

CPAT Report No. 1728




St Grwst's Church and Gwydir Chapel, Llanrwst, Conwy

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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 Project Name: Gwydir Chapel, Llanrwst
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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Richard Hankinson Senior Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

trust@cpat.org.uk

www.cpat.org.uk

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Summary

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief during late 2019 and early 2020 at St Grwst's Church and the attached Gwydir Chapel, in Llanrwst. The work was undertaken during a programme of refurbishment works at the site, on behalf of Paterson, Macauley and Owens, acting as the representatives of the Church authorities.

A range of works were subject to the watching brief, both within the church, where a new floor was installed and some wall monuments were relocated, and also in the churchyard, where a number of trenches were excavated to allow for the installation of new services and drains. The archaeological input required was agreed at a site meeting of all interested parties prior to the commencement of work.

The watching brief revealed evidence for earlier features within the church and churchyard, most of which could be dated by a series of memorial slabs (ledgers) as belonging to the 18th and 19th centuries, though some of the features and structures may have been of earlier date. The main findings were the partial remains of an earlier floor, probably in use in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and three vaults within the nave of the church. As was expected, the work demonstrated a continuing use of the church and churchyard during the post-medieval period.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal briff gwylio tuag at ddiwedd 2019 a dechrau 2020 yn Eglwys Sant Grwst a'r capel cysylltiedig, sef Capel Gwydir, yn Llanrwst. Gwnaed y gwaith yn ystod rhaglen o waith ailwampio ar y safle, ar ran Paterson, Macauley ac Owens, gan gynrychioli'r awdurdodau Eglwys.

Bu'r briff gwylio'n edrych ar waith amrywiol, yn yr eglwys, lle gosodwyd llawr newydd ac ail-leolwyd rhai cofebau ar y waliau, a hefyd yn y fynwent, lle cloddiwyd nifer o rychau i ganiatáu gosod gwasanaethau a draeniau newydd. Cytunwyd ar y mewnbwn archaeolegol mewn cyfarfod o'r holl fuddgarfau ar y safle cyn dechrau'r gwaith.

Datgelodd y briff gwylio dystiolaeth o nodweddion cynharach yn yr eglwys ac yn y fynwent, ac roedd modd pennu dyddiad y rhan fwyaf ohonyn nhw trwy gyfres o slabiau coffa (cerrig beddi) a oedd yn nodi'r 18^{fed} a'r 19^{eg} ganrifoedd, er ei bod hi'n bosibl bod rhai o'r nodweddion a'r strwythurau o ddyddiad cynharach. Y prif ddarganfyddiadau oedd gweddillion rhannol llawr cynharach, a gafodd ei ddefnyddio mae'n debyg yn y 18^{fed} ganrif a dechrau'r 19^{eg} ganrif, a thair fownt yng nghorff yr eglwys. Fel y disgwyliwyd, dangosodd y gwaith fod yr eglwys a'r fynwent wedi'u defnyddio'n barhaus yn ystod y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was appointed by Paterson, Macauley and Owens, of Bebington and Mold, acting as the representatives of the Llanrwst Church authorities, to carry out a watching brief at St Grwst's Church and the attached Gwydir Chapel, in Llanrwst, Conwy. The watching brief was undertaken during a programme of refurbishment works at the church during late 2019 and early 2020.
- 1.2. The works subject to the watching brief were both within the church, where a new floor was installed and some wall monuments were relocated, and also in the churchyard, where trenches were excavated to allow for the installation of new services and drains. The archaeological works required were agreed at a site meeting of all interested parties on 13 August 2019 (Appendix 1), attended by the consultant Archaeologist to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) of St Asaph.
- 1.3. A Faculty, dated 20 July 2018 had been granted for the works by the Chancellor of the Diocese, with advice from the DAC; the works were also subject to a Ministry of Justice Licence (No. 19-0187) under the Burial Act of 1857, permitting the removal of any human remains that were revealed by the work, subject to appropriate reburial within consecrated ground on completion.



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Fig. 1 Location of Llanrwst Church

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Llanrwst parish church is dedicated to St Grwst and is located in the diocese of St Asaph. Although this was no doubt the site of a medieval church, as it is mentioned in the Valuation of Norwich of 1254 (Lunt 1926, 467), the present building dates approximately to the late 15th century and is said to have been rebuilt in the 1470s following the destruction of Llanrwst in 1468 by the Earl of Pembroke. There are also 17th- and 19th-century additions. The church comprises the original nave and chancel, divided by a rood screen, with a west tower and south porch, both rebuilt in the 19th century. The north aisle was newly constructed in the late 19th century. The attached Gwydir Chapel was built on the south side of the chancel in 1633-4 by Sir Richard Wynn. Fenton, writing at the beginning of the 19th century, describes the fixtures and fittings of the chapel in detail and also notes that the church consisted of a 'nave and chancel, with a stunted wooden steeple' (Fisher 1917, 162).
- 2.2. The church is built of grey rubble without coursing and has limestone dressings, while the Gwydir chapel is of coursed slate/shale with pale limestone dressings. At the commencement of the watching brief, the floor of the church was wooden, suspended on stone sleeper walls, with ceramic tiles forming the walkways; the Gwydir Chapel has a stone flagged floor.
- 2.3. The Gwydir chapel contains 17th-century woodwork and memorials dating from the 13th to the 17th century, including stone coffins, effigies and engraved brasses. These include a large stone coffin, said to be that of Llewelyn the Great who died in 1240, a stone effigy of Hywel Coetmor of approximately 1440, and another to members of the Wynn family including Sir John Wynn, who died in 1559, and his wife Sydney, who died in 1639.
- 2.4. Surrounding the church is a partially curvilinear churchyard which is bounded by the Afon Conwy on the south, with urban development on the remaining sides. Its overall appearance is suggestive of an early medieval origin, though with some loss to the original extent from the action of the river on that side. Access to the church and churchyard is by an arched gateway on the east.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted on an intermittent basis between August 2019 and February 2020, in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2017). The following discussion considers the different areas examined during the watching brief under separate headings and relates to the works identified and specified in Appendix 1. Plans showing the interior and exterior features that were revealed are provided at the end of this report (Figs. 49 and 50)

