# *England*

## BERKSHIRE

### *Windsor, St George's Chapel*

*Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd*

An architectural analysis of the Vicars' Hall, probably built around 1415–18 and used as the Chapter Library since *c*1693, has been undertaken prior to extensive renovations and conversion of the basement to an archive store. Much of the original roof survives, including six tie-beams carrying crown-posts with upright braces on the longitudinal axis supporting a crown plate (collar purlin), above which are two tiers of collar beams. The lower tier of collar beams have soulaces.

Two rooms in the basement were excavated before insertion of concrete floors. A length of curtain wall, probably built around 1226–30 was discovered. It had an integral wall passage and garderobe, and traces of a contemporary building on the line of the overlying Vicar's Hall were found. The basement level of the Vicars' Hall was found to have at least one cross wall, with a central pier attached, whilst study of the present plan and foundations located in the Horseshoe Cloister in 1913 indicates that the hall may originally have measured 28m in length externally. A full study of the floor frame of the Vicar's Hall is planned for 1998 (CAP Report 33).

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE

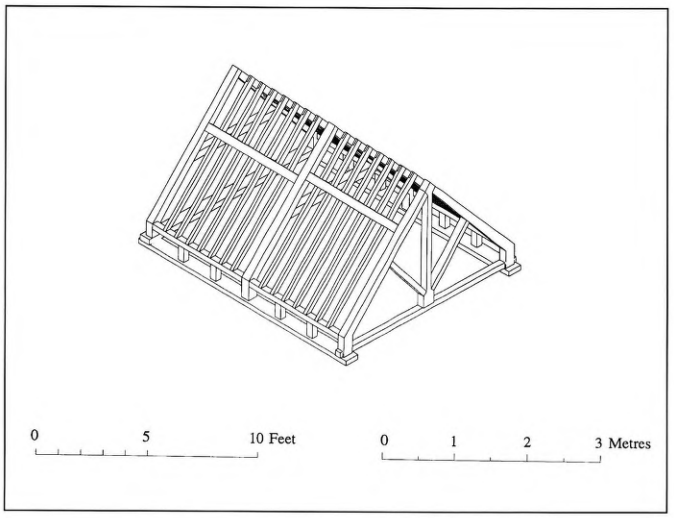
### *Gamlingay, Almshouse Chapel*

*James Campbell, The Martin Centre, Cambridge University*

An attractive row of red brick almshouses was built at Gamlingay in 1665 as a benefaction of Sir John Jacob Bt of Woodbury. Initially these appear to have been built without a place of worship, but a chapel was added on the east end of the row (RCHME 1968). The exact date of the addition is not clear but a bequest for the maintenance of both almshouse and chapel in the will of William Mainstone, a later owner of Woodbury who died in 1683, gives us a *terminus ante quem* (VCH 1973).

The chapel roof structure, which was recorded after removal of the roof covering, is an unusual type of knee-principal roof, a type about which little is known as few have been surveyed and published.

Knee-principal roofs employ bent principal rafters to allow a continuous roof pitch to projecting cornices while still transferring the weight of the roof directly onto the wall plates. The roof type is thought to have been widely




*Isometric drawing of major roof members, Gamlingay Almshouse Chapel, looking from west to east (Illustration: J Campbell)*

employed from the mid 17th century to the mid 18th at the time that such cornices were generally in use. The earliest illustration of the type is in William Pope's *Of Roofs. Rules and Instructions for Tracing all manner of roofs,.....according to the best manner practical in England* (Pope 1668). Pope's work, containing the first printed illustration of a roof truss in an English book, is an appendix to Godfrey Richards' translation of Le Muet's translation of Palladio's *First Book of Architecture*, where it replaced the drawings of French roofs that Le Muet had inserted in his French edition. Richards presumably chose Pope to write the piece as he was one of the most prominent carpenters of his day: he was to become Master of the Carpenters' Company in London in 1675. Pope's illustrations seem to have been copied by later writers, falling out of favour in the early 18th century (Taylor 1982). Joseph Moxon, printer, Fellow of the Royal Society and globemaker, illustrated a similar truss in his *Mechanick Exercises* produced in instalments between 1677 and 1680 (Montgomery 1970).

The roof of the chapel at Gamlingay (see figure) consists of three trusses, all with knee principals. Two of the trusses have collars, but only the two end trusses have tie beams, that to the east being partly buried in the brick gable wall. A segmented vaulted plaster ceiling is suspended from the rafters on a timber substructure which is also supported on the wall plates (not shown).

There are two purlins; the lower set square at the knee of the trusses and the upper inclined with its outer face set flush with the principal rafter. All are tenoned and pegged to the trusses except one joint of the lower purlin on the south side which is shaped to fit round a waney edge (not shown) on the middle truss and nailed. Common rafters are in three sections. The lowest (not shown) is from the rail of the cornice to the bottom purlin and is cut on slant and nailed at both ends; the middle section is morticed

into the upper purlin and cut on the slant and nailed to the bottom purlin; the upper section is morticed to the upper purlin and halved at the ridge. The joints are marked with chisel-cut Roman numerals.

The king-post truss at the west end of the chapel closely resembles that shown in Pope's drawing. The Gamlingay truss is concealed by the segmented ceiling so that the lower end of the king post can only be accessed from above and is buried in dust which prevents inspection of the joint between king post and tie beam. It is possible that the lower section of the king post is attached to the tie beam by an iron strap. The head of the king post is splayed and the lower part has joggles to receive the raking struts.

While the structure matches Pope's illustration in these respects, it differs from it in two important details: firstly the tie beam does not project to support the cornice, which in this instance is supported on canted brickwork, and secondly it lacks the collar shown in Pope's drawing.

King-post knee-principal roofs (matching Pope's drawing) are thought to be comparatively rare. It has been suggested that they were predominantly a metropolitan form (Taylor 1982). The discovery of the Gamlingay roof suggests that this may not be the case, but the subject of knee-principal roofs is certainly worthy of further investigation.

**Acknowledgements**

This work was carried out as part of a general archaeological survey undertaken by Anthony Baggs of the Cambridge Historic Buildings Group, commissioned by Michael Moon of the Charter Partnership, on behalf of the Trustees of the almshouses. I am indebted to Mr Baggs for his help in preparation of this note and Mr Robert Taylor who kindly supplied me with a copy of the list that he is compiling of knee-principal roofs.

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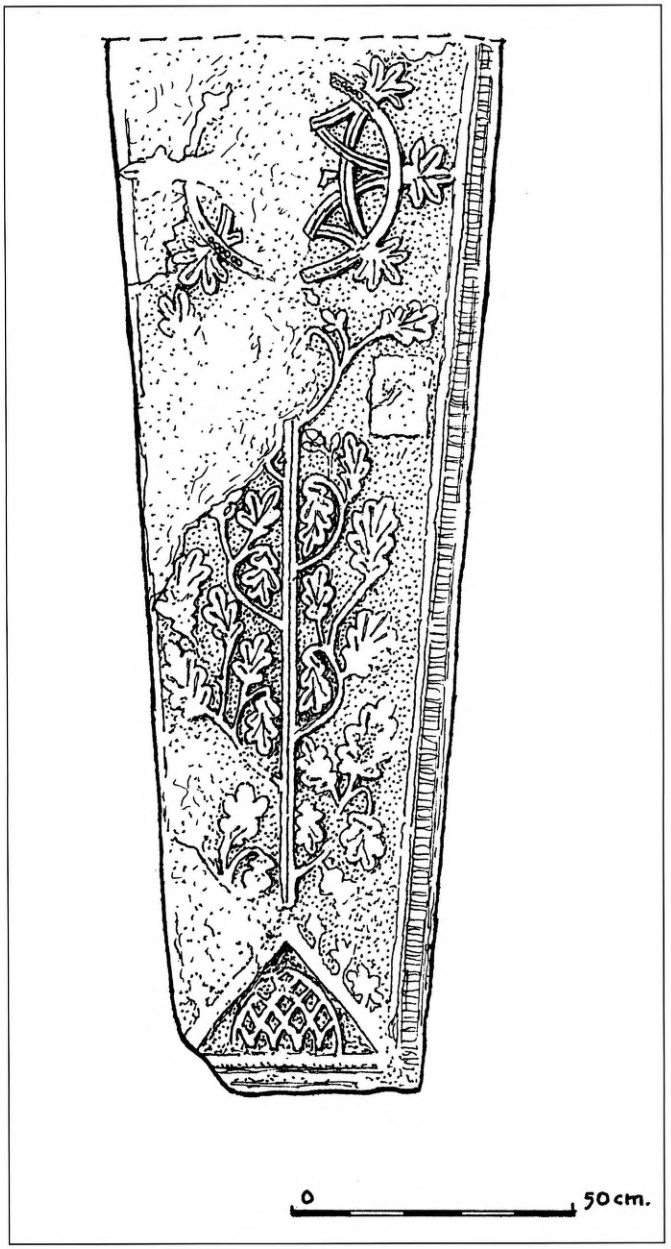
## CUMBRIA

