

**St. David's Church,  
Blaenporth, Cardigan,  
Ceredigion Cardigan SA43 2AP**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



*By*

**Richard Scott Jones (*BA, MA, MCIfA*)**

August 2023

HRSWales  
Report No: 245

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### **Copyright Notice:**

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## **Executive Summary**

*The following report presents the results of an archaeological watching undertaken from 2021 – 2023 by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRS Wales) within the cemetery of St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan, during groundwork for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant and other associated service trenches and the excavation of three small to accommodate new Lightning Conductor Plates (OS grid reference SN 26247 48804).*

*The specific objectives of this work were to undertake an archaeological watching during groundwork for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant and other associated service trenches and the excavation of three trenches for new Lightning Conductor Plates*

*In summary, the archaeological watching brief during groundwork for the proposed sewage treatment plant, drainage trench, water pipe trench and lightning conductor plate trenches recovered no dateable artefacts during the groundwork. However, the groundwork did expose the edges of three unknown burials, two on the east side of the water treatment plant trench and one on the west side of the drain field trench. Neither of these graves were compromised by the groundwork and each is still in situ. These graves are most likely either 18<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> Century in date given that there were no headstones present.*

*As well as the early unmarked graves, the other interesting find was what appeared to be a small section of the earlier church foundation in one of lightning conductor plate trenches (LT3) positioned beneath the north wall of the church, which implies that the 19<sup>th</sup> Century church was built directly over the earlier foundation.*

## **Crynodeb Gweithredol**

*Mae'r adroddiad a ganlyn yn cyflwyno canlyniadau gwyllo archeolegol a gynhaliwyd rhwng 2021 a 2023 gan HRS Cymru ym mynwent Eglwys Dewi Sant, Blaen-porth, Aberteifi, yn ystod y gwaith gosod sylfaen ar gyfer gosod gwaith trin carthion newydd ac eraill ffosydd gwasanaeth cysylltiedig a chloddio tri bychan ar gyfer Platiau Dargludo Mellt newydd (cyfeirnod grid OS SN 26247 48804).*

*Amcanion penodol y gwaith hwn oedd cynnal gwylidwriaeth archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear ar gyfer gosod gwaith trin carthion newydd a ffosydd gwasanaeth cysylltiedig eraill a chloddio tair ffos ar gyfer Platiau Dargludo Mellt newydd.*

*I grynhoi, ni ddaeth y briff gwyllo archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear ar gyfer y gwaith trin carthffosiaeth arfaethedig, y ffos draenio, y ffos bibell ddŵr a'r ffosydd plât dargludo mellt o hyd i unrhyw arteffactau y gellid eu dyddio yn ystod y gwaith. Fodd bynnag, datgelodd y gwaith tir ymylon tair claddedigaeth anhysbys, dwy ar ochr ddwyreiniol ffos y gwaith trin dŵr ac un ar ochr orllewinol ffos y cae draenio. Ni chafodd yr un o'r beddau hyn eu peryglu gan y gwaith sylfaen ac mae pob un yn dal i fod yn ei le. Mae'r beddau hyn yn fwyaf tebygol o fod yn dyddio o'r 18fed neu'r 17eg ganrif o ystyried nad oedd unrhyw gerrig beddi yn bresennol.*

*Yn ogystal â'r beddau cynnar heb eu marcio, y darganfyddiad diddorol arall oedd yr hyn a ymddangosai fel rhan fechan o'r sylfaen eglwysig gynharach yn un o ffosydd plât dargludo mellt (LT3) wedi'i lleoli o dan wal ogleddol yr eglwys, sy'n awgrymu bod y 19eg Ganrif. adeiladwyd yr eglwys yn union dros y sylfaen gynharach.*

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 The following report presents the results of an archaeological watching undertaken from 2021 – 2023 by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRS Wales) within the cemetery of St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan, during groundwork for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant and other associated service trenches and the excavation of three small to accommodate new Lightning Conductor Plates (OS grid reference SN 26247 48804).

1.2 The specific objectives of this work were to:

- Undertake an archaeological watching during groundwork for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant and other associated service trenches and the excavation of three trenches for new Lightning Conductor Plates

1.3 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:

*Appendix I: Figures;*

*Appendix II: Photographs*

*Appendix III: Context Register*

*Appendix IV: Copy of MoJ Licence*

*Appendix V: Archive Cover Sheet*

### **The Site and location**

1.2 St. David's Church is a Grade II listed church located approximately 3km south of Aberporth, at the centre of the village of Blaenporth on the northern side of the A487 road between the coastal towns of Cardigan and Newquay (centred on OS grid reference SN 26247 48804).

1.3 The church is situated within a curvilinear churchyard which is entered at the west side of its southern boundary. The church is a Grade II Listed building, constructed of squared slate rubble with yellow Oolite dressings. The form of the medieval church is not known. The present church was rebuilt in 1856-1859 (although it states in the listing text that the church was rebuilt in 1864-65) and was later renovated around 1920 with its spire removed and replaced with a crow stepped crenellated parapet.

### **Planning Background**

1.3 Following a submission of an application to the Church Faculty regarding the development proposals to convert part of the church into a community centre, for which ground works will entail the insertion of a new water management system with drain-field, other associated drainage services and new lightning conductors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management section advised that an archaeological condition will be a requirement for permission to undertake these proposals. As part of this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the proposed works was needed to be submitted to and approved by the planning archaeologist. This WSI was approved and subsequent groundwork commenced at the site for an archaeological evaluation trench, which was inserted in the area of the proposed sewage treatment plant in order to assess the impact of the groundwork for the proposed sewage treatment plant and provide information to identify the scale and scope of any necessary

mitigation. The results from this evaluation were written into a report (HRSW Rpt 193) and submitted and approved by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Following the results from the evaluation, the work proceeded with an archaeological watching brief on all proposed groundwork for the scheme from 2012 – 2023, the work delayed by the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020-2021.

### **Development Proposals**

- 1.5 As well as general renovation work within the church itself, a new WC pod and store is to be inserted at the far northwest end of the interior of the Nave. Drainage for this W.C will involve a shallow trench being dug against the north side of the church then continuing west for a short section thus avoiding existing known burials immediately to the north, and then once past these, the pipe trench will continue northwards to an area for a proposed leach-field via a small sewage treatment plant which will occupy a trench 3 meters in diameter positioned along the present pathway at the east end of the church that leads toward the memorial garden. This trench will need to be approximately 4 meters in depth. The drainage pipe trench from the water treatment plant will fan out into a series of three percolation pipes, with each pipe trench being approximately vary 0.20m – 0.40m in depth and only approximately 0.30m in width. A further narrow trench for the installation of a water pipe is to be dug from the north side of the church and running southwards towards the entrance gate to the cemetery and thus tapping into the mains water toward the public road to the south.
- 1.6 Three new lightning conductor plates were also to be installed externally, one at the far northwest corner of the church, one at the northeast and a third between the Vestry and the Boiler House. The groundwork will entail the digging of 3 x 1m square trenches, each 1m in depth, in order to install 3 x copper earthing plates.

### **Brief Historical & Archaeological Background**

- 1.7 The proposed development is located within the churchyard of St. David's Church, Blaenporth. A motte and bailey castle, Castell Gwithian (NPRN: 93916) is sited some 200m to the east-northeast. Castell Gwithian is thought to have been established around 1100 and the two sites are likely to be contemporary. In the later medieval period the church was a parish church belonging to the Deanery of Sub-Aeron and was a patronage of St. David's as a prebend of the collegiate church at Abergwelli. Because of the churches medieval history, it is very likely that there are unknown burials in the churchyard that are medieval in age.
- 1.8 The following text is the listed building text:

#### *History*

Anglican parish church rebuilt 1864-65 on an old site. The architect was R. J. Withers and it is considered to be the best of his small churches. The builders were Thomas, Rees and Jones and the cost was £700.

### *Exterior*

Pwntan stone with Bath stone dressings. Slate roof with terracotta ridges, coped gables and cross finials. Nave, chancel, S porch, N vestry and W bell turret in High Victorian Gothic style. All nave windows 2-light with foiled circle heads and hood moulds. W end has centre projection to carry bell turret and big battered plinth. Two side offsets. Long 2-light W window. Bell turret is square with string course, narrow 2-light louvered bell openings with foiled circles above and steep gablets breaking into base of stone pyramid cap with finial and weather cock. Two decorated bands around. S side nave has two windows and coped gabled porch with pointed doorway with two-chamfer head and inner chamfer dying into side piers. Porch inner door pointed with roll moulded arch. N side nave has three windows and added lean-to stone outhouse with brick chimney. Chancel S side has one similar shorter window and N side has lean-to vestry with catslide roof and W door. 3-light E window with quatrefoil.

### *Interior*

Nave has five bay arched-braced collar-truss roof. Whitewashed plaster walls with stone window reveals. Stone chamfered chancel arch with two half-octagonal piers. Nave W end has two heavy piers to carry bell turret. Three sided stone pulpit with triangular headed panels. Octagonal font on octagonal base with four sexfoil panels. Pine pews, choir stalls and chancel rails. Chancel has scissor rafter roof with cusping. Vestry door on N with hood mould. Heavy stone and marble reredos with tile side panels, two piers with inset marble panels, floral capitals and three centre inlaid marble panels. Larger centre panel with raised head and IHS motif. Magnificent E window of stained glass (c1865) by Lavers and Barraud, richly coloured in deep reds, blues and turquoise, the crucified Christ against a circle of scarlet. S chancel 2-light window (c1904) by Lavers and Westlake.

