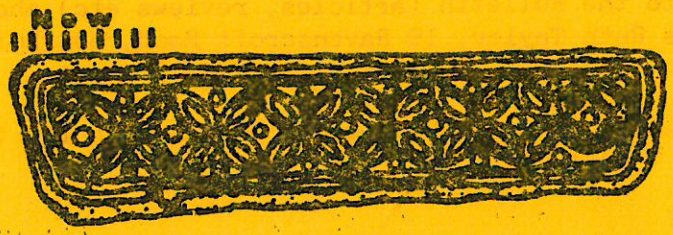
BULLETIN

of the CBA Churches Committee



ALL SAINTS, LEDSHAM

Number 18 Summer 1983

C O N T E N T S

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N O T E S

Changes

Bath and Wells: Dr W J Rodwell has resigned as archaeological consultant. Dr Ian Burrow, County Archaeologist for Somerset, has been nominated as his successor and has been appointed a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Sheffield: Mr Peter Ryder, of the S Yorkshire County Archaeology Service, has been nominated as archaeological consultant and has been appointed to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

REMOTE SENSING: USING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO AID INFORMATION RECOVERY

Christopher J Brooke

One of the greatest problems which confronts church archaeologists is the loss of information during repair and alteration because it was hidden to the eye and was not known to exist. Even greater problems can arise when the entire building is threatened because structural conditions such as the collapse of internal rubble walling are also invisible to the naked eye and often become noticeable only when the damage has become too great and repair costs impossibly high.

I am currently engaged in research which aims to solve many of these problems by the development and use of Remote Sensing techniques in buildings survey. Remote Sensing is a science which has grown up over the last twenty years mainly in the fields of orbital and space surveillance work in projects such as LANDSAT and ERTS, monitoring the environment and earth-resources from satellite and aircraft. Very little work has so far been done with buildings surveyed from the ground using these techniques and I am breaking new ground in their application to recovering archaeological information in buildings. One of the most important features of Remote Sensing methods is that they are all nondestructive and do not require contact with the fabric or surface under examination. My aim is to develop a series of rapid-survey, low-cost methods of information recovery which will aid the discovery and recording of features which were not known to exist or which were only suspected on visual examination.

Broadly, the techniques fall into two categories: photographic imaging and electronic system sensing, both either used direct or computer-aided. Work so far has concentrated on the photographic methods, developing and using specialised products and techniques such as 'CEI' and 'UV' photography as well as changing the characteristics and improving spatial resolution in more conventional film recording products.

Although applicable to all forms of ancient buildings, I am concentrating mainly on 120 churches in a 900 km^2 area in Nottinghamshire and West Lincolnshire, as a preliminary research base. The last three years have been spent in carrying out a detailed survey of these buildings to assess the problems of hidden features and to provide working material for experimentation in the field. I have achieved the full cooperation of all concerned, to use these churches as a basis for my work. The type of

information which can be recovered is wide-ranging: wall-paintings which have been plastered or limewashed over; blocked doorways and windows, gallery supports and stairways which have been sealed into the fabric; wall-paintings which have faded leaving no apparent trace; illegible inscriptions; window-glass type differentiation; simplification of complex multiple building phases within stonework and so forth. On the structural side, it is hoped that information on the state of wall infill and moisture movement can be obtained.

Results to date have been very encouraging, revealing wall-paintings under apparently blank, plastered walls. Surfaces which are uniformly white to the naked eye have been shown to be covered with materials of differing composition, this, at one Lincolnshire church, indicating a possible wall-painting which has been covered over and replaced by a later (18th century) depiction of 'Time'. In the field of stained glass, differing properties have been detected by Remote Imagery where the colour appears the same to the eye, indicating an earlier or later insertion.

Although I have been researching for three years now, I have so far been unable to obtain any financial backing for my work. Consequently, developments are limited to the equipment at my disposal and have been sporadic as finance has allowed. The potential of Remote Sensing is only just being realised and further work using more sophisticated equipment promises to reveal a very great deal more, and provide the church archaeologist with an invaluable aid to information recovery.

March 1983

(Mr Brooke is Hon Research Associate, Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, and Archaeological Scientific Advisor to the Southwell DAC.)

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CADA'S MINSTER, BROADWAY, WORCS

Della Hooke

There are many references to minsters in pre-Conquest documents. Charters, especially, frequently record their foundation and endowment. Some of the early minsters appear to have been established at the foci of extensive folk-territories and to have occupied a position within the ecclesiastical hierarchy immediately below that of the seat of a bishopric. Additional minsters were founded in the more developed regions, each building up its estates through a process of endowment, purchase or other form of acquisition and although many passed through periods of neglect and decay, the majority remained as recognisable religious centres in the later Anglo-Saxon period (Hooke 1982, 1983f). The system of subdivision was to progress through the establishment of churches serving ecclesiastical parishes and from that to dependent chapelries, thus providing the ecclesiastical network familiar in the medieval period.

There are indications however, that some religious sites did not survive and amongst them is one referred to in the charters compiled by the churches of Pershore and Evesham in Worcestershire. These charters are accompanied by detailed boundary clauses which list prominent landmarks found along the margins of the estates with which they are concerned. The earliest reference to the site known as Cadan mynster, 'Cada's minster',

is contained in a boundary clause of Broadway, an estate allegedly restored to the abbey of Pershore in AD 972 (Sawyer 1968, S 786; Birch 1885-99, B 1282). The authenticity of this charter has been questioned by some authorities but it is recorded in a 10th century manuscript and the boundary clause of Broadway seems to have been complied in the 990s (1). The minster site is referred to again in two later boundary clauses compiled by the church of Evesham. Many of the clauses emanating from this source are spurious in some way and several appear to have been compiled at a later date than that claimed. S 1599, K 1368 (Kemble 1839-48) again refers to Cadanmynster upon the Willersey/Broadway boundary. This is an undated boundary clause which seems to have been compiled in the 11th century. S 80, B 125 claims an early 8th century origin but is again of later 11th century date, post-dating the undated clause in origin. Here the site is referred to as cademunstre.

There can be few doubts surrounding the location of the feature itself (Fig 1). The Broadway boundary climbed the scarp face of the Cotswold escarpment (as it does today) and was marked by a furrow. This seems to have separated the arable lands of Broadway from those of Willersey, for on the Broadway side of the boundary a large open field called Shear field reached the parish boundary in the medieval period, meeting the open arable furlongs of Willersey parish. At the time of Inclosure, in 1771 (2), the inhabitants of Broadway were reminded that they were legally obliged to maintain the hedges and ditches bounding this field. Today a deep ditch lying between double banks can still be seen on the upper slopes of the escarpment, although it is less distinct at lower levels, and this seems to mark the line of the furrow noted in the 10th century document. The minster occurs as the following landmark, before the boundary runs on ba ecge 'to the edge', an obvious reference to the rim of the scarp face. The boundary clauses of Willersey also run in a clockwise direction and, therefore, make their way down the Cotswold scarp. Having run around the long southern extension of Willersey parish, which takes in an area of land on the crest of the escarpment, the boundary meets and follows the western ramparts of Willersey Iron Age hillfort (onlonq wealles) before coming to Cadanmynster. It then plunges downhill to a black pit or black pool noted as a 'dirty pit' in the earlier Broadway clause. There can be little doubt that the minster site lay near the north-western corner of the hillfort.

