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## INTERIM REPORT ON WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1986 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Thirty-five excavations and watching briefs have taken place since the compilation of the last interim for *Arch. Cant.* This increase in Trust activity is in part a reflection of the rising number of re-development sites in the city and in part the product of attempts by both the Canterbury City Council and the Trust to incorporate archaeological work in all development schemes within the area designated 'of archaeological importance' under the terms laid down in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).

Canterbury is a major growth area. Tourism, for long a mainstay of Canterbury's economy (one could say since the medieval period – for 'tourist' read 'pilgrim') has now become a major stimulus for development and numerous new retail and car park developments, and schemes for the refurbishment of existing buildings are designed to cater for this flourishing area of the market. Canterbury has become a principal shopping centre and a retirement town. Residential units and mews-type developments are being built or planned in many parts of the city. Domestic and retail property all over the town is being upgraded, renovated, partitioned, extended, re-roofed and re-fronted – all this work bringing to light elements of Canterbury's standing archaeology: its living heritage of timber-framed buildings. These factors and many others combine at this time to make Canterbury a centre ripe for re-development by local and national development agencies. Sainsbury's, Austin Reeds, Liberty's, C & A, Reject China Shops, Pizzaland and other national chain stores have arrived on the Canterbury scene and with them a tremendous increase in residual land values and the price of leasehold and freehold property.

Each development site represents financial investment on a large scale. Development schedules are extremely tight and contract dramatically to reduce the impact of high interest payments, as the cost of building land rises. In the light of increasing development pressures and in the full knowledge that the earlier development peak

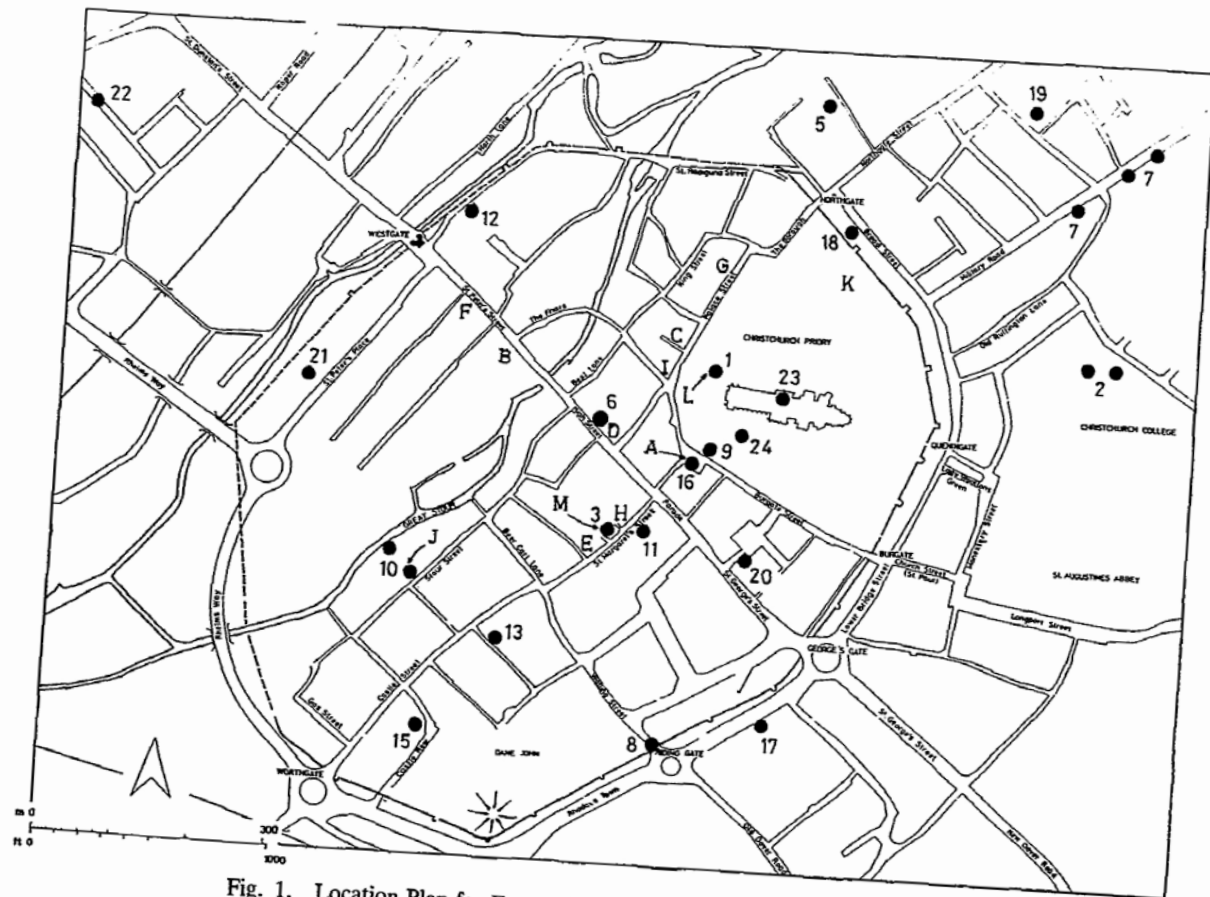


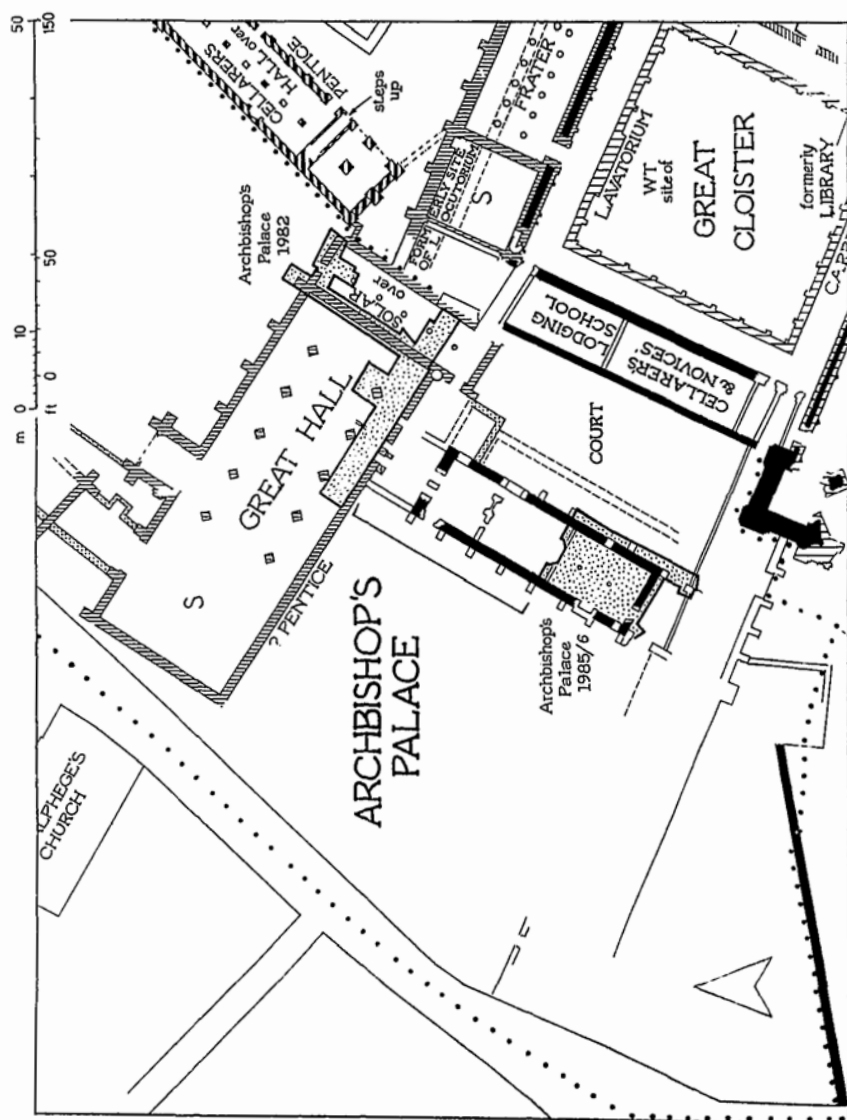
Fig. 1. Location Plan for Excavation and Building Recording Sites.

of the 1950s and 1970s saw the destruction of approximately 25 per cent of the historic town without full record, the City Council and the Trust have been actively pursuing a course effectively to weave archaeology into the development framework, to provide within the development schedules contingencies of time and finance for archaeological work to take place, before the re-development processes irrevocably disturb and destroy the city's buried heritage. We believe that archaeological work within the historic core of the town should be considered to be a necessary 'on-cost' for all development, large and small. A reading of past interim reports in *Arch. Cant.* shows that some of the most exciting discoveries have been made during small works, such as underpinning operations, lowering of basements, service trenching, road works, etc. Whilst these small sites have produced unique finds or intriguing glimpses of buried structures, the larger scale works have opened large 'windows on the past', revealing the foundations of houses, shops and public buildings occupied by generations of Canterbury citizens from the Iron Age to the present day.

In 1984, Canterbury was designated an 'Area of Archaeological Importance' under terms laid down in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979). This Act of Parliament provides an effective mechanism for monitoring all proposed development disturbing the ground below 600 mm., its purpose being to prevent the damage or destruction of important archaeological sites before they can be recorded. Every developer is obliged by law to inform the City Council and the Trust of his intention to commence work within the A.A.I. by submitting an 'Operations Notice' at least six weeks in advance of commencement. The Trust, as Investigating Authority, then replies to the Notice, detailing the degree of archaeological work needed. In almost every case a measure of archaeological work is necessary. This may take the form of a minimal watching brief during the cutting of wall foundations, etc., (intermittent site visits by a member of staff); a thorough watching brief (one or more members of staff permanently on site during machine working); a trial 'evaluation' excavation (a small scale excavation to assess the importance of the archaeological levels in order to establish whether a major excavation is necessary) and, in exceptional circumstances, an excavation lasting up to eighteen weeks.

Since its inception, some eleven years ago, major contributions to the Trust's finances have come from the Department of the Environment, now English Heritage (H.B.M.C.). Without the continuing support of English Heritage the Trust would undoubtedly cease to exist; they are an essential component of archaeology in Canterbury and are rightly recognised as such. The City Council and the Trust





have drawn up a list of archaeologically sensitive sites likely to be developed in the next five years. On many of these sites we will be seeking a maximum response from the developer towards excavation costs. A number of these sites are considered to be only marginally profitable; in these cases we hope that H.B.M.C. can assist financially. In nearly all cases, the developer can only be expected to underwrite the excavation costs. The post-excavation costs leading to publication must be found from other sources. Here again, we hope that H.B.M.C. can offer a measure of assistance. By constructing a 'medium term' timetable for proposed development within the historic core of the town we hope that H.B.M.C. will be able to formulate a reasonable funding strategy for Canterbury and assist the Trust, the developer and the City Council record the city's rich archaeological deposits during this intense period of redevelopment.

The twenty-four interim reports below include both major excavations and minor watching briefs yielding significant information. Numerous building surveys have been undertaken by John Bowen this year and a representative sample of thirteen surveys is given below. The location of excavation and building recording sites appear on Fig. 1.

## EXCAVATIONS

### 1. *The Archbishop's Palace* (Fig. 2)

An excavation in advance of the establishment of a sunken garden immediately south of the Archbishop's Palace commenced in October 1985. The excavation, financed by an anonymous donor and largely staffed by members of our Manpower Services Commission Community Programme Team, continued throughout the winter and culminated in the laying out of the garden by Trust staff in late Spring 1986.

It was hoped that this excavation, in the shadow of the cathedral and south of an existing north-south range of the palace, would reveal elements of the first Archbishop's Palace built by Lanfranc in c. 1080. Lanfranc's palace buildings, called the '*nova hospitatio archiepiscopi*' in Domesday Book, are thought from later documentary evidence to have been located in the area immediately west of the north-west tower of the cathedral. These buildings (described in the many accounts of the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170) consisted of a great hall with a northern porch, a kitchen west of the hall and the archbishop's private chambers east of the hall. A private chapel may have also existed south of the archbishop's chambers.

The excavated evidence exceeded our expectations. Well-preserved masonry walls for the undercroft of a north—south range of Lanfranc's palace were located. Only the south end of the range was revealed, but an associated study of the existing palace indicated that the lower portions of the surviving north—south range (north of the excavation) were also of Lanfranc build, the combined evidence indicating a range 10 m. wide and 32 m. long. The walls, 1.20 m. wide, built almost entirely of flint with occasional re-used Roman bricks bonded in a stiff yellow-brown mortar, still bore their original plaster rendering. Original doors (subsequently blocked) were located in the south-west corner of the range and in the east wall. Blocked windows, which originally lit the undercroft, (with jambs of Quarr stone) were located in the east and west walls of the surviving north—south range. Plaster rendering on the east face of the excavated east wall of the range, together with external floor levels (recorded at the base of a recent service trench cutting across the excavation) indicated the presence of a contemporary parallel range to the east. This arrangement may be similar in form to the '*Aula Nova*' of Christchurch Priory, built eighty years later, with a hall with single aisle at first floor level and an arcade at ground floor level opening eastward onto an inner court. The main east and west walls of the range continued southwards, probably to meet the north wall of the east—west range, creating a T-shaped plan for the building complex. The southern east—west range with chapel to the east and detached kitchen to the west contained the archbishop's hall at its centre, with the archbishop's private apartments at its east end, adjoining the chapel. The north—south range may well have contained apartments for the archbishop's retinue.