### *Survey of medieval cross slab grave covers*
*Peter F Ryder*

This survey, initially supported by a grant from the British Academy (1993) but later funded by Cumbria County Council was completed in 1997. All medieval ecclesiastical sites have been visited (155 in all) and 437 slabs recorded in 1:10 scale drawings (and photographs) (see figure). A further 83 slabs recorded in 19th- or 20th-century antiquarian sources are now 'missing', the chief loss being the important collection of 32 slabs at Egremont which lay in the churchyard until either buried or removed by the local council (accounts vary) in the 1960s. Many other slabs remain 'at risk'. In Brampton deanery 25 of the 56 recorded slabs lay unprotected in churchyards and




*An important early 14th-century slab now lying outside the parish church at Bridekirk. The slab, illustrated in several 19th-century antiquarian sources, originated at nearby Dereham church but was removed in the 19th century to Dovenby Hall, and thence, sometime in the early 20th century, to Bridekirk. Recently it was taken inside the church, but this apparently only accelerated spalling of the surface of the soft red sandstone. Unless some conservatory measures are taken the design will be erased within a few years (Illustration: Peter F Ryder)*

elsewhere, as at Bridekirk, important monuments were found in a rapidly disintegrating condition. In addition to the detailed recording of cross slabs, brief records were also made of other significant lapidary material.

## DERBYSHIRE

### *Survey of medieval cross slab grave covers*
*Peter F Ryder*

A similar survey to that just completed in Cumbria was initiated in 1997, funded by the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee and covering the Derbyshire Dales parishes within the Peak District National Park. Twenty-seven sites were visited and 201 slabs recorded, including 128 at Bakewell, which may have the largest collection of this type of monument within the United Kingdom . Further work is planned in the Chesterfield area in early 1998.

## DURHAM

### *Durham churches 1996/1997: an archaeological assessment*
*Peter F Ryder*

This ongoing survey, carried out on behalf of the Diocese of Durham, was the subject of an article in *Church Archaeology* vol 1 (1997, 35–41). Over the past 18 months the survey has continued.

*St Cuthbert, Darlington* is a fine cruciform building, largely a product of the years *c*1180–1250. Possible evidence of an earlier building phase was recorded at the west end of the nave where a number of features, including wall thicknesses of up to 1.4m may imply a former western tower. The 1995 excavation immediately to the west of the present churchyard showed an earlier cemetery, apparently focused on a site in the centre of the Market Place. The possibility that there were two adjacent churches or chapels now has to be considered.

At *St Edmund, Gateshead* reused material from an earlier building of uncertain date was detected in the walls of the mid 13th-century hospital chapel. The building has had an exceptionally chequered career. It was burned by a mob in 1746, re-roofed and restored in 1837, made into the south aisle of the new parish church of Holy Trinity in 1896, retained as a chapel when the church was declared redundant in 1969 and later converted into a community centre.

*St Mary Magdalene, Hart* has long been regarded as being partly Anglo-Saxon in date, but re-examination suggests that a late 11th-century date seems likely. Both historical evidence and sculpture point to an earlier church, but this was probably on a different site ('Old Kirk Field' at the east end of the village, where a 9th-century cross head was found in 1967 is a strong candidate). The triangular-headed doorway above the chancel arch is similar to those in the tower at Norton.

*St Michael, Heighington* has recently been described as an Anglo-Saxon building remodelled in the 12th century (Clack 1986; Pevsner 1983). This interpretation is partly based on a misinterpretation of sources relating to 19th-century changes. It can be shown that the eastern triplet removed by Ewan Christian in 1870, rather than being a genuine 12th-century piece, was simply a Neo-Romanesque insertion of the 1830s. The architectural features currently visible, along with the wall thicknesses and quoin types, would all tally with a 12th-century date for the earliest above-ground phase.

At *St Andrew, Haughton le Skerne* the earliest work – the walls of the nave and the western part of the chancel – may be of *c*1100, although there seems to have been evidence of a pair of opposed doorways at the west end of the chancel, hinting at the existence of a pair of porticus, which might imply an earlier date. Concern for the condition of monuments concealed beneath fitted carpets is raised by the deteriorating condition of the *c*1500 graveslab of Elizabeth Nanton, prioress of Neasham Priory, exposed for the first time in several years.

At *St Mary, Norton* it is tempting to correlate the construction of a classic cruciform church of the Stow type (where the external angles of the central tower project beyond the four arms) with the recorded resettlement *c*1081 of secular canons displaced from Durham, although architecturally the surviving detail is thoroughly 'Saxon'. The assessment underlined the complexity of 19th-century changes and the wide discrepancies possible between the submitted faculty plans and drawings and what was actually built.

*St Edmund the Bishop, Sedgefield* is a large and complex church where removal of render a few years ago exposed fabric and features that allow reconsideration of a complex building history. The north-west quoin of an aisleless nave of uncertain date may include reused Roman material, the south-east stair turret oddly seems to predate the 15th-century tower that it now serves, and the inordinate length of the chancel (where newly-exposed remains of lancet windows indicate a date a century or so earlier than previously accepted) may result from it having been built to link with an earlier chapel now only represented by fabric incorporated in the east wall. An elaborate grave cover of *c*1300 reused in the tower is in the last stages of decay.

The earliest feature at *St Mary Magdalene, Whickham*, the chancel arch of *c*1150, seems to have been taken down and reconstructed on a larger scale *c*1200 when the chancel was rebuilt. The original voussoirs can be detected by their 'poor fit'. The 1861–62 restoration by Salvin was ruthless even by County Durham standards.

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## HAMPSHIRE

### *Southampton, St Mary's*
*Stephen Dean, Gifford & Partners*

St Mary's Church lies within the city centre of Southampton, outside the medieval town walls but within the heart of Middle Saxon Hamwic. In 1225 Pope Honorius III acknowledged the role of St Mary's as the mother church of Southampton during a dispute principally over burial rights with St Deny's Priory. Its location has led observers to comment on the likelihood of a Saxon church and burial ground on this site (Morton 1992, 50; Andrews 1997, 203).

*Geophysical survey results at St Mary's, Southampton: time slice at an approximate depth of 1.96m, viewed to the north (Survey: Dr B McCann & Paul Mackie)*

While burial activity ended on the site in 1854, the large Victorian church continues to function as the parish church. In advance of new proposals for the site, Gifford & Partners Ltd were employed to investigate the archaeological potential and, where necessary, to develop appropriate archaeological strategies ahead of ground works. With this in mind, the Clark Laboratory was asked to provide a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of a small portion of the site with an option for total survey should initial results prove that the technique was applicable.

A trial survey was carried out over a 15m square grid in St Mary's churchyard. State of the art processing software allowed 3D images of the survey area to be generated, which could be 'sliced' to give plans of the site at any depth. An example of one of these slices is shown in the illustration. The technique revealed a number of possible archaeological features beneath the surface including burials, structures and an area which could contain demolition debris.

The software employed has returned excellent results for the archaeologists who can now locate sub-surface features and target test-pitting accurately. The next stage of the work is full GPR survey of the site and discrete test-pitting to validate the geophysical survey results.

**Acknowledgements**
I would like to thank Dr Bill McCann and Paul Mackie of the Clark Laboratory for carrying out the Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the churchyard and for their contributions to this text.

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## NORFOLK

### *Norwich, St Peter Southgate*
*Andrew R J Hutcheson, Norfolk Archaeological Unit*

A watching brief was undertaking in September 1997 on the site of the abandoned church of St Peter Southgate in King Street, the most southerly of Norwich's medieval churches. Although most of the church, apart from the tower, was thought to have been demolished in the late 1880s, its appearance is known from a 19th-century photograph and it was described by Blomefield in the 1740s:

> 'The Steeple of this church is square, and hath in it three bells, the nave and the porch tiled, the chancel thatched; there is a north chapel, which is tiled, and was founded by Tho. Large, alderman, and dedicated to our Lady' (Blomefield 1806, IV, 67).

