

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

know no details about it: it is a Roman terracota (incorrectly described as a lamp), which is said to be in the Wellcome Collection (now in the Science Museum), and is illustrated on Pl. 16 of a somewhat idiosyncratic volume called *Phallic Worship* by George Ryley Scott (London, 1966). A recent short paper by P. Turnbull, 'The Phallus in the Art of Roman Britain', in the *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology*, 15 (1978), 199–206, provides a useful summary on the subject.'

J. BRADSHAW

A GRAVE GROUP FROM BARMING

A cremation burial was found in April 1979 in Barming Woods and was brought to my attention by Mr P. Payne to whom I am indebted for the information.

The grave group consisted of four vessels: (i) A large Patch Grove ware jar (height 0.32 m. and girth 0.90 m.), with the usual notched decoration at the shoulder and girth, containing very few calcined bones which do not allow for sex and age determination; (ii) a small white-slipped flagon; (iii) a very small 'poppy-head' beaker; and (iv) a Central Gaulish samian dish (Form 18/31), stamped TIIRITIOM. Burial clearly took place about the middle of the second century A.D.

A.P. DETSICAS

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS IN 1980 BY THE  
CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Throughout 1980 a series of major excavations was again undertaken, including the final stages of the Mint Yard and St. Gabriel's Chapel excavations. Also completed during the year, after about two and a half years of continuous work, were the two final stages of the Marlowe excavations, and a final interim report appears below. More work was undertaken at the "Poor Priest's" Hospital, and during the latter part of the year and still continuing is a large excavation at 69a Stour Street (see below).

The final stage of the St. Gabriel's Chapel excavation consisted of more small trenches at the west end and east of the apse of the Chapel which abutted onto one of the piers of the rebuilt Trinity

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

Chapel of the cathedral of c. 1180. More monastic burials were found and below this was part of a large pit/robber trench that had later been used as a charnel pit for redeposited human bones. This pit almost certainly contains Saxon burials disturbed and reinterred during the late eleventh-century Norman building work. Below this more Roman levels were encountered which were associated with the large Roman mosaic found a little to the west in 1979 (Plate I). The earliest levels were again early Roman pits cut into the natural, perhaps for extracting the brickearth for building purposes. Once the excavation was complete, a small concrete wall was built in the trench to act as a new damp-proofing for St. Gabriel's Chapel.

Recording work on buildings has also continued during the year, and several more surveys of Canterbury buildings have been carried out in advance of restoration work. These surveys in 1980 included a detailed analysis of the brickwork of the front and side elevations of 16 Watling Street, a fine town house, first built by Sir Charles Man in c. 1625<sup>1</sup> and considerably altered on several later occasions. A major restoration of the building is now being undertaken. A survey has also been completed of 70 Broad Street, a fine thirteenth- or fourteenth-century timber-framed building. Drawings were also made of the Abbot's guest-hall (with its unique king-post roof) in St. Augustine's Abbey during restoration here, and also of the remains of a sixteenth-century end wall of a barn in Cossington Road which is due to be demolished. This barn was on the St. Sepulchre's Priory site and contains several medieval stone architectural fragments re-used in it.

In the cathedral the measured drawings of the Trinity Chapel and Corona floors have now been completed, and it has been possible to reconstruct on paper the original thirteenth-century steps and shrine-platforms in both areas.

Finally, the usual examination of road-works, builders' excavations, etc., took place. Of particular interest were several more fragments of the Roman Theatre which appeared in drainage trenches in Castle Street, and part of a large Roman road found during cellar enlargement works below Kingsbridge Villas in Best Lane.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

<sup>1</sup> See E. Hasted, *The Topography and History of Kent* (1800), xi, 113-4.

## 1. THE ALMONRY CHAPEL SITE, CHRIST CHURCH PRIORY

The excavations in the Mint Yard area were undertaken in advance of the construction of a new 'day boys' house for the King's School, and were finished early in 1980. The completion of the excavation has radically altered the interpretation of the early medieval and Saxon levels that were briefly discussed in the last issue.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest deposits consisted of thick layers of peat and river silt, containing late Iron Age and early Roman pottery. These deposits may have accumulated during the early first century when this part of the city was a marsh or water meadow. A number of 'V'-shaped ditches and timber 'piles' cut these waterlogged levels, suggesting that from early Roman times at least, attempts were made to drain the marsh.

