

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS IN 1982 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

During the year the Trust has once again undertaken a large body of work though financial problems have been hampering our efforts to see all our work published rapidly and fully. Two volumes in the *Archaeology of Canterbury* series were, however, published during the year as well as several other smaller reports.

The main excavations during 1982 were the final stages of the Poor Priests' Hospital excavation and the Marlowe Theatre site, and the initial stage of the Archbishop's Palace site. The discovery of architectural remains of a late twelfth-century stone house (of Lambin Frese), including a fine fireplace, and of the thirteenth-century chapel at the Poor Priests' Hospital has been of major importance. At the Marlowe Theatre site the final excavation, within the demolished theatre itself, before the Marlowe Development takes place, has also been a great success. Extensive remains of Roman buildings (and a street) were uncovered, as well as of earlier and later buildings, and a unique late fifth-century gold *tremiss* was discovered. Finally, the trench for the new drains for the Archbishop's Palace (dug by the Trust) in the south aisle of the Great Hall produced important remains of this vast early thirteenth-century structure. Another small excavation was carried out on the north-east side of the cathedral.

Observation work by the Trust has also produced some very important discoveries during the year. On the Old Westgate Court Farm site, as well as the remains of an extensive Roman (second century A.D.) cremation cemetery some extremely important early seventh-century finds were made. The most important of these was an exceptionally fine gold Anglo-Saxon pendant. Perhaps the most difficult 'rescue' work, however, was carried out in the tunnels under the High Street where extensive remains of Roman buildings were found, including more of the hypocaust system of the St. George's Street bath-house. More observation work in the High Street (on and just east of the King's Bridge) revealed part of the south wall of the now-demolished All Saints' Church and part of the twelfth-

century Eastbridge (King's Bridge). As well as this, restoration work on several buildings in Canterbury and the surrounding district was monitored, including 35 St. Margaret's Street and Fordwich Farmhouse, and boreholes being drilled behind the Odeon cinema (on the Blackfriars' site).

Finally, a detailed survey of all the historic buildings (medieval and later) in the Cathedral Precincts is now being undertaken, and the work is to be financed by the Dean and Chapter. Once the survey is completed new maps of the buildings of the Benedictine Priory and of the 'New Foundation' of 1541 will be published.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

1. THE POOR PRIESTS' HOSPITAL - THE CHAPEL

Archaeological work in the chapel and a small service area to the north-west of the chapel completes an extensive series of excavations in advance of the conversion of the Poor Priests' Hospital into a new Canterbury museum. The excavations, financed by the Canterbury City Council, have been full of interest and have given us the opportunity not only of studying an important late fourteenth-century building with a well-documented history, but also of examining a well-preserved sequence of earlier archaeological levels.

The earliest levels encountered in this final excavation were of Roman date. A major Roman street was uncovered at the east end of the chapel in the area of the fourteenth-century sacristy. The road, discovered 'in section' when an eighteenth-century well, located in the sacristy area, was dismantled and later exposed in the entire sacristy area, consisted of a 1.25 m. thick deposit of layered gravel containing at least eight major metallings. This road, aligned roughly north-east/south-west, is undoubtedly that flanking the north-west side of the colonnaded Roman enclosure excavated in the 'Cakebread Robey' series of excavations, and adds yet another important detail to the network of streets in *Durovernum Cantiacorum*. Close to the south-west corner of the chapel an exploratory slot was cut through the early medieval levels and at a depth of nearly 1 m. below the thirteenth-century chapel floor Roman levels were again exposed. The deposits, possibly Roman courtyard metallings, were also seen in section when two brick-lined wells were dismantled in the service area to the north-west of the chapel. A thin lens of flood silt sealed the Roman road. The contemporary courtyard levels were sealed by 0.5 m. of alluvium. This extremely interesting deposit, which contained discernible banded sub-layers, yielded at least two sherds of early Saxon grass-

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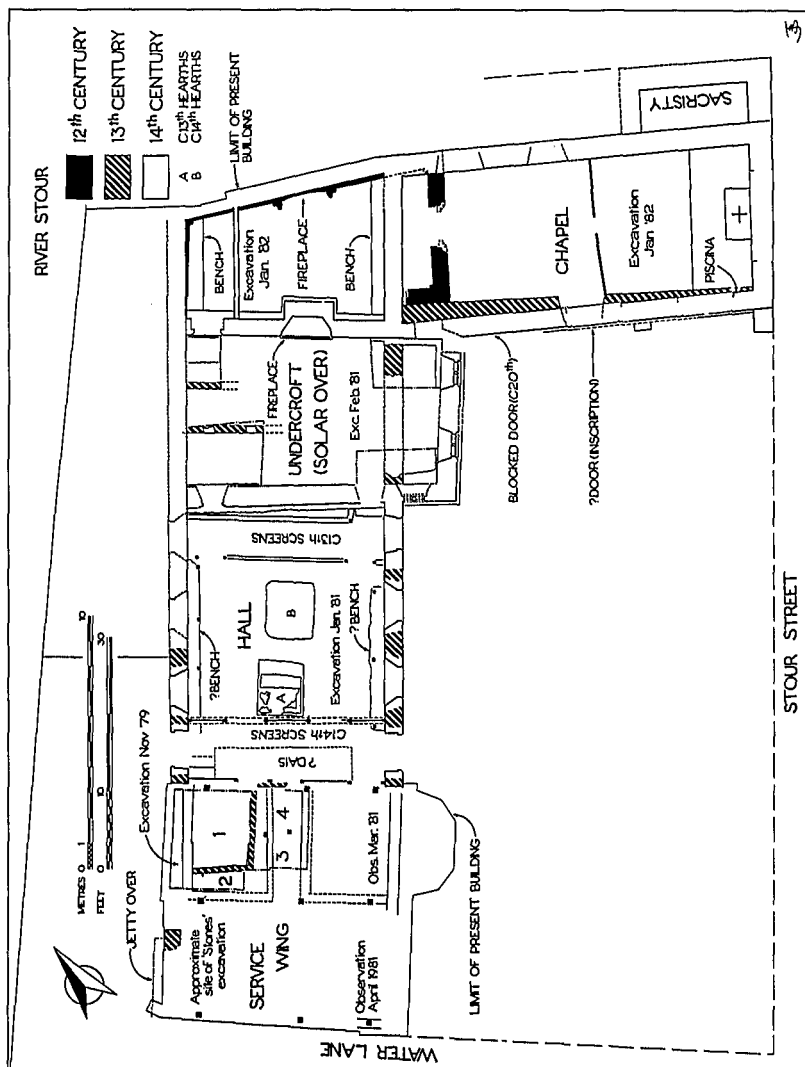


Fig. 1. Poor Priests' Hospital: Phased Plan with Areas of Excavation.

