

CHAPTER 2 - EXCAVATIONS IN 1974 BY HUMPHREY WOODSCONTENTS

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1 INTRODUCTION

Trial excavations during the winter of 1973 were undertaken by Felix Holling in the Friary Meux brewery, which was about to be demolished, to discover if anything survived of the Dominican friary which occupied the site from the late 13th century until the Dissolution. Two trenches were dug, and Holling found walls and floors of several periods, some of which clearly belonged to the friary. Near one wall was a skeleton, which suggested that the trial trenches were either in or near the church or cloister (Holling 1974).

ch 2: 5

fig 5

Such encouraging results led to the decision being taken by the Department of the Environment to fund a large-scale excavation of the site in the spring and summer of 1974 after the demolition of the brewery buildings had been completed. The hope was that a complete plan of the friary could be recovered, as the removal of the brewery buildings presented the opportunity for open area excavation. As Holling could not spare the necessary time from his duties as Curator of Guildford Museum to direct this much longer work, the present writer was invited to do it in his stead.

2 METHOD OF EXCAVATION AND RECORDING

Mr Holling's trenches had shown that the friary walls were covered by an accumulation of post-monastic deposits to an average depth of 2.30m. In order to find out the north-south extent of the friary two diagonal trenches were cut through the site. Footings were exposed throughout the first 29m of the trenches, after which point the trenches were sterile.

fig 21

Once the extent of the buildings in this dimension had been established, it was decided to strip the overburden with hydraulic machinery in that part of the site where the diagonal trenches had been placed. To ascertain where they lay in relation to the friary, the machinery was used to remove all deposits down to the demolition layer (layer W12) of the friary buildings, and preceding layers were then excavated by hand. Mechanical removal of the overburden unfortunately involved the destruction of those parts of the Earl of Annandale's mansion which survived above the friary demolition layer. The decision to do so, regrettable though it must appear to the reader, was due to the exigencies of time and money and was made by the author's superiors in the DoE. The developers of the site had agreed with the Department and Guildford Museum to allow six weeks for excavation, commencing from 1 April. The decision was made, therefore, to strip the whole area available for excavation to find the whole friary. All post-medieval deposits were sacrificed to the medieval.

Because of the shortage of time, no sections were drawn, all drawing effort being concentrated on the stone-by-stone frame

planning of the friary walls and footings as fast as they could be shovelled clear of debris and cleaned up. The reader will find that, at the outset of the report, walls and footings are numbered. As the excavation progressed, the volume of surviving walls and footings was found far to exceed the expectations of everybody concerned. The numbering of walls and footings was therefore abandoned, and numbering was confined to features and layers other than walls and footings. This is mirrored in the narrative of the report.

Because of the unexpectedly complete survival of the friary, the developers very kindly extended the original six weeks to twelve, and made a generous grant of funds to cover the extra period, with the proviso that at the end of the twelve weeks the archaeologists must be off the site. When the twelve weeks were exhausted it had still not been possible to examine fully a building, which excavation of the robber trench of the south wall of the great kitchen showed to be sealed beneath the kitchen. At this juncture, Guildford Museum managed to persuade the developers to allow just one more week, the Borough Council finding the money to cover the costs. Hydraulic machinery was recalled to strip part of the cloister garth south of the kitchen down to the level of the buried building, which was then hand excavated with rapidity, as it was clear that neither time nor funds from no matter how long-suffering patrons could be stretched any further. It was possible to draw just one section.

fig 7

3 THE EARLIEST USE OF THE SITE (fig 4)3.1 1974 EXCAVATIONPre-Friary Levels, Early Land Surface

The earliest level encountered lay to the north of the excavation area, it was a layer, W95/5, of light yellow sand, subsequently sealed by layer W95/4 and by structures W129 and W132 which must represent the land surface before W129 and W132 were built. Ox bones were recovered from layer W95/5 suggesting that it had been tilled or in some way cultivated before the series of structures to be discussed were built. A few coarse red or dark shell-gritted sherds were recovered from the lowest levels of excavation both in 1973 and 1974. Some of these could date back to the 12th century. They, like the bones, could have come to the site as kitchen refuse from the town and been spread out over the fields and tilled in (the sherds are not illustrated).

There was no evidence anywhere in the area of excavation of any structures on the site pre-dating those described below and apart from mesolithic flints found (in 1973), there was no evidence of any use of the land at all before the 12th century.

