

M8/1

**REINSTATEMENT OF PROTECTIVE
MOUNDS AT BARDNEY ABBEY,
BARDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



acknowledged receipt of rept
12/3/06
jab

Conservation
Services

06 MAR 2008

...

BU 8545

SLI 11836 11837

PRN 54217

**REINSTATEMENT OF PROTECTIVE
MOUNDS AT BARDNEY ABBEY,
BARDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken for
The Jews' Court Trust

February 2008

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA(Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 1133 7060

APS Report No. **20/08**

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Jews' Court Trust to reinstate an earthen protective mound at Bardney Abbey, Bardney, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 1133 7060). This was undertaken in order to protect a nave pier which had become exposed through erosion at the site. The work was undertaken on the 8th February 2008 in accordance with comments provided by the Jews Court Trust and the Regional Inspector, English Heritage.

2. BACKGROUND

The medieval abbey of Bardney was founded as a Benedictine priory by Gilbert de Gand in 1087, on or near the site of a Saxon monastery first mentioned in the late 7th century. Gilbert's son, Walter, raised the status of Bardney to an abbey in 1116.

Following the dissolution, the land was acquired by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, who demolished the church and transformed the remaining conventual buildings into a private residence, occupying the area of the abbot's lodging and converting the cloister into a walled garden. By 1718, when Browne Willis surveyed the site, all the buildings, including Tyrwhitt's house, had gone and only a fragment of the gatehouse remained standing.

Excavation of the site was commenced in 1909 by the local vicar, Reverend Charles Laing. This work was continued for six years, uncovering the ruins of the main abbey buildings, before being terminated by the war and Laing's death. A report on these investigations was published in 1922 (Brakspear 1922). Left open to view, the stonework deteriorated due to exposure to the weather. In 1933, to protect them against further decay, the ruins were covered over in such a way that the outlines of buildings remained visible for the benefit of visitors.

In 1974, a trench was excavated to assess the state of preservation (White 1978, 29). This trench was located over the nave pier (Plate 1), the subject of this report, and across the north wall of the church.

3. AIMS

The main requirement of the work was to reinstate the covering protective mound and provide a photographic record of the work undertaken.

4. METHODOLOGY

The remaining soil over the pier was removed by hand and all loose stones were removed. The stones were then replaced to form a neat arrangement and then covered with soil. The soil used to cover the pier was taken from a spoil heap located east of the south transept of the church. The soil was to be compacted and sown with grass seed.

5. RECORD OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN

The nave pier, which is the subject of this report lies between the nave and the north aisle of the former monastic church and being the 5th pier west of the crossing column (Fig. 1). This pier comprises twelve shafts, those to the cardinal points being keeled. The north and south keeled shafts are flanked by semi-circular shafts which are slightly smaller than those flanking the east and west keeled shafts. The whole is set on a moulded and chamfered plinth. Brakspear assigned this pier an early 13th century date.

Brakspear does not include a photograph or plan of this pier, although the adjacent 4th pier is shown. The first record depicting this pier is from the 1974 excavation (Plate 1).



Plate 1 – View showing the exposed pier in the 1974 excavation trench with the graves of Thomas White and an unknown husband and wife in the foreground, looking north.

The pier had had suffered damage since 1974 (Plate 2) with nothing but the plinth surviving in its original position. Adjacent to the pier base was a moulded fragment from a doorway, although from where in the monastic complex could not be ascertained.



Plate 2 – View of the pier as found, looking north

At this stage, all loose stonework was removed along with the soil and remaining vegetation of the protective mound (Plate 3). The stones were cleaned with the exception of the rubble core which was held together by a degraded mortar and quite loose. The damage recorded to the pier was quite significant with the upper mouldings of the plinth absent from the north side.



Plate 3 – The pier base after removal of covering material, looking south

Of the worked stones, only the keeled shaft on the south side of the pier matched with that recorded in 1974 (Plate 1). A semi-circular pier was placed adjacent to this to the east, but was not in its original position as this stone was cracked in the 1974 photograph. An attempt was made to place the remaining stones in, or near, their original position, though with the damaged plinth this was not possible. The remaining worked stone from the vicinity was placed with care to be covered.



Plate 4 – View of the worked stone, showing a number of the semi-circular shafts, the keeled shaft (bottom) and the door moulding, a central roll flanked by arrises with double chamfer (left), looking north

After ensuring that the worked stones were stable and not liable to slip, the mound was covered with soil and compacted. Turf from the spoil mound was re-used to provide protection to the mouldings and the more exposed parts of the mound and the remainder planted with grass seed (Plate 5). Orange plastic barrier material was then placed around the mound to afford temporary protection.



