant and steps easing access to the churchyard. Also internally, re-siting the font within the grade II* Listed Building of The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD (**NGR SH 92708 70135**) (figure 1-3).

The Church and churchyard lies sandwiched between School Lane in the north, Water Street in the east, and Church Street in the south, with the graveyard situated primarily to the south and west of the church building.

The programme of archaeological work will be undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (**ref. 2020-005733**) which requires that the archaeological work must proceed in accordance with the Aeon Archaeology WSI dated October 2020 (this document) and in compliance with the following conditions:

2. The Parish to appoint an accredited Archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during all ground disturbance, internally and externally. A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) should be submitted by the Archaeologist to the DAC for approval, prior to the commencement of these groundworks. The person(s) actually carrying out the work detailed in the WSI should preferably be a registered CIfA individual or at the very least belong to a CIfA-registered organisation, and should be familiar with and must follow the Institute's Standards and Guidance. The Contractor must be made aware of the need to work closely with the Archaeologist during the on-site works; to this end the Contractor should expect to give the Archaeologist a minimum of five days' notice as to when they intend to start on the site. Sufficient time should be allowed during the on-site works for the Archaeologist to record any significant remains that are exposed, including buried gravestones. The Archaeologist shall also be responsible for collecting any human bone, fragmentary or complete, which is dug up, following the necessary legal procedures. It is expected that the Architect shall apply for a DoJ licence in advance of the commencement of works. In conjunction with the incumbent, the Archaeologist should make an appropriate decision as to how those bones or fragments are re-buried. Upon completion of the watching brief, the Archaeologist should produce a written report on the findings, regardless of whether they are positive or negative. This should be submitted to the secretary of the DAC for ratification. If there are any issues with this condition that need to be qualified at any stage during the works, the Parish or its appointed Archaeologist should contact the secretary of the DAC immediately, who may then seek clarification from the DAC's Archaeologist.

3. The Architect or if so instructed the Archaeologist shall take a full set of digital images of the interior of the church prior to the commencement of the works. These should include close-ups of the pews that are to be removed. For comparative purposes a second set of images should be taken after the completion of the work. Both sets of images to be archived with the secretary to the DAC to fulfil the condition.

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) fulfils the requirement for an archaeological method statement as requested by the above condition. It is a requirement that this WSI is approved prior to the implementation of the archaeological watching brief at the Site.

If any human remains become exposed or are otherwise encountered during the course of the work:

- All work in the vicinity must stop immediately.
- The remains must be lightly covered with soil.

- The Diocesan Registrar (or in their absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) must be notified.
- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar must be followed.

The requirement for archaeological monitoring is in line with relevant UK legislation on heritage which includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN-24 2017), and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

Also of relevance is the *Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Order 2018*. This Order revokes and replaces the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 1994 for Wales.

Section 60(1) and (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides that ecclesiastical buildings which are for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes are not subject to sections 3A, 4, 7 to 9, 47, 54 and 59 of the 1990 Act. This is defined in article 2 as listed buildings ecclesiastical exemption. Those sections relate to listed building control, including: building preservation notices; restrictions on works of demolition, alteration or extension; compulsory acquisition of buildings in need of repair; urgent preservation works by a local authority and the Welsh Ministers; and offences in relation to intentional damage.

Section 75 of the 1990 Act provides that ecclesiastical buildings which are for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes are not subject to section 74 of the 1990 Act. Section 74 relates to the control of demolition of buildings in conservation areas. This is the conservation area consent ecclesiastical exemption.

This Order removes the listed buildings ecclesiastical exemption in the case of all ecclesiastical buildings other than for those cases falling within article 4. Under article 4 the exemption is retained in respect of church buildings of the Church in Wales, the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Baptist Union of Wales provided that the building in question's primary use is as a place of worship and subject to the restrictions set out in that article.

A church building includes—

(a)any object or structure fixed to the church building;
(b)any object or structure within the curtilage of a church building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land.
(This is now the case whether or not that object or structure is listed in its own right.)

Article 6 provides that if an application for listed building consent in relation to any object or structure within the curtilage of a church building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land (as defined in article 4(1)(b)) has already been made before the coming into force date of this Order, then this Order will not apply to that application and the local planning authority will continue to determine it.

This Order also removes the conservation area consent ecclesiastical exemption from all ecclesiastical buildings.

