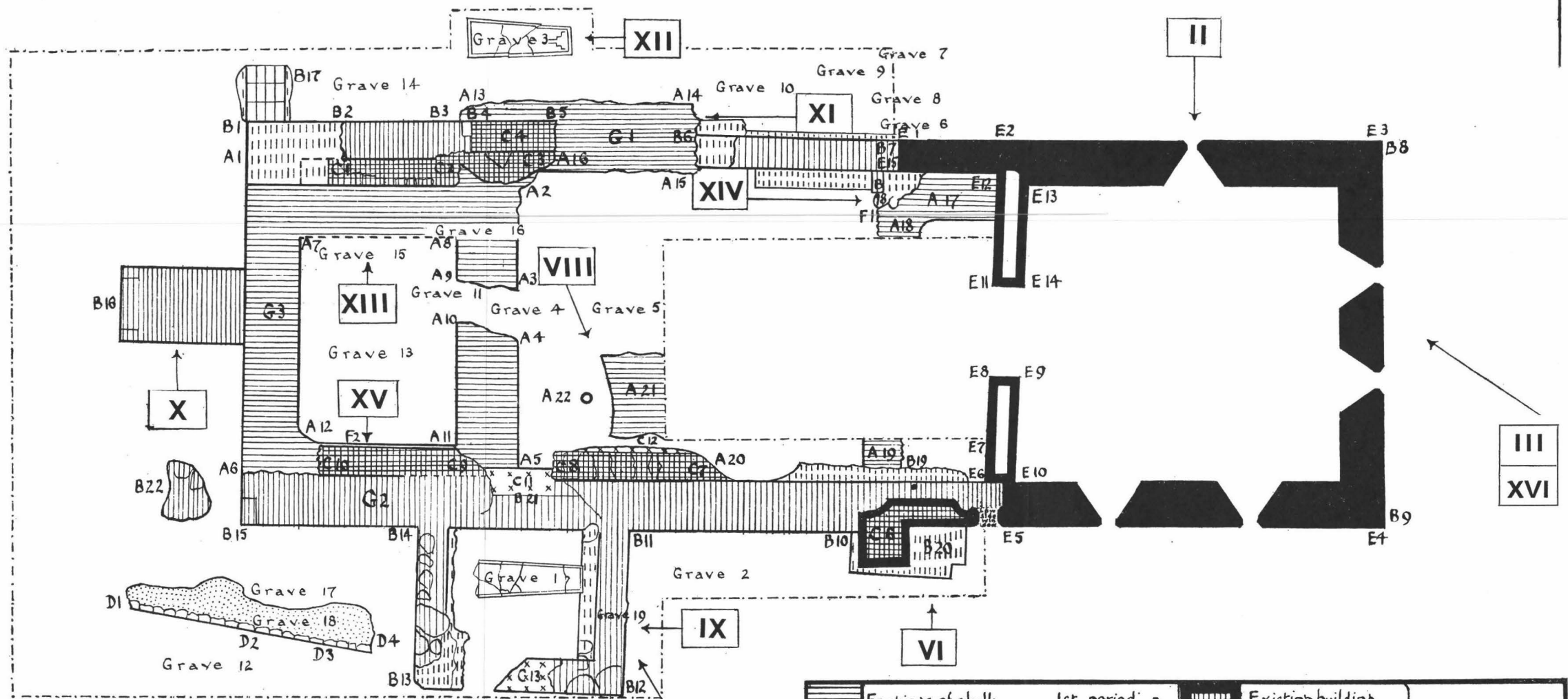
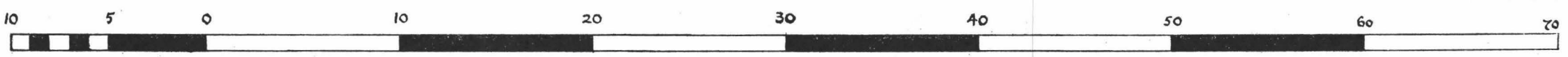


# LULLINGTON CHURCH



	1st. period - c. 1180		3rd. period - 16th century <b>C</b>
	2nd. period - c. 1350 <b>B</b>		
	<b>E</b> 19th-century		<b>D?</b> 19th-century

Feet



A. B-H Mens et Del.



# EXCAVATIONS AT LULLINGTON CHURCH

By A. BARR-HAMILTON

## INTRODUCTION

While holding the cure of Alfriston-with-Lullington, the Reverend H. Graham Jack wished to have the ground plan of the abandoned section of the building recovered; in 1964 he accepted the offer of Mr. Derek Rippengal, of Ratton Secondary Modern School, Eastbourne, to undertake the excavation as an extra-curricula project. A Faculty was obtained from the Diocesan authorities and, by arrangement with the Sussex Archaeological Society, the writer was invited to supervise this operation. Work began on 3 April 1965 and ended on 2 July 1966.

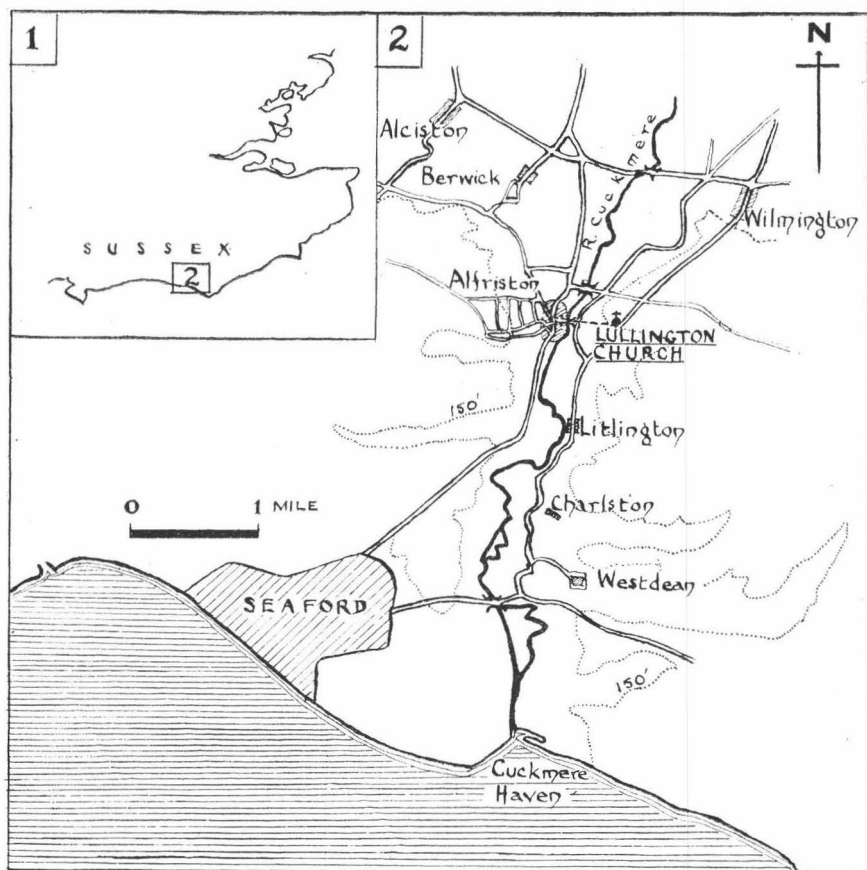


FIG. 1. The situation of Lullington Church

*Topography.* (Fig. 1) Lullington Church is situated half a mile E. of Alfriston (National Grid Reference TQ 528031, 6in. O.S. Map 68 SW.) and near to the E. end of the footpath that runs from the White Bridge, Alfriston to the Wilmington-Litlington Road; it stands close to the 150ft. contour, on the western slopes of Wind-over Hill and overlooks the Cuckmere Valley.

*Geology.* The subsoil of the site consists of Upper Chalk except on the NW. where the chalk is overlaid by a deposit of Tertiary Clay-with-Flints.

*History.* Although the place-name indicates a Saxon origin, surviving pre-Conquest records contain no reference to the settlement. It is not mentioned in the Domesday survey nor can it be identified, otherwise, in that record but, as an appendage to Alciston, it was a possession of Battle Abbey from the foundation of that house. The earliest known reference to Lullington occurs in the Pipe Rolls of 1192 and the church is first mentioned in a confirmation of 1249, by Bishop Richard de la Wych to the abbot of Battle,<sup>1</sup> that the lands of the latter in Alciston and Lullington were tithe-free.

The absence of a village and the reduced size of the church, have sometimes suggested that modern Lullington is a deserted medieval village; written evidence, however, shows otherwise. The Subsidy Roll of 1296<sup>2</sup> suggests a relatively populous parish, though comparison cannot be made with the Rolls for 1327 and 1332, in which there is no separate return for Lullington.

Little is known of the village in the 15th century but, in 1479, the vicar of Alfriston, Sir William Joyner, was granted access to the vicarage house at Lullington, 'to reside and serve the cure there.'<sup>3</sup>

From the Subsidy Roll of 1524-25,<sup>4</sup> it may be deduced that the community continued to thrive and records of marriages and of churchwardens' presentments show that a considerable number of families resided in the parish in the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century; the presentment, in 1674, of William Weaver and John Lunsford, the younger, 'for talking in church and disturbing the minister and congregation'<sup>5</sup> proves that the building was serviceable at least until that time and that parochial organisation continued notwithstanding a local tradition that the church was burned down during Cromwellian times.

<sup>1</sup> W. D. Peckham, ed., *The Chartulary of the High Church of Chichester*, (Sussex Record Society, vol. 46, 223, p. 57).

<sup>2</sup> W. Hudson, ed., *The Three Earliest Subsidies for the County of Sussex, 1296, 1327 and 1332* (Sussex Record Society), vol. 10, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> W. D. Peckham, ed., *The Acts of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Chichester, 1474-1544* (Sussex Record Society, vol. 52, 425, p. 119).

<sup>4</sup> J. Cornwall, ed., *The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex, 1524-25* (Sussex Record Society, vol. 56, p. 116).

<sup>5</sup> Hilda Johnstone, ed., *Churchwardens' Presentments (17th Century)*, Part 2, Archdeaconry of Lewes (Sussex Record Society, vol. 50, pp. 26, 27).



Since the parish registers commence in, and part of the communion plate dates from, 1721, it is unlikely that the church had fallen into final ruin by that date; but, evidently, all the church save part of the chancel, had been destroyed before James Lambert painted his water-colour of 'Lullington Chapel' from the S.E. (Plate XVI) probably a few years before his death in 1788; this impression portrayed the building much as it appears to-day, with the exception that there was no belfry. It is probable that the church became ruinous at some time during the period 1721-88.

In 1806, by the construction of a new W. wall, part of the chancel was made usable as a place of worship, some 16ft. square.

