

MONKTON PRIORY CHURCHYARD, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2011



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MONKTON PRIORY CHURCHYARD, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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**MONKTON PRIORY CHURCHYARD, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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MONKTON PRIORY CHURCHYARD, PEMROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A series of investigative test pits were excavated within the grounds of the churchyard around Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451). The test pits were required to investigate the root system of two mature trees to ascertain if they were the cause of ongoing structural damage to the adjacent churchyard wall.

Monkton Priory Church forms part of a former Benedictine Priory established in the late 11th century, with possible earlier origins. The churchyard is likely to form part of the Priory grounds, and also lies adjacent to the medieval Monkton Old Hall and close to an area of known medieval settlement. The excavation of the test pits had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed by the excavations, a requirement for an archaeologist to be present to oversee the groundworks was placed on the work by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor. The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any such remains exposed could be identified and the test pits would then be relocated to avoid any damage to such remains. Dave Barratt of Barratt Associates commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the test pits on the 14th July 2011.

The investigation pits demonstrated that tree root activity from the two mature trees in the corner of the churchyard did indeed reach the churchyard boundary wall. The roots were confirmed as having a damaging effect on the structure of the walls.

The test pit investigations also revealed the remains of a possible original cemetery soil, cut by one possible, undated grave. This material was contained by an earlier clay-bonded boundary wall following the same line as the current boundary wall. One fragment of 16th – 18th century pottery was recovered pressed into the clay bonding of this wall. A significant proportion of these possible cemetery deposits appear to have been truncated within the area investigated, close to the current boundary walls. The upper c.1m of ground deposits appeared to consist of mixed disturbed ground containing elements of building material, disturbed burials in the form of disarticulated bone, waste animal bone and mixed pottery and glass fragments from a wide date range. The finds include floor and roof tiles dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries, including a possible rare example of a Breton import. The pottery fragments also include an unusual Breton import, but are all dateable to between the 17th to early 20th centuries. The bulk of the material appears to be 19th to early 20th century in date. The base of this deposit coincided with the base of the current boundary wall, suggesting the area was levelled prior to the construction of the current upper part of the boundary wall. The internal ground levels were also subsequently raised, using the disturbed cemetery and demolition material. The date range for the later pottery and glassware suggests this work may coincide with a period of major restoration at Monkton Priory Church in 1882 – 87.

Any further groundbreaking activity within the churchyard is likely to disturb archaeological features and deposits. Although the upper 1m to 1.25m appears to represent late 19th century or later disturbed ground it still clearly has the potential to contain earlier objects and disturbed human remains. Undisturbed cemetery deposits become apparent at depths of c.1m in places, but this could be closer to the current ground levels further away from (inside of) the boundary walls.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 The excavation of a series of test pits were required within the grounds of the churchyard around Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451). The works were required to investigate the root system of two mature trees to ascertain if they were the cause of ongoing structural damage to the nearby churchyard wall.
- 1.1.2 As the works were being undertaken within Monkton Priory churchyard, there was considered to be the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed by the excavation of the test pits. It is likely that burials could be exposed, in the form of either inhumations or merely in the form of disarticulated human bone recovered from the topsoil. The potential for structural remains associated with former buildings within the Priory precinct was also identified. Therefore there was a requirement for an archaeologist to be present during the excavations to identify any such remains, at which point the test pits could be relocated to avoid any damage to such remains.
- 1.1.3 Dave Barratt of Barratt Associates commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to undertake the archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site.

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 The project objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:
 - To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits and thereby allowing the repositioning of any investigation pits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
 - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 A single site visit was made on the 14th July 2011 to observe all the groundworks.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Written Scheme of Investigation - WSI

¹ *Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.*

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period –	1536 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