The ditches were sealed by successive deposits of gravel shingle and occupation loam, dumped here as part of a scheme to drive a road across the marsh. The road, metalled at least eight times during its life, was established in the last quarter of the first century, and was aligned roughly north-west/south-east. It may well have been the predecessor of the road leading out of the Roman Queningate and may have been the northernmost major Roman street of the City prior to the construction of the City wall in the third century. It is interesting to note that the line of the City wall to the east of Northgate is parallel to this road, though the sequence of occupation deposits does suggest that the area may have become a 'municipal' rubbish dump.

A very interesting sequence of Saxon deposits sealed the Roman levels, comprising three rough courtyard metallings, laid one over the other. Associated with these surfacings was a row of large post-holes that seem to have been aligned parallel to the Roman street, perhaps a fence demarcating an early Saxon boundary. A quantity of grass-tempered sherds and a Saxon bead necklace found in these levels suggest a seventh to eighth-century date.

Four possible boundary ditches, aligned roughly at right angles to the fence, cut through the early Saxon levels, and may represent a later Saxon division of the area into properties.

A thick layer of black soil containing Saxo-Norman material sealed these deposits, and was cut in turn by a number of eleventh- and twelfth-century rubbish and cess pits. These were probably dug in the period when the area was open ground behind a row of tenement properties on the east side of the Borough and behind the lane leading to the main gate of the Priory. Sealing this horizon was a thick deposit of clay and loam, possibly spoil from the cutting of

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1979), 273-5.

the foundations for the *Aula Nova* and the new main gate to the Priory (built c. 1160). These deposits were overlain by levels possibly relating to flimsy timber-framed and clay-floored tenement properties; unfortunately they were badly disturbed by recent foundations. Also associated with this phase was a stone-lined drain and a large 'U'-shaped ditch, both full of small fish and animal bones.

There is documentary evidence for a late twelfth-century Almonry building in this area. However, no traces of it were found on site, and it is now thought that this was housed in the new first floor hall on the north side of the main gate to the Priory (the *Aula Nova*).

Sealing this insubstantial evidence for the early building were the remains of the Almonry Chapel built by Prior Henry of Eastry between 1324 and 1328.

PAUL BENNETT

## 2. THE 'POOR PRIEST'S' HOSPITAL

In January 1980 more excavation took place at the 'Poor Priest's' Hospital, Stour Street, Canterbury, prior to conversion of the existing building to a new museum. The entire area below the floor of the hall and a small room to the south of the hall have now been investigated, and the area below the modern floor in the undercroft of the solar will be investigated in January 1981.

The earliest reference to buildings on this site dates to 1174, when two properties here (and 10 marks) were offered by the monks of Christ Church Priory to Lambin Frese, the moneyer, as an inducement to move his workshop from just outside the Christ Church gate to this site. He agreed and cleared the site (previously occupied by Godwin Grom and Gerald the Tanner) and built a large stone house here by 1180.<sup>1</sup> The earliest levels consisted of a clay floor sealed by a demolition deposit (found in a small cutting close to the south wall of the hall), and these may well relate to the clearance of the site by Lambin Frese. The north and south walls of the hall cut these levels, suggesting that the foundations and lower parts of the wall of the present building may well date back to c. 1175. Associated with the walls was a sequence of clay floors, investigated only in the small *sondage*, which were sealed by a thick deposit of demolition debris and capped by another sequence of clay and mortar floors. At least three phases of a central hearth (slightly

<sup>1</sup> See W. Urry, *Canterbury under the Angevin Kings* (1967), 199.



Photo: *Canterbury Archaeological Trust*

Roman Mosaic Pavement (perhaps from a Temple) found early in 1980 and cut, on the left, by the c. 1906 Foundations of the great western Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. (Scale: 2m)



One of the heated Rooms of the *Mansio*, looking from the Stoke-hole. (The 2 m. ranging rod lies in a medieval pit.)

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

south of centre) in association with these floors were examined, together with a number of other interesting features.

A screen's passage existed to the north of the hall (i.e. at the opposite end to the later screen's passage) separating the hall from a service area. Traces of a timber ground-plate, buried by a succession of clay floors, flanked the south side of the passage with doors at the east and west ends giving access to the hall.