### *Reasons for Listing*

Included for exceptionally fine stained glass E window by Lavers and Barraud, and as a good example of a small High Victorian church.

## 1.9 *DAT Entry (PRN 5224)*

St David, Blaenporth, is a 3-celled church, of small-medium size. It was entirely (re)built in 1864-5 on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric. A boilerhouse was added in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch, a single-bayed vestry north of the chancel east bay, and a small boilerhouse, partly below ground, north of the nave. Construction, including the boilerhouse, is in squared Pwntan sandstone rubble but the north wall features much Caerfai granite. All dressings are in yellow oolite and from 1864-5; the 2-centred openings are neo-gothic and the 2- 3-light windows are cusped, with simple tracery. There is an elaborate bell-turret at the west end, supported on a broad buttress and in the form of a low oolite spire with 4 openings in gablets, from 1864-5. The boilerhouse has a plain, square brick chimney-stack, earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. The roofs are slated gables; the vestry and boilerhouse have slated lean-to roofs. The floors are suspended except in the porch.

The earlier church was described by Lewis, in 1833, as consisting of a chancel, a nave and a south porch which extended to the west end of the nave (NLW, Blaenporth, Tithes Map, 1839). It lacked a bellcote, the bell being 'suspended at the west end of the roof' (Lewis, 1833). There was a 'square hole running right through the north wall' of unknown function (Anon., 1862, 66).

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1864-5 to the designs of the architect R. J. Withers (Cadw, 1998). The boilerhouse was added in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century; there appear to have been no further major alterations.



The octagonal, limestone ashlar font is from 1864-5 (Bartosch & Stokes, 1991, 2).

There are 2 bells (ibid.).

A pronounced but irregular earthwork platform runs along the north side, debris from earlier church?; a detached earthwork lies south-west of the nave. There is a shallow, earth-cut external drain. Floors are suspended over heating ducts. The boilerhouse floor is below-ground. No external memorials lie significantly close to the church.

The church was Grade II listed in 1998.

First amended in 1995. Last amended in 1995.

## **SITE HISTORY**

There is some evidence for the pre-conquest religious use of the site:-

Subcircular churchyard; Celtic dedication late/secondary?

St David, Blaenporth, was not a parish church during the medieval period (Rees, 1932), but a chapelry, of the medieval Deanery of Sub-Aeron, which was in the possession of the bishops of St Davids as a prebend of the collegiate church of Llanddewi Brefi rated in the king's books at £6 (Lewis, 1833).

Blaenporth had become a parish by 1833 when the living was a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty and £800 parliamentary grant, in the alternate patronage of the Earl of Lisburne and J. V. Lloyd Esq., the impropiators of the tithes (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St David, Blaenporth, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Aberporth, Tremain and Betws Ifan (Benefice no. 833) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The St David dedication may not be medieval (Various, 1994, 390); the 16<sup>th</sup> century chalice carries no dedication (Evans, 1906, 328).

- 1.10 *Previous Archaeological Works (see Figures 7 and 8)*
- 1.11 In 2019 HRS Wales undertook an intrusive archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed location for the new sewage treatment plant.
- 1.12 In summary, the 2019 evaluation trench in the area northwest of the cemetery enclosure in the area of the proposed sewage treatment plant revealed that this area of the graveyard is covered in a demolition deposit that reaches a depth of approximately 0.50m. In the upper level of this deposit, following cleaning back by trowelling, disarticulated human skeletal remains became exposed in the form of several teeth, a complete skull and two thigh bones (*femurs*). Following their excavation and recording, these disarticulated remains were retained and bagged for later re-interment by the Church Faculty.
- 1.13 Given that the evaluation trench was being dug manually, the exposing of this fairly deep demolition deposit led to a series of five investigative slots being excavated through this deposit. One of these

slots revealed that there is a probable burial aligned E-W at the far southeast corner of the trench. Each of the other slots revealed that directly below the demolition rubble, which contained fragments of roofing slates, some perforated, and a number of fragments of medieval green glazed roofing ridge tiles.

- 1.14 The discovery of part of a burial at the far south-eastern corner of the evaluation trench is a significant find, but given that the excavation is being undertaken in a cemetery that dates to at least 1100 A.D., its discovery is hardly surprising in this location. Given that the fill of this burial is covered with demolition rubble that probably dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the church was rebuilt, then this burial inevitably pre-dates this period and as such at its latest it may be 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, but there is the possibility that it may be earlier.
- 1.15 Other than the burial mentioned above, a number of significant finds recovered from the demolition deposit have managed to shed some light on the architecture of the original or pre-rebuild church before the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Architectural finds recovered included fragments of medieval green glazed roofing ridge tiles and a number of perforated grey roof slates.
- 1.16 Disarticulated human skeletal remains were recovered from the evaluation trench in the form of a complete skull and two *femurs*. These remains however were found mixed in with the demolition deposit and most probably represent a disturbed burial during groundwork for the rebuilt church in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (HRSW Rpt 193).

### **Geology**

- 1.17 The application area is positioned in an area of Ashgill Undifferentiated Rocks with mudstone, siltstone and sandstone dominating..

## **2 Aims & Objectives**

- 2.1 The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the ClfA (2014) are:
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
  - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, 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.
- 2.2 The watching brief is 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.

- 2.3 The objective of the watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.
- 2.6 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice from October 2021 – July 2023.
- 2.7 All work was carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014).

### **3 Scope of Works and Methodology**

#### *3.1 Methodology*

- 3.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice between October 2021 and July 2023, the long gap between works having being hampered by the Covid 19 pandemic..
- 3.3 All works were carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014).
- 3.4 All archaeological deposits or features encountered were cleaned, recorded and excavated.
- 3.5 Recording was carried out using HRS Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 3.6 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 3.7 All features identified were tied in to the both the OS National Grid and all local site and ground plans.
- 3.8 Photographs were appropriated in digital format, using an 24 mega-pixel DSLR camera, with photographs stored in both RAW and JPEG formats. If deemed necessary 35mm film format was also on hand.

### **4 Cartographic Sources**

#### *Tithe Map of the parish of Blaenporth (1837) (Figure 4)*

- 4.1 The Tithe Map of 1837 clearly shows the church and enclosure before it was rebuilt in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, but does not mark the position of any burials.

#### *OS First Edition map (Published 1889) (Figure 5)*

- 4.2 This first published Ordnance Survey map series shows the church and cemetery much as it is today.

*OS second Edition map (Published 1906) (Figure 5)*

- 4.3 This second published Ordnance Survey map series shows the church and cemetery much as it is today.

*OS 1953 Edition Map (Figure 5)*

- 4.4 No great change from the earlier edition map of 1889.

## **5 Results of Watching Brief** (see Figures 7 - 9)

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between October 2021 – July 2023. All number enclosed in ( ) refer to contexts encountered.

### **5.2 1) Sewage Treatment Plant and drain field**

- 5.3 The excavation for the sewage treatment plant was undertaken within the footprint of the earlier evaluation trench undertaken in 2019. Once the turf (100) and top soil (101), which averaged only approximately 0.30m in depth only had been removed, the west end of a grave (102) became exposed (Grave 1). This was evidenced by a cut (103) and a fill (104) of loose shale on the east side of the trench, part of which had already been exposed in the earlier evaluation trench. The cut (105) and loose shale fill (106) of a further grave (Grave 2) (107) also became exposed immediately north of Grave 1. As with Grave 1, only the extreme west end of this grave became exposed and given that the trench was circular in form, only a small part of the second grave became exposed. Both graves had been cut into the natural shale mudstone (108) that appears at only approximately 0.30m – 0.40m from the surface. Both these graves remain undamaged and no dis-articulated remains from either grave were encountered. Further excavation of this trench revealed no further grave cuts or any other features. The natural shale mudstone appeared at approximately 0.40m.

- 5.4 Once the depth of the trench for the sewage treatment plant had been reached, which entailed considerable machine pecking through slate bedrock to the required depth of 4 meters, groundwork continued northwards for the creation of the new drain field. This entailed the removal of turf (100) and top soil (102) and the further removal of natural shale grit (108) to a depth of 0.50m only. This groundwork only exposed the eastern edge of one grave (Grave 3) on the western side of the trench, marked by a cut (109) and loose shale fill (110) as with Graves 1 and 2. Only two disarticulated remains were recovered from this groundwork and each was reinterred once the trench was back-filled. No further features or finds were recovered during this groundwork.

### **5.5 2) Service Trenches (see Photo Plates 32 – 34)**

- 5.6 Ground work for the services trenches including a series of two narrow trenches, one trench just north of the church, which was to hold the foul drain pipe leading from the new WC to the sewage treatment plant, and the other trench running from the north-western corner of the church and then southward toward the entrance gate of the church. This latter trench was to hold a water pipe, attaching itself to the mains water near the public road south of the church.
- 5.7 The foul drain service trench at the north-western corner of the church entailed groundwork running

parallel to the northwest wall of the church and then diverting northwest toward the sewage treatment plant. The depth of this trench was only 0.60m and its width only approximately 0.30m. This trench attempted to avoid all graves and headstones during the groundwork. No features or finds became exposed in this trench and no dis-articulated remains were encountered.

