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INTERIM REPORT ON WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1985 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST.

1985 has once again been a very busy year for the Trust, though the majority of the work has been in the office completing reports for final publication. Of particular importance has been the work of our pottery researchers on the many tons of ceramics excavated in and around the City in the last decade, and it is a pleasure to record that the work on the Anglo-Saxon pottery in particular has now produced one of the most complete sequences of material, if not the most complex sequence, in Britain.

New excavation work has not ceased, however, and several very important sites have been (and are still being) examined. The St. Martin's Hill site, close to the famous church, produced some very important negative evidence (i.e. no Roman cemetery on the site) as well as tantalizing new Middle Anglo-Saxon material. A very small excavation just to the north of the Cemetery Gate of St. Augustine's Abbey gave for the first time some important new evidence for the alignment of the Roman road eastwards from Canterbury to Richborough, while emergency recording work on a site at no. 76 Stour Street revealed yet another monumental Roman portico foundation. Outside the City at Stourmouth Church, the foundation of the original south wall of the late Anglo-Saxon church was recorded during restoration work to this now redundant building.

In the last few months, two important excavations have also been undertaken. At no. 41 St. George's Street a site in the back garden area of properties fronting onto Canterbury's main late Anglo-Saxon High Street has found much important late Anglo-Saxon and early Norman material (including a very fine 'mace-head'), as well as the usual sequence of earlier material (including another sunken-hut). At the time of writing (October 1985) yet another important site has just been started. This is an excavation on part of the south range of the medieval Archbishop's Palace, and should produce evidence for the first Archbishop's Palace of all which was built by Lanfranc in the 1070s and was famous for the events which took place in it just prior to the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket on 29th December, 1170.

Finally, we have once again included a summary report on the 'above ground' (i.e. building recording) work carried out by the Trust.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

1. *St. Martin's Hill*

Between October 1984 and February 1985 an excavation funded entirely by the H.B.M.C. took place in advance of development, in an area of open ground known as the 'Conduit Meadow' or mistakenly as 'The Glebe'.

'The Glebe', which has remained undeveloped for nearly two hundred years,¹ lies about 17 m. south of St. Martin's Church, and is enclosed to the south by St. Martin's Hill and properties and back gardens along its frontage, and by North Holmes Road to the west. The proposed development determined to some extent the areas within the 'Glebe' that were investigated. Two large trenches (A and B in Fig. 1) were excavated on the road frontage between nos. 7 and 9 St. Martin's Hill (the area to be most disturbed during the building work). Three long trenches were dug in a line north from Trenches A and B to analyse the deposits and levels across the northern part of the area, and a final trench (E) was excavated adjacent to North Holmes Road.

Although the site is well outside the Roman city, it lies close to the Canterbury to Richborough Roman road, and was thought to be within a major Roman cemetery. To the north is the famous St. Martin's Church, which is almost certainly of early-Saxon and possibly late-Roman origin.²

The possibility that early-Saxon churches developed from late-Roman chapels or funerary buildings within Roman cemeteries is still a vexed question, and it was hoped that the excavation might provide information relevant to the origins of St. Martin's.

Although terracing of the hillside in the medieval and post-medieval periods extensively disturbed the earlier levels, the singular lack of Roman features and particularly of Roman artifactual evi-

¹ Apart from Glebe House which was built in the north-east corner in the 1970s.

² For a discussion of the architectural evidence relating to the date of the building, see 'St. Martin's Church in the Sixth and Seventh Centuries', by Tim Tatton-Brown in (Ed.) Margaret Sparks, *The Parish of St. Martin and St. Paul, Historical Essays in Memory of James Hobbs*, (1980), 12-18.