The main south wall, and the wall dividing hall and solar were of timber-framed construction set on mortared flint dwarf walls. Flanking both the east and west walls were stone benches with post-holes regularly spaced along their length. A raised dais may have existed at the south end of the hall. A number of small stake-holes and indentations in the various clay floors may indicate the position of the furniture. In the small service area to the south of the hall, three adjoining rooms were uncovered. They had a mixture of clay and mortar floors and were divided by small mortared flint dwarf walls. These rooms may have been part of an extension added to the hall when the building was converted into the hospital of St. Mary to shelter poor priests in c. 1220.

The building survived intact until the fourteenth century when the hospital was extensively rebuilt. The main east and west walls of the hall were partly demolished and rebuilt with large windows and the south dwarf wall was replaced. The timber-framed north wall separating hall and solar was rebuilt as a thick chalk block wall, the screen's passage was re-located at the south end of the hall and the old doorways were blocked. All the earlier internal arrangements were sealed by a new floor and a new hearth was constructed in the centre of the hall. This building still stands. In more recent times the later medieval floor was severely disturbed and cut down and the hearth, except for its foundation, was destroyed. A mass of post-holes, found cutting through the archaeological deposits, represents the extensive partitioning of the hall during its later life. The building was used as a hospital for poor priests until 1575 when it was dissolved and given by Queen Elizabeth I to the City. Since then it has had many uses, including a work-house, the Blue Coat School, and most recently, as a Regimental Museum and a clinic.

PAUL BENNETT

### 3. THE MARLOWE CAR PARK EXCAVATIONS (Fig. 1)

Since November 1979 the final areas of the Marlowe Car Park have been under excavation. These sites link together the previous excavations at either end of the car park (for an account of the previous areas see *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1979) and xcv (1980).

# CANTERBURY 1978 - 80

Marlowe Car Park Excavations

(M I - M IV)