Modifications to the excavated building probably took place in the early thirteenth century, when a magnificent new great hall was built at the north end of the north—south range. An east—west through-passage, located south of the Lanfranc range, may have been established at this time, cutting through at the junction between the north—south range and the early hall. A pair of wide doorways, opening east and west with Caen stone quoins and stone thresholds, were revealed. Laminated floors of beaten earth, clay and mortar existed in the through-passage. This through-passage probably now divided the two ranges at ground floor level and may have connected minor courts flanking either side of the north—south range.

Extensive alterations to the range occurred in the fifteenth century. The eleventh-century fabric was reduced to first floor level and new work was built off the old with a number of eleventh-century architectural features blocked and fossilised in the new work. The new range, incorporating the foundations of the old, was subdivided

into seven equal bays, each bay defined by centrally-located octagonal Caen stone bases for sampson posts supporting the new first floor. New windows were inserted at ground and first floor level. One complete window (now blocked) and the vestigial traces of a second survived at ground level in the west wall of the excavated portion of the range. A surviving fireplace, backed with neatly coursed horizontal peg-tiles, also survives in the west wall at ground floor level. A first floor window survives in part of the south end of the west wall. This is, however, Elizabethan (c. 1566) and was part of the long gallery. The whole of the northern part of the range (including the roof) still survives as part of the present archbishop's palace. Most of the southern part of the range was demolished in the mid-seventeenth century and further demolition took place in the 1830s when the north-west tower of the Cathedral was pulled down.

A full measured survey of the surviving palace is planned for later this year and documentary research is currently in progress. The essential combination of archaeological, documentary and architectural work will culminate in a full publication on the Archbishop's Palace in 1987.

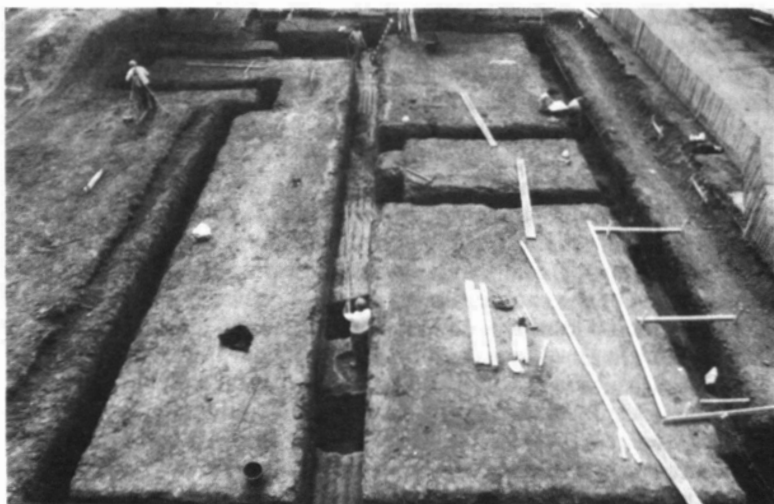
PAUL BENNETT

## 2. *Christ Church College (Plate I)*

During December 1985 and in the early part of January 1986, a trial trench was cut in the grounds of Christ Church College parallel to and just south of North Holmes Road. The archaeological work, funded by Christ Church College, was designed to evaluate the sequence of deposits in this area, prior to the proposed construction of two new teaching blocks for the college. Following the completion of this 'trial' excavation, a full 'watching brief' was maintained by the Trust during the cutting of foundation trenches for the new buildings. This work has recently been completed.

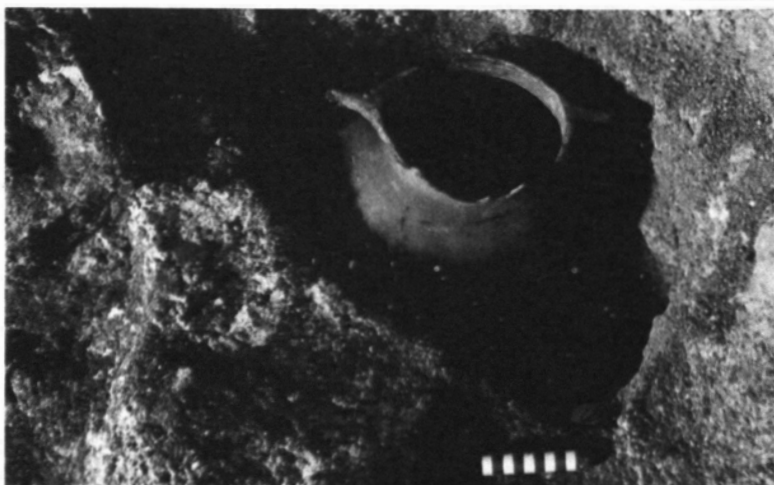
Both stages produced evidence for an occupation of the area in the Middle Saxon period. The area, called 'Nordholm' in the later medieval period, may have been in origin the site of a small secular settlement, which developed soon after the founding of the Abbey by Augustine in c. A.D. 598 and continued in existence until the late ninth century. The most significant features revealed during both stages were a scatter of some twenty to thirty pits of eighth- to ninth-century date, many containing metalworking debris. A dozen or so of the pits also contained important ceramic assemblages of the Middle Anglo-Saxon period, including a number of imported boss-decorated Ipswich wares. The pottery recovered from these sites

PLATE I



Christ Church College, Canterbury. Foundation Trenches for the new Technology Block, viewed from the North.

PLATE II



St. Margaret's Church, Canterbury. Complete early to mid fourteenth-century pot, possibly used for a 'heart burial'. Located in the south-west corner of the church.  
(Scale: 10 cm.)

bears close comparison with similar assemblages from the recent 'salvage' excavation under the college's Students' Union building<sup>1</sup> and from the St. Martin's Hill excavation.<sup>2</sup> The implications of the pottery and finds distribution from recently excavated sites, including the recent work at the college, tend to suggest that one principal area of Middle Saxon occupation lay outside the old Roman town walls, together with a separate intra-mural settlement, perhaps centred around the cathedral (the Inner Burgh).

A number of medieval and post-medieval pits and boundary ditches were also uncovered during the course of the trial and watching brief operations.

PAUL BENNETT

### 3. *St. Margaret's Church* (Fig. 3)

Excavations by the Trust in advance of the construction of a new interpretation centre have recently been completed. The excavation, financed by the Wolfson Foundation and supervised by Mr Alan Ward, was considerably assisted by our Manpower Services Commission Community Programme Team.

The earliest levels uncovered belong to the Roman public baths, a large portion of which was revealed prior to the construction of the Marlowe Arcade.<sup>3</sup> The north-west end of this large building complex, located under the church, consisted of a portico with tessellated pavement fronting onto a principal Roman street. The portico gave onto a number of unheated rooms and an impressive plunge-bath with stone-paved floor. An earlier phase bath-house with different disposition of rooms (more fully understood during excavations under the Marlowe Arcade) was identified in the church area. An impressive masonry-built drain designed to take 'foul water' from the early phase baths was located under the plunge-bath floor. This drain was backfilled when the plunge-bath was constructed in the early third century. The demolition deposits sealing the latest Roman levels contained many box flue-tiles. The presence of these deposits, undoubtedly derived from the collapsed walls of the late Roman baths, suggests that the second phase cold rooms and plunge-bath were located in an area of the bath-house formerly occupied by heated rooms.

Sealing the surface of the latest Roman floors, particularly the stone paving of the plunge-bath, was a deposit of water-borne silt

<sup>1</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xcix (1983), 247-51; *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 294-5.

<sup>2</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, cii (1985), 234-8.

<sup>3</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xcv (1979), 267-70.

which yielded pottery, metalworking waste and a large number of late Roman coins. These finds indicate a phase of 'squatter' occupation within the abandoned shell of the bath-house in the late fourth or early fifth century. A thick layer of dark loam, mixed with considerable deposits of demolition debris from the decaying walls of the bath-house, developed over the north-west end of the building complex during successive centuries, until the first stone church was built on the site in the twelfth century.

A brief phase of Anglo-Saxon activity in the area was attested by a number of rubbish pits found cutting the post-Roman 'abandonment' and demolition levels. These features may be associated with a postulated street market that developed in this area in the later Anglo-Saxon period. No trace of an Anglo-Saxon church was found.

The earliest documentary reference to the church appears in a Christchurch rental of 1153-67, in which land held by William, Priest of Bourne, is described as being 'opposite St. Margaret's Church on a corner near the garden of Benedict the Priest'.<sup>4</sup> Ceramic evidence from the excavation suggests a possible foundation date in the twelfth century, a date supported by the survival of the mid twelfth-century door of the church (a heavily restored but fine example of its type). Elements of the earliest church were exposed during the course of the excavation. The north and south walls of the early church were located inside the body of the existing church. The original east end of the church probably extended under the present St. Margaret's Street. The interior of the early church was divided into a nave with north and south aisles, defined by arcade foundations. Despite severe disturbance by later features, particularly burial vaults, isolated 'islands' of intact church floor survived. The earliest floors, walls and arcade bases bore traces of an intense fire, which may have destroyed the church in the mid-twelfth century. The church was probably rebuilt at this time; the principal walls refurbished, the new arcade foundations built, a bell tower was probably constructed at the west end of the south aisle and masonry 'benches' built against the west wall of the nave and north aisle.

A sequence of laminated beaten earth, clay and mortar floors developed within the body of the church throughout the next five centuries. A considerable number of inhumation burials survived within the church. The excavation policy was to disturb no burials and in every case the inhumations were recorded and covered up.

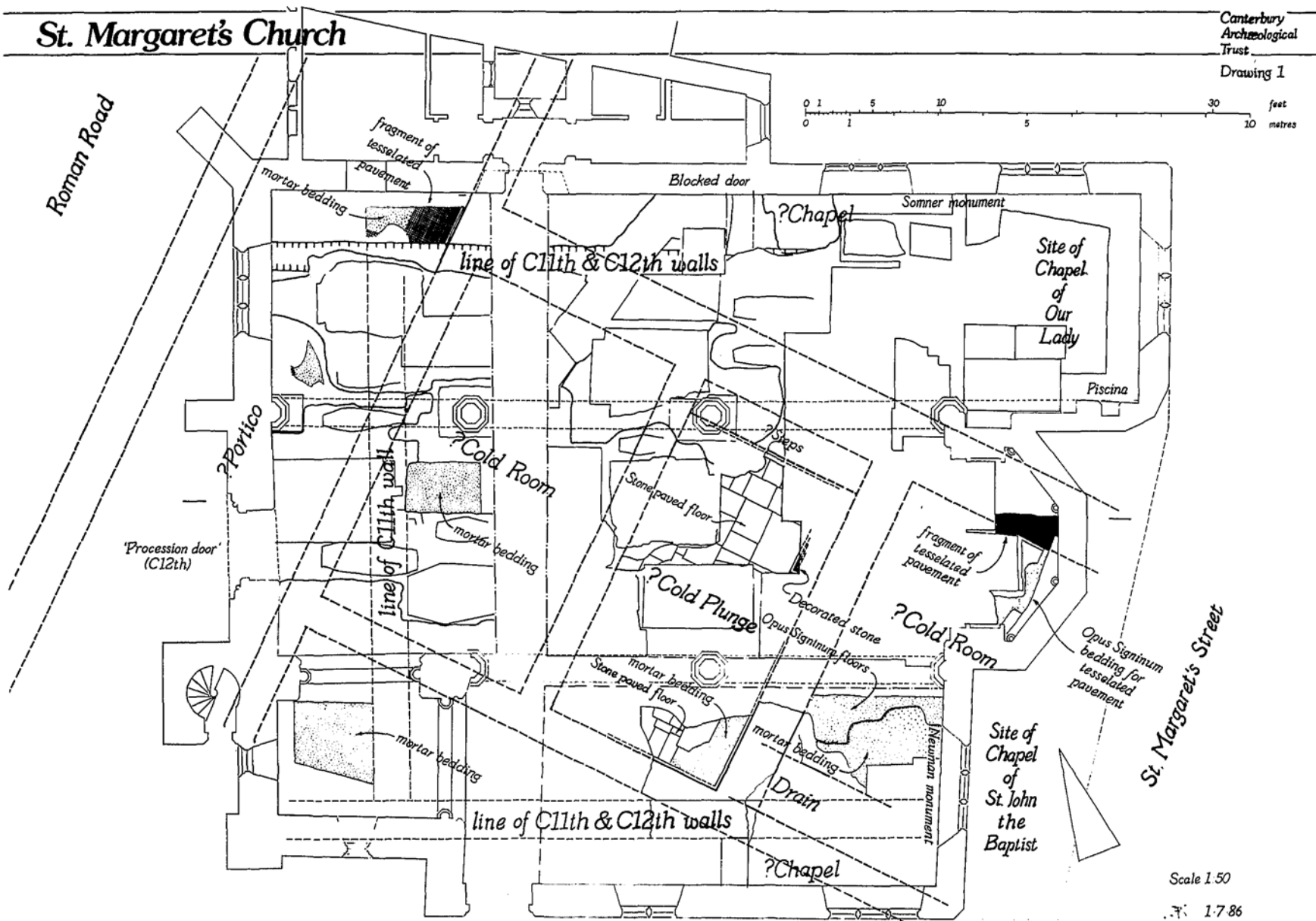
<sup>4</sup> Benedict may have been the nominee of St. Augustine's who was vicar of St. Margaret's. It is also possible that he was the man buried in St. Pancras' Church, where an excavation in 1901 uncovered a lead plate and a lead cross, inscribed respectively, *+HIC IACET BENEDICT SACERDOS SCE MARGARETE* and *+BENEDICTUS SACERDOS*.