tempered pottery. A chalk-block wall foundation sealed the flood silt in the fourteenth-century sacristy area. The foundation, partly obscured by later work and aligned roughly east-west, may have supported a sleeper beam for an earlier timber-framed building. Associated with the foundation, and to the south of it, was a thin and badly-worn clay floor which indicated that a timber building may possibly have existed under the chapel. This foundation and floor could conceivably be the remains of a property leased by Christ Church Priory (the rental still exists in the Cathedral Library) to Godwin Grom or Gerald the Tanner before 1175. At the west end of the chapel the alluvium was capped by deposits associated with the construction of a stone house, probably that of Lambin Frese the moneyer, who constructed a house on this site in *c.* 1175. Excavations in the hall and solar undercroft indicated that the footings of the main south-east and north-west walls of the building were probably of a late twelfth-century date and may have belonged to the stone house of Lambin Frese. The walls exposed at the north-west corner of the chapel were for a *c.* 6 m. wide porch, projecting out some 1.75 m. from the main south-east wall of the building at its north-east end (Fig. 1). A doorway of about 1.5 m. width pierced the east wall of the porch giving access to the north-east part of the building. This was probably the principal door of the building. Possible scars for external column-bases were noted on either side of the doorway. Two very fine column bases with spurs typical of the late twelfth century were located in the internal north-east and south-east corners of the porch perhaps indicating that at least this part of the building was vaulted. The north-east and north-west walls of the twelfth-century building, with yet another spurred column-base in the angle, survived in the service area north-west of the chapel. Although the contemporary floor levels have yet to be excavated, one late twelfth-century feature is already exposed. This is a very fine, well-constructed fireplace with a 'herringbone' tile backing flanked by double engaged column-bases. The fireplace set in the north-east wall survives to a height of nearly 2 m. above the level of its primary floor and is *c.* 2.5 m. wide (Fig. 1).

In *c.* 1220 Alexander of Gloucester, who had acquired the building, founded a Hospital for Poor Priests in it. This must have started a major phase of rebuilding. The north-east end of the building was modified, the porch area dismantled and a chapel constructed roughly at right angles to the remaining building range. A new wall, the north-west wall of the chapel, was constructed, over the contracted remains of the porch, continuing the line of the east frontage wall. The north-east end of the main range (that is the room north-west of the chapel) probably became a kitchen. The late

twelfth-century fireplace was retained, stone benches were built on the south-east and north-west sides of the room and a new floor was laid. A further two floors were laid during the life of the kitchen and another centrally located tile-on-edge hearth was added. The chapel, internally *c.* 13.8 m. east-west by *c.* 5.5 m. north-south was divided into two unequal halves by a wooden screen. A doorway, of which only the west side was found, pierced the south wall. The base, partly marked by the presence of a tile pad, must have abutted the east jamb of the door and extended across the width of the chapel. A centrally located re-used Purbeck marble coffin slab interrupted the screen and probably marked the position of a door leading into a small chancel at the east end. The small chancel with a narrow raised eastern dais, on which were the remains of the base of a centrally located altar, was originally tiled throughout. Some of the original tiles and the scars of many others were preserved on the intact bedding, and an informative plan of the tile pattern was established. The remains of a possible bench foundation flanking the south wall survived. The remaining portion of the chapel, west of the screen, was very roughly floored with crushed chalk and clay and was sealed by a very thin occupation deposit.

To the north of the chapel in the late fourteenth-century sacristy area, a cobbled yard or lane was laid soon after the building was constructed. This lane, surfaced at least twice, survived up to the reconstruction of the chapel in the late fourteenth century.

Documentary evidence indicates that by the mid-fourteenth century the hospital buildings were in a ruinous condition and that from *c.* 1370 onwards rebuilding work was taking place. Extensive demolition deposits sealed the floors of the chapel and the service bay to the west. The walls of the thirteenth-century buildings were severely reduced and new chalk block walls, faced externally with flint and ragstone, were raised off the truncated foundations. The surviving twelfth- and thirteenth-century walls in the service area were also truncated and new walls built over them. A substantial chalk block wall, dividing the old kitchen area from the new solar undercroft was constructed. This wall, the north-east wall of the solar undercroft, was built with a central fireplace and a door at the north-west end (Fig. 1). A second door, nearly above the first at first floor level, also pierced the wall at the north-west end. A new wall, possibly only a dwarf wall supporting a timber plate, abutted the south-east jambs of the ground floor door, and extended to the north-east wall. An open courtyard probably existed between the dwarf wall and the west wall of the chapel. A separate, possibly timber-framed structure supported by the dwarf wall and the north wall, may have, at least in part, been a garderobe tower.

Sealing the fourteenth-century demolition deposits in the chapel was a compact mortar floor, capped by a thin layer of occupation detritus. The east end of the chapel was badly disturbed by later post-medieval activity and no evidence for the internal lay-out of the east end was found. A probable sacristy was incorporated in the new chapel by extending the building to the north, over the earlier cobbled lane. Many of the architectural features of the late fourteenth-century building still survive in part: the great east window with its ragstone quoins, a *piscina* located in the south wall at the east end and the remains of two of the windows of the south wall. Traces of the original south door of the late fourteenth-century building were found during the excavation a little west of the present door, and fragments of a possible *sedilia* were discovered close to the *piscina* (later largely removed when a nineteenth-century fireplace was inserted into the south wall). Sealing the occupation detritus on the earlier chapel floor was sand bedding, perhaps for a glazed tile floor. Although no tiles or scars were found *in situ*, many tile fragments, undoubtedly from the floor, were recovered from later deposits.

By 1562 the hospital was again 'marvellously in ruin and decay' and in 1575 it was granted to the mayor and commonalty of the city for the use of the poor. Between 1576 and 1587, the building was repaired, modified and divided up with extra floors being inserted. From the late sixteenth century onwards the building was used for a multiplicity of purposes discussed in our earlier reports. A large number of brick features, including three brick-lined wells and numerous brick partition walls, were excavated and dismantled during the course of our work. Many of these features and associated deposits can be directly associated with specific uses of the building in the post-medieval period.

PAUL BENNETT

2. OLD WESTGATE COURT FARM SITE, LONDON ROAD

During February and March 1982 a large number of Roman cremation burials and a number of important early Saxon finds were discovered on a building site, south of the London Road. The site, formerly the Westgate Court Farm (c. 1850-1950), was unfortunately outside the area considered to be of archaeological importance and an excavation in advance of the redevelopment was not conducted. The new buildings, warden-assisted houses for the aged, built by Wiltshiers for the Canterbury City Council, have elaborate trench-

laid foundations and a wide and deep service duct linking all parts of the complex. The site was therefore considerably disturbed by the development and as a result many important and exciting finds came to light. Much of the credit for the early discoveries must go to the workmen and their supervisors who, with care and enthusiasm, recovered a number of whole Roman pots during the cutting of some wall-construction trenches. As a result of these early discoveries a full-time unpaid watching brief was maintained by volunteers from the Trust. We are also considerably indebted to the skill and patience of the driver of the mechanical excavator, whose keen eyesight and uncanny anticipation of the unexpected often saved burials from destruction. Once again the Trust has proved to the developer that it is possible for the archaeologist and the contractor to work effectively together without retarding the progress of the development.

