

INTERIM REPORT ON WORK IN 1983 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1983 has been another busy year for the Trust, but with financial problems still limiting our activities in some areas. Volume VII in *The Archaeology of Canterbury* series was published during the year as well as some other shorter reports.

Despite being particularly concerned with post-excavation work this year, the Trust has undertaken several important excavations. Some of these, like St. Augustine's Abbey and the Church Lane site were undertaken at short notice and with limited time and very limited funds. At Sandwich Castle, only two trial trenches were excavated. This was to examine the depth of surviving stratigraphy and something of the topography of the castle before deep ploughing took place. Other smaller sites that have been examined during the year include the Westgate, 1 Cossington Road, 7 Palace Street and Iffin Wood. The latter site has been fully reported on elsewhere in this journal.¹ The Trust also helped with Brian Philp's emergency excavations at the Archbishop's Palace site at Teynham, and undertook survey work at several of the former deer park sites east of Canterbury, as well as at Godmersham Park (with the assistance of Cyril Wardale of the Ordnance Survey/R.C.H.M.). The deer park surveys are also published elsewhere in this journal,¹ while the Godmersham survey will continue next year. Connected with the Old Park survey has been the continued clearance, excavation and restoration work, undertaken for the Dean and Chapter, on the pipe systems around their Conduit House on the edge of the Old Park.²

Much more building recording work has been undertaken in and around the City during the year and a summary of this work appears below. Most of the building surveys, which are carried out during restoration work, are recorded on special A4 sheets and copies of

¹ Above pp. 119–24.

² For a full interim report on this see Tim Tatton-Brown, 'The Precincts Water Supply' in *Canterbury Cathedral Chronicle*, 77 (1983), 45–52.

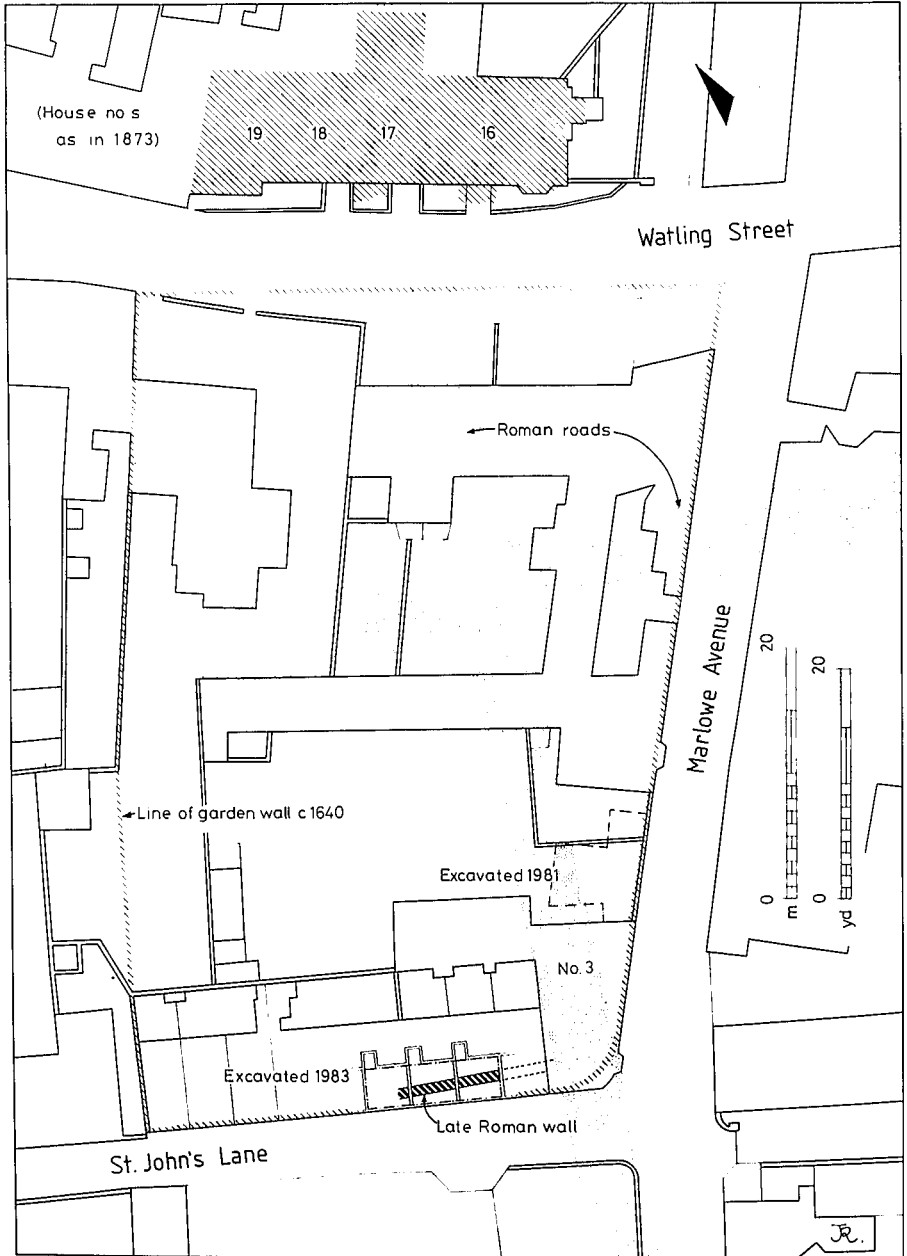


Fig. 1. St. John's Lane and Marlowe Avenue Sites showing Roman streets and the Line of the seventeenth-century Garden Boundary Wall of 16 Watling Street.

these can be made available on request. Finally, the survey of the buildings on the Archbishop's Palace site and in the Cathedral Precincts is nearing completion and a summary of this work also appears below.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

1. EXCAVATION AT ST. JOHN'S LANE

Following the excavation next to 3 Marlowe Avenue in 1981,³ excavations in advance of redevelopment took place on the same site but adjacent to St. John's Lane in July 1983, about 14 m. to the west of the original dig (Fig. 1). The excavation⁴ was confined to three half-cellars belonging to a row of early nineteenth-century cottages which were demolished in the late 1960s.

