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INTERIM REPORT ON WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1987 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Thirty large and small excavations have taken place since the compilation of the last interim for *Arch. Cant.* Most of these have been funded by the developer, with additional grant aid coming from English Heritage and the Friends of the Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of the K.A.S. for their help during this past year. The support of the Society is extremely important to us and we hope they will continue to assist us, as they have since the Trust was formed twelve years ago, for many years to come. Although the Trust appears to be thriving, we survive only because we receive large measures of local support.

Recent discoveries worthy of note are: part of a monumental inscription re-used in the floor of the *piscina* of the Roman Public Baths under St. Margaret's Church, the well-preserved *caldarium* of the Public Baths under no. 20 St. Margaret's Street, part of the earliest settlement known at Canterbury, dating from c. 300 B.C. found in St. John's Lane, the sequence of pre- and early Roman levels found in waterlogged conditions on the Towers Site, Stour Street, the surprisingly well-preserved remains of Roman Ridigate revealed during excavation and survey work in the cavity walls on either side of the present gateway, the remains of All Saints' Church and Blackfriars' Gate in St. Peter's Street and the large Roman masonry building currently being excavated on the Tannery Allotments.

Also worthy of note is the work the Trust has recently embarked upon in the Folkestone, Ashford and Dover areas for Eurotunnel. A large excavation is under way at Holywell Coombe. Here a multi-disciplinary team, led by Drs. Richard Preece and Mary Seddon of Cambridge University, with Trust fieldworkers under the supervision of Mr Steve Ouditt, are sampling a rich sequence of hill-wash deposits that contain environmental and artefactual remains dating back over 12,000 years. Eurotunnel have also commissioned the Trust to evaluate a large number of potentially interesting sites in

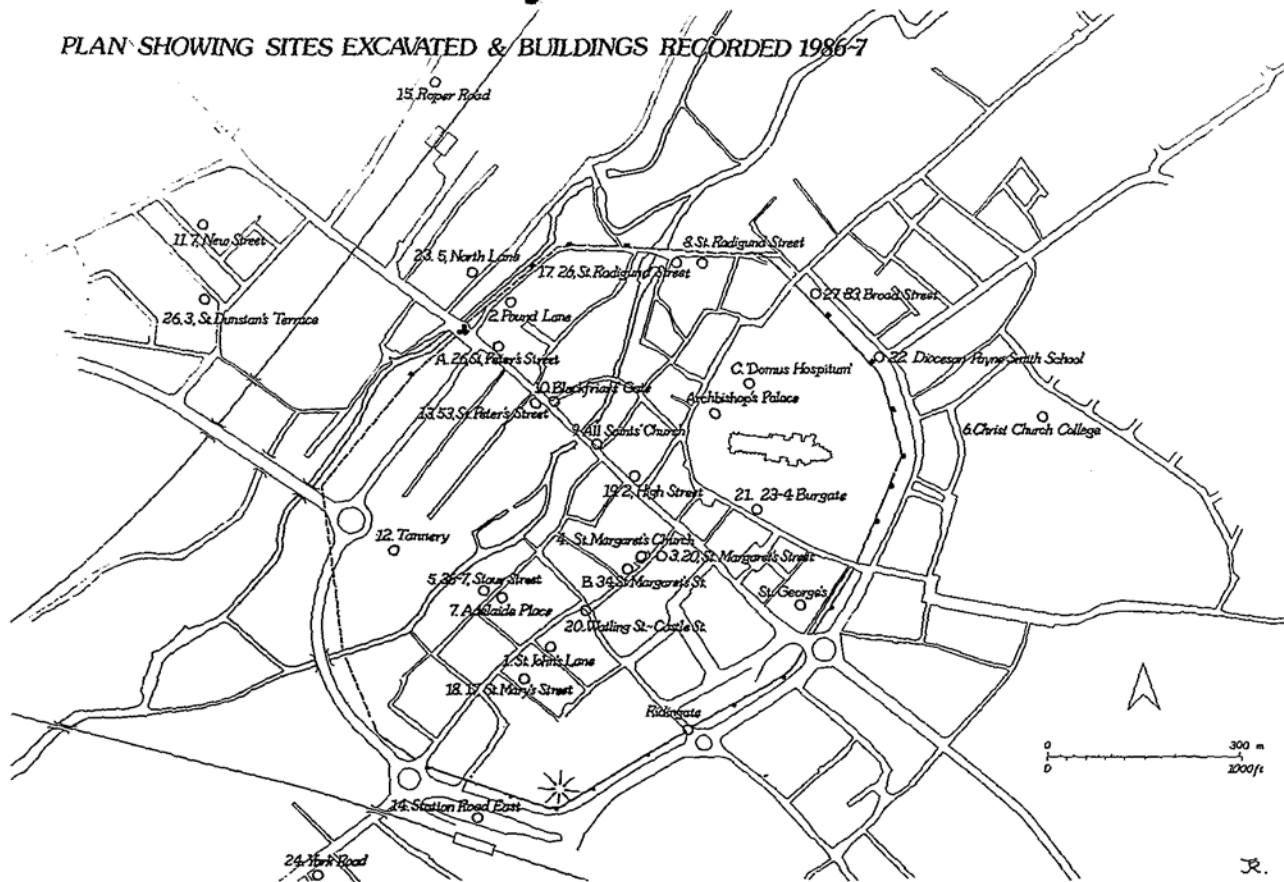


Fig. 1. Overall Plan of Sites.

areas to be disturbed by ground works for the tunnel. Jonathan Rady is supervising this work on our behalf.

Post-excavation work is currently in progress on Ridigate, the Archbishop's Palace, the St. George's site, Highstead and St. John's Lane site. A number of other post-excavation projects, which were due to be undertaken this year, have been postponed in order to complete the mammoth task of bringing the Marlowe monograph, Volume V in *The Archaeology of Canterbury* series, to completion in this financial year.

A number of academic and popular works have been published this year. Volume VIII in *The Archaeology of Canterbury* series, *Intra- and Extra- Mural Sites, 1949-55 and 1980-84*, has recently been published. The report on our excavations in the Outer Court of St. Augustine's Abbey has appeared in *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986). The first number in the *Heritage of Canterbury* series, 'Canterbury in Domesday Book' with the text written by Tim Tatton-Brown and illustrations and design by members of C.A.T. in association with Howard Smith of E.C. Parker and Company (Services) Limited, has appeared and is selling well. This new publication was generously sponsored by the Kent Archaeological Society.

The first eight coloured postcards in the *Heritage of Canterbury* series have also recently been printed and these, too, seem to be well received. A range of wall-charts, postcards, leaflets and a 1989 Canterbury Calendar are in preparation. We have also commissioned a number of local craftsmen to manufacture a range of replica pots and small finds. These replicas are being produced in association with Trust staff and a small authenticating booklet will accompany each object.

The early medieval pottery kiln, found last year under the fore-court of Barrett's Garage near Westgate, is currently being reconstructed by Trust staff in their spare time in a small wood near the university. Replicas of the kiln's products are being thrown by local professional potters, pottery students and Trust staff, in preparation for a firing in late autumn.

EXCAVATIONS (Fig. 1)

1. *St. John's Lane* (Fig. 2)

Excavations on this site continued until November 1986, concentrating on the St. John's Lane frontage, with a view to studying any medieval frontage structures and aspects of the underlying Roman Belgic and Early Iron Age stratigraphy. A note on the early stages of work appeared in last year's interim report.

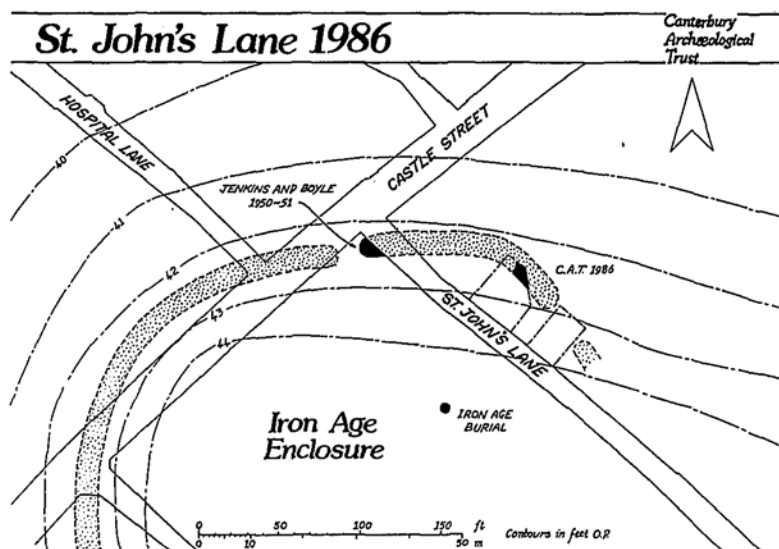


Fig. 2. St. John's Lane: Plan showing postulated Location of Early Iron Age Enclosure, St. John's Lane (Scale: 1:150).

The latest deposits consisted of seventeenth-century garden soils, part of the large formal garden at the rear of the Somner family town house still standing at no. 5 Castle Steet. These garden loams overlies poorly preserved post-medieval and late medieval structures against the St. John's Lane frontage. Underlying stratigraphy was cut by medieval rubbish pits, although enough survived to glean a reasonably complete picture of the medieval and earlier sequences.

Late Roman/Anglo-Saxon oven bases sat directly over the destruction deposits of a large Roman timber-framed building. Only part of this building, which could have extended to Roman Watling Street 15 m. to the north-east, lay within the excavated area. This structure was probably constructed during the early second century and underwent extensive alterations and renovations throughout several decades. Of great interest were walls constructed from clay blocks, faced with a rough mortar rendering carrying a painted plaster face. The plaster had fallen from the clay wall in slabs so that it was possible to lift large sections which are still being studied. Characteristic features include 'candelabra' motifs, floral swags and borders of various colours dividing the wall into a series of panels. Two infant burials were also recovered from beneath the floor of the building.

The Roman structure overlay early Roman/Belgic rubbish pits and stake-hole scatters. Iron Age features consisted of a shallow gully and

part of a larger ditch which may be part of the ditch located by Dr F. Jenkins and J. Boyle in 1948–50, which contained pottery dating to c. 300 B.C.¹

Due to lack of developer funding, we are very grateful to the Canterbury City Council, English Heritage, Kent County Council and the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for providing the finance for these excavations.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

2. 'Barrett's', Pound Lane (Fig. 3)

Excavations funded by the developer, Mr Geoffrey Barrett, were completed on this site. The pottery and initial findings were presented in last year's interim report.²

When complete, the plan of the kiln showed that it was of single flue form, with a tongue-like pedestal running out from the back of the kiln. A hole in the front of the tongue may have held a pillar to help support the dome of the structure. Fired clay bars were probably rested on the tongue and fastened into the clay walls of the oven to form a perforated floor on which stacked pots would have rested. Logically, the 'exhaust' would have been a vent in the dome of the kiln. A small hole just inside the flue suggests the positioning of a small baffle which would divert flames and hot gasses into the side channels under the suspended floor. A domed structure 'stiffened' with wickerwork is indicated by the rows of stake-holes surrounding parts of the kiln. Unfired buff clay fragments were located in the stoke area. These have been lifted for scientific analysis and comparison with the waste pottery in the kiln and samples have been taken for archaeomagnetic dating of the kiln fabric.

Beneath the kiln, stratified waterlogged deposits included the tail of an earth/turf bank which backed the Roman city wall. A wicker-lined well which may be contemporary with the kiln was located nearby.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

3. 'Martins', no. 20 St. Margaret's Street (Figs. 4 and 5)

The final stages of excavating the cellar of 'Martins' took place between December 1986 and May 1987 (for details of the initial stages see last year's interim report).³

¹ *Archaeological Newsletter* 3, no. 9 (1951) and 4, no. 10 (1952).

² *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 216.

³ *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 214–5.

Pound Lane 1986Canterbury
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Trust**THE POTTERY KILN**

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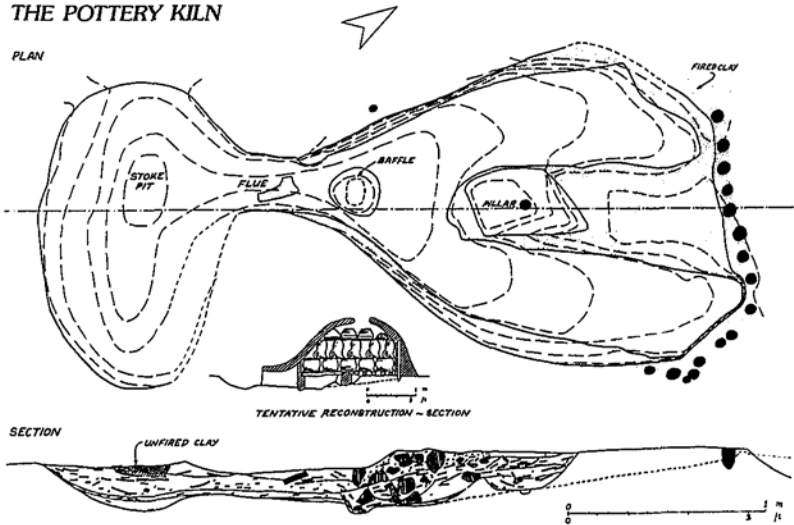


Fig. 3. Barrett's, Pound Lane: Plan, Section and reconstructed Section of Kiln (Scale: 1:40).

