

Acknowledgements

The assistance of the following in facilitating the study of objects in their charge is gratefully acknowledged:

Robert Rutland, Leicestershire Museums; David Symons, Birmingham City Museums; Robert Thomson, Southampton Museums.

The authors thank Patrick Clay for helpful discussions on the Leicester rim fragment.

R. BROWNSWORD and E. E. H. PITT
*Department of Applied Physical Sciences,
 Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic, Priory Street, Coventry*

NOTES

¹ J. Hatcher and T. C. Barker, *A History of British Pewter* (London, 1974).

² About ten items of funerary pewter have been analysed by the authors; lead contents in the 'pewter' have ranged from 25% to 75%.

³ A. H. Oswald, 'Interim Report on excavations at Weoley Castle, 1955-60', *Trans. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.*, 78 (1962), 61-85 and pls. 8-10.

⁴ Many pre-war excavation notes were lost due to enemy action during the 1939-45 war and the post-war excavations have not been published in full.

⁵ R. Brownsword and E. E. H. Pitt, 'X-ray fluorescence analysis of English 13th-16th-century pewter flatware', *Archaeometry*, 26 (1984), 237-44.

⁶ C. Platt and R. Coleman-Smith, *Excavations in Medieval Southampton, 1953-1969 Vol. 2 The finds* (Leicester, 1975), 250 and fig. 239.

⁷ J. E. Mellor and T. Pearce, *The Austin Friars, Leicester* (Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 35, 1981), 130 and fig. 45.1. Unfortunately the illustration is inverted; the reinforcement is on the upper surface of the rim.

THE 13TH-CENTURY ROOF OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST THOMAS-UPON-THE-EASTBRIDGE CANTERBURY (Fig. 8)

In our article on crown-post and king-strut roofs in SE. England, a third king-strut roof in Canterbury was mentioned, over the chapel of the Hospital of St Thomas-upon-the-Eastbridge.¹ This roof has now been measured and a perspective drawing is published here (Fig. 8).

The roof is in four bays though it is just possible that there may have been a further bay on the east. All the common trusses of the roof have single collars and scissor-braces that lap over each other (for clarity, only one truss is shown in the drawing), while the principal trusses have king-struts with two tiers of collars and the collar-purlin tenoned into them. There are also two pairs of braces up to the soulaces and the collar-purlin as well as pairs of braces coming down from the king-struts on to the collar-purlin.

The second bay from the west has been constructed differently to take a contemporarily constructed spirelet, and there is additional timber-work and bracing (from corbels) below to help to support this. The octagonal plan of the upper part of the spirelet (i.e. the part that projected out above the roof) has been destroyed, perhaps in the 18th century. The opposing posts of the spirelet have scissor-bracing and external tension-bracing. Pegged mortice-and-tenon joints are used on abutting members together with half-lap joints on crossing timbers. The most notable joint, however, for which no parallel has yet been found, is a tenon-joint which has been notched and held tight by a wedge driven in by its side (opposite the notch). This joint, which is used at the bases of all the king-struts, effectively suspends the tie-beam and thereby relieves it of some of its load. The same notched-tenon joint is also used at the base of all the eight posts of the spire.

The transition from notched-lap to tenon-and-mortice jointing is something that was taking place fairly generally in SE. England during the 13th century, so one should perhaps expect to find other examples of this sort of joint. Only one other surviving spire of this

