

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
FIELD OPERATIONS

CARMARTHEN CASTLE
SHELL KEEP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**CARMARTHEN CASTLE SHELL KEEP
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SUMMARY

The evaluations have shown that there are significant structures, features and deposits surviving within the shell-keep. Whilst the exact nature of most of them is unclear, it is now possible to say that the circular structure and the other structures are medieval. It is also now possible to define a number of phases of activity on the site: i) the construction of the motte and circular tower sometime in the 12th century, or very early 13th century ii) abandonment of the tower and construction of the perimeter wall, probably during the 1220s; iii) construction of the secondary structure(s); iv) abandonment of the shell-keep (16th century?); v) importing soil for the post-medieval garden during the 19th century and use of the site as an orchard. Whilst accepting that these phases are simplistic and that there are almost certainly episodes within the major phases a reasonably clear picture of activity on the shell-keep has emerged.

The potential for consolidation and display is high, although some protective measures to safeguard the fragile deposits would be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

PROJECT COMMISSION

This evaluation formed part of the pre-application works for a Lottery Heritage bid being prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council. The bid is for funds to open the shell-keep to the public, both to utilise it as a viewing platform and to display the surviving medieval castle features. It is part of a long-term project to use and display the extensive castle remains to their maximum. Following earlier evaluation of the site, further information was required to assist in the determination of the application, so the Council commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Operations to undertake the work.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

As part of the pre-application work for a Heritage Lottery bid by Carmarthenshire County Council, Cambria Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the top of the shell-keep of Carmarthen Castle. This project was a follow up to an earlier evaluation (Ludlow and Allen 1997) and had three main objectives: 1) to provide further information on the extent and character of a circular stone structure discovered during the original evaluation; 2) to establish the presence or otherwise of any other structures or features; 3) to inform on the potential for consolidation and display of the structures and the shell-keep.

EVALUATION RESULTS

METHODOLOGY

Two hand-excavated trenches (T1 and T2) were dug at 90 degrees from the original evaluation trench (Fig. 1). They were positioned to cross the circular stone structure and to investigate the extreme northern end of the site. Using knowledge gained from the stratigraphy of the original evaluation trench it was possible to excavate quickly to the top of the significant archaeological features. All deposits, features and structures (contexts) were recorded using the open-ended numbering system employed by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations (e.g. 001; 010; 100), with those considered significant recorded by scale drawing and photography. Throughout the descriptions and discussions below, context numbers are only used to link illustrations to the text.

In the following discussion the modern features and layers, which were confined to the well drained, humic loam soils imported when the top of the shell-keep was turned into a garden, are treated as one unit, 'the garden'. They were excavated as one with differences noted and recorded in section only. This had no bearing on any results or interpretation; it allowed more time to be spent on the significant areas of the site.

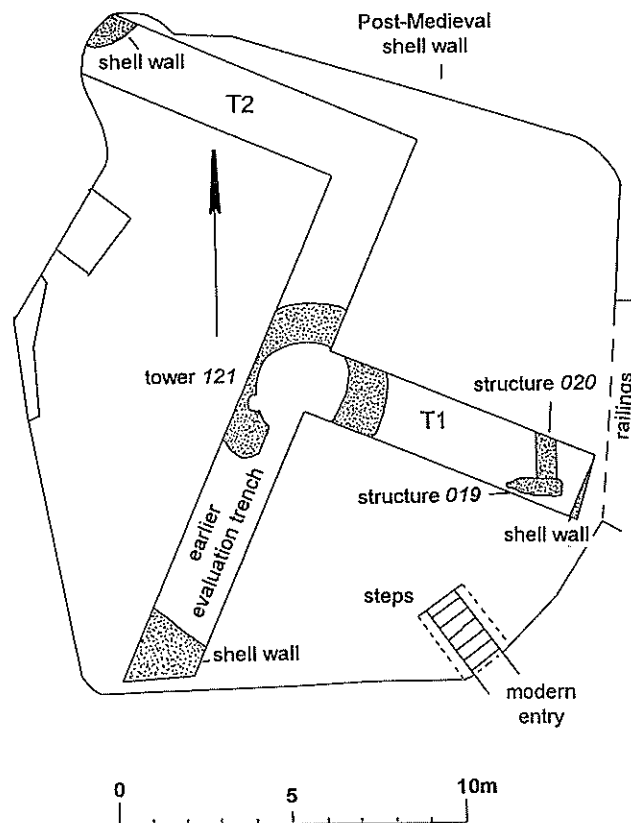


Figure 1: Location plan showing positions of trial trenches and medieval structures

TRIAL TRENCH 1 (FIGS 1, 2, 3 AND 4)

THE CIRCULAR STONE STRUCTURE (121) AND ASSOCIATED DEPOSITS (012; 013; 014; 038; 039; 040; 041; 042; 043; 047)

The excavated section of the wall was 1.2m-1.3m wide and at least 5 courses high. It had a rubble core and was faced on its inner and outer side with smallish Old Red Sandstone and limestone stones (the largest being c.0.25m x 0.2m x 0.2m). None of the facing stones showed any signs of working; their flattest sides were simply placed facing outwards. The rubble of the corework was a similar mixture of Old Red sandstone and limestone and bonded by a soft, crumbly khaki-coloured mortar.

Investigation revealed a significant amount of burnt clay, charcoal and rubble inside the structure and layers of charcoal, clay, mortar and rubble outside.

DEPOSITS INSIDE THE CIRCULAR STRUCTURE (013; 040; 041)

The lowest deposits encountered were a layer of burnt clay and charcoal (047) and a layer of off-white mortar (040), which may have been contained within a construction trench (041) for the wall (121). Further investigation would be required to determine whether there was a construction trench.

DEPOSITS OUTSIDE THE CIRCULAR STRUCTURE (012; 014; 038; 039; 043)

The lowest deposit encountered was a thick layer of stiff, grey/brown clay (043); this layer was at least 0.6m deep, and butted the outer face of the structure. Because of Health and Safety constraints this layer was only partially excavated, but a spike driven down into it to try to determine its depth did not reach the bottom. A sherd of pottery dating to the late-13th/early-14th century was recovered from this layer along with two fragments of tile. Overlying the clay were thin layers of burnt clay (039) and a spread of charcoal and burnt clay (038). The two layers appeared to be demolition debris similar to that found inside the structure.

