Archaeology Wales

## St Tecla's Church, Llandegley Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



By James Evans & Rhiannon Joyce

Report No. 1774

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# Archaeology Wales

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#### **Non-Technical Summary**

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Mr Mike Garner at St Tecla's Church, Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5UF. The site is centred on grid reference number SO 13920 62896. The report details the results of an archaeological watching brief (WB) that took place to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks. The groundworks included the lifting of the floor in the nave of St Tecla's Church, knocking through a doorway between the nave and the tower, and the insertion of below ground pipes for water and sewerage.

The excavations revealed a total of five articulated inhumations, and the disarticulated remains of seven adults and four sub-adults. All work was undertaken to the Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) as set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA).

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ganlyniad i waith a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Cymru Lt (AC) ar gyfer Mr Mike Garner yn Eglwys Sant Tecla, Llandeglau, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5UF. Mae'r safle o fewn cyfeirnod grid NGR SO 13920 62896. Mae'r adroddiad yn nodi canlyniadau briff gwylio archeolegol a gynhaliwyd i sicrhau cadwraeth ar gofnod o unrhyw weddillion archeolegol a welwyd yn ystod y gwaith tir. Roedd y gwaith tir yn cynnnwys codi'r llawr yng nghorff yr eglwys, torri drwy'r wal i osod drws rhwng corff yr eglwys a'r tŵr, a gosod pibellau o dan y ddaear ar gyfer dŵr a charthion.

Gwnaeth y gwaith cloddio ddatgelu cyfanswm o bum claddedigaeth cymalog, a gweddillion anghymalog saith oedolyn a phedwar is-oedolyn. Gwnaed yr holl waith yn unol â'r Safonau a'r Canllawiau ar gyfer Briff Gwylio Archeolegol (2014) fel y nodwyd gan Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr (SSA).

#### 1. Introduction

#### Location and scope of work

Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Mr Mike Garner to undertake a watching brief (WB) at St Tecla's Church, Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5UF. The site is centred on grid reference number SO 13920 62896. The work relates to the lifting of the floor in the churches' nave, knocking through a doorway between the nave and the tower, and the insertion of below ground water and sewerage pipes.

The requirements for the archaeological mitigation were agreed with Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT-DC) and DAA in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council. CPAT-DC and DAA recommended that a watching brief of the development area was undertaken during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

As a consequence, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager) prior to the work taking place. This was subsequently approved by DAA. All works were carried out in accordance with the CIFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

The watching brief was conducted in two phases. The first phase of the watching brief, which monitored the groundworks relating to the laying of the below ground water and sewerage pipes, took place between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This was supervised by Dan Moore, James Evans and Fred Craig. The second phase, which monitored the lifting of the floor in the church's nave, took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This was supervised by Steven Cole and James Evans. The project was managed by Irene Garcia Rovira (MCIfA).

#### **Topography and Geology**

St Tecla's Church is located off the A44, in the village Llandegley (Figure 1), northeast of Llandrindod Wells. The church measures around 34m in length and contains the churchyard to the north of the church (Figure 2).

The church is located 245m AOD. The underlying geology is defined by Wenlock Rocks and include mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed during the Silurian Period. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2018).

#### 2. Methodology

The groundworks of Phase 1 (Figure 2) comprised of the excavation of two trenches. They were as follows:

Trench 1 was located within the nave, approximately 3.3m to the east of the west wall (interior) and 0.4m south of the north wall (interior). The trench was excavated by hand following the removal of the floorboards and measured roughly 0.5m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.2m in depth.

Trench 2 extended from Box Trench 1, which was located against the north wall (exterior) of the nave and approximately 2.4m east of the northwest buttress (Plate 1). Box Trench 1

measured 1.2m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.9m in depth. Trench 2 then continued 1.5m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.9m in depth to the northwest. This led to Box Trench 2, which measured 0.7m in length, 0.6m in width and 1.2m in depth and was on the same alignment as Box Trench 1. Trench 2 then curved for approximately 8.5m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.75m in depth to the west. From this point the trench extended north along the centre of the main path towards the churchyard boundary gate. This measured 13m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.75m in depth.

