

# The Palace of the Bishops of Lincoln at Lyddington

*by Charmian and Paul Woodfield*

This paper seeks to put the remains of the Bishops of Lincoln's palace at Lyddington in context, and to review the interpretation of the standing structure in the light of archaeological evidence exposed during drainage works carried out in 1976 and 1980. This evidence is set out in a paper shortly to appear in the Archaeological Reports Series by Charmian C. Woodfield, and published by the Leicester Museums Service.

In c958 the old established Anglo Saxon dioceses of Dorchester on Thames and Lindsey were brought closer together as part of the process which was to lead to the formation of the great medieval diocese of Lincoln, one of the largest in Britain, extending from the Humber to the Thames. Remigius, the first post-conquest bishop of Lincoln, maintained sees at Dorchester and in the north at Stow St Mary, a few miles to the north-west of the city of Lincoln, but following the adoption of Hildebrandine practice by the Council of Windsor in 1072, the see at Stow was removed to within the walls of the city itself. The second bishop, Robert de Bloet (1094-1123) took up, after prolonged negotiations for land, residence in the city,<sup>1</sup> and his successors, Alexander the Magnificent (1123-1143) and Robert de Chesney (1143-1166) commenced building a palace on land granted to Alexander by Henry I immediately south of the cathedral.<sup>2</sup>

Although the bishop was now established in Lincoln itself, his pastoral and administrative duties required him to visit all his deaneries and houses under the Benedictine rule at regular intervals, generally three years, obligations which clearly involved him in prolonged absences from Lincoln. Thus a number of residences scattered strategically around the diocese came into being, places where he might stay with his extensive retinue in appropriate style and comfort for the duration of his visitation to the surrounding area. In addition he had need of other dwellings to which he might repair for relaxation and for the major feasts of the church. As opposed to the primary palace in Lincoln, these might be termed secondary palaces when there is specific provision for ceremonial and official duties.

By the time of the episcopacy of Bishop Repingdon (1405-1420) the diocese of Lincoln had acquired and was maintaining, beside the primary palace of Lincoln, castles at Newark, Sleaford and Banbury, secondary palaces at Buckden, Spaldwick, Lyddington, Wooburn, Fingest, Thame, Dorchester and Louth, and palaces more for relaxation at Stow St Mary and Nettleham within a short ride of Lincoln. Much other property of course was held, both residences strictly outside the boundaries of the diocese, and manors whose purpose was to supplement the income of the episcopal estate, beside a residence in London for when the bishop was in attendance upon the court. Thus, the bishop of Lincoln also had in the early fifteenth century property at Bishops Norton, Cropredy, Eynsham and Milton, all in Oxfordshire, at Leicester and at Kilsby in Northamptonshire. The registers<sup>3</sup> maintained by the bishops indicate that they would stay in a palace in the course of duty generally for between one and seven weeks, during which time the bishop would summon

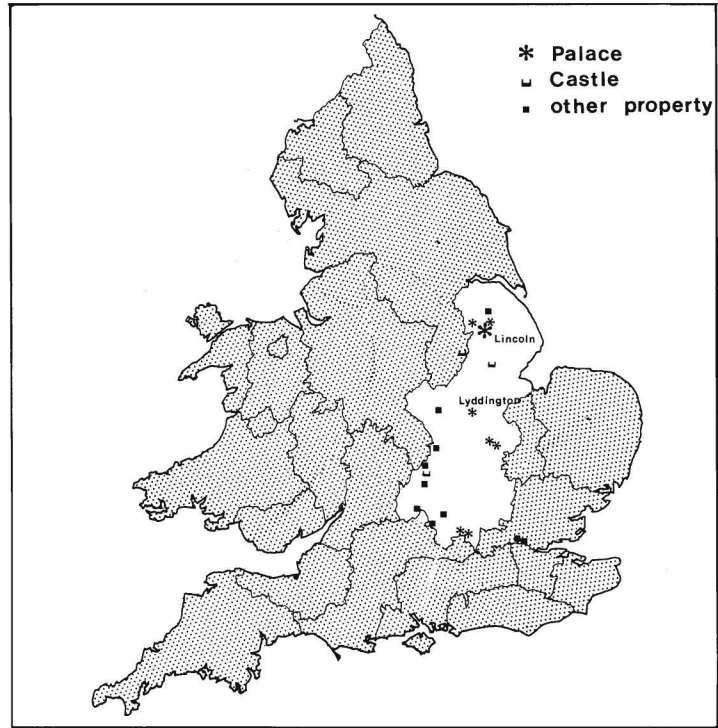


Fig. 1A The medieval diocese of Lincoln showing the residences of the bishops

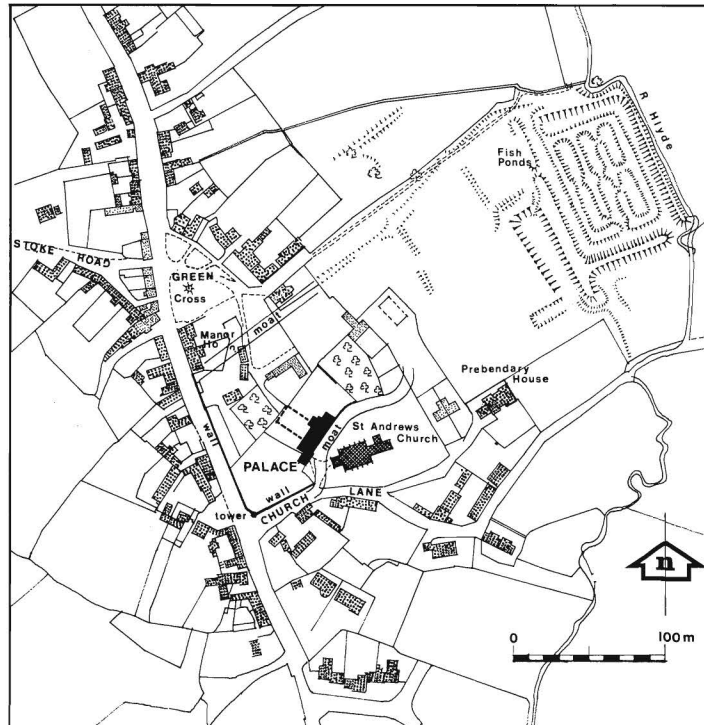


Fig. 1B The site of the Palace at Lyddington

the local clergy from neighbouring deaneries before him to give account of themselves and their parishes and to conduct such ceremonies and hearings as he alone could do.<sup>4</sup>

The date of the foundation of the palace at Lyddington is not recorded but episcopal interest in the area was already established in Domesday Book which notes that Walterius holds of the Bishop of Lincoln two hides in 'Lidentone'. Further property was granted to the see in Lyddington in 1085.<sup>5</sup> Subsequent records suggest that it was at first a manor prized for the excellence of its hunting, but its convenience to the royal castle at Rockingham, some four miles distant to the south across the Welland valley was doubtless not without its significance.