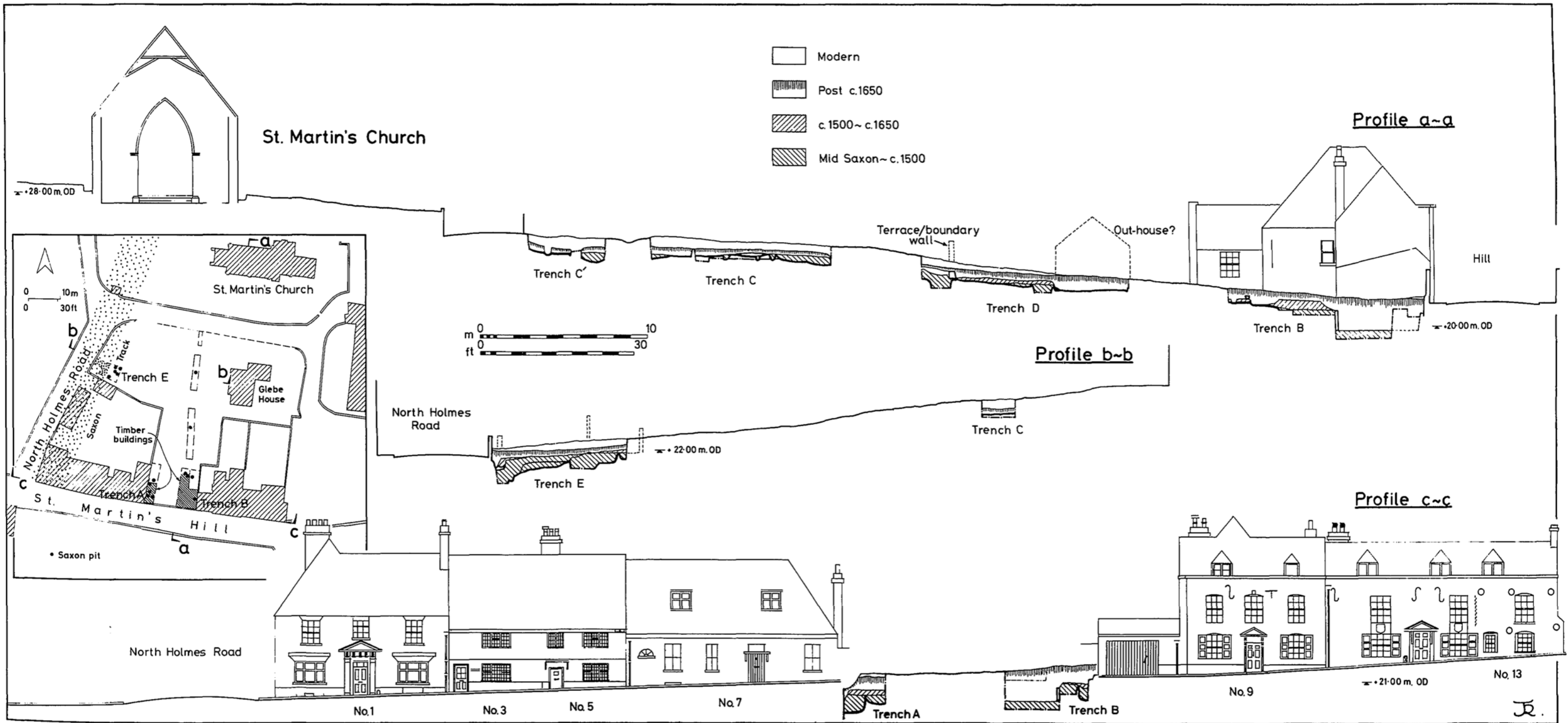


Fig. 1. Profiles across the St. Martin's Hill Site with inset Location Plan showing Anglo-Saxon and medieval Features.

dence, strongly suggests that no Roman occupation of any kind took place in the immediate area.

This negative evidence does not provide any solution to the problems associated with the origins of St. Martin's Church, but may mean that if any continuous evolution from an earlier structure did occur, it was not from a *cella memoria* in a cemetery, but from a late-Roman domestic building, maybe even a villa.

The first extensive occupation of the site began in the mid- to late-Saxon period (c. A.D. 750–c. A.D. 900). This occupation is almost exclusively represented by rubbish or cess-pits, all truncated by the later terracing. These may be associated with the settlement called 'Wic', first mentioned in the *Domesday Monachorum*.³ The pits produced some of the more interesting artefacts recovered, including important groups of imported Saxon pottery (Ipswich ware) as well as a fine decorated strap-end which probably dates to the ninth century.

A sunken trackway, found in Trench E which ran approximately north from St. Martin's Hill towards the present day lychgate of the churchyard, almost certainly originated in this period. This 'sunken way' was later metalled with gravel and cobbles and provided with a flanking drainage ditch on the east, which suggests the route was of some importance. The road, which was in use up until the middle of the fourteenth century, provided access to St. Martin's Church from the Roman road, and may have continued on to the village of Fordwich (a small town during the late-Saxon period).

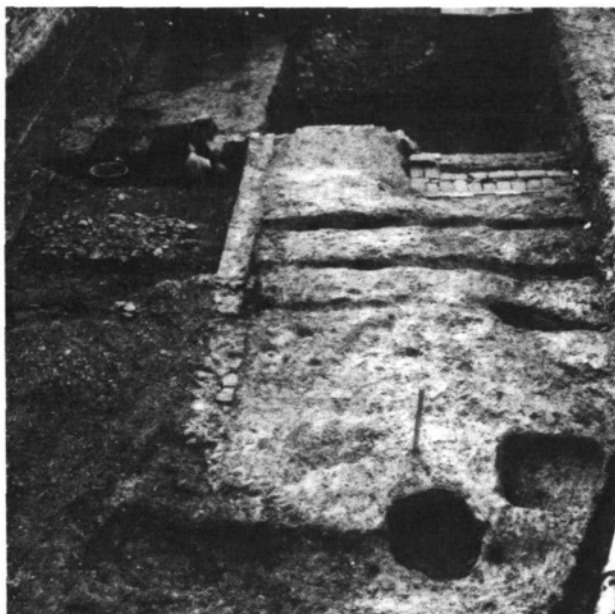
The site appears to have been sparsely occupied from the late eleventh century to about the middle of the fifteenth century. It is probable that during this period most of the 'Glebe' area was open sward or meadow with possibly a few buildings along the St. Martin's Hill frontage (no. 1 St. Martin's Hill, for example, may possess a medieval cellar). A great increase in activity occurred from the mid-fifteenth century culminating in the erection of buildings along this stretch of St. Martin's Hill in the early years of the sixteenth century. This phase almost certainly included a major terracing of the hillside.

Little evidence for fifteenth-century structures was found on site, and the presence of a large, deep clay quarry in Trench B (an earlier fourteenth-century clay quarry was excavated in Trench E), virtually rules out any development along this immediate stretch of the road.

³ For a more detailed discussion of the general Anglo-Saxon topography of the area see 'Anglo-Saxon Canterbury – Topography and Pottery', by Tim Tatton-Brown and Nigel Macpherson-Grant in *Current Archaeology*, no. 98 (October 1985).

⁴ Map 123, C.A.L.C.

PLATE IA



St. Martin's Hill, Canterbury: Work in Progress on medieval and post-medieval Buildings from the North.

PLATE IB



Crundale Limeworks: possible Iron Age Exposure Burial.

However, the sudden appearance of numerous mid-to late-fifteenth century rubbish and cess-pits (over twenty of these features were excavated) does indicate an increase of peripheral activity.

The early sixteenth-century dwellings, which are probably those shown on the c. 1640 coloured map of Canterbury,⁴ were timber-framed, supported on low masonry dwarf walls. These structures extended east and west of the excavated area and may be the forerunners of the present buildings, nos. 1-13 St. Martin's Hill, although these have since undergone substantial rebuilding and alteration (Plate IA).

Complex sequences of clay floors and hearths within the structures, as well as gardens, yards and contemporary rubbish pits to the rear, were excavated. The building, exposed in Trench B, had been erected over a recently backfilled clay quarry as well as other deep features. This resulted in severe structural problems due to subsidence and restoration took place some time in the sixteenth century.

By about the middle of the seventeenth century, the structural problems and consequent dilapidation of the buildings may have instigated the demolition and complete rebuilding of the range. The new houses were entirely of brick, but seem to respect the property boundaries, and to some extent the arrangement of the earlier structure. A cellar, fireplaces, a sequence of brick floors, back courtyards, gardens and garden walls relating to these properties were examined, as well as rubbish pits contemporary with the occupation.

During this redevelopment, it is likely that more alteration and terracing of the hillside took place. Covering the entire northern area of the 'Glebe' was a 15-25 cm. thick deposit of brown loam which directly overlaid the natural subsoil. This mixed deposit, which contained some residual pottery as well as a range of artefacts dating from the seventeenth to the late-eighteenth century, suggests that the area was used as cultivated gardens or allotments; an arrangement shown on Doige's map of 1752.

