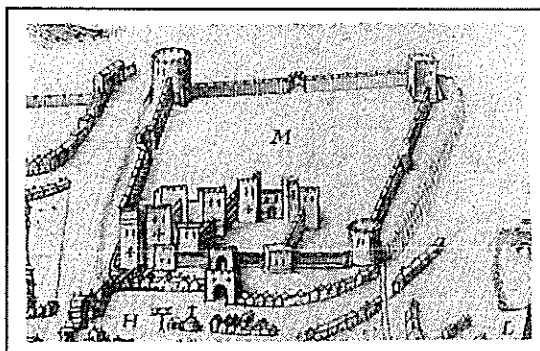


**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

# **CARMARTHEN CASTLE**

**PRN 57**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION WITHIN THE SHELL-KEEP APRIL 1997**



Report prepared for Carmarthenshire County Council  
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## **SHELL-KEEP EVALUATION, APRIL 1997 PRN 57**

### **Contents**

1.0	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Summary	3
1.2	Project brief and objectives	3
1.3	Methodology	4
2.0	EVALUATION RESULTS	9
2.1	Earlier features	9
2.2	Later features - the debris and present shell wall	10
2.3	Later features - the garden soils	11
3.0	DISCUSSION	13
3.1	General	13
3.2	Structure 121 - a round tower?	15
4.0	FUTURE MANAGEMENT	21
5.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	22
6.0	ARCHIVE DEPOSITION	22
7.0	REFERENCES	23
8.0	APPENDICES	24
8.1	Summary of contexts	24
8.2	Site matrix	26
8.3	The finds report (by Dee Brennan)	27

**Illustrations**

Fig. 1	Carmarthen Castle - location maps	5
Fig. 2	Plan of summit of motte and evaluation trench	6
Fig. 3	Plan of evaluation trench at excavated level	7
Fig. 4	West section of evaluation trench	8
Fig. 5	East section of evaluation trench	8
Fig. 6	Plan of wall/structure 121	9
Fig. 7	Cylindrical keeps (general): comparative plans	18
Fig. 8	Cylindrical keeps (Welsh): comparative plans	19
Fig. 9	Shell keeps with associated free-standing towers: comparative plans	20

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Summary

An evaluation was carried out within the remains of the shell-keep on the motte at Carmarthen Castle in April 1997, as part of the successful programme of consolidation, enhancement and display that has been undertaken by Carmarthenshire County Council (and formerly Dyfed County Council) since the 1980s.

A trench was excavated across the top of the motte revealing what is probably the medieval shell-keep wall, a surface that is also probably of medieval date and rubble infill used to level the top of the motte prior to the establishment of these features. In addition, the remains of a truncated circular masonry structure - possibly a medieval round tower either fully of masonry or of half-timbered construction, and pre-dating the shell keep - were exposed at the centre.

During the late 18th-19th centuries a lower masonry wall was constructed around the motte top, not always following the course of its medieval predecessor which had partly collapsed or been destroyed.

An extensive area of soil was imported onto the site in the 19th-early 20th century, when the motte top was laid out as a garden. At some point prior to this, it appears that a large amount of material, presumably largely building debris from the medieval shell keep, was removed from the site.

The evaluation confirms the enormous archaeological potential that still survives beneath almost every part of the castle site, and, if the central structure is a round tower, will contribute to the interpretation of the development of all such sites on a national basis.

### 1.2 Project brief and objectives

The project specification was prepared by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994).

The objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence and character of the potential archaeological deposits within the remains of the shell-keep on the motte at Carmarthen Castle. The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of the site owners, Carmarthenshire County Council, who, along with their predecessors Dyfed County Council, have undertaken a large-scale programme of consolidation, enhancement and display at the castle, beginning in the 1980s with smaller projects and continuing in the 1990s with large projects at the South-west and Squire Towers. A summary of the archaeological work that formed an integral part of these projects can be found in Ludlow, 1996. It is Carmarthenshire County Council's intention that the summit of the motte be made accessible for the visitor, and, if practicable, such medieval structures as exist be exposed for public display, without intruding significantly into the archaeological resource.

In order that the presence of archaeological deposits on the motte might be tested, it was proposed that an evaluation trench be hand-excavated across the summit at its widest point, and any archaeological deposits be strategically sampled and recorded. As an evaluation is intended to be essentially a non-destructive process, only the uppermost significant deposits would be sampled.

This report deals solely with the results of the April 1997 evaluation. For an historical summary and general description of the castle, and summaries of previous archaeological work, the reader is referred to Ludlow, 1996.

### 1.3 Methodology

The summit of the motte at Carmarthen Castle is now an open space surrounded by a low wall, polygonal in plan and measuring 19m N-S by 18m E-W. It slopes gently downhill from north to south.

A trench, measuring 17m by 2m and aligned NNE-SSW, was hand excavated across the top of the motte at its widest point to an appropriate depth, ie to the level of the highest significant archaeological features associated with the castle (fig. 2). These were then strategically sampled in order to further determine their nature and significance. The evaluation was as non-intrusive as was feasible whilst still yielding sufficient information to inform future management strategies for the shell-keep.

The archaeological features were hand excavated and recorded using methods and guidelines as defined in *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology's* field recording manual. All definable features, layers, walls etc were awarded a unique 'context' number by which they were identified and recorded. Context numbers are used in this report following the site archive.

The written record employed numbered, *pro forma* context record forms. To supplement the written record a photographic and drawn record was maintained throughout. The photographic record comprises monochrome and colour slide and print film. Sections and plans were drawn at 1:20 scale.

The motte top was surveyed in order that the trench may be related to the upstanding structures.

All finds, ecofacts and artefacts were subject to detailed analysis following advice given in 'The Institute of Field Archaeologists: *Guidelines for Finds Work*'. Pottery was analysed to the standards outlined in 'Draft *Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives*' as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. The finds report is included within this report as Appendix 5.2.

Analysis of C14 samples was not undertaken due to the absence of sufficient suitable material.

In this report all dimensions given are maximums. Heights are relative to the Ordnance Survey datum. Percentage samples of finds were taken from the higher levels, complete samples from the lower levels.