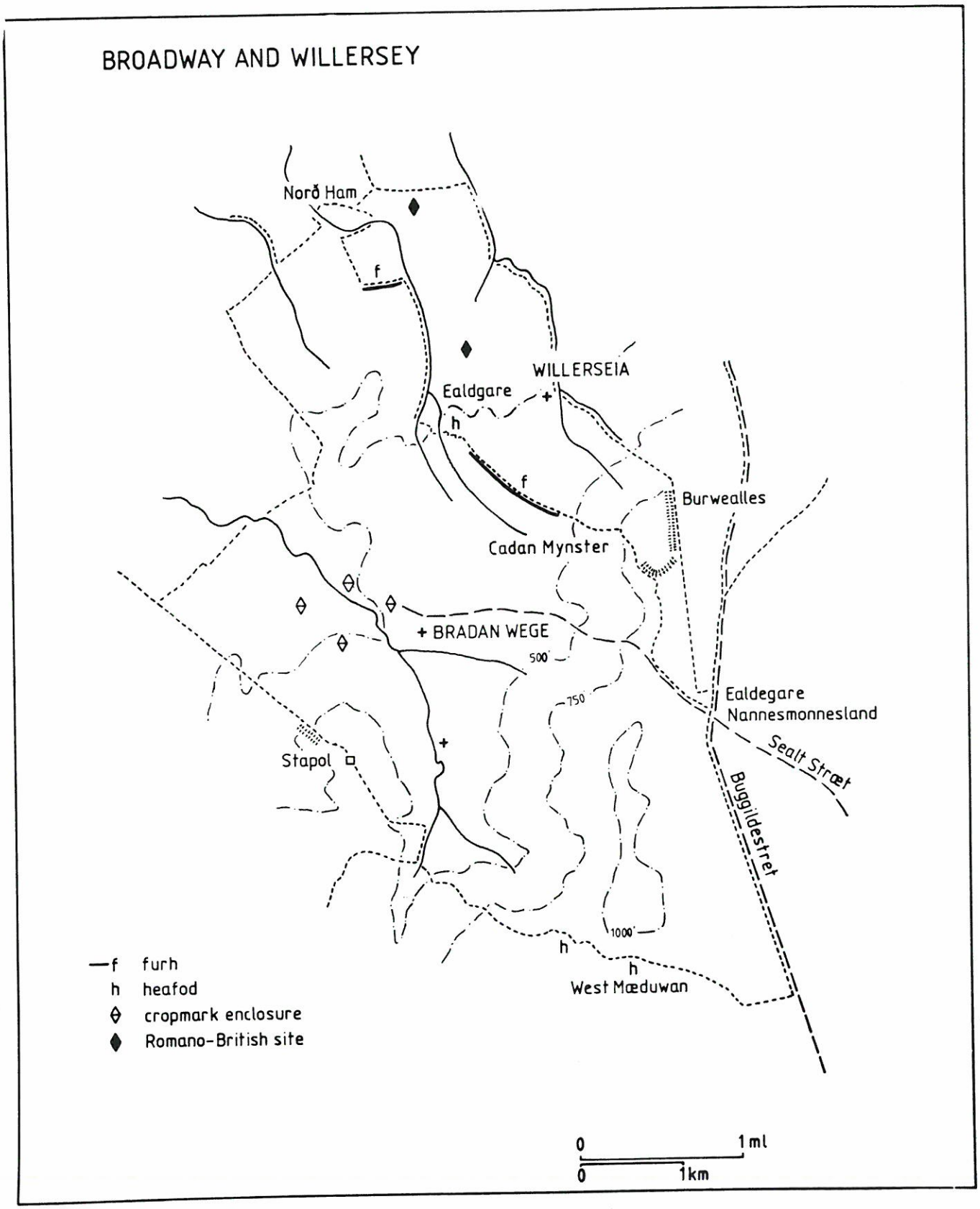
By the early 11th century the term mynster was apparently being used to refer to a church quite different in status to that of a monastery. The laws of Æthelred specifically recognise that ne syn ealle cyrcan na gelicre mæðe worldlice wirðe, beah hi godcundlice habban halqunqe gelice, 'not all churches are to be regarded as possessing the same status in civil law, though from the side of religion they all possess the same sanctity' (Robertson 1925, 118-19; Atr VIII 5). Significantly, the term mynster is then used to refer to a principal church (heafodmynstre), a church of medium rank (medemran mynstre), and even some of lesser rank. The use of the term in the West Midland clauses need not necessarily, therefore, indicate the presence of a major monastic site.

The location of the minster or church in close proximity to the hillfort is, however, of great interest and may even indicate the survival in the Anglo-Saxon period of a Christianised pagan shrine. A parallel for such a development may be found at Uley in Gloucestershire, on the Cotswold crest to the south-west of Stroud, where an Iron Age/Romano-British temple complex lying adjacent to the hillfort of Uley Bury was superseded in the 5th century by a building which appears to have been a Christian church. This phase of use lasted through the 6th century and possibly into the 7th century

(Ellison 1980, 314-18). There is no record from documentary or archaeological evidence of the continued occupation of Willersey hillfort in the Romano-British period but the site is unexcavated and has only been subject to the most cursory examination (RCHM (Eng) 1976, 128-30). Several similar sites in this area, such as that at Meon Hill some six miles to the north-east, have produced evidence of Romano-British settlement. Pre-existing fortifications in other regions are also known to have been used subsequently as monastic *valli* (Burrow 1981, 163-6).

Reference to the name *Cada* is also of interest, for the name is ultimately of British origin, "from the British theme *catu-* 'battle'" (Smith 1965, 26). There are three Somerset hillforts described as '*Cada's burh*' and two of them have produced evidence for use in the centuries preceding the English domination of Somerset (Burrow 1981, 52). It is possible, as Burrow suggests, that the name was applied to 'a heroic figure in some way associated with hillfort earthworks', or that it conveyed a meaning of 'battle-fort'. It occurs elsewhere in Gloucestershire and is not confined to hillfort sites. In the north-east of the county Cadley Hill in Batsford is probably 'Cada's *hlaw*', a name indicating either a hill or a tumulus, possibly connected with pagan Anglo-Saxon burial (Hooke 1981). A *Cadecrofte* is recorded in Twyning in the Severn valley but the name is most common in the south of the county, noted in the parishes of Almondsbury, Marshfield, Olveston and Oldland, but only in the former does it occur in close proximity to a known hillfort, in this case compounded with a stream-name (Smith 1964, 106). To the north, in Worcestershire, Caddecroft occurs as a farm-name in the parish of Pershore Holy Cross in the Avon valley. The name certainly seems to indicate a British element in the population of the region in the Anglo-Saxon period and British rule persisted in this region into at least the late 6th century (*ASC*, Plummer 1892-9, 18-19). There is evidence of British and Anglo-Saxon cultural contact in the grave goods associated with the pagan Anglo-Saxon burials of the region, especially in the cemetery located on Fish Hill in Broadway less than one kilometre to the south of Willersey hillfort (Cook 1958, 80). This lay beside a major routeway referred to in the Anglo-Saxon charter as a 'salt-way', a road which may have given its name to the estate of Broadway.

A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, apparently from a 6th century cinerary urn, was also located at a site on the river gravels to the north-west of the present village (Smith 1946). This was found in association with a pre-historic and Roman occupation site, the extent of which has recently been indicated by cropmarks detected by aerial photography. Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in Broadway parish is well substantiated, largely from cropmark evidence, and other sites have been indicated in the adjacent parish of Willersey by scatters of coins and pottery (RCHM (Eng) 1976, 128-30). Few Anglo-Saxon settlement sites have been located in the West Midland region but there may have been several settlement nuclei in Broadway parish in the early medieval period. The parish church is located in the western section of the parish over one kilometre from the present village and may have been associated with a settlement which has subsequently been largely deserted. The recorded presence of a priest in Broadway in the Domesday Survey suggests that a church had been established here by 1086 and the parish church, containing some 12th century fabric, is dedicated to St Edburgh, possibly named after Eadburh, the daughter of Offa, king of Mercia, who reigned in the later 8th century. Broadway remained an estate held by the church of Pershore at the time of the Domesday Survey, while Willersey at that date remained an estate of Evesham Abbey. A priest was also recorded on that manor and the parish church, with fabric dating from the 13th century, is dedicated to St Peter.



