

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

Heating Ducts, St James' Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds BSE 276

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS, 2006

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Field Team
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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Acknowledgements

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The archaeological work was carried out by John Duffy, Mike Green, Nick Taylor, and Jonathan Van Jennians, all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team.

The project was managed by David Gill and Jo Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Richenda Goffin, Anna West and Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds assessment report was produced by Richenda Goffin. Post-excavation assistance was provided by Gemma Adams

Summary

Excavation was conducted in the north and south transepts of St James' Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, ahead of the installation of heating ducts and a lift. The two trenches identified the remains of the east wall of the medieval predecessor of the current church. Three 19th century brick-lined graves/vaults were also identified, two in the south transept and one in the north. No inhumations were fully excavated, though any disarticulated human remains were recovered and then reburied. Documentary research undertaken by A. Breen has enabled possible identification of the names of the individuals and families buried within the recorded graves.

SMR information

Planning application no.	N/A
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Grid Reference:	TL 8560 6411
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Oasis reference	suffolkc1-15220

Introduction

Archaeological excavation and recording work was undertaken in the north and south transepts of St James' Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, in advance of the installation of new heating ducts and a lift. The work was commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of St James Cathedral, and it was specified and monitored by R. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The Cathedral is one of the two medieval parish churches in the town that are located on the western limit of the former Abbey precinct. The historical evidence shows that there have been several phases of church building on this site. St James' was originally constructed c1120-1140 under Abbot Anselm. It was a replacement for St Denis', which stood further to the east but which was demolished to make way for the west front of the Abbey Church (Hills 1865, 113). There are scant remains of the 12th century church. Changes were made to the chancel and nave in the 14th and 15th centuries, and the present nave was rebuilt from 1503 through to the mid 16th century as part of a campaign of building attributed to John Wastell, a Master Mason. This was raised to try and combat flooding problems. The chancel was rebuilt in 1711 and again in 1865-69 (Whittingham 1951, 188-9), and it was finally replaced by a new quire that was completed in 1970 under the direction of the architect Dykes-Bower. This last rebuild involved the removal and replacement of the 16th century east end walls of the nave.

There have been excavations around the Cathedral in advance of development work which have revealed small clues about the changing buildings on the site. Excavations conducted before the expansion of the east end in 1960 by A. R. Dufty and C.A. Raleigh Redford identified what was probably the west wall of St Denis (Wilson and Hurst 1961, 305), and excavations outside the north transept and on the site of the new cloisters by Suffolk Archaeological Services identified the remains of a buttress that, due to its depth, was suggested to have pre-dated the 16th century wall (Gill 2005, 24). However, no excavation has previously been conducted inside the Cathedral itself. The new installations provided a rare opportunity for archaeological investigation under the church.

Documentary research has shown that along with the main structural changes, there has also been constant refurbishment of the interior throughout the life of the church, including relocation of floor and wall memorials (Breen – Appendix 1). In addition to exploring the phases of development of the medieval and 16th century building, the excavation was intended to record any later historical remains.

Methodology

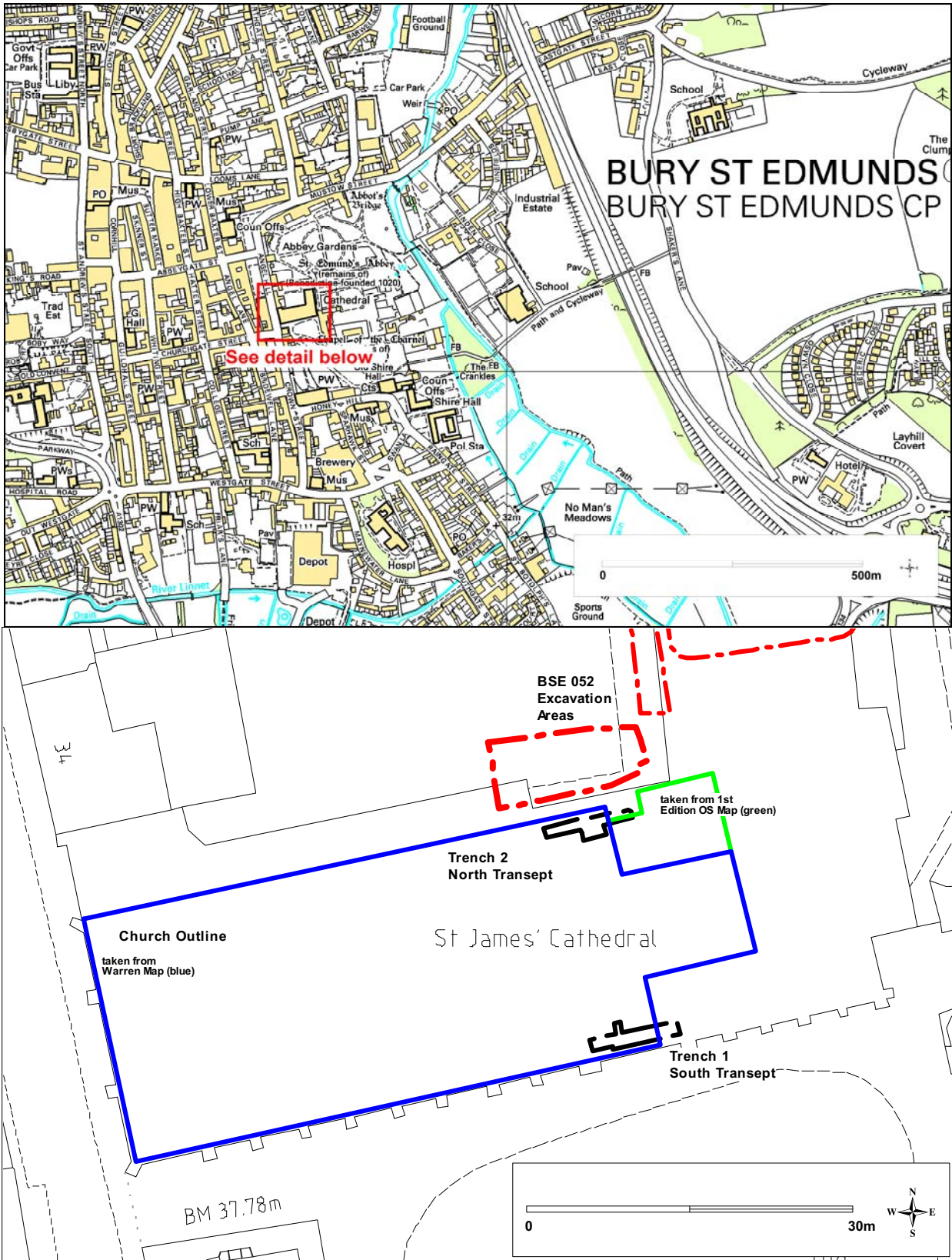
Initial excavation was undertaken by the developer and included the removal of the floor slabs, breaking of the concrete floor base with an electric hand breaker and hand excavation of the deposits immediately below the concrete. Excavation by the developer was halted when brickwork and/or flint and mortar work was encountered. Hand excavation was then continued by a team of experienced archaeological excavators. The sealed brick vault in Trench 2 was opened and the coffin and fittings recorded before being lowered. All aspects of this work were undertaken by an experienced archaeologist.

All identified archaeological deposits were given a unique four-digit context number, starting at 0001, with a full written record produced for each. All features were drawn in section and plan at 1:20 and photographed using colour digital and black and white film. The location of the

trenches was surveyed using a Total Station Theodolite (TST) and plotted onto the OS national grid using MapInfo 6.5.

The documentary search was undertaken by A. Breen and is included in full as Appendix 1. It was conducted to investigate burial and memorial records with the aim of tying them directly to the archaeological evidence. Summarised results are included in appropriate parts of the main results section within this report.

The site archive and finds, with the exception of the human skeletal remains which were reburied within Trench 2, are kept at the County Council Archaeological Store, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds under site code BSE 276.



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Figure 1. Site location

Results

Introduction

The two excavation areas in the north and south transepts were initially excavated by the developer for the construction of heating ducts, involving the removal of the upper layers in both excavation areas before archaeological work began.

The results of the documentary search have been included where they relate to burials and broken memorial slabs found in Trench 2. The majority of the evidence, included as Appendix 1, was taken from the document 'Inscriptions on Sepulchral Slabs in S. James' Church, Bury S. Edmunds: with a plan showing their positions'. This was copied in 1864 with corrections in 1880. The east end of the plan has been reproduced in this report (Fig. 2). Other sources were also consulted from the 18th and 19th centuries and are listed in full in Appendix 1. Although the inscriptions and plans give a good idea of who was buried and where, it must be noted that these memorials were often moved during rebuilding and refurbishment. Some of the stones may not be in their original position on the 1864 plan and may not relate to those buried beneath.

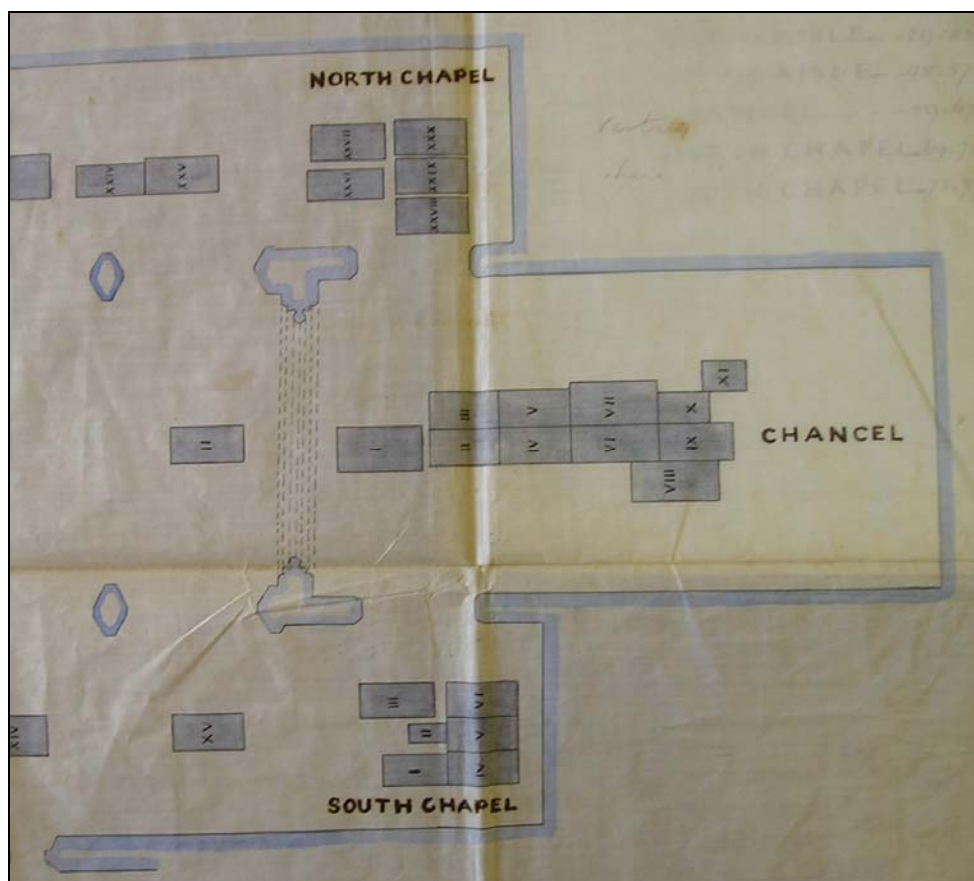


Figure 2. 1864 grave memorial plan (by Henry Siggers for John Darkin)

Trench 1 - South Transept

Overburden and footing trench

The upper layer within Trench 1 was brick and concrete rubble, 0001, with other mixed material that included disarticulated human bone. This layer was immediately below the existing concrete floor base and was largely removed by the developer. This layer covered all features in Trench 1 and formed the hardcore sub-base for the concrete floor layer above.