The next recorded mention of Lyddington appears in 1126 when Pope Honorius confirmed the property as a possession of the church of Lincoln.<sup>6</sup> This proclamation was reaffirmed by Pope Alexander III in 1163. Meanwhile, in 1154 Henry II granted licence to Robert de Chesney to "till and have twenty acres of land newly brought into cultivation at Lyddington"<sup>7</sup> presumably indicating a return to settlement after the civil war. In 1189-90 King John gave to one of the greatest of the bishops, St Hugh of Avallon, 25 acres of ancient assart at Lyddington, quit of regard of the forest,<sup>8</sup> and a further grant dated 1214-5 from John, who was a frequent visitor to nearby Rockingham, allowed bishop Hugh de Welles to enclose, impark or assart their woods at Lyddington as well as at Buckden and Spaldwick.<sup>9</sup> The picture received is of a substantial property being gradually assembled through royal grace and favour, and partly at the expense of the royal forest. The first documentary evidence of a bishop's residence at Lyddington is in the year 1209 when Hugh de Welles gave orders from his palace there for the rebuilding of the bridge at Rockingham,<sup>10</sup> clearly a matter of interest to him, granting thirteen days indulgence to all who helped. Whether this residence was merely a hunting lodge or had sufficient accommodation to be termed a palace must, for the present, remain open although if orders were being promulgated here it suggests that Lyddington had by then acquired the administrative appurtenances of a palace. The archaeological evidence confirmed the existence of a moat close to the present Bede House in the mid to late 12th century, and in view of the extensive building projects commenced by Alexander and Robert de Bloet elsewhere it would not be surprising if the palace at Lyddington had already been commenced by this date.

The moat, which was confirmed in trenching near the present gate to the churchyard, presumably enclosed the bishop's domain. From this point it appears to have run between the Norman church and the Bede House where a slight declivity in the ground can be detected, and turns north in or beyond the orchard, returning across field OS.195 to cross Blue Coat Lane somewhat to the north of the recently built bungalow, where again a dip in the lawn can be perceived. An aerial photograph held by the Rutland Local History Society<sup>11</sup> taken before the bungalow was built shows a darker strip running east-west and interrupted by Blue Coat Lane, which may well be the moat, and there are indications in field OS.199 that a leet formerly led outfall water from the north east corner of the moat down the field to the small river Hlyde,<sup>12</sup> the original source being later utilized by bishop Burghersh for his magnificent fishponds. The remainder of the circuit of the moat is entirely conjectural, but it is not improbable, taking into account the persistence of boundaries, that the moat followed the line of the present High Street on the west and returned on the line of Church Lane. The area thus enclosed represents about a hectare of land containing the palace and its *basse-cour*.

The first definition of the early building rests almost entirely with the archaeological evidence. The location of two major walls 4 and 14 on plan, with a substantial hearth between them establishes beyond reasonable doubt the presence of an early hall lying to

the north-west and at right angles to the existing Bede House range. This structure, approximately 7.6m (25ft) wide internally (35ft, 10.65m externally) is tentatively dated to the mid to late 12th century, the period of office of bishops Robert de Chesney and Geoffrey, son of Henry II. The present building thus stands in the relationship of a chamber block to this early hall, but the discovery of a return wall, later demolished and floored over suggests that this hall was curiously separated from the standing building by a narrow space 80cm (2ft 8in) wide, implying that the present north-west wall did not originally exist but was built on this line with the larger second hall. In the light of this evidence the Bede House has been re-investigated to see whether further light can be shed on the arrangements of the episcopal palace.

The existence of medieval work incorporated in the fabric of the Bede House has long been recognised and has been discussed by a number of scholars, in particular Professor A. Hamilton Thompson during the course of two field visits, one for the Rutland Archaeological and Natural History Society and reported in their *Transactions* of 1915, and the other for the Royal Archaeological Institute, reported in their *Proceedings* of 1934, pp400-1. When accepted for guardianship in 1954, a leaflet on the building was prepared by M.W. Thompson for the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works.

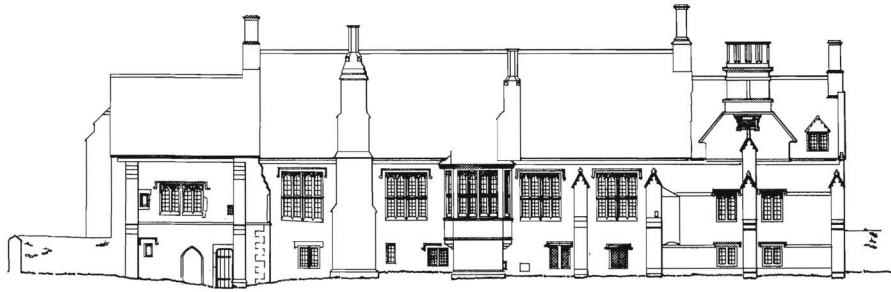
In the course of the present survey the only evidence of early work noted is a quoined corner eight courses high in the narrow passage beneath the stair to the upper floor. (Fig. 4a). This feature is constructed of small square ashlar blocks of limestone, dressed diagonally with a mason's axe. Both the uniform small size of the stones and the method of dressing is consistent with early, perhaps Norman, work. The quoining terminates a length of walling 2.2m (7ft 3in) long running to the north-east and ending in a splayed door jamb for a door once opening into a room lying to the north-east and wider than the present range. The lack of any logical relationship between this opening and any known standing feature reinforces the suggestion of an early date. The 1976 sewer trench revealed walls both to the north-east and north-west which were undated, but in the absence of any other possibilities, should be the outer enclosing walls of this room. The size of the room thus indicated suggests that the space was subdivided for structural reasons, marked b and c on the phase 1 plan (Fig. 3). Given the demonstrated position of the great hall, these rooms must constitute part of a chamber wing extending beyond the line of the hall towards the north-east, a block of accommodation which must occupy the precise position of the Bede House. The assumed position of the moat presumably made it impossible to provide this accommodation by extending the hall block under one roof. The existing building, which is massively built on the south-east side against or even over the hypothetical moat shows some slight change of alignment internally on the centre line of the hall suggesting that this block was divided into more than one compartment, (e) and (f) on plan. Access to these rooms from the hall could have been through the opening represented by the quoined corner leading from a lobby at the end of the hall into room (d). There is no indication of how room (f) was entered; it may have had direct access from a door in the intervening passage, the position perpetuated by a later door. Both the length of this early hall, and the length to the south west of the chamber wing cannot yet be determined, although in the latter case it is not unlikely that the existing passage to the churchyard represents a long standing thoroughfare. Although this evidence is extremely scanty and inconclusive, it does suggest that bishop Russell's boast that he rebuilt the palace at Lyddington cannot be taken entirely literally.