Trench 1 and Trench 2 were linked by a narrow tunnel set within the fabric of the building. This tunnel made use of a pre-existing tunnel discovered during the excavation of Box Trench 1 in Trench 2 (see Watching Brief Results). However, in order to link both trenches the pre-existing tunnel, which curved in a southeast direction and away from Trench 1, was 'punched' through to create a more direct line. To do this, the stones were removed using handheld tools. The tunnel, which was located approximately 0.5m from ground level, measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.25m in width and 0.15m in depth.

The groundworks of Phase 2 comprised of the excavation of two holes (they will be referred to as Trench 3 and 4 respectively) ahead of the construction of two concrete foundation bases for cast iron columns. They were as follows:

Trench 3 was located within the nave, 1.7m to the north of the south wall (interior) and 0.1m east of vestry wall (interior). The hole was excavated by hand following the removal of the floor tiles. It measured 0.67m x 0.71m and was 0.72 in depth.

Trench 4 was located within the nave, 1.5 to the south of the north wall (interior) and 0.1m east of the vestry wall (interior). The hole was excavated by hand following the removal of the wooden floor boards. It measured  $0.7 \times 0.61$ m and was 0.61m in depth.

All deposits were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. Sections and plans of the excavation were photographed using a 12MP digital camera. The excavation was carried out by hand and where practicable using a 1.4 tonne digger with a toothless bucket. All of the work was undertaken in accordance with the CIFA's *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching* brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

#### Archaeological and Historical Background

St Tecla is located at the centre of Llandegley. The current shape and fabric of the church denotes that the structure has been largely rebuilt, though it maintains a few elements dating back to medieval times.

The churchyard morphology along with its dedication suggest a pre-Norman foundation. There is evidence of its existence in records of the Taxation of Norwich from 1291. There has been extensive rebuilding in 1876 in which some medieval fabric was reused. In 1947 a tower collapse was repaired however it is believed that no fabric of the nave was used for this. The churchyard is still consecrated ground.

#### **3. Watching Brief Results**

#### Trench 1

The earliest deposit revealed during groundworks was deposit (006). (006) was characterized as a hard, dark black brown silt with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m to 0.05m in diameter. The deposit contained a high concentration of disarticulated human bones that belonged to several individuals, both adult and sub adult (Plate 2). The bones appear to have been deliberated reburied, with many in a non-fragmentary state (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II).

#### Trench 2

The earliest deposit revealed during groundworks was deposit (031) and interpreted as the natural substrate. (031) was characterised as a firm mid-brown yellow silty clay and was recorded in the most northerly part of Trench 2 as the ground slopes down to the north (Plate 3). This measured in excess of 2m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.4m in depth. (031) was overlaid by deposit (004), which was characterised as a firm mid-red brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m to 0.05m in diameter. (004) was recorded throughout Trench 2 and measured in excess of 0.4m in depth and interpreted as a cemetery soil. (004) was cut by several human graves, they were as follows:

Cut [013] was sub-rectangular in plan, moderately steep grave cut on a roughly east-west alignment. [013] was an arbitrary cut due to the diffuse nature of the grave fill and deposit (004). It measured in excess of 0.5m in length and was 0.3m in width and 0.35m in depth. The cut was located 2.4m east from inner corner of the northwest buttress and 1.2m north of the north nave wall, measured from the right distal humerus. [013] contained Skeleton 012 (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II) and grave fill (011). (011) was characterized as a firm mid-red brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m in diameter. Skeleton 012 was truncated by cut [009], which was located slightly to the north (Plate 4 and Figure 3).

