



# SELBORNE PRIORY

## Excavations 1953–1971

David Baker and contributors



Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Monograph 12





Bishop of Winchester  
either Geoffrey de Lucy 1189-1204  
or Peter des Roches 1205-1238  
founder of Selborne Priory in 1233  
Effigy in Winchester Cathedral  
(John Crook)

## Selborne Priory

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Excavations 1953–1971

David Baker

with contributions from Evelyn Baker, Doris Jones-Baker,  
Ken Barton, Duncan Brown, Graham Brown, Jennifer Browning,  
Simon Chapman, Jo Dillon, Holly Duncan, Anna Eavis,  
Brian and Moira Gittos, Harriet Jacklin, Richard Kelleher,  
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Edited by David Baker

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## Preface

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The publication of any archaeological site is a matter for celebration, the more so when it is a site of key significance to its discipline and, like Selborne Priory, has lurked in the shadows little known for decades. Selborne Priory has many stories to tell: not only is it a fine example of an Augustinian religious establishment but it also plays a revealing part in the archaeological history of the county. It was excavated between 1953 and 1969 by a band of enthusiastic local amateurs led first by the Rev W S Scott and, after 1955, by the much-loved Rev George Knapp. But by 1969 the energy had waned and it was clear that something had to be done with the record and the not inconsiderable volume of finds housed in several places. Since the Hampshire Field Club had supported the work, the problem was passed to me – the then Secretary. The way forward was clear, the excavation had to be brought to a close and a full report prepared for publication. Fortunately there was a man to do it – David Baker. David had wide experience of excavation, including a monastic

establishment in Bedfordshire, and had just taken up an academic post at Portsmouth Polytechnic. He relished the task and in a series of elegantly efficient excavations, in 1970 and 1971, completed an outline plan of the principal monastic buildings. An arduous professional life intervened but he has recently returned to the task of preparing the report aided by the staff of the Hampshire County Museum Service who have managed to bring together the not inconsiderable collection of finds hitherto scattered across the county. His masterly report makes this gem of a site available to us all for the first time in an attractive and accessible form. We are much indebted to him not only for taking on the daunting task in the first place but also for his tenacity in seeing it through to completion. Thanks to him Selborne Priory can now take its place in the archaeological literature as a thoroughly studied example of an Augustinian priory and as a monument to all those, amateur and professional, who have worked to bring it to life.

**Barry Cunliffe**

## Abstract

The priory of Selborne in Hampshire was founded in 1233 for Augustinian canons by Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, and dissolved in 1486 by his successor William Waynflete. A chantry chapel survived until about 1550. Excavations between 1953 and 1971, mostly by local volunteers, were stimulated by Gilbert White's *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789), but early work was confused by an assumption that the church lay north rather than south of the cloister. The cruciform church was largely completed by the mid-13th century: it had a long unaisled nave, transepts built with fully developed eastern chapels and an unextended presbytery. The west and north claustral ranges had undercrofts of seven bays with central free-standing piers. A two-bay chapter house was divided by an arcade; further north, the east range undercroft contained a square vaulted warming house or inner parlour. Graffiti on reused ashlar blocks in the drain for the canons' latrine depicted a man, a horse and a crucifixion. Thirteen burials were found in four locations, six in stone coffins. Building materials include a fine foliate decorated roof boss from the presbytery, a quantity of mid-13th century *grisaille* glass, lead comes and window ties. A major collection of decorated medieval floor tiles is placed within Hampshire and wider contexts. Registered finds were mostly for domestic use rather than religious activity. 25 coins, tokens and jettons are reported. Eleven groups of ceramic wares include 15th and 16th century vessels for distillation and other alchemic practices already reported elsewhere. Documentary evidence is discussed including hitherto unpublished building repair accounts for the chantry in 1513–14. Reconstructions of the buildings are proposed in the wider context of Augustinian planning and by comparison with nearby contemporary Titchfield Abbey. Appendices note the excavation strategies, coffin lids at the parish church of St Mary, a 1490 inventory of church goods at the priory, and small scale excavations undertaken about 1900.

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Effigy of Bishop William Waynflete, Winchester  
Cathedral (John Crook)

**Back cover**

The fish tile, Norton No 1A, see p117: Curtis Museum  
Alton (David Baker)

In 1233 Peter de  
the Augustinian  
In 1486 his succ  
appropriated its  
College at Odo  
some of the pr

The site of  
Selborne villa  
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## Summaries

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In 1233 Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, founded the Augustinian priory of St Mary at Selborne for 14 canons. In 1486 his successor William Waynflete dissolved it and appropriated its property for his new foundation of Magdalen College at Oxford. The college maintained a chantry chapel in some of the priory buildings until about 1550.

The site of the priory was 1.6km (1 mile) east of Selborne village. Evidence in its landscape context for monastic land use and water management deserves further investigation.

Antiquarian interest in the site was stimulated by Gilbert White's *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789) which drew upon documents in the archives at Magdalen College. It prompted excavations of the main claustral buildings in 1953–69, mostly directed by the Rev G E C Knapp. Until 1961 investigations were confused by the incorrect assumption that the church lay north rather than south of the cloister. Trial trenches in 1970–71 sought a framework for the earlier work.

The priory ground plan was laid out using the 'rotated square', probably by masons then active in Winchester, and the main buildings were largely completed by the mid-13th century. The long nave never received aisles although the transepts were built with fully developed eastern chapels. The only extension identified was a west chapel added to the south transept. The original cloister arcades were retained throughout the life of the priory, though flying buttresses may have been added as support for adjacent ranges. There are no records of repairs until the 1460s, when the need for major work might be explained by documented financial mismanagement and organisational decline from the mid-14th century onwards.

The west and north ranges, standing on terraces slightly lower than the church, each had an undercroft of seven bays with central free-standing piers. The west range had a square building attached to its north-west side. North of the chapter house, the south end of the east range undercroft contained a square vaulted warming house or inner parlour. A long canons' latrine stood separately to the east with the main monastic drain running just outside its east wall. *Graffiti* on reused ashlar blocks in the drain walls included a man, a horse and a crucifixion.

Thirteen burials were found in four locations, six within the presbytery, two in the north transept, four outside the west end of the church and one in the east cloister walk outside the chapter house. Six were in stone coffins, three of which were made of a single piece of stone and three with multiple pieces. At least two within the church were female. Despite speculation, none could be identified.

There were two empty graves, in the presbytery and the outer south transept chapel.

Architectural stonework includes a fine mid-13th-century roof boss with foliate decoration from the presbytery, and parts of an arcade in Purbeck marble dividing the chapter house. Windows are represented by a quantity of mid-13th century *grisaille* glass, lead comes and a notable set of lead ties. Selborne Priory is one of the most important Hampshire sites for decorated medieval floor tiles, with a large collection especially from the later 13th century and the end of the 14th. One tile has an unusual design of two fishes, possibly commemorating the visit of St Richard of Chichester when he miraculously caught a pike for supper from the priory fishpond.

Registered finds dating from the later 13th to the 15th centuries are mostly items for domestic use rather than religious activity, such as food preparation, dress, and building fittings. Notable items include lead spacers between lengths of column and four decorative lead leaves. Twelve coins, one token, 11 jettons and a coin weight date from the mid-13th to the early 17th centuries.

Ceramics comprise 11 groups of wares from the late 13th century to the late 18th century. The main ones dating to the 15th and 16th centuries include vessels for distillation and other alchemic practices. Varied manufacturing sources showed marked changes of influence on local products throughout the period.

Discussion comments upon the documentary evidence for the priory, the circumstances of its foundation and dissolution, and repairs, with special reference to a previously unpublished account of work to the post-dissolution chantry in 1513–14. Reconstructions of the main buildings are proposed; how they were laid out is considered in the wider context of other Augustinian planning and by comparison with nearby Titchfield Abbey. Antiquarian interest in the site is outlined; outstanding issues from the project are identified.

Appendices include a narrative of the excavation strategies, the results of a small excavation in 1957 at Grange Farm in Selborne, a note on the coffin lids at the parish church of St Mary, an inventory of church goods at the priory made in 1490, and notes on small scale excavations undertaken in about 1900.

### Resume Elisabeth Zadora-Rio

La fondation en 1233 du prieuré augustien de Notre-Dame de Selborne, constitué de 14 chanoines, est due à Peter des Roches, évêque de Winchester. Son successeur, William Waynflete, supprima en 1486 le prieuré dont il

attribua les possessions à sa nouvelle fondation, le collège Sainte-Marie-Madeleine à Oxford. Le collège maintint sur place une chapellenie desservie dans une partie des bâtiments du prieuré jusque vers 1550.

Le prieuré est situé à 1.6 km (1 mile) à l'est du village de Selborne. Les données sur l'exploitation du sol et la gestion de l'eau par les religieux mériteraient une recherche approfondie dans le contexte global du paysage.

L'intérêt des antiquaires pour le site fut éveillé par la parution du livre de Gilbert White, *Histoire Naturelle et Antiquités de Selborne* (1789), qui se fonde sur les archives du collège Sainte-Marie-Madeleine. Des fouilles furent conduites dans les principaux bâtiments du cloître entre 1953 et 1959, principalement sous la direction du Révérend GEC Knapp. Jusqu'en 1961 les recherches firent fausse route en supposant que l'église était située au nord du cloître, alors qu'elle se trouvait au sud de celui-ci. Des tranchées de sondage effectuées en 1970-1971 ont permis de réinterpréter les travaux antérieurs.

Le plan au sol du prieuré fut tracé par la méthode du 'carré tournant', sans doute par des maçons venant de Winchester, et les bâtiments principaux furent achevés pour l'essentiel vers le milieu du 13<sup>e</sup> siècle. La longue nef resta dépourvue de collatéraux et le transept fut construit dès l'origine avec des chapelles formant saillie sur les croisillons. La seule extension identifiée est celle d'une chapelle ajoutée à l'ouest du croisillon sud du transept. Les arcades d'origine du cloître ont été conservées tout au long de l'histoire du prieuré, mais des arcs-boutants ont peut-être été ajoutés pour consolider la jonction des travées. Aucune restauration n'est documentée avant les années 1460 ; la nécessité d'une remise en état importante à cette date s'explique par la mauvaise gestion et le déclin de l'établissement depuis le milieu du 14<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Les galeries occidentale et septentrionale, construites sur des terrasses un peu plus basses que l'église, avaient chacune un étage inférieur en sous-sol comprenant sept travées voûtées avec une rangée centrale de piliers. La galerie ouest était reliée à un bâtiment carré situé au nord-ouest. Au nord de la salle capitulaire, à l'extrémité sud de l'étage inférieur de la galerie, il y avait un chauffoir voûté de plan carré. Les latrines occupaient à l'est un bâtiment séparé dont le mur oriental était longé par l'égout principal du monastère. Certaines pierres de taille en emploi présentent des graffiti, parmi lesquels on reconnaît le dessin d'un homme, d'un cheval et d'une crucifixion.

Treize sépultures furent découvertes à quatre emplacements différents : six dans le chœur, deux dans le croisillon nord du transept, quatre devant l'entrée occidentale de l'église, et une sous la galerie orientale du cloître à l'extérieur de la salle capitulaire. Six tombes étaient en pierre, dont trois monolithes et trois en coffrage de pierres. Au moins deux des sépultures à l'intérieur de l'église étaient des femmes, mais en dépit de diverses spéculations aucune n'a pu être identifiée avec certitude.

Deux tombes étaient vides, l'une située dans le chœur et l'autre dans la chapelle au bout du croisillon sud du transept.

Les éléments sculptés comprennent une belle clef de voûte à décor de feuillage provenant du chœur et les fragments d'une arcade en marbre de Purbeck qui divisait la salle capitulaire. Les vitraux sont représentés par une grande quantité de fragments de grisaille et de résille de plomb et un nombre important d'attaches en plomb. Le prieuré de Selborne est l'un des sites du Hampshire qui présente la plus riche collection de carreaux décorés du Moyen Age, en particulier pour les dernières décennies du 13<sup>e</sup> et la fin du 14<sup>e</sup> siècle. L'un de ces carreaux possède un décor inhabituel représentant deux poissons, peut-être en commémoration de la visite de saint Richard de Chichester qui attrapa miraculeusement dans l'étang du monastère un brochet pour le dîner.

Les objets découverts (ustensiles de cuisine, habillement, éléments de mobilier), datés de la fin du 13<sup>e</sup> au 15<sup>e</sup> siècle, sont plus représentatifs de la vie quotidienne que des activités religieuses. Parmi les objets remarquables il y a des joints de plomb destinés à unir les tambours d'une colonne et quatre feuilles de plomb moulé constituant un décor. Les fouilles ont livré également douze pièces de monnaie, un jeton, 11 pions et un poids monétaire datés du milieu du 13<sup>e</sup> au début du 17<sup>e</sup> siècle.

La céramique comprend 11 groupes de productions de la fin du 13<sup>e</sup> à la fin du 18<sup>e</sup> siècle. Les ensembles les plus importants, datés des 15<sup>e</sup> et 16<sup>e</sup> siècles, incluent des alambics pour la distillation et autres pratiques alchimiques. Les provenances variées suggèrent des changements d'approvisionnement en produits locaux au cours de la période.

La présentation des sources écrites concernant le prieuré examine les circonstances de sa fondation et de sa suppression, ainsi que les restaurations du bâtiment, notamment celles qui figurent dans une comptabilité inédite relative aux travaux réalisés après la dissolution des monastères en 1513-14.

Les propositions de reconstitution des bâtiments principaux prennent en compte les éléments de comparaison avec les autres établissements de l'Ordre de saint Augustin, notamment l'abbaye voisine de Titchfield. Le volume souligne l'intérêt que les antiquaires ont manifesté pour le site et examine les principales questions soulevées par le projet.

Les annexes comprennent un exposé de la stratégie de fouille, un compte-rendu des résultats de la fouille limitée réalisée en 1957 sur le site de Grange Farm à Selborne, une note sur les couvercles de cercueil de l'église paroissiale de Notre-Dame, un inventaire des biens du prieuré en 1490, et des notices sur des fouilles restreintes effectuées vers 1900.

## Zusammenfassung Madeleine Hummler

Im Jahre 1233 gründete der Bischof von Winchester, Peter des Roches, das Augustinerpriorat von St Mary, mit einer Gemeinschaft von 14 Kanonikern. Sein Nachfolger, William Waynflete, löste es in 1486 auf und eignete sich den Besitz zugunsten seiner neuen Gründung von Magdalen College in Oxford an. Bis ungefähr um 1550 behielt Magdalen College eine Stiftkapelle innerhalb von einigen Gebäuden des Priorats bei.

Das Priorat befindet sich 1,6 km (1 Meile) östlich des Dorfes von Selborne. In der Landschaft noch erhaltene Hinweise über die klösterliche Verwaltung von Land und Wasser bedürften einer eingehenderen Untersuchung.

Antiquarisches Interesse wurde durch das Werk von Gilbert White (*Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, 1789), das sich auf den in den Archiven von Magdalen College erhaltenen Urkunden stützte, gefördert. Dieses Interesse gab den Anstoß zu den Ausgrabungen der Hauptgebäude des Priorats, die, meistens unter der Leitung von Rev. G.E.C. Knapp, zwischen 1953 und 1969 stattfanden. Die irrümliche Annahme, die Kirche befände sich nördlich und nicht südlich des Kreuzganges, hat die Untersuchungen gehindert. Die 1970–71 eröffneten Suchschnitte hatten zum Ziel, einen Rahmen für die früheren Befunde zu bieten.

Der Grundriss des Priorats wurde mit einem 'gedrehten Quadrat' vermessen; die Gebäude wurden von wahrscheinlich dann in Winchester tätigen Maurern gebaut und der Bau wurde zum größten Teil bei der Mitte des 13. Jahrhunderts vollendet.

Das lange Schiff war nie mit Seitenschiffen ausgestattet, dahingegen wurde das Querschiff mit voll ausgerichteten östlichen Kapellen errichtet. Eine am südlichen Querschiff angebaute westliche Kapelle ist der einzige Anbau, der nachgewiesen sein konnte. Die ursprüngliche Arkade des Kreuzganges wurde durch die ganze Belegungszeit des Priorats beibehalten; es ist aber möglich, dass Strebebögen, die den anliegenden Gebäudetrakt verstärkten, angebaut wurden. Reparaturen sind bis um 1460 nicht dokumentiert, dann aber könnte sich die Notwendigkeit großer Bauarbeiten durch die dokumentierte finanzielle Misswirtschaft und organisatorische Verschlechterung ab Mitte des 14. Jahrhunderts erklären lassen.

Die westlichen und nördlichen Gebäudetrakte, die auf Terrassen etwas niedriger als die Kirche lagen, besaßen je ein unterirdisches Gewölbe mit sieben Räumen und zentralen freistehenden Pfeilern. Ein viereckiges Gebäude wurde an dem nordwestlichen Trakt angebaut. Nördlich des Kapitelsaals bestand der südliche Teil des östlichen unterirdischen Gewölbetraktes aus einem Warmhaus oder Empfangszimmer mit quadratischem Gewölbe. Ein langes Necessarium lag eigenständig östlich von der Hauptabwasserleitung des Klosters, die gerade außerhalb der Ostmauer floss. Graffiti auf den Quadersteinen, die in

den Mauern der Wasserleitung wiederverwendet waren, zeigen, unter anderen, ein Mann, ein Pferd und eine Kreuzigung.

Dreizehn Gräber wurden in vier Stellen entdeckt: Sechs im Presbyterium, zwei im nördlichen Querschiff, vier außerhalb des westlichen Endes der Kirche und eine Bestattung im östlichen Klostergang außerhalb des Kapitelsaales. Sechs davon waren in Steinsärgen bestattet, darunter drei aus einem einzigen Block gefertigt, und drei aus mehreren Stücken zusammengesetzt. Mindestens zwei Bestattungen innerhalb der Kirche waren weiblich. Entgegen Spekulationen konnten keine identifiziert werden. Zwei Gräber waren leer, im Presbyterium und in der Kapelle des südlichen Querschiffes.

Unter den architektonischen Bauelementen müssen ein schöner, mit Blätter verzierter Gewölbeschlussstein der Mitte des 13. Jahrhunderts aus dem Presbyterium sowie Teile einer Arkade aus Purbeck-Marmor, die das Kapitelhaus in zwei teilte, erwähnt werden. Eine Anzahl von *grisaille* Glasstücken der Mitte des 13. Jahrhunderts, Bleiruten und eine bemerkenswerte Sammlung von Verbindungselementen aus Blei bestätigt, dass Fenster anwesend waren. Selborne Priory ist eine der wichtigsten Fundstätten in Hampshire von mittelalterlichen Keramikfliesen (Bodenkacheln), mit einer bedeutenden Sammlung vor allem aus dem späten 13. Jahrhundert und dem Ende des 14. Jahrhunderts. Eine Fliese besitzt ein ungewöhnliches Muster mit zwei Fischen, vielleicht in Erinnerung an den Besuch von Sir Richard of Chichester, der wie durch ein Wunder einen Hecht aus dem Fischteich des Priorats für das Abendmahl fing.

Der Befund, der ins späte 13. bis ins 15. Jahrhundert datiert wird, besteht vor allem aus Baubestandteilen und Haushaltsgegenständen, die für die Ernährung und die Kleidung zum Einsatz kamen, und nicht aus Zeugen einer religiösen Tätigkeit. Unter den Baubestandteilen sind Abstandsstücke aus Blei, die zwischen den Teilen von Säulen saßen, sowie vier ornamentierte Blätter aus Blei nennenswert. Zwölf Münzen, elf Rechenpfennige und ein Münzgewicht werden von der Mitte des 13. Jahrhunderts bis ins 17. Jahrhundert datiert.

Die Keramik besteht aus elf Gruppen von Waren, die zum späten 13. Jahrhundert bis späten 18. Jahrhundert gehören. In den wichtigsten Gruppen der 15. und 16. Jahrhunderte befinden sich auch Gefäße, die für das Destillieren und andere Anwendungen in der Alchemie gebraucht wurden. Verschiedene Herstellungsquellen zeigen, dass es laufend erhebliche Veränderungen im Einfluss über einheimische Waren gab.

Die Besprechung erwägt die in den Quellen überlieferten Hinweise über das Priorat, die Umstände seiner Gründung und Auflösung und auch die Reparaturen, mit besonderem Bezug auf einen bislang unveröffentlichten Bericht über Arbeiten, die nach der Auflösung in 1513–14 in der Stiftskapelle stattfanden.

## Selborne Priory Excavations 1953–1971

Es werden Rekonstruktionsversuche der Hauptgebäude vorgeschlagen: Ihr Plan wird im weiteren Kontext der augustinischen Planung betrachtet, und mit der naheliegenden Abtei von Titchfield verglichen. Das antiquarische Interesse in der Stätte wird skizziert und ausstehende Fragen werden hervorgehoben.

Die Anhänge enthalten eine Darstellung der Grabungsstrategie, die Ergebnisse einer kleinen Ausgrabung, die 1957 in Grange Farm in Selborne durchgeführt wurde, einen Bericht über die Sargdeckel in der Pfarrkirche von St Mary, ein Inventar der Kirchengüter, das 1490 aufgestellt wurde, und Mitteilungen über Kleingrabungen um 1900.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Prof. [unclear] initially involving me in the project. I am grateful to the then Department of Archaeology, Portsmouth Polytechnic, for its students, other staff, and elsewhere. Key participants include Nicholas, Andrew, Louise, and Eve. I am also grateful to Mark and Anne for their assistance in the priory field. The work was carried out by Smith, have encountered many difficulties.

Preliminary work was carried out by [unclear] benefited greatly from the assistance of La Fée, a volunteer. The field survey was carried out by Ian Russell of the University of Exeter. Danwell-Smith, who helped guide me through the site. For the reproduction of the sources I am grateful to the President and Council of the Society for their suggestions by [unclear] of this report. I am grateful to the wide knowledge and helpful suggestions of [unclear].

I am grateful to [unclear] with their responses. My thanks go to the contexts for their assistance. Mark Samuel's assistance and availability for the reconstruction of the site is gratefully acknowledged. Systematic work was carried out by Philip [unclear] to his assistance in the revision of the report. I am grateful to Gittos for their assistance.

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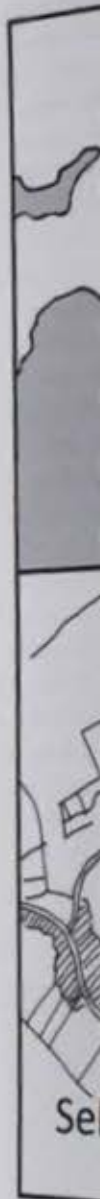


Fig 1.1 Local

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Fig 3.7 Presbytery: fallen roof boss, perhaps from the centre of one of the two eastern bays, 1966



Fig 3.8 Presbytery: impressions of square tiles in mortar floor of north side, facing east, 1966

### Crossing piers

The 1971 trench 26a located all four footings attached to the **north-west** pier, originally seen but not recognised as such in the long wall-following trench of 1953–55 running south from the chapter house. The full width of the east arm, the north sleeper wall for the crossing, was seen as a footing cut into natural clay. Indications of superstructural width for the west arm, the north wall of the nave, were seen, but no limits to the mortared stonework of its foundation width within the excavated area. The south arm, the west sleeper wall of the crossing and the eastern limit of the nave, and the north arm, the west wall of the north transept, were seen as mortared footing surfaces cut into clay on their east sides.

Notes of work on the **north-east** pier in 1959 are uninformative. Squares 1/58 and 1/46 held a mass of fallen masonry, and 'a continuous floor foundation of cement-like substance', presumably the top of the sleeper wall. A 'pit with dark humus, charcoal and mussel shells' was presumably post-dissolution. A quantity of glass was found, some in layers just above floor level, but without any lead came (NBk 3, 93). There was a

'curious wall running at an angle from the main south wall. One of the stones forming this narrow wall was a worked stone, probably part of a string-course, and another stone also worked on the underside had lead adhering to it. This would appear to indicate that the wall was constructed after the general demolition of the buildings and that refuse stones were used on its building and therefore it is a later addition and not part of the original plan' (NBk 3, 115).

Lack of records prevents verifying two construction periods.

An 'experimental' trench started during April 1962 in Sq 2/594ZX found the end of a wall at the north-east corner of the barn, described as the extension of the east wall running from the chapter house to the barn, and probably in the vicinity of the north-east crossing pier. At a depth of 0.76m (2ft 6in) were 'layers of window glass, mostly of same pattern as Chapter House glass, but a few pieces of blue glass' [and a] 'quantity of glass, some in layers just above floor level, but no lead with it'.

Extensions of the trench to the north and east found more floor but no more glass. Further work in the later part of August was described as 'confused', 'indefinite' and 'rather inconclusive' (NBk 5, 22–34 *passim*). In April 1963, working north from the floor and wall discovered in 1962, the junction of the presumed walls of the crossing was investigated in Sq 2/591 located near the north-east pier, identified as such in the Annual Report for that year.

The **south-west** pier lay under the modern field barn which is slightly askew to the orientation of the church. The barn covers parts of adjacent compartments, (clockwise) the north-east corner of the south transept west chapel extension, the south-east corner of the nave, more than half of the crossing itself and the north part of the south transept. 1971 trench 28, over the south-west pier, was a restricted excavation under the modern barn. The east arm, the south crossing sleeper wall, had a distinctive smooth hard white mortar surface up to where it abutted the pier itself, where the mortar was more sandy, indicating a former superstructure. It appeared to abut the north arm, the west sleeper wall of the crossing, whose superstructure was of clunch and reused roof tiles, suggesting two phases of work. The east arm was cut into clay on the north side and earth on the south. The same pier was probably been seen in 1962 when an unlocated north-south trial trench 0.91m (3ft) wide found the west side of the crossing as a north-south foundation of stone 0.28m (11in) under a floor of loose mortar beneath a concrete floor. Its line southwards was broken by a larger foundation representing the south-west crossing pier before the west wall of the south transept continued as a 0.91m (3ft) length of ashlar walling on stone footings until just short of the south wall of the barn.

Regarding the **south-east** pier, 'the southern foundation of the eastern arch of the crossing was partly excavated'

## The priory church

(AR 1963) but notebook entries do not survive. Its east side, partly under the side of the barn, was excavated in 1965 while following the south wall of the presbytery westwards, when it was described as a 'good foundation'.

### Selected finds

#### Registered finds

SF46 Woodworking chisel, Sq 1/58-46 Sq 1/46-47 crossing  
SF82 Hexagonal plumb-bob, Sq 2/594Z ?crossing, Fig 7.20  
SF85 Lead cast flat leaf, Sq 2/660Y presbytery Burial 2, Fig 7.11  
SF100 Double-hooked fastener, presbytery, Fig 7.27  
SF101 Bone domino, presbytery, Fig 7.23  
SF173 Cross-bow bolt, Sq 3/57-67 N of presbytery  
SF185 Rotary key, Sq 3/5, presbytery  
SF186 Chisel or bolster, Sq 3/5, presbytery, Fig 7.20  
SF188 Spur, Sq 3/2, presbytery  
SF260 Chisel or gouge, presbytery  
SF260 Chisel, crossing

#### Coins

(23) SF102 Jetton, worn thick no distinct markings, presbytery

#### Window glass

Quantities in the crossing in Sqs 46, 58 included some lead came and in Sq 594 ZX included several roundels

#### Architectural stonework

Presbytery roofing boss and related rib-stones (Section 6, Figs 6.4-6.6)

SELS9-AF-51 carved animal foot NE crossing pier (Section 6.3)

Coffins (Section 5)

## 3.3 South transept

### Plan

The internal dimensions of the south transept were about 8.45m (27ft 9in) west-east and 12.2m (40ft) north-south. It had three chapels opening off its east side. Chapel S1 next to the presbytery and S3 on the outside had two-square plans about 7.68m (25ft 3in) long and 3.84m (12ft 7in) wide; S2 between them had a one-square plan of sides about 3.9m (12ft 9in). East of S2 was a square open space enclosed by the south wall of S1, the north wall of S3 and their two adjacent corner buttresses between which a roof-water drain ran eastwards. S4 was a full-length one-bay width west extension of the transept with its north end abutting the south side of the nave. By comparison, the plan of the outer north transept chapel (N3) was only one-square, but there is no evidence that S3 had been extended, or that there had been any extension other than the addition of the west chapel S4. Two-thirds of the transept itself, a third of its west extension and a third of the north-east chapel, lay south of the post-medieval farm wall. The modern barn built against its north side covers the northern third of the transept and the northern part of the west extension.

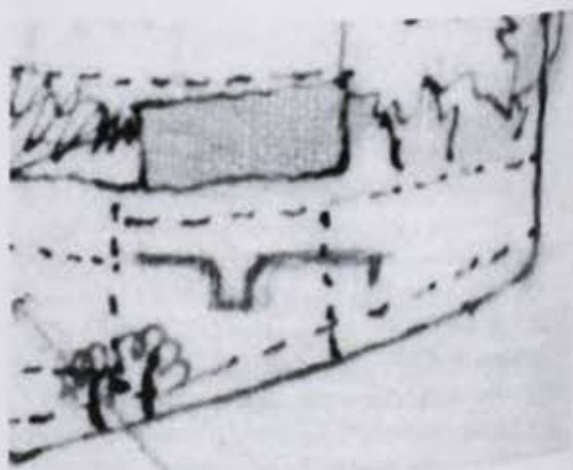
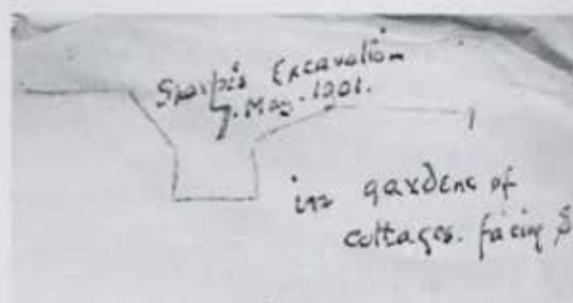
### Work narrative

The south transept and its chapels were investigated on three occasions, in 1901, between 1962 and 1965, and in 1971. In 1901,

'a loyal and distinguished visitor to Selborne, Dr R Bowdler Sharpe, the well-known ornithologist of the British Museum ... with the reluctant permission of the College and the College tenant ... in the vegetable garden at the Priory ... uncovered a considerable length of foundation wall, revealing a plinth course of ashlar' (Letter from the officers of the Gilbert White Fellowship to the President and Fellows of Magdalen College, January 1935).

This was annotated on R T Gunther's plan of 1905 as 'Sharpe's excavation 7 May 1901' with the distinctive multangular shape of the buttress at the south-east corner of the south transept (Figs 3.9 and 3.10; also Section 8.7 and Fig 8.10 below). References in site notebooks for 1960 and 1961, when it was still believed that the church lay north of the cloister, initially misidentified the east range north of the cloister, initially misidentified the east range north of the chapter house as the south transept.

In the 1960s, unaware of Bowdler Sharpe's earlier discovery, work mainly followed walls with narrow spade-width trenches alongside them, though some areas were also explored in the north of chapel S1 and



Figs 3.9, 3.10 Details of buttress, barn and field from RT Gunther's 1905 sketch of Bowdler Sharpe's 1901 excavations (Magdalen P233/2/MS2/1)

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in S2. An orchard south of the farm wall hampered both investigation and recording. Site records are mostly missing or deficient; the main sources are the Annual Reports, photographs and two sketch plans. By 1971 the orchard had been felled; an area (1971 trench 21) was excavated over most of the chapels in order to test and expand upon the results of the earlier work.

#### South transept

In 1962 a substantial footing for the main west wall of the south transept was found under 0.46m (18in) of rotting cattle droppings beneath the floor of the barn; 1971 trench 26 later re-excavated its junction with the south-west crossing pier. The footing continued under the south wall of the barn into the orchard, where a mortared floor with a few tiles *in situ* was uncovered. An extension of the trench eastwards found a yellow tile, a corner of tile Knapp No 31 or 32 (Norton 55 or 56), possibly *in situ* and bedded on a mortar floor, a fragment of tile Knapp No 19 (Norton 8), a corner of tile Knapp No 20 (Norton 7) and several small pieces of wall plaster with

'a red decoration much brighter in colour than the plaster found in the Chapter house excavations' (NBk 5, 51).

Nine or ten floor tiles were recorded *in situ* disappearing under a tree-root near the west wall (Fig 3.11). A suggestion that

'we have come across the floor of the reputed summer house in the garden, which tradition says was paved with tiles from the priory' (NBk 5, 56)

was dismissed when further eastward expansion found more tiles at floor level (*ibid*, 59).

Successive southward extensions of the trial trench down the west wall of the transept eventually located the south wall of which 19.8m (65ft) was uncovered altogether. Turning eastwards, trenching encountered the multangular buttress of five unequal sides at the south-east corner, probably the foundation for a side turret containing a vice or circular stairway (Figs 3.9, 3.10, 3.12). A chamfered plinth survived on the south face of this wall, around the buttress, for 4.6m (15ft) westwards, and for another 3.01m (9ft 10in) eastwards before it had been robbed away. The south wall was followed further west as a rubble core to the south-facing buttress on the south-west corner of the transept; a sketch shows it containing what might have been an internal drain.

'The plinth of the S.W. buttress of the original south transept bears a well preserved Mason's Mark, 'M' or 'W'; and a similar mark was noted on the plinth of the south wall of the transept' (AR 1963).

Work in 1963 seems to have completely exposed the east and west walls of the south transept except where



Fig 3.11 South transept: floor tiles *in situ*, 1963



Fig 3.12 South transept: external buttress at south-east corner facing north, 1963

prevented by fruit trees and the farm wall. The Annual Report observed that 'at a slightly later period the south wall was extended some 35ft (10.67m) eastward, for the formation of chapels' but did not present any physical evidence for extension such as joints in wall foundations. The existence of three eastern chapels was recognized, together with good surviving plinths on parts of the external eastern walls.

### 3.4 South transept chapels S1–S4 (Figs 3.13, 3.14)

#### Plan

Area excavation of the three eastern chapels in 1971 aimed to compensate for the lack of records about work in the 1960s. The site of the northern chapel, S1, is bisected by the post-medieval farm wall; its south part was in 1971 trench 21 and the north in the 1960s excavations. The central S2 and southern S3 chapels were entirely within 1971 trench 21, which excluded the west side of the east wall to the transept proper and the ends of the external buttresses on the south and east sides. In the following description, 1971 trench 21 context numbers are shown in brackets.

Access to the south transept and its chapels was from the crossing. At Titchfield Abbey, Stuart Rigold saw the two inner chapels each side of the choir as 'shortened quire aisles' (Graham and Rigold 1954), though a small complement of canons and the lack of a local parish to serve may not have made such demands at Selborne. Evidence for access to S1 from the transept lay north of the farmyard wall and outside 1971 trench 21, but presumably, like S2 and S3, it was reached directly from the transept eastwards through an arcade. There may have been some lateral visibility between the three chapels; the narrow footings (8) and (14b) could have supported screens whose upper parts were open arcades. There was definite physical access from S1 to S2 in the form of a step (9), either as part of the original design or a later insertion. (14b) can be interpreted as a cill wall for a screen between S2 and S3, though there was no evidence for any access; further east the wall had been entirely robbed, leaving only stone impressions in the mortar. Consideration of circulation arrangements also points towards special status for S3; it was relatively remote from the compartments for day-to-day ceremonial and had only a single access so that any monument over the burial had to be approached from the west, facing towards the altar beyond it, rather than from the side.

#### Work narrative

Excavation in 1971 began with the removal of topsoil and 1960s' excavation backfill spread (1) by machine, and hand-excavation of the backfill from 1960s' trenches which had cut through post-dissolution robbing and rubble spreads (2) (3) (4) (5). There was insufficient time to excavate the whole area down to natural clay, and all stone structural evidence was left in position. It was possible to characterise the construction and main surviving details of the three chapels, and to confirm the extent of the 1960s' work.

The construction sequence began with levelling the natural clay surface (31); added material contained small fragments of clunch (30). A grid of sleeper walls was cut into the clay surface, its top standing about 0.23m (9in) above it. Massive construction at foundation level may reflect the practice of providing flexibility for the more

precise placing of upstanding walls or perhaps wet ground conditions demanding a good spread to prevent localised slumping into the clay. A chamfered plinth was placed on those foundations that delineated upstanding walls, and a mortared surface (13) on those remaining as sleeper walls (Fig 3.15). Floor make-up (16) (29) was laid over sleeper walls and the levelled clay surface; the internal arrangements of the chapels were placed upon it.

The Annual Report for 1962 had referred to the chapels as extensions from the transept, but the wall foundations examined in 1971 showed no evidence for more than one building period. The south wall of S3, albeit twice the length of its north transept counterpart, appeared to be a single build and showed no evidence for later extension.

The three chapels were probably of the usual single-storey height abutting a two-storey transept, despite the substantial nature of their outer foundations. They may have had three parallel sets of roofs with vertical gable ends; the westernmost drain stone in the open space east of the central chapel S2 was angled towards the southern internal corner, indicating one of two corner gutter outfalls from west–east valley gutters between S1 / S2 and S2 / S3. The potential weight of roofing tiles prompts the question whether the two internal dividing walls between the three chapels could provide sufficient support from a much narrower superstructure on the broad common foundation. Perhaps the crucial support was provided by whatever stood upon the two pier bases at the west end of S2, (14) and (11); these may have had to support superstructures for both the chapels and the transept itself.

The surviving evidence for internal arrangements suggests a similar pattern in all three chapels, with an altar base on a raised area against the east wall across most of its width. Evidence for flooring is limited: tiles might be expected given the importance of these places; there were some impressions in S2 and four tiles were found *in situ* in S1. The placing of windows in the walls can be reconstructed by guesswork, but not whether and how they were glazed, in plain or *grisaille* glass.

#### Chapel S1 (Fig 3.16)

North of the post-medieval farmyard wall, chapel S1 was delimited on the west by a rubble footing and on the east by the north part of a wall, all seen only in the excavations of 1964 and 1965. Its north limit was the south wall of the presbytery, whose west part, 7.62m (25ft) east from the south-east crossing pier, was identified in 1965 as

'an early or sleeper wall, now dividing the choir from a south chapel; the chapel itself is mainly on the south side of the farm wall, where its south and east walls, with plinths and one course of masonry above, have been excavated' (AR 1965).

South of the farm wall, in 1971 trench 21, the external east wall (33) continued to the south-east corner; the east half of the south wall was an external wall (34) and



Fig 3.13 Plan of south transept chapels

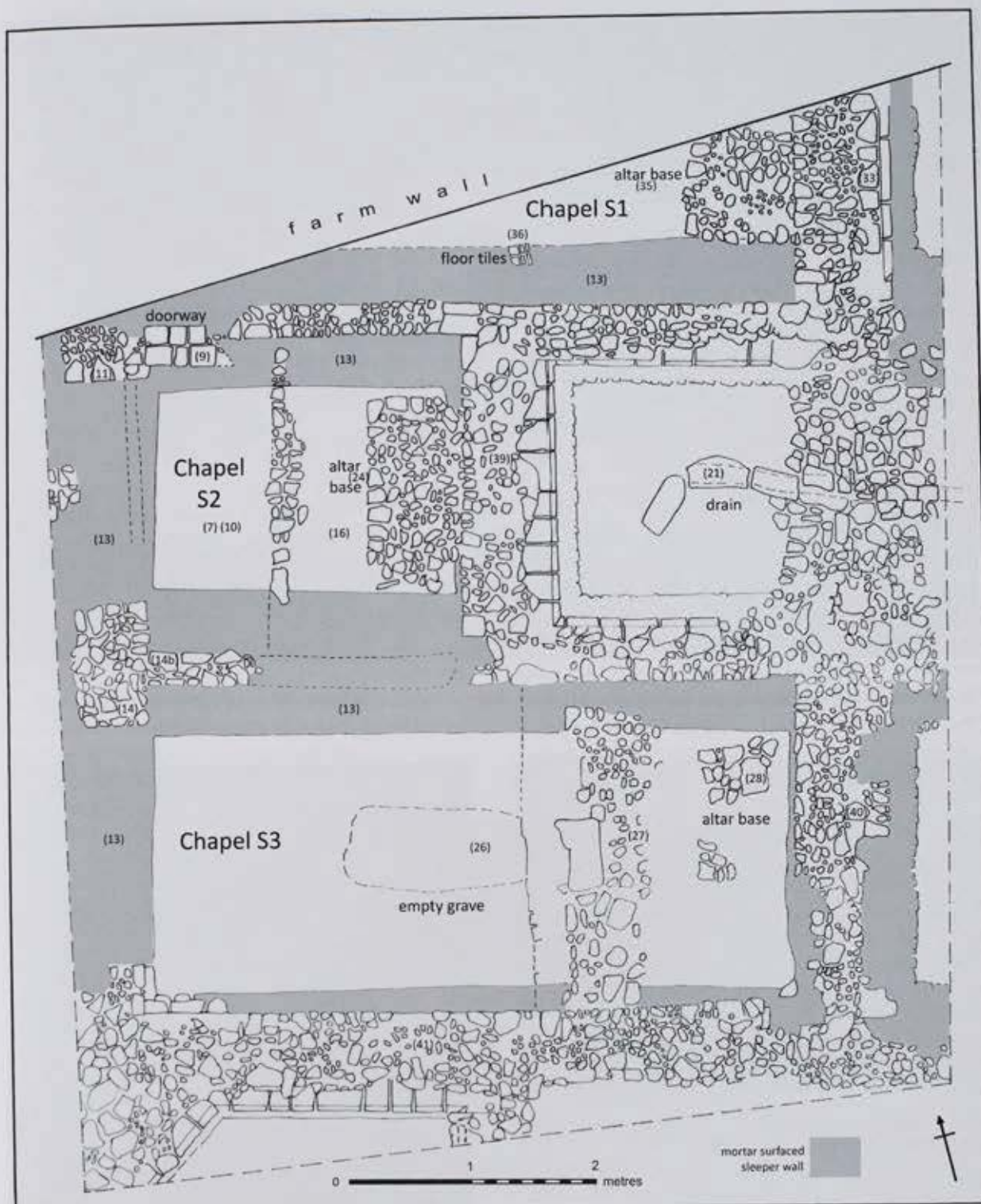


Fig 3.13 Plan of south transept chapels, trench 21 1971

The priory church



Fig 3.14 South transept chapels: facing south-west, south-east corner of Chapel S1 in right foreground, trench 21 1971



Fig 3.15 South transept chapels S1 and S2: footing, chamfered offset and wall face at external junction, trench 21 1971

the west a narrower wall (8) shared with chapel S2. A full footing 1.5m (5ft) wide was seen on the east wall, with an external offset reducing it to 1.15m (3ft 9in) for a coursed foundation, and a further reduction on the same side to 1.05m (3ft 5in) for the width of superstructure upon which the chamfered plinth would have stood. On the south wall where the chamfered plinth had survived, the wall width it supported was 0.75m (2ft 6in). The north wall shared with the presbytery had a superstructure width of about 1.18m (3ft 10in).



Fig 3.16 South transept chapel S1 cut by post-medieval farm wall, north-east corner facing south-east, 1968

The west side of the chapel was presumably open to the transept, with the excavated footing representing a sleeper wall upon which probably no more than timber partitions rested. On the west half of the south wall, the narrower footing may have supported a timber partition or

an arcade. There  
south-west corner  
Within the  
(3ft 8in x 7ft 4in)  
the east wall on  
About half-way  
were four deco  
(Norton No 9),  
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Fig 3.18 South transept

an arcade. There was a doorway (9) from S1 into S2 in the south-west corner.

Within the chapel, an altar base (35) 1.12m x 2.24m (3ft 8in x 7ft 4in) was seen hard up against the inner side of the east wall on both sides of the post-medieval farm wall. About half-way along the chapel, close to the south side, were four decorated floor tiles *in situ*, two with designs (Norton No 9), and two plain border tiles (36). These were laid on a white and orangey mortar (22) which extended to the west.

**Chapel S2 (Fig 3.18)**

The central chapel S2 was bounded on the east by an external wall (39), and on the north and south by dwarf walls on sleepers, perhaps supporting arches (8) (14b). The pier bases at its north-west (11) and south-west (14) corners indicate an arched entrance from the south transept. The latter was recorded in 1963 as a small interior wall 0.4m (1ft 4in) wide, starting from a rectangular stone foundation 1.4m x 0.76m (4ft 8in x 2ft 6in), 9.14m (30ft) from the inside of the west wall of the south transept, and 3.05m (10ft) north from the inside of the south wall. It was traced eastwards for 10.67m (35ft) where it met a south-north foundation, seen in 1971 as the east wall of the chapel. In 1963 the small interior wall was interpreted as a sleeper wall, dividing the transept into chapels, prompting a suggestion that the south transept has been extended eastwards to accommodate the side chapels, giving it a much greater length than the north transept.



Fig 3.17 South transept chapel S2: altar base, 1971

In the north-west corner of this chapel was a doorway from S1 into S2, represented by a stone step (9) laid on top of the clay, shaped to give a reveal on each side. A patch of smooth mortar on top of the wall footings (13) bore the imprint of tile keys. The west reveal lay over one side of the northernmost of three pier bases seen in the west of 1971 trench 21 on the east sleeper wall for the transept, indicating a doorway directly adjacent to the pier.

Within the chapel, a well-preserved altar base (24) lay against the inside of the east wall (Fig 3.17). To its west was the raised clay-packed make up (16) (18) for a level dais in front of the altar. Behind it, further west, was a mortar surface adjacent to the step from S1 to S2, at an irregular



Fig 3.18 South transept chapel S2: facing east, 1971

### The priory church

level and with some mortar impressions on it (7) (10). This was divided from the raised clay make-up by a row of mortared stones (6). Clay floor make-up (16) lay over the sleeper wall footing at the west end of the chapel.

#### Chapel S3 (Fig 3.19)

Chapel S3 was bounded on the south and east by substantial external walls (41) (40), and also for the east part of the north wall (39) (34). A narrow dwarf wall (14b) on a wider sleeper wall (13) lay between S3 and S2, represented by a few surviving stones *in situ* at the west end and stone impressions on the mortar surface in the centre and east. At its west corners were abutments for the arch at the entrance from the south transept, the north surviving as a clear rectangular foundation (14) and the south as a partly robbed abutment on (41).

Against the east wall were fragmentary remains of a presumed altar base (28), mainly surviving towards the north wall. To its west was a clay packed dais of mortared stones running the full width of the chapel (27). Set into the centre of the west side was a rectangular feature related to a long east–west-aligned depression (25) in the floor to the west. This suggests a robbed tomb with its east end laid against the dais and cutting slightly into its west side (Fig 3.20). Excavation of this depression showed the fill of a rectangular trench (26) cut into the natural clay (31), consistent with having contained a burial, but its profile did not have the regularity of a stone coffin, such as the one found lying in the former orchard (below). A mortar spread

(32) associated with this burial may have been cut through a clay floor make-up (29) against the south inside wall of this chapel.

This chapel is part of the whole design for the east side of the transept, yet its double square plan differs from its single square counterpart on the north transept; it is also not the same as arrangements at the Premonstratensian house of Titchfield Abbey, founded in 1232–33 also by Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, and regarded as the work of the same masons (John Harvey, *pers comm* 1967). The evidence for an exhumed burial suggests a special place, perhaps a shrine or a chantry or a patronal chapel for someone associated with the foundation of the priory or a later benefactor. Not only is it centrally placed as if it was an integral element, but its removal – at an unknown date – might be the deliberate translation of remains felt to have significance beyond the dissolved priory itself. An analogy might be the suggestion from Lord Lisle's agent that the tomb of Lady Lisle be removed in 1537 from Titchfield Abbey to the parish church of Titchfield (Graham and Rigold 1954).

The open space between S1 on the north, S2 to the west and S3 to the south retained good-quality ashlar work surviving on the outside of the building, in places up to one course above the chamfered plinth. A stone drain (21) ran out eastwards down the middle of this space, with the surviving westernmost stone pointing into the south-west corner where water from the roofs may have gathered. The



Fig 3.19 South transept chapel S3: facing west, 1971



Fig 3.20 South transept chapel S3: coffin niche at east end, 1971



Fig 3.21 South transept chapels: open space with drain between S3 (left), S2 and S1 (right), 1971

east end of the drain ran out between the two buttresses on S1 and S3, presumably eventually joining the larger drain running round the east side of the church and cloister (Fig 3.21).

The possibility that this space had been enclosed as an extension to chapel S2 was suggested by the apparent continuity of the heavily robbed footing between the east walls of chapels S1 and S3, obscuring any north (S3) and south (S1) corner buttresses. Probably the continuity of strip footings was part of the basic construction, with only parts taken up into superstructure. There was no sign of access through the east wall of chapel S2, whose width was largely covered by an altar base, nor of floors in the space itself, and no indication that original drainage had been adapted into an under-floor system.

#### Chapel S4 (Fig 3.22)

Evidence is fragmentary. The Annual Report for 1963 noted that

'the south wall of the south transept was also extended for a distance of 19ft 8in (6.01m) to



Fig 3.22 South transept chapels: south walls of S4 (foreground), south transept and chapel S3 facing east, 1963

the west, where it met a return wall to the north, apparently to join the south wall of the nave, below the present pig-sties, thus forming a narrow addition to the main building'.

The footings are also shown as 'actual' walls on the published sketch plan with the Annual Report, and as 'masonry found' south of the farmyard wall on the published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273). A general site drawing (LD28) dated August 1963 outlines the south wall of this compartment, showing a south-facing buttress west of the west wall of the transept rather than opposite it, a pair of buttresses at the south-west corner, and the west return wall with the south part of a west-facing buttress disappearing under the modern barn.

Assuming a three-bay length running the full west side of the south transept, internal dimensions would have been about 11.0m x 4.0m (36ft x 13ft). No dimensions for the width of the wall footing are available, but a single-storey lean-to structure against the two-storey transept might be expected. Chapel S4 must have been an addition rather than a primary construction, because 1971 trench 26 showed that the west side of the west wall for the south transept had the chamfered plinth of an external face on an outside wall; yet this wall must have served as an internal wall with the west chapel S4 extending beyond it.

## The priory church

The published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273) showing the west wall of the south transept mainly as a sleeper wall, with two pier bases upon it, following the pattern of the east wall, may be speculative. A more likely conversion would have pierced a substantial originally external wall with doorways rather than wholly replaced it with piers on a sleeper footing.

The plan by Dr R W Gunther of Dr Richard Bowdler Sharpe's excavations in 1901 (Fig 8.10) has a faint pencil annotation of 'burial ground' indicated approximately in the position of this chapel or in the open ground between it and the nave.

### Selected finds

#### Registered finds

SF81 Scissors, S wall S transept, Fig 7.23

#### Floor tiles

Fig 3.11 above

#### Architectural stonework

South transept finds 1962–65 included a 'portion of window mullion' and 'fragments of carved window stone' and from S1 'a piece of capital' and 'pieces of window frame', one of which survives. SEL71 21 (25) 'previously unexcavated destruction rubble in S3' contained 'large arch frags including vaulting ribs'.

#### Pottery

Base of small green-glazed vessel, south end transept ? = (49) in pottery report, part of 17th- or 18th-century chamber pot

## 3.5 North transept

### Plan (Fig 3.23)

The north transept measured 11.5m x 7.5m (37ft 8in x 24ft 2in) internally. Its west wall was part of a probably continuous construction along the west sides of the east range, crossing and south transept. A compartment abutting its north end, originally interpreted as a slype, is more likely to have been the sacristy. Three chapels opened off the east of the transept. The east wall was presumably a sleeper with piers on it at the west ends of the two dividing walls. There was access to the sacristy through a door at the north-west corner. There was no excavated evidence for night stairs from an adjacent first-floor dormitory. A step through the west wall at its south end gave access to the south-east corner of the cloister walks.

### Work narrative

The north transept, misidentified as the chapter house until 1962, was first examined in 1953–54 when Burial 1 was found (Section 5.2 below) and its east wall was followed southwards (Fig 3.24). There was some work on the interior in 1955 and at the west end of the chapels in 1958. A plan of excavations to the end of October 1957 (LD22)

shows the north, east and south walls of the transept and sacristy had been exposed, together with most of the interior. The chapels were investigated in 1968 and 1969 within the third grid, but the edges of broad and deep robber trenches were often under baulks. 1970 trench 8 confirmed the junction of walls in chapels N2 and N3. In Fig 3.23 the symbols for walls is the same as in Fig 3.2, copying the notional representation of stonework on the 1960s' drawings; a rubble-like symbol for robber trenches has been added. Work from 1970–71 is shown stone-for-stone as recorded.

### Interior

Some work was done on the interior in July 1955 by a trial trench of unknown location unsuccessfully seeking the north-west corner. A culvert found in Sq 1/18 during September was later followed south. In 1958 an east–west trial trench 0.3m (1ft) wide along the line of Sqs 1/43, 1/31 and 1/19 found 'indications' of the west wall in the last of these.

The north transept was the main source for the large quantity of decorated floor tiles (Knapp 1954) reviewed by Christopher Norton in this report (Section 6.6 below). Knapp found a dump of tiles and a mortar floor stripped of tiles but with the impression of the tiles distinctly visible, complete with the marks of the keys. His observation, likely to be reliable but unsupported by any record, that the tiled floor had obviously been repaired since originally laid, is the only evidence that some tiles had been found *in situ*. The site report for 1953 refers to 'some six hundred fragments, as well as a number of complete tiles' (NBK 1, 10). A newspaper report of 19 July 1954 refers to the discovery of '700 to 800 tiles, dating between the 13th and 15th centuries' (*Portsmouth Evening News*). If these figures are broadly correct, a significant number of tiles are now missing, even taking into account those laid in the south aisle chapel of the parish church during the early 1990s. This recalls complaints by the Gilbert White Fellowship that 'visitors removed the medieval floor tiles as keep-sakes' (letter of 18 January 1935 to the President and Fellows of Magdalen College).

## 3.6 North transept chapels N1–N3

### Plan

The inner two chapels, N1 and N2, were mirrors of the inner two off the south transept, double-square and single-square in plan respectively; N3 had a single-square plan rather than the double of S3. Grid squares excavated in 1969 north of the east end of chapel N1 confirmed the limited extent of the other two chapels. No altar bases or other interior features were recorded.

### Excavation results

Excavations in 1968–69 found robber trenches for chapel N1 over foundations about 0.91m (2ft 11in) below ground surface, including the north-east corner buttress (Fig 3.25).

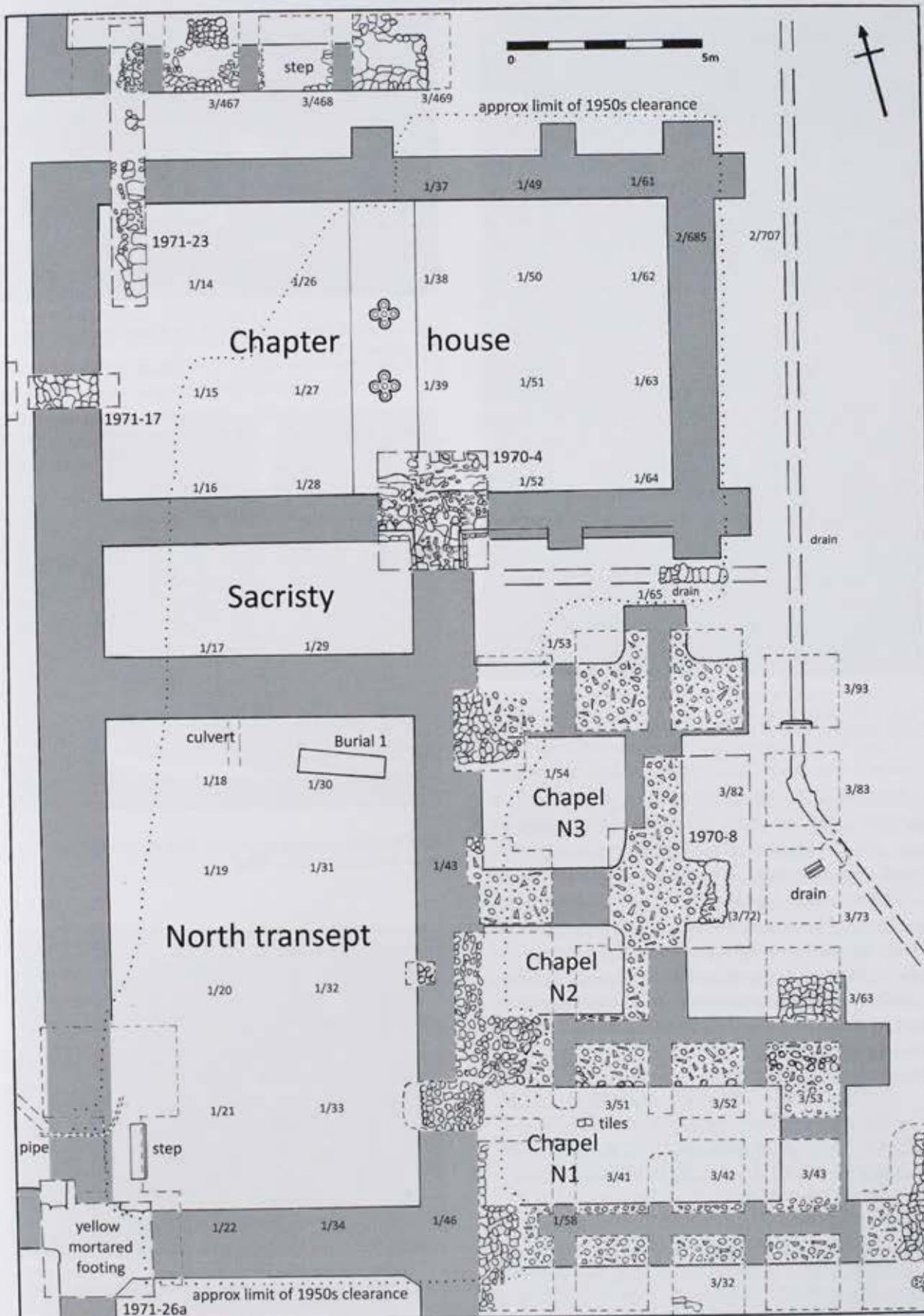


Fig 3.23 Plan of north transept and chapels, sacristy and chapter house

The priory church



Fig 3.24 North transept: facing north, east wall at left, south wall of chapter house at top, Rev Dr Scott at left, 1953

A few floor tiles were still *in situ* on the mortared floor in the baulk between Sqs 3/51 and 3/41; some plain border tiles were scattered nearby (Fig 3.26). The east wall of chapel N2 had been robbed. Within the chapel were an area of mortar floor-tile bedding and a section of the floor level, built up with layers of reddish and whitish clay.

The foundations of the north wall of chapel N3 had been robbed completely down to the mortared base level 1.06m (3ft 6in) below ground surface. This wall lined up with the triangular stump on the east wall of the north transept found during the 1955 excavations and then thought possibly to be the base for a circular stairway.

The shared north wall of N2 and south wall of N3 had been extensively robbed; no traces of a floor level were seen in N3. 1970 trench 8 examined parts of the east wall of chapels N2 and N3, re-excavating and extending 1969 Sqs 3/72 and 3/82. The east wall itself had been fully robbed (7), but the external buttress on the east end of the wall dividing the chapels survived as a stub footing (8), with about six courses of clunch blocks in a thick hard yellow mortar (Fig 3.27).

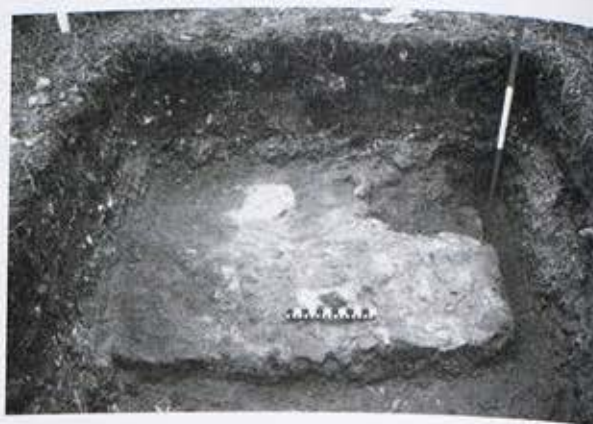


Fig 3.25 North transept chapel N1: north wall corner buttress facing south, 1969



Fig 3.26 North transept chapel N1: floor tiles in situ under baulk for Sqs 3/41 3/51, 1968



Fig 3.27 North transept chapel N3: east and south walls, north wall of chapel N2 with external east buttress facing S, trench 8 1970

Select  
Regist  
SF1 B  
SF8 B  
SF10  
F  
SF46  
SF86  
F  
SF12  
SF13  
SF14  
SF16  
SF19  
SF28  
SF28  
SF28  
SF29  
SF29  
SF29  
SF30  
Flo  
A d  
Arc  
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**Selected finds***Registered finds*

- SF1 Buckle, Sq 1/42, N transept Burial 1, Fig 7.26  
 SF8 Buckle, Sq 1/46, SE corner N transept  
 SF10 Harness pendant, Sq 1/45, SE corner N transept, Fig 7.23  
 SF46 ? Stylus, Sq 1/58 & 46, SE corner N transept  
 SF86.1,2,3, Lead cast flat leaves, Sq 3/52, chapel N1, Fig 7.11  
 SF122 ? Stylus, Sq 1/47, SE corner N transept, Fig 7.23  
 SF134 Lead weight, Sq 3/73, chapel N3  
 SF142 ? Stylus, Sq 1/46 & 47, SE corner N transept  
 SF169 Rotary key, Sq 1/34, S wall N transept  
 SF196 ? Ferrule, Sq 3/51, chapel N1  
 SF286 Rotary key, Sq 3/93, E of N transept chapels, Fig 7.16  
 SF287.1,2 Hinge pivots, Sq 3/93, E of chapel N3  
 SF289 Iron ring, Sq 3/93, E of N transept chapels  
 SF290 Iron shoe, Sq 3/93, E of N transept chapels  
 SF293 Buckle, Sq 3/93, E of N transept chapels  
 SF297 Knife, Sq 3/93, E of N transept chapels  
 SF301 Copper alloy object, Sq 3/90, chapel N3, Fig 7.29

*Floor tiles*

A dump of tiles, many perfect, in the sacristy

*Architectural stonework*

B1:T4, internal arch label, N transept chapel 3

*Lead window came*

3 finds N transept; 5 finds in or near chapel N3

*Wall plaster*

Pieces in N transept and chapels N1 and N3

*Vessel glass*

SF34 Glass lamp, bottom part of handle, N transept

**3.7 Nave****Plan (Fig 3.28)**

Establishing the exact dimensions of the aisleless nave is difficult due to the extent of robbing. If the wall was 1.15m (3ft 9in) wide and the foundations typically 1.8m (5ft 11in) wide, then the internal dimensions might have been about 34.75m x 10.2m (114ft x 33ft 6in), which approximates to a 3.5-square or seven-bay plan. A single period of construction for an original 13th-century nave might be expected.

Symbols on Fig 3.28 are as on Figs 3.2 and 3.23.

The west end of the nave had pairs of corner buttresses; the east end was marked by two large cross-plan pier bases. Reconstructing the buttressing of the south wall is problematic. The single buttress seen in 1965, if the trench was accurately located on plan, would have been in the south-east corner of the first bay or square, based on the width of the nave. This spacing allows for another buttress between it and the buttress presumably incorporated within the west wall of the chapel that was

added on the west side of the south transept. Doubling up with intermediate buttresses would give a total of six from the south-west corner up to the wall of the transept S4 chapel, with centres 4.5–5.0m (14ft 9in–16ft 4in) apart. This proposed spacing assumes that a relatively shallow 1966 trench did not identify the easternmost buttress and that the eastern 1965 trench either just missed the adjacent buttress eastwards or did not identify it, perhaps due to robbing. On the north wall, as might be expected, no evidence was found for any directly attached external buttresses protruding into the south cloister walk, though separate square foundations in the cloister garth may represent added flying buttresses.

Evidence for door openings would not have survived the extensive robbing, but they might be expected in the west and north walls. There were burials outside the west front. The north-west corner of the nave and the south side of the west range were linked by a wall foundation, perhaps defining an outer parlour. This would have controlled access into the claustral area from a nearby gatehouse further west, not located in the excavations. The two crossing piers at the east end of the nave were seen in 1970–71 as substantial foundations upon which narrower footings for the north and south walls would have been placed, with the eastern limit of the nave as a sleeper wall joining them.

Altogether, a significant length of the three external walls was seen as foundations or robber trenches; the excavators of 1964–66 noted that robbing seemed more intensive at the west end of the nave than at the east, and on the north wall than on the south. It is unclear how much of the internal area was excavated, but little evidence of floor make-up was seen in the limited trenches of 1970–71 within the main walls. Some of these trenches found earlier excavations, and the ground at the east end of the nave had been particularly disturbed. As already noted, none of the trenches excavated addressed the issue of arrangements at the east end of the nave for a rood screen or pulpitum and the location of the choir; these have had to be considered (below, Section 8) largely on the basis of parallels from other sites.

**Work narrative**

The nave of the priory church was explored on several occasions. Nearly all work concentrated on finding the external walls, and little was done on the interior. In 1956–58 trenches W1–W7 sought but failed to find the west end; they had been laid out on the assumption that the claustral ranges were south of the church and instead found what was later recognised as the north-west corner of the cloister and the west claustral range. In 1958–59 the same assumption prevented recognition of the north wall of the nave when it was found some 6–7m (19–23ft) from its east end by the north–south ‘cross-section’, whose south end terminated within the nave.

The priory church

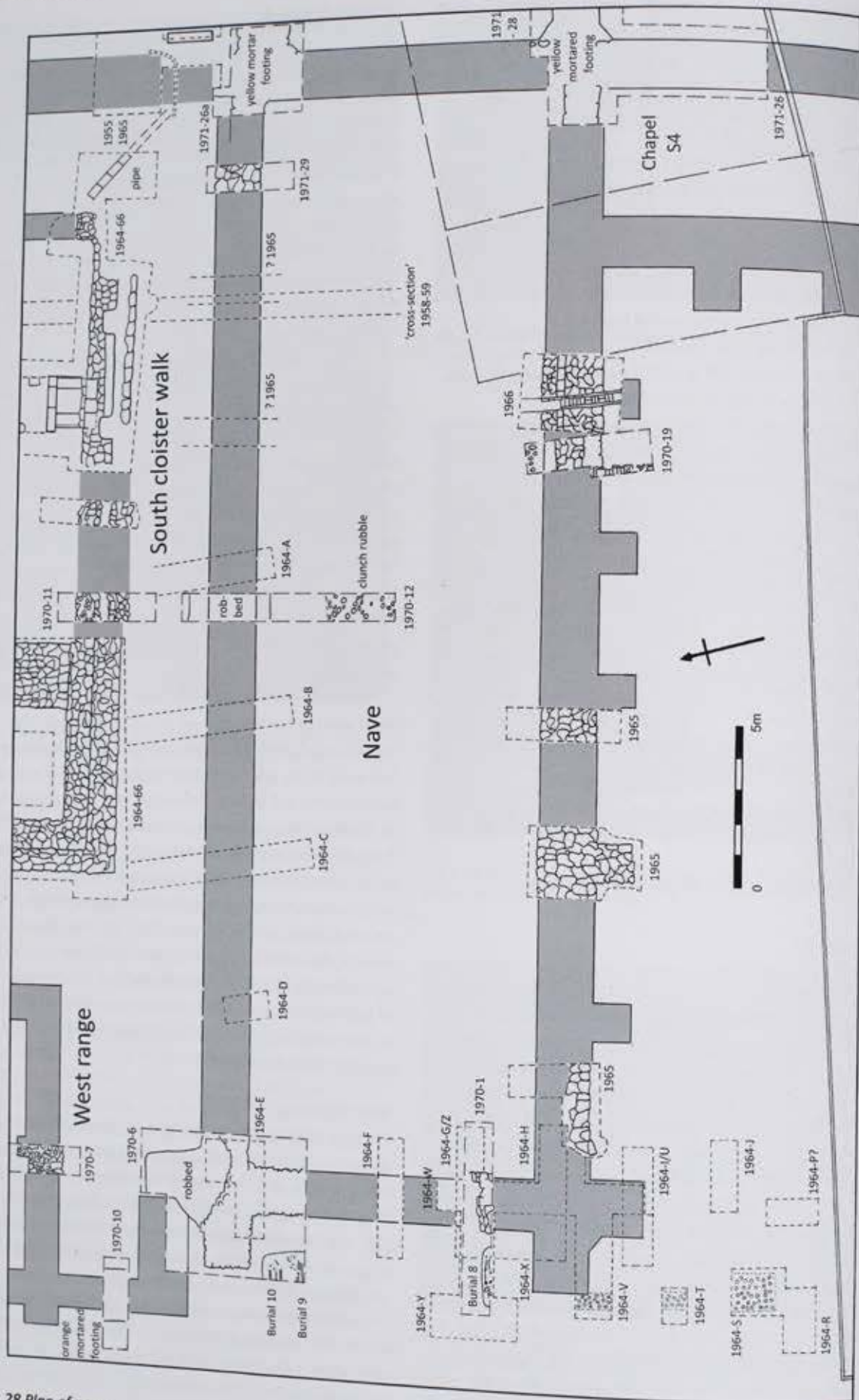


Fig 3.28 Plan of nave

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In 1964–66, after the actual site of the church had been recognised, a sequence of up to 28 lettered trial trenches was cut across the north, west and south walls and the ground to the west, though the 1969 summary plan showed the west end as conjectural. Records of these seasons are incomplete and the latest summary plan of the 1960s shows only six of them. For lack of measured trench plans, their locations on the compartment plan of the nave have been derived approximately from written dimensions based on re-exposures by the work of 1970–71. This work in 1964 was mainly carried out by Thelma Ellis-Jones (TEJ) while Rev George Knapp (GECK) visited his family in (then) Southern Rhodesia; her air-mailed reports to him supplement and to some extent clarify the daybook entries.

Trenches A–J were dug in 1964, running anti-clockwise from the middle of the north wall round to south of the south-west corner (Fig 3.29). Spacing and relative locations where they cut the walls are shown on a sketch with the 1964 Annual Report. A scaled plan with the 1965 Annual Report shows the north wall exposed in nine places; possibly the eastern two are the unlettered cuts across the north wall towards its east end ascribed to 1965. Two 1965 trenches across the south wall, laid out in relation to these 1964 trenches, were shown as the central pair of four on a detailed 1969 plan; the eastern and possibly the western were dug in 1966 but the only records are the published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967) and some photographs. Letters K–P may relate to some of these trenches and



Fig 3.29 Nave: line of north wall and some of trenches A–E facing east, 1964

others dug in the first part of 1965; records for none of them survive. Later that year, trenches Q–Z were dug at and outside the west end of the nave; precise locations of some are uncertain.

In 1970 trial trenching confirmed the locations of the west wall, the north-west corner, the north wall, the south wall, and, at the east end, the south-west and north-west crossing piers. 1970 trench 1 found the edge of 1964 trench G, and 1970 trench 6 contained 1964 trench E (Fig 3.32). Three burials were found outside the west end of the nave (Section 5).

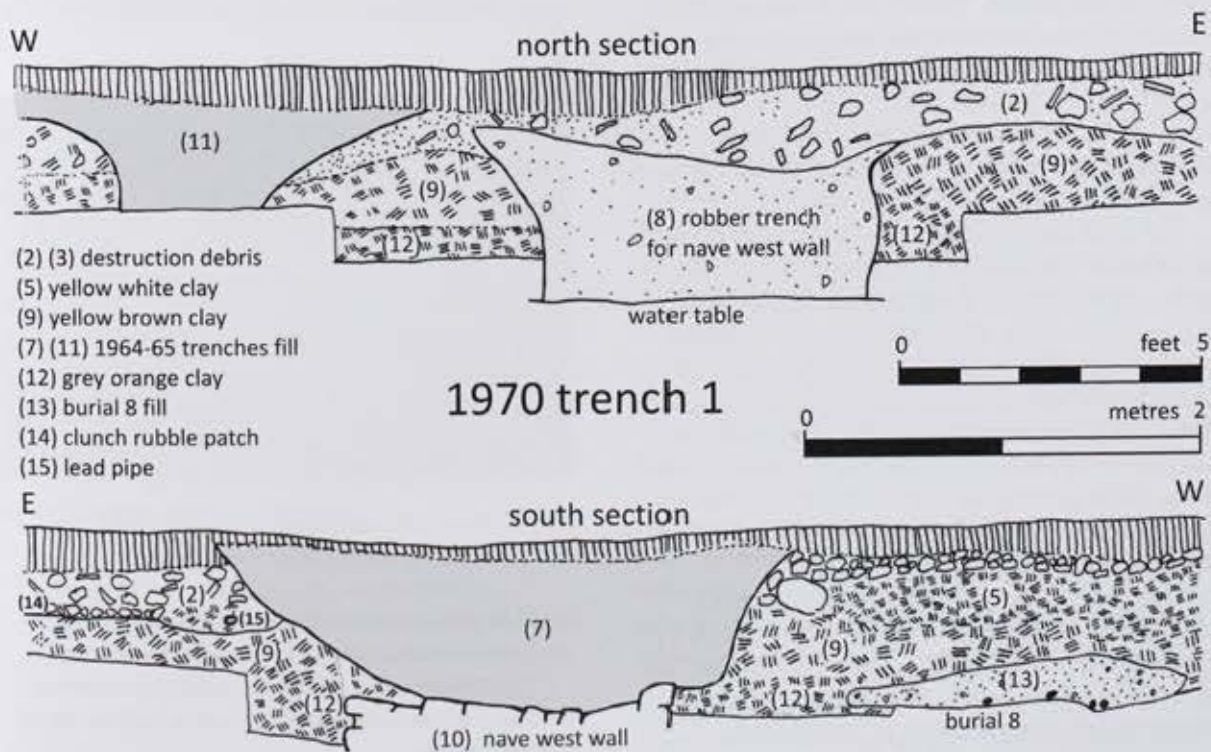


Fig 3.30 Nave: north and south sections, trench 1 1970

## The priory church

### West end

At the west end of the nave, 1970 trench 1 was excavated south of the likely centre of the west wall (Fig 3.31). Destruction spreads (2)–(6) included a hard-packed layer (3), probably what was described as a 'cobbled way' in 1964–65. Then it was tentatively interpreted as a made surface for carts taking away materials after the dissolution, later used as a farm track. The latter might have been its only function, because the unmortared cobbles sealed the robber trench (8) for the footing of west wall (10), whose lower part was a substantial footing, 1.68m (5ft 6in) wide, in rough clunch blocks with yellow mortar. In the north side of the trench it had been completely cut away, probably by original robbing, but the robber trench itself had also been removed by what was later identified as 1964 trench G (7). Under the destruction spreads just inside the nave was (14), a patch of clunch rubble up to 0.15m (6in) thick which might have been a construction spread or floor make-up, at the same level as an adjacent short length of lead pipe in a layer (15). West of the nave west wall was a shallow grave (13) containing Burial 8, partly going into the south section. It was cut into natural clay (12) but no grave cut was seen in the substantial clay spreads (5) and (9) above it (Figs 3.30, 3.31).

The north-west corner of the nave and its pair of buttresses were exposed in 1970 trench 6 (Fig 3.32, 3.33). It contained 1964 trench E (5), which had cut a 19th-century rubbish pit (6). For at least part of the foundation the filled robber trench (7) was sealed by general destruction spreads (2) (3) (9). Robbing had been uneven, suggesting more than one episode. The west side buttress survived to a higher level than the rest of the footing, with some facing blocks on its south side, but had been more deeply robbed in the centre. The west wall and the south part of the north wall had been robbed to a lower level, whilst the north side buttress and the north part of the north wall had been completely removed down to natural clay.

The single-period footing (8) was trench-built with an actual trench (17) visible only on the south side of the west buttress. It was made of clunch and limestone blocks set in a hard yellow sandy mortar. The west wall footing was 1.47m (4ft 10in) wide, and the north wall was 1.52m (5ft 0in) wide. The wall foundation had been strengthened by running diagonally across the external angle between the two buttresses, a feature also noted on the internal corners of the crossing piers at the east end of the nave. Mark Samuel suggests that in this instance its relative size might denote a newel staircase.

The south side of an east-west robber trench (13) abutted the robbed footing for the north buttress and went out of the trench to the west. Probably it represented part of a wall closing the space between the nave and the south end of the west range, also seen in 1970 trench 10.

The leg bones of Burials 9 and 10 lay in the external angle between the west wall and the west buttress,



Fig 3.31 Nave: facing west, foreground west wall of nave cut by trench I 1964, burial 8 beyond, trench 1 1970



Fig 3.32 Nave: north-west corner facing north-west, trench 6 1970

together with other disarticulated human bones which indicate more than one phase of inhumations.

The 1964 trenches at the west end of the nave were lettered. F found a robbed footing 1.63m (5ft 4in) wide. G was described as

## 1970 trench 6

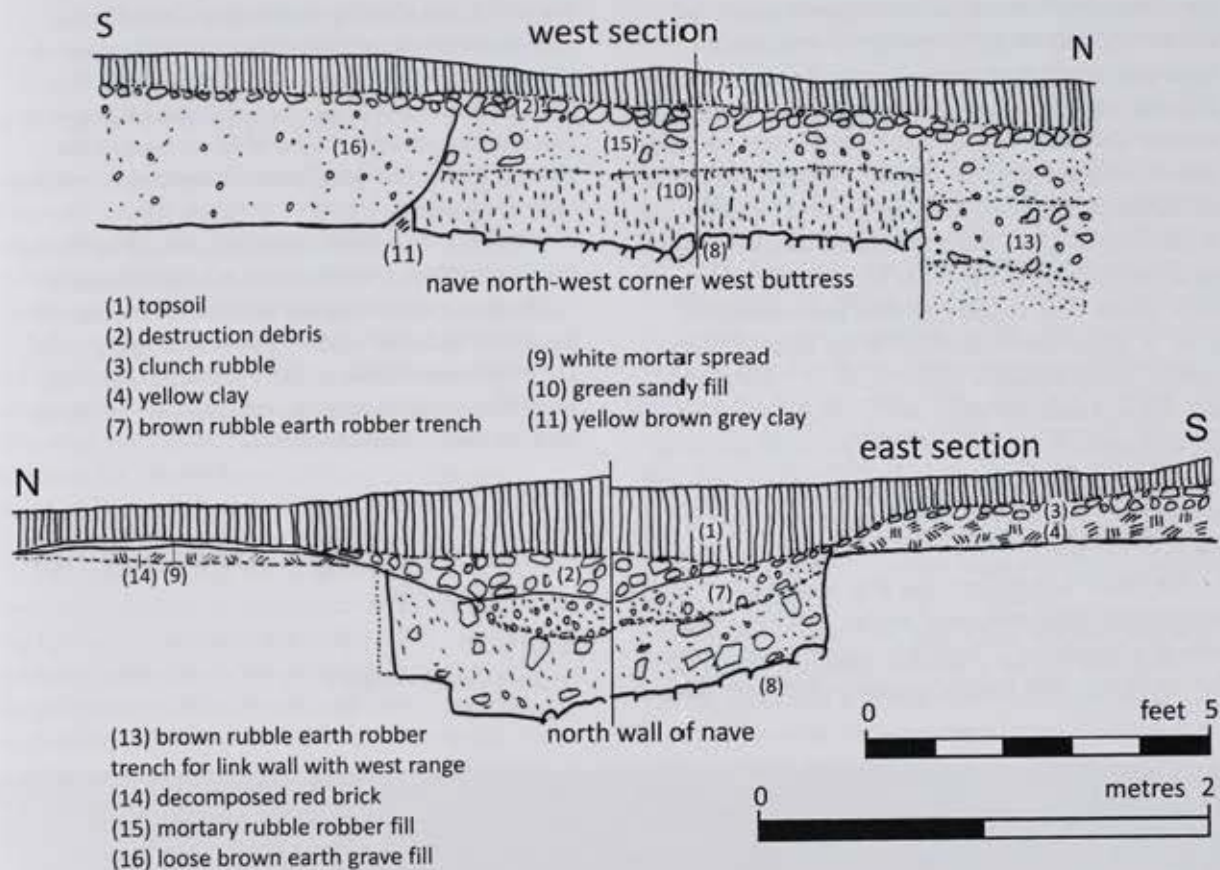


Fig 3.33 Nave: west and east sections, trench 6 1970

'mostly clay line with only just an indication of filling on extreme west edge' (TEJ to GECK 26 August 1964).

As re-excavated in 1970 trench 1, G was found to have cut through either the west wall foundation or a deeper robbing of it. G and H were dug separately and then combined: a sketch plan included with an air-mailed report shows an apparent corner between the external line of the west wall and the west-facing buttress at the south-west corner. The 'cobbled way' covered most of H and must have been placed directly over that buttress foundation; the western wall edge recorded under it should be the west buttress but this cannot be confirmed. It

'consists of about 10in (0.25m) of unmortared stones and then mortared wall, which extends E-W, wider than apparent width of west wall; this mortared portion also rises 1ft 7in (0.48m) above the much-robbed foundation wall and could have been cut back about 1ft 7in (0.48m) also' (*ibid*).

The records of 1964 trench I are also ambiguous; it may have been placed across the south end of the south

buttress. Trench J, intended to cross the presumed west wall of the nave, was recorded as packed with stones but seems to have been placed south of the south-west corner; this is consistent with a sketch plan in the 1964 Annual Report which predicted a wider nave with its south wall some distance south of its actual position. Records of any further work here up to August 1965 do not survive.

In that month, a 'rather complex system of trial trenches' (NBk 6 p76) Q-Z was excavated at the west end of the nave. Notebook records are thin and generalised; sketch plans lack an explanatory narrative; little was said in Annual Reports and nothing was shown on accompanying summary plans. This work probably followed on from attempts in 1964 to locate the south-west corner of the nave, and with it, the line of the south wall. A plan of these trenches dug mainly outside the west front can be located generally in relation to the south nave wall. In S, T and V it shows what could be stonework, rubble or cobbles.

**North and south walls**

The line of the north wall between the north-west corner and the north-east crossing pier was confirmed by three trenches in 1970-71, 12, 26a and 29. Trench 12, halfway

### The priory church

along its length, found the top of a widened robber trench (10) 2.25m (7ft 4in) wide sealed by various deposits of destruction debris including crushed clunch, plaster, ash and burning, and tile. 1971 trench 29, just short of the north-east crossing pier, found an intact footing 1.88m (6ft 2in) wide robbed to below plinth level. In 1971 trench 26a, over the north-west crossing pier, the foundation survived with an indication of a 1.15m (3ft 9in) wide superstructure placed upon it; the foundation itself covered the full width of the trench at 3.05m (10ft). Three 1964 trenches, A–D, cut across the western half of the north wall, all at a slight angle. Widths of up to 2.06m (6ft 9in) were recorded in trench A, and of about 1.80m (6ft) in the 1958–59 'cross-section'. Trench B found a robber trench of 2.25m (7ft 4in). In C, the next west, the trench was 1.93m (6ft 4in) wide. Trench D seems to have covered only the south side of the wall. Two trenches across the eastern half of the north wall mentioned in site notes for 1965 have been tentatively placed on the plan.

The line of the south wall was seen in 1970 trench 19 as a substantial clunch and mortar footing (2) 0.95m (3ft 1in) wide on a foundation 1.75m (5ft 9in) wide. A post-medieval footing (5) for a farm building ran south off its south edge.

Two unnumbered 1965 trenches were placed in line with 1964 trenches on the north wall. The eastern, in line with B, had a footing described as 1.75m (5ft 8in) wide across the top of a foundation in a similar state of preservation to that found in the 1970 trench 19. The western, in line with C, found a 'conclusive but less well preserved foundation'. The notes do not mention the buttress shown on a sketch plan and depicted on the 1969 summary plan.

Two other trenches from 1965 or 1966 can be located from the 1969 plan. One is shown immediately east of 1970 trench 19; a photograph depicts the surviving wall foundation sealed by a post-medieval footing (Fig 3.34). The other, shown as the westernmost exposure of the south wall, seems to have been derived from the sketch with the 1965 Annual Report.

#### Selected finds

##### Coins

- (2) Penny, Edward I, Bristol mint 1280–81, nave N wall Trench A, SF94

##### Vessel glass

Fragments in 1964 trench I



Fig 3.34 Nave: south wall and post-medieval farm building facing north, 1966

## 4 The claustral buildings

### 4.1 The east claustral range

At monasteries where the church was south of the cloister, the north transept occupied a strategic position between the choir/presbytery, the cloister walks accessing the claustral ranges, and the east range with the chapter house and other offices including a first-floor dormitory. At Selborne Priory, the east claustral range, between the north transept and the north end of the presumed undercroft for the dormitory, contained at ground-floor level what the original excavators identified as the sacristy or library, the chapter house, a slype or passageway beyond it, and a dormitory undercroft whose south end was the warming house or an inner parlour.

The overall length of the range from the north side of the north wall of the north transept to the north side of the furthest compartment was 39.6m (129ft 2in). It was probably constructed in two parts, with a break at the sacristy between north transept and chapter house as suggested by Mark Samuel (Section 8.5 and Fig 8.5). The alignment of the west wall appeared to be more or less continuous, but the articulation of the east side gave three distinct sets of buildings, with the chapter house projecting furthest eastwards, the sacristy on the line of the east wall of the north transept, and the north compartments including the warming house or inner parlour less than half the depth of the chapter house. It is not known whether a sleeper foundation extended across the west end of the slype, but the foundations either side were sufficiently substantial for freestanding buildings.

The dormitory needed a continuous length of room and proximity to the canons' latrine, so was probably in the usual place over the north compartment, even if it had to accommodate no more than the founding complement of 14 canons. The ground floor proportions of the chapter house might suggest roofing on an east-west axis whereas the main dormitory would have been roofed north-south, but more probably the latter arrangement continued south and gave first floor access to the head of night stairs leading down into the north transept (David Robinson *pers comm*). There is however no record of finding any archaeological evidence for anything that might have represented night stairs. Access from the cloister may be indicated by the narrow compartment or slype between the warming house and the north part of the range. How the dormitory and canons' latrine were connected is not known; any direct access at first-floor level had to bridge a gap of nearly 7m (23ft). There was a ground-floor door in the west side of the canons' latrine.

### 4.2 Sacristy or library (Fig 4.1)

Notebooks describe work in 1956 (Sqs 1/16, 1/17) immediately north of the north transept on a compartment 3.6m (12ft) long and the same width as the transept (see Fig 3.23). Description as a 'slype' on the published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273) seems unlikely: it was closed on its east side by a substantial footing with two courses of ashlar on a chamfered plinth over three rubble courses visible 0.2m (8in) into natural clay; there was a corner against the south side of the chapter house with signs of a break in construction. The east side of this east wall had the chamfered plinth of an external face; the west side had the straight face of an internal wall and some original rendering. Monastic precedent suggests this was a sacristy or library, placed close to the church itself.

The excavations of the early 1950s identified one side of an apparent blocked doorway in the east wall of the sacristy, defined by a vertical stone to the right of the ranging pole in Fig 4.1 below. The lack of an equivalent jamb further to the right defining its other side suggests another explanation, that the vertical run of chamfered dressing was a device to accommodate the fall in ground level to the north. Other photographs confirm that the 'jamb' and 'threshold' in no way differ from the plinth to the right or north (Mark Samuel *pers comm*).



Fig 4.1 Sacristy: change of level in plinth on east wall, south wall of chapter house to right, facing north-west, 1953

### 4.3 Chapter house

#### Plan (Fig 3.23)

The chapter house was a rectangular, probably single-period, vaulted structure of two-square plan with a central pair of columns on a north-south sleeper wall. Drawings of 1958 and 1960 record internal widths at the east end of 6.7m (22ft) and 6.1m (20ft) respectively, though at least 7.0m (23ft) seems more likely. The internal length was about 14.7m (48ft). The whole compartment might be regarded as the chapter house, though functionally containing a vestibule at the west and a formal gathering area at the east.

#### Work narrative

The chapter house was one of the first structures found at the outset in 1953, when it was mistakenly identified as what was labelled the choir. A plan of results at 1 October 1958 (NBk 26, 13) shows this 'choir' and Lady Chapel east and west of an arcade screen. In 1960 it was identified as the chapter house south of the church, an error corrected to north by 1962. There are limited records of this earlier work; notebook entries summarised below include direct quotations within which corrected compartment names are given in square brackets.

In 1970-71, three trenches cut across the north, west and south walls. 1970 trench 4 re-examined the junction between the south wall of the chapter house and the east wall of the sacristy. The west wall, not seen in the earlier work, was cut by 1970 trench 17. The evidence of 1971 trench 23 cutting across the north wall close to the north-west corner is unclear due to complex stratigraphy seen in a narrow trial trench and disturbed by earlier excavations.

#### South wall

The south wall was the first part of the chapter house to be found in 1953, as the south side of an east-west wall.

'... In an endeavour to find the north side ..., we came upon a sedilia, facing north and built into the thickness of the wall. The foot-step of this sedilia was more or less complete. It was 5ft (1.52m) in length, but the end stones of the seat at either end had been robbed. The centre portion of the seat was incised with a circle and a diameter line, with a small arrow marking the northernmost point on the circumference. As yet we are uncertain as to the purpose of these marks. Later in the week we excavated the lower courses of the wall to the east, which we found to be of later construction (the joining stone being visible). This wall, standing to between 2ft 6in (0.76m) and 3ft (0.91m) in height, is in perfect condition, with its base chamfered' (NBk 1, 9-10).

This feature was probably the smooth surface under a robbed foundation stone upon which the wall respond for

the springer of the vaulting stood, with a mason's mark scratched on this stone. The joint in the wall footing, not seen in 1970, may be no more than a junction of working parties.

Work on the south wall continued in 1955. The footings and the external south buttress were cleaned and the wall was followed eastwards in Sq 1/52. There were many finds including 'kitchen refuse' and tile rubble, pottery and the bottom of a small glass lamp. In 1956 much rubble, mortar and large stones were cleared, working north from the south wall in Sqs 1/40 and 1/52, and finding 'the footstep to the sedilia' (NBk 2, 12). Work in 1957 further west on Sq 1/39 noted that the width of the south wall varied from 12in to 18in (0.3m to 0.46m) and in height averaged 9in (0.22m) above floor level. A water-coloured plan of 1957 (archive, LD21) shows the south wall defined almost to the south-west corner. In 1958 its foundation was found to be continuing the edge of the wall from the south-east buttress. It may be visible in uncaptioned photographs. Plain tiles were found *in situ* alongside it when clearing the north side of the south wall in Sq 1/28.

In 1970 trench 4, the foundation of the south wall survived above the level of the external plinth. A few blocks of faced ashlar clunch on the north side fronted a core of irregular blocks. When excavated in a limited space, the evidence for the relationship of sacristy and chapter house seemed uncertain: the external junction was apparently bonded; there were indications that the construction trench for the sacristy wall may have cut that for the chapter house. However, the irregularity of the external joint of chapter house and sacristy, with the plinth at two levels and a course of ashlar set above it to respect it, indicated a construction joint, and this was later confirmed by evidence discernible in photographs of work during the early 1950s. East of the sacristy, the external face of the chapter house had one or two courses of ashlar surviving over a chamfered plinth on a rubble offset footing of one course above the level of natural clay (Fig 4.2).

#### East wall

Almost the whole length of the east wall and pairs of corner buttresses are shown as defined in the water-coloured plan of 1957 (archive, LD21). In 1956, parts were uncovered near to the north-east corner in Sqs 1/61-63 and the floor level was investigated near the south-east corner. Below the east wall foundation was

'what appears to be a 10in (0.25m) rammed clay layer; [below that] the same type of damp clay as was found below the [N transept] floor, and in the grave [Burial 1] - a greyish clay with reddish blotches in it; the filling above the rammed clay contained much lime mortar' (NBk 2, 28).

Uncertain floor levels were thought to need further investigation. Further clearance of rubble and debris from the east end (Sqs 1/51, 1/63, 1/64) found a 'circular piece



Fig 4.2 Sacristy: east wall at left, south wall of chapter house at right, beyond is east edge of internal sleeper wall, trench 4 1970

of thin lead'. This work continued in 1957, tracing the east wall north from the south-east corner to the north-east (recorded as north-west) corner. It

'established that [the] piece of N wall already found [is] not standing on the clay foundation as previously thought, but that it goes down 2ft 9in (0.84m) in depth below the highest point of the wall, and that the robbed foundation also existed to this level' (NBk 3, 16).

Further clearance identified

'a definite foundation for stone seats (?) along the E & S walls of the [chapter house] in line with the sedilia found during the first year of the excavations' (NBk 3, 23).

This may have been an impression given by robbing, or a blind arcade with seats within its bays.

References in 1962 to Sqs 2/685 and 2/707 indicate re-excavation of the east wall, working south from the north-east corner buttress (NBk 5, 110). The east side of the chapter house 'was backfilled to level of canon's seats'; 'good progress on clearing the east wall' (NBk 5, 95), work continued in early 1963 (NBk 5, 145).

