

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AND WATCHING BRIEF

AT THE CHURCH OF

HOLY TRINITY, COOKHAM,

BERKSHIRE

NGR SU 89705 85513

On behalf of

PCC of Holy Trinity Cookham

MAY 2011

REPORT FOR PCC of Holy Trinity Cookham
C/o Oxley Conservation Ltd
8a Friday St
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire
RG9 1AH

PREPARED BY Stephen Yeates

ILLUSTRATION BY Eoin Fitzsimons

FIELD WORK 31st January to 28th February 2011

REPORT ISSUED 19th May 2011

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 2352
Site Code CHHT 10
Archive Location The archive is stored at John Moore Heritage Services
and will be transferred to the relevant museum in due
course

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Summary</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3.1 Historical Background	1
1.3.2 Archaeological Background	4
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	5
3 STRATEGY	6
3.1 Research Design	6
3.2 Methodology	6
4 RESULTS	6
4.1 Phase 1: Norman, late 11 th to 12 th centuries	6
4.2 Phase 2a: Early English, late 12 th to early 13 th centuries	6
4.3 Phase 2b: Early 13 th century	7
4.4 Phase 3: Late 13 th century	7
4.5 Phase 4: Early 14 th century	7
4.6 Phase 5: Late 15 th to early 16 th centuries	7
4.7 Phase 6: 18 th century	9
4.8 Phase 7: Early 19 th century (Late Georgian)	12
4.9 Phase 8: Late 19 th century (Victorian Renovation, 1860-1)	13
4.10 Phase 9: 20 th century	13
5 FINDS	13
6 DISCUSSION	14
7 ARCHIVE	14
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
 FIGURES	
Figure 1 Location	2
Figure 2 Plan of Our Lady's Chapel (North)	9
Figure 3 Plan of Saint Clement's Chapel (South)	11

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at the church of Holy Trinity, Cookham, Berkshire (NGR SU 89705 85513) during the replacement of floors in the north and south chapels. Cookham is recognised as the location of a coenobium from the 8th century. The oldest part of the building recognised previously was that of the Norman nave, no earlier phases could be demonstrated. The features uncovered by the removal of the Victorian floor included foundation and floor supports and burial vaults for the period from the 17th to 19th centuries.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The church of Holy Trinity, Cookham (NGR SU 89705 85513) lies between 16-18m OD. The underlying geology is the Sheperton Gravel overlying Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey Sheet, 1:50:000 Geology Series England and Wales Sheet 255 Beaconsfield, Solid and Drift, 2005).

1.2 Background

Replacement floors were inserted within the Lady Chapel and St Clements Chapel. An archaeologist monitored the groundworks.

Prior to the works commencing a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey was conducted within the two chapels. This identified nine areas which indicate the presence of vaults and a further six locations which would suggest possible burials. Three areas have been interpreted as possibly consisting of structural remains and a planar response is seen, which may indicate a buried surface or geological response. Further anomalies have been identified which probably relate to surface features or current floor surfaces (Marsh 2010).

1.3.1 Historical Background

Cookham is first encountered historically in the early medieval period when Ethelbald, King of Mercia, gave the monastery (coenobium) to the church of Canterbury in 716 x 757 (VCH 1923, 124-33; Gelling 1979, 16). Cynewulf removed the church from the holdings of the Church of Canterbury in 757 x 786 (VCH 1923, 124-33; Gelling 1979, no.16). The minster was then taken over by Offa. Cynewulf later restored Cookham coenobium to the Church at Canterbury (VCH 1923, 124-33; Gelling 1979, no.16). Archbishop Æthelherd gave the coenobium to abbess Cynedritha in exchange for certain estates in Kent in 798 (VCH 1923, 124-33; Gelling 1979, no.16). Ælfheah an Ealdorman of Hampshire left estates at Cookham about 968 x 972 to King Edgar (Gelling 1979, no.105). Ethelred II, 968 x 1016, allegedly held a witan at Cookham (VCH 1923, 124-33; Gelling 1973, 79-80).

The name is first recorded as *Coccham* in 798, and it is in this later charter that most of the earlier references of the historical events are found (Gelling 1973, 79-80). Gelling dismisses the Old English forms *cocc*, **a hill**, and *cocc*, **a cock**, in favour of

