THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

St Michael's Church, Abergele

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

CPAT Report No 775

St Michael's Church, Abergele

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I Grant
June 2006

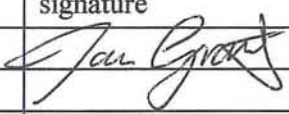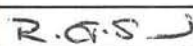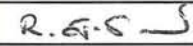Report for Reverend Shirley Griffiths,
St Michaels's Church
Abergele

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1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited in the spring of 2005 to undertake limited research excavations at the church of St Michael in Abergele by the incumbent, the Reverend Shirley Griffiths. A faculty for the work was granted by the chancellor of the diocese of St Asaph in the summer of 2005 and two periods of excavation were conducted, in early September 2005 and in April 2006. The work was designed from the start as a training excavation for local volunteers and students from Abergele College.

2   HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1   St Michael's church lies in the centre of Abergele, (SH 9454 7764), a small market town which was formerly in the historic county of Denbighshire and is now in the eastern part of Conwy County Borough. The church is an imposing one with twin naves and a west tower, and there are good reasons to believe that the first building on the site may have been a *clas* or mother church, the most important in the district. In the fabric there is little to suggest how the church developed, although the tower appears to be of a different build to the body of the church. All have Perpendicular features, though most have been renewed or replaced. It is possible but far from proven that the naves are earlier than the tower, one or other of the former perhaps being 14th-century with Perpendicular remodelling, the tower probably 16th-century. The church retains its medieval roofs, and contains some medieval sepulchral fragments and one 14th-century slab, a few fragments of medieval glass, the lower parts of the rood screen and a Perpendicular font stem. Later fittings include a 17th-century pulpit, a wooden chest and a good range of monuments. The churchyard is rectangular and raised on the east side, but there is a hint of an earlier curvilinear churchyard around the church.

3   EXCAVATIONS (2005- 2006)

3.1   The excavations carried out at St Michael's, totalling three weeks work on site, began as noted above in September 2005 for one week and continued in mid April 2006 for a further two weeks. During the project up to fifteen students and numerous enthusiastic volunteers, including the Reverend Shirley Griffiths, took the opportunity to hone their archaeological excavation skills under the direction of the writer and with additional supervision provided by Miss Julie Ellis of Abergele College. The following report encompasses the combined results of the two excavations and for purposes of continuity includes elements of an interim statement report that was issued by the writer in January 2006.

3.2   Phase one of the excavations in September 2005 and continuing into the second season focused on the south side of the nave, where the remnants of a structure variously interpreted as a medieval chapel or priest's house existed. Phase two included a separate area of excavation at the east end of the north side of the church. Here the focus was an area of vaulted masonry, previously unrecorded until uncovered by workmen in 2005.

