



St. Asaph Parish Church, no.1 High Street, St. Asaph, LL17 0RG.

January 2020
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0223.1
Report no. 0234



aeon archaeology

St. Asaph Parish Church, no.1 High Street, St. Asaph, LL17 0RG.

January 2020

Report no. 0234 v1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology
25, Mold Road
Broughton
Chester
CH4 0PQ

Written by: Josh Dean BA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA



Project Code: A0223.1

Date: 30/01/2020

Client: St Asaph Parich Church
info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk



aeon archaeology

St. Asaph Parish Church, no.1 High Street, St. Asaph, LL17 0RG.

January 2020.

Copyright Declaration:

Aeon Archaeology grants permission for the material presented within this report to be used by the archives/repository with which it is deposited, in perpetuity, although Aeon Archaeology retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports, as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the repository to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

Disclaimer:

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of Aeon Archaeology. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. The entitlement to rely upon this Report rests solely with the person/party which commissioned it and does not extend to any other person/party. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by any person/party other than the commissioning person/party.



Project Code: A0223.1

Date: 30/01/2020

Client: St. Asaph Parish Church
info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

Figures

Figure 01: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG. Scale 1:20,000 at A4

Figure 02: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG. Scale 1:5,000 at A4

Figure 03: Plan drawing showing location of external works at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG Scale 1:250 @ A4.

Figure 04: Plan of showing location of grave markers (106) & (107) and area excavated for ramp at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG Scale 1:20 @ A4.

Figure 05: Figure showing Plan of Uprturned Grave Marker (105) at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG. Scale 1:20 at A4.

Figure 06: Figure showing Plan of interior church works with locations of archaeological features identified within St. Asaph Parish Church, St, Asaph Denbighshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.

Figure 07. Traced inscription on Grave Slab (106). No Scale.

Figure 08: Traced inscription on Grave Slab (107). No Scale.

Figure 09: Location of pre-commencement photography (red arrows) and post floor removal photography (black arrows) St. Asaph Parish Church, St, Asaph, Denbighshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.

Figure 10: Location of drainage works photography (red arrows) and access ramp photography (black arrows) St. Asaph Parish Church, St, Asaph Denbighshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.

Plates

- Plate 01:** Choir stalls and altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 02:** Northern choir stalls at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southwest - scale 1m
- Plate 03:** Southern choir stalls at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southeast - scale 1m
- Plate 04:** Church pupit at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m
- Plate 05:** Choir stalls tiled floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 06:** Altar tiled step at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m
- Plate 07:** Altar tiles at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 08:** Altar tiles at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 09:** Memorial to 'Frances' on northern wall right of vestry door at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - no scale
- Plate 10:** Memorial to 'Rachel Foulkes' on northern wall left of vestry door at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale
- Plate 11:** Memorial to 'Rebecca Harriet Louis' on western wall left of window at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale
- Plate 12:** Four memorials to right of church entrance at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale
- Plate 13:** Brass plaques commemorating the fallen of the two World Wars at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale
- Plate 14:** Floor removed in centre of church - from the southeast - scale 1m
- Plate 15:** Floor removed in the southern area of church at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 16:** First brick vault found below central floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 17:** Second brick vault found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m
- Plate 18:** Grave marker found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 19:** Inscription on grave marker found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 20:** Pre removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 21:** Pre removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m
- Plate 22:** Post removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 23:** Post removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m

Plates (2)

- Plate 24:** Sandtone slabs foundation footing for altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m
- Plate 25:** Sandtone slabs foundation footing for altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 0.50m
- Plate 26:** Post removal of carved altar Altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 27:** Post removal of carved altar Altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 28:** Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m
- Plate 29:** Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 30:** Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the north of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 31:** Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the north of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - scale 1m
- Plate 32:** Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m
- Plate 33:** Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 34:** Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 35:** Section of drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m
- Plate 36:** First inlet (southern) to main drainage trench at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m
- Plate 37:** second inlet (northern) to main drainage trench at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m
- Plate 38:** Plan shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 39:** Section shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 0.50m
- Plate 40:** Plan shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m
- Plate 41:** Grave markers pre removal for ramp excavation at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m
- Plate 42:** Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m
- Plate 43:** Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southeast - scale 1m
- Plate 44:** Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m

Plates (3)

Plate 45: Post excavation shot of the ramp at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m

Plate 46: Section shot of the ramp area at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 0.50m

Plate 47: Grave marker (106) inscription Part 1 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Plate 48: Grave marker (106) inscription Part 2 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Plate 49: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 1 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Plate 50: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 2 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Plate 51: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 3 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Plate 52: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 4 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Contents

1.0	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION.....	3
3.0	WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS.....	5
4.0	METHODOLOGY.....	7
4.1	Archaeological Watching Brief.....	7
4.2	Watching brief report.....	8
4.2.1	Post-excavation Assessment.....	8
4.2.2	Post-excavation Report.....	8
5.0	ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	10
6.0	QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS.....	11
6.1	The Documentary Archive.....	11
6.2	Environmental Samples.....	11
6.3	Artefacts.....	11
7.0	RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.....	12
8.0	CONCLUSION.....	17
9.0	SOURCES.....	18
10.0	APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.....	19

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Penodwyd Archeoleg Aeon gan Eglwys Plwyf St. Asaph i gynnal briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â'r newidiadau mewnol a'r gwaith draenio allanol a mynediad yn Eglwys Plwyf St Asaph, 1 Stryd Fawr, St Asaph, Sir Ddinbych LL17 0RG (NGR SJ 03683 74311) (ffigur 01 a 02).

Roedd y gwaith yn cynnwys adnewyddu'r tu mewn i'r eglwys; gan gynnwys tynnu set canu a lloriau teils (i'w hailddefnyddio), glanhau'r gwagleoedd o dan y llawr i hwyluso gosod inswleiddiad a gwres dan y llawr a hefyd gostwng lefel y ddaear yn rhan ogledd orllewinol yr eglwys er mwyn creu sylfeini ar gyfer rhaniadau pren ar gyfer cyfleusterau newydd i'r pen gorllewinol. Yn ystod y cam hwn o'r gwaith, dadorchuddiwyd dau grypt cromennog wedi'u hadeiladu o frics a slab marciwr bedd hirsgwar islaw lefel flaenorol y llawr yn yr eil ogleddol. Hefyd wedi'i ddarganfod ym mhen de-ddwyreiniol yr eglwys o dan yr allor, roedd wal frics coch isel a ffurfiodd gam i fyny at yr allor, uwchlaw'r cam hwn roedd nifer o slabiau tywodfaen wedi'u trefnu mewn 'siâp C' a oedd yn gwasanaethu fel sylfaen gynharach i'r allor.

Roedd y gwaith hefyd yn cynnwys cloddiadau y tu allan i adeilad yr eglwys gan gynnwys cyfres o ddraeniau a oedd i'r gorllewin ac i'r gogledd o waliau'r eglwys a chloddiaid bach i'r de-orllewin o'r eglwys ar gyfer ramp mynediad i'r anabl. Wedi'i leoli i'r gogledd o'r eglwys ac y tu mewn i'r ffos ddraenio newydd roedd olion draen gynharach, roedd gan hwn sylfaen calchfaen gydag un cwrs o frics ar ei ochr. Ymhellach, cyn cloddio'r ramp mynediad, tynnwyd dwy garreg fedd a wedyn chofnodwyd eu harysgrifau.

Ymgwymerwyd â'r rhaglen o waith archeolegol o dan awdurdod trwydded gyfadran (cyf. 164134) a oedd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r gwaith archeolegol fynd yn ei flaen yn unol â WSI Aeon Archaeology dyddiedig Medi 2019 (Gweler atodiad II).

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by St. Asaph Parish Church to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the internal alterations and external drainage works and access at St Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG.

The proposed works included an internal renovation of the space inside the church; including the removal of wooden pews and tiled flooring (to be later reused), the scraping back of the voids below the floor to facilitate the installation of insulation and underfloor heating and also the reduction of the ground level in the north western portion of the church in order to accommodate strip footings for timber partitions for new west end facilities. During this phase of the works two brick-built barrel-vaulted crypts and a rectangular grave marker slab were uncovered below the previous floor level in the north aisle. Also uncovered within the south eastern end of the church beneath the altar, was a low red-brick wall which formed a step-up to the altar, above this step were a series of dressed sandstone paving slabs arranged in a 'C-shape' which served as an earlier foundation for the altar.

The works also included some excavations located to the exterior of the church building including a series of drain runs that were situated to the west and north of the church walls and a small excavation to the southwest of the church for a disabled access ramp. Located to the north of the church and inside the new drain trench were the remains of an earlier drain, this had a stone base with a single course of bricks mortared along its side. Furthermore, prior to the excavation of the access ramp, two grave markers were removed and their inscriptions were recorded.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by St. Asaph Parish Church, hereafter the Client, to provide an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the internal alterations and external drainage works and access at St Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG (NGR SJ 03683 74311) (figure 01 and 02).

The Church is a grade II* Listed Building (**ref: 1447**) and lies to the immediate north of High Street, St Asaph. It is bounded to the west by Lower Street, and to the north and east by residential houses and their gardens. The proposed scheme involved the following works:

Internally

- Existing pew timber floor areas were removed.
- The voids below the floor were scraped back for new solid floor construction including installation of insulation and underfloor heating.
- The ground was excavated to a greater depth (northwest) for concrete strip footings for the timber partitions of the new west end facilities.
- The chancel solid tiling was taken up and subsequently reused.

Externally

- Excavation of service trenches to accommodate a new foul drainage pipe.
- Excavation of an area that would facilitate a waste pump to northwest of Church.
- Excavation for a new access ramp.

The programme of archaeological work was undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (**ref. 164134**) which required that the archaeological work proceeded in accordance with the Aeon Archaeology WSI dated September 2019 (see appendix II) and in compliance with the following conditions:

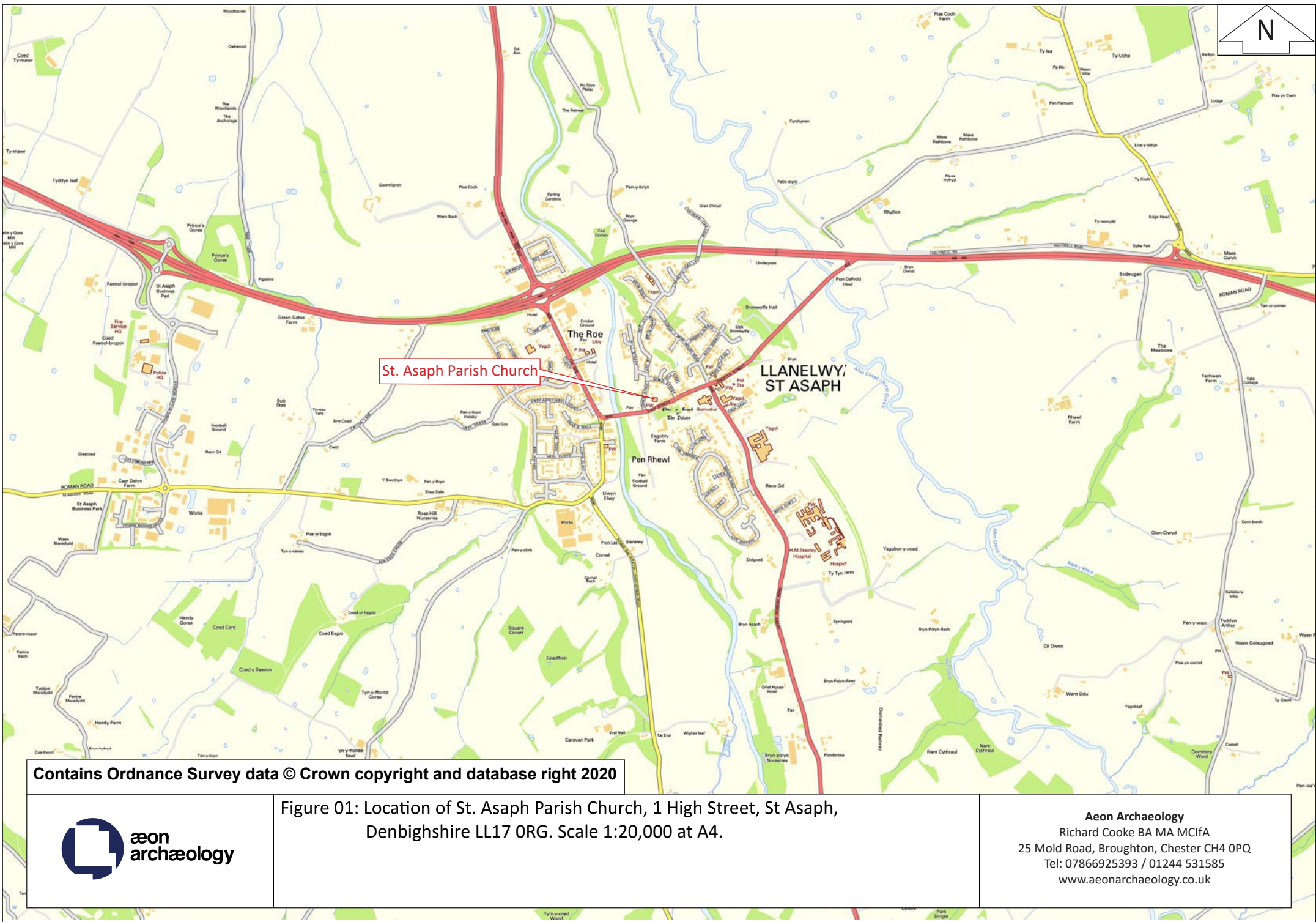
If any human remains were to have become exposed or otherwise encountered during the course of the work:

