

PARK HALL CARMARTHEN 2001

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report No. 2001/42

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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By

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Front Cover: Cremation jar found at Park Hall 2001

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land between Park Hall and Priory Street, Carmarthen in March and April 2001. Two trial trenches were excavated. A pit containing a Romano-British greyware vessel was recorded in one of the trenches. The vessel contained a cremation deposit and the rim from a small glass bottle. This burial pit, together with several other features, strongly suggested the presence of a Roman cemetery located between the Roman town of Moridunum to the west and the amphitheatre to the east. This particular cemetery would have been located on the north side of the main eastern approach road to the Roman town. The cremation deposit represents the first proven burial from Roman Carmarthen; it is probably that of a female in mid to late teens. Recovered from within and without the cremation pot were a few carbonised grape pips. Several other linear features of possible late medieval or post-medieval date were also recorded in the trial trenches. Considerable deposits of post-medieval ploughsoil and modern overburden overlay the various features. These deposits were up to 1.3m deep.

Introduction

This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in response to a proposal to build a community hall on land between Park Hall and Priory Street, Carmarthen (Figs 1 and 2). Cambria Archaeology Field Operations undertook the work during March and April 2001. Funding for the work was provided by: Carmarthenshire County Council, Antur Cwm Taf / Tywi (ACTT), Welsh Development Agency (WDA), National Lottery Community Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. The work conformed to a brief prepared by Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management (see Appendix 1).

The proposed development includes an area of approximately 0.2 hectares (centred on NGR SN 4190 2062) and is located between the known line of the defences of the Roman town of *Moridunum* to the west and the site of the Roman amphitheatre to the east. The ground surface in the northern and western parts of the site is fairly level. Within the rest of the area there is a gentle slope down to the east. A property wall and a former field boundary define the western edge of the site and the rear garden fences for properties on the Park Hall estate define the northern side. The eastern edge of the site is defined by a modern bank and beyond that a footpath running from the estate down to Priory Street. There is a car parking area to the southeast of the site. At the time of the evaluation the site was wasteland and was covered with grass, scrub and the remains of a former field boundary. There was vehicle access across the site for parking to the rear of one of the buildings on Priory Street. There was originally a garage in this area although this had been burnt down. The area was being used as a dumping ground for garden and domestic rubbish and as an un-official children's play area. The underlying geology is shale (lying on the junction between the shale Tetrayraptus Beds - Arenig and shale Didymograptus bifidus Beds - Lower Llandovery - Ordovician). The drift deposits are glacial sand and gravel and boulder clay.

Archaeological background

A substantial amount of archaeological work has been undertaken in Carmarthen in recent years. This includes a series of large-scale excavations by Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) which has significantly enhanced our knowledge of both Roman and medieval Carmarthen. The definitive report on the excavations within the Roman town will shortly be published (James forthcoming) although a useful summary is already available (James 1992).

A Roman fort was established at Carmarthen in about AD75 shortly after a campaign of conquest under the governor Julius Frontinus. The location of the fort straddled modern Spilman Street to the southwest of the later Roman town. A Romano-British temple was located to the northeast of the fort (to the north of modern Priory Street) and this appears to have formed the focus of an early 2nd century settlement. Between AD120 and AD150 a formal street system was laid out either side of the main road to the east of the fort. This perhaps corresponds with the official establishment of *Moridunum* as a civitas or tribal administrative centre for the *Demetae*, the local British population.

The earth and timber defences of the town were constructed in the late 2nd century. These defences comprised a substantial clay bank, revetted with turves and fronted by a triple ditch system. The defences were subsequently remodelled and enlarged during the 3rd century with the construction of a stone wall fronted by a new wide and shallow ditch. Settlement continued within the town into at least the fifth century.

The proposed development site lies immediately to the north of the former line of a Roman road approaching the eastern defences of the Roman town. Such a location is frequently the focus for Roman burial. According to Roman law, cemeteries had to be located outside the town and they were often situated adjacent to the main roads. No evidence of any cemetery has previously been found in the vicinity of the proposed development. However, pottery with possible burial associations has been found to the south of Carmarthen at Pensarn and Llangunnor (James 1980).

Immediately to the east of the proposed development site is the site of the former Roman amphitheatre. This is the only surviving above-ground Roman monument in Carmarthen and is located 250m northeast of the eastern side of the Roman town defences. It survives as a substantial earthwork. A trial excavation was undertaken in 1968 (Jones 1968) and a larger-scale excavation in 1970 (Little 1971). The amphitheatre was probably constructed in mid 2nd century although only one datable sherd of pottery, dating to the first half of the second century, has been recovered (James 1980, 16). It has been suggested that Carmarthen's amphitheatre should more correctly be described as a 'theatre-amphitheatre' due to the apparent absence of a bank surrounding the southern side of the arena (James 1992, 13). It is possible there was a stage setting on this side. The amphitheatre is currently designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Carm 206). The western end of this scheduled area extends into the proposed development site (Fig. 2).

There is no evidence of settlement within the defences of the Roman town in the early medieval period. It seems that the area of the Roman town reverted to agricultural use

with the gradual development of plots. The area came under the control of the Priory, which was founded in approximately 1110, to the southeast of the former Roman town. During the medieval period a market was possibly located on Priory Street just to the east of the former Roman town. The property boundaries marked on early maps indicate the presence of long narrow plots extending north from Priory Street, across the area of the proposed development, and continuing under the present Park Hall estate. Some evidence for these plots still survive. These boundaries could be the remnants of medieval strip fields although there is no documentation to support this. Alternatively, they could be burgage plots, particularly as there are known burgage plots on the opposite side of Priory Street. However, it would be unlikely that any medieval buildings extended as far back from the street frontage as the proposed development area.

Later, post-medieval development saw the establishment of terraced housing along the eastern extent of Priory Street. The earlier long narrow 'burgage-type' plots were retained. The amphitheatre was first recognised as such in 1936 (Little 1971) and was protected from development. There are no records of anything archaeological being found during the building of the Park Hall estate.

Objective

The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to obtain detailed information on the presence, location, extent, survival and significance of archaeological features within the proposed development area.

Methodology

Prior to the field evaluation, a preliminary assessment of all available documentary and cartographic information was undertaken. This included an assessment of all relevant information held and referenced in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record. This assessment confirmed that there was no previous archaeological evidence within the actual area of the proposed development that might influence the location of the trial trenches. The original proposal was to excavate five, short trial trenches covering 5% of the area. This was subsequently revised following a site visit and the need to avoid the scheduled area in the eastern part of the site, overhead power cables and the vehicle access across the site. In the event two longer, 'dog-legged' trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). Trench 1 in the southeastern area of the site was 27.5m long and 1.3m wide. Trench 2 in the northeastern area was 22.5m long and 1.3m wide (Figs 3 and 4).

The upper deposits in both trenches were removed by machine. These deposits were up to 1.3m deep in Trench 1 and up to 1.2m deep in Trench 2 and included medieval/post-medieval ploughsoil, modern overburden and topsoil. In both trenches the medieval/post-medieval ploughsoil partly overlay the natural boulder clay and partly overlay a deposit of orange brown silty clay. The surface of both the boulder

clay and the silty clay was cleaned and any archaeological features identified were partially or fully excavated by hand. Towards the end of the excavation the silty clay was then removed by machine to determine whether or not archaeological features were present at a lower level. Ten working days were spent on the site with a team of at least three archaeologists. During the course of the excavation a metal detector was used to scan the trenches and spoil tips and a few metal objects were recovered.

The weather was relatively good during the course of the excavation except for overnight frosts, causing the sections to crumble, and heavy rain on the last day of excavation. Despite the presence of security fencing, some unauthorised digging and minor vandalism occurred during the course of the fieldwork.

Results

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

In the western part of the trench the surface of the natural boulder clay was encountered at a depth of 1.3m. The surface of the natural sloped from west to east. In the eastern part of the trench the boulder clay was cut by a natural feature, probably a periglacial streambed or water feature, later filled with sandy silt. Other possible features in the natural were investigated. All appeared to be negative except for a probable tree hole (post-medieval?) cutting the periglacial feature.

In the eastern part of the trench the boulder clay was overlain by up to 1.3m of orange brown silty clay (110). This material had the effect of levelling off part of the natural, geological slope to the east of the trench. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery and several possible medieval sherds were recovered from near the top of this deposit.