3.3   The main area of excavation (Phase one) included an isolated length of surviving masonry wall running east to west and the two rubble 'buttresses' protruding from the south nave wall. Consideration had to be given to the possibility of medieval deposits such as internal floor levels and external churchyard (burial) layers, surviving to the north and south of the isolated wall. This dictated that a good sample of this area should be included within the bounds of the overall area to be excavated. A footpath constructed from relocated gravestones and graveslabs traversed the site from east to west, conveniently splitting the site into two areas of excavation, Area A encompassing the 'buttresses' and Area B containing the isolated wall. The final area excavated, 110m², is illustrated in Fig. 1 showing the outline of the main features on site at the
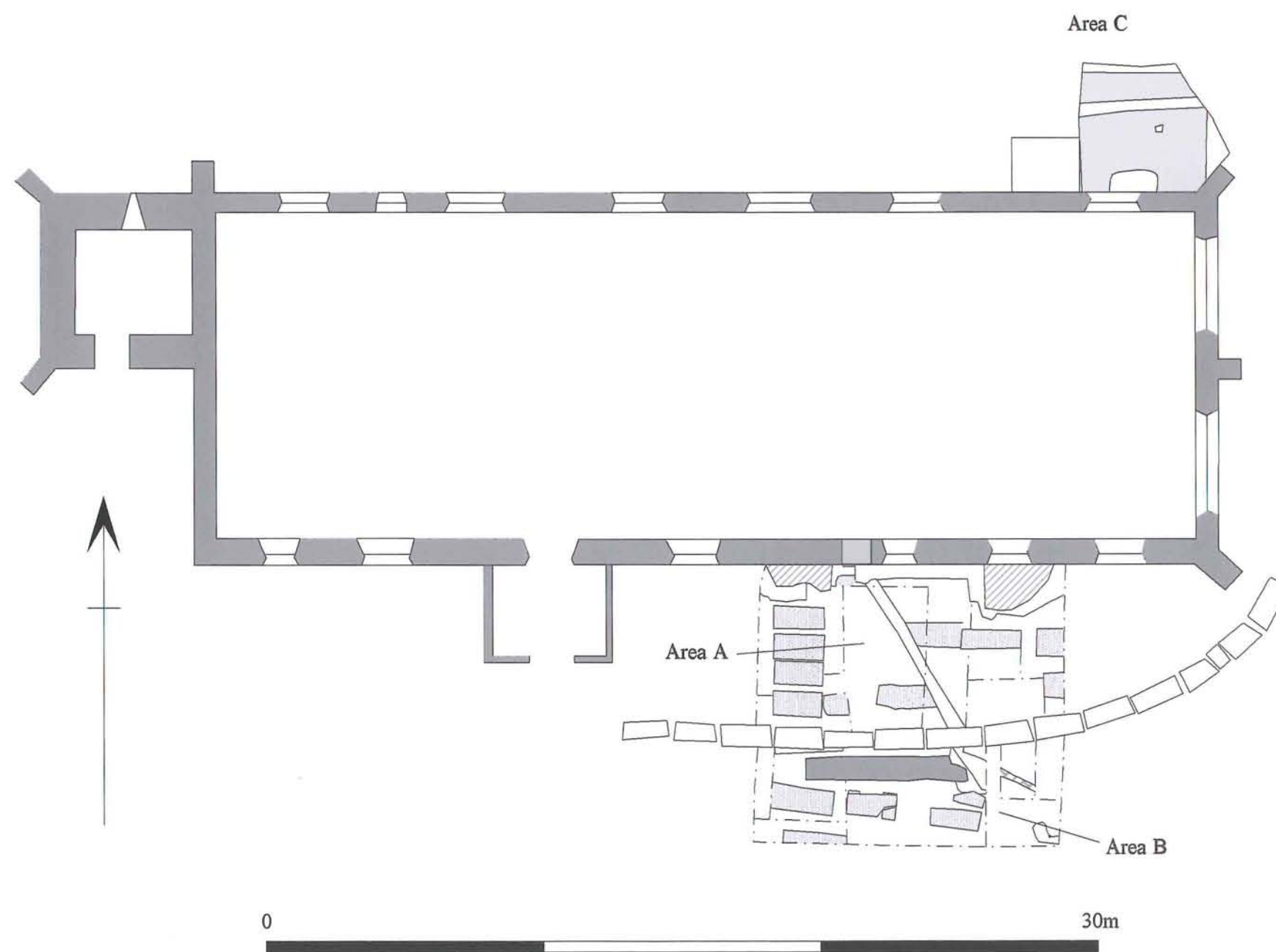
Fig. 1 St Michael's Church, Abergele: location of excavation trenches 2005 and 2006, scale 1:200
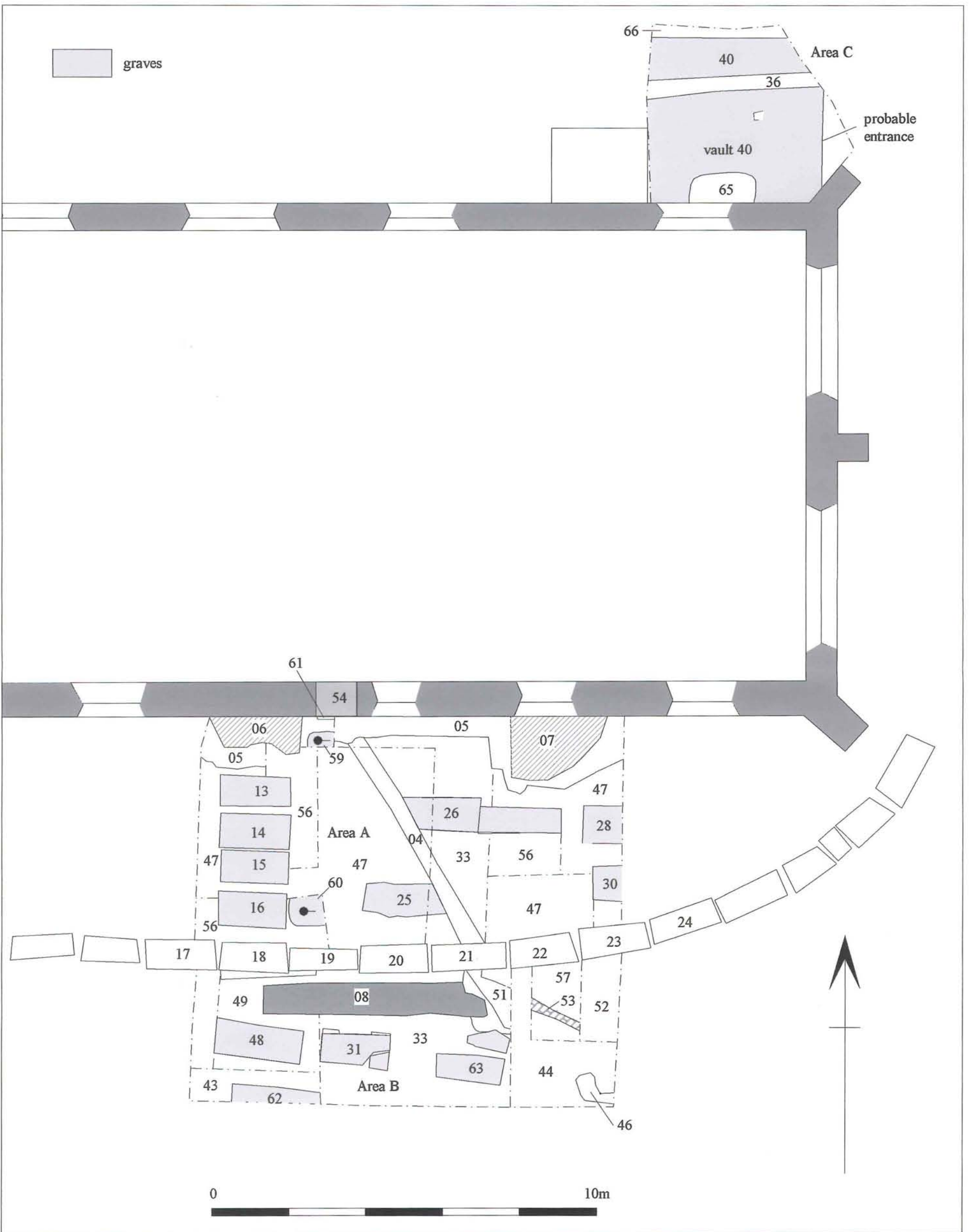
Fig. 2 Plan of excavations 2005-2006, scale 1:100