- 5.8 The first section of new water pipe was to share the same trench as the foul drain at the rear of the northwest corner of the church. From here the pipe trench then turned and proceeded south toward the church cemetery entrance gate at the far southern end of the cemetery. Throughout the groundwork for this trench several disarticulated remains were exposed and these were reinterred back into the trench prior to it being back-filled. As with the foul drain trench, no further features or finds became exposed in this trench.
- 5.9 The groundwork for the water pipe trench outside of the cemetery entrance gate exposed no finds or features. The deposits encountered were predominantly track shingle and buried top soil. No significant finds, features or deposits were encountered.
- 5.10 3) *Lightning Conductor Plates (see Photo Plates 25 - 34)*
- 5.11 The installation of the 3 x Lightning Conductor plates entailed the cutting of 3 x trenches each 1m square x 1m in depth and were to be positioned in the existing position of the three existing lightning conductor cables, one at the far northwest corner of the church, one at the northeast and a third between the Vestry and the Boiler House.
- 5.12 *i)* The trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 1 (L1) was positioned at the far northwest corner of the church. Deposits encountered were the turf (100), top soil (101) and loose shale (102). No significant finds, features or deposits were encountered in this trench, other than the existing copper cable and rod for the pre-existing lightning conductor.
- 5.13 *ii)* The trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 2 (L2) was positioned at the far northeast corner of the church. Following the initial removal of the turf (100), an active plastic storm drain (101) became exposed running in a NE direction. Excavation around this modern drain, further exposed a 1940s/50s ceramic storm drain pipe (102) running in a N-S direction, running alongside the southern end of the church. A further clay section of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century drain (103) also became exposed directly below the 1940s/50s drain (102). This section of storm drain pipe was now obsolete and had been superseded by the 1940s/50s drain pipe. Excavation continued in the same location between these modern drain pipes, leaving just enough room to accommodate the new lightning conductor plate. Below these drains a mid brown soil deposit mixed with shale became exposed (104). This deposit continued to the base of the trench at 1m. No significant finds, features or deposits were encountered in this trench, other than the existing copper cable and rod for the pre-existing lightning conductor.
- 5.14 *iii)* The trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 3 (L3) was positioned between the Vestry and the Boiler house, on the eastern side of a tall Victorian gravestone to one James Thomas. In order to avoid potential damage to the grave beneath the gravestone as well as the groundwork possibly compromising the gravestone, the trench was moved, approximately 0.50m further east. Following the removal of the turf (100) and top soil (101) a loose mid brown soil deposit intermixed with shale and

flecks of limestone mortar (102). This deposit covered the entire trench. Directly below this deposit a lens of former slate roofing slates (103) became exposed positioned close to the north facing wall of the church. This was interpreted as a former demolition material. Directly below this deposit of former roofing slates a section of 19<sup>th</sup> Century terracotta clay storm drain pipe became exposed forming the fill (104) of an earlier trench cut (105). This section of 19<sup>th</sup> Century pipe became exposed at approximately 1m, the targeted depth of the lightning conductor service trench. Also exposed in this trench was what appeared to a small section of the foundation of the earlier medieval church (106) with the new section of 19<sup>th</sup> Century church sitting directly over. No further significant finds, features or deposits were encountered in this trench, other than the existing copper cable and rod for the pre-existing lightning conductor.

## **6 Conclusions & Recommendations**

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief during groundwork for the proposed sewage treatment plant, drainage trench, water pipe trench and lightning conductor plate trenches recovered no dateable artefacts during the groundwork. However, the groundwork did expose the edges of three unknown burials, two on the east side of the water treatment plant trench and one on the west side of the drain field trench. Neither of these graves was compromised by the groundwork and each is still in situ. These graves are most likely either 18<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> Century in date given that there were no headstones present.
  
- 6.2 As well as the early unmarked graves, the other interesting find was what appeared to be a small section of the earlier church foundation in one of lightning conductor plate trenches (LT3) positioned beneath the north wall of the church, which implies that the 19<sup>th</sup> Century church was built directly over the earlier foundation.

## **7 Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to Mark John (Architect) and Christopher Frost (Pastor) for their presence on site at the initial start of the work.

## **8 Bibliography & References**

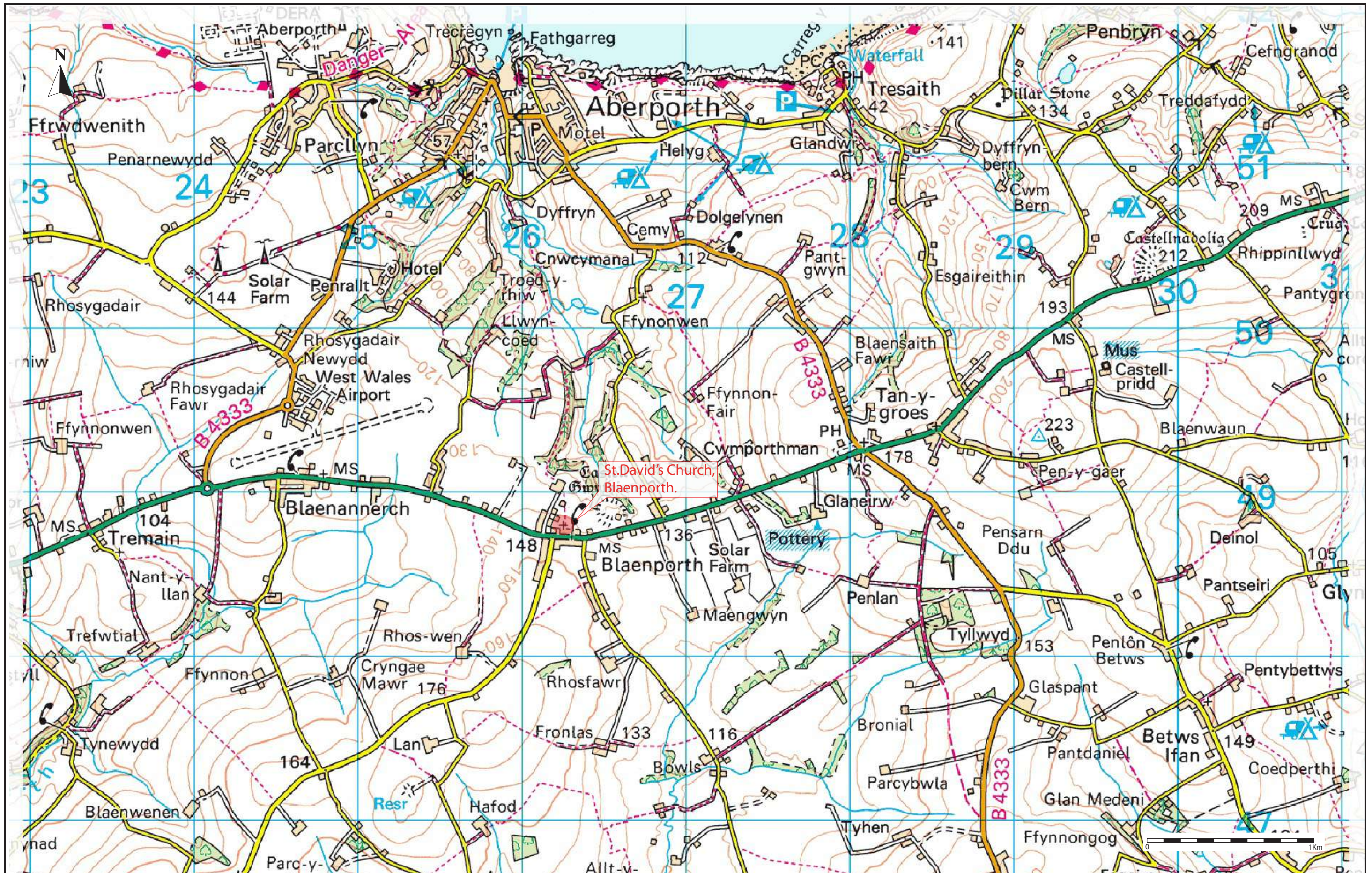
### ***Cartographic Sources***

- Tithe apportionment and parish map of Blaenporth (1837);
- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map of 1889 (1:2500);
- Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map of 1906 (1:2500);
- Ordnance Survey Edition map of 1953 (1:2500);
- OS Vertical Aerial Photo 2014