In the early years of the seventeenth century the city's water supply, originating at a spring at Babbs Hill, proved inadequate and in 1649 the City Council decided to utilize the natural spring water that emerged at the north-east corner of the meadow, now known as the 'Glebe'.⁵ Due to certain disputes with the owners of the 'Conduit meadow' and the increasing importance of this particular supply of

⁵ For a history of the waterworks see 'Troubled Waters', by F. Jenkins in (Ed.) Margaret Sparks, *The Parish of St. Martin and St. Paul, Historical Essays in Memory of James Hobbs*, (1980), 71-5

water, the Council decided in 1673 to buy the entire estate, which included the now vacant plot between nos. 7 and 9 St. Martin's Hill. Unfortunately, due to the paucity of datable material from the excavation, the exact chronology of the structural evidence is difficult to establish, and so at present it is impossible to say whether the reconstruction of the St. Martin's Hill range of buildings occurred before 1673, when the properties were still in private ownership, or at a later date at the instigation of the new owners, the City Council.

By the late 1790s the buildings between nos. 7 and 9 St. Martin's Hill had been demolished and the area assumed the form that it has retained until the present day.

JONATHAN RADY

2. Cemetery Gate, St. Augustine's Abbey (Figs. 2A and B)

During April 1985, a small excavation was carried out immediately north of the Cemetery Gate, St. Augustine's Abbey, by the Trust's Manpower Services Community Programme team, supervised by the author, in advance of reinforcing the foundation of the flint archway next to the Gatehouse. Much of the area excavated had been disturbed by modern service trenches and a sewer pipe inspection hatch; consequently, little of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval layers were intact, although the Roman levels were almost untouched.

The most interesting find was the Roman road leading from Canterbury through Burgate and on to the Saxon Shore fort at Richborough. It had previously been believed that it had passed directly under the Gatehouse, but the excavation, which located its south edge, showed it to have been situated on the north side of the Gatehouse.

The road consisted of at least seven major metallings (layers 70, 71 and 79-83 in Fig. 2), and was c. 80 cm. thick. The south verge of the street was flanked by a clay and timber drain (75). This had been cut into the metallings, probably from the top of layer 80, to take rain water from the road. The flow of the drain would probably have been in a westerly direction towards the City ditch. The presence of a major wall foundation aligned parallel to the street and drain indicated that a large Roman building existed here; any associated floors which may have been present had been cut away by a later wall (78).

Sealing the final road metalling was an interesting sequence of late-Roman or early-Saxon layers and features (61-64, 68, 69 and 72). These included the remains of a clay oven (62 and 63).

Another notable feature was the Abbey boundary wall foundation,

constructed of flints and chalk blocks in the late-fourteenth century, and surviving to 20 cm. below the present ground surface. The wall's construction levels (60), lay directly over the final late-Roman or early-Anglo-Saxon deposits (61).

Our thanks are especially due to Hugh Perks, the Surveyor to St. Augustine's Foundation, for allowing us to excavate the site and for his help during the excavation.

IAN ANDERSON

3. *The Almonry Gate, St. Augustine's Abbey* (see Fig. 2A)

During the resurfacing of a section of Monastery Street, north of Lady Wootton's Green, in May 1985, a watching brief maintained by the Trust enabled the recording of a section of the south precinct boundary wall of the Almonry of St. Augustine's Abbey. This substantial foundation of solid mortared flints set on a deep-rammed chalk sub-foundation, may conceivably have been the footings for a gate. A recently rediscovered pre-war photograph of the neighbouring Fyndon Gate clearly shows the remains of a door jamb incorporated in the façade of a later medieval dwelling (destroyed during the war) west of and adjoining the Fyndon Gate. If the wall foundation uncovered during the resurfacing was for a gate, then it presumably gave access to the Almonry.

During this work a single early twelfth-century *voussoir* from a small twelve-inch wide window or blind arcade was recovered from a machine-disturbed portion of the wall foundation. This Caen-stone block with roll-moulding and simple billet decoration on the hood mould element, may have derived from a building in the Almonry.

PAUL BENNETT

4. *19 Stour Street*

During the spring of 1985 an opportunity was seized to excavate beneath the floor of 19 Stour Street prior to renovation/reflooring of the property by Canterbury Museums. The excavation continued for a couple of weeks and was carried out by the Community Programme team supervised by Steve Stubbs. Only post-medieval levels were fully excavated. These consisted of a series of sprung-timber, clay, trampled earth and rubble floors with internal dwarf walls of flint and mortar.

Earlier stratigraphy was observed in the sides of a nineteenth-century sewer trench, which was cut through the structure from Stour Street to the rear of the building. Clay floors and the foundations of

