

ST MARY MAJOR 1971

Reasons for excavation

Site threatened after demolition of parish church with a proposal for the construction of an underground car park.

Dates

Excavations commenced 16th June 1971.

Location

Nave and south aisle of Victorian church, and a thin strip to north of the nave wall on the site of Little Stile.

Personnel

Tony Johnson, Mary

Excavation methods

Open area: small trenches appear to have been opened initially but their locations are uncertain.

The whole area inside the walls of the church appears to have become known as Trench 7 eventually, although this formerly applied only to the south aisle area.

Burials in nave: tomb slabs recorded and removed. Vaults slowly dismantled (from west end eastwards) but machined in the end as they proved unsafe. Excavation then proceeded, layer by layer.

Burials in aisle: construction of aisle and boiler-house had terraced away all but Roman levels. Only very deep-cut burials had survived.

Northern strip: burials swiftly removed down to Roman levels.

Planning and photography

Many burials unrecorded.

Nave burials: photographed, not planned (only 2 CBs planned).

Aisle burials: photographed and planned.

Northern strip: many removed without record; only early charcoal burials planned.

GRAVES 1-21 and 100

OBs 1-20

CBs 1-19

Drawn up on Sheet 40:26 (S. aisle)

WAR MEMORIAL 1972 (Trench 10)

Reasons for excavation

To further investigate Roman building discovered in MM excavations.

Dates

Spring 1972.

Location

Area at centre of excavations north of Mary Major trenches and bounded by Trenches 10a, 12, 11.

Personnel

Excavation methods

Open area, layer by layer.

Planning and photography

Burials almost all planned, but not all photographed.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.20, 40.21, 40.22, 40.23, 40.24, 40.25.

Burials: OBs 250-283

CBs 25-51 and 53

Vaults VI-V15

WAR MEMORIAL 1972-3 (Trench 10a)

Reason excavated

Dates

Location

North side of St Mary Major chancel, alongside wall, bounded by Trenches 10, 11 and gas/water pipe.

Personnel

Excavation methods

Layer by layer. Open area.

Planning and photography

Burials planned and photographed.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.24, 40.25.

Burials: OBs 300-342

CBs 51 and 52

Vaults V33, 34

WAR MEMORIAL 1972 (Trench 11)

Reason for excavation

Dates

Opened 26 April 1972

Location

Area on the eastern side of excavations, under part of the road from Broadgate to Deanery Place. Bounded by gas/water pipe, and almost reaching chancel of St Mary Major at the south-west corner.

Personnel

Excavation methods

Trench first opened at its southern end and extended northwards; excavated layer by layer.

Planning and photography

Burials planned but apparently not photographed.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.24, 40.25.

Burials: OBs 350-369

CB 54 only

Vaults 16-21 and 32,33?

WAR MEMORIAL 1972 (Trench 12)

Reasons for excavation

Dates

Location

Western side of excavations, from N wall of St Mary Major almost to the war memorial. Unable to extend further because of World War II emergency water tank. Bounded by Trenches 10, 11, 14.

Personnel

Excavation methods

Layer by layer. Open area.

Planning and photography

Skeletons planned, but very few, mainly CBs, photographed.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.20, 40.21, 40.22, 40.23.

Burials: OBs 375-494

CBs 54-70

Vaults 22-31.

WAR MEMORIAL 1972-3 (Trench 14)

Reason for excavation

Closure of road from Broadgate to Deanery Place enabled excavations to be extended.

Dates

Mid July 1972

Location

Northern side of excavation under war memorial gardens and road to deanery Place; exact location (and that of Trench 13) uncertain, however.

Personnel

Supervised by Thorp and Griffiths, worked on by Sue and John.

Excavation methods

Drastic. Trench opened by machine cutting as close as possible to stratigraphy. All later medieval and post-medieval levels, roads and burials removed without record, as it was possible to immediately re-inter burials in consecrated ground (namely the nave and aisles of St Mary major, which were being infilled at the time). Roman levels were reached and two vaults retained as examples of the type of burials in this part of the site. Excavations then proceeded layer by layer.

Planning and photography

Of all the burials, only vaults 35 and 36 were recorded and the skeletons retained.

Drawn up on sheet: 40.23 as an inset.

Burials: 2 vaults 35, 36
one boat-shaped and still with cap stones.

CATHEDRAL YARD 1975

CATHEDRAL GREEN 1976 Main area

Reason for excavation

To facilitate construction of processional way.

Dates

Summer months of 1976.

Location

Large area to east of WM 72.

Personnel

John Pamment and Colin Tracey.

Excavation methods

Open area.

Planning and photography

Burial cuts planned, some burials planned. Nos?

Drawn up on sheet: 40.14, 40.15.

Burials: mainly the 'Misc' burials.

CATHEDRAL GREEN 1976 "densely populated area"

Reason for excavation

To facilitate construction of processional way.

Dates

Summer months of 1976.

Location

North-western tip of CG 76.

Personnel

John Pamment and Colin Tracey.

Excavation methods

Open area.

Planning and photography

All burials planned and photographed.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.8, 40.9, 40.10, 40.11, 40.12, 40.13.

Burials: drawn in six groups; also "stick men" in ten levels (alternative grouping?).

CATHEDRAL GREEN 1976 Front trench

Reason for excavation

Service trench dug to accommodate sewer.

Dates

Summer months 1976.

Location

Immediately in front of cathedral west front.

Personnel

John Pamment and Colin Tracey.

Excavation methods

Trench.

Planning and photography

Burials planned and photographed.

Drawn up on sheet 40.16.

WAR MEMORIAL 1971 (Trench 8)

Reason for excavation

To assess possible survival of Roman levels in the area north of the war memorial and the water tank, in anticipation of an extension of the excavations.

Dates

Autumn 1971.

Location

War Memorial gardens.

Personnel

Tony Johnson.

Excavation methods

Planning and photography

All burials planned.

Drawn up on sheets: 40.17, 40.18, 40.19.

Burials: 207

OB 1-206, 1-20 renumbered 211-230

CBs 1