

England

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

*Summaries provided by Quinton Carroll,
Cambridgeshire SMR*

Cherry Hinton, Church End Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

Whilst not the site of an existing church, this is a major piece of fieldwork with implications for our understanding of Christianity within Cambridgeshire. The site was excavated prior to development. The SMR recorded that human remains had been discovered under houses adjacent to the site and, since historic records placed medieval plague pits in the vicinity, it has always been assumed that the inhumations related to the pits.

Initial evaluation and geophysical survey located evidence of a cemetery, possibly within an enclosure. The remains appeared Christian. Full excavation of the site took place over summer 1999 and a cemetery of 671 inhumations and an associated structure interpreted as a church were discovered. The cemetery has evidence of multiple phases of use and is tentatively dated to c850–1150, although a full interpretation has yet to be undertaken.

Few objects were found in the graves and the majority appear to have been shroud burials. Several pillow graves were recorded. The pottery assemblage is dominated by Saxo-Norman types such as Thetford and St Neots Ware. A structure on a topographic rise in the cemetery contained fragments of a wheel-headed cross in a posthole. This building was aligned approximately east–west and acted as a focus for burials of infants and neonates. The building had several phases.

Cherry Hinton has a complex manorial history and the current parish church is located some 500m away from this site. A possible parallel was discovered in Huntingdon, where a late Saxon cemetery (dated from a coin in a grave cut) centred on a building was excavated in 1967. At this stage, little is known for certain about the Cherry Hinton site, but a full report is in preparation (Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Reports 473, 721, 722 & 734).

Little Shelford, All Saints Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit

Prior to the construction of a hall adjacent to this church, an archaeological evaluation was carried out in December 1999. Little Shelford Church has the distinction of being one of only three churches in the county recorded in

Domesday Book and it was anticipated that the work would shed light on this fascinating little building. The current structure is rendered, but has in its fabric Anglo-Saxon sculpture and a Norman window. In the event, the evaluation located human burials and a brick structure, probably a burial vault. No evidence of any other activity was discovered, but further work is pending (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report No B66).

St Ives Priory Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

In advance of development of the area, archaeological work was undertaken in 1998. Full results are in preparation. St Ives Priory was a Benedictine cell founded from Ramsey Abbey in the 11th century, prior to the Norman Conquest. The priory was only small (four members in 1439) and was dissolved in 1539. The only structural survival is a ruined building believed to have been the Priory Barn. St Ives itself was an important market town during the medieval period.

Excavation revealed evidence of occupation from the Roman period onwards, including a Saxon sunken-featured building. The excavation located the western edge of the priory precinct, marked by a large ditch cut in the 13th century and running north–south. This ditch was 6.8m wide and 1.3m deep. It was overlaid by cultivation beds, suggesting that it had been abandoned and infilled prior to the Dissolution. This work has demonstrated that the St Ives Priory buildings lay further to the east than previously imagined (Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Reports 278 & 343).

Soham, St Andrew Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit

Traditionally the church of St Andrew was founded by St Felix in or around AD 630, which would place it at the origins of English Christianity. Saxon activity from the 5th and 6th centuries is known from the area, including a cemetery within the churchyard, but the supposed site of Felix's church is unknown. The current building is a marvellous example of 12th-century architecture.

Two main pieces of fieldwork have recently been undertaken. In the churchyard, work was undertaken on the footprint of a new extension, revealing extensive human remains. No evidence of any earlier activity, Christian or otherwise, was discovered. Adjacent to the churchyard, further work uncovered evidence relating to the development of the town, with some activity from the 10th century, although again nothing associated with early Christianity on the site. This all suggests that the earliest phases of Christianity in the area are elsewhere around

Soham (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report No B41; John Samuels Archaeological Consultants Report No 340/00/004).

Waterbeach, St John *Northamptonshire Archaeology*

Construction of a church extension was suspended when the builders uncovered human remains. The area was excavated in advance of development and post-medieval burials were recorded and lifted for reburial outside the disturbed area. These included a child burial with a purse of coins dating to the early 19th century, making this one of the last interments in the churchyard before its closure in 1855. A small charnel pit containing the remains of seven or eight individuals was also excavated. This was unusual in that all the skulls had been placed at the west of the pit in a probable attempt to emulate west–east alignment in burial.

The burials overlay a substantial ditch dating from the 12th–13th century; Waterbeach church was constructed c1200. This ditch was in excess of 3m wide and 2m deep. Waterbeach was the site of a medieval abbey of the nuns of the Franciscan Order of St Clare which lay close to the church before moving to Denny Abbey. This ditch is likely to have been the boundary between the abbey and the church.

CUMBRIA

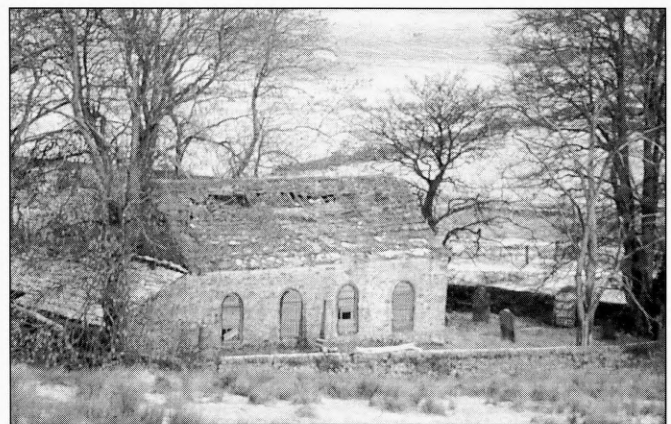
Alston, St Augustine *Peter F Ryder*

In April 1999 a ‘grave’ was excavated in what was thought to be an unused corner of St Augustine’s churchyard in advance of a burial service being filmed as part of a new production of ‘Oliver Twist’. The discovery of human remains led to the excavation being shallower than intended (a problem overcome by sleight-of-hand by the camera crew). At the same time the archaeologist examined two stones carved with rows of flowers, now lying in the church porch. It was clear that these made up the greater part of a priest’s grave cover, probably of 13th-century date. The main design of a cross and chalice was badly worn, but the high-relief flowers, on stalks sprouting from the cross shaft, were carved on the chamfered edges of the stone and remained well preserved. The stone had been split and reused as sections of window jamb, probably in 1769 when the church was rebuilt; the present church is of 1870.

Survey of Nonconformist chapels in the Pennines *Peter F Ryder*

Between December 1999 and January 2000 a survey of

Nonconformist chapels and meeting houses was carried out in the Cumbrian section of the Northern Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, commissioned by Cumbria County Council. A total of 43 chapels was recorded around Alston and on the Pennine fringe of the Vale of Eden. Most were Wesleyan or Primitive Methodist in origin, with a scatter of Congregationals and two Society of Friends (Quaker). Seven buildings were still in use for worship (one of these has now closed) and 25 were in alternative uses, primarily as houses. Only three were listed, all at Grade II. Listing has not protected the Congregational Redwing Chapel of 1756, at Garrigill, with its largely contemporary fittings and furnishings now in a tragic state of decay.



Redwing Chapel, Garrigill: a Congregational chapel of 1756, now in poor condition despite its listed status (Photo: P Ryder)

DERBYSHIRE

Swarkestone, St James *Lee Elliott, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit,* *University of Nottingham*

A watching brief was conducted on behalf of Rodney Melville & Partners during renewal of drainage at St James’ Church, Swarkestone. With the exception of the tower and south chapel, the present church was rebuilt in 1876. It is not recorded in Domesday and the earliest surviving fabric is some fragments of 12th-century chevron ornamentation reused in the north aisle wall. The new drainage trenches ran along both north and south sides of the church, converging to the west of the church before running out of the churchyard via the west gate to Church Lane. A 1m square soakaway to the east of the chancel was abandoned following discovery of an unmarked 19th-century grave.