The Structures antedating the Friary (fig 19)

On removing the fill of the robber trench W40 described below, the corner of a building was exposed which would have been sealed by the south wall of the great kitchen and which, therefore, antedates the friary. This corner was formed by two walls of flint and chalk, features W128 and W129, within which was a floor of crushed chalk and mortar. The floor had

M30

been sectioned by one of Holling's 1973 trial trenches and the section showed that the floor surface overlay a foundation raft of rough lumps of chalk which, in turn, overlay a layer of dumped flint. In order to determine the relationship of wall W129 to the pentice wall of the north cloister alley, W23, a section was cut across the alley which runs parallel to W129, it showed that wall W23 cut W129. The surviving top of W129 was 96cm below the flooring of the cloister alley, this perhaps suggests that W129 was covered by the layers of sand as part of a levelling up of the site in this area. A sequence of five layers was exhibited in the section: a layer W65/1, of crushed chalk, was the flooring of the alley; W65/2 was fine rust-coloured soil with small bits of tile, flint and chalk; W65/5 was sand with a little charcoal; W65/6 was chalk and mortar with some flint, oyster shell and a little tile; W65/7 was dark damp sand immediately overlying the early building. A single sherd was recovered from layer W65/5, but was not diagnostic.

Once the relationship had been established in the cloister alley, an area measuring 10m east-west by 4.20m north-south was opened in the garth during the final week of excavation in the hope of recovering the whole extent of the building and, if possible, determining its function.

On the south side of W23, a buttress, feature W130, coincided with the point where W23 cut W129. A large footing for the buttress, feature W130/1, measuring 1.55m by 65cm was encountered at this point. Presumably the mason building the later wall wanted to compensate for any possible weakness in the old wall

pl 6

or for the presence of the pit W98 below. It was also seen that the two bays of the north garth wall and one of the west whose footings were exposed were supported on arches. This was a common way of saving stone. The use of arched footings rather than solid footings may be explained by the fact that the cloister alley was a lean-to pentice, which would not have been very heavy. Footing W129 continued south from footing W130/1 for 1.70m and terminated in a little buttress.

pl 9

There was a culvert, feature W131, running through W129 at the point where it was cut by W130/1. It lies in the space between W132 and W98 roughly on the line of the section indicated on fig 7. The culvert was 21cm high from its floor to the crown of the vault. The vault was turned in red earthenware roof tile and the floor was lined with the same material. It discharged into a sump, feature W98. The fill of this sump was in three layers. Layer W98/1 was of sand, and yielded ox bones; W98/2 was also of sand, yielding pink-gritted pottery; layer W98/3 was of dirty grey wet sand, yielding sherds from jugs and cooking pots and a lead pencil. Feature W98 was partly sealed under wall W23. To the west of W129 and W130 was a sloping flint structure, feature W132. It was cut by wall W23. A section was cut between feature W132 and W129 in the hope of establishing a relationship. The upper 1.85m was found to have been disturbed by gardening during the Annandale period. Beneath this level, however, were two layers W95/3 and W95/4 exhibiting a relationship between the two structures. W95/3, which was of light, soft sand, overlay W95/4 and appeared to have silted up against the face of footing W129 while the latter was standing. Layer W95/4 was of dark moist sand and

pl 6

fig 41: 5

fig 46: 44

pl 2

fig 7

had clearly been washed down the face of structure W132 and through culvert W131. Where it ran into the culvert, the top of the layer was level with the crown of the culvert's vault. In the sand was a sherd of 12th century pottery and bones of ox, sheep, hare, rabbit and domestic fowl. Layer W95/4, which filled the culvert, is equivalent to the lowest fill of the sump, layer W95/3, which was of very similar texture and which produced a dateable group of pottery. The pottery recovered from W98/3 thus gives a terminus post quem for structure W132. Sealed beneath layer W95/4 as described above, was the Early Land Surface.

To the west of structure W132 was a large pit, W102. Like W98, this was partly sealed by wall W23. It yielded a fragment of green-glazed floor tile, several jug sherds and a skillet handle.

fig 41: 6, 7
& 34

To the west of pit W102 was a flint footing, feature W133, cut by the footing of the piscina, feature W116. No relationship survived between footing W133 and walls W128 and W129. It seem possible that the building of which W128 and W129 are part was of timber set upon chalk and flint footings. When it was taken down, most of the chalk and flint used in its footings would have been taken out of the ground for re-use in the friary buildings, if so, footings W128, W129 and W133 would represent all that survived the robbing. A group of pottery was recovered from sump W98, pit W102 and footing W133 (this last in the 1973 excavation by Holling). The pottery cannot be dated earlier than the foundation date (1275) of the friary itself, except perhaps by a handful of years.

M149 & M151

In the West Range, two further early walls W3 and W200 were discovered in 1974. Both were made from chalk and W200 terminated with a buttress very similar in size and shape to that on W129.

3.2 1978 EXCAVATION by Rob Poulton

The only evidence for human activity on the southern part of the site before the friary was built was context 236.

