

England

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Chetwode, St Mary & St Nicholas

John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In May 1998 the OAU carried out a watching brief during removal of a suspended wooden floor in the north chapel and reduction of the underlying material by 0.15m, prior to the installation of a new suspended floor. The Tudor panelling was temporarily removed in order to allow lifting of the floor. The church is the surviving chancel of an Augustinian priory and was built around 1240.

The removal of the Tudor panelling revealed a double-niched piscina in the south wall of the chapel. This had been carved from a single block of limestone and measured c1m in height and 1.5m in width. It consisted of two niches under an arch which featured an incised foliate design at its apex. Two blocked doorways were revealed in the east wall, diagonally opposite the piscina, neither of which was visible from outside the church. It is not known whether these features represent an earlier arrangement of the north chapel of the church or part of the priory.

High Wycombe, All Saints' Church

Adam Brossler, Oxford Archaeological Unit

A watching brief and recording were undertaken on behalf of Sir William Halcrow and Partners Ltd during March and May of 1998. The recording identified a brick-built burial vault which contained two triple-shelled wood and lead coffins. The watching brief revealed a small portion of a wall and a compact layer which sealed the burial vault.

The roof of the vault was exposed during excavation of a trench for a new wall. A capstone was removed, providing a view of the interior of the vault. However, it was not possible to gain access into the vault. The vault was brick-built, with a barrel vaulted ceiling. It was rectangular in plan, measuring c2 m in length, 1.50m in width and 1.70m in height. A set of stairs built into the western wall of the vault were assumed to have provided access into the vault before it had been sealed. Two rows of slots were set in the northern wall and a single row in the southern wall. These are a common feature in burial vaults and are assumed to be for metal supports to allow the stacking of coffins. A suggested construction date of the late 1830s or early 1840s is based on the date of the coffin and its brass fittings.

The coffins were both east–west aligned. Evidence of a textile covering was identified on the southern coffin and both had brass fittings. A nameplate on the southern coffin identified the individual as William Boswell and gave a date

of 18 January 1844, assumed to be the date of his death.

The watching brief in May accompanied excavation of two trenches which were part of a new driveway. The stripping revealed a compact layer, comprising pebble and gravels in a yellow-clay matrix, which extended over the vault. The date of the layer was thought to be mid 19th to early 20th century, and possibly represents an ornamental surface covering the vault, or a path/access route around the church.

A small portion of a brick wall, aligned east–west, was exposed in the north-eastern trench. The wall was to the north-west of the burial vault, and was not thought to be related to it. The wall measured 0.72m in length, 0.38m in width and 0.17m in height. It was constructed in red and glazed brick, bonded together with a lime-based mortar and built in Flemish bond. The function of the wall was not clear, but it is thought to have been part of a post-medieval grave-surround or mausoleum feature.

Milton Keynes, Simpson, St Thomas' Church

John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In April 1998 a watching brief was undertaken during excavation of eight test pits at St Thomas' Church, Simpson. The pits were dug to investigate the church's foundations and determine ground conditions prior to the underpinning of various parts of the church structure. The majority of the church is 14th-century with a restoration in 1873 and underpinning of the tower earlier this century. An OAU watching brief at the church in 1989 revealed a cobbled and flagged medieval floor in the north transept and discovered that the earlier floors in the south transept had been removed in the 18th century. The tiled floor of the demolished vestry was uncovered in excavations outside the church, between the chancel and the north transept.

The test pit inside the church, at the base of the tower, revealed wall footings and disturbance associated with the insertion of a modern wood panel floor. The remaining seven test pits were located outside the church, on the south and east sides of the building, and contained wall footings of the standing church. A crudely-built brick wall that was possibly a former crypt was also recorded. Neither disturbed burials nor previous floors were present.

Olney, SS Peter & Paul

John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In May 1998 the OAU carried out a watching brief at SS Peter & Paul, Olney, which was originally 12th- to 14th-century in date but was almost completely rebuilt during the 19th century. The work took place during the excavation of a French drain around the north side of the church and two drain runs running north to soakaways. The foundations of the north wall of the church were

revealed in the French drain trench and a graveyard soil and a small quantity of human charnel were found in the drain runs. The soakaways contained graveyard soil to a depth exceeding 1.6m, one grave cut and a substantial quantity of human charnel. All of the human bone was retained for reburial.

An OAU watching brief at the church in 1995 identified features associated with the periodic repair and refurbishment of the building, and a buried graveyard soil outside the church contained a substantial quantity of human charnel. The results of the 1998 watching brief suggested a greater tradition of burial to the west of the church.

Sherington, St Laud's Church *Sean Cook, Oxford Archaeological Unit*

In July 1998 a field evaluation of four trenches at St Laud's Church was carried out in advance of proposals to construct an extension to the north side of the church and to extend the burial ground. The church was built between the 13th and the 16th centuries but the inhumations recorded in each trench are associated with the post-medieval cemetery. Substantial post-medieval use of the graveyard has caused considerable truncation of earlier archaeological deposits or burials.

CORNWALL

Gwithian Methodist Church *Charles Thomas*

The little Wesleyan Methodist meeting-house at Gwithian, west Cornwall, is rectangular, externally only some 7.5m by 10m. It is well documented since its original lease and building in 1810. With a south doorway, four high windows and an inner west gallery, it is probably the sole surviving example of a vernacular type with cob-above-stone walls and a thatched roof and is now listed Grade II* (Dolbey 1964, 96–97; Stell 1991, 30). Contraction of the Camborne Circuit led to a (rejected) application for holiday-cottage conversion in 1998 and then to a public auction in March 1999. Happily, this unique rural chapel was bought by a Methodist family for the benefit of the village community, and was re-opened in June 1999 solely for religious use and for the many annual visitors. It is in relatively sound condition (pews and rostrum are 1959 replacements from another chapel), can be maintained – as a Methodist church not a museum – and is an important addition to the sadly-declining stock of Nonconformist meeting-houses in Cornwall.