Due to the truncation of the levels by the cellars, most of the deposits investigated were early Roman in date. The earliest features dated to the middle of the first century, and included a possible boundary ditch and a very large and deep pit, probably a clay quarry. Two articulated horse skeletons were found within the backfill of this feature. Other features, which were mainly rubbish pits, were of Flavian date. In the late first century a major Roman street (located on the Marlowe Avenue excavation) was laid a few metres to the east of the site (Fig. 1). However, no actual road metalling or any ditches belonging to the street were found. The deposits indicate that at the time of the road's construction, the area may have been levelled. Over the next century a gradual build-up of uniform soil occurred suggesting little change in land use.

A number of large second-century rubbish pits, dug close to the road frontage, were also excavated. These and the absence of any structural remains suggest that no buildings fronted onto the road during the second century. Later Roman layers were heavily disturbed, and only survived in a few places, but they indicated that some building construction may have taken place in the vicinity during the very late second or third century.

A 0.90 m. wide wall subfoundation of flint, chalk lumps and rammed gravel, was aligned approximately E-W across the centre of the site. This cut all of the existing horizontal Roman deposits. The west end of the foundation was completely removed by later features,

³ Interim Report in *Arch. Cant.*, xlvii (1981), 284-7.

⁴ The excavation was financed by the developer, Springimage, and we are grateful for the help given by its Director, Colin Tomlin.

but it is probable that the wall turned to the south at this point. No conclusive date for the wall was obtained, but it was almost certainly of late Roman construction. A *terminus ante quem* of possibly the late fourth century was provided by a pit that cut the west end of the foundation. The wall was also perpendicular to the Roman Street, and therefore probably represented part of a building fronting onto it (Fig. 1).

The remaining features were all medieval or post-medieval in date, and consisted mainly of rubbish and cess-pits truncated by the modern cellar. Five of these, all of the eleventh or twelfth century, were ranged along the south side of the late Roman foundation, respecting its alignment and position, although some may have just cut the foundation at a higher level. This suggests that either the wall may have still been standing in some form up to the Saxo-Norman period, or that a later boundary developed in its position (this in turn perhaps becoming the basis for the alignment of St. John's Lane).

Also excavated was a late fourteenth–fifteenth century stone lined cess-tank, situated up against the St. John's Lane frontage. This may have belonged to properties on Watling Street.

In c. 1625, the area in which the site was situated became part of a garden belonging to a large house on Watling Street, numbered 16–19 in 1873. Nos. 16 and 17 still survive, but nos. 18 and 19 which had shaped brick gables facing the street dated 1625, were destroyed in the last war. The garden was surrounded by a boundary wall (Fig. 1) which is shown on a map of Canterbury dating to c. 1640. No levels associated with this period were excavated.

In the early nineteenth century, a row of nine cottages was erected along St. John's Lane, probably at the same time as the large house (no. 3 which still stands) on the corner of St. John's Lane and Marlowe Avenue. The half-cellars of these buildings may have been built of re-used stone from the earlier garden boundary wall. The construction of the cellars had removed most of the later Roman and all of the post-Roman levels (apart from truncated pits) on site. The cellars were backfilled with brick rubble when the cottages were finally demolished.

The excavation at St. John's Lane, although small in size and restricted to the base of cellars, and not producing great quantities of finds, has revealed information, which together with the results of the Marlowe Avenue dig, throws some light on the nature of the area in the Roman period.

For most of the early Roman period no occupation appears to have occurred, not even upon the construction of the Roman street at the end of the first century. The area seems to have been open ground used for the disposal of rubbish, at least at the end of the second

century.

Occupation did, however, take place on the west side of the road from the third or fourth centuries, and a building or buildings were almost certainly erected on the east side of the street in the fourth century, as indicated by the courtyard exposed on the 1981 excavation. Unfortunately, the nature of any of these structures was not determined.

The excavation of later levels mainly confirmed information obtainable from documentary sources, especially from the seventeenth century onwards.

JOHN RADY

2. 20 ST. RADIGUND'S STREET

A brief excavation took place at 20 St. Radigund's Street during August 1983 to expose the remains of the lower part of the Roman and medieval city wall surviving just inside the road frontage of the site, and to cut a section through the defensive ditch which extended north of the wall. The excavation, financed by Canterbury City Council, was undertaken in advance of redevelopment.

A trench cut roughly parallel to the street frontage exposed first the medieval city wall and underneath it the remains of the front of the Roman city wall, built c. A.D. 270–290.⁵ The front of the Roman wall, which had probably originally been faced with large water-rounded cobbles and sandstone boulders, had been removed and only wall core ('fresh' flints bonded in a tough yellow brown mortar) survived. A second trench 13 m. long and 2 m. wide cut at right angles to the wall exposed a thick well-metalled berm, which extended at least 1.70 m. beyond the projected face of the wall. Patches of 'poured' yellow-brown mortar, possibly debris from the wall construction or repair, overlay the berm. No trace of the Roman ditch was discovered as presumably this had been completely removed by the larger late medieval defensive ditch. The top of the Roman berm lay some 1.65 m. below the present ground surface.

