

Limburg kilns of Schinveld and Brunssum. The forms are even more clearly distinct from those found in Limburg. Nos. 1, 2 and 4 are, however, identical with material from Frankfurt-am-Main;³⁰ no. 3 is not paralleled in the published group, but is linked by its ware to no. 4. The squared mouth of the latter appears to be unusual, a single or double pinching being normal.³¹ The attribution to the Frankfurt region is confirmed by the presence in the ware of nos. 3 and 4 of those white quartz-like inclusions which are a characteristic feature of the Frankfurt material.³²

Rilled ware of this type, but in rather different forms, first appears in the Cologne region in the 12th century and becomes dominant in the first half of the 13th century.³³ The Frankfurt pottery is, however, shown by associated finds to have been current throughout the 14th and perhaps into the 15th century.³⁴ This latter range must be the approximate date of the present material, which may perhaps be named 'Frankfurt ware'. The distance apart of the two discoveries so far recorded in this country suggests that other finds of this ware are to be expected.

MARTIN BIDDLE

A MODEL OF CASTLE ACRE PRIORY (PL. XXXI, A, B; FIG. 95)

Recently, a re-examination has been made of the western range of Castle Acre priory, Norfolk, primarily to interpret the plan of the prior's lodging and its development. In the course of this it was realized that there was an unusual amount of evidence about the elevational treatment, not only of this building but of the entire layout. As a result, tentative reconstruction drawings of all the buildings were prepared. This gave so complete a picture of a smaller monastery that it was considered worthwhile to prepare a model based on these drawings to a scale of ten feet to one inch, which has been placed on view at the priory (PL. XXXI). In this model, which depicts the buildings in the form they assumed at the dissolution, the prior's lodging, which is shown in its final stage of development, may be seen near the W. end of the church.

The claustral buildings at Castle Acre (FIG. 95) were completed in one campaign by the middle of the 12th century, immediately after the erection of the church. They followed the usual arrangement for a southern cloister with the chapter-house and dorter range to the east and frater to the south. The W. range was of seven bays. On the ground floor the N. bay formed the outer parlour with its principal door to the north, a door to the cloister to the east and a further, less elaborate door to the west. Indications of a bench remain along the S. wall. The remainder of the range was occupied by two rooms separated by the entry running from the W. court direct to the cloister, which were probably allocated to the cellarer. There were no doors to these rooms from the W. court.

On the upper floor the N. bay over the outer parlour contained the chapel. The next two bays formed the inner chamber to the dual-purpose prior's hall and guest-hall, which occupied the remaining four bays southward. The hall was entered by an external stair at the SW. angle on the site of the later stair. The inner chamber and chapel were connected to the ground floor by a vice which rose from the SW. angle of the outer parlour. Similar layouts existed in the 12th century at Bardney, Chester and Norwich. To the south of the hall lay the great kitchen.

In the later 12th century a two-story porch was added to form, on the ground floor, a western extension of the entry and on the first floor an extra inner chamber to the hall.

³⁰ H. Brückner, 'Die mittelalterlichen Gebrauchsgeschirre im Städtischen Historischen Museum zu Frankfurt a. M.', *Schriften des Historischen Museums*, II (1926), 15-47; see especially 27-36 and pls. ii-iv.

³¹ *Ibid.*, pl. iii, nos. 5, 6.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 28. There is some evidence that the pottery was actually made in Frankfurt: *ibid.*, p. 34. White inclusions also occur in the medieval products of the Siegburg kilns (sherds collected by J. G. Hurst by kind permission of the excavator, Dr. Bernard Beckmann).

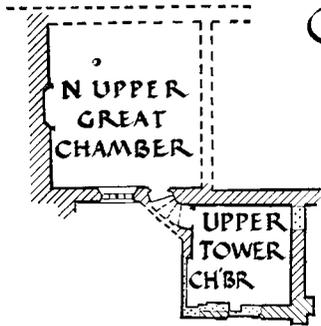
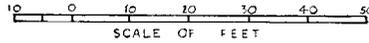
³³ A. Hernbrodt, *Der Husterknuff* (1958), pp. 91, 99, s.v. 'Geriefte Ware'.

³⁴ Brückner, *op. cit.* in note 30, pp. 31-36. The ware is present at the Tannenbergl, destroyed in 1399: J. H. v. Hefner-Alteneck and J. W. Wolf, *Die Burg Tannenbergl und ihre Ausgrabungen* (1850), pl. v, A-B, D-E, F.