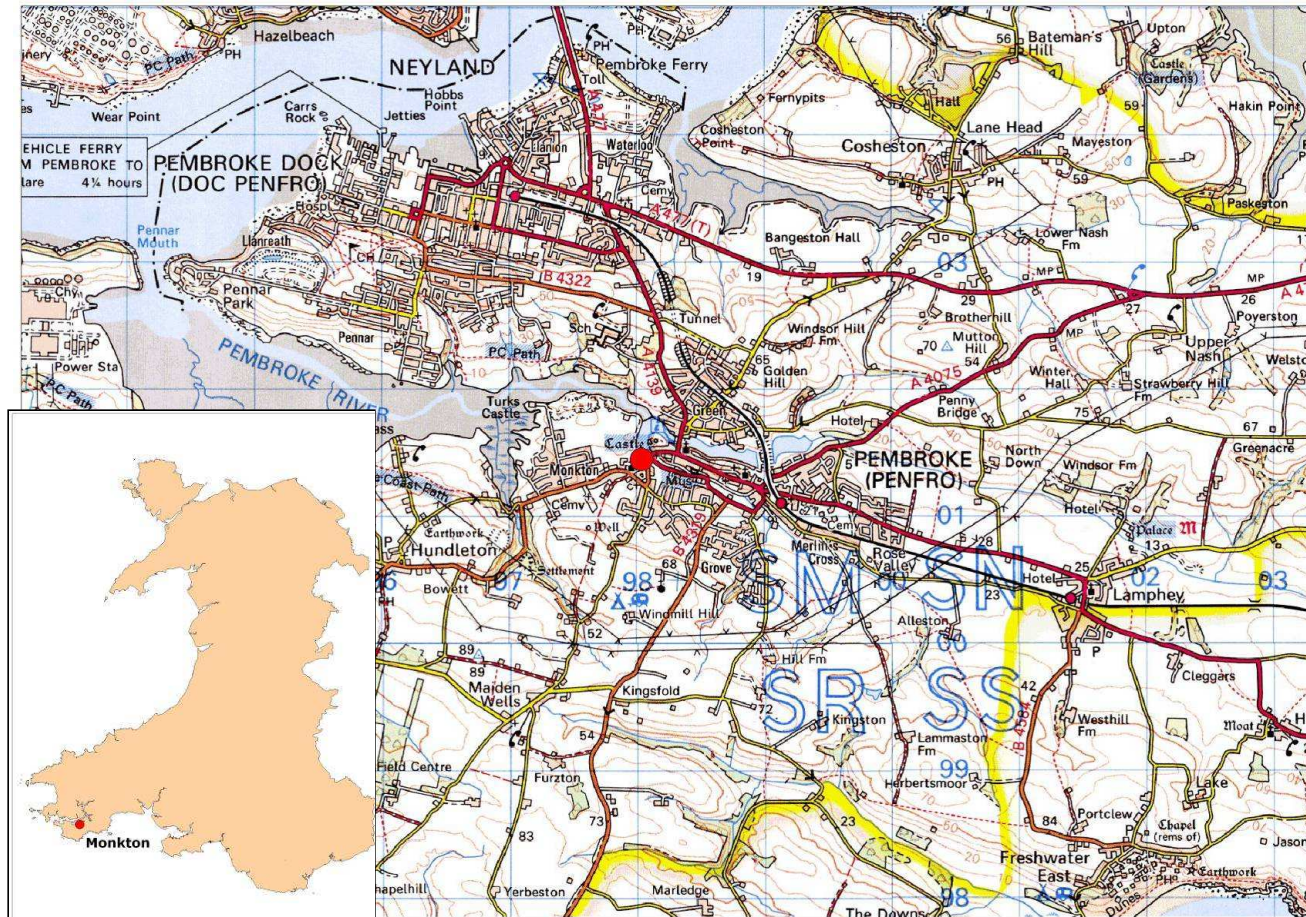


Figure 1: Location map of watching brief site from the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The area under investigation lies in the eastern corner of the churchyard around the south and east of Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451; Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.1.2 The church and churchyard lie on the northern edge of the village of Monkton which itself lies facing the town of Pembroke and in particular the prominent and impressive Pembroke Castle. Monkton and Pembroke are separated by a small valley through which runs Common Lake stream and Monkton Pill, both of which feed Pembroke river that runs around the north side of Pembroke.
- 2.1.3 The churchyard, formerly a graveyard, but now used only for cremation burials, is grass covered, occupying a level terrace bounded by mortared stone walls (photos 1 – 3). The ground drops away to the east, falling 3m to 3.5m onto another terrace occupied by Monkton Old Hall and its gardens. Beyond this the ground continues to drop into the valley occupied by Monkton Pill and Common Lake. Mature trees line the southeastern edge of the churchyard up to the corner being investigated, where two trees have grown in close proximity to the boundary walls (photo 4).
- 2.1.4 Monkton Priory Church (photo 1) is a grade I listed building (ref. 6330), the surrounding churchyard walls and gateways are also grade II listed (ref. 6331). The church within its churchyard setting also forms part of the essential setting of the grade II* listed gardens of Monkton Old Hall and Vicarage (ref. PGW (DY) 40 (PEM)). The site also lies within the Conservation Area of Pembroke.

2.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.2.1 Monkton Priory Church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, is a large multicelled church that was restored in the late 19th century, but still incorporates much pre 19th century fabric, some of which dates back to the 12th century. It was established as the church of a Benedictine Priory founded by Arnulf de Montgomery, Lord of Pembroke in 1098, soon after the establishment of Pembroke Castle itself. There is some suggestion that activity on the site may predate this foundation, possible as a llys or an associated ecclesiastical site during the Early Medieval period. Little is known about the pre-Norman history of Pembroke, but it has been assumed the town was a centre of some importance by the time of the Norman incursions into west Wales, due in part to the fact that the invading forces under Roger de Montgomery headed straight for Pembroke, which then became his headquarters.
- 2.2.2 The main Priory buildings were probably arranged to the north and west of the church, but the Priory grounds are likely to encompass the current churchyard. Its association with Pembroke ensured the Priory was an important centre and it became a parish church and also the favoured residence for the 14th century Bishops of St David's.
- 2.2.3 A small settlement also formed around the Priory gates during the medieval period, although the focus of settlement was likely to be within the walled town of Pembroke itself. By the later medieval period a general economic downturn, coupled with a shifting of power from Pembroke to Haverfordwest, meant settlement in this area declined and many of the houses and cottages within Monkton may have been abandoned. Speed's map of Pembroke in c.1610 shows no settlement in Monkton at that time.
- 2.2.4 Monkton Old Hall, a fine stone-built medieval building lying just beyond the eastern edge of the churchyard, is believed to date from the 14th century. Possibly built as a guest house or hospitium for the Priory.
- 2.2.5 The Priory was dissolved in 1535 or 1539 and subsequently acquired by the Vaughans of Whitland and later the Devereux Earls of Essex who held the Priory for over two centuries. The church remained a parish church with the Priory buildings, including Monkton Old Hall, leased out to minor gentry families.
- 2.2.6 By the 18th century Monkton Old Hall had become a farmhouse, although it still retained a walled paddock and dovecote. It was restored at various stages by private owners throughout the 19th century, before being left to the village in 1897 during which time it began to deteriorate again. Miss Muriel Thompson bought it again as a private residence in 1933. It passed to the Landmark Trust in 1978 who have carried out a major programme of restoration on the site, including the demolition of a small Victorian wing on the northwest side of the house.
- 2.2.7 The Priory church was restored in 1882 – 87. During the 20th century the graveyard went out of use, gravestones were removed and the levelling occurred across parts of the churchyard.