In the central area of the trench the natural clay was cut by a narrow gully or ditch (106), the fill (105) of which produced a post-medieval pottery sherd. Further west was part of a possible shallow pit (104), with a flattish-base. The fill also produced post-medieval pottery. These features were overlain by a layer of soil (111) up to 0.4m thick that also contained post-medieval pottery. The upper deposits (112) and features were modern.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

The natural boulder clay was encountered at a depth of up to 1.2m. It was not fully exposed in the far western end of the trench where the machine could not excavate below the trees in the adjacent boundary.

A complex of features was identified in the western part of the trench, only one of which was excavated. This was a small, sub-square pit (213) with an irregular profile. The pit contained a cremation deposit (220) in an intact (but cracked) Romano-British greyware jar (Fig. 5). The rim of the pot was level with the subsoil surface. Examination of the vessel suggests a date from the late 1st or early 2nd century AD. The top of the pot was voided on discovery (Fig. 6) and the vessel contained a large

quantity of cremated bone (Appendix 4), probably that of a female in her late teens. Surrounding the pot was a very dark charcoal rich fill (214) containing several fragments of Romano-British pottery dated 70AD to 120AD, some burnt bone and some carbonised grape seeds (Appendix 4). The dark fill surrounding the pot was covered with a thin layer of re-deposited natural.

To the south of the burial pit was an unexcavated feature close to the edge of the trench (217). A voided hole, similar to that in the top of the pit in which the cremation deposit was found, within the fill of this feature (218) suggested that it might also have contained a burial. Another possible cremation pit (222) was located 2m further west. The upper fill (223) contained several large stones although the feature was not excavated. A fragment of lead (404) was recovered by a metal detector from just above this feature. Two linear features (215 and 224) were also recorded in this area of the trench. These were probably ditches, approximately at right angles to each other, and possibly demarcated the area of the excavated burial pit and the two possible burial pits. All these features were overlain by an orange-brown silty clay (232) similar to the deposit identified in Trench 1 (110).

In the eastern part of the trench the natural boulder clay was cut by two pit-type features (226 and 228). These may have been Roman in date although no dateable artefacts were recovered from their fills (Fig. 7). To the west of these pits were two parallel ditches (208 and 210) that ran obliquely to the line of the trench. The fill of the southernmost of these ditches (209) produced several fragments of medieval pottery. No artefacts were found within the fill of the northern ditch, but there were coal fragments near the base of its fill that suggested a medieval or post-medieval date. At the western end of this length of ditch there was a possible turn to the north (205). The upper fill (206) of this feature contained post-medieval pottery.

A slight hollow (202) in the southern arm of the trench produced fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Just to the west of the hollow, a probable shallow pit (230) contained coal fragments. There were a number of modern postholes and stakeholes (not illustrated) cut into the post-medieval soil (234) covering the site. Above all of this was a thick layer of modern soil (233), containing plastic, and capped with grass and weeds.

Interpretation

Trench 1 - It was not easy to identify features in Trench 1 due to the nature of the subsoil and the confined nature of the excavation. It is possible that some small features could have been missed that might become more apparent in a larger area excavation.

The silty clay at the eastern end of Trench 1 (110) is possibly Roman or late Roman plough soil, hill wash or possibly a spread of material from the amphitheatre embankment. However, the recovery of medieval sherds suggests that the upper part of this deposit was deposited within or later than the medieval period. The overlying deposit (111) was probably a medieval ploughsoil, continuing in use into the post-medieval period. The ditch (106) is probably the remains of one of the strip field or

burgage boundaries. The upper levels revealed the base or bases of more recent outbuildings or garages. After these were demolished there was a considerable dump of modern dark soil along with other modern disturbance.

Trench 2 - In Trench 2 it is less likely that features were missed. The one burial containing a cremation deposit, the two other probable burial pits and the adjacent ditches strongly suggest the presence of a cemetery and cemetery plot boundaries. It is possible that one of the pits near the north corner of the trench (226) could be part of a grave cut. The shape of the pit and the fill (227) was particularly reminiscent of an inhumation burial. The absence of any skeletal material is not surprising given the local acidic soil conditions.

The two parallel ditches (208 and 209) are likely to be parts of the end of the narrow strip field or burgage plots. These were probably medieval in origin but continued into the post-medieval period. The pottery recovered from the southern leg of the trench (202) suggests that this was an area of rubbish disposal. As in Trench 1 there was a layer of medieval/post-medieval plough soil (234) overlain by a considerable dump of modern soil (233).

Finds

A summary of the finds from the excavation is provided in Table 1. Detailed identifications are provided in Appendix 3. The pottery assemblage included a small collection of medieval and post-medieval pottery most of which was recovered from the upper machined layers. The metal artefacts were not firmly stratified and their forms do not lend themselves to secure dating.

The most significant find was the Romano-British greyware vessel containing the cremation deposit. Identification suggests a late 1st or early 2nd century date. The rim of a glass flask or bottle was recovered from the upper fill of the vessel. This was probably deliberately placed within the vessel and almost certainly formed part of the cremation ritual. The placing of glass vessels or fragments of glass vessels within cremation pots is not uncommon in Roman Britain (Philpott 1991, 115). Such vessels may have contained oil or ointments that were used for anointing the body either before or during the cremation rite. These glass vessels were frequently burnt suggesting that they may have been recovered from the cremation pyre.

Table 1 - Summary of finds

Trench No	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	MD finds	TOTAL
Context	111/1 12	110	103	105	107	233/2 34	202	204	206	209	214	219	220/221		
R-B Pottery frags	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	1 Complete pot	-	26
Med Pottery frags	4	6	-	-	4	9	13	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	43
Post-med /17 th /18 th century pottery frags	2	-	4	1	-	18	9	3	7	-	-	1	-	-	45
19 th /20 th century pottery frags	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Brick/tile frags	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Metal objects	4	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	15
Metal slag	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(?)	-	-	-	2
Glass frags	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Clay pipe frags	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Animal Bone frags	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Human cremation deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

Sample Analysis

The fill of both the burial pit and the Romano-British vessel were sent for sorting and analysis (Appendix 4). Results show that a large quantity of cremated bone was present, all from a single individual, probably a female aged 15 to 20 years of age. One fragment of a carbonised grape seed was recovered from within the vessel along with several in the surrounding fill.

The vessel was sent to the Department of Archaeological Conservation at Cardiff University for conservation. The interior of the vessel may contain some residual deposits (e.g. burnt food deposits) and has been left uncleaned.

Discussion

By far the most significant and exciting find during the evaluation was the discovery of the Roman burial containing a cremation deposit. This is the first confirmed burial from Roman Carmarthen despite the probability that there were thousands of burials in the vicinity of the Roman town. Given the size and length of occupation of the town it might have been expected that many more burials would have been recorded. However, prior to the evaluation the only possible Roman graves known were those suspected at Pensarn and Llangunnor. One of the difficulties of identifying burials from Roman Carmarthen has been the poor bone survival caused by the acidic character of the soils. However, cremation deposits are more likely to survive. This was the dominant burial rite in Roman Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries and gave way to inhumation burial during the 3rd, 4th and 5th centuries (Salway 1982, 693). Another possible reason for the absence of burial evidence is that much of the archaeological work to date has focused on the fort and the area within the town defences.

The analysis of the burial found indicated that there is great potential for understanding more of the rituals of earlier Roman burial practice in this part of the country (Appendix 4). The recovery of grape seeds certainly suggest ritual and the cut marks on the cremated bone could be more than just the practicality of fitting the bone into the vessel. Comparative analysis of any further burials from this cemetery would likely to give even more informative results, and with DNA analysis it may be possible to identify family groups.

The possible cemetery at Park Hall was located just to the north of the main eastern approach road to Roman Carmarthen. This is a classic location for a Roman cemetery which, according to Roman law, had to be located outside the town limits (Salway 1982, 694). It is possible that the cemetery predated the construction of the amphitheatre and its presence may have prevented the amphitheatre from being built closer to the town. However, the cemetery may have continued in use after the amphitheatre was built. At Cirencester a cemetery is located in a similar position between the amphitheatre and the town (Salway 1982, 704).

