

Cambria Archaeology

# St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen

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## archaeological excavation 2000



Report Number 2001/24

*Report  
by*

**Cambria Archaeology  
Field Operations**

*prepared  
for*

**Bartosch and Stokes  
instructed by the Vicar and  
Churchwardens of  
St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen**



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# CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH CARMARTHEN EXCAVATION 2000

MAY 2001

*'Live well, and fear not sudden fate,  
When Death calls virtue to the grave'*

(from The School of Action, an unfinished play by Sir Richard Steele. In Nichols 1809)

Report Number 2001/24  
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## ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CARMARTHEN EXCAVATION 2000

CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction	1
St. Peter's Church: Location and history	2
Pre excavation investigations	4
The Excavation	4
Objectives	4
Methods	6
The floors	6
The Memorials	9
The burial structures	11
The burials	16
Other structures and features	22
Discussion	25
Conclusions	30
Appendix 1: The finds by Dee Brennan	32
Appendix 2: The memorial inscriptions	46
References	52
Figure 1: Location plan	3
Figure 2: Plan of St. Peter's Church showing excavated area	5
Figure 3: The memorial ledgers	10
Figure 4: The burial structures	13
Figure 5: The burials	17
Plate 1: Tiled floor in the chancel prior to excavation.	
Plate 2: Tiled floor in the consistory court prior to excavation	
Plate 3: Excavation of the chancel floor containing the memorial ledgers	
Plate 4: Ledger 075 commemorating the Scurlock brothers	
Plate 5: Inscription on Dalton ledger	
Plate 6: The top of vault 011 during excavation	
Plate 7: Interior of vault 011	
Plate 8: Floor of vault 011	
Plate 9: The upper coffins in vault 011	
Plate 10: View of chancel showing vault 011 and 047	
Plate 11: Interior of vault 047	
Plate 12: The Scurlock family grave with the box containing Sir Richard Steele's head	
Plate 13: Detail of the <i>in situ</i> burials at the west end of the chancel	
Plate 14: Burial 567	

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## ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CARMARTHEN EXCAVATION 2000

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*St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, is currently undergoing a major programme of remedial works and renovation. Part of that programme was the replacement of the existing floors in the chancel and consistory court which were becoming increasingly unstable because of deflection caused by slumping and settlement of the underlying deposits. Excavations in advance of the construction of a new floor revealed evidence for extensive intramural burial. The burials dated largely from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and consisted, for the most part, of simple dug graves, family vaults and brick-lined graves. A large number of memorial ledgers were also uncovered. Evidence, in the form of plant remains, of the often invisible funerary rituals which take place prior to burial was recovered from one of the graves. Changes to the internal layout of the church were also recorded.*

*Information regarding some of the individuals buried within the church was recovered during the excavation. Of particular note was the excitement generated by a possible Royal connection between George III and Charlotte Dalton, who was commemorated on one of the ledgers. A curious discovery was a lead box said to contain the head of Sir Richard Steele, essayist and founder of the Tatler periodical.*

### INTRODUCTION

Increasing problems with subsidence in the chancel and consistory court of St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, led the church authorities to apply for a faculty to replace the floors as part of wider programme of renovation. The faculty was granted and the works took place during the autumn and winter of 2000-2001. The floor replacement works required the removal of the existing Victorian tiled floor and the insertion of a concrete suspended floor upon which the original tiles would be re-laid in their original positions. In order to construct the suspended floor it was necessary to lower the existing floor level by 0.7m which had obvious and immediate archaeological implications. St. Peter's is a Listed Building so statutory consent was also required which stipulated that the floor must be lowered by archaeological excavation. The scheme architects, Bartosch & Stokes, instructed by the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Peter's, commissioned Cambria Archaeology to carry out the excavation to lower the floor level. The Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadw provided financial support for the restoration works.

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH: LOCATION AND HISTORY (Figs 1 and 2)

St. Peter's Church stands in a sub-rectangular yard in a prominent position at the east end of Carmarthen town centre (NGR SN41522022). The site is surrounded on all sides by roads. The east gate of the yard is located at the west end of Priory Street. From here Church Street bounds the south side of the churchyard and links Priory Street to Spilman Street at the southwest corner of the yard. St. Peter's Street runs around the northern boundary and links Priory Street to King Street at the northwest corner of the yard. Spilman Street and King Street run parallel from St. Peter's to Carmarthen Castle some 0.5km to the west. Church Street and St. Peter's Street are linked by a small road, Church Lane which runs alongside the western boundary.

The church occupies a significant position within the historic town. It lies on, or just inside the site of the west gate of the Roman town of *Moridunum* (Carmarthen). Priory Street, which runs eastwards from the church, is presumed to maintain the line of the main east-west axial road through *Moridunum* and the line of the western defences for the Roman town run north-south close to the line of Church Lane. It was also positioned between the post-Roman/early medieval settlement, which developed around St. John's Priory, c.0.5km to the east of the church, and the planted Anglo-Norman borough whose east gate lay immediately west of the churchyard. The position of the church close to the boundary of the old and new medieval towns of Carmarthen places it roughly midway between St. John's Priory to the east and Carmarthen Castle to the west, the foci for the old and new towns. Therefore, its location could have been the result of a political compromise brought about by a need to try to serve the spiritual needs of both the old and new towns (James 1980, 25; Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 73).

Questions about the foundation date of the church are still largely unresolved. The first documentary evidence for St. Peter's comes from the Chronicle of Battle Abbey when 'in the time of Abbot Ralph' (1107-1124) the church was granted to the Abbey by Henry I (James 1980, 36; Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 73). There are, however, a number of factors that may suggest an earlier, pre-Anglo-Norman foundation date. The position of the church within the old town may be an indication of an early foundation. It has also been suggested (James 1980, 25; Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 74) that the churchyard may have been circular in origin, an assumed characteristic of pre-conquest churches, although early maps of Carmarthen tend to show the yard as more rectangular than circular. Its present shape is the result of 20<sup>th</sup> century road widening. No direct evidence of a pre-conquest church has ever been recorded on the site.

The present church consists of a west tower, a nave with a small chapel on its north side, a south aisle, a chancel with clergy and choir vestries to the north, and a consistory court on the south side of the chancel. A recent archaeological survey carried out by Cambria Archaeology (Ludlow 1998) has dated the chancel to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the consistory court, which was formerly part of the south aisle to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

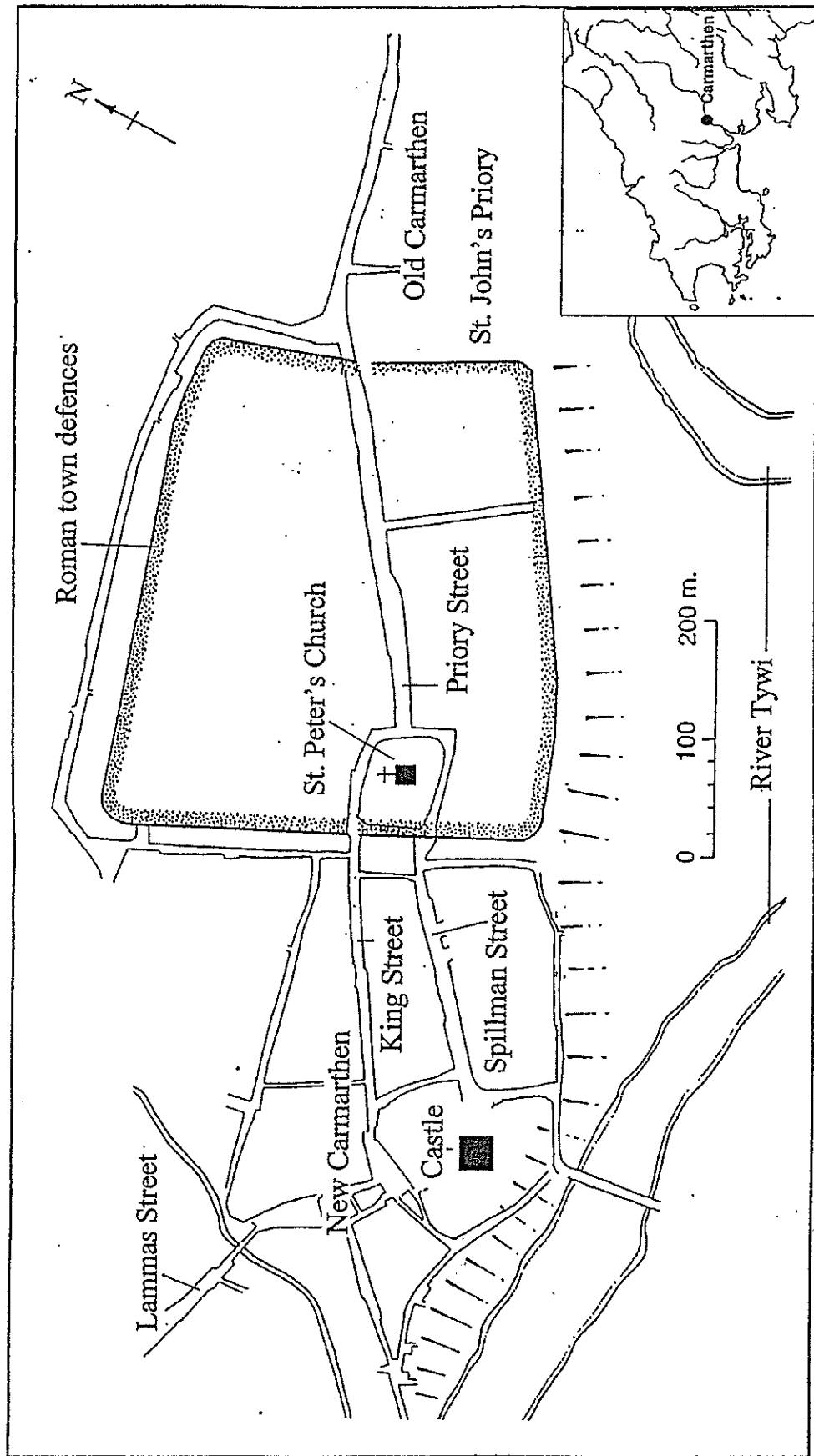


figure 1 Location plan

## PRE-EXCAVATION INVESTIGATIONS

A Ground Impulse Radar survey was carried out by Ampthill Geophysical Consulting in April 1997 (APG 1997) on the chancel and consistory court floors to investigate the possible causes of the subsidence to both floors. The survey was targeted between ground level and a depth of 2m-3m, which far exceeded the 0.7m required by the excavation, and it was intended to locate any areas of voiding (graves, vaults, etc.).

The survey, whilst recording one buried structure along the west? edge of the consistory court revealed nothing of note. The survey report concluded:

*'The main indications from the survey were that no substantial changes could be located beneath the floor area of the consistory court and in particular no evidence of voiding from tombs or vaults was found.*

*This result was also extended to the floor of the chancel.*

*Other buried features such as old foundations or structures which would normally be expected to show up on this data and may also be a cause of differential settlement were also considered absent.*

*A direct explanation for the floor deflection could not therefore be concluded although the survey adds evidence to support a general settlement of the subsoils.'* (AGC 1997, 5).

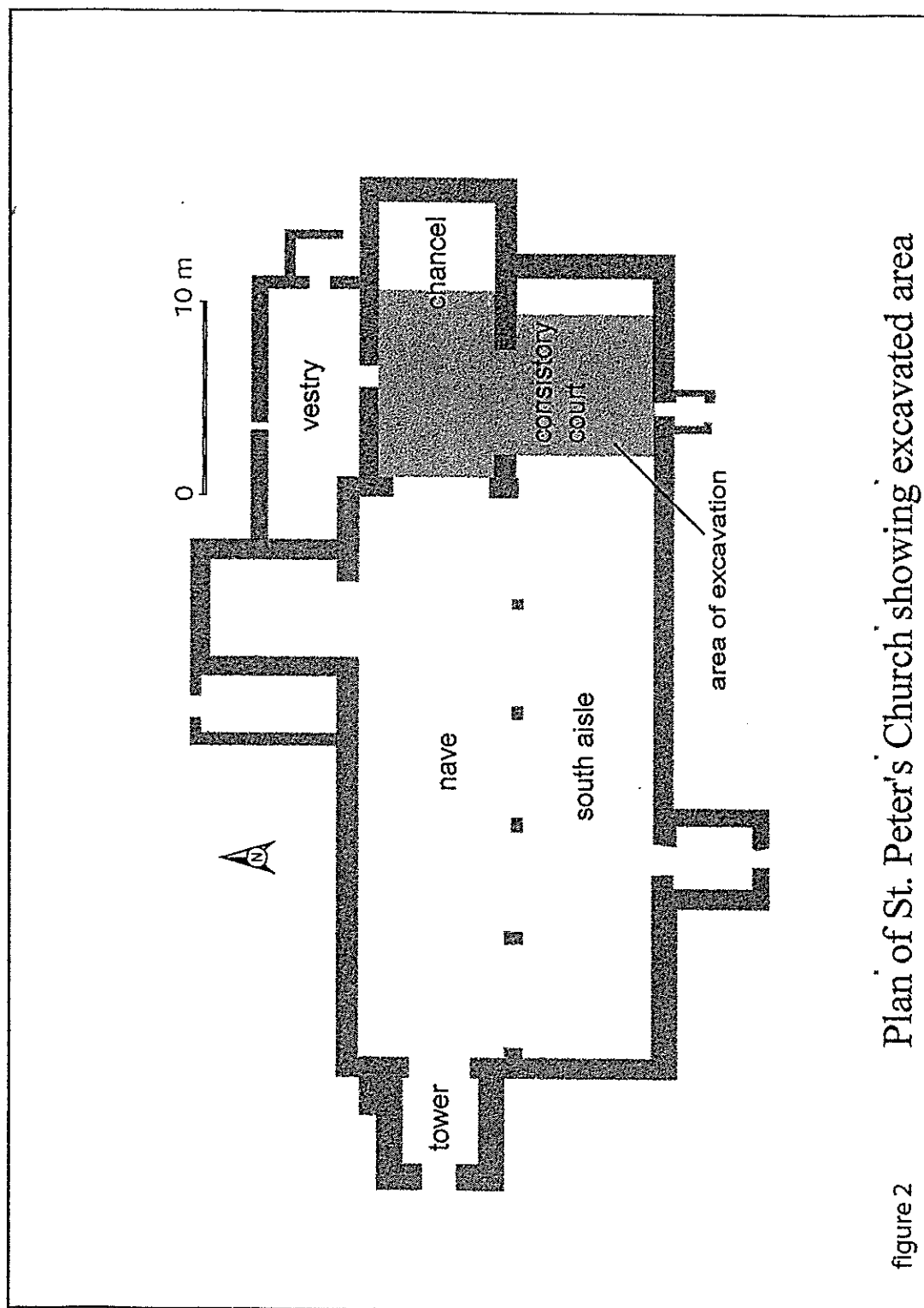
The results of the survey within the chancel were fairly reasonable, as the survey grids were positioned in the area between the vestry door and the altar rail where there were no vaults or graves. However, the negative results for the consistory court were somewhat inexplicable because the survey area - between the tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas and the south door - contained at least three, possibly four brick vaults or graves. The reason for this anomalous result is unclear, but, even though it was misleading it had no major implications for the excavation. It was well known from documentary sources that there were vaults and graves in both the chancel and the consistory court, so their discovery was not unexpected and they did not disrupt the tight excavation timetable.