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DERBYSHIRE

Survey of medieval cross slab grave covers – an update *Peter F Ryder*

The second part of a research project, funded by the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee, has recently been completed, covering North East Derbyshire, the High Peak, and the Matlock/Darley Dale area. At a total of 26 churches 116 slabs were drawn and photographed, many previously were unrecorded. The largest collections of slabs found were at St Helen, Darley Dale (around 35) and at Chesterfield, where about a dozen slabs have been reused as treads in the tower stair. The condition of slabs at several localities raised concerns, such as at Blackwell where several slabs, apparently found when a local building was pulled down several years ago, are rapidly disintegrating in the churchyard.

DURHAM

Durham churches 1998/1999: an archaeological assessment *Peter F Ryder*

The programme of archaeological assessments, commissioned by the Diocese of Durham, continued with studies of five more churches, including Brancepeth, before its tragic fire (see p33).

St Mary, Cockfield is a small church usually dated to c1200, restored in 1865–68 and then enlarged in 1911. Despite the long interval between, both restoration and enlargement seem to have been carried out by the same architect, C Hodgson Fowler. Variations in fabric type, wall thickness and alignment suggest that nave and chancel may not be contemporary. It was noted that saltation in the south porch was rapidly destroying medieval cross-slabs reset in the wall.

St Mary the Less, Durham, now the Chapel of St John's College, is a small church tucked away in the south bailey, and is generally thought to be a rebuild of 1846–47 by George Pickering. His neo-Romanesque south and east elevations conceal the fact that genuine 12th-century fabric survives on the north and west. Parts of the small chancel arch also seem to be authentic, although its ornate decoration is Pickering's.

St James, Hamsterley is a small cruciform church, remote from its village. Despite extensive 19th-century alteration,

the thin nave walls and large western quoins of early character suggest that pre-Conquest fabric may be present. The west wall of the south transept of c1275 has been built over a pair of contemporary monuments, a cross slab and a female effigy.

Michael & All Angels, Houghton le Spring is a handsome cruciform building, with many complexities, spanning both medieval and post-medieval periods. There is 12th-century work in the chancel. The plan of the crossing, remodelled in the 14th century, shows some oddities – such as its projecting salient angles – which may indicate an early origin, as does the presence of a possible Roman sarcophagus in the churchyard.

At *Holy Cross, Ryton*, in 1998, the bell frames were renewed, the old frames being recorded in detail before being dismantled and re-assembled in the base of the spire. The old frames, a good example of a jack-braced long-headed type (form 6B in Pickford's classification) appeared to be of mid 18th-century date and correlate with the two earliest bells (1763, by Lester & Pack of London). The frames had been subject to repair and strengthening, although without substantial alteration to their original form.

At *St Nicholas, West Boldon* external repointing and repair in early 1998 were accompanied by a programme of archaeological recording, which has allowed the structural history of the building to be understood in more detail. The chancel was extended and aisles were added in the 13th century, the aisles being rebuilt and widened around 1400. They were also lengthened to engage the west tower and heightened soon after. Extensive alterations took place in the 18th century – including the virtual rebuilding of the western half of the chancel.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Brookthorpe, St Swithun

Carolyn Heighway, Past Historic

A watching brief was carried out in May 1998 for the Churches Conservation Trust on six trial trenches against the church walls. Profiles of the foundations were drawn. The varying nature of the medieval wall foundations indicated a complex development which is not apparent from the standing building.

Chaceley, St John the Baptist

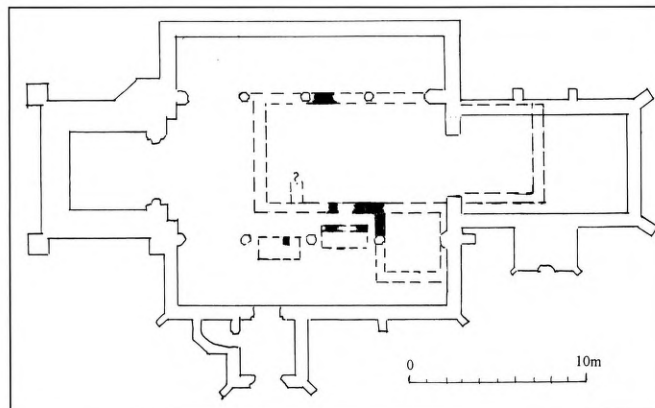
Carolyn Heighway, Past Historic

A watching brief in May 1997 for the PCC was carried out during digging of drainage trenches. Details of the sandstone foundations were recorded. A penny of 1806 was found in the topsoil.

Cam, St George

Carolyn Heighway, Past Historic

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for the PCC during work to install supports for new pew boarding. The remains of a building were recorded as shallow rubble-filled trenches just beneath the pew cavities at a depth below floor level of c600mm. This building is interpreted as a pre 14th-century, possibly Anglo-Norman, church (see figure).



Cam Church: interpretation of features found during watching brief (Illustration: Carolyn Heighway, after Bob Priest)

Mitcheldean, St Michael & All Angels

Carolyn Heighway, Past Historic

A watching brief was carried out in September 1998 during the excavation of drainage trenches. The foundations of several post-medieval cottages, which once occupied the east side of the churchyard, were recorded.

Gloucester Cathedral & Precinct

Carolyn Heighway, Past Historic

The north aisle roof (97/B) – A record was made during repairs of the stonework at the east end of the north aisle roof, where remains of an early Romanesque design for the north aisle roof can be seen.

Lady Chapel undercroft (97/C) – Before refurbishment a record was made of the floor of the undercroft, in which four stone ledger slabs were set, some with the remains of 14th-century decoration. A trial investigation established that a possible medieval floor lies near the surface; this was not disturbed during subsequent works. The undercroft was crossed from north to south along its whole length by a backfilled trench which may represent the line of a medieval culvert. During excavation of the Victorian storm water drain-runs for the purpose of repairs and inserting manhole covers, two late Victorian brick garden walls were noted. A manhole approximately 6m north-east of the

north-east corner of the Lady Chapel encountered tip lines sloping down towards the north under 1m of roughly horizontal topsoil: these tip lines are probably the latest fills of the late Roman city ditch.

8 College Green precinct wall (97/E) – A record was made of the abbey precinct wall which runs south of the gardens of 7 and 8 College Green. The wall behind No 8 included an apparent blocked doorway which must be a medieval or early post-medieval feature.

