

CHAPTER 3 - EXCAVATIONS IN 1978 BY ROB POULTON

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1. EXCAVATION TECHNIQUE AND RECORDING

It was apparent from Humphrey Woods' 1974 excavations that the area available for excavation in 1978 would, at minimum, contain the nave and cemetery of the friary. Norden's map of Windsor Park, dated 1607, apparently indicates a detached building, south of the main complex of Friary buildings and it was hoped to locate this also. In the event the building was not discovered. It was therefore decided that, in order to examine all these possibilities, it would be necessary to open up the entire area available. Since this area was large, some 1200 square metres, there was insufficient time to make any adequate examination of post-friary contexts, and hence the site was stripped by machine down to the uppermost level of the surviving friary levels.

pl 3

ch 6: 1.4

fig 1

The site was excavated as a single open area. Frequent spot heights were taken so that it is possible to reconstruct sections through the site. A single sequence of numbers (starting at 100) was given to all contexts on the site. The term 'context' was not closely defined so that a number could be given to not only the normal range of positive and negative features and layers but also to artefacts or skeletal material not contained in a recognisable feature (eg 100, 119 - ch 3: 3.2.2.1). In order to simplify recording where a grave contained a single articulated skeleton (eg 172) the skeleton was given the same number, prefixed by an 'S' (S172). Where a grave contained more than one skeleton (eg 288) each skeleton was given a separate context number, again prefixed by an 'S' (eg for 288, S142, S143). For the same reason (simplicity) where a number of layers were wholly contained within a single feature they were not normally given separate context

fig 2

numbers but instead numbered internally. Thus context 172 has layers 172.1, 172.2 etc.

fig 29

An attempt was made to excavate fully all contexts of the Friary period and, with some minor exceptions, this was achieved.

fig 15

Where time permitted the same policy was followed for mansion period features. Obviously modern features (e g soakaways) were not excavated except out of necessity.

2. EARLIEST USE OF THE SITE

Very little evidence for use of the site prior to the building of the Dominican Friary was recovered, and this has therefore been incorporated into ch 2: 3 above.

3. THE DOMINICAN FRIARY

The report is divided here into two main sections. The first concerns the structural details of the nave of the church, and some associated features. The second discusses the large number of burials found both inside and outside the church.

3.1 STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS IN THE NAVE

All the features described below were overlain by mansion garden soil (163) and were reduced to their excavated levels by clearance for the mansion gardens. All except 136 appear on fig 17. 136 is shown on fig 32.

ch 3: 4

3.1.1 The South Wall (120). This may be divided into three elements:

- (a) A short north-south stretch at the east end of the nave.
- (b) The major east-west stretch. This was structurally identical to (a) and both were carried in a continuous foundation trench. The sections demonstrate the mode of construction. A foundation trench was dug through the natural sand and filled with gravel and flints, topped with crushed chalk. In some places a thin layer of soil then accumulated before the wall proper was built with cut chalk blocks.
- (c) A short east-west stretch at the west end. Though part of the same wall as (a) and (b) the mode of construction changed here. The wall was some 15cm narrower than in section (b) and was of different construction. Here the wall had no foundation

fig 10

fig 10

trench and was constructed by laying chalk blocks set in mortar directly onto natural sand. Fig 18 demonstrates clearly that this mode of building (phase 2) developed at a later date than that of (a) and (b) (phase 1).

3.1.2 The North Wall (184, 234, 307). Unlike the south wall of the nave the north wall had been badly damaged by modern disturbance as well as clearance for the mansion gardens. The remains of the northern wall fall into three distinctive portions.

figs 6 & 15

(a) The westernmost part of the wall (184) was the best preserved. In size and construction it was closely similar to 120(c), though here the wall was set into a foundation trench. A number of other features were closely connected with the wall at this point. Fig 20 shows the area as it must have appeared immediately after construction.

fig 9

figs 22 & 23
pl 8

The north wall (184) was joined by another wall (185) of very similar construction. This second wall formed, over most of its length, the front of the western range of buildings (numbered W4 on fig 21 and elsewhere). A number of post holes (324, 326, 328, 329, 331 and 332) are also shown; these were, in all probability, the holes created by scaffolding posts, used in constructing the Priory. This supposition is supported by the fact that at least one post hole (331) was partly sealed by floor mortar (188 - see fig 21) and negatively by the absence of post

holes along that length of 185 which served solely as a sleeper wall. The extent of the sleeper wall is indicated by the mortar and tile impressions (188) which overlie it.