The most significant features discovered were an east–west foundation trench at the junction of the chancel and south chapel, which may be medieval in date, and the remains of a 2m wide stone foundation at a right angle to

the nave south wall. This appears to correspond with a substantial buttress against the south wall of the nave shown in an illustration of 1822. Incorporated in the church foundations were several reused stones, including chamfered pieces and ashlar. From dimensions recorded in 1822 and the absence of other remains within the drainage trenches, the church prior to 1876 would appear to have either closely followed or lain within the ground plan of the present church.

A range of artefacts was recovered including ceramic nibbed roof tile, lead window came, several heat-affected pebbles, medieval and post-medieval pottery. The most intriguing find was a small carved bone object with crude decoration and an iron tang, which may be late Anglo-Saxon to medieval in date.

DURHAM

Brancepeth, St Brandon

Peter F Ryder

Repair and restoration work on this important church, gutted by fire in September 1998, has been slow. In September 2000 the interior of the west tower was archaeologically recorded and a series of measured drawings and photographs prepared. Features plotted included sockets for floor beams, the 'ghosts' of the burned medieval ladder stairs appearing as soot marks on the remaining wall plaster and the positions of various wall plaques.

Houghton le Spring, St Michael

Peter F Ryder

During November 1999 a programme of building works was carried out at this substantial building largely of the 13th and 14th centuries. Removal of parts of the pew platforms in the aisles, thought to have been installed during the 1857–58 restoration, showed that they reused a number of late medieval timbers. These included some moulded pieces, apparently from a panelled ceiling. One had a fine example of a notched lap joint and another, probably part of a light wall-plate, had been reused in some other context and bore, apparently in association with its secondary mortices, the incised inscription 'T G 1744'.

In advance of the installation of new services, it had been planned to excavate an area at the west end of each aisle to a depth of c1.5m, but these areas were reduced in size when vaults, probably of 18th-century date, were encountered. These were photographed and recorded.

In the churchyard, a watching brief was kept when new drainage trenches were dug. One 18th- to 19th-century ledger stone and two vaults were found. However, a deep excavation for a new manhole on the western boundary of the churchyard revealed, at a depth of 1.6m, a line of large

(up to 0.80m diameter) unshaped whinstone boulders backed on the east by a bank of smaller pieces of very yellow Magnesian limestone. The limestone outcrops nearby but the boulders of whinstone (a quartz dolerite, the nearest outcrops of which are around Middleton in Teesdale, around 40km to the south-west) were presumably found as erratics in the local boulder clay. It must have taken considerable effort to drag them; activity such as this is difficult to place other than at some pre-Roman period. The boulders and limestone packed around them clearly form some sort of feature, either a boundary or possibly a kerb to a barrow or burial mound. It is difficult to see later builders constructing a feature of this type, unless the boulders were more or less 'on site' (possibly implying a prehistoric monument of some sort) and were simply dragged or rolled a short distance to be used in the boundary of some Christian establishment, either a church or possibly an unrecorded pre-Conquest monastic house.

Redmarshall, St Cuthbert

Peter F Ryder

In July 1999 a watching brief was carried out when the 1845–46 vestry on the south of the chancel was rebuilt. Two fragments of 14th-century Tees Valley Ware were retrieved. Reused material in the vestry walls included a 14th-century voussoir and a tread from a newel stair, possibly from the nearby parsonage house, known to have included a medieval tower and demolished at around this time. The most interesting find was a small carved stone built into the chancel wall and previously concealed by the vestry roof. It is 0.24m high and 0.145m wide and bears a small figure, probably of a female, carved in high relief. The head, exaggerated in size, is of equal height to the body but has been hacked back. The hair on either side ends in a volute-like curl and there seems to be some sort of hat or crown above. The better-preserved body has arms with exaggerated hands laid on the hips and what seems to be a skirt or robe, with a stylised pair of feet beneath. This is a very unusual piece and it is difficult to cite parallels. The almost cartoon-like nature of the figure has a 'vernacular' feel to it (rather like the carvings on the 15th-century Prior Leschman's tomb at Hexham (Northumb) and it is probably of later medieval (14th- to early 16th-century) date.

Durham churches 1999/2000: an archaeological assessment

Peter F Ryder

The programme of archaeological assessments of churches in the Diocese of Durham, commissioned by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (see *Church Archaeology* 1–3) has continued.

St John the Evangelist, Kirk Merrington suffered a catastrophic 'restoration' – in reality a near total rebuilding – in 1850–51, although the present building to some extent replicates the form and architectural features of its predecessor. It remains a perplexing structure; the extent to which pre-restoration fabric survives is unclear. Parts of the tower walls may be old and also the north wall of the chancel (with traces of a blocked doorway) although this could be a post-medieval rebuild.

St Mary, Stanhope seems to have its origins in a thin-walled building of just before or after the Norman Conquest, possibly with an aisle, as a remodelling of 1200 produced a north arcade reusing some archaic elements. An 1866–67 restoration transformed a rather bizarre building packed with galleries and with tiers of domestic-character windows into its present rather scraped and re-Gothicised form. Thankfully an excellent set of pre-restoration drawings survive.

Also in Weardale, the church of *St Philip & St Stephen, Wolsingham* is largely of 1848, but retains a late medieval (16th-century?) tower and possibly some retooled fabric of c1200 in its nave arcades.

The archaeological assessments of *St Mary's, Seaham* and *St Mary's, Staindrop* both cast serious doubts on their previous identification as Saxon buildings. However, at *All Saints, Stranton* (West Hartlepool) remains of megalithic quoining at the east end of the nave indicate Saxon or at least Saxo-Norman fabric.

St Lawrence, Pitlington has been the subject of a routine assessment and a watching brief. Two soakway pits were dug in the churchyard. In one, 7.3m south of the east end of the chancel, a cist of slabs of micaceous brown sandstone was encountered at a depth of c1.0m. The north wall of the north aisle was repointed. It became apparent that the two small square-headed windows here are *in situ* survivals, probably of later 12th-century date, but that the internal face of the wall was completely rebuilt during the 1846 restoration. Further east, a straight joint marked the east end of the aisle before the 1846 works. In the south aisle and chancel parts of the internal wall face survived the 1846 works, but here the external faces seem to have been completely rebuilt. The external cornice of the chancel was examined in detail. Despite sections being weathered and having every appearance of antiquity, it would appear that it dates from the 19th century.

EAST SUSSEX

South Heighton, Land at The Hall *David Score, Oxford Archaeological Unit*

OAU carried out an evaluation on land at The Hall, Heighton Road for Watchpact Ltd. The remains of a substantial flint and mortar wall foundation were

discovered. This is interpreted as the west end of St Martin's Church, a building identified from historical maps. The return of the north wall appeared to have been constructed on a chalk platform cut into the natural slope of the hill. A feature interpreted as the foundation pit for a buttress and deposits inside the church forming make-up for what would have been the church floor were also recorded as well as robber trench and demolition deposits. A number of postholes to the north of the church probably relate to a building contemporaneous with the church. A stone baptismal font is at the site, but no evidence for associated burials was found.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Ashelworth, St Andrew *Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society*

An excavation was carried out in the south aisle following the removal of a concrete platform on which the pews had stood. This exposed a hidden 17th-century graveslab with traces of red paint still discernible in the incised letters. Further investigation suggested that the graveslab was not in its original position. Below the Victorian concrete there was rubble consisting of loose sandy deposits containing broken brick and plaster. Some of the bricks were contorted and may have come from a local brickworks. Along the south wall two parallel rows of stones running the length of the wall suggested a former bench.

