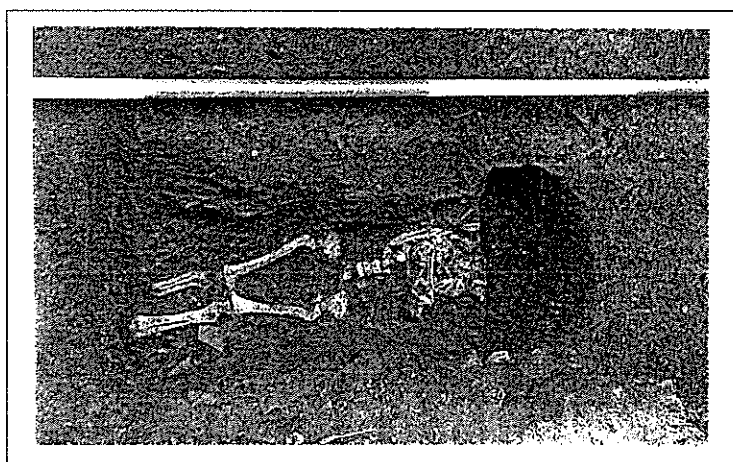


ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

ST CRISTIOLUS' CHURCHYARD, EGLWYSWRW

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 1996

Project Record No. 32087
November 1998



Report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council
by Neil Ludlow

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology
Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
SA19 6AF
Tel: (01558) 823121/823131
Fax: (01558) 823133

ST CRISTIOLUS' CHURCHYARD, EGLWYSRW

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF, APRIL - SEPTEMBER 1996

Project Record No. 32087

November 1998

Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary	5
1.2 Development proposals and commission	5
1.3 Content and scope of the watching brief	6

2.0 ST CRISTIOLUS' CHURCHYARD

2.1 Location	9
2.2 Site history	10
The early medieval period	10
The later medieval period	12
Later history	13
2.3 Site description	13

3.0 THE EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 Post-medieval activity	17
The recent marked graves	17
The recent unmarked graves	20
The western bank	21
Rectilinear features 3 and 4	22
Made ground 6	23
Southern boundary wall 2	23
The post-medieval graves	24

3.2 The inhumation cemetery	26
Gravel surface 10	26
The inhumations	27
3.3 Earlier features	36
Ring-ditch 60	36
Other features	38

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 General discussion	39
4.2 The Eglwyswrrw cemetery	42
4.3 Church and yard	43

5.0 CONCLUSION	45
-----------------------	-----------

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery and tile (by D F M Brennan)	47
6.2 The plaster, iron and glass (by D F M Brennan & N D Ludlow)	47
6.3 The bronze object (by J Webster)	48
6.4 The catalogue	49

7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION	53
-------------------------------	-----------

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	54
-----------------------------	-----------

9.0 REFERENCES	55
-----------------------	-----------

10.0 APPENDICES

Appendix I: Gazetteer and distribution of cist cemetery sites in Dyfed
 (from James, 1987)

Appendix 2: St Cristiolus Church, Eglwyswrrw
 (From Cadw, Welsh Historic Churches Survey, 1995-8;
 report by N D Ludlow, *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*)

FIGURES

Fig. 1. Eglwyswrw - location maps	9
Fig. 2. Early medieval and ecclesiastical sites in NE Pembrokeshire	11
Fig. 3. Eglwyswrw churchyard, showing areas affected by the scheme	14
Fig. 4. Plan and elevations of St Cristiolus Church in 1883	15
Fig. 5. Plan of St Cristiolus Church after the restoration of 1883	15
Fig. 6. Composite site plan	<i>between pp 16 & 17</i>
Fig. 7. South and east sections of marked grave A	18
Fig. 8. South and west sections of new grave C	19
Fig. 9. North and east sections of communal grave	20
Fig. 10. North section of unmarked grave F	21
Fig. 11. North section of Tree-pit 9 showing bank material	22
Fig. 12. Section (facing east) showing southern boundary construction trench 2	24
Fig. 13. Section of post-medieval grave 9	25
Fig. 14. Plans of cist grave 33 before and after removal of lintel slabs	28
Fig. 15. Plans of cist grave 44 before and after removal of lintel slabs	29
Fig. 16. Plan of cist group at west end of site before and after excavation, and dug grave 10	29
Fig. 17. Plan and section of cist 53 and overlying deposits, before and after excavation	30
Fig. 18. Plan of cist 47 and pit 13, before and after excavation	30
Fig. 19. Plan of cist 34 undercut by rectilinear feature 3	30
Fig. 20. Plan of soilmark of dug grave 30	32
Fig. 21. Section of dug grave 16 (facing north)	32
Fig. 22. Dug grave 17: plan of burial	33
Fig. 23. Dug grave 23: plan of burial	33
Fig. 24. Section of dug grave 25 (facing north)	34
Fig. 25. Plan and section (facing north) of dug grave 28, cist grave 42, and overlying deposits	34
Fig. 26. Plan and sections of ring ditch 60	36
Fig. 27. Distribution of cist cemetery sites in Dyfed	39

PLATES

Plate 1. North section of rectilinear feature 3	22
Plate 2. Gravel surface 10 from the east	26
Plate 3. Cists 36 and 40 during excavation, from the south-west	29
Plate 4. Dug grave 23 from south	33
Plate 5. Ring ditch 60 from the east	37

TABLES

Table 1. Summary of cist graves	31
Table 2. Summary of dug graves	35

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary

The archaeological excavation and watching brief at St Cristiolus' churchyard, Eglwyswrw, was occasioned by the proposal, by the Transportation and Technical Services Department of the then Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council (succeeded by Pembrokeshire County Council), to widen the adjacent B4332 by cutting back 4m of the churchyard along its southern boundary and to rebuild the churchyard wall.

The archaeological work established that the affected part of the churchyard was the site of a medieval cemetery that had certainly established between the late 12th century and the 16th - 18th centuries. Of the forty-three inhumations observed in the small area available for study, twenty-five were stone-lined 'long cist' burials, representing a burial type with origins in the pre-Conquest period, while eighteen were simple dug graves, one of which exhibited coffin staining. The extent of the medieval cemetery/churchyard was not determined, but the alignment of the burials suggested that a boundary of some nature existed more-or-less along the same line as the later southern churchyard boundary. The medieval church and yard may occupy the site of a bronze age barrow cemetery, one arc of a possible round barrow quarry-ditch for a round barrow having been observed, while the church itself may stand on the site of a second barrow. All the medieval and earlier features were sealed by a metalled area which was cut by two post-16th - 18th century dug graves. An extensive spread of made ground was deposited over the southern edge of the yard in the mid 19th century. The made ground was cut by two rectilinear features, one of which may relate to the 19th century robbing of a tomb or structure, by three marked burials dating from 1880 to 1964 and by three unmarked (and undated) graves.

The archaeological work was funded through Welsh Office Highways contingency, and represented a successful example of partnership between all parties, in addition to demonstrating the enormous archaeological potential lying beneath the yards of active Welsh rural churches.

1.2 Development proposals and commission

The southern boundary of St Cristiolus' churchyard is skirted by a public road, the B4332, up to its junction with the main Fishguard to Cardigan A487(T). The junction has given rise to road-traffic safety fears for some time, particularly in view of the fact that a primary school is located opposite the church, south of the B4332.

Accordingly, the Transportation and Technical Services Department of the then Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council (succeeded by Pembrokeshire County Council) proposed to widen the road by cutting back 4m of the churchyard along this boundary to road level, and to rebuild the churchyard wall.

A Faculty (95/AO/D806) was applied for, and granted March 10 1995 by the Chancellor of the Diocese, after consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee; the Faculty contained an archaeological clause. Cadw were consulted by the Highways Department for Listed Building consent, and advice on the materials to be used in the new churchyard wall. The scheme was both promoted and funded by the Welsh Office, an involvement furthered through Welsh Office Highways.

Three marked graves were to be moved, permitted under the same Faculty; a Home Office licence was obtained and the necessary arrangements for reburial agreed with the rector, Revd. Bertie Lewis, and the parishioners. This stage was to be subject to archaeological monitoring under the terms of the Faculty, and undertaken according to Environmental Health Department guidelines, and was itself monitored by Environmental Health Department representatives.

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology's Heritage Management Section were informed of the scheme as a whole and the appropriate archaeological response sought. Their response, of 20 February 1996, was limited initially to the undertaking of a watching brief on the works. *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology's* Field Operations Section were requested to provide costings for the archaeological work and were awarded the contract on 24 April 1996.

However, early consultation had achieved a measure of flexibility with both Pembrokeshire County Council and the contractor, S & E Ltd of Carmarthen. When it became apparent that earlier archaeology including many burials would be disturbed, the Field Operations staff were given an uninterrupted opportunity to fully excavate the area of churchyard featuring those burials and any other archaeology that would be threatened by the scheme. The work was funded through Welsh Office Highways contingency, and the entire scheme represents a successful example of partnership between all parties.

1.3 Content and scope of the project

The road widening scheme, and thus the archaeological excavation and watching brief, was undertaken in five distinct stages:

Stage I

Stage I took place prior to the commencement of works, and comprised the disinterment of three marked 19th-20th century burials and their reburial in new graves, the excavation of a communal grave to receive any unmarked burials, and the excavation of a trench, for shoring, around a 20th century marked burial which extended into the area affected by the scheme. The archaeological work comprised the undertaking of a watching brief on the works, the recording of the burials, their coffin fittings etc, and the recording of the cut sections of the graves and churchyard section (see Fig. 3).

Stage II

The existing southern churchyard boundary wall was demolished in short lengths progressively from east to west, accompanied by the mechanical excavation of a 72m long, 3.5m wide strip of the curving southern edge of the churchyard to a depth of 1.2m - the approximate level of the present road. The deposits machined off were all demonstrably 19th century "made" ground. The archaeological work comprised the undertaking of a watching brief on this work, the excavation and recording of those archaeological features encountered during the works, and the cleaning and recording of both the exposed surface and the cut section through the churchyard deposits (see Fig. 3).

Stage III

A 1m wide strip occupying the northern half of the 3.5m wide strip was further mechanically excavated, using a grading bucket, to an average depth of 0.4m, as a trench for the concrete foundation for the new boundary wall. A watching brief was maintained and, after consultation with the client, the remaining deposits were manually excavated. All archaeological deposits and features recognised within the trench, and threatened with destruction by the concrete foundation, were manually excavated and recorded. The area was archaeologically sterilised, ie. totally excavated, down to the natural soil deposits (see Fig. 3).

Stage IV

On completion of the construction of the new southern boundary wall, a strip immediately south of the wall was mechanically excavated using a grading bucket, to provide a footing for the new pavement; the strip was 1.2m - 1.6m in width and 0.2m deep. A watching brief was maintained and all exposed archaeological features were recorded but left unexcavated as they were not threatened by this essentially non-intrusive stage of the works (see Fig. 3).

Stage V

A series of nine pits were excavated within the yard, just north of the new southern boundary wall, for tree planting. Each pit measured 1m² and was 1m deep; a watching brief was undertaken during their excavation and a record made of all archaeological features exposed (see Fig. 3).

Methodologies

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during an operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons - normally a development or other construction project - within a specified area where archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The archaeological potential apparent within the Eglwyswrw project led, in addition to the watching brief and following consultation with the client, to the undertaking of a salvage excavation within the area affected by the works, the affected features being fully excavated and recorded on a single-context basis. The programme resulted in the preparation of this report and an ordered archive.

All features and structures encountered were subject to a measured survey and related to known boundaries; this was based on EDM plots kindly provided to the authors by PCC. Recording of archaeological features followed conventional standards, employing drawn records at 1:20 scale, and colour and monochrome photography. Archaeological features were given unique context numbers for ease of identification. All field drawings were related to the appropriate site datum. Text should be related to the relevant illustrations.

Samples of all medieval grave fills, and the fills of earlier features, were retained for future analysis; funding for any analysis will be a subject for future discussion between *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* and the relevant bodies. The finds were subject to analysis by qualified specialists whose reports form a part of this report.

Three copies of this report will be submitted to the client; an additional copy will be deposited with Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record (The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF) under the Dyfed Project Record No. 32087.

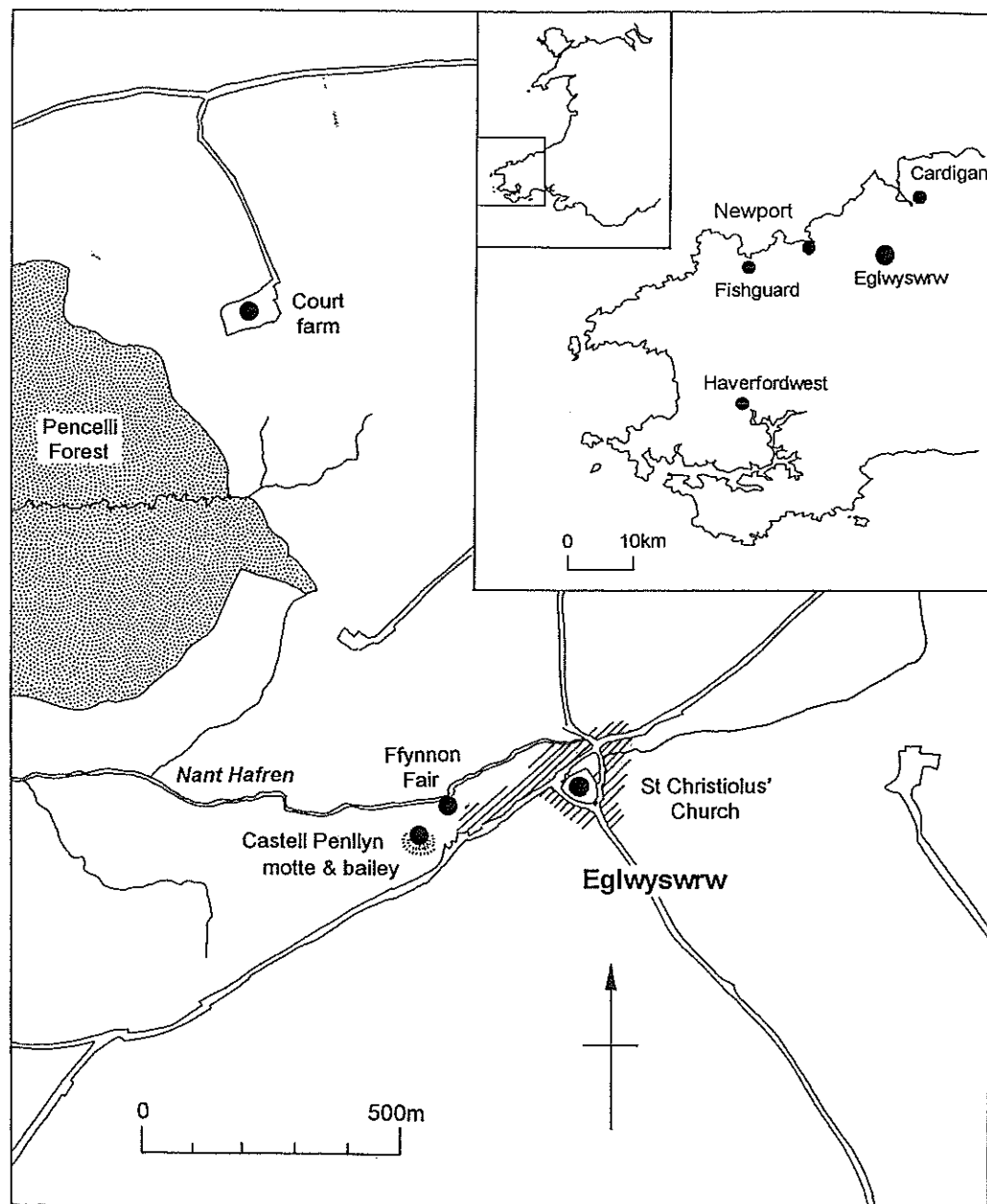
2.0 ST CRISTIOLUS' CHURCHYARD

2.1 Location

St Cristiolus' Church, Eglwysrw (Dyfed PRN 4794) lies at the centre of the village of Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire, at NGR SN 1420 3849, 7.5km south-west of the town of Cardigan. It occupies a gentle north-west facing hillslope, at 130m OD; the slope runs down to a small stream, Nant Hafren, a tributary of Afon Nyfer which flows north-west to Newport Bay (Fig. 1).

The solid geology is represented by Ordovician shales of the Ashgill Series, overlain by drift deposits of fine, orange fluvio-glacial gravels, exposed during the project, and localised boulder clays. Soils are brown podzolic soils of the Manod Mull phase (Bradley, 1976, 37).

Fig. 1 - Eglwysrw - location maps



2.2 Site history

Eglwyswrw lay within the medieval Lordship (and later hundred) of Cemais. The Anglo-Norman lordship appears to have perpetuated the boundaries of the pre-Conquest Cantref Cemais, one of the so-called 'Seven Cantrefes of Dyfed' during the early medieval period. Of greater importance to the present study is Eglwyswrw's place in the history of local ecclesiastical administration. Since the later medieval period, at least, St Cristiolus' has been the site of the parish church of Eglwyswrw, lying within the Deanery of Cemais. The parochial framework is organised upon post-Conquest lines, but may reflect earlier ecclesiastical divisions. Cemais has been a deanery of the Diocese of St Davids since the later medieval period; it appears to have likewise fallen within the early medieval Bishopric of St Davids although there is no recognisable subordinate 'bishop house' in this part of Pembrokeshire, which currently represents a gap in the distribution of the bishop houses of Dyfed (Davies, 1982, 159). St Cristiolus' Church was a possession of the nearby Tironian abbey of St Dogmaels during the medieval period, a connection which may have early origins.

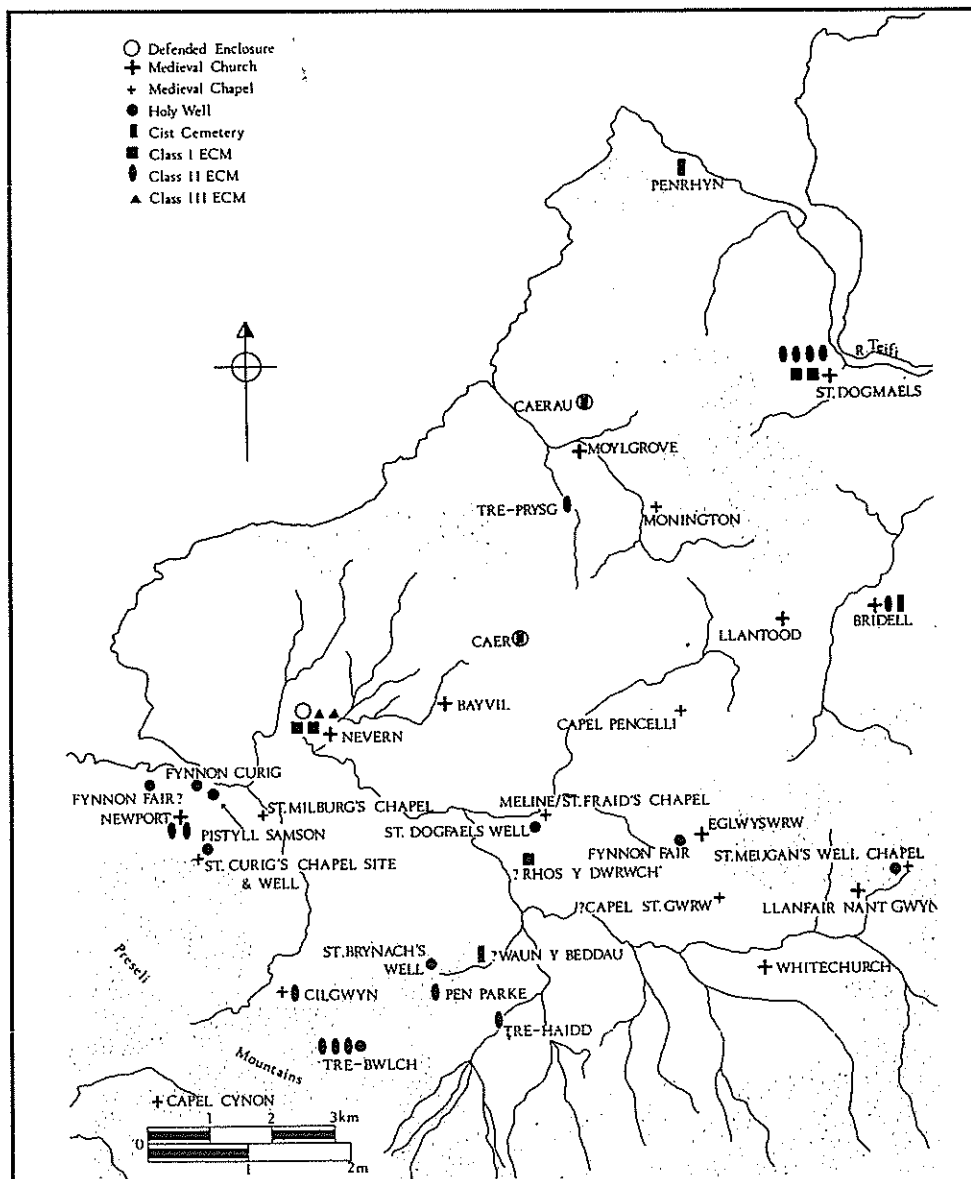
The early medieval period (AD 500 - 1093)

Eglwyswrw lies within an area rich in early medieval archaeology. In the immediate neighbourhood, the important churchyard site at Nevern, with its Group I and III Early Christian Monuments, lies 4km to the west; Group II ECMs are known from, *inter alia*, Newport, Bridell and Moylegrove. Cist burials were apparently observed near Bridell church in 1860 and 1885 (James, 1987, 73), while the place-name Waun-y-beddau south-west of Eglwyswrw may commemorate a similar cemetery. The native dedications of the numerous holy well sites in the vicinity may also suggest pre-Conquest origins; Ffynnon Fair, a well with a possible pre-Conquest dedication to St Mary, is situated just to the west of the present village (Dyfed PRN 973; Fig. 1). St Dogmaels Abbey itself, 7km to the north-east, was the site of the early medieval monastery of 'Llandudoch'. There are a number of further ecclesiastical sites in the neighbourhood (Fig. 2).

St Cristiolus' Church is traditionally regarded as occupying a pre-Conquest site. The earliest documentary reference to a church at Eglwyswrw is not until 1291, but St Cristiolus' occupies a possible circular churchyard and, by tradition, was the site of an 'Early Christian' church. The 'Cristiolus' dedication is of probable pre-Conquest provenance and occurs elsewhere in the locality - Penrhydd Church bears the same dedication while the church at Clydai has apparent Cristiolus associations (Lewis, 1972, 279). However, there is some controversy as to whether in fact this is the original dedication of the church. Both Fenton in 1810 (Fenton, 1903, 291) and Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary* (1833) give the dedication as St Eirw, and infer that the dedication gave rise to the 'Wrw' element of the village name; the settlement has been known by variations on this name throughout its recorded history (e.g. 'Clessrow' in 1291, and 'Eglosserow' in 1594), while the 16th century chalice bears the inscription 'Poculum Ecclesie de Eyrow' (Pemb. R. O., HDX/803/82). 'Erw' has been proposed as a personal name, representing a former Celtic dedication, but is absent from the published hagiographies.

However, the name does appear in a list of saint's wakes published in 1854, and purporting to derive from an unattributed early document, thus - 'The festival of Urw (Eglwys Wrw in Pembs.), Virgin, 21 October' ('Gwaethvoed', 1854, 32). As the Welsh '(g)wrwyf' means 'virgin', it may be that 'Urw the Virgin' is a secondary corruption of a former dedication to St Mary, and the (re)dedication of the holy well, noted above, to Mary may be significant. According to George Owen of Henllys, furthermore, a Chantry/charnel Chapel stood in the churchyard in the 16th century, containing the tomb of one St Eirw, within which burials never took place because 'the holy saint would not have any bedfellow with him' (Fenton, 1903, 292); whilst this cannot have literally been the case, the association clearly resulted from a long-standing local tradition, and one perpetuating the 'virgin' theme. An earlier (but post-Conquest?) dedication of the church may therefore have been to SS Mary the Virgin and Cristiolus. Similar Celtic/Latin joint dedications occur locally at, *inter alia*, Pill Priory (SS Mary the Virgin and Budoc) and Steynton parish church (SS Cewydd and Peter), both in Pembrokeshire.

Fig. 2 - Early medieval cemetery and ecclesiastical sites in NE Pembrokeshire
(from James, 1987)



Finally, a conflicting tradition exists. It has been held that 'Clesserow' - the earliest recorded rendition of the place-name - is not derived from the word *eglwys* at all, or associated with a dedication, but may have a toponomical origin in the Welsh *Clas Erw*, literally 'God's' or 'Brethren's acre' (Pembs. R. O., HDX/803/82), referring perhaps either to the existence of a burial ground, or to the relationship between the church and St Dogmaels Abbey.

The later medieval period (AD 1093 - 1485)

The lordship of Cemaes was established in the earlier 12th century during the Anglo-Norman annexation of what is now Pembrokeshire. The Manor of Eglwysrw was a demesne- or sub-lordship of the Lordship of Cemaes (Fenton, 1903, 292; Rees, 1933), reckoned as a single knight's fee (Owen, 1897, 517). Manors within the lordship were chiefly held either as 'high fees' or by 'mean tenure', and owed suit to the high court of Cemaes; Eglwysrw was, by the 16th century at least, one of four manors possessing its own court (Owen, 1897, 496). It was a 'Welshry', held under native systems of tenure and custom.