fig 23

The tile impressions are of two sizes, the large c 14cm by 14cm and the smaller c 11cm by 11cm, corresponding respectively to Chertsey-type and Penn-type tiles. Since Penn tiles are later in date they may constitute a repair and this probably indicates heavier use of the south and west cloister walks than of the alley to the west. An entrance through the north wall at this point is a possibility - note the change in its appearance at approximately the same point that small tiles change to large - but there is no positive evidence for it. On the south side of of the north church wall an area of crushed chalk (358) was observed. This was laid down before any of the graves in this area were dug which suggests, in conjunction with its irregular distribution, that it was deposited to level up the ground.

figs 9, 15
& 23

- (b) The central stretch of wall (234). This stretch of wall is an oddity. It consisted of a double line of flints with plaster applied to their northern face. Against the northern face there was also a small area of mortar floor with tile impressions (11cm by 11cm) in it (320). The alignment of this stretch was also slightly at variance with the rest of the north wall.

fig 12

(c) The eastern stretch of wall (307). This area was badly confused by modern disturbance. Though there was a large quantity of cut chalk blocks in the area, only one short section of wall could be said to be in situ. This had much deeper foundations than elsewhere and there was a suggestion of an internal buttress. It was slightly out of alignment with the rest of the north wall. fig 15

3.1.3 The East End of the Nave (175, 269, 275, 310, 374). This area of the church had been subjected to considerable modern disturbance. Three main elements can, however, be distinguished. fig 16

(a) This consisted of cut chalk blocks (269, 310) laid upon a raft, consisting of alternate layers of sand and crushed chalk with a layer of green sandstone at the base, bedded in a foundation trench, 374. fig 16 section A
Though modern disturbance had removed the chalk blocks in parts it is fairly clear that they were once continuous over an area c 2m by 2.8m.

(b) A wall running north-south (175) butted up against 310. This wall consisted of cut chalk blocks and was only 60cm wide, with a foundation trench 55cm deep filled with lumps of chalk, sand and mortar. The north end of 175 terminated in a squared off area of chalk blocks. Modern disturbance north of this element obscured its junction and also denies knowledge of whether this wall extended across the breadth of the church. fig 16 section B

(c) A second wall running north-south (275) also butts up against 310. The wall is wider and has a deeper foundation than 175 though the fill of this is similar - and is thus more closely comparable to the north and south walls of the nave. Section C revealed the lower part of the foundation trench of 275; this makes it a reasonable surmise that this wall was built continuously along the east end of the nave.

fig 16
section B

fig 16

3.1.4 The Floor of the Nave. Over most of this area the floor had been removed by clearance for the mansion gardens, though it was better preserved in the south cloister walk. In the nave elements of flooring survived in three places, discounting the doubtful case of context 358. In all these cases survival was due to subsidence within a grave.

M51

M51

In two of the cases 172.1 and 356, the flooring consisted solely of the mortar bedding for tiles. In the third case, context 170, not only was the mortar bedding preserved but also tile impressions on it.

fig 15

fig 11

3.1.5 The South Aisle (this part of the text incorporates a number of suggestions made by Humphrey Woods). On the south side of the nave a number of features combine to suggest the original presence of a south aisle divided from the rest of the nave by an arcade supported on piers. Two groups of features may be noted:

- (a) 3 possible pier bases (193, 190 and 171) which continue the line of the south wall of the choir.

193 was a rectangular plinth made of greensand and chalk blocks bonded together with mortar; buried to a depth of c 35cm below the original floor level adjacent to 282, 190 consisted of mortared chalk blocks to a depth of c 10cm below floor level surrounded by a scatter of small chalk lumps; while 171 consisted of small chalk lumps mortared together to a depth of c 10cm below floor level. 171 may conceivably be the beginnings of a foundation wall at the west end of the South Aisle.

fig 32

It would seem likely that there was at least one more pier base between graves 339 and 367. It will be noted however that the disposition of the graves means that no other piers could have been present originally. Furthermore the span between 190 and 171 would have been considerably larger than the others (roughly 6m [20 ft] instead of 4.5m [15ft]).

fig 15

- (b) 6 post holes (217, 218, 219, 220, 286, 293) in a line running east-west approximately 0.5m south of and parallel to the putative south aisle. All have a fill of yellow mortar and are sealed by mansion garden soil. Context 293 cuts grave 305. 219 was excavated before the presence of grave 354 was realised. Since these post holes are therefore both later than, but related to, the south aisle, they very probably represent the emplacements for wooden scaffold poles used in taking down the church after the dissolution.