# St. Margaret's Church

Canterbury  
Archaeological  
Trust

Drawing 1

0 1 5 10 30 feet  
0 1 5 10 metres



Scale 1:50

1786

Fig. 3. St. Margaret's Church, Canterbury. General Plan, showing principal excavated Features.



Only two burials were of late medieval date, the remaining inhumations were post-medieval. Numerous brick family vaults dating from the late sixteenth century onwards were also exposed. Three complete medieval storage jars were located during the excavation. Two, sealed beneath floor levels in the south-west tower, dated to c. 1300–50 and the third, located north of the tower dated to c. 1425–75. These pots may originally have contained ‘heart-burials’ (Plate II).

The church was extensively altered in the late fourteenth century. The west wall of the original building was retained and the north and south walls rebuilt further out. Despite restoration in 1850, typical late medieval details survive in the arcades, which were reconstructed at the time. The aisles originally had sloping roofs and a blocked doorway survives in the first stage of the tower which led onto the roof of the south aisle. Only four bays of the crown-post nave roof survive, this originally extended beyond the existing chancel arch. There were chapels at the east end of each aisle: the altar of Our Lady in the north aisle and St. John the Baptist in the south. Following the Reformation, the chapels were removed and the east end of the north aisle became the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop for the Archdeaconry of Canterbury.

The sequence of beaten earth and clay floors in the body of the church was probably sealed over by stone paving in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, when the first of many brick-built vaults was constructed. Many of the vaults were originally covered by ledger slabs, and some of the deceased were recorded on fine mural monuments, including Sir George Newman (*d.* 1627) and the famous Canterbury historian and compiler of the first Anglo-Saxon dictionary, William Somner (*d.* 1669).

In 1791, a faculty was obtained to pull down the east end of the church to widen the street and improve access to the nearby Fountain Inn. A considerable quantity of re-used stone, including many architectural fragments from the original east end of the church, was recorded in the foundations of the eighteenth-century chancel/rebuilding.

The church was extensively ‘refurbished’ by Sir G.G. Scott in 1850. The rebuilt east end was ‘masked’, the aisle walls heightened and given pitched roofs with gable ends, an external spiral stair was added to the tower, a new vestry was built (extended in the early twentieth century), new fittings were inserted in the body of the church (including central heating with underfloor ducts), many monuments were repositioned and the stone floor was completely rearranged.

Considerable documentary evidence survives for the history of the church from the mid-twelfth century onwards. With the completion

of the excavation a thorough study of these documents will immeasurably add to our knowledge of St. Margaret's Church, one of Canterbury's principal parish churches standing at the heart of the medieval town.

PAUL BENNETT

#### 4. *Fordwich High Street* (N.G.R. TR 181596)

Trial trenching in advance of a proposed housing development by Townscape Properties Ltd. was undertaken in January 1986. The archaeological work, financed by the developers, was undertaken to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site prior to development. It was hoped that the trenching would reveal good archaeological evidence for occupation on this site perhaps dating back to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period.

Sadly, the trenches revealed no traces of Anglo-Saxon or medieval structures. Post-medieval and perhaps late-medieval plough soils were seen to directly overlie a number of rubbish-pits of medieval date. Only a handful of pot-sherds of early to late medieval date were recovered, supplemented by a single mid-Anglo-Saxon sherd and a further small corpus of medieval pot-sherds recovered from the site during building work.

The watching brief, maintained during the development processes, revealed a medieval hearth base and a number of rubbish-pits.

The site undoubtedly lies on the fringes of Anglo-Saxon and medieval Fordwich, in an area perhaps devoted to agriculture. All future proposed developments in Fordwich will be preceded by similar trial trenching, culminating hopefully in larger scale works when archaeological deposits have been proved to exist.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

#### 5. *St. John's Place*

During the second half of January 1986, a trial trench, 11 m. long and 2 m. wide aligned east—west was excavated on a parcel of open ground, formerly a small allotment fronting onto St. John's Place. The trench, undertaken to evaluate the nature of the archaeological deposits in the area prior to an extensive housing development, was financed by the developers, Ansley Abbott Homes Ltd.

A sequence of deposits was removed to the level of natural brickearth and gravel; a total depth of 1.80 m. The top 1.10 m. consisted of layers of loam dumped in the eighteenth or nineteenth century, either to raise the ground level well above the water table, or

as a result of considerable building work in the area in that period.

Below this considerable deposit of 'made ground' was a well-defined medieval horizon, containing worn and abraded pot-sherds dating from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century. The medieval soils had undoubtedly been 'turned over', and it is thought likely that the area was open fields under plough throughout the medieval period.

The lowest soil horizon overlying natural yielded considerable quantities of Roman pottery and building materials. Two shallow rubbish-pits and a gully or ditch cut from within the lowest soil horizon were undoubtedly of Roman date. Although no structural remains were located, the quantities of Roman debris recovered from the lowest soil horizon, together with a known Roman burial discovered during the construction of Kingsmead School in the immediate vicinity, strongly suggest that the site lies on the fringes of a Roman cemetery and perhaps near a Roman building.

A minor watching brief was maintained throughout the cutting of wall foundations for the new houses, but no further archaeological features were discovered.

IAN ANDERSON

## 6. *No. 14 High Street*

In February 1986, trial trenches were cut in the basement of the above premises to evaluate the nature of surviving archaeological deposits, prior to proposed lowering of the basement during refitting for Reject China Shops Ltd. The evaluation work was financed by the developer.

The existing shop lies in the area of Canterbury's Roman forum. Recent work by the Trust at no. 9 High Street<sup>5</sup> and during the cutting of a sewer tunnel under the High Street<sup>6</sup> revealed traces of substantial masonry walls together with areas of gravel and stone paved courtyards, and it was hoped that further, perhaps spectacular, elements of the forum would be present in the basement of this shop.

The existing brick floor of the cellar immediately sealed a 50 cm. thick deposit of demolition debris mixed with dark loam. This thick layer, which probably developed gradually throughout the post-Roman period, contained debris from ruinous masonry buildings standing nearby. These abandonment and decay levels sealed the forum courtyard deposits, comprising banded layers of rammed gravel capped by poured mortar bearing the scars of removed paving

<sup>5</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984) 282-3.

<sup>6</sup> *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vol. viii, forthcoming.

slabs. During the early stages of our work the main walls of the existing buildings were discovered to be shallow-founded and the scheme to lower the basement was abandoned. Only the surface of the latest courtyard was therefore exposed.

IAN ANDERSON

### 7. *Military Road*

Three trenches were cut in March 1986 south-east of Military Road to locate the position of a lead-pipe carrying the cathedral's private water supply from a conduit house at the north-east end of Military Road to 'The Forrens',<sup>7</sup> situated north-east of the Green Court in the Precincts. The work was commissioned by Kent County Council Highways to provide information on the line and depth of the pipe below the existing pavement and street surface, prior to the commencement of the construction of the new Sturry Road to Military Road link.

The Trust's work on the cathedral's water supply is well known.<sup>8</sup> The trenching mid-way along Military Road, north of the intersection with Union Street and North Holmes Road, represents a continuation of excavations conducted at the conduit house and of our clearance of the pipes and ducts that now supply it with fresh spring water from aquifers located in the Old Park. The Cathedral is still supplied with water from springs first exploited over 800 years ago through a system of pipes, catchment pits and filter tanks recorded on Prior Wibert's Waterworks Plan of c. 1165. Engineering plans for the new link road are currently being drawn up and the preservation of the pipe system is considered to be a high priority.

The 3 in. diameter lead-pipe carrying the supply from the Old Park conduit house was successfully located in the two north-easternmost trenches. The pipe lay north-west of the third trench (adjacent to no. 69 Military Road); here the pipe presumably diverges from under the pavement to a line under the present street, and continues in this location to the south-west end of Military Road. The pipe changes alignment at this point to run down Broad Street, reverting back to its original line just north of the Diocesan and Payne Smith Primary School, where it enters the Precincts.

This unusual 'exploratory' work will hopefully help preserve the piped water-supply when road construction starts later this year.

IAN ANDERSON

<sup>7</sup> The pipe enters the Precincts close to city wall tower no. 13. See *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vol. ii, 18, Fig. 1.

<sup>8</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, xviii (1981), 292-3 and *Annual Report* 1982-83, 17-18.

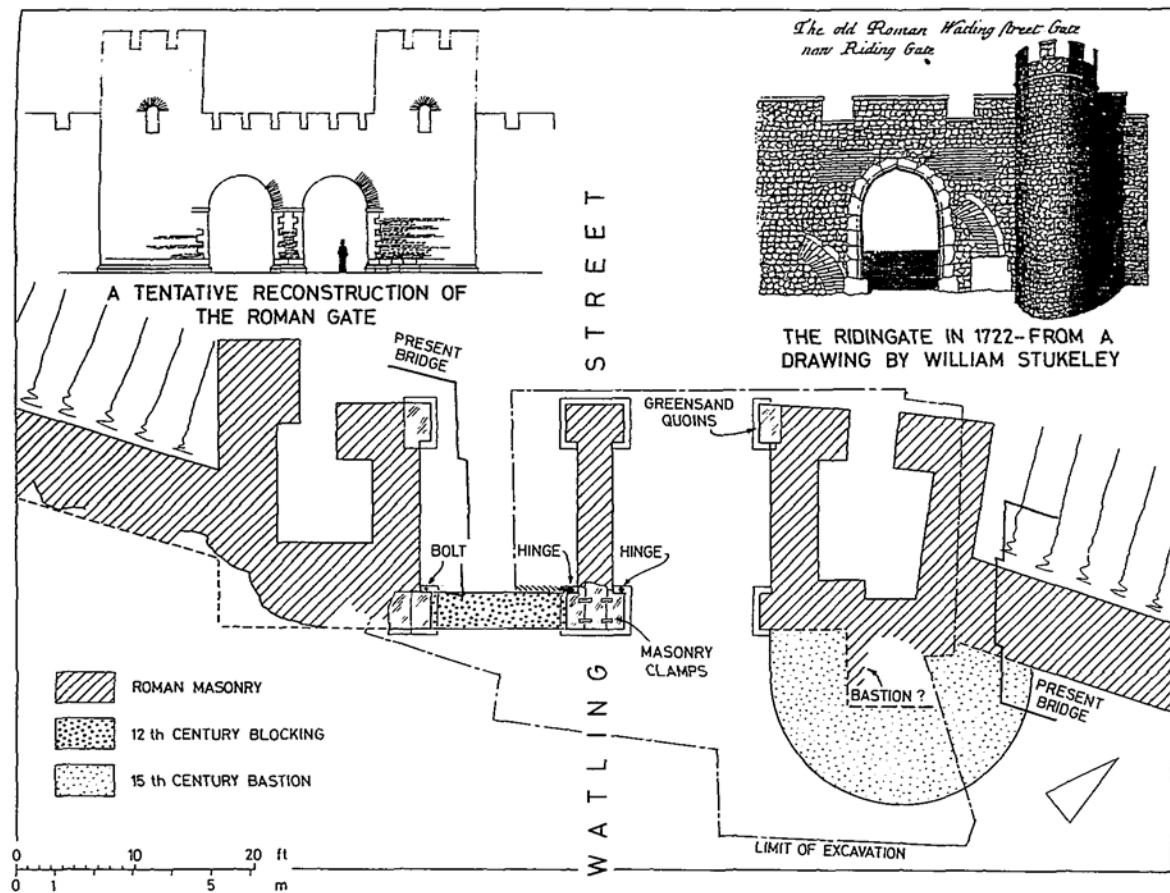


Fig. 4. The Ridington, Canterbury. Reconstructed Plan of the Roman Gate.

8. *The Ridingate* (Fig. 4 and Plate III)

The excavation, conducted in advance of road refurbishment from late March through April 1986, was jointly funded by Kent County Council and English Heritage. The County Council were extremely helpful, not only in providing financial assistance, but for allowing the Trust to take over the entire area beneath the modern bridge for a period of six weeks.

The main aim of the excavation was to expose and record as large an area of the Roman gate as was possible. During this procedure it soon became clear that the plan of the gate, as previously reconstructed based on an engraving by William Stukeley in 1722,<sup>9</sup> was incorrect. The amended plan is of a more symmetrical layout, basically consisting of two carriage-ways flanked by guard-chambers.