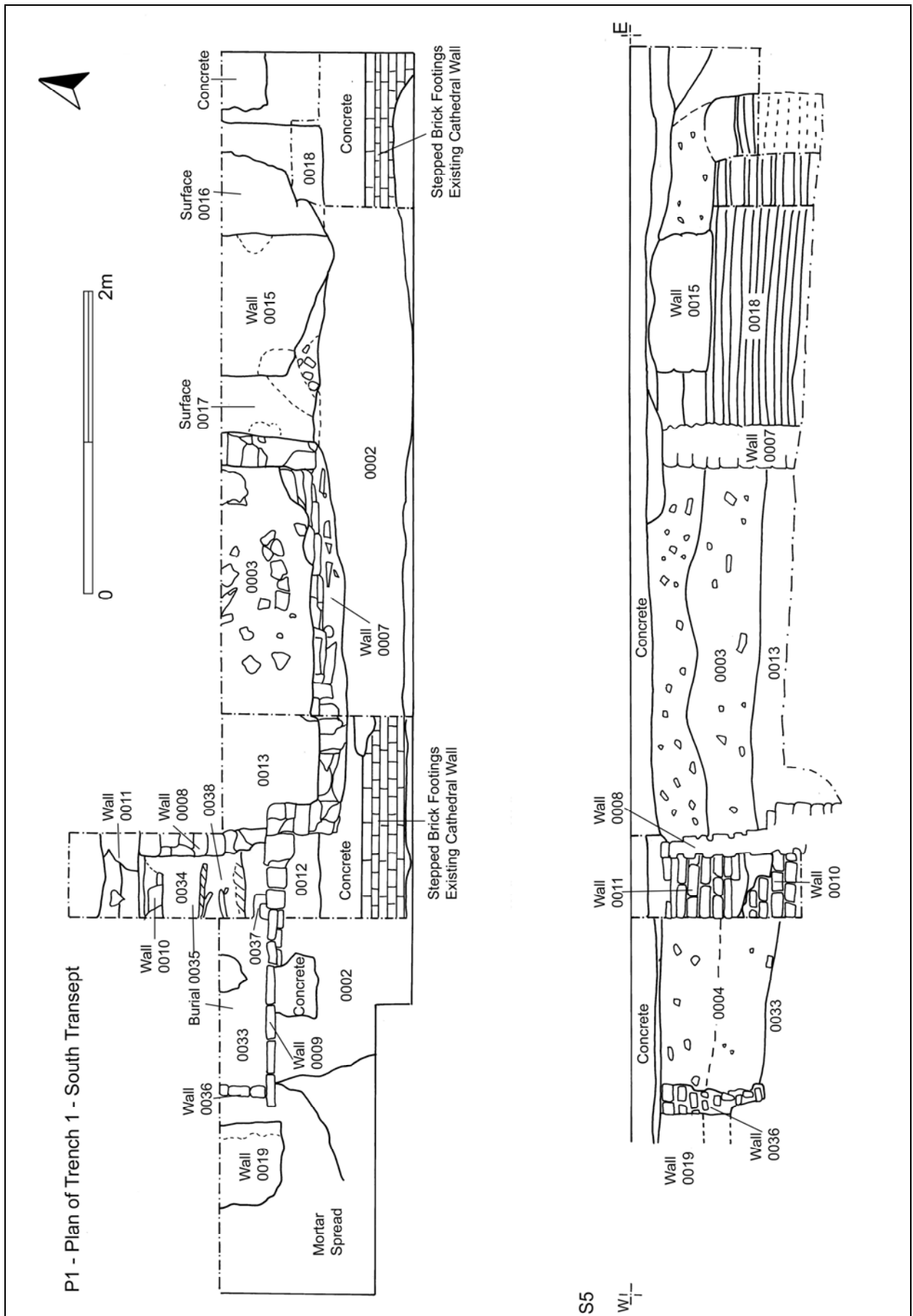


Figure 3. Plan and section of Trench 1

Below the upper hardcore layer, 0001, the cut of the footing trench for the existing Cathedral wall was identified running the entire length of the trench east to west (0005). The cut was very irregular in both plan and section and appears to have been cut around earlier features as much as was possible during construction. The footing trench was filled by a mixed brick and concrete rubble within a yellow brown silty sand, 0002, with frequent flecks of mortar. Several finds were also recovered from this fill.

Structure 0014

Located near to the eastern end of Trench 1 was structure 0014 which consisted of a wall, 0015, two surfaces, 0016 and 0017, and banded footings, 0018. The wall was identified immediately below the concrete layer on which the current Cathedral floor slabs were laid. It was flint built, bonded with an orangey yellow sandy mortar, and ran in a north to south direction, 0.95m wide. It extended beyond the trench edge to the north and was removed to the south by the foundation trench for the 1960's rebuild. Both east and west faces were covered in a mortar render which continued unbroken horizontally to the east and west forming surfaces 0016 and 0017. Below the wall and surfaces was banded footings, 0018, consisting of alternate layers of yellow sandy mortar and dark brown silty sand. The total depth of the footings was not identified within the trench as they extended below the maximum trench depth. The upper 0.20m to 0.25m of the wall was removed to allow for the new heating system with the rest preserved *in situ* sealed within cement.

Structure 0019

A second, though heavily disturbed, wall was identified at the western end of Trench 1, 0019. The wall was constructed with a flint core faced with dressed stone, surviving only on the east face, bonded with a lime mortar, 0.50m wide. The wall survived over banded footings, similar to footings 0018, which were alternate layers of mortar and dark brown silty sand. The wall and its footings were heavily disturbed by the footing trench, 0005, to the west and south and by grave 0035 to the east.

Structure 0006

The area of Trench 1 between walls 0015 and 0019 was occupied by structure 0006, a series of walls forming a brick-lined grave (0035) and a brick burial vault (0007).

The main wall of 0007 was constructed with red brick, 17th/18th century in date, and was laid in no discernable pattern. The wall was rectangular, although the northern edge was beyond the trench to the north, with an opening at the west end infilled by later brick, 0008. These bricks were similar to those of the main wall, 0007. The vault had been heavily disturbed during the 1960's rebuild of the east end of the cathedral. The excavation of the footing trench and the levelling for the floor removed the vault roof and several courses of the southern wall. A small extension to the trench ran in a northerly direction and identified the remains of another brick wall, 0011. It ran east to west and was constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond and appeared to form a northern or central wall associated with 0007. However, only a limited extent of the wall was exposed making associations with 0007 difficult and it extended further to the west than 0007.

The vault, 0007, was filled by an upper layer of hardcore forming the base for the 1960's concrete on which the stone slab floor was laid. Below this was a layer of brick and rubble, 0003, which appeared to be the demolition material from the vault structure itself. Below this was a mid-brown silt, 0013, with some brick and mortar. This layer was not fully excavated as it extended below the formation level of the development, and it was left largely intact.

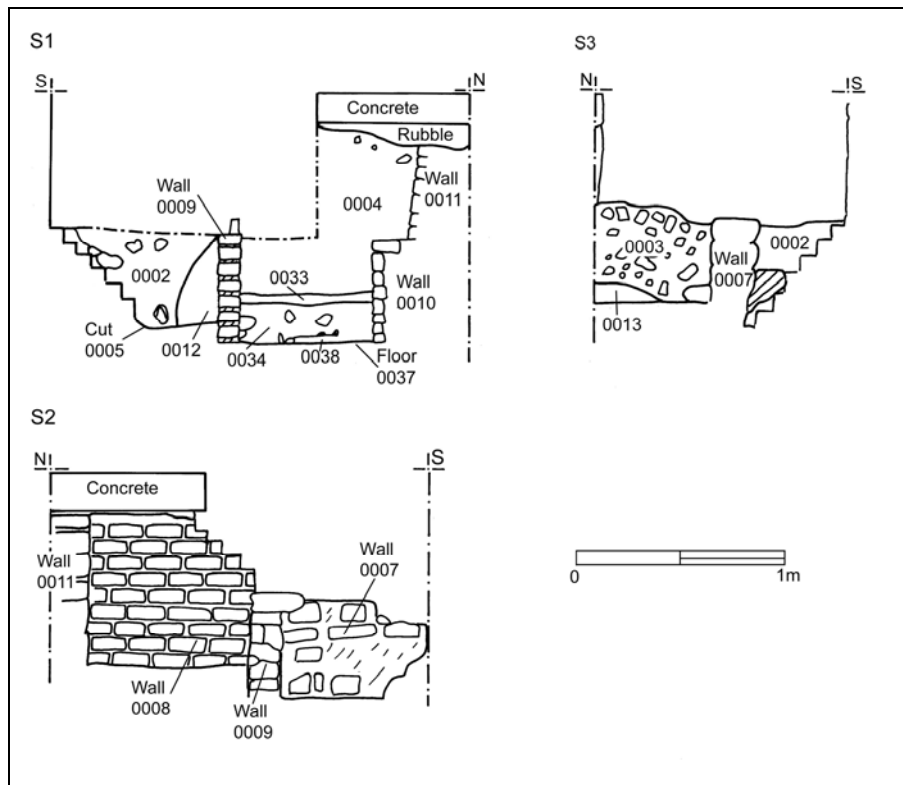


Figure 4. Sections from Trench 1

Immediately to the west of 0007 was a second burial, 0035, which was also recorded as part of overall structure 0006. It consisted of three brick walls (0009, 0010 and 0036) built using a rat-trap bond of which two to four courses survived above seven courses of Flemish bond. The burial was cut at its eastern end by vault 0007 and was filled by a sequence of layers. The main fill was a mid brown silt, 0004, with brick and rubble inclusions and was similar to layer 0013 to the west within vault 0007. Below this was a thin compacted layer of mortar and brick fragments, 0033, which sloped from the west to east towards the entrance to the later vault to the east, 0007. Immediately below was a mid grey/brown silt, 0034, with occasional clay lumps. It was excavated down onto a similar mid grey/brown silt, 0038, which contained extensive wood staining indicating the remains of a wooden coffin. Within this layer were the disturbed remains of a human skeleton. Only the upper legs were visible, with the pelvic area and upper body remaining unexcavated. The lower legs had been removed by the insertion of the later vault, 0007. The skeletal and coffin remains sat on a red brick surface which formed the base of the brick-lined grave.