- All work in the vicinity were to stop immediately.
- The remains were to be lightly covered with soil.
- The Diocesan Registrar (or in their absence the Secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee) was to be notified.
- The directions of the Diocesan Registrar were to 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

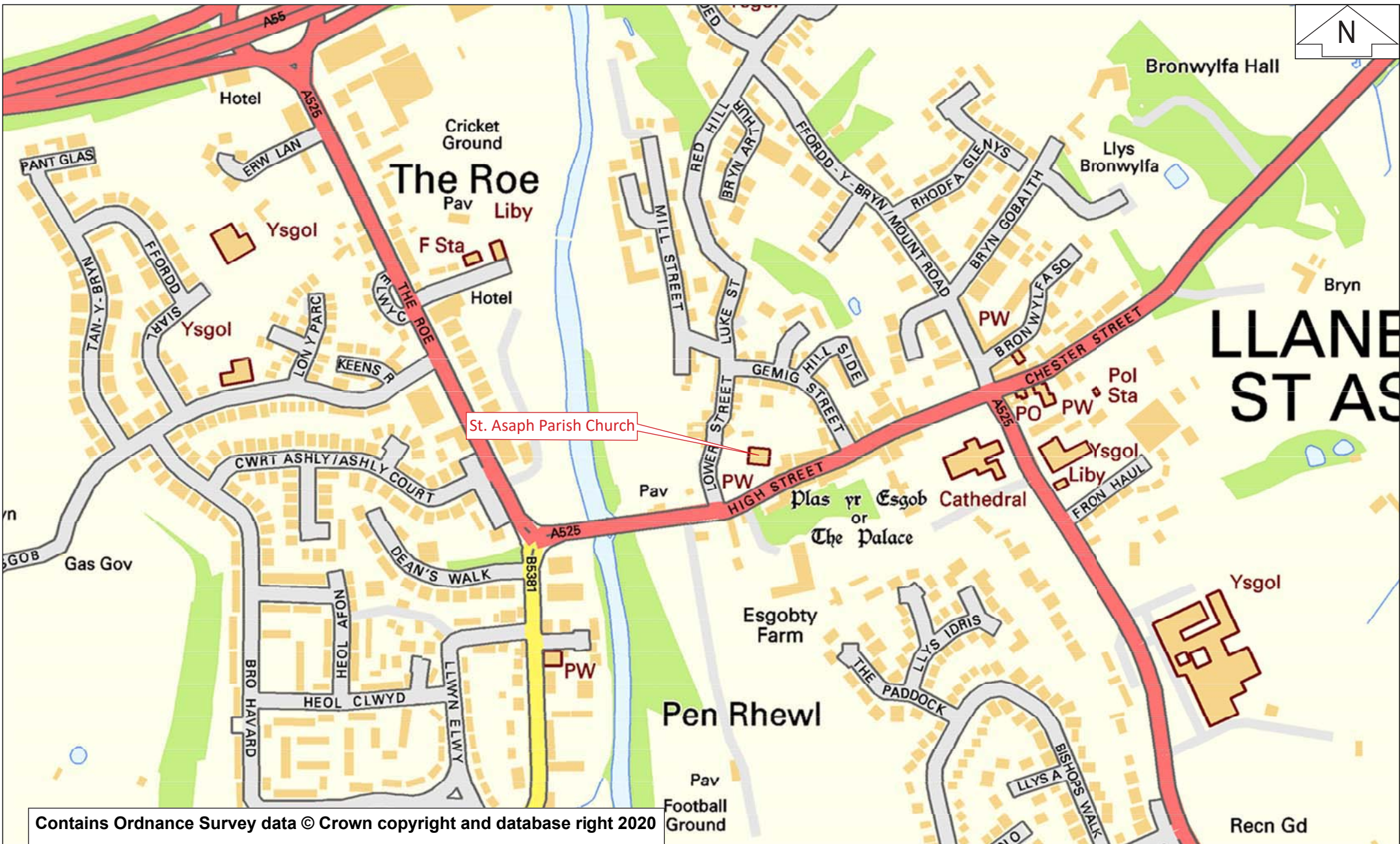


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020



Figure 01: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020



Figure 02: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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 was to adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

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

1. The choir stalls prior to removal;
2. The wall memorials from the north and west walls, prior to removal.

The archaeological watching brief was to be maintained:

1. During the burial of the west font bowl.
2. During the levelling down of the chancel floor.
3. During the exposure of voids beneath pew platforms, drainage cuts, creation of font drain etc.
4. Examination of church walling before vent creation.
5. During drainage works and any other service trenches in the churchyard.
6. Examination of church stonework (if scaffolding is in place during repointing) for re-used, worked or incised stones.

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 were:

- 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 were:

- 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 works area and to oversee their reburial on site.
- To ensure minimal disturbance to any buried features via the careful re-routing of the foul drainage trench 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 works.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief was prepared with reference to the CIFA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and was kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it was meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions should they arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Diocesan Registrar was to be carried out by the Diocesan Archaeologist (Dr. Bob Sylvester). To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer was to 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 was commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) reported to the site manager and conformed to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) kept 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 was provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and was to wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

When deposits and or artefacts were exposed during excavations for the development which required recording and recovery, it may have been necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording took 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 was not to 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 was to be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Diocesan Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting would be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself were not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which were 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 were to be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief were to 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 were to be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits were to be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy was to be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist recorded 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 were undertaken by hand as well as using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record was to comprise of 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 was maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features were 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).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0223.1**.

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) was 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 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The grade II* Listed Building of St. Kentigern & St. Asaph Parish Church is a small double-naved church of mainly Perpendicular style with earlier Gothic origins, of raised wall heads and lancet window. The south porch, north vestry and west bellcote are by Sir George Gilbert Scott who carried out a full restoration in 1872; with further minor restoration work by Gronwy Griffith in 1911.

Externally the church is of mixed random and coursed rubble masonry, mainly of red sandstone to the south and grey limestone to the north. It has a slate roof, wave moulded gable parapets with quarter round rope-moulded kneelers and crucifix finials. The churchyard retains a good collection of 17th, 18th and 19th reset tombstones dating back to 1618 (Cadw LB description).

St Kentigern (Cyndeyrn) reputedly founded the church about 560, and the churchyard form and its location beside the Clwyd serve to confirm the early medieval foundation. From later documentary sources it is evident that St Asaph was the *clas* or mother church for the district. It seems likely that the dedication to St Asa was added in the middle of the 12th century.

The church was recorded with the cathedral in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, but appears in a separate record in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 with a value of 7 13s 4d. From this century too comes the earliest fabric in the church.

The south nave was rebuilt in 1524, this date on the basis of an inscription on the chancel window, recorded in 1614, that stated 'opus vitreum et lapidum factum fuit et finitum AD 1524'. It is assumed that the hammerbeam roofs also date from this time.

In 1629-30, the south porch fell down in storms and was rebuilt, and in 1687 a new south doorway was inserted.

A new gallery was erected in 1829 (CPAT Denbighshire Churches Survey).

6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

6.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Digital photographs	132
Context Sheets	7
Drawings	2 on 2 sheets

6.2 Environmental Samples

No bulk samples were taken as no suitable secure contexts were encountered.

6.3 Artefacts

Very few artefacts were recovered during the excavations and those that were found all came from the heavily mixed light brown-grey, silt-clay graveyard soil (102). The wares that were found can be described as having originated in the post-medieval and modern periods (used below in capitals; *BLACK* eg. are the abbreviations implemented by the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) in an attempt to universally codify ceramic types).

4 sherds of black lead glazed ware (BLACK/BUCK) were found representing 4 MNV. Mid-17th to 19th centuries. Black lead glazed wares made from mixed red and yellow clays were being produced in Wales and England, particularly Northwest England, by the mid-17th century, and continued to be made into the 19th century (Cresswell & Davey 1989). The ubiquitous lead glazed blackware sherds found in the churchyard are all most likely associated with the ceramic works at Buckley in North Wales which has been related with the production of pottery from the medieval period to the mid twentieth century. The most productive time was in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The blackware sherds in this soil are probably examples from the late 18th - early 19th century.

A single sherd of refined white ware with underglaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW) was found representing 1 MNV. Late-18th to 20th century. The sherd probably dates to the second half of the 19th century. This sherd exhibited the *Willow* pattern; a standard pattern of which was in existence by the first decade of the 19th century and has been used ever since (Coysh & Henrywood 1982, 402).

A single sherd of bone china (BONE) was found representing 1 MNV. Late-18th to 20th century. The modern bone china product was developed by the Staffordshire potter Josiah Spode in the early 1790s. Spode included kaolin, so his formula, sometimes called "Staffordshire bone-porcelain", was effectively a hard-paste porcelain, but stronger, and versions were adopted by all the major English ceramic factories by around 1815.

Furthermore, a total of 83 fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered during the excavation of the drainage trenches to the west and north of the building. These were stored in a secure location within the confines of the churchyard, the Diocesan Registrar was informed of their presence and then these remains were reburied on site with no further analysis taking place.

Below is a brief inventory of find types and the amounts of each encountered during the works at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph.

Post-medieval ceramic:	4
Modern ceramic:	2
Disarticulated human bone:	83

7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The location of the external excavations associated with the drainage and ramp at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph are shown on figure 03. The internal renovation and the location of the archaeological features encountered are on figure 06. The archaeological watching brief was maintained on the 16th October, 25 October & 18-22nd November 2019. Where relevant context numbers have been assigned and are shown enclosed within brackets.

The initial aim of the watching brief was to produce a photographic record of the following, prior to work commencing (See plates 1-13):

1. The choir stalls prior to removal;
2. The wall memorials from the north and west walls, prior to removal.

The watching brief was also to be present during the works listed below, which included both interior and external elements at the site of the Church;

1. During the burial of the west font bowl – *(this was no longer required as the space below the floor was sufficient to receive the font bowl without the need for excavation)*.
2. During the levelling down of the chancel floor.
3. During the exposure of voids beneath pew platforms, drainage cuts, creation of font drain etc. *(this was no longer required as the space below the floor was sufficient without the need for excavation)*.
4. Examination of church walling before vent creation, and a watching brief during stone removal – *(the church walls were examined prior to vent creation and did not present with any distinguishing architectural features. Following a consultation with the Diocesan Archaeologist a decision was taken not to observe the drilling of the holes through the church wall as the potential for archaeological discovery was deemed to be very low)*.
5. During drainage works and any other service trenches in the churchyard.
6. Examination of church stonework (if scaffolding is in place during repointing) for re-used, worked or incised stones – *(the repointing works did not take place and therefore no scaffolding was present on site during the attendance of the archaeologist to afford examination of the masonry)*.