Church interior

- 3.2. The main part of the work within the church which had the potential for significant archaeological impacts involved the lowering of the floor level and the subsequent construction of a new floor slab to support the new structures. This was carried out in the nave, north aisle and tower. The reduction of the floor level revealed sections of an earlier floor which was clearly in use in the 18th century, and perhaps also the beginning of the 19th century to judge from the ledgers that were revealed. Some of the ledgers were taken up as they were too close to the surface and were placed between the sleeper walls of the floor in the north aisle after the wooden and stone slab flooring there was removed and before the new floor had covered them. Apart from these walls, no archaeological features or structures were seen in the floor of the north aisle (Fig. 2). No evidence was revealed for grave cuts or

in-situ burials beneath any of the ledgers that were moved. Some disarticulated human bone was recovered during the watching brief and this was carefully boxed and stored for reburial.

Floor



Fig. 2: The north aisle floor, showing the sleeper walls, from the east. CPAT 4679-0001



Fig. 3: The ledgers in the south-west corner of the nave, from the north. CPAT 4679-0012

- 3.3. At the west end of the nave, the removal of the modern flooring in the south-west corner of the church, where the font had been sited, revealed four ledgers and other slabs which had been used as flooring (Figs. 3 and 4). The ledgers were dated to between 1751 and 1801; all had to be taken up to give sufficient depth for the new floor to be installed. These were positioned so closely together that they may represent the reuse of ledgers as flooring.



Fig. 4: The 1751 ledger (left) and floor slabs to the west of the main entrance to the church, as revealed by the taking up of the font, from the east. CPAT 4679-0102



Fig. 5: The remains of the 18th-century floor within the nave, from the east. The John Williams ledger is the more distant of the two large slabs. CPAT 4679-0033

- 3.4. Further to the east within the nave, another area of this early floor was found in-situ (Fig. 5) though its surface was uneven. Two dated ledgers were revealed, of 1728 and 1767, and it seems likely that these were part of the same floor level identified in the corner of the church.
- 3.5. The later of the two ledger inscriptions was useful in confirming the sequence of events relating to the construction of the north aisle. The ledger in question was No. 20 (Appendix 2, Fig. 44), commemorating John Williams of Gwydir, who died on 26 April 1767, and this lay in an approximately central position on the north side of the nave. There is a corresponding wall plaque (Fig. 6) on the north wall of the north aisle which states he was buried 'underneath', also noting that he was the Agent at Gwydir and died aged 48. This might have suggested that the burial had also been moved to the north aisle, but the presence of the in-situ ledger confirms this is not the case and that the wall plaque was moved from the north wall of the nave when the arches were installed between the new north aisle and the nave in the late 19th century.
- 3.6. This section of the old floor was fairly uneven and the higher portions had to be removed to allow the new floor to be installed. The ledgers were slightly lower and this enabled them to be retained in their original positions.



Fig. 6: The John Williams memorial plaque on the wall of the north aisle. CPAT 4679-0075

- 3.7. On the south side of the nave and almost opposite the John Williams ledger was a brick-lined vault (Vault 1; Fig. 7), aligned east/west. Its presence had been appreciated at an early stage owing to some subsidence of the overlying soil and the investigation of this structure had therefore been made a priority to ensure that the new floor was placed on a secure footing. It was partially overlain on its north side by a sleeper wall for the same type of wooden flooring that was taken up in the north aisle.
- 3.8. The reason for the subsidence was readily evident in that the slabs sealing the vault had not all been replaced, leaving the east and west ends open which had admitted soil into the interior of the vault. It was interesting to note the remains of a fabric covering (the brown-

coloured patches on Fig. 7) which had no doubt been placed on top of the slabs when the vault was last used.



Fig. 7: Vault 1, showing the incomplete slab and covering material, from the west. Partially overlying the north (left) side is a sleeper wall for the 20th-century floor of the church. CPAT 4679-0048

- 3.9. Although the vault was only large enough in plan for a single coffin, the likelihood is that it was of sufficient depth to allow for at least two and possibly three burials. This was demonstrated by a monument on the south wall of the nave to the likely occupants, Jane Hughes, her husband Thomas, and their daughter Jane, who died in 1729, 1733 and 1767, respectively. The inscription is given in full in Appendix 2 and its location is marked on Fig. 49. New slabs were used to seal the vault, which was then covered with a protective membrane before being filled. The outer walls were left untouched by the floor preparation works.
- 3.10. As the floor level was being lowered on the north side of the nave at its east end, a second vault (Vault 2) was revealed. This was of completely different character, comprising two approximately parallel stone sleeper walls running north/south with a covering of slabs (Fig. 8). Previous disturbance was evident as one slab was missing and another had been damaged, this could have taken place when the north aisle was built.
- 3.11. The vault had to be modified (see Fig. 9) as its upper surface was too high to allow the new floor to be of sufficient thickness. Accordingly, the two northernmost covering slabs were removed, the sleeper walls were lowered by about 0.2m and the vault was then capped with

three reused slabs from elsewhere, the old slabs being in poor condition. The interior of the vault was examined after the slabs had been removed and human remains were observed, though whether these were in-situ could not be determined. They were left in position. No evidence regarding the date of the vault or the potential occupant was observed.