## THE EXCAVATION

### OBJECTIVES

Although the excavations were development-led and the actual extent and nature of the works was dictated by the engineering requirements, the archaeological research objectives were paramount in devising the scheme of works. The excavation had four primary research objectives:

1. To investigate the possible presence, extent, nature and condition of any surviving Roman deposits.
2. To investigate any surviving evidence for the early history of the church.
3. To record any surviving evidence for changes to the internal layout of the church.
4. To record the *in situ* evidence for intramural burial.





As with any excavation, the primary objectives were met with varying degrees of success and new objectives were added during the course of the works as new evidence was uncovered. The new objectives were largely connected with the investigation of post-medieval burial practice as evidenced by the vaults, graves and burials encountered in both the chancel and consistory court.

## METHODS

The total area excavated was c.97 square metres. This consisted of c.58.5 square metres in the chancel and c.38.5 square metres in the consistory court (Fig 2). The construction method used for the suspended floor meant that everything within the 0.7m zone of disturbance had to be removed to provide a flat stable surface to build from. Any structures or features that extended below 0.7m were excavated to the required depth and their lower levels then left undisturbed.

Recording was carried out in accordance with Cambria Archaeology Field Operations' excavation manual. All inscribed stones and memorials were recorded using the guidelines and terminology set out in *Recording and Analysing Graveyards* (Mytum 2000) and, where legible, the inscriptions were transcribed (see Appendix Two). Human remains were re-interred beneath the new floor, so no skeletal material was retained for analysis. All structures, features and layers were ascribed a unique identifying context number (e.g. 001, 010, 100).

The stratigraphy across the interior was heavily disturbed, primarily by the insertion of 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century brick vaults and the later alterations to the floor. For the purposes of the following discussion not all of the individual contexts will be described, numbers will only be used to link the text to the illustrations or to the information contained in the appendices. Because of the amount of disturbance the stratigraphy is divided into recognizable groups in the following discussion. The main groups are discussed in the order in which they were excavated rather than in chronological order. The groups consist of: the floors; the memorials; the brick burial structures; the graves; and other structures and features. The finds evidence is, where applicable, included within the descriptions of the stratigraphic groups. All retained material is catalogued by context in Appendix 1. Supporting evidence will be included in a series of appendices.

Only the upper part of the stratigraphic sequence was excavated across the majority of the site. A small 1.7m square test pit in the consistory court was the only location at which the possibly undisturbed subsoils were encountered. Some disturbed, but *in situ*, deposits were encountered at the finished 0.7m excavation depth and it is likely that there are undisturbed deposits below the finished level.

## THE FLOORS

Evidence was recovered for three floor levels in the chancel and two in the consistory court, including the existing Victorian tiled floors. Prior to the excavation the floors consisted of polychrome encaustic tiles laid in 1876. The patterns in the chancel and consistory court were different from each other, but both were made up of the same three colours, red, black and creamy-yellow. It was the original intention of the architects to re-lay the tiled floor, so a tile-by-tile record was made of the patterns of

both floors to guide the re-laying of the tiles. In the event one of the memorial ledgers uncovered during the excavation was re-laid within the new floor, which caused changes to the original tiled pattern. The tiles were removed by the main contractor, Abbey Masonry, under archaeological supervision.

### **The floors in the chancel (Plate 1)**

The existing tiled floor in the chancel was made up of three different patterns arranged symmetrically in five panels. The centre panel formed the central aisle from the altar rail, between the choir stalls to the nave. It consisted of a pattern of large diagonal squares, made up of nine square red tiles, bounded by thin black dividing tiles. There was a small square red tile decorated with a yellow flower at the corners of each of the large squares. The panel was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  of these large squares wide. The central panel was edged on either side by a thin band of red equilateral triangles (top pointing east) on a yellow field. Outside the bands of triangles were narrow panels of red and black zig-zags, made up of square red tiles alternating with the narrow black dividing tiles. The zig-zag panels were bounded by thin bands of red squares, set on the diagonal, on a yellow field. The two outer panels were made up of large squares, each containing four small red square tiles, bounded by thin black dividing tiles. The squares were aligned with the chancel. As with the central panel there was a small yellow flower at the corners of each large square. The southern panel was not as well executed as the northern panel either because it had to be fitted around the tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas or because it was partially re-laid following installation of the organ in 1896, and there were several areas where the pattern did not match.

Below the make-up and bedding layer for the Victorian tiled floor was a rough floor level made up largely of memorial slabs, or ledgers (see below and Appendix Two). The memorials cover a date range between 1750 and 1839. Assigning an exact date to this floor is difficult, but the two southernmost ledgers 007 and 008 had been cut along their south edges, seemingly to allow the erection of Sir Rhys ap Thomas' tomb in 1865. The latest inscription on any of the ledgers was 1839 on ledger 010 which commemorated two members of the Dalton family (see below). Therefore the floor can be dated to between 1839 and 1865, probably to a '*complete restoration*' programme that was carried out in 1855 (Ludlow 1998, 6), although the floor may have been laid and re-laid several times as new ledgers were added or moved. In any event this floor was replaced by the present tiled floor in 1876.

The earliest floor level recorded in the chancel consisted of two small areas of sandstone flagstones (023/025) bedded on a layer of hard white/buff mortar (024/026/036). This floor sealed two graves, 523 and 530 (see below). Evidence for this floor was only recorded at the west end of the chancel where it had been protected by the choir stalls. The exact date of this floor is unknown, but a later 16<sup>th</sup> century coin of Philip and Mary was recovered from an area of loose loamy soil and building debris (034) below the mortar bedding layer 024. There are records for various early 18<sup>th</sup> century repairs to the existing flagged floors (Ludlow 1998, 6), so floor 023/025 may date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, or from one of the 18<sup>th</sup> century repairs. A line of compacted mortar only seen in the east section may be a trace of a bedding layer for a flagged or tiled floor. Another possibility is that it represents the remains of a step, possibly one of an early (medieval?) set of altar steps. This feature was not investigated so its origins

are unknown. Its south end appeared to have been truncated by a later cut feature, 087 (see below).

### **The floors in the consistory court (Plate 2)**

The pattern on the existing consistory court floor was more complex than that on the chancel floor. A repeating design was surrounded by a border of three separate elements. The main floor area consisted of a series of squares, made up of a central yellow floral panel set on a red diagonal cross, surrounded by fleur-de-lys. A thin yellow band completed each square. The squares were separated by thick black tiles with a small square red tile containing a central yellow flower at each corner. This pattern was repeated across the whole floor and bounded by a border consisting of three elements. The inner element was a black zig-zag on a yellow background. Outside the black zig-zag was a line of tiles decorated with a repeating pattern of yellow bishop's mitres on a red background. The east and west sides of the floor were finished with a yellow scrolling leaf motif on a red background.

The floors were typical later Victorian geometric patterns using the three most commonly used floor tile colours.

Underlying the make-up layers for the Victorian tiled floor were patches of flat, laid? stones, including fragments of some inscribed stone memorials (057), set into a layer of black/grey ashy material (055), which appears to have formed a rough surface. A lead gas pipe encased in a ceramic sleeve (059) had been inserted into this floor sometime during the mid- to late- 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly during the laying of the existing tiled floor in 1876.

Below 057 was a floor (069) largely made up of memorial slabs and fragments of grave markers which was the earliest floor level recorded in the consistory court. The date range on the memorials was 1775 - 1841, which is slightly later than those from the chancel. It seems likely that this floor corresponds to the floor in the chancel that also consisted largely of memorial ledgers and that they were both laid during the restoration works of 1855, or in stages over the preceding decades.

### **Floor below the arch between the chancel and the consistory court**

A patch of flagstones set in mortar (041) was recorded in the space below the arch between the chancel and the consistory court, in the area formerly occupied by the organ. The floor was laid over the foundation (046) for the tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, which was moved from this spot in 1886, suggesting that this floor was laid as part of the repair work necessary when the tomb was moved.

### **Medieval floor tiles**

Several contexts produced fragments of glazed floor tiles which typically dated from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The tiles were of types in use in the other major religious institutions in medieval Carmarthen, with known examples from both Carmarthen Greyfriars and St. John's Priory.

## THE MEMORIALS (Fig 3; Plates 3, 4 and 5)

Twenty eight complete, and/or damaged inscribed memorial stones were recorded. Several were fragments of the same memorials and in all there were twenty four individual memorials represented. Not all the inscriptions were legible (see Appendix Two for transcriptions) or dated, however, those that were commemorated burials from 1682 - 1841, with the majority dating from the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. All of the memorials appeared to be of the ledger type, that is slabs which were laid flat and flush with the surrounding floor or ground surface (Mytum 2000, 104). None of the ledgers had any evidence (e.g. mortar or sockets on the underside) to suggest that they had originally been part of larger monuments such as table or altar tombs.

Four of the memorials in the consistory court (072, 073, 074 and 075) and one in the chancel (010) may have been in, or close to their original positions. In the case of 075, a part of the memorial to Jonathan (d.1683) and John Scurlock (d.1715) was still positioned over the Scurlock family shaft grave, even though the stone had been disturbed and unceremoniously re-laid in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. A joining piece of the memorial (078) was found some 5m to the north of 075 during the excavation.

Two of the ledgers (003 and 073) were laid in '*memory of*', suggesting that they were not covering the actual burials commemorated in their inscriptions. The other inscriptions, where legible, firmly located the body below the ledger by using terms like, '*Underneath are*' (005, 009, 074) '*here lieth*' (004, 008, 014, 066, 067, 072), '*In this vault*' (010). It is worth noting that only 010 and 075 were recorded above an identifiable vault or grave, so it may be that most of the ledgers were moved and re-laid as a floor during a re-ordering of the church interior in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Ledger stones with associated wall tablets

Two of the ledgers (014 and 074) had associated wall tablets (Lodwick Nos. 9 and 21 respectively - see Appendix Two). A third ledger (006) that commemorates children, is possibly associated with a wall tablet (6) erected to the three children, Eliza Anne Gwynne (d.1834 aged 5 years), Arthur Sealy (d.1832 aged 1 day), Louisa Grace (d.1838 aged 5 years), of Henry Lawrence M.D. The wall tablet records the interment of his children in a vault under the communion table. Unfortunately, the fragmentary nature of the ledger inscription means that a positive identification is not possible.

Wall tablet 9 was erected in '*filial affection and gratitude*' to the memory of Thomas Holliday (d.1787) and his wife Mary (d.1792). Thomas Holliday was one of five people mentioned as being interred underneath ledger 014. Holliday's inscription was the last and it says that '*Here likewise lieth the body of Thomas Holliday*'. As well as Holliday, ledger 014 also commemorated his father-in-law, Evan Evans (d.1783), his mother-in-law, Sarah (d.1785) and two other women, Anne Jones and Elizabeth Bonville (d.1786?). This ledger is clearly for a family group, although the relationships of Anne Jones and Elizabeth Bonville to the others are unclear, and its tight dating from 1783 (Evan Evans) to 1787 (Holliday) gives a picture of a frequently used, but

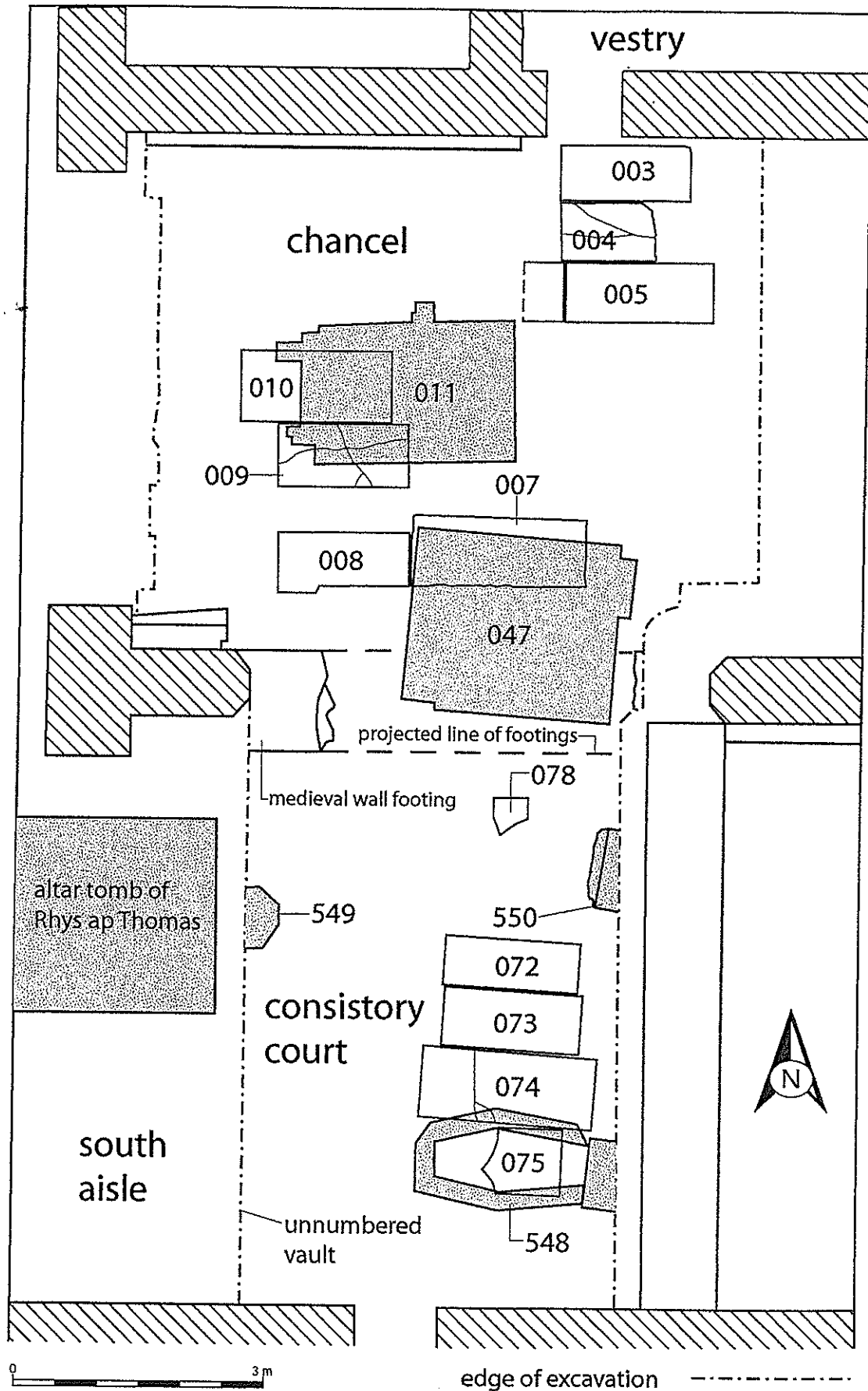


figure 3

## Memorial ledgers

short-lived burial plot. It is not known if Mary Holliday was also buried in the plot in 1792.