In the 1380–90s the Roman wall from the West Gate to the North Gate (called in the documents 'The Long Wall') was rebuilt. Capping the remains of the Roman wall core and set back some 0.40 m. from the projected line of the Roman wall-face, was a well-preserved section of medieval city wall. The wall, with chalk-block core and a

⁵ For a full report on all earlier excavations of the city wall see *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, Vol. II (1982).

face of knapped flint extended along the entire road frontage of the site. In front of the wall the contemporary ground surface had been reduced in the early nineteenth century, but it was apparent from the lowest level of wall refacing that the ground level had only risen some 0.20 m. since Roman times. The edge of the medieval ditch was located some 2.25 m. in front of the wall. The width of the defensive ditch was not fully established since it extended beyond the excavated area, but the ditch was surprisingly shallow being cut to a maximum depth of 1.80 m. below the projected level of the medieval ground surface. Thick, banded organic deposits contained in the lowest ditch fill, might have been laid down in waterlogged conditions. These deposits, which yielded pottery of the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries may indicate that this part of the city ditch contained flowing water. By the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century the ditch had silted up and the earlier deposits were capped by a thick layer of peat containing bands of preserved grass and reed stems, indicating slow flowing or near static water. Some time in the early seventeenth century the ditch was recut. This ditch which was only partially within the excavated area, was set some 9.80 m. in front of the city wall and was about 1 m. deep. The ditch, which was filled with a uniform blue-grey river silt containing a mass of preserved leather (mostly off-cuts from shoe manufacture and repair), was capped by a 0.50 m. thick deposit of dirty grey silt and domestic debris including pottery, bone and oyster shells dating from the early eighteenth century. In the seventeenth century, a final ditch was cut some 2 m. in front of the city wall. This 1 m. deep ditch, which contained waterlogged deposits in its lowest fill, remained open until at least the early 1820s, when the city wall in this area was demolished. The upper level of the ditch was infilled with wall debris, and the entire area levelled prior to the construction of a stable block.

A number of walls and a well associated with the stables were located on the site. Following the construction of the wall foundations at the level of the infilled ditch the area was artificially raised by at least 1 m. by the dumping of hard core and refuse. The building was then constructed from the level of the newly raised ground surface. The stables were demolished in the late nineteenth century and two brick-built cottages were erected. These were demolished in the 1960s.⁶

PAUL BENNETT

⁶ The excavation was supervised by Simon Pratt, and we are grateful to him for all the hard work he put in on site just prior to his departure for Rome.

3. SANDWICH CASTLE

Introduction

In 1290 the Crown regained control of Sandwich from Christ Church Priory, Canterbury, and Edward I probably started straight away to build (or possibly rebuild) a small castle there to defend the town from attacks by the French. This 'tower' or castle was also to be used as the seat of the King's bailiff, the first of whom was Adam 'de Lyminge'. He received a grant of £20 from Sir John de Berwick (Keeper of Queen Eleanor's wardrobe) for 'works' at Sandwich. We also hear of a gaoler for the prison in the newly erected castle (at a salary of 6s. 8d. p.a.).⁷ Earlier in 1266 Roger de Leybourne assaulted Sandwich with 79 men-at-arms and 106 horses. He stayed 43 days in the town and erected 'brattices' (perhaps at the castle).⁸ In 1303 John of Hoo was asked to view the king's house and tower, in association with Thomas de Shelving as presumably the new castle was nearing completion.⁹ At approximately the same time, the king had taken control of Rye and Winchelsea and was building small castles there.¹⁰

In 1384–85, there was a great fear of invasion by the French all along the south coast, and Sandwich castle was garrisoned with 12 men-at-arms, 12 archers, etc. At the same time the castle was extensively repaired (under the control of Thomas More, who enrolled masons, carpenters, labourers, etc.) and various turrets, gates (with keys and locks) and a drawbridge are mentioned.¹¹ In 1385, a timber palisade from a captured French ship was also used for extra defence.¹² In 1471, a group of rebels (800–900 in number) strongly fortified themselves in the castle at Sandwich, but on the king's approach they soon surrendered and handed over the castle and 13 ships in the haven to him.¹³

The castle site is always traditionally supposed to have been just outside the Sandown Gate on the south side of the road (it is marked 'KING'S CASTLE, site of' on the Ordnance Survey maps) and this is confirmed by the fields called Castlemead (Great and Little Cast-

⁷ D. Gardiner, *Historic Haven, the Story of Sandwich* (1954), 47–98.

⁸ *Op. cit. supra*, 32 and H.M. Colvin (Ed.), *The History of the King's Works*, i (1963), 118.

⁹ *Op. cit.* (note 1), 65 and C.P.R. (1301–07), 55.

¹⁰ For example, the 'Ypres' tower at Rye, see D.F. Renn, 'The Castles of Rye and Winchelsea' in *Arch. Journ.*, cxxxvi (1979) 193–202.

¹¹ *Op. cit.* (note 1), 121 and C.P.R. (1385–89), 175, and various Exchequer accounts, E/101/481/24 from June–November 1385.

¹² Leland, *Collectanea* (Ed. Hearne, 1715) i, 185.

¹³ W. Boys, *Collections for a History of Sandwich in Kent*, etc. (1792), 729.