North wall

Notebook references to the north wall in 1953, 1956 and 1959 indicate a footing. The narrative of work in 1953 states:

'Some 21ft (6.4m) to the north of the wall containing the sedilia we found considerable lengths of a parallel wall, evidently the north wall of the priory church, with a buttress of the same measurements and in a corresponding position to that on the south wall' (NBk 1 p10).

It was next seen in 1956, when work started in the north-east corner (Sqs 1/49, 1/50, 1/61, 1/62) following the south side of the north wall, built of laid stones on the outside and inside with rubble filling. The east part is defined in the 1957 water-colour drawing and appears in photographs of 1958. Its south face appeared at the edge of several interior clearance exercises, notably in 1958 and 1959. In 1962 'a lot of window glass' (NBk 5, 119) was found on the north wall.

The evidence for the north wall in 1971 trench 23 is problematic (Fig 4.3). The proximity of a narrow trial trench to the north-west corner of the chapter house raised issues whose resolution would have required an area excavation. It found a footing 1.37m (4ft 6in) wide comprising laid blocks with apparent paving to the south, under a wide robber trench (7). Yet between it and the south wall of the warming house / inner parlour was another footing (12) of clunch limestone and orange mortar with clay packing around it, and cut through centrally by an earlier trench (11). This is too far north to leave a sufficient gap for a slype between the two buildings and appears to be sealed by make-up layers between the two buildings, so may indicate an earlier structure, possibly early temporary buildings predating construction of the claustral ranges. There is apparent multi-period stratigraphy in the far south of the trench, well within the chapter house, where a mortar floor level (9) overlaid a thick layer of redeposited natural clay make-up (10), itself over the southernmost paving stones. If they represent a floor surface rather than part of a drain, it may have been raised later due to damp.

1971 trench 23 east section

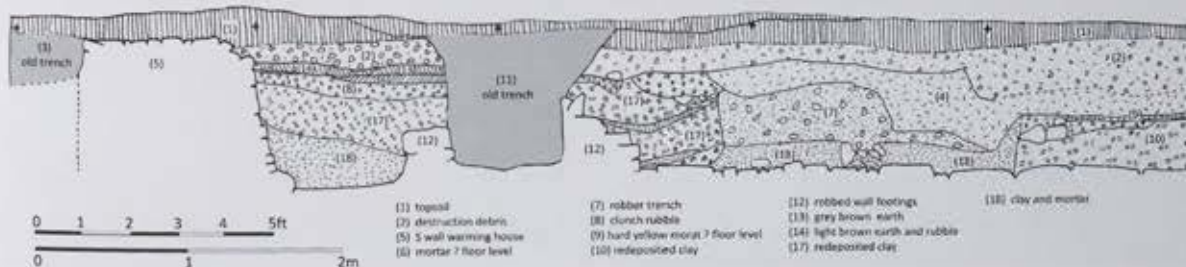


Fig 4.3 East section trench 23 1971

## The claustral buildings

### West wall

The west wall was seen in 1970 trench 17 slightly south of its presumed centre, as a partly robbed footing of clunch blocks with yellow mortar. The published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273) shows the usual entrance from the cloister through a central doorway flanked by two large windows, but there is no record of excavated evidence for this arrangement.

### Central sleeper wall

The sleeper wall running north-south, across the middle of the chapter house, was 1.68m (5ft 6in) wide and supported two sets of column bases in Purbeck marble. It divided a lower floor level to the west from a higher one to the east (Fig 4.4). The east edge of the sleeper wall where it abutted the south wall of the chapter house was seen as (2b) in 1970 trench 4, though not recognised until the drawing made in the later 1950s became available.

The north set of column bases was found *in situ*, while the south was found in four pieces amongst the rubble overlying the floor. The north consisted of a central shaft, surrounded by four detached shafts, cut out of a single block of stone. Vertically, the shafts were jointed, not with mortar, but by thin sheets of lead; lengths found in association with the bases and the cloister walk contained the holes through which the molten lead had been poured, the lengths being kept apart by small diamond-shaped

distance pieces of lead (SF202, 203, 294). Earlier excavation notes state that vaulting support was provided by regularly spaced internal responds against the north and south walls, though no records of these survive.

First hints of this discovery came from Sq 1/39 in 1958, when the chapter house was still being labelled as the choir. The rubble being cleared was noted as 'very tough - almost like a wall'. Amongst much stone rubble was a

'base of a pillar in Petworth [Purbeck] marble, upside down ... similar to that found in this square at the end of the last season, [a] second portion of upturned pillar base ... [and a] third portion standing on a hard base right way up. ... These three portions and those found at the end of the last season all fit together and form a base for clustered pillars - a large one in the centre surrounded by three detached (?) shafts'. 'If the 4th portion is found *in situ* it probably gives the position of the chancel arch of which these bases were in all probability those of the pillars of the arch' (NBK 3 48, 50).

Work then moved into Sq 1/27 and 1/28, where

'a little exploration showed undoubtedly a floor level in the vicinity of the base of the column' (NBK 3, 58).



Fig 4.4 Chapter house: central sleeper wall pillar bases, facing south-west, 1958 (Edwin Plomer)

The corresponding pillar base to that found in Sq 1/39 was discovered complete and *in situ*, as

'a central pillar surrounded by a cluster of 4 detached pillars with 3 of the bases with lead caps still in position' (NBk 3, 63) (Fig 4.5).

The clearance produced

'several good pieces of 6-faced stone ... several encaustic tile frags, and also a peculiar frag of brickwork with small holes, possibly a "cresset stone", ... several vaulting ribs in good condition and first vaulting keystone from apex of vault lying about 2ft (0.61m) below ground level' (NBk 3, 62)

either fallen or taken down. Further clearance of rubble, stone ribs and other debris below floor level at the bases of the pillars indicated a step down to the west, with a floor at a lower level below these stones. Continuing at the west end on the south side, more vaulting rib stones were dug out.

Measurements of the column bases showed that the south one had been moved when the sections found scattered in the rubble were broken.

'The north base is 3ft (0.91m) off the centre line: the S base is 4ft 2in (1.27m) off this line, and the four sections are not square with the axis. This will

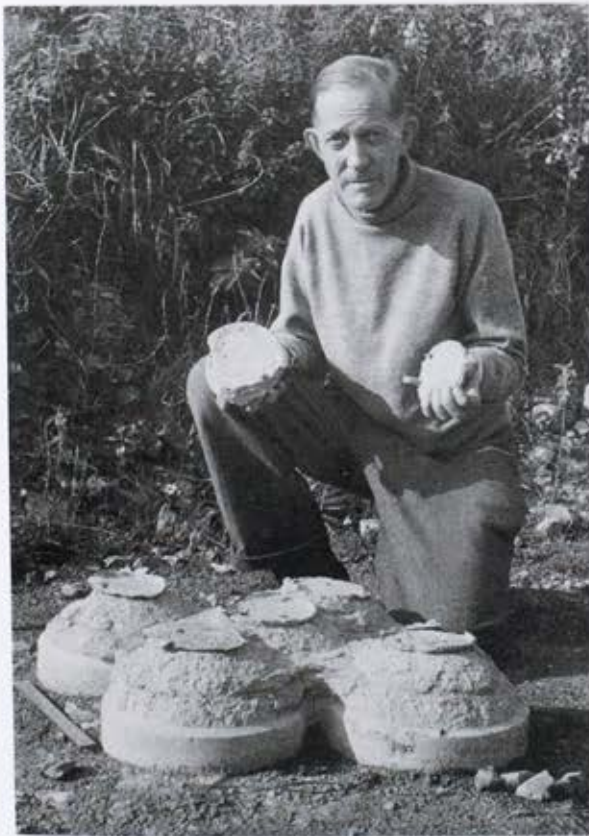


Fig 4.5 Chapter house: Rev George Knapp with linked columns and lead joints, 1958 (AV Porter)

give the correct distance between the centres of the bases as 6ft (1.83m) – a very small span if the bases are those of a chancel arch. [Two alternatives were proposed, that] the bases are part of a screen between the Lady Chapel and the Choir [and that they] form the East supporters of the High Altar' (NBk 3, 65).

The stone foundation beneath the floor in the area of the two bases was uncovered and found to extend across the building from north to south. On the east side it was traced completely; on the west it was found in a trial pit.

David Robinson commented (*pers comm*) that these pier bases might be considered a southern England, early 13th-century type. At this relatively small scale they are reminiscent of the work at the east end of St Thomas at Portsmouth or towards the east end at Boxgrove, usually dated to the 1220s.

#### Interior

Clearance of the chapter house down to a floor level is the subject of many notebook entries, often associated with work on an adjacent outer wall. In 1957 most of the east end interior (Sqs 1/50, 1/51) was cleared of rubble coming down on to a probable floor, finding several pieces of vaulting ribs including a vaulting springing, and some pieces of six-sided ashlar:

'... although all was sifted, this area is very destitute of small finds apart from a few pieces of glass and some window lead' (NBk 3, 27).

Clearance then moved west into Sq 1/39. A trial hole dug in the floor found large flints in the clay at a depth of 0.25m (10in). By 29 July an area 2.44m (on E) (8ft) x 4.27m x 5.18m x 4.27m (14ft x 17ft x 14ft) had been excavated to floor level, averaging 0.84m (2ft 9in) below ground level. A month later, the foundation of the south wall was cleared towards the footstep of the 'sedilia'.

Mortared roofing tiles found at about floor level were thought possibly to

'be the foundation of the step to the altar space. [Apart from these examples] the most striking feature of the rubble being removed from above chancel [chapter house] floor is the almost total absence of roofing tiles compared with other portions of the building already uncovered' (NBk 3 30, 34).

The excavator commented that the evidence of ribbing stones and a portion of boss suggested a vaulted roof: if it had been tiled, these tiles had been removed more carefully than in other parts of the building; if it had been lead-covered this would account for a more careful stripping with only one piece of thick (round) lead so far found in this part. He also noted that

## The claustral buildings

'the stones and the plaster of the vaulting seem to have been smashed up, and lie in great confusion over the whole area [and that the mouldings of smaller details of worked stone found] suggest a simple arcade around this portion of the sacristy' (NBk 3,35).

In the corner of Sq 1/39 under indications of burning was about 0.09 sq m (1 sq ft) of 'either a laid level floor, a grave slab, or possibly the stone mensa of the High Altar' (NBk 3, 41).

In 1958 moving further west

'nearly as far as the end of the [chapel ?] wall (Sq 1/15) to ground level, several pieces of vault ribbing were found and at the W end of the cut, much glass. [Glass] had been absent on most of this section of the [chapter house], but was found in quantity on the south side of the wall' (NBk 3, 72). [On the north side in Sqs 1/38 and 1/26, a] '3ft (0.91m) north-south section was cleared in line with the bases of column found *in situ* in Sq 1/38 and excavated to depth of 1ft 6in (0.46m)' (NBk 3, 61).

Rubble clearance continued westwards, finding several small pieces of marble column and the foundation of the north wall, and over the east part, finding several vaulting rib stones. A

'small section excavated below lime mortared floor 1ft 8in (0.51m) E of N pillar bases found a definite foundation of laid stone 8in to 9in thick (0.2m to 0.23m), laid on the virgin clay' (NBk 3, 76).

In 1959 a return to the unexcavated part of Sq 1/50 produced the find of

'a silver goad of Queen Mary ... but this of course has no connection with the priory as such and must have been dropped by one of the despoilers' (NBk 3, 95).

Debris and rubble was removed; the edge of the north wall foundations was reached. At floor level at the east end was a considerable amount of glass, mostly very friable, on the level of the wall foundations.

Towards the west end in Sqs 1/26 and 1/27 a small trial trench was dug west of the foundation wall of the arcade screen. Just 0.08m (3in) below the level excavated in 1958 was a distinct mortared floor level. Finds included a small round piece of graphite (SF43), 'considerable glass on floor level and a few pieces of window lead' (NBk 3, 118). Clearance of the centre of the building was nearly completed up to the sleeper wall of the arcade, finding a large portion of decorated capital in 'stiff leaf' foliage (similar to that found in 1957) but more complete, and with much of the colour still adhering. Near the north wall in Sqs 1/49 and 1/37 was a broken fairly complete marble pillar not *in situ*.

The 1962 notebooks refer obscurely to a

'wall joining the north block of buildings to the chapter house [and to] working from a plinth towards the north wall of chapter house, uncovering the foundation previously exposed. [It was noted that] the floor level of chapter house appears to be above the level of the floor of the building west of the plinth, and [that] indications of steps up to the chapter house appeared in the side of the trench' (NBk 5 94, 101).

On the outside of the chapter house in 1956, Sqs 1/64 and 1/65 covered the south side of the south-east corner. A paved stone channel or laid stone culvert running west-east presumably took away water from the roof of the north transept and/or sacristy. The east edge of the south-east buttress was traced in Sq 1/64.

### Selected finds – sacristy, chapter house and slype

#### Registered finds

- SF2, 3, 4, 5 Iron keys, found 1953–54, this area
- SF7 Latten spoon bowl, found 1953–54, this area
- SF11 Small iron shears, found 1953–54, this area
- SF12 Harness / armorial mount, champlévé copper on leather, found 1953–54, this area
- SF25 Iron spoon handle, Sqs 1/50 & 1/51, E end chapter house
- SF27 Spoon c 1663/70, E part chapter house, Sq 1/39, Fig 7.18
- SF31 Purse bar, Sq 1/50, E end chapter house, Fig 7.27
- SF39 Ceramic object, Sq 1/27, W end chapter house, Fig 7.29
- SF40 Buckle, Sq 1/27, W end chapter house
- SF42 Bone 'point', Sqs 1/26 & 27, W end chapter house, Fig 7.21
- SF43 Round piece of graphite, Sq 1/26, W end chapter house
- SF44 Socketed spearhead, Sq 1/38, N side chapter house
- SF83 Small key, Sq 2/594ZX, N side chapter house
- SF88 Rotary key, NE corner chapter house
- SF139 Iron ring oval link, Sq 1/50, E end chapter house
- SF159 Finger ring, Sqs 1/27 & 1/15, W end chapter house S side
- SF174 Horse bit, Sqs 1/50 & 1/51, E end chapter house
- SF180 Mason's iron wedge, no context, Fig 7.20
- SF184 Buckle, Sq 1/27, W end chapter house
- SF201 Lead architectural join or key, Sq 1/39, chapter house sleeper wall
- SF202 Lead architectural join or key, chapter house sleeper wall; N base, S pillar
- SF203 Lead architectural join or key, chapter house, Fig 7.9
- SF294 Lead architectural join or key, sleeper wall chapter house N base E pillar. See also SF295
- SF296 Lead architectural join or key, no context

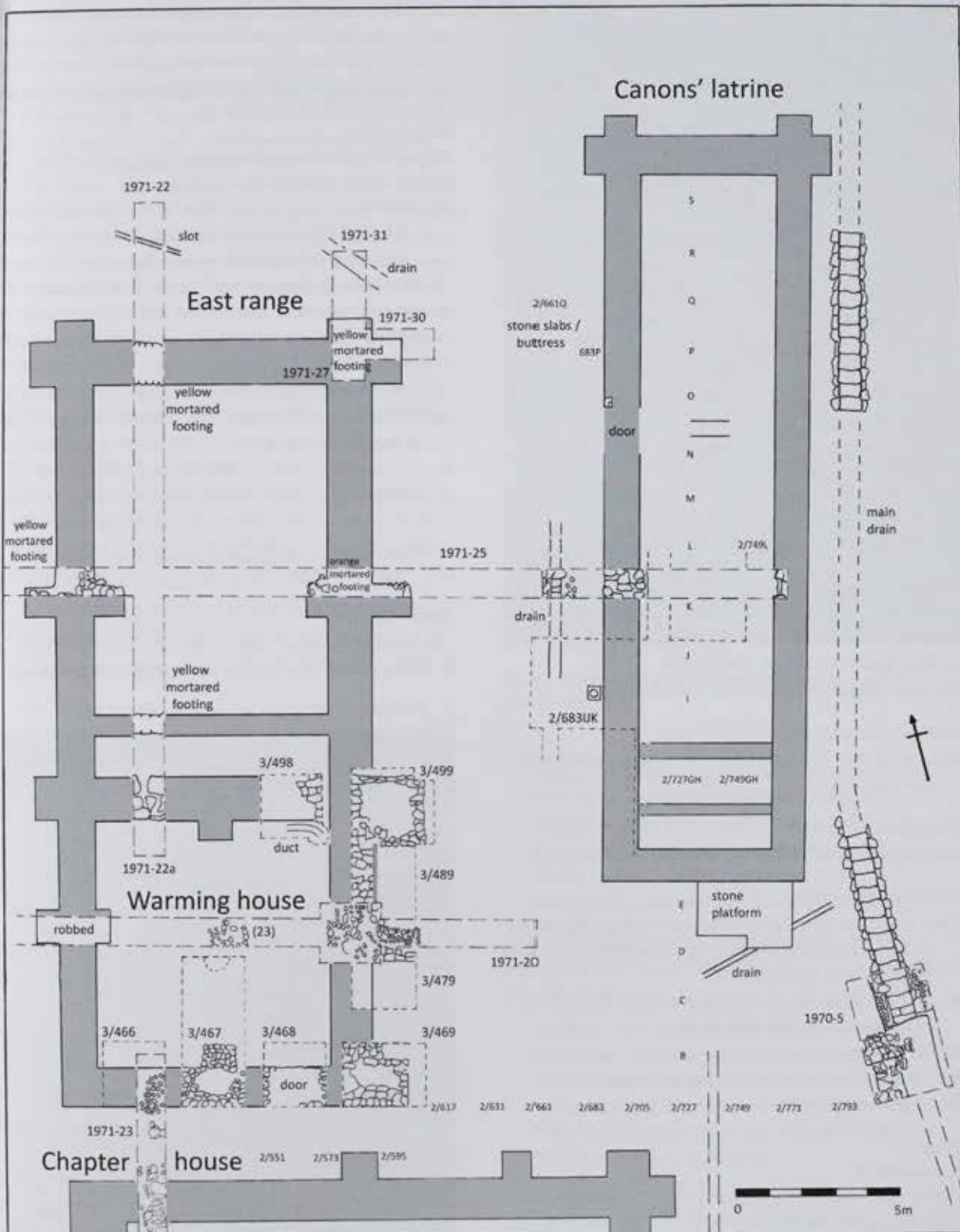


Fig 4.6 Plan of east range and canons' latrine

### The claustral buildings

#### Coins

- (1) SF58 Cut halfpenny, Henry III, 1248–50, Sq 2/705/727, E of chapter house
- (3) SF94 Penny, Edward I, Canterbury mint, 1301–10, S side chapter house, Sq 1/39E
- (7) SF19 Penny, Henry V or VI, York mint, 1413–61, Sq 1/64,65, S of or S wall of chapter house
- (7) SF20 Half groat, Henry VI, 1422–27, Calais, Sq 1/64 S of or S wall of chapter house
- (16) SF53 Jetton, late 14th century, Sq 2/749EF, E of chapter house
- (17) SF75 Jetton, late 14th century, Sq 2/494F, E of chapter house
- (19) SF59 Jetton, Nuremberg Burgrave type, 15th century, Sq 2/705J/I, NE corner chapter house
- (25) SF60 Coin weight, English rose noble, Edward IV, 1464–70, NE corner chapter house
- (10) SF29 Silver groat, Mary 1553–54, Sq 1/50, chapter house NE corner

#### Floor tiles

Large quantities were found in 1953–54: see above

#### Window glass

A large quantity was found in 1953. NBk 1 illustrates 20 pieces, most of which cannot now be located. SF240 a trefoil, no context (Section 6.4) SF273 two letters one possibly a G (Section 6.4)

#### Lead window came

Notebooks refer to eleven finds in the sacristy and five in the chapter house

#### Wall plaster

Notebooks refer to finds of pieces in the chapter house

#### Architectural fragments

Large quantities were found including vaulting ribs, marble column bases, column shafts and mouldings, some with paint remains. See Section 6.1

B1:T9, T10 chapter house vaulting elements: diagonal rib intersection and piers / responds

B1:T12 Beak arch label

B1:T13 chamfered voussoir window moulding

B8:T3 lion head sculpture

#### Pottery

See Section 7.1

### 4.4 Slype

There is no evidence for any direct ground-floor connection between the chapter house and the north compartments of the east range. A passageway through the east range leading to and from the north-east corner of the cloister might be expected. 1971 trench 23 provided a section across its west end where it was 2.8m (9ft 2in)

wide. A hard surface of yellow-white mortar (6) may represent a floor level.

### 4.5 East range north of chapter house (Fig 4.6)

#### Plan

The north part of the east claustral range, north of the chapter house, included the building whose south end was identified by the original excavators as the warming house or an inner parlour. At ground-floor level it seems to have been separate from the north range lying to the west, the chapter house to the south and the latrine to the east, though some first-floor connections might be expected. Overall internal dimensions, based upon limited exposures of largely robbed walls, were about 21m (69ft) long and 7m (23ft) wide, giving a three-square plan. The evidence appears to indicate two main compartments, a square south room and a nearly two-square north part with a small cross-wall at its south end, perhaps defining the access from the cloister. The west and east walls were thick enough to take a full-length first-floor dormitory. Vaulting in the south room is indicated by abutments in the centre of the east, south and west walls and a central foundation.

#### Work narrative

The warming house or inner parlour was first discovered in 1959 by a trial trench when it was misinterpreted as



Fig 4.7 Warming house / inner parlour: external buttress at north east corner, facing north, 1959

the south transept. It was correctly identified in 1962, after recognition that the church was located south of the cloister. In 1969, its east and south walls were more systematically explored in nine squares, re-excavating some of the earlier work. Trial trenches in 1970–71 cut across its four main walls. The larger north compartment was seen only in trial trenches of 1970–71.

#### Warming house / inner parlour

The east wall of the warming house was the first part found, following a perceptive suggestion in 1959 from Colonel C N Rivers-Moore, the excavator of Hurley Priory in Berkshire, that what had hitherto been regarded as the choir and lady chapel was in fact the chapter house. There was, however, still a general expectation that the church lay north of the claustral ranges. A trial trench whose exact location and dimensions are not recorded was accordingly laid out on the line of the central clustered piers in the chapter house. At 18.29m (60ft) from the inside of the chapter house south wall, it found a 4.88m (16ft) length of a partially robbed

'plinth of a well laid ashlar wall, chamfered on the east edge, on a rubble foundation, with a return to the east, and with south and east corner buttresses' (AR 1958–59) (Fig 4.7).

#### A decade later, re-excavation

'in order to give a basis for survey work [found] a 6ft (1.8m) length of chamfered plinth still in position on its eastern face ... [and] further excavation [found] the bases of three buttresses supporting this wall..., the southernmost of which marked the end of a wall running westward' (AR 1969).

Of the three east-facing external buttresses the central, mostly in Sq 3/479, was smaller than the two at the north and south corners, and had a corresponding internal abutment. The wall was 1.3m (4ft 3in) wide at foundation level. It had been robbed to below plinth level except between the north and central buttresses. The north buttress in Sq 3/499 was a substantial 2.2m (7ft 2in) wide so may have provided a base for a newel staircase. The east wall was also seen in 1971 trench 20 (Fig 4.8).

The south wall was slightly wider, 1.6m (5ft 3in) at foundation level with no ashlar masonry surviving *in situ*. Excavated west for 7.32m (24ft) through Sqs 3/466 to 3/469 during 1969, it showed a similar degree of preservation except at the west end which appeared more robbed when re-excavated in the north end of 1971 trench 23. Between the central abutment and the south-east corner, the 1969 excavations identified

'a doorway indicated by a worn sandstone step at the inside of the wall. From marks in the mortar still adhering to this stone, it appears there were two more steps above it, showing that the floor was



Fig 4.8 Warming house / inner parlour: east wall and buttress, facing east, 1970

18in (0.45m) below the level of the cloister walk. West of the step a small foundation seemed to indicate another wall, possibly the base of a screen, running northwards, but excavation in the adjacent square revealed only more charcoal on the floor level and no continuation of a wall' (AR 1969).

In 1971, trench 23 cut across the south wall near the south-west corner found associated floor levels / ground surfaces (6)–(13). In 1959,

'working west from the plinth of the east wall the foundation of the corresponding west wall of [what was then thought to be] the south transept was found, 2ft 3in (0.69m) below ground level, giving the internal dimensions of the transept as 20ft x 20ft (6.1m x 6.1m)' (AR 1960).

It was also seen in 1971 trench 20 (Fig 4.9), as a main wall with a heavily robbed (7) external buttress and an internal abutment, giving a total width of 2.7m (8ft 10in).

The north wall was seen in the 1969 excavations as a stub coming away west from the north-east corner in Sq 3/498. A second exposure towards its west end in 1971 trench 22a was a foundation 1.3m (4ft 4in) wide.

The main interior feature of note was in the north-east corner in Sq 3/498,

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'a small duct ... appearing to run beneath the floor ... approximately 7in (170mm) square and covered with a thin layer of mortar which collapsed in parts during excavation. It appeared to curve round to follow the east wall southwards, and may have carried a lead water supply pipe to the kitchen' (AR 1969).

A floor level seen in 1969 adjacent to the step was clearly defined by a layer of charcoal on top of mortar; a hard grey burnt surface (15) was also seen in 1971 trench 20. A central foundation (23) was found in the same trench. 1969 notes refer to a possible column base just south of it but not central to the room, so perhaps it was only the depression left by the removal of a piece of robbed column.

### East range north undercroft

The northern two-thirds of this part of the east range, some 11.8m (39ft) long internally, has been reconstructed from two 1971 trial trenches, 22 / 22a north-south and the mechanically excavated trial trench 25 east-west. The west and east walls were seen in trench 25 as heavily robbed footings with one side of an external buttress and probably part of an internal abutment on each wall. The north wall was a robbed footing 1.3m (4ft 4in) wide, similar to the external walls of the south room. Trenches at the north-east corner (27, 30, 31), incompletely excavated at the end of the 1971 season, found clunch footings in yellow mortar. A narrow wall, 0.6m (2ft) wide, ran west-east across the

range, 1.2m (4ft) north of the north wall of the warming house or inner parlour, perhaps marking the day stair to the dormitory (Glyn Coppack *pers comm*). A length of stone-lined drain ran north-west / south-east just outside the north-east corner of the range.

The stratigraphy seen in 1971 trench 22 down the length of the northern two-thirds of the range showed a heavy destruction layer (2) under topsoil, cut through for subsequent robbing (9) of the north wall (8). A concentration of charcoal and burning (3), perhaps representing an early stage in the process of destruction, lay on hard yellow mortar floor surfaces (4) (4a). A pile of broken red roof tiles within the destruction horizon outside the building to the north was further evidence of the dismantling process. North of the building, a stake-hole (16) and a slot-like feature (17) hint at timber structures.

### Selected finds

#### Registered finds

- SF7 Spoon, E range, Fig 7.18
- SF48 Iron Chain, Sq 2/551D, S wall warming house, Fig 7.19
- SF47 Bone point, Sq 2/595H, E of warming house
- SF104 Fire steel or strike-a-light, Sq 2/595 I, between E range and canons' latrine, Fig 7.17
- SF105 Handle for composite container or door, Sq 2/551G, warming house
- SF117 Box mount, Sq 2/551G, warming house, Fig 7.19
- SF129 Iron, Sq 2/617 I, between E range and canons' latrine

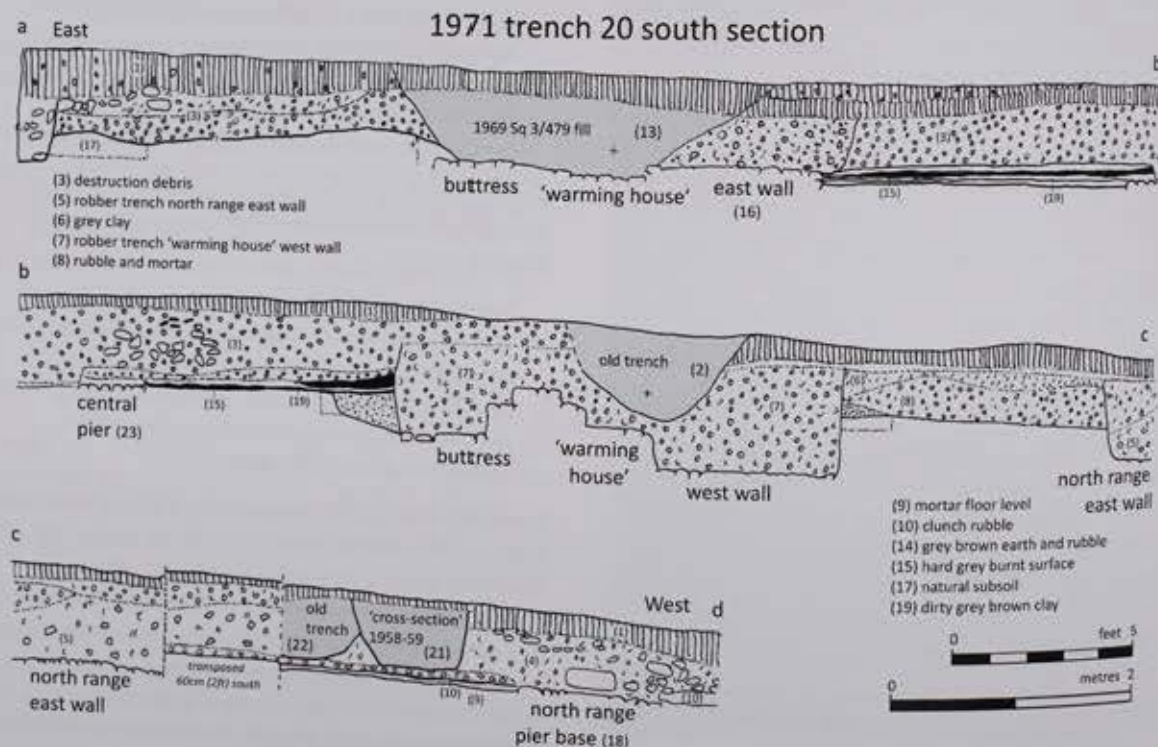


Fig 4.9 South section of trench 20 1971

- SF135 Lead water pipe section, Sq 3/459, between chapter house and E range warming house
- SF140 Buckle frame, Sq 2/595H, E of warming house, Fig 7.26
- SF178 Lock bolt, Sq 2/595 I, between warming house and canons' latrine, Fig 7.16
- SF306 Hinge pivot, Sq 2/683, between canons' latrine and E range

#### Floor tile

- Two fragments from Sq 2/551G, Knapp Nos 37 or 38 and No 5

#### Lead window came

Notebook reference to one find in the warming house

#### Architectural fragments

- AF54 Possible label stop as crude human face, Sq 2/573HG, warming house
- B1:T1 Chamfered elements, warming house
- B1:T5 Buttress weathering, east range

## 4.6 Canons' latrine (Fig 4.6)

### Plan

The latrine, a long building on a north-south axis with internal dimensions of 21.95m by 4.27m (72ft by 14ft), lay east of the north part of the east range whose upper floor was presumably the dormitory.

### Work narrative

The main investigation in 1960-62 was hindered by the hedge then forming the east boundary to the priory field, and, until 1961, by misidentification of the latrine as the east end of the priory church with interior cross-walls forming a series of chapels. Dawning realisation of its real identity is recorded in the 1961 Annual report.

'This year's work has shown that there is a building 14ft (4.27m) wide of which the wall forms the east wall for at least 27ft (8.23m) of its length at its north end. This building may continue further south, but further excavation was not possible this season. The third drain (that uncovered by Miss Ellis Jones) would seem to have been outside this building, on its western side.

What, then, is this building? Its size and the proximity of the main sewer to its eastern wall suggest that it may be a 'reredorter'. (Compare the reredorter building still existing at the Benedictine Abbey of Muchelney, in Somerset.) If this building is the reredorter, then it follows that the other conventual buildings will also have been built on this, the north side of the Chapter House and Cloister Garth, and not, as we have hitherto expected, on the south. In this case it follows that the Conventual Church, departing from the usual

custom of monastic establishments, would in this instance have formed the southern block of buildings. Mr Lucas, the tenant of Priory Farm under Magdalen College, who has been of such great help to us throughout the period of the excavations, has always contended that from the lie of the land it would be logical for the Canons to have built their Church on this flatter part of the field, and not on the north side, where the ground falls away quite steeply to the stream. There are other facts which tend to suggest he is right, and that the Church was, in fact, built on the south side of the site' (AR 1961).

Site notebooks mostly describe the detail of wall-following and are less useful than the summary Annual Reports. The duration of what became an area excavation at the south end straddled the original and revised interpretations of the church location in relation to the cloister; once recognised as the latrine, a smaller area was examined around an entrance in the west side and another possibly at the north end. In 1969, a small amount of work was done on the east wall. There is insufficient information to show the limits of clearance and trenching on the compartment plan so the walls described below have to be shown as 'presumed'. The mechanically excavated 1971 west-east trial trench 25 cut across the robber trench for the west wall and located the west face of the east wall.

### Walls

The east wall was the first discovered in 1960, as

'an ashlar built wall, 18ins (0.46m) below ground level, close to the boundary hedge of Priory Field, and north-east of the already excavated chapter house. A return wall running from east to west was uncovered, for a few feet, at the south corner. The east wall was uncovered for a length of 32ft (9.75m) to the north, where it disappeared below the hedge' (AR 1960).

In 1961, it was determined to

'extend the excavation of this east wall until a junction with a north return wall was found, and to investigate the area lying to the west of the east wall. The east wall continued northward beneath the hedge, and was then picked up again on the east side of the boundary hedge: the line continued northward for a distance of 72ft (21.95m) from the southern return (inside measurement), when a return wall to the west was found' (AR 1961).

This was done, noting a layer of wood ash 0.3m (12in) thick at the north-east corner. In 1969 after removal of the hedge, a length of 2.74m (9ft) was re-excavated in good condition (Fig 4.10). The north wall

'was traced westward, under the hedge, for a distance of 14ft, when it met another return wall,

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Fig 4.10 Canons' latrine: east wall, facing north, 1969

this time to the south. ... The northern end of this wall had corner buttresses with chamfered plinths' (AR 1961).

The outer edge of the west wall foundation had been uncovered for 6.4m (21ft) south from the north corner, when the foundations of a substantial buttress were discovered, with stone slabs 3ft 7in x 2ft 2in and 9in thick (1.09m x 0.66m x 0.23m) supported on stone-built foundations. The lowest course of a stone-built doorway in the west wall was also uncovered 7m (23ft) from the north end (Fig 4.11). Observing this doorway was in line with a small foundation partly excavated in the centre of the building, it was suggested as a possible foundation for a stairway from the undercroft to the upper floor. Sq 2/683P, probably outside the west wall, contained a 'very massive



Fig 4.11 Canons' latrine: west doorway, probably facing south-east, 1960

block' 0.76m x 0.69m x 0.23m (2ft 6in x 2ft 3in x 9in) thick (NBk 5, 44). Two-thirds of the way south down the west wall, 1971 trial trench 25 cut across a robbed footing. A section drawn in 1961 only slightly further south recorded a change in levels which was probably the west side of a robber trench containing rubble, small stones, and a few roof tiles, excavated down to 0.79m (2ft 7in) below modern ground surface.

The site notebook for 1961 contains sufficient general references to show that the south wall was followed from the south-east corner for at least 3.01m (10ft) to the west and perhaps even to the south-west corner. However, little detail of its condition is available other than it was 'much robbed'; work was distracted by the 'hump' south of the south-east corner later found to cover the main drain.

### Interior features

Three internal cross-walls were noted. The above-mentioned small foundation in line with the doorway was 1.22m (4ft) long and about one-third of the distance from the north end; it had a vertical west face and an east face built at an angle, giving a width at foundation level of 0.61m (2ft) and 0.38m (1ft 3in) at the surviving top, 0.46m (1ft 6in) below ground level. This may have been an internal feature rather than an actual dividing or load-bearing wall. At the south end of the building, two small cross-walls, 0.38m (1ft 3in) and 0.51m (1ft 8in) wide, abutting the inner face of the east wall, were recorded as running west for 3.96m (13ft). In plan these defined two spaces 1.07m (3ft 6in) and 1.3m (4ft 3in) wide. The excavators suggested that they may have supported a stairway to the upper storey, or alternatively, may have been partition walls of the privy for the use of the prior.

Little can be said about internal deposits. An apparent destruction sequence was found in Sqs 2/749 G&H, between the two cross-walls at the south end of the building. The area opened found 'several floor levels, extending west 14ft (4.27m) to 15ft (4.57m) from (the east wall' (AR 1961). On a mortared floor 3ft (0.91m) below ground level was a layer of charcoal, ash and stones with marks of burning, itself under many large stones, described as 'rubble filling'. Wood ash was also found in Sq 2/749L about half way along the length of the building. In Sqs 2/727 G&H,

'some of the very large stones found below the obvious rubble and fallen masonry looked as if they had been laid, and are of a fairly flat surface' (NBk 4, 106).

At the north end of the canons' latrine a 'well-laid stone floor' was noted (NBk 5, 6).

### 4.7 'Main' drain

The main drain serving the canons' latrine started from the moat around the south side of the claustral complex. It

ran alongside the east wall of the latrine (Fig 4.6), turning north-west at its north end to go under the modern hedge bordering the priory field, and thence into the Oakhanger stream at the bottom of the valley. It was supplied by surface water soaking down from the hill to the moat and further along its course by water from the roofs of some claustral buildings; there were inspection chambers and indication of sluices at intervals. Notes of work on it are difficult to use for lack of precise measurements and locations, but there is enough to be clear about its construction and contents at certain points. The 1967 plan shows both the 'old course of the drain' and a 'reconstructed drain'; the latter is unsupported by surviving site notes.

**Work narrative**

The drain was first discovered in 1961 during the excavation of what was recognised shortly afterwards as the latrine block. It naturally excited considerable interest. Most excavated lengths of the drain were filled either with sediments or rubble from robbed or collapsed arches. Work over the next three years made important finds of alembics and distilling apparatus. This account draws heavily upon the Annual Reports. For a feature that aroused much interest in the 1960s, there is a surprising lack of photographs. One trench was re-excavated in 1970 to recover further constructional details. Parts of other, smaller, drains were found in various parts of the site during the 1950s, 1960s and in 1970-71.

**The 'main' drain**

The discovery by the site farmer, Mr Lucas, of a 'massive foundation' while backfilling with his mechanical digger in 1960 pre-dated recognition of the real relationship of church and cloister. Consequently it was not identified as part of the north wall of the presbytery but instead prompted speculation that

'it may have been the foundation of some sort of water tower for the flushing of the drain of the reredorter, which must have been situated not far away' (AR 1960).

A rectangular stone platform, mortared on its surface, 2.74m (9ft) in length and averaging 1.83m (6ft) in width was uncovered south of its south wall. To the east and adjoining it was a 'hump', rising gradually from north to south to within 0.56m (1ft 10in) of ground level, covered by a few inches of mortar; clay filling had been packed above it and on its west side. This covered a sewer or drain well built in worked stone; it had a flagstone base, 0.65m (2ft 2in) wide and of a similar height from its floor to the springing of an arched cover of worked stone, though here the arch had been destroyed and the drain filled with rubble. A second cut made through the 'hump' further north found the arch had also been destroyed.

The 'platform' was found to be the covering of another arched drain, 0.3m x 0.3m (12in x 12in), with flagstone floor, running at an angle in the direction of the sewer. This drain was extended by another drain, again 0.3m x 0.3m (12in x 12in), with flagstone floor, but in this case constructed of massive stone blocks of cut stone, 0.76m x 0.46m (2ft 6in x 1ft 6in). The flat cover of this drain was 1.07m (3ft 6in) below the present ground level, and the filling over it was of rammed clay. Excavation of this drain for another 1.83m (6ft) found that it ran towards the north-east corner of the chapter house. This was recognised as part of the sewerage system of the priory, with a subsidiary drain carrying the rain water to it from the roofs of the chapter house and other buildings.

'It is evident that the wall running from south to north for a total [inside] length of 72ft (21.95m) along the boundary hedge of the field is not, (at any rate in its entire length), the east wall of the Church. There are indications that the main sewer runs the entire length of the eastern wall, and close up to its eastern face, before continuing northward to discharge into the stream. [The outfall has not yet been located.] (AR 1961 adapted).

In 1962, five trenches were cut across the main drain from the east wall of the latrine, alongside which it ran in a straight line for its entire length, but there is no surviving plan of their locations. It was recorded as 0.75m (2ft 6in) wide and 0.72m (2ft 4in) high from the flagstone floor



Fig 4.12 Main drain: graffiti, 1962

## The claustral buildings

which was an average depth of 0.91m (3ft) below present ground level. The excavators thought it was probably open here along the edge of the latrine wall rather than stone-vaulted and subsequently robbed. At the north end of the wall, the drain turned north-west towards the hedge, leading down towards the stream. Just north of the north-east corner of the latrine building, there was evidence that the stone vault had collapsed and been rebuilt with a roof of flat stone slabs. Here the drain continued at the same width for a further 3.96m (13ft) before a reduction in width to about 0.3m (1ft). This seems to be the only information supporting what the final general site plan of 1969 shows as a short length of 'reconstructed drain' turning more sharply west than the 'old course of drain' running to the stream.

Small carvings and graffiti were found on stones built into the side wall of the main drain. The graffiti consist of two roughly incised pictures, on separate stones, one of a man with a horse (Fig 4.12), the other of Christ on the Cross (Section 6.2). As the stones were built into the side of the vaulted part of the drain, the pictures were executed before the stones were incorporated (AR 1962, adapted). The man with the horse was initially interpreted as a depiction of St Loye. The site archive contains a folder with the Rev George Knapp's researches into the saint, but it will be seen from the specialist report on the graffiti that the identification is unlikely (Section 6, below).

In 1963 the main drain was located in the orchard south of the farmyard wall, where a length of 1.82m (6ft) was excavated just east of the south-east buttress of the eastern chapel of the south transept. The arch and side walls had been robbed, but the flagstone floor remained in place. Further north, the characteristic covering of the

sewer was noted between the east end of the church and the hedge.

'In the hope of recovering more fragments of the glass vessels found at this point in 1962, the excavation of the main drain near the rederorter was continued for a further 15ft (4.57m) northwards, until the hedge prevented further progress. No further glass was found, but the report from the Ministry of Works Laboratories on the glass sent for examination and preservation has now been received. The glass fragments prove to be portions of at least 15 vessels, all connected with distilling ... [probably] of herbs and potions, and not of strong drink. Pottery finds from this same part of the drain may also be connected with the distilling process' (AR 1963 adapted).

This material has been published separately (Moorhouse 1972).

In 1964 the drain was followed for an unspecified distance into the next field northwards, as an uncovered flagstone floor with remains of side walls. A few more pieces of glass vessel were found; a complete pottery vessel was also recovered and many matching fragments of another. A small find in the drain was a rough cube of stone with a circle sunk into it and a carved caricature-like emblem representing a cross borne on the back of a ram (SF92). Other finds included a portion of pike jaw and tooth, two vertebrae bones of fish, and a tiny ivory knob carved like an acorn whose current location is unknown.

In 1965 the similarly configured outfall descending into the stream was located 19.8m (65ft) to the east of the hedge



Fig 4.13 Main drain to east of warming house / inner parlour, facing south-east, trench 5 1970

dividing the two fields. A section cut from the stream found it had been a drain could have been arched or of

In 1970 trench 5 was placed at an earlier trench, and re-excavated before it turned to run parallel with the latrine (Fig 4.13 and see Fig 4.6). (14) (16), was seen, but it was destroyed by the earlier excavation. The fragments were 0.86m (2ft 10in) high in four blocks 0.18m (7in) high and of various laying-out marks. They were bonded to the curve for the semi-circular roof of the fourth course, making a maximum height of 3ft 5in above the floor of the drain (6in) or so of the curve was formed after that it consisted of mainly soft, hand-packed yellow mortar. The mortar over the drain was cream-coloured and comprised large slabs of clunch 0.76m (2ft 6in) wide with the sides of its edges. The sides of the proboscis built up higher than the level at the curve, in five courses bonded with and rising up over one side of the west was a wall footing (6) of unburnt blocks of Selborne clunch bound in mortar. A small offset to the south layer (4).

### Selected finds

#### Registered finds

SF49 Spoon, Sq 2/683H, W of S  
SF50 Spur, Sq 2/683HG, W of S  
SF51 Rumbler bell, Sq 2/683 705

7.23

SF52 Sewing ring, Sq 2/749F, S of  
SF54 Knop, Sq 2/749D, S of latrine  
SF55 Buckle, Sq 2/791I, E of or  
SF56 Spoon with wrythen knop,  
SF57 Spur, Sq 2/749F, E of latrine  
SF72 Spearhead, Sq 2/661S, W of  
SF73 Arrow tip, Sq 2/661S, latrine  
SF119 Hinge, Sq 2/727I, S end la  
SF124 Harness mount, Sq 2/771  
SF128 ? Iron angle tie, Sq 2/770  
SF136 Spur, Sq 2/771E, S of latrine  
SF137 Claw hammer, Sq 2/705P,  
SF138 Flesh hook, Sq 2/771E, S of  
SF138.2 Iron fragment, Sq 2/771  
SF176 Buckle, Sq 2/791I, E of or  
SF212 Whetstone, Sq 2/771D, S  
SF213 Whetstone, Sq 2/771D, S  
SF303 Punch or chisel, outside la  
SF305 Window bar, Sq 2/749L, la

dividing the two fields. A section cut across it 15.24m (50ft) from the stream found it had been heavily robbed so the drain could have been arched or open at this point.

In 1970 trench 5 was placed around a still partially open earlier trench, and re-excavated the main drain (17) just before it turned to run parallel with the east wall of the latrine (Fig 4.13 and see Fig 4.6). A probable inspection pit (14) (16), was seen, but it was difficult to tell how much had been destroyed by the earlier work. Here the walls were 0.86m (2ft 10in) high in four courses of rectangular blocks 0.18m (7in) high and of various lengths, with several laying-out marks. They were bonded with yellow mortar. The curve for the semi-circular roof started on top of the fourth course, making a maximum total height of 1.04m (3ft 5in) above the floor of the drain. The first 0.46m (1ft 6in) or so of the curve was formed of large blocks but after that it consisted of mainly small stones bound by hard-packed yellow mortar. The external face of the cover over the drain was cream-coloured mortar (11). The floor comprised large slabs of clunch giving a drainage channel 0.76m (2ft 6in) wide with the sides of the drain placed on its edges. The sides of the probable inspection pit were built up higher than the level at which the roof began its curve, in five courses bonded with cream mortar. Abutting and rising up over one side of the covered drain on the west was a wall footing (6) of unknown function in rough blocks of Selborne clunch bound with hard-packed cream mortar. A small offset to the south was covered by a rubble layer (4).

#### Selected finds

##### Registered finds

- SF49 Spoon, Sq 2/683H, W of S end latrine
- SF50 Spur, Sq 2/683HG, W of S end of latrine
- SF51 Rumbler bell, Sq 2/683 705, NW corner latrine, Fig 7.23
- SF52 Sewing ring, Sq 2/749F, S wall latrine, Fig 7.21
- SF54 Knop, Sq 2/749D, S of latrine, Fig 7.29
- SF55 Buckle, Sq 2/791I, E of or E wall of latrine
- SF56 Spoon with wrythen knop, E side latrine, Fig 7.18
- SF57 Spur, Sq 2/749F, E of latrine
- SF72 Spearhead, Sq 2/661S, W of W wall N end latrine
- SF73 Arrow tip, Sq 2/661S, latrine W wall
- SF119 Hinge, Sq 2/727J, S end latrine, Fig 7.19
- SF124 Harness mount, Sq 2/771E, S of latrine
- SF128 ? Iron angle tie, Sq 2/770 I, E wall latrine
- SF136 Spur, Sq 2/771E, S of latrine
- SF137 Claw hammer, Sq 2/705P, latrine, Fig 7.21
- SF138 Flesh hook, Sq 2/771E, S of latrine, Fig 7.17
- SF138.2 Iron fragment, Sq 2/771E, S of latrine
- SF176 Buckle, Sq 2/791 I, E of or E wall of latrine
- SF212 Whetstone, Sq 2/771D, S of latrine, Fig 7.23
- SF213 Whetstone, Sq 2/771D, S of latrine
- SF303 Punch or chisel, outside latrine NW
- SF305 Window bar, Sq 2/749L, latrine

- SF310 ? Oxshoe, Sq 2/749L, middle latrine
- SF312 Small annular ring, Sq 2/705J, latrine S of middle

##### Vessel glass

- SF64 Glass lamp, part of handle, Sq 2/727JK, latrine

##### Coins

- (20) SF152 Nuremburg jetton, Krauwinkel II, 1586–1635, Sq 2/771U, S wall latrine
- (21) SF274 Jetton, early 13th century, Sq 2/793, latrine
- (16) SF284 Jetton, French, late 14th / early 15th century, Sq 749F, S of latrine

##### Floor tiles

- 1 Knapp No 43 / Norton 10 almost complete
- A corner of Knapp No 32 / Norton 56 (Section 6.6)

##### Architectural stonework

- AF57 impost of spring of 2-light window, Sq 2/749 H, latrine, filling N of wall

## 4.8 North range (Fig 4.14)

### Plan

The location and general character of the range were outlined by the trial trenches of 1970–71. These showed how ground sloping down to the stream had been terraced into level platforms for the cloister and, lower down, for the refectory, perhaps also thereby facilitating access from the cloister to a first-floor dining hall. The internal dimensions of the range were about 23.7m (77ft) long and 6.7m (22ft) wide, giving a plan of 3.5 squares or seven bays. It was externally buttressed on the north side and internally vaulted with a central row of columns. It is uncertain whether the north range was wholly freestanding from the warming house / inner parlour in the east range or abutted it at first-floor level.

### Work narrative

The north range was discovered inadvertently by the south–north 'cross-section' trench of 1958–59 which ran across its easternmost bay, though a plan of 1960 (LD23) had identified it as the nave of a church north of the cloister.

'Extensive traces of wall foundations and floors to the north of the area hitherto thought to be the limit of the northern extent of the buildings' (AR 1958–59)

may refer to the north range, though neither the notebook narrative nor the sketch plan and section identify a south or north wall. 1960 trenches seeking the south transept of a north church found what was then interpreted as a 'south processional doorway', totally robbed but with some foundation stones surviving, 2.06m (6ft 9in) wide between 'corner-stones' (NBK 4, 38/42). This was the doorway between the north-east corner of the refectory and the

The claustral buildings

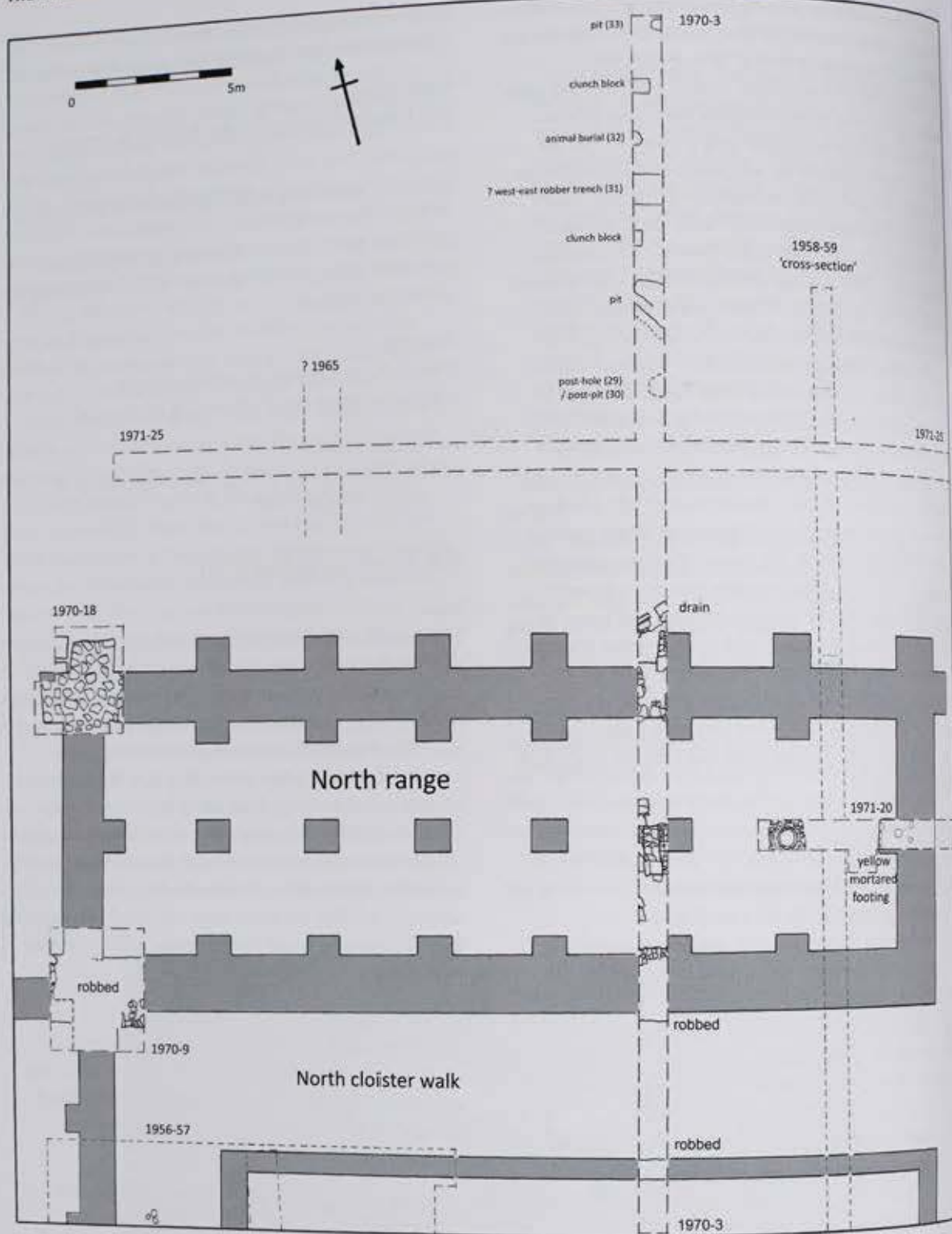


Fig 4.14 Plan of north range

west side of the dormitory range undercroft, probably the north outer door to another slype, described then as the 'dark entry', a route between the two buildings. 1971 trench 20 found a trampled surface of redeposited clay and mortar (6), continuing the line of the east cloister walk northwards, out towards the stream.

The only record of a 'cross-section of the northern block' dug in 1965 is a note that 'a fairly well defined wall foundation was uncovered in trench 1' (NBk 6, 6S); this may be the backfilled trench cut across by 1971 trench 25. Work in 1969 on the warming house in the east range itself did not extend west into the north range though some of

Fig 4.15 North range in foreground, but

the walls then for 'refectory'.

The north range which ran south of the cloister garth (58ft) beyond. Its south-west corner at east corner of the 9; its north-west. The western half abutment on the central pier (18).

Main walls

The main walls in similar condition 1.5m (5ft) thick. The single exposure 3.20m (6ft 6in) except for a small wall in 1970 trench (4ft 11in) wide of the north-west footings of clunch the natural clay in plan, the west junction between and the north-e 9 had been heard were seen, but

A row of square centre of the range seen at the east in the west range respond against foundation for the base in clunch set hard yellow mortar a sleeper footing



Fig 4.15 North range: north wall, facing south, external drain in foreground, buttress at left, trench 3 1970

the walls then found were described as belonging to the 'refectory'.

The north range proper was located by 1970 trench 3 which ran south–north for 34.4m (113ft) from just inside the cloister garth, across the walk, the range and 17.8m (58ft) beyond. Its east section is shown in Fig 4.17. The south-west corner of the building, shared with the north-east corner of the west range, was seen in 1970 trench 9; its north-west corner was seen in 1970 trench 18. The western half of 1971 trench 20 contained a central abutment on the interior of the east wall and the next west central pier (18) for the undercroft.

#### Main walls

The main walls in the west and north ranges were in a similar condition. The east wall in the north range was 1.5m (5ft) thick and its abutment had been heavily robbed. The single exposure of the south wall, (20) in 1970 trench 3, 2.0m (6ft 6in) wide, had been robbed out completely except for a small amount on the north edge. The north wall in 1970 trench 3 was a footing (23) of large stones 1.5m (4ft 11in) wide covered with yellow mortar (Fig 4.15). At the north-west corner in 1970 trench 18, three courses of footings of clunch blocks in yellow mortar survived above the natural clay into which they were cut (Fig 4.16). Seen in plan, the west wall appeared to abut the north wall. The junction between the south-west corner of the north range and the north-east corner of the west range in 1970 trench 9 had been heavily robbed. Both edges for the west wall were seen, but only the south side of the south wall.

A row of square bases for circular columns along the centre of the range is reconstructed from the evidence seen at the east end and the parallel of arrangements in the west range. This comprised the footing for the respond against the inside of the east wall, and the entire foundation for the next base west with a circular column base in clunch set on clunch blocks over a thick layer of hard yellow mortar, freestanding rather than placed on a sleeper footing (Fig 4.18). These suggest a row of six



Fig 4.16 North range: central pier column base, facing east, trench 20 1970

freestanding columns with centres about 3.4m (11ft 2in) apart supporting the roof of a seven-bay undercroft with the first-floor refectory above. Responds shown on the insides of the north and south walls are assumed.

1970 trench dug 3 across the range located a drain (25) running north-east immediately outside the north wall, perhaps taking roof water away to a soakaway or to join the main drain north of the east range (Fig 4.15). Within the range, between pier positions in the middle of the range, another drain ran south–north (15), adjacent to the side of a central column pier base. In the west end of 1971 trench 20 a clunch rubble spread (10) over a hard white mortar floor level (9) in the east bay may represent construction activity.

#### Land to the north

The ground north of the north range was examined in 1970–71. West–east 1971 trench 25 was a mechanically stripped trial designed to confirm the presence or absence of structures. The north part of hand-excavated 1970 trench 3 (Fig 4.17) found several features indicating activity requiring wider area investigations for better understanding. These were all sealed by a stone and rubble destruction spread (11) extending across and north beyond the range, and also appearing as (6) in 1971 trench 25.



Fig 4.17 North range: north-west corner, facing east, trench 18 1970

From north to south in 1970 trench 3 were a probable pit (33) at the extreme north end, a clunch block laid square, an apparent post-hole containing an animal burial (32), a possible west-east robber trench or old excavation trench (31) 1.1m (3ft 7in) wide, another clunch block laid square, a feature more likely to have been a truncated pit than another robber trench or pit (34), and a post-hole (29) within a post-pit (30). The kitchen might be expected in this area.

The north-south 'cross-section' of 1958-59 had extended across the ground north of the north range, running parallel with 1970 trench 3 and 5m (16ft 6in) east of it. There are difficulties in correlating the evidence from them. Notes of the earlier refer, without further explanation, to

'definite indications of a grave where there is a filling of different coloured clay of the right section' (NBk3,125)

apparently just within the south side of the range. Immediately north of this feature the 1958-59 plan shows 'many pieces of worked stone in rubble filling' for 6m (19ft 8in) which correlates with the stone and rubble destruction spread (11) in 1970 trench 3. The rubble filling was bounded on the north by a substantial 1.75m (5ft 9in) wide 'wall foundation' which had no equivalent in the later parallel trench, whose south side should have been, but was not, cut across by 1971 trench 25, and beyond which was the annotation 'natural clay subsoil'. This may have been the basis for showing a conjectural kitchen range immediately north of the north / refectory range on the final 1969 plan.

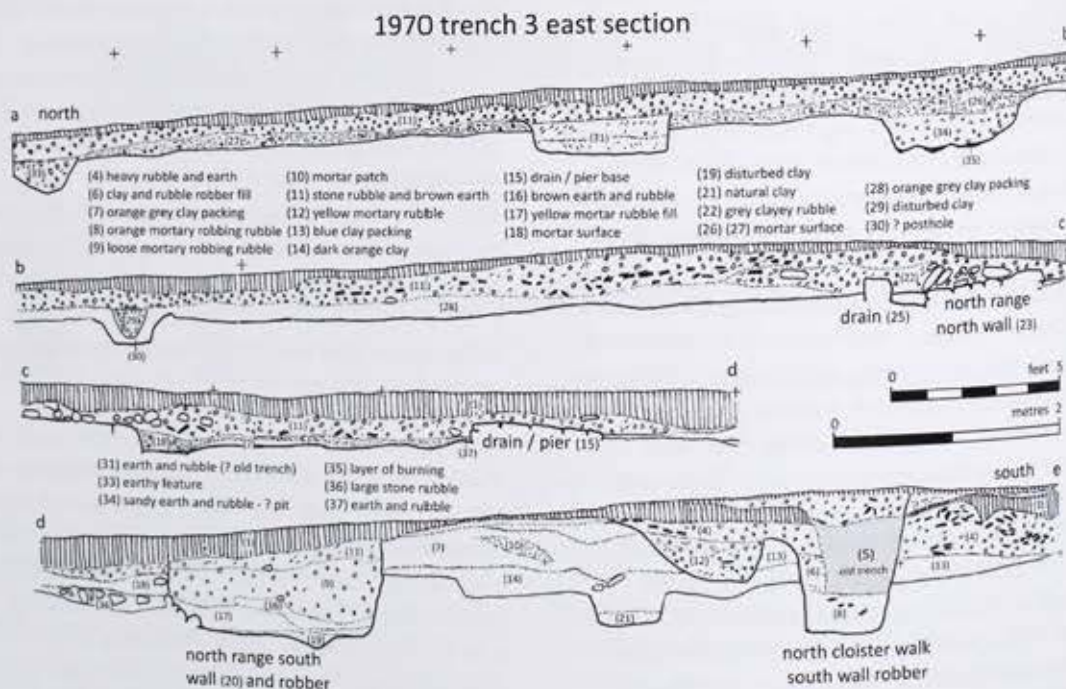


Fig 4.18 North range: east section of trench 3 1970

Fig 4.19 Plan of w

4.9 West range (Fig 4.19)

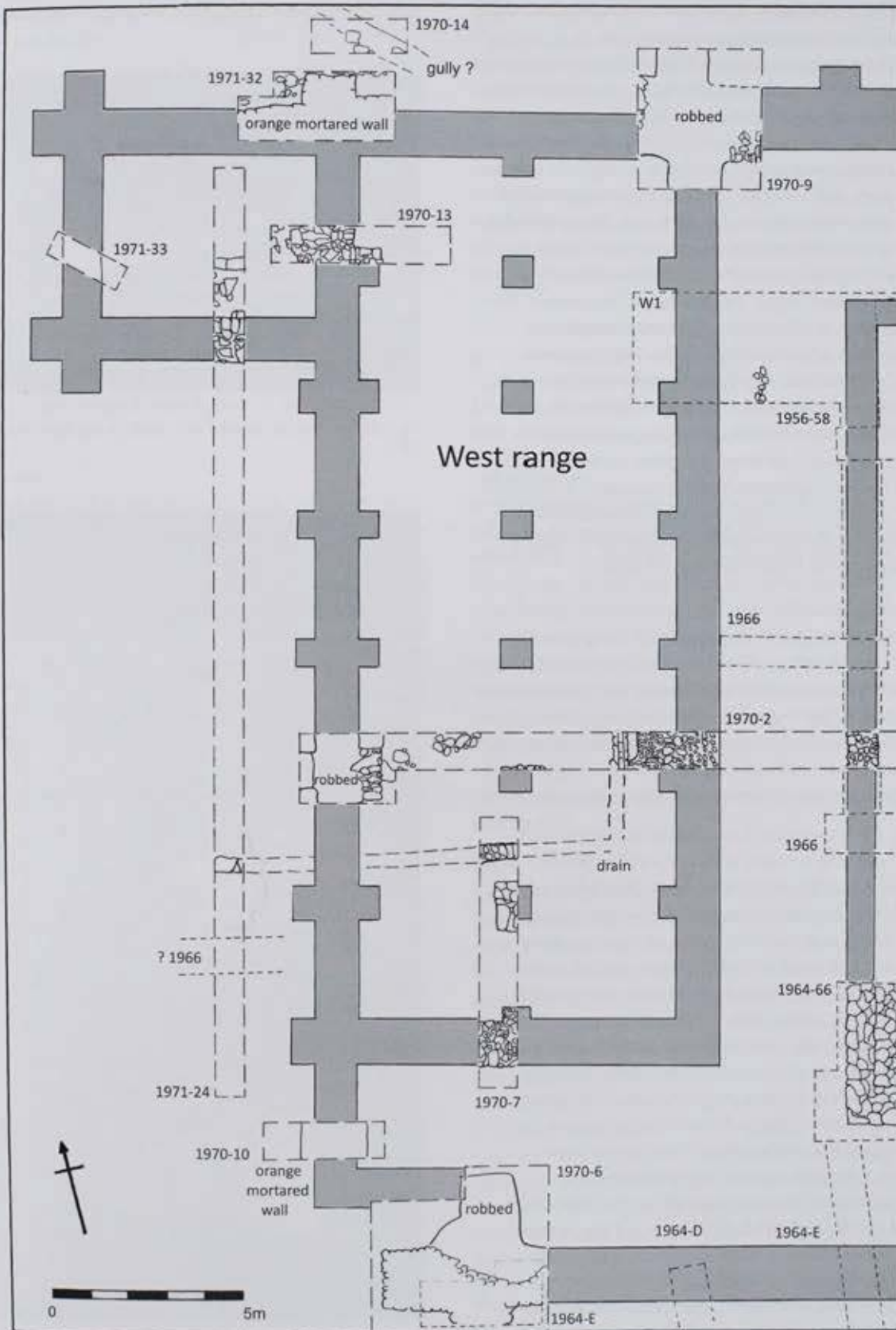


Fig 4.19 Plan of west range

## The claustral buildings

### Plan

The west range was built on a terrace at a lower level than the cloister, with the ground on the east side cut into and some clay redeposited on the west side, though this might also partly reflect the pattern of destruction and robbing. Its interior dimensions were 22.5m (73ft 9in) long and 8.2m (26ft 10in) wide; an undercroft of seven bays seems likely. The west wall was probably externally buttressed.

In the plan of the west range, neither long wall was in line with the west wall of the church, and its own west wall protruded slightly beyond the end of the nave. Its north limit was on a line with the south wall of the north range, leaving an apparently empty external corner between the two ranges. This relationship and the similarity of undercroft construction suggest that north and west ranges may have been designed and built together, though their actual junction was too badly robbed to identify any construction sequence. Presumably the west range contained the prior's lodging on the first floor and storage space of various kinds on the ground floor, though excavation found no distinctive evidence for these customary arrangements. Walls were seen as foundations and robber trenches; what was seen of two central piers, freestanding and not linked by a sleeper wall, suggested less attention to them from stone robbers.

### Work narrative

Twice in the 1950s the west range was found but not recognised; in 1966 it was cut across by a trench not shown on the end-of-season summary plan and otherwise unrecorded. The range was not on the plan published in 1967, but appeared as conjectural on the final 1969 plan. Its outlines were defined in 1970–71, by trial trenches uncovering only small amounts of walls and interior.

'At the outset in 1953, we decided to open a trench across a slight ridge of grass in the Abbey field, in which tradition asserted the Priory church had stood. This ridge ran north and south at the western end of the field. ... at the northern end of this ridge, and at a depth of about 2ft 6in (0.76m) we saw indications of possible wall foundations beneath vast quantities of building rubble, small stones and broken roof-tiles. The clay of which the field is composed stopped on the ridge, which caused us to think that a wall must once have stood here, although it was evident that considerable robbery of stones had taken place. On opening the southern end of the ridge we found about two foot square of mortared pavement, together with a round capital AF I. and a small portion of a small pillar of Purbeck marble. ... it was evident that but little save rubble remained in that portion of the field, (so) we decided to open the eastern end of the field, where the general level of the ground, though very irregular, was on the whole considerably higher than the western part' (NBk 1, 8).

The is no locational record of this initial intervention.

In 1956–58, trench W1, part of the sequence W1–W7 seeking the west end of the church (on the assumption that the real chapter house was the choir) found the east



Fig 4.20 West range: robbed west wall, facing south, trench 5 1970



Fig 4.21 West range: drain in foreground, column base in middle, south wall in background, view facing south, trench 7 1970

wall of the west range  
clay floor level west  
one to the east of it.  
in 1966 a trial trench  
length was begun

'at the estimated  
point where the  
thought that the  
to the Western  
foundation of the  
wall of the west  
of the plateau'

Five entries report  
volunteer who was  
English Heritage; re  
missing. If this trial  
(3) cut across by 15  
across the west range  
trench 7.

### Main walls

The east wall of the  
north-east corner,  
1.4m (4ft 7in) wide  
north wall. About  
2 cut a wider multi  
incorporating, from  
(1ft 6ins), a main  
0.30m (1ft) wide.  
extrapolated space  
unresolved problem

The south wall  
slightly west of its  
mortared limestone  
deeper than the a  
exposed the struc  
the range and the

The west wall  
of 1970 trench 2  
Here, the main wa  
robbed apart from  
foundation survive  
represented the si  
buttress (Fig 4.20).  
1970 trench 13 cut  
part of an internal  
buttress was incom  
north-west corner.

The north wall  
side of the junction  
south-west corner.  
including a small b  
trench 14 dug just  
did not extend any

wall of the west range. It was noted at the time that the clay floor level west of the wall was clearly lower than the one to the east of it.

In 1966 a trial trench 0.91m (3ft) wide and of unstated length was begun

'at the estimated centre of the western block, at the point where the plateau falls to a lower level. It is thought that there must have been an undercroft to the Western block of buildings and that the foundation of the cloister wall, or of the eastern wall of the western block will be found at the edge of the plateau' (NBk 6, 102).

Five entries report unspecified work supervised by a volunteer who was much later to hold a senior post in English Heritage; records for the rest of that year are missing. If this trial work of 1966 was the old filled trench (3) cut across by 1971 trench 24, it must have extended across the west range, though it was not detected in 1970 trench 7.

#### Main walls

The east wall of the range was seen in two places. At the north-east corner, 1970 trench 9 found a robber trench 1.4m (4ft 7in) wide coming off the junction with the north wall. About two-thirds along the wall, 1970 trench 2 cut a wider multi-element structure 2.74m (9ft) wide, incorporating, from east to west, a narrow footing of 0.45m (1ft 6ins), a main footing 1.98m (6ft 6in) wide and a drain 0.30m (1ft) wide. The thickened wall did not fit with the extrapolated spacing of internal abutments, leaving an unresolved problem.

The south wall of the range was seen in 1970 trench 7 slightly west of its centre. It was 1.52m (5ft) wide, of large mortared limestone blocks, with the main wall robbed deeper than the abutment. 1970 trench 10 partially exposed the structure between the south-west corner of the range and the north-west corner of the nave.

The west wall was seen in an expanded west end of 1970 trench 2 towards the south end of the range. Here, the main wall 1.22m (4ft) wide was almost entirely robbed apart from the attached internal abutment whose foundation survived; a possible robber trench might have represented the slightly deeper foundation for an external buttress (Fig 4.20). Near the north end of the west wall, 1970 trench 13 cut across a footing 1.52m (5ft) wide and part of an internal abutment, but evidence for an external buttress was inconclusive. 1971 trench 32 located the north-west corner.

The north wall was seen in 1970 trench 9 at the west side of the junction with the walls of the north range at its south-west corner. The north side of the north-west corner including a small buttress was seen in 1971 trench 32. 1970 trench 14 dug just to the north confirmed that the range did not extend any further north.

#### North-west compartment

An apparently square structure built integrally with the west range, on the west side at the north end, could be only cursorily explored at the end of the final 1971 season. The footings for its south wall were first seen in the mechanically excavated 1971 trench 24 as rough clunch blocks in orange mortar. The north wall in 1971 trench 32 was similarly constructed in an apparently single-period footing; there was no time to extend the trench west and ascertain whether the north wall of this compartment abutted a large west-facing corner buttress. A west wall was found in 1971 trench 33, but its record does not survive. It has been suggested on comparative grounds that the west range first floor would have been used as the prior's hall and great chamber. The structure projecting to the west might have housed a garderobe pit below his privy chamber (Glyn Coppack, *pers comm*). 1971 trench 32 also found several post-holes immediately north of the footing suggesting timber structures pre-dating the stone west range or scaffolding associated with its construction.

#### Link with nave

Another element, at the south end, closed the gap between the west range and the north wall of the nave with a structure presumably regulating access to the cloister, but with walls thick enough to support a considerable superstructure. Its west wall and part of a corner were seen in 1970 trench 10 and its south wall against the nave in 1970 trench 6. This area may be the outer parlour in its standard location in an Augustinian house, perhaps also containing the stair to the upper floor of the west range which would have been carried up to the church, probably in the space east of the corner buttress, allowing the parlour to be a straight passage (Glyn Coppack, *pers comm*).

#### Interior

An abutment on the centre of the south wall was aligned with two central piers, all only partially excavated; these allow a tentative reconstruction of an undercroft with seven bays. However, evidence from 1970 trench 2 suggests irregular or altered internal arrangements in need of clarification by more extensive investigations.

A stone drainage channel in 1970 trench 2 ran north-south adjacent to the east wall. Another ran east-west, centrally within the range in the north end of 1970 trench 7 (Fig 4.21) and outside it in 1971 trench 24. Both had covering slabs in place; their positions in redeposited clay over natural subsoil suggest a primary construction. In 1970 trench 2 clunch paving (3) probably *in situ* was found in the west side of the undercroft under burning and destruction rubble.

#### Finds summary

SF16 Iron reamer, E wall W range, Fig 7.21

SF315 Axe, 1970 trench 7, S end West range, Fig 7.21

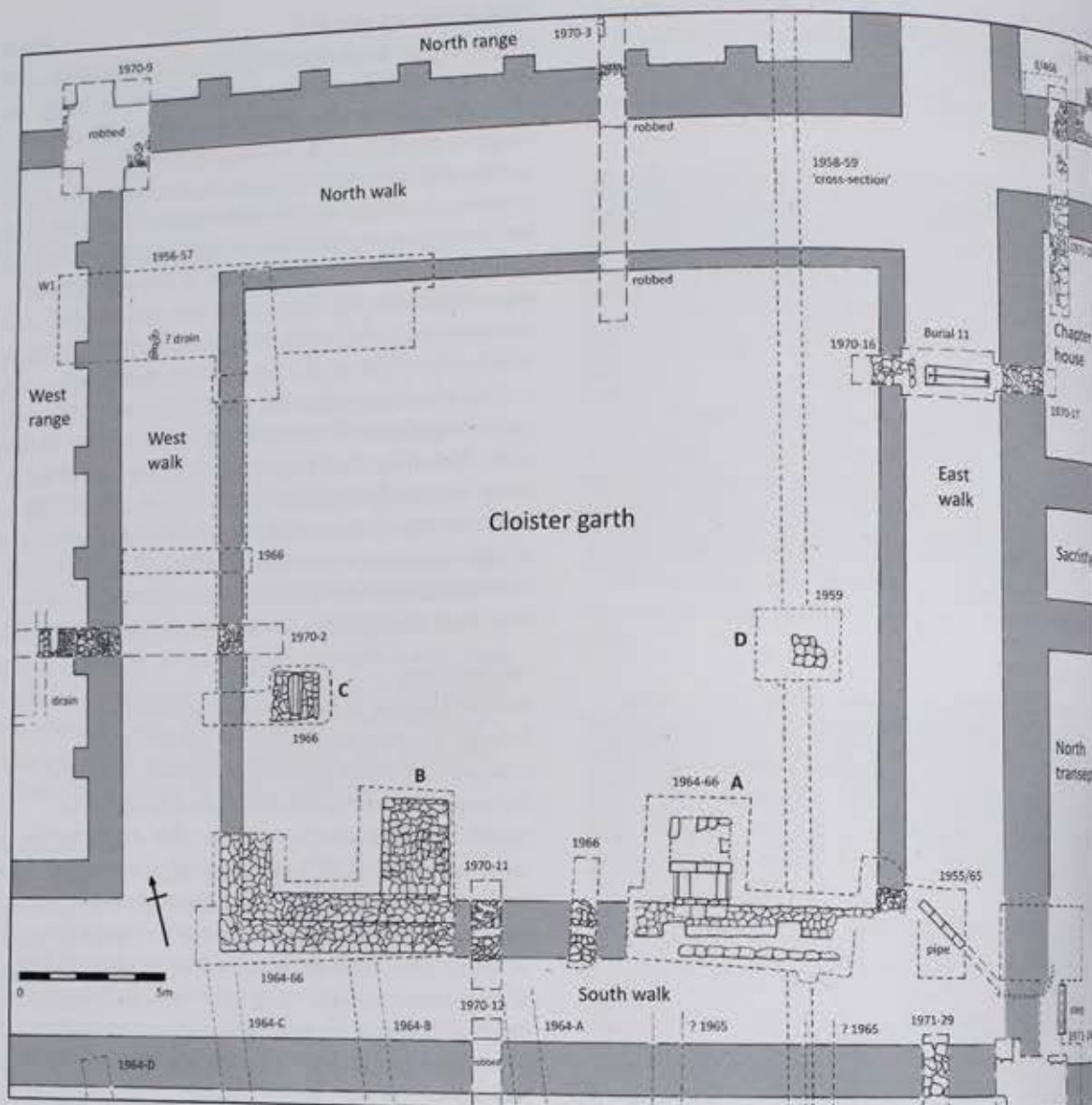


Fig 4.22 Plan of cloister

#### 4.10 Cloister walks and garth (Fig 4.22)

##### Plan

The cloister followed the conventional plan, with its lanes serving the usual purpose of providing communication within the core of the priory. At the north-east corner, slypes led through the north and east ranges, and another slype may have led out west from the south-west corner. In such an extensively robbed site, even more systematic excavations would have had difficulties in locating entrances to specific buildings, such as the processional doorways from the east and west cloister walks into the nave of the church. However, the 1950s' excavations uncovered a doorway from the south-east corner up a step into the north transept (Fig 3.23), and some floor tiles remained *in situ* in the cloister walk.

The space covered by the cloister – the walks and the garth they enclosed – was a square of sides about 28.5m (93ft 6in). Gauging the width of the walks is difficult due to variable robbing of the walls where trenches cut across them. Three of the walks – north, east and west – were about 3.3m to 3.8m (10ft 10in to 12ft 6in) wide. The south walk against the nave of the church was narrower at about 2.7m (8ft 10in).

##### Work narrative

The cloister and its walks were examined on several occasions. The north-west corner was excavated but not recognised in 1956–58 during a fruitless search for the west end of the church. The north-south 'cross-section' of 1958–59 cut across the garth close to the east side. Work on the south-east corner in the 1950s and 1960s, and on the south side and south-west corner in the 1960s, was

mainly wall-following areas. Not all these summary plans were does not refer to the west corner; the pla W1–W7 and associa notes. During 1970– cloister walk and ex across the east walk (Section 5 below).

South cloister walk Some of the series of the nave in 1964 south walk. In 1966 and associated butt east ends, though been examined. Ho understanding of th apparent in photog or cobbled surface



Fig 4.23 Stone structure, facing north, 1964



Fig 4.24 Stone structure, facing south, 1964

mainly wall-following with some expansions into small areas. Not all these exposures could be identified when summary plans were prepared in 1967: the written record does not refer to the L-shaped trench shown in the north-west corner; the plans do not show the 1956–58 trenches W1–W7 and associated work for which there are extensive notes. During 1970–71 trial trenches sectioned each cloister walk and extended across the adjacent range; that across the east walk found Burial 11 in a stone-lidded coffin (Section 5 below).

#### South cloister walk

Some of the series of trenches dug across the north wall of the nave in 1964 extended further north across the south walk. In 1966 two large areas of the garth wall and associated buttresses were cleared at its west and east ends, though little of the walk itself seems to have been examined. However, scanty 1960s' records hinder understanding of the south walk garth wall; some footings apparent in photographs could be either destruction rubble or cobbled surfaces. 1970 trench 11 found a substantial but



Fig 4.25 Cloister wall: south-west corner in bottom left-hand corner, facing east, 1966



Fig 4.23 Stone structure north of south cloister garth wall, east side, facing north, 1965



Fig 4.24 Stone structure north of south cloister garth wall, west side, facing south, 1966

heavily robbed footing (2) 0.7m (2ft 3in) wide divided from a cobbled area to the north by an apparent drain (3) in the form of a clay-filled west–east gully. The same footing can be seen on 1965 drawings of the east area; two small buttresses project into the cobbled area with the clay-filled gully running between them. In the west area, equivalent buttresses are not visible on photographs, though notes refer to the clay-filled gully. On Fig 4.22 the later 1960s' drawings are transcribed with their uncertainties.

The east area dug in 1964–66 uncovered the foundations of a large rectangular feature (A) lying clear of the north garth wall. It overlapped the edge of the cobbled area in front of it, but the exact relationship was not recorded. Notes, sketches and photographs show its south side was formed of three ashlar blocks (one robbed) 0.28m (11in) high on a mortared foundation. A row of smaller cut stones to the north separated them from two ashlar blocks marking the south ends of the sides, each externally chamfered, with an apparently originally paved area between them. A further row of blocks ran across the north side of the chamfered side blocks, about half way up the feature overall. The north part was largely robbed but sufficient blocks survived to indicate the north edge. The notes refer to 'slabs of marble' and 'flagstones' but these are not easily identified in monochrome photographs. The function of the structure supported by these foundations

## The claustral buildings

is uncertain. The excavators initially proposed a *lavabo* though later recognised that function would have belonged to an as yet undiscovered structure outside the refectory on the other side of the cloister garth (Figs 4.23, 4.24).

The west area dug in 1964–65 found a similar but slightly larger feature in an equivalent position (B). This had been more consistently robbed on to a rough stone base, removing potentially diagnostic features (Fig 4.25). These two sets of foundations on the south side have been interpreted as indications of flying buttresses supporting the north wall of the nave.

The south-east corner of the cloister was excavated in 1955 and re-excavated in 1965. There is a note that

'in approximately 1956/57 a lead pipe for water supply was found near the step leading into what is now known to be the North Transept. Close by there was a patch of tiles *in situ*, but odd designs as if they had been re-used to fill a damp place near the water pipe (Fig 4.26). Further north a few feet, there were the remains of some stone erection. Earlier this year we had sought the junction of west and east walls [sic] of the cloister. In order to tie in with new work, the step and tiles and some of the wall foundations found in previous years were re-uncovered. At the point where the junction of cloister walk walls was expected, some flat slabs were uncovered,



Fig 4.26 South-east corner of cloister: floor tiles outside door into north transept, 1957



Fig 4.27 East cloister walk: buttress, facing north-east, 1959

one in marble, running diagonally north-north-east. On removing the marble slab, a semi-circular stone gutter was disclosed. This covered gutter continued for 12ft (3.66m) from its north end [where it apparently finished in a soakaway], and then continued for 2ft (0.61m) as an open gutter, stone-lined. A further length of lead pipe was found just where the gutter changes direction to the east, and was left *in situ* (NBk 6, 82–3).

The 1950s' record describes work in Sq 1/9 when the excavation of the pipe was extended

'to a distance of 4ft (1.22m) from the curve. It was found to continue W in a laid culvert 6in (0.15m) wide x 2 ½ft (0.76m) in depth, and covered with roughly laid stones. The channel was mortared. The pipe was broken at the join x and a piece of wire was pushed up it to a distance of 2 ½ft (0.76m), when there seemed to be an obstruction or a bend. [It was concluded that] the concurrence of the water-supply pipe, the small platform of reused tiles near the doorway into the north transept, and the guttering, suggests that this was the site of a drinking water tap. A supply of clean water would be required for use at the Altars during Mass, for the ceremonial sprinkling of the Altars and the buildings during the Sunday Procession, and for the Feet Washing by the Prior on Maundy Thursday' (NBk3, 16; AR 1965).

### East cloister walk

This must have been encountered in the early 1950s' excavations of the north transept and chapter house, but little can be gleaned from the surviving site records. The 'cross-section' of 1958–59 ran parallel with and just west

of the garth wall, cutting across what was described as a platform of laid stones, 2.13m (7ft) square, 0.38m (15in) below ground level (D). The squared stones had been robbed above the foundation level on the east side; in the centre was a rough rubble and mortar foundation. Its position is too far out into the garth to be the end of a buttress, so it may have been the foundation for another freestanding flying buttress like the two proposed on the south side and the one on the east (Fig 4.27). At the south end of the walk in the south-east corner of the cloister, the stub end of the turn of the garth wall northwards before it had been robbed out was seen in 1965. The sketch plan gave a width of 0.9m (3ft). 1970 trenches 16 and 17 cut across the east walk slightly south of the centre of the entrance to the chapter house. Here it was probably 3.5m (11ft 6in) wide with a 0.7m (2ft 3in) thick garth wall.

#### North cloister walk

In 1956, the north-west corner of the cloister had been discovered but not recognised in trenches W1–W7 which had sought the west front of the church but actually cut across the west side of the cloister. What notebooks recorded as the north wall of the nave was actually the south wall of the north cloister walk. In 1958 the 'cross-section' cut across the walk though it was not recognised until later. It was also seen at the south end of 1970 trench 3 which showed how the original slope down to the stream had been terraced to make level platforms for the cloister and, lower down, for the refectory. The robbed wall between the cloister garth and the north cloister walk was 0.86m (2ft 10in) wide.

#### West cloister walk

In 1956–58, on the assumption that what was later recognised as the chapter house was actually the east end of the priory church, its west end was sought by means of a west–east row of seven 2.74m (9ft) wide trenches (W1–W7). These were laid out just north of a line taken from the centre of the inside wall at the east end of the assumed church, with the eastern limit of W7 about 32m (105ft) away from it. As the trenches progressed westwards, surprise at the lack of a return west wall of the nave grew. Eventually one was found, 'just at edge of ridge where ground begins to slope down to west' (NBk 2, 35). It was 'only 2ft (0.61m) wide compared with massive foundations at the east of the church' (NBk 3, 13), reflecting its real identity as the east wall of the west cloister walk in front of the slightly recessed west range itself. Work further west in W2 found what may have been a north–south drain in the cloister walk and in W1 the east wall of the west range itself. The corner junction of the north and west cloister walk walls was exposed in W4, and the latter followed south for at least 16ft (4.88m). The project then ran out of steam with a note that



Fig 4.28 West cloister walk in foreground, facing west, trench 2 1970

'it is beginning to be doubtful if the wall foundations already found are indeed those of the west wall of the church' (NBk 3, 28).

The plan of the work in 1956–58 shows that the 'mechanical scoop' employed probably went as far south as 1970 trench 2 where its efforts might be represented by (4), the black earth and rubble fill of a shallow ditch or trench cut into the destruction spread above topsoil, but not, apparently, going deep enough to locate the actual robbed footing. The walk as seen in 1970 trench 2 with the west range was 3.3m (11ft) wide but with a much narrower 1m (3ft 6in) garth wall. The possible drain noted in W2 may have been residually represented by a pair of stones in (11) seen in the north section in an equivalent position, though not extending across the width of the trench. 1970 trench 2 ran between two earlier exposures, probably in 1966, recorded on the 1967 summary plans but not supported by any detailed surviving records (Fig 4.28). In the north one, the wall footing or robber trench for the garth wall was also about 1m (3ft 6in) but in the south one it was narrower at 0.7m (2ft 3in). East of the south exposure was an apparently freestanding foundation 1.6m (5ft 3in) square with a drainage channel running north–south across its centre, similar to those seen on the south and east sides (C).

## The claustral buildings

### Selected finds

#### Registered finds

- SF14 Disk stamped cable pattern, W6, NW corner cloister  
 SF15 Iron skillet, part leg, W7, NW corner cloister  
 SF17 Lead architectural join, W6, NW corner cloister, Fig 7.9  
 SF18 Buckle, W7, NW corner cloister  
 SF28 Lead architectural join, Sqs 1/39, 1/27, S side chapter house  
 SF97 Toiletry set, S cloister walk garth wall  
 SF103 Whetstone, W6, NW corner cloister  
 SF109 Buckle plate, no context  
 SF141 Rotary key, Sq 2/335, NE cloister garth

#### Coins

- (4) SF33 Silver farthing, Edward I, 1272–1307, NW of entrance from cloister to N transept [unavailable]  
 (9) SF285 Half penny, Edward IV, 1471–83, London, Sq 2/340, cloister garth E side  
 (11) SF96 Irish penny of Edward I, Waterford, c 1279–95, Trench A S cloister wall  
 (14) SF61 Jetton, English 'sterling' type after 1302, Trench A–B, S cloister walk  
 (15) SF95 Jetton, English 'sterling' type, Trench A–B, S cloister walk

### Architectural fragments

#### Several pieces of marble pillar

- (AF36) a piece of capital with the lead key for joining it with the supporting column from the garth  
 (AF10) a column base from the north-west corner of the garth  
 (AF35) a 'lion' label stop from the garth  
 (AF38) a small piece of carved label from the garth  
 (211) fragment of a stamped roof tile from the garth (Sq 2/318)  
 B5:T1 cloister arcade – impost of coupled capital

#### Floor tiles

Small area of late 14th-century tiling in south-east corner of cloister, west of entrance into north transept

## 4.11 Other drainage

### Other associated drains

Several drains have been described with individual buildings, taking water from their roofs, such as the south transept chapels. Other water flows used lead pipes, some of which had already been discovered and sold in past years, as Gilbert White noted in Letter XXV of the *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*:

'There is a person now living who had been employed formerly in digging for these pipes, and once discovered several yards, which they sold for old lead'.

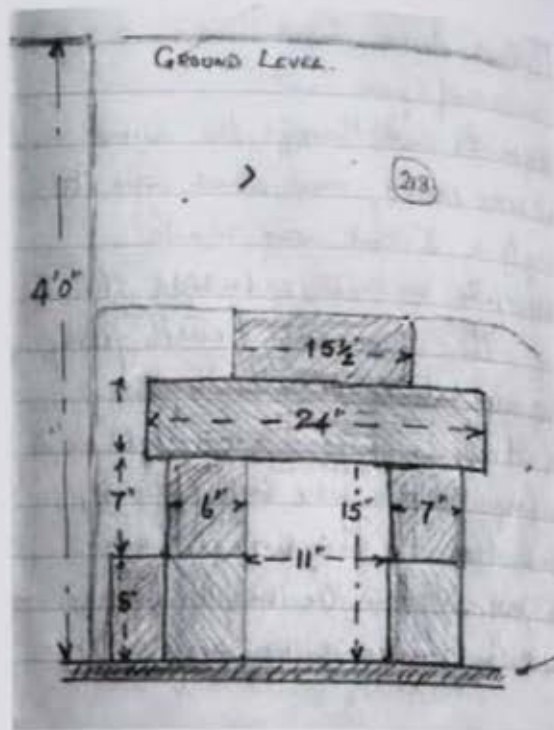


Fig 4.29 Section across drain on west side of canons' latrine, facing south, 1960

Another drain ran outside the west wall of the canons' latrine (see Fig 4.6), probably taking roof water from it and parts of the east range (Fig 4.29). Notes of work in 1960–62 describe a pavement of flagstones, 0.69m x 0.71m (2ft 3in x 2ft 4in) at a depth of 1.22m (4ft), with two sets of upright stones 0.3m (11in) apart carrying a 0.61m (24in) flat stone mortared slab. When the rubble filling the space between the upright stones had been removed, the worked stones continued northwards, forming a channel 0.3m (11in) wide and 0.38m (15in) high (Sqs 2/683 I,J,K). Probing with rods into the sediment showed it extended at least 0.28m (11in) further north. Its extent south is unknown: the cover had been robbed but some side-supporting stones remained (Fig 4.30). The 1971 mechanical trial trench 25 also cut across this drain. References to large stone slabs on the west side of the west wall at the north end, the north standing on a foundation connected with the wall, and the south having roof tiles mortared on it (Sq 2/661Q), may also refer to it.

Adjacent to the 'hump' where the main drain was first discovered in 1961 was a rectangular stone 'platform', 2.74m (9ft) in length and averaging 1.82m (6ft) in width. It covered another arched drain, 0.3m x 0.3m (12in x 12in), with a flagstone floor, running at an angle towards the drain or sewer. This drain was extended by another of the same dimensions, again with a flagstone floor, built of massive stone blocks 0.75m x 0.45m (2ft 6in x 1ft 6in). Its flat cover was 1.2m (3ft 6in) below the present ground level, under a filling of rammed clay. It was traced for

1.82m (6ft) towards the house where earlier work had found a subsidiary drain from its roof. The floor of a drain 0.38m wide, was traced round the east side of the east walls of Chapter house towards the chapter house. It had never been extended and had been placed on blocks constituted of another length of the water from the roof and joining the main drain. It was covered and filled so must have been removed when the roofs were removed. It was part of a step or an drain.

Fig 4.30 Drain: culvert transept / chapel N3

Fig 4.31 Drain: channel chapel N2 and north

1.82m (6ft) towards the north-east corner of the chapter house where earlier excavations in 1961 on its south side had found a subsidiary drain taking rain water in an easterly direction from its roofs and those of other buildings.