Prior to the current redevelopment as a children's playground, the churchyard was a small park which contained the ruins of the tower.

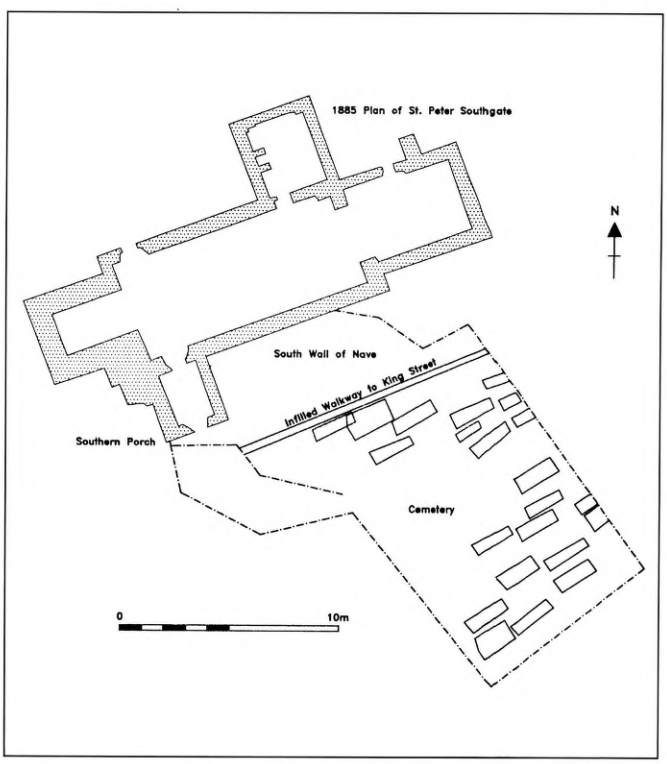
During machine excavation, part of the church's southern porch was revealed with walls standing over a metre in height. These were of flint and mortar construction with knapped flint facing and galetting. Plaster survived on the interior of both walls. Of particular

interest was the use of chamfered red bricks as a string course. An exterior porch door discovered was constructed with chamfered medium brown bricks. On investigation it was shown that the foundations were trench built – flint and mortar were poured into the freshly-excavated foundation trench. The southern part of the nave wall was also recovered. This was constructed from flint, brick and mortar but had been badly damaged by later 19th- and 20th-century landscaping.

In addition to remains of the church building, 22 grave cuts were observed during the work (see figure). The infill of these contained brick and tile suggesting a post-medieval or later date. Some disturbed human bone observed is thought to have derived from earlier, possibly medieval, grave cuts that had been disturbed by later grave cutting.

All the structural elements revealed during the watching brief appear to date from the 15th century. Many of Norwich's churches were added to and wholly or partially rebuilt in the 15th century, mainly as a result of private benefaction. This was stimulated by the great wealth of the city, accumulated both through its position as a port and as a regional centre (Ayers 1994).

A *sancti petri* in Cuningesford, the southernmost sector of Norwich (King Street was known as Cunesford Street during the medieval period) is mentioned in the Register of the abbey of St Benet of Holme 1175–86 to 1190–1200 (Sandred & Lindstrøm 1989, 52). St Benet of Holme administered this church, suggesting that it was in existence by 1200. In addition, Blomefield records that a rector called Roger was installed in 1217 (1806, 66–67).




*St Peter Southgate, Norwich: area of watching brief (Drawing: Norfolk Archaeological Unit).*

Subsequent documentary research prompted by the watching brief revealed some information on the church's fall into disuse. Documents of the Episcopal Consistorial Court of Norwich show that in 1884 the church of St Peter Southgate was united with the church of St Etheldreda, situated about 150m to the north, and the two parishes were combined. It is recorded that 'St Peter Southgate is in a very ruinous condition and owing to the falling off of the population . . . it is not needed as a parish church'. In 1881 St Etheldreda had a congregation of 632 and St Peters one of 565. It was therefore

> 'proposed to dilapidate the said church of St Peter Southgate care being taken of the walls and fences of the churchyard and so as to save the same from any desecration that it is intended to remove the choir seats and bells from the said church of St Peter Southgate to the said church St Etheldreda and to sell the font for use in some other church'.

It is also chronicled that the then rector of both churches, the Reverend Nathanial Bolingbroke, sought the permission of relatives of the families remembered on stone tablets to remove the memorials to St Etheldreda.

There is further reference to the fate of St Peter Southgate in 1886, when an act of the Episcopal Court allowed the churchyard to be turned into an ornamental garden. Interestingly, in 1926 there was an application to remove the remains of the tower and the necessary tombstones to the south wall of the churchyard and to use the area as a children's playground.

The documents of the Episcopal Consistorial Court of Norwich suggest that the church was not actively demolished, as was generally understood, but rather left to decay. The information gained from the watching brief shows that much more the church survives than is visible.

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## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

### *Walkton, St Edmund's Church*

*Iain Soden, Northamptonshire Archaeology*

Building recording and a watching brief were carried out for the PCC during extensions to the west end of both aisles. These showed the west end of the north aisle to be original work of probable 14th-century date with later

alterations, while the south aisle was totally rebuilt in 1867–68. Below-ground investigation identified a buried land surface amidst grave-earth which predates the 15th-century tower.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

### *Corbridge, St Andrew, The Winship Vault*

*Peter F Ryder*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during floor repairs in October 1997, when part of the capping of a vault at the west end of the nave was renewed. The vault, built with handmade brick, is probably of mid 18th-century date. Sockets in the side walls appear to relate to a phase of use before the placing of the two existing coffins at present there. These are probably of Lionel and Hannah Winship (d 1811 & 1812) who are recorded on the very worn ledger stone above.

## OXFORDSHIRE

### *High Wycombe, All Saints, Carington Burial Vault*

*Angela Boyle, Oxford Archaeological Unit*

In July 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out the recording of the Carington burial vault and its contents. The vault itself was originally revealed during the relaying of the floor and examined during a watching brief carried out by OAU in January and February 1993. Located beneath the chancel, the original entrance had been blocked, presumably in the 19th century, and was only recently reopened.

The burial vault was of brick construction with a groin-vaulted ceiling. An inscription carved on one of the bricks in the ceiling read 'WB 1832' and presumably records the date of construction and the individual who built it. Stone shelves were set into the north, south and west walls to form 15 coffin niches, although the shelves on the south wall had later been removed. Access to the vault was via a series of steps located in the east wall. At the time of the earlier visit to the vault in 1993 this east wall was a blind arch and the access way was blocked with neatly mortared stone blocks.

The wealth and position of the family is reflected in the vault's construction and the form of the coffin fittings. The use of shelves was rare and confined to the vaults of noble families, such as the 1810 extension to the Cavendish vault at Derby Cathedral (Litten 1985, 10; 1988, 256). During the construction of the Carington vault an adjacent earlier burial vault was foreshortened to accommodate it.

There was a total of seven coffins in the vault. Five were of triple shell construction with velvet outer covering and brass or tin fittings. The most elaborate example was on the uppermost shelf in the west wall (see figure). It was identified as the coffin of Robert, 1st Baron Carrington who died on 18 September 1838. The lid motifs and escutcheons were appliqué coronets and two stylised roses formed the grip-plate for each of the grips. The velvet covering, now an orange-brown colour, may originally have been red. The remains of a funerary coronet lay on the lid of the coffin.

One of the coffins had a covering of midnight blue velvet and the fittings were of tin. The name-plate was partially legible and recorded the death of ...ella Carington in April or August 1840. This was almost certainly the Honourable Mary Isabella, daughter of the 2nd Baron Carrington. The remaining individuals buried in the vault were the Honourable John who died aged ?28 in July 1832, the infant Robert, son of the 2nd Baron Carrington who died in January 1832 aged eight months and Jane Amelia Smith who died in October 1837 aged 51.