Even if the ditches adjacent to the cremation on the Park Hall site define the extent of a cemetery, as at Baldock (Frere 1986), there is a strong likelihood that there are burials in adjacent plots. The graves of Roman cemeteries were not systematically laid out as practiced from the medieval to the modern period. Instead they were frequently clustered, either by family connections or as part of a burial club (Salway 1982, 696). Such clustering of burials is evident at the early Roman cemetery at the King Harry Lane site at St. Albans (Verulamium Museum 1987). Because of such clustering of Roman graves it is impossible to estimate the number of burials that could be affected by the proposed development at Park Hall. The apparent absence of graves in Trench 1 does not necessarily indicate that there were no graves in this area of the site. It has been estimated that burials were absent from 80% of the area of the cemetery at the King Harry Lane site in Verulamium. Consequently, trial trenching of these cemeteries can give very unreliable indications of burial numbers (Adrian Havercroft pers com). There is a potential for several hundred burials to be present within the proposed development area of 0.2 hectares. However, the actual figure is likely to be less as a consequence of the tendency for clustering as discussed above.

Recommendations

Following consultation with the Heritage Management section of Cambria Archaeology there are unlikely to be objections to the proposed development on archaeological grounds. However, it is likely that a recommendation will be made for the full excavation (preservation by record) of any archaeological features or deposits that are likely to be affected by the development proposal. This will include any areas affected by the footprint of the new building and groundworks associated with deep service trenches. The upper deposits of modern soil on this site are very soft and even if the building is constructed on a concrete raft it is likely to cause disturbance to surviving archaeology. Although the top of the cremation deposit was found at 1.2m below the ground surface, archaeological features can be expected at a depth of less than 0.5m in places.

The analysis of any burials and any associated artefacts from such an excavation will make a significant contribution to our understanding of the character of burial ritual in Roman west Wales and the early history of the Roman town at Carmarthen. Such a project might also provide an opportunity to promote an active involvement from the local community in a major archaeological excavation. Such an exercise would seem very appropriate given the ultimate objective of providing an open amenity area and the construction of a community centre.

Scheduled Ancient Monument consent would be needed before any work can take place within the scheduled area of the amphitheatre (Fig. 2). It is unlikely that consent would be given for any major construction within this area. However, minor landscaping or car parking may be possible. It is recommended that the building or service trenches should be planned to avoid this zone and, in any case, Cadw; Welsh Historic Monuments should be consulted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements

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The work on site was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Hubert Wilson, site draughtsman; Neil Ludlow, EDM survey; Gwilym Bere, archaeological assistant, all of Cambria Archaeology. Marion Manwaring and Kevin West for voluntary assistance.

Archive deposition

This will be temporarily held by Cambria Archaeology Trust before permanent deposition at a suitable museum to be agreed by all parties.

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Appendix 1: Brief

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation - May 2000

Site: Park Hall Estate - Proposed Community Facility

Prepared for: CDG Consultancy Services Ltd.

Site Location: NGR SN 4190 2062

This design brief is only valid for six months from the above date. After this period Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of works, it is not a tender document. Any response to this brief should follow IFA Standards and Guidelines.

The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. The project manager must consult the Regional Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management as part of the assessment.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In response to a consultation regarding the potential archaeological implications of proposed development to the north of Priory Street Carmarthen Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management advised that the area of the proposed development lay to the west of the Roman Amphitheatre and has the potential to contain further remains of archaeological importance.
- 1.2 In order to obtain more detailed information on the presence, location, extent, survival and significance of archaeological features within the area it was recommended that an archaeological evaluation was required. This brief sets out the requirements of that programme of works.

2.0 Site Description

- 2.1 The proposed development includes an area of approximately 0.2 hectare located to the north of Priory Street and is situated between the known defences to the Roman town of 'Moridunum' to the west and the site of the Roman amphitheatre to the east.
- 2.2 Roman Carmarthen is believed to have evolved from the extra-mural settlement associated with the Roman fort which was established here in AD 75-80 on the south side of Spilman Street. The town was then formally laid out by c.AD 110, to the north and south of the present Priory Street. Settlement continued within the town into at least the fourth century AD. A series of excavations have been undertaken within the Roman town from the 1960s through to the 1980s.
- 2.3 To the east of the town are the remains of an amphitheatre. Excavations undertaken in 1968 (Jones, G.D.B., 1969 *Excavations at Carmarthen, 1968*, The Carmarthenshire Antiquary, 1964-69, 2-5) and 1970 (Little, J. H. , 1971, *The Carmarthen Amphitheatre*, The Carmarthenshire Antiquary, 1971, 58-63) provided information on the size and form of the structure but failed to provide any secure dating evidence.
- 2.4 Although there are no known Roman remains recovered from the area between the amphitheatre and the town neither have there been any archaeological investigations in this area. It has however been speculated that a Roman road ran between the amphitheatre and the

town (James, H. pers. com.). It is therefore considered that there may be buried remains associated with the use of and access to and from the amphitheatre.

- 2.5 During the Medieval period the area of the Roman town reverted to agricultural use with the gradual development of plots. The layout of the current plot boundaries suggest that they retain the fossilised remnants of a Medieval stripfield system. Street frontage properties with accompanying long strip plots are depicted along this stretch of Priory Street on a street plans of Carmarthen dated 1786 (T. James, 1980, *Carmarthen, An Archaeological and Topographical Survey*).

- 2.6 Surviving buried remains of the Roman town and the Amphitheatre have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments indicating the national importance of the surviving archaeological deposits (SAM Carm 234 and 206).

3.0 The nature of the proposed development and archaeological requirements

- 3.1. The development proposal comprises an open amenity area and the construction of a community centre and associated carparking. It is understood that the open area will not be subject to any hard landscaping but will retain the current topography of the site.
- 3.2 The areas which will require groundworks are the centre and the carparking. Both constructions have the potential to disturb or destroy important archaeological remains.
- 3.3 In order to fully appreciate the potential impact of the community facility on surviving archaeological remains and to identify appropriate mitigation schemes an intrusive archaeological evaluation is considered necessary.
- 3.4 **The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the impact of the proposed development and, where appropriate, will provide adequate information to identify the scale and scope of necessary mitigation. This may include the protection of areas of surviving archaeological remains through the prevention of development or the location and design of foundations and/or the full excavation, investigation and recording of archaeological remains threatened by the development.**
- 3.5 The evaluation will comprise two parts, desktop assessment of available documentary information and intrusive field evaluation.
- 3.6 **Desk-top assessment** - This research should:
1. Collate and assess relevant information held and referenced in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record. In particular this will include James H, 1992 *Excavations in Roman Carmarthen 1978-1990*, The Carmarthenshire Antiquary, Vol. XXVIII and noted references. More recent research is in preparation for publication by H. James and it is expected that any archaeological contractor will liaise closely with her.
 2. Collate and assess all cartographic information relevant to the area.
 3. Assess the topography and landuse of the area through maps and site visits.
 4. Provide a detailed assessment of areas of archaeological potential and survival based on the above research and identify key locations where intrusive investigation should be undertaken to fully evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.
- 3.7 **Field evaluation**
The evaluation should include a programme of trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area and will excavate sufficient archaeological features to conform with section 4 below. An area covering c.5% of the building footprint and carparking area will be investigated.

4.0 Objectives

- 4.1 The evaluation should aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied. ACA-HM will be particularly concerned with the evaluation of site formation processes.
- 4.2 The project manager should arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental **potential** of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The project manager should keep Astrid Casteldine of Lampeter University, Cadw Environmental Specialist, informed of any positive results. The assessment of potential should consider guidelines set out in the following document: Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995, *Environmental Archaeology and archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association of Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 pp, York: Association for Environmental Archaeology.
- 4.3 The evaluation should also carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.
- 4.4 The evaluation should include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.
- 4.5 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. An impact assessment should also be provided.
- 4.6 If any areas of analysis are not considered appropriate the report will detail justification for their exclusion.