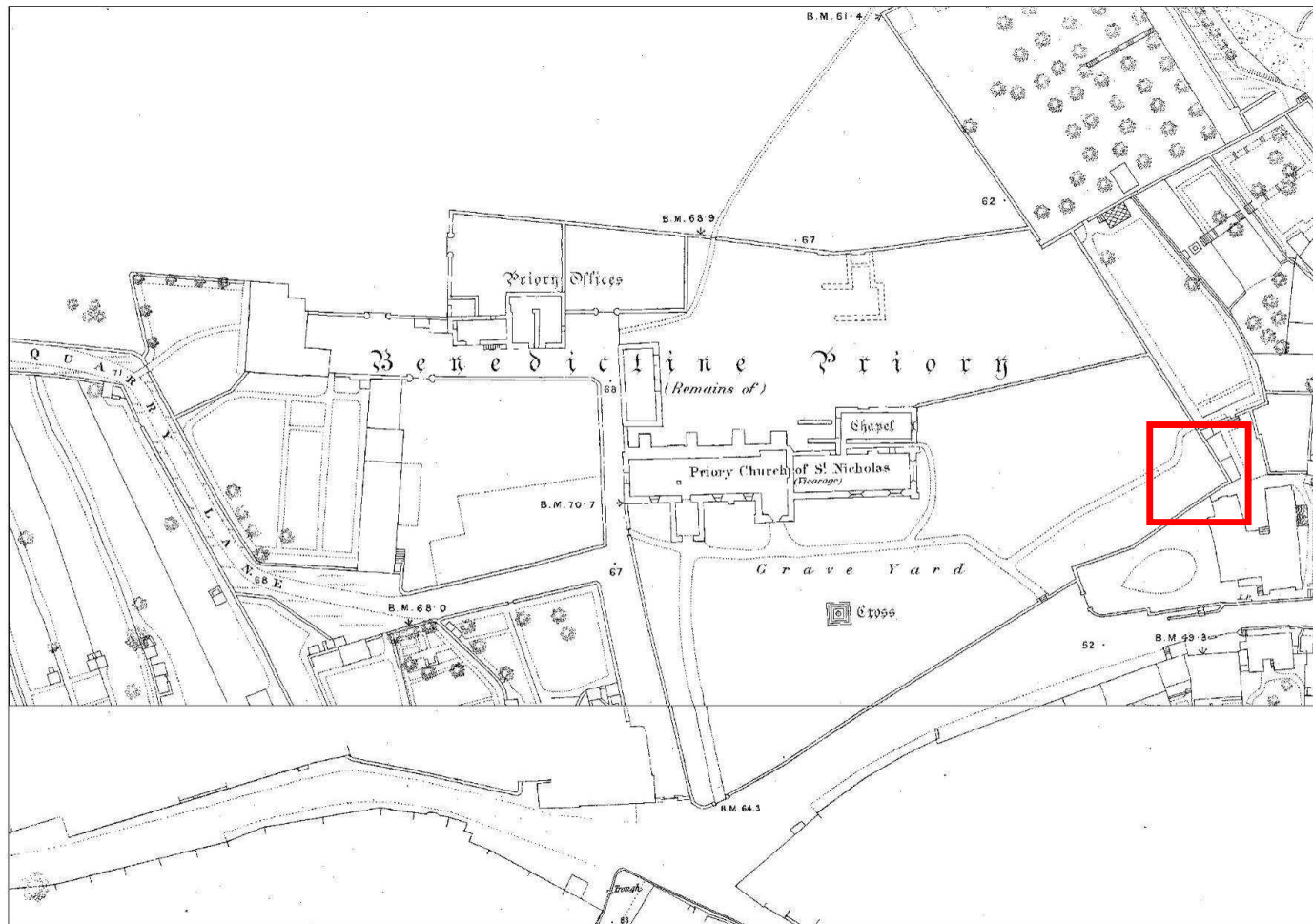


Figure 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Pembroke, 1861. Area investigated in red.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The detailed methodology for the watching brief was laid out within the WSI. The relevant methodology can be summarised as follows:
- A 'watching brief' was undertaken at the commencement of groundworks at the site that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
 - All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
 - Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.
- 3.1.2 The proposed works involved the excavation of a number of small investigation pits around the base of the two mature trees that stood in the corner of the churchyard. The purpose of these was to examine the root system of the trees and determine if they were the cause for the pressure on the surrounding walls. Augering was also proposed to gauge ground deposits.
- 3.1.3 In total three shallow investigation pits were excavated around the bases of the trees, 0.9m wide, between 2.6m and 3m long and at most 0.4m deep. Two further deep investigation pits were excavated to establish the structure of the surrounding boundary walls, one measuring 0.5m by 2.5m and 1.5m deep against the inner face of the boundary wall to the south, and a second pit 0.5m by 1.5m and 1.25m deep against the inner face of the boundary wall to the east. No auger was required.
- 3.1.4 Excavation was undertaken using a mini-digger with toothless grading bucket. All groundworks were observed and monitored by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed
- 3.1.5 The archaeological watching brief consisted of one visit during the groundworks on the 15th July 2011.

² Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

3.2 Results

Root investigation (photos 7 – 9)

- 3.2.1 All three shallow pits amongst the tree roots revealed the same sequence of deposits (photos 7 – 9). An upper topsoil of mid grey-brown clayey-silt, 0.25m deep, was removed. Below this was a mixed stony deposit of loose grey sandy-silt that contained a variety of mixed pottery remains and disarticulated bone. The bone was difficult to identify but may include human bone, these were returned to the deposit from which they came. The pottery appears to be a mixture of 19th and 20th century pottery, with some possible earlier fragments from the 17th to early 19th centuries.