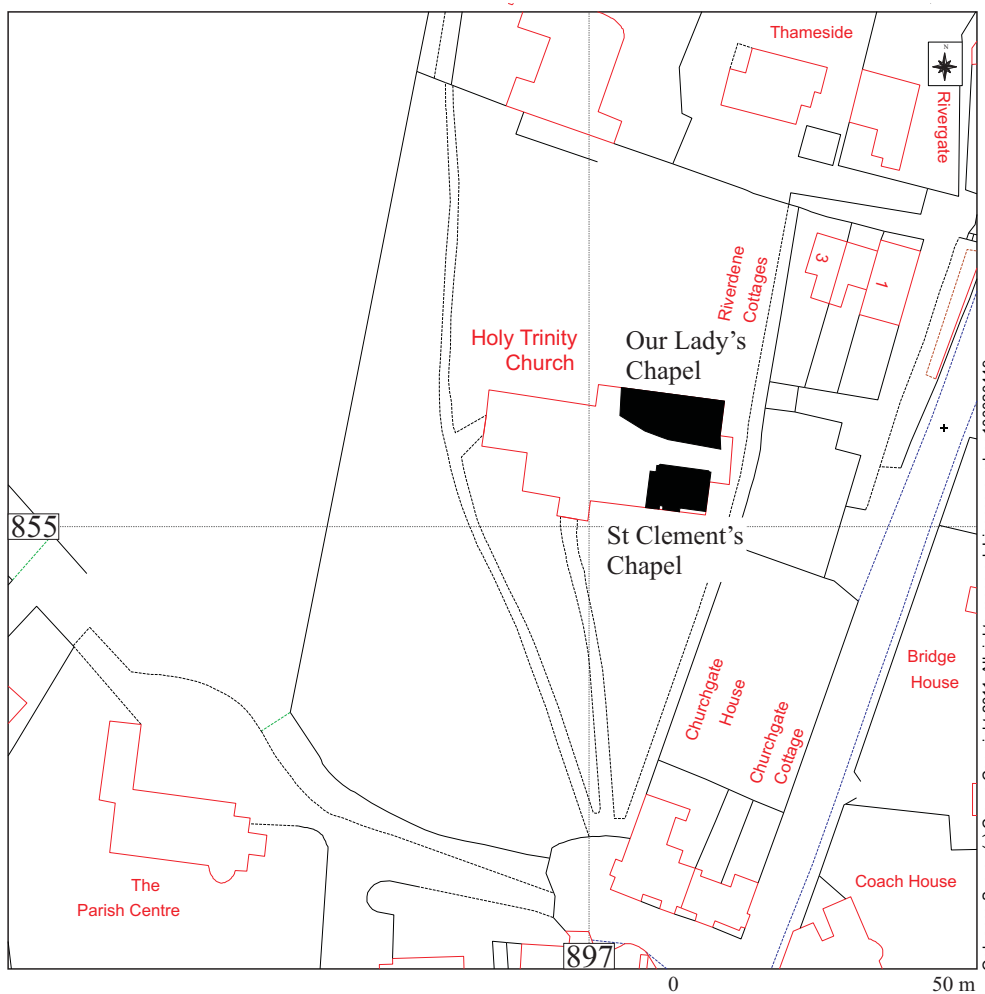
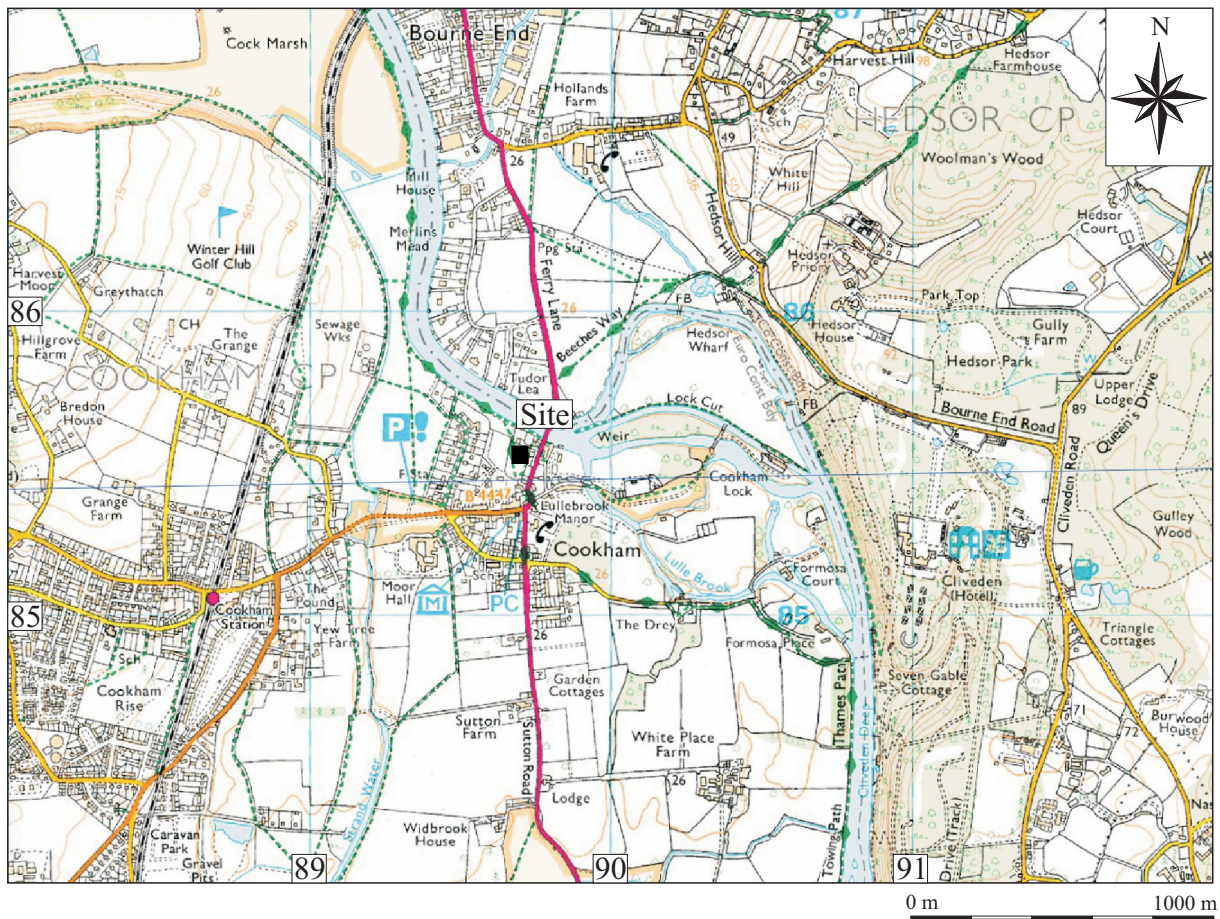


Figure 1. Site location

coc, a **cook**. This she claims as a rare name, but the interpretation of the name cook village, seems unconvincing.