3.2

THE BURIALS

The burials are conveniently divided into two main groups: those found inside and those found outside the church. The arrangement of the report follows the same pattern in both of these parts. Firstly a series of tables gives the fundamental characteristics of each burial. Secondly, on the basis of these tables, a characterisation of the "standard burial" form is attempted. For most burials this information is sufficient to categorise them but, finally, a detailed account is given of those burials which are exceptions to the standard. An explanation of the terms used in tables 7 to 15 is given below.

Articulated Body is said to be present if any two bones in the context have an articulated relationship.

Context gives the excavation number, normally, of the grave. Where no grave-cut was seen the number is that of the articulated body or, occasionally, of a group of bones.

Visible Grave Cut? is self explanatory.

Disturbance indicates something of the effect of later developments on the context. In the 'post dissolution' column the term 'modern' indicates disturbance caused principally by building activity in the later 19th and earlier 20th centuries; the term 'mansion' indicates effects caused mainly by landscaping and gardening associated with the building of a mansion house in the earlier 17th century.

ch 3: 4

Position of Arms All interments are supine and the position of the arms is the sole variable in the appearance of the body. 'A' indicates that the arms were folded over the chest. 'B' indicates that the hands were crossed at the pelvis. 'C' indicates that the arms were by the side. 'D' indicates that the position of the arms could not be determined.

Coffin The presence of nails, and sometimes of a soil stain, around an articulated body has been taken to indicate the original presence of a wood coffin. 'No', strictly speaking, means no evidence of a coffin. It should be noted though that wherever a soil stain survived nails were also present; thus if wooden coffins were made without nails it is odd that we should have no evidence of it.

Other Body? An 'other body' is said to be present if one or more non-articulated bones were found in the context. The minimum number of individuals represented is given. See Also Gives the principal sources of additional information within this Chapter, including reference to the associated finds. Skeletal information (age, sex and stature) may be found by reference to Chapter 4, part 7. An X marked in any box indicates that the concept is not applicable. For example 'Position of Arms' is not applicable to Contexts Without an Articulated Body (tables 9, 13 and 15).

3.2.1 Burials in the Nave

3.2.1.1 Main Details for Each Burial may be found in the tables 7 to 10.

TABLE 7 - Nave.

TYPE: Single Articulated Burial (Simple)

CONTEXT	VISIBLE GRAVE CUT ?	DISTURBANCE		POSITION OF ARMS	COFFIN	OTHER BODY ?	SEE ALSO		
		Pre Dissolution	Post Dissolution				PART	FIGURE	PLATE
263 (S333)	Yes	No	No	A	Wood	2	3.2.1.2	15,27	
297	Yes	No	No	B	No	3	"	" "	
305	Yes	No	No	C	Wood	3	"	" "	
321	Yes	Later Burial	No	B	No	2	"	" "	
334	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	1	"	" "	
335	Yes	No	No	B	No	No	"	" "	
336	Yes	Later Burial	No	A	No	2	"	" "	
339	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	1 1	"	" "	
340	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	1	"	" "	16
356	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	No	"	" "	
357	Yes	No	No	B	No	No	"	" "	
359	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	No	"	" "	
362	Yes	No	No	A	No	No	"	" "	
363 ²	Yes	No	No	C	Wood	1 3	"	" 28	15
364	Yes	No	No	C	Wood	No	"	" 27	
366	Yes	No	No	B	Wood	No	"	" "	
371 ⁴	Yes	Later Burial	No	D	No	No	"	" 28	
372	Yes	Later Burial	No	C ⁵	Wood	No	"	" "	
375	Yes	Later Burial	No	D	No	No	"	" "	
376	Yes	Later Burial	No	B	No	No	"	" "	
377	Yes	No	No	C	No	No	"	" "	
378	Yes	Later Burial	No	D	Wood	1 6	"	" "	