The documentary search conducted by A. Breen (Appendix 1) identified the possible occupants of the two graves. The information was obtained from records made of the memorial inscriptions and locations in 1864. The larger vault, 0007, was possibly the burial of Reverend Brinkley (number IV - Fig. 2) who died in 1751 and his wife Katharine (died 1765), whilst the earlier brick-lined grave (0035) may have been that of Mrs Cecelia Coell who died in 1677 (number 1 – Fig.2).

Trench 2 - North Transept

Overburden and footing trench

Below the concrete within Trench 2 was a mixed rubble layer, 0020, which included flint, mortar, concrete and a mid to light grey brown clayey sand. This layer was removed by the developer and formed the hardcore onto which the concrete floor base had been laid. Also visible below the concrete was a small flint and light yellow mortar layer, 0028, which was also part of the hardcore material forming the base for the concrete. Two further build-up layers, 0029 and 0032, were recorded to the east and west of wall 0040 respectively. Layer 0029 was a mid grey brown silty sand with brick and concrete rubble. Layer 0032 was a light grey cement rubble.

Along the entire length of Trench 2 was the footing trench, 0021, for the north transept wall which was part of the 1960's re-build. The footing trench was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty sand, 0022, with brick fragments. In this intervention, the 1960s material was mainly removed by the developer.

A further sequence of layers were identified in the south section of Trench 2 below the build-up layers for the 1960's floor, and to the south of the 1960's footing trench, 0021. Layers 0024 and 0027 were identified at approximately the same depth and both appeared cut by the construction pit for the burial vault (0023). Layer 0024 was a mid brown silty sand located to the east of vault 0023 and appeared to butt up against the mortared western face of wall 0040 suggesting a later date for the layer. The finds from this layer included medieval pottery and ceramic building material though some post-medieval finds were also recovered from the layers below. A similar layer was identified to the west of vault 0023 and was a dark brown silty sand, 0027, and was cut by the vault construction pit. It was probable that layers 0024 and 0027 were originally the same layer before the excavation for the vault, 0023.

Immediately below layer 0024 was a mid greyish brown silty sand, 0025, which contained fragments of medieval rooftile, two sherds of medieval pottery and a sherd of 19th-20th century pottery. However, it was possible that the single sherd of post-medieval pottery was intrusive either from the construction of the vault or the 1960's rebuild. Below this layer was a dark grey brown silty sand, 0052, which remained largely unexcavated. One fragment of post-medieval building material was recovered, which may be intrusive.

Structure 0026

Identified near the eastern end of Trench 2 was structure 0026, which consisted of a wall, 0040, a surface, 0030, and remains of footing trench backfill, 0043, 0044 and 0045. The wall, 0040, was identified below the concrete and hardcore base for the floor slabs and extended beyond the depth of the excavated trench. It ran north to south, 0.90m wide, and extended beyond the trench edge to the south but was truncated to the north by the 1960's rebuild footing trench. The wall was constructed with flint bonded by an orangey yellow sandy mortar with both east and west faces covered with a mortar render. The upper 0.20m to 0.25m of the wall were all removed to allow for the new heating system to be installed with the rest of the structure preserved *in situ*.

To the east of the wall was a layer of densely packed flint cobbles and rubble, bonded with a light yellow mortar with a smoothed mortared surface on the flint. This layer and surface appeared to butt up against wall 0040 indicating its construction was later than the wall. The different mortar between layer 0030 and wall 0040 suggests the layer comes from a later construction period rather than a slightly later phase within the same construction period. Below this was a mid grey brown silty sand, 0031, which also butted up to the mortared surface of wall 0040. It was likely to have been a build-up layer against the wall to allow for the construction of surface 0030.

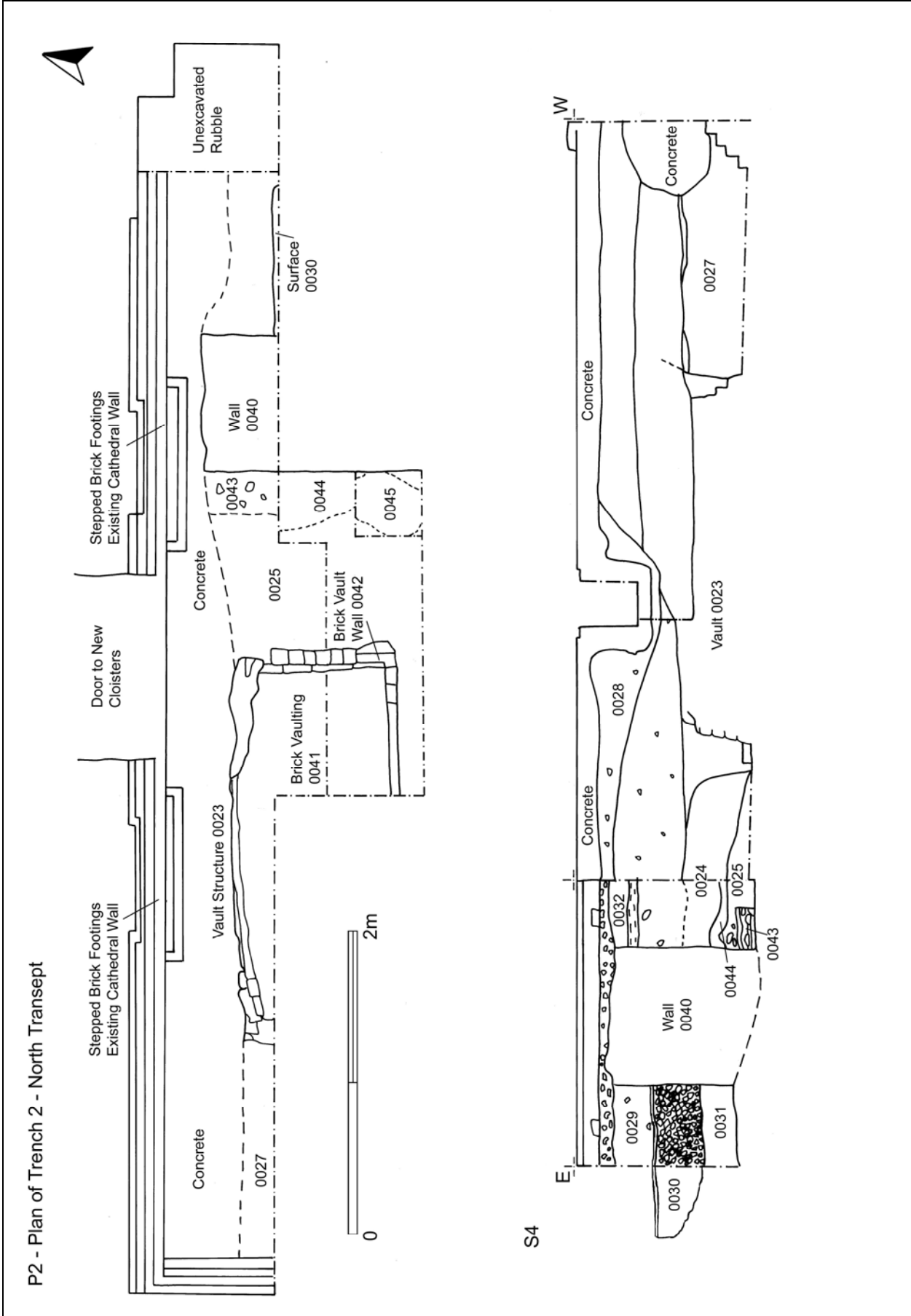


Figure 5. Plan and section of Trench 2

To the west of wall 0040 heavily truncated remains of probable banded footing trench fills (0043, 0044 and 0045). Layer 0043 was flint and yellow mortar with patches of dark grey brown silty sand. Its full depth was not identified and it was the lowest of the three layers to the west of wall 0040. Above layer 0043 was a light orangey yellow mortar, 0044, which butted up against wall 0040. Above layer 0044 was a very heavily truncated mortar layer, 0045, which appeared to have been smoothed and may have formed part of a surface.

Structure 0023

Structure 0023 was identified within Trench 2 and was undisturbed by the 1960's footing trench, 0021. It was a red brick vault consisting of a brick vaulted roof, 0041, laid on a rectangular brick wall, 0042, and containing a burial, 0039.

Brick vaulting, 0041, spanned and sealed brick wall 0042 and burial 0039. This was bonded with a solid grey mortar/cement. It seems to have been constructed entirely from the outside, as mortar can be seen dripping down between the bricks. Part of the brickwork was removed at the east end of the vault to make way for the new lift.

A red brick wall, 0042, formed the main structure of vault 0023, onto which the brick vaulting, 0041, was constructed. It was faced only on the inside with a whitewashed surface. The top three courses at the east end were removed for construction of the new lift.



Figure 6. Photograph of vault 0023 and burial 0039 looking west

Burial 0039 was the single burial identified within vault 0023. It consisted of an outer coffin made of a wooden frame, with velvet covering and iron stud work. Three plaques (0049, 0050 and 0051) were identified on the eastern end of the outer coffin, and there may have been more further to the west. An iron handle was also associated with plaque 0049. The inner coffin was a timber plank construction and was packed with sawdust, possibly used to help organic decomposition. No bone was identified. The burial was left *in situ* but was carefully flattened slightly at the east end to allow the construction of a lift over it.

The vault was believed, from the memorial inscription records, to belong to the Hasted family (number XXX – Fig. 2). The inscription was for Sarah Hasted (died 1778) who was 5 years old, Roger Hasted (died 1794) father of Sarah, and his wife Elizabeth (died 1805). If all three were buried within this same vault then the upper burial that was exposed was likely to have been that of Elizabeth Hasted.

Memorial Stones

The remains of three fragmented memorial stones were recovered from the upper layers of Trench 2 in the North Transept, and were likely to have been deposited during the 1960's rebuild of the east end of the Cathedral. Although not all of each stone was recovered, enough of the inscriptions on two, 0046 and 0047, survived to allow identification of the memorial from records studied by A. Breen (Appendix 1). Only a crest survived on the third stone, 0048, with none of the inscription. However, this was enough evidence for this third memorial also to be identified by A. Breen. For the full text from each memorial stone, see A. Breen's full report (Appendix 1).

Memorial stone 0046 was identified as that of Elizabeth Greene who died in 1797. In the records of memorials from 1864 the stone was laid within the 19th century chancel (number V on Fig. 2), though it was unclear from earlier records as to whether this was its original position.

Memorial stone 0047 was identified as that of Dame Elizabeth De Grey who died in 1692. Of the three surviving stones, this had the most complete inscription. The position of the stone was recorded as early as 1718 in Le Neve's 'Monumenta Anglicana' and was located in the chancel.