The floor of a drain, 1.3m below ground level and 0.38m wide, was traced running south-north, curving to go round the east end of Chapel N1, running parallel with the east walls of Chapels N2 and N3, and falling northwards towards the chapter house. This suggests that N3 had never been extended eastwards to match S3. Clunch blocks had been placed on the edge of flagstones; thick clunch blocks constituted capping (Fig 4.30). This is probably another length of the drain found in 1961, carrying surface water from the roofs of church, chapels and chapter house, and joining the main drain south of the canons' latrine. It was covered and filled with broken roof tiles and masonry so must have been itself robbed by the time the chapel roofs were removed. One piece of worked stone, possibly part of a step or an altar, was found *in situ* as a capping to the drain.



Fig 4.30 Drain: culvert and cap stone in section, east of north transept / chapel N3, Sq 3/93, facing south, 1969



Fig 4.31 Drain: channel stone found in external area east of chapel N2 and north of chapel B1, Sq 3/73, 1969

If a single piece of stone channel set in grey clay, lying west of it and at right angles, was *in situ*, it may have represented a subsidiary feeder to the longer drain taking water from the roofs of chapels N2 and N3 (Fig 4.31).

#### Selected finds

##### Registered finds

- SF37 Rotary key, trial near stream, Fig 7.16
- SF65 Thimble, Sq 2/771C, main drain, Fig 7.21
- SF66 Bone plaque, Sq 2/771C, main drain, Fig 7.21
- SF68 Spoon, Sq 2/771D, main drain, Fig 7.18
- SF71 Spigot or tap, Sq 2/771BC, main drain, Fig 7.18
- SF77 Purse hanger, main drain, Fig 7.27
- SF79 Buckle, main drain
- SF80 Thimble, main drain, Fig 7.21
- SF92 *Agnus Dei* mould, Sq 2/772, main drain, Fig 7.28
- SF99 Small worked bone object carved to shape of acorn, location unknown
- SF125.1 ? Skimmer, main drain
- SF136 Spur, Sq 2/771E, main drain
- SF149 Spoon stem, main drain
- SF170 Rotary key, trial near stream, Fig 7.16
- SF171 Rotary key, trial near stream, Fig 7.16
- SF212 Whetstone fragment, Sq 2/771D, main drain
- SF213 Whetstone fragment, Sq 2/771D, main drain

##### Coins

- (5) Groat, pre-Treaty series D (1352-53), Edward III, Sq 2/779, main drain
- (6) Groat, pre-Treaty series D (1352-53), Edward III, Sq 2/772, bottom of main drain
- (22) Jetton (stolen on site), Sq 2/771D, main drain
- (24) Jetton, Sq 2/772, main drain

##### Vessel glass

Moorhouse 1972

##### Pottery

Several pots, a few complete, Section 7.1

A mammiform costrel was found with the small neck and the two loop suspension handles missing

##### Architectural fragments

Several *graffiti* on architectural fragments: man and horse and Lord on Cross

##### Faunal remains

SF218 pike bones, main drain

SF299 bones from 'cooking pot' found in main drain: mostly mole, two pigeon, one cattle tooth, mandible of puppy



Fig 5.1 Locations of ex

### 5.1 Introduction

This section combines contributions from Burials and Coffins. Human remains were discovered by Harriet Jacklin; G. Chapman commented on them from 1953–69.

Thirteen identifiable locations, the north transept, the west end of the nave, (1). Two empty rectangular pits in the presbytery and the Standards of excavation from the presbytery and (2) were probably reinterred. A systematic osteological survey of the nave and the

## 5 Burials and coffins

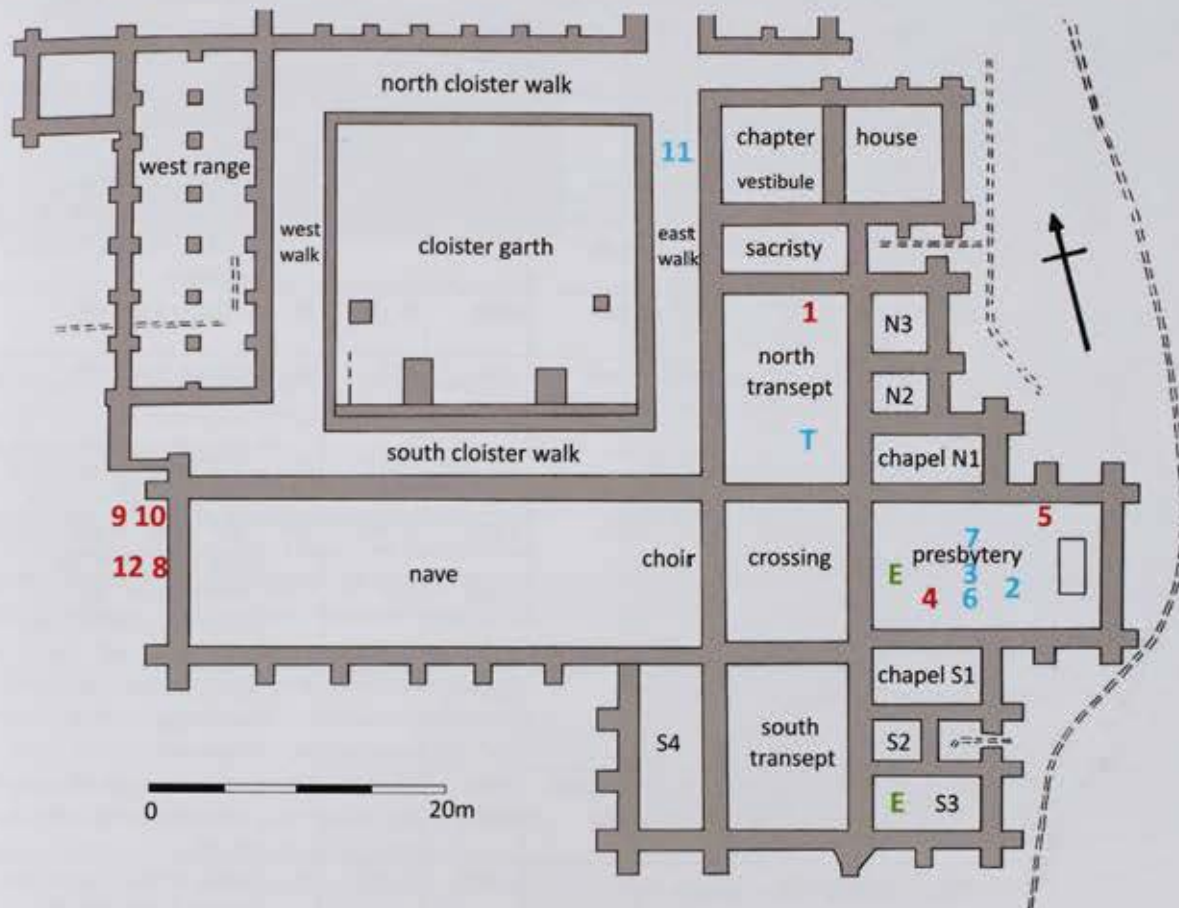


Fig 5.1 Locations of excavated burials; blue = stone coffins, E = empty grave

### 5.1 Introduction

This section combines the excavation report with specialist contributions from Brian and Moira Gittos on the stone coffins. Human remains found in 1970–71 were reported by Harriet Jacklin; Garrard Cole also advised. Simon Chapman commented on the records of human remains from 1953–69.

Thirteen identifiable inhumations were found at four locations, the north transept (1), the presbytery (6), outside the west end of the nave (5), and in the east cloister walk (1). Two empty rectangular depressions were also found, in the presbytery and the south transept chapel S3 (Fig 5.1). Standards of excavation, recording and analysis varied: burials from the presbytery and the north transept except for Burial 2 were probably reinterred after cursory examinations; there was systematic osteological analysis of those from the west end of the nave and the east cloister walk.

Of six stone coffins, three were in the presbytery, one in the cloister walk (Burial 11), one in the north transept and another (now fragmentary) was first noticed in the former orchard over the south transept. Two of the presbytery coffins were fabricated from separate stone blocks and the other four were monolithic. The presbytery coffins were reburied and the cloister walk coffin and its broken lid are now displayed in Selborne parish church. The present location of the north transept coffin is unknown. The parish church also hosts five coffin lids likely to have pre-dated foundation of the priory and described in Appendix C.

The Victoria County History (1908, 4–16) noted 'several stone coffins which have now been removed to Selborne church'. It is uncertain whether this refers to pieces relocated some time previously and today in or outside the church as described in Appendix C or to coffins newly moved in what was then recent memory, and not surviving today. If the latter, it may be relevant that R T Gunther's

## Burials and coffins

No	Year	Location	Coffin	Present	Age	Sex	Comment
1	1953	N transept	not stone; traces of black wool and woollen cloth	most	mature	M	attrib Prior Thomas Fairwise d. 1472; bronze buckle; reburied without lifting
2	1962	presbytery	stone: lid 6+ slabs, 3 blocks each side, shaped head block, foot block, no stone floor; 13th or 14th century	most	25-42	F	the 'Unknown Lady'; alleged trepanning; bones at HCMS
3	1966	presbytery	stone: mortar layer for lost lid; 3 thin blocks each side, shaped head block, foot block, no stone floor; 13th or 14th century	most	mature	?	few records; probably backfilled without lifting and examination
4	1967	presbytery	not stone: nails suggest wooden	many	25?	M?	probably backfilled
5	1967	presbytery	not stone, no signs wooden, possible definition of head by semi-circle stones	some	70+?	?	shallow burial; middle of skeleton missing; probably backfilled
6	1967	presbytery	stone: no lid, one piece, shaped head; 13th or 14th century	most	60-70?	M?	probably backfilled
7	1967	presbytery	wooden, rectangular brown stain and coffin nails; grain of bottom planks	many	45?	M?	probably backfilled
8	1970	W end nave	probably wooden, two nails	50-75%	25-30	M	1970 trench 1, partly in S section; lifted, at HCMS
9	1970	W end nave	wooden, staining and two nails	<25%	21-46	M?	1970 trench 6; legs and feet only; lifted, at HCMS
10a	1970	W end nave	no evidence	<25%	18+	?	1970 trench 6; parts of lower legs and feet only; lifted, at HCMS
10b	1970	W end nave	no evidence	<25%	17+	?	1970 trench 6; parts of lower legs and feet only; lifted, at HCMS
11	1971	E clstr walk	stone: one-piece coffin and cracked one-piece decorated lid; c 1300	75-100%	36-42	F	1970 trench 16; lifted, coffin in parish church, bones at HCMS
12	1970	W end nave	no evidence	< 50%	6-10	?	1970 trench 1 but see text below; lifted, at HCMS
T	1901	N transept	stone, lid and coffin both cracked; lid decoration; no information about occupant; 13th or first half 14th century	-	-	-	probably excavated by Bowdler Sharpe 1901; recorded by Gunther 1905 Fig 8.16)

Fig 5.2 Table of burials

sketch plan (Magdalen College P233/2/MS2/1) of work by Richard Bowdler Sharpe in 1901 (Fig 8.16) indicates a 'burial ground' approximately in the position of the west extension to the south transept, and a 'tomb' at the south end of the north transept (T on Fig 5.1).

### 5.2 North transept: Burial 1, 1953 (Figs 5.3, 5.4)

A single burial was found during the first weeks of work in 1953 near the north-east internal corner of what was later recognised as the north transept. Notes by Rev Dr W S Scott, then directing the work, are the main source of the following information.

A subsidence in the floor make-up identified the burial cut 0.91m (3ft) into clay with traces of sand above and

below it. There was no stone coffin, and no traces of a wooden coffin were mentioned. The skeleton lay on its back with arms crossed, the right lying upon the left, and fully extended; it was 1.68m (5ft 6in) long in the grave. Its spine had been bent by osteoarthritis and there was a large cavity, presumably caries, in the second molar on the 'left hand side of the lower jaw'. No other systematic measurements or study was undertaken, nor was the sex of the individual determined, though the proposed identification as Prior Thomas Fairwise (1471-72) suggests it was male. 'Strands of black wool' discovered outside the leg bones, and 'traces of woollen cloth' seen to the right of the skull during the reburial do not survive. A bronze buckle (SF1) with some pieces of leather adhering, lying just below the intertwined finger bones, was tentatively dated by



Fig 5.3 Burial 1: subsidence in north transept for grave, 1953

the British Museum to the end of the 15th century. Belt buckles are a not uncommon find with monastic burials (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005, 84–5).

The bones were not removed from the grave, which was refilled later in 1953, after a service at which Dr. Scott officiated. Two containers were added, one holding loose bones and the other 'a dated account of the discovery'. A coffin-like oblong of rough stones was constructed on the site of the grave at modern ground level, floored with some of the best examples of the decorated floor tiles set in hard cement. By 1971 their surfaces had begun to disintegrate.

At the time of discovery the skeleton was identified and widely publicised as that of Prior Thomas Fairwise (1471–72). Dating the buckle close to the dissolution of the priory in 1483 narrows down the list of possible owners, always assuming it is a prior's burial, which perhaps might not be expected in the north transept (David Robinson *pers comm*) but there is no other evidence to identify a specific individual. It could equally well be Prior John Morton (1468–71) or Prior Peter Berne (1472–78, and granted pension). For lack of an opportunity to discuss this identification with those who originally made it, hindsight offers the suggestion that the romantic *timbre* of the name may have outweighed or obscured the unmemorability implied in the observation of Gilbert White (Letter XXI, p294) that:

'Whatever might have been the abilities and disposition of Prior Fairwise, it could not have been in his power to have brought about any material reformation in the Priory of Selborne, because he departed this life in the month of August 1472, before he had presided one twelvemonth'.

Simon Chapman noted the lack of explicit criteria for diagnosing the age and sex of this individual, and commented that the strands of fabric found associated with the burial could equally have been more standard clothing or even cloth or shroud-like coverings used

during the burial. The description of arthritic changes in the skeleton does, however, lend some support to identification of this individual as a mature adult.



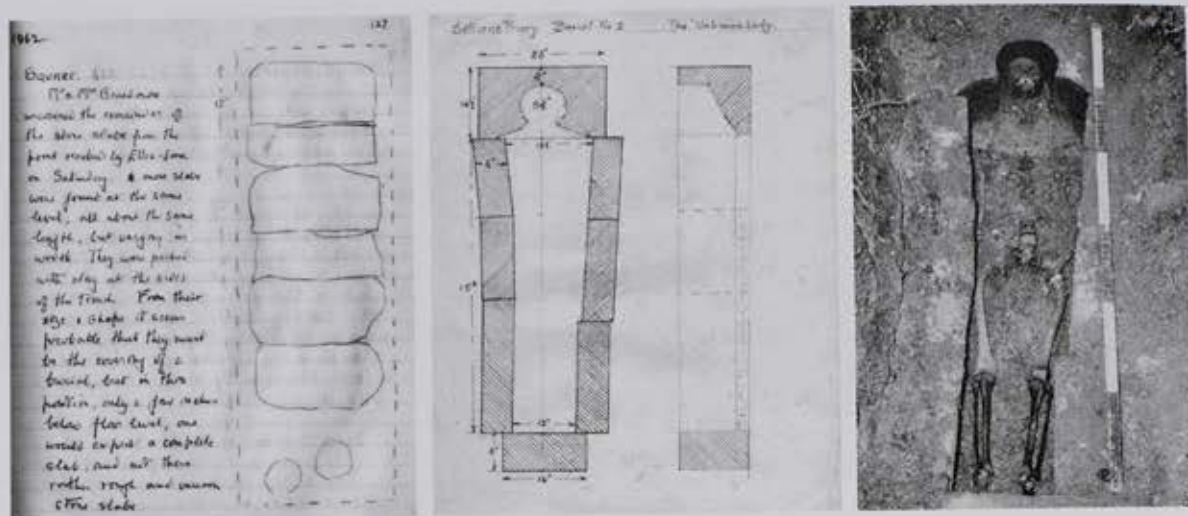
Fig 5.4 Burial 1: north transept, 1953

### 5.3 Presbytery: Burials 2–7, 1962–67

#### Burial 2 (Figs 5.5–5.8)

Trial trenching to establish the location of the 'choir' / presbytery identified Burial 2, described as the 'Unknown Lady', in the middle of the compartment near the south wall. Detailed notes about its discovery in 1962 and work on it in 1963 are missing. Two drawings of the open coffin are available, a tidied up version shown below, and a sketch with probably erroneous dimensions. A notebook sketch shows six rectangular 'rough and uneven' stone slabs laid across the top of the coffin which comprised three rectangular stone blocks on each side with numbering marks and a single stone at each end. There was no floor. The shaped headstone in a single block at the upper end had a deep, rounded recess to receive the head and shoulders, with an inclined floor to support them and tilt them forward. A stone sample has been identified as local Malmstone, probably from Selborne itself (Dr Tim Palmer, *pers comm* 2011). The coffin was cut into floor make-up

## Burials and coffins



Figs 5.5-7 Burial 2 presbytery 1962: left, covering slabs; centre, coffin; right, burial in coffin

layers and packed round with clay. It was filled with yellow clay, and the burial rested upon clay at a level about 0.3m (1ft) below the lid. The coffin dates to the 13th or 14th century.

On the basis of photographs, R L S Bruce-Mitford observed (*pers comm* 1963) that the coffin may have been made up from a headstone previously used for another burial. He suggested that the discrepancy at the shoulders where the headstone joined the side of the coffin (Fig 5.6) indicated that the original coffin was intended for a person of larger proportions; he noted a discrepancy in finish and tooling between the stone used for the head and the sides. If the headstone had been reused, the burial would be later than any date attributed to it. Had it been curved externally rather than squared off, it might have belonged to the 15th century.

R Gilyard Beer (*pers comm* 1963) observed that coffins at Chertsey Abbey had been built in a similar manner. He noted that the Selborne example differed from the majority of those made from many stones in its possession of a head recess carefully cut from a single stone. Only four of these were found at Chertsey, and in all cases the head recess was of rougher construction. He felt that slab-built coffins with head recesses cut from a single stone could not be dated more closely than generally to the 13th and 14th centuries and even then unreliably. He supplied photographs from Chertsey Abbey showing nine burials mostly in stone coffins; these are in the site archive, unannotated except by faint red numbers, and should not be confused with unidentified Selborne Priory burials.

The coffin contained the skeleton of a female which fitted the space precisely. A photograph shows the skeleton laid out with the arms crossed over the lower chest (Fig 5.7). All the bones were removed for examination but it is not known whether they were subsequently reinterred. All other information about the burial comes from reports made by

various people whose advice was sought during the 1960s. A notable find associated with this burial was an oak leaf in lead with some traces of gold paint (SF85).

At the time of excavation, the burial was sent for examination to at least four specialists whose full reports are in the site archive. The Medical School of St Thomas' Hospital in London reported in 1962 that the bones consisted of the greater part of the skeleton of one

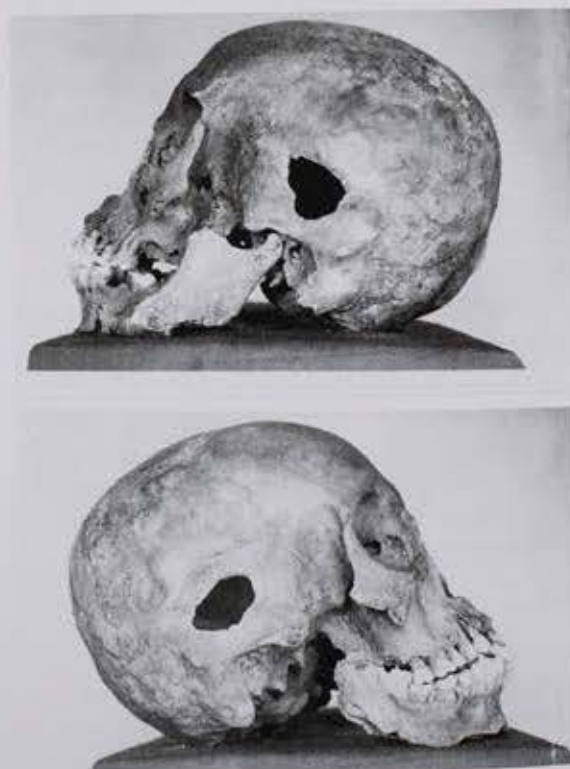


Fig 5.8 Burial 2: skull (Edwin Plomer), 1962

individual. The cranium, part of the mandible, part of the right scapula, the upper end of the right humerus, one innominate bone, both femora, both tibiae, both fibulae, the sacrum and a number of small bones were well preserved. The other major bones of the limbs were imperfect. The remains represented a square-headed, right-handed woman of about 35 years, 5ft 5in tall, of moderate muscular development. She did not habitually squat on her haunches nor did she wear constricting footwear. She suffered from gross dental sepsis and a stiff right shoulder that may have resulted from an old injury. Two holes, in the left and right temporal squama, were interpreted as trephining holes (Fig 5.8). On this last point, the other three specialists, the Department of Pathology at Bristol University in 1964, Dr Gilbert Causey of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1965 and Mr D R Brothwell in 1969, disagreed, seeing them as *post-mortem* damage.

In 2012 Garrard Cole compared an unmarked skeleton with the available photographs of those found between 1953 and 1969. It had been erroneously reboxed with Burial 11, presumably when the Priory room at the Wakes Museum was dismantled. It was definitely not a find from the 1970–71 excavations, and was easily separated because it was unmarked and poorly washed, while Burial 11 had been washed and clearly marked and was shown in site records. He found a convincing correlation with Burial 2, circumstantially supported by the particular attention given to the 'Unknown Lady'.

Harriet Jacklin found a fair state of preservation with most of the skeleton apart from the skull available for analysis, though the assemblage does include an extra femoral head. The individual was identified as a female aged 25–42½ years old and between 1.56m and 1.64m (5ft 1½in and 5ft 4½in) tall. She suffered from a healed fracture affecting her right arm, with osteoarthritis affecting the adjacent joint, presumably a result of the fracture. There was evidence of problems with her right knee and lower back.

At the time of discovery, a female burial in a relatively prominent position near the main altar prompted considerable speculation as to her identity. Efforts were made to associate it with one Joan le Foke, whose mortal remains the prior and convent sought to have exhumed from the churchyard at Greatham in 1274 and reburied at Selborne, even though the record indicates the priory was unsuccessful (Macray 1891, 65).

'Research by some of our "diggers", now at Universities, has ... proved that she cannot be Ela Longespee II (founder in 1284 of the Chantry at the Priory) as they have produced evidence that she was buried in the Abbey Church of Osney, near Oxford' (AR 1962).

There was also speculation that she was a member of the de Gurdon family. Two of the consultees independently

noted the disturbed appearance of the skeleton and wondered whether it signified reburial, but the issue remains unresolved.

Simon Chapman commented on the lack of explicit criteria for determining age and sex, though some reliance should be placed on the judgment of eminent consultees. He suspected that a 'stiff right shoulder' might indicate more evidence of arthritis / osteophytosis in that area than might be expected due to age. He noted that today the absence of so called 'squatting facets' would never be used as evidence that a person 'did not squat', and that modern specialists would usually avoid commenting on left or right handedness, as the indicators are not clear enough. He considered the comments from St Thomas' Hospital that the individual suffered from 'epileptic fits' as something of a flight of fancy, based solely on the discovery of two holes in the cranium which had been interpreted as surgical trephinations. If the first operation had been unsuccessful and the woman was killed by the second attempt, given some delay between them, one would expect to see some sort of bone healing at the site of the first hole and none at all in the second hole. Since these details were not cited as evidence for trephination, the conclusion of Causey and Brothwell that these holes were caused *post-mortem* seems more likely.

#### Burial 3 (Figs 5.9, 5.10)

The only record of Burial 3 comes from the Annual Report for 1966; excavation log-book notes are missing. Towards

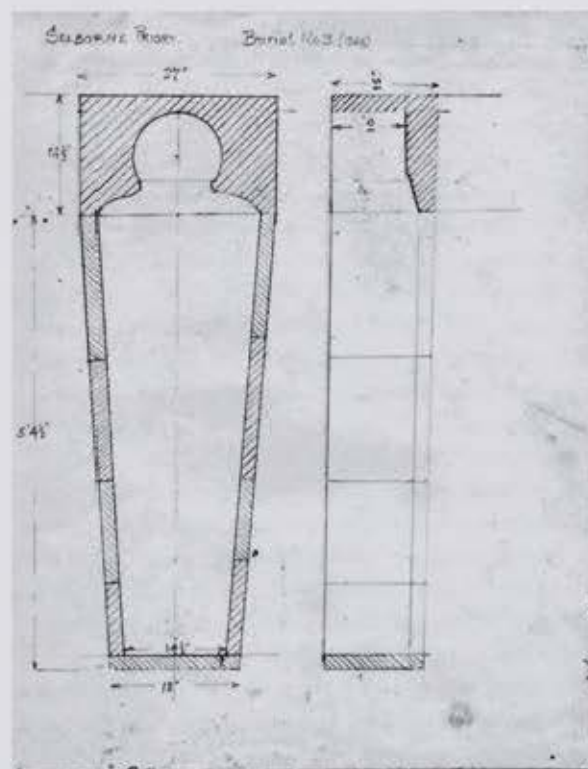


Fig 5.9 Burial 3: presbytery, coffin, 1966



Fig 5.10 Burial 3: presbytery, coffin, 1966

the end of the season, Mr Van Colle, an amateur 'dowser', visited the site, and indicated several places in the 'choir' where he claimed that 'stone structures' would be found. The site archive has a separate file on the matter. Testing his theory, a small excavation made some 0.6m (2ft) below the floor level of the church found a stone-built coffin with an internal length of 1.93m (6ft 4in). The coffin structure originally had a stone lid, as evidenced by the overall presence of a mortar layer. Like Burial 2, it was not carved from a solid piece of stone but fabricated from eight separate blocks, three at each side and one at each end, with the upper block shaped to receive the head and shoulders of the deceased. There was an integrally carved support for the head, partly flat and partly sloping. Like Burial 2, there was no stone floor and the apparently complete skeleton lay on a clay bed. The drawing made by the excavators shows the side walls as being composed of very thin, well-fitting, blocks. However, the surviving photographs suggest that the coffin may have been backfilled without full excavation and the thickness of the blocks may not have been established. The extent of the mortar layer visible in the photographs suggests that the individual blocks were, indeed, thicker than shown in the drawing and, therefore, more like those of Burial 2. A stone sample from this burial has been identified as local Malmstone, probably from Selborne itself (Dr Tim Palmer, *pers comm* 2011). The coffin dates to the 13th or 14th century.

Notes indicate the coffin contained the skeleton of a well-built man, with teeth in good condition. The main bones were in their natural position, but the scattered bones of the hands prompted the suggestion that the coffin had been opened many years after death in a search for rings. The skeleton was lying on a clay floor, and covered by clay containing tile fragments including a perfect example of tile Knapp 10 / Norton 46 (two lions, rampant, addorsed, with tails joined). The coffin was backfilled at the end of the season and it is assumed that the skeleton was left within it. There are no records of any osteological examination.

Simon Chapman comments on the lack of reference to the bone features upon which identification of a 'well-built male' depend, other than the assumption that a skeleton large and robust in appearance was expected to be male compared with the generally more gracile appearance of female skeletons. The suggestion that the coffin had been opened later to conduct a 'ring search', as an explanation for the disturbance of the hand bones, however, should be taken with a pinch of salt. They could just as easily have been disturbed by rodents (which can get through the smallest of cracks); decomposition of the muscles and tendons of the hand itself could have led to bone movement.

#### Burial 4 (Fig 5.11)

Burial 4 was located as part of the box grid excavations over the area of the presbytery, close to its south wall and the south-west corner. The only notes are from the Annual Report for 1967. No signs of a coffin were recognised, but



Fig 5.11 Burial 4: presbytery, 1967

the presence of nails would suggest a wooden one. The bones were described as those of a well-built man of 1.8m (5ft 11in) tall, and aged about 25, with badly rotted and decayed teeth, but the criteria by which these conclusions were reached are not apparent. Simon Chapman commented that again the sex diagnosis seems to be based on the robustness of the bones, rather than actual sexual dimorphism of the pelvis or skull. This would be an unacceptable method of diagnosis today as it ignores the possibility of a robust female.

**Burial 5 (Fig 5.12)**

Burial 5, also found in 1967, was diagonally opposite Burial 4, in the north-east corner of the presbytery, between the wall and the corner of the high altar. Notes indicate no stone coffin and no signs of a wooden one, but there seemed to be a protective half-circle of rough stones placed round the limits of the skull. The grave was shallow, barely under floor level, and the skull was shattered. The individual appeared to be over 70, and about 1.73m (5ft 8in) tall, with much *ante-mortem* tooth loss. All bones between the pelvis and lower thigh were missing; the excavator suggested that this had been caused by posts supporting scaffolding erected during the demolition of the church, but none of the surviving bones had been



Fig 5.12 Burial 5: presbytery, 1967

disturbed. Simon Chapman noted the absence of criteria for diagnosing stature, age and sex, and that *ante-mortem* tooth loss is a very poor indicator of age, especially during the medieval period.

**Burial 6 (Figs 5.13, 5.14)**

Located in 1967 close to the south wall of the presbytery, between Burials 4 and 2, the coffin for Burial 6 was carved out of one piece of limestone from the Great Oolite series, similar but not identical to Bath stone (Dr Tim Palmer, *pers comm* 2011), with a shaped recess for the head and an integrally carved head support. There was a small drainage hole located centrally in the base of the coffin (Fig 5.13). The coffin was complete, well-cut and finished, and dated to the 13th or 14th century. No lid was present. Overall it measured about 2.03m (6ft 8in), and internally 1.88m (6ft 2in). The well-preserved skeleton was noted as that of a narrow-shouldered man, in his 60s or 70s, with small, bad and worn teeth. Simon Chapman again noted the lack of explicit criteria for these determinations of age and sex.

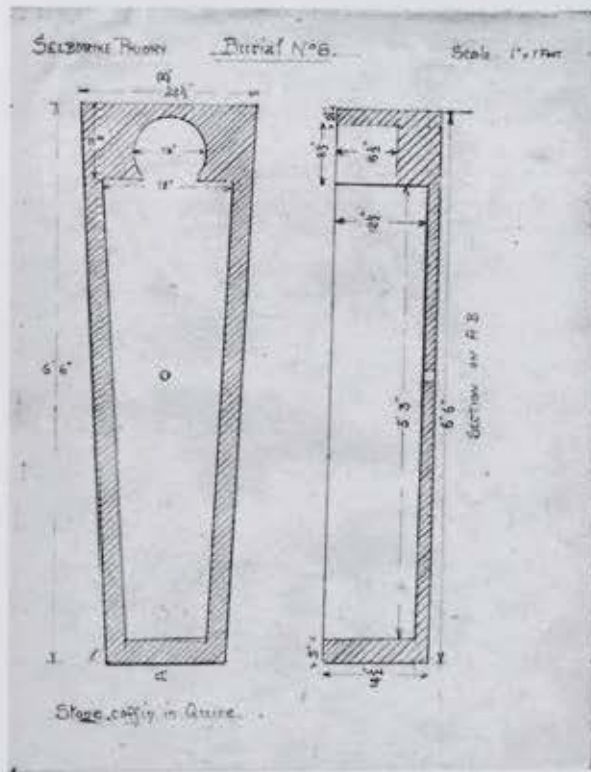


Fig 5.13 Burial 6: presbytery, coffin, 1967



Fig 5.14 Burial 6: presbytery, burial in coffin, 1967



Fig 5.15 Burial 7: presbytery, burial, 1967

**Burial 7 (Figs 5.15, 5.16)**

Burial 7 was in line with Burials 6 and 3, just north of the centre of the presbytery and about one-third its length from the west end. Notes record a wooden coffin in the form of a simple oblong box indicated by a thin brown stain in the clay, with nails lying at the four corners and at intervals down each side; the grain of the bottom boards was apparent. The location of the bones against the stain on the north side suggested to the excavators that the coffin had been tilted while being lowered into the grave.

The bones were those of a man aged about 45 judging by the skull sutures, and about 1.9m (6ft 3in) tall; his teeth were in excellent condition (Fig 5.16), the lower wisdom teeth unerupted and the cusps of those in the upper jaw unworn. The present location of the bones is unknown. Simon Chapman noted the lack of cited criteria for the age or sex determination. He considers the age of 45 may be an over estimate since the wisdom teeth are described as 'not yet erupted'; these usually begin to emerge from about the age of 30. The use of cranial sutures to age skeletons is also a method that is now regarded as inaccurate.

**Empty grave**

A possible robbed grave in the presbytery was described in the 1967 Annual Report as an outline of pinkish mortar 2.06m (6ft 9in) long, 0.76m (2ft 6in) wide at the west end



Fig 5.16 Burial 7: presbytery, skull, 1967

and tapering to 0.61m  
3 and 7. Removal of h  
profile consistent with  
there was speculation  
grave of Joan le Foke

**5.4 Stone coffins  
(Figs 5.17-5.19)**

Probably before 195  
in the orchard that g  
chapels until the late  
then unknown. It is



Fig 5.17 Stone coffin



Fig 5.18 Stone coffin

and tapering to 0.61m (2ft) at the east end, west of Burials 3 and 7. Removal of hard-packed rubble fill left a plan and profile consistent with a removed coffin. As with Burial 2 there was speculation about whether this was the original grave of Joan le Foke.

#### 5.4 Stone coffins exhumed before 1953 (Figs 5.17–5.19)

Probably before 1953, a stone coffin had been placed in the orchard that grew over the south transept and its chapels until the late 1960s. Its original location was even then unknown. It is almost certainly the coffin illustrated

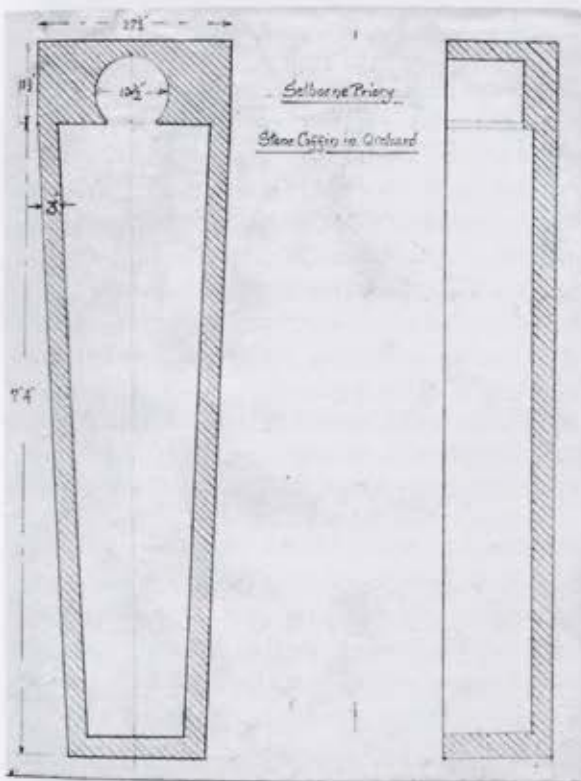


Fig 5.17 Stone coffin in orchard, drawing



Fig 5.18 Stone coffin in orchard, photograph

on p247 of Sir William Jardine's 1853 edition of Gilbert White's *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (White, G, 1789e). The sketch shows the coffin complete but broken and overgrown and is captioned 'Stone coffin in the Farm House Garden'. The surviving fragments, now located behind Priory Farm, are obscured by lichen and debris but are probably of a local limestone. The upper end was shaped to accept the head but it is not known if any drainage holes were present. Its date is 13th or 14th century.

R T Gunther's notes (Appendix F) mention that 'circ. 1897 there were in the Priory tenant's garden lying about and exposed to the weather ... a stone coffin ...'. Later in the 20th century an orchard grew around it and its presence there was noted during the excavations of the 1960s. Its original location was unknown to Gunther; it is as likely to have originated in the burial-shaped depressions at the west end of the presbytery, the south transept chapel S3 or any other location on site. Gunther also drew a coffin, with and without its broken lid (Fig 5.19), identified on his plan of 1905 showing the excavations of Dr Richard Bowdler Sharpe in 1901 as a 'Tomb' probably in the south end of the north transept.

The coffin is shown complete with a shaped head recess but no drainage hole. It was of similar shape and dimensions to the coffins from the orchard and from Burial 6 and was extensively cracked or broken. The sides of the

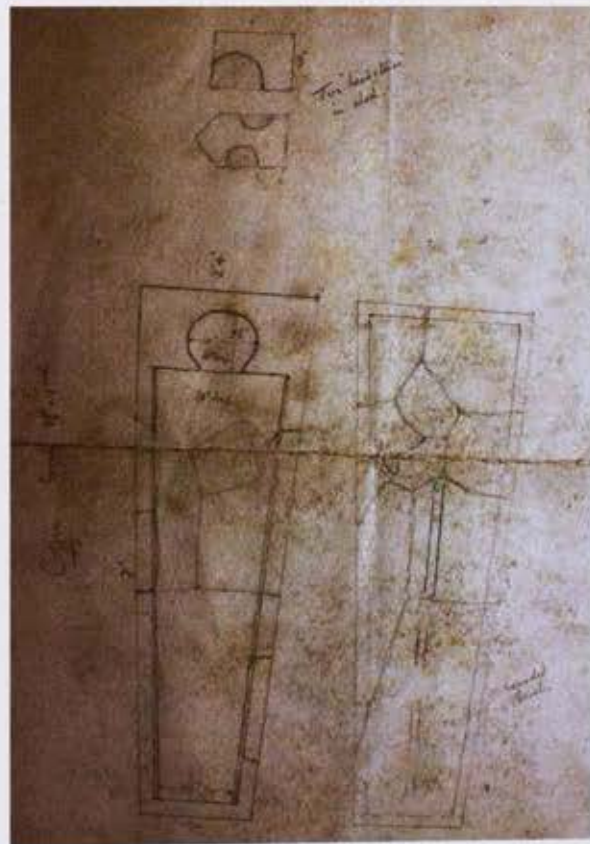


Fig 5.19 Coffin, the 'Tomb' in Gunther's 1905 sketch

## Burials and coffins

body cavity are drawn as closely spaced parallel lines. Given that the coffin is shown in plan, these could indicate a slight rebate or, more likely, that the sides were a little narrower at the top than at the base.

The lid was complete but also badly cracked, particularly at the head end. The edges are described as being of 'rounded bevel' form, presumably meaning they were a concave, single hollow chamfer. The lid was decorated with a cross, the stem being shown but not the calvary or the head, although there is a hint of the latter, provided by a small curved feature at the lower left side. This could be interpreted as the original head having been composed of four circles or a related, broken circle 'bracelet' form. It is unclear whether the cross was carved in relief or simply incised.

Several pieces of a Purbeck marble cross slab were amongst other stones including pieces of the above-mentioned stone coffin behind Priory Farm. They show traces of a hollow chamfer (insufficient survives to determine whether this was single or double) and on one there remains a small section of a relief shaft. These items are not mentioned by other writers and their history is unknown. They date from the 13th or first half of the 14th century. Gunther's drawing of the 'Tomb' also includes two separate pieces of coffin head (Fig 5.19).

### 5.5 Outside the west end of the church: Burials 8–10, 12: 1970–71

#### 1970 trench 1 – Burial 8 (Fig 5.20)

Burial 8 was found in trench 1, intended to locate the west wall of the nave. It was in a shallow cut into the natural clay, with the top of the pelvis 0.89m (2ft 11in) below modern ground level. Rust stains for two iron nails suggested a wooden coffin. The body had been laid out with arms folded straight across the chest, the left higher than the right. The skull and right-hand side of the chest were in the south section; the lower humerus and feet



Fig 5.20 Burial 8 outside west end of church, trench 1 1970

had been removed by the 1964 trench G or Z, though there is no record of their discovery. There were no other associated objects. The height of the individual in the trench was estimated at about 1.52m (5ft).

Harriet Jacklin reported a good state of preservation with 50–75% of the skeleton available for analysis, excluding skull, shoulders and feet. The individual was male, aged 25–30 years old, and between 1.63m and 1.71m (5ft 4in and 5ft 7in). He had three adjacent healed fractures affecting his left ribs caused by direct trauma at the same time, and two healed fractures in the right hand, one caused at the same time and one during childhood. A compression fracture affected the right patella. Evidence of back problems (schmorls nodes and osteophytosis) may have been a result of activity or trauma rather than age, given the young age of the individual.

#### 1970 trench 1 – Burial 12

Burial 12, marked as coming from 1970 trench 1, is a source of some confusion because there is no record of it in thorough trench notes and no recollection of it on the part of the excavators. If it is from Selborne Priory it must have come from the west end of the church so it is reported here, but the possibility remains that it is intrusive. Harriet Jacklin reported a fair state of preservation, with under half of the skeleton available for analysis. She identified a child aged 6–10 years, but due to the young age of the remains its sex could not be determined. There was dental evidence for a period of ill-health or biological stress between the ages of 2½ and 3½ years.

#### 1970 trench 6 – Burial 9 (Fig 5.21)

Burial 9 was found in trench 6, which located the north-west corner of the nave. It was in the south-west part of the trench, outside the church, about 0.76m (1ft 6in) below modern ground and slightly cut into a clay sub-soil surface. A wooden coffin was indicated by staining and two nails by the feet. Only the femurs downwards were recovered. Harriet Jacklin reported a possible male, aged 21–46 years old, between 1.69m and 1.77m (5ft 6½in and 5ft 9½in) in height. The individual suffered from severe osteomyelitis in the left hip socket, active at the time of death. The lower right leg (right tibia and fibula) was also affected by a badly healed spiral fracture which would have taken considerable time to heal and may have resulted in a slight limp.

#### 1970 trench 6 – Burials 10a, 10b (Fig 5.21)

Only the lower legs and feet of Burial 10a just to the north in trench 6 were recovered, and there was no evidence for a coffin. Harriet Jacklin identified an adult of unknown sex aged 18 or more years, between 1.74m and 1.83m (5ft 8½in and 6ft) in height. The individual suffered from periostitis, an inflammation of the bone membrane in the right tibia, active at time of death, and also from early stage osteoarthritis affecting the right fibula. The excavators noted that 10A was associated with other human remains

Fig 5.22 Burial 9 and 10b

and raised the possibility of a post-excavation disturbance as less than 2.5m (8ft 2in) or more years, affecting the right hand, Harriet Jacklin reported a fair state of preservation, with under half of the skeleton available for analysis. She identified a child aged 6–10 years, but due to the young age of the remains its sex could not be determined. There was dental evidence for a period of ill-health or biological stress between the ages of 2½ and 3½ years.

### 5.6 East cloister

Trench 16, cut in the walk opposite the east end of the church, revealed a stone coffin with the head cut into the cloister garth wall. The coffin was 1.0m (3ft 3in) wide by 0.5m (1ft 6in) deep and the feet were slightly askew. The coffin extended 1.5m (4ft 9in) into the walk, and the top level for the wall was yellow sandy m...

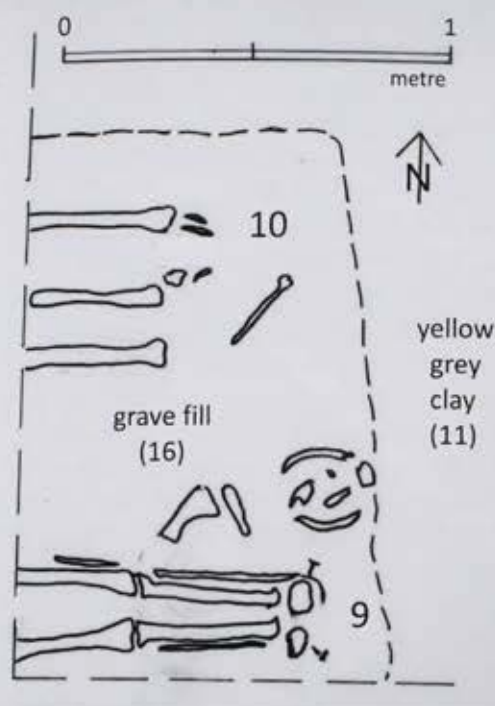


Fig 5.21 Burials 9 and 10 outside west end of church, trench 6 1970

and raised the possibility of identifying other individuals in post-excavation analysis. Harriet Jacklin identified Burial 10b as less than 25% of an adult of unknown sex, aged 17 or more years, with indications of healed periostitis affecting the right tibia.

Harriet Jacklin reported on a further 22 bones, whole, part, or reconstructed, from the same area as Burials 9 and 10, and probably disturbed by their insertion. These included the legs of an individual aged 2–6 at death, the adult-sized bones of possibly one individual aged more than 13 years, a tibia and fibula of an individual aged more than 17 years, two pelvises, possibly one male and one female, and the adult-sized cranium of a possible female.

### 5.6 East cloister walk: Burial 11 (Figs 5.22–5.26)

Trial trench 16, cut in 1970–71 across the east cloister walk opposite the entrance to the chapter house, found a stone coffin with a largely complete but broken lid, its head cut into the below-ground offset for the footing of the cloister garth wall. The cloister walk at this point was 3m (9ft 10in) wide between the edges of foundations (west) and robber trench (east), and the coffin was laid with its foot slightly askew to the north. Orientated west–east, the coffin extended across most of the width of the cloister walk, and the top surface of its lid may represent the floor level for the walk. The garth wall footing with its distinctive yellow sandy mortar was thickened at this point by a

foundation structure in a dirty white mortar, small parts of which were clearly built over the head of the stone coffin, perhaps some kind of memorial structure against the west face of the east wall. There were slight indications that the head of the coffin was in place before the foundation of the putative memorial was constructed, and that the lid was partly cut through that foundation; taken with the poor fit of the skeleton in the coffin, these may suggest that the coffin was reused, with the remains of its previous occupant having been translated to another location.

Coffin and lid, which date from c 1300 or a little later, were removed from site and placed on display in the Wakes Museum at Selborne. When the priory display area was converted into a tea room, it was set up in the north transept of the parish church of St Mary and the skeleton was stored with the other finds.

The coffin was 1.98m (6ft 6in) long overall, and slightly tapering towards the foot, with overall width measurements at head and foot of 0.58m (1ft 11in) and 0.46m (1ft 6in) respectively. It was carved from a single piece of what is probably the local Malmstone, with a shaped end to house the head but without any head support or drainage holes. The coffin was well-carved and finished but with some slight irregularity in the profile of the shoulders.

The lid was a good fit for the coffin but without any rebate to secure it. It was badly broken, with a piece missing from its centre. The pattern of cracks suggested that it may have been broken by the collapse of the cloister roof and this would be consistent with the suggestion that the lid was originally part of the pavement of the cloister walk and therefore exposed. It was incised with a cross, having a straight-arm head with trefoil terminals of round



Fig 5.22 Burial 11: coffin lid incised cross head, 1971 (Brian and Moira Gittos)

## Burials and coffins



Fig 5.23 Burial 11: coffin lid incised cross arched base, 1971 (Brian and Moira Gittos)

buds (Fig 5.22). It had neither knob nor lower terminal to the cross head, with the shaft simply standing on an arched base (Fig 5.23).

There were traces of an incised line, forming a narrow border around the edge of the slab. The cross shaft and calvary were not aligned on the centre-line of the lid, but angled well to the right (from the observer's standpoint at the foot); this appeared to be an error on the part of the carver as there was a centrally-placed reference line on the slab's lower vertical edge not respected in execution. However, the

positioning of the cross head did respect a similar reference line, located at the top of the slab (Fig 5.22).

The burial had been laid in the coffin with the head fully in the headrest. The skeleton measured about 1.52m (5ft) in length so the coffin was about 0.38m (1ft 3in) too long (Fig 5.25). The arms were laid straight across the chest. There were no associated artefacts.

Ann Stirland reported on the skeleton in 1985 and Simon Chapman reviewed her report in 2011; both documents are in the site archive, together with a detailed report by Harriet Jacklin which is summarised here. Virtually all the skeleton was available for analysis. The individual was identified as a female, aged 36–42 years old. Metric analysis of the cranium suggests she was broad or round headed with a narrow face. Her height was calculated as between 1.51m and 1.58m (4ft 11in–5ft 2in). She suffered from two dental cavities in the left mandible and third molar, severe calculus affecting the dentition of her right upper teeth and two abscesses below the right and left mandibles, and had severe dark brown staining affecting several teeth. There was dental evidence for a period of ill-health or biological stress between the ages of 1½ and 3 years.

Pathological conditions included early stage osteoarthritis affecting her lower back, some evidence for damage to vertebral discs, and a congenital condition which meant the fifth lumbar vertebra was fused at birth to the sacrum.



Fig 5.24 Burial 11: east cloister walk, coffin with lid, facing north-west, trench 16 1971



Fig 5.25 Burial 11: east cloister walk, coffin without lid, facing south-east trench 16 1971



Fig 5.26 Burial 11: east cloister walk, coffin without burial, facing west trench 16 1971

### 5.7 Discussion of burials

An assemblage of 13 individuals or part-individuals and a small quantity of displaced bones, of which only a minority was available for analysis to current standards, was found in the presbytery, north transept, eastern cloister walk and outside the west end of the church. There were no investigations in the most usual area for the main monastic cemetery, outside the east end of the church and chapter house. The five-sixths of the south transept chapels seen in 1971 trench 21 were not fully excavated down to natural subsoil, but sufficient floor make-up was removed to make it likely that the empty grave in the outer south transept chapel (S3) was the only burial. Indeed, the importance of that sole burial may have directly affected the design of the church (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005, 57) by doubling the length of that chapel compared with its counterpart off the north transept. There are no records of any burials found in the corresponding north transept chapels. Both the north transept and the chapter house were extensively explored in the 1950s and 1960s, but the depth of excavation is not clear, so the single burial (No 1) found in the transept need not have been the only one in those compartments. The chapter house, a 'consistent focal point for burial', was favoured for that purpose by monastic superiors until the 13th century (*ibid*, 56, 59). Another favoured place was the

## Burials and coffins

east cloister walk outside the chapter house, where Burial 11, possibly a wealthy patroness or corrodian, may not be the only privileged person located there. At Titchfield Abbey coffin-slabs covering the graves of Richard and Isaac, the first two abbots, were in the east walk in front of the chapter house (Graham & Rigold 1954, 11). At Selborne there will have been other burials outside the west end of the church, the nearest part of that building to the probable location of the main gatehouse into the precinct. The remains there, including a child and possibly a female, may be, as might be expected in that position (Gilchrist & Sloane 2005, 32), of lay people associated with the priory, such as servants and labourers on the home farm and their families.

The patterning of burials can be considered in the presbytery and outside the west end of the church. Six burials in the presbytery included one in a single-piece carved stone coffin, two in coffins made of stone pieces and a shaped headpiece, two with indications of a wooden coffin, and one without any evidence of a container. Five were found lidless but without obvious evidence of decayed wooden covers. Their distribution would have been influenced by furnishings and patterns of usage, and the extent of their discovery depended upon the extent to which a pattern of grid squares was excavated. It is tempting to see room for five rows each of four burials but that may assume a greater level of long-term planning than was actually the case. Burials 6, 3, and 7 make a good row in Squares 3/2, 3/12, and 3/22, but Sq 3/32 was not excavated; running west–east Burials 4 and 6 are equidistant from the south wall but Burial 2 is further away from it. It is more probable that layout generally and individual locations were influenced piecemeal by the identity of the person buried and their status within the community, whether as resident or benefactor. The lack

### 5.8 Discussion of coffins Brian and Moira Gittos

There does not appear to have been any thorough and systematic study of the development and typology of medieval stone coffins. Captain Willimore attempted an overview of the subject in which he presented an array of ten shape variations and provided comparative material from across Britain and with a wide date range. He gave a thorough description of the Gloucestershire examples, providing a catalogue and a series of sketches (Willimore 1939). More recently, Gilchrist and Sloane, in their seminal work *Requiem* (2005), have presented evidence from Lincoln Cathedral which shows a development sequence for coffins (albeit from a small sample). Nine stone coffins excavated from the vestibule of Lincoln Cathedral Chapter House were grouped into three broad categories, identified

of good dating evidence and associated finds rules out comment on the sequence of interment or any intentional zoning for different types of person. The presence of an apparently empty grave cut in what might have been the western row hints at further complexities.

Outside the west end of the church, Burials 8, 10a and 10b were part of the row nearest the west wall itself. Burial 8 may have been the southern-most or next to southern-most of a row immediately outside the west end of the nave, between the two west-facing corner buttresses.

The status of particular burials is an issue for all those in the church and Burial 11 in the east cloister walk. None can be identified as named individuals, despite hopes for Prior Thomas Fairwise as Burial 1 and Joan le Foke as Burial 2. The female confined Burial 11 may be a benefactress or wealthy corrodian (or both), but the documentation is largely silent about such people. The presbytery and north transept burials are presumably those of priors or senior obedientaries, but there is no obvious correlation between location and material of coffin to differentiate amongst them. Burial 2 in the presbytery (the 'Unknown Lady') may be similar to Burial 11 in the eastern cloister walk.

The status of burial place for persons of presumably lesser rank is emphasised by the desirability of securing burial close to the church immediately west of the nave, as seen in the reburial of the co-mingled group of earlier burials disturbed by the insertion of Burials 9 and 10. A different reflection of status, or family concern, might explain the post-burial disturbance in the eastern arm of the church, where two graves appear to have been emptied. Maybe these were one-off relocations at the behest of families during the life of the priory, or removals to other established graveyards at the dissolution of the priory, perhaps with the dismantling of the buildings.

as belonging to the 13th or early 14th centuries, the late 14th century, or the 15th century. The latest type was represented by a single coffin. Within this framework, the Selborne coffins belong to the first category.

Stone coffins or sarcophagi have been employed from Roman times and numerous examples survive from the 12th century. Such early material was not represented in the Lincoln group and is also not pertinent to Selborne because of the priory's foundation date of 1233. One feature which some of the Selborne coffins appear to lack is the provision of drainage holes in the floor, to allow the products of putrefaction to drain away. However, the coffin from Burial 6 had one small hole (Fig 5.13). The great majority of the Gloucestershire coffins had drainage holes and so their apparent absence from most of the Selborne coffins could be unusual. However, the sketches of the coffins provided by the original excavators do not appear



Fig 5.27 Burials at Ch Beer to Rev George

to be accurate. The shows it intact and shows it to have been century. Minor details therefore have been from Burial 11 does by its lid, this cannot. It is fortunate that coffins have been examined by a professional the samples from Selborne itself limestone similar to suggests that the coffin from afar, probably with the two coffins. The coffins of separate pieces of monolithic block. Such described in *Requiem* for graves in external examples are given Colchester, dating randomly shaped narrow, pieces use



Fig 5.27 Burials at Chertsey Abbey, image supplied by R Gilyard Beer to Rev George Knapp

to be accurate. The drawing of the 'coffin in the Orchard' shows it intact and pristine, whereas Jardine's illustration shows it to have been broken by the middle of the 19th century. Minor details, such as drainage holes, may not therefore have been included. The photograph of the coffin from Burial 11 does not show any and as it is now covered by its lid, this cannot be checked.

It is fortunate that stone samples from three of the coffins have been preserved. They have recently been examined by a professional geologist, who reported that the samples from Burials 2 and 3 were of local limestone from Selborne itself but the coffin of Burial 6 was an oolitic limestone similar but not identical to Bath stone. This suggests that the coffin from Burial 6 had been brought from afar, probably at considerable cost when compared with the two coffins fabricated in local stone.

The coffins of Burials 2 and 3 were constructed from separate pieces of stone, rather than carved from a monolithic block. Stone-lined graves, or stone cists, are described in *Requiem* as the most common wall-lining for graves in external cemeteries (*op cit*, 134 n6). Typical examples are given for the cemetery of St John's Abbey, Colchester, dating from 1095 to 1200, with multiple randomly shaped stones defining the graves and special, narrow, pieces used to surround the head, in the form of

an open-sided box. Work by John Blair has suggested that such stone-lined graves were introduced into England from south-east France, arriving initially at Winchester c 1000 (Blair 1999). They occur throughout Britain, right up to, but not later than, the Reformation. Both the Selborne coffins would appear to belong to the stone cist tradition but show development and refinement such as to resemble a monolithic coffin, with only a small number of ashlar blocks forming the sides and foot and a fully shaped piece for the head. Clearly, it would have been less costly to produce a coffin in this way and it would also provide a uniform support for locating the coffin lid, as was the case with Burial 3. This method of construction would have been particularly useful in areas that lacked suitable freestone for carving full-size coffins. However, despite these advantages, this technique never appears to have been commonly employed. In fact, the only other examples of which we are aware that closely resemble those from Selborne were discovered by excavation at Chertsey Abbey (Surrey). Five burials on that site are described as constructed from separate stones with shaped head blocks (Burials G2, G4, G5, G6 and G11) (Poulton 1988, 40–44). Smaller, masonry, blocks have been used for the sides than at Selborne. They were described as (probably) chalk blocks 1ft (30cm) square by 4in (10cm) thick. The shaped head blocks were also smaller and closer fitting to the head (Fig 5.27).

Unfortunately, the Chertsey burials are not closely dated and, therefore, cannot provide dating evidence for Selborne. Nevertheless, the great rarity of this form of burial underscores the importance of the Selborne burials which appear superior in execution to those at Chertsey. A published sketch of a burial from Glastonbury Abbey shows a close-fitting shaped head block but lacks the stones to complete the coffin shape (Mantle 1911, 48–49).

The evolution and dating of coffin lids decorated with crosses is better understood than that of the coffins themselves and they have received much greater attention in the literature. They are considerably more numerous and exhibit a degree of detail which more readily lends itself to analysis. Unfortunately, coffins rarely survive with their lids intact and the Selborne example (Burial 11) is, therefore, particularly valuable. Despite its damaged condition, the complete, incised scheme has been preserved (Fig 5.22). No element of the composition is in itself unusual but the overall design still lacks an exact parallel. The straight arm cross with trefoil terminals is a common form, particularly in the south of England. It was a head type employed by the Purbeck marblers (Type F), usually in low relief but an incised case occurs at Tarrant Crawford, Dorset (Badham *et al* 1994). Nearer to Selborne, at Meon Stoke (Hampshire), is a Purbeck marble coffin with a damaged lid that appears to have had a cross head of this type. The Selborne cross head is unusual in omitting the terminal at the point where the cross head meets the stem, but examples of

## Burials and coffins

this are known, such as the inlaid cross at Exeter Cathedral commemorating Bishop Peter Quivel, who died in 1291, illustrated in, for example, Lack *et al* (2000, 126). Crosses commonly (and Purbeck marble crosses almost invariably) have an additional device (knop) on the stem, just below the cross head but this is not present at Selborne. The most common form of base is the stepped calvary but here a trefoil arch has been substituted. This is uncommon in the south of England but should be seen as reflecting contemporary architectural detail. There are numerous cases of arched bases on slabs in the northern counties but they are usually of ogee form, dating from the first half of the 14th century. An arched base, similar to but larger than Selborne, was a feature of a slab from Minchin Buckland Priory (Somerset). This was in the collection of the Somerset County Museum at Taunton but has not been seen for some years. However, that example was in combination with a foliate cross head and also possessed a marginal inscription. The Selborne slab is bounded by an incised line which recalls the beaded edges present on some Purbeck

marble coffin lids. It is a less common feature on cross slabs in general but in this case may relate to the setting out of painted detail (now lost) such as an inscription.

Given that the slab was discovered laid across the pavement of the east cloister walk, any painted detail would soon have worn away. Interestingly, the marginal incised line is missing in places, where the edge of the slab appears scuffed, as if due to wear. Taking into account all the comparative evidence, it is suggested that the coffin and lid from Burial 11 date from c 1300.

In conclusion, the Selborne coffins are not closely datable, with the exception of that belonging to Burial 11 which, on account of the design on its lid, probably dates from c 1300. The cross shows an unusual combination of features. The two coffins constructed from separate stones are a rare form of burial, due to their use of shaped head pieces and large, regular, blocks in the side walls. The only similar examples known to the authors are associated with five burials at Chertsey Abbey.

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### 6.1 Architecture

#### Summary

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## 6 Architectural fittings and decoration

This section covers the major decorative fittings in the form of architectural stonework including *graffiti*, floor tiles and window glass including lead came, and wall plaster. Related registered finds categorised as building materials and services are reported in Section 7.4 below. The report on architectural stonework also refers to Section 8.5 below which discusses the reconstruction of the priory buildings.

### 6.1 Architectural stonework Mark Samuel

#### Summary

Extant and recorded architectural fragments are used to place the architecture of this foundation in its art-historical context, consistent with the foundation date of 1233. Evidence of any later work is scanty. The priory is believed to have been badly managed and endowed with encumbered property and this would have hindered any improvements to the buildings. With few exceptions, the recovered material is waste from the process of reworking for reuse. Despite its fragmentary nature, variations in mouldings and types of finishing tools are apparent, but these most probably reflect seasonal work and changes in personnel. A single protracted building campaign occurred, following a single clear design.

Architectural fragments are most valuable where they can be related to an excavated structure of known purpose. During the excavation, Peter Kidson realised through examination of a vault boss that a master from Eure-et-Loire was involved in the construction of the presbytery (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 274). Other traits in the sculpture (Dr Tudor-Craig, *pers comm*) are characteristic of the *West Country School* and lost capitals recorded in the 1950s resembled examples recorded by Sharpe (1846) at nearby Netley Abbey. The cloister arcade can be restored in detail and throws light on a cross-channel trade in prefabricated 'marble' cloister elements. While sculpture is poorly represented, one fragment may derive from a subject such as *Christ as the Lion of Judah*. Fragments of plaster (Section 6.7 below) indicate that some plaster wall surfaces were adorned with *bastard joints* (false ashlar scribing) and figurative work, as well as whitewash. Mouldings were, however, apparently whitewashed from the outset. This contrasts with, for example, the Cistercian house of Stratford Langthorne where 13th-century mouldings were picked out in different colours (Samuel 2004, 137).

Study of the priory plan (Section 8.5 below) supports the premise that Augustinian priories fell into 'size classes'. Selborne was an intermediate-scale foundation where a 100ft square formed the basis of the cloister. Study of a sample of other contemporary English houses of canons

regular supports the use of the *square root of two* in the determination of the plan of the priory from the mid-12th century; a French origin for this method is suspected.

#### Introduction

A specialist report on the architectural fragments was commissioned to take '... matters as far as the records and surviving items permit'. This required 'the preparation of an archive report and, based on it, text and illustrations for a published specialist report'. Visits to the Hampshire Museums Service HQ at Chilcomb House allowed additional recording; illustration work was allowed for from the outset and the possibility of reconstruction drawings was raised. Comparison with other Augustinian houses was an implicit requirement, but it was not at first clear if this course could be usefully pursued.

No 'standard' assemblage of architectural fragments is ever found; the material from Selborne Priory is, however, at the 'problematic' end of the spectrum, though the fragments were by the standards of the 1950s and 1960s well recorded. The chapter house revealed *in situ* bases of a fine Purbeck marble dividing arcade complete with lead 'spacers' that secured the polished clustered shafts. Respond capitals were also found. The subsequent fate of many stone elements is uncertain, but photography and other records allow detailed reconstruction. The most significant single architectural element from Selborne came from the presbytery. The art-historical context of this vault boss was set out by Tudor-Craig in the 1980s (in Alexander & Binski 1987, 301) but its architectural context had yet to be understood. The subsequent loss of many of the larger items has been offset by the quality of the site records, particularly the photographic component.

Virtually all fragments derived from destruction deposits, and only plain quoins, chamfered plinths and three bases were found *in situ*, none in the church. The destruction deposits were usually shovelled away without record until the final seasons of excavation; however many pieces were carefully marked with grid square numbers or were ascribed compartment names, improving the informative nature of the assemblage.

#### Background to the Report

The brief noted that 'many of these [fragments] were drawn, sketched or measured, in the site notebooks of 1953–69'. Deirdre Le Faye's rationalisation of those notebooks after 1969 compiled a numbered list of 67 items, 28 of which had notebook sketches. This included most of the items with particular mouldings or decorations, many of which could be located for writing this report. In

## Architectural fittings and decoration

1970–71, a preliminary catalogue was compiled for the 'bulk' material stored on site in the barn comprising 78 pieces of vaulting rib in Selborne clunch and 22 pieces of column shaft in Petworth marble; little or none of this material was still available in 2010.

The degree of retention varied from season to season. The chapter house pier bases and capital responds found in 1956 seem to have been reburied. The degree of marking was variable, but the attention paid to this aspect proved vital, given the limitations of the recording system employed. The marking had not always survived and a small amount of unmarked material from other sites may have found its way into the Selborne material. These items are included at the author's discretion. To ease analysis, a new numbering and classification system has been introduced.

The nature of the material, with the exception of the presbytery/chancel area, is typical of the reject matter of demolished monastic houses. Careful processing for reuse occurred at or near the source building. Projecting moulding elements were struck off blocks destined for use elsewhere. These tailings can yield much useful information.

The method of recording on the site, dominated by 'wall following' in the early years, meant that where marking exists, the fragment can be roughly located by the first system of grid square numbers (see above). Sometimes a cardinal 'N' or 'E' allows refinement of this location. This relatively superior marking system was only operated on the east range. In 1966, complete vaulting elements were found lying where they had fallen in the presbytery, but no such marking occurred. The scattering of material during the demolition process hindered attempts to relate fragments to particular structures. The specialised nature of some elements, such as those of the cloister arcade, permitted them to be related despite their wide scattering across the site.

The residue of surviving stones had been amalgamated by the Hampshire County Museum Service at its store in Chilcomb House by winter 2010 and David Baker had prepared a digital archive. The aim was that a specialist report be prepared based upon an archive report and such additional recording as was necessary. 107 items of potential interest were temporarily removed for recording and five large items were recorded in the Hampshire Museum store.

The main analytical tool is the type stone <-> and the Type Stone Group (TSG). The Build is a looser entity into which TSGs are grouped by factors like shared tooling marks. The system of classification allows each Architectural Fragment a unique identification within a logical hierarchy based purely on the characteristics of the stones without reference to context. The archive report includes a detailed description of the methodology employed for recording and analysis:

1.1<1> = Build

1<1> = Type Stone Group or TSG (within Build)

<1> = *ad hoc* Architectural fragment number (within Type Stone Group)

This system forms the basis of the comprehensive archive report to which reference should be made by the identifier label. The publication report selects from these Type Stone Groups, some of which consist of only one stone.

### The Report

'B1' (Building campaign characterised by claw tool finishes)

This Building campaign is a tentative grouping demarcated by the use of the claw tool on surfaces intended to be visible. The masons did, however, sometimes use other types of finish; some otherwise identical mouldings occur with 'smooth' finishes. The tooling is associated with the presbytery vaulting and the part of the claustral range identified in the 1960s as the warming house. The finish may have helped to key plaster and paint.



Fig 6.1 Claw tool marks on <26> typical of this building campaign

### B1:T1 Chamfered elements

These pieces derive from the interior of the presumed warming house. Three varieties of chamfer (not illustrated) were recognised, the angle being 135 degrees. They were probably vertically set to form angled quoining. Surviving joint surfaces were cut diagonally with a bolster chisel (Fig 6.1).

### Various minor capitals (all building campaigns) (Fig 6.2)

### B1:T3 Internal arch label (multiple applications)

These freshly preserved drip mouldings (Fig 6.3) display a variety of finishes: some were claw-tooled (see above) while

others were subsequently smoothed down with abrasive stones. One instance of a reeded finish was found. Minute control of the chisel must have been required to create such a finish. The most complete element has a radius of 0.981m at the soffit. Various features are suggested but the intersection of arches dominates the group.

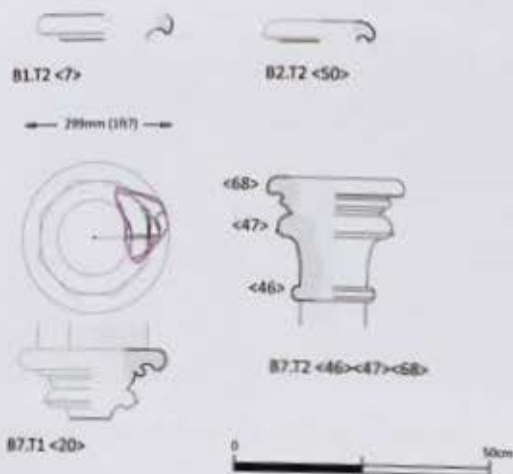


Fig 6.2 Various minor capitals (all building campaigns)

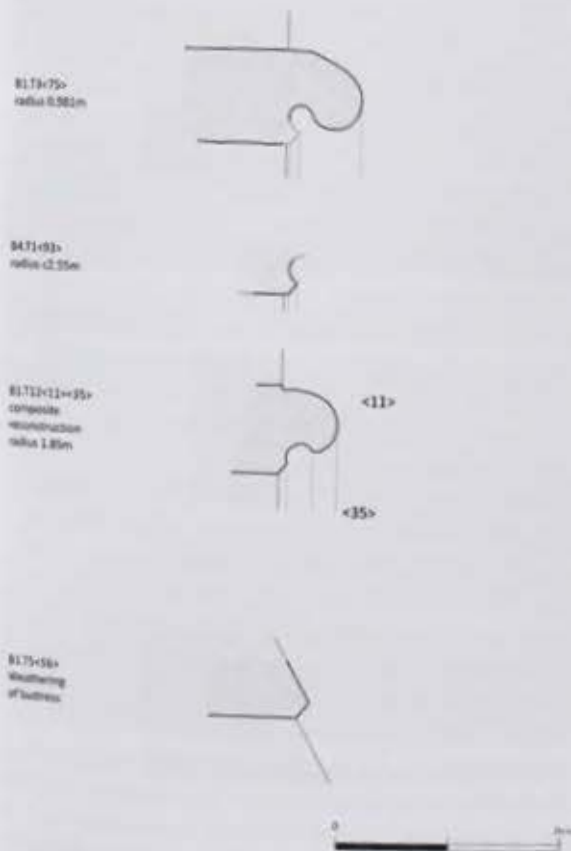


Fig 6.3 Drip labels and weathering of buttress

The diagnostic feature is a freestanding hanging point. Adjacent labels died into each other, causing them to meet thus. Such junctions show that arrays of identical labels adorned the rerearches of both grouped lancets and arcades; <75> may have been employed in the cloister (see below). Many uses throughout the priory are also likely. The surviving east window at the contemporary Augustinian foundation of Chetwode, Buckinghamshire (c 1250: RCHME 1913, 85) shows the sort of arrangement apparently favoured at Selborne.

**B1:T4 Internal arch label (multiple applications)**

The moulding was similar to the B1:T3 label (Fig 6.3) but smaller; in one case it formed the apex of a pointed arch, perhaps a window in the north chapel (N3).

**B1:T5 Buttress weathering**

This weathering derived either from a coursed ground table or the offset on a buttress (Fig 6.3). The weathering shows that it was externally employed on the building, perhaps in the east range.

**B1:T8 Presbytery vault boss (Figs 6.4–6.7)**

When the presbytery was excavated in August 1966, large parts of the fallen vault were found including this boss and



Fig 6.4 <102> Presbytery boss as excavated (scale in ft) 1966 (Edwin Plomer)



Fig 6.5 <102> Oblique view of presbytery boss as excavated showing beech leaf ornament 1966 (Edwin Plomer)

## Architectural fittings and decoration



Fig 6.6 Presbytery boss (inverted) as excavated showing Wyvern sculpture 1966 (Edwin Plomer)

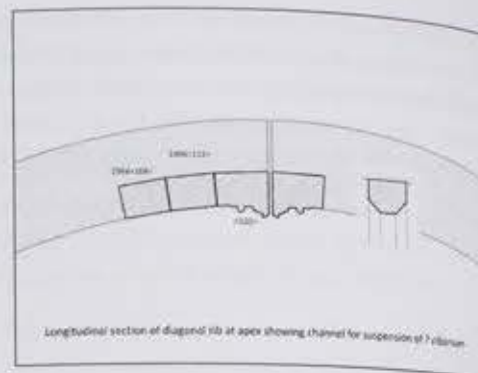
several complete or near-complete rib stones. The latter are known only from records. The published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273) indicates that the boss was found lying centrally within the presbytery near the north wall. One vault stub, broken off when it fell, was later glued back on for display. Two loose fragments (<33> <37>) were not, however, reunited with it at that time. The vault boss (maximum dimension 0.665m) (Figs 6.4–6.6) is otherwise complete and well-preserved. Traces of whitewash survive on the abutting rib stubs. A hole passes through the centre to the reverse, but the weight and fragility of the element prevented examination of this aspect in 2011.

A perforated disc, bearing the ornament, is 19in (0.483m) in diameter. The boss incorporates four rib stubs crossing at an acute angle of c 51 degrees and this indicates a quadripartite vault (Fig 6.7). The chamfered ribs were 10in (0.254m) wide; both joints and the rib surfaces were dressed with a pitcher into which notches were filed at 4mm intervals. The ornament of the boss was highly finished, displaying fine parallel striations created with a comb, an early use of this finishing tool.

Tudor-Craig (Alexander & Binski 1987, 301) considers the boss is likely to date from soon after the foundation in 1233. It is of a type best paralleled in France where the 'Flat "Dish" variety [of boss was] foreign to English practice'. The peculiarity of the ornament was that much of it can only be appreciated when viewed at an angle, being concealed by the dish when seen from below.

The battered central ornament is described as 'a cruciform foliate design applied to a concave dish, of which the chamfered rim is decorated with a row of punched [drilled] holes'. The ornament has been described as a wyvern with 'typically English stiff-leaf' ornament on one side and beech leaf on the other (Fig 6.6). This type is described as French-derived 'frilly leaf' ornament, absent from England between 1200 and 1244 (*ibid*).

The design of the vault was basic: it lacked ridge ribs, a hierarchy of mouldings, or other features more typical of later vaults. The convergence angle of the ribs indicates a vaulting compartment proportion of c 1:2.1. The interior



Longitudinal section of diagonal rib at apex showing channel for suspension of ciborium.

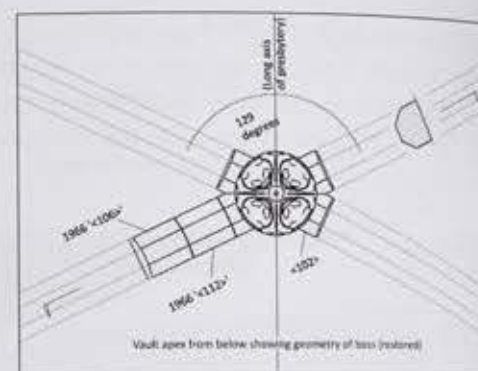


Fig 6.7 The presbytery vault boss and rib stones (lost) as excavated 1966

of the excavated presbytery was 51 x 26ft (15.54 x 7.92m). Although it is not clear if the reference is to foundation or superstructure, some geometrical extrapolation is permissible. The question is whether the boss and its associated ribstones were intended to fit a particular size of vaulting compartment. It is normal for a diagonal rib to form a semi-circle, the arch centre radius being half of the semi-circle's diameter. Since the presbytery width is known, a notional arch centre of c 4.38m can be predicted. Measurements made in 1970 of the lost rib stones allow arch centres to be restored in two cases, as c 4.6m (AF106) and c 5.3m (AF112). The probability is that both were diagonal ribs. A transverse rib would have differed significantly in its radius. It seems that each ribstone respected the overall geometry of the compartment, notwithstanding the shortcomings of the evidence.

The boss is comparable to a suspension boss (c 1300) from Merton Priory (Samuel 2007, 74) but is less sophisticated. Many technical advances were made in the 70 years between the two, the most significant being the introduction of the ridge rib. It has been suggested that the boss supported a ciborium or canopy lowered over the Pyx during Lent (Pamela Tudor-Craig, *pers comm*), or a lamp (Glyn Coppack, *pers comm*) though there was no evidence of any iron fixture.

*B1:T9 chapter house vault elements: diagonal rib intersection and piers/responds (Figs 6.8–6.10)*  
 Little is now directly available for study, but respond capitals and *in situ* bases from the chapter house are described here on the basis of site records.

*B1:T9 chapter house ? vestibule vault elements: diagonal rib intersection and piers / responds*



Fig 6.8 Chapter house rib components as excavated 1958



Fig 6.9 Chapter house respond capital found 1957 (lost)

A magnificent arcade of Purbeck marble separated the chapter house into two parts of vestibule and chapter room. No evidence survives for the chapter house entrance but comparisons can be enlisted (see below). Considerable

problems attend any reconstruction due to deficiencies in the excavation records. One point is now certain: Purbeck (rather than Petworth) marble was used throughout the arcade piers and responds, while lighter Malmstone was used for the vault.

Many fragments of vaulting, now mostly lost, were found in an area that can be identified as the chapter house vestibule. An apex rib intersection <79> (Fig 6.10) respects an arch centre of c 2.04m (+/-12%) but the true value was apparently larger (c 2.5m). Ribstones, now lost, were recorded in 1970 in sufficient detail to permit this value to be restored. The proportions of the compartment (1:1.82) can also be restored from the known angle of vault rib intersection at the apex. The dormitory floor must have been carried over the vestibule by two such compartments, aligned north-south. The vestibule ribs were narrower than the ten-inch examples in the presbytery but they had the same very basic chamfered profile. The surviving vaults at Netley Abbey are of this type throughout.



Fig 6.10 Chapter house vault intersection from below

*B1:T10 chapter house vault rib? (Fig 6.11)*  
 These robust ribstones (mostly lost but recorded in 1970) probably derived from the eastern half of the chapter house. A solitary surviving fragment <101> is 0.247m wide

## Architectural fittings and decoration

and respects a centre of c 1.9m but the shortness of the surviving segment means that not too much reliance can be placed on this measurement. An 'X' mark and 'square' on the joint are implicitly associated with assembly. The ubiquitous 'X' mark probably meant 'completed' but the meaning of the other mark can only be guessed. The lost accompanying rib stone had an hour-glass mason's mark on the soffit. This mark occurs, for example, on 11th-century voussoirs in the dormitory undercroft at Westminster Abbey and it remained in favour into the English Renaissance (Davis 1954, 57). Such common marks were presumably reassigned as the need arose (Samuel 1999, 167).

This vault was of two compartments with unequal proportions, as indicated by buttresses in the north and south walls (see below). This inequality may have been forced by the earlier construction of a sacristy to the south. 1953 photographs (Figs 4.1, 4.2) and records indicate that the sacristy was built in advance of the chapter house, the two being only roughly married up, with the plinth at two levels (Section 4.3 above). Comparative evidence shows the chapter house vault may well have sprung from a much higher level than the vestibule vault. The original arrangement may have been similar to that employed at Premonstratensian Bayham Abbey (Sussex), where a dividing wall supported by an arcade allowed vaults at very different levels in the vestibule and chapter house. Further headroom was provided at Selborne by lowering the cloister/vestibule floor relative to that of the chapter house. The two were separated by a step.

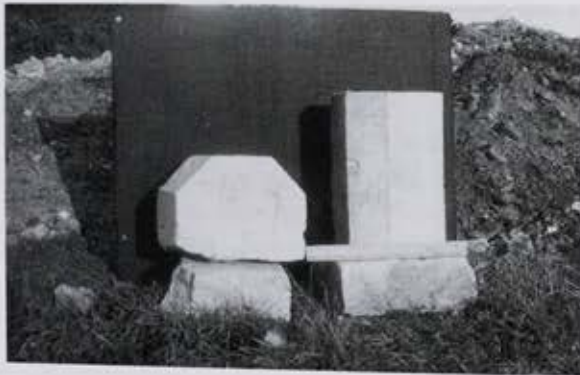


Fig 6.11 Vault rib <101> (left) as excavated 1957

### B1:T12 Beak arch label

The outer part of an arch is represented by three fragments. This moulding may have combined with B4:T2 (Fig 6.3) to adorn chapter house window rerearches. Augustinian St Frideswide's (Oxford) and Benedictine Pershore Abbey (1220–39) show related 'undercut roll-and-fillet mouldings ... [that appear] ... to be a feature of the west midlands and south-west in this period' (Morris 1990,

171). They differ in having projecting fillets. The Selborne fillets lack this feature.

### B1:T13 Chapter house window

The damaged chamfered voussoir moulding is rebated to accept the timber frames of glazing, a fenestration technique probably widespread in that era but by its nature not surviving. It formed a single lancet light within the chapter house, as its find spot indicates (Fig 8.9). It formed the outer jamb of the opening and was correspondingly weathered. The profile's functionality is typical of this period.

### B2:T1 Repair sections to skeletal cusping

These formed repair sections on much larger mouldings, owing their survival to their small size. When a large moulding was damaged by the mason during cutting, a neat rectilinear cut-out was made into which a carefully shaped repair section was inserted and perhaps glued. The joints were scored with criss-cross lines to enhance keying.

The repair sections are evidence for trefoil arches with the entire arch forming the cusp. The construction of these arches seems to have involved several such repairs. Arches of this type are typical of the first quarter of the 13th century; examples can be seen on the west front of Wells Cathedral. At least two types of trefoil are represented. They could have decorated such features as tombs, sedilias or blind arcading.

### B2:T2 Concave-fillet capital

A three-unit capital (Fig 6.2) has a reconstructed diameter of c 0.22m. It may have been freestanding, or more likely, was part of a clustered pier/respond. It was in an unidentified but sheltered interior location. A concave fillet below a lip is considered '... a characteristic 13th-century element generally applied to a demi-roll-and-fillet moulding used as the middle unit of a three-unit capital' (Morris 1979, 23). Capitals in the north transept at Westminster Abbey dating after 1245 (*ibid*, fig 16.a) are similar though on a much larger scale. The device was also adopted by marblers and remained in favour throughout the later Decorated period (*ibid*, 23).

### B3:T3 & 4 Roll and Fillet ornament

These fragments represent the waste left over from processing large mouldings in the cloister garth for reuse as building material. The undulating wave with undercut roll and fillet is similar in form and scale and is paralleled in the mouldings of the arches in the south arcade in the Lady Chapel of St Frideswide's, Oxford. This '... undercut roll-and-fillet, canted downward [is a] feature of the W. Midlands & south-west in this period' (Morris 1990, 171).

**B4:T1 Semi-circular hollow cusping from ?wall tomb (Fig 6.12)**  
Two fragments derive from an arched feature adorned with cusps at intervals. The semi-circular hollow can be generally dated to the 12th–14th century (Morris 1992, 13). A date



Fig 6.12 <106> Cusping fragment

after c 1280 may be suggested in this case, due to the cusping. The feature perhaps formed part of an inserted wall tomb. This piece is from 1957 Square 39E.

**B4:T2 Label with semi-circular hollow**

This is larger than the other example of this pattern (B4:T1) and was employed in an arch with a centre of c 1.64m (+/- 13%). This would be appropriate for a window arch rather than, for example, a crossing. The tooling is consonant with a late 13th-century date. New work in the chapter house or sacristy seems to be indicated. The fragment may therefore have completed a wall tomb label (Fig 6.3). String courses in the nave aisle at Jervaulx and in the choir triforium at Rievaulx are surviving examples of this common moulding (Sharpe 1846, 'String-courses').

**B5:T1 Cloister arcade (Purbeck marble except where stated) (Figs 6.13–6.14)**

Two fragments were found near the north-west angle of the cloister walk, but these elements are otherwise associated by function alone. One mortar-covered fragment was reused in later alterations, perhaps to a farm building or as part of the documented repairs to the surviving chantry in 1514. The stone used is highly distinctive, being dense, hard and heavy. Fragments from an abacus and a shaft have been identified as Purbeck marble (Appendix) and not 'Sussex limestone' as thought at the time of excavation. Notwithstanding its hardness, this rock is unsuitable for the British climate due to its high iron content and the consequent lamination caused by rust.

Some fragments were found with lead keying; one retains this keying (Fig 6.14; also Section 7.4). Concealed surfaces show marks of the serrated claw tool (Fig 6.13) but a high polish (greatly weathered) was otherwise normal. A fragment of a shattered Malmstone trefoil arch <57> was found in the chapter house. The surfaces were reeded while the joint shows the distinctive coarse diagonal marks of a bolster chisel.



Fig 6.13 Claw tool marks on impost of coupled capital <78>



Fig 6.14 <90> as found (left) as part of a coupled capital (inverted) with in situ lead keying

A near-complete abacus <84> derives from a coupled cloister arcade. The abacus was ovoid with a continuous simple drip moulding. The lower half of an associated capital <90/96> was found and photographed in 1957. Compass points on the impost mark the centres of paired shafts below the capital. Paired and highly polished Purbeck marble shafts would have rested on bases of similar size to the capitals. A well-preserved length of shaft fitted the capital indents (<99>; diam=0.107m) but most fragments recorded in 1970 have been subsequently lost. A small and greatly weathered fragment <103> allows tentative reconstruction of the base (Fig 6.15, d).

The overall design of the capital was usefully engraved into the impost surface. It seems whole inches were used in increments of one foot, 16 inches and 20 inches, allowing for error in both the original and recording (Fig 6.15, a). The two compass points (Fig 6.15, b) are separated by 7in and are marked by additional lines at 90 degrees to the long axis. The impost was 20in by 1ft. The inner lines refer to the underlying capital (c 8 x 16in), probably of three-unit type.

Other fragments suggest a uniform abacus (as shown in the reconstructions, fig 6.7) but one fragment indicates a

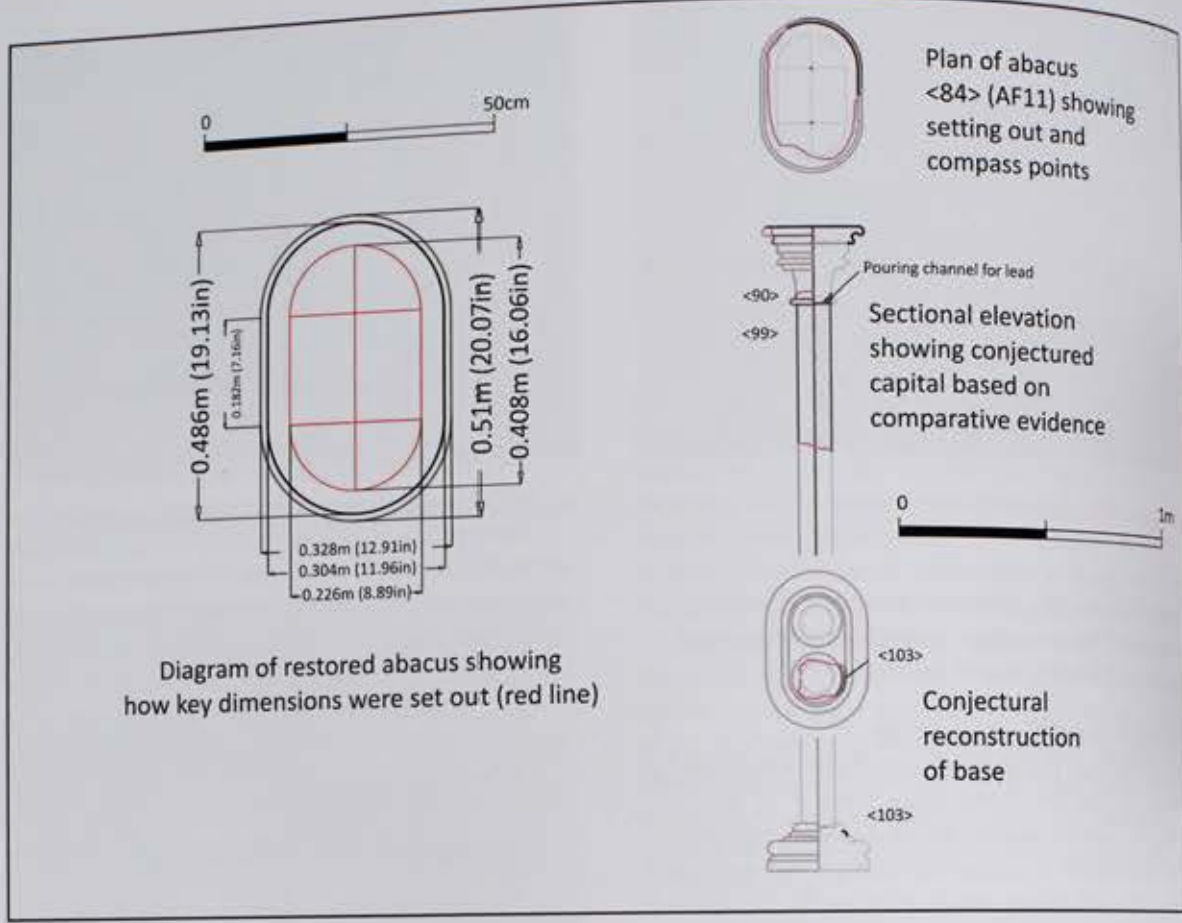


Fig 6.15 Cloister arcade coupled columns reconstructed from fragments <84, 90, 99, 103>

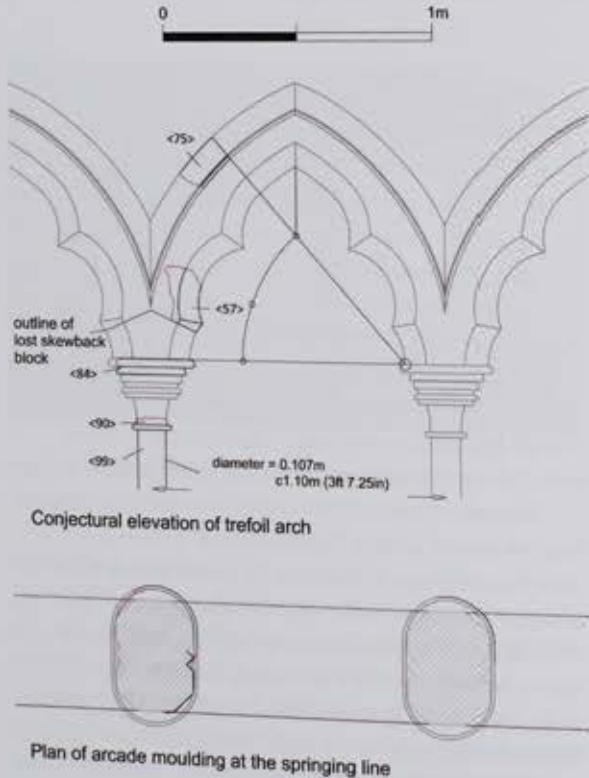


Fig 6.16 Composite reconstruction of cloister arch based on comparative study

slightly smaller abacus, perhaps the result of imprecision in cutting. The same fragment retains the stump of a possible iron torch bracket.

The coupled-capital cloister was favoured in the 12th–13th centuries, the capital being set with its long axis at right angles to the direction of the stylobate or supporting wall. The Selborne capital was connected to the shaft with lead. A small hole just above the annulet allowed molten lead to flow into the space between the shaft and capital (Fig 6.15, c). One of these lead discs was found *in situ* (Fig 6.14). The neckings were separated, but the annulets were conjoined. Small squares of lead sheet found elsewhere during the excavation formed packing pieces to allow clearance for the molten lead (see also B1.79).

The abacus *impost* would have supported a springer block of similar outline (Fig 6.16). A small fragment (<57>) of an associated foliated arcade arch can therefore be identified using this information. The arch was heavily chamfered and the wall over was 16in thick (0.402m). At Mont-Saint-Michel (Manche), the space between abaci is c 2.35 times the abacus width. The Selborne interval therefore can be calculated as about 1.07–1.10m and the height of the shafts about 1.3m, if it is assumed that the width/height ratio was similar. The known shaft diameter (0.109m) is a tenth of the conjectured interval, and it is

possible that this 1:10 would have protected arch is two-centred. The Selborne arcade appearance.

B6-T2 Decorative round



Fig 6.17 Decorative round (inverted)

Four fragments reassembled to form a capital, a rare survival. The fresh surface circumference is clearly visible. The method of assembly is shown in the drawing. The item is a capital but the reverse joint is visible. There is no evidence of a decorative capital probably a decorative capital. They adorn ashlar front (mid- to late 12th century) with Harold Brakspear (Brakspear 1931). A good example of a capital where long shafts elsewhere in England. Gold leaf (Pamela) gold were indeed same fine workmanship set internally and construction.

B7-T3 Three-unit After the mid-13th century were carried out

possible that this 1:10 ratio was intentional. A label (<75>) would have protected the arch. The Mont-Saint-Michel arch is two-centred. These clues permit a reconstruction of the Selborne arcade arch (Fig 6.16, a) and indeed its whole appearance.

B6:T1 Decorative roundel (Fig 6.17)



Fig 6.17 Decorative roundel 17/19 assembled oblique view (inverted)

Four fragments found dispersed across the priory can be reassembled to form a single piece. One part retains much paint, a rare survival at Selborne, but none survives on the others. The fresh sculpted foliation is finely dressed but the circumference is coarsely tooled with setting-out lines left visible. The method of tooling differs from the presbytery boss (B1:T8), hinting at a different building campaign or season. The item has a restored diameter of c 0.43m (17in) but the reverse joint is broken away.