Later documentary evidence relates again to land and the development of the deer park which is known to lie in the north west corner of the parish of Lyddington against Stoke Dry.<sup>13</sup> In 1227, Henry III granted to bishop Hugh de Welles the right to construct a deer

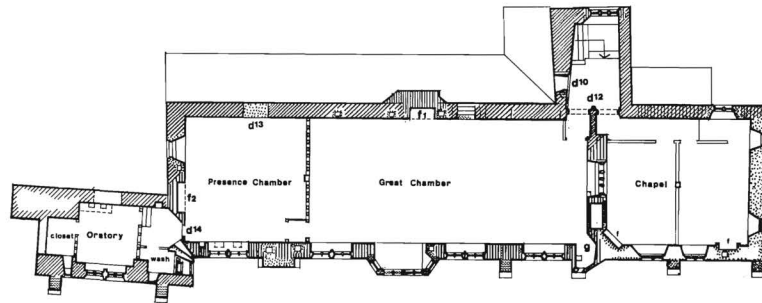
leap,<sup>14</sup> and this is repeated or reaffirmed in 1229.<sup>15</sup> By 1262-3, it is confirmed that a building existed, for a certain Robert is recorded as having stolen a ham from the Bishop's larder, for which he was duly hanged,<sup>16</sup> but this still may not be more than a hunting lodge. The park continued to grow, and on February 15th 1329 Edward III confirmed to bishop Burghersh 20 acres of assart in Lyddington.<sup>17</sup> Some weeks later, on 4th April Burghersh was granted free warren in all demesne lands.<sup>18</sup> In 1331 he again acquired from Edward III licence to enlarge his park at Lyddington by 60 acres<sup>19</sup> and apparently the park had now arrived at its optimum size for Henry Burghersh received permission at the same time to replace the hedge and fence around the park with a stone wall. After a lapse of only five years we read of Burghersh turning his attention to the buildings, for in 1336,<sup>20</sup> he, as chancellor of England acting on behalf of the king, granted himself as Bishop of Lincoln licence to crenellate the dwelling place of his manors at Lyddington, Stow St Mary and Nettleham, eight years after a similar licence for the palace at Lincoln. It is unlikely that he had resolved to build all three at once, and it is more probable that the licence served to regularise a position already *de facto* or at least well advanced.<sup>21</sup> Although the term dwelling place is used in the licence, it is clear that Lyddington was already well established as a place to stay and conduct business, for from here bishop Oliver Sutton had invested the prior of St Leonards, Stamford in 1287, installed the dean of Lincoln in 1288, and had issued letters patent for the founding of Balliol College, Oxford on the 13th June, 1284.

That Henry Burghersh was active at Lyddington there can be little doubt, and the fishponds, an imposing work of medieval hydraulic engineering, are claimed to be his work.<sup>22</sup> Unfortunately, as at Lincoln, his buildings have suffered from later alterations and demolition, and there is now little masonry at Lyddington that is demonstrably of his time other than the tower and chancel of the adjacent parish church.<sup>23</sup>

Archaeological evidence places the second great hall, also discovered in the sewer trench on the same site and alignment as the early hall, to the early to mid 14th century, in fact the period of bishop Burghersh's episcopacy (1320-1340). This new hall, comparable in size to the also newly constructed hall of the archbishop of Canterbury in the liberty of Mayfield, Sussex,<sup>24</sup> measures some 12.8m (42ft) wide internally, and is estimated at approximately 23m (76ft) long. Masonry revealed in the pipe trench interpreted as buttresses give four bays at 5.33m (17ft 6in) centre to centre, comparable to Mayfield at 17ft 4in. At this date it was becoming general practice to roof large spans without the aid of intermediate supports by such ingenious methods as short principal trusses. At the upper end, however, an anomaly in the spacing appears, for if wall 26 represents the end of this hall replacing the demolished early end wall 25, then the last bay is narrower, and a passage is formed between the end of the hall and the face of the chamber block some 2m-2.3m (7ft to 7ft 6in) wide.<sup>26</sup> However, a more satisfactory explanation is that the Great Hall was extended beyond the early gable end as far as the face of the present building, thus forming a wider bay occupied by a passage within the hall itself. Wall 26 thus may have merely formed a dais *reredos* to allow circulation to take place at the rear from a new lateral stair, a similar arrangement to Lambeth.<sup>26</sup> This stair gave direct access from a lobby in the hall to the first floor apartments, where twin doors (Fig. 4b) led to the *camera magna* and the postulated chapel. They are similar in form to an early 15th century example in the archiepiscopal palace at Croydon,<sup>27</sup> but the mouldings are a near parallel to those of the porch of Bishop Salmon's palace at Norwich, dated 1318f.<sup>28</sup> The early 14th century date ascribed to this wall was confirmed in the 1980 drain trench. Although the building of a rear passage would seem to be the opportunity to construct a gallery at first floor level implied by the doors from the major rooms and the destroyed stone vault next to the stair lobby, this cannot be confirmed as the only detail is on the inserted door at the head of the stair (Fig.