5.0 Requirements

- 5.1 The project must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by ACAHM, advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to ACA-HM as part of a **project specification**. The contractor will be expected to produce a reasonably detailed project specification although a full programme of works will not be required. This specification must:
 1. be supported by a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.
 2. detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on plan their location and extent.
 3. provide a timetable for the proposed works including a safety margin in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances that may effect this timetabling.
- 5.2 The archaeological project manager must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. **Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management take no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.**

- 5.3 Human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations.
- 5.4 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* and the IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 5.5 Arrangements of the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and ACA-HM before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 5.6 The site archive should conform to the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure (guidelines available) and be deposited within an approved store (normally this will be the appropriate local museum and/or NMR) on completion of site analysis and report production.
- 5.7 A full report of the results should be prepared and presented to ACA-HM normally within 6 weeks of the completion of site works, unless otherwise agreed. The report must include the following:-
1. A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
 2. Location plan of trenches and other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development.
 3. Where relevant, section and plan drawings showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordinance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
 4. Written descriptions of all features and deposits revealed and investigated, and their considered interpretation.
 5. Statement of the local and regional context of archaeological remains identified.
 6. Full specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts discoveries made during the works.
 7. Mapped archaeological potential at a scale of at least 1: 500.
 8. A plan modelling surviving archaeological deposits.
- 5.5 In addition two copies of the final report should be provided for the Sites and Monuments Record
- 5.6 Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Carmarthenshire. The contractor must inform CAHM in writing detailing proposed start dates for the project. Once notified a Project Record Number will be allocated prior to on site work commencing, to be used in all site records.
- 5.7 Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to the CA-HM and approved on behalf of the Carmarthenshire. County Council.
- 5.8 CA-HM should be kept regularly informed about development both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author below.

Appendix 2: Catalogue Of Evaluation Archive

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A. Copy of final report.
- B. Site records, including context record sheets and site notebook.
- D. Site photographs - catalogue, colour slide and B/W contact sheets.
- I. Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- J. Publication drawings.
- M. Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories C, E, G, F, H, K, L and N.

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, as project number 42464, currently hold the archive.

Appendix 3: Finds

Dee Williams

CONTEXT: Trench 1 [111/112] Unstratified/machining

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 very small body sherd.

Form: Cooking pot, handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval, not closely dateable.

No. sherds: 1 body.

Form: Probable jar ?, wheel-thrown.

Fabric: Buff with grey-brown interior. Tempered with moderate amounts of angular quartz grits and occasional red and reddish-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: Orange-brown internal glaze, speckled green in patches. Some sooting externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced, possibly Malvern Chase.

Date: Medieval, late 15th or 16th century.

No. sherds: 1 body.

Form: Jar/cooking pot, handmade.

Fabric: Hard sandy fabric, orange exterior with grey core and blackened interior. Tempered with quartz grits, sands and occasional reddish-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced, not obviously 'local'.

Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 base.

Form: Indeterminate, wheel-thrown.

Fabric: Hard-fired and fully oxidised orange-red. Tempered with fine sand, occasional quartz and much fine mica.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: Merida-type ware ? from Spain or Portugal.

Date: Medieval, late 15th or 16th century.

No. sherds: 1 small body sherd.

Form: Indeterminate, wheel-thrown.

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

Surface treatment: Olive-green internal glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon ?

Date: 17th/18th century, quite possibly earlier.

No. sherds: 1 rim.

Form: Flat-bottomed bowl/basin, wheel-thrown.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

Surface treatment: Dark greenish-brown internal glaze. Fire-blackened patches externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon, Barnstaple/Bideford.

Date: 17th/18th century.

CATEGORY: METALS

Material: Copper alloy.
Secondary material: Lead ?
No. frags: 1
Object type: Industrial waste/slag.
Details: Amorphous lump.
Date: Not determined.

Material: Iron.
Secondary material: None.
No. frags: 1
Object type: Nail.
Details: Near complete nail. Head obscured by corrosion, straight tapering shank.
Date: Not known.

Material: Iron Bagged separately in bag marked 'objects'
Secondary material: None.
No. frags: 1
Object type: Nail.
Details: Hand-forged nail, shank only.
Date: Not known.

Material: Copper alloy Bagged separately in bag marked 'objects'
Secondary material: None.
No. frags: 1
Object type: Button.
Details: Complete small disc button with loop attachment on reverse. The reverse is decorated within a beaded border. Small lettering, possibly the makers' name, survives around the base of the loop attachment. The upper face appears to be plain. Diameter 15mm.
Date: 19th/early 20th century.

CONTEXT: Trench 1 [110]

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Cooking pot, handmade.
Fabric: Black-burnished ware (BB1). Fully reduced hard granular fabric, dark grey with black surfaces. Tempered with frequent quartz sands.
Surface treatment: Partially burnished exterior surface with some sooting on interior.
Decoration: None.
Source: Dorset is the most likely source.
Date: Roman, 1st-4th century, nothing very diagnostic.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Cooking pot, handmade.
Fabric: Reduced with buff-brown exterior. Tempered with quartz sands and occasional red-brown inclusions.
Surface treatment: Unglazed, sooted externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: 'Local' ?
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 4 body.
Form: Cooking pots/jars, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered wares.
Surface treatment: Unglazed vessels.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Jug?, wheel-thrown.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Small traces of green-coloured glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

CATEGORY: METAL SLAG

Material: Iron slag.
No. frags: 1
Details: Amorphous lump.
Date: Not known.

CONTEXT: Trench 1 [103] Fill

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 2 small joining body sherds.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Fully reduced and fine. Sand and sparse small red inclusions.
Surface treatment: Unglazed/none surviving.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced, nothing very diagnostic.
Date: Medieval/post-medieval ?

No. sherds: 1 small body sherd with handle attachment.
Form: Indeterminate handled vessel.
Fabric: Red sandy ware.
Surface treatment: Double brown glaze.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Post-medieval, 18th/19th century.

No. sherds: 1 handle.
Form: Tankard ? Small with oval section.
Fabric: Fully oxidised, sandy red ware.
Surface treatment: Metallic brownish-purple glaze.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Post-medieval, 17th/18th century.

CATEGORY: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

No. frags: 1

Type: Plain floor tile.

Details: Edge fragment with slight bevel. 24mm thick.

Fabric: Hard-fired and fully oxidised. Tempered with quartz grits, sands and occasional gravel? inclusions.

Surface treatment: Dark green, almost black glaze on upper surface.

Source: Malvern-type.

Date: 15th/16th century.

CATEGORY: ANIMAL BONE

No. frags: 1 tooth.

Type: Pig ?

Date: Not known.

CATEGORY: METALS

Material: Iron.

Secondary material: Corrosive products.

No. frags: 5

Object type: Nails.

Details: Hand-forged nails with square-sectioned shanks. Detail mostly obscured.

Date: Not known.

CONTEXT: [105] Fill

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 body.

Form: Indeterminate, wheel-thrown.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

Surface treatment: Olive-green internal glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th century.

CONTEXT: [107]

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 3 body.

Form: Cooking pots, handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered wares.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 body.

Form: Jug ?

Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.

Surface treatment: Thin patchy greenish-brown glaze on exterior.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales, Newport kilns ?

Date: Medieval.

CATEGORY: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

No. frags: 1

Type: Indeterminate brick/tile.

Details: Nothing diagnostic.

Fabric: Fully oxidised.

Source: Not known.

Date: Not known, nothing diagnostic.

CONTEXT: [233/234] Trench 2. Unstratified/Machining.

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 4 body; 1 base.

Form: Cooking pots, handmade.

Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered wares.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 body.

Form: Jug ?, handmade ?

Fabric: Fully oxidised 'local' fabric.

Surface treatment: Abraded but has traces of glaze over slip externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 3 body.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: Miscellaneous sandy wares, fired red with a grey core.

Surface treatment: Unglazed/none surviving. One sherd has white surface slip on exterior.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced, nothing diagnostic.

Date: Medieval/late medieval.

No. sherds: 1 small body.

Form: Indeterminate wheel-thrown vessel.

Fabric: Fine, off-white with no visible inclusions.

Surface treatment: Unglazed/none surviving.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced, possibly a French import, Saintonge ?

Date: Medieval ?. Too small to determine source or date.

No. sherds: 1 small rim; 1 handle; 12 body sherds.

Form: Indeterminate. Includes probable jug forms.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware and plain slipwares.

Surface treatment: Most are glazed internally, one is glazed inside and out.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 2 body; 1 base.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenwares.
Surface treatment: Includes brown and dark green glazed vessels.
Decoration: Base sherd has yellow slip decoration against brown (self-coloured) glaze.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Post-medieval, 18th or 19th century.

No. sherds: 1 rim.
Form: Plant pot.
Fabric: Red earthenware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 19th century.

No. sherds: 4 rims; 2 body; 4 body/base sherds.
Form: Assorted table and utility wares.
Fabric: Developed whiteware.
Surface treatment: All are double-glazed.
Decoration: Comprises plain, transfer-printed and painted wares.
Source: Unsourced but Staffordshire is likely.
Date: 19th-20th century.