Plate 5 – The reinstated mound, looking east

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R Lucas of the Jews Court Trust for commissioning the fieldwork and report compilation. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Site work was undertaken by the author and Bob Garland. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

7. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, comprising correspondence and photographs, will be deposited at;

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

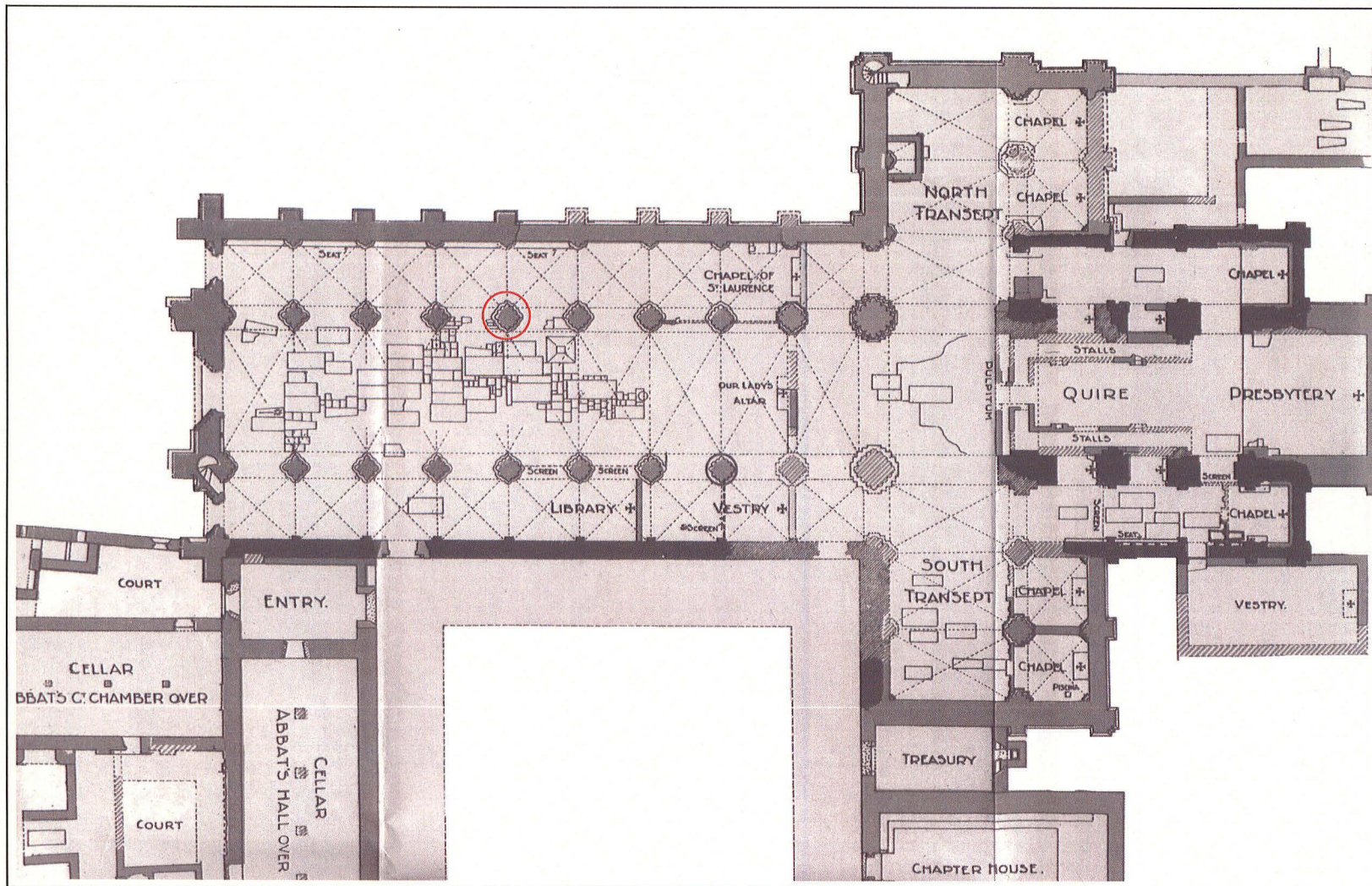
Accession No: LCNCC: 2008.22

A copy of all data will also be provided to The Jews' Court Trust

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brakspear, H, 1922 'Bardney Abbey' *The Archaeological Journal* LXXIX

White, AJ, 1978 'Bardney' *East Midlands Archaeological Bulletin* 12



0 20m



Location of reinstatement works

Based on Brakspear's plan (1922)



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Bardney Abbey BASM07

Scale 1:400

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 20/08

Figure 1 - Location of the reinstatement works