Cada's minster, Broadway, Worcs

At present nothing further is known about the nature of 'Cada's minster'. If it stood on the Willersey side of the boundary, as seems likely, it lies in close proximity to a scheduled site and is not threatened by development. For the moment, the site, like several others noted in Anglo-Saxon charters, remains an enigma, and one can only speculate upon its role in the ecclesiastical and historical development of the region.

Notes

1 I am indebted to Mr P Kitson for proffering his opinion concerning the probable dates of the charter clauses.

2 Broadway Inclosure Award, 1771, Shire Hall, Worcester. Af 647.2 (642).

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Department of Geography
The University of Birmingham

July 1983

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CASES

Ledsham

Richard N Bailey

In a series of studies Dr Taylor has called attention to the extraordinary interest of the Anglo-Saxon fabric of the church at Ledsham near Leeds (Taylor 1959; Taylor and Taylor 1965-78, I, 378-84; Taylor 1965, 58-61; Taylor 1969, 144-52). Its architectural sculpture has also attracted discussion but this has tended to focus around the problems of the ornament on the hood moulding and imposts of the tower door where there are difficulties in deciding on the extent to which Curzon's 1871 restoration reproduced earlier decoration. This preoccupation has diverted attention away from another, less ambitious, set of carvings which, if the argument of this note is accepted, are highly significant for the dating of the primary phase of the building. I refer to the decoration on the imposts of the chancel arch.

These imposts carry a framed relief ornament which takes the form of a row of contiguous circles each enclosing an arcuated four-sided figure; alternatively the motif can be read as a series of four-leaved flowers and this ambiguity seems to be quite deliberate (see cover illustration). This decoration is returned part way along the eastern and western faces of the wall to form a frieze.

There are both documentary and archaeological grounds for arguing that much of this carving pre-dates the 1871 restoration. We have, first, the evidence of Sir Stephen Glynne who described the chancel arch as he saw it in 1862 with 'imposts enriched with Norman sculpture and continued to the north and south as string-courses' (Glynne 1917, 206). Even if the surviving decoration were wholly attributable to Curzon's restoration, therefore, there are strong a priori reasons for concluding that he reproduced an earlier system of ornament; moreover, the choice of this particular motif would seem unlikely in the Victorian period unless it had been suggested by existing decoration.

Fortunately we do not need to depend solely upon such hypothetical assumptions about Curzon's methods because close examination of the carvings suggests that both the original ornament (seen by Glynne) and 1871 restoration work survive side by side. The frieze and imposts are formed of two different types of stone which correspond to two distinct techniques of cutting and of layout. One set is worked in a dark, somewhat reddish stone, its cutting still relatively fresh and its geometrical arrangement so ruthlessly regular

that, on both north and south faces, it makes no adjustment to fit the circles to the lateral frame (see cover illustration). The other set is carved on a type of stone which is identical in appearance to that of the jambs below; the surface of these stones is more worn and the sculptor has varied the circumference of his circles so as to fit them neatly within the frame. The junction between the two types of stone does not relate to any ornamental division nor does it make sense in structural terms except as evidence of partial replacement. It seems reasonable to argue from Glynne's notes and these observations that the imposts and frieze now contain Curzon's restoration work (on the reddish stone) alongside the remnants of carving which existed before he began his improvements.

This granted, what are the chronological implications of the use of this motif? In this note only a summary of the case can be presented, in advance of a fully documented statement which will appear elsewhere. Suffice it to say here that, whilst this kind of Roman and Late Antique ornament persisted in use in Eastern Mediterranean art until at least the 10th century, its popularity seems to have been more restricted in date in the west. Though the various art-historical chronologies are not as firmly based as often assumed, it is nevertheless striking that most Western Mediterranean occurrences of the motif are currently attributed to the 6th or 7th centuries. To this period, for example, belong appearances on metalwork like the cross of St Eligius, the book-cover of the gospels of Queen Theudelinda, and the hanging crown of King Recceswinth. This is also the likely date of its employment on architectural sculpture from Breviglieri in North Africa. In one Spanish church (St Juan de Banos) its use is firmly tied by inscription to 661 and the numerous other examples from the Iberian peninsula are also conventionally assigned to the late 6th or 7th centuries. Complex multiple renderings of the motif from Brescia in Italy and Jouarre in France are similarly dated.

It would, of course, be foolish to assert that there are no occurrences of the motif in western continental art after c 700. The various art-historical chronologies - particularly that involving Spanish churches - are not sufficiently precise to allow that claim. Despite this the inference to be drawn from the continental material is that this kind of ornament is most likely to belong to what (in English architectural terms) was a very early phase. This view is confirmed when we turn to the evidence from Britain.

In insular sculpture the motif is very rare indeed. I know of no example from Scotland, Wales or the Isle of Man. From Ireland an 8th century cross at Killamery carries an analagous type of decoration but this is so framed as to suggest that the sculptor intended to produce a series of four-petalled marigolds and its relevance to our enquiry must consequently be in doubt. Much more significant is the fact that the only other sculptural examples of the motif in England (apart from Ledsham) occur on architectural fragments at Hexham and Simonburn in Northumberland. In her discussion of the Hexham fragment, with its distinctive animal ornament, Professor Cramp concluded that it had formed part of the decoration of the 7th century church, its art belonging to a phase before more insular tastes became dominant (Cramp 1974, 119-20; 1978, 6). The Simonburn frieze presumably reflected the art of its imposing neighbour.

It follows from all this that the imposts and the frieze at Ledsham fit most comfortably into a 7th or early 8th century context. For a variety of reasons Dr Taylor assigned the first phases of Ledsham to an early date in the sequence of Anglo-Saxon architecture; the decoration of the chancel arch offers strong support to his arguments.

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School of English Language and Literature
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

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St Lawrence, Rushton Spencer — Bob Meeson

The church of St Lawrence, in the north Staffordshire village of Rushton Spencer (NGR SJ934621), retains enough of its 13th century timber frame to make the structure remarkable in two respects. Although the planks do not survive there is evidence which strongly suggests that the nave had plank walls. The crown-post roof is contemporary with the plank walls.

A discussion of plank-walled buildings and a detailed account of the timber frame of the church of St Lawrence appear in volume 14 of Vernacular Architecture[1]. This note emphasises the need to recognise and analyse early timber framing in English churches, not just for its intrinsic interest, but also as a contribution to our understanding of the general development of medieval structural carpentry.

Harold Taylor[2], Cecil Hewett[3], and others have paid much attention to the Anglo-Saxon timber church at Greensted in Essex, where a small chancel of upright logs set in the ground was succeeded by a larger structure with a timber cill[4]. The same progression from vertical planks sunk into trenches to planks set on timber cills has been noted in Denmark[5]. The walls of the church at Rushton Spencer were more sophisticated as the timber frame was divided into bays by principal posts and the intervening panels were filled in with vertical planks. Yet the planks were an integral part of the wall frame: they were not applied to the face of an extant wall frame in the manner of weatherboarding but contained in grooves on the faces of the posts and the soffit of each outer wall-plate.

Long curved braces extend from wall-posts to tie-beam creating the impression of a low arch across the nave. The tie-beam carries a crown-post with up- and down-braces.

There are two plates at the eaves. The outer plate carries the feet of the common rafters. The inner plate carries long curved ceiling ribs which are jointed to the collar near the centre-purlin. The employment of such a sophisticated roof in association with a plank-walled structure has wide implications for the interpretation of buildings from archaeological evidence.

The dating of the structure to the 13th century relies upon the style of original carved quatrefoil leaf patterns on the soffit of an inner plate and a fillet on the top face of the centre-purlin which has Early English parallels.