This was overlain both by graves (eg 133 and 259) and structural features (eg 269 and 270). In form 236 is a ditch running north-south across the entire excavated area: it clearly continued both north and south. The ditch has a U-shaped profile with a maximum depth of 0.6m and a maximum width of 1.6m. It should be remembered that it must originally have been up to c 60cm deeper.

figs 2a, 15
& 25

figs 2a & 8

figs 25 & 26

The fill consisted of an upper layer (1) of mid-brown sandy soil with few pebbles and a lower layer (2) of darker brown sandy soil with many pebbles, both of which had accumulated by natural silting. No datable material was found in the ditch but a very small sample of human bone was recovered which apparently represented not more than one individual. No conclusions can be drawn from this, especially as this small quantity could conceivably have arrived in this context as a result of animal burrowing bringing down material from the later cemetery which covered it.

4 THE FRIARY4.1 THE WEST RANGE

The first trench had cut through two burials, features W20 and W21, within its first two metres, and the removal of layer W12 showed these to be almost opposite the right-angle junction of two walls, features W1 and W2. These walls were of finely dressed upper greensand only 60cm wide, with a lacing course of red earthenware roof tile. They rested on footings of hewn chalk blocks. In the angle of walls W1 and W2 was a buttress, and there were other buttresses along the eastern face of wall W2 at intervals of 3.50m. Parallel to wall W2 was a third wall, feature W4 of chalk and flint and 1.40m wide. The intervals between walls W2 and W4 was 2m, the right width for a cloister alley. On the assumption that the cloister would be a conventional square or rectangle on the north or south side of the church, the arrangement of walls and buttresses pointed to this being the west range of the cloisters, wall W2 being the front wall facing onto the garth, and wall W4 the middle wall of the range. As the apex of the two diagonal trenches had been taken as close as possible to Onslow Street without endangering the pavement, it was clear that it would not be possible to locate the west wall of the range. Apart from burials W20 and W21, no other burials were encountered in the west range, nor were there any in the area of the garth which was excavated. Once the available part of the west range had been fully excavated, it was decided to work round the cloister, excavating first the buildings on the north then those on the east. Full excavation of the area to the south of the cloister was not possible due to the presence of

fig 21

standing buildings unconnected with the Friary Meux brewery, though the front wall of the south cloister alley, wall W1, was excavated along its whole length, and also the chancel of the church.

figs 17 & 21

4.2 THE NORTH RANGE

The excavated part of the north range was four bays long, each bay measuring 8.50m from centre to centre of the buttresses. Three of the buttresses survived. The range was divided into two chambers, one measuring 18.30m by 6.60m, the other 6.30m by 6.60m.

The most recent layer in the north range was W9, an area of re-used floor tiles in the large chamber. This, and the mortar bedding, W33/3, into which the tiles were set, was associated with features W115 and W30, a wall and a cellar of the Earl of Annandale's mansion. The tiles were not all the same size but all were of very similar dimensions. An average specimen measured 23cm by 23cm and was 3cm thick, they were of red earthenware without glaze. A total of 72 tiles survived laid parallel to wall W115.

The Great Kitchen

The removal of the tiles and their mortar matrix exposed a spread of layers of burnt material. These were associated with a structure, feature W136, projecting south from the south wall of the large chamber. Quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered from the burnt layers, together with two silver coins.

M151
M159
M175

The second latest layer, W51/7, consisted of orange-rust coloured fine loose sand with small specks of chalk and much charcoal. There were patches of bright orange sand baked hard, very fine and almost powdery. Ox, sheep, domestic fowl

rabbit and fish were represented among the animal bones and there was also a single oyster shell. A half-groat of Henry VII was recovered from this layer.

Sealed beneath W51/7 was layer W51/8. This consisted of grey-black ash interleaved with spreads of fine orange sand baked hard as in layer W51/7. Ox, sheep, pig, rabbit, hare, domestic fowl and fish were represented in this layer and, again, there was a single oyster shell. In association with the bones were a number of sherds from green glazed table vessels such as lobed cups, dateable to the late 15th century. This dating was supported by the recovery from this layer of a halfpenny of Henry VI minted in 1434-5. Sealed by layer W51/8 were two layers side by side, different in content but at the same level, W107/2 and W107/5, (they form part of the floor-layers of the Great Kitchen, but are not shown in plan). Layer W107/2 consisted of chalk, brown earth, flints and clay. Layer W107/5 was yellowish green clay. Cut through layer W107/5 were two post holes, features W108 and W109, which are not shown on any plan. The fill of post hole W108 was of grey-black ash as in layer W51/8, and that of W109 was the same. Layers W107/2 and W107/5 yielded unidentifiable fragments of bone, and layer W107/5 also yielded pottery. More pottery was recovered from post hole W108. Both groups of pottery were of the late 15th century. The removal of layer W107/2 exposed an earlier post hole, feature W112, from which sheep and domestic fowl bones were recovered. It also exposed structure W113.

