

CPAT Report No. 1738




St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Hughes Architects
 CPAT Project No: 2440
 Project Name: Llanfair Church
 Grid Reference: SJ 0140 0647
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: N/A
 CPAT Report No: 1737
 HER Enquiry No: N/A
 Event PRN: 140339
 Report status: Final

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
9 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020

Bibliographic reference: Jones, N. W., 2020. *St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys: archaeological watching brief*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1738.



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

©CPAT 2020



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation
 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
3 WATCHING BRIEF	5
4 CONCLUSIONS	6
5 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	6

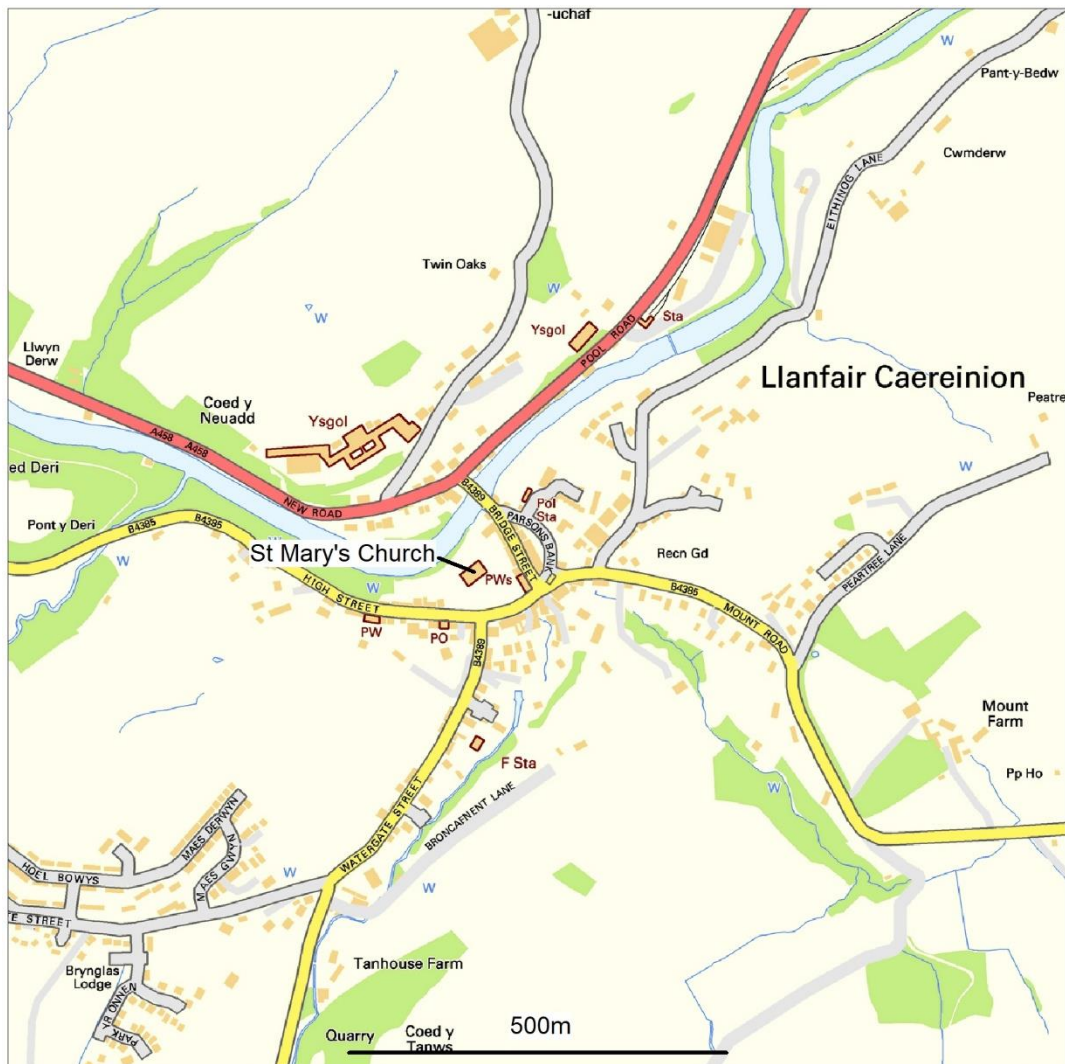
Summary

In March 2020 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust conducted a watching brief during groundworks associated with installation of a new tank for heating oil on the north side of St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, in Powys,