The remaining two coffins had lead shells, one with an inner wooden shell. This may suggest that, in common with the other examples, this coffin originally had a wooden outer shell. A small perforation in the lead allowed for a restricted view of the interior of the coffin. A powdered substance had been spread across the individual within, probably quicklime. Cholera victims were regularly buried in quicklime although it was regarded as unseemly and faced strong opposition (Richardson 1988, 227). Elizabeth Katharine Carrington died of cholera 'after only a few hours illness, 23 July 1832' (Gibbs & Doubleday 1913, 64), and it is therefore tempting to suggest that she is the individual buried in this coffin. However, the coffin may be that of an unrelated individual disturbed during construction of the vault or placed there at a later date.

The second of the lead shells contained the burial of a Bridget Sale who died in May 1737 aged 87. It is unlikely that this coffin ever had a wooden outer covering as the ornate appliqué breast-plate with appliquéd lettering was clearly intended to be seen. Bridget Sale died 100 years prior to construction of the vault and we can assume that her coffin was disturbed during this process and re-interred in the new vault.

Although there were spaces for 15 coffins only seven were used. In fact, the period of use appears only to have lasted eight years from 1832 to 1840. The Burial Boards Act prohibited intramural burial in the 1850s and was variously reinforced by pastoral measures. However, many vaults continued in use for some time afterwards, for example, at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks (Kent) the vaults and brick-lined graves were not permanently closed until 1878 (Boyle & Keevill 1998).

The history of the family name is also of interest. The 1st Baron had the name of Smith and this was changed by Royal licence to Carrington in 1836. A subsequent change

*Coffin of 1st Baron Carrington (Photo: Michael Dudley, © Oxford Archaeological Unit)*

from Carrington to Carington was permitted in 1880.

A complete written and photographic record of the vault and its contents has been retained by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and is available for consultation. Where possible coffin fittings have been identified by reference to the range of types from Christ Church, Spitalfields (Reeve & Adams 1993, Appendix D, M2: A4–M3: F13) and St Nicholas, Sevenoaks (Boyle & Keevill 1998).

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## WARWICKSHIRE

### *Coventry, Cathedral Priory Church of St Mary*

*Niall Oakey & Phil Andrews, Wessex Archaeology*

The cathedral priory church of St Mary, Coventry has earned its description as 'the most forgotten medieval cathedral in England' (Morris 1994, 65) as a result of being the only English cathedral church to be totally demolished at the Reformation. A recent research excavation by Wessex Archaeology was designed as the first stage in a campaign to investigate, protect and present this church. The opportunity arose as part of the Phoenix Initiative, an ambitious plan launched by the Millennium Forum of Coventry City Council to redevelop large areas of Coventry's historic core with prestigious new buildings, public open spaces and a commemorative monument. At an early stage it was recognised that these plans were likely to impact upon significant archaeological deposits and that their protection and presentation should form an integral part of the plan. Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to act as archaeological consultant to the Phoenix Initiative and initial discussions and research quickly highlighted the Cathedral Priory as a site of particular significance and concern.

The Benedictine monastery of St Mary was consecrated in 1043 by Earl Leofric and Lady Godiva and may have perpetuated the location of the 8th-century nunnery of St Osburg, destroyed by Danes in 1016. In the late 11th century the diocese of Lichfield, having transferred to Chester in 1075, moved again to Coventry Priory and continued as a joint diocese until the Reformation when it was settled upon Lichfield alone. The move did not immediately lead to a rebuilding of the pre-Conquest priory church, but a few pieces of Romanesque fabric suggest that some work was underway before the priory was used as a temporary fortress in 1143. Building proceeded apace thereafter with much of the nave probably built in the later 12th and early 13th centuries, and with the west front following in the second quarter of the 13th century (*ibid* 52–54). The east end was remodelled in the 14th and 15th centuries, but the architecture of the nave probably survived largely unaltered from its 12th–13th century state until the Dissolution (*ibid* 62). The monks were expelled in January 1539 and, unlike Tewkesbury or Romsey, their church, although in Corporation ownership from 1574–75, was not used for worship. This probably arose from a combination of lack of money and the presence of the two neighbouring churches of Holy Trinity and St Michael. The course and speed of demolition is unclear from documentary sources, but by 1581 the church does not figure in a survey of surviving buildings in the former Priory precinct. Speed's map of 1612 shows little upstanding masonry and by the mid 17th century most of the church site had become a garden, having previously been used for bowling. The upstanding remains of the western towers were converted to form part of the residence of the Vicar of Holy Trinity.

The most extensive campaign of excavations on the Priory was carried out by Brian Hobley in the 1960s and explored the claustral ranges and surrounding buildings in some detail (Hobley 1971). Work on the church was restricted to two narrow trenches running north–south across the nave. Reconstructions of the appearance and structural history of the building have depended upon these and a few other excavations, various antiquarian observations and chance discoveries (summarised in Hobley 1971 and Morris 1994) and the modern visitor to the site is able to view only the extremities of the church. These comprise the lowest courses of the chevet at the east end in the shadow of Spence's Cathedral Church of St Michael; and the more substantial remains of the west front uncovered in 1856 linked to the heavily restored lower stage of the north-west tower. Much of the intervening building is buried below 18th-century houses and their gardens, the exception being at the west end of the nave where a church centre (built in the early 1970s) occupies part of the former graveyard of nearby Holy Trinity Church. The remainder of the cemetery (in use between 1776 and the mid 19th century) forms a garden with headstones which were laid flat in the 1970s.

The work in 1997 involved opening an east–west trench measuring 10m by 2m within this garden area to determine the depth and nature of surviving archaeological levels. The trench was also designed to coincide with the predicted location of the north arcade of the church. Results met all expectations with the discovery, at a depth of *c*3m, of two substantial pier bases of the nave north arcade. Although both were robbed almost to floor level, the piers were clearly lozenge-shaped in plan (at least 2.2m long by 1.5m wide), like those on the interior of the west front, and lay *c*6.4m apart (centre to centre). Two pieces of *in situ* limewashed ashlar survived, facing mortared rubble cores. An engaged half-shaft found in a demolition deposit may derive from one of the piers, though it is smaller in diameter than the axial shafts still *in situ* in the west responds of the nave arcades (Morris 1994, 52). The date of the half-shaft, on the basis of style and tooling, could be Romanesque or early Gothic in the context of north Midlands architecture (R K Morris *pers comm*). A small number of other architectural fragments and worked stone were recovered, but demolition and robbing had been thorough with the only surviving traces of the nave floor being parts of its mortar bedding.

At a depth of 2m or more, the remains of 36 articulated adult and child burials lay wholly or partly within the trench, but only two graves cut into the structural remains of the church. Intercutting of graves was common and a considerable quantity of disarticulated bone was recovered. Some of this had been gathered together for reburial in small pits and probably represents interments disturbed during the construction of a brick burial vault. The vault latter was not investigated, but its construction had partially destroyed one of the pier bases. Analysis of the skeletal material is pending, but will be limited by the small scale of the sample and the absence of any documentary means of identifying individuals. In the 18th and early 19th centuries Holy Trinity parish encompassed half of the historic core of the city and the burials are likely to have represented a cross-section of most social groups at a time when Coventry's population was rapidly expanding to serve new industries.

By establishing the depth of overburden and the status of the buried remains of the Cathedral Priory Church this exercise will inform future planning decisions and ensure an adequate archaeological response to potential threats. To the north of the church the claustral and other buildings were terraced into the slope running down towards the River Sherbourne, and further investigations will be necessary (eg on the site of the Priory Mill) as land becomes available and the plans for the millennium project coalesce.

It is hoped that part of the Phoenix Initiative will

involve the presentation at present ground level of the layout of the Cathedral Priory Church and it is in this aspect of the project that the latest discoveries may prove most helpful. Previous reconstructions of the nave have been based on a 1909 observation of two pier bases 22ft 9in apart centre to centre (*ibid* 20), but the recently uncovered bases are only 21ft apart. The disparity may be a product of imprecise recording in 1909 or suggest the existence of unequal bay widths (*ibid* 37–38), perhaps arising from a change of plan for the placement of the west towers. More research will be necessary to establish the form and dimensions of a full reconstruction, but the recent excavation has succeeded in providing firm evidence for the dimensions and form of the three west bays of the nave north arcade.

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Dr Richard K Morris of Warwick University gave freely of his time and knowledge in discussions of various aspects of the excavation and the authors also wish to thank their colleagues at Wessex Archaeology, especially the excavation team.