M151

M175

M151

fig 21 &
pl 10

Structure W113 was a soakaway for a drain channel, feature W33/7, running east from the west wall of the large chamber.

fig 20

Both would have been underfloor features. The soakaway was set in a hole 1.22m deep in the natural sand. There were four layers of fill. The upper, layer W113/1, consisted of sandstone slabs, of a maximum width of 80cm. Layer W113/2, 46cm thick at maximum, was of flints, clay and a few chalk blocks under and around layer W113/1. Beneath this was layer W113/3, of large chalk blocks of an average width of 46cm with dark soil and flints. The lowest layer, W113/4, was of mid-brown sand, flints, pieces of greensand and chalk lumps. Feature W33/7 consisted of three blocks of chalk laid end-to-end with a groove running down the middle. The groove was covered with red earthenware tiles, measuring 19cm by 29cm, mortared onto the chalk blocks. The groove in the chalk would have debouched into the soakaway.

fig 20

Although the chalk footing of the west wall of the chamber survived, and also the expanded footing of chalk and flint, nothing survived of the internal face of this wall. There must, however, have been some fitting such as a sink attached to the face of the wall, which would have been served by the drain channel and soakaway, for it was clear that feature W33/7 did not run through the west wall, but stopped at it. The structure projecting from the south wall of the chamber, feature W136, measured 3.20m east-west and 2.40m north-south. Its back wall was 50cm thick. It was clearly a chimney breast for a fire used for cooking rather than heating, as evidenced by the food remains and broken table vessels. The two post holes, features W108 and W109, could have held fittings such as a roasting spit, and the sink arrangement would have been used for the washing and preparation of the food. All this

evidence made it feasible to identify the large chamber as a kitchen and, for the reasons given in the synthesis, it is marked on the plans and referred to in the text as The Great Great Kitchen. At the eastern end of the great kitchen an area of floor bedding, layer W117, survived against the wall. As in the cloister alley, it was of compact crushed chalk.

ch 7: 2

The Little Kitchen

The floor and east wall of the second of the two chambers in the north range had been much cut about by a brick sewer of the Earl of Annandale's mansion and a large petrol tank of the Friary Meux brewery. Areas of floor, layer W100, survived nonetheless. As in the cloister alley and Great Kitchen, they were of crushed chalk. The north-east angle of the chamber was in an exceptionally good state of preservation. The footing of the north wall was 1.30m wide; the wall above was dressed internally with chalk and would presumably have been rendered with plaster. The exterior was faced with flint, of which the second course was set back 15cm. The lower, offset, course, must have been at the ground level outside the building. A layer, W54, outside and to the east of this chamber which has been identified as the Little Kitchen (see Synthesis), yielded a considerable quantity of pottery. This layer must have been kitchen refuse which was simply thrown out of the window. The two buttresses at the north east corner of the Little Kitchen were faced with flint at offset level and above this they were of greensand, as in the cloister garth. The flints were carefully knapped and laid with unusual regularity, indicating a high degree of skill in the mason. Further evidence of this was found in the east range and the church.

fig 19

ch 7: 2

4.3 THE NORTH CLOISTER ALLEY

fig 19

A stretch of the south wall of the Great Kitchen, 6m long eastwards from the chimney stack, had been completely robbed out. The fill of the robber trench, feature W40, was loose rubble. When this rubble was removed, the corner of a building which must have been sealed by the kitchen wall was exposed.

(Features W128 and W129, see above, Structures ante-dating the Friary). More of this building was excavated beneath the north cloister alley and in the garth.

ch 2: 3.1

ch 2: 4.4

There were two burials in the north cloister alley. The first was excavated by Holling in 1973, it consisted of a burial laid out with the arms across the lap and contained in a 'coffin' of blocks of chalk. The grave was only 60cm deep. The second burial, feature W55/7, was a little to the east of the first. It also was in a 'coffin' of chalk blocks. It was 66cm deep. To the east of grave W55/7 a patch of floor make-up for the alley survived, in the form of compact crushed chalk (layer W101) against the south wall of the Great Kitchen.

4.4 THE GARTH

fig 19

In the north-west corner of the garth there was a footing measuring 1m by 1m, feature W116. It was of chalk with lacing courses of red earthenware roof tile. This feature is interpreted as a piscina, its implications are discussed in the Synthesis.

ch 7: 2.2

An area of the garth was excavated measuring 10m east-west, from the west cloister alley wall to the section line through sump W98 shown on fig 7, and 4.20m southwards from the north cloister alley walls. This work took place in the final week to obtain the full plan of the structure ante-dating the friary.

The area contained no burials, and it is from this evidence that it is assumed that there were none in the Garth. It might appear that burials were confined to the cloister alleys, the church, and the cemetery south of the church, though the unexcavated interior of the Chapter House is also likely to have contained burials.

An important point that must be made here is that although the area of the garth described above was excavated to sterile natural, the cloister alleys were not wholly excavated down to natural. The four burials encountered in the alleys were all exposed by the cutting of trenches within the area of excavation. There must undoubtedly have been many more, but there was not time to look for them.