There is no evidence of abutting ribs and this is more probably a decorative roundel than a vault boss. These are prolifically employed inside and outside Wells Cathedral. They adorn ashlar work over the statue niches of the west front (mid- to late 1240s) and have long been identified with Harold Brakspear's West Country school of masons (Brakspear 1931). The Selborne roundel is a particularly good example of stiff-leaf ornament, and is typical of the school where longer and flatter leaves were employed than elsewhere in England. The red undercoat may have taken gold leaf (Pamela Tudor-Craig, *pers comm*) and traces of gold were indeed observed on another small piece of the same fine workmanship <31>. The roundel was probably set internally and certainly dates from the primary phase of construction.

B7:T1 Three-unit capital and associated work

After the mid-13th century, no more than minor alterations were carried out to an essentially complete complex. The



Fig 6.18 View of capital <20> impost, showing setting-out lines

addition of a probable chantry to the west side of the south transept arm is the only major change known subsequent to the 13th century. Firm evidence of a link between the fragments and the church is lacking, but the chantry was excavated in the same year (1963) that at least one of these capital fragments was found. If this perceived link is genuine, the chantry can be approximately dated to the Decorated period (1280–1377).

Setting-out lines survive on the impost of this very fresh fragment. The rounded sharply-overhanging abacus of this distinctive capital (Fig 6.2, 6.18) forms a demi-roll-and-fillet typical of the Decorated style. The complete diameter was c 0.3m (1ft).

B7:T2 Three-unit capital (Fig 6.2, 6.19)

This three-unit capital is carefully executed in Malmstone, probably with a lathe. Its maximum diameter was about 0.27m (10 in). Several fragments were found, permitting



Fig 6.19 Assembled B7:T2 capital as excavated

## Architectural fittings and decoration

a composite reconstruction. The demi-roll-and-fillet is a characteristically English 'composite form' of the roll-and-fillet (Morris 1992, 14) and the high finish hints at a 14th-century date. It perhaps derived from the same source as the B7:T1 capital (see above) although found in the chapter house. The variety of fragments found in the chapter house suggests that compartment was used for the stockpiling and processing of stone during demolition of the priory.

### B8:T2 ?Sedilia/stall

One fragment resembles a timber bench end; it was bedded into and had been snapped off a wall. A timber seat probably rested on the upper surface. A location in the church seems probable. A date after 1300 is hinted at by the slight hollow chamfering and the high finish.

### B8:T3 Lion head sculpture (Fig 6.20)



Fig 6.20 <92> Mouth of Lion from South Transept

This unusual fragment was highly finished with a chisel, the further detail being drilled. It was found in the chapter house in 1958. The wide grinning mouth with gaping serrated teeth and wrinkled muzzle can be compared to a 13th-century lion from the church of San Leonardo, Zamora (Spain), and now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art at Cloisters (Young 1990, 16). That sculpture represents *Christ as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah*. Alternatively, it may represent a hell-mouth from an Apocalypse. Sculpted lions could also be placed to either side of portals, as the symbol of the Evangelist Mark and of Christ (Samuel 2011, 36).

### B9:T1 ?Petworth marble mullion (Fig 6.21)

This is a heavy and coarsely finished unmarked fragment. The hard building stone is completely different to others from this site and therefore deserves mention (K Hayward, appendix, below). Although the moulding and the method of cutting, with a claw tool on the faces and a punch on the bed, are consonant with a 13th-century date, it is possible that this stone represents 'contamination' from other material in store.

### B10: T1 Chamfered shaft bases

This simple coarsely finished round base has slight indications of being engaged, and may have formed the base of a vault wall respond. It is similar to, but smaller



Fig 6.21 <29> ?mullion, apparent composition of 'Petworth marble' at break

than, the functional *in situ* round bases in the north range undercroft. Its find spot as part of a drain to the east of the north chapels indicates reuse during the existence of the priory.

### B11:T1 Tomb/chantry superstructure c 1475

The small and abraded fragment (maximum dimension 60mm) incorporates fluting and toy coping. The surfaces were carefully finished with a fine comb with tines at 1mm intervals. The fragment can be identified as part of a six-sided shaft with sharp flutes. The complete shaft was c 80mm in diameter). As the base of a pinnacle, it is unusual and specific in its nature and no contexts can be suggested other than a tomb canopy or some other major church furnishing. The tomb of Alice, Duchess de la Pole, in Ewelme church, Oxon (Cook 1948, pl 59), has four shafts of this type forming pinnacles to support angels; she died in 1475. If this is a reliable guide to its date, a tomb or chantry representing a major act of patronage may have occurred in the last decades of this depleted and impoverished priory.

## Glossary

**Abacus** – In this context, the upper bed and associated moulding of a capital.

**Ashlar** – A rectilinear block used for wall facing.

**Axial termination (of mullion)** – Term used to distinguish the central ends of a mullion moulding.

**Bowtell** – A form of *Roll moulding* usually three-quarters of a circle in section; also called *edge roll*

**Buttresses** – A mass of masonry built against a wall to resist outward thrust from an arch, vault or roof.

**Cusping** – The decorative effect, usually restricted to tracery, created by applying 'thorn-like' stone projections to the glazing reveal, see also 'foil'.

**Fillet** – A raised flat-faced strip often applied to roll mouldings or the axial terminations of mullions.

**Foil** – A lobe or leaf-shaped curve formed by the cusping of a circle or arch. The number of foils involved is indicated by a prefix, e.g. trefoil, multifoil.

**Foliated** – A decorative effect, usually applied within the heads of lights, where a divided leaf outline is created. The rounded foils are numbered 'trefoil', 'cinquefoil', 'septfoil' etc.

**Glazing reveal** – The flat surface on the sides of mullions, tracery etc, to which the glass is attached.

**Ground table** – The wide base of a wall, separated from the thinner wall above by a continuous moulding to propel water away from the wall base and foundation.

**Impost** – A projecting part of the wall which appears to support the end of an arch.

**Jamb/jambstone** – The side of a door or window and the stones from which it is pieced together.

**Major and minor order** – This refers to the manner of building arches; commencing with a small arch of dressed stone (minor order) which forms the support for an additional outer arch overhanging it (major order). In earlier medieval buildings, the stones of the inner and outer arches are separate, but in later medieval buildings, both orders might be cut on a single block or voussoir.

**Mullion** – The vertical stone bar(s) dividing a window into separate lights.

as 'discontinuities' between the separate elements of a moulding.

**Respond** – A half-pier bonded into a wall and supporting an arch, often part of an arcade.

**Rib** – The bands of stone, usually moulded, dividing a vault into separate compartments. 'Ribstones' is the name for the individual stones from which it is pieced together.

**Roll** – Used to signify any mould of sub-circular section (see also Bowtell).

**Springers** – Projections from a wall, usually angled, from which a vault rib 'springs'.

the mullions and the commencement of the tracery.

**Tracery** – The ornamental intersecting work in the upper part of a window, screen or panel, or used decoratively in blanks, arches and vaults.

**Trefoil/trifoliated** – A group of three leaf-shaped curves or lobes found in tracery.

**Typestone** – The most complete or the first-encountered example of a moulding.

**Vousoir** – A single element or block of an arch.

*Rickman's periods of English architecture*

Norman 1066–1189

Early English 1189–1220

Decorated 1280–1377

Perpendicular 1377–1547

Although the terms are still used (and useful), the time brackets are now not taken seriously and the handy term 'Norman' has fallen out of academic favour, being replaced by 'Romanesque'. 'Perpendicular' is now usually subdivided with 'Tudor' for 1485–1547.

#### Stone identifications Selborne Priory

*Provisional identifications hand specimen (Dr Kevin Hayward)*

Shaft x 2 samples from SEL <28> (from fragment of <99>-type shafting from cloister).

X 2 SEL <91> (from fragment of coupled capital abacus from cloister).

Purbeck marble – Lower Cretaceous (Purbeckian) Isle of Purbeck

This blue-grey, highly fossiliferous limestone or Wackestone (Dunham 1962) is termed 'marble' because of its ability to take polish and inscribe. It is easily identifiable and sourced because it is packed with small (5–10mm) freshwater gastropods termed *Paludina cariniferus*. It is restricted to two small limestone bands from the uppermost Jurassic succession of the Isle of Purbeck. None of the examples from Selborne contain the larger gastropods *Paludina sussexiensis* and *Paludina fluviorum* from geologically younger Sussex, Petworth or Bethersden marble, with which it is easily confused.

?High altar vault boss <37> (sampled from small fragment of the boss recovered in 1966)

This fine, powdery micaceous green-yellow calcareous greensand is typical of the Upper Greensand (Malmstone) of this region. It strictly belongs to the lowermost chalk in nearby Surrey. It is also present at the 12th-century Waverley Abbey, near Farnham (Hayward, *pers obs*). It is not to be confused with the Upper Greensand of Reigate which is much lighter and lime green in colour.

## 6.2 Graffiti Dr Doris Jones-Baker

A number of medieval graffiti, associated with several small carvings, discussed below, were found in July 1962 engraved on several stones built into the side wall of the main drain at Selborne Priory (Section 4.10). This drain was in an exposure just south of the south-east corner of the canons' latrine, and the drain was still covered (Square 771 C/B, second grid). Monochrome photographs of these

stones taken *in situ* show that they were reused when set into the drain, and that the graffiti inscribed thereon had been made by different hands and at different times. A plaster cast was taken of two of them, which were damaged by removal of the stone bearing them, now in the assemblage of architectural fragments (Fig 6.22).



Fig 6.22 Graffiti on stone from main drain, mason's banker mark, zig-zag design and floral / leaf designs

**Masons' marks, sketches and designs**

- Graffiti of a large 'X' (Fig 6.22, right of centre). Banker mark record of the mason's work completed for this stone.
- Incomplete sketch drawing for a narrow, Norman style window head, left side only shown: three curved lines partly carved beside a rough sketch for decoration (Fig 6.23).
- Mason's or carver's trial decorative designs were often found as graffiti in medieval churches engraved at a time when drawing materials were expensive and scarce. Medieval pictorial graffiti are an important, if not frequently unique, source of information about architectural features in medieval buildings. The zigzag design (Fig 6.22, second from left) is characteristic of the Norman period and a suggestion as to when this stone came into use. Floral or leaf designs are shown above horse figure's neck and back (see Fig 6.25), within diamonds or squares (Fig 6.22, top centre and top centre right).

**Sketch for the head of a decorative border**

Only the head for this border is shown on the stone. Possibly it was continued below on some other stone, a common practice for graffiti to 'run-over'. The border was partly carved on the left side. No trace of any drawing within the border can now be seen (Fig 6.22, left).

Note that alteration of one graffiti drawing to fit into a later one was not uncommon. Here the right side of the border graffiti was apparently re-engraved to form the right foreleg of a running horse (see below, Fig 6.25). This drawing of a border appears too poorly made to have



Fig 6.23 Graffiti on in situ stone in main drain, sketch for possible window head (Edwin Plomer)

been the work of a mason, suggesting that it was not 'architectural' but an unfinished votive drawing although no figure of a saint appears within (Jones-Baker 1997-1998, 127-46).

The design of this border at Selborne Priory is similar to that surrounding one of the most beautifully drawn medieval votive graffiti known in England: the Crucifixion cut on a 14th-century pillar in the north chapel in St Nicholas' church, Stevenage (Hertfordshire). Further evidence for a possible 14th-century date for the Selborne border drawing is the similarity of the Stevenage Crucifixion graffiti to a 14th-century drawing added to the group of 12th-century drawings by Matthew Paris (d 1259), the monk-historian of St Albans Abbey, entitled 'Offa II is Crowned' (James 1925–26, 21).

#### Votive graffiti

Votive graffiti in English medieval ecclesiastical foundations are today the most numerous type, although good votive drawings are comparatively rare (Jones-Baker, *op cit*). Two, and possibly three, substantial votive drawings have been found in the ruins of the main drain at Selborne Priory: a Crucifixion, a horse-and-man, and the doubtful border graffiti without any image (Fig 6.22, left).

Selborne Priory, established by Peter des Roches in 1233, was just the sort of religious foundation where one could expect to find many pre-Reformation votive graffiti inscribed in their traditional places, on or near its shrines. Although never a large foundation, Selborne Priory was well endowed, located on busy medieval pilgrim routes such as Winchester and Chichester cathedrals (for St Swithin and St Richard), and, moreover, possessed of its own attractions for the pious, a number of notable holy relics (White 1811, 376–7). These included a bone from a little finger reputedly of St John the Baptist, thought by Gilbert White to have been brought back from the Holy Land (where the sale of Christian relics did good business) by des Roches when he returned to England in 1231.

Doubtless the most important of the priory's relics listed by Sacrist Peter Bernes in 1411 was the 'joint' (unspecified) from St Richard, the saintly English bishop of Chichester, not far distant. Some 20 years after its foundation the prior of Selborne apparently lost no time in acquiring this major relic of St Richard. He had been bishop from 1245 until his death on 3 April 1253 (canonised 1262) and enjoyed such great popularity and even veneration in his lifetime, especially in the south of England (Jones-Baker 2007, 13, 31, 39–45, 64–67, 102–8; Jones-Baker 2005). It is particularly unfortunate that the stones containing the votive graffiti at Selborne Priory are without provenance other than their reuse in the drain, so that any evidence the graffiti engraved upon them might have contributed toward establishing the location and design of the pre-Reformation shrines there has been lost.

#### The Crucifixion drawing (Fig 6.24)

The graffiti sketch of Christ upon the cross, found on a stone near the south end of the priory drain, is primitive and of an early style. The design of a Christ figure is important for its dating. Generally speaking, in Christian art



Fig 6.24 Graffiti on in situ stone in main drain, crucifixion (Edwin Plomer)

before the 12th century portrayals of the Crucifixion do not show Christ's feet as crossed. However, during this century a significant design change took place and the feet were drawn crossed and secured by a single nail instead of two (Norris 1947, 134). As graffiti these nails were often drawn out-sized. The Crucifixion graffiti drawing at Stevenage on the 14th-century pillar in the north aisle chapel is a good example of this later medieval style.

The Selborne Priory Crucifixion graffiti clearly shows Christ's feet uncrossed with no nails visible. Either the engraver worked at some time prior to the stylistic change, in which case the stone could have been set in a (probably) ecclesiastical building in the 12th century or earlier, before Selborne Priory was founded, or the graffiti engraver used an anachronistic style. If, indeed, the graffiti Crucifixion stone was part of a religious building in the 12th century or before, this could have been either on the site of the priory, or elsewhere, thus raising the possibility that there was an earlier building on the priory site.

#### Drawing of a horse with a man

The graffiti drawing of the fore-part of a horse (Fig 6.25) dwarfs that of the man shown facing it close by, and appears not necessarily to have been executed by the same hand. The horse intersects the two lower 'legs' of the 'X' mason's banker mark for this stone, but it is now impossible from photos to determine which of these figures was cut first. The horse's head, neck, part of its back and one foreleg only are shown. The neck is not thick in proportion, suggesting that the animal in the artist's mind was not a heavily built draught or working horse, or one



Fig 6.25 Graffiti on in situ stone in main drain, man and horse (Edwin Plomer)

used to mount a man in armour, but a lighter animal bred for speed and to be ridden. Pictorial graffiti often illustrate local activities; Selborne Priory and its lands adjoined Woolmer Forest, a medieval royal hunting preserve. Moreover, the graffiti horse was drawn with its fore leg bent, perhaps for a gallop portrait of a hunter.

It is quite possible that this graffiti drawing was made for a votive figure, a representative image left in a holy place to ask a blessing for a favoured animal's recovery from injury or sickness. Horses were important during the medieval period, and there was more than one 'horse cult' in England. Prominent among these was the cult dedicated to St Hippolytus (Greek – 'loosed horse') the 3rd-century monk with a reputation as a good tamer of colts and doctor for sick horses. St Hippolytus had a number of shrines and two medieval English churches dedicated to him.

St Hippolytus is in the parish next to the royal manor of Hitchin (Herts). The topographer John Norden noted that 'there was a supposed Saint called I-lypolitus whose Reliques lie buried here' (Norden 1598). Later, Sir Henry Chauncy wrote (1700):

'St. Hippolits was a good Tamer of Colts, an excellent Horse-leach, and so devoutly honour'd for these Qualities after his Death, that a Passengers (sic) that passed that Way on Horseback, thought themselves bound to bring their Steeds to the High Altar in this Church where this Holy Horseman was shrined, and a Priest continually attended to bestow such Fragments of Hippolit's Miracles upon their untamed Colts, and old wanton and forworn Jades, as he had in Store, and did avail so much the more or less, as the Passengers were bountiful or hard handed; but he that was niggardly of his coin, had

but a cold and counterfeit Cure. The horses were brought out of the North Street, through the north Gate, and the North Door of the Church, which was boarded on Purpose to bring the Horses to the Altar, since which time, the Church has always been boarded'.

St Hippolytus at Ryme Intrinseca, in Dorset, like Selborne, also had a royal medieval connection as a residence with which the royal sport of hunting was associated.

In July 1962 the excavator of Selborne Priory, the Rev George Knapp, identified the man with the horse as the 7th-century monk St Loye / St Eligius / St Eloy / St Loy, based upon his miracle with a horse. In correspondence about the medieval chapel of St Loye in Bedford, F W Kuhlicke, then Curator of Bedford Museum, wrote:

'On one occasion it is said, he was besought by his enemies to shoe a horse known to be possessed of the Evil One and a wicked kicker. Eloy was not going to be done to death by Satan, so he took an axe and hewed off the shoe-less leg of the rearing steed, and, placing the hoof on the anvil, shod it at leisure. Then, making the sign of the Cross, he calmly replaced the leg on the now subdued animal'.

The chapel of St Loye in Bedford was closed at the Reformation (Godber 1969, 194); there appears to be no graffiti evidence at Selborne Priory to connect that foundation with this saint.

At Selborne, the graffiti shows the figure of a man facing the horse, but unnaturally smaller in scale. Although there is no particular evidence from these drawings that they were made by the same hand, or at the same time, the graffiti of the man can be dated. He is shown with a beard wearing an ankle-length, cassock-like garment and a cylindrical hat – the dress of a 14th-century parish priest. Of all medieval graffiti portraits, those of priests are the most numerous. A well-drawn example of a priest's portrait belonging to this period (with musical notation) is found at Lydgate church (Suffolk). The critical feature in dating these graffiti is the hat. Hats were almost unknown in England until the time of Geoffrey Chaucer (d 1400), beginning to be worn about the last quarter of the 14th century (Norris 1947, 181–2).

If indeed the figure of a priest at Selborne Priory was engraved in the latter part of the 14th or early 15th centuries, this would suggest that the stone in question was situated at that time where it was visible and could readily be cut. Also, if the artist's intention had been to make a votive offering, the stone most probably would have been in place on or near a church shrine. Moreover, if by then the stone was at the priory, it could easily have been reset as part of a late structural alteration before the dissolution of the priory in the late 15th century.

**Conclusion**

The stones found built into the main drain at Selborne Priory can provide some important information about their probable history, and that of the priory itself, despite graffiti evidence that they had been reused. The medieval graffiti engraved on these stones appear to belong to two distinct periods, the 12th century and the 14th century. From this we may deduce that there were three stages in their use before the dissolution of the priory in the 15th century.

**Stage 1** – The earliest marks on the stones were probably made on the banker, traditionally by masons or stone carvers. After the mason made his mark, 'X', indicating basic work completed, the stone was apparently regarded as 'spoilt', to be used and reused by masons or others involved in the layout of a building for working out trial designs and patterns. These are the 'architectural designs' commonly found as medieval church graffiti, the narrow window head, the zigzag pattern for a border and the flower or leaf diamonds or squares. All are semi-carved and belong to the 12th-century Norman style.

**Stage 2** – The stones (Figs 6.22, 6.25) were moved, reused for the first time and reset in a church or other consecrated building in a place where they were readily accessible to

people wanting to make votive graffiti, such as pilgrims and the like. The usual places to find votive medieval graffiti are by or on shrines. From the character of the surviving votive graffiti at the priory, the Crucifixion and the horse and man figure, both apparently date from the 14th century. Stage 2, therefore, would most probably have taken place at this time.

**Stage 3** – The last stage was the incorporation of the graffiti stones in the main drain where they were discovered in 1962. It is unfortunate that the graffiti evidence does not indicate when the stones were brought to the priory, other than that they were probably set into the main drain after the 14th-century votive graffiti were made and before the priory was dissolved in 1486, after which repairs were unlikely to have been carried out.

There are two possible histories of the graffiti stones. Either they were brought directly from the quarry to the site of Selborne Priory where they remained through the alterations of all three stages as described above. Or at any but the last of these three stages they were part of the fabric of some unknown ecclesiastical building or buildings – probably not far away due to the difficulties of transporting stone. The evidence of the medieval graffiti suggests the possibility of an earlier ecclesiastical building on the site of the 13th-century priory.

### 6.3 Carved animal foot Philip J Lankester

**Description**

This fragment (Fig 6.26) is apparently made of a fine-grained limestone. There are no traces of surface colour visible with the naked eye. Overall the piece measures approximately 125mm (5in) wide by 150mm (6 in) deep by 115mm (4.5in) high. It represents the lower part of an animal foot, originally supporting some unknown object. The bottom surface is flat and was apparently always so. It has no visible traces of mortar.

The fragment will be described as if viewed from the front, and 'left' and 'right' are those of the viewer. Along its front, the foot has four claws, rising from the back of which is a short, more or less vertical, part of the rest of the foot (or possibly the beginning of the leg) and above that the remains of whatever the foot supported, terminating in a break across the top, roughly horizontal with chamfered edges. This feature above the foot was evidently wider than the foot, at least at the front and on the left side, where it juts out at an angle along a straight line almost parallel with the base but slanting down slightly towards the rear. The lower part of this jutting out section has been partly further cut away along a straight line, starting level with the first line and rising towards the rear (so that the portion cut away would have been wedge-shaped). The back of the piece, roughly parallel to but much narrower than the

front, presents a flat surface which is at an angle of about 80 degrees to the base. The edge where the base meets the left side is now interrupted by a concave area of loss.

The claws themselves do not survive but the tissue surrounding each of them has and is well shaped, each widening and arched towards the front with a longitudinal ridge. The 'claw' on the left is complete, apart from patches of surface damage; the front halves of the remaining three claws are broken off. Each claw is carved with parallel shallow relief arcs either side of the longitudinal ridge and rows of shallow arcs continue up on to the rest of the foot at the front and about half way along the right side. That the latter surface treatment is on the right side only suggests it was considered more likely to be seen than the left side; the more or less flat, but slightly rough, rear surface indicates that this was not intended to be seen at all.

It is impossible to know for certain what sort of animal claw is represented but lions were extremely popular in sculpture in the Middle Ages and beyond, so a lion's claw is the most likely. The short distance between the claw tissue and the main part of the foot makes it unlikely that an eagle's foot is depicted.

In conclusion it seems that this foot almost certainly stood at the front (viewer's) right-hand corner of the object it supported and of which it formed an integral part. The



Fig 6.26 Carved animal foot

flat bottom surface indicates that it rested on another flat surface, probably under its own weight as there are now no traces of mortar, nor any dowel holes for its attachment.

**Find spot, context, identification and dating**

The fragment was found in 1959 on the site of the priory church, near the north-east crossing pier, leading to a strong presumption that it came from the church or, possibly, from one of the other priory buildings. If it is medieval, the nearest likely alternative source is the village of Selborne, about one mile west of the priory site. Disregarding the context, however, it is very difficult to decide if the fragment is of pre- or post-dissolution date and views on its date, randomly sought from several archaeologists and art historians by the present author, were equally divided.

Although it is difficult to make judgements on the basis of such a small and repetitively carved fragment, there is no reason to think it dates from any earlier than the foundation of the priory in 1233. The priory was suppressed in 1484 and, although use of part of the site to accommodate a chantry chapel and its priest continued until 1550, it seems unlikely that such a piece would have been created unless the site was occupied by a relatively high-status institution.

The problem of postulating a medieval date is to find a convincing context for such a fragment. The quest is for an object of some kind, made of stone, and raised on animal feet (at least at the front), the undersides of which rested on, but were apparently not attached to, a flat surface. Alternatively it is possible that the foot, together with at least one and possibly three or more companions, were made as separate pieces to support a larger object which rested on them. So far finding a medieval object answering this description has proved illusive.

Animals as well as human figures are found under the feet of medieval column figures and other statues and recumbent monumental effigies (see for example Williamson 1995, 40–6, figs 56–62; 214, fig 319; Bauch 1976, *passim*), but they consist of more than the feet and, even if the present foot was attached to a larger animal, its scale is too large. Animals (commonly lions) and human ‘atlas’ figures, as well as short columns, are found supporting such objects as pulpits, fonts and tombs throughout Europe, but, again, the animals are usually complete or mostly complete rather than just feet. For example, three of the six columns supporting the Baptistery pulpit by Nicola Pisano at Pisa (c 1257–59) rest on standing lions (Williamson 1995, 242–4, fig 360) and the copper alloy font at Hildersheim Cathedral (1220s) is supported on four kneeling human figures representing the four Rivers of Paradise (*ibid*, 79–81 figs 120–1). The copper alloy effigies of Bishops Evrard de Fouillois (d 1222) and Geoffroi d’Eu (d 1236) at Amiens Cathedral are each supported on the backs of six small lions (Bauch 1976, 76–7, Abb 110, 111) and the stone effigy of Philippe Pot (d 1493), originally in the abbey of Cîteaux and now in the Louvre, Paris, is supported by six figures of mourners (*ibid*, 269, 271, Abb 401).

In England, at York Minster, the low, arched superstructures, supporting the cross slabs over the tombs of Archbishops Sewal de Boville (d 1258) and Godfrey de Ludham (d 1265) were both originally raised on short columns (those of de Boville now lost) and the lost copper alloy effigy of Dean William de Langton (d 1279) was similarly raised on columns (Brown 2003, 42–3, figs 1.52–1.55). The font of c 1140 at Castle Frome (Herefords) is ‘supported’ by three crouching human figures (Zarnecki *et al* 1984, 65, 178, no 139), though, the weight of the font necessitated that the figures were each made in one with a larger stone behind them, rather than being freestanding like the Selborne foot.

However, while these examples provide precedents for tombs and other objects being supported on animals, other figures and columns, none provides a convincing parallel for the Selborne Priory foot for the reasons stated: that the object of which the fragment forms a part appears never to have depicted more of the animal than the foot and, if there was originally more of the animal, it was rather larger than would fit any of the contexts cited.

There is at least one... which appear to be stone... legs and clawed feet... objects concerned m... not any direct influ... England. The objects... of the four porphyry... for members of the... associated with Hen... Cathedral, and with... fourth similar sarcop... Frederick II, has sup... two eggs and feet at... four sarcophagi see... see Bacile 2010). Th... were presumably in... such as that (also in... of Pope Clement XII... of the church of St... the curved support... terminates (below...

6.4 Painted W...

Introduction

Window glass is the... from Selborne Priory... during the main exc... five from one topso... excavation processi... small tobacco and l... How much of what... is therefore difficul... stable, with only a f... that affects excavat... deposits, but painte... churning by original... excavation storage... achieving joins betw... Notebook entri... was found, but it is... surviving material... seem to have been... the chapter house... mixed up finds, tho... number 1958-38 m... crossing are indicat... the north-east corn... 'mosaics' of glass lyin... wall, under layers o... the chapter house... of this crossing mat...

There is at least one medieval precedent for supports which appear to be stylised versions of single animals' legs and clawed feet, though the location and date of the objects concerned make it very unlikely they could have had any direct influence on late medieval sculpture in England. The objects are the porphyry supports for three of the four porphyry mid-12th-century sarcophagi made for members of the Sicilian royal family: those traditionally associated with Henry VI and Constance, at Palermo Cathedral, and with William I, at Monreale Cathedral. The fourth similar sarcophagus, traditionally associated with Frederick II, has supports in the form of lions, each with two legs and feet at the front (for many illustrations of all four sarcophagi see Deér 1959; for discussion and dating see Bacile 2010). The supports of the first three sarcophagi were presumably inspired by a classical Roman trough, such as that (also in porphyry) later reused for the tomb of Pope Clement XII (d 1740), now in the Corsini Chapel of the church of St John Lateran in Rome, where each of the curved supports has four flutes down the front but terminates (below a rectangular fillet) in a recognisable

four-clawed foot. On the Sicilian versions, the four flutes at the front continue beyond the fillet, with pointed or rounded terminations, but the resemblance to the clawed feet of Pope Clement's sarcophagus is evident (see esp. Deér 1959, illus. 106–9). While this establishes a classical and possible medieval precedent for the use of animal feet supports on their own, the feet in the models rely for strength on being made in one with solid supporting stonework behind, whereas the Selborne foot is carved all the way round, even if the back was not intended to be seen.

Since the possible parallels cited so far are all, for various reasons, unconvincing, the possibility must therefore be considered that the foot is a post-medieval object, such as a stand for an ornamental garden planter, in which case it is probably of 18th- or 19th-century date. The find spot and archaeological context (though not precisely recorded) probably argues against this but to postulate a medieval date demands the identification of a complete medieval object or feature from which it could have come. Perhaps such a comparable object may yet be found.

## 6.4 Painted Window Glass Anna Eavis

### Introduction

Window glass is the largest category of surviving bulk finds from Selborne Priory. Several thousand pieces were recovered during the main excavation period of 1953–69, but only five from one topsoil context in the work of 1970–71. Post-excavation processing was poor and storage inadequate, in small tobacco and large catering tins and other reused boxes. How much of what was excavated on site survived in 2010 is therefore difficult to ascertain, but the glass is relatively stable, with only a few pieces disintegrating. The usual opacity that affects excavated glass is compounded by lime mortar deposits, but painted grisaille designs are apparent. Successive churning by original demolition, excavation and poor post-excavation storage has virtually eliminated the scope for achieving joins between pieces.

Notebook entries indicate when and where window glass was found, but it is mostly impossible to connect them with surviving material accumulated into large containers. There seem to have been two main concentrations. In the area of the chapter house, repeated excavations are likely to have mixed up finds, though anything with the County accession number 1958:38 must come from there. Finds around the crossing are indicated by a 1962 notebook entry referring to the north-east corner of the barn on site, where there was 'masses of glass lying on mortared floor', and on 'the top of a wall, under layers of window glass, mostly of same pattern as the chapter house glass, but a few pieces of blue glass'. None of this crossing material can be identified amongst what

survives, and the possibility that it was the material taken off site cannot be verified. Squares 58 / 46 produced a quantity of glass, some in layers, just above the floor level.

'Curiously enough, there is no find of the lead containing the glass, such as has been found in conjunction with all the other glass on the site. This leads one to the supposition that the lead was first removed, and the glass dumped here amongst other building rubble' (NBk 3, p93, 22 July 1959).

The glass was sorted and boxed by Holly Duncan, Artefacts Manager at (now) Albion Archaeology, flat on foam rubber pallets in polythene containers. In 2010 all pallets were laid out for assessment; each was photographed before re-boxing.

Following assessment it was decided to publish typical examples of designs from what appears to be a early-mid-13th-century grisaille assemblage, doubtless inserted in the main buildings as part of the initial construction campaign following foundation of the priory in 1233. A selection of the best pieces was made, having regard to variety and legibility of design, shapes and grozed edges. Initially, 281 pieces were chosen by David Baker and bagged individually with three element numbers assigned, xx = container, yy = pallet, zz = piece number, as identified on the original photograph of the pallet. Selected pieces were numbered on prints of the pallet photographs. A further selection was then made by Evelyn Baker, reducing 281 to 151 pieces by removing duplicates

and obscured pieces. The final selection was sorted generally by designs and shapes. Scanning on a flat-bed scanner produced ten images of full-sized pieces. The pieces on each scan print were given their six-figure numbers, and the present writer made a final selection of those to be drawn for publication. The catalogue below uses two numbering systems: xx yy zz and xx yy refer to extant palleated material; 3:x and 4:x numbers refer to material drawn in the 1970s, not all of which is extant.

There are two other sources of information for the window glass. The surviving site notebooks (NBks 1, 26) for 1953–69 contain sets of drawings, some by Dr Scott and some probably by the Rev George Knapp, depicting 40 pieces, 12 of which can be identified amongst the reduced main total of 151. It is possible but unlikely that a few others might be amongst the 130 discarded at the final selection. The availability in the mid-1970s of a small grant for the illustrator Corinne Renow secured high-quality drawings of 19 pieces then on display in the Priory Room at the Wakes Museum. Only two of these can be identified within the reduced main total of 151, but 11 are covered from the Scott / Knapp drawings. These figures indicate significant losses over and above those resulting from poor site and post-excavation storage conditions.

#### Discussion

The majority of the Selborne fragments come from geometric painted grisaille windows, most probably dating from the second quarter of the 13th century. The principal design element is stylised foliage (curving stems, trefoil leaves, clusters of fruit) painted, with a cross-hatched ground, on white glass. This was deployed in a series of geometric compartments within the window, each centred on a coloured or painted boss and framed with a decorative border. Also present are the remains of a number of quarries, painted with stylised foliage and floral designs, used either to form complete windows of tiled appearance, or as a background for the geometric elements. This is entirely consistent with several schemes which survive, or are known to have existed, at a number of monastic houses, secular cathedrals, royal chapels and parish churches throughout the first half of the 13th century.

Grisaille glass appears to have been an enduring element of the decorative glass repertoire, used alongside or instead of colour schemes. During the 12th century the ornamental possibilities of unpainted white glass had been embraced by, but were not exclusive to, the Cistercian Order. In addition to the windows extant at the Cistercian houses of Noirlac (Cher), Eberbach (Baden-Württemberg) and Santas Creus (Catalonia), for example, are important and comparable survivals at Brabourne parish church (Kent) and York Minster. The earliest use of stylised – ‘stiff-leaf’ – foliage in English stained glass dates to around 1200, when the form appeared in architectural sculpture. It could be painted on coloured or white glass, in

narrative scenes and decorative contexts, such as the rich foliate borders at Canterbury Cathedral, for example (see Williamson 2003). One of the earliest known survivals of its use within a grisaille scheme is at Lincoln Cathedral, dated to c 1220 or earlier (Morgan 1983). Other examples include Salisbury Cathedral, c 1228–50; York Minster, c 1240; and Westminster Abbey, c 1253 (Marks 1996, Brown 1999, Brown 2003, Lethaby 1906). Similar material was excavated at Worcester Cathedral, dated c 1230 and Clarendon Palace, dated c 1240 (Guy 2012, Marks 1988) and in 13th-century contexts at Kells Priory and the abbeys at Battle, Bordesley, Hailes and Rievaulx (Moran 2007, Kerr 1983, Kerr 1985, Marks 1986). There are also numerous remains in parish churches, particularly in Kent, where the survival rate of 13th-century buildings is high. Good examples include St Michael’s, Stanton Harcourt (Oxfordshire), St Denys, Walmgate (York) and St Mary’s, Westwell (Kent) but none can be conclusively dated beyond attribution, on stylistic grounds, to the 13th century.

By the 1230s, painted grisaille was commonly used and was to remain so until the middle of the 14th century. Among the reasons often cited for its popularity are liturgical legibility, practicality and economy. Although white glass cost less than coloured, a painted grisaille scheme was not necessarily a cheap option. The closest parallels for the Selborne grisaille – in terms of design and painting style – are provided by Salisbury Cathedral and fragments excavated from Clarendon Palace, both high-status commissions. The outstanding series of grisaille windows at Salisbury Cathedral demonstrates the ingenuity with which the various decorative elements could be combined and the superb quality – and thus high cost – of the craftsmanship (design, cutting, glass-painting and leading) involved (Fig 6.27).

The extensive use of grisaille windows at Salisbury – most probably in the clerestory, choir aisles and nave – may be partly explained by the need for effective illumination of increasingly sophisticated liturgical performance as well as the paintings of the high vault in the choir. Certainly, a practical requirement for light made white glass a suitable choice for processional and working spaces, like the choir aisles at Worcester, the refectory at Hailes Abbey, the chapter houses at Salisbury and Westminster, and, later in the century, the chapter house stair at Wells. However, the complexity of many of the surviving designs suggests that an aesthetic imperative was as important as this utilitarian one. At least 20 different ornamental designs were used in various configurations at Salisbury within an architectural setting coolly articulated by dark Purbeck marble shafts. The survival of two geometric grisaille panels in the south transept of York Minster, commissioned as part of its remodeling c 1235, may be evidence of a similar aesthetic – and monochrome – effect. It is mirrored in the slightly later north transept, whose famous five lancets are glazed with a more profuse and lavish application of the same principle.

A similarly rich repertoire of designs is suggested by the remains at Kells Priory, Lincoln and Westminster.

There is little firm evidence for the original window positions of panels and excavated fragments at most of the sites mentioned so far, including those from Selborne. The exception is Kells Priory, where excavation suggests a predominance of 13th-century painted grisaille in the nave. Even here, however, the remains are too scanty to be conclusive and could simply be evidence of patterns of destruction and survival. It is difficult to assess what kinds of conventions – if any – governed the display of particular designs. It has been suggested, for example, that simpler, unpainted grisailles (ie where the decorative element was provided by the leadlines alone) were used in the clerestory at Salisbury, while the painted designs were used at ground level (Marks 1996, 112). It is possible that some motifs, or designs of particular complexity, were reserved for places of particular significance. The south transept at York, for example, was the setting for Archbishop de Grey's shrine-like tomb. The idea that ornamental windows could have been invested with meaning has only really been seriously explored in relation to Cistercian schemes, partly because of the metaphorical richness of St Bernard's writings (eg Zakin 1979). There must be scope for considering the symbolic possibilities of ornamental glazing more widely, perhaps beginning with a near contemporary interpretation of the clerestory windows at Lincoln, on which could be seen 'a covering of flowers, signalling the manifold beauty of the world' (Morgan 1983, 39).

The presence of decorative grisaille windows did not preclude the existence of narrative ones. At Salisbury the east windows of the eastern arm, each one above an altar, were most probably glazed with historiated panels (Marks 1996, 109), perhaps set on grisaille grounds (eg as at Stanton Harcourt) or with full-colour borders (as at Westwell). At Selborne there is limited evidence of figural glass, likely to date also from the early-mid-13th century.

The Selborne glass, only a small proportion of which is catalogued here, is an important addition to the corpus of 13th-century window glass and, if studied in full, could considerably enhance our understanding of approaches to ornamental, non-figurative glazing.

### Description

#### 1 Stiff-leaf Foliage

There are many fragments of what must have been an extensive foliate scheme, the curving stems, trefoil leaves and fruit clusters typical of the early-mid-13th century. The remains of extensive, often looping and intertwined stem systems suggest a complexity of design. The painting is accomplished; stems are painted with a fine fluid inner line, often terminating in a hook behind each leaf, as at Salisbury Cathedral and Clarendon Palace. Leaves are predominantly stylised stiff-leaf trefoils, but vary widely in size and include pairs of tiny leaves. The fruit clusters generally contain five

or more berries, a relatively rare survival (clusters of three are more common) also found at Salisbury, Clarendon, Kells and Westwell.

#### Stems and Leaves (Fig 6.28)

- 11 07 01 Intertwining stems, part of trefoil leaf, cross-hatched ground.
- 11 08 18 Intertwining curving stems, one terminating in (partly lost) trefoil leaf, cross-hatched ground.
- 11 08 20 Pair of double leaflets, cross-hatched ground.
- 13 08 Part of trefoil leaf and stem, cross-hatched ground.
- 15 06 04 Curving stem, trefoil spray, cross-hatched ground.
- 16 03 07 Pair of curving stems, each terminating in a trefoil leaf.
- 18 02 11 Trefoil leaf, curving stem.

#### Stems and Fruiting Leaves (Fig 6.29)

- 3:7 Curving stems with small pairs of leaves, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground.
- 3:11 Pair of curved stems looped together, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground.
- 11 05 18 Curving stem, trefoil leaves, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground.
- 15 01 02 Curving stem, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground. Apparent remains of straight painted fillet border suggest that this may be part of a quarry.
- 16 02 03 Pair of curving stems, one terminating in trefoil leaf with fruit cluster. Cross-hatched ground.
- 16 02 07 Curving stem terminating in trefoil leaf with fruit cluster. Cross-hatched ground.
- 16 03 01 Curving stem, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground. Apparent remains of a straight painted fillet border suggests that this may be part of a quarry.
- 16 03 06 Part of trefoil leaf with fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground.

#### Trefoil Blossoms (Fig 6.30)

Similar types occur at Salisbury, where they are repeated in symmetrical, often circular, formation, enclosing a central boss (eg Marks 1996, fig 3, B and C, used without fruit clusters).

- 4:4 Trefoil between curving stems, fruit cluster, cross-hatched ground.
- 15 06 01 Foliate spray terminating in three stiff-leaf trefoils, two with fruit clusters; cross-hatched ground.
- 15 06 06 Pair of trefoil leaves, each terminating in a fruit cluster, flanking small trefoil blossom. Cross-hatched ground.

#### Foliage Sprays (Fig 6.30)

- 01 07 01 Remains of foliate spray comprising a pair of stiff-leaf trefoil leaves, flanking three veined petals. Cross-hatched ground.
- 11 06 12 Remains of foliate spray comprising a pair of stiff-leaf trefoil leaves, flanking three veined petals. Cross-hatched ground.

## Architectural fittings and decoration

### Palmette Spray (Fig 6.30)

This type is used between curving stems and can occur in border designs (eg as in a coloured border, formerly of Salisbury Cathedral and now at Grately Church, Hampshire) as well as in the body of the window (also at Salisbury, see Marks 1996, fig 4, A). A similar type was excavated at Bayham Abbey (Kerr 1983, fig 17, 40).

04 01 08 Triple trefoil palmette, veined petals, between curving stems. Cross-hatched ground.

### 'Fleur-de-lys' Palmette (Fig 6.30)

This pattern fills the squared corner of a design; the two straight edges of the glass on which it is painted are grozed. Although the style of palmette is different, the use of such a figure to terminate the corner of a design can be seen at Salisbury (Marks 1996, fig 3, G).

3:18 Large triple foliate palmette, 'Fleur-de-lys' type, veined petals. Cross-hatched ground.

### Flowers (Fig 6.28)

Five-petalled flowers, painted on a cross-hatched ground, were used at Salisbury (eg Marks 1996, fig 3, A and G) within complex decorative designs. Three types survive from Selborne.

16 03 02 Simple five-petalled flower on cross-hatched ground, between four curving stems.

16 06 04 Flower with five veined petals, circular centre, cross-hatched ground.

16 06 07 Flower with five veined petals, cross-hatched ground.

### 2 Bosses

Circular 'bosses', coloured or white, painted and unpainted, were commonly used as focal points for decorative schemes. Examples of both can be found at Salisbury Cathedral. Both types also survive here.

### Type 1: Unpainted (Fig 6.33)

16 06 Four coloured, unpainted circular medallions, mounted on card. One is intact; the other three are broken. All bear grozing marks and cement shadows. 'Squares 694 xyz', location uncertain.

### Type 2: Painted (Fig 6.28)

16 02 10 Four-petalled flower on matt ground with unpainted border, a circular disc or medallion.

18 04 03 Fragment of five- or six-petalled flower, cross-hatched centre, matt ground, from a circular disc or medallion.

18 04 05 Fragment of five- or six-petalled flower, cross-hatched centre, matt ground, from a circular disc or medallion.

### 3 Borders (Fig 6.31)

#### Type 1: Linear

16 01 01 Simple border with four parallel lines.

#### Type 2: Beaded

A common type of edging often used in the 12th and 13th centuries as a component in more complex borders of coloured and grisaille schemes alike.

05 01 01 Narrow beaded border comprising a series of unpainted circles on a matt ground.

#### Type 3: Quatrefoil

This type of border occurs at Salisbury, where it frames the internal compartments of several designs (see for example Octavius Hudson's drawings in the V&A Prints & Drawings Collection, Ref. 4157.1). It was also used at Clarendon (Marks 1988, cat. 1).

16 02 01 Part of curved border comprising quatrefoil enclosed in a lozenge, cross-hatched ground, simple fillet edging with three painted lines of varying thickness.

#### Type 4: Trefoil Palmette

A form of edging, comprising stiff-leaved trefoil palmettes, used to frame decorative components within the window. It was not leaded in as a separate border unit. Similar designs are found at Salisbury (Marks 1996, fig 4, D, for example).

4:2 Part of palmette curved border with veined trefoils, and large foliate palmette, perhaps comprising three veined trefoils.

4:3 Part of trefoil palmette border, curved. Trefoils are veined.

04 01 04 Stiff-leaf trefoil palmette border, curving.

#### Type 5: Alternating Trefoil Palmette

This comprises an alternation of two stiff-leaved trefoil forms. It is apparently not paralleled in the surviving schemes at Salisbury or Lincoln, where simpler palmette borders appear to have been used, but a similar type of border may have been employed at Clarendon (Marks 1988, cat. 10b).

3:6 Trefoils and remains of two trefoil sprays from palmette border.

3:8 Palmette border; trefoils alternate with trefoil sprays. Veined.

3:9 Stiff-leaf trefoil palmette border.

15 06 03 Trefoil leaf palmette border.

#### Type 6: Foliate

3:17 Foliate border, delicately picked out of matt ground.

### 4 Quarries (Fig 6.32)

Grisaille windows formed of square and diamond-shaped quarries survive at Lincoln Cathedral. At Salisbury quarries were used in combination with other designs (Marks 1996, fig 4, D); they were also excavated at Clarendon Palace and Kells Priory. At Selborne, as at Salisbury, the quarry designs are of a simpler character than those designs used elsewhere (eg see Stiff-leaf Foliage above), even where foliate and floral patterns are used. The stems are generally thicker than those found in the other foliate panels and are



Fig 6.27 Early 13th century grisaille window at Salisbury Cathedral, published by Octavius Hudson in 1848, (courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London)



Fig 6.28 Window glass, stems and leaves, painted bosses, flowers



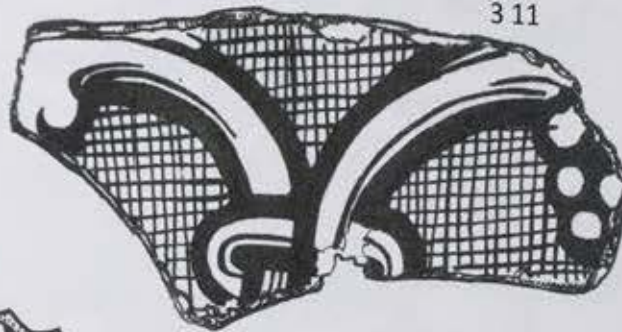
37



11 05 18



15 01 02



3 11



16 02 03



16 02 07



16 03 01



16 03 06



Fig 6.29 Window glass, stems and fruiting leaves

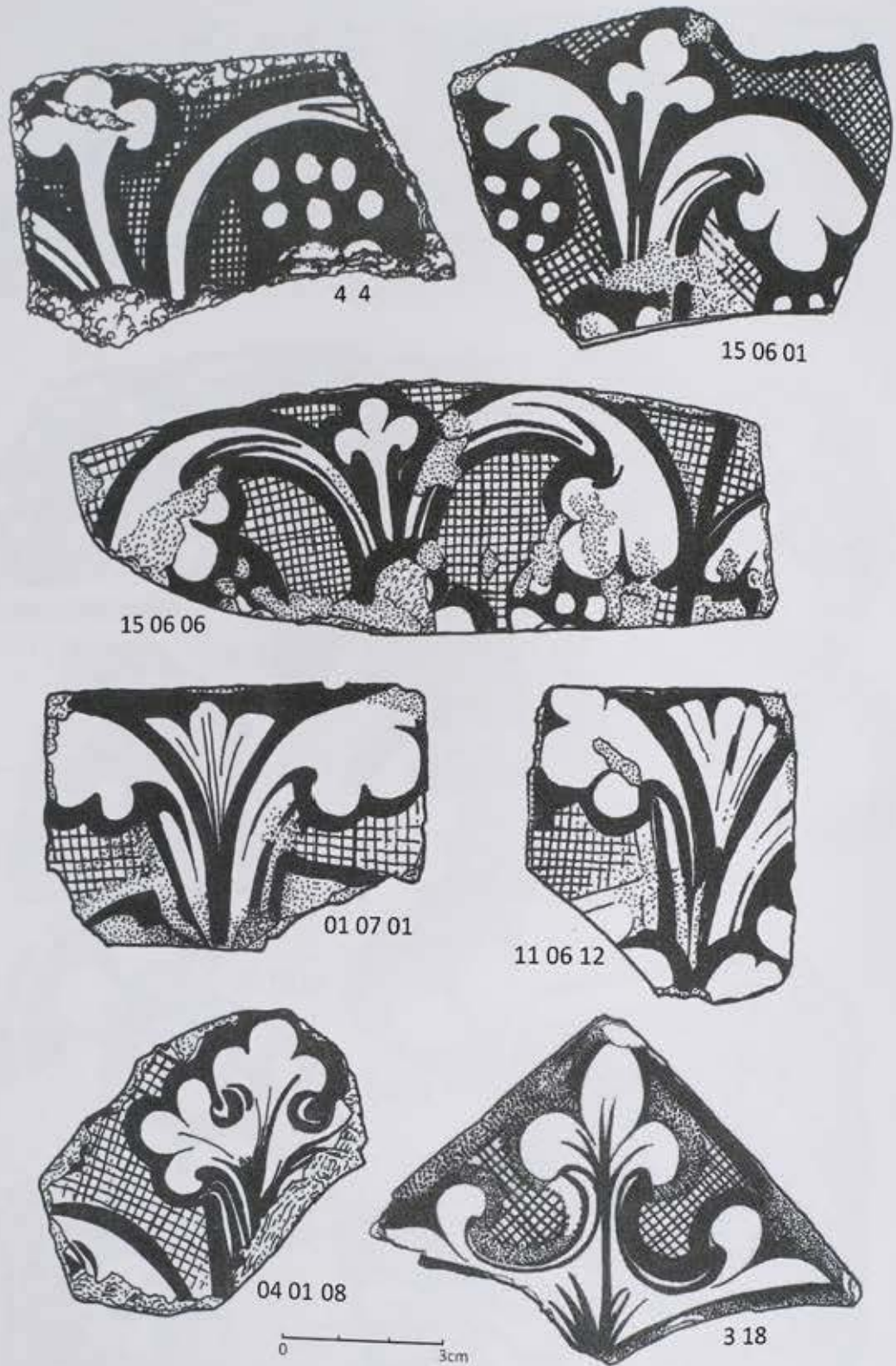


Fig 6.30 Window glass, trefoil blossoms, foliate sprays, palmette spray, fleur-de-lys palmette



05 01 01



16 01 01



16 02 01



4 3



04 01 04



3 8



4 2



3 9

15 06 03



3 6



3 17



Fig. 6.21 Window glass, borders

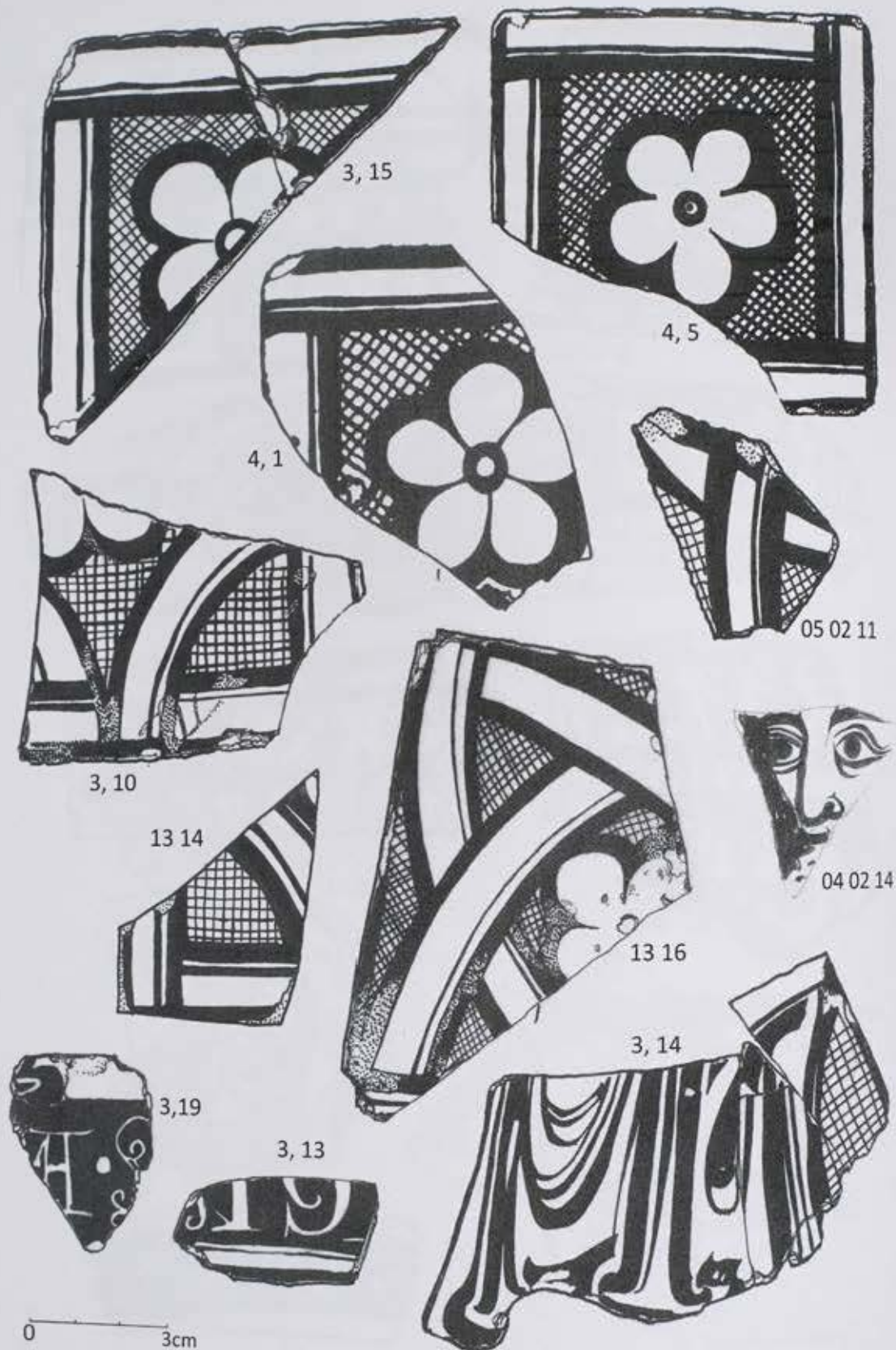


Fig 6.32 Window glass, quarries, figural glass, inscriptions

Fig 6.33 Window glass,

used in overlapping compositions.

Type 1: Flower

There is evidence for painted with a five-petaled ground enclosed by a grid, paralleled at Clarendon (Marks 1).  
 3:15 Half quarry, curvilinear and flower, cross-hatched ground.  
 4:1 Part of quarry with five-petaled flower, cross-hatched ground.  
 4:5 Quarry with similar flower, cross-hatched ground.

Type 2: Flower and

A more complex version of the flower and grid pattern, paralleled at Clarendon (Marks 1).  
 3:13 Part of quarry with flower, cross-hatched ground, part of a face.  
 3:16 Interlacing curvilinear ground, part of a face.  
 05 02 11 Overlapping of figural glazing.  
 13 14 Interlacing striped ground.

5: Figural Glass (FI)

A fragment of draped figure, nevertheless, neverthelss of figural glazing.  
 3:14 The lower part of a draped figure on hatched ground, paralleled to those of figural glass at Clarendon (Browne).  
 04 02 14 Face, first



Fig 6.33 Window glass, unpainted bosses

used in overlapping, interlaced designs, rather than looping compositions.

#### Type 1: Flower

There is evidence for a number of square quarries, each painted with a five-petalled flower on a cross-hatched ground enclosed by a simple border. This design is closely paralleled at Clarendon (Marks 1988, cat. 12).

3:15 Half quarry, cut on the diagonal. Simple fillet borders and flower, cross-hatched ground.

4:1 Part of quarry with simple fillet borders and five-petalled flower, cross-hatched ground.

4:5 Quarry with simple fillet borders and five-petalled flower, cross-hatched ground.

#### Type 2: Flower and Interlacing Stems

A more complex version of Type 1, also paralleled at Clarendon (Marks 1988, cat. 3).

3:10 Part of quarry with interlacing curved stems and flower, cross-hatched ground.

3:16 Interlacing curved stems and flower, cross-hatched ground, part of quarry?

05 02 11 Overlapping curved stems, cross-hatched ground.

03 14 Interlacing stems, straight and curved, cross-hatched ground.

#### 5 Figural Glass (Fig 6.32)

A fragment of drapery and a face, unlikely to belong together, nevertheless provide evidence for the existence of figural glazing.

3:14 The lower part of a garment, painted against a cross-hatched ground. The looping drapery folds relate to those of figures in the Tree of Jesse at Salisbury Cathedral (Brown 1999, 79), dated to the second quarter of the 13th century.

04 02 14 Face, first half 13th century.

#### 6 Inscriptions (Fig 6.32)

3:13 Fragment of Lombardic inscription, picked out of matt wash, with decoration.

3:19 Fragment of Lombardic inscription, picked out of matt wash.

### 6.5 Window leads and lead window ties

This brief report incorporates a preliminary assessment by Jo Dillon who is undertaking a wider and more detailed study of this class of material, to be reported. The lead came assemblage from Selborne Priory comprises a mixture of waste offcuts, window ties and fragments of soldered glazing nets, a few of which have glass pieces. As might be expected, nearly all the comes are medieval, pre-Dissolution Types predominantly Types A, B and C with a little D (after Knight's came typology: Knight 1983-84, Knight 1985, Knight 1986). The assemblage has features of technological interest, particularly evidence for the shaping of the moulds used to cast the comes and the modification of cast leads by trimming and by splitting the comes. A notable find is a stone came-mould fragment which she describes below (SF 212; see Duncan, Section 7.4, p167, Fig. 7.21).

Several previously unreported Type variants are present, together with irregular forms arising from miscasting. The assemblage also contains an example of doubled-came (two comes soldered together side-by-side), a wider form more commonly recorded as a component of continental medieval stained-glass lead matrices where it is used aesthetically to outline the principal design elements in a panel.

Nearly one third of the assemblage comprises an assortment of medieval window ties made from lead came, many still attached to mostly small fragments of glazing



Fig 6.34 Group I type (soldered to the net in the centre, the two arms tied together), mostly intact with tied ends and preserving the shapes of the saddle-bars around which they were tied

net. Most of the ties are made from the same came Type A and preserve many unmodified mould features including mould seams, sprues, basal-mould-end sections and miscast sections, features that are uncommon or difficult to identify in the Selborne net comes themselves. Several ties are intact, their apertures preserving the shapes and dimensions of their missing ferramenta (Fig 6.34). Three different medieval tie Groups (I,II,III) can be identified according to the different methods used to attach them to the leaded window panel. Figs 6.34–6.37 illustrate some complete examples of the three tie Groups.

Like the other Selborne finds, most of the comes now lack any contextual information and have become dissociated from any recorded contexts or even broad spatial locations, with the exception of a small group of 22 unstratified comes and ties excavated from Sq 2/573, just outside the north wall of the chapter house. This group contains the only Selborne examples of ties made from purposefully-halved lead came, and the only example of two ties attached to one net fragment, but is otherwise unremarkable. Despite the lack of context, many of the window leads and ties have features that permit some limited analysis of the dismantling and recycling processes used at Selborne.

Although relatively large in number, the majority of the comes are small and fragmented. Collectively they represent a tiny proportion of the lead glazing nets originally installed in the Priory windows. The more substantive window glass assemblage recovered from the site, itself incomplete (Eavis, Section 6.4 above), indicates how much more of the window leading has not survived. Day Book entries refer to glass, lead came or glass and came, so it is possible to infer that some of the larger deposits of only glass were created by stripping



Fig 6.35 (Top) one complete arm of a Group II type (soldered to the net at one basal end, the free end tied to its (missing) pair), showing typical curvature of the formerly tied end; Undane Group I tie (bottom)

the lead out. The small groupings of only lead look like careless stripping rather than uncollected caches. This suggests mostly it was efficiently recycled at demolition by remelting, although, as much of the site remains unexcavated, it is conceivable that further lead-came dumps survived but have not been recovered. As at other dissolved monasteries, the leadwork was almost certainly melted somewhere within the monastic precincts, probably within the building complex; no lead melting hearth was identified.

Like the window glass, the came assemblage as excavated is also incomplete. The Day Books have twenty-nine references to finds spots including eleven in the sacristy, five in the chapter house, five in or near chapel N3, three in each of the crossing and north transept, and one in each of the main drain and warming house. At least four more net fragments, three containing glass and all unstratified, are known to be missing. One, a long ladder-shaped net fragment consisting of a series of narrow rectangles, possibly arranged in two parallel rows, was probably from a window border one; it is recorded in a site photograph of 1953 (Fig 6.39). Notably larger than any of the surviving net fragments, it enclosed a large fragment of formerly rectangular glass of indeterminate colour (probably opacified by corrosion) the largest piece known to have been found still within its perimeter leads.

The condition of the assemblage varies. Mechanical damage and distortion is common, most of it caused pre-deposition during dismantling and processing for recycling. A few physically-weakened comes fragmented further during post-excavation storage and handling: some were re-adhered, but most are too weak to support the weight of the join. Although the lead is generally stable, and often retains a metallic core, most of the came surfaces are



Group II type (soldered to lead to its (missing) pair), only tied end; Undone



Fig 6.36 Made from halved came: (left) an unused bundle of halved came ties; (right) a halved came Group I tie, undone, attached to a straight length of window-came

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Fig 6.37 (Left) One complete arm of a Group II type, undone; (right) a complete Group III type – a form of in situ repair (soldered to the net at both basal ends); each tie is still attached to a small fragment of lead window-came

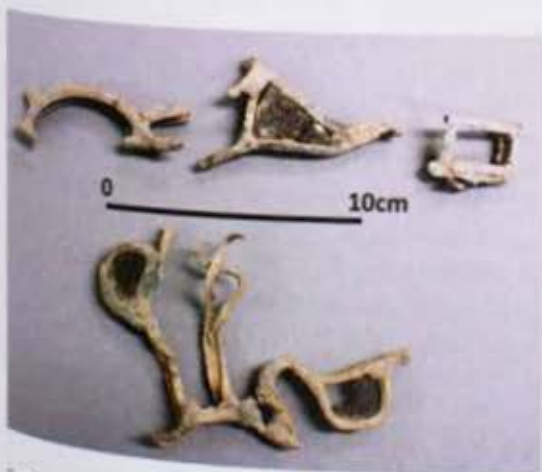


Fig 6.38 Net fragments, two containing glass

mineralised and embrittled by corrosion. Some corrosion and associated stress-cracking of distorted joints may pre-date deposition but most probably occurred during burial. Many thinner embrittled areas suffered localised abrasion during post-excavation bulk storage. Occasionally this caused loss of surface information such as toolmarks from shaping or severing the comes.

Net fragments surviving and lost are shown in Figs 6.38 and 6.39; fig 6.40 shows some of the net strips.



Fig 6.39 Rev W S Scott holding partly glazed net fragment, 1953



Fig 6.40 A typical sample of excavated lead came including window leads, casting waste and ties

## 6.6 Floor Tiles Christopher Norton

### Introduction

For a relatively modest monastic site, Selborne Priory has produced an impressive number of medieval glazed floor tiles. Comprising both plain and patterned tiles, they date from the second half of the 13th century onwards, with a particular concentration of patterns attributable to the later 13th century and the end of the 14th. By their variety and quality, they make Selborne Priory one of the most important sites in Hampshire for the study of medieval floor tiles.

### Provenance and context (Fig 6.41)

Many of the tiles were found in the first season of excavations on the site of the priory in 1953, just in time to be incorporated into a survey of the medieval paving tiles of the Alton area in north-east Hampshire published by the Rev G E C Knapp the following year. In this important article, Knapp illustrated 51 designs from Selborne (out of a total of 71 from the area as a whole), and he listed a number of sites where the same designs had been found, both in the Alton area and further afield in Hampshire and Sussex (Knapp 1954). His publication drawings, plus

a few notes, are preserved in the archive of the Census of Medieval Tiles in Britain, held at the Society of Antiquaries of London. He made little attempt, however, to distinguish different groups of tiles or to date them in any but the most general way. Subsequent excavations up to 1971 uncovered further evidence, and the tally of designs from Selborne now stands at 75. In recent decades, there have been major advances in the study of Hampshire tiles, with the result that it is now possible to divide the Selborne tiles into groups attributable to different workshops and to date them more precisely. Consequently, a much clearer picture emerges of the range and chronological development of the tile pavements at Selborne Priory, and of their wider significance for the medieval tile industry.

Most of the tiles were found loose, and their archaeological context is either not recorded or of little significance. Knapp did however record that:

'in the first day's serious digging a dump of tiles, many of them perfect, was unearthed at the corner of what is now believed to be the chapter house and the south wall of the presbytery. An interesting

Milton Abba

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Fig 6.41 Places mentioned

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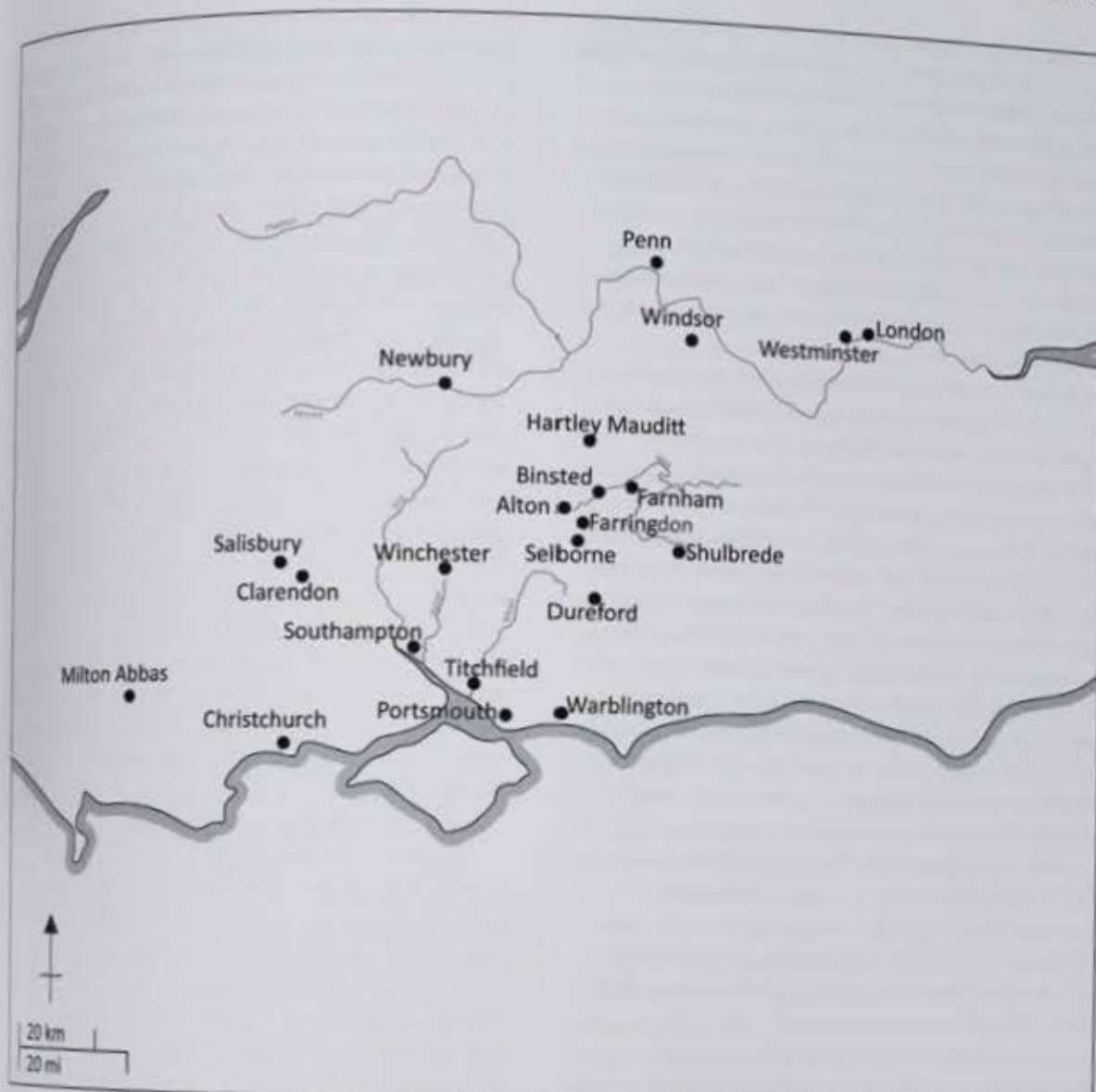


Fig 6.41 Places mentioned in the report on floor tiles

discovery was made in the chapter house where the floor had sunk owing to the subsidence over the grave of one of the priors. The floor had been stripped of tiles, but in the mortar the impressions of the tiles, complete with the marks of the keys, was distinctly visible' (Knapp 1954, 295).

No photographs survive of these discoveries and unfortunately Knapp did not say which designs were found on the tiles in the dump; nor did he record the size of the tiles which had left impressions in the mortar in the chapter house floor, or the number and form of the keys. However, as we shall see, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the tiles belonged to Group A. The pavement would therefore have been of later 13th-century date. Subsequent excavations indicate that the dump of tiles must in fact have been located at the east end of the room between the chapter house and the north transept, while

the mortar floor with the tile impressions must have been on the north side of the north transept.

Further evidence of tiles having been taken up for reuse emerged subsequently in other parts of the church. In 1966 a mortar floor bearing the impressions of a pavement of tiles with keys was unearthed in the presbytery. Photographs indicate that it had consisted of 13th-century tiles of Group A, and the absence of even a single fragment of tile again suggests that the floor had been carefully stripped. In 1971, re-excavation of the northernmost chapel off the south transept, adjacent to the presbytery, revealed two *in situ* 13th-century tiles bearing design No 9 (Fig 3.13).

Two slightly larger patches of later tiles were also found *in situ*. In 1954 a small area of tiling was found in the south-east corner of the cloister, immediately to the west of the entrance to the north transept from the cloister walk,

butting up against a Bordon ironstone door-step (Fig 4.23). In the unpublished Knapp papers, the location is incorrectly described as 'west of the entrance to the chapter house from the cloister walk'. The tiles were of late 14th-century date (Group F). Another patch of tiles of the same date was unearthed in 1963 by the west wall of the south transept (Fig 3.1). Taken as a whole, these *in situ* remains, few in number and slight though they were, do provide useful evidence for the extent and dates of the pavements, and for the subsequent recuperation of some of the tiles for reuse elsewhere.

The tiles which were discovered *in situ* were lifted and stored along with the numerous *ex situ* tiles which were recovered between 1953 and 1971. For many years, the tiles from the excavations were kept at the Gilbert White Museum in Selborne, and some were on display. When the collection was recorded by the present author in 1981, specimens of all of the designs from the excavations published by Knapp in 1954 were identified, with the exception of the single fragment of No 31. There were also some additional designs which had turned up at the priory subsequently. In recent years, the tiles have been dispersed. Many have been laid in Selborne parish church, while others have been transferred to the Curtis Museum in Alton. In both cases, the tiles from the 1953–71 excavations joined existing collections of Selborne tiles, which raise additional issues of provenance and origin.

Tiles from the priory excavations were relaid on the altar step at the east end of the south aisle of Selborne parish church, alongside an earlier group of tiles which were recorded separately by Knapp in 1954 (Knapp 1954, 294–5, 313–14). The recent arrivals (which are the more numerous) are laid in a soft cream-coloured lime mortar, whereas the pre-existing tiles are set in a hard dark cement mortar. The pre-existing parish church tiles, as recorded by Knapp, all belong to the two principal groups of tiles attested from the priory, viz:

Group A, Nos 4–16, 18–21, 24 (Figs 6.42–43)

Group F, Nos 41–2, 44, 52–3, 55, 58–60, 62 (Figs 6.45–48)

All of these designs are independently attested from the priory excavations, except No 18, a pattern which is widely distributed across Hampshire sites. As we have seen, there is evidence from the priory excavations of tiles being salvaged for reuse, and the question arises as to whether the tiles which were already in the church were original to the church, or were they too, at some point, relaid from the priory?

The 1877 edition of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* by Gilbert White, edited by T Bell, records the recent discovery in the parish church of nearly 100 tiles at the east end of the south aisle a short distance beneath the surface (White 1789a, II, 398; also White 1789d, 242). Most of them belonged to the 13th-century Group A – designs 4–5, 7–9 and 21 are illustrated (Figs 6.42–6.43) – but particular mention is made of a specimen of Group F, No

41 (Fig 6.45). In May 1948 further fragments of tiles were found at the east end of the north aisle during the removal of some 19th-century steps. These included examples of No 24. (Fig 6.43) Some pieces of 13th-century tile were found in the rubble filling of a tomb against the north wall of the chapel. This is thought to have been the tomb of Adam de Guerdon, who died c 1305 (White 1789a, 242, 244; Knapp 1954, 295). If the pieces were in undisturbed grave-fill, this would demonstrate that the church was indeed already adorned with decorated tiles by the start of the 14th century. Unfortunately, however, there can be no certainty about this, since the grave had already been investigated as early as 1721, and again perhaps during the 19th-century restorations. Tiles of Group A have been found in numerous parish churches in Hampshire, so it is entirely possible that Selborne parish church was laying decorated tiles at the same time as the priory. Equally, it may be that the tiles were taken up from the priory and relaid in the church at some date unknown. The existence of one design (No 18) in the church (Fig 6.43) which has not been recorded from the priory may point to a separate purchase by the parish church in the 13th century; but its absence from the priory may be no more than a hazard of survival. Either way, the recent relaying of tiles from the priory excavations in the church continues a long-established tradition of recycling monastic tiles, but adds to the confusion.

The tiles which were already in the Curtis Museum at Alton prior to the recent transfer of material from the 1953–71 excavations need to be considered in the light of evidence for sporadic discoveries of tiles at Selborne Priory before the start of the excavations in 1953. The earliest evidence comes from E T Bennett's 1837 edition of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*. Commenting on a reference to a Tylehouse Grove at Selborne, Bennett remarked in a footnote that it was probable 'that the tile house was the establishment at which the tiles used in the convent flooring were made. The number of plain tiles which were used there appears to have been considerable: in the preparation of the ornamented ones much time must have been occupied' (White 1789b, 617 n4).

We shall return later to the evidence for the tile-house. The reference to the plain tiles is interesting. It is almost universally the case that plain glazed tiles are statistically under-represented in tile collections compared to their more attractive patterned cousins, and Selborne is no exception. Bennett's remark is a useful reminder of the importance of plain tiles, both as constituent elements of patterned floors (such as Groups A and F), and also in plain glazed pavements, such as the numerous plain tiles imported from the Low Countries in the late Middle Ages, which are represented at Selborne Priory by Group G. More information on the patterned tiles follows in another note by Bennett a few pages later:

'A considerable number of ornamented tiles have also been found; some of which exhibit merely

fancy devices, some bear eagles displayed and other apparently armorial bearings, and one bears a shield of three fleurs de luces [sic], supported by two hawks. These tiles have been used to form the pavement of a summerhouse in the garden of the Priory Farm'

(White 1789b, 625 n1; White 1789c, 510; White 1789d, 264). Bennett's description is sufficient to identify the late 14th-century design No 44 (Fig 6.46) and others of Group F with armorial devices and eagles displayed, eg Nos 40–43 (Fig 6.45) (though it could also cover the eagles displayed from Group A, Nos 8 or 9) (Fig 6.42).

In 1954 Knapp published four designs in a private collection belonging to A Rye, Esq. of Dorton Cottage, Selborne (Group E, Nos 36 and 38 (Fig 6.45) and Group H, Nos 71–2 (Fig 6.49) (Knapp 1954, 311). Though their current whereabouts are unknown, the tiles were reputed to have come from the summer house at Priory Farm, which had been demolished around the start of the 20th century. The designs do not correspond to the description of the summer house tiles by Bennett, nor have any of them been recorded from the 1953–71 excavations, but nonetheless a Selborne Priory provenance is credible.

Designs 71–72, which were otherwise unknown to Knapp, can now be identified as belonging to the early 15th-century Newbury Group (Group H – Fig 6.49), which has turned up at a number of sites in Hampshire. A Selborne provenance for the group is confirmed by a tracing of another Newbury Group design (No 73) in a collection of 19th-century tile drawings by F Renaud, firmly attributed to Selborne Priory (Renaud nd, III, 403). This gives credence to the provenance of Nos 71–2.

No 36 is a product of the Penn tiling in Buckinghamshire, as perhaps is No 38; and a Penn tile from Selborne Priory is in the Curtis Museum in Alton (No 37). A drawing of this tile survives among the Knapp papers, although he did not publish it in his 1954 article; the tile was seen in 1981 by the present author. Penn tiles are among the most widely distributed of English medieval tiles and are recorded from as far south as Winchester, so a Selborne provenance is perfectly plausible. The fact that these Penn and Newbury tiles are quite different from the mass of material from the priory suggests that they come from a part of the site which was not explored during the 1953–71 excavations. They are an important addition to the Selborne corpus.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding the early acquisitions of Selborne tiles in the Curtis Museum. All the medieval tiles in the collection are said to be from Selborne Priory, but the old accessions for the most part lack accession numbers or labels of any kind, and the only early reference in the accession register is the entry of five pieces of 'encaustic tiles' from Selborne Priory given by Mrs Rivers of Farringdon in 1867. In 1934 the Ponsonbys noted the existence of a set of Selborne tiles in the museum, though they only mentioned two designs specifically, viz Nos 59

and 60 (Fig 6.47), both belonging to Group F (Ponsonby and Ponsonby 1934, 19–64 at 38, 40 and nos 18, 23). In 1954 Knapp listed 16 tiles of 16 different designs which were exhibited in a display case in the museum (Knapp 1954 293, 313–14 and *passim*). There are some inconsistencies in the lists of tiles and the table of provenances, but between them they include all the tiles listed on p 293 as being in Alton Museum from Selborne. He speculated that they could have come from the demolished summer house at Priory Farm. The designs belonged to the two principal groups attested at the priory from the 1953–71 excavations, viz: Group A, Nos 4, 6–8, 10 and 28–9; Group F, Nos 39, 44, 46, 50, 55, 59–60, 62 and 66 (Figs 6.42, 6.44, 6.45–48). Curiously enough, he did not see the two designs recorded by the Ponsonbys. When the available material was examined by the present author in 1981, at the time stored at the Hampshire County Museum Service at Chilcomb House, near Winchester, a number of the previously recorded designs were not to be found (Group A, Nos 28–29 and Group F, Nos 39, 46, 50, 60 and 66), though Nos 29, 46, 50 and 66 are currently (2010) again on display at the Curtis Museum. In addition, other Group A and Group F designs not recorded by the Ponsonbys or Knapp were present in 1981, viz: Group A, Nos 3, 5, 23 and 25; Group F, Nos 52–3. Each design was represented by just one or two examples, as if the tiles had been selected for the range of their patterns. Of those examined in 1981, Nos 7 and 59 and one example of No 10 are marked 'Selborne' in pencil, while one example of No 1 is marked 'Roman tile Selborne Hants,' with the date 1938 added in pencil. All but two of the designs are attested independently at Selborne Priory from the post-war excavations; and the two exceptions (Nos 47 and 67) are both known from other sites with Group F designs, so they fit perfectly well into the Selborne context. Indeed, although both Group A and Group F are recorded at many sites in and around Hampshire, there is probably no other single site which can match the set of designs in the museum as well as Selborne Priory does. So although precise documentation is lacking in most cases, the traditional attribution of the Group A and Group F tiles to the priory can be accepted.

The museum collection includes two tiles belonging to rarer Groups: the Penn tile, No 37, has already been mentioned (Group E); No 33 is the only representative of Group B so far known from Selborne (Fig 6.45). Group B is a distinctive Hampshire group known from sites in and around Winchester. The design is otherwise known in the Alton area only at Farringdon (Knapp 1954, 294, no 56). While the appearance of this group at Selborne is in no way surprising, the possibility cannot be ruled out that this single tile actually came from Farringdon church and was confused with others from Selborne given by Mrs Rivers of Farringdon in 1867.

There are two final comments on provenance. Among the material from the excavations there is a single tile (Group K, No 75 – Fig 6.49) bearing a pattern which is otherwise recorded only from a few sites in Dorset and perhaps Wiltshire. It may be a genuine Selborne tile, but it is equally possible that it is a collector's piece acquired by Knapp which has found its way into the Selborne collection by mistake. A single Selborne tile has made its way further afield to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It is a half-tile bearing design No 59, acquired in 1970 (Hinton 1972, 196–7).

To sum up, there are some uncertainties about the provenances of some of the individual Selborne tiles, but the only serious reservation concerns Group K, No 75. For the sake of completeness, all of the tiles whose provenance is in any way uncertain have been included in this study, pending further discoveries.

#### The tile numbers and drawings

In his 1954 article, Knapp listed and numbered the designs from the Alton area in a single sequence including those from other sites which had not been recorded from Selborne Priory. The designs were grouped broadly speaking according to pattern. It is therefore difficult to separate out the different workshop groups. A significant number of new designs need to be added to the list from later excavations at the priory, as do the plain tiles, which form an important part of the ensemble but were largely ignored by Knapp. In the present report, the tiles have been grouped chronologically by workshop, and the designs have been renumbered accordingly. A table of concordance between Knapp's numbers and the new numbers is given at the end (Fig 6.50).

The design drawings which Knapp published were taken from the best available specimens, either from the priory or from other sites in the Alton area. Where necessary, the designs were pieced together from more than one fragmentary or worn example. In Hampshire, unlike some other parts of the country, different tile designs can generally be ascribed to individually identifiable wooden stamps: even when close variants of a particular motif exist, the tiles made by each stamp can usually be identified. The method of building up design drawings from the best-preserved examples, or pieces thereof, is therefore valid; and it makes little sense to illustrate actual specimens of tiles from a particular site (especially if they are worn or fragmentary) if the pattern is readily identifiable. Some of Knapp's design drawings are complete and adequate as they stand, and in such cases his original drawings (with minor revisions for the sake of consistency) have been reused (Nos 2, 7, 9, 18, 23, 36, 38, 39, 43–50, 52, 58, 59, 61, 66, 71, 72). Nos 46 and 60 are taken from Knapp's published drawings, while No 74 and the two roof tiles with stamped patterns (Nos 76 and 77) are taken from unpublished drawings in the excavation archive. In some

cases, however, where the designs did not survive in a complete state but incorporated symmetrical elements, Knapp supplied the missing sections. This is inadvisable, since tile designs are rarely exactly symmetrical. In other cases Knapp incorrectly combined fragments of two similar designs into a single drawing or, conversely, published as different designs what are merely variant impressions of one design made with a single stamp. In still other cases, more exact versions of the designs have become available either from subsequent discoveries at Selborne, or from other sites. In all these cases Knapp's drawings have been replaced by more up-to-date versions. Some of these are design drawings previously published by the present author from other sites, when the identification is certain (Nos 4–6, 8, 10–15, 17, 19–22, 24–6, 49, 53). For the rest, new drawings have been made from the Selborne tiles (Nos 1, 3, 16, 27–35, 37, 40–2, 44, 45, 47, 48, 51, 54–7, 62–5, 67–70, 75). Some of the designs survive only in fragmentary form, but when it is probable (but not certain) that the complete design is recorded elsewhere, the missing parts of the design have been completed in dotted lines (Nos 34, 61). Knapp illustrated the designs at various different scales. They are all reproduced here at the standard scale of 1:3.

#### Group A c 1260–1280 Designs Nos 1–32 (Figs 6.42–6.44)

Plain tiles: square tiles. c 5–5½in (127–135mm) square and 1in (c 25mm thick), either yellow (with clear glaze over a surface layer of white clay) or dark green/black (with dark green glaze applied directly onto the reddish body-clay). Also, rectangular halves and thirds of a tile, all dark green/black, derived from standard-sized square tiles scored before firing; and small yellow squares, one-quarter or one-ninth of a whole tile (Group A, types a and b, Fig 6.44). There is also a dark green triangle, derived from a square tile scored diagonally (Group A, type c).

These tiles belong to the most common and widespread group of 13th-century tiles in Hampshire. They are found at numerous monastic and parish churches in the county, across Dorset and Wiltshire, and in adjoining regions (Eames 1980, 190–2; Emden 1977, *passim*). Among the most important surviving examples are the pavements in the Muniment Room and the chapter house of Salisbury Cathedral (the latter replaced with copies in the mid-19th century) and in the retrochoir of Winchester Cathedral (Norton 1983, 78–93 at 80–84 (Group 4); Norton 1993a, 167–76 with illustrations of all the original retrochoir floor designs; Norton 1996, 90–105 at 95–99). These all include tiles made with the same stamps as some of the Selborne tiles. Of the six square designs original to the Salisbury Cathedral chapter house pavement, four appear at Selborne (Nos 2, 3, 6 and 25); but of the 12 additional designs represented in the Salisbury Muniment Room floor, only one reappears at Selborne (No 26). The extensive but badly damaged retrochoir floor in Winchester Cathedral contained at least 17 original designs, eight of which are



1



4



7



10

Fig 6.42 Floor tiles, Gro



1



2



3



4



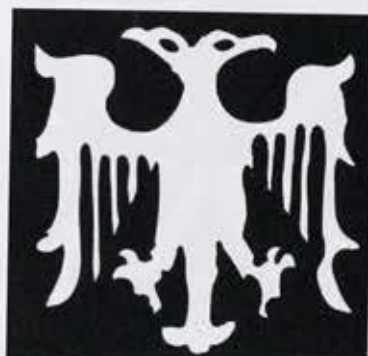
5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

Fig 6.42 Floor tiles, Group A nos 1-12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24

Fig 6.43 Floor tiles, Group A nos 13-24



15



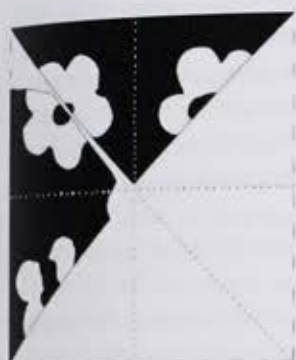
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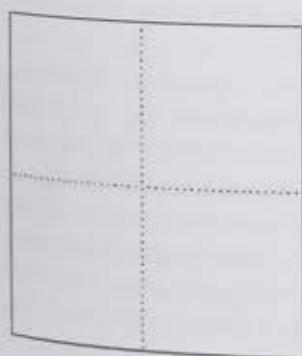
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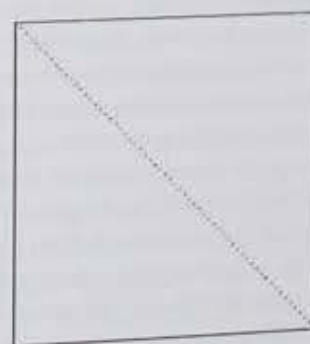
24



a



b



c

Fig 6.44 Floor tiles, Group A nos 25–32 and plain tiles, a–c

recorded from Selborne (Nos 8–10, 12, 14–15, 19 and 24). More of the Selborne designs reappear among the extensive *ex situ* tiles elsewhere in Winchester Cathedral. They can also be found at Augustinian Christchurch Priory, at Clarendon Palace, and at Winchester College where, curiously enough, the tiles pre-date the foundation of the college by a century or more, and must have been reused (Norton 1980, 49–64, Group 2; Eames 1988, 127–67 at 157–60, Group III; Norton 1974, 23–42, Group 1). Winchester Cathedral, which has the largest single collection of these tiles, has examples of all the Selborne Group A patterns, except Nos 1, 16, 25 and 27–31.

Given the relatively small number of designs in the surviving pavements even at premier sites such as Salisbury Cathedral and Winchester Cathedral, it seems likely that the numerous Group A designs from Selborne represent more than one pavement laid by the same workshop, perhaps over a number of years. Alternatively, they may represent something of a job lot. As previously noted, the eastern parts of the church were apparently paved with Group A tiles. Knapp unfortunately did not specify, and no photographs survive to show, which designs were found in the 'dump' by the north transept in 1953; nor did he describe the types of keys which had left impressions in the mortar nearby inside the transept. The keys of the two principal groups of Selborne tiles, Groups A and F, are quite different in both shape and number (four in the former case, five in the latter), so the pavements could be dated from the impressions of the keys even in the absence of the actual tiles. In an article published in a local newspaper in 1954, however, Knapp clearly implied that the north transept floor was composed of the four-keyed tiles, belonging to Group A (Knapp 1954a, 6, designs 41 and 44). This is consistent with the other evidence. Photographs of the mortar floor uncovered in the presbytery in 1966 show what appear to be impressions of four-keyed tiles c 125mm (5in) square, of Group A (Fig 3.8). The two tiles found *in situ* in the chapel to the south of the presbytery in 1971 also belonged to Group A (Fig 3.13). Two specimens of design No 9 were found next to each other c 30cm (1ft) from the south wall. They were lying square on to the wall, and were separated by two thin rectangular border-tiles from a section of stone edging (perhaps the remains of a step) running north–south across the chapel. Although the context for these isolated survivals was not explored further, it is likely that they were in fact *in situ*. Tiles of design No 9 were used at other sites laid end-to-end within plain rectangular tiles to form borders of panels, as at Winchester Cathedral (Norton 1993a, pl XXII B) and this is precisely how they seem to have been used here.

Not enough evidence remains to work out the overall layout of the Selborne floors, but the arrangement of pavements is consistent across the range of sites where tiles of Group A have been recorded *in situ*, and it may be assumed that the Selborne pavements were similar. The

tiles would have been laid in large rectangular panels, generally only one, two or three designs per panel. Within each panel, the tiles could be laid square on or diagonally. A considerable number of the double-headed eagle tiles (No 8) were scored diagonally before firing for breaking into two triangles, showing that these eagles were to have been laid diagonally. Within each panel, the patterned tiles might be divided by a trellis-pattern of dark rectangular half-tiles or one-third tiles, with small yellow squares (either one-quarter or one-ninth of a whole tile) laid at the intersections (Group A, types a and b). Alternatively, the patterned quarter-tiles bearing quatrefoils or rosettes (Nos 27–9) could have been laid at the intersections. Similar elements, along with triangular and square plain tiles, would have been employed in the borders between panels and at the edges of pavements. While many of the Selborne tiles are quite worn, others retain their glaze in something close to their original condition. These give a good idea of the scintillating colouristic effects created by the tiles when new.

Many of the designs have precedents among two groups of tiles produced for Henry III and some of the wealthiest ecclesiastical establishments in the region in the 1240s and 1250s. They are best known, respectively, from the pavement of the King's Chapel at Clarendon Palace and the pavement of the Queen's Chamber at Clarendon (Eames 1980, 134–8 and 186–90; Eames 1988, 139–57, Groups I and II and refs there cited), but products of the same workshop or workshops have been found at Salisbury Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral, and the royal castle at Winchester, among other sites (Norton 1996, 91–5; Norton 1993a, 79–80, Groups 1 and 2; Norton forthcoming, reassessing the distribution and dating of all the main groups of 13th-century Hampshire tiles, including Selborne, Group A). Thanks to documents in the royal archives, the Winchester Castle and Clarendon Palace tiles belonging to the earlier group can be dated to the early 1240s. This places them among the earliest precisely datable inlaid tiles in Europe; and they are the earliest examples of this new decorative technique in the Wessex region (Norton 1986, 256–93).

A major expansion in tile production is demonstrated by the numerous surviving products of the later workshop to which the Selborne Group A tiles belong. These are found in far larger quantities at the major sites which had already patronised the workshop(s) of the 1240s and 1250s, as well as at many lesser monastic houses and, for the first time, at parish churches. Knapp has listed the distribution of these tiles in the parish churches of the Alton area, and the list could be extended across much of the county. Selborne Priory and parish church (if some of the tiles there are indeed original to the church) exemplify precisely this phase of expansion, which can be dated on the evidence of other sites to the years c 1260–80.

The 1240s' workshop was definitely itinerant: the remains of the kiln where the 1240s' tiles at Clarendon were fired has been excavated in the heart of the palace, while wasters identical to some of the tiles laid at Winchester Castle in the immediately preceding years have been found at Marwell, near Winchester (Eames 1980, 28–29; Eames 1988, 126–38; Norton forthcoming). No production site has yet been identified for the 1250s' tiles, though the workshop which produced them may still have been itinerant. However, the visual similarity of all the c 1260–80 products (which include the Selborne Group A tiles) at dozens of sites across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, and the reappearance of the same designs right across the region, suggest that they may all have been manufactured at a fixed tiliary from which they were exported over a wide area. The physical characteristics of the Selborne Group A tiles are broadly speaking similar to others of their kind at numerous other sites. They measure about 127–135mm (5–5¼in) square and about 25mm (1in) thick. The fabric is dense red-brown, not very sandy, with occasional pebbles mixed in. The tiles often have reduced grey cores, and the reduction sometimes spreads onto the surface. The sides are chamfered, the base sanded. The pattern is inlaid up to 4mm deep in cream or pale pink clay. The only unusual feature of the Selborne tiles relates to their keys. Patterned tiles of the c 1260–80 type normally have four large circular keys scooped out of their underside. These may be as much as c 50mm (2in) across and may penetrate almost to the surface of the tiles (Norton 1974, 2, top right and middle left for typical examples). Plain tiles, however, are often unkeyed. At Selborne, unusually, the majority of the tiles, patterned as well as plain, are unkeyed, though some examples of most of the designs do bear four keys in the usual manner. One example of No 2 has just one large central key. Although these so-called keys are common in the Wessex region, they are by no means standard elsewhere: indeed, the majority of medieval tiles are unkeyed. Their purpose was not in fact to ensure the adherence of the tiles to the mortar base – that was achieved by means of the chamfered sides, which enabled the mortar to rise up between the tiles while still permitting a close fit at the surface. Rather, their function was to assist the drying and firing of the tiles, which were made out of particularly dense clay. Selborne is towards the eastern edge of the distribution of the c 1260–80 tiles. This raises the possibility that they were made by an offshoot of the main workshop at a kiln site nearby exploiting local clays which were less dense in their texture and therefore had less need of keys. However, other evidence makes this unlikely.