The decline in the population of the parish may be attributable to the increasing use of the surrounding Downland for sheep-rearing, the concentration of industries in Alfriston and the improvement of local roads between the more populous settlements which left, isolated, the remains of Lullington.

#### THE EXCAVATIONS

*Method of Excavation.* The excavation was undertaken on a grid plan, using 10ft. squares and 2ft. baulks, all squares being cleared to a common level before work was commenced upon the next. By the end of the first season a level had been reached immediately above the floor of the abandoned portion of the building and, during the second season, the process continued until natural chalk or clay-with-flints was reached.

Services are still held in the church and it is among the most visited in Sussex. It was impracticable, therefore, to excavate the immediate approaches to the building and, in compliance with the request of the architects responsible for its fabric, no work was carried out near the walls save for a shallow examination of the chancel arch area at N. and S.

On completion, the cuttings were refilled and the site turfed, leaving a few courses of the N. wall and N. and W. buttresses, standing proud.

Removal of turf and a few inches of topsoil revealed the remaining sections of the walls of a lost nave (B1—B7—B10—B15 on plan); these were remarkable for the variety of their construction, dimensions and directions, a factor which suggested rebuilding and alteration. Three areas of disturbances were found, above the lines of the N., S. and W. walls at G1, G2 and G3. The nave had been supported by a staged buttress central to the W. wall (B16) and by a small, brick buttress (B17) at the western extremity of the N. wall; a porch (B11—B12—B13—B14), had been erected against a S. doorway (B21—Plate IX).

Immediately above the floors of nave and porch was a layer of roofing material consisting of broken Horsham slab and tiles, including ridge tiles, lying in a manner which suggested the collapse

of the roof of the building. The material was not found upon either the walls or footings except on the line of the S. wall of the nave at a point central on the porch (C11, B21), an indication that, when the roofing materials fell upon the floor, porch and nave walls, with a S. doorway, were standing.

Prior to the commencement of the excavation, the footpath from the churchyard gate had made its way to a point (C13) some 19ft. to the SW. of the present building before taking a NE. turn towards the church doorway (E11—E8). When the position of the former S. porch was discovered, it became evident that the footpath followed the traditional direction through the porch before turning right to the modern entrance.

The walls of the porch, of flints in white mortar, had, at the SE. (B12) quoins of neatly squared blocks of green sandstone with cross-hatched tooling and, in the W. wall, a solitary boulder of brown sandstone, roughly faced externally; they stood upon a footing of flints and chalk blocks, in white mortar (B14—B13—B12—B11).

Within the porch and spanning its width a large grave slab of Petworth marble was uncovered (Grave 1). This had a small section missing from its head and was ornamented with a hollow chamfer. Part of the stone had been visible before excavation and long exposure had resulted in the destruction of its original surface; irregularities in the weathering suggested that the slab had had surface ornamentation.

In the angle formed by the W. wall of the porch and the S. wall of the nave (B13—B14—B15), was found a narrow linear mass of chalk rubble faced on its S. side with a straight edge of blocks of hard chalk (D1—D4). It had an alignment different from that of the church, being set WNW.-ESE.

The N. wall of the nave (B1—E1—Plate XI) possessed some curious features. The eastern and western sections (B2—B3, B6—B7), of different width and alignment, were executed in coursed flints with white mortar, the western having, at its W. end, an early brick buttress (B17). The centre section was missing, below a disturbance (G1) and, immediately to the W. of the missing portion, was a short section of rubble containing re-used material (B4—B5). Abutting the latter, on the W., a single, squared stone of greensand (B4), resembling a jamb-stone, remained *in situ* and from its appearance and the rubble section opposite to the S. doorway of the nave, a stopped-up doorway was assumed.

The S. wall of the nave (B15—B10) had been removed almost to the footings and the W. wall (B1—B15) in its entirety, though the W. buttress (B16) remained to a height of 3ft. It was evident that robbing of the walls had commenced at points where worked stones were readily available, at the N. and S. doorways and in the quoins, while the removal of part of the S. wall would have been desirable

to provide easier access to the new doorway after the 1806 reconstruction.

The footings of the nave (A1—A15—A20—A6—A1) were a compound of chalk, flints and white mortar and the remaining sections of the walls which stood upon them, N. and S. (B2—B5, B6—B7, B10—B15) in the main comprised a width of flints set to the outside edge of the footing and within this, a further width, predominantly of chalk blocks (C1—C3, C7—C8, C9—C10). The surviving SW. quoin-stones of the nave and W. buttress (B15, B16) were of hard chalk and the buttress contained one brick, similar to those used in the NW. buttress, and some re-used material, including broken roof tiles.

Five feet W. of the angle formed by the W. wall and NW. buttress of the present building (E15—E12, E11) were the remains of the N. base of the chancel arch (B18).

In the course of excavation to natural level, between 2ft. and 4ft. below the turf with an average depth of 2ft. 6in., reasons were provided for the irregularities of construction detailed above.

The latest floor level of the lost area of the church had a surface of trodden earth with traces of mortar. The absence of any floor covering beneath the fallen roofing material may indicate that the former had been removed before the collapse of the roof and that the nave had been abandoned prior to that event. Below the trodden earth, however, were found fragments of an earlier floor of mortar and, associated with these, were slight deposits of ash near to the N. base of the chancel arch (at F1) and alongside the S. wall of the nave at the W. end (F2) where the cement surface had been scorched; while the remaining jamb-stone of the N. doorway showed traces of reddening by fire (B4).

Within the nave area and below the latest floor level, a further footing of chalk, flints and mortar (A2—A5) was found, lying N.-S., between the positions of the doorways; this could not be other than the sleeper footing for the arch of a W. tower (A1—A2—A5—A6—A1; Plate VII) existing before the introduction of these doorways and showed that, when the tower had stood, there had been a smaller nave, of which the N. and/or S. doorways, if any, must have been placed further to the E. It was, perhaps, significant that a rectangular mass of material similar to that contained in footing A2—A5 was uncovered at a point between the approximate positions of such doorways (A21) where one would have expected the font to have rested (Plate VIII); the probability that this mass had been the font base was increased by the discovery, at its W. side, of a circular hole (A22) approximately 12in. wide and 12in. deep, through which the baptismal water could have drained. The font, almost certainly, would have been that in the present church (Plate IV).

The sleeper footing A2—A5 and those of the nave walls (A1—A15—A20—A6—A1) appeared to be of identical and contemporary

construction and it was evident that a tower-nave-chancel church (Building A) had stood upon the site before the nave-porch-chancel church (Building B) already noted.

The footings for the S. and W. walls of the tower had supported the corresponding walls of the later nave but the remnant of the N. footing of the tower (A1—A2), largely disintegrated and mixed with earth for most of its width, supported, only on its outside edge (A1—A16) the N. wall of that nave; to take this wall the footing, apparently, had been widened on its N. side (below B1—B3) in similar materials, and the wall set to the outside edge of the new footing so that its extension eastward could lie upon an existing footing for the N. wall of the earlier nave (A13—A14; Plate XI).

Examination of the S. wall of the later nave (B15—B10) showed that this had also been set to the outside of the footings of the earlier tower and nave (A6—A20). At some time, the later nave walls had been thickened (at C1—C3, C10—C9, C8—C7), largely by the use of chalk blocks; a fact that accounted for the widthwise difference in their construction. Further, it was found that the masonry of the thickening at C1—C2 and C10—C9 was on a layer of ash about one inch deep above scorched cement and had been erected above the floor of the nave while the ash still lay upon it. Thus the tradition of the destruction of a church by fire was vindicated and evidence recovered of a further phase of construction or reconstruction.

East of the tower arch footing, at A4—A5 and immediately above the undisturbed natural chalk, was a layer of dark soil, an inch or so deep and probably the make-up for the floor of the earliest building; from this came a number of potsherds of a gritty, coarse fabric (Fig. 3, Nos. 6, 7, 9), while part of a rim of the same ware had found its way, with some of the black soil, into the filling of a later burial (Grave 4) which had breached the tower arch footing. No trace of the dark layer appeared upon the surface of the footing except in the centre, where it had been disturbed by the burial, and this was consistent with the arched E. wall of the tower having rested upon the footing at the time of the deposition of the black layer.

There was now evidence for three earlier building periods upon the site besides the 19th century reconstruction which in itself had preserved workmanship of the late 12th, mid-14th and 16th centuries. These features, together with the footings, walls and buttresses uncovered during the excavation, represent successive phases of building, re-building or demolition, which are described below in chronological order with details of construction, dating evidence and relevant small finds.

EXCAVATIONS AT LULLINGTON CHURCH

7

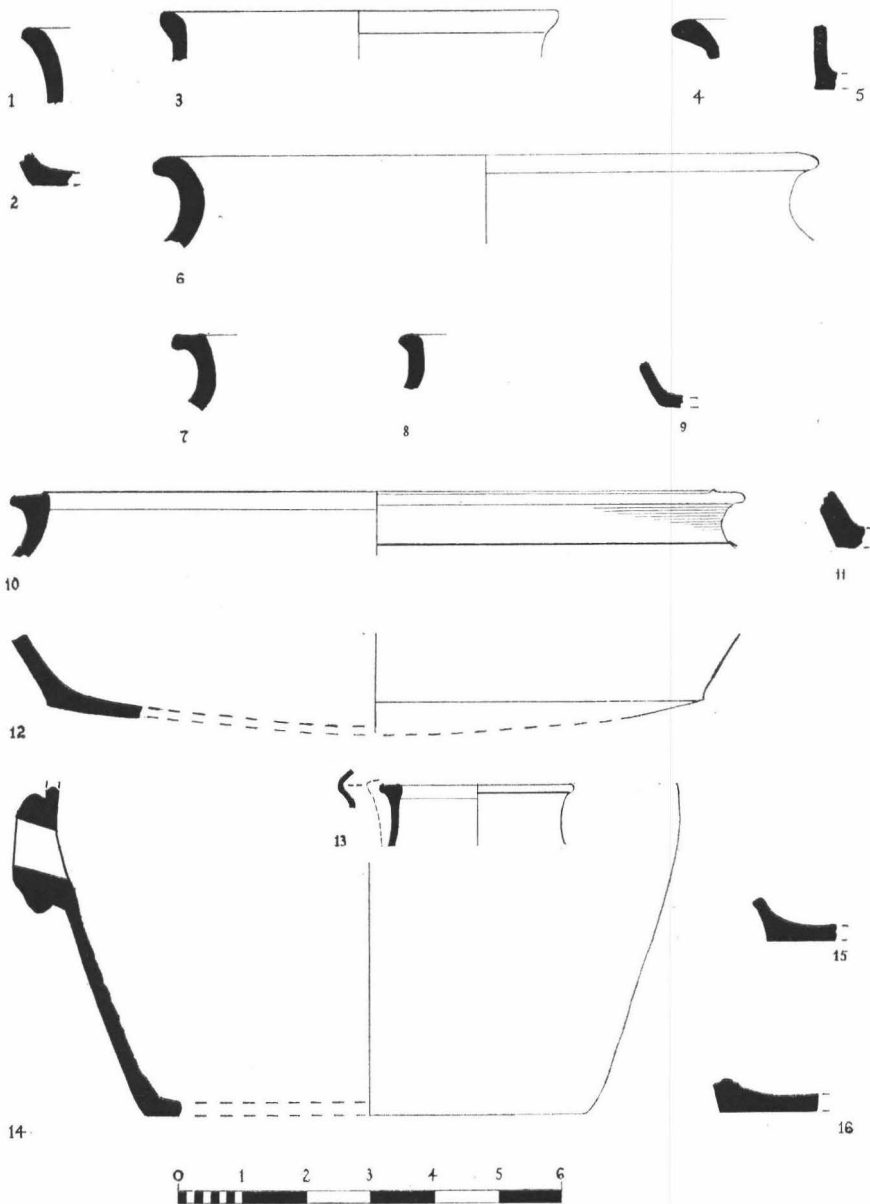


FIG. 3. Lullington Church: Pottery  
*The scale is in inches*

## BUILDING A (c. 1180)

A church comprising western tower and rectangular nave and (probably rectangular) chancel. The approximate internal dimensions of the building were:—