Notes

1 Meeson, R A, 1983, Plank-walled buildings and the Church of St Lawrence, Rushton Spencer, Vernacular Architect, 14

2 Taylor, H M and J, 1965, Anglo-Saxon Architecture 1, Cambridge, 263

3 Hewett, C A, 1980, English Historic Carpentry, London, 5ff

4 op cit

5 Foote, P G and Wilson, D M, 1970, The Viking Achievement, London, 420

16 Falna Crescent
Coton Green
Tamworth B79 8JS

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St Peter's, Wootton Wawen, Warwicks — Steven R Bassett

Birmingham University's School of History has begun a research project on the historical landscape, the church and the churchyard of Wootton Wawen, Warwicks, The author's structural study of St Peter's church since 1976 has raised a number of new suggestions about the extent of its surviving pre-Conquest fabric and the exact course of its structural development (Fig 1). The School's research project, which will be carried out over several years, will first of all make a thorough record of the evidence on which these suggestions are based, and will also test them by selective plaster removal inside the church. The suggestions are as follows:

(a) Stubs of the W and E walls of a N porticus survive, as Gem noticed (1971, 226) but much more substantially. Both are in bond with the tower, with the W wall stub surviving to a height of 3.88 m above the notional ground level (which, for convenience, is taken as the top of the foundation offset of the nave's E wall: 66.97 m AOD). Above this stub, there is a scar on the tower wall face for a further 1.10 m. There is similar evidence for the E wall of the porticus. The W wall stub, which extends N for c 1.44 m, now forms most of the E wall of an outbuilding giving access to the tower staircase (hereafter called the tower outbuilding). The E stub, which extends

N for c 1.40 m, has been incorporated into a buttress. The tower outbuildings and buttresses are of contemporary construction, and probably of earlier 19th century date. (They are almost certainly later than 1800).

(b) The top Anglo-Saxon storey of the tower had a single belfrey window, double-splayed, in the middle of each wall. Those on the S, E and N are now fully blocked, and the W one partially blocked. Internally each one's sloping head was supported by a large wooden lintel (which has been removed from the S window). The W window still has a wooden window frame, which may be contemporary with its lintel (Gem, 1971, 226, Fig 8). So much is well known. However, it is also clear that, externally, the S, E and N windows do not have round or segmental heads (VCH Warwicks, 203; Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 686), but gabled ones. (The exterior of the W window is concealed by plaster within the nave). Second, it is quite likely that the timber lintels, and probably the W window frame, are secondary. Although the tower's internal wall faces are whitewashed, there seem to be the lines of cuts made to insert these timbers around the W and E windows, and less obviously around the N and S ones. The windows, however, have been too well filled in externally for one to see if their gabled heads are splayed (as the sides certainly are).

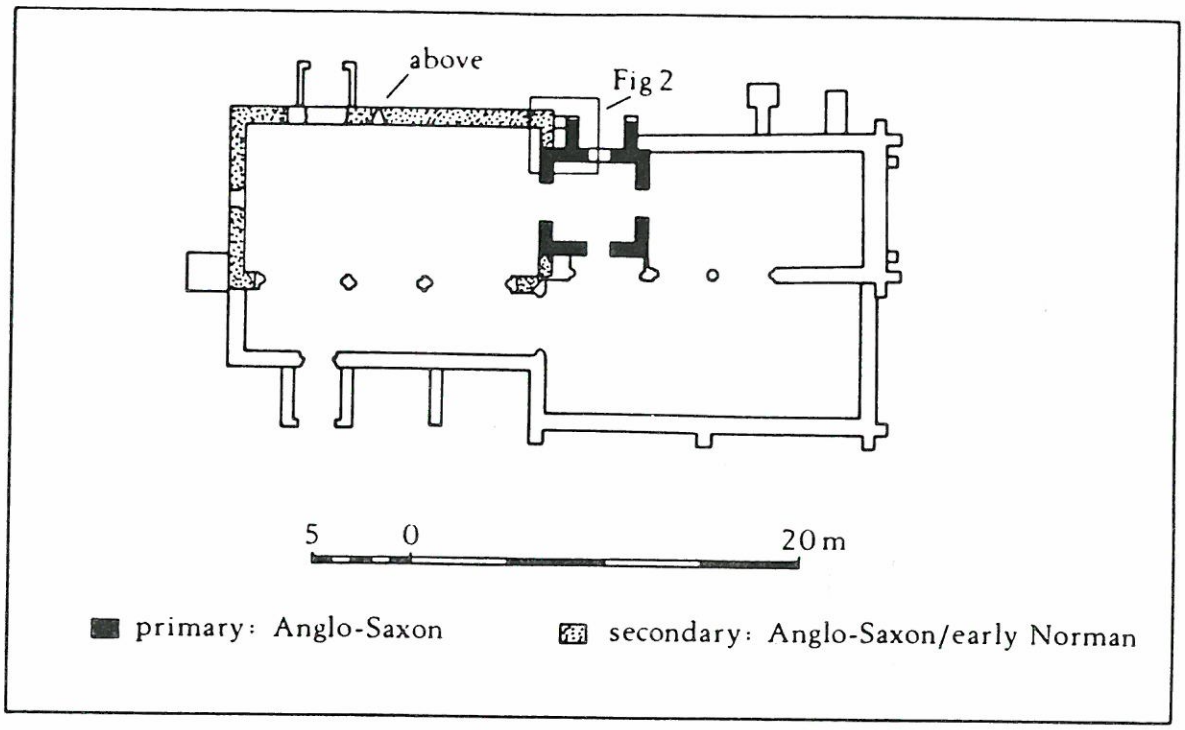
(c) As Gem reported (1971, 226), there is a further window of this type, almost completely blocked, lower down in the tower's W wall. This has similar proportions to the four belfrey windows, but is slightly smaller than them, and also has its wooden lintel in situ. Its exterior is concealed behind plaster in the nave. The window is unlikely ever to have been open to the air; it may merely have admitted light from the nave or perhaps was used for the display of relics. Plaster removal inside the tower would reveal further details of this opening, showing inter alia if it had always been a window, or if it had perhaps begun as a doorway which was then altered.

(d) While it is undoubtedly Anglo-Saxon, there is no prima facie evidence, either archaeological or architectural, to support an earlier 11th century date for the tower (Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 685; Gem, 1971, 226) or even a 10th century one (Radford, 1979, 78). It may well be earlier.

(e) The scars of the N and S walls of the first chancel are discernible as distinct irregularities in the surface of the plaster on the tower's external E wall face within the present chancel. In 1984 a section of plaster will be removed from the full width of this wall, subject to there being no painting on the exposed plaster or on any plasters beneath it.