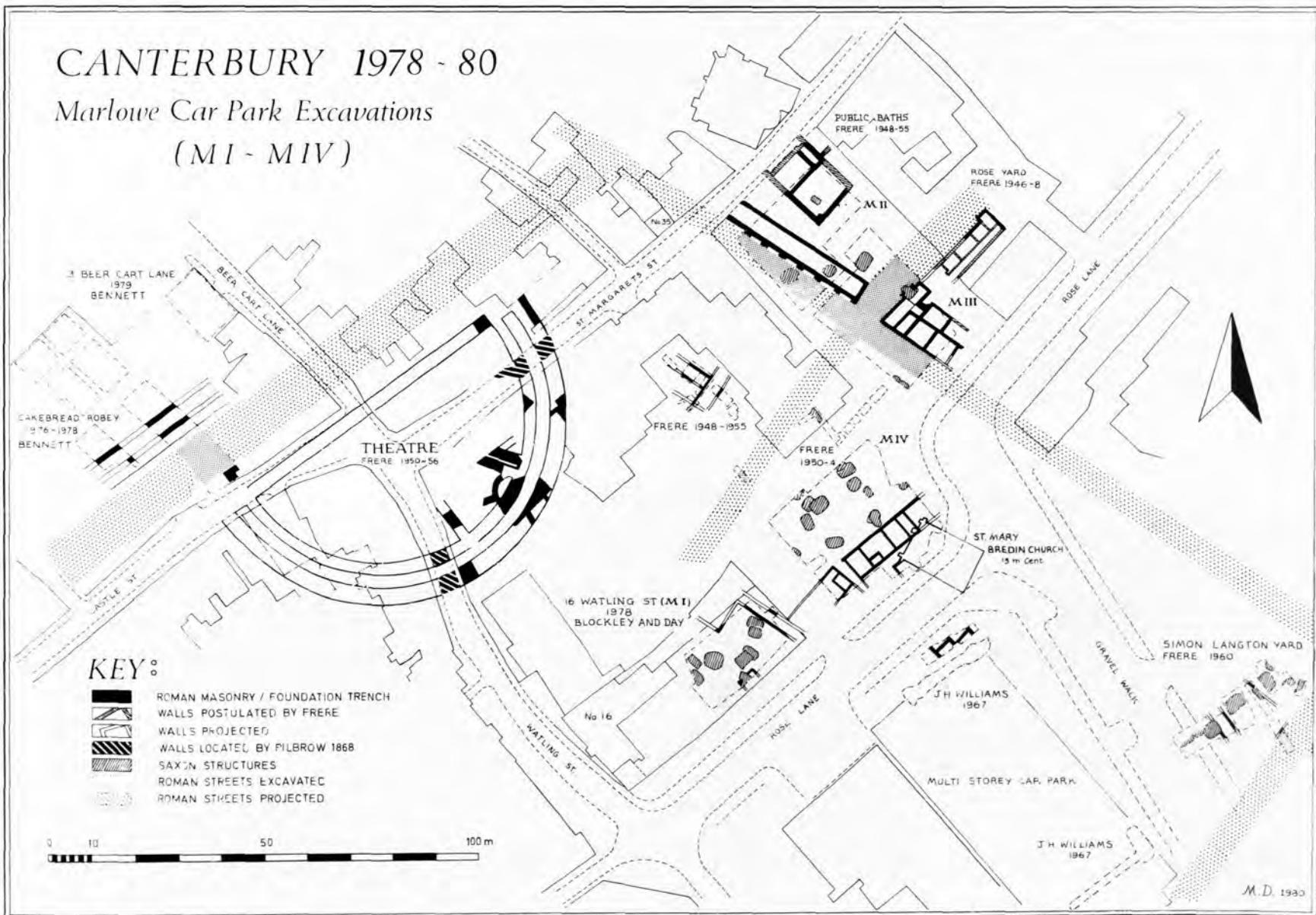


Fig. 1. General Plan of central Canterbury, showing the Marlowe Sites with the main Roman Buildings and Streets so far unknown.



## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

The earliest levels revealed two curving ditches and associated timber building of a Belgic date. Taking this new information, with the section of ditch on the 16 Watling Street area,<sup>1</sup> it is likely that a triple ditch enclosure has been located.

Levelling of the ditches took place not long after the Roman Conquest and fences were built alongside the backfilled ditches. To the north of these fences was a large, possibly military timber building, parallel to the timber building excavated on the St. Margaret's Street area.<sup>2</sup>

Overlying this early Roman building was a 30 m. length of north-west/south-east street, with a sequence of timber buildings to the south and the remainder of the Flavian portico<sup>3</sup> along the north side. In the early phase of the public baths the portico did in fact turn a right angle to surround the *palaestra*. To the rear of the timber buildings, on the south side of the street, was a contemporary part-masonry, part-timber building, which may well relate to a building excavated by John Williams, under the multi-storey car park in 1967.<sup>4</sup>

The third century saw a re-development of the area, a major brick built sewer was constructed down the south side of the street and the south-west/north-east wing of the portico levelled and sealed by a metalled street. The remainder of the portico was rebuilt a little wider than its predecessor and a fence erected along the western edge of the new street, to enclose the *palaestra* of the public baths. To the east of the new street, timber buildings were demolished and a large masonry building, possibly a *mansio*, was constructed. This building was first located by Professor S.S. Frere, in Rose Yard in 1946-8, and the section of building recently excavated was part of a bath suite (Plate II). Ten rooms were excavated, ranging from stoke-rooms, (*praefurnia*), two hot rooms and two hot baths (*caldaria*), a sweat room (*laconicum*), a warm room (*tepidarium*) and a cold bath (*frigidarium*). An interesting feature of the hypocaust system was the use of iron 'holdfasts' and ceramic spacers in the wall cavities, as a substitute for box flue tiles.

At the far end of the car park (near the 16 Watling Street site) a section of masonry building was located, with a stoke-room (*praefurnium*) and two heated rooms. This may well tie in with a masonry building located on the 16 Watling Street area.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 273.

<sup>2</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1979), 268.

<sup>3</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1979), 269.

<sup>4</sup> For an account of the excavation, see *Arch. Cant.*, xci (1975), 119-43.

<sup>5</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 273.

