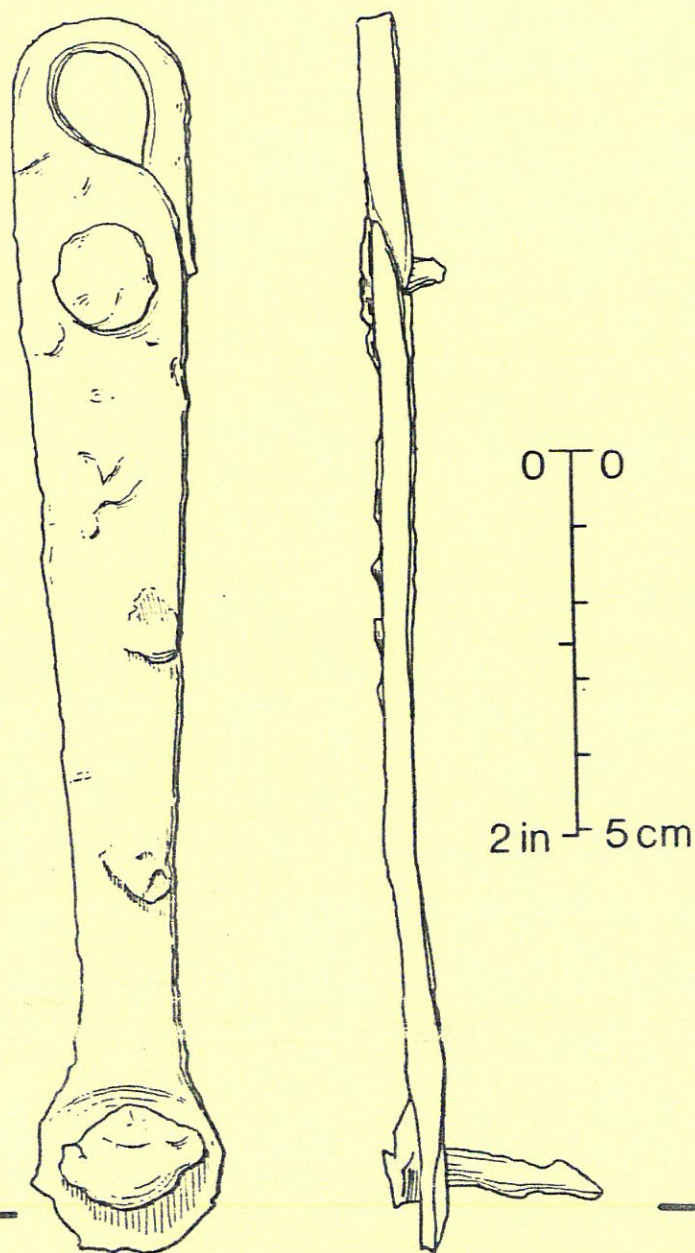


BULLETIN

of the CBA Churches Committee



Number 24 1986

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Contributions to the Bulletin (articles, reviews etc) should be sent to The Editor, Mrs Ruth Taylor, 30 Castle Close, Tickhill, Doncaster DN11 9QT

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers.

Cover illustration: Ailcy Hill, Ripon - one of the iron chest fittings.

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NOTES

Changes

Bath and Wells	Robert Croft has been recommended by the CBA Churches Committee to succeed Dr Ian Burrow as diocesan archaeological consultant.
Bristol	Kirsty Rodwell has been nominated as consultant archaeologist to the diocese, following the departure of Mr David Dawson to Taunton.
Birmingham	Michael Hodder has been appointed as a member of the DAC.
Norwich	Dr Peter Wade-Martin has been appointed as a member of the DAC.
Oxford	Dr Ian Burrow has been appointed as a member of the DAC.
York	Dr Peter Addyman has retired as archaeological consultant. His place is taken by Dr Harold Mytum.

Conference

The CBA's Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship is originating a conference, to be held in Bristol over the weekend of 11-13 September 1987, entitled Chapels and meeting-houses in the west country. Contributions will include David Dawson on 'Chapels and meeting-houses of Bristol', Dr Rory O'Donnell on 'Roman Catholic architecture in the south and west, 1559-1914', Dr Clyde Binfield on 'The patronage of the Wills family', Christopher Stell on 'Chapel windows, or lights to lighten the Gentiles', and Roger Thorne on 'Chapels in the south-western landscape'. George McHardy of English Heritage will also be there, to survey sources of grant aid. The previous conference in this series, held in Manchester in 1984, was regarded by those who attended as a great success. The Bristol gathering seems likely to be just as worthwhile, and will probably be more popular. Inquiries should be directed to Mick Aston at the Department of Extra Mural Studies, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol, BS8 1HR (0272 303617 Ex 4617), under whose auspices the conference will be held.

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URBAN CHURCHES AND THE CBA

Derek Keene

The Urban Churches Group began as a working party of the CBA Urban Research Committee. It is now a less formal group associated both with that committee and with the Churches Committee. So far, the group has met approximately annually in towns which had many churches during the Middle Ages. The focus has been mainly though not exclusively, on lesser churches rather than on cathedrals and monasteries. In recent years meetings have been held at Bristol, Chester, Norwich, London, Canterbury, Winchester, and Worcester. Meetings are open to all interested parties, although it is intended to preserve the atmosphere of a colloquium rather than to establish a series of full-scale conferences. The most recent meetings have had some success in promoting contact and discussion between those with national and those with local interests.

Despite its initial concern with the Middle Ages the group has always been interested

THE CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY OF BRISTOL

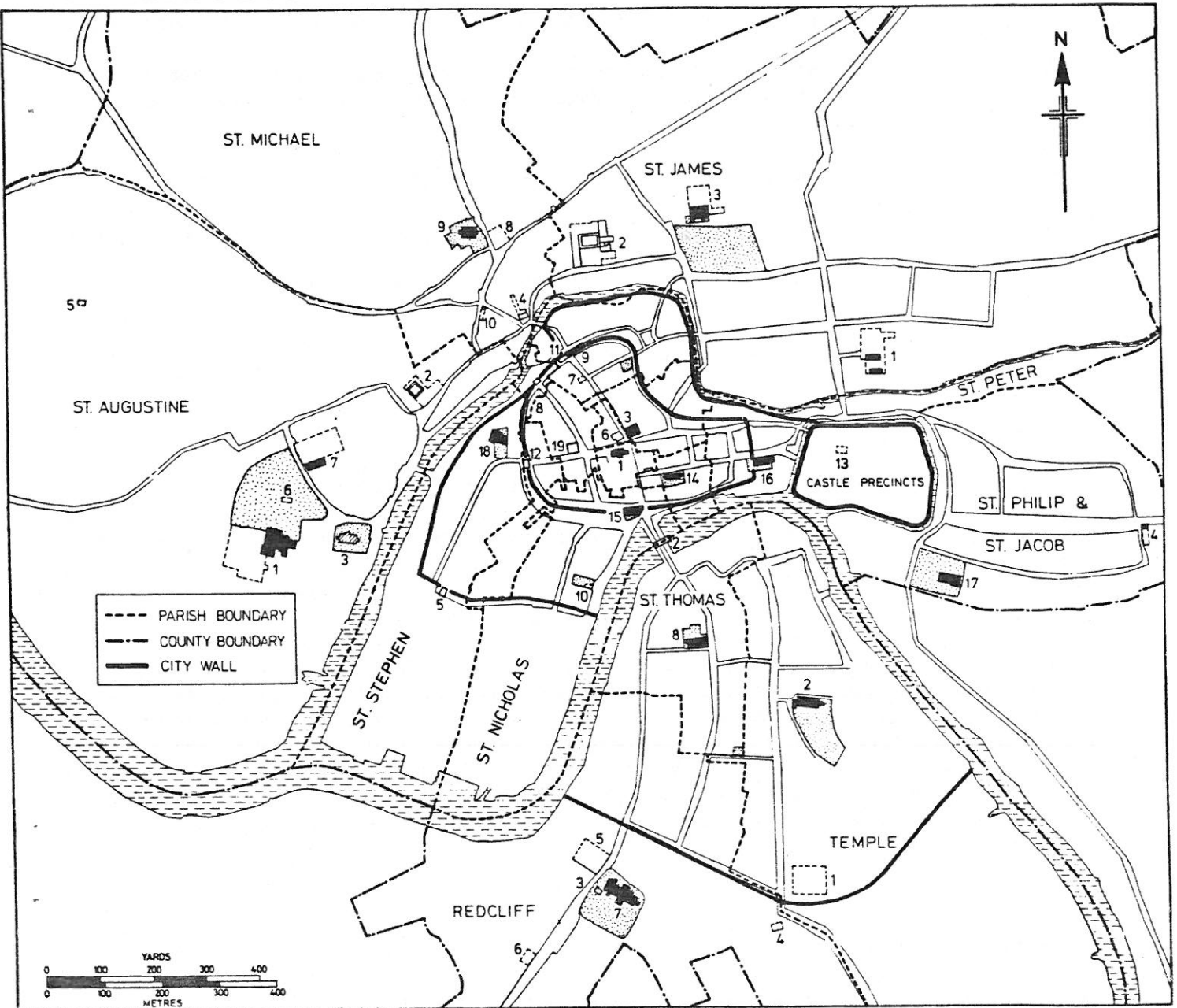


Figure 1 - The churches of the County of Bristol

in Urban places of worship of all types and of all periods. On the Saturday night at Worcester the group was to be found in a disco contemplating the arrangements for the segregation of children during Congregational worship. Chris Stell's paper on the following morning (to be published in a later issue of this Bulletin) vividly demonstrated how in their social context and in their adaptation to the urban fabric the non-conformist chapels of Worcester were directly comparable to the parish churches of medieval towns.

An early aim of the group was to promote a survey of medieval urban churches. An ingenious and comprehensive record form was devised. This proved to be beyond most people's time and resources to complete, although large collections of data have been made for Lincoln and Chester. The Winchester churches have been published in a different way (D. Keene, Survey of Medieval Winchester (Winchester Studies 2, Oxford, 1985), with summary table on pp 134-5), and a variety of archaeological and historical work has been undertaken at Norwich. It has become clear, however, that straightforward handlists of urban churches outlining their history, noting earlier investigations, and describing their archaeological status and potential are of great practical use and interest, both locally and nationally. Handlists for several towns have been produced in connection with the group's activities. The latest version of David Dawson's comprehensive listing for Bristol which follows is intended to be the first of several handlists to be published in the Bulletin.