Memorial stone 0048 was the least complete, with only the crest from the top of the stone surviving. A. Breen identified the stone as belonging to Henry Gooding who died in 1725. As with the other two stones this was also from the chancel (number VII on Fig. 2).

All of the fragments of memorial stone recovered from Trench 2 were retained by the developer on behalf of the Cathedral.

The Finds by Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were collected from 16 contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Iron		Clay pipe		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001					8	160			1 glass @ 4g	Unstratified
0002					9	343				
0003	2	16	1	33	5	402			2 glass @ 5g, 2 oyster @ 12g	Mixed, 19th C+
0004	5	59			1	2	5	16	2 glass @ 7g, 1 oyster @ 6g	2nd half of 17th C +
0007			2	2554						17th C+
0009			1	2437						17th C?
0013	1	7			1	16	2	6		17th C +
0020			1	839	2	25				19th-20th C
0022			5	1.648					4 oyster @ 36g, + 2 land snails @ 1g	Mixed, 19th-20th C
0024	3	25	6	227					4 oyster @ 35g, 2 land snails @ 1g	13th-15th C
0025	4	69	4	188	1	49			1 oyster @ 5g	Med/ 19th C+
0027	2	19							4 oyster @ 49g, 1 land shell @ 1g	19th C+
0034							2	5	1 oyster @ 18g	17th C+
0036			1	2568						17th C+
0038					28	581				18th-19th C
0052			1	52						19th-20th C
Total	17	200	22	1054	55	1578	9	27		

Table 1. Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 17 fragments of pottery was recovered (0.200kg). The majority is post-medieval but a small quantity of medieval sherds was also identified. The ceramics have been fully quantified, and a catalogue is shown in Appendix 4.

Eight sherds were collected from Trench 1 in the South Transept. Pottery of mixed dating was found in the upper brick and rubble fill 0003 in the main vault 0007. A sherd of Late medieval and transitional ware (15th-16th C) was identified with a single sherd of abraded Refined white earthenware dating to the 19th century or later. A fragment of Dutch-type red earthenware (15th-17th C) was present in the lower fill 0013 of the vault, and was found with two fragments of clay pipe dating to the seventeenth century or later. Pottery of a more homogenous date was present in 0004, the fill between the two walls 0009 and 0010, possibly an entrance to the main vault. Fragments of Frechen stoneware and two sherds of polychrome tin-glazed earthenware were present dating to the 17th –18th century.

A further nine sherds of pottery was recovered from the Northern Transept (Trench 2). Two post-medieval fragments found in layer 0027, which was cut by vault 0023 include one of 19th century date, but this may be intrusive. The pottery from 0025 comprised two medieval wares and a single sherd of blue and white transfer printed Ironstone china dating to the 19th century or later. Medieval ceramics dating to the Late 12th-14th century were found in 0024, a sandy deposit making up the footing to the west of wall 0040, but a single fragment of a probably Dutch redware could date to the 15th century.

Ceramic building material

Twenty-two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered (10.546kg). A breakdown of the count and weight by form is shown below:

Form	No. of frags	Weight (g)
Roof tile	14	665
Floor tile	4	2322
Brick	4	7559
Total	22	10546

Table 2. Quantification by form

Most of the building material was collected from Trench 2 in the North Transept, although a number of brick samples were taken to date the vault in Trench 1. A complete brick from 0036 at the western end of structure 0006 made in a medium coarse sandy fabric is closest to Drury's Late Brick type 5, which is present in 17th century deposits or later (Drury 1993 165). A brick taken from the main vault structure 0007 can be broadly dated to the late sixteenth to 18th century, and also the brick from wall 0009.

Thirteen fragments of ceramic rooftiles were recovered from the North Transept (0.580kg). Five of the tiles recovered from footing 0024 are medieval, and have reduced cores, sometimes with lead glaze. One other fragment is sandy with cream bands and iron oxide inclusions and is probably medieval or late medieval. Medieval rooftiles were also found in layer 0025, but these may have been redeposited as a fragment of pottery of 19th-20th century date was also found in this feature, as well as two sherds of medieval pottery. The single rooftile fragment from the upper fill 0003 of the vault in the South Transept is modern.

The remains of four plain floortiles were recovered from the North Transept, most of which are very fragmentary. A floortile made out of a dense unglazed grey fabric dating to the 19th-20th century was present in the mixed rubble layer 0020. A larger piece of the same flooring made up of contrasting grey and red tiling was also identified in the fill 0022 of the footing trench 0021, together with fragments of earlier roof and floortiles. Two abraded fragments of earlier plain glazed floortile in 0022 may be Flemish in origin.

Metalwork

Methodology

Thirty-four small find numbers were allocated to the metalwork, and these have been catalogued in Appendix 5. The total includes 17 iron nails and 2 possible nails, and five miscellaneous unidentified iron fragments which have only been briefly listed. The remainder of the assemblage is made up are fragments of coffin furniture, which are described below.

Coffin fittings

A total of 50 fragments of coffin fittings was recovered, most of which were made from iron. Out of these, 31 fragments are small undiagnostic fragments of backplates from coffin handles. A few coffin handles and backplates were better preserved and these have been individually recorded in the table below. Most are either handles with a small amount of backplate or none, or fragments of backplate with no handle. Only one handle (SF 1028) was fully attached to the backplate on both sides. In addition to dimensions, the coffin handles and backplates have been described according to the methodology used for the recording of a much larger and more varied group of coffin furniture from St Margaret's Church, Ipswich (Anderson 2006).

SF No	Context	Backplate length	Backplate width	Handle length	Handle diameter	Comments
1020	0003	50	32	121	12	Rectangular handle w swollen grip, central collar and outcurving terminals, iron staples, Handle Type A. Frag of backplate.
1021	0003	85	45	120	17	Same type of handle as above, backplate frag & staples, Handle Type A
1022	0003	46	74	0	0	Backplate frag, could have been attached to SF1020/21, minerally reserved textile on reverse
1027	0038	0	0	110	16	Comp handle w swollen grip as above, iron staples, Handle Type A
1028	0038	170	50	113	19	More complete, handle attached to most of backplate with central attachment perforations. Handle Type A
1029	0038	103	46	0	0	Central part of backplate w 2 perfs, joins 1030 both sides
1030	0038	203	49	0	0	Measurement of 3 joining frags of backplates (SF1029 & 1030)
1031	0038	33	51	0	0	Frag of smaller ?backplates, poss for child's coffin. Trilobe terminals x 2

Table 3. Surviving measurements of coffin handle fittings (dimensions in mm).

Two rectangular coffin handles were found in 0003, the upper fill of the main vault in the South transept, and a fragment of backplate was also recovered, which may belong to one of the handles. Both handles have the remains of the backplate still remaining on one of the handle terminals. They are attached through looped iron staples. SF 1020 has a cigar-shaped handle with a swollen grip which has a small, decorative collar in the centre. SF 1021 is similar, but has more of the backplate surviving on one of the handle terminals, although insufficient survives to describe it in detail.

Further coffin handles of a similar type were recovered from 0038, the brick lined grave 0035 in the same transept. The remains of an iron coffin handle very similar to those in 0003 was present (SF1027). The best preserved fitting (SF1028) is still attached to the backplate. It has a rectangular swollen handle with a central collar, and is attached to a backplate which has expanded but incomplete terminals, with two central perforations for attachment. It is similar but not identical to coffin handles pre-dating 1816 at Rivenhall, Essex (Rodwell 1993). A similar backplate with no handle was also found in this context (SFs 1029 and 1030).

Several of the reverse sides of the backplates show evidence of mineral-preserved, finely woven textile.

A number of smaller coffin fittings were also collected from the same grave fill (SF 1031). These are probably fragments from handle backplates, or some other type of decorative fittings. Two fragments have tri-lobed terminals, and at least two pieces are perforated for attachment. If they are from handles, their small scale suggests that they could be from a child's coffin. A smaller, better preserved plate with notched and lobed terminals found at Rivenhall was identified as a child's coffin, pre-1839 (Rodwell 1993 49).

Five small studs were collected (SF 1033). These are entirely made of copper alloy with small domed heads. The studs may have been attached to the outside of the coffin to secure coverings made of textile or leather, or could have been used to make for decorative purposes to make patterns such as initials on the coffin lid (Anderson 2006).

The majority of the coffin fittings appear to be very similar, although it should be emphasised that the poor preservation of the backplates has prevented the possibility of providing any full catalogue descriptions. All the handles are of the rectangular type with swollen handle grip and central collar and have out-curving terminals. The best preserved backplate (SFs 1029/1030) shows two expanded terminals with perforations for attachment in addition to the two central holes. Although parallels to the handles have been made with more closely dated examples from Rivenhall Church, the design of coffin handles is essentially conservative and cannot be closely dateable (Rodwell 1993 50). Similar forms from St Benedict's Church in Norwich have been given a date of the 18th and 19th century date (Margeson 1993 82).

Medieval window glass

Two fragments of decorated monochrome window glass were found in 0003, the upper fill of the main vault in the South Transept. The largest piece is painted with a crocketed border and another motif perhaps representing an architectural element such as a pillar. The second fragment is plainer. A small thin fragment of window glass from 0006, a number given to the brick structures associated with the main vault in the same transept, may also be medieval.

Post-medieval glass

A fragment of undiagnostic post-medieval bottle glass was recovered under 0006, a number given to the brick structures associated with the main vault in the South Transept. A fragment of plain post-medieval window glass was found in 0001.

Clay tobacco pipe

Nine fragments of clay pipe were recovered (0.027kg). All of these were pieces of stem, apart from the fragmentary remains of a pipe bowl in 0004 in the South Transept, which may be the entrance to the main vault. The bowl is medium sized with the remains of rouletting and dates to the second half of the seventeenth century.

Shell

Small quantities of oyster shells recovered from 7 contexts have been quantified and discarded. Land molluscs were present in three contexts, all in the North Transept.

Animal bone

Small quantities of animal bone were recovered from contexts 0001, 0012, 0013, 0020, 0022, 0024, 0025, 0027, 0034 and 0052. As in most cases the bone was mixed with fragments of human skeletal material, it was decided that the assemblages should be reburied without separation. The animal bone from 0052 in Trench 2 was however retained. The group consisted mainly of small undiagnostic pieces. However fragments of the humerus, radius and metacarpus of sheep were identified, together with bovine rib fragments.

Discussion

Only a small quantity of finds was recovered from the vault deposits in the South Transept. The pottery is post-medieval in date with two fragments of clay pipe deposited into the lower fill 0013. The pottery and clay pipe from the infilling of the possible entrance 0004 to the vault are dated to the late seventeenth century, and these finds at least provide a *terminus post quem* for the dating of the incumbents buried in the vault. The post-medieval coffin fittings in this transept were found in the upper fill of the vault, and are therefore redeposited. The coffin handles associated with the burial in the brick-lined grave 0035 are similar stylistically, and are likely to date also to the 18th-19th century.