Sealing the demolition material was a spread of angular rubble (014), which was in turn overlain by a layer (012) of brown loamy soil containing abundant fragments of animal bone and, surprisingly, an almost complete human skull. Pottery recovered from this layer dates from the mid-13th century to the 16th century and was similar to the assemblage recovered from 013 inside the structure.

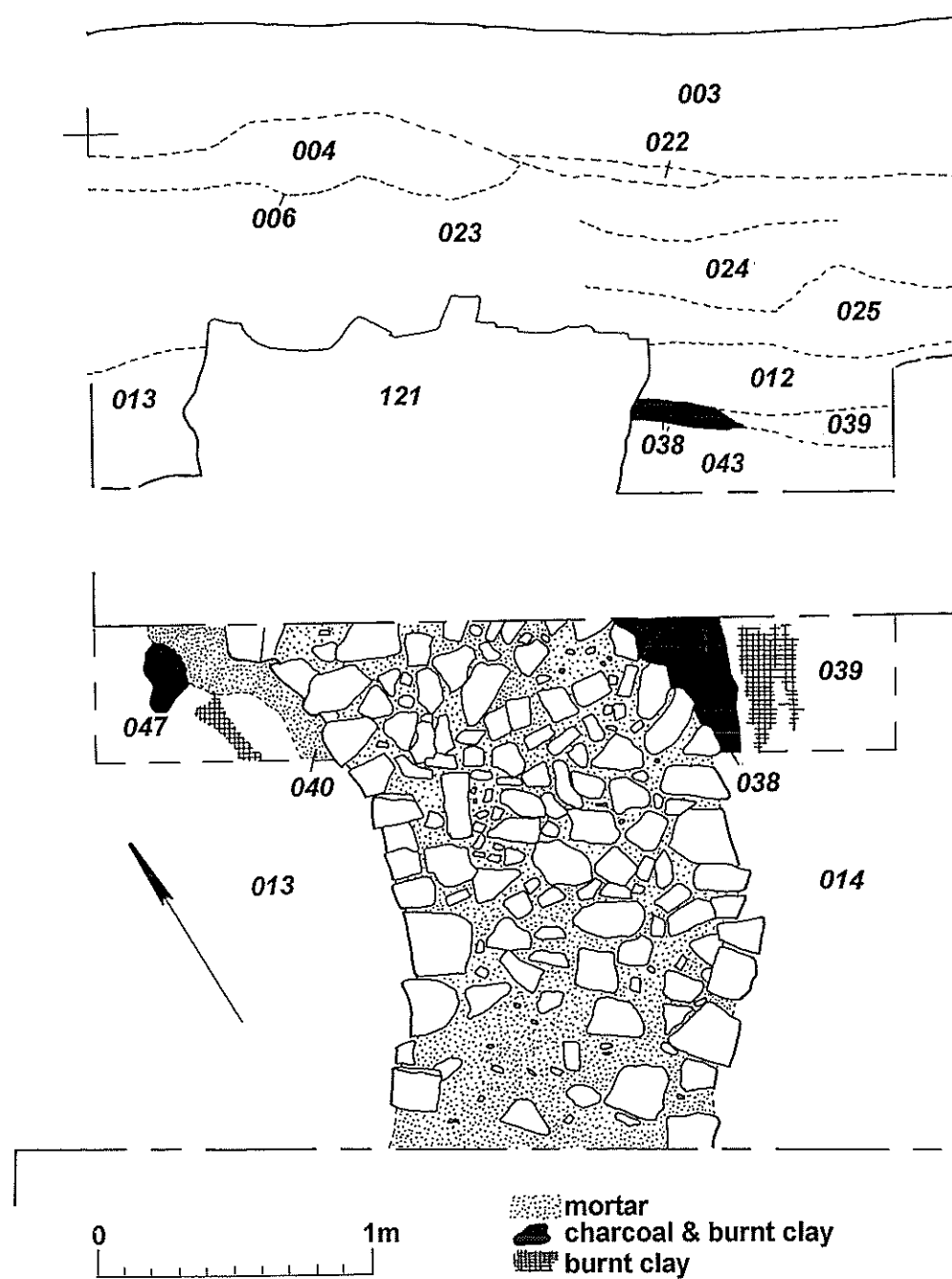


Figure 2: Structure 121 and demolition layers

OTHER STRUCTURES (045; 020) AND ASSOCIATED DEPOSITS (014; 016; 019)

THE PERIMETER WALL (045)

Three faced stones uncovered at the extreme southeastern end of T1 were possibly part of the inner face of the shell-keep wall (045). Only a small portion of the stones was uncovered because they stretched beyond the southeastern limit of the excavation which was sloped so as not to undermine the railings that form the modern perimeter at this point.

STONE-SLAB STRUCTURE (020)

A structure comprising three flat slabs and some smaller flat stones, which showed evidence of having been mortared at one time was uncovered at the southeast end of the trench. Only a short length of this structure was visible inside the trench, the rest of it extended beyond the northeastern limit of the excavation. The southern end of 020 was overlain by a layer of rubble (019).