South boundary wall investigation (photos 10 – 15)

- 3.2.2 The investigation pit against the southern boundary wall revealed several distinctive phases. The pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m when limestone bedrock (layer 100) became apparent. Overlying the bedrock was a deposit of mid orange-brown clayey-silt (layer 101) that contained a few inclusions of medium sub-angular stone. Otherwise the layer appeared to contain no finds or other noticeable inclusions, although the restrictions of the narrow trench and uneven sides made it hard to be certain (photos 14 & 15). This deposit, which was at most c.0.50m thick, was contained by what appeared to be a low clay-bonded wall (wall 102) that protruded 0.3m out beyond the line of the visible boundary wall above into the excavated area (photo 13). The wall was constructed of large sub-angular random rubble bonded in a reddish-brown silty-clay. The revealed area of the wall was c.0.45m high with a relatively flat top, it was not possible within the confines of the investigation pit to define if it had a construction cut through layer 101. A single piece of glazed pottery was pressed into the top of the clay between the stones, identified as North-Devon gravel-free ware, dated to between the 16th and 18th centuries (see Appendix 2: Pottery Report). The location of this find means it is possible that it may be from a later deposit and was pressed into the clay. Both wall 102 and layer 101 occur at the same level, overlaid by layer 106 (see below).
- 3.2.3 Revealed in the western side of the investigation pit was a U-shaped feature (cut 103), 0.25m deep and cut into deposit 101, stopping just above bedrock (photo 15). The cut contained a single fill (fill 104) of mid grey-brown clayey-silt that contained abundant medium to large angular stones and the occasional limpet shell. This feature was not identified during the excavation of the investigation pit, therefore it is not certain if the fill contained any specific finds, none were visible in the revealed section. The cut does not appear within the eastern section of the investigation pit, indicating the feature terminates within the confines of the investigation area. The profile of the cut and its fill gives little clue as to its function, but its location suggests this may be the remains of a grave cut, although clearly the investigation pit has only clipped what would be the head end of the possible grave. No articulated bone was recovered from the trench, and although some fragments of skull were recovered these were clearly from later disturbed upper deposits (106). The depth of the cut, if it is the remains of a grave cut, indicates a large amount of the grave deposits have been removed by later levelling activity.
- 3.2.4 The low wall 102 is topped by the current boundary wall (105). This sits directly on top of 102 and is built of uncoursed sub-angular random rubble bonded in a lime mortar with inclusions of coal fragments (photos 11 &

12). This wall has a vertical inner face 1.97m high (with the upper c.1m above current ground levels). The wall is 0.4m wide at its top, and then drops 3.4m on its outer face down to level on which Monkton Old Hall is built. The wall therefore appears to have both been built on top of wall 102 but also faces the southern side of this wall and also the outer face of a natural or terraced ledge c.1m deep in the underlying bedrock. The inner face of the wall above current ground level has been repointed in recent years.

- 3.2.5 Overlying layer 101 and wall 102 was a thick mixed deposit of loose dark-grey sandy-silt (layer 106) containing large amounts of medium to large sub-angular stone, the occasional fragment of broken lime mortar and a mixed assemblage of pottery, glass and bone (photos 13 & 14). The finds represent a wide date range, from the 13th to early 20th century (see Appendix 2: Pottery Report). The earliest finds comprises roof and floor tiles, dateable to between the 13th and 15th centuries. This includes an usual fragment of imported roof tile, possibly originating from Brittany. The lack of comparable examples makes it difficult to date, but may be early post-medieval. The pottery assemblage includes a wide spread of material that has been dated to the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. This assemblage also included one relatively unusual fragment of imported pottery, also probably from Brittany, that may be later medieval or early post-medieval in date. The latest pottery would appear to be later 19th century or early 20th century. The glassware has not been closely dated but on initial examination appears to be mainly 19th century in date. The bone is a mixture of disarticulated human bone, including skull, vertebrae, leg, hip and arm fragments, but also includes a small range of mixed animal bone. The base of this deposit is defined by a noticeable deposit of shells, consisting mostly of limpets with some oyster and cockles. This layer has clearly been deposited after the construction of wall 105, the shells occur against the wall extending out c.1.2m before they begin to fade away and the deposit generally becomes siltier and less stony beyond this point, with occasional inclusions of charcoal or coal fragments visible. Such shells are commonly used locally as a footpath surface.
- 3.2.6 Layer 106 is topped by a topsoil (layer 107) 0.6m thick, which contained a mix of later post-medieval and modern pottery fragments and the occasional small piece of disarticulated human bone and animal bone (photo 13).
- 3.2.7 All layers (101, 106 & 107) showed a gradual slope down to the north.

East boundary wall investigation (photos 16 – 19)

- 3.2.8 The investigation pit excavated against the inner face of the churchyard boundary wall to the east revealed a similar sequence of deposits. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.25m, but bedrock was not reached.
- 3.2.9 Part of a clay-bonded wall (wall 108) was revealed at the base of the investigation, underlying the current boundary wall (wall 109) (photo 18). As with wall 102 this consisted of large sub-angular rubble stone bonded in a silty-clay, although small fragments of lime mortar were visible amongst the stones of the upper 0.1m. It is not clear if the mortar represents the remains of some form of mortar bonding for this wall, or fragments of mortar deriving from the overlying wall (109). A total of 0.35m of the inner face of wall 108 was revealed, the base of the wall was

not reached. The wall projected 0.15m beyond the vertical inner face of the current boundary wall, but unlike wall 102 this inner face sloped down directly from the inner face of the later wall rather than protruding out and then sloping down as was apparent in wall 102.