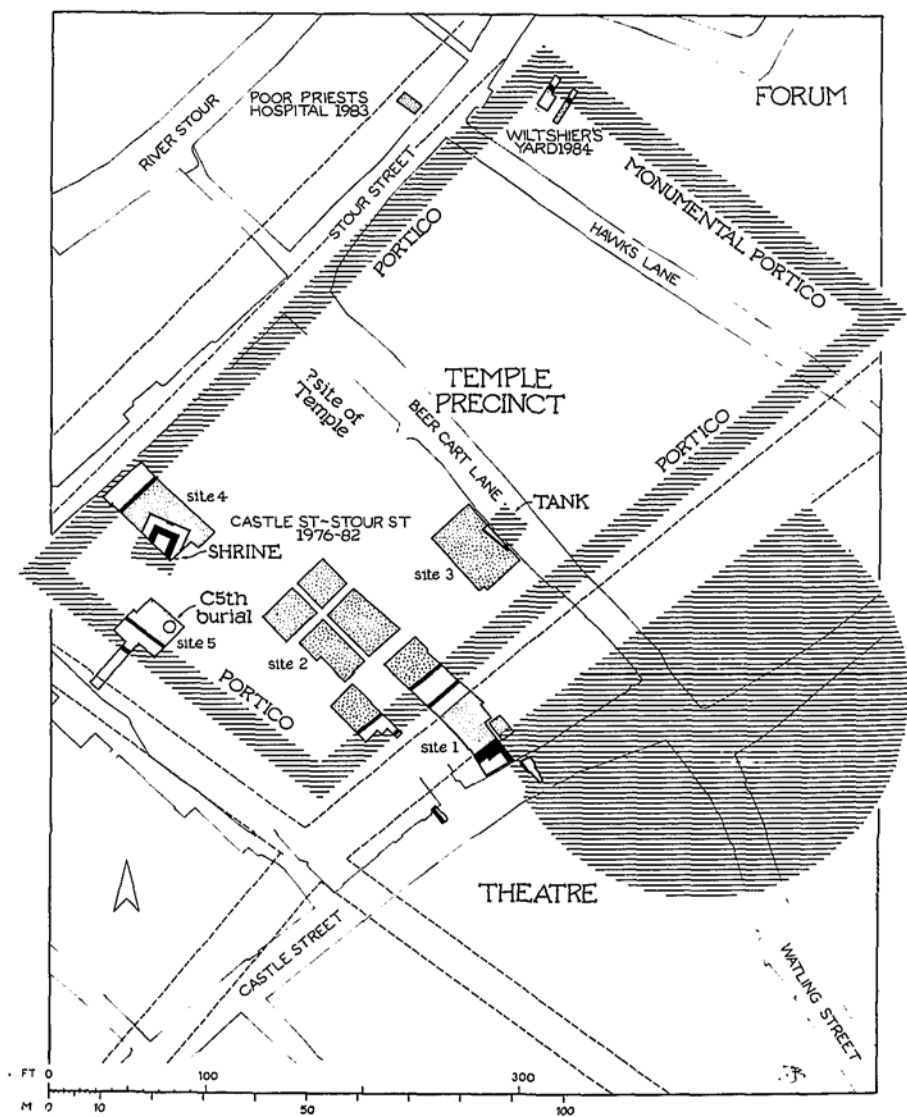


Fig. 3. The Roman Temple Precinct, Canterbury.

dwarf flint-and-mortar walls were located at a depth of 60 cm. below the present internal floor level, and may represent the remains of medieval timber buildings.

These floors were sitting on a dump of dark grey silty loam, possibly deposited from the flooding of the River Stour which lay only a few metres to the west. Beneath this thick deposit lay the surface of the Roman street, running along the west side of the Temple precinct.⁶

PAUL BLOCKLEY

5. *Wiltshiers' Yard, 76 Stour Street*

During building work at the rear of these premises in January 1985, a number of machine-cut foundations revealed the remains of the northern portico of the Roman Temple enclosure.

Although the Roman levels were extensively disturbed by medieval and post-medieval pit digging, the foundations of a large stylobate wall, originally supporting a monumental colonnade, survived. This stylobate foundation was flanked to the south by a drain designed to take rain-water from the portico roof and to the north by a sequence of bedding deposits for the portico floor. Layers of rammed gravel for the courtyard extended south of the stylobate drain.

This exciting discovery has enabled a complete plan of the Temple enclosure to be made (Fig. 3). The size of the stylobate foundation (1.70 m. wide), implies that the north side of the enclosure was defined by a monumental colonnade consisting of large columns fronting a wide paved ambulatory, which separated the Temple precinct from the *insulae* containing the Forum-Basilica, two of the principal public buildings in the Roman town. Information previously obtained by excavation indicated that these public buildings were separated by a major Roman street which extended on a north-east to south-west line across the Roman town. Since metallings for a street on this line have been found east and west of the Temple enclosure, the location of a monumental portico interrupting the street at the north end of the precinct implies that the portico may have been a principle point of access for both building complexes. If this was the case, then back-to-back porticos may have existed in this position opening onto the Forum-Basilica to the north and the Temple precinct to the south.

Masonry walls located parallel to and slightly north of the

⁶ See plan in *Arch. Cant.*, c (1984), Fig. 1, opposite p. 50 .

All Saints' Church, West Stourmouth

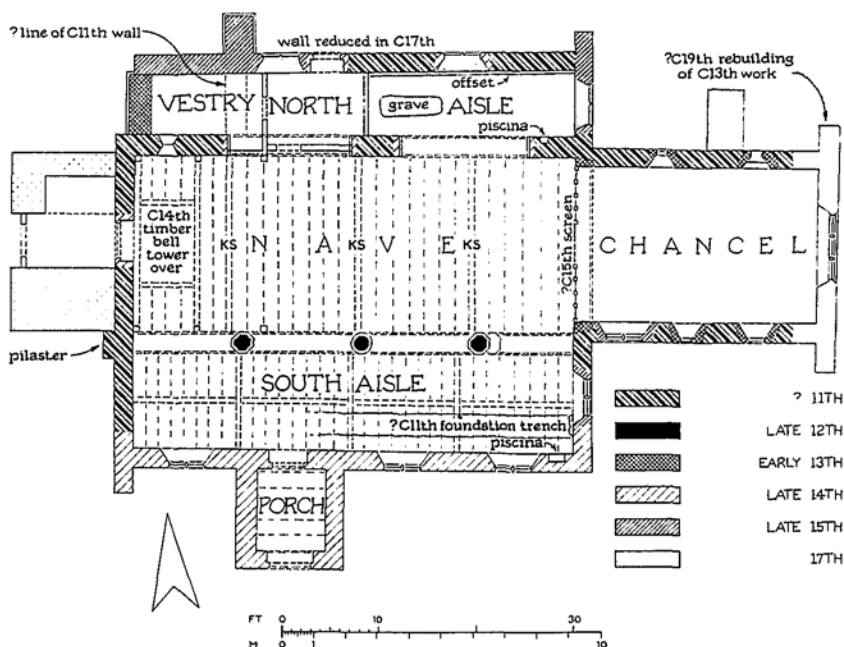


Fig. 4. Phased Plan of West Stourmouth Church.

monumental portico (found by Professor Frere in 1955) may have been for the adjoining portico opening onto the Forum-Basilica precinct.⁷

PAUL BENNETT

6. Crundale Limeworks

The work at Crundale Limeworks reported in last year's interim report⁸ was completed this year by a small Manpower Services Commission team supervised by the author.

A small number of late Iron Age and Roman features were excavated by the team while the author and Mr Damian Hone finished recording features excavated last year.

⁷ For a discussion of the topography of the area see my 'The topography of Roman Canterbury: a brief reassessment', *Arch. Cant.*, c (1984), 47-56.

⁸ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 285-9.

A number of new trenches were opened on the brow of the hill north of last year's site in the area threatened by future quarrying. A late Iron Age ditch, a number of post-holes and a large late Iron Age rubbish pit containing the disarticulated remains of an inhumation burial (Plate IB) were uncovered in these new trenches.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the owner of the quarry, Mr W. Moon, and to all those who took part in the excavation.