Fig. 8: Vault 2, running parallel with and adjacent to the rood screen, from the west. CPAT 4679-0072



Fig. 9: The reduction in the height of the sleeper walls of Vault 2, prior to the setting in place of new covering slabs, from the south. CPAT 4679-0082

- 3.12. Also at the east end of the nave, but to the south of Vault 2 and partly beneath the pulpit, was a third vault (Vault 3). This was a large subterranean brick structure, capped by a number of slate slabs (Fig. 10). Immediately to the south was a displaced ledger (No. 22) supported on what seemed to be a brick extension of the vault; the ledger inscription dated to 1822. The slabs covering the northern part of the vault were removed, as they were insecure, revealing an iron supporting bar. Once the slabs were removed, it could be seen that the northern part was divided from the southern part by a brick wall running east/west at the surface but approximately 1.1m below there was a space which meant the two sections were interconnected. At least three lead coffins were seen within the northern part of the vault, in varying states of disrepair, and further coffins could be seen in the southern part. Red paint had been applied to the interior.



Fig. 10: Vault 3, adjoining the rood screen on the left, from the north. The ledger at the rear was as found, before it was lowered to allow the new floor to be installed. Note also the curved brick wall in the foreground, which is part of a duct associated with a 19th-century heating system (see Fig. 13 and para 3.15). CPAT 4679-0091

- 3.13. The uppermost coffin (Fig. 11) seemed to have had a fabric covering and a number of decorative plaques were applied to its upper surface; these were not decipherable but examination of a number of brass plaques attached to the rood screen nearby suggested that the burials represented were those of the Owen family of Pencraig and Hendre, dating between 1719 and 1852. The ledger inscription matched that on one of these plaques (these are included at the end of Appendix 2 for information). Another set of plaques relate to the Ellis family of Cyffty, the dates covering the middle of the 18th century to the early years of the 19th century. The bricks used in the vault were manufactured by Hancocks of Buckley, who operated in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Fig. 11: The uppermost coffin in the north part of the vault showing the iron supporting bar, from the west. CPAT 4679-0100

- 3.14. In order that the new floor could be installed safely, the thin slabs capping the north side of the vault were replaced with thicker material (Fig. 12). The ledger on the south side also needed lowering and to this end it was moved out of the way, a number of brick layers were removed and the ledger then replaced in its correct position. No grave contents were revealed or disturbed.



Fig. 12: The placement of the new capping stones over the north part of the vault. The ledger is in its lowered position. CPAT 4679-0105

- 3.15. The only other feature of interest in the floor was the remains of a series of underfloor ducts (Fig. 13) likely to relate to a 19th-century heating system. These originated in the area of the tower and passed under the floor of the nave, continuing beneath the rood screen and into the chancel. The structural remains of these were retained in-situ, where possible; they have only been recorded in plan where they relate to earlier features of the church interior.



Fig. 13: Underfloor ducts in the nave, most likely from a 19th-century heating system. CPAT 4679-0057

Walls

- 3.16. A number of wall monuments needed to be moved from their existing positions to allow for the reorganisation of the internal space of the church. Two, on the south side of the tower at the west end of the nave, were placed higher on the wall (Fig. 15). Another, on the north side of the tower (Fig. 14) was removed and attached to the north wall of the north aisle. As far as the writer is aware this work was accomplished without damage to the monuments.



Fig. 14: The wall monument on the west wall of the nave, to the north of the tower in the process of being taken down, and moved to the north wall of the north aisle. CPAT 4679-0115



Fig. 15: The west end of the nave after the monuments were repositioned. CPAT 4679-0179

Roof

- 3.17. While other works were being carried out within the church, access to some of the roof became possible. Accordingly, the opportunity was taken to examine the timbers at closer proximity than would normally be the case, to see if any interesting detail such as carpenter's marks were evident.



Fig. 16: The roof trusses in the nave taken from the top of the rood screen, from the east. CPAT 4679-0181

- 3.18. Access was possible to the walkway on the top of the rood screen via the spiral staircase on its north side, where pencil graffiti of 1928 was noted in passing. This allowed for scrutiny of the corresponding roof truss, but little of significance was observed. It was interesting that there was some evidence of probable repairs where timbers had been bolted together (Fig. 17), though when this had been done could not be determined, and the less formal nature of the carpentry than that in the north aisle was readily apparent. It was not possible to examine any of the other roof trusses.
- 3.19. It is widely agreed by previous sources that the roof of the nave and chancel dates to the late 15th century and the visible features gave no reason to doubt this attribution. It was evident that the pattern of the original roof timbers and windbraces (Fig. 18) was copied to provide the roof structure of the 19th-century north aisle (Fig. 19).



Fig. 17: The south side of the roof truss crossing the rood screen, showing bolted repair, from the north-east. CPAT 4679-0183



Fig. 18: Windbraces on the roof truss crossing the rood screen, which most likely provided an overall appearance copied to shape those in the north aisle (see Fig. 19). CPAT 4679-0182

- 3.20. Scaffolding was erected in the north aisle to allow the ceiling to be painted, which allowed close scrutiny of the timbers; these all appeared to be machine sawn and very much made to a pattern. No reused timber was found and there were no carpenter's marks. The timbers were evidently all created at the same time for use here, something highlighted by the similarity between these windbraces and trusses and those in the original roof of the nave. The roof almost certainly dates to the end of the 19th century, when the aisle was constructed.