A number of the designs of the c 1260–80 tiles across the region exhibit breaks in the wooden stamps which were used to impress the design into the surface before it was filled with inlay. In some cases, it is even possible to trace the progressive enlargement of the cracks. Some of

the Selborne tiles have breaks of this kind. Design No 3, for instance, sometimes has a break running vertically through the back and tail of the lion. Seven examples at Selborne show this break (as illustrated) but the majority do not. Similarly, the companion-piece to the lion, No 2, sometimes has a break running vertically down through the griffin's tail and back. Of 20 fragments at Selborne with the relevant part of the pattern, five were made with the unbroken stamp. The other 15 show the break in various stages of development, including one where it is as much as 3mm wide. No 5, likewise, sometimes has a break running down the back of the lion's neck. Of the seven fragments at Selborne, two show the neck unbroken, two show the break just starting, and three show it more advanced. Examples of the very same designs at a number of other sites show a similar range of intact and broken stamps. So the Selborne examples must have been manufactured at the same time as the tiles with identical designs at other sites, as the wooden stamps progressively deteriorated. They must presumably all have been made at the same place. Scientific analysis of the clays could perhaps shed light on the matter in the future.

All the same, there is one design which arguably has a special Selborne connection – the two fish (No 1), which is represented from the priory excavations by two whole tiles and three fragments. Although they have no keys, they look similar to the Group A tiles. Fish are not common on medieval floor tiles, and this design is otherwise recorded only at nearby Hartley Mauditt church (Knapp 1954, 294 – the tiles were possibly reused from Selborne Priory). It is perhaps not a coincidence that the story of a miracle which occurred at Selborne c 1250 concerns a fish. Richard de Wych, Bishop of Chichester (1245–53) and a possible relative of Prior John de Wych (1234–c1260), came to stay at Selborne and was invited to accompany a party to the fishponds. After a fruitless attempt to catch some fish, the bishop was asked for his blessing; whereupon a pike, three feet or more in length, appeared above the net, 'as if drawn and enticed from the water by the holy man's blessing' (Le Faye 1975, 47–71, at p52). Richard was canonised in 1262 and his body translated behind the high altar of Chichester Cathedral in 1276, dates which nicely correspond to the period when the Selborne tiles were being laid. If the tiles do indeed refer to the miracle, they were presumably manufactured specially for the priory. A similar local reference is perhaps to be found in the slightly earlier chapter house pavement at Westminster Abbey, dating to the mid-1250s. This includes rectangular border tiles bearing a fish, either *dexter* or *sinister*. It has been suggested that the fish represent salmon and refer to the annual tithes of salmon presented to the abbey by Thames fishermen, in a tradition whose origins were traced to a supposed injunction by St Peter himself on the night of the original consecration of the church. More recently, however, the Westminster chapter house fish have been



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Fig 6.45 Floor tiles, Group B no 33, Group C no 34, Group D no 35, Group E nos 36–38, Group F nos 39–43



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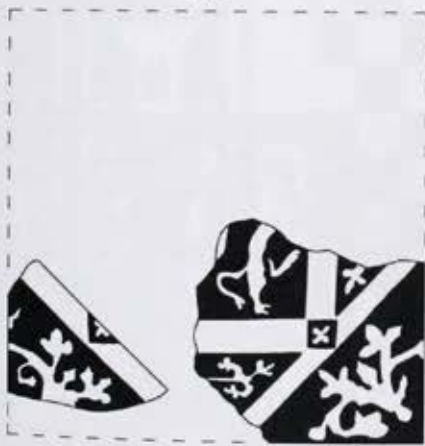
43



44



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48



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51



52

Fig 6.46 Floor tiles, Group F nos 44-52



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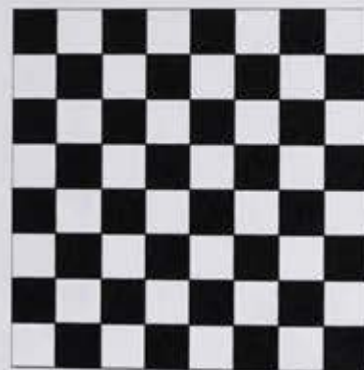
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Fig 6.47 Floor tiles, Group F nos 53–61



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Fig 6.48 Floor tiles, Group F nos 62-70

## Architectural fittings and decoration

identified as pike (Clayton 1912, 36–73 at 59–60; Keen 2010, 209–36 at 229). Whatever the significance of the fish at the two sites, they are certainly unusual and near-contemporary examples of the use of prominent fish on medieval floor tiles.

There follow a few further comments on individual designs.

No 6 This too sometimes shows a break in the stamp, but it is not visible on any of the Selborne specimens (Norton 1996, no 12).

No 12 This is erroneously listed by Knapp as  $4\frac{1}{4}$ in square instead of  $5\frac{1}{4}$ in square, and correspondingly illustrated by him at the wrong size.

Nos 15 and 16 There are two very similar designs, apparently not distinguished by Knapp, whose drawing seems to contain elements of both. No 16 is a rare version, known on a tile at Winchester; the other version (No 15) is very common and widespread.

No 17 Knapp illustrated this at a very small scale.

No 18 This design is so far recorded only from Selborne church, not the priory.

No 20 Knapp's illustration is slightly incorrect; within each half-circle in the centre of each side there is a white spot, as shown here.

No 21 Knapp's illustration is slightly incorrect. Of the four stars, three have nine points: the fourth has eight, as illustrated here, not nine, as shown by Knapp.

No 22 Not recorded by Knapp.

No 24 Recorded by Knapp only from Selborne church, not the priory, but a fragment turned up subsequently in the excavations.

Nos 25 and 26 These are both quite common designs, represented at Selborne, however, by only one and three fragments respectively. Not recorded by Knapp.

No 27 Two fragments of small rosettes similar to No 29, but with a spot in the middle. Both fragments are triangular quarter-tiles, but they are scored in such a way as to allow them to be divided into square quarter-tiles like No 29. The design is so far unique to Selborne. Not recorded by Knapp.

Nos 28 and 29 These are both quarter-tiles intended to be laid at the intersection of plain rectangular border tiles.

No 29 is otherwise unknown; No 28 is rare but exists at Winchester and at Chilcombe church.

No 30 Three fragments only of a design which seems not to have been recorded from any other site.

No 31 This fragment was published by Knapp but has not been found. It is not of any known design, but it might belong to this group.

No 32 This small fragment appears to belong to this group but cannot be identified with any known design. Not recorded by Knapp.

### Group B c 1300 Design No 33 (Fig 6.45)

A single specimen of No 33 in the Alton Museum is the sole representative of this group from Selborne. The Group has been identified at Winchester College and other sites in the Winchester area (Norton 1974, Group 3, Nos 18–27). The designs are clearly derived from earlier designs from the workshop which made the Group A tiles, and the techniques of manufacture are very similar, except that the Group B tiles are slightly larger, c 140–145mm (c  $5\frac{1}{2}$ in) square. So far the only place where Group B tiles have been found *in situ* is in the very fragmentary remains of a pavement in the east aisle of the north transept of Winchester Cathedral, where the context suggests a date of c 1300 (Norton 1983, 25–7). In the Alton area Group B tiles were recorded by Knapp at Farringdon church (Knapp 1954 nos 15, 17, 26, 44, 52, 54 and 56 = this article No 33) and at Hartley Mauditt church (Knapp No 27). As noted above, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the specimen of design No 33 in the Alton Museum actually came from Farringdon; but there is no reason why tiles of this group should not have been used at Selborne Priory, in a part of the site which has not yet been explored.

### Group C ? early 14th-century Design No 34, not recorded by Knapp (Fig 6.45)

No 34 is a fragment of a design which appears to be the same as a pattern recorded only on two tiles at Winchester College, where they almost certainly pre-date the foundation of the College (Norton 1974, no 28). The fabric is an orange-brown colour, not very sandy and porous, different from that of Group A. The pattern is inlaid 1–2 mm deep, and the tile is covered with a rich red-brown glaze. There is part of a large circular key. The two examples at Winchester College have four keys similar to those of Group A. The pattern is a degenerate version of a 13th-century motif known in a number of versions, and the technique is typical of Wessex tiles from the 1240s onwards. At Winchester, the Group A tiles were followed by two other groups of inlaid tiles in the same tradition, namely the group represented at Selborne by design No 33 (Group B), and another group distributed locally around Winchester and not represented at Selborne. These date to the late 13th or early 14th century (for the date, see Norton 1983, 25–7, Group 8). Design No 34 looks like a later offshoot of the 13th-century Wessex tradition and is perhaps of early 14th-century date.

### Group D ? early 14th-century Design No 35 (Fig 6.45)

This pattern is not known elsewhere. There are seven fragments of tiles c 124mm (c 5in) square x 22–23 mm (c 1in) thick. They are in a fine, sandy-brown fabric, with occasional darker red lumps of clay, with reduced cores. The sides are slightly chamfered, the base sanded and unkeyed. The design is slip-decorated by the slip-over-impression technique. The glaze gives a brownish-yellow pattern.

Fish are not common on English tiles, though design 1 of Group A is a rare example. However, design 35 does find a parallel on a tile in the British Museum. It is unfortunately unprovenanced, but it has four scooped keys and is thought to belong to the Wessex school (Eames 1980, no 1393, design 1999). In Hampshire, slip-decorated tiles do not seem to appear before the demise of the local inlaid tile tradition in the early 14th century, so these fragments can probably be placed in the 14th century.

**Group E mid-14th-century Design Nos 36–38 (Fig 6.45)**  
No 37 is one of the tiles in Alton Museum from Selborne, while No 36 is one of the tiles in private possession said to be from the priory and illustrated by Knapp, but whose present whereabouts are unknown. They measure c 100–105mm (4–4¼in) square and c 18mm (¾in) thick. No 37 is in an orange-brown sandy fabric, rather over-fired, with chamfered sides, sanded base and no keys. They belong to the large series of slip-decorated tiles produced at Penn in Buckinghamshire in the mid-to-late 14th century. Both designs are known from a number of sites, and their appearance together at St Giles Cripplegate, London, confirms the plausibility of these two belonging together at Selborne. The pavement in the Aerary at St George's College, Windsor, dated 1355, includes what appears to be the identical design to Selborne No 36. In his recent study on the Windsor tiles, Laurence Keen published a distribution map of Penn tiles showing around 150 locations where Penn tiles have been found, not counting London. Selborne Priory now joins the four other Hampshire sites with Penn tiles, two of which are in Winchester (St Cross and the cathedral) (Hohler 1942, pt 1, 1–49, pt 2, 99–132, nos P 37 and P 158; Eames 1980, 221–6; Keen 2002, 219–37).

Design 38, another of the tiles recorded by Knapp in a private collection at Selborne, can be tentatively ascribed to this group. The design is recorded on two tiles in the British Museum, one from Cannon Street in London, the other from an unspecified site in London. The British Museum catalogue attributes the design to the so-called 'Westminster' group, but the design is omitted from the recent monograph on the 'Westminster' tiles (Eames 1980, nos 327 and 11, 281, design 1751; Betts 2002). Although somewhat larger than the other two Penn tiles (c 117mm (c 4 5/8in) square and c 28mm (c 1 1/8in) thick), it may perhaps be an unrecognised product of the Penn tileries, whose tiles were in production over a long period of time and do vary somewhat in their characteristics. Alternatively, it may belong to another as yet unidentified group of slip-decorated tiles. It does not belong to the Newbury Group (Group H).

**Group F late 1380s Design Nos 39–70 (Figs 6.45–6.48)**  
Plain tiles (not illustrated): Four yellow triangular half-tiles from squares c 153mm (c 6in) square (clear glaze over

white surface layer), and some fragments of plain brown tiles (clear glaze on red body-clay).

These tiles belong to an important group of late 14th-century tiles. They are characterised by a variety of mostly very elaborate designs carefully inlaid into the surface to a depth of about 1mm. They vary in size to an unusual extent. The tiles of each design are fairly constant in size (though most designs are only represented by a few examples), but within the group there is an enormous size range:

- c 137mm: No 50
- c 140mm: No 60
- c 145mm: Nos 39, 43–4, 58
- c 150mm: Nos 51–3, 55–6, 62, 65
- c 155mm: Nos 41–2, 52, 59, 63–4, 66 and plain yellow
- c 165mm: Nos 46–7
- c 170–175mm: No 40
- uncertain: Nos 45, 48, 54, 57, 61, 67–70

The thickness is more constant, c 23–30mm (c 1–1¼in). They are in a fine pale orange-brown fabric, not very sandy, with often quite extensively reduced cores, the reduction sometimes reaching up to the surface. The clear glaze appears in places greenish over reduced areas. The sides are chamfered, the bases not sanded. A characteristic feature of the tiles, including the plain tiles, is the presence of five small circular keys similar to those from the Augustinian priory at Shulbrede (Ponsonby and Ponsonby 1934, 33, top left and right). Overall, the quality of design and manufacture is high.

Many of the designs have been recorded at sites in eastern Hampshire and West Sussex, notably Shulbrede Priory and Dureford Abbey in Sussex and Titchfield Abbey in Hampshire (Ponsonby and Ponsonby 1934; Blaauw 1856, esp. 60–2; Green and Green 1949, 6–30) as well as a number of parish churches. Knapp lists many of the sites. They are also common in and around Winchester. The older literature tended to date them to the late 13th or early 14th centuries, but unambiguous evidence for a date at the end of the 14th century comes from Winchester. Some tiles at Winchester College can be identified as part of a consignment manufactured in 1395–96 for the college chapel and vestry by William Tyelere of Otterbourne (just south of Winchester) (Norton 1974, 28–32, nos 29–34; Eames 1980, 215–18.). Six designs are known from the college, including Selborne Nos 49, 53 and 59–60. William of Wykeham's chantry in Winchester Cathedral, which was complete by the time of his death in 1404, contains a worn pavement composed of four of the six college designs, again including Selborne Nos 53 and 59–60 (Norton 1993a, 87–90, Group 16). Like the Group A tiles over a century earlier, these late 14th-century tiles exhibit a number of breaks in the stamps, but in this case analysis shows that the tiles at some of the major sites were made not concurrently, but consecutively. The twin castles design (No 59) displays a well-known variant in which the left-

hand part of the top of the turret of the right-hand castle is missing. This is the case with the tiles at Winchester College and in Wykeham's Chantry, whereas at Selborne Priory the specimens are all intact. At Titchfield Abbey, however, examples have been recorded both with and without the break. The vine-leaf design (No 60) is intact at Selborne and at Titchfield, whereas the examples at Winchester College show a clear break in the stamp, which was even more decayed on the specimens in Wykeham's chantry. No 53 is intact at Selborne, Titchfield, and Winchester College, but the specimens in Wykeham's chantry exhibit a break. From these examples a clear chronological sequence can be determined:

- Selborne Priory
- Titchfield Abbey
- Winchester College 1395–96
- Winchester Cathedral, Wykeham's Chantry, before 1404

Confirmation of the relative chronology comes from the size of the tiles. At Titchfield, as at Selborne, most of the tiles are in the range c 145–60mm (c 5½–6¼in) square, but some are larger and some smaller. At Winchester, the Otterbourne tiles are consistently about c 153mm (c 6in) square, but some of the stamps used to make the patterns are the wrong size. The vine-leaf pattern, for instance (Selborne No 60), fits a quarry c 140mm (c 5½in) square, and appears on tiles of that size at both Selborne and Titchfield. The c 153mm (c 6in) square quarries on which it appears at Winchester College and in Wykeham's Chantry are visibly too large for the pattern. Conversely, Selborne design No 49 appears cramped on the quarries at Winchester College. At Selborne, the design appears on a tile c 165mm (c 6½in) square, while the variant No 48 (which only survives as fragments at Selborne) appears at Titchfield on quarries c 171–8mm (c 6¾–7in) square, which fit much better.

It is also clear that not all of these tiles were made at Otterbourne. Apart from the differences already noted between the Selborne tiles and the Winchester tiles, there are differences in fabric and keys. The pale orange-brown fabric of the Selborne tiles is quite different from the consistently bright orange-red fabric of the Winchester tiles, which were presumably all made at Otterbourne. The presence of considerable amounts of reduced clay in the Selborne tiles makes sense of the five keys, which are generally circular and quite deep. The Otterbourne tiles at Winchester very seldom have reduction, and their keys, though still numbering five, are generally shallow and shaped like a cockle-shell (illustrated in Norton, 1974 pl.2, top left and bottom left and right). They have the appearance of perfunctory features whose rationale had disappeared but which continued to be made out of habit.

The workshop responsible for these late 14th-century tiles was therefore not static. Otterbourne, so far as we can tell, was its final location. Before that, it must have

been established at one or more locations further east – perhaps at or near Selborne itself. It is interesting to note an entry in the Winchester College account roll for 1395–96 for having clay dug at Farnham and taken to Otterbourne for making the floor tiles. This was almost certainly the white clay for the inlay (Norton 1974, 30 and 39). Evidently William Tyelere knew of a good source. No tiles of this type have yet been recorded from Farnham or its immediate environs, but Shulbrede and Selborne are both nearby. Decorated tiles of other types are known to have been made at Shulbrede; and Selborne may have produced floor tiles as well, as we shall see.

Farnham Castle was one of the residences of the bishops of Winchester. In view of William of Wykeham's patronage of William Tyelere of Otterbourne at Winchester, it is tempting to speculate whether the connection between them did not go back some years earlier. In the case of the Selborne tiles, Wykeham's visitation of the priory in 1387 is suggestive. His visitation injunctions list many failings, including *enormes et notabiles defectus* in the church, cloister and other buildings (Macray 1891, 102). These were to be rectified within six months (which suggests that the repairs were actually at the level of maintenance and decoration rather than major structural interventions). The Selborne tiles could plausibly have been laid in response to Wykeham's visitation, giving them a date in the late 1380s. The Titchfield tiles could then date to the early 1390s, and would very likely have been in position by the time Richard II and Anne of Bohemia were received there in 1393 (Graham and Rigold 1954, 4). Three years later, William Tyelere was at Otterbourne.

Two patches of these tiles were found *in situ* at Selborne. The first was discovered on 10 May 1954 in the south-east corner of the cloister (Fig 4.26). The tiles were laid up against the sill of the doorway into the north transept. All of the patterned tiles belonged to Group F (Nos 40, 43–4, 49, 52–3, 55–6, 59, 62 and perhaps 63), but there are several indications that the tiles had been relaid. The layout was irregular, with some tiles laid diagonally, some square on to the step. They were not in proper rows, and the designs were in a more-or-less random arrangement. The variable wear-patterns are also indicative of reuse. Although laid in a location which would have suffered the daily passage of feet as the canons passed into and out of the church from the cloister, the majority of the tiles were little worn and indeed retained their original yellow glaze. Yet in among the unworn tiles were two, bearing designs 43 and 44, which had lost both their glaze and much of their inlaid designs. Undisturbed floors normally exhibit consistent areas of wear, whereas the juxtaposition of very worn and unworn tiles is usually an indication of repairs or reuse. It seems likely therefore that this area of tiling represents a late monastic or post-monastic repair or relaying in front of a doorway which would have suffered the constant passage of feet for

almost a century between the purchase of the tiles and the dissolution of the monastery in 1486. If so, the discovery does not demonstrate that Group F tiles were originally laid in the cloister walks, but it seems plausible. Within a few years of the Selborne acquisition, the same series of tiles were laid in the cloister walks at Titchfield, while the new cloister at Winchester College was paved with plain tiles (similar to Selborne Group G) in 1396–97 (Green and Green 1949, 9–10 and pls A and B; Norton 1974, 30–34).

In May 1963 another patch of tiles was found *in situ* by the west wall of the south transept. A photograph (Fig 3.11) shows two adjacent rows of tiles, the first of Group F patterned tiles including designs 41, 44, 56 and 59 (plus a loose piece of design 53 visible behind a tree), the second of alternating yellow and dark green plain-glazed tiles. The patterns are laid rather haphazardly, but this was also the case in some areas at Titchfield. Otherwise, the tiles show no obvious signs of reuse and may be in their original position. If so, and if they can be related to the room added on to the west side of the south transept whose foundations were uncovered during the excavations, they would provide a *terminus ante quem* for that room of c 1390.

A few additional notes on individual patterns:

No 40: One nearly complete specimen, not illustrated by Knapp, and so far not known at any other site.

No 45: A small fragment which clearly belongs to this group. It may be the same as a design at Titchfield, or a variant of it (Green and Green 1949, no 24).

Nos 46 and 47: Knapp (1954, 293) recorded examples of No 46 at Binsted church and at Selborne Priory, with the lions set within two narrow white circles. He also mentioned but did not illustrate a variant, No 47, in which the lions are set within a broad white circle. No 46 seems not to survive at Selborne. No 47 is here illustrated from a specimen in Alton Museum.

Nos 48 and 49: There are five fragments of No 48, as illustrated by Knapp (1954). In addition, there are three fragments (one nearly complete) of the variant version No 49 with a chequered inner border, here illustrated by the same design on a quarry c 153mm (6in) square at Winchester College (Norton 1974, no 32).

No 50: This design is represented by a single half-tile in Alton Museum and a fragment from the excavations. It is the smallest tile in Group F and has apparently only four keys instead of the usual five. However, it does appear to belong; the fabric looks the same, and it has been found with other Group F patterns at Dureford Abbey and Warblington church (Blaauw 1845; Nichols 1845, no 19). The inclusion of simple heraldic shields is also paralleled on other tiles in this group.

No 51: Drawn by Knapp based on two fragments from Selborne and one from Dureford Abbey published by Blaauw (1845). No further fragments have turned up at

Selborne, and the design has been redrawn showing just the two Selborne fragments.

No 52: Knapp illustrated two versions of this design, one with four small circles in the centre, one without. Careful comparison of the fragments of the two versions, in particular the number and spacing of the dark dots on the intersecting circles, indicates that both versions come from the same stamp. Examples lacking some or all of the four small circles may simply be faulty impressions; or they may be later versions made with the same stamp after the little circles had broken off or been removed.

No 57: Just the two fragments illustrated by Knapp. The design is still unrecorded elsewhere.

No 61: A vine-leaf design similar to No 60. There is just one fragment at Selborne, as illustrated. Knapp illustrated it with a drawing of a complete design from Shulbrede Priory published by the Ponsonbys, while noting that it was possible that it belonged to an alternative version also illustrated by the Ponsonbys from Shulbrede. The fragment does, however, appear to belong to the former version, as illustrated.

No 62: A single example, drawn here. Knapp illustrated it with the Ponsonbys' drawing of the complete design from Shulbrede Priory. It looks to be identical, but the Selborne example appears to have been made with a damaged stamp. The Ponsonbys' drawing was reused in the article by the Greens to illustrate the design at Titchfield, but their plate B2 shows the Titchfield examples to have been made with a different stamp – perhaps following the demise of the stamp used on the Selborne tile (Ponsonby and Ponsonby 1934; Green and Green 1949).

Nos 67–70: These four fragments cannot be identified with any known designs. They have shallowly inlaid designs, and Nos 67 and 68 have one key on the base. They may be provisionally attached to this group.

#### **Group G late 14th / early 15th century.**

##### *Plain yellow tile (not illustrated).*

A fragment of a tile c 112mm (c 4½in) square and c 27mm (c 1in) thick, in a fine red-brown fabric, heavily reduced in the centre. The sides are chamfered, the base smooth and unkeyed. The surface is covered with slip and a clear yellow glaze. One possible nail-hole is visible.

This tile is an import from the Low Countries. Between the later 14th and mid-16th centuries huge quantities of plain glazed floor tiles were imported into this country from the Low Countries. They have been found at numerous sites all the way round the coast from the West Country along the south and east coast as far as the Orkneys. There are examples in East Anglia (Norton 1990, 101–31 at 108–9 and fig 8), northern England including the important evidence from York Minster (Stopford 2005, 46–53 and 213–22) and Scotland (Norton 1994, 137–73 at 150–53). In the absence of stratigraphical contexts, they are generally difficult to date with any precision. However, the majority are considerably larger than this example, and there is

some evidence that tiles at the smaller end of the range, c 112–30mm (c 4½–5¼in square), are relatively early in date. This particular fragment, with a heavily reduced centre, is very similar to some of the tiles still *in situ* in the Muniment Rooms of Winchester College. They measure c 125mm (5in) square, and are part of a consignment of 45,800 floor tiles coming from Flanders (*pavyngtiel emptis provenientius de Flandre*), purchased in 1396–97. Of all the hundreds of sites to have produced plain Netherlandish floor tiles, Winchester College is the single most important site for demonstrating their origin from documentary evidence. This was the year after the purchase of patterned tiles for the College from William Tyelere of Otterbourne, and shows that the College was turning to different suppliers for different products. Similar small imported tiles have been found at a number of sites around the country where they can probably or plausibly be dated to the end of the 14th century or the start of the 15th, and this is the likely date for the Selborne tile.

**Group H** *c 1410 Designs Nos 71–3 (Fig 6.49)*

None of these tiles is known to survive. As noted above, Nos 71–2 were drawn by Knapp in a private collection in Selborne, while No 73 was recorded by Renaud in the 19th century. The designs can be identified as belonging to an interesting but little-studied group of tiles which are sparsely distributed across Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Design No 71 is found, along with one other, at Winchester College, where they can be associated with a modest purchase of tiles from Newbury in 1411–12 (Norton 1974, 26, 30, 34–5, Group 2; Eames 1980, 218). The Newbury tiles have yet to be published as a group, but they are characteristically c 130mm (c 5¼in) square, with slip-decorated designs made by the slip-over-impression technique. As at Selborne, they tend to survive in small numbers, *ex situ*: so far no actual pavement has been discovered. The designs are quite different from the Group F designs, and are a somewhat eclectic mix, including patterns which combined to form 16-tile or 9-tile units (No 71 being one of the latter), arrangements which were popular in the 15th century.

**Group I** ? *15th-century relief tile, Design No 74 (Fig 6.49)*

A single tile from the 1953–71 excavations, measuring c 138mm (c 5½in) square and c 29mm (c 1¼in) thick, bears a design in relief. The fabric is a pale orange-brown colour, fine and rather heavy. The sides are markedly chamfered, the base smooth and without keys; but the tile is rather irregularly cut. The depth of the relief is about 1mm, fading out towards the corner; the tile is not worn. The glaze is uneven, in places light brown, but mostly a dull olive-green colour. Overall it is not a very well-made specimen. There is a drawing of the tile by Knapp among his papers, but it does not appear in his 1954 article. The design forms part of a 16-tile pattern of a type commonly found in the 15th century. The relief technique is very unusual in this part

of the country, where two-colour tiles predominate. One might wonder whether this is a stray from another part of the country, were it not for the fact that the design has not been recorded anywhere else; and there is some evidence, as we shall see, of experimental production of tiles with designs in relief at Selborne. So it is perhaps a product of a local workshop.

**Group J** *15th-century plain tiles (not illustrated)*

Six fragments survive of plain tiles at least 160mm (c 6¼in) square and 27–39mm (1–1½in) thick. They are in a fine orange-brown fabric, with chamfered sides and unsanded base. There are stabbed keys on the underside c 7mm (c ¼in) square and up to c 20mm (c ¾in) deep. One fragment also has a scooped crescent-shaped key, which strongly suggests an English origin. One is glazed brown, four are glazed dark green, one is unglazed. They are probably 15th-century products of a local tiler. At a time when the market was flooded with plain glazed tiles from the Low Countries (as exemplified by Group G), it is not unusual to find small quantities of plain tiles, often of rather indifferent quality, and generally with a very localised distribution, which seem to represent the sporadic output of local tilers.

**Group K** *late 15th–early 16th-century Design No 75 (Fig 6.49)*

There is a single tile with this pattern among the tiles from the excavations. Measuring 68mm x 82mm x 31mm (c 2¼in x 3¼in x 1¼in), it has been broken from a larger tile which was scored before firing. It is in a fine orange-brown fabric with much fine sand temper, and is not reduced. The unscored side is slightly undercut, and there are no keys. The pattern is carefully inlaid about 1mm deep.

This tile is something of a puzzle. The pattern is otherwise known only on a small group of late 15th- or early 16th-century tiles concentrated in central and southern Dorset. It is intended for use as a border tile. The identical design is recorded from Milton Abbey, Fordington, Buckland Newton and Preston (Emden 1977, design 193; Eames 1980, no 1255, design 1116). There is also one specimen said to be from Old Sarum (Eames 1991, 93–139, no 146, design 42). Some, but not all, of the Dorset tiles have rows of small stabbed holes in the base. These do not exist on the Selborne fragment. No other tiles of this group are known in Hampshire, so the Selborne piece is completely isolated. Knapp did not publish this design, but there exists a drawing and a tracing of the identical tile among his papers. Both are labelled 'Milton Abbey.' It seems likely that this is a stray antiquarian piece, perhaps acquired by Knapp himself, which has somehow found a place among the Selborne tiles. However, late medieval patterned tile production is characterised by isolated groups of patterned tiles, often of high artistic and/or technical quality, which seem to have been commissioned for particular locations or occasions. It is not impossible

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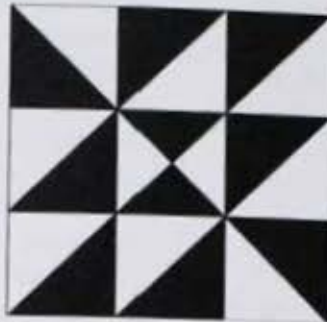
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Fig 6.49 Floor tiles, Group G plain tile not illustrated, Group H nos 71-73, Group I no 74, Group J plain tiles not illustrated, Group K no 75, roof tiles nos 76-77

that the Dorset workshop was specially commissioned to make a consignment of tiles for Selborne, and that Knapp annotated his drawing with the words 'Milton Abbey' to indicate the existence of the same design there. If the tile genuinely comes from Selborne, it appears to date after the dissolution of the house in 1486 and the transfer of its assets to Magdalen College, Oxford.

#### The Selborne Tillery

Bennett's suggestion in 1837, mentioned above, that Tylehouse Grove at Selborne preserved the memory of a medieval tilery is confirmed by a reference in the archives to the receipt in 1463–64 of an annual rent of 20s for the 'tyle ovyn' at the priory, leased to John Prat for three years (Macray 1891, 117). Whether this was the place where any of the floor-tiles were made, as Bennett proposed, is however more problematic. The normal products of estate tileries were common roof-tiles, whose manufacture involved similar processes to those required for floor-tiles, but far less technical skill. Floor-tile production was for the most part a specialised, more restricted affair, and it is fairly clear that the majority of the priory tiles were made elsewhere and transported to Selborne as finished products. Nonetheless, the question remains whether the local tilery might have made some of the more ordinary or unusual tiles, such as the Group J plain tiles or the Group I relief tile; or indeed whether specialist floor-tile makers might have established themselves temporarily on site. William Tyelere, who made the Group F tiles in Winchester, clearly moved about: could he have set up his workshop for a while at Selborne? An interesting comparison is Shulbrede Priory, which has many of the same Group F designs as Selborne. It remains to be determined whether the Shulbrede examples were made at Shulbrede, at Selborne, or elsewhere, but what is interesting is the discovery at Shulbrede of the remains of a tile-kiln which seems to have manufactured inferior quality copies of the Group F designs specially for Shulbrede Priory (Ponsonby and Ponsonby 1934, 34–7, 40). Clay analysis may in future help to resolve some of these issues. In the meanwhile, there is tantalising evidence from the Selborne excavations in the form of two fragmentary unglazed roof-tiles (Fig 6.49, Nos 76, 77) which bear parts of patterns made by wooden stamps. One bears a relief design, possibly of 13th-century date to judge by the trefoil terminations; the other bears a counter-relief design, which looks as if it could have been intended to take an inlay. Neither design is recorded elsewhere. They look like trial pieces and they suggest the possibility that the Selborne tilery may indeed at some point have been used for floor-tile manufacture.

#### Conclusions

Selborne demonstrates the value of a systematic study of the tiles of even a modest-sized monastic house within their regional context. Although a relatively late foundation which was dissolved unusually early, Selborne

has produced a significant body of material representing a good range of different workshops and dates – in spite of the fact that only a relatively small part of the site has been excavated, and even there many of the tiles had been stripped for reuse at a later date. Indeed, Selborne shows how well the tile material can be preserved even when the buildings have been thoroughly extirpated, to the extent of leaving hardly any architectural stonework at all. The tiles in fact are the only part of the original fabric to have survived to any considerable extent.

The eastern parts of the church were tiled at an early date, but probably not as part of the original building campaign, unless that proceeded extraordinarily slowly. Selborne is one of many sites in Hampshire where the earliest evidence of tiling survives in the form of Group A tiles dating to c 1260–80, so it should not necessarily be assumed that they were laid down as part of the initial phase of construction. These tiles were of excellent quality, with patterns inlaid around 4mm deep, and they should have withstood the daily wear and tear of a small Augustinian community without significant damage. The majority would probably still have been in reasonable condition when they were taken up for reuse, presumably after the community was dissolved. By the same token, the small patch of *in-situ* tiling of Group F on the west side of the south transept is likely to have been the result of structural alterations or some specific intervention, rather than routine repairs to worn-out 13th-century tiles. Such slight evidence as there is for the paving of the cloister provides no evidence of tiles before the 1380s, but the Group F tiles found next to the entrance into the north transept do appear to be the result of repairs to an area which would have suffered unusually concentrated wear. The patterns of the Group F tiles are much more shallowly inlaid than the 13th-century Group A tiles, and would have worn down much more quickly.

The original locations of the other tiles can only be a matter of speculation. Over the decades, many parts of the monastic complex could have been tiled, and the small quantities of other tiles which have survived may reflect an accident of survival as much as the extent of the pavements from which they came. Excavations on other parts of the site could reveal more pavements.

The patterns of acquisition (or production, depending on one's perspective) are interesting. They are broadly comparable with what can be observed at other major sites in Hampshire, and notably at Winchester (the most intensively studied location). Major investment in tiles in the second half of the 13th century is followed by sporadic episodes in the 14th and 15th centuries, many of which employ tiles manufactured outside the region. Selborne is among the more distant sites to have purchased patterned tiles from the Penn tileries or from the Newbury group, from the north and north-west. It is also one of the more inland sites for finds of plain tiles imported from the Netherlands,

Knapp	Present	Knapp	Present	Present	Knapp	Present	Knapp
1	35	40	23	1	2	40	-
2	1	41	54	2	22	41	6
5	59	42	9	3	23	42	7
6	41	43	10	4	25	43	8
7	42	45	18	5	24	44	12
8	43	47	62	6	21	45	-
10	46	48	13	7	20	46	10
11	50	49	14	8	19	47	-
12	44	50	11	9	42	48	63
13	60	51	12	10	43	49	-
14	61	53	15 + 16	11	50	50	11
19	8	55	17	12	51	51	61
20	7	56	33	13	48	52	34 + 35
21	6	57	24	14	49	53	33
22	2	58	64	15 + 16	53	54	41
23	3	59	65	17	55	55	31
24	5	60	63	18	45	56	32
25	4	61	51	19	37	57	29
28	39	62	66	20	38	58	36
29	57	63	48	21	39	59	5
31	55	64	29	22	-	60	13
32	56	65	28	23	40	61	14
33	53	66	30	24	57	62	47
34 + 35	52	67	31	25	-	63	60
36	58	68	36	26	-	64	58
37	19	69	38	27	-	65	59
38	20	70	71	28	65	66	62
39	21	71	72	29	64	67	-
				30	66	68	-
				31	67	69	-
				32	-	70	-
				33	56	71	70
				34	-	72	71
				35	1	73	-
				36	68	74	-
				37	-	75	-
				38	69		
				39	2		

Fig 6.50 Floor tiles: table of concordances for floor tile designs

## Architectural fittings and decoration

whose distribution has a markedly coastal bias. In each case, the purchasing power of a monastic house, even of fairly modest means, could cover the cost of transport from fairly distant suppliers which would probably have been beyond the means of most parish churches. The main exception to this pattern, as we have seen, is the high-quality tiles of Group F manufactured by a mobile workshop that enjoyed the patronage of William of Wykeham. At Winchester, the short-lived production of fine patterned tiles by William Tyelere of Otterbourne represents something of an exception in terms of local production in the later period. At Selborne the situation is much the same; the Group J tiles are likely to have been manufactured nearby, possibly at the Selborne tiling itself. Excavation of the medieval tiling could be particularly illuminating.

### 6.7 Wall plaster Evelyn Baker

The available wall plaster from 1953–69, totalling 2.36kg, is effectively unstratified and cannot be related to the ten notebook references which give occurrences rather than quantities or weight. There were finds with 'red ochre markings' from the chapter house in 1957, the crossing in 1962 and the north transept in 1968. Six pieces were recovered in 1968–69 from the north transept chapels. In 1971 trench 21 a single piece of white plaster with a small amount of red ochre paint was found in destruction rubble (25) in the south transept chapel S3. Figure references are to Fig 6.52 49.

The fragments are mostly in poor condition, the largest being 46 x 52mm (Fig 6.52 1 49, 1), while many of the smallest measure only about 10mm across. Most have varying amounts of sandy yellow mortar as their base, giving the walls a relatively smooth base coat to take the thinner, finer white plaster. The original decorative white plaster coat over mortar is generally about 3mm thick. Two pieces (only one illustrated) have straight edges as if they

had abutted another material (Fig 6.52 20 49, 20). A small minority of fragments have indications of masonry tooling on the backs, indicating direct application onto a finished stone wall surface. By far the most numerous type are plain white, followed by fragments showing a single painted stripe (Fig 6.52 49, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

Apart from the Group F tiles which turn up at Dureford Abbey and Shulbrede Priory, there is little or no overlap between the Selborne tiles and the normal range of tiles to be found in Surrey and Sussex (apart from tiles brought in from the Penn tiling). None of the many other designs attested only 10 miles away at Shulbrede, for instance, turn up at Selborne, neither local Shulbrede products nor imports. Since the Shulbrede tiles were published by Ponsonby and Ponsonby in 1934, some of them have been identified as rare 14th-century imports from Normandy (Norton 1993b, 81–97). It cannot necessarily be assumed that nearby sites will have a similar range of tiles: each site needs to be assessed individually.

The main decorative theme seems to have been mock ashlar, with narrow, mainly red (Fig 6.52 49, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) but sometimes black (Fig 6.52 49, 7, 8), lines representing the interstices between stone blocks. The painted lines must have been drawn with the aid of a ruler or similar; they are generally between 3 and 5mm wide, though a variety of line thicknesses over plain white are present, notably 1mm, 3mm, 4mm, 5mm and exceptionally 17mm. Matthew Reeve (2008) gives dates of 1230s and 1240s for the ashlar painting in Salisbury Cathedral, with the figural painting applied in the 1270s.

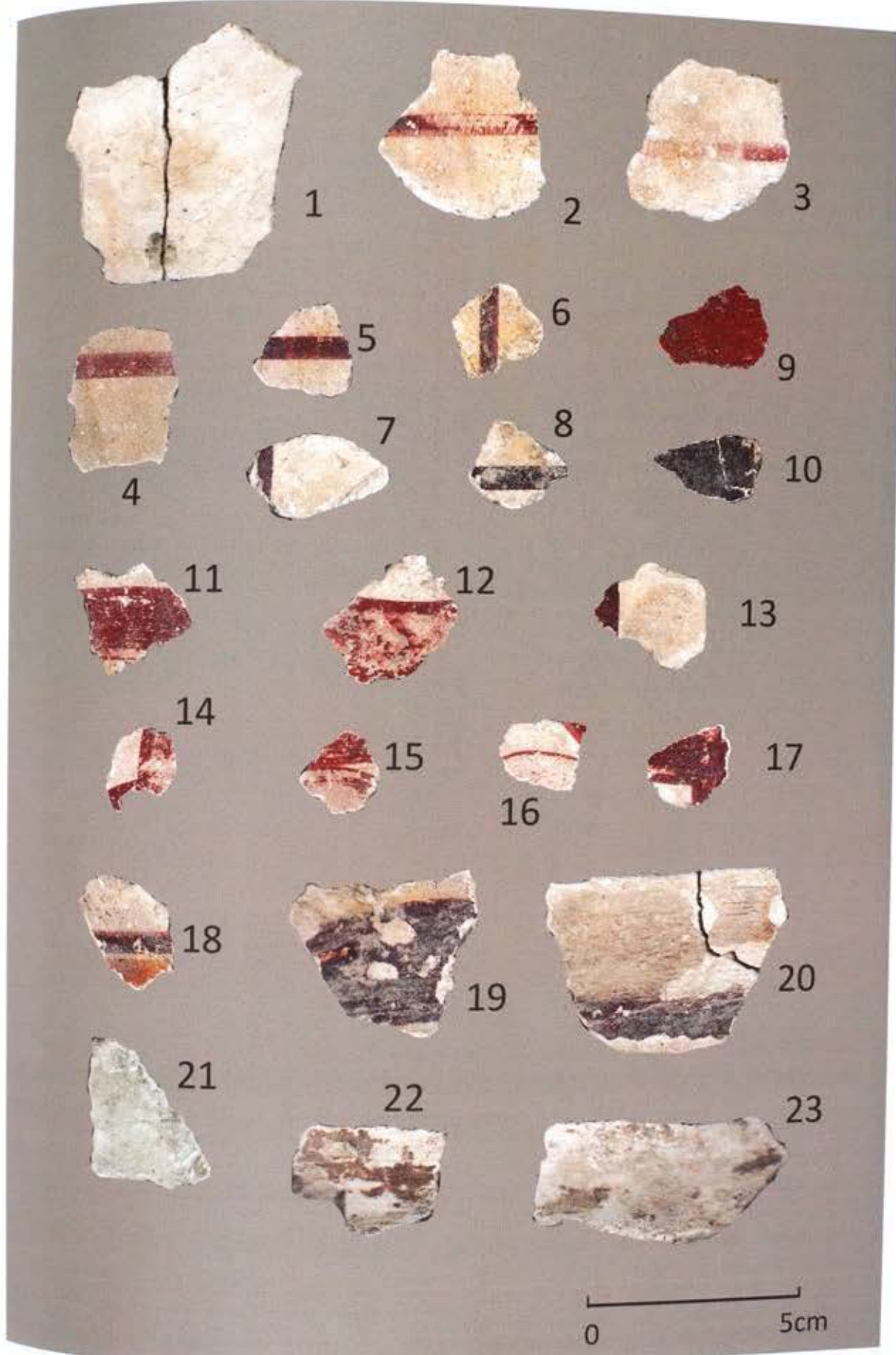
A few small fragments suggest at least one other, and more elaborate, scheme (Fig 6.52 49, 11–18). The presence

NBk	Year	Grid	Tr/Sq	Location	Context	Description
2 p98	1955	1	16 17	chapter house / N transept	–	a few pieces
3 p34	1957	1	39 51	chapter house	on floor level	quantity, some red ochre
5 p51	1962	2	barn	barn	–	several small pieces
5 p52	1962	2	barn	barn	–	frags with red decoration
13 p11	1969	3	92	N chapel 3	in 'loose earth'	wall plaster
14 p2	1968	3	359	N transept: E wall	–	frags with red ochre
14 p6	1968	3	51	N chapel 1	cut into rubble	plaster frags
14 p12	1969	3	91	N chapel 3	north wall (of trench)	chips of plaster
15 p7	1968	3	40	N chapel 1	below topsoil	wall plaster
21 p8	1968	3	83	N chapels: drain E	about 3ft below MGS	wall plaster

Fig 6.51 Wall plaster: table of notebook entries for finds.

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Fig 6.52 Wall plaster: selected fragments

## Architectural fittings and decoration

of a sophisticated wall painting element in Selborne's overall decoration is unsurprising considering the large quantity of good quality 13th-century grisaille glass, floor tiles and superior stone carving found on site.

There are a few signs of redecoration. These suggest a later and somewhat coarser scheme of white, dirty buff and black taking over from those mostly comprising a white ground with red 'ashlar' and more complex decoration in pale buff, ochre and red.

### Catalogue (Fig 6.52 49)

- 1 Plain white paint over plaster
- 2 Red stripe 5mm wide on a white ground
- 3 Red stripe 4mm wide on a white ground
- 4 Red stripe 5mm wide on a white ground
- 5 Red stripe 4mm wide on a white ground
- 6 Red/black stripe 4mm wide on a white ground
- 7 Black stripe 4mm wide on a white ground
- 8 Black stripe 5mm wide on a white ground
- 9 Fragment entirely coated in red
- 10 Fragment entirely coated in black
- 11 A broad red line, possibly curved, 15mm wide
- 12 Double curved red lines delineate the edges of a possible paler diagonal pattern; at least 17mm wide
- 13 A red stripe on a white ground and a single petal in pale buff ochre may perhaps point to multi-petalled rosettes painted within the 'ashlar' blocks
- 14 A pair of red stripes diverging at about 135° rather than 90° suggests another design element
- 15 Part of a red stripe with an adjacent red curve 14mm wide
- 16 A narrow, finely drawn curved line 1mm wide containing an area of pale ochre wash, within an area of white, with some red which is possibly part of a red stripe
- 17 This is the only instance of a clear right-angle to be expected in mock ashlar, but the red painted lines are a minimum of 11mm wide over a white ground, wider than the 'ashlar' stripes
- 18 A dark red band separating areas of white and yellow ochre
- 19 A black curved line 26mm wide painted over red on a white ground
- 20 White plaster (5mm thick) with a straight edge; heavily over-painted with pale buff ochre and a black stripe 10–12mm wide)
- 21 Fragment of coving; white plaster over-painted with buff
- 22 A single piece is covered with a patchy pale green paint
- 23 Fragment of coving; white plaster over-painted with buff

A 13th-14th century

Layered



C 16th century



Fig 7.1 Pottery w

### 7.1 Medieval

Kenneth James

Brown

The original report

by Ken Barton in

before the applic

techniques in cer

## 7 Artefacts and ecofacts

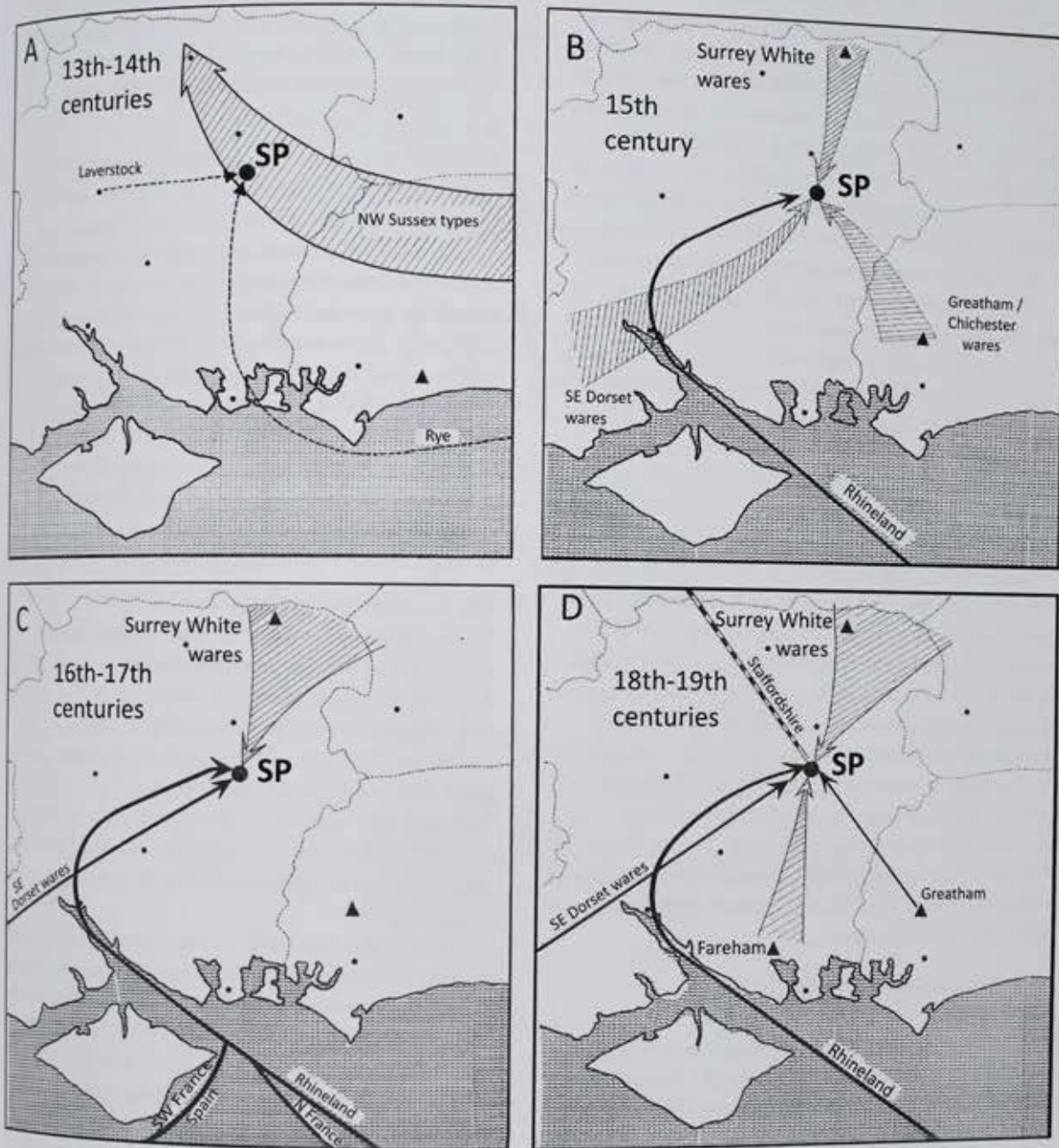


Fig 7.1 Pottery wares: sources of manufacture and influences on local products

### 7.1 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

Kenneth James Barton, with *italicised* notes by Duncan H Brown

The original report was compiled (and the pottery drawn) by Ken Barton in the 1970s and revised in the early 1980s, before the application of quantitative and analytical techniques in ceramic studies was standard. His original

thoughts and interpretations are worthy of reproduction here in full but it is also appropriate to update them with observations based on subsequent work up to 2010. It has not been possible to record the pottery assemblage in accordance with current standards but the material has been scanned; in particular the illustrated pieces have been examined and placed into a wider context.

**Introduction**

The medieval and post-medieval pottery of Selborne Priory comprises a large quantity of fragmented sherds. Prime examples of this material were grouped according to fabric characteristics and other related features. The outcome reveals 11 groups of wares dating from the late 13th century to the late 18th century, although the bulk of the material extends to the 20th century; the principal groups are those occurring in the 15th and 16th centuries. Amongst the material is a selection of vessels used in distillation and other alchemic practices. The variations in the source of these wares is of interest as it shows marked changes in both influence on local products and the source of manufacture (Fig 7.1) throughout this period of time.

This pottery comprises a quantity equal to about half the volume of a tea-chest; it was not counted. The fragmentary nature of this collection seriously restricted its proper grouping and therefore it is possible that certain of the assemblages suggested here may be suspect. However, the basis of selection according to the make up, colour, texture and hardness of the fabric should provide reliable grounds for the sequence that follows. Furthermore there are groups of readily recognisable types that add validity.

Selborne Priory was in existence from 1233 to 1486, but the upper date range of the ceramics is much longer than the terminal date. Also, a small parcel of Romano-British wares occurs mixed with this collection. It is not included here but sufficient remains to show 3rd- to 4th-century occupation; two sherds are not abraded. This suggests Romano-British occupation on the same site as the priory.

Examples of distillation equipment and associated ceramics and glass from this site have already been discussed elsewhere (Moorhouse 1972, 79–121, fig 28). This writer has also examined a quantity of similar material held at the Wakes Museum in Selborne but this has little to add to that discussed below.

**Decorated Medieval Wares (Fig 7.2, 1–8)***Face Mask (1)*

One very badly damaged fragment showing an eye and the edge of the indentation for the ear of a 'face on collar' mask in a buff sandy fabric with grey 'sandwich fill' and an olive-green glaze.

*Stamped (2)*

One example, a raised eight legged star shape pressed into a mould from inside the pot. Oxidised light red body with a speckly orange-green glaze. This is very similar to, and could be a product of, the kilns at Rye in Sussex.

*Horizontal Grooving (3, 3a)*

Sixteen examples of which two are illustrated. Two forms of grooving occur, 'wide spread' (3) and 'narrow spread' (3a). In both cases the fabric is the same, hard sandy with grey sandwich oxidised surfaces. The glaze is a dull, dirty, mostly dark green. The vessels are similar to West Sussex wares. The form of (3a) is certainly of that type; the quality is also

similar although more likely of local manufacture. The date for these should be mid-14th into the 15th century.

*Vertical Grooving (4, 4a, 4b)*

Seven examples of which three are illustrated. In each case the grooving is done with a two- or three-pronged comb in either straight or wavy lines. This is also characteristic of West Sussex types. The fabric is hard sandy, and buff to grey in colour. The glaze is a mottled green to dark green colour.

*Applied strips (5, 6, 6a)*

The fabric of (5) upper right is fine and grey with a buff exterior. The applied strip is angular in section and the glaze is dark green in colour. The other example is in a coarse sandy red-coloured fabric with a dull green glaze on the outer surface. (5) lower left has the strip in a black slip; the others are in body colour. The strips on these pieces are rounded in profile and uneven in thickness. (6) has applied thin black slip over which have been laid body-coloured strips decorated with round stab indentations along their length. The application of strips is familiar on 'face on front' vessels from Southampton and Chichester (Barton 1972). The fabric is similar to (4), (4a) and (4b). (6a) is in a fine hard buff fabric with opaque green glaze and raised strips of scales and also with combed decoration.

*Slip Decorated (not including 6)*

(7) has a black horizontal slip on a hard sandy micaceous ware of a type uncommon in this assemblage. (8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) have painted slip decorated with rough white-trailed slip and a dark green glaze on a reduced fabric. (8a) has a fine smooth oxidised body with two white strips under a green glaze. (8b) and (8c) are the lower portion of an unglazed jug (splashed only) with the tail end of a brush stroke of white slip and the same fabric as (8c) for the upper part of same vessel. (8d) has an oxidised red-coloured glaze with a yellow stripe under.

Much of the decoration on these wares is closely related to West Sussex–East Hampshire types. This applies not only to applied strips, scored wares and 'painted slip' decorations but also to the character of the types (6) and (6a) which signify the direction of the influence on them by form, such as the remains of the rod handle (6a) and the pierced or thumbled strips (both examples). The north-westerly direction of these influences are the more remarkable as they appear to by-pass Portsmouth (Fox and Barton 1986) and Southampton (Southampton Museum collections) (Fig 7.1). Two items of significance in this group are (1) and (2). (1) is a 'face on collar' jug decoration of a type with a wide distribution in the south-east of England, and has been shown to be at the limit of its distribution in the region of Alton (Barton 1968, 25–43; Barton 1972). (2) is thought to be a product of the kilns at Rye in Sussex although this kiln's products have a singularly sparse distribution, spread along the coast westwards (Barton 1972). Pressing the body of the vessel into the stamp is more a Rye practice than that of Laverstock, the other possible and more likely source (Musty

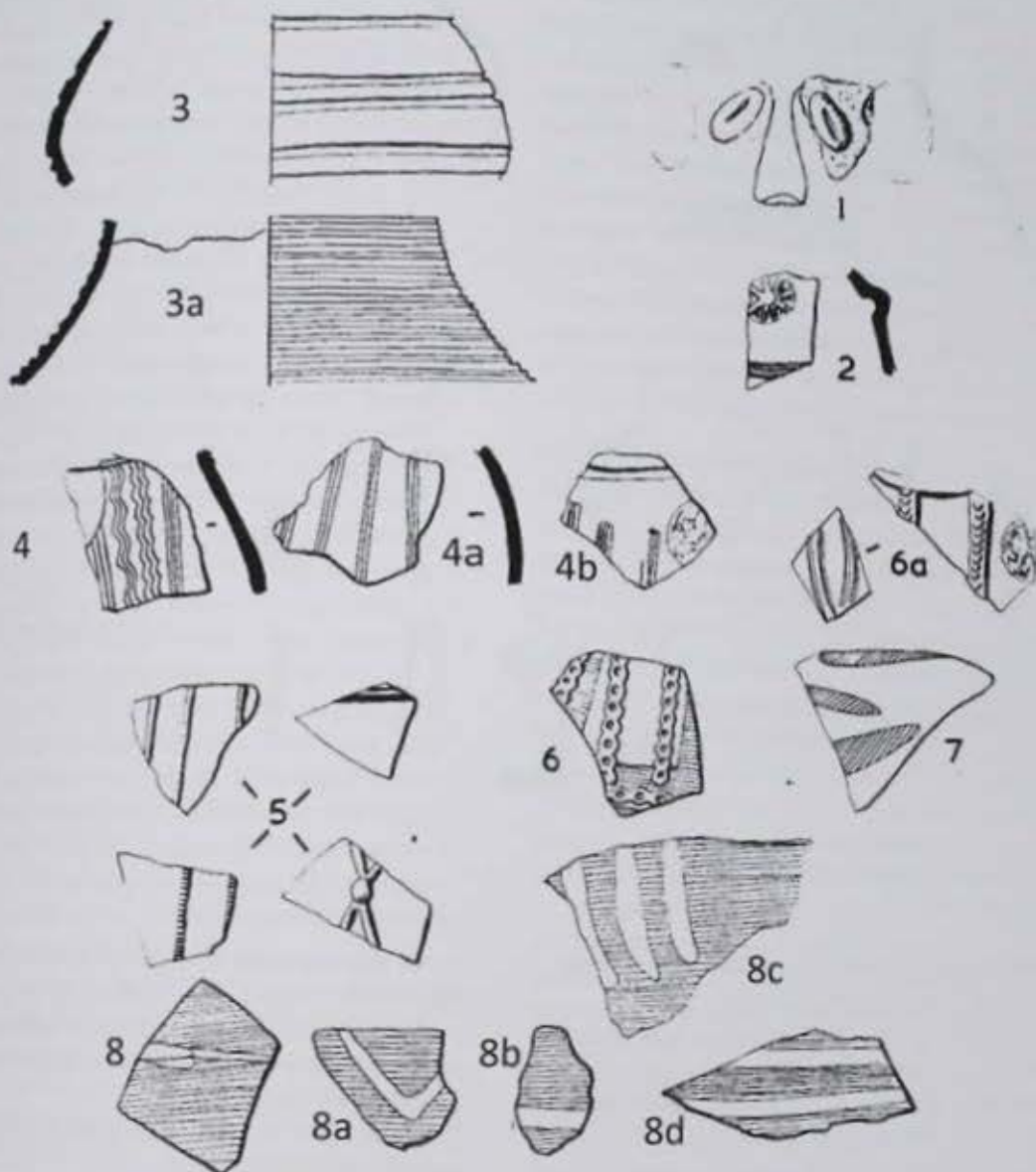


Fig 7.2 Pottery: decorated medieval wares

1969); although raised lumps are shown on one published vessel from Laverstock there is no evidence for radial stamps. Although it would appear that Rye is too far from Selborne for a jug to originate there, the similarity of this piece with the other distinctive products of that kiln is a strong pointer to that source.

The date range of these decorated wares must be related to the quality and variety of the decoration. There is little or none of the fine-quality wares that could be associated with the middle of the 13th century. The stamped piece could be mid- to late 13th century in date. The face jug need be no earlier than the late 13th century. The applied strips on (6) and (6a) are sufficiently characteristic to place them within

the first half of the 14th century. The West Sussex wares and their derivatives range throughout the 14th and into the 15th century. The 'painted slip' types must be 15th century in date, and probably contemporary with the West Sussex types (Barton 1972).

(1) to (8) are probably late 13th or 14th century in date and probably have local origins. It is unlikely that (2) is from the kilns at Rye, although West Sussex is a potential source for this material. Indeed, Barton subsequently identified this as a product of the kilns at Binsted, Sussex (Barton 1979) and as this is closer to Selborne it remains a possibility. Face jugs were produced in several more adjacent locations however, such as Boarhunt near Fareham (Whinney 1981)

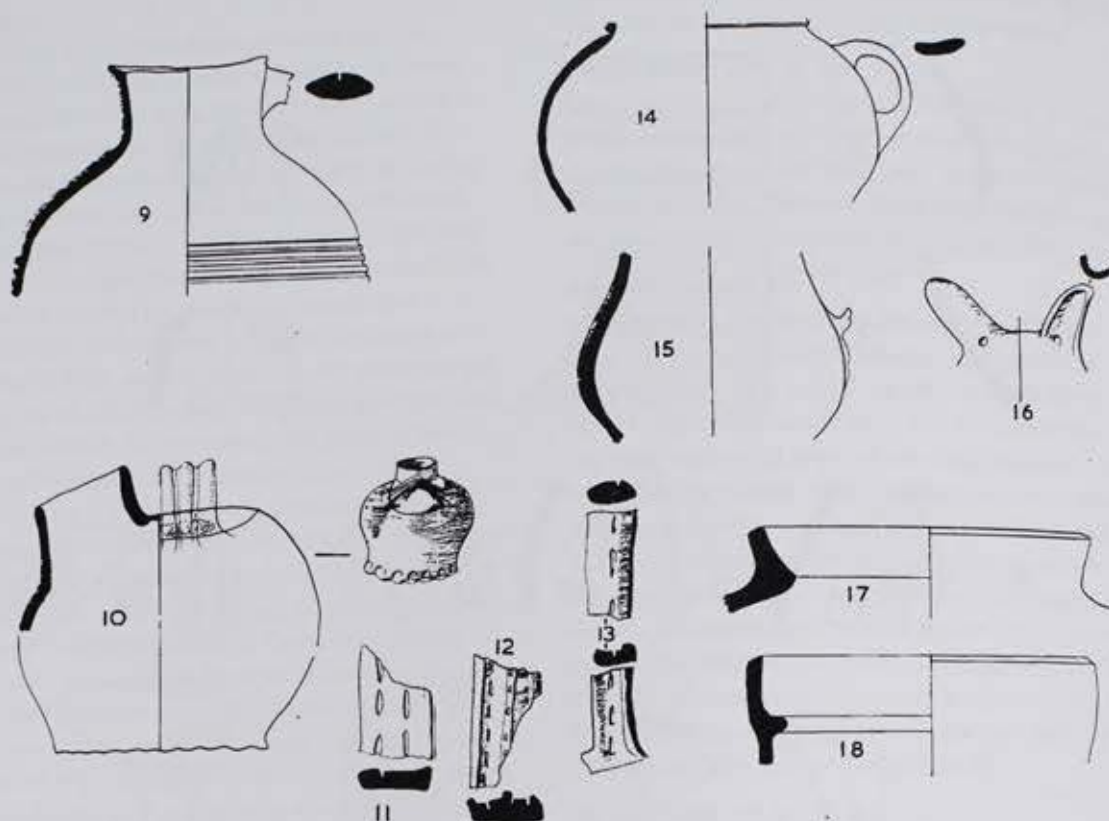


Fig 7.3 Pottery: coarse sandy red earthenware

and Bentley to the north of Selborne (Barton and Brears 1976). A local source remains a possibility. All these decorated wares are very sandy and either oxidised red or reduced to a grey colour, which fits with the local medieval pottery-making traditions. Barton makes the point that these are not as obviously well made as true high medieval pottery but given the variable and localised nature of much pottery production throughout the 13th to 15th centuries it is difficult now to make such an assertion.

#### Coarse Sandy Red Earthenware (Fig 7.3, 9–18)

Some of the wares in these groups are not easily distinguishable from one another, as the better examples of the coarse wares approximate to those of fine red earthenwares. The coarse wares have a rough sandy texture. They have a marked reduced grey sandwich in the centres of the section. The glazing is sparse and mostly on the 'bib'.

The vessels appear mostly to be globular jugs with upright ring collar necks, (9) (10) (14). One collar (not illustrated) has a vertical pulled spout. There is also an example of a urinal (10) of which only the neck survives together with part of the bowl and the scar of a handle fastening, a reconstruction of which is shown here.

Most of the handles (11) (12) (13) are of strap type both broad and narrow gauge. (12) appears to be of an

earlier type and fabric to the rest of the material. The jug bases are all crimped. Bases of three jugs occur with a thick white deposit on the inside which could conceivably come from either boiling water or urinary deposits. These deposits were not examined.

(16) is an ear of equine form, probably from a zoomorphic decorated finial.

(17) (18) are vessels for cooking or boiling. (17) is from a thick-walled rim with a marked internal flange and (18) appears to be part of the rim of an alembic or cucurbit.

The form and the poor quality of the jugs (9) (14) and (15) are some indication of their date, for they are globular and without that finish and decoration which marks the jugs of southern England from the mid-13th century into the 14th century. Therefore they probably range from the mid-14th century to the 15th century. Of particular note amongst these is the handle on (14) which is of unusual form. This drawing is a reconstruction of what the vessel is thought to have been. The other handles of the jugs are equally of late type with the exception of (12). This heavy, crude and very reduced piece could be of early 13th-century date and is the earliest medieval ceramic item represented in these collections.

Vessels (17) and (18) are unusual in their form and probably also in their purpose; although they are not readily paralleled by other cucurbits, they do to some

extent fall within that group as cautiously identified by Moorhouse (1972, 111). There is a parallel between his (11) and (17) in this report; the internal flanged rim of (18) also has similarities. Important to this identification is the thickness of these pieces which places them beyond the normal range of ordinary medieval cooking pots, although it must be noted that cooking pots at Selborne Priory are noticeable almost entirely by their absence.

(10) is the spout and upper part of a urinal; this has been thrown as a globular vessel, the neck cut off and translated to its present position just off centre. The resultant hole was then closed with a pad of clay, and a handle was sprung from this junction, presumably up and over. Dr Celoria in his research into these wares illustrates a similar vessel to this from London in his figure 1, now in the Guildhall Museum, with which he draws parallels to northern examples and dates it to the 14th century. Such vessels are known primarily from monastic sites including Melrose Abbey, Finchale Priory, Kirkstall Abbey and Glenluce Abbey amongst others. Indeed, the type is considered to be primarily a monastic vessel (Celoria 1968).

(16) is a fragment which appears to be shaped like an ear. At the base of the ear there is a piercing through to an apparent globular structure. The form of this piece precludes its use as either a handle or the foot of a vessel; its purpose and function must be decorative. The shape equates to that of the ear of a horse (or like animal). As it is too large to be part of an aquamanile it must therefore be a fragment from a finial or ridge tile with a zoomorphic decoration (Dunning 1968, 208–25).

*The pieces shown as (9)–(18) have a broadly comparable coarse, sandy fabric that fits within a local tradition that extends over northern Hampshire, north-west Sussex and Berkshire. Given that coarseware vessels were not generally moved over great distances in the medieval period it is highly likely that these are very local products (see Brown 1997). (17) and (18) could indeed be industrial vessels although no further local parallels have been identified.*

*Fine Sandy Glazed Earthenwares (Fig 7.4, 19–24)*  
(19), (20), (21) and (22) are all in a fabric that is similar to West Sussex ware, with buff-coloured, fine sand tempering, and dull iron green glazes. Such wares have a range into the 15th century although beginning in the 14th century. (24) is, however, in a very fine-quality hard sand-tempered fabric with a thick copper glaze stained green and black. (23) and (23a) are small fragments. The former is from the spigot of a cistern, the latter is a handle of angled form from a late medieval cooking pot. It is recognised that it is difficult to draw conclusions when dealing with such fragments. However, the footed cooking pot fragment is paralleled only at Winchester (Cunliffe 1964, fig 38 no 10) where such a foot occurs on a jug dated to the mid- to late 13th century. Such feet are probably a mid-Hampshire phenomenon as they seem to occur rarely in

the collections at Winchester (Collis 1978) and are not so far recorded elsewhere in the county. The rim forms of (21) and (22) are simple, and in one instance a rod-sectioned handle stub remains. Such rims are certainly late 14th to early 15th century in date. The spigot, although removed from the rest of its parent vessel, must also be a late form. There has so far been no evidence of early spigots in Hampshire. (23a) is one example of the angled handles that occur sporadically in the south (Barton 1972); the date for these is thought to be strictly confined to the early 15th century. The wide variations of date for this group show that it is not homogeneous, but that from the end of the 13th century through to the 15th century there was a tradition of oxidised products at some nearby source.

*Fine Sandy Oxidised Unglazed Wares (Fig 7.4, 25–31)*

These are a mixture of late medieval and early post-medieval vessels. (25) is a fragment from a very large rim. (26) and (27) are oxidised versions of 'painted ware', of which (27) is a standard type. However, (26) has an unusual rim form, and the handle of this example is fastened with the aid of piercings through to the body of the vessel. (28) is the heavily knife-trimmed base of a large globular jug. (29) is a fragment from what appears to be a large costrel shown here in reconstruction. The rear of this piece is inscribed with a double 'V' or 'W' after firing. (30) is a very hard disc; such discs are often associated with Iberian olive jars where they are used as covers. (31) is a lid handle.

(25) must be the base of an alembic as it is too large for a lid. However, it has a handle stub and such handles are not illustrated by Moorhouse (1972, fig 31). (26) and (27) are certainly the oxidised version of 'painted ware'; there has never been any evidence to show that oxidised examples have a different date range to the reduced examples: if anything they appear early in the range and should be mid- to late 15th century in date (see above). (28) is probably of the same ilk; the late medieval influence on such wares is apparent throughout the whole date range. Extensive knife trimming is typical of late medieval practice in the south.

(29), the fragment of a costrel, can only be readily paralleled by making assumptions about its shape. Moorhouse (1972) has already published a fragment of another costrel from this site which he has restored to similar form to the one presented here. The fragment of (29) suggests that it came from a vessel of similar shape to that from the Knighton kiln (Fennelly *et al* 1969) for which a 15th- to 16th-century date is suggested. The scratched 'V's on this piece are however in a hand more like that of the late 16th or 17th centuries.

(30) must be the seal from a Western Mediterranean storage jar. Its date is difficult to pinpoint; such items are commonplace on post-medieval sites in England and the Americas (ie 17th and 18th century) but so far no date range *in toto* has been proposed.

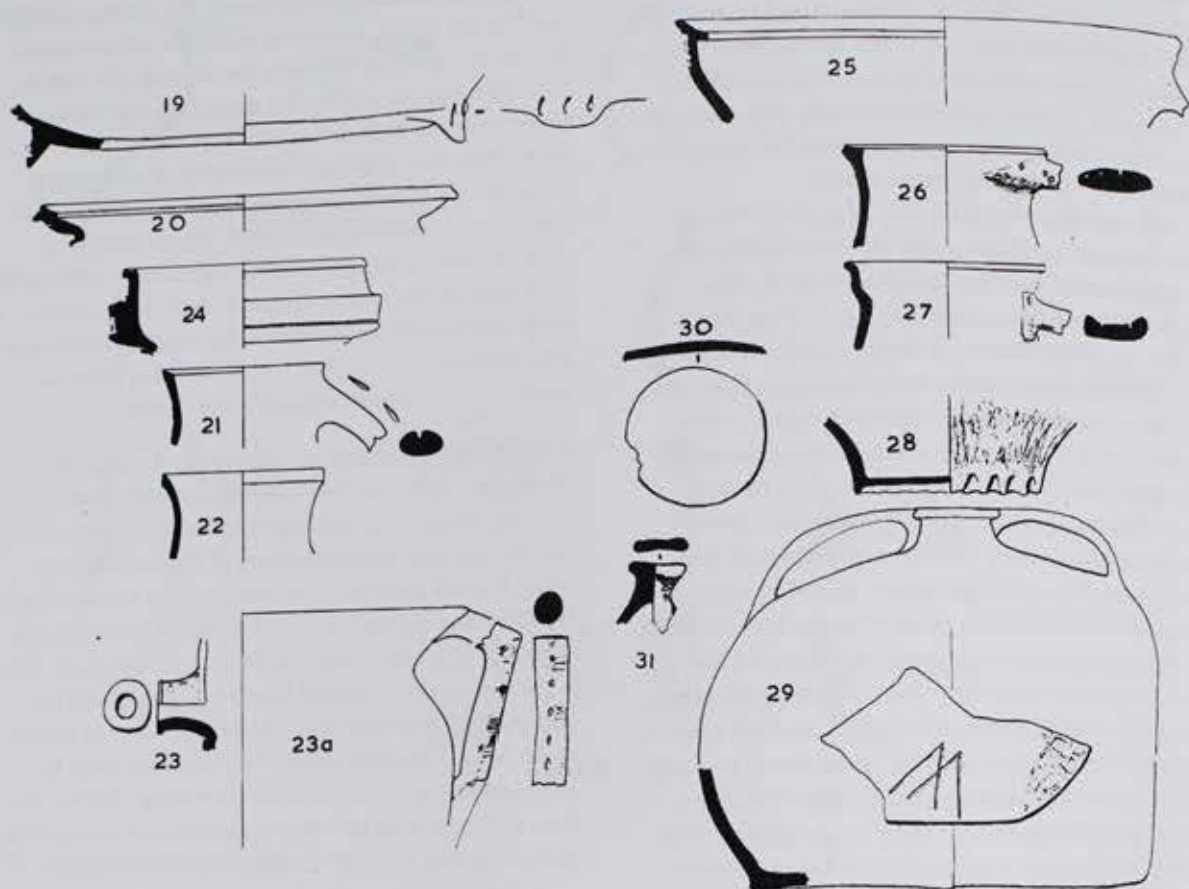


Fig 7.4 Pottery: fine sandy oxidised unglazed wares and fine sandy glazed earthenwares

The small piece (31) is probably the knob from a lid although the missing angle would have to be very steep. The only parallel is one as yet unpublished in the City Museum at Winchester which is no more complete than this example. The fabric suggests a 16th- or 17th-century date. Once again the date range for this group is wide.

(19)–(31) are in a variety of late medieval sandy wares, with a characteristic hard-fired fabric, that may date to the 15th century. (20), slightly misdrawn, is the rim of a pancheon, which was a typical late medieval form, as was the cistern represented by (23). Few are late.

*'Black and White wares' and Reduced wares (Fig 7.5, 32–38)*

Two forms of late medieval reduced wares occur in the collection of 'black and white wares' (Barton 1972). These comprise an untempered fabric fired either in a wholly reducing atmosphere or in an oxidising atmosphere with a final reduction to give a black finish to the vessel. The ware is decorated with white painted slip designs prior to firing. These designs are limited to the neck and shoulders of the vessels and in the majority of the examples they comprise horizontal lines as on (32) and (33). Those on

the shoulder are often criss-crossed with interlacing wavy bands (34 left). The handles sometimes have a white stripe down their length. Such patterns on this type of vessel are commonplace in West Sussex, with the main occurrence in and around Chichester. They were probably all manufactured at Greatham, north of that city, although they are found as far afield as Bramber on the one hand and Southampton on the other. The type also occurs at Portsmouth, Chalton, and Winchester, but is not common in these places. This assemblage is the largest group so far recognised from the probable place of manufacture. One sherd (34 right) differs in decoration; however, variations are not uncommon. The form of these jugs is devolved medieval; crimped bases and slashed handles are common features, as are spigots (see below).

The other group appears to have no such decoration but we know from the Southampton and Winchester Museum collections that a type of late medieval reduced ware was in use; this incidence of the two types occurring in one place is to be expected. Regrettably only base fragments and a spigot are suitable for illustration (36)–(38). This reduced decorated ware and its related wares

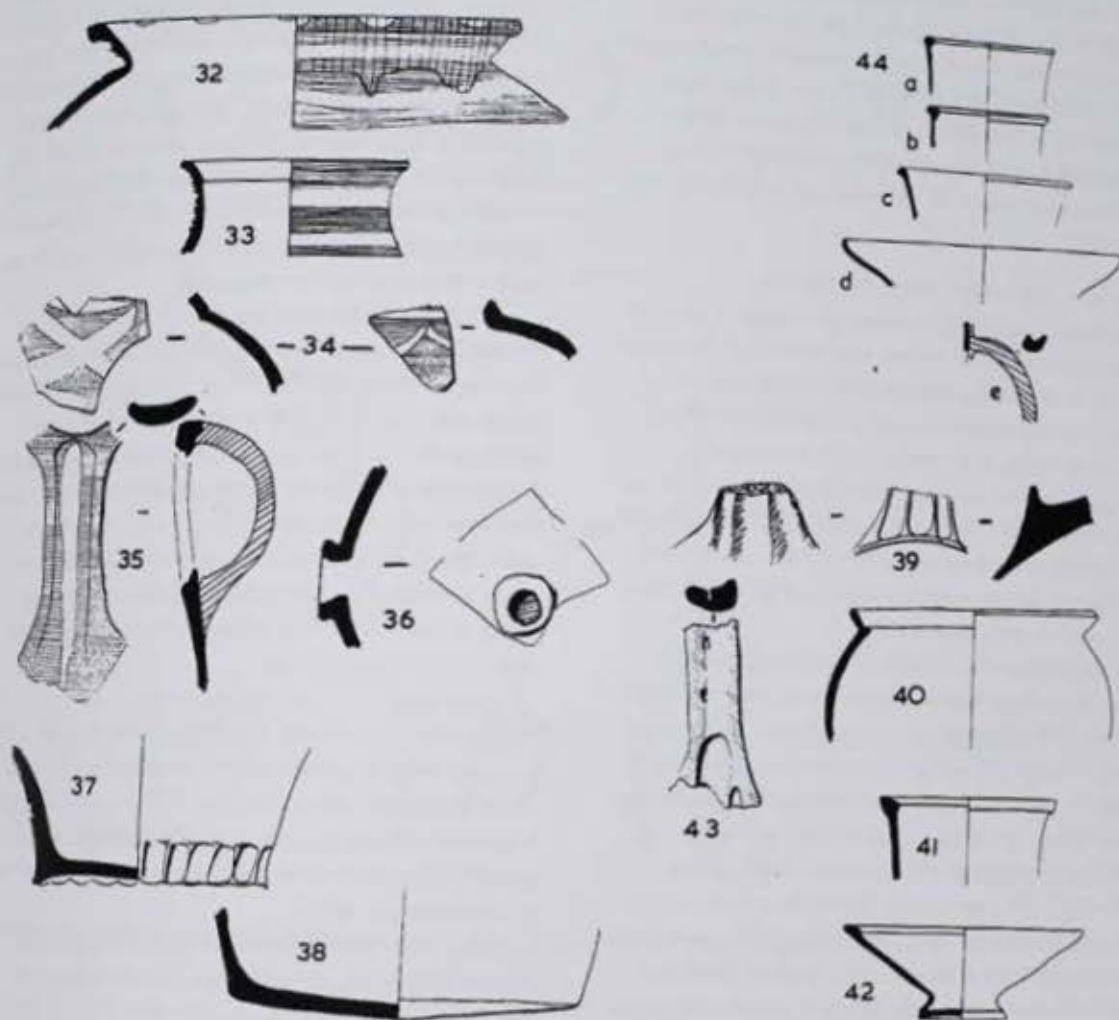


Fig 7.5 Pottery: "black and white wares" and reduced wares", unglazed white fabric wares

can be dated within the range 1450–1550, with a probable extension towards 1600.

A 15th-century date also applies to the white-painted black wares, (32)–(35). *Graffham, north of Chichester, is one known source of these, but Barton suggests that this is a more extensive Sussex tradition (Barton 1979).*

*Unglazed White Fabric Wares (Fig 7.5, 39–43)*

A very hard creamy buff fabric with some indication of yellow or green glaze on some of the pieces, but most show no evidence of glazing at all. The vessels comprise everted rimmed bowls (40), jugs (39) (41) (43), cups (42) and a handle fragment (43).

These wares can be readily if generically described as 'Surrey White wares'. Holling in his 'Note' on the wares of the Surrey/Hampshire border (Holling 1971) adds little useful detail, although such wares must occur there. He does, however, parallel the rim form (41) with an example

from a 17th-century context at Ash in Surrey (Holling 1969). The everted rim bowl belongs to a universal type of vessel whose range extends throughout the 15th century and may have originated even earlier. It is the bowl or cup (42) (no handle was seen) which is of special interest; this vessel along with others from north Hampshire and Surrey are of great importance in marking the renaissance of English potting. Such a vessel as this, unglazed and relatively coarse in quality, must be 15th century in date. The handles and stubs of handles suggest by their shape that they too are of late medieval date. *These are indeed Surrey wares, as typified by the internal flange on the rim of (40) (Pearce and Vince 1988).*

*Tudor Green (Fig 7.5, 44 a–e)*

The 16 fragments of this ware are all from different vessels and none is sufficient to give an accurate description of any vessel. Five fragments have been illustrated and in

## Artefacts and ecofacts

each case the description is similar, a thin-thrown ware in a white, grey-white or pinkish fabric covered with a copper green glaze. Rim form, fabric and glaze are all typical of these wares which date to the 15th century. Hurst claimed in 1964 (Hurst in Cunliffe 1964) that Tudor Green wares presented the two problems of date and origin. These problems still remain, though work by Holling (Holling 1977) shows this type to be almost purely a 16th-century phenomenon.

### *White Fabric yellow-glazed ware (Fig 7.6, 45)*

There are four fragments, two from one vessel, a piece of holloware, and two from dishes, one of which is illustrated. The fabric is grey-white and sandy; it is decorated with marked 'S' motifs around the rim and an undetermined design on the body. The trailing is an iron-rich fabric which can appear in the red (oxidised) or dark olive-green (reduced) all under a dark yellow-coloured glaze. Both rim and base fragments show signs that the vessel was much used. The date range for such wares could be mid- to late 17th century or early 18th century.

Such slipwares with 'S'-type rim decorations occur sporadically in West Sussex and the writer has seen them at Steyning (Barton 1986), at various sites in West Sussex, and equally sparsely amongst material from Chichester in its museum. Such wares are relatively uncommon although the very nature of the fabric and its firing technique suggest quite strongly that they have a south-central English origin. The piece under discussion is apparently a Surrey type though the form (fabric and glaze colour) can be readily paralleled at Ash in Surrey (Holling 1969) and elsewhere because it is a common type. It does not appear in the collections at Winchester, so a source to the north of Selborne is indicated.

### *Bright Green-Glazed wares (Fig 7.6, 46–50)*

These are all in a white or pink fabric, the texture of which is hard and slightly sandy. In most cases the glaze colour is the same, a bright copper-green which can be mottled as in (46) or lustrous as in (49). (46), (48) and (49) are from chamber pots. It is thought that those of globular form are principally late 17th or 18th century (Celoria 1968). Holling does not show them as coming from Ash, though his fabric description entirely matches these vessels. It is probable therefore that they are of 18th-century date, as is the bowl (47). Item (50) is thought to be a lid knob (cf (31)).

*The whitewares shown as (46)–(50) are most probably Hampshire-Surrey Border ware, from the production centres around Farnham (Pearce 1992). These date from the mid-16th century and are more likely to be contemporary with the stonewares rather than 18th century.*

### *The Stonewares (Fig 7.6, 51–56)*

These range throughout the common history of such wares in England, from the 15th to the 20th century (von Bock 1971). Most of the examples are very fragmentary and only

those that can be illustrated are shown here. Representing the 15th century are three pieces (52), (53), (54). These are dark grey, brown-slipped and salt-glazed wares of which two handles and one base are shown here. The last two are prime examples of a type that had a very wide currency in Britain up to the first half of the 16th century. By this time the shapes became refined and the use of stamped decoration is common. (54) comprises fragments from a small jug that had a double row of alternate stamped patterns. In the 16th century too the glaze is constant and refined to a good rich brown colour.

At the end of the 16th into the 17th century we see the major departure from jugs and tankards to bottles with long necks. Those illustrated here, (55) and (56), are typical of the first part of the 17th century with a face mask of good quality firmly sprigged on to the tubular neck of (56). Stamp decoration on the body has by this time developed into large and complicated motifs like the coat-of-arms shown here. Such stamps on coarse thick bodies usually occur in the second half of the 17th century. The glaze in this phase is frequently darker mottled and the type is often called 'tigerskin' ware.

Later wares occur at this site but they were too fragmentary to illustrate. They comprised of English 18th-century tankards of both Bristol / Staffordshire type and Nottingham fine brown stonewares. There are also some fragments of large globular strap handled jugs. The 19th century is represented by fragments of jars, an inkwell, and a 'Selterzwasser' bottle.

*Among the stoneware pieces (51), (52) and (53) are Raeren-type mugs, while (54) is a Raeren-Cologne type. These may be dated to between c 1450 and 1550. (55) and (56) are Frechen stoneware, dating from c 1550 to the end of the 17th century (see Gaimster 1997).*

### *Reduced Green Fareham Wares (Fig 7.6, 57)*

Fragments from two large storage jars in a dirty grey fabric, very coarse and sandy with an internal green glaze which has a pitted surface and marked throwing line, are typical late 18th-century products of the Fareham potteries (Barton 1969). Only one, (57), is illustrated.

### *Red and Yellow Slipwares*

Hard brick-red sandy fabric sometimes decorated with white slip under a lead glaze giving a yellow-on-red effect. These wares are too fragmentary to illustrate but what can be seen suggests that the slipping is always internal on wide-mouthed hollowares or occasionally zig-zag around the rim of glazed dishes. The coarsewares are unslipped and the glaze shows an iron fleck. The date range is c 1650–1720 or even later. Probably there is more than one source for this group, although they were made at Greatham, Sussex.

### *Dark Green Pink Fabric Finewares*

Of four fragments, three are from a chamber pot and one from a tankard. They are in a pink softish sandy fabric

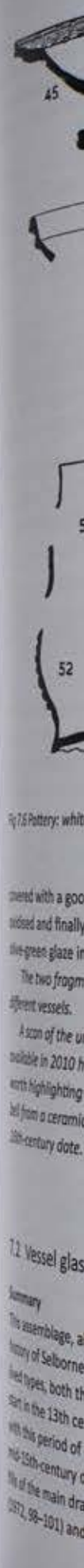


Fig 7.6 Pottery: white

covered with a good  
oxidised and finally  
blue-green glaze in  
The two fragm  
different vessels.  
A scan of the w  
available in 2010 h  
worth highlighting  
bel from a ceramic  
16th-century date.

## 7.2 Vessel glas

Summary  
The assemblage, a  
history of Selborne  
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start in the 13th ce  
with this period of  
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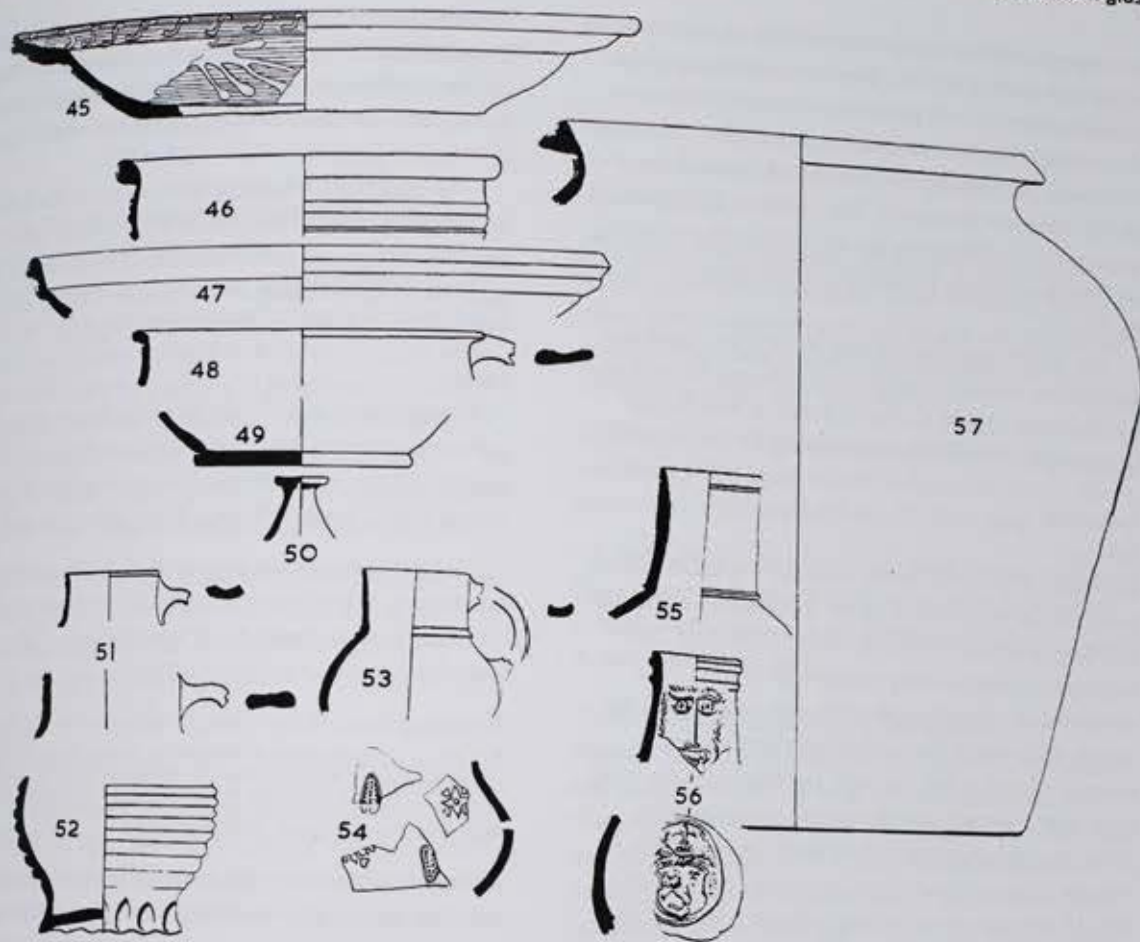


Fig 7.6 Pottery: white fabric yellow glazed ware, bright green glazed wares, reduced green Fareham wares, the stonewares

covered with a good coating of lead, firstly fired, then oxidised and finally reduced, resulting in a markedly dark olive-green glaze inside and outside the vessel.

The two fragments shown as (56) are in fact from different vessels.

A scan of the unpublished pottery from Selborne available in 2010 has thrown up a few curiosities that are worth highlighting here. These include a fragment of the bell from a ceramic horn in a fabric that suggests a 15th- or 16th-century date. The same date may be applied to the

base of a flask or standing costrel in Iberian Red Micaceous ware, the body fragment of the Martincamp-type flask and an Italo-Netherlandish tin-glazed body sherd showing a blue and yellow floral motif (see Brown 2002 for examples of these). An exotic piece of a later date is a fragment of polychrome Palissey-type Saintonge ware, which is probably 17th century. These might indicate an extended network of procurement and perhaps an establishment of some social status at the post-dissolution Priory Farm.

## 7.2 Vessel glass Holly Duncan (Fig 7.7)

### Summary

This assemblage, although small, does generally reflect the history of Selborne Priory, founded in 1233. Although long-lived types, both the hanging lamps and the flask/urinals start in the 13th century and are likely to be associated with this period of occupation, as is the assemblage of mid-15th-century distilling-apparatus, found within the fills of the main drain, previously published by Moorhouse (1972, 98–101) and summarised below by David Baker.

In the late 15th century the priory was appropriated to Magdalen College, Oxford, and in 1526 a portion was leased to husbandman John Sharpe. The case bottle (8) and cylindrical beaker (9) with thin-cut trailing may relate to the tenancy of John Sharpe or his descendants.

### Methodology and Report Format

A small assemblage of 34 sherds of vessel glass was assessed. Eighteen sherds comprised portions of wine

## Artefacts and ecofacts

bottles, cylindrical phials, a bottle and a dish, all dating to the 17th century or later; these are catalogued in the archive but do not form part of the discussion below. Sixteen pieces could be assigned to forms which can date to between the 13th century and late 16th century and are the subject of this report. This small pre-17th-century assemblage is additional to the mid-15th-century distilling equipment previously published by Moorhouse (1972, 98–101).

This report examines the glass by function. Catalogue descriptions appear in smaller font at the end of each sub-set. Illustrated objects are marked with an asterisk and numbered for reference to items on Fig 7.7.