Below the rubble was hard-packed red clay. At the east end, in front of a timber screen surmounted by a large panel bearing the arms of Edward VI, a single row of thick stone slabs extended across the trench from north to south and displaying a marked tilt to the north. Here the row of stones along the south wall was much smaller and had been placed on top of the slabs. Below the small stones against the wall a coin of 1806 was discovered. No human remains were recovered but a quantity of small bird bones from along the interior wall is in the process of being identified.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Mordiford, The Church of the Holy Rood *Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society*

A watching brief related to drainage works discovered a pit of human bones, including a horse bone, alongside the sealed entrance to a vault on the north side of the church. The soakaway trench exposed several juvenile burials at only 50cm below present ground level. The trench on the east side revealed a burial at 50cm depth and the remains of a very small infant inserted in a shallow grave in the topsoil.

On the south side the footings of a buttress that once

supported a central tower were discovered. The tower was taken down and rebuilt at the south-west end in the early 1800s. A fragment of carved stone was also found.

The mutilated remains of an early structure were found in a trench dug round the south-west corner of the tower. The corner of the tower had been built off a pile of stonework which was surrounded by a level area of paving.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Hinckley, St Mary *Peter F Ryder*

During an appraisal of the historic buildings of Hinckley town centre, carried out on behalf of the County and District Councils, an early sundial was noted built into the south-west face of the diagonal buttress at the south-east corner of the chancel of St Mary's Church. Three metres above ground level a much-worn block of sandstone c0.25m square can be seen to bear an incised semicircle, with three radial lines. At the point from which they radiate is a sinking. The stone is best seen in mid-morning, when the sun's rays strike the face of the buttress at an oblique angle.

This stone is clearly an early sundial, reused on its side. Although the stone has no decorative detail from which it might be dated, its form, using the octaval system which divided the day into eight tides, rather than the later duodecimal (twelve hour) system, would seem to indicate an Anglo-Saxon date.

Thus it would appear that we have our first tangible relic of pre-Conquest Hinckley. Its actual date must remain uncertain, but it is clear that it was already ancient when reused by the builders of the present chancel in the 14th century.

NORFOLK

North Runcton, All Saints *Edwin J Rose, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology*

The church of All Saints is well known to specialists in 18th-century architecture as having been rebuilt in 1703–13 by Henry Bell, the King's Lynn architect who built the Lynn customs house. Bell's church has a nave forming a square within a square, four giant Ionic columns supporting the corners of a domed ceiling and similar pilasters to the tower arch. There are central transept-like projections under pediments. The windows are round-headed, the outer openings set below circular windows. Bell's original roof had two parallel ridges. The chancel had pilasters along the external wall. The east window is again round-headed and was set below a Diocletian window in a pediment. The west tower is of three stages, the topmost

having corner pilasters and supporting a fleche from which rises an obelisk. At the base were two pedimented porches; these are now vestries, a west door having been made in the tower. The fabric of the church is rendered, but where patches of this are missing the walls can be seen to be carrstone and ironbound conglomerate mixed with reused limestone fragments from the previous building. The window surrounds and pilasters are formed of brickwork.

The plan of the church is that of All Saints, Northampton (Northants), allegedly also by Bell, and SS Anne & Agnes, Gresham Street, London, by Wren. The influence of North Runcton on colonial American church architecture is discussed by Upton (1958).

In 1887 the Diocesan architect, Mr Green, carried out alterations which included moving part of the south side of the chancel forward as an organ chamber and forming a single roof over the nave.

Little is known about the preceding church, but it may be significant that a Pagan Saxon cemetery was discovered just to the east of the churchyard. The destruction of the earlier church is said to have been due to the fall of the tower on 15 August 1701, which 'beat [the church] flat with the ground'. An earth bank parallel with the nave north wall may indicate the line of the original wall.

The interior of the church has benefited from extensive research by Elizabeth James. The chancel arch is now tripartite, but photographs taken in 1880 show one rounded arch of very crude form, almost as if it was an afterthought. This confirms that the present tripartite opening is by Green, a suggestion dismissed by Pevsner (1961). Similarly, the listed building description and Pevsner (including in his recent reincarnation by Dr W Wilson) state that the Corinthian panelling of the chancel was formerly the altarpiece to Lynn, St Margaret. Mrs James has produced detailed documentary evidence demonstrating that it was made for North Runcton (though the font does come from St Margaret's, perhaps the origin of the story). The east window and other openings have been blocked by inserted paintings donated by Mr Gurney, the local squire, in the late 19th century. The paintings are said in the church history to be by 'Lamponi, the great 18th century painter of Florence', but searches have failed to locate any painter of that name, though there was a 'Lampugnani' active in the early 18th century.

In early 2001, for the first time since 1887, the tower was clad in scaffolding to enable inspection and repair. The present writer and Mrs James were able to make a detailed inspection.

The top stage of the tower is clearly the work of Bell; it is constructed of brickwork. The fleche seems to have been replaced, or at least extensively repaired, in 1887. The base of the tower was not exposed, however the central stage proved to be of great interest. Only the upper parts of its

walls share the brickwork of the belfry; the lower sections are a mixture of ironbound conglomerate and reused limestone. This section is of greater thickness than the belfry – a vestry chimney set into the wall at this stage projects inwards at the level above. The north and south walls contain bullseye windows by Bell but their embrasures are twisted to one side in a strange way, perhaps in an attempt to locate them in a central position. Two small hatchways, one above the other, give access to the nave roof space. The lower of these has jambs formed from blocks of reused stone; one is a colonette capital of early Norman type, the other has a kind of incised vinetrail motif, upside down in its present position. Most importantly, from within the nave roof the eastern angles of the tower are visible – extended outwards in brick by Bell to form the gable. These have stone quoins in long and short work with the appearance of the later forms of this feature, suggesting a Norman rather than Saxon date.

The upper of the two hatchways formerly gave access to the central valley of Bell's roof; the frame of this remains below the ridge of Green's rebuilding. The valley is supported by most extraordinary crown posts, from which convex arched braces rise in four directions, giving the impression of candelabra. Two corresponding hatches are present in the gable wall between nave and chancel. The chancel roof is of king post and strut form and is clearly all late 19th century.

It is now clear that the whole tower did not fall in 1701. The central section, and therefore presumably the base, remained standing and one must question how far the church was 'beaten flat' and how far this was used as an excuse for a fashionable rebuilding. The tower is clearly of Norman date; the reused fragments in it are presumably masons' rejects from the time of construction. The nave roof crown posts of 1713 are important dated examples. It is now known that the 1887 works simply heightened the roof above them, but totally replaced the chancel roof.

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Elizabeth James for permission to make use of her research.

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King's Lynn, Red Mount Chapel Edwin J Rose, *Norfolk Landscape Archaeology*

The Chapel of Our Lady of the Mount, King's Lynn is well known. It is set on a mound, surrounded by a bastion of the Civil War defences and within The Walks, one of the earliest surviving town walks in the country, begun in

1713.

The licence to construct the chapel was granted in 1485 and refers to its site as Lady Hill. The late R R Clarke suggested this was a motte and bailey castle, but Dr Andrew Rogerson points out that this is improbable for a number of reasons and the reference may be to a saltern mound.

The building consists of a crypt below present ground level; above, it is in the form of two concentric brick polygons, merging at the east wall and with two staircases between the brick skins passing a room and rising to a cruciform chapel on the roof, dated to 1505. The building was made into a cistern in 1575, a magazine in 1638 (from which period many graffiti survive) and later an observatory and stable. Restoration took place in the 19th century and again in the 1920s and 30s under the SPAB.