South east elevation



First Floor

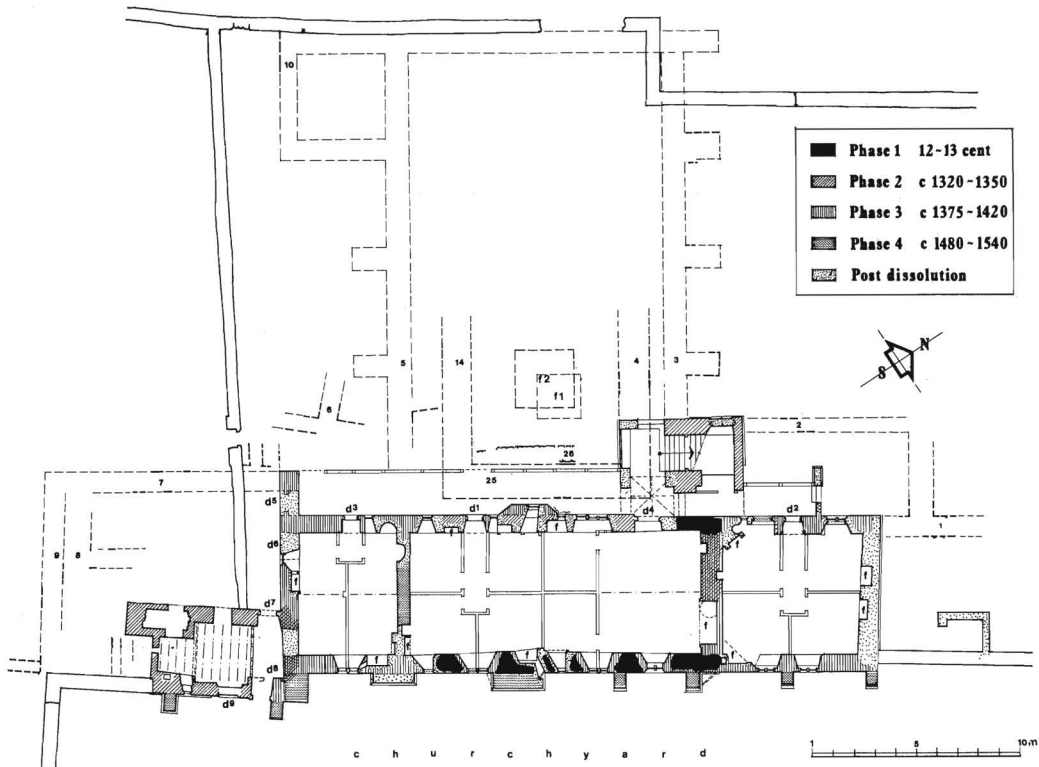


Fig. 2 Ground and first floor plans and south-east elevation

6), which is clearly later in date. The fourth bay of the hall, at the low end, would normally contain the customary cross passage before the service rooms, and a small excavation made in the garden ahead of consolidation revealed a wall w.10 on plan 2, which is tentatively interpreted as the south-west face of a major porch. Similar porches occur at Mayfield and elsewhere. Within this second hall the sewer trench confirmed the position of the open hearth almost immediately over the site of its predecessor.





Other than the north-west face of the Bede House and the stair tower there is no other evidence as to whether Burghersh remodelled the standing range, for later works have either totally replaced the evidence, or, as is more likely, have effectively eliminated any features distinctive of the period. The tower like structure standing to the south-west over and beyond the churchyard passage is devoid of any dateable features, but may have been added at this time, for wall 7, returning as wall 9 in the excavation, may, from the slight pottery evidence, be of early 14th century date or earlier. Strong keep-like structures occurred in the bishops' palaces at Wolvesey and Bishops Waltham.<sup>29</sup> This structure shelters the passage entry from the churchyard, and has a two-centred arched door with ogee and hollow-chamfer moulding which is probably the door to the porter's lodge (d9 on Plan 2). A similar arrangement exists at Charing.<sup>30</sup> From the passage itself a heavy timber two-piece door head (d5) now entirely enclosed in the masonry, marks the position of a passage along the north-west face of the chamber block and leading to the passage behind the dais in the Great Hall. Apart from a door in the timber stud partition another door from this entry leading directly into room (g) may have made its first appearance at this time.

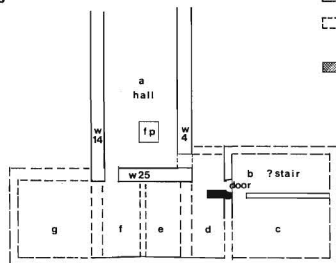
Of the service end of the second hall no evidence remains, although substantial walls are said to have been found when the bungalow was built in Blue Coat Lane, damagingly close to the guardianship site. The buttress to the fourth bay exposed by the drain trench may have continued as a wing to the north-east forming a courtyard and meeting the present enclosing wall of the site in which a small blocked window provides some evidence for a range of buildings on this side.

Fig. 3 plan 2 shows a hypothetical reconstruction of the plan at around 1350. What survives of the early, phase 1 building provides the bishop's administrative rooms at ground level with the stair from the hall leading up to a chapel over room (c), and to the great chamber over rooms (d), (e) and (f). Burghersh has also added a south-western tower with a guard chamber and possibly a kitchen at ground floor, and a private suite of rooms above. It is suggested that these relationships, once established, do not materially change except in point of detail for the remaining life of the building as an episcopal palace.

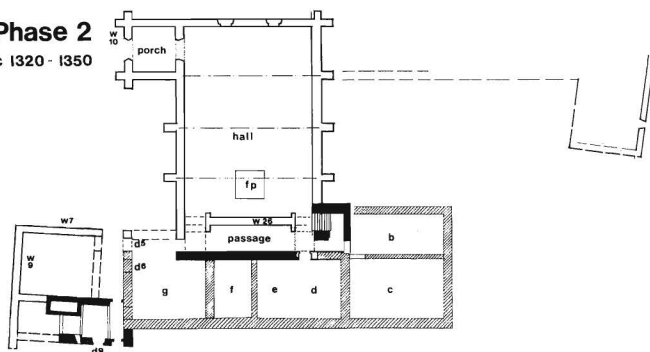
Phase 3, tentatively dated 1375-1420, is proposed on the somewhat imprecise evidence of the dating of certain architectural features and mouldings, Fig. 4, c, d and e. These suggest that there was a campaign to upgrade the accommodation in the chamber block after bishop Burghersh's period but before the time of bishop Alnwick who is known to have favoured the palace. The evidence suggests that the ground floor of the building was reorganised as two major rooms corresponding to the width of the hall, one with one central window entered by a new door, d1, from the hall, and the other, leading from it or entered separately through door d4 with two windows and a large fireplace. It may be that the dais now extended back to the gable wall, thus making the rooms directly accessible from an impressive screened dais recess somewhat similar to the arrangements at Wolvesey.<sup>31</sup> This suggests that they were of some importance perhaps to the administration of the palace in that the chief reception suite was at first floor level. Alterations were also extended to this level, as the Great Chamber was apparently provided, perhaps for the first time with a lateral fireplace, the stack projecting into the hall. Rather plain square headed fireplaces are not unusual at this period<sup>32</sup> and its mouldings can be compared with those at New

**Phase 1**  
12-13 centuries

-  new work added this phase
-  inferred with evidence
-  inferred without evidence
-  pre existing work



**Phase 2**  
c 1320 - 1350



**Phase 3**  
c. 1375 - 1420

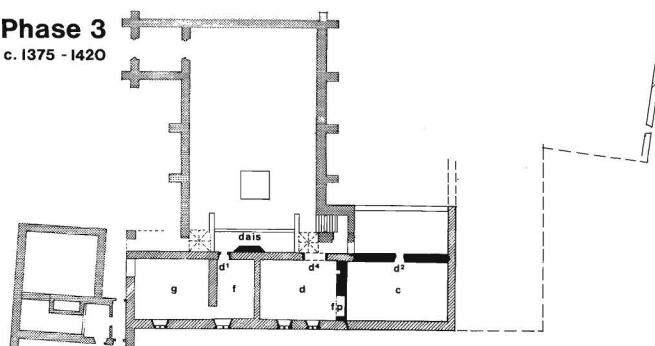


Fig. 3 Plans showing possible stages of development



College, Oxford, dated 1380-89.<sup>33</sup> A similar date can be ascribed to door d1 with its curious crossed bowtells, which appear in the presbytery of York Minster, dated 1361-73 and in the second bay niches in the south aisle.<sup>34</sup> The mouldings are paralleled at Dartington Hall, there dated 1390-99,<sup>35</sup> while the two hollow chamfer and roll mouldings on the ground floor fireplace occurs at New College, Oxford and at Winchester College, the latter being of c1380-90.