During the laying of the building foundations the remains of at least 50 Roman cremation burials were recorded and some 110 Roman pots, 6 glass vessels and a terracotta figurine retrieved. The burials, dating from the mid-first to the late-third century A.D., varied from single-pot burials (a single pot containing the cremated human bones) to multiple-pot burials (where up to six ancillary vessels were placed with the burial urn) and two complete amphora burials (the necks of the vessels were broken off and a number of pots, including the cremation urn, placed inside). A number of burials were associated with *caligae*, with the remains of the hobnails clearly preserved in the natural brickearth. Though by no means rare in Roman Britain, the inclusion of boots with a cremation burial in Canterbury is so far unknown.

One of the most important aspects of the salvage work on the London Road site was the discovery of a gold seventh-century Anglo-Saxon pendant, and a number of other early Saxon objects and features that may indicate a re-use of the Roman cemetery in the early Saxon period. The feature containing the pendant was located at the west end of the building site, close to the line of the modern Prince's Way. The feature, possibly a very shallow grave, perhaps originally covered by a small mound, may have been disturbed in antiquity.

The pendant (Fig. 2) was found lying on the bottom of the feature in two pieces – the boss having been detached from the rest of the pendant. Other Saxon finds from nearby included the burial of an adult male in a grave which cut the feature containing the pendant, a primary *sceatta* (c. A.D. 690–725), a sherd of early-Saxon grass-tempered pottery and two very fine glass palm cups of a late sixth- or early seventh-century date.

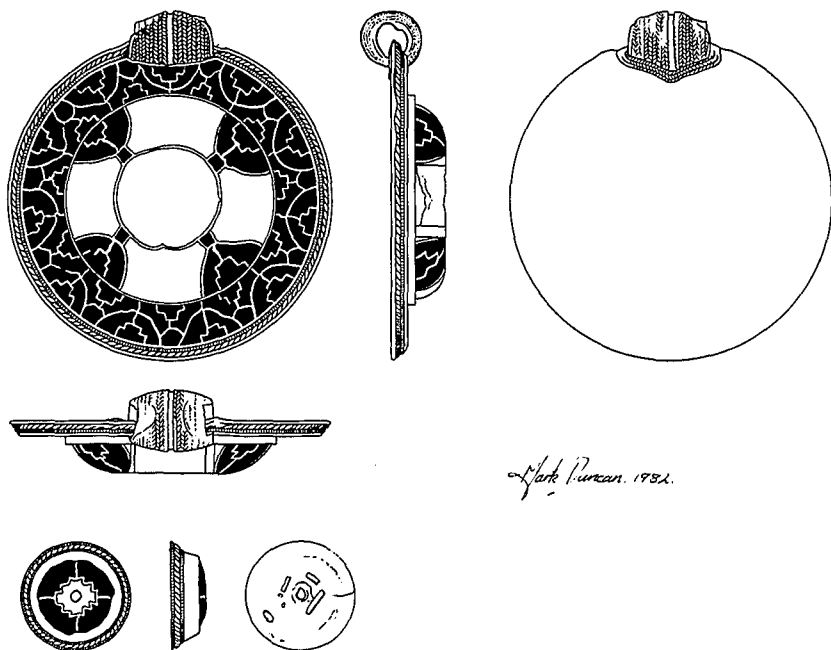


Fig. 2. Anglo-Saxon Gold Pendant with inlaid Garnets (the boss was found separately) from the Old Westgate Farm Site (Scale 1:1).

The large *corpus* of finds recovered from the London Road site represents some of the most exciting and interesting materials yet found by the Trust. The finds not only indicate the size and complexity of the Roman cemetery north-west of the Roman town, but intimate a re-use of that cemetery in Saxon times and add important new evidence to that already gleaned from our recent intra-mural excavations for the Saxon re-occupation of the old Roman town in the late sixth and seventh centuries.

PAUL BENNETT

3. ST. GEORGE'S STREET ROMAN BATH-HOUSE

During the early summer, workmen drove a tunnel under the Parade and St. George's Street to install a new main sewer. The

access shaft for the tunnel, dug in front of nos. 14–16 The Parade, cut through two Roman walls. These probably flanked a range of rooms possibly associated with the private town-house, part of which is displayed in the 'Roman Pavement' museum in the Longmarket. A watching brief has been maintained by the Trust during the cutting of the tunnel and a further eight Roman walls and a drain have to date been recorded in the roof and sides of the tunnel. On Friday, 3rd July, the contractors cutting the tunnel exposed a high pressure water-main close to the heading. As this service pipe constituted a threat to the safety of the men working in the tunnel (they would only have had thirty seconds to clear the tunnel before it filled with water), an escape shaft was cut out opposite W.H. Smith's and Woolworth's (19–21 St. George's Street) and the line of the tunnel was moved away from the water pipe. During the cutting of this escape exit, the south-west corner of the St. George's Street Roman bath-house, extensively excavated by Professor S.S. Frere in 1947 and 1949,¹ was exposed and partly cut into. After hurried consultations with Canterbury City council, the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate and the contractors, a two-day (weekend) excavation was undertaken to record the building before further destruction took place at 7.00 a.m. the following Monday morning.

The St. George's Street bath-house, one of the best-preserved Roman buildings yet found in Canterbury, measuring some 15.5 m. north-east/south-west by 10 m. north-west/south-east, consisted of at least twelve rooms with reception and changing rooms, cold and hot rooms, and at least three baths. Many of the rooms contained intact heating systems and some of the load-bearing walls survived almost 2 m. high.

The parts of the bath-house, exposed during the hectic weekend of the 4th–5th July and in the following week when the tunnel was cut through the fabric of the building, had not been excavated by Professor Frere, as they were covered by the pavement of St. George's Street and were therefore not available for excavation. Parts of three hot rooms and a furnace were exposed during the cutting of the tunnel: two hot baths (*laconica*) flanking either side of a hot room (*caldarium*) with a furnace (*praefurnium*) feeding hot gases under the hot room floor via underfloor vents into the flanking hot baths.

Two major constructional phases were discerned by Professor

¹ A full report on this building by Professor Frere will be published in *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vii in 1983.

Frere during his investigation of the building in the neighbouring cellars. The first bath-house constructed in c. A.D. 220–230, was extensively repaired and renovated after excessive wear and general dilapidation in c. 360.

These two major building phases were recorded during the 'salvage' work and no additional information was retrieved to contradict either dating or phasing.

The room in the south-west corner of the complex, excavated in the exit-shaft (Professor Frere's Room 1), was well-preserved, even though much of the superstructure had been cut into by seventeenth- and eighteenth-century cellar walls. The second phase heating system (the hot bath was converted to a hot room in Period II) survived intact and four *pila*-stacks standing 0.93 m. high separated the *opus signinum* floors through which the hot gases were introduced. A mixed system of box flue-tiles held by iron hold-fasts from the earlier hot bath and 'boxed' *tegulae* survived *in situ*. These would have taken the hot gases from under the floor up through the walls. The lower floor of the second-phase room was originally the upper floor of the hot bath and an intact heating system investigated and recorded by Professor Frere survived under it. A masonry drain, taking the effluent from the bath-house and sloping from north-east to south-west flanked the external north-west side of Room 1. This drain was eventually superseded by at least two phases of open drain leading to a large and deep soak-away. Late in the life of the building the drain and soakaway were infilled with a mass of occupation débris. A sequence of courtyard metallings associated with the drains flanked the exterior of Room 1. The final surfacing of the sequence, made up mostly with demolition débris, sealed the soakaway and the open drains.