# **APPENDIX I:**

## **Figures**



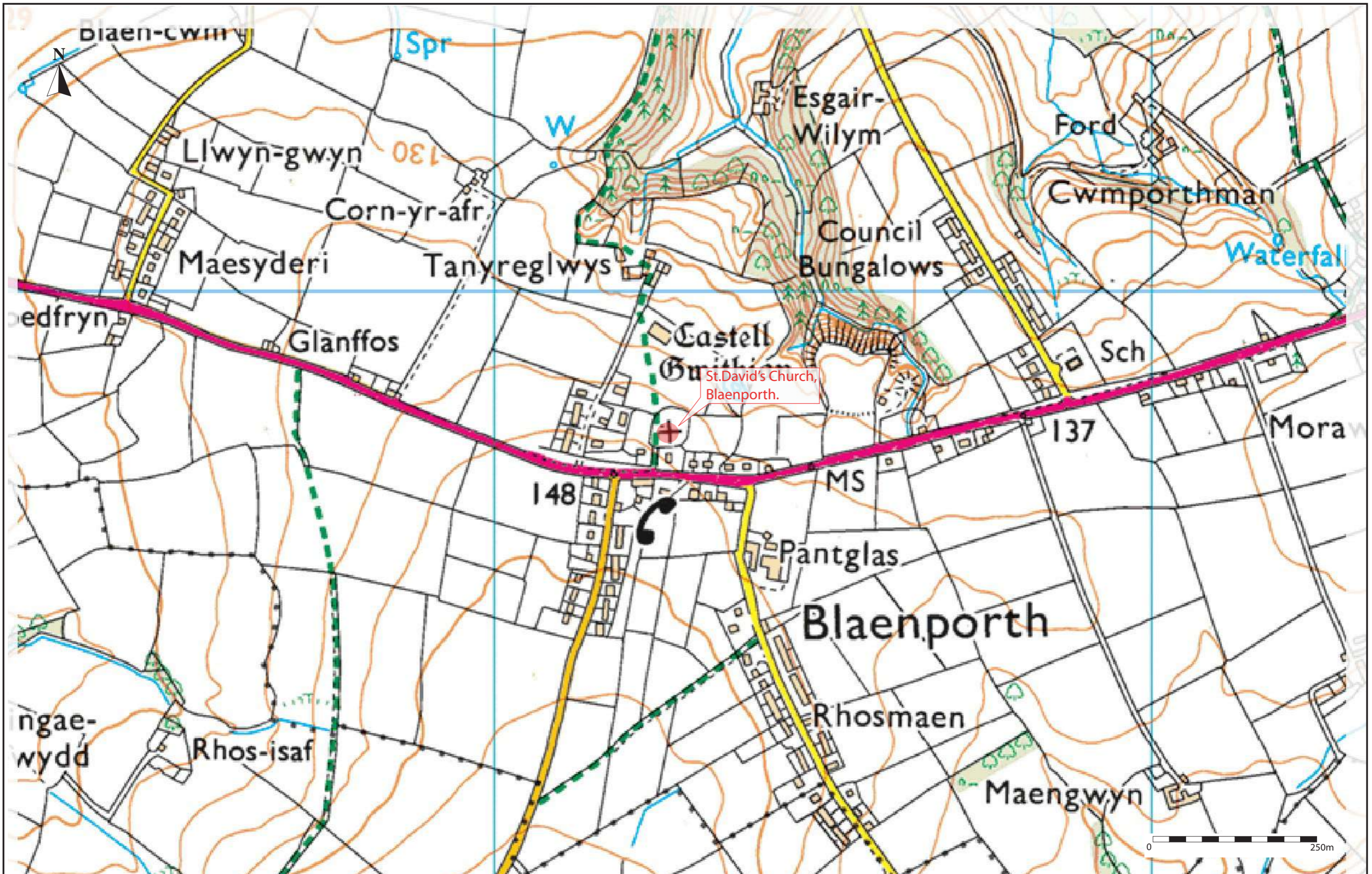


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 1**  
Location Map - OS Landranger (1:50,000)



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<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 2**  
Location Map - OS Explorer (1:25,000)



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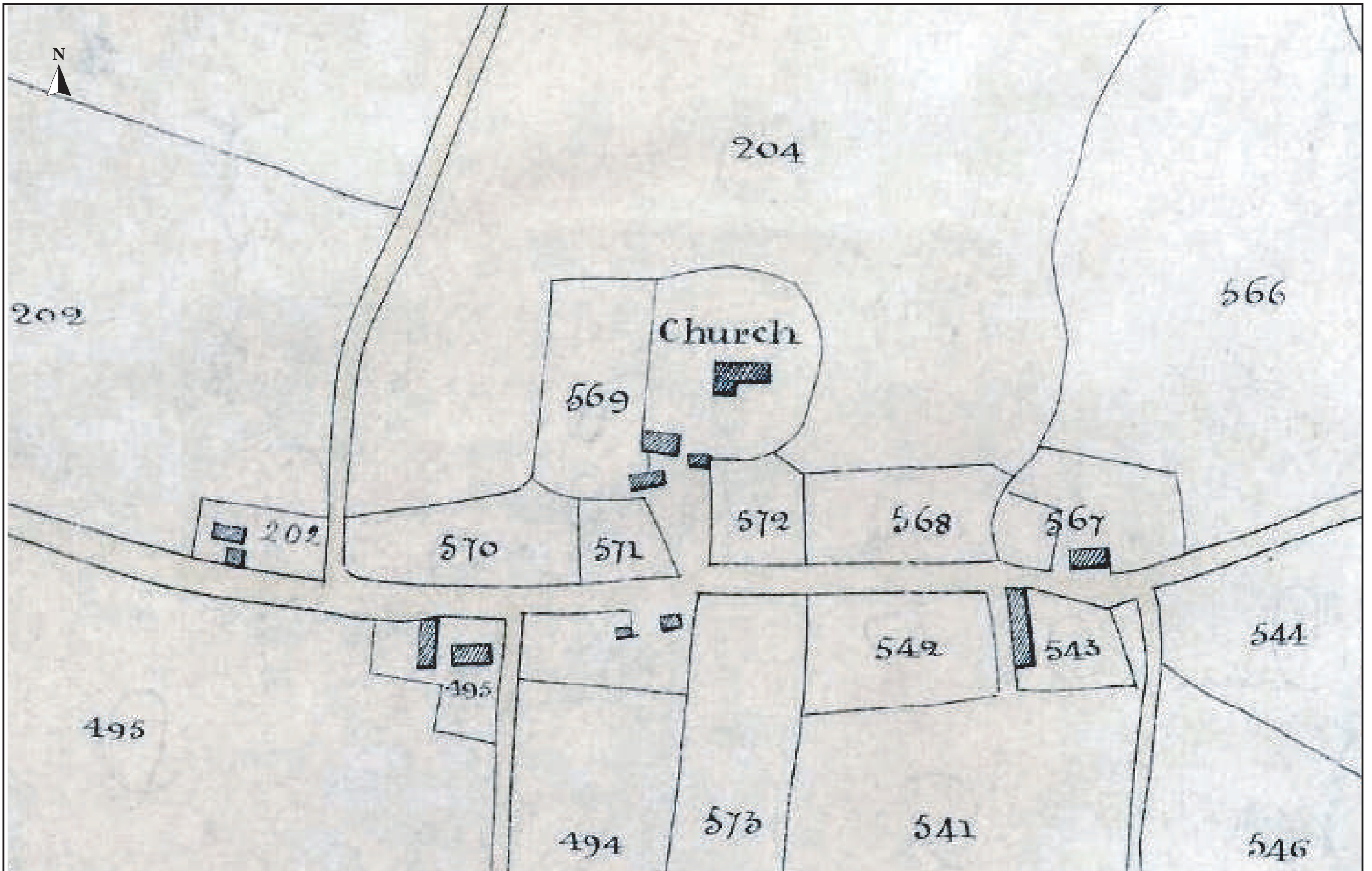


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.</b>

**Figure 3.**

OS Aerial Photo (2014) - Areas of proposed service trenching highlighted in red through cemetery.