Published accounts of the building concentrate on the exterior and the roof chapel. The interior of the building was closed up for many years. It was inspected in 2000 by the writer; Anthea Taigel of the Norfolk Gardens Trust; David Pitcher of King's Lynn Borough Council; and Elizabeth James, the leading expert on King's Lynn, in advance of a lottery application for restoration of The Walks. The crypt was examined and found to have an east-west barrel vault, lit by windows in the end walls – one facing the entrance door at present ground level, the other (now a 19th-century restoration) where the two walls merge. The present entrance is a tall pointed doorway leading to an abrupt winding stair. However, the main entrance was formerly by a tunnel, ornately panelled in stone, whose outer doorway opened in the side of the mound below the main doorway. During a restoration of 1828 this entrance was uncovered, together with a perimeter wall of brick now enclosed in the mound, and afterwards covered up again.

In the south wall of the crypt is a feature described in antiquarian sources as a fireplace. It has since been further exposed and revealed as an arched brick recess with a bench-like base some distance above the floor – the overall impression being of a gigantic Easter sepulchre. Elsewhere in the walls are tall features resembling single-seat sedilia, and lamp niches with flues.

The room above the crypt and below the chapel has a number of features apparently of domestic type, perhaps suggesting a priest's room; but these are obscured by whitewash and some may be related to its use as a cistern.

The writer has formulated a theory that the chapel may have been intended as a copy of the Holy Sepulchre. Pilgrims would have entered the basement through the tunnel, this and the large imitation tomb niche giving the impression of the Sepulchre itself. The narrow staircase would have been for the use of the priest alone, to reach the room above. Pilgrims would have left by the tunnel again and ascended by one of the two larger internal

staircases from within the ground-level door to the roof chapel, descending by the other stair; in a similar pattern to that of the Jerusalem church.

It is interesting to note that the reference in several published descriptions to the chapel as being 'on the pilgrimage route to Walsingham' is based on a loose reference in an unpublished 18th-century history of the town. The one original reference to pilgrimage at this location is a will of 1517, of Gregory Clerk, Mayor of Norwich, leaving provision for a pilgrimage to this chapel; as if it was itself an object of devotion.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Biddlestone Chapel

Peter F Ryder

The Roman Catholic chapel at Biddlestone was acquired by the Historic Chapels Trust in 1997, and an archaeological survey was commissioned in 1998. The chapel was attached to Biddlestone Hall, until 1914 the seat of the Selby family, and largely demolished after World War II. The chapel is a remodelling of the upper part of a medieval tower, the vaulted basement of which survives intact. Its date remains uncertain, but it is probably a little later than the c1820 remodelling of the house by John Dobson, the well-known Newcastle architect. The incongruous Anderson shelter inserted into the tower basement Hall Chapel must be a relic of the final use of the house as a military hospital during World War II.

Farne, St Cuthbert's Chapel

Peter F Ryder

Inner Farne, the site of the hermitage of St Cuthbert and of his death in 687, became a place of considerable sanctity and attracted pilgrims throughout the medieval period, when it became a Benedictine cell of the Cathedral Priory of Durham. After the Dissolution the buildings functioned as a coastal fort and then a lighthouse, the chapel being remodelled as a lighthouse keeper's cottage before being restored to ecclesiastical use by Archdeacon Thorpe in the 1840s. The survival of the Accounts Rolls enables the chapel to be dated firmly to 1369–1372. The west gable, to which a tower was formerly attached, is particularly interesting. The tower seems to have formed an entrance porch to the small square of monastic buildings. From it a two-light window looked into the chapel, but there was also a doorway at first-floor level which must have given access to a gallery within the chapel. It is possible that the lower window was for the use of female visitors (who at Durham Cathedral were allowed no further than the western Galilee Chapel) whilst male pilgrims were permitted to use the gallery.

Kirkwhelpington, St Bartholomew

Peter F Ryder

St Bartholomew's Church in Kirkwhelpington has a much scarred and rebuilt fabric, the legacy of medieval Border troubles (it is thought that the church was burned at least twice) and repeated structural failure. The west tower is once again in need of major repair works and a detailed record of its fabric was made by the Archaeology Practice of Newcastle University with assistance from Peter Ryder. The tower is probably of 13th-century date, reusing a 12th-century arch (the former chancel arch?). Extensive alterations took place c1896 when the previously blocked tower arch was re-opened, the belfry openings renewed and the present parapet built.

Ovingham St Mary

Peter F Ryder

Archaeological watching briefs were carried out during works including the installation of floodlighting, reconstruction of a perimeter drain and major repairs to the roofs. Footings of a thin wall running parallel to and c0.80m outside the present north aisle are probably those of an earlier aisle, perhaps itself a post-medieval rebuild, taken down before 1857. Footings and a robber trench on the north of the chancel probably represent the north and east walls of a former vestry; evidence on the building suggests this may have been destroyed by fire. At the west end of the church, footings of a thin east–west wall of uncertain date were found a short distance north-west of the late Saxon west tower. Close to the south-west corner of the south porch a medieval grave slab was found 0.26m below the present path. It bore an incised border and a pair of shears. A second worn motif may have been a second pair of shears and the stone may commemorate the burial of two females. Its orientation and its worn and apparently fire-damaged condition show that it is *ex situ* and it had probably been used as part of the paving of an earlier path. During the roof repairs part of a 12th- or 13th-century headstone was found amongst rubble in the southern eaves of the chancel. It bore a cross on each face, incised on one side and carved in relief on the other.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Cossall, St Catherine

Lee Elliott, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit, University of Nottingham

During 1999 the Unit conducted an archaeological watching brief during the relaying of the floors at St Catherine's Church, in the village of Cossall (Elliott 2000). The first documentary reference to the church occurs in

1314 in connection with the purchase of the advowson by Sir Richard de Willoughby. In 1842 the church was rebuilt and enlarged with the addition of a north aisle. Recent work in the nave, aisles and most of the chancel involved removal of existing floor stones, along with the brick sleeper walls and heating system below, to a depth of c0.45m. The resulting surface was cleaned, exposing intermittent deposits of natural sandstone and stiff sandy clay, some possibly redeposited, cut by several features ranging from medieval to modern in date.

This revealed the apparently truncated foundations of the former nave walls running below the north and south arcades. The south wall foundation c1m wide, consisting of up to three rough courses of sandstone slabs with a clay bond, was the best preserved. Although this is clearly earlier than the 14th-century south arcade, it is otherwise undated. Partial exposure of the south aisle foundations revealed coursed sandstone blocks bonded with clay and mortar, possibly medieval in date and slightly out of alignment with the walls above which were rebuilt in 1842. These contrasted with the largely brick foundations of the 19th-century north aisle. A small quantity of reused moulded stone was found in the foundations of the north aisle west wall and the central pier of the north arcade. A collection of stone at the east end of the south aisle, comprising three large angular sandstone blocks packed behind with numerous smaller stones in a clay bond appeared to correspond with the position of a chantry chapel altar known to have existed in the south aisle. At the centre of the north aisle two large stone slabs aligned north–south appeared to indicate a path that once led to an entrance in the north wall of the nave, prior to the addition of the aisle in 1842.

With the exception of a small mortar spread in the chancel there were no recognisable floor layers. Instead 15 gravecuts were distinguishable, with skeletal remains visible in four including two adult skulls and two infant burials. The latter produced a number of copper alloy shroud pins. Further features included a probable lead melting hearth and several small pits which lay below the level of the groundworks and were not excavated.