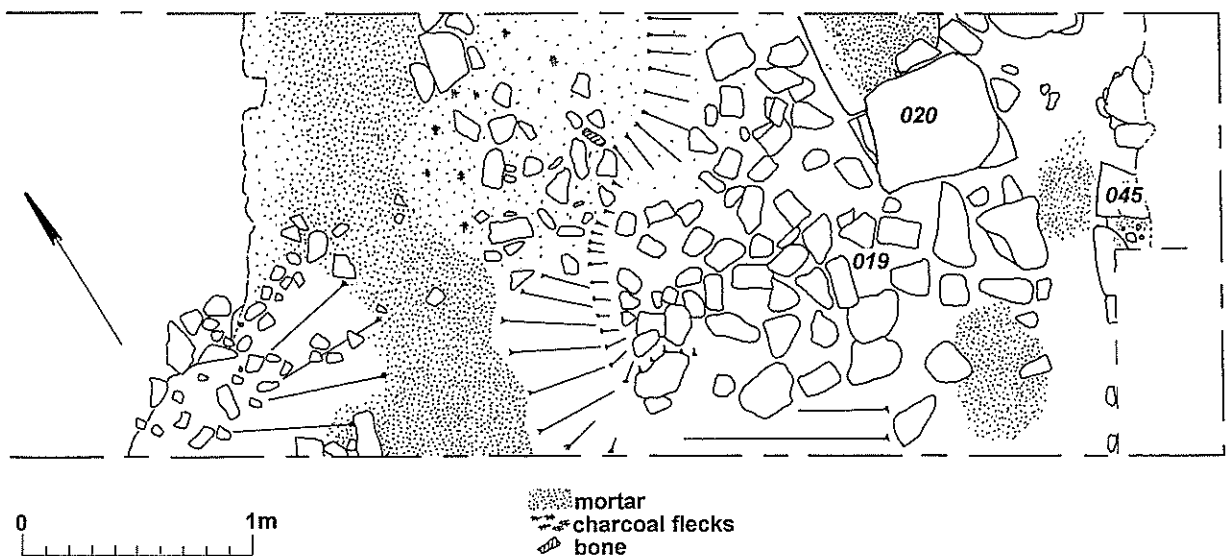


Figure 3: Medieval structures at the southeast end of T1

THE RUBBLE SPREADS (014; 016; 019)

There were differences between the nature of the three spreads. Spread 019 comprised fairly large rounded and roughly shaped stones and may have been building debris. It is possible that 019 was the damaged wall footings for a structure against the perimeter wall and abutting 020. Both 014 and 016 were made up of smaller, angular stones and fragments apparently deposited to raise the level of the area between the circular structure and the shell-keep wall.

OTHER DEPOSITS (017; 018; 021)

Overlying 019 was a pink/brown clay dump (017) that contained a small amount of animal bone and some pieces of heavily corroded metalwork. The dump formed a small mound and on its northwest sloping face was a patch of black grey staining (021) which appeared to be fire residue. Other areas of similar material were recorded in T1 and during the original evaluation against the outer face of structure 121. A layer of brown loamy soil (018) containing a significant amount of heavily corroded metalwork covered 017, 019 and 021. Pottery recovered from 018 was largely medieval, with some post-medieval material indicating that it was deposited after the castle had been abandoned.

THE GARDEN (001; 002; 003; 004; 005; 006; 007; 008; 009; 010; 011; 015; 022; 023; 024; 025; 026; 027; 028; 029)

The garden deposits were excavated as one, with stratigraphic differences noted in section only. No features of particular interest were recorded. The deposits were generally of a loam rich soil. Some shallow stone and rubble filled pits may have been flower beds, but there was no indication of any formal garden layout. The finds from the garden deposits were a mixture of residual medieval and post-medieval pottery.

TRIAL TRENCH 2 (FIG. 1 AND 5: PLATE 3)

THE EARLIEST FEATURE (036)

Part of a circular, or semi-circular masonry structure was uncovered in the northwestern corner of the trench. It was made up of faced stones and appeared to have a rubble core, although this was not proved conclusively because the upper surface had been re-mortared at the time the present wall was re-faced. This is almost certainly part of the medieval shell-keep structure. Its full height was not established due to Health and Safety depth limits being reached, but it stands at least 0.7m high.

OTHER STRUCTURES (030)

The only other structure encountered was a rectangular concrete base for a WWII air raid siren that was dismantled in the 1980s.

OTHER DEPOSITS (035)

Structure 036 was covered and surrounded by rubble (035). This was a continuation the rubble deposits (120) recorded to the north of the tower (121) in the earlier evaluation trench (Ludlow and Allen 1996, 7 - Fig.3). There were some localised differences in the rubble, but it was apparent that it was essentially the same deposit. Finds from the rubble included 17th to 19th century pottery and glass and a modern plastic object. The rubble rose towards the northern edge of the site, which meant that the overlying garden soils (032) were much shallower than across the rest of the site.

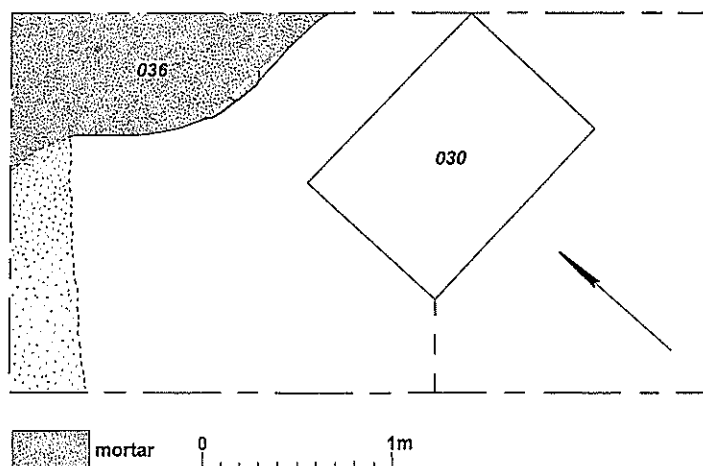


Figure 4: Northwest end of T2 showing medieval wall.

DISCUSSION

The pottery recovered from deposits inside and outside structure 121 confirms that it is medieval and suggests that it may indeed have been the original round keep tower (Ludlow and Allen 1997, 13-17). Although up to now the term 'tower' has been avoided, it is felt that the evaluation has established that structure 121 was a tower and the term will be used hereafter. This then raises the question of its construction, was it a wooden tower with stone foundations, or a crude stone structure? The argument for a wooden structure is probably the most convincing given the overall size of the structure and the presence of burnt clay (daub?) and charcoal inside and outside the wall. A detailed summary of the development of shell-keep towers was included in the earlier evaluation report (Ludlow and Allen 1997) and it is not intended to reproduce that here.

It was not possible to determine the exact relationship between the tower and the other structures. However, it seems likely that the tower was replaced by the perimeter wall (020), possibly during the rebuilding of the castle in stone during the 1220s (Ludlow and Allen 1997, 16). The other possible structures (020 and 019?) which were constructed close to and possibly against the inside of the shell-keep were later additions. How much later was not established.

The rubble spreads were for the most part confined to the area between the tower and perimeter wall which suggests that they were dumped to try to level the top of the motte. Pottery recovered from these and other medieval deposits dates from the mid-13th century to the 16th century. Therefore, it is associated with activity following the rebuilding of the castle in stone rather than the earlier tower phase. Where the rubble and other levelling material came from is not known.