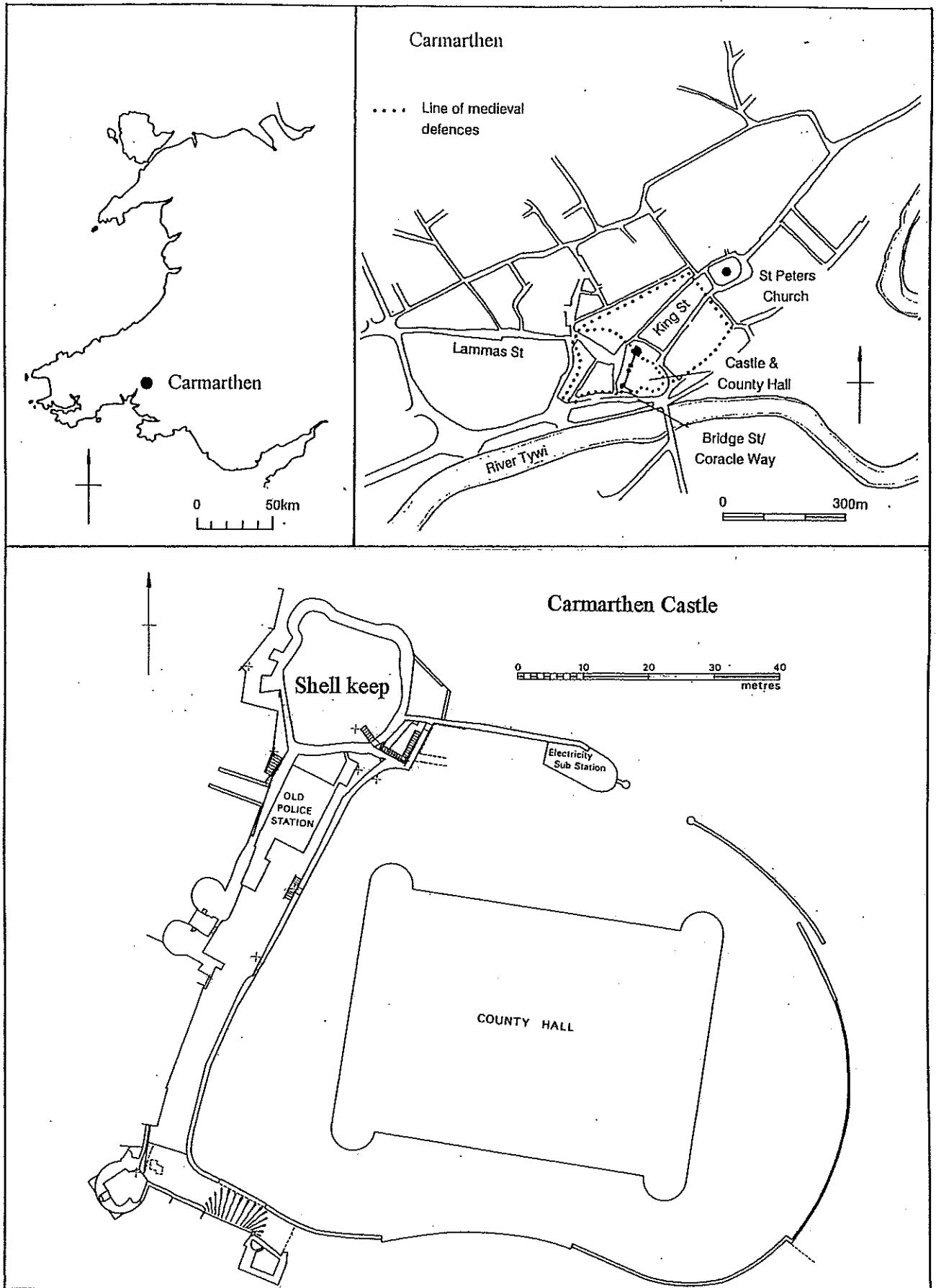


Fig. 1 Carmarthen Castle - location maps

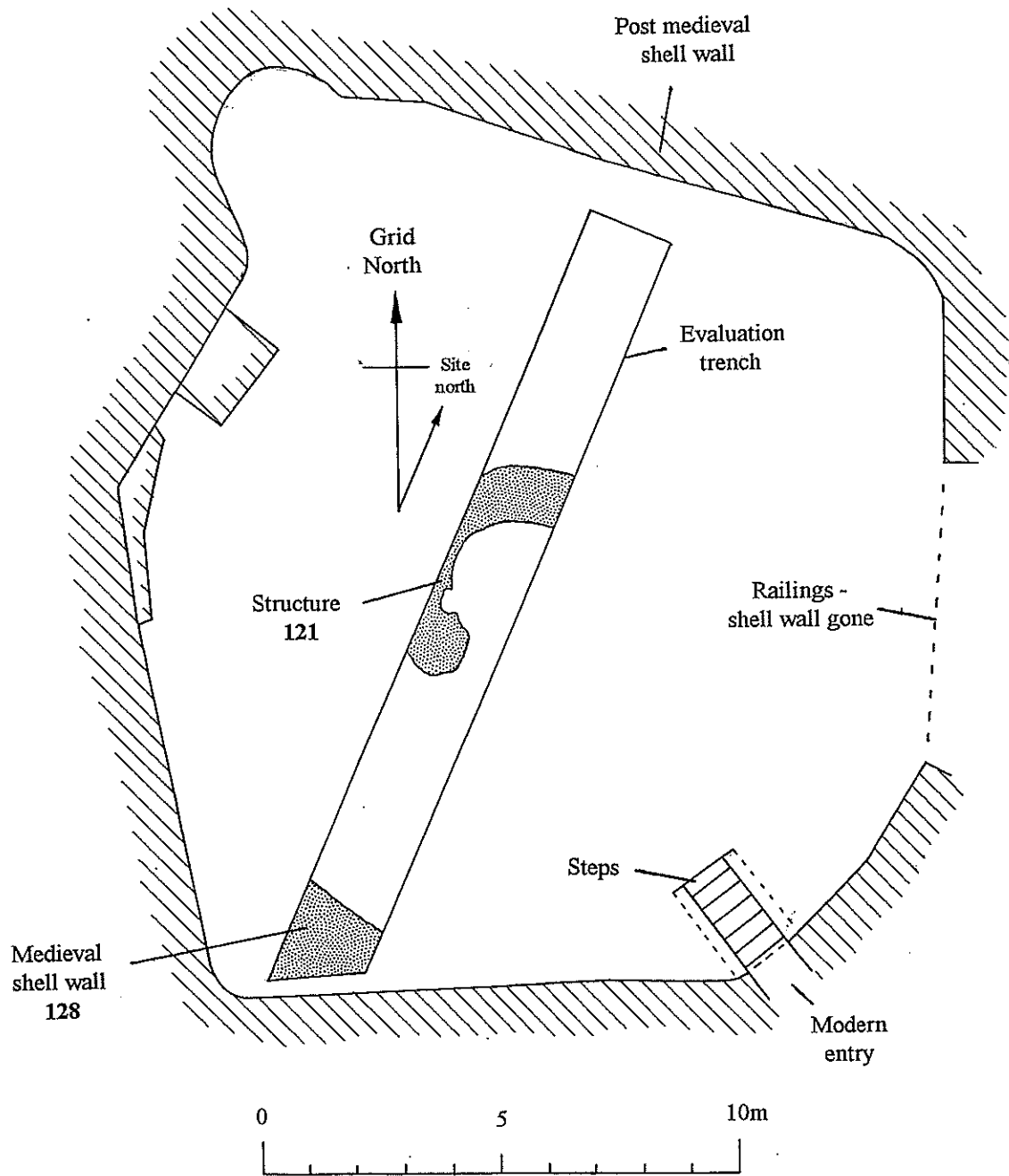


Fig. 2 Plan of summit of motte and evaluation trench

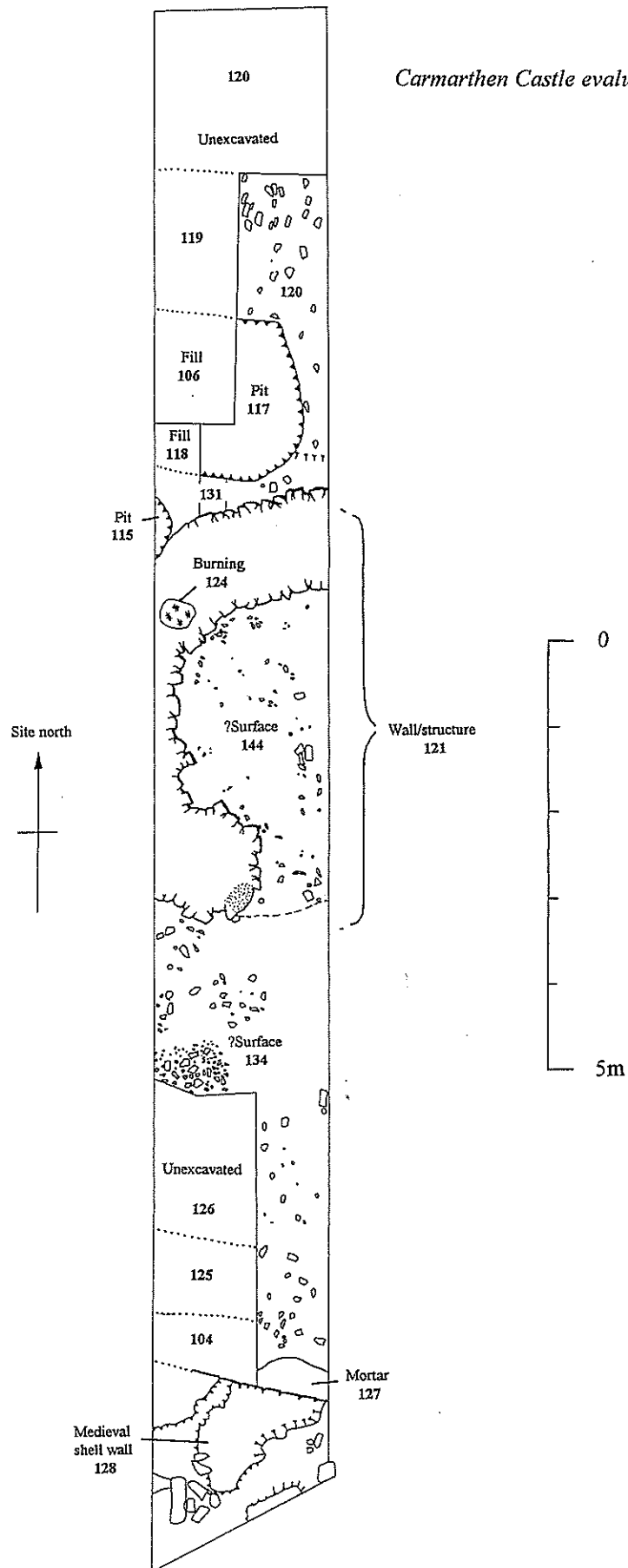


Fig. 3 Plan of evaluation trench at excavated level



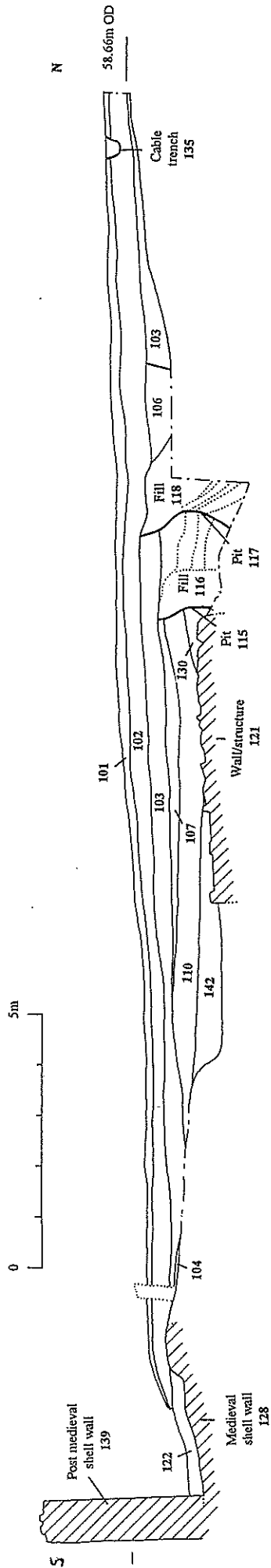


Fig. 4 West section of evaluation trench

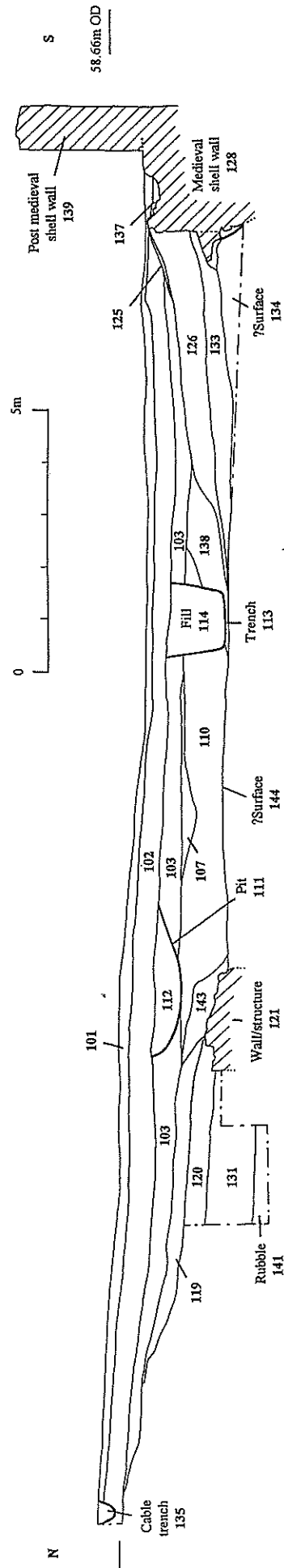


Fig. 5 East section of evaluation trench

## 2.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

### 2.1 Earlier features (figs. 3-6)

Stratigraphically, the lowest feature encountered was either wall (121), part of a substantial masonry structure, or rubble layer (141). In order to minimise destruction of the archaeology, the trench was of insufficient depth to demonstrate the precise relationship between the two features.

Wall (121) was, at the level excavated, 1.25m thick and followed a circular line in plan, defining an area with a projected internal diameter of 2.9m and a projected external diameter of some 5.8m (fig. 6). The wall has been truncated and, at the level achieved during excavation, a section to the south of unknown extent is absent, having been entirely removed here or marking the site of an opening. It was possible however, due to later disturbance, to follow the external facework of the wall to a depth of 1.0m where irregular stonework, representing what may be footings, was recorded. The truncated wall-top is divided into definable facework and corework elements; it is of medium-sized rubble construction, predominantly limestone, throughout. An internal recess towards the SW may be a deliberate feature or be the result of missing stones.

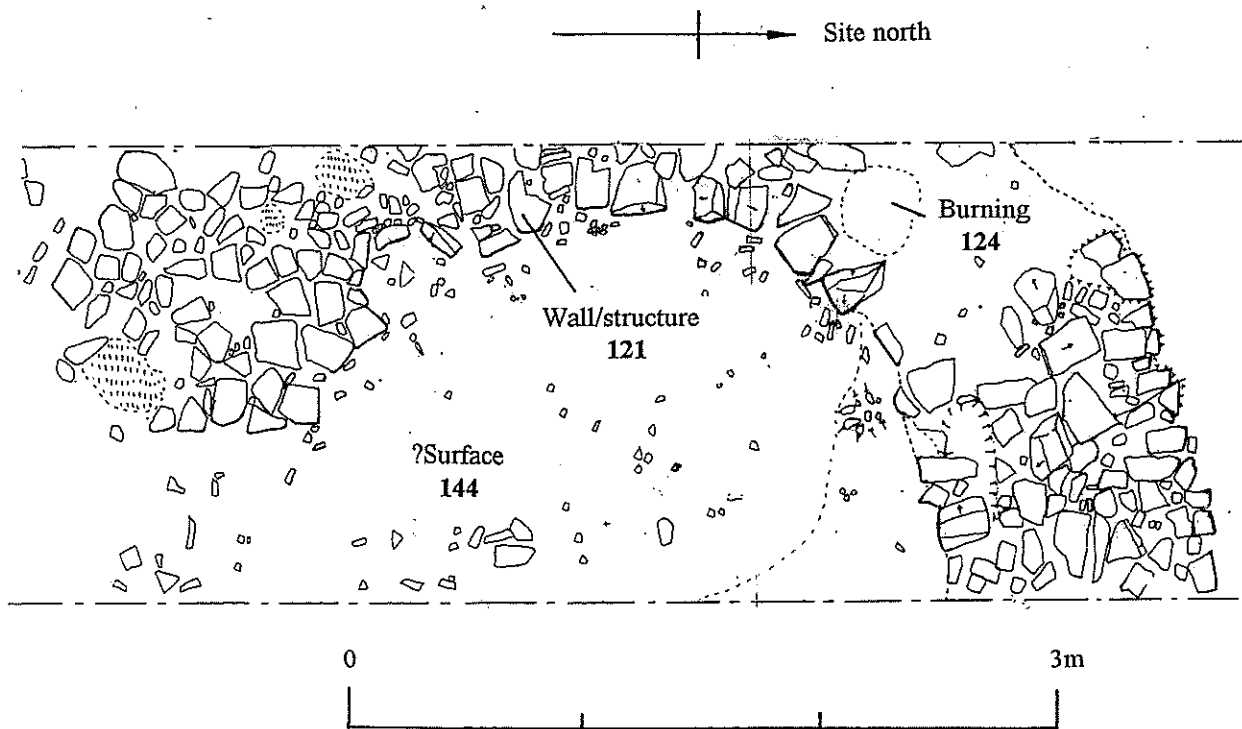


Fig. 6 Plan of wall/structure 121

Rubble layer (141) was encountered in the section and bottom of an excavated post-medieval pit (117). It comprised a deposit of very large subangular limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble which, in the small area available for observation, featured very little matrix material. Neither the extent of, nor the depth of the deposit could be ascertained but the area exposed suggests that it is probably extensive. There were no traces of applied mortar, and the irregularity and subangular nature of the rubble mitigate against it being a spread of building debris but again, this is only in the area observed. The surface of 141 sloped downhill slightly to the north suggesting that it was laid against a feature to the south.