The *caput*, or centre, of the sub-lordship appears always to have been situated at or near to the present village of Eglwysrw. The earthwork remains of a motte-and-bailey castle still lie at the west end of the present-day village, known locally as Castell Penllyn (Dyfed PRN 972; Lewis, 1972, 44). There is little evidence that a civil settlement accompanied the founding of the castle, which, in fact, may have been occupied for only a short period following the establishment of the Anglo-Norman lordship, but its proximity to a possible existing church site at St Cristiolus is perhaps significant. At some point during the later medieval period the *caput* was relocated to Court (Dyfed PRN 976; Fenton, 1903, 292), a moated site established less than 1km north-west of the present village and on the fringe of the demesne forest of Pencelli.

The earliest documentary reference to a church at Eglwysrw is as the *Ecclesia de Clesserow* in the *Taxatio* of 1291, when it was an advowson of St Dogmaels Abbey valued at £4 (Lewis, 1972, 90). The actual grant of the church is not recorded, but it has been suggested that it was made by William, son of Jordan de Cantinton, a tenant lord of the lordship of Cemaes and possibly a Lord of Eglwysrw; he is said to have given his name to the hamlet of Trewrdan in the parish of Eglwysrw. He had granted 'all my lands of Fishguard on both sides of the River Gwaun' to St Dogmaels during the later 12th century (Pritchard, 1907, 51) and it has been suggested that the grant of the church of Eglwysrw may have occurred at the same time; however, as has been seen, the link may be considerably older. There were two dependent chapelries, the present church at Llanfair Nant-gwyn and a former chapel at 'Pencelli fychan' (Green, 1911, 293)

A visitation made to the Abbot of St Dogmaels, 'impropriator of Llantood, Moylegrove, Eglwysrw and Monington' in 1504 records that Dom Phillip Lloyd, Vicar of Eglwysrw, was found 'guilty of incontinence, his chancel ruinous and the windows not glazed' (Pritchard, 1907, 91). In 1517, along with many other local churches, Eglwysrw was exempt from taxation, but in 1536 was valued at £12 2s 8d annually (Green, *op. cit.*).

Later history

At the Dissolution, St Dogmaels and its appurtenances were leased to John Bradshaw of Ludlow. He paid £7 6s 8d to the king, who retained the advowson of the church and vicarage of Eglwysrw (Lewis, 1972, 91), a situation unchanged c.1600 (Owen, 1894, 298).

The present church is a post-medieval rebuild and nothing of the medieval fabric survives. Little has been published on the later history of the church, its fabric or churchyard, although parish registers were kept from 1813 - and bishops' transcripts from 1677 - recording interments (Lewis, 1972, 172). A date-stone lying loose in the church records a rebuild or restoration in 1756, and further rebuilds took place in 1829 (Lewis, 1972, 92) and again in 1883 (NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/158); the vestry was added in 1930 (NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/159).

A school was founded within the south transept of the church in 1844 (Lewis, 1972, 206). This was roofless by 1883 and demolished in that year (NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/158) and by 1889, the present stone school building south of the B4332 had been established (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Pembs Sheet VI. 11, 1889).

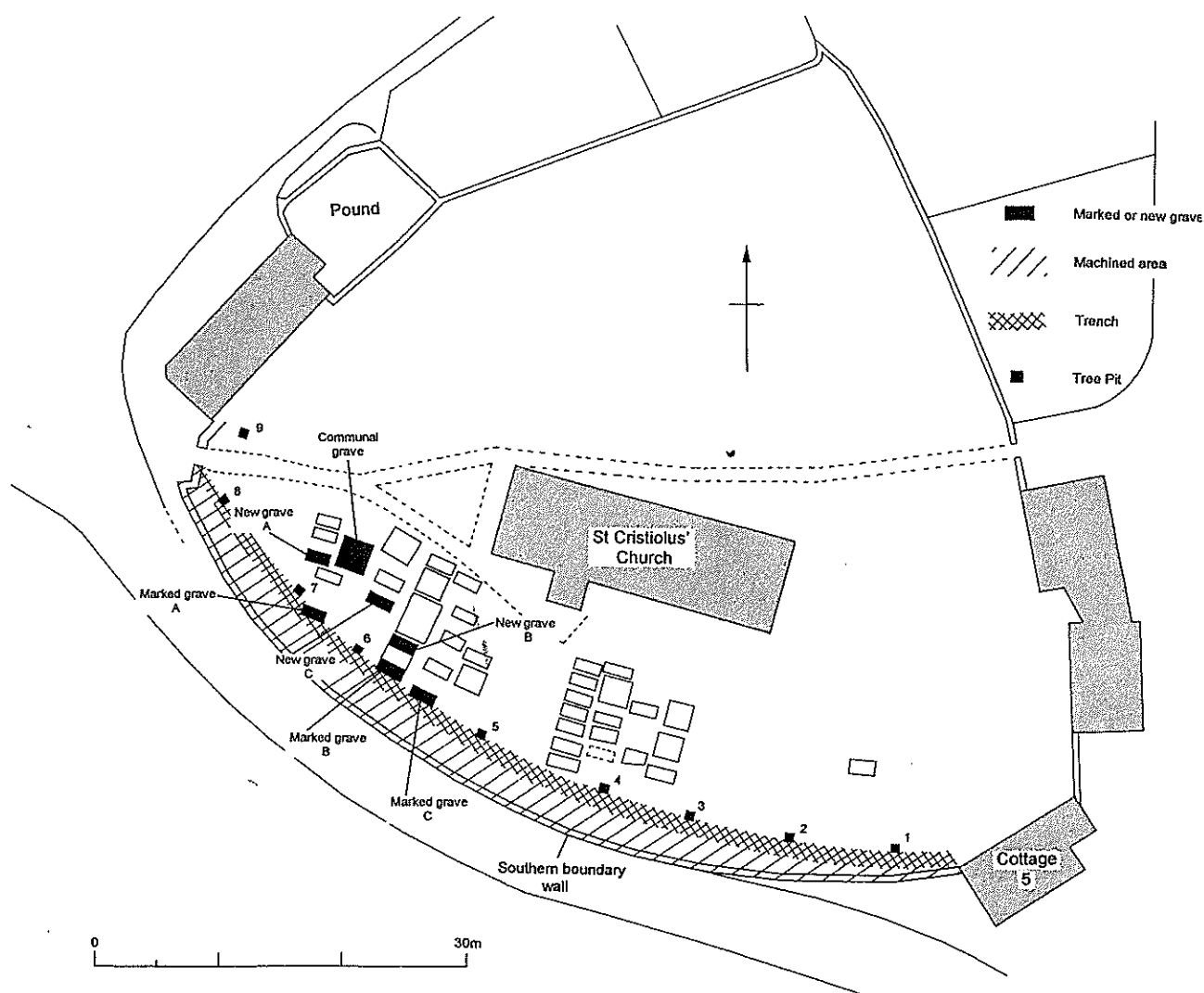
2.3 Site description

St Cristiolus' churchyard is now a fairly large sub-triangular enclosure, the base of the triangle to the west, lying on a general slight downhill slope to the north-west. The shape may partly preserve that of an earlier, circular, outline. The church is centrally located and lies at the highest point of the yard, the ground falling gently away all round, except on its eastern side. The yard is now raised above its surroundings on all sides, accentuated to the west and south by a fairly wide bank. The platform so formed is revetted by a wall of local slate manufacture, that to the south (before 1996) of good quality construction; it is apparent that many phases of construction are represented in the remainder. A pound beyond the midpoint of the western boundary, and a stone cottage at the eastern apex, still survive to varying degrees (see Fig. 3).

The church occupies the west end of a spur, the ground falling gently away to the north, south and west. It has been further proposed that the church occupies a mound, natural or otherwise, that was formerly more pronounced, the tradition continuing that the yard was secondarily covered with soil at some period (Lewis, 1972, 93). Both assertions receive some archaeological support (see Section 4.0 below).

There are now two entrances to the churchyard, the main entrance to the south-west through a pair of slate gatepost pillars, and a simple gap at the centre of the north-eastern boundary. A square earthwork north-west of the church, apparently featuring some loose masonry, may represent a medieval cross-base.

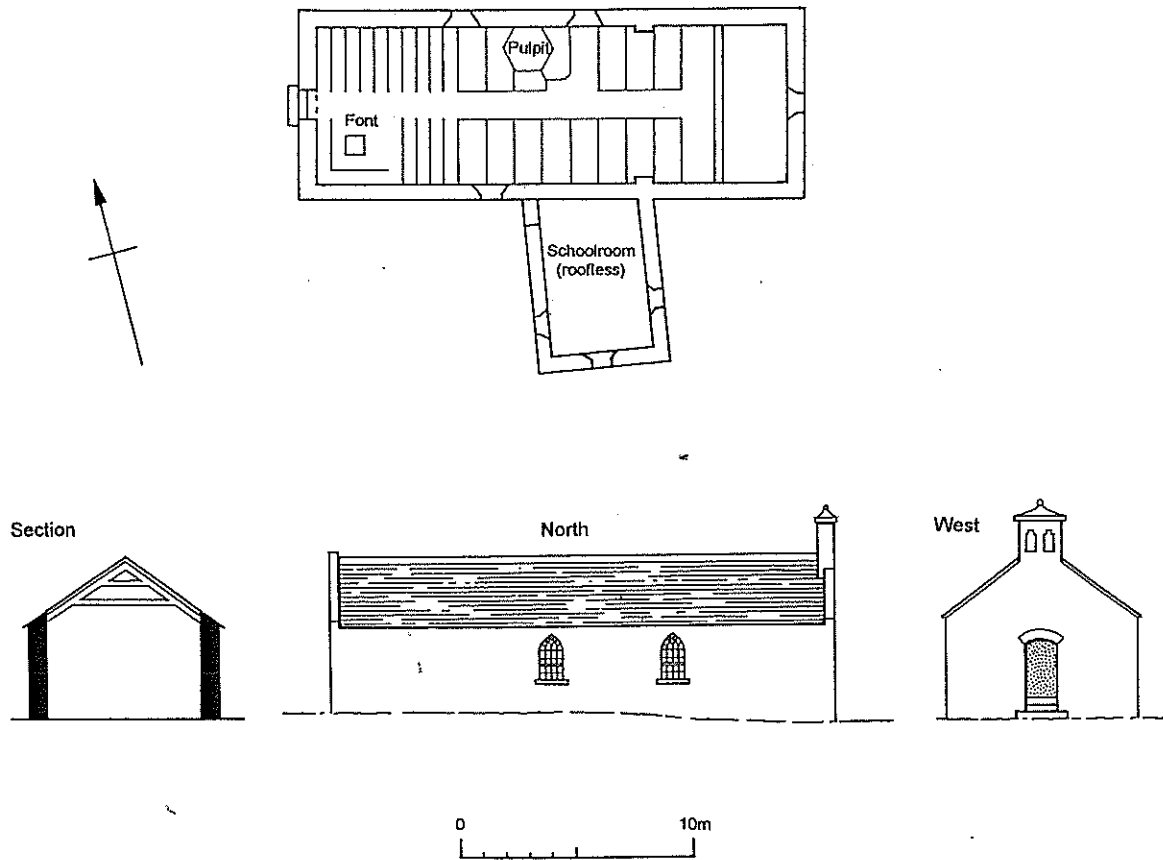
Fig. 3 - Eglwysrw churchyard, showing areas affected by the scheme



The present church comprises a nave, chancel, south porch and a western vestry. It is of local slate rubble construction, with dressings of imported oolitic limestone. It was rebuilt in 1829 and 1883 at the apparent expense of all medieval fabric. The medieval church appears to have been similar in plan, but possessed a south transept which was not finally demolished until 1883 when it yielded fragments of dressed stone of medieval date, including a mullion (RCAHM, 1925, 94). Fenton, writing c.1811, described the church as a 'low plain building, without tower or any decoration within or without' and 'like all the others in Cemaes'. He appears to be describing a medieval building (Fenton, 1903, 291).

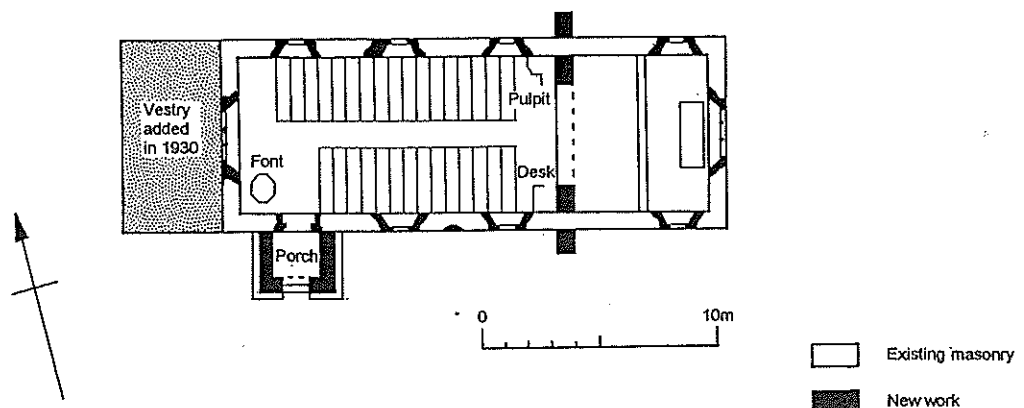
Architects' drawings of 1883 show the church as it existed after the 1829 restoration (Fig. 4) when Fenton's description appears largely to have still applied; there was no structural division between nave and chancel, the windows - few in number - were all timber sashes, the roof trusses were of the simple collar type and there was a bellcote at the west end of somewhat neo-Classical appearance (NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/158). The south transept, which had been converted into a schoolroom in 1844, was roofless and apparently derelict.

Fig. 4 - Plan and elevations of St Cristiolus' Church in 1883
(from NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/158)



The restoration of 1883, by Middleton & Son of Cheltenham, was extensive (Fig. 5). A chancel arch was introduced, new windows were inserted throughout, the south porch was built and the bellcote replaced with the present gabled oolite structure. It appears that all the facing stone now visible is from the same restoration; the dressings are fine, of neo-gothic form and are contemporary with the facework.

Fig. 5 - Plan of St Cristiolus' Church after the restoration of 1883
(from NLW, Church in Wales Records, SD/F/158)



The Tithe Map of 1838 shows that by this time at least the yard had assumed its present shape and dimensions (NLW, Eglwyswrw, Tithe Map, 1838) and that a roadway had already been established on the line of the present B4332. Also depicted are the eastern cottage/byre, and possibly the pound. Much of the present boundary wall may by now have been established but to the south the wall was apparently rebuilt in local slate during the early 20th century, and this is supported by the archaeological evidence. There is no evidence to suggest that its alignment was altered during the rebuild, but burials were apparently observed in section during the works.

The school opposite the yard on the south side of the B4332 was constructed in the later 19th century. A strongly-held local belief that the school was built in an area of what was formerly a larger yard may be as a result of confusion with the school founded in 1844 within the existing yard. Archaeological evidence suggests that the present southern boundary of the yard has a very long history of continuous use (see Section 3.2 below, and Section 4.0).

3.0 THE EXCAVATIONS AND WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological features described in sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 below are shown in the composite plan, Fig. 6. Features with individual illustrations are noted.

3.1 Post-medieval activity

The recent marked graves (Figs. 6, 7 & 8)

The area of the churchyard affected by the scheme contained three recent marked burials dating from 1880 to 1964, all in the south-western quarter of the yard. During Stage I of the project the memorials were carefully removed and stored for re-use, and the grave fills excavated by 'mini-digger'. The coffins and human remains were lifted by hand. The disinterments were archaeologically monitored and coffin fittings etc were recorded, all under conditions themselves monitored by representatives from the Environmental Health Department. The interments, with their coffin fittings, were reburied in individual new graves.

In addition, three unmarked (and in one case disturbed) graves of 19th century date were discovered. The human remains were reburied within a communal grave.

All burials cut through an area of 19th century made ground (Context 6; see below, 24) banked behind the churchyard southern boundary wall.

Marked grave A and new grave A

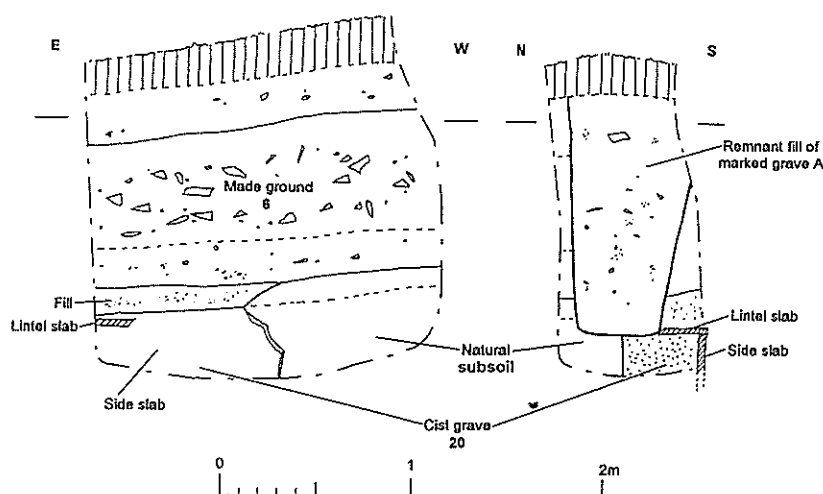
Grave A was situated 3m north of the southern boundary wall (Fig. 6). The slate headstone recorded the burials of David Owens, d.1880 aged 57, and his wife Phoebe Owens, d.1900 aged 88.

The grave fill comprised mid grey brown clay loam with a high percentage of crushed shale and some bone earth, derived apparently from the grave excavation itself. A coffin-lid was encountered at a depth of 1.4m. Of oak, the coffin was fairly well-preserved though the lid had split longitudinally and collapsed inwards against the sides of the box. The coffin floor had decayed to a timber stain. Coffin fittings were limited to six handles, four of which were in situ; they were of iron and badly corroded, but with recognisable scalloped relief decoration and moulded handles. The coffin lining was partly preserved, the interior being further lined with pitch.

The human remains were in fair condition, the skull, some vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, and all leg- and arm bones surviving. There were, unusually, two jawbones. The size of the bones suggested that they were of the husband, David Owens, d.1880, and the excavation revealed no further burials.

The grave section (Fig. 7) was 1.95m deep. It displayed made ground 6 to a depth of 1.10m. Below these, a thinnish layer of cemetery 'bone earth' lay above the buried soil, at a depth of 1.4m. The buried soil was cut by a 'cist' burial, one of the slate side slabs of which was exposed by the excavation. This was excavated as cist 51 during phase III of the project (see Section 3.2, below)).

Fig. 7 - South and east sections of marked grave A



The new grave A was excavated to receive the contents of grave 1 some 3m to the north, between two marked graves (see Fig. 6). It was 1.2m deep. In section, an 0.80m thickness of the 19th century made ground 6 lay over the natural subsoil.

The burial of the spouse, Phoebe Owens, was discovered during Stage III of the project, and was located just to the south of the marked grave rather than within it. It was somewhat disturbed through machining and the section was not recorded. The coffin was of hardwood, and fairly well preserved though the lid had collapsed into the box. It was lined with fabric, possibly silk. Fittings were all copper alloy and in good condition. They were represented by eight handles, five of which were *in situ*, with wrythen moulding, and formerly mounted on plates with pressed foliate relief decoration but now detached. In addition was a name plate with similar decoration (illegible), and a trefoil angle piece. Bone was in poor condition and comprised the skull, part of the pelvis, both femora, tibiae and fibulae.

Marked grave B and new grave B

Grave B occupied the southern third of a family plot, within a low concrete wall, 3.8m north of the southern boundary wall behind the bank (see Fig. 6). The slate headstone recorded the burial of Rachel Beynon, d.1938 aged 73.

The grave fill was similar to that of grave A. The ?softwood coffin was largely well-preserved, with simple brass bar handles.

The human remains were in good condition, the entire skeleton, including carpals and tarsals, having survived, although the skull was crushed.

The grave section was 1.7m deep. The sequence differed somewhat to that seen in Grave 1, a layer of bone earth, itself overlain by a mortar layer, lying above 19th century made ground 6 which was encountered at 0.7m. The latter lay directly upon the buried soil at a depth of 1.4m.

The new grave B was excavated in an empty plot occupying the northern third of the same family memorial (see Fig. 6). The section displayed the same sequence observed in grave B.

Marked grave C and new grave C

Grave C was situated almost due south of the west end of the church, 3.6m north of the southern boundary wall (see Fig. 6). The slate headstone, with a low concrete surround, recorded the burials of David John Williams, d.1955, age unknown, and his wife Rebecca Williams, d.1964 aged 68.

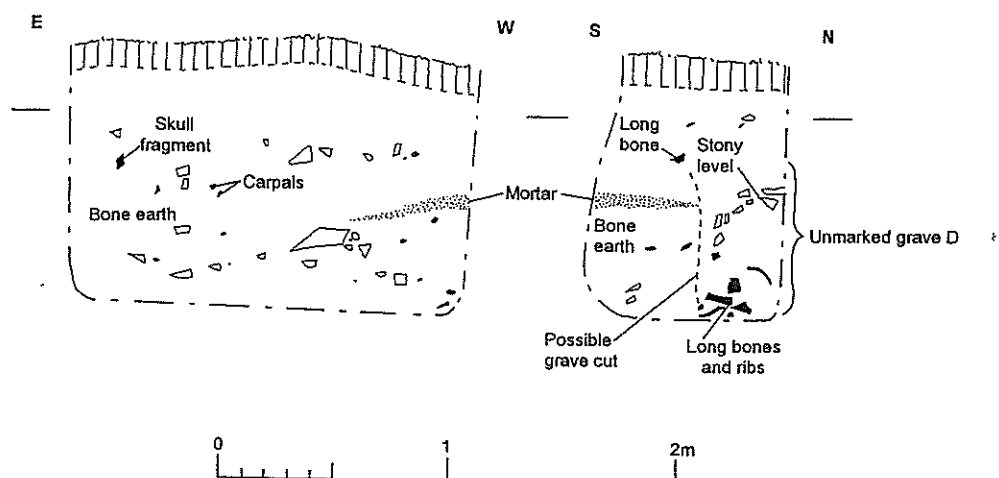
The grave fill was similar to that of marked grave A. A softwood coffin-lid was encountered at a depth of 1.3m which was, like the rest of the coffin, in very poor condition, having for the most part decayed to a timber stain; it contained a plastic lining or shroud. Coffin fittings comprised five handles, an escutcheon with the legend 'at rest', a name plate (illegible), part of a cross-shaped escutcheon lying *in situ* on timber, and one corner plate. All were of tinned soft metal. The human remains were in a fair condition, represented by the skull (and lower jaw), some vertebrae, ribs, pelvis and the long bones. It was apparent that the burial was that of Rebecca Williams, d.1964.

A further layer of similar grave fill, 0.4m thick, lay between the 1964 coffin and the lid of a second coffin encountered beneath. This too was in poor condition but rather better preserved than the 1964 coffin, being of hardwood. The fittings were of tinned iron, but limited to one straight bar-handle with a square section and raised medallions on the plate, and a decorated knurled screw. The human remains were in fair condition, the skull, some vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, and long bones surviving. The burial was clearly that of David Williams, d.1955.

The grave section was 2.3m deep. It displayed a sequence of mixed deposits including several mortar-rich layers above a cut, of unknown nature, cut through a ?redeposited clay at a depth of 0.8m. Only a thin layer of slaty soil lay between this and the natural subsoil.

The new grave C was excavated to receive contents of the marked grave some 6m to the north-west, in an area of marked graves (see Fig. 6). The grave was 1.2m deep and cut through an area much disturbed by previous burials. No stratification was visible in the turbed bone earth that characterised the bulk of the section, with some bone fragments and mortar inclusions (Fig. 8). The western section, however, cut through an unmarked grave - unmarked grave D - which appeared to be cut from just beneath topsoil level and continued to the bottom of the new grave. It contained a jumble of ?reburied bones, all in fair condition and presumably of later 19th- 20th century date.

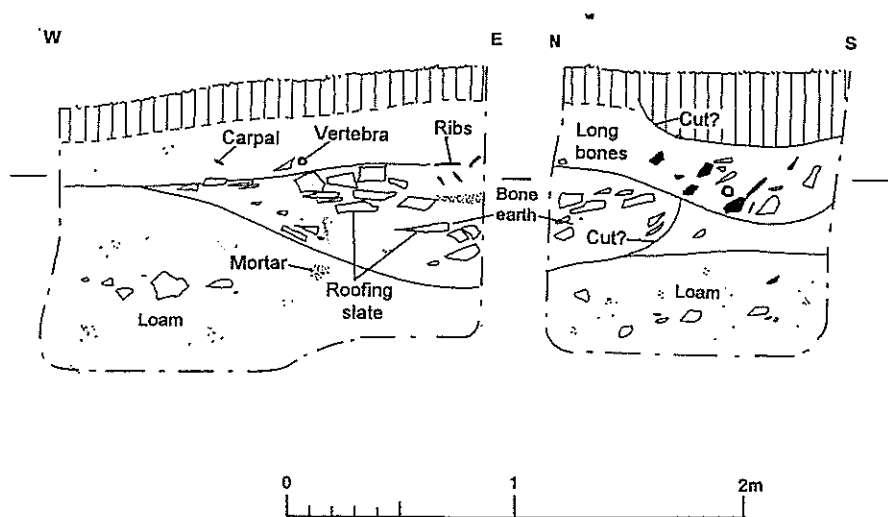
Fig. 8 - South and west sections of new grave C
(showing unmarked grave D)



The communal grave

The communal grave, dug to receive the contents of unmarked graves, was excavated between new graves 1 and 3, 8m north of the southern boundary wall in an area of marked graves (see Fig. 6). It measured 1.2m north-south by 1.8m east-west, and was 1.3m deep. In section were displayed two discrete horizons of bone earth, the upper containing a jumble of well-preserved human bones (Fig. 9), which appear to resemble redeposited inhumations rather than an *in situ* unmarked burial. The horizons were separated by an area of orange-brown loam with some mortar at a depth of 0.7m - a former ground level? - cut by a feature containing slate demolition-type debris. The natural subsoil was not reached by the cut.