At this period or before, it seems that the original north-west wall of the structure north-east of the hall and accessible from a passage leading below the stair from the vaulted corner of the hall had been rebuilt in slighter form forming a pentice. This gave access to a further room or range at right angles to the existing building at the north-east end. Pentice accesses to other buildings are known elsewhere, for instance at the palaces at Lambeth and Charing. There is no documentary record of building work taking place at Lyddington in this period: the episcopacies of bishops John Bockyngham, 1363-97, Henry Beaufort 1397-1405 and Philip Repingdon, 1405-20. Both Bockyngham and Repingdon were active builders elsewhere so there is nothing intrinsically unlikely in their carrying out works at their palace at Lyddington.<sup>37</sup> It should however be emphasised that whereas the architectural detail suggests a date 1375-1420, the dating of mouldings within the perpendicular period should be taken with some caution. From the evidence of the bishops' registers it is clear that after 1420 Lyddington became the favoured residence of Bishop Flemyng (1420-1431)<sup>38</sup> and later of Bishop Alnwick, (1436-49)<sup>39</sup> but these two may have been merely enjoying the fruits of the labours of others.

Bishop Alnwick, as well as being an eminent man of the church, was also a prolific



Plate 1

South east elevation of Bede House and palace

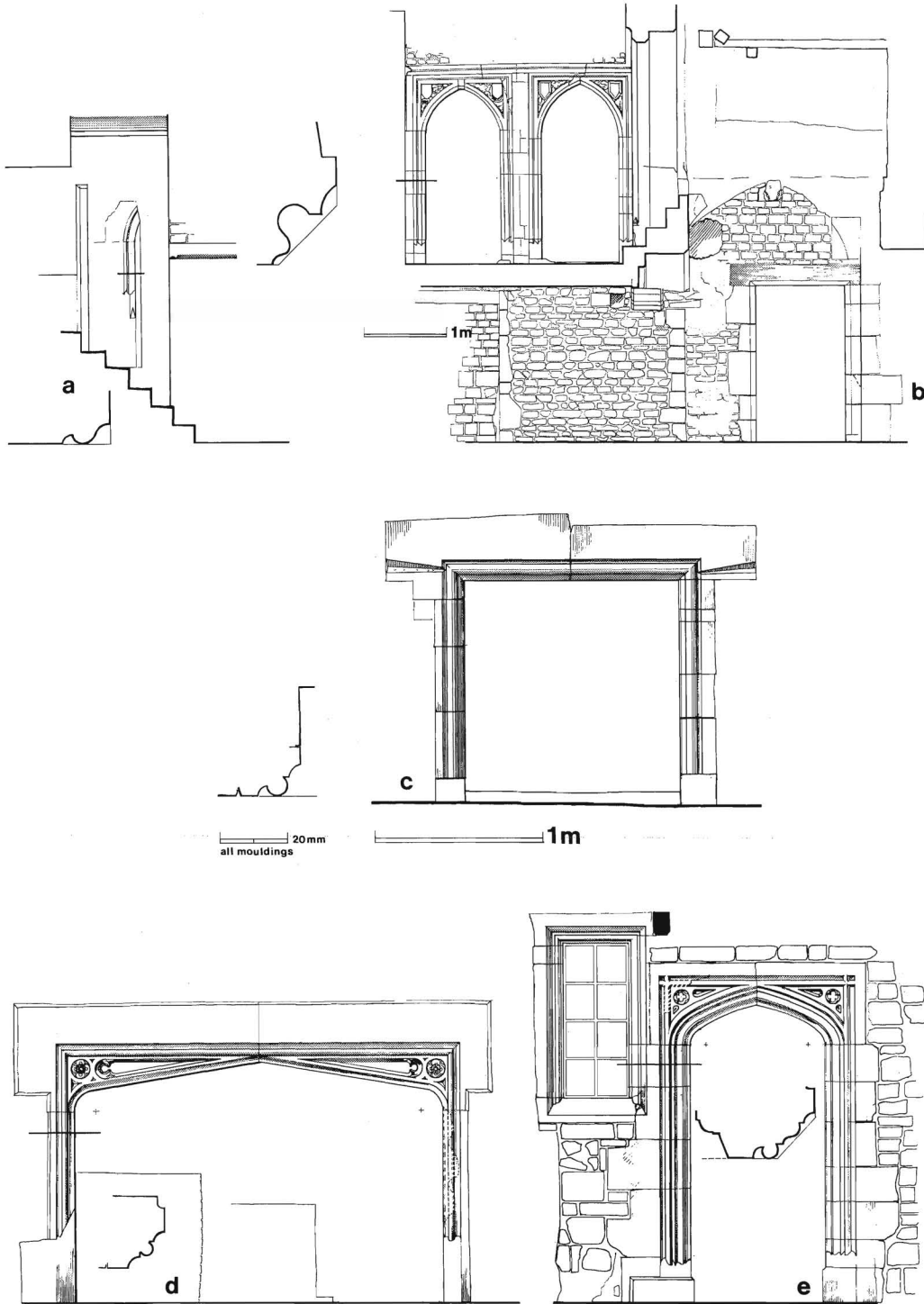


Fig. 4 circa 1320-1350  
 a. Door from Hall to Chamber block  
 b. Stair and doors to upper chambers

circa 1375-1420  
 c. Fireplace to Great Chamber  
 d. Fireplace added to room 'd'  
 e. Door d1 to room 'f'