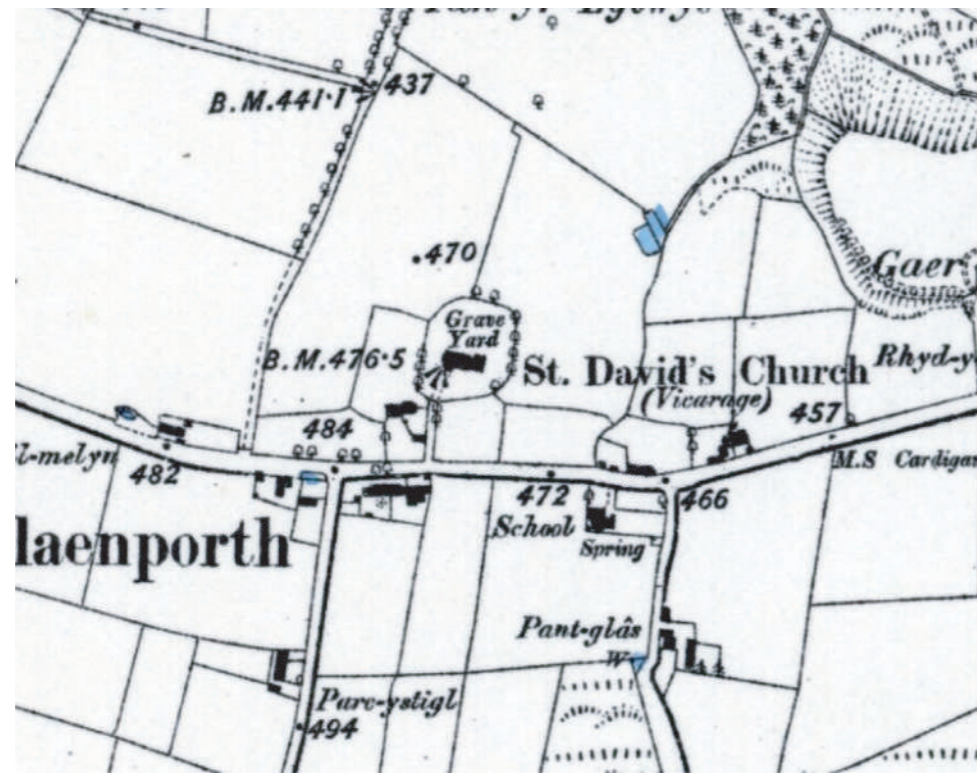


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

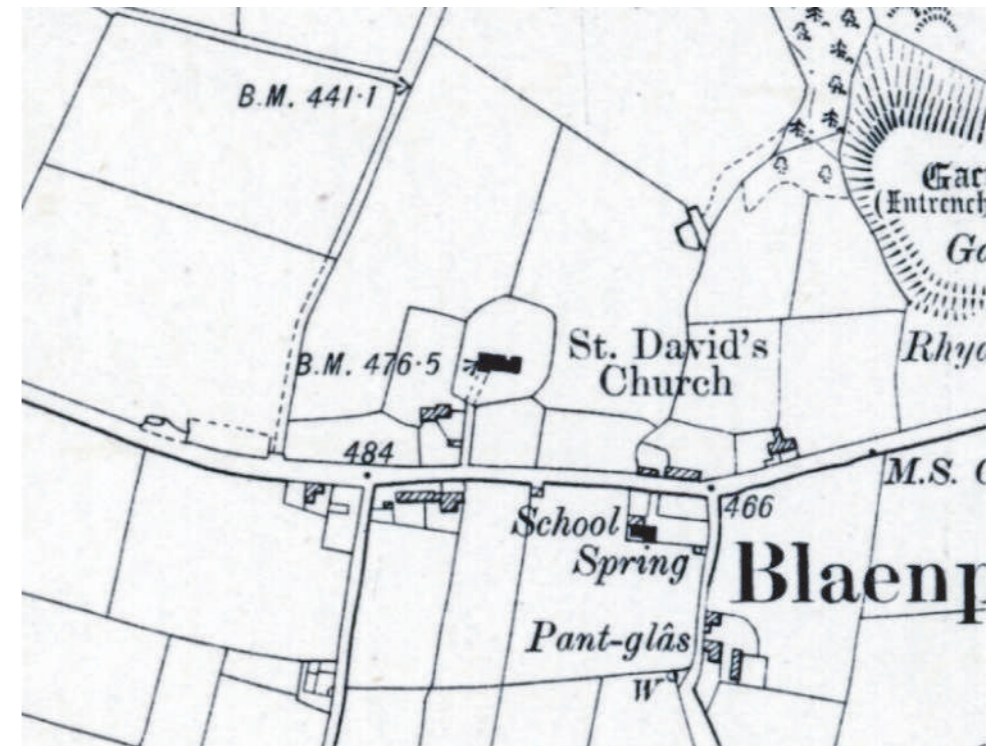
**Figure 4.**  
Part of Tithe Map of Blaenporth Parish (1837)



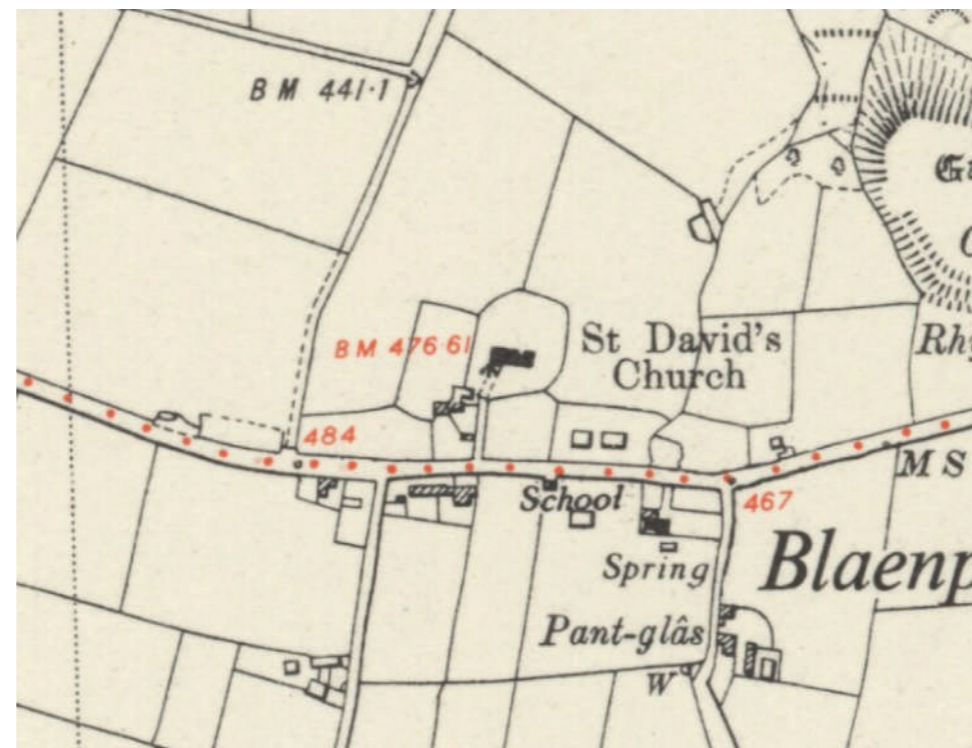
The Ordnance Survey have granted Heritage Recording Services Wales a Copyright Licence (No. 100052823) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.



a) OS First Edition Map 1889.



b) OS Second Edition Map 1906.



c) OS 1953 Edition Map.

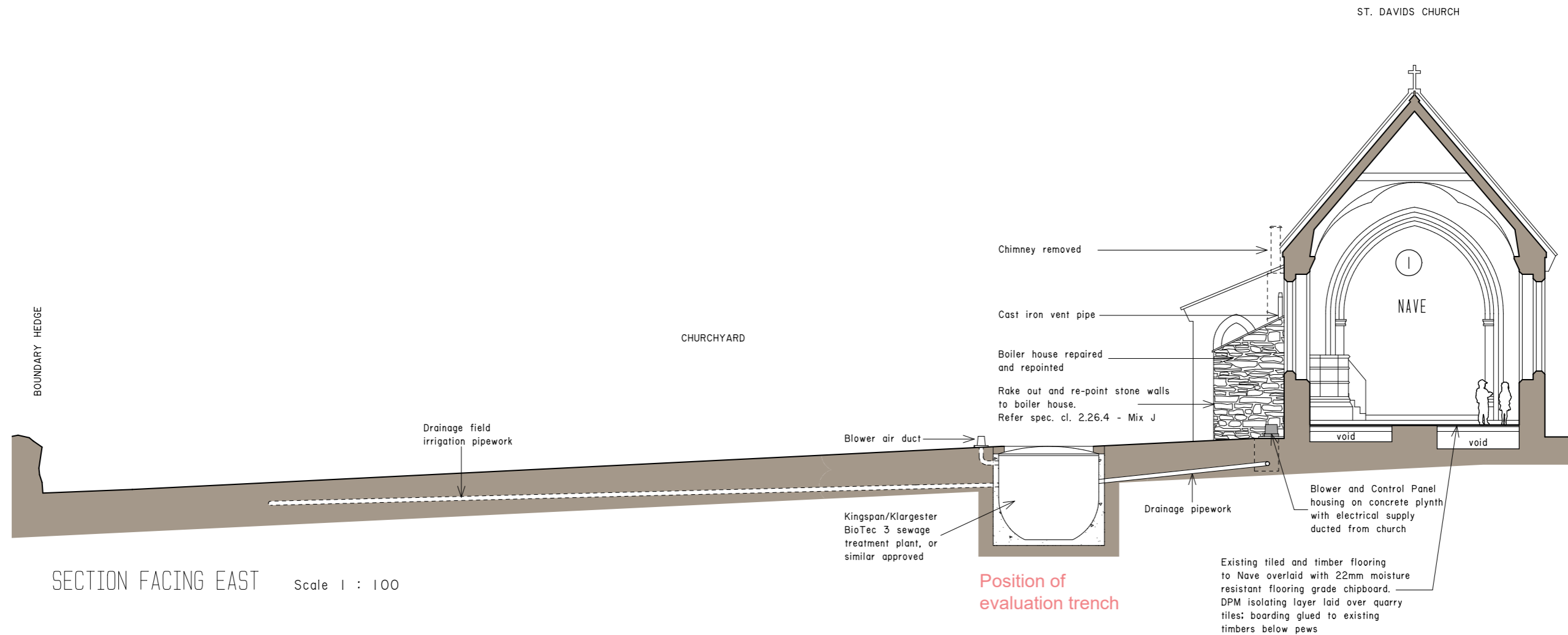
<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.</b>

**Figure 5.**

Early OS Maps (1889 - 1953)







Rev.A - Minor amendment - 08.17; Rev.B - Drainage proposals amended - 09.18; Rev.C - BioTec 3 sewage plant indicated - 10.18; Rev.D - General amendments - 02.19; Rev.E - Minor amendment - 02.19