The continuation of the tunnel cut through the main south wall of the building, exposing the interior of the *caldarium* and the second hot plunge bath. (Frere's Rooms 5 and 9). Two phases of construction were recorded in the 'cross-section' cut through the hot room. The room, 2.8 m. wide, was rendered on both sides with *opus signinum* mortar and had an *opus signinum* floor. A bench or offset, constructed probably to support the upper floor, existed in the south-west corner of the room. Vertical stacks of horizontal tiles, 0.66 m. apart, indicated the position of a stokehole flue through which the hot gases passed under the floor and under the floors of the flanking hot baths. On the opposite side of the tunnel, the remains of the *prae-furnium* itself were visible, though badly disturbed by a modern sewer and a medieval pit. The primary structure was largely dismantled and the stokehole blocked by mud and tile débris. A second phase *caldarium*, complete with supporting

bench, rendered walls and stokehole was then established over the remains of the first. The third room was 1.98 m. wide. The primary floor, which originally supported *pila* stacks and an upper floor, had been dismantled during rebuilding and a mixture of Roman concrete and rubble sealed the primary floor as a bedding for the new floor of the second phase hot bath. Five well-preserved *pila*-stacks supporting a thick *opus signinum* floor were visible in the side of the tunnel. A box flue system was attached to the main west wall. The floor of this Period II hot bath was sealed by a considerable deposit of loose demolition débris.

The small 'escape shaft' also contained a useful sequence of post-Roman levels, denoting the period of abandonment separating the end of Roman Canterbury and the establishment of the Saxon town. The black loam was in turn sealed by a thick deposit of 'made-ground' containing much occupation débris possibly of early-Saxon origin. Cutting this deposit was a shallow pit containing a middle-Saxon loom-weight. Sealing the 'made ground' was a fine sequence of road metallings, earlier surfacings of the present St. George's Street, which documentary evidence suggests was first established in the tenth century. The earliest metallings, certainly of late-Saxon date, sloped down considerably from the side to the centre of the street and perhaps indicated the presence of a 'hollow way' initially. This 'U'-shaped profile – cut into the ground by the wear of traffic – was eventually metalled at least eight times. A thick deposit of later medieval gravel sealed the earlier surfacings and was in turn capped by the hard core and tarmacadam of the latest modern streets. The present pedestrian paving sealed the remains of all this.

During the last four months of 1982 a second tunnel was dug under the High Street and The Parade. The tunnel started opposite Guildhall Street, and is due to meet up with the earlier tunnel by the end of the year. Already a mass of large Roman walls have been encountered (and recorded) as well as a large Roman Street. The street, running north-east to south-west, is a continuation of that found in 1976 on the 77–9 Castle Street site.²

PAUL BENNETT

4. MARLOWE THEATRE SITE

As the final stage of the Marlowe excavations the Trust was able to excavate the area beneath the newly-demolished Marlowe Theatre.

² *Arch. Cant.*, xcii (1976), 239.

The excavation was completed in November, after a highly productive four months, and the redevelopment of the Marlowe car park and theatre site is expected to commence before the end of 1982.

Large areas of the site were excavated to the natural brickearth, revealing traces of Belgic occupation to the north of, and enclosed by, the ditches located on the M.I. and M.IV sites.³ These levels contained the remains of three intercutting ring-ditches, about 10 m. in diameter, suggesting a hut-circle which had been re-positioned twice during its life. The latest and most substantial hut-circle ditch was 30 cm. deep and 60 cm. wide with a porched entrance to the south-west and numerous post-and stake-holes, both within and outside the structure. Two fence-lines (represented by shallow slots) were located running at a tangent to the latest ring-ditch. A Belgic cremation burial, contained within a pedestal urn, was cut by the latest ring-ditch. A small hearth, small fragments of bronze slag, a number of *potin* coins and large quantities of Belgic pottery (including some flint-gritted Belgic forms) were also recovered from these levels. Similar traces of Belgic occupation were located on the M.II excavation to the north of the Marlowe Theatre.⁴

The Belgic occupation was sealed by a deposit of grey clayey loam c. A.D. 70, though in places this level had been truncated by later Roman activity. Post-holes belonging to an early-Flavian timber building cut this level of grey loam. Little of this building survived. It was overlain by a courtyard to the south and very badly disturbed by early Roman and medieval pits at the west end of the excavation.

A 14 m. length of Roman street ran beneath the stage of the Marlowe Theatre. This forms part of the north-east/south-west street located in the M.III and Marlowe Avenue sites. To the west of the street, timber buildings were located, directly overlying the early-Flavian structure, with a courtyard to the south-west. This building contained an oven and wattle-and-daub partitions which had been destroyed by fire. Later phases of the timber building were replaced by a large structure with flint-and-mortar dwarf walls, and a timber superstructure above. A total of eight rooms were located within the area excavated (Fig. 3). This structure ties in with that located by Professor Frere in 1950–51 to the south of the Marlowe Theatre, in the Slatter's Hotel yard. The rooms displayed several types of flooring: from clay to *opus signinum* and tile. One room contained the remains of a plain tessellated floor in its latest phase.

³ *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 273, and xcvi (1980), 403.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, xcv (1979), 268.

A large quantity of yellow clay mixed with fragments/layers of painted wall-plaster (much of which has been lifted) suggests timber-framed clay walls above the flint and mortar foundations.

The part of this structure located by Frere was given a construction date in the mid-third century and a decay/abandonment date of the mid-fourth century. It can be tentatively stated that this ties in with the evidence recovered from the masonry structure on the Marlowe Theatre site.

A courtyard/open area was located at the west end of this building, together with the foundation of a buttressed wall, which has been tentatively interpreted as the wall surrounding the theatre precinct.

To the east of the Roman street a series of road ditches, some with the remains of their timber linings, and traces of timber buildings, were excavated, though the earliest levels were not investigated. A section of road metallings was excavated so that a comparison could be made with the M.III and Marlowe Avenue sequences of street deposits.

Overlying the latest Roman levels was a layer of dark earth which varied from *c.* 10 cm. to *c.* 20 cm. in depth. Two Anglo-Saxon *Grubenhauser* were located. One was very badly disturbed by the orchestra pit of the modern theatre so that only one end, 2.2 m. wide and 30 cm. deep, survived. The other was a large six-post form, 4.3 m. long, 3.2 m. wide and 75 cm. deep, possibly of two-phase construction. Both *Grubenhauser* were cut into the edge of the Roman street metallings, perhaps suggesting that a track may have existed along the line of the street in the Anglo-Saxon period. A provisional date of the sixth century is suggested for the six-post structure on pottery, and 'small find' evidence. This structure was partly excavated by Professor Frere in 1950.

