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## MEDIEVAL TILE PROJECT PHASE 2:

Binham Priory, Norfolk  
Archive Report 046.01



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# Medieval Tile Project

Phase 2 Recording

*Binham Priory, Norfolk*

Archive Report No: 046.01

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## **Medieval Tile Project, Phase 2 Recording: Binham Priory, Norfolk.**

### **Introduction**

The remains of five *in-situ* pavements of Medieval tiles were recorded at Binham Priory, Norfolk by members of Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in February 1997 (Figure 1).

All tile areas were photographed in colour. The photographs were then joined and mounted into montages (see Archive file) which were used to make accurate plans of the five tiled areas (Figures 2-6).

The site archive also includes inked tracings of three decorated tiles, additional photographs, slides and negatives, all of which are stored in an A4 file.

### **Area Summaries**

Area 1 is situated in the south-western corner of the North Transept and Aisle (Figure 2, photomontage 1, fold-out). This consists of two rectangular areas joined by a linear strip separated from a third, smaller, area by the base of a column (1b). The main part of this area measures 3.30m in length with a maximum width of 1.45m. The smaller area (1b) is set diagonally against the column base and measures 0.72m by 0.42m. A total of 177 tiles was counted in Area 1, including 23 from Area 1b where the first of three decorated tiles from the site was found (Figure 7:1). Tiles were fairly worn but the majority had retained traces of black and yellow glazes with some evidence for diagonal strips of contrasting glazed tiles in Area 1b, and some alternation of glazed tiles in the main area.

Area 2 is also situated in the North Transept (Figure 3, photomontage 2). This rectangular area measures 1.50m by 1.20m and consists of 99 tiles laid diagonally. The tiles are in a very worn condition and few have retained traces of black and yellow glaze. A second decorated tile was found in this area (Figure 7:2).

Area 3 is situated in the South Transept (Figure 4, photomontage 3). Almost rectangular in shape, this area measures 1.26m by 1.80m and consists of 52 diagonally-set tiles, few of which have retained traces of black and yellow glazes on their worn surfaces.

Area 4 is situated in the South Aisle and measures 0.90m by 1.60m (Figure 5, Archive Sheet 4). A total of 73 tiles have been set in rows in a sub-rectangular shape and there is evidence of a pattern consisting of 9 tile squares of alternating yellow and black glazes, with the middle tile in each square contrasting with the eight surrounding tiles.

Area 5 is situated in the Presbytery (Figure 6, Archive Sheet 5). Here, 85 tiles have been laid out in a rectangle measuring 1.05m by 1.45m. Their condition is generally poor with few tiles retaining traces of yellow and black glazes. A third decorated tile was found in this area (Figure 7:3).

### **Decorated Tiles**

Only three decorated tiles were recorded, one in each of Areas 1, 2 and 5 (Figure 7:1-3). The first is half of a tile which originally consisted of four fleur-de-lys separated by

a cross, only two of which are now visible. The second is a well-preserved 'chequerboard' design, and the third is a single fleur-de-lys, now worn and barely-visible. All decoration was executed in yellow glaze.

Another Medieval tile, on display in the Holy Cross Church, is believed to have originated from the Priory. Decoration consisted of an impressed six-foil motif with a heavy application of yellowish-green glaze. A photograph is included in the accompanying archive file.

### **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks are due to Anthony Jones who assisted with tile recording and Mark Breedon who was responsible for all illustrations.