graves

66

40

Area C

36

probable
entrance

vault 40

65

61

54

06

05

05

59

13

56

Area A

05

07

47

26

28

14

47

04

33

56

30

47

15

47

60

25

47

24

16

56

23

17

18

19

20

21

22

57

49

08

51

53

52

48

31

33

44

63

43

Area B

62

46

0   10m

end of the three weeks' excavation. Phase two, encompassing a total area of 4.5m² and also outlined on Fig. 1, is marked as 'Area C'. The numbers in brackets illustrated on the site plan, and also included in the text that follows, refer to the individual contexts (or elements) which were either features, or layers within features, that were identified during the excavation.

3.4   The process of excavation within a churchyard can be quite sensitive owing to the obvious (and not so obvious) presence of human burials. Consequently site etiquette required that all of the excavated material had to be removed by hand. This included the time-consuming task of removing and storing on site the turf and other excavated materials for reconsolidation (Fig. 3).

Areas A and B – Season 2005

3.5.1 The combined depth of turf and topsoil (01) was approximately 0.15m. Within this material there was the opportunity to recover a wide array of dateable artefacts such as iron roofing and funerary nails, coins, ceramics, bottle glass, pipe-clay and other miscellaneous finds, most of which could be dated to the 19th century. The process of human burial, especially during the late post medieval period (18th/19th-century) often disturbed earlier burials, structures and floor levels. As a consequence, many earlier dateable artefacts survive in the grave backfills and subsequent overburden. St Michael's churchyard was no exception to this practice and the initial deposits revealed glimpses of earlier periods of occupation. Two examples are a green opaque glass bead of 1st-century AD Roman origin, a copper-alloy bronze pin from a medieval annular brooch and a decorated bronze belt mount, both of 12th/13th-century origin (See Fig. 20). The recovery of these artefacts, together with extensive quantities of disarticulated human bone demonstrated the need carefully to filter through all the excavated material.