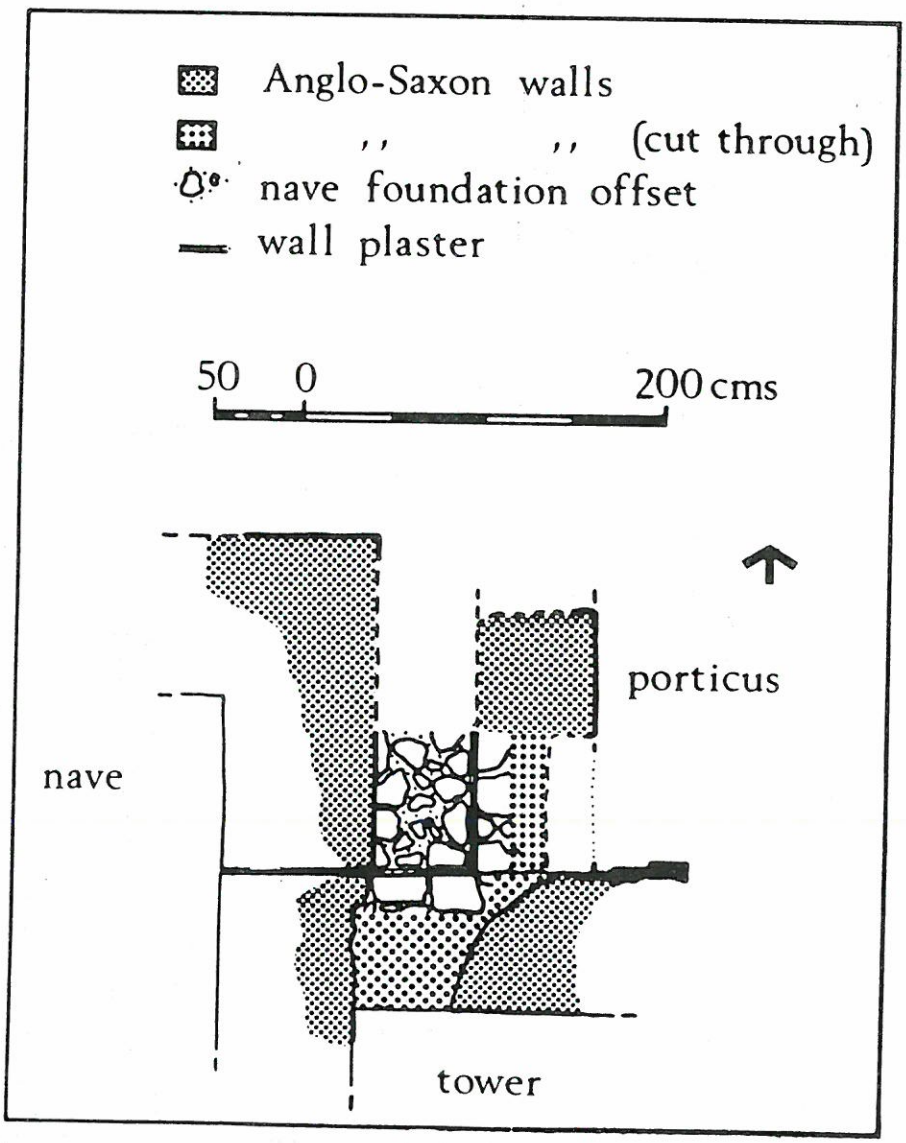
(f) Fundamentally the present chancel almost certainly belongs to the Norman period, rather than to the 13th century (to which it has always been assigned), and is perhaps contemporary with the Norman work in the nave. This suggestion is based partly on the observation that all its datable features (which are 13th century and later) are clearly secondary, and partly on the similarity of its coursed rubble walling to that of the demonstrably Norman fabric in the nave.

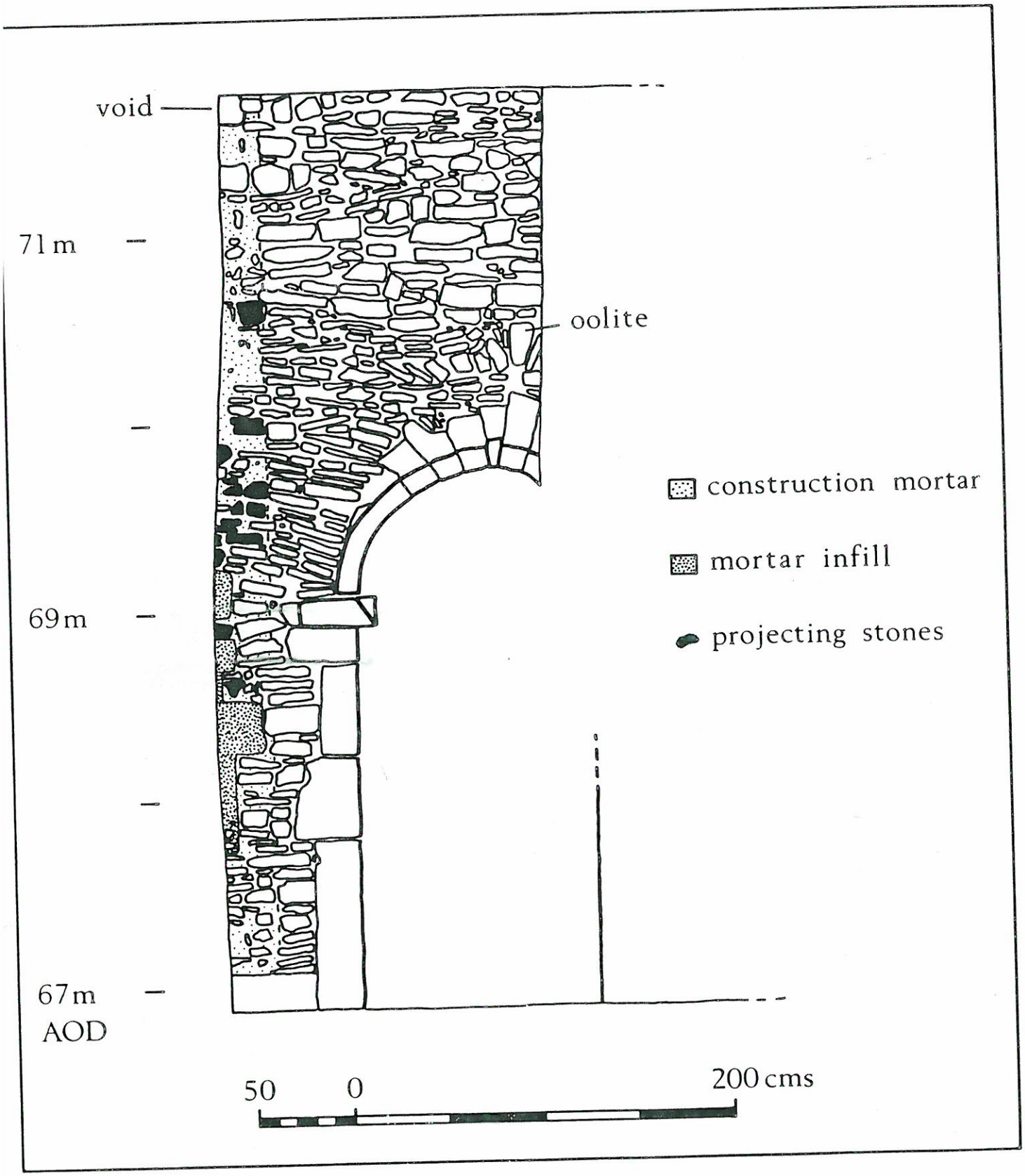
(g) The nave exhibits four major phases of construction. The earliest of these is very early Norman or earlier. The second is Norman, though



Wootton Wawen: Fig 1

Wootton Wawen: Fig 2





Wootton Wawen: Fig 3

not necessarily 12th century as is usually suggested (eg VCH Warwicks, 203; Pevsner and Wedgwood, 1966, 481). The third is apparently late 13th or early 14th century, so dated by the observation that the window of that date at the E end of the nave's N wall is apparently of contemporary construction. (Its lower parts have clearly been inserted into the Norman fabric.) The fourth phase consists of the late 15th century clerestory. The lowest three phases are all visible in the nave's N and W external wall faces. On the N the first-phase work consistently survives to a height of c 0.65 m above notional ground level. It incorporates the two lowest NE and NW quoin stones (which are large and laid in randomly side-alternate fashion) as well as the two lowest W jamb stones of a partly surviving, blocked N doorway; all of these are of local sandstone. On the W, however, the first-phase work survives to an estimated maximum height of 1.85 m above notional ground level. Here it incorporates the whole of a narrow blocked doorway, flat-headed and constructed of large through-stones. (Both this and the N doorway were given a round head internally during the second phase.) The second-phase work survives consistently for a further 3.60 m, ie to a height of c 4.20 m above notional ground level, in both the N and the W wall. It incorporates large randomly side-alternate NE and NW quoin stones of oolitic limestone, a single-splayed round-headed window, and the majority of the blocked N doorway, which was rebuilt to be internally round-headed and externally flat-headed. All of these features are of oolitic limestone. The third-phase work survives to clerestory level on the N, and retains something of its W gable head. Its NE and NW quoin stones, laid in regular side-alternate fashion, are of sandy green limestone. Whereas the second-phase work represents a major reconstruction of the nave, the third-phase work apparently did little more than heighten the existing walls. This effectively added a blind clerestory, perhaps in response to the slightly earlier addition of a S aisle. The work involved dismantling the uppermost courses of the existing nave walls to a level just below the monolithic oolitic limestone head of the single-splayed N window.