Further remains of the *caldarium* (hot room) of the Roman public baths were uncovered, including the apsidal south-east end of the building (which would perhaps have contained a hot plunge-bath) and the *prae-furnium* (stoke room). Within the main body of the *caldarium* much of the lower floor of the hypocaust system survived, including some of the supporting tile stacks and an underfloor partition wall. The lower floor was covered by a layer of carbon, which was in turn sealed by the collapsed remains of the tile stacks, bridging-tiles and upper floor demolition deposits of crushed mortar, brick and tile fragments, painted plaster and box-flue tiles. The box-flue tiles would have been set against the internal face of the barrel-vaulted ceiling to take hot gasses up the sides of the *caldarium* to exit through holes in the vaulted roof. The *prae-furnium* consisted of a room, attached to the apsidal wall, which contained a flue with a tile-on-end floor (Plate I). A lead water-tank would probably have sat above the flue, its heated waters flowing into the hot plunge. A drain built of mortared tiles took waste water from the plunge-bath and fed it into a main drain, which ran around the south and west sides of the baths complex.

The *caldarium* saw one major phase of rebuilding with the addition

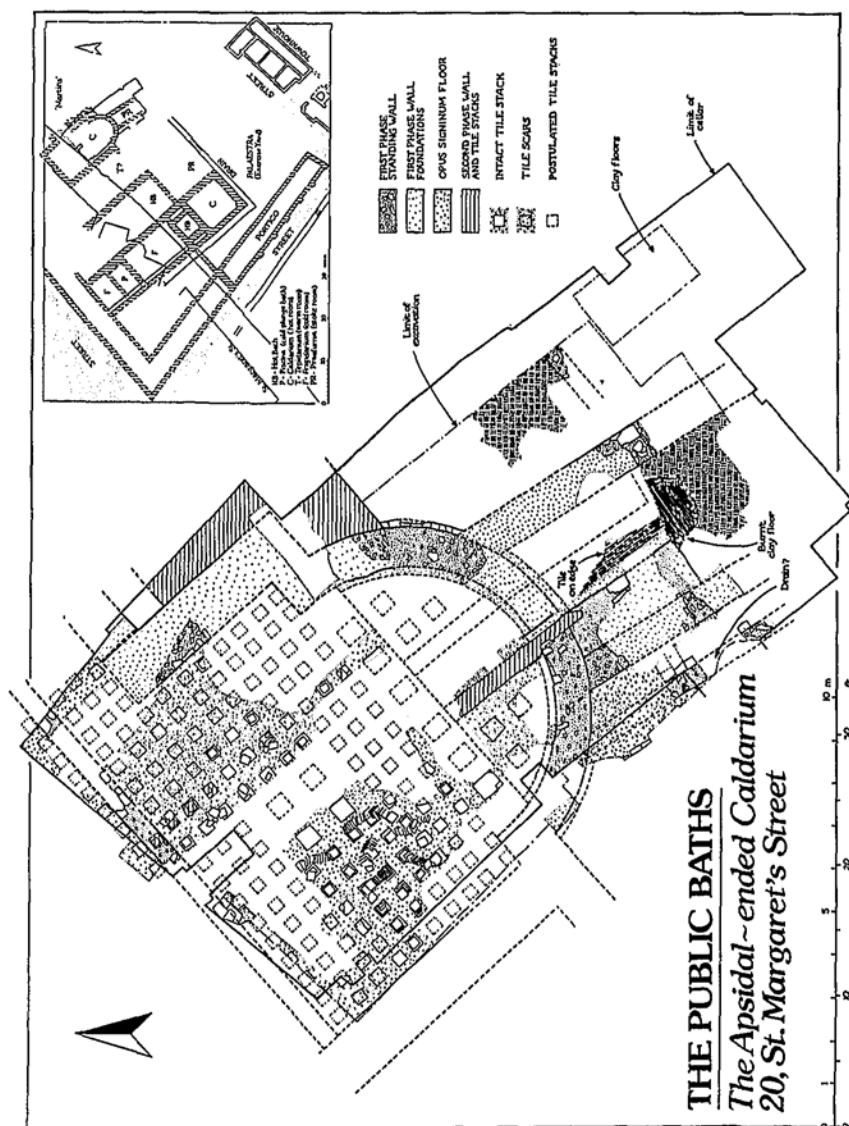


Fig. 4. Martin's, no. 20 St. Margaret's Street: Plan of the Caldarium (Scale: 1:125).

of a wall against its east corner, perhaps representing an attempt to strengthen a faulty wall or even an addition to the range of rooms in the baths complex. Other modifications included the insertion of a flue extension from the stoke room into the hypocaust, the replacement of several tile stacks and the cutting of the underfloor dividing wall by tile stacks. These repairs point to a major alteration of the heating arrangement of the *caldarium*, including the replacement of at least parts of the upper floor and may coincide with the refurbishment and alterations to other parts of the baths complex, which took place around A.D. 300.

Some of the above work, which was supervised by Ian Anderson and Mark Houlston, was funded by Mr Phillips of 'Martins' and by English Heritage, whilst the final stage had to be completed without funding. Our thanks are extended to Mr Phillips for allowing us access and especially to the staff of Cardys for their unfailing assistance and enthusiasm for helping our work in very difficult circumstances.

PAUL BLOCKLEY and IAN ANDERSON

4. *St. Margaret's Church*

The construction of the 'Pilgrims Way' experience centre is now well under way, following the handing over of the church to Heritage Projects (Canterbury) Limited. Prior to this historic event the Trust conducted excavations in two limited areas in order to solve problems not fully resolved by the earlier large-scale excavations.⁴

The first area lay in the base of the tower, where a tessellated floor had been uncovered. The floor, consisting of small white *tesserae* with some black in a random pattern, was largely obscured by a spread of Roman mortar and its exposure proved to be a long, painstaking task. The mosaic may date to the construction of the Public Baths in the early second century.

The second area of interest centred on the stone-paved floor of the cold plunge-bath. During excavation it had been noticed that one of the stones bore a decorative border. This stone proved to be part of a monumental inscription in Sussex marble depicting a form of shield known as a '*pelta*', surrounded by a border. This is a fairly common motif associated with Roman inscriptions, and was probably one of a pair of identical slabs flanking an important inscription, perhaps celebrating the dedication of the baths in the early second century. The slab was re-used in the floor of the plunge-bath when the

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, ciii (1986), 199–202.

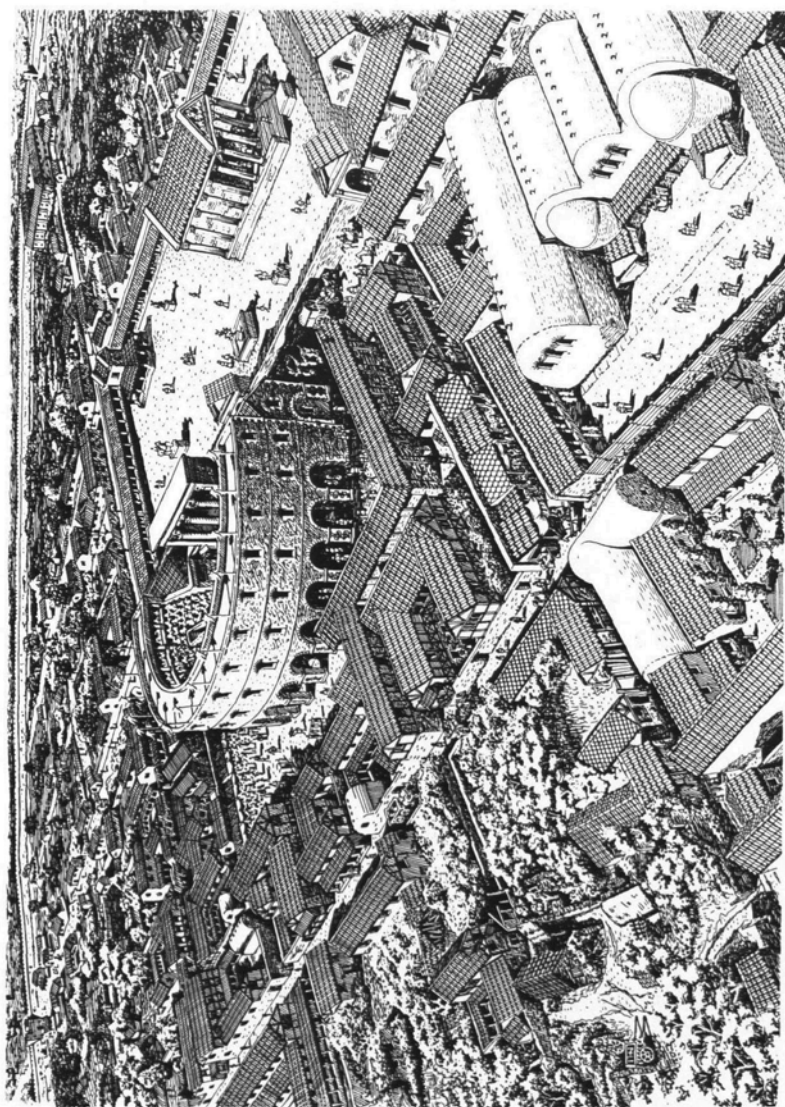


Fig. 5. Reconstruction of Roman Canterbury: Public Baths in lower right-hand corner, Tannery Building in upper right-hand corner, just inside the London Gate.

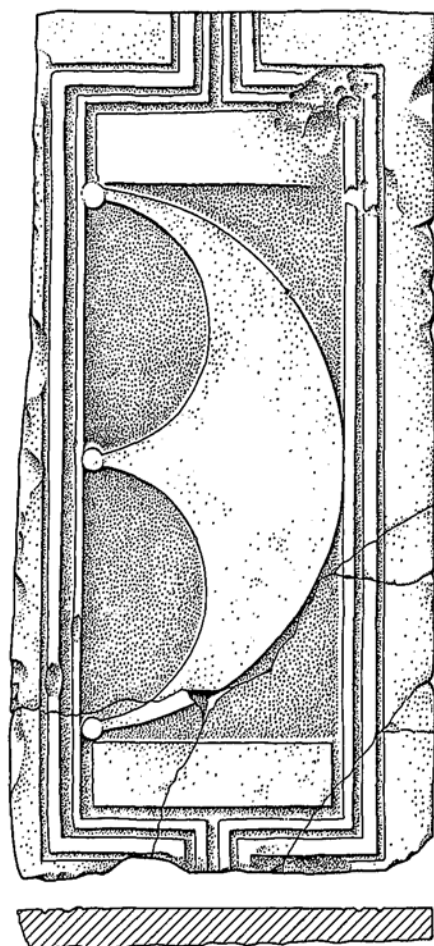


Fig. 6. St. Margaret's Church: The Roman *Pelta* (Scale: 1:8).

establishment was rebuilt in the early fourth century (Fig. 6 and Plate II).

A complete photographic record of all the wall monuments and tombstones was also undertaken in advance of the building works.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

5. Nos. 36–37 Stour Street (Figs. 7 and 8)

The postponement of a proposed housing development on the Stour Street frontage of this site (Stour Street 'A') enabled us to continue

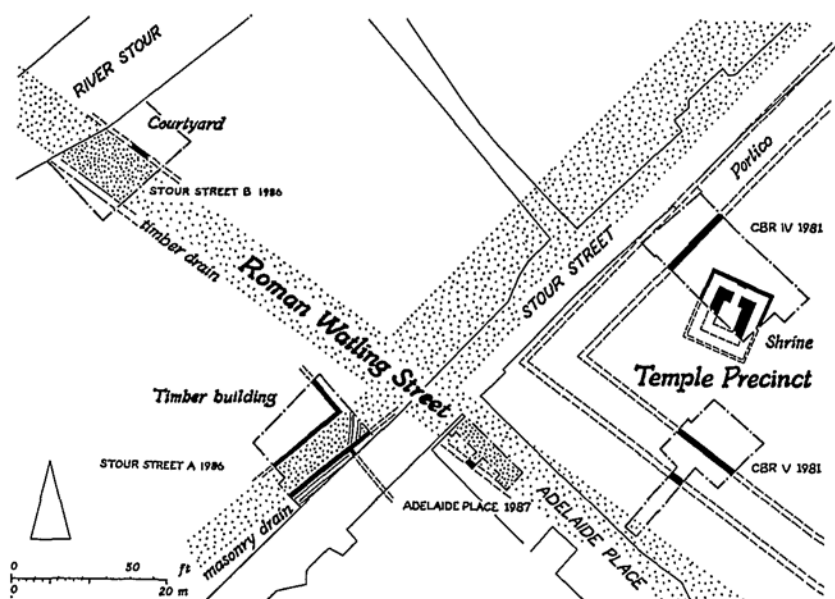


Fig. 7. Nos. 36-37 Stour Street and Adelaide Place: General Location Plan showing major Roman Features (Scale: 1:1000).

excavation well beyond the original deadline. The excavation was finally completed on 24th October.