Fig. 9 - North and east sections of communal grave



The recent unmarked graves (Figs. 6, 8 & 10)

Three unmarked graves were encountered at various stages of the project. Two of them appear to represent reburials. Unmarked grave **D** is described above under new grave **C** and is one of the reburials (see Fig. 8).

Unmarked grave E

Unmarked grave **E** was encountered during the Stage II machining and could not be properly recorded. It was located 4m north of the (removed) southern boundary and 30m from its west end (see Fig. 6).

The burial occupied a shallow pit, rather than a grave proper, measuring 0.50m square and only 0.50m deep. The bones were disorganised, but comprised the skull and lower jaw, both femora, a humerus and a few ribs, lying in a matrix of mid-brown clay loam containing much building debris. It appears to represent a reburial of an inhumation possibly disturbed during grave digging or construction work.

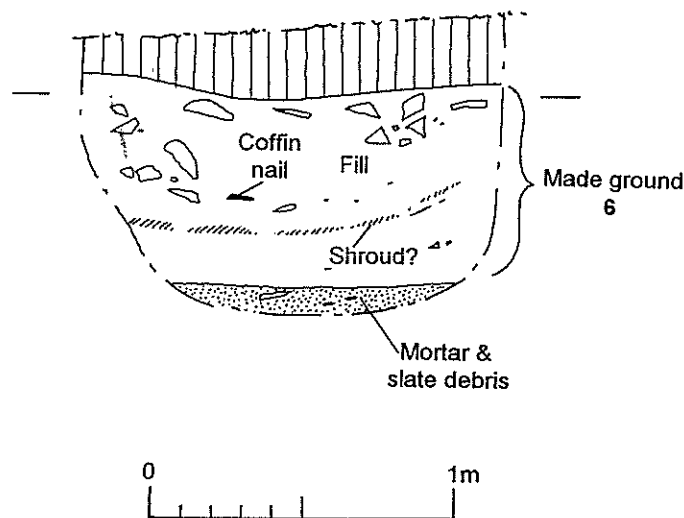
Unmarked grave F

Unmarked grave F was encountered during Stage V of the project, in Tree-pit 5 (see Fig. 8).

Tree-pit 5 was located 1.5m east of unmarked grave E. Beneath a layer of topsoil, the northern section revealed a grave fill comprising yellow brown clay loam in a grave cut that was only distinguishable from the surrounding soil by the outline of a shroud of unknown material (Fig. 10). This occurred at a very shallow depth, the bottom being only 0.4m beneath the topsoil. In addition, the presence of a coffin was suggested by some fragments of wood beneath the shroud, and a coffin nail in the fill, but this was the limit of the evidence. No bone was exposed in section. The whole was cut through similar deposits to those seen in grave A.

The grave may represent a reburial; alternatively, it may be that of an early 20th century suicide buried in the immediate vicinity according to local sources (H Davies, Churchwarden, *pers. comm.*).

Fig. 10 - North section of unmarked grave F



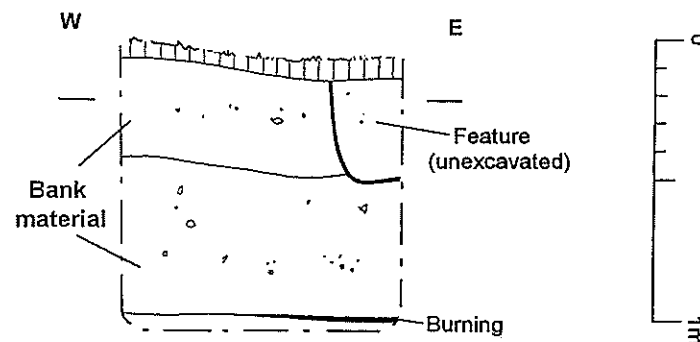
The western bank (Figs. 6 & 11)

The western side of the churchyard is raised 1m above its surroundings. This is enhanced to the north of the main entrance by a low, wide bank with a maximum height of 0.3m. The bank was cut through by Tree-pit 9 during Stage V of the project (see Fig. 11).

Tree-pit 9 lay 1.5m east of the western boundary, 1.4m north of the entrance. It cut two layers of bank material, the upper comprising a light brown clay loam containing some mortar, animal bone and a sherd of transfer-printed ware of 19th century date, cut by a feature of unknown form. The lower layer was similar but of a more orange colour (Fig. 11).

Both layers may be of similar 19th century date. They sealed the natural soil, here consisting of fluvio-glacial gravels, the surface of which showed an area of heat-reddening - from a former fire, or a hearth?

Fig. 11 - North section of Tree-pit 9 showing bank material



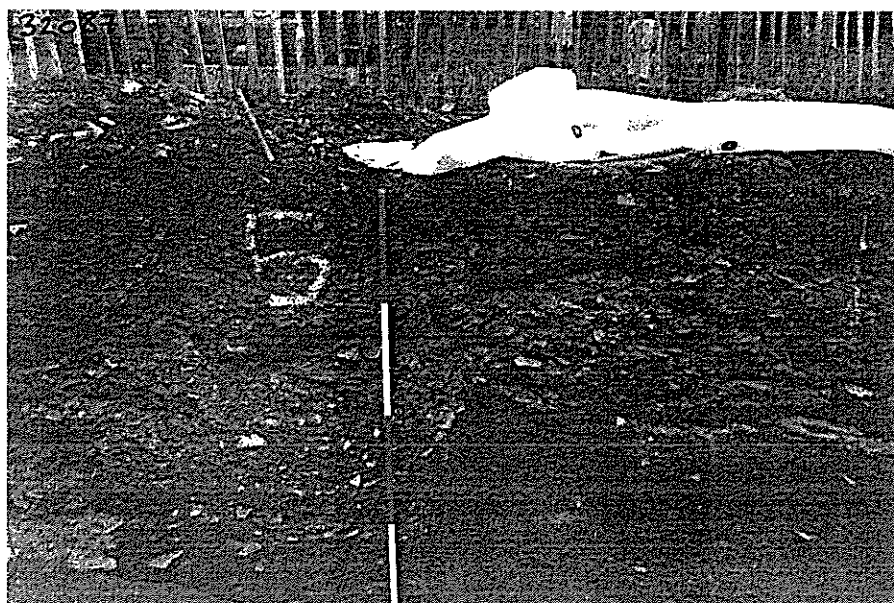
Rectilinear features 3 and 4 (Figs. 6, 19 & 26; Plate 1)

Two large, steep/vertical sided intrusions were seen both in the cut southern section of the churchyard after Stage II of the project (see Section 1.3 for stages of work), and at a lower level within the area that was later excavated where the portions of the soilmarks exposed were rectilinear in plan (Fig. 6).

Rectilinear feature 3 was 2m deep and cut through the 19th century made ground 6 from just below topsoil level. It formed the 90° south-west corner of a feature that ran beyond the edge of the excavation to the north, between 23m and 18.5m from the east end of the southern boundary and its corner lying 1m north of it (see Figs. 19 and 26; Plate 1). The bottom of the feature was not found but it was excavated to a total depth of 1.7m and its southern edge was seen to undercut the surrounding deposits at an angle of nearly 45°. The fill was a homogeneous material comprising shattered slate fragments, mortar, plaster and some fragments of human bone. It appears to represent building debris mixed in with some yard disturbance material.

The characteristics of the feature suggest that it represents the robbing of a structure with a deep below-ground component - possibly a tomb? (see Section 4.0 below).

Plate 1 - North section of rectilinear feature 3



A further large, vertically sided feature, 4, was observed in the section between 12m and 6.5m west of the above feature (see Fig. 26). It was cut from a lower level than 3, separated from it by a phase of deposition of the 19th century made ground 6, but contained a similar fill; too little of the feature was observed to enable full characterisation or interpretation.

Made ground 6 (Figs. 3, 12 & 13; Plate 1)

During Stage II of the scheme, following the controlled demolition of the southern boundary wall, a 3.5m wide strip of churchyard deposits was mechanically excavated from the southern edge of the yard (see Section 1.3 for stages of work).

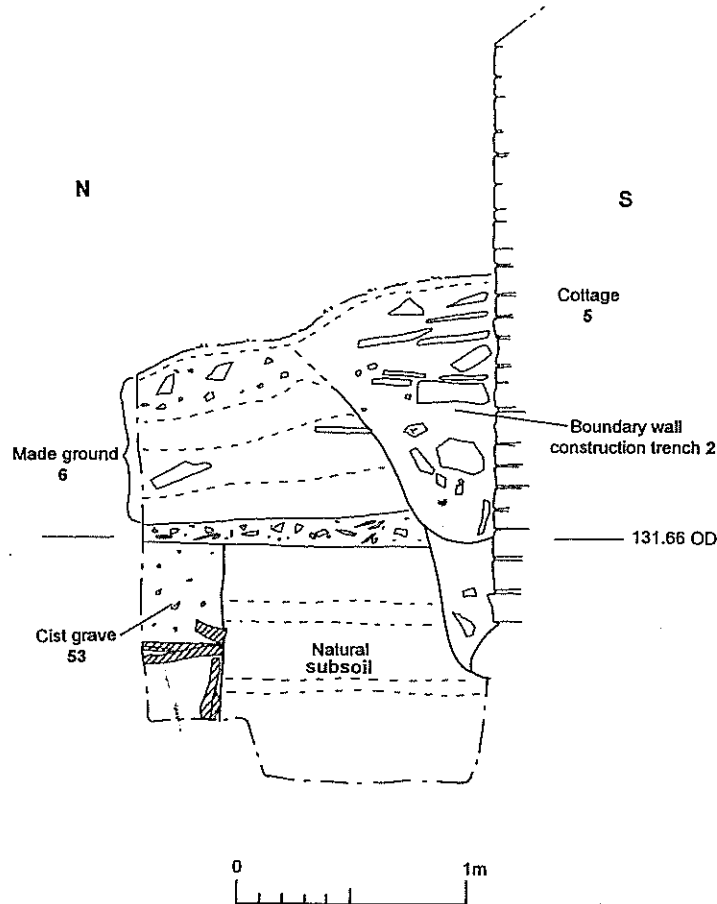
The deposits lay beneath the topsoil to a depth of 0.7m to 1.1m. They consisted of a sequence of similar layers of crushed slate and mortar debris, in a very dark grey-brown loam matrix of loose consistency, which appear to represent a spread of made ground rather than churchyard build-up. There may have been two distinct phases of deposition, separated by the excavation of rectilinear feature 4 (see below and Fig. 26), but the phases were probably closely contemporary and are here grouped together as context 6 (see Figs. 7, 12, 13 and 26; Plate 1). The sequence did not, unfortunately, contain any dating evidence but was clearly of late post-medieval character, and was cut by marked grave A of 1880, as well as southern boundary wall 2. There is a local tradition of infilling having occurred within recent memory, and the deposits may derive from the 1829 church rebuild/restoration. The deposit spreads northwards to fill what was formerly a pronounced downhill slope from the central church, evidently having been dumped behind the (then) southern boundary.

Southern boundary wall 2 (Figs. 3, 6 & 12)

The demolished southern boundary wall of the churchyard averaged 1.3m in height, was approximately 0.5m thick and comprised local slate rubble, medium to large in size, flat and roughly coursed, probably quarried from the Glogue area 10km to the south-east. At intervals there were pillars with pyramidal caps, and the wall terminated at its west end at a similar pair of gate-posts. The east end partly terminated as a butt-joint against a square building of similar local slate rubble, shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1889 and suggested on the tithe map of 1838. It is now vacant but appears to have been a cottage, and was the site of the village post office during the early 20th century (H Davies, Churchwarden, *pers. comm.*). The boundary wall retained made ground 6 and was apparently rebuilt during the 1920s or early 1930s (*ibid.*).

The sequence of southern boundary wall construction was resolved during Stage II of the project. The resultant section at the far east end of the machined-off strip followed the line of the east wall of the cottage northwards into the yard (Fig. 12). The construction trench for the present boundary wall, 2, containing loose wall material, was cut from just below topsoil level, through the underlying 19th century made ground 6. It also cut the construction trench, 5, of the cottage; its truncation meant that it was not possible to determine whether 5 was cut from above or below these deposits, its only direct relationship being with a gravel surface 10 (see Section 3.2 below). The boundary wall replaced by 2 may have either shared construction trench 5 or have been earlier.

Fig. 12 - Section (facing east) showing southern boundary construction trench 2



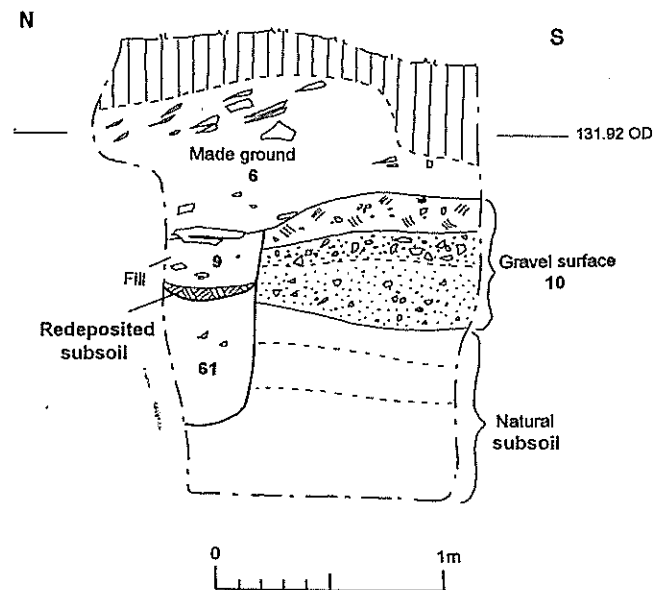
The post-medieval graves (Figs. 6, 13 & 26)

Three burials, recorded during Stage III of the project (see Section 1.3 for stages of work), were demonstrably cut from a level immediately beneath the 19th century made ground 6; a fourth was interpreted as occupying the same level. Two of these burials, moreover, were cut through an underlying gravel surface, 10, which was deposited at some period between the late 12th century and the 16th century (see Section 3.2 below). The graves are not closely datable, but are here interpreted as belonging to the post-medieval period. Sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, dating from the late 12th - earlier 13th centuries (see Section 6.1 below), occurred within their fills but were probably residual ie. were derived from surrounding deposits during the excavation of the graves. They were all dug graves, occupying shallow cuts no more than 0.5m deep.

Grave 8, in the middle of the excavation, was seen to cut through the gravel surface 10 and to be directly sealed by the 19th century made ground 6. It was recorded in section (see Fig. 26). The fill was similar to the clay loam fills of the earlier dug graves, and no bone was apparent in the section but there were some bone earth inclusions. It contained three sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, clearly residual, and cut an earlier feature, 56 (see below, Section 3.3), which itself contained the only closely datable ware from the excavation, a sherd of Ham Green pottery which can be confidently attributed to the late 12th - early 13th centuries (see Section 6.1).

Grave 9, recorded in section at the eastern limit of the machined strip, was similarly sealed by 19th century made ground 6 and demonstrably cut the gravel surface 10 (Fig. 13). The fill appeared to resolve itself into two quite distinct zones, the lower of which has here been interpreted as representing an earlier dug grave 61, on a similar alignment and cut by grave 9. Both fills were mid-brown clay loams, separated by an area of redeposited subsoil, with the lower fill containing some bone fragments. No finds were encountered in either fill.

Fig. 13 - Section (facing east) of post-medieval grave 9



Two dug graves, 7 and 21, had no relationship with the gravel surface 10 but did cut underlying cist graves. For this reason they are here regarded as being of possible later date than the remainder of the dug graves but it must be stressed that in the absence of secure dating evidence this is a proposal only. Grave 7 towards the west end of the excavation lay in an area unfortunately overdug by the contractors and its precise relationships with the rest of the site therefore lost (see Fig. 6); however, it cut a cist grave, 31 (see Section 3.2 below). It was oriented WNW-ESE, measured 1.7m by 0.5m and was 0.35m deep. The grave was completely excavated, the burial being represented by a bone earth outline, with one surviving femur. The fill contained three sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, but these may be residual.

Grave 21 in the middle of the excavation also cut a cist, 49, as well as an earlier dug grave 24 (Fig. 6). It was small and rather narrow, measuring 1.3m by 0.25m.

A further later feature is represented by a pit, 13, which also cut gravel surface 10 as well as a cist grave, 47 (see Section 3.2 below). It measured 0.70m in diameter, was rather regular and may represent a (post-medieval) post-pit.

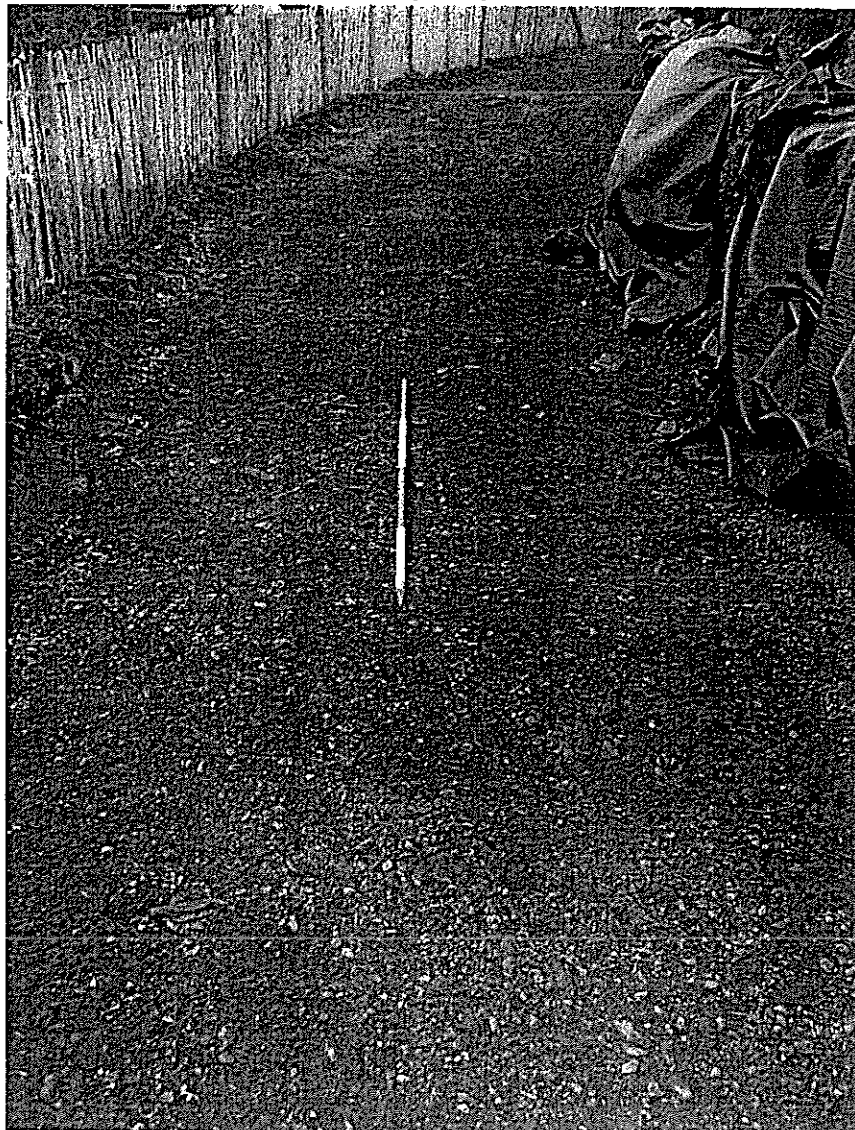
3.2 The inhumation cemetery

Gravel surface 10

Stage II of the project (see Section 1.3 for stages of work) revealed an occupational horizon that lay at present road level, but sloped gently downhill from east to west; its eastern part had therefore been lost through mechanical excavation but was recorded in section. The horizon also sloped gently downhill from north to south so that only the northern half was initially exposed, and the remainder of the overlying deposits were removed by hand.

The horizon was made up of two layers of gravels, 10, consisting of shattered fragments of the local slate, in a clay loam matrix, with a maximum thickness of 0.4m. The surface so formed was rather irregular, intermittent and patchy, but was present throughout the excavated area in varying thicknesses (Plate 2). The upper layer contained fewer coarse components than the lower, but both appeared to be present throughout and the upper layer may thus be a deliberate resurfacing. Both layers appeared to have been systematically laid down to form a surface which, given its occurrence throughout the trench, appears to represent part of a larger area. It mainly lay directly upon the 'B' horizon of a former buried soil, with few intervening deposits apart from the inhumations described below.

Plate 2 - Gravel surface 10 from the east



The inhumations

The removal, by hand, of gravel surface **10** revealed a total of forty-three inhumations (Fig. 6), densely packed within the area, and a further three were observed in a subsequent stage of the project (Stage IV) but were not fully excavated. The inhumations were all extended and supine, and of two distinct types - twenty-five were stone lined 'long cist' graves, while eighteen were dug graves without stone linings.

Bone preservation was in the main very poor due to the acid nature of the soil. Where bone survived it was of sufficient preservation only to demonstrate that, with one exception, the burials were orientated normally with the heads to the west. None of the burials was sufficiently well preserved to provide any information on age, sex or pathology, but samples were taken from all grave fills, regardless of bone preservation.

There was little artefactual evidence for burial practice. The fill of dug grave **30** showed a probable coffin stain (Fig. 20) and the fills of the dug graves were generally darker than those of the cists, while the cramped posture of the inhumation within dug grave **17** suggests that a shroud may have been wrapped tightly around the corpse (Fig. 22); neither of the two graves, however, bore any physical relationship with other contexts and thus cannot be placed within any sequence. Cist **36** contained a small shale bead, located just above the right humerus of the burial, but such beads are rarely closely datable. The bead was possibly associated with the burial itself but may be residual or, considering its size, be secondarily derived from the surrounding deposits.

The inhumations were all cut directly through the 'B' horizon of the buried soil; there were only limited earlier features and these are described below in Section 3.3. Most were directly sealed by gravel surface **10** where it was present, and in only three cases (cists **47**, **48** and dug grave **14**) were there intervening contexts. The establishment of gravel surface **10** is therefore of crucial importance, but it cannot be closely dated. Both gravel layers contained a large number of sherds of local Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, of late 12th - 13th century date (see Section 6.1), but a sherd of North Devon ware, from the 16th - 18th century, was found on the surface. It may be, therefore, that the earlier pottery is all be residual and the gravel surface belongs to the 16th - 18th century, if not later. Alternatively, the gravel surface is earlier but remained exposed until the later date. At any rate, the 19th century made ground **6** immediately overlay the surface.

The graves themselves were notably without dating evidence but the fills of cists **44** and **54**, dug grave **21**, and feature **57** - which was cut by dug grave **26** (see Section 3.3 below) - also contained Dyfed gravel-tempered ware.

There was some superimposition of burials (see Tables 1 & 2 below). In the sample of graves excavated the cist graves tended to post-date the dug graves, four dug graves being cut by cist graves while only one dug grave, **25**, cut a cist, **33**. However, cist **35** cut another cist, **37**, dug graves cut other dug graves and the fills of both grave types comprised a similar clay loam. Although the alignments of both inhumation types varied somewhat throughout the length of the excavation, several cist graves - specifically the group comprising cists **35**, **36**, **37**, **38**, **39**, **40** and **41** at the west end of the excavation (Fig. 16), and cists **34** and **54** in the central area, and those at the east

end (Fig. 6) - occupied pronounced SW-NE aligned cuts at odds with the orientations of the majority of the dug graves (and the boundary). This is perhaps further evidence of a general chronological break between the excavation of the two types, dug grave 25 noted above possibly being exceptional; however, it is perfectly feasible that the two practices co-existed elsewhere in the churchyard.

The alignments of both inhumation types also appear to reflect - perhaps intentionally - a feature following the same line as the present southern churchyard boundary (Fig. 6; see also p.24 above).

The cist graves

Eighteen of the cist graves were fully excavated; the remainder, not being threatened by the scheme, were accordingly left *in situ*. Most were similar in terms of their construction (see Table 1). All appeared to have both side slabs and lintel slabs, of local slate, although cists 34, 35 and 37 were so disturbed as to render characterisation of the slabs impossible. Most also possessed head- and foot slabs, but only one, 33, possessed basal slabs (Fig. 14). Where side- or end slabs were absent, it was normally due to later disturbance as in cists 49, 50, 51, and 53, or because of incomplete excavation, as in 45 and 53. However, cists 43 and 44 appeared to be undisturbed and while the latter lacked a footstone, cist 43 only possessed side slabs along its northern side as well as lacking a footstone. Cist 44 possessed two layers of lintel-slabs (Fig. 15). The side- and lintel slabs, and basal slabs where present, averaged 0.5m by 0.3m and 0.035m thick, and were roughly cut; head and foot slabs were smaller averaging 0.3m by 0.2m. Above and around the slabs, all graves were filled by a stiff, yellow-brown clay loam. The cists themselves were filled by a darker brown, looser bone-rich earth. All graves occupied shallow cuts, none more than 0.5m deep.