# Binham Priory

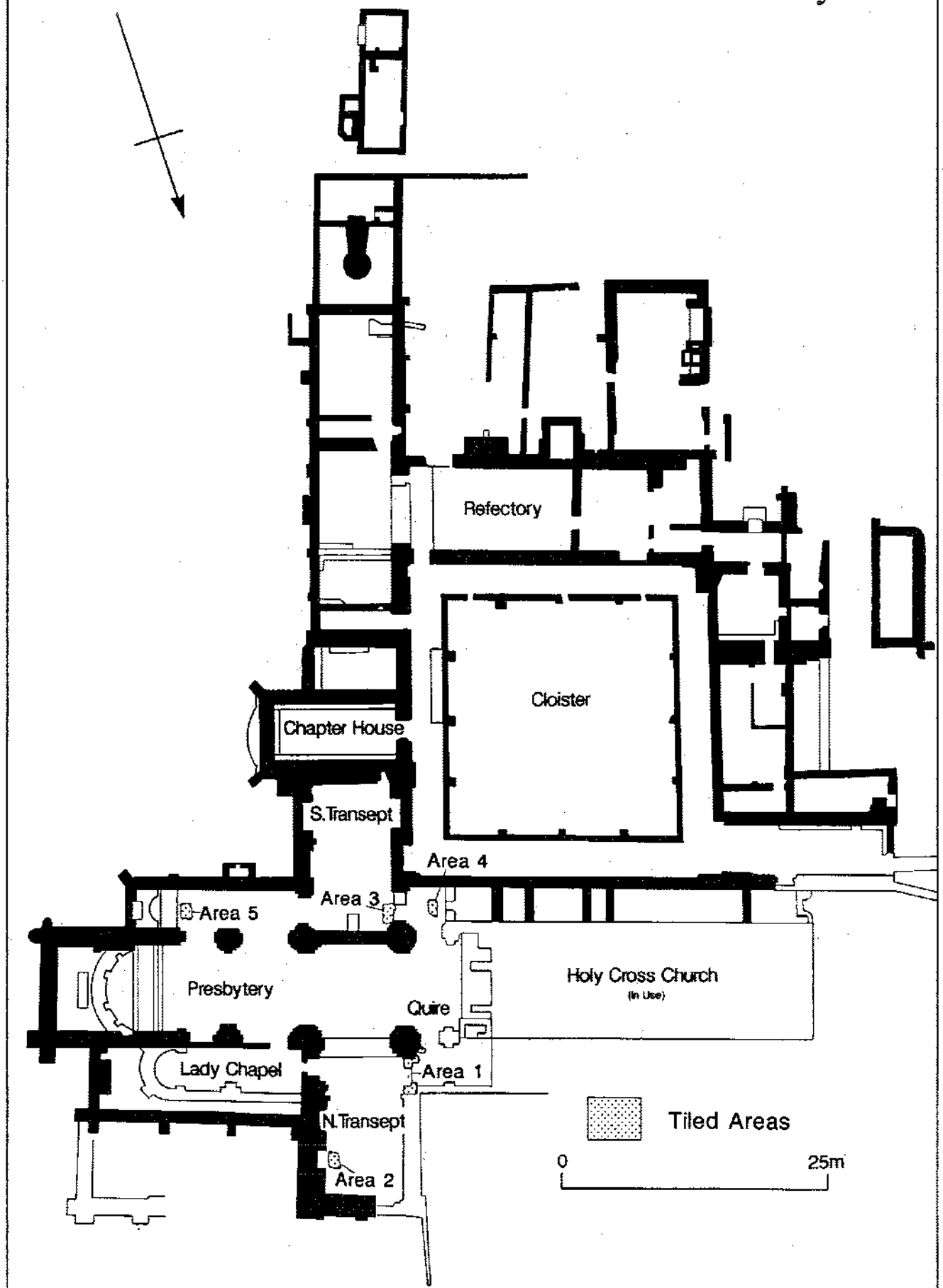


Figure 1.