Gelling (1973, 80-87) dismisses the possibility that names such as *Cocdun*, recorded 1220, could be associated with the Cookham name, based on her interpretation of the latter name. The field-names Cocks Burrow and Coxborow are variations of another name recorded in 1899 in the parish, which cannot refer to an animal burrow, but must refer to a hill (natural or artificial) or to a fortification.

The early minster established on the site of Cookham, one would have expected to be located in a fortified site on the gravel terrace, if so much alluvial silt has accumulated. The minster's vallum could be a reused prehistoric or Roman monument.

The manor of Cookham, in 1986, belonged to the king (VCH 1923, 124-33; Morgan 1979, 1.3). This covered an area of 20 hides and did not pay tax. There were 32 villagers, 21 cottagers, 4 slaves, 2 mills at 22s 6d, 2 fisheries at 13s 4d, 50 acres of meadow, and woodland for 100 pigs (half of which was in Windsor Forest). The cartulary of Cirencester Abbey repeats these passages from the Domesday Book and the location of the manor in Windsor Forest (Ross 1964, I no.24).

The main manor remained with the monarch until 1281, when it became granted as a dowry to the Queens of England (VCH 1923, 124-33). The first queen to be a recipient of this arrangement was Eleanor the mother of Edward I. This tradition was maintained until the reign of Henry VIII with only one exception when Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, the king's son held the manor from 1399-1447. After the dissolution of the monasteries the main manor of Cookham became the seat of the Maitland family, followed by the Vansitterts' and then the Skrine's.

A group of other medieval manors are known to have existed in Cookham that included the second manor of Cookham (called Lullebrook Manor), Elington Manor (associated with Maidenhead) and also Canon Court Manor (VCH 1923, 124-33).

Reinbald the Priest held canon Court with 2 other clerks in 1086 (VCH 1923, 124-33; Morgan 1979, 1.3). Reinbald held 1 ½ hides from the king and the church of the manor (they were catalogued as part of the 20 hides). 8 cottagers and 1 plough, 15 acres of meadow are associated with the church land. The other two clerks have ½ hide with 2 cottagers with 2 ploughs and 6 acres of meadow. These lands are at Cookham, while there is also evidence that Reinbald as the head priest at Cookham also held a hide of land at Boveney, in the braded bands of the river Thames, from the king, but which lay in the land of Cookham church (Morris 1978, 11.12). There was 1 villager and 1 plough.

Reinbald gave his holding of 19 churches to the abbey of Cirencester in 1133 (Ross 1964, I xxv). The neighbouring church of Bray was also in this group of churches granted by Reinbald. The texts of these two churches are closely linked and it is possible that the two parishes were formed out of a single unit or estate. The foundation of a chapel at Maidenhead highlights this problem with neither the vicars wishing to take responsibility for the new chapel. The chapel was established between 1263-74 but was without sanction from the vicars of Cookham or Bray and the bishop refused to licence it. The vicars of Cookham and Bray withdrew their objections in

1324 (VCH 1923, 107-116). It is as if the chapel was established on an area of land for which both churches had claims thus leading to a position of uncertainty.

The surviving charters in the cartulary of Cirencester Abbey concerning Cookham provide few specific details, but we are informed that in 1155-8 there was trouble in Cookham churches tenements in Cookham (Ross 1964, I no.64). The second piece of information we are aware of is that Cookham Church and Cirencester Abbey must have had a dispute over the allotment of tithes in the parish as in 1217-30 the result of an agreement over taxation is made (Ross 1964, I no.556). The parish church was allowed to take tithes of hay from the mills, but was not allowed to take the tithes from the royal demesne or the abbey of Cirencester's demesne.

The chapels of Cookham included Binfield (VCH 1923, 119-24), while a chapel was founded at Maidenhead 1263-74 but neither the vicar of Bray or Cookham would licence it at that time (VCH 1923, 107-117). An oratory chapel was licensed at La Hoo in 1341 (VCH 1923, 124-33). Besides this Cookham church held land a Boveney (Morris 1978; 11.1).

1.3.2 Archaeological Background

Documentary evidence indicates that Cookham had an early medieval monastery. This has not yet been identified structurally. The early assessments of Cookham church suggest that the nave was constructed in the 11th century (VCH 1923, 124-33; Tyack, Bradley *et al.* 252-3). This is apparent due to the surviving Norman window in the north nave wall and is thus classed as Phase 1. The chancel is considered to have been rebuilt c. 1200, with the addition of the north chapel or Lady Chapel classed as Phase 2a. The short north aisle is believed to date to the early 13th century and is classed as Phase 2b, which is considered to have originated as a chapel. The insertion of the arcade that turned this into a north aisle took place in the late 13th century, and constitutes part of Phase 3. The south aisle was also added in the late 13th century (also phase 3) and this was extended to form Saint Clement's chapel in the early 14th century classed as Phase 4. The west tower is dated to c. 1500 (Phase 5) while the nave and aisle rooves are also classed as late medieval in date. The brick patching on the buttresses is dated to the 17th and 18th century (Phase 6), The Buildings of England series place this work as 18th century.

A will of 1493 makes a bequest to Cookham church for the lights of the Holy Cross, All Souls, Our Lady and Saint Anne, Saint Catherine, Saint Clement and Saint Nicholas (VCH 1923, 124-33). The deceased, William Norreys, was buried on the north side of the chapel of Our Lady.