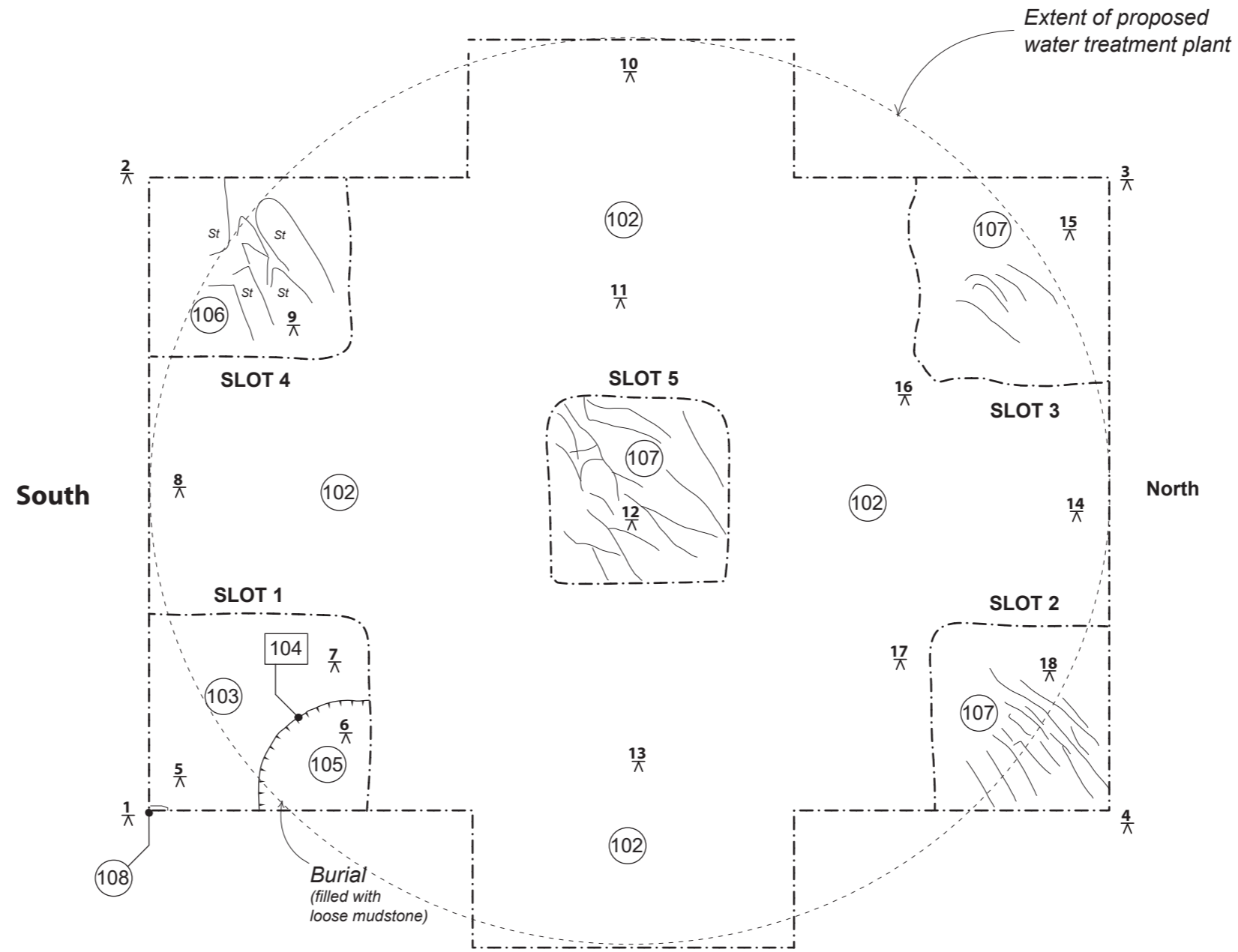
SCALE AS SHOWN (A3)	DRG. No. 1893/SK22	REV. E	TITLE ST DAVIDS CHURCH, BLAENPORTH CHURCH PROPOSED COMMUNITY FACILITIES ALTERATIONS	KDJA 30 MERLINS HILL, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBS Tel: (01437) 767088 email: office@kdja.net	
DATE MAY 2017					
DRAWN OBS					

<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023
<b>Drawn by:</b>
<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 6(ii).**

Community facility alterations. Cross section plan showing position of sewage treatment plant at northwest end of church.





**Contexts**

- 100. Turf
- 101. Top soil
- 102. Demolition deposit (lime mortar, stones, roofing slate, Medieval roof tile fragments, dis-articulated remains)
- 103. Compacted clay with disarticulated remains (Slot 1)
- 104. Cut (Burial - Slot 1)
- 105. Fill of burial cut (mudstone)
- 106. Stone layer (Slot 4)
- 107. Natural bedrock (mudstone)
- 108. Stump remains of former slate gravestone?.

**Evaluation Trench - Ground Plan**

*Drawn at 1:20 scale*

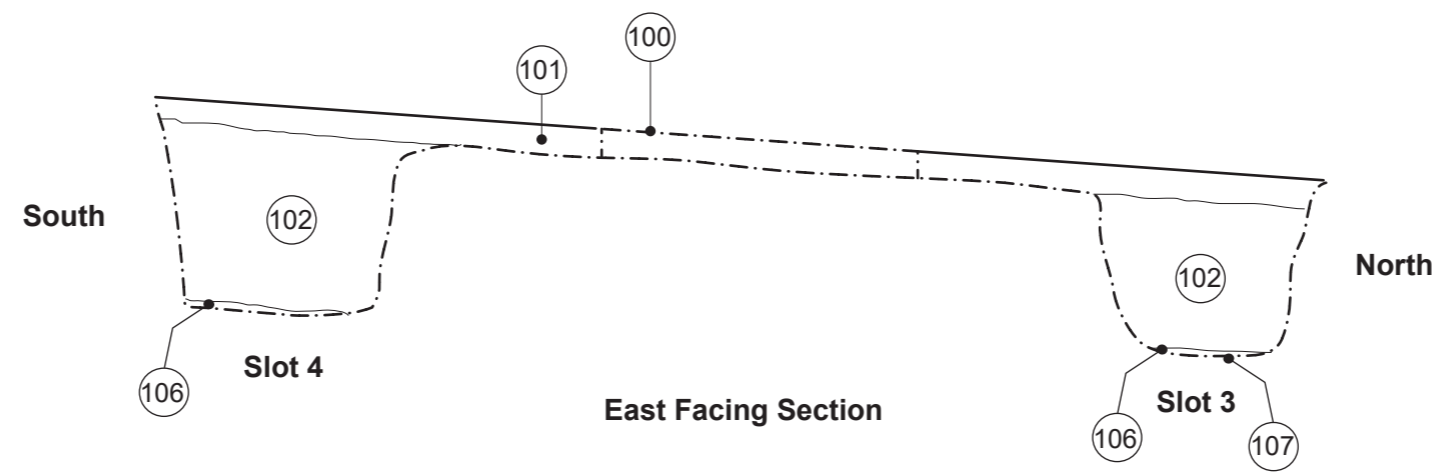
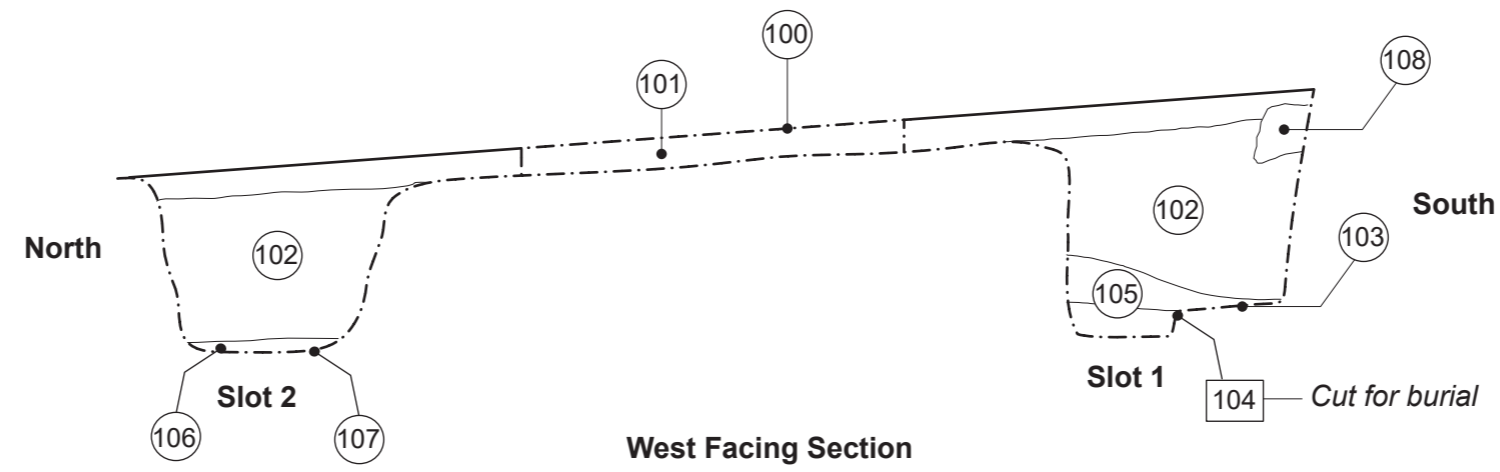


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 7**  
Ground plan of evaluation trench from 2019 (HRSW Rpt 193).