Cable duct, Church House to 4 College Green (97/F) – A watching brief was maintained on a computer cable duct excavated from Church House to 4 College Green. The foundation of the medieval wall which marked the west end of the lay cemetery and the east side of the Great Court was observed and recorded.

Crypt clearance (98/B) – The original northern entrance to the crypt of Gloucester Cathedral has been blocked since the 14th century. In 1998 a heap of rubble that had occupied the blocked recess was cleared away. The rubble had probably been deposited during excavation for heating ducts in 1972. It included a collection of early 15th-century tiles, mostly plain. These have been catalogued and a sample will be deposited in Gloucester Museum; the rest will be stored in the cathedral crypt.

Sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (98/C) – A sherd of pottery with a flared rim was excavated from the garden of 2 College Yard. The pottery is Gloucester fabric 41A and is part of a hand-made cooking pot in oolite-tempered ware with rim diameter of 160mm. The pottery fabric included a fragment of green glass. A similar rim fragment from the 10th-century kiln at 1 Westgate Street, Gloucester is illustrated in *Medieval Archaeology* (Vince 1979, 170–81, fig 8, no 87). The sherd is in the possession of Simon Fitter, 2 College Yard.

3 College Green, cellar (98/D) – The southern cellar room was being refurbished for use as an archive store: a record was made of the south wall which is the abbey precinct wall. The wall is of blocks of lias and is one of the best-preserved sections of this wall, having been protected from the elements for many centuries.

The great east window (98/G) – An appraisal was carried out in 1997. In 1998 a brief survey of the bibliographical and documentary evidence for past repairs on the great east window was carried out. A survey of stone types and other structural detail was done by the head mason, Pascal Mychalysin. On the advice of Dr Richard K Morris of Warwick University, selected key profiles of various elements of the window will be recorded as the opportunity arises.

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GREATER LONDON

Lambeth Palace

Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

An extensive programme of alterations is planned at the east end of Lambeth Palace Chapel during 1999. Preliminary investigations of the external face of the chapel wall following removal of the hard cement render revealed an interesting sequence of construction. Two small trenches were also excavated to investigate the levels below the adjacent courtyard which will be lowered as part of the scheme.

Phase 1 – The vast majority of the chapel wall is of this phase, including the very fine two-light window of dressed Reigate stone. Visible on the south side of the arch is an original mason's mark. On removal of the render further features were clearly visible. Two vertical areas of dressed Reigate stone similar to that used for the adjacent window surround survive directly below the central lancet of the chapel's upper east window. These appear to have been the key stones for either an east–west wall extending off the east wall of the chapel or part of a buttress. The latter is the most likely interpretation. The angles of the buttress are clearly visible. The remainder of the phase 1 fabric is rubble work comprising large fragments of ferricrete, small fragments of Reigate stone and occasional fragments of chalk and a harder stone (possibly Sarsen), all bonded in buff-orange lime mortar. These stones are mainly random, but those immediately over the dressed two-light window radiate out for added strength. Three horizontal breaks in the build of the wall are visible in the cleared section, one is at c1.5m above ground level, the other around 0.6m above the two-light window, and the third around 0.6m below the upper window. These mark the end of the mason's working level or 'lift'.

Phase 2 – Above the original masonry is a row of Reigate stones, extending the full width of the exposed area, with the mullions of the upper lancet windows surviving above. These features are set in a pale buff mortar that is quite distinct from the buff-orange mortar of the phase 1 work. The horizontal row is probably a moulded string course below the window which has subsequently been dressed flush with the wall face before rendering. The chamfered window mullions sit flush with the present face of the wall, whilst the lower stones located show that the windows were originally longer. Several of the putlog holes are filled with similar mortar to that used in the second phase work and may, therefore, be contemporary with this phase of the wall.

Phase 3 – The phase 1 buttress was removed from the east wall of the chapel and the core work tidied up by the insertion of bricks (all hand-made), Reigate stone and

occasional tiles set flush with the face of the wall. At the same time small areas of the wall were also patched up. The mortar for this work was quite distinct from the phase 1 and 2 work in that it employs a white lime mortar.

Phase 4 – A lean-to structure may have been built at this stage with its lead flashing just above the top of the phase 1 buttress. This is postulated from the phase 5 repairs. Perhaps at the same time the windows were shortened with the insertion of brickwork.

Phase 5 – This phase covers several small interventions in the wall, all probably of different dates. A horizontal area of disturbance ran the full width of the stripped area just above the level of the removed buttress. It was patched very badly with brick, tile and Reigate stone. This may represent the patching up of a hole left after the removal of lead flashing to a lean-to roof of phase 4 (above). After the lean-to was removed the dressed stone of the phase 1 buttress and its phase 3 brick infill were peck dressed to take a render surface. The phase 2 string course may also have been dressed flush with the wall face at this time. Also visible were two putlog holes filled with recent brick and cement, set into the phase 2 string course, perhaps for a further structure extending off the east wall of the chapel.

A tentative initial dating suggests phases 1 and 2 may relate to Archbishop Stephen Langton's rebuilding of the crypt c1215–1225. Phase 3 may, from the appearance of the bricks, be of 16th- or 17th-century date, and may be the work of Cranmer c1540s or Laud in the 1630s. Phase 4 is likely to be the work of architect, Edward Blore, in 1846. Phase 5 includes a number of phases of 20th-century work, prior to the addition of flat-roofed extensions.

One of the two evaluation trenches was excavated across the doorway in the eastern wall of the crypt. This shows clearly that the doorway was inserted through an existing 13th-century window matching that of phase 2 above. An original stop chamfer survived on one side of the window. Several make-up layers had been deposited outside the chapel to raise the ground for the present courtyard. These layers, comprising brick and mortar rubble overlying brown loam, cleaned down onto a layer of mortar rubble representing alterations to the east wall of the chapel. Below this layer was a compact deposit of Reigate stone chippings deposited when the east wall of the chapel was built. The final layer overlay the stepped foundations for the east wall. In the courtyard the second trial excavation showed a similar sequence of make-up deposits to those near the doorway, coming down directly onto an old ground surface overlying the natural brickearth.