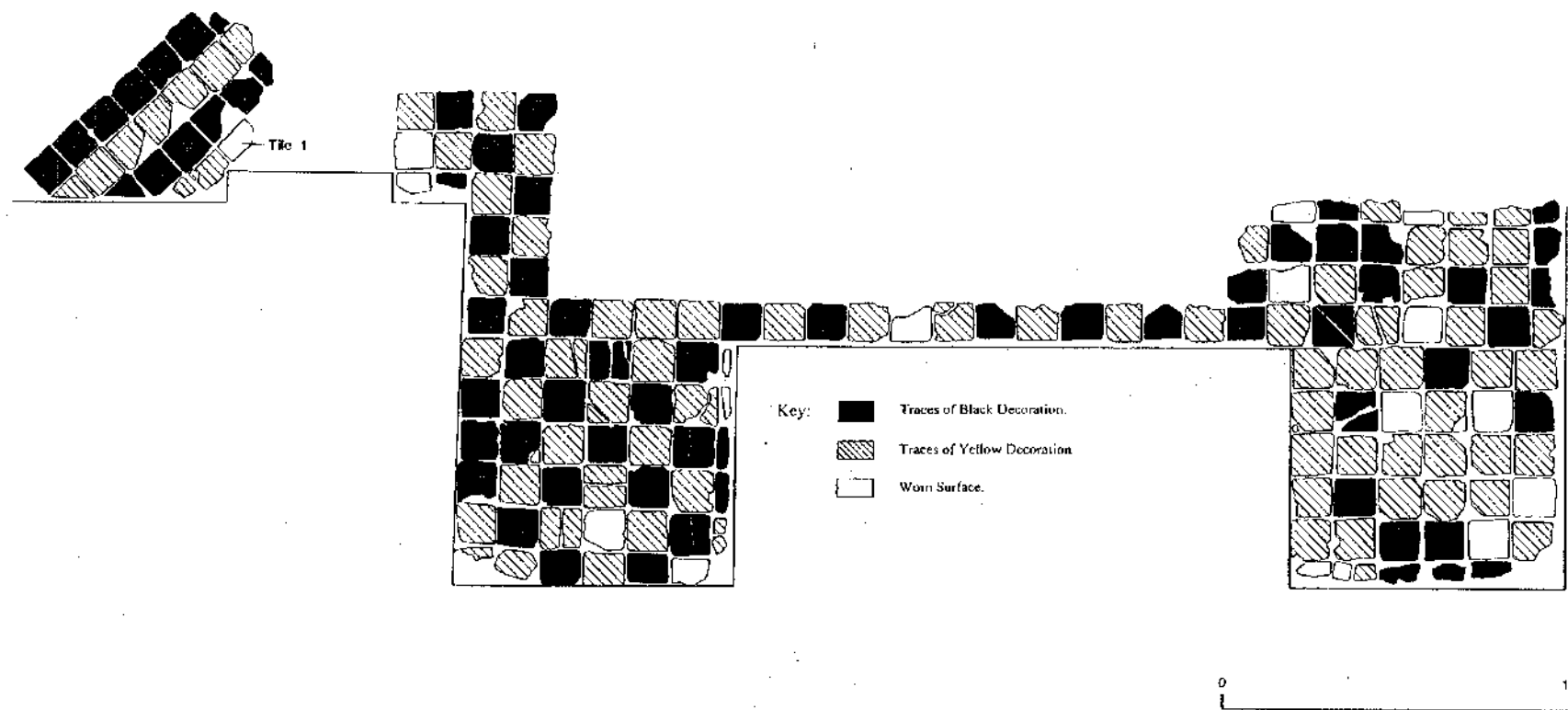


Figure 2

2. North Transept

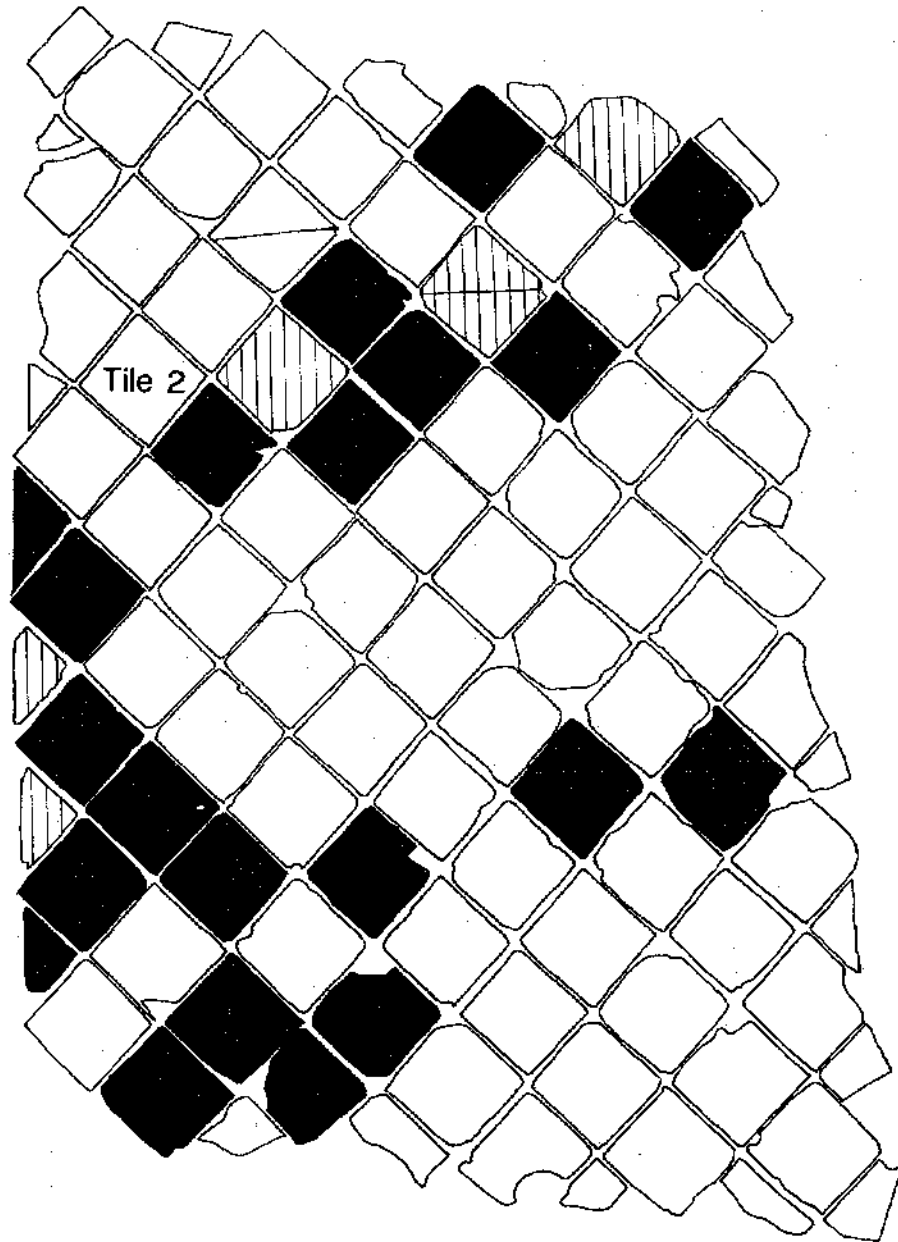