Ledger 074 states that '*Underneath are deposited the remains of*' one David Davies Esq. (d.1818) an attorney who lived in The Parade Carmarthen. The ledger contains no other information, but wall tablet 21 talks effusively about his '*eminence*' in the legal profession and the '*unabating attachment of numerous friends*'.

## THE BURIAL STRUCTURES (Fig 4)

Seven brick vaults and brick-lined shaft graves (011, 047, 089, 527, 548, 549 and 550) were uncovered or partially exposed during the excavation and part of another vault (unnumbered) was exposed during the floor laying works. The tops of two family vaults (011 and 047) and a single width coffin-shaped brick-lined shaft grave (546) were fully exposed; the others extended beyond the excavated area and were only partially exposed. Structures 089 and 527 were only recorded in section and are not certain vaults or graves, they may be some other type of structure, but for now they are included in the following list.

The positioning vaults 011 and 047 was significant; vault 011 was positioned right in the centre of the chancel and vault 047 was located under the arch between the chancel and the consistory court.

### Vault 011 (Fig 4: Plates 6 and 7)

A double width family vault constructed from red bricks bonded by a hard white/grey lime mortar. The rectangular vault measured 2.55m x 1.73m externally and 2.19m x 1.25m x 2.79 deep internally. It was covered by a barrel-vaulted roof. There was a whitewash finish on the interior walls, but the interior of the vaulted roof was left unpainted. A small patch of un-whitewashed bricks in the top of the east wall indicates a blocked hole from a later intrusion into the vault. The vault was constructed using a Flemish bond for the side walls, but no recognizable bond for the end walls or for the blocking of the entrance in the west wall. The bricks used in the construction of the vault were a uniform size, 230mm (9") x 115mm (4½") x 71mm (2¾") with a 15mm-20mm mortar bed between the courses. The appearance of the surface of the bricks suggests that they may have been hand made. The upper three courses of the side walls were laid as headers to provide the springer for the barrel-vaulted roof which was laid using a stretcher bond. A single row of bricks had been laid on the top of the west end of the vault forming an external collar: this had subsequently been partially removed to accommodate a memorial ledger (010).

The end walls extended outside the end of the vaulted roof, which indicates the sequence of construction; the side walls were constructed first with the vault added prior to the end walls being built. The floor consisted of unbonded bricks laid as pavements. A small entrance, 0.8m x 0.6m, which may have formerly had steps at the west end of the vault had been backfilled with a layer of loose dark brown loam containing many re-deposited human bones (012).

A construction trench (040) for the vault was recorded along the north and south sides. On the north side it measured 1m wide and was filled with a gravelly soil that may have been from the disturbed Roman deposits below. On the south side the trench measured, 0.5m wide and it utilised the southern edges of two earlier graves 015 and 029.

The entrance and 1m of the west end of the vaulted roof were covered by a ledger, 010, commemorating Charlotte Augusta Catherine Dalton (d.1832) and her niece Margaret Augusta Dalton (d.1839). Laying the slab had required some modifications to the top of the vault structure and to the bottom of the slab. The bottom of the slab had been hollowed out, the brick collar around the outside of the west end of the vault had been partially removed and the top of the vault had been flattened slightly to allow the slab to lay flat (Plate 6). The position of the slab over the entrance to the vault suggests that it was possibly *in situ*, but the fact that the vault and the slab itself had to be modified to accommodate it may indicate that it was re-laid from elsewhere in the church and is not, therefore, necessarily associated with the vault or its occupants.

There were five opposing rows of three holes in each of the side walls, with 5 or 6 courses between each row. Examination of the interior, after the top of the vault had been removed to facilitate laying the new floor, showed that the holes were to take metal bars that supported the tiers of coffins (Plate 7). Four lead coffins arranged in two tiers of two were present in the vault. The lower coffins were not easily visible, but both tiers appeared to have an adult burial on the south side of the vault and a child burial on the north side. The wooden coffin shells were badly degraded; the lids survived *in situ* because they were resting on the lead coffins, but the sides had all but fallen away. The vault floor was covered with timber pieces from the four coffins (Plate 8). There was evidence on the wooden lids of both of the upper coffins for escutcheons which had been removed in the past; the blocking in the east wall of the vault may be evidence of later entry into the vault to remove the coffin ornaments. The larger coffin measured 1.86m long and it had a shadow from a breast-plate, which presumably carried a memorial inscription. The smaller coffin, 1.46m long, had a shadow from a circular breast-plate and shadows from two further escutcheons, an amorphous shape at the head and an urn-like device at the foot (Plate 9). The lid of the smaller coffin appeared to be made up of planks, rather than a single piece of timber.

#### **Vault 047 (Fig 4: Plates 10 and 11)**

Only the top of the vaulted roof of 047 was exposed, but it was significantly larger than 011 and was clearly a family vault; it was rectangular, probably triple-width and measured 2.58m x 2.23m. The barrel-vaulted roof was constructed from red- bricks laid as header courses bonded by a hard grey mortar and it was aligned slightly south of true east-west.. The bricks used in its construction were hand-made and much less uniform in size than those used for vault 011, suggesting an 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the construction of this vault. The altar tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas (see below) was erected over the vault in 1865 after it was removed from a position in the northeast corner of the chancel (Spurrell 1879) and a hole in the top of the vault may date from this time. Some damage was visible on the east end of the vault, but it was not investigated because the vault was below the level of the new floor and was, therefore, left undisturbed.

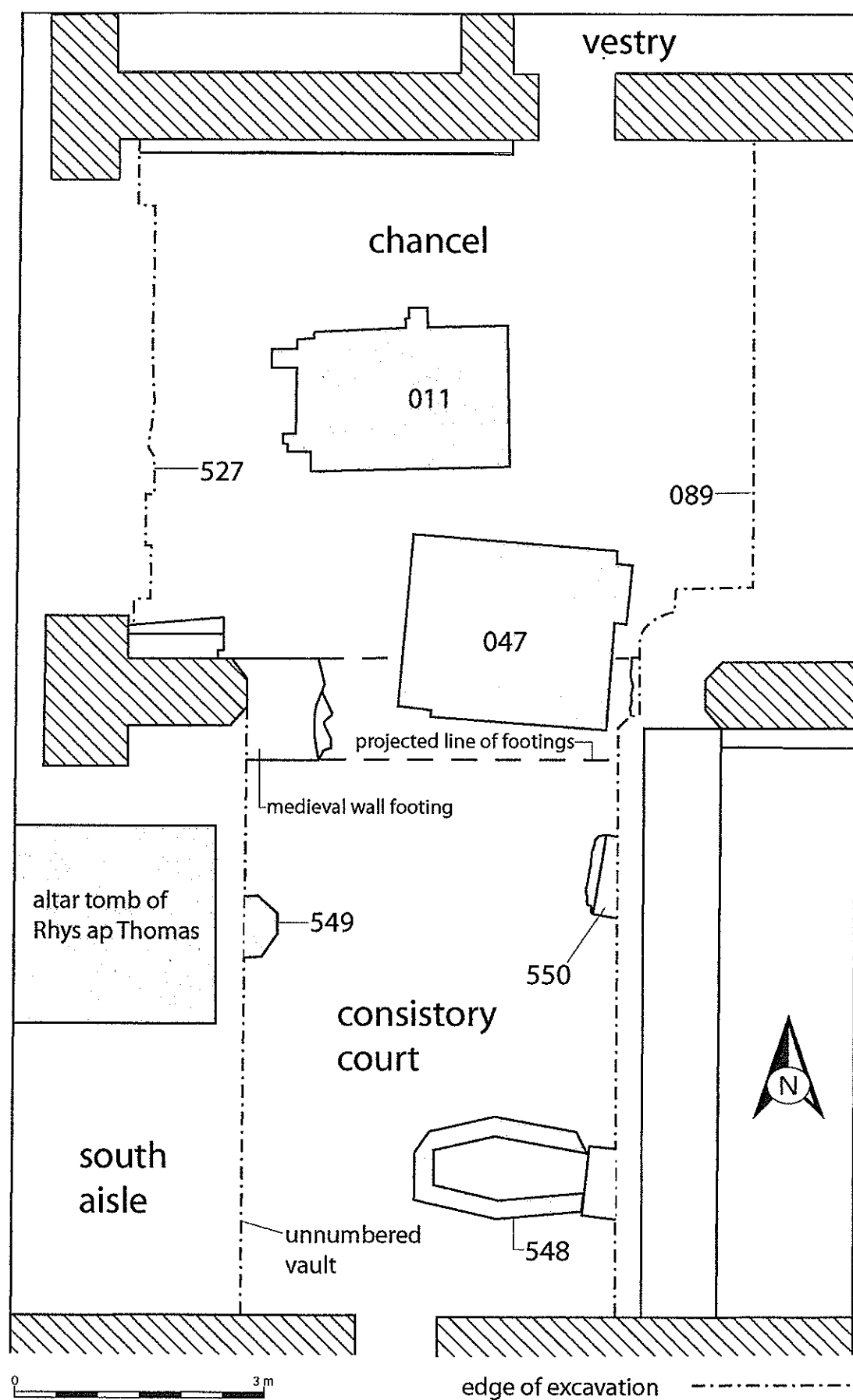


figure 4

## Burial structures



The vault interior was examined by filming with a video camera through the hole in the roof and found to contain the disturbed remains of at least three, possibly as many as five coffins (Plate 11). None of the coffins appeared to have survived intact or *in situ*. At least some of the coffins were lead lined. A gold-coloured decorated and inscribed breast-plate was laying on the top of the disturbed coffins. Traces of an inscription to a Reverend Thomas Hancock were visible on the surface of the plate. It is not clear if the plate came from one of the coffins in the vault, or whether it had been thrown in through the hole in the top of the vault after it had been disturbed from elsewhere. Research is currently being undertaken to see if Hancock had links with any of the major Carmarthenshire families and to see if he was likely to have been interred in a particular family vault.

#### **Shaft grave 548 (Fig 4: Plate 12)**

This grave was a single width, shouldered, or coffin-shaped brick-lined shaft grave - 2.3m x 1.25m - constructed for the Scurlock family. Internally the grave measured 2.1m x 0.78m across the shoulder. It was constructed in red brick using no recognisable bond, although, in patches the brickwork resembled a Flemish bond. Part of a possible construction trench on the south side of the grave was noted in section. The grave was located towards the south end of the consistory court, 1.3m from the south door and it dates from the mid- to late-17<sup>th</sup> century. An opening in the base of the exposed interior of the south wall of the grave appears to have been a later addition; a number of bricks some still bonded together lay around the area of the opening. This feature was not investigated so its nature is unknown (Plate 12).

Four capstones were removed during this excavation revealing the partially filled interior. The grave was partially filled with a loose loamy soil which contained numerous disarticulated bones and a lead box tied with wire.

The identity of this grave as the Scurlock family vault is based on an 1879 description of its location 'about four feet from the little south door of the church, a little to the right hand on entering' (Spurrell 1879, 39) which fits with the excavation evidence. Originally the vault was covered by a capstone inscribed in the memory of Jonathan Scurlock of Blaencorse, d.1682, and his brother John, d.1715. Spurrell (1879, 39) describes the stone as 'a broken flag-stone', and two conjoining fragments of the stone were recovered during this excavation. One of the fragments was still covering the grave and the other was recovered from the northeast corner of the consistory court, approximately 5m north of the grave. Both fragments contained parts of the inscription (see Appendix Two).

Further evidence for this being the Scurlock grave is in the slightly unusual form of the lead box said to contain the head of Sir Richard Steele (d.1729), essayist and founder of *The Tatler* periodical (Plate 12). It is known that Steele was buried in the Scurlock family vault and that his body was disturbed in 1876 when the present tiled floor was laid. The body was viewed by many associated with the church and the well-preserved skull was reported as still having 'a peruke tied at the back with a black bow' (Spurrell 1879, 39). The skull was deposited in a small lead box, supplied and inscribed by the churchwardens and re-interred in the grave. An inscription on the box uncovered during the excavation reads

Supposed to be the skull of  
Sir Richard Steele  
discovered 1876

See the conclusions for a brief discussion on Sir Richard Steele and some of the families represented on the ledgers and wall tablets.

A metal object lying (face down?) on the surface of the fill appears to be an eroded and damaged coffin breast-plate.

Coffin-shaped brick-lined graves were in use from the mid-17th century until intramural burial was stopped in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Litten 1991, 211). Examples from excavations in other churches in Wales and southwest England have been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see for example, Shoesmith 1981, 87 & 91; Boore 1985, 29), later than the 17<sup>th</sup> century date of the Scurlock grave.