Tower	N.—S., 12ft.; E.—W., 8ft. 6in.
Nave	N.—S., 15ft.; E.—W., 18ft. or 25ft.
Chancel	E.—W., Uncertain; N.—S., 12ft.

## CONSTRUCTION

Footings. Compound of chalk, flints and white mortar.

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Depth</i>
	ft. in.	ft.
<i>Tower</i>		
North (A1—A2)	4 3	1
South (A6—A5)	4 3	1
East (A2—A5)	3 4	1
West (A1—A6)	3 0	1
<i>Nave</i>		
North (A13—A14)	3 9	1
(damaged—possibly 4ft. originally)		
South (A5—A19)	4 0	1
<i>Chancel</i>		
North (probably—A17)	4 3	Not known
South	} Not known	} Not known
East		
West (A18—A19)		

Walls. Probably of flints, faced with Caen stone and hard chalk, in white mortar. No evidence of the use of green sandstone.  
*Dimensions.* Not known.

Dating evidence. North window, font and piscina of existing building. Pottery from immediately above natural chalk indicates a late 12th/early 13th century date.

## DISCUSSION

The N. window of the present building appears to be a survival from Building A and to have been either retained, or placed, in its present position, without significant alteration during a rebuilding of c. 1350. It is a lancet with simple, pointed head and restored, rounded, rear arch in hard chalk and with jambs rebated for an external shutter. Probably of the same period and preserved in the existing church are the small piscina, of hard chalk, with pointed arch, and the square font (Plate IV) of Petworth marble on a base partly of Caen stone; the original font base and drainage hole were uncovered at A21, A22 (Plate VIII).

There was no evidence for an earlier building than A which can hardly have been later than 1249, the earliest known date of a church at Lullington. From the Transitional-Norman nature of the N. window, font and piscina, and from pottery evidence, a date near 1180 is likely.

Without excavation beneath the floor of the present structure, the length of the chancel of Building A cannot be determined. However, certain facts deserve consideration:

1. If this chancel had commenced where the chancel arch N. base of Building B (B18) survives then, in view of the shortness of the nave, it is unlikely to have extended so far as the E. wall of the present building (E3—E4).

2. The 19th century W. wall (E12—E6) was not set at right angles to the surviving N. and S. walls (E2—E3 and E5—E4) but has a NNE./SSW., inclination.

3. The wall at E1—E2 is thinner than those of the rest of the chancel but corresponds in thickness with that of the walls of the nave of Building B at B6—B7 and those of its porch.

There must be a possibility that the 19th century wall was built at its odd angle because it was set upon an existing footing which had supported the chancel arch of Building A and that, when the tower area of the latter was included in the enlarged nave of Building B, c. 1350, the chancel was also enlarged, by extension westward to B18. It follows that the present church may be, in substance, the chancel of Building A.

#### BUILDING B (c. 1350)

A church comprising nave, supported by a brick buttress at the W. end of the N. wall and, probably by a staged, flint buttress central to the W. wall (B16; Plate X); S. porch and rectangular chancel. Internal measurements of the building were:—

Nave	E.—W., 30ft.; N.—S., 16ft. 6in.
Porch	E.—W., 8ft.; N.—S., 6ft. 6in.
Chancel	E.—W., 23ft.; N.—S., 15ft. 6in.

#### CONSTRUCTION

Footings. Nave and chancel. Compound of chalk, flints and white mortar. Re-use of footings of Building A (widened at B1—B3) with possible exception of section B6—B7 of N. wall of nave, where footing was much slighter. Porch. Flints in white mortar, with some chalk blocks.

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Depth</i>
	ft. in.	ft. in.
North. Nave		
West Section (B1—B3)	3 4	1
Centre Section (A13—A14)	3 9	1
East Section (B6—B7)	2 0	1 1
Remainder	As for tower and nave of Building A.	
Chancel	Western half (A17) probably as for chancel of Building A. Eastern half not known.	
Porch		
East (B11—B12)	2 4	1
South (B13—B12)	1 9	1
West (B13—B14)	Not known (reconstructed later)	

Walls. Knapped flints, laid end-on; putlog holes (Plate III); introduction of green sandstone, with cross-hatched tooling, in quoins, N. doorway, chancel arch and windows; use of bricks in

NW. buttress and sill of N. doorway; use or re-use, of hard chalk and Caen stone in quoins and rebuilt lancets; internal plastering with red ochre murals.

*Dimensions*

<i>Nave</i>	<i>Width</i>
North. West section (B1—B3)	2ft., standing to height of 1ft. upon 2in. projection above footing.
	<i>Width</i>
	ft. in.
East section (B6—B7)	1 7 Standing to height of 1ft. 8in.; batter on N. side.
West. Not known—wall removed.	
South. (B15—B10)	2 6 Standing one or two courses high.
W. Buttress (B16) E.—W.	6 6 Standing to height of 3ft.
	N.—S.
	3 10½
NW. Buttress (B17) E.—W.	2 0 Standing to height of 1ft. 9in.
	N.—S.
	3 2
<i>Porch</i>	
East. (B11—B12)	1 5 Standing to height of up to 1ft. — later alteration.
Remainder not known	
<i>Chancel</i>	
Dimensions doubtful. Possibly only remaining unaltered section is—	
North. (E1—E2)	1 7
Floor. Mortar covering on trodden earth.	

Dating evidence. Renovated lancet windows (Plate III); low-side window (Plate VI); brickwork of buttress (Plate XI) and door sill.

As shown below, Building B, probably from the chancel arch westward, was damaged by fire.

DISCUSSION

While it is possible that, by 1350, the fabric of Building A had deteriorated to a point where rebuilding or reconstruction was necessary, this is improbable and the structural arrangement of Building B suggests that a rebuilding was undertaken with the principal intention to provide a more commodious church. Although a date of *c.* 1350 has been ascribed to this work, there could hardly have been a necessity to increase accommodation immediately after the Black Death of 1348 and the rebuilding is likely to have taken place shortly before that date.

*Nave.* The footing for the N. wall of the nave of Building A (A13—A14) had lain further N. than that for the N. wall of the tower of that building (A1—A2) and, evidently with the intention to increase the internal area, the N. footing of the tower was widened below B1—B3, by a further 2ft., so that the N. wall of the new nave (B1—B5) could be set to its outside edge and continued across the centre of the footing of the N. wall of the earlier nave (A13—A14).

Similarly, the S. wall of the new nave (B15—B10) was set near to the outside edge of the S. footings of the tower and old nave



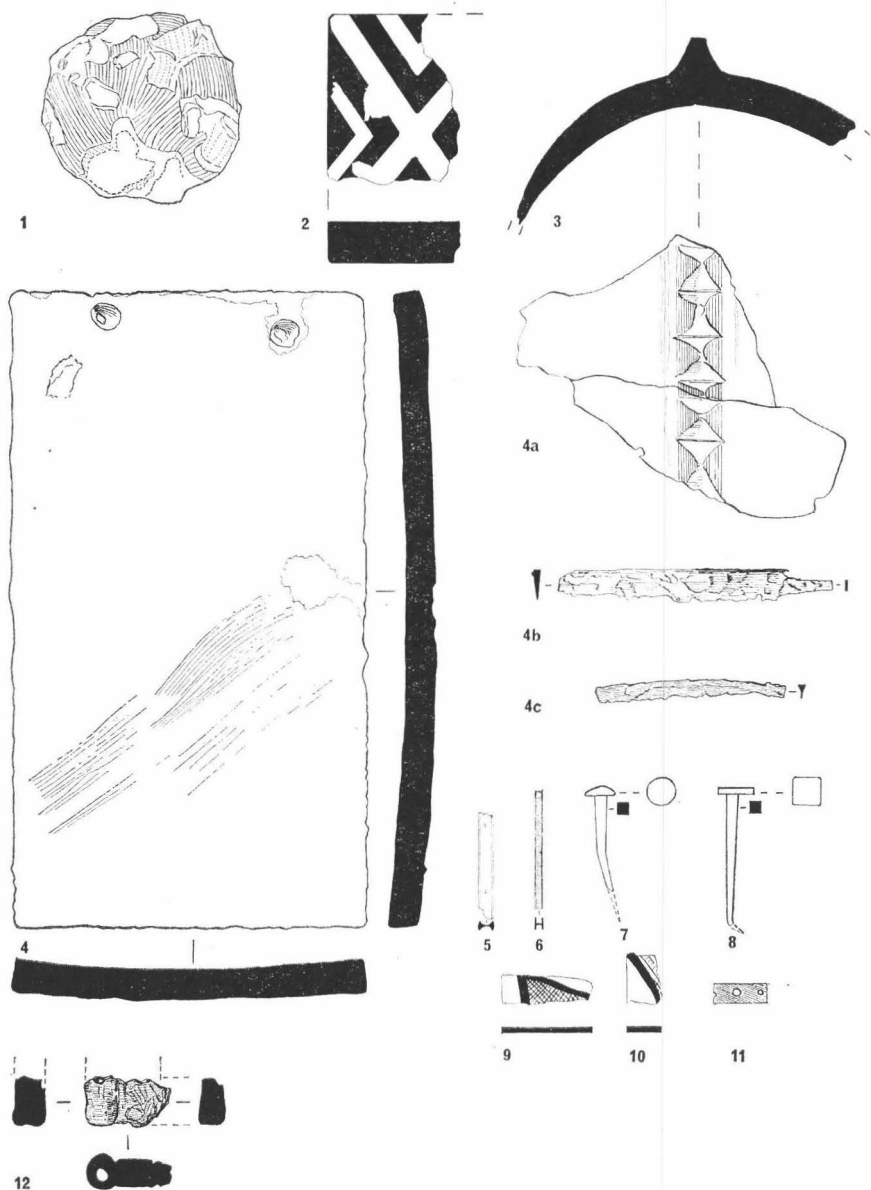


FIG. 4. Lullington Church: Miscellaneous objects  
Scale 1/3

(A6—A20). The W. footing of the tower (A1—A6) was less substantial than those on N., S. and E. and, if the new nave wall here, too, had been set to the outside edge, then only a few inches would have been gained. The fact that the W. wall of this nave was finally robbed to extinction may indicate that it had many worked stones in its fabric, possibly from the W. wall of the tower.