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HANDLIST OF MEDIEVAL PLACES OF WORSHIP WITHIN THE
1373 BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF BRISTOL

David Dawson

Introductory notes (see Figure 1)

The following is an update of the handlist produced in 1977 and later surveys (Dawson 1981, 1982). Two parish churches (St. Mary-le-Port (Watts and Rahtz) and St Augustine-the-Less (Boore)) have been completely excavated, and one monastic house (Greyfriars (Ponsford)) and one hospital (St Bartholomews (Price)) substantially excavated. Many other sites have been site-watched or subjected to limited excavation (particularly St Nicholas).

Some conclusions

- 1 All sites have produced vital information, not only about the buildings being studied but about the physical development of the city.
- 2 All the parish churches have been used extensively for post-medieval burials but these burials are valuable objects of study in their own right and, despite the disturbance to other archaeological deposits, enough survives to be of value.
- 3 Small scale excavation and site-watching on a pre-arranged agreement between church authority and museum can provide useful archaeological evidence.

Abbreviations

- AI archaeological investigation work (short version only)
BG burial ground
DB Domesday
Tax Taxatio c. 1921
VE Valor Ecclesiasticus

Grading

- A of exceptional archaeological importance and deserving preservation of the site, failing that full investigation
- B of archaeological importance and deserving some (possibly full) investigation in the event of demolition or building works
- C of archaeological interest and deserving a watching brief in the event of disturbance
- D of no foreseeable archaeological interest

suffix grades in lower case refer to standing structure only

Parish churches

- 1 ALL SAINTS (alias All Hallows), Corn Street - ST 58877302
(map - inner city 1)

Deeply embedded in the urban fabric, on one of the four main streets. Probably contemporary with the laying out of this part of the city possibly c 1100: pre 1153 to St Augustine's Abbey by Ranulf Earl of Chester: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (VE): 1958 chapel-at-ease to St Stephen with St Nicholas, St Leonard and All Saints (OC).

Sole remaining central parish church which retains a rich variety of architectural features: 12th cent nave arcades, core of tower, 15th cent nave, Tower rebuilt 1711-16, lantern added 1807, chancel rebuilt 1850 and extensively restored 1898. 18th cent coffee house over north aisle, 15th cent glebe house over south aisle. Fragments of 15th cent wall paintings, possible more survives behind 18th cent memorial to Edward Colston. Some disturbance by burials inside; 1916 north aisle underpinned (Pritchard, 1920; 141).

This church is an excellent example where archaeology should provide much information to elucidate the development both of the building and this part of the medieval town. Archaeological work has been limited to sitewatching of reflooring of nave.

Converted for use as the Diocesan Education Centre, but redundancy has been proposed. Grade Ab (DoE grade B).

- 2 CHRIST CHURCH (formerly Holy Trinity), Broad Street - ST 58897307
(map - inner city 3)

On one of the four main streets. Probably contemporary with the laying out of this part of the town, possibly c 1100: pre 1147 to Tewkesbury Abbey by Philip the Priest: 1276 parish church (12 Tewk 81): 1291 (Tax): 1535 (rectory and 4 chantries) (VE): 1540 first called Christchurch; 1787 parish united with St Ewen (OC).

The old church was demolished in 1787 and the present building (probably designed by William Paty) was completed in 1790. Although there have been later alterations notably those of 1883 when the portal was added and the interior reordered, the church remains Bristol's best 18th cent city church. It is probable that substantial archaeological evidence has survived of the earlier buildings in spite of disturbance by burials and 19th cent heating ducts. Small BG on north side retains only a few memorials not in situ.

Redundancy has been proposed. Description with plan of present church

(Ison 1952, 51, 72-76).

Grade Bb (DoE grade B).

3 ST EWEN, Broad Street - ST 5877306
(map - inner city 6)

On one of the four main streets. Probably founded when this part of the town was laid out c 1100: pre 1147 to Thurstan the Priest by Robert Earl of Gloucester: 1285 parish church: (12 Tewk 75d): 1535 (rectory) (VE): 1788 parish united with Christ Church (Kirby, 167): by 1824 demolished.

Much damage must have been done when the new Council House (1822-7) was built with cellars. 12th cent architectural fragments were found during construction work (Nicholls and Taylor, 1881; 249).

No visible remains. Plans and section (Harding 235, 245-6).
Grade C.

4 ST JOHN BAPTIST, Broad Street - ST 58747315
(map - inner city 9)

On inner town wall over north gate. Presumably founded by north gate when inner town wall built c 1100: 1191-3 confirmed to Tewkesbury Abbey by Bishop of Worcester (12 Tewk 82): c 1291 administered by St James Priory (Tax): 1535 (rectory and 3 chantries) (VE): 1580 parish united with St Lawrence: 1957 parish united with St Mary-le-port (OC).

A church of two storeys each with chancel and nave, which was erected in several stages in the 14th and 15th cents. The crypt was dedicated to the Holy Cross. It is important archaeologically in that it is integral with the town wall and preserves the only surviving town gateway under its west tower. It is also the last church to preserve the local feature of a one bay clerestorey to light the rood loft. The church was used extensively for burials but this should not detract from the archaeological importance of the building. BG in Taylor's Court (ST 58857317) consecrated 1409 (Nicholls and Taylor, 1881; 156) preserves 18th cent and later memorials: wall and gateway (DoE grade II).

Vested in the Redundant Churches Fund, 1985.
Grade Aa (DoE Grade A).

5 ST LAWRENCE, Bell Lane - ST 58737314
(Map - inner city 11)

On the inner town wall, abutting St John Baptist. Probably founded in 12th cent after the wall was built; parish church: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (rectory and 1 chantry) (VE): 1580 parish united with St John Baptist.

Church demolished post 1580: some remains recorded (Bindon 1859, 133): site occupied by post-war shops and offices.
Grade D.

6 ST LEONARD, Corn Street - ST58747296
(map - inner city 12)

Over the west gate of the inner town wall. Probably originated as a chapel over

the west gate c 1100: parish church: pre 1153 to St Augustine's Abbey by Ranulf, Earl of Chester: 1535 (vicarage) (VE): 1766(8) parish united with St Nicholas.

Church demolished 1771 to build Clare Street: most of the church seems to have been over the gate but some domestic remains were attributed to it (Bindon 1859, 127-8): these were destroyed in 19th cent development. Some evidence probably survives below the street though disturbed by services.
Grade C.

7 ST MARY-LE-PORT, formerly St Mary-le-Port Street ST58987302
(map - inner city 14)

On the south side of the main street that used to run along the sandstone ridge. Probably a preconquest foundation: 1086 possibly one of the 'churches' (DB): 1166-72 given to Keynsham Abbey by William, Earl of Gloucester: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (Rectory) (VE): 1957 parish united with St John Baptist with St John's as parish church.

The church was burnt in 1940 and later, apart from the 15th cent tower, the ruins were demolished to waist height and recently the remains of the nave, north aisle, chancel and north-east chapel with its 13th cent undercroft has been consolidated. The BG has been cleared of memorials and partly quarried away. The surviving part is a shrubbery.

The church was completely archaeologically excavated 1962-3. P.A. Rahtz demonstrated the use of archaeological techniques for showing how a church developed, in this case from a small two-celled 11th cent building to a 15th cent aisled church. Full excavation report with phase plans (Watts and Rahtz, 1985). Maintained by the City of Bristol.
Grade Bc (DoE grade II).

8 ST NICHOLAS, St Nicholas' Street - ST58927293
(map - inner city 15)

On inner town wall, formerly over south gate. Presumably founded as chapel when inner wall built c 1100: pre 1153 to St Augustine's Abbey by Ranulf, Earl of Chester: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (2 chantries) (VE): 1768 (8) united with St Leonard (Kirby, 1940; 173): 1958 parish united with St Stephen and All Saints, with St Stephen as parish church and church to be demolished (OC): 1964 site to be appropriated for an ecclesiastical museum or other congruent purposes (OC): 1973 St Nicholas' Church and City Museum opened as branch of City Museum and Art Gallery.

Another two storey church integral with the town wall, but the chancel over the south gate and the rest of the upper part were demolished in 1762. 14th cent nave, south aisle and fragment of the chancel of lower part remain and archaeological work carried out since 1972 has helped elucidate the development of the building. This medieval work is incorporated in the Gothick building of James Bridges and William Paty completed in 1769. Upper churches burnt out November 1940. There are extensive burial vaults below the chancel and nave. BG has been part enclosed in the church by a 19th cent extension and the rest is below Baldwin Street and much disturbed by services. The other two BGs in Crow Lane (ST58887278) and Queen Charlotte Street (ST58827278) have been destroyed by postwar office developments but some burials survive below Crow Lane.

Maintained by the City of Bristol. Description with plan of upper church (Ison 1952, 52, 65-70). 19th cent plan of lower by G.C.H. Ashmead reproduced with description (Nicholls, 1879).
Grade Bb (DoE grade II).

9 ST PETER, formerly Peter Street - ST 59117308
(map - inner city 16)

On the south side of the same main street line as (14). Preconquest foundation, probably to serve the manor of Barton Regis, and mother church to Mangotsfield and Stapleton: 1086 probably the "church" (DB): 1105 described as primitivum et principalem esse omnium ecclesiarum de Bristo in confirmation to Tewkesbury Abbey: 1535 (rectory) (VE): 1957 parish with St James with latter as parish church (OC).

The church was burnt out in 1940 and the ruins have recently been consolidated. An archaeological survey was conducted 1960-70 and the consolidation work was site watched (Dawson et al., 1942). Earliest is the lower part of the west tower, probably 11th cent which projects eastward of the line of the inner town wall. The rest of the building is a complex medieval and later structure, heavily restored in the 19th cent. The interior has been extensively disturbed by burial vaults and below the south aisle by heating chambers and ducting. BG cleared of burials and is now laid out as a garden.

Maintained by the City of Bristol. Description with plan (Boucher, 1909).
Grade Ab (DoE grade II)

10 SS PHILIP AND JACOB, Narrow Plain - ST 59477299
(map - St Philip & St Jacob 17)

To the south side of Old Market. Founded as parish church to the suburb of Old Market, once extensive parish included Kingswood Forest until 1756 (creation of St George) and subsequently further subdivided: pre 1191-3 confirmed to Tewkesbury Abbey by the Bishop of Worcester: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (vicarage and 2 chantries) (VE): 1936 parish united with Emmanuel (OC).

The earliest recognisable part of the building is the 13th cent lower stages of the tower, but a 12th cent tomb slab was preserved in the chancel (but recently removed). Most of the rest is 15th cent and later but its precise development could be elucidated by archaeological work. Interior has been disturbed by burials. The extensive BG has been cleared of all but a few memorials.
Grade Bb (DoE grade B).