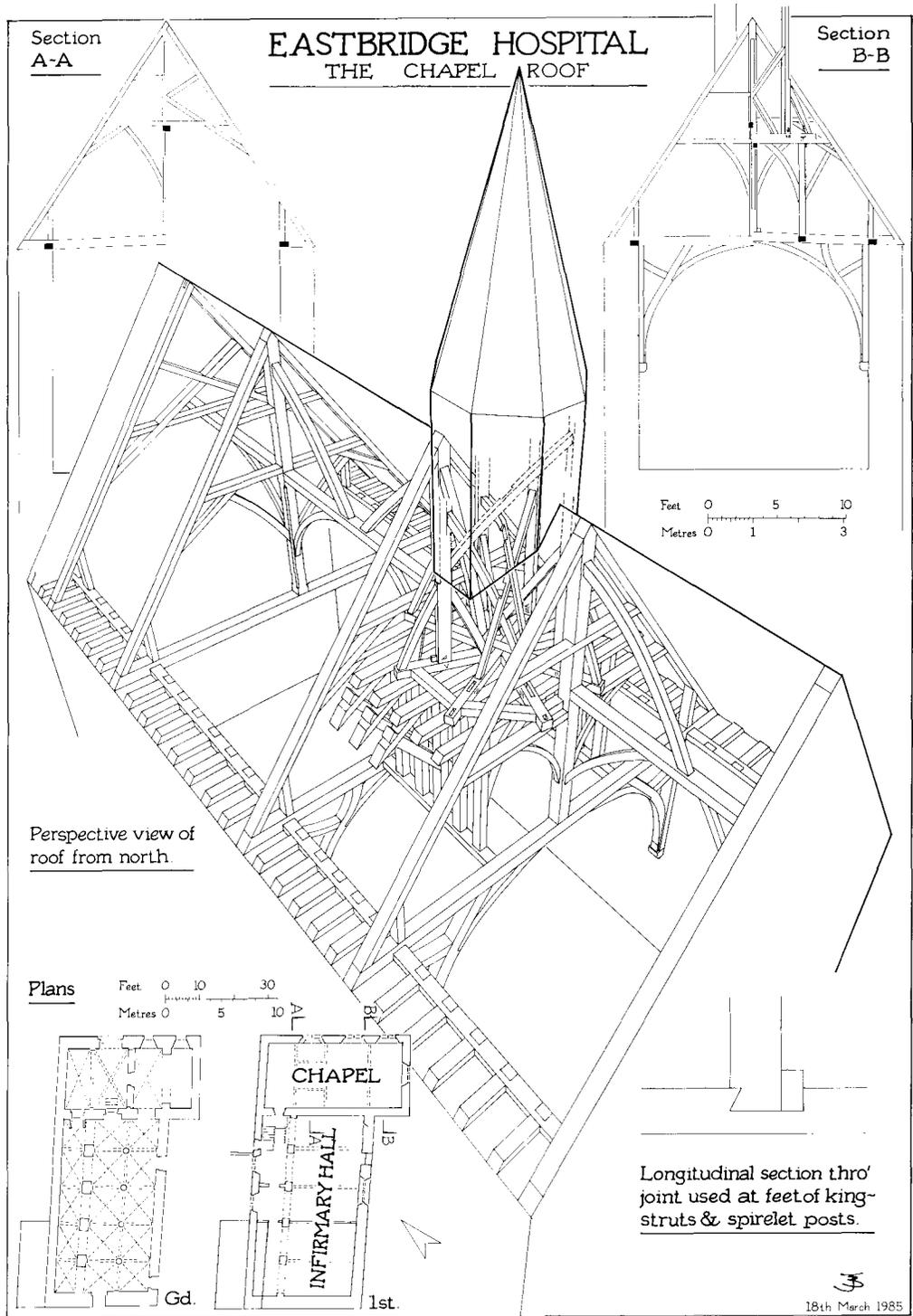


FIG. 8

ST THOMAS-UPON-THE-EASTBRIDGE, CANTERBURY

13th-century chapel roof. Drawing by John Bowen, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

general type is known in E. Kent and this is the remarkable late 13th-century spire on Peverel's Tower at Dover Castle.²

T. TATTON-BROWN

NOTES

¹ J. Munby, M. Sparks and T. Tatton-Brown, 'Crown-post and king-strut roofs in South-East England', *Medieval Archaeol.*, xxvii (1983), 123-35.

² A. M. Cook, D. C. Mynard and S. E. Rigold, 'Excavations at Dover Castle, principally in the Inner Bailey', *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, xxxii (1969), 79.

THE NORTHAMPTON CONFERENCE 1985

The 28th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Northampton from 12 to 15 April 1985 on the theme of 'Village, town and church'. The opening lecture on Friday, 12 April was given by Christopher Taylor on 'The Northamptonshire landscape'. The following lectures were held on Saturday: 'Church development in Northamptonshire' (Hugh Richmond), 'Medieval wall paintings in Northamptonshire' (David Park), 'From monastery and minster to chantry chapel' (David Parsons), 'The medieval houses of Northamptonshire' (Paul Woodfield), 'The medieval pottery of Northamptonshire' (Varian Denham), 'Raunds' (Alan Hannan), 'The small towns of Northamptonshire' (Glenn Foard), and 'Saxon and Medieval Northampton' (John Williams). The excursion on Sunday visited Canons Ashby earthworks and chapel, Culworth castle and village, Marston St Lawrence church, Brackley, and King's Sutton, Croughton and Slapton churches. On Monday Brixworth, Earl's Barton, Higham Ferrers and Raunds were visited by coach and the conference ended with an excursion on foot around medieval Northampton.

The Society is extremely grateful to all the lecturers and to those who acted as guides on site without whose help the conference would not have been such a great success.

HELEN CLARKE