CATEGORY: GLASS

No. frags: 1 body.
Type: Bottle glass.
Details: Translucent brown.
Date: 20th century modern.

CATEGORY: CLAY PIPES

No. frags: 1 bowl frag; 4 plain stems.
Details: Bowl has leaf design along mould seam.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 19th century.

CATEGORY: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

No. frags: 1
Type: Plain wall tile.
Details: Small rectangular tile with bevelled edges. 48mm x 23mm.
Fabric: White earthenware.
Surface treatment: Self-coloured glaze on upper surface.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 20th century modern.

No. frags: 1 small edge fragment.
Type: Tile ?
Details: Hard-fired and fully oxidised.
Surface treatment: Remains of white-coloured glaze or paint on one surface.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Late post-medieval.

CATEGORY: METAL

Material: Iron.
Secondary material: Corrosive products.
No. frags: 2
Object type: Nails.
Details: Hand-forged nails with all detail mostly obscured.
Date: Not known.

CONTEXT: [202] Trench 2. Hollow in south arm of trench.

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 7 body.
Form: Cooking pots, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 3 body; 1 base.
Form: Indeterminate, probable jugs.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered wares.
Surface treatment: All have green-coloured glaze remaining. Two sherds are glazed internally, one sherd is double glazed and sooted/fire-blackened on the exterior surface, and another sherd is glazed on the exterior surface only.
Decoration: The sherd with glaze inside and out has horizontal grooves externally.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Fully oxidised sandy redware.
Surface treatment: Internal olive green glaze.
Decoration: Unsourced, not obviously local.
Date: Late medieval/post-medieval.

No. sherds: 1 very small body sherd.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Sandy redware.
Surface treatment: Traces of glaze externally.
Decoration: Fine incised horizontal grooves externally.
Source: Possibly 'local'.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 rim.
Form: Dish/bowl with lid seating.
Fabric: Fully oxidised sandy redware.
Surface treatment: Dull dark red slip on both surfaces with traces of olive green glaze on lip of rim.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced, not obviously local.
Date: Post-medieval, 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 8 body.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered and plain slipware.
Surface treatment: Variously glazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: North Devon.
Date: 17th/18th century.

CATEGORY: CLAY PIPES

No. frags: 2 plain stems.
Details: Nothing diagnostic.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 19th century is likely.

CATEGORY: METAL

Material: Iron.
Secondary material: Corrosive products.
No. frags: 1
Object type: Nail.
Details: Hand-forged nails with all detail obscured.

CONTEXT: Trench 2 [204] Fill of possible post-hole

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 rim and joining body sherd.
Form: Bowl with plain rolled rim and external cordon.
Fabric: Hard-fired, red with a grey interior, tempered with fine sands, occasional larger quartz grits and sparse gravels.
Surface treatment: Internal olive green glaze, fire-blackened in patches on exterior.
Decoration: None.
Source: 'Local' or North Devon. Note: often difficult to distinguish fabrics from these two areas.
Date: 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 1 body flake.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed exterior, interior surface not surviving.
Decoration: None.
Source: North Devon.
Date: 17th/18th century.

CONTEXT: [206] Fill of ditch

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 2 body.
Form: Cooking pots, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 2 body and 1 base.
Form: Jar base and indeterminate body sherds.
Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: All are glazed olive-green to brown internally, base has splashes of glaze on exterior.
Decoration: None.
Source: North Devon.
Date: 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Fully oxidised red earthenware.
Surface treatment: Internal honey-brown glaze.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 2 joining rim.
Form: Dish.
Fabric: Hard-fired and gravel-free.
Surface treatment: Clear glaze (appearing yellow) over white slip on interior. White slip on exterior with thin glaze wash.
Decoration: A combination of olive green trailed slip decoration and sgraffito.
Source: Possibly South Somerset. Cf. fabric B42 from Carmarthen Greyfriars.
Date: 17th century.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Dish or bowl.
Fabric: Hard-fired, off-white with very fine sand temper and frequent tiny black inclusions.
Surface treatment: Orange-coloured glaze over red slip.
Decoration: Sgraffito decoration with clear glaze appearing yellow over white body.
Source: Unsourced. This is not a North Devon product and is not obviously from Somerset.
Date: 17th century ?

CATEGORY: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

No. frags: 1
Type: Indeterminate tile/brick.
Details: Nothing diagnostic.
Fabric: Hard-fired and fully oxidised with frequent gravels inclusions.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Source: 'Local'.
Date: Uncertain, medieval or later.

CONTEXT: Trench 2 [209] Fill of ditch [208]

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 small body.
Form: Cooking pot, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 2 body.
Form: Indeterminate but possibly from jugs, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered wares.
Surface treatment: Both sherds have traces of glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

No. sherds: 1 body. Cf. the same from [201]
Form: Indeterminate wheel-thrown vessel.
Fabric: Fine, off-white with no visible inclusions.
Surface treatment: Unglazed/none surviving.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unsourced, possibly a French import, Saintonge ?
Date: Medieval ?. Too small to determine source or date.

No. sherds: 1 body.
Form: Jug ?, handmade.
Fabric: 'Local' (Dyfed) gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Dark greenish-brown external glaze.
Decoration: Applied thumb-pressed decoration on exterior, possibly from area where handle was attached.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval/late medieval?

CATEGORY: METAL

Material: Iron.
Secondary material: Corrosive products.
No. frags: 3
Object type: Nails.
Details: Hand-forged nails with all detail obscured.
Date: Not known.

CONTEXT: [214] Fill of burial pit outside of urn

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 rim; 10 body; 1 base.
Form: Jar: Wheel-thrown jar with short everted rim and high-shouldered globular body. Rim diameter c.100mm.
Fabric: Fairly fine reduced fabric, grey with orange-red patches; evidence for differential firing in the kiln. Tempered with fine sands and moderate amounts of soft black (red and reddish-brown in oxidised areas) grog? inclusions.
Surface treatment: Abraded surfaces possibly once slipped.
Decoration: None.
Source: Greywares recovered from sites in Carmarthen are thought to come from Southeast Wales ?. A local origin is possible although there is no kiln evidence as yet to support this theory.
Date: Roman. 1st-early 2nd century.
No. sherds: 1 rim.
Form: Jar. As above and possibly from the same vessel. Rim diameter c.100mm.
Fabric: As above but fully reduced with no orange-red patches.
Surface treatment: As above.
Decoration: None.
Source: As above.
Date: Roman. 1st-early 2nd century.

No. sherds: 11 joining rim and neck sherds. These were on the vessel when found but broke off during and after excavation.

Form: Jar (Rim of cremation urn). Wheel-thrown with short everted rim. Just over half of rim surviving, diameter 140mm.

Fabric: Fine, fully reduced grey fabric with very fine sand temper.

Surface treatment: Grey-black slip now heavily abraded.

Decoration: None on rim.

Source: Unsourced. Southeast Wales is a strong possibility.

Date: Roman. 1st-early second century.

CATEGORY: METAL

Material: Slag ?

Secondary material: None.

No. frags: 1

Object type: Unknown.

Date: ?

CONTEXT: Trench 2 [219] Pottery from section

CATEGORY: POTTERY

No. sherds: 1 rim.

Form: Bowl.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered ware.

Surface treatment: Dark greenish-brown glaze on interior below rim. Partially sooted on exterior surface.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th century.

CONTEXT: [220] Cremation Urn with contents [221]

No. sherds: One near complete pot. See [214] for rim.

Form: Wheel-thrown, narrow-mouthed jar. Short everted rolled rim and high-shouldered globular body. Height 210mm, girth 222mm.

Fabric: A fine greyware which is fully reduced.

Surface treatment: Abraded grey-black slip externally.

Decoration: Shoulder grooves.

Source: Unsourced but possibly South-East Wales.

Date: Roman, no later than early 2nd century.

Contents [221] Burnt human bone and neck of glass flask or bottle in bluish-green glass.

METAL DETECTOR FINDS

42599 / 401

Material: Iron.

Secondary material: White metal/tinned.

No. frags: 1

Object type: Coiled wire.

Details: Narrow gauge. Diameter of coil 14mm.

Date: Post-medieval.

42599 / 402

Material: Iron.

Secondary material: None.

No. frags: 1

Object type: Nail.

Details: Hand-forged nail, square-sectioned shank only.

Date: Not known.

42599 / 403

Material: Lead.

Secondary material: Copper alloy.