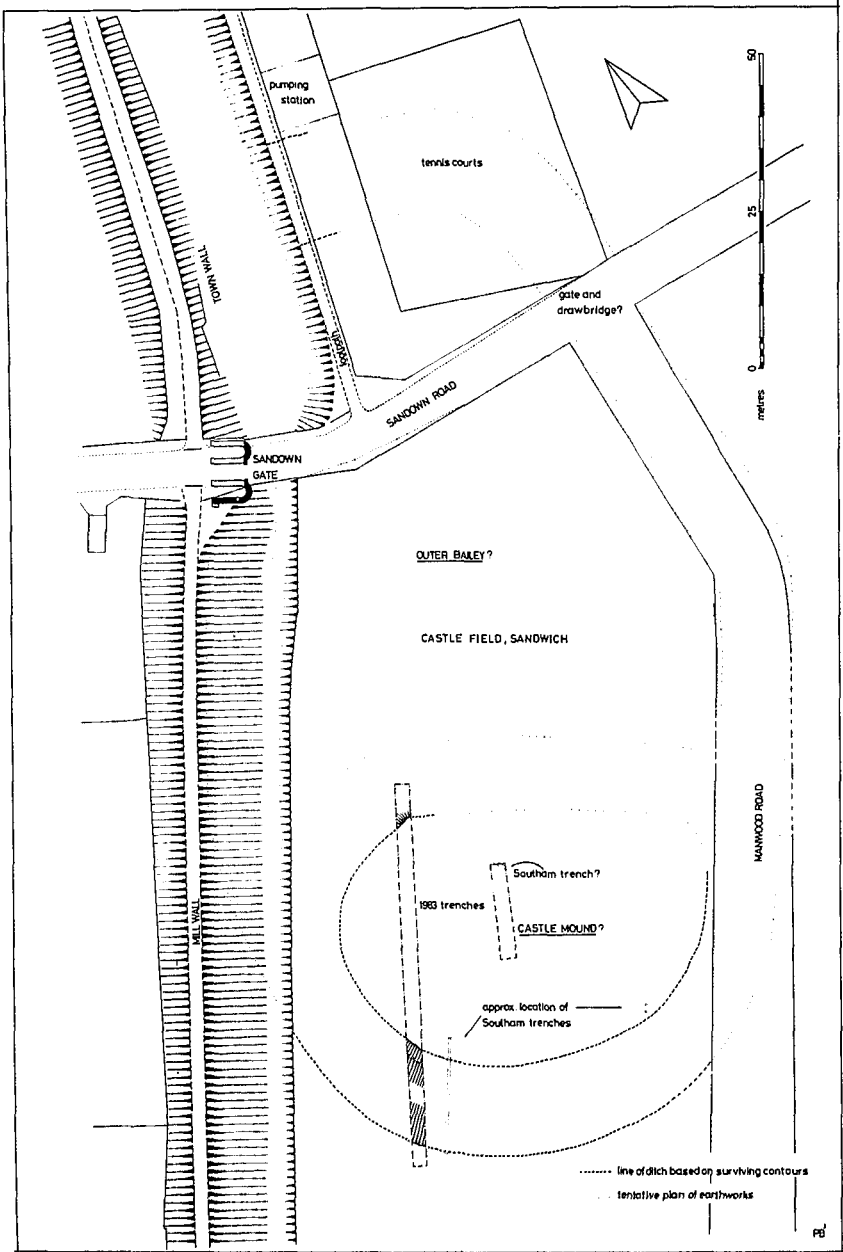


Fig. 2. Sandwich Castle.

lemed in 1457) which are shown on William Boycott's map (c. 1615),¹⁴ and later maps, extending out from this area. In 1403, a meadow called 'le castlemede' is described as lying under the king's castle of Sandwich.¹⁵ The castle is not mentioned after the end of the fifteenth century and it was presumably pulled down in 1539–40 by Henry VIII, so the materials could be used in his new castle, Sandown Castle, four miles to the south-east on the coast at The Downs.

In 1970, three small trenches were dug by the late Mr A. Southam across the ditch in the field outside the Sandown Gate. This located a large ditch c. 2 m. deep and 5 m. wide. It appeared to have the remains of a bank on the north, and this was thought to be part of the castle.¹⁶

TIM TATTON-BROWN

The Excavation

Castle Field, situated to the south-west of the Sandown Gate,¹⁷ is flanked on the north by the Sandown road, on the west by the town rampart (raised in the first half of the fifteenth century) and to the east by the relatively recent Manwood Road. (Fig. 2). The north end of the field still retains traces of a slight raised mound flanked to the south by a considerable depression indicating the position of a backfilled defensive ditch. The depression extends in a wide arc from the line of the town defences to Manwood Road. In order to examine the surviving features, two 2 m. wide trenches (Fig. 2, Trenches I and II) were cut across them on a north–south axis in August 1983. A mechanical excavator was used to remove the modern ploughsoil, and after a brief examination of the remains of the slighted mound and the upper ditch fills the machine was re-employed to remove them.

The natural deposits consisted of an extremely thick layer of brick-earth, of differing colouration and consistency. Capping the hard natural clay was a leached brickearth containing a number of struck flint flakes. The presence of at least two partly worked thumb scrapers and a finely worked microlith probably originally fashioned for a knife or a sickle may indicate a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age

¹⁴ Kent Archives Office – U562 PI.

¹⁵ Fine Rolls, M.13 (July 5th 1403).

¹⁶ None of this work was published and few records of the work appear to survive.

¹⁷ Parts of the Sandown Gate were excavated by the Trust in 1978, see *Arch. Cant.*, xlv (1978), 153–5, and the southern part of a mid-fifteenth century gate tower is still visible north-west of Castle Field.

date for this horizon. Sealing this was a thin layer of undisturbed leached topsoil which contained a few sherds of late eleventh-century pottery. The undisturbed topsoil was capped by a further deposit of darker loam containing quantities of later twelfth-century pottery and domestic refuse. This upper topsoil had been 'disturbed', possibly by agricultural activity. Cutting the lower topsoil, but sealed by the upper were numerous post- and stake-holes and a hearth which indicated that some building activity took place on the site prior to the possible agricultural phase. The occupation residue recovered from the upper 'ploughsoil' may have originally been associated with the post- and stake-holes. As the pottery recovered from the buried topsoil dates no later than c. 1200 a gap of approximately a century separates the agricultural activity from the suggested date for the construction of the castle. Sealing the topsoil was a thin compact layer of grey silty loam, which may represent a buried turf horizon. It is therefore suggested that this area was perhaps pasture for about a century prior to the construction of the castle in the late twentieth century.