Within the Roman building to the west of the street the dark earth level produced, amongst other finds, a fragment of snipped gold sheet. The destruction/late courtyard level to the west of the building yielded a well-sealed, snipped Visigothic gold *tremiss* of the late fifth century. Preliminary analysis shows that a fragment of jeweller's rouge is sticking to one of its edges. These fragments presumably belong to a goldsmith's 'hoard', possibly intended for re-melting for the manufacture of Anglo-Saxon jewellery. Another fifth century find (though from a later pit) was of an iron purse mount/strike-a-light.

A few Saxo-Norman rubbish pits were located, but with no associated structures. Robbing of the Roman masonry walls took place in the twelfth century. Medieval structures on the St. Margaret's Street frontage were totally destroyed by the Marlowe Theatre cellars, but

to the rear a series of medieval rubbish pits and a timber building, with a later flint-and-mortar phase, were excavated together with a fine medieval well.

The earliest part of the Marlowe Theatre was constructed in the late nineteenth century, completing the sequence of activity on the site.

Thanks are due to the Prudential Assurance Company (and Higgs and Hill, the contractor) for providing both the finance and time to allow the excavation to take place.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

5. WEST STOURMOUTH CHURCH

A short article, written on West Stourmouth church over fifty years ago and published in this journal, outlines the more important features of this fine east Kent church.⁵ Unfortunately, this church was made redundant in 1976, and eventually, after the lead was stolen from the south aisle and chancel roofs and much other damage was done, in 1980 the church was vested in the Redundant Churches Fund. During the spring and summer of 1982 restoration work was carried out on the church by the Fund, and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust was given a small grant to carry out a general survey and to make measured drawings of the south aisle roof in February and March before restoration.

West Stourmouth church is probably in origin a late-Saxon church, and the west wall and west end of the north wall of the nave still exhibit some pre-Norman features, notably rough non-Caen stone quoins⁶ and, in the north wall a double-splayed window (now blocked). There are also the remains of part of a pilaster buttress outside the south-west corner. Over the nave are the remains of a four-bay king-post roof (perhaps late thirteenth-century in date), and inserted through the roof at the west end of the nave is a c. fourteenth-century timber belfry. The round window in the west gable of the nave is presumably thirteenth-century in date. The chancel appears to date from c. 1200 and has a pair of lancets on either side. The east wall of the chancel, and its buttresses and north

⁵ A.H. Collins, 'Stourmouth Church', *Arch. Cant.*, xlii (1930), 141-6. The present article is intended mainly as a supplement to this article.

⁶ The quoins are of sandstone, tufa, flint, etc., and the wall also contains re-used Roman bricks, and even some granite erratics - perhaps from the Stonar bank.

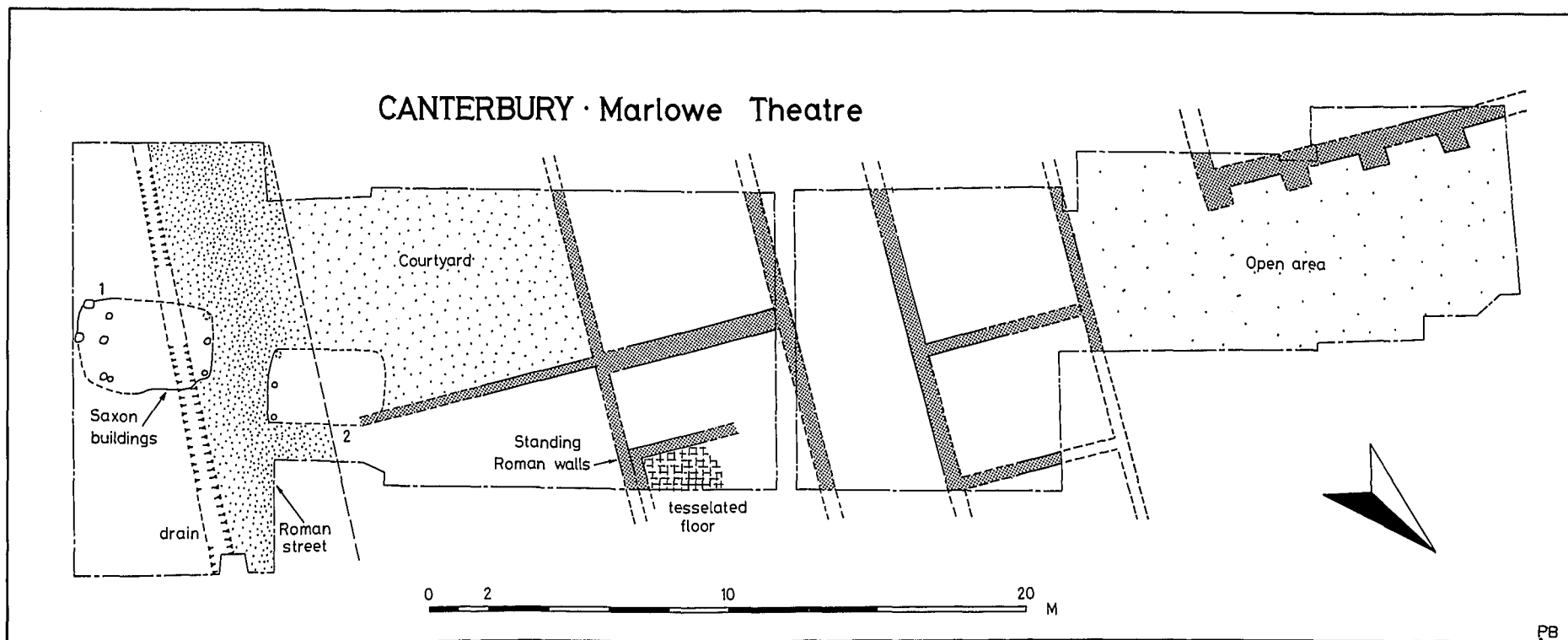
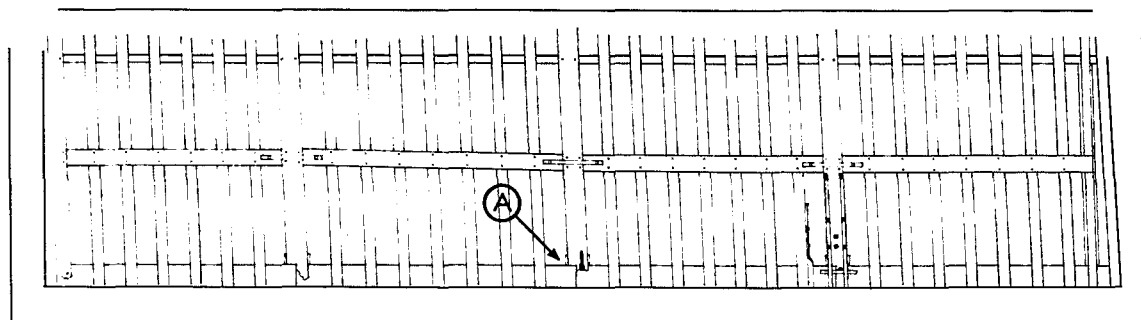


Fig. 3. Plan of the Marlowe Theatre Excavation showing Saxon sunken-floored Buildings in Relation to standing Roman Buildings.