Fig. 3 Removal of turf. Note the in-situ burials and the footpath that dictated the layout of the site excavation – Areas A and B. Photo CPAT 2007-001

3.5.2 The removal of the topsoil revealed a number of fairly modern features cut into the underlying spread of stone and dark grey-brown sandy silt (02). Alongside the nave wall, a surface-water drain backfilled with white stone chippings (05) now separates the 'buttresses' from the rest of Area A. Where necessary, the drain was removed revealing undisturbed cemetery deposits dating to the 17th century. Traversing Area A from south-east to north-west was an earlier drain (04) containing 19th-century artefacts, human bone, painted plaster fragments, nails, pipe clay and a pewter button. Further excavation revealed that the drain was part of a 20th-century soakaway related to a large pit (51) that was revealed in Area B just to the east of, and partially truncating, the medieval wall (08). Both features have also undoubtedly disturbed a number of burials in the area.

3.5.3 Alongside the western edge of Area A there were four 18th-century grave memorial stones (13-16), all in their original positions south of the stone buttress (06) (Fig. 4). Their impact upon the surrounding deposits needed to be isolated and so all subsequent debris and backfill was removed from around them. At this point we still did not know the full extent of the burial disturbance in the area. Large quantities of silty sand and stone up to 0.15m in depth (02), had to be removed off site. Although this material was of post-medieval origin, reflected in the large quantities of ceramics and pipe clay recovered, it contained also a quantity of finds (detailed in section 4) covering earlier periods of occupation; possibly Roman, early medieval (9th/10th-century), medieval (13th/14th-century) and early17[th]-century. Removal of this spread of material revealed fragmented sandstone and limestone within a matrix of light grey silt (33) covering a further six burials (25-30), of post-medieval origin. At least two of these (28 & 30), located immediately south-east of the stone buttress (07), were marked by the remains of slate plinths containing positioning slots, presumably for the attachment of since removed upstanding memorials. The fragmented layer appeared to resemble the construction material of both the wall (08) and the buttresses (06 & 07) indicating possible disturbed demolition layers of medieval material.

Fig. 4 Memorial stones (13-16), Area A. Modern drainage (04) can be seen in the background
Photo CPAT 2007-010

3.5.4 In Area B the initial cleaning process improved the definition of the isolated east to west wall (08) and exposed further masonry at the east end of the wall with no indication of a terminal to the structure. At this stage the structure consisted of three exposed courses of stonework, constructed predominantly from slate with a mixture of limestone and sandstone core bonded with lime mortar. A sondage (or test pit) excavated at the west of the wall revealed further courses of stonework, indicating a possible west end, although further excavation would have to be undertaken to clarify this (Fig. 5). One more post medieval grave (31) was identified during this process.

3.5.5 As an additional note, during the removal of bedding material from the north side of the wall (08) it became apparent that at least two of the memorial stones (18 and 19), re-used in the construction of the path, were covering a brick vaulted burial (50) containing articulated human remains of two people buried in the late 18th century.

3.5.6 This concluded the first seasons excavation (Phase one) and a covering of geotextile material was placed across both Areas A and B (ensuring the underlying deposits would not be contaminated by late post-medieval deposits). All of the previously excavated material was incorporated into the backfilling and re-turfing the site.

Fig. 5 Medieval (?) masonry wall (08) and sondage, Area B, Phase one 2005. The slate memorial stone (31) can be seen in the centre. Photo CPAT 2007-025

Areas A and B – Season 2006

3.6.1 As before, all of the turf and underlying material that was excavated was stored on site for reconsolidation at the end of the excavation. The geotextile cover was removed and a rapid clean back of the site followed in order to prepare the site for Phase two of the excavations. Initially the immediate priority was to remove all of the fragmented rubble (33) that covered

parts of both Areas A and B. However it quickly became apparent (due to the depth of the deposit, up to 0.23m thick, and large quantities of disarticulated human bone and recovered 18/19th-century artefacts) that this was a task that would waste valuable resources and time and so the process became more selective, targeting areas that would yield more immediate dateable information about the underlying deposits and structures. The careful removal of the deposit was not without its rewards as further fragments of 13/14th and 15th-century medieval pottery, together with later pewter buttons and coinage, were recovered.

3.6.2 Within Area A an underlying deposit (47), up to 0.4m thick, of fine grey silt mixed with occasional slate roofing tiles of medieval origin, 17th-century coinage and ceramics suggested an earlier build up of demolition layers disturbed by post-medieval burials. The process of selective removal of these deposits continued, focusing on the areas to the south of the 'buttresses' (06 and 07). Further test pits revealed another demolition/burial deposit (56) underlying the 17th-century soils. One in-situ, articulated burial (60), of unknown date, was recorded at this level. Located to the south-west of the burial was a large fragment of masonry, of probable medieval origin, that had been re-used to underpin the 18th-century tombstone (16) (See Fig. 6). Unfortunately, no further evidence of the 'buttresses' were recorded in this area and a similar test pit at the east end of the site failed to establish a satisfactory Medieval ground level across the central area of Area A, owing to the quantity of post-medieval overburden.