Rubble 141 was sealed by a thin layer of burnt material (132), again seen in the section of pit 117 and like 141 below sloping down slightly to the north. It comprised silty sandy clay with a high concentration of charcoal and much heat reddening. The layer occupies the same horizon as the less regular masonry which may mark the footings level of circular wall 121. However, a second area of burning (124), which directly overlay the truncated remains of 121, was similar in character; it may be that the two burnt layers are contemporary.

Associated with truncated wall 121 were two layers (134) and (144). Neither was fully excavated, but were trowelled over to determine their character. Layer 144, a dark yellow brown silty loam with mortar, occupied the interior of truncated structure 121, overlying that part of its circumference where the stone was apparently absent. Layer 134 was very similar to 144 with the exception of the high animal bone content, and a low concentration of mortar. It lay to the south of 121 and a possible edge was observed between it and 144; however both were very compacted, representing either deliberate or trodden surfaces, and may belong to the same general phase of deposition. The surface of layer 144 featured medieval pottery from the late 12th - 14th centuries, and one sherd of post-medieval pottery which, occurring in the surface in an area that appears to have been disturbed (see below), may be derived from a higher level.

Layer 134 appeared to be cut by the foundations (140) of a second truncated wall (128) but again the restricted area in which the relationship was observed must be stressed. Wall 128 occupied the very southern end of the evaluation trench, its summit mainly just beneath present ground level, but protruding in places. Only its northern face was seen, its southern face lying beneath the present day wall (139) that surrounds the motte top. Wall 128 comprised well-mortared, medium-large sized limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble with definable facework on the exposed north face standing to a height of 0.6m. A lip of mortar (127) at the foot of this northern face definitely overlay layer 134 (with an intervening void) and represents successive repointing of the wall while it still stood to full height.

## **2.2 Later features - the debris and present shell wall (figs. 3-5)**

An assemblage of later deposits and features were excavated to varying degrees in order that they might be understood and to achieve a level at which the earlier features could be analysed. In the case of layers this meant total excavation (with the exception of the partially excavated debris spreads), but many would appear to be very extensive and thus, in most cases, only a small sample of the total deposit has been removed.

Much of the later material represents debris derived from masonry structures. However, the present motte top is characterised by the extensive importation of garden soil over what appears to have been a short timespan, punctuated by the excavation of several pits, one of which, at least, was very large.

Lying against the truncated wall 128 at the southern end of the evaluation trench were three layers of building debris, (126), (129) and (133). The layers featured limestone and Old Red Sandstone rubble with remains of applied mortar; they were banked against the remains of 128 to a combined thickness of 0.8m and clearly derived from it as either demolition or weathering debris. A narrow band of mortar (125), 1.0m wide, crossed the trench from E-W just south of these layers; it contained similar rubble (and a sherd of medieval pottery) and again may represent a debris layer. The layer was in turn sealed by a further area of debris (104) which also partly overlay truncated wall 128. It contained, however, a sherd of transfer printed pottery from the later 19th century

and thus probably represents a later stage of weathering/collapse, or perhaps even deliberate debris dumping.

In the northern half of the trench a rubble spread (131), similar to the above, was seen in the section of pit 117 to overlie burnt layer 132. Rubble 131 was 0.55m thick and featured fragments of coal suggesting a post-medieval date for its deposition and again represents building debris. It was overlain by two further layers of debris (119) and (120), of similar character and with a combined thickness of 0.5m. Debris 119 yielded fragments of 18th century glass, and clay pipe stems of a similar date. In addition, the shells of the gastropod molluscs *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Oxychilus cellarius* were present in high concentration, normally inhabitants of dry-stone walls but here indicating that 119 was exposed for some period of time (B Allen, pers. comm.).

Subsequent to the demolition/collapse of wall 128, the perimeter wall 139 was constructed around the present motte top over the former's truncated remains. It is not possible, from the evidence of the evaluation, to ascribe a date to the construction of 139 (see 3.0 below) but it is known to have been entirely repointed, and largely refaced, during the early 1990s. At the southern end of the trench, 139 does not respect the alignment of 128, and may similarly follow a *de novo* course elsewhere on the motte.

### 2.3 Later features - the garden soils (figs. 3-5)

Debris layer 126 at the south end of the evaluation trench partly lay below a soil layer (142). This soil occupied the same horizon as three similar layers (130), (138) and (143) which formed an extensive deposit 0.35m thick occupying the centre of the trench. The layers may all represent the same context and all comprise dark brown silty sandy loams. It may be that they represent the first stage in the extensive deposition of soils characterised by the layer that seals them, (110), along with which they were excavated and only recognised as separate contexts in section.

Layer (110) was an extensive deposit of garden soil, 0.6m thick, occupying the centre of the trench and measuring 6.4m N-S in the area excavated. The dark brown clay loam matrix produced a large number of pottery sherds, ranging from locally-made wares of the medieval period to transfer-printed wares from the later 19th century (possibly early 20th century). All further features and deposits in the evaluation trench overlie layer 110.

Immediately above 110 lay a thin (0.2m) layer of yellow sandy gritty loam (107). It contained a similar finds assemblage to layer 110 and, as with all succeeding deposits, appears to represent a stage in a fairly short depositional time-range. Towards the north end of the evaluation trench layer 107 was cut by a pit (115) that ran beneath the western section; its dimensions are therefore unknown. It contained a sequence of five clearly definable fills (116), ranging from rubble/mortar through to fairly clean silty loam, all displaying finds similar in character and date to those occurring within layer 110. The tip lines visible within the fills suggest that they are deliberate dumps.

Fill 116, and layers 119 and 125 are all sealed by a very extensive deposit of garden soil (103) which occurred throughout the evaluation trench except at the very far north and south ends. The soil consistency was rather more clayey than context 110 but the finds assemblage was similar, comprising transfer-printed wares of the late 19th century (or early 20th century), and further sherds dating from the medieval period through to the 19th century.

A number of features were cut through layer 103. Towards the north end of the trench lay the large pit 117 which exposed a number of earlier features (see above, 2.1). Pit 117 had a diameter of 1.9m and excavated to a depth of 1.3m but not fully bottomed, and like pit 115 contained a sequence of fills. None were diagnostic and all produced similar pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments to those occurring within contexts 110 and 103. A smaller pit (111) lay centrally within the trench, measuring 1.9m from N-S and with a depth of 0.3m. Its fill, (112), featured some cockle shells and coal fragments; the former, characteristic of the imported garden soils, may be derived from an earlier context. Towards the south, two phases of intrusion represented by the cuts (108) and (113) may represent the robbing of a linear E-W structure. Cut 113, in particular, follows an E-W line across the trench with a width of 1.0m and a depth of 0.75m. Its fill (114) was characterised by such items of 20th century refuse as a bullnose spade and a mousetrap.

A third deposit of garden soil (102) overlay all the above and therefore represents a demonstrably 20th century event. This layer extended throughout the trench and was 0.2m deep, and featured items such as electrical goods, but also contained a high concentration of cockle shells which once again may be derived from an earlier context. A separate deposit of a similar soil at the south end of the trench, (137), overlay truncated wall 128 and may be the same. A similar garden soil (122), also over wall 128, appeared to lie beneath 102 filling a void (105) caused by cracking and movement within the body of wall 128.

Lying immediately beneath the present turf line and occurring throughout the trench to a maximum depth of 0.1m was the fourth and uppermost garden soil deposit (101). It was very similar in character to 102, and exhibited similar finds but lacked the cockle shell and was slightly more clayey and compact. A modern electricity cable trench, (135), cut across the layer at the very northern limit of the trench.

### **3.0 DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 General**

In this section the archaeological evidence will be discussed, beginning with the more recent material. But it must here be stressed that very few contexts from any period can be securely dated; there is evidence only for the earliest point at which any of them can have been deposited.

The extensive spreads of garden soil represented by layers 101, 102, 103, 110, 122 and 137 appear to have all been imported onto the site for the specific purpose of creating a garden. The lowermost spread, 110, and the uppermost, 101, contain very similar finds assemblages; specifically, both feature many sherds of blue-and-white transfer printed pottery, possibly of Staffordshire origin but impossible to date closely being a pottery type that was long-lived and which underwent little change over its period of production. The samples available for analysis could not be dated any more closely than to the later 19th - early 20th century (D Brennan, pers. comm.). Therefore, all the activity that occurred on the site in between the deposition of 110 and the deposition of 101 took place over a relatively short timespan, between the later 19th century and the early 20th century. Layer 102, one of the highest, can be securely dated to the 20th century through its inclusion of a 20th century electrical fitting, and through its sealing fill 114 which contained a mousetrap.

There is a strong tradition that the motte top was laid out as a garden by one of the governors of Carmarthen Gaol, which occupied the castle site from 1792 until its demolition in 1938, and indeed the centre of the summit featured a fruit tree until 1997. However, the garden has been thought to be a feature belonging to the earlier 19th century, rather than to the later 19th - early 20th centuries. The excavated evidence would appear to contradict this, and while the fruit tree appeared mature it was not possible to determine its precise age.

The large pits represented by contexts 115 and 117, and the smaller pits 108 and 111 demand an explanation as to why they were excavated during the laying out of the garden. Pits 115 and 117 appear to contain debris-type material that had been emptied into them, possibly by the barrow-load. Perhaps the tidying up of demolition debris and collapsed structural material occurred concurrently with the establishment of the garden, rather than preceeding it as might have been expected. Feature 113 follows a linear alignment and was thought during excavation to represent a robbed-out structure, but such a structure can only have been temporary, occurring between two garden soils.

The present wall 139 around the motte summit was constructed partly over the truncated medieval shell wall, but not always following its course. In areas, notably to the south and east, it appears to have replaced the medieval wall entirely, while to the west it incorporates features that probably belong to the original shell-keep. However, it is impossible to ascertain at present just how much of any part of the present wall may be medieval, the whole having been so extensively rebuilt.

Nor is it possible to ascribe a firm date to wall 139. However, its construction presumably occurred after the demolition or collapse of most if not all the upper levels of the medieval wall, and therefore after the deposition of the excavated debris layers. Two of these layers, 119 and 126, contained material dateable to the 18th - (earlier) 19th century, the medieval potsherd in layer 125 probably being derived, suggesting that wall 139 belongs to the gaol phase of occupation.

There is surprisingly little demolition debris present on the motte in comparison with shell keep interiors such as Wiston, Pems., excavated by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* on behalf of Cadw in 1995. This suggests that a considerable body of debris was removed from the site, either during demolition/collapse, or at a later date. It is suggested here that much material was removed from the site prior to the establishment of the garden, whose soils directly overlie layers 134 and 144 that may be medieval, without any intervening contexts; one explanation for this might be that any intervening contexts, as may have existed, were debris layers. However, snail shell evidence from layer 119 suggests that there was a break of at least a year or so between the removal of any overlying debris, and the dumping of garden soil 103.