Fig. 19: The roof trusses of the north aisle. CPAT 4679-0173

Gwydir Chapel

- 3.21. No works were carried out on the floor of the chapel, but the plaster covering of the internal walls was removed, the walls repointed and then refaced in appropriate material. This gave an opportunity for the inner face of the walls to be scrutinised for features of potential interest, and also allowed the interior to be examined more closely than would normally be possible owing to the erection of the necessary scaffolding.
- 3.22. Close observation demonstrated that the roof of the chapel (Fig. 20) had been subject to fairly extensive repair, probably owing to deterioration of the timbers. The places where major beams rested on wall brackets seemed to have been particularly susceptible, the beams often having metal reinforcement added to their ends to support the roof structure (Fig. 21).
- 3.23. Little additional information was forthcoming from the repointing, the only evidence that had not been recognised related to the west (external) doorway of the chapel, where the stone arch (Fig. 22) forming the doorhead was exposed and a slot in the wall was identified which seems to have been used to permit a wooden bar to be inserted in the wall which could then be drawn across the internal side of the door to secure the entrance (Fig. 23).

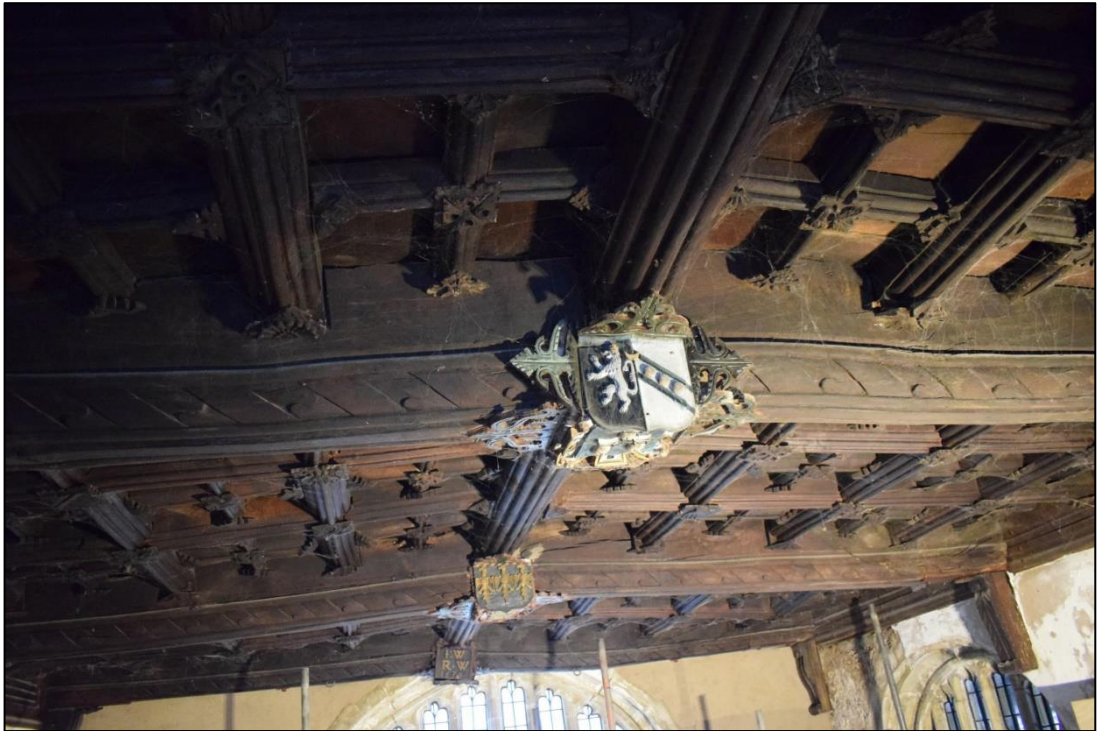


Fig. 20: The chapel roof. CPAT 4679-0156



Fig. 21: Repairs at the south-west corner of the chapel roof. CPAT 4679-0162



Fig. 22: The stone arched doorhead at the external door at the south-west corner of the chapel. CPAT 4679-0169



Fig. 23: The location of the (repointed) wooden drawbar slot on the external door of the chapel. CPAT 4679-0171

Churchyard

- 3.24. A series of stone ledgers were identified during the works in the churchyard, the inscriptions and images of the ledgers are included in Appendix 2. The dated ledgers belonged to either the 18th or 19th century and can be compared with the monuments identified within the church to demonstrate that both church and churchyard would have had a crowded appearance. It is probable that there would have been so little space in the churchyard that access would have entailed walking over ledgers and there was evidence in some cases of the resultant wear, notably so with ledgers 7 and 11, found beneath the current path.
- 3.25. Immediately to the south of the tower, a trench was excavated to place a new sewage treatment plant, measuring 1.2m by 1.2m and 1.4m deep, which necessitated the moving of a ledger (No. 15) a short distance to the south-west. The outline of the east end of a grave and traces of a wooden coffin presumably relating to the ledger could be seen in the base of the trench (Fig. 24). The dates on the ledger were from 1844 to 1911, though the appearance of the grave suggested it was earlier than the latest of these dates.



Fig. 24: The trench excavated to place the new sewage treatment plant, showing the outline of the grave, from the west. The end of the repositioned ledger 15 is visible in the foreground. CPAT 4679-0120

- 3.26. A narrow trench, no more than 0.5m wide, was then excavated from the treatment plant, following the church path towards the ornamental gates to the east. As noted above, a number of ledgers were revealed beneath the path, some of which had 18th-century dates. As the trench neared the gates, it turned across the path to run south to its outlet into the local sewage system. A number of ledgers were seen in the sides of the southern section of trench but these were left in-situ and no search for inscriptions was made.



Fig. 25: Ledgers visible in the side of the trench for the waste pipe leading from the sewage treatment plant and following the line of the church path. CPAT 4679-0138

- 3.27. A 'French' drain was installed against the outer walls of the chapel to reduce the levels of damp in the interior, this involved the excavation of a narrow trench, 0.3m wide and 0.4m deep, on the east and south sides of the chapel, to prevent the build-up of moisture against the outer wall.
- 3.28. One additional ledger (No. 23; Fig. 47) was revealed close to the south-east corner of the chapel but it had no visible inscription. Otherwise, the only structure revealed was the buried portion at the western end of a chest tomb (Fig. 26) that lies on the east side of the chapel; this is readily visible above ground and has not been specifically recorded.