- 3.2.10 The current boundary wall (wall 109) is built in the same style as, and is clearly a continuation of wall 105 (photos 16 & 17). It is 2.1m high above wall 108, with 1.2m visible above the current ground level. It is 0.4m wide at the top, and then drops 2.9m on its outer face on to the level occupied by Monkton Old Hall.
- 3.2.11 The lowest deposit revealed within this investigation pit was a deposit of mid grey-brown loose sandy-silt, (layer 110) containing large amounts of stone, mixed pottery and glass fragments and the occasional disarticulated human bone and mixed animal bone (photo 19). This deposit appears consistent with layer 106 recorded to the south. It was at least 0.75m thick, but its full depth was not reached within the investigation trench. The pottery also includes a range of dates from the 16th century to the late 19th or early 20th century (see Appendix 2: Pottery Report). Larger quantities of animal bone were apparent in this deposit, some of which had clearly been butchered.
- 3.2.12 Layer 110 was overlaid by a typical topsoil deposit (layer 111) again with a mixed range of pottery and a rare occurrence of disarticulated human and animal bone (photo 19).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The investigation pits demonstrated that tree root activity from the two mature trees in the corner of the churchyard did indeed reach the churchyard boundary wall, and appeared to be having a detrimental impact on the structure of the walls.
- 4.1.2 The deeper investigation pits adjacent to the walls appear to demonstrate a period of activity, possibly in the late 19th century, when this area of the churchyard was levelled, the current boundary walls constructed, and the ground level inside the churchyard was built up. This is represented mainly by deposits 106 and 110, the similarity between the two deposits suggesting they represent the same layer. The deposits appear to contain a mix of building debris and disturbed ground, indicated by both the disarticulated human bone and wide range of pottery finds. The base of these layers occurs at the same level as the base of the internal face of the current boundary wall, and underlying deposits appear to have been truncated. This suggests the area was cleared down a certain level and then the boundary wall was constructed to raise the height of the churchyard boundary, but also to face the outer edge of the bedrock ledge. Deposits 106 and 110 then appear to have been spread inside the walls to raise the ground level. The disarticulated bone within this deposit suggests it is made up partly of disturbed cemetery ground, possibly from the clearance down to the level at the base of the wall, as it seems this may have cut into grave deposits.
- 4.1.3 The mix of pottery finds within deposits 106 and 110 also suggest it incorporated disturbed ground from former Priory buildings. The finds include a wide range of domestic material (ceramic, glass, butchered bone) from several centuries. The inclusion of stone, mortar, floor tiles and roofing material also suggests some of the deposit comes from building or demolition work nearby.
- 4.1.4 No grave deposits were recorded within layers 106 and 110, which suggests the churchyard was no longer used as a cemetery once the upper part of the boundary wall had been established. The latest pottery within these layers appears to be later 19th or early 20th century in date. This suggests a likely time for this levelling and rebuilding work to have taken place, which may also be consistent with the main period of restoration of Monkton Priory Church in 1882 – 87.
- 4.1.5 Underlying the current boundary wall were the low remains of what appears to be an earlier boundary wall. Both wall remains (wall 102 and 108) were built in a similar style suggesting they are both sections of the same wall. They also both directly underlie the current boundary wall indicating they follow the same line as the current boundary. The evidence from within the test pits suggests that the earlier boundary wall and internal ground levels were higher, but these were then reduced to allow construction of the new upper part of the walls and subsequently the space behind them was then backfilled and the ground raised. If the new wall was built at a period consistent with the main period of restoration work at the church in 1882 - 87 than the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1861 (figure 2) clearly shows the earlier boundary wall. It is possible that the rebuilding of the boundary wall may have occurred due to its poor state of repair and possible structural issues.
- 4.1.6 The reddish-brown earth (101) recorded below layer 106 appears to represent possible undisturbed subsoils, due to the lack of obvious finds from this deposit. This may be the original cemetery soils, as feature 103 may represent the base of a grave cut into this deposit. There is no

indication within feature 103 that it does represent a grave other than its location within the churchyard, but if it is a grave then clearly a great deal of the upper levels of grave deposits close to the boundary wall have been previously disturbed.

- 4.1.7 Any further groundbreaking activity within the churchyard is likely to disturb archaeological features and deposits. Although the upper 1m to 1.25m appears to represent late 19th century or later disturbed ground it still clearly has the potential to contain earlier objects and disturbed human remains. The material that was used to backfill this area contained a mix of cemetery deposits and also possible demolition material associated with former structures within the Priory precinct. The pottery report clearly highlights the unusual and important range of pottery and tile fragments within this disturbed ground. Undisturbed cemetery deposits become apparent at depths of c.1m in places, and this could be closer to the current ground levels further away from (inside of) the boundary walls.

5. SOURCES

5.1 Maps

Ordnance Survey 1861 1;500 Pembroke
Ordnance Survey 1908 1;2500 2nd edition Pembrokeshire XL.9
Speed, J c.1610 Pembrokeshire

5.2 Published

Cadw/ICOMOS 2002 'Monkton Old Hall and Vicarage, Pembroke'
Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales: Carmarthenshire,
Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire

5.3 Unpublished

Ludlow, N 2001 Archive for Cadw funded Churches Project, Dyfed
Archaeological Trust

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Monkton Priory Church, from the south

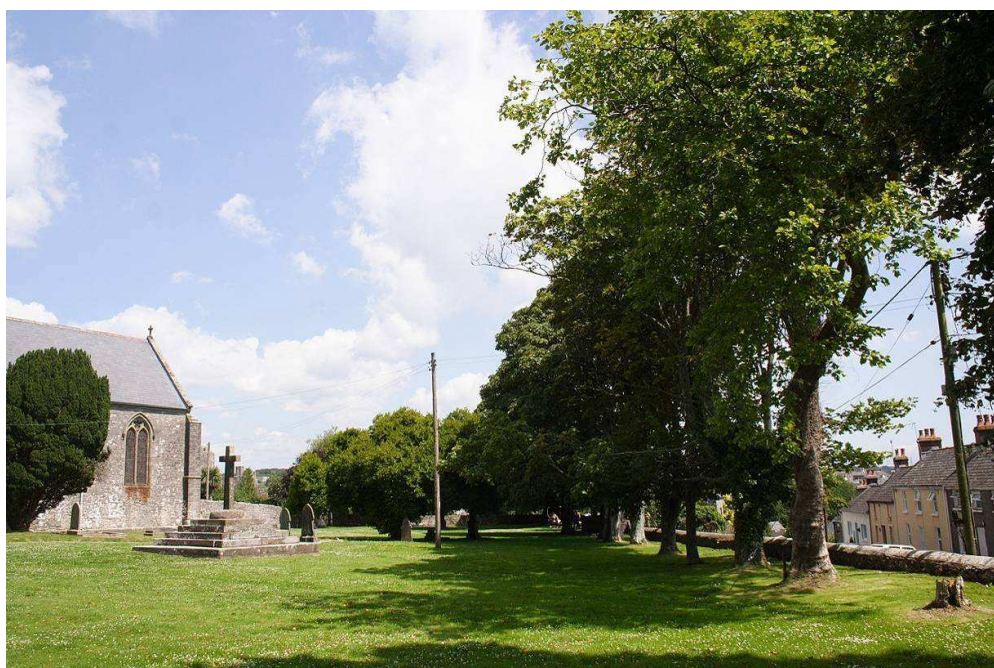


Photo 2: Looking along the mature trees that line the southern edge of the churchyard