**Shaft grave 550** (Figs 4: Plate 14)

The west wall of another brick-lined shaft grave was uncovered in the side of the test pit dug on the east side of the consistory court (see below). The wall was constructed from red bricks laid in a stretcher bond bedded on lime mortar. There was no evidence for a vaulted roof and part of a flat-laid ?slate slab that may have been a ledger covering the grave was exposed in the section. The grave is likely to be either rectangular or coffin-shaped like the Scurlock grave (548). The exposed wall was 1m wide; the wall was only exposed to depth of 1.3m, the depth of the test pit. The four upper brick courses extended beyond the rest of the wall forming a 0.13m overhang, and the lowest eleven courses were unpointed.

**Vault 549** (Fig 4)

Traces of a collapsed roof of a vault were recorded on the eastern edge of the excavation in the consistory court. The exposed remains consisted of red bricks bonded with a hard lime mortar. Probing with a rod was inconclusive, but appeared to suggest that the vault extended eastwards into the consistory court rather than west into the south aisle. This vault was below the finished level required for the new floor so it was not investigated further.

**Unnumbered vault** (Fig 4)

A visit to the church for a memorial service held for the reburial of the human remains revealed that subsequent un-monitored excavation during floor laying in the southwest corner of the consistory court had uncovered part of the east end of another brick vault. The vault was c.1.5m north of the south door and 1m to the west. It extended under the south aisle and was not investigated.

### **The tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas (Fig 4)**

The large altar tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas and his second wife Janet (Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 337), which now occupies a position in the south aisle, just outside the west edge of the excavation in the consistory court, was erected in the arch between the chancel and consistory court, above vault 047, in 1865. Prior to 1865 the tomb stood in the northeast corner of the chancel, a position it had occupied since its removal from Carmarthen Greyfriars in 1535. It was moved to its present position in 1886 (Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 337).

Erecting the tomb in the arch in 1865 required some significant engineering. The recovered evidence for this was the cut south edges of ledgers 007 and 008 and the remnants of the stone foundations (046/050) for the tomb itself.

### **Structure 089 (Fig 4)**

Part of a red brick structure was exposed in the east section of the chancel. The exposed portion was 0.5m high x 0.3m wide and it consisted of seven courses of red brick bonded with a hard off-white lime mortar. Each course consisted of a stretcher and a header. This structure was not examined as it lay outside the excavation area, so its true nature remains unknown. However, it was much narrower than the end walls of any of the other shaft graves and it seems likely that structure 089 was not part of the brick lining for the grave, but possibly a pier or base for a now removed structure.

### **Structure 527 (Figs 4)**

Structure 527 is constructed from roughly shaped stone blocks, completely unlike any of the other burial structures recorded which are brick built making it unlikely that it was part of a burial structure. Its location under the southern choir stalls suggests that it is more likely to be associated with an earlier set of stalls than any of the burials.

## **THE BURIALS (Fig 5)**

The earliest burials encountered were in simple dug graves in both the chancel and consistory court. The burials in the chancel were encountered at just about the depth limit of the excavation and the one definite burial recorded in the consistory court was noted in the test pit, some 0.5m below the excavation level. No complete burials were recorded.

A total of 16 simple graves (015, 016, 029, 031, 085, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 530, 562, 567, 568), as opposed to the brick-built vaults and brick-lined shaft graves, were recorded. Thirteen (015, 016, 029, 031, 085, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 530) were in the chancel and the other three in the consistory court (562, 567, 568). Exact dating of the burials by stratigraphic relationship has not been possible because of the well-attested problems of identifying grave cuts in the heavily disturbed, largely homogeneous and frequently redeposited grave-earth encountered in long-lived burial grounds. In addition, none of the identified graves contained any *in situ* material such as coffin furniture that could be used to supply even rough dates for the burials. Many coffin handles were recovered from disturbed contexts, and

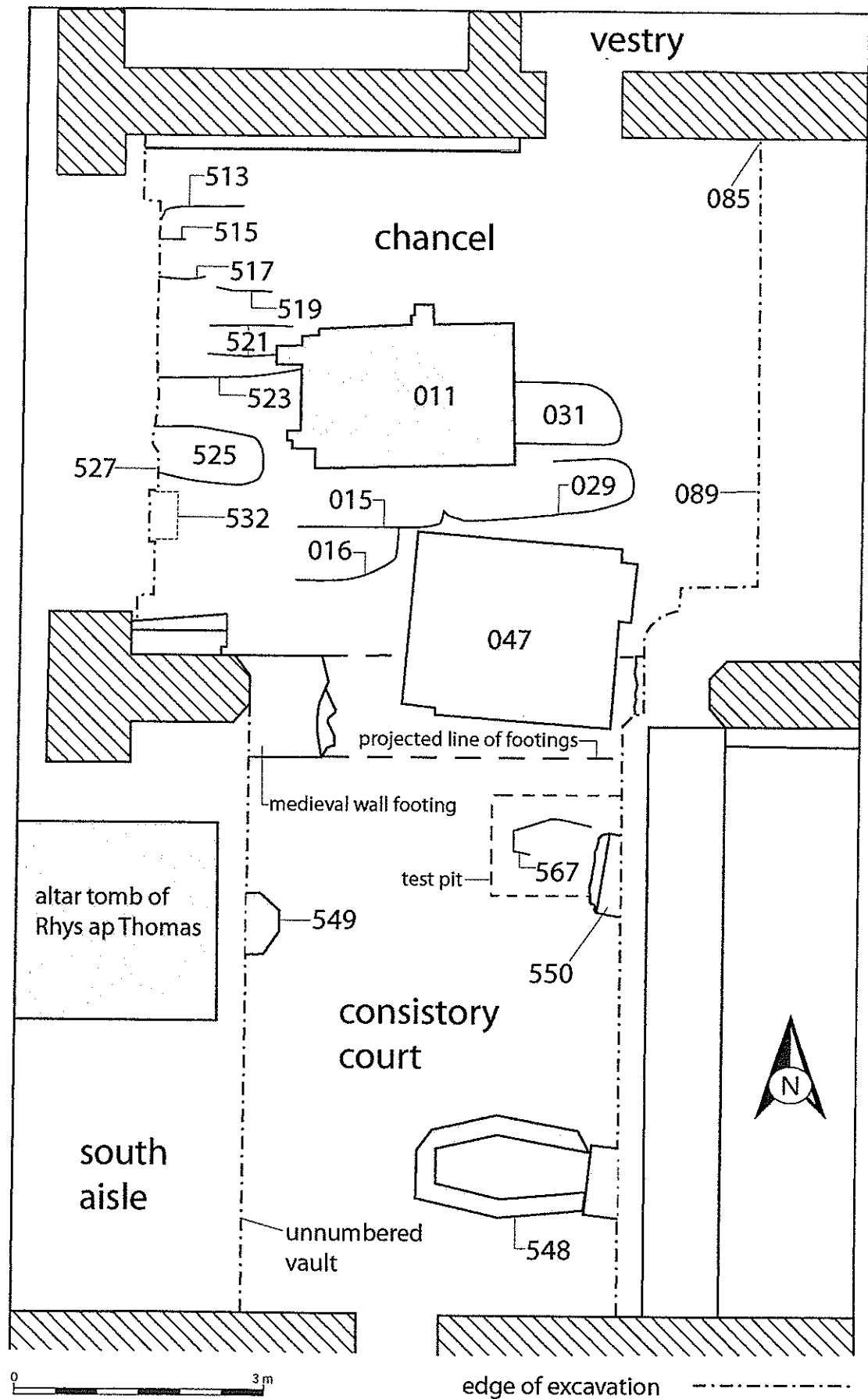


figure 5

## Burials

comparison with other excavated examples suggests an age range from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. None of the coffin furniture from St. Peter's was retained for analysis, it was photographed and re-buried on the site.

The graves in the chancel can be divided into three groups, a western group of eight graves (513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 530), a group of four graves (015, 016, 029, 031) in the centre of the chancel and a possible single grave (085) identified in the east section below the altar rail.

### **The graves at the west end of the chancel**

The eight graves recorded at the west end of the chancel formed an irregular row and none were complete. All the cuts were difficult to define and the cuts for graves 519 and 521 were not positively identified. The position of these two graves was marked by several *in situ* fragments of coffin wood and the leg bones of the bodies. The graves are described from north to south.

#### *Grave 513 (Fig 5)*

The northernmost grave, 513, was only partially uncovered. It extended beneath a hard compacted mortar surface (512) and only a small area, 0.9m x 0.3m, was exposed. The grave was filled with a layer of very soft, loose brown loam with frequent mortar flecks (514). No traces of a burial were recorded, but the body may have survived at a lower level.

#### *Grave 515 (Fig 5; Plate 13)*

Grave 515, which was 0.16m south of 513, had been truncated in the past; a small section, 0.6m x 0.5m, at the head end survived. The grave was filled with a deposit of grey brown loam (516) and it contained a small fragment of wood which appeared to be an *in situ* fragment the north side of the coffin. The skull, including the mandible, was the only part of the skeleton that survived *in situ*.

Plant remains recovered from the chest and neck area have been identified as *Buxus Sempervirens* (box). There are traces of what appears to be gold paint, or gilding on the surviving leaves (Astrid Caseldine *pers. comm.*) which suggests that the plants had been used for some form of floral arrangement. Because of the level of decay and the almost total degeneration of the coffin it is not possible to be certain if the plant remains were buried with the body, or whether they were from plants thrown into the grave after the coffin. However, the former is the more likely as the practice of dressing the corpse with flowers and herbs was widespread from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century and box was used in this context to denote 'the life everlasting' (Cox 1998, 116).

#### *Grave 517 (Fig 5; Plate 13)*

The southern edge of grave 515 also formed the north edge of grave 517. It was not clear which grave truncates the other, but the east end of 517 does truncate the west end of grave 519. Grave 517 was similar in size to 515, 0.55m x 0.6m, and filled with a layer of loose grey brown loam with mortar flecks that contained a large amount of re-deposited bones (518). The primary burial in grave 517 may survive undisturbed below the bones.

*Grave 519* (Fig 5; Plate 13)

Several fragments of wood from the coffin and the lower leg bones of the body mark the position of grave 519 to the east of 517. The tibia and fibula from both legs and the patella, calcaneum and talus from the right leg survived in good condition. The rest of the body and the grave cut had been lost to prior disturbance from grave 517 at its west end, and by later activity from above.

*Grave 521* (Fig 5; Plate 13)

Grave 521 was on the south side of grave 519 and like 519 it was marked by *in situ* fragments of coffin and articulated bones with no visible grave cut. The bones and coffin remains were surrounded by a loose grey brown loam and mortar, which are presumably the remnants of the grave fill (022). The surviving bones, the left radius and ulna and both femurs, were laying on the remains of the wooden coffin base. A skull fragment was recorded in roughly the right position for it to have been from this burial. This grave was truncated on its west end by the brick vault 011 and overcut on its south edge during the excavation. Graves 519 and 521 appear to be, stratigraphically, the earliest in this part of the chancel.

*Grave 523* (Fig 5)

A possible grave, 1.2m x 0.6, 523, was recorded 0.2-0.3m south of 521. This grave was not recognised during excavation, it only became apparent when its fill was identified during the final planning of this part of the chancel as a grey brown loam deposit (524) with a high mortar content giving it a lighter appearance than the surrounding material. No bones, articulated or otherwise, or any traces of a coffin were noted in the fill (524). The cut for this grave was sealed by floor 023/025, but the top of the cut may have been truncated in the past.

*Grave 525* (Fig 5)

The southern edge of 523 was cut by another grave, 1.3m x 0.6m (525), that was filled by a deposit of loose brown loam (526). A skull at the west end of the grave may have been *in situ*, but no other bones from this burial were noted. A fragment of a femur found at the east end of the grave may have come from an earlier burial disturbed by grave 525. The skull was not removed and only a very superficial inspection was possible, but it did not exhibit prominent brow ridges which suggests that it may be from a female.

*Grave 530* (Fig 5)

The last and southernmost grave (530) in this group was only recorded in section as it had been disturbed in the past and possibly overcut during this excavation. It was located under the southern choir stalls. The grave was marked on either side by two stone-built structures (527 and 533). The grave (530) contained two fills (531 and 532) and *in situ* wood fragments from both sides of the coffin. Fill 532 was a layer of grey brown silty loam with mortar flecks confined to an area that roughly corresponded to the interior of the coffin, whereas the main fill (531) contained more mortar and some angular stones, grit and redeposited human bones. Layer 532 is material derived from the main fill (531) that had apparently filtered into the coffin as it degraded.

The northern stone structure (527) was constructed from coursed random rubble bonded with a hard off-white mortar. There was a good face on the east end and a slightly overhanging, but reasonably good face on its south side. The other stone structure (533) was also constructed from bonded and coursed random rubble, although it included larger stones than 527. These structures may have been part of a vault or shaft grave for the burial in grave 530 or they may have been un-associated; it is possible that they were footings for earlier sets of choir stalls (see below).

Like grave 523, this grave was also sealed by floor 023/025. The recovery of a later 16<sup>th</sup> century coin from below this floor strongly suggests a 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date for the burials in this part of the chancel.

### **The graves in the centre of the chancel**

The four graves in the central section of the chancel were all recorded from a much higher level in the sequence than those at the west end, but none produced evidence of any burials. The graves are described from north to south.

#### *Grave 031 (Fig 5)*

Only the eastern end of grave 031 survived; the west end had been truncated by the construction trench (040) for the brick vault 011. The surviving section of 031 measured 1m x 0.7m and it was filled with a single fill of loose grey brown loam and grey/white mortar with small stones and some fragments of slate (030). This layer was only partially excavated as it extended below the level required for the new floor.

#### *Grave 029 (Fig 5)*

Immediately south of 031 was grave 029, which had also been truncated by the construction trench (040) for vault 011. The overall size of 029 was 1.9m x 0.8m. The southern edge of the grave cut and some of the east end survived intact. The surviving portion at the east end of the grave was 1.1m x 0.7m. It was filled with a mixed layer of loose, dry grey/light brown loam and gritty off-white mortar (028), very similar to the fill (030) of grave 031. The southern edge of the grave survived as it appears to have been utilised for the edge of the construction trench 040. The west end of grave 029 would have originally cut, or been cut by, grave 015.

#### *Grave 015 (Fig 5)*

Only the south edge of 015 survived as it too had been used as the edge of the construction trench 040. The surviving edge of 015 measures 1.8m in length. The west end of the grave had been truncated by the insertion of a single line of bricks (013 - see below) sometime during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Grave 016 (Fig 5)*

Grave 015 cut another grave (016) to the south, which was 1.2m x 0.6m and filled with loose very degraded grey/buff mortar (017). This grave was covered by a blue limestone grave marker (008) commemorating Bridget Shewen (d.1780) and Anna Maria Shewen (d.1824). No human remains were encountered in this grave. There is no reason to suppose that the grave is the burial place of the two Shewen women commemorated on the memorial ledger: only one of the memorials recorded in the chancel (011) appeared to possibly be *in situ*.