Article 1(3) provides that the loss of ecclesiastical exemption does not affect any works which have commenced, or in respect of which a contract has been made, before the Order comes into force

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

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Figure 01: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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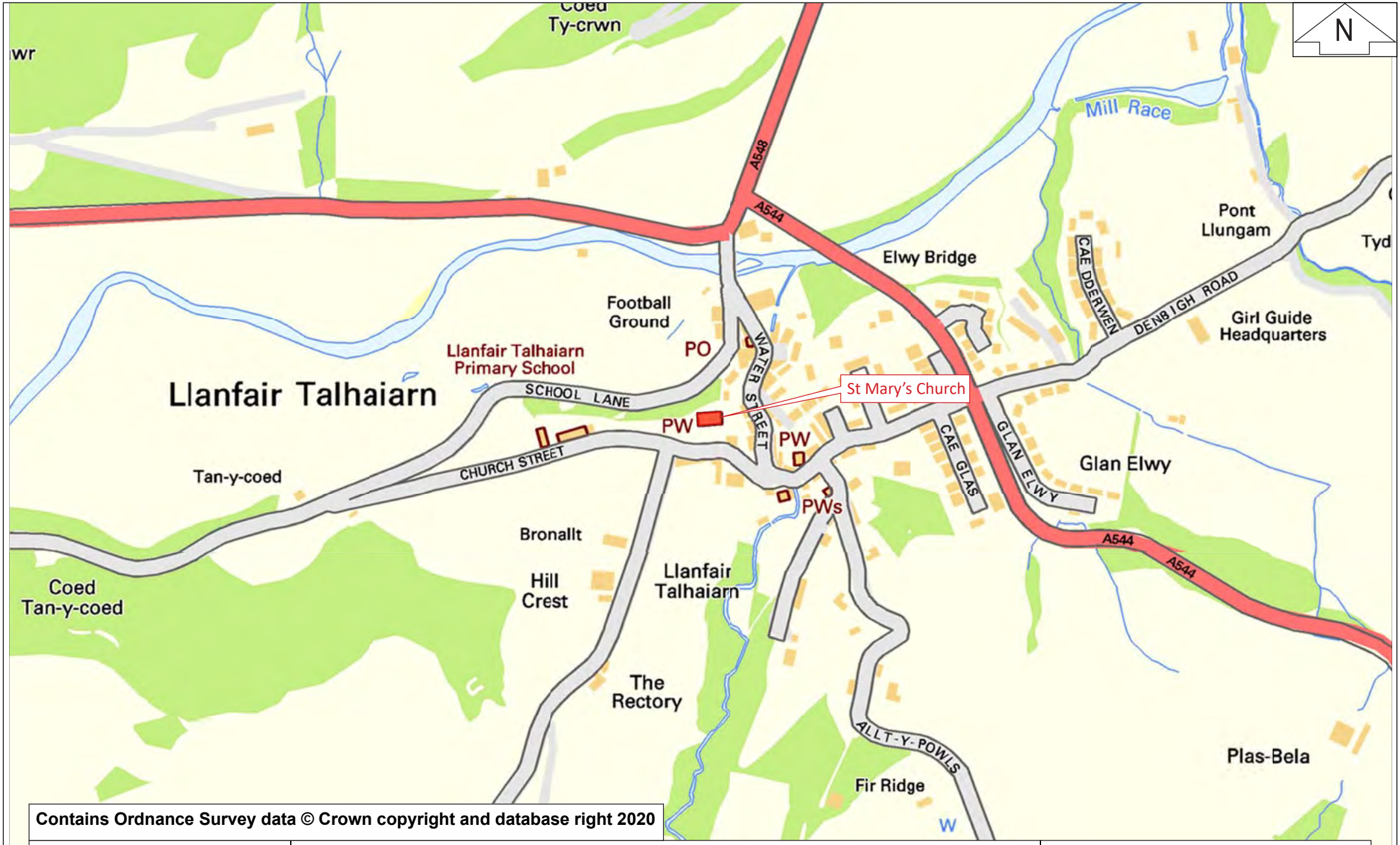