Sealing the medieval features was a large amount of garden soil brought onto the site when the top of the motte was turned into a small garden. There were definite layers within the garden soils, but none considered significant. Pottery recovered dates from the post-medieval period through to the late 20th century. The garden was supposedly the creation of one of the prison governors, although when it was established is not known.

The semi-circular structure (036) in T2 appears to have been some form of small bastion, or buttress on the inside of the medieval shell-keep wall. The present perimeter wall was constructed over the top of 036. The date range of the finds recovered from the rubble that filled the entire trench suggests that it was brought in and deposited during the creation of the garden. It was later disturbed by the construction of the WWII siren base.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

POTENTIAL FOR CONSOLIDATION AND DISPLAY

Using the information gained it is clear that there is good potential for the consolidation and display of the structures and features on the shell-keep mound. There are a number of options available for the future of the site ranging from the consolidation and display of the structures to returning the site to a garden. Each option has a number of points both for and against that must be considered.

OPTION	FOR	AGAINST
Excavation of the shell-keep, consolidation and display of features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The surviving structures would make an interesting display and form an important part of the on-going programme of consolidation and display works on the rest of the castle. Good interpretation of the structures and other features may be possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of material to be removed from the site. Once exposed the structures and other deposits would be vulnerable, despite consolidation. The medieval features are better protected by being re-covered and left undisturbed. A walkway around the perimeter wall would be required to keep visitors off the structures. Cost of excavation.
Backfilling the site and providing interpretative material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The medieval structures and deposits are protected. No walkway would be needed. More scope for developing the area as a viewing platform, garden or seating area. No need for costly excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less archaeologically interesting. Interpretation is only partial, although, there is no guarantee that further works would provide any more information regarding the form and use of the structures.
Partial exposure of the structures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows some of the structures and deposits to be viewed while protecting the majority of the site. No need for further excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exposed features would still be vulnerable. Interpretation would be difficult. Safety factors would be a concern. It would provide less room for viewing and seating arrangements.

Table 1: summary of options

It must be noted that the above comments are not definitive and are intended for discussion only. Any decisions regarding the future of the site will be made between Carmarthenshire County Council and Cadw.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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& Allen B D the Shell-Keep.* Cambria Archaeology report. Llandeilo.

CARMARTHEN CASTLE. PRN 57. 1997

THE FINDS:

Summary notes only:

Total assemblage: 309 sherds of pottery recovered.

Medieval:

Fabric Range:

Continental (Saintonge, South-West France); English (Ham-Green, Bristol); Unclassified (French/English); 'Local' (Dyfed Gravel-tempered Ware; possible Newport products and Llanstephan-type (estuarine) calcareous fabrics) .

Form and Date:

Glazed jugs predominate. There are very few sherds from cooking pots/jars.

Saintonge fabric types represented: Mottled green-glazed (1250-1350+); All-over green (1250-1350+) and unglazed (Later medieval, 16th cent. See O'Mahoney, Greyfriars Report., p.34 for the dating of these, Unglazed types are found with glazed Saintonge wares at the kiln sites and would appear to have been made from the start of production) One sherd is tentatively identified as early polychrome (context [043]) , with suggested date of c.1280-1320.

A handful of sherds from Ham-Green (Bristol area) jugs are present. The accepted date range is late 12th-late 13th century.

A number of green and yellow-glazed sherds remain unclassified. The finer of these are possibly Saintonge fabrics whilst the sandier fabrics are probable English imports. They include sherds from painted jugs (Cf. Wiston Castle archive report for similar, Brennan).

Local wares comprise a few sherds from cooking pots and sparsely-glazed jugs. They are in the distinctive 'local' gravel-tempered fabric. There is no typological sequence and so vessels are normally dated by association with other wares.

Vessels in a calcareous slightly vesicular fabric are identified as being of Llanstephan type (Carmarthen estuarine). The suggested date range for these is mid/late 13th-14th cent.

Post-Medieval:

The post-medieval material comprises the usual range of fabrics found in Carmarthen ceramic assemblages. There is nothing new or extraordinary (See archive report).

CARMARTHEN CASTLE. PRN 57. DECEMBER 1997. FINDS

All categories by context: (***) Indicates Medieval material)

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [003]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 12

Sherd detail: 4 rim; 6 body; 1 handle; 1 base.

Form: Jars and jug.

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

Surface treatment: Glazed internally olive green or brown.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

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

(b) No. sherds: 11

Sherd detail: 3 rim; 8 body.

Form: Jars and bowl/dish..

Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.

Surface treatment: 6 with brown glaze internally; 2 with double brown glaze; 1 with double brown glaze and white slip-trail; 2 rim sherds unglazed.

Decoration: 1 sherd with white slip-trail banding.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 2 body; 1 base.

Form: Bottle; flask and jar.

Fabric: Stoneware.

Surface treatment: Glazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: English.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 3 body.

Form: Indeterminate.

Fabric: Banded creamware (earthenware body).

Surface treatment: Glazed.

Decoration: Zonal banding in white and dark brown on a buff ground; 1 with 'Mocha' decoration.

Source: Unsourced. Utility wares with this type of decoration are common and were produced on a large scale at many of the Potteries.

Date: The date range for these types is late 18th-20th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 10

Sherd detail: 4 rim; 6 body/base.

Form: Assorted tableware.

Fabric: 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.

(f) No. sherds: 11
Sherd detail: 2 rim: 9 body/base.
Form: Assorted tableware.
Fabric: 4 porcelain/bone china: 7 white earthenware.
Surface treatment: All-over glaze.
Decoration: Sprigged: painted: sponged: plain blue: plain white and pale buff-yellow (clear glaze on buff fabric).
Source: Unsourced (No surviving makers' marks). probably Staffordshire.
Date: 19th-20th cent.

GLASS:

(g) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 base frag.
Form: Phial.
Colour: Pale bluish-green with enamel-like surface weathering.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: The depth of basal kick indicates an 18th century date.

CLAY PIPES:

(h) No. frags: 11
Details: Plain stem fragments.
Date: 18th/19th cent.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(i) No. frags: 2
Details: Hand-made brick.
Fabric: Red earthenware.
Source: Probable local manufacture.
Date: 19th cent. ?.

(j) No. frags: 1
Details: Roofing (pan tile).
Fabric: Red earthenware.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 19th cent. ?.