Figure 3.

3. South Transept

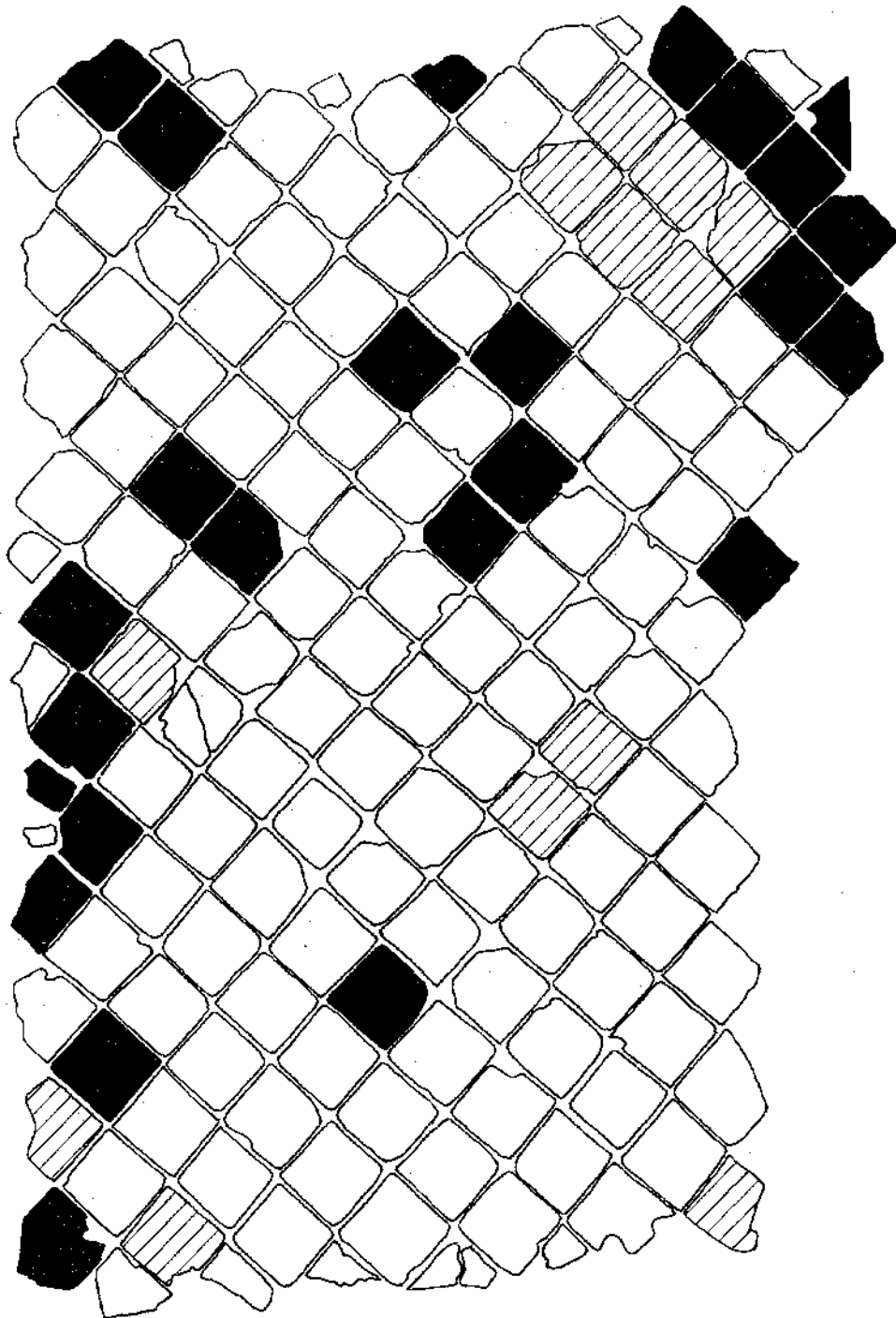


Figure 4.