The artefacts recovered from the Northern Transept are more mixed in their dating. Several contexts contain small amounts of medieval/late medieval pottery and ceramic building material redeposited with fragments of 19th century pottery or tiled flooring. Medieval and late medieval pottery and rooftiles were found in 0024, but these too could have been redeposited.

General Discussion

The earliest identified remains in the two trenches were the flint and mortar walls, 0015, 0019 and 0040. Walls 0015 and 0040 were located at the eastern end of Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. These appeared to match the former east wall of the nave/aisles of the church marked on the Warren Map of 1747 (Fig. 1), running underneath the later transepts. The excavated walls were undoubtedly part of the church as it stood in the 16th-century, and the mortar used and the associated banded footings (0018) might indicate that they were built during the 16th century campaign of work. These features do not in themselves give a firm diagnostic date, however, and there is the possibility that they might be older. The trench was not deep enough to reveal whether or not there was more than one phase of walling here. It is, however, possible that the 12th century church was of a similar scale to the 16th century one, and the location of the probable earlier buttress noted outside the North Transept (Gill 2005), which seems to have related to the final bay of the church, would suggest that parts of the 16th century church lay almost on top of the earlier one.

Wall 0019 appeared to be sited inside the 16th century church but its function remained unknown as it was heavily disturbed by the later burial vaults and the 1960's building works. Associated remains of banded footings, similar to those below wall 0015, were identified, suggesting a similar date for the two walls.

The layers encountered in excavation seemed to be post-medieval in date, relating to construction phases and uses of the building.

Of the three burial vaults identified vault 0007 was the most heavily disturbed with no identified human remains surviving. Burial 0035 and vault 0023 contained preserved remains. The brickwork for all of the vaults was 17th century onwards in date, and this information was combined with the data collected by A. Breen in the documentary search. This search used plans and descriptions of the memorials and their inscriptions in an attempt to identify the grave occupants. The brick-lined grave (0035) was likely to be that of Mrs Cecelia Coell (died 1677) and this was cut by the mid/late 18th century vault of Reverend Brinkley (died 1751) and his wife Katharine (died 1765). The trench 2 vault (0023) was that of the Hasted family who died in the late 18th/early 19th century.

The broken memorials recovered from Trench 2 were originally located within the chancel and were re-deposited in the footing trench during the 1960's building work.

Conclusions

Overall the excavation was very productive, identifying the remains of the former east wall of the 16th-century Wastell constructed church. It also allowed the recording of the surviving burials and the naming of those buried within. Preservation *in situ* of most of the remains was also achieved.

This project has successfully combined archaeological and historical methods. It has demonstrated the possibility of being able to identify burials encountered during excavation work, but has also confirmed the degree of re-use of space in the vaults. The accuracy of the identifications is limited by the fact that memorial stones are easily moved elsewhere or completely removed. The dates for the excavated burials on this site were similar to those recorded (in 1864) on the memorials directly over the vaults leading to fairly positive identification of those buried.

Outside the footing trenches and below the top 0.3m to 0.4m of disturbance from the 1960's Dykes-Bower rebuild of the east end of the Cathedral, the levels of preservation of archaeological materials across the excavation areas was found to be high. Medieval walls and stratified deposits survive. A similar level of preservation could be expected elsewhere within the building with the possibility of less disturbance to the west away from the 1960's construction work.

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Appendix 1

Bury St Edmunds, St James' Church Intramural Burials: Documentary Report

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Offices in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. The purpose has been to identify the full details of three broken tombstones uncovered during recent work within the cathedral church and to discover if possible the original positions of these monuments.

For most parish churches the documentary sources can be divided into three main types of record. These are the formal parochial records themselves including both the burial registers and vestry minutes containing the churchwardens' accounts, antiquarian papers that include accurate details of monumental inscriptions and notes of the positions of the monuments and papers relating to the estate the deceased. In the case of St James' there is an additional source in the form of a book and plan of the inscriptions 'copied in 1864, with corrections 1880' with additional notes entered in blue ink in October 1967.

Inscriptions

The 'Inscriptions on Sepulchral Slabs in S. James' Church, Bury S. Edmunds: with a plan showing their positions' was 'Copied in 1864, with corrections 1880' and ordered 'To be kept in the Parish Chest' (ref. FL 541/5/18). Inside the front cover there are notes into two different hands that state 'These inscriptions, where found illegible have been supplied from a Ms volume of Epitaphs copied by Thomas Martin of Palgrave about the year 1715, so far as they were found in it'. Further inscriptions were gathered from other sources. In further notes in a second hand probably part of the 1880 corrections it states that 'some slabs in the chancel have been moved, & now lie behind the stalls', unfortunately it does not specify which slabs had been moved. On the opposite page in blue ink it states:

'During the excavations in 1967 for the building of the central tower and crossing a number of the stones listed in this volume were uncovered and found to be as stated in the transcriptions. It was not found possible to save many of these stones their having been found to have been so firmly embedded in the cement laid down in the mid 19th century. It has been much regretted that at this stage (1967) it has not been found possible to lower the floor to its original level some 12' lower than at present'. Mr Combs the then verger has signed and dated this entry.

The plans were produced by Henry Siggers for John Darkin and are dated 1864. They are at the scale of one eighth of an inch to one foot. The building was then divided into the nave with the north and south aisles and at the east ends of these there were two chapels beyond the pillars supporting the chancel arch. Within the chancel the positions of eleven slabs are marked on the plan. The plan has not been altered to show which of these slabs had been removed before 1880.

During the excavation work brick vaults were uncovered within the site of what would have been the north and south chapels. The vault in the North Chapel is numbered on this plan as XXX and the inscription is listed on page as

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In Memory of
Sarah the daughter of
Roger and Elizabeth Hasted
who died the 24th of Jan^y 1778
Aged 5 years
Also of Mr Roger Hasted
who died the 20th of Sep^r 1794
Aged 72 years
Also of
Elizabeth his Wife
who died 24th Nov^r 1805
Aged 72 years

Within the same chapel the slab numbered XXIX was that of Mary Ann Hasted who died 2 October 1810 and Henry Hasted who died 26 November 1852, the other slabs commemorated other families.

The vault in the south chapel is numbered IV on the plan with another vault described below and numbered I adjoining to the west. The inscription on slab IV was

Here lieth interr'd the Body of
The Rev^d M^r BRINKLEY
Who was three years Rector of
MIDDLETON in ESSEX:
Eight & Twenty Years Rector
of STANNINGFIELD in SUFFOLK:
and three & Forty Years Minster
of this Parish:
He died June 24th 1751
In the 67th Year of his Age
Also the Body of
KATHARINE His Beloved wife
who died 21st Oct^{br} 1765
Aged Seventy Seven Years

In Craven Ord's antiquarian notes completed in about 1787 (ref. Ipswich HD 1538/167) he begins his description of the monuments with St James' with that of Edward Darbie in the 'Chancel against the north wall'. The next monument is described was that of Henry Gooding and it's position is given as 'near the last on the ground'. This was one of the tombstone's uncovered in the excavation and will be described in detail below. After the Gooding monument he mentions those of Ann Lee 'only daughter of Henry Goodwin' and 'Mrs Sarah Downing'. The next stone described is that of Dame Elizabeth De Grey also found during the excavation and described below. The next tombs described are those of Elizabeth and Samuel Pake, Dorothea Buckenham, Maria Buckenham and Thomas Buckenham. He then mentions an inscription on a brass plate under a heading 'vestry' and then 'near the last' the monument of Reverend Mr Brinkley as described above. In his version of the inscription there are slight differences with numerals for the years and in the spelling of Katherine. He then describes the monument to Mrs Cecelia Coell, below a 'Crest,

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Arms a Bull within a label of 3 points imp: Crofts'. The tomb was numbered I in 1864 and had arms were then illegible. The inscription was given as

Mr^s Cecelia Coell daughter of S^r
Henry Crofts of Saxham
Wife of Thomas Coell Esqier
Son of S^r John Coell of
Depden dyed y^e 4th of May 1677

Again there are minor differences in the inscription between the two accounts. The remaining tombs in this area of the church according to Craven Ord were Mary Wenyewe, Anna Allen the wife of Ambrose Allen, gentleman, Rose the widow of Charles Harvey, gentleman of King's Lynn, Peter Ling, gentleman, Revd Henry Craske, and 'next In memory of Sarah the dau^r of Roger and Elizabeth Hasted who died 24th Jan: 1778 aged 5 years'. This monument according to the 1864 plan was in the north chapel. It should be noted that a number of these monuments have been reused and are now in the path from the Abbey Gardens to the refectory.

Craven Ord's notes were completed sometime shortly after August 1787 as he records the inscription on the monument of Mr Samuel Harrison relating to 'Rebecca Harrison his wife who died 19th August 1787'. Therefore the further inscriptions and later monuments to other Hasted family members do not appear in his notes. Ord continues his list with the location of the next monument to Dame Mary Jermyn as 'North Cross Isle'.

It is possible to further discuss the original positions of these monuments in the work of David Elisha Davy who visited St James' in 1824 and 1826. On his first visit he recorded first the monument to Edward Darbie and then 'Upon a gravestone near the altar' that of Dame Elizabeth De Grey. He then describes '2 other good black marble gravestones in the midst of the chancel bordered with white marble' and recorded their inscriptions to Dorothea Buckenham and Maria Buckenham (II and III on the 1864 plan). The next gravestone 'Upon a large stone at the head of these' was that of Thomas Buckenham (I on the 1864 plan). These were the only stone then in the chancel according to this 1824 account.

Davy gives the inscription on the tomb of Mrs Cicelia Coell (I in the South Chapel in 1864) and positions the monument after those to Henry Gibbon (XV in 1864) and Dame Mary Jermyn as 'In the north isle' (XI in the Chancel in 1864). He does not mention the monuments to the various members of the Hasted family or that to Revd Brinkley.

He later amended his notes and records the inscriptions to Elizabeth Pake (X in the channel in 1864) as 'next Dame Eliz de Grey' and 'next' that of Henry Gooding. In these later notes he records the inscription to Revd Brinkley and positions the tomb 'In the vestry on a flat stone near the west end, north side' and that of 'Mrs Cecilia Coell' as 'at the head of the last'. The 1810 monument to Mary Anne Hasted was then positioned 'In the North Isle at the east end and against the wall on the south side'.

Further inscriptions relating to the Hasted family were recorded as 'In the Library'. These included '95 on a black marble slab Mary Ann Hasted died Oct 2, 1810 aged

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34: 96 on the north side of the last & about the centre' Revd Henry Craske and then '97 on the north side of the last, black stone In memory of Sarah the daughter of Roger Hasted who died the 24th of January 1778'.

In this second account of 1826 he found that he was unable to read all of the inscriptions in the nave as they were partly covered with pews.