This grave had also been truncated on its west end by the construction of the line of bricks 013.

### **The grave in the east section of the chancel**

#### *Grave 085 (Fig 5)*

This grave was only identified in profile during final recording of the excavation sections. It was a steep-sided, flat-bottomed cut, 0.7m deep x 0.6m wide at the top - tapering to 0.4m wide at its base. The cut was filled with a single fill of dark brown silty sandy loam containing a large amount of disarticulated human bones and some possible staining from degraded coffin wood (086). There was no identifiable *in situ* human remains. The amount of disarticulated bone recorded in this feature suggests that it was a charnel pit dug to dispose of bones disturbed by later burials or structural works within the chancel.

### **The graves in the consistory court**

Of the three features identified as graves in the consistory court only one (567) had evidence for a burial, the others (562 and 569) have been included as possible graves on their form alone.

#### *Grave 567 (Fig 5: Plate 14)*

Grave (567) was encountered at the bottom of the test pit sunk to try to establish the presence and levels of any undisturbed Roman deposits beneath the church (see below). The grave formerly contained a wooden coffin, which survived only as a partial stain within the silty subsoil. No *in situ* human remains were recorded in this grave. The east end of the grave and the coffin were cut by brick vault 550. Its position in the stratigraphic sequence, such as it was, and the complete decay of the coffin would suggest a relatively early date for the burial within grave 567.

#### *Possible grave 562 (Fig 5)*

Feature 562 was only seen in the side of the test pit as it was cut from below the excavation base level. Only its east side was recorded, so its exact form and dimensions are unknown. The exposed east side was steep-sided, flat-bottomed and filled with a loose brown silty loam containing mortar, traces of coffin wood and coffin furniture (551). Even though its form and nature is unknown it seems reasonable to suggest that it may have been part of a grave cut.

#### *Possible grave 569 (Fig 5)*

A steep-sided feature, 0.9m wide at the top (568), was exposed during final recording work in the west section of the consistory court. It extended below the excavation level. It contained a single fill of loose brown loam containing some medium stones, fragments of coffin wood and disarticulated bones (569). Although the nature of this feature is unknown it seems to suggest that it was a grave cut.



## OTHER STRUCTURES AND FEATURES

As well as the major stratigraphic or structural groups described above there were many structures and features that could not readily be assigned to any of the groups, nor could many of them be assigned to a particular date, but most seemed to be early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The following descriptions are divided into structures and pits.

### Structure 013

A line of red bricks laid in a header bond, with a hard off-white mortar (013) extended northwards from the steps from the chancel to the consistory court across the west end of graves 015 and 016 and across the entrance (012) to brick vault 011. The bricks were set on a discontinuous line of flat stone slabs bonded by a loose white mortar (045). The flat stones may have been the remnants of a former flagged floor, possibly the same one represented by 024 and 026. Where 013 crossed the entrance (012) to the brick vault (011) it had been partially removed in the past, but when and why is unknown. The original functions for this feature are not certain. This structure ran below the memorial ledgers (008, 009 and 010) that formed part of the early- mid-19<sup>th</sup> century floor described above.

### The choir stalls

A wooden H-frame structure (018), aligned north-south and made up of three lengths of squared timber - 4cm (1½") square, was recorded in the area between brick vault 011 and the north wall of the chancel. The frame lay below the level of the floor that contained memorial ledger 010, but its eastern timber partially overlay the north side of the vaulted roof of vault 011. A memorial ledger (014) was uncovered against the chancel wall between the 'uprights' of the north bay of the frame. This ledger slumped to the north, apparently into a grave, but subsequent excavation revealed no grave or obvious voiding below the ledger. It seems merely to have settled in the soft loose soils within the chancel.

The frame measured 2.6m north-south x 1.6m east-west. The two bays formed between the timbers of the 'H' were roughly equal in size, the south bay was the slightly larger of the two. Iron nails, spaced at roughly 20cm intervals were present in the top of the eastern timber. A loosely built stone wall made up flat angular stones and one red brick bonded with soft grey mortar 019 ran alongside the west 'upright' of 018. A fragment of an east-west wall constructed from flat angular stones bonded with grey mortar (043) may have originally joined with 019. Wall 043 had been built on an earlier wall (509). The position of frame 018 and the walls 019, 043, 509, below the present north choir stalls, suggests that they may have been foundations for an earlier set, or sets, of stalls. A late 15<sup>th</sup> century small silver coin of Edward IV was recovered from one (048) of several layers of loose loamy soil and building debris present below the stalls which appear to be general make-up layers derived from past building works. The coin is clearly in a redeposited context. Sherds of painted glass were also recovered from this layer.

There was more evidence for the south stalls than for the north stalls. Remnants of three mortared stone walls (544, 545, 547) built against the west end of the chancel

south wall appeared to be the remains of footings for the rear of previous sets of stalls. A layer of compacted grey/white mortar (540) may have been the bedding layer for footings 544. As mentioned above stone structures 527 and 533 may also be associated with earlier sets of stalls.

### **The pits in the chancel and consistory court (087, 098, 100)**

A number of pits, or pit-like features, were noticed in the sections along the excavation edges during final recording and in the sections of the test pit. Most were cut from immediately below the existing floor and are therefore not considered to be grave cuts. Their position in the stratigraphic sequence, in the upper very disturbed levels suggests that they may have been the result of preparatory works prior to the laying of the existing floor. However, none were investigated so their functions are unknown.

One of the features, 087, in the east section of the chancel was earlier than the others and very different in character. Only the truncated (by pit feature 100) north edge of 087 was recorded. It was vertical and it extended below the excavation base level. There was no evidence to suggest a function for this feature, but it may have been associated with the construction of possible shaft grave 089.

### **Medieval wall footing (chancel south wall) (Figs 3, 4 and 5)**

The footings for what appeared to be the original 14<sup>th</sup> century south wall was exposed in two places, below the southern choir stall (546) and beneath the arch between the chancel and consistory court (051). Both sections of the wall were of a similar construction, consisting of random rubble bonded by a hard grey/white mortar. The arch was inserted when the south aisle was added in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Roman levels (Figs 5 and 6: Plate 14)**

The presence and nature of any surviving Roman deposits below the church has never been established, but several deposits in the chancel may have been redeposited Roman material. This excavation provided an opportunity to excavate a trial pit to test the underlying stratigraphy and to try to locate any surviving Roman layers.

A 1.3m square test pit was excavated to depth of 0.7m against the east edge of the consistory court floor. The edge of a brick shaft grave (550) was encountered and this formed the east side of the pit. The yellow/brown silty subsoil (552) was recorded at a depth of c.1.2m from the existing floor level and it had been cut by a feature (565) which extended below the level of excavation. Feature 565 had a steeply sloping west edge and it was filled with a layer of orange/brown silty clay containing a high proportion of small and medium stones (561). Fill 561 extended upwards beyond the top of the cut feature (565) indicating that it had formerly covered the subsoil to the west of 565. The upper west edge of 565 had apparently been cut as it sloped steeply to the east.

Overlying the subsoil (552) and part of the upper level of 561 was a 0.1m-0.15m thick deposit of reddish/brown silty clay containing a small amount of charcoal (553).

Above the east end of layer 553 and partially overlying fill 561 was a small lens of yellow/brown silty clay containing pea grit and medium stones (562). Layer 553 and the west end of 552 were overlain by a deposit, 0.12m thick, of brown silty, sandy clay containing pea grit, small stones and a small amount of charcoal (554). A layer of yellow/brown clay (555) identical to layer (562) covered 554 and partially overlay fill 561. Filling a small hollow in the top of fill 561 and extending west to partially cover 555 was a small deposit of medium dark grey/brown silty clay containing pea grit and small stones.

This group of layers was unlike any others encountered during the excavation. Their silty clay nature and the common inclusions of pea grit and small to medium stones makes them more akin to the subsoil than the generally loamy soils associated with the church interior encountered during this excavation. This certainly suggests that they are earlier than the activity investigated during the excavation, but there was no evidence to indicate that they represent the Roman levels. The group of deposits was truncated on its west side by a flat-bottomed feature (562) and the east side was truncated by the construction trench (567) for brick shaft grave 550.

A ridge, c.0.8m x 0.3m, of daub and mortar (511) located in the northwest corner of the chancel may be redeposited Roman material. The ridge was cut on its north side by the trench (510) for the foundations (509) of the north choir stalls. The south, east and west edges of 511 were indistinct and had probably been disturbed by grave cuts. The construction trench (040) for vault 011 was filled with a layer of dry, brown loam containing rounded gravels, 19<sup>th</sup> century brick fragments from the vault construction and a sherd from a 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later greyware jug (039). This layer was similar in make up to the gravelly layers recorded in the test pit.

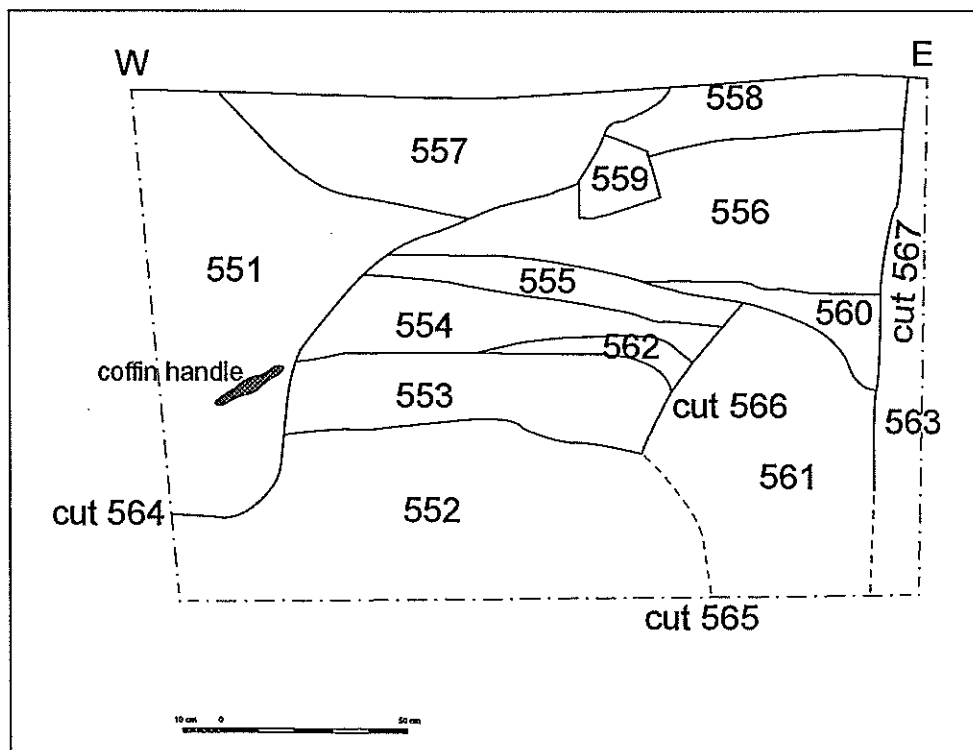


Figure 6: south facing section of test pit showing possible Roman deposits

## DISCUSSION

Opportunities to examine the interior of large urban medieval churches such as St. Peter's are rare, and when such opportunities do occur it is important that they are maximised to make the best use possible of the information recovered. Not all the possibilities presented by the information were recognised during this excavation, but the primary objectives were met, albeit with varying degrees of success, and new lines of enquiry presented themselves during the course of the excavation. The new objectives were stimulated by the discovery of the vaults and grave burials and they concentrated on gaining an understanding of the post-medieval and early modern burial practices in Carmarthen.

### The primary objectives of the excavation

Two of the primary objectives were to answer the inter-related questions of the survival of deposits relating to the Roman town and the early church. In the event, reliable evidence was not forthcoming for either.

The assemblage of Roman pottery, glass and building materials recovered during the excavation was residual, collected from late medieval and post-medieval contexts, and the amount of material recovered suggests that the disturbance of the underlying Roman deposits had been heavy. The level of the subsoil in the test pit, *c.* 1.2m below the existing floor, means that graves dug in the consistory court would almost certainly have cut through the Roman layers. A similar situation could be envisaged in the chancel, even allowing for the difference in floor levels between the chancel and consistory court.

No evidence of early medieval use of the site was recovered. There was little evidence for the early internal layouts of the chancel or consistory courts. The two recorded sections of the possible original 14<sup>th</sup> century chancel south wall (051/546) revealed below the arch between the chancel and consistory court were the only *in situ* medieval features encountered. A slight hint of the medieval internal layout of the chancel was provided by the apparent lack of graves in the area to the east of vault 011 which may suggest that there was some physical barrier - the medieval altar perhaps - to burial in this part of the chancel.

The other primary objectives were to investigate any changes to the internal layout of the church and to record the evidence for intramural burial. Evidence for both was recovered. It was well known from documentary sources that the altar tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas had been moved during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century from its position in the northeast corner of the chancel, and evidence of its foundations was uncovered beneath the arch between the chancel and consistory court. It was also known that the organ had been erected on this same spot below the arch in 1896. There is an interesting story attached to the organ which was originally commissioned by George III for St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. For some reason he changed his mind and the organ was bought by public subscription and erected in St. Peter's in 1796. Why St. Peter's should have got the organ, when many churches must also have made bids, has long been the subject of speculation, and it was assumed that the link

was through John Nash, one of George's favourite architects. However, during the course of the excavation it was thought that another possible link had been established.

Nineteenth century accounts of a morganatic marriage between George III and Hannah Lightfoot claimed that James Dalton, the father of Charlotte Augusta Dalton who was commemorated on ledger 010, had married the daughter of George and Hannah. Therefore, it was assumed that Charlotte Augusta Dalton was George III's granddaughter. This gave George III a direct link with Carmarthen and made the donation of the organ more explicable. However, subsequent research has revealed that Charlotte is unlikely to have been George III's granddaughter, but was instead possibly his great niece. It seems she may be descended from George's brother Frederick. Nevertheless, the link between the Royal family and Carmarthen through the Dalton connection may still explain the presence of the organ at St. Peter's.