The primary Roman levels were well below the present day water-table and their excavation required the continuous pumping of water from the site. The earliest feature, of first-century date, consisted of a very large pit which extended over most of the southern half of the site. This feature may have been a quarry, which supplied gravel for the metallings of nearby Roman Watling Street.⁵

The quarry was immediately overlain by the primary-metallings of a north-east/south-west aligned street, probably a minor thoroughfare c. 4 m. (13 ft.) wide. This road, which intersects with Roman Watling Street north of the site, was flanked to the east by the substantial footings of a large second-century masonry building and a well-preserved masonry drain or sewer. Excavation of the northern part of the site has shown that this drain was probably contemporary with the masonry building, rather than a later addition, as was originally supposed. The arrangement here was rather unusual in that the drain pierced the masonry wall, probably under a relieving arch,

⁵ *Arch. Cant.* ciii (1986), 211-14 and Fig. 5.

36, Stour St.

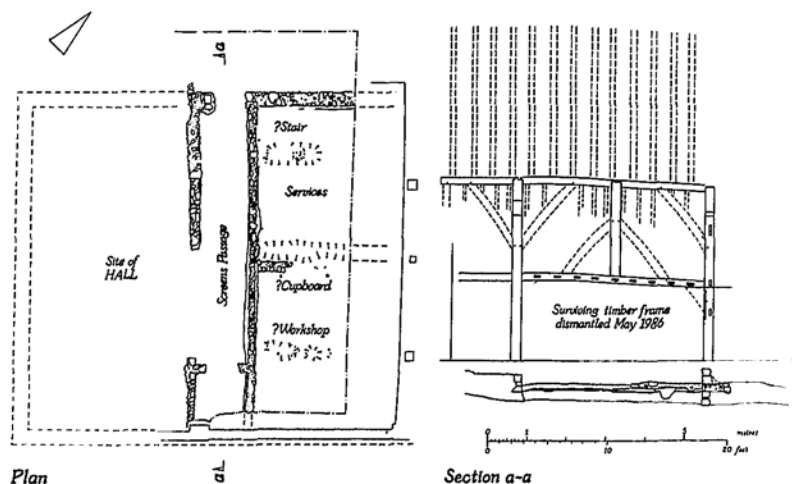


Fig. 8. No. 36 Stour Street: Plan of fifteenth-century Building and Elevation of contemporary Timber Frame: (Scale: 1:200).

and extended across the street at an angle, presumably to link with the side drains of Roman Watling Street (Plate III). The drain was probably covered by timber planking at this point and was superseded by a sequence of later timber conduits.

On the west side of the street evidence for two timber-framed buildings containing a sequence of brick-built ovens was revealed.

The Roman levels were capped by a deposit of 'dark earth', in which was found the remains of at least one sixth- or seventh-century building. This sunken or 'cellared' structure, which lay over the Roman street, is similar to other Saxon sunken-featured buildings excavated in Canterbury, but was unusually floored with re-used Roman tiles. Finds from this and other Saxon features included bone combs and some excellent pottery.

The 'dark earth' levels were immediately overlaid by a complex sequence of superimposed timber-framed buildings dating from the early thirteenth century to the present day.

Due to lack of adequate funding, the post-excavation work on this site has been indefinitely postponed. However, the potential of the site and the generally excellent state of preservation of the levels, in particular the sequence of medieval buildings, is indicated by the accompanying drawing. A provisional examination of this one phase, probably dating to the fifteenth century, has enabled an impression of

the property to be deduced. The survival of parts of the timber-frame of this structure, preserved in eighteenth- or nineteenth-century brick cladding and originally thought to be later in date, has enhanced the interpretation of this phase of building development.

JONATHAN RADY

6. Christ Church College (Fig. 9)

During April 1987 foundation trenches were cut for a new laboratory building to the north of the Outer Court of St. Augustine's Abbey. The site lay directly south of a new building which was constructed during 1985-86, where a detailed watching brief was carried out.⁶ Archaeological work on the new building site was conducted in a similar manner to that of the previous year and yielded material complementing assemblages recovered from recent excavations in this area.

Taken as a whole, the excavations have produced evidence for activity in the area during the middle Anglo-Saxon period, perhaps associated with a small secular settlement existing just north of the

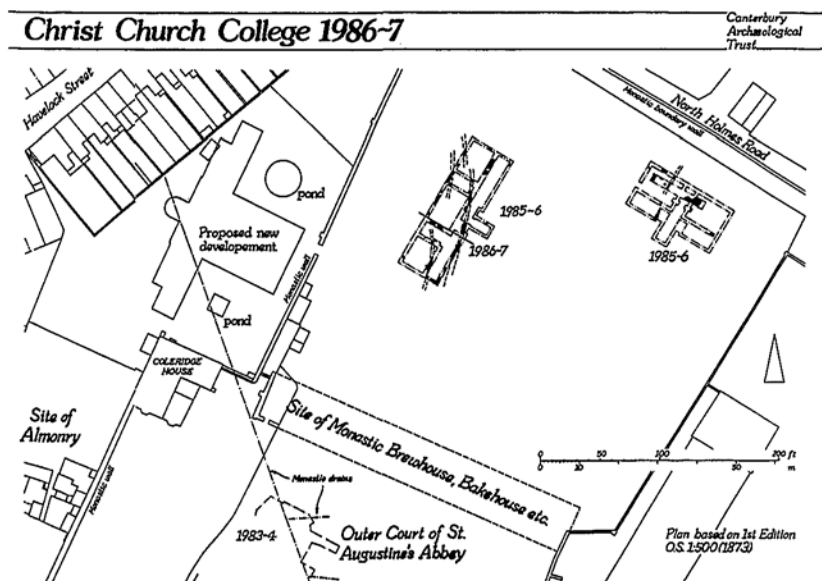


Fig. 9. Christ Church College: Plan of Features located during watching/recording briefs in advance of development 1985-87 (Scale: 1:2000).

⁶ Canterbury Archaeological Trust *Annual Report* 1985-86, 8.

precincts of St. Augustine's Abbey. These recent excavations have produced pits containing metalworking debris and eighth- to ninth-century pottery. Also emerging is a pattern of medieval linear features, shallow ditches running north/south and perhaps defining the edges of fields.

The team of M.S.C. and paid site workers was supervised by Ian Anderson and funded by Christ Church College. Messrs Wiltshiers, the contractors, are thanked for their help during the excavation.

IAN ANDERSON and PAUL BLOCKLEY

7. *Adelaide Place* (Fig. 7 and Plate IV)

During the spring of 1987 a trench was excavated on the corner of Adelaide Place and Stour Street, adjacent to no. 67 Stour Street. Excavated entirely by hand, the trench recorded a deeply stratified sequence of deposits. The most recent structure was a nineteenth-century terraced house, which overlay garden loams, and a late medieval detached bakehouse, containing clay floors and oven bases of several phases. The floors of this building sat directly over Anglo-Saxon 'dark earth' deposits, which were cut by early medieval pits, and one possible Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building. These features in turn were cut through by the latest surfaces of Roman Watling Street, which were composed of mortar spreads, Roman building materials and large flint cobbles.

Throughout most of its life Roman Watling Street was, at this point, approximately 4 m. wide. Shortly before the final metallings were laid, however, the street was reduced to half its width and a shallow round drain was cut into earlier metallings on the north-east side of the new street.

The excavation was conducted by a team of M.S.C. Community Programme workers and Trust staff, supervised by Dennis Nebiker.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

8. *St. Radigund's Street* (Fig. 10 and Plate V)

Excavations on the south side of St. Radigund's Street, on the site of the old City Council car park, commenced on 13th February in advance of the construction of a housing complex, and have recently been completed. The excavation, funded entirely by the developer, Seaward Properties Ltd., was situated just inside the Roman (and later medieval) city wall, which was exposed in excavations and watching briefs by the Trust on the north side of St. Radigund's Street in 1983 and 1984.⁷

⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, xcix (1983), 241-2; *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 297.

St. Radigund Street 1987

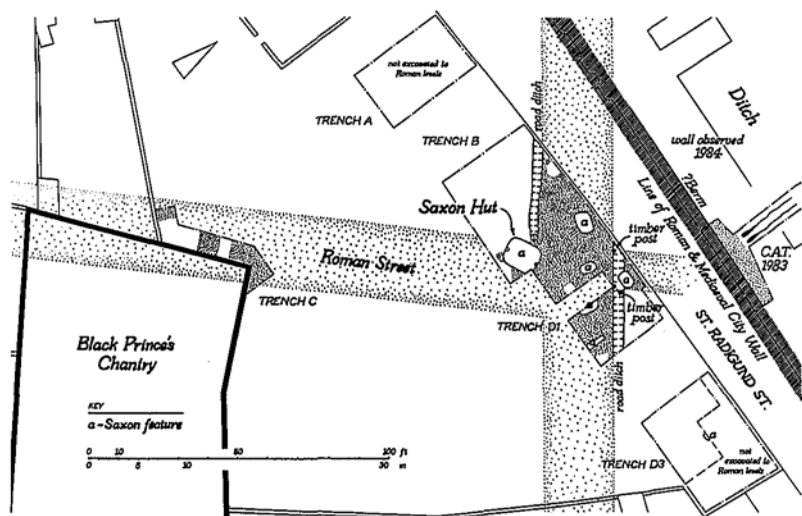
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Fig. 10. St. Radigund's Street: Plan of principal archaeological Features (Scale: 1:80).

Primarily, a 2 m. wide *sondage* (Trench C) was dug around the north corner of the Black Prince's Chantry immediately adjacent to the surviving outer wall of the precinct. This revealed a sequence of possible post-Roman 'dark earth' levels, and later garden soils. These deposits capped about 30–40 cm. of Roman stratigraphy which mainly consisted of rammed river gravels, almost certainly part of a Roman street (see below and Fig. 10).

Area excavation of the site was concentrated along the St. Radigund's Street frontage, where nearly 400 square metres of stratigraphy were excavated.

During the last few weeks of the excavation, pre-Roman levels, dating to either the early first century A.D. or even the first century B.C., were partially exposed. These deposits, which were below the water-table, yielded significant quantities of early pottery, including an interesting group of Belgic grog-tempered wares, in particular, fragments of a really unusual jar, decorated with all-over thumb-presses – unusual because this type of decoration is normally considered to belong to the Iron Age.

These finds, together with other early material from the western side of the town, notably the Belgic pottery from the riverside trench at Stour Street (see above, p. 301), suggest considerable pre-Roman

(Belgic) and early Roman activity in an area hitherto thought to have been unoccupied marshy ground within the flood plain of the River Stour. Features of this period included a substantial U-shaped field boundary or drainage ditch, various large, shallow quarries and the cobbled metalling of an early trackway.

The early levels were sealed by gravel metallings of two Roman streets, which formed a junction at the centre of the site. Finds recovered from associated features suggest that these streets may have been laid very early in the Roman period, possibly soon after the Conquest. The main thoroughfare appears to be parallel with the primary north-west/south-east axis of the Roman street grid, and probably extends from outside the town to a junction with the road from Reculver that enters the city at Northgate; this position correlates with the intersection of another Roman street, traces of which were discerned during the excavations at the Mintyard in 1979-80.⁸ The street probably post-dates the other excavated road aligned approximately north-east/south-west, which may have developed from the earlier pre- or early Roman trackway mentioned above. This street was also located in Trench C. Both verges of the main street were defined by drains; the ditches on the south side terminated at the intersection of the two roads.

The most interesting features possibly relating to the roads were two pits containing the bases of massive timber posts, bedded on large adzed slabs of wood, perfectly preserved by the waterlogged conditions. These features were parallel and adjacent to the north side of the main street, and were sealed by the road ditch fills. The exact function of these structural timbers remains unclear, and it is possible that they pre-date the road system. However, the presence of a small area of street metalling along the outer edge of the road drains, at this point, strongly suggests that a track or minor street extended north from the street junction. This road was not identified in the 1983 trench, excavated by the Trust on the north side of St. Radigund's Street, but spreads of laminated rammed gravel, interpreted at the time as the berm fronting the city wall, may in part belong to this extension. If so, the position of the timber posts suggests that they may have belonged to a foot-bridge or causeway over the road drains, connecting the principal north-east/south-west street to the track segments of this road north of the junction.

These first-century or earlier timbers, as well as many from last year's excavations at Stour Street, will be sent for dendrochronological analysis. It is only in the last few years that sufficient quantities

⁸ *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 398.

of preserved timbers have been recovered for the instigation of a tree-ring chronology, and it is hoped that the waterlogged site presently under excavation at the Tannery, as well as possible future excavations in the nearby allotments and other low-lying areas of the town, will also produce suitable timbers. These, coupled with sections of wood from well-dated standing medieval buildings, may assist with the creation of a dendrochronological curve for Canterbury.