In the chancel removal of the floor stones along the north wall revealed the stepped entrance to the Willoughby vault. With permission from the present Lord Middleton, the vault was inspected and recorded, avoiding any disturbance to the remains. The vault comprised one brick (south) and three stone walls of 3.8m north–south by 2.34m east–west. The roof was a brick barrel vault c1.3m in height, consisting of a central section 2.2m wide and two 0.8m wide north and south end sections c0.15m lower. A quantity of charnel was found in the vault, as well as five lead shells and three stone coffins. Coffin furniture was limited to one small rectangular lead and two oval copper alloy breastplates. Three of the lead shells remain

unidentified while the earliest date – 1680 – was recorded on two of the stone coffins at the centre of the vault. These belong to Elizabeth and George Willoughby and suggest the vault was constructed for their joint interment, prior to the latter's actual death in 1691. Interestingly, the supposition that George Willoughby was a recusant would appear to be supported by the coffin inscription which ended with the phrase 'on whose soul God be mercifull', a typically Catholic formula connected to the doctrine of purgatory rejected at the time of the Reformation (Hickman 1999, 116).

Acknowledgements

Assistance on the project was received from D Gilbert, Dr H Jones, Dr R Firman, Marie Parnham and Reverend Duncan McMann, with monitoring by Dr Chris Brooke (Diocesan Archaeological Advisor).

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OXFORDSHIRE

Bampton, Church View

Alan Hardy, Oxford Archaeological Unit

In the heart of the medieval market town of Bampton, behind the houses on Church View, excavations on a small undeveloped area shed light on the early history of the town. The excavation revealed evidence of activity from the early Iron Age into the post-medieval period. A possible ritual pit (containing a near complete pot) and a shallow gully from the early Iron Age may relate to other known prehistoric monuments nearby. Much of the early importance of Bampton was due to its Saxon minster, situated just to the north of the site. No features that could be linked to the minster were found, although a few pieces of prestige imported pottery clearly hint at a high status settlement nearby, and an evolving arrangement of medieval property boundary ditches supports the idea of an associated settlement developing just outside the minster gate. In the 14th century the new market place to the east shifted the focus of settlement and the site became waste ground exploited for gravel quarrying. Later occupation was signalled by the foundations of a late medieval barn.

SUFFOLK

Darsham, All Saints

Stuart Boulter, Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

A programme of renovation necessitated the removal of a render layer covering the south walls of the nave and chancel, revealing the underlying wall fabric and blocked architectural features. An examination of the wall fabrics suggested that the chancel of the original 'Norman' church was extended to the east during the 13th century, while the nave was probably extended to the west and raised in height during the 14th century, possibly in conjunction with the insertion of windows in the south chancel wall. The tower was constructed in the 15th century, when at least two, possibly three windows in the south wall of the nave were inserted (SCCAS Rep No 99/59).

Mellis, Mellis Church

Sue Anderson, Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Excavations in the choir of the church revealed fragmentary medieval flint-and-mortar choir stall footings and the remains of a tiled floor. The footings were L-shaped and ran either side of the central walkway. The tiled floor remains consisted largely of mortar impressions which suggested two phases of tiling, but a few tiles remained *in situ* and some occurred loose in Victorian building rubble. All floor tiles were of Flemish type and dated to the 14th–15th century. Those *in situ* were small, but fragments of larger tiles were found in the rubble. Small quantities of medieval window glass were recovered. Later alterations to the area, including the brick footings for an 18th-century crypt tomb and evidence for the raising of the floor during Victorian renovations, were also recorded (SCCAS Rep No 99/54).

Creting St Mary, St Olave's

Nigel MacBeth, Creting Churches Project

The Creting Churches Project (CCP) conducted fieldwalking in two fields opposite Woolney Hall during winter 1998. The OS map marks the church in a field south of an access track east of Woolney Hall. Finds from the fieldwalking suggested that the OS location was doubtful and that the church was to the north of the track. After a geophysical survey in September 1999, trenches were dug to locate the site of the building, which appeared to be aligned east–west. Several features which may have been related to the demolished St Olave's were identified, one of which contained fragments of medieval painted glass. The glass was recovered from the edges of a linear

feature which was probably part of the footings/foundations of the east wall of the church. The glass was conserved and sent for identification and dating. The report (CCP archive/D King) confirmed a 14th-century date.

Following a meeting of project members it was decided to excavate further between 2000 and August 2001. Remains of the east wall of the chancel and a small area of tile floor surface were discovered in excavations in September 2000. Metal finds included long cross and short halfpenny coins, several large lumps of bronze slag and a c14th-century seal matrix with an emblem of a lamb and flag with a translated inscription of 'Behold the Lamb of God'.

Excavations will continue throughout this year with the objective of uncovering the whole church and determining the extent of the graveyard. The excavations are part of a Millennium Award, administered by Suffolk ACRE, and supported by Creting St Mary Parish Council and Suffolk County Council.

WILTSHIRE

Salisbury Cathedral

Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

An excavation was undertaken on the site of Bishop Beauchamp's chantry chapel in the eastern garth cemetery with a view to investigating the site of Bishop Beauchamp's grave. The work was necessary because of plans for a proposed ash vault on the site of the chapel. Five phases of archaeology were located (see figure):

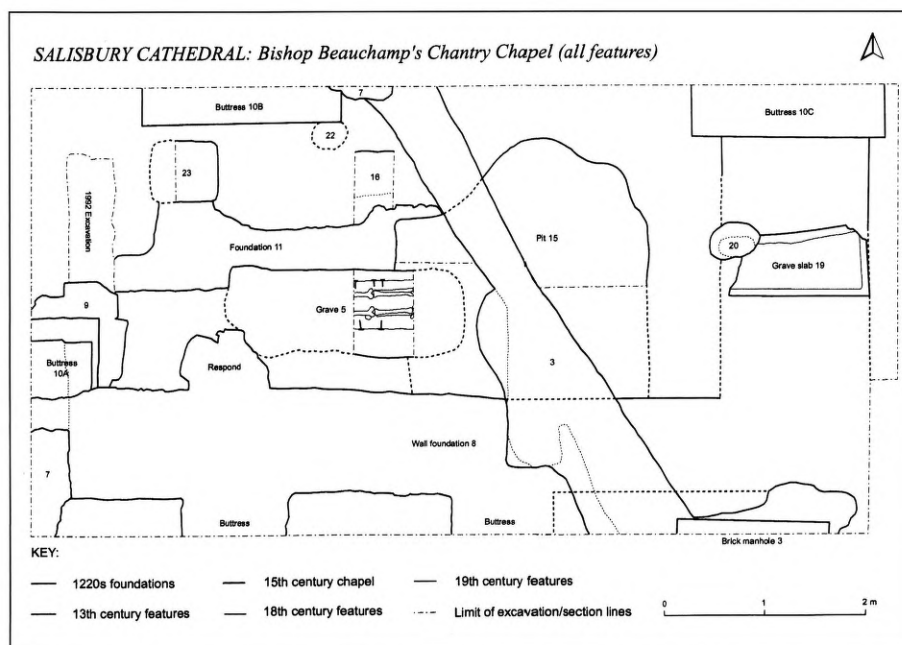
Phase 1 (1220s) – Foundations of three buttresses on the Trinity Chapel and St Stephen's Chapel were recorded.

Phase 2 (later 13th or 14th century) – A masonry foundation found extending along the centre of the trench may be a stone-lined grave. A grave cover slab reused in Phase 3 footings is of a similar date.

Phase 3 (15th century) – The foundations for Bishop Beauchamp's chantry chapel were located extending off the ends of the Phase 2 buttress foundations. An *in situ* burial set slightly closer to the south wall than the centre of the chapel is a good candidate for the burial of Bishop Beauchamp who died in 1481. A test section through the backfill of the burial located the legs and traces of a decayed wooden coffin.