In the mixture of earth and decomposed footing, below the floor level of Building B, was a large oyster shell containing red ochre paint. This shell may have served as a palette when the walls of Building B were painted after the rebuilding and was perhaps discarded before the floor was surfaced. From the same level, and close to the shell, a knife was recovered (Fig. 4, 4b).

The odd alignment of the eastern section of the new nave wall (B6—B7) may be explained by the fact that the N. footing of the nave of Building A stops short some feet W. of the chancel arch (at A14) and that it was found convenient, therefore, to build this section in alignment with the footing of the N. wall of the chancel of Building A. It would appear that the base of the existing buttress (E1—E2) is part of the chancel N. wall of Building B and that this, too, was set close to the outside edge of the earlier footing (A17). The termination of the nave footing at A14 is not easily explained, though it may have been damaged during grave-digging. There is a concentration of burials immediately to the eastward of A14.

The massiveness of the base of the western buttress (B16) suggests that it had been staged and as broken roof tiles were used in its construction, it was not contemporary with Building A. It is likely to have been erected with building B.

The buttress at the western end of the N. wall of Building B (B17) was built in stretcher bond, with bricks thought to be of 14th century date and set in white mortar. The buttress had a core and base of rubble in white mortar.

Removal of the rubble section of the N. wall of the nave at B4—B5, revealed the sill of the N. doorway, which was constructed of bricks similar to those of the buttress B17; they had been placed on edge, side by side, and bore traces of a poor white glaze. A large block of flints, in white mortar, at the western end of the S. wall of the nave (B22) appeared to be tumble rather than the remains of a buttress. In the angle between the W. wall of the nave and the western buttress (B15—B16) were fragments of quarry glass and window lead, a small piece of encaustic tile and a few sherds of 14th century glazed ware; these were associated with the mortar spread deposited by the dismantling of Building C but the sherds may refer to Building B.

*Porch.* The use in the porch of squared stones of greensand, with cross-hatched tooling, and the bonding of its walls into the nave of Building B, indicated that both parts of the building were contemporary. The porch area had been used previously for burial

and its eastern footing (B11—B12) was laid across an infant's grave (Grave 19). Within the porch, a slab of Petworth marble, previously described, and probably of 14th century date (Grave 1; Plate IX) had been set before the S. doorway of the nave. A similar stone (Grave 3) with identical chamfer but less weathered and bearing the lower part of a stepped cross in bas-relief was found in a corresponding position outside the N. doorway (Plate XII). The position of these graves shows an intention that the villagers of Lullington should walk over them and implies a desire by the departed to be remembered.

*Chancel.* The existing building embodies much of the chancel of Building B. The E. wall, with its putlog holes, appears little changed (Plate III). The S. wall may have been, and the N. wall has been, refaced, the latter during the 19th century restoration.

The four lancets, two in the E. wall and two in the S., probably date from the Transitional-Norman Building A; and were re-modelled during the construction of Building B with ogee heads in green sandstone, only that of the N. window in W. wall being original; the others 19th century copies. All have round rear-arches in hard chalk and are rebated internally. They are mainly of Caen stone, with some green sandstone.

The low-side window on the S. side is a small trefoil-headed opening, worked in green sandstone, without rebate. At the time of the excavation, part of its iron grille remained (Plate VI) but this has since been removed. Part of a corresponding window can be seen on the N. side: this appears to have been blocked during the formation of the 19th century buttress (E1—E2).

It is likely that the remnant of the N. base of a chancel arch (B18; Plate XIV) consisting of one squared block of green sandstone and a piece of hard chalk, curved on its western face, is that of Building B: it stands upon a damaged footing of Building A (A18—A19). On the inner face of the wall immediately E. of this base, and close to floor level, a fragment of internal plaster remained *in situ*, its surface bearing traces of red ochre murals.

#### BUILDING C (16th century)

A church comprising rectangular nave, S. porch and chancel, with dimensions externally similar to those of Building B although the internal area of the nave would have been reduced by a thickening of the walls (C1—C3, C10—C9, C8—C7) at least at their base; there may have been similar treatment of the chancel (cf. walls at B6—B7 and E1—E2 with those at E2—E3—E4—E5).

#### CONSTRUCTION

The nave, chancel, and porch of Building B were re-used after repair or reconstruction. The walls of the nave were thickened internally with numerous chalk blocks, flints and a massive Sarsen stone; the N. doorway was blocked with materials from Building B.

The porch walls were repaired and the S. wall of the chancel, with external buttress to the arch, was rebuilt, W. of the low-side window, in squared flints faced with bricks thought to be Tudor (Plate VI).

A brittle yellow mortar, with a high proportion of fine gravel, was used as a base in wall thickening (Plate VIII); areas of similar mortar before the positions of the S. doorway of the nave (C11) and the porch (C13) indicated doorsteps. There was a rise of about one foot from the floor of the porch to the new level of the nave floor. In the angle formed by the ruined S. wall of the chancel and the present W. wall (E6), below the latest floor level, were several fragments of window glass.

#### DATING EVIDENCE

Buttress and wall section, S. side of chancel (C6)

#### DISCUSSION

No direct dating evidence was forthcoming for the conflagration which had damaged Building B. However, the traces of ash found by the N. base of the chancel arch may well mean that the fire had extended to the W. wall of the chancel and was the reason for rebuilding the western portion of its S. wall and the adjacent buttress which supported the arch. These features bear no sign of fire and are probably contemporary with the thickening of the nave walls above the ash layer and with the blocking of the N. doorway—also post-fire work.

From the appearance of the brickwork at C6, a 16th-century date is ascribed to these alterations and, since the low-side window on the S., and probably that on the N., was permitted to survive, unblocked, a pre-Reformation date for Building C is possible. The tradition of the destruction by fire of the church 'in the times of Cromwell' may, perhaps, recall Thomas, rather than Oliver, of that surname and again, a late pre-Reformation date would be indicated. Burned pottery, dating from 1450-1500 may also be significant.

Direct dating evidence was also wanting for the destruction of Building C but, as shown above, it had taken place not long before James Lambert executed his water-colour (Plate XVI). He died in 1788 and as his latter years were particularly productive of views of this locality, a date for this picture of *c.* 1780 is likely. In the external angle formed by the W. wall of the present building and the abandoned portion of the S. wall of the chancel (C6) the ground was found to have been disturbed to a depth of several feet but, because of its proximity to the doorway of the present building, the disturbance could not be fully examined; it contained much decomposed mortar and loose flints, was probably the grave of the Reverend Thomas Browne, 1768, of which the slab is built into the present W. wall presumably during its erection in 1806. Perhaps the burial was made within the chancel of Building C which was afterwards abandoned, and since this clergyman was still well remembered

his grave-slab was carefully preserved. Such a circumstance would argue a *post*-1768 date of collapse.

The small quantity of tumble that was encountered, and the low, regular wall heights found in the lost portion of Building C, point to the removal of the fabric for use elsewhere. In and about the garden of the cottage SE. of the churchyard there are many faced stones, of hard chalk and greensand, evidently from the church. The cottage appears to date from the late 18th century and is Church property.

#### FEATURE D (? 19th century)

This feature (D1—D4) consists of a mass of chalk rubble, lying WNW.-ESE., mainly within the angle formed by the S. wall of the nave and the W. wall of the porch of Building C. It is 13ft. in length, has an average width of 18in. and is edged on the S. side with faced blocks of hard chalk. An attempt to determine its date and purpose by the removal of a section (D2—D3) was unsuccessful. This work disclosed, beneath the rubble, two graves (17 and 18) but their alignment did not accord with that of the feature, to which they seem unrelated. This feature is probably of late date and constructed, in part, of materials removed from Building C. In its vicinity were found many nails, and bones of the domestic pig, and it may have supported a small lean-to building used for farm purposes.

#### BUILDING E (1806)

A diminutive single-pace building formed by enclosing the remaining portion of the chancel of Building C by the erection of a W. wall; its fabric was restored in 1894.

### THE FINDS

#### GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF LOCAL ORIGIN

*Chalk, hard.* Faced blocks, some chamfered, were used in quoins and footings and in the facing of doorways and windows, probably in Buildings A, B and C as well as in the construction of Feature D.

*Coombe Rock.* A single boulder, faced on one side, had been built into the W. wall of the porch (Building B or Building C).

*Greensand, Upper.* Quoins and facings for doorways and windows of Building B were of this material.

*Petworth Marble.* This stone, which will accept a high polish, was used for the font bowl (Building A) and for the slabs of graves Nos. 1 and 3 (13th/14th century).

*Sarsen.* One large stone, measuring 3ft. x 15in. x 8in., built into the thickening of the S. wall of Building C. It appeared that the stone had been squared and that the angles had become rounded by extensive weathering. Should the squaring have been artificial, then it must date from a remote period and the original purpose of the stone is a matter for consideration; similar stones may be seen in the NW. corner of the churchyard of Aldrington Church, Hove.

*Shingle.* Mortars and external plasters of Buildings A and B contained this material.

*Wealden Sandstone.* Fragments of 'Horsham slab' were found indicating its use as roofing, certainly in Building C and probably in Buildings A and B. The fragments were small and none contained a peg-hole.

*Flints.* Those used externally in the walls of Buildings B and C had been knapped or squared, and whole flints had been used in the cores of the walls. Among the latter was one, heavily patinated and globular (Fig. 4, No. 1), approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter and of which the surface had been pitted and chipped by blows. This flint was found in the tumble from the S. wall of nave of Building C. ? Hammerstone.

#### GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF FOREIGN ORIGIN

*Caen Stone.* In Building A, use of this stone made externally in the windows and internally for the font base.