Cut [009] was a sub-rectangular in plan, moderately steep grave cut on a roughly east-west alignment. [009] was an arbitrary cut due to the diffuse nature of the grave fill and deposit (004). It measured in excess of 0.7m in length and was 0.4m in width and 0.35m in depth. The cut was positioned slightly to the north of Skeleton 012 and located 2.4m east from the inner corner of the north-west buttress and 1.2m north of the north nave wall. [009] contained Skeleton 008 (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II) and grave fill (007). (007) was characterized as a firm mid-red brown clay silt with sub angular stone inclusions 0.01m in diameter.

Cut [021] was a sub-rectangular, moderately steep grave cut on a roughly east-west alignment. [021] was an arbitrary cut due to the diffuse nature of the grave fill and deposit (004). It measured in excess of 1m in length, 0.2m in width and was 0.3m in depth. The cut was located 2m to the west of the north-west buttress, measured from the left distal os coxae. [021] contained Skeleton 020 (Plate 5) and grave fill (019). (019) was characterized as a firm mid-red brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m in diameter.

(007), (015), (019), (023) were overlaid by deposit (032). This was characterized as a firm midred brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m to 0.05m in diameter. (032) was recorded throughout Trench 2 and measured 0.5m in depth and interpreted as a cemetery soil. (032) was overlaid by deposit (003) and deposit (005). (003) was characterized as a firm dark grey brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m in diameter. (003) was visible in Box Trench 1 only and measured in excess of 1.2m in length, 1.2m in width and was 0.1m in depth. (005) was characterized as a soft light brown yellow silt with a high concentration of white lime. (005) measured 0.1m in depth and was recorded in, and to the west of, Box Trench 2. (003) and (005) were overlaid by deposit (002), which was characterized as a firm mid-red brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m to 0.05m in diameter. (002) was interpreted as the subsoil and measured in excess of 1.2m in length and 1.2m in width and was 0.3m in depth. (002) was overlaid by deposit (001), which was characterized as a firm dark grey brown silt with infrequent sub-angular stone inclusions 0.01m to 0.05m in diameter. This was interpreted as the topsoil and extended over the entire site.

In addition, a narrow tunnel was discovered in Box Trench 1 in Trench 2 leading from the exterior of the north wall into the fabric of the building. Initial investigation indicated that the tunnel curved to the southeast (the end of the tunnel was not ascertained). The entrance to the tunnel had a lintel stone approximately 0.5m in length. The stones were bonded with mortar. It was unclear if the loose small angular and sub-angular stones that covered the floor of the tunnel overlay a base of stone or silt deposit (004). The tunnel was located approximately 0.5m from ground level. The tunnel entrance measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.25m in width and 0.15m in depth.

#### Trench 3

The basal deposit revealed during groundworks was deposit (047) and was interpreted as the natural substrate. (047) was characterised as a loose mid-brown silty clay, and included infrequent small sub-angular stones. This was recorded towards the bottom of the excavation, and at the limit of excavation. The deposit contained a high frequency of disarticulated human bones that belonged to a number of different individuals (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II). To the north of (047) and overlying it is a brick and mortar wall (044) and (045) respectively. At the limit of excavation, the brick wall measured 0.57m in height. The bricks used within the wall averaged 0.12m in length and 0.07m in width. The wall appears to be used as a form of foundation to support the above floor. Behind this brick wall there was a backfill (046). This backfill appears to be building rubble, and was a mixture of moderately sized broken bricks and stones (Plate 6). Overlying the natural substrate and the brick lined wall there was a stone flagstone floor (043). The flagstones averaged 0.12m in depth, however, it was unclear how large the individual flagstones were because the holes dug were relatively small. Overlying the stone flagstones there were quarry floor tiles (041). These tiles cover the majority of the nave's floor, and measure 0.06m x 0.06m in size and 0.03 in depth. The tiles vary in colour from; dark red/mid yellow/black. These tiles could be contemporary with the rebuilding programme at the church in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Trench 4