#### 4. South Aisle

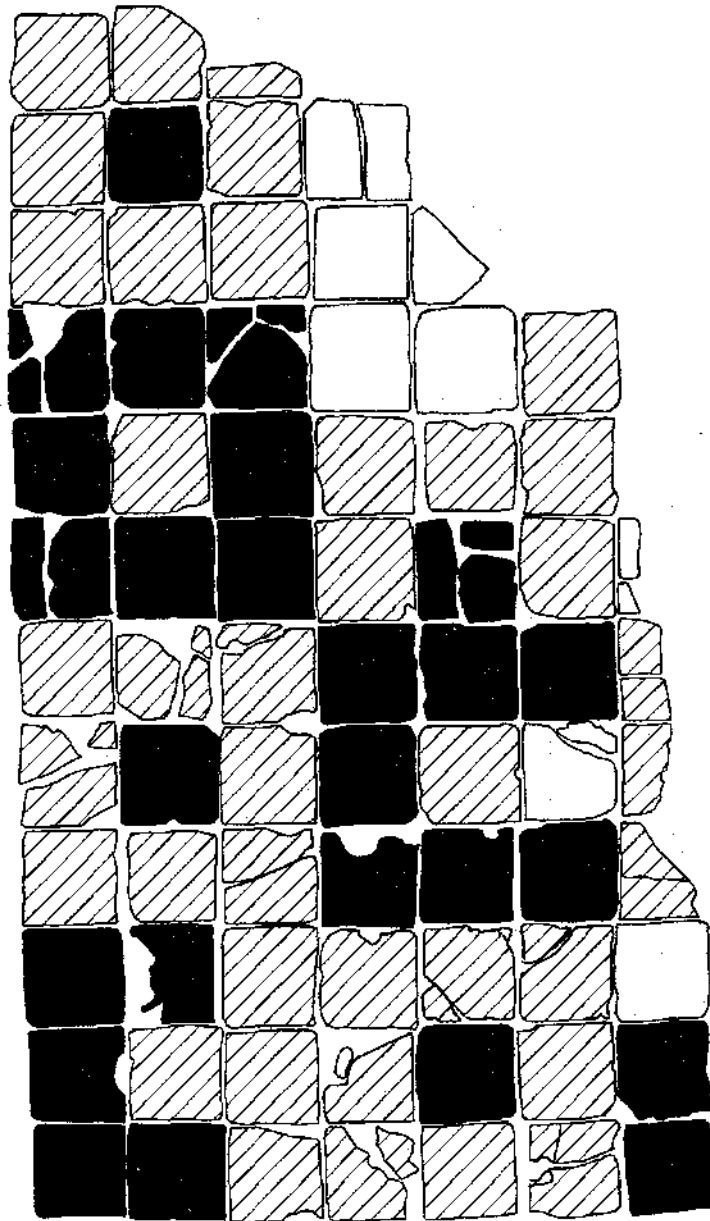


Figure 5.

## 5. Presbytery

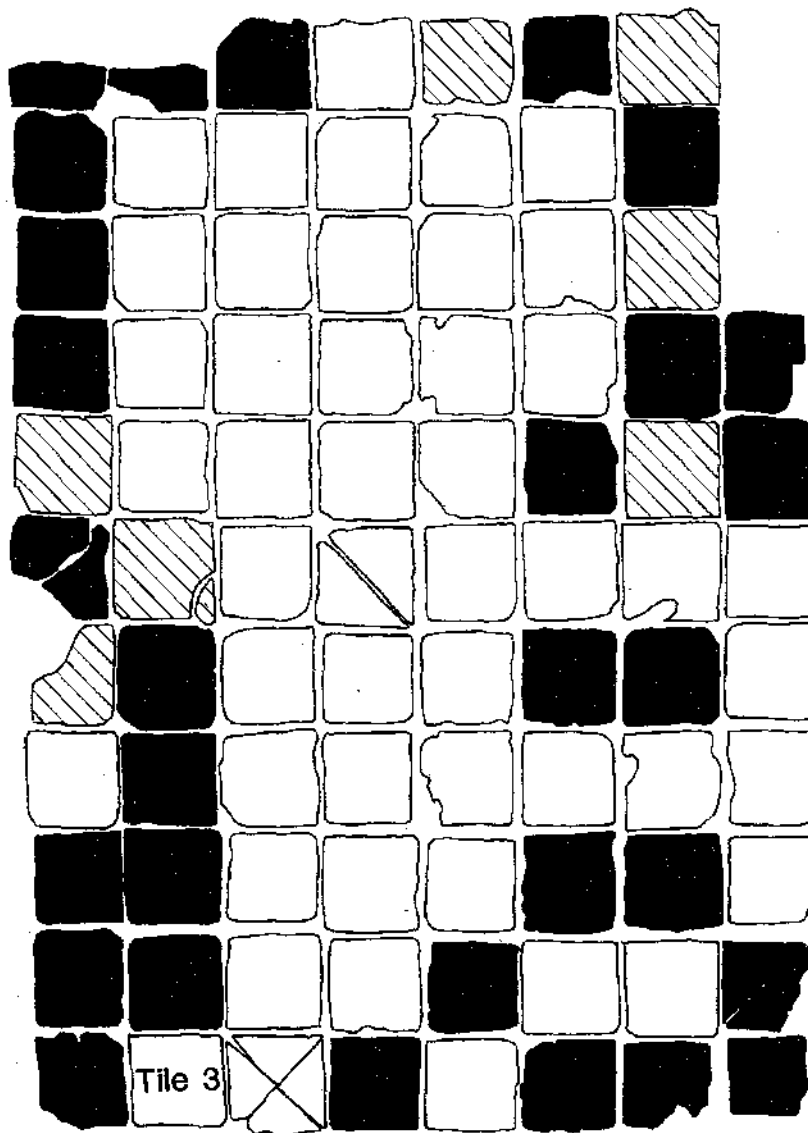
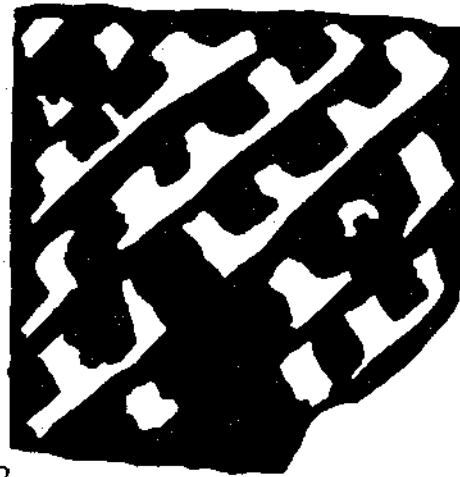