Cutting the early levels at the south end of trench II was a massive ditch, approximately 14.25 m. wide and 4.5 m. deep. The ditch, on a curving alignment, conformed precisely with the depression surviving in the field. A second ditch located some 35.50 m. north of the first and also on a curving alignment, indicated the north side of the earthwork. This ditch was only partially excavated, but appeared to be of considerable depth and width. The upcast from the cutting of the earthwork was probably thrown up inside the area defined by the ditches (sealing the topsoil deposits) to create a substantial mound. The ditches may have continued under the line of Manwood Road on the east and the later town ditch on the west making the east and west sides of a bailey enclosure. A well-defined dip in the footpath north-west of the tennis courts (north of the Sandown road) (Fig. 2) may well indicate the north side of the defensive circuit. The drawbridge mentioned in the building work undertaken at the castle in 1384-85 may have existed just outside the north-east corner of castle field at the point where Manwood Road joins the Sandown road. Overall, the shape of this defensive earthwork suggests that Sandwich Castle was of motte-and-bailey type. No trace of a masonry or timber structures was found during the excavations, though the documentary evidence suggests the presence of some substantial buildings. The exact nature of the structure capping the mound may perhaps be found in further larger-scale excavation.

The lowest level of the southern ditch infill, which contained a small quantity of thirteenth-century pottery and an iron key was below the present water-table and consisted entirely of banded

organic layers interspersed with layers and lenses of eroded brick-earth derived from the sides of the ditch and mound. These layers indicate that the ditch was perhaps water-filled for most of its life. Both north and south ditches were recut at least once. Pottery recovered from the sump of the recut southern ditch indicates that the defences may have been repaired in the late fourteenth century and hence confirm the documentary evidence. The trench dug by Mr Southam across the defensive ditch only indicated a depth of *c.* 2 m. and a width of *c.* 5 m., and it seems likely that only the recut ditch was emptied by him.

The bulk infill of both ditches was of brickearth undoubtedly derived from the slighted mound. A small corpus of late sixteenth-century potsherds recovered from the upper backfill of both ditches may confirm that the castle was levelled to its foundations in the 1540s.

A number of eighteenth- to twentieth-century field drains and features were found cutting the ditch fills and the remains of the mound. The ploughsoil produced a small amount of seventeenth- to twentieth-century pottery though the field was only turned into arable again relatively recently.¹⁸

Soil samples taken from the lowest level of the ditch infill and pollen samples from the mound and topsoil levels are currently being studied. A full report on the excavation is in preparation and will appear in a future volume of this journal.

PAUL BENNETT and PAUL BLOCKLEY

4. ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY

An extremely hectic salvage operation was mounted by the Trust during the latter part of November 1983 to record the substantial foundations of part of a major medieval building exposed during the cutting of foundations for a new Students' Union in the grounds of Christchurch College, Canterbury. The building possibly part of the cellarer's range (built *c.* 1300), flanking the south side of the outer court of St. Augustine's Abbey, had probably been demolished to its foundations soon after the Dissolution and its location subsequently

¹⁸ The excavation was financed by the owner, Mr C.F. Burch, prior to deep ploughing. We are extremely grateful to him for providing a house for the diggers and much hospitality during the excavation. We are also grateful to the small full-time band of diggers (Messrs. I. Anderson, L. Lepers and D. Knight) and to the many volunteers (particularly Dr J.D. Ogilvie, Messrs. J. Rady and J. Defrémont and Misses M. Green and M. Okun) who participated in the excavation.