11 ST STEPHEN, St Stephen's Avenue - ST 58677298
(map - inner city 18)

Just outside inner town wall. Origin unknown: c 1291 ecclesia parochia belonged to Glastonbury Abbey (Tax): (rectory and 6 chantries) (VE): 1958 united with All Saints and St Nicholas (OC). A fine irregularly planned late 15th cent church, which has been extensively restored (Bathurst, 1965). Its standing structure shows a complex building history. Worcester described the terminology used by the masons constructing the south porch (Harvey, 1969; 316). Although it has been disturbed by internal burials and heating ducts, its archaeology is important in establishing the date of reclamation of this part of the Marsh and its relationship with the supposed early course of the Frome. BG cleared

of memorials.

Future seems assured as Bristol City Parish Church.
Grade Ba (DoE grade A).

12 ST WERBURGH, Corn Street - ST 58807301
(map - inner city 19)

On one of the four main streets. Probably founded when this part of the city was laid out c 1100: parish church: 1166-72 to Keynsham Abbey by William, Earl of Gloucester: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (rectory and 1 chantry) (VE): 1876 closed (Kirby 176).

Chancel demolished 1760 to widen Small Street during 1758-61 remodelling by James Bridges, rest demolished 1878. The tower and other parts of the building were re-erected at Mina Road and the site used to build a bank. There is probably some archaeological evidence left although much disturbed by services and vaults.

Grade C.

13 ST AUGUSTINE-THE-LESS, College Green - ST 58497272
(map - St Augustine 3)

On a bluff overlooking the Frome. Founded under the patronage of the adjoining abbey of St Augustine presumably post 1140. Suggested site of temporary buildings of the abbey (Dickinson, 1976): parish church: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (vicarage) (VE): 1938 parish united with St George, Brandon Hill, formerly its chapelry (OC): 1956 closed and demolished.

Chancel lengthened 1708: extensively altered in 1823 and 1840: damaged 1940. BG has been encroached on in road improvements, rest cleared 1971.

Excavations by City Museum & Art Gallery 1983 -4 prior to complete redevelopment demonstrated the church was built on a different alignment to an earlier cemetery (C14 dates awaited). Evidence of the stone chancel being extended to the west with a ?quire may vindicate Dickinson's hypothesis. Full analysis of post-medieval burial vaults was completed.

Interim report with phase plans (Boore, 1985).
Grade C.

14 ST MICHAEL, St Michael's Hill - ST 58517329
(map - St Michael 9)

Halfway up the hillside on the north bank of the Frome. Probably founded in the 12th cent to serve this suburb: 1191 -3 confirmed to Tewkesbury Abbey: c 1291 (Tax): 1535 (rectory) (VE).

Most of the medieval church except for the 15th cent tower was demolished in 1775 (Ison, 1952; 70-2). Archaeological evidence of the earlier building seems to be preserved below the undercroft of the new church designed by Thomas Paty. The BG has been encroached upon and few memorials remain.
Grade Cc (DoE grade B).

15 ST JAMES, St James' Parade - ST 58887346
(map - ST James 3)

On the north side of Broadmead. Benedictine priory: by 1134 founded as a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey by Robert, Earl of Gloucester: c 1291 managed churches of St Peter and St John the Baptist; summary history (Graham, 1904; 74): nave certainly parochial by 1374 but probably was so much earlier: 1539 priory surrendered by 1650 extensive parish subdivided into Mangotsfield and Stapleton: 1787 St Paul's created and thereafter parish further subdivided: 1957 parish united with St Peter (OC).

The nave is an important 12th cent building with an unrestored wheel window in the west gable. It is the earliest substantial standing building in the city although it has been altered with a 14/15th cent tower, 17th cent south aisle and an additional north aisle of 1864 which preserves part of the rest of the south cloister walk beneath the floor. Some archaeological evidence of the rest of the conventual buildings may survive under the bus station. Although traces of the east end of the church were probably irradiated by the postwar office building, remains of the crossing and transepts may be preserved under Cannon Street. The archaeological potential of the church is significant in spite of the ground under the south aisle having been voided for burial vaults. The BG is very extensive. Parts have been destroyed by the building of Lewis's and postwar roads (Mason, 1954). The rest has been cleared of memorials and turned into a park except for a tiny plot on the south of the church.

Declared redundant 1985 and now for sale on property market. BG maintained by City of Bristol.
Grade Bb (DoE grade B).

16 HOLY CROSS or TEMPLE CHURCH, Temple Street - ST 59317272
(map - Temple 2)

In the 12th cent suburb of Temple Fee. House of the Knights Templar: c 1118 area given to the order by Robert, Earl of Gloucester: after 1312 transferred to the Knights Hospitaller: 1342 made parochial: 1535 (vicarage and 1 chantry) (VE): 1956 parish united with St Mary Redcliffe with latter as parish church.

Church burnt in 1940 and 14th/15 cent and later ruins consolidated. The footings of the 12th cent round church discovered in 1872 have been laid out (Nicholls and Taylor, 1981; 140). Later excavations to the north of the church uncovered the foundations of a contemporary hall since destroyed by office development. The church was the finest late medieval church in the city. The BG is a public park and most of its memorials have been cleared.

In the guardianship of English Heritage.
Grade Ba (DoE grade 1).

17 ST MARY REDCLIFFE, Redcliffe Hill - ST 591722
(map - Redcliffe 7)

On north side of Redcliffe Hill outside the town wall. Chapelry of Bedminster, probably postconquest: 1158 confirmed to Sarum Cathedral: 1536 (vicarage and 13 chantries) (VE): 1852 parish assigned: 1956 parish united with Temple and St Thomas (OC): 1965 parish united with part of St John, Bedminster (OC).

Major 14/15 cent building of architectural importance but vigourously restored in the 19th cent. Earlier features include a 12th cent effigy in the north

transept, 13th cent north porch with its extraordinary 14th cent extension to house the shrine of Our Lady of Redcliffe. In spite of refacing the building would repay archaeological analysis.

There is some disturbance by heating ducts and burials. BG cleared of most memorials. Detailed description and plan (Brakspear, 1922): earlier plan 1717 by Lyons (Williams, 1931).
Grade Ba (DoE grade A).

18 ST THOMAS MARTYR (also St Thomas the Apostle), St Thomas' Street -
ST 59107 276 (map - St Thomas 8)

In a suburb probably laid out in the 12th cent. A chapelry of Bedminster, probably founded soon after the martyrdom of St Thomas in 1170: c 1240 (RBBBr): 1852 parish assigned: 1956 parish united with St Mary Redcliffe with St Thomas to be used as the centre of the ministry among those engaged in industry in Bristol (OC).

Church rebuilt on a grand scale in the 15th cent but demolished except for the tower in 1789 to erect the present church (Ison, 1952; 84-6). Some architectural fragments are preserved inside. Archaeological deposits must be disturbed by burials and heating ducts. The small BG has been cleared of memorials and laid down to grass. The other BG in Mitchell Lane (ST 59257262) has been built on since the war.

Redundancy proposed. Description with sketch plan (Taylor, 1904).
Grade Bc (DoE grade B).

Monastic Churches

see 15 for Benedictine priory of ST JAMES
see 16 for TEMPLE

19 CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY, (formerly the Abbey of St Augustine), College Green - ST 583726
(map - St Augustine 1)

On a hill overlooking the Avon marshes. Significance of the site is uncertain (Dickinson, 1946): 1140 founded as a house of Augustine canons by Robert Fitzharding (Sabin, 1956): summary history (Graham, 1904; 75-9): 1539 surrendered: 1542 designated cathedral on foundation of the diocese of Bristol.

The 10th cent sculpture of the Harrowing of Hell, found reused as a graveslab in the chapter house, is the earliest evidence of ecclesiastical activity (Smith, 1976). the surviving part of the monastic church, which incorporates parts of the 12th cent building, is of great architectural importance and has been described by many authorities, but light could be shed on many problems by using archaeological techniques. Traces of the Norman church must survive below later medieval work and the nave of 1868-88. Apart from the 12th cent chapter house and part of the 14th cent cloister, substantial remains of the claustral building survive embedded in the Cathedral School. The main BG College Green, has been cleared of memorials and lowered, but a small BG remains with many memorials intact south of the Lady Chapel. Sad treatment of Close recorded (Cobb, 1980; 36-51).

Described with plan of the church (Britton, 1836) and the whole monastery (Paul, 1912).

Grade Aa (DoE grade A. gatehouse grade 1).

20 CHAPEL OF ST MARK, college Green - ST 58387283
(map - St Augustine 7)

Faces College Green. Hospital: pre 1230 (1220) founded by Maurice de Berkeley: summary history (Graham, 1904; 114-18): 1539 surrendered: 1541 granted to the Corporation of Bristol as an extra-parochial chapel: c 1687 lent to French Protestant refugees: 1722 refitted for Mayor and Corporation.

A complex church with 13th cent nave and chancel, later south aisle, 15th cent tower and east end, and 16th cent chapels, repaired and refurnished 1830. There are no standing remains of the claustral buildings, the present cloister was erected during the extensive restoration of 1888-9. Archaeological evidence has been disturbed by this and earlier burials.

Maintained by the City of Bristol as the Lord Mayor's Chapel. Detailed description with plans (Barker).

Grade Bb (DoE grade A).

21 NUNNERY OF ST MARY MAGDALEN, St Michael's Hill - ST 58577330
(map - St Michael 8)

By side of road going north out the city. House of Augustine Canonesses: founded 1173 by Eva wife of Robert Fitzharding: summary history (Graham, 1904; 93): 1536 probably suppressed.

The buildings seem to have disappeared without trace, apart from some features not recorded when the site was cleared for the present King David Hotel, now standing empty. Possibly some archaeological deposits underneath.

Grade C.

22 HOSPITAL OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, Christmas Street - ST 58647320
(map - St Michael 4)

On west bank of the Frome. Founded pre-1243: 1532 suppressed and converted into Grammar School.

Site was recorded and part excavated by the City Museum 1976-8. One arcade and remains of another of what may have been the chapel survive, reusing 12th cent piers: the gateway of 13th cent materials was rebuilt in 16th cent. A good example of how archaeological work can elucidate a complex sequence of structures, both buried and still standing. Most of the standing remains have been preserved in the redevelopment which was accompanied by further archaeological site work.

Summary with plans (Price, 1978).

Grade C surviving structures (DoE grade 11*).

23 CARMELITE FRIARY, Colston Street - ST 58827302
(map - St Augustine 2)

On west bank of 13th cent new quay. Traditionally founded by Edward, Prince of Wales c 1267: summary history in VCH (Graham, 1904; 110-11): 1538 surrendered.