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Figure 02: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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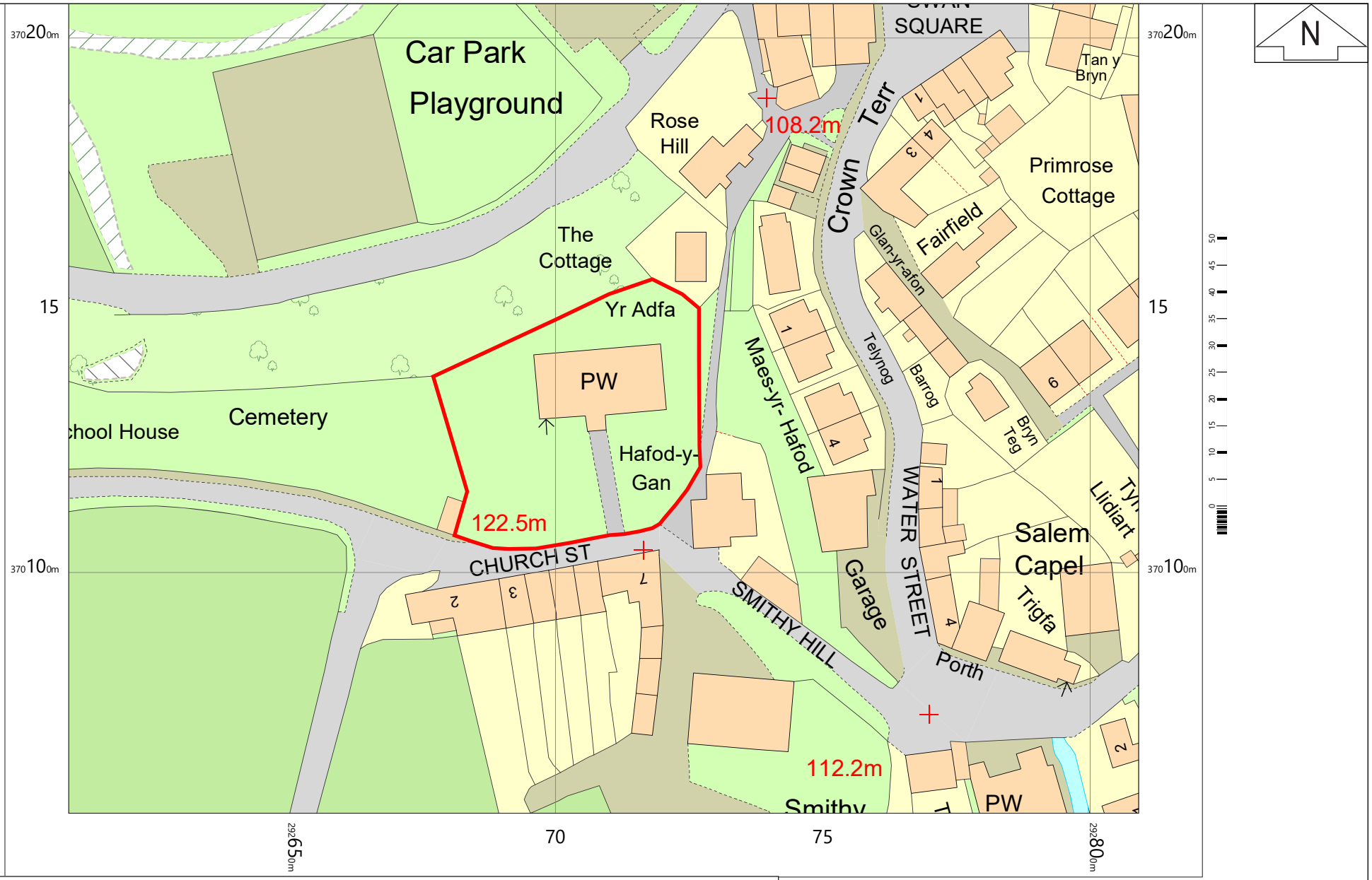