Fig. 26: The end of the chest tomb on the east side of the chapel, from the south. CPAT 4679-0194

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The watching brief at Llanrwst Church has involved a thorough examination of the aspects of the project that were identified as being of archaeological importance in the project design and has allowed more information to be gleaned about the 18th- and 19th-century history of the church and churchyard. Much of the evidence revealed, both within and outside the building, belongs to this period. Of particular interest was the discovery of three vaults within the nave and their recording for posterity before they were covered by the new flooring of the interior.
- 4.2. The work exposed the entire area of the nave and north aisle in order to install the new floor within the church, which involved the lowering of the existing floor level by removing both the floor and the material beneath it. This involved a reduction of the level by approximately 0.5m, the minimum necessary. Any soil or other material beneath this level was left undisturbed, though there were occasions when some infilling was required to provide a solid base on which the new floor could be laid.

- 4.3. There was evidence of at least two floors in the nave, the oldest belonging to the 18th- or early 19th-century and represented by a series of slabs and dated ledgers. This had been superseded in the 19th century by a floor incorporating ducts for heated air and this was probably, in modified form, the floor which was seen before work commenced. In the north aisle, the floor was no doubt contemporary with the construction of the aisle in the late 19th century and this needed no further general lowering as its surface extended below the required depth for the new floor.
- 4.4. The uneven nature of the 18th- to 19th-century floor meant that some of the slabs and ledgers from which it was constructed had to be removed and these were subsequently placed under the floor of the north aisle. No clear grave cuts were seen beneath the ledgers that were removed, and this could mean that at least some of these had been reused from elsewhere within the church or churchyard. One of the ledgers in the early floor on the north side of the nave was clearly associated with a plaque now on the wall of the north aisle, which was no doubt moved there from the north wall of the nave when the aisle was built. This ledger, and perhaps another nearby, both of which remain in-situ, are of 18th-century date and are likely to cover undisturbed burials.
- 4.5. Three vaults were found within the eastern half of the nave and at least two of these contained burials which date to the 18th- 19th-century period to judge from adjacent wall plaques. The other vault appeared to be of earlier construction, using stone rather than brick, but could not be dated. Although some of these structures had to be slightly modified to allow enough space for the creation of the new floor, this was done under close archaeological scrutiny to ensure the impact was minimised. No in-situ burials were disturbed.
- 4.6. The nature of the works has meant that there were opportunities to examine parts of the church which are normally obscured or difficult of access, including parts of the Gwydir Chapel. Apart from repairs to the roof of the chapel and the beams of the roof truss over the rood screen, no significant evidence was revealed. The photographs that were taken may provide a useful resource, should further study of the church be contemplated in the future.
- 4.7. In the churchyard, the works revealed a series of 18th- and 19th-century ledgers, together with some that were undated and could be earlier; these will presumably all mark in-situ burials. No conclusive evidence of the earlier post-medieval and medieval life of the church and churchyard was recognised in the excavations that were examined by the watching brief. It seems likely that any such evidence that survives lies more deeply buried on the site and so has remained undisturbed by the works which were carried out, earlier evidence may be revealed if any deeper excavations are carried out in the future.
- 4.8. The only human skeletal material that was found during the works had resulted from earlier disturbance and was disarticulated. All bone was collected and boxed for safe storage within the church while works were ongoing, in preparation for suitable reburial within consecrated ground at an appropriate time.

5 Sources

Published sources

Fisher J., (ed.) 1917. *Tours in Wales (1804-1813) by Richard Fenton*, London; Cambrian Archaeological Association.

Hubbard, E., 1986. *The Buildings of Wales: Clwyd*, Harmondsworth; Penguin Books.

Lunt, W. E., (ed.) 1926. *The Valuation of Norwich*, Oxford; Clarendon Press.

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). No artefacts were retained.

Archive summary

200 digital photographs, CPAT film no. 4679

26 digital photographs, CPAT film no. 4686

1 A3 site drawing

7 A4 site drawings

10 watching brief forms

Appendix 1: Agreed Archaeological Works in fulfilment of faculty conditions

Results from a meeting on Tuesday 13 August 2019 involving:

Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osbourn

Jeremy Wong, Architect

Gareth Williams, Building Contractor

Richard Hankinson, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Archaeological Contractor)

Bob Silvester, St Asaph DAC Archaeologist (the writer of the following scheme of investigation)

Church Nave

1) Remaining floor slabs, joists etc to be lifted exposing underlying deposits	No archaeological supervision required
2) Shovel excavation of 'church earth' deposits to required depth by building contractors	Close supervision; clean over and recording after contractors have finished
3) Ledgers (graveslabs) at west end and elsewhere (if any exposed) to be lifted carefully and deposited in north aisle voids	Ledgers at west end and any others uncovered to be recorded prior to lifting; examination of exposures beneath ledgers
4)	Plans, sections, photography etc as appropriate. Levels of different floor surfaces (in north aisle void, nave west end, existing floor, etc to be recorded for comparison
5) South side vault to be covered over	Vault nature and dimensions to be recorded. Position in relation to wall monument above to be recorded.
6) Wall monuments on west wall	To be recorded photographically and with written before being taken down
7) Architect to summarise electrics layout and confirm that colour and appearance will 'blend' with existing wall and timber colouring: for DAC consideration	Scaffolding may provide access for close examination of roof timbers – carpenters' marks etc.
8) Specific care to be taken when working close to the rood screen between nave and chancel	

Contractor and/or Architect

Archaeologist

North Aisle

Contractor

Archaeologist

1) Infill north aisle voids	No archaeological recording, other than levels as noted above (nave 4) and general notes about the nature of the development and observations arising.
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Chancel