The earliest excavated levels consisted of the metallings of Roman Watling Street. Before the construction of the city defences around A.D. 275, this street would have consisted of dumps of rammed gravel, flanked by roadside ditches. The erection of the defensive circuit effectively fossilised the street system, which employed six main gates and at least two posterns. Within this system Watling Street formed one of the main axial routes through the city from Dover to London and the gate was therefore of a suitably large stature.

The surviving fabric of the gate was impressive. Above the flint and mortar sub-foundations of the gate was a plinth of massive, chamfered greensand blocks tied together by lead-encased iron clamps. This plinth in turn supported the main walls of flint and mortar, regularly interrupted by string courses of Roman bricks, with quoins of greensand blockwork. The carriage-way arches would have been of Roman brick. The guard-chambers, one on each side of the gate, had rear entrances and were bonded into the fabric of the city wall.

A defensive ditch would have fronted the wall; this was presumably spanned by a timber bridge, giving access to the carriage-ways. To the rear of the city wall was a massive rampart of earth and clay.

Each of the carriage-ways would have been furnished with solid timber doors pivoted from the central foundation, opening inwards to lie against the face of the central supporting wall. During the excavation traces of the lower part of one of these timber doors were located. It would appear that by the end of the third century one of the carriage-ways became superfluous. The gate was closed and locked permanently and the carriage-way effectively became a room, which was used for some form of industrial activity involving bronze

<sup>9</sup> Stuart Piggott, *Antiquity*, ix (1935), 22 ff.

working. Several coins, including issues by Carausius (A.D. 286–93) and Allectus (A.D. 293–96) were located in the lowest floor levels of trampled ash and charcoal which accumulated within this room. The lower part of the Roman timber door was sealed by these layers. The door fragments included the clench-nails and iron fittings which held together the door's heavy planking and the large iron hinge which rotated in a socket cut into the greensand blockwork of the central supporting wall (Plate IV). Excavations by Dr Frank Jenkins and Louise Millard in 1970<sup>10</sup> revealed an iron fitting (a bolt?) in the greensand blockwork on the opposite side of this carriage-way, which in the light of these discoveries may be one of the bolts used to secure the gate in the late third century. A single-leaf gate for each carriage-way is therefore suggested on the basis of present evidence.

The carriage-way remained blocked until the early Norman period when the church of St. Edmund Ridingate<sup>11</sup> was established in the carriage-way and flanking guard-chamber. It is at this date that a blocking wall (the east wall of the church) may have been built in front of the decayed Roman door. The church was later extended to the west: the west end of the north wall of the church being butted up against the central supporting wall of the Roman gate. Little remained of the church north wall above foundation level, except a few ragstone lumps (possibly re-used from the Roman fabric). This church was united with the St. Mary Bredin parish in 1349, after the Black Death depopulated the area. The church was probably demolished soon after that date.

During the medieval period the Ridingate was a minor gate and was temporarily walled up in the early fifteenth century when an invasion by the French was threatened. At this time a semi-circular bastion was added to the front of the wall adjacent to the north carriage-way. The excavated remains of this bastion showed the construction to be of chalk core with a knapped flint face and battered ashlar ragstone plinth, descending into the re-cut city ditch.

The gate was re-opened in 1430 and the opening may have been enlarged with new Caen stone quoins at this date. The later history of the gate is well documented and, although at one stage relegated to the passage of the compost carts out of the city, it was maintained in a reasonable state until its destruction (together with the bastion) in 1782, when the streets of the city were opened up to larger carriages. In 1791, Alderman Simmons had a new brick arch constructed with a

<sup>10</sup> Pers. comm. Dr F. Jenkins.

<sup>11</sup> Founded by Hamo, son of Vitalis, W. Urry, *Canterbury Under the Angevin Kings*, (London), 1967, Map 1B, sheet 5.

PLATE III



The Ridigate, Canterbury. General View of Excavations from the North-west.  
(Scale: 2 m.)

PLATE IV



The Ridigate, Canterbury. Detail of the Entrance of the western Carriage-way  
showing the lead-encased Iron Masonry Clamps, Door Fittings and twelfth-century  
blocking Wall. (Scale: 0.50 m.)



terrace walk above. This was eventually replaced by an iron foot-bridge in 1883. The present, much larger, bridge was constructed in 1970.

Samples from the late Roman industrial levels are currently being analysed at the H.B.M.C. Laboratory, whilst the iron gate fittings were lifted by staff of the West Mallory Laboratory, who will shortly be carrying out the conservation of these pieces.

Our work at Ridigate proved to be of great interest to local people and tourists alike. The excavated shape of the gate has now been laid out in coloured brick in the surface of the road and a panel explaining the history of the gate with reconstruction drawings and text will shortly be erected on the site.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

#### 9. *Nos. 35-37 Burgate* (formerly part of The Sun)

Following the assigning of the lease of this building to Pizzaland, extensive renovation works were carried out, allowing a thorough examination of the interior of the building during the period April to June 1986.

After the removal of the recent floors of the building, it was evident that earlier floors and features were present. These were subsequently examined in a limited excavation financed by the developers.

The earliest features exposed were the original chalk and flint walls, front and rear, on which the original building had been erected in 1437-38. At the west end of the front wall were scars for the original plate of the fifteenth-century timber building. The back wall at its eastern end contained two different mortars, possibly indicating two phases of building. Three patches of vertical tile within the same wall, noted at the level of truncation, suggested the possible presence of hearths interrupting the wall line.

Probably contemporary with the main walls of the building was the chalk block vaulting of the main cellar, the top of which was exposed over much of the eastern end of the area examined. To provide a level floor for the interior of the building the space between the cellar vaulting and the walls had been filled with grey rubble loam.

In c. 510-17 the west end of the building was altered by the building of Christchurch Gate, some of the buttressing for the gate utilising the existing back wall. Soon after the construction of the gate the floor was tiled over using large (25 cm. square) tiles, set in a thin, creamy yellow mortar. Several of the tiles, where unworn, retained traces of black and yellow glazes. Contemporary with the tiled floor

PLATE V



Nos. 35-37 Burgate. General View of surviving Tile-Floor and Drain viewed from the East. (Scale: 1 m.)

PLATE VI



No. 20 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury. Apsed Foundation for *caldarium* of the Roman Public Baths. Viewed from the East. (Scale: 0.50 m.)

was a flight of four steps, leading down from the floor level in the north-west corner of the building. The steps were built of stone and glazed tile, the upper step exhibiting wear grooves from a door across the stairs. The stairs led down to a mortar screed floor set 40 cm. below the general floor level. In the sixteenth-century gate wall above the sunken area were putlogs for a timbered spiral staircase giving access to the first floor.

The tiled floor in the ground floor area was presumably in existence for some time as many of the tiles were badly worn and in several places the floor had been patched with new tiles and bricks. The wear pattern and areas of patching indicated the position of internal doors and partitions. The existence of these fittings was confirmed by mortices for framed partitions surviving on the underside of the original first floor joists.

Running from north to south across the centre of the building was a drain built of tile and brick. The relationship between the drain and the tiled floor was uncertain, but the tiles used in the construction of the drain were of the same dimensions as the floor-tiles, suggesting a contemporary date, with the tiled floor extending over the top of the drain (Plate V).

A small brick pad against the interior of the east end of the north wall was probably a support for an inserted staircase, leading up to the first floor.

Further work on the building will take place late this year. Work on the timber-framing is described by John Bowen below.

DAMIAN HONE

#### 10. *Nos. 36-37 Stour Street (Fig. 5)*

Excavations in advance of a housing development began on 16th June, on the Stour Street frontage of this site, formerly the old Towers meat warehouse. In early July, a second trench was opened at the back of the site, beside the river. Work on this trench has recently been completed.

The riverside trench, jointly funded by Canterbury City Council and English Heritage, was excavated to a depth of 4.70 m. (partially by machine) and has produced much important and interesting information.

The lowest 2.50 m. of the excavated deposits were below the water table. The earliest levels consisted of nearly 1 m. of peat which accumulated in marshy conditions. These yielded possibly the best group of Belgic pottery ever excavated in Canterbury, as well as many early first-century Roman fine ware imports. The presence of

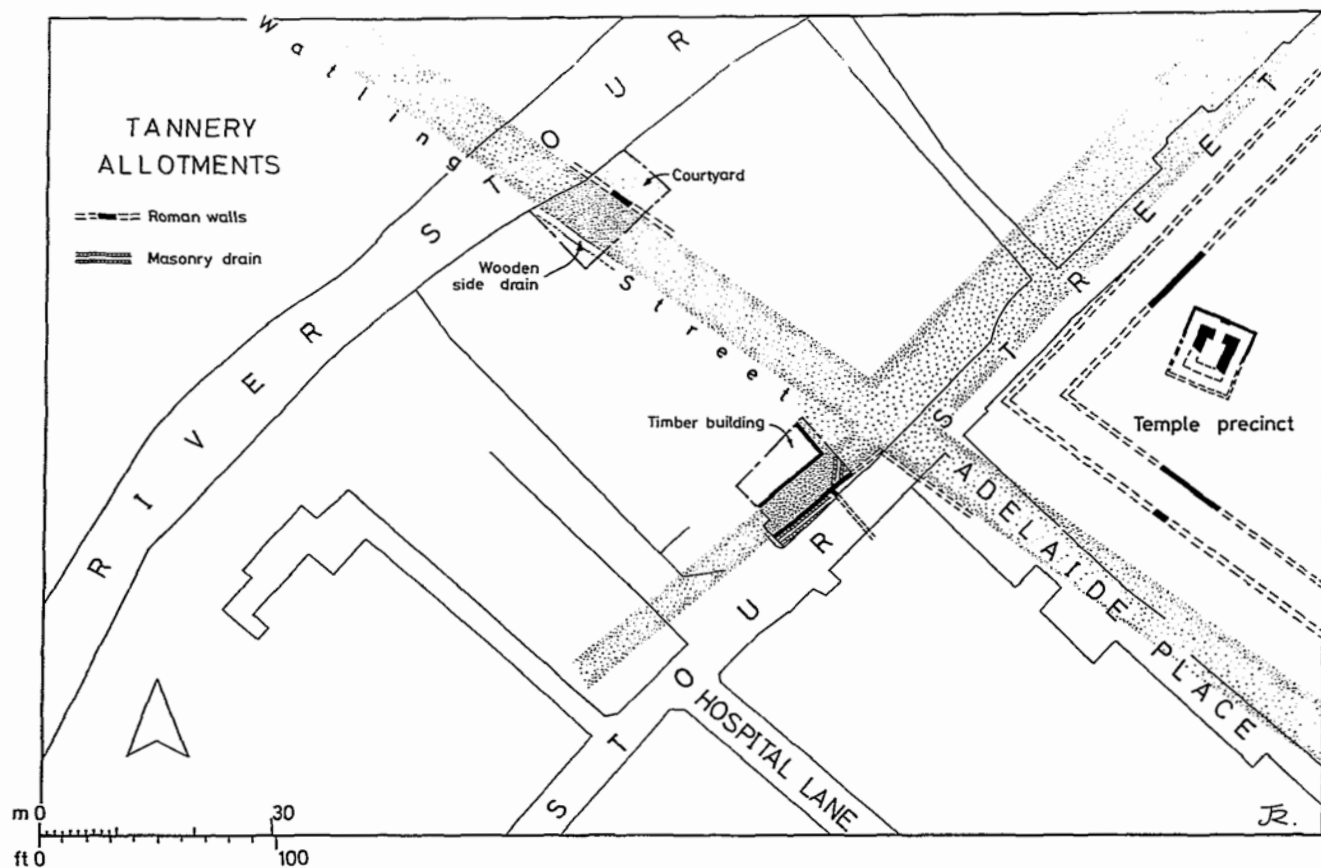


Fig. 5. Nos. 36-37 Stour Street, Canterbury. General Location Plan showing principal Roman Features.

this considerable corpus of finds suggests either Belgic occupation nearby, or possibly a principal crossing over the marshy ground. Samples of the peat layers and other deposits have been taken for analysis at the H.B.M.C. Laboratory by Mr R. Scaife.

The peat levels were sealed by the rammed gravel metallings of Roman Watling Street. A sequence of side drains for the road was discovered on its south side. The latest of these were of wood, perfectly preserved in the anaerobic conditions and consisted of vertical and horizontal planks, held in position by large pointed wooden posts, some surviving to a length of 1.50 m. These drains yielded quantities of pottery, a number of coins, and the preserved sole of a Roman hob-nailed boot (a rare survival) as well as many other scraps of leather, one fragment inscribed with cursive lettering.

To the north of the road over 1 m. of Roman stratigraphy survived. Many of these layers were dump deposits, laid to stiffen the soft ground, but evidence for possible timber buildings, as well as the footings of a late masonry wall, immediately adjacent to the street, were also found. A courtyard extending from this wall suggests the presence of a possible Roman town house to the north of the site.

The Roman levels were capped by extensive layers of black flood silts and peaty clays deposited in riverine conditions throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. These layers were in turn cut by timber piles, partly laced with wickerwork, for a riverside embankment. Thick deposits of dumped soil contemporary with the timberwork indicate deliberate attempts in the early twelfth century to confine the river flood plain west of the line of the present intra-mural stream.