Great House built on site and later the Colston Hall, archaeological finds were recorded when part now occupied by Colston Hall was cleared (Pritchard, 1906: 1920; 736-8). It is very doubtful whether any archaeological deposits survive. Grade C.

24 BLACKFRIARS, Quakers Friars - ST 592773
(map - St James 1)

To the east of the 12th new town of Broadmead. 1227/8 founded by Maurice de Gaunt: summary history (Graham, 1904; 109-10): 1538 surrendered.

Two of the conventual buildings, possibly the dorter and infirmary, survive in good condition. Traces of the church were demolished 1890's but those of rest of the friary may be preserved below the surrounding roads and buildings erected since the war.

Detailed description with plan (Leighton, 1933). Baker's Hall and Cutler's Hall maintained by the City of Bristol.
Grade Ba (DoE grade 1).

25 GREYFRIARS, Lewin's Mead - ST 587733
(map - St James 2)

In a confined site at the foot of the hill on the north bank of the Frome. Pre-1234 founded at the expense of townspeople: summary (Graham 1904; 110): 1538 surrendered.

The Corporation demolished some standing remains as late as 1915 (Pritchard, 1920; 143-4). West part of site destroyed in building Greyfriars: but the site of cloister, chapter house and part of the church was excavated in 1973 prior to the building of Whitefriars. It is probable that further remains of the church survive under the present road and ought to be examined if the opportunity arises.

Summary report with plans (Ponsford, 1975).
Grade B.

26 AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY, Temple Street - ST 59417244
(map - Temple 1)

Just inside Temple Gate. 1313 founded by Simon de Montacute: summary (Graham, 1904; 110): 1538 surrendered.

A small house of which no trace has been recorded. If any evidence does remain, it is probably under the Grosvenor Hotel or the complex of roads at Temple Gate.
Grade C.

27 FRIARY OF THE SACK, Recliffe Med Lane - ST 59397235
(map - Redcliff 4)

Outside Temple Gate, south of Bath Road. Pre-1267 Founded; 1322 last mentioned

(Graham, 1904; 111).

The site has been extensively used for commercial and industrial buildings. All traces if any survived were probably removed in 1970's in office development for Mardon Son and Hall or in earlier road development.

Grade C.

Chapels

28 CHAPEL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, Bristol Bridge - ST 59007290 (map - inner city 2)

Over the roadway on the middle pier of the bridge. Chantry chapel (Maclean, 1884; 239): presumably built in or after 1247 when the bridge was rebuilt (Lobel and Carus Wilson, 1945; 7): 1535 (1 chantry) (VE): 1547 suppressed and purchased by City: survived to 18th cent but demolished by 1765 (Hudd, 1894).

Grade D.

29 CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY, Old Market - ST 58767318 (map - St Philip & St Jacob 4)

Immediately inside Lawford's Gate at the east of Old Market. Chapel of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity and St George founded in 1402 by John Barstaple (Leighton, 1913).

The present building was rebuilt in 1796 and again rigourously restored in 1881-3. The Hospital was rebuilt (by Foster and Wood) in 1857-8, 1867 and 1881-3. Burials including those of the founder and his wife have been made inside.

Maintained by Bristol Municipal Charities.

Grade Cd (DoE grade II)

30 CHAPEL OF ST CLEMENT, King Street - ST 58687270 (map - St Stephen 5)

Guild chapel: founded 1493: rebuilt in 1701, remains incorporated in Merchant Venturer's Hall. Site now occupied by a roundabout, but some evidence may survive.

Remains described with plan (Warren, 1907; 187-90).

Grade C.

31 CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Broad Street - ST 58807310 (map - inner city 7)

Founded in late 14th cent by Richard Spicer: 1814 demolished: 1843-6 site re-developed for Guildhall.

Site extensively cellared.

Grade D.

32 ST GILES, Small Street - ST 58717309 (map - inner city 8)

Over a gate in the inner town wall. Possibly a chapel of St Leonard's: 1285 ecclesia Sancti Egidii (RBBBr): 1319 demolished (traditional).

Street regraded in 18th cent and site to east redeveloped recently but some evidence may remain below the premises on the corner with Leonard Lane.
Grade C.

33 CHAPEL OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Crow Lane - ST 58897279
(map - St Nicholas 10)

In the burial ground of St Nicholas. Chantry chapel (Maclean, 239): founded c 1404 by Thomas Knapp: 1547 suppressed: later demolished.

Site occupied by Telephone House; site watching revealed no further evidence.
Grade D.

34 CHAPEL OF ST MARTIN, Castle
(map - Castle 13)

Precise site unknown. 1250 first mentioned: summary history (Warren, 1907; 192-3).

May have escaped the recent landscaping.
Grade C.

35 CHAPEL OF ST BRENDAN, Brandon Hill - ST 579729
(map - St Augustine 5)

On the summit of Brandon Hill. Hermitage chapel: founded by 1405. The site had been extensively disturbed by 17th cent fortifications (a scheduled M): c 1542 'defacyd': 19th cent Cabot Tower and landscaping (Warren, 1907; 202-4).

Grade D.

36 CHAPEL OF ST JORDAN, College Green - ST 583727
(map - St Augustine 6)

On the Green, the former BG of St Augustine's Abbey. Likely to have been disturbed by 1939-45 war activities and the lowering of the area for the new Council House.

Grade C.

37 CHAPEL OF THE THREE KINGS OF COLOGNE, Colston Street - ST 58587318
(map - St Michael 10)

On the main road through St Michael's. Chapel of Foster's almshouses founded in 1492: 1548 exempted from suppression of the chantries (Maclean, 1884; 248).

The rest of the hospital has been rebuilt, but the chapel survives much restored. It formed the east end of a range of buildings along the street. It is unlikely that much evidence has survived the regrading and the rebuilding in the area.

Maintained by Bristol Municipal Charities.
Grade Cc (DoE grade II).

38 CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Redcliffe Churchyard - ST 591722
(map - Redcliffe 3)

In BG of St Mary Redcliffe. By 1363 in existence: 1537 suppressed used as a school house: 1763 demolished.

Site probably disturbed by burials. Plan of schoolhouse 1717 (Williams).
Grade C.

39 HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Redcliffe Pit - ST 59047238
(map - Redcliff 5)

At the north foot of Redcliff Hill outside the Portwall. 13th cent founded:
summary (Scott Holmes, 1911; 160-1): 1534 surrendered.

Site may be well preserved as Redcliffe Pit has been levelled up, most recently
to build the approaches to Redcliffe Bridge.
Grade C.

40 HOSPITAL OF ST MARY MAGDALEN, Redcliff Hill - ST 59037215
(map - Redcliff 6)

At the south foot of Redcliff Hill. c 1470 mentioned by William Worcestre
(Graham, 1907; 119). All traces were probably destroyed in postwar road
widening and regrading.

Grade C.

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September 1986

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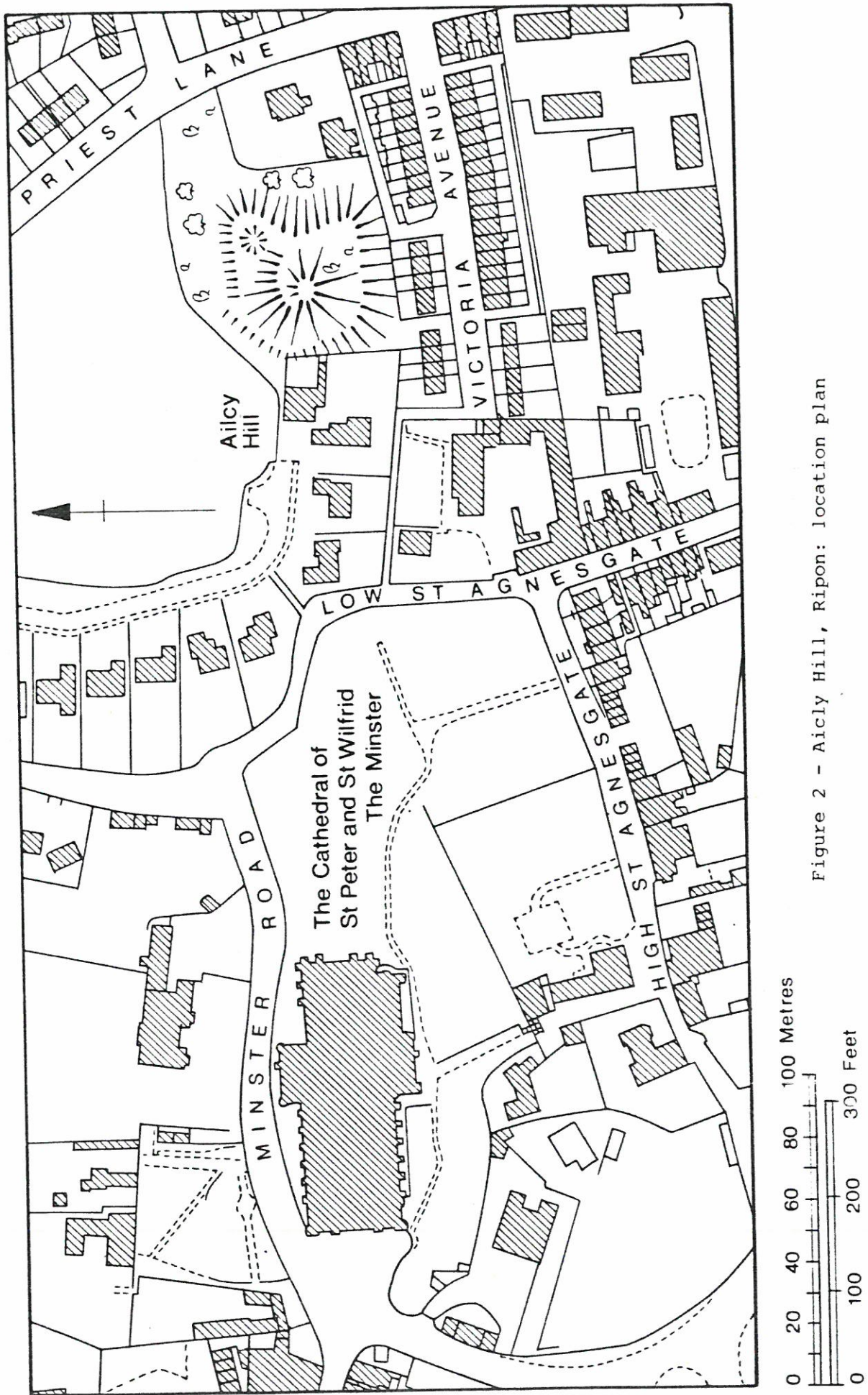


Figure 2 - Aicly Hill, Ripon: location plan

CASES

Ailcy Hill, Ripon (Figures 2-6 and cover illustration)

Richard Hall

Mark Whyman

Some 200m to the east of Ripon Minster stands a prominent, tree-covered mound approximately 25m high called Ailcy Hill. It is known to archaeologists and numismatists as the site where a large hoard of 9th cent Northumbrian coins (stycas) was discovered in 1695 and there have been several reports during the last two centuries of human bones found on it. All kinds of theories have been promoted to account for it - 'an ancient fortress of the Britons time', a charnel heap derived from one or other rebuilding of the cathedral, a war-cemetery raised over the dead of a battle between the Northumbrian King Aelle and the Vikings in 867 (this latter arising from a fanciful derivation of the name Ailcy, which has its earliest form recorded in the early 13th century and means 'elves howe' ie fairies' hill, a derivation recently confirmed by Gillian Fellows Jensen), a prehistoric burial mound, a Norman motte castle, or a natural feature used as a cemetery site have all been suggested but there has been no confirmatory evidence. Limited excavations were carried out in the late 1930's but these have never been published.