Contractor

Archaeologist

1)	No works specific to the chancel have been identified. Some of recording noted under nave may be relevant to nave and chancel.
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Gwydir Chapel

<i>Contractor/Media Design</i>	<i>Archaeologist/DAC Archaeologist</i>
1) Removal of existing render from walls.	Archaeologist should be given opportunity to examine the underlying stonework before re-rendering
2) Removal of any of the monuments temporarily (other than the brasses)	Photographic record
3) Preparation of heritage texts for display purposes	DAC Archaeologist to verify all texts before incorporation into displays

External Works

<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Archaeologist</i>
1) French Drain on south and east sides of church	Watching brief: i.e. to be done under close archaeological supervision; time may be required for recording
2) Service trenches and pumping station	Watching brief: i.e. to be done under close archaeological supervision; time may be required for recording
3) Ramp to Gwydir Chapel entrance	Record of two graveslabs currently in place, prior to any lifting

General

<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Archaeologist</i>
1) Unanticipated discoveries	Close and continued contact between Building Contractor and Archaeologist. Appropriate action
2)	Full, illustrated report of the works for delivery to the Representative Body, the Diocese and ?HLF

Appendix 2: Ledgers and selected wall monument inscriptions

Ledger 1

No visible inscription



Fig. 27: CPAT 4679-0123

Ledger 2

*** the

***s bui

1777



Fig. 28: CPAT 4679-0124

Ledger 3

1776



Fig. 29: CPAT 4679-0126

Ledger 4

Indistinct

17**

A



Fig. 30: CPAT 4679-0129

Ledger 5

No visible inscription



Fig. 31: CPAT 4679-0131

Ledger 6

No visible inscription



Fig. 32: CPAT 4679-0132

Ledger 7

***n Owens

*745



Fig. 33: CPAT 4679-0133



Fig. 34: CPAT 4679-0134

Ledger 8

No visible inscription



Fig. 35: CPAT 4679-0135

Ledger 9

No visible inscription



Fig. 36: CPAT 4679-0136

Ledger 10

No visible inscription



Fig. 37: CPAT 4679-0139

Ledger 11

No inscription, potentially of an earlier date than the 18th-century ledgers.



Fig. 38: CPAT 4679-0142

Ledger 12

Corner only seen, not recorded.

Ledger 13

Corner only seen, not recorded.

Ledger 14

Corner only seen, not recorded.

Ledger 15

Elin Davies, who **** (broken)

1844, Aged 49.

Also Mar^gt, her Dau***(broken)

1846, Aged 4.

Also Edward Davies died

1854, Aged 20.

Also David Davies died

1856, Aged 48

Also Robert Davies

Died October 23, 1911

Aged 77 Years.