Work done in 1983

The majority of the external face of the nave's N wall has now been drawn, at a scale of 1:20, up to the base of the later 15th century clerestory; the remainder will be drawn in 1984. The drawing reinforces the suggested three-phase development of the nave up to that level, but has not so far revealed any new features. Early 20th century pointing has entirely hidden the construction mortars on this wall. Petrological examination, however, to begin in 1984, should certainly add a lot more information about constructional phases, since even to an untrained eye there are obvious differences in the types of stone used in each phase.

Modern wall plaster was removed in two areas:

Area 1: The lowest 5 m of the outer face of the tower's S wall is accessible in the Lady Chapel. The plaster, put onto bare stonework not earlier than 1881, was removed from a little over half the available area; (the remainder will be taken off in 1984). This had several interesting consequences (Fig 3). First, it revealed the W voussoirs and jamb stones of the S tower arch in their entirety, thereby emphasising the details of construction which the Taylors described (1965, 686). Second, it indicated the possibility that its round head may not be an original feature of the tower arch, though the W jamb undoubtedly is. While none of the wall faces shows more than an approximation at coursing, the arrangement of the stones above the head

of the arch is nonetheless clearly anomalous. Several of them appear to be set as if to form the voussoirs of a small opening, now truncated by the tower arch, with a piece of oolite as its keystone. Removal of the rest of the plaster should clarify the situation. Third, the scar of part of the W wall of a S porticus was revealed. The full thickness of this wall was not available, since all but 0.30 m at most of its E side is concealed by a much later N-S wall. However, the scar is prominent to a height of at least 4.90 m above the visible base of the tower's wall face (and 4.78 m above notional ground level).

This porticus wall, which was clearly of contemporary build with the tower, apparently had an opening at its N end. Five large rectangular holes were found, one above another, within the scar. These had been backfilled with poor-quality mortar - not removed during investigation - of an entirely different sort from the adjacent Anglo-Saxon construction mortar. It seems very likely that each hole originally held a jamb stone, although the uppermost one may have held an impost or a flat-headed lintel. The bottom of the lowest hole is 0.82 m above the base of the tower's wall face, which could mean that the opening was a window. There is a good reason, however, why it should instead be seen as a doorway. The exposed surface below the holes, within the line of the former porticus wall, is not scarred, unlike the surface above them, but is fairly even. This suggests that a long rectangular jamb stone, set on end, once stood flush against the surface. If so, it would have corresponded almost exactly in height with the adjacent stone - the lowest one visible - of the tower arch's W jamb. Such a doorway could have served either for external access or to lead into an adjacent porticus. Doorways in the side walls of porticus are not common, but occur for the former purpose at Reculver (two; Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 507) and Escomb (Pocock and Wheeler, 1971, 18-19), and at the E end of the N aisle at Wing (Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 669); and for the latter purpose at St Mary's Deerhurst (ibid, 200) and probably at Stow (ibid, 590-1). It can be seen that Wootton Wawen's N porticus did not have a corresponding doorway.

Area 2: Wall plaster was also removed within the tower outbuildings, probably constructed in the early 19th century, which incorporates part of the W wall of the former N porticus (Figs 1, 2). Before its construction, the upper stages of the tower must have been reached by a timber staircase inside the lowest stage. When the tower outbuilding was erected, a large breach was made through the tower's N wall immediately beside its junction with the nave's E wall, and stone steps were constructed to give access to an enclosed timber staircase suspended against the internal face of the tower's N wall. A breach was also made, for a brick-lined doorway, in the porticus wall.

Plaster removal inside the outbuilding revealed the face of the nave wall, a sizeable area of the W side of the breach through the tower wall, and the junction between them. Several of the stone steps were also removed, which allowed a limited excavation beneath them to examine this junction to a much lower level, as well as the junction between the W wall of the porticus and the tower. In summary the following results were achieved. First, it was possible to uncover the N face of the tower and the W face of the porticus wall down to the notional ground level. The two were in bond and clearly of contemporary construction. Up to a level c 0.16 m above notional ground level both still carried a thick coat of wall plaster which was continuous round the angle between them; however, little or none of it survived higher up. Second, the nave wall showed the same distinctions between its two earliest phases of work as can be seen on the N, with their

interface at exactly the same height above notional ground level. Here, however, there was no modern pointing, so that the construction mortars were exposed; they were distinctly different in both composition and colour. The second-phase mortar had also survived in places as a surface spread. Third, both phases of the nave wall abutted the tower, with a wide, straight-joint between them at all levels. Fourth, the nave wall was found to have a large foundation offset; (its top has been taken to represent notional ground level). This abutted the plastered faces of the tower and W porticus wall, thereby demonstrating that the latter were built from a lower ground level). Its construction mortar appears identical to the mortar of the first-phase wall which sits on it. At some time after the nave had been largely reconstructed in second-phase fabric, both it and the tower were externally plastered; however, before laboratory analysis it is impossible to tell how much, if any, of the earlier plaster remained on the tower's wall face. Today none of the church's exterior is plastered, but records of the church's late 19th century restorations suggest that both nave and tower were plastered until then (although the date of that plaster is unknown). Incidentally, the plaster removed in the tower outbuilding during the present investigation was demonstrably all modern.

Discussion

Several different schemes have been proposed for the early stages of St Peter's structural development, with the Taylors (1965, 686) and Gem (1971, 226) only disagreeing about the plan of the church's earliest nave. Radford's recently published scheme (1979), however, marks a radical departure, but there is not the space here for the detailed critique which, in the author's opinion, it requires.

The current investigation should produce enough new evidence for most of these differences to be resolved. It has already shown that the present nave, though almost certainly Anglo-Saxon in origin, was not the first one. The discovery of plaster on the tower's N external wall face, trapped there by the nave's E wall, indicates that the original nave was no wider than the tower. In view of the tower's limited size - external width of 6.18 m and internal width of 4.60 m (N to S) - they may well have been of the same width, with a narrower chancel. If so, the plan of St Mary's, Breamore, Hants,is analogous, though there the tower is internally half as wide again. Other Anglo-Saxon churches, however, have a comparably narrow axial tower and a nave of equal or lesser width, eg Dunham Magna, North Leigh and Norton, and perhaps St Mary's, Guildford. At Wootton Wawen, the areas where plaster stripping would show the first nave's width have not been available for investigation since the 1880s, and the writer has been unable to trace any records of the restorations undertaken by then which throw light on the matter (pace Radford: 1979, 77, lines 41-42). However, the corbels on which the tower's W long-and-short quoins end - taken by the Taylors (1965, 686) to be evidence that the original nave was wider than the tower - can now be explained. They were presumably inserted when the first phase of the present, wider nave was constructed, and therefore should indicate the height of its walls. (The second-phase walls, however, were rather higher, since the top of the round-headed window in the nave's N wall is above the level of the corbels.)

It is too soon for useful discussion of the dating of the church's earlier structural development. This will be possible when it is known whether or not, for example, the double-splayed belfrey windows are in their original form or if the tower arches' round heads are contemporary with their jambs. In any case it seems that the construction date of the tower

and two porticus may well be rather earlier than has previously been suggested. They belong to the earliest of three major structural phases, of which the latest one incorporates a single-splayed, round-headed window and two doorways which are internally round-headed and externally flat-headed. Whatever the outcome of the research project's future work at Wootton Wawen, it will have been most useful to study a church whose first two major building phases, almost certainly both Anglo-Saxon, show considerable differences of constructional techniques and architectural style.