Figure 6.



1. Area 1b



2. Area 2

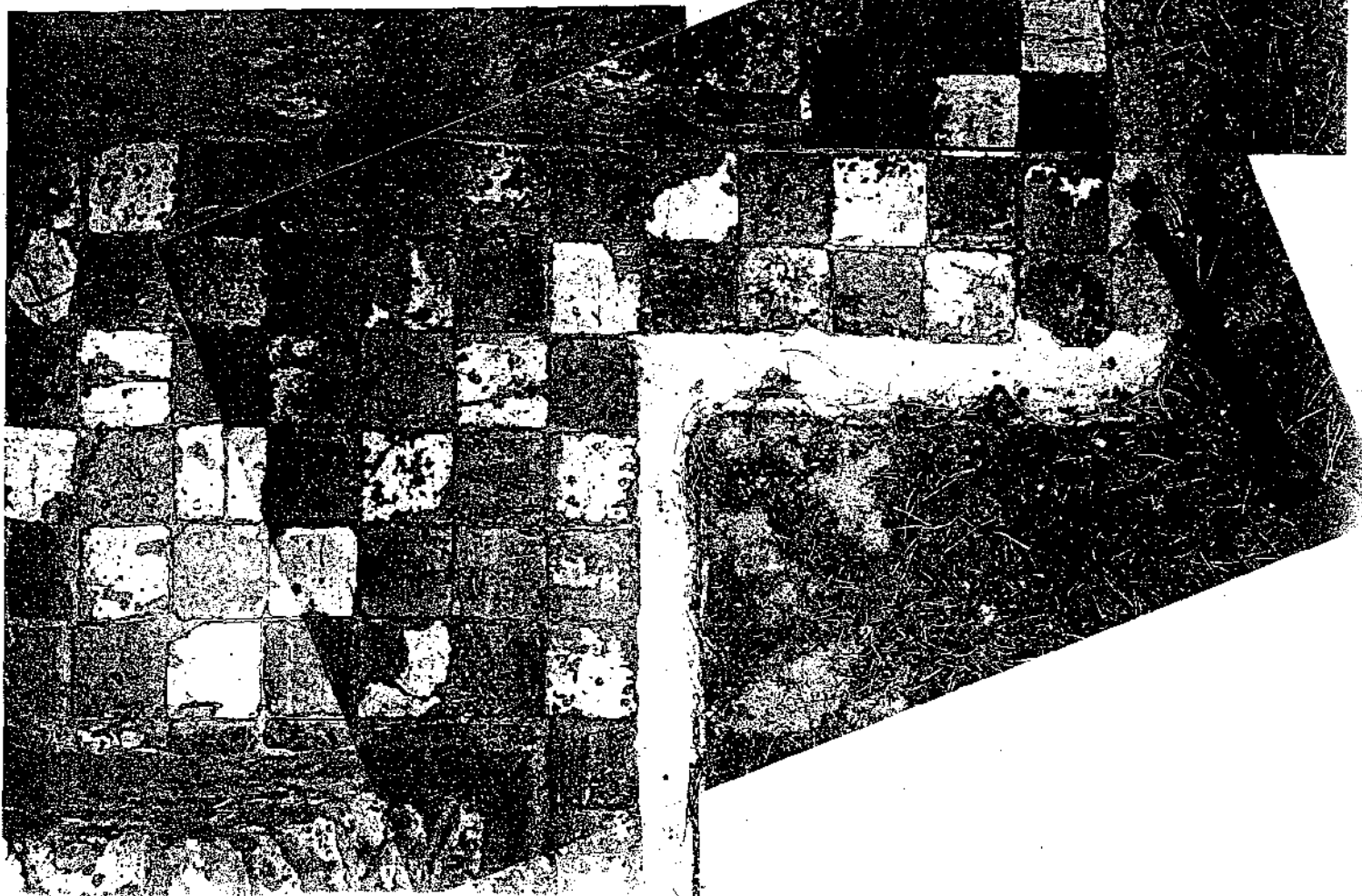
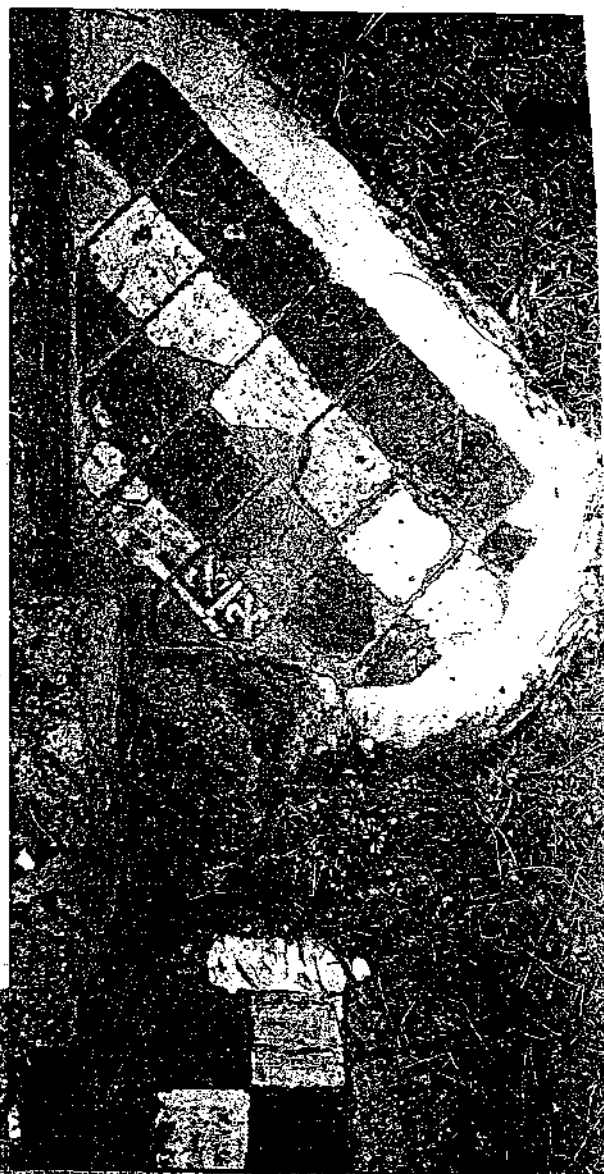