#### BRICKS AND TILES

(a) Bricks. Apart from the 19th century brickwork of the present church, three types of brick had been utilised.

*Type I.* An uncouth product of poor quality. The clay had been adulterated by dense solids and the bricks incompletely oxidised and unevenly fired to a dull red-brown hue, the finished article having numerous cracks and a pitted surface. The bricks were of slightly irregular form, corresponding sides not being parallel, and had average dimensions of  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{8}$  in. This type was confined to the NW. buttress of the nave of Building B and in the opinion of Mr. N. E. S. Norris, F.S.A., is of 14th century date.

*Type II.* Similar to those of Type I except that all surfaces were faced with a poor, white glaze. These bricks were found only in the sill of the stopped-up N. doorway of Building B.

*Type III.* These red bricks, hard and well formed, were exclusive to the S. buttress to chancel arch and the adjacent wall of Building C and are considered to be of Tudor date. A typical brick measured  $8\frac{7}{8} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{7}{8}$  in.

#### (b) Tiles

1. *Floor Tiles.* Only two fragments both encaustic and, although uncovered out of context, probably relate to Building B. They are of red earthenware with a brown glaze applied over an impressed white slip pattern. The design on the larger fragment (Fig. 4, No. 2) closely resembles that on a floor tile found during excavations at Michelham Priory<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. *Ridge Tiles*

Of three pieces of ridge tile two were crested (Fig. 4, No. 3) with an ornament consisting of small pyramids achieved by cutting. They were well fired to a pink-red colour, extremely hard, grooved

<sup>1</sup> K. J. Barton and E. W. Holden 'Excavations at Michelham Priory' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 105, p. 10, Fig. 5.

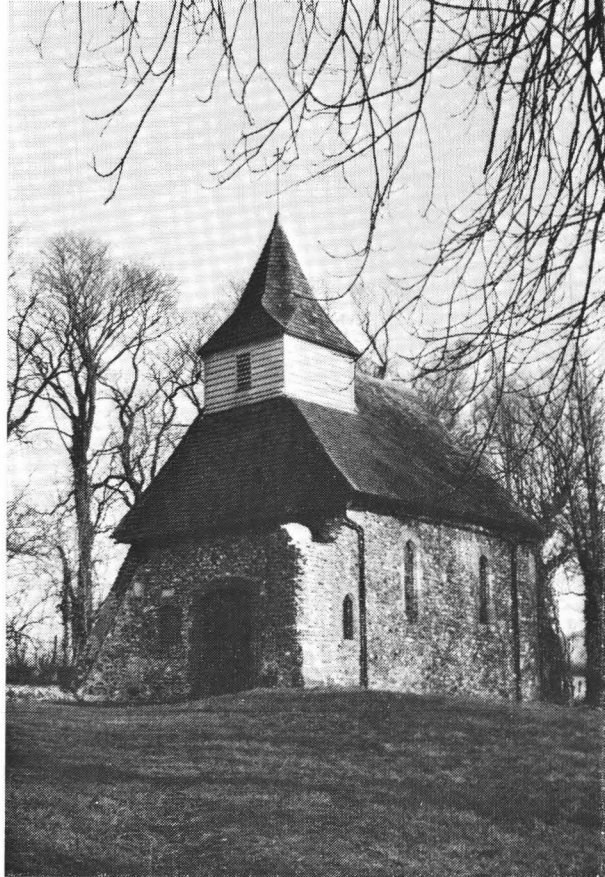


PLATE I. Lullington Church from south-west, 1969.

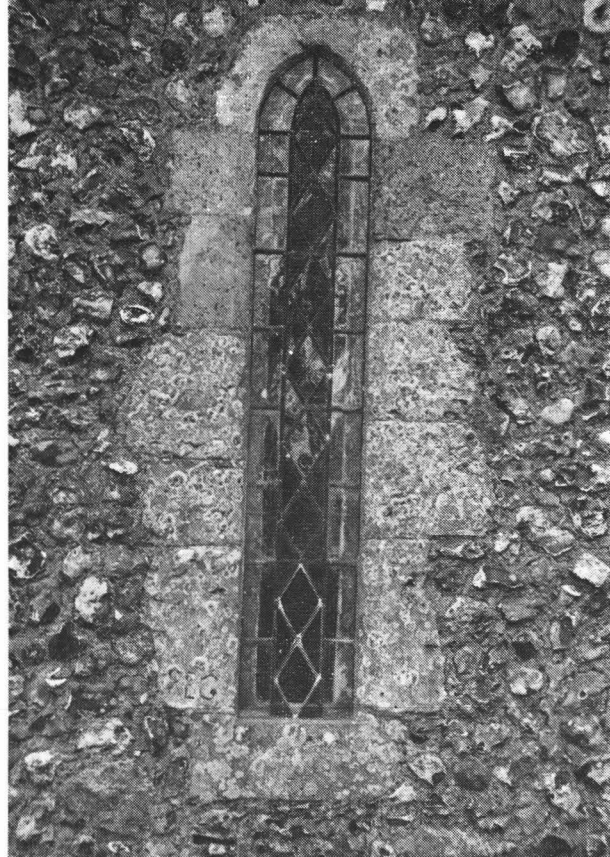


PLATE II. Lancet of Building A in north wall of present church. It is mainly of hard chalk with restored, round rear arch of the same material and is rebated for an external shutter.



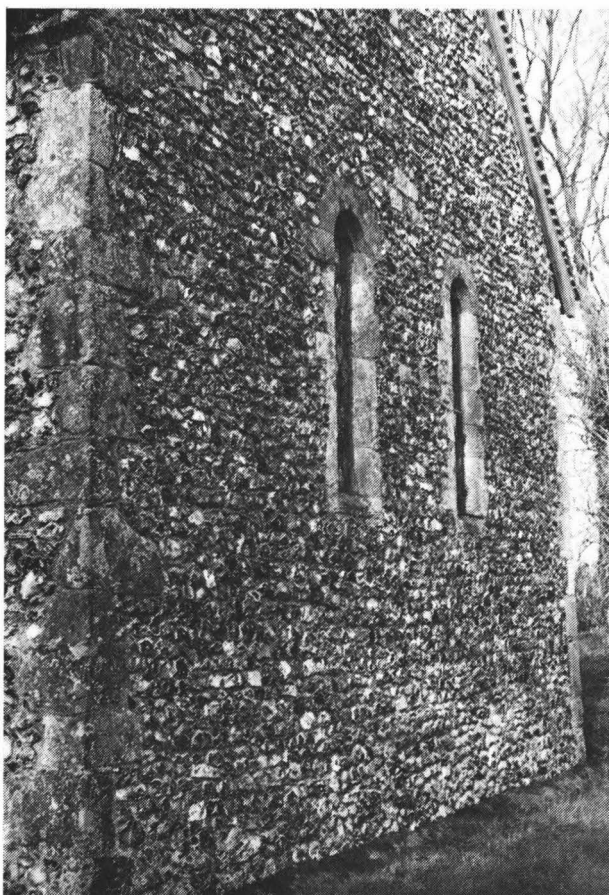


PLATE III. Lancets in east wall of present church, from south-east. They are constructed mainly of Caen stone and green sandstone, with restored round rear arches in hard chalk, and rebated internally. The heads are ogee, the one on the north being original. In their present form, they are preferable to Building B.

*Note:* Quoins, largely of green sandstone, and put-log holes.



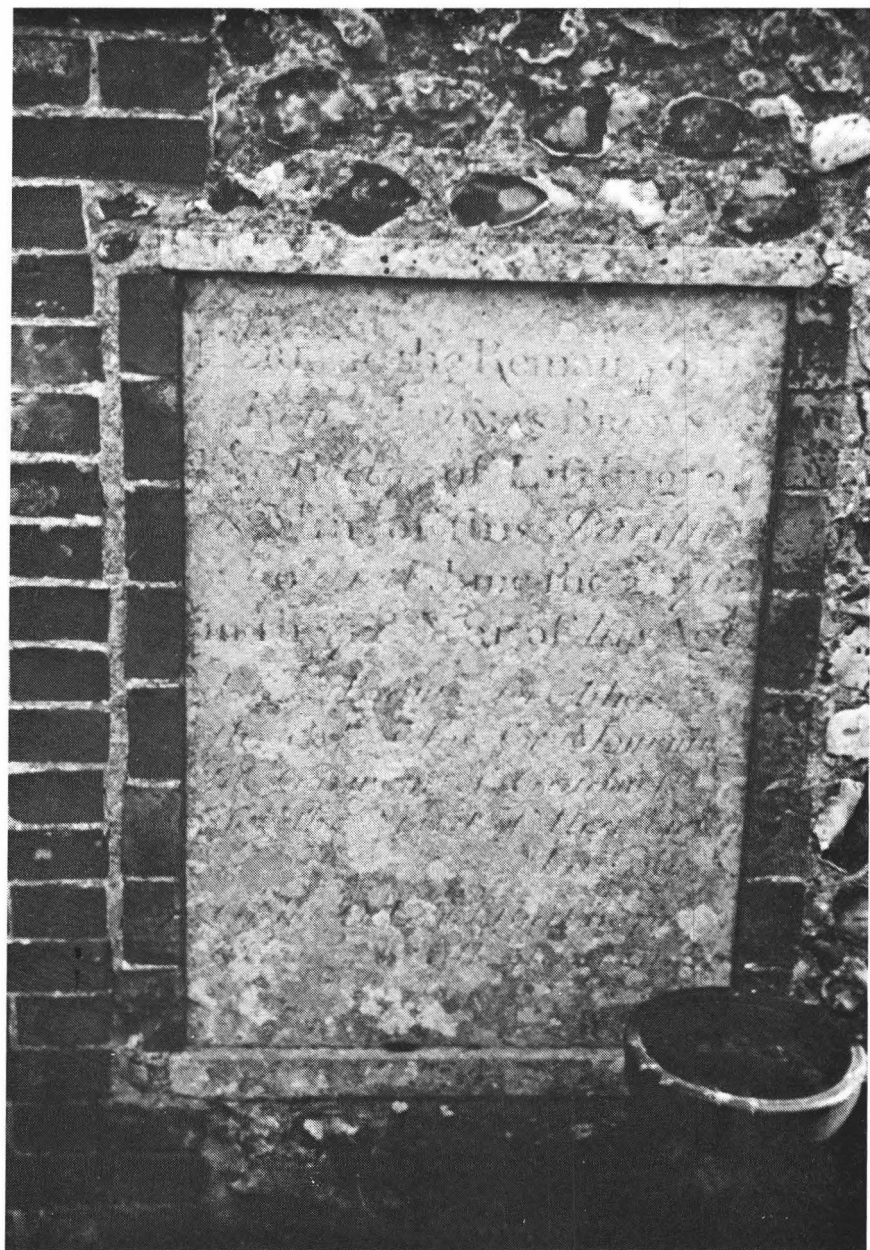


PLATE V

Grave-slab of the Reverend Thomas Browne (d.1768) built into west wall of present church.