The excavation of this hole follows a very similar stratigraphy to Trench 3. The earliest deposit revealed during groundworks was deposit (054) and was interpreted as the natural substrate. (054) was characterised as a loose mid-brown silty clay, and included infrequent small subangular stones. This appears to be the same as (047) found in Trench 3. (047) also has a high frequency of disarticulated human bones (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II). To the south and overlying (054) is a brick and mortar wall (051) and (052) respectively (Plate 7). At the limit of excavation, the brick wall measured 0.46m in height. Again, this brick wall appears to be the same as (044) and (045) found in Trench 3. Behind the brick wall there is another deposit of building backfill (053). Overlying the wall and natural substrate there was a stone flagstone (049), which is same as the one found in Trench 3 (043). However, there were engraved markings found on the flagstone. The engravings consist of a 6-pointed star and what appears to be two 'swirls' (Plate 8). Directly overlying the stone flagstone was a slightly raised wooden floor area (048). This area is found in the north-west corner of the nave, and it measures an area of 2m x 2m and is raised 0.05m above the floor level.

#### 4. Finds

A brown glazed rimmed pottery sherd was recorded in (002). Several coffin nails were recorded in deposit (006). Within (046) a stone roof tile was recorded. Five articulated inhumations and a number of disarticulated inhumations were recorded during the watching brief (see Joyce, 2019 – Appendix II). All finds dated to post-medieval times.

#### 5. Conclusion

The results of the watching brief indicated a relatively high concentration of human remains within the excavated area. This is unsurprising given the continuous use of the church and its early foundation. The five articulated inhumations were found in unmarked graves, four were adult and one was sub-adult. The high concentration of disarticulated human bones from (006) belonged to several individuals, both adult and sub-adult. The bones appear to have been deliberated reburied, with many in a non-fragmentary state (see Joyce, 2019- Appendix II), and maybe associated with the extensive rebuilding of the church in 1876.

No other finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

#### 6. Bibliography

CIFA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Unpublished Guidance accessible at <u>www.archaeologists.net</u>).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standards and guidance for archaeological watching brief.





Figure 2: Floor plan of St Tecla's Church, Llandegley

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Plate 1. Box Trench 1, looking south. Scale 0.5m



Plate 2. Disarticulated human bones within deposit (006), looking north. Scale 0.3m





Plate 3. Deposit (031), looking north-east. Scale 0.5m



Plate 4. Skeleton 012, looking north. Scale 0.3m





Plate 5. Skeleton 020, looking north. Scale 0.3m



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking west. Scale 0.5m





Plate 7. Trench 4, looking west. Scale 0.5m



Plate 8. Engraved markings on stone flagstone flooring (049), looking west. Scale 0.3m



### **Appendix 1: Context Inventory**

No.	Туре	Description	Relationship
001	Deposit	Firm dark grey brown silt. Trench 2	Above (002)
002	Deposit	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Trench 2	Below (001)
003	Deposit	Firm dark grey brown clay silt. Trench 2	Below (002)
004	Deposit	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Trench 2	Above (031)
005	Deposit	Soft light brown yellow silt with white lime. Trench 2	Below (002)
006	Deposit	Hard dark black brown silt. Trench 1	N/A
007	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Fill of grave cut [009] in Trench 2	Below (032)
008	Skeleton	Articulated skeleton. Burial of adult in supine position. Trench 2	Below (007)
009	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut for Skeleton 008 on east-west alignment. Trench 2	Cut (011)
010	Group	Group number for (007), Skeleton 008 and [009]. Trench 2	N/A
011	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Fill of grave cut [013] in Trench 2	Cut by [009]
012	Skeleton	Articulated skeleton. Burial of adult in supine position. Trench2	Below (011)
013	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut for Skeleton 012 on east-west alignment. Trench 2	Cut (004)
014	Group	Group number for (011), Skeleton 012 and [013]. Trench 2	N/A
015	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Fill of grave cut [017] in Trench 2	Below (032)
016	Skeleton	Skeleton 016 in Trench 2	Below (015)
017	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut for Skeleton 016 on east-west alignment. Trench 2	Cut (004)
018	Group	Group number for (015), Skeleton 016 and [017]. Trench 2	N/A
019	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Fill of grave cut [021] in Trench 2	Below (032)
020	Skeleton	Articulated skeleton. Burial of adult in supine position. Trench 2	Below (019)
021	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut for Skeleton 020 on east-west alignment. Trench 2	Cut (004)
022	Group	Group number for (019), Skeleton 020 and [021]	N/A