Internal excavations within St. Asaph Church (Plates 14-27, figure 06)

The brick-built barrel-vaulted crypts and the inscribed grave marker

Upon the arrival of the archaeologist at site the wooden floor had been removed in the northern and southern aisles, as well as the central area between the spans of the central columns, towards the western end of the Church. The area at the eastern end of the church, near the chancel had also had its wooden floor removed, this was where the choir stalls and the pulpit were situated. Visible beneath the by now removed wooden flooring there were piers constructed from red-brick bonded by Portland cement which were aligned east to west. These had been constructed to support the wooden floor joists for the timber floating floor that was removed.



Church Boundary

Route of drains running along western and northern side of the Church

105

Vestry

St. Asaph Parish Church

Western Entrance

South Porch

Small Excavation area of ramp access

107

106



Figure 03. Plan drawing showing location of external works at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG Scale 1:250 @ A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



33.11
T

108

Undisturbed Grave Marker

Hedgerow

33.18
T

33.18
T

Undisturbed Grave Marker

Undisturbed Grave Marker

107

106

33.22
T

33.22
T

103

33.25
T



Figure 04. Plan showing location of grave markers (106) & (107) and area excavated for ramp at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG Scale 1:20 @ A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

St. Asaph Parish Church
(Northern wall of Vestry)



103

Upturned Grave Marker (105)
(Dressed stone and red brick course)

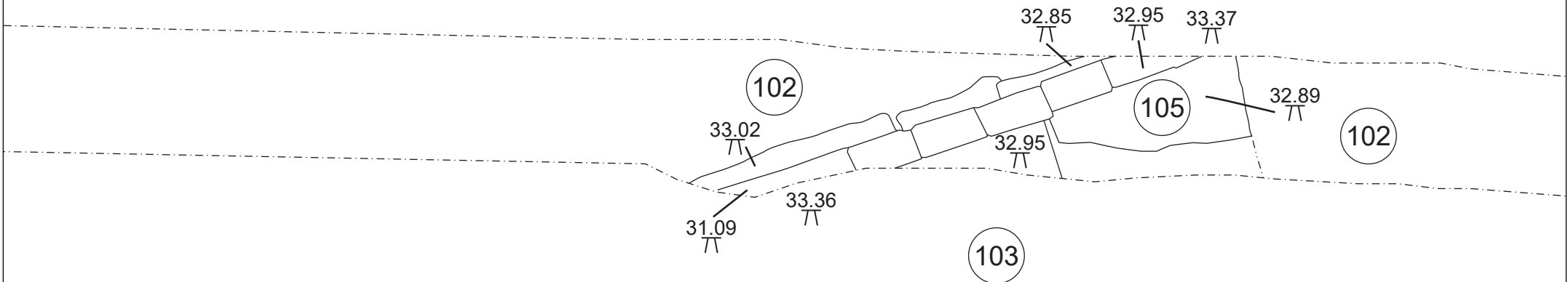
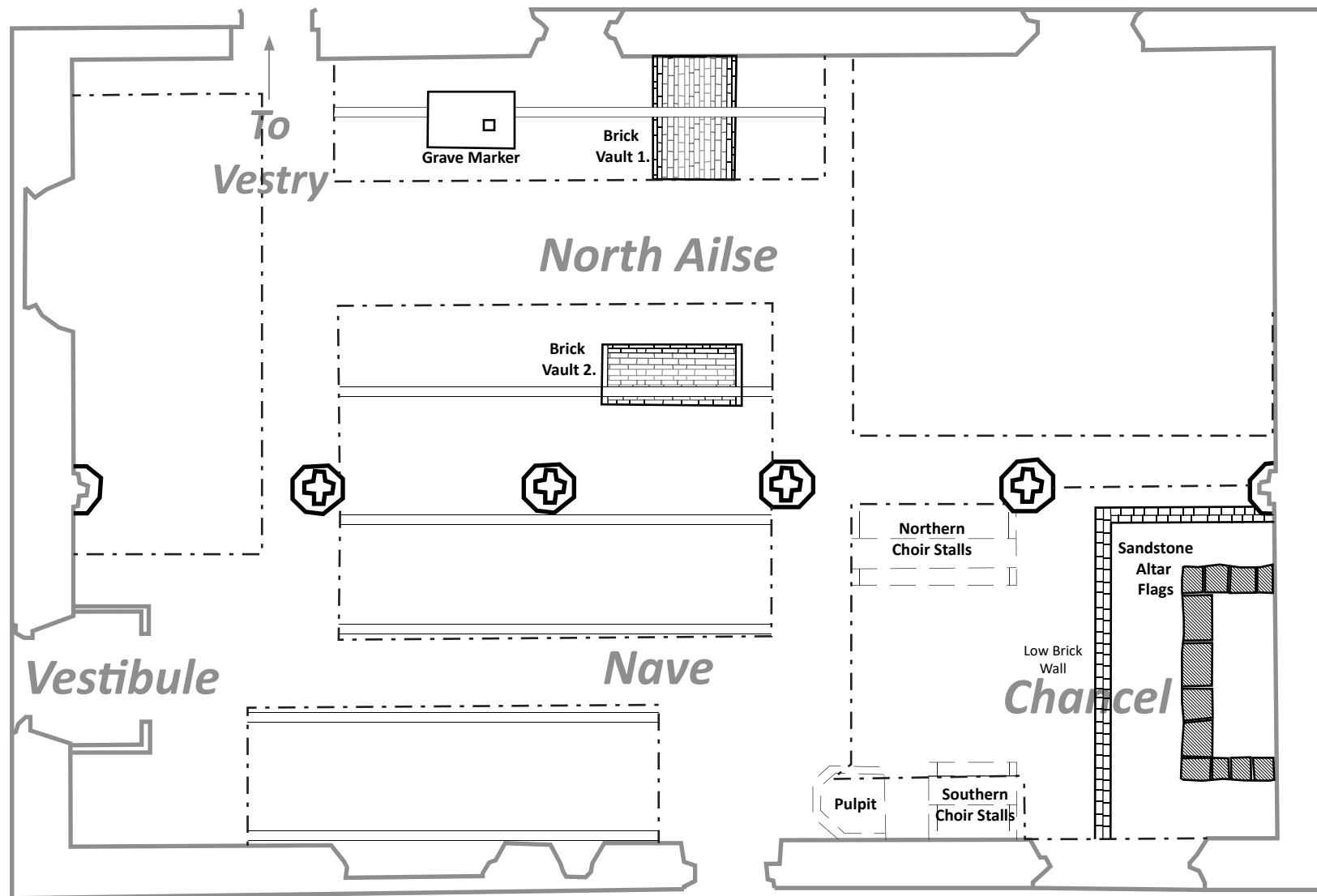


Figure 05. Figure showing Plan of Upturned Grave Marker (105) at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0RG. Scale 1:20 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



In the northern aisle, towards the western end of the church, there was a rectangular grave marker slab which measured 1.89m long by 0.89m wide by 0.12m deep. This grave slab was orientated east to west and comprised of a single slab of light grey stone. At the eastern end of the grave slab there was a simple inscription in formal script;

H
H·M

To the right of centre on the grave slab was a shallow aperture measuring 0.22m long by 0.21m wide by 0.01m deep on an east to west alignment. This most likely held a memorial plaque that had since been removed.

To the east of this a red-brick barrel vaulted crypt was uncovered in the north aisle aligned north to south. This had been constructed from handmade unfrosted red-brick bonded by lime mortar; the bricks measured 0.22m in length by 0.12m in width and 0.07m in depth. The barrel vault of the crypt measured >2.00m long by 1.14m wide and extended to a depth >0.35m. There was a small break in the south western end of the vault which suggests that it had been previously infilled with rubble and soil. The north to south orientation is unusual but was probably built to be accessed externally from the northern side of the church, with burial perhaps being arranged in the traditional east to west format within the crypt – this was not observed but would explain the anomaly of non-traditional alignment.

To the immediate southeast of the north aisle, between the spans of the central arches a second brick-built barrel-vaulted crypt was found, this one aligned east to west. It had been constructed from handmade unfrosted red-brick bonded by lime mortar; the bricks measured 0.23m in length by 0.12m in width and 0.07m in depth. The barrel vault of the crypt measured 2.30m long by 1.00m wide and extended to a depth >0.30m. The crypt was partially situated below a floor joist which ran east to west across this central area where the wooden floor had been removed; the majority of the northern portion of the crypt had been broken and the interior of the crypt exposed – this had also been infilled with rubble and soil.

Both of the red-brick barrel vaulted crypts pre-date the brick-built piers for the suspended flooring – the vaults were most likely broken and infilled when this floor was installed as both vaults were partially truncated by the piers. Both of the crypts had been cut into the soil below the floor of the church which was a soft, mid brown-grey, silt-sand with frequent small sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles. There were no obvious grave cuts observed for either the vaults or the grave marker as the loose nature of the soil made any such cuts imperceptible.

The chancel area and the sandstone footing of the altar

The chancel area had previously been tiled with a geometric pattern with red and black ceramic tiles forming centralised diamond borders with a yellow stamped motif in the centres; these had been removed prior to the arrival of the archaeologist in all of the areas of the chancel except for the uppermost level of the altar. The removal of the floor area around the chancel and the altar also included the removal of three levels of dressed stone kerbs which formed the edging to the altar steps – these were carefully recovered and stored for reuse elsewhere.

The church floor had previously consisted of 1.50cm thick ceramic tiles which had been set upon 0.02m of bonding grout which itself had been levelled across a 0.08m deep layer of levelled concrete or screed. This stratigraphic sequence was true for all of the steps and the chancel floor; however the concrete of the chancel floor had been set upon >0.05m of soft, mid grey-brown, silt-sand with frequent sub-rounded pebble inclusions, this material infilled two ventilation ducts constructed from handmade red-brick bonded by Portland cement that ran across the chancel area >6.00m and were orientated north to south.