### **Secondary objectives**

Issues raised by the possible royal connection led to a closer examination of the ledgers and the families they commemorate and a shift in the emphasis of the research towards investigation of post-medieval and early modern burial practices inside St. Peter's.

The first thing to note is the general lack of vaults and brick graves within the excavated area. This was particularly noticeable within the chancel, usually the most favoured location for intramural burial, where only one vault (011) was recorded completely within the chancel, although others are mentioned on various wall tablets. The altar tomb of Sir Rhys ap Thomas formerly occupied a position in the northeast corner of the chancel following its removal from Carmarthen Greyfriars in 1535, before it was twice moved during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was erected in its present location in 1886. Vault 047 was positioned under the arch between the chancel and the consistory court, and a brick structure, which may have been the end wall of a shaft grave (089) was recorded in the east section of the excavation below the altar rail. Four more vaults and brick-lined graves were uncovered in the consistory court. The density of burial structures in the consistory court is more typical of the later post-medieval period, but overall the numbers are low, compared to similar churches (There are numerous examples, but see for example Boore 1985; Boyle and Keevill, 1998).

Another interesting point is that there were no definitely identifiable graves or vaults east of the centre of the chancel and this area had clearly been heavily disturbed in the past. This suggests that there may have been a physical barrier to burial in this part of the chancel, which had subsequently been removed causing the disturbance recorded during the excavation. It is known that prior to the post-medieval period the altar would have been set centrally, or just east of centre in the chancel (Rodwell 1989, 131), which corresponds with the disturbed area. The positioning of the altar against the east wall of the chancel is a post-medieval adaptation, so it could be that the disturbance was caused by the removal of the early altar. However, the position of the medieval altar, which was presumably moved during the post-medieval period, does not necessarily explain the absence of post-medieval and early modern burials in the eastern half of the chancel. An alternative explanation could be that there was a set of wide steps, leading up to the re-positioned altar, that extended for some distance into

the chancel. Either way, the disturbance of this area had removed any definitive evidence of any past structures.

The problem of identifying grave cuts in grave-earth which is typical of all burial ground excavations has been mentioned above. However, it is worth stressing again just how fundamental this problem is in determining the sequence of burials. In all cases the simple grave burials were only identified when either the remains of the burial itself, or fragments of the coffin were encountered. This, and the lack of *in situ* coffin furniture, precluded any accurate dating of the simple dug graves encountered in either the chancel or the consistory court. The simple dug graves pre-dated most, if not all, of the vaults and brick-lined graves and two graves (523 and 530) were sealed by floor 023/025, which suggests a 16<sup>th</sup> century or early 17<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier date. This would fit with the succession from dug graves to vaults and brick-lined graves typically encountered in church excavations.

### **The vaults and brick-lined graves**

The reason for the lack of burial structures is not immediately clear. It could be that the internal layout of the church precluded the inclusion of many structures, or it may be that the various incumbents resisted large scale vault construction, although the latter is unlikely as the privilege of burial inside the church was expensive and therefore a significant form of income for the church. It is probable that the reason is much more complex. St. Peter's is regarded as a plain church with little adornment suggesting that it has never enjoyed the level of patronage experienced by other comparable churches (Ludlow *pers. comm.*). Why this should be so is difficult to determine. Obviously, the wealth of the region is a crucial factor and Carmarthenshire has never been as rich as many counties in England. However, there was still considerable wealth around particularly during the later post-medieval period. One factor may have been that the wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few families, meaning there were fewer families endowing the church. Also, it seems that many of Carmarthen's notable inhabitants are not buried inside St. Peter's. In fact many are not buried in the town at all, so they may well have been patronizing other churches whilst still alive.

Despite the small number of high status burials within the church, Edward Donovan writing about St. Peter's in 1804 remarks that 'in point of taste, the decorations are altogether superior to any thing of the kind observed in other churches, either of south or north Wales' (Donovan 1805, 190). It is worth noting that Donovan was writing just after John Nash's renovations of the 1780s, so the church would still have looked newly refurbished. Clearly there is more research needed into the social structure of 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century Carmarthen and how this manifested itself in the patronage, or otherwise, of St. Peter's.

The vaults and brick-lined graves that are present within the church were typical of the later post-medieval and early modern periods and they can be assigned to two types using Litten's accepted typology of burial vaults. These are, Litten Type 2 - family vaults with a barrel roof, and Litten Type 3 - single width brick-lined shafts capped by a ledger (Litten 1991, 211). One of the vaults (011) had a ledger stone (010) over its entrance and one of the brick-lined graves (548) was capped with a broken ledger stone 075. Broken ledger 075 was above its original grave, but 010 may have been

moved from its original location and re-located above the entrance to vault 011, hence the modifications to the bottom of the ledger and the top of the vault.

### **The occupants of the vaults and graves**

The identification of the occupants of the vaults and graves is positive in only one instance, that of the Scurlock grave including the head of Sir Richard Steele. Identifying the occupants of the two vaults is difficult, if not impossible at this stage. It is possible that definitive identifications would require physical investigation of the bodies themselves. However, with that option ruled out it is hoped that on-going research into the burial records and the histories of the families may begin to shed some light on the most likely family groups. Clearly the families who constructed vaults 011 and 047 were wealthy and of some influence. The most likely occupants of vault 011 are members of the Dalton family. Two of them are mentioned on ledger 010, which covered the entrance to 011, and they were certainly well connected. Margaret Augusta Dalton was the daughter of Daniel Prythech Esq., a former mayor of the town and the likely royal link with Charlotte has been discussed above, so the vault could well contain members of the Dalton and Prythech families.

A wall tablet mounted on the chancel south wall commemorates 'Mary Relict of Sir William Mansell, Bart.', who was deposited 'in the family vault in the chancel' in 1811. The Mansell family were one of the most prominent Carmarthenshire families with a traceable lineage back to the late medieval period when Sir Rice Mansel Kt. was granted Margam Abbey following the dissolution (Nicholas 1872). A marriage between Sir William Mansell Bart. and Mary Phillips united two of the most influential families in the region. The Phillips' were another family that can be traced back to the later medieval period. Both the Phillips' and the Mansell family provided many town mayors, county sheriffs and MPs, so it is extremely likely that one of the vaults 011 or 047 belongs to one branch of this extended family. A ledger, recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but now lost, records the burial of three members of the Phillips family and the daughter of Sir William Mansell and Mary Phillips.

To further complicate this issue, it is worth noting that often the use of the term vault was a slight deception by the family involved, for as Litten (1991, 207) has noted in many cases there was no vault and the actual burial was in fact in a brick-lined grave.

There is an interesting difference in the language and tone of the ledgers and the wall tablets which shows a sharp contrast between the purely descriptive, functional inscriptions on the ledgers and the emotional memorials on the wall tablets. This is particularly noticeable on the ledgers and tablets to David Davies and Thomas Holliday described above. The ledgers are typical of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with their references to the presence of the corpse (*'here lieth'* on ledger 014 and *'underneath'* on ledger 074) and the frailty and mortality of the human body by referring to the *'remains'* of David Davies (Mytum 2000, 51). Although, the wall tablets are very much about remembering the person when living, they do still refer to the location (*'near this spot'* tablet 9; *'near this place'* tablet 21) and presence of the bodies (*'Whose remains are interred'* tablet 9; *'Interred the remains of'* tablet 21). The language and content of the tablets is emotional and emotive and as well as commemorating the deceased they also express the personal reflections and feelings of

those who erected the tablets. It could be said that the wall tablets tell us as much about the relatives and friends who erected them as they do about the deceased. Both tablets mention the person who commissioned and erected them.

### **Funerary practices**

The act of burial is part of a ritual that takes place in both the private and the public arena. Therefore, its practices are complex and varied, designed to engender certain emotions and feelings about the deceased and their living family. Often the only part of the funeral ritual recoverable during archaeological excavation is the remains of the burial itself, whether it be in a simple grave or vault, coffined, or uncoffined. With burials of later periods there is often supporting evidence in the form of ledgers, wall tablets and obituaries. Sometimes descriptions of the funeral service survive. All help to explain the processes and practices that are generally invisible in the archaeological record.

At St. Peter's one of the graves (515) in the chancel produced remains of gilded box leaves in what is assumed to be the chest area of the burial. These may have derived from a practice of 'corpse dressing' whereby the body was wrapped and interred with flowers and herbs. The plants were imbued with meaning and in this context box was used to denote everlasting life, or 'the evergreen memory' (Cox 1998,116). This practice was attested from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and it is possible that it has pre-Christian origins (Cox *ibid.*). Alternatively, the gilding on the leaves suggests that the plants may have been part of a coffin top display that fell onto the body as the coffin degraded.

A description of part of the funeral procession of Sir Richard Steele was written in 1804, some 75 years after the actual event by Edward Donovan. He writes:

*'His remains were conveyed with great pomp to the church for interment. To increase the solemn grandeur of the ceremony, it was performed at night, with no less than four and twenty attendants, each carrying a branch of lighted torches, forming a part of the retinue in the funeral parade.'*  
(Donovan 1805, 177-178)

Where they survive, descriptions like these illustrate the complexity of the ritual which surrounds a burial, and importantly they provide the context in which to place the physical evidence, such as the burials themselves, ledgers, wall tablets and other forms of memorial.

There is a reverse side to the coin of the solemnity and ceremony of burial. The pomp and occasion of the procession described by Donovan appears in stark contrast to the rediscovery and display of Steele's body in 1876 and the subsequent reburial of his head in lead box. Displaying the disturbed remains of prominent people uncovered during works within the church was not a new thing. Donovan also noted in 1804, that the Sexton had disturbed the grave of Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex (d.1576). The Sexton's description of the coffin and the body shows that great lengths were taken to expose the body. 'The outer coffin was of oak but of singular construction. It was somewhat cymbiform (boat-shaped), pointed at both extremities, and strongly bound



with iron. The inner shell was of lead, in which the body lay embalmed in a curious sort of spiritous liquor, that had retained its purity in an astonishing manner...' (Donovan cited in Lodwick and Lodwick 1994, 340). The exact location of Devereux's grave is not known, but popular opinion places it somewhere near the arch between the chancel and the consistory court.

There are accounts from elsewhere of lead coffins being opened during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with the body inside apparently embalmed in some sort of liquor. On some of these occasions the liquor was tasted to see if was a pickling mixture (Litten 1991, 52), although, this does not appear to have happened when Devereux's coffin was opened!

There is an interesting parallel between the rediscovery of Steele's remains in 1876 and this project. Just as in 1876, the rediscovery of Steele's remains during this excavation generated intense local and national interest. Media and public interest in these excavations had already been generated by the possible Royal connection between George III and Charlotte Dalton and many people visited the excavations to see the Dalton vault and the Scurlock grave containing the box. Pictures of the box containing Steele's head appeared in the national newspapers and on regional television. Even though we consider the images and presentation of the excavation to have been both professional and appropriate, a direct comparison can be drawn with the general level of interest, perhaps morbidity, shown when Steele's body was first rediscovered in 1876.

## **Conclusions**

The excavations have revealed many themes for future research, some peculiar to St. Peter's and some of a more general nature regarding post-medieval and early burial practices. More research is required into the apparent lack of patronage of the church, particularly during the 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a period when comparable churches were frequently endowed and ornamented. Likewise more work is needed to investigate the family histories of those commemorated on the ledgers, especially into the possible Royal connection between George III and the Dalton family. Some of this research is on-going and will be reported in due course. It is hoped that research into the personalities involved will lead to the positive identification of the family vaults, although without physical examination of the bodies this is unlikely. On a more general level, it is hoped that the results can be incorporated into the ever increasing corpus of post-medieval and early modern burials to provide a wider context in which to view the St. Peter's excavation.

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## **APPENDIX ONE: THE FINDS** *by Dee Brennan*

A large assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavation. Not all finds were retained for analysis. Pottery dominating the retained material. Coffin furniture, in particular a large number of coffin handles were photographed and reburied on site because none were recovered from *in situ* burials. However, with hindsight it is felt that they could have provided a good and potentially dateable (through comparison with other excavated examples and early funeral directors' catalogues) typology of coffin handles which could have been used to form the basis of a comparative collection of post-medieval coffin handles from Carmarthen.

A wide range of glass was also recovered, including some sherds of painted widow glass. A number of copper alloy objects, which included many pins, or pin fragments, a pair of possibly Roman tweezers, a fragment of a ring, a small coin, and part of a chain. Two silver coins were also retained.

No textiles were recorded in any of the graves or vaults.

### **THE FINDS ARCHIVE**

The following identifications are listed by context number.

#### **THE POTTERY:**

The Samian is not described in detail and no attempt has been made to identify precise areas of manufacture.

#### **CONTEXT: [001]**

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Flanged bowl with damaged lip. Dragendorff form 38.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glossy slip, burnt.

**DECORATION:** None, plain form.

**SOURCE:** Gaul, usually East Gaulish.

**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century. Typical of second half of 2nd century.

(b) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 1 base.

**FORM:** Bottle. This type was often used for ink or dye.

**FABRIC:** Grey stoneware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown salt-glaze externally and on rim interior.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** English.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th or early 20th century.

(c) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 1 handle and 1 damaged uncertain.

**FORMS:** Cup, jug and uncertain other.

**FABRIC:** Developed whitewares comprising bone china and earthenware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.

**DECORATION:** Two sherds with transfer-printed designs; one plain sherd.

**SOURCE:** Unmarked though Staffordshire is likely.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th or early 20th century.

#### **ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval Tile.  
19th century clay pipes.

**CONTEXT:** [002]

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim. **ILL. Joins context [032] (g)**  
**FORM:** Cup. Oswald & Price. Pl. LV. 13. (See also Dragendorff form 46)  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glossy slip, burnt.  
**DECORATION:** Single stamped rosette on centre of base internally.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, late 1st to mid 3rd century.

(b) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.  
**FORM:** Bowl. Dragendorff form 29. Small repair-hole in fracture.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Bright glossy slip.  
**DECORATION:** Rouletted on upper exterior below lip of rim.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, 1st to early 2nd century.

(c) **NO. SHERDS:** 3 body; 1 base.  
**FORMS:** Dishes and bowls. Angled/carinated sherds from uncertain forms. Base sherd is Dragendorff form 18R.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Good glossy slips.  
**DECORATION:** Internal rouletted circle on base of Dragendorff 18R.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, Dragendorff 18R is mid to late 1st century.