In 1986, however, Ripon 1100 Festival Committee decided to devote some of their resources to trying to solve the archaeological enigma posed by this monumental mound and, through Mr Michael Younge, a Ripon historian and member of the Trust's Council, asked the Trust to carry out exploratory excavations. Permissions were readily obtained from the Dean & Chapter of Ripon Cathedral who own the land, and from English Heritage (HBMC), in whose protection the site is vested as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

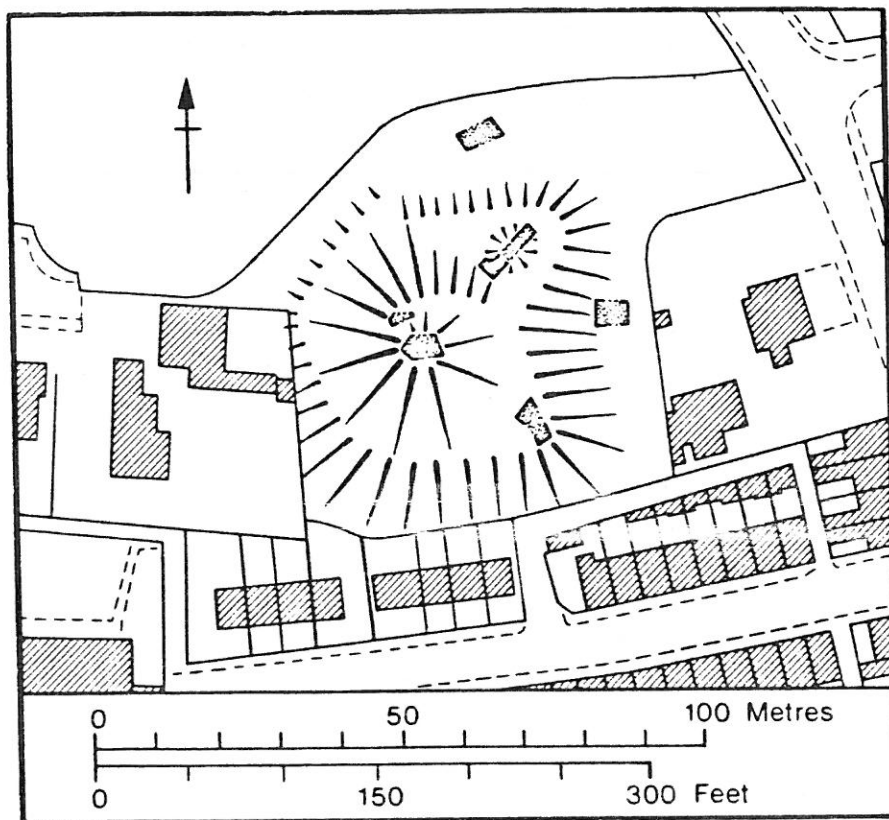


Figure 3 - Ailcy Hill, Ripon: position of exploratory trenches

Six small trial areas were chosen at the summit, flanks, and base of the Hill, wherever tree-cover was minimal. On the summit clearance of the topsoil immediately exposed a large number of disturbed, disarticulate human bones and traces of burials in situ, mostly represented by surviving long-bones. There were also groups of mixed bones in situ, representing remains of disturbed burials later gathered together. Over part of the summit a spread of cobbles below the topsoil sealed further burials, several of which were intact or at least not disturbed by modern intrusions.

All were aligned east-west, mostly with their heads to the west and mostly supine (ie on their backs) with hands by their sides or meeting above the pelvis. Although grave-cuts could not be recognized in the gravelly soil, some skeletons at a slightly lower level were overlain or partly disturbed by later interments and careful plotting of the skeletons' position showed that two groups of burials could be identified by their very slightly different alignments. These observations are important because they refute the suggestion that all the burials were simultaneous - the 'war-grave' theory is, therefore, ruled out. No objects were found buried with the bodies but some had been placed in wooden containers. No wood survived but iron nails defined the outline of these containers and in some instances simple hinge-straps, angle-brackets, and lock plates were found. These pieces are broadly similar to those from 16-22 Coppergate, York studied by Patrick Ottaway in Interim 10/1, 28-30, especially Figure 2, and other examples are known from sites in the 8th-10th century bracket. These iron fragments are, in fact, the best dating evidence for these interments, although as they have only been recognized as an Anglo-Saxon type in the last few years, it is possible that the full extent of their date range is not yet appreciated and a slightly earlier or later date cannot be ruled out.

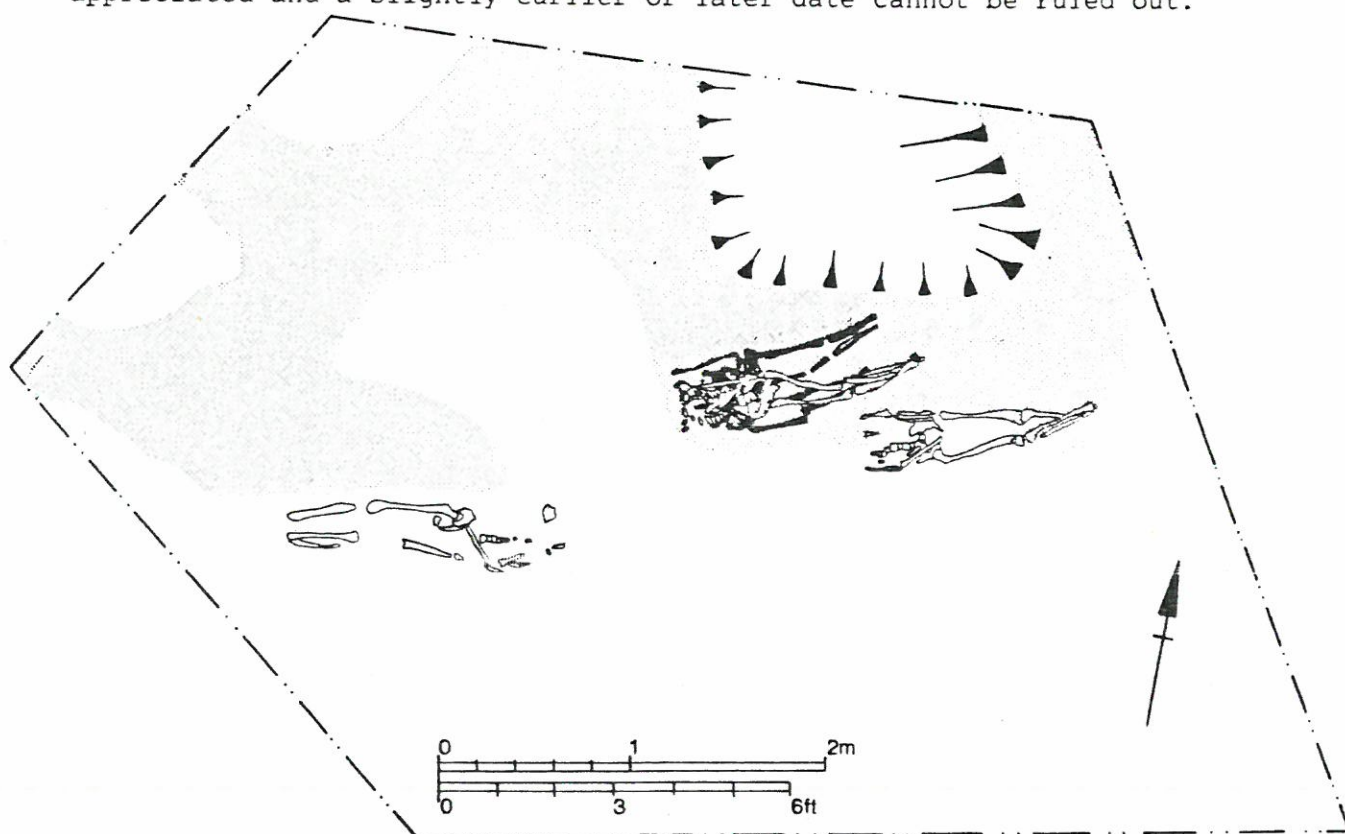


Figure 4 - Ailcy Hill, Ripon: trench 1, superimposed skeletons (lower ones in black) and area of cobbling represented by toning

A broadly similar set of discoveries was made in Areas 2 and 4 on the east and north sides of the Hill but only a few fragments of human bone were found in Area 3, and Areas 5 and 6 at the base of the Hill yielded only evidence for post-medieval/modern features - rows of fencing posts, perhaps relating to the enclosure of adjacent land, and a pathway and the robbed foundation trench for a building's wall respectively.