4.5 THE EAST RANGE

fig 18

The Little Kitchen described above which formed the eastern room of the north range also formed the northern room of the east range, thus the east range consisted of four chambers if the Little Kitchen is included, or three if not.

The Small Chamber

The chamber south of the Little Kitchen measured 6.40m east-west and 3.80m internally north-south, the footing of its north wall was 1.10m wide. The wall above the footing was faced with flint. Only a single facing stone, of chalk, survived internally, but the impression of other blocks could be seen for 1.25m westwards from the north-east corner. The footing of the west wall was thicker, at 1.30m, as this was part of the load-bearing west wall of the range. The wall itself was faced internally with flint.

fig 18

Some floor tiles survived in-situ along the edge of the east wall. They were bisects, glazed a rich green, laid diagonally to the wall. At the east end of the chamber an area of sand mixed with mortar and plaster, layer W63/3, overlay a layer, W63/4, which was the mortar bedding for the tiled floor. The presence of the plaster within layer W63/3 showed that the interior of the chamber was originally rendered. Beneath layer W63/4 was sand, W63/5, and beneath that another layer of mortar bedding, W63/6. Layer W63/6 overlay another layer of sand, W63/7 which, in turn, overlay another layer of mortar, W63/8. Beneath all this was natural sand. The chamber had, therefore, been refloored twice, layer W63/8 representing the original floor and layer W63/4 together with the surviving tiles the floor at the time of the Dissolution. In the east cloister alley a patch of floor bedding, W99, survived just outside the west wall of this chamber. It consisted of a layer of mortar overlying a layer of crushed chalk. The presence of mortar over the chalk would suggest that the chalk floor layers in the north cloister alley, great kitchen and little kitchen may also have had mortar over them. The south wall of the chamber described above was the party wall between it and the next chamber.

The Chapter House

fig 18

This next chamber measured 10m x 6.10m. The footing for its north wall (the party wall) was 1m wide, and the wall itself was 55cm wide. Where it served as a party wall it was faced with chalk on both sides, but from the point where it projected beyond the east wall of the chamber to the north it was faced externally with flint. Its east wall was 3.10m beyond the

east wall of the small chamber. The footing for it was 1.70m wide at maximum and the wall itself 90cm wide, faced with chalk internally and flint externally. The same was the case with the surviving 4.60m of the south wall of the chamber, most of which had been removed to make way for a wall of the Annandale mansion. At the north-east and south-east corners of the chamber were clasping buttresses, of flint with corner stones of greensand. These projected only 40cm at maximum from the wall faces, and were in marked contrast to the boldly protruding buttresses on the kitchen and church (see below). The west wall of the chamber had been largely cut away by a water tank attached to the west wall of the east range of the Annandale mansion. Where the friary wall survived its footing was found to be 1.50m wide, while the wall itself was 1m wide, faced with chalk on the side fronting onto the cloister alley and with flint in the interior of the chamber, as in the chamber to the north.

There were some remains of a floor. In the north-east corner of the chamber was an area of crushed chalk, layer W118.

Elsewhere was a layer, W56/2, of broken-up mortar and loose floor tiles mixed with wall plaster. Of the tiles some were patterned, some were plain. The wall plaster showed that this chamber, like the one to the north, was rendered.

From its position in the centre of the east range, from which it projects, it can be confidently asserted that this chamber was the Chapter House, for this arrangement is typical of almost every chapter house in Dominican friaries either excavated or still standing. There would have been an entrance from the east cloister alley. The walls would have been lined

ch 7: 2.1

fig 13: 4

fig 14: 16
& 17

with seats, and at its east end would have been the chair of the prior. Although the east end was in an exceptionally good state of preservation, there was no sign of stone seating, as is sometimes found, so it must be presumed that at Guildford the seating was of timber.

The Sacristy

fig 18

The final chamber in the east range measured 6.50m east-west. The party wall between it and the chapter house had been removed, as described above, but it can be estimated from the projecting south wall of the chapter house that its north-south measurement would have been 7.20m. The footing of its west wall as 1.50m wide and the wall itself 1m wide. In the centre of the west wall there were what appeared to be the jambs of a door, feature W119, at the base of the footing; they protruded into the cloister alley. Part of the west wall south of the door and part of the south wall had been robbed. It was not possible to excavate the south-west corner because of the close proximity of the standing buildings of Messrs Pickfords. The south wall was also the north wall of the choir and is described below. The footing of the east wall was 1.40m wide. The wall itself was 1m wide. In this wall was a doorway, subsequently blocked, feature W120, with steps leading up out of the chamber, showing that the floor of the chamber was at a lower level than the ground outside.