IAN ANDERSON

7. *All Saints' Church, West Stourmouth*

In February and March 1982, during resoration work on this now redundant parish church, the Trust made records of the whole of the fabric of the church, and in particular made measured drawings of the south aisle roof.⁹ In February of this year the final stages of the restoration work were carried out, and this involved, amongst other things, the removal of the plaster from the south aisle walls and the taking up of the floors of the north and south aisles (in their eastern halves) before repairing. Several visits to the church were made by members of the Trust and a photographic survey was carried out by Paul Blockley. This work was rewarded by the discovery below the south aisle floor of the foundation trench (and perhaps part robber trench) of the original south wall of the church (Fig. 4). The earliest phase of the church is perhaps late Anglo-Saxon (or just possibly late eleventh-century, when the church was given by Hamo, son of Vitalis, to Gundulf, the Bishop, and the monks of Rochester Priory), and this earlier south wall of the church was almost certainly of this phase. In the north aisle area the foundations of the north and east walls were exposed (with a slight offset) and these appeared to be original walls as well, though curiously the west wall of the north aisle (not excavated) appears originally to have been south of the large north-facing buttress, allowing the double-splayed window in the present nave north wall to have been originally an external window. This all makes the original church very wide (c. 35 ft. internally) and it is probable that the late-Saxon/early-Norman church had timber arcades in the nave. The line of the original pitch of the roof is still visible in Roman bricks at the west end (externally) of the south aisle. The nearby church of St. Mildred at Preston has a west wall (and contemporary west tower), which is perhaps of similar date. It, too, was originally a very wide church with a roof that came down to a low level on the north and south walls.

⁹ See *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1982), 228-9 and Fig. 4.

PLATE IIA



41 St. George's Street: Part of an Anglo-Saxon sunken featured Building c. fifth-sixth Century

PLATE IIB



(Photo: County Museums Service).

41 St. George's Street: early Norman Mace Head

The removal of the floor in the middle of the north aisle exposed a partial void of oblong east-west form in the centre of which must be a collapsed grave (see plan). This was recorded but not excavated. Notes and sketches were also made of most other parts of the church (as well as the photographic survey noted above), and it is hoped that a grant can be made available at a future date to allow all of this to be written up. We are extremely grateful to Mr Vickerman, who was carrying out the restoration work on behalf of the Redundant Churches Fund, for all the help and co-operation he gave us during our visits.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

8. 41 St. George's Street

The earliest levels consisted of shallow early-Roman clay extraction pits, the backfill of which contained occupation debris including two small pottery *ungentaria*. A Roman street located to the north-west by Professor Frere in the 1950s,¹⁰ was expected to run across this site. Excavation has shown this not to be the case. It now appears that this street stops short of the city wall, in an area which may have been open ground of an agricultural nature throughout much of the Roman period. The Roman stratigraphy on the site was very shallow (c. 20 cm.) and although this may be partially explained by the truncation of earlier levels during the late Anglo-Saxon occupation of the area, it must also reflect the peripheral nature of the location within the Roman town.

The earliest structural evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation on the site consists of part of a sunken-featured building (the first structure of this type to have been located in this part of Canterbury) which contained pottery of fifth- or sixth-century date in its backfill (Plate IIA). Elsewhere on the site were levels containing eighth-century pottery similar to that excavated recently at St. Augustine's¹¹ and St. Martin's Hill.¹² These levels were overlaid by the remains of a late Anglo-Saxon industrial structure, which may have been connected with iron smelting, associated with rubbish pits containing pottery dating to c. 950–975 and a few residual earlier sherds together with a fine seventh-century double-sided bone comb. This industrial structure would, therefore, have been built soon after the new High Street was created across the city from the Westgate to the Newingate in the early tenth century.¹³ The evidence from both this excavation and

¹⁰ *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, VII (1983), 71, Fig. 27.

¹¹ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 295.

¹² *Supra.* p. 00

¹³ Nicholas Brooks, *The Early History of the Church of Canterbury* (1984), 25.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL 1985

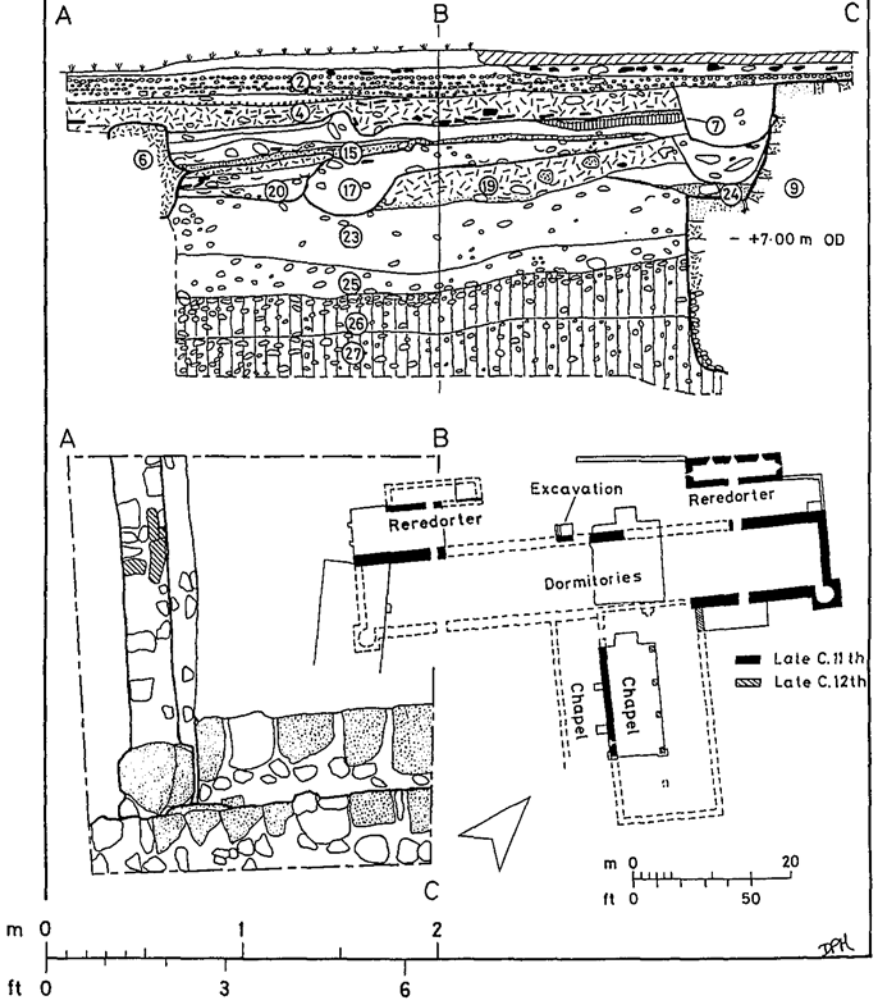


Fig. 5. St. John's Hospital, Northgate: Plan and Section of Trench. Location Plan based on 1st Edition Ordnance survey (1874).

those conducted by Professor Frere along the nearby Canterbury Lane¹⁴ suggests that the area was intensively occupied from this date.