(d) **NO. SHERDS:** 2 rim; 1 body; 1 base.  
**FORMS:** Wheel-thrown jars with rolled everted rims.  
**FABRIC:** Greywares. All sherds are fully reduced. Includes a slightly gritty ware which may be local (no kiln sites are known locally).  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured surfaces.  
**DECORATION:** Horizontal groove on body sherd.  
**SOURCE:** South-East Wales and possible local.  
**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century and later.

(e) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body; 1 base.  
**FORMS:** Indeterminate, probable jars.  
**FABRIC:** Fairly fine micaceous redwares.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Base sherd has possible red slip externally.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Unsourced.  
**DATE:** Roman. Nothing very diagnostic.

(f) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.  
**FORM:** Flat-rimmed bowl.  
**FABRIC:** Black-burnished ware type 1 (BB1).  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Burnished internally. Partially oxidised in firing.  
**DECORATION:** Burnished wavy line decoration on unburnished exterior.  
**SOURCE:** Dorset.  
**DATE:** Roman. 2nd century.

(g) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Amphora, Dressel 20.

**FABRIC:** Classic Dressel 20 fabric.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Baetica, Southern Spain.  
**DATE:** Roman, 1st-3rd century.

**(h) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Jar ?.  
**FABRIC:** Gravel-tempered ware (GTW).  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown interior glaze, exterior surface is fire-blackened.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** North Devon.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, 17th/18th century.

**(i) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Jug or jar.  
**FABRIC:** Red earthenware.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown interior glaze.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Unsourced. Fabric and finish is common to kitchen and dairy wares made at many of the small country potteries.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, 18th or 19th century.

**(j) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Plate/dish.  
**FABRIC:** Tin-glazed earthenware.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** White tin-glaze with characteristic flaking.  
**DECORATION:** Blue-painted floral design.  
**SOURCE:** Unsourced, probably English.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, late 17th or 18th century.

**(k) NO. SHERDS:** 2 rims; 1 body; 3 base.  
**FORMS:** Bowl forms and indeterminate.  
**FABRIC:** Developed whitewares.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.  
**DECORATION:** Transfer-printed ware, sponged decoration and plain undecorated.  
**SOURCE:** Unmarked, Staffordshire is likely.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval Tile.  
Post-medieval clay pipe stem.

**CONTEXT:** [022]

**CERAMIC OBJECT:** 1 loom weight.  
**DESCRIPTION:** Incomplete bun-shaped weight with central circular piercing for suspension. Crudely formed from a fairly hard and fully reduced light grey clay. This is almost certainly a local product.  
**DATE:** Roman.

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 3 rim; 2 body.  
**FORM:** Bowl, Dragendorff form 37. Probably all one vessel.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Good glossy slip.  
**DECORATION:** Plain upper exterior below bead rim. Egg and tongue ovolo above decorated zone.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Bowl with damaged projecting rim, rim is hooked at the tip.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Abraded red slip.

**DECORATION:** None, plain form.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(c) NO. SHERDS:** 3 body. **Specialist**

**FORMS:** Decorated bowl forms. Not classified here.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glossy red slips.

**DECORATION:** Moulded decoration externally. One sherd has possible makers signature.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(d) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 2 body.

**FORMS:** Two bowls and one indeterminate body sherd.

**FABRIC:** 'Caerleon' ware. Fine, fully oxidised micaceous fabric.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Abraded red surface slips.

**DECORATION:** None. One body sherd with an external cordon is a copy of Samian Dragendorff form 44.

**SOURCE:** South-East Wales.

**DATE:** 2nd century.

**(e) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Flanged-rim bowl. Cf. Gillam (1976) form 44.

**FABRIC:** BB1.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Both surfaces are burnished.

**DECORATION:** Intersecting arcs externally.

**SOURCE:** Dorset.

**DATE:** Roman, mid-late 3rd century.

**(f) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Jug form.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired sandy white fabric with occasional pinkish-red grog inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Light green coloured glaze with iron speckling.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced English import.

**DATE:** Medieval.

**(g) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 3 body.

**FORMS:** Jar and indeterminate body sherds.

**FABRIC:** North Devon GTW and calcareous fabrics.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Olive green internal glazes.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 17th-18th century.

**(h) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired, pinkish-red with a thin grey core. Tempered with occasional quartz grits and small sandstone gravels.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Dark brown interior glaze, greyish-buff slip on exterior.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced, English import ?.

**DATE:** Post-medieval.

**(i) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORMS:** Indeterminate thin-walled, possible cup form.

**FABRIC:** Very hard-fired. Red exteriors beneath glaze with a thin dark grey core. No visible inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Double black glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 16th/17th century.

**(j) NO. SHERDS:** 1 base.

**FORM:** Cup.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired fully oxidised fabric. Tempered with sands, larger quartz grits and occasional small dark red and black inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Double black glaze, unglazed on underside of base.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 16th/17th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval Tile.

Post-medieval clay pipes.

**CONTEXT:** [027]

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Bead rimmed bowl/dish form. Too small to classify.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Good glossy slip.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Gaul. Specialist to identify area of manufacture.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Jar ?. Not enough surviving to determine profile.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired sandy redware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(c) NO. SHERDS:** 3 body.

**FORMS:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** GTW.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Internal olive green and brown glazes.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 17th-18th century.

**(d) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Grey stoneware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Double brown glaze.

**DECORATION:** Band of horizontal grooves externally.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced English.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th century.

**(e) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 5 body; 3 base.

**FORMS:** Assorted tablewares.

**FABRIC:** Developed whitewares.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.  
**DECORATION:** Includes banded ware, sponged ware, blue and other coloured transfer-printed ware.  
**SOURCE:** Unmarked, Staffordshire is likely.  
**DATE:** 19th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval floor tile.  
Post-medieval clay pipe stem.

**CONTEXT:** [028]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.  
**FORM:** Jar.  
**FABRIC:** BB1.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Burnished.  
**DECORATION:** None, rim only.  
**SOURCE:** Dorset ?.  
**DATE:** Roman, 2nd/3rd century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Post-medieval encaustic floor tile.

**CONTEXT:** [032]

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.  
**FORM:** Bowl. Dragendorff form 37.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Good smooth slip.  
**DECORATION:** Egg and tongue ovolo.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century.

(b) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.  
**FORM:** Bowl. Dragendorff form 37. (Smaller than (a) above)  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip.  
**DECORATION:** Egg and tongue ovolo above decorative zone.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century.

(c) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 base.  
**FORM:** Dish. Dragendorff 18R ?.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip.  
**DECORATION:** Internal rouletted circle.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman, mid to late 1st century ?.

(d) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body; 2 base.  
**FORMS:** Bowl and indeterminate base sherds.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slips.  
**DECORATION:** One mould-decorated sherd from probable Dragendorff form 37.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman. 1st/2nd century.



**(e) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Cup/bowl. Dragendorff form 33 ?.

**FABRIC:** Samian, burnt.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Surface slip is burnt reddish-brown to black.

**DECORATION:** Plain form. Fine incised groove on wall externally.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century.

**(f) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Dish/shallow bowl. Dragendorff 18 to 31 range. Single repair hole in fracture.

**FABRIC:** Samian, burnt.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Surface slip is burnt reddish-brown to black.

**DECORATION:** None, plain form.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman, 1st or 2nd century.

**(g) NO. SHERDS:** 1 base. Joins context [002] (a)

**FORM:** Cup. Oswald & Price Pl. LV. 13 (See also Dragendorff form 46).

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glossy slip burnt reddish-brown.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman, late 1st to mid 3rd century.

**(h) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body; 1 handle.

**FORM:** Amphorae. Dressel 20 forms.

**FABRIC:** Classic Dressel 20 fabric.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured. Body sherd has pale buff slip externally.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Baetica, Southern Spain.

**DATE:** Roman, (1st-3rd century) probably 2nd century.

**(i) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Mortarium.

**FABRIC:** 'Caerleon' red-slipped ware. Fully oxidised. White quartz trituration-grits on interior.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Abraded smooth red slip externally.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** South-East Wales.

**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century.

**(j) NO. SHERDS:** 1 damaged rim.

**FORM:** Uncertain bowl/dish. Possibly copying Samian form.

**FABRIC:** Sandy redware with frequent small red inclusions and much fine mica.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Roman, probably 2nd century.

**(k) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Jar.

**FABRIC:** Severn Valley ware. Orange surfaces with a reduced grey core. Tempered with fine sands, occasional red (grog) inclusions and fine mica.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured.

**DECORATION:** Band of horizontal grooves externally.

**SOURCE:** Severn Valley region.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(l) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate wheel-thrown vessel.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired, red with a thin grey core. Similar to (k).

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced, possibly the Severn Valley region.

**DATE:** Roman.

(m) **NO. SHERDS:** 5 body.

**FORMS:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** GTW.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Olive green and brown internal glazes.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** 17th/18th century.

(n) **NO. SHERDS:** 2 body.

**FORM:** Tankard and indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Very hard-fired buff coloured fabric.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Streaky dark brown 'mottled' glaze inside and out.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Staffordshire or Bristol.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, early 18th century.

(o) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 handle.

**FORM:** Jug or flask. Strap handle with central groove.

**FABRIC:** Buff stoneware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Honey-coloured glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** English, possibly Bristol.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval tile.

Post-medieval clay pipe stems.

Post-medieval clay marble. Possibly late 19th-early 20th century.

**CONTEXT: [034]**

**NO. SHERDS:** 3 joining body; 3 joining base.

**FORM:** Cup. All one vessel.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired oxidised fabric.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Double brown glaze. Underside of base is unglazed and fire-blackened.

**DECORATION:** None.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 16th or early 17th century ?.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval tile.

Medieval worked marble.

Post-medieval clay pipe stem.

**CONTEXT: [037]**

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Jar.

**FABRIC:** Greyware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Burnished.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** South-East Wales is likely.

**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century. Copying BB1.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Lid.

**FABRIC:** BB1.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Burnished on edge of lid only.

**DECORATION:** None (small sherd only). Burnished looped laticing is usual.

**SOURCE:** BB1.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(c) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Plate.

**FABRIC:** Developed whiteware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.

**DECORATION:** Blue shell-edged decoration.

**SOURCE:** Unmarked, Staffordshire is likely.

**DATE:** 19th or 20th century.

**CONTEXT:** [039]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Jar.

**FABRIC:** Greyware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Horizontal burnishing above zone of burnished decoration.

**DECORATION:** Burnished laticing copying BB1.

**SOURCE:** South-East Wales is likely.

**DATE:** Roman, 2nd century+.

**CONTEXT:** [042]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 small damaged rim (joins rim from [048]; 15 body.

**FORM:** Jug (All one vessel).

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired, fully oxidised dark brick red with darker exterior surface. Tempered with quartz sands and occasional large quartz grits and some gravel inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Thin orange glaze partially covering exterior.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Malvernian ware ?.

**DATE:** Late medieval ?. 15th/16th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval floor tile.

Medieval roofing tile.

**CONTEXT:** [048]

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 1 base.

**FORM:** Flagon/jar ?.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired buff-red surfaces with a reduced grey core. Tempered with fine sands and frequent small red inclusions. Micaceous.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Thin white slip on exterior surface.

**SOURCE:** Possibly Severn Valley region.

**DATE:** Roman, 1st or 2nd century.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim (joins small rim sherd from [042]; 1 neck with scar of strap handle.

**FORM:** Jug.

**FABRIC:** See context [042].

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** See [042]. Two sherds from [048] are not glazed.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** See [042]. Malvernian ware ?.

**DATE:** Late medieval ? Malvernian wares do not reach Wales until the 15th century.  
(Date range is 14th-16th century).

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval tile.

**CONTEXT:** [049]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 handle.

**FORM:** Uncertain, possibly a cup form.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired and fully oxidised with sparse quartz inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Clear glaze appearing yellow over a white slip.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 17th-18th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval floor tile.

**CONTEXT:** [055]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 base.

**FORM:** Utility ware, plate ?.

**FABRIC:** Buff earthenware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Clear glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** English, London ? Part of maker's mark surviving on underside of base.

**DATE:** 19th or early 20th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Post-medieval clay pipe stem.

**CONTEXT:** [036]

**NO. SHERDS:** 1 body/base.

**FORM:** Indeterminate. Nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Good glossy slip.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Roman roof tile. *Imbrex*.

**CONTEXT:** [058]

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 2 rim.  
**FORM:** Jelly/blancmange mould and plate.  
**FABRIC:** Developed whitewares.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.  
**DECORATION:** Blue Willow pattern transfer-print.  
**SOURCE:** Unmarked, Staffordshire is likely.  
**DATE:** 19th or early 20th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Roman roof tile ?.  
Post-medieval clay pipe stem.  
Part of rubber washer ?.

**CONTEXT: [083]**

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 2 body.  
**FORM:** Jar or jug.  
**FABRIC:** Red earthenware with quartz and gravel inclusions.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown interior glaze.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Unsourced.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, 18th through to early 20th century.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Indeterminate.  
**FABRIC:** Developed whiteware.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.  
**DECORATION:** None.  
**SOURCE:** Unmarked.  
**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th or 20th century.

**CONTEXT: [084]**

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 3 rim.  
**FORMS:** Dishes. Dragendorff 18 or 18R.  
**FABRIC:** Samian.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip on all three vessels.  
**DECORATION:** None, plain forms.  
**SOURCE:** Gaul.  
**DATE:** Roman.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.  
**FORM:** Beaker.  
**FABRIC:** Rhenish ware. Very hard-fired, grey with a dark red core (sandwich effect), containing very occasional small white inclusions.  
**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Lustrous black exterior slip, the same but dull on the interior.  
**DECORATION:** Single rouletted band.  
**SOURCE:** Uncertain, Central Gaul ?.  
**DATE:** Roman, Late 2nd century+.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval floor tile.

Post-medieval clay pipes.

**CONTEXT: [091]**

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Dish or shallow bowl. Dragendorff 18 to 31 range.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip.

**DECORATION:** None, plain form.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

(b) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Jar.

**FABRIC:** Classic Severn Valley ware. Buff-red surfaces with grey core.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured surfaces.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Severn Valley region.

**DATE:** Roman, 1st-4th century.

(c) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Fully oxidised orange fabric tempered with fine sands and frequent red inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured smoothed exterior.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Roman.

(d) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim.

**FORM:** Bowl or dish.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired and fully oxidised with quartz and gravel inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Clear glaze appearing yellow over white slip internally, exterior unglazed below rim.