The Victoria County History (VCH 1923, 124-33) and the Buildings of England series (Tyack, Bradley *et al.* 2010, 252) have described details of the surviving epigraphic inscriptions; some of which were worn and all of those in the two chapels were covered over to prevent damage.

Monuments described as surviving either at the east end of the north aisle (VCH) or the north chapel (BoE) include brasses to John Babham, dated 1458, William Andrew, dated 1503, and his wife. The second husband of Andrew Williams' wife, Richard Babham, has a tomb placed on the north wall of the north aisle/chapel dated 1527. Further burials in the north chapel include Sir Isaac Pocock 1810 (off 1814 by

Flaxman in White), and William Venables in 1840, on a Grecian tablet. These tombstones and memorials provide a range of dates in the north aisle/chapel dating from 1458 to 1887. Other burials, for example that of William Norreys, is known from documentation but any associated funerary monument of the late 15th century has not been identified.

Funerary monuments described as being located in the chancel include a table tomb of Robert Pecke dated 1517. In the arch between the chancel and the north chapel (Our Lady's) is a monument dedicated to Anthont Turberville of Bradleys dated 1688. Under the eastern (western ?) arch of the south arcade of the chancel a tomb was laid to the memory of George Wellden dated 1616. The tomb located to the east of this contains a brass to Maria Farmer dated 1654. There are later tombs in the floor and a later slab in the floor contains a number of initials and dates; GY 1810, ELY 1826, SY 1826, MY 1839, MY 1844, EY 1847, and GY 1848. On the east wall of the south chapel there is a memorial to George Weldon dated 1659. On the wall of the south aisle is a memorial to Arthur Babham dated 1561. These dates provided in the south chapel (Saint Clement's) indicate that the surviving burial vaults were inserted from 1561 or 1616 to 1848.

In the nave north wall there is a brass memorial to Edward Woodyore with dates of 1615 and also 1613 for his wife, and C. Ashwell Boteler Pocock in 1887. The remaining catalogued memorials are located under the tower where stones record the remains of Noah Barnard, dated 1655, his daughter Mary, dated 1691, and his wife Ann, dated 1717. A stone in the entrance to the chapel names Dorothy Sevidal and is dated 1655.

The cataloguing of the memorials provides the easiest point for analysing the phasing and sequencing of the complicated process of burials.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To identify and record any archaeological remains exposed in the course of the evaluation.

In particular:

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, and quality of the artefactual evidence present.

- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To address some of the key issues highlighted in the Solent Thames Research Framework. This will depend on the type of date of remains encountered.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with *Berkshire Archaeology* (BA) the archaeological advisors to Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

The investigation at Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, was carried out as part of a watching brief, during the process of the removal of Victorian flooring. The location of burial vaults, mortared surfaces and foundations were recorded underneath this. Pre-Victorian material was left *in situ*.

4 RESULTS

The observations of the features identified during the process of the removal of the floors have been catalogued below. The features recorded have been inserted into the generally recognised phasing of the church. Nowhere was the natural geology observed.

Theoretically the earliest recognisable phase(s) for the church at Cookham should be early medieval in date, but no pre-Norman phase has been identified other than in Anglo-Saxon charter evidence from Canterbury Cathedral.

4.1 Phase 1: Norman, late 11th to 12th centuries

The earliest recognised phase of the church surviving is the walls of the Norman church, which were evident on the southwest side of the Lady's Chapel and the northwest side of Saint Clement's chapel. The nave is twice the length of the present chancel, a standard ratio for Norman churches. The location of the surviving window would suggest a wall with five windows. The flint foundation of the chancel probably also belongs to this date.

4.2 Phase 2a: Early English, later 12th to early 13th centuries

The chancel contains architectural features of the late 12th century, and is interpreted as being butted onto the east end of the Norman nave. The chancel wall lay on the south side of the Lady's Chapel and on the north side of Saint Clement's chapel. Flint wall construction enables little visible evidence for identifying the relationship between the two walls. A Norman nave would have existed prior to the construction of the Early English one and it is often difficult in such circumstances to determine in the flint wall where the wall was dismantled and rebuilt and what of the original survived.

The rebuilding of the chancel was also accompanied by the construction of the Lady's Chapel with walls to the east and the north. No wall was identified at the west end of the chapel to confirm the belief that the north aisle was a slightly later addition.

4.3 Phase 2b: Early 13th century

The north aisle is classed as being built in the early 13th century. No butt joints, as one would expect in flint construction, were observed in the construction of this phase.

The insertion of this phase is necessary to enable the present accepted interpretation of the church to work. In reality what is accepted here is that chapels were constructed on the north side of the nave and chancel. As no wall remains are evident between the Lady's Chapel and the North Aisle it could be questioned if this is a proper phase of the building. The windows in the Lady's Chapel proper are all reset. The walls at the east end of the chapel and the west end of the north aisle are out of alignment.

Chapels are recognised as being established in aisles of Norman and Early English churches but not necessarily as side chapels with no arcades. Side chapels to the nave with small entrances are predominantly a recognised feature of Anglo-Saxon churches, for example Deerhurst (Rahtz, Watts *et al.* 1997), or Cirencester (Wilkinson and McWhirr 1998). Phase 3 is, therefore, problematic.

4.4 Phase 3: Late 13th century

The Late 13th century saw the construction of the south aisle and the insertion of the south arcade, mainly outside the area of investigation. The arches into the north chapel from the nave were inserted, creating an arcade in the wall. The chancel arch space was also widened with the insertion of a decorated arch.