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School of History
University of Birmingham

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St Wilfrid's Church, Hickleton, 1983 Excavation

R E Sydes and Peter F Ryder

The parish church of St Wilfrid (formerly St Denys) at Hickleton, between Barnsley and Doncaster in South Yorkshire, has recently been completely excavated by the County Archaeological Service in advance of major reparatory works which will entail the removal of all archaeological layers from within the building. This building programme, which includes the construction of a reinforced concrete raft beneath the whole structure, has been necessitated after mining subsidence reactivated a natural fault in the limestone bedrock, occasioning severe structural damage to the church.

Externally, St Wilfrid's church is very much a product of the late 15th and early 16th centuries, a low embattled structure consisting of aisled nave and chancel with a western tower of the common South Yorkshire type. The north chancel aisle and vestry, in the same Perpendicular style as the remainder of the building, are in fact additions made when the church was restored by Bodley in the 1870s. The only apparent evidence of an earlier building was to be found inside, in a simple Norman chancel arch with chevron ornament.

Excavation over the past six months has shown a building history far more complex than that which could have been deduced from above-ground evidence. Pre-Conquest activity on the site is evidenced by the find of a silver penny

of c 910 AD (York mint) in the nave, and various pre-church features. It is as yet uncertain whether there was a Saxon church on the site: remains of a structure currently under investigation, beneath the north chancel aisle, may be of Pre-Conquest date.

The mid-12th century church to which the surviving chancel arch belongs consisted of a nave of the present dimensions and a short square chancel. When the chancel was doubled in length in the 13th century, worked stones from the earlier east end were re-used in the footings, including the head of what was apparently the central of a triplet of round-headed lights. This is quite an ornate piece, bearing cable ornament and a sunk star pattern very reminiscent of that on one of the impost blocks of the chancel arch. A fragment of the head of a second window is much plainer, showing that it was only the central opening which was so richly carved.

Late 12th or early 13th century alterations also included the construction of a turret or belfry at the west end of the nave, carried on an arch only 1.5 m inside the line of the west gable, and the addition of a south aisle to the nave, together with a small porch covering the door near the west end of the south wall of the aisle.

In the mid-14th century the church was reduced in size, perhaps as a consequence of the social and economic vicissitudes of the century. The south aisle was demolished, perhaps as a consequence of the collapse of the belfry. Re-used ashlar from the aisle arcade, including voussoirs bearing a painted leaf scroll pattern, was re-used in the footings of the new south wall to the nave.

Subsequently the church was enlarged again, a two-bay north aisle being added to the nave in the late 14th or earlier 15th century. Victorian re-building of the aisle walls and re-tooling of the arcade makes a closer dating difficult. The present south porch also appears to be an addition of this period.

The late medieval programme of extension which left the church largely in its present form appears to have been embarked upon at the end of the 15th century, and can be correlated with increasing prosperity in the area, which is also reflected in domestic architecture. A chapel was built on the south side of the nave to the east of the porch, and extended as an aisle along the full length of the chancel. The west tower was built and the building received its crenellated parapet and pinnacles.

Little evidence of post-medieval alterations survived the Victorian restorer. A vestry on the north side of the chancel had been demolished prior to the 19th century, and was a structure of uncertain date, the sub-floor remains of which have been badly damaged by the installation of a 19th century heating system. All archaeological evidence within the south aisle of the chancel was removed at the same time by the construction of the Halifax family vault.

The complete excavation of the church interior has involved the removal of over 50 burials, together with the remains of around twice as many individuals which were in a disturbed context. Several medieval grave slabs have been recovered, the most important being a semi-effigial slab to one of the Haringel family, lords of the manor in the early 1300s. This stone, stylistically a hybrid between the conventional cross slab and an effigy, depicts a bearded civilian and has a marginal inscription in Lombardic capitals.

Other finds include a silver ring of c 1300 and an assemblage of pewter chalice, paten and iron buckle, both associated with priest's burials. A lens of rock crystal found close to the medieval altar position was probably part of a reliquary. A large number of pieces of early 13th century stained glass with grisaille patterns, found in the same area, are probably associated with the east window or windows of the extended chancel.

The last phase of excavation work is still in progress at the time of writing (September 1983), whilst conservation work and analysis of finds are proceeding.

South Yorkshire County Archaeology Service

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St Clement's Chapel, Pontefract Castle, West Yorkshire — Jerry Thorp

Excavations of the remains of the chancel of St Clement's Chapel at Pontefract Castle are continuing as part of a joint project between West Yorkshire MCC Archaeology Unit, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, Department of the Environment, Manpower Services Commission and the Duchy of Lancaster. The work forms part of a three-year programme of archaeological examination and conservation of the castle.

The chapel was discovered in 1882 as part of major clearance work on the site preparatory to making it into a public park. The chancel was crudely cleared and conserved, while the nave was uncovered and then reburied; the western gable of the nave has been identified recently by geophysical survey. The surviving remains are built of a mixture of magnesian limestone and sandstone blocks, generally well dressed and well coursed, bonded by modern concrete and surviving to a consistent five courses or 1 m high. A detailed structural survey suggests that most of what survived before the present excavation work was probably rebuilt to its original form in the late Victorian period. The remains consist of an apsidal east end, of 4.5 m internal diameter, linked to a rectangular main structure measuring 8.25 x 5.75 m internally. The lowest course constitutes externally a chamfered drip course of the apse slightly smaller than that of the main structure, while internally this course forms an offset.

Externally around the apse, rising from the chamfer, are four pilasters with plain roll mouldings, and in the angles between the apse and the main structure are large attached shafts. Two doorways pass through the south wall of the chancel. The first at the extreme east has simple roll mouldings whilst the second at the extreme west of the wall is completely plain, and can be shown to be almost certainly a 19th century feature. The north wall is featureless with the exception of a window sill, reset at ground level, again almost certainly during the 19th century. Internally the base of the apse semi-circle is marked by two large plain attached shafts. The base of the north example retains a fragment of cable moulding. The arch from main structure to apse is of three orders, of plain attached shafts. Over the innermost order of the north pier a presumably original simple scalloped capital has been reset. To the west the wall of the chancel arch only survives to a single course but an arch width of 1.25 m is indicated.

Excavations, which are continuing, confirm the structural evidence for the development of the chapel: the original square-ended gable of the chancel, of possible early-12th century date, had an apse added during the middle of the 12th century.

Phase 1

Examination of the internal arrangements of the early phase, although not complete, has revealed what is believed to be an altar base, consisting of a sub-square feature formed of undressed sandstone blocks and measuring approximately 2 m across, positioned some 2 m to the west of the east gable wall along the central axis.

Phase 2

Phase 2 is marked by the demolition of the gable wall of the chapel and the construction of an apse. The early phase deposits were sealed by approximately 50 cms depth of makeup layers used to raise the floor level to a height sufficient to pass over the demolished stub of the east gable wall and into the newly constructed apse. Within the apse a large pit, approximately 1 m deep and 'D' shaped in plan, neatly fitting into the apse with a consistent 50 cms margin, had been dug and back-filled with the same makeup material. This pit, dug to the depth of bedrock, appears to have disturbed some earlier graves; although no skeletal materials were found in situ, a large number of small human bones was recovered from the general makeup material. The purpose of the pit is uncertain but it may have been intended to 'cleanse' the area of earlier graves in preparation for the construction of the apse, but without disturbing material 'beneath' the existing proposed wall lines. The fill of the pit produced a small sherd of Andenne Ware of 11th/12th century date.