023	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Fill of grave cut [025] in Trench 2	Below (032)
024	Skeleton	Skeleton 024 in Trench 2	Below (023)
025	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut for Skeleton 024 on east-west alignment. Trench 2	Cut (004)
026	Group	Group number for (023), Skeleton 024 and [025]. Trench 2	N/A
027	Deposit	Concrete path on north-south alignment. Trench 2	Above (028)
028	Deposit	Loose light white grey sand. Trench 2	Above (029)
029	Deposit	Firm mid brown grey sand clay. Trench 2	Above (030)
030	Deposit	Soft light brown grey sand clay. Trench 2	Above (004)
031	Deposit	Firm mid yellow brown silt clay. Natural. Trench 2	Below (004)
032	Deposit	Firm mid red brown clay silt. Trench 2	Below (003) (005)
033	Cut	Arbitrary cut of grave (Axial Skeleton)	Cut (035)
034	Skeleton	Within [033] Axial Skeleton	Above (035)
035	Fill	Fill of grave cut [033]	Below (035)
036	Cut	Arbitrary grave cut (cranium)	Below (035)
037	Skeleton	Within [036] (cranium)	Above (038)
038	Fill	Fill of [036] (cranium)	Below (037)
039	Group	Group number for Skeleton 034	N/A
040	Group	Group number for Skeleton 037	N/A
041	Deposit	Floor quarry tiles. Trench 3	Above (042)
042	Deposit	Lime mortar. Trench 3	Below (041)
043	Deposit	Stone floor flagstone. Trench 3	Below (042)
044	Deposit	Brick lined wall. Trench 3	Above (044)
045	Deposit	Lime mortar. Trench 3	Below (044)
046	Deposit	Backfill – building rubble. Trench 3	Above (047)
047	Deposit	Loose mid brown silt clay. Trench 3	N/A
048	Deposit	Raised wood flooring. Trench 4	Above (049)
049	Deposit	Stone floor flagstone. Trench 4	Below (048)
050	Deposit	Lime mortar. Trench 4	Above (049)
051	Deposit	Brick lined wall. Trench 4	Below (050)
052	Deposit	Lime mortar. Trench 4	Above (051)
053	Deposit	Backfill – building rubble. Trench 4	Above (054)
054	Deposit	Loose mid brown silt clay. Trench 4	N/A

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## **APPENDIX II:**

Bone report

#### **Appendix II: Osteological Report**

#### 1.Burial description

A total of five articulated inhumations were discovered at St Teclas Church, Llandegley during an archaeological watching brief in January 2019.

All burials were on a west-east alignment with the crania located to the west, typical of Christian burial practices. One anomaly was burial containing SK012 on a southwest- northeast alignment with the crania located to the southwest. This is a marginal difference from the 'typical' Christian burial alignment and should not be perceived as a deviant burial.

#### 2.Methodology

The excavation of human remains adhered to the regulations outlined by Historic England (2018) and the Chartered institute for Archaeologists – CifA (2017).

Any encountered burials within the trenches were revealed, recorded, and lifted by hand. Post excavation, they were transported to the office in Caerphilly to be washed, stabilised, and analysed for assessment. Any skeletal remains partially within the trenches were not chased to reveal the full, articulated skeleton (Fig. 1). Instead, the skeletal element located within the trenches were revealed, lifted, and recorded. The remaining skeletal remains were left in situ.