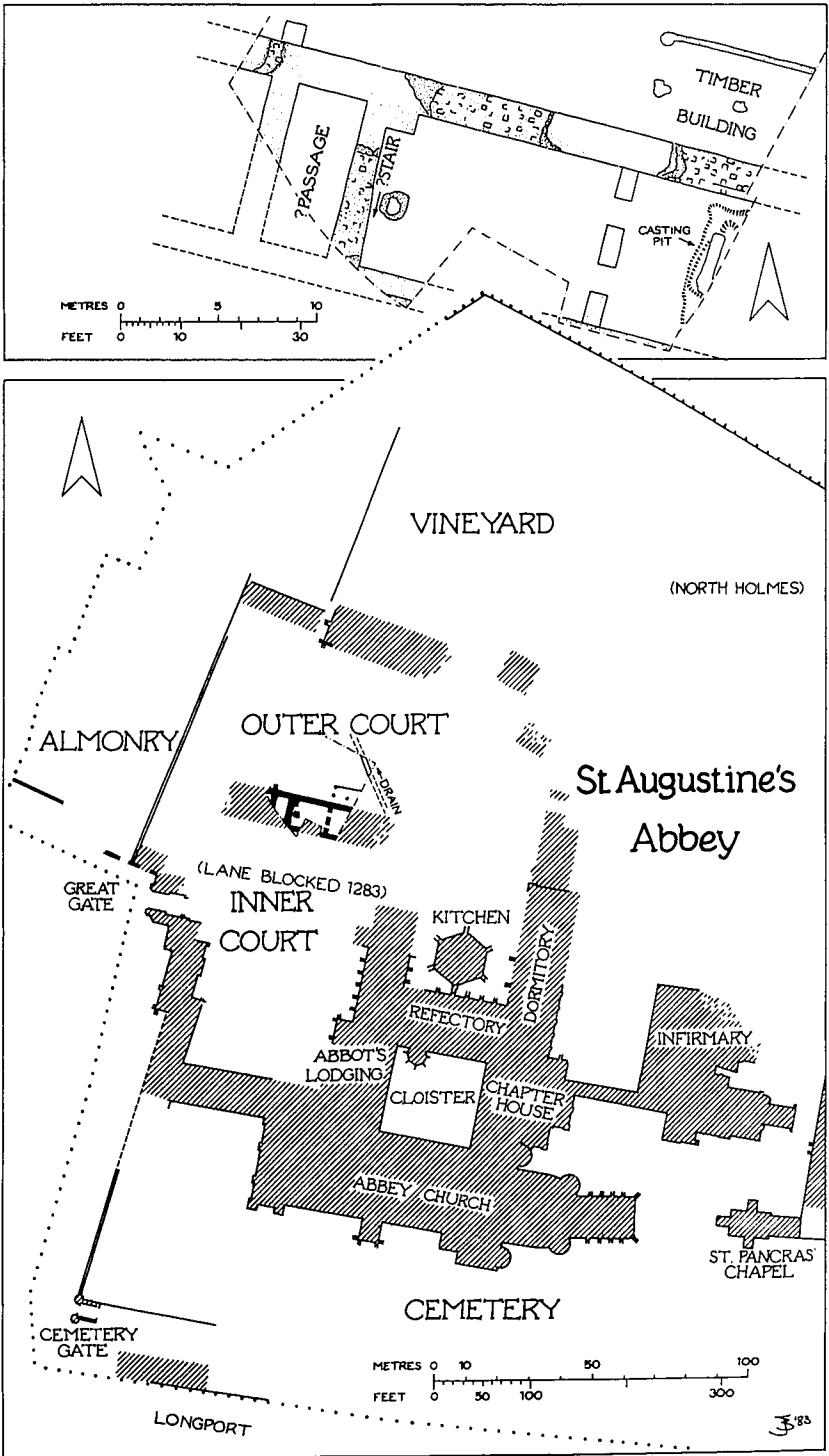


Fig. 3. St. Augustine's Abbey, showing the newly excavated Building (inset).

lost. The watching brief maintained by the Trust during the progress of the development represents the first occasion archaeologists have been directly involved in building work at the college. The college grounds have only recently been included within the area of the scheduled Ancient Monument, even though it is known to be contained within the partly extant boundary walls of the Abbey. The destruction of medieval service buildings' foundations flanking the north and east sides of the outer court took place when the college was built in 1962, at a time when the Department of the Environment was involved in research excavations within the Abbey itself.

Only the rammed chalk foundations and poured mortar sub-foundations of the building survived and even this together with the construction levels were heavily bulldozed before cleaning and recording could begin. The main north and south walls of the range were uncovered (Fig. 3), indicating an external building width of 9.15 m. Two transverse walls set 3.66 m. apart may indicate the position of a through-passage or gateway. A single external buttress was located opposite the western cross-wall. An internal pier base, capped by a large greensand block, and a corresponding fattening of the main north wall foundation east of the parallel walls, may indicate the position of a staircase entered from the north leading up to the first floor. A third internal wall to the east consisting of three independent foundations perhaps suggested the existence of two major internal doors at undercroft level. The undercroft would have presumably contained the cellarer's stores, The principal floor may have been divided into a hall and other services for guests. The remains of a timber building, defined by a single sleeper-beam foundation trench, a number of internal post-holes and an extensive sequence of internal floors, were located immediately north of and adjoining the masonry building. Metallings associated with the outer courtyard surfaces were also located 'in section' after the machine clearance of the site.

A large drain of chalk block construction, with scars for an original stone lining and floor, was exposed during machine clearance in the north-east corner of the building site. The drain aligned approximately north-north-west - south-south-east, probably ran from the Abbey kitchen and Rere-dorter, through the outer court, west of a contemporary range of service buildings (the western gable of this range still survives) and onwards, probably discharging into the city ditch.

A large number of early medieval features were observed cutting the natural subsoil. These included open drains feeding from an earlier medieval kitchen range to large soak-aways and a large number of pits containing carbon, burnt clay and iron-working waste indicating early medieval industrial activity on the site. One large

disturbance, located in the south-east corner of the building site and later sealed by the building range, was a bronze casting pit from which many fragments of casting waste and decorated mould fragments were recovered.

A close monitoring of the foundation work for the new Union building continues, as Roman burials which are known in the immediate vicinity may be encountered. A small area of intact undercroft floors east of the possible through-passage is currently being excavated.

PAUL BENNETT and JOHN RADY

The outer Court of the Abbey

In November 1283,¹⁹ the Abbot was allowed to enclose the lane between the door of the court of the Abbey and his land at 'Nordholm'. This lane was probably roughly on the site of the present lane which leads to Christchurch College, and which became a lane again after the Dissolution. In July 1300,²⁰ the Abbot and convent were licensed to enclose 150 by 80 ft. of land 'in the suburb of Canterbury adjoining their court for the enlargement thereof'. Finally, Abbot Fyndon in 1308 was licensed to crenellate the Great Gate of the Abbey.²¹ All of this shows how the Abbey was enlarging the inner court in the late thirteenth century and relocating the main service buildings in an outer court to the north. Apart from relocating the great gate (the original gate had been about 100 ft. to the south),²² the Abbey almost certainly moved the cellarer's range from the west side of the great cloister to the north side of the inner court in about 1300, i.e. to where the foundations were discovered in 1983. The range to the west of the great cloister was then rebuilt as a very grand Abbot's Lodging with a large new first-floor Abbot's Guest Hall to the north. The porch of this hall (shown in the bird's-eye view of c. 1650)²³ was to be opposite Abbot Fyndon's very grandiose Great Gate, which still survives. After the Dissolution, Henry VIII retained the Abbot's Lodging and the other buildings around the east, south

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*. Ed. I (1281-91) p. 51.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*. Ed. I (1292-1301) p. 527.

²¹ All these licences are also listed in Thomas of Elmham's fourteenth-century 'Chronicle' of the Abbey; see A.H. Davis (trans.), *William Thorne's Chronicle of St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury* (Oxford, 1934).

²² For a discussion of this and the late thirteenth-century guest hall which still survives, see Tim Tatton-Brown, Margaret Sparks and Julian Munby, 'Crown-post and king-strut Roofs in south-east England' *Med. Arch.*, xxvii (1983), forthcoming.

²³ Drawn by Thomas Johnson and engraved by Daniel King and first published in W. Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

and west sides of the inner court and converted them into a small royal palace. The cellarer's range to the north was obviously not needed so it was demolished and a new wall with a gate in it²⁴ was built to cut off the northern part of the inner court.