Plate 01: Choir stalls and altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 02: Northern choir stalls at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southwest - scale 1m



Plate 03: Southern choir stalls at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southeast - scale 1m



Plate 04: Church pulpit at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m



Plate 05: Choir stalls tiled floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 06: Altar tiled step at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m



Plate 07: Altar tiles at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 08: Altar tiles at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 09: Memorial to 'Frances' on northern wall right of vestry door at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - no scale



Plate 10: Memorial to 'Rachel Foulkes' on northern wall left of vestry door at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale



Plate 11: Memorial to 'Rebecca Harriet Louis' on western wall left of window at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale



Plate 12: Four memorials to right of church entrance at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale



Plate 13: Brass plaques commemorating the fallen of the two World Wars at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - no scale



Plate 14: Floor removed in centre of church - from the southeast - scale 1m

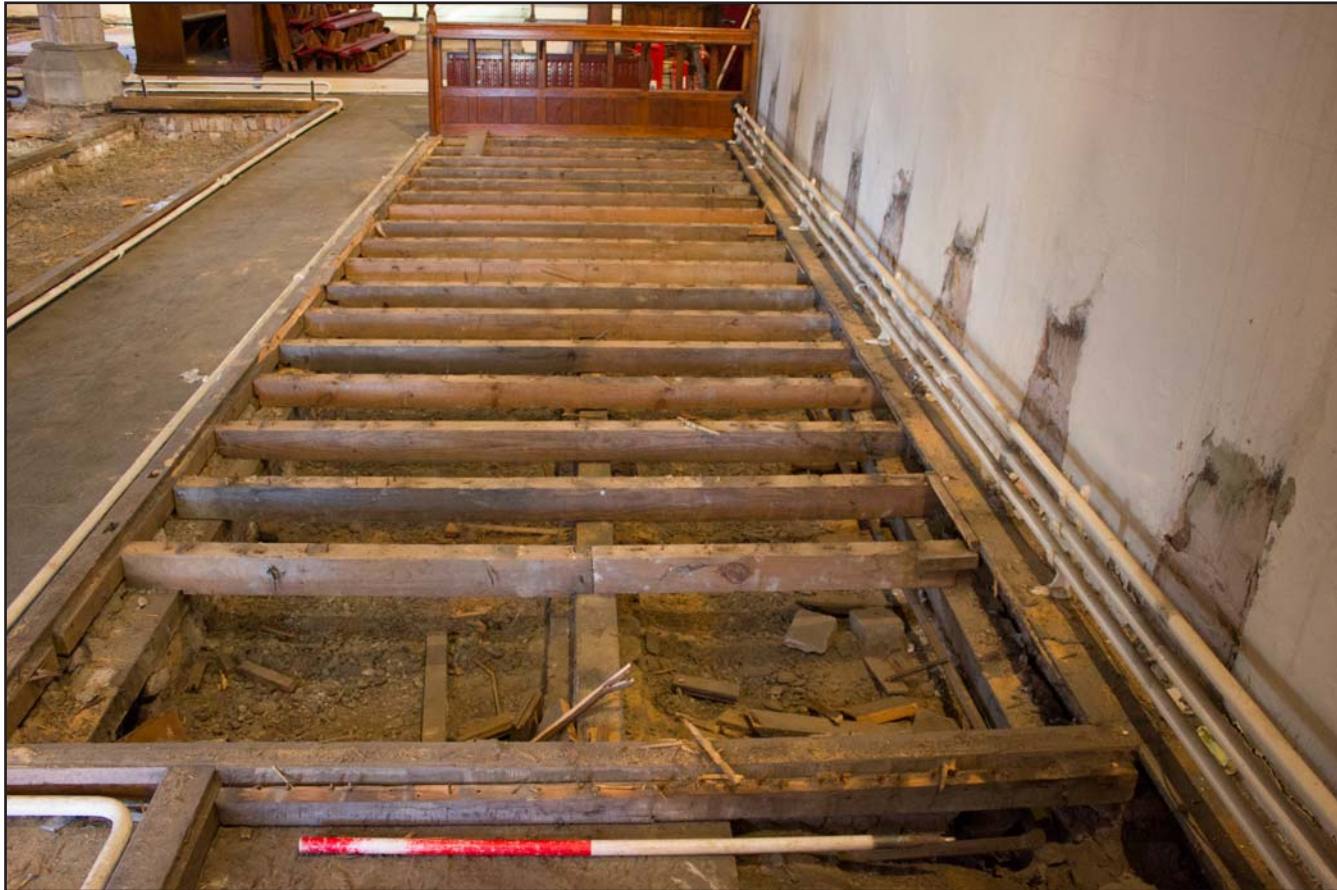


Plate 15: Floor removed in the southern area of church at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 16: First brick vault found below central floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 17: Second brick vault found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m



Plate 18: Grave marker found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 19: Inscription on grave marker found below northern floor at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 20: Pre removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 21: Pre removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m



Plate 22: Post removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 23: Post removal of limestone kerbs at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 1m



Plate 24: Sandtone slabs foundation footing for altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 25: Sandtone slabs foundation footing for altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the northwest - scale 0.50m



Plate 26: Post removal of carved altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 27: Post removal of carved altar Altar at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 28: Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m



Plate 29: Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 30: Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the north of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 31: Pre excavation shot of drainage route to the north of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the east - scale 1m



Plate 32: Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the south - scale 1m



Plate 33: Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the north - scale 1m

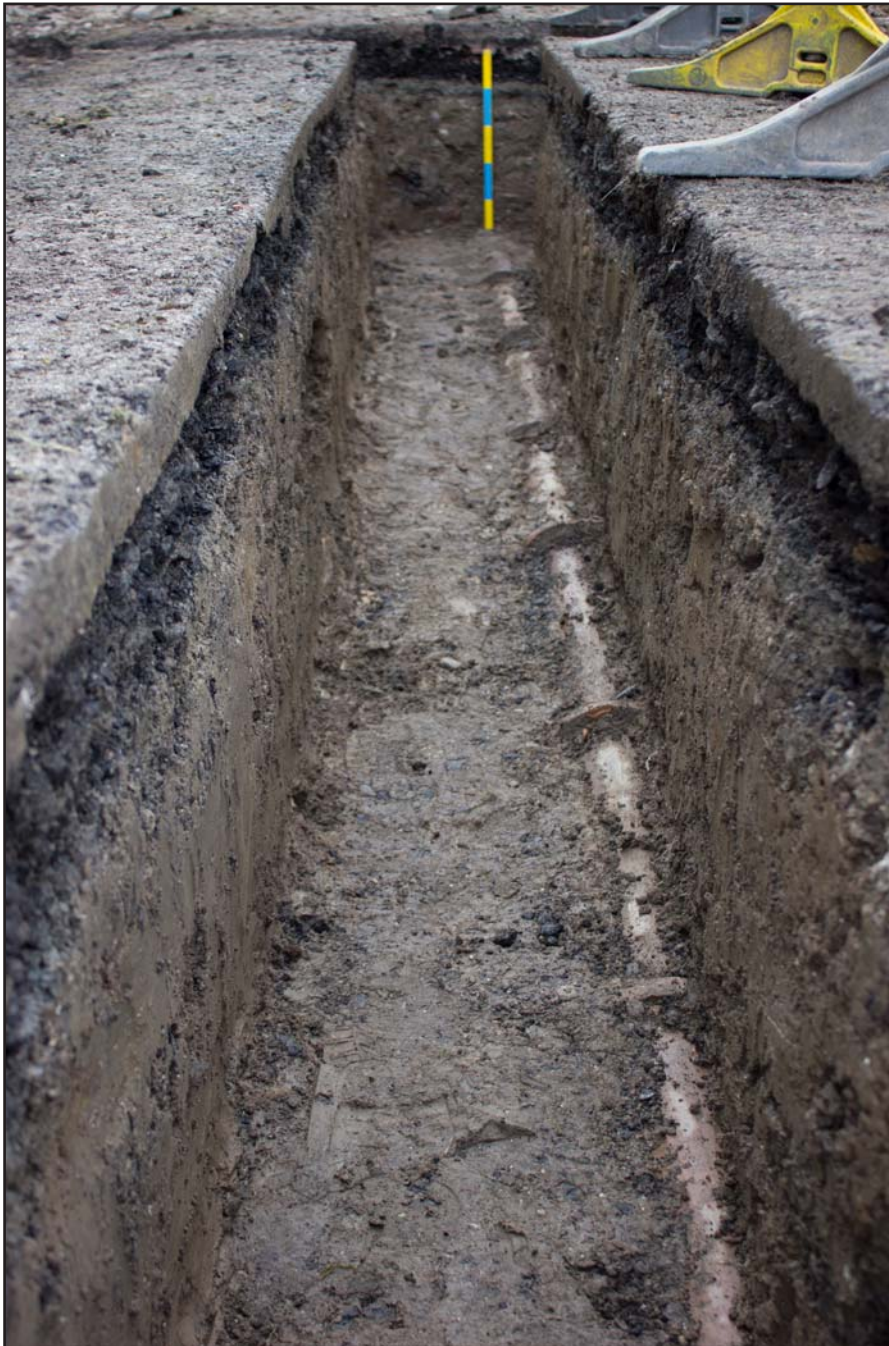


Plate 34: Main drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the north - scale 1m

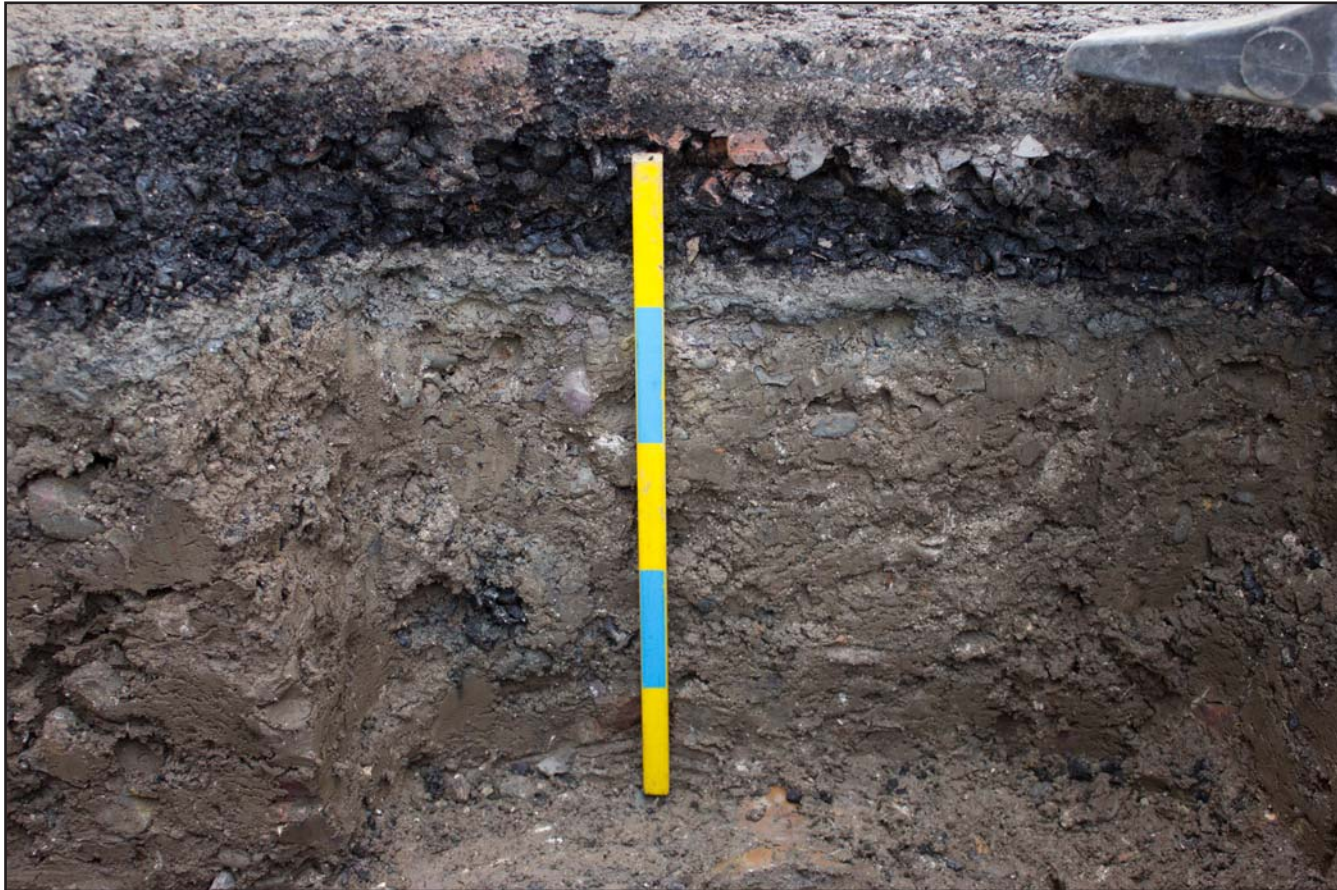


Plate 35: Section of drainage trench to the west of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 36: First inlet (southern) to main drainage trench at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 37: second inlet (northern) to main drainage trench at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the west - scale 0.50m



Plate 38: Plan shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire
- from the north - scale 1m



Plate 39: Section shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 0.50m



Plate 40: Plan shot of upturned grave marker (105) found in drainage trench to northwest of St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 41: Grave markers pre removal for ramp excavation at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the south - scale 1m



Plate 44: Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 42: Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the west - scale 1m



Plate 43: Context shot of grave markers at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the southeast - scale 1m



Plate 45: Post excavation shot of the ramp at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 1m



Plate 46: Section shot of the ramp area at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - from the north - scale 0.50m