Full-scale excavation of the courtyard is planned for 1999, as well as a total recording of the external face of the east wall of the chapel, and the eastern wall of the crypt. The latter clearly shows a phase of masonry pre-dating the phase 1 work on the external face of the chapel.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture Paul Everson & David Stocker

Previous understanding of the early tradition of stone monuments in Lincolnshire has relied principally on the cumulative work of the Rev D S Davies early in the century (principally Davies 1926) and Dr Lawrence Butler in the 1950s and 60s (Butler 1963–4; 1964). The new study catalogued nearly four times the quantity of items logged previously, predominantly of later pre-Conquest date and has taken a distinctively archaeological approach to this large body of material. The ubiquitousness of 10th-century and later funerary sculpture allows discussion of it as evidence for the development of local graveyards and of the parochial system in the region, its chronology and context. In addition, the quantity of repetitive products sustains the identification of groups of standardised products (see figure on next page), mainly grave covers and grave markers. They have distinctive distributions, identifiable quarry sources and predominantly water-based transportation networks. The restricted nature of the distributions can best be explained in relation to political developments in the territory of the Five Boroughs in the 10th and 11th centuries. Anglo-Scandinavian forerunners of these patterns can be identified which link Lincoln and Lindsey to the Viking kingdom of York, and thus to the Scandinavian homelands, whilst in the south of the county at this time, a more independent political and cultural identity is suggested by a group of monuments distributed around the Trent valley. By contrast, pre-Viking items are rare and specialised in location and function.

Publication of the British Academy's *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture volume 5: Lincolnshire* by Paul Everson and David Stocker is imminent.

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NORTHUMBERLAND

Lesbury, St Mary Peter F Ryder

Renewal of the floors in the nave and north aisle was accompanied by archaeological recording. The south wall of the church was largely rebuilt by Salvin in 1846, but

evidence indicates an earlier nave wall slightly inside the line of its successor, with a large block, possibly a megalithic quoin, still extant at the south-east corner. The chancel preserves early plinths, indicating a short (12th-century?) chancel extended at a later medieval date. Two carved stone panels, each with a stag's head above a shield, were found recently beneath the chancel floor. They are probably of 15th-century date and may have been part of a tomb.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Lambley, Holy Trinity *Lee Elliott, Trent & Peak* *Archaeological Unit, University* *of Nottingham*

In July 1998 the Unit was commissioned on behalf of Lambley Parochial Church Council to conduct an archaeological evaluation prior to a proposed extension on the north side of the nave. The church lies at the centre of the old village of Lambley and comprises a tower, nave, chancel and modern vestry. The oldest visible fabric is the rounded tower arch with waterleaf capitals. With the exception of the tower and north chancel wall, which was the site of a chantry chapel of c1340, the church was rebuilt and rededicated in 1480 with funds provided from the will of the former Lord Treasurer, Ralph de Cromwell (Pevsner 1979, 160).

The evaluation comprised four small trial trenches excavated by hand either to the top of archaeological deposits or to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The first trench was sited against the north nave wall while the remaining trenches were placed along the line of the proposed foundations. These revealed the intermittent survival of archaeological remains throughout the extension area.

The earliest archaeological deposit, at a depth of c1m, was a buried soil pre-dating the church. This consisted of a black humic clay loam containing the remains of large quantities of tiny land mollusca and a single, unidentifiable long bone fragment, possibly butchered. This soil lay below a substantial compacted reddish-brown clay layer that decreased in thickness as it extended northwards some 12m. Disarticulated bone, including human, was recovered

Distribution of Lindsey grave covers of the later 10th century (reproduced from Everson & Stocker, 1999 Corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture volume 5: Lincolnshire)

from this deposit, which is thought to be material redeposited in an attempt to raise and level the ground prior to the construction of an earlier phase of the church. Lying partly across this layer was a shallow spread of apparently redeposited greyish loam that contained medieval domestic refuse, including a quantity of late 12th-century pottery.

Cut into the compacted reddish clay layer was a linear stone foundation running parallel to the existing north nave wall, at a distance of c1.5m away. It consisted of a sandstone rubble core set within a matrix of sandy clay and a north face of large sub-rectangular stones. The deposit sealing it contained sandstone fragments, possibly from later stone robbing. Pottery associated with the foundation indicates a late 12th- to early 13th-century date for its construction. The foundation is likely to represent the remains of a north aisle, pre-dating Cromwell's existing

rebuilt nave of 1480. The face of the existing north nave wall foundation was also partly exposed in section, where it was found to cut into the compacted reddish clay and to comprise four courses of sandstone blocks totalling 1m in depth. The first course consisted of finely-faced and uniformly-sized blocks, while the remaining three courses were of more irregular and roughly cut pieces of stone.

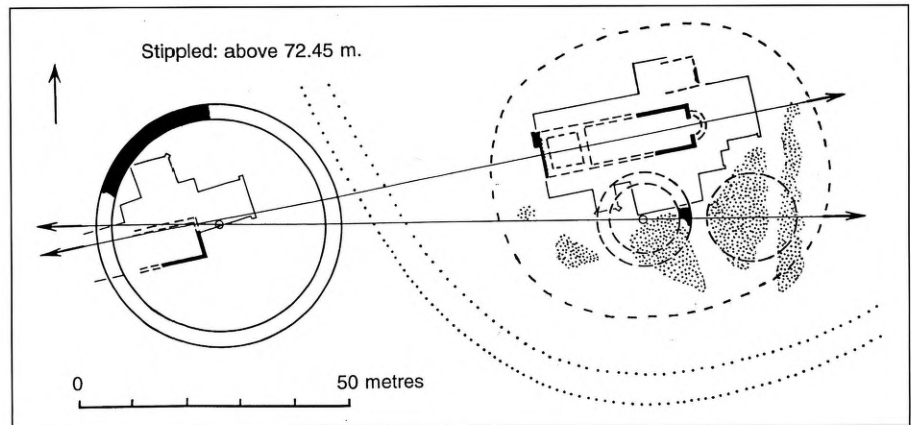
A number of 19th-century gravecuts were detected. Surprisingly, little disarticulated human bone was discovered, possibly indicating that the north side of the churchyard was not largely used as a place for burial until the 19th century.