Fig. 6 In-situ articulated burial (60). Medieval masonry block, top centre, underpinning the later 18th-century tombstone (16). Area A (2006). Photo CPAT 2007-059

Fig. 7 Finished level of excavation Area A (2006) as viewed from the east. One of the test pits through the post-medieval deposits shows centrally. Photo CPAT 2007-54

3.6.3 The large quantity of post-medieval overburden and disarticulated human bone proved to be a great hindrance with regards to establishing a medieval ground level and its relationship to the earlier construction levels of St Michael's church. To this end a decision was reached to excavate a test pit (0.9m²) immediately to the south of the blocked 'priest's door' (54), located along the south wall of the nave. Here, the post-medieval deposits were fairly shallow and at a depth of 0.36m below an adjacent modern drain, a ground level consisting of fine gritty silt (58) was recorded. The deposit pre-dates the layer 56 and it appears to be contemporary with the earlier foundations of the church. One in-situ articulated burial (59), of unknown date, was recorded at this level (See Fig. 8).

3.6.4 Whilst recording the position of the burial in relation to the 'priests door' (54) a remarkable chance discovery was made. Underpinning the blocked-up doorway was a previously unrecorded inscribed grave slab of medieval origin. The sandstone block (61), re-used as a threshold for the doorway, displayed decorative carvings consisting of an interweaved vine/floral pattern terminating in at least one 'tulip' style head. The decoration, consistent with 13th-century medieval gravestone carvings, was only partially visible (0.56m x 0.17m x 0.2m thick) and one can assume that a sizeable proportion of the memorial stone remains intact at the base of the doorway (See Fig. 9). Before the test pit was backfilled the carved stone and adjacent ground surface were covered with protective geotextile to faciliate future study.

Fig. 8 Test pit south of 'priest's doorway' (54). Original 'crude' church foundations visible together with an in-situ burial (59) and, under the doorway, the carved medieval grave slab (61). Photo CPAT 2007-062.

Fig. 9 Detail of the inscribed medieval artwork (probably 12/13th-century in origin) on the memorial stone (61). Photo CPAT 2007-064

3.6.5 Within Area B the initial clean back and removal of selective areas of the late post-medieval deposit 33 clearly demonstrated the existence of further in-situ 18th-century burials (31, 62 & 63) to the south of the 'medieval wall' (08) (See Fig. 2). No further excavation could be carried out in close proximity to the burials and so our attention was focused on the west and east ends of the site. At the eastern end it became clear that the modern soakaway pit 51(and associated pit 46 located at the south-east corner of the site) had truncated a large area of 18/19th-century deposits around the east end of the wall (08). Removal of the pit fills and the surrounding deposits (44 and 52) allowed further exploration of the extent of the wall (See Fig. 10). However, excavation came to an abrupt halt with the discovery of an 18th-century brick feature (53) at a depth of 0.74m below the level of the footpath. Once again, however, the process was not without reward as numerous fragments of medieval pottery, pewter buttons, coins and a small fragment of moulded sandstone were recovered.

3.6.6 At the western end of Area B the sondage (test pit) that had been dug in Phase one of the excavations was widened and continued to a depth of 0.5m below the original ground surface. Unfortunately, another 18th-century brick vaulted burial (48) was discovered abutting the south-west corner of the wall (08). This was cut through a deposit of fine grey silt interspersed with fragments of roofing slates (49), very similar to the deposit 47 in Area A. Although fragments of early window glass and three sherds of medieval 13/14th-century pottery were recovered from this deposit the additional discovery of a coin dated to around 1699 revealed this to be an in-situ 17th-century demolition/burial deposit (See Fig. 11). Because of the limited avaialble, no further excavations were carried out in Area B.

3.6.7 The excavations around the 'medieval wall' (08) did afford the opportunity to further record the dimensions and build of the structure, although it must be stated that the extent of the structure, including the depth of the footings, has yet to be established. At the final stage of our excavations the structure could be seen to consist of six exposed courses of stonework, constructed predominantly from slate with a mixture of limestone and sandstone core bonded with lime mortar. The wall stood to a height of 0.6m at the west end and 0.8m in the east. The overall width was 0.87m with a visible length of 6m. The curious terminal to the west end remains and there was no visible return either north or southwards. The possibility of the existence of a doorway at this end of the wall needs to be considered. The answer as to how much of the east end of the wall survives lies somewhere in or around the late post-medieval brick feature 53 and, unfortunately, this may be another 18/19th-century brick vault that has removed a large part of the medieval archaeology of St Michael's.