Wall 128 at the south end of the trench partly lies below debris layers and wall 139, is of substantial construction and the weathered mortar bonding is convincingly medieval in character. It is proposed here that it may represent the medieval shell-keep wall. The medieval wall, where it can be seen externally, revets the sides of the motte for a considerable distance downwards, a not uncommon occurrence in shell-keep design and seen elsewhere at, for example, Berkeley, Glos., and Farnham, Surrey.

A medieval date is assigned to possible surfaces 134 and 144, being very similar while layer 134 is cut by the foundations 140 of wall 128. However, 134 contained a high percentage of animal bone in fairly good condition, not a situation normally encountered in the acid soils of the Carmarthen diistrict. Perhaps sufficient lime has leached down from the mortar-rich debris overlying the layer. The presence of a post-medieval potsherd on the surface of layer 144 may be derived from the 19th - 20th century disturbance during removal of material from above; the other three sherds recovered from this context are medieval (if one is probably later medieval).

If 128 and 134/144 are medieval, then the latter contexts appear to represent surfaces associated with the shell keep. However, there is no evidence for further occupation horizons above the level at which ?shell wall 128 was constructed. Neither is there evidence (within the evaluation trench, at any rate) for buildings associated with the shell-keep, a type of construction normally associated with lean-to buildings, of timber at least.

Layers 134 and 144 were deposited over and around the truncated circular wall 121, the structure represented by the wall having evidently gone out of use prior to the erection of wall 128. The nature of this circular structure is unknown, but, if medieval, three possibilities present themselves:-

- i) that it represents the wall around a well descending below the base of the motte. Wells within mottes have been recognised elsewhere, at, for example, Farnham in Surrey, but there it was associated with a masonry tower.
- ii) that it was inserted into the motte top as a strengthening core prior to the construction of the shell-wall around the sides of the motte. It may have been intended to prevent earth slippage down the motte flanks.
- iii) that it represents a central, free-standing cylindrical tower keep, either of masonry throughout or with a timber superstructure, that predated the shell-keep. The latter options will be discussed further below, 3.2.

It was not possible to determine the relationship between wall/structure 121 and the extensive rubble deposit 141. However, the evidence from the relative levels between the two suggests that if 121 is medieval, then 141 may be too. In the area observed, moreover, it does not appear to represent demolition debris, lacking any significant mortar content. It may, then, have been brought onto the site as levelling material for the motte summit.

A tentative sequence for the earlier features may then be:-

- i) *either* - summit of uneven motte stabilised and levelled with rubble 121, and structure 121 subsequently constructed  
*or* - structure 121 constructed on uneven motte.
- ii) Structure 121 demolished. Uneven motte top levelled with rubble 121 (which does not appear to be debris from 121); levelling elsewhere with layers 134 and 144 which become compacted as a surface, prior to -
- iii) Construction of ?shell-keep.

The proposed sequence is not without its problems and question-marks, and must at this stage remain merely tentative.

### 3.2 Structure 121 - a round tower?

Even more problematical is the correct interpretation of wall 121 and the structure that it represents, aside from the fundamental question - is it medieval at all?

If it is to be proposed that 121 represents the truncated remains of a cylindrical masonry tower, a number of questions need to be addressed. Firstly, with a thickness of 1.25m (at the level excavated, at least) wall 121 is decidedly slender, and the projected external diameter of 5.8m makes for a very small, narrow, tower, and cannot be envisaged on the basis of this information to have stood to any considerable height. Figs. 7 - 9 demonstrate just how small 121 is in comparison with other round towers, but it does approach the diameters of Tretower, Powys, and Launceston, Cornwall. In addition, cylindrical keeps almost invariably display a sloping basal plinth or 'batter' so that basal wall thickness is even greater. The internal diameter - if real - of 2.9m is rather more generous, but for a 'keep'-type structure would still be somewhat cramped. However, it is not certain at which of its levels structure 121 is exposed. It may be, in fact, that it continues for some considerable depth into the body of the motte.

If 121 was indeed a tower, how does it fit in with an overall interpretation of the British castle and its development? The evidence from the evaluation appears to demonstrate that it predates the construction of the shell-keep, and was truncated prior to the construction of the latter. This would tend to suggest an earlier rather than a later date for its erection.

The earliest cylindrical military tower in medieval Britain may be the round keep at New Buckenham, Norfolk, which, it has been convincingly suggested, may have been constructed during the 1140s when the castle underwent a documented rebuild under the d'Albini earls of Norfolk (Cathcart King, 1988, 100). It is very large, and is divided by a cross wall, and as the next documented tower of this type is that at Orford in the 1160s, New Buckenham may be seen as lying outside the mainstream of British castellar development; it has been suggested and indeed appears likely that its shape is a result of the lack of suitable quoin stone in the flint area within which it lies (an area which displays numerous late Saxon and Norman cylindrical church towers for this very reason). However, the story of British castle development has traditionally depended largely on the analysis of upstanding masonry structures in what is still a relative paucity of published castle excavation. New Buckenham's round tower, like the structure at Carmarthen, only came to light through excavation (fig. 7).

The towers at Orford, Suffolk, and Conisborough, Yorkshire, have traditionally been regarded as marking the beginnings of 'mainstream' round keep construction in Britain (fig. 7). Orford's building accounts survive and demonstrate that it was erected under Henry II between 1165 and



1173 (Renn, 1988, 33); Conisborough can be dated on stylistic grounds to the 1180s (Thompson, 1971, 2). However, neither keep is fully cylindrical being, in fact polygonal; Henry II built two further polygonal keeps at Tickhill, Yorks., and Chilham, Kent (Cathcart King, 1988, 101).

Very few of the 45 or so known round keeps in Britain can be dated as securely, but Wales is the area where (extant) examples occur in the highest concentration (figs. 7-9). The round keep at Pembroke, long regarded as one of the earliest and belonging to the last quarter of the 12th century, may not have been commenced until after 1204 (Ludlow, 1991, 27), and such celebrated Welsh examples as Skenfrith, Bronllys and Tretower (the latter two built on top of mottes), can, on the basis of architectural detail, be dated to the 1220s-30s (Beverley Smith & Knight, 1981, 22; Knight, nd, 9; Raleigh Radford, 1986, 25).

However, the very fact of its slender and atypical nature may imply that structure 121 at Carmarthen is an early example of a round keep and possibly somewhat primitive. £170 was spent on Carmarthen Castle in 1181-3, a sum and duration likely to represent the erection of a masonry structure. The structure in question has traditionally been thought to have been the shell-keep (see, *inter alia*, Ludlow, 1996, 15) but, pre-dating the shell-keep as it appears to do, structure 121, if it is a tower, may be represented by this expenditure. This may then push the construction of the shell-wall on to the 1220s when the entire castle was probably largely rebuilt in stone. However, the *History of the King's Works*, the standard text, makes much of the fact that no fully cylindrical keeps were erected by the crown before the 1220s (Cathcart King, 1988, 101-2), whilst Carmarthen was always (except when in Welsh hands) a royal possession.

However, if 121 does represent a masonry tower, it may be that it was erected during one of the episodic Welsh occupations of the castle. The nearby castles at Dryslwyn and Dinefwr both feature cylindrical keeps, neither closely dated but probably built under Welsh tenure (Kenyon, 1990, 55); the Welsh princes knew all about round towers and certainly constructed one at Dolbadarn, Gwynedd, and possibly at Ystradfellte, Powys (Cathcart King, 1988, 106 n.61). Carmarthen Castle was in Welsh hands for the eight years between 1215 and 1223, certainly long enough to refortify it in stone. However, the keeps at both Dinefwr and Dryslwyn - the latter only discovered through excavation (Webster, 1987) - have notably thick walls (fig. 8).

An alternative explanation may be that 121 represents the masonry footings for a timber tower. Timber towers with masonry footings on the summits of mottes have been excavated at, for example, Totnes in Devon (Rigold, 1975, 6). It might be argued that the missing stone(s) from the internal circumference of 121 represents a chase or pad for a timber post upon which the superstructure was carried. Such towers, indeed timber towers generally where their post-settings have been excavated are normally square, although Barker and Higham have put forward a convincing case for the use of circular timber towers on the curtilage at Hen Domen, an excavated castle in Powys (Barker and Higham, 1988). They were assigned to the phase of the castle's development corresponding to the period of masonry round tower construction, and it is neither impossible nor improbable that timber towers on mottes could follow the same design.

Shell-keeps, where dateable, are in the main creations of the 12th century (fig. 9). However, the concept of surrounding a motte top with a perimeter wall is a simple and lasting one, and at least one dateable example, Totnes, has been assigned to the 14th century (if possibly a rebuild). The Totnes keep is associated with the masonry base of a central, square timber tower which appears to have been disused when the shell wall was built (Rigold, 1975, 6), and it has been suggested that the shell-keep on the motte at Durham was associated with a contemporary timber tower (Allen Brown, 1976, 86). At Farnham, Surrey, the base of a square, masonry tower was discovered through excavation on a motte summit that, like Carmarthen's, was encased by the

walls of its shell-keep and infilled (Thomson, 1971); it appeared there that the tower had been truncated prior to the erection of the shell wall. Farnham and Totnes are both examples of castles in which the evidence has been furnished solely by excavation.

Further examples of towers associated with shell-keeps are only furnished by castles in which both elements have survived (fig. 9). The aforementioned castle at Tretower, Powys, displays a fine 12th century shell-keep within which a free-standing cylindrical keep was later erected (in a reversal of the possible situation at Carmarthen) while the break between the construction of the similar shell-keep and round keep arrangement at Launceston, Cornwall, appears to have been very short, both elements belonging to the early 13th century (Jones, 1959, 4).

In conclusion, it may be said that any permutation of the shell-keep - round keep sequence may, at one period or another, have been represented in Britain but in the absence of excavated evidence cannot be proven. Secondly, structure 121 at Carmarthen Castle may represent either a timber tower, or an early and/or primitive round keep of a somewhat slight nature; a factor that may have led to its disuse and replacement by a shell-keep.