Fig. 14 - Plans of cist grave 33 before and after removal of lintel slabs

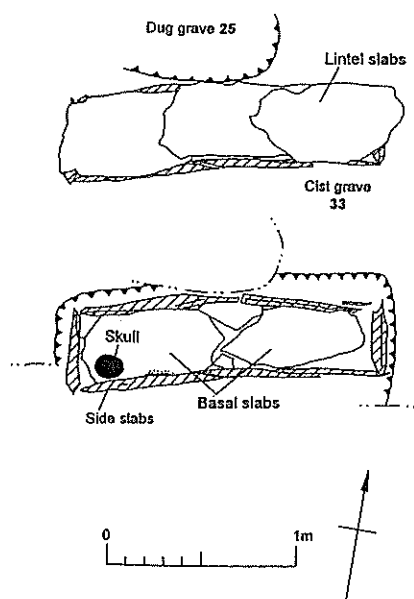


Fig. 15 - Plans of cist grave 44 before and after removal of lintel slabs

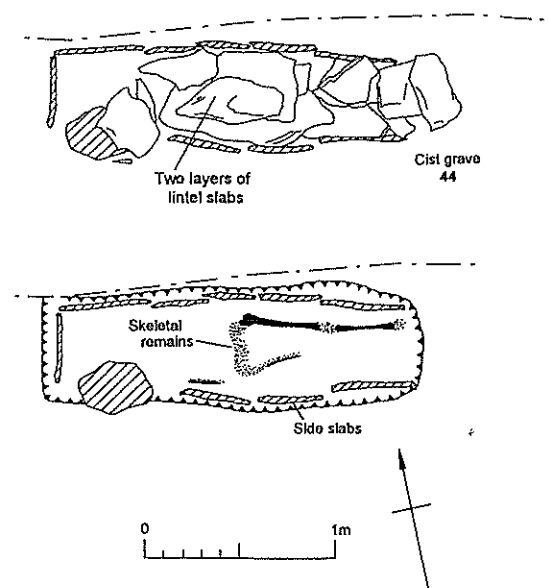
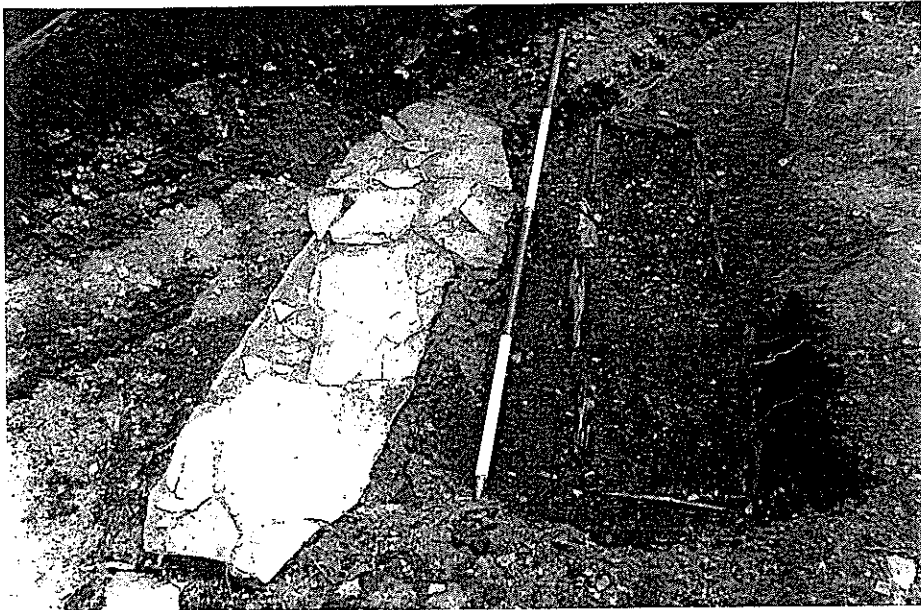
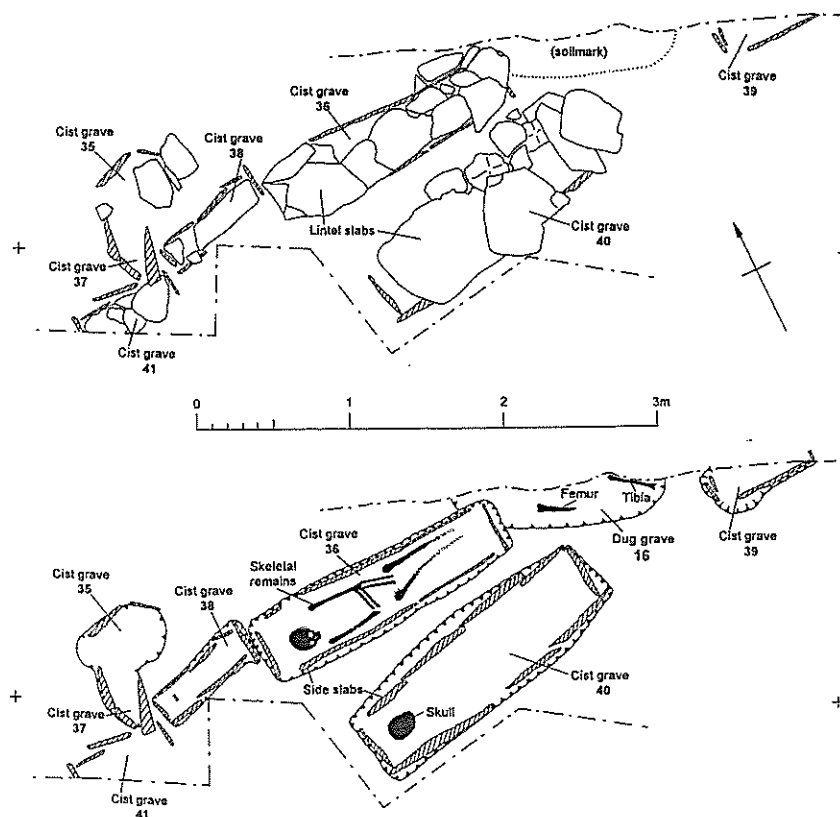


Plate 3 - Cists 36 and 40 during excavation, 36 still with its lintel stones,
from the south-west



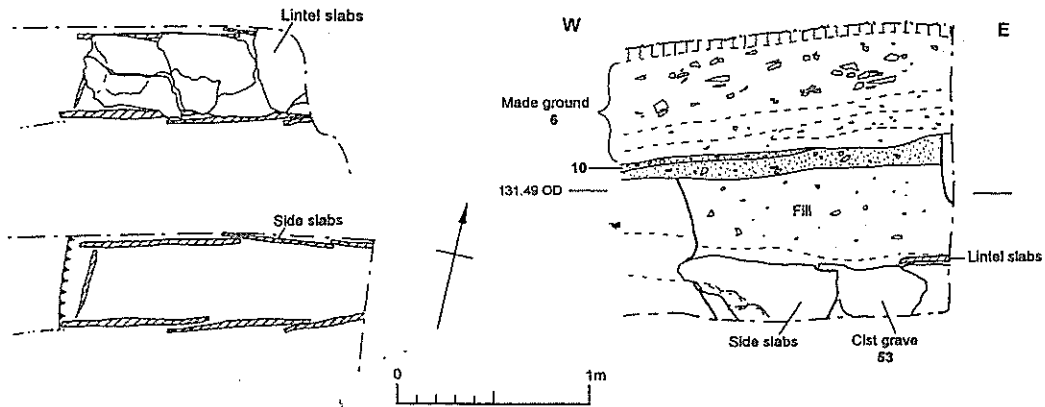
At the west end of the excavation were five small cists, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 41, which averaged only 0.3m long by 0.15m wide, located in association with two full sized cists, 36 and 40 - a family/kinship group? (Fig. 16; Plate 3). This cist group, along with cist 55 in the middle of the excavated area, and all those at the east end, lay on a radically different alignment than the neighbouring dug graves, which followed the line of the present southern boundary. The remainder of the cists were to a large degree consistent in terms of size, averaging 1.8m long by 0.5m wide, although three, 48, 49 and 50, were significantly smaller at 0.8m by 0.4m

Fig. 16 - Plan of cist group at west end of site before and after excavation,
and dug grave 16



In all the excavated cists, bone preservation was very poor, considerably worse than in the dug graves (see below). However, the soil fills all exhibited evidence of 'bone earth' and 30% displayed bone fragments or deposit, whilst cist 36 contained substantial human remains (Fig.16). The skull was intact but displayed a cranial puncture near the left orbit, possibly caused by root action; the right arm was substantially intact but the left was fragmentary only; the pelvis was very fragmentary and only the two femora survived from the legs, sufficient however to demonstrate that the right leg was tucked beneath the left. Though substantial, the remains were highly fragile and largely disintegrated upon excavation.

Fig. 17 - Plans and section of cist 53 and overlying deposits, before and after excavation



Some cists cut earlier features as noted in Table 1 below. In the main they were sealed by surface 10 with few intervening features, for example cist 53 (Figs. 12 and 17). However, cist 33 was cut by a dug grave, 25. Cist 47 was cut by post-hole, 13, cut from above gravel surface 10, which broke and collapsed several of the lintel stones (Fig. 18). Cist 34 was extensively undercut by the large rectilinear feature 3 described above, 23. The subsequent slumping displaced its slabs considerably (Fig. 19). Cist 49 was cut by a later grave 21, while 51 was cut by, and truncated by the 19th century marked grave A (David Owens, see above, 18); cist 48 meanwhile lay beneath an area of burning, 12, that may represent a hearth (Fig. 6).

A complete synopsis of the nature of the cist graves is given in Table 1 below.

Fig. 18 - Plan of cist 47 and pit 13, before and after excavation

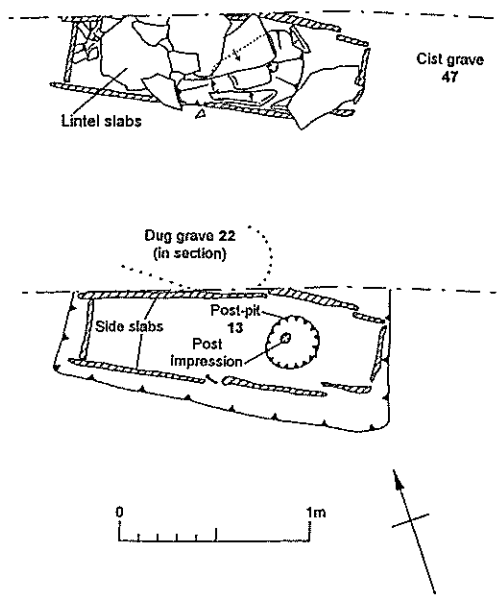


Fig. 19 - Plan of cist 34 undercut by rectilinear feature 3

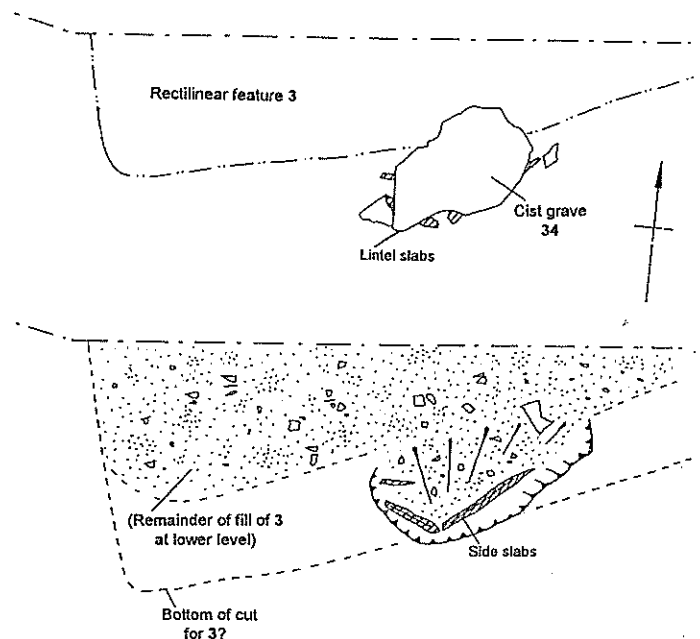


Table 1: Summary of cist graves

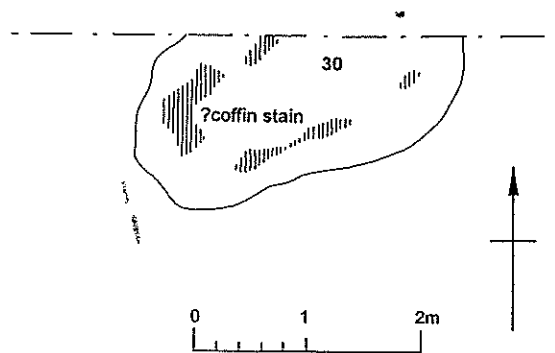
	Excavated	Dimensions (grave cut)	Bone survival	Lintel slabs	Side slabs	End slabs	Base slabs	Cuts	Cut by	Finds
Cist 31	yes	incomplete	none	yes	yes	yes	no	-	post-med grave 7	-
Cist 32	partial	incomplete	none	yes	yes	yes	no	-	-	-
Cist 33	yes	1.8m x 0.7m	partial - skull	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	dug grave 25	-
Cist 34	yes	1.2m x 0.5m	none	possible	possible	possible	no	-	rectilinear feature 3	-
Cist 35	yes	0.6m x 0.4m	none	possible	yes	possible	no	-	cist 37	-
Cist 36	yes	1.8m x 0.5m	complete	yes	yes	yes	no	dug grave 16	-	shale bead
Cist 37	yes	0.5m x 0.3m	minimal - stain	possible	yes	possible	no	cist 35	-	-
Cist 38	yes	0.8m x 0.25m	minimal - teeth	yes	yes	yes	no	-	-	-
Cist 39	partial	incomplete	none	yes	yes	possible	no	-	-	-
Cist 40	yes	1.9m x 0.65m	partial - skull	yes	yes	yes	no	-	-	-
Cist 41	no	-	-	yes	?	?	no	-	-	-
Cist 42	yes	incomplete	none	yes	yes	possible	no	dug grave 28; pit 58	-	-
Cist 43	yes	2.0m x 0.5m	none	yes	partial	head	no	-	-	-
Cist 44	yes	2.0m x 0.7m	partial - legs	yes	yes	head	no	dug grave 20	-	GTW sherds
Cist 45	partial	incomplete	none	yes	yes	head	no	-	-	-
Cist 46	no	-	-	yes	?	?	no	-	-	-
Cist 47	yes	1.8m x 0.8m	none	yes	yes	yes	no	dug grave 22	pit/post pit 13	-
Cist 48	yes	0.8m x 0.5m	none	yes	yes	yes	no	-	marked grave A	-
Cist 49	yes	1.0m x 0.4m	none	yes	yes	possible	no	-	post-med grave 21	-
Cist 50	yes	0.8m x 0.4m	none	yes	yes	foot	no	-	marked grave A	-
Cist 51	yes	incomplete	partial - legs	yes	yes	foot	no	-	marked grave A	-
Cist 52	yes	incomplete	minimal - stain	yes	yes	foot	no	-	-	-
Cist 53	yes	1.6m x 0.7m	partial - skull	yes	yes	yes	no	-	-	-
Cist 54	partial	incomplete	partial - legs	yes	yes	foot	no	-	-	GTW sherd
Cist 55	no	-	-	yes	?	?	no	dug grave 27	-	-

The dug graves

Eight of the dug graves were fully excavated; the remainder not being threatened by the scheme. All occupied similar shallow cuts, none more than 0.5m deep. There was little variation in the relative sizes of the grave cuts, the majority being more-or-less consistent and averaging 1.5m long by 0.4m wide.

The fills were consistently of a mid brown clay loam, like the cist fills but darker from organic staining. One of the unexcavated dug graves, 30, displayed apparent darker lines of soil along the sides which may represent coffin staining and account for the organic nature of the rest of the fills (Fig. 20). The cramped posture of the inhumation within 17, however, may suggest the presence of a shroud (Fig 21).

Fig. 20 - Plan of soilmark of dug grave 30



Bone preservation was poor, all being at best decayed and fragile. 75% displayed bone fragments or deposit, while graves 15, 16, 20, 21, 25 and 26 contained substantial human remains (Fig. 21), while 14, 17 and 23 displayed complete skeletons (Figs. 22 and 23, Plate 4).

Fig. 21 - Section of dug grave 16 (facing north)

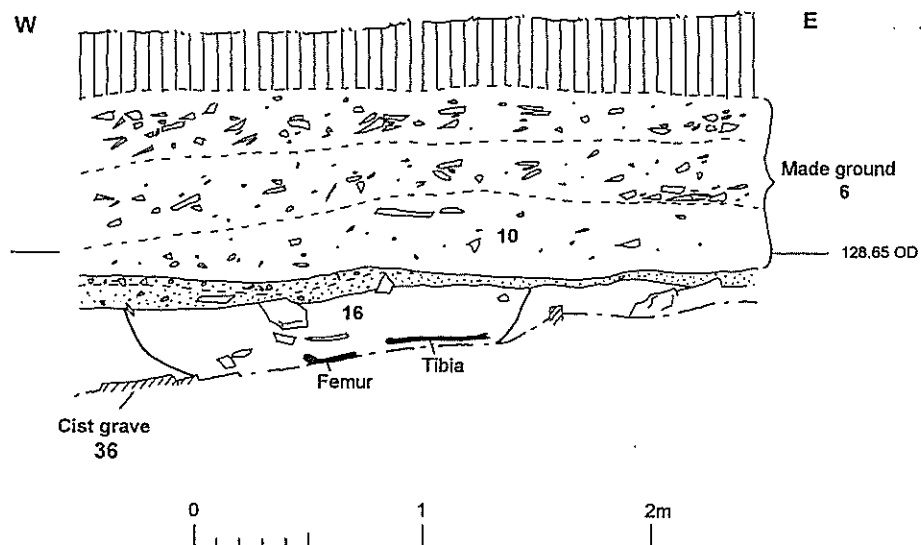
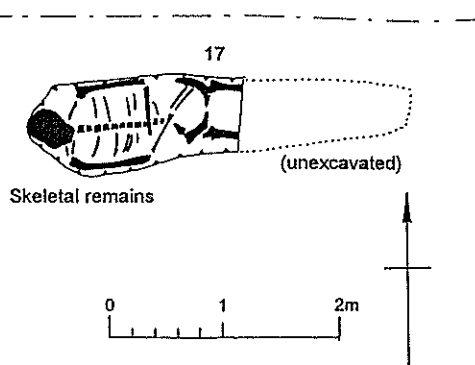


Fig. 22 - Dug grave 17: plan of burial



The inhumation occupying grave 14 was unusually in that the skull lay at the east end. The skeleton was complete but highly fragile and largely disintegrated upon excavation, while the west end was truncated by the mechanical excavation; it measured 1.30m and represents a definite juvenile burial. Grave 17 was only half excavated but sufficient to expose the skull, spine, ribs, pelvis, arm bones (crossed over the stomach area) and both femurs (Fig. 22). Dug grave 23 was again rather unusual (Fig. 23; Plate 4). The spine, ribs, pelvis, femurs, tibiae and fibulae were fragile but intact, while the feet had gone and only a stain remained of the arms - enough to show however that they were crossed over the stomach area. There was no evidence of any secondary disturbance yet the skull was completely absent. From shoulder to heel the skeleton measured 0.74m and whilst apparently representing a juvenile burial, the proportions of the remaining bones may suggest that the skeleton was mature.

Fig. 23 - Dug grave 23: plan of burial

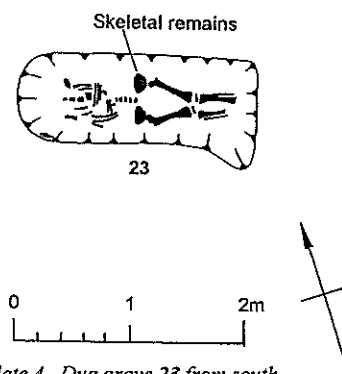
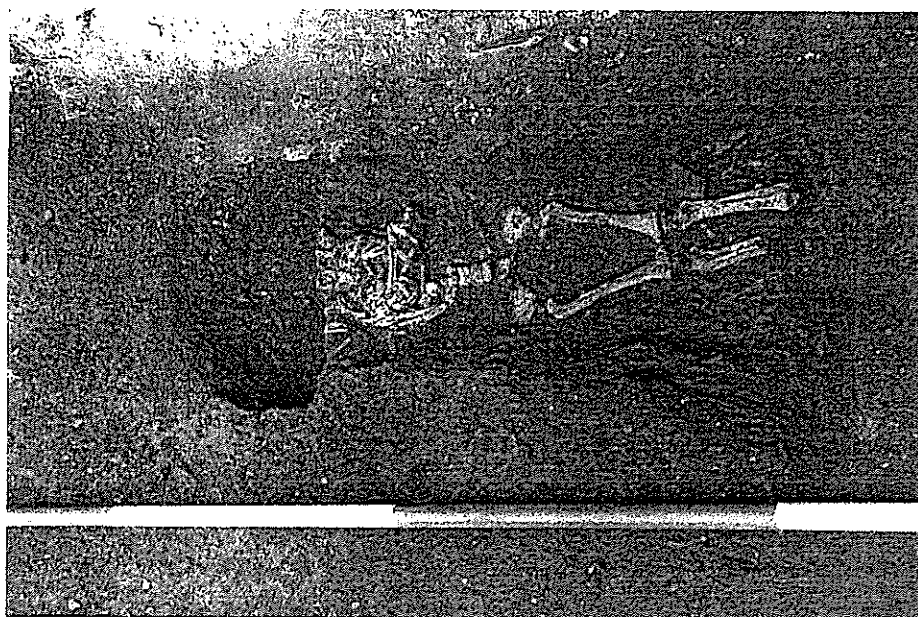


Plate 4 - Dug grave 23 from south



Some dug graves cut earlier features as noted in Table 2 below. In the main they were either directly sealed by gravel surface 10, or cut by other, intervening, burials; dug grave 25 (Fig. 24), however, while sealed by 10, cut cist grave 33. Four were cut by cists, including graves 16 and 28 (Fig. 25). Grave 24, meanwhile, was cut by a further dug grave 23 and by a later burial, 21. One of the dug graves observed in section, 61, was similarly cut by a later burial, 9; it was possible to distinguish the fills of two discrete burials (see Fig. 18). Grave 14 was sealed by an area of burning 11; unusually, this burnt material appeared to represent a deliberate part of the fill.

A complete synopsis of the nature of the dug graves is given in Table 2 below.

Fig. 24 - Section of dug grave 25 (facing north)

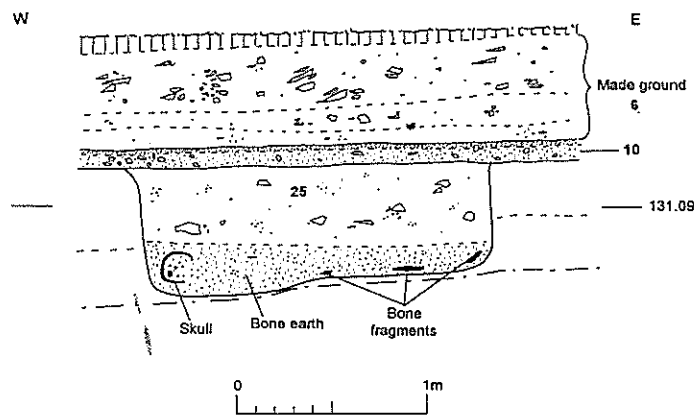


Fig. 25 - Plan and section (facing north) of dug grave 28, cist grave 42, and overlying deposits

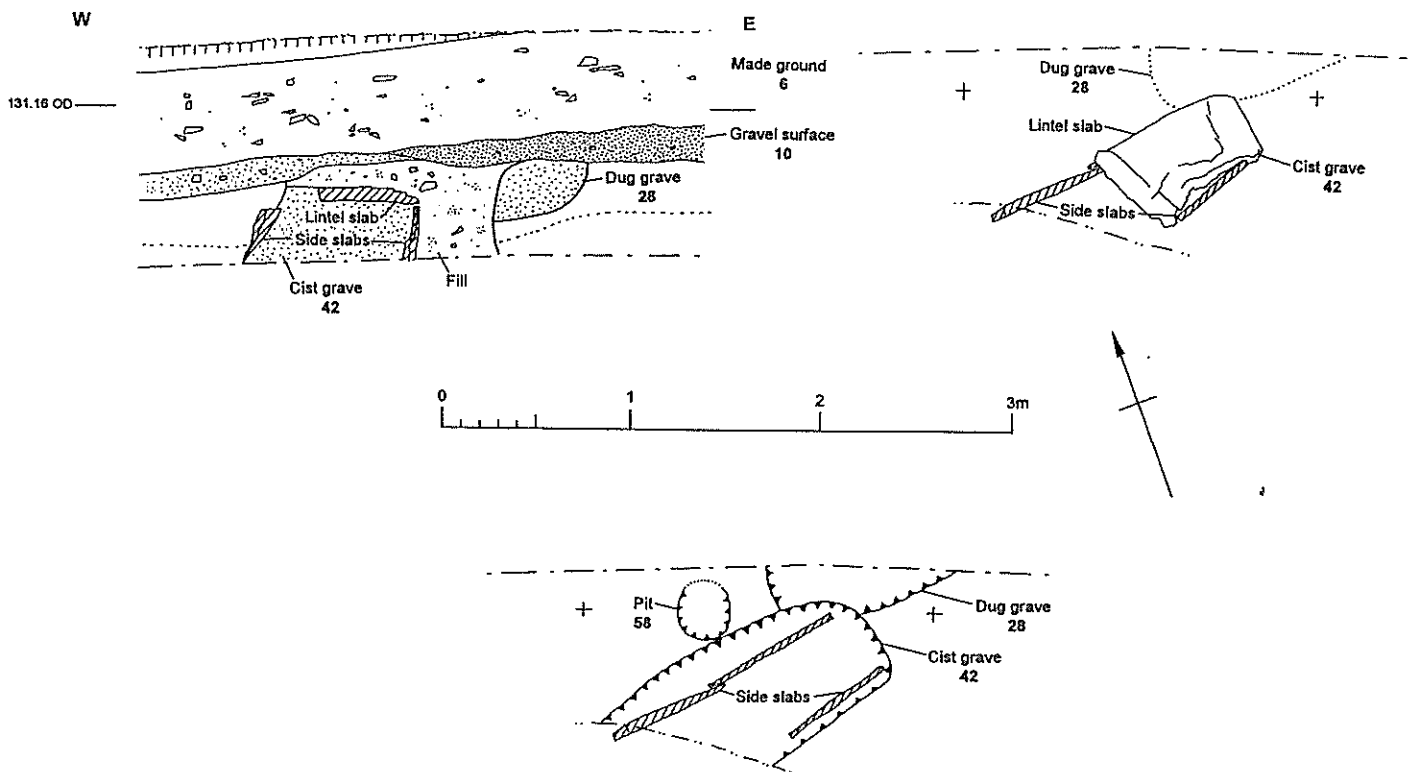


Table 2: Summary of dug graves

	Excavated	Dimensions	Bone survival	Coffin stain	Cuts	Cut by	Finds
Dug grave 14	yes	1.3m x 0.4m	complete	no	-	-	-
Dug grave 15	partial	incomplete	partial - skull	no	-	-	-
Dug grave 16	partial	incomplete	partial - legs	no	-	cist 36	-
Dug grave 17	yes	1.7m x 0.4m	complete	no	-	-	-
Dug grave 18	yes	1.5m x 0.4m	minimal - stain	no	ring ditch 60	-	-
Dug grave 19	yes	1.2m x 0.4m	minimal - stain	no	ring ditch 60	-	-
Dug grave 20	partial	incomplete	partial - skull	no	-	cist 33	-
Dug grave 22	no	-	-	no	-	cist 47	-
Dug grave 23	yes	1.05m x 0.4m	complete	no	dug grave 24	-	-
Dug grave 24	yes	1.8m x 0.55m	none	no	-	post-med grave 21; dug grave 23	-
Dug grave 25	partial	incomplete	partial - skull	no	cist 33	-	-
Dug grave 26	yes	incomplete	partial - skull	no	feature 57	-	-
Dug grave 27	partial	incomplete	none	no	ring ditch 60	cist 55	-
Dug grave 28	partial	incomplete	none	no	-	cist 42	-
Dug grave 61	no	-	-	no	-	post-med grave 9	-
Dug grave 29	no	-	-	no	-	-	-
Dug grave 30	no	-	-	yes	-	-	-

3.3 Earlier features

Stage III of the project also revealed the presence of a number of features that directly cut the 'B' horizon of the natural buried soil. They lay beneath all other deposits and features, and one of them may be prehistoric.