PLATE IV. Font of Building A, in use in the present church. The bowl is of Petworth marble and some original sections of Caen stone remain in the base.



PLATE VI. Standing section of ruined walls of buildings A, B and C, from south. Immediately to the west of south-west angle of present building can be seen low side window of Building B, in green sandstone, with trefoil head and remains of iron grille. To the west of window are the chancel arch buttress and repaired section of south wall of Building C in squared

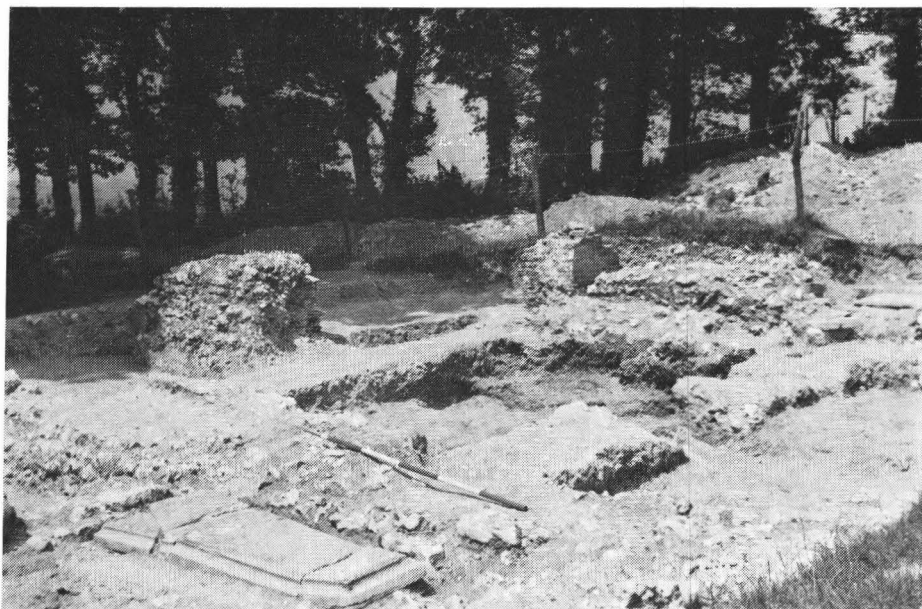


PLATE VII. Footings of western tower of Building A (c. 1180), from south-east; that for the tower arch (foreground, right) has been breached by three burials.

*Note:* The grave slab (left) within the south porch of Building B (c. 1350) and, in the background (right), the brick buttress and north wall of nave of that Church, before which can be seen, the wall thickening of Building C (16th century).

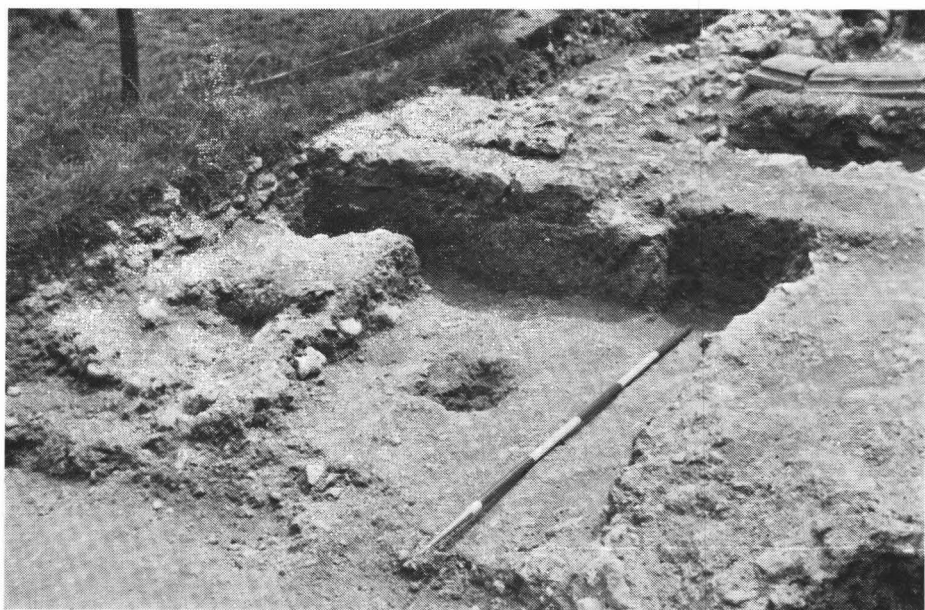


PLATE VIII. Base and drainage for font of Building A, from north-west. *Note:* Footing for tower arch (right) and south wall of that building; upon the latter can be seen the remains of the south wall of Building B and, before it, the thickening of chalk blocks on a mortar base (Building C)

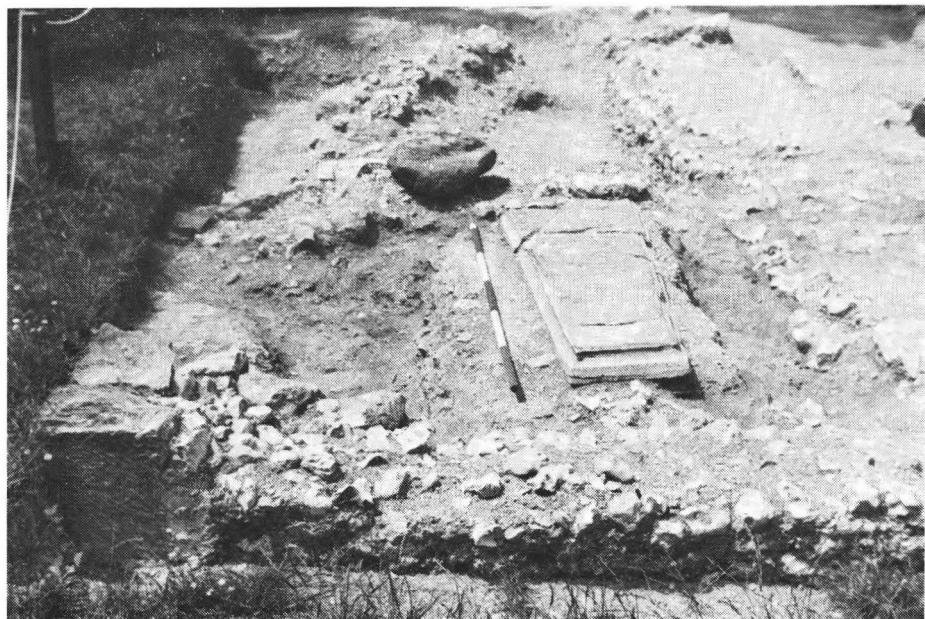


PLATE IX. South porch of Buildings B and C from east.

*Note:* Grave slab outside nave doorway, boulder in west wall, quoin stone of greensand with cross hatched tooling and in background (left) chalk feature D

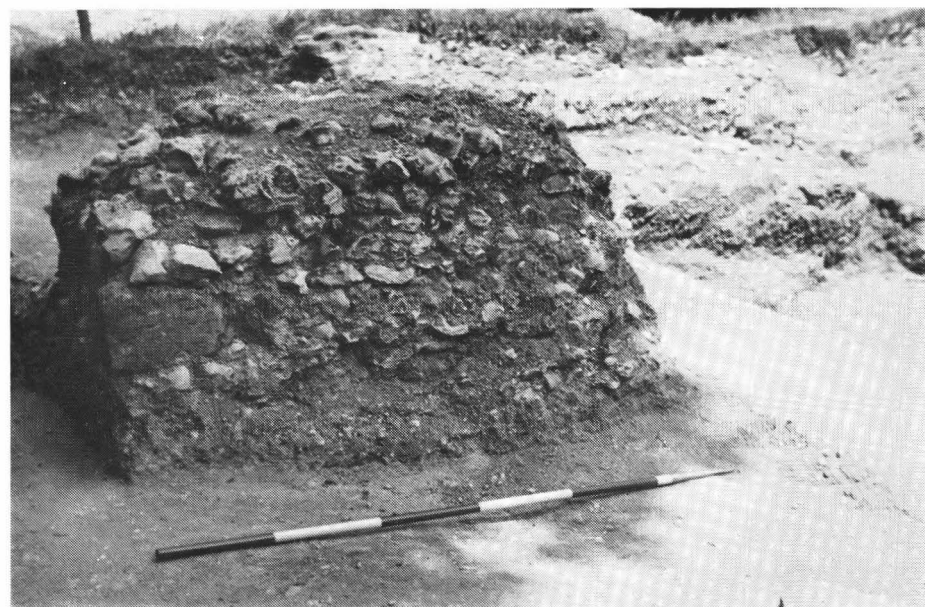


PLATE X. Base of staged buttress, central to the west wall, from south;  
probably of Building B



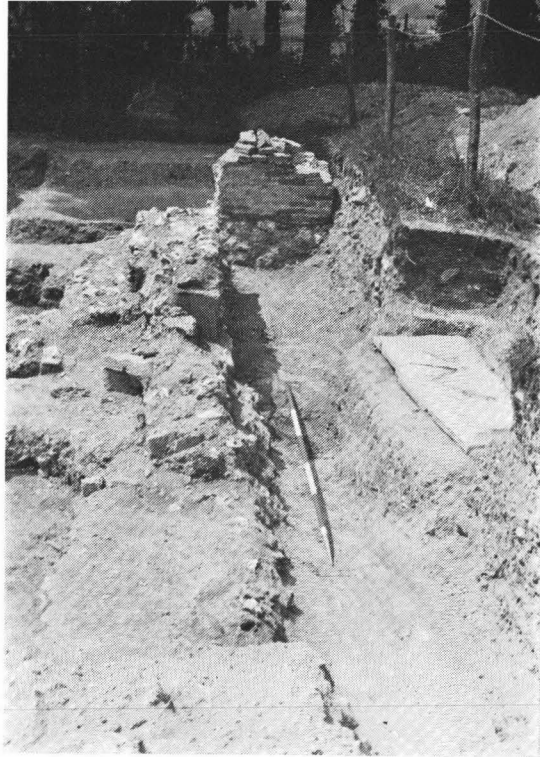


PLATE XI

Wall and footings on north side of excavation, from east. The footings are those of the north walls of the nave and of the tower (with later extension) of Building A. On the latter can be seen, at the far end, part of the north wall of the nave of Building B, with one jamb stone of doorway; the wall is supported by a brick buttress. To the left of this wall is the wall thickening and, in the centre, the doorway filling, both of Building C. The grave slab is set outside the doorway.



