

Meifod Church Archaeological Watching Brief

The following discussion relates to an archaeological watching brief carried out at Meifod Church on 19th June 2018 in connection with groundworks relating to the installation of path lighting. The work was the subject of a Faculty (No 1810) granted by the St Asaph Diocesan Advisory Committee.

The watching brief examined a machine-dug trench, running east-south-east along the main access path from the point where two paths join and leading towards the church, in which a cable for the path lighting was laid (see Fig. 1). The cable passed into the church via a blocked door on its north side, where a pre-existing hole had been drilled for the main electricity supply cable for the church.

There was no effect on the structure of the church as an existing aperture was used to link the path lighting cable to the mains electricity supply.

In the churchyard, the trench in which the cable was installed averaged 0.25m wide and 0.5m deep, with wider sections measuring 0.6m by 0.6m and to the same depth, created to allow the siting of lighting bollards at intervals along its course. The soils observed in the trench showed that there was 0.2m of dark grey silt overlying yellowish-brown clay silt where the trench ran parallel to the church access route; the clay silt appeared to be of natural origin and seemed to represent ground undisturbed by burials.

At one point along the path, it was crossed by a second path running north-east/south-west. This corresponded with a 5m-wide layer of gravel and slate fragments at a depth of about 0.3m, which represented sub-surface evidence of the crossing path. To judge from this material, the crossing path is unlikely to predate the 19th century.

The line of the trench left the path to the west of the church tower and proceeded east-north-east to the point where the new cable passed into the church. Where the trench changed direction, an area of stone rubble was encountered at a depth of about 0.3m, continuing to the east-north-east for 3m. Some brick fragments were present in this material and it can therefore be assumed to be no earlier in date than the 19th century. A collection of brick fragments, also presumably of 19th-century date, was identified between 4m and 7m from the corner of the church and extending below the base of the trench.

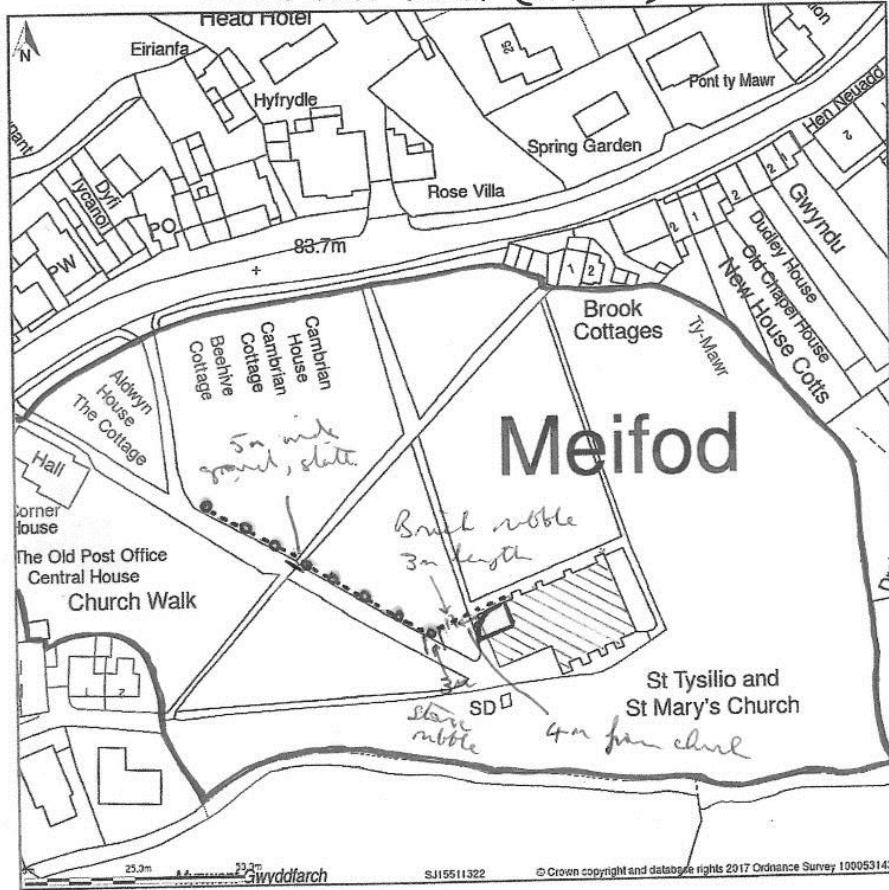
No graves were encountered in the trench and, with the exception of the natural subsoil, no material or features pre-dating the 19th century were identified.

Archive

CPAT Event PRN 140248

9 digital photographs, CPAT Film Number 4516

St Tysilio and St Mary's Church Meifod Powys
LOCATION PLAN (1:1250)



Site Plan shows area bounded by: 315410.46, 313124.1 315610.46, 313324.1 (at a scale of 1:1250), OSGridRef: SJ15511322. The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.
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MEIFOD CHURCH - Proposed Path Lighting and Gravel surfacing to area of War Memorial)

- KEY**
- Churchyard Boundary
 - Approx. route for underground electric cable and location for 8 N^o low level lighting bollards
 - Area of Gravel surfacing at War Memorial.

Fig. 1: Plan of the path lighting route (courtesy Meifod Church Committee)



Fig. 2: Main section of trench alongside access path



Fig. 3: Section of trench leading to church



Fig. 4: Stone rubble at the change in direction of the trench



Fig. 5: Brick rubble between 4m and 7m from the corner of the church



Fig. 6: The existing aperture in the blocked doorway, which was reused for the path lighting cable