4.5 Phase 4: Early 14th century

The early 14th century saw the addition of the chapel of Saint Clement's or the south chapel. This saw the construction of the east and south walls of the south chapel and the insertion of the arcade between the south chapel and chancel and the arch between the south chapel and south aisle.

4.6 Phase 5: Late 15th to early 16th centuries

The tower, phase 5, is considered to have been added or rebuilt c. 1500. This was located outside the area of excavation.

The will of William Norreys dated 1493 stated that he was buried on the north side of the Lady's Chapel (VCH 1923, 124-33). Burials of this date are also recorded on memorials surviving in the north aisle, where some of the floor was removed. These included John Babham, dated 1458, William Andrew dated 1503, Richard Babham dated 1527, and the wife of William Andrew later wife to Richard Babham. Curl (1980, 168-9) indicates that the reintroduction of the vault was closely associated with the Renaissance c.1450-1700, but most of the early examples given in northern Europe are dated to 17th century. It is not possible to identify the location of these burials, and as a table tomb survives of Robert Pecke dated 1517 in the chancel, it is likely that they also had table tombs.

The earliest identifiable layer was 145 a loosely compact black brown silt sand that contained fragments of human bone (Fig. 2). The deposit was evident in a sondage. This has been treated here as a homogenous layer but it is probably a complex burial soil with numerous layers, cuts and fills.

4.7 Phase 6: 18th century

Considerable amounts of the exterior show evidence of brick patching, especially the buttresses and other walls. This has been classed as Phase 6 and associated with the 17th to 18th century.

North Chapel (Figure 2)

Phase 6 must have included most of the identifiable vaults, of which the remains of several could be identified in the north chapel/aisle. The tops of three barrel vaults of brick were identified 106, 125, and 134. These features are all treated as if they were placed into cuts into 145; however, that layer was never investigated as it lay below the impact layer. Structure 106 was a barrel vault 2.20m long and 0.7m wide. Structure 125 was also the remains of a brick vault 2.15m x 0.85m. Vault 134 was a brick vault measuring 2.55m x 0.85m. There were two rows of bricks 107 and 108 that were skimmed by the mortar surface and orientated west to east. The bricks in feature 107 were 0.11m wide as was the structure, with the visible length of the structure being 2m. The bricks in feature 108 were similar with a 1.35m length visible. (These features may mark one of the earlier burial vaults but this cannot be confirmed). In the case of all of these structures 106, 107, 108, 125, and 134, the cuts were not visible.

Features 101, 102, 103, 104, overlie the mortar surface and it is probable that feature 114 does also. Feature 101 was a foundation or support built of chalk rubble and square blocks with fragments of tile and brick of a medieval and post-medieval date bonded by white mortar; it measured 5.75m long by 0.55m wide. Feature 102 was constructed of the same material being 1.5m long by 1m wide. Feature 103 lay at right angles to 102 and was also constructed of a similar material but was 2.25m long and 2m wide. Feature 104 was an extension of 103, running on the same alignment, but there was a gap between them. It was made of the same material and was 2.75m long and 1-1.09m wide. The apparent depth of all of these features was 0.25m deep. It is suspected that these formed the support for a wooden floor possibly on a dais but not necessarily. Feature 114 is a platform or step of stone and tile bonded with white mortar. This latter feature has a similar construction to that of the earlier features and