The Broken Slabs

Of the broken slabs found during the recent all were shown to have been in the chancel in 1864. The broken slabs are parts of the tombs of Dame Elizabeth De Grey IX who died in 1697, Henry Gooding V, gentleman who died in 1725 and Elizabeth Greene V who in 1797.

In a note from 1967 it states 'During the building operations in 1967/68 many of the stones described here were uncovered in the chancel. They were in poor condition and not worth the enormous cost of trying to move them for re-insertion in the new floor'. In the 1864 notes it states relation to the Buckenham monuments 'The sequence of I, II, & III is not quite certain'. As has already been noted some of the slabs had been moved before 1880. The last of these slabs VIII records the burials of George John Haggitt M.A the former vicar of Parham & Hacheston who died in 1847, that of his son who died in 1852 and his wife who died in 1856. For convenience the remainder of this report is divided in sections describing each stone in chronological order. This arrangement does not fully reflect the progress of the research though full details of the original sources used are given in the text.

Dame Elizabeth De Grey

Of the three stones, the inscription on this monument was the most complete. The full inscription has appeared in at least two published sources and further details of the inscription can also be found in antiquarian papers. The antiquarian papers are more likely to be accurate.

In Le Neve's 'Monumenta Anglicana' published in 1718; he gives the full inscription as

Under This Stone Lyeth Y^c Body of
Dame Elizabeth De Grey Relict
Of S^r Robert De Grey of Meriton in
Norfolke She Dyed Y^c 67th Year of Her
Age March Y^c 27th 1692

In his printed version of the inscription the initial letters of Under, Stone, Body, Dame, Grey, Relict, Robert De Grey, Meriton, Norfolke, She Dyed and March all appear in slightly larger font. The inscriptions in Le Neve's work were 'deduced into a Series of Time by way of Annals' and he acknowledged his reliance on 'A List of The Persons or Libraries to whom I am obliged for the material in this Volume'. He gives the position of the inscription as 'Upon a flat stone in the chancel of St James's Church at S. Edm Bury in Suffolk' but does not record any armorial details. His informant was 'Mr John Worthington M. A. late fellow of Peterhouse in Cambridge'.

Appendix 1

John Worthington was baptised in 1663 at Fen Ditton in Cambridgeshire. He was fellow of Peterhouse from 1688-91 before resigning as a non-juror, that is one of those who refused to swear the oath of allegiance to William III and Queen Mary. He died in January 1738 (Venn 1927).

Elsewhere Le Neve published the inscription on Sir Robert De Grey's tomb at Merton.

The inscriptions were again published in 1812 in Arthur Collin's 'Peerage of England' with additional notes on the histories of the various families. Elizabeth the daughter of 'William Brydon, late of Ipswich' married Sir Robert in 1632. Sir Robert had died on 20 October 1644. 'His widow survived him near fifty years, and was buried in the chancel of St James's church in St Edmund's Bury, under a flat stone, with the inscription in capitals'. 'They left issue two daughters and coheirs: Barbara, the eldest married to Ralph Hawtry of Rislip, in Middlesex, esq; and Anne, the youngest, to Sir John Gawdey, of West Harling, in Norfolk, Bart'.

In manuscript versions of the inscription the only difference compared with the two published versions is in the spelling of 'Merton'.

In 1864 the inscription was recorded with the arms 'Within a Lozenge, A Fess betw 2 chevronels Impaling – 3 lion's heads erased'.

Ord records the same monument between those of Henry Gooding and his family and that of Elizabeth Pake as:

'Near the last in a lozenge Arms. A fess betw: 2 chevronels imp: 3 Hawks head erased 2 & 1 within a bordure engr bezantee Bridon'.

And the inscription as:

'Under this stone lyeth the body of/Dame Elizabeth De Grey relict/ of Sir Robert De Grey of Merton in/Norfolk she dyed ye 67 year of her/age March 27th 1692/'

David Davy described the arms in 1824 as 'Arms in lozenge a fess betw 2 chev – Impal 3 eagles erased a be ...amulets' part of his text is lost in the tight binding of the page. The inscription is the same as others and he has record it without any particular attention to the use of capitals or letters superscript. On another visit in 1826 he records that the stone was 'About the middle just at the foot of the steps' and describes the arms as 'De Grey a fess between 2 chevrons impaling Bridon 3 hawks, a griffins heads erased 2.4. in border charged with roundels'

Elizabeth's will dated at Bury St Edmunds on 24 November 1684 was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London on 22 April 1692 (ref. TNA PRO/11/409). She simply bequeathed her body 'to the Earth from whence it came' without further instructions as to her funeral arrangements. She appointed her 'beloved daughter Barbara Hawtrej' as 'sole executrix'. It would have been her responsibility to make all the funeral arrangements.

Appendix 1

In the parish registers the burial of 'Lady De Grey' is recorded on 29 March 1692 (Hervey 1916). There are no contemporary vestry minutes or churchwarden's accounts for this period.

It is unlikely that her memorial remained in place for any length of time. At their meeting held on 7 April 1711, the burgesses of Bury St Edmunds as patrons of the parish ordered a committee 'to view what repairs must necessarily be done to the chancel of the parish church of St James, within this Burrough, with Lawrance Wright gent one of the Capital Burgesses & so many more of this body as please, to view the said Chancel upon Monday next, at Eight of the Clock in the Forenoon, In order to put out the same to repair'. The committee are named at the next meeting on 9 April and the recorder and his assistant were instructed to 'to enter upon & go on with such repaires with advice of the said committee, or major part of them' as 'the chancel of St James's Church' was 'now very much in decay'. On 6 May the assembly agreed to the repairs with five of the assembly personally advancing the sum of £20 each and another six the sums of £10 each without interest towards the costs. At another meeting on 14 July 1711 the assembly recorded their thanks to 'Joseph Weld, Serjeant at Law & Recorder of the said Burrough for his generous present of one hundred pounds ... to be employed towards the building of the Chancel of St James's parish ... now fallen down'. Weld was the then Member of Parliament for the borough. Further details are sparse however the assembly did vote to raise 'two hundred pounds ... upon security by mortgage or otherwise ... to be applied towards Rebuilding the Chancel of St James's Church' at their meeting on 9 September 1711 (ref. D4/1/3(a)).

Bury was then part of the diocese of Norwich. The borough however rebuilt the chancel without first seeking a faculty from the bishop. It is of interest to note that earlier in 1684 the bishop had granted a faculty 'to sett up two galleries in the said church at the east end on the north and south sides thereof opposite the one to the other' (ref. Ipswich microfilm JC1/5/13). There are no further details of the rebuilding work of 1711. Craven Ord noted only about ten tombs under the heading 'Church Yard' and most of these appear to have been against the wall of the church or close by. Amongst these there was 'against a buttress Thomas Gray Bricklayer built this chancel in 1711 as master workman Francis the wife of Thomas/Grey dyed Sept 17th 1730/aetat: suae 60/'.

Though the inscription on Dame Elizabeth's monument is recorded in later antiquarian notes, it is not certain whether or not the stone was moved from its original position in 1711.

Henry Gooding

Only fragments crest were from this broken slab, though these have proved to be sufficient to identify the monument as that of Henry Gooding (VII in 1864).

In Craven Ord's notes this monument was the second monument described amongst those in the chancel. The first monument was that to Edward Darbie recording his gift and financial support for the catechising '65 poore people' stated to be 'Against the North Wall'. He then offers the position of Henry Gooding's tomb as 'Near the last on the ground'.

Appendix 1

Crest a Griffin sejant, wings expanded

Arms A fess betw: 6 Lions heads erased imp: a Griffin sejant.

Here lyeth interred/the body of/Henry Gooding gent/who departed this life/21st July 1725/aged 67 years/also Richard and Henry/his sons/who died infants/also the body of M^{rs} Anne Goodwin/wife of the said Henry Goodwin gent/who died 17th Oct 1735/aged 75 years/’

He then notes the monument to Ann Lee (VI in 1864) ‘the wife of William Lee of the Inner Temple the only daughter of Henry Goodwin gent and Ann his wife who dyed 25th day of November 1729 aged 29 years’.

Both of these monuments are absent from David Davy’s first account of the monuments in the chancel. In later notes he placed the tombstone ‘close to that of Dame Elizabeth De Grey’. In his notes the arms on the tomb were described as

‘A fess between 3 Lyons heads erased, imp a Griffin sejeant under R ...

and the inscription as

Here lyeth interred/ the Body of/Henry Gooding Gent/who/departed this life/ the 21st of July 1725/aged 67 years/Also Richard and Henry/his sons/who/died infants/.

Again it is interesting to note that he does not mention the further inscription to Mrs Anne Goodwin or that of their daughter Ann Lee.

He returned to the church in 1826. On this occasion he recorded a ‘Just below the steps to the altar a large slab of Purbeck marble stone, but it has no inscription on it’, then ‘on the west side of the last a large black stone’ with the inscription to Mrs Sarah Downing. He records the inscription to Dame Elizabeth De Grey as ‘about the middle just at the foot of the steps’.

The tomb to Ann Lee he numbered 6 in these later notes and gave its position as after another blank Purbeck marble tomb in the chancel as ‘ west side of the last & on the North side of No 4’. The tomb numbered 4 was that of Dame Elizabeth De Grey. He then gives the position on the tomb of Henry Gooding as ‘on the north side of the last’. On this occasion he also recorded the inscription to Mrs Anne Goodwin.

The next tomb recorded was that of Elizabeth Greene, last of the three broken slabs.

In the parish registers for St James the burial of ‘Henry Goodwin registerius’ is recorded on 23 July 1725. The indexes to the wills proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, the Consistory Court of Norwich and the Archdeaconry of Sudbury have been searched for a will for Henry Gooding, without success.

Elizabeth Greene

As Elizabeth Greene died in 1797 there are contemporary Vestry minutes for this period and these will be described here in detail.

In 1864 the inscription on this monument V was recorded as

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Here
lieth the body of
Elizabeth Greene
who died the 29th of March 1797
Aged 88

David Davy records the same inscription positioned 'At the head of No 6' as

Here
lieth the Body of
Elizabeth Greene
who died the 29th of March 1797
Aged 88

The next tomb in this 1826 account was that of Elizabeth Pake 'On the north side of No 6 & 8'.

In the parish register her burial is recorded on the same day as 'Elizabeth Green spinster 78 years'. Her will dated 9 January 1783 was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 30 November 1797. She asked that her body to be 'buried in whatever parish it shall drop in the plainest and simplest manner possible'. Her executrix was her niece the 'Right Honorable Elizabeth Countess of Bristol (wife of the Right Honorable and Reverend Frederick Earl of Bristol)' (ref. HA 507/5/40). Though there are papers relating to the probate of her estate in the Hervey collection they do not include further details of her funeral expenses.