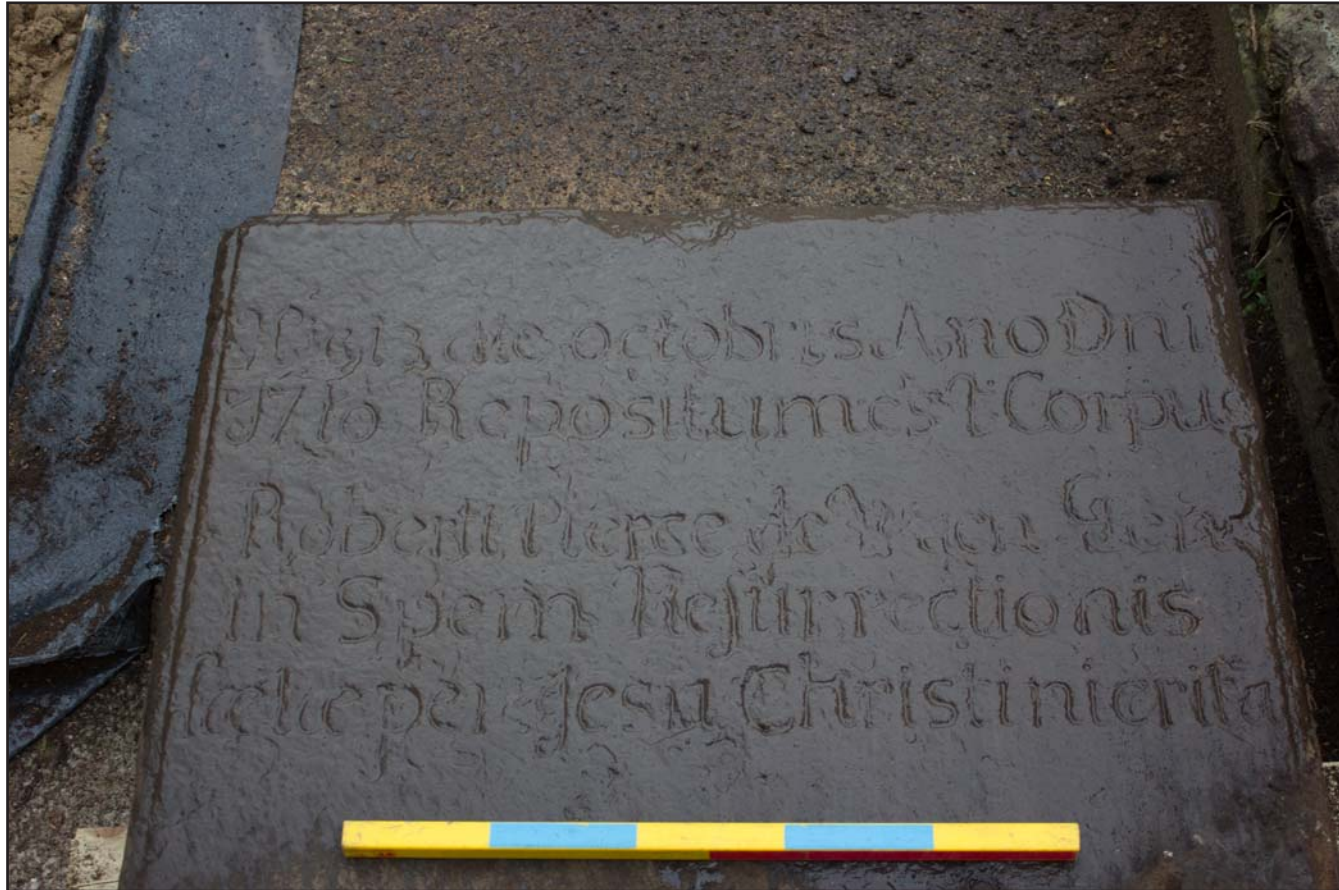


Plate 47: Grave marker (106) inscription Part 1 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m



Plate 48: Grave marker (106) inscription Part 2 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

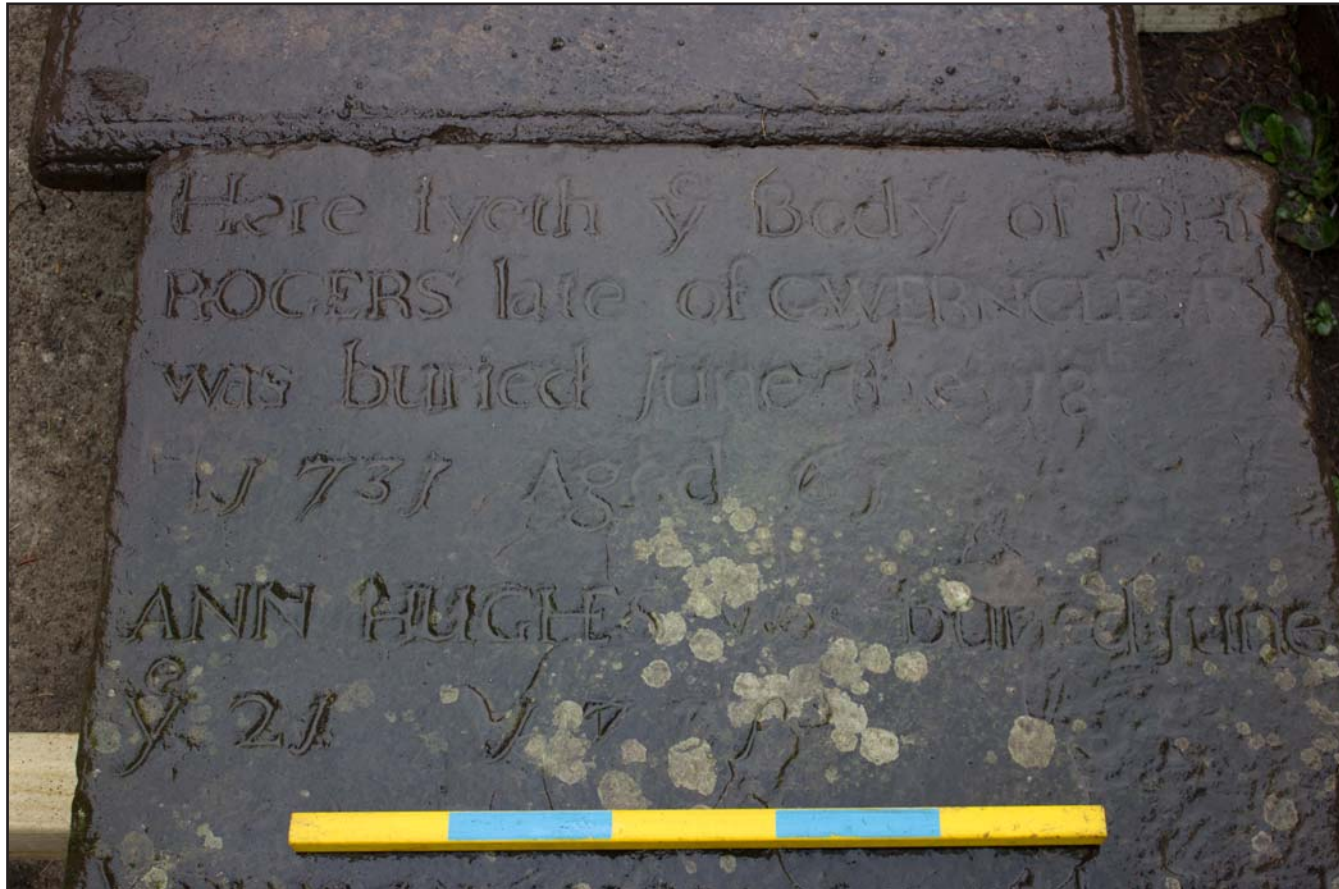


Plate 49: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 1 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

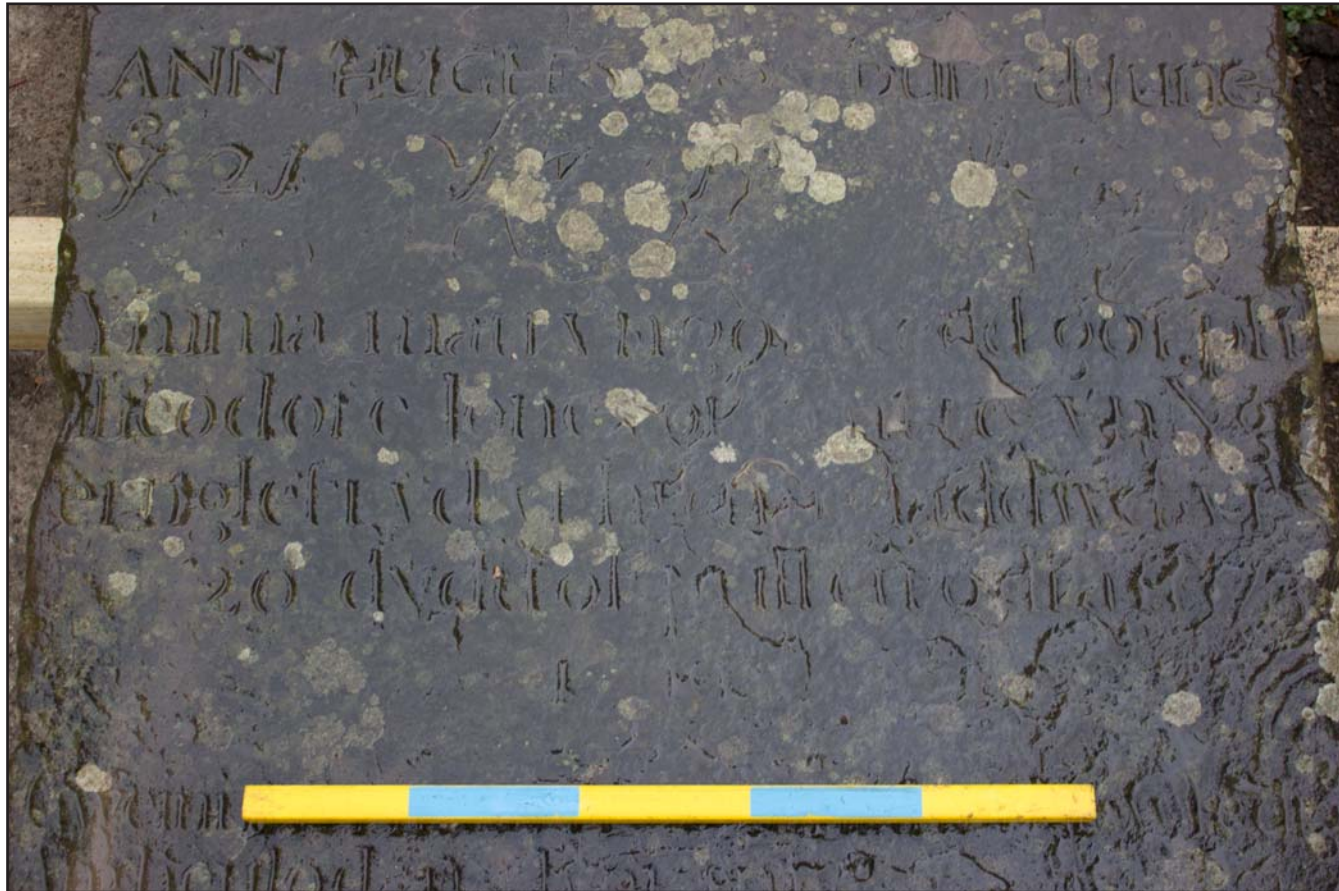


Plate 50: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 2 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