No. frags: 1

Object type: Plumb-bob ?

Details: Short length of lead of solid circular-section, broken at top end where there are remains of copper alloy, possibly where mason's line was attached. Length extant 58mm.

Date: Post-medieval.

42599 / 404

Material: Lead.

Secondary material: None.

No. frags: 1

Object type: Lead waste ?

Details: Small square fragment of sheet lead, probable waste/discard, 17mm x 16mm.

Date: Not known.

Appendix 4: Cremation Analysis

Prepared by Dr Ros Coard. Department of Archaeology, University of Wales, Lampeter.

Human cremation 212
Cremation urn 220
Urn fill 221
Surrounding sediment fill 214

The cremation from Park Hall Estate, Carmarthen, consists of over 164 burnt bone fragments of human origin, some fragments of glass, some sherds of pottery and some small metal objects. These most likely represent grave goods. Although the surface bone in the cremation urn was easy to remove, bone further into the pot was compacted and much more difficult to extract. All the bones were recovered with minimal damage to them, the urn or the grave goods. A sample of the bone was removed for DNA purposes. Protective gloves were worn and the bone was removed immediately and stored in a plastic bag. It has to be said that it is highly unlikely that DNA can be successfully recovered from this bone as the structure of DNA is damaged by high temperature firing. Suitable bone i.e. the ends of long bones, were chosen just in case the recovery of DNA is attempted later. No special storage facilities are needed for this bone other than to keep them protected and prevent any contamination by modern DNA. In other words, do not handle them without using protective gloves. The remaining bone was washed and air-dried. All of the bone was examined by eye and any showing interesting features were examined under a high-powered light microscope.

The artefacts found in both the cremation urn and the surrounding soil were sorted, and in the case of the pottery and glass washed and air-dried. The metal objects were air-dried only. The sediment fill from the urn was sieved, as was the sediment from the surrounding soil. All of the sediment was retained and scanned for plant macros and other small objects. None of the bones or artefacts has been numbered.

The individual is represented by a range of bones from across the skeleton. These include fragments of skull, vertebrae, rib, pelvis, limb bones and bones from the hand and feet. There is no duplication of bone suggesting that a single individual is represented. The bone is highly fragmented and distorted due to the cremation process. However, the bone surface on some of the bone is reasonable in that it has preserved some of the taphonomic indicators that make this an interesting skeleton to analyse.

The cremated bone is most probably that of a female. Although no bones diagnostic of indicating the sex of the individual survived, enough of the bone leading to the sciatic notch on the pelvis was preserved to give a reasonable estimate of the sex. The sciatic notch is highly diagnostic for sexing a skeleton. Equally, the bones are very gracile and show little pronounced muscle attachment on them. Although not diagnostic of the sex in itself, this morphology does support the assignation of the skeleton as being female. The picture is somewhat more complex however, as the

individual had not reached maturity. It is known that the more juvenile bones are more gracile and more difficult to sex (Bass, 1987). It is possible that some metric analysis can be carried out on the more complete fragments of bone to support the sexing but this would only give an indication of the sex and would not be definitive.

The eruption and wear rates in teeth are probably the best indicators for ageing an individual at death. Unfortunately teeth rarely survive the cremation process and this is certainly the case for the Park Hall individual. However, several of the bone epiphyses are not fused. Fusion in the human skeleton is usually complete somewhere around 24 years of age (Bass, 1987). The lack of complete fusion in some of the bone would indicate that the Park Hall individual had not attained this age. From the fusion rates evident in the skeleton, a reasonable estimate of the age of the individual is mid to late teens, around 15 to 20 years of age.

The bones show varying degrees of burning but overall most suggest that a high firing temperature was attained. The vast majority of bones are light grey with a few appearing white in colour. These tend to be indicative of higher temperature burning. Very few bones show the black/blue hues more indicative of lower temperature burning. The light grey bone indicates a minimum temperature of 600°C, the whiter bone around 700°C or above (Nicholson, 1993). The variability in burning possibly only indicates the position of the bone in the fire during the cremation process. The bone surface is also extensively cracked again suggesting temperatures in excess of 600°C (Nicholson, 1993).

All of the bone was examined by eye for cut marks and any distinctive breakage patterns. Even after high temperature firing some of the long bones or more robust bones can remain in tact. In order to get the bone into the small cremation urn it is possible that a particular pattern of breakage was undertaken. It is clear that several of the bones have cut marks and/or were broken using a sharp instrument. These support the idea that there was some treatment of the skeleton after it was cremated but the sample is small. If such a treatment of the skeleton was ritualistic or systematically adopted is not evident from this single skeleton. It may still be that a pattern could emerge within a wider population and for this reason, it may be prudent to excavate and examine any future remains with this in mind.

The artefacts contained in the urn included a fragment of pale blue glass, possibly the neck of a small flask and a fragment of the same fused to a piece of bone, three pieces of metal, heavily corroded and as yet unidentified (although one piece may be a small nail). Also included were two fragments of grey potsherd. Many more examples of similar artefacts were recovered from the sieving process of the surrounding sedimentary fill, including 18 fragments of similar pale blue glass, pottery sherds of several different types and 26 small metal objects, most probably nails.

In addition a fragment of carbonised grape (*Vitis vinifera*) pip was recovered from the fill of the urn as well as several pips from the surrounding sediment. Apart from abundant charcoal other charred plant remains included possible legume fragments and cereal grain (A. Caseldine pers. comm.). Some very small human bone fragments were also recovered from the surrounding sediment fill. Given that similar types of artefacts were present in both the urn and the surrounding sedimentary fill, one of two

views could be taken of this material. One view is that they represent part of the cremation activity, which was scattered when the urn was buried. Alternatively, one could see them as simply little more than the 'background noise' that one would normally find in the soil that subsequently became intrusive. These are two very different scenarios. There is little doubt that some of the artefacts found in the urn and the surrounding sediment were part of the cremation process. One of the bones gives demonstrable evidence of this as it has heat-treated glass fused to it. Equally, the glass from the surrounding sediment fill has clearly been deformed by heat.

As a plausible history, it is suggested that the individual was cremated with the accompanying exotic goods and most certainly a glass object. The bulk of the cremated body including some of the fragments of glass, possibly the pottery and metal as well, was removed from the pyre. The bones most recognisable as being human were then collected. The larger bones were broken and/or cut and placed in the urn along with some of the exotic goods. The remains of the cremation, including the fragments of bone that was less recognisable as being human, was then cleared out along with fragments of the exotic goods and placed near the urn. It is not known if this clearing out debris was placed near the urn and regarded as part of the cremation ritual, or just scattered in the general direction of the urn and regarded as just debris to be cleared. If a systematic and careful excavation of the surrounding sediment could be undertaken, it may be possible to get an insight into the attitudes of the individuals who performed the task.

This single individual has raised some interesting questions about the process of cremation and particularly what happens to the body after it has been cremated. It is entirely possible that there were certain procedures to be followed when placing the cremated remains into the urn and when the urn is put in the ground. These remains do suggest that there may have been. Careful excavation of the areas around any urns and indeed the remains within the urn could resolve some of these questions. This cremation is important for several reasons. Bone, either human or animal, rarely survives in large parts of Wales, the soils generally being too acidic (Caseldine, 1990) and this makes this particular find so valuable. It is unique, not only for its preservation but also there are no parallels for this type of cremation so far west in Wales.

It is unlikely that this is an isolated cremation, it being more probable that it indicates a cemetery. Given the rarity and importance of this cremation it is suggested here that future excavations should lift all cremation urns paying particular attention to the location of the artefacts in the surrounding soil. Small-scale excavation in spits around the urns before lifting may pay dividends in terms of identifying the placement of the accompanying goods. Equally, one could excavate the contents of the urn in micro-spits, again with the aim of identifying where goods and body parts were placed. This could be time consuming, possibly two weeks work per urn, so it may be advisable to adopt a sampling strategy or do no more than 5 urns for example. Adopting these strategies could certainly go some way to determining the rituals involved in the cremation of the Park Hall individuals. Scanning the urns may be a way of determining which urns would be the most profitable to excavate. Certainly, a larger number of urns should be examined with a view to getting a population profile, in particular to get an age range and sex of the individuals and identifying if there are

any patterns associated with a particular sex or age group. This would be much less time consuming possibly only 2-3 days work per urn/skeleton at most. It would be proper and perhaps good practice to leave another sample of urns untouched, simply for future examination with improved techniques. Samples of DNA could be taken from all urns chosen for closer examination. Although it is unlikely that DNA could be recovered at present, again with improved techniques it may be possible in the future. Although it would be possible to get some assessment of the chemical constituents of the bone, strontium, calcium levels etc. it is rarely done commercially. Samples could be taken just in case the Park Hall population became part of such a research programme.