The watching brief monitored the excavation of a narrow trench to accommodate a pipe connecting the new oil tank with the boiler. This revealed no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Hughes Architects, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new oil tank outside St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys.
- 1.2. The church lies on the west side of the settlement, immediately south of the Afon Banwy (Fig. 1; SJ 0140 0647).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of St Mary's Church

- 1.3. The watching brief was conducted as a condition of a faculty (ref. 2019-003185), granted by the Diocese of St Asaph in November 2019.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The first record of the church of St Mary's Church dates from 1239 when a portion of it was granted by the Bishop of St Asaph to the Cistercian nunnery at Llanllugan. However, its riverside location and large curvilinear churchyard point to an early medieval foundation and it was reputedly founded from the *clas* at Meifod. The church was recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecclesia de Llanveyr', and under the same name in the Lincoln Taxation in 1291.
- 2.2. The old church was demolished in 1866-7 owing to its poor state of repair. A later report (from 1883) indicates that 'the walls showed that they had been patched up at different times, without skill or architectural taste; for ancient carved stones were thrown into the masonry in several places as common stone'.
- 2.3. The new church, built to the design of Edward Haycock of Shrewsbury, was consecrated in 1868, following closely to the ground plan of the earlier structure, except for the north aisle. The citation stated that it was 'proposed to take down and build on the same site but more commodious' and also 'to take in new ground on the north side not covered by the present structure'; this new ground presumably referred to a chancel extension since the present chancel is more to the north than the east. The old wooden steeple in characteristic Montgomeryshire style and the south doorway of the old church with carved sandstone capitals in Early English style were retained when the rest of the church was demolished and the oak roof was refitted.
- 2.4. Trial excavations in 1993, prior to the construction of the church hall, located the walls of the original north aisle.



Fig. 2 The concrete base for the new oil tank, viewed from the west. Photo CPAT 4752-0005

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted on 19 March 2020 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, monitoring the excavation of a trench on the north side of the church to accommodate a pipe connecting the new oil tank with the boiler (Fig. 5).
- 3.2. The watching brief was originally intended to also monitor excavations to form the foundation for the new oil tank, although the design was subsequently modified with the concrete slab laid on a hardcore base set on the existing ground surface, with no excavation being required (Fig. 2).
- 3.3. The pipe trench was around 8.0m in length, 0.2m wide and 0.45 deep (Figs 3-4) and cut into a deposit grey brown stoney silt, from which no artefacts were recovered. The trench revealed no evidence for any features or deposits of archaeological significance.



Fig. 3 The trench between the new oil tank and the church hall, viewed from the south-west. Photo CPAT 4752-0005



Fig. 4 trench between the new oil tank and the church hall, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4752-0006

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. A watching brief was conducted at St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys, during the excavation of a pipe trench connecting a new oil tank on the north side of the church with the church hall.
- 4.2. The trench was 0.2m wide and up to 0.45m deep and revealed no evidence for significant archaeological deposits.

5 Archive deposition Statement

- 5.1. 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 Shropshire Museum Service.