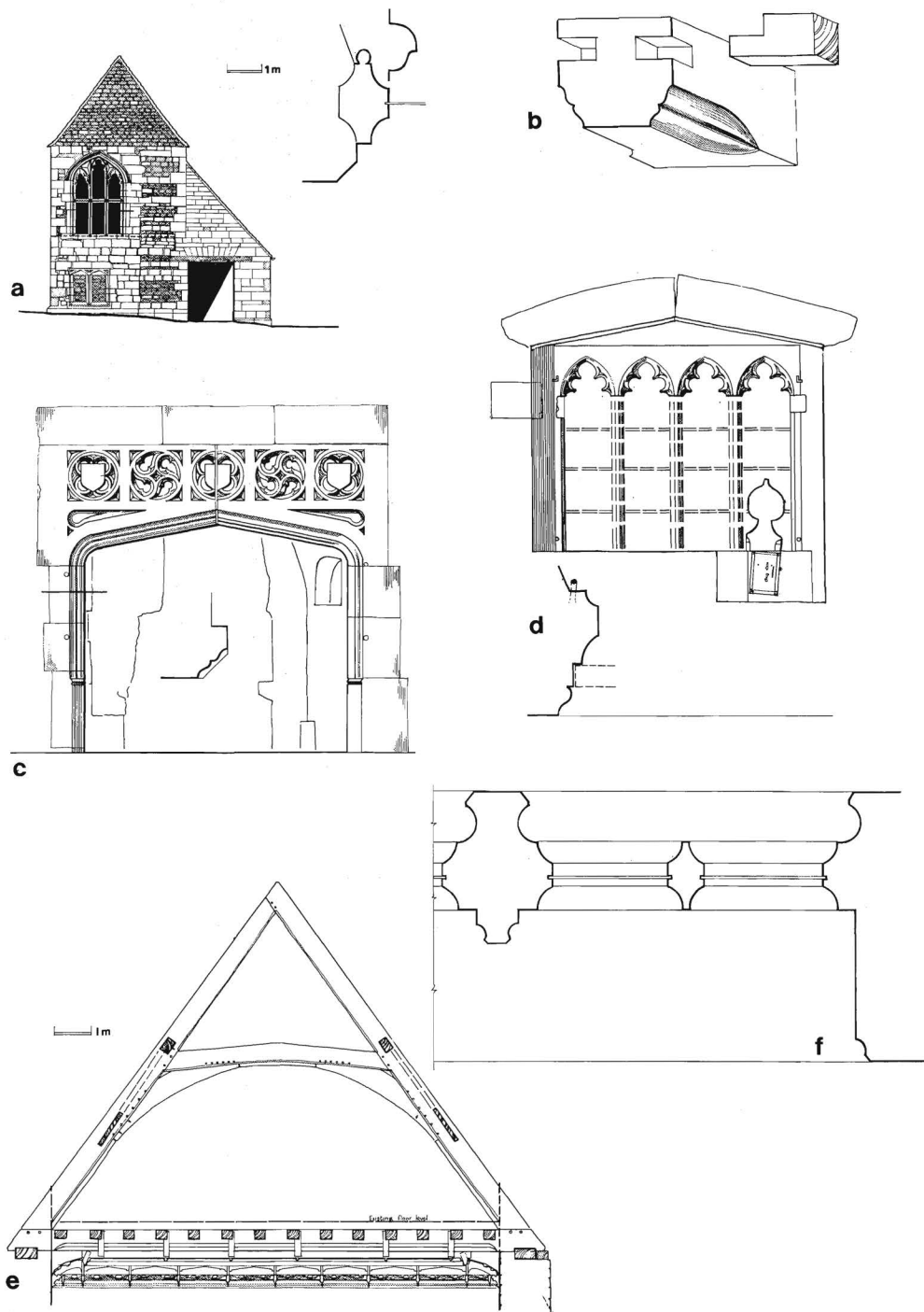


Fig. 5 Alterations *circa* 1480-1520 (Bishops Russell and Smith)

a. Stair tower, north side

c. Presence chamber fireplace

e. Roof truss

b. First floor ceiling beams

d. Chamber to chapel window

f. Great Chamber windows

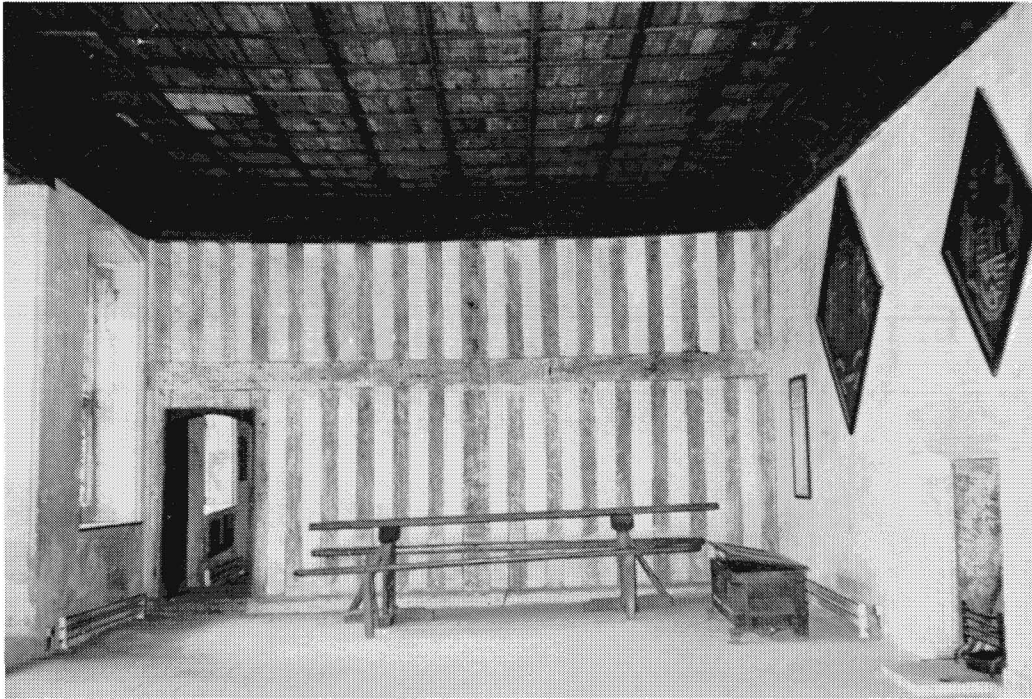


Plate 2

The *Camera magna* of the Bishops, later the common hall of Jesus Hospital

builder and it is not improbable that he carried out building work at Lyddington. Apart from the roof trusses, which cannot be closely dated, there is no existing work that can unequivocally be claimed on architectural grounds to belong to the mid fifteenth century. It seems unlikely that he would not have embellished his favourite palace, and the existence of his emblem and motto, *DELECTARE IN DOMINO*, and perhaps his portrait in the fifteenth century glass now reset in the Great Chamber windows proclaim his handiwork. The roof trusses (Fig. 5e), over the chamber block numbered by the carpenter from I to VII consecutively from the stair end are quite plain except for a simple square-sectioned fillet continuing the line of the knee braces on the soffite of the collars and principal rafters, a characteristic fifteenth century feature. That this was done at all indicates that the roof was originally open to the first floor chambers and is therefore earlier than the tie beams with their bracket mouldings of a late fifteenth century or early sixteenth century date inserted to carry a ceiling. If the trusses and roof structure, plain and difficult to date as they are, are not an indication of Alnwick's remodelling of the solar block, then it must be assumed that, if he did in fact build at Lyddington, he must have confined his attentions to parts of the palace no longer surviving.