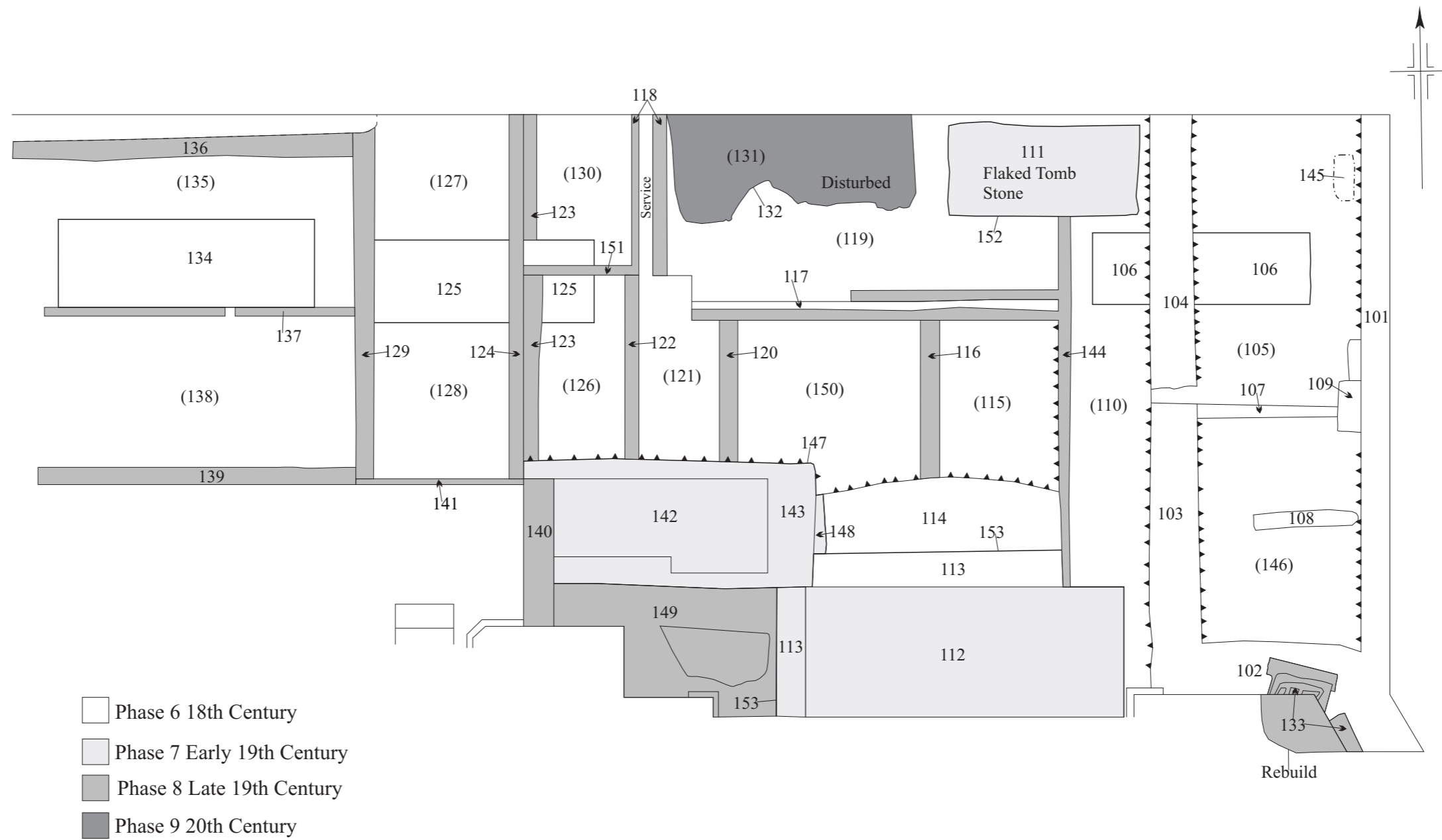


Figure 2. Plan of Our Lady's Chapel

they seem to be part of a post-medieval, probably Georgian, means of dividing space and elevation in the church.

Butting up to features 101, 102, 103, and 104, are deposits (105) and (110). Deposit (105), combined with (146), butted onto all four contexts, 101, 102, 103, and 104, and is a hard yellow white sand lime with brick and stone fragments being 5.2m long x 1.7m wide and 0.11m deep. Structure 109, lies above 105, was a brick feature made of non-complete re-used medieval brick. It was irregular in shape and measured 0.5m x 0.2m x 0.35m deep. The feature is probably a support, possibly for an altar. Deposit (110), butted against contexts 103 and 104, was also a hard white to yellow white sand and lime mortar measuring 5.7m x 0.9m wide. There was a step to the west sealed by a later insertion; however, the level was on par with the top of feature 114.

Deposit (115), here incorporating (119, 121, 126, 127, 128, 130, 135, 138, 146, 150) is an extensive layer across the chapel and the aisle. The deposit is a hard white to yellow white sand and lime mortar. In some places before cleaning as above (119) there were patches of mortar clay mix.

South Chapel (Figure 3)

Phase 6 in the south chapel probably saw the insertion of a number of barrel vaults, 206, 211, 212, 222, and 223. Vault 206 was a barrel vault of brick. Vault 211 measured 1.75m x 0.75m. Vault 212 had the same dimensions as 211. Vault 222 was a barrel vault measuring 1.9m x 0.8m. Vault 223 was a brick vault measuring 2m x 0.75m wide. These were all sealed by later mortar deposits (see below).

Feature 201 was a structure of brick, tile and chalk, much of which was incomplete, of which the overall dimensions were 5.25m x 0.5m. This feature overlay vault 206. Feature 202 and 203 formed part of the same structure. Feature 202 was a brick, tile and chalk structure, measuring 3.4m x 0.5m. Feature 203 was a brick, tile, and chalk structure bonded in mortar and measuring 3m long and 1.75m wide. The medieval tiles measured 0.11m x 0.11m x 0.02m, while the medieval brick measured 0.25m x 0.25m x 0.045m.

Mortar layer (207), including layer (228), was butted up to the features 201, 202 and 203. Layer (207) was a hard white-to-white grey lime and sand mortar measuring some 4.8m wide and over 6m in length.

4.8 Phase 7: Early 19th century (Late Georgian)

North Chapel (Figure 2)

Features 114 and (150) were truncated by cut 147 into which brick vault 143 was built measuring 2.8m x 1.25m. Some of the upper bricks are set on edge. The vault was sealed by slab 142 and backfilled by fill (148). Slab 142 was a white slab measuring 2.1m x 0.9m and is presumably that of Sir Isaac Pocock of 1810. The backfill (148) around the vault was of a loosely compact yellow white sand mortar with brick bat inclusions. A further cut 153 was made into feature 114 in which brick vault 113 was constructed but this was later than vault 143 as it butted up to that feature. Vault 113 was a large brick structure that extended out from under the stone some 0.4-0.5m to the north and west. This vault was capped with a slab 112, which was a large piece of Purbeck marble 3.2m x 1.25m. The tomb was covered at the time but is presumably the tablet of 1840.