Ring-ditch (60)

A substantial feature crossed the central area of the trench between 30m and 21.5m from its east end (Figs. 6 and 26; Plate 6).

The feature formed the southern arc of a ditch, 60, whose edges were somewhat uneven but clearly formed part of a regularly curving feature. It averaged 1m in width and was 0.7m deep, with a shallow V-shaped profile. At the base was a square-sectioned slot which may have formed by repeated cleaning out of the ditch bottom.

The fill was remarkably homogeneous (Fig. 26). The basal slot contained a grey-brown silty clay loam with some gravel, while the sides of the feature displayed areas of small slate gravel. Above these the fill was a homogeneous mid-brown clay loam throughout, with some slate and sandstone inclusions, charcoal flecking and a significant quantity of quartz fragments. The fills suggest a deliberate backfill either immediately, or after a period of re-excitation and cleaning, rather than a gradual process of silting-up.

Fig. 26 - Plan and sections of ring ditch 60

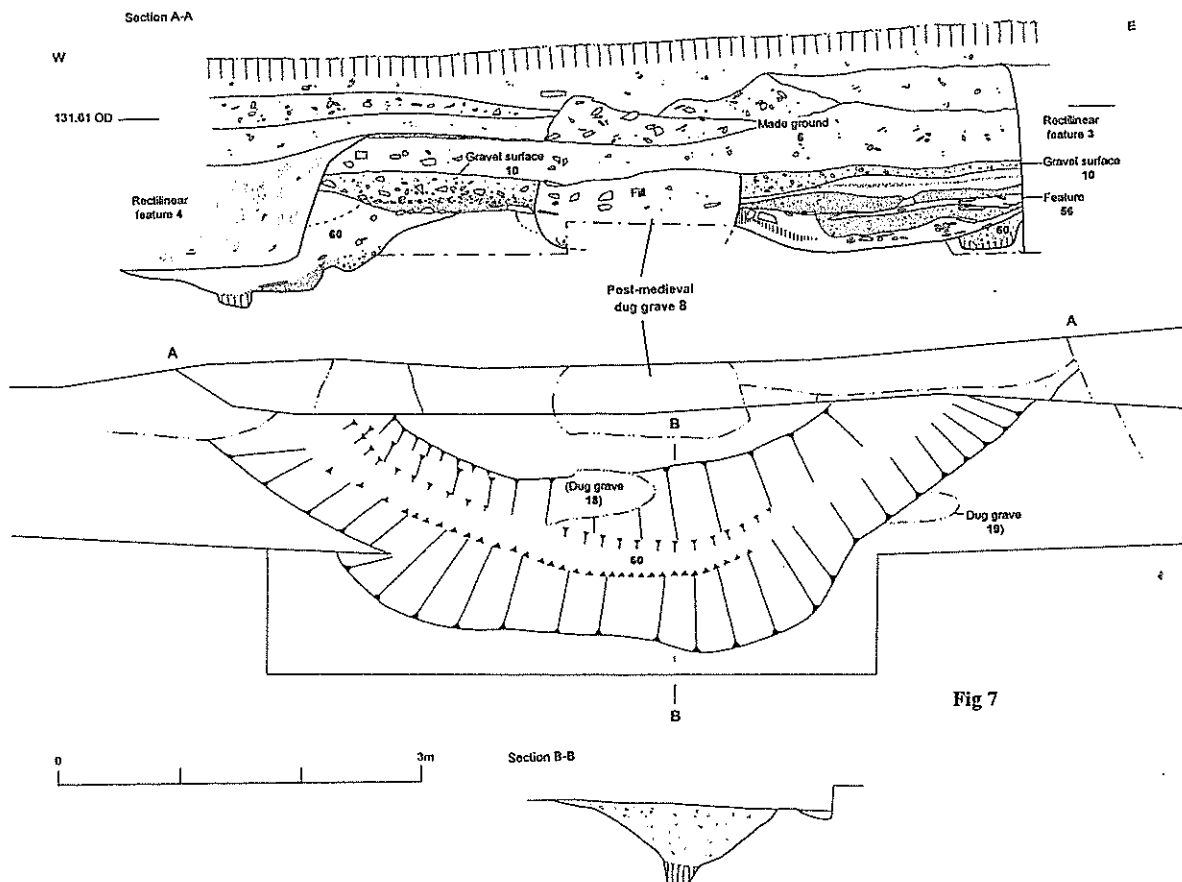


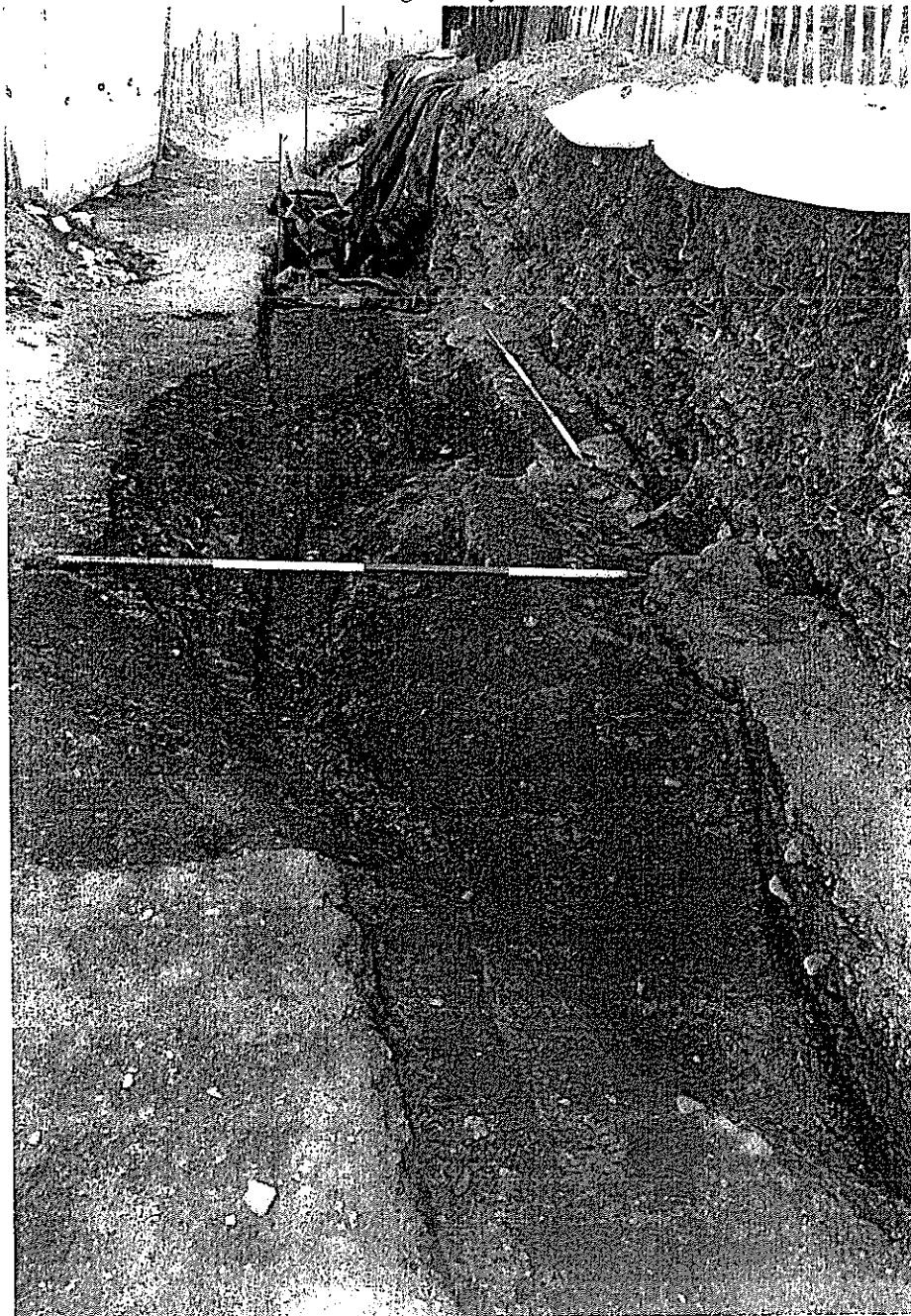
Fig 7

At the western end of the feature, a group of medium-sized angular pieces of slate were encountered at the interface of the basal slot and the upper fill, lining the cut. It is possible that they are associated with the construction of the feature, but equally possible that they may represent part of the backfill.

It is not possible to date ditch 60. It cut only the buried soil, in section was cut by feature 56 which, in turn, was sealed by gravel surface 10. The only artefactual dating evidence was provided by a bronze fitting of possible Roman date which was recovered from the interface between the uppermost fill of the ditch and gravel surface 10 (see Section 6.3), but like the pottery this may be residual.

Neither can the shape of the ditch alignment be ascertained from the small section revealed. Though curving within the excavated area, it may or may not represent the arc of a circular feature. However, if the ditch formed a complete circle, the internal diameter would measure approximately 7m and the external diameter, 9m. A ditch of this nature might be proposed as a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch ie. the quarry ditch of a round barrow. The interpretation of 60 will be discussed in Section 4.0 below. Samples were taken from all areas of the fill.

Plate 5 - Ring ditch 60 from the east



Other features

A number of other features cut the 'B' horizon of the buried soil, but were in the main small and unable to be fully characterised (see Fig. 6).

Feature 58 was a circular pit 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with a fill of charcoal and shale, sealed by gravel surface 10 and possibly cut by cist 42. A stakehole, 59, contained much iron panning in its fill; it lay close to later burial 21 but there was no direct relationship between the two. An elliptical feature of uncertain form, 57, was definitely cut by dug grave 26; it contained several sherds of Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware. Feature 56 noted above was seen only in section and was of uncertain form. It cut the east end of ring-ditch 60 and contained a fill comprising alternating layers of gravel and silt, with some organic material (see Fig. 26). This fill contained the only closely datable ware from the excavation, a sherd of Ham Green pottery which can be confidently attributed to the late 12th - early 13th centuries but which may be residual in this context which is cut by a post-medieval burial, 8. Dug grave 26 cut a feature, 57, towards the centre of the site; it was only partly excavated, contained no finds and is of indeterminate nature.

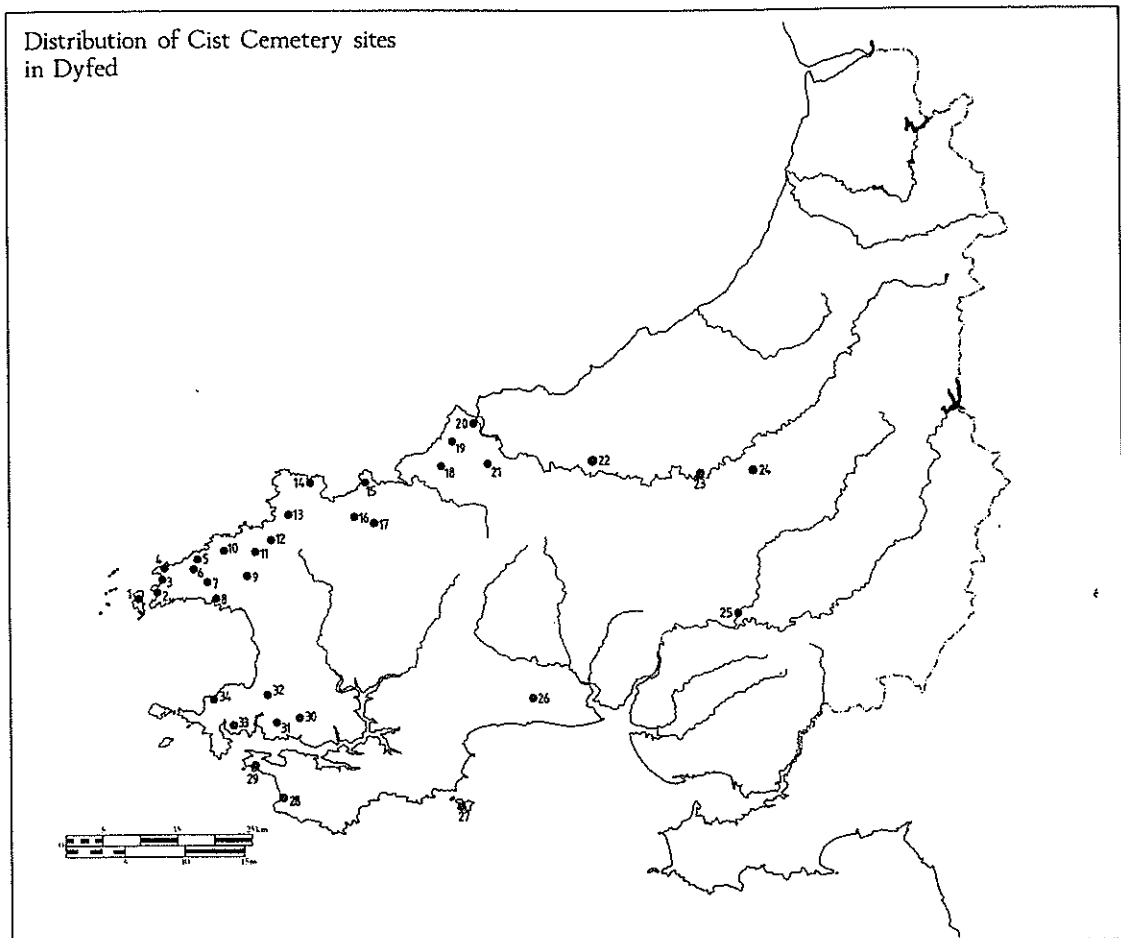
4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 General discussion

All Christian cist burials are properly termed 'long cists' to distinguish them from the smaller, stone-lined burials that occur in prehistoric contexts. The burial terminology used in this discussion is derived, with modifications, from that established by Charles Thomas (Thomas, 1971, 49). Thomas' classification was as follows: a simple body length hollow was termed a 'dug grave'; burials with stone linings, or with slabs at the base or head were 'cist graves', and those slabbed at base, head, foot and with covering slabs were termed 'lintel graves'. This classification is rather too rigid; it will be seen below that stone linings can vary from one or two informal stones along the sides of a grave to the full lintel grave as described by Thomas. All stone linings are viewed herein as following the cist tradition, and therefore the Eglwyswrw burials have been termed 'cists' in this report; as has been seen, all had lintel slabs but only one had basal slabs, so perhaps 'lintel cists' is a preferable term.

Significant with regard to the Eglwyswrw site, with its possible prehistoric ring-ditch, are the number of excavated early medieval cemeteries found to exist in association with prehistoric ritual/burial sites.

*Fig. 27 - Distribution of cist cemetery sites in West Wales
(from James, 1987)*



The many recorded cist burials in the immediate neighbourhood of Eglwysrw have mainly been chance observations, and only a small number few have been closely studied. Nonetheless there appears to be a marked concentration along the North Pembrokeshire coast, from St Davids to Cardigan, and a lesser concentration around the west end of Milford Haven (Fig. 27). This is a similar distribution to that of Group I Early Christian monuments which have been taken to indicate late post-Roman Irish settlement. And although - due to the circumstances of their discovery - there is usually little indication of their date, all long cists have been viewed as being in the Christian tradition, but possibly representing a continuation of earlier burial practices. Appendix III, from James, 1987, is a recent list of all recorded cist cemetery sites in West Wales.

Christian cist graves, where excavated, usually occur in groups within more-or-less formally laid out cemeteries. However, in most of the excavated examples discussed below, there has been little evidence for the presence of a chapel or ecclesiastical structure and indeed often such cemeteries appear to have been established in open country. Many of the Pembrokeshire cemeteries, however, are in association with (later?) church or chapel sites (eg. Bridell and St Brides; Fig. 27 nos. 19 and 34); Eglwysrw is one of only four early medieval cemeteries beneath established medieval churchyards that have so far been excavated in West Wales.

Excavations at St Justinian's Chapel, on St David's peninsula (Fig. 27 no. 2), indicated a cemetery with burials that may pre-date the existing building (Murphy, 1997, 11). St Patrick's Chapel, also on St David's peninsula (Fig. 27 no. 3), was excavated by D. B. Hague revealing a presumed pre-Norman chapel and burials (*ibid.*). The third excavated site is at Llanychlwydog, near Fishguard in the Gwaun valley (Fig. 27 no. 17), excavated by *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology* (then Dyfed Archaeological Trust) in 1984 (Murphy, 1987), which revealed early burials possibly in association with an undecorated ECM, adjacent to four, moved, Group II ECMs. The burials had no discernible grave-cuts which rendered their stratigraphical phasing impossible, but they included several long-cist graves containing skeletal remains which, where they survived at all, were very decayed. One was cut by a wall-trench of the church which may have been medieval, but not closely dateable (Murphy, *op. cit.*, 87). However, another, lintel-cist grave yielded a radiocarbon date of 890 ± 60 ad (Murphy, *op. cit.*, 88). A further cist with no visible soilmark may have been associated with a Romano-British brooch fragment (*ibid.*). Dug graves were also present, but were not closely dateable though sealed by 19th century rubble. The excavator felt that the cists may have been situated parallel to an undiscovered pre-stone church, but that the association with the undecorated ECM could be neither firmly proven nor closely dated (Murphy, *op. cit.*, 89).

A cemetery at Caer, Bayvil, near Eglwysrw (Fig. 27, no. 18), was excavated by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1979 (James, 1987), a cist burial yielded a 7th-9th century radiocarbon date. The cemetery was established within a small Iron Age defended enclosure, but displays close parallels with the Eglwysrw cemetery in that both cist and dug graves were observed together. In the single trench within which they were excavated, the sequence was that in some cases lintel-cists and cist graves cut dug graves, while some cists were cut by dug graves. However, the archaeological evidence was insufficient to allow firm conclusions to be drawn; the lintel graves were confined to the periphery of the site and may not relate directly to the oriented rows of cists and dug graves within the interior. A range of cist constructional techniques was observed, from full lintel graves through to the presence merely of a few informal (token?) lining stones.

In 1985 marine erosion revealed a femur within a cist grave at the former cemetery site at St Brides, Pembs. (Fig. 27 no. 34), which lies beyond the present churchyard. A radiocarbon date of 1000 ± 70 bp was obtained from the bone; a sample of bone from an adjacent dug grave yielded the date 150 ± 60 bp which may be a true date and a genuine recent burial (Dyfed SMR, PRN 7606).

Excavations by Dyfed Archaeological Trust at Plas Gogerddan in Cardiganshire revealed 22 dug graves, 9 of which displayed coffin stains (Murphy, 1987). No bone had survived the acid soil, but good results were obtained from phosphate testing and the presence of extended human burials was demonstrated in a number of graves. One of the graves yielded a radiocarbon date of the 3rd-7th century AD. Three graves were enclosed within rectangular timber structures, possibly plank walled, obviously marked out as special. No cist burials were present. The early medieval cemetery was associated with a standing stone socket and 3 late Bronze Age ring-ditches - the ploughed-out remains

of round barrows. Within one of the ring-ditch fills was a crouched burial of Iron Age or early Romano-British date, while a further possible crouched burial was also present.

A similar timber structure to that at Plas Gogerddan was associated with one of the graves at the early medieval cemetery at Llandegai, near Bangor in Gwynedd (James, 1992, 92), a cemetery built over a levelled neolithic cursus. Again, all burials were of dug grave form. A Bronze Age ring ditch in association with the early medieval cemetery at Tandderwen, Denbighshire (Brassil *et al.*, 1991) was enclosed within a square ditched enclosure (not a building) contemporary with the cemetery, and smaller ditched enclosures were present around 11 individual burials; similar square enclosures have been excavated in Scotland (Alcock, 1992, 128). At Tandderwen all 39 graves, enclosed or otherwise, were dug. Traces of wood were present in 22 graves, enclosed or otherwise, and in one example the sides and base of the coffin were discernible. The associated dates are about 510 AD and 860 AD.

Many more examples of the re-use of Bronze Age sites have been identified. Lists have been published for Anglesey (Edwards, 1986, 19-41) and south-west Wales (James, 1987, 70-75); the latter is included within this report as Appendix I. It has been proposed that the former round barrows that the ring ditches indicated were still prominent enough as landscape features during the early medieval period as to effectively invite re-use (James, 1992, 93); indeed, at Mwnt church in Cardiganshire, at least one surviving barrow is still recognisable beneath the medieval churchyard boundary (and another outside the church south door?), while Llanddewi Brefi and Tregaron churches were built directly upon possible barrows. The possibility that ditch 60 at Eglwysrw represents just such a ring ditch has been mentioned above, Section 3.3; however, it may be significant that the Eglwysrw ditch appears to have been deliberately backfilled, while other excavated examples appear to have been permitted to fill in over time. Nevertheless, while centuries of grave excavation have influenced both the natural and historic topography of the churchyard, the area occupied by the church itself appears, in comparison with surrounding original levels, to be similarly raised and it too may stand on the site of a barrow. The low mounds occupied by many further churches in south-west Wales may have similar origins, although it is possible that some of these mounds are themselves of early medieval date.

The re-use of an Iron Age site has been referred to above, at Caer, Bayvil. The unpublished excavation of a cemetery at Arfryn on Anglesey demonstrated the presence of both cist and dug graves within a possible defended enclosure, but until publication it is impossible to speculate on their relationships (James, 1992, 96). The extensive re-use of Iron Age defended enclosures as medieval churchyards is well-argued and often recognised (James, 1992, 95), e.g. at Eglwyscymmin and Meidrim, Carmarthenshire.

Most recently, at the early medieval monastic cemetery at Llandough, Glamorgan, a total of 858 inhumations were recorded by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 1994 (Thomas and Holbrook, 1994, 66-8) - the largest early medieval cemetery excavated in Wales to date. Llandough likewise appears to have origins within the Iron Age. The graves occupied four distinct spatial groupings, two of which featured a large percentage of infant burials. The vast majority were extended and supine, and bone preservation was good; however, there were single examples each of crouched, prone and pit burials, the latter assessed as belonging to the late Iron Age. The majority of burials were dug graves, a few of them displaying evidence of coffin stains. A small number contained lining stones but no lintel cists were represented; the presence of lining stones shows the number of variations possible within the 'cist' tradition. Four radiocarbon dates from the extended burials give dates ranging from the 5th to the 11th century, dates considered by the excavators to be consistent with the other evidence. They also considered that the absence of medieval pottery from the grave suggests that at Llandough, regular burial in graves had ceased by the 12th-14th centuries.

At the Atlantic Trading Estate site at Barry, Glamorgan, excavations by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust revealed an early medieval cemetery with possible origins as a Roman estate cemetery (Newman, 1985, 37-8; Newman and Parkin, 1986, 55; Price, 1987, 60-61). The site displays the best evidence hitherto obtained for the continuity and co-existence of early burial practices. All 45 burials were oriented in rows, bone survival was excellent and a variety of burial forms were represented ranging from shrouds (demonstrated by skeletal evidence) to graves with traces of timber covers, as well as cist burials. Moreover, the forms are present both early and late in the burial

sequence. Radiocarbon dates give a range from the 4th - 6th centuries, with potential for extension to the 2nd - 10th centuries (James, 1992, 96).

In Scotland, excavated long-cist cemeteries may be associated with Early Christian Monuments, but never with churches or chapels, either as surviving buildings or as excavated evidence - however, many have yielded radiocarbon dates that may be as late as the 9th century (Alcock, 1992, 127). This, coupled with other factors, has led to the assumption that the long-cist is a continuation of a pre-Christian burial practice; only a few long-cists have been identified within dug-grave cemeteries. Excavated Irish examples may suggest that dug-graves and simple stone-lined graves precede the use of slab-lined graves, as at Bettystown, Meath, while at Lough Gur, most of the 65 excavated burials were dug graves and four were stone-lined; the stone lined graves were again earlier than the 14 slab-lined graves, two of them being cut by slab-lined graves (O'Brien, 1992, 135).