1. Oddly enough these bones, like those of S339, were from an extremely young juvenile (c 1 - 3 years)
2. 363 disturbed 371 and 372.
3. These bones were lost before laboratory examination could take place.
4. Only the lower half of 371 could be excavated as the rest lay beneath the baulk.
5. Only 1 arm of 372 survived, and this was apparently in position C.
6. In fact laboratory examination of the bones recovered as 378 revealed that they belonged to 2 individuals. It is unclear whether there was an error in numbering during excavation, or whether because of the fragmentary nature of this burial the distinction between articulated and disturbed bones was not readily visible.

3.2.1.2 Standard Burials.

Most of the graves conform to a standard pattern. They average about 0.75m in depth, 0.75m in width and 2m in length, with a straight sided and flat bottomed profile. The interment was placed on the bottom of the grave-cut which was then backfilled with fairly clean sand. This sand is mixed with variable quantities of stones, floor tiles and bones from earlier burials. The burials can, however, be divided into 5 groups:-

Group A (nos. 297, 321, 335, 357, 362, 371, 373)

fig 27
pl 15

These burials conform exactly to the above pattern.

Group B (nos. 305, 334, 340, 363, 364, 366, 372).

fig 27

These differ only in that the body was buried in a wooden coffin.

fig 27
pl 16

Group C (no. 339). This also conforms except that as a child buried in a coffin it is rather more shallowly interred.

Group D (nos. 263 & 356). This group is closely similar to group B except that here the normal collapse of wooden coffins after interment has introduced a different upper fill. With 263 the void left by collapse was filled with flooring material (mortar, tiles) and sand. 356 differs in that after the flooring collapsed the void filled up naturally with fine sand. It is therefore very likely that collapse occurred after the Friary went out of use and before the mansion was built (ie between 1538 and c 1610).

fig 27

Group E (nos. 336 & 359) burials have distinctive, similar, backfills which differ from the standard backfill

fig 27

in having quantities of mortar, chalk lumps and clay mixed with the sand.

Group F (nos. 375, 376, 377, 378). This group is distinguished from the others solely on the basis of the more complex drawn sections. Though the attributions are difficult in some cases, these graves can be re-assigned to the other groups as follows: 375, 376, 377 belong to Group A, and 378 belongs to Group B.

fig 28

3.2.1.3 Exceptional Graves

The following graves (nos. 172, 174, 214, 282, 354) are, for various reasons, exceptions to the standard noted above. They are therefore discussed in more detail.

172: The feature was first observed as an area of mortar beneath the mansion garden soil (context 163). Subsequent cleaning showed its true extent. The various elements of the feature are described and discussed below. The numbers refer to those in fig 29.

1. A rectangular (105cm x 62cm) area of mortar with a smooth upper surface. This represents a levelling up of the church floor after subsidence (see 4 below).
2. Undressed chalk blocks packed together with chalk paste. These were used to level up the church floor after subsidence (see 4 below).
3. Clean orange sand with some stones. Clearly these were materials used to backfill the grave.
4. Charcoal (rotted wood) found on top of the lead coffin (5). This must originally have been a wooden board supported on the ledges which are fashioned on 7 and designed to protect the coffin from the

pl 17

weight of the overburden. Its eventual collapse created the void which was filled by layers 1 and 2 and also resulted in the puncturing of the lead by sharp stones in the backfill.

5. A lead coffin. This had been carefully shaped for its occupant and was embellished with a green painted border and cross, as well as an inscription

pl 17

- Margareta Daubeny - revealing the name of the young woman interred. The presence of possible foetal bones should also be noted.

pl 18

M87

There were also some traces of cloth, on which E. Crowfoot comments 'In this burial small fragments of textile were found still preserved on the skeleton - adhering to the right fibula, on the side which would have been against the lead of the coffin, lying under the leg bones, and in the small of the back. In all cases they were the same fabric, from its appearance probably flax, Z spun both systems, tabby weave, count 19-20/20 threads per cm: the largest pieces were c 3.0 x 2.0, c 3.0 x 2.5 and c 2.5 x 1.3 cm. The same fabric was present, replaced or semi-replaced on areas of the lead, the best patches near where the chest would have lain, c 4.0 x 4.0 and 2.0 x 1.5 cm and small traces in many places. These scraps obviously come from a good quality shroud'.