CPAT Event PRN 140339

Archive summary

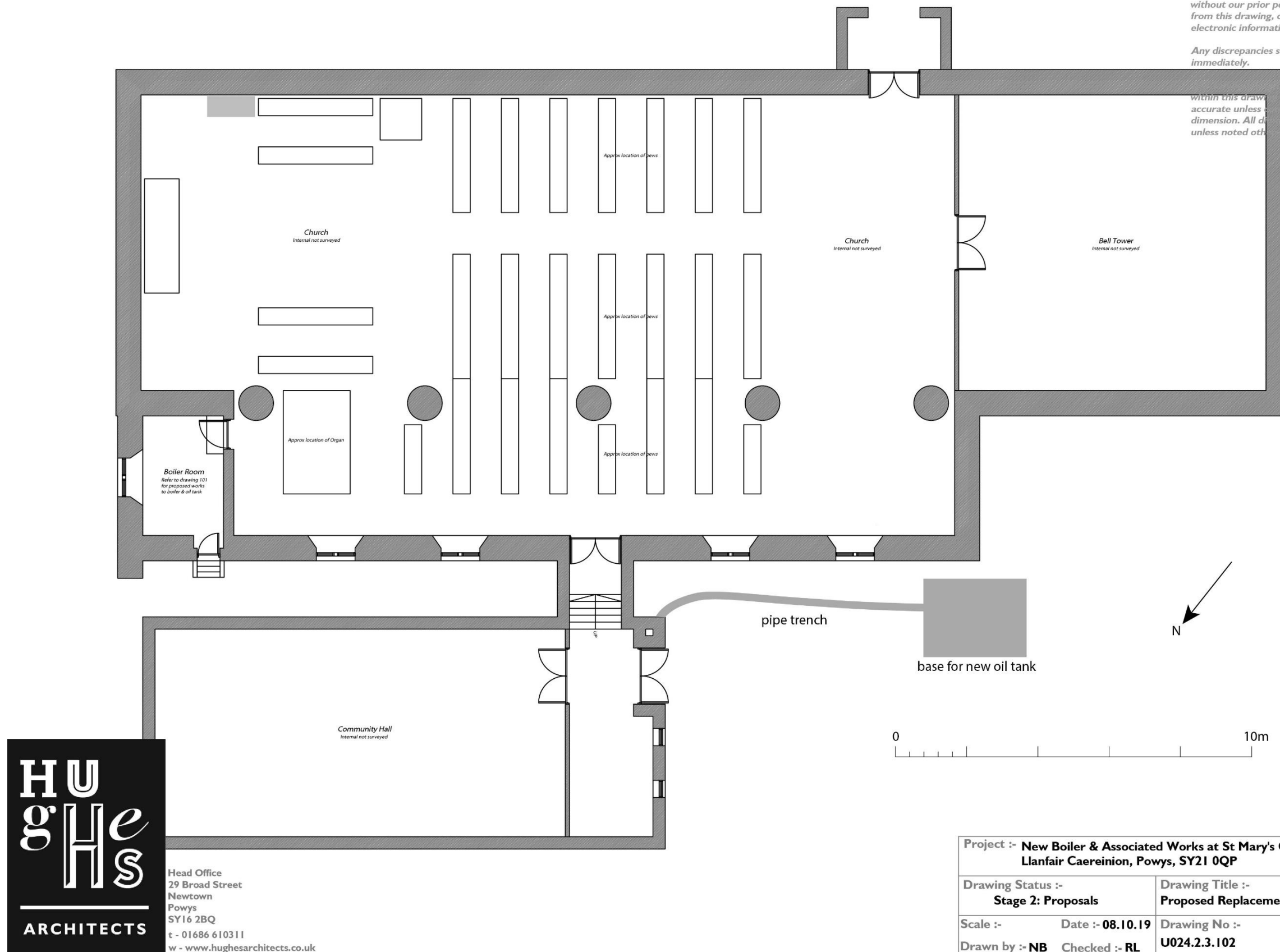
1 watching brief record form

6 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4752

This drawing is COPYRIGHT. It must not be reproduced or disclosed to third parties without our prior permission. Do not scale from this drawing, or, interrogate and use electronic information.

Any discrepancies should be reported immediately.

Information incorporated within this drawing cannot be guaranteed as accurate unless confirmed by a fixed dimension. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.



Head Office
29 Broad Street
Newtown
Powys
SY16 2BQ
t - 01686 610311
w - www.hughesarchitects.co.uk

Project :- New Boiler & Associated Works at St Mary's Church, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys, SY21 0QP			
Drawing Status :- Stage 2: Proposals		Drawing Title :- Proposed Replacement Radiators Plan	
Scale :-	Date :- 08.10.19	Drawing No :-	Rev :-
Drawn by :- NB	Checked :- RL	U024.2.3.102	-

Fig. 5 Plan of St Mary's Church, showing the location of the new oil tank and pipe trench