Fig. 10 Extent of the excavations around the east end of the medieval wall (08). In-situ post-medieval burial deposits left and right. Modern soakaway pit (51) in the foreground. Photo CPAT 2007-074

Fig. 11 Extent of the excavations around the west end of the medieval wall (08). Area B (2006). In-situ post-medieval burial (48) on the right. Photo CPAT 2007-65

Area C - Season 2006

3.7.1 As previously stated, Phase two of the excavations included a separate area of excavation located at the east end of the north side of the church focusing on an area of vaulted masonry, previously unrecorded until uncovered by workmen in 2005. Consequently an area of 4.5m² (Area C see Figs 1 and 2) was excavated with the aim of establishing the extent and nature of the structure together with its relationship to the adjacent church masonry. As with Areas A and B, all of the turf and excavated material was removed by hand and stored on site (See Fig. 12).

Fig. 12 Removal of turf in Area C, viewed from the north-east. North wall of the north nave e and chancel of St Michael's in the background. Photo CPAT 2007-038

3.7.2 During the removal of the topsoil, a dark brown mix of sandy clay up to 0.18m thick (34), it was evident that the area had been disturbed frequently in the last one hundred years. The modern overburden contained numerous quantities of 19th/20th-century pottery, glass, waste electrical and battery cables and the ever-present fragments of disarticulated human bone. Immediately underlying this deposit, orientated east to west, was a limestone/sandstone built structure with an arched 'barrel' roof (40). Apart from some minor disturbance to the east end and a small void in the roof created recently by workmen, the structure appeared to be intact (See Fig. 13). To the north and south of the 'barrelled' vault remnants of earlier overlying 18th /19th -century deposits (37/38) and an underlying 17th/18th – century deposit (39) were removed revealing the full extent of the structure. Beyond the northern edge of the structure a typical cemetery deposit of fine grey silt (66) of unknown date abutted the vault.

3.7.3 The external width of the vault (north to south) was 4.2m and the length was 4.5m east to west. With the aid of laser distance measuring equipment used inside the vault the length of the internal structure increased to 5.5m, extending beyond the western bounds of the limit of excavation and therefore demonstrating, not surprisingly, that the upstanding boiler house on the outside of the north aisle of the church was built over the top of the structure. Running along

the north side of the vaulted roof was a service trench (36) that contained an electricity cable shrouded within a moulded brick culvert of early 20th-century origin. It was not clear whether the electricity service was still in use and it was left in-situ.

3.7.4 The lower courses of stonework on the north chancel wall have been 're-pointed' and unfortunately this had obscured the relationship between the southern edge of the vault and the church. Presently it is not possible to determine whether or not the upstanding chancel is contemporary or later in date. Curiously, there is an area (1.2m x 0.7m) of disturbed/fragmented stonework (65) on the southern edge of the vault. Further investigation of this area in the future might well furnish some answers to the 'building phases' of the vault but for the time being the integrity of the structure (it is presently sealed from the outside elements) must be maintained.

Fig. 13 View of barrel vaulted structure (40), post excavation Area C (2006), as viewed from the east. Photo CPAT 2007-079

3.7.5 Using a combination of digital flash photography and a laser distance measuring device it was calculated that the internal area within the vault measured 5.5m from east to west and 2.5m from north to south (corresponding with the width of the barrelled roof). The height of the structure was approximately 2.2m. In plan the width of the structure appeared considerably larger, 4.2m to be exact. This implied that each of the supporting walls for the vault was almost 1m in width. Access to the vault could not be achieved, but it is believed that there is an entrance below ground level at the eastern end. Photographic evidence appears to show a securely blocked up entrance, up to 1m in width (See Fig. 15). On the floor of the vault there appeared to be evidence of a red-tiled floor or fragmented ceramics of a similar colour. This would imply a post-medieval date for the vault, although the re-use of a substantial medieval structure should not be entirely discounted.