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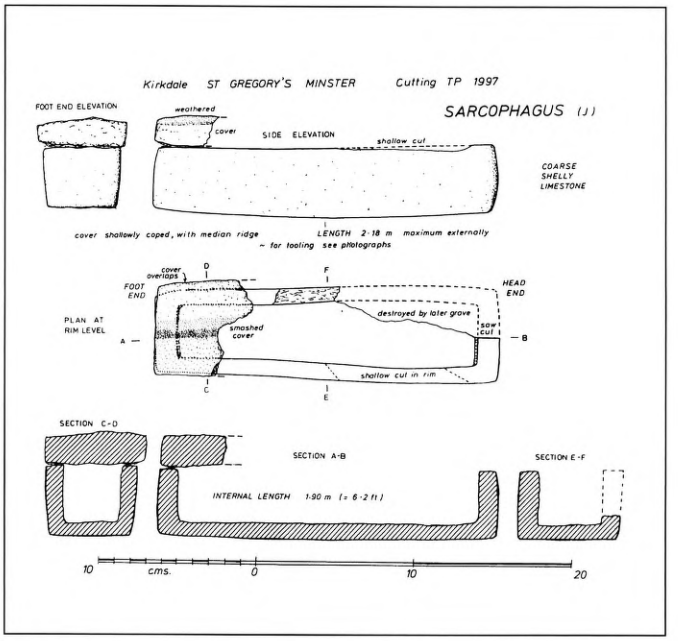
## YORKSHIRE

### *Kirkdale, St Gregory's Minster*

*Philip Rahtz & Lorna Watts*

Excavation in the field north of the church has been completed (see *Church Archaeology*, **I**, 61). The earliest features are 14 graves of men, women and children. Above these metal-working debris included evidence for 8th–9th-century iron smelting and smithing, and copper-alloy working. An outstanding find from these contexts is a 6 x 3mm fragment of filigree glass rod, with yellow and white opaque spiral trails. Large numbers of similar glass rods have been found in early 9th-century contexts at the monastery of San Vincenzo (Italy), where they were made there to decorate glass vessels, notably lamps.

Further work at the west end of the Minster has identified two phases of stone construction earlier than the foundations believed to be those of Orm Gamalson and recorded in the sundial inscription of 1055–65. The earliest of these is on a different alignment to that of the church, an orientation shared by the graves and post-holes in the north field and by the churchyard wall.




*Anglo-Saxon sarcophagus from excavation at west end of St Gregory's Minster, Kirkdale (Illustration: P A Rahtz)*

Also on this earlier (?monastic) orientation are graves and a sarcophagus of local shelly limestone, probably of 10th–11th-century date, though parallels are hard to find (see figure).[1] Below this was much charnel, including a 'nest' of three skulls facing east. Among the bones were an iron tuyere tube, embedded in slag, and a small quartz pebble.

**Notes**

1. Readers are asked to contact the Editor or the authors (address given below) if they know of any parallels.

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(This and the monograph by Watts, Grenville & Rahtz 1996 (the latter in xerox form) can be obtained from the authors, each £3, post free. Please write to The Old School, Harome, Helmsley, York YO6 4JE).

Rahtz, P, Watts *et al*, forthcoming 'Kirkdale – The inscriptions', *Med Archaeol*, **xli**

### *Patrick Brompton, St Patrick*

*Peter F Ryder*

A prominent church, standing at the west end of the village of Patrick Brompton in lower Wensleydale, St Patrick's has

a rather brash rock-faced west tower which is clearly Victorian, but the rest of the church is older, with Transitional work in the arcades and a very fine 14th-century chancel. Pevsner (1966, 281) sees the north arcade and south doorway as *c*1190, with the eastern bays of both arcades 'just a little later'.

Recent restoration has involved the stripping of plaster from internal walls, revealing, as often, some interesting structural evidence. This includes what seems to be the scar of a removed cross-wall on the south side of the short length of wall forming the easternmost pier of the north arcade, an odd socket on its opposite side as if a large corbel had been removed and, most surprisingly, the entire internal walls of an earlier tower cocooned within its 1864 successor. There also seems to be evidence that the whole south arcade has been rebuilt a little outside the line of an earlier south nave wall, which might explain the off-centre position of the chancel arch. Other previously unremarked upon, but quite apparent, features are the substantial angle quoins at the north-west angle of the nave, indicating that there was originally no north aisle.

Antiquarian accounts considered the 1864 tower a replacement of a late 16th century predecessor, on the strength of a reference in Bateman's *Divine Warning to Judgement* to a storm in 1577 when 'the steeple of the church riven from the top to the battlements, and shortly fell to the ground' (quoted by McCall 1910, 115). This has been taken to imply that the whole tower had been destroyed, when in fact the reference may be to the destruction of a spire. A pre-1864 print (*ibid* Plate XXVII) shows a lofty tower with its angle quoins accentuated and a heavy square (?) string course, although its mullioned and transomed belfry openings are clearly late or post-medieval. Some features of the newly-revealed tower look archaic, notably the remains of an unusually tall west doorway with jambs constructed of alternating long and tall blocks. Its head has been destroyed but its rear arch is so narrow (0.72m) it suggests that the jambs must be cut more or less at right angles to the wall.

A very tentative reconstruction of the building history of this complex building might be that it originated as a substantial Saxon church, perhaps cruciform (a rare plan in the North), with a western porch or tower. Around 1190 the earlier north transept and perhaps a series of porticus to the west of it were integrated into a north aisle, whilst the crossing was retained. This would explain the spacing of the arches in the north arcade and the evidence of a corbel that would have carried an arch between transept and porticus. In the 14th century came a major remodelling when the old crossing was removed and the south wall of the nave completely rebuilt (reusing the *c*1190 southern arch of the old crossing at the east end of the new arcade). The intention may have been to rebuild the north arcade as well, and the scheme was left incomplete, leaving the present odd relationship between arcades and chancel arch, an uneasy amalgam of old and new.

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### *Stalling Busk, Stalling Busk Chapel*
*Stephen Haigh*

A survey of the ruined chapel at Stalling Busk, Bainbridge, was undertaken in the spring of 1997. The building is of simple design but has an unusual plan – it is divided by two plain arcades running north–south, rather than east–west. Historical evidence indicates that the chapel was first built in the early 17th century, and following a period of abandonment was rebuilt in the early 18th century. Archaeological survey of the building suggests that parts of the earlier structure survive, but that much of the fabric is 18th century. The arcades may date to largely unrecorded alterations of the early 19th century. The building has been disused since 1910 and its roof was removed shortly afterwards. Despite some consolidation work in the 1980s, its condition continues to deteriorate.

The research project was grant-aided by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The archive and a copy of the report have been deposited with the Authority.

# *Ireland*

## CO CORK

### *Kilmore, Ballingeary*
*Jerry O'Sullivan, GUARD*

A programme of archaeological evaluation at Kilmore, near Ballingeary, Co Cork, was carried out in July 1996 by a team from Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD). The site is a grass meadow of 3.5 ha in extent, with a killeen site near the centre and a known souterrain site (part collapsed) near the western perimeter. These elements, combined with curvilinear boundaries, suggested that this was the site of an early medieval ecclesiastical settlement.

The investigation comprised geophysical survey (magnetometry and resistivity), excavation of machine-cut trial trenches and detailed topographic survey using a total station. The backfilled ditch of a large earthwork enclosure was identified by trial trenches and in geophysical survey plots. Only a few plough-truncated features were recorded within the interior, however, and no stratified sediments of any sort were found.

The evaluation was jointly sponsored by the Ballingeary

Historical Society (with Leader funding) and the University of Glasgow.

## CO SLIGO

### *Trahaun O Riain, Inishmurray*

*Jerry O'Sullivan, GUARD*

Total excavation of Trahaun O Riain was conducted by GUARD in August 1997. The work was commissioned by the National Monuments & Historic Properties Service in response to advancing coastal erosion. The monument is one of several outdoor altars associated with a 6th-century monastic settlement near the centre of the island.

In its primary phase, the monument appears to have consisted of a small stone cell and – immediately before it – a small area of paving which supported an upright timber (possibly the post for a portable altar or *mensa* tablet). In the second phase this paving was sealed by an upstanding altar. This was built of drystone rubble, roughly coursed, forming a regular, 'square' cairn, 0.7m high and 1.9m in maximum length. The altar itself was enclosed by a low drystone rubble wall. This abutted the walls of the adjacent cell and was clearly of a secondary build. A small cairn lay a few metres from the enclosing wall on the south side. Fragments of a small, green, glass vessel – possibly of Mediterranean origin – were found within the base of the wall core. A cross-inscribed slab was found amongst the rebuilt entrance to the cell. This work probably represents maintenance or rebuilding of the monument in the modern period. No human skeletal remains or occupation material were found (ie hearth debris, artefacts or food waste).