Acknowledgements

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Bampton: the parish church and Deanery chapel, as at c1100, in relation to two or possibly three Bronze Age barrows. The boundary of the major minster enclosure ditch is shown as a dotted line, the approximate perimeter of the late Anglo-Saxon graveyard as a broken line. The later enlargements of the church and Deanery are shown in outline (Illustration: J Blair)

in such a way as to be aligned on the centre of the larger barrow while avoiding the smaller one (see figure). Bampton therefore provides an interesting further case of an Anglo-Saxon religious site planned with reference to existing ancient monuments.

Overlying the inner lip of the smaller ring-ditch were three superimposed burials. The grave-floors of the first two sloped down from west to east, suggesting that a residual barrow-mound survived when the graves were dug. The earliest yielded a radiocarbon date of cal. AD 680–870 at 2σ (OxA-7071). This is the earliest unambiguous evidence for religious use of the site.

Other late Anglo-Saxon burials were found around the church, one, dated to cal. AD 890–1030 at 2σ (OxA-8385), in a well-built mortared stone cist with a head-niche and slightly bow-sided interior (illustrated Blair 1998, 129). This may be the earliest example so far recognised of a fashion that was evidently introduced to England around 1000, contemporary with, or slightly earlier than, a group at Winchester Old Minster (Hants). Two 13th- to 14th-century burials were in wooden coffins lined with thin layers of ash.

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Abingdon, Abingdon Abbey

Kate Newell, Oxford Archaeological Unit

A limited archaeological investigation of the surviving domestic buildings of Abingdon Abbey has recently been carried out. The work was limited to the southern elevation of the buildings on Thames Street and the Long Gallery, and the eastern elevation of the Checker, where repointing

OXFORDSHIRE

Bampton, St Mary's

John Blair, The Queen's College, Oxford

The Bampton Research Project is investigating the character and development of an important upper Thames minster, first mentioned in the 950s (Blair 1994, 62–64; Blair 1998). Limited excavations have found evidence for prehistoric monuments underlying the church complex, and for the origins of the graveyard.

West of the church, a curving ditch containing struck flints and scraps of Beaker pottery can be identified as a Bronze Age disc-barrow, enclosing the two-storey chapel of c1100 now incorporated in the Deanery house. A small segment of what was probably another, smaller barrow-ditch, yielding a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age radiocarbon date (RCD-2862), was found next to the south transept of the church. The much-degraded mounds in the churchyard may represent material derived from this barrow, and conceivably from a third one further east. It appears that the 11th-century or earlier church was set out

was planned. The Downland Partnership carried out a rectified photographic survey of the elevations which the OAU used, with architects' drawings, to create an interpretative overlay showing all observed archaeological features. A number of historic photographs were also used to interpret the various phases (see figure).

The Thames Street buildings are believed to have functioned as the Abbey's bakehouse, brewhouse and granary and were later converted to use as a bridewell and subsequently to houses. The original nature of the buildings has been lost but it is presumed that the primary building was quite plain with fewer and smaller windows with timber lintels. The current windows are mostly of 20th-century date but historic photographs show that they replaced a variety of wooden casements, none medieval in origin. Changes in the walling material and roof lines suggest various different phases of activity. Abbot Vincent (1121–1130) probably built the complex of buildings along Thames Street and the bakehouse continued functioning until 1637. Only the eastern end survives and is currently in use as the Curator's House and Friends of Abingdon Office and the Unicorn Theatre.

The Long Gallery is thought to have been the Abbey's guesthouse and was converted to use as a brewery in the 16th century. This industrial use, which continued until 1895, had a great impact on the earlier fabric, as seen in photographs of 1896, although most of these interventions have been repaired in a sympathetic manner. The building retains many original features, such as the upper floor windows. The photographs provided evidence for a demolished building and associated lean-to which originally

ran north–south at the east end of the Long Gallery. Evidence visible on the Checker elevation also suggests a demolished lean-to.

The Checker and the Long Gallery are scheduled ancient monuments, the Checker Hall is Grade I listed and the Curator's house and office is Grade II listed. The Checker Hall (formerly the Exchequer) dates from the 13th century and is a square stone building with buttresses at each corner suggesting a further storey which has been lost. The chamber was divided into two during alterations in the 14th century. The building is believed to have been used by the Treasury of the Abbey as a business office and later as a domestic building.

Henley-on-Thames, Boundary wall at Christ Church United Reformed Church
Julian Munby, Oxford Archaeological Unit

The OAU performed a programme of archaeological recording on a Grade II listed boundary wall at an early 20th-century church in Henley-on-Thames in November 1998. The wall was carefully dismantled and rebuilt a short distance to the west, still facing Reading Road. The work on the wall was part of a wider development at the church, also involving the demolition of several smaller later structures to the rear. The wall is constructed of machine-made red bricks, the construction and age of which is similar to the church bricks and therefore the wall can be assumed to date from around 1907, like the church.

Barford St John, St John's Church
John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In April 1998 a watching brief was carried out during excavation of a trench for a new drain round the northern side of the church. The church is located immediately to the east of the manor house and north-west of Manor Farm. The church was originally Norman but was heavily restored between 1860 and 1861 when the octagonal tower and the south porch were added. Two deposits were recorded during the watching brief consisting of topsoil overlying a graveyard soil. This lower deposit contained mortar and sandstone which probably relate to the 19th-century rebuild of the church.



South elevation of the Long Gallery, east end, 1896

Oxford, Horspath, St Giles' Church

John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In May 1998 the OAU undertook a watching brief at St Giles Church, Horspath, in association with new drainage around the south side of the church. The church dates from the 12th century. The watching brief followed an earlier watching brief in 1998 for a new French drain on the north side of the church. The recent watching brief revealed no archaeological features and no finds were retrieved.