PLATE XII. Grave slab, probably of fourteenth century date, outside north doorway of Building B.

*Note:* Base of stepped cross, in bas-relief.

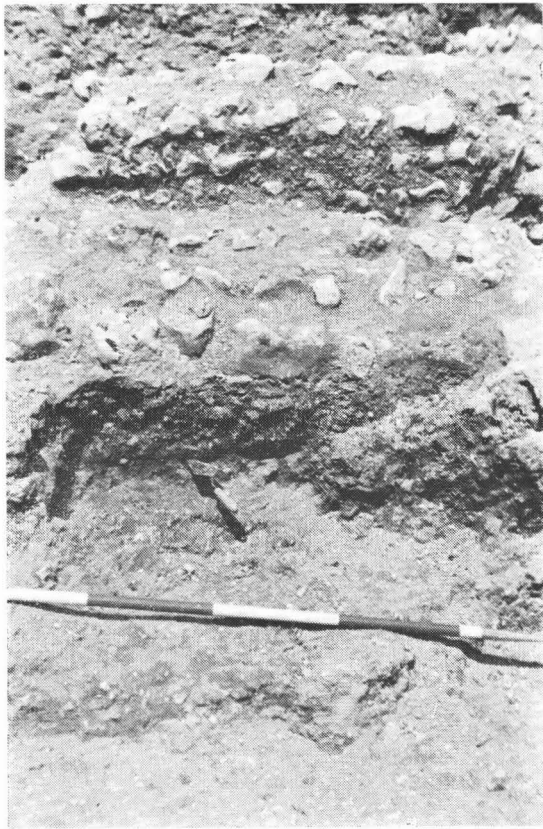


PLATE XIII

North wall complex, south face. The ranging pole lies upon the remains of the footing of north wall of tower of Building A. At top of picture, wall of Building B has been set to the outside edge of an extension to this footing. In centre, the wall thickening of Building C has been placed upon the ash layer (marked by point of trowel) on the floor

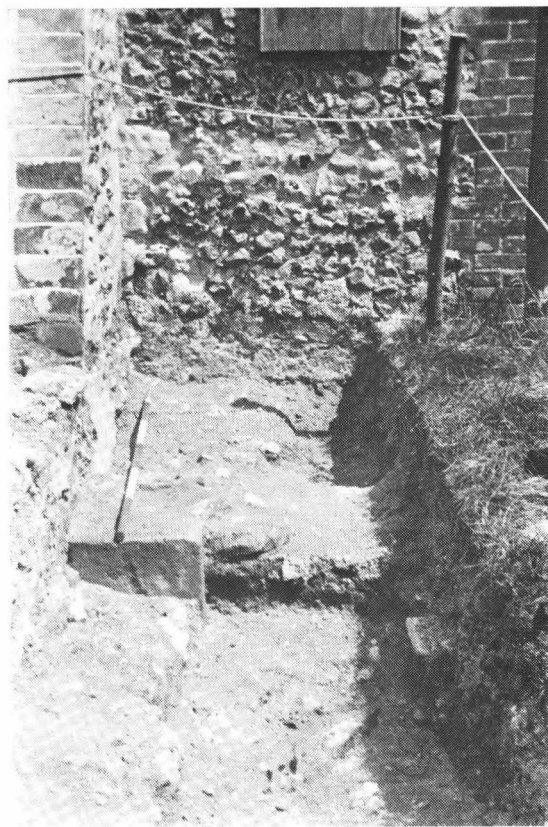


PLATE XIV

Remains of north base of chancel arch of Building B, outside present west wall, constructed of green sandstone and hard chalk. To the left of the ranging pole is an area of original plaster which bears traces of ochre murals. The tile, projecting from the baulk on right, marks the floor level of Building C.

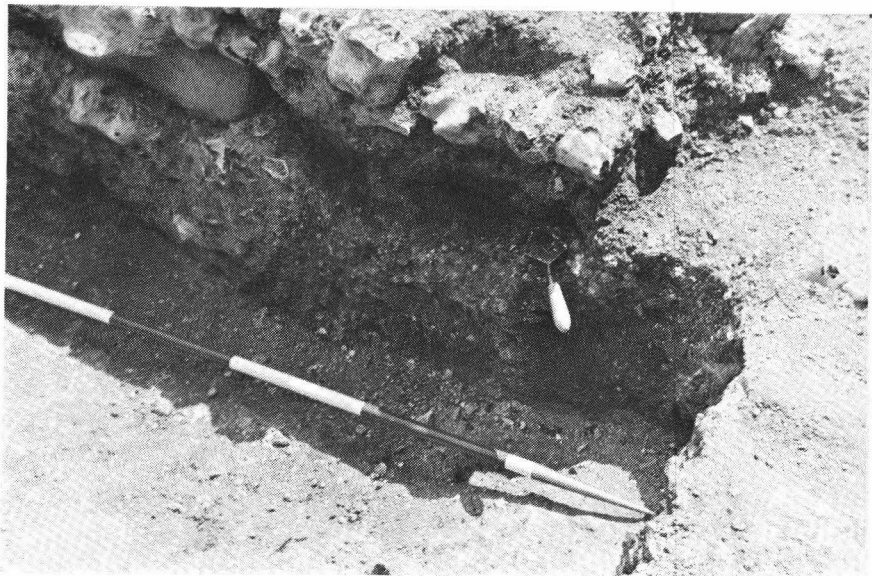


PLATE XV

South wall complex, north face. The nave wall thickening for Building C lies upon the ash layer (marked by point of trowel) on floor of Building B above south footing of tower of Building A.

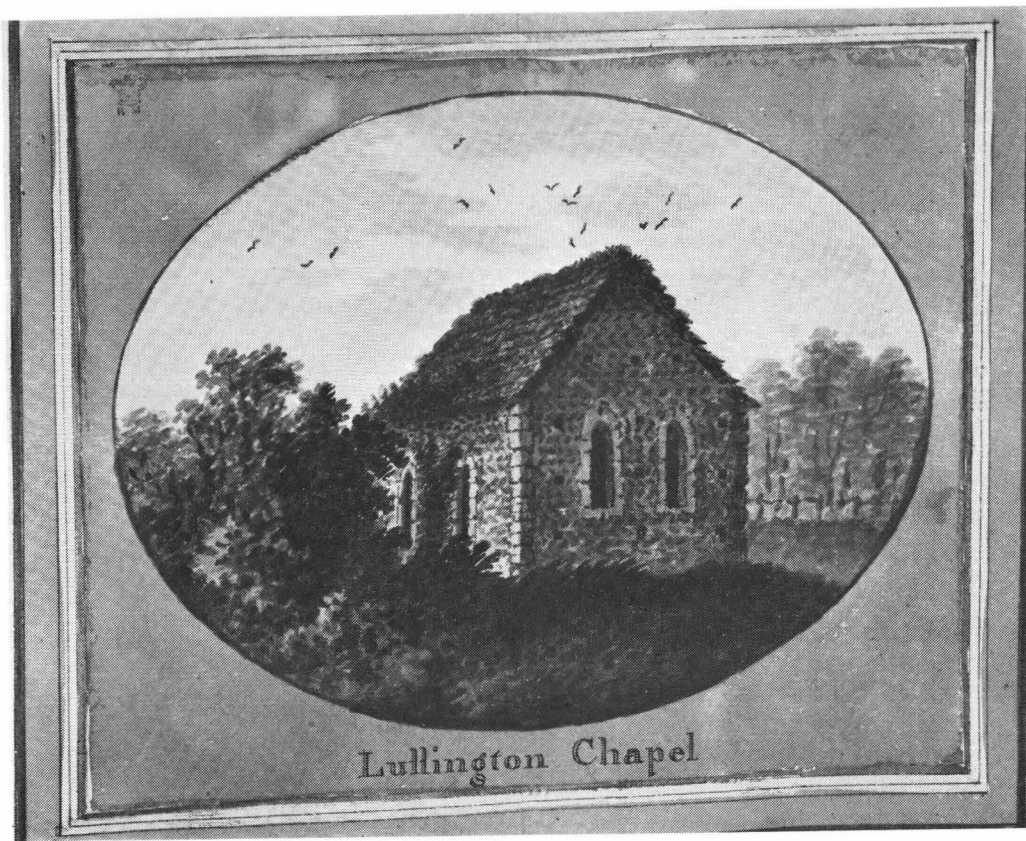


PLATE XVI. "Lullington Chapel" (from south-east). Painted by James Lambert, c. 1780. (Reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum)



on the underside and probably half-round in section. This type may be associated with Building B. The third fragment was part of the side of a much larger tile than that described above, incompletely oxidised, fired to a uniform pink colouring, semi-elliptical in section and with its surface scored in shaping.

### 3. Other Roofing Tiles

Five types were recognised:

Type I. Rather crude tiles fired to a dull red-brown with surfaces pitted and cracked, having features in common with the Type I bricks. A number of small pieces only, none having a peg-hole; from these, the thickness alone ( $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) could be determined. They had a bi-axial concavity. Several fragments had been built into a later structure and these tiles must have covered the roof either of Buildings A or B. The records of the manor of Alciston show that it supplied the manor of Lullington with considerable quantities of tiles in the early part of the 15th century.<sup>1</sup>

Type II. Well-formed tiles, fired to a dull red-brown with top surface pitted, smooth undersides and bi-axial concavity. The fragments found did not indicate length but their width was 6in. and their thickness  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Probably associated with Building B.

Type III. Fine red tiles with smooth undersides and of  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thickness, the other dimensions being unobtainable from the pieces recovered. They had bi-axial concavity and square peg-holes which increased in width from  $\frac{1}{3}$ in. at top to  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. at bottom. Associated with Building C.

Type IV. Similar pink tile, 6in. wide, with square peg-holes increasing in width from  $\frac{1}{3}$ in. at top to  $\frac{5}{12}$ in. at bottom; length could not be determined. Associated with Building C.

Type V. Tiles of 11 x 6 x  $\frac{1}{2}$ in., uniformly yellowish in colour with smooth, brushed undersides and bi-axial concavity; round peg-holes, increasing in width from  $\frac{3}{10}$ in. at top to  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at bottom. Associated with Building C and must be earlier than c. 1770; they are likely to be of early 16th century origin. One complete specimen was recovered (Fig. 4, No. 4, showing underside).

### POTTERY

Pottery from the site represents every known century in the life of the church, ranging from coarse ware of the 12th century to fine willow-pattern ware of the 20th, while a few sherds may be of 11th century date. However, its paucity, in view of the eight hundred years use of the site, suggests that at no time was pottery much in use.