When an articulated skeleton was revealed, samples were taken from the areas surrounding the cranium, thorax, pelvis, hands, and feet. Where possible, each intact crania was block lifted, wrapped in acid free paper, and bubble wrapped to ensure safe transportation back to the office where it was cleaned, bagged and assessed.



Figure 1 SK020 partially located within trench

#### 3.Skeletal Assemblage

A total of five individuals are represented by articulated skeletal remains. Additionally, the disarticulated skeletal remains account for and MNI of seven adults and four subadults from contexts 006, 047, and 054. The total MNI for the articulated and disarticulated skeletal remains is fourteen. The disarticulated remains will not be discussed any further as limited information can be gained from disarticulated skeletal remains.

The orientation and location of burials containing SK034 and SK037 may represent one individual but due to the location of the trench, it is not possible to confirm this. Therefore, throughout the report, they will be referred to as two separate burials.

Each skeleton (as opposed to skeletal element) was categorised as 'poor,' 'fair,' 'good,' or 'excellent' regarding their level of completeness (Table 1). Skeletal completeness was variable, but this is likely due to the location, and size of the trenches. The highest percentage (60%) of articulated skeletons had a poor level of completeness and none had an excellent level of completeness. The regular lack of epiphysis on most of the assemblage will have a negative effect on future analysis such as stature determination.

	Percentage of completeness	Number of individuals	Total percentage of assemblage
Poor	0-25%	3	60%
Fair	26-50%	1	20%
Good	51-75%	1	20%
Excellent	76% +	0	0%

Table 1: Variation of skeletal completeness throughout site

The level of preservation was recorded in accordance with the Updated guidelines to the Standards for recording human remains (Mitchell and Brickley; 2017). A five-point grading system was used to determine the overall levels of preservation of each skeleton, as opposed to each skeletal element. The level of preservation was fair throughout the assemblage (Table 2); with most skeletons (60%) being allocated to grade three 'most of bone surface affected by some degree of erosion...general morphology maintained but details of parts of surface masked by erosive action' (Mitchell and Brickley; 2017).

Grade	Number of individuals	Total percentage of
		assemblage
0	0	0
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	3	60%
4	2	40%

#### Table 2: Variation of skeletal preservation throughout site

	5	0	0
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Three articulated burials were adults (SK012, SK034, SK037), with one (SK008) subadult, and one (SK020) under the age of 23. This was determined by assessing epiphyseal closure rates. The lack of fusion at the femoral head and greater trochanter of SK008 determines they were younger than 16 at the time of death. The poor preservation however prevents a more precise age range. The completeness of SK020 was good, and many of the present epiphyses had fused, except for the left distal radius, left and right distal ulnae, and left medial clavicle. It is not possible to comment on the right radius, or right clavicle due to absence or fragmentation. The lack of epiphyseal fusion on these skeletal elements suggests the individual was under the age of 23 (White and Folkens; 2005). Additionally, the left humeral head of SK020 had recently fused before perimortem. It is not possible to comment on the right humerus due to its absence. The recent fusion of the left humeral head and the lack of epiphyseal fusion of the left medial clavicle suggests SK020 was 18-23 years old at the time of death.

	Number of individuals	Total percentage of
		assemblage
Adult	4	80%
Subadult	1	20%
Unknown	0	0%

Table 3: Number of adult and subadults represented throughout site

Sex was determined using cranial and pelvic traits (Table 4). Where possible these were cross referenced against each other. If neither pelvis or cranium was present, it was categorised as 'unknown'. Subadults have not been allocated a sex estimation.

Table 4: Number of males and females represented throughout site.