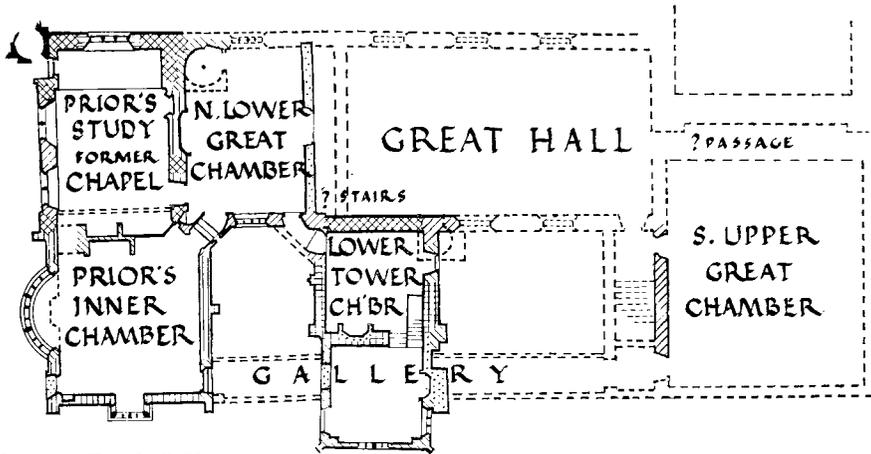
CASTLE ACRE PRIORY

NORFOLK

THE PRIOR'S LODGING



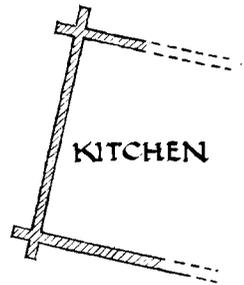
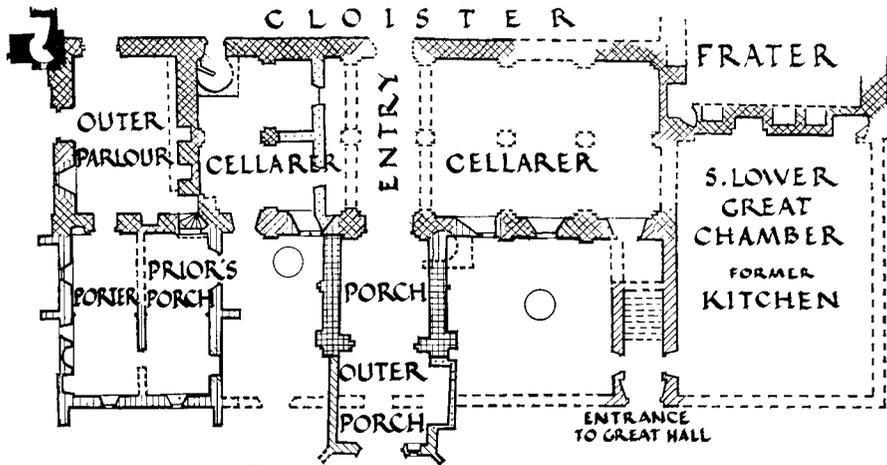
SECOND FLOOR



KEY

EARLY C12	■
MID C12	▨
LATER C12	▩
LATE C13	▪
MID C14	▬
LATER C14	▮
C 15	▯
MODERN	▰

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

FIG. 95

This would suggest that, at this early stage, the occupation of the inner chamber by the prior for his personal use made it necessary to build a second one for the more important guests. This upper room could be reached by a vice from the porch, which also provided cross access from the hall.

The 13th century has left no traces other than the introduction of a new E. window to the chapel late in this or early in the following century.

In the middle of the 14th century the prior's accommodation was further extended by building a new wing west of the outer parlour and chapel. This did not affect the use of the outer parlour, which was already entered from the north. Roughly square on plan, the new building was divided on the ground floor by an E.-W. spine wall to form two chambers. The northern was connected by the already existing W. door to the outer parlour and had what may have been a fireplace in the NW. bay. Its position and access suggest that it formed a porter's lodge. The southern chamber would appear to have been designed as a porch to the prior's private apartments. The stair which formerly led from the outer parlour to the inner chamber and chapel on the first floor was altered to open into the new porch, the door into the outer parlour being sealed.

On the first floor the extension formed a single, rather grand, inner chamber for the prior, equipped with a now vanished projecting garderobe in its NW. corner and a fireplace in the position now occupied by the curved bay in the N. wall. The squinch arches and lower courses of the corbelling for this fireplace may be seen developing out of the N. buttress and incorporated into the corbelling of the later bay window above. In the W. wall the lavatory basin survives next to the blocked garderobe door. This chamber can only have been accessible through the chapel, the W. wall of which was now removed and replaced by a wooden partition. The mortise holes for this are visible in a tie-beam of the new roof, which was now run over both chapel and chamber. The roof, a scissor truss with cambered collar- and tie-beam, has a wooden ceiling (of which considerable fragments remain displaying later decoration) formed between the tie-beams. At the same time a sedile was inserted in the S. wall of the chapel.