**DECORATION:** None surviving (may be from a sgraffito vessel).

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** 17th-18th century.

(e) **NO. SHERDS:** 7 body.

**FORM:** Jar or jug.

**FABRIC:** Red earthenware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown glaze internally, exterior is partially glazed.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 18th through to early 20th century.

(f) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Grey stoneware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** English.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th century.

(g) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 rim; 1 body; 1 handle.

**FORMS:** Assorted tablewares.

**FABRIC:** Creamware ? and Developed whiteware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Glazed.

**DECORATION:** Rim of creamware dish has moulded decoration at the rim.

**SOURCE:** Unmarked, Staffordshire is likely.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 19th century.

**(h) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, Nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired sandy cream-coloured fabric with occasional small pinkish-red inclusions.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Orange exterior glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval ?.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Roman roof tile. *Tegula* and small fragment of *imbrex*.

Medieval floor tile.

Post-medieval clay pipe stem.

**CONTEXT: [506]**

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 1 base.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth dull slip.

**DECORATION:** None. Circular groove on floor internally.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 2 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Red earthenwares.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown internal glazes.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 18th through to early 20th century.

**CONTEXT: [535]**

**(a) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired and fully oxidised. No visible inclusions though plenty of fine mica.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Some indication of burnishing on interior.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Uncertain Roman or Medieval (i.e. Merida ware and therefore as late as 16th century).

**(b) NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** Red earthenware.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Brown interior glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 18th through to early 20th century.

**ASSOCIATED FINDS:**

Medieval tile. Small fragment only.

**CONTEXT: [536]**

(a) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate, nothing diagnostic.

**FABRIC:** Samian.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Smooth glossy slip.

**DECORATION:** None, plain form ?.

**SOURCE:** Gaul.

**DATE:** Roman.

(b) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 flange.

**FORM:** Mortarium or flanged bowl?.

**FABRIC:** Hard-fired fine grained fabric, red with a grey core. Sparse quartz sand inclusions and fine mica.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Self-coloured surfaces.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** Unsourced.

**DATE:** Roman. (too little of vessel survives to closely date).

(c) **NO. SHERDS:** 1 body.

**FORM:** Indeterminate.

**FABRIC:** GTW.

**SURFACE TREATMENT:** Olive green interior glaze.

**DECORATION:** None.

**SOURCE:** North Devon.

**DATE:** Post-medieval, 17th/18th century.



## APPENDIX TWO: THE MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

The following inscriptions were recorded during the excavation. Information on lost wording that has subsequently been discovered is included in brackets. Only the ledgers that contained legible inscription are transcribed below.

### Ledger 003

....in the memory of William  
Powell Esq who died on the 2nd  
....1792 aged 70 years

### Ledger 004

HERE lieth the body of William  
Harson Gent, who departed this  
life the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1750  
aged 41. Born in the county of  
Cornwall in ye Parish of St Jerma(n)  
of an ancient and reputable family

Here also lieth the body of Anne  
Harson the wife of the afore  
said William Harson who  
departed this life the 27<sup>th</sup> day  
November in the year of our  
Lord 175(3) aged (54)

### Ledger 005

...underneath lie interred the  
Remains of Charles Jones Gent  
and his wife Anne Jones of this  
town and their two sons  
Phillip Jones Gent. He died  
the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1760 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year  
of his age

ALSO LIEUTENANT  
CHARLES JONES  
who departed this life the 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 1787 in the 59<sup>th</sup> year of his age

**Memorial 006**

...Children.... Dead but.... gh.... faith...  
in Christ we shall ap...  
where there is joy and pleasure<sup>ever</sup>

Extract from the possible associated wall tablet (Lodwick No.6)

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE  
OF THE INFANT CHILDREN OF  
HENRY LAWRENCE M.D.  
WHO ARE DEPOSITED IN A VAULT  
UNDER THE COMMUNION TABLE  
ELIZA ANNE GWYNNE  
DIED 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 1834  
AGED 5 YEARS  
ARTHUR SEALY DIED 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST. 1832  
AGED 1 DAY  
LOUISA GRACE DIED 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 1838  
AGED 5 YEARS  
ALSO IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF THE ABOVE NAMED  
HENRY LAWRENCE ESQ., M.D.  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT CHEPSTOW  
ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 1862  
IN THE 78<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE  
HE WAS DESERVEDLY BELOVED AND SINC-  
ERELY REGRETED BY A LARGE CIRCLE OF  
FRIENDS AND RELATIONS, AND HIS MEMORY  
WILL EVER BE FONDLY CHERISHED BY HIS  
SORROWING WIDOW AND CHILDREN.  
HE WAS MAGISTRATE FOR THE COUNTY  
AND BOROUGH OF CARMARTHEN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF PEMBROKE.  
HIS REMAINS ARE INTERRED IN  
THE CEMETERY NEAR THIS TOWN.

**Ledger 007**

(AN)NE LEIGH departed  
(this) life (16<sup>th</sup>) of Aug(ust) 1802  
Aged 73 years

**Ledger 008**

Here lies the remains of  
Bridget Shewen wife of Daniel Shewen  
who departed this life June  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> 1780 aged 43

Also ANNA MARIA SHEWEN  
Daughter of the above Daniel Shewen by  
Bridget his wife  
She departed this life Feb<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1824  
Aged 64 years

**Ledger 009**

Underneath lye interr,d the Remains  
of Daniel Shewen Gent. He Died  
the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1770 in the 54<sup>th</sup>  
year of his age

Here also lye interr,d the Remains  
of Daniel Shewen Gent. son of y  
above He departed this life  
the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1772 in the 27<sup>th</sup> year  
of his age

Here also lieth the body of Mary Daughter  
of the above Daniel Shewen by Bridget his  
Wife who departed this life Jan<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>  
1821 aged 55 years

**Ledger 010**

IN THIS VAULT  
ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF  
CHARLOTTE AUGUSTA CATHERINE DALTON  
ELDEST DAUGHTER OF JAMES DALTON  
ESQUIRE FORMERLY OF THIS TOWN AND  
OF BANGALORE IN THE EAST INDIES, SHE  
DIED ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 1832  
AGED 27 YEARS

ALSO THE REMAINS OF MARGARET AUGUSTA  
DALTON SECOND DAUGHTER OF  
DANIEL PRYTHERCH ESQ. OF THIS TOWN  
AND OF ABERGOLE IN THIS COUNTY  
BY CAROLINE HIS WIFE, YOUNGEST  
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE JAMES DALTON  
SHE DIED ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY  
1839 IN THE NINTH YEAR OF HER AGE

**Ledger 014**

Underneath lie interred the remains of Evan Evans, of this town  
also Sarah his wife, also Ann Jones and Elizabeth Bonville,  
daughter of the above Evan Evans by Sarah his wife.  
Here likewise lieth the body Thomas Holiday of this town,  
and son-in-law of the said Evan Evans, who departed  
this life the 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 1787 aged 48 years.

Associated wall tablet (Lodwick No.9)

SACRED TO THE MEMORIES  
OF THE MOST INDULGENT PARENTS  
WHOSE REMAINS ARE INTERRED NEAR THIS  
SPOT, THIS MONUMENT OF FILIAL  
AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE  
IS DUTIFULLY AND PIOUSLY ERECTED.  
THOMAS HOLLIDAY, OF THIS TOWN GENT.  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
MAY 1787 AGED 48 YEARS.  
MARY, WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
THOMAS HOLLIDAY  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
OCTOBER 1792 AGED 57 YEARS.  
IN PERFECT CHARITY WITH ALL MEN  
AND SERVING THEIR MAKER IN TRUE  
HOLINESS, HAVING A LIVELY AND  
STEADFAST FAITH IN CHRIST THEIR SAVIOUR,  
THEY DIED IN THE JOYFUL HOPE OF THE  
RESURRECTION

**Ledger 072**

here lieth the remains of  
WILLIAM DAVIES MARINER  
of this town who departed this life  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1816 aged 23 years

Also of EVAN DAVIES, Grocer  
Father of the said William Davies  
who died Aug.t 24<sup>th</sup> 1828  
aged 73 years

Also of MARY DAVIES  
Relict of the above Evan Davies  
Who departed this Life April 15<sup>th</sup>  
1841: aged 81 years

**Ledger 073**

IN MEMORY of  
MARY FORREST  
who departed this Life 26<sup>th</sup> of  
June 1790 in the 64<sup>th</sup> year of her  
Age

Also  
AGNES FORREST  
Daughter of the above named  
mary forest, who departed this life  
Sept. 1. 1839 aged 82 years  
She lived beloved and died lamented

**Ledger 074**

Underneath are deposited the remains  
of Dd. Davies Esquire late of the  
Parade in this Parish Att.y at Law  
who departed this life on the 29<sup>th</sup> day  
January 1818 aged 51 years

Associated wall tablet inscription (Lodwick No.21)

NEAR THIS PLACE  
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF  
DAVID DAVIES ESQ.  
LATE OF THE PARADE IN THE PARISH.  
BY UNCEASING ASSIDUITY AND STRICT  
PROBITY  
HE ATTAINED TO EMINENCE IN THE PROFESSION OF THE LAW  
AND THE UNABATING ATTACHMENT OF  
NUMEROUS FRIENDS  
WAS THE BEST PROOF OF HIS PRIVATE WORTH.  
HE DIED ON THE 29<sup>th</sup> OF JANUARY 1818  
IN THE 51<sup>st</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE.  
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED FROM GRATI-  
TUDE AND AFFECTION  
BY HIS COUSIN JOHN DAVIES

**Ledger 075/ 078**

*ETH THE...*  
JOHN SCURLOCK OF  
BLAENCORSE *SQUIRE ALDERMAN*  
*.....IS CORPORATION ONLY*  
BROTHER TO THE *AFORESAID*  
JONATHON SCURLOCK WHO  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 2....  
DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR  
OF OUR LORD 1715 AGED 47  
YEARS

Italics = 078

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Plate 1: Tiled floor in the chancel prior to removal. The floor was laid in 1876.



Plate 2: Tiled floor in the consistory court prior to removal.

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Plate 3: Excavation of the chancel floor containing the memorial ledgers.



Plate 4: Ledger 075 commemorating the Scurlock brothers above the Scurlock family grave.

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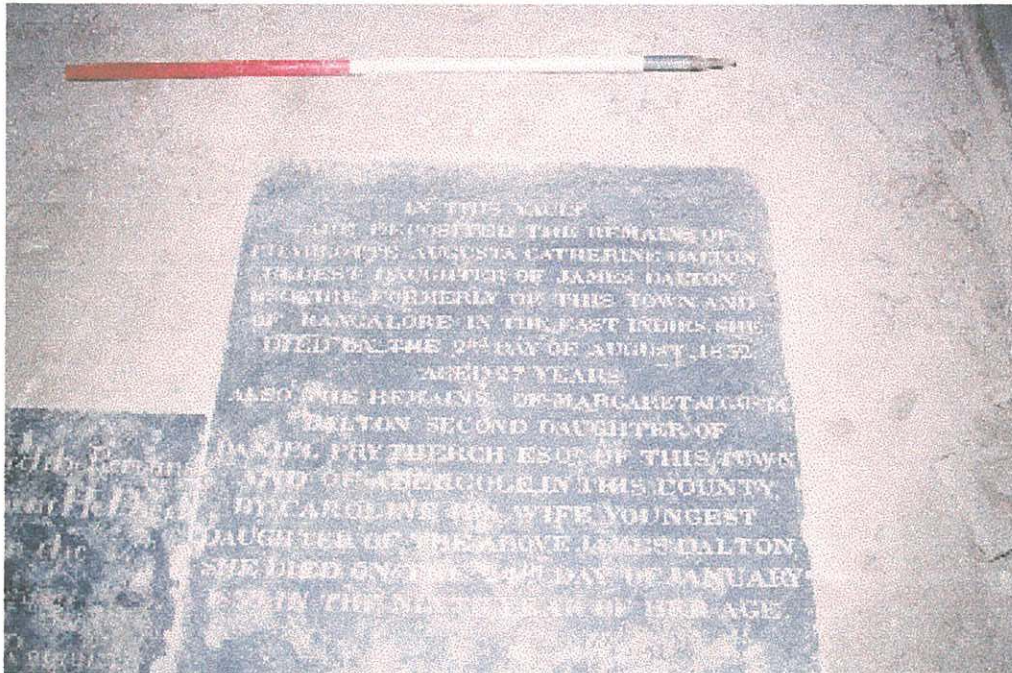


Plate 5: Detail of inscription to Charlotte and Margaret Dalton. For some time during the excavation it was believed that Charlotte Dalton was the granddaughter of George III, but subsequent research does not support this. It is likely that Charlotte was in fact George III's great niece.



Plate 6: The top of vault 011 during excavation. The ledger (010) to Charlotte Dalton, which overiles the vault entrance, is just visible at the top of the shot.

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Plate 7: South wall of vault 011 showing holes for iron supporting bars and coffin of adult burial..



Plate 8: Close up of the floor of vault 011 showing the wood that has fallen from the coffins.

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Plate 9: The upper coffins in vault 011 showing the shadows of the removed coffin decorations.



Plate 10: View of chancel with vault 047 in the foreground with vault 011 behind.





Plate 11: The interior of vault 047 with a badly eroded breast-plate lying on the jumble of collapsed coffins.



Plate 12: The Scurlock family grave with the lead box said to contain the head of Sir Richard Steele.

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Plate 13: Detail of the in situ burials at the west end of the chancel. The left leg bones and the remains of the wooden coffin base of burial 519 are clearly shown in the foreground. The skull of burial 515 is just to the left of the right hand upright scale. Burial 515 contained gilded box leaves.



Plate 14: Burial 567. The wooden coffin survives only as stain in the surrounding soil.

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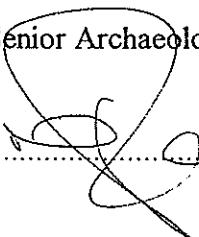
**ST PETER'S CHURCH, CARMARTHEN: EXCAVATION 2000**

**REPORT NUMBER 2001/24**

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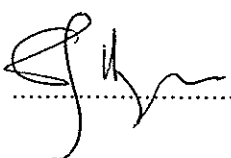
This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position Senior Archaeologist

Signature  Date 16/3/2001

This report has been checked and approved by Gwilym Hughes on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Director

Signature  Date 16/3/2001

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