ALL SAINTS, WEST STOURMOUTH ~ SOUTH AISLE ROOF

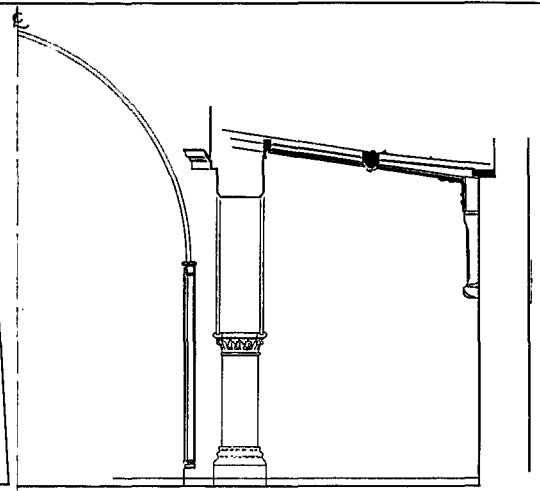
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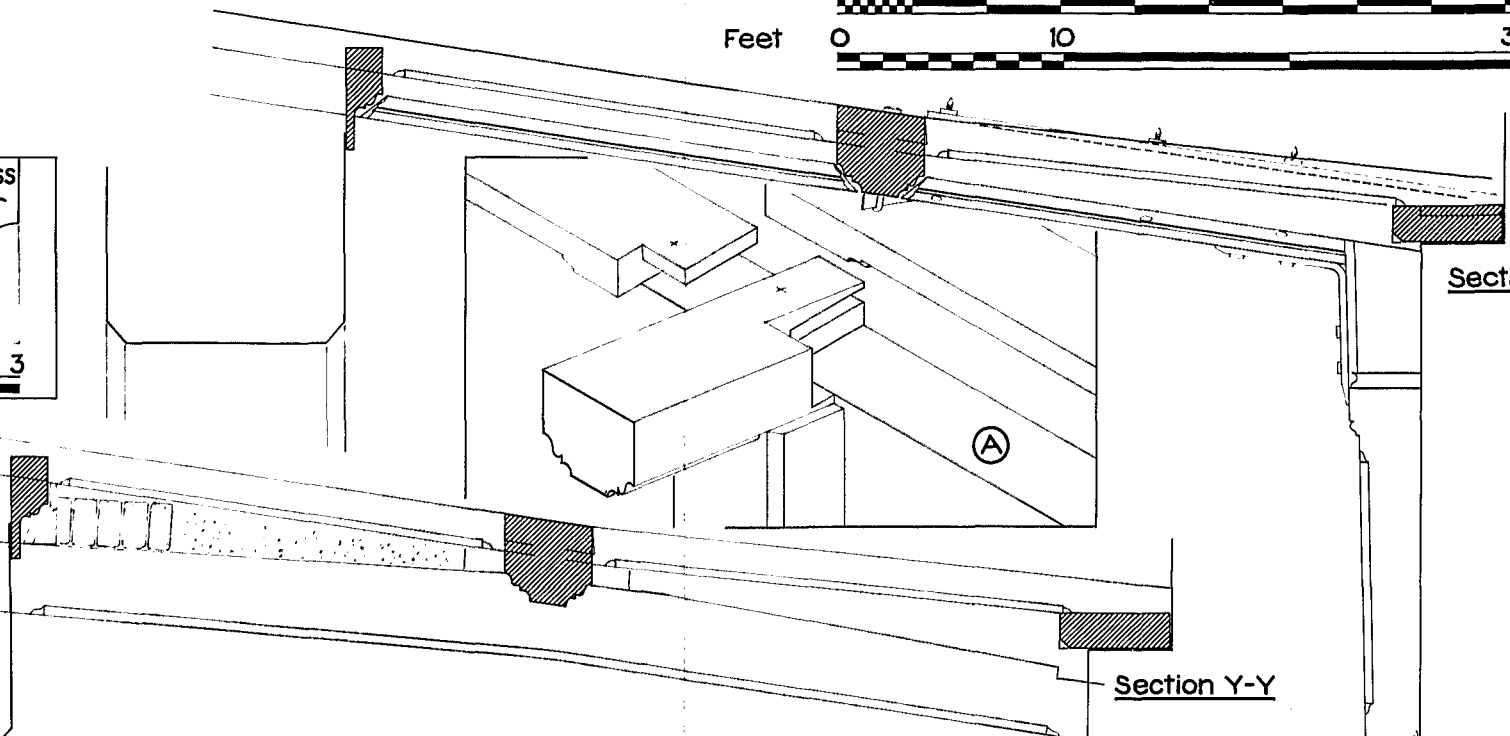
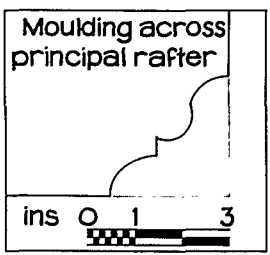
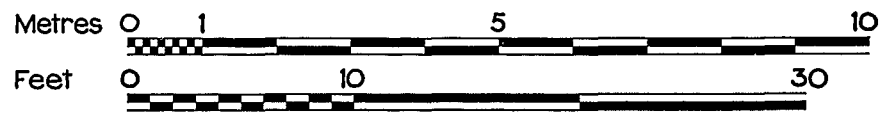


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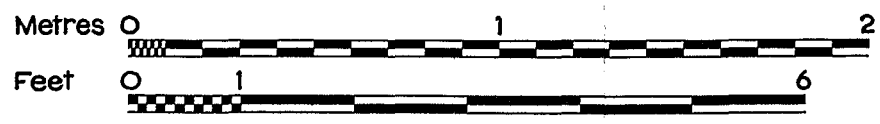


Section X-X



Section X-X

Section Y-Y



GA

Fig. 4. Plan and Sections of the south Aisle Roof, West Stourmouth Church.

and south returns, was completely rebuilt in the nineteenth century. The original east wall was perhaps further to the east. The roof above the chancel is also entirely nineteenth-century in date, although it is clear that the heightening of the north and south walls of the chancel was carried out in the late-medieval period.

The north aisle probably dates from the fourteenth century, but contains the remains of fifteenth-century windows; part of a now-blocked east window with a hood-mould, and the bases of two windows in the north wall survive. The top of the north aisle was cut down in the late seventeenth or eighteenth century to leave a low shed roof with a vestry at the west end; two dormers were added in the early nineteenth century. The west wall of the north aisle incorporates a thirteenth-century buttress.