**Contexts**

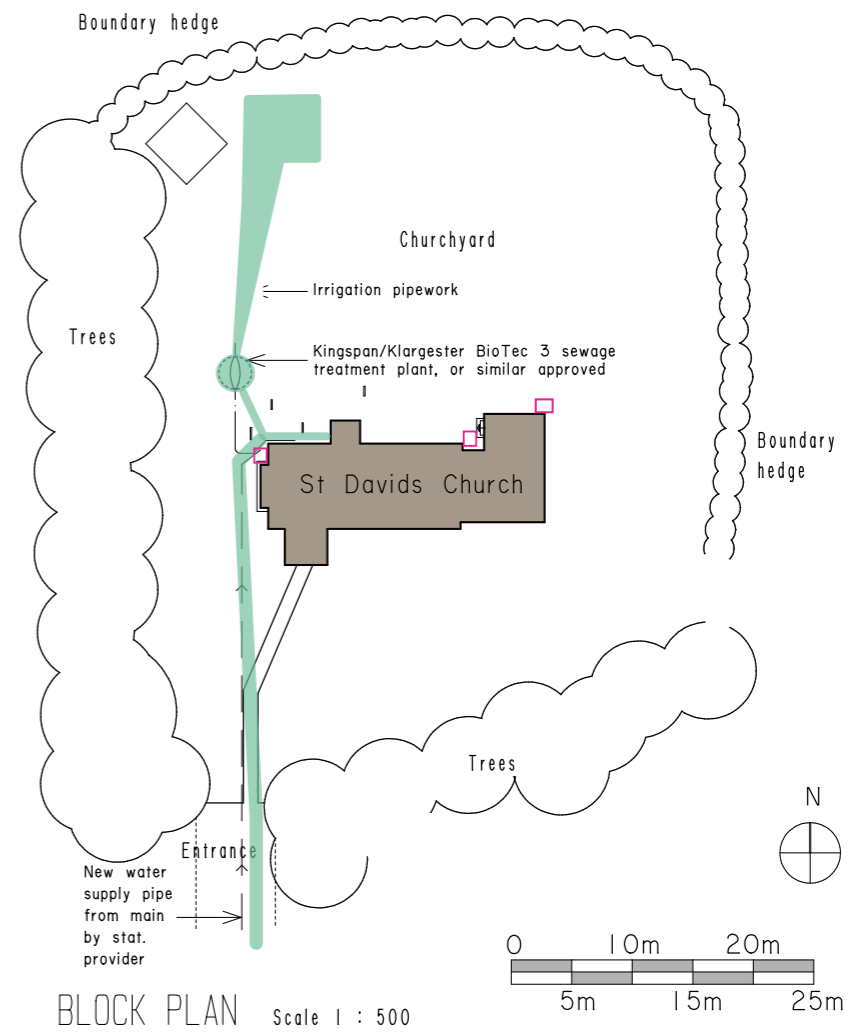
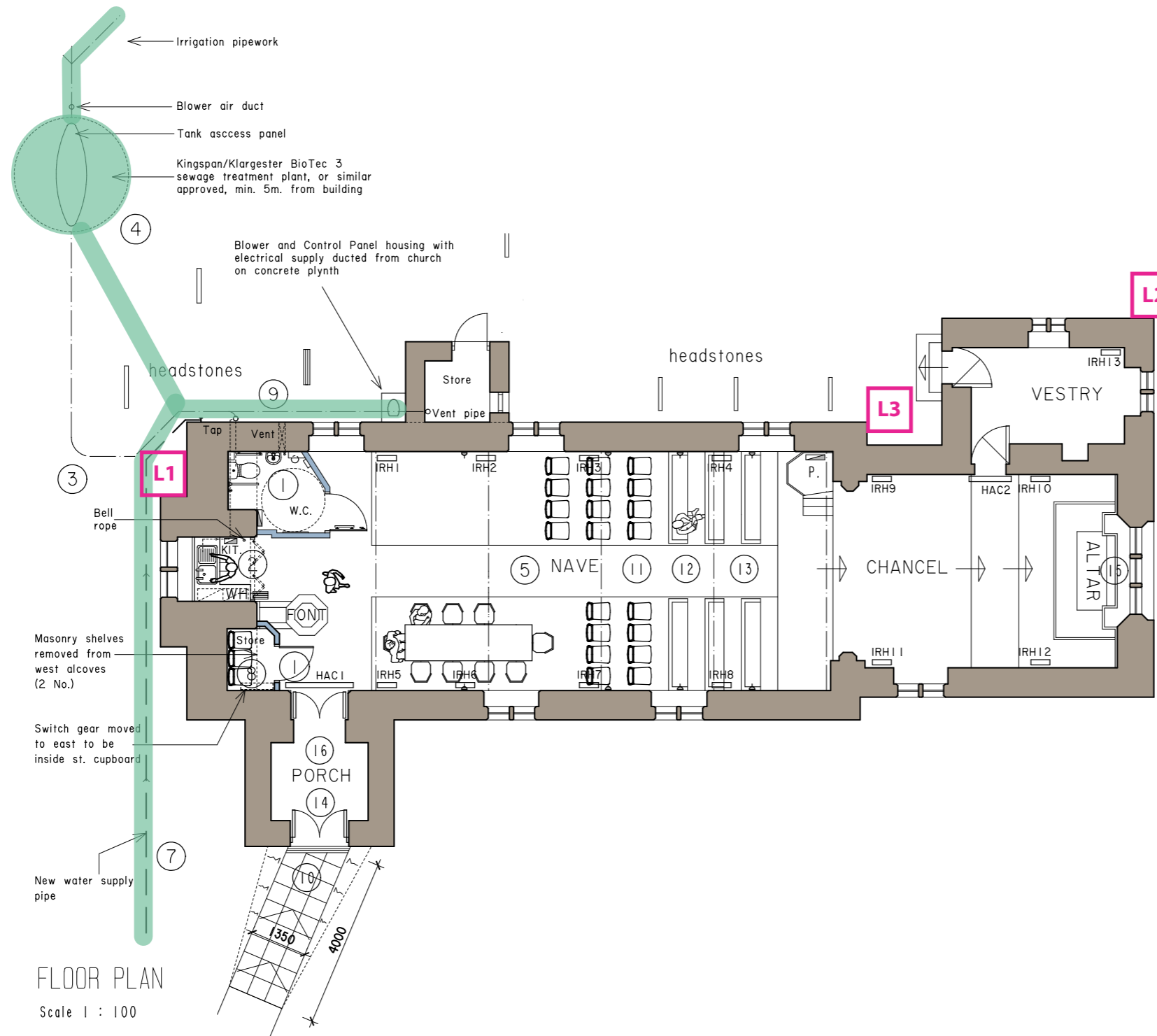
- 100. Turf
- 101. Top soil
- 102. Demolition deposit (lime mortar, stones, roofing slate, Medieval roof tile fragments, dis-articulated remains)
- 103. Compacted clay with disarticulated remains (Slot 1)
- 104. Cut (Burial - Slot 1)
- 105. Fill of burial cut (mudstone)
- 106. Stone layer (Slot 4)
- 107. Natural bedrock (mudstone)
- 108. Stump remains of former slate gravestone?.

*Drawn at 1:20 scale*



<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 8**  
Section drawings from earlier 2019 evaluation trench.



<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Ceredigion	
<b>Date:</b> 16th August 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A3):</b>
<b>Drawn by:</b>	<b>Drawing No.:</b>

**Figure 9.** Architects Ground Plan of St. David's Church showing final position of Septic tank and service trenches (Green) and position of three new Lightning Conductor Plates (Magenta).



**APPENDIX II:**  
**Photo plates**



Plate 01. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of area of proposed septic tank. Looking south.



Plate 02. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of area of proposed septic tank. Looking south.


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan		<b>Photo Plate No's.</b>  01 - 02	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 4th October 2021	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>		
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>		



Plate 03. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during groundwork for services. Looking North.



Plate 04. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during groundwork for services. Looking North.


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan		<b>Photo Plate No's.</b>  03 - 04	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 4th October 2021	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>		
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>		



Plate 05. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Ground work during excavation of area for septic tank. Looking NE.



Plate 06. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Ground work during for septic tank. Looking N.



Plate 07. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Ground work during for septic tank. Looking N.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 4th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

05 - 07



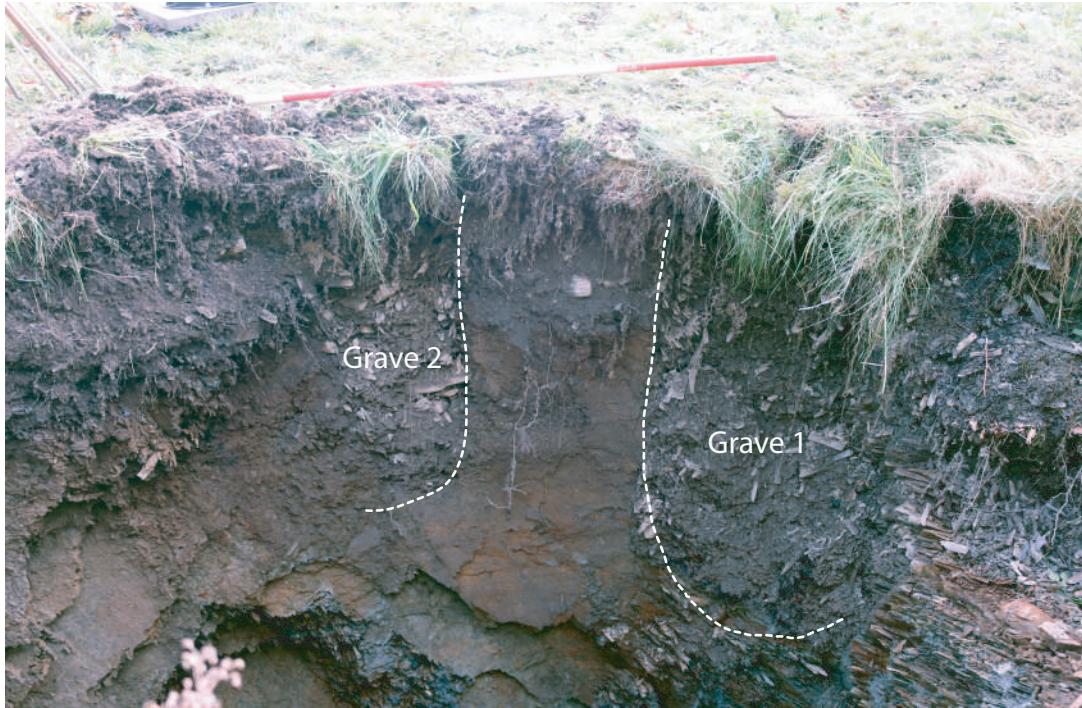


Plate 08. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - West facing section of pit for septic tank. Shows edge of two early unmarked grave cuts. Looking E.