MARGARET SPARKS and TIM TATTON-BROWN

5. CHURCH LANE

Excavations on this site commenced on 24th October, 1983, and are due to be completed by 5th January, 1984, before the redevelopment of the whole block of land surrounded by Church Lane, St. Radigund's Street, Knott's Lane, and King Street.

The site lay just inside the city wall along the Church Lane frontage on the site of houses which stood on the site until the 1960s. Occupation of the area dates back at least to the late fourteenth century (the timber-framed 'St Radigund's Restaurant' probably dates to this period).

At the time of writing (December 1983) late fourteenth/early fifteenth-century timber structures are being excavated. One of these structures contained several ovens and burnt floors which suggest a light industrial function for the structure: perhaps a workshop attached to a house.

Overlying these structures, and on the same ground plan, were four well-preserved sixteenth-century houses. Their dwarf walls survived almost to their full height. The westernmost structure lay partly beneath the Knott's Lane street frontage, but that part which was excavated consisted of two rooms divided by a screens passage. A more complete structure lay to the east. This structure, 9 m. long by 5.40 m. wide consisted of a service area, screens passage, hall and solar. The service area and hall were furnished with pitched-tile fireplaces. Extensions were added to the rear of the structure in the later sixteenth century. Two smaller structures lay between this house and St. Radigund's Restaurant. Their size and lack of hearths suggest that they may have been shops.

Overlying these houses were substantial remains of two pairs of seventeenth-century structures with back-to-back fireplaces and brick floors. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century tenements were constructed over the destruction deposits of their predecessors.

²⁴ This wall and gate is shown in various eighteenth and early nineteenth century drawings and engravings and was demolished when Butterfield's college building was erected in the 1840s.

It is hoped that the excavation will reveal traces of a wide early medieval intra-mural street (the predecessor of Church Lane) and possibly other early medieval structures as well as the tail of the Roman rampart behind the city wall.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

6. BUILDING RECORDING WORK

During the year many more buildings were recorded in and around Canterbury while they were undergoing restoration work. This increase in work is mainly due to an increased demand for these surveys by Canterbury City Council's Conservation Section. Among the more important surveys carried out were those at Fordwich Farm, 5a Best Lane, The Blackfriars' Refectory, 81 St. Dunstan's Street, 30-1 Northgate, Deanery Farm, Chartham, and at two of the great late medieval double-jettied buildings in central Canterbury (Hepworths and 'The Bull').

Fordwich Farm, which is still being extensively restored and rebuilt, was originally an entirely timber-framed building dated 1588 (the date is actually carved on a jowl of a main post downstairs). The northern part of the house has many fine features of this date still surviving, including fine door mouldings, windows, brackets, a newel post and even the top part of an oriel window. The roof above is a queen-strut roof with clasped side-purlins and wind-braces, and the principal rafters become half their thickness above the collars, though they have jowls at the top. At the northern end of the building much of the box-framing is still visible, though on the east, where it was originally continuously jettied, there is only today a brick wall for the two cottages into which the building was turned in the nineteenth century.

5a Best Lane is a small timber-framed and brick building on the river Stour in central Canterbury. Known until recently as the Old Forge (elements of the nineteenth-century forge remained inside), it was very extensively restored at the end of 1982 and early in 1983. The building lies behind 4 and 5 Best Lane and is now a restaurant. On the south side, just below the destroyed gable end is the date 16(6)7 in blue headers. This is probably the date of the building, though the structure appears to be shown on the 1595 bird's-eye view of the Blackfriars area. Only the first-floor framing and a few timbers in the sides are original. The roof was destroyed in the nineteenth century when an extra floor was inserted.

In December 1982, the Blackfriars' refectory building was sold to the Cleary Foundation for use by the King's School as an Arts

Centre. Throughout 1983 extensive restorations have been taking place, particularly to the roof. Unfortunately, the building was even more heavily restored in the 1920s and no record of the building appears to exist before that. The roof, however, must in part be original (mid-thirteenth century) though the timbers have almost certainly all been taken down and then put back again. In form it has double collars and soulaces and at the southern end a few slender crown-posts (with moulded caps and bases) on original tie-beams survive. Oddly enough, there is no collar-purlin (nor has there apparently been one), and hence the roof had racked very badly. The north wall of the present building is clearly also the south wall of another thirteenth-century building (perhaps the kitchen), and between this building and the refectory was a ground level passage. Though some of the original windows and part of the pulpit of the thirteenth-century refectory survive, the building has been very extensively altered in the post-medieval period, most noticeably with the insertion of a brick vault for the first floor. This vault which may in part be later sixteenth-century was also heavily restored in the 1920s. When it was inserted, the floor level above was raised considerably, as was the floor level in the undercroft (due to the rise in river level). The later use of the building has largely been as non-conformist chapels (Anabaptist, Unitarian and latterly, Christian Scientist), and added to the southern end of the original building is a large brick seventeenth-century extension. This, too, is being heavily restored.²⁵

81 St. Dunstan's Street was unfortunately badly damaged by fire two years ago so a complete survey was made of the medieval frame before stripping out. Along the street frontage (behind a Victorian façade) about half of a medieval timber-framed building survives. The rest of the building (probably principally the open hall) must have occupied the site of no. 81a where there is now a separate Victorian building. The part that survives consists of two rooms on the ground floor with the remains of the doors that led originally into the screens passage, and above this a fine solar over which there is a crown-post roof. The solar is jettied out over the street and extended over the screens passage originally. Though the roof now runs through to the next property on the south-east, it was originally hipped. On the street frontage, remains of two windows (with

²⁵ For a full history of the Blackfriars, see C.F.R. Palmer, 'The Friar-Preachers or Blackfriars at Canterbury' *Arch. Cant.*, xiii (1880) 81-96, A.G. Little 'The Dominican Friars of Canterbury' in *VCH (Kent)*, ii (1926), 177-80, A.R. Martin 'The Dominican Priory at Canterbury' *Arch. Journ.*, lxxxvi (1930), 152-77 and Margaret Sparks and Tim Tatton-Brown 'The Blackfriars of Canterbury' (forthcoming, 1984).

mouldings on either side) still survive in the solar. Added on to the back of the property is a large brick fireplace and chimney stack with around it a perhaps contemporary later seventeenth-century timber-framed two-storied extension. Much of this extension was very badly burned, but there are the remains of a butt side-purlin roof with collars above. In the nineteenth century a waggon entry had been cut through the north-western part of the property.