Photo 3: View from the church tower onto the churchyard with Pembroke Castle and town in the background



Photo 4: Excavation of the investigation pits around the base of the two mature trees thought to be causing disturbance to the churchyard boundary wall



Photo 5: View along the southern boundary wall, showing the bowing in the wall structure and temporary shoring.



Photo 6: View along the eastern boundary wall showing similar bowing and shoring.



Photo 7: View looking south at one of the investigation pits examining the extent of root action around the trees



Photo 8: View looking east at two of the investigation pits examining the extent of the root action, 1m scales



Photo 9: Typical section of investigation pits examining spread of tree roots, 1m & 0.5m scale



Photo 10: Looking south at the investigation pit excavated against the southern boundary wall, 1m scales



Photo 11: Inner face of southern boundary wall, 1m scales



Photo 12: Wall 102 protruding out from the base of wall 105, 0.5m scale



Photo 13: West facing section of the investigation pit against the southern boundary wall, showing layers 106 and 107, 0.5m scales



Photo 14: West facing section showing layer 101 at the base, overlaid by layers 106 and 107. The shells visible on the base of the pit all originally came from the bottom of layer 106.



Photo 15: East facing section of the investigation pit against the southern boundary wall attempting to show cut 103 at the base of the section, marked by an area of darker stonier soil (104) within the reddish-brown layer 101, 0.5m scales.

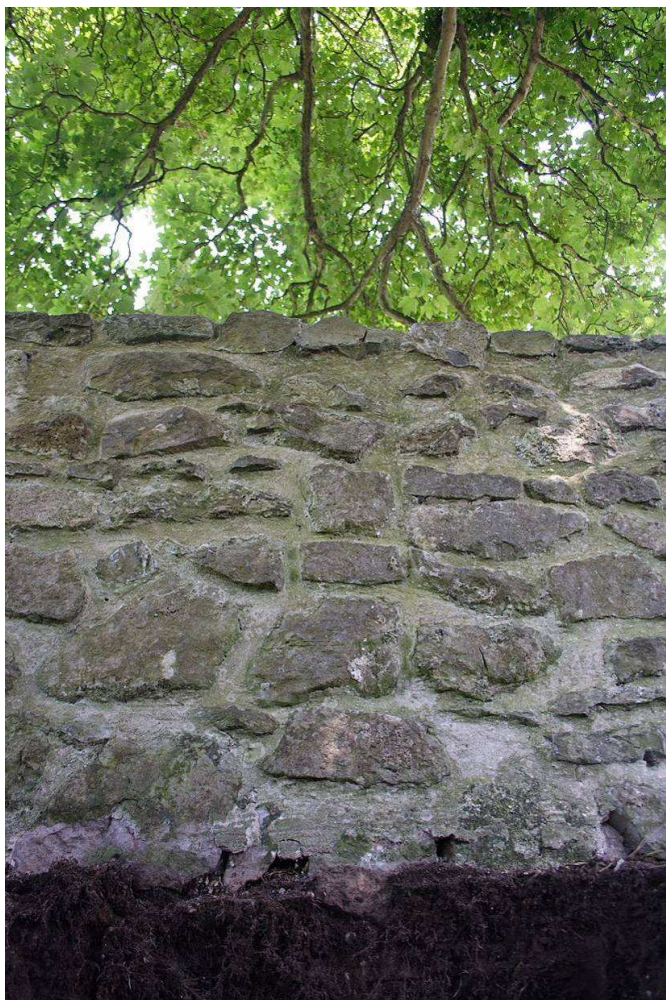


Photo 16: Inner face of the eastern boundary wall

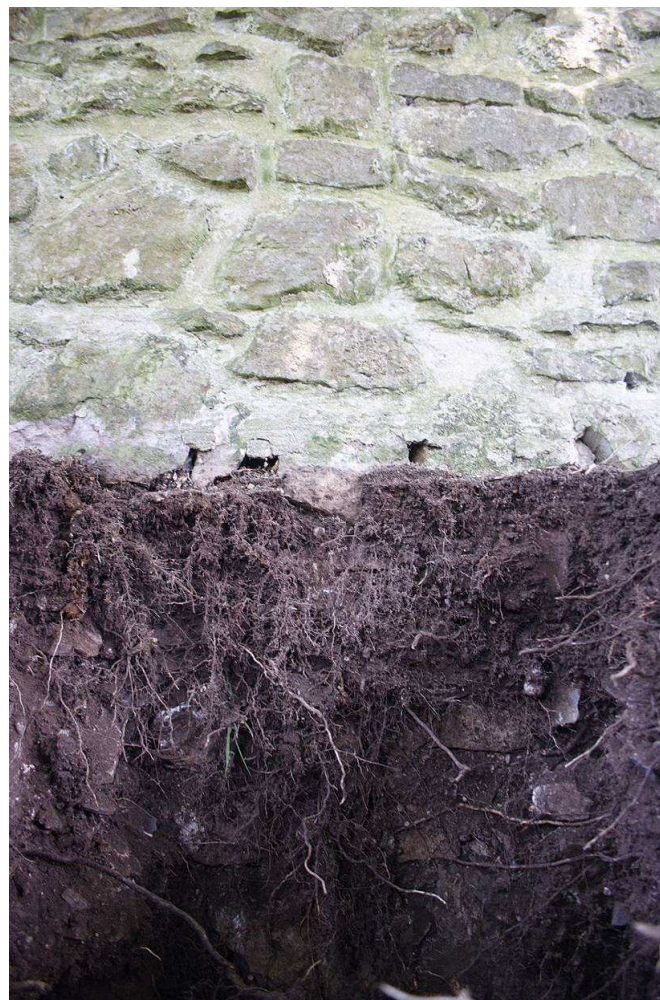


Photo 17: Inner face of eastern boundary wall below current ground level, as revealed in the investigation pit