Plate 09. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - West facing section of pit for septic tank. Looking SE..

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 4th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

08 - 09





Plate 10. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during ground work for drainage trench north of septic tank. Looking NE.



Plate 11. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during ground work for drainage trench north of septic tank. Looking NW.

**Project Title:** St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

**Date Taken:** 4th October 2021

**Appropriated by:** RSJ

**Approx. Scale (@ A4):**

**Drawing No.**

**Photo Plate No's.**

10 - 11







Plate 12. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during ground work for drainage trench north of septic tank. Looking SW.



Plate 13. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of early grave cut in east facing section of drainage cut. Looking west.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 4th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

12 - 13





Plate 14. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of cut drainage trench from septic tank toward west end of church. Looking SE.



Plate 15. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of cut drainage trench alongside west end of church. Looking SE.



Plate 16. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of cut drainage trench alongside west end of church. Looking E.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 4th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

14 - 16





Plate 17. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during initial cutting of water service trench at entrance of cemetery. Looking SE.



Plate 18. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during initial cutting of water service trench at entrance of cemetery. Looking N.



Plate 19. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during initial cutting of water service trench at entrance of cemetery. Looking N.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 14th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

17 - 19





Plate 20. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during cutting of water service trench from entrance of cemetery. Looking S.



Plate 21. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of cut trench for proposed water pipe outside of cemetery entrance. Looking N.



Plate 22. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of completed cut trench for proposed water pipe outside of cemetery entrance. Looking N.



Plate 23. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - View of completed cut trench for proposed water pipe outside of cemetery entrance. Looking S.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 14th October 2021

Appropriated by: RSJ

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

20 - 23





Plate 24. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Typical stratigraphy in proposed water pipe trench outside of cemetery entrance. Looking SE.



Plate 25. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Position of proposed Lightning Conductor Plate 1. Looking E.


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan		<b>Photo Plate No's.</b> 24 - 25	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 12th July 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>		
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>		



Plate 26. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 1. Looking S.



Plate 27. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 1. Looking S.


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan		<b>Photo Plate No's.</b> 26 - 27	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 12th July 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>		
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>		



Plate 28. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 1. Looking S.



Plate 29. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Working shot during cutting for Lightning Conductor Plate 2. Note 1930s/50s stone drainage pipe. Looking E.

<b>Project Title:</b>	St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan
<b>Date Taken:</b>	12th July 2023
<b>Appropriated by:</b>	RSJ

<b>Photo Plate No's.</b>	28 - 29
<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>	
<b>Drawing No.</b>	





Plate 30. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 2 at eastern corner of church. Looking N.



Plate 31. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 2 at eastern corner of church. Looking SW.


<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan		<b>Photo Plate No's.</b> 30 - 31	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 12th July 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>		
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>		





Plate 32. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Location of Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 3 on west side of Vestry. Looking SW..



Plate 33. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - Completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 3 on west side of Vestry. Note foundation for earlier church becoming exposed and 19th Century clay drainage pipe at base of trench.. Looking S.

<b>Project Title:</b> St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan	
<b>Date Taken:</b> 12th July 2023	<b>Approx. Scale (@ A4):</b>
<b>Appropriated by:</b> RSJ	<b>Drawing No.</b>

<b>Photo Plate No's.</b>	32 - 33
--------------------------	---------





Plate 34. St. David's Church, Blaenporth - East facing section of completed Trench for Lightning Conductor Plate 3 on west side of Vestry. Looking W.

Project Title: St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

Date Taken: 12th July 2023

Approx. Scale (@ A4):

Appropriated by: RSJ

Drawing No.

Photo Plate No's.

34



# **APPENDIX III:**

## **Context Register**

## **APPENDIX III**

### **CONTEXT REGISTER**

#### **A) Sewage Treatment Plant and Drain field Trench**

*Context No.*

- 100. Deposit - Turf
- 102. Deposit – Top soil. Mid brown clayey deposit .
- 102. Deposit – Grave
- 103. Cut – Cut for grave 102.
- 104. Fill – Fill of cut 103 for Grave 1. Consists of loose shale,
- 105. Cut – Cut for grave (Grave 2) on east side of trench
- 106. Fill – Fill of cut (105) for Grave 1. Consists of loose shale.
- 107. Deposit – Grave 2
- 108. Natural – - Natural mid orange sandy clay and shale.

#### **B) Service Trench (*foul and water*)**

*Context No.*

- 100. Deposit - Turf
- 101. Deposit – Top soil. Mid brown clayey deposit .. Only shallow in depth, approximately 0.15m – 0.20m.
- 102. Deposit – Soil deposit intermixed with shale and occasional disarticulated remains
- 103. Natural - Natural mid orange sandy clay and shale.

#### **C) Lightning Conductor Plate Trenches (*Footings and soak-away*)**

##### *i) Lightning Conductor Plate 1 (L1)*

*Context No.*

- 100. Deposit – Turf
- 101. Deposit – Top soil deposit. Mid brown clayey deposit.
- 102. Deposit – Loose shale.

##### *ii) Lightning Conductor Plate 2 (L2)*

*Context No.*

- 100. Deposit – Turf
- 101. Deposit – Modern plastic storm drain pipe.

- 102. Deposit – Ceramic storm drain 1940s/50s.
- 103. Deposit - clay section of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century drain
- 104. Deposit - mid brown soil deposit mixed with shale.

*iii) Lightning Conductor Plate 3 (L3)*

*Context No.*

- 100. Deposit – Top soil.
- 101. Deposit – Mid brown clayey deposit.
- 102. Deposit – Loose mid brown soil deposit intermixed with shale and lime mortar flecks.
- 103. Deposit - Former slate roofing slates
- 104. Fill – Fill of cut 105. Contains roofing slates and 19<sup>th</sup> Century terracotta drain pipe section.
- 105. Cut – Cut for 19<sup>th</sup> Century drain pipe.
- 106. Structure – Section of remains of earlier medieval church foundation.

**APPENDIX IV:**  
**Ministry of Justice Licence**



## LICENCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power vested in him by section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 (20 & 21 Vic., cap.81), grants a licence for the removal of the remains of **persons unknown** from or within the place in which they are now interred at the **St David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan.**

2. It is a condition of this licence that the following precautions shall be observed:
  - (a) Any removal or disturbance of the remains shall be effected with due care and attention to decency;
  - (b) The ground in which the remains are interred shall be screened from the public gaze while the work is in progress;
  - (c) The remains shall, no later than **04 November 2024** be uncovered, left in situ and reburied. In the meantime shall be kept safely, privately and decently by HRS Wales under the control of a competent member of staff.
3. This licence merely exempts those from the penalties, which would be incurred if the removal took place without a licence. It does not in any way alter civil rights. It does not confer the right to bury the remains in any place where such right does not already exist.
4. This licence expires on **04 November 2024.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Finlay'.

Richard Finlay  
on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice

Ministry of Justice

Licence Number: **19-0290**  
Date: **05 November 2019**



**APPENDIX V:**  
**Archive Cover Sheet**



## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan

ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

<b>Site Name:</b>	St. David's Church, Blaenporth, Cardigan
<b>Site Code:</b>	StDC/2021/WB
<b>PRN:</b>	5224
<b>NPRN:</b>	-
<b>SM No.</b>	
<b>Other Ref No.</b>	HRSW Rpt No. 245
<b>NGR:</b>	SN 26247 48804
<b>Site Type:</b>	12 Century Chapel foundation
<b>Project Type:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Richard Scott Jones
<b>Project Date(s):</b>	October 2021 - July 2023
<b>Categories Present:</b>	None
<b>Location of Original Archive:</b>	RCAHMW
<b>Location of Duplicate Archive:</b>	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
<b>Number of Find Boxes:</b>	1
<b>Location of Finds:</b>	-
<b>Museum Ref:</b>	-
<b>Copyright:</b>	HRS Wales
<b>Restrictions to Access:</b>	None



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Tel: 01570 493759 Fax: 08712 428171 E-mail: [richard@hrswales.co.uk](mailto:richard@hrswales.co.uk)