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Figure 03: Location of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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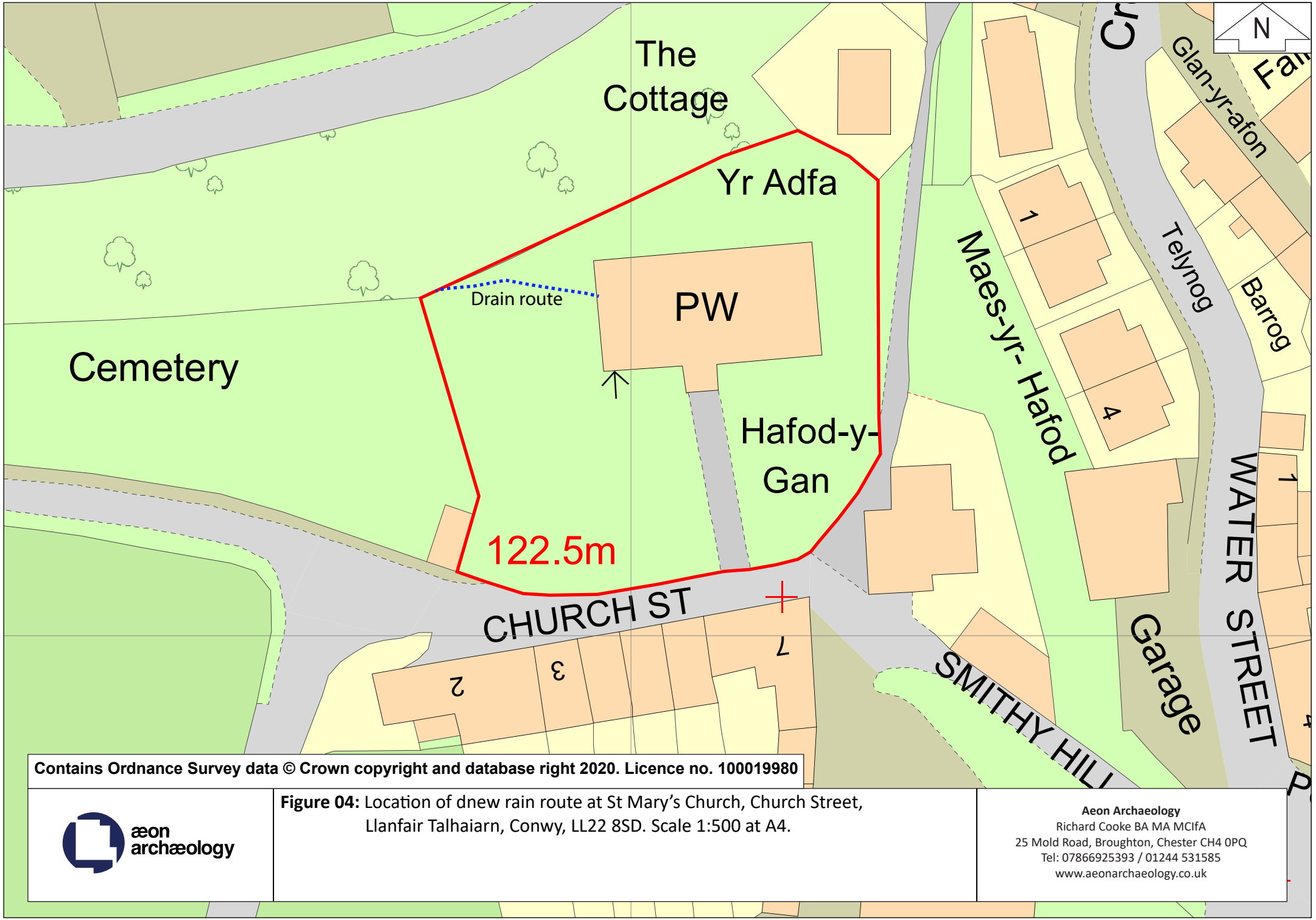

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Figure 04: Location of dnew rain route at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD. Scale 1:500 at A4.

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2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

St Mary's Church is a double-naved parish church of local rubble construction with sandstone dressings; slate roofs with 19th century slab-coped and kneelered gable parapets, with surmounting gable crosses. It has a central gabled southern porch, probably of 17th century work, with slated roof and timber-framed open gable as a 20th century replacement of the original. The porch has a large, arched timber entrance with original studded and boarded door. Its rear has a large wooden lock and lozenge cradling.

To the left of the porch are two 3-light 17th century mullioned windows with cusped 19th century ogee heads; chamfered reveals and mullions. To the right of the porch is a further, similar window, with a 2-light 19th century window beyond; this has arched, cusped heads.

The western gable of the north chamber is also rendered and has an entrance with segmentally-arched cyclopean lintel. This is inscribed 'WF...HT WARDENS 1715'. A small modern boiler-house lean-to adjoins to the left. The southernmost east window is a large 3-light pointed-arched window with geometric decorated tracery; ogee heads to lights and moulded label. The northern east window is a 2-light pointed-arched tracery window with label as before.

The church is listed Grade II* for its special historic and architectural interest as a parish church of medieval origin retaining fine 17th and 18th century monuments.

Taxation records from 1291 list this church as being in Lanveyrdalhaern and Lanveyr Dalhaeayn. Talhaiarn was reputedly a saint and bard in the 5th century, but there's no evidence that this church was originally dedicated to him.