Capel Maelog in Powys is one of the very few excavated early medieval cemeteries sited in association with medieval churches and yards (Britnell, 1992). The small cemetery, comprising a possible 22 burials, has been dated to the end of the broadly pre-Conquest period - the late 11th - 12th centuries - and was immediately superseded by a masonry church which was abandoned in the 16th century. All graves excavated were dug graves and a high proportion contained coffins, while one grave featured head-support stones and two displayed stone edgings and settings. In general, the burials were similar in form to the 449 later graves associated with the church.

What is demonstrated by the above discussion is the current gap in knowledge regarding the continuity of, or preference for, certain burial practices. Continuity within a given region will have its own cultural significance, but if a number of methods can be proven to be contemporary, what does this tell us about the individuals interred? The enclosed burials at Gogerddan and Tandderwen appear to represent high status burials, but do similar factors influence a choice of dug, stone-lined, cist or lintel grave? Of course, many more dug graves may have contained coffins than the excavated evidence can demonstrate, but it is not impossible that a timber coffin - or even a fine shroud - was seen as possessing more significance than a lintel cist.

Finally, it may be noted that cist burials of convincingly medieval appearance have been examined elsewhere in Britain, and found to be associated with memorials of 17th - 18th century date (H. James, *Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology, pers. comm.*). Furthermore, Welsh settlers are recorded as establishing cemeteries in the USA in which the coffins were covered with a layer of stone slabs, said to represent the 'traditional Welsh style' (Sarah Tarlow, University of Wales, Lampeter, *pers. comm.*).

4.2 The Eglwyswrw cemetery

The problem of dating the Eglwyswrw cemetery has been alluded to in Section 3.2 above, and the importance of the gravel surface, 10, which directly seals most of the graves. It was noted in Section 3.2 that the gravels contained a large number of sherds of local Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, of late 12th - 13th century date (see Section 6.1), but a sherd of North Devon ware, from the 16th - 18th century, was found on the surface. It may be, therefore, that the earlier pottery is all be residual and the gravel surface belongs to the 16th - 18th century, if not later. Alternatively, the gravel surface may be earlier but remained exposed until the later date; it is significant that the local pottery was all of early form. In summary, both burial types can be attributed to the medieval period but cannot be closely dated.

Within the excavated area, the 19th century made ground 6 lay directly upon gravel surface 10. This suggests either that the surface remained open until the 19th century, or that intervening contexts were deposited but were subsequently truncated. The former appears to be the most likely interpretation in view of the fact that no truncation appears to have occurred in the two demonstrably pre-19th century

post-medieval burials, 8 and 9. Intervening contexts may lie elsewhere within the yard and thus not observed.

The evidence suggests that the burials were established within a relatively short time span. Generally, both the cists and the dug graves directly cut through the natural subsoil - there was no evidence for the normal churchyard disturbance and there were no intervening deposits. However, it can be assumed that such disturbance would have occurred from the outset of the cemetery's history, and thus it may be that deposits were formerly present, but were truncated prior to the deposition of 10, possibly along with the upper fills of the burials which were noticeably shallow.

The relative chronology of the two burial types at Eglwysrw has been discussed in Section 3.2, where it was noted that only one dug grave of definite medieval date, 25, cut a cist grave, the remainder of the dug graves being earlier than the cists. While this may only hold true within the area of the cemetery that was investigated, the alignments of both burial types varied somewhat throughout the length of the excavation and this perhaps offers further evidence of a general chronological break between the excavation of the two types. Three groups of cists, represented by cists 35-41 at the west end of the site, cists 32, 33, 42, 45, 52 and 53 at the east end, and cist 55 at the centre of the site are very markedly orientated south-east - north-west; it may be that family or kinship groups are represented, and/or that the status of the individuals concerned was reflected in a variation in liturgical practice and grave alignment. The remainder of the cists, and the dug graves, are randomly orientated but the latter in particular appear to have been influenced by a pre-existing feature on the line of the present southern boundary (see below); this is in apparent contradiction with the fact that the dug graves represent the earlier practice. As has been noted by James, 'the origins of the practice of orienting burials were diverse, alignments dictated by the solar arc being one' (James, 1992, 100). However, it has been suggested above that the chronological break between the Eglwysrw burials may have been short, ruling out variations in solar alignment as an explanation for the variation.

The significance of the two types of burial practice at Eglwysrw cannot be usefully assessed. The dug graves were all rather similar, their fills darker than those within the cists probably due to an organic (timber) content, dug grave 30 exhibiting a probable coffin stain; the attitude of the burial in a second, 17, suggested that it may have been wrapped in a shroud. The cist graves, meanwhile, form a disparate group with few altogether similar forms. Some at least, such as the western group comprising cists 35-41, are broadly similar and appear to be more-or-less contemporary; however, the isolated cists without side or end slabs, with two layers of lintel slabs or the single basal-slabbled cist defy any analysis in terms of the development of burial practice and, in any case, their broad contemporaneity has been noted above. Dug grave 14 with its reversed inhumation and overlying burnt material represents a burial type without known local parallels, possibly occasioned by circumstances related to the individual concerned. Similarly, only one burial, cist 36, was accompanied by any artefactual evidence suggestive of grave goods, a shale bead, and this may be as a result of accidental deposition rather than a deliberate accompaniment to the inhumation.

4.3 Church and churchyard

It is assumed that the entire area of the medieval churchyard was used as a cemetery, but its extent is not known. The varying attitudes of the burials and the possibility that a pre-existing feature influenced the attitude of the dug graves has been mentioned.

The surviving topographic evidence, and that encountered during excavation particularly at the east end of the site, suggests that the both the westward and southward downhill slope from the church may formerly have been more pronounced than at present, if as a result of man-made alterations to the topography. In particular, the steep natural horizon along the southern boundary suggests that the present B4332 may occupy a natural valley, possibly enhanced as a medieval 'hollow way', while the natural east-west downhill slope appears to have been reduced by later road construction, indicated in particular by the steepness and level of the gravel surface 10 where it seals the most easterly cist graves.

It may be then that the southern churchyard boundary did occupy its present location. However, there is a strong local tradition of cist burials having been discovered through building work etc elsewhere within the village. An unpublished parish history from 1875 states that 'as proof of this, it is said that many graves have been uncovered from time to time long the roads through the village', and that the burial ground extended out into the surrounding fields (Pembs. R. O., HDX/803/82); one burial was apparently revealed immediately opposite the churchyard on the south side of the B4332. It may be possible that the present yard occupied a small enclosure within a larger yard and cemetery. Such concentric enclosures are far from unknown in West Wales and have been traced via aerial photography and map analysis at eg. Llangan, Pembs., and Llangynog, Carm. Their origins have been seen variously as Iron Age defended enclosures, as *llanau* ie. Early Christian monastic enclosures, or as representing the tradition of 'noddfa', the area of sanctuary referred to in the various redactions of the *Laws* of Hywel Dda. Alternatively, it may be that the yard has indeed shrunk and that an earlier raised central area reflects the putative round barrow discussed above. However, at many more early church sites it has been seen that inhumations can occur at a considerable distance from the church, with no indication of any formalised enclosure eg. Bridell, St Ishmaels and St Brides, all Pembs.

Medieval ridge tile, retrieved from 19th century made ground 6 in which it had been redeposited, was presumably derived from the church building suggesting that the medieval church carried a slate roof at some period; the tile is not closely dateable. A second tile fragment from the same context may have been flooring material but this is far from certain. Wall plaster, again redeposited in a 19th century context, may similarly be residual and be derived from the medieval church.

The tradition, noted by Fenton, of the presence during the 16th century of a Chantry Chapel within the yard, dedicated to St Eirw, has been noted above (Section 2.2). The characteristics of rectilinear feature 3 suggest that it represents the 19th century robbing of a masonry structure, possibly already truncated, for salvage. The feature was not totally excavated and its depth was not determined, but a rectangular plan and deep below-ground component were indicated. It was aligned WSW-ENE, and therefore out of alignment with the church, but was nonetheless sufficiently oriented to suggest that any structure that may be represented was of religious origin. No such robbing is indicated either by local sources, or in 19th century church records, but if it took place prior to about 1850 then a Faculty may not have been applied for; made ground 6 through which the feature was excavated cannot be closely dated but had already been established by 1880 and may represent debris from the church rebuild of 1829 (see Section 3.1 above). The robbed structure may represent a tomb, but it may have been part of a larger structure and the strength of the Chantry Chapel tradition cannot be ignored.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological work along the southern edge of the churchyard at St Cristiolus, Eglwyswrw, Pembrokeshire, demonstrates that it was the site of a medieval cemetery that was established at a period between the late 12th century and the 16th - 18th centuries. Of the forty-three inhumations observed in the small area available for study, twenty-five were stone-lined 'long cist' burials, representing a burial type with origins in the pre-Conquest period; the cists exhibited a wide variety of constructional techniques, while an association of seven similar cists shared certain characteristics and may represent the burials of a kinship group. The remaining eighteen inhumations were simple dug graves, one of which exhibited coffin staining while another displayed possible evidence of a shroud; a third was interred facing west. The medieval burial may have occupied a relatively short time-span.

The extent of the medieval cemetery/churchyard was not determined, but the alignment of the burials suggested that a boundary of some nature existed more-or-less along the same line as the later southern churchyard boundary. Nevertheless, such a boundary may not have represented the southern limit of the cemetery, burials having apparently been encountered further to the south and west during the past 100 years.

The medieval church and yard may occupy the site of a bronze age barrow cemetery. One arc of a curvilinear ditch was encountered within the medieval cemetery (and possibly extending beyond), which may represent the quarry-ditch for a round barrow. The spreading of a further, larger barrow, may be responsible for the slight mound upon which the church itself stands.

All the medieval and earlier features were sealed by a gravel surface laid down, or open until, the 16th - 18th century. The surface appears to represent part of a deliberate metalled area, a trackway or yard area given over for specific usage. This surface was cut by two post-16th - 18th century dug graves which cannot be closely dated.

An extensive spread of material, including building debris possibly relating to a church restoration, was laid down over the southern edge of the yard in the early-mid 19th century. This made ground was cut by two substantial rectilinear features, which were observed only in part during the archaeological work. One of these features may relate to the 19th century robbing of a tomb or structure; the presence of a medieval Chantry Chapel was noted by one 16th century source.

The made ground was also cut by three marked burials dating from 1880 to 1964, which were disinterred as part of the client's requirements, and three unmarked (and undated) graves.

In summary, the project demonstrates the enormous archaeological potential lying beneath the yards of Welsh rural churches.

6.0 THE FINDS

The finds described below are from the excavation of the medieval cemetery excavation and associated post-medieval features. All were retained. The 19th - 20th century coffin fittings were re-interred and are not included within this section; they are described above in section 3.3.

6.1 The pottery and tile (by D F M Brennan)

A total of 93 sherds of medieval pottery, and 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the excavation.

The medieval material consists almost totally of local pottery with evidence for only one non-local vessel, from the Ham Green area of Bristol. The local pottery comprises hand-made jars and jugs in fabrics identified as Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware. The fabric was first identified by C. O'Mahoney (1985) and a recent survey of medieval ceramics in Wales gives a brief summary of the fabrics, forms, dating and distribution of this ware (Papazian & Campbell, 1992, 56-59). The majority of the sherds - seventy in total - were recovered from the gravel surface that sealed the medieval inhumations.

The 'local' content of this small assemblage reflects previously published ceramic collections within the region including Gwbert (Benson *et al.*, 1978), Cardigan Castle (O'Mahoney in Murphy, 1985), Newport (Brennan & Murphy, 1996) and a number of other West Wales sites (publications forthcoming). As with these sites, unglazed cooking pots (77 sherds) are the dominant form in the Eglwyswrrw assemblage, glazed vessels (14 sherds), probably jugs, forming a low proportion of the total sherd count.

There is no chronological type series yet available for 'locally' made wares. As with the Cardigan Castle and Newport assemblages, the associated non-local pottery (1 sherd) provides the only means of dating. At both sites local gravel-tempered vessels were found with late 12th-early 13th century Ham Green cooking pots and glazed jugs (O'Mahoney in Murphy, 1985, 205; Brennan & Murphy, 1996, 1). A similar association is found at Eglwyswrrw, although no cooking pot sherds were recovered.

The post-medieval pottery is of 17th - 18th century date and consists of two sherds from glazed vessels in the distinctive North Devon gravel-tempered fabric. Both are from recognisably post medieval features.

Ten fragments of glazed ridge tile were found. All are in a fabric similar to the local wares found on site and are probably of similar date. One noticeably thicker fragment with glaze surviving on its upper surface is probably floor tile.

6.2 The plaster, iron, glass, clay and stone (by D F M Brennan & N D Ludlow)

The vast majority of finds recovered from the site were ceramic. However, a few contexts contained finds of other material but none provide much further insight into dating or use of the site.

Wall plaster with an ochre-wash finish was recovered from fill 3 and, although not closely dateable, may be medieval. Only one coffin nail was recovered, again from fill 3 where it may be derived, but a larger iron object from gravel surface 10 may be a clog-iron, of uncertain date. Fill 3 also contained the shards of an 18th century bottle, while the fill of feature 4 contained the only clay-pipe stem recovered, of 17th - 19th century date.

Of more interest is the shale bead that was encountered within the fill of cist grave 36. The bead was approximately 6mm in diameter, was perforated for mounting on a string, and its occurrence singly within the burial may be accidental rather than the result of deliberate deposition. The bead was, unfortunately, lost during the progress of the excavations.

6.3 The bronze object (by J Webster)

An incomplete bronze object was recovered from the interface between the fill of ring-ditch 60 and gravel surface 10. It may be of Roman date.

The object comprises a short, stout cylindrical bronze bar, 53mm long with a diameter of 9mm, decorated with transverse mouldings and terminating at each end in what appear now as ?iron knobs. Although the mouldings are carried all the way round the piece, one half of the bar has less pronounced mouldings, is apparently more severely worn and has lost its surface patina, suggesting both that it took more wear than the 'front' half and, perhaps, that it was not meant to be so much seen.

The decoration on the bar is of *astralagus* form with a pair of mouldings separated by a groove forming the 'reel' at the centre, flanked by a 'bead' to either side and terminating in a further narrow moulding at the end of each bead. Beyond the narrow mouldings the bar narrows, then widens slightly to its junction with the ?iron knob at each end.

Insufficient remains of the piece to be able to identify its function or its date. From the Roman period a number of items which have some similarity can be cited but they cannot be claimed as parallels for the piece. A knife handle from Verulamium (St Albans), for example, has a separately made, moulded bar, originally one of a pair, inserted within its openwork frame and secured in holes in the frame by projections from either end of the bar (Frere, 1972, 124 no.75). The Verulamium piece is much smaller than the Eglwysrw bar but a similar decorative or spacing function may, perhaps, have pertained to the latter.

The piece might have served as a pivot. A somewhat unusual, rectangular, iron buckle from Saalburg has a pivoted frame, with a pivot somewhat resembling the Eglwysrw bar. In the Saalburg buckle the tongue is attached to the frame proper and it is difficult to envisage how the piece functioned (Oldenstein, 1976, 216 no.1040, Taf.78).

Handles of various forms in the Roman period carry similar decoration to that of the bar under discussion. A larger, cruder, cylindrical bar, with a cleft end, from South Shields, is thought to have served as a mirror handle (Allason-Jones and Milet, 1984, 166, 3.429). A more elegant mirror handle from Nijmegen (Lloyd-Morgan, 1981, 55, no.1) has simplified *astralagus* mouldings. A series of handles terminating each in the form of a human hand, from the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, have similar mouldings to the Eglwysrw piece, along the 'arm' (Menzel, 1986, 119, nos.286-8, Taf.121). However, the overall form of the Eglwysrw piece is clearly different from these. Though it might seem that its obvious function was either as a vessel handle, cf. Eggers, 1951, Taf. 10 nos.98, 99, 100-103, or as a drop-handle, cf. examples from the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn (eg. Menzel, 1986, 183-7, nos.503-517, Taf.152-4), the piece lacks the accepted means of attachment.

In conclusion, the piece cannot be dated accurately its function cannot be defined. Similar bronze bars with similar decoration to the Eglwysrw piece were certainly in use during the Roman period. Its

location within a context that was well sealed by a medieval deposit would suggest that that the piece cannot be post-medieval, but without being able to identify its function it is impossible to determine whether the object is of Roman manufacture and use; however, it is unlikely to be a Classical revival piece that came to lie within the fill of 60 due to disturbance.

6.4 The Catalogue (by D F M Brennan)

All categories by context:

Fill of rectilinear feature 3

Plaster:

No. of fragments: 7
Object: Wall plaster.
Details: Ochre coloured wash.
Source: Unsourced, on-site
Date: Medieval, not closely datable.

Iron:

No. of fragments: 1
Object: Coffin nail
Details: Short length of square-sectioned tapering shank with head of nail fused. Traces of mineralised wood.
Date: Uncertain.

Glass:

No. of fragments: 4 (joining)
Fragment detail: 4 body.
Form: Wine bottle of 'mallet'/'cylindrical' form.
Manufacture: Free-blown.
Colour/condition: Olive green with patches of surface weathering
Source: Unsourced, but probably Bristol
Date: Post-medieval, mid-late 18th century.

Fill of rectilinear feature 4

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Cooking pot
Manufacture: Handmade
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware ie hard gritty fabric, buff through to orange sometimes with a reduced grey core. Tempered with rounded shales and sandstones with some quartz.
Surface treatment: Unglazed; several sherds sooted externally.
Decoration: None
Source: Dyfed. Precise origin not determined as gravel-tempered ware vessels were probably produced at several centres.
Date: Medieval. Dyfed wares were certainly produced during the 13th century although their association with imported 12th century pottery would indicate a 12th century origin. The terminal date is thought to be sometime during the late 16th or early 17th century when North Devon wares arrive on the Welsh market (Papazian & Campbell, 1992, 56).

Indeterminate forms:

No. of sherds: 2
Sherd detail: 2 body.
Form: Indeterminate, probable jugs
Manufacture: Handmade

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Traces of glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Pottery:

North Devon gravel-tempered ware

Jars:

No. of sherds: 3 (joining)
Sherd detail: 2 lower body, 1 base.
Form: Large jar.
Manufacture: Wheel-thrown.
Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware. A hard gritty fabric with reduced grey interior and oxidised buff-orange exterior. Tempered with frequent coarse grits and fewer gravels. Similarity of fabric to Dyfed gravel-tempered ware makes distinguishing between the two difficult.
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze internally.
Decoration: None.
Source: North Devon.
Date: Post-medieval, 17th-18th centuries.

Ceramic ridge tile:

No. of fragments: 2
Object: Roofing material.
Details: 1 uncertain angled fragments, 1 curved fragment without edge.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Angled fragment unglazed/none surviving, curved fragment has traces of thin yellowish glaze on upper surface.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Clay pipe:

No. of fragments: 1
Object: Clay pipe.
Details: Plain stem.
Fabric: Pipe clay.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Post-medieval, 17th-19th centuries.

19th century made ground 6

Pottery:

North Devon gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 6
Sherd detail: 1 rim, 5 body (joining).
Form: Cooking pots
Manufacture: Handmade
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.
Rim detail: Short upright wedge-shaped rim, diameter 14-16cm.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Jugs :

No. of sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug?
Manufacture: Handmade
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Traces of thin olive green glaze externally.
Decoration: Faint horizontal grooves and band of short vertical impressions externally.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Ceramic ridge tile:

No. of fragments: 2
Object: Roofing material.
Details: 1 fragment with low triangular crests, 1 edge fragment.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Traces of thin patchy glaze over slip on upper surface of both fragments.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Ceramic tile:

No. of fragments: 1
Object: Floor tile?
Details: Thickness of fragment would suggest flooring tile rather than roofing tile although there are no other distinguishing features.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Patchy olive green glaze on upper surface.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

?Post-medieval grave 7

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 3
Sherd detail: 3 body.
Form: Cooking pots.
Manufacture: Handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Unglazed; 1 sherd sooted externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

?Post-medieval grave 8

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 3
Sherd detail: 2 rim, 1 body.
Form: Cooking pots.
Manufacture: Handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Unglazed; 2 sherds sooted externally.
Decoration: None.

Rim detail: 1 upright rim with concave inner and flat top, diameter 16cm; 1 wedge-shaped rim, diameter not established.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

?Post-medieval grave 21

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Cooking pot.
Manufacture: Handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Gravel surface 10

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 58
Sherd detail: 10 rim, 39 body, 9 base
Form: Cooking pots
Manufacture: Handmade
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: Unglazed; several sherds sooted externally.
Decoration: 1 body sherd shoulder fragment with faint external horizontal grooves. Rest without decoration.
Rim detail: 3 upright rims with short projecting rolled edge, 1 with diameter 20cm+, 3 with diameter 16-18cm; 4 upright wedge-shaped rim, 3 with diameter 14cm+, 1 with diameter 14cm-, 1 with diameter not established; 1 everted rim with flat top projecting inwards, diameter not established; 1 upright rim with inward sloping top, diameter 14-16cm.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Jugs :

No. of sherds: 5
Sherd detail: 1 body, 3 ?base, 1 thumb-pressed base
Form: Jugs
Manufacture: Handmade
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.
Surface treatment: All sherds with traces of glaze externally. 1 body sherd is sooted externally, the glaze surviving as specks; 3 ?base sherds (1 vessel) are brown-glazed; 1 thumb-pressed base shows traces of vitrified glaze.
Decoration: 1 thumb-pressed base sherd.
Base detail: Small sherd only, diameter not established.
Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above).

Indeterminate forms:

No. of sherds: 6
Sherd detail: 5 ?body, 1 ?base
Form: Indeterminate
Manufacture: Handmade? 1 body sherd, probably jar/cooking pot, wheel-thrown.
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above; 1 body/base sherd with smaller gravel inclusions.
Surface treatment: 1 body/base sherd with olive green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.

Source: Dyfed (see above).
Date: Medieval (see above). Glazed body/base sherd possibly late.

Pottery:

North Devon gravel-tempered ware

Indeterminate forms:

No. of sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Indeterminate, probable jar/cooking pot.

Manufacture: Wheel-thrown.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Olive green glaze internally, sooted externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: Post-medieval, 16th-18th centuries.

Ceramic ridge tile:

No. of fragments: 7

Object: Roofing material.

Details: 5 edge fragments, 2 are joining.

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Traces of patchy olive green glaze on upper surface of 5 fragments; 2 fragments unglazed/none surviving.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Iron:

No. of fragments: 1

Object: ?Clog iron (possible fitting?).

Details: Narrow strap iron bent at two points, one possible nail hole. Any other detail obscured by corrosion products. Length 270mm, maximum width 12mm.

Date: Uncertain.

Cist 36

Stone:

No. of fragments: 1

Object: Bead.

Stone type: Shale.

Details: Small perforated shale bead. Diameter 6mm.

Date: Uncertain; medieval at latest.

Fill of Cist 44

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 2 rim, 1 body.

Form: Cooking pots.

Manufacture: Handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Unglazed; 2 sherds sooted externally.

Decoration: None.

Rim detail: 1 upright rim with concave inner and flat top, diameter 16cm; 1 wedge-shaped rim, diameter not established.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Fill of Cist 54

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 rim.

Form: Cooking pot.

Manufacture: Handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Unglazed; sooted externally.

Decoration: None.

Rim detail: Wedge-shaped rim, diameter not established.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Feature 56

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 6

Sherd detail: 4 body, 2 base (joining).

Form: Cooking pots.

Manufacture: Handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Unglazed; 5 sherds sooted externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Pottery:

Ham Green ware

Jugs:

No. of sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Manufacture: Handmade.

Fabric: A hard blue-grey (reduced) fabric. Most frequent inclusions are fine sands with fewer small grey gravels, occasional small red and chalky white inclusions.

Surface treatment: A thin patchy greenish brown glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Rim detail: Wedge-shaped rim, diameter not established.

Source: Ham Green, Bristol.

Date: Medieval, late 12th-early 13th century.

Feature 57

Pottery:

Dyfed gravel-tempered ware

Cooking pots:

No. of sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 2 base.

Form: Cooking pots.

Manufacture: Handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware. Fabric description as above.

Surface treatment: Unglazed; 1 sherd sooted externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Dyfed (see above).

Date: Medieval (see above).

Ring ditch 60

Bronze:

No. of fragments: 1

Object: Unknown (possible fitting?).

Details: Short stout cylindrical bar with transverse mouldings and terminal ?iron knobs. Length 53mm, maximum width 9mm.

Date: Uncertain; Roman?.

7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, will be deposited with the NMR, maintained by RCAHM(W), Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ. It contains the following:

- A.1. Copy of the final report
- A.4. Disk copy of report

- B.1. Context records - paper
- B.4. Field notebooks
- B.5. Survey data - paper

- C.1. Catalogue of field drawings
- C.2. Site drawings
- C.3. Survey drawings
- C.4. Phased 'Level III' plan

- D.1. Catalogue of site photographs
- D.2. Colour slides
- D.3. Mono prints and negs

- E.1. Catalogue of boxed finds
- E.3. Index to storage location of finds
- E.4. Context finds records
- E.8. Object record forms
- E.13. Pottery records
- E.14. Specialist correspondence and notes

- G.1. Source documentation
- G.2. Correspondence on archaeological matters

- H.2. Location of remains
- H.3. Unpublished analyses
- H.4. Unpublished drawings

- I.4. Final report - manuscript
- I.4. Final report - typescript
- I.4. Final report - disk
- I.4. Proofs
- I.4. Paste-ups

- J.2. Final publication drawings

- K.2. Press release
- K.6. Lecture notes

- L.1. Project research design/specification
- L.4. General admin.