	Number of individuals	Total percentage of assemblage
Male/probable male	1	20%
Female/probable female	1	20%
Unknown	2	40%
Not applicable due to age	1	20%

A cursory assessment of skeletal and dental pathology shows that SK020 had a reoccurring chronic infection in the vertebrae. This is represented by a 0.69cm subcircular perforation on the left lateral side of the vertebral body, extending to a 2.04cm suboval perforation on the superior vertebral body of T10 (Fig. 2-3). There is marked evidence of healing on the lateral side of T10 but the superior side of the vertebral body has evidence the infection was still present perimortem. As a result of the reoccurring infection, the inferior right lateral side of T9 has also been affected and likely was the cause of death. The remodelling of T9-T12 (Fig. 4) could suggest brucellosis (Waldon; 2009) but as there are no other signs of chronic infection anywhere else, this cannot be confirmed. An unlikely, but possible cause of the vertebral lesion could be due to echinococcosis osteomyelitis. This is a rare infection but can cause similar lesions in the vertebrae. Due to the lesion being focal to the

thoracic vertebrae with no other skeletal lesions, it is not possible to accurately provide a specific diagnosis. Therefore, the diagnosis is limited to a non-specific, reoccurring, chronic infection.



*Figure 2 subcircular perforation on the lateral side of T10 vertebral body. SK020.* 



Figure 3 Suboval perforation on superior T10 vertebral body. SK020.



Figure 4 T9-T12 remodelling due to infection. SK020.

In addition to vertebral pathology, there is also evidence of caries on the mandibular right M3 and enamel hypoplasia on all present mandibular teeth of SK020.

Severe dental attrition is visible on the buccal surface of all mandibular molars of SK037. In addition to dental pathology, SK037 has a very large, 6.83cm x 4.93cm, Wormian bone in the saggital suture (Fig. 5). No other non-metric traits have been recorded at the assessment stage.



Figure 5 Large wormian bone in saggital suture of SK037

#### 4.Potential for future analysis

The archaeological watching brief was a small-scale excavation where five individuals from a known time period were unearthed. It is not recommended that any further analysis is to be undertaken on the skeletal remains due to the limited skeletal remains unearthed, ss and the known time period they came from. It would not benefit the archaeological record to conduct any further analysis other than the assessment already produced

#### 5.Curation and storage

The skeletal assemblage from the St Teclas Church archaeological watching brief are currently being held by Archaeology Wales. As no further analysis is recommended, the remains should be reinterred in accordance with the exhumation authorisation issued by the Ministry of Justice.

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Skeleton number	completeness	preservation	Number of fragments	Age	Sex	Comments
SK008	Poor	3	36	Subadult	N/A	
SK012	Fair	3	100	Adult	F?	
SK020	Good	3	179	Adult	M	dental and vertebral pathology
SK034	Poor	4	62	Adult	N/A	
SK037	Poor	4	34	Adult	N/A	Dental pathology and cranial non- metric trait

Archaeology Wales

## **APPENDIX III:**

Written Scheme of Investigation



Archaeology Wales Ltd Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF T: 01686 440371 E: info@arch-wales.co.uk www.arch-wales.co.uk

#### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

#### FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

#### WATCHING BRIEF AT

#### St Tecla's Church, Llandegley, Powys

Prepared for:

Mr Mike Garner

Project No: 2632

June 2018



Archaeology Wales Limited The Reading Room, Town Hall, Great Oak Street Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BN Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Detailed plan St Tecla's Church

#### Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Mr Mike Garner.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed renovation of St Tecla's Church, including the lifting of the floor in the nave, knocking through a doorway between the nave and tower, and the insertion of below ground pipes for water and sewerage. St Tecla's Church, Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells Powys, LD1 5UF (NGR: SO 13920 62896).

The dedication and churchyard layout of St Tecla's church suggest that it may have pre-Normand foundations. The presence of the church was first recorded in the Taxation of Norwich 1291. Groundworks may reveal human remains as well as the remains of the original/earlier layout of the church. CPAT-DC and DAA have recommended that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

#### 1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for mitigation to be undertaken in association with the proposed renovation of St Tecla's Church, including the lifting of the floor in the nave, knocking through a doorway between the nave and tower, and the insertion of below ground pipes for water and sewerage. St Tecla's Church, Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells Powys, LD1 5UF (SO 13920 62896) (Figure 1-2).