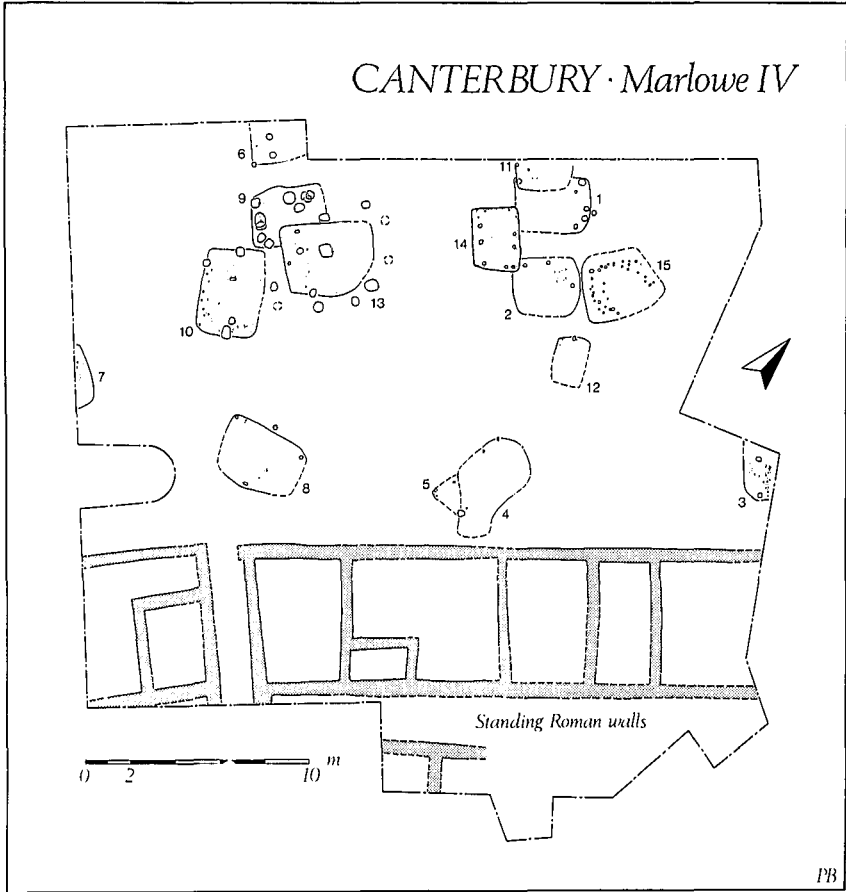


Fig. 2. Plan of Marlowe IV Excavation, showing Saxon sunken-floored Huts in Relation to standing Roman Buildings.

During the fourth century the hypocaust system in both masonry buildings was robbed, down to their lower floors, and a sequence of timber structures built inside some of the rooms, re-using the masonry walls. In one room, 1 m. of timber structures and occupation layers had built up, representing four clear phases. These levels must surely indicate occupation well into the fifth century.

A small section of late-Roman timber building<sup>1</sup> built over part of the north-west/south-east street, was also recovered.

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1979), 270. For a plan, see *Britannia*, x (1979), 335.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

A period of abandonment, possibly between the mid-fifth and the late sixth century, can be postulated from a build-up of dark earth and decay of standing buildings.

During the seventh and (?) eighth centuries, sixteen sunken-floored huts (Fig. 1) were constructed: thirteen in a courtyard to the south of the major Roman street (Fig. 2, nos. 1-13); two cutting into Roman timber buildings immediately to the south of the street and one inside the *mansio*. The latter cut into the *laconicum* of the baths belonging to the *mansio*, re-using its lower *opus signinum* floor, — an entrance being cut through the wall of the *laconicum*, giving access from the Roman lane to the west.<sup>1</sup>

In the late Saxon period, two cellars were constructed, both with fine wattle linings held in place by upright posts. A lined pit (Fig. 2, no. 15) was associated with one of the cellars (Fig. 2, no. 14).

During the eleventh/twelfth century, the majority of the Roman masonry walls was robbed.

In the final area of the Marlowe Car Park excavation, the rear of the St. Mary Bredin Church has been fully excavated. The earliest phase recovered can be dated to the late thirteenth/early fourteenth century. However, fragments of re-used Caen stone from this phase and documentary evidence indicate that a mid-twelfth century church once stood on this site. Ninety skeletons were associated with the later medieval church, and it is possible that two graves excavated relate to an earlier, mid-twelfth century phase. Brick vaults constructed inside the church during the seventeenth century had destroyed all of the early floor levels, and a total rebuild in 1867 destroyed many of the skeletons in the medieval graveyard. A fine tombstone of Joshua Webster, a merchant of London, who died in 1696 was located inside the church.

The Victorian rebuild was razed to the ground in 1942 during the Baedeker raids.

Work on the final report, including trenches excavated by Professor S.S. Frere between 1946 and 1955, is well under way and will be published as part of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust monograph series by the Kent Archaeological Society.