The early road metallings were sealed by a complex sequence of resurfacings and repairs, which suggests that the section of road west of the junction went out of use, possible during the third century. This may be associated with the construction of the city wall and rampart in the late third century. Traces of timber buildings erected over the road may relate to this phase of activity and were probably workmen's huts.

The section of street was re-instated some time after the third century, but on a slightly different alignment. Although it is conceivable that the street now passed out of the town through a gate in the city wall, somewhere in the vicinity of the present-day car park (a postern gate, possibly of Roman origin, or a medieval re-build of it, was found in this area in 1845), the later alignment suggests that it may have been re-routed to skirt the inside of the city wall and rampart.

No other Roman buildings were found. Gravel spreads excavated to the south of the street may indicate the dumping of material in the second century and before to counteract a rising water-table. A number of Roman rubbish- and cess-pits, containing large quantities of second-century pottery, animal bones and preserved wooden and leather objects (mainly the soles of shoes) were located in this area.

The latest Roman levels, which were considerably disturbed, were sealed by a homogeneous layer of dark brown soil, up to 50 cm. thick. This contained large quantities of Late Roman pottery, significant amounts of Early Saxon material, seventh- and ninth-century pottery and also considerable amounts of twelfth-century ceramics. This soil may derive from the rampart which was almost certainly completely or partially levelled when St. Radigund's Street was established, possibly in the twelfth century. Subsequent ploughing and agricultural activity may explain the disturbance of the latest Roman levels and also the wide variety of artefacts of different dates recovered from this deposit.

The presence of the Saxon material strongly indicates nearby Saxon occupation. At least one definite Saxon pit of the ninth century was excavated and also two possible seventh-century sunken huts. Only the lowest portions of the structures together with a number of

post-holes survived. A road or trackway, possibly dating to the Saxon period, was also located along the southern side of the site.

From the twelfth century, up until the sixteenth century, the area appears to have been open sward. During this period large numbers of rubbish- and cess-pits were dug down into the Roman and natural levels across virtually the entire site. These have yielded considerable quantities of pottery and preserved organic material, including much of environmental interest, such as pips and seeds. Only one medieval building has been definitely identified, situated in the central area of the site and erected against an earlier masonry boundary wall that was aligned approximately north/south. Only fragmentary traces of the thirteenth- or fourteenth-century structure survived. The building may originally have been a bakehouse, since the remains of two bread ovens were found within it.

Most of the immediate area remained as gardens or fields in the early post-medieval period (as shown on a map of c. 1640). In about 1730, however, a substantial brick structure was erected at the east end of the site. This building was a malt-house, and is described on a City Estates Map of 1828 as being for the storage and drying of hops. Three drying ovens, internal walls and brick floors within this building were found. Adjacent to the malt-house, but built in about 1825, was a row of cottages, some of which were demolished in the 1960s. Two of these still survive next to the Miller's Arms. Five brick-lined wells, later kitchens and rear court yards relating to these cottages were amongst the first levels to be exposed.

Our thanks are extended to Seaward Properties for financing the excavation and to the team of Trust staff, M.S.C. workers and volunteers who often had to endure very wet and muddy conditions particularly during the final stages of the excavation.

JONATHAN RADY

9. *All Saints' Church* (Fig. 11)

During autumn 1986 the City Council and British Telecom jointly funded an excavation against the intersection of High Street and Best Lane. This work, in advance of repaving the western end of High Street and St. Peter's Street, was undertaken to expose the remains of medieval All Saints' Church, demolished in 1828, and its Victorian successor, pulled down in 1937. It is intended that the principal walls and internal features of the early church will be marked out in the new pavement. The excavation was largely staffed by members of our M.S.C. Community Programme team, under the supervision of Alan Ward. Our excavation strategy was to remove all modern overburden (post-1828) and recover as complete a plan as possible of both churches without disturbing the medieval levels to any great extent.

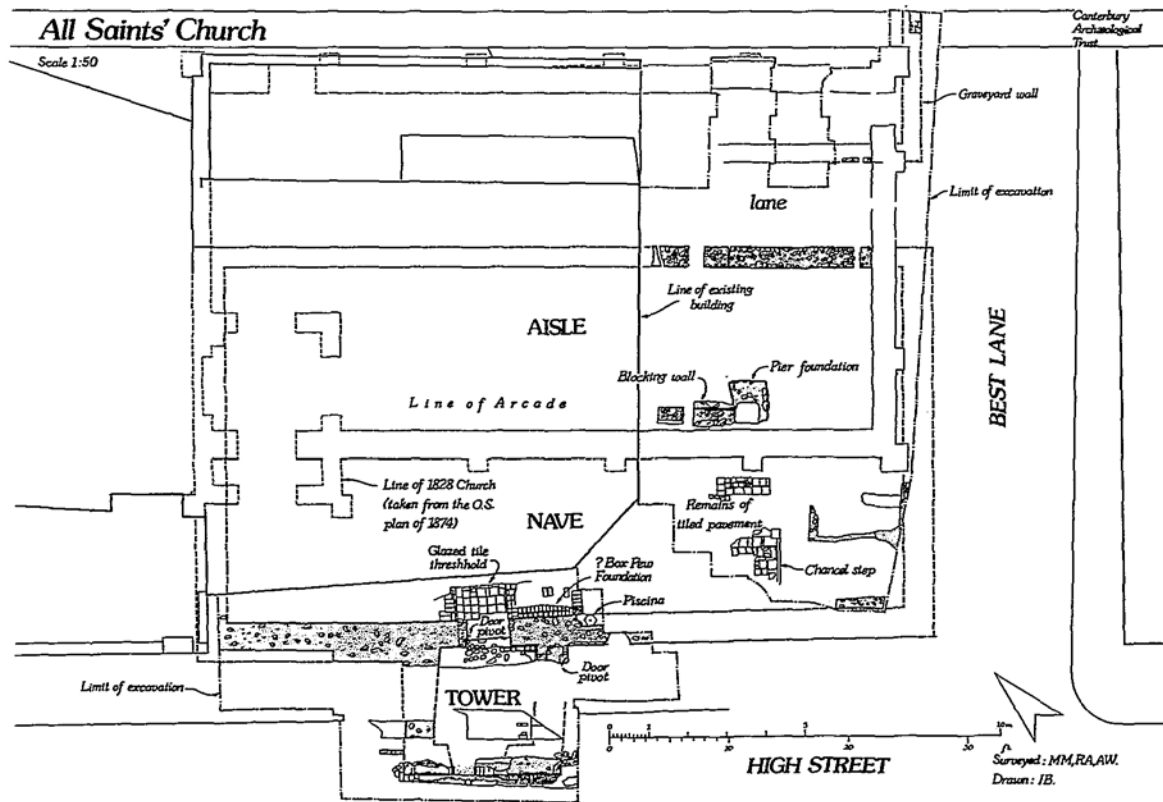


Fig. 11. All Saints Church: Plan of early medieval Church (Scale: 1:200).

The medieval church, extant by c. 1200,⁹ with nave, chancel and north aisle, had a southern porch with tower over. The east end of the church constricted Best Lane and the southern porch with tower encroached onto the High Street. The Victorian church, with nave, chancel, south aisle and tower at the west end of the aisle, was set back from the High Street frontage. Only the east end of both churches and the south side of the medieval church were located in the excavation. The remaining portions of both structures lie under the former Gas Showroom. The churchyard still exists as a small garden set back from Best Lane, to the rear of the Gas Showroom.

Although short lengths and fragments of the north, east and west walls of the medieval church and the foundations of the south tower were exposed, the most impressive remnant proved to be the south wall. The wall, flint-built with plaster adhering to the internal face, survived to a height of 1 m. above the latest internal floor. The south door was particularly well preserved, with jambs of small Caen blockwork. An iron pivot for a single-leaf door survived in the east jamb. A glazed tile threshold, just inside the door, overlay a sequence of beaten earth, mortar and crushed chalk floors that appeared to extend throughout the nave area. The fragmentary traces of a tiled floor survived in the chancel, together with traces of the chancel step and altar base. The remains of a hexagonal *piscina* bowl survived set in the south wall, east of the door.

The substantial foundations of the tower were revealed during excavations under the High Street. The tower, of contemporary build with the church south wall, had doors to the south and east. An iron door pivot survived on the northern jamb of the eastern door. Traces of a tiled floor survived within the body of the tower.

Thomas Langdon's map of the Blackfriars area in 1595 shows a small building attached to the exterior of the church west of the tower, together with a courtyard wall extending from the tower to the intersection with Best Lane. Traces of a clay floor located during trenching west of the tower may have been associated with the building shown on Langdon's Map. A single course of unmortared bricks located against the south-east corner of the tower may have been remnants of the courtyard wall. The tower was demolished in 1769, during a bridge and road widening scheme. A brick threshold, incorporating at least two steps with timber treads, was built between the jambs of the church south door at this time. A brick foundation for a boxed pew was also constructed at this time just east of the south door against the south wall.

⁹ W. Urry, *Canterbury Under the Angevin Kings*, (London), 1967, 210.

Flint and gravel metallings for a narrow east/west lane (also shown on Langdon's map) were located immediately north of the medieval church. The lane probably gave access to the mill and river; north of the lane were the remnants of the churchyard wall. A further wall fragment located in the extreme north-east corner of the excavation was part of the contemporary churchyard wall flanking Best Lane. This is known to have been interrupted by a gate some way north of the church. Three graves found cutting the lane metallings and later sealed by the Victorian church foundations indicated that the lane had gone out of use well before 1828.

The external walls of the Victorian church were built from re-used materials and external buttresses of brick were incorporated in the load-bearing walls. A number of internal walls constructed from re-used materials supported internal sprung floors and housed burial vaults. The Victorian church, shown on the accompanying photographs, was finally demolished in 1937.

Our thanks are extended to Canterbury City Council and British Telecom for financing the excavation, to Dennis Button and David Latham of the City Council's Engineering Section, for their help and support and finally to the hardworking team who, under Alan Ward's supervision, brought this interesting project to completion.

PAUL BENNETT

10. *Blackfriars' Gate* (Fig. 12)

Until its demolition in 1787, Blackfriars' Gate was one of the most prominent structures on the north-east side of St. Peter's Street. A later eighteenth-century engraving indicates that it was a substantial masonry building faced with knapped flint, with a simple horizontal band carved with four-petalled flower ornament in the middle, and two niches, one above the other, each side of the central arch.

The Blackfriars' Monastery, founded in 1236,¹⁰ was contained within a precinct bounded on the west by St. Peter's Lane. The principal gate to the establishment was sited at the intersection of The Friars with St. Peter's Street. The foundations of this gate, probably newly built in 1356,¹¹ were excavated during January 1987 by the Trust in advance of a new paving scheme for St. Peter's. The excavation funded by the City Council, was largely staffed by members of our M.S.C. team under the supervision of Alan Ward.

¹⁰ C.F. Palmer, 'The Friar-preachers of Black Friars of Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, xii (1880), 81-96; A.R. Martin, 'The Dominican Priory at Canterbury', *Arch. Journ.*, lxxxvi (1930), 152-77.

¹¹ Palmer, *op. cit.*, in note 9, 87.

Blackfriars Excavation 1986-7Canterbury
Archaeological
Trust

*Proposed plan of paving showing
estimated position of Medieval
gate to Blackfriars.*

scale 1:20
surveyed A.W.
drawn I.B.

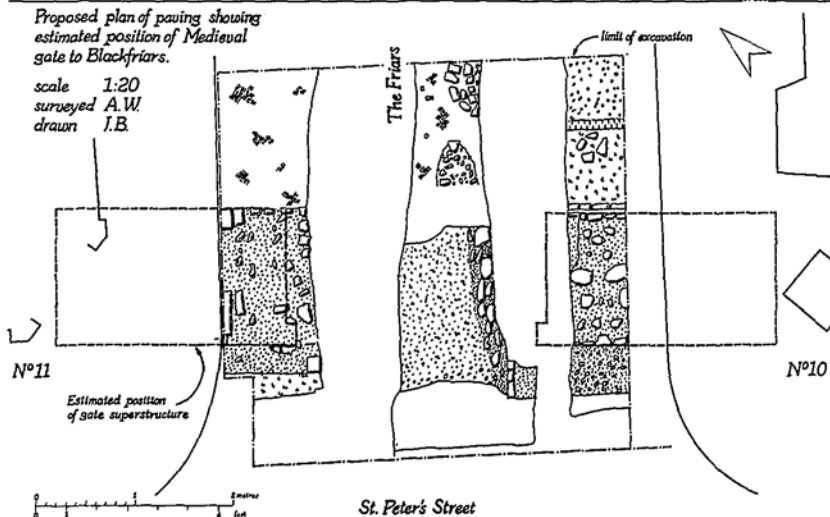


Fig. 12. Blackfriars' Gate: Plan of Excavation, showing estimated position of gate

The gate piers of mortared chalk blockwork were located approximately 20 cm. below the present street surface. Despite extensive damage to the gate foundations by modern service trenches, a carriageway width of c. 2.60 m. (8 ft. 6 in.) was indicated. The gate piers 1.40 m. (c. 4 ft. 6 in.) thick were well-founded, extending below the excavated horizon (c. 2 m. below the present street). Rammed gravel and mortar deposits spanned the piers and merged with contemporary street metallings either side of the gate. The surface of a 40 cm. thick construction deposit of abraded mortar and chalk rubble was encountered 0.70 m. below the present street level. This in turn overlay a sequence of beaten earth and clay floors, associated with a structure which immediately pre-dated gate construction.