Further episodes of flooding and soil deposition culminated in the construction of two late medieval kitchens, containing large circular bread ovens, built against new masonry riverside walls, which replaced the earlier timber-laced embankment. These were in turn covered by demolition levels, and over 1 m. of late eighteenth- to nineteenth-century dumping. Various property boundary walls dating from the late medieval period, as well as more modern replacements for the riverside walls, were also recorded.

Work on the street frontage trench, financed by the developer, Mr Colin Strickland, is still in progress. The removal of a thick concrete floor in the cellar of the warehouse immediately revealed late Roman deposits, including the gravel metallings of a north-east to south-west aligned street.

A masonry wall, associated with a previously unknown Roman building, survives on the east side of the street. This may be the wall of a portico or covered walkway, fronting onto a building underlying present-day Stour Street. At a later date in the Roman period, a large

sewer or drain, built of coursed Roman tile and masonry, was constructed against this wall, possibly under the floor of the portico.

On the other side of the street, traces of at least two other Roman buildings have been recovered. Only the foundations of the later of these buildings survive. The earlier structure, which may be third-century in date, was probably timber-built. Extensive burnt levels and floors, associated with a heavily fired furnace uncovered within this building, indicate that it probably had an industrial function.

Flood silts seal the latest Roman levels. These deposits, which accumulated from the fifth to the eleventh century, indicate that this part of the city may have been abandoned waste ground throughout this period. Towards the end of this period (perhaps 1,000 years ago), a few rubbish- and cess-pits were dug. Where these encountered the remains of buried Roman walls the masonry was systematically robbed for re-use in new building works elsewhere. At this time the line of present-day Stour Street was established.

The first domestic buildings were probably erected here in the thirteenth century. Remains of these buildings and a well-preserved sequence of later structures dating up to the early seventeenth century survive in the northern part of the excavation. At least six separate buildings, all mainly timber-framed, have so far been identified.

The superstructure of the early seventeenth-century building, which may have been a smithy, was clad in brickwork during redevelopment in the nineteenth century and survived up to its demolition a few months ago. During this demolition the timber-frame was recorded by the Trust staff.

JONATHAN RADY

#### 11. *No. 20 St. Margaret's Street*

Salvage excavations in the basement of 'Martins' took place in late June and throughout July this year. The work, which commenced at short notice following the discovery of well-preserved elements of the Roman public baths during building works, was financed by Mr Paul Phillips of 'Martins'.

During the cutting of deep foundations for a new steel supporting frame for the existing shop (foundations bedded in gravel terrace deposits, well below natural Pleistocene brickearth) the development contractors, Cardy's Ltd., exposed the sub-floor and a number of walls for a heated room associated with the Roman public baths. As a consequence of these discoveries, four foundation trenches cut for the new steel frame were examined in detail by the Trust. Three of

these trenches located substantial masonry walls and the lower *opus signinum* floor of a hypocaust system belonging to a large *caldarium* (hot room or steam bath). The fourth trench lay outside the bath-house. The archaeological levels here were severely disturbed by medieval pits. Nevertheless, surviving stratified deposits in this trench indicated the presence of early Roman timber-framed buildings overlain by a possible courtyard associated with the bath-house.

The wall foundations of the bath-house, including a huge foundation for an apsidal-ended room, continued for a depth of over 3 m. below the floor of the cellar (Plate VI). The foundations were designed to carry substantial loads and must indicate a building of great height. The lower floor of the heated room was bedded on a thick flint and mortar raft which in turn overlay a number of large pits or clay quarries yielding quantities of early Roman pottery.

These elements of the bath complex add considerably to our knowledge of this public building set at the heart of the Roman town. Combined evidence from excavations by Professor S.S. Frere under the Old Fountain Hotel,<sup>12</sup> and the Trust's recent excavations under the new Marlowe Arcade<sup>13</sup> and under St. Margaret's Church (see above) indicate that the baths occupied a greater area than was hitherto believed. Furthermore, the presence of substantial load-bearing foundations under 'Martins' suggests that the complex would have been an outstanding feature of the Roman skyline, complementing perhaps the massive bulk of Canterbury's Roman theatre, located nearby.

One final aspect of the 'Martins' discoveries remains to be described. The excavated portions of the building complex under the Marlowe Arcade and St. Margaret's Church indicated two principal construction phases to the public baths. The first phase baths were probably in use by c. A.D. 125 and were subsequently altered in the early third century. Only one construction phase was apparent in the basement of 'Martins'. The solidly built *caldarium* located under the present shop may therefore have been constructed in the first quarter of the second century and continued in use without radical alteration throughout the life of the building complex. The lower floor of the heated room was covered by a thick deposit of carbon residue from the final firings of the bath-house in the fourth century. Considerable deposits of demolition debris containing painted plaster, box flue-tiles and tiles from stacks which originally supported the upper floor of the heated room, sealed the residue from the final firing. These deposits may well have been laid down during the Roman period

<sup>12</sup> *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vol. v, forthcoming.

<sup>13</sup> *Op. cit.*, note 3 above.

when material from the disused bath-house was being removed for re-use in late Roman buildings elsewhere in the town.

Further work at 'Martins' is expected to take place later this year. This will include a complete excavation of the basement area and the recording of elements of a fourteenth-century timber-framed building recently discovered during alterations to the upper floors of the site.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

## 12. *Barrett's, Pound Lane*

An excavation in advance of proposed redevelopment is currently in progress on the forecourt of Barrett's of Canterbury Ltd. (September 1986). The excavation, funded by the developer, Mr Geoffrey Barrett, was, cut to a V-shaped profile by machine to the level of the water table, some 3.25 m. below the present ground surface. Hand-excavated 'benches' are currently being cut to systematically examine and record the sequence and nature of the archaeological deposits in this part of the city.

At the present time we have just uncovered the remains of a complete mid-twelfth-century kiln, packed with pottery (Plate VII). The kiln is of unique importance. It is by far the oldest medieval kiln found in Kent and the kiln products are of a type that were hitherto thought to have been made in north France or the Low Countries. It seems likely therefore that the kiln and its contents are products of an immigrant French potter, producing glazed and decorated wares in the city during a period when Canterbury was a thriving cosmopolitan centre, both before and after the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170. Examples of this potter's work have been found on a number of Trust-excavated sites, particularly in the Precincts of the Cathedral.<sup>14</sup>

Although work on the kiln is nearing completion, a sequence of earlier levels, including Roman rampart deposits and early and pre-Roman waterlogged soils, has yet to be investigated.

PAUL BENNETT

## 13. *St. John's Lane* (Plate VIII)

Excavations in advance of redevelopment commenced in mid-July and will continue until the middle of November. The excavation is funded by Canterbury City Council, English Heritage, Kent County Council and the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

<sup>14</sup> For example, the *Aula Nova* excavations, see *Arch. Cant.*, xciii (1977), 217.





Pound Lane, Canterbury. Mid twelfth-century Pottery Kiln, during Excavation.  
Viewed from the South-east. (Scale: 1m.)



St. John's Lane, Canterbury. General View of the Excavation from the North.

The first few weeks of the excavation have concentrated on the removal of garden deposits associated with Lullingstone House (constructed in the seventeenth century) and the excavation of medieval structures and associated rubbish-pits. The sides of these pits reveal tantalising glimpses of the levels which we will be excavating over the coming months.

Early medieval structures containing hearth bases and possible Anglo-Saxon occupation may survive here, fronting onto St. John's Lane. These levels may overlie traces of Roman buildings, their presence indicated by substantial amounts of yellow clay and painted plaster, possibly from decayed timber-framed walls. Again, in the sides of the medieval pits there are traces of the site's earlier history, including early Roman and Belgic levels and, hopefully, the earliest known settlement within the walled area of the town. The palisaded defences of this Early Iron Age settlement, dating to c. 300 B.C., were located by Dr Frank Jenkins on the corner of St. John's Lane and Castle Street, only 15 m. away from the present excavation.<sup>15</sup> The line of this palisade and the settlement contained within it should lie beneath this excavation.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

#### 14. *Miscellaneous Watching Briefs*

A large number of watching briefs were undertaken by the Trust this year. Although a proportion of these yielded material remains of only passing interest the following are worthy of note:

##### Barham Crossroads (N.G.R. TR 217502, Fig. 6)

From the beginning of March to early June over a dozen visits were made to the A2 at Barham to observe large-scale roadworks connected with modifications to the notorious Barham crossroads (the junction of B2046 with the A2).

This area is rich in archaeological remains. Numerous crop marks can be seen on the Barham Downs and known sites excavated along the A2 range from the Bronze Age to early Anglo-Saxon in date. The present A2 follows not only the line of the Roman road from Canterbury to Dover, but possibly the earlier course of a prehistoric ridgeway. The Department of Transport, who instigated the project, declined to fund archaeological investigation by the Trust; the work was therefore funded from the Trust's own meagre resources.

<sup>15</sup> Dr F. Jenkins, *Archaeological Newsletter*, March 1951, 145-7 and August-December 1952, 157-9.

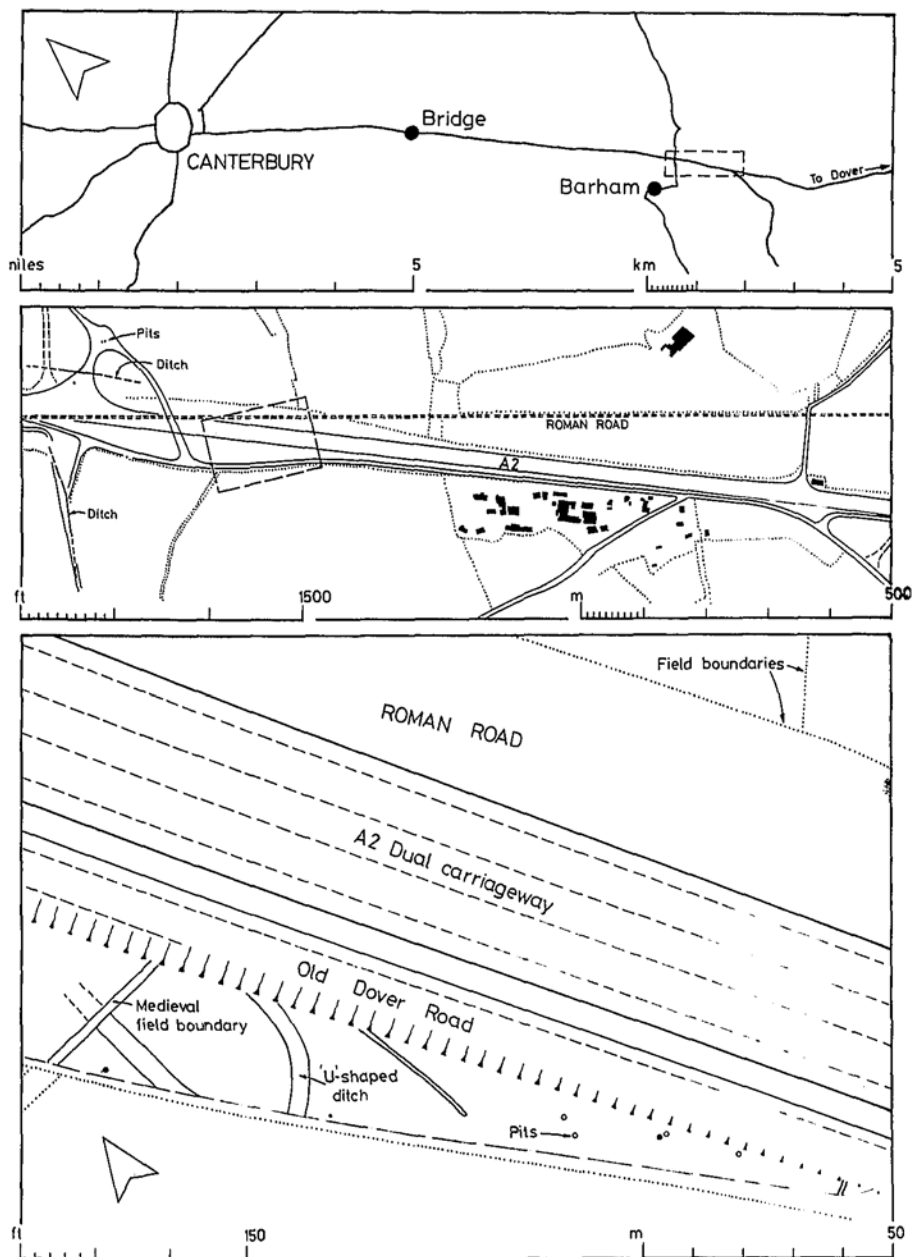


Fig. 6. Barham Crossroads. Location Plan, general Plan and detailed Plan of Features located during the watching Brief.

The roadworks involved the machine-stripping of very large areas of topsoil and the removal of up to 2 m. of the underlying natural chalk, with total destruction of any archaeological features in many places. The cutting of a new slip-road south of the A2 commenced on 23rd February. This area alone was so large (c. 400 m.  $\times$  25–30 m.) that even under ideal conditions only a token investigation could have been made. Heavy machinery was constantly crossing the exposed area and in many places large quantities of topsoil and machine tread obscured the reduced horizon. Even so, about half the area was partially cleaned up and all the observable features were planned and partially excavated.