KEVIN BLOCKLEY

<sup>1</sup>For a similar hut located on the 16 Watling Street area, see *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 273.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

### 4. 68-69a STOUR STREET

Excavations in advance of a housing redevelopment are currently being conducted on two adjacent sites. One is the site of 69a Stour Street while the other consists of the back gardens of 68, 68a and 69 Stour Street which have also been acquired for the new development. Grants towards the cost of the excavation have come from the developer Messrs. Pipers, the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries Research Fund and the Department of the Environment.

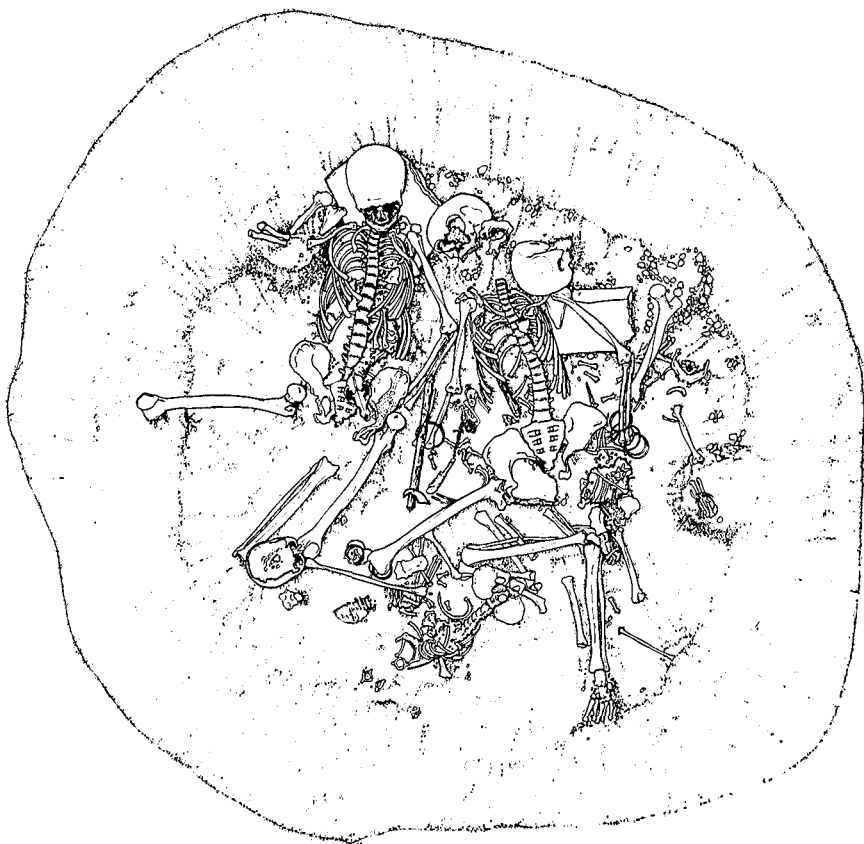


Fig. 3. 69a Stour Street Site: Pit containing ? fifth Century Burial Group.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

At present the earliest deposits excavated on the two sites date to about the thirteenth century and the Roman period respectively. The smaller of the two sites, behind 68, 68a and 69 Stour Street, contains levels associated with the large colonnaded enclosure uncovered in three previously excavated nearby sites.<sup>1</sup> An area of courtyard metalling is currently being examined, together with a section of the south-west portico of the enclosure. Here, two large parallel robber trenches mark the position of the portico walls, aligned roughly north-east/south-west (See Fig. 5). 5 m. to the south of the portico, the verge of a Roman street (probably Roman Watling Street) has been found. An external portico or walk-way may have existed between the verge and the external wall of the enclosure. Immediately to the north of the robbed stylobate was another parallel robber trench, marking the line of the portico gutter. The portico was probably demolished in the early fourth century and a sequence of later courtyards sealed the robbed-out drain and the intact stylobate. A number of deep modern features on the frontage of 69a Stour Street cut through the Roman levels and layers of courtyard metalling can be seen in section. Excavation is continuing here.

A number of stone gutter-blocks recovered from the modern disturbances and similar to blocks recovered from the south-east portico drain, may indicate that the north-west side of the enclosure is under the frontage of Stour Street.