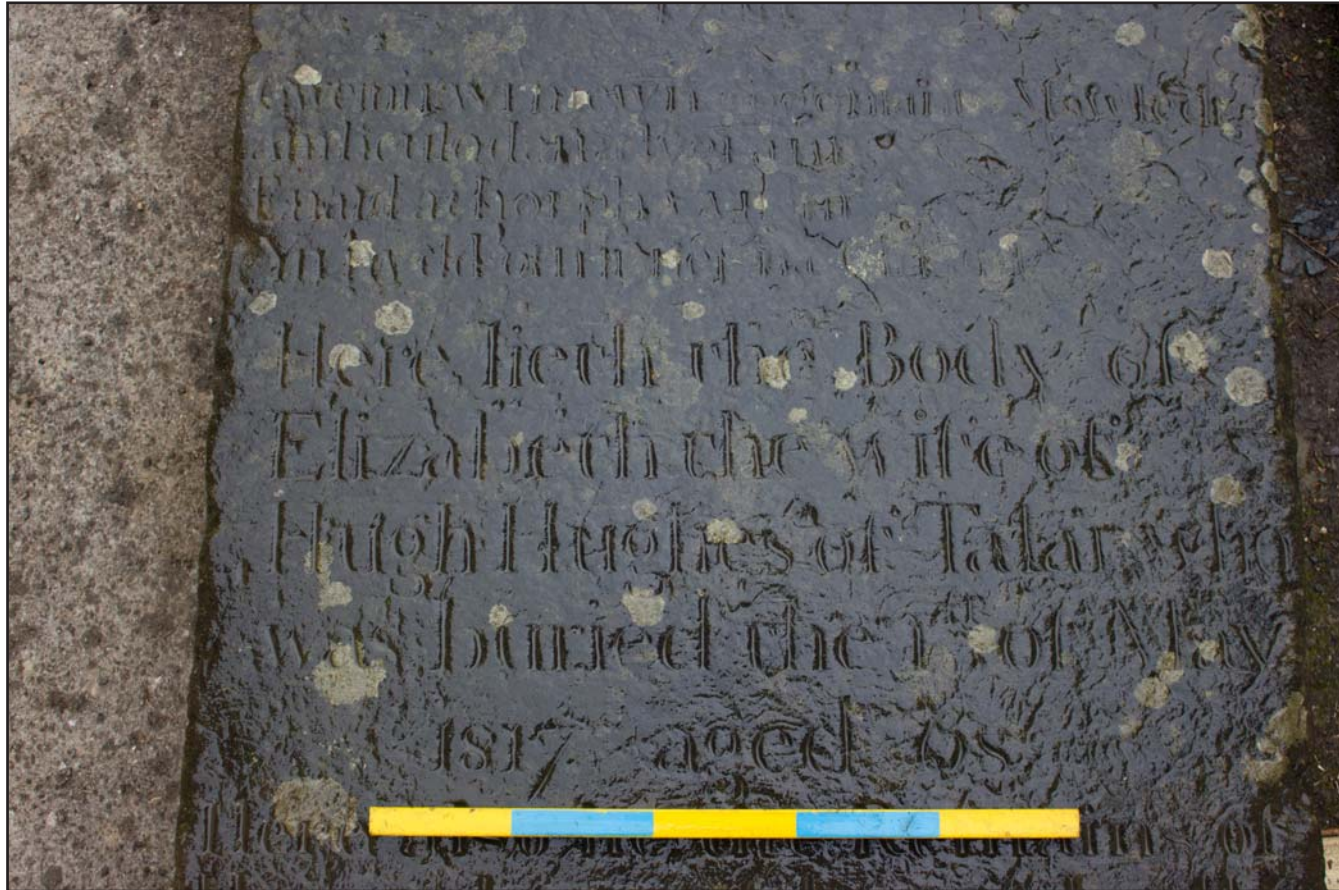


Plate 51: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 3 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m



Plate 52: Grave marker (107) inscription Part 4 at St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph, Denbighshire - scale 0.50m

Hic i 3 die octobris Anno Dni
1710 Repositum est Corpus
Roberti Pierce de 3^a Jca Gen
in Spem Resurrectionis
sæclæ per Jesu Christinierita

Ætatis suæ 79

Indimus hactenacum meta
hæc est ultima cunctis
Spiramen præcipit ut h. Ho. Capit

Here lyeth y Body of JOHN
ROGERS late of GWERNGLEVR
was buried June the 18th
1737 Aged 61

ANN HUGHES was buried June
y 21 1778

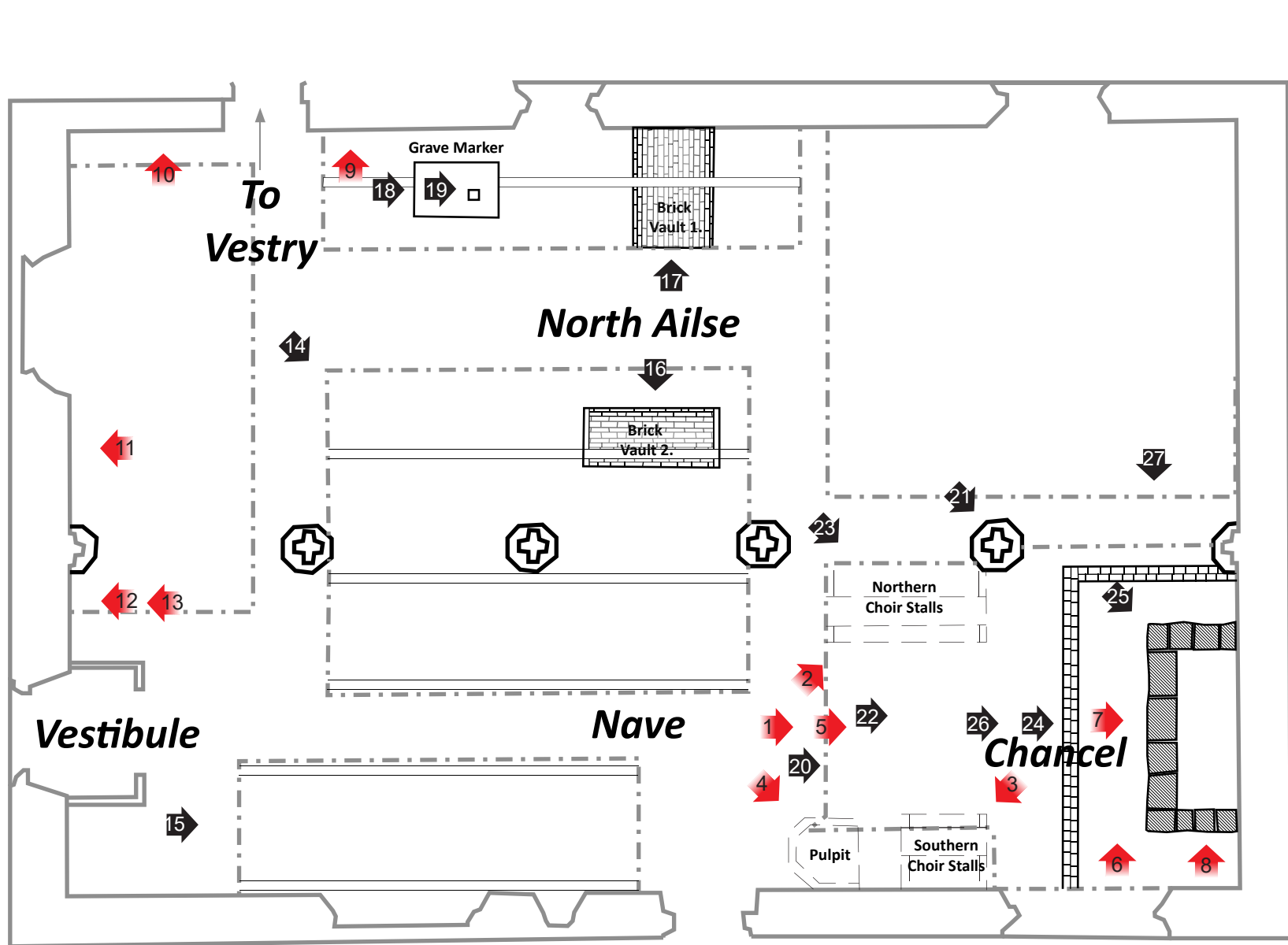
Ymma mailluon del god pl
Theodore loue of ...
eingled ...
20 dychrol p ...
b ...

Gweni ...
Enaidachor ...
Yn dd ...

Here lieth the Body of
Elizabeth the wife of
Hugh Hughes of Talar who
was buried the 1st of May
1817 aged 68

Here also lie the Remains of
Henry Jones of bron y berllan
in the Parish of Abergele who
was interred on the 23rd day
of Sep^r 1867. Aged 61

ALSO ELIZABETH JONES
WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED MAY 7th 1882
AGED 78 YEARS.



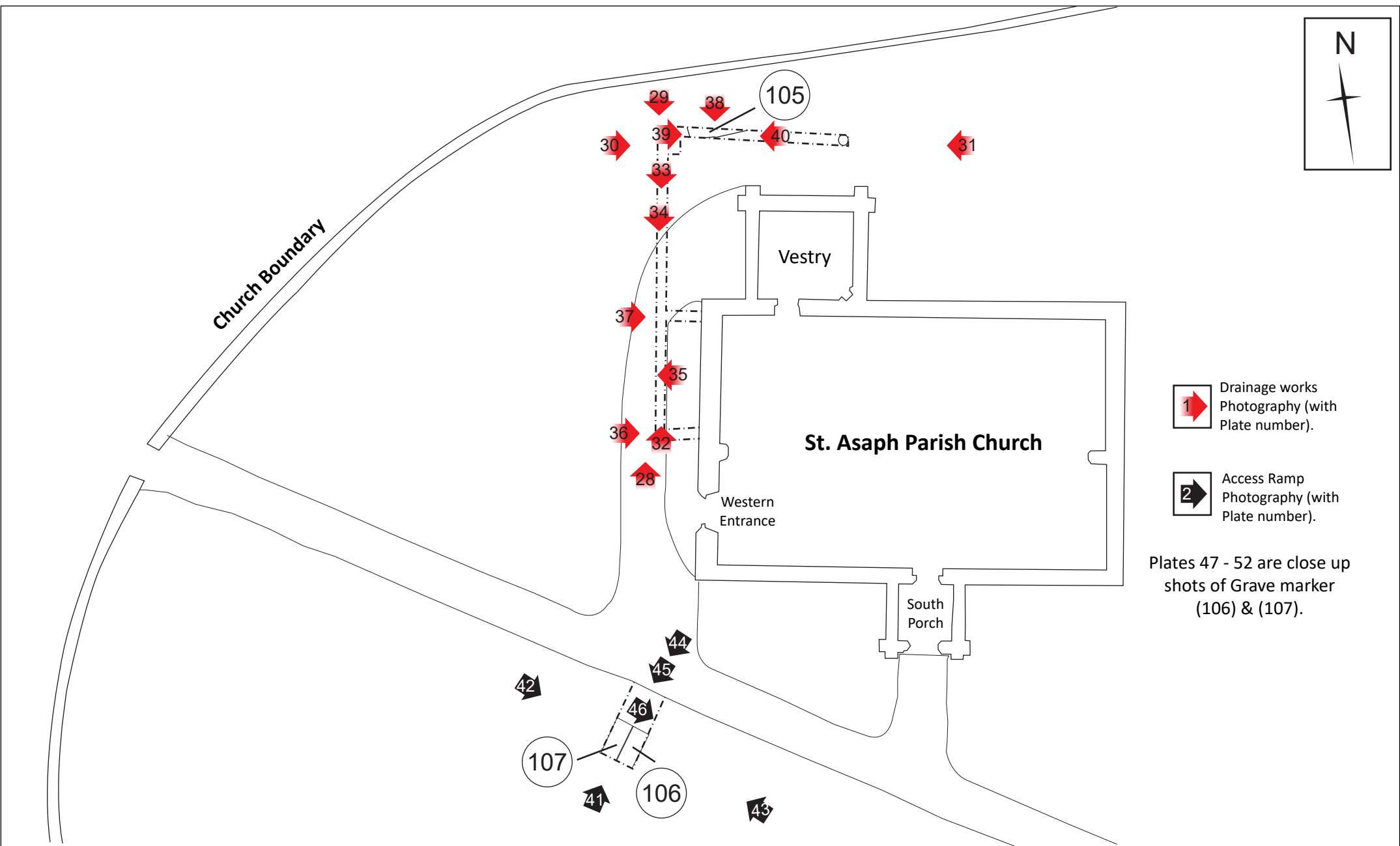
1 → Pre commencement Photography (with Plate number).