The tenth-century structure was cut by many rubbish pits and a large clay-extraction pit dating from c. 1050/75 to c. 1250 and containing important pottery assemblages. These pits had been backfilled and levelled by c. 1250/75. Within the upper backfill of one of these pits was a long-cross penny of William I minted in Canterbury by the moneyer *Winedi*, and a fine (and very rare) early Norman mace head in cast bronze with a silver wash (Plate IIB). The pits were cut by a large bronze casting furnace containing many fragments of bronze slag (with a high tin content) and straw-tempered burnt clay mould fragments indicative of bell casting.¹⁵

Post-medieval remains on the site correspond to the activities in the back yards/open area behind structures situated on St. George's Street, and consisted of rubbish pits and a bakehouse. The latter structure was almost certainly a detached building with mortared chalk dwarf walls and timber-frame above, enclosing a fine sequence of clay floors and ovens from fifteenth- to seventeenth-century date.

Environmental 'column' samples were taken through Anglo-Saxon and earlier horizons and through two pits (one medieval, the other of tenth-century date). These together with technological samples from the bronze casting furnace and tenth-century industrial structure should add an extra dimension to the final report of the excavation which is scheduled for publication in the Trust's monograph series in 1987.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

9. 5 New Street, St. Dunstan's

At least seven vessels were recovered from pits dug for a light well and soakaway. Three Roman cremation burials of a second- to third-century date at a depth of 1.7 m. were destroyed. The pots and a delicate glass phial had been smashed by workmen with no idea of their historical value. Two glass gaming counters were complete.

These items were recovered entirely due to the interest of the general public and the hard work, out of hours, of Trust staff, who completely emptied a skip (by permission of the owner) to recover cremated bones and four of the vessels.

It is a sad reminder to those of us who are concerned in the recording of archaeological evidence of the necessity to forge strong

¹⁴ *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, VII (1983), 81-108.

¹⁵ The pieces must be studied in detail before any firm conclusion can be drawn about the casting process being carried out.

links and encourage co-operation with local building firms from the largest to the smallest.

Thanks are due to the owner of the site for his co-operation.

MAGGY TAYLOR

10. *Hospital of St. John-the-Baptist, Northgate* (Fig. 5)

Prior to the underpinning work on one of the houses at St. John's Hospital, a small trench was dug at the request of the Engineer to determine the depth of the wall foundation of the Lanfranc dormitory block, over which the house was 'breaking its back'.¹⁶

The main feature of the excavation was the dormitory block's north wall (9), which was probably built soon after 1085.¹⁷ This cut through the earlier soil horizons (23, 25) and post Roman river flood-plain deposits (26, 27). The wall had a trench-built offset foundation cut to +6.30 O.D., consisting of 40 cm. of rammed gravel under 50 cm. of mortar with flints and large sandstone blocks. The wall itself was built of close-packed flint and sandstone blocks set in a dull yellow mortar. On top of the offset and extending over the earlier deposits was a thin layer of mortar tread and rubble (24). This marked the construction horizon for the wall.

A thick layer of coarse mortar rubble (19) capping the construction horizon may have been deposited later in the construction process or during an episode of alteration or repair. This secondary mortar horizon was cut by a slot or gully filled with dark loamy soil (17). The slot, set at right angles to the dormitory wall, was possibly a sleeper-beam for a timber-framed structure abutting the dormitory. Associated floor levels within the timber-framed structure were not found. These may have been cut away by a shallow feature (20).

The early sequence of deposits was in turn cut by a trench-built wall (6) perpendicular to the dormitory. A construction horizon (15) for this wall extended over most of the excavated area and was in turn overlain by the remains of two clay floors (7 and 13). The destruction and levelling of the dormitory in c. 1684 was marked by 15–20 cm. of rubble (4). This was sealed by a 10–20 cm. thick layer of gravel (2), which is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map for 1874 as a path.

DAMIAN HONE

¹⁶ More of the north wall of the dormitory block was visible under the floor joists of this property (block 6)

¹⁷ For a summary of the history of the Hospital and for details of earlier work by the Trust, see *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 301–3.

11. *The Archbishop's Palace, Canterbury*

An excavation in advance of the construction of a sunken garden on the south side of the Archbishop's Palace commenced on 14th October, 1985. The excavation should expose part of a range of rooms which once connected Lanfranc's hall (built in c. 1080) with the thirteenth-century Great Hall. The northern part of the range, including the roof, survives and is now part of the present palace. The remaining elements of the range were partly demolished in the mid-seventeenth century with further demolition occurring when the north-west tower of the cathedral (Lanfranc's tower) was pulled down in 1832.

Our intention is to expose the walls of the demolished range and hopefully incorporate surviving fabric in the garden scheme.

PAUL BENNETT

12. *Building Recording*

During the year fewer buildings have been recorded than in 1983–84. This is due particularly to the lack of financial support for this work, and partly because 1983–84 was an exceptional year. John Bowen is now the only full-time draughtsman the Trust can afford and much of his time this year has been spent doing publication drawings as part of the post-excavation programme. Despite this, he has been able to visit briefly quite a few buildings that have been undergoing restoration during the year, and once again he and the Director have advised the Conservation Section of Canterbury City Council on many schemes. As well as this, we have provided some special drawings for restoration work (notably at 'The Bull Inn' for Liberty's) to allow the architects to reconstruct and put back missing medieval timber-framed features of the building. This has been particularly successful at Liberty's where the results are very striking. Very recently (August 1985) work has started on restoring Beverley Farm at the University of Kent and extra drawings for this work have been provided.