Fig. 39: CPAT 4679-0117

Ledger 16

DYFFRYN AUR

Thomas Iones Union 1801



Fig. 40: CPAT 4679-0008

Ledger 17

DYFFRYN AUR

C (possibly G) O 1801

Aged 51



Fig. 41: CPAT 4679-0009

Ledger 18

Here lieth the body of
Evan Thomas Uoty (Votty?) (who?)
was Buried July 6 178*

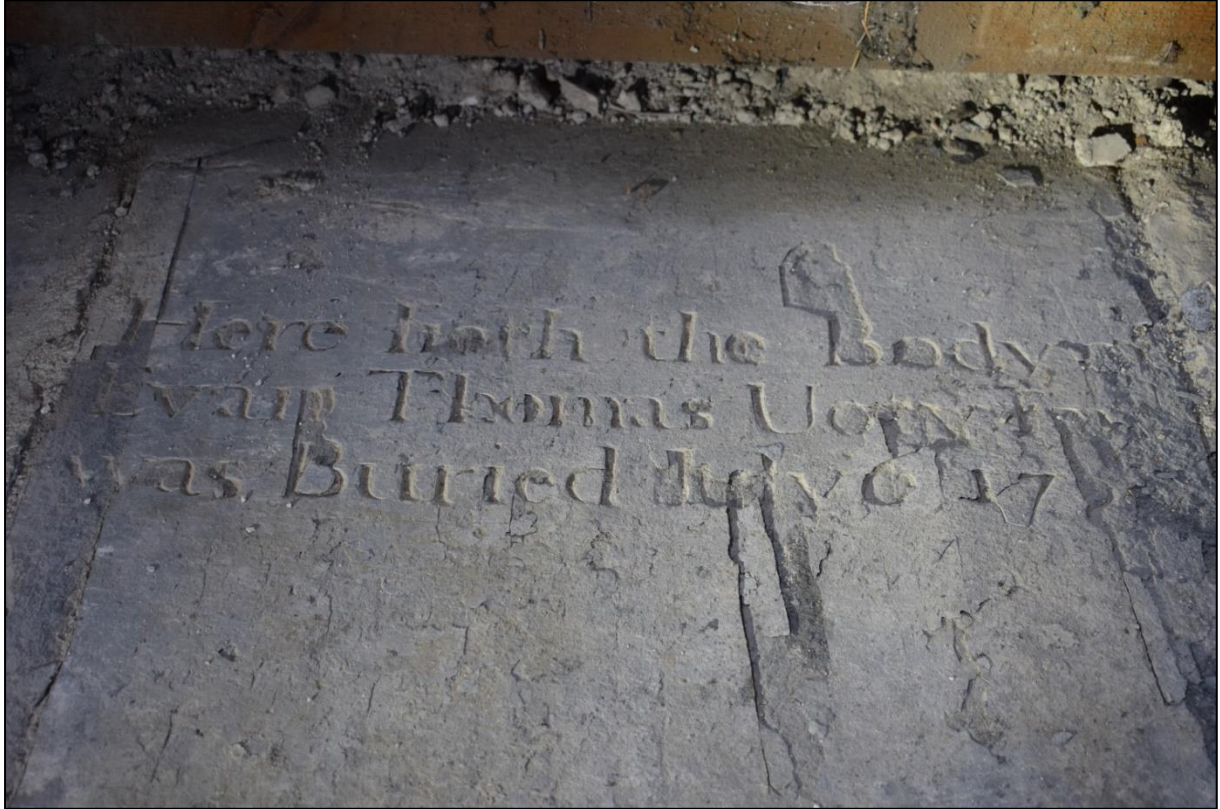


Fig. 42: CPAT 4679-0010

Ledger 19

Here lyeth in hope
of a joyfull resurrection
The Body of Mary ye
Wife of Owen Anwyl
Tanner (?), who departed
this life ye 7th of June
1751 Aged 28

Underneath
Lyeth the Remains
of Margaret Lloyd
Wife of Hugh Thomas
Who Departed this Life
the 18th of May 1770
Aged 80



Fig. 43: CPAT 4679-0103

Ledger 20

Here Lyeth the Body
of John Williams of Gwy-
dir who was Buried ye 26
Day of April 1767

Note there is a slate plaque on the wall of the North Aisle, no doubt moved from the north wall of the nave when the arches were inserted which reads:

In
Memory
of John Williams Gent.
Agent of Gwydir.
He was buried
Underneath.
April 26, 1767,
Aged 48.



Fig. 44: CPAT 4679-0037

Ledger 21

Margaret Roberts

of Llanrwst was

buried the 9th day

of June 1728



Fig. 45: CPAT 4679-0025

Ledger 22

Underneath

lies interred the Remains of

William Owen of Pencraig Esq^r

who died 31 of Dec^r 1822

Aged 60.



Fig. 46: CPAT 4679-0086

Ledger 23

No visible inscription.



Fig. 47: CPAT 4679-0197

Wall monument associated with Vault 1

Beneath were Inter'd the remains of JANE HUGHES

HEIRESS of CAERBERLLAN

Her life was one continued preparation for that happy Eternity

which She entered upon the 15th of January 1729 Aged 42.

Also the remains of Her Husband THOMAS HUGHES

Of LLWYNGRONW Gent.

Were at his pericular request Join'd to Hers;

He died the 13th of June 1733 Aged 55.

In them Shone a genuine pattern of Connubial happiness;

Their life was to their Neighbours A Publick benefit,

Their Death A Publick loss.

JANE HUGHES Daughter of THOMAS HUGHES Gent.

Paid the debt of Nature Feb^y the 7th 1767 Aged 56.

She was what all Christians should be; An *Israelite* Indeed.

Out of Filial tenderness and respect to the Memory of the best of Parents

MARY HUGHES their Youngest Daughter

Caused this Monument to be Erected.



Fig. 48: CPAT 4679-0013

Brass plaques on the rood screen probably associated with Vault 3

Underneath lyeth the body of Thos Owen,

Son of Mr Owen Thomas of Pencreg

Who departed this life the 15th day of July 1743 Aged 9.

And also the body of William Owen, son of Owen Thomas

Who departed this life the the 22nd day of July 1743 Aged 23

Here underneath lyeth the body of William Owens of Hendre

who was buried the third of February in the year of our Lord 1719

Underneath lies interred the remains of William Owen of Pencraig Esq

Who died 31st of Dec' 1822

Also the remains of Jane his wife who died

The 10th day of July 1852 Aged 58.