The south aisle of the church was due to undergo the most extensive restoration in 1982, so most of our work was concentrated here (Fig. 4). Unfortunately, due to the robbing of the lead from the roof, the timbers of the south aisle roof were in places in poor condition and before replacement work began a full survey was undertaken. The south aisle was originally late twelfth-century in date, but only the north arcade and fragments of its east and west walls survive. The rest of the south aisle, including the roof and the whole of the south wall are of fifteenth-century date.⁷ A closer examination of the roof showed that though most of the four-bay roof is fifteenth-century, some drastic repairs were carried out later, probably in the seventeenth century. These repairs included a rebuilding of the tie-beam against the east wall (Fig. 4, section Y-Y) and the insertion of new wall-posts on corbels, and new wall-plates into the south wall. The seventeenth-century wooden boards on the north wall of the aisle were perhaps put up soon after this restoration work.

We are grateful to Mrs. Patricia Brock (the church architect) and Miss Catherine Cullis (Redundant Churches Fund) for help and co-operation during our work. The drawings are the work of John Bowen.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

⁷ Some small buff-yellow bricks were found in the parapet wall. These are perhaps also of a fifteenth-century date.

6. ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE, CANTERBURY

Between September and early November 1982 a large trench (3 m. × 22 m.) was excavated on the site of the early thirteenth-century Great Hall of the medieval Archbishop's Palace. The main part of the trench lay along the inside face of the east end of the south wall of the Great Hall (Fig. 5), the remains of which was incorporated into the north wall of the present Archbishop's Palace (built c. 1900). The excavation was financed by the Church Commissioners (with a small grant from the D.o.E.), as the work was carried out in advance of sewer replacement in this area.

The Great Hall of the Archbishop's Palace, the second largest medieval Great Hall in Britain after Westminster, was constructed c. 1200–1220 by Archbishops Hubert Walter and Stephen Langton, and was demolished in the 1650s. Surviving fragments of the hall have already been recorded and studied by the Trust.⁸

Most of the trench was only excavated to the floor levels of the hall (c. 1.5 m. below the modern ground surface), but earlier stratigraphy was noted in the sides of the old sewer trenches (which ran along the length of the main trench) and also during extra excavation by the contractors after the main excavation had finished. This stratigraphy revealed about 1 m. thickness of levelling and construction layers, not only for the thirteenth-century hall itself, but also for possible earlier buildings on the site, though no direct evidence for these was seen. Unfortunately, very little archaeological dating evidence for the construction of the Great Hall was found. Also revealed, but only partially, and well below the Norman levels, was the metalling for a previously unknown Roman street, which ran approximately north-east to south-west across the width of the trench.

The main results of the excavation were of an architectural nature. The position of the east wall of the hall was conclusively proved, as was the position of one of the piers in the double row that ran down the length of the hall (an aisled hall of eight bays). The pier, or its base was not found *in situ*, but a massive masonry foundation for it was located, this bearing the scar of the pier base (parts of which were found in later levels). Architectural fragments, including a large Purbeck marble shaft-ring found in a later deposit

⁸ See Tim Tatton-Brown, 'The Great Hall of the Archbishop's Palace', in *Medieval Art and Architecture in Canterbury before 1220* (1982), 112–19.

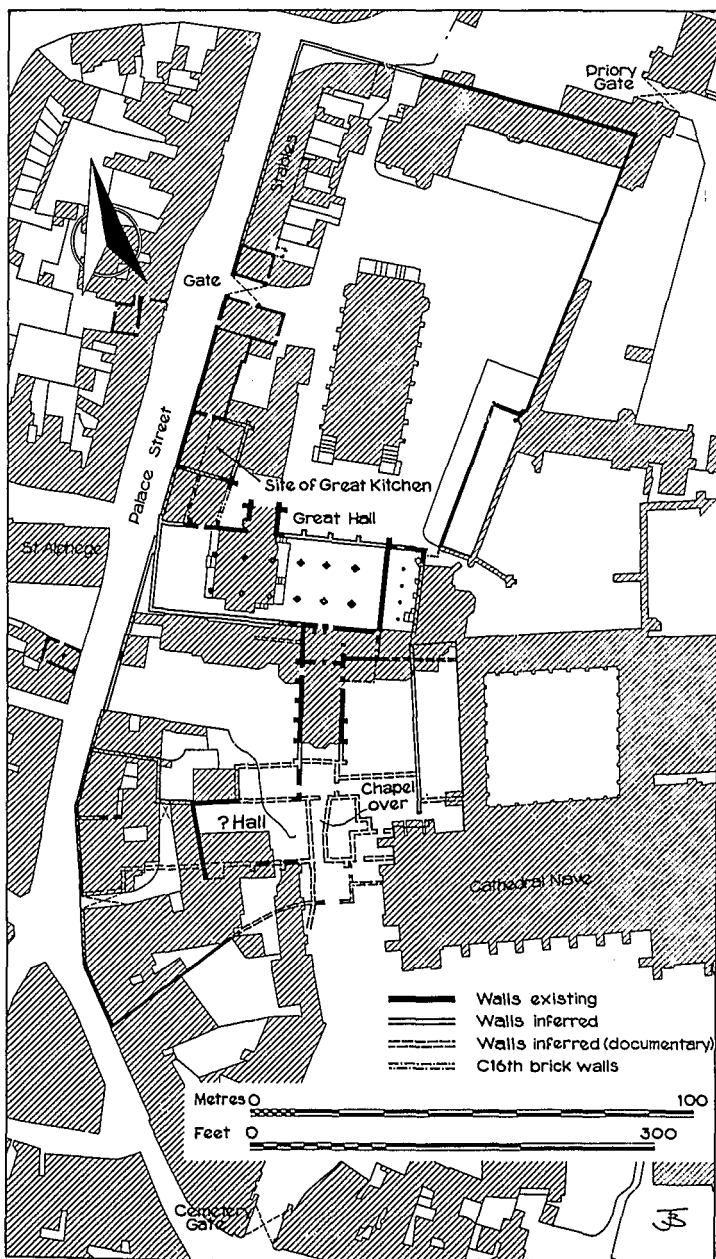


Fig. 5. Plan of the Archbishop's Palace, Canterbury.

but obviously from the Great Hall, have provided evidence for the form of the columns of the hall.

Against the east wall of the hall was found the robbed remains of a raised and stepped dais, which probably ran the width of the building. This had been inserted at a date later than the construction of the hall. The hall floor levels exposed during the excavation were mainly of clay, on a crushed chalk bedding, and these were probably laid early in the medieval period. The floors to a building as important as the Great Hall would certainly have been of glazed tiles, and some floor tiles were found in later deposits. The only evidence for a tiled floor *in situ* was two small fragments of floor tile in the extreme south-east corner of the building. Scars on part of the dais also suggest that this, too, may have been tiled.

Part of the main trench was beyond the east wall of the hall but this area was almost completely destroyed by the old sewer trenches and other nineteenth-century features. However, plaster found on the outer face of this east wall indicated the presence of another building at this end and, consequently, an extra trench was dug to the north to determine its size and date. These excavations not only proved the north-south width of the Great Hall, but also revealed the presence of a contemporary undercroft, running the width of the hall beyond its east end, and constructed at the same time. Found in the north wall of this building, which survived to just below modern ground level, was a door with steps leading down to the floor of the undercroft, and an adjacent window to the east. Excavation inside the undercroft revealed chalk bedding for the original floor and a Purbeck marble column-base actually *in situ*.