South Newington, St Peter Ad Vincula

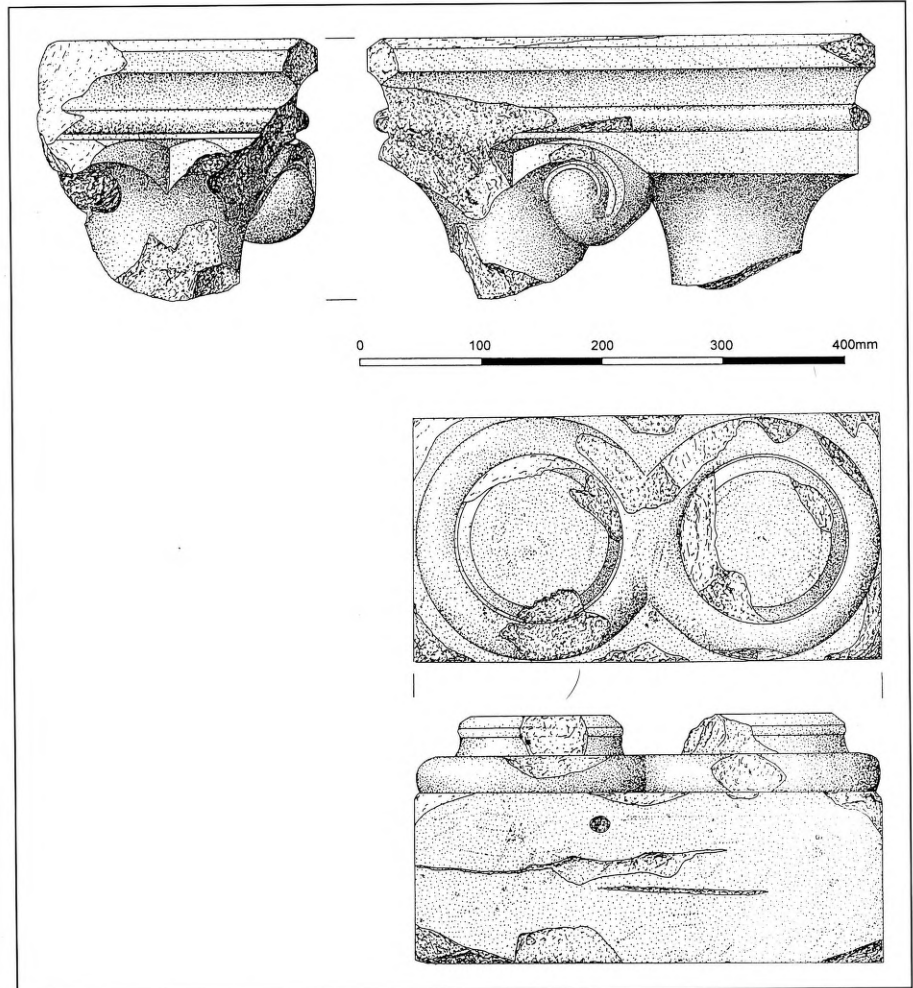
Granville Laws, Oxford Archaeological Unit

The OAU carried out an evaluation in January 1998 at the Church of St Peter Ad Vincula, a late Norman church located to the north of the village and to the east of the Manor House. However, no archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were retrieved from the limited trenches.

Wantage, SS Peter & Paul

John Dalton, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In February 1998 a watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a drainage trench running north from the church, through the churchyard, to join the main drain in the cloisters. The present church dates mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries. In the 16th century two churches stood in the churchyard, one of which was small and was used as a school. This building was demolished in 1850. The watching brief observed two deposits, neither of which contained artefacts. A small quantity of human charnel was disturbed in the drainage trench and in the manhole excavation at the northern end of the trench.



Capitals and abacus of two circular shafts possibly from the cloister arcade of the Augustinian Stone Priory (Illustration: D Wilkinson)

STAFFORDSHIRE

Stone Priory, Stone

David Wilkinson, Stafford Borough Council Archaeology Section

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of Poplars Resource Management Co Ltd of the excavation of a foundation trench for a new revetment wall along the boundary between The Priory and Lichfield Street. The house known as The Priory is grade II listed and is described as early to mid 18th-century with early 19th-century alterations and additions. It incorporates part of a 13th-century undercroft belonging to the Augustinian Priory, of which little else remains. During the watching brief an undated deposit of yellow sandstone rubble was observed. Towards the north-west end of the excavated area there was a linear structure of red-brown dressed sandstone blocks. This may have been structural remains associated with the priory although this seems unlikely. More probably, whether wall or kerb, it marks the boundary of the grounds of the house after the construction of Lichfield

Road through part of the original medieval precinct in the mid 18th century. Of 11 medieval architectural fragments of stonework which were found, six were removed to the Civic Offices in Stafford for further cleaning, study and recording. Three fragments appear to be Early English in style, suggesting perhaps a second phase of construction after the main build of the mid 12th century. Two other pieces (see figure) appeared to be similar to examples in the open arcade at the narthex of Fountains Abbey (Yorks) suggesting that they may be from the cloister built in the second half of the 12th century.

Bibliography

Wilkinson, D J, 1998 *Watching Brief at The Priory, Lichfield Street, Stone*, SBC Archaeology Section Report 13

Tipton, St Martin's

Elizabeth Hill, Wardell Armstrong

A recent project has been to upgrade the churchyard at St Martin's, Lower Church Lane, Tipton, creating a new local park with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and matched funding from public and private sources.

St Martin's Memorial Park was created from the churchyard of the Grade II listed redundant church designed by John Standridge and built in 1787. It has



A pair of mortars at St Martin's Memorial Park (Photo: J Barton, Wardell Armstrong)

classical proportions, a curved tower and, until major repairs in 1963–67, had an ogee dome. The churchyard contains memorials which reflect the social history of the parish, including an early gravestone in memory of a haymaker and substantial monuments in memory of the family who owned the local ironworks (see figure). Tipton was an area of heavy metal industry throughout the industrial revolution and infant mortality was clearly commonplace, a fact that is reflected in the practice of not naming children until they had survived their second birthday.

The monuments were all recorded on a topographical survey. A geophysical survey was commissioned to find vaults and underground voids and these have been backfilled with inert silica sand to preserve the contents of vaults undisturbed and prevent future collapse.

The project also involved the creation of a secure area for rescued and stabilised monuments, a conservation meadow, the doubling in size of external play space to the adjacent Church of England Primary School and Nursery, and the creation of an ornamental landscape with enhanced wildlife habitats around the church. Interpretation boards explaining the monuments and ecology of the churchyard have been erected and a Friends group has been formed to maintain the area in line with a management plan.