### Household

#### Lighting

Stem bases of six lamps, and a possible body sherd from a lamp bowl, were identified. All the stem bases are thought to belong to lamps of Tyson's E1 form (2000, 142). This lamp form possesses a long narrow hollow stem with rounded base, normally with pontil scar, which flares out sharply at the top to form a wide bowl with vertical or everted rim. Due to the thin walls and fragility of the lamp bowl, stem bases are more frequently encountered in the archaeological record and are fairly common finds on religious sites, and also in town and manor houses (*ibid*, 143). All the Selborne lamp fragments are green potash glass, now covered in dark brown/black and gold surface weathering and are likely to have been products of English glasshouses (*ibid*, 141). The lamp was filled with oil and suspended from the ceiling, singly or grouped, via a harness or ring around the underside of the lamp bowl (Keys 1998, 129; Tyson 2000, 141). Possible suspension holders and wire chains have been identified from London (Egan 1998, 130–3). It is possible that chain fragment SF48 (see Fig 7.19) may have formed part of a lamp suspension chain.

In England this form of glass lamp was in use from the 13th century into the 16th century, with no discernible alteration in form (Tyson 2000, 145). Prior to the 13th

century ceramic versions of similar form were in use (Pearce 1998, 127–9), and it is thought that the demise of the ceramic hanging lamp in the 13th and 14th centuries is related to the advent of the glass lamp, with its superior translucent properties (Egan 1998, 126).

The diameter of the base stem on five of the Selborne Priory lamps ranged from 14mm to 20mm; the sixth example is larger, at 30mm diameter. The attribution of the body sherd to this category is tentative; it might also derive from an alembic (cf Moorhouse 1972, fig 30).

#### Lamps

\*1 Hanging lamp. Green glass with dark brown and gold surface weathering. Stem base, slight pontil mark visible. Height 18.6mm; base diameter 6.4mm (rising to 30mm before break); base thickness c 6mm; wall thickness 3.4mm.

\*2 Hanging lamp. Green glass with dark brown surface weathering. Stem base, prominent pontil mark. Height 14.3mm; base diameter 8mm; base thickness (without pontil) 3.2mm; wall thickness 2.2mm.

3 Hanging lamp. Green glass, surface weathering has flaked off. Stem base fragment. Height 15.6mm; base diameter 14mm (rising to c 20mm at break); base thickness 2mm; wall thickness 1.2mm. Not illustrated.

4 Hanging lamp. Green glass with dark brown/black surface weathering. Incomplete stem base fragment, slight pontil mark visible. Height 11.5mm; base diameter c 20mm; base thickness 3.2mm; wall thickness 3.3mm. Not illustrated.

5 Hanging lamp. Green glass with dark brown surface weathering. Part lower stem wall and start of thick rounded base. Height 16mm; base diameter c 14mm; base thickness 7.5mm; wall thickness 3mm. Not illustrated.

\*6 Hanging lamp. Green glass with dark brown and gold surface weathering. Stem base, rounded with visible pontil mark. Height 32mm; base diameter 24mm; base thickness 6mm (including pontil 7mm); wall thickness 4mm. Square 47.

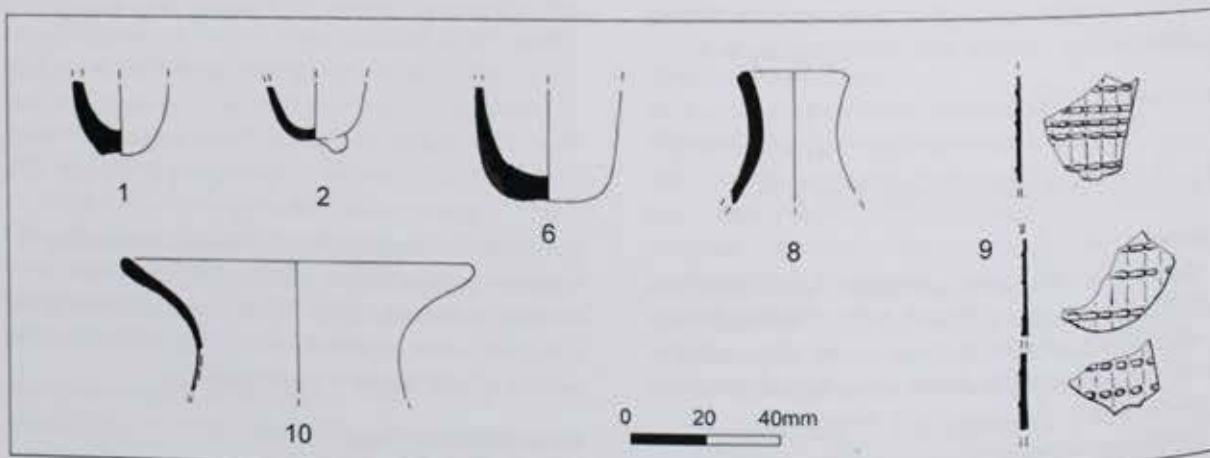


Fig 7.7 Vessel glass

lar form were in use. It is thought that the demise of the 13th and 14th centuries glass lamp, with its superior rim, is due to the Selborne (8, 126).

on five of the Selborne to 20mm; the sixth to 20mm. The attribution of the pontil mark is tentative; it might also derive from the Selborne (972, fig 30).

dark brown and gold surface weathering. Slight pontil mark visible. Length 40mm; width 30mm; thickness 1.8mm increasing to 3.5mm. Not illustrated.

dark brown surface weathering. Slight pontil mark. Height 36mm; thickness (without pontil) 4mm.

Surface weathering has flaked off. Rim diameter 30mm; base diameter 24mm; base thickness 2mm; height 36mm.

Dark brown/black surface weathering. Slight pontil mark. Rim diameter c 20mm; base diameter 14mm; thickness 3mm. Not illustrated.

Dark brown surface weathering. Slight pontil mark. Rim diameter c 20mm; base diameter 14mm; thickness 3mm. Not illustrated.

Dark brown and gold surface weathering. Slight pontil mark. Rim diameter 24mm; base thickness 4mm.



\*7 Hanging lamp(?). Green glass with dark brown/black and gold surface weathering. Body sherd from wide bowl-like vessel approaching rim. Length 40mm; width 30mm; thickness 1.8mm increasing to 3.5mm. Not illustrated.

#### Storage

Long-term storage containers are represented by a single rim and neck fragment from a case bottle. Case bottles possessed a square-section shape, enabling them to be packed tightly into crates for long-distance transport, but examples are frequently found in domestic contexts and were probably used for a variety of functions (Willmott 2002, 86). Case bottles were in use from the late 16th century, continuing into the 17th century (*ibid*, 87). Although produced in Germany and the Low Countries, the majority found in England were produced here (*ibid*, 87).

\*8 Case bottle. Dark green tinged glass with beige surface weathering. Thick, everted rim, short neck and start of shoulder. Rim diameter 30mm; neck diameter 24mm; height 36mm; wall thickness 4mm.

#### Tableware

Glass drinking beakers were in use from the 13th century and continued in use into the post-medieval period (Tyson 2000, 73). Three body sherds, two joining and the third possibly from the same or a very similar vessel, represent cylindrical beakers. All three sherds are decorated with thin 'cut' trailing, the decoration produced by wrapping a thin trail around the initial paraison and then inflating it in a vertically ribbed mould, the optic mould 'cutting', or in many cases just flattening, the closely spaced thin trails (Willmott 2002, 40-1). This form of cylindrical beaker was produced in Germany, the Low Countries and England (eg Rosedale, North Yorkshire) and dates to the late 16th to mid-17th century (*ibid*, 41).

\*9 Cylindrical beaker(s). Light green-tinged glass with golden brown surface weathering on two pieces. Three ribbed body sherds with horizontal thin 'cut' trailing. Wall thickness 1.4mm; wall and trail thickness 2.8mm.

#### Medical/Pharmaceutical

Three sherds from the rim/neck of a wide-necked vessel with horizontally everted rim conform to Tyson's type F1 - wide-necked flask/urinals of green glass with convex base. Two convex base sherds may also derive from similar vessels, although they could equally be part of an alembic dome (cf Moorhouse 1972, 100 n30). Uroscopy, examination of the colour of the urine, was the principal method of medical diagnosis in the medieval period, the urinal vessel becoming the symbol of the doctor across medieval Europe (Tyson 2000, 151). Doctors, barbers, surgeons and apothecaries were all trained in uroscopy and it was also practised in monastic infirmaries (*ibid*, 151). The use of these wide-necked vessels does not, however, appear to have been confined to uroscopy,

as pharmaceutical and industrial uses are also attested (Moorhouse 1993, 147; Tyson 2000, 152). Flasks/urinals of Tyson's type F1 are found from the 13th century, continuing into the late 16th century, but their production and use seems to have ceased by the 17th century (*ibid*, 154; Willmott 2002, 103).

\*10 Flask/urinal. Pale green glass with golden-brown surface weathering flaking off. Three rim sherds from a vessel with horizontally everted rim and wide cylindrical neck (neck diameter 64mm). Rim diameter 112mm; rim thickness 3.75mm; wall thickness 1mm.

\*11 Flask/urinal? Glass denatured, black and golden surface weathering. Convex base from flask/urinal? Length 38mm; width 31mm; thickness 6.5mm. Not illustrated.

\*12 Flask/urinal? Glass denatured, black surface weathering. Convex base, with pontil mark visible, from flask/urinal? Length 38mm; width 28mm; thickness 5.8mm (with pontil 7.8mm). Not illustrated.

#### Distilling apparatus (summary, David Baker)

Stephen Moorhouse reported (1972) on a group of glass and pottery distilling apparatus found together towards the south end of the canons' latrine in the main drain. Full details and the context of a wider discussion contained in his article are not repeated here, though study of this particular topic over the last 40 years may have improved understanding.

Moorhouse suggested that the documented ruinous state of the priory in its last years may mean the drain was filled 20 to 30 years earlier than the dissolution in 1486, allowing a mid-15th-century date to be assigned to the material. He illustrated 15 glass vessels reconstructed from sherds, 12 alembics, 1 possible flask or cucurbit or alembic, 2 receivers, and 1 receiver or cucurbit. All the glass is of the 'common green' type, most of it being badly laminated. The pottery comprised 1 costrel or flask, 1 unspecified vessel and 1 nearly complete cucurbit.

A glass still had four main elements. The *alembic* was the still head, inverted over the *cucurbit* or main body flask, and feeding into the *receiver*. The *alembic* itself had four main elements, a dome, a collecting channel, a rim and a spout. Uses included distilling alcoholic drinks and alchemical activities.

The alembics from Selborne represent the most common form, known from Islamic times to the 18th century with little change. At the time of writing they were the earliest known in the country. The possible cucurbit was a particularly rare survival in an archaeological context. The gourd-shaped receiver was typical of surviving examples though less well known from contemporary illustrations.

### 7.3 Coins, tokens, jettons and a coin weight

Richard Kelleher

The numismatic material from Selborne available for study comprises 25 items, 12 coins, one token, 11 jettons and a coin weight. All broadly date from the mid-13th to the early 17th centuries. Numerals in the following discussion refer to entries in the Gazetteer and Fig 7.8. Objects such as these are to be found on a range of medieval sites and reflect commercial activity of varying levels. The modest number of coins from Selborne compares favourably with other religious sites where overall coin totals are lower. In Rigold's classic survey of medieval site finds only seven of his 30 religious sites (the abbeys at Basingwerk, St Mary at Coventry, Rievaulx and Roche, the priories at St Augustine's, Pontefract and Richborough) yielded more coins than Selborne (Rigold 1977, 70–2). However, a recent fieldwork project at Bromholm Priory, Norfolk, which used metal detectors as part of the survey, showed the potential numbers of coins and other metalwork present on monastic sites overall with over 100 coins dating to the medieval period (Pestell 2005).

The earliest coin from the Selborne Priory site is the Long Cross cut-halfpenny of Henry III (1), struck 1248–50 and almost certainly lost or deposited by 1279 when the Long Cross coinage was demonetised and recoinced into Edward I's reform pennies. The first great surge in English mint output, as revealed by surviving coins, occurred with the Short Cross coinage (1180–1247), prior to the Long Cross coinage represented at Selborne, and was largely enabled by the discovery of new west European sources of silver, particularly in Saxony. Short Cross coins account for 17% of the single finds made by metal detectorists recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) for the period 1066–1544, and as a group are ranked second only to the Edwardian issue of 1279–1351 (Kelleher forthcoming). The Long Cross coinage was introduced partly to remedy the state of the Short Cross currency which, by the second quarter of the 12th century was reported as being extensively clipped. To combat clipping the new design included a reverse voided cross with limbs which extended to the edge of the coin; in the event that a coin was offered on which all four limbs were not visible it was to be refused. How effective this was in practice is open to debate as even some of the extant hoard coins show some evidence of clipping.

The next two coins (2, 3) are issues from the sterling coinage of Edward I and II. In 1279 a large-scale reform was carried out which, among other innovations, established the minting of round halfpennies and farthings on a permanent basis and included the incorporation of a new design. The obverse bore a new-style bust, neatly executed and showing the king clean shaven and wearing a more realistic crown than previously. Around the bust was an abbreviated legend incorporating the king's full titles,

which previously had been restricted to such as HENRICVS REX. The new legend read EDW(ardus) R(ex) ANG(lorum) D(omi)N(u)s HYB(ernie). The reverse also bore a new solid long cross and dispensed entirely with naming the moneyer, leaving the mint town alone prefixed by either Civitas or Villa. The 1279 recoinage was carried out by mints at London, Canterbury, Bristol, Chester, Durham, Lincoln, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Bury St Edmunds and York. By 1281 the majority of old coins were reminted and the temporary mints of Bristol, Chester, Lincoln, Newcastle and York closed down. The principal mints of London and Canterbury and the ecclesiastical mints of Bury and Durham continued operating until a second, partial recoinage in 1299. Exeter and Kingston-upon-Hull were opened along with the other provincial mints except Lincoln. (11) is an Irish issue of Edward I and represents the small but consistent presence of Irish coins which circulated among the English currency alongside similar numbers of Scottish and Continental imitative pieces.

The establishment of the permanent production of groats (4d) in England came in Edward III's fourth coinage of 1351. This phase is represented at Selborne by two coins, both London issues of 1352–53, and both from the main drain (5, 6). Their weights, 4.27g and 4.10g, are good and high enough to suggest loss before the lower weight standard of 3.88g was introduced in 1412. The next three coins (7, 8, 9) are all 15th-century issues and date to the period when the supply of silver in Europe had diminished to dangerously low levels; this has often been dubbed the period of 'bullion famines' (Spufford 1988, 339–63).

Jettons were produced in huge numbers in the medieval period, first in France and England and later in Germany, particularly at Nuremberg. They functioned primarily as reckoning counters but the prevalence of finds of jettons on a range of sites right down to small village dwellings suggests a use beyond that for which they were made. This is an area ripe for study, synthesising recent excavation and metal detector finds. The seven extant jettons from Selborne (14–17, 19–21) mostly fall into the earlier phase (14th–15th centuries), with one late Nuremberg example chronologically distant from the rest of the material.

The numismatic material from Selborne incorporates a range of commercial artefacts and indicates a level of use (and loss) of money from at least the mid-13th century. From this period to the late 15th century there followed intermittent coin loss. The jettons signify some form of account management and the weight points toward high-value gold coins being used on site though such finds are absent. Continuing post-monastic activity is indicated by records of unavailable finds including a silver groat of Mary Tudor and a token copper farthing of Charles I.

## Catalogue

The numismatic material is presented in chronological order by source and the date of striking of the coin or jetton. The jettons from the site were commented upon by Stuart Rigold and where relevant I have noted his observations. Items starred and annotated as 'not illustrated' were not seen by either the present writer or the monograph author though some descriptions indicate expert advice was obtained at the time of excavation. References to English coins are from North (1991 and 1994) and Withers and Withers (2004); Irish coins are from Spink's standard catalogue (2002); jettons are from Barnard (1916) and Mitchiner (1988); and the coin-weight is from Withers and Withers (1993).

## Coins

## England (10)

## 1 Henry III (1216–72)

Long Cross cut-halfpenny, class 3 (1248–50), Ilchester, Hugo le Rus. Wt: 0.58g.

SF 058. 1961. Sq 2/705,727. E of chapter house

The production of round halfpennies and farthings did not begin on a permanent basis until after Edward I's coinage reforms in 1279. In the Long Cross period (1247–79) the provision of small change was catered for by pennies being cut into halves and quarters at the mint, much as they had been for the preceding three centuries. The mint of Ilchester struck only in class 3 under four moneyers and does not appear as a mint again after the Long Cross coinage. The coin shows evidence of wear consistent with loss c 1260–79.

## 2 Edward I (1272–1307)

Penny, class 2b (Jan–May 1280), Bristol. Wt: 1.33g.

SF 094. 1964. Trench A. Nave.

The obverse of this coin has been double, or more probably treble, struck making the detail difficult to make out. Bristol was a temporary mint striking coins of both the 1279 and 1299 recoinages.

## 3 Edward I/II (1272–1327)

Penny, class 10cf1 (1301–10), Canterbury. Wt: 0.89g.

SF 026. 1958. Chapter house S side. Sq 1/39E

This coin appears to have some circumferential loss consistent with clipping. Coins were clipped when a new issue came out at a new, lower weight standard, thus bringing the existing currency in line with the new. Weight adjustments in 1351, 1412 and 1464 were responsible for a lot of the clipping of Edwardian and later pennies and therefore the weight of the coins can indicate when it was lost. This particular coin was probably lost by the mid-15th century.

4\* Silver farthing of Edward I. Not illustrated.

SF33. NBk02, 75. 1955. NW of entrance from cloister to N transept.

## 5 Edward III (1327–77)

Groat, pre-treaty series D (1352–53), London. Wt: 4.27g.

SF 283. 1964. Sq 2/779. Main drain.

Some wear and slight buckling to edge of coin. Probably deposited before 1412. Groats became a permanent fixture in the currency under Edward III.

## 6 Edward III (1327–77)

Groat, pre-treaty series D (1352–53), London. Wt: 4.10g.

SF 090. 1964. Main drain.

Some wear and corrosion to surface. The weight suggests probable deposition before 1412.

## 7 Henry V or VI (1413–61)

Penny, York (local dies). Wt: 0.86g.

SF 019. 1956. S wall or S of chapter house.

The coin is crudely struck from locally produced dies in York and the detail is not crisply defined. There are two marks either side of the crown which could be mullets or quatrefoils so assigning the coin to an exact monarch is problematic.

## 8 Henry VI, first reign (1422–61)

Half groat, annulet type (1422–27), cross II/none, Calais. Wt: 1.88g.

SF 020. 1956. S wall or S of chapter house.

The coin is slightly clipped and worn. The English mint at Calais was active from 1424 to c 1440 and for this period took over from Canterbury as the chief mint for recoinng foreign silver into English coins.

## 9 Edward IV, second reign (1471–83)

Halfpenny, London. Wt: 0.37g.

SF 285. 1956. Sq 340, cloister garth, east side

Due to the small size of the flan the initial mark is not fully visible, it is most likely a cinquefoil or halved sun and rose (Withers type 10b or 11b)

## 10\* Silver groat of Mary Tudor. Not illustrated.

Envelope: '1553–54, before marriage to Philip of Spain.

Mark: a pomegranate after MARIA'

SF29. 1959. Sq 50, chapter house interior NE corner.

## Ireland (1)

## 11 Edward I (1272–1307)

Penny, class 1b (1279–95), Waterford. Wt: 1.08g.

SF 096. 1964. Trench A. South cloister wall.

Irish coins had been struck in Ireland under John and Henry III. Under Edward I this continued with Dublin and Waterford striking pennies, halfpennies and farthings up to 1302. In England Irish coins of Edward I are a small but consistent feature in 14th-century hoards and as single finds (making up around c 1–2%).

## France (1)

12\* Unknown item of 'Ludovic of Navarre'. Envelope caption. SF153. Not illustrated.

Several possibilities exist as to the identity of this piece based on the limited caption, although two seem more likely candidates given the chronology of the other coins. Both Louis X (1305–16) and Louis XIII (1610–20) were kings

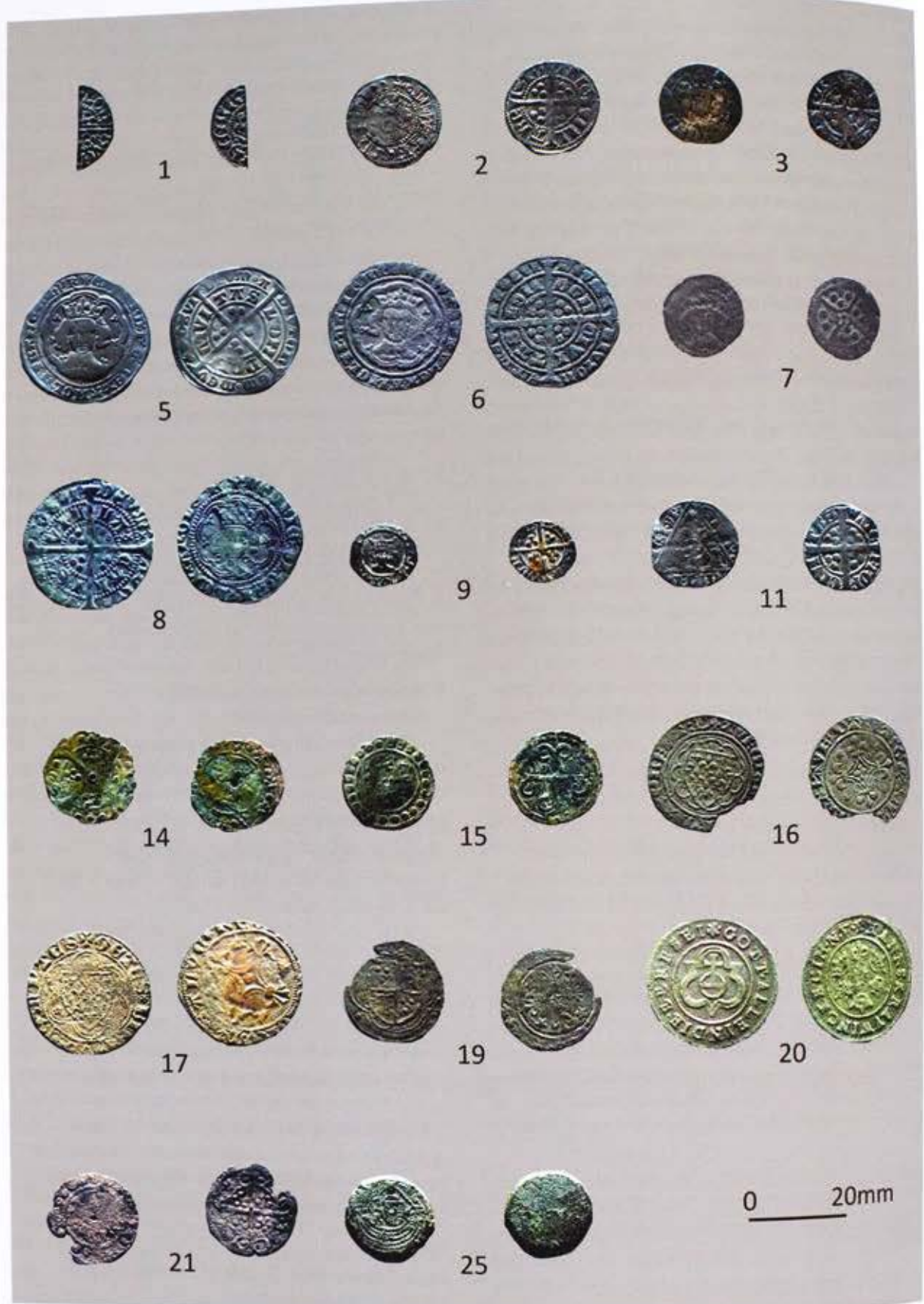


Fig 7.8 Coins, tokens, jettons and a coin weight

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 been copper farth  
 1636. Not ill  
 (12)  
 English 'sterling' typ  
 head/Cross  
 17-20. Wt: 0.40g.  
 1961. 1964. Tren  
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 English pennies  
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 reverse. Wt: 1.21  
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 hinges and nails. The  
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of France and also of Navarre and we might assume that the earlier of these is the most plausible.

*Token (1)*

13\* Token, copper farthing, Charles I, issued by Lord Maltravers 1636. Not illustrated. Envelope caption. SF148

*Jettons (11)*

14 English 'sterling' type.

Sterling head/Cross fleury (after 1302). Mitchiner type 117-20. Wt: 0.40g.

SF 061. 1964. Trench A-B S cloister walk.

This jetton is quite badly corroded and worn and has a small hole pierced in its centre. The type follows the design of the English pennies of Edward I-III. Stuart Rigold gave a date post-1300.

15 English 'sterling' type.

Castle/cross Moline. cf Mitchiner 185 for obverse, but new reverse. Wt: 1.21g.

SF 095. 1964. Trench A-B S cloister walk.

This jetton shows some wear and an attempt has been made to pierce it centrally, although the hole does not penetrate through to the reverse. Rigold says the castle was the device of Eleanor of Castile and was used by Edward II, but see also sterling-type coins of Brabant of John I-III.

16 French (late 14th century)

Similar to Mitchiner 424 and Barnard 42 but with 11 tressures rather than six. Wt: 0.97g.

SF 053. 1961. Sq. 2/749 EF E wall canons' latrine.

The surface fabric has degraded slightly and the jetton is chipped but is otherwise legible.

17 French (late 14th century)

Similar to Mitchiner 420 but with reverse reading SALVE REGINA CAELORUM. Wt: 3.28g.

SF 284. 1961. Sq 494F. E of chapter house

This object shows some evidence of wear.

18\* Jetton, French, late 14th or early 15th century. Not illustrated.

Identified by R M Dolley referring to Barnard pl VI no 37/38.

SF75. 1962. Sq 771U, NE corner of canons' latrine.

19 Nuremberg-Burgrave type (15th century)

Quartered shield/Cross fleuretty. Mitchiner 988. Wt: 0.52g. SF59. 1961. Sq 705 J/I. NE corner of chapter house, possibly outside.

The jetton is heavily worn and has a chipped edge.

20 Nuremberg Jetton, rose/orb type.

Hans Krauwinkel II (master 1586; died 1635). As Mitchiner type 1527. Wt: 0.91g.

SF 152. Location uncertain, NE corner or S wall canons' latrine.

The reverse die has a flaw where the T has been re-engraved over an O, otherwise the object itself is in good condition.

21 Jetton. Early 13th century

Identified by R M Dolley. Barnard pl 1, no 6 or 3.

SF274. 1962 Sq 793 canons' latrine

22\* Jetton. Not illustrated.

Probably stolen by site visitors.

SF69 1962 Sq 771D Main drain.

23\* Jetton 'very worn but thick, no distinct markings'. Not illustrated.

SF102. NBk06 p59. 1965. 'Found in spoil in sanctuary'.

24\* Jetton ? Not illustrated.

SF91. 'thin and worn'. 1964. Sq 772 Main drain.

*Coin Weight (1)*

25 Coin weight, 15th century

English rose-noble or ryal of Edward IV (1464-70).

Withers type 207. Wt: 7.58g.

SF 060. 1961. NE corner chapter house, possibly outside.

Coin weights were a vital tool used to check coins for clipping and counterfeiting. In England weights are known from the late 13th century and continued for as long as the coins were produced in precious metal. This weight was made for the gold ryals issued under Edward IV from 1464-70. Despite their production lasting just seven years great numbers of the coins were struck. This weight shows some evidence of pitting and is three grains short of the 120 grain standard of the full rose-noble.

7.4 Registered finds Holly Duncan

*Summary*

A substantial proportion of the assemblage comprises building materials and fasteners, in the form of lead roofing and associated roof fittings, lead off-cuts presumably from the removal of the roof, lead architectural 'joins', pintles, hinges and nails. These items are not closely datable in their own right. There is, however, a smaller component, often of a more personal nature, which permits closer

dating. Excluding the small quantity of worked flint, the assemblage spans a period from the mid- to late 13th century to the 19th century, with the majority of datable items concentrated in the 14th- to 17th-century date range. This does generally echo the known history of the site, as a priory from 1233 to 1486, and as a farm thereafter, with a chantry in parts of the monastic buildings up to 1550.

One of the earliest typologically dated objects is the possible lace chape SF112 with a suggested date of mid-13th–mid-14th century. Toiletry set SF97 (Fig 7.27) is closely paralleled by finds from deposits of 1270–1350 from London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 377 no 1755), while the arched purse hanger SF77 (Fig 7.27) may be of similar date. Spearhead SF44 and arrowhead SF320 (Fig 7.24) are also likely to date to the 13th century. Presumably these weapons were for protection and supplementing the diet of the priory residents rather than any military function; the priory lands adjoined Wolmer Forest, a medieval royal hunting preserve. Some of the rotary keys, for example type B keys with their hollow-stems and type F (see Fig 7.16), may also have been in use at this time.

The 14th and 15th century is not only represented by a greater number of dress fittings, for example the composite forked spacer strap ends and buckles with rigid plates (Figs 7.26–27), but also by kitchen equipment, such as the stone mortars, a fire steel and iron ladle/large spoon (Fig 7.17), the small tap and spigot (Fig 7.18), sewing equipment, in the form of thimbles and a pair of small shears (Fig 7.23), and perhaps some of the type G rotary keys (Fig 7.16). Probably the most impressive item amongst the small finds is the 'armorial mount' (SF12, Fig 7.27) paralleled by similar finds from deposits dated to c 1400–50 from London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig 116). Whether this belonged to a visitor or to the Prior of Selborne is unknown.

Although there are indications in the form of harness mounts and a rumbler bell for horses in the later medieval period (Fig 7.23), these could well have originated from visitors. The fragmentary survival of the spurs, and the horseshoes, precludes certain dating of these items. Taken together, there is little evidence to suggest a permanent presence of horses during the life time of the priory.

The iron purse bar attests to late 15th- to mid-16th-century occupation (Fig 7.27). Both the embossed padlock and the type G2 rotary key with kidney-shaped bow (Fig 7.16) could also date to this period. The spoon assemblage spans the late 14th century to the 17th century (Fig 7.18). Two spoons with fig-shaped bowls could date to the late 14th century at the earliest; the wrythen knob spoons are probably of late 15th century, while the slip top and trefid spoons date to the 17th century. Both knives, one with bolster tang and the second with a solid tang, also date to the 17th century (Fig 7.23). Sewing continued on a small scale in the 16th and 17th centuries, as indicated by the 16th-century thimble with spiral pattern indentations and a 'tonsure,' while the stamped thimble is of 17th century or later (Fig 7.21). The ox-shoes may also date to the 16th to 17th century.

The bone dominoes (Fig 7.23) are likely to be of 17th- or 18th-century date, as wood became the more common material after the 18th century. Activity in the 18th century is attested by the machined 'knurled' thimble of c 1730–80, which could have been used in conjunction with the small

sewing scissors, and the stem of a clay pipe. The final period, the 19th century, is represented by a single shoe iron and two clay pipes, both of late the 19th century.

Although the typologically dated assemblage does attest to activity in spanning the later 13th into the 15th centuries, much of this relates to domestic activities undertaken, for example food preparation, dress, and building fittings; objects directly associated with the religious nature of the priory are few and far between in the assemblage as a whole. Presumably when the complex ceased to function as a priory in 1484 any valuable and portable religious items would have been removed prior to the transfer to Magdalen College. Styli, such as the lathe-turned bone and iron examples recovered (Fig 7.23), are frequent finds on religious sites, but they are also found in secular and urban settings across the country and in contexts associated with schools, so cannot be said to be exclusively ecclesiastical (MacGregor *et al* 1999, 1975). The one item directly associated with religion is the small chalk mould with a rather crude representation of an *Agnus Dei* (Fig 7.28); the mould is thought to have been used to cast aids to devotion. A late 14th- to 15th-century date has been suggested for this, based on parallels from London with better-executed badges and pendants depicting the *Agnus Dei*.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Selborne Priory assemblage lies in the building materials and associated tools recovered, despite the fact that much of this assemblage cannot be closely dated. The lead architectural 'joins' and their spacers or 'bushes' provide insight into the construction techniques used (see Fig 7.9), further enhanced by the rare finds of a mason's axe, wedge and portions of chisels and punches (Fig 7.20). The roofing sheet off-cuts and associated fittings (Figs 7.12, 7.13) not only attest to the presence of lead roofing, representing a not insubstantial financial outlay, but may also provide further evidence of how roofing sheets were joined and held in place. The remains of pipe attest to some form of plumbing system. The lead leaves (Fig 7.11), although recovered from a secondary context, suggest some form of decorative wall finishing. Taken together with the evidence of the architectural stonework and the window glass assemblages, these items suggest that although the later priory may not have been prosperous, the initial expenditure to establish the house was not inconsiderable.

### Introduction

This report discusses the 'small finds', excluding coinage, vessel glass, window glass and lead comes. The assemblage comprises over 472 objects: 392 items were viewed, and at least a further 80 items were unavailable for study as their current storage locations are unknown. Twenty-one of the mislaid items had been illustrated prior to this report and are included in the discussion. Also, reference is made

to some identifiable items sketched in the site notebooks, though most were not to scale.

Each available object was assigned a preliminary identification and allocated to one of 17 functional categories. The objects were described and quantified, and the information was entered in an Excel spreadsheet. Objects currently unlocated but possessing a scale drawing received the same treatment. Time and financial constraints did not allow for the assemblage to be x-rayed; x-ray is recommended in the near future to confirm identifications and for purposes of 'preservation by record'. No stratigraphic data was available but compartment locations are given where known. Where possible a date range was assigned based upon reference to standard typological works and published parallels.

Petrological identifications were undertaken by Dr Jill Eyers (Chiltern Archaeology); the worked animal bones were examined by Jennifer Browning (ULAS). Corinne Renow and Diana Blaxter illustrated 21 objects during the 1970s; others are by the author and Cecily Marshal. Mark Phillips photographed selected finds.

The report is divided into 17 categories, the majority relating to the function the objects performed (eg Building Materials and Services; Crafts and Industry, Dress and Personal Adornment), although there are two categories (Prehistoric Flint and Objects of Uncertain Identity) which are not functionally related. Within each category, the discussion is sub-divided into sub-sets, for example roofing materials or buckles. Catalogue descriptions, with small find (SF) number noted, appear in smaller font at the end of each sub-set. Illustrated or photographed objects are marked with an asterisk; the figure or photograph number is listed at the end of the relevant description. The wider significance of the assemblage is considered in the discussion Section 8 of this report below.

### Building Materials and Services

#### Architectural joins or keys

Eight examples of lead 'architectural joins or keys' were found during the excavations – one remains *in situ* on a capital fragment (Fig 6.16), while seven are detached. All are basically flat circular discs with down-turned 'lipped' edges. They served as keys or joins to secure multi-unit architectural features; the lead was poured between the two components when in a liquid state. This method of joining architectural components can be paralleled at the Church of St Peter Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, where tracery components of the east window in the chancel were secured by lead poured into striations on the sides of the tracery (Woodfield 2008, fig 11d).

All seven detached examples retain evidence for the presence of 'spacers' or bushes (see Section 6.1). These are small pieces of lead sheet cut into diamond, pentagonal, sub-rectangular, or, in one instance triangular, shapes; the smallest example is 10mm by 9mm and the largest 25mm

by 15mm. They were placed between the two components to be joined prior to introducing the molten lead, ensuring adequate space for the molten lead to run freely into the join. The outlines of the spacers are visible within the matrix of the larger discs, in addition to a few detached examples which have 'popped out'. Where complete, or near complete, at least two spacers are present, with a general tendency for four spacers (see Fig 7.10).

One example, SF17, retains an upright protuberance (height 30mm) situated along one edge, which has a rounded right-angle bend facing outwards (Fig 7.9); this protuberance represents the channel the lead was poured through, the molten lead filling the area between the shaft and the capital (see Section 6.1 and Fig 6.16). The other architectural joins do not retain this feature. Although several lack one edge of the disc and hence may have originally had evidence of the pouring channel, SF202 and SF296 are near complete and lack any evidence for a channel or its removal. SF294 and part of SF295 (which clearly joins SF294) suggest at least two directions for the flow of lead, which could indicate a different method of introducing the molten lead, or separate attempts to fill the join.



S F 17



S F 203

0 3cm

Fig 7.9 Lead architectural joins SF17, SF203

SF no	Recovery location	Completeness	Diameter	Spacers	Chisel impressions	Comment
017	1957 NW cloisters W6	Complete	120mm	4	Yes	Lead 'sprue plug' present
201	1958 Sq 39 chapter house	Near complete	130mm	2	Yes	
202	chapter house central sleeper; N base, S pillar	Near complete	140mm	2	Yes	small circular hole (drilled?)
203	chapter house 'central base'	2/3	140mm	2-3	Yes	Edge of third spacer visible
294	chapter house N base E pillar	2/3	130mm	3-4	Yes	Note: joining piece currently part of SF295
295	chapter house N base central pillar	Less than half	140mm	1	Yes	
296	No location given	Near complete	130mm	4	Yes	

Fig 7.10 Table of all lead architectural component joins/keys

The diameters of the 'architectural joins' range from c 120mm to c 140mm (see Fig 7.10). Several retain impressions of chisel marks on both sides, indicating the faces of the adjoining architectural components were keyed for the lead (eg SF203 Fig 7.9).

\*SF17 Architectural join or key. Lead. Flat disc with down-turned irregular 'lip'. Four diamond-shaped spacers clearly visible in the disc matrix. On the obverse surface near the edge is a protruding plug of lead, of rounded sub-rectangular cross-section (height 30mm), which has a rounded right-angle bend facing outwards representing the channel through which the molten lead was poured. Chisel mark impressions on both faces of the disc (more distinct on obverse than reverse face). Diameter c 120mm. Figs 7.9, 7.10.

SF202 Architectural join or key. Lead. Flat disc, near complete, with irregular down-turned lip (portions missing). Two pentagonal spacers. Chisel impressions on both faces. Small circular (drilled?) hole (diameter 5mm). Diameter c 140mm. Figs 7.9, 7.10.

\*SF203 Architectural join or key. Lead. About two-thirds of a circular flat disc with down-turned lip. Two diamond-shaped spacers, and the edge of a third visible in matrix. Very distinct chisel impressions on both surfaces. Diameter c140mm. Figs 7.9, 7.10.

SF294 Architectural join or key. Lead. Note: this description includes part of SF295 which joins SF294. About two-thirds of a flat, circular disc, pattern of lead suggests two attempts to fill join, or lead poured from more than one direction. Irregular down-turned lip. Evidence of two triangular and one diamond-shaped spacer, with edge of a second diamond-shaped spacer visible. Chisel impressions on both faces. Diameter c 130mm. Fig 7.10.

SF296 Architectural join or key. Lead. Near complete, flat circular disc with irregular down-turned lip (some damage). Four sub-rectangular spacers visible in matrix. Chisel impressions on both faces. Diameter 130mm. Fig 7.10.

Wall furnishing

Portions of four flat cast lead alloy 'leaves' (SF85; SF86.1-3) were found, three associated with Burial 2 and one (SF86.3)

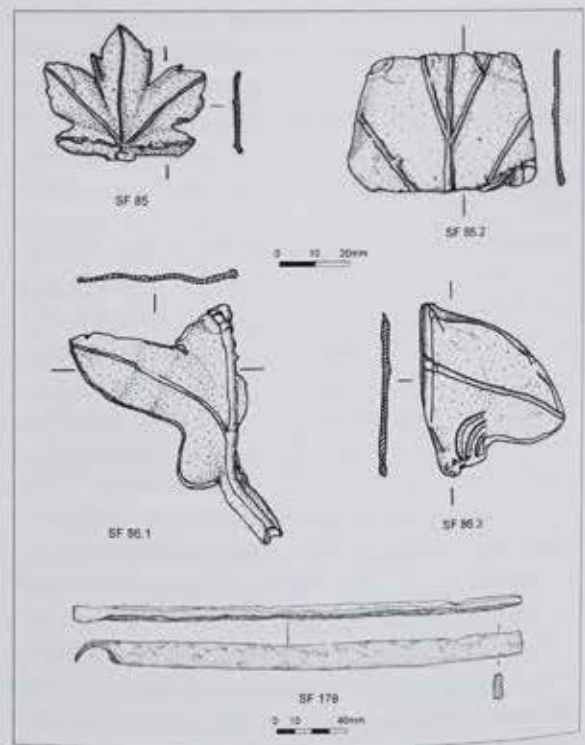


Fig 7.11 Building materials, lead wall furnishings and window bar

ent
prue plug' present
ircular hole (drilled?)
third spacer visible
ining piece currently SF295

Near complete, flat turned lip (some spacers visible in matrix. Diameter 130mm. Fig

aves' (SF85; SF86.1-3) rial 2 and one (SF86.3)



shings and window

within the rubble filling of the north chapel. Leaves of cast lead or copper alloy and iron sheeting are sometimes found as pendants and mounts from early 15th-century contexts (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 219 and fig 136 no 1188; fig 211). They are also depicted on pilgrim and secular badges of a similar date (Spencer 1998, 123 no 125 and 329 no 327a). The leaves are usually highly stylised and probably not intended to represent any particular genus (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 321).

In contrast to the highly stylised leaves on pendants and badges, the larger Selborne examples, in particular SF85, are naturalistic in their execution. Similarities can perhaps be drawn with the Gothic period naturalistic carvings of leaves decorating the capitals of the chapter house and the vestibule of Southwell Cathedral (Clifton-Taylor 1967, illns 99-104), capitals in the nave at Lichfield (*ibid*, illn 83) and on the canopies above the stalls running around the walls of the chapter house at York Minster (Williamson 1987, 346 cat 343). This shift away from stiff-leaf to more naturalistic foliage carving was a gradual transformation characteristic of the third quarter of the 13th century (Clifton-Taylor 1967, 121); the chapter house carvings at Southwell are thought to date to around 1290-1300 (Williamson 1987, 346 cat 343).

It is possible that SF85 and SF86.1-3 originally formed part of a wall decoration, perhaps in imitation of the architectural carvings, or in the manner of the lead 'wavy armed stars' of the mid-13th century. A cast pewter ear of corn which retained traces of gilding was found in London and was similarly identified as an interior decorative fixture for ceilings and walls (Egan 1998, 61 and fig 42 no 90). Both illustrations and photographs indicate that the backs of the Selborne Priory leaves are flat. There is no visible evidence of solder or other fixing agents, but at least one leaf (SF86.1) has a small hole for a rivet. If the Selborne leaves do mirror the naturalistic foliage carvings then a date in the later 13th to perhaps early 14th century could be suggested. As noted above, three of the leaves were found associated with Burial 2 which had been placed in a stone coffin; the coffin is thought to be 13th-14th century in date (see Section 5.3).

\*SF85 'Wall' decoration. Lead alloy. Cast, flat leaf (*Acer*?). Length 39mm; width 46mm; thickness 1 to 1.5mm. Presbytery. Fig 7.11

\*SF86.1-SF86.3 'Wall' decoration. Lead alloy. Portions of three cast, veined leaves; SF86.1 part of an oak or ivy (?) leaf with stem (length c 69mm; width 47mm; thickness 1mm-1.5mm); SF86.2 centre of a leaf (length c 40mm; width 58mm; thickness 1.5mm-2mm); SF86.3 one lobe of a leaf (length c 50mm; width 47mm; thickness 1.5mm-2mm). N transept. Fig 7.11

#### Roofing

There is evidence that at least one of the priory buildings was roofed in lead. Although the initial outlay for a lead



Fig 7.12 Lead roofing sheet SF369

roof was not inconsequential, it did create a weather-proof cover which required less repair than other forms of roofing and could be removed and recast as new whenever required (Roberts 2002, 154). Homer (1991, 64) noted that roofing lead was cast on a bed of sand into sheets of c 4mm thickness; these were joined at the sides by being rolled round the edge of the adjoining sheet, secured at their lower edges by iron clips. No complete roofing sheet was found at Selborne, most of the evidence comprising associated fittings and off-cuts, presumably from roofing sheets (see below). Two fragments of roofing sheet (SF369 Fig 7.12 and SF388) exhibit interleaved, as opposed to rolled, joins; a third possible example (SF390.1) is partially melted, so the join is not clear. One edge of SF388 has the appearance of a longitudinal slit, forming a V-shaped pocket presumably for insertion of an adjoining sheet. The pocket was created by the addition of a narrow strip of lead along the edge of the main sheet; the join between the strip and the main sheet is almost imperceptible, but presumably affixed either by hammering together or by the application of a hot iron. A similar join, although less well executed, is visible on part of one edge of a larger roofing fragment (SF369 Fig 7.12); here an application of heated lead is visible. In addition to various cut marks deriving from its removal, this same sheet has a nail hole which has been blocked by applying heated lead to it, and a second unblocked rectangular nail hole. SF369 and SF388 ranged in thickness from 3.2-3.4mm.

Two items, SF378 and SF386, comprise oblique rectangles cut from a sheet 3.4mm thick, which have two nail holes situated near the top edge, set 25mm to 32mm apart (Fig 7.13). It is difficult to know if these fittings retain their original lengths, or if they were cut during the removal process; all edges are cut and not torn. There are four further examples of these 'fittings' (SF198.3; SF292.1; SF384; SF390.2 – not illustrated).

SF198.3 comprises only a small portion of lead sheet with a nail *in situ*, the remaining examples have been folded over or crumpled making measurement impossible; SF292.1 retains nails *in situ*. Similar items were found at Pontefract Castle (Roberts 2002, fig 155) and Kirkstall Abbey (Duncan and Moorhouse 1987, fig 72) and are thought to be associated with lead roofing. The examples from Kirkstall Abbey were of fairly uniform size c 100mm by 50mm, and always had two nail holes at one end, the other end folded over. Those from Pontefract Castle, although differing in sizes, all possessed two nail holes along a short edge. Roberts has suggested these fittings may represent lead clips nailed to the rafters at the point where the lengths of lead sheet overlapped and were folded into the raised seam to prevent wind-lift (2002, 154–6).

Three further groups of cut lead sheet may also have been used to secure roofing or roofing-related features such as guttering. These comprise strips of lead, cut from sheets 2.0–2.8mm thick, which normally have one or two perforations, generally situated near the end(s) of the strip (Fig 7.13). These can be divided roughly into three groups on the basis of width; over 30mm (one example F389); 21–30mm (7 examples eg SF379); and 11–20mm (15 examples eg SF395 and SF373). Where complete the wider strips always have two holes. The narrowest strips tend to have a single hole near one end (7 examples) despite their lengths of 127–400mm. Five examples of these narrower strips have two holes (eg SF373), and one example (SF407) had three, one hole retaining a flat-headed nail *in situ*.

Forty-eight pieces of off-cut lead were also recovered. These possessed knife cuts on at least two edges and in some cases all four. Normally these would be taken as evidence of lead working, but it is likely that this assemblage represents the remnants of removed roofing. Most of the pieces (37 in number) comprised strips; the remainder were pieces of sheet of varying shapes (triangular, sub-rectangular and pentagonal). Six pieces had a thickness of 1.8–1.9mm, 27 of 2.0–2.9mm and 13 of between 3.0 and 4.0mm. Two pieces are triangular, as opposed to rectangular, in section, with thickness ranging from 6mm to 8mm. As the roofing sheets and possible roof 'clips' had a thickness of 3mm or greater, this would suggest that the bulk of the roofing sheets were taken elsewhere probably for reuse.

There is also evidence of lead working in the form of run-off and partially melted pieces of lead (1684g). This is likely to represent activities undertaken during building

construction, for example creation of the lead column joins, roofing sheets and caulking, and subsequent repairs to the roof, as evidenced by the repairs on lead roofing sheet SF369.

SF388 Roof. Lead. Portion of join of lead roofing sheet, cut from main body. Part interleaved join formed by addition of narrow strip (hammered flat or applied with hot iron) to main body edge, creating a V-shaped pocket. Length 105mm; width 40mm; sheet thickness 3.4mm; join thickness 8.2mm. No context.

\*SF369 Roof. Lead. Corner from a roofing sheet. Several cut marks on surface, and diagonal cut down one side. Join or perhaps repair along part of one original edge comprising an additional strip affixed by the addition of heated lead. Two nail holes in surface of sheet, one blocked by addition of heated lead, the other of rectangular shape. Length 250mm; width 150mm; sheet thickness 3.2mm; join thickness 10.7mm. Sq 3/83, east of Chapel N3. Fig 7.12

SF390.1 Roof. Lead. Possible portion of roofing sheet join? Although crumpled and partially melted, the sheet does thicken considerably along part of its mid-section and there is a hint of the V-shaped pocket on one edge. Otherwise very irregular in shape. Thickness minimum 3mm; maximum 9.5mm. No context

#### Roof fittings – clips

\*SF378 Roof fitting. Lead. Sub-rectangular (oblique edges) fitting, cut from lead sheet of 3.4mm thickness, two rectangular nail holes at top edge set 25mm apart, obverse face containing impressions of larger rounded nail heads, top edge partially cut off. Length 69.5mm (originally c 75mm); width 70mm. No context. Fig 7.13

\*SF386 Roof fitting. Lead. Sub-rectangular (oblique edges) fitting, cut from lead sheet of 3.4mm thickness, two rectangular nail holes set 32mm apart near top edge, obverse face containing impressions of larger rectangular heads. One corner of top edge folded over. Length 60.6mm; maximum width 84.8mm. No context. Fig 7.13

\*SF389 Roof fitting/flashing. Lead. Strip, cut from sheet with thickness of 2.4mm, with perforation either end of strip (c 25mm from ends). Bent and damage to one nail hole. Length (estimated straightened) 170mm; width 34mm; thickness 2.4mm. No context. Fig 7.13

\*SF379 Roof fitting/flashing. Lead. Strip, cut from a 2.8mm thick sheet, perforation at either end of strip, one end cut at an oblique angle. Parts of nails remain *in situ*; nails situated c 10mm from either end of strip. Strip tapers in width towards obliquely cut end, which is bent upwards. Length (straightened) c 95mm; width ranges from 21mm to 26mm. No context. Fig 7.13

\*SF395 Roof flitting/flashing. Lead. Strip cut from a 2mm thick sheet. The strip tapers to one end. A single rectangular perforation is situated 25mm from

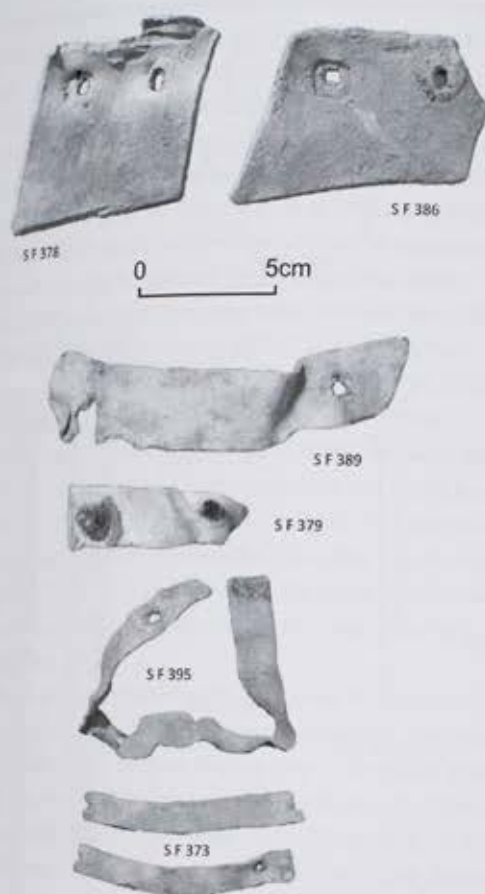


Fig 7.13 Lead roofing 'clips' SF378 and SF386, roof fittings/flashing SF389, SF379, SF395 and SF373

wider end. Complete. Strip bent. Estimated length straightened 280mm; width 17.2–20mm. No context. Fig 7.13

\*SF373 Roof fitting/flashing. Lead. Strips (2), both with slight curvature, cut from a 2.2mm thick sheet, both have a small square nail hole at either end of the strip, one 12mm from the end, the other ends of the strip are missing, the break occurring along the line of the nail holes. Lengths a) 98mm; b) 100mm; widths a) 12–14mm; b) 12–13mm. No context. Fig 7.13

SF407 Roof fitting/flashing. Lead. Strip cut from a 2.6mm thick sheet, with three nail holes, one with a flat, rectangular-headed nail *in situ*, gently curved shank, tip missing. Impressions of two other rectangular nail heads surround the remaining nail holes. Length 73.5mm; width 16mm. No context. Not illustrated.

#### Plumbing

Two sections of water pipe were found; one is currently unavailable (SF314). SF135 appears to have been recently removed from a longer length, as one end has a clean hacksaw cut. The oval-sectioned pipe was made from a 3.5mm thick lead sheet, whose lateral edges were rolled up

and then welded together, creating a triangular-sectioned seam along its length. The internal dimensions of the pipe are comparable to examples of 1in diameter pipe from the kitchen area at Kirkstall Abbey, West Yorkshire (Duncan and Moorhouse 1987, fig 74 nos 319–20). The size of a tap and spigot (SF71, Fig 7.18) suggests use at the table rather than in a plumbing system, so it is discussed under the household section.

SF135 Water pipe. Lead. Section of pipe, broken one end, opposing end sawn(?) through. Pipe made from rolled sheet, welded together creating a triangular-sectioned seam along its length. Pipe oval in cross-section (internal dimensions 28.9mm wide and 22mm high). Length 130mm; external breadth 36.9mm; external height (including seam) 32.5mm; thickness of sheet 3.5mm. Sq 3/459 E range N of chapter house. Not illustrated.

#### Window bars

\*SF179.1, SF179.2 and SF305 have been tentatively identified as individual horizontal window bars as distinct from grilles (Fig 7.11). In smaller windows these bars probably served both to give security and to support the window. The bars share a number of characteristics with three window bars found at Clarendon Palace, which are thought to have been nailed on to timber window frames with perforated terminals (Goodall 1988, 216 and fig 77 nos 62–4). In common with the Clarendon Palace examples, the Selborne bars are of sub-triangular section and have hammered out terminals which widen slightly. In each case the thickest part of the bar is on the opposing edge to the hammered out terminals. The majority of the Clarendon Palace examples have off-set or slightly cranked terminals, as does SF305. In contrast, the terminals are in line with the body of the bar on SF179.1 and SF179.2; this variation can be paralleled by an example from Winchester in deposits of the 13th century (*ibid*, fig 88 no 703). Both SF179.1 and SF179.2 have greater curvature on the terminals than indicated on the Clarendon Palace examples, but this may have resulted from the manner of their removal, or perhaps a different method of attachment.

SF305 Window bar. Iron. Incomplete remains of a triangular-sectioned bar, one end broken off, the other end has the start of a hammered out, off-set terminal. Poorly preserved, most of thickness laminated off. Length 175mm; width bar 14mm; terminal 11mm. Sq 2/749L canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

SF179.1 and 179.2 Window bars. Iron. Two iron 'bars' of sub-triangular cross-section. One end of the bar is broken off, the opposing end has been hammered out to form a terminal (incomplete) in the same plane as the bar, the width of the terminal exceeding the thickness of the bar slightly. In both cases the terminals are curved before the break. One bar (SF179.1) is of

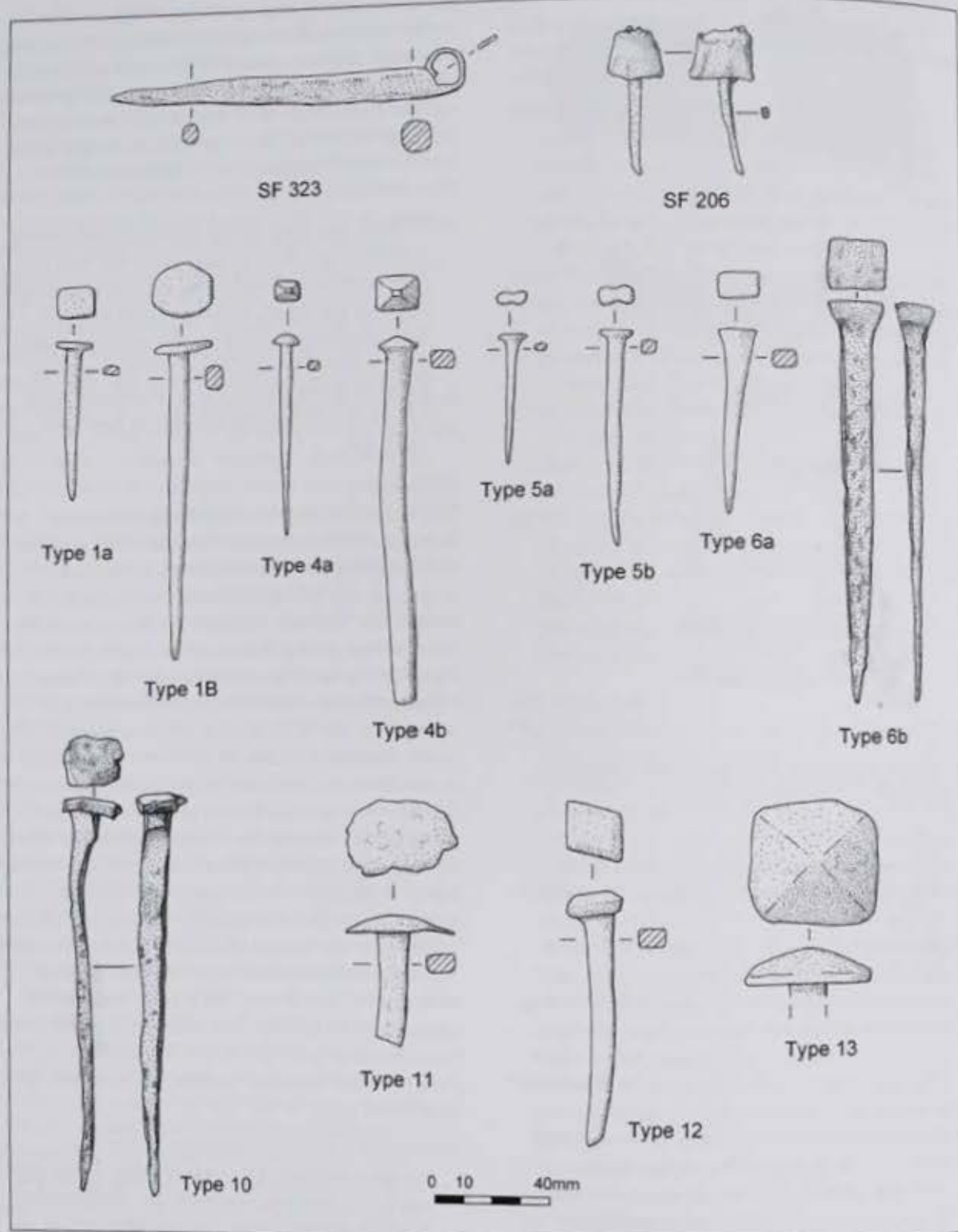


Fig 7.14 Fasteners and fittings, eyed spike, nail with lead knob and nail types

greater width and thickness than the other (SF179.2). Lengths SF179.1 251mm, SF179.2 267mm; width SF179.1 bar 15mm, terminal 9.6mm; SF179.2 bar 12mm, terminal 10.2mm; thickness SF179.1 8mm; SF179.2 5.5mm. No context. Fig 7.11.

**Fastenings and Fittings**

*Building fasteners (angle-ties, staples, eyed spike, nails and studs)*

The majority of the items in this category were used in fitting out buildings, as opposed to forming part of its structure.

Most of these objects exhibit little variation over time and hence it is difficult to assign dates based solely on form. A single example of an angle-tie, used to reinforce joints in timbering, was identified (SF128); this was a right-angled tie, the commonest form. Staples performed a wide range of duties both within and around structures and on furniture (Goodall 1990a, 328–9). Despite their wide-ranging uses, only five staples could be identified within the assemblage: three are rectangular, all with backs longer than arms (SF106, SF192.1 and SF318); two have widened backs (SF106 and SF318); two are U-shaped (SF351 and SF359). Two joined looped staples forming a hinge (see Fig 7.19, SF119) are discussed under household fixtures and fittings.

SF323 has tentatively been identified as an eyed spike, driven into the mortar between masonry and could have been used to secure door hooks (Fig 7.14). This example is somewhat unusual; it is smaller than most (eg Goodall 1990a, fig 79 no 535) and although the spike itself is fairly robust, the hammered out looped over strip terminal appears less so.

The study assemblage contains a total of 138 nails (at least a further 11 nails are currently unlocated). There were also six nails *in situ* on lead roofing clips and related lead strips. Where possible the nails were grouped according to head form (following Goodall 1980, 106 and fig 15 with amendments) and in some cases groups were sub-divided by length. Within the available assemblage, 57 could not be assigned to a nail type, 41 comprising only portions of shank, while 16 examples had suffered damage to their heads which precluded identification of form. Five basic types were identified (Figs 7.14, 7.15), one of which appears to be of Roman date, conforming to Manning's Type 2 nails (Manning 1985, 135).

Type 1A nails account for 65.5% of the identifiable assemblage and perhaps have been known as 'clouts' and 'middelspyking'. These were likely to have been all-purpose nails but certainly at Selborne there is evidence that they were used in fixing the lead roofing clips and related perforated strips (see Building Materials section), both from *in situ* nails and impressions surrounding the nail holes on the lead itself. One nail of this type (SF316) appears to have had its head dipped in lead, leaving a thin coating on both obverse and reverse surfaces. Iron nails with sheet lead coverings are fairly well-known (eg Kirkstall Abbey, Duncan and Moorhouse 1987, fig 73 nos 306 and 307.1); these are presumed to have been used on roofs, with a non-corrosive lead preventing rust. SF316 may be another method of achieving rust prevention. The longer Type 1B nails, one example in excess of 110mm, may be 'great spykings' and could have been used in construction work such as for fixing rafters (Thompson 2007, 180). The same of course could be true for the long versions of Types 4 and 6, all fairly robust nails. Type 4 nail heads have a distinct shallow triangular shape in side elevation, which must have been purposely created. The longer versions

Nail Type	Description	Quantity
1A	Flat-headed nails lengths 80mm or less	57
1B	Flat-headed nails lengths greater than 80mm	2
4A	Faceted square or rectangular heads lengths under 75mm	7
4B	Faceted square or rectangular heads lengths 90mm or over	8
5A	Flat figure-of-eight heads lengths c 45mm	4
5B	Flat figure-of-eight head length c 75mm	1
6A	Flat heads formed from expanded shank less than 70mm long	1
6B	Flat heads formed from expanded shank 70mm or longer	6
RB2	Triangular-shaped head	1
Unclassified	Shanks only or damaged heads	57
		144
Door Studs		
10	Thickened flat rectangular heads	2
11	Pyramidal heads (head only surviving)	1
12	Thickened lozenge-shaped heads	1
13	Thin shallowly domed head (damaged)	1

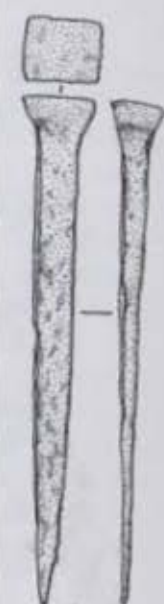
Fig 7.15 Table of nail types and quantities

(Type 4B) always have rectangular shanks and wedge-shaped points.

Figure-of-eight nails (Type 5) occur in limited numbers at Selborne, but at Dryslwyn Castle this was the second commonest nail form (Thompson 2007, 180–1 and fig 6.18). Both at Dryslwyn Castle and St Catherine's Hill Winchester this nail type was used for hanging slate (*ibid.*, 181). Type 6 nails resemble chisels in form, all having rectangular-sectioned shanks with wedge-shaped tips. The heads were deliberately shaped and would have been noticeable in use, the larger examples (Type 6B) approaching the size of some door studs.

Four forms of door studs were noted (Figs 7.14, 7.15); Types 10 and 11 are equivalent to Goodall's typology. Although Type 12 is similar to Type 10 in possessing a thickened head, the head was deliberately set on the shank at an angle. The single shallow domed example (Type 13) has lost most of the outer edges of the head and hence it is uncertain whether it was originally rounded or rectangular in outline. Door studs were used on more robust timber work such as double timber doors or well covers but also served a decorative function.

In addition to the standard iron nail, there is a single nail with a non-ferrous knob, in this instance of lead



Type 6b



13

eyed spike, nails and  
y were used in fitting  
t of its structure.

## Artefacts and ecofacts

alloy (Fig 7.14, SF206). This example however, with its excessively thick knob and fluted sides, was more likely to have served a decorative purpose perhaps on a piece of furniture or studding a door. Non-ferrous knobs and finials (all of one metal) have been found in late 13th-century and in 14th- to 15th-century contexts at Bedern, York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2830 and fig 1408).

SF128 Angle-tie? Iron. Right-angled rectangular-sectioned tie, tapering towards both ends, tips missing. Tie is thinned/damaged at the right-angle bend. Length 165mm; height 82mm; width 8mm; thickness 7mm. Sq 770 I, canons' latrine.

SF318 Staple. Iron. Rectangular staple, back widened and longer than arms. Shape distorted – elongated 'm' in side elevation. Back rounded rectangular expansion (maximum width 16mm; length straightened 40mm). Tips missing on both arms, maximum length of arm 32mm. No context.

SF351 Staple. Iron. U-shaped staple of rectangular section tapering in thickness to tips, tip of one arm bent to the front of the staple, other arm tip missing. Height 57mm; breadth 30.5mm; width 6.7mm; thickness 7mm. No context.

\*SF323 Spike. Iron. Tapering shank of rounded cross-section (diameter 10.8mm) ending in a point. One edge of the opposing end has been hammered out into a narrow strip, no wider than the shank, which has been curled over into a loop, the end of which rests on the opposing edge of the spike top. Length 126.5mm. No context. Fig 7.14.

\*SF206 Stud. Iron and lead alloy. Nail with flat rectangular-shaped head and tapering rectangular-sectioned shank. A thick tapering drum-shaped 'knop' of lead has been cast on to the nail head and upper shank, the 'knop' having fluted sides and a flat top and bottom. Originally the lead would have covered the upper surface of the nail head but has now worn through. The knop is oval in cross-section. Total length 49.4mm; knop dimensions 25mm by 19mm; knop height 16.2mm; shank dimensions 4.3mm by 3.3mm. No context. Fig 7.14.

### Pivots (*pintles*) and hinges

Hinge pivots were used for hanging doors, gates, shutters or well covers, with the shank driven into the jamb, frame or wall and the guide arm fitted into the eye or loop of the hinge strap. Egan noted that pivots are more common amongst excavated assemblages than the corresponding eye or loop of the hinge (1998, 43) and this is the case at Selborne; three examples of pivots were found but no hinge loops survived. SF287.1 and SF287.2 are two L-shaped hinge pivots, with rounded guide arms and tapering rectangular-sectioned shanks. The lengths of the shanks on these two examples do not suggest use on a substantial door but they could have served on an internal

door or a gate. In contrast SF306 is a more substantial pivot, the shank wider than it is thick, the tip down-turned. This form of pivot was set in a mortise cut in masonry and, as can be seen from SF306, secured with lead.

The hinge pivots attest to the use of looped strap hinges but there was a second form of hinge also in use at Selborne, the pinned or rod-pivoted strap hinge, represented by SF309. These hinges possessed one strap with a single loop projection, which fits between a pair of looped projections on the corresponding strap, both held together by a common pin transversely threaded through the loops. Goodall (1980, 112) comments that where both straps retain their shape they are usually identically shaped; they were most probably used in the main on doors, cupboards or chests. Egan notes within the London assemblage of medieval hinges that there seems to have been a move away from wide looped strap hinges to the rod-pivoted form (1998, 42).

Parts of two strap hinges were also identified within the study assemblage; both are incomplete and could have derived from either looped hinges or rod-pivoted strap hinges. SF131 is a portion of slightly tapering strap hinge, neither its terminal nor loop survives. SF304 is similarly tapered and retains a flat rounded terminal. This shape is fairly easily forged and as such has little dating value (Goodall 1980, 113); examples occur on a hinge from mid-14th-century deposits at Winchester (Goodall 1990a, fig 84 no 653), from late 15th-century deposits at Norwich (Goodall 1993a, fig 112 no 194) and on a door of 1591 from Surrey (Hall 2007, fig 2.70).

SF287.1 and SF287.2 Hinge pivots. Iron. Two L-shaped hinge pivots with short rounded guide arms, and tapering rectangular-sectioned shanks. SF287.1 Length 94.7mm; height of guide arm 37.6mm; guide arm width x thickness 16.5mm by 15.5mm; shank width x thickness 15mm by 14mm. Sq 3/93 E of chapel N3. Not illustrated. SF287.2 Length 97mm; height of guide arm 40.7mm; guide arm width x thickness 16mm by 15mm; shank width x thickness 12mm by 12.5mm Sq 3/93 E of chapel N3. Not illustrated.

SF306 Hinge pivot. Iron and lead. Hinge pivot with rounded guide arm, wide rectangular-sectioned shank with down-turned tip. Most of the external surfaces of the pivot have a lead 'coating'. Length 168mm; height guide arm 56.6mm; width shank 35.5mm; thickness shank 21mm; length down-turned shank 42.4mm. Sq 2/683 ? N of chapter house. Not illustrated.

SF309 Hinge. Iron. Part of a pinned hinge, comprising portions of two straps both incomplete, one a tapering rectangle in shape. Pin *in situ*. The longer of the two hinged straps has a rounded perforation. Length 95mm; strap width 39.5mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF131 Hinge. Iron. Gently tapering rectangular-sectioned strap, broken both ends. Five circular perforations

(5mm diameter) situated down the centre of the strap. Portion of strap hinge. Length 199mm; width 31mm; thickness 5mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF304 Hinge. Iron. Hinge terminal. Rectangular-sectioned strap, broken at one end, tapering gently to terminal. The strap has one perforation along its break and a second c 70mm distant. The terminal is flattened and of rounded shape (50mm wide; thickness 4mm) with central perforation. There is a prominent step from strap to terminal. Length 199mm; strap width 33.5mm; thickness 9.8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

#### Locking mechanisms and keys

The study assemblage contained examples of both a mounted lock and a padlock. SF178 is a sliding lock bolt from a mounted lock, the length of the bolt indicating it was from a door lock rather than a chest (Fig 7.16). This form of lock (see Ottaway 1992, 657–8 and fig 280 for operation of lock) probably began use in the 7th–8th century, was in widespread use throughout the medieval period, but would appear to be nearing the end of wide use in the 16th century (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2861).

SF313 is an example of a padlock with raised front, angled sides and a separate back plate. These embossed padlocks have flanged rectangular cases and U-shaped stapled hasps, the hasp not surviving on SF313. Although incomplete and in poor condition, missing both the upper and lower edges of the case and most of the back plate, this would appear to have had a pivoting bolt (Goodall 1980, type 2, 134). Embossed padlocks were used in the same manner as padlocks; they were not fixed to doors or other furniture, but hung freely. They are of late medieval date; type 1 having a sliding bolt, was probably introduced during the late 13th or early 14th century, while type 2 may have been developed in the 15th or 16th century (Goodall 1980, 134).

A total of 18 or 19 rotating keys were recovered from the excavations (there is a possible duplication in numbering of two keys). Seven keys were seen by the author; the current whereabouts of 12 are unknown, but of these, seven had a sketch/photo or had previously been illustrated, permitting some reference to be made as to type, or salient features. Ten keys retained enough of their features to group them according to type; the typology used here follows Goodall (1980, 145–51) with examples of types B, E, F and G present. A further three to four incomplete keys possessed some datable features.

Two examples of Goodall's type B keys, characterised by hollow stems, are represented in the assemblage. The bows on type B keys can either be a single piece forging with the stem, as in the case of SF37 (Fig 7.16), or a separate forging set into the head of the stem, such as occurs on SF187 (Fig 7.16). As this join could be a point of weakness sometimes a collar was placed at the junction of the stem and bow to strengthen the join and this is the case with SF187. Type B keys were in use throughout the medieval period, the

peak period of use occurring during the 13th century (*ibid.*, 148). SF37 has a ring-shaped bow, while SF187 has an oval bow. Ring bows were used throughout the medieval period, perhaps due to the ease of forging them. Oval and D-shaped bows, however, only occur in any number during and after the 13th century (*ibid.*, 152).

SF286 is an example of a type E key, with solid stem tip ending in line with the end of the bit (Fig 7.16). This form of key was introduced in the 13th century (*ibid.*, 149) and continued in use throughout the medieval period, perhaps superseding type F keys in the later medieval period (*ibid.*, 152). The small size of this example suggests it may have been used on a chest. In common with a number of small keys, SF286 has a plate bow, in this instance circular. SF170 (represented by scale illustration only) may be a second example of this form of key although without examination of the stem end certainty is not possible (Fig 7.16).

Type F keys, here represented by SF130 (Fig 7.16), have solid stems with projecting tips and bits which could be used from only one side of the lock (Goodall 1980, 149–50). Although these keys were in use throughout the medieval period, they were more numerous in the 12th to 14th centuries (*ibid.*, 150). Most Type F keys had a ring bow, but SF130 has a D-shaped bow, a form, as noted above, of probably 13th-century date or later (*ibid.*, 152). A second key SF141 may be another example of a type F, but it could also be a type G; too little of the bit and wards survive to allow certainty.

Type G keys (*ibid.*, 150–1) were the most common medieval key and in contrast to type F could be used either side of a lock. A few examples are known from early medieval contexts, but the type is most common in the late medieval and post-medieval periods (*ibid.*, 151). Goodall sub-divided this type on the basis of the ward arrangement, type G1 having clefts generally perpendicular to the stem and type G2 having clefts grouped round a central opening. The four definite examples of type G (SF88; SF168; SF5 and SF185) all belong to sub-division G2. The bow did not survive on two examples (SF88 and SF185) but in common with several of the Selborne keys SF5 has an oval or D-shaped bow. The bow on SF168 is more kidney-shaped (Fig 7.16), a bow type that is principally a post-medieval form, but occasionally occurs on late medieval examples (*ibid.*, 152).

Three keys, represented by scale drawings or sketch, either lacked their bits or had damage to them. Two (SF169 and SF172) have oval bows once again indicating a 13th-century or later date. Although damaged, the bow on SF171 would appear to be kidney-shaped (Fig 7.16), which could date to the 15th to 16th century at the earliest (*ibid.*, 152).

\*SF178 Lock bolt Iron. Lock bolt from mounted lock (stock lock). Pair of teeth on underside and retaining notch on upper edge. Rectangular in section, one end thickened, thins just before teeth and stop, narrowed after stops.

- Length 169mm; width (maximum) stop 31.5mm. Sq 2/595 I, between E range and canons' latrine. Fig 7.16.
- SF313 Padlock. Iron. Embossed padlock with flanged rectangular case. In poor condition, cracked across front of case, upper and lower edges of case do not survive. Goodall's type 2 embossed padlock with pivoting bolt. U-shaped stapled hasp does not survive. Most of back plate missing. Case 57mm by 65mm; height 16mm. No context. Not illustrated.
- \*SF37 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type B key. Hollow stem rolled in one with the bit, bit incomplete, bow single-piece forging with the stem, bow incomplete but appears to be a ring bow. Length 65mm. Near stream NW of main buildings. Fig 7.16.
- \*SF187 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type B key. Hollow stem, rolled in one with bit. Bit incomplete. Separate bow inserted into stem, with collar at junction of bow and stem to strengthen. Bow slightly distorted but oval in shape. Length 86mm. No context. Fig 7.16.
- \*SF286 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type E key. Small key with short solid stem, circular plate bow, perpendicular clefts. Length 45mm. Sq 3/93 E of chapel N3. Fig 7.16.
- \*SF170 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type E(?) key. D-shaped bow, solid stem, stem in line with bit. No cuts/clefts visible on bit. Length 109mm (description from illustration). Near stream NW of main buildings. Fig 7.16.
- \*SF130 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type F key. Solid stem, projecting tip, simple bit, bow damaged but D-shaped. Length 90mm. Probably Sq 1/45, north-east corner of chapter house. Fig 7.16.
- SF141 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Robust solid oval-sectioned stem with projecting tip, stub of bow (form not discernible) and incomplete bit. The tip of the key is flat and blunt. In poor condition with much of surface laminated off. Type F or G key. Length 100mm; stem dimensions 15.5mm by 13mm. Sq 2/335. North side cloister garth. Not illustrated.
- SF88 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type G2 key. Most of bow missing. Solid stem stepped, projecting tip, clefts grouped round central opening. Length 133mm. NE corner chapter house or S wall nave. Not illustrated.
- \*SF168 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type G2 key. Kidney-shaped bow, octagonal-sectioned stem, moulded tip extending beyond bit. Bit incomplete but clefts appear to be grouped round central opening. Length 123mm (description from illustration). No context. Fig 7.16.
- SF5 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type G2 key. D-shaped bow, solid stem, moulded tip extending beyond bit, symmetrical clefts round cross-shaped opening (description from sketch – no scale). No context. Not illustrated.
- SF185 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Type G2 key. Solid stem, tip of stem broken off but appears to extend beyond the bit. Bit heavily damaged, corrosion products suggest bit symmetrical with wards grouped round central

opening. Only start of one side of bow survives, possibly ring or D-shaped. Length 115mm. Presbytery. Not illustrated.

- SF169 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Oval bow, solid stem. Tip of stem and part of bit broken off (description from sketch – no scale). Sq 1/34 S wall N transept. Not illustrated.
- \*SF172 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Oval bow of rectangular cross-section, upper stem solid. Missing lower stem and bit. Length 66mm (description from illustration). No context. Fig 7.16.
- \*SF171 Key. Iron. Rotary key. Bow damaged, but appears to be kidney-shaped. Solid rectangular-sectioned stem; lower stem and bit missing. Length 114mm (description from illustration). [Another key, SF3, appears from the notebook sketch to be identical to SF171 – perhaps duplication of SF numbers.] Near stream NW of main buildings. Fig 7.16.

#### Household (Fig 7.17)

*Kitchen equipment (mortars, fire steel, flesh hook, ladles, skimmers and vessels)*

Domestic stone mortars were produced in some quantity from the 13th century onwards (Dunning 1961, 283). Mortars could be used for either grinding or pounding substances, the two different actions being evident in the wear patterns (Dunning 1977, 321). Those used for grinding may also have variations in the degree of internal smoothness, those with very smooth interiors being used for mixing pastes, while rougher surfaces may indicate the grinding of coarser substances (Drinkwater 1991, 169). The walls of SF327 thin as they approach the now missing base, suggesting some undercutting. This wear pattern, along with a smooth interior, may indicate that SF327 was used for grinding pastes (Dunning 1977, 321). SF326 has a hollow in the base, which could indicate it was used for vertical pounding (*ibid.*, 321).

Of the three mortars found at Selborne (Fig 7.17), all derive from the Isle of Purbeck, SF325 being of Purbeck marble, while SF326 and SF327 are shelly limestone Burr Stone. Purbeck Marble mortars first make their appearance at Winchester in 13th-century deposits and remain the dominant stone type for mortars until the 15th century (Biddle and Smith 1990, 891). Ellis and Sanderson's study of the same assemblage noted that the use of the Middle and Upper Purbeck freestone beds for mortars did not appear in Winchester deposits prior to the 14th century (1990, 297), which could suggest that SF326 and SF327 are 14th century or later.

Biddle and Smith have suggested that there may be a chronological typology in relation to mortars of Purbeck Marble. Mortars with faceted sides may be early in the series, those with curved sides the most recent, while those with pecked surface or vertical tooling intermediate (1990, 892). This could indicate that SF325 with vertical tooling may have been in use at Selborne in the later 13th to 14th centuries.



SF 170

11.8 Door fittings, lock

One example of a fire

11.9 These bars were u

11.10 cause a spark to kindl

11.11 series of stapes (Good

11.12 for a post-Conquest fo

11.13 examples from Winches

11.14 10th-12th century ar

11.15 which Goodall sugg

11.16 including handle (198

11.17 the, albeit without the

11.18 c.1270-c.1350 in Lon

11.19 flesh hooks were use

11.20 There are two

11.21 with short handles

11.22 or two or three prongs

11.23 generally three prongs c

11.24 The second type wa

11.25 the hook onto the ho

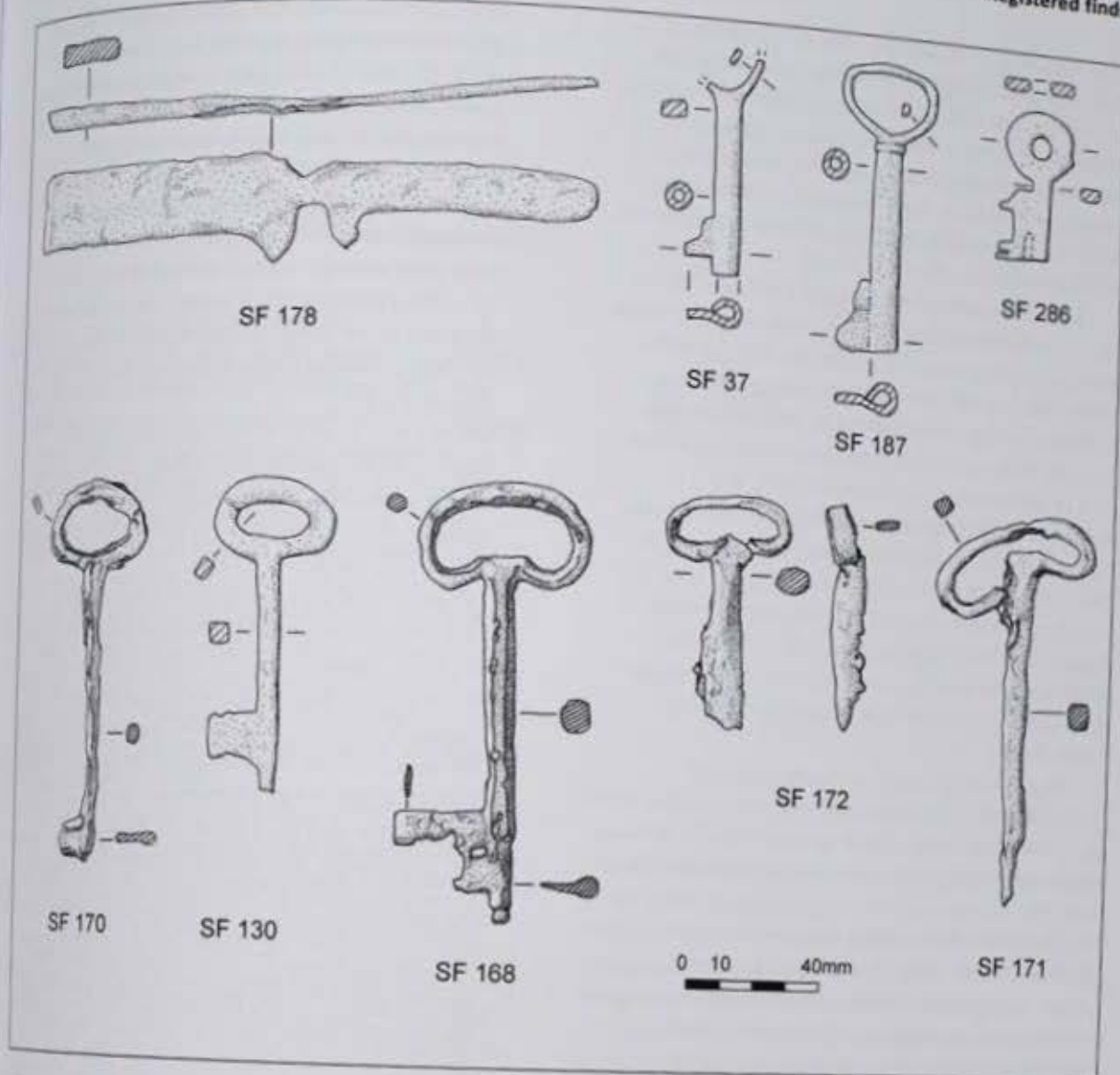


Fig 7.16 Door fittings, lock, bolt and keys

One example of a fire steel was present, SF104 (Fig 7.17). These bars were used for striking flint in order to produce a spark to kindle a fire. Fire steels come in a variety of shapes (Goodall 1990d, 981). SF104 appears to be a post-Conquest form. In common with SF104, two examples from Winchester in deposits of mid- to late 11th and mid-12th century are perforated at the non-handled end, which Goodall suggests indicates they were mounted in a folding handle (1980, 165). A similarly shaped fire-steel, albeit without the perforation, was found in deposits of c 1270–c 1350 in London (Egan 1998, 121–2 and fig 93).

Flesh hooks were used to pick pieces of meat from the stew pot. There are two commonly encountered forms, those with short handles, the ends of which have been split into two or three prongs, and longer-handled versions with generally three prongs coming off one side of the handle end. The second type was formed by forging a U-shaped double hook onto the hooked end of the main stem, the

prongs at right angles to the handle (Goodall 1980, 159). Generally, the flesh hooks with split handles are thought to be earlier, a pre-Conquest type which was probably little used after the 13th century (*ibid*, 159). SF138.1 (Fig 7.17), with its remnants of three prongs in the same plane as the handle, would on first glance appear to belong to the first form of flesh hook. However, it was manufactured in the manner of the second type of flesh hook, the prongs furthest to the left being formed from a U-shaped hook forged onto the handle end.

SF308 (Fig 7.17) is a large iron spoon or ladle and although the bowl is damaged, its surviving depth suggests use as a basting spoon, heating meat during roasting or serving food such as pottage (Goodall 1987, 14). The stem shape is not easily paralleled amongst pewter and silver spoons, but is similar to an example from deposits of c 1350–1450 at Broughton, Lincs (Moorhouse 1974, 11 fig 3.25). Goodall comments that the shape of the stem

may have more to do with the inherent properties of the metal used than with typological date (1980, 160). A second possible example of a ladle or large spoon (SF354, not illustrated) has a rounded stem and just the start of the bowl (depth greater than 18mm). Other examples of iron ladles have been found in contexts of late 12th to early 13th, and mid- to late 13th centuries at Winchester (Goodall 1990b, fig 243 nos 2554–5).

A tubular handle of rolled copper alloy sheet (SF143, Fig 7.17) could be part of a kitchen implement, the socket perhaps housing a wooden handle. SF143 is not unlike some medieval and post-medieval skimmer handles, although these generally tend to be attached by rivets, one end of the tube splayed out and riveted to the back face of the skimmer (see Margeson 1993, fig 84). A second possible skimmer is represented by SF125.1 (not illustrated). This is a perforated sheet fragment which has subsequently been rolled into an irregular tube. The circular perforations are more closely set on one row, suggesting it might have been part of a circular disc. Skimmers were used for removing items from stew pots; Egan suggests they may have superseded flesh hooks (1998, 155).

A possible iron cooking pot/cauldron may be represented by SF360 (not illustrated), the curvature of the body sherd suggesting a vessel girth of c 280mm. Although an iron pan or skillet was found in deposits of late 9th to early 10th century from Winchester (Goodall 1990b, fig 241), no medieval iron vessels have been found in London (Egan 1998, 177). SF360 appears to be cast and therefore of post-medieval date (see Goodall 1993b, 94–5 and fig 62 for examples from deposits of 1600–1700 from Norwich), presumably deriving from post-priory activity. There is also mention of an iron skillet leg within the Selborne site notebooks (SF15) but the sketch is inadequate for the purposes of identification.

\*SF325 Mortar. Purbeck marble (Upper Jurassic) Isle of Purbeck source. Part wall of small mortar, base does not survive. Small area of flat rim with diagonal tooling, rest of rim surface missing. External surface of mortar has close set vertical tooling, portion of lug/rib rectangular in plan and chamfered at angles. The lug is decorated with diagonal tooling on the chamfered angles, and 'chevron' tooling on its flat face. The external diameter reduces towards the base. Interior surface plain, upper portion of inner surface smooth and worn, lower portion less so. External diameter c 140mm (reducing to c 130mm); maximum wall height 32.8mm; thickness wall 30.5mm; wall and rib 32mm. No context. Fig 7.17.

\*SF326 Mortar. Shelly limestone, Burr Stone (Upper Jurassic) source Isle of Purbeck. Just under half of base of small mortar (base diameter c 150mm). Interior surface smoothed and worn, there is a drilled depression (c 12.5mm deep) that is slightly off centre

(from lathe-turning?). The exterior surface is plain for 15mm from the base, the walls are pecked above this point. The stub of one lug/rib survives just before the break, and appears to have chamfered edges. Height 50mm; wall thickness 28mm. No context. Fig 7.17.

\*SF327 Mortar. Shelly limestone, Burr Stone (Upper Jurassic) source Isle of Purbeck. Flat rim roughly moulded, wall starting to curve in and thin, towards base (base missing). Exterior worked smooth, but no tooling; interior surface smooth. Height 199mm; thickness at rim 53mm; thickness towards base 29.5mm; estimated external diameter 396mm. No context. Fig 7.17.

\*SF104 Fire steel or strike-a-light. Iron. Very slightly tapering rectangular-sectioned blade, with recurving handle at one end. The opposing end has an oval perforation. Length 133mm. Sq 595 I Between E range and canons' latrine. Fig 7.17.

\*SF138 Flesh hook. Iron. Rectangular-sectioned tang, broken at one end, and flattened and extended to the left on the opposite end. The stub of one prong lies in line with the handle and two further prongs, ends damaged, are situated to its left. The two prongs to the left appear to have been formed by forging a U-shaped hook on to the end of the extension. Length 125mm; width 44mm. Sq 771E S of canons' latrine. Fig 7.17.

\*SF308 Ladle/spoon. Iron. Bowl incomplete but line appears to suggest an oval outline, the bowl itself greater than 18mm deep, suggesting a basting or large serving spoon. The stem is flat, narrow at the junction with the bowl, gently expanding towards the top then narrowing to form a rounded point. Length stem 142mm; width 20mm; thickness 4.8mm (down to 2.7mm near terminal); bowl breadth >33mm. No context. Fig 7.17.

SF354 Ladle? Iron. Handle/stem of rounded cross-section (diameter 9mm), one end broken, opposing end retains start of a bowl (depth >18mm)? Length handle 71mm. No context. Not illustrated.

\*SF143 Skimmer handle? Copper alloy. Tubular handle? Possibly part of a composite handle or socket comprising a tapered rolled sheet, overlapping edges. 11mm from the narrower end of the tube are the incomplete remains of a folded sheet which extends out from the handle at right angles for 5.5mm (broken at this point). The sheet is splayed and soldered(?) on to the tube. Length 81.3mm; maximum dimension of tube 29.5mm by 34mm, tapering to 22mm diameter; thickness 1.1mm. No context. Fig 7.17.

SF125.1 Skimmer? Copper alloy. Perforated sheet, rolled roughly into small, irregular tube. The sheet has four rows of three circular perforations; on the top row the perforations are set 4.5mm apart, on the remaining rows the perforations are set 5mm apart. At one end the sheet edge is bent out forming a slight lip. Possibly

part of a skimmer or drain strainer? Length 36.3mm; perforations 2.6mm diameter; sheet thickness 0.4mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF380 Vessel. Iron. Curving body sherd fragment from a large cooking pot/cauldron? Curvature indicates a vessel with a girth diameter of c 280mm, the lower portion of the sherd is beginning to curve in. Thickness 4mm; sherd depth 82mm; width 106mm. No context. Not illustrated.

#### Tableware (spoons and tap and spigot)

Nine 'table' spoons, or parts thereof, were recovered from the excavations; two are currently unlocated, but were previously illustrated. Two are of copper alloy, one silvered or more likely tinned, while the remaining examples are of lead alloy. As is frequently the case, few of the spoons are complete, consisting either of stems or bowls only; in three instances only the bowl survived (SF7, SF68 and SF380). SF7 (Fig 7.18) and SF68 (Fig 7.18) are both fig-shaped, tending towards oval, and may date broadly from the late 14th to the early to mid-17th century; thereafter the bowls were distinctly oval and in some latten examples almost round (Homer 1975, 43). SF68 is noteworthy for being unfinished; the edges of the bowl are irregular and rough, with the casting flaws not removed.

Too little of the bowl or the stem of SF380 survived to be certain of form, but the slope of the spoon's shoulders does suggest it may have been fig-shaped. This is the only spoon to have a stamped mark on the inner surface of the bowl, a maker's or touch mark (Fig 7.18). Homer comments that touch marks are almost always found after about 1500 and are struck on the front of the bowl near the junction with the stem (1975, 20), as is the case here. He also notes that by the 1680s the location of the marks had moved to the back of the stem (*ibid*, 46). This therefore suggests SF380 dates between c 1500 and c 1680.

Wrythen knobs, such as lead alloy SF49 (not illustrated) are relatively rare in both pewter and in latten. They make their appearance c 1450; most known examples appear to date from the end of the 15th century (*ibid*, 21 and 42). A complete spoon (SF56, Fig 7.18), apparently in copper alloy, with wrythen top and finial, hexagonal stem and fig-shaped bowl was also found and is presumably of similar date.