- M.1. Non-archaeological correspondence

There is no material for classes F and N.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Overall archaeological project management was undertaken by Neil Ludlow, of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, who conducted the watching brief. The excavations were directed by Richard Ramsey, assisted by Gwilym Bere, Maugan Trethowan and Ian Darke, all of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. Voluntary assistance was provided by Chris Sharpe and Rebecca Ramsey. The report was written by Neil Ludlow, with assistance from Richard Ramsey. Finds analysis and reporting was undertaken by Dee Brennan; the bronze object was described by Janet Webster. Final illustration was assisted by Belinda Allen of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. Much additional information was supplied by Paul Sambrook, also of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, and Heather James, who also commented on the draft report.

Thanks are offered to Eric Harries and Parry Lloyd of the Transportation and Technical Services Department, PCC; the staff of S + E Construction for their co-operation; Rev. Bertie Lewis, Vicar of Eglwysrwrw, and Harold Davies, churchwarden, for their assistance and for additional information.

9.0 REFERENCES

Databases

Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record, curated by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

Manuscript maps and plans

NLW, Eglwyswrw parish, Tithe map and apportionment, 1838.

Printed Maps

Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, Pembrokeshire Sheet VI.11, 1889.

Rees, W., 1933, *South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century*.

Unpublished Works

Murphy, K., and Allen, B., 1997, '*Coastal Survey 1996-7: Strumble Head to Ginst Point*' (unpublished Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Client Report; copy held with Dyfed SMR).

NLW, Church in Wales Records, Faculty SD/F/158 - Restoration of church.

NLW, Church in Wales Records, Faculty SD/F/1598 - Construction of vestry.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, Pembs. R. O. HDX/803/82, *Hanes Plwyf Eglwyswrw*, Anon., 1875.

Published Works

Alcock, E., 1992, 'Burials and Cemeteries in Scotland', in Edwards and Lane, 1992.

Allason-Jones, L., and Milet, R., 1984, 'The Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort', *Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Monograph*, Series 2.

Benson, D., James, H., and Jones, S., 1978, 'A medieval pottery group from Gwbert, Dyfed', *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, Vol. 1.

Bradley, R. I., 1976, *Soils in Dyfed III (Sheet SN 13)*, Soil Survey Record No. 38.

- Brassil, K. S., Owen, W. G., and Britnell, W. J., 1991, 'Prehistoric and Early Medieval Cemeteries at Tandderwen, near Denbigh, Clwyd', *Archaeol. Journ.*, Vol. 148.
- Brennan, D. F. M., and Murphy, K., 1996, 'The Pottery from Excavations in Three Burgage Plots in the Town of Newport, Dyfed, 1991', *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, Vol. 14.
- Britnell, W. J., 1990, 'Capel Maelog, Llandrindod Wells, Powys: Excavations 1984-87', *Medieval Archaeol.*, Vol. XXXIV.
- Brooke, C. N. L., 1986, *The Church and the Welsh Border in the Central Middle Ages*.
- Davies, W., 1982, *Wales in the Early Middle Ages*.
- Edwards, N., 1986, 'Anglesey in the Early Middle Ages; the archaeological evidence', *Trans. Anglesey Antiq. Soc.*
- Edwards, N., and Lane, A. (eds.), 1992, *The Early Church in Wales and the West*.
- Eggers, H. J., 1951, *Der Römische Import in Freien Germanien*.
- Fenton, R., 1903 edn., *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*.
- Frere, S. S., 1972, 'Verulamium Excavations I', *Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, Vol. 28.
- Green, F., 1911, 'Pembrokeshire Parsons', *West Wales Historical Records*, Vol. I.
- 'Gwaethvoed', 1854, 'Welsh Wakes', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. V, New Series.
- Howells, B. E., and Howells, K. A., 1977 (eds.), *The Extent of Cemais, 1594*.
- James, H., 1987, 'Excavations at Caer, Bayvil, 1979', *Archaeol. Camb.*, Vol. CXXXVI.
- James, H., 1992, 'Early Medieval Cemeteries in Wales', in Edwards and Lane, 1992.
- Lewis, E. T., 1972, *North of the Hills*.
- Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.
- Lloyd-Morgan, G., 1981, *Descriptions of the Collections of the Rijksmuseum G. M. Kam at Nijmegen*, Vol. IX, The Mirrors.
- Menzel, 1986, *Die Römische Bronzen aus Deutschland*, III.
- Murphy, K., 1987, 'Excavations at Llanychlwyddog Church, Dyfed', *Archaeol. Camb.*, Vol. CXXXVI.

- Murphy, K., 1992, 'Plas Gogerddan, Dyfed: A Multi-period Burial and Ritual Site', *Archaeol. Journ.*, Vol. 149.
- Newman, R., 1985, 'Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry', *Archaeol. in Wales*, Vol. 25.
- Newman, R., and Parkin, L., 1986, 'Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry', *Archaeol. in Wales*, Vol. 26.
- Nowakowski, J. A., and Thomas, C., 1990, *Tintagel Churchyard*.
- O'Brien, E., 1992, 'Pagan and Christian Burial in Ireland during the first Millennium AD: Continuity and Change', in Edwards and Lane, 1992.
- O' Mahoney, C., 1985 i, 'Pottery', in Murphy, K., 'Excavation and survey at Cardigan Castle', *Ceredigion* Vol. 10.
- O' Mahoney, C., 1985 ii, 'West Wales fabrics - an interim note', *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, Vol. 8.
- Oldenstein, J., 1976, *Zur Ausrüstung Römische Auxiliareinheiten*, 57.
- Owen, H. (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen of Henllys*, Vol. II, Cymmrodorion Record Series I.
- Papazian, C., and Campbell, E., 1992, 'Medieval pottery and roof tiles in Wales AD 1100-1600', *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, Vol. 13.
- Price, C., 1987, 'Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry', *Archaeol. in Wales*, Vol. 27.
- Pritchard, E. M., 1907, *The History of St Dogmaels Abbey*.
- RCAHM, 1925, 'Inventory', Pembrokeshire.
- Thomas, A., and Holbrook, N., 1994, 'Llandough', *Archaeol. in Wales*, Vol. 34.
- Thomas, A. C., 1971, *The Early Christian Archaeology of North Britain*.

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
1	SM70532367	7309	Ramsey Island House, St. Davids.	1860 report of stone coffins in front of house, rebuilt close to site of old farmhouse ruined by 1811, (P.A.S.) In 1963 some marked headstones (now not visible) and graves from same site reported.	Inscribed stone: SATVRNBIV, 8/9th C. Anglo-Saxon style from 1963 rebuilding (A.C. CXIX (1970), 68-70. E. Okasha). Two chapels recorded by G. Owen—17th C. St. Tyfanog's site probably in cemetery area.
2	SM72362525	7470	St. Justinian's Chapel, St. Davids	Poorly excavated, but possible cist grave below west wall of two-phase medieval chapel—(A.C. LXXXI (1926), E. J. Boake).	Chapel of St. Justinian.
3	SM73372723	2638	St. Patrick's Chapel, St. Davids	1924 Excavations revealed burials below west wall, 1970. small-scale excavation in western half of churchyard uncovered 3 burials, 2 in cists and oriented, one with re-used cross-inscribed stone as cover slab. (AW 1970, 47).	St. Patrick's Chapel, ruined below dunes on Whitesands beach. Excavation report: A.C. LXXX (1925). A. B. Badger and F. Green.
4	SM73492738	2633	Ty Gwyn, St. Davids	Cists found mid 19th C. below garden wall of Ty Gwyn and stone lined graves east of garden (P.A.S.).	
5	SM77982990	2695	Tremynydd, St. Davids	1895 'stone coffin'—actually stone-lined cist found in grounds of Tremynydd farmhouse. (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , No. 990, p. 338.)	
6	SM77572924	2701	Waun y beddau./Carreg Nimllwyd, St. Davids	Several stone-lined graves reported intermittently, some with bone (P.A.S., RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> No. 977, p. 336).	Adjacent field to the west contains Rhos-y-gilwen chambered tomb.
7	SM795267	2677	Cnwc, Caerfarchell, St. Davids	Stone-lined graves reported in 1880's from Cnwc field; Possible ECM, found in 1897, but reburied in hedge bank, when repairs to adjacent road uncovered 2 shallow stone-lined graves. (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> No. 976, p. 336.)	

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED—continued

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
8	SM81232407	4326	St. Teilo's, St. Elvis	"Stone graves, cistvaens, or stones originally arranged around the corpse in place of a coffin" noted in 19th C. when digging foundations on north side of church site (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , Nos. 1033-4 p. 368).	Site of medieval parish church of Llanelvech abandoned 1822. Group II ECM (395) now at Solva found as gate post on adjacent St. Elvis Farm.
9	SM831270	2742	Weirglodd-y-fynwent Llandeloy	Field name suggestion of cemetery.	Mid-19th-C. recollection of a ruined building, traditionally a church in same field, also local report of possible Group I/II ECM, (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , No. 1177, p. 413. Also Holy Well on the site <i>HWW</i> p. 211).
10	SM826303	2836	Parc-y-Fynwent, Llanrian	c. 1800 stone coffin and sword—possibly separate finds—reported from roadside field 200 yards west of Croesgoch, (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , No. 530, p. 178).	
11	SM863316	2868	Rhoslanog Farm, Mathry	Tradition of cemetery south of Rhoslanog Farm, (RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , p. 222).	Early O.S. maps mark circular bank around Farm; Group II ECM (348), now built into churchyard wall at Mathry, from the farm.
12	SM879320	4578	Mathry Church, Mathry	"At Mathry the corpses of the martyrs have been interred in coffins of stone, to be seen in several places near the churchyard": (Letter, 1720, in Fenton, HTP, p. 17 note (r). Pers. inf. on ?cist graves visible east of churchyard.)	Place-name derived from <i>merthyr</i> (-martyr). Group I ECM (346) Latin and ogham from the churchyard.
13	SM908382	2513	Weirglodd y fynwent Llandrudion Farm, St. Nicholas	Field north of farmhouse where "a grave yard and stone-lined graves have recently been destroyed" (P.A.S. in RCAHM, <i>Pembs.</i> , No. 1070, p. 380).	Group I ECM (399) and ECM 400, now at St. Nicholas' church, from the farm.

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED—*continued*

72

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
14	SM89564050	2871	Llanwnwr Farm, Llanwnda	1859, flag-lined graves visible after rainfall in farmyard. <i>A.C.</i> 1883, p. 344, reports opening of rock-cut grave for field visit, other graves reported to contain bone and ash (<i>RCAHM, Pems., No. 559, p. 191</i>).	Site of larger of two chapels dependent on Llanwnda, dedicated to St. Gynyr, grandfather of St. David. Group II ECM (326) used as farm gatepost.
15	SN00953948	1428	Ty Gwyn, Bryn Henllan, Dinas	"Certain coffin-like places" visible in rocky track between the chapel and Ty Gwyn Farm, (<i>P.A.S.</i>) In 1981, local informant remembers "stone-lined graves" covered in thin shale slabs in Ty Gwyn farmyard. (<i>D.A.T. S. & M. records</i>).	Close to Bryn Henllan Chapel.
16	SN001349	1532	Parc-y-fynwent, Cilrhedyn, Llanychair	Tradition of burial ground in field. (<i>RCAHM, Pems., No. 606., p. 198.</i>)	Group II ECM (337) found used as lintel in adjacent cottage at SM999349.
17	SN01233437	4336	St. Davids Church Llanychlwydog	1984 excavation by DAT within and around redundant church—cist burial below west wall of medieval church, and two cists on north side of church, one of which produced a radiocarbon date of 890 \pm 60 a.d. (see this volume for full report).	Four Group II, ECM (338-341) surrounding church shown by excavation to be recently so placed, a fifth unmarked, but originally erect, standing stone found outside the west wall of the medieval church.
18	SN11244171	1150	Caer/Y Gaer, Bayvil	Long cists, part cists, dug graves cut into enclosure bank and across interior of Caer. Radio-carbon date 665 \pm 60 AD for bone from cist cutting bank	Cemetery within small univallate Iron Age enclosure.
19	SN1246454	1054	Caerau, St. Dogmaels Rural	1864 report of "several graves found over last 70 years" including stone coffin, bone, hammer and cutlass, stone mould and smithing slag, also white quartz pebbles. (<i>A.C.</i> 1864, pp. 302-3.)	Field names llain yr Eglwys, Y Fynn Went, Yr Eglwys ddiflodan, confused traditions of a monastery. Burials located between outer ramparts of this large trivallate hillfort; Other finds Iron Age/Romano British?

EXCAVATIONS AT CAER, BAYVIL

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED—*continued*

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
20	SN142491	1058	Penrhyn Castle, St. Dogmaels	Mid 19th- c. reports of grave/stone coffins found when ploughing steep field between Pen Moyn Bach and Penrhyn Castle, also grave and skeleton at nearby Cwm Clwyd. (<i>RCAHM, Pems., No. 1014, p. 363.</i>)	
21	SN17504213	5321	Parc pen Cestyll, Bridell	Present churchyard within larger, earlier cemetery? 1860 report of "considerable number of interments each in a kind of cist faen", in a field adjoining church yard, <i>A.C.</i> 1860, 317; 1872, 358. In 1885 "several stone-lined graves" found in same field (<i>RCAHM, Pems., No. 81 p. 31</i>).	Group I Ogam and Latin ECM, re-used as Class II. <i>ECMW</i> 300 in churchyard.
22	SN312425	11918	Fynnon Oer, Llandyfriog	1865, three stone-lined graves uncovered during construction of farm road, aligned north to south with headstones. (<i>A.C.</i> 1865, pp. 395-7; 1906, p. 111).	
23	SN47374130	1832	St. Llwni's Church Llanllwni	1877, "several cists with human bones" discovered seemingly cut into motte east of the church. (<i>RCAHM, Cams., No. 523, p. 175.</i>)	1836 a crouched burial, Bronze Age? found below church floor—motte may be enlargement of a barrow.
24	SN54774240	762	Capel Iago, Llanybydder	1967 O.S. report of stone-lined grave uncovered by farmer in Yr Hen Fynwent field, 1984 farmer informed D.A.T. that large slabs ploughed up in same field (<i>D.A.T. S & M records</i>).	Standing stone in Capel Iago field, which is the site of medieval chapel of St. James, Yr Hen Fynwent field to the east also contains 'Fynnon Iago'.
25	SN50752178	8976	Pontargothi, Llanegwad	1980 report to D.A.T. of 'stone-lined' graves uncovered but not recorded during pipe-laying behind Salutation Inn, Pontargothi.	In area of documented but unlocated bridge chapel ? dedicated to St. Hernin. PRN 726.

EXCAVATIONS AT CAER, BAYVIL

73

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED—continued

74

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
26	SN23101065	7378	St. Margaret's Church, Eglwys Gymyn	1919 report by G. C. Treharne of eight oriented extended burials in a mound due north of chancel, (<i>TCASFC</i> XVII 1919-23 p. 2).	Group I ECM (<i>ECMW</i> 142), from churchyard. Church and graveyard within large embanked prehistoric enclosure?
27	SS14289664	4584	Caldey Island	1918 Report by Dom Bernard Brown of three stone slabbed inhumations uncovered when grave digging in cemetery on south side of the village church (<i>TCASFC</i> XII 1917-18, p. 43).	Group I ECM.
28	SR90529722	543	Brownslade, Churchways Field, Castlemartin	Excavation in 1880 by Edward Laws discovered numerous burials in sand and inserted in a barrow "protected by an enclosure of long waterworn stones" (<i>LEBW</i> p. 558).	Secondary long cist burials in a Bronze Age barrow, possible chapel site adjacent.
29	SM88960063	3080	Kilpaison Burrows, Rhoscrowther	Round barrow, with primary and secondary Bronze Age burials also contained a secondary inhumation with lines of stone slabs along its length, excavated C. Fox, (<i>A.C. LXXXI</i> (1926), p. 1-35).	
30	SM91770782	3368	St. Cewydd, now St. Peter's Church, Steynton	Medieval church, restored in 1883, when two "cromlechs", possibly cists found below nave floor, also horses heads, and other bone. (<i>A.C.</i> 1896, p. 354.)	Group I ECM (404) 'Gendili' removed from churchyard into the church.
31	SM89120774	3030	St. Botolphs, Steynton	'Several stone coffins, containing bones' discovered when new house was built in early 19th c. Lewis, <i>TDW</i> , 1833.	House on the site of and incorporating part of ruins of chapel of St. Budo
32	SM86900948	3016	Capeston Tumulus, Walwyns Castle	Small mound, cut by tramway, revealing oriented stone cist (<i>RCAHM, Pems.</i> , No. 1107, p. 407).	Possible secondary burial in a Bronze Age barrow?

EXCAVATIONS AT CAER, BAYVIL

GAZETTEER OF CIST CEMETERY SITES IN DYFED—continued

No. on Map	Grid Ref	PRN	Site Name and Parish	Descriptions and References	Associated Structures/Monuments
33	SM830065	5234	St. Ishmaels	1976 discovery of ten slab-lined oriented graves containing extended inhumations in pipe trench 140 m south-east of St. Ishmaels church, and graves reported by Rev. J. P. Gordon Williams on valley side 60 m south-east of vicarage. (<i>AW</i> 16 1976 p. 44.)	Group II ECM (396) in church, 9th-c. or later. Also Group III 10/11th-c. fragment (<i>ECMW</i> 397).
34	SM80231094	7606	St. Bride's Church, St. Bride's	Long cist burials, and dug graves in eroding boulder clay at head of beach indicates a larger cemetery than existing churchyard of St. Bride's; Two radiocarbon dates obtained in 1975 from an eroding cist grave (950 ± 70 a.d.) and a dug grave close by (150 ± 60 bp, i.e. 1650 AD+).	Small chapel, now eroded away by the sea existed north of the church, associated with cist burials. Possible ECM noted by Ed. Lhuyd now lost (<i>RCAHM, Pems.</i> , No. 929, p. 319.)
35	SN62648351	8237	Plas Gogerddan	1986 excavation by DAT. Ca. 25 oriented graves, no bone survived, but 9 had coffin stains. Radiocarbon date 370 ± 60 a.d. Three small rectangular timber structures contained central graves. (<i>A.W.</i> 26, 1986, pp. 29-31).	Graves close to a Bronze Age standing stone, and a large round barrow with three other ring ditches; several Iron Age burials also discovered.

EXCAVATIONS AT CAER, BAYVIL

75

10/10/96

APPENDIX 2

(From Cadw, *Welsh Historic Churches Survey, 1995-8*; report by N D Ludlow, Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology:-)

ST CRISTIOLUS, EGLWYSWRW, PEMBROKESHIRE (PRESELI)

Dyfed PRN 4974

RB No.

NGR SN 1420 3849

Not listed in 1998

SUMMARY

19th century church; 0% medieval core fabric. On site of, and in same location as, medieval church (no separate Dyfed PRN).

A 3-cell church, medium-sized. Consists of chancel, 2 bays; nave, 3 bays; south porch; all (re)built in 1883-4. Vestry (west), 1 bay, 1930.

Construction is in slate rubble. Neo-gothic. All internal walls are rendered/plastered. Slate gable roofs; vestry with a flat roof. Openings are mainly from 1883-4, including chancel arch. Western single bellcote, 1883-4. Buttresses, 1883-4. South porch half-timbered, 1883-4. Vestry openings, 1930.

Roofs and floors, 1883-4, and 1930. Finishes, 1883-4, and 1930.

Condition - good.

Archaeological potential - very good. Church entirely rebuilt in 1829, in same location as earlier church and above its foundations, and again in 1883-4; no physical evidence for pre-19th century church; no external cutting or drain around church; no evidence for floor level changes; underfloor void; no crypt/vault evident; evidence of former components beyond 10% of church; possible prehistoric features beneath church.

Structural value (pre 19th century) - poor. 0% pre-1884 core fabric.

Phasing:

Phase 1 - Chancel, nave and south porch, 1883-4.

Phase 2 - West vestry, 1930

(Former building history:

Phase 1 - Medieval church.

?Phase 2 - Rebuilt/restored 1756?

Phase 3- Rebuilt 1829.

DESCRIPTION

St Cristiolus, Eglwysrwrw, is a 3-celled church, of medium size. It was (re)built in 1883-4 by Middleton and Son, Architects (NLW, SD/F/158). The rebuild was termed a 'restoration' but it is apparent that only the core of the earlier fabric, from 1829, was retained.

The present church consists of a 2-bayed chancel, a 3-bayed nave, a south porch and a flat-roofed vestry of 1 bay, against the west wall of the nave.

The Chancel, nave and south porch are constructed from slate rubble throughout, unsquared but roughly coursed and without true quoins; the facework is all from 1883-4. External pointing of 1883-4; the internal walls are rendered/plastered. All dressings are in oolite, from 1883-4 and neo-gothic. The side windows are lancets with plain 2-centred surrounds, but the east window is 3-light and traceried, while there is a fine rose-window in the west wall. The main entry is the 2-centred south door. There is the chancel arch, with external buttressing. The west wall carries a gabled bellcote, shouldered, with a single 2-centred opening and bell. The south porch is half-timbered. The roofs are slated gables, from 1883-4. Floors are suspended except in the porch, and from 1883-4.

The vestry is similar, including the openings and dressings, but from 1930 (NLW, SD/F/159). There are 2 doorways, one square-headed. It has a flat roof, of 1930. The floor is suspended, from 1930.

There is no physical evidence for the pre-19th century church. No external drain or cutting is present. There is no evidence for internal floor level changes. There is an underfloor void beneath the suspended floors. No vault or crypt is evident. A former south transept lay beyond the south wall. The church is built within a possible prehistoric site, and upon a round barrow?

There are several contemporary accounts of the disposition and condition of the pre-1829 church, which may have comprised nave, separate chancel, and south transept. A visitation in 1504 by the impropiator, the Abbot of St Dogmaels, records that the chancel 'was ruinous and the windows not glazed' (Pritchard, 1907, 91). Churchwardens' presentments of the 17th and 18th provide further evidence. The church had apparently never been paved and still had not been by 1708 (Evans, 1935, 45). In 1684 the windows were again not glazed, the 'chancel' not whitewashed and one of the bells was out of repair (Evans, 1918, 164); a double bellcote was presumably present. The chancel roof was evidently rebuilt c.1700 - it was 'newly made' in a presentment of 1708 (Evans, 1935, 145) suggesting that the pre-1829 church had a separate nave and chancel roof, and that a chancel arch may have been present. Fragments of medieval ridge-tile were found during excavations within the churchyard (Ludlow, forthcoming), presumably from the church. A south transept was present, south of the nave west bay, which, when finally demolished in 1883, yielded fragments of dressed stone of medieval date, including a mullion (RCAHM, 1925, 94). It lay at a pronounced angle to the nave (NLW, SD/F/158).

A date-stone in the porch (not in situ) is inscribed '1756', suggesting a restoration or rebuild. However, the church was still, in 1829, fundamentally medieval to judge by an account of c.1811, which described it as 'a low plain building, without tower or any decoration within or without' (Fenton, 1903, 291), and 'like all the others in Cemaes'; the author felt it to be medieval.

The church was rebuilt in 1829 (RCAHM, 1925, 93; Lewis, 1972, 92). The extent of the work is not known, but a high impact was suggested in 1859 when the Cambrian Archaeological Association examined the church and found 'nothing of antiquarian interest' (Anon., 1859, 337). Moreover, the present fabric is all 19th century but, to judge from the Faculty specifications (NLW, SD/F/158), not all from the 1883-4 restoration. The specifications and accompanying plan and north elevation show the 1829 church; it was a low, single celled building without a chancel arch, but divided into a 2-bayed chancel and a 3-bayed nave by slight internal buttresses. The south transept was retained. The church was entered through a segmental-headed doorway in the nave west wall, of any date, and there was an east window, 2 windows in the nave north wall and one in the south wall; all had plain 2-centred openings of typical early 19th century form, and 16-pane sash windows with simple timber-traceried heads. The gable-end walls had upstands; the west end carried a double bellcote with

Caernarfon-headed openings and a classical ball-moulded 'cupola'. The roofs were of 1829 with double-collar trusses; the floors were also probably renewed in 1829. A triple-decker pulpit is shown; seating comprised 11 box pews in the nave, and loose benches at the west end.

In 1844 a schoolroom was adapted from the south transept (Lewis, 1972, 206). It is also shown on the Faculty plans; the wall between it and the nave was by this time solid and without evidence of ever having been otherwise. It was entered through its west wall and was lit by 3 windows, of unknown form. The roof appears to have been transeptal to the nave; the structure was 'nearly roofless' in 1883.

The church was restored in 1883-4 by Middleton and Son, Architects, of Cheltenham (NLW, SD/F/158). The specifications for the work suggest that it was confined largely to reroofing, reflooring and refenestration, it is clear that most of the fabric dates from this restoration. Only the core of the 1929 walling seems to have been retained; the church was considerably heightened, but the present facework is similar throughout, while the schoolroom/transept was demolished as part of the programme but has left no evidence within the facework. The west door was blocked. The church was also reroofed, refloored, resealed and refitted.

Subsequent work includes the construction of the western vestry, which occurred in 1930 (NLW, SD/F/159) and involved the reopening of the west door; the architect is unknown. The vestry is described above.

The font was new in 1883 (NLW, SD/F/158).

The present church was listed CA in 1998; it has been declared a Building of Special Historic or Architectural Interest.

SITE HISTORY

St Cristiolus, Eglwyswrw, occupies the high-certainty site, and probably the location, of a pre-conquest religious site -
Celtic dedication; cist cemetery; possible prehistoric features.