The most substantial feature, a U-shaped, flat-bottomed ditch, c. 3.50 m. wide and c. 1.70 m. deep, was exposed for a length of 27 m. A short length of the ditch was excavated and quantities of Iron Age pottery recovered. This feature was probably part of a defended enclosure belonging to an Iron Age settlement, most of which lies south-east of the road. Four other smaller ditches, one obviously a medieval field boundary, were also observed. A number of shallow pits and post-holes were excavated. One of these yielded a few sherds of potentially Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery, including one or two decorated fragments.

On 12th March, topsoil stripping over a greater area north of the A2, for a roundabout, slip-roads and a bridge, was begun. A close watch was kept on these operations, but in the event very little of significance was discerned. A watch was also kept on various other cuttings and trenches north-east and west of the crossroads, but these areas had already been extensively disturbed when the Old Dover Road was turned into a dual carriage-way between 1966 and 1973.

#### Gorsley House, Castle Row (see Fig. 1, no. 15)

From February to May 1986 a watching brief was maintained at Gorsley House, Castle Row, where a residential development was in progress.

Although the area lay close to the defences of Canterbury Castle, no trace of the defensive ditch was located. The only signs of occupation were numerous rubbish-pits, ranging in date from the Roman to the late medieval periods. These were recorded in the sides of machine-dug foundation and service trenches.

#### No. 6 Mercery Lane (see Fig. 1, no. 16)

Monitoring of a deep trench, cut to form a new stair-well giving

access to the basement of no. 6 Mercery Lane, on the Buttermarket frontage, occurred during March 1986.

This trench cut through the rammed gravel metallings of a major north-east to south-west aligned Roman street. The surface of the latest street, located 1.40 m. below the present surface of Buttermarket, was sealed by demolition debris, presumably from a nearby late Roman building. The levels sealing these deposits were extensively disturbed by eighteenth- to twentieth-century service trenches.

The primary Roman street, which overlay pre- and early Roman topsoil deposits (the level of natural brickearth was 2.75 m. below the surface of the Buttermarket), was capped by at least nine individual re-metallings; a total street thickness of 0.70 m.

#### No. 10 Upper Bridge Street (see Fig. 1, no. 17)

This watching brief, financed by the builders Sloggetts, took place during the cutting and laying of foundations and sewers for a new house, in the latter part of April 1986. Although eleven deep foundation trenches were machine-excavated down to natural gravel, their small size (at most 2 m.  $\times$  1 m.) meant that only a fraction of the archaeological deposits could be observed, and then only briefly. Even so, a fair amount of evidence, including pottery and other finds, was recovered.

The earliest features consisted of early medieval rubbish-pits, mainly concentrated in the southern part of the site. No evidence for extra-mural Roman or Saxon occupation was discerned.

The pits were sealed by floor levels of later medieval timber buildings, but the plan, or even the extent, of these structures could not be defined. Layers of burnt clay, charcoal and large quantities of iron slag were observed within the building levels, and part of a possible kiln or furnace was also uncovered in the north-east corner of the site. This suggests that the buildings may have been workshops, associated with ironworking or some other industrial process.

Modern features, including a brick-lined well about 30 ft. deep and a brick soakaway or cess-tank, were also recorded.

#### No. 86 Broad Street (see Fig. 1, no. 18)

In May 1986, a minor watching brief was maintained during the construction of an extension to no. 86 Broad Street. The foundation trenches cut through the remains of a large brick drain, with barrel-vaulted top. The drain, now choked with silt, undoubtedly connects with the great drain of Christchurch Priory, built in the

mid-twelfth century and shown on Prior Wibert's Waterworks Plan of c. 1165. The brick drain, built in 1830 and called the 'common sewer', was located cut into deposits filling the old city ditch, and extended north-westwards, under Northgate Street, where it was located during gas trenching in 1976. A further extension of the drain was exposed during the Church Lane excavations in 1977,<sup>16</sup> together with an earlier sequence of timber-lined drains, built for the same purpose and on the same line.

Thanet Brakes, New Ruttington Lane (see Fig. 1, no. 19)

At Thanet Brakes, New Ruttington Lane, a post-medieval brick or tile kiln was recorded during the construction of the new extension to that property. The kiln, the first to have been located on the south side of the river valley, would have been ideally situated to employ the local brickearth for brick manufacture. This watching brief was funded by the developer, Thanet Brakes Ltd.

No. 15 St. George's Street (see Fig. 1, no. 20)

Building work at the rear of no. 15 St. George's Street in February revealed the badly disturbed foundations of buildings occupying the site since the fourteenth century.

No. 19 St. Peter's Place (see Fig. 1, no. 21)

A watching brief maintained during the cutting of foundation trenches for an extension at no. 19 St. Peter's Place, revealed a sequence of garden and agricultural soils dating back to the early medieval period. These levels overlay deposits of peat and alluvium, indicating a history of flooding on that site in the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

St. Dunstan's Main Sewer (see Fig. 1, no. 22)

Monitoring of trenches cut for the installation of a new mains sewer in the St. Dunstan's area took place throughout October and November last year. Only scatters of worn and abraded Roman sherds were recovered from the greater part of the new trench and the stratification indicated that much of the area cut through by the trench was open agricultural land from the Roman period to the

<sup>16</sup> *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, vol. ii, 77-106.

mid-nineteenth century. The remains of four Roman cremation burials were truncated by the trench opposite nos. 5-7 New Street, an area known to contain burials.

The Altar of the Swordpoint, Canterbury Cathedral (see Fig. 1, no. 23)

A watching brief was undertaken in the Martyrdom of the Cathedral during the setting up of the new Altar of the Swordpoint. The construction of a new altar, commemorating the spot where Thomas Becket was murdered on 29th December, 1170, necessitated the removal and cutting of a number of existing floor slabs. A careful study of the paving stones in the area indicated that scars for a medieval altar and impressions of iron fixtures for an altar rail survived against the east wall on the site of the proposed new altar, in the north-west transept. The identification of these elements of intact medieval flooring led to a modification of the scheme. The original floor was carefully protected during the construction of the new altar and can still be seen between the Altar of the Swordpoint and the east wall of the transept.

The Welcome Centre, Canterbury Cathedral (see Fig. 1, no. 24)

Foundation trenches cut during the construction of the new Welcome Centre outside the Chapter Office exposed a sequence of rammed construction deposits associated with a post-medieval conduit house for the cathedral. A number of recent pits and a well were also recorded.

Elements of the conduit, shown on the Thomas Hill plan of the Precincts<sup>17</sup> were uncovered during the construction work. An extensive subterranean tank, built of brick with a barrel-vaulted top and associated brick walls, were all located in minor foundation and service trenches for the Welcome Centre. These were undoubtedly associated with the conduit.

Documentary work on the cathedral water supply is in progress and a full report including the results of the watching brief will hopefully be published next year.

PAUL BENNETT

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Hill plan, drawn in 1680 and published in 1703.

## BUILDING SURVEYS

A. *Nos. 36-37 Burgate* (formerly part of The Sun)

Structurally drastic modifications to the retail area of this property have, since the eighteenth century, destroyed virtually all the original ground floor timber-framing. Stripping out, prior to 'Pizzaland's' refurbishment, of fittings and wall claddings, has revealed not only many structural faults but also a complete jumble of inserted timbering at the rear, where the frame, including the upper plate, has been removed. A survey of the existing timber-frame was drawn and analysed for the Canterbury City Council Conservation Section, to ascertain the best form of repair and consolidation.

The more recent removal of the nineteenth-century shop-front exposed further typical examples of the severity of structural damage caused by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century modifications to Canterbury's medieval buildings. The insertion of two cast-iron posts had at one point broken the back of the jetty plate so badly that in turn it had caused failure of the joist tenons in the rear of the first floor plate. Remedial works necessitated a fuller exploration of this part of the building, which is currently under way, and consequently several architectural features have come to light. Here the form and detail of the elevations are sufficiently represented to allow an almost complete reconstruction of the original shop-front. Observations made on the first floor have ascertained the use of low braces (as can be seen at 'The Bull' and the rear of no. 8 High Street). The scantling is the most massive observed to date in Canterbury and the style of framing and carpentry is almost certainly foreign to the region. A contemporary document, relating to the building of 'The Sun' mentions labour from Norfolk,<sup>18</sup> which not only confirms the evidence of non-Kentish craftsmanship seen in the fabric, but may represent the source and introduction of the low brace into this city.

B. '*Cogan House*', no. 53 *St. Peter's Street* (Fig. 7)

Change of use of this, the oldest house in Canterbury, has afforded an excellent opportunity to study in more detail certain aspects of its earliest carpentry and to reassess its architectural development as a whole. A full measured survey is currently under way. A reassessment of the mass of documentary evidence for the building will also be undertaken in the near future.

<sup>18</sup> The Sun Inn was built by Christ Church Priory in 1437-38. Amongst a body of documentary evidence relating to the construction of the Sun is a reference to John Gonold of Bury St. Edmund's, carpenter, who received livery from the Prior or Christ Church while he was making timberwork at 'le Sunne'.



# Cogan House 53 St. Peter's St.

Canterbury  
Archaeological  
Trust

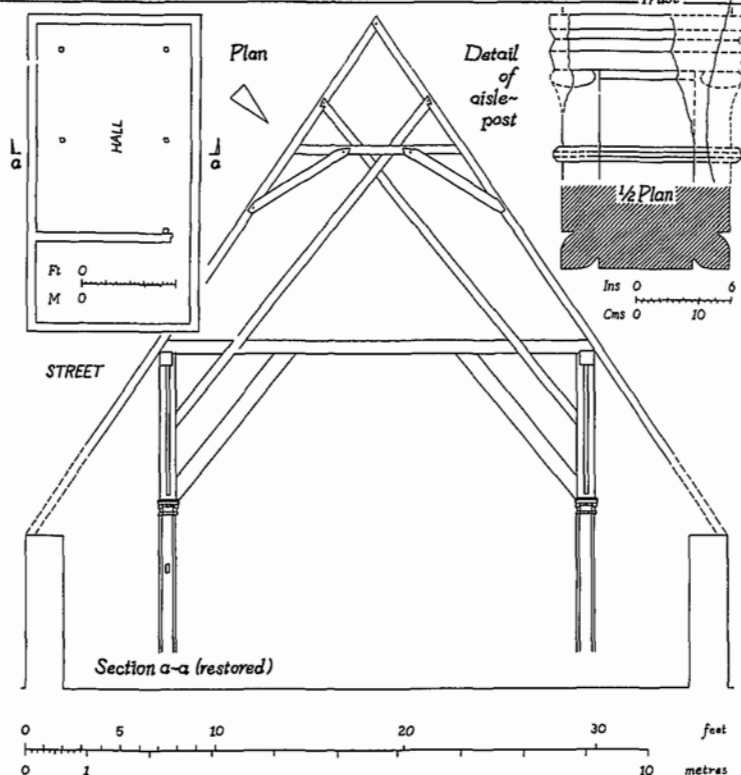


Fig. 7. 'Cogan House', no. 53 St. Peter's Street, Canterbury.

## C. Nos. 5-8 Turnagain Lane (Fig. 8)

Turnagain Lane is a cul-de-sac off the west side of Palace Street (formerly St. Alphege Street) south of St. Alphege Church. The most characteristic feature of the lane is a three-storeyed range on the north side, jettied at the first floor. The ground floor is built of brick, the remainder rendered. Prior to redevelopment the Trust was commissioned to assess its historical importance, and, after a provisional survey, it was found to be part of a row of two-storey fifteenth-century tenements, the third storey having been added some time during the nineteenth century.

The restoration afforded an excellent opportunity not only to examine the standing structure, but also to study the related (below

ground) stratigraphy in those places where new foundation trenches were dug. Apart from the total removal of the front ground-floor frame (when the jetty was partially underbuilt) the principal first-floor framing remains remarkably intact.

The tenements, built in the local tradition, seem to have remained little altered until the roof was dismantled and the rafters re-used to 'beef up' the first-floor 'brace and lathe' frame, when the third storey was added. A two-storey lean-to extension (at the rear) dates from this time, but may have earlier origins.

The original westward extent of the row is suggested by the length of the lane and the scarf in the middle of the eaves plate at no. 8.

The study of the carpenter's marks on the joists proved to be far more interesting with regard to the eastward limit. Recently access has been afforded to no. 20 Orange Street and no. 1 Palace Street (another fifteenth-century building). Here, around the corner, (across the dragon beam) the numbering system changes. This might explain the apparent shortage of joists (at Turnagain Lane) to reach Palace Street. Furthermore, as a result of taking the problem thus far, it was observed that the jetty of no. 8 Palace Street (a heavily 'restored' building) is of the same level and character as the Turnagain Lane row. The fabric of no. 8 Palace Street has not, apart from the joist ends, been properly studied and it is therefore provisionally proposed that it may be part of the same development. Similar multiple unit developments are known at nos. 64-72 Goodramgate, nos. 1-2 All Saints Lane and no. 31 North Street, York.<sup>19</sup>

Properties on the south side (towards the west) of the lane (shown on the 1874 O.S. maps) correspond in size to those on the north and may indicate the partial survival of another row. Unfortunately, by the time the Goad insurance maps (which indicate jetties) were compiled in 1912 the buildings had already been demolished.