An area of tiles was found overlying a footing of the Earl of Annandale's mansion, where they formed part of the floor of the room at the bottom end of the east wing. Twenty-two of these tiles were in-situ in their secondary context, and it is suggested that they might originally have come from the floor of the sacristy, of which nothing survived when excavated.

ch 7: 2.1

These tiles date to the late 13th century when the friary was built. They are illustrated and discussed below.

ch 5: 2

The identity of this final chamber cannot be fixed with any degree of certainty, but it seems most likely from its position next to the choir that it would have been the sacristy. If this were the case, access to the church would have been gained by going through the door in the west wall, along the cloister and into the walking place, then through the door in the screen dividing the walking place from the choir. Access straight into the church was not possible because the choir stalls on the north side of the choir backed onto the party wall between sacristy and choir.

4.6 THE CHOIR AND CHANCEL OF THE FRIARY CHURCH

fig 17

It was not possible to excavate the screen and walking place in the 1974 season because of the very close proximity of the Pickfords' building. But the whole of the choir and chancel were stripped. The chancel was found to have had a chantry chapel added to it to the north in the 14th century, and to have been extended by one bay subsequently. Choir and chancel together measured 14.40m. The choir occupied one bay, and the chancel one bay, they might have been divided by an arch.

Within the chancel, the sanctuary was defined by a step, Feature W/72, inferred from the impressions of stones, the riser of which was 3.15m from the east end. The footing of the north wall of the church was 1.40m wide, and of the south 1.50m. The width of the north wall of the choir, which formed the party wall with the sacristy, was 1.20m. On the sacristy side it was faced with chalk, and on the choir side with

fig 17

chalk except for a small area where it was faced with flint. This may represent patching. Nothing survived of the wall on the south side of the choir, which had been robbed to the footings. A short stretch of the footing had also been robbed, to make way for the later boundary wall of the garden to the Earl's mansion (equivalent to 132).

Within the choir, the footings of the stalls survived. The footing on the northern side, W121, was much narrower, at 20cm, than the corresponding one on the south, W122, which was 38cm wide. There was a little buttress half way along the southern footing which it is suggested indicates the location of the organ loft mentioned in the suppression inventory.

ch 7: 2.2

fig 3

At the west end were two footings, features W123 and W124, parallel to W121 and W122. W124 was intact, but W123 did not survive in its entirety. South from footing W121 towards footing W123 was a return footing in a fragmentary condition, and a corresponding one between W122 and W124 survived on the south, also in a fragmentary state. These north-south footings would have marked the fronts of the stalls at the western end of the choir, looking towards the altar. One of these would presumably have been for the prior. All the choir stall footings were of chalk.

In the areas which would have been covered by the floor boards of the stalls, a layer of fine dusty sand was encountered. This was given two numbers during excavation, layer W84 on the southern side, and layer W92 on the northern, as it was not clear until excavation was complete that the two deposits were, in fact, identical in nature. From this dust layer a large corpus of small finds was recovered. The walls of the

ch 5: 4.1

chancel were 85cm wide on the north and 1m wide on the south. The footing of the gable wall at the east end was 1.50m wide and the wall itself 1.20m wide. The footing of the north wall was of chalk with a course of flint at the offset marking the external ground surface. The wall itself was faced with flint outside and chalk inside. The east and south walls were faced in the same manner and the two buttresses at each corner were also faced in flint. Projecting from the south wall of the choir was a large hemispherical footing, feature W75, measuring 2.25m across at its widest point. Its shape and its location in immediate juxtaposition to the walking place suggest that this was the base of a newel stair giving access to the 'stepill' with its two bells which is mentioned in the suppression inventory. In a mendicant church the steeple was always located over the walking place.

ch 7: 2.2

Half way along the north wall of the church was a pier base, feature W125, of moulded greensand. There was a buttress on the south wall of the church at a point opposing this base, but the corresponding pier did not survive, as the garden wall of the Earl's mansion had been carried across the buttress reducing it to facilitate the construction of the wall.

Immediately east of pier base W125 was a layer of mortar bedding laid over the footing of the north wall, which might be interpreted as the base of a doorway. In the layer were the impressions of floor tiles and part of one decorated tile remained in situ. The impressions showed that the tiles were laid parallel to the wall line. As they project beyond the face of the wall which is to their east, this cannot have been a primary door but must have been constructed when the chantry chapel (see below) was added, to allow access from the chancel

to the chapel. The impressions showed that the tiles would have measured 15cm x 15cm, the same dimensions as the impression in the chantry chapel. Within the chancel were more tiles in situ and impressions of tiles which had, presumably, been ripped up for sale at the Dissolution.

Nine plain glazed border tiles survived against the face of the north wall, their mortar matrix, layer W60/5, overlying its expanded footing and one more remained at the point where the sanctuary step met the wall. The border tiles were bisects.