The foundations of the gate have now been marked out in the new paving. This will not only draw the visitor's attention to the site of one of Canterbury's 'lost' monuments, but will protect the surviving gate foundations from damage by future service trenching.

Thanks are extended to the City Council for funding the excavation and to David Latham and Dennis Button of the City Engineer's staff, for their help and advice.

PAUL BENNETT

11. No. 7 New Street (Fig. 13 and Plate VI)

During the spring of 1987 the lowering of the front and rear cellars at no. 7 New Street was commenced without prior consultation, although this property lies within the Area of Archaeological Importance. This meant that the Trust had to 'step in' at very short notice to record what proved to be an important addition to our knowledge of one of Canterbury's large Roman cemeteries.

Three graves were located. One of these consisted of the upper part of an inhumation recorded in 1978 in the adjacent cellar.¹² We know that this burial was accompanied by two pottery vessels. The lower legs and feet of a second inhumation were found, together with a pair of hobnail soles, which have been lifted for study. A third grave was located, but not excavated as it underlay a load-bearing wall. Also recorded in these cellars were three deep, square-cut Roman pits of unknown function.

The burials at nos. 7 and 8 New Street form a group within this well-known area of Roman burial. Other finds in the immediate vicinity include cremations from the construction of a light-well at

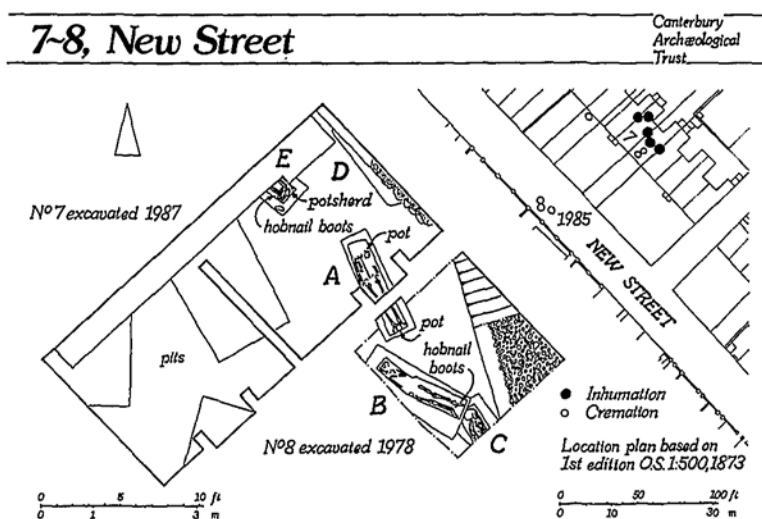


Fig. 13. Nos. 7-8 New Street: Plan showing Burials uncovered in the cellars (burials Scale: 1:150).

¹² *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 149-52.

no. 5 New Street (1985) and three cremations located during the relaying of the mains sewer along New Street (1985).¹³

The excavation was undertaken by Dennis Nebiker with the assistance of Bruce Ferguson.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

12. *The Tannery* (Fig. 14 and Plate VII)

Excavations in part of the allotments adjacent to St. Mildred's Tannery, funded by Williamson and Sons (Canterbury) Limited, commenced early in July 1987 and will continue for ten weeks prior to the construction of a new finishing shed.

After the removal of allotment soils and medieval garden loam, part of a large Roman building was exposed at the north-eastern end of the site. The lower parts of the walls of flint and mortar, with external buttresses are now exposed. Floor levels within the building have yet to be excavated, but painted plaster and a mass of building materials indicate the presence of a substantial town house.

We hope to conduct a resistivity or sonic scan survey of the entire allotment area to determine the extent of the building and to locate other structures for excavation at a later date before the proposed coach park is constructed.

The function of the building may be clear once excavation of its floors has progressed. At present, its proximity to the Roman London gate and Watling Street suggests that it may have been a town house or perhaps a *mansio*.

A large team of Trust field staff and M.S.C. workers with local and foreign volunteers are currently working on this exciting site under the supervision of Mark Houliston. On their behalf we would like to thank the Directors and staff of St. Mildred's Tannery for the help and technical advice they have given, particularly during the early stages of the excavation.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

13. *'Saunders', no. 50 St. Peter's Street*

During February this year, a small team of M.S.C. workers under the supervision of Alan Ward conducted a small excavation at the rear of no. 50 St. Peter's Street.

Prior to commencement of the excavation the yard area had been cleared and partially reduced in level by the owner of the property,

¹³ Canterbury Archaeological Trust *Annual Report* 1984-85, 16; Canterbury Archaeological Trust *Annual Report* 1985-86, 21.

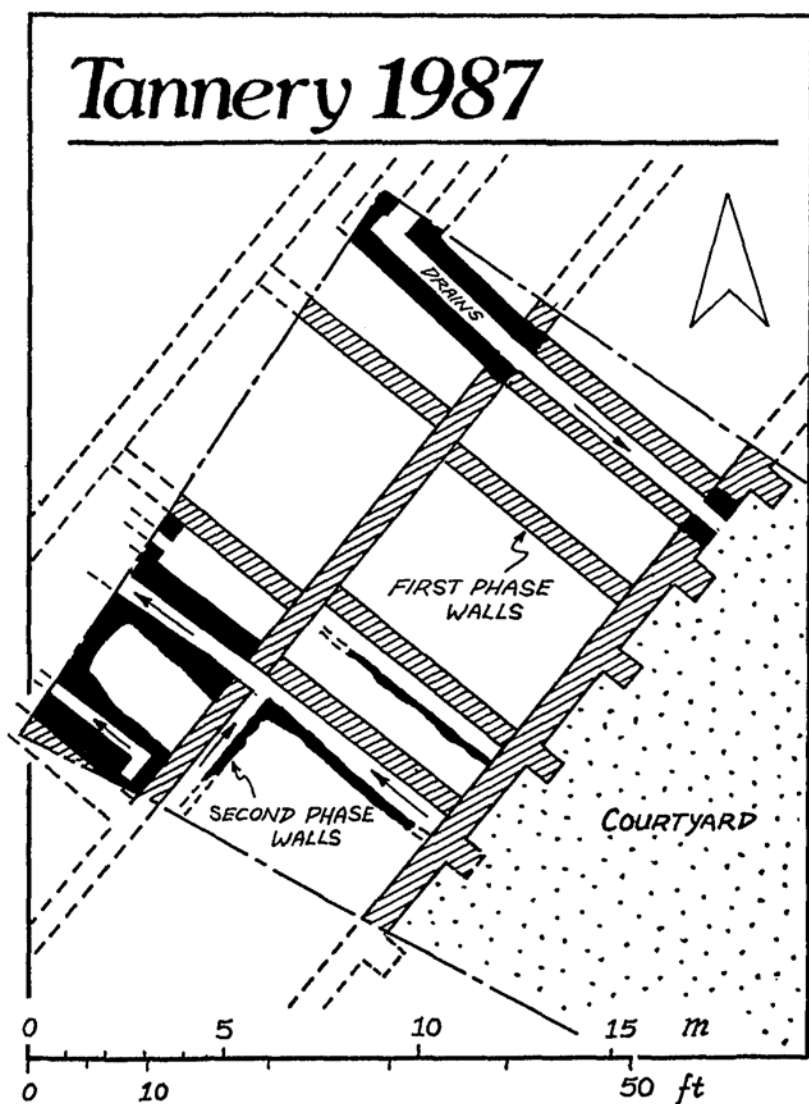


Fig. 14. The Tannery: Plan of Roman Building (Scale: 1:200).

Mr Neil Mattingly. These initial works exposed a number of brick walls, a brick-lined well, the foundations of a brick bread oven and remnants of a substantial flint wall. The Trust was commissioned to complete the clearance of the yard area and evaluate the importance of the exposed features.

The brick walls, exposed at the rear of 'Saunders', proved to be parts of a narrow north-south range and a separate structure situated east of the range at its northern end. Both buildings were originally erected against the rear of the existing property and are shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map for 1874. West of the rear extensions was a cobbled yard. A brick-built dome-topped well, located in the yard was probably contemporary with the outbuildings. At the northern end of the north-south range and contained within it was a large bread oven constructed in late eighteenth-century brickwork. The two brick-built structures were parts of a large bakehouse which, together with the southernmost bay of the main building shown on the 1874 survey were destroyed by an incendiary bomb in the Second World War.

Underlying these levels were deposits consistent with the demolition of a previous building. The demolition horizon was left intact but the earlier levels were recorded in the sides of disturbances, mainly shallow pits cutting through the demolition levels. The principal early feature was a large masonry wall which extended across the width of the property block. The wall projected above the demolition horizon and was rendered with plaster on both sides. Clay floors undoubtedly associated with the wall were observed in the sides of the later pits. The uppermost clay deposit may have been the basis of a tiled floor. This deposit capped a sequence of laminated beaten earth and clay floors. Mr Mattingly recovered a complete fleur-de-lys decorated tile during his ground works. The tile, of local manufacture (Tyler Hill), dating from the second half of the thirteenth century may be residue from a decorated tiled pavement associated with this early building. Traces of clay floors were also located south of the flint wall, indicating that the early building extended over a much greater area of the property block than the later brick built structures.

The flint wall, which was probably built to support a timber-framed structure, appears on the basis of its construction to be of thirteenth-century date. The sequence of clay floors observed north and south of the wall, and particularly the possible existence of a tiled pavement, indicates a structure of some importance. The wall and associated floors are set well back in the property block, in an area normally associated with service buildings, usually detached kitchens. A tiled floor would not be consistent with use as a service room, but until further excavation takes place, this anomaly cannot be accounted for.

Whatever function the rooms performed, the area at the rear of no. 50 St. Peter's Street is of undoubted interest and further works will certainly take place, if Mr Mattingly carries through his scheme to extend the present premises into the back yard area.

Our thanks are extended to Mr Mattingly not only for financing the excavation work, but for the painstaking documentary research he is undertaking in the St. Peter's Street area.

PAUL BENNETT

14. *Station Road East*

During April 1987 four trial trenches were excavated on a large vacant plot opposite Canterbury East Station in order to evaluate the site and formulate an excavation strategy prior to redevelopment.

The land lies immediately west of a group of three Roman tumuli; one of which survives below the Dane John mound, the second is still partly visible beneath Canterbury Motors and the third once stood on the site now occupied by the Invicta Radio building. These tumuli were once part of an extensive Roman cremation and inhumation cemetery situated on the south-east side of the Roman town. Burials have been located over a wide area and it is probable that the cemetery comprised groups of burials within blocks of land given over to cremation or inhumation. Cremations from this cemetery have been located in the area of the Wincheap roundabout, Canterbury Castle, in Martyrs Field (where a very rich cremation contained many bronze objects including a jug, a libation bowl, armlets and cosmetic instruments) and from beneath the tumulus at Canterbury Motors. Closer to the present site the construction of a row of houses, which stood in the area of the trial trenches, brought to light at least thirty skeletons of Roman date.¹⁴

Returning to the evaluation trenches, despite post-medieval clay quarrying and terracing for nineteenth-century houses, stratigraphy remained reasonably intact over parts of the site. Significant quantities of Roman pottery, glass and human skeletal material were recovered, together with stratified Roman levels. Therefore, large scale archaeological work, in advance of redevelopment, will take place here in the near future. This work, to be funded by the developers, Sloggetts Builders Limited, presents a unique opportunity to look in detail at one of Canterbury's Roman cemeteries and perhaps to investigate the relationship between cremation and inhumation burials within a cemetery area.

PAUL BENNETT

¹⁴ V.C.H. (Kent) iii (1932), 77-9. Dr Frank Jenkins has also recorded several inhumations along the road frontage in the area of Invicta Radio.

15. *Roper Road*

Trial trenching during June 1987 on the site of the British Road Transport parcels depot was funded by the contractor P.A. Barden and Sons Limited in advance of a large housing development scheme. Several trenches were excavated to the level of underlying natural brickearth.