The western limit of the lane seems to correspond to a boundary, shown on the Doidge map (1752) a little west of the church, and may indicate the original westward limit of the graveyard, before its extension in 1602.<sup>20</sup> The siting of the row(s) therefore may be indicative of speculative development on church land, other examples of which can be seen at York and Salisbury.<sup>21</sup>

Of those urban timber-framed buildings to have survived from the fifteenth century, nos. 5-8 Turnagain Lane represent the type of accommodation available to those at a relatively low level on the social ladder.

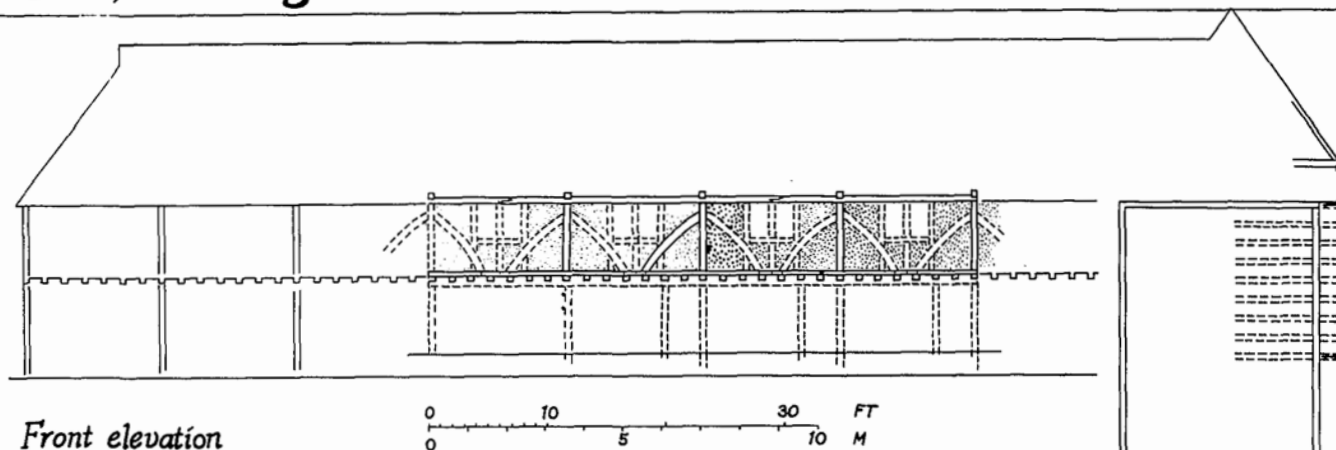
<sup>19</sup> Pers. comm. York Archaeological Trust.

<sup>20</sup> Pers. comm. Tim Tatton-Brown.

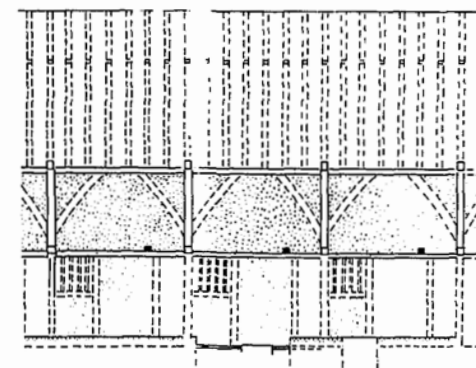
<sup>21</sup> Pers. comm. Tim Tatton-Brown.

# 5-8, Turnagain Lane

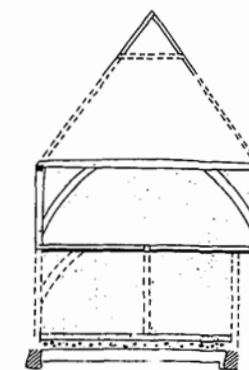
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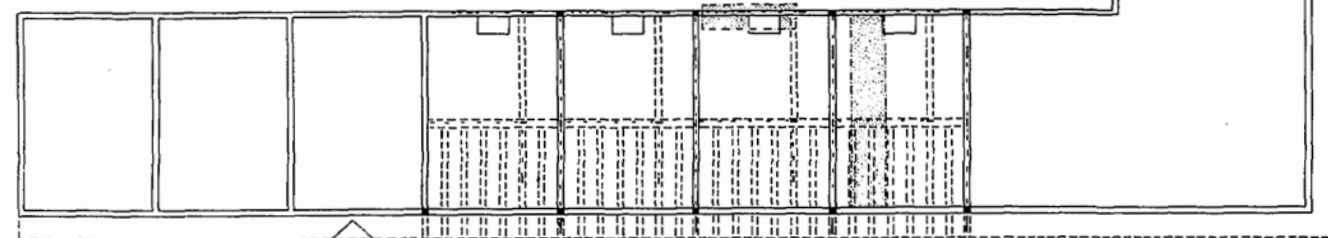
Front elevation



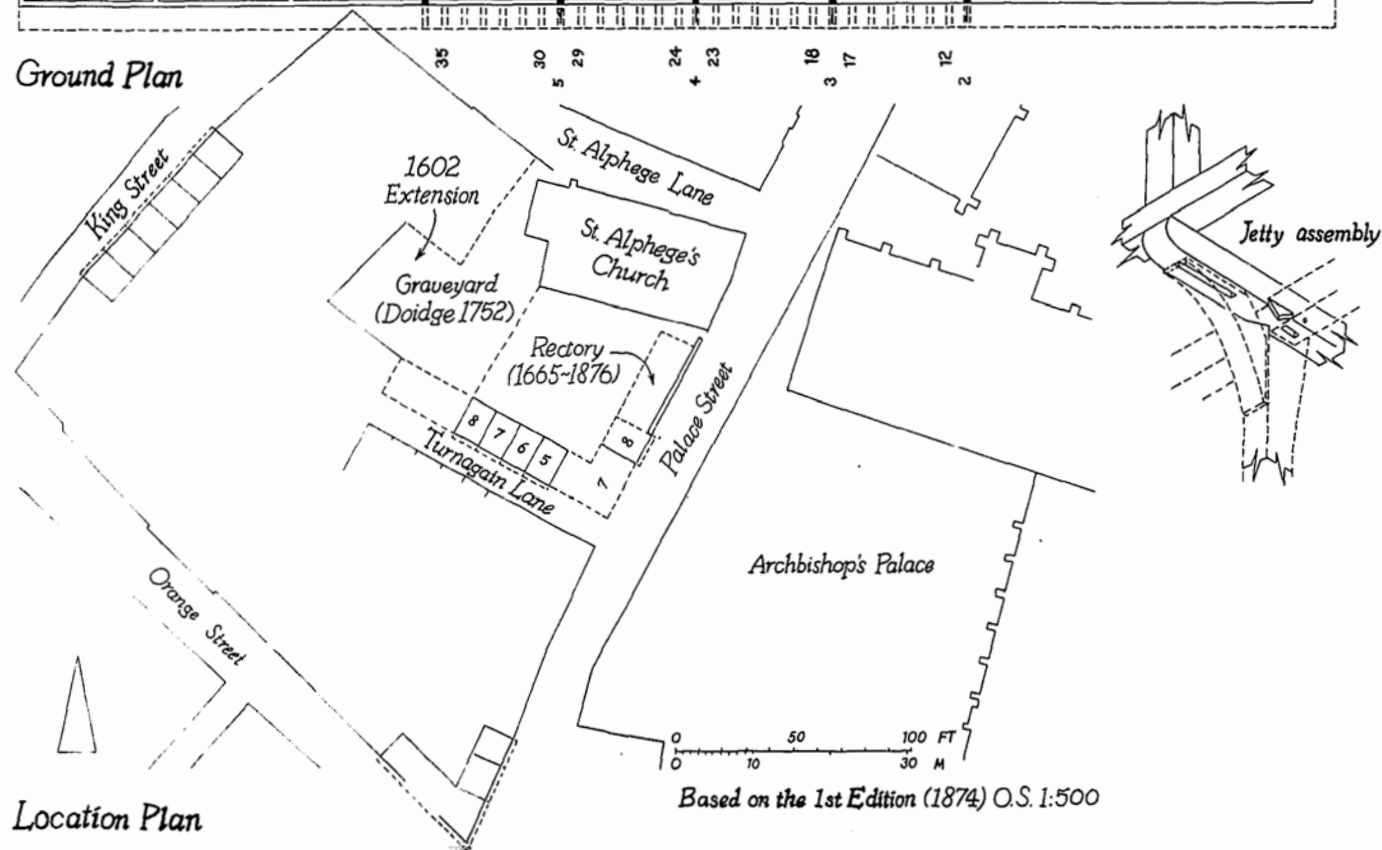
Rear elevation (internal)



Section

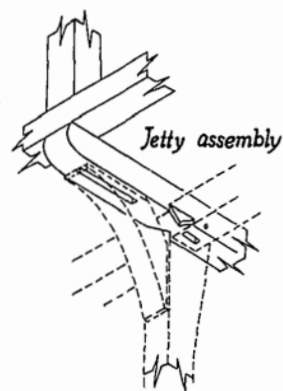


Ground Plan

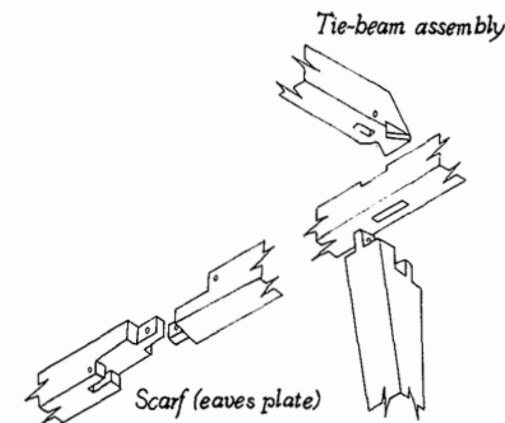


Location Plan

Based on the 1st Edition (1874) O.S. 1:500



Jetty assembly



Tie-beam assembly

Scarf (eaves plate)

D. *Nos. 12-13 High Street (Fig. 9)*

During the course of repair and consolidation to the façade of this building some well-preserved details of the first floor elevation were observed.

Apart from the main framing, which dates from the fifteenth century, no evidence for the original fenestration was uncovered. However, the small seventeenth-century windows, which would have flanked a contemporary bay window, were found to be in good condition. In the nineteenth century the bay window was replaced and the timber-framing concealed.

E. *No. 34 St. Margaret's Street*

After a disastrous fire and a protracted period of abandonment, the Trust was commissioned to survey and assess the archaeological value of this curious seventeenth-century building. Despite the hazardous working conditions the results were, though at times perplexing, eventually most rewarding.

The façade of the building, as is often the case, dates from the nineteenth century, when the jetties were removed and replaced by the existing mathematical tile-hung and sash-windowed elevation. Behind this bland front, however, the original frame remains virtually intact, including some of the best details observed to date for a building of this period. A small panelled chamber at the rear of the second floor only just, fortunately, escaped the onslaught of the flames.

During the course of exploratory work two fine brick fireplaces were uncovered. Sufficient remains of the fine painted decorative stucco work on the moulded jambs and spandrels for a complete restoration should it be required for the current refurbishment. Of particular interest here is the survival of many elements of the original fenestration, most specifically, well-preserved windows on all but one side of a tower lighting the stairwell.

F. *Nos. 43-43a St. Peter's Street*

Shop refitting once again afforded an opportunity to examine some hitherto concealed details of a building which, from its façade, appears to be a pair of small, early seventeenth-century, commercial and residential properties. An examination of the interior confirmed the presence of a fifteenth-century frame, with two bays of crown-post roof surviving. The easternmost truss is numbered 1111 (4), indicating an original continuation towards the west.

# 12-13, High St.

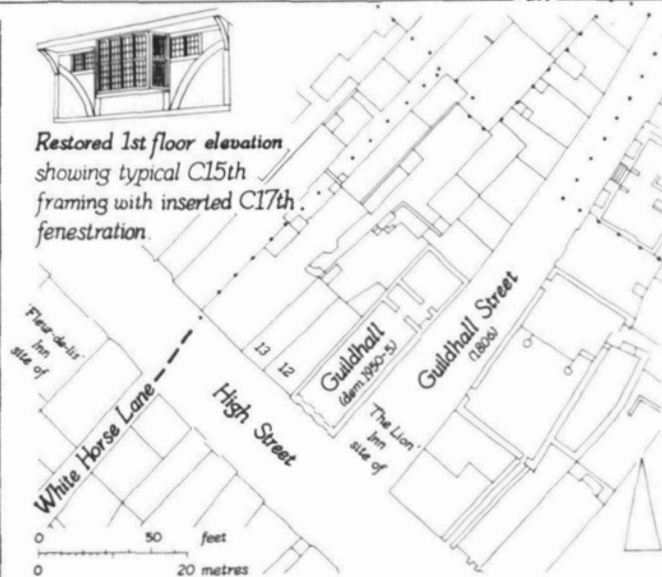
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12-13, High St. 1886



*Restored 1st floor elevation  
showing typical C15th  
framing with inserted C17th  
fenestration.*



*Location plan based on the 1st Edition (1874) OS 1500*

Fig. 9. Nos. 12-13 High Street, Canterbury.