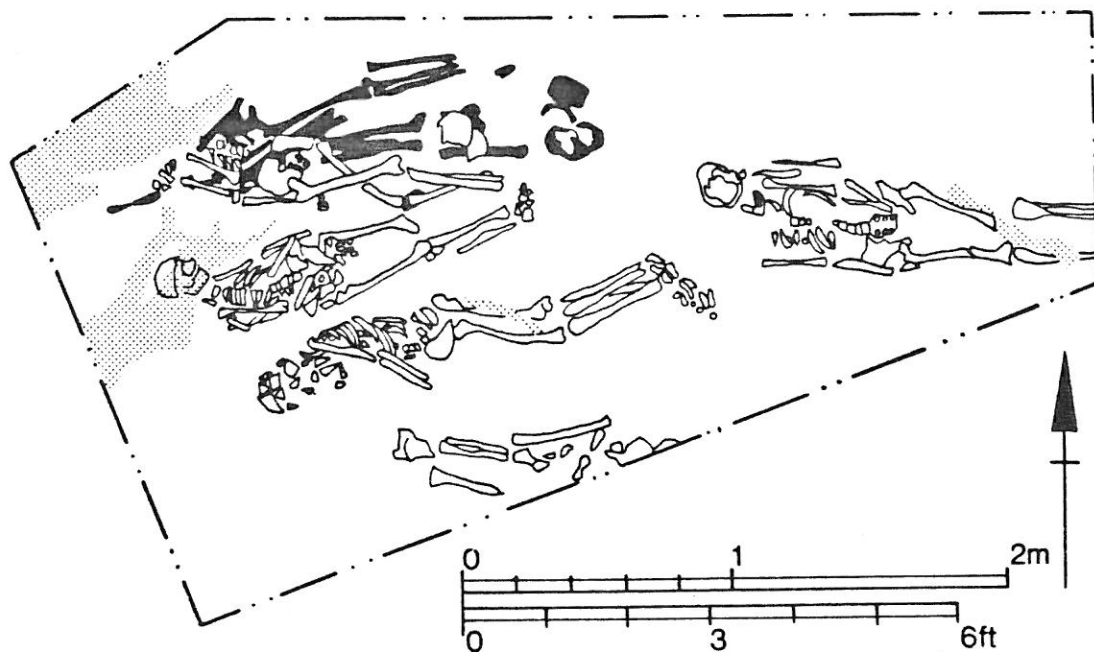


Figure 5 - Ailcy Hill, Ripon: trench 2, superimposed skeletons (lower ones in black) and area of cobbling represented by toning

Area 4 was a trench across a crateresque depression half-way down the Hill's east side and, in addition to yielding further burials, excavation here into the depression's edge quickly revealed a sequence of natural sands and gravels less than 1m from the surface. Similar sequences of sand were encountered in Area 1, while in Area 6 gravels only were found. The sands, some of which were a dusky pink in colour, were identical to those encountered during rescue excavations in the crypt of the nearby Cathedral, also dug into an eminence, although not such a marked one (Interim 2/4, 1-10), and it is now clear that Ailcy Hill is likewise an essentially natural feature whose sides and summit were used as a cemetery in the Anglo-Saxon period. More precise dating for the cemetery may come through the cleaning and study of some of the ironwork or, more probably, through a series of carbon-14 determinations from the skeletal remains, if resources for this can be made available. A study of the bones would also answer questions about the type of population represented - is it a cross-section of the local community or a more restricted burial ground, for example, for males from the nearby religious community? Once again it is hoped that resources can be located to answer these questions.

It also remains to define the full extent of the cemetery - further trenching would be required to do this but another season's work might suffice. Given the damage being done by the spreading roots of the trees on the Hill and the skeletons' known vulnerability to disturbance by local children and by metal-detector users and others illicitly searching for 'treasure', it might well be the time to rescue these remains which in themselves would provide a valuable insight into this ancient population. That, of course, would be a rather more protracted and expensive task.

Beyond these considerations, there is the larger historical question of how this cemetery fits into the pattern of religious practice in Ripon. Ripon, after all, was one of the principal early Christian foci in Northumbria, with a Celtic influenced monastery founded under royal patronage in the mid-7th century (at which St Cuthbert was guest-master) and shortly thereafter the transfer of the site to the Roman influenced St Wilfred, who constructed the church from which the crypt survives. Although devastated by the English King Eadred in 948, the church was rebuilt/refurbished later in the 10th century and has a continued existence from that time. Where in this historical framework does the burial of bodies on an adjacent eminence fit? Are they pre-Christian interments - the Northumbrians had a penchant for burials in natural or pre-historic grave mounds, and Ailcy Hill could be one of these; does the cemetery date to the pagan-Christian overlap period of the 7th century; or is it part of a Christian cemetery complex that may have existed around Wilfrid's church or churches - certainly, human burials are known from adjacent areas too? Some of these issues may be clarified as post-excavation analysis on this season's data begins but to understand the role of Ripon and the development both of religious and secular life in the vicinity, it is clear that much more work is required in the future.

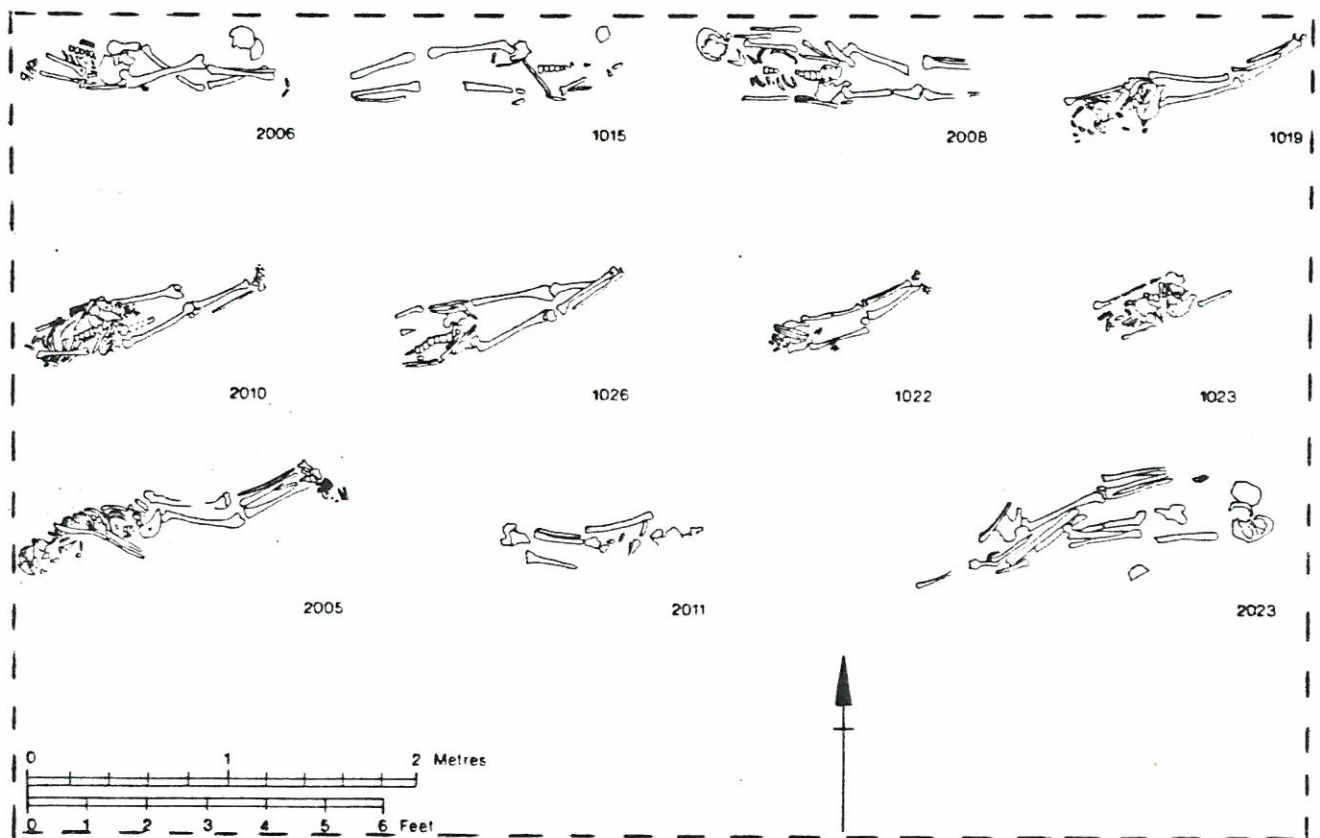


Figure 6 - Ailcy Hill, Ripon: all the excavated skeletons from trenches 1 & 2 showing variations in alignment and posture

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St Andrew, York - parish church to Gilbertine priory

R L Kemp

Excavations are now complete on the Redfern National Glass Factory site, Fishergate, York (NGR SE 60655115). Work began in February 1985 inside the factory buildings and the interim results were made known in the CBA Churches Bulletin 22, 12-14. The situation then was that well preserved remains of St Andrew's Gilbertine Priory (1202-1538) and underlying traces of 8th century Anglian occupation were located in narrow exploratory trenches. Permission was then being sought to excavate the entire area in advance of redevelopment by Costain Homes (North Eastern) Ltd.

Demolition of the factory buildings was carried out in December 1985 and a 10 month programme of open area excavation began on 6th January 1986. The entire area of the Priory was stripped as well as an area to its east and south. A complicated sequence of building phases was recognised in the church area where a small pre-Conquest timber church had been superseded by a large stone structure for monastic use by adding a large east end and a series of domestic buildings around a cloister to the north of the church. The area to the south was apparently used as a cemetery until the dissolution or perhaps slightly beyond.

The earliest cemetery

In the area to the south of the Norman stone church a small number of burials overlies pits and postholes of a domestic nature thought to date to the 8th century. They would thus seem to mark a change in the use of the site after the 8th century.

The first church (Figure 7)

Over the first few burials a rammed clay floor some 7-8 cms thick had been laid. This covered an area some 6m by 4m and was limited to the south and to the west by clay-filled slots c 30cms wide and 25 cms deep. At the south-west corner a large post pit was found measuring c 1m70 in diameter and nearly 2m deep. Some burials were found cut through the clay floor but a far greater density was located outside it and respected the clay floor limits. Two burials in particular merit special mention at this stage. The most interesting was S.354. This was set c 7m east of the eastern limit of the clay floor and was the skeleton of an adolescent. This person had been placed in a very wide grave and the bones had been heavily distorted. A paleopathologist who assisted in the lifting of the burial confirmed that the distortion was compatible with its having been exhumed after an unspecified length of time, wrapped tightly in a shroud and then removed to its new grave. Given this and the prominent position east of the east end of the church one is tempted to refer to S.354 as a person of special significance. By taking radiocarbon dates on the bones some idea of the original period of burial may in due course be ascertained.

The date to which this structure belongs is difficult and the data have not all been looked at in any detail but a provisional date of the 9/10 century seems likely. The second burial worthy of mention here was found cutting through the clay floor and is singled out as it displays the cradle of cobbles around the skull suggestive of a pre-Conquest date.

Adaptations to timber church

Although far from clear there is evidence in the form of postholes to suggest the addition of a chamber to the south of the area of clay floor at a slightly later date.