ANIMAL BONE:

(k) No. frags: 12
Details: Assorted animal bone including 1 butchered fragment.

SHELL:

(l) No. frags: 2

Details: Oyster shell.

METAL:

(m) No. frags: 1

Details: 1 bent copper alloy (Ae) strip.

Date: Unknown (Requires conservation/further analysis).

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [008]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 3 ***

Sherd detail: 1 spout: 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: All 3 sherds have vertical applied strips.

Source: Saintonge, South West France.

Date: The main period of importation for mottled green glazed jugs was 1250-1350 although smaller quantities of the material were imported throughout the medieval period (O'Mahoney forthcoming, Greyfriars).

(b) No. sherds: 6 ***

Sherd detail: 1 rim: 5 body.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: As (a).

Surface treatment: 4 are unglazed: 2 have spots of pale greenish-yellow glaze.

Decoration: None.

Source: French, Saintonge?.

Date: 1250-1350+.

(c) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A fine close-grained off-white fabric with a pale grey core.

Contains sparse red-brown inclusions, occasional sands and a little fine mica. Thicker walled than both (a) and (b).

Surface treatment: 'All-over green' glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: French, Saintonge?.

Date: 13th/14th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 3 (1) ***

Sherd detail: 3 joining body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard pale buff fabric with a pale grey core. Tempered with frequent quartz sands and fewer reddish-brown and grey-black inclusions.

Surface treatment: Patchy olive green glaze over orange coloured slip externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unclassified English import.

Date: Medieval.

(e) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard off-white fabric, slightly vesicular with irregular-shaped surface voids. Contains occasional red-brown inclusions and sparse sands.
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally with darker horizontal band.

Decoration: Dark olive green band(s).

Source: Unclassified English import?.

Date: Medieval.

*** NB. Cf. sherds from earlier excavation, context [110] (a).

(f) No. sherds: 3 (2j) ***

Sherd detail: 2 joining body and one ?associated body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard buff-red fabric tempered with white and pink sands, occasional large quartzite grits and red gravels.

Surface treatment: Light brown glaze externally with copper green blotches.

Decoration: None.

Source: Uncertain though possibly a Malvern source.

Date: 15th cent ?.

(g) No. sherds: 4 ***

Sherd detail: 1 strap handle; 3 body.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: 'Local' fabrics. All are hard-fired with pinkish-buff surfaces. 3 with a reduced grey core. Tempered with frequent small gravels, red where oxidized and grey where reduced. Contains fewer sands.

Surface treatment: Patchy olive green to light brown glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval, all would appear to be late.

(h) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Cooking pot ?.

Fabric: 'Local' As (g).

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Decoration: None.

Source: West Wales.

Date: Medieval, probably late.

(i) No. sherds: 10

Sherd detail: 8 body; 2 base.

Form: Jars.

Fabric: North Devon GTW.

Surface treatment: Glazed internally olive green or brown; 1 sherd is glazed yellow (over a white slip) externally and olive green internally.

Decoration: None.

Source: North Devon.

Date: 17th/18th cent.

(j) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 rim.

Form: Bowl.

Fabric: North Devon fabric containing few quartz grits and white calcareous inclusions.

Surface treatment: Yellow glaze on inside over white slip.

Decoration: Sgraffito in the form of running 'S'-marks (Cf. O'Mahoney forthcoming. Greyfriars Type fabric B43).

Date: 17th century.

(k) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 4 body.

Form: Jar ?.

Fabric: A hard red earthenware with sparse red inclusions and few sands.

Surface treatment: All with mid to dark brown glaze internally, 2 with same coloured glaze externally though patchy and slightly metallic.

Source: Unclassified.

Date: Post-medieval.

(l) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 2 body; 2 base.

Form: Dish or bowl.

Fabric: A hard red earthenware with occasional quartz grits.

Surface treatment: Light brown glaze internally with yellow (over white slip) slip-trail decoration.

Decoration: Slip-trail.

Source: Unsourced though probably Welsh.

Date: 18th or 19th cent.

(m) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Tankard ?.

Fabric: A hard-fired red earthenware with no visible inclusions.

Surface treatment: Lustrous black glaze inside and out.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 18th or 19th cent.

(n) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 1 rim with pie-crust edge; 2 body.

Form: Press-moulded dishes.

Fabric: A hard buff fabric with frequent red and off-white inclusions.

Surface treatment: Yellow over white slip with brown slip-trail.

Decoration: Slip-trail.

Source: Staffordshire or Bristol.

Date: Late 17th-early 18th cent.

(o) No. sherds: 2

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 1 body.

Form: Plate and indeterminate tableware.

Fabric: White earthenware.

Surface treatment: All-over glaze.

Decoration: Blue transfer prints: 1 shell edged; 1 landscape design.

Source: Unsourced though probably Staffordshire.

Date: 19th cent.

(p) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Indeterminate utility ware.

Fabric: Buff-coloured earthenware.

Surface treatment: Buff-yellow glaze on outside and white inside.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th/20th cent.

GLASS:

(q) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 base.

Form: Bottle.

Colour: Light olive green.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(r) No. frags: 4

Details: Plain stem fragments. 1 with spur.

Date: 18th/19th cent.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(s) No. frags: 1

Details: Ridge tile.

Fabric: A hard red sandy fabric with a reduced grey core.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 15th/16th cent. ?.

(t) No. frags: 1

Details: Roofing (pan tile).

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Source: Unsourced.

Date: 19th cent. ?.

(u) No. frags: 2

Details: Hand-made bricks.

Fabric: Red earthenware.

Source: Probably local manufacture.

Date: 19th cent. ?.

ANIMAL BONE:

(v) No. frags: 35

Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(w) No. frags: 1

Details: Oyster shell.

METAL:

(x) No. frags: 1
Details: 1 large iron nail.
Date: Unknown, detail obscured by corrosion.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [011]

POTTERY:

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

(b) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate - usual forms are jugs, tankards and chamber pots.
Fabric: Creamware.
Surface treatment: Glazed.
Decoration: Blue 'mocha' pattern on white ground.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Late 18th-20th cent. (See context [003]).