# 22, Palace St.

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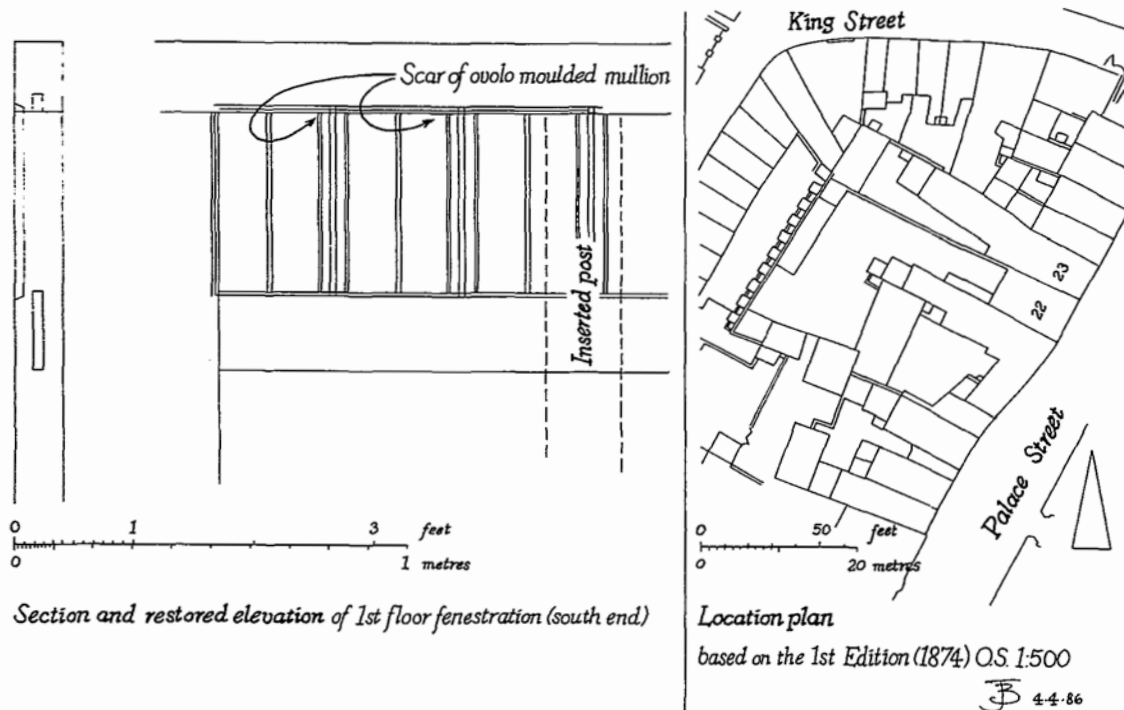


Fig. 10. No. 22 Palace Street, Canterbury.

G. *No. 22 Palace Street* (Fig. 10)

Evidence for some of the contemporary fenestration of the (?mid) seventeenth-century building was recorded during the course of re-tiling part of the first floor.

H. *No. 30 St. Margaret's Street*

Several details of the rear gable end of this timber-framed building have been uncovered during recent re-cladding. Despite the clasped-side purlin roof and evidence for late sixteenth- to early seventeenth-century fenestration, the presence of 'Kentish framing' (tension bracing) may indicate the re-use of a medieval frame. A fuller examination, at some future date, may shed more light on the topographical development of this area (see Excavation report no. 3, above).

I. *Nos. 20 Orange Street and 1 Palace Street* (Fig. 11)

Stripping out of the Palace Street side of this L-shaped building, prior to shop refitting, exposed an unexpected fifteenth-century first floor in very good condition. Elements of the rear frame, the positions of two staircases and carpenter's numbers, were among the details recorded. The front of the building had, however, been completely rebuilt in the nineteenth century and no trace of the original front elevation was found.

J. *No. 36 Stour Street* (Fig. 12)

During demolition work prior to redevelopment a hitherto unknown timber-frame came to light. The building had had its roof replaced and its frame completely encased in brickwork during the nineteenth century. The frame, which was recorded and then dismantled, represents the final phase of timber-framed building on this site, in a sequence which possibly dates back to the late twelfth century (see above, Excavation report no. 10).

K. *No. 25 The Precincts* (Fig. 13)

Internal refurbishment in a ground-floor room of this building, currently one of the King's School Offices, exposed on all four walls, to everyone's great surprise, the original panelling. Although remarkably complete, the rotten state of the wood unfortunately demanded removal, subsequent to its recording.

The accompanying figure shows that a variety of mouldings were incorporated in the panelling, which had quite clearly been brought

# 1, Palace St. (& 20, Orange St.)

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Location plan

based on 1st Edition (1874) OS 1:500

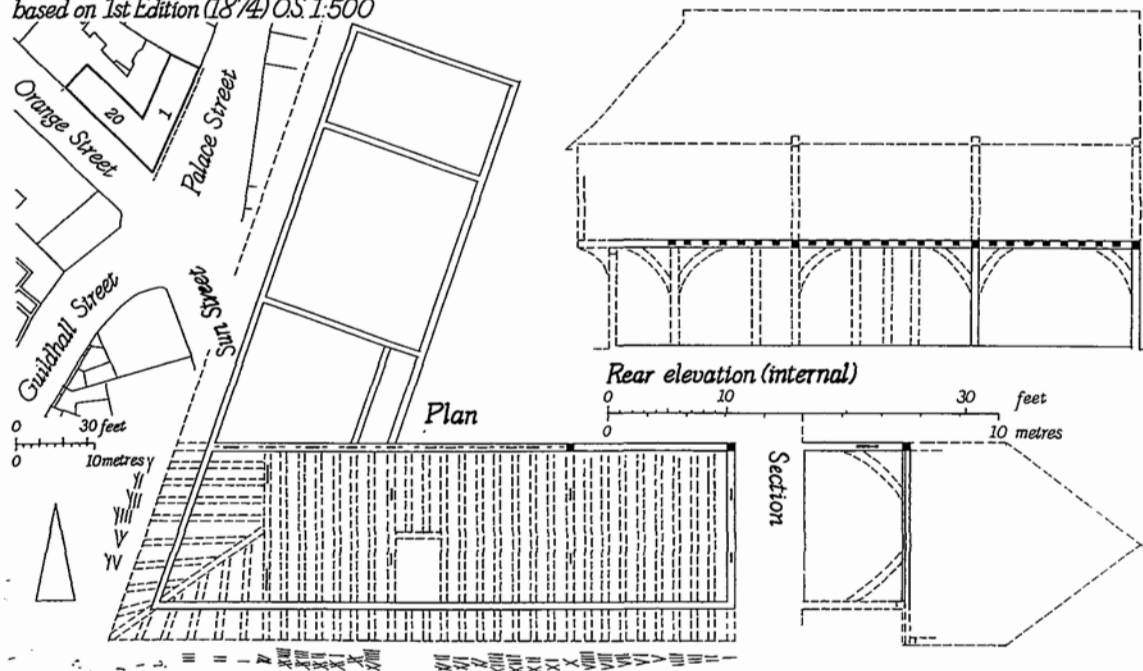


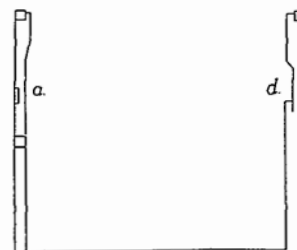
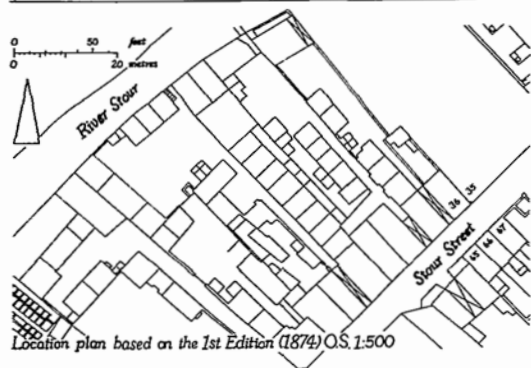
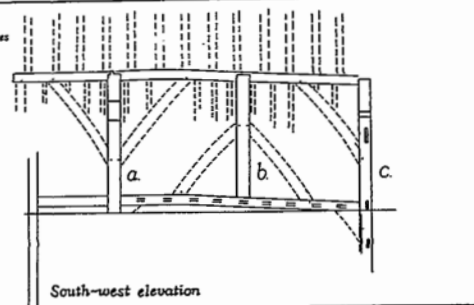
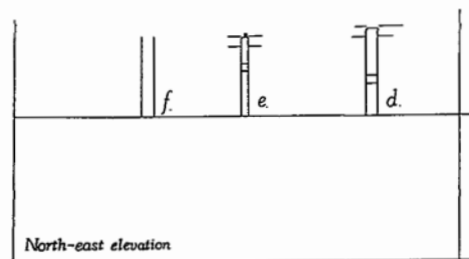
Fig. 11. Nos. 20 Orange Street and 1 Palace Street, Canterbury.



# 36, Stour St.

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0 5 10 20 Feet  
0 5 10 Metres



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Fig. 12. No. 36 Stour Street, Canterbury.

## 25, The Precincts

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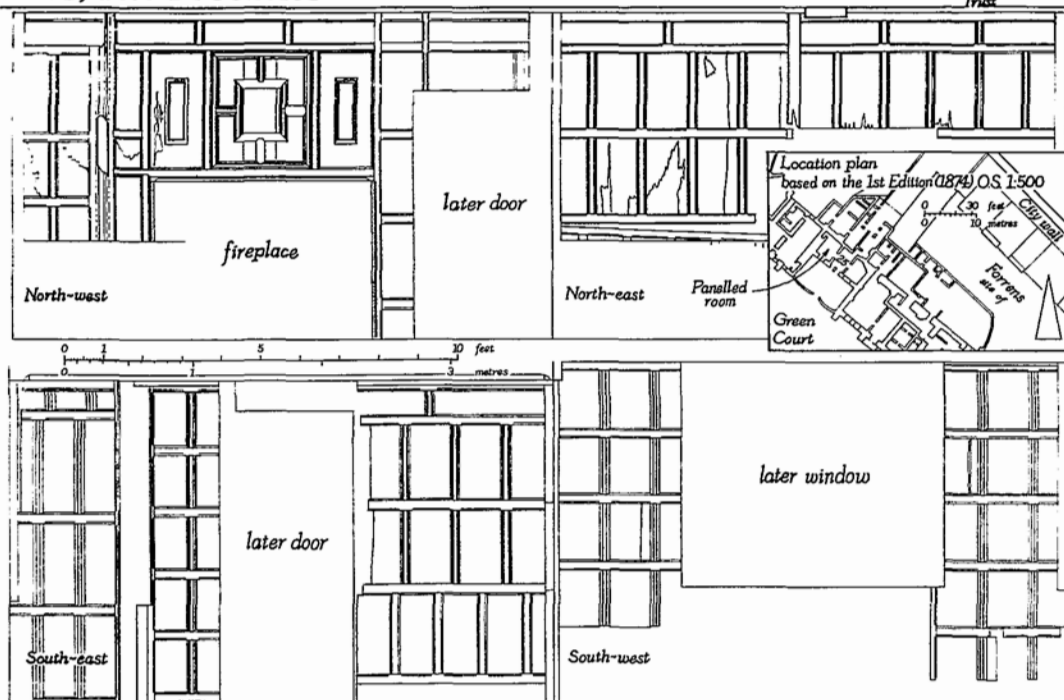


Fig. 13. No. 25 The Precincts, Canterbury.

in from elsewhere in the Precincts. The house, which is dated 1659 across the first floor in brick, replaced a section of the monastic brewhouse/bakehouse range, which had partially collapsed in 1635. This collapsed section formed the north-western limit of buildings allocated to the Dean after the Dissolution. The records for this disorderly period are almost non-existent, and it is curious to find a building being erected prior to the restoration of the Dean and Chapter in 1660.

The surface treatment of the façade exploits to the full the decorative quality of diaperwork. The ground floor of brick and flint is separated from the Caen stone and flint first floor by a cornice of lozenge motif brickwork. Twin transverse gables are also executed in brickwork.

#### L. *The Archbishop's Palace*

Whilst the excavations of Lanfranc's Palace (see above) were under way a survey was made of those elements of the building still standing and partly incorporated into the present palace. The most notable feature in the original fabric is the use of Quarr stone ashlar for the undercroft windows. The eleventh-century fabric was modified substantially during the course of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

A study was also made of the architectural fragments recovered during the excavation and as a result of the dismantling of a rockery immediately west of the excavation. The most exciting piece to come to light was a sizeable fragment of capital belonging to the clustered columns of the thirteenth-century Great Hall. The discovery of this fragment combined with existing information about the Great Hall has enabled an almost complete reconstruction, on paper, of this magnificent building.

#### M. *St. Margaret's Church*

A full measured survey of St. Margaret's Church is currently under way. Provisional drawings prepared in conjunction with the recent excavation (see above) have already been produced and after removal of the remaining rendering is complete a record of the fabric will be made. A photographic survey of the church, including ledger slabs and wall monuments, has already been completed.

JOHN BOWEN