The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with matched funding from co-sponsors Sandwell MBC, Black Country Development Corporation, Tipton City Challenge, the Diocese of Lichfield and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. The archive is lodged with the Museums & Heritage Officer, PO Box 42, Sandwell MBC, Development House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, Sandwell, B70 8RU.

SUFFOLK

Blyford, All Saints'

Stuart Boulter, Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

The removal of a layer of cement render from the south nave and south and east chancel walls provided the opportunity to study the wall fabric and earlier surface treatments. The chancel walls were constructed from randomly-laid flints (with the occasional reuse of Norman masonry fragments) while the flints in the nave walls were well coursed in the Norman tradition. All surface treatments were found to be relatively late in date (late medieval at the earliest), definitely post-dating the insertion of the Perpendicular windows in the south nave wall. The clay and straw packing on top of the wall (filling the gaps between the wall and the wooden wall plate above) was also found to post-date the inserted Perpendicular windows but it pre-dated the earliest surface treatment, a yellow lime mortar, as in places it could be seen covering the clay.

Great Whelnetham, St Thomas à Becket

David Gill, Suffolk County Council Archaeological
Service

A measured drawing was made of the south face of the nave when the render was removed during restoration. The chancel is 13th-century with an inserted late Perpendicular east window and two Decorated single-light windows in

the chancel. The nave was also thought to be 13th-century and had been remodelled. The most obvious alteration was the lifting of the height of the wall and the addition of a clerestory. Both of the large windows in the nave appear to have been inserted, but there are no signs of blocked-in earlier windows, so the positions are probably original. The facing on the west end of the nave is strikingly different from the central part and may be related to remedial work following the collapse of the tower which was replaced by the present wooden belfry in 1749.

Wortham, St Mary the Virgin
Stuart Boulter, Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Recording work was carried out in connection with repairs, concentrating on the west nave wall, south of the round tower. This proved that the tower was contemporary with the west nave wall, both being 12th-century (Norman) in date. In addition, the original line of the south nave wall was identified, along with its probable height and the level of the Norman gable apex. A series of mid 14th-century alterations suggest that the nave roof was raised to its present height at this time; the later addition of a clerestory only altered the pitch of the roof, not its height. The clerestory is said to be early 15th-century, but contains red brick which appears to be later.

YORKSHIRE

Kirkdale, St Gregory's Minster
Philip Rahtz & Lorna Watts

The 1998 season concentrated on the exterior of the north aisle of the church. The double plinth by the heating chamber steps, previously suggested to the Anglo-Saxon, has been shown to be apparently modern (1909), possibly a consciously archaic arrangement. Above a cemetery of Anglo-Saxon and early medieval graves were give phases of construction of the north aisle. It is likely that the earliest is of c1200, the date of the north aisle which cuts through the north wall of the Anglo-Saxon nave. This is the end of the work authorised by the current Faculty on St Gregory's but research and excavation continues in the fields to the north and south of the churchyard.

Bibliography

- Rahtz, P, 1998–99 'Ghosts at Kirkdale', *The Ryedale Historian*, 19, 17–20
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Egton Church
Peter F Ryder

Four medieval cross slabs at Egton in North Yorkshire are illustrated by Rev George Rowe, and noted simply as being in 'the old churchyard'.¹ Three were located set in the floor of a late 19th-century cemetery chapel, now derelict, in the old churchyard which lies c1km to the west of the village on the north side of the road to Glaisdale at NZ 799065. The slabs are of 14th-century date and one in particular was in poor condition, its surface spalling off. They merit conservation works and proper recording. No published reference to them has been traced.

Notes

1. In his unpublished MS 'Memorial Floor Slabs in England and Wales' Vol IV (1882), now in the British Library (Addl MS 39914).

Monk Fryston, St Wilfrid
Peter F Ryder

Several previously unrecorded carved stones were noted including medieval cross slabs and an interesting sundial, reset within the internal east jamb of the south door. It would appear to have occupied its present, rather impractical position since c1300 when aisles were added to the Saxon nave.

Sherburn in Elmet, All Saint's
Peter F Ryder

All Saint's has long been known as an important site; the Archbishops of York had a manor here from the 10th to the 14th centuries. Previously, the earliest parts of the large and impressive church, standing on a hilltop on the edge of the village, were thought to be of early 12th-century date. The survival of pre-Conquest fabric is indicated by the remains of megalithic quoining at the east end of the nave here, now only visible internally. One of the quoins, on the south, is a Roman inscribed stone.

South Anston, St James'
Peter F Ryder

Recent clearance of render from the internal south wall of the ringing chamber in the church tower revealed an early sundial, reused in the 15th-century walling, about 4m above the present floor. It is a block c0.45 by 0.30m, bearing an incised design, a circle divided into 24 divisions by radial lines. There is a sinking at the centre, and three others on adjacent radii, close to the outer circle. The central sinking is for the gnomon, and the other punched dots may indicate service times, probably at noon, 1pm and 2pm.

Wales

ANGLESEY

Towyn y capel, Trearddur Bay

Andrew Davidson, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Excavations carried out during 1997 were reported in the second issue of *Church Archaeology* (69–70). Two radiocarbon dates have now been received, one for a skeleton recovered from the lowest cist at the base of the mound and one from a dug burial situated towards the top of the mound. The primary burial of the cist was shared between two children, one, B10, aged 6–7 yrs and the other (B11) 2–4 yrs. The skeleton of (B10) has been dated to 1350+/-90 BP (Beta-121649), which calibrates to 635 to 775 at 68% probability. The dug burial (B7) was of a female aged 20 to 25 years. This has been dated to 910+/-70 BP (Beta-121648), which calibrates to 1030 to 1220 AD at 68% probability. Although processing of the excavation records is still ongoing, these dates present the intriguing possibility of a hiatus in the use of the site, which may be represented in the archaeological record by a dominant turf line which separates the cist burials from the dug burials. A full report of the excavations is forthcoming in the Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society.