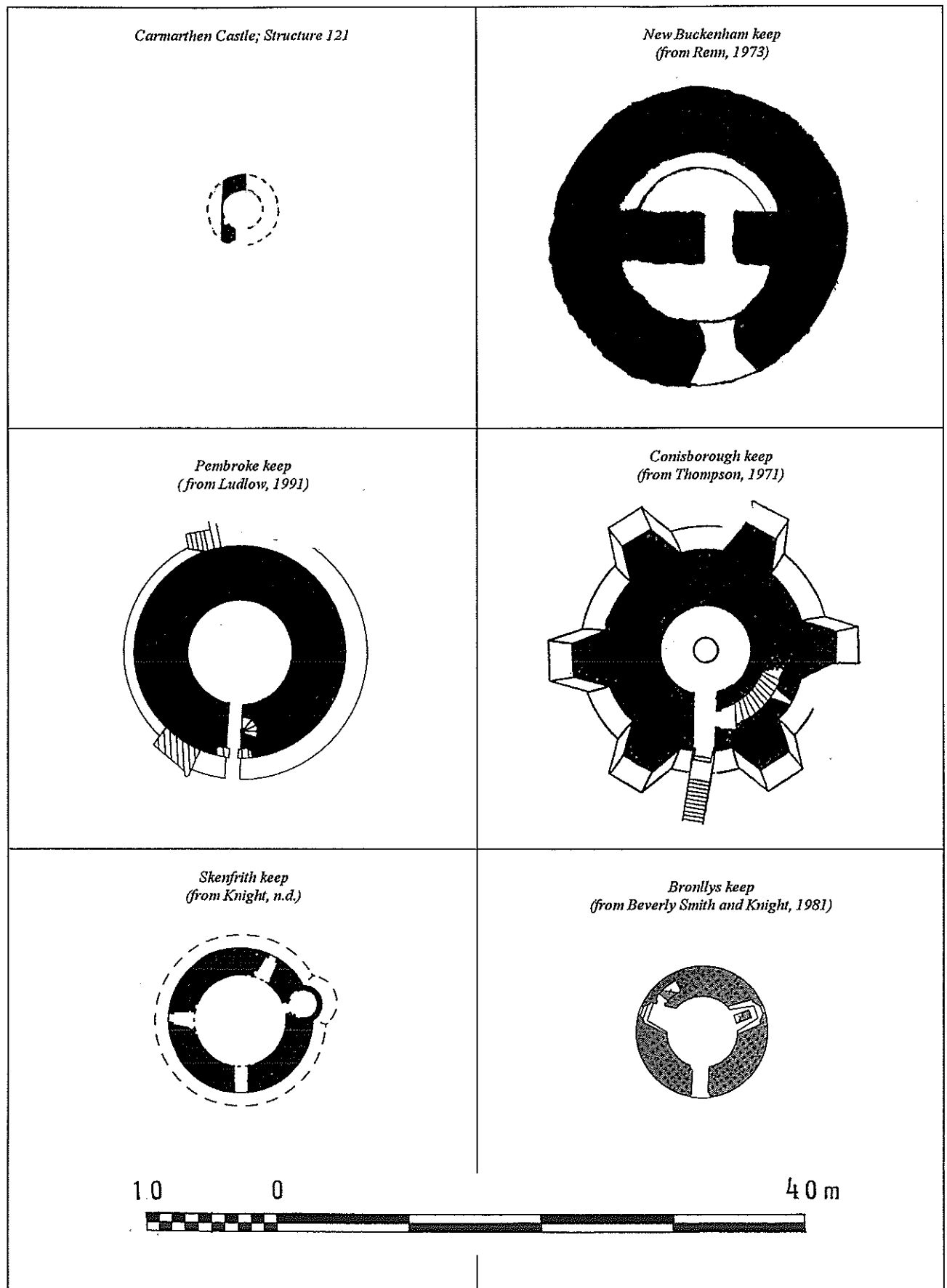


Fig. 7 Cylindrical keeps (general): comparative plans

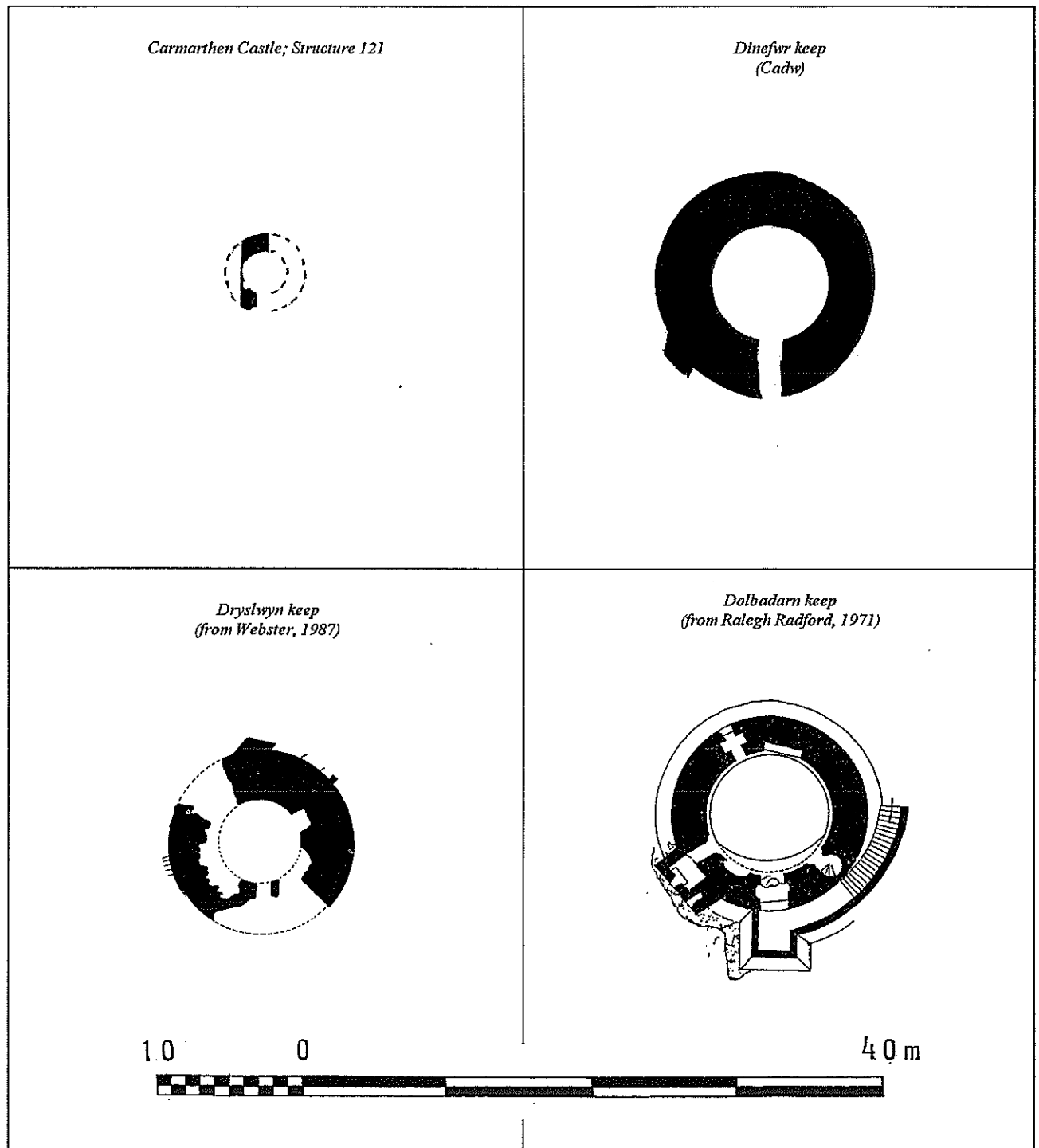


Fig. 8 Cylindrical keeps (Welsh): comparative plans

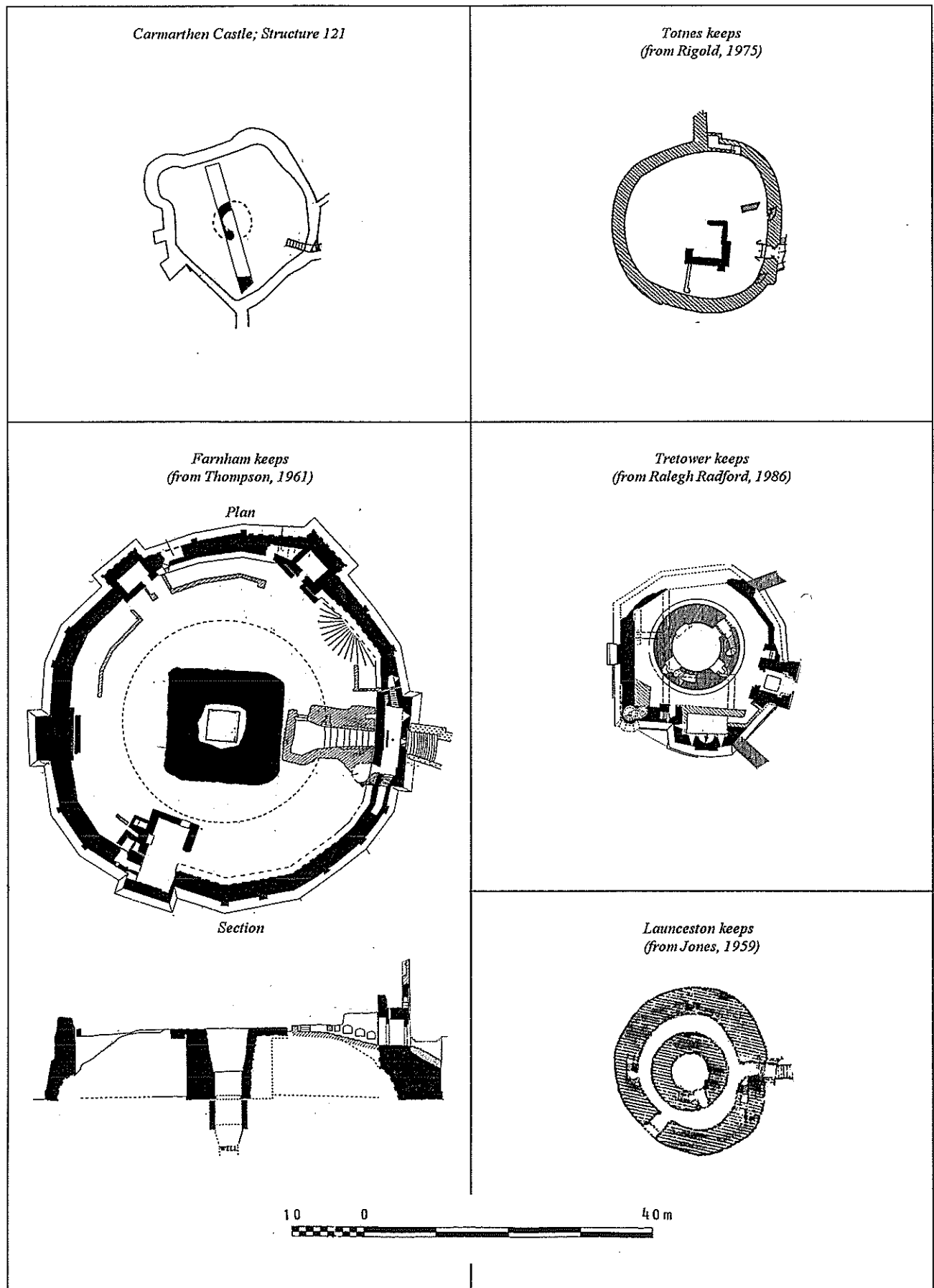


Fig. 9 Shell keeps with associated free-standing towers:  
comparative plans

## **4.0 FUTURE MANAGEMENT**

The evaluation demonstrates, as has previous archaeological work at the castle, the enormous potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits.

Moreover, within the shell-keep may lie an earlier circular tower which, if demonstrated to be of masonry, will contribute to the interpretation of the development of all such sites on a national basis. However, at this stage it is still not known precisely what type of structure is represented. Its correct interpretation is fundamental to understanding the history and development of the castle, and it is here recommended that the site be further investigated. It appears that, in archaeological terms, the site is fortunate in lacking deep overlying stratigraphy and the structure may be investigated further without significant damage to the surrounding archaeology.

The potential for the ultimate display of excavated portions of the site, an option being examined by Carmarthenshire County Council, may best be assessed in the light of findings from the future archaeological work. There may be extensive damage from further later pits, and/or all structures revealed may be in such an unstable condition as to prevent their practicable consolidation. Alternative strategies may prove as successful.

As a prerequisite for any further investigation it is suggested that a second evaluation trench be excavated at right angles to the first; the results of this will inform any decisions for the total excavation of the motte top. It is also suggested that a programme of documentary work be undertaken, particularly concentrating upon the post-medieval history of the castle and gaol. The records relating to the construction of County Hall will also be useful in forming future strategies for the castle in general, possibly providing detailed information as to the extent of disturbance to the underlying archaeology.

## **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The evaluation was supervised by Belinda Allen, with Richard Ramsey and Hubert Wilson of *Archaeololeg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, assisted by Carl Lander, volunteer. This report was compiled by Neil Ludlow and Belinda Allen of *Archaeololeg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. Finds analysis and reporting was undertaken by Dee Brennan.

