

### The size of the property

The 19th century survey makes it clear that the undercroft does not represent the complete area of the large property of which it was part. The undercroft was approached through two doors from the east, where the south-west corner of another chamber is represented, but whether this was another undercroft is impossible to tell.

Ogilby and Morgan's map of 1677 shows that no less than four separate properties were resting on the undercroft itself by this date. In 1677, the area to the east consisted of open yards belonging to brand new houses on the freshly laid out 'New Queen Street' (Fig. 3). The original outline of the property is hinted at by the behaviour of the parish boundary which separates these yards from the new houses. So it would appear that the medieval property originally occupied a plot 23m (75ft) long by c 13m (43ft) broad, but by 1677 this area was divided among 8 other properties. The property divisions on the Ogilby and Morgan map are to be "taken with a pinch of salt", but the general impression of intense subdivision is correct.

### Conclusions

It not only proved possible to locate the 19th century survey but also to comment on its accuracy. The written measurements on the plan confirm that its regularity is genuine, and the manner in which extent and recorded features fit together suggest a high level of accuracy. However, it was apparent

that the curve of the vault on the surviving fragment of wall does not correspond with the curve recorded in the longitudinal section. In reality, the long ridge rib was probably at a higher level than the wall rib; Fig. 2 shows it reconstructed in this manner. This 'domed' vault would have been considerably stronger than a flat groined vault.

Figs. 2 and 4 demonstrate the possibility that much of the undercroft survives beneath Queen Victoria Street and Watling Street. The action of driving the new street through the city caused the partial destruction of the undercroft, but probably preserved much of it as well. When a building was designed for the awkward new triangular plot, the springer seems to have been deliberately preserved in a semi-circular void outside the external wall of the new basement, where it could originally be seen from the pavement. Only later was the void roofed in with reinforced concrete.

So far the undercroft can only be dated stylistically. The presence of doors with four-centred arches suggests a late date, but the hollow-chamfer vault ribs were used from the 14th to the 16th century. The large bosses at the intersections are paralleled by those at South Wingfield, where the undercroft dates from 1440-1459<sup>1</sup>. The rib profile is well paralleled by those of the West Crypt of the nearby Guildhall, which dates from c 1430. A date range of 1400 - 1500 is suggested for the undercroft.

1. M. E. Wood *The English Medieval House* (1965) 90.

## Excavations & Post-Excavation Work

**City**, by Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to DUA, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (01-600 3699).

**Croydon & District**, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (01-688 2720).

**Greater London** (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to DGLA, Museum of London (01-600 3699 x241).

Local enquiries to:

North London: 3-7 Ray Street, London EC1R 3DJ (01-837 8363).

South-west London: St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road, Kew, Surrey (01-940 5989).

Southwark and Lambeth: Port Medical Centre, English Grounds, Morgans Lane, London SE1 2HT (01-407 1258 or 1989).

West London: 273A Brentford High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-560 3880).

**Hammersmith & Fulham**, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham

Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (01-731 4498).

**Kingston**, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Shipley, Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (01-546 5386).

**North-east London**, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E15 4LW (01-534 4545).

**Surrey**, by Surrey Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to David Bird, County Archaeological Officer, Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston, Surrey (01-541 8911).

**Vauxhall Pottery**, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (01-703 3324).

*The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly British Archaeological News (9 issues a year). It gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription of £7.50 includes postage, and should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE (01-582 0494).*