Period 4 is dated on architectural grounds to the period 1480-1540, the episcopies of bishop John Russell (1480-1494), William Smith (1496-1514), William Atwater (1514-1521) and John Longland (1521-1547), Thomas Wolsey having nominally held the see for some months in 1514. There appear to be two phases, one of bishops Russell and Smith, and a second either under the impoverished Atwater or, more likely, under bishop Longland. The work on the standing building attributable to this period is largely confined to the

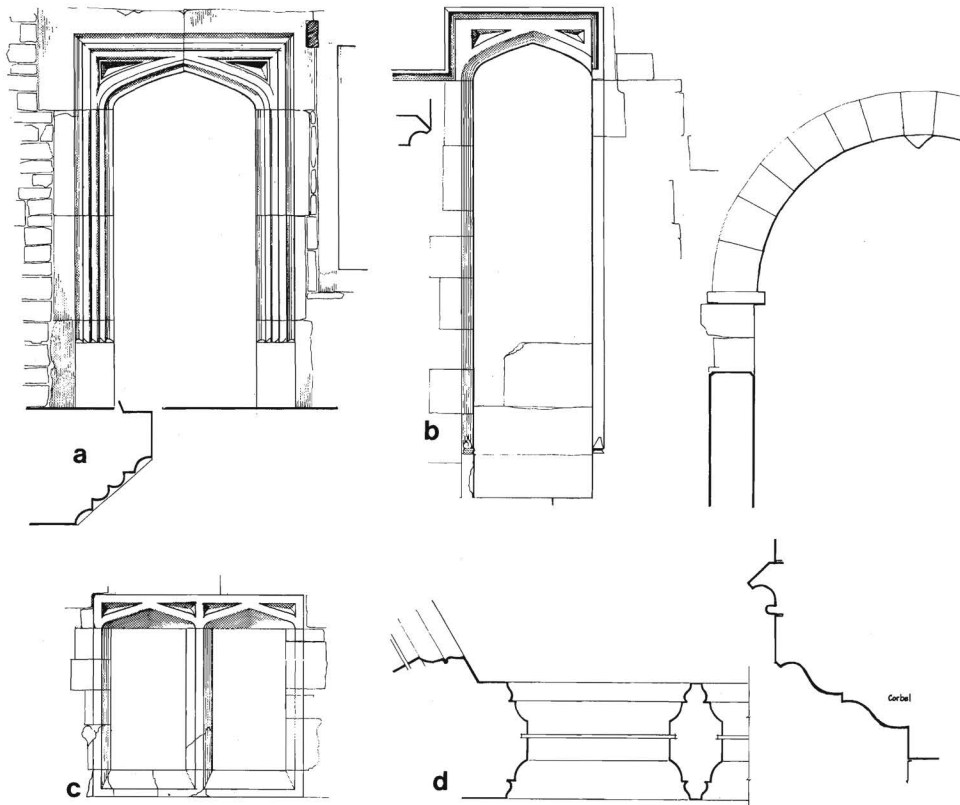


Fig. 6A Alterations, circa 1520-1540

a. Ground floor, Door d<sup>2</sup>  
 b. Door to first floor gallery

c. Window at foot of stair tower  
 d. Oriel Window

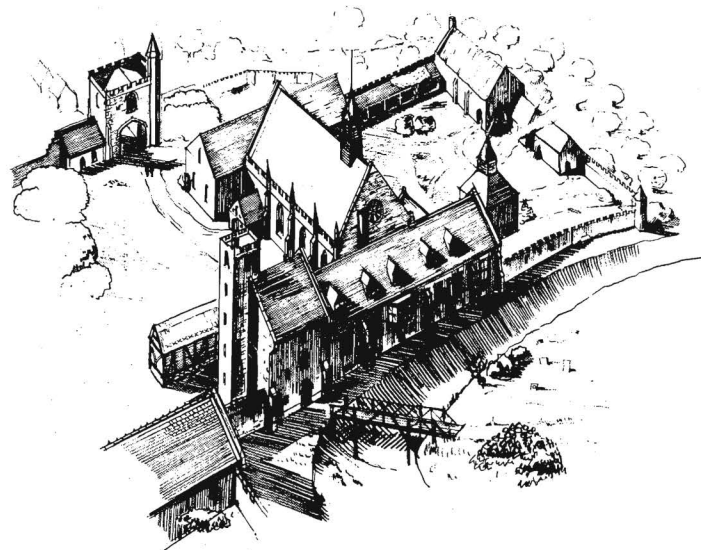


Fig. 6B Impression of Palace  
 at its greatest extent

upper floor. The Great Chamber appears to be provided with a fine range of cinquefoil headed transomed windows, with hollow chamfered mouldings.

An interesting new feature was also apparently added to the Great Chamber. This is the four light cinquefoil headed window between the Great Chamber and the adjoining room, probably the Chapel (Fig. 5d). This opening was controlled by shutters opening into the reveals in the Great Chamber, and had three horizontal bars of iron, now missing. There is a rebate worked into the mouldings on the chapel side apparently to take a wooden framed screen or grille. There seems little doubt that this opening was designed to provide a view of the Altar and the Mass in the chapel for those remaining in the Great Chamber, and may also have served as a hatch for paperwork, as business was often conducted in the bishop's pew. Other embellishments of this period are the arms of bishop Russell placed over the fireplace, window glass with bishop Smith's motto *DOMINUS EXALTATIO MEA*, and probably the first ceiling carried on the tie beams mentioned earlier. The close studded timber wall at the west end of the Great Chamber separates off another major room, accessible through a wooden doorcase with timber spandrels. This room, identified tentatively as the Presence Chamber has an imposing fireplace, and like the Great Chamber had direct access to the gallery over the hall by a short flight of steps. It is also connected to the partly demolished block to the west of the main range by a passage containing a closet with a stone washbasin with a drained recess for toilet articles. Beyond this passage and in the tower structure itself, there is a further small chamber perhaps serving as a sequestered oratory. An exposed quoin in the passage suggests that there was a link to other rooms in the demolished part of the building.

The fireplace in the Presence Chamber is notable (Fig. 5c)<sup>40</sup> and typical of late medieval fireplaces where shields are mounted over quatrefoil panels. The double ogee moulding is common in fireplaces of the perpendicular period, from Tattershall Castle 1435, Ashby 1474, to Sutton Place, Guildford, 1520-30 while the swirling mouchettes of the alternate panels occur c1530 in the roof of Beddington Hall, Surrey.<sup>41</sup> Bishops Russell and Smith also apparently replaced the doorcase to the eastern room on the ground floor (d2 on plan 3) using characteristic blind spandril door heads with shallow mouldings, and added a new door at the head of the stair to give direct access to the gallery over the hall. The stair itself was also apparently provided with a three light transomed window on its north-west elevation, probably replacing an earlier window, and the space under the stair was lit by a small two light monolithic headed window, blocked in the 1602 alterations. A window similar to this was incorporated in the octagonal tower on the precinct wall together with Russell's arms. The limestone refacing of the stair tower was apparently undertaken at this time when the window was inserted and appears to respect the junction of the Great Hall which by implication was still standing. If the roof structure is also included in this building phase then bishop Russell's work, brought to completion by bishop William Smith, must have seemed sufficiently extensive to justify his claim to have rebuilt the palace. However his active political life no doubt ensured that the work did not start until towards the end of his period of office, terminating in 1494.