## **6.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

The archive, indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, is held by Dyfed Archaeological Tust, Llandeilo, and contains the following:-

- A.** Copy of the final report and disk
- B.** Field record sheets
- C.** Site drawings
- D.** Monochrome and C/S photographs
- E.** Catalogue of finds
- G.** List of references
- J.** Final drawings
- L.** General admin. notes
- M.** Project correspondence

There is no material for classes **F**, **H**, **I**, **K** and **N**.

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## APPENDIX 8.1

### Summary of contexts

#### Context 101 - Layer; garden soil

Matrix: Black clay loam, slightly clayey  
Coarse components: Small grit  
Finds: 19th-20th century pottery  
Location: Throughout  
Cut by: 135  
Above: Layers 102, 137

#### Context 102 - Layer; garden soil

Matrix: Black gritty clay loam, slightly clayey  
Coarse components: Small grit, coal frags  
Finds: Mixed pottery & glass, medieval - 20th century, clay pipe, cockle shells and some mussel  
Location: Throughout  
Below: 101  
Above: Fills 106, 112, 114, 122

#### Context 103 - Layer; garden soil

Matrix: Dark brown gritty clay loam, slightly clayey  
Coarse components: Small grit  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century, some clay pipe and glass, brick  
Location: Throughout  
Cut by: 108, 111, 115  
Above: Fill 116; layers 107, 119, 125

#### Context 104 - Layer; debris

Matrix: Clay/mortar  
Coarse components: Much subangular rubble  
Finds: 19th-20th century pottery  
Location: South end of trench  
Cut by: 105  
Above: Layer 125

#### Context 105 - Feature; subsidence?

Location: South end of trench  
Depth: 0.13m  
Filled by: 122  
Cuts: Layer 104

#### Context 106 - Fill

Matrix: Dark brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone; much mortar; coal frags  
Finds: 19-20th century pottery, some clay pipe  
Location: Fill of large pit 117 in north half of trench  
Below: 102  
Above: Fill 123

#### Context 107 - Layer; dump?

Matrix: Sandy gritty loam  
Coarse components: Small-medium subangular stone; much mortar  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century  
Location: Central  
Cut by: 115  
Above: Layer 110

#### Context 108 - Feature; robber trench?

Location: South end of trench  
Depth: 0.25m  
Filled by: 109  
Cuts: Layer 103

#### Context 109 - Fill

Matrix: Very dark brown silty sandy loam  
Coarse components: Few small subangular stone; coal frags  
Finds: Mixed pottery, 17th-20th century, some glass, clay pipe, and cockle shells  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 113  
Fills: 108

#### Context 110 - Layer; garden soil

Matrix: Dark brown clay loam, slightly clayey  
Coarse components: small subangular stone; much mortar; coal frags  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century; some glass and clay pipe  
Location: Central  
Below: 107  
Above: Layers 130, 138, 140, 142

#### Context 111 - Feature; pit

Location: Central  
Depth: 0.3m  
Filled by: 112  
Cuts: Layer 103

#### Context 112 - Fill

Matrix: Dark brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Much medium subangular rubble; much mortar; coal frags  
Finds: Cockle shells  
Location: Central  
Below: 102  
Fills: 111

#### Context 113 - Feature; robber trench?

Location: South end of trench  
Depth: 0.75m  
Filled by: 114  
Cuts: Fill 109

#### Context 114 - Fill

Matrix: Black gritty clay loam, slightly clayey  
Coarse components: Much small subangular stone; coal frags  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century; 20th century domestic debris  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 102  
Fills: 113

#### Context 115 - Feature; pit

Location: North half of trench  
Depth: Unknown  
Filled by: 116  
Cuts: Layer 107

#### Context 116 - Fill

Matrix: 5 distinct fills, silty clay - silty loam  
Coarse components: 1 fill with much medium subangular rubble and much mortar  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century; some clay pipe  
Location: North half of trench  
Below: 103  
Fills: 115

#### Context 117 - Feature; pit

Location: North half of trench  
Depth: Unknown  
Filled by: 118  
Cuts: Layer 103

#### Context 118 - Fill

Matrix: Series of mixed fills, all dark brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Displaying much medium subangular rubble towards base of fill  
Finds: Mixed pottery, medieval - 20th century; some clay pipe  
Location: Fill of large pit 117 in north half of trench  
Below: 123  
Fills: 117

#### Context 119 - Layer; debris

Matrix: Mid-brown gritty silty loam, much rubble  
Coarse components: Much large subangular rubble and some mortar  
Finds: 18th century glass, 18th-19th century clay pipe; animal bone; terrestrial snail shells  
Location: North end of trench  
Below: 103  
Above: Layer 120

#### Context 120 - Layer; debris

Matrix: Yellow-brown sandy silty clay  
Coarse components: Much large subangular rubble and much adhering mortar  
Finds: None  
Location: North end of trench  
Below: 119  
Above: Layer 131

#### Context 121 - Structure: wall

Masonry: Limestone rubble  
Location: Central  
Below: 132, 134, 144, ?141  
Above: ?141

**Context 122 - Fill**

Matrix: Garden soil; very dark brown silty clay loam, humic  
Coarse components: Few medium subangular stones  
Finds: Sherd of 17th-18th century pottery; clay pipe, 18th-19th century  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 102  
Above: 105

**Context 123 - Fill**

Matrix: Grey clay  
Coarse components: Much medium subangular stone, coal frags  
Finds: Mixed pottery, cockle shells and some mussel  
Location: Fill of large pit 117 in north half of trench  
Below: 106  
Above: Fill 118

**Context 124 - Layer; burning**

Matrix: Burnt clay  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone, charcoal  
Finds: None  
Location: Over truncated wall 121 in centre of trench  
Below: 130  
Above: Wall 121

**Context 125 - Layer; mortar, debris?**

Matrix: Mortar  
Coarse components: Much small subangular stone  
Finds: Sherd of medieval pottery  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 104  
Above: Layer 126

**Context 126 - Layer; debris**

Matrix: Yellow-brown silty sand  
Coarse components: Much large subangular stone, much adhered mortar  
Finds: Sherd of 18th-19th century pottery  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 125, 138, 142  
Above: Layer 133

**Context 127 - Layer**

Matrix: Mortar  
Coarse components: Few medium subangular stones  
Finds: None  
Location: Part of wall 128 at south end of trench  
Below: 133, 137  
Above: Wall 128 masonry

**Context 128 - Structure; wall**

Masonry: Limestone and ORS rubble  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 127  
Above: Foundation 140

**Context 129 - Layer; debris**

Matrix: Yellow-brown silty sandy loam  
Coarse components: Much large subangular rubble, coal frags  
Finds: None

Location: South end of trench

Below: 122

Above: Layer 134

**Context 130 - Layer**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Medium - large subangular stone, mortar frags  
Finds: None  
Location: Central  
Below: 110  
Above: Layer 124  
Same as: Layers 138, 142, 143?

**Context 131 - Layer; rubble**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty sandy loam  
Coarse components: Much medium subangular rubble, mortar frags  
Finds: None  
Location: North half of trench  
Below: 120  
Above: Layer 132

**Context 132 - Layer; burning**

Matrix: Burnt clay  
Coarse components: Charcoal  
Finds: None  
Location: North half of trench  
Below: 131  
Above: Wall 121

**Context 133 - Layer; debris**

Matrix: Very dark grey-brown silty sandy loam  
Coarse components: Much medium subangular rubble, adhered mortar  
Finds: Animal bone  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 126  
Above: Layer 127

**Context 134 - Layer**

Matrix: Dark brown sandy silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone  
Finds: Much animal bone  
Location: South half of trench  
Below: 129, 140  
Above: Wall 121  
Same as: Layer 144?

**Context 135 - Feature; trench**

Location: North end of trench  
Depth: 0.22m  
Filled by: 136  
Cuts: Layer 101

**Context 136 - Fill**

Matrix: Black gritty loam  
Coarse components: Small angular stone  
Finds: None  
Location: North end of trench  
Below: -  
Fills: 135

**Context 137 - Layer**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty sandy loam  
Coarse components: Much mortar, coal frags

Finds: Medieval ridge tile

Location: South end of trench

Below: 101

Above: Wall 128

**Context 138 - Layer**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone, mortar frags, coal frags  
Finds: cockle and mussel shell  
Location: South half of trench  
Below: 110  
Above: Layer 126  
Same as: Layers 130, 142, 143?

**Context 139 - Structure; wall**

Masonry: Limestone and ORS rubble  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: -  
Above: Wall 128

**Context 140 - Feature/structure; foundation**

Masonry: Limestone and ORS rubble  
Location: South end of trench  
Below: 128  
Cuts: Layer 134

**Context 141 - Layer; rubble**

Matrix: None  
Coarse components: Much large subangular rubble  
Finds: None  
Location: North half of trench  
Below: 121?  
Above: -

**Context 142 - Layer**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone, mortar frags, coal frags  
Finds: None  
Location: South half of trench  
Below: 110  
Above: Layer 126  
Same as: Layers 130, 138, 143?

**Context 143 - Layer**

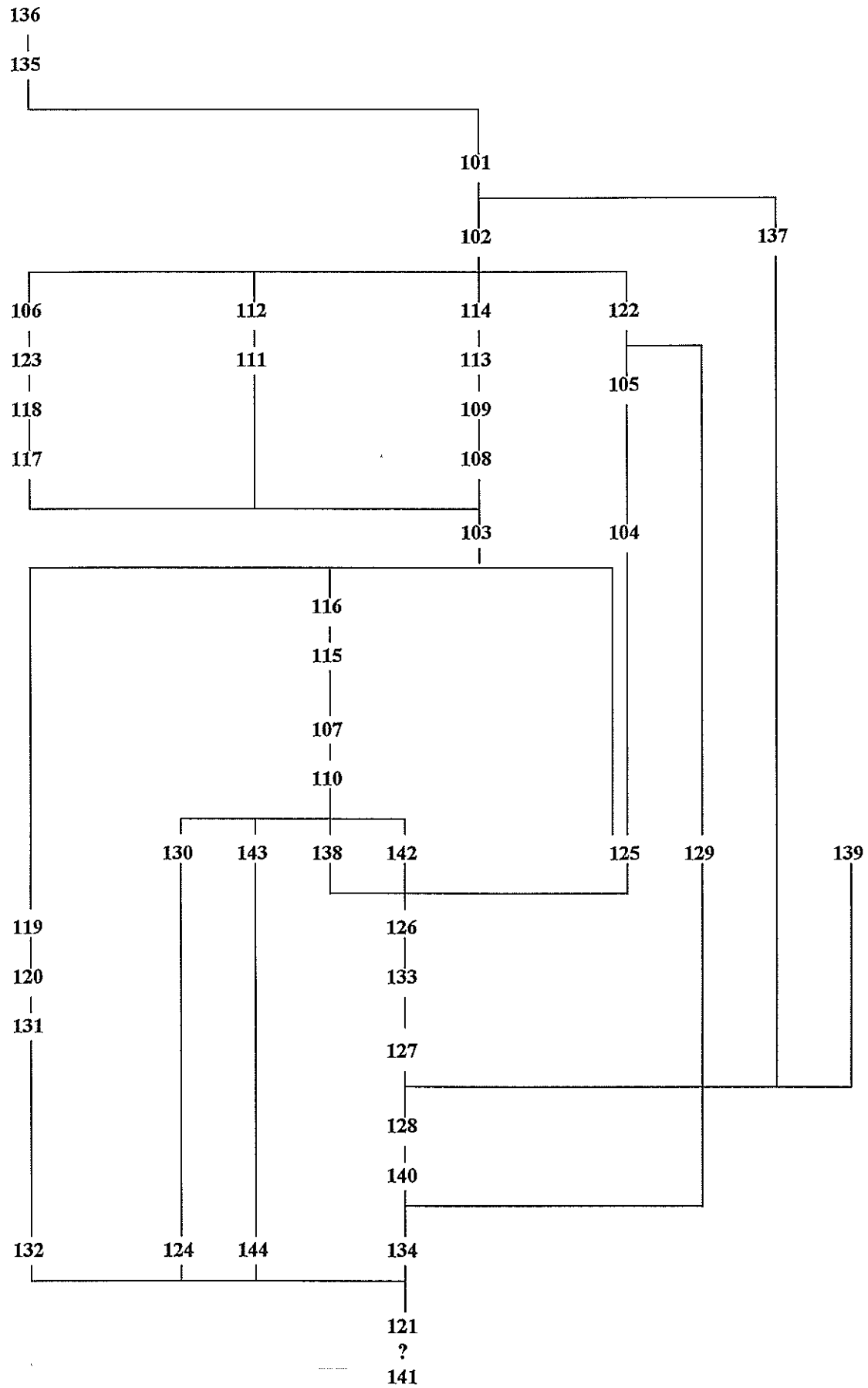
Matrix: Dark yellow-brown silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone, mortar frags  
Finds: None  
Location: South half of trench  
Below: 110  
Above: Layer 144  
Same as: Layers 130, 138, 142?