Fig. 14 View of the inside of the vault (40), south-west corner. Area C (2006)
Photo CPAT 2007-091

Fig. 15 Internal view of the east end of the vault (40), illustrating the possible blocked entrance.
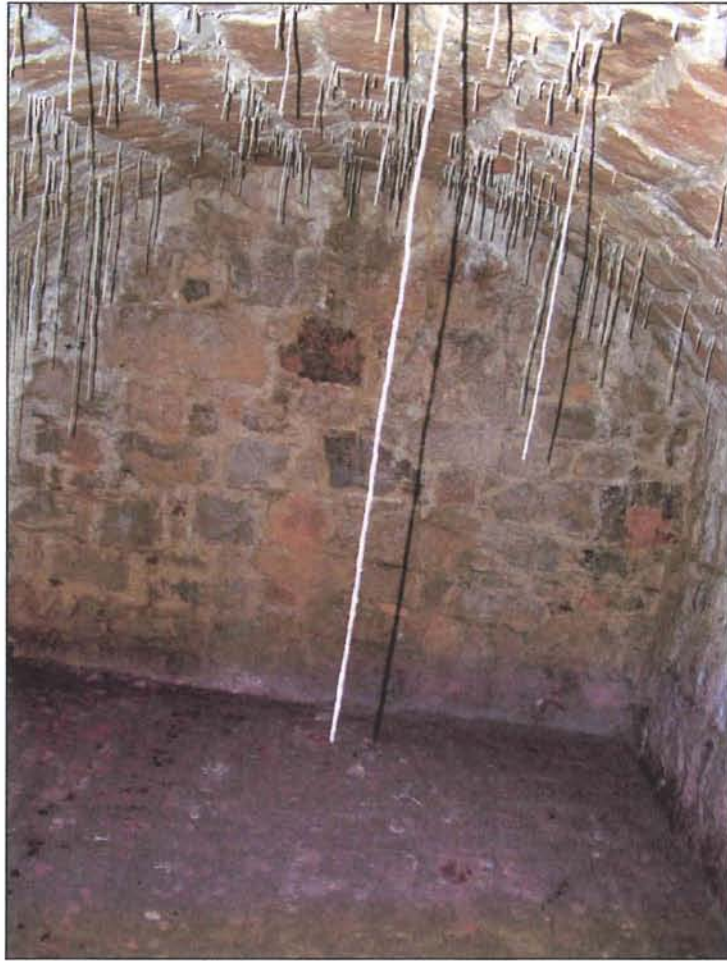Area C (2006) Photo CPAT 2007-100

Fig. 16 Internal view of the west end of the barrel vaulted room (40)
Area C (2006) Photo CPAT 2007-089

3.7.6 Although the majority of the recovered finds from the overlying deposits were of 19th/20th-century origin, a small quantity of earlier ceramics from the late 17th century, a copper bronze coat button, pipe clay and a single green-glazed rim sherd from a 14th/15th-century medieval jar were also recorded within the re-deposited burial layers.

3.7.7 This concluded the excavations within Area C and at the time of writing the area has been left open for reconsolidation and interpretation/display purposes.

4   THE FINDS

4.1 The recovered artefacts from the two seasons of excavations have been extremely varied in date and, surprisingly for cemetery deposits, numerous in quantity. The site archive will, eventually, require a full catalogue of these finds and selective items brought together for display purposes at St Michael's in order to promote the work of The Elfod Heritage Group. To this end, it is the intention of the writer to involve the students from Abergele college in the initial cleaning and identification of the artefacts. This work will eventually appear as a supplement to this report and the site archive. As an interim, a rapid identification of the assemblage now follows.

4.2 Throughout the general overburden deposits in Areas A, B and C there appeared a consistent assemblage of 18th and 19th-century ceramics and bottle glass. The majority of the pottery could be identified as typical coal measures Buckley wares, in either red or cream fabric. These local

wares were either brown, black-glazed or slip-decorated; both fine domestic and earthenwares being well represented. Other typical 18th and 19th-century ceramics recovered were transfer printed whitewares, industrial wares and stonewares. The earlier 16th and 17th-century was predominantly represented by sherds of mottleware, midlands yellow-ware and purpleware. Local regional wares usually appeared as unglazed red coal measures with the occasional sherd of earlier fabrics such as Cistercian wares (a fine quality tableware) recovered from the lower deposits.

4.3   Other artefacts from the post-medieval period included large quantities of funerary nails, pipe clay, bottle glass, coins and pewter buttons. A broad period of coinage was recovered ranging form *c*.1699 to 1929 (See Table 1 Appendix 1). Specific attention should be drawn to two fine examples of late 18th-century mining tokens; one from the Anglesey Mining Company of *c*.1785/95 and the other from the Macclesfield Town Mining Company of *c*.1791. The coins were so numerous as to suggest a form of tradition associated with human burial. Of similar note were the number of pewter coat buttons recovered, again almost certainly associated with earlier disturbed burials (See Fig 17.)