The ground had been disturbed repeatedly for burials and for this reason the sherds were generally of little value as dating evidence, with the exception of two groups. One, of late 12th century/early 13th century date, was in a shallow, dark layer immediately above the

<sup>1</sup> Judith A. Brent 'Alciston Manor in the later Middle Ages' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 106, p. 90.

natural chalk and below the floor level of Building A and can be assigned, with some confidence, to the construction period of that church; it is likely that the sherds are all of cooking pots and indicate that the Transitional-Norman origin of the building, assumed from architectural remains, is correct. The other, not illustrated, consists of fragments of the walls of what was probably a pitcher. These had been burned after breaking and, while it cannot be established that this took place during the fire of Building B, it remains a possibility; and their period, *c.* 1450-1500, extends to a date close to that, deduced from other data, for the erection of Building C, after the fire.

Among the sherds of the remaining groups, where the type of vessel was recognised, only one cooking pot was represented; this dated from the late 13th/early 14th century and might have been coincident with the period of construction of Building B. Other vessels were identified as jugs, dishes, pitchers and one chamber pot.

The various wares are summarised below, chronologically.

*Description (numbers refer to illustrations in Fig. 3)*

(a) A black ware, with dark grey core, containing a small quantity of coarse flint grit; smooth grey surface with slight polish; plain, everted rim. (? 11th century).

- |         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rim  | } Probably of cooking pot |
| 2. Base |                           |

(b) A red-brown ware, with smooth, chalky surface and black core. Featureless sherds of thin-walled vessels (? 11th century). Not illustrated.

(c) A grey-pink ware with smooth, chalky surface and chalky grey or pink core containing a few granules of fine flint grit; everted rim (? 11th century).

3. Rim of jar; everted, with rounded edge flattening in steep return to wall. Slight concavity above junction with neck.

4. Rim, probably of cooking pot, similar to 3, above, but more strongly everted, with wide, well-rounded top having internal flattening at junction with wall and rounded edge flattened on return to wall.

5. Base, with basal angle of nearly 90 degrees.

(d) A heavy, coarse, pink-brown ware with porous grey core, containing a considerable proportion of flint grit. Surfaces rough, rims strongly everted; large cooking pots or storage vessels. Late 11th/through 12th century).

6. Rim, having rounded top and edge and underside flattened, with inclined return to wall; junction with neck well defined; incised line at junction; well-shaped concave neck, turning sharply to shoulder. From dark layer, nave of Building A, immediately above chalk.

7. Rim, with flattened, slightly concave top, sharp internal angle with faint bead and flattened edge sloping outwards with underside rounded; concave neck turns sharply to shoulder.

(e) A heavy, coarse, black ware, with laminated, grey core containing high proportion of large flint grit. Featureless sherds,

probably of cooking pots. (Late 12th/early 13th century). Not illustrated.

(f) A coarse, grey-brown ware with grey core, containing a small quantity of coarse flint grit; surface rough, rim sharply everted. (Late 12th/early 13th century).

8. Rim, probably of jar; narrow, everted, rounded top with rounded edge flattening inwards to wall. Slightly concave, short neck.

9. Base, with sharply marked basal angle (45 degrees) from dark layer in nave of Building A, immediately above natural chalk.

(g) A coarse, light brown ware with grey core containing much flint grit and fine gravel; fairly smooth surface; rim everted, with top flattened and flanged<sup>1</sup> and with rounded edge curving inwards and downwards to short concave neck. Well defined ridge at junction with shoulder. (1200-1250).

10. Rim of cooking pot or storage vessel.

11. Base, possibly slightly sagging, with 45 degrees basal angle.

(h) A pink-red ware, with grey core; smooth surface, thin internal grass-green glaze. (Late 13th/early 14th century).

12. Base of sagging-base cooking pot; slight external concavity above basal angle.

(i) Standard, glazed jugs. Fine, light grey fabric with mottled, medium-green glaze. (14th century). Sherds only, not illustrated.

(j) Surrey Tudor Green Jug. Fine creamy fabric with strong, deep-green glaze. (1450-1500).

13. Rim; narrow, slightly everted, with flat top and rounded edge; well-defined junction with neck; small spout with slightly rounded 90 degrees pouring angle.

(k) Bung-hole pitcher. Very hard, fine grey-brown ware with red core and a tendency to shear along striations.

14. Lower part of vessel with smooth, external surface and with bung-hole and flat base. Wall deeply grooved internally; sharply formed basal angle; spot of glaze on base; bung-hole applied to pitcher; fine brush finish to rim of spout. (1450-1500).

15. Base, similar ware to 14. Well formed, slightly rounded basal angle with slight concavity above. (1450-1500).

(l) Wide-mouth pink dishes of 'Painted-Ware' type with very hard grey core and pitted medium-green internal and external glazing. (Early 16th century).

16. Base, with slightly rounded basal angle of 80 degrees.

(m) A fine red ware with red fabric and high quality orange-brown glaze. Two bases, probably of jars (17th/18th century). Not illustrated.

(n) A coarse pink ware, with orange-brown glaze. Two bases, probably of jars; (17th/18th century), not illustrated.

<sup>1</sup> E. W. Holden 'Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village of Hangleton' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 101, p. 118, Fig. 20, No. 42.

(o) A fine white fabric with high-quality mottled, orange-brown glaze. Small vase or jar; (18th/19th century), not illustrated.

(p) Fine, willow-pattern ware; (19th/20th century) not illustrated.

#### GLASS

Many fragments of window glass were found and these fell into two groups: Type I, comprising those which had fallen from the windows of Building C at its collapse in *c.* 1750 and Type II, those from the windows of an earlier church, probably Building B.

Type I. None of these fragments was painted. The average thickness was slightly less than that of Type II and varied from  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  in., sometimes in the same piece. Several pieces were from diamond panes.

Type II. These, too, showed indications of diamond panes and were, in thickness, mainly between  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. and  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. with variation in a single piece. One fragment varied from  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. to  $\frac{7}{16}$  in. and appeared to have been spun. Two others had been painted in red (Fig. 4, Nos. 9 and 10): these were too small to reveal the ornamental motif but both paint and style closely resembled that on the glass from Bargham church site <sup>1</sup> which is considered to be of late 13th/early 14th century date.

#### METAL OBJECTS

##### *Iron*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Knife (Fig. 4, No. 4b)</li> <li>2. Sickle blade fragment (Fig. 4, No. 4c)</li> <li>3. Pintle fragment (Fig. 4, No. 12)</li> </ol> | } | <p>These objects are under expert examination. Reports are awaited.</p> |
|--|---|---|
4. Nails. 42 nails were found, of similar manufacture and dimensions (Fig. 4, Nos. 7 and 8), some having round heads and some square. All had lost their points but, when complete, had been approximately 2½ in. in length. Many of these were associated with Building C. Fragments were found, also, of 6 larger nails, of varying dimensions.

##### *Bronze*

A small, thin strip (Fig. 4, No. 11)  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. wide, scored diagonally upon the upper side and which had broken at a perforation, one of three made from that side along its length; the holes being evenly spaced, the centre one being larger than the other two. Probably part of a hinge or binding of some small article of church equipment.

<sup>1</sup> A. Barr-Hamilton 'The Excavation of Bargham Church Site' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 99, p. 49, Fig. 4.

### *Lead*

This consisted of ten short strips, all from leaded windows and of two types, I and II (Fig. 4, Nos. 5 and 6) both basically 'H' in section. Type II is probably referable to Building C and Type I to Building B and/or Building A.

Type I. This was more substantial and less brittle than Type II, with firm flanges and with the centre of the base minutely pierced along its length at intervals of not less than 1in. Six lengths of this type were found, of which the greatest was 3in. long and may correspond with one side of a diamond pane. The craftsmanship employed was of a high standard.

Type II. All four fragments of this type had been flattened and distorted and were between 2½in. and 3in. in length; these strips, perhaps, also corresponded with one side of a diamond pane. The craftsmanship was excellent and the bases were not pierced, as in Type I, but closely and evenly milled on both sides.

### ANIMAL BONES

Domestic Pig: Upper and lower jawbone, three tusks. Domestic Ox: Two molars. Domestic sheep: One molar. All scattered in the top-soil of the SW. corner of site.

### HUMAN REMAINS (BURIALS)

The positions of 19 graves were determined. In compliance with the conditions of the Faculty for excavation, interference with the burials was avoided, so far as was possible; and none was subjected to examination. Six graves were found within the area of Building C, the location of several being recognised by the remains of rectangles of mortar, in some cases with part of a flint course, upon which a grave cover had rested. Only the slab of No. 1, within the porch, remained. The graves had an average depth of 2ft. 6in. below the surfaces of the footings (i.e. 1ft. 6in. into the natural chalk).

Fragments of human bone, found at all levels, indicated that the same ground had been used for burial more than once, but none of the existing graves showed signs of disturbance. Nos. 4, 11 and 16, probably, were all dug after the removal of the tower of Building A for each had breached the tower arch footing; all the internal graves are likely to be of a later date than that of the fire of Building B since traces of ash and scorching upon the floor of the church were confined to those areas, adjacent to the walls of N. and S., which had not been disturbed by grave-digging.

The external graves varied considerably in depth and, probably, in date. In the close set group outside the N. wall by the chancel arch, No. 6 was only 1ft. 6in. below the surface, as compared with the 5ft. of No. 8, which was cut into the natural chalk. No. 3, only, was covered by a slab and there was no evidence that any other had been similarly treated. No. 19, that of an infant, had been dug prior

to the addition of the south porch, of which the eastern footing had disturbed the grave; and Nos. 17 and 18 before the erection of the chalk feature D. No grave goods were found.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to record his thanks to the Revd. H. Graham Jack, formerly vicar of Alfriston-with-Lullington, who obtained the Faculty for the excavation, and to his successor the Revd. H. F. Daniels, who permitted the work to continue; to the Sussex Archaeological Society who loaned the tools and to Mrs. V. M. Wimbush of Lullington Manor who stored them; Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, M.Sc., F.S.A., Mr. N. E. S. Norris, F.S.A., and Mr. Horace Vigor, for advice and assistance in various ways and Mr. E. W. Holden, F.S.A., whose advice and guidance in the preparation of this report were invaluable; Mr. Kenneth Barton, F.S.A., A.M.A., City Curator, Portsmouth City Museums, who classified the pottery; Mr. A. V. Sheppard, M.S.A.INST.D., of the Brighton Museum who identified and treated certain objects of iron; the Trustees of the British Museum for permission to reproduce James Lambert's painting of 'Lullington Chapel'; Mrs. J. M. Standing who kindly prepared the typescript; Mr. D. J. Rippengal of Ratton Secondary Modern School, Eastbourne, who conceived the project and provided and marshalled the labour force; and to the boys and girls of that school who gave up many hours to labour in the fulfilment of the task.