Sealing the latest Roman courtyard in the small site was a 5-10 cm. deposit of black loam, which may be an abandonment layer post-dating Roman activity in the City and pre-dating resettlement in the Saxon period. Possibly associated with this layer was a large pit containing a multiple burial (Figs. 3-4). This burial, perhaps that of a family group, consisted of an adult male and female, two children and two small dogs. The bottom of the pit contained a thick deposit of water-logged organic material on which the bodies were laid. The disturbed nature of the burial with many bones out of position, may indicate that the burials were contained within a wooden structure and shifted position as the organic material on which they were laid decomposed. No trace of such a structure survived since the upper levels of the grave fill were removed by a later medieval pit. A large number of personal ornaments was found in association with the skeletons of the female and two children. These are currently being conserved and have been tentatively dated to the fifth century.

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xci (1976) 238-40, xciv (1978) 275-77, and xcv (1979) 270-72 for previous interim reports.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

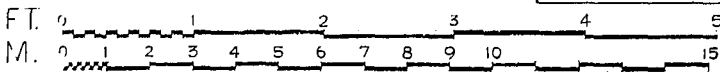
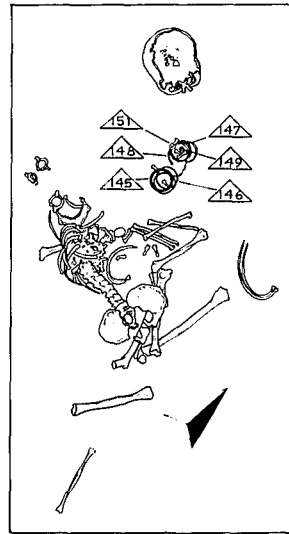
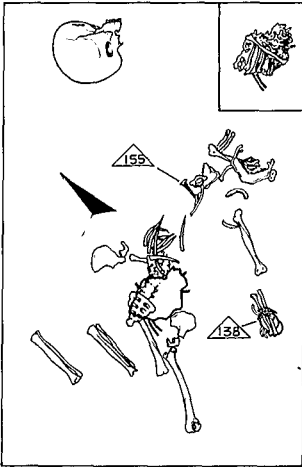
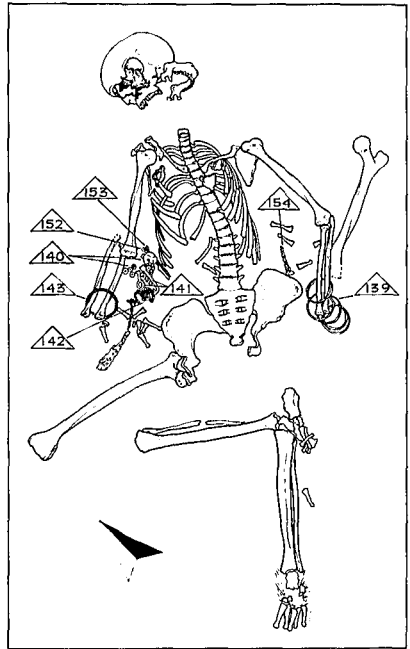
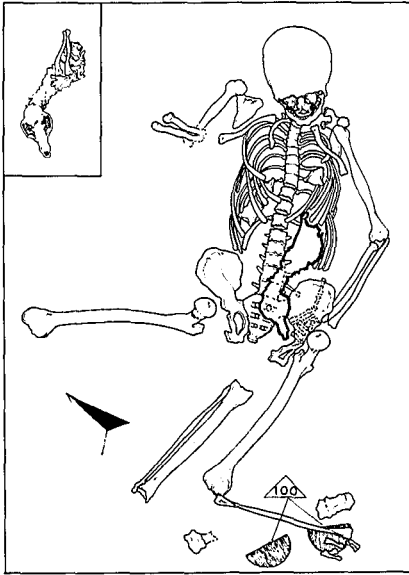


Fig. 4. 69a Stour Street Site: ? fifth Century Burial Group, showing four human and two ? Dog Skeletons with associated Grave Goods.