The contemporary churchwardens' accounts have survived for this period but they do not include a payment for the burial of Elizabeth Greene within the church. The £5 received in cash 'for burying Mrs Jaggard in the church' is recorded on 4 November 1796 in the accounts for 1796 on page 234 with further receipts in January 1797 but without a corresponding payment to the sexton in the same date. The accounts for 1797/98 are entered on pages 246-249 without any reference to Elizabeth Greene (ref. FL 541/1/2). The next 'internment in the church' recorded in the accounts is that of Mr Edward Norman in the accounts for 1800. In contrast there are payments for the burials of Roger Hasted received on 18 January 1795 on page 201 and from the executors of 'Mrs Hasted for opening vault in church' in the account for 1805 on page 409.

The vestry minute books have survived for this parish from 1750 onwards however their contents vary considerably. In the earliest book covering the period 1750 to 1787 there are full churchwardens accounts up to the year 1783 (ref. FL 541/1/1). Amongst the limited number of receipts there are numerous references to payments of £5 for internments in the church beginning with 'By Cash for the Revd Mr Brinckley's Grave' in the accounts for 1750 and finishing with 'By cash of Mrs Simpson for the internment of Mr Simpson in the Church' in the accounts for 1782'. Without careful examination of each year's accounts is it not possible to determine whether or not a higher rate was charged for an internment in the chancel as was the practice in other parishes.

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This minute book also includes a full list dated 2 May 1774 of the fees paid to the sextons for burials. The standard depth of burial was then 4 foot beyond that depth extra payments were made. The fees included 'For opening a vault in the church five shillings' and extra fees if the work involved the use of planking or 'deals', however there were no payments for the temporary removal of 'benches in the middle aisle, in the Church, when the Burial Service is performed in the Desk'.

It would be possible to match all the post 1750 memorial inscriptions as given on the 1864 plan to entries in these churchwardens' accounts to determine whether or not the accounts were complete. It is possible that Elizabeth Greene was not initially buried in the chancel and that her tombstone was moved there at a later date.

The Church and Churchyard

The vestry minutes record in some detail the positions of the rented pews and the succession of their occupants. It would have been custom to situate a family vault close to the position of the family's pew, however as the tombstones were designed not only to record the names of the deceased but in part for display, they would have situated in a more prominent position. In David Davy's notes it is apparent that pews at times covered some of the monuments and it can be deduced that the internal arrangements of the church furnishings changed frequently. There were also two galleries and an organ loft within the church. The positions of the library and vestry are not entirely apparent from the antiquarian notes and these too may have changed over time. In these circumstances it is not unreasonable to suggest that the 1864 were accurate of their time but cannot be taken to mark the true positions of the burials.

The antiquarian notes are of greater interest in relation to the churchyard or yards. The eighteenth century maps of Bury St Edmunds suggest that the entire area now covered with gravestones was then part and parcel of the 'churchyard'. This may not be the case. Though Craven Ord recorded a number of inscriptions for St Mary's Churchyard and these may have included inscriptions on the tombs of parishioners of St James, he records relatively few inscriptions under a separate heading for 'St James' Churchyard' and all of these were located close to the church itself. David Davy's notes are fuller, though again most of the entries are under St Mary and not St James. It would be possible to determine whether or not the lower part of the churchyard that is the eastern end was in use in the eighteenth century through carefully comparing the inscriptions as recorded in these antiquarian sources with those on surviving monuments.

Conclusion

The full inscriptions and details of the three broken slabs have been found in antiquarian sources and their positions are shown on the 1864 plan. This plan would have been accurate in 1864 but this source can only be considered indicative as to the positions of the actual burials themselves.

Anthony M Breen April 2008

Appendix 1

References

Suffolk Record Office Bury St Edmunds

Borough of Bury St Edmunds

D4/1/3(a) Corporation Assembly Minute Book 21 December 1693 – 22 December 1767.

Bury St Edmunds St James Parish Collection

FL 541/1/1 Vestry Minute Book including Churchwardens' Accounts 1750 – 1787

FL 541/1/2 Vestry Minute Book including Churchwardens' Accounts 1787 – 1812

FL 541/5/18 Inscriptions on Sepulchral Slabs in St James' Church Bury St Edmunds 1864 with Corrections 1880 later notes 1967

Hervey Collection

HA 507/5/40 Papers for the estate of Mrs Elizabeth Greene Bury St Edmunds 1797-1801

Mircofilm

J 534/6 David Elisha Davy's Church Notes Bury St Edmunds (British Library Add 19108)

Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich

Iveagh Collection

HD 1538/167 Volume entitled 'Bury St Edmunds Church Notes' containing monumental inscriptions, sketches and description of arms etc, in churches of St Mary and St James, Bury St Edmunds: Compiled by Craven Ord n.d. [18c] Phillips Ms No 9395

Microfilm

JC1/5/13 Faculty Book Diocese of Norwich page 121 Gallery Bury St Edmunds St James' 16 September 1684

National Archives Documents on Line

Prob 11/409 Will Dame Elizabeth De Grey 1697

Published Sources

Arthur Collins 'Collins's Peerage of England; Genealogical, Biographical and Historical Greatly Augmented and Continued to the Present Time by Sir Egerton Brydges, K. J.' Vol VII London 1812

Appendix 1

S.H.A. Hervey 'Bury St Edmunds St James Parish Registers Burials 1562-1800'
Suffolk Green Books No XVII, Bury St Edmunds 1916

John Le Neve, Gent 'Monumenta Anglicana: Being Inscriptions on the Monuments of
Several Eminent Persons Deceased in or since the Year 1680 to the end of the Year
1699 Deduced into a Series of Time by way of Annals' Volume III, London 1718

John Venn 'Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of all Known Students,
Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge from the earliest
times to 1900' Cambridge University Press 1927

Appendix 2 - Context List

Context	Feature	Group	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0001	0001		1	Layer		Layer of brick and concrete rubble with mixed material including dis-articulated human bone. Mostly taken off by builders. Layer covers all features.
0002	0005		1	Footing Trench	Fill	Fill of footing trench [0005]. Footing trench for existing wall (1960s). A mixed rubble fill with brick and concrete as well as finds and metal. Rubble and brick is within a yellow brown sandy silt with very frequent flecks of red brick dust and grey/white concrete and mortar. Inclusions 10-20% brick, 10-20% concrete, 5% stone and flint.
0003	0007	0006	1	Vault	Fill	Upper fill of main vault 0007 in vault structure 0006. A rubble and brick fill of collapse material. A light-mid brown sandy silt fill with very frequent brick 20-30%, very frequent concrete 10-20%. Dis-articulated human bone found.
0004	0035	0006	1	Vault	Fill	Fill inbetween walls 0009 and 0010. Fill is possible to be in an entrance way to the main vault. A mid brown homogenous silt fill with moderate brick and rubble becoming more frequent lower down the fill.
0005	0005		1	Footing Trench	Cut	Cut of footing trench running through the entirety of Trench 1. Cuts through all features on side of Trench 1. Very irregular in plan and section. Appears to have gone around earlier features as much as possible.
0006		0006	1	Structure		Number given for all the brick structures associated with the main vault. Includes 1. Main vault 0007. 2. Capping/blocking wall 0008. 3. Two retaining walls possibly creating entrance way 0009 and 0010 and grave 0035. 4. Possible central wall to vault 0011.
0007	0007	0006	1	Wall		Main brick vault structure. Bricks laid in no discernable style with a row of footers with a row of mixed stretchers and footers. Wall is 0.2m thick and three sides can be seen in trench. Wall is only faced in interior of vault external wall is very rough and un-faced.
0008	0008	0006	1	Wall		Blocking wall of vault. Wall sealing west end of vault. A rough wall heavily mortared and the latest wall built onto the structure 0006. Not faced on either side and not very structural. Between wall 0009 and 0011 and butting onto them. Also butting the corner of main vault 0007.
0009	0009	0006	1	Wall		Strangely built wall running E-W on west of main vault 0007. Wall is rat trap in construction for just 3-4 courses and then changes to flemish bond lower down of what is visible. Wall butts main structure of vault 0007 and 0008 (sealing wall) butts up against it. Aligned with 0010 and creates a possible entrance to main vault. Faced only on north side. Further excavation shows coffin at base of wall between 0009 and 0010 showing that this is a brick lined grave given number 0035. Later used as an entranceway into vault 0007 suggested by layer 0033.

Context	Feature	Group	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0010	0010	0006	1	Wall		Another retaining wall very similar to 0009 running E-W parallel to 0009. Rat trap bonding for first visible course and the flemish bond. Makes up a possible entrance way with 0009. Further excavated and re-evaluated as part of brick grave 0035. See sheet 0009 full full explanation as well as 0035. Faced only on south side.
0011	0011	0006	1	Wall		Possible central wall to vault 0007. Sturdy built wall running E-W. 0.2m thick with flemish bond. 0008 butts up against this wall.
0012			1	Layer		A mid brown silt with a little sand. Few inclusions. This is located between the cut of the footing trench 0005 and wall 0009. Probably the remaining disturbed fill from area where the main vault chamber was cut into.
0013	0007	0006	1	Vault	Fill	Lower fill of vault 0007. A mid brown silt with some brick and mortar flecks.
0014	0014	0014	1	Structure		Structure number for "medieval" wall to the east of Trench 1. This number includes both surfaces 0016 and 0017, main wall 0015 and footings 0018.
0015		0014	1	Wall		Top c. 9 inches removed for development and remainder preserved in situ. Flint and mortar. Orangey yellow sandy mortar. Occasional stone. Mortar rendering on E and W sides forming continuous surfaces with 0017 to the west and 0016 to the east. Constructed over banded footings 0018. Runs N-S. disturbed by 1960s building work (footing trench to S and floor over the top).
0016		0014	1	Surface		Yellow mortar surface to east of wall 0015. Laid over banded footings 0018. Forms continuous surface over wall face. Possibly top of footings rather than floor surface though heavily disturbed making interpretation difficult.
0017		0014	1	Surface		Yellow mortar surface located to west of wall 0015. Over footings 0018. Preserved in situ. Mortar is continuous along surface and up wall face. Possible bedding for internal floor.
0018		0014	1	Footing Layers		Banded footings for wall 0015 and surfaces 0016 and 0017. Alternating yellow sandy mortar and dark brown silty sand layers. Full depth not identified. Heavily truncated by 1960s footings and vault 0007.
0019			1	Structure		Flint and mortar wall located near west end of Trench 1. Stone faced (Abbey stone). Heavily disturbed on west and south sides by 1960s footings. Over mortar footing with bands of dark brown silty sand. Similar to 0018 but heavily disturbed and difficult to identify.
0020			2	Layer		Mixed rubble layer across the length of Trench 2 below existing concrete surface. Mainly excavated by the developer. Finds retained. Flint/mortar/concrete/ mid to light grey brown clayey sand.
0021	0021		2	Footing Trench	Cut	Linear trench cut for existing north wall. Vertical sided. Base not exposed. Irregular in plan. Widening and narrowing where existing structures were encountered. Base of trench not reached due to concrete in fill.
0022	0021		2	Footing Trench	Fill	Mid yellowish brown silty sand. Lumps of concrete and large flint cobble inclusions. Brick fragments also. Base of fill layer onto concrete.

