

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE SITE OF CHERTSEY ABBEY

by  
**ROB POULTON**  
with a major contribution by  
the late Group Captain G Knocker  
and additional contributions by  
J Davinton, G Done, E Eames, J Gower and P Jones

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**Research Volume**

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**of the**

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**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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No 11

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**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Castle Arch**  
**Guildford**

1988

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ISSN 0308-342X  
ISBN 0-9501345-8-9

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Poulton, Rob

Archaeological Investigations on the site of Chertsey Abbey.

— (Research volume of the Surrey Archaeological Society, ISSN 0307-342X; no. 11)

1. Surrey. Chertsey. Abbeys. Sites. Chertsey Abbey site. Archaeological investigation

I. Title II. Series

942.2'11

The photograph on the front cover shows excavations in progress in the lady chapel in 1861. The drawing on the back cover is of a Chertsey tile roundel showing Duke Morgan(?)

Cover design and artwork: David W Williams

Hon Editor: Rosamond Hanworth

*This report has been published with the aid of a grant from English Heritage (HBMC)*

*Printed by Arrow Press, 11 Riverside Park, Farnham, Surrey*

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## Summary

*The site of the church and cloister of Chertsey Abbey was extensively excavated in 1954 and the results of this, together with some smaller subsequent investigations, are here presented and related to earlier work, especially the 19th century digging, and to the historical and early cartographic information. Very little evidence was recovered for the site of the pre-Conquest Abbey, but it is possible to reconstruct the later precinct in some detail. The Norman church had apsidal chapels to the transepts and a triple apsed east end projecting beyond the ambulatory, with the cloistral buildings to the north, nearest the Abbey River. This general arrangement was modified, mostly in the period c1250-1300 so that the apses were all squared, the site of the Chertsey tile kiln to the south of the church was covered by a cemetery, and the outer court was sited to the west of the church and cloister. It may have been in the ensuing half century that the precinct was walled and the elaborate system of moats and fishponds established. The site was used as a quarry for materials to build Henry VIII's palace at Oatlands, near Weybridge, at the dissolution in 1537, and subsequent destruction means that very little now survives above ground.*