2 → Post floor removal Photography (with Plate number).



Figure 09. Location of pre-commencement photography (red arrows) and post floor removal photography (black arrows) St. Asaph Parish Church, St. Asaph Denbighshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



-  Drainage works Photography (with Plate number).
-  Access Ramp Photography (with Plate number).

Plates 47 - 52 are close up shots of Grave marker (106) & (107).



Figure 10. Location of drainage works photography (red arrows) and access ramp photography (black arrows) St. Asaph Parish Church, St, Asaph Denbighshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

Following the removal of the stone kerbs and the concrete screed the western area that was revealed of the chancel floor measured 6.00m in length and was 3.90m wide. This was bounded by a low red-brick wall (bonded by Portland cement) to the east, which was >4 courses and 2 wythe (>0.35m high) which formed the next level of the altar. The area to the east of this low brick wall was infilled by >0.35m of the same mid grey-brown, silt-sand found elsewhere in the church, this then had a single course of angular sandstone slabs arranged in a 'C-shape' which formed an earlier foundation to the final step of the altar. These slabs measured 0.55m² (approx.) by 0.10m deep, and were seemingly covered by a 0.35m deep layer of silt-sand before the concrete screed was cast and subsequently tiled above.

The sandstone slabs that formed the proto-foundation of the altar were arranged from six slabs that ran north to south and a further two rows of three which formed northern and southern returns, which ran west to east forming a 'C-shape'. Following the removal of the upper step of the altar the timber screen attached to the eastern elevation of the church was removed to reveal a partially mortared wall behind.

External excavations – drainage trenches and access ramp at St. Asaph Church (Plates 28-46, figure 03)

The drainage trench and drain feature (105)

The external works consisted of a 16.10m trench which was 0.60m wide, this ran south to north into a deeper pit which was to house a waste pump. This pit was 1.40m long by 1.15m wide by 1.80m deep and had a salt glazed drain crossing it from northwest to southeast. The trench then exited the pit by turning on a right angle and running for a further 9.76m to the east before terminating by an existing plastic gully which was fed by the vestry drain. Two smaller drain runs were excavated against the western church wall in areas where two holes were to be drilled into the wall of the church; these drain runs were 1.80m long by 0.60m wide and were 1.20m deep at their maximum depth.

The trench cut through 0.15m of very firm, dark black tarmac (104) at its southern extent and cut through 0.18m of soft mid grey-brown, clay silt topsoil (103) at its northern and eastern ends. Both of these contexts lay above >1.30m of light brown-grey, silt-clay graveyard soil (102) which had abundant sub-rounded small pebble inclusions, frequent disarticulated human bone (83 fragments), occasional red brick and mortar fragments and very occasional post-medieval pottery sherds. The area was also crossed by four separate service cuts for clean water, and foul drainage.

Uncovered during excavation of the eastern run of the main drainage trench was a partially destroyed drainage trough or upturned grave marker (105); which measured >2.45m long by 0.21m wide and was 0.12m deep. It was in the form of a linear feature aligned east to west and comprised of a dressed stone trough with a single course of handmade unfrosted bricks attached to its southern edge which had been bonded with lime mortar (brick dimensions: 0.24m x 0.11m x 0.07m). This feature was reminiscent in form of some pre-Victorian drainage troughs which have been seen on country estates elsewhere in North Wales (Aeon report 0185) except for the unfrosted red-bricks bonded by mortar which would appear to be later – perhaps they represent a repair/improvement phase to the drain, furthermore there was a perceptible fall across the feature of 0.06m from east to west. Alternatively, given the context of the feature's presence in the burial ground of St. Asaph Parish Church the feature could represent a portion of a buried grave marker which for some reason had been upturned – with the mortared course of the red-bricks forming the uppermost course of a Victorian tomb which had since been demolished.

The access ramp and grave markers (106) & (107)

The smaller excavation located to the southwest of the Church building consisted of 3.80m long by 2.50m wide by 0.40m deep excavation. This required the removal of a 1.24m portion of a laurel bush

and two large sandstone grave slabs; the eastern grave slab (106) measured 2.22m long by 1.02m wide and was 0.11m deep and was orientated northwest to southeast. Its upward face was found to carry the following Latin inscription:

*H-ci3 ctie octobris AnoDni
1710 Repositumest Corpus
Robert Pierce de d(e)n Gen
In Spem Resurrectionis
F(r)celce pen Jesu Christinierita*

Ætatis suae 79

*(Ten?)...dimus (h)uctan demmeta
Haec est ultima cunctis
Spiramen p(n)eceps ... that
-illegible- Ho -illegible- Rapit*

The inscription is rather difficult to read and any attempts at exact translation have proved to be difficult, however a general interpretation might read in English as;

*Here 13th October AD
1710 is stored the body
(of) Robert Pierce of -illegible-
In the hopes of resurrection
-illegible- by Jesus Christ*

His Age 79

*We tend to (strive) -illegible- (struggle)
This (community) is the last (destination) -illegible-
Breath -illegible- gasp (exhalation)*

The grave marker (106) is heavily weathered but the tracing of this inscription is visible on figure 07. The edges of the grave slab were rounded with a single line border and was covered in lichens.

The western grave slab (107) measured 2.20m long by 1.00m wide and was 0.10m deep and was also orientated northwest to southeast. Its upward face was found to carry the following English/Welsh inscription:

*Here lyeth ey Body of JOHN
ROGERS late of GWERNGLE(V)R
Was buried June the 18th
1731 Aged 63*

*ANN HUGHES was buried June
ey 21 1775*

*Ymma Ma(e) -illegible- el gof ...
..eod -illegible-
Ei..glef -illegible-
20 dychbol p(an) -illegible-
-illegible-
... yn I ... mwyn(?) -illegible-
-illegible- ...lod...
Enaid a -illegible-
Yn in dd -illegible-...aid*

*Here lieth the Body of
Elizabeth the wife of
Hugh Hughes of Talar who
Was buried the (?) th of May
1817 aged 68*

*Here also lie the remains of
Henry Jones of bron y berllen
In the Parish of Abergele who
Was Interred on the 23rd day
Of Sep(r) 1867. Aged 61*

*ALSO ELIZABETH JONES
WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED MAY 7TH 1882
AGED 78 YEARS.*

The inscription is heavily abraded in centre of the grave marker (107) which appears to contain the majority of the Welsh wording; feasibly if the two entries are commemorating individuals then there could have been up to seven separate burials associated with this stone over 151 years from 1731-1882. The locations of Gwerngleur, Talar and Bron y Berllan all most likely relate to areas surrounding St. Asaph and Abergele demonstrating the importance of the Mother Church at St. Asaph to the Rogers, Hughes and Jones families and the concentration of those families in this part of Denbighshire.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological works at St. Asaph Parish church included both observation of internal renovation of the church and a watching brief of the excavations to the exterior of the church. There were no articulated burials encountered during these works but a total of 83 disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered. These were re-interred 0.50m below the final level of the deepest excavation upon conclusion of the works. The artefact assemblage was surprisingly lacking, with only four sherds of 17th-19th century *lead glazed black ware* and a single sherd of *refined white ware with underglaze transfer-printed decoration (willow Pattern)* and a single piece of *Bone China*.

With reference to the specific aims of the project the following points were circumvented following a dynamic re-assessment during the course of the works;

- The burial of the west font bowl; was no longer required as the space below the church floor was found to be sufficient to receive the bowl without the need for further excavation.
- Following the examination of church wall before drilling a subsequent watching brief was to be conducted during drilling; the church walls were examined prior to vent creation and did not present with any distinguishing archaeological features, following a consultation with the Diocesan Archaeologist a decision was taken not to observe the drilling of the holes through the church wall as the potential for archaeological discovery was deemed to be very low.
- Detailed examination of church stonework if scaffolding was to be erected for repointing; the repointing works did not take place and therefore no scaffolding was present on site during the attendance of the archaeologist to afford examination of the masonry).

A photographic record of the choir stalls and pulpit was made in the area of the chancel prior to the commencement of works. These included the removal of wooden pews, tiled flooring and dressed stone kerb steps of the altar. Also observed were the voids below the floor which were opened up to facilitate the installation of insulation and underfloor heating and the reduction of the ground level in the north western portion of the church in order to accommodate strip footings for timber partitions for new west end facilities. During this phase of the works two brick-built barrel-vaulted crypts and a rectangular grave marker slab were uncovered below the previous floor level in the north aisle. Also uncovered within the south eastern end of the church beneath the altar, was a low red-brick wall which formed a step-up to the altar, above this step were a series of dressed stone paving slabs arranged in a 'C-shape' which served as an earlier foundation for the altar.

The excavation of the external drainage trench to the northwest of the Church revealed the remains of an earlier drain or upturned grave slab, this had a stone base with a single course of bricks mortared along its side. Furthermore, prior to the excavation of the access ramp, two grave markers were removed and their inscriptions were recorded.

The archaeological watching brief enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to the renovation of St. Asaph Parish Church. The information provided meets the expectations of the faculty condition in that the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work that has exposed and recorded all archaeological assets affected by the development at the site. Ultimately, therefore, and without prejudice to the findings of any future archaeological, or other investigations at the Site, it is considered that the archaeological condition has been met and that it now be discharged.

9.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SJ 07NE, SJ 07SE, SJ 07SW, and SJ 07NW.

Historic England Listed Building Description: Reference 1447

Published sources

British Geological Survey website. www.bgs.ac.uk

Aeon Archaeology (2018). *Glan Llyn Cycle Track, Llanuwchllyn, Bala, Gwynedd, Archaeological Watching Brief*, Aeon report number 0185.

Coysh A. W. & Henrywood, R. K. (1982). *The Dictionary of Blue & White Printed Pottery 1780–1880, Volume I*. Woodbridge: Antique Collectors' Club

Cresswell, C. & P. J. Davey, (1989). Pottery from Twist's House, Prescott Site 28). *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*, 5:97-101.

English Heritage, (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

English Heritage, (2006). *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*

Honey, W.B., (1977) *Old English Porcelain: A Handbook for Collectors*, 3rd edn, revised by Franklin A. Barrett, Faber and Faber

Philpott, R. A., (1985a). Black Glazed Ware. *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*, 4:85-105.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014). *Code of Conduct*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014). *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2014). *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

10.0 APPENDIX I – SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Context	Description
101	Natural
102	Graveyard Soil
103	Topsoil
104	Tarmac
105	Drain/Upturned Grave slab
106	Eastern Grave slab
107	Western Grave slab

**11.0 APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



**St. Asaph Parish Church,
1 High Street, St. Asaph
Denbighshire LL17 0RG**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

September 2019 v2.0

aeon archaeology



Project Code: A0224.1
Event PRN: 164134



aeon archaeology

St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St. Asaph Denbighshire LL17 0RG

September 2019

Copyright Declaration:

Aeon Archaeology grants permission for the material presented within this report to be used by the archives/repository with which it is deposited, in perpetuity, although Aeon Archaeology retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports, as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the repository to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

Disclaimer:

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of Aeon Archaeology. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. The entitlement to rely upon this Report rests solely with the person/party which commissioned it and does not extend to any other person/party. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by any person/party other than the commissioning person/party.



Project Code: A0223.1

Date: 17/09/2019

Client: St Asaph Parish Church DAC

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD AND WATCHING BRIEF – AIMS & OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.0 METHODOLOGY	7
4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief	7
4.2 Watching brief report.....	8
4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment	8
4.2.2 Post-excavation Report	9
5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)	10
6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	10
7.0 HUMAN REMAINS	10
8.0 ARTEFACTS	12
9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE	13
10.0 ARCHIVING.....	13
11.0 PERSONNEL	14
12.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON	14
13.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	14
14.0 INSURANCE	14

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by St. Asaph Parish Church, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief and recording during the groundworks associated with the internal alterations and external drainage works and access at St Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG (NGR SJ **03683 74311**) (figure 01 and 02).