Phase 3

Above this level the earliest floors of the enlarged chapel survived only the eastern half of the chancel though not extending into the apse. The arrangements, though not fully understood, are set out in the accompanying figure. These consisted of a narrow gully across the chancel, some 2.5 m west of the apse arch and perhaps supporting some form of rail or screen. Against both the north and south walls trenches extended eastwards of the gully, but respected the doorway position. Immediately east of the gully, the deposits rose, suggesting a step, which to both north and south turned to the west to run about ½ m in front of the 'benches'. To the east of this 'step' and positioned exactly along the central axis of the chapel, two well dressed stone features had been set into the floor. Both contained holes, the smaller western example had a circular hole of 3 cm diameter and the larger eastern example, a square hole measuring 6 cm across. In the immediate vicinity patches of mortar flooring were discovered which had evidently been replaced several times. However, deposits above this level had been destroyed by 19th century clearance works. When the chapel fell into disuse is therefore uncertain, but a date in the 15th century seems likely.

Pre-chapel

The origins of the chapel are equally uncertain. However, mention has already been made of graves underlying the building and which appear to be on the same alignment. Two graves, both of babies, were found in the apse and that of an adult near the chancel arch. All three had been cut by

later features. Similarly, large amounts of disarticulated human bones have been recovered during the course of excavating neighbouring buildings, often from deposits believed to form part of the original Norman bailey bank. Associated pottery dates to the 11th/early 12th century.

The size and position of the building is unusual for a castle chapel. Excavations to the south and east of the chapel suggest that before the castle was laid out in the late 11th century the chapel site was the crest of a promontory with a commanding view. The evidence suggests that parts of the chapel may pre-date the castle and that the present building, extended in the mid 12th century, overlies a cemetery which may be of late Saxon date. If this is the case then it is the earliest authenticated post-Roman cemetery known in West Yorkshire. Excavations are continuing and work on the human bone has not yet commenced.

West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council Archaeology Unit

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St Mary, Stow, Lincs — Naomi Field

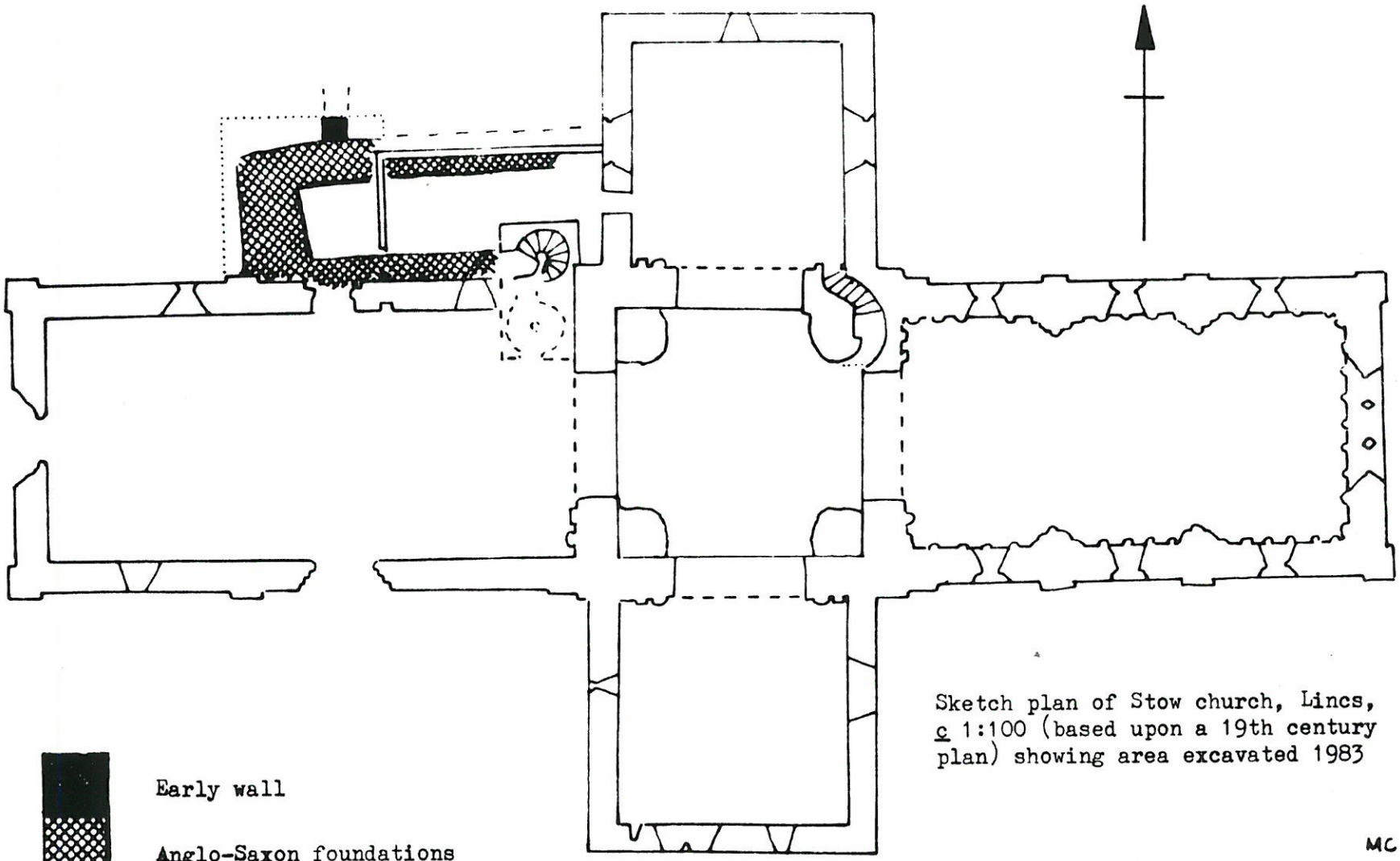
Excavations took place during August and September 1983 in advance of building work which will extend the Victorian vestry to provide a meeting room and kitchen facilities for the church.

The standing fabric of the church is generally thought to consist of late Saxon transepts and lower part of the tower, with Norman nave and chancel. It was hoped that more Saxon phases of the church would be revealed, particularly as the area under investigation lay immediately west of a Saxon doorway of unknown purpose in the north transept.

Fifty-two burials, including 6 in coffins, were found, many of which had been cut through the foundations of a structure running underneath the standing Norman nave. This substructure is formed out of roughly faced, mortared limestone with a rubble core. Its west wall is 1.45 m wide with an external stepped foundation a further 0.82 m in width. The north foundation has no step and is slightly narrower (1.20 m wide). It runs under the present vestry wall and is not quite parallel to its southern companion, which lies directly beneath the nave north wall. These foundations seem to belong to a porticus or aisle of a pre-Norman nave. No internal cross walls have yet been found. A considerable length of the south wall is heavily burnt, indicating that there was no standing masonry above. Perhaps this argues in favour of an aisle rather than a porticus. There is no visible evidence of a join between the nave and the 'aisle' wall suggesting that they are of one build in spite of the irregular line of the north wall.

It has not yet been determined whether the newly discovered foundations are contemporary with the north transept. The presumed junctions were disturbed by Victorian foundations for a boiler house and the stair turret, which was moved from inside the nave when the vestry was built in 1865.

The Saxon foundations cut through four burials which, in turn, lie over a considerable amount of ash and charcoal and a burnt clay floor. The foundations also cut through an unbonded limestone rubble wall 1 m wide, apparently running parallel to the Saxon west wall. It still remains to



Early wall

Anglo-Saxon foundations

Sketch plan of Stow church, Lincs, c 1:100 (based upon a 19th century plan) showing area excavated 1983

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be seen whether it is contemporary with or earlier than the burnt deposits.

A photogrammetric survey of the north wall of the nave and both the transepts has been carried out by the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at York on behalf of the RCHM.

Purlins and rafters in the vestry roof (built 1865) were found to be re-used timbers from a screen: presumably the one known to have been removed from the chancel at that time.

North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit

September 1983