An important interpretation which can be derived from this excavation is that the altar is not a later medieval monument, as some have proposed, but is an element in the early monastic community's conception of the entire island as a liturgical landscape, in which the central monastic settlement and its main churches were amplified by a series of outlying monuments on the island's periphery.

Reconstruction of the monument on an adjacent site – at an appropriate distance from the eroding cliff edge – was completed by the National Monuments & Historic Properties Service in September 1997. The cross inscribed slab from the site, along with others from the island, is now on display at the island's former primary school which has recently been renovated for this purpose.

# *Scotland*

## FIFE

### *Cupar, St Christopher's*

*Derek W Hall & D R Perry, Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust*

The former site of the medieval parish church of St Christopher lies on the northern side of the burgh of Cupar, in a field due south of Kinloss House and Farm. In February 1995 some of the field was fieldwalked by volunteers as part of the Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee's fieldwalking initiative. This located 206 sherds of medieval pottery and 336 pieces of disarticulated human bone, and triggered a field assessment to determine whether the site should be recommended for protection.

The church of Cupar lay outside and to the north of the burgh of Cupar. It was granted by Duncan, Earl of Fife to the Priory Church of St Andrews between 1154 and 1178 – possibly after 1163, as it is not included in the confirmation in that year of the possessions of the priory by Pope Alexander III (*St Andrews Liber*, 241–42). It is, however, included in another, undated, but presumably later, confirmation by that Pope (*ibid* 81). Initially only the patronage of the church seems to have been granted, as it was not until 1240 that David de Bernham, Bishop of St Andrews granted the church to the uses of the priory. Thereafter the church was served by a perpetual vicar (Cowan 1967, 42). In the taxation lists of 1274–75 and 1275–76, known as Bagimond's Roll, the vicar of Cupar was assessed at 22s 8d (£1.13) (Dunlop 1939, 37, 61). Some 20 years later the church (or parsonage/rectory) of Cupar was assessed at 35 merks (£23.33), while the vicar was assessed at 10 merks (£6.66) (*St Andrews Liber*, 34, 37).

In 1415 the inconvenience of the church's location outside the burgh caused the burgesses to transfer it inside the town (Bower 1987, 85). The transfer, although with the consent of the vicar and bishop, does not seem to have had the approval of the priory as patron (Dunlop & Cowan 1970, 27), as the priory made an official complaint in 1431 (S Taylor pers comm). The burgesses may have decided to take advantage of vacant property left after the destruction of the burgh in a fire in 1410 or 1411 (*ibid* 75; Skene 1880, 264). They may also have been influenced by the example of their neighbours in St Andrews, where in 1412 the parish church was transferred from the east end of the cathedral to the midst of the burgh (Bower 1987, 83).

After the foundation of the new parish church inside the burgh, the old church became the chaplainry of St Christopher in the Old Church or in the old cemetery of Cupar, with the chaplain being presented by the Crown as

*St Christopher's Church, Cupar: composite plan of all trenches showing wall lines and contour survey (Illustration: Dave Munro)*

patron and receiving collation from the bishop. A succession of presentations to the chaplainry under the Privy Seal survives from 1499 (*RSS*, i, nos 188, 1509; ii, nos 4314, 4315, 4576; viii, no 491). Attached to the chaplainry were four acres of not very fertile land, called Maryfauld, in the toun of Pitbladdo, which may have been part of the original endowment of Earl Duncan in the 12th century. These lands were feued by Walter Kersane, chaplain, in 1533 to Master John Spens of Maristoun (*ibid* ii, no 1510). The cemetery itself was feued in 1569 by John Luklaw, chaplain, to Elizabeth Farny and David Philp her son (*RMS*, iv, no 1912). This latter feu presumably means that the church and cemetery were no longer in use. The cemetery was described as being bounded by the orchard of the church, then feued to John Spens of Maristoun, to the west, by the king's common way to the east and the lands of Kirkfeild or Clynkmylne to the north and south. The latter location is significant as it suggests that the priory of St Andrews had erected a mill on part of the lands belonging to the church of Cupar. In 1579 the Crown gave a lease to James Colvile of Easter Wemyss for five years of the 'mill called Clinkmyln, with mill-lands thereof and acres pertaining thereto called the Kirkfeild of Couper' (*RSS*, vii, 2085). Klinkmill is located on Blaeu's map of east Fife to the north of Cupar on a tributary of the River Eden (Stone 1991, 65), and on Ainslie's map of 1775 (S Taylor pers comm) but the placename is no longer current. It apparently stood near the present Kinloss House.

The Old Statistical Account refers to the removal of the church foundations by the proprietor of Kinloss House in 1759 (Withrington & Grant 1978, 200). In 1912 a number of graves were discovered on the site during the erection of an agricultural show pavilion (NMRS record card NO 31 NE 2). A carved head was found in the same field and in 1964 was preserved in Kinloss House farm steading (see below). Many bones have been recovered from the site of the graveyard during ploughing and there is also an unproven reference to silver and other ornaments being recovered from the site (Simpson & Stevenson 1981, 19).

In autumn 1997 a programme of contour survey, geophysical prospection and trial excavation was carried out. The Ordnance Survey locates the site of the church on a marked earthwork in the field. A levelled contour survey and a resistivity survey were carried out over and around the earthwork. A series of 11 hand dug trial trenches (A–K: see figure) were then opened specifically targeting strong anomalies. Those investigated by trenches B and K proved to represent a water pipe and bedrock respectively. Trenches A to G, however, discovered the demolished remains of a stone building which can only be the remains of St Christopher's church. The remains lie only 0.3m below modern ground surface and were being damaged by ploughing. From excavated evidence the building had an internal width of 6m, while a combination of geophysics and excavation suggests an internal length of *c*20m. The south-western extension to the main building may represent a porch or possibly a side chapel.

The small part of the interior excavated contained the remains of a substantial flagged sandstone floor. The largest of the slabs measured 2m by 1m, and was 0.20m thick. This slab had bevelled edges and the northern face was well tooled. It is tempting to suggest that this slab has been reused. The eastern wall foundation of the building appears to run at an oblique angle to the main north and south wall lines of the building, but this may be explained if the eastern end of the building was rounded rather than square,

as is the case at both St Athernase church in Leuchars (Fife) (Fawcett nd, 18) and the church at Dalmeny (West Lothian) (MacGibbon & Ross 1896, 299).

The church graveyard was found on the south side of the building, and *in situ* burials were located 1m south of the wall line. It is interesting that these burials lie at a different angle from the church building, and there appears to be evidence in at least two places for disturbance of burials by the construction of the south wall of the church. Fragments of human bone were also located north of the building, but no definite trace of *in situ* burials was recovered on this side. Three samples of human bone have been submitted for C14 dating.

The western boundary wall at Kinloss Farm contains reused stonework that is supposed to have originated in the field that contains the church. The stone head referred to by the Ordnance Survey is actually the base of an octagonal pot quern that has a 'gargoyle' on one of its faces. This object is similar to one recovered from excavations at Friars Street in Inverness (Inverness) that was dated to the 15th century (Harden 1985, 25). The boundary wall also contains three pieces of an aumbry that is said to have come from the church field. During the assessment a possible cup-marked stone was located in the field to the south of the site, apparently one of the many stones cleared from the church field after ploughing.

The assessment has successfully identified the site of Cupar's original parish church and graveyard. There are tantalising clues to the origin of the site particularly from the geophysical survey which seems to be suggesting the presence of an oval enclosure surrounding the church and graveyard. Part of this enclosure may be represented by the ditch excavated in Trench H. The remains of the demolished church only lie 0.30m below modern ground level and it was quite clear that some plough damage was taking place particularly to the flagstone surface. The landowner, Mr Addison Scott, and farm manager, Mr A Blake, have decided to stop ploughing this part of the field.

**Acknowledgements**

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## *Dunino, Dunino Churchyard*

*David P Bowler, Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust*

Excavation at Dunino shows that the present church, built in 1826, stands on the foundations of its predecessor, and that traces of an even earlier building may lie buried directly to the west.