GLAMORGAN

St Mellon, St Mellon's

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

An archaeological evaluation in 1998 on a proposed building site adjacent to St Mellon's Church on the eastern outskirts of Cardiff revealed the presence of human remains (see *Church Archaeology*, 2, 71). Subsequent excavation showed that the remains were not burials but redeposited bone and coffin furniture associated with deposits of plaster and mortar. From the large quantities of bone recovered the single most numerous type was the clavicle. Of the 163 retrieved 91 were identified as coming from the left side thereby giving the minimum number of individuals. Pottery associated with the bones and debris ranged in date from the 16th–17th century (local tyg and pancheon) to 19th- and 20th-century English stoneware. The coffin furniture dated to the 16th and 17th centuries. Beneath the bone and debris was a thin undisturbed layer of loam with small stones which produced 12th- and 13th-century pottery. No structures were identified.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Tintern Abbey, Abbey Cottage

Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

An evaluation comprising two trenches was undertaken in the yard of Abbey Cottage prior to its conversion to a masons' yard. Although some fragments of 15th-century floor tile were found, the majority of the area consisted of made up ground dating to the 19th century. A subsequent watching brief located a dry-stone wall foundation of unknown date (CAP Report No 37).

Cwmcarvan, St Catwig's Church

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief took place when an electric cable was put underground through the churchyard. Although a 'mole' was used to take the cable through the ground it was necessary to dig four trenches in the churchyard at points where the 'mole' changed direction. No burials were disturbed, although disarticulated human bone was encountered. Most of the finds dated from the 17th century and later. The earliest pottery was a sherd from a locally-made jug dating to the 13th century. There was also an unusual heavily sandstone-tempered fragment of ridge tile, probably dating to the later 13th century. This pottery is the earliest material yet found at Cwmcarvan.

Wonastow, St Wonnou's Church

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out during the removal of eroded stonework and the installation of a new west window. Human remains were found incorporated into the fabric of the north wall and at a high level in the south wall. Medieval foundations were recorded where visible.

Llanvihangel Pontymoel, Pontypool, St Michael's Church

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out during the cutting of a hole in the north wall of the sanctuary to accommodate an aumbry measuring 26cm x 20cm. A horizontal oak timber measuring 8cm x 21cm was exposed. As the floor levels had been altered at the east end of the church this timber may be a wall plate for an earlier roof.

Llansoy, St Tysoi's Church

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out during the digging of a

drainage trench around the walls of the building and two soakaways. As the trench progressed a record was made of the foundations. Stray human remains were encountered along with fragments of plaster, china and other modern debris. The soakaway to the south of the south porch disturbed two burials at 1m depth. The soakaway to the north exposed the remnants of a stone wall which once edged the path.

Mynydd Islwyn, St Tudor's Church
Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out when a drainage trench was dug from the lych gate to the church and round the north side of the building. The excavations revealed that the ground contained rubble from the rebuilding of the church in the early 19th century. Large quantities of stone roof tiles were disturbed as well as blocks of moulded stone.

Llanvihangel Crucorney, St Michelle's Church
Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out during extensive drainage work which involved the digging of two soakaways and a trench around the building. The foundations of the building were recorded and on the north side these appeared to indicate the existence of an earlier building. A stone-lined drain extended from under the wall in the region of the north chancel arch. It was not possible to date this feature. One soakaway was dug 21m north-east of the east end of the church to a depth of 2.3m. The ground was very unstable and a large number of boulders was removed. Human remains were disturbed at a depth of 2m. The second soakaway was dug to the south-east of the church and exposed a stone wall which may once have been the boundary of the churchyard.

Bassaleg, St Basil's Church
Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A watching brief was carried out during the digging of a drainage trench on the north side of the church. The trench extended 11.5m from the church to a substantial retaining wall. The top 40cm of ground revealed well-defined stratigraphy consisting of lenses of gravel, rubble, plaster and coal. Although the trench was cut to a depth of 2m no further archaeological features or artefacts were found. It appeared that the ground had been made up as the original ground surface would have sloped down to the river. Research in the local record office revealed that the land to the north of the church belonged to Lord Tredegar until he granted it to the church in 1884.

A watching brief was also carried out when a trench was dug along the edge of the path leading from the lych gate

to the south porch. This was to carry an electric cable for three lights along the path. In the vicinity of the porch large quantities of blast furnace slag impeded the digging. The slag had been used as foundation material for the path. Three holes were dug to accommodate the lamp posts. The first, nearest the porch, just touched a burial, the second revealed a headstone that had sunk vertically into the ground and the third contained evidence for the entrance to a vault.

Gobion Churchyard Cross
Felicity Taylor, Cadw

A watching brief was carried out during the restoration of the medieval churchyard cross-base. The massive stone base had been dislodged sometime during the last century and the top steps removed. Restoration work involved dismantling the three remaining steps. It was hoped that the original ground surface would be exposed but a substantial foundation was revealed which there was no need to disturb. A few artefacts were recovered from the structure. They included a sherd of 16th-century pottery and a bone disc. Below the cross-base a moulded stone finial was found. The core of the structure consisted of a mound of rubble and mortar.

Mitchel Troy Churchyard Cross
Felicity Taylor, Cadw

Restoration work on the medieval churchyard cross prompted a watching brief. Three stones at ground level on the east side of the monument had drifted and were removed prior to realignment. A brief investigation was carried out which exposed the cut edge of a stone over 1m long. This was found to exceed 65cm in depth.

POWYS

Presteigne, St Andrew's Church
Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

During the digging of a soakaway and associated trench to west of the tower a watching brief was carried out. The ground had been disturbed by successive burials to a depth of 1m. The earliest three burials were found to be undisturbed but in a poor state of preservation on the clay sub-soil. These were aligned north-east/south-west. A trench running north-south was exposed below the burials and predated them. This trench extended to 1m below the burials and terminated in a stone-lined drain. The removal of a capping stone revealed that the drain was still functional. A fragment of blue glass was recovered from a depth of 0.8m and may be medieval.

RADNORSHIRE

Abbeycwnhir

Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

During consolidation work by Cadw, clearance of turf was undertaken over the crossing wall at the eastern end of the

nave and in the south-western corner of the nave. The crossing wall was found to be clay bonded and butted the western piers of the crossing. In the north-western corner of the nave a tomb niche was discovered, again with clay-bonded walls. These features are likely to have been additions to the early 13th-century abbey prior to its destruction around 1402 (archive with Cadw).