Context	Feature	Group	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0023		0023	2	Structure		Component number for vault. Includes burial 0039, brick vault 0041, brick walls 0042.
0024		0026	2	Layer		Mid brown silty sand. Located west of wall - component number 0026. Part of layered footing to west of wall 0040 part of structure 0026.
0025		0026	2	Layer		Mid greyish brown silty sand. Located west of wall component number 0026. Part of footings to west of wall 0040. Part of structure 0026.
0026		0026	2	Structure		Overall number for structure around wall 0040. Includes wall 0040, surface 0030 and footing layers 0024 and 0025.
0027			2	Layer		Dark brown silty sand located at west end of Trench 2. Cut by vault 0023. Possibly similar to 0031 at east end of Trench 2. Layers excavated in site done outside of N. wall by D. Gill.
0028			2	Layer		Small flint cobbles and stones densely packed in a light yellow mortar. Below modern concrete and above mortar capped wall 0040.
0029			2	Layer		Mid grey/brown silty sand with a high proportion of brick and concrete rubble. Located to the east of structure 0026.
0030			2	Layer		Densely packed flint cobbles and rubble (concrete) with light yellow mortar. Mortared surface over flint. Appears to butt up to wall 0040 suggesting later floor surface.
0031			2	Layer		Mid grey brown silty sand. Few inclusions. Maybe preserved soil layer. Similar in colour and texture to 0024.
0032			2	Layer		Light grey crumbly rubble - cement.
0033	0035	0006	1	Layer		Layer (thin) of mortar and brick pieces. Sloping from west to east lower at east end by 0.2m. Layer deeper at west end.
0034	0035	0006	1	Grave	Fill	Grave fill of brick lined grave 0035 in series of structures 0006. Fill below 0033 (mortar surface). A mid grey/brown fill with moderate amount of grey clay lumps (0.05m max diameter). Original backfill of grave onto coffin.
0035	0035	0006	1	Grave		Brick lined grave with mostly articulated legs visible at east. Comprising of walls 0009 and 0010 and 0036, coffin stain at base of grave and brick floor 0037. Grave is cut at east end by construction of vault 0007 and then this grave 0035 was used as an entrance way and/or for loading of vault 0007.
0036	0035	0006	1	Wall		Wall adjoining 0009 and possibly 0010 (although not visible). Wall on west end of main E-W wall 0009. Similar in construct to 0009. Rat trap at top and flemish bond lower down (same construct as 0009). Modern bricks seen in section only at top of wall (rebuild or part of reuse for vault 0007).
0037	0035	0006	1	Surface		Floor surface inside of brick grave 0035. Bricks laid on base of grave, not mortared. Wall 0009 sits on this brick surface. Bricks are yellow/cream colour in contrast to walls associated with the grave which are red.

Context	Feature	Group	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0038	0035		1	Grave	Fill	Fill of coffin (wood) stained areas inside of brick lined grave 0035. Heavily wood stained mid brown grey silt.
0039		0023	2	Burial		Number for burial within vault 0023. Burial consisted of an outer coffin made of a wooden frame with velvet covering and iron stud work. Three plaques were identified on the outer coffin (though more probably exist at west end). Plaques were 0049/0050/0051. An iron handle was also associated with plaque 0049. The inner coffin was a timber plank construction and was packed with sawdust type material. Possibly used to help organic decomposition. No bone was identified. The burial was carefully flattened slightly at east end to allow the construction of a lift over it.
0040		0026	2	Wall		Flint and mortar wall located near east end of Trench 2. Truncated to north by 1960s footing trench for N transept wall. Mortared on both east and west faces. Footings identified to west 0024 and 0025. Surface identified to east 0030. c. 9 inches (23cm) removed from top within Trench 2 to allow room for construction of heating ducts. Remainder is preserved in situ.
0041		0023	2	Vaulting		Brick vaulting spanning and sealing over brick walls 0042 and burial 0039. Part of vault structure 0023. Brick built bonded with a grey mortar/cement which is very solid. Constructed entirely from the outside (mortar can be seen dripping down between the bricks). Approximately 50% removed to make way for access lift.
0042		0023	2	Wall		Walls forming the lining/main structure of vault 0023. Brick vaulting 0041 built on top of these walls. Faced only on inside face (built within a pit so no access to external face). Whitewashed inside. Top three courses at east end removed for construction of access lift.
0043		0026	2	Layer		Lowest identified layer of footings for wall 0040. Part of structure 0026. Flint and yellow mortar with patches of dark grey brown silty sand. Depth not excavated.
0044		0026	2	Layer		Mortar layer forming part of banded footings to west of wall 0040. Part of structure 0026. Light orange yellow mortar. Butts up to wall 0040 so appears to be later.
0045		0026	2	Layer		Mortar layer over layer 0024 to west of wall 0040. Part of structure 0026. Possible mortared surface (similar to 0017 in S transept) but unclear as very heavily disturbed.
0046			2	Memorial		Part of fragmented memorial stone from Trench 2. Possibly memorial to Greene. 'Here...lies...body of...GREENE
0047			2	Memorial		Part of fragmented memorial stone from Trench 2. Memorial to Grey family. See sheet for inscription. 'Under this stone.....body of (Da)me Elizabeth Grey.....Norfolk..... Grey Dyed Y 67 March.....2...
0048			2	Memorial		Design from top of a memorial recovered from Trench 2. Possibly associated with 0046 or 0047. Griffin and floral design in circular panel.
0049	0039	0023	2	Find		Lead memorial plaque located on the eastern end of the outer coffin of burial 0039 within vault 0023. Possibly semi-circular. Two cherubs?visible. No writing associated and recorded with iron coffin handle. Photographed and then replaced close to original location after lowering of coffin.

Context	Feature	Group	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0050	0039	0023	2	Find		Possibly iron memorial plaque (but not certain of material). Located near east end of outer coffin on its north side. Similar in design to 0049 but very fragmentary. Possibly same cherub design. Photographed and replaced as near as possible to original location after lowering of coffin.
0051	0039	0023	2	Find		Lead memorial plaque located on middle of south side of outer coffin. Identical to 0049 but more intact. Two cherubs? visible but no writing. Photographed and replaced as near as possible to its original location.
0052			2	Layer		Dark grey brown silty sand below layer 0025. Layer into which vault 0023 was cut.

Appendix 3 - Pottery Catalogue

Context	Ceramic period	Fabric	Form	Decoration	No of sherds	Weight	ENV Abrasion	Comments	Overall spotdat
1	PM	REFW	BODY		1	7	1		19th C+
1	PM	LMT	BODY		1	8	1		
4	PM	LMT	JAR?		1	6	1 A		
4	PM	TGE	DISH	POLY	2	39	1	Footring, blue and pale polychrome dec, prob Dutch	17th-18th C
4	PM	FREC	BODY		2	14	1	2 joining	
13	PM	DUTR	BODY		1	7	1	Dutch type redware	15th-17th C
24	M	UPG	BODY		1	15	1	Sandy oxid margin, some circular voids, fine calc	
24	M	UPG	BODY		1	8	1	Fine-medium sandy jug sherd, oxid margins,	
24	M	DUTR?	BODY		1	3	1	Dull red body sherd, ld glaze, looks Dutch	14th-15th C?
25	PM	IRON	BODY	BW	1	15	1	Blue & white transfer printed ware	19th C+
25	M	GRIM	JUG		1	40	1	Large strap handle, Grmston-type	
25	M	MCW	BODY		1	10	1		
27	PM	IRON	BODY	BW	1	15	1	Blue & white transfer printed ware	19th C+
27	PM	TGE	BODY		1	4	1 A	Plain white (TGE C)	

Appendix 4 - Small Find catalogue

Small find no	Context	Period	Material	Object Name	No of frags	Weight	Dimensions (Length; Width; Depth)			Diameter	X-ray	Comments
1001	0001	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	15	106			0	NO	
1002	0001	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	14	103			0	NO	
1003	0001	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	15	104			0	NO	
1004	0001	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	4	56			0	NO	
1005	0001	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	6	39			0	NO	
1006	0001	?PMED	Iron	ROD	1	6				4	NO	Cylindrical rod, tapering
1007	0001	?PMED	Iron	ROD	1	5				0	NO	Cylindrical rod, twisted into two
1008	0001	?PMED	Iron	ROD	1	90				9	NO	Thicker, bracket-shaped rod, curved L shape
1009	0002	?PMED	Iron	BRACKET?	1	169	430	32	2	0	NO	4 sided strip of metal w hole in centre and 2 nails hammered through sides
1010	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	77	125	20	10	0	NO	Rhomboid shaped nail head
1011	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	16	105			0	NO	
1012	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	19	106			0	NO	
1013	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	13	102			0	NO	Bent
1014	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	17	105			0	NO	
1015	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	16	105			0	NO	Bent
1016	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	7	78			0	NO	
1017	0002	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	4	65			0	NO	

Small find no	Context	Period	Material	Object Name	No of frags	Weight	Dimensions (Length; Width; Depth)			Diameter	X-ray	Comments
1018	0003	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	16	104			0	NO	
1019	0003	?PMED	Iron	NAIL?	1	10	59			0	NO	No head
1020	0003	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	168				0	YES	Complete coffin handle and backplate frag, see separate record sheet for dimensions
1021	0003	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	170				0	YES	Coffin handle & frag remains of backplate, see sep record sheet
1022	0003	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	30				0	YES	Small frag of handle backplate, see sep record sheet, has textile impressions, cd go with either handle of 0003
1023	0004	?PMED	Iron	NAIL?	1	2	22			0	NO	Small iron fragment, poss nail
1024	0013	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	15	98			0	NO	
1025	0020	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	15	105			0	NO	
1026	0020	?PMED	Iron	NAIL	1	4	75			0	NO	Bent
1027	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	155				0	YES	Complete handle, see separate record sheet
1028	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	235				0	YES	More complete than SF1027
1029	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	1	52	103	46	3	0	YES	Remains of central part of backplate, see separate record sheet, joins SF1030
1030	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	2	48				0	YES	Terminals of backplate which join central part of SF1029
1031	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	6	28				0	YES	Fragments of smaller backplate, possibly for the handle of a child's coffin, recorded separately

Small find no	Context	Period	Material	Object Name	No of frags	Weight	Dimensions (Length; Width; Depth)	Diameter	X-ray	Comments
1032	0038	PMED	Iron	COFFIN HAND	31	53		0	NO	Misc fragments of sheet of backplates, some of which have textile and wood impressions preserved
1033	0038	PMED	Copper	STUD	5	2	12	7	NO	5 studs, entirely made of copper, 3 of which are still attached to wood
1034	0025	PMED	Iron	ROD	1	51	138	0	NO	Cylindrical rod, broken off at both ends