Phase 4 (1789) – The chantry chapel was demolished in 1789 as part of Wyatt's 'restoration' of the east end of the cathedral. Layers overlying the foundations for the Phase 3 chapel were sealed by the demolition rubble from this work.

Phase 5 (19th century) – During the early 1870s Scott undertook landscaping and drainage around the cathedral.



Salisbury Cathedral: features discovered during excavation of Bishop Beauchamp's chantry chapel. (Illustration: Kevin Blockley)

imminence of the millennium anniversary of King Ethelred's gift of Bradford to Shaftesbury Abbey in 1001 as a refuge for Edward the Martyr's and other relics provided an appropriate occasion to see whether the chapel could be better understood.

Excavation was between and to either side of the two buttresses. Everything west of the east buttress was backfill of the cellar, as the house had been wider than the former porticus. To the east, the ground had been made up after 1881; Irvine had been able to record the deep rubble footings of the nave at the end of a slype between the house wall and a tumble-down stable (reproduced in Taylor 1972, pl xviii). No medieval levels were disturbed and the only medieval artefacts expected or found were a few dressed stones in the rubble.

The drain located in the excavation and the concrete apron around the north and west sides of the site are from this phase.

Bishop Beauchamp's burial has been left *in situ* while the Dean and Chapter discuss the site of the ash vault (CAP Report No 142)

Bradford-on-Avon, St Laurence's Chapel
David A Hinton, Dept of Archaeology, University of Southampton

During September 2000, David A Hinton and students from the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, excavated on the south side of the Anglo-Saxon chapel at Bradford-on-Avon to try to establish whether there had been a chamber under the floor of the former south porticus.

In the 18th century the chapel was used as a school, with a house for the schoolmaster replacing the former south porticus. The house was pulled down in 1881, two large buttresses being built up against the scars of the porticus walls. The house had a cellar and the architect J T Irvine recorded dressed ashlar masonry below the south door into the nave, and in its east wall a projecting plinth of stonework different from that above. Irvine took this as evidence for a crypt, but uncharacteristically did not give stone-by-stone drawings of the masonry, only a few lines to show coursing. The cellar was filled in, so, as H M Taylor wrote 'Excavation and careful study ... is clearly needed to settle with certainty whether this space is an Anglo-Saxon crypt or a late medieval cellar' (1973, 153, n12). The

The masonry exposed below the south door proved to be indubitably Anglo-Saxon. Not only could no stonework have been inserted in that position without evidence of disturbance, but the coursing and fine jointing is very similar to that in the rest of the chapel, even including an example of 'joggled' stone cutting, a technique which may be unique in England at Bradford. It was originally expected that it would be feasible only to expose the first two or three courses of this masonry, enough to establish its date. The footings of the Victorian buttresses were so substantial, however, that with the agreement of the Trustees' architect, Mr V Gibbs, it was decided to continue downwards and it was possible to expose the whole wall down to the level of the cellar floor. Most of the joints had been repointed during restoration work, but some of the lowest retained lime mortar.

Irvine's interpretation was further confirmed by the bottom part of the east buttress, which was found to rest on two courses of fine-jointed masonry, also lime-mortared. One stone of a third course survived in the corner, bonded into the south wall and in the same line of coursing as one of those in that wall, so there can be no doubt that the work is coeval. The bottom courses of the south wall and one stone in the east, forming the north-west corner, had horizontal slots roughly cut in them. Another stone found loose in the rubble had another slot in this series. There was presumably a flight of steps here and archaeologically it would not be possible to say that they were not Anglo-Saxon in date. Irvine, however, referred in a letter of 1874 to seeing the base of a south door jamb 'below the old stairs in the cellar' (quoted in Taylor 1972, 97), which suggests that the steps were cut in the schoolmaster's days.

If the steps were post-medieval, there is no trace of the

original access into the chamber. The south wall masonry is not pierced for a stairway leading down from the nave floor – nor was there a smaller opening for a viewing shaft. Either the chamber was self-contained, with an outside door, or it was accessible only from within the south porticus, by some presumably fairly narrow and steep stairway. A point in support of the former is that the natural fall of the ground at Bradford would have meant that most if not all of the chamber would have been exposed. It was not a crypt in the sense of being underground. This helps to explain why the south wall masonry has no trace of springing for a stone vault, normal in crypts – they would usually be buttressed by the earth outside. At Bradford, the ceiling of the undercroft must have been flat, supported by east–west joists.

Further work could be done at Bradford, since only the north end of the chamber was revealed and Irvine's drawings suggest that its east wall was about the same length as that of the north porticus. Although he did not see any trace of either south or west walls, something might yet be recognisable below the level of the cellar floor, but this will not be investigated for the time being. It is hoped to create a website on the excavation, with a three-dimensional reconstruction model created by Anton Prowse and Graham Tait. This will be accessible at <http://www.arch.soton/research/bradford>.

Acknowledgements

The Department is grateful for the support of the Trustees of the Chapel which enabled the work to take place. Help with creating the photographic record was given by Tom Cromwell of English Heritage's Central Archaeological Service.

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YORKSHIRE

Grinton, St Andrew Peter F Ryder

A watching brief was carried out during the rebuilding of the boiler room, set in the angle between the tower and west end of the north aisle of this large and complex church. The lack of quoining at any of the angles of the 12th-century nave is perplexing and raises a tantalising possibility that the nave might have had rounded angles of some form.

York Minster & Precinct

Richard Hall, York Archaeological Trust

Since the appointment of Dr R A Hall as Consultant Archaeologist to York Minster in 1998 the Dean & Chapter have collaborated with the University to establish a York Minster Research Fellowship and Dr Kate Giles was appointed. She has undertaken archaeological recording necessitated by repairs to the timber roof above the west aisle of the south transept and has identified what appears to be the remains of another hoist, like the well-known dragon-hoist which protrudes at triforium level on the north side of the nave. In advance of installation of an additional peal of bells Dr Giles also recorded elements of the bell chamber in the north-west tower, where traces of what is perhaps an end of season capping of the tower in the 14th century were visible. She is currently recording and analysing the complexities of the chapter house vestibule, where peculiarities in the structure reflect alterations to the original design.

Other archaeological recording in and around the Minster has been undertaken by York Archaeological Trust. Inside the Minster, the laying of a new sound system in the nave and crossing revealed that the late medieval floor had sloped down from south to north by as much as 0.3m across the full 30m width of the nave and aisles – a slope of 1:100. When the floor was repaved in the 1730s the chance was taken to level the floor, raising it by 0.14m around the north aisle piers. The new floor covered the decorative chamfer which marked the original base of the piers and, to reinstate their appearance, the 18th-century restorers fabricated false chamfers of stone which were attached to the pier bases. This restored the appearance of symmetry between the south and north aisle piers. What could not be masked was the discrepancy in height between the wall-benches in the south and north aisles – that to the north is obviously 'shallower' than its southern counterpart.

Excavations for another set of wiring, for communications around the precinct, revealed structural remains along the edge of The Minster School grounds. These are interpreted as traces of the 'Old Deanery' which was demolished in the 1820s.

Investigations prior to installation of ramps at the west of the north-west tower encountered a stone obstruction approximately 3m below the modern ground surface. This is likely to be another part of the Roman building complex discovered in Derek Phillips' excavations during 1967–73. Outside the Library, approximately 1.5m below ground but at the same absolute height as the remains beyond the west end, a solid obstruction and an adjacent series of thin, floor-like archaeological deposits totalling about 0.25m in thickness may represent another Roman building. In Chapter House Yard more stonework, found at greater depth, may be evidence for a well shaft.