A single complete patterned tile survived between two of the half-tiles. All were laid diagonally to the wall. One other

fig 14: 15

complete patterned tile, of a different design, survived in isolation against the sanctuary step. The clear impressions of 39 other tiles survived in the mortar bedding near those which were in situ. The impressions showed that these too

fig 14: 14

were laid diagonally to the wall. From the demolition layer, W60/4, overlying W60/5, two further designs were recovered.

fig 13: 7
& fig 14: 11

This layer also yielded a large quantity of unglazed earthenware roof tiles, some with peg holes, which presumably came from the roof of the choir and chancel. Against the south wall of the church, and parallel to it, were three plain glazed border tiles bedded into mortar overlying its expanded footing; this would suggest that the pavement within the chancel was laid in panels, some with tiles laid parallel to the walls and some diagonal to them.

ch 7: 2.1

The blocks of stone which had formed the altar step had been robbed but slivers of greensand adhered to the mortar matrix, layer W72, showing of what stone these were made. From the centre of the step there was a projection eastwards of mortar bedding with stone impressions; this would suggest that

there were rails along the step, with a central gate in the rail. To the east of this postulated gate, floor bedding survived in the form of crushed compacted chalk, layer W126. No mortar with tile impressions survived, however. In the absence of these impressions, it might be presumed that the Chertsey tiles found in a secondary context in a room of the Annandale mansion were originally sited somewhere in the sanctuary. In a 13th century church the altar always stands centrally placed, against the east wall; nothing survived, however, of the footing of the altar. To the north and south of the place where it must have stood were two graves, features W93 and W94. The occupant of Grave W/93 was a male aged between 35 and 40 years. The skeleton was laid out with the arms folded across the lap, his grave had cut away, at its eastern end, part of the expanded footing for the gable wall of the chancel. On the other hand Grave W94 respected the expanded footing, the feet of the occupant being laid right up against it. He was a male, aged between 30 and 35. The skeleton was articulated with the right arm laid out straight, and the left folded across the lap.

The Chantry Chapel

fig 17

To the north of the chancel a chapel had been added and a stairbase, feature W137, which was of one build with the chapel attached to the sacristy next to doorway W120. The chapel measured 4.50m by 2.50m. The footing of its west wall was 1.10m wide and was butted onto the north wall of the chancel. Only the eastern chalk face of this wall survived, the western face having been destroyed by a brick barrel sewer of the Annandale mansion. The footing of the north wall was 1m wide

at maximum and the wall was 70cm wide. The footing of the east wall was 1.30m wide and had been butted onto the footing of the buttress which took the thrust of the gable wall of the chancel. The buttress had been reduced so that the east wall of the chapel, which was 70cm wide, could be superimposed upon it. The buttress was 1.50m wide, so that the effect of jointing the new and old work together in this way was to leave a recess 60cm wide at the northern end of the east wall of the chapel. There was a buttress halfway along the north side of the chapel and an angle buttress at its north-east corner. Over the chalk footings of the north and east walls was a lacing course of red earthenware roof tile. The large corner stones of the buttresses were of greensand, and the walls were faced with flint externally and chalk internally. Plaster rendering survived on all the interior wall faces except the west. A shallow chalk footing, feature W127, ran south from the buttress on the north side of the chapel. Its west side was on line with the west side of the buttress and it was 75cm wide. It stopped 15cm short of the chancel footing. The altar rail may have been placed here. West of footing W127 was an area of mortar bedding with tile impressions, layer W61/5. A total of 81 impressions could be seen. They showed that the tiles had been laid parallel to the walls.

Five incomplete tiles remained against the south wall. Like the tiles in the chancel, these were from Penn and dated to the 14th century. Two more designs were recovered from the demolition layer, W61/1, overlying the mortar impressions. Beneath layer W61/5 was a layer of sand, W61/6, which in turn sealed a layer of compacted crushed chalk,

fig 13: 8
& fig 14: 9

fig 13: 5
& fig 14: 12

W61/7. These were both layers of floor bedding. East of footing W127, the layer of compacted crushed chalk was the only surviving evidence of flooring. The stairbase, feature W137, which had been added against the outside of doorway W120 was butt-jointed onto the external face of the east wall of the sacristy. It may have served a newel stair from the chamber above the sacristy. There must have been access to the chantry chapel through a door in the west wall, nothing of this survived the damage caused by the construction of the brick barrel sewer of the Annandale mansion but as explained above a doorway, feature W138, had been pierced through the north wall of the chancel immediately east of pier base W125, to allow the friars access from the chancel into the chantry chapel.

The Chancel Extension

The effect of building the chantry chapel would have been to block the lancet windows lighting the chancel on the north side. It was doubtless because of this that the chancel had to be extended by one bay, 5.90m long and 7.20m wide internally. Large traceried windows would probably have been employed in the extension to make good the lighting deficiency (pers comm Dr Richard Gem).