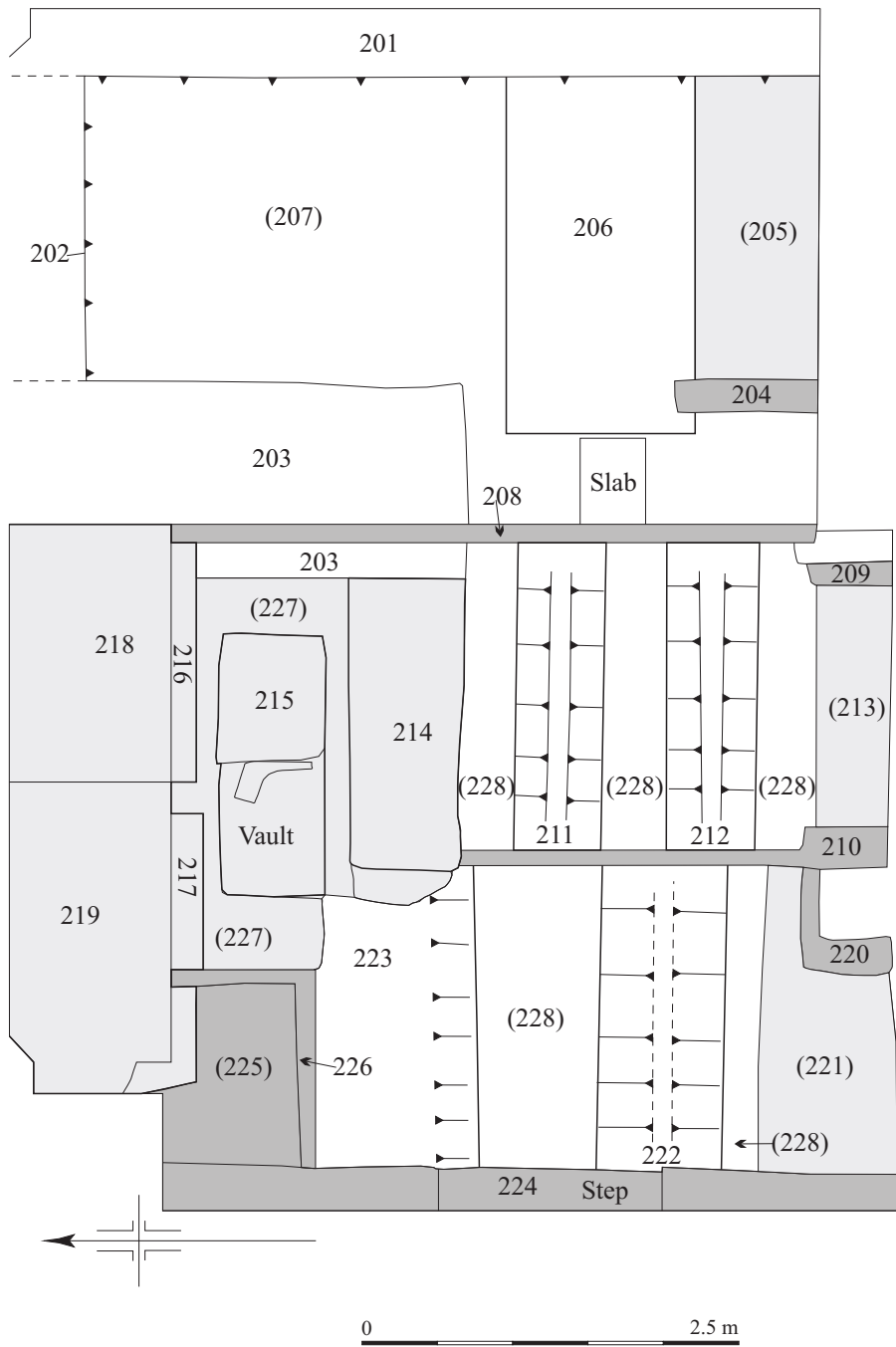


Figure 3. Plan of Saint Clement's Chapel

A grave cut 152 was placed through contexts (110) and (119) and contained the remains of vault 111. A large stone slab covered vault 111, the inscription on which was illegible. The slab measured 1.9m x 0.85m and was black in colour, the brick vault was set back underneath the tablet.

South Chapel (Figure 3)

A number of tombs are constructed so that they respect the mortar foundations and are raised up to a level above the mortar surface. To state their order of construction would be difficult because the features respected rather than cut each other. Vaults 214 and 223 lay in alignment with each other. The brick vault used stretcher construction, with the slab measuring 1.95m x 0.75m. Brick vault 215 lay parallel to barrel vault 214, and contained a partial barrel vault and a slab. The cut was not visible. The slab measured 0.9m x 0.75m. This vault is unusual in that it contains two types of construction. Deposit 227 was a loose white yellow sand and lime mix with brick and stone inclusions measuring 2.6m x 1m. Here it has been interpreted as a backfill between the burial vaults, but it may also be a later deposit into voids. Vaults 216 and 217 respected vault 227. Vault 216 was of brick and capped with a slab 218 that measured 1.75m x 0.9m and was a well-worked stone of Purbeck marble. Vault 217 was a brick vault some 1.8m long capped with a tablet 219 measuring 2.1m x 0.95m.

In two areas there are deposits overlying the hard mortar surface, which include deposits (205), (213), and (221). The deposits were a loose white brown lime sand. In the case of (205) measuring 2.1m long x 0.75m wide, (213) measuring 1.55m long x 0.5m wide, and (221) measuring 2.05m long x 0.85m wide. These deposits are probably the remains of the final earth floor of the Georgian period, which was subsequently removed in the Victorian period.