References

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Nicholson, R. A. 1993 A morphological investigation of burnt animal bone and an evaluation of its utility in Archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Science*. 20:411-428.

Figure 1: Location and Known Roman Sites

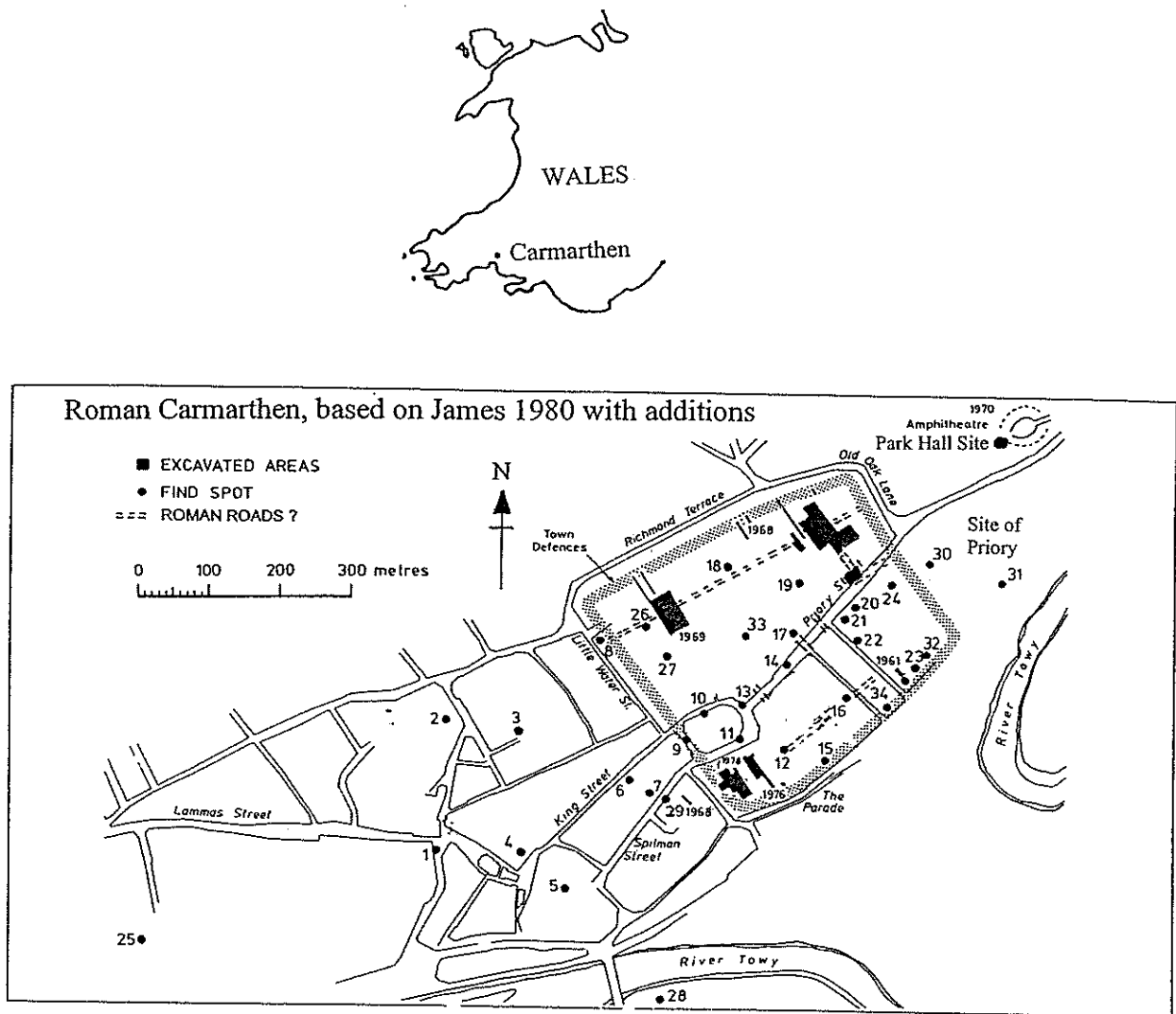
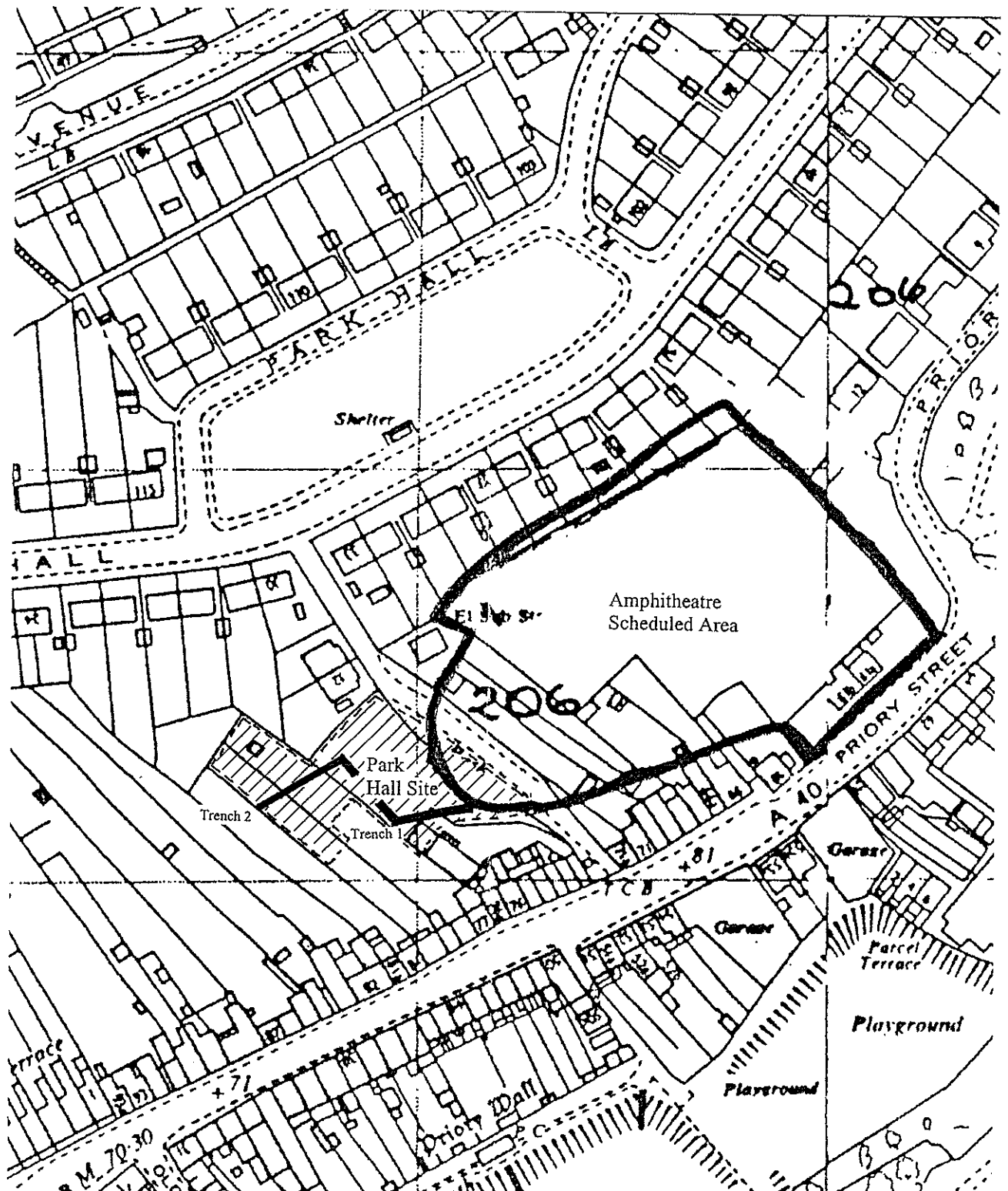


