

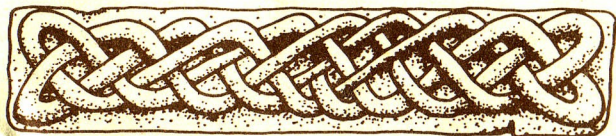
## CLODDIO YM MANGOR

Bangor Fawr yn Arfon yw un o'r canolfannau Cristnogol cynharaf yng Nghymru. Yma, yn ol traddodiad, y daeth Deiniol Sant rywdro yn y chweched ganrif a sefydlu mynachlog. Ac yma y codwyd ffens blethedig i nodi'r ffin rhwng tir cysegredig y fynachlog a'r byd mawr oddi allan, - y fangor a roddodd i'r fangre ei henw.

Nid oes dim gweladwy o'r cyfnod bore hwn yn sefyll heddiw, ond mae'n ddiogel casglu fod yna olion lawr o'r golwg o dan yr wyneb yn rhannau hynaf y ddinas, - rhwng y Gadeirlan a Chloc y Dref, yn yr union fan lle mae gwaith datblygu ac ailadeiladu ar fin dechrau.

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd wrthi'n awr yn cloddio yn y llecyn yma ac yn canolbwyntio'i sylw ar y darn tir rhwng Stryd Waterloo a Than-y-fynwent a adwaenir wrth yr enw Berllan Bach. Yn y fan yma gynt yr oedd safle Capel Gorfyw, - un o gapeli'r Eglwys Gadeiriol.

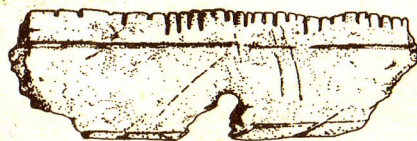
Eisoes daethpwyd o hyd i nifer o feddau. Rhai syml iawn ydynt, dim ond tyllau yn y clai heb gerrig bedd nac unrhyw eiddo wedi ei gladdu gyda'r cyrff. Mae eu symrlwydd yn nodweddiadol o fynwentydd Cristnogol cynnar, ond fe gafwyd hyd i ddarn bychan o grib wedi ei wneud o asgwrn a pheth gwaith carreg. Wrth inni ddal i gloddio fe ddaw ychwaneg o olion i'r golwg-gobeithio - a fydd yn ein galluogi i ddweud llawer rhagor am hanes cynnar Cristnogaeth yn yr ardal ac am stori cychwyn Bangor.



## THE GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and has charitable status. It was founded in 1974 in response to the recognition by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Welsh Office of the need for a full-time organisation to provide a service for rescue archaeology in Gwynedd. The pattern was subsequently extended to cover the whole of Wales with the establishment of Archaeological Trusts in Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed and Glamorgan-Gwent.

Finance for approved projects is provided by Welsh Office, but the Trust depends a great deal on support (in cash and in kind) from other bodies, institutions and private individuals. All donations or offers of help will be gratefully received and acknowledged.



Fragment of a bone comb 1:1

The Trust is grateful to the Bangor Market Company for defraying the costs of printing this leaflet.

# BANGOR EXCAVATIONS 1984



BANGOR is among the oldest Christian settlements in Britain, but there is little remaining above ground to show that this is so. However, it is quite certain that much lies buried beneath the present buildings in the older parts of the city. The work of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in advance of the re-development of part of the city centre just to the east of the Cathedral is revealing hitherto unglimped aspects of Bangor's past which would otherwise have been destroyed without any record being made.

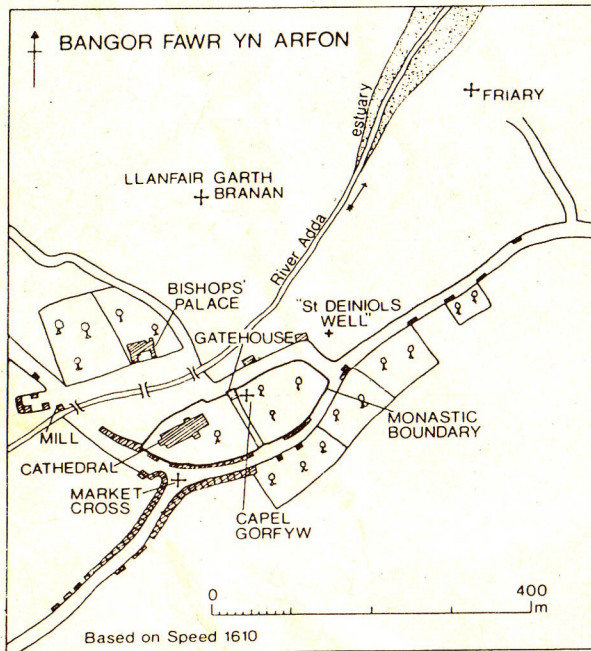
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd Cyf  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Ltd