6. A thin layer of mortar. This was found solely beneath 5 and must therefore be designed to level the ground for the coffin.

7. A structure of neatly cut chalk blocks bonded with

pl 27

mortar. This structure was built to exactly the right dimensions to contain the coffin. Those parts that face inward are better constructed and finished than the rest. A slight lip runs along the length of both the inside faces: this previously held a wooden board (see 4). At the west end a small area has been cut down below the general level and carefully levelled off with tiles and mortar.

There are two contradictory pointers to the date of the burial:

1. This type of coffin is unusual. Two parallels may be quoted; Sir Walter de Manny, died 1372, buried at the London Charterhouse; and Sir John Assheton, died c 1390, buried at St Mary-in-Castro, Dover Castle. (I owe this suggestion to the late S E Rigold)
2. The lettering of the inscription suggests a date in the region 1450-1520. (pers comm J Blair)
It is not easy to resolve this problem though it seems more likely that the latter suggestion is correct, with the coffin type being either archaic when used or remaining in fashion for longer than well dated examples suggest.

174: This 'grave' contained no articulated body. The layers within the feature are described and discussed below. The numbers refer to those on fig 30.

1. A light sandy silt.
2. Gravel mixed with dark brown silt.

3. Clean sand and gravel.
4. Crushed chalk. This had clearly been originally packed tight.
5. A light brown sandy silt containing tile and human bone.
6. This grades into 5 and differs only in being rather darker and containing greater quantities of tile, bone and pottery.
7. This is similar to 6 but rather darker and without quantities of tile, bone and pottery.

The sequence of events is tolerably clear. An original grave was re-dug and the inhumation, possibly in a lead coffin, removed. 7 then represents material in and around the body or coffin which slipped to the bottom when the grave was re-dug. Layers 6 and 5 represent a backfilling. Layer 4 is crushed down on the surface of the refilled grave. Later subsidence leaves the gap into which layers 3, 2 and 1 are washed. Alternatively 2 and 3 are part of the original filling and only 1 is washed in.

There are two possibilities. These are firstly that the body was removed during the Friary period (translated) and secondly that the body was removed in the post Friary period (robbed). The second is much the more likely given the quantity of bone (probably representing the original burial unceremoniously disposed of) and the presence of roofing tile in the fill. It might be objected that grave robbers would be unlikely to have backfilled the grave with such care. In fact the subsidence of layer 4 tells against this since it seems clear that

grave fill was normally well tamped down and subsidence only occurred with the collapse of a wooden coffin.

fig 27

214: This context proved difficult both to excavate and to interpret. At the end of the excavation it was realised that its true extent at the western end had not been discovered, but unfortunately time prevented adequate investigation of this point.

The main elements of the feature, as numbered on fig 31, were:

1. A spread of roofing tile, by which the feature was originally defined, overlay a substantial layer of demolition debris. This consisted of mortar, brick fragments, chalk, patterned tiles and a number of human bones, including a skull, in a brown sandy soil matrix.
2. A brown sandy soil, with a slight admixture of demolition debris in the form of plaster and flints.
3. Clean, yellow sand.
4. A clean sandy soil with some stones which surrounded a skeleton, S214, with a number of nails and a dark stain remaining to indicate the original wooden coffin. The skeleton and coffin stain lay at and below the water table, which prevented clear definition and planning.

The sequence of events is not obvious and there are several, perhaps less likely, alternatives to the following suggestion.

- (a) S214 was interred and the grave backfilled with 4.
- (b) A second burial, with a grave whose outline was closely similar to that of S214, but which was

rather shallower (hence S214 is undisturbed), was made. Nothing survives in situ (with the possible exception of 3 which may be part of its backfill) of this burial, but, assuming the remains in 1 to be derived from it, its character may be deduced. The bricks probably indicate a brick tomb, while the fact that all the bones belong to one individual, an adult, suggest that they are those of the original occupant of the grave, and that the grave must have extended 20 + cm to the west (see above) to accommodate him.

cf ch 4: 7.1

- (c) Some time after the dissolution (since demolition debris is present) the tomb was robbed, presumably for a lead coffin (though no evidence of one survived), and the skeleton unceremoniously tipped out. If the distinction between layers 2 and 1 has any significance, it perhaps indicates that the grave robbers began their excavation too far to the east, and that the area of layer 2 was backfilled before the rest, and mostly with relatively clean fill from the postulated secondary burial. It looks also, from the absence of the tile layer over the presumed western end of the grave, as if the coffin was pulled out, rather than excavated, from the western end.