Fig. 17 Assemblage of coinage, tokens and pewter coat buttons retrieved from the excavations.
Photo CPAT 2007-114

4.4   Three other noteworthy items recovered were a lead (possibly fishing) weight, the broken end of a slate stylos/pen, a small bone carved trinket/snuff (?) box (complete with screw-threaded lid) and fragments of early stained glass (See Fig. 18).

4.5   Although no secure stratified medieval or earlier deposits were identified during the excavation, with the possible exception of the deposits abutting the medieval grave slab (61), described in detail in section 3.6.4, a small assemblage of medieval pottery and a single sherd of 1st-century AD Roman Samian ware was recovered from deposits that ranged from the topsoil to the earliest recorded levels (17th-century). A total of fourteen sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved ranging in date from the 13th to the 15th-century. The earlier pottery was unglazed and

Fig. 18 Assorted small finds recovered from Area A and B. Clockwise; Lead (fishing?) weight, bone carved trinket/snuff (?) box and lid, and broken tip of slate stylos/pen. Photo CPAT 2007-115

Fig. 19 Assemblage of Medieival ceramics c. 13th-15th-century. Photo CPAT 2007-117

4.5   To conclude, three items of specific note were recovered during Phase one of the excavations. They have since been identified by Dr Mark Redknap (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) as a 1st-century AD Roman glass bead (of green/olive opaque form); a copper-alloy pin from a 13th-century annular dress/cloak brooch and a 13th-14th-century decorated copper-alloy belt mounting (See Fig. 20).

Fig. 20 Top to bottom; 1st-century AD glass bead, 13th-14th-century belt mount and a 13th-century annular brooch pin. Photo CPAT 2007-116.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The overall aims of the excavations in Areas A and B were to ascertain the nature, date and extent of the masonry wall (08) and its possible relationship to the 'buttresses' on the south side of the nave wall. From the outset it became apparent that these answers would only be achieved by the removal of large quantities of post-medieval burial deposits from in and around the features. Due to the constant discovery of in-situ burials and disarticulated human remains, the task lay outside the remit of the project, given the time available and the limited (though enthusiastic) skills of a student workforce. It is well documented that gravestones/headstones in the churchyard were removed in the later part of the 20th century followed by a policy of general landscaping. However, the overall depth of the surrounding re-deposited cemetery deposits, encountered during the excavations, indicate that the churchyard had witnessed other such levelling/landscaping phases as early as the 17th century. If the re-deposited material has come from within the bounds of the churchyard then the recovered assemblage of medieval and Roman artefacts casts a new light on the early occupational history of the site.

5.2 The medieval masonry wall, the base and extent of which were not established, clearly survives to a greater (unrecorded) extent. However any future archaeological works carried out with the intention of preserving and displaying further elements of this structure will have to consider the removal/relocation of post-medieval in-situ burials and also the possible removal of large quantities of overburden off site.

5.3 The medieval carved memorial stone (61), detailed in section 3.6.4, has been tentatively attributed to the 13th century. If this is correct then we now have a construction date for the south nave wall of St Michael's post-dating the late 13th century. This would imply that the 'priests door' was possibly blocked up some time after the 14 or 15th century. Any associated external buildings would then have become surplus to requirements and subsequently demolished. Was this the fate of the postulated 'priest's chapel'?

5.4 The stone constructed vault revealed in Area C remains undated although we now know that the structure is approximately less than 5m² and 2.2m deep, and could be contemporary with, if not earlier, than the adjacent portion of the north chancel. The entrance is probably at the eastern end (and is almost certainly blocked up). The fact that the vault is empty implies a re-use of the structure probably during the early post-medieval period. The construct and dimensions of the masonry might indicate that the vault is of medieval origin. However, further work would be required in and around the immediate environs of the vault in order to establish its true provenance.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7 REFERENCES

Courtney, P., and Jones, N.W., 1998. The Clwyd-Powys Medieval Pottery Fabric Type Series, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 10, 9-32.

APPENDIX 1

TABLE I :   List of coinage retrieved from St Michael's Excavations 2005-2006

PERIOD	MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION	ISSUED BY	CONTEXT
c.????	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	William III	01
c.1699	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	William III	47
c.1699	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	William III	49
c.1785/95	Cu Alloy	Token	Anglesey Mining Company	02
c.1791	Cu Alloy	Token	Macclesfield Town Mining Company	10
c.1826	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	George IV	01
c.1864	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	Victoria	02
c.1912	Cu Alloy	Penny	George V	02
c.1914	Cu Alloy	Penny	George V	02
c.1928	Cu Alloy	Penny	George V	34
c.1929	Cu Alloy	Half Penny	Edward VII	01