The evidence from the excavations as a whole, and from portions of masonry still surviving above ground level, allows an almost complete reconstruction of the Great Hall to be made. The hall was finally demolished in the 1650s (although some of the fabric was still left standing), and most of the deposits actually excavated on site related to this period and to later demolitions.

Since the destruction of the hall most of the area has been a garden. The eighteenth-century garden was sunken, within the remains of the hall itself, and obviously planned and constructed soon after the initial destruction of the building. Overlying part of the hall floor was a 1 m. high revetment wall, built out of material from the hall fabric, mainly Purbeck marble shafts stacked on their side (this wall was described by Gostling in the 1770s)⁹ with

⁹ W. Gostling, *A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury* (1825 edition), 142-44.

demolition débris placed behind. This garden was probably filled in during the early nineteenth century, when the rest of the east wall of the hall was demolished and robbed to below ground level; the whole area was then levelled to form a new garden. Eventually, at the very end of the nineteenth century the present Archbishop's Palace was constructed just to the south, by W.D. Caroe.

JOHN RADY

7. LIFT-SHAFT OUTSIDE THE NORTH-EAST TRANSEPT OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

For two weeks during August 1982, a small excavation, financed by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral was carried out between the north-east transept of the cathedral and the undercroft of the Prior's Chapel, before the construction of the deep foundations for a new lift-shaft for the disabled. A sequence of levels ranging in date from Roman to Norman were found, the Norman deposits being only just below modern ground surface.

Features excavated from the Roman period dated to between the late-first and early-second century to the late-third and fourth centuries and consisted mainly of rubbish pits, and a series of fence lines and a ditch all running approximately north-east/south-west. Also found, at a higher level was a possible wall foundation, aligned similarly, which may date to the second or early third century.

Due to later disturbances only a very small amount of post-Roman/pre-Norman stratigraphy remained, but this suggested a gradual accumulation of soil on the site with little evidence of occupation, until possibly the seventh or eighth century when a courtyard, just possibly relating to the Saxon cathedral, was laid across the area.

The main discoveries were of Norman date and included the massive foundation of the north-east transept (c. 1096) and an earlier large wall foundation running approximately north-south, which perhaps relates to the first Norman cathedral erected by Lanfranc from 1070-77. Parts of the famous Priory waterworks system were also found. These were two storm drains, which ran east-west across the site. One of these, possibly the earlier, and probably of a mid-twelfth century date, was cut by foundations of the Prior's Chapel, constructed c. 1220. These two drains were superseded by a larger, much-renovated, partially brick drain, probably dating to the very late medieval period originally, but still in use up until the start of the excavation.

JOHN RADY

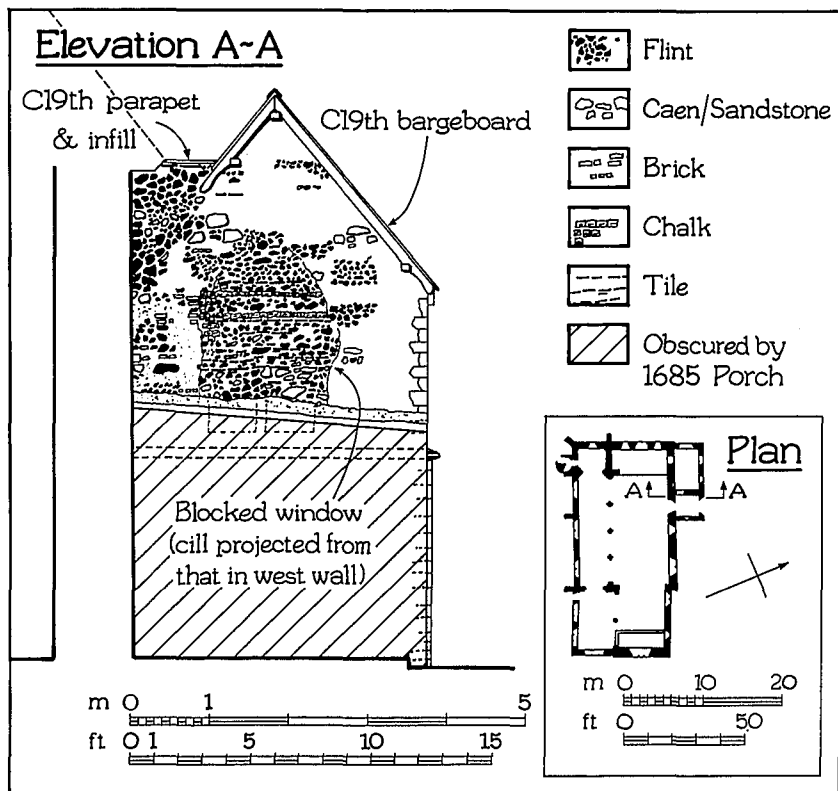


Fig. 6. Elevation of the east Wall of the Trinity Chapel, St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury.

8. THE TRINITY CHAPEL, ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

Another church restoration we were briefly involved in during 1982 was at St. Dunstan's. Four years earlier we had studied other parts of the church,¹⁰ but in 1982 only the upper part of the east wall of the former Trinity Chapel (now the Vestry) concerned us.¹¹ This

¹⁰ Tim Tatton-Brown, 'The Roper Chantry in St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury', *Antiq. Journ.*, lx (1980), 227-46.

¹¹ Re-tiling and battening of the main roofs also took place at this time.

wall, which was in very poor condition, was due to be completely refaced, and a record of it was needed before work started.¹²

Fig. 6 shows that the remains of a blocked east window were clearly visible, and the window here was perhaps originally identical with that still surviving in the west wall of the chapel. The chapel itself was built in 1330 and administered by the Poor Priests' Hospital¹³ and is therefore an exceptionally well-documented structure. It presumably ceased to be used as a chapel in the mid-sixteenth century and a porch was built up against the lower part of its east wall in 1685.¹⁴ The blocking of the east window, which must have taken place before this date, is done very roughly with flint, roofing-tile, and chalk block. Before the blocking took place the stone jambs to the window were removed and this, too, has contributed to the poor condition of the wall-face. Some time in the nineteenth century¹⁵ the southern part of the wall was partly rebuilt with some bricks and the valley between the chapel roof and main roof was filled in. At the same time a new parapet was made with large uncoursed knapped flints, and large boards were added to the gables.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

¹² We are grateful to Peter Marsh, the church architect, for commissioning this survey.

¹³ It was founded in 1330 by Henry de Canterbury, the King's Chaplain, and served by the Poor Priests' Hospital. W. Somner, *The Antiquities of Canterbury* (Battely ed. 1703), 168.

¹⁴ The date is carved on the gable above the porch door.

¹⁵ Perhaps in 1880, Tatton-Brown, 'The Roper Chantry' (note 10 above), 232 and note 8, 245.