282: Like 174 this tomb contained no articulated body.

fig 32
pls 19 & 20

The main elements of the feature were:

- (a) A spread of roofing tile, by which the feature was originally defined, overlay a substantial layer of demolition debris, consisting of mortar, brick

fragments, chalk, patterned tiles and dark sandy soil (1 on fig 32B).

- (b) A layer of dark brown sand with some brick rubble (2 on fig 32B).
- (c) A layer of yellowish brown sand (3 on fig 32B).
- (d) Two rows of bricks running E - W and parallel to each other some 95cm apart. The structure of the northern row is illustrated by fig 32C. Not enough survived of the southern wall to merit illustration.
- (e) The jumbled bones of a human skeleton (S282).

The sequence of events seems to have been that, firstly, a brick lined tomb was built. The northern and southern sides of the tomb were brick lined and, though the evidence has been destroyed, the western end may have been similarly dealt with. The tomb was butted against the pier base 193. The use of the brick - the two rows of bricks are laid in contrasting fashions and betray a lack of understanding of bonding technique - implies that the medium was an unfamiliar one. Layer 3 is the fill of the construction trenches for the walls. Secondly, some time after the dissolution the tomb was robbed. In the process the skeleton was tipped out of its coffin.

fig 32A

Towards the southern side of the grave robbers overdug the tomb producing the sloping bottom visible on fig 32B. Part of the upcast from grave robbing spread over the southern brick wall (layer 2) and the whole was then loosely backfilled (layer 3). The character of the backfill makes it clear the church was already in ruins when this grave was robbed. No evidence survives as to

p1 20

why the tomb was robbed but the most likely surmise is that S282 was originally placed in a lead coffin.

354: This feature posed problems in excavation because, when discovered, it was hard to define and the excavations were drawing to a close. For those reasons it was gridded and alternate squares left unexcavated in the manner indicated by fig 15.

As fig 34 indicates the feature proved to be simple in form. On the south, east and west sides, it sloped steeply, with a much shallower slope on the north side. The bottom was flat and of about the same width as most graves. The fill consisted of grey-brown earth, heavily flecked with mortar, containing many small pieces of chalk and a scatter of human bones.

cf fig 27

How is this to be explained? Its character, except for the northern side, strongly suggests a grave. The absence of an articulated body forces the supposition that the grave was robbed and overdug on the north side. The difficulty with this suggestion is that, unlike 174, 214 and 282, the fill contains neither material that resulted from decay or demolition of the Friary church nor a concentration of bones likely to have come from the former burial. This may suggest an alternative interpretation in which the body was removed for re-burial by relatives of the dead person and the grave carefully backfilled. Both interpretations seem equally plausible.

3.2.2 Burials in the Cemetery

- 3.2.2.1 In the lists of burials given below the cemetery has been divided into two areas. This was initially done purely on the basis of the physical separation of Area A burials from Area B burials. The question of whether this division had any significance when the priory was in use is discussed below. It should be noted that all burials in Area B and most in Area A conform to the standard noted below, and hence little discussion of individual burials is required.
- tables 11-15
figs 25 & 26
ch 7: 3.3

TABLE 11 - Cemetery A

TYPE: Single Articulated Burial

CONTEXT	VISIBLE GRAVE CUT ?	DISTURBANCE		POSITION OF ARMS	COFFIN	OTHER BODY ?	SEE ALSO		
		Pre Dissolution	Post Dissolution				PART	FIGURE	PLATE
109	No	No	Modern	D	No	No	3.2.2.2	26	
110	Yes	No	Modern	B	No	1 1	"	"	
111	No	No	Modern	D	No	No	"	"	
116	Yes	No	Modern	C	No	No	"	"	
119	No	No	Modern	D	No	No	"	"	
124	No	Later Burial	No	B	Wood	2	"	"	
128	Yes ²	No	Modern/Mansion	D	Wood	No	"	"	
129	Yes ²	No	Modern/Mansion	D	No	No	"	"	
130 ³	Yes	No	Mansion	B	No	No	"	"	
133	Yes	No	Modern/Mansion	D	Wood	1	"	"	12
138	Yes	No	Modern	D	No	1 4	"	"	
141	No	No	Modern/Mansion	B	No	No	"	"	
162	No	No	Modern/Mansion	C	Wood	No	"	"	
166	Yes	Yes ⁵	Mansion	A	No	No	"	"	