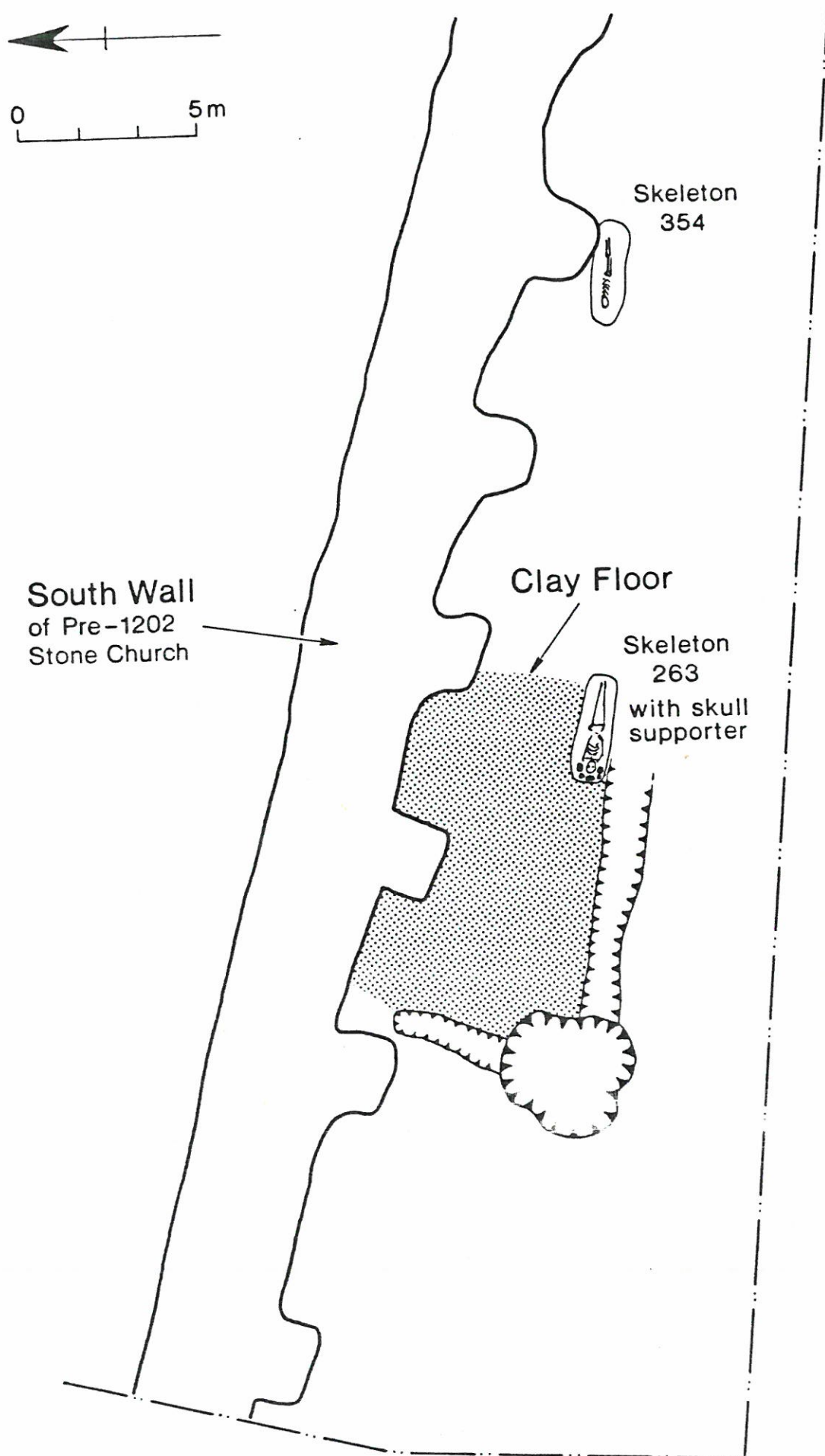


Figure 7 - St Andrew, York: the first church

First stone church (Figure 8)

Immediately to the north of the timber church were located the massive walls of the first stone church. The structure was single-celled, a rectangle measuring some 12m wide by at least 28m long (external measurements). The north and south walls were buttressed by narrow buttresses some 1m wide. At the east end circular foundations on the north-east and south-east corners were suggestive of stair turrets or circular, decorative towers. There was some evidence, albeit equivocal, of an internal west tower.

Historical documentation mentions that the parish church of St Andrew was owned by Newburgh Priory in 1143. It is thus assumed that the rectangular structure was this church. On architectural grounds an 11th century date for the structure seems likely and this seems to be borne out by provisional pottery dates.

Gilbertine adaptations of 1202

To the stone rectangle described above were added, to the north and east, walls of a less massive nature. These took the form of a 20m extension of the original stone church for use as a chancel, with long narrow aisles or chapels flanking it. To the north lay a chapter house and beyond that a dormitory comprising the east range. The north range contained the refectory. These ranges formed the east and north sides of a cloister, with an open cloister garth 16m wide and cloister ambulatory 3m wide. The west range had been completely removed by deep cellars of the modern factory.

Particularly interesting finds from the east range include a series of turned bone parchment prickers suggestive of a scriptorium in this area.

430 human burials were excavated from the site and whilst these span all periods referred to here, by far the majority belong to the Gilbertine period. No systematic analysis has yet taken place on these burials but at first sight it would appear a group of c 40 burials east of the chancel are exclusively adult, very carefully laid out and apparently without coffins. Burials in the church and to the south of it on the other hand are heavily intercut, include adults and children, and many are in coffins. It may be that the area east of the chancel was the monastic cemetery with parishioners and lay patrons buried elsewhere on site.

A number of stone sarcophagi were found including a reused Roman decurion's sarcophagus clearly inscribed. Tile-lined graves were also encountered as were two instances of uninscribed headstones.

Work is now proceeding on post-excavation analysis and the results will be published in Archaeol York.

Acknowledgements

Financial help of HBMC and York City Council is acknowledged. The cooperation of Costain Homes (North Eastern) Ltd is recognised. Thanks are also due to the many individuals, both paid and unpaid who contributed effort to this project.

November 1986

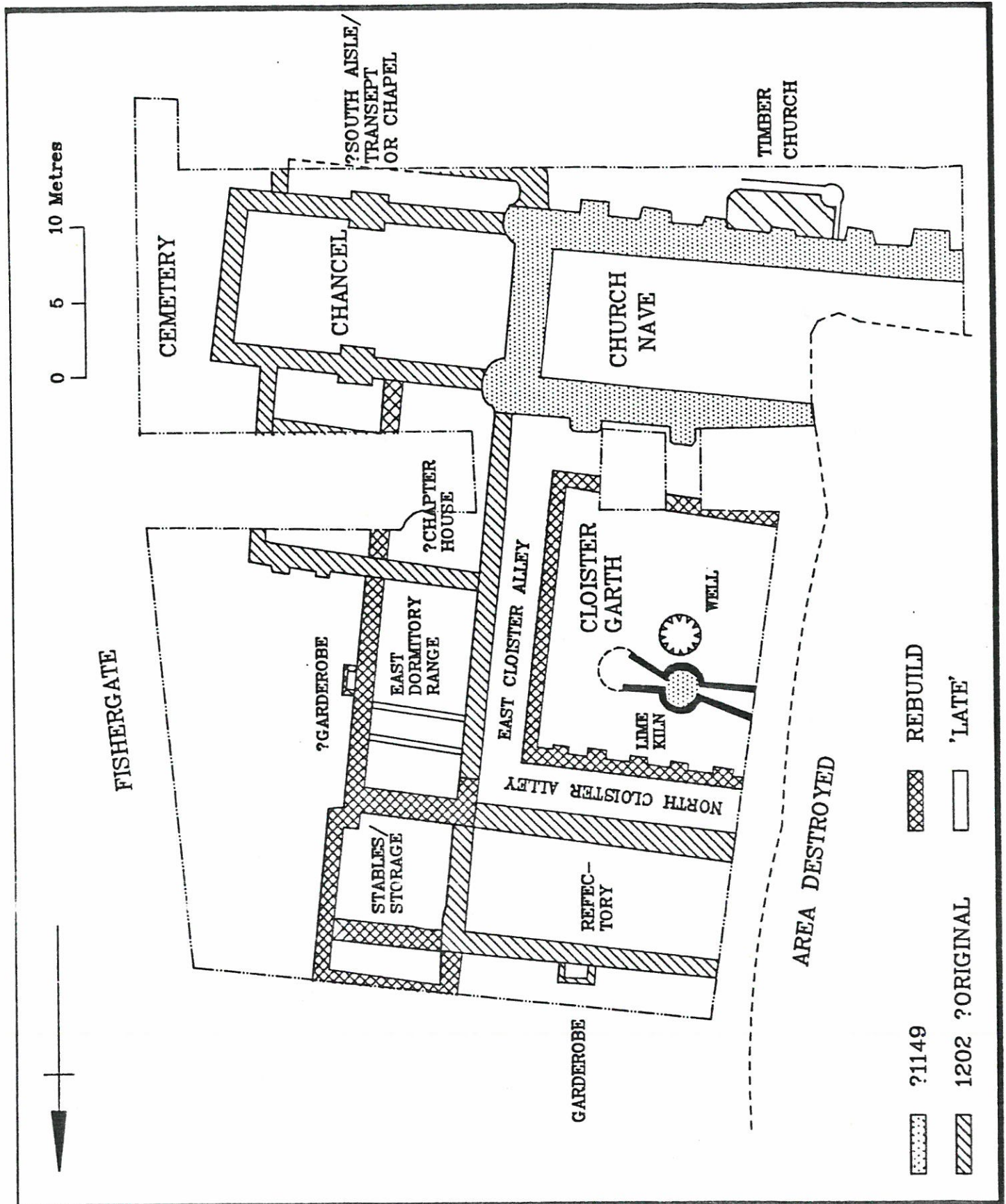


Figure 8 - St Andrew, York: general plan

Excavations between Pontefract Castle and the historic church of All Saints (SE 462224), undertaken by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service during winter 1985-86, have added considerably to knowledge of the ecclesiastical history of Pontefract and also to interpretive problems regarding church and settlement history.

The sites (Figure 9) were examined in advance of a major road scheme which altered the alignments of Tanner's Row and the Booths and also altered the gradient of the Booths. Site A was excavated in order to examine the nature of medieval occupation in a known market area and to examine the possibility that late Saxon settlement existed in the area of All Saints, the parish church assumed to have been the successor to a Saxon church on the same site. Twenty-four burials were discovered in Site A, all aligned east-west with heads to the west and neatly laid out in rows. There were only two examples of intercutting burials. This cemetery was encroached upon, seemingly in the later Saxon/early Norman period, from the same side as All Saints church. There was, therefore, doubt whether the burials were associated with a predecessor to All Saints, on the same site. Regrading the Booths revealed many more burials, extending almost as far west as the Castle. A total of 70 were recorded and lifted under salvage conditions. Also during this exercise, the foundations of a structure were recovered. The new road layout was altered slightly to accommodate the preservation of this structure and it, and its immediate environs, were excavated as Site B.