Dunino Church lies 6km south-east of St Andrews, on the east side of the Dunino Burn. The present church was designed by James Gillespie Graham and erected in 1826–27, with a chancel and north-west porch added during the 1920s, but a church has stood on the site since at least the 13th century and perhaps much longer (Dunlop 1939, 37, 39, 40, 62; *Liber Sancti Andree*, 34; Lindsay & Cameron 1934, 218).

The present building replaces an earlier one which had fallen into disrepair. Gillespie Graham's report on the previous church is particularly interesting in the light of the excavated evidence:

> 'The floor of the Church being so much sunk under the natural surface of the ground must have greatly increased the general dampness of the walls together with the earthen floor; that the building may be considered a very uncomfortable and unwholesome (sic) place of worship.
>
> 'I need hardly remark that care should be taken to have the floor of the new Church elevated two steps above the natural surface of the ground.' (Heritors' Records 16)

The recent investigations were required in advance of a new vestry and toilet at the north-west corner of the church, and the Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust was commissioned by the Kirk Session to carry out the necessary work in September 1997.

The most important evidence came from the south wall

of the new vestry. Excavations here revealed a long sequence of foundations under the west gable wall of the church, an unexpected, early east–west wall foundation, and a charnel deposit.

The west wall of Gillespie Graham's church rests on a much earlier foundation of lime-mortared sandstone up to 2.48m below present floor level. Careful facing and traces of lime rendering more than 1.2m below floor level. This suggests that ground level had been much lower when the old church was built and had subsequently risen around the church, leading to the problems described by Gillespie Graham in 1826. Such rises in ground level are a common result of many centuries of grave digging.

The already great depth of buried walls was further increased by Gillespie Graham's determination to raise the new church far above the damp ground level, resulting in a cumulative foundation depth of 2.48m. The architect's decision to raise the floor level may have sealed the remains of the old church intact under the present one, with interesting potential for further investigation. The upper foundation cut was filled with a charnel deposit, the long bones neatly packed east–west along the trench, with at least one skull intact.

Digging the new vestry foundation also revealed an early east–west foundation, of sandstone bonded with clay, dug into a soil layer directly above natural sand. This was buried more than 1.8m below current floor level and lay outside the west wall of the present church and its predecessor. It may have been cut through by the earliest foundations of the west wall. Above the clay-bonded foundation were traces of a robber trench and some evidence of burning. The clay-bonded construction is quite different from anything else at Dunino and perhaps forms part of a much earlier church, preceding the one demolished in 1826.

The new service trenches around the church cut through a large area of the churchyard to a depth of *c*0.7m. Surprisingly, no articulated burials or grave cuts were found, but it became apparent that some of the lower-lying areas of the churchyard had been levelled up during the rebuilding of 1826–27 or the 1920s reordering. Most of the human bone recovered at Dunino came from another charnel deposit, buried under a holly bush just outside the north wall of the church and probably derived from graves disturbed in 1826–27, or by the later insertion of a boiler room under the east end of the church.

Few artefacts were found. Most of the pottery was Victorian, but about 30% was medieval – almost entirely the White Gritty Ware found on many Scottish sites from the 12th to the late 15th centuries. The non-ceramic finds included a copper alloy pin of 17th- or 18th-century date, and plain window glass and iron coffin furniture, all of 18th- or 19th-century date.

*Location plan of Fowlis Wester and detail of trench locations (Drawn by Kirsty Cameron, CFA).*

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## PERTHSHIRE

### *Fowlis Wester Church*

*Alastair R Rees & Richard J Strachan, Centre for Field Archaeology*

Fowlis Wester village is situated on the northern slopes of Strathearn between Perth and Crieff and the church is

located on a knoll on the northern side of the village (see figure). An inscription within the church reveals the medieval origins of the present building: 'The Parish church of St Beannus granted by Earl Gilbert of Strathearn to the *Canona* of Inchaffray Abbey, along with all the dower lands, in the year 1210 AD and, thereafter, till the Reformation, was served by priests and readers from the abbey' (SDD 1963). The church has been subject to repeated alteration; first in 1641, then in 1802 and again in 1841. Extensive re-modelling in 1927 attempted to return the medieval character to the building. These alterations included adding much Celtic ornament to the furnishings, but retained few details from the original sacrament-house and bell-cote (*ibid*). Ironically, the only recognisable medieval feature that now remains is a small aumbry in the east wall (Lindsay 1950). A class II Pictish Stone (NMRS ref: NN92 SW10) was located during the 1927 work (Waddell 1932) and a large Pictish cross slab (NN92 SW 5) was relocated in 1991 from the village square to the interior of the church.

Previous trial trenching in 1991 revealed the outer face of the present building's apparent primary north wall, built directly upon glacial till (Lewis 1991). In 1994 the eastern gable wall of the church was subsiding and it was presumed that the whole building rested directly upon glacial till. This, and the presence of graves, were thought to be the probable causes of subsidence and the Centre for Field Archaeology was contracted to excavate in advance of underpinning.

Two trenches (Trench A & D, see figure) were excavated simultaneously at the south-eastern and north-eastern corners of the eastern gable wall. In both the stepped foundations of the gable wall were found to lie directly upon bedrock at a depth of 1.3m (A) and 1.2m (D) below the present ground surface. As a result Trenches B and C were not opened. In Trench A removal of the mixed upper fill revealed the first undisturbed extended burial in this trench, at a depth of *c*0.9m. This almost complete inhumation was aligned west–east (with the head to the west) with two coins in the eye-sockets. Both are 'Turners' (Scottish two pences), 3rd issues (1642–50) dating to King Charles I (N Holmes pers comm). At a similar level a second inhumation (not excavated) was found. Trench D located the remains of three extended inhumations, all aligned west–east. It was apparent from associated finds that the upper two were relatively recent. The primary grave, however, rested immediately upon bedrock within a coffin defined by a rectangular deposit of iron-panning and decayed wood fragments. Only the skull, upper torso and limbs survived *in situ,* the lower half having been removed by a later grave. Six small probable silver-plated pins were recovered from the torso and skull.

The coins recovered from Trench A indicate these burials post-date the recorded refurbishment of the church in 1641. It is therefore likely, by the immediate proximity of the excavated burials to the foundations and bedrock in Trench D, that the foundations exposed either date to the 1641 refurbishment or are earlier. No identifiably earlier structural remains were located below the existing fabric of the eastern gable wall of the church.

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# *Wales*

## ANGLESEY

### *Trearddur Bay, Towyn y capel*

*Andrew Davidson, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust*

Towyn y capel, or Capel St Ffraid, is the site of a former chapel and cemetery adjacent to the beach at Trearddur Bay, Anglesey. Now visible as a sand hill lying just above the high water mark and separated from the beach by a promenade, numerous antiquarian and modern records testify to the steady erosion of the mound and the loss of skeletal material from within. In 1996, a Cadw-funded assessment of the coastal archaeology of Anglesey identified the site as being one of the most significant within the county to be suffering from constant erosion (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust 1996) and two weeks of excavation took place in October 1997 to ascertain the archaeological value of the remainder of the mound.

The mound presently measures some 40m north–south and 25m east–west. The top lies 4.42m above the adjacent promenade and 6.05m above the beach. The site is crossed from west to east by a stone wall built in the early years of the 20th century. A number of stone slabs, some on edge, are visible within the turf on the mound. Some of these are thought to be the remains of cist graves.

There are few early references to the site. It is clearly indicated as a chapel on Saxton's map of 1578, where it is

called 'Cap Llanfanfraidd', and on Speed's map of 1610. There is a print of the site dated 1776 (reproduced in Davies & Rowlands 1986, 35) which shows the ruins of a stone building standing almost to eaves height, with an east window, the remains of a south window lighting the sanctuary and a south door at the west end. The first major description of the site is by W O Stanley (1846) in an article in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chapel was still partly standing and the dimensions were 'about thirty or thirty five feet by twenty two feet six inches'. The graves in the mound were arranged in four or five tiers and the implication is that these were mostly cist graves, although plain burials were also found. Approximately one third of the mound had been washed away by 1846, including the east end of the chapel. In a later article Stanley (1868, 399) records the mound as having 'wholly perished', and corrects a statement made in his previous article, namely that the cists were laid in parallel rows with the bodies placed with the heads towards the west, rather than converging towards the centre of the mound. A series of articles in the *Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society* record the continued erosion of the mound and the exposure of large numbers of burials (Baynes 1921; Baynes 1928; Thomas 1937, 183; Thomas 1938, 90).