One further building phase of the palace may be discerned before the Reformation. This is distinguished by two alterations at first floor level, the first, the addition of a canted oriel window corbelled out on the north side, the corbelling cutting through the label mould of the windows below. The mouldings of this window differ from the other windows, although the filleted roll is similar to the internal chapel window. The second alteration is the insertion of the magnificent oak ceiling and its carved, painted and gilded coving for which the building is justly famous. Hooks were inserted below the cornice to take fine wall hangings which no doubt travelled in advance of the bishop's retinue. These hooks have

recently, and most unfortunately, been removed. The splendour of the audience suite in its last days taxes the imagination. This last phase must fall within the episcopacy of bishop William Atwater or bishop John Longland and as Atwater was short of funds the final embellishment of the palace probably took place in the closing two decades of the palace.

The palace was finally surrendered to King Edward VI by bishop Henry Holbeach in 1547,<sup>42</sup> as was much other episcopal property throughout the country. The building was subsequently conferred by the king upon Gregory Cromwell who was then residing at Launde where the bishops had also held property. In 1602 it reverted to William Cecil, Lord Burghley. His son, Thomas, Earl of Exeter founded a hospital called Jesus Hospital by deed dated the 6th November 1600 for twelve poor men two women and a warden, and the needs of this foundation initiated a new period of demolition and radical remodelling, each room being provided with a coal fireplace and a fire window for its surveillance. In 1745 the present lean-to verandah was provided for shelter on the north-west side where the great hall once stood, and in 1767 the north-east end was largely rebuilt, the end wall being set on a new reduced alignment, and further buttresses added to the churchyard elevation. Thus, with the proliferation of chimneys, the building took on its present appearance. The almshouses continued in use without much further modification down to the 1930s when they were finally closed. After remaining empty and open for some years the building was taken into guardianship in 1954 since when the slow and painstaking process of restoration has continued.

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#### Notes

- 1 *Registrum Antiquissimum of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln* (1930-40) I, 34
- 2 Chapman, Coppack and Drewett, 'Excavations at the Bishop's Palace at Lincoln 1968-72'. *Occasional papers in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, 1, 1975
- 3 Registers exist for a number of bishops, e.g. Sutton, Repingdon and Flemyng, and are published by the Lincoln Record Society
- 4 Hamilton Thompson in his introduction to the Rolls and Register of Bishop Oliver Sutton, *Lincoln Record Soc.* (hereafter *L.R.S.*) 39, 1948
- 5 *Victoria County History, Rutland I*
- 6 *Reg. Antiq.* 158, No.199, 248, given at the Lateran on 30th January 1126; and by Alexander III to Adelmus, Dean of Lincoln in 1163, p.255. The possession was not confirmed by Innocent II or Eugenius III presumably by oversight
- 7 *Reg. Antiq.* 158, No.199, 124
- 8 *Ibid.*, given at Westminster, 25th January 1189-90
- 9 *Reg. Antiq.* I. This grant also included a grove at Stow Longa, Hunts., and a spinney at Crouch, near Banbury, probably Crouch Hill, a well known local landmark associated in popular legend with 'Ride a cock horse'
- 10 Information recorded by F.S. Edmonds MA of Lyddington in 1906 from an unrecorded source
- 11 Photograph Reference Y.36

- 12 Hlyde, an obsolescent name for the stream, a tributary of the Welland from which Lyddington takes its name. OE 'Hlyde = Torrent
- 13 The deer park was identified by C. and P. Woodfield in fieldwork in 1982, awaiting publication.
- 14 *Cal. Charter Rolls* I; 42. Also leaps at Buckden and Spaldwick. Given at Westminster on 27th May 1227
- 15 *Ibid.*, 105. Given 15th May 1229
- 16 *Assize Roll* 721, m.9-12. 1262-3
- 17 *Cal. Charter Rolls* I; 107. Membrane 4. "...concedo quod Robertus episcopus Lincolniensis excolat et habeat bene in pace et quiete viginti acras de essartis apud Lidentonam". Robert is perhaps an error here as Henry Burghersh held the see in 1329. Robert may on the other hand be someone acting *in partibus*
- 18 *Cal. Charter Rolls* 3 Ed.III. p.117. Again Lyddington *inter alia*
- 19 *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 5 Ed.III; p195. The park is described as being within Rockingham Forest
- 20 *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 10, Ed.III; 330
- 21 Coulson C. 'Hierarchism in Conventional Crenellation'. *Medieval Archaeology* XXVI, 1982 pp.76-77 and notes 19 and 22
- 22 The fishponds were also surveyed in 1978. See note 13
- 23 Evidence of the tracery and mouldings in the chancel
- 24 Bell Irving, *Mayfield* (1913), pp.63-68
- 25 A half bay appears at the service end of the hall at the palace at St David's, and irregular bay spacing is noted at Howden
- 26 Indicated in a 17th century description
- 27 Pugin, A. and A.W., *Examples of Gothic Architecture*, I. Pl II
- 28 Morris, R.K., 'The Development of Later Gothic Mouldings in England, c 1250-1400' Pt I, *Architectural History*, 21 (1978), Fig.9c
- 29 Information supplied by Mr S. Rigold
- 30 Kipps, K.P., 'The Palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury at Charing, Kent', *Archaeological Journal*, XC (1933), pp.78-97
- 31 Nisbett, N.C.H., *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, III (1894-7), p.207
- 32 Wood, M.E., *The English Medieval House* (1965), p.267
- 33 *Ibid.*, fig.117, No.20. The mouldings are not identical but the approach is similar
- 34 Information supplied by Dr Eric Gee
- 35 Wood, M.E., *Op. cit.*, fig.117, No.21
- 36 *Ibid.*, No.20
- 37 e.g. the Vicar's Court, Lincoln, finished c 1380-40. However the cross moline sable appearing in the glass in Lyddington is a charge of both bishops Bockingham and Alnwick
- 38 Bishop Flemyng resided at Lincoln regularly from 1428 to the end of his tenure of office. 'Visitations of Religious Houses 1420-36' I, *L.R.S.* xxii-xxiv
- 39 Hamilton Thompson (ed) in the introduction to 'Visitations of Religious Houses in the Diocese of Lincoln' II; *L.R.S.* (1918) pp xxiv
- 40 First published by Shuffrey, L.A., *The English Fireplace* (1912), figs.42 and 43
- 41 Garner and Stratton, *Domestic Architecture of England during the Tudor Period*, Vol II, (1929), plates CLXXIV and CLV
- 42 26th August, I Ed.VI