Once again we are very grateful to the City Council's Assistant Conservation Officer, Clive Bowley, for all his help with this work.

(a) *17 Palace Street (Conquest House) (24)*¹⁸

One of the most photographed buildings on the tourist route, this is one of several which were restored by Mr Powell in the earlier part of

¹⁸ Numbers in brackets are the Canterbury Archaeological Trust file reference number.

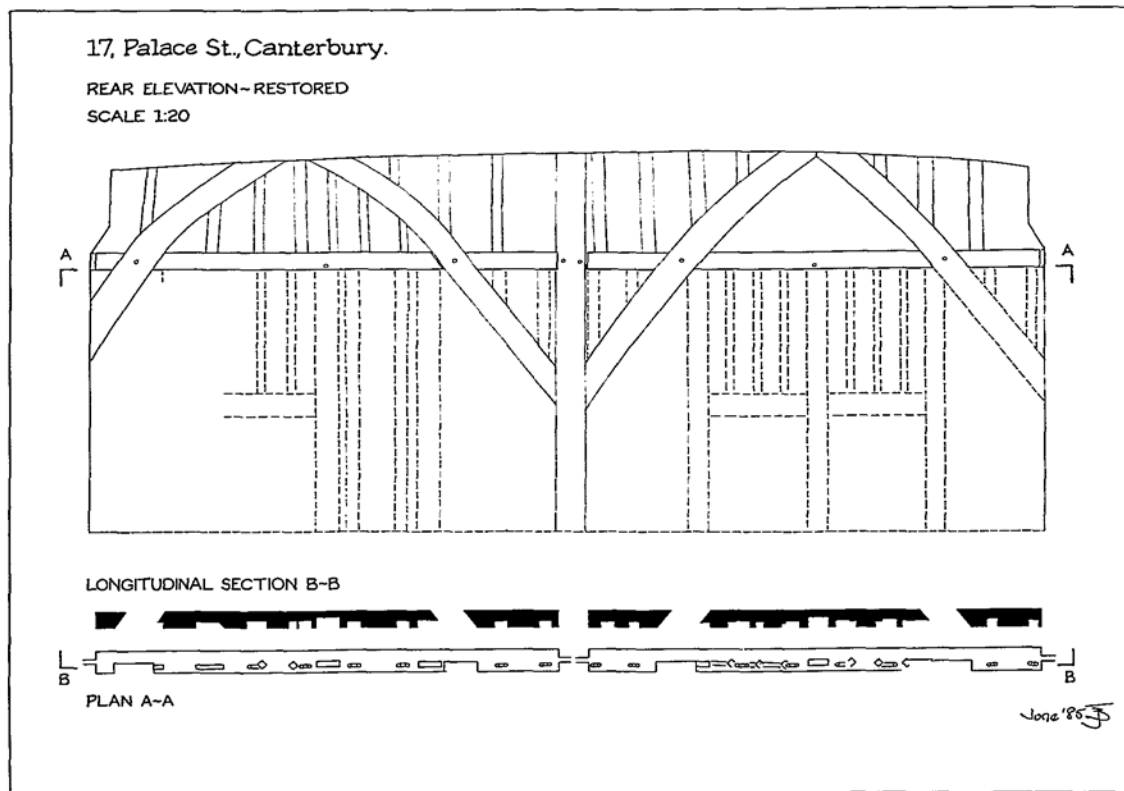


Fig. 6. 17 Palace Street, Canterbury: Elevation of rear Wall.

this century. This restoration has resulted in the necessity for structural repairs in several parts of the building, especially the rear frame wall. After a reassessment of the stripped-out frame it was decided an historical approach to the work was most suitable, both structurally and aesthetically, and this new restoration work is now being carried out (Fig. 6).

Three distinct periods were identified in the rear wing:¹⁹ the original open chamber with hipped roof (? fourteenth-century); the insertion of a floor, new windows and gable or dormers (late fifteenth-century–?sixteenth-century) and finally the existing fenestrated gable, subsequently half-hipped (seventeenth-century).

(b) *Sturry Churchyard Wall*

A survey of this wall, which is in very poor condition in places, was commissioned from the Trust by Sturry Parish Council and drawings of the wall were made by John Bowen.

Much of the red brick wall on the west and north sides of the churchyard is of great historical importance as it was erected almost exactly four hundred years ago (i.e. in the 1580s) by Sir Thomas Smythe, the then new owner of Sturry Court (now Milner Court). Until 1539, Sturry Court was owned by St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, and it was to this house that the last Abbot, John Essex (or Foche) retired. When Essex died the house went to the Crown and in 1578 it was bought by Sir Thomas Smythe who owned many other properties in Kent (including Westenhanger Castle). He rebuilt Sturry Court in the 1580s and also erected the fine gateway on the south (at the south-west corner of the churchyard) and the neighbouring brick boundary walls. Smythe died in 1591 and is buried in Ashford Church.

The wall is in two main sections (on the north and west sides of the churchyard) with that on the west being the more elaborate. On this side is a series of eighteen four-centred relieving arches. The brickwork is typical of the later Tudor period with 9 in. × 4½ in. × 2 in. bricks being used and each four courses being about 11 in. high (i.e. with fairly thick mortar beds). The bond of the brickwork is partly random and partly English bond.

At the northern end of the west wall a new gateway was inserted into the wall in the 1890s (dated VC 1890 on the north jamb and VC 1896 on the south jamb), and the much harder, sharper, and slightly larger Victorian bricks (9 in. × 4 in. × 2½ in.) are obvious here. This new work continues round the corner to the east for 2½ ft. At this

¹⁹ See *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 305.