Eglwyswrw was a parish church during the post-conquest period, of the medieval Deanery of Cemais (Rees, 1932). It is first mentioned in 1291, as 'Ecclesia de Clessrow', when it was an advowson of St Dogmaels abbey valued at £4 annually for tenths to the king (Green, 1911, 293). The grantor of the advowson is not known but it has been suggested that it was Jordan de Cantinton, a tenant of the Lordship of Cemais and possibly Lord of the Manor of Eglwyswrw during the later 12th century (Pritchard, 1907, 51). With its chapelries at Llanfair Nant-gwyn and 'Penkelly Vychan', the vicarage of Eglwyswrw was valued at £12 2s 8d in 1536 (ibid.).

At the dissolution, St Dogmaels and all its appurtenances fell to the crown. Eglwyswrw was leased to John Bradshaw of Ludlow; he paid £7 6s 8d to the king who retained the advowson and the vicarage (Lewis, 1972, 91). The living was still in the patronage of the crown in 1786, with an annual value of £16 (£20), and was rated in the king's books at £3 13s 4d (Green, 1911, 293). In 1833, as a discharged rectory of the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, and endowed with £200 royal bounty and £200 parliamentary grant (Lewis, 1833).

In 1998 St Cristiolus, Eglwyswrw, was a parish church. The living was a vicarage, held with Nevern, Y Beifil (Bayvil), Eglwyswen, Meline and Llanfair Nant-gwyn (benefice 806) in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan, Rural Deanery of Cemais and Sub-Aeron (St Davids, 1997-8).

The dedication to St Cristiolus has been subject to much controversy and there is a strong contender for the original dedication in St Eirw (Ludlow, forthcoming); the original dedication may in fact have been a joint one. Other authorities have regarded the 'wrw' element of the place-name as relating to a topographic feature, while 'Eirw' may be derived from '(g)wrwyf' (ie. Virgin).

(A cist cemetery occupies at least the southern side of the churchyard (Dyfed PRN 32087). It was partly excavated in 1996 (Ludlow and Ramsey, forthcoming) and produced burials and surfaces dateable to the 12th and 13th centuries, in addition to features of possible prehistoric date.

A chantry chapel is said to have stood within the yard 'in the reign of Queen Elizabeth' (Fenton, 1903, 291-2), and dedicated to 'St Eirw'. A large, square feature appearing to represent a robbed structure was excavated south of the church in 1996 (*ibid.*), but was inconclusive.)

SOURCES CONSULTED

Map Evidence

NLW, Ordnance Survey 1:2500, First Edition, VI.11, 1889.

NLW, Parish of Eglwysrw, Tithe Map, 1838.

Rees, W., 1932, *South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century*.

Church in Wales Records

Bartosch & Stokes, 1995, *Quinquennial Report, Eglwysrw*.

St Davids, 1997-8, *Diocesan Year Book*.

NLW, SD/F/158, Faculty - Restoration of church, 1883.

NLW, SD/F/159, Faculty - Erection of porch, 1930.

Parish Records, Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest

(HPR/120 - Eglwysrw)

Printed Accounts

A. Gordon Partnership, 1993, *Redundant Religious Buildings in West Wales*.

Anon., 1859, 'Cardigan Meeting', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. V, Third Series.

Anon., 1905, 'Correspondence', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. V, Sixth Series.

Crossley, F. H., and Ridgway, M. H., 1957, 'Screens, Lofts and Stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire: Part 8', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. CVI.

Evans, G. E., 1918, 'Some Pembrokeshire Presentments', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XVIII, Sixth Series.

Evans, G. E., 1927, 'Miscellanea', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. LXXXII, Seventh Series.

- Evans, G. E., 1935, 'Miscellanea', *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, Vol. XC.
- Fenton, R., 1903, *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*.
- Green, F., 1911, 'Pembrokeshire Parsons', *West Wales Historical Records* Vol. I.
- Lewis, E. T., 1972, *North of the Hills*.
- Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.
- Ludlow, N. D., forthcoming, *A Cist Cemetery at St Cristiolus Church, Eglwysrwrw*.
- Pritchard, E. M., 1907, *The History of St Dogmaels Abbey*.
- RCAHM, 1925, *Inventory: Pembrokeshire*.
- Salter, M., 1984, *The Old Parish Churches of South West Wales*.

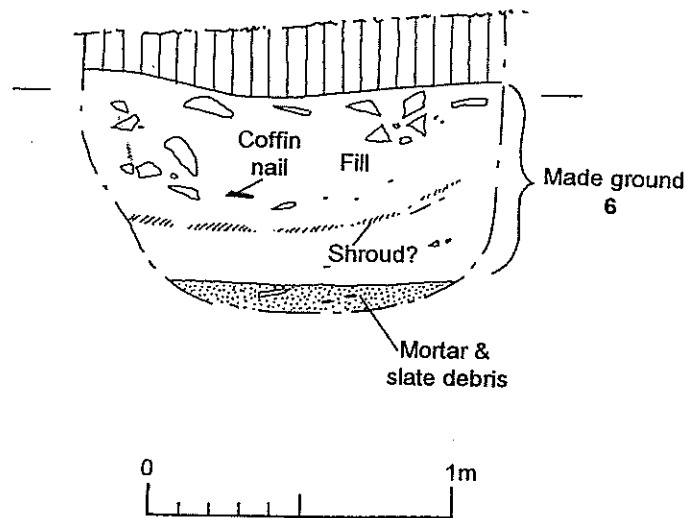
Unmarked grave F

Unmarked grave F was encountered during Stage V of the project, in Tree-pit 5 (see Fig. 8).

Tree-pit 5 was located 1.5m east of unmarked grave E. Beneath a layer of topsoil, the northern section revealed a grave fill comprising yellow brown clay loam in a grave cut that was only distinguishable from the surrounding soil by the outline of a shroud of unknown material (Fig. 10). This occurred at a very shallow depth, the bottom being only 0.4m beneath the topsoil. In addition, the presence of a coffin was suggested by some fragments of wood beneath the shroud, and a coffin nail in the fill, but this was the limit of the evidence. No bone was exposed in section. The whole was cut through similar deposits to those seen in grave A.

The grave may represent a reburial; alternatively, it may be that of an early 20th century suicide buried in the immediate vicinity according to local sources (H Davies, Churchwarden, *pers. comm.*).

Fig. 10 - North section of unmarked grave F



The western bank (Figs. 6 & 11)

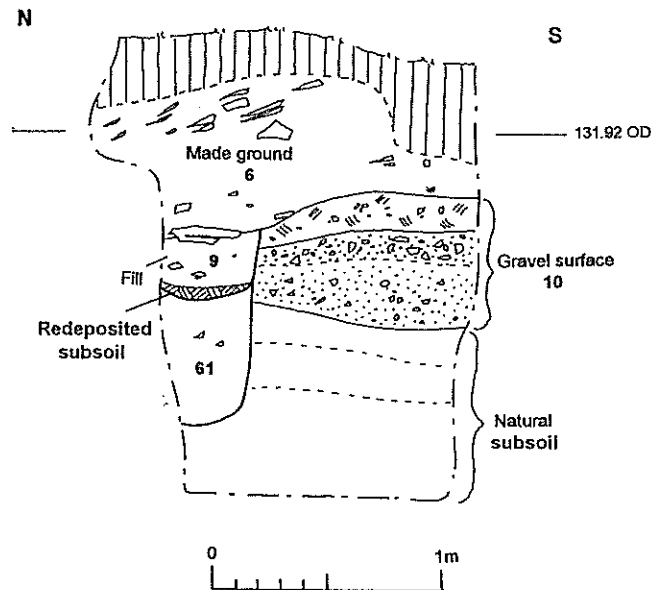
The western side of the churchyard is raised 1m above its surroundings. This is enhanced to the north of the main entrance by a low, wide bank with a maximum height of 0.3m. The bank was cut through by Tree-pit 9 during Stage V of the project (see Fig. 11).

Tree-pit 9 lay 1.5m east of the western boundary, 1.4m north of the entrance. It cut two layers of bank material, the upper comprising a light brown clay loam containing some mortar, animal bone and a sherd of transfer-printed ware of 19th century date, cut by a feature of unknown form. The lower layer was similar but of a more orange colour (Fig. 11).

Both layers may be of similar 19th century date. They sealed the natural soil, here consisting of fluvio-glacial gravels, the surface of which showed an area of heat-reddening - from a former fire, or a hearth?

Grave 9, recorded in section at the eastern limit of the machined strip, was similarly sealed by 19th century made ground 6 and demonstrably cut the gravel surface 10 (Fig. 13). The fill appeared to resolve itself into two quite distinct zones, the lower of which has here been interpreted as representing an earlier dug grave 61, on a similar alignment and cut by grave 9. Both fills were mid-brown clay loams, separated by an area of redeposited subsoil, with the lower fill containing some bone fragments. No finds were encountered in either fill.

Fig. 13 - Section (facing east) of post-medieval grave 9

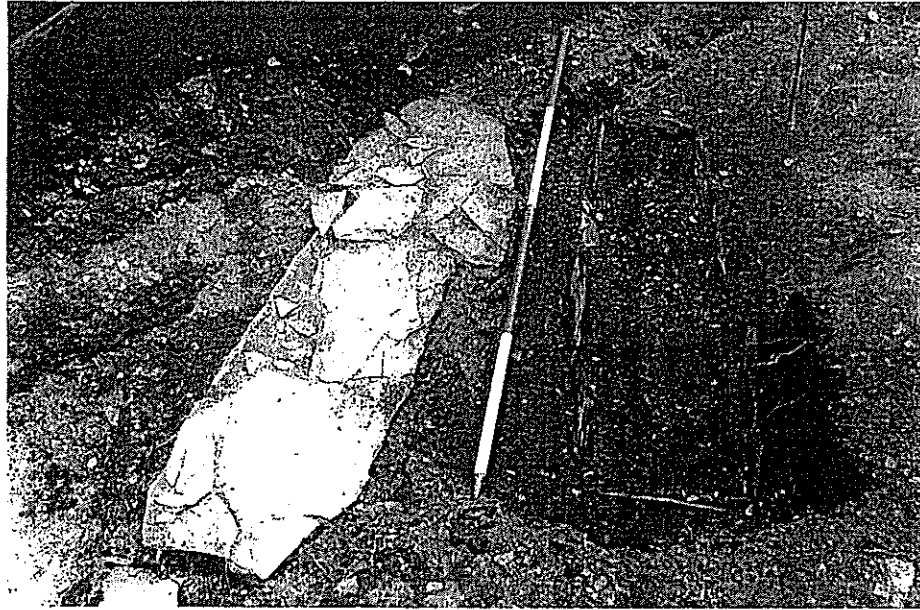


Two dug graves, 7 and 21, had no relationship with the gravel surface 10 but did cut underlying cist graves. For this reason they are here regarded as being of possible later date than the remainder of the dug graves but it must be stressed that in the absence of secure dating evidence this is a proposal only. Grave 7 towards the west end of the excavation lay in an area unfortunately overdug by the contractors and its precise relationships with the rest of the site therefore lost (see Fig. 6); however, it cut a cist grave, 31 (see Section 3.2 below). It was oriented WNW-ESE, measured 1.7m by 0.5m and was 0.35m deep. The grave was completely excavated, the burial being represented by a bone earth outline, with one surviving femur. The fill contained three sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware, but these may be residual.

Grave 21 in the middle of the excavation also cut a cist, 49, as well as an earlier dug grave 24 (Fig. 6). It was small and rather narrow, measuring 1.3m by 0.25m.

A further later feature is represented by a pit, 13, which also cut gravel surface 10 as well as a cist grave, 47 (see Section 3.2 below). It measured 0.70m in diameter, was rather regular and may represent a (post-medieval) post-pit.

Plate 3 - Cists 36 and 40 during excavation, 36 still with its lintel stones,
from the south-west



At the west end of the excavation were five small cists, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 41, which averaged only 0.3m long by 0.15m wide, located in association with two full sized cists, 36 and 40 - a family/kinship group? (Fig. 16; Plate 3). This cist group, along with cist 55 in the middle of the excavated area, and all those at the east end, lay on a radically different alignment than the neighbouring dug graves, which followed the line of the present southern boundary. The remainder of the cists were to a large degree consistent in terms of size, averaging 1.8m long by 0.5m wide, although three, 48, 49 and 50, were significantly smaller at 0.8m by 0.4m

Fig. 16 - Plan of cist group at west end of site before and after excavation,
and dug grave 16

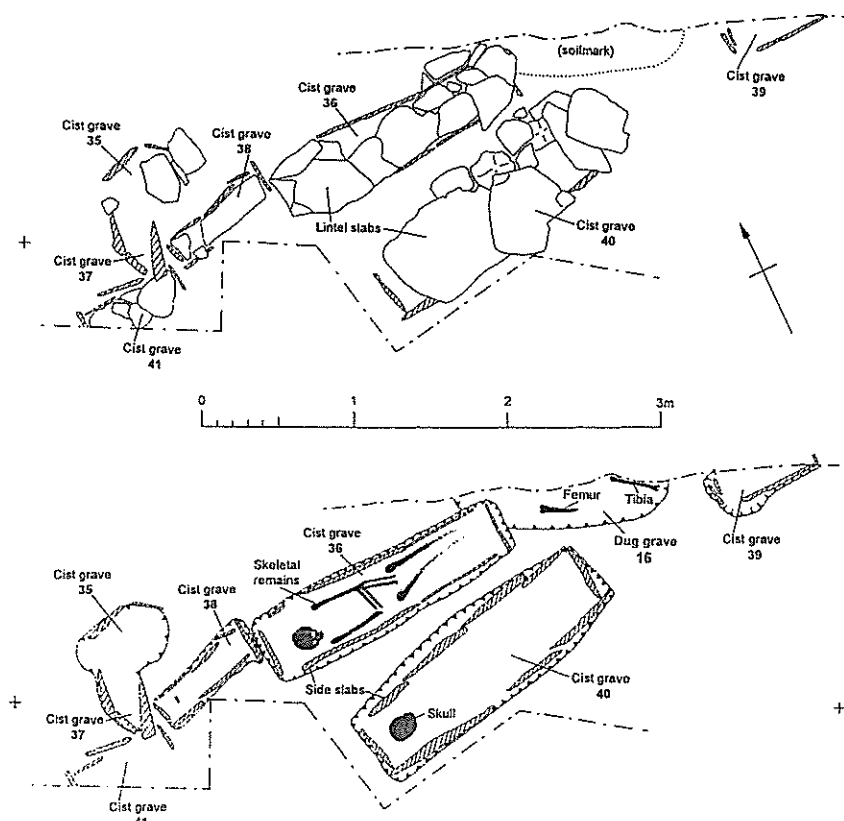
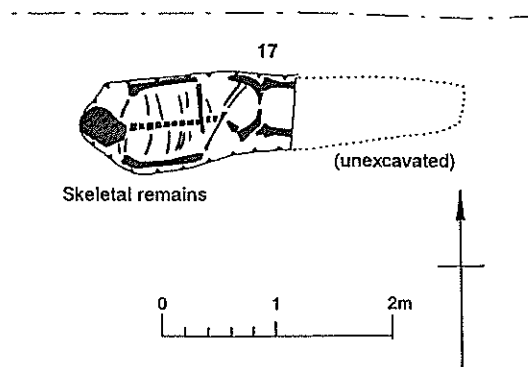


Fig. 22 - Dug grave 17: plan of burial



The inhumation occupying grave 14 was unusually in that the skull lay at the east end. The skeleton was complete but highly fragile and largely disintegrated upon excavation, while the west end was truncated by the mechanical excavation; it measured 1.30m and represents a definite juvenile burial. Grave 17 was only half excavated but sufficient to expose the skull, spine, ribs, pelvis, arm bones (crossed over the stomach area) and both femurs (Fig. 22). Dug grave 23 was again rather unusual (Fig. 23; Plate 4). The spine, ribs, pelvis, femurs, tibiae and fibulae were fragile but intact, while the feet had gone and only a stain remained of the arms - enough to show however that they were crossed over the stomach area. There was no evidence of any secondary disturbance yet the skull was completely absent. From shoulder to heel the skeleton measured 0.74m and whilst apparently representing a juvenile burial, the proportions of the remaining bones may suggest that the skeleton was mature.

Fig. 23 - Dug grave 23: plan of burial

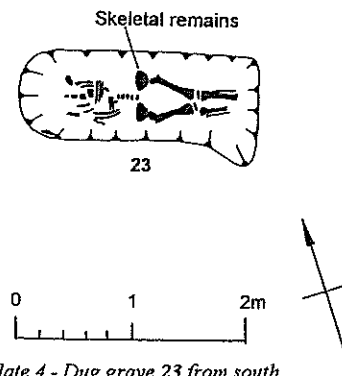
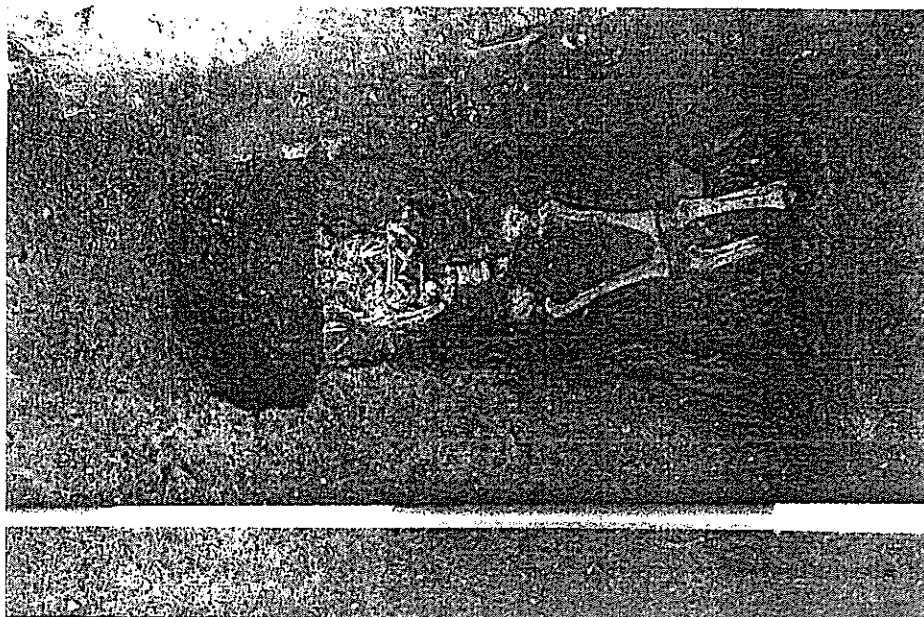


Plate 4 - Dug grave 23 from south



At the western end of the feature, a group of medium-sized angular pieces of slate were encountered at the interface of the basal slot and the upper fill, lining the cut. It is possible that they are associated with the construction of the feature, but equally possible that they may represent part of the backfill.

It is not possible to date ditch 60. It cut only the buried soil, in section was cut by feature 56 which, in turn, was sealed by gravel surface 10. The only artefactual dating evidence was provided by a bronze fitting of possible Roman date which was recovered from the interface between the uppermost fill of the ditch and gravel surface 10 (see Section 6.3), but like the pottery this may be residual.

Neither can the shape of the ditch alignment be ascertained from the small section revealed. Though curving within the excavated area, it may or may not represent the arc of a circular feature. However, if the ditch formed a complete circle, the internal diameter would measure approximately 7m and the external diameter, 9m. A ditch of this nature might be proposed as a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch ie. the quarry ditch of a round barrow. The interpretation of 60 will be discussed in Section 4.0 below. Samples were taken from all areas of the fill.

Plate 5 - Ring ditch 60 from the east

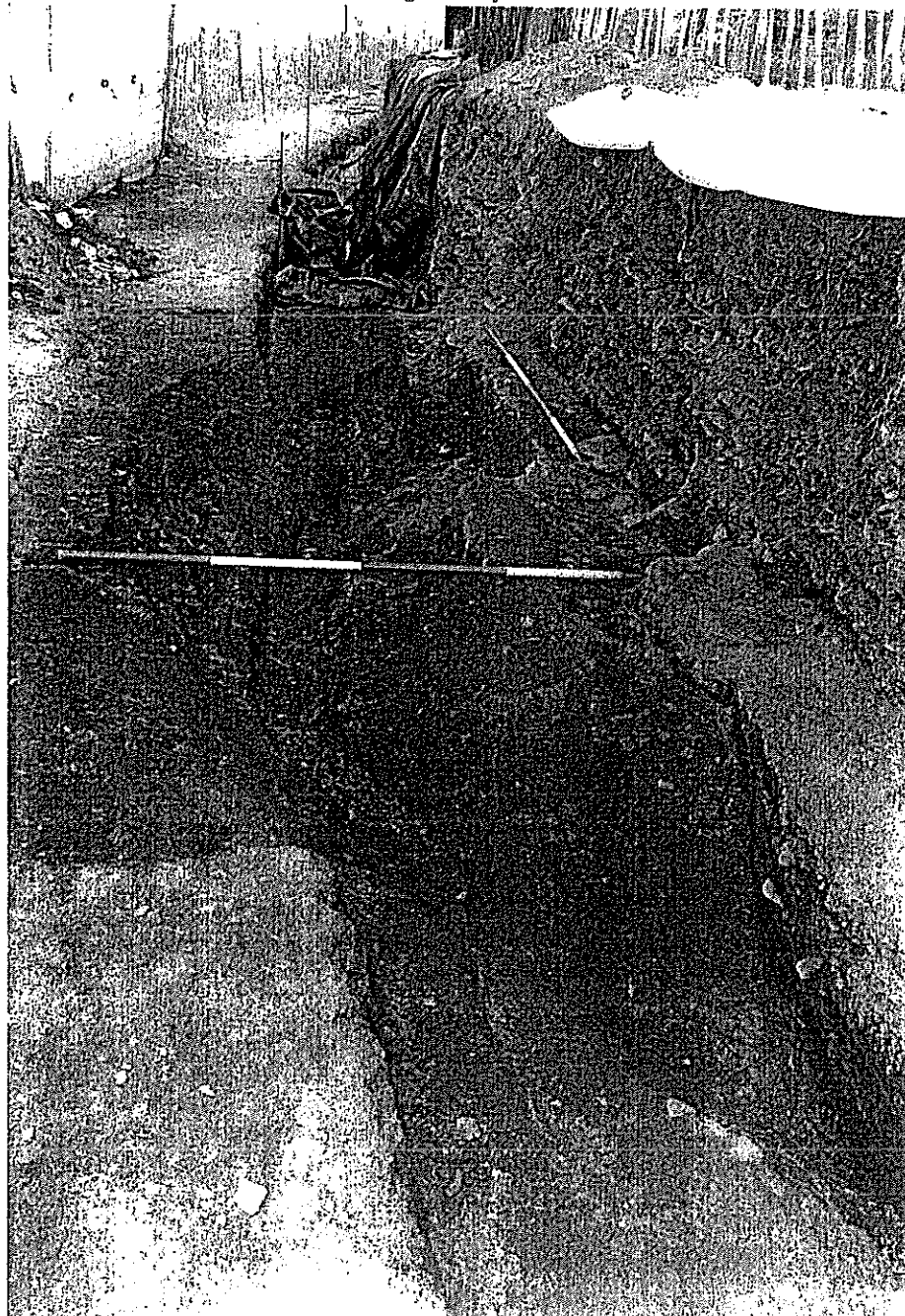


Fig. 6: Composite site plan

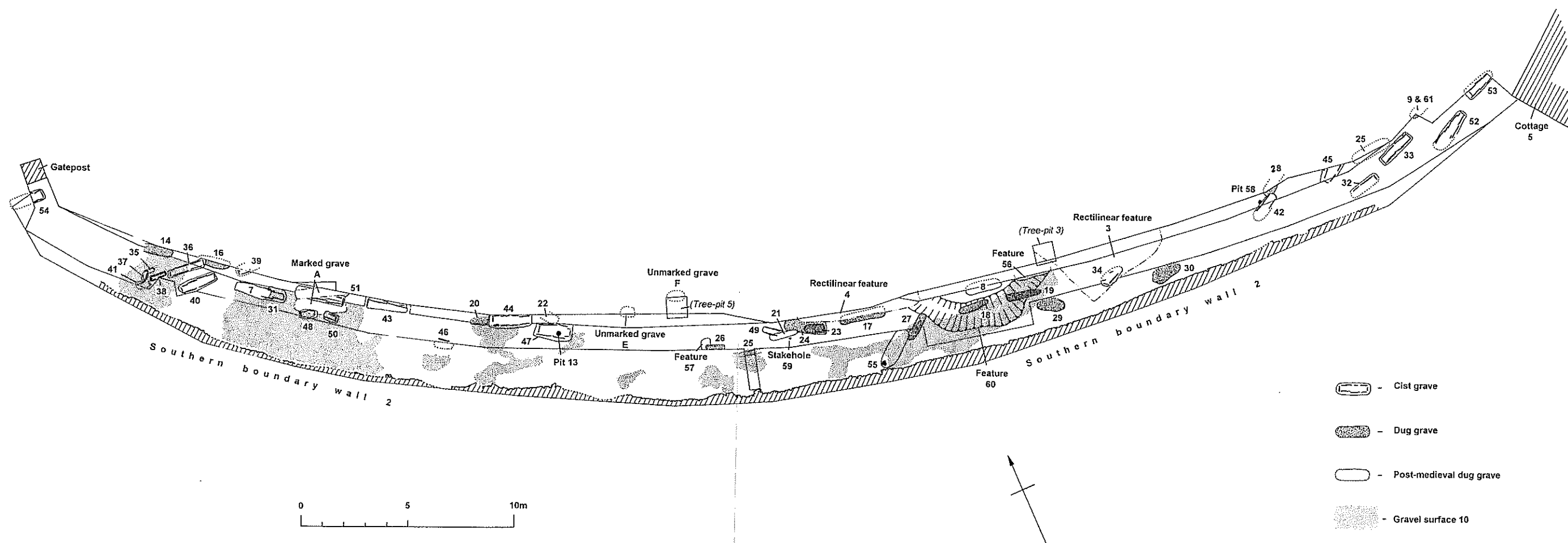


Fig. 6: Composite site plan