1. A number of bones were recovered in the vicinity of 110. Laboratory examination indicated that most could be re-attributed to S110, S116 or 253 (see fig.26'). However 1 bone could not belong to any of these and is therefore indicative of an 'Other Body'.
2. Small parts of what were probably 2 grave cuts survived in the area of 128 and 129 but disturbance was too great to allow certainty.
3. Small amounts of human bone from 259 may in fact belong to 130.
4. The other body in this grave was numbered 252, while the context within which the bones were found was numbered 238. The bones were very badly decayed and damaged and no skeletal observation could be made.
5. There was animal disturbance which could be pre or post-dissolution.

TABLE 11 - Cemetery A (Cont'd) TYPE: Single Articulated Burial

CONTEXT	VISIBLE GRAVE CUT ?	DISTURBANCE		POSITION OF ARMS	COFFIN	OTHER BODY ?	SEE ALSO		
		Pre Dissolution	Post Dissolution				PART	FIGURE	PLATE
177	Yes	No	Mansion	A	No	No	3.2.2.2	26	
199	Yes	No	Mansion	C	Wood ¹	No	"	"	
241	UY	No	Modern/Mansion	C	Wood	No	"	"	
253	No	Later Burial	? Mansion	D	No	No	"	"	
254	No	No	Mansion	D	No	No	"	"	
255 ²	No	No	Modern/Mansion	C	No	No	3.2.2.3	"	14
257 ²	No	No	Modern/Mansion	D	No	No	3.2.2.3	"	14
259	Yes	No	Modern	B	Wood	No	3.2.2.2	"	
283	No	No	Mansion	C	Wood ³	No	"	"	
355	Yes	No	Mansion	B	Wood	No	"	"	

1. It is unclear whether a coffin was originally present as only 1 nail was recovered.
2. 255 and 257 may more properly belong in Table 12. See part 3.2.2.3.
3. This was a badly disturbed context from which several nails were recovered though they were not in-situ. An original wooden coffin is therefore likely though not certain.

TABLE 12 - Cemetery A

TYPE: Context with more than 1 Articulated Burial¹

CONTEXT	VISIBLE GRAVE CUT ?	DISTURBANCE		POSITION OF ARMS	COFFIN	OTHER BODY ?	SEE ALSO		
		Pre Dissolution	Post Dissolution				PART	FIGURE	PLATE
288 ²	Yes	No	Mansion	X	X	1 ³	3.2.2.3	33,26	21
S142	X	No	Mansion	B	No	X	"	" "	21
S143	X	No	Mansion	B	No	X	"	" "	21
S149	X	No	Mansion	B	No	X	"	" "	21
S150	X	No	Mansion	A	No	X	"	" "	21
S249	X	No	Mansion	A	No	X	"	" "	21

1. 255 and 257 should possibly be included here, rather than in Table 11, but the evidence is inconclusive.
See part 3.2.2.3.
2. 288 is the context containing burials S142, S143, S149, S150 and S249.
3. This 'other body' was numbered 256.

3.2.2.2 The majority of the burials, like those in the nave, are single, formal, supine interments. In contrast to the nave, however, they are in many cases badly disturbed. This is largely due to the considerable clearance of the cemetery effected for the mansion gardens, though other factors are also at work. This clearance resulted in removal of most of the grave fills so that the skeletons are frequently badly damaged and often without a recognisable associated grave-cut. Pls 12, 13, 14 and 21 help to illustrate the disturbance. Pl 12 shows S133 one of the better preserved skeletons in the cemetery. It is substantially complete with a recognisable grave cut. Mansion disturbance had, though, removed part of the right thigh bone, crushed the front of the cranium and resulted in an incomplete pattern of coffin nails. Pl 13 shows S102 where the head has been removed by a modern soakaway and replaced between the knees. Pls 14 and 21 are discussed below. It follows from the above that for these graves drawn profiles either do not exist or lack meaning.