30-1 Northgate, which were until recently an ironmonger's shop, were in July 1983 converted into an amusement arcade. The front part of no. 30 when stripped out had in it the remains of a crenellated and moulded *in situ* screens beam, with behind it the floor joists for the chamber above. These timbers indicated the position of the screens passage with two small rooms beyond. The positions of the speres were also indicated, and it is clear that there was an open hall to the south-west. Behind this property was a long warehouse-like (c. seventeenth-century) extension, which had in the nineteenth century been turned into a small theatre. In the auditorium, galleries with painted-canvas fronts were erected around three sides. This little theatre in Canterbury is therefore a rare survival from the nineteenth century.

The 'Wealden House' at Deanery Farm, Chartham was stripped out and completely restored in the summer of 1983. This important building of c. 1495 which was fully recorded by the Trust, was briefly but inaccurately referred to in this journal in 1974.²⁶ The house is a classic 'Wealden' but of very late date and with a queen-strut and side-purlin (with wind braces) roof instead of a crown-post roof. As well as the roof, much of the rest of the remaining timber-framing was exposed, and the positions of windows, doors, braces, etc., were all revealed. There was much close-studding and, at the 'high' end of the building at least there were two projecting windows and a first-floor projecting garde-robe. The main hall windows also survive and these have very late mouldings.

Back in Canterbury, 8-9 The Parade and 25-26 St. Margaret's Street, originally one large L-shaped and double-jettied building, were also recorded in detail during restoration work. These properties were situated very strategically right in the centre of the city. Except for on the ground floor, much of the original framing as well as the fine crown-post roofs survive intact.

Another very fine late medieval building in central Canterbury which was recorded was the Bull (or White Bull) in Burgate. This

²⁶ M.J. Sparks and E.W. Parkin 'The Deanery, Chartham' *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxix (1974), 181, where the building is described as having a crown-post roof.

very fine structure (now 40–4 Burgate Street and 1–3 Butchery Lane) was originally a great stone house of the twelfth century belonging to Christ Church Priory (a small section of cellars of this date survive below 43 Burgate Street). In the mid-fifteenth century under Prior Goldstone I (1449–68) they were re-built in their present form²⁷ as a large double jettied structure around a courtyard. On the north-west there were two parallel ranges and though no common hall has been found, it is likely that this building, with a name like ‘The Bull’ (the Bull-Stake was next door), was an inn rather than just lodgings.

As well as these major surveys, a whole series of lesser surveys were done, including an early seventeenth-century cottage at 7 Ivy Lane, the great 1625 town house at 16 Watling Street, more work at the Poor Priests’ Hospital and the late seventeenth-century houses at 19 Stour Street and 35 St. Margaret’s Street.

Finally, Paul Bennett and Andrew Webster recorded the timber bell-frame from the tower of High Halstow church which was most unfortunately cut up and removed from the tower during the restoration of the bells.

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7. THE PRECINCTS SURVEY

Following on from the specific surveys of certain major buildings in the Cathedral Precincts (*Aula Nova*, ‘Meister Omers’, Infirmary Chapel, Table Hall, Archbishop’s Palace, etc.) and from the survey of the buildings of the ‘New Foundation’ (i.e. post-1541 buildings), a survey of the medieval buildings, commissioned by the Dean and Chapter is now nearing completion. A new phased 1:500 plan of all known medieval buildings in the Precincts area (i.e. all the buildings of the Archbishop’s Palace and the great Benedictine Priory of Christ Church) has been completed and this has been supplemented by a documentary study of the buildings by Margaret Sparks. A study has also been made of all known early photographs, drawings, prints and maps which help to complete the survey as much destruction unfortunately took place in the last century. The result has been to produce one of the most detailed plans of a great Benedictine house ever achieved in Britain. The survival of the material remains and the documentation at Canterbury are both, of course, exceptional and of nowhere else in the world does a complete mid-twelfth century plan of a monastery survive.

²⁷ *Unum aedificium lignium plures mansiones constituens vocatum anglice le Bole* in Prior Goldstone I’s *obit.*, see H. Wharton, *Anglica Sacra* (1691), 145.

During the course of the survey, a large number of virtually unknown medieval roofs have been discovered. To date the earliest of these is the secret notched-lap jointed roof over the eastern part of the archdeacon's house (the monastic larder) which perhaps dates from the early thirteenth century. This roof, was unfortunately half destroyed by bombing in 1940. Other important roofs in the Precincts include: the c. 1275 king-strut and scissor-braced roof over the Table Hall;²⁸ part of a later thirteenth-century massive king-strut roof over the Bakehouse (the rest of the roof is late medieval and seventeenth-century); the remains of two complete scissor-braced trusses over the east end of the *Necessarium* (now the Precentor's House); two c. 1400 crown-post roofs over the Granary and the north end of the Deanery (perhaps originally the *Deportum*) and a late fifteenth-century roof over the east range of the Archbishop's Palace. As well as these, there are, of course, the already well-known roofs of the Chapter House, the Pentise, Chillenden's Chambers over the Pentise gate-house and 'Meister Omers'. The survey should be published in *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, volumes III and IV in 1984.

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²⁸ See Tim Tatton-Brown, Margaret Sparks and Julian Munby, 'Crown-post and king-strut Roofs in south-east England', *Med. Arch.*, xxvii (1983), forthcoming.