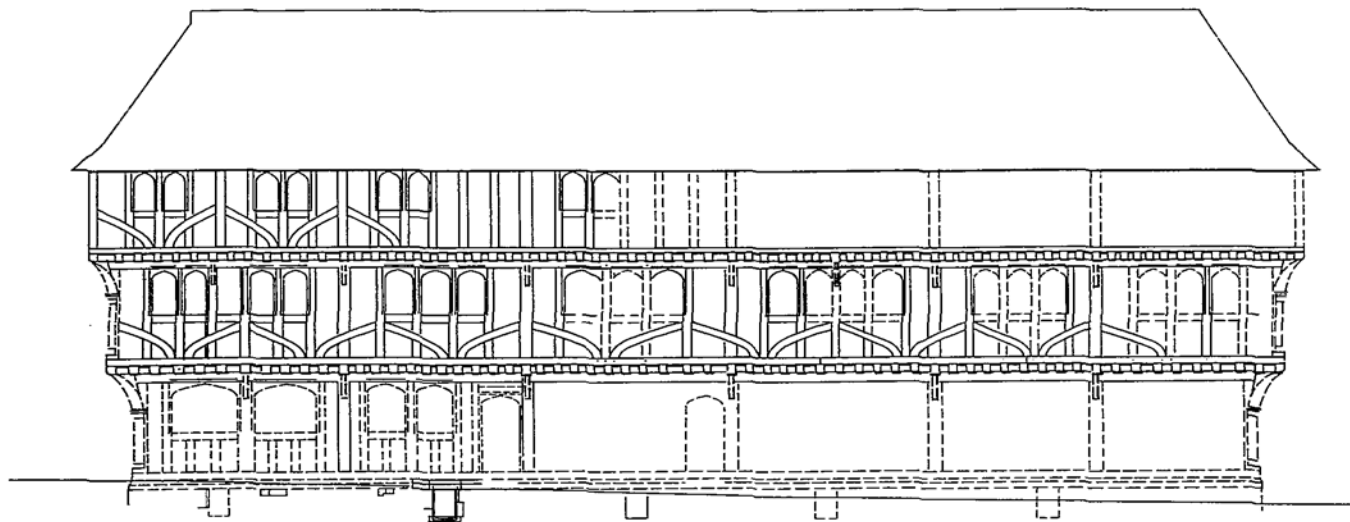


Fig. 7. 44 Burgate, Canterbury: Elevations of ground Floor Framing.

time the top of the whole wall from A to B was rebuilt and perhaps slightly lowered. Its original capping was perhaps like that on the north.

The wall on the north is mostly in English bond brickwork and much of its capping (particularly at the north-east end) has gone. The bricks are again 9 in. × 4½ in. × 2 in. with thick mortar courses. (Four courses are 11½ in. high.) The last section bends round to the north-east and has a new pier on the end. On the north side at the point where it bends are the remains of two stone blocks which are almost certainly the remains of the gateway to Sturry Court on the east.

(c) *Canterbury Castle Keep* (1)

During the winter a serious collapse of masonry occurred from the south-west corner turret of the keep. New scaffolding was erected here almost immediately by the City Council and a photographic survey (using our 1:50 elevations published in *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, I) was carried out by the Conservation Officer's Department.

It is hoped that much needed restoration work can start soon, and that during this work new evidence about the twelfth-century fabric will be forthcoming.

(d) *44 Burgate (formerly part of 'The Bull')* (26)

A need for Liberty's of London to open a major new branch in Canterbury led to a large-scale restoration and refitting. In the case of the shop fronts, since enough evidence survived of its original late-medieval appearance, it was decided to replace the principal framing. Modifications were made to cater for current trading practice, and plate-glass was put in the windows and substituted for the original lathe and plaster infill. For a description of the building, see last year's report.²⁰

During the work, several interesting features elsewhere in the building were exposed and recorded. This enabled a more complete reconstruction (on paper) of this corner of the building (Fig. 7).

(e) *St. Martin's and St. Paul's Parish Churches*

Major restoration and refurbishment work was carried out at both these important churches during the year, and it is sad to record that

²⁰ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 305-6.

in neither building did the church architect consult the Trust in advance of this work.

At St. Martin's small channels for electrical wiring were cut in several places through the plaster (and in two places right through the walls), and in the north-west corner of the nave pews were removed and the floor was dug up. Amid the mess, a hitherto unknown brick burial vault was exposed and recorded, though no time was allowed for a proper excavation before concreting work. In the wall above, a small hole was cut into the unique seventh-century fabric for a new donations box.

At St. Paul's Church large areas of the floor were dug up for heating pipes and part of two vaults in the chancel area were exposed. Once again there had been no prior consultation with the Trust.

(f) *62-64 Burgate*

A brief visit to the medieval cellar of no. 64 Burgate revealed another example of property divisions dog-legged in both horizontal and vertical planes. It was found, after a brief period of disorientation, that the cellar was structurally beneath no. 63 and part of no. 62. A massive Sampson post incorporated into the partition wall indicated the continuation of the medieval cellar under no. 62. Access to this was found to be through no. 63!

Out of necessity, a sketch plan was made to relate the ground plans of nos. 62-64 to the cellar beneath. The principal joists over the large almost square cellar were supported at the centre by a Sampson post and four braces. The most notable feature of the timber work was its size: 20 in. sq. Sampson post, 10 in. sq. braces and 10 in. x 9 in. joists.

(g) *38A St. Margaret's Street (68)*

Despite their modern appearance, together with no. 38 this property once formed part of a large late sixteenth-century to early seventeenth-century house, most likely that shown with a courtyard on the map of c. 1640. Fragments of its masonry wall were exposed together with a fine highly decorative stuccoed ceiling. An extension of the ceiling in the form of a bay was observed, but sadly the window itself (shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1873) destroyed. The surface treatment of the wall, built upon a plinth, is a diaperwork of re-used Caen-stone and flint. This type of work can still be seen in walls at St. Augustine's Abbey dating from its conversion to a Royal Palace in the 1540s. It was at this time that much of the monastic fabric was being sold off by the cart-load for building and this may well have provided a source of materials for the builders of nos. 38 and 38A.

(h) *81 St. Dunstan's Street* (16)

After consulting the Conservation Section of the City Council and the Trust's record of the building, the new owners needed little encouragement for a practical and sympathetic reconstruction with substantial grant aid from Canterbury City Council. This has resulted in the reinstatement of the hip and complete reconstruction of the first-floor framing (to the street) with 'Kentish' bracing and two pairs of windows. The ground floor wall has been returned to its original line to expose the jetty, which had been underbuilt in more recent times. Although the under-building had removed the plate supporting the jetty, a single door-jamb and bracket mortices on the underside of the joists have been sufficient evidence for the reinstatement of the original front door and principal members. A bay window in a traditional style replaced much of the space lost as a result of the jetty restoration and the remaining wall space was filled with brick. Initially, the setting out of the window and door-heads posed a slight problem and was only resolved after a further inspection of one of the services doors which has fortunately survived.²¹

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²¹ *Arch. Cant.*, xcix (1983), 253-4.