The Church is a grade II* Listed Building (**ref: 1447**) and lies to the immediate north of High Street, St Asaph. It is bounded to the west by Lower Street, and to the north and east by residential houses and their gardens. The proposed scheme will involve the following works:

Internally

- Existing pew timber floor areas to be removed;
- The voids below the floor is to be scraped back for new solid floor construction including insulation and underfloor heating;
- The ground will be excavated to a greater depth for concrete strip footings for the timber partitions of the new west end facilities;
- The chancel solid tiling is to be taken up and reused.

Externally

- Excavation of service trenches to accommodate a new foul drainage pipe;
- Excavation of deeper service trenches to accommodate the replacement of the existing foul drainage pipe;
- Excavation for a new access ramp.

The programme of archaeological work will be undertaken under the authority of a faculty licence (**ref. 164134**) which requires that the archaeological work must proceed in accordance with the Aeon Archaeology WSI dated September 2019 (this document) and in compliance with the following conditions:

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.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Diocesan Archaeologist (Dr Bob Silvester) but it is a requirement that this WSI is approved prior to the implementation of the archaeological watching brief at the Site.

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—

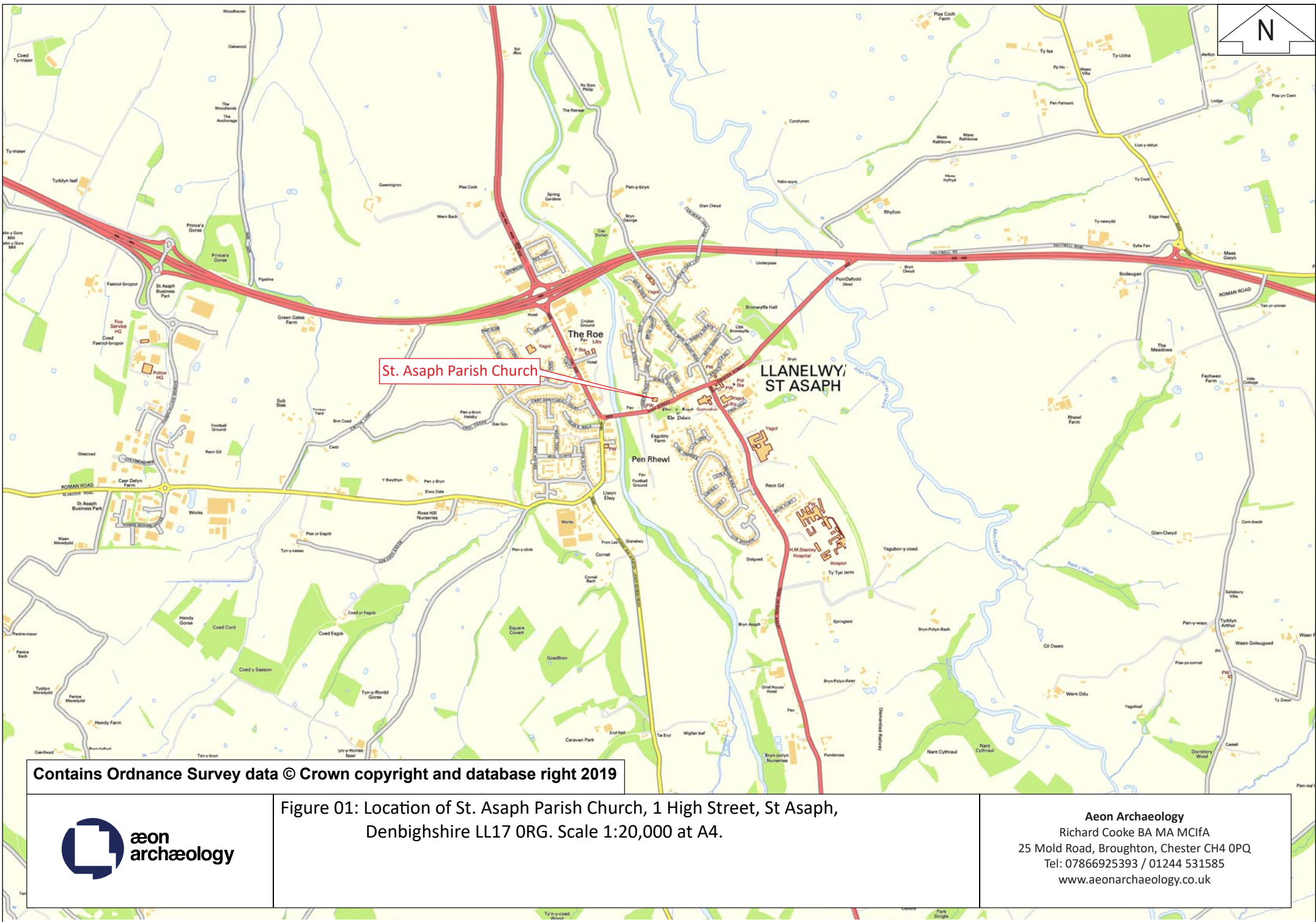
- (a) any object or structure fixed to the church building;*
 - (b) any object or structure within the curtilage of a church building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land.*
- (This is now the case whether or not that object or structure is listed in its own right.)*

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, 2014).

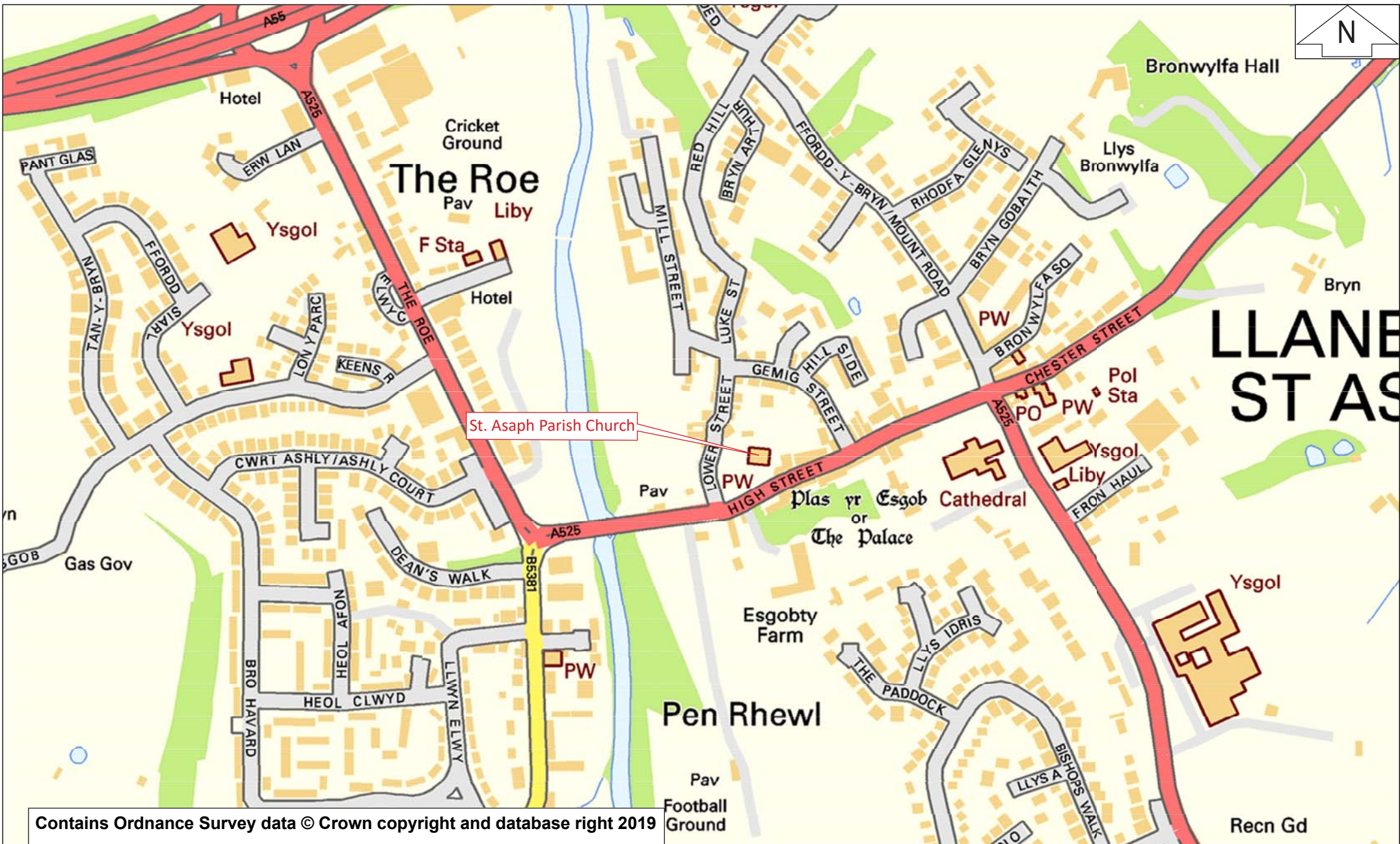


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019



Figure 01: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



St. Asaph Parish Church

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019



Figure 02: Location of St. Asaph Parish Church, 1 High Street, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RG. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The grade II* Listed Building of St. Kentigern & St. Asaph Parish Church is a small double-naved church of mainly Perpendicular style with earlier Gothic origins, of raised wall heads and lancet window. The south porch, north vestry and west bellcote are by Sir George Gilbert Scott who carried out a full restoration in 1872; with further minor restoration work by Gronwy Griffith in 1911.

Externally the church is of mixed random and coursed rubble masonry, mainly of red sandstone to the south and grey limestone to the north. It has a slate roof, wave moulded gable parapets with quarter round rope-moulded kneelers and crucifix finials. The churchyard retains a good collection of 17th, 18th and 19th reset tombstones dating back to 1618 (Cadw LB description).

St Kentigern (Cyndeyrn) reputedly founded the church about 560, and the churchyard form and its location beside the Clwyd serve to confirm the early medieval foundation. From later documentary sources it is evident that St Asaph was the *clas* or mother church for the district. It seems likely that the dedication to St Asa was added in the middle of the 12th century.

The church was recorded with the cathedral in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, but appears in a separate record in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 with a value of 7 13s 4d. From this century too comes the earliest fabric in the church.

The south nave was rebuilt in 1524, this date on the basis of an inscription on the chancel window, recorded in 1614, that stated 'opus vitreum et lapidum factum fuit et finitum AD 1524'. It is assumed that the hammerbeam roofs also date from this time.

In 1629-30, the south porch fell down in storms and was rebuilt, and in 1687 a new south doorway was inserted.

A new gallery was erected in 1829 (CPAT Denbighshire Churches Survey).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD AND WATCHING BRIEF – AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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

1. The choir stalls prior to removal;
2. The wall memorials from the north and west walls prior to removal.

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the burial of the west font bowl;
2. During the levelling down of the chancel floor;
3. During the exposure of voids beneath pew platforms, drainage cuts, creation of font drain etc.
4. Examination of church walling before vent creation, and a watching brief during stone removal;
5. During drainage works and any other service trenches in the churchyard;
6. Examination of church stonework (if scaffolding is in place during repointing) for re-used, worked or incised stones.

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 works area and to oversee their reburial on site.
- To ensure minimal disturbance to any buried features via the careful re-routing of the foul drainage trench 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 works.

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 (2014) 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 or his nominee 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).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0223.1**.

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 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.

6.0 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 linear 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)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

A Ministry of Justice (MoJ) license for the exhumation of human remains at the Site has been obtained by the Client and the work will be undertaken in accordance with the conditions and recommendations of this license.

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 excavation 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.

8.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIFA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

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.

9.0 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.

10.0 ARCHIVING

The Diocesan Archaeologist (Dr. Bob Silvester) will be kept informed of progress during the course of the project via email.

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 National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six 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 to National Monument Record, of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication. 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).

11.0 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 eight years' experience in field archaeology.

12.0 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.

13.0 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.

14.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

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): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/20

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/20