Photo 18: Inner face of wall 108, earlier wall 109 is visible just below vertical scale. 1m & 0.5m scales



Photo 19: North facing of investigation pit against eastern boundary wall, showing layers 110 and 111. 1m scale

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT AND SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Number	Description	Depth (Dimensions)
Layer 100	Bedrock Limestone	1.55m
Layer 101	Subsoil Friable, mid orange-brown, clayey-silt containing occasional small to medium sub-angular stone. No apparent finds. Pre-19 th century cemetery deposit?	1.04m (0.50m thick)
Wall 102	Wall Linear, north-south. Large sub-angular random rubble bonded in a reddish-brown silty-clay. Earlier boundary wall	1.04m (0.45m high)
Cut 103	Cut. Steep, slightly concave sides, moderate break of slope at base, flat base. Contains a single fill. Grave?	1m (0.4m wide, 0.25m deep)
Fill 104	Fill of 103 Friable, mid grey-brown clayey-silt, containing abundant medium to large angular stone and the occasional limpet shell. No apparent finds Grave fill?	1m (0.4m wide, 0.25m deep)
Wall 105	Boundary wall Linear, north-south. Built of uncoursed large sub-angular random rubble bonded in lime mortar with coal inclusions. Vertical inner face, slightly battered outer face. 19 th century boundary wall.	0.4m wide at top, 1.97m high on inner face, 3.4m high on outer
Layer 106	Levelling layer Loose, dark grey, sandy-silt containing abundant medium sub-angular stone, occasional lime mortar fragments, abundant mixed shell deposits. Finds include ?medieval and post-medieval pottery, post medieval glass, disarticulated human bone, animal bone, clay pipe stem. 19 th century levelling layer	0.6m (0.44m thick)

Topsoil 107	Topsoil Friable, mid brown, clayey-silt, contains moderate small – medium sub-angular stone, occasional mortar fragments. Finds include later post-medieval pottery and glassware, disarticulated human bone, animal bone. Ground level	Ground level (0.6m thick)
Wall 108	Wall Linear, east – west Large sub-angular random rubble bonded in a reddish-brown silty-clay, mortar fragments visible amongst upper 0.1m Earlier boundary wall	0.9m (0.35m high, protrudes 0.15m)
Wall 109	Wall As wall 105	0.4m wide at top, 2.1m high inner face, 2.9m high outer.
Layer 110	Levelling layer Loose, mid grey-brown, sandy-silt containing abundant medium to large sub-angular stone. Finds include ?medieval & post-medieval pottery fragments, post-medieval glassware, disarticulated human bone, animal bone, clay pipe bowl. 19 th century levelling layer	0.5m deep (0.75m thick)
Topsoil 111	Topsoil, as topsoil 107	

Table 2: Context and soil descriptions

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY REPORT

Monkton Priory Pottery 2

Paul Courtney August 2011 revised

Discussion

The pot and tile mostly came from 110/106 (55 sherds) except for two further sherds from wall 102. The ceramic material was examined using a x 20 Binocular microscope. All of the dateable pottery from 110/106 as opposed to tiles was of post-medieval (16th-18th century) date and included pottery (CPMD) that can be no earlier than c.1675. None was of local manufacture reflecting the lack of ceramics manufacture in the region after the 16th century. The most unusual find was an unglazed base (MIRW), probably of late medieval or early post-medieval, whose geological inclusions suggest a Breton origin. A Breton pot of medieval date has been previously excavated in Chepstow (Bray *et al*, 2004; S. Clarke, pers. comm). It is perhaps surprising so little Breton pottery has been identified given the strong trading relations between Wales and France in the 15th-16th centuries (Lewis 1927, xviii-xxii). The two sherds from wall 102 were North Devon Gravel Free ware of 16th-18th century date.

The floor tile fragments appear to have been used in floors, presumably in the priory, and were clearly residual. The likely source of both the slip decorated and plain tiles is south Gwent or other adjacent ORS (Old Red Sandstone) areas with access to the Severn. Amongst the roof tiles was a single unglazed flat roofing tile. Its fabric and cut-away form are both unusual and a Western French (?Breton) origin is suggested.

Fabrics: Pot

CMRW Coal Measures Red Wares (Coarse Blackwares)

Orange to red firing clays, sometimes reduced or semi-vitrified, with lead glazes ranging from brown to black. White granular inclusions and white clay streaks are common and the latter suggests mixing of clays. The main forms are bowls and large storage jars. 17th-18th century. Potential sources include Buckley (NE Wales), Lancashire, Staffordshire and Bristol. A ridge jar looks distinctly like other Buckley products.

CPMD Coal Measure Press-moulded Dishes

These comprise press moulded dishes in a buff Coal Measure clay fabric with crimped rims and decorated by trailed or combed red slip. Potential sources as CMRW, c.1675-c.1780 (though some production nationally into 19th century).

LGRE Lead Glazed Red Earthenware

Internally lead glazed bowls and jars in a red firing fabric with few visible inclusions. Probably 17th -18th in date. The source is likely to be Glamorgan and/or Somerset whose wares are petrologically similar.