3. Area 5

0 10cm

Figure 7: Decorated Tiles 1-3

AREA 1B

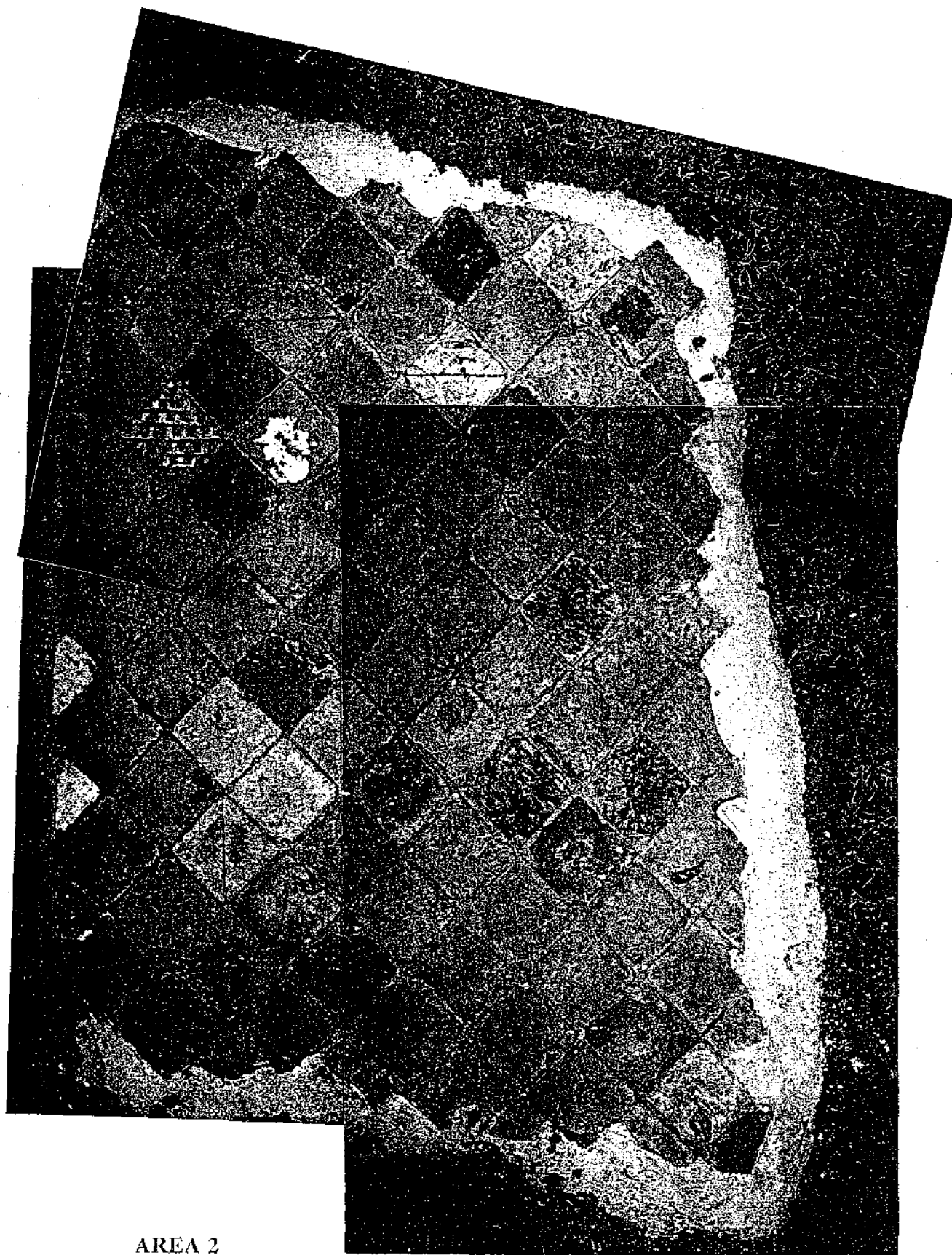




BINHAM PRIORY

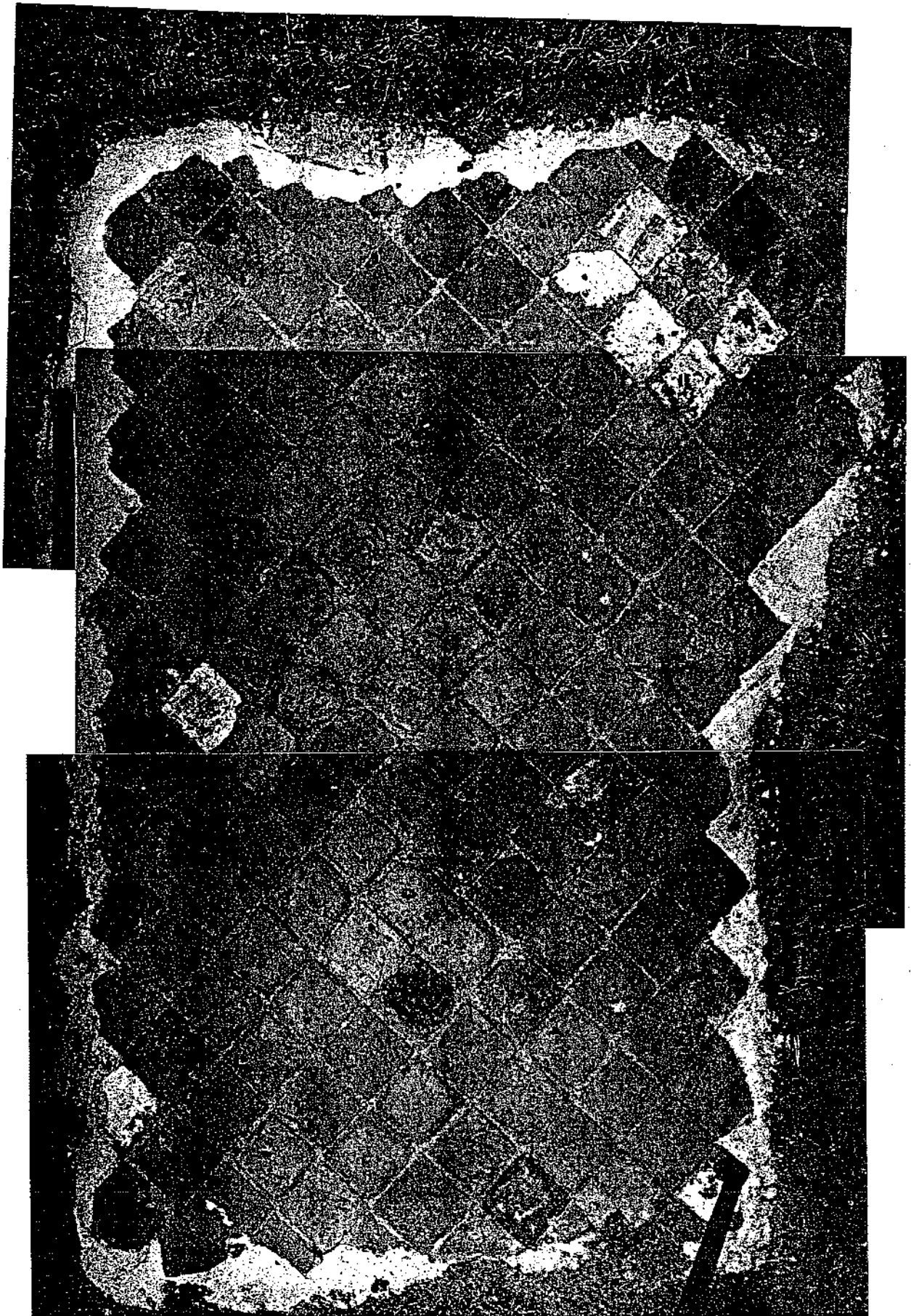
AREA 1/1B FOLD-OUT

BINHAM PRIORY



AREA 2