On slip top stems, one of the commonest forms, the end of the stem is cut off at an angle towards the front. They were made in both pewter and latten from somewhat before 1500 until as late as the 1680s. Homer comments that early examples have hexagonal stems thicker than wide, but by the late 16th or early 17th century the proportions had become reversed (1975, 39). This suggests that SF365 (not illustrated) may date to the late 16th or early 17th century at the earliest. A frequent feature of 17th-century latten specimens is the very slight broadening to the stem towards the distal end (*ibid*, 39), a feature seen on SF365 and SF408 (not illustrated). Another



Fig 7.17 Kitchen implements, mortars and kitchen implements

possible stem is represented by SF149 (not illustrated), of rounded cross-section. This example is unfortunately broken at both ends and cannot be closely dated.

Also of 17th century date, but later in the century, is SF27 (Fig 7.18). This example, in a silvered or tinned copper alloy, has a trifid, or trifid variant, terminal, fairly broad flat stem and elongated oval bowl. It is plain and lacks a rat's tail on the reverse of the bowl. This probably dates to the 1680s.

Taps and spigots can be associated with plumbing services (see Coppack 1990, 92-4 and fig 59) but the dimensions of SF71 (Fig 7.18) suggest it may have been used in conjunction with copper-alloy *aquamanili*, ceramic cisterns or wooden wine or beer barrels. Although most of the finial on the tap is missing, the flat rectangular-sectioned tab forming the base of the finial suggests it would have been one of the late medieval forms, a cockerel, *fleur-de-lys* or openwork trefoil, as opposed to the later bifurcated keys of the 17th century or the flat-topped T-shaped keys of the 18th century (Moorhouse 1971, 57; Dunning 1968, 310-11). Examples have been found in Exeter in deposits of c 1500 (Goodall 1984, fig 193 no 180), Salisbury and London (Egan 1998, 189), and on the continent from the Netherlands (Ruempol and van Dongen 1991, 114), Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Hungary (Egan 1998, 242).

\*SF7 Spoon. Lead alloy. Oval bowl, broken at junction with

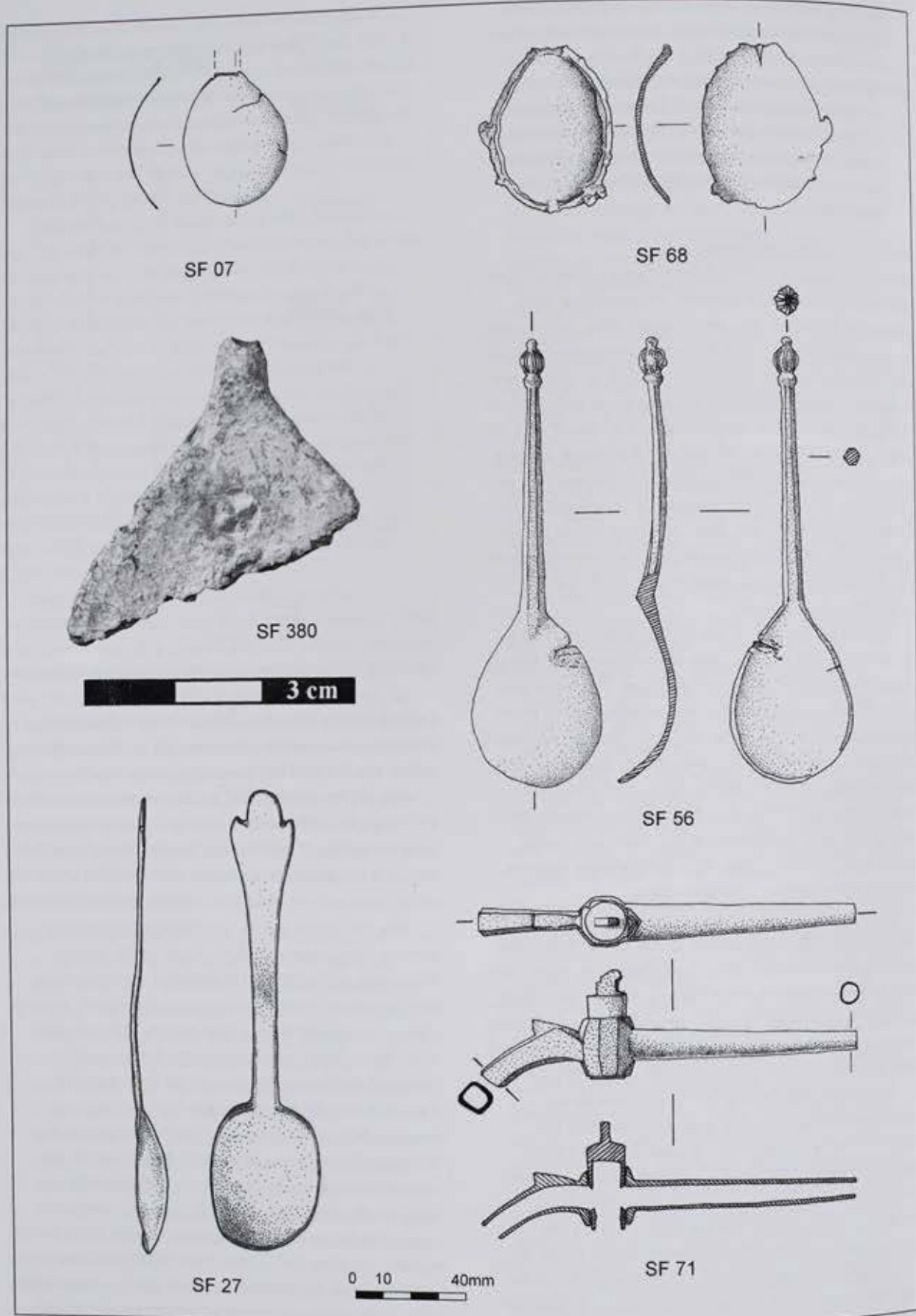


Fig 7.18 Spoons and tap and spigot

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of c 1500 (Go  
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SF68 Spoon. Le  
and oval bow  
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Fig 7.18.  
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SF71 Tap and  
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base. Tape  
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stem. Fairly deep bowl. Bowl length c 51mm; bowl width 30mm. A similar example was found at Exeter in deposits of c 1500 (Goodall 1984, fig 193 no 180), Salisbury and London (Egan 1998, 189) E range. Fig 7.18.

<sup>15</sup>SF68 Spoon. Lead alloy. Bowl only, fairly deeply curved and oval bowl, bowl edge unfinished, casting 'runs' and edge not filed. Short rat's tail. Broken at junction with stem. Length bowl 60mm; width 45mm; bowl depth c 9mm. Sq 2/771D main drain. Fig 7.18.

<sup>16</sup>SF380 Spoon. Lead alloy. Junction of stem and bowl. Only stub of stem survives (5.5mm by 4.5mm), short rat's tail on reverse of bowl. Bowl flat, and incomplete (perhaps oval?). On the bowl face, just below the junction with the stem, is a circular stamp with a raised 'X'. Length 26.2mm; thickness bowl 2.2mm. No context. Fig 7.18.

<sup>17</sup>SF49 Spoon. Lead alloy. Wrythen knob of oval section with flat top, three raised circumferential ridges below knob, stem of oval section (6.2mm by 4.2mm). Length 40.3mm; knob width 12mm; thickness 9.5mm. Sq 2/683H W of canons' latrine, S end. Not illustrated.

<sup>18</sup>SF56 Spoon. Copper alloy. Wrythen knob with finial, raised collar at junction with stem; stem hexagonal in section. Bowl relatively deep and fig-shaped. Length 161mm; bowl width 46mm; bowl depth c 14mm; bowl length 64mm. ? Sq 2/683H W of canons' latrine, S end. Fig 7.18.

<sup>19</sup>SF365 Spoon. Lead alloy. Stem of spoon of rounded rectangular section. Broken at bowl end, opposing end swells slightly in both width and thickness, end cut on bevel (slip top). Length 74.3mm; terminal width 7.2mm; thickness 6.2mm; stem width 5.8mm; stem thickness 5mm. No context. Not illustrated.

<sup>20</sup>SF408 Spoon. Lead alloy. Spoon stem, of rounded rectangular cross-section broken near bowl. Stem widens and thickens into an almost plano-convex section as it approaches the terminal. Terminal damaged, possibly slip-top. Stem bent into U-shape. Length 79mm; width 8.7mm; thickness 4.8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

<sup>21</sup>SF149 Spoon. Lead alloy. Stem of spoon of rounded cross-section 5.8mm by 5.2mm tapering to 5mm by 5mm toward one end. Both ends broken. Length 98mm. Main drain. Not illustrated.

<sup>22</sup>SF27 Spoon. Silvered or tinned copper alloy. Oval bowl, no rat's tail, flat rectangular stem, trifid terminal. Bowl shape irregular, worn almost straight on right-hand edge. Length c 170mm; length bowl 54mm; width bowl 40.5mm; stem width 8.6mm; stem thickness 2.2mm; terminal breadth 23.3mm. Sq 1/39 E part chapter house. Fig 7.18.

<sup>23</sup>SF71 Tap and spigot. Copper alloy. Most of the tap finial is broken off, except for the flat rectangular-sectioned base. Tapered hollow case with oval-shaped transverse hole to control passage of water, the area below the hole plugged with lead (lead plug now detached). The

edges of the hole are sloped inwards and poorly filed. The spigot is complete and has a short down-turned, hollow, rectangular-sectioned mouth. Just before the tap housing the spigot has an angled projection or spur, resembling the ear of an animal in profile. The tap housing is circular on the interior and octagonal on the exterior. The spigot is circular sectioned as it emerges from the tap housing (external diameter 11.5mm), tapering for a further 85mm (external diameter 8.2mm; internal diameter 5.8mm). Total length spigot 139mm. Sq 2/771BC main drain. Fig 7.18.

#### Fixtures and furnishings (furniture fittings, drapery rings and chains)

Pairs of joined looped staples, such as SF119 (Fig 7.19), were set into wooden objects, bent outwards at right angles and back inwards to be hammered back into the wood (Egan 1998, 49). It is presumed that this pairing of staples was used on lids of boxes, shutters and shelves (*ibid*, 49). Although one of the staples on SF119 is incomplete, the break to its arms shortly below the loop suggests that its arms may have been out-turned at this point. Three pairs of pivoting staples were found in deposits of 1350–1400 in London (*ibid*, 49–50 and fig 32), but as a type are not closely dated.

SF117 is part of a bifurcated terminal, most probably forming part of a mount for a box or chest (Fig 7.19). Three forms of terminals were found on ferrous mounts for chests, caskets and coffers from London – foliate, variations of a *fleur-de-lys* and opposed scrolls; these were found in deposits spanning c 1270–c 1450 and none pre-dated c 1230 (*ibid*, 65).

Copper alloy annular rings such as SF156 are fairly common finds on medieval and later sites (Fig 7.19). These are characterised by a frequently irregular inner diameter, a flattened or sub-hexagonal section and coarse filing marks from finishing. External diameters range from c 18mm to c 26mm. Egan (1998, 62–4) has suggested these were drape rings for wall hangings or curtains. These rings occur in deposits of 1350 to 1450 in London (*ibid*, 62–4), but continue to be found in the post-medieval periods, for example in deposits of 1450–1500 and 1550–1620 from Norwich (Margeson 1993, 82).

Chains had a wide range of uses inside and outside the home, from securing doors and windows and suspending cooking vessels, to use on harness and for tethering animals (see also Egan 1998, 57 for a possible chain for a library book). In addition to two single oval links (SF352 and SF355) two further chain segments were found. SF48 comprises three S-shaped links, either end of each link in opposed planes, and two links with annular collars round their mid-sections (Fig 7.19). A more robust chain of figure-of-eight links from London also possessed collars round the waisted centre of the links; this was found in deposits of 1350–1400 (Egan 1998, fig 40). SF350 comprises an

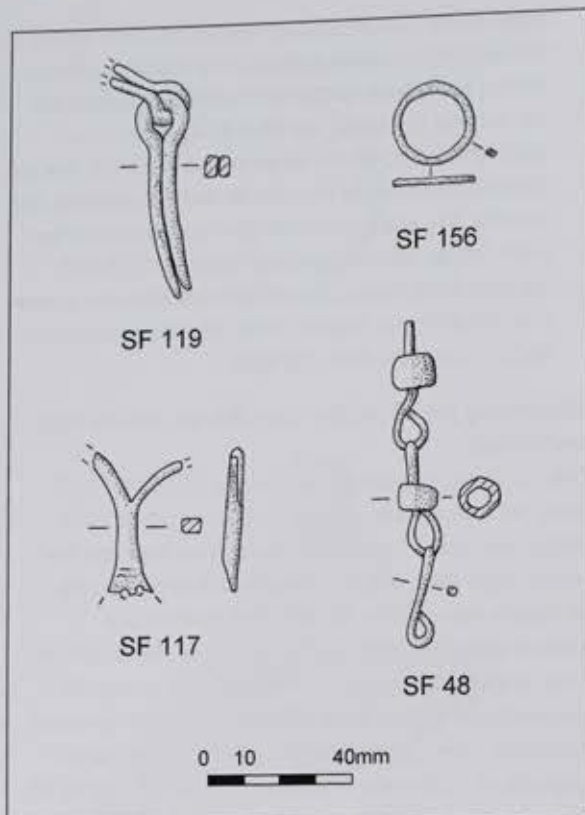


Fig 7.19 Household fixtures and fittings

S-shaped link, also with ends in opposed planes, combined with an oval link.

\*SF119 Hinge (pivoting staples). Iron. A pair of threaded looped staples, one with arms 'closed' and bent to one side. The adjoining staple is set at roughly right angles to its pair and only the upper 10mm of the arms survive. Complete staple length 57mm. Sq 2/727J S end canons' latrine. Fig 7.19.

\*SF117 Box mount. Iron. Small bifurcated terminal from a box mount. Bifurcated terminal possibly forming scrolls (incomplete) leading to a rectangular mid-section (5.5mm wide and 5mm thick) of 20mm length. The mount is then flattened and thinned, retaining edge of one of a pair(?) of small circular perforations along the break. Length 38mm. Sq 2/551G warming house. Fig 7.19.

\*SF156 Ring. Copper alloy. Annular ring with flat rectangular cross-section, inner ring slightly hexagonal in plan. Coarse file marks on surface. Diameter 22.8mm; width 2.9mm; thickness 2.4mm. No context. Fig 7.19.

SF352 Chain link. Iron. Single incomplete oval link of rectangular cross-section. Length 57.5mm; breadth 25mm; width 6mm; thickness 8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF355 Chain link. Iron. Single incomplete oval link of

rounded cross-section. Length 64.5mm; diameter 8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

\*SF48 Chain. Iron. Portion of chain comprising three S-shaped links; two links 35.5mm long, the third 28mm long. The looped ends of each link are in opposed planes to each other. The two longer links have annular cylindrical collars (diameters c 11.5mm; height 7.5mm) round their mid-sections. Chain length 90mm. Sq 2/551D S wall warming house. Fig 7.19.

SF350 Chain. Iron. Two links of a chain, comprising one S-shaped link, the looped ends of the link in opposing planes and one oval link. Both links of rectangular cross-section (oval 6mm by 6.5mm; S-shaped 5mm by 5.5mm). A small portion of a third link remains threaded through one loop of the S-shaped link. Length oval link 35mm; S-shaped link 32mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Crafts and industry

#### Stone working (Fig 7.20)

The presence of masons is indicated not only by the stonework (see Section 6.1), but also by the finds of a mason's axe and wedge (Fig 7.20). The wedge SF180, with the mason's mark struck on one face, can be paralleled by two wedges from Castle Acre Priory, both found within the water channel under the mid-12th-century canons' latrine (Goodall 1980, 40 and fig 36 C8 and C9). Masons used axes such as SF181 in surface dressing, either creating the final finish or as a preliminary to final dressing with claw chisels (*ibid*, 44). Although the use of such axes is well documented (*ibid*, 440), actual axes are rarely found. There is an example from Fountains Abbey which differs from SF181 in length, being only 181mm long, having two almost equal-sized blades (54mm and 48mm), and slender lugs below the eye (Goodall 1980, fig 38 no C20).

SF186 may be a bolster chisel, its relatively broad semi-circular blade fairly closely paralleled in size and shape by an example from Battle Abbey (Geddes 1985, fig 57 no 39). Unlike the Battle Abbey example, which has a rectangular stem, SF186 possesses a tapering rounded stem, suggesting it would have been inserted into a tang (Fig 7.20). The Battle Abbey parallel derived from deposits of the 18th century onwards. The use of chisels not only for carving but also for dressing stone was apparently introduced in the later 12th century (Salzman 1967, 333). Goodall (1980, 45) comments that no equivalent is yet known of the modern bolster with a blade of 50mm to 130mm wide and used to produce a fine finish.

Three octagonal-sectioned stems of iron may be mason's chisels or punches (SF303, SF307 and SF353 - not illustrated); a fourth example, with bevelled point, may be represented by SF260, evidence for which survives only as a sketch in the site notebook. None is complete nor retains its working end so it is impossible to know whether it was a chisel or punch. The trait in common between these three

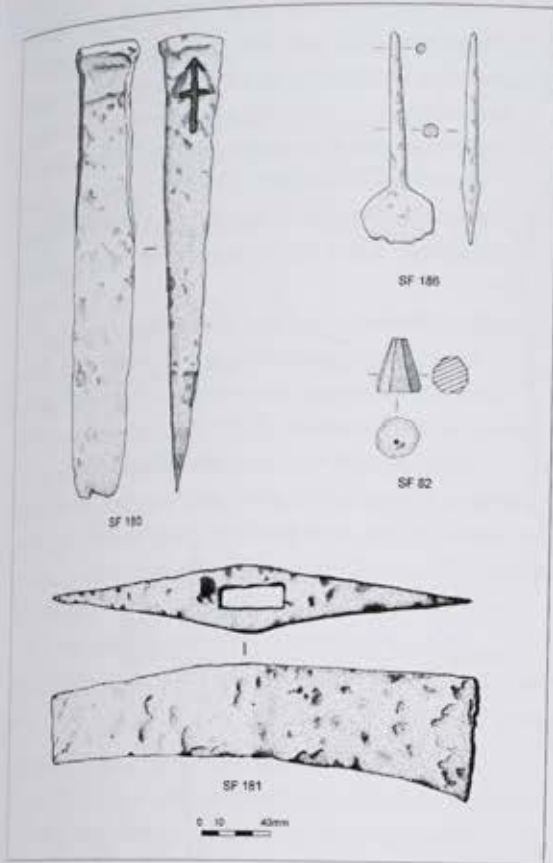


Fig 7.20 Crafts and industry, Mason's tools

is the octagonal-sectioned stem which Goodall (1983, 240) notes is characteristic of masons' chisels/punches. The heavy head on SF307, and its clean break, implies its use with a hammer. Masons' punches and chisels were used for rough dressing of stone, chisels also for carving and shaping.

Plumb-bobs could have been employed by any of the crafts involved in building as they were used to weight a line to act as a vertical standard. There are two possible plumb-bobs identified within the assemblage. SF82 (Fig 7.20) is more finely made than some forms of plumb-bob (eg Jones 1990, fig71a). The off-centre nature of the longitudinal perforation would, however, have been a disadvantage, but if an iron wire were inserted into the hole, and the opposing end looped, it may have compensated for the imbalance and also provided an accurate point. The shape of this plumb-bob is unusual; it may have been a 'fancy' form of conical plumb-bob, known from deposits of 9th- to 11th-century date at Winchester (ibid, fig71a). Alternatively, there are pyramidal weights from contexts dating to 1350-1400 from London that are not dissimilar (Egan 1998, 322 and fig 239 no 1036). SF82 may have begun life as a 'pan weight' and have subsequently been modified, which might explain the off-centre perforation. Its current weight (59.4g/916.68 grains) would, considering the loss from the perforation, be best

equated with two Mercantile or Troy ounces.

SF367 (not illustrated) may be a second plumb-bob. In construction it resembles one of the simpler forms of fishing net weights, with pieces of lead sheet rolled round the foot rope of a net, forming little fat cylinders (Steane and Foreman 1988, 162). SF367, however, could not have been rolled round a rope, as one end has been 'finished', exposed to heat and then rotated while held at an angle against a flat surface.

\*SF180 Wedge. Iron. Rectangular-sectioned mason's wedge, burred flat head, wedge tapers in thickness. Mason's mark stuck on one narrow face. Length 259mm; width 44mm; thickness 32mm (description from illustration). Fig 7.20.

\*SF181 Axe. Iron. Mason's axe, two vertical cutting edges, one blade edge 68mm wide, the second 40mm wide. Centrally placed rectangular eye. Length 258mm (description from illustration). No context. Fig 7.20.

\*SF186 Chisel. Iron. Bolster? Relatively broad semi-circular blade, one edge damaged and surface much laminated, but does appear to taper in thickness to blade, narrow rounded stem. Length 117mm (blade length 29mm); blade width 40mm. Presbytery. Fig 7.20.

SF303 Punch or chisel. Iron. Long octagonal-sectioned stem, one end flat, other end irregular due to break. Length 267mm; width 18mm; thickness 17.5mm. Sq 594 XYZ outside canons' latrine NW. Not illustrated.

SF307 Punch or chisel. Iron. Flat thickened head, over half broken off. Incomplete octagonal-sectioned stem. Length 114.5mm; width 17mm; thickness 16mm; head thickness 15mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF353 Punch or chisel. Iron. Short portion of octagonal-sectioned stem, broken both ends. Length 90.6mm; width 19.5mm; thickness 19mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF260 Chisel. Iron. Octagonal-sectioned stem, 'bevelled' tip. Head broken off? Length 241.5mm; width 12.5mm; thickness 12.5mm (description from sketch). Presbytery. Not illustrated.

\*SF82 Plumb-bob (or weight)? Lead. Cast, cone of octagonal cross-section, sides of cone chamfered. Longitudinal perforation through the apex of the cone, but emerging at the base of the cone off-centre. Height 31mm; base dimensions 23mm by 21.5mm; weight 59.4g. Sq 2/594Z ? crossing. Fig 7.20.

SF367 Plumb-bob? Lead. Cylinder of tightly rolled lead sheet, one end is 'snub-nosed'; this appears to have been exposed to heat, the end and sides then smoothed. Length 50mm; diameter 11.8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

#### Wood working (Fig 7.21)

An axe, a hammer and a reamer comprised the small complement of wood working tools from Selborne Priory. SF315 is a carpenter's axe, possibly equating to London

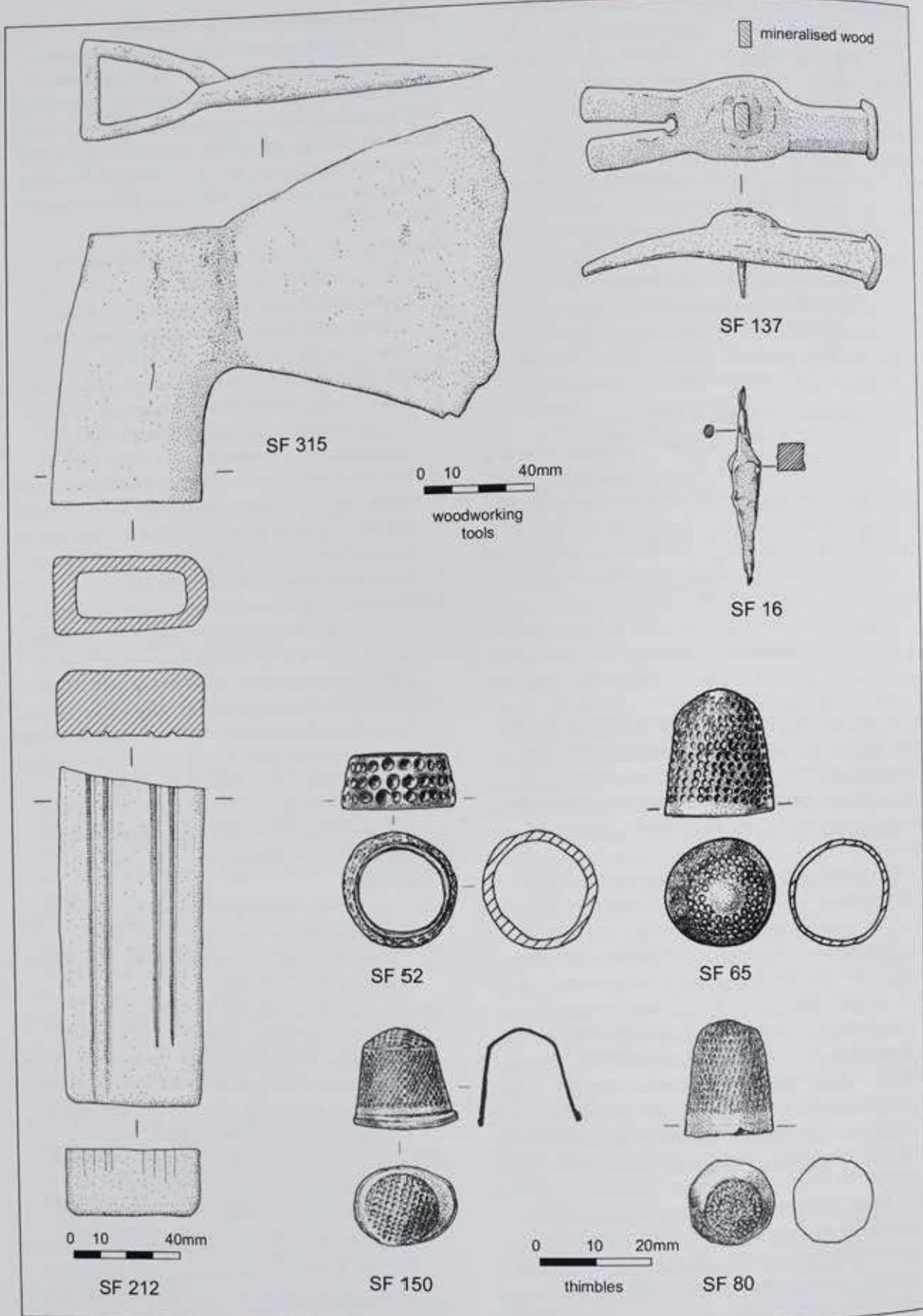


Fig 7.21 Crafts and industry, Woodworking tools, thimbles and worked bone

Museum's Medieval  
Goodall's type 4 (1  
problematic, as se  
thought to be post  
SF215 is not comm  
although example  
feature (cf Goodm  
10th-century Jost  
106, fig 23).  
Claw hammer  
tools used for driv  
used not only by  
and farmers (Goo  
lack the strongly  
counterparts; me  
curved. Claw han  
the 12th century  
This example cou  
SF16 is a har  
enlarging previo  
1001-112).

\*SF15 Axe. Iron  
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cutting edge  
upwards, re  
of eye flat. L  
c111mm; le  
west range.  
\*SF17 Hamme  
claws, plain  
wedge in si  
with heavil  
Sq 2/705P  
\*SF16 Reamer.  
rectangular  
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Metal working  
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Museum's Medieval Catalogue (LMMC) type II, and Goodall's type 4 (1980, 23). The date of this axe however is problematic, as several of the axes illustrated in LMMC are thought to be post-medieval (*ibid.*, 20). The long socket on SF15 is not commonly encountered in medieval deposits, although examples of the bearded axe do exhibit this feature (cf Goodman 1964, figs 21–2) and it is shown in the 16th-century Jost Ammann woodcut of the Zimmerman (*ibid.*, fig 23).

Claw hammers, such as SF137, were general-purpose tools used for driving in and extracting nails and were used not only by woodworkers but also by blacksmiths and farmers (Goodall 1980, 34–5). Medieval claw hammers lack the strongly down-turned claws of their modern counterparts; medieval claws were either straight or gently curved. Claw hammers are common from contexts dated to the 12th century onwards (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2719). This example could be medieval or late medieval in date.

SF16 is a hand reamer used in wood working for enlarging previously bored holes (Goodall 1980, fig 34 8101–112).

\*SF15 Axe. Iron. Long socket (102.5mm), angled in at triangular eye. Blade asymmetrical triangle in shape, cutting edge damaged. Fore edge sharply curved upwards, rear edge more gradually angled down. Top of eye flat. LMMC Type II/Goodall type 4. Blade width c111mm; length socket to blade edge 162mm. 1970–7 west range. Fig 7.21.

\*SF137 Hammer. Iron. Claw hammer. Very gently curved claws, plain eye with remnants of handle and iron wedge in situ, the head stem is octagonal in section, with heavily burred, rectangular face. Length 108mm. Sq 2/705P canons' latrine. Fig 7.21.

\*SF16 Reamer. Iron. Elongated pyramidal head of rectangular cross-section (11.5mm by 10mm maximum), tapering to damaged tip, abruptly narrowed at opposing end to form a rectangular-sectioned stem/tang (6mm by 5mm) broken some 23mm from junction with head. Length 72mm. E wall W range. Fig 7.21.

#### Metal working (Figs 7.18, 7.28)

The evidence for metal working is limited to two stone moulds, an unfinished spoon and 1,684g of lead run-off. In addition, 39 pieces of off-cut lead were also recovered. These possessed knife cuts on at least two, and in some cases all four, edges. The mould, SF92, depicts an *Agnus Dei* and is discussed under the section on objects associated with Religious Beliefs (Fig 7.28). The absence of any copper alloy miscasts or waste suggests that if this mould was used in casting, the metal would most likely have been lead or lead alloy, which has a low melting point. It is also noteworthy that spoon SF68 (Fig 7.18) is unfinished, which does suggest that some lead casting may have been undertaken at the priory, but whether by occupants or

peripatetic workers is unclear.

Clear evidence of lead casting however is indicated by stone mould SF212 (Fig. 7.21). I am indebted to Jo Dillon for identifying the mould and writing the following discussion.

'From the profiles of the medieval Selborne comes, especially features such as casting seams, misruns and sprues, it is evident that these were first cast in bivalve moulds. The discovery of stone came-mould fragment SF212 south of the reredorter indicates some lead-came production occurred on site. This may have been for the facture of window-comes, but the limited evidence for on-site assembly of leaded glazing panels suggests it was more probably used for casting lead ties prior to installation of the windows, or for making repair leads. Several Selborne window-ties were made from castings taken from the bottom of similar came-moulds; their briefly tapered basal-end profiles reflect the tapered basal-ends of the grooves in the mould fragment. This is only the second example known from Britain (Egan 1998, 51).'

The source of the slightly silty limestone forming SF212, is unknown, however J Eyers suggests that a French source should be investigated before other possible European areas (Eyers 2011). While some of the lead waste/run-off is related to casting, some of it is likely to be related to building construction and repairs during the lifetime of the priory. The lead off-cuts are thought to relate to the dismantling of lead roofing and are discussed under Building Materials and Services.

\*SF212 Mould. Slightly silty limestone, not a UK source (France?). Rectangular in plan and section, sharp arises to obverse face, lateral edges to lower face bevelled, perhaps from use, one edge more bevelled than the other. One end missing. Upper face has two pairs of deep V-shaped parallel grooves, the pairs set 15mm apart. One pair is longer than the other. These grooves appear to have been marked out as lightly incised lines continue to the end of the stone and down the face of the surviving squared end. At their widest the grooves are 3mm wide and 2mm deep. Both the lateral edges and the base are smoothed through use and have occasional patches of polish. Length 120mm; width 53.6mm; thickness 24.5mm Fig 7.21.

#### Textile working (Fig 7.21)

SF129 (not illustrated) is a possible wool comb tooth. It is generally difficult to determine whether detached teeth were used on a wool comb or a heckle. Studies on the assemblage of 'fibre processing spikes' from York indicate that the norm for wool comb teeth during Anglo-Scandinavian period was 90–110mm, whereas heckle

teeth, used in processing flax and generally possessing a rectangular cross-section, can range from 70–103mm. Wool comb teeth lengthened with the arrival of wool-cards probably in the 14th century, although there is some evidence to suggest that the introduction may have occurred slightly earlier (Rogers 1997, 1730). The length of SF129, at 149mm, suggests that it was used on either a long-toothed wool comb, such as examples found in Norwich (Goodall 1993c, fig 134), or wool cards. Within the Selborne site notebooks there is a written description of a missing iron object SF62, 'back of metal comb only stubs of teeth remaining', possibly a wool comb or a wool card.

Sewing is evidenced by five thimbles (Fig 7.21); one cannot currently be located (SF151). Three of the extant thimbles were cast (SF52, 065 and 150) and the fourth (SF80) was hammered and stamped. Domed thimbles do not appear in contexts in Britain much before 1350, and ring thimbles (sewing rings) were thought not to date much before 1450 (Holmes 1988, 1), although excavations in London have now yielded a soldered example of a sewing ring from a mid-14th-century context at the latest (Egan 1998, 265). Sewing rings such as SF52 were used for heavier work and were designed for the needle to be pushed with the side of the finger. SF52 is typical of this form of thimble, with relatively thick walls and heavy indentations which were individually drilled. The remaining thimbles all have domes. SF65, with its 'tonsure' on the crown, dates to before 1650; the spiral pattern of the indentations suggests it could be of 16th-century date at the earliest (Holmes 1988, 2–3). SF80, the single example of a 'stamped' thimble, is thin-walled and has fine indentations which spiral up its sides and form a tight spiral on the apex of the crown, almost resembling a seven-petalled flower. The final thimble SF150 has machined or 'knurled' indentations on the sides and stamped 'waffle-shaped' indentations on the crown. This combination indicates a date of c 1730–80 (*ibid*, 3–4). The missing thimble (SF151) was sketched but without a scale. However, from the sketch it appears to be a short domed thimble, with a plain zone encircling the rim and heavy individually drilled indentations which spiral up to the apex of the crown.

SF129 Wool comb tooth. Iron. Rounded cross-section, tapering to pointed tip. Opposite end is slightly bevelled. Length 149mm; width 6.2mm; thickness 6.2mm. Sq 2/617 I between E range and canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

\*SF52 Sewing ring. Copper alloy. Cast sewing ring with individually drilled indentations. Base diameter 20mm; height 9.2mm; wall thickness 1.7mm; weight 6.2g. Sq 2/749F S wall canons' latrine. Fig 7.21.

\*SF65 Thimble. Copper alloy. Cast with tonsure on the crown, indentations, finer than on SF52, individually drilled in a spiral, plain rim round open end. One notch. Base

diameter 19mm; height 21.2mm; wall thickness 1.2mm; weight 7g. Sq 2/771C S of canons' latrine. Fig 7.21.

\*SF80 Thimble. Copper alloy. Thin, made by hammering and stamping. Plain rim (4mm wide) interrupted by incised line mid-way; fine indentations in spiral from mouth to top, the indentations forming almost a seven-petalled foil at the centre of top. Slightly distorted base, dimensions 15mm by 14.7mm; height 20.8mm; wall thickness 0.4mm; weight 2g. Main drain. Fig 7.21.

\*SF150 Thimble. Copper alloy. Cast with thickened rim, Dutch Type III or English 1730–80 thimble with knurled sides and stamped crown (waffle-shaped indentations). Shape distorted (partially flattened). Base dimensions 18.7mm by 14mm; height 17.7mm; rim thickness 0.8mm; weight 2.9g. No context. Fig 7.21.

#### Bone working

Although some ecclesiastical establishments do appear to have had product-based workshops (eg St Aldates, Oxford; Henig 1977, 163–6) there is no evidence to suggest this at Selborne. As is the case with many medieval sites, simple items were likely to have been handmade as and when required, with more specialised implements brought in from elsewhere (MacGregor *et al* 1999, 2005–6).

Of the seven bone items found at Selborne, two items, SF42 (current location unknown) and SF47 (not illustrated) can only be described as miscellaneous points (Fig 7.23). Similar items were found from the Coppergate excavations (*ibid*, 1990–91); there the authors noted that despite craftsmen having a complement of iron awls, a number of bones and teeth had been sharpened into points, apparently for use as drilling implements or gravers (*ibid*, 1990). Two examples of slightly modified horse splint bones were recovered from York, one from a 10th-/11th-century context at York Minster and one from deposits dating to the late 11th century or later at Coppergate (*ibid*, 1991). SF47 is more extensively worked than SF42 but can also be paralleled by an example from 12th- to 13th-century contexts at Coppergate (*ibid*, fig 946 no 7194) and from deposits of the mid-13th century at Winchester (Biddle 1990, fig 372 no 4411). SF42 and SF47 were perhaps *ad hoc* tools made as required, exploiting materials at hand.

Domino SF101 (see Pastimes and Fig 7.23) may have been home-made, as suggested by the slightly off-centre and poorly executed dividing line on its face. SF66 is a flat sawn triangular plaque with file marks presumably from smoothing/thinning the surface (Fig 7.23). It is not clear whether this formed part of a composite object (inlay?) or is an unfinished item or off-cut. A lathe-turned stylus/parchment pricker (SF122 Fig 7.23, see Written Communication) may well have been purchased elsewhere. There is also reference within the site notebooks to SF99, a small bone or ivory object carved in the shape of an acorn, now unlocated.

SF42 'Point'. Bone  
end only slightly  
opposing end, w  
to create a poin  
thickness 'head  
species identifi  
end chapter ho  
SF47 'Point'. Bone.  
knife-cut facets  
section for mo  
thickness 3mm  
illustrated.  
SF66 Plaque. Bone  
from a large m  
edge (part nat  
on other sawn  
has slight poli  
visible. Length  
Sq 2/771C S o  
bladed cutting to  
Small shears such  
exact cuts, such a  
assemblage of sh  
found that handl  
until the beginni  
was reversed; 80  
were longer than  
London shears or  
have blades with  
the early to mid-  
blades and straip  
112). The longer  
on SF11, would  
century or later;  
narrowness of it  
mid-15th centur  
Although sci  
sometime in the  
preferred imple  
although Øye (1  
comparative rar  
SF62 suggests u  
on the arms of t  
period seems to  
et al 1987, fig 7?

Apothecaries	
Cat no	gram
SF120	12.5
SF134	108
SF366	17.9

Fig 7.22 Table of

wall thickness 1.2mm; latrine. Fig 7.21.

made by hammering (le) interrupted by tions in spiral from rming almost a seven- lightly distorted base, ight 20.8mm; wall drain. Fig 7.21.

th thickened rim. hlimble with knurled haped indentations). Base dimensions ; rim thickness g 7.21.

ments do appear to g St Aldates, Oxford; e to suggest this at dieval sites, simple de as and when ments brought in 2005–6).

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s or gravers (*ibid*, d horse splint bones 0th-/11th-century deposits dating to gate (*ibid*, 1991).

F42 but can also to 13th-century 7194) and from chester (Biddle vere perhaps *ad hoc* rials at hand.

7.23) may have ightly off-centre face. SF66 is a ks presumably ig 7.23). It is not posite object t. A lathe-turned 3, see Written urchased elsewhere. otebooks to SF99, a shape of an acorn,

\*SF42 'Point'. Bone (horse lateral metapodial). One end only slightly modified, bone naturally tapers to opposing end, which has three small knife-cut facets to create a point. Length 97mm; width 'head' 25mm; thickness 'head' 18mm; shaft 7mm (description and species identification from illustration). Sq 1/26–27 W end chapter house. Fig 7.23.

\*SF47 'Point'. Bone. One end broken, lower shaft has worn knife-cut facets from thinning, tip broken off. Oval in section for most of length. Length 69mm; width 6mm; thickness 3mm. Sq 2/595H E of warming house. Not illustrated.

\*SF66 Plaque. Bone. Flat triangular-shaped plaque cut from a large mammal long bone. One slightly bevelled edge (part natural curve of bone?). Saw marks visible on other sawn edges. Obverse surface smoothed and has slight polish; file marks from smoothing of surface visible. Length 51mm; width 26mm; thickness 3.2mm. Sq 2/771C S of canons' latrine. Fig 7.23.

#### Bladed cutting tools and sharpeners

Small shears such as SF11 (Fig 7.23) were used for single, exact cuts, such as cutting thread or hair. Study of the assemblage of shears from medieval deposits in London found that handles were marginally longer than blades until the beginning of the 14th century, when this trend was reversed; 80% of shears thereafter had blades which were longer than their handles (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 59). London shears of the late 14th century more frequently have blades with a slightly curved back, whereas those of the early to mid-15th century tended to have narrower blades and straighter backs than previous periods (*ibid*, 112). The longer blades, in comparison to the handle, on SF11, would suggest these shears date to the 14th century or later; this combined with the straight back and narrowness of its blades may suggest a date in the early to mid-15th century.

Although scissors were introduced into Europe sometime in the 6th–7th century, shears were the preferred implement until about the 14th century (*ibid*, 60), although Øye (1988, 107–9) states that scissors remained a comparative rarity in the medieval period. The small size of SF81 suggests use as sewing scissors (Fig 7.23). Decoration on the arms of the scissors where it occurs in the medieval period seems to take the form of incised lines (eg Cowgill *et al* 1987, fig 75 nos 370–1). Decorative shaping of scissor

arms, such as occurs on SF81, can be seen on a pair of scissors from deposits of 1650–1700 from Norwich (Goodall 1993d, fig 101 no 926) and from Aldgate, London, from deposits of 1670–1750/70 (Grew 1984, fig 50 no 29).

Knives are poorly represented amongst the assemblage, with only two noted. Bolster tanged knives, such as SF297 (not illustrated), are thought to have been introduced in the middle of the 16th century (Hayward 1957, 4) and were in widespread use by the 17th century. A knife with similarly wide blade and oval bolster was found in deposits of c 1645 at Sandal Castle (Goodall 1983, fig 6 no 74). The small section of tang surviving on SF297 suggests this knife may have had a scale, as opposed to whittle, tang. Knife handle SF177 is an example of a solid handled knife made in one with the blade (Fig 7.23). This form of knife is thought to be a debased version of types current on the Continent during the first half of the 17th century (Moorhouse 1971, 38). SF177 can be closely paralleled by an example from Norwich in deposits of 1650–1700 (Goodall 1993d, fig 97 no 894).

Only one whetstone was recovered. The size of SF213 (not illustrated) suggests it was for personal use, and may originally have had a perforation for suspension from a belt. Both whetstones are of imported stone. SF213 had a Scandinavian source; if, as is likely, it is Norwegian Ragstone then it originated from the Eidsborg Quarries of southern Norway (Eyers 2011). The well-documented trade in Norwegian Ragstone had its origins in the late Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian period and continued to be the most popular stone type in use throughout the entire medieval period (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2796; Moore 1978, 70; Ellis and Moore 1990, 279–80).

\*SF11 Shears. Iron. Pair of small shears, looped rectangular-sectioned bow with traces of medial ridge, rounded square-sectioned arms, blade top has single cusp or recess and straight cut top (Goodall type 3B). Blade back straight to angled tip. Blade width 9.5mm; length 75mm; handle length 60mm. Location unknown. Fig 7.23.

\*SF81 Scissors. Iron. Oval finger loops, of narrow rectangular cross-section set centrally on scissor arms. Scissor arms rectangular in section with decorative lozenge-shaped expansion at the junction with finger loops. Incomplete narrow blades (width 7.5mm). Handle length c 60mm; total length 97mm. South wall of south transept. Fig 7.23.

Cat no	Apothecaries				Troy				Mercantile		Avoirdupois		
	gram	grains	scruples	drachms	dwt	swt	oz	pound	oz	pound	dram	oz	pound
SF120	12.5	192.90	9.65	3.22	8.04	0.67	0.40	0.03	0.40	0.03	7.07	0.44	0.03
SF134	108	1666.69	83.33	27.78	69.45	5.79	3.47	0.29	3.47	0.23	61.05	3.81	0.24
SF366	17.9	276.24	13.81	4.60	11.51	0.96	0.58	0.05	0.58	0.04	10.12	0.63	0.04

Fig 7.22 Table of weights and their equivalents (dwt = pennyweight, swt = shillingweight)

## Artefacts and ecofacts

SF297 Knife. Iron. Oval bolster and stub of flat rectangular tang. Blade back straight, blade edge straight, tip of blade missing. Length 133mm; blade width 25mm; thickness 1.9mm; bolster 13.7mm by 9.8mm. East of north transept chapels. Not illustrated.

\*SF177 Knife. Iron. Solid knife handle with moulded finial. Oval in cross-section (maximum 8.7mm by 8.2mm). Length 90mm. Location unknown. Fig 7.23.

SF213 Whetstone. Phyllite – possibly Norwegian Ragstone. Fragment only of small whetstone, both ends missing. Sub-rectangular in plan and section, lateral edges dished, one more so than the other. Upper surface also dished. Length 45mm; width (maximum) 13mm; thickness 9.9mm. South of reredorteer, east side. Not illustrated.

### Measurement (Fig 7.22)

Lead was the common material for making weights until the 16th century (Homer 1991, 65). Three possible pan weights, used in conjunction with scale pans, were identified. Excavated parallels are numerous and span the second half of the 12th century into the 16th and 17th centuries (eg Egan 1998, 310–17; Biddle 1990, fig 281). Two of the weights are small oval lead discs of plano-convex section, SF120 (weight 12.5g) and SF366 (weight 17.9g), while the third SF134 is a larger, thicker disc with a rectangular cross-section (108g). All appear to have been cast. Following on from Biddle's work (1990, 911), the Selborne pan weights were compared with the known systems in use during the medieval period. SF120 would appear to be closest to eight Troy pennyweights or seven Avoirdupois drams. SF366 is closest to a Troy shillingweight. The larger weight SF134 may equate with 61 Avoirdupois drams. None of these weights appears to equate with the mercantile system, which went out of use sometime in the late 13th century, when the Avoirdupois system was introduced.

SF120 Weight. Lead. Possible disc pan weight, cast, oval disc of plano-convex section. Dimensions 24.6mm by 21.4mm; thickness 4.2mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF134 Weight. Lead. Possible disc pan weight. Cast(?), fairly thick, circular disc of rectangular cross-section. Dimensions 45.5mm by 45.3mm; thickness 6.4mm. Sq 3/73 N transept chapel 3. Not illustrated.

SF366 Weight. Lead. Disc pan weight. Cast oval disc of plano-convex section. Dimensions 29.5mm by 27.3mm; thickness 3.4mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Written communication

Iron objects SF122 (Fig 7.23) and SF142 (not illustrated) have tentatively been identified as styli due to their eraser-like tips. Unfortunately neither is complete, both lacking the lower stem and point which would assist in confirming the suggested identification. A third possible example, SF46 (not illustrated), is represented only by a sketch in the excavation notebooks but it too has an eraser-like top,

swelling slightly in thickness at the junction with the shank, which is again incomplete. Although examples of lead and bone styli are not uncommon from medieval deposits, iron examples are less so. A few examples dating to the 10th–11th century are known (Ottaway 1992, 607; Biddle and Brown 1990, fig 211 nos 2280–1). More pertinent to Selborne is an iron stylus found with wax tablets in a leather case at 12–18 Swinegate in York dated to the late 14th century (O'Connor and Tweedle 1992) and a second iron stylus from mid-14th- to early 15th-century deposits at Bedern, York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2936 and 3111 cat 14115). Biddle and Brown note that the use of wax tablets and styli continued through the later Middle Ages, but may have gone out of use by the 16th century (1990, 730).

The debate concerning the function of lathe-turned implements of bone, the majority with inserted iron tips, has been summarised by MacGregor *et al* (1999, 1974–6). They have cogently argued that these implements were in fact styli, although they stressed that the possibility they may have also performed a function in manuscript production should not be completely discounted. Excavated parallels for these styli have been found in deposits dating from the late 12th to the 16th centuries (Biddle and Brown 1990, 734). SF219, although lacking its iron tip, does have a depression on its tip, suggesting it originally held a metal point (Fig 7.23). In form it can be closely paralleled by an example from Fishergate, York, in contexts of the late 14th–15th century (MacGregor *et al* 1999, fig 930 no 8157).

\*SF122 Stylus? Iron. Splayed wedge-shaped tip, end cut/worn on the diagonal. Narrow rectangular-sectioned stem, incomplete. Length 37.8mm; width tip 7.8mm; stem 5.5mm; thickness 4mm. Sq 1/47 SE corner N transept. Fig 7.23.

SF142 Stylus? Iron. Splayed wedge-shaped tip, end cut/worn on the diagonal. Start of narrow rectangular-sectioned stem. Length 18mm; width eraser tip 8.5mm; stem width 5.5mm; thickness 4mm. Sq 1/46–47 SE corner N transept. Not illustrated.

SF46 Stylus? Iron. Splayed wedge-shaped tip, slightly swelled in thickness at junction with stem. Stem incomplete. Length 41.5mm; width eraser tip c 8mm (description from sketch). Sq 1/58-46, 1/46–47 SE corner N transept. Not illustrated.

\*SF219 Stylus. Bone. Lathe-turned, ball head with narrow raised 'triangular' collar beneath. Round in section, tapering to rounded point which is narrowed and hollowed to take iron tip. Length 78.2mm; shank 4mm diameter; head 7mm diameter. No context. Fig 7.23.

### Pastimes

Two bone dominoes, SF101 and SF113, were found (Fig 7.23). SF113 is the more finely executed example, the plaque thicker and the central dividing line straight and dividing the whole face, as opposed to SF101 where the dividing line is slightly off-line and does not continue all the

across the face of the domino. On both examples the  
dominos are drilled and have rounded bases.

Bone dominoes are known from the *Mary Rose* (Rule  
1982, 198), from the site of a Dominican priory at Oxford  
in a pre-17th-century context (Lambrick and Woods 1976,  
fig 13.50), from an 18th-century context at Southampton  
(Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975, fig 249, no 1950), post-  
medieval contexts at Plymouth (Fairclough 1979, fig 54  
nos 38–40) and from an unstratified context at Norwich  
(Margeson 1993, 217 and fig 164 no 1787). Margeson  
comments that dominos of wood, as opposed to bone,  
were more common after the 18th century (1993, 217).

Parts of three clay tobacco pipes were found (not  
illustrated). The earliest, with the top of the bowl parallel  
to the stem, is thought to date between 1700 and 1770  
(Hato 2002, 8). The bore diameter of the second example  
(1.5–1.6mm) suggests a date in the second half of the 19th  
century. The bowl on the third pipe has scale decoration,  
with a leaf pattern along the bowl seam. This would appear  
to be an angler's pipe, perhaps dating to the late 19th  
century. It has a bore diameter of 1.55mm.

SF113 Domino. Bone. Rectangular sawn plaque. Face of  
five and six drilled indentations with rounded bases,  
separated by straight groove which continues across  
the face of the domino. Length 20mm; width 11.5mm;  
thickness 4mm. No context. Fig 7.23.

SF101 Domino. Bone. Thin rectangular plaque. Face of  
six and six drilled indentations with rounded bottoms,  
separated by a sawn or knife-cut groove, slightly off-line  
and not fully dissecting the face of the domino. Length  
26.5mm; width 13.4mm; thickness 2.3mm. Presbytery.  
Fig 7.23.

#### Horse Trappings and related equipment

##### Harness fittings (Fig 7.23)

Only one mouthpiece from a bit (SF174, not illustrated)  
was found during excavations. This is currently unlocated,  
but the sketch drawing in the site notebooks indicates a  
single slightly curved bar with a loop at either end, and  
both loops in the same plane. This suggests it was a rigid-  
bar mouthpiece which occurs sparingly at all periods (Ward  
Perkins 1940, 81).

Harness ornament is represented by a rumbler bell  
(SF51), a pendant (SF10), and a mount (SF124); a second  
possible mount (SF12) is discussed under Dress.

The rumbler bell could have formed part of costume  
decoration but, given the context of a priory, it is perhaps  
more likely to have been used on harness or been worn  
by animals (hawks or hounds). SF51 is a small composite  
bell formed of two pieces of copper alloy sheet (Fig 7.23).  
Spherical closed sheet metal bells make their appearance  
in the later 13th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 336)  
and continue with no basic change in design into the post-  
medieval period. Unusually the pea of this example is lead  
alloy, as opposed to the more common iron.



Fig 7.23 Bladed cutting tools and sharpeners, styli, dominos and harness trappings

SF10 would appear to be a harness pendant (Fig 7.23).  
Unlike most medieval harness pendants, this example  
has the suspension tab in the same plane as the roundel,  
suggesting it was directly attached to the harness instead of  
through a mount. The central dot and the outline of the six-  
pointed star or flower are in relief, suggesting the interior  
of the star/flower and the surrounding background once  
held enamelling. Harness pendants are thought to have  
been in use from the 12th century to the late 14th or early  
15th century (Griffiths 1995, 62). Although the earliest  
examples were plain circular shapes, during the 13th  
century there was increased use of gilding and enamelling,  
and a wider variety of shapes (*ibid*, 62). A pendant from  
York, thought to date to the 13th century, has a six-pointed  
star within a circle (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2962 and  
figs 1528 and 1529 no 15245), as does an example from  
Tempsford Park, Beds (Hylton 2005, fig 6.9 no 41).

SF124 (not illustrated), although fragmentary and  
largely incomplete, is thought to be an example of harness  
decoration. It comprises a domed circular boss, made from  
copper alloy sheet, with narrow flanged rim. It is presumed  
that the rim was perforated for attachment, although  
none of the surviving fragments retained this feature. It  
is flimsier than bridle bosses of more recent date; bossed  
mounts feature as purely decorative accessories elsewhere

## Artefacts and ecofacts

on straps in horse equipment (Egan 1995, 53). Precise dating is difficult: there are some flat bosses from late 14th-century deposits and a cast domed example from deposits of c 1400–c 1450 from London (*ibid*, fig 40), while a domed sheet boss was found in late 16th-century deposits at Chelmsford (Goodall 1985, fig 28 no 46). A second mount (SF12) is discussed under Dress; this may have served as a harness mount, but similar mounts are depicted on tomb effigies of the 14th century worn as mounts on sword belts (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 184).

SF174 Mouthpiece. Iron. Rounded bar with slight curvature and looped ends, loops in same plane. Length 127.5mm. NW corner cloister. Not illustrated.

\*SF51 Rumbler bell. Copper alloy and lead alloy. Small spherical rumbler bell made from sheet metal. Suspension loop, cut from sheeting, inserted into upper half of bell, as was the lead alloy pea, bell parts soldered together. Diameter 15.5mm; height (including loop) 20.6mm. Sq 2/683–705 S–T NW corner canons' latrine. Fig 7.23.

\*SF10 Harness pendant. Copper alloy. Flat circular disc (diameter 24mm) with rounded rectangular perforated tab extending from the upper edge of the disc, in the same plane as the disc. The foot of the disc has two small 'fillets', the lower portion of the disc broken off. The 'fillets' may indicate the disc had a foot or another panel of ornament. The disc is bordered by a raised edge. Within this border is the raised outline of a six-armed star or six-petalled flower with central raised dot. The flower/star and surrounding background were presumably once enamelled, but no traces of enamel survive. Length (including suspension tab) 28.8mm. Sq 1/45 SE corner N transept. Fig 7.23.

SF124 Harness mount. Copper alloy. Four fragments from a plain, domed circular sheet mount with narrow flanged rim. Full height of dome uncertain. Diameter 60mm; height 13mm; thickness 1.2mm. Sq 2/771E S of canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

### Horseshoes and Oxshoes (not illustrated)

Horseshoes and oxshoes are poorly represented in the assemblage. Both examples of horseshoes are incomplete. SF311 comprises the remains of one branch of a horseshoe with thickened, upset heel, and narrow branch. The narrowness of the branch suggests this may have been a riding shoe of the 18th century or later. SF361 comprises only part of a branch retaining two rectangular nail holes. Beyond suggesting a date post-1350, when rectangular nail holes largely superseded square holes (Clark 1995, 88), little else can be said.

The date of the introduction of shoeing the forefeet of oxen is not certain, but documentary evidence indicates that this practice was known in the late 14th century (Goodall 1980, 181). The elongated L-shaped heads of the *in situ* nails on SF194 are characteristic of oxshoes and this

shoe can be closely paralleled by examples from Sandal Castle in Yorkshire, spanning the late 15th to the 17th centuries (Goodall 1983, 251 and fig 10 nos 226–32). A second possible oxshoe (SF310) survived in poor condition but it too had nail holes set close together and close to the outer edge of the shoe.

SF311 Horseshoe. Iron. Part branch and heel of horseshoe. Heel thickened/upset, narrow arched branch with at least two rectangular nail holes surviving. Upper branch and toe do not survive. Width suggests riding shoe, no fuller. Width 22.8mm; triangular in cross-section, thicker on inner edge. Length 107mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF361 Horseshoe. Iron. Right-angle caulkin, and part branch with two rectangular nail holes. Straight outer edge, no fuller. Web 31mm; length 83mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF194 Oxshoe. Iron. Very thin (thickness 2.3mm) and relatively narrow (maximum width 24mm) branch and heel of shoe. Four nail holes, situated close to the outer edge, three retain nails *in situ*, nail heads of elongated L-shape the heads extending across the width of the shoe, two nails with clenched tips. The shoe tapers to the heel. Clip does not survive. No context. Not illustrated.

SF310 Oxshoe? Iron. Thin sheet with curved outer edge and four small perforations set close to the edge and close to each other. Possibly an oxshoe. Inner edge incomplete. Broken both ends. Length 109mm; width 30.6mm. Sq 2/749L middle canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

### Spurs (not illustrated)

Dating spurs SF50 and SF188 is problematic due to their fragmented and incomplete condition. The incomplete necks make it impossible to discern whether these are examples of prick or rowel spurs. There are prick spurs dating to the mid-to later 12th–early to mid-13th century which have almost horizontal sides round the back of wearer's heel but then abruptly form a strong curve under the ankle (Ellis 1982, 233, cat no 142; Ellis 1987, no 166, fig 160; Hylton 2005, fig 6.9, no 37; Duncan forthcoming). Both SF50 and SF188 may be examples of this spur form. However strongly curved sides are also seen on rowel spurs of the first half of the 15th century (Ellis 1995, 129). The double-holed or figure-of-eight terminal on SF50, although more commonly seen on rowel spurs, does very occasionally appear on prick spurs (Ward Perkins 1940, 99–101).

Remains of a third spur, SF136, can be identified as from a rowel spur with a short neck. Both sides are incomplete, the longest surviving side bent out of alignment, precluding closer dating. Neither terminal survives. The presence of a rowel box indicates that this spur dates to no earlier than some time in the 13th century (Ellis 1995, 127). A sketch of a fourth unlocated spur (SF57) in the site notebooks does not permit identification of form.

SF50 Spur. Iron. Incomplete and in two main pieces. Flat rectangular-sectioned side arcs round back of the wearer's heel where it is widened (one side bent and broken off), front of surviving side plunging into strong curve, terminal is two-holed. Neck projects from lower part of the junction of the sides but is broken after 23mm. Sq 2/683HG W of S end of canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

SF188 Spur. Iron. Portions of both straight triangular-sectioned sides, front portions of sides and terminals do not survive. Depth of sides increases in heel/neck area. Neck, of lozenge-shaped cross-section, is straight for 19.3mm before break. Overall length sides 45mm. Sq 3/2 Presbytery. Not illustrated.

SF136 Spur. Iron. Heel area and part of sides. Short neck and start of rowel box (incomplete). Sides of D-shaped cross-section. Both sides incomplete, one bent out of alignment, terminals do not survive. Sides 8mm by 5mm; neck length 26mm+. Sq 2/771E S of canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

#### Agriculture and Subsistence (not illustrated)

Only two possible implements associated with agricultural or subsistence activities were tentatively identified within the assemblage. One, SF357, comprises part of an oval or possibly flanged socket and a solid stem which is beginning to flatten into a blade. This could be the remains of a small pruning or weeding hook. Goodall (1980, 72) notes that weeding hooks of the 12th–14th centuries were generally tanged, whereas those of the later medieval period normally had flanges. This could suggest that SF357 is of later medieval date, but with so little of the object remaining it is impossible to be certain. SF87 is an unscaled sketch in the site notebooks suggestive of a two-tined tanged pitch fork, with perforation near the end of the tang terminal. Dating of such implements is not however possible as the form altered little from the Roman to post-medieval periods (cf Rees 1979, figs 251–4; Goodall 1983, fig 5 nos 57–9).

SF357 Uncertain. Iron. Remains of narrow oval socket (broken, possibly flanged?), leading to solid rectangular-sectioned stem which is starting to flatten out, possibly into a blade. Possibly from a weeding/pruning hook? Length 67.4mm; socket width 15mm; blade width 11.5mm; thickness 4.8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

#### Weaponry

*Spearheads and arrowheads (Fig 7.24)*  
SF44 appears to be one of the less common types of medieval spearhead with leaf-shaped slender blades, thought to date to the earlier medieval period (Ward Perkins 1940, 74 and pl XVI no 5). A spearhead with slightly wider, but shorter leaf-shaped blade was found in deposits of mid- to late 13th century at Dryslwyn Castle (Jessop 2007, 206 and fig 7.7 no W101). A longer-bladed

spearhead (blade length c 170mm; width 22mm) was found at Pontefract Castle and, although found within deposits of the late 16th–early 17th century, is thought to date from the 10th–14th centuries (Eaves 2002, 324 and fig 131). Both Ward Perkins (1940, 74) and Eaves (2002, 324) comment that earlier medieval spearheads approximate to Viking types; Eaves goes on to say that pictorial and archaeological evidence appears to indicate that this type of spearhead persisted with little change until at least the 14th century. The location of a second spearhead (SF72) is unknown and the notebook sketch does not permit identification.

Arrowhead SF320 (Fig 7.24) would appear to conform to Jessop's multipurpose type MP7 described as having a barbed head, which is oval or diamond in cross-section, and socketed (1996, 197). There are wide variations in barb size and socket length in this category and SF320 is longer than the norm (length 40–60mm) and at 16mm slightly narrower than most of this class (18–30mm). Arrowheads of MP7 are dated to the early 13th century and could have had both a military and hunting use (Jessop 1996, 197).

References and unscaled outline notebook drawings to arrowheads SF73 and SF183 do not permit certain identification. SF73 may well be a Jessop MP9, dating to

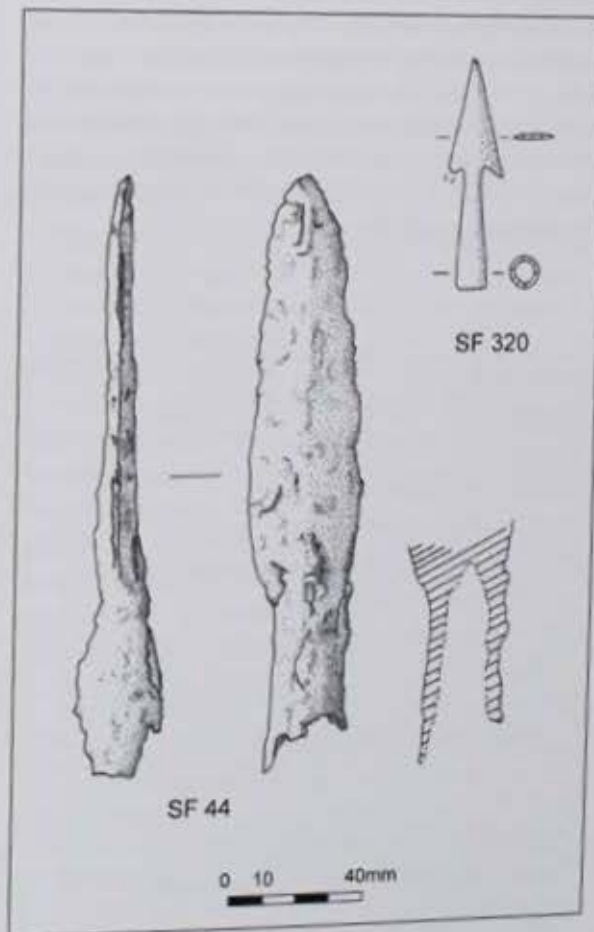


Fig 7.24 Weaponry

## Artefacts and ecofacts

the 12th to 15th century and having a short concoidal socket (*ibid*, 197). SF183 could be part of a military form of arrowhead, Jessop's M7, which had a short circular socket narrowing into a very long, thin point with diamond cross-section (military), and dating to the 11th to 14th centuries (*ibid*, 198). These identifications are however very tentative.

\*SF44 Spearhead. Iron. Socketed spearhead. Only short portion of socket survives, external dimensions 24mm by 23mm. Narrow leaf-shaped blade of lozengiform cross-section; blade length 125mm; width 35.3mm; thickness 11.5mm (maximum). Total length 170mm. Sq 1/38E N side chapter house, central. Fig 7.24.

\*SF320 Arrowhead. Iron. Relatively long tapering socket, head triangular in shape with straight barbs from shoulders, very shallow diamond cross-section. One barb incomplete. Jessop MP7. Total length 65.8mm (socket marginally longer than head). Width head c 16mm. No context. Fig 7.24.

### Shot (not illustrated)

Shot is represented by SF322, an iron ball with a maximum diameter of 32mm. Without stratigraphic information it is difficult to know the type of weapon which may have fired the shot. There are some late medieval firearms or 'handgonnes' of c 1500 which could have fired this shot. An analysis of 30 hackbutts in the Netherlands showed they could come in a range of calibres including 20mm, 26mm, 28mm, 30mm and 33mm; the latter may possibly have accommodated SF322 (McLachlan 2010, 32). The calibre of the base gun, in use prior to and during the 17th century, was 1.25 inches (c 33mm) (Henry 2005, 9–10) and this might also be a candidate.

SF322 Shot. Iron. Spherical ball of iron, maximum diameter 32mm; weight 108g. No context. Not illustrated.

## Dress and accessories

### Buckles (Figs 7.25, 7.26)

Thirteen buckles were recovered; seven are currently unlocated, but have either a sketch, which permitted allocation to buckle form, or a scale illustration which allowed a full description (Fig 7.25). A single detached buckle plate (SF146), in addition to two examples *in situ* on frames, was found.

The simplest form of buckle frame is circular, with the strap attached directly to the frame. In the light of past confusion in differentiating circular buckles with a diameter of over 30mm from brooches, Egan's definition has been applied here; rings of over 30mm uninterrupted by a constriction for a pin are buckles (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 57). Two such rings (SF157 (Fig 7.26) and SF293) are present in the assemblage; in both cases the frames lack pins. The absence of the pin means less certainty about function because annular rings had other uses, such as cheek pieces from snaffle bits. While it is possible SF157 could have served other functions, the slightly angled frame of SF293 indicates use as a buckle frame. Circular buckle frames were recovered in deposits of 13th- and 14th-century date from London; it was noted there that smaller frames (under c 30mm diameter) tended to derive from later 13th- to 14th-century deposits, and larger examples (40mm and over) from late 14th-century contexts (*ibid*, 58). This may suggest that SF157 and SF293 date to sometime in the late 14th to 15th century.

There is one example of a circular frame with central integral bar (SF79), surviving as a description (copper alloy buckle, small) and a careful but unscaled accompanying

Buckle type	SF no	CuA	Fe	Buckle plate in situ	Comment
Circular frame	157	Y		N	
Circular frame	293	Y			
Circular frame central integral bar	079	Y		N	Missing
Oval lipped frame with composite rigid plate	008	Y		Y (forked spacer)	Missing
Oval lipped frame with composite rigid plate	160			Y (forked spacer)	
Oval frame central integral bar	040	Y			Missing
Oval frame central integral bar	184		Y	N	
Rectangular frame	176		Y	N	Missing
Rectangular frame	195.2		Y	N	
Trapezoidal frame and roller sleeve	55		Y	N	Missing
Frame with central bar, inner loop rectangular; outer oval	1	Y		N	Missing
Frame (incomplete) central integral bar	140		Y	Spur attachment	
Frame with separate 'central' bar (fragment) – decorated	18	Y		N	Missing

Fig 7.25 Table of buckle frames

sketch. Caution is also advised as to the identification of the metal, as several items described as copper alloy in the site documentation were in fact of lead alloy. The sketch suggests that SF79 was some 16mm in diameter. Buckles of this form and diameter in copper alloy were used for spurs in the late medieval period (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 65 citing Blanche Ellis). The form continued in use into the post-medieval period (Margeson 1993, fig 15 nos 160–1; Hinton 1990, fig 135 no 1260). Two other buckles are similar to this form, although more oval than circular in shape, SF40 (missing; copper alloy) and an iron example SF184 (Fig 7.26). These may be of similar date.

Two buckles (SF8 – not illustrated – and SF160) have oval lipped frames with composite rigid plates. This buckle form has a forked spacer for separate sheets soldered on at the back and front to form a hollow plate. The buckle frames are lipped and bevelled and the bars are off-set and constricted for the pin. These buckles were in widespread use in the mid-14th to early 15th century and Egan has indicated that they were probably the best quality available among mass-produced buckles of this period (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 80–2). The more complete example (SF8), retaining its sheet plates, cannot be located currently. The sketch, however, indicates the aperture has a double notch with the rivet centrally placed between the notches. The form of aperture on SF8 indicates it is of 15th-century date (*ibid*, 80; see also discussion under strap ends below). The forked spacers, visible on SF160 (Fig 7.26), can vary in shape (*ibid*, figs 48–9) and this may reflect the different practices of manufacturers (*ibid*, 80). SF163 (missing) comprises parts of two sheets riveted together and has the same aperture configuration as SF8; this may well be part of another example of this buckle type, or part of a composite strap end (Fig 7.27). SF109 (Fig 7.27) similarly may have formed one of the plates on a buckle of this type, but could equally be part of a strap end. Both SF163 and SF109 are discussed in more detail under strap ends (see below).

Two iron buckles SF176 (Fig 7.26) and SF195.2 have rectangular frames. Iron rectangular frames would appear to have a fairly long life span; examples are known from contexts of 9th–11th century (Ottaway 1992, 684) but are never as common as contemporary forms, such as the D-shaped buckle. Their copper alloy counterparts would appear to date mainly from the 14th century (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2891; Egan and Pritchard 1991, 95–7). The two Selborne buckles could have been used on harness and girdles, as well as for armour, sword belts and saddle bags (*ibid*, 53).

Trapezoidal frames with sheet rollers, such as SF55, are likely to have been used on harness, as the sheet roller would have eased the movement of straps and reduced chafing (Fig 7.26). These could be less expensive forms of the rectangular and trapezoidal buckles with separate revolving arms, which appear to be an innovation of the late

11th century (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2894). Examples of buckles with sheet rollers, in both iron and copper alloy, have been found in York in mid-late 13th- and 14th-century contexts (*ibid*, 2889 and 2894), continuing in use into the 15th century; those from London appear to have a similar date range (Egan and Pritchard 1991, figs 60–1).

SF1 is a distinctively shaped buckle, with an integral bar dividing a smaller inner rectangular loop from a larger oval outer loop and the dividing bar constricted for the pin (Fig 7.26). Examples from London (*ibid*, fig 65 no 472), Northampton (Oakley 1979, fig 108 no 24) and Battle Abbey (Geddes 1985, fig 49 15–18) suggest this buckle form was in use in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Only half the frame of SF140 survives, but it is clear that it had a central bar (Fig 7.26). The surviving loop is of rounded D-shape and the sides of the second loop appear to be angled. The central bar retains part of a looped plate which would have attached to spur leathers. Buckles of similar form with looped attachment plates *in situ* have been found in deposits of the 15th–16th century at Winchester (Goodall 1990c, fig 140 no 1331) but also associated with a 19th-century spur from Battle Abbey (Ellis 1985, fig 61 no 54).

The final buckle, SF18, although incomplete, can be identified as part of an 18th-century shoe buckle, with housing for a separate central bar and ornate cast decoration. Similar buckles have been found at Norwich (Margeson 1993, fig 17 no 180) and Exeter (Goodall 1984, fig 190 89–91).

The single detached rectangular buckle plate is of folded variety, the lack of decoration precluding close dating, beyond a likely medieval date.

\*SF157 Buckle. Copper alloy. Cast plain circular frame. The inner edge of the frame is chamfered, the outer edge rounded. Diameter 40mm; width 4.6mm; thickness 4mm. No context. Fig 7.26.

SF293 Buckle. Copper alloy. Cast plain circular frame of rounded lozenge-shaped cross-section. The frame is slightly angled. Diameter 45mm; width 3.2mm; thickness 3.2mm. Sq 3/93 E of N transept chapels. Not illustrated.

SF79 Buckle. Copper alloy. Circular buckle with integral central bar. Diameter possibly 16mm (from sketch). Main drain. Not illustrated.

SF8 Buckle. Copper alloy. Oval lipped frame, wire pin *in situ*. From sketch spacer plate front perforated for pin. Single rivet affixing plates which have a double-notched terminal. No scale on sketch. Sq 1/46 SE corner N transept. Not illustrated.

\*SF160 Buckle. Copper alloy. Oval lipped and bevelled frame with composite rigid plates. Plates missing, forked spacer has ogival inside edge, with a round, grooved aperture at the front. The frame has been thinned to accommodate the pin. The pin is of circular-sectioned wire (diameter 1.4mm). Buckle frame width

Spherical ball of iron, maximum diameter 108g. No context. Not illustrated.

ories

7.26)

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ample of a circular frame with central  
surviving as a description (copper alloy  
careful but unscaled accompanying

Buckle plate in situ	Comment
N	
N	Missing
Y (forked spacer)	Missing
Y (forked spacer)	Missing
N	Missing
N	Missing
N	Missing
N	Missing
Spur attachment	Missing
N	

## Artefacts and ecofacts

- 21.7mm; buckle length 20mm; spacer plate width 14.4mm; total length 40.8mm. No context. Fig 7.26.
- SF40 Buckle. Copper alloy. Double oval buckle with central integral bar. Length 30mm; width 27mm. Sq 1/27 W end chapter house. Not illustrated.
- \*SF184 Buckle. Iron. Oval frame with central bar (most of bar now missing), frame slightly angled. The frame surface is indented at the junction with the central bar. Length 30mm; width 26mm. Sq 1/27 W end chapter house. Fig 7.26.
- \*SF176 Buckle. Iron. Rectangular frame. Length 45mm; width 40mm. East of east wall of canons' latrine. Fig 7.26.
- SF195.2 Buckle. Iron. Rectangular-shaped frame of rectangular cross-section, buckle pin does not survive. Length 34mm; width 33mm; thickness 3.5mm. No context. Not illustrated.
- \*SF55 Buckle. Iron. Trapezoidal frame with sheet roller on narrower end. Length 47mm; width 37mm. Sq 2/791 I, E of / E wall canons' latrine. Fig 7.26.
- \*SF1 Buckle. Copper alloy. Inside loop rectangular, larger outside loop oval with pin notch, dividing bar narrowed in centre for missing pin. Length 28mm; width 37mm. Sq 1/42, Burial 1, north transept. Fig 7.26.
- \*SF140 Buckle. Iron. Buckle frame, only one half surviving, of rounded D-shape with central bar. One arm of the second loop appears to be angled. Remains of a looped attachment plate (loop broken off) for joining to spur terminal *in situ* on central bar. Frame width 25mm; surviving length 20mm; attachment plate length 20mm. Sq 2/595H E of warming house. Fig 7.26.
- SF18 Buckle. Copper alloy. Incomplete. Part side of a cast double buckle, frame has transverse perforation to provide housing for separate central bar. The frame has ornate cast decoration, and is angled. No dimensions, sketch not to scale. NW cloister. Not illustrated.
- SF146 Buckle plate. Copper alloy. Half of a folded rectangular buckle plate, broken at fold, recessed for frame, slot for pin. Holes for three missing rivets, originally four-holed. Undecorated. Length 44.6mm; width 20.8mm; thickness 0.7mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Strap ends

From four to seven strap ends were found – the notebook sketch of one currently mislaid (SF41) is not detailed enough to be certain of form (though possibly it is like SF161 described below). SF163 and SF109, as mentioned above, could have formed parts of buckles with composite rigid plates, but are discussed here under composite strap ends.

SF162 (missing, identification from illustration) was made by folding a strip widthways (Fig 7.27). It has three rivet holes down the centre and two retaining rivets *in situ*. There are remains of leather between the two plates. At least one surface is decorated with a series of closely set punched(?) dots(?). Near the mouth of the strap end the decoration traverses the surface, sometimes

horizontally and sometimes diagonally; four complete rows, and the start of a fifth, are visible. These are not regularly spaced. Two of the rows appear to cut into the upper rivet head, indicating that secondary decoration was applied after the strap was riveted in the strap end. This was only occasionally noted in the London assemblages of buckle plates and strap ends (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 31). The central rivet has radiating lines of dots, forming a large X with the rivet as its centre. Again the lines of dots are irregular, one arm having two parallel rows of dots, two arms having partial rows of parallel dots and the fourth having up to four partial rows. Near the terminal of the strap end are two horizontal rows of dots with, in each case, part of a second incomplete row of dots. The positioning of the rivets on this strap end is not very common and bears more resemblance to late 14th- to 15th-century rectangular strap plates (*ibid*, fig 141).

SF409 is an unusual cast lead alloy one-piece strap end. It appears to mimic some of the composite forms with acorn knobs (*ibid*, fig 94), but in execution is crude in comparison. The rivet holes appear to have been added after casting, the holes made close to either side of the casting seam; the seam itself has not been filed down. The *in situ* iron rivet, presumably attached directly to the strap, further emphasises the rudimentary nature of the strap end. Lead/tin strap ends cast in one piece have been found in London, in deposits of the last quarter of the 14th and the early 15th century (*ibid*, 149–53). The London examples, however, have been cast in three-part moulds which resulted in the finished piece being hollow to allow insertion of the strap, or they were cast in a T-shape, the central tab on the back then folded to accommodate the

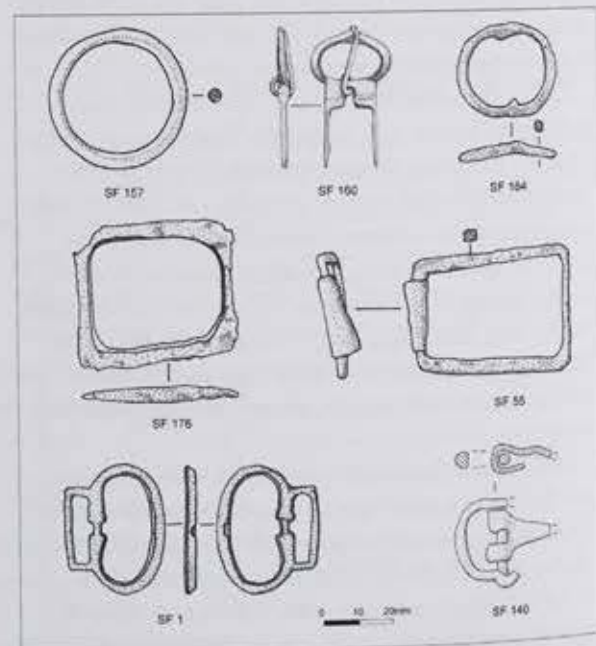


Fig 7.26 Dress and adornment, buckles

strap (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 151–3). It is possible SF409 may have been locally produced (see also stone mould SF92 discussed under Religious Beliefs).

The remaining strap ends, or parts of strap ends, all appear to be of the composite variety. Composite strap ends with forked spacer plates appear to have been introduced in the late 13th or early 14th century and continue into the early 15th century, after which their popularity diminished (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 145). SF164 is one plate of a composite strap end with forked spacer plate, the 'shadow' of the spacer plate being visible on the reverse surface (Fig 7.27). The strap end has a concave edged mouth, two rivet holes, one copper alloy rivet remaining *in situ*, the rivets set either side of a round aperture with angled groove, and a pointed end. SF109 and SF163 may also be parts of strap end plates (Fig 7.27). The mouth of SF109 has the same configuration as SF164. In addition it is decorated with short vertical lines of engraved zig-zags or wriggle-work, produced using a walked engraver (*ibid.*, 31). SF163 comprises parts of two plates held together by one *in situ* rivet; the mouth is straight and double notched. As noted under the discussion of buckles, both SF109 and SF163 could equally form the terminals of buckles with composite rigid plates (see above). SF161 (missing) appears from the illustration to comprise one plate of a composite strap end with V-shaped end, and two rivets near the mouth (Fig 7.27). The edge of the mouth is damaged but appears to have had a concave curve. Studies of the London assemblage of composite strap ends and buckles with composite rigid plates indicates that those with the round aperture and angled groove belong to the 14th century, while those that lack this feature, such as SF163, appear to be of 15th-century date (*ibid.*, 80).

- \*SF162 Strap end. Copper alloy. Folded widthways. Three rivet holes down the centre, two retaining rivets *in situ*. Leather remains between the two plates (central hole does pierce leather). At least one surface is decorated with a series of closely set punched(?) dots(?), a combination of horizontal rows at the top and bottom of the strap end and an X in the centre (central rivet forming middle of X). Decoration poorly executed, and executed after leather fixed in place (dots across upper rivet). Length 29mm; width 12mm. No context. Fig 7.27.
- SF409 Strap end. Lead alloy. Cast one-piece strap end comprising a narrow rectangular body with bulbous knob, perhaps representing an acorn. There are two rivet holes for attachment to the strap, one rivet hole, at the knob end, retains an iron rivet. The second hole, at the top of the strap end, has broken through. The top of the strap end is slightly flared perhaps due to the insertion of the rivet. A casting seam remains on the reverse surface. The whole is slightly bent to one side, and the knob bent down. Length 46.5mm; width 15mm (at top), 12.5mm (main body); thickness (along casting seam) 4.6mm. No context.

\*SF164 Strap end. Copper alloy. One plate of a strap end with concave edged mouth, two rivet holes, one copper alloy rivet remaining *in situ*, the rivets set either side of a round aperture with angled groove and a pointed end. Shadow of forked spacer plate visible on reverse. Length 55mm; width 20.8mm; thickness 0.9mm. No context. Fig 7.27.

\*SF109 Strap end (or rigid plate from buckle frame). Copper alloy. Concave edged mouth, two rivet holes, two copper alloy rivets *in situ*, the rivets set either side of a round aperture with angled groove. Plate broken at other end and bent. Obverse surface decorated with five portions of vertical wriggle-work; interrupted pairs down either side, and longer stretch down centre of plate (beneath aperture and groove). Length 23mm; width 18.7mm; thickness 0.7mm. No context. Fig 7.27.

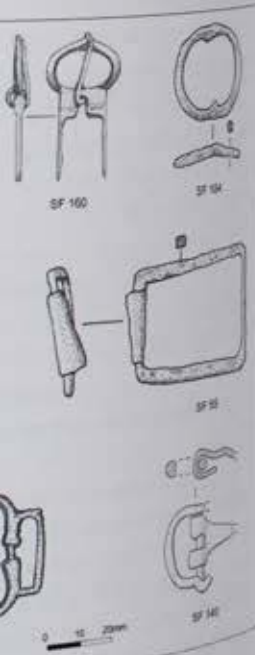
\*SF163 Strap end or plates from buckle frame with composite rigid plates. Copper alloy. Incomplete, parts of two plates, double-notched terminal with single central rivet, opposing end missing. Length c 20.5mm; width 14mm (from illustration). No context. Fig 7.27.

\*SF161 Strap end. Copper alloy. One plate of a composite strap end with V-shaped end, and two rivets near the mouth. The edge of the mouth is damaged but appears to have had a concave curve. Length 54.5mm; width 17mm. No context. Fig 7.27.

#### Armorial mount

The gilded and enamelled disc SF12 has a bevelled rear edge, indicating it would have been set within a frame (Fig 7.27). Other gilded and enamelled discs bearing arms have been found in, for example, London, Rievaulx Abbey, and Warden Abbey, Bedfordshire (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 181–4). The precise use to which these mounts were put appears wide-ranging. Egan (*ibid.*, 181) refers to their appearance on sword belts on several tomb effigies of knights. Dunning (1965, 53–5) suggested that the Rievaulx mount was appropriate for a case containing the abbot's travelling chalice and paten; the Warden examples have been interpreted as morsers (clasps for ecclesiastical copes) and Campbell (1987a, 524) has suggested their use on harness. The floral design on SF12 is the double-rose. Secular roseate badges in lead alloys and tin were available during the second half of the 15th century (Spencer 1998, 297). However, a copper alloy sheet roundel, crudely engraved with double, six-petalled rose motif, not dissimilar to SF12, was found in deposits dating to c 1350–c 1400 in London (Egan 1995, 53 and fig 40 no 7). Also from London is a copper alloy strap mount of double-rose design from deposits of 1400–1450 (Egan and Pritchard 1991, fig 117 no 947); perhaps more noteworthy is the occurrence of this double rose motif stamped on the back of one of the three armorial mounts found together in a London foreshore deposit, again of 1400–1450 (*ibid.*, fig 116). Egan also notes that the sword belt mounts depicted on tomb effigies often have a flower motif delineated rather than

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arms (*ibid*, 184). Whatever their use, the high standard of workmanship on SF12, and similar mounts, is consistent with an upper-class context.

\*SF12 Harness/armorial mount. Copper alloy. Flat circular disc (diameter 39.5mm). Reverse edge bevelled, to fit into a setting(?). Obverse face has narrow gilt border, encircling a five-petalled double rose. The rose has a circular centre, enamel missing, from which five gilded petals emerge, the ends of the petals are tri-lobate. The two outer 'lobes' continue as sinuous gilded lines which form the outline of an outer ring of five lobed petals. At the base of each of the outer ring of gilded petals is a zone of red enamel, the lower edge of which is smooth, the upper edge spiked – a repeating pattern of a series of short spikes (usually from 3 to 4 but occasionally 5), interspersed with a single longer spike, in total there are four groups of short spikes and three long spikes. The design is set within a black enamel or niello background. The central circle has traces of red enamel along its edge, so it is possible either the whole circle, or the outer edge of the circle, was filled with red enamel. Thickness 2.2mm. Chapter house, N transept area 1953–54. Fig 7.27.

### Pin

Only one pin was found, with drawn wire shank and separately applied solid spherical head (SF158, Fig 7.27). The head is copper alloy, fixed in place with solder. The earliest deposits in which these pins have been found in both London and York date to the 13th century, but the majority derive from 14th- and 15th-century contexts (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 299; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2918). These pins, along with their wire-wound-headed contemporaries, are thought to have been used primarily to fix veils and headdresses (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 297) in addition to clothing, with women's clothing becoming more intricately folded and tucked during the 14th and 15th centuries (Caple 1991, 243). The paucity of pins recovered from Selborne may to some extent reflect excavation methods, but it could largely be due to the nature of the occupation.

\*SF158 Pin. Copper alloy. Drawn wire shank (diameter 0.8mm), tip missing. Separately applied solid, spherical head (diameter 2.9mm). Length 48mm. No context. Fig 7.27.

### Lace chape ?

Although lace tags, generally between 25mm and 40mm in length, are familiar finds from later medieval and early post-medieval sites, none of this form were identified within the Selborne Priory assemblage. At York and London, much larger tags or chapes with lengths extending up to c 100mm have been identified from deposits dating to as early as the 13th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 290; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2921). A single possible

chape of this form was tentatively identified. SF112 is over 78mm long, very slightly tapered and has butted joins. It lacks the folded tab on the terminal but the top is neatly finished off. Egan has postulated that these larger lace chapes become less common after the middle of the 14th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 290). If SF112 has been correctly identified this would suggest it may date from the mid-13th to the mid-14th century.

SF112 Lace chape? Copper alloy. Formed from rolled sheet, butted join, end open. Opposing end neatly finished but has a large irregular perforation, 3mm below the edge, which does not pierce the other side of the tube. The metal is distorted around this perforation suggesting this could be secondary damage. Length 78.7mm; dimensions near top 5.6mm by 5.2mm; bottom diameter 5mm. Perforation 4.9mm by 3.6mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Cloak fastener ?

SF100 is a small, hollow elongated oval, like an upturned canoe in shape, with a thin, down-turned wire-like hook at each end (Fig 7.27). No exact parallels have been found, but the hooks at either end suggest it may have been a form of garment fastening, in the fashion of double-hooked fasteners from 15th- to 16th-century contexts at Amsterdam (Baart *et al* 1977, cat no 158), Norwich (Margeson 1993, 19) and York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2921), the latter found in the destruction deposits of c 1540 in the refectory at Fishergate. SF100 is not dissimilar in size to a silver hooked fastening with central eyelet found in post-dissolution deposits outside of the canons' latrine at Battle Abbey (Geddes 1985, fig 44 no 8).

\*SF100 Double-hooked fastener. Copper alloy with white metal plating? Small, hollow dome of elongated oval shape, small wire hook, down-turned, at either end, one hook partially straightened. Total length (including hooks) 28.5mm; width 7.3mm; height of oval 4.3mm. Presbytery. Fig 7.27.

### Finger ring

Only one finger ring was found (SF159); it was made of plain copper alloy strip with ends soldered (Fig 7.27). The size suggests a male wearer. Both at London and at York it was noted that rings made from strips soldered together pre-date the 15th century; rings of the 15th century were generally cast (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 332; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2928).

\*SF159 Finger ring. Copper alloy. Plain, angular D-sectioned hoop, made from strip with butted and soldered join (clearly visible). Inner surface smoothed. Oval in outline. External dimensions 26.6mm by 25.3mm; internal 23.3mm by 22.2mm; height 4.9mm; thickness 1.3mm. Sq 1/27-15 W end chapter house S side. Fig 7.27.

## Purses

SF77 is an example of a purse hanger (Fig 7.27). Egan identified the function of these items by analogy with examples represented in mid-13th-century French sculpture (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 219–24). Purse hangers consist of a freely swinging, single or multiple arched element, usually joined at each end to a girdle by a bar mount (*ibid*, 219). The example from Selborne Priory seems to be an intermediary form between single drawn-wire arches, in London occurring in deposits of c 1270–1350, and those cast examples with multiple arches; finds of the latter span the late 13th into the mid-15th centuries (*ibid*, 224; Duncan 2002, 273 and fig 112 no 101). Part of a similar single arched pendant, with a bar mount *in situ*, was found in Norwich, in residual deposits of the late 15th century (Margeson 1993, 78 no 484 and fig 45).

Metal purse frames do not appear to have regained favour following their use in the Anglo-Saxon period until the 14th to 15th century (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 342). Purse bar SF31 is closest in form to Ward Perkins type A5, although the central boss is more oval than square (Fig 7.27). Ward Perkins suggests this form is late in the series (1940, 166). A close parallel, but with some decoration on the central boss, was found at Ospringe, Kent, in deposits of 1485–1550 (Goodall 1980, fig 132 no K295). After about 1565, metal-framed purses seem to have fallen out of favour (Ward Perkins 1940, 169).

\*SF77 Purse hanger. Copper alloy. Cast single arch of rounded cross-section tapering towards the ends which are bent up and back (in shape the whole resembling a 'C' on its back). The ends have a single collar and expanded, rounded knop. Maximum 'arch' dimensions 4.4mm by 3.8mm; overall length 38.2mm; height 13.9mm. Main drain. Fig 7.27.

\*SF31 Purse. Iron. Purse bar comprising rounded bar (7.6mm by 7.2mm) with oval swelling at mid-point which has a longitudinal perforation, for insertion of suspension loop, and two punched holes to either side, the holes punched at the base of the bar, causing the bar to bow out. The ends of the bar have an inset, for attachment of pivoting pendant frame, before thickening into a simple knop end. A loop from a pendant frame remains *in situ* at both ends of the purse bar. The bar is bent on one side, the purse suspension loop is not *in situ*. Length c 158mm. Sq 1/50 E end chapter house. Fig 7.27.

## Footwear

The only evidence for foot wear is a shoe iron (SF290). There is little certain evidence for the use of heel and toe irons before the 19th century (Goodall 1993e, 63). Examples of similar heel irons have been found at Norwich (*ibid*, fig 31), Ardingly Fulling Mill (Goodall 1976, fig 9b no 46) and Chelmsford, Essex (Goodall 1985, fig 34 no 87).

SF290 Shoe iron. Iron. Heel iron, rounded in outline, flat underside (facing shoe), narrow channel on exterior surface, like a fuller, to take nails. Only one side of heel iron survives, squared off terminal. Length c 54mm. Sq 3/93 E of N transept chapels. Not illustrated.

## Toiletry

Toiletry set SF97 is not currently located, but the illustration permits comparison (Fig 7.27). This set comprises three implements, a pair of tweezers, an earscoop and a toothpick, riveted together at one end. Similar cosmetic sets have been found in London in deposits of the late 13th and 14th centuries (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 377). In common with other toiletry sets of this period the tweezers are twice as long as the two accompanying implements, the earscoop and the toothpick, which are placed either side of the tweezers allowing the whole to fit into a narrow *etui*, as opposed to being suspended individually from a strap or chatelaine (*ibid*, 377). SF97 can be closely paralleled, down to the little fillets or cusps which decorate the rivet ends of the earscoop and toothpick, by a cosmetic set from London from deposits dating to c 1270–c 1350 (*ibid*, 377 no 1755 and fig 251).

\*SF97 Toiletry set. Copper alloy. A pair of tweezers, earscoop and toothpick which are riveted together at one end. The tweezers are made from two strip of metal soldered(?) together at one end (length c 60mm), the earscoop (length c 31mm) and toothpick (length c 36mm) are positioned either side of the tweezers and both have fillets or cusps on their riveted ends. S cloister wall, nave trenches A B. Fig 7.27.