GLASS:

(c) No. sherds: 1
Form: Stopper.
Colour: Bluish-green.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Late 19th/20th cent.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [012]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 2 *** See contexts [008] (a) & [018] (a).
Sherd detail: 2 body.
Form: Jugs.
Fabric: A fine close-grained off-white fabric. As context [008] (a) & (b).
One sherd has more sand inclusions.
Surface treatment: Mottled green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: French ?. Saintonge ?.
Date: 1250-1350+.

(b) No. sherds: 8 ***
Sherd detail: 8 body.
Form: Jugs ?.
Fabric: As (a).

Surface treatment: 5 sherds unglazed; 1 sherd with spots of yellow glaze externally; 2 sherds with yellow glaze externally
Source: French ?.
Date: 1250-1350+.

(c) No. sherds: 20 ***

Sherd detail: 20 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard off-white fabric with buff interior. Tempered with sands, red-brown and occasional black inclusions.

Surface treatment: Yellow glaze with copper green blotches externally and brown horizontal bands.

Decoration: Broad brown bands within horizontal grooves.

Source: Unclassified English import?.

Date: Medieval.

(d) No. sherds: 4 ***

Sherd detail: 4 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard off-white fabric, slightly vesicular with irregular-shaped voids, contains occasional red-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: Remains of poorly fired glaze externally.

Decoration: As (c).

Source: Unclassified English import?.

Date: Medieval.

(e) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard off-white fabric tempered with quartz sands and a little red material.

Surface treatment: Pale yellow glaze externally with copper green staining.

Source: Unclassified French or English ?.

Date: Medieval.

(f) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 strap-handle.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard buff fabric with few quartz sands and occasional white and red inclusions.

Surface treatment: Clear glaze appearing off-white.

Source: Unclassified French or English ?.

Date: Medieval.

(f) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body; 1 base.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, pinkish-buff with a reduced blue-grey core. Tempered with numerous fine sands, occasional grey-black and red-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: Mottled olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: Band of horizontal grooves on body.

Source: Ham Green, Bristol.

Date: Late 12th-late 13th cent.

(g) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: Similar to (f).

Surface treatment: 1 sherd with olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Ham Green, Bristol ?.

Date: Late 12th-late 13th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 10 ***

Sherd detail: 2 rim; 8 body.

Form: Jug(s).

Fabric: A very hard, slightly vesicular fabric, grey with a buff interior. Tempered with quartz sands, grey-black (in reduced areas) and red (in oxidized areas) inclusions.

Surface treatment: Olive green glaze with iron staining.

Decoration: Broad pale yellow glazed band at girth between horizontal grooves.

Source: Unclassified English import ?.

Date: Medieval.

(i) No. sherds: 7 ***

Sherd detail: 1 rim; 6 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A very hard-fired fabric, grey with buff to pink surfaces. Tempered with numerous tiny white calcareous inclusions.

Surface treatment: All-over olive green glaze externally not fully covering the rim.

Decoration: Horizontal grooves.

Source: Llanstephan type, Carmarthen estuarine.

Date: Mid/late 13th-14th cent.

(j) No. sherds: 4

Sherd detail: 4 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: As (i) but slightly vesicular.

Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: 1 sherd with slight cordon.

Source: Llanstephan type, Carmarthen estuarine.

Date: Mid/late 13th-14th cent.

(k) No. sherds: 3 ***

Sherd detail: 3 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: As (i) but sandy in texture with fewer white calcareous inclusions.

Surface treatment: Dark olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Llanstephan type ?.

Date: Mid-late 13th-14th cent ?.

(l) No. sherds: 11 ***

Sherd detail: 3 rim; 6 body; 2 base.

Form: Cooking pots.

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

Surface treatment: Unglazed. 3 sherds sooted externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

(m) No. sherds: 10 ***
Sherd detail: 10 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: 'Local' ware. very hard-fired with dark blue-grey core and buff-orange interior. Tempered with red and grey gravels.
Surface treatment: A gritty dark olive green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

(n) No. sherds: 5 ***
Sherd detail: 4 body; 1 thumb-pressed base.
Form: Jugs.
Fabric: 'Local' GTW.
Surface treatment: Olive green to brown glazes externally. base sherd unglazed.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval/Transitional.

(o) No. sherds: 6 ***
Sherd detail: 4 body; 2 base.
Form: Jugs.
Fabric: Unclassified oxidised fabrics.
Surface treatment: Thin and patchy brown glazes externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Uncertain. 'Local' ?.
Date: Medieval/Transitional.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(p) No. frags: 1
Details: Ridge tile ?.
Fabric: 'Local' GTW.
Surface treatment: Upper surface lost.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Medieval.

(q) No. frags: 1 *** (Check Greyfriars floor tile report for type number and date range).
Details: Plain floor tile.
Fabric: A hard pinkish-buff fabric. Tempered with fine sands, larger quartz grits and occasional red inclusions.
Surface treatment: Traces of bright copper green glaze on edge.
Source: French. Normandy ?.
Date: Medieval. 15th/16th cent. This type was found at Greyfriars.

(r) No. frags: 2
Details: Brick frags.
Fabric: Hard-fired red clay.

Source: Unknown.
Date: Uncertain, nothing diagnostic.

ANIMAL BONE:

(s) No. frags: 418
Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(t) No. frags: 1
Details: Oyster shell.

METAL:

(u) No. frags: 1
Details: Strip of lead/clipping.
Date: Medieval ?.

(v) No. frags: 1
Details: Strap fragment, detail obscured by corrosion.
Date: ?. (requires conservation/x-radiography).

(w) No. frags: 3
Details: 3 nail fragments.
Date: ?.

CONTEXT: CSS K 2 [013]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A fine, close-grained off-white fabric. Micaceous with sparse fine sands.
Surface treatment: Mottled green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Saintonge, South West France.
Date: 1250-1350+.

(b) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: A close-grained off-white fabric with sparse red inclusions and occasional sands. Few small voids. Thicker walled than (a).
Surface treatment: pale yellowish-green glaze.
Source: Unclassified English or French.
Date: Medieval.

(c) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A hard off-white to light grey fabric tempered with frequent quartz sands, grey-black and occasional red inclusions.

Surface treatment: Patchy olive green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unclassified English.
Date: Medieval.