In 1980 a bronze penannular brooch of 8th- or 9th-century date was found during the strengthening of the sea wall close to the mound (Lewis 1982). A trial excavation in 1986 discovered only a gravel surface, interpreted as a relatively modern track, and two buried turf-lines at approximately 1m below the surface (Boyle 1991). In 1991 consolidation work was carried out at the mound by Cadw and Anglesey Borough Council. A watching brief established that the construction of the promenade had disturbed an area at least 1m inside the line of the present concrete surface.

The 1997 excavations, consisting of a trench 2m x 9m excavated from the western seaward side into the body of the mound at the level of the promenade, discovered two prominent dark turf-lines within the sand, both of them sloping up from east to west – that is towards the former top of the mound. In between the two turf-lines the sand was divided into layers of fine and coarser material, indicating times when worsening weather would have been capable of carrying heavier material and there were some 19 identifiable layers between the two ground surfaces.

The skeletal remains of some 16 children and young adults were also found, although less than half of these were *in situ* and only three were complete skeletons. Two cists were excavated. One contained a still-born child and the other the lower part of two *in situ* skeletons and the remains of at least two other individuals inserted at a later date. The two cists were in the lower part of the mound: the grave for the child's cist had been cut through the lower turf-line and the lintel stones would have been level with the top of the turf. The other larger cist pre-dated the lower turf-line. The remainder of the skeletons, those buried in simple dug graves, were situated between the two turf-lines. Two were complete, but had been disturbed either recently or possibly during the later medieval use of the cemetery. Three of the graves had been dug at the same level and in a definite row. Each appeared to be marked either by a large boulder over the upper end of the body, or, in one instance, by a stone set on edge at the feet end, the stones being some 1m above the skeleton. A direct relationship between the marker stones and the skeletal remains has yet to be proven, but certainly in plan one overlies the other with remarkable consistency. A number of the non-cist burials had rounded quartz pebbles associated with them, and in one instance a pebble was lying directly on the forehead of a skeleton.

Post-excavation work will be carried out in 1998, when it is hoped to obtain a sequence of dates for the *in situ* burials.

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## BRECKNOCK

### *Llangors, St Paulinus*

*Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd*

St Paulinus survives as a 15th-century church with a nave, south aisle and west tower. Inside are a 13th-century font and fragments of three early Christian stones. An evaluation was undertaken prior to the application for a faculty to refloor the nave and insert underfloor heating. Seven small areas were excavated to a depth of 0.3m. A deposit of clay pre-dating the 15th-century church was located in four of the trenches. Three located foundations for the 15th-century church, whilst the central trench adjacent to one of the arcade piers shows that the church was designed on a double aisle plan. Extensive disturbance

to a depth of between 0.24 and 0.45m and removal of the original floor had taken place during the 1874 restoration of the church.

A watching brief in front of the south door located monolithic stones laid as foundations for a porch (CAP Report 16).

## CARMARTHENSHIRE

### *Dyfed Historic Churches Survey*
*Neil Ludlow & Jenny Hall, Cambria Archaeology*

Cambria Archaeology (formerly Dyfed Archaeological Trust) has taken a further two seasons of recording as part of the Cadw-funded pan-Wales Historic Churches Survey reported in *Church Archaeology* vol 1 (1997, 48–50). During 1996–97 the former districts of Carmarthen, Ceredigion and Llanelli were surveyed and Dinefwr and Preseli Pembrokeshire during 1997–98.

### *Carmarthen Greyfriars*
*Andy Manning, Cambria Archaeology*

A programme of excavation and a subsequent watching brief were carried out on the site of the mid 13th-century Franciscan friary at Carmarthen in advance of redevelopment. The majority of the friary, with the exception of the double nave and sections of the choir was excavated in 1983–1990 under the direction of Terrence James.

The 1997 excavations were focused on unexcavated areas within the choir and rooms situated immediately to the south, the area immediately to the north of the friary and an additional area along the northern boundary of the development area to the rear of Lammas Street.

A small number of pre-friary features, dating to the late 12th- to mid-13th centuries and associated with agricultural storage and processing, were identified below or immediately to the north of the friary. Within the choir, excavations uncovered sections of the northern and southern choir stall footings and two associated internal gully features containing a wide range of small finds including coins, fragments of lead window grills, amber rosary beads and an assortment of fragmentary decorated copper book furnishings. Within the central and north-western area of the choir a small percentage of undisturbed tile flooring remains, cut by 61 burials which were recorded and lifted.

A graveyard containing a further 33 medieval graves was discovered adjacent to the present throughway linking Lammas Street with the local superstore 40m north of the nave. The graveyard appears to have continued in use in the years immediately following the dissolution and demolition of the friary and 51 post-demolition burials were located.

A copy of the report will be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo (Project Record PRN 35235)

## GLAMORGAN

### *St Mellon, St Mellon's*
*Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd*

St Mellon's Church has a 13th-century tower and 14th-century nave. A desk-based assessment and field evaluation were undertaken on a plot of land – called 'The Ton' – to the south-west of the church in advance of development. A trench against the Church Lane frontage located an 18th- or 19th-century cottage. Other trenches failed to locate archaeological features apart from a possible medieval field boundary between the upper and lower fields. In the north part of the site at least 15 burials aligned east–west were found. These were undoubtedly part of the graveyard and the southern and eastern extent of the burials was recorded (CAP Report 9).

### *Cardiff, St John the Baptist*
*Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd*

A desk-based assessment and evaluation were carried out on a narrow strip of land along the north side of the Old Library (built in 1882). The site was part of a *c*1830 expansion of the adjacent graveyard of St John the Baptist. The four evaluation trenches located a number of burials (all *in situ*) and an old ground surface probably of medieval date. Full excavation of the area in advance of construction of a plant well recovered 32 skeletons, all dating to the 19th century (CAP Reports 20 & 36).

## MONMOUTHSHIRE

### *Tintern Abbey*
*Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd*

A detailed Cadw-funded survey was undertaken of the southern triforium window on the west side of the north transept prior to its replacement. A small excavation (*c* 3.85m x 1.5m) in the nave aimed to locate the backing wall of the 14th-century pulpitum and gather information for a proposed reconstruction of the pulpitum screen based on surviving fragments. Excavation was limited to the removal of topsoil and excavation of the upper fill of a robber trench 2.3m wide. This trench was evidently dug to remove the foundations of the pulpitum backing wall. The

robber trench cut a layer of mortar waste which sealed a deposit of clay thought to be the foundation level of the nave floor (CAP Report 34).

## PEMBROKESHIRE

### *Eglwyswrw, St Cristiolus' Church*
*Neil Ludlow & Richard Ramsey, Cambria Archaeology*

Salvage excavations in advance of a road widening scheme affecting St Cristiolus' churchyard, Eglwyswrw, revealed an inhumation cemetery of medieval date. Forty two burials, all extended and supine, were discovered. Twenty five were lintel cist burials and 19 dug graves. All were closely contemporary – the fills of both dug and cist graves contained sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware of the late 12th – early 13th centuries. Where superimposition occurred cists cut dug graves. Bone preservation was, in the main, poor. The burials cut a feature following a curving line across the excavation, not closely dateable but similar to Bronze Age ring ditches encountered at similar cemetery sites. The cemetery was sealed by two layers of gravel surfacing, which contained further sherds of Dyfed gravel-tempered ware and a North Devon gravel-tempered ware sherd of the 16th–17th centuries (Project Record PRN 35707).

### *Milford Haven, Pill Priory*
*Neil Ludlow & Richard Ramsey, Cambria Archaeology*

A watching brief was undertaken on water main renewal through an area that was formerly part of the precinct of Pill Priory. A number of medieval inhumations and one possibly post-dissolution burial were discovered and stretches of the truncated north and west walls of the north transept recorded (Project Record PRN 33488).

### *St Florence, St Florencius*
*Maugan Trethowan, Cambria Archaeology*

During renovation work at St Florence Church removal of the floorboards and pews and digging of new heating ducts uncovered rubble platforms and ledges constructed in 1870 to carry new floor joists and redeposited soil containing human bone fragments (Project Number PRN 3539).