**Context 144 - Layer; surface?**

Matrix: Dark yellow-brown sandy silty loam  
Coarse components: Small subangular stone, some mortar  
Finds: Medieval pottery, 1 sherd 17th-18th century pottery, ?roofing slate, some bone  
Location: South half of trench  
Below: 143  
Above: Wall 121

## APPENDIX 8.2

### Site matrix



## **Carmarthen Castle Keep. PRN 57. 1997**

### **The Finds:**

A total of 323 sherds of pottery was recovered from excavations at Carmarthen Castle. Of this only 30 sherds are medieval, all of them small body sherds without diagnostic features and therefore of little use for accurate dating. The majority of these are from 13th-14th century green-glazed jugs of French and probable English make. The French vessels are from the Saintonge region of South-West France whilst the English examples remain unclassified. 'Local' material is present in small quantities. It comprises sherds from unglazed cooking pots in a distinctive gravel-tempered fabric, sherds from jugs of Llanstephan-type (Carmarthen estuarine) and possible late medieval material from the Newport area.

2 fragments of locally produced medieval ridge tile were found. These are in a gravel-tempered fabric similar to that used for 'local' pottery.

CARMARTHEN CASTLE KEEP. PRN 57. 1997 FINDS

All Categories by context: (\*\*\* Indicates Medieval material)

CONTEXT: [101]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: Red earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Brown glaze internally, partial glazing externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

(b) No. Sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 1 Rim/spout: 1 body.  
Form: 1 Jug, 1 indeterminate.  
Fabric: White earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: Rim sherd: light blue and brown bands against a white ground;  
Body: zonal banding in light blue on a white ground.  
Source: Unsourced. Utility wares with 'Banded' and 'Mocha' decoration are extremely common and were produced on a large scale at many of the potteries.  
Date: No precise dating though the date range for these types is late 18th-20th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 7  
Sherd detail: 2 rim: 5 body.  
Form: Hollow forms ie. cups and bowls.  
Fabric: 2 porcelain, 5 white earthenware.  
Surface treatment: All-over glaze.  
Decoration: Blue transfer-printed designs comprising 'chinoiserie' and floral patterns.  
Source: Unsourced though probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th cent.

CONTEXT: [102]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug ?.  
Fabric: A hard pale buff fabric tempered with quartz sands, sparse red inclusions and a little mica.  
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced English import.

Date: Medieval.

(b) No. sherds: 13

Sherd detail: 1 handle; 12 body.

Form: 1 jug, indeterminate forms though probably from jars, bowls and jugs.

Fabric: North Devon GTW (gravel-tempered ware).

Surface treatment: Most are glazed internally olive green or brown, handle unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th-18th cent. (17th/18th century is main period of importation)

(c) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 base.

Form: Tankard.

Fabric: Buff earthenware.

Surface treatment: Mid-brown 'mottle' glaze internally and above base  
cordon externally.

Decoration: Projecting cordon above base.

Source: Bristol or Staffordshire.

Date: 18th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 8

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 5 body; 2 base.

Form: Jars.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Surface treatment: 5 with brown glaze internally; 1 with double brown  
glaze; 2 unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Surface treatment: 1 with 'black' glaze internally; 1 with double dark  
brown glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(f) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 handle.

Form: Tankard.

Fabric: Stoneware.

Surface treatment: All-over brown glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: Staffordshire.

Date: 19th cent.

(g) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 rim.

Form: Chamber pot.

Fabric: Buff earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Buff (clear glaze).  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced. (See notes for [101] (b).).  
Date: 19th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 56  
Sherd detail: 20 rim; 36 body and base.  
Form: Assorted tableware.  
Fabric: Whitewares comprising mainly earthenware with some porcelain or bone china.  
Surface treatment: All are glazed.  
Decoration: Black transfer-print; blue transfer-printed 'chinoiserie' and floral patterns; transfer-print with additional painted decoration:  
sponged: shell-edged; banded; pink lustre; sprigged on blue ground;  
painted: gilded; plain blue; plain white.  
Source: Unsourced (No surviving makers' marks), probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th-20th cent.

(i) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 rim (complete profile).  
Form: Saucer, miniature - child's toy.  
Fabric: Porcelain.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: Plain white with simple moulded design.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

#### GLASS:

(j) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Free-blown wine bottle.  
Colour: Mid-olive green with iridescent surface weathering.  
Source: English, probably Bristol.  
Date: 18th cent.

(k) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 1 body, 1 basal.  
Form: Jug or bowl.  
Colour: Opaque white.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 20th cent.

(l) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Colour: Translucent pink.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 20th cent.

#### CLAY PIPES:

(m) No. frags: 30

Details: 1 part bowl with spur; 2 plain bowl frags; 1 bowl frag with leaves on mould seam and narrow 'flutes' on bowl; 26 stem fragments.  
Date: 19th cent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(n) No. frags: 1  
Detail: Electrical fuse-holder.  
Date: 20th cent.

#### CONTEXT: [103]

#### POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 2 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Jugs.  
Fabric: A hard close-grained cream fabric, the thicker of the two sherds is reduced to a pale grey in section. Tempered with sparse quartz grits.  
Wheel-thrown.  
Surface treatment: Mottled green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Saintonge ?, South-West France.  
Date: Medieval, 13th/14th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A hard grey fabric with a pinkish-buff inner surface. Tempered with frequent small black inclusions, occasional red-brown material and a little sand. Wheel-thrown.  
Surface treatment: Patchy green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced. English import.  
Date: Medieval.

(c) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A very hard pale buff fabric tempered with fine sands. Wheel-thrown.  
Surface treatment: A yellowish-green glaze inside and out.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced. English import?.  
Date: Medieval.

(d) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate, probable jug.  
Fabric: A very hard reduced blue-grey fabric with buff interior surface. Tempered with occasional small white ?calcareous inclusions.  
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.



Source: Carmarthen estuarine?  
Date: Medieval.

(e) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 rim.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, grey with a pinkish-orange interior.  
Surface treatment: A dark green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: Late medieval.

(f) No. sherds: 26  
Sherd detail: 4 rim; 20 body; 2 base.  
Form: Jar and bowl forms.  
Fabric: North Devon GTW.  
Surface treatment: Most sherds are glazed brown or olive green internally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: North Devon.  
Date: 16th-18th cent. (17th/18th century is main period of importation).

(g) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: North Devon slipware in a gravel-free fabric.  
Surface treatment: A white slip on inner surface with clear overglaze, appearing yellow.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: North Devon.  
Date: 17th-mid 18th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 10  
Sherd detail: 2 rim; 7 body; 1 base.  
Form: Jars/bowls.  
Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Brown glazes internally. 1 with black glaze.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 18th/19th-20th cent.

(i) No. sherds: 5  
Sherd detail: 1 rim; 1 body; 3 base.  
Form: Indeterminate hollow forms and one press-moulded plate.  
Fabric: Off-white to buff fabric.  
Surface treatment: Clear overglaze appearing yellow with brown slip decoration.  
Decoration: Slip-trail decoration.  
Source: Staffordshire.  
Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.

(j) No. sherds: 4  
Sherd detail: 1 rim; 2 body; 1 base.  
Form: Tankard, jar forms.  
Fabric: Stonewares.  
Surface treatment: Salt-glazed.

Decoration: Mould impressed decoration on tankard rim and on one body sherd.

Source: English.

Date: 19th cent.

(k) No. sherds: 29

Sherd detail: 13 rim; 2 handles; 14 body and base.

Form: Assorted tableware.

Fabric: Whitewares comprising mainly earthenware with some porcelain/bone china.

Surface treatment: All are glazed.

Decoration: Banded; painted; moulded; blue transfer-printed; shell-edged; and plain white.

Source: Unsourced though probably Staffordshire. No surviving makers' marks.

Date: 19th-20th cent.

#### GLASS:

(l) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Free-blown 'cylindrical' wine bottle.

Colour: Dark olive green with iridescent surface weathering.

Source: English, probably Bristol.

Date: Late 18th-19th cent.

#### CLAY PIPES:

No. frags: 37

Details: 1 plain bowl with truncated spur; 36 plain stem fragments.

Date: 19th cent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

No. frags: 2

Details: Hand-made brick.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Date: 19th cent.

CONTEXT: [104]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: White earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: Blue floral transfer-print.  
Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

CLAY PIPE:

(b) No. frags: 1  
Detail: 1 plain stem.  
Date: 19th cent.

CONTEXT: [106]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 4  
Sherd detail: 4 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Internal brown glazes.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 4  
Sherd detail: 2 rim, 2 body.  
Form: Assorted tableware.  
Fabric: White earthenware and porcelain/bone china.  
Surface treatment: All are glazed.  
Decoration: Blue transfer-printed; shell-edged; plain yellow; plain white.  
Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(c) No. frags: 2  
Details: 2 plain stem fragments.  
Date: 19th cent.

CONTEXT: [107]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 6  
Sherd detail: 1 rim; 5 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: North Devon gravel-tempered and gravel-free fabrics.

Surface treatment: Internal brown and olive green glazes.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: North Devon.  
Date: 17th-mid 18th century is main period of importation.

(b) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Tankard.  
Fabric: Westerwald stoneware.  
Surface treatment: Grey stoneware with clear glaze.  
Decoration: Impressed and cobalt blue decoration externally.  
Source: Germany.  
Date: 17th-early 18th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: Earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Lustre.  
Source: Unsourced but probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate tableware.  
Fabric: White earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

#### GLASS:

(e) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Free-blown 'cylindrical' wine bottle.  
Colour: Olive green with iridescent surface weathering.  
Source: English, probably Bristol.  
Date: Late 18th/19th cent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(f) No. frags: 1 \*\*\*  
Detail: Ridge tile?  
Fabric: 'Local' GTW (gravel-tempered ware). A buff-orange fabric tempered with red-brown shaley gravels and fine sands.  
Surface treatment: Partial olive green glaze.  
Source: West Wales.  
Date: Medieval.

CONTEXT: [109]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 13

Sherd detail: 1 rim: 12 body.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: North Devon GTW.

Surface treatment: All are glazed internally olive green or brown.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th-mid 18th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 2 rim: 2 body.

Form: Jar.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Surface treatment: The jar is glazed to just below the rim externally and all over internally. 2 small body sherds have internal brown glazes.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 2 joining rim sherds and one flake.

Form: Press-moulded dish with 'pie-crust' edge.

Fabric: Buff fabric.

Surface treatment: Clear glaze internally, appearing yellow.

Decoration: Brown slip-trail.

Source: Staffordshire.

Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 1 body: 1 base.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: Stoneware.

Surface treatment: Salt-glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: English.

Date: 19th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 12

Sherd detail: 4 rim: 2 handle: 6 body and base sherds.

Form: Assorted tableware.