(d) No. sherds: 3 ***
Sherd detail: 2 body; 1 base.
Form: Jugs.
Fabric: Hard-fired calcareous fabrics, all have buff-orange surfaces with a reduced grey core. 2 sherds are slightly vesicular, 1 is sandier in texture.
Surface treatment: Body sherds have an olive green glaze externally; Base sherd is unglazed.
Decoration: 1 body sherd with horizontal grooves.
Source: Llanstephan type, Carmarthen estuarine.
Date: Mid/late 13th-14th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 2 ***
Sherd detail: 2 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A hard grey fabric with pinkish-buff interior. Tempered with fine sands and few small grey and red gravels.
Surface finish: Olive green glaze externally.
Source: 'Local', West Wales.
Date: Medieval/Transitional ?.

(f) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 rim.
Form: Cooking pot.
Fabric: 'Local' GTW.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Source: West Wales.
Date: Late Medieval ?.

(g) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A hard pale grey fabric with buff-orange interior surface. Tempered with frequent fine sands, sparse grey gravels and occasional small white inclusions.
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally with copper green blotches.
Source: Unclassified English import.
Date: Medieval.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(h) No. frags: 1
Details: Brick/tile frag.
Fabric: A hard orange-red fabric tempered with quartz grits, red and black gravels and occasional white inclusions. Slightly micaceous.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: ?.

ANIMAL BONE:

(1) No. frags: 39
Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(1) No. frags: 2
Details: Oyster shell.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [014]

ANIMAL BONE:

(a) No. frags: 9.
Details: Assorted animal bone.

METAL:

No. frags: 1
Details: 1 iron nail.
Date: ?.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [016]

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(a) No. frags: 1
Details: 1 hand-made brick fragment.
Date: 18th/19th cent. ?.

ANIMAL BONE:

(b) No. frags: 34
Details: Assorted animal bone.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [017]

ANIMAL BONE:

(a) No. frags: 15
Details: Assorted animal bone.

METAL:

(b) No. frags: 5
Details: 5 nails. Detail obscured by corrosion.
Date: ?.

CONTEXT: CCS K2 [018]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 3 ***

Sherd detail: 3 body.

Form: Jug(s).

Fabric: A fine close-grained off-white fabric with few visible inclusions, micaceous.

Surface treatment: Mottled green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Saintonge, South West France.

Date: 1250-1350+. See contexts [008] (a) and [012] (a). for the same.

(b) No. sherds: 2 ***

Sherd detail: 2 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: As (a).

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Source: Saintonge, South West France.

Date: 1250-1350+.

(c) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: Similar to (a) but buff in colour and with occasional small red inclusions.

Surface treatment: Unglazed.

Source: French, Saintonge ?.

Date: 1250-1350+.

(d) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, pinkish-buff with a reduced blue-grey core. Tempered with fine sands and occasional grey-black inclusions.

Surface treatment: Mottled olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Ham Green, Bristol ?.

Date: Late 12th-late 13th cent. See context [012] (f) & (g).

(e) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A very hard-fired fabric, grey with orange interior surface.

Tempered with numerous small white calcareous inclusions, the inner surface having many tiny voids. Contains occasional red-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: Greenish-brown glaze externally.

Decoration: Horizontal grooves.

Source: Llanstephan type, Carmarthen estuarine ?.

Date: Mid/late 13th-14th cent. ?.

(f) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard reduced fabric with buff-orange interior surface. Tempered with fine sands, occasional quartzite grits and few black inclusions.

Surface treatment: Dark green glaze externally.

Source: Unclassified English import ?.

Date: Medieval/Transitional.

(g) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard reduced fabric with buff interior. Tempered with frequent quartz sands.

Surface treatment: Dark olive green glaze externally.

Source: Unclassified English import ?.

Date: Medieval/Transitional.

(h) No. sherds: 6

Sherd detail: 6 body.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: Hard-fired oxidized fabrics tempered with occasional quartzite grits and red-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: A thin patchy brown glaze externally.

Decoration: Shoulder grooves.

Source: Unclassified.

Date: Transitional ?.

(i) No. sherds: 1

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jar ?.

Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, oxidized throughout.

Surface treatment: Brown glaze internally.

Decoration: Girth grooves.

Source: Unclassified.

Date: Post-medieval, 18th/19th cent.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(j) No. frags: 1 ***

Details: Tile.

Fabric: 'Local', tempered with quartz sands, larger grits and red-brown gravels.

Surface treatment: Fragment only, no glaze visible.

Source: West Wales, possibly Newport.

Date: 15th/16th cent., possibly earlier.

ANIMAL BONE:

(k) No. frags: 12

Details: Assorted animal bone.

METAL:

(l) No. frags: 25

Details: 22 indeterminate lumps (some are possibly iron slag); 2 iron nails; 1 bent U-shaped object of square section.
Date: Unknown, detail obscured by corrosion.

SLAG/HEARTH MATERIAL:

(m) No. frags: 2
Details: Burnt material, hearth material ?.
Date: Unknown.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [026]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A hard sandy fabric, grey with a buff-orange interior surface. Tempered with fine sands and sparse white ?calcareous inclusions.
Surface treatment: Shiny dark green glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Unclassified English import ?.
Date: Late medieval/Transitional.

ANIMAL BONE:

(b) No. frags: 12
Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(c) No. frags: 2
Details: Oyster shell.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [032]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A hard fabric, blue-grey with buff interior surface. Tempered with occasional white and red-brown inclusions and some fine sands.
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze externally with iron staining.
Decoration: Vertical slashes/grooves pre-glazing.
Source: Ham Green, Bristol.
Date: Late 12th-late 13th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 7
Sherd detail: 4 body; 3 base.
Form: Jars.
Fabric: North Devon GTW.
Surface treatment: Olive green and brown glazes: 2 are double glazed; 4 with internal glaze; 1 unglazed.

Source: North Devon.
Date: 17th/18th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 4
Sherd detail: 1 body; 3 base.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Miscellaneous red earthenware.
Surface treatment: 1 with dark brown glaze inside and out; 3 unglazed.
Source: Unclassified.
Date: Post-medieval, nothing very diagnostic.

(d) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 base.
Form: Bottle.
Fabric: Grey Stoneware.
Surface treatment: Brown salt-glaze externally.
Source: English.
Date: 19th/early 20th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 11
Sherd detail: 3 rim; 8 body.
Form: Assorted tableware.
Fabric: 10 White earthenware; 1 porcelain/bone china.
Surface treatment: All-over glaze.
Decoration: Comprising blue and black transfer-printed designs; painted; painted pink lustre; banded and plain.
Source: Unsourced, probably Staffordshire.
Date: 19th/20th cent.