Later, in the second half of the 14th century, the prior would appear to have laid even greater claims to the W. range which, above ground floor, assumed the form of a not inconsiderable secular mansion with a central hall, on the site of the previous hall, and chamber blocks at either end. The southern of these displaced the former great kitchen, the functions of which were taken over by a new, freestanding, kitchen built across the watercourse to the south. These two southern chambers would have been the principal inner chambers for the accommodation of the guests of the convent, the chambers at the N. end of the hall being reserved for the more personal guests of the prior.

The rebuilt hall was approached by a new stair on the site of the old external stair at its SW. angle. The outer door of this stair was set in a wall linking the N. and S. chamber blocks and enclosing a courtyard along the W. face of the range with a door opposite the entry. Of the hall itself the only surviving feature is the N. jamb of a window in the W. wall on the site of the vice which led to the chamber over the porch. The previous function of this chamber having been taken over by the increased accommodation to the south, it was now thrown into the private apartments of the prior.

The rebuilding of the hall was continued northwards to the S. wall of the chapel, forming, in the manner familiar in secular houses, a two-storied chamber block in this case raised with the hall above an undercroft. As the N. gable wall of the hall does not survive, the means of access between hall and chamber block remain unknown; the present cross wall is modern and some five feet to the north.

The northern upper and lower great chambers were similar with windows in the E. and W. walls and a fireplace to the north. The E. wall has fallen, but was standing as late as the 18th century and appears in several engravings of that date. Sufficient remains of the fireplace of the lower chamber to show that it had a projecting hood carried on moulded ogee corbels with lamp brackets on either side. In the W. wall two doors at hall

level give on to short squinch passages leading to the chamber over the entry porch and the prior's inner chamber; the latter overcame the disadvantage of passing through the chapel, the former replaced the destroyed vice to the lower tower chamber over which a second story was now added linked to the upper great chamber in a manner similar to that below. The chapel was again improved by the enlargement of the windows in the N. wall.

As a result of these alterations the prior was now provided with a suite of chambers at the upper end of the hall comparable to the state rooms of many secular establishments. The north lower great chamber is the focus of this plan and forms what might be called an inner hall or audience chamber from which lead off his own inner chamber and a single-chamber guest lodging (the lower tower chamber). Above, the upper great chamber would form the outer part and the upper tower chamber the inner part of a two-chamber lodging of primary importance.

The work of the 15th century finally welded the whole of the western range into an unmistakable house devoted to the needs of the prior as a great landlord rather than as the head of the community which was the source of his authority. This was achieved by constructing a gallery at first-floor level connecting the prior's inner chamber with the south great guest chamber. The gallery followed, on its W. side, the foundations of the earlier wall enclosing the court. It was entered from the prior's inner chamber by a door, now blocked, in the SW. angle. At this level it was timber-framed, but where it passed in front of the porch it widened out to give a large square space over a new outer porch, forming, in effect, a large bay window glazed on three sides. The northern opening from here to the gallery is blocked, the southern obscured by a modern stack; the present openings in the E. wall are modern also. At its S. end the gallery crossed the stairway to the hall to enter the guest chamber. The purpose of this gallery was, perhaps, that of a waiting room where important visitors could gather or be interviewed away from the more public space available in the hall. The development is closely paralleled at Westminster, where a similar gallery was built, rather earlier, to connect the upper and lower chamber blocks. At Wenlock priory two stages of galleries were introduced, perhaps for the same purpose.

In addition to the creation of the gallery improvements were made to the inner chamber and chapel, where the dividing partition was replaced by a pair of fireplaces serving both rooms, the chamber fireplace being replaced by the present bay window. Again, the contemporary planning at the Wenlock prior's house, where the chapel had been replaced by an oratory attached to a study, suggests that the priors of Castle Acre, too, used this room as a study rather than as a chapel, decorating its ceiling with such secular emblems as the Tudor rose.

It is possible that, at this time, the stairs down to the outer parlour were blocked or disused, for another, more spacious, stair was provided giving direct communication between the lower great chamber and the cloister.

The importance of the Castle Acre prior's house is, first, that it displays on one site all the vital changes that took place in the medieval domestic plan from the 12th to the 15th century; and second, that it demonstrates the extent to which a dwelling within the monastic context followed, from an early date, normal secular practice.

P. A. FAULKNER

PILLOW MOUNDS

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) is compiling a list of 'pillow mounds'. These are flat-topped, rectangular on plan and surrounded by a ditch, a typical example being about 60 ft. by 30 ft. by 2 ft. high. Their purpose is unknown, but see *Antiquity*, 1 (1927), 432, and O.G.S. Crawford and A. Keiller, *Wessex from the Air* (1928), pp. 18-24. The Commission (at Rougemont, Manor Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire) would be most grateful for further information about such mounds and for particulars of unpublished examples known to members.