West front – In the year when the major restoration of the west front was completed, work on the arch above the south-west door revealed an unusual item. Lodged within the openwork carving of the ornate decoration, at a spot inaccessible since the early 19th century, was a small ball made from a bound core of twine covered with a leather casing and measuring about 40mm in diameter. This has been identified by Penelope Walton Rogers as the type of ball used in the game of handball: so why was it placed in the arch? Modern masons' practice when fixing these carved voussoirs is to insert a bung in the form of a piece of foam, an old glove or something similar at the top of each stone before they fix the next, in order to prevent rubble and debris falling behind the carving and spoiling the openwork relief effect. The ball may have been used for this purpose by the 19th-century mason.

St William's College – Throughout much of 1999 work was underway at this 15th-century college of chantry priests where the 17th-century brick-built addition holding the main staircase was cracking due to differential settlement. Archaeological observations were made during a small preliminary exploration and subsequent trench-digging along two sides of the stair tower. An area of 3.7m x 2.7m was also excavated immediately outside the College's rear kitchen door. The earliest remains were two parallel lines of stone rubble foundations which are dated to the 13th or 14th century and are interpreted as remains of one of the medieval prebendal houses demolished to make way for the College in 1465–67. Foundations running at 90° to the rear of the College, extending just outside the wall of the later stair tower, indicate that another structure was erected just behind it, perhaps a separate kitchen, guest-house or store-room, or, conceivably, an extension to the College itself. This structure did not last long and seems to have been demolished by about 1500. Next, a series of paths was discovered, running parallel to and just outside the College rear wall. The latest of these had a brick floor and was defined on the north by a stone wall. This previously unknown addition to the College, perhaps a covered walkway rather like a cloister-walk, seems to have fallen into disuse when the stair tower was erected over its line c1650–70. From the 16th century onwards the now open ground behind the College was occupied by buildings. At first they were probably College outbuildings, but latterly, in the 18th and 19th century, they were probably used for light industry.

York, Spurriergate, St Michael
Kurt Hunter-Mann, York Archaeological Trust

A watching brief investigated a section of the north wall of St Michael Spurriergate which was probably constructed in the 14th century or a little later. Architectural fragments

reused in the 14th-century fabric could have come from an earlier phase of the building. Although many parts of the church were rebuilt during the 19th century, it seems that rebuilding of the north wall was confined to the western end, where two windows were added. The eastern part of the north wall was retained, probably because it also acted as the south wall of the adjoining building (24 Spurriergate). The stonework appears to have been plastered internally from the beginning; the first plaster surface had been painted with a scheme incorporating a script, presumably of medieval date. Two further plaster coats had been applied, perhaps during the later medieval and post-medieval periods. The current plaster surface was probably added during rebuilding works in the second quarter of the 19th century and conceals a marked outward lean in this part of the north wall. It is likely that the external surface of the north wall was originally covered with a mortar rendering. The other part of the church examined, the north wall of the south gallery at roof level in the tower, appears to have been part of the original 15th-century fabric.

York, Stonebow/Hungate, remains of Carmelite Friary
Neil Macnat, York Archaeological Trust

Trial excavations in the Stonebow/Hungate area revealed walls which may be part of the Carmelite Friary, as well as a possible natural valley or stream which may have been utilised as the Friary's perimeter. The Friary was the head of one of the four Carmelite provinces in England. Elsewhere on this site, possible structural traces and burials from the church of St John the Baptist (St John in the Marsh), which was demolished in the 16th century, were found.

York, Castle Yard
David Evans, York Archaeological Trust

Trial excavations in Castle Yard revealed graves of the Anglo-Scandinavian period which may relate to a pre-Conquest church destroyed by the erection of William the Conqueror's castle. A cemetery of 19th-century execution victims was also found.

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

The digging of french drains around the south exterior of St Gregory's Minster provided the opportunity to expose the foundations on this side. The western part of the nave foundation conformed to the double-step limestone arrangement (assigned to the mid 11th-century church of Orm Gamalson) seen outside the western end of the church; but in the eastern part of the nave, the lower step

consisted of large sandstone blocks, over a metre long.

On the eastern side of a modern (19th-century) buttress between the nave and chancel, the sandstone blocks continued to form the south-east corner of the nave; but the upper step, of limestone, was mutilated. It is clear, however, that the lower sandstone blocks were not merely the lower part of a two-step arrangement which had been postulated to be a unitary work of the mid 11th century (recorded on the sundial inscription); but that they were part of an earlier church.

This part of the excavation also exposed the nave/chancel junction at various times. The earliest chancel foundation was set in from the line of the nave. This was also very burnt; it was, moreover, set out at 97° to the present nave alignment, suggesting that in this phase there was an apsidal chancel. Above it, a cut away limestone block indicated the nave/chancel division of the church assigned to Orm Gamalson in the mid 11th century. The stones of the earlier structure had been reddened by fire and clearly related to a lower ground surface.

If the pre 11th-century church was 8th- to 9th-century in date (other evidence suggests this was the *floruit* of the pre-Viking monastery) we may have a ready culprit for the burning, in the late 9th to early 10th century. St Gregory's Minster was then ruinous enough to be rebuilt by Orm Gamalson in 1055–65.

The large sandstone blocks used in the earlier church so far found seem to be too big to be Anglo-Saxon and most observers thought they were reused Roman stones, suggesting a major stone structure in the vicinity. We found a coin of Constantine the Great and half a melon bead at the west end, close to the earliest phase of burial. It may be that Roman structures and burials precede the main period of conversion here in the later 7th–8th century.

Ireland

BELFAST

Belfast, St George's Church *Ann Hamlin*

A major restoration programme has recently been completed on one of Belfast's oldest and most important churches. St George's Church of Ireland church in High Street occupies the site of a medieval church, the 'chapel of the ford', listed in the 1302–6 ecclesiastical taxation, believed to have been where travellers gave thanks for safe crossing over the Farset River (which gave Belfast its name). It was involved in mid 17th-century warfare, repaired in 1757 and used as the 'Corporation Church' until 1774, when it was demolished and St Anne's was built. When this

became too small, however, the decision was made to return to the old site and build what at first was a chapel of ease but later became parochial. The architect was John Bowden of Dublin. The foundation stone was laid in 1813 and the church opened in 1816. Its greatest glory is the fine portico, reused from the Earl Bishop Hervey's unfinished house of 1788 at Ballyscullion, on Lough Beg in Co Londonderry. Four huge Corinthian columns support a pediment with the arms of the diocese and Belfast. Behind is a rectangular 'preaching hall', considerably altered from its initial Georgian simplicity in the 1860s and later. The church was extensively damaged by nearby bombs in recent decades and the exterior stonework was in particular need of attention. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant and a public appeal made possible a two-year, one million pound programme. Initially the exterior stonework was conserved, including some refacing and replacing of details where necessary. Then the interior was refurbished, including restoration of the Georgian pews. A rededication service was held in June 2000 after the completion of the scheme.

CO FERMANAGH

Aghavea Parish Church *Ruairí Ó Baoill, Excavation Unit, Environment & Heritage Service (DOENI)*

The Church of Ireland parish church of Aghavea occupies the site of an early ecclesiastical establishment, linked in tradition with the important church at Clogher (Tyrone). A late Life of its associated saint, St Lasair, claims that she was educated with St Molaise of Devenish and had a famous bell, used for holding water and collecting money. An inscribed stone from the site, naming a priest called Dunchad, is now in the National Museum of Ireland. A famous book shrine, the *Domnach Airgid*, was kept by the Maguire family in this parish. Its metalwork dates from around 850, though the box is probably older, and the rest of the shrine is from the 14th or 15th century.