Office/Swyddfa: Ffordd y Coleg, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG. Tel/Ffôn: 352535



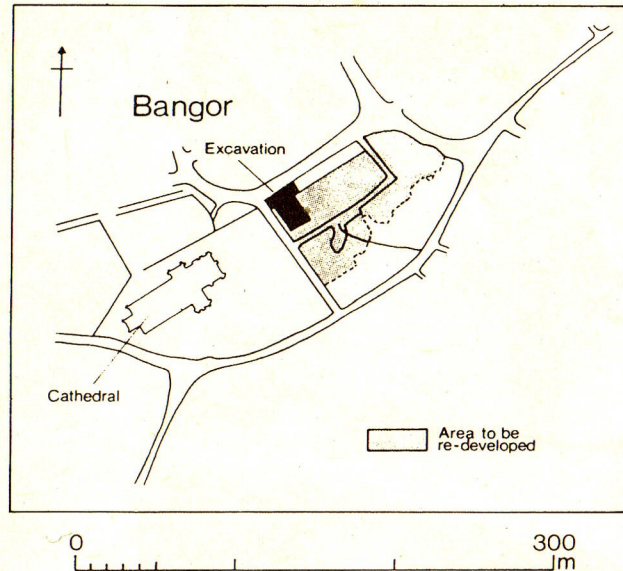
## BANGOR

The monastery at Bangor was founded, according to tradition, by St. Deiniol who died in 584 A.D. The Welsh Annals record him as 'Daniel of the Bangors' - so there was more than one. The word 'bangor' may be taken to signify the wattle fence separating the sacred precincts of the monastery from the secular world beyond. The area of this enclosure can perhaps be discerned in the curving line of High Street, rounding the corner by the Town Clock and returning along Tan-y-Fynwent.



John Speed's map of 1610 shows the tapering sandy estuary of the river Adda, with the Cathedral and little town on the south bank and the bishop's palace to the north. There is no trace of the Friary near the shore, but its name is preserved in Friars School.

The dig in Bangor is being supervised by members of the Trust's staff funded by CADW and manpower is provided by an MSC scheme under the auspices of NACRO. The dig is a rescue project, in advance of re-development in the near future and this will entail the destruction of all the archaeological remains in the area involved.

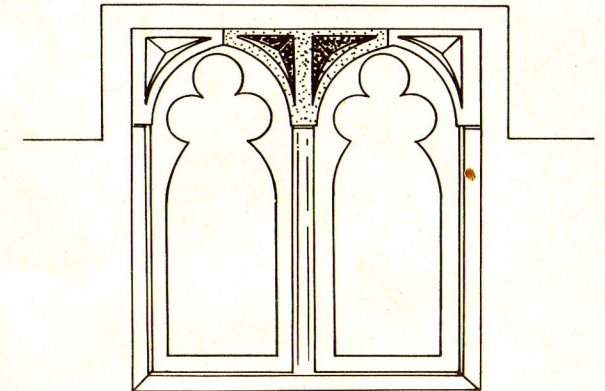


### RESULTS SO FAR

Bad weather has considerably hampered progress but a number of graves have been discovered. They are very simple affairs, being just pits dug into the underlying clay with no gravestones or objects buried with the bodies. Graves of this kind are typical of the modest, even sparse, customs of Early Christian communities. Other features uncovered but not yet examined in detail include one or two stone foundations, pits and gulleys. As one might expect from a Christian cemetery, there are few finds but part of a little bone comb is noteworthy.

## CAPEL GORFYW

The area under excavation has been chosen with care: it had to be, because the Trust does not have the resources to investigate the whole of the area to be re-developed. The area bounded by the lower half of Waterloo Steet and Tan-y-Fynwent was a garden until recently - 'Berllan Bach', the little orchard, in fact. But documentary evidence shows that it was formerly the site of a chapel called Capel Gorfyw, which was a chantry of the cathedral.



The chapel was used as a barn after the Reformation and was eventually demolished in 1815. Pieces of the tracery from its windows are built into the roadside wall at the bottom of Waterloo St. They are upside-down, but the drawing above shows where they would have fitted in the window.

With luck the excavations may uncover part of Capel Gorfyw and the dig as a whole may enable more to be said about the appearance and date of the ancient monastery of Bangor Fawr yn Arfon.