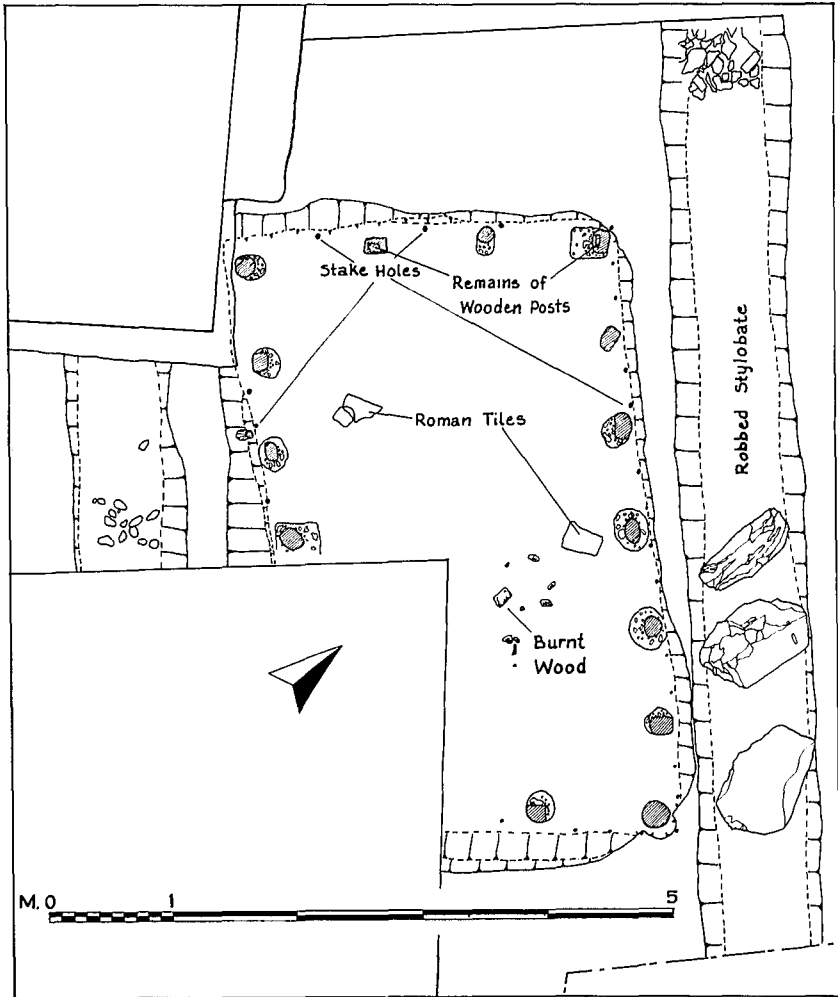


Fig. 5. 69a Stour Street Site: provisional Plan of late Saxon sunken Building within the Roman Portico. (Note the loose stylobate blocks still in the robber trench.)

By the eighth century the black soil layer had been sealed by a rough surfacing of re-used Roman building material. A number of post-holes associated with this metalling may indicate the presence of part of a flimsy timber structure. A pierced *sceatta* has also come from the site. A more complete sunken building, with dimensions of 5 by 3m. and of perhaps a slightly later date, was found inside the portico of the earlier Roman building (Fig. 5).

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

A number of medieval rubbish pits was found cutting the Roman street metalling. Only three medieval pits cut the Roman courtyard levels and the Saxon burial pit. A number of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century rubbish pits cut the upper levels of the site. The sequence was completed with the building of a late seventeenth-century barn, half of which still stands on the frontage of Adelaide Place.

On 69a Stour Street the earliest levels so far uncovered date to the mid-thirteenth century. Two possible timber hall-houses, separated by a large flint wall, existed on the frontage of the site. The frames of both houses rested on small, low dwarf walls. The floors were of brickearth or clay, and each house had a central hearth. One house had a detached kitchen which contained a well-preserved bread oven. Both structures were demolished in the mid- to late-seventeenth century. Part of one building was retained to cover a circular, worn ? donkey track; this surrounded a possible vat for mixing clay for clay pipe manufacture, or for some sort of mill. The badly-disturbed remains of a brick-built possible clay-pipe kiln were also uncovered at the back of the site, together with a number of brick-built clay-lined water tanks.

The more recent history of the site relates to the construction of a large brewery, which eventually became 'Rigden's' Brewery. The levels previously discussed were cut and sealed by a number of large brick-built structures that housed part of the brewery. Associated with the buildings was a sequence of brick drains and a large brick-built settling-tank. The brewery was eventually demolished in 1932 and since then the site has been a yard. The sequence of archaeological levels was capped by small brick outbuildings, concrete floors and paved yards associated builder's with this phase. Work continues on site until the end of February 1981.

PAUL BENNETT