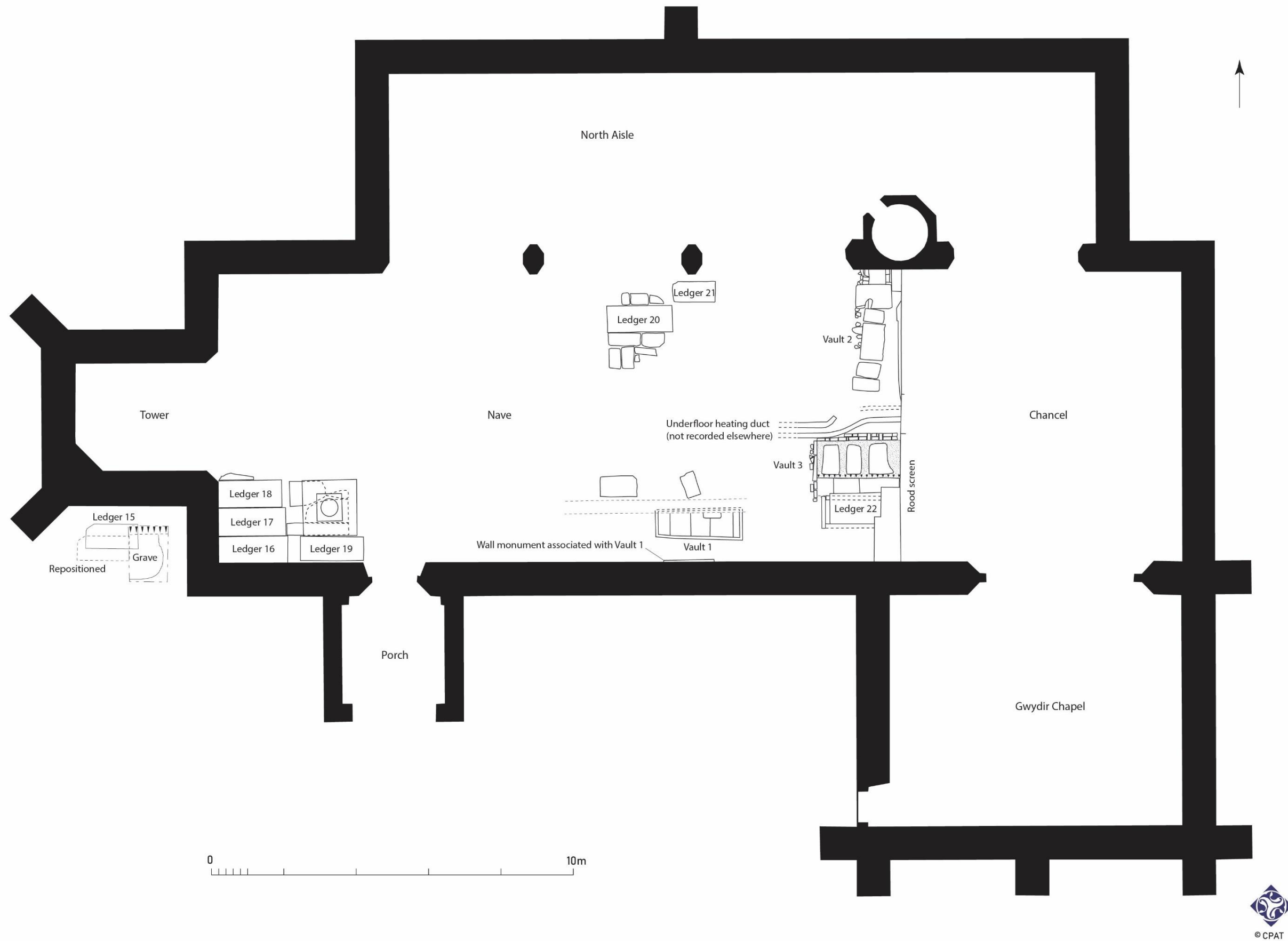


Fig. 49: Plan of the Church with relevant archaeological features revealed by the watching brief, ledger inscriptions are contained in Appendix 2

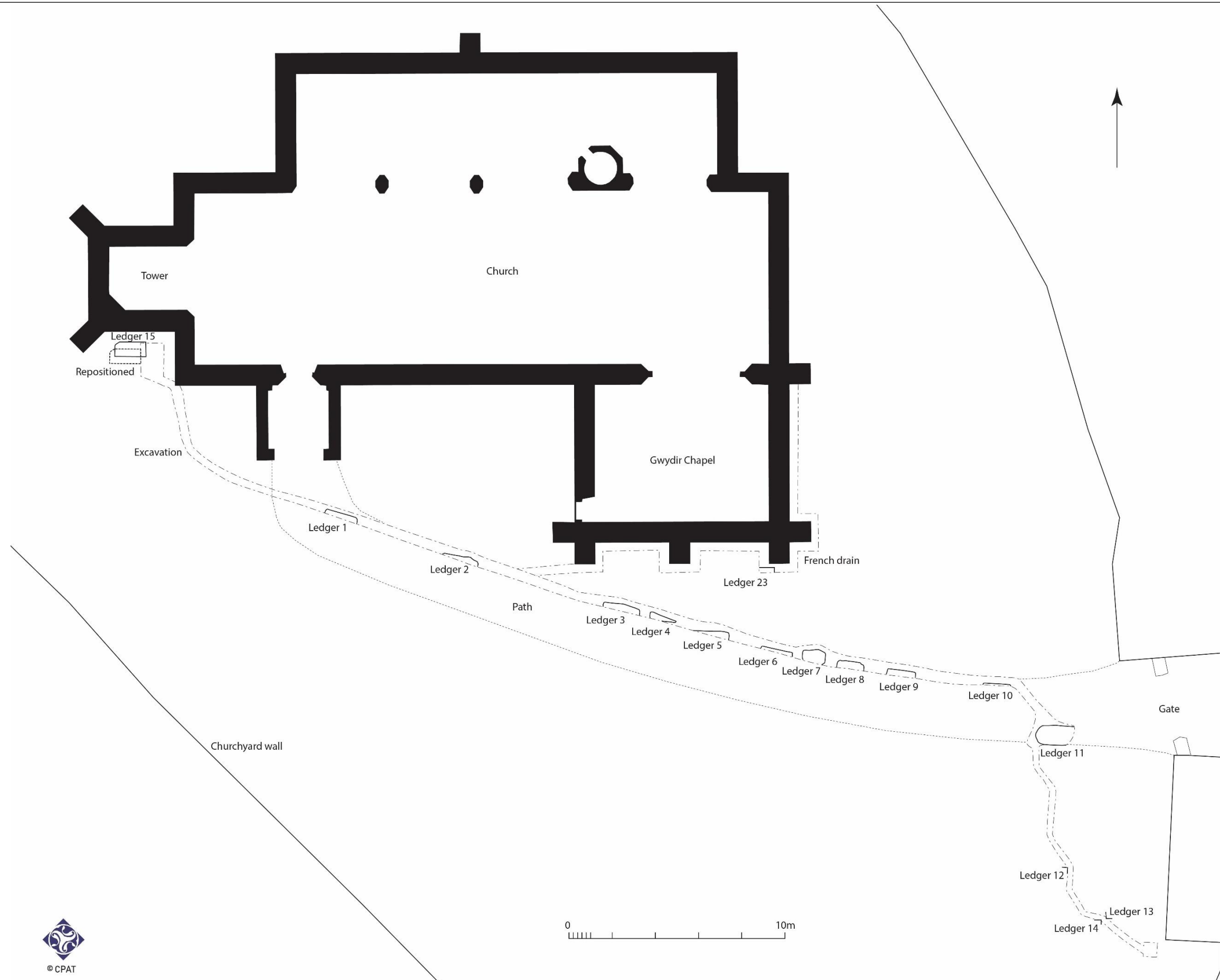


Fig. 50: Drainage excavations, showing the ledgers revealed (see Appendix 2)