A church recorded at *Akadymbeychi* in the 1302–6 ecclesiastical taxation was probably at this site. Aghavea is also mentioned in the Annals of Ulster and the Annals of the Four Masters; it was burnt in 1458, 1487 and 1507, its parson died in 1515 and its 'erenagh' died in 1532. It appears in the 1603 Survey of Ulster and the Inquisition of 1609, when the church was depicted as roofless on the Baronial Map. The present church was built soon after 1800, allegedly using stones from earlier buildings.

Plans by the parish to build a new hall in a field north-east of the church, in the area of a possible early enclosure, made archaeological investigation necessary. An assessment of the site was carried out in April 2000, and Environment and Heritage Service funded subsequent excavation, under the direction of Ruairí Ó Baoill of its Excavation Unit, on

behalf of the parish.

Significant archaeological features were found across the site but especially in the central and northern areas. These included several sizeable ditches and other linear features, possibly representing inner and outer enclosures at various times. There were also structural remains, areas of industrial activity, pits and postholes. Finds included two blue glass beads, part of a circular grindstone, coarse domestic pottery of the Early Christian and medieval periods, iron artefacts and much slag.

The main archaeological features will be left largely intact and sealed beneath a carpark. The proposed hall will be moved to the south end of the field, where the remains found were less substantial. Continuing work on the material should help to clarify interpretation of the many features and to relate them to the complex history of this site. This is the first excavation of an early ecclesiastical site in Fermanagh since the early 1970s and the work is another reminder of the importance of examining areas around known early churches when opportunities are offered.

Scotland

NAIRN

Barevan, St Aibind Peter F Ryder

Robert Blair, president of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, visited the ruined church at Barevan on the 28 June 1900 and made sketches in his notebook (vol 17, 75–77), now in the Society's Library. These detail both the fabric and four medieval cross slab grave covers. A thorough search of church ruins and churchyard located three of these, now heavily overgrown and lichened. One, now broken into four pieces, lay in the church. Two others were in the churchyard to the south; one bore a cross flanked by a spade and (?)hammer, with a death's head – the most ubiquitous emblem on the post-medieval ledger stones in this churchyard – beneath the cross base. The third was carved with an unusual cross accompanied by a short-handled axe and what looked like a broad-bladed chisel.

Wales

DENBIGHSHIRE

Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, St Trillo's Bob Silvester, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

The church at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on the north Wales coast has its origins in a mother church of the early medieval era. In 1939 the late C A Raleigh Radford postulated a sequence of development based on the visible fabric and architecture which culminated in the double-naved structure visible today. During the summer of 2000 a scheme to renovate the exterior of the church, including the removal and replacement of deficient render, was the subject of a watching brief. Up to ten phases of development were identified, including two Victorian restorations, necessitating some revision of Radford's original sequence. A detailed record was made of the blocked 13th-century arcade on the north side of the building and of several architectural or sepulchral fragments reused in the south nave walls. A fuller report will appear in a forthcoming volume of *Archaeology in Wales*.

FLINTSHIRE

Hope, St Cyngar's Nigel Jones, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

An extensive programme of restoration work presented a valuable opportunity to undertake detailed recording of various aspects of the church, revealing new information about its history and structural changes. The present church was almost certainly founded in the early medieval period, although the earliest surviving part of the building dates from the end of the 13th century. The recording of the south aisle roof in particular has revealed significant new information regarding its construction and repair. The roof, which dates from the 15th century, consists of seven bays formed by eight arch-braced collar trusses, and it is now evident that the trusses were originally supported on an inner and outer wall plate on top of the south wall. At some point the outer wall plate was removed and possibly replaced by the existing stone cornice. Mortice holes in the inner wall plate show that the rafters were originally supported on struts, or ashlar pieces, which were removed when the aisle was re-roofed and the rafters replaced. The inner face of the south wall was then raised to the roofline by the construction of a brick wall which was subsequently plastered. The restoration also involved work on the north aisle east window, the arcade and the bell tower. During work on the arcade a carved stone Celtic cross of 9th- or 10th-century date was recovered from the rubble infill of

the upper wall of the arcade.

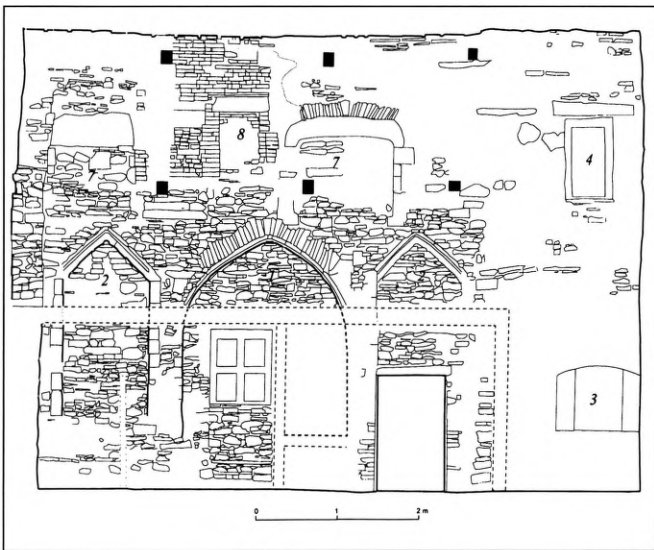
Subsidence beneath the organ in 1997 revealed a lead coffin buried beneath the floor of the south aisle and the surrounding area was excavated before a new floor could be laid. The excavations revealed the lead coffin which had the initials WH and a date of 1746 on the lid, as well as two further graves. Two coins were recovered during the excavations, one of Charles II and the other of George III, dated 1746.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Abergavenny Priory

Richard Jones, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

A study of the surviving fabric of the east claustral range was undertaken. The elevation of the east wall shows several phases of work and is interpreted as part of the chapter house (see figure). The original 14th-century windows are visible (1 and 2). The slype was later blocked and a window inserted (3). Window 4 above is also an early feature and is round-headed on the exterior of the wall. During the 18th century a floor and two fireplaces were added (7 and 8) (CAP Report No 108).



Abergavenny Priory: internal east elevation (Illustration: Richard Jones)

Oldcastle, St John the Baptist

Felicity Taylor, Monmouth Archaeological Society

A research excavation was carried out on the remains of the churchyard cross, which consisted of two steps of sandstone slabs. Initial investigation of the ground revealed the presence of a stone platform extending 50cm around the base on three sides. The western half of the structure was

partially removed to reveal a solid core of large stones with the uppermost stones roughly mortared. There appeared to be a lower platform on a slightly different alignment and of a different construction. The base of the structure was 90cm below ground level and consisted of long sandstone blocks with overhanging flat slabs above. The construction of the cross-base disturbed nine burials. The most southerly of these had a broken roof slate at each side of the upper arms creating a coffin effect. The many fragments of soft white bone and the remains of several skulls suggest that these burials had disturbed even earlier burials. No artefacts were recovered to suggest a date for the building of the cross-base. Samples of bone were removed for accelerator dating when funds allow. The remains of the cross have now been reinstated.

PEMBROKESHIRE

St Davids, Bishop's Palace

Ian Grant, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

Four trial trenches were commissioned by Cadw along the line of a proposed path between the gatehouse and the porch of the great hall. Material relating to the construction of the 14th-century buildings was found in all trenches and consisted of three distinct deposits: a layer of mason's chippings of Upper Perbidian tuff, a layer of mason's chippings of purple sandstone and a layer of lime mortar. Layers above this were 18th- and 19th-century garden soils and recent landscaping soil (CAP Report No 127).