The structure of the church we see today largely dates from rebuilding in the 19th century. Parts of the earlier structure have survived, including elements of the roof and, probably, the south wall.

Unusually, the church has a tank where people could be baptised through immersion. On the 17th-century door is a sanctuary ring. People could gain immunity from justice by grabbing hold of sanctuary rings on church doors but on condition they would then leave Britain, carrying a cross with them and going straight to the nearest port. If there were no imminent sailings to foreign lands, they would have to wade into the water each day they waited.

Buried in the churchyard is poet and architect John Jones, born at the nearby Harp Inn (now a house) in 1810. He's best known today for some of his songs and satirical verses. Starting as a joiner, he rose to be a supervisor in the construction of London's Crystal Palace and of some large buildings in France. Suffering from arthritis, he retired to his home village and shot himself at the Harp Inn in 1869.

In 1747 the parishioners agreed that anyone who brought a dog into the church during divine service would be fined one shilling. Two years later, the sexton was granted quarterly payment "for keeping the church clear of 'em" and a stool to sit on by the church door, where he would be ready to intercept four-legged interlopers.

3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

Prior to work commencing a photographic record will be made of the following:

1. A full set of digital images of the interior of the church prior to the commencement of the works. These should include close-ups of the pews that are to be removed. For comparative purposes a second set of images should be taken after the completion of the work.

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. Externally during the excavation in the churchyard for the new drainage and treatment plant;
2. Externally during the excavation in the churchyard for the new access steps;
3. Internally during the re-siting of the font.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.

- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

- To recover and record any disarticulated human remains prior to reburial on site.

- To clean, record and remove any articulated human remains situated within the foundation / drainage trench and to oversee the reburial on site.

- To ensure minimal disturbance to any buried features via the careful re-routing of the drainage trenches over or around in-situ buried remains where possible. If fallen grave markers are encountered these will be recorded and then carefully lifted to facilitate the excavation of the trench.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2020) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Diocesan Registrar will be carried out by the Diocesan Archaeologist. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Diocesan Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives'* (RCAHMW, 2015).

A copy of the archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0284.1**.

4.2 Watching brief report

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the Diocesan Archaeologist, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the Diocesan Archaeologist and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

5.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Type of study

Archaeological watching brief on land at the grade II* Listed Building of The Parish Church of St Mary, Church Street, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Conwy, LL22 8SD (NGR SH 92708 70135).

5.2 Types of data

- Photographs (RAW)
- Context sheets (paper)
- Photographic register (paper)
- Drawings (drafting film)
- Misc registers (paper)
- Compiled report

5.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

Compiled report (including figures and plates) as *.PDF* files.

5.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

> *3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.*
>
> *3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate*

5.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

5.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

5.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

5.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the RCAHMW; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (*.xlsx*) (*.accdb)* to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

5.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

5.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the ADS and RCAHMW websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

5.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (ADS, RCAHMW, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

5.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

5.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

5.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

5.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

5.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

6.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the Diocesan Archaeologist prior to implementation.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

8.0 HUMAN REMAINS

During the watching brief thorough inspection of removed soils will take place and all disarticulated bone collected and catalogued. All disarticulated bone will remain securely stored on site and will be reburied within the utility trench prior to backfilling.

If articulated human remains are encountered all work in the vicinity must stop immediately and the following undertaken:

- The remains must be lightly covered with soil.
- The Diocesan Registrar (or in their absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) must be notified.
- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar must be followed.

If articulated remains are encountered an Osteoarchaeologist will be commissioned to attend site and provide osteological analysis of the remains. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. All articulated remains will be cleaned, recorded photographically, and drawn plans produced at 1:10 scale before being carefully removed and securely stored on site, prior to reburial. There will be a presumption against chasing articulated remains beyond the limits of excavation.

9.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2020 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Diocesan Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Articulated human remains: Dr Genevieve Tellier, North Wales Osteology
- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place.

10.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.

- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.

- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.

- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

11.0 ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the Diocesan Archaeologist for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the

Diocesan Archaeologist, and the RCAHMW for long term archiving. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

12.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology. The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained by Josh Dean BA ACIfA, Archaeological Contractor at Aeon Archaeology with six years' experience in field archaeology.

13.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The Diocesan Archaeologist will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

15.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £100,000

The current period expires 07/09/21

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/21


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