It has been postulated that a pre-Roman and early Roman settlement existed north-west of the River Stour, centring on the Canterbury West station goods yard. It has further been suggested that the north-east/south-west line of the London Road may have originally extended beyond its present intersection with St. Dunstan's Street to facilitate access to this postulated settlement. This development site, therefore, offered us an opportunity to test these theories. Trenches were cut in a position to locate the north-eastward extension of the London Road and to randomly sample parts of the extensive development zone. The developers of the site, Stirling Homes, and their main contractor, P.A. Barden Limited, showed great interest in the archaeological potential of the site and generously contributed towards the cost of the evaluation work. Furthermore, they provisionally agreed to fund a more extensive watching/recording brief as the development proceeded.

Sadly, the only archaeological feature located during the trial trenching was a single pit and scattered finds, including Belgic and early Roman pottery. If a settlement west of the River Stour exists, then it is to be found in the area of Canterbury West station goods yard. A watching brief will be maintained during future building operations here, in the hope that more meaningful remains will come to light.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

16. *Castle Hill, Folkestone* (Fig. 15)

During November 1986, two 1 m. sq. trenches were cut in the motte and bailey castle¹⁵ in advance of a soil survey by Eurotunnel in preparation for the Channel Tunnel. This castle was first investigated by the great pioneering archaeologist General Pitt-Rivers in 1878.¹⁶

Trench A, cut to a maximum depth of 1.50 m. was located on the 1.30 m. contour on the seaward (south-west) side of the motte, 2 m. south of an inner ditch at the base of the mound. It appeared that the ditch at the base of the motte was flanked to the south by a 'slighted'

¹⁵ *V.C.H. (Kent)* i (1908), 415-8, (plan on p. 417).

¹⁶ *Archaeologia*, xlviii (1883), 00.

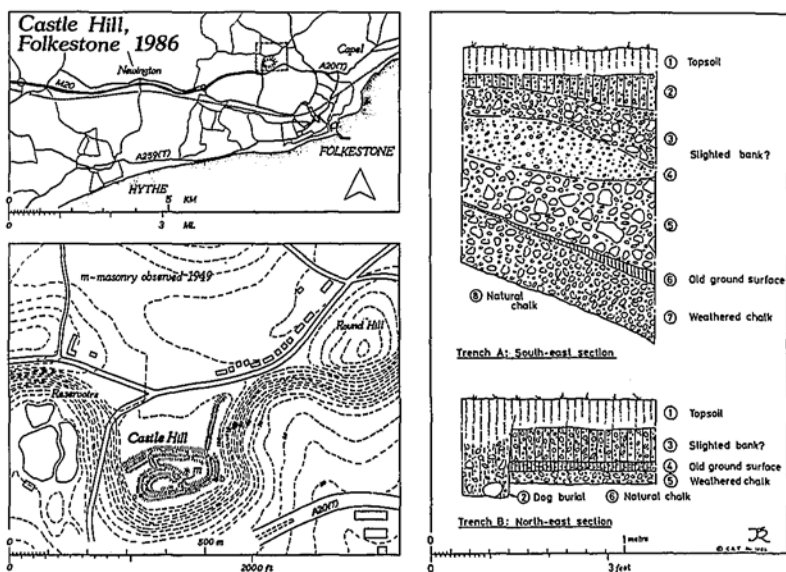


Fig. 15. Castle Hill, Folkestone: Location Plans and Sections through Test Pits.

counterscarp bank, from which the ground followed the steep natural contours to + 75 m. O.D.

The upper layers comprised large and small chalk lumps and nodules in a loose textured powdered chalk, possibly the remains of a slighted bank thrown up during the cutting of the ditch, and sealing a thin layer of topsoil. This topsoil sloped steeply following natural contours and overlay a 30 cm. deposit of frost-fractured chalk, capping natural chalk.

Trench B, cut to a depth of 48 cm., was located in the south-east corner of the outer bailey, just inside the badly slighted and eroded remains of a bank. A 5–7 cm. layer of pale brown chalky loam overlying frost fractured natural chalk probably represents the old ground surface within the bailey enclosure. It was sealed by a 17 cm. thick layer of loose textured chalk rubble, mixed with grey-brown powdered chalk, possibly residue from the slighted bailey bank.

A shallow pit cut from the level of topsoil, yielding the skull and fore limbs of a dog, was located in the north-east corner of the trench, but fragments of concrete found in the backfill suggest that this was a fairly recent feature. Partly filled features on the seaward side of the earthwork were undoubtedly Second World War anti-aircraft gun or spotting positions for the nearby airfield at Hawkinge. The concrete recovered from the dog burial probably derives from this phase.

PAUL BENNETT

OBSERVATIONS AND WATCHING BRIEFS

Intra-Mural

A watching brief at no. 26 St. Radigund's Street (17) was maintained during the machine trenching in advance of the construction of a new hotel adjacent to the Miller's Arms public house. No significant archaeological features were observed, although made ground was noted extending down to a deposit 2.25 m. below the present ground surface.

At no. 17 St. Mary's Street (18) underpinning operations beneath the kitchen extension to the property were observed. A Roman mortar-lined drain, associated clay floors and several early Roman pits were recorded. Our thanks go to the contractors who meticulously recovered a large assemblage of Belgic and Roman pottery during the course of the work.

Forum courtyard metallings were observed in the basement of Hilton's shoe shop, no. 2 High Street (19).

In the cellar of nos. 23-24 Burgate (21) contractors' trenches revealed pits of Roman to post-medieval date. Once again the contractors enthusiastically collected the pottery and bone for us.

In Watling Street (20) at the Castle Street intersection, the relaying of a mains gas-pipe enabled a brief view of fragments of the Roman Theatre. Parts of the outer curtain walls were recorded, although the restricted width of the trench made interpretation of other masonry remains difficult. Excavations, which have just started at the rear of no. 25 Watling Street in advance of an extension to the doctors' surgery, may go some way towards amplifying our knowledge of this part of the theatre.¹⁷

Extra-Mural

In the playground of the Diocesan Payne Smith School, Broad Street (22), the Trust recorded a deep drainage sump which had been cut into the fill of the medieval city ditch.

Close by at no. 83 Broad Street (27) a section through post-medieval clay floors was recorded during building alterations.

At no. 5 North Lane (23) a section cut by building contractors through deposits of river alluvium was recorded and Belgic and early Roman pottery recovered.

¹⁷ For a recent reappraisal of the Roman theatre, see P. Bennett in *Arch. Cant.*, c (1984), 52-3, Fig. 3.

During the construction of new housing at York Road, Wincheap (24) sections were observed and recorded. At a depth of 2.50 m. (8 ft. 3 in.) natural river gravel was located. This contained only naturally occurring chalk deposits. Above these levels stratigraphy was of fairly uniform layers of dark silty agricultural soils. The only archaeological features encountered were those belonging to nineteenth-century tenements.

At Thanington House, Wincheap (25), a service trench was cut across the pavement and into the road to a depth of c. 2 m. (5 ft. 7 in.). Metallings and a side drain of a Roman street were recorded at a depth of 1 m. (3 ft. 3 in.) and exposed for a width of 4 m. (13 ft.); perhaps half the width of the actual Roman road. The Roman metallings were sealed by post-Roman road surfaces which had been badly disturbed by service trenches.

At no. 3 St. Dunstan's Terrace (26) contractors' trenches were observed at the request of the householder. No archaeological features were encountered.

District

At Chestfield (28), Wes McLachlan, a Trust volunteer for many years, drew our attention to archaeological features in areas stripped for road construction on a new housing estate. A series of post-holes and shallow pits and ditches were located dotting the natural gravelly clay. Overall the distribution of finds and features suggests that this was a multi-period occupation site principally occupied in the late Iron Age and Roman periods, but containing some material indicating Neolithic, early Iron Age and medieval occupation. From the few finds, including fragments of quernstone, it would appear that the Roman and Iron Age features represent parts of a field system adjacent to a nearby settlement, perhaps situated on higher ground. This work was supervised by Alan Ward who worked with a small team and local volunteers under very difficult conditions.

PAUL BLOCKLEY

Other

29. *Guilton Mill, Ash* (Fig. 16)

A watching brief financed by H.B.M.C. was carried out in February 1987 during the laying of a drainage pipe at Guilton Mill, Ash. The area lies within Kent Scheduled Monument no. 161 and is the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery parts of which were excavated in 1771 and 1957.¹⁸

¹⁸ A. Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites* (1964), 121-2.

Guilton Mill

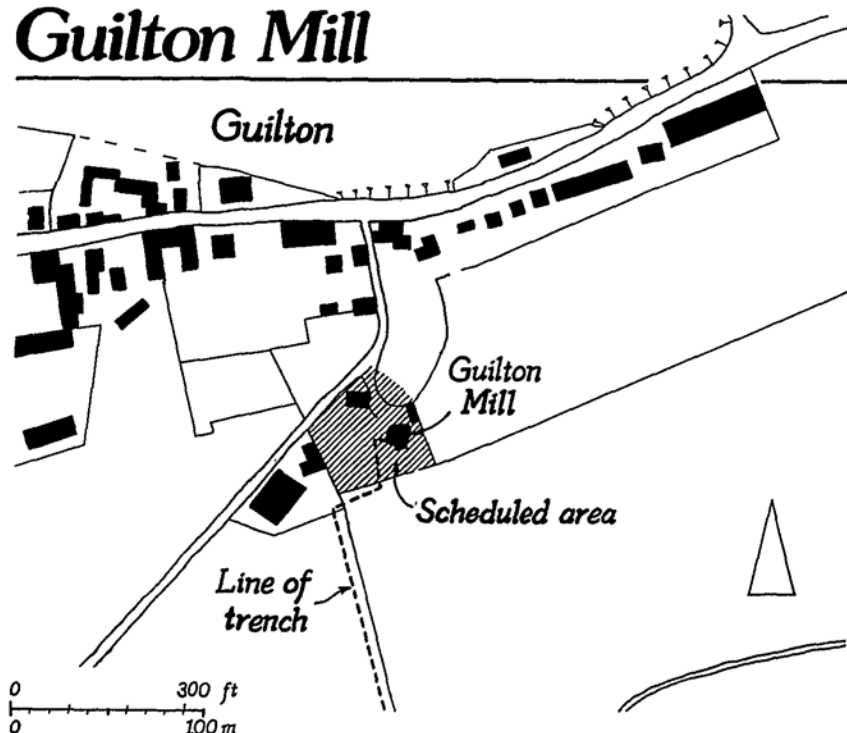


Fig. 16. Guilton Mill, Ash: Location Plan.

The second stage of the trenching operation, through the scheduled area, was carefully watched, the trench being cut to a maximum of 1.52 m. into natural Thanet sands. In the absence of the contractors, a substantial length of the trench was cut by the field officers maintaining the watching brief. The only feature encountered was a large eighteenth/early nineteenth-century pit. No traces of Anglo-Saxon features were located.

30. Quex Park, Margate

In February 1987, a watching brief was maintained during ground works for a new water main between Shottendane Road and Linksfield Road, skirting Kent Scheduled Monument no. 367.

After topsoil removal, the whole length (900 m.) of the trench line was checked for archaeological features, with the 230 m. section of pipeline closest to the scheduled area being studied in detail. Two

shallow features were located. The first, 15 cm. deep and 90 cm. wide, contained post-medieval pottery and was probably a field boundary ditch. The second feature, 140 cm. wide and cut 20 cm. into the natural chalk, was a ditch which terminated in a rounded butt end. A few fragments of Roman pottery were recovered from the ditch fill.

DAMIAN HONE

BUILDING SURVEYS

A. No. 26 St. Peter's Street (Figs. 17-20)

A catastrophic fire on 29th December, 1986, at no. 26 St. Peter's Street gave the Trust the opportunity to examine quite thoroughly the surviving timber-frame. A record had been made in 1978 of certain parts of the frame, at that time undergoing refurbishment. Many of the problems encountered during this initial work have been resolved during the course of the new survey.

A two-bay structure, set at right-angles to the street, forms the core of the existing building which dates from the fifteenth century. Around 1600, this structure was extended to the rear and the area

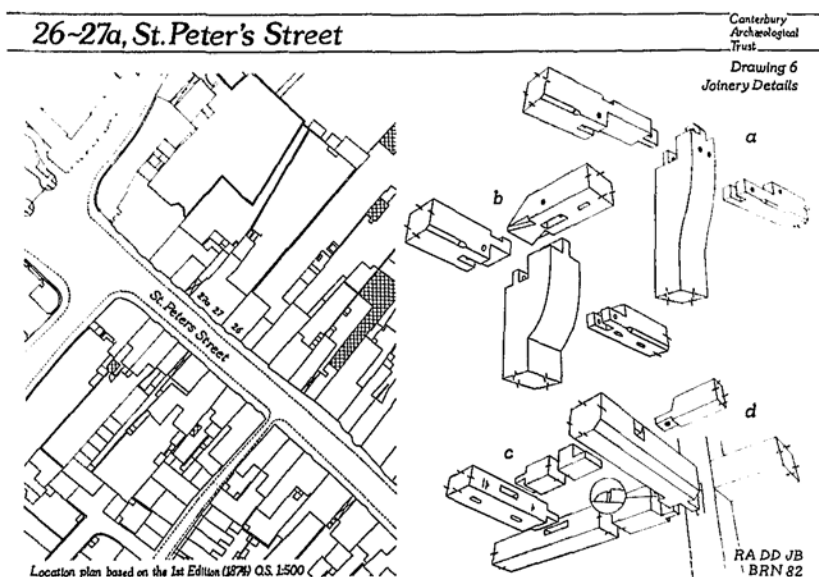


Fig. 17. No. 26 St. Peter's Street: Location Plan (Scale: 1:2000) and Joinery Details (Scale: 1:40).

immediately to the east of the frontage was redeveloped. This new work possibly replaced an earlier medieval element associated with the two-bay structure. At this time the front part of the medieval roof was dismantled and moved towards the rear to allow a continuous pitched roof across new and old work, parallel to the street. From evidence uncovered around the junction of old and new work it is quite clear that the external walls were treated with close studding and up-to-date fenestration. Remains of three doorways survive in the ground floor partitions, which are to be associated with the introduction of a chimney stack.