Fabric: 11 sherds white earthenware: 1 sherd porcelain/bone china.

Surface treatment: All are glazed.

Decoration: Painted: blue transfer-prints: plain.

Source: Unsourced though probably Staffordshire.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

GLASS:

(f) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 1 mould-decorated rim: 1 plain body.

Form: Indeterminate.

Colour: Clear colourless with incipient iridescent surface weathering.

Source: English.

Date: Late 19th/20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(g) No. frags: 10  
Details: Plain stem fragments.  
Date: 19th cent.

BONE:

(h) 1 small fragment of animal bone.

CONTEXT: [110]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A hard off-white fabric with frequent small surface voids.  
Surface finish: Olive green glaze externally with alternating light and dark bands.  
Decoration: Horizontal grooves.  
Source: Uncertain, English import?.  
Date: Medieval.

(b) No. sherds: 2 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Jug(s).  
Fabric: A fine close-grained off-white fabric with sparse red inclusions, occasional sands and fine mica.  
Surface treatment: A mottled green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Saintonge, South-West France?. The main period of importation for mottled green glazed jugs was 1250-1350 although smaller quantities of the material continued to be imported throughout the medieval period (O'Mahoney forthcoming, Greyfriars).  
Date: Medieval. 13th/14th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug ?.  
Fabric: A hard pinkish-buff fabric tempered with fine sands, white and occasional red-brown gravel inclusions.  
Surface treatment: Yellowish-green glaze externally with traces internally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Uncertain English import.  
Date: Medieval.

(d) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 basal.  
Form: Cooking pot.  
Fabric: 'Local' GTW.  
Surface treatment: Unglazed.  
Source: West Wales.  
Date: Medieval.

(e) No. sherds: 2 \*\*\*

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jugs ?.

Fabric: A very hard reduced fabric with pinkish-buff interior. Numerous small white calcareous inclusions and small surface voids.

Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally.

Source: Llanstephan type. Carmarthen estuarine.

Date: Medieval, mid-late 13th onwards.

(f) No. sherds: 8 \*\*\*

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 4 body; 3 base.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: 'Local' fabrics. All are very hard fired with pinkish-buff surfaces and a reduced grey core. Small gravel inclusions with fewer sands distinguish them from the heavily tempered North Devon wares.

Surface treatment: 2 sherds with olive green glaze externally. 2 with patchy brown glaze.

Decoration: Thumb-pressed jug rim.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval, all would appear to be late.

(g) No. sherds: 42

Sherd detail: 3 rim; 1 handle; 38 body and base sherds.

Form: Jars, bowls and jugs.

Fabric: North Devon GTW.

Surface treatment: Most have internal brown or olive green glazes.

Decoration: None.

Date: 17th/18th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 2 rim; 1 body.

Form: Jug; bowl.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-free.

Surface treatment: Both rims are glazed inside and out; the bowl in olive green, the jug in brown.

Decoration: None.

Date: 17th/18th cent.

(i) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-free.

Surface treatment: Clear glaze over white slip externally, olive green glaze internally.

Decoration: Sgraffito.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th cent.

(j) No. sherds: 18

Sherd detail: 5 rim; 13 body and base.

Form: Bowls and dishes.

Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.

Surface treatment: Internal brown glazes.

Decoration: Some sherds have simple slip-trailed decoration.

Source: Unsourced country pottery.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

(k) No. sherds: 5  
Sherd detail: 4 body; 1 base.  
Form: Handled drinking vessel or bowl; tankard.  
Fabric: Buff earthenware.  
Surface treatment: 4 sherds with clear overglaze appearing yellow; tankard base with internal 'mottled' brown glaze.  
Decoration: 2 sherds with brown slip-trailed decoration.  
Source: Staffordshire.  
Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.

(l) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 1 body; 1 base.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: Buff earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed inside and out.  
Decoration: Mottled tortoiseshell patterns termed 'Whieldon ware'.  
Source: Staffordshire.  
Date: Early to mid 18th cent.

(m) No. sherds: 4  
Sherd detail: 4 body.  
Form: Tankards and indeterminate.  
Fabric: Stoneware.  
Surface treatment: Salt-glaze.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: English.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

(n) No. sherds: 16  
Sherd detail: 1 lid; 3 rim; 12 body and base.  
Form: Assorted tableware.  
Fabric: Whitewares comprising mainly earthenware.  
Surface treatment: All are glazed.  
Decoration: Painted, sponged; lustre; blue transfer-prints and plain.  
Source: Unsourced though probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th-20th cent.

#### GLASS:

(o) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 1 body; 1 base.  
Form: Free-blown wine bottles. The base fragment is from an early 'onion' form.  
Colour: Olive green, one with enamel-like surface weathering.  
Source: English, probably Bristol.  
Date: 18th cent.

#### CLAY PIPES:

(p) No. frags: 27 (The following may be of interest to Gill Evans)



Details: 1 plain bowl with large tailed heel, stamped with the 'Gauntlet' mark and the letters 'E' to the left and 'T' to the right. The 'Gauntlet' mark was used by makers in central southern England, c.1660 (Evans 1996, p.64). 1 plain bowl frag; 1 stem/bowl frag with spur; 1 stem/bowl frag with truncated spur and fluted bowl, 19th cent; 1 stem fragment stamped with shield; 22 plain stem fragments.  
Date: 18th-19th cent.

ANIMAL BONE:

(q) 3 animal bone teeth.

CONTEXT: [114]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: Fine-grained off-white fabric with sparse red inclusions and surface mica.

Surface treatment: 'All over green' glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Saintonge, South-West France.

Date: Medieval, 13th/14th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 rim.

Form: Jar.

Fabric: North Devon GTW.

Surface treatment: Internal olive green glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 1 body.

Form: Jars.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Surface treatment: 'Black' glaze inside and out.

Source: Unsourced though of Buckley type.

Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [114] continued:

(d) No. sherds: 3  
Sherd detail: 2 joining body/base; 1 body.  
Form: Inkpot: indeterminate.  
Fabric: Stoneware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: English.  
Date: 19th-early 20th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 rim.  
Form: Bowl/basin.  
Fabric: Buff earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Clear glaze.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 20th cent.

(f) No. sherds: 5  
Sherd detail: 5 body and base.  
Form: Assorted tableware.  
Surface treatment: All are glazed.  
Decoration: Blue and brown transfer-prints; sponged; painted.  
Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

GLASS:

(g) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: Rim.  
Form: Mineral water bottle.  
Colour: Natural bluish-green with incipient iridescent surface weathering.  
Source: English.  
Date: Late 19th/early 20th cent.

CONTEXT: [115]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug?.  
Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, grey with a pale buff interior.  
Surface treatment: Dark green external glaze.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: English import.  
Date: Medieval, nothing very diagnostic.

(b) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.

Surface treatment: 1 sherd with double dark brown glaze, 1 sherd with internal brown glaze.  
Decoration: 1 sherd with external cordon.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(c) No. frags: 1  
Details: 1 plain stem fragment.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [116]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: North Devon GTW.  
Surface treatment: Internal brown and olive green glazes.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: North Devon.  
Date: 17th/18th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Dish.  
Fabric: Red earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Internal brown glaze.  
Decoration: Simple yellow slip-trail decoration.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 19th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 1 rim: 1 body.  
Form: Plates.  
Fabric: White earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Glazed.  
Decoration: 1 blue transfer-print: 1 plain.  
Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.  
Date: 19th/20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(d) No. frags: 1  
Details: 1 plain stem frag.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [118]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug?

Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, off-white with a pinkish interior margin and a reduced grey core.

Surface treatment: Dark green external glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced English import?

Date: Medieval.

(b) No. sherds: 9

Sherd detail: 2 rim; 7 body.

Form: Bowls and jars.

Fabric: North Devon GTW.

Surface treatment: Internal brown glazes.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 rim.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: North Devon gravel-free.

Surface treatment: Clear glaze over white slip externally, internal brown glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th-18th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 1 body; 2 base.

Form: Bowls; jars.

Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.

Surface treatment: Internal brown glazes.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 2(f)

Sherd detail: 2 joining body/base sherds.

Form: Jar.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Surface treatment: Internal black glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th cent.

(f) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 2 base.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: Plantpot.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(g) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 1 base.

Form: 1 press-moulded dish; 1 cup or bowl.

Fabric: Buff earthenware.

Surface treatment: Internal clear glaze appearing yellow.

Decoration: Dish fragment has 'pie-crust' edge.

Source: Staffordshire.

Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 2 body.

Form: Jars and bottle.

Fabric: Stoneware.

Surface treatment: Glazed.

Decoration: Jar has impressed decoration, bottle advertises (stamped) a Carmarthen Brew.

Source: English.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(i) No. sherds: 30

Sherd detail: 13 rims; 1 spout; 2 handles; 13 body and base; 1 moulded object.

Form: Assorted tableware and one moulded strawberry object.

Fabric: Mainly white earthenware with some buff fabric and a little bone-china.

Surface treatment: All are glazed.

Decoration: Blue transfer-prints; sponged; banded; painted; moulded; pink lustre; plain.

Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

#### GLASS:

(k) No. sherds: 6

Sherd detail: 2 window; 2 body; 2 base.

Form: Window; bottle and tumbler.

Colour: Natural-coloured bluish-green and colourless. All display signs of surface weathering.

Source: English.

Date: 19th cent.

#### CLAY PIPES:

(l) No. frags: 4

Details: 4 plain stem fragments.

Date: 18th/19th cent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(m) No. frags: 2

Details: 1 pan-tile fragment; 1 tile/brick.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

CONTEXT: [119]

GLASS:

(a) No. sherds: 2  
Sherd detail: 2 body.  
Form: Free-blown 'onion' wine bottle.  
Colour: Olive green with surface weathering.  
Source: English.  
Date: 18th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(b) No. frags: 1  
Details: 1 plain stem fragment.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [122]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Indeterminate.  
Fabric: North Devon GTW.  
Surface treatment: Internal olive green glaze.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: North Devon.  
Date: 17th/18th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(b) No. frags: 1  
Details: 1 plain stem fragment.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [125]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A hard pale buff fabric tempered with occasional white inclusions and fine sands.  
Surface treatment: Patchy yellow-green glaze inside and out.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Uncertain English import.  
Date: Medieval.

CONTEXT: [126]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Dish.  
Fabric: Red earthenware.  
Surface treatment: Worn yellow glaze internally.  
Decoration: Slip-trail.  
Source: Unsourced.  
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CONTEXT: [137]

#### MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(a) No. frags: 1 \*\*\*  
Details: Ridge tile.  
Fabric: 'Local' gravel-tempered ware.  
Surface treatment: Patchy green-brown glaze on upper surface.  
Source: West Wales.  
Date: Medieval.

CONTEXT: [144]

#### POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: Close-grained off-white-buff fabric. Sparse sand inclusions and fine surface mica.  
Surface treatment: Patchy mottled green glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Saintonge, South-West France.  
Date: Medieval, 13th/14th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 1 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 1 body.  
Form: Cooking pot?.  
Fabric: 'Local' GTW.  
Surface treatment: Unglazed.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: West Wales.  
Date: Medieval.

(c) No. sherds: 3 \*\*\*  
Sherd detail: 3 body.  
Form: Jug.  
Fabric: A very hard fabric, pinkish-red with a reduced grey core. Tempered with fine gravels and few sands.  
Surface treatment: Thin brown glaze externally.  
Decoration: None.  
Source: Local?, possibly Newport.  
Date: Late Medieval?.

(d) No. sherds: 1  
Sherd detail: 1 rim.  
Form: Press-moulded dish.

Fabric: Buff earthenware.

Surface treatment: Traces of clear glaze over white slip internally.

Decoration: 'Pie-crust' edge and brown slip-trailed decoration internally.

Source: Staffordshire.

Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.