The dedication and churchyard layout of St Tecla's church suggest that it may have pre-Normand foundations. The church was first recorded in the Taxation of Norwich 1291. Groundworks may reveal human remains as well as the remains of the original/earlier layout of the church, and the tithe barn and priest house. CPAT-DC and DAA have recommended that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

This WSI has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr Mike Garner.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with CPAT-DC and DAA in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council. CPAT-DC and DAA have recommended that a watching brief of the development area is undertaken during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIFA.

#### 2. Site Description

St Tecla's Church is located off the A44, west of Llandagley. It measures around 34m in length and it contains the churchyard to the north of the church. The church is located 245m AOD (Figure 1-2).

The underlying geology is defined by Wenlock Rocks and include mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed during the Silurian Period. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2018)

#### 3. Archaeological background

result of activities associated with the development.

The churchyard morphology along with its dedication suggest a pre-Norman foundation. There is evidence of its existence in records of Taxation of Norwich from 1291. There has been extensive rebuilding in 1876 in which some medieval fabric was reused. In 1947 a tower collapse was repaired however it is believed that no fabric of the nave was used for this. The churchyard still is consecrated ground, and it is therefore possible that groundworks encounter human remains.

#### 4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief excavation) will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

The objective of the watching brief will be:

• to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.

• to provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

#### 4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (2011-2014) and currently in the process of review.

This mitigation has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following published research aims:

• The watching brief has the potential to expose the remains of the medieval church, and can therefore be of value to the Cadw-funded Welsh Historic Churches dataset.

Broader themes are also to be addressed as follows:

• Groundworks located within the churchyard can potentially lead to the excavation of human bodies. Their subsequent analysis may enhance our understanding of diet, paleopathologies and origin of the bodies buried within the limits of the church.

#### 5. Timetable of works

#### 5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. Archaeology Wales will update CPAT-DC and DAA with the exact date.

#### 5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Mr Mike Garner, to CPAT-DC and DAA within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

#### 6. Fieldwork

#### 6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2014).

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works. This will include, but not be limited to:

- Any works that alter the fabric of the church. A rapid photographic survey will be carried out if earlier phases of the church are reveal during the work.
- All groundworks for services associated with conversion. An MoJ licence will be issued if human burials are encountered during groundworks.
- Any other ground work.

If groundworks are carried out using a mechanical excavator, the latter will be equipped with a flat ditching bucket.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between Mr Mike Garner, CPAT-DC and DAA and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to each such area and for a team of up to two further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, Mr Mike Garner and CPAT-DC and DAA.

#### 6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be 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.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

#### 6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

#### 6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2011).

#### 6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with CPAT-DC, DAA, Mr Mike Garner and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

#### 6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non- cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

#### 6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

#### 7. Monitoring

CPAT-DC and DAA will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT-DC and DAA for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of CPAT-DC and DAA will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until CPAT-DC and DAA have had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. CPAT-DC and DAA will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

#### 8. Post-fieldwork programme

#### 8.1. Archive assessment

#### 8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIFA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives'*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

#### 8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.

- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

#### 8.2. Reports and archive deposition

#### 8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation (watching brief), together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Mr Mike Garner and CPAT-DC, and DAC upon completion.

#### 8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

#### 8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

#### 8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

#### 8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT-DC, and DAC.

#### 8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

#### 9. Staff

The project will be managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by James Weaver (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of CPAT-DC, DAA and Mr Mike Garner.

#### **Additional Considerations**

#### 10. Health and Safety

#### 10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

#### 10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

#### **11. Community Engagement and Outreach**

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

#### 12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

#### 13. Quality Control

#### 13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

#### 13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

#### 14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

#### 15. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

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