ch 3: 4

fig 25

fig 26

3.2.2.3 A number of the burials do not conform to the standard noted above. They are discussed in greater detail below. 255 and 257. These two skeletons, though they are badly disturbed and no grave-cut survives, were very probably buried together since the left arm of 257 overlaps the right arm of 255, and there was no soil between these bones, making it unlikely that one was buried without knowledge that the other was there. The generally poor condition of these burials made it impossible to determine from the bone evidence whether there was any familial or other relationship.

pl 14

Pl 14 also illustrates further the effects of mansion disturbance, in particular the way in which the removal of the bodies of S284 and S287 in clearance for the mansion gardens has left S124 with the appearance of having three heads.

fig 25

288 This consists of a single grave containing five skeletons. All have suffered some disturbance but are substantially complete. A number of bones were also found not belonging to any of the skeletons; presumably they represent an earlier burial disturbed by this one. Scattered around the chest and pelvis of two of the skeletons (S143 and S150) were a number of bronze lace tags. These are evidence that these two people were buried in garments fastened at the front by a series of lace ties. The bone evidence did not allow cause of death or familial relationship to be established.

pl 21
fig 33

3.2.3 Post-Friary Contexts with Human Bone

A number of post-Friary contexts contained human skeletal material. This was assumed to derive from pre-dissolution burials and the bones were analysed with the rest of the cemetery material.

The relevant contexts are listed in Table 16 below.

Context	Location	Description	Minimum no of Individuals
159=163	Overall	Garden soil <u>c</u> 1630 - 1818	1
204	Nave	Pit containing demolition material from 17th century mansion	3
230	Nave	Small shallow disturbance presumably of post-dissolution date	1
312	Nave	Rectangular pit	2

4. POST FRIARY

The site, as part 1 explains, was stripped by machine down to layers representing the Dominican Friary. In consequence little coherent information was obtained about events subsequent to the dissolution. A few features, principally of the earlier 17th century, were excavated however, and they are discussed below.

- 132, 198 A wall running north-south across the site. fig 26
 Fig 40 illustrates its construction, which is, however, variable. As can be seen the east face was built up against the natural sand, while the west face was originally above ground, the garden soil (163, below) having accumulated against it later. The original construction seems to have been of chalk blocks on either face, with a rubble core. This can be seen on pl 12.
- 136 Modern disturbance had destroyed this feature at both ends figs 25 & 39
 Furthermore lack of time prevented complete excavation of the context, and consequently its structure and purpose is difficult to comprehend. The sections are all very fig 39
 similar: an oddly shaped trench is filled with sand of various types and has a top surface of small pieces of chalk mixed with mortar. It is sealed by garden soil (163, below). The presence of roofing tile in reasonable quantity in the fill strongly suggests that, in its present form, this feature post-dates the friary.
 It is, however, aligned to the friary structures, which suggests an association. The best solution of this difficulty is to propose that the feature represents the line of a wall in the friary period. During rebuilding in the 17th century this wall was robbed for its stone, ch 6: 1.4

and the robber trench backfilled with soil and the inevitable fragments of chalk and mortar which had accumulated in the process of robbing.

- 161 A pit filled with human bones, principally long bones and parts of skull. Sealed by 163. See table 13 and references therein.
- 163 A fine brown-black soil found overlying most of the area excavated in 1978, except to the east of 132. This is almost certainly garden soil and contained material of all dates up to the late 18th century, though the pre-dissolution material is derived since the context clearly replaces the friary buildings and cemetery.
- 204 A large sub-circular pit filled with 17th century mouldings, presumably buried here when the Friary Mansion was demolished. fig 15
- 306 A large sub-circular pit filled with a yellow-brown sandy loam packed with drainpipes, tile, mouldings and chalk blocks, presumably buried here when the Friary Mansion was demolished. fig 25

A number of post-friary contexts contained human skeletal material. This was assumed to derive from pre-dissolution burials and the bones were analysed with the rest of the cemetery material. The relevant contexts are listed in table 16.

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