The building proved to comprise the foundation of a small church building of two cells with a nave 6.30m x 4.50m internally and a chancel 3.20m x (approx) 2.80m. The chancel may predate the nave, whose walls abutted the sides of the chancel. The foundations of the building were 0.90m in depth and 0.45m wide. They were made of herringbone-pitched rubble bonded with clay. Larger rubble was laid in the bottom of the foundations. There were traces of ashlar work on the two western quoins and also on the wall between the nave and chancel.

The church succeeded to three distinct phases of burial, characterised by marginally different alignments and by stratigraphic relationships. The earliest of these phases was on the same alignment as the later church and also as the burials on Site A. The phase included two slightly flexed burials and one grave containing a pair of bronze tweezers. It is likely that this early phase does, in fact, include the Site A burials as a Carbon 14 determination recently received on one of the Site A burials is 690± 90ad. The 70 burials in the watching brief cannot be attributed with confidence to any of the three pre-church burial phases, or to the phase contemporary with the church. They do, however, show that burials were very widespread within the cemetery. Pre-castle burials found in the region of St Clements chapel within the castle and pre-dating the chapel may be part of this same cemetery. There were traces of burial custom in all phases. In two cases, stones were placed at the shoulders of the deceased. Stones were also occasionally placed around the heads. There were many examples of coffin burials, evidenced by iron nails and fittings, or by wood stains preserved in the clay. Bones disturbed in later burials were, in two cases, collected and stacked neatly around the coffin. Many infant burials were recovered and there was evidence that some of these were coffin buried.

The church may well be the parish church to the Royal vill of Tanshelf, the predecessor to Pontefract, for which a priest is recorded in Domesday Book. Certainly it adds substantially to an area which already has considerable interest from an ecclesiastical viewpoint containing, as it does, a priory, a hospital, the parish church, and the two castle chapels.

The building is to be conserved and presented as a public monument.
November 1986, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service

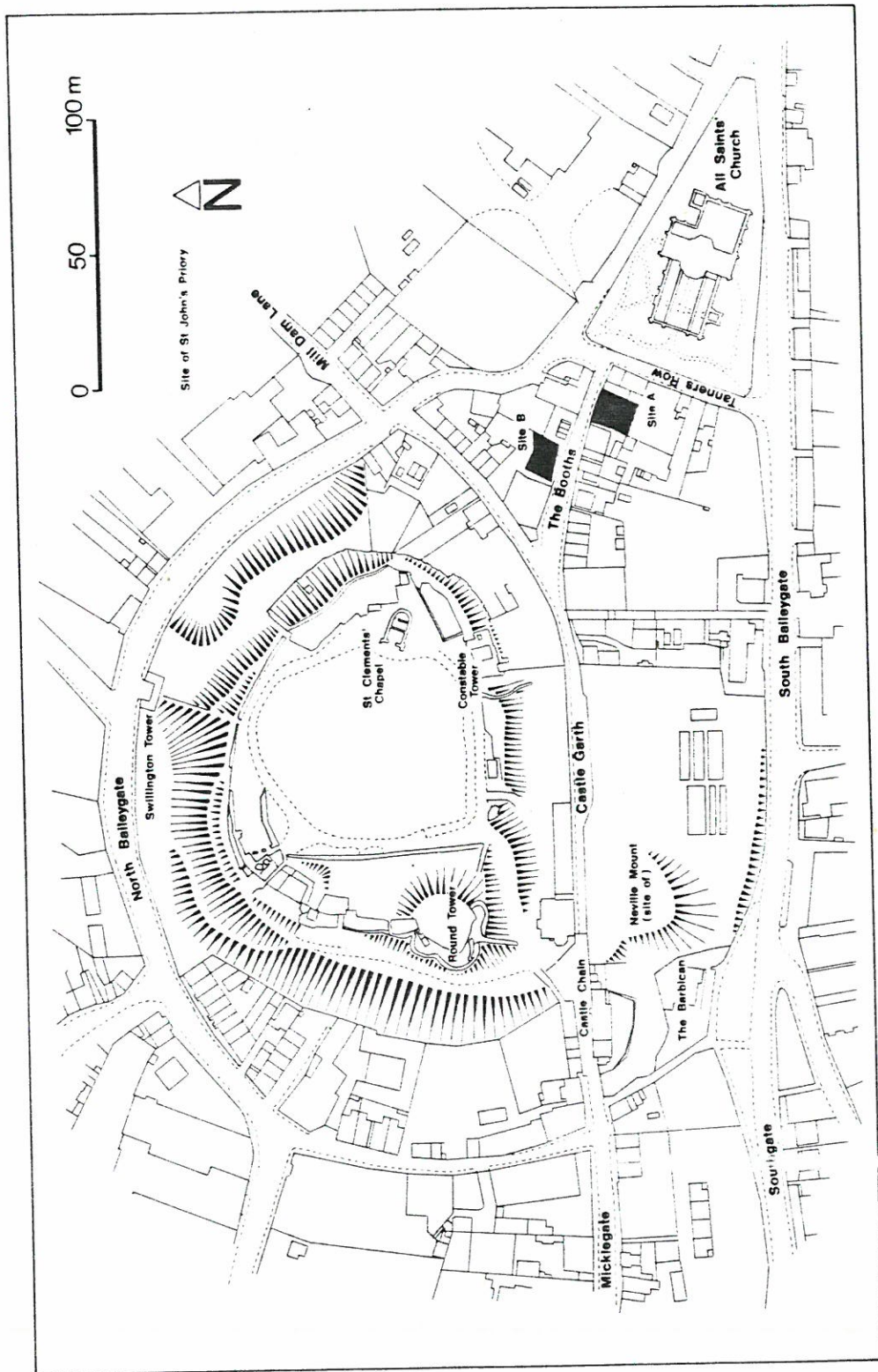


Figure 9 - Pontefract: location plan

St John the Baptist, Royston, South Yorkshire

Peter Ryder
Charles Hippisley-Cox

At first sight, St John the Baptist's church at Royston appears almost entirely a structure of late medieval date, built of local gritstone in the Perpendicular style so characteristic of the churches of Yorkshire's Pennine fringe, part of a wave of church building consequent upon the late 15th century and early 16th century prosperity of the region.

A closer inspection reveals that the church shows evidence of more than one building phase and that the Decorated style of the 14th century is represented as well as the Perpendicular of the 15th and early 16th. Several writers have commented upon this feature but no serious attempt has been made to work out the development of the structure. Morris (1923, 431-2) conjectured that the body of the church was Decorated, extended in the Perpendicular style by the addition of the west bay of the nave, the tower, and perhaps the chancel aisles. Pevsner (1968, 423-4) queries this theory and can only find distinctive Decorated work in the ogee-arched vestry door.

A measured survey of the church was made in early 1984 by the South Yorkshire County Archaeology Unit in conjunction with an excavation to reduce dampness along the north aisle. The work has helped interpret and produce a greater understanding of the architectural evolution, although a certain amount of conjecture must remain. During the work a substantial fragment of an Anglo-Scandinavian cross shaft belonging to the tenth century (Ryder 1986, 31-6) was found in an adjacent garden.

As with almost all ancient churches, St John the Baptist's at Royston has been built and enlarged stage by stage. There was almost certainly a church on the site before the Norman Conquest, as evidenced by the survival of the section of the early stone cross, and accompanied by a small wooden church (the name of Felkirk, nearby, refers to a 'church built of planks'). The church was probably rebuilt in stone later in the Saxon period and might well have been reconstructed again, to judge from the evidence of other local churches (such as St Wilfrid's at Hickleton, the interior of which was excavated by the County Archaeology Service earlier this year) in the Norman period, c 1100 - 1200 AD.

The church was probably altered and extended throughout the succeeding centuries. The rise of the woolen industry in the West Riding in the later 1400s, coupled with other factors, brought relative prosperity and many churches were extended and rebuilt. At Royston the building was remodelled to such an extent that the precise form of the pre-1450 church is now difficult to reconstruct, although a considerable amount of its fabric survives. This church seems to have consisted of an aisled nave with a western tower where the present west bay of the nave lies, access to which was by a staircase, the lower part of which survives, running up inside the west wall of the north aisle. The chancel was of the same dimensions as at present, although it is uncertain whether it was flanked by aisles. Pre-1450 features surviving include the chancel walls and east window, the ogee-arched door into the sacristy (which may be reset in its present position: the ironwork on the door looks earlier still and may be 12th or 13th century work reused), the external walls of the north aisle and the west end of the south aisle. Most of these appear to be of 14th century date, with architectural features in the Decorated style.

The church was remodelled in the late 15th or early 16th century, in the Perpendicular style then current. The scheme appears to have been carried out in two stages:

the nave arcades were rebuilt and the clerestorey added, and a little later the old west tower was removed and the nave extended westwards over its site, the present handsome tower being built further west than its predecessor. The chancel aisles were built or rebuilt and the building received its embattled pinnacles and parapets. The south porch is probably also an addition of this date.

Unlike some South Yorkshire churches, Royston remains in very much its late medieval form. 17th and 18th century alterations, including the insertion of galleries in the nave, were swept away by a Victorian restoration. The church is notable in retaining most of its late 15th or early 16th century roof, with a large number of carved bosses. The font, remains of screens, and some fragments of glass are also of late medieval date.

The recent excavations on the north side of the church have revealed a number of interesting features. The change in the construction of the wall footings between the nave aisle and the later chancel aisle can be clearly seen, along with the fact that the projection which houses the rood loft stair (in an unusual position paralleled at nearby Darton) is an addition to the earlier nave aisle wall. A number of pieces of carved stone have been reused in the 14th and 15th century footings, including a section of the respond for an arch (part of an earlier nave arcade?) and, at the west end of the aisle, half of a cross slab grave cover of c 1300 utilised as the base of a buttress.

A number of other medieval grave covers survive in the church and these have been drawn and recorded by the County Archaeology Service. Several are set into the floor of the north chancel aisle and others reused as building material in various parts of the building. They range in date from the 12th century to a fine inscribed slab dating to the 1440s.

Alterations currently underway within the church include slight changes in floor levels and are being monitored by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Unit and Doncaster Museum. Some medieval glass from beneath the floor of the south aisle is undergoing conservation along with a late seventeenth century coffin plate found in a small vault in the south east corner of the chancel.

References

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