The building has essentially remained in the same form down to the present day, with periodical re-cladding and re-fenestration in the style of the time. An upper chamber in the eastern addition was panelled at some time in the eighteenth century.

JOHN BOWEN

B. No. 34 St. Margaret's Street

Work is now in progress on the complete refurbishment and restoration of this fire-damaged building. Canterbury City Council is carrying out the works, and it is anticipated that these will be completed and the building converted for use as a Tourist Information Centre during the autumn.

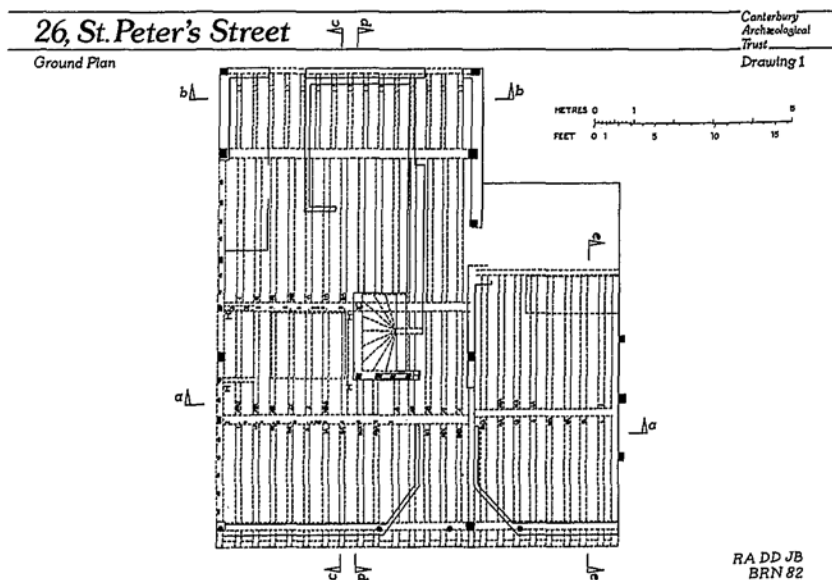


Fig. 18. No. 26 St. Peter's Street: Ground Plan (Scale: 1:200).

26, St. Peter's Street

Canterbury
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Drawing 5

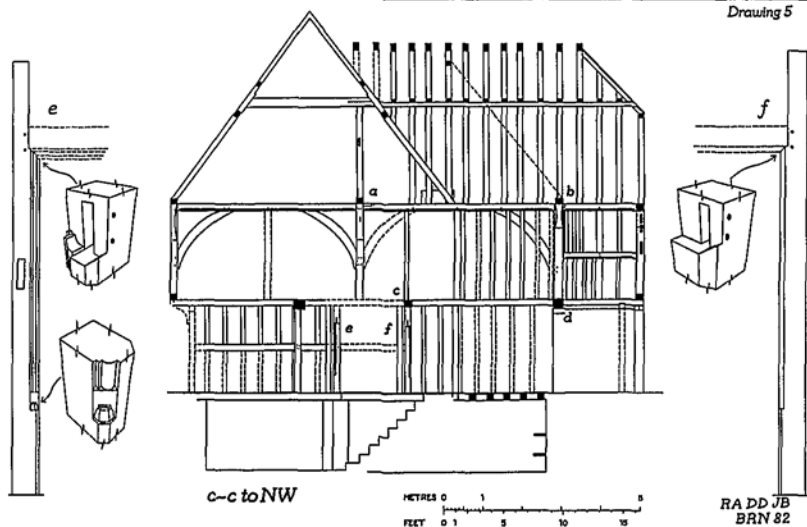


Fig. 19. No. 26 St. Peter's Street: Section (Scale: 1:200) and Details (Scale: 1:40).

26, St. Peter's Street

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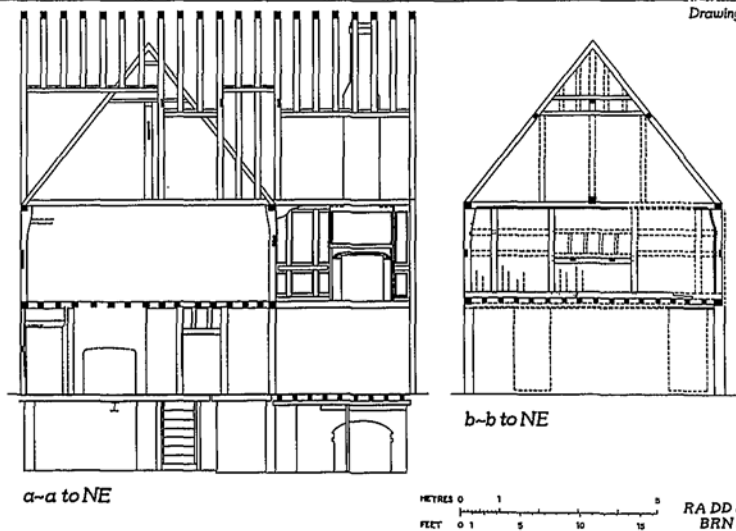


Fig. 20. No. 26 St. Peter's Street: Sections (Scale: 1:200).

During the works, the Trust has maintained a watching and recording brief on the progress of the building restoration in close consultation with the City Council Conservation Officer, Clive Bowley. As a result, many puzzling features of the design of the frame have been further clarified and have been incorporated into accurate reconstruction drawings produced by the Conservation Section for the restoration project.

Of particular interest was the discovery of evidence for the existence of a small brick and timber-framed extension to the rear of the building with floor levels set between those of the main structure. The existence of this rear projection makes more sense of the idiosyncratic design of the rear elevation and this feature is being reconstructed as part of the restoration works to contain a fire escape staircase.

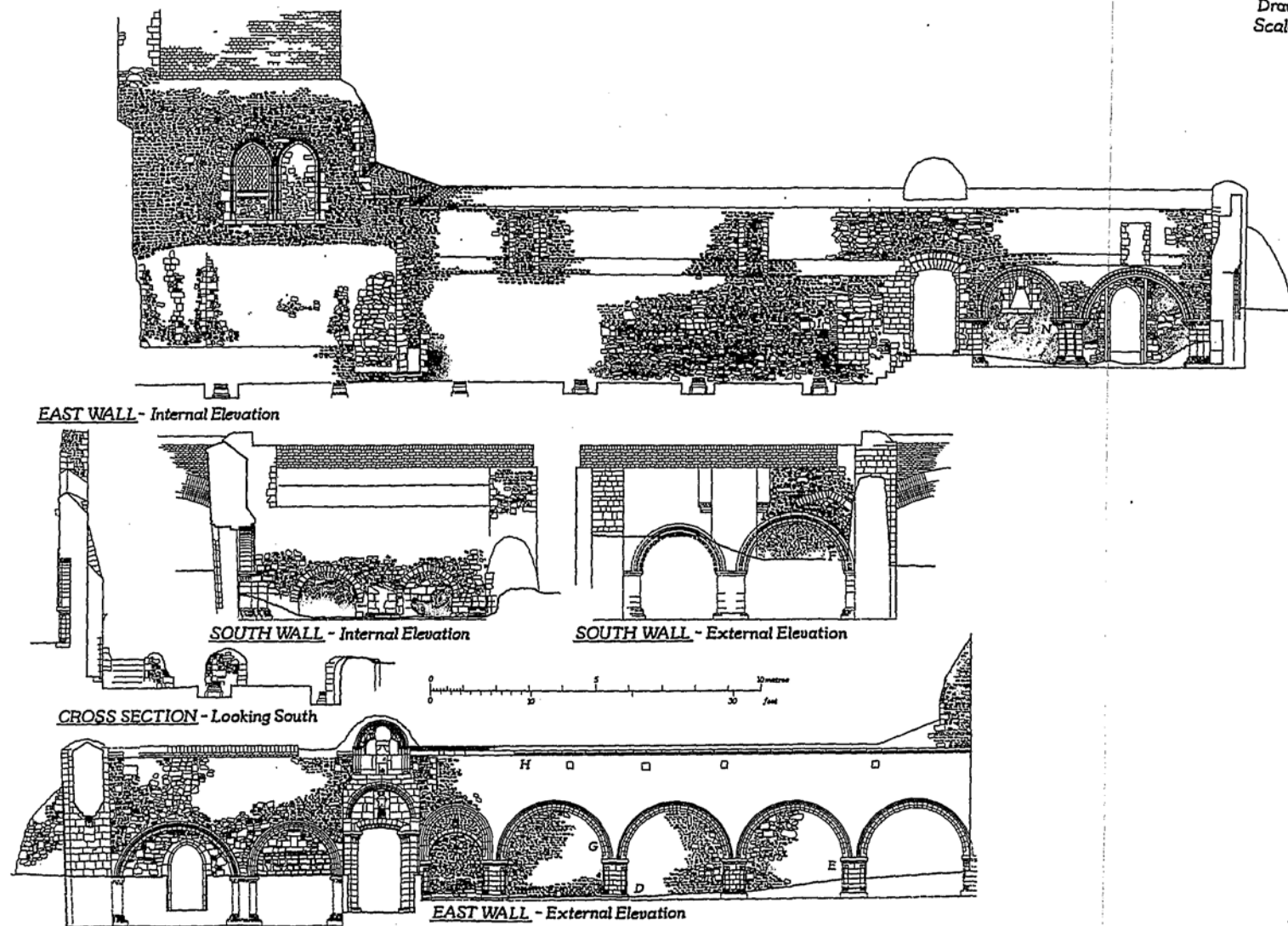
The chimney stack is of an unusual design with two of the second-floor fireplaces carried on an arch springing from the side of the main stack and resting on the timber frame of the room below. Further investigation has revealed a total of four fine stuccoed brick fireplaces. The mouldings of the first floor fire-place with fleur-de-lys motifs to the jambs and one surviving decorative spandrel panel with traces of 'Bucranium' mouldings are of special interest.

Even more remarkable was the discovery of sufficient evidence to enable the reconstruction of the design of the original staircase that had been completely removed, probably as a result of wear and distortion caused by the settlement of the central part of the building. It had been replaced by an early nineteenth-century staircase, itself much mutilated by modern alterations. A careful study of surviving mortice holes and traces left in the plaster and paintwork of the stair-well walls, together with the discovery of two newel posts re-used as floor joists, has enabled the production of detailed reconstruction drawings of the original squared spiral stair with intermediate landing, heavy newels, hand-rails and thick turned balusters. The subsequent discovery of a fragment of baluster in rubble under the stair-well has confirmed the accuracy of the reconstruction drawings produced by the Conservation Section of the City Council and a complete replica staircase, constructed from seasoned English oak is to be re-instated as part of the restoration work.

CLIVE BOWLEY

C. *Domus Hospitum* (Figs. 21 and 22)

The Cellarer's Hall, called in the twelfth century at Christchurch Priory 'Domus Hospitum', is one of several buildings which survive in



RA

Fig. 21. Domus Hospitum, Christchurch Priory: Elevations (Scale: 1:200).