MIRW Micaceous Unglazed Redware (Probably Breton)

A base of a bowl or jar in a crudely wheel-thrown red fabric with buff external surface. Inclusions include quartz sand, mica (probably biotite) flakes and numerous micaceous rock fragments (?quartzite and schist) up to 5mm; though thin section or chemical analysis would be required for firmer identification and provenancing. However, the inclusions strongly suggest a Breton source for this pot. See Bray *et al* (2004) for the Chepstow Breton jar and Pope and Batt (2008) for post-medieval Breton coarse wares exported to Canada.

NDGT North Devon Gravel Tempered

Coarsewares in red to grey gravel-tempered fabrics with green to brown glazes. The fabric is tempered with coarse gravel (angular quartz with some biotite) produced in Barnstaple and Bideford in North Devon. One dish rim had a yellow-green glaze over a white slip. The main period of export around the Severn estuary seems to have been from the late-16th century to 18th centuries. However, some vessels may have been exported to Wales as late as the 19th century.

NDGF North Devon Gravel Free

Similar to NDGT (see below) but without the coarse inclusions and generally used for jars. It has been found in Dissolution contexts at Haverfordwest Priory. 16th-18th century.

TILES

MIFT Micaceous Flat Roof Tile (Probably Brittany)

A single fragment of an unglazed flat roof tile was found in a buff fabric with partly reddened upper surface, 19mm in thickness. Inclusions include very abundant fine sand, red iron mineral and mica (probably biotite) flakes. The tile has a peg hole, almost certainly one of a pair. The surviving top right corner has been cut away. The lower edge has been formed to give a semicircular 'cut-out'. This tile appears unparalleled and the date is uncertain though perhaps early post-medieval. It is unclear if it was intended to fit around a chimney or more likely present a decorative effect in rows. The fabric is suggestive of a western French origin, probably Brittany, where many local potteries formerly produced flat roof tiles though these have been largely replaced by slate roofs (Bardel and Dalibard 2010, 23)

SDFT Slip Decorated Floor Tiles

Two fragments of probably 13th-14th century slip impressed tiles were recovered, in red-firing fabrics with some rounded quartz, fine mica and occasional micaceous sandstone inclusions. Possibly from ORS (Old Red Sandstone) of Gwent/Herefordshire area. Insufficient remains to classify the pattern but these may belong to Lewis's (1997) Group 11 with a probable South Gwent source and Wessex school patterns.

a) Pale red fabric with shallow slip decoration and bevelled side, very worn. 21 mm thickness.

b) Dark red fabric with straight side and attached mortar. 23-4mm thickness. Probably 13th-14th century.

BRRT Bristol Redcliffe Ridge Tile

A single fragment of patchily green glazed ?ridge tile in a pale pink to light grey firing Bristol Redcliffe (Coal Measures) fabric. Late 13th-15th century. The thickness and uneven surface suggests it is a ridge tile. 17mm in thickness.

DSTT Dyfed Siltstone Tempered Tile

A single fragment of ?ridge tile in a Dyfed siltstone gravel tempered fabric. Inclusions up to 3mm with a worn plain green glaze. The one surviving edge is straight and no sanding is evident on the underside. A local or regional product. 13th - 15th century. 18mm in thickness.

MPFT Micaceous Plain Floor Tiles

One complete and two additional fragments of plain floor tiles in a brick-red firing fabric. One had a green glaze and another had a yellow glaze over a white slip while the third had lost its glaze. These had bevelled sides, were 26-29mm thickness and about 115-8mm square with sanded undersides. Inclusions are small amounts of rounded quartz and very fine mica. Like the above plain tiles they are likely to be 14th-15th century reflecting the fashion for chequer board tiles probably influenced by the import of large numbers of Dutch tiles. The source is uncertain but probably not local, and ORS of possibly Gwent/Herefordshire

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Fig. 1. Probable Breton (MIRW) pot



Fig.2 ?Breton shaped roof tile (MIFT)

CATALOGUE

Context wall 102

FABRIC	SHERD Nos	Wt g	Form	Decoration
NDGF	2	5	?jar	Internally glazed, odd quartz grain.

Context 106/110

FABRIC	SHERD Nos	Wt g	Form	Decoration
CMRW	9	523	Bowl & 2 jars	Black glazed
CPMD	4	47	Press moulded dishes	Crimped rim, trailed or feathered slip
LGRE	16	805	Jars/bowls	Internally glazed
MIRW	1	253	Bowl base	Unglazed
NDGT	12	357	Bowls; ?rim ; jug handle (unglazed); dish rim with yellow glaze over white slip	Internally glazed
NDGT	1	123	Crock rim	Applied thumbled collar, int. glaze
NDGF	3	70	Jars; Jug handle (unglazed)	Int green glaze
NDGF	1	196	Dish	Int brown glaze

TILES

BRRT	1	50	Ridge Tile	Green glazed
MIFT	1	607	Flat roof tile, 17mm thickness	Unglazed, but shaped
DSTT	1	90	Plain ?Ridge Tile, 18mm thickness	Worn but patchy green glaze, straight edge

FLOOR TILES

MPFT	1	708	Plain floor tile, complete, 118x115x28mm.	Worn dark green glaze. Bevelled edges, sanded underside, traces of mortar
MPFT	1	340	Plain floor tile, one side 118 x?29mm.	Yellow glaze on white slip, bevelled edge, sanded, traces of mortar.

MPFT	1	182	Plain floor tile, 26mm thickness	No surviving glaze, bevelled, sanded base, attached mortar
SDFT	1	65	Slip impressed tile, 23-24mm thickness	Dark green glaze, Deeply impressed white slip, straight side, attached mortar
SDFT	1	64	Slip impressed tile, 21mm thickness	Brown glaze, , bevelled side, shallow white slip

MONKTON PRIORY CHURCHYARD, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2011/36

**Gorffennaf 2011
July 2011**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

Philip Poucher

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature



..... Dyddiad / Date 24/8/11

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report