The original gable wall was demolished but the footing survived beneath the floor of the extension. Remains of the new floor overlying the obsolete footing survived in the form of broken-up mortar and floor tile, layer W87. There is no reason to believe that the altar would have been moved, as it would have been too distant from the choir stalls. It would have been free-standing as a result of the extension and access to the extra bay would have been to either side of it. The north and south walls of the extension were butt-jointed onto the

easterly buttresses of the original chancel. The widths of the footings and walls of the extension were the same as those of the original chancel. A notable difference between the extended east end, and the primary chancel and chantry chapel, was that its walls were faced with chalk externally, whereas both chancel and chantry chapel were faced with knapped flint. This would suggest that although it was the building of the chantry chapel which created the need for the extra bay, it was not built at the same time as the chantry chapel. Flooring remained within the extension in the form of layers of mortar overlying layers of compacted crushed chalk, but there were no surviving tiles or tile impressions which might have helped with the dating.

To the south of the extension was a burial, feature W89, laid close to the wall. The skeleton had been arranged with the hands in an attitude of prayer. There were two further burials outside the church, one, feature W134, near the buttress opposing pier base W125, and one, feature W135, at the western limit of excavation. Only the tibiae, fibulae and foot bones of W135 were within the 1974 area of excavation. The remainder of the skeleton was excavated in 1978 and is described below, feature 259.

pl 7

table 11

5 THE 1973 TRIAL TRENCHES by Felix Holling and Rob Poulton

The trial trenches excavated by Holling in 1973 both lay, at least partially, within areas later excavated in 1974 and are therefore best discussed in relation to that work. The numbers in the text refer to those on fig 5.

figs 19 & 21

5.1 Trench 1

25 and 26 (W133) are both substantial flint foundations which clearly pre-date the main conventual walls. Though not always clear, the alignments of 25 and 26 appear to be connected. If so the greater depth of 25 may suggest a drop in ground level in that area. 27, a scatter of flints and chalk lumps, may simply represent collapse from 26 or could possibly be a remnant of flooring (cf 23 and 24).

29 was a wall of mortared chalk above a flint footing. Though clearly pre-friary, not enough of it was excavated to establish its relationship to other early walls.

fig 4

23 and 24, chalk paving with flints below, are equivalent to the floor layer associated with the early walls W128 and W129. Wall W128 did not apparently survive in this area, though its position is presumably indicated by the northern limit of 23 and 24. Why these layers did not survive further south was not elucidated by the excavations, but the probable presence of chimneys rather than a regular wall may have aided survival in this area.

fig 21

ch 2: 3

ch 7:2.2

22 is a layer of crushed chalk and mortar. One interpretation is that this represents the top surface of the floor layers 23 and 24, but see below for an alternative view.

30 is a layer of yellow-buff sand used to level the site before building work on the Friary began.

19 is equivalent to W23, the garth wall of the Friary. In the cloister alley to the north, a burial, 31, was recovered whose position makes it clear that the floor of the cloister alley, though it does not survive at this point, must have been at about the level of the surviving top of 19 and this view is supported by Woods' observations. The floor level within the Great Kitchen must however have been considerably lower (50cm +) since Woods revealed a sequence of three medieval layers below the mansion floor. layer 17 (equivalent to W9).

ch 2: 4.2

M26-7

21 is sticky chalk rubble, presumably the fill of the robber trench for the south wall of the Great Kitchen.

20 is apparently an internal chalk buttress to wall 19. There is no obvious reason why a buttress was needed here and an alternative explanation may be sought, particularly in view of the regular arrangement of external chalk buttresses around all the garth walls. One possibility is that it is a step or the base of a flight of steps leading either down to the Great Kitchen or up to the postulated refectory, in either (or both) cases the primary objective being access to the piscina, W116. If steps down are implied then 22 may be part of them, as the plan suggests.

fig 6

ch 7: 2.2

fig 19

fig 5

17 is a floor (equivalent to W9) and 18 a wall forming part of the mansion.

16 is a rubble destruction layer.

15 is gardening soil.

1 represents levels associated with the Friary Brewery.

5.2 Trench 2

14 is yellow-buff sand, probably an undisturbed natural deposit, but just possibly a levelling layer (like 30 above) which post-dated walls 12 and 13.

13 is a wall of mortared chalk blocks, whose width was not established.

12 is a wall of similar appearance, with deeper foundations but with only one face surviving. Layer 11 presumably represents material robbed from this wall and used to level up before the Friary was built.

9 is the east wall of the West Range (equivalent to W4 and 185) with an expanded footing, 10, of packed flints.

fig 21

8 is part of a mortar floor layer in the Friary which effectively seals both walls 12 and 13. This floor level is subsequently levelled up by 7 and replaced by a similar floor layer, 6.

5 is a destruction layer for the Friary, and 3 and 4 may be disturbances of similar date.

2 is the mansion garden soil (equivalent to 163)

M80

1 represents levels associated with the Friary Brewery.