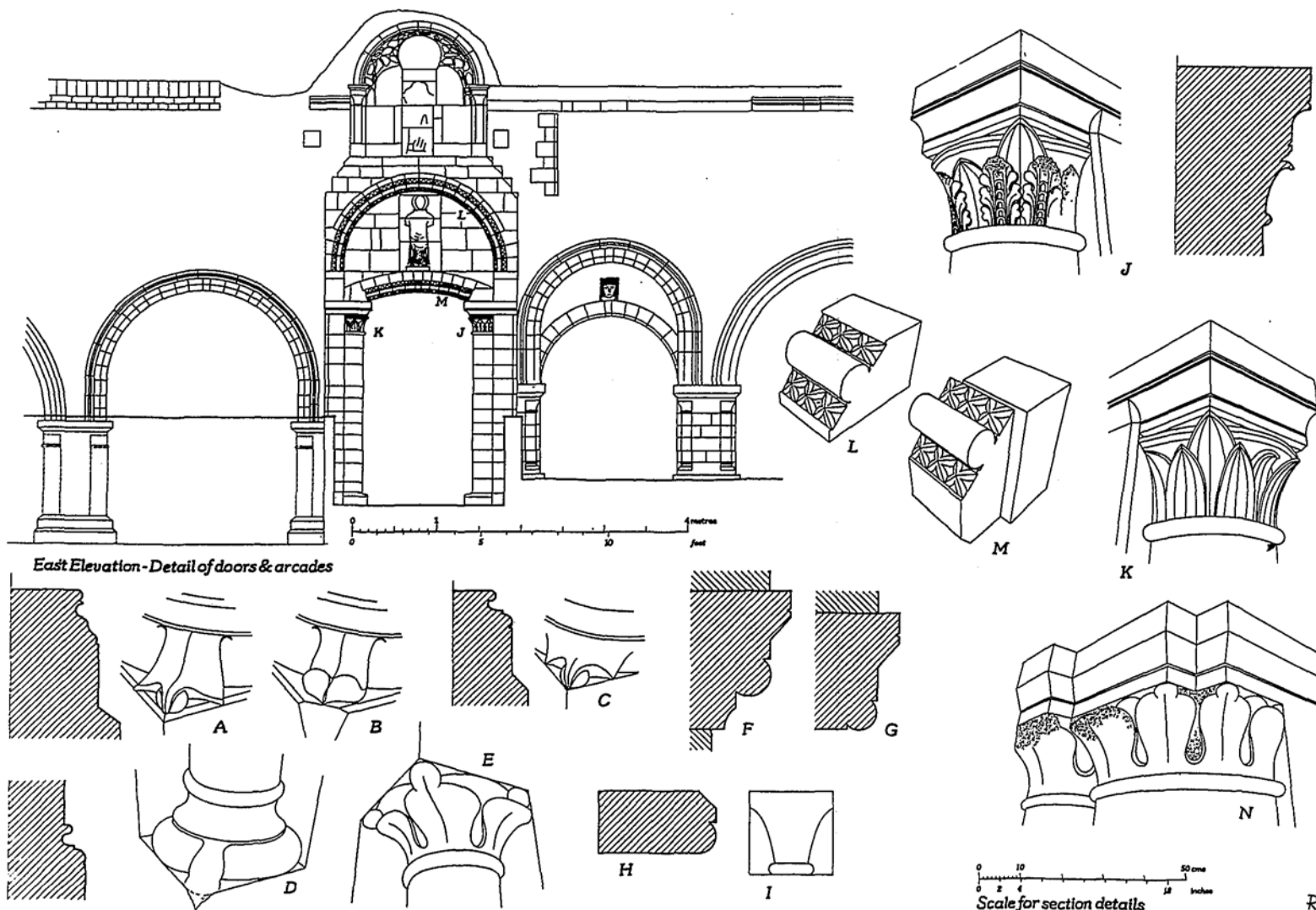


Fig. 22. Domus Hospitum, Christchurch Priory: Details (Scale, Elevation: 1:80; Details: 1:16).

part dating from the mid to later twelfth century and appear on Prior Wibert's Water-works plan of c. 1165.¹⁹ These late Norman buildings all display a wealth of ornamental detail.²⁰ This building is now being surveyed by the Trust in advance of restoration and a set of 1:50 plans and elevations, complemented by large-scale drawings of the details, is in preparation. Access to the Hall, built over an undercroft of seven bays, is gained via a transverse staircase towards the south end. The building continues for a further two bays which were originally open to the east and at the south end at undercroft level. The undercroft area was only dug out in the 1950s.²¹

The building faces onto the Kitchen Court area and this east elevation is treated with a blind arcade. The most noteworthy feature of the building is the fine portal at the foot of the staircase, currently undergoing restoration. This doorway was described by Somner before 1640 as 'A fair door, over which is cut in the stonework the resemblance of the Holy Ghost, in the Dove's form, descending on our Saviour; and under his feet the statue of an Archbishop (haply the founder) in his pontificals'.²²

A curious feature is a very large segmental brick arch spanning over 26 ft. between the south-east corner of the 'Domus Hospitum' and the refectory. In the past, it has been taken for a fireplace (when it was blocked) and a bridge connecting the buildings. It is quite clearly a buttressing of the extreme failure of the structure in this area, which, as has been mentioned above, was open on two adjacent sides. The arch dates to the end of the Monastic Period.

JOHN BOWEN

¹⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, vii (1868), Plate 1, opp. p. 196.

²⁰ These details have been the subject of intensive study by Deborah Kahn of the Courtauld Institute.

²¹ M. Sparks and T. Tatton-Brown, '29 The Precincts', in *Canterbury Cathedral Chronicle*, 81 (1987), 36-41.

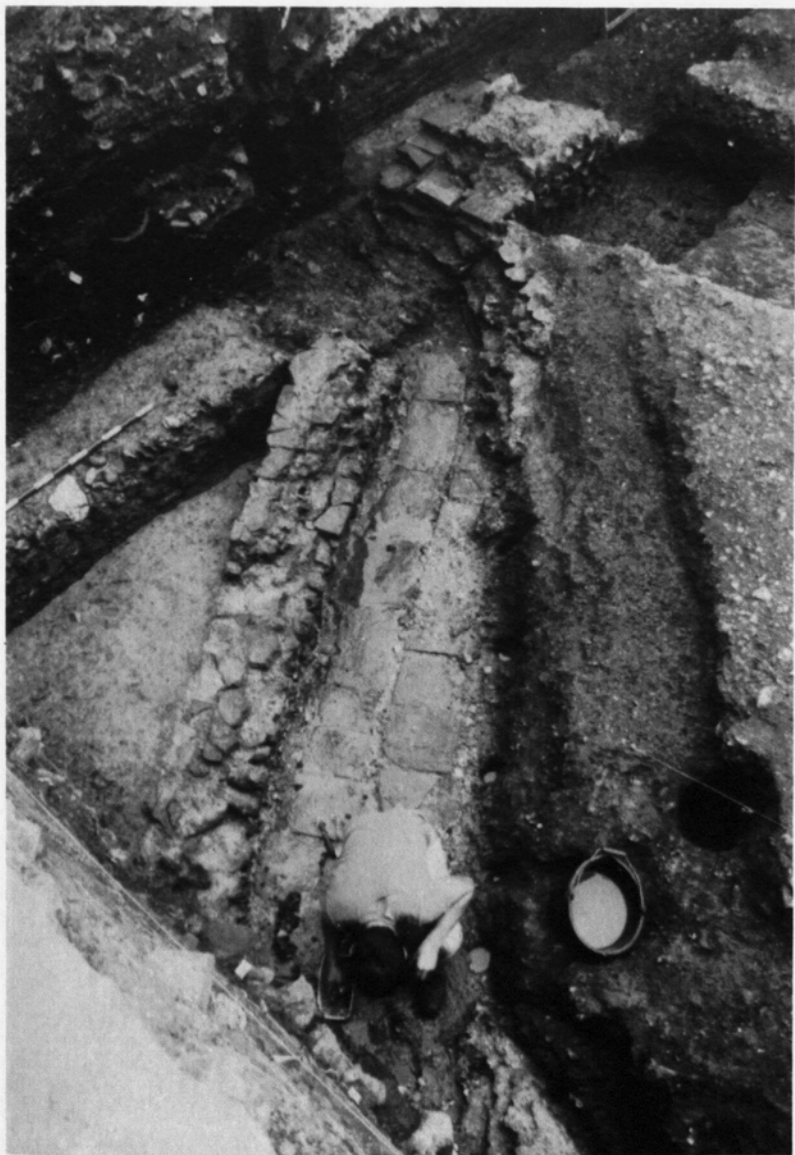
²² R. Willis, 'The Architectural History of the Conventual Buildings of Christ Church, Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, vii (1868), 133.



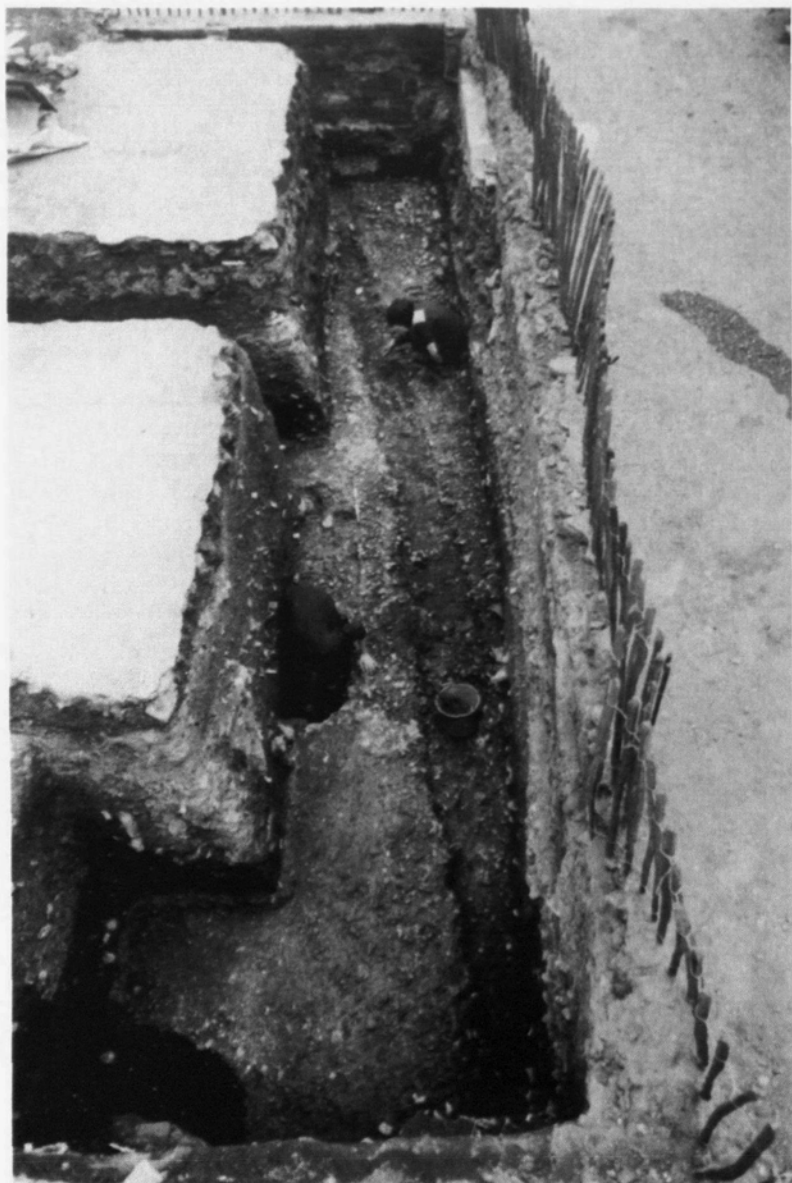
Martin's, no. 20 St Margaret's Street: View of the *Praefurnium* from the south-east, showing remains of the tile-on-edge floor (Scale: 20cm.).



St. Margaret's Church: The *Pelta* re-used in the paved Floor of the Plunge-bath (Scale: 10 cm.).



Nos. 36-37 Stour Street: Masonry Drain, piercing wall of contemporary building and inserted through metallings of a street close to the intersection with Roman Watling Street.



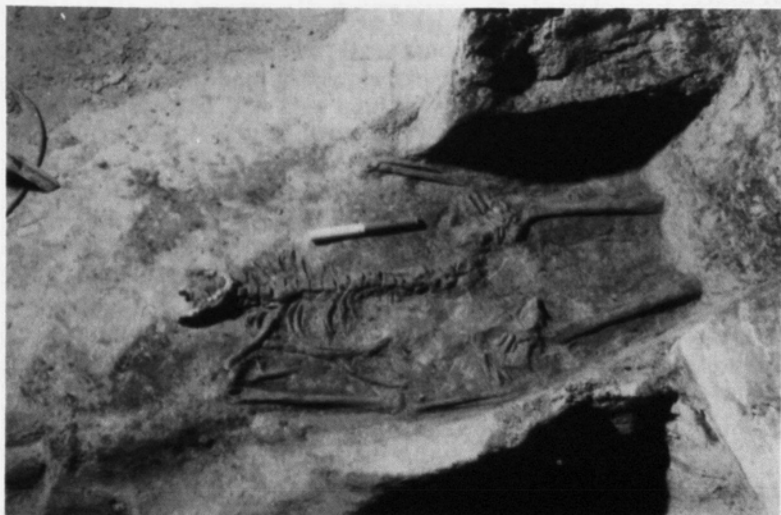
Adelaide Place: View from south-east showing late Roman Side Drain and Surfacing of the final 'half-width' Street to the left.

PLATE V



St. Radigund's Street Car Park: General View from the south-east, showing the principal north-west/south-east aligned street with side drains.

PLATE VI



No. 7 New Street: View of Burial 'A' from the south-west (Scale: 20 cm.).



The Tannery Excavation: View of the Roman Building from the south-west.