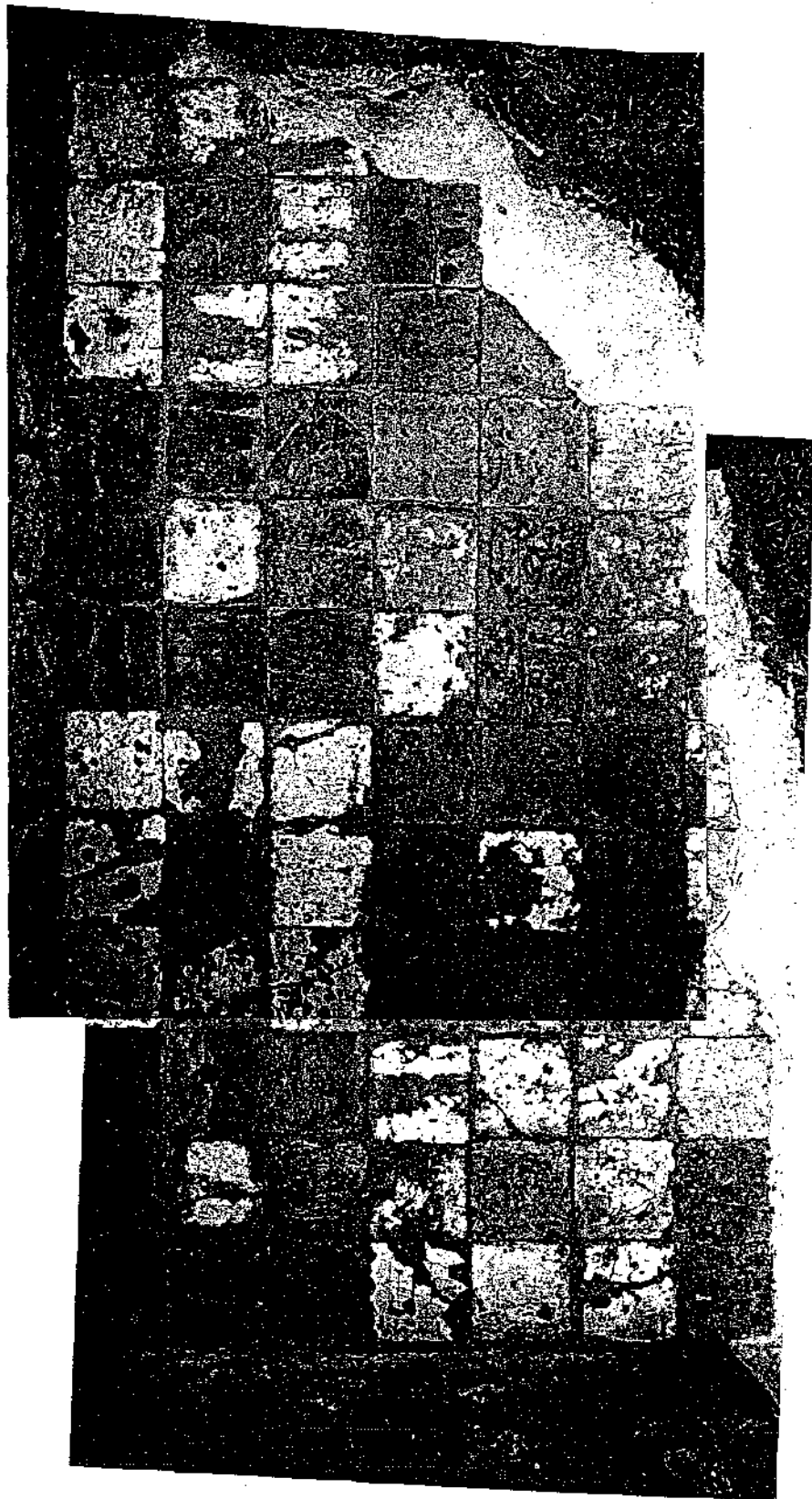
BINHAM PRIORY



AREA 3



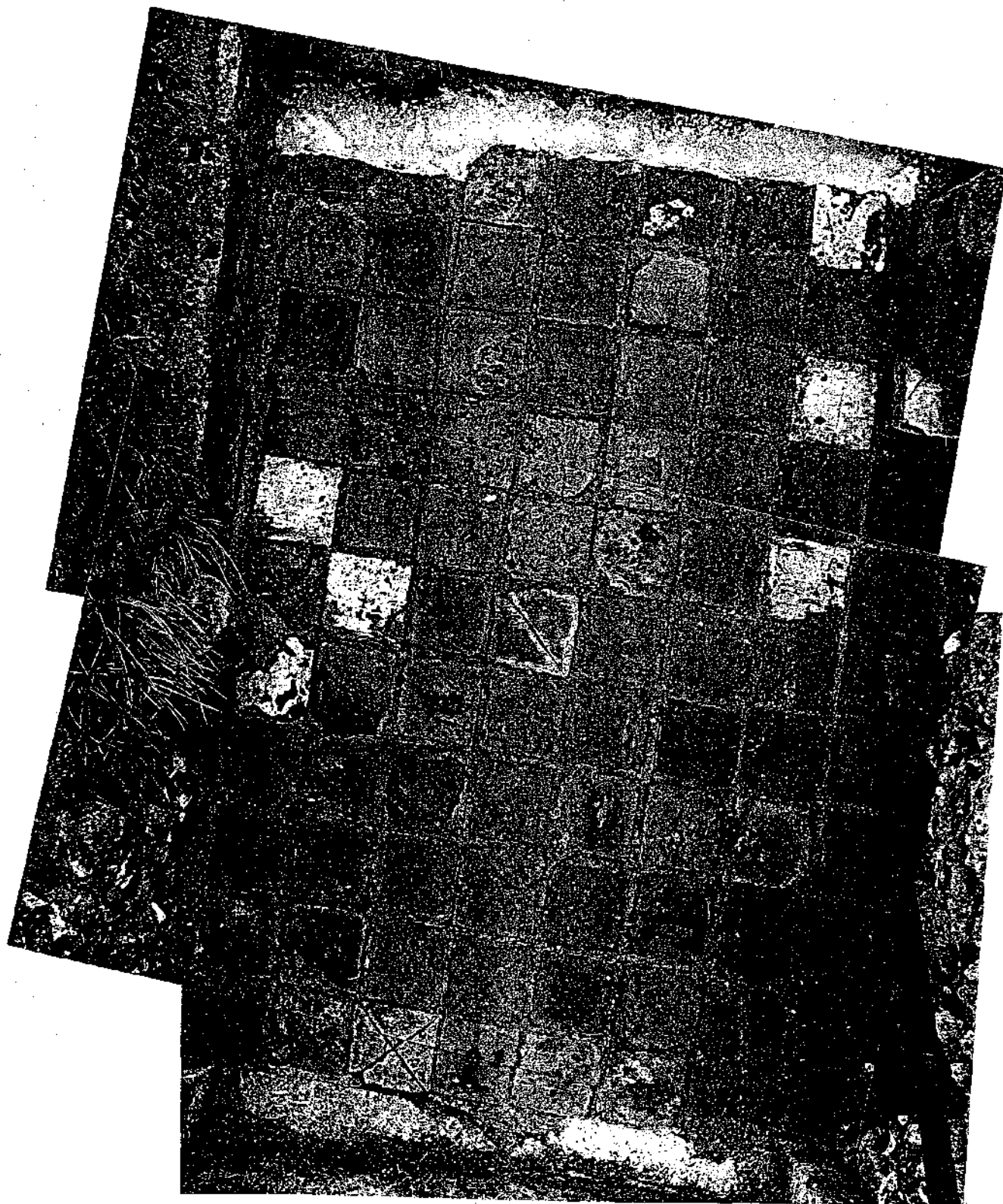
BINHAM PRIORY



AREA 4



BINHAM PRIORY



AREA 5

# BINHAM PRIORY



TILE IN CHURCH DISPLAY CASE