

Castle Vault at Western Esplanade, Southampton



Graffiti Survey summary

A team from Southampton Archaeology Society visited the vault on 4th December 2018. The team consisted of S&D Stewart, G&R James, J&B Webb, M Garner, S Hanna and J Porter.

The vault is located at the northern end of southern section of Western Esplanade, Southampton. Erected in the mid to late 12th century for royal wine storage it is an ashlar masonry construction built in several phases and has a roof of ribbed stone with rubble infill. This vault was used as an air raid shelter during the Second World War and later as a City Council masons' store. The only graffiti found were modern initials and 20th century initials and dates.



Fig. 1 – Entrance to Castle Vault

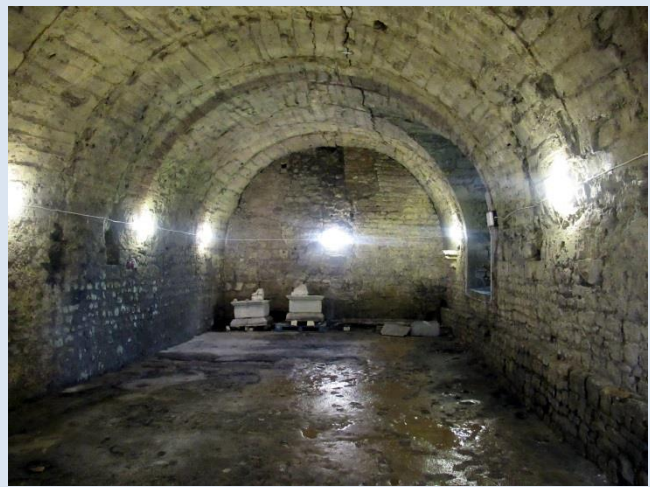


Fig. 2 – Interior of Castle Vault looking south

Only three examples of graffiti were found.



Fig. 3 – Incised “1935 JAN 21” on the north wall of the entrance at the east edge



Fig. 4 – Incised “1998” on the south wall of the entrance at the east edge



Fig. 5 – Faint scratched “THR” (?) on the west wall, adjacent to the south corner of the entrance

Joan & Brian Webb - 18th January 2019