GLASS:

(f) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Bottle.
Colour: Natural-coloured pale blue with iridescent surface weathering.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: 18th/19th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(g) No. frags: 2
Details: Plain stem fragments.
Date: 18th/19th cent.

ANIMAL BONE:

(h) No. frags: 10
Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(i) No. frags: 2
Details: 1 oyster shell; 1 bivalve.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [033]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

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.

Date: 1250-1350+.

(b) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: As (a) but thicker walled.

Surface treatment: Mottled green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Saintonge ?, South West France.

Date: 1250-1350+.

(c) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body/base.

Form: Jug ?.

Fabric: A hard pinkish fabric tempered with frequent quartz sands (stained pink) and occasional quartzite grits.

Surface treatment: Bright yellow glaze externally.

Source: Unclassified French or English.

Date: Medieval.

(d) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 frilled base.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard reduced fabric, grey with buff surfaces. Tempered with fine sands, occasional white chalky (calcareous?) inclusions and few black gravels.

Surface treatment: Green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unclassified, English import.

(e) No. sherds: 1 ***

Sherd detail: 1 body.

Form: Jug.

Fabric: A hard-fired fabric, bluish-grey with deep pink interior. Contains few fine sands as well as occasional black and red-brown inclusions.

Surface treatment: A thin olive green glaze externally.

Decoration: None.

Source: Unclassified, possibly 'Local'.

Date: Late Medieval/Transitional.

(f) No. sherds: 3

Sherd detail: 3 body.

Form: Jugs.

Fabric: Miscellaneous oxidized fabrics, hard-fired and slightly sandy.

Surface treatment: Thin patchy brown glazes externally.

Decoration: 1 sherd with horizontal girth grooves.

Source: Unclassified.

Date: Late Medieval/Transitional.

ANIMAL BONE:

(g) No. frags: 56
Details: Assorted animal bone.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [035]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 12
Sherd detail: 3 rim (1 with pulled rod handle); 8 body; 1 base.
Form: Bowls and jars.
Fabric: North Devon GTW.
Surface treatment: Glazed light brown or olive green internally.
Decoration: None.
Source: North Devon.
Date: 17th/18th cent.

(b) No. sherds: 5
Sherd detail: 1 rim; 4 body.
Form: 1 Dish and indeterminate.
Fabric: Miscellaneous oxidized (red earthenware) fabrics.
Surface treatment: Dish rim has dark brown glaze internally with yellow slip-trail decoration; 1 body sherd with light brown internal glaze; 3 body sherd are unglazed.
Decoration: Dish has slip-trail decoration.
Source: Unsourced.
Date: Post-medieval, 18th/19th cent.

(c) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body with part handle.
Form: Tankard.
Fabric: A very hard-fired fabric, dark red with no visible inclusions.
Surface treatment: Lustrous black glaze inside and out.
Source: Staffordshire.
Date: 18th/early 19th cent.

(d) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate, possible cup/custard cup.
Fabric: Buff earthenware with few fine sands, occasional black and white inclusions.
Surface treatment: Mottled brown glaze internally, the same coloured glaze only partially covers the exterior.
Decoration: None.
Source: Staffordshire/Bristol.
Date: 18th cent.

(e) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: Buff earthenware.
Surface treatment: Tin-glaze.
Decoration: Nothing visible.
Source: English, possibly Bristol.
Date: Late 17th/18th cent.

(f) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Indeterminate.
Fabric: White stoneware.
Surface treatment: White salt-glaze.

Decoration: None.
Source: Staffordshire.
Date: 18th cent.

(g) No. sherds: 1
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Bottle.
Fabric: Grey stoneware.
Surface treatment: Brown salt-glaze.
Decoration: None.
Source: English, Fulham ?..
Date: 18th/19th cent.

(h) No. sherds: 26
Sherd detail: 5 rim; 21 body/base.
Form: Assorted tableware.
Fabric: Cream and white-bodied earthenware.
Surface treatment: All-over glaze.
Decoration: Blue transfer-printed designs mainly comprising
'chinoiserie' patterns; blue shell-edged; brown-painted
'chinoiserie'; banded and plain.
Source: Unclassified though probably Staffordshire.
Date: Late 18th and 19th cent.

GLASS:

(i) No. frags: 3
Details: 1 complete medicine bottle (embossed Dr. Armstrong's Tonic
Tablets); 1 neck and ?associated body sherd from 'cylindrical' wine
bottle.
Colour: Medicine: Clear colourless; Wine bottle: dark olive green.
Source: Wine bottle probably Bristol-made.
Date: Post-medieval. 19th/early 20th cent.

CLAY PIPES:

(j) No. frags: 14
Details: 13 plain stem fragments; 1 part bowl with spur.
Date: 18th/19th cent.

WORKED BONE:

(k) No. frags: 1
Details: Cutlery (knife) handle.
Date: 19th cent ?.

RUBBER:

(l) No. frags: 1
Details: Moulded rubber cap. Embossed 'GPO'.
Date: 20th cent.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

(m) No. frags: 20
Details: Hand-made brick.
Fabric: Red earthenware.
Source: Probable local manufacture.
Date: 19th cent ?.

METAL:

(n) No. frags: 2

Details: Indeterminate, detail obscured by corrosion.
Date: ?.

ANIMAL BONE:

(o) No. frags: 81
Details: Assorted animal bone.

SHELL:

(p) No. frags: 3
Details: Oyster shell.

CONTEXT: CCS K 2 [043]

POTTERY:

(a) No. sherds: 1 ***
Sherd detail: 1 body.
Form: Jug.
Fabric: A fine close-grained off-white fabric with no visible inclusions, slightly micaceous.
Surface treatment: Yellowish-green glaze externally with dark brown ?painted decoration.
Decoration: Painted (sherd too small to determine design).
Source: Saintonge polychrome ?.
Date: 1280-1320 (See O'Mahoney forthcoming, Greyfriars).

ANIMAL BONE:

No. frags: 2
Details: Assorted animal bone.

MISCELLANEOUS CERAMIC:

No. frags: 2
Details: Indeterminate brick/tile.