Figure 2: Evaluation Area and Trenches



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Figure 3: Trench 1

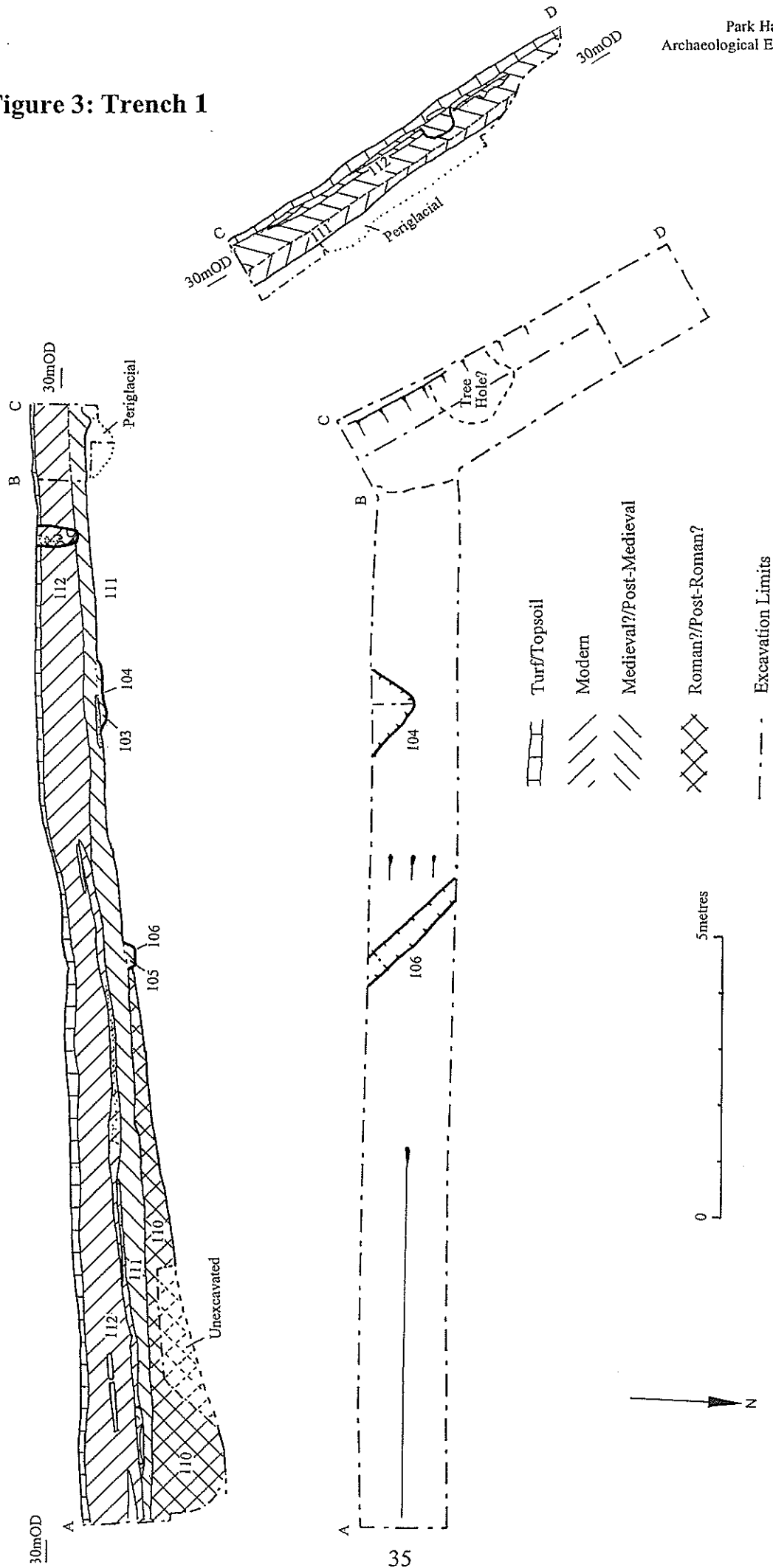


Figure 4: Trench 2

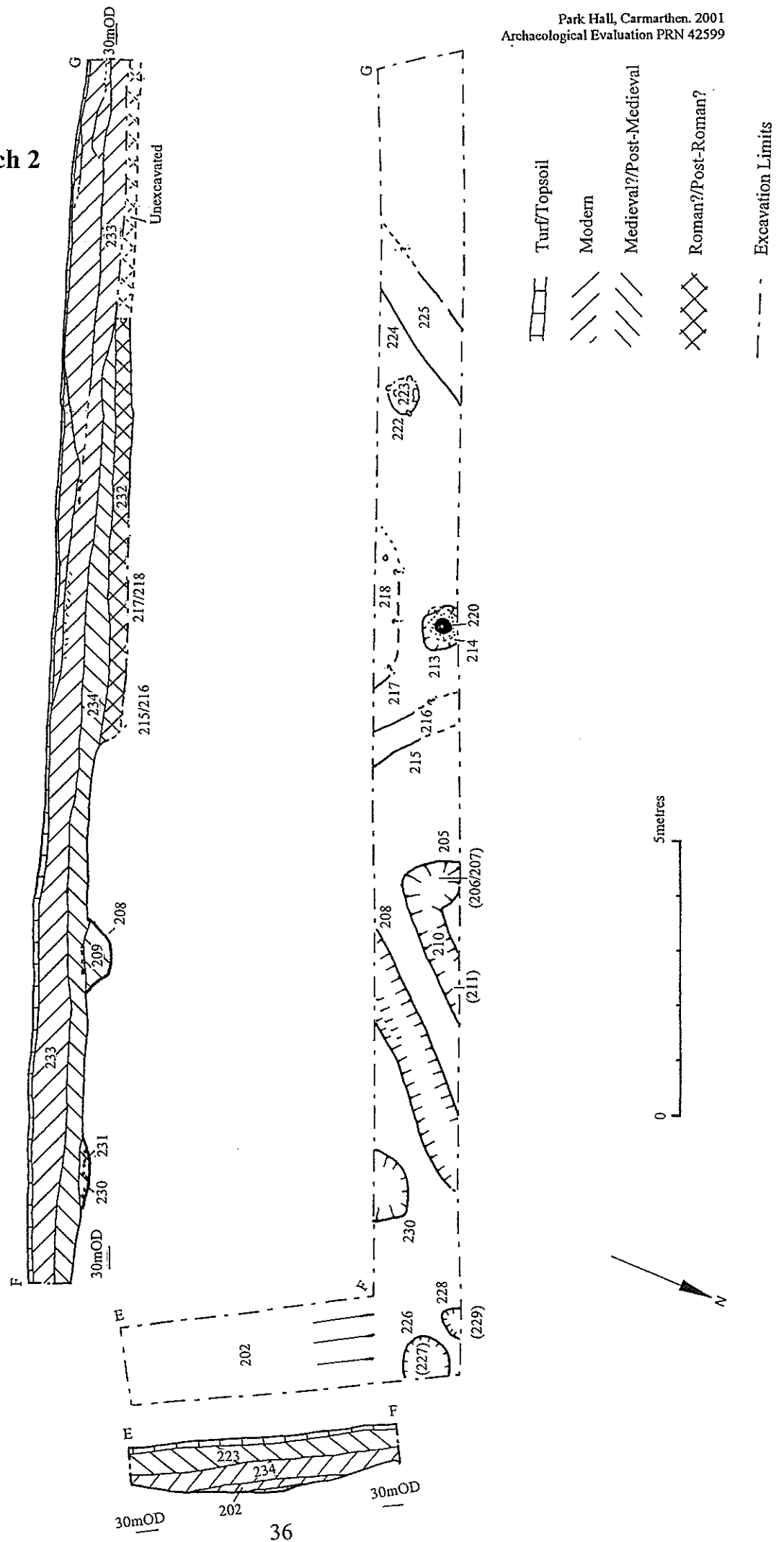


Figure 5: Cremation Urn In Pit 213 Excavated



View N, Scale 1m

Figure 6: Cremation Urn In Pit 213 Pre-Excavation



View N, Scale 0.5m

Figure 7: Trench 2 NE Corner



View NE, Scale 0.5m

Figure 8: Trench 2 Ditches 208 and 210



View NE, Scales 1m and 0.5m

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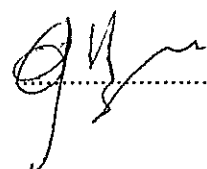
This report has been prepared by Pete Crane

Position Senior Archaeologist

Signature  Date 29/10/2001

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

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date 29/10/2001

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