4.9 Phase 8: Late 19th century (Victorian Renovation, 1860-1)

North Chapel (Figure 2)

The remains of a limestone step (140) survived to mark the different levels between the chapel and the nave and aisle floors. Butting onto the back of the step the upraised vaults and overlying the mortar surface was a series of brick supports 116, 117, 118, 120, 122, 123, 124, 129, 136, 137, 139, 141, 144, and 151. Support 116 was 0.22m high running east to west and was a single brick width with a two brick width at base. Support 117 was around an air duct with a two parallel supports to a width of 0.5m. Support 118 was also located around an air duct covering an area 1.6m x 0.7m. Support 120 was also of brick and a linear 1.35m x 0.11m. Support 122 was also of brick a linear 1.85m x 0.11m. Support 123/124 were two supports 3.6m x 0.25m that ran parallel to each other. Support 129 was a linear support 3.6m long and 0.25m wide and approximately 0.22m deep. Support 136 a brick structure using stretcher settings along an air duct or cable run measuring 3.25m long x 0.25m wide. The whole is 0.5m wide with the duct or cable run located between it and the north chapel wall. Support 137 was of brick with stretcher pattern measuring 3.2m long and 0.11m wide. Support 139 is of similar construction to the previous measuring 3.2m by 0.25m wide. This backs onto the back of the step where the level was raised into the chapel. Support 144 was constructed of brick and stretcher design that measured 3.7m x 0.11m. This ran alongside and over contexts 110, 114, and 115. Support 151 was also of brick and stretcher design measuring 3.65m by 0.45m wide.

Backing onto brick support 139 are the remains of two limestone blocks 140/141 that measure 2m x 0.55m and 1.7m x 0.1m.

Overlying feature 102 is masonry structure 133. This represents an area of underpinning of the flint chancel wall interpreted as part of the Early English phase of the building. The brick area covers 0.6m x 0.75m and the bricks are 0.22m x 0.07m x (?). The extent of the underpinning here is suggestive that the sight passage and arch between the high altar and Lady's Chapel have been either rebuilt or perhaps even newly inserted. Such a feature would fit into the reorientation of churches back to the high altar during the Oxford movement.

Deposit (149) was a loosely compact yellow white sand and lime mortar with a large limestone block. It measured 2.25m x 1.25m and was deposited as infill between vaults 143 and 113, and the Norman and chancel wall.

South Chapel (Figure 3)

Similar walling is found laid in this chapel 204 (used overall on plan), 208, 209, 210, 220, and 226. Support 204 was of brick with a stretcher pattern measuring 0.95m x 0.25m x 0.22m deep bonded by white mortar. Support 208 was of brick with stretcher courses measuring 0.11m wide and 0.23m high. Support 209 was of bricks laid in a stretcher design measuring 0.5m long x 0.4m wide and 0.23m deep. Support 210 was of a similar construction but measured 2.75m x 0.25m wide in places x 0.22m deep. Support 220 was built of flint nodules of irregular size measuring 0.6m x 0.7m. This has been interpreted as a Victorian floor support although it is off flint and not brick, yet it seems to be providing the same purpose. Support 226 was of a brick stretcher construction with two stretches measuring 1.25m x 0.11m and the other 1m x 0.11m wide.

Three limestone blocks 224 formed a step between the chapel and south aisle measuring 4.9m x 0.3m. These blocks generally measured 1.5m to 1.8m x 0.3m in length. Deposit (225) was a hard white to grey white lime and sand mix is the remains of the make-up layer was set as infill between contexts 226, 224, tomb 217, and the Norman wall.

4.10 Phase 9: 20th century

North Chapel (Figure 2)

Cut into layer (119), part of the mortar floor, but respecting the line of brick structure 118, was cut 132 measuring 2.4m x 1m. This cut was filled by deposit (131) a loosely compact red brown sand with stone chippings. This disturbance has occurred in the area because it was located in the area of the boiler. It should be noted that the shape may conceal the location of an earlier grave cut or burial vault that has been removed.

5 FINDS

No artefacts were removed from the church.

6 DISCUSSION

The replacement of the Victorian floor enabled an investigation to be made of the underlying archaeology. The early sequence of the church remains unaltered as no earlier walls were encountered. The majority of the features identified could be placed into Phase 6: 18th century, Phase 7: early 19th century (Georgian), and Phase 8: later 19th century (Victorian). This predominantly consisted of the insertion of burial vaults and the re-levelling of the floors. Part of the chancel wall on the south side of Our Lady's Chapel showed signs of brick underpinning and it is likely that the area around the passage between the high altar and altar in that chapel was rebuilt or inserted in the Victorian Oxford movement.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the relevant museum in due course.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gelling, M 1979 *The Early Charters of the Thames Valley*, Leicester: Leicester University Press

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Marsh, B 2010 *Geophysical Survey Report. Holy Trinity Church, Cookham.* Stratascan Report J2717

Morgan, P 1979 *The Domesday Book: Berkshire*, Chichester: Phillimore

Morris, J 1978 *The Domesday Book: Buckinghamshire*, Chichester: Phillimore

Rahtz, P A, Watts, L, McCarter Taylor, H and Butler, L A S 1997 *Saint Mary's Church, Deerhurst, Gloucestershire: Fieldwork, Excavations and Structural Analysis 1971-1984*, Woodbridge: Boydell Press

Stevens Curl, J 1980 *A Celebration of Death: An Introduction to some of the Buildings, monuments, and Settings of Funerary Architecture in Western European Tradition*, London: Batsford

Tyack, G, Bradley, S, and Pevsner, N 2010 *The Buildings of England: Berkshire*, Yale: Yale University Press

VCH 1923 *A History of the County of Berkshire: volume 3*, London: Saint Catherine's Press

Wilkinson, D J and McWhirr, A 1998 *Cirencester Anglo-Saxon Church and Medieval Abbey*, Cirencester: Cotswold Archaeology