## Religious Beliefs

Stone mould SF92 would appear to be locally made, fairly crudely executed, by a maker not wholly familiar with the iconography (Fig 7.28). The *Agnus Dei* lamb is normally differentiated from other lambs by the cross-shafted banner that it holds on an uplifted foot, the banner sometimes surmounted by a cross, and by its backward-looking stance; some lambs are nimbed (eg Spencer 1998, 171 cat no 191). The fleece of the lamb is usually indicated by sinuous lines, but on an example from London (*ibid*, 171–2, cat no 191b) the fleece is depicted by closely set raised dots. The Selborne lamb is looking forward and lacks a banner or uplifted foot. The lines radiating from its head, although giving it a horned and bearded appearance, may have been intended to depict a nimbus; the dots on the body presumably represent the fleece. Badges and pendants depicting the *Agnus Dei* from London are dated to the late 14th century (*ibid*, 171) and a similar date could be forwarded for the Selborne mould. Spencer comments that while these badges and pendants may have been sold at shrines, they were probably made as aids to devotion rather than strictly as pilgrim souvenirs (as, 171); it is probable that this was the intention here, with any products of the mould meant for the use of

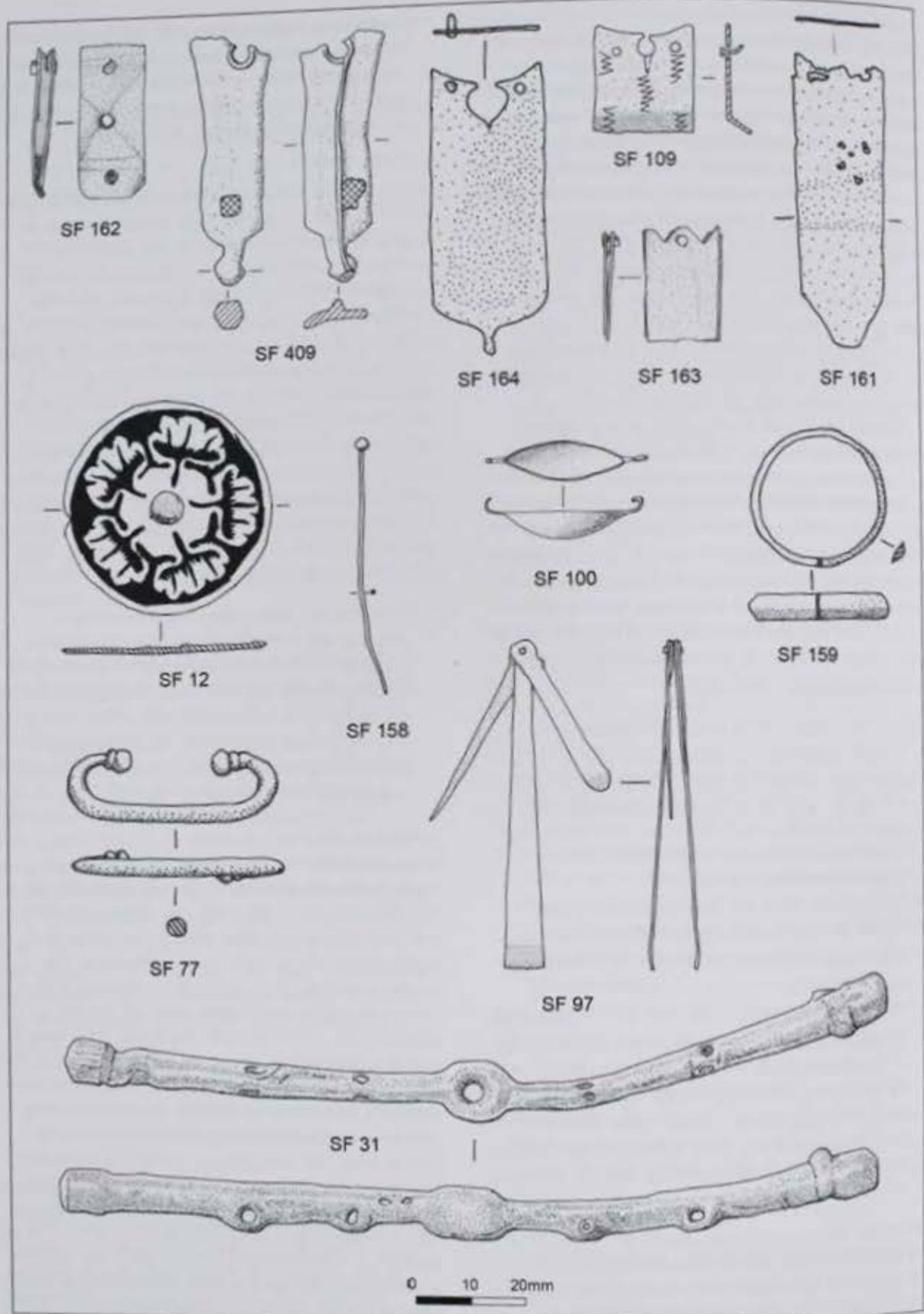


Fig 7.27 Dress and adornment and toiletry

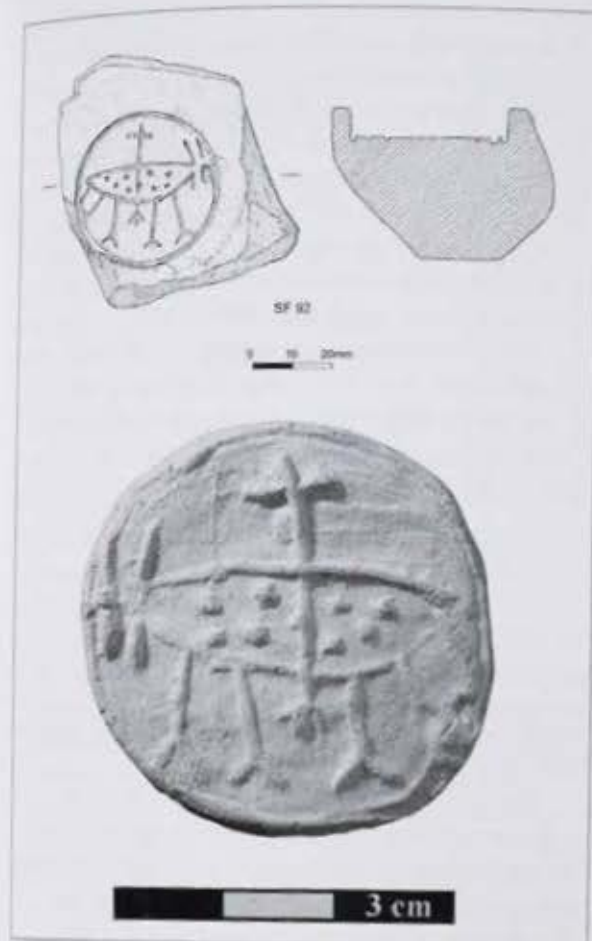


Fig 7.28 Religion, Agnes Dei mould and cast

priory occupants.

The only other reference to a 'religious' item in the Selborne notebooks is to a stone bead (SF36), thought to possibly be from a rosary. It is unlocated; neither sketches nor more detailed descriptions were made.

\*SF92 Mould. Chalk (hardground – source local). Block of sub-rectangular shape and cross-section. One corner of the obverse surface of the block has broken off; it may have originally formed part of an architectural fragment. It does not sit level on a flat surface and if used to cast would have had to have been set into sand, or been propped up. The mould face is circular in plan (diameter 38mm) and is set into the block by a depth c 7mm. The face of the mould is roughly incised with a tailed quadruped, fourth leg incomplete due to damage, the quadruped's feet indicated by two lines set at 45 degrees, the body of the animal has nine dots, the head is indicated by a deeper cut notch at right angles to the body surmounted by dot, and has two incised lines above and one below the neck, giving it a horned and 'bearded' appearance, but possibly representing a nimbus. A cross is incised over the back of the animal, the stem of the cross continuing across the body of the

animal, terminating in a triangle beneath its belly. The animal and cross are thought to be a depiction of *Agnus Dei*. Block thickness 48.8mm; length 65mm; width 58mm. Sq 2/772 main drain. Fig 7.28.

#### Prehistoric (not illustrated)

Limited evidence for earlier prehistoric activity was found in the form of three pieces of worked flint. All were hard hammer-struck flakes and two possessed prominent bulbs of percussion; they could date to the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

Flake. Dark brown flint. Tertiary flake, prominent bulb of percussion, proximal end damaged, all edges heavily nicked (post-depositional). Sub-triangular in section. Length 36.5mm; width 14mm; thickness 3.2mm.

Flake. Patinated opaque grey flint with khaki-coloured chert-like imperfections. Thick tertiary flake of sub-triangular cross-section, prominent bulb of percussion, proximal end of dorsal surface battered. Remains of four flake scars. Length 63mm; width 32.2mm; thickness 10.8mm.

Flake. Dark brown flint. Secondary flake, roughly triangular in outline, cortex at distal end, hard hammer struck, remains of four removal scars of almost blade-like proportions, proximal end damaged. Length 50.2mm; maximum width 28mm; thickness (distal end) 10mm; (proximal) 4.8mm.

#### Multi-functional objects

##### Rings, ferrules, hook and washer

The objects in this category could either have served a number of functions or, for example in the case of the ferrules, may have formed the ends of a variety of objects. None is closely dated, although ferrule SF196, hook SF324 and washer SF132 are probably of fairly recent date. The four wire rings, three found together (SF195), may have served as links for a lightweight chain. Iron annular rings such as SF289 and SF312 had a wide range of uses including as links on chains and on harness. They could also have served as collars on handles of smaller implements, or as seen on chain SF48 (Fig 7.19), round the mid-section of S-shaped and figure-of-eight chain links.

##### Rings (not illustrated)

SF139 Ring. Iron. Oval link made of circular-sectioned wire (3mm diameter), split and one end out of alignment. Length 26mm; breadth 18.5mm. Sq 1/50 E end chapter house.

SF195 Rings. Iron. Three wire rings with butted joints. Two are of similar size (external diameters 21mm and 21.5mm) formed of iron wire of rounded rectangular cross-section (3.5mm by 3mm). The third ring is smaller (17.2mm external diameter) and of rectangular section (height 4.2mm; thickness 3mm). No context.

SF289 Ring. Iron. Small annular ring of rectangular cross-section. External diameter 22.8mm; height 8mm;

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thickness 4.5mm. Sq 3/93 E of N transept chapels.  
 SF312 Ring. Iron. Small annular ring of rectangular cross-section. External diameter c 15mm; height 5.5mm; thickness c 3.5mm. Sq 2/705J canons' latrine S of middle.

### Ferrules

\*SF199 Ferrule or chape. Iron. Tapering truncated conical ferrule or chape made from sheet, end folded in. Possible remains of a transverse perforation at the mouth, along break. Length 38.5mm; chape mouth 16.2mm by 14.4mm. No context. Fig 7.29.

SF196 Ferrule? Iron and copper alloy. Iron shank of rounded cross-section tapering to point, tip of point has a conical cap of copper alloy. Length 35mm; shank 9.5mm by 9.5mm; copper alloy cap length c 16mm. N transept Chapel 1. Not illustrated.

### Hook

SF324 Hook. Iron. Terminal of robust hook, only a short portion of the rectangular-sectioned stem (19.5mm by 13mm) survives. The stem is bent round to form an open hook, tapering in width to a point. Length 70mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Washer

SF132 Washer. Iron. Annular, slightly concave disc, remnants of iron corrosion within central hole. External diameter 25mm; central hole c.13mm; thickness 3mm. No context. Not illustrated.

### Uncertain identifications

In any assemblage there are inevitably some objects which are unique, unknown to the author, or too fragmentary for identification. The fragmentary objects, in the form of sheet and strip fragments, are not included here but are listed in the archive. Objects of uncertain function are catalogued below by material and include, where possible, any suggested uses.

### Ceramic

\*SF39 Uncertain. Ceramic. Hard fired pale orange slightly sandy brick-like fabric. Sub-rectangular fragment of rectangular cross-section, no original edges survive. Both obverse and reverse surfaces roughly flat. This plate or slab has 11 perforations, nine of which have been pushed through from one face; two narrower holes, one of which does not fully pierce the slab, have been pushed through from the opposite side. The holes are tapered indicating that whatever tool was used to perforate the slab was also tapered. The slab is about 23mm thick, variations occur due to the clay being pushed aside when pierced, creating raised collars around most of the perforations. The perforations are closely set, holes between 8.8mm and 13.2mm apart. There is no clear pattern of rows or lines of holes, perforation seemingly done at random. The maximum diameter of the perforation at the slab surface is 15.4mm, narrowing to 6.9mm diameter on the

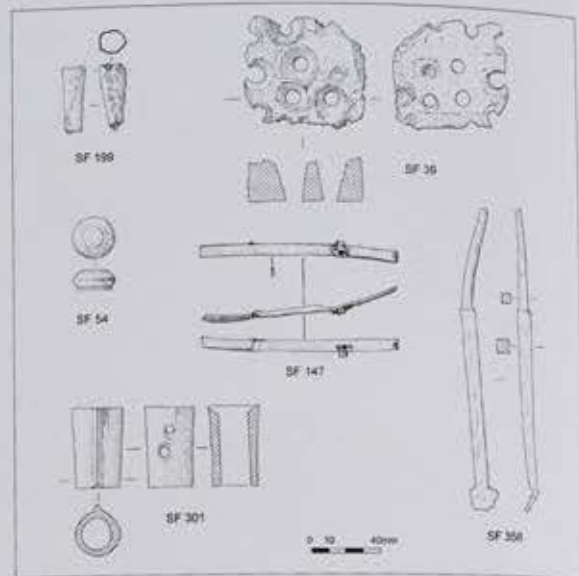


Fig 7.29 Objects of uncertain identification

corresponding surface. Length 70.6mm; width 62.3mm. Sq 1/27 W end chapter house. Fig 7.29.

This may have been for ventilation or a drain cover or some form of filter. On late 19th-century perforated bricks the perforations allowed the bricks to burn more thoroughly and permitted the moisture to escape without fissures, thus giving a very hard, strong type of brick (Cox 1979, 45). Whether this trait relates to the use of SF39 is unclear. The surfaces of SF39 do not display any signs of sooting, suggesting use in relation to the cooking of food unlikely.

### Copper alloy

In general shape SF54 (Fig 7.29) resembles a spindle whorl; the diameter of the central hole, at 11.5mm, would not be out of place, as diameters of central holes on late Saxon and medieval whorls range between 9mm and 11mm (Rogers 1997, 1731). The moulding on SF54 is comparable to some of the lathe-turned stone whorls of this period (eg Egan 1998, figs 202–3). However, although whorls in bone, stone, lead and ceramic are known from medieval deposits (eg *ibid*, 255–61; Woodland 1990, 216–25; Rogers 1997, 1735–43; Rogers 2002, 2736–7), copper alloy examples are not. SF54 with its one flat face could be a decorative knob, perhaps for a composite piece, with the knob threaded on to the main body. Alternatively it might have served as a weight, the closest correlation being with 12 Avoirdupois drams (see section on Measurement above).

\*SF54 Knob. Copper alloy (leaded bronze?). Cast, lathe-turned moulded knob(?) with central hole (diameter 11.5mm). Convex upper surface with incised line encircling hole, prominent raised ridge on girth, with shallower ridge beneath and flat inset base. External diameter 24.5mm; height 11mm; weight 21.3g. Sq 2/749D S of canons' latrine. Fig 7.29.

Copper alloy binding SF147 must have been fed over the item being bound before the mount was affixed as most of the rivet holes are set the same distance from the open side of the folded strip. Whatever was being bound had to have been fairly thin; the extant rivets, which perforate both the double sheets of the mount and the strip, measure 3.8mm in length. The expanded fold on the binding mount served either to enable the binding to be suspended, or more likely to thread something through, such as a small pin, hook or cord, which would act as a form of closure. For example, the expanded fold could have acted as the centre section of a small pinned hinge and could have been used on a small container of sheet metal, for example a casket such as the mid-14th-century chrismatory from Canterbury (Campbell 1987b, 241 cat 123).

\*SF147. Binding? Copper alloy. Strip, folded in half lengthways, both ends incomplete. A small six-sided mount was affixed to one face of the strip by three copper alloy rivets, of which only two remain *in situ*. The strip has a further rivet hole near a broken end. The mount is formed from a small piece of folded sheet, the fold has a wide gap deliberately formed by expanding the fold. The mount fold extends beyond the width of the underlying strip (on the same edge as the strip fold). Strip bent. Estimated straightened length 117mm; width of folded strip 6.9mm; mount length 11.3mm; mount width including extended fold 9.8mm; length of fold 4.3mm. No context. Fig 7.29.

SF107 may have been the outer rim/flange of a boss (harness?) or frame, whose central dome was subsequently removed. Alternatively it could also be the remains of a small, flat scale pan, with the perforations suspending the pan from the balance. Flat scale pans are likely to have been used for weighting coins, precious stones or metals (Margeson 1993, 205).

SF107 Rim of boss, frame or scale pan? Copper alloy. Annular ring of flat sheet, inner ring appears to have been cut. Three small circular perforations, one retaining copper alloy rivet *in situ* and one broken through. The perforations are not symmetrical in placement, two are set c 41.5mm apart but the third is some 78mm distant. Maximum external diameter 51.5mm; width 7mm; thickness 0.25mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF108 Fragments. Copper alloy. Very thin sheet with parts of repoussé design, no clear joins between the four fragments. Two pieces have a diagonally twisted rope or cable pattern, larger piece has linear border. Possibly from a decorative mount or boss. Thickness 0.2mm. This may have been part of a harness mount. No context. Not illustrated.

The exterior flange of SF301, combined with the presence of diagonal grooves, suggests that another

component was slotted over the flange, perhaps in the manner of a bayonet. The seating (smoothed concave edge) might relate to plumbing.

\*SF301 Uncertain. Copper alloy. Cast section of cylindrical tube, with short, triangular-sectioned flange along its length, interior of tube lathe-turned slightly off-centre; the interior surface is totally smooth. One end has been cut off, the opposing end terminates in smoothed concave edge, interior edge set 3.5mm below the exterior edge. The tube is oval in section (external dimensions 28.5mm by 29mm) and tapers slightly to the cut end (26.9mm by 26.4mm) but the internal dimensions remain constant at 17.7mm by 17.2mm. Two holes have been drilled through the tube on the side opposite to the flange. The holes are situated one above the other but are not aligned, one off-set to the right and drilled at an angle, presumably secondary use? There are four closely set slightly diagonal grooves next to the right-hand side of the flange on the finished end (15mm long), possibly related to use? Diameter of holes 6mm. Overall length 46.4mm. Sq 90 N transept chapel 3. Fig 7.29.

#### Iron

SF105 is a roughly wrought handle, but it is unclear to what it was attached. It could be a form of upright door handle, but these normally have the terminals situated above and below the handle and not, as in this case, to its sides. Alternatively it may have served as a handle on a repaired vessel, such as a skillet, or as a handle for a container or lid of a different material (eg vat, well or privy). It is not elegantly formed and was presumably of utilitarian use. A date cannot be suggested.

SF105. Handle for composite container or door? Iron. Two flattened sub-oval terminals perforated to take nail for fixing onto door/container. Between the two terminals a flat rectangular-sectioned strap extends outward in a right-angled plane to the terminals. The strap/handle is incomplete. Breadth (terminal to terminal) 78mm; strap handle length 32mm; width 31.7mm; thickness 3.2mm. Sq 2/551G warming house. Not illustrated.

SF138.2 may have been part of a terminal of a hinge or a mount for a chest. It was found in association with flesh hook SF138.1 (see Fig 7.17).

SF138.2 Fragment. Iron. Curved rectangular-sectioned strip (width 13.8mm; thickness 5mm) which after c 45mm expands into a lozenge-shape (length 40mm; width c 26mm; thickness 3mm), before narrowing again. This narrowed end (length c 20mm and 6.5mm wide) is broken but appears to be starting to form a hook. Total length (straightened) c 105mm. Sq 2/771E S of canons' latrine. Not illustrated.

SF317 may have been a pinned and stapled hasp used in conjunction with fixed locks on chests, caskets or doors.

## Artefacts and ecofacts

The fixed locks had a sliding bolt which passed through the D-shaped staple (not surviving on SF317) thereby closing the lock (Goodall 1980, 116). However, the absence of the hasp, or indication of any perforations, rather argues against this identification.

SF317 Hasp? Iron. Incomplete, part pinned stapled hasp?.

Narrow and rectangular in section, tapering slightly to terminal. Terminal is very slightly up-turned. Staple not *in situ*. No sign that narrowed, thickened end was perforated to take pin; no sign of staple stubs or perforations. Length 88.5mm; width 13mm; thickness 3.8mm. No context. Not illustrated.

SF356 seems to have been some sort of tool or implement.

The tang was presumably inserted into a bone or wood handle. The stem/shank of the tool is not very robust; combined with the length of the tang and shank this suggests that the purpose of the flat end required some distance between the user and the activity. Perhaps it was a kitchen implement, such as a long-handled ladle.

\*SF356 uncertain. Iron. Shouldered tapering square-sectioned tang (length 60mm; section 6mm by 6mm) ending in a point. The shouldered junction leads to a square-sectioned shank/stem (8mm by 8mm) which tapers gently for 105mm and then is hammered out into a flat 'plate' currently sub-rectangular in shape and set at a 45 degree angle to the stem. Length 178mm. Location unknown. Fig 7.29.

SF362 resembles a modern bucket-type handle and could have related to the later farm buildings adjacent to the priory.

SF362 Uncertain. Iron. Rounded rod, slight curve, broken both ends. Diameter 5.4mm; length c 195mm. Location unknown. Not illustrated.

## 7.5 Faunal remains Jennifer Browning

### Introduction

This report (*University of Leicester Archaeological Services 2011-177, November 2011*) presents the identification and analysis of the faunal remains recovered during excavations at Selborne Priory between 1953 and 1971. Animal bones were not routinely collected until 1970-71, and earlier retention seems to have been largely on grounds of perceived special interest. The material submitted comprises a total of 188 mammal, bird and fish bones from five different deposits. No sieving was carried out at the site, which inevitably biases the assemblage in favour of the larger species. The aims of the following report are to catalogue and describe the existing material and, where possible, assess its significance.

### Methodology

The bones were identified with reference to the skeletal collection housed at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. Information on element, completeness, species, state of fusion and condition was recorded for each specimen, while butchery, burning, pathologies and tooth eruption and wear were noted where present. Preservation was assessed with reference to Harland *et al* (2003). A zoning method (Serjeantson 1996) was used to record completeness: as a general principle, each bone element is divided into eight diagnostic zones, the presence or absence of which can quickly be determined. Joining fragments were counted as a single specimen. Measurements were taken when bone completeness permitted, following von den Driesch (1976) and Payne and Bull (1988) for mammals and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds. Age at death was estimated for the main domestic species using epiphyseal fusion, following the figures from Silver (1969) and tooth-wear patterns for cattle, sheep and pigs. Recording of tooth eruption and wear for cattle, sheep and pig followed Grant (1982). Where fragments were not sufficiently diagnostic to identify to species, they were assigned to one of the following categories, based on characteristics such as size and the thickness of the cortical surface. 'Large mammal' represents indeterminate fragments, likely to derive from animals such as cattle, horse or possibly red deer, while 'medium mammal' bones belonged to sheep, goat, pig or possibly roe deer or dog. Where even this level of classification was not possible, the bones were recorded as 'indeterminate mammal', 'indeterminate bird' or 'indeterminate fish'. Tables of measurements on bird bones, mammal bones and mammal teeth are in the site archive.

### Results

Fig 7.30 shows the numbers of identifiable fragments from each context. Faunal remains were not consistently recovered during the excavations and at this stage it is therefore impossible to verify the provenance or completeness of the pre-1970 small groups of material that survive. They are discussed by context below.

### The Excavations of 1953-69

#### SF218

Bones identified as 'pike' from the excavation of the main drain were singled out and retained. The bones have been mounted upon card and are labelled '*Vertebrae and part of jaw-bone of a pike, found during the excavations*'. Comparison with the material in the reference collection held by the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester, suggests that this is the correct identification; the bones were identified as a dentary fragment, containing two teeth, along with two pre-caudal

Cattle
Sheep/goat
Pig
Horse
Red deer
Dog
Mole
Human
Domestic fowl
Rock dove
Pigeon
Pike
Large mammal
Indeterminate

Fig 7.30 Table of

vertebrae. The S  
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collection (Spec  
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and tail), a gutt  
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as large, as pike  
length (Wheele  
SF299  
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in the main dra  
as mole (MNI=3  
mandible from  
marks were obs  
bones could fea  
a consumed bir  
bones were par  
not provide evi  
mole suggest th  
SF300  
Two tarso-meta  
recovered. One  
had splintered  
surface conditio

Common Name	Latin Name	Sel 70 3 11 B3	1953-69 SF 300	SF 218 Main drain	SF 299 Main drain	Sel 62 299	Sel 70 3 11a	70 32	Total
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	3				1	12	76	92
Sheep/goat	<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	1							1
Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						7		7
Horse	<i>Equus sp.</i>	3					2		5
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>						3		3
Dog	<i>Canis domesticus</i>				1				1
Mole	<i>Talpa europeus</i>				18				18
Human	<i>Homo sapiens</i>						1	3	4
Domestic fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		2						2
Rock dove (pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>				2				2
Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>			3					3
Large mammal		13					12	1	26
Indeterminate							20	4	24
	Total	20	2	3	21	1	57	84	188

Fig 7.30 Table of hand-collected mammal, bird and fish bones in all contexts

vertebrae. The Selborne bones are noticeably large when compared with the specimen in the Leicester reference collection (Specimen No 80). Vertebrae are not normally used for size regression as it can be difficult to establish exactly where in the spine the bones originated and they can vary in size within a single fish (Wheeler and Jones 1989, 143). The broken state of the dentary also makes it unsuitable for measuring. However, some idea of the size of the Selborne pike can be obtained by comparing the bones with those from the reference specimen (Fig 7.31). The reference fish had a total length of 670mm (head, body and tail), a gutted weight of 1.423kg and is considered small. The considerably larger size of the Selborne fish is evident, possibly representing a creature more than twice as large, as pike are long-lived and can grow to 1.3m in length (Wheeler 1978, 94).

#### SF299

Twenty-two bones were recovered from the 'cooking pot' in the main drain and have been identified predominantly as mole (MNI=3). Two pigeon bones, a cattle tooth and the mandible from a puppy were also recovered. No butchery marks were observed on any of the bones. The pigeon bones could feasibly represent trimmings from the wings of a consumed bird, but it seems unlikely that the rest of the bones were part of the primary deposit and therefore do not provide evidence for diet. The burrowing habits of the mole suggest that these bones could be intrusive.

#### SF300

Two tarso-metatarsi belonging to domestic fowl were recovered. One was in good condition, while the other had splintered into two fragments. Size, morphology and surface condition suggest that these belonged to a single

individual and the spur indicates that they were from a male bird. Measurements taken on the bones can be found in the Appendix (archive).



Fig 7.31 Dentary of pike, Selborne Priory specimen (top), modern reference skeleton (bottom)

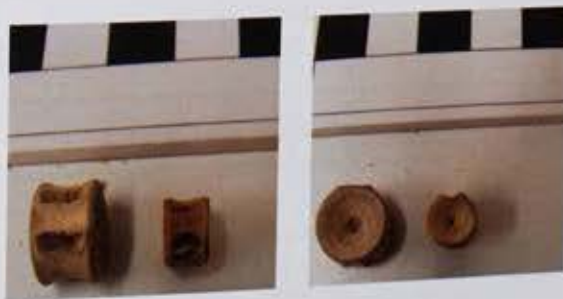


Fig 7.32 View of Selborne vertebra (left) and modern reference (right)

**The trial trenches of 1970–71**

Two contexts from trench SEL70 3 (extending from the cloister garth, across the north cloister walk and beyond the north range) contained animal bones and are of interest. The mixed nature of the material from both groups suggests that they represent a general accumulation of domestic refuse; there is no clear evidence for species or element preference that might suggest particular activities.

Context (11) was a layer associated with the north range, which was presumably generated by the dismantling of the priory buildings after 1484. The bones were possibly indicative of the variety of material discarded from nearby kitchens; the presence of clay pipes suggests that the deposit accumulated over a long period of time and may also have been contaminated (D Baker, *pers comm*). In total, 20 bones were recovered, belonging predominantly to cattle and horse. A radius from a sheep or goat was the only bone belonging to a smaller mammal. Butchery, suggesting the use of both knife and cleaver, was observed on cattle, sheep/goat and large mammal long-bone and rib fragments (n=5), suggesting that at least some of the material may have been kitchen waste, although mixed with other debris.

Abnormalities were observed on two specimens from the group. The proximal part of a cattle metatarsal was slightly affected by exostoses (abnormal bone formation), possibly suggestive of pathological changes associated with traction.

The dorsal side of a horse atlas exhibited an expansive enthesophyte, an ossified projection associated with a tendon or ligament, in this case the nuchal ligament (Fig 7.34). This could have been caused by trauma but in view of its aggressive appearance may be infective in origin (J Wooding, *pers comm*). It could represent an example of a condition called 'poll evil', an inflammatory condition of the supra-atlantal bursae, which is associated with brucellosis actinomycosis and non-specific infection (Wooding 2010, 92 and 477).

Element	Mole	Dog	Pigeon	Cattle	Total
mandible		1			1
lower molar				1	1
scapula	4				4
humerus	2				2
radius	2				2
pelvis	1				1
femur	2				2
tibia	1				1
rib (head)	2				2
cervical vertebra	4				4
carpo-metacarpus			2		2
Total	18	1	2	1	22

Fig 7.33 Table of identified elements for each taxa from SF 299

A horse metacarpal with a maximum length of 249mm (Appendix – archive) produced a withers height of 1.60m (Kiesewalter 1888). This is the equivalent of 15.3 hands, suggesting that it was quite a substantial beast. At other sites such as Castle Mall, Norwich, such large horses have only really been observed in post-medieval deposits, while the medieval and earlier animals were less than 14 hands (Albarella *et al* 2009, 73). The lateral metapodials (II and IV) were fused to the main metacarpal (III).

Bones from context (11a) were also from a mixture of elements and species, with cattle being most frequent. Six bones were butchered, exhibiting both knife and cleaver marks; these were from pig and red deer and are indicative of both dismemberment and filleting. A pig third molar was in the early stages of wear, suggesting that the animal was over 24 months at the time of death but not of advanced age.

Context (32) was described as a small pit, sealed by context (11). No dating evidence was retrieved but it is likely to pre-date the late 15th century. The bones of a calf were recovered from the pit. A total of 76 bone fragments were considered to belong to a single individual. The bones were in good condition and comprised the upper half of the body, with head, upper spine, forelimbs and ribs represented. The limb bones were unfused, with the juvenile state of the earliest fusing bones (distal scapulae) indicating that the animal was less than 7–8 months old at death (after Silver 1969, table A). This could be further refined using tooth eruption; the deciduous fourth premolar was in light wear and the first molar was just erupting through the jawbone, suggesting that the animal was approximately 6 months old at death. No butchery marks were observed on the bones. A small number of human bones were also recovered (Fig 7.36).

**Conclusions**

A disparate collection of bones from excavations at Selborne Priory has been analysed. Unfortunately the assemblage is of small size and the available stratigraphic information is limited. The groups of material from the site are not sufficiently large to provide information on major economic trends, such as species proportions or age profiles, or to examine intra-site variations. Differences in collection methods mean that the material cannot provide



Fig 7.34 Dorsal and cranial views of horse atlas, exhibiting possible poll evil

Element
atlas
cervical vertebra
humerus
radius
metacarpal
femur
astragalus
meta tarsal
rib (head)
rib fragment
shaft fragment
Total

Fig 7.35 Identif...

skull
mandible
incisor
upper molar
lower molar
axis
scapula
humerus
radius
ulna
metacarpal
phalanx 1
femur
tibia
astragalus
calcaneum
metatarsal
vertebra frag
sacrum
rib fragment
shaft fragmen
Total

Fig 7.36 Table

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The lack o  
of the calf ske  
natural morta  
fact that many  
that the bone

Element	Cattle	Horse	Sheep/ goat	Large mammal	Total
atlas		1			1
cervical vertebra				1	1
humerus				2	2
radius			1		1
metacarpal	1	1			2
femur		1			1
astragalus	1				1
meta tarsal	1				1
rib (head)				3	3
rib fragment				4	4
shaft fragment				3	3
Total	3	3	1	13	20

Fig 7.35 Identified elements for each taxa from context 11

	Cattle	Horse	Pig	red deer	Human	Large mammal	Indeterminate	Total
skull	1							1
mandible	1		2					3
incisor		1						1
upper molar	1							1
lower molar			2					2
axis		1				1		2
scapula	1		1					2
humerus	1							1
radius	1							1
ulna			1					1
metacarpal	1							1
phalanx 1	1							1
femur	2							2
tibia			1	1	1			3
astragalus				2				2
calcaneum	1							1
metatarsal	1							1
vertebra fragment						1		1
sacrum						1		1
rib fragment						8		8
shaft fragment						1	20	21
Total	12	2	7	3	1	12	20	57

Fig 7.36 Table of numbers of identified elements for each species from context 11a

a good comparison with other faunal assemblages from religious houses of the period.

The lack of butchery marks and anatomical distribution of the calf skeleton in 1970 trench 3 (32) may indicate natural mortality rather than the remains of a meal. The fact that many of the epiphyses are present suggests that the bones were deposited in articulation before the

connective tissue began to break down. The hind portion of the skeleton was not recovered because it lay outside the limits of a trial trench 0.91m (3ft) wide. The small number of human bones which were also recovered may be either residual or intrusive and probably reflect repetitive robbing of the site for worked stone from the 16th century or earlier onwards.



Views of horse atlas, exhibiting

## Artefacts and ecofacts

Element	Cattle	Human	Large mammal	Indeterminate	Total
skull & maxilla	1				1
skull fragments			1		1
mandible	2				2
atlas	1				1
axis	1				1
scapula	2				2
humerus	2				2
radius	2				2
ulna	2				2
metacarpal	1				1
metatarsal		1			1
carpal/tarsal	6				6
tarsals		2			2
phalanx 1	1				1
phalanx 2	1				1
sternum	1				1
rib (head)	14				14
rib fragments	11				11
cervical vertebra	6				6
thoracic vertebra	14				14
vertebrae fragments	8				8
fragments				4	4
Total	76	3	1	4	84

Fig 7.37 Table of numbers of identified elements for each species from context 32

A small number of fish bones appear to have been retained because they were considered significant, which suggests that many others may have been discarded or not identified. Three pike bones are therefore the only fish identified in the assemblage. The bones were probably kept because the pike is of special significance to the priory; around 1250 Richard de Wich, later canonised, miraculously produced a pike from the fishpond. In addition, and perhaps commemorating this event, a floor tile unique to Selborne has a design of two fish, possibly pike (D Baker, *pers comm*). Pike are a predatory freshwater fish, inhabiting lowland rivers and lakes. They can live as long as 15 years and reach up to 1.3m in length (Wheeler 1978, 94). Such freshwater fish were considered a luxury and certainly associated with elite sites (Serjeantson and Woolgar 2006, 126). For example, pike were frequently found at Eynsham Abbey, including several large specimens from late Saxon deposits (*ibid*, 124).

Despite the obvious limitations of the assemblage, this has been an interesting opportunity to consider a small

group of bones from an important religious house. It has provided an indication of the range of species present at Selborne Priory and more specific information on some of the deposits. When compared to the vast amount of information from more recently and systematically excavated sites, such as Eynsham Abbey (Ayres *et al* 2002), the assemblage also speaks eloquently on the loss of valuable environmental evidence. The lack of systematic recovery by hand or through sieving has resulted in only a tantalising glimpse of the archaeological evidence for diet and activities at the site.

### Appendix: Further Tables in site archive

Table 1: Measurements taken on bird bones

Table 2: Measurements taken on mammal bones

Table 3: Measurements taken on mammal teeth

## 8 Discussion

### 8.1 Documentary evidence

Selborne Priory is one of England's better documented medieval religious houses, as Macray's *Calendar* (1891, 1894) testifies. Dissolution in the 1480s redistributed resources for religious and charitable purposes rather than raised revenue for the Crown; records were transferred to Magdalen College in Oxford rather than dispersed. The administrative processes of foundation and dissolution are well covered. Yet other records mostly concern proof of title to lands and rents from which essential income was drawn. As Macray observed (1891, vii),

'it was as title-deeds to property, not as historical documents of value in themselves, that the charters were preserved; and consequently such rich sources of information for later ages as sacrist-rolls, rent-rolls, farm-accounts, obit-rolls, and the like, and even, sometimes, for all that appears to the contrary, the contents of libraries, were disregarded.'

This section has greatly benefited from the advice of Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, Archivist at Magdalen College.

#### Principal researchers

Notable students of the documentary evidence were:

- Gilbert White and his friend Dr Chandler, a fellow of Magdalen College, for the *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789)
- William Macray, also a fellow of Magdalen, between 1864 and 1878 for his *Calendars* (1891 and 1894)
- Deirdre Le Faye in the 1960s for her history (1975)
- Edward Yates for an article (1993) and a parish history (2009).

What they published reflected their aims, the availability of sources and thoroughness of search.

Documents studied by White and Chandler at the college may have seen little use since the late 15th century except for land management. Perhaps wisely, the college declined White's request to take some of them away to Hampshire for more leisurely study. The documentation in the archives tower may have been in some disorder by the time Macray came to do his work. Despite his above-quoted comment, he did not calendar everything, and may even have been slightly guilty of his own criticism. Consequently, Le Faye, working in the 1960s, was unlikely to find what Macray had omitted. In 1979–81 Christopher Woolgar recatalogued the material, enabling access for Yates to material not seen by Le Faye, used for his 'Selborne Priory, Food and Finance' (1993) and his substantial parish history (2009).

All four researchers cite the episcopal Injunctions issued in 1387. The 1460s' documentation is less systematically treated; its mix of draft and final papers is a source of some duplication and confusion. Yates (1993) draws upon the 'State and estimate of corn and stock (both live and dead) with estimates of the cost of repairs and a note of debts' at 7 February 1462–63 (Magdalen 56/6). This document is not mentioned by Gilbert White or Macray, though both print what Macray describes as

'one folio leaf ... very roughly written with many corrections ... evidently a draft copy of the statement of the condition of the priory revenues made for Bishop Waynflete in 1462, on his issuing a sequestration in that year to provide for the repair of the ruinous buildings of the priory' (Macray 1891, 114; Magdalen Selborne 381).

Yates usefully compares the 'State and estimate ...' with the cellarer and treasurer's account roll of expenses of the guest house 1402–03 (Magdalen 55/19) and the sergeant's accounts for 1386/37 (Magdalen 55/23).

Le Faye refers to Magdalen Selborne 381 and also to Magdalen Selborne 394, an account book for 1463–64 (Macray 1891, 116–18). Her transcript of its eleven folio leaves is in the project archive. It includes a short section towards the end on the 'Costs to date of repairs of priory buildings aforesaid'.

Other documents catalogued by Woolgar and not used by Macray include the sacrist's account roll for 1394–1404 noting the goods handed over by Brother Thomas Purchas when vacating office (Magdalen 55/18), the declared accounts of the priory ministers 1462–67 (Magdalen 55/17), and an account book for the same period as 55/17 (56/29).

Yates devotes several pages (2009, 117–21) to a 'Compotus Roll of 1467' which lists repairs to the priory church, probably the same work as mentioned in the account book for 1463–64 but described in more detail. This document cannot easily be identified from amongst those catalogued by Woolgar.

The inventories of 1442, 1445 and 1490 were printed by Macray (1891, 111, 112–13, 145–6) and analysed comparatively by Le Faye (archive). The 1490 inventory is reprinted here at Appendix E.

#### Documentary references to priory buildings

Some of the 36 numbered episcopal Injunctions issued by William of Wykeham in 1387 relate to buildings or artefacts, though formulaic medieval ecclesiastical bureaucracy prevents identification of specific issues. No 17 required

## Discussion

dilapidated buildings to be repaired; 19 referred to chantries of founders and benefactors; 20 referred to the prior's hall and the common refectory as places from which the fragments from meals should be distributed as alms; 25 required the common seal to be kept under five keys.

The accounts for 1463–64 refer to some parts of the priory. Four small candles were provided 'for the said tomb theretowards' for divine service in the priory church, accounted for by Lord William Wyndesore, canon and seneschal of the hospice. This could be any of the discovered or as yet undiscovered high-status burials (Section 5 above). It may have been that of a benefactor who had paid for a chantry or a recently departed prior. The sum of 4s was paid yearly to 'John Techebourn and his heirs for a certain Chantry there'.

The same accounts record that 'John Prat, tiler, farmer of the tile oven within the priory' supplied tiles for the major repairs to the priory buildings, mentioning the refectory, dormitory, cloister, the visitors' stable, and the church. A 'deyhouse' (or dairy house) mentioned in this item and in one for repairs to the buildings of Rhode manor may or may not be the same structure. Now Rhode Farm, it seems to have been an important adjunct to the main priory, with itinerant craftsmen staying there during repair work. It may have functioned as a home grange, an extension of the precinct, incorporating some functions of the outer court (Glyn Coppack *pers comm.*)

The inventories refer to altars in addition to the high altar, presumably mainly in the transept chapels. The 1440s' inventories refer to 'the altar of St Katherine the virgin', almost certainly Catherine of Alexandria (of Catherine Wheel fame) whose cult was widespread in England, with one of the earliest mural scenes of her life in the Holy Sepulchre chapel at Winchester cathedral (David Robinson *pers comm.*); there is also reference to 'the altar of St Peter'. Ela Longespée, Countess of Warwick, whose chantry was founded in 1284–85, provided 100 marks to the prior and convent for one canon always to celebrate for her at the altar of Saints Stephen, John Baptist, and Thomas the Martyr (Macray 1891, 72–3). It would be tempting to associate her chantry with the west extension to the south transept, were it not for the naming of a specific and presumably pre-existing altar dedication and the fact that she was buried elsewhere at Osney Abbey. The 1490 inventory includes 'one small bell that was in the tower' and 'one chest in the room of the former Prior'.

The documents used by Yates for his 'Food and Finance' refer several times to the hospice, the infirmary or hospital that was a standard element in monastic buildings. Its location is unknown, though precedent might suggest a site north-east of the chapter house on the east side of the main drain. It seems that for at least the final century the term hospice 'appears to have been applied to all the grain stores and livestock associated with the day to day provisioning of the priory' (1993, 23). This at least raises

the issue of the effectiveness of the priory in fulfilling basic purposes of caring for the poor and the sick, given the small number of canons resident and its distance from Selborne. Maybe its charitable and medical functions had atrophied, giving way to storage of the provisions to support a comfortable life.

## 8.2 Foundation and initial construction

### Earlier occupation

There is little evidence for occupation of the site before the foundation of the priory. Yet, as Gilbert White perceived, the canons came to a landscape with a long history of settlement, and a Roman coin was found at Grange Farm in 1957 (Appendix B). The origins of the village at Selborne may be Saxon or earlier. The site chosen for the priory, over a mile distant, had the attraction of flowing water in the Oakhanger stream, but wet ground conditions may have inhibited any earlier settlement capable of leaving traces detectable in the archaeological investigations of 1953–71.

Two pieces of excavated evidence should not be forgotten. Roman sherds identified in the ceramic assemblage by Kenneth Barton (Section 7.1), assuming they reflect Roman activity on or near the site rather than contamination in post-excavation storage, indicate scope for future research into settlement history. Otherwise, the evidence from ceramics, registered finds and coins is consistent with intensive occupation beginning in the early to mid-13th century. Graffiti on reused ashlar blocks in the main drain, decorative trials of Romanesque detail current well before 1233 (Jones-Baker, Section 6.2), raise interesting questions about craft practice and traditions, but the quality of the architecture implied suggests they relate to buildings on another site.

### The founder

Discussing the foundation of Selborne Priory in 1233 is greatly facilitated by the work of David Robinson on the geography of the Augustinian settlement (Robinson 1980) and of Nicholas Vincent on its founder, Peter des Roches (Vincent 1994, 1996). Their work, on which this section draws extensively, post-dates Deirdre Le Faye's invaluable history of the priory (1973).

Bishop of Winchester from 1205 and Chief Justiciar of England in the last years of King John, Peter des Roches (Fig 8.1) returned to England in 1231 at the end of five years of military and diplomatic activity during and after the Fifth Crusade. Gilbert White noted:

'Historians all agree not to speak very favourably of this remarkable man; they allow that he was possessed of courage and fine abilities, but then they charge him with arbitrary principles, and violent conduct' (Letter 7).

Macray (1891, preface, ix) characterised him as

'although an able statesman and ruler, over whose death the historian Matthew Paris mourned as an

Fig 8.1 Head of effigy of Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester 1205–31, Winchester Cathedral  
Irreparable loss  
inspire holy wo  
in the technica  
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"religious".  
Pawicke (1953, 48)  
a grand seigne  
the great world  
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Vanity, a desire  
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The bishop's monas  
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three sovereigns, Ri  
Vincent 1996, IV). P  
his legacy when he f  
and Selborne Priory  
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foundations, Netley  
des Roches (Andre-et-Loire)  
as a memorial that h  
death in 1238.  
Foundation  
The context of Selbor  
Augustinians in Engla  
during the first half of  
period of strong grow



Fig 8.1 Head of effigy of Peter des Roches, bishop of Winchester 1205-38 or Geoffrey de Lucy 1189-1204, Winchester Cathedral (David Baker)

irreparable loss to the nation, not a man of God to inspire holy work and workers. His gifts to "religion" in the technical sense of the time were great, but were not necessarily therefore in a later sense "religious".

Powicke (1953, 48) saw him as

'a grand seigneur, a wealthy independent figure in the great world of the west, outspoken, trenchant and nimble-witted'.

More recently, Vincent (1994, lvi) saw how

'vanity, a desire for posthumous recognition and a keen eye for a bargain, all played a role in ... patronage of the religious. In general, he seems to have spared less thought for the long-term well-being of his foundations than for the immediate kudos to be obtained from their establishment'.

The bishop's monastic foundations embraced several Orders; he founded more abbeys and priories than his three sovereigns, Richard I, John and Henry III combined (Vincent 1996, lv). Possibly his mind was turning towards his legacy when he founded Titchfield Abbey in 1232-33 and Selborne Priory shortly afterwards in 1233-34. Vincent sees a case for their foundation as a thanks-offering on return from crusade (1996, 257). Later, two other foundations, Netley Abbey in Hampshire and La Clarté-Dieu (Indre-et-Loire) in northern France, were conceived as a memorial that his executors had to complete after his death in 1238.

#### Foundation

The context of Selborne in the development of the Augustinians in England is a decline in new foundations during the first half of the 13th century compared with a period of strong growth followed by steady expansion in

the 12th century. From 1135 it had been possible to found a house with only five or six canons, with a consequently smaller endowment, thus opening up the field of pious patronage to smaller landowners. Notably, though, Selborne was created as a 'full convent' of 14, whether reflecting Peter's ambition, a wish to maintain standards or a failure to appreciate a changing scene. The first canons at Selborne came from Mottisfont Priory, whose foundation charter Vincent notes as a model for that of Selborne (1996, 69-70). Records of occupancy levels are few: there were 17 canons in 1339, 11 at Wykeham's visitation of 1387, 10 in 1410, and 4 in 1462; 3 with three personal servants occur in the accounts of 1463-64 (Le Faye 1973).

#### The site

The site chosen could be said to fill a spatial gap in the monastic provision for the diocese of Winchester and the county of Hampshire. In terms of the general distribution of Augustinian houses, it was on the fringes of the major concentration in south-east England. The question can be asked, but not answered for lack of evidence, as to whether the canons were intended to fill gaps in the provision of priests to local parishes.

The actual site was presumably chosen within an area determined by the royal gift of the manor of Selborne to the bishop of Winchester. It offered a degree of isolation the Cistercians would have found acceptable but was also chosen for many Augustinian houses. It was the most elevated of six in Hampshire, at 93m (305ft) above sea level. A north-facing slope was large enough to hold the main buildings within minimal artificial terracing.

It had the advantage of a good water supply that could be channelled for use in fishponds and drainage, though, if the 13th-century water table was at the levels experienced in modern times, it had the disadvantage of becoming very wet after heavy rain. Indeed, Gilbert White described the priory as located in 'a low and moist situation' (Letter XXVI). Le Faye raises the possibility that foundations at Titchfield and Selborne had been envisaged in the 1220s, before Peter went on crusade, given the availability of stone in nearby quarries from at least 1222. She notes the terms of the grant of May 1233 for Selborne were 'to enlarge the abbey and the buildings thereof, which the said bishop has founded there' (Cal Charter Rolls 1226-1516 vol 1 p177), and that the foundation charter dated 20 January 1233/34 refers to canons established at Selborne, implying the existence of buildings on site (Le Faye 1973). Possibly a wealthy and powerful founder with competent administrative support was able to carry the risk of setting construction in hand well before the formal stage of issuing a foundation charter, but it is also relevant that the actual royal grants of manors for these two houses were not made until Peter's return to England. Glyn Coppack observes (*pers comm*) that retrospective documentation was probably more usual than is generally appreciated;

## Discussion

its issue might even mark the transition from temporary buildings to stone structures.

### First construction

Le Faye has also outlined what is known of the foundation, construction and early occupation, referring to concurrent work at Winchester Castle and Titchfield Abbey, and the possible involvement of royal masons Stephen le Mazun and Richard *cementarius*, as well as the royal adviser and architectural administrator Master Elias de Dereham. Elias was well known to the bishop: he was a witness to many of the earliest Selborne charters and an arbiter in a dispute about tithes in 1237. By 1236 sufficient had been built at Selborne for the canons to be able to entertain the bishop and Richard Earl of Cornwall (Le Faye 1973); the year before he died, the bishop was at Selborne from 13–15 May (Vincent 1994, App 3).

The archaeological evidence supports relatively prompt initial construction of the monastic complex in the second third of the 13th century and a largely single-period plan. The earliest coins found at the site belong to the mid-late 13th century. Temporary accommodation for the canons and their servants before and while the main buildings were being constructed might be expected, but no evidence was found. It is unlikely that post-holes for timber structures would have been recognised during most of the work in the 1950s and 1960s, nor were the narrow trial trenches and re-excavations of 1970–71 conducive to such discoveries. A traditional sequence of construction beginning at the east end of the church and then working round the claustral ranges in order of utility might be expected, though there is some evidence for two phases and a break south of the chapter house.

Aspects of the excavated church hint at a grander design than was needed or ultimately sustainable. Its overall internal length of 61m (200ft) ranks Selborne 38 of 65 Augustinian houses, the length of its nave at 37.2m (122ft) as 25 of 69, and the area of cloister at 357 sq m (3,844 sq ft) as 51 out of 54 (Robinson 1980, App 19). The seven-bay nave was notably long for one not in parochial use, though the choir occupied its east end and the west part of the crossing. The markedly lower position in the rankings for the length of the whole church mainly derives from the lack of any later expansion at the east end. This must partly reflect the fully developed plan built at the outset, with six integral east end chapels, unlike Norton Priory founded a century earlier with only four chapels and subsequently expanded. It may also reflect a relatively unsuccessful foundation with neither the need nor the resources for that kind of expansion. The area of the cloister is one of the smallest, and probably sufficient for the complement of canons, perhaps reflecting no more than a realistic provision, with the allocation of resources deliberately skewed in favour of the high-status worship parts of the building. Robinson notes a general

correlation between dimensions of buildings and wealth in Augustinian houses. The annual revenues of Selborne Priory as assessed in 1462 at £71 10s 8d were well under the average of £203 for 154 Augustinian houses recorded in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 (Robinson 1980, 87).

### Further development

The extent to which the original plan was further developed during the 250-year life of the priory is a major question not easily answered from the records of work up to 1969 or the limited exposures of the next two years. The site of the former priory was extensively but unevenly robbed, removing most evidence for joints at footings junctions. Some footings, such as the south wall of the chapter house, the south wall of the presbytery and parts of the south transept and its chapels had survived to a few courses above the chamfered plinth. Others were completely robbed and only showed themselves, in the most unfavourable examples, as mortar patches slightly pressed into the natural clay.

The only relatively clear instance of an extension to the original ground plan is the addition of a west aisle or chapel to the south transept. There are unverifiable hints of two periods of construction at the north-east crossing pier (above, Section 3.2) but these may represent post-1484 structures, related to either the continuing chantry or something entirely post-monastic connected with Priory Farm. There are also records of structural evidence found during 1950s' work in the chapter house that might be explained as more than one period of work. There are hints of multi-period construction in 1971 trench 23 near the north-west corner of the chapter house (above, Section 4.3). Whilst there was always scope for slight, partial or drastic rebuilding of superstructure leaving no appreciable traces in footings or in their robber trenches, the lack of later architectural fragments suggests otherwise, at least for those parts of the site examined between 1953 and 1971.

## 8.3 Titchfield Abbey and Selborne Priory

The similarities between the plans of these two houses, founded within a couple of years of each other by the same bishop, are well known. They merit review here by bringing together the evidence from excavation at Selborne, and as part of Mark Samuel's wider discussion of Augustinian planning (Section 8.5 below). Both plans are incompletely understood; Augustinian Selborne has no upstanding remains, whilst Wriothesley's post-medieval mansion at Titchfield incorporates parts of the 13th-century structures from what was the one of the last Premonstratensian foundations. Twentieth-century investigations at both sites are poorly documented, for Selborne as described above. In the case of Titchfield, W H St John Hope's work as drawn out in C R Peers' plan of 1906 (Hope 1906) presents the ground plan of demolished parts schematically and without

## 8.4 Repairs

Little is said about the priory buildings in the documents collected by Macray nor in the episcopal registers. The church and claustral complex, probably built fairly rapidly within the middle third of the 13th century, would have been subject to the usual processes of usage, decay and maintenance, modified by alterations. The evidence of architectural stonework left on site after demolition and robbing suggests relatively little later development of what may have been an originally over-specified house. Decay relates to the quality of original construction and the materials used, and the extent to which its design incorporated hostages to fortune in matters such as rainwater collection and disposal. The local stone may have been susceptible to decay through repeated exposure to frosts; excavation found evidence for drainage arrangements, but the issue is the extent to which they were kept functional. The degree to which there was regular maintenance is unknowable, but anything resembling a cyclical approach at a relatively small isolated rural community would have been heavily dependent upon the awareness, capability and pro-activity of individuals. The few documents dealing with repairs refer to costs of materials and labour rather than diagnose structural failures or describe buildings. Indeed, large-scale repairs are documented only in the final quarter century, and no records of earlier works survive.

A hall is mentioned in 1261 when Henry III gave permission 'in foresta de Wulvemar' capere possint sabulonem ad operationes unius aule sue in prioratu' (Cal Close R 1259-61, 387). The six oaks Edward I allowed the priory to take from Wolmer Forest in 1286 may refer to the erection or repair of buildings, depending on their size and purpose envisaged. Le Faye (1973) notes that the 'high water mark' of the priory's fortunes was a century after the original foundation in the 1330s, when perhaps the resources were available for any major repairs. Equally, though, such work may have never happened for financial reasons; the poverty of the sub-prior and convent was cited in 1323 as a reason for expediting election of a new prior (Cal Pat R 1216-1494, 341), and the greatly impoverished estate of the priory of Selborne was recorded in 1371 (Cal Pat R 1216-1494, 33). William of Wykeham discharged the priory's debts of £73 19s 10d in 1377, but found it just as impoverished on his visitation ten years later. In 1401 continuing indebtedness prompted Wykeham to make a gift of 100 marks (£66 13s 4d). The dire state of affairs in the last quarter of the 14th century is reflected in the 36 episcopal injunctions issued by William of Wykeham in 1387 of which the 17th required the repair of dilapidated buildings. The priory records for 1404 include payment to Thomas Glasier for glazing the windows of the church (Yates 2009, 106).

Further detail; some aspects are presented differently on the plan in the guidebook published by the former Ministry of Public Building and Works (Graham and Rigold 1954). The extent to which similarities of ground plan would be confirmed by further investigation is an obvious topic for future research.

Both houses have the church south of the cloister, necessitated by the valley-side slope at Selborne, but perhaps by water supplies to the north at the flatter site of Titchfield. The need for terracing may explain why the west range is detached from the church at Selborne but attached at Titchfield and the east range beyond the chapter house likewise. In both cases the church appears to have been largely a 13th-century construction: the lack of alterations is suggested by the plan at Titchfield and attested at Selborne by the record of architectural stonework. Similarities in the plans may be explained by the involvement in both projects of Elias of Dereham, whose career is outlined by Harvey (1984, 81-82). If it is safe to assume that construction started first at Titchfield, given its foundation charter of 1232-33, then the variations in the claustral arrangements at Selborne, whose foundation charter is dated 1233-34, may derive from adapting a flat-site plan to a terraced situation.

Overall internal church lengths from west to east ends were strikingly similar, each about 61m (200ft). Naves were seven-bays long and unaisled. If the crossing at Titchfield was square as Rigold showed it, rather than more rectangular as in Peers' plan, then it is the same as Selborne; both have a two-square choir/presbytery. In both cases the buttress on the north wall of the eastern compartment is nearer to the east wall of the adjacent chapel rather than equidistant between it and the north-east corner. Rigold shows three eastern chapels off each transept with the inner a two-square plan and the outer two single-square; Selborne has two variants, an outer south chapel with a two-square plan, emphasising its distinctiveness, and the added west chapel on the south side.

Arrangements in the east range appear to have been similar. The enclosed space between the north transept and the chapter house is called a library at Titchfield, doubtless on account of the large collection of books the house was known to hold. Both chapter houses are two-square in plan, though there seems to be a difference between the aisled room with four pairs of columns at Titchfield and the apparent single central set at Selborne. The two burials shown by Rigold in the eastern cloister walk at Titchfield and the single one excavated from the equivalent place at Selborne are in customary places. Both houses locate a warming house north beyond the chapter house in the first compartment of the dormitory undercroft, though for Titchfield it is attributed by Peers and adopted by Rigold.

**Repairs in the final 25 years**

There are two main sources for the major repairs of the 1460s. The account book for 1463–64 partly transcribed by Mackray (1891, 116–17) and more fully by Deirdre Le Faye (site archive) deals with repairs to the claustral complex and some other buildings. Yates cites the *compotus* roll of 1467 (2009, 117–21), not seen by Macray or Le Faye, and dealing with repairs to the church. Although these various works appear to have been extensive, pre-dissolution discussions in 1484 refer consistently to the ruinous and deserted condition of the priory. Perhaps they were preparing the ground for papal confirmation, because 20 years seems insufficient for such deterioration, yet again it was definitely in a poor state by 1513–14 when the parts retained for the chantry underwent major repairs.

The accounts for 1463–64 contain several informative references in addition to a good general survey of income and expenditure in difficult times towards the end of the life of the house. A major item was

'moneys paid to Walter Gorsen ... both on account of the wages food and clothing of the canons and their personal servants, and on account of the repairs of the buildings, walls and enclosures of the aforesaid priory previously carried out by Walter himself, over and above the manorial receipts during the aforesaid time at various occasions'.

Twenty-two 'occasions' or financial sources are listed with a total of £20 17s 11d, but the accounts for both headings are lumped together. The sources include farmers (of revenues from priory property), direct rents from property, 'by the hand' of individuals for reasons unspecified, 'payments on the day and vigil of Holy Trinity [26–27 May] this year at Basing', 'oblations at St. Mary's Chapel, Wadden', and sales of lime, eels and apples.

Another item solely devoted to 'Costs to date of repairs of priory buildings aforesaid' indicates work upon the refectory, the cloister and the church, the gate of the priory court, the visitors' stables, the dormitory and the 'deyhous'. Up to 6000 'playne tyles' were sourced for use at the priory and also to roof the chancel of the parish church at East Worldham. They came from the priory kiln run by John Prat tiler, the tile kiln at Sotherington, and the demesne store at Oakhanger. Other materials listed included 'tylepynnes', various quantities of lime including a cartload from the priory tile oven 'taken up to the frater', some burnt, as well as sand, and nails for glazing the windows of the frater and for the 'deyhous'. A carpenter was present, implying the need to repair or renew rafters. Two men were hired to erect ladders for access to the roofs of the refectory and the church. The mill pond was repaired at a cost of 23d, presumably after draining, because tenants of Selborne were paid to catch its eels.

Another item headed 'costs of repairing the buildings of Rhode manor' may also be informative. Its status may

be indicated by the sum of 21d paid 'to Henry Dense for the carrying of timber from various priory woods there up to the court-house of the same priory, for mending one of the buildings there called the deyhouse for 1 day and a half, with his cart, etc'. These works required stones and six loads of clay to be carried from Selborne town up to the priory; payments were made for wattling and daubing the walls, making a new oven 'for the easement of the bakers there', and for repairing and mending defects of the woodwork there and on 'the Gesten Stabyll'. Also in this group were payments for mending various defects in the enclosures of the priory, the mill pond and the 'watercourse'.

Yates (2009, 119) notes that the *compotus* roll of 1467 deals with roof repairs to the main body of the church, the transept dedicated to St Katherine, the cloister and what is called the north aisle, presumably the transept chapel immediately adjacent to the east arm of the church. There were also stonework repairs to the walls of the church. The roof of the church had oak rafters; clay tiles and shingles were hung on laths fixed across them; gutters were made of lead. Extensive detail is provided about the materials and labour involved.

In 1477 William Dyker was paid 7s 10½d for digging a ditch 2½ft deep by 5ft wide (0.76m x 1.52m) for 27 perches (135.81m) from the pound to the gate of the priory and on to the old bakehouse (E179/173/42 cited in Yates 2009, 106). It is difficult to equate this with surviving earthworks: the locations of the ditch and the bakehouse are unknown; the gate of the priory can be no more than inferred as by the crossing of the Oakhanger stream close to the west end of the church.

**The repairs of 1513–14**

In 1513–14 those parts of the priory retained as a chantry were extensively repaired at a cost of £27 12s 9d. The need for a project on this scale is consistent with Magdalen College's obligations to provide a chantry for the benefit of the souls of the founders of priory and college, but also suggests nearly half a century of neglect since the repairs of the 1460s. Perhaps the facilities provided initially had also suffered from the side-effects of demolition and clearance elsewhere on the site since the mid-1480s. Of course it was not envisaged in 1513 that the new repairs would only have to last about another 37 years before the dissolution of the chantry.

The document recording this work (*Expenses of the repairs to the chapel at Selborne Priory, Hampshire, Magdalen 95/20*) seems to have come to light through Christopher Woolgar's recataloguing of the papers at Magdalen College in the 1980s. Consequently it escaped the notice of Macray and Le Faye; it was also not seen by Yates. It is most valuable for confirming the post-dissolution use of some priory buildings, useful for the detail it provides about the process of repair, and, sadly, least useful

as a source of specific information about the buildings themselves. It refers to a chapel, but does not specify which one, whether a demoted east end of the priory church or one of the seven transept chapels, or even a converted transept. References to a chamber, a kitchen and a middle chamber tally with the accommodation described in the documents setting up the chantry.

The document is the college bursar's account covering the period from 22 April 1513 to 21 April 1514, with individual dated entries between 18 April and 5 November 1513. A hand varying in legibility and abbreviation (transcribed by Transcription Services Ltd of the Isle of Man) gives the last glimpse of structures on site. The document consists of 21 pages on 11 folio paper leaves. It is bound in a cover taken from another document in Latin with an earlier script, cut to size by removing the right-hand side, with part of the left-hand edge erased so that the word 'Selborne' could be over-written. The cover may be part of a 15th-century liturgical manuscript for the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple on 15 February (Mirjam Foot, *pers comm*) and is as likely to have originated in the bursar's office at Oxford as from amongst books at Selborne itself.

The accounts themselves consist mainly of day entries for attendance and labour; the final pages also list materials purchased and journeys made. It is likely to be a written-up summary of records made as expenditure was incurred, itself feeding into accounts at a higher level (Julian Munby, *pers comm*). The items on each page are totalled, and a total provided overall at the end. It covers 137 working days, when sums for 'table' (food provided or subsistence) and 'wages' were paid, and 37 Sundays or weekday saints' or festival days, when only 'table' was funded. The latter was not given to all those employed on adjacent days, implying that some did not qualify, or were able to return home or make other arrangements. On four occasions, Sundays or saints' days, 'table' was described as 'soper'.

That it relates to a major project is shown by the duration of work, 137 working days and 639 person-days, together with the preparations that had to be made. Expenses were claimed for

'my Costs & labour ridyng to Wynchester, to Romsey, to Basyngstooke & many oder places to provyde for masons, layers, glacyers, carpynt[ers], and for my attendances & all my servants' attendances for two years'.

Another claim was for

'horsemete & mannysmete of the said craftsme[n] & laborers in the said space of ij yer[e]s'.

Managing the project clearly required periods of personal attendance on site, as is shown by the sum of 10s claimed for

'the occuppyng of 3 bedd[e]s & th<sup>e</sup> weryng of owte my shet[e]s & od[er] aparell longyng to them in the space of two summers'.

The number of people working each day ranged from one to eleven. Monthly totals of person-days worked were 80 (May), 151 (June), 145 (July), 68 (August), 95 (September), 92 (October) and 8 (November). Project logistics and summer daylight hours may explain a peak of constructional activity in June and July; reduction to less than half in August probably reflects the demands of the harvest. There are no indications as to whether any work was stopped by bad weather. Holy days accounted for about 20% of the total.

Trades, their daily rates of wage and the numbers employed were all recorded consistently. Masons and plumbers were given 6d, glaziers and heliers (tilers or slaters) 4d, carpenters and brick/stone layers 4d, and labourers 2d. Some of these are identified by name. Walter Por was present from Monday 18 April to Monday 9 May; though not specifically identified as such, he was probably a sawyer, because on that last day an individual was recorded as 'preparing his pytte' – presumably a saw-pit. He was accompanied most days by his servant Rafe, a name occurring elsewhere in the document as a carpenter. An undated entry at the beginning of the document refers to William Babage and his servant W Marten, names that do not occur elsewhere: together their table and wages totalled 20d for two days. Other named tradesmen were carpenters John Myll, Rafe Coms, and Richard Bet; mason Roger Kechener; plumber John Russheden; sawyers John Secker and Henry Germen; labourers Thomas Burges, John Watege / Waterege and John Cluer; and Henry Warn whose trade was not given. Robert Carpenter was presumably of that trade.

The distribution of trades by totals of days attended shows, as might be expected, labourers the most used at 203 days or 32%, carpenters next at 159 days or 25%, followed by masons at 98 days or 15% and sawyers at 81½ days or 13%. Plumbers and glaziers were 42½ (7%) and 40 (6%) days, whilst the contributions of 'layers' and tilers / slaters were 6 (1%) and 9 (1%) days. What this tells us about the nature of the works other than that they were fairly comprehensive is uncertain. Much depends upon the extent to which the labourers had specific craft-supporting roles in addition to general tasks. The quantity of new wood implied by the work of the sawyers and the high totals for carpenters and masons, however, suggest a substantial project.

The distribution of trades across the period of work from April to November shows some patterning, but it is unknown how many buildings were involved, what were their individual defects, and whether they were repaired in sequence or all at once. One or more labourers

## Discussion

were present most days, and masons from 20 May to 11 September. Sawyers were generally present apart from the last two-thirds of August and all of September, carpenters apart from August and the first part of September. Use of glaziers was confined to September; tilers and slaters put in a brief appearance in October.

### 8.5 Reconstructing the priory buildings Mark Samuel

This analysis interprets and refines the plan data, introducing and explaining necessary refinements, relying mostly on architectural probabilities where the evidence for certainty is lacking. Primary site records were employed to ensure accurate correspondence between sections and plans.

The piecemeal nature of site work and the deficiencies of surveying make interpretation of the excavation records difficult (see above Section 1). The absence of relief data has been partly redressed through use of 'Google Earth' spot heights. The inadequacies of successive site grids led to problems in plotting trenches and establishing the relative alignment of different structures.

To counter these problems a CAD master plan of all trenches and excavated features was created, amalgamating the scans of the compartment drawings prepared for this publication. These were uploaded as raster images and scaled from the scanned scale bars. Digitisation enabled the plan data to be separated into layers that could be employed or edited at will. Sections and notebook sketches recorded in imperial measurement could then be re-expressed metrically.

Several assumptions were made about the excavated priory plan. A single and contemporary design would be likely to have all walls parallel or at right angles to each other (ie orthogonal). The cloister was based on a 50ft (15.24m) square and the arcade wall is set within a 70.7ft (21.55m) square (Fig 8.5). Contemporary houses of canons regular of similar size have been quarried for those details missing at Selborne. The result must therefore be treated as conjecture. Attempts to show that rotated-squares were used in the layout of Augustinian foundations (Gallagher 1994, *passim*) have been inconclusive, yet the rotated-square was definitely employed in medieval times. Mathes Roriczer published a *Booklet on Pinnacles* in the 16th century demonstrating use of the principle (Coldstream 1991, 36). Proportional theories rightly raise concerns:

'There are two diametrically opposed assessments of the value of studying the dimensions of buildings and the units of length used in their construction. One is entirely sceptical ... [but] the only reasonable stance starts with the fact that both proportional rotated-squares and units of length were used in the designing of buildings ... they must therefore be studied, whatever the difficulties' (Fernie 1991, 1).

Fernie points out that multiple sites must be examined before any conclusions are reached and that measurements must be made consistently from the same points (*ibid*). These recommendations are followed here.

Those who theorise about medieval design tend to damage the validity of any original premise by attempts to apply it in inappropriate circumstances, sometimes resorting to tortuous arguments. An idea based on circles at Chartres Cathedral illustrates this, with the researcher validly recognising the use of the circle in the chevet (Villette 1991, 4–5) but then going on to apply it to every element of the plan. All discrepancies are explained away as the result of the need of the ancient mason to depart from an 'ideal' due to practical needs. The belief that masons chose to 'secrete' esoteric dimensions into their buildings has respectability amongst some scholars: '...our ancestors secretly included these numbers and [geometrical] forms in their works by the artifice of numerological studies' (Dr Georges Jouven, Chief Architect of *Monuments Historiques*: Grivot 1986, 71) [author's translation].

To ease comparison for readers of an age or nationality unfamiliar with the inch, the decimal foot is used in the first part of this sub-section. Calculation and sorting is based on the decimal foot. Where a correspondence with round units of feet is noticeable, this has been pointed out and a conversion given, but further refinement would amount to false precision at this stage. In the subsequent comparison of 'Planning' between priories, apparent inches and fractions of inches used are substituted for these decimals.

The core dimension at Selborne is based on the author's observation that the sleeper walls of the cloister arcade formed a nearly exact square of averaged length 70.7ft [+/- 1.4%]. The master mason was not using whole units but was probably using a rotated-square system. A simple length of 100ft could be easily measured out by his assistants. If it is assumed that a 100 foot square was initially created by the 3:4:5 method (E Baker, *pers comm*), it would have been straightforward to check the diagonal measurement (141.42ft) by simple experimentation with no need for arithmetic. It is not known how the eastern orientation of the church was achieved without a compass. In this case, the orientation was apparently quite accurate. It is commonly assumed that churches were oriented by the sunrise, but this would have led to much error. In this case, it is possible that north was determined, either by the pole star or by observations of noon. Once this alignment was known, it would have been straightforward to have determined east by the 3:4:5 method. The exact order of subsequent survey moves is of course unknowable; the model presented being one of several possibilities. The head mason probably formed a right-angle from one corner of the original square, probably employing the 3:4:5 method to create a right-angle. Diagonal measurements were thereafter used without further calculation. The outer

(the border of the 'walk' margin of the stylobate was the touchstone of the plan and is therefore employed here as the point of comparison with other priories.

Gallagher was unable to identify the rotated-square system because it was not clear where his search should start. Unfortunately, the group of Scottish houses he selected for study were highly diverse, some being small, late and otherwise atypical. He found an 'arithmetical progression through three sizes', but the role of the rotated-square system (Gallagher 1994, 180) remained elusive. The identified succession of cloister sizes required large degrees of error to work properly. A system based on a 'modular rotated-square' is also posited but this derives from questionable 'corrected' measurements.

A better approach may be to look at priories of similar date as it is reasonable to suggest that similar thinking underlay their design (Figs 8.2, 8.3). The following exercise is based on such a selection of foundations. They are all English except St Andrews Cathedral Priory, Fife, the only house common to this and Gallagher's studies. As a Scottish royal foundation, St Andrew's can be regarded as a direct import from the Anglo-Norman world (Cambridge 1977, 286).

Reliance is placed on published plans, but these are never to be trusted fully as accurate sources of measurements (Fernie 1991, 2). However, technology now allows printed plans to be dissected with much greater precision. Each published plan was scanned and the image imported into a standard CAD program as a *raster* image. It could then be accurately oriented and rescaled using either the published bar-scale or (preferably) any long written measurement on the plan. A standard overlay 'layer' showing the 'system' was then superimposed on each scanned image and any correspondences noted. This process allowed precision and time savings compared with traditional manual techniques. The 'centre' of the cloister was identified by the intersection of lines drawn from the mid-points of the four opposing walls. In some cases, subsequent adjustments in the light of circumstantial information helped establish this critical point in the plan. The trust that has to be placed in the old plans is a weakness of this study and fresh survey is a desideratum in all cases. Bearing this in mind, the author checked the plan of Titchfield on the ground in 2012; slight disagreement with the published English Heritage plan (Graham and Rigold 1954) was apparent, though not so severe as to affect the arguments presented here.

The first step was to identify 'size classes' analogous to those of Gallagher. The doubled-up dimensions of 41/82/164ft he quotes (1994, table 2) cannot be identified in any of the cloisters examined by the author.

The abnormal size of the royal foundations of Waltham and St Andrews is clearly apparent. If these 'Royal Peculiar' are excepted, more general trends become apparent. Several

of the intermediate-scale houses have cloisters that fall slightly short of 100ft in width, apparently constituting a size class around 91–95ft. The regular degree of divergence from the value of 100ft (30.48m) [see table] suggests that the outer edge of the wall walk is the wrong place to measure. The thickness of the wall bounding the cloister walk had to be added to the outer cloister walk dimension. In several cases a value close to 100ft becomes apparent.

Geometrically perfect cloisters were seldom attained. Only Bayham, Waltham and Torre are essentially square cloisters although other cases are likely (see above). The north-south dimension is usually slightly greater. One observable trait was to make the walks against the nave or refectory wider than the east and west walks. True regularity was reserved for the cloister arcade.

In general, the arcade plan proves more square than the outer boundary of the cloister. The rotated-square system is more clearly apparent in the inner margin of the arcade plan. This comes close to the ideal of 70.7ft at Titchfield, Bayham, Selborne, and almost certainly at Torre (not shown in Fig 8.3). It will be noticed, however, that the measurement is generally slightly less than the ideal. A reason for this is suggested below.

If the centre of the garth was treated as the notional geometrical centre of the cloister, the question is 'how did they then proceed from this point?' A miniature of the late 12th century depicts the dream where St Peter appears before Abbot Gunzo, the founder of Cluny, to give him directions for the construction of the church. Abbot Hugh of Cluny hauls rope from an attendant angel who carries the coil around his shoulder. This homely detail hints that the illustrator had actually witnessed such a scene. In the background four lengths of rope cross *diagonally* (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, ms Latin 17716 f 43r, repr Gallagher 1994, fig 6). The *story of Gunzo* relates that:

'...having said this, he [St Peter] was seen laying out the ropes himself, and the measurements of length and breadth. He showed him even the quality the Basilica should be built' (Evans 1938, 12; Latin trans K Hamlyn).

The nearby Premonstratensian house of Titchfield Abbey, founded 1232-33 by Bishop Peter des Roches of Winchester, has a striking similarity to Selborne. The arcade square is 2% smaller than the precise value of 70.7ft and less exactly square than at Selborne, but given that the cloister arcade foundation has been consolidated since excavation, some imprecision is inevitable (Fig 8.3). It is a reasonable assumption that both houses were the work of one head mason. Despite losses and rebuilding, the plan survives (Graham and Rigold 1969, 6-7). This makes it a test case for an attempted reconstruction of the rotated-square system.

One sequence of design (Fig 8.4) can be conjectured thus:

	Foundation	Full Cloister width	Cloister area sq ft/sq m	Square ?	Plan ref
St Gregory's Canterbury	c 1123	70.7ft (20.97m)	4781.1 444.18	1:1.008	Hicks and Hicks 2001, fig 20
Mottisfont	c 1201	77.7ft 23.69m	6044.6? 561.56?	square?	Lees-Milne 1978, 4
Newstead Notts	c 1163	82.6ft 25.18m	6683.9 620.95	1:0.977	Ashpittel 1854
Newark	c 1191-98	87.3ft 26.62m	7331.3 681.10	1:1.020	Pearce 1934
Titchfield	1232-33	91.1ft 27.78m	8856.7 822.81	1:1.065	Graham and Rigold 1954
Selborne	1233	92.2ft 28.11m	8397.8 780.18	1:1.012	Interim plan 2008
Torre	1196	92.7ft 28.25m	8557.6 795.03	1: 0.993	Watkin 1912
Bayham	1208	92.8ft 28.3m	8530 792.46	1:1.006	Rigold 1985, 14-15
Lesnes	1178	93.4ft 28.46m	9969.3 926.18	1:1.143	Clapham 1915
Repton	c 1153-59	95ft 28.96m	9286 862.70	1:1.028	St. John Hope 1884
Lilleshall	c 1143-48	c 100ft? Actual 30.59m	10649.4 989.36	1:1.057	Ferris 2000, 17
Waltham	1177	124.1ft 37.84m	15602.4 1449.51	1:0.992	Fernie 1985b, fig 3
Fife St Andrew's	1162	159.9ft 48.75m	25581.1? 2376.56?	?square	Cambridge 1977, fig 1

Fig 8.2 Table of Augustinian houses ordered by cloister width

- The first act would be to find a suitable site far from any major topographical obstacles or poor ground.
- A north point was determined by observation of the sun's shadow at noon. At Titchfield, an orientation of c 2° west of true north was achieved by this method.
- Two markers (right-hand red circles) may have been set 100 feet apart along the north-south alignment. The south marker would correspond with the junction between the transept arm and nave.
- The south-east marker would allow a right angle to be cast west using the 3/4/5 method (a triangle of 60/80/100ft).
- By measuring 100ft along the south side, the south and east sides of the cloister could be firmly established and a south-west marker (bottom-left red circle) set in place. It was then a straightforward matter to complete the square with further 100ft measurements. The diagonals were made of equal length by a process of experimentation (perhaps using a knot as a marker).
- When the knot occupied the same point on the rope either way, a square was established. This method was in the circumstances probably more practical than any numeric knowledge. A marker was then placed at the point of intersection to mark the centre of the cloister garth.
- The arcade wall margin was set by measuring 50ft along the diagonals from the cloister centre, now established. This likewise creates a 70.7ft square (magenta) without need for calculation.
- With the diagonals established it is then a simple matter to use the same technique to create a 141.4ft square without calculation by measuring 100ft out along the diagonals (grey). This process could be carried on outwards (or inwards) as required. There was no need to set out intermediate diagonal squares because only orthogonal dimensions were used for guiding construction.

Rather than the garth centre, other points of commencement can be conjectured: for example, the proposed nave north wall could have served as a hundred-foot datum allowing a square of 100ft to be erected using

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Cloister arcade

St Gregory's

Newstead (late

Newark

Titchfield\*

Bayham

Selborne

Waltham

Fig 8.3 Table of dir

Plan ref	Source
008	Hicks and Hicks 2001, fig 20
065	Lees-Milne 1978, 4
077	Ashpitel 1854
020	Pearce 1934
065	Graham and Rigold 1954
012	Interim plan 2008
093	Watkin 1912
006	Rigold 1985, 14-15
043	Clapham 1915
028	St. John Hope 1884
057	Ferris 2000, 17
092	Fernie 1985b, fig 3
008	Cambridge 1977, fig 1

the 3: 4: 5 methodology. The diagonals from this find the centre and all measurements can derive from this pattern without further calculation. This method pre-supposes that the east-west alignment was the initial alignment, as has been suggested (Glyn Coppack *pers comm*).

**Planning of other Houses of Canons Regular**

The purpose of the following table is to try and identify any round numbers of feet in the size of the cloister arcade at various houses. This requires making a subjective selection of those arcades that appear deliberately square in plan (the majority). Their sides are treated as being equal in length and to this end an averaged reading is given. The measurements are averages of opposing sides of the arcade. Theoretical values are in bold for comparison.

**1 St Gregory's, Canterbury**

Although this building is only known from its excavated foundations, the plan is largely complete with a church south of the cloister. The cloister wall closely fits a 70ft 8½in square while the arcade fits within a 50ft square. The arcade, as was generally the case, was slightly smaller than the theoretical value: in this case 50ft. Less certainly, the 100ft square may indicate the midline of the dormitory and refectory. The width of the nave, excluding aisles, was set by the distance (20ft 8½in) between the 100ft square and a putative 141ft 4¼in square. The system seems opportunistically used to set some of, but not all, the plan of the church. This pattern can be observed to a greater or lesser extent at most of the priories in the study. Application = probable.

**2 Mottisfont, Hampshire**

This early 13th-century foundation had a simple unaisled church which underwent a similar fate to that of Titchfield.

The nave and crossing now form part of a house but the presbytery is gone. Here, there can be little doubt that the rotated-square system controlled the wall midlines rather than outer faces. The nave outer wall follows the 141ft 4¼in square closely. If the absence of aisles is allowed for, this resembles the apparent application at St Gregory's. The 141ft 4¼in square also neatly delimits the outer walls of the claustral ranges and the centre point of the north-east crossing pier. On the basis of the same theory the long-destroyed cloister arcade may have formed a 50ft square. The whole cloister width of 77ft 9in is however an *ad hoc* dimension. Application = probable.

**3 Newstead, Northamptonshire**

Enough survives of the largely destroyed church to show that it differed from Mottisfont in having a single north nave aisle. The outer limits of the intact claustral ranges, the church west front and, perhaps, the midline of the single nave arcade and north-east crossing pier were set, as at Mottisfont, on the 141ft 4¼in square. The correspondence is remarkably exact on the east and south ranges, but on the west range it seems that the midline of the external wall forms the point of correspondence. The cloister and arcades show the lack of correspondence also observed at Mottisfont. At Newstead the cloister arcades were however rebuilt in late medieval times. Application = very probable.

**4 Newark, Surrey**

Except for the church, the plan is only known from excavated foundations but follows the general Mottisfont pattern, except that the nave was aisled. The overall plan appears to be set out with some error, and the precise centre of the cloister is uncertain. Notwithstanding, the outer face of the west and south ranges, as well as the church

Cloister arcade	N-S feet metres	E-W feet metres	Ratio of N-S (1) to E-W	Average of sides (Metres/ft)
St Gregory's	49.23ft 15.02m	47.7ft 14.54m	1:1.03	14.78 /48.49 (50ft = 15.24m)
Newstead (late med)	61.42ft 18.72m	64.6ft 19.7m	1:1.05	19.21 /63.02
Newark	66.9ft 20.38m	63.9ft 19.48m	1:0.98	19.93/65.39
Titchfield*	67.9ft 20.71m	69.5ft 21.18m	1:1.02	20.94 /68.72 (70.7ft = 21.55m)
Bayham	(missing)	69.1ft 21.06m	[square?]	21.06 /69.02 (70.7ft = 21.55m)
Selborne	70.2ft 21.39m	71.5ft 21.80m	1:0.98	21.59/70.85 (70.7ft = 21.55m)
Waltham	100.5ft 30.64m	102.3ft 31.18m	1:1.02	30.91/ 101.41 (100ft = 30.48m)

Fig 8.3 Table of dimensions of cloister arcade (measured to walk side) ordered by size

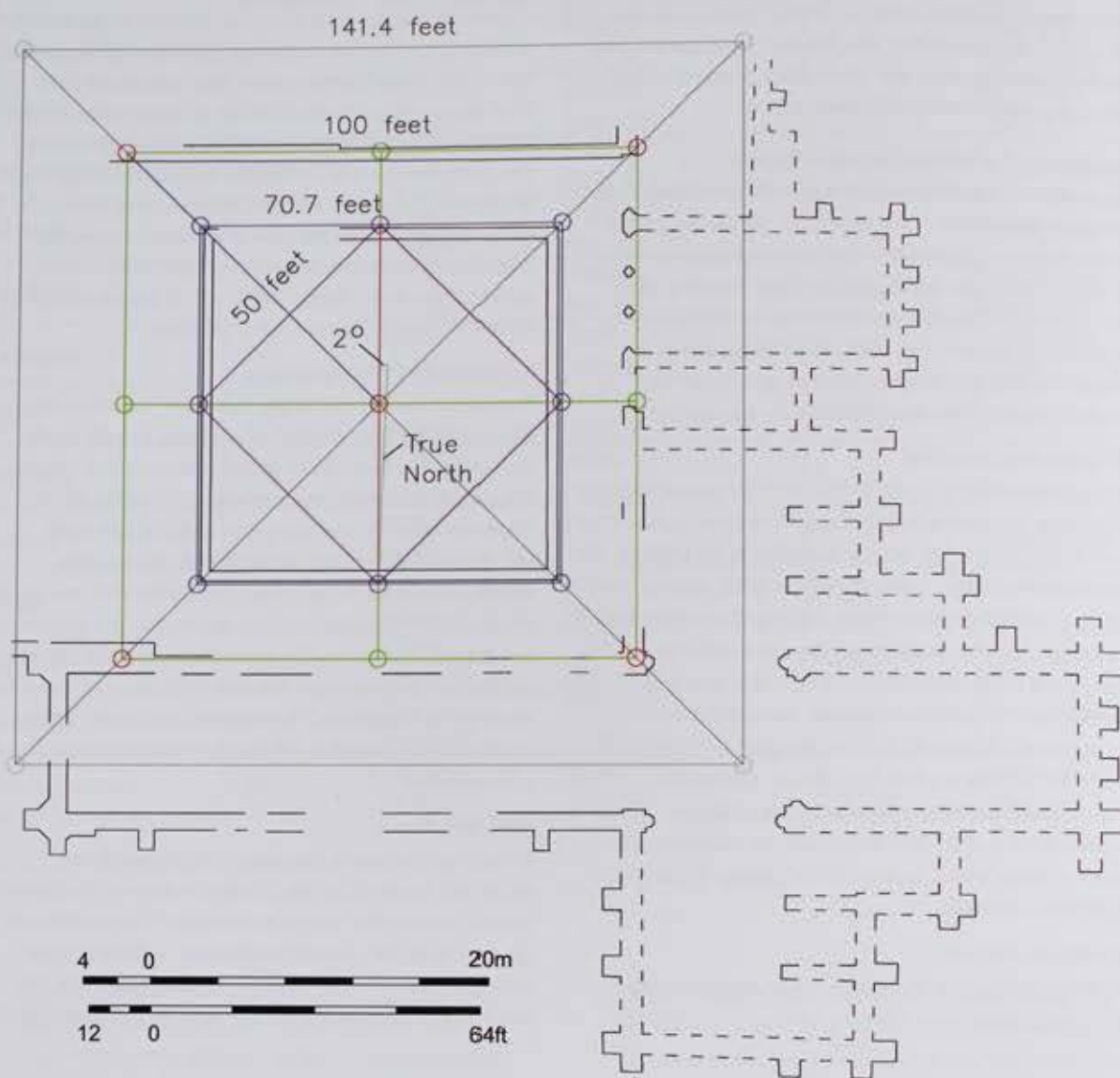


Fig 8.4 Apparent relationship of Titchfield Abbey to rotated squares based on 100ft cloister

west front, clearly show the control of the 141ft 4¼in square. No correspondence is, however, seen in the east range. The cloister arcade and cloister correspond to no regular number of feet. Application = partial.

5 Selborne, Hampshire

Few opportunities for precise measurement arise but there can be little doubt that the cloister arcade formed a 70ft 8½in square north of the church [Fig 8.6]. The east side of the 100ft square closely fixes the internal face of the chapter house west wall and transept. The south side fixes the internal face of the nave north wall. A re-assessment of 1970 section drawings suggests the midline of the cloister outer wall was the point of correspondence on the west and north ranges. Larger relationships seem to have directed the church length: a putative 141ft 4¼in square meets the external edge of the foundations of the west front [Fig 8.6]. A doubled-up square

of 282.9½ft meets the corresponding point at the east end. This gives an overall church length of 212ft 1¼in. At Titchfield, the east end was apparently set in the same manner, but not the west front. Application = probable but the standards of excavation survey mean that a degree of error is possible.

6 Bayham, Kent

The 100ft square unambiguously corresponds to the external side of the cloister outer wall. What remains of the 13th-century cloister arcade conforms well to the 70ft 8½in square, the relationship being, as at Selborne, to the walk side of the arcade sleeper wall. The original nave length followed the cloister dimension, but the church was greatly extended in later times; any additional relationships that may once have been apparent are now lost. Application = very probable.

## 7 Torre, Devon

As at Bayham, the correspondence of the cloister-outer wall to 100ft is exact. A fragment of the cloister arcade foundation is compatible with a 70ft 8½in square. The north wall of the chapter house seems to respect the axis of the cloister. The width of the chapter house was apparently a quarter of the cloister square (100ft). There are grounds to suppose the same formula was applied at Waltham Abbey (see below). The outer wall of the ranges and the presbytery of the church show no direct relationships to the system. Application = probable.

## 8 Repton, Derbyshire

This site is now partially occupied by the Public School, but excellent 1884 records, including written dimensions, show an overall layout close to that of Selborne and Titchfield; except that the church nave was aisled. The cloister was slightly rectangular. The midlines of the cloister walls and the north face of the nave corresponded to a putative 100ft square. The vanished cloister arcades may have followed the 70ft 8½in dimension common to this size class.

The nave shows a very good correspondence to the south side of the 100 foot square. The west front wall-midline and the west crossing pier centre form the points of correspondence. The nave arcade was divided on six bays, each of 15ft 10in. The central pier is on the cloister axis. The conjectured reconstruction of the nave layout of Selborne is based on this exemplar (Fig 8.6). Application = very probable.

## 9 Lesnes, Kent

This priory, one of the oldest in the sample, occupied an unusual hill-top site. The cloister was much longer north-south than east-west. The width of the cloister (measured externally) corresponds to 100ft but the measurement seems to have been used in isolation. A sophisticated Cistercian-inspired church may predate the remainder of the priory. The claustral circuit was dictated more by topographical considerations than any theoretical notions. Application = none.

## 10 Lilleshall, Shropshire

Lilleshall underwent a protracted building campaign, with the west range not finally completed until the 14th century. The cloister is essentially irregular. It is 100ft wide but longer north-south, the west range being significantly longer than its counterpart, perhaps due to survey error. The system seems to have got lost during the protracted construction of this foundation, although there are hints of its use in the overall length of the church. Application = partial?

## 11 Waltham Abbey, Essex

Henry II's refoundation of this abbey as a house of Augustinian canons represents the highest level of patronage; the martyrdom of St Edward the Confessor prompted several such foundations built in expiation of sin,

including Lesnes. Little is now visible of the work associated with this refoundation, but excavations have shown the rebuilt priory to have been royal in scale.

The cloister arcades were laid out on a 100ft square, the outer margin of the sleeper wall being the point of correspondence. Little of the claustral ranges are now visible, but the north-west angle of the outer wall of the claustral ranges was excavated in 1970 (Wilson and Hurst 1970, fig 60) and falls satisfactorily into place as the north-west angle of a putative 200ft square. The west side of the 200ft square apparently met the east end of a retained Romanesque nave. Returning to the cloister, the apparent width of the chapter house and its position in the plan likewise suggests derivation from the system. Its apparent width of slightly more than 35ft may be half of a 70ft 8½in square, its south wall being on the axis of the cloister. This is significant because setting out the chapter house in this way would have required a 70ft 8½in *phantom square* pegged within the cloister garth, not otherwise reflected in the executed plan. 'Phantom' or supernumerary squares may have been roped out purely for survey purposes (see below).

## 12 St Andrew's, Fife

The huge cathedral-priory was founded by King Malcolm of Scotland in person as a court event in 1162 (Cambridge 1977, 277-8) and building proceeded without interruption until at least 1178 (*ibid*, 286). The cloister may owe its peculiarities to the extension of the nave in order to make the cathedral a priory church. There are points in the plan where hints of system can be seen:

- A notional 200ft square centred on the cloister marks the midline of the nave south arcade and the midline of the crossing.
- The cloister axis bisects the 7th nave pier from the west
- A 284ft square *could* have positioned the outer edge of the largely destroyed claustral range much as a 200ft square was employed at Waltham.
- The external width of the nave is about 70ft externally and the overall church length was, as built, about 400ft. Both dimensions could arguably derive from the use of the system. A much larger system than normal would be necessary (see below).

## Conclusions on planning

The claustral circuit was intended to evoke the dialectic between man's earthbound condition and his transcendence to heaven. The square plan prefigured the heavenly Jerusalem described in the *Gospel of Saint John* 'resplendently built from the most precious stones' (Legros 2005, 70). While one might expect the church to likewise conform to the system, it seems that practical considerations ruled out direct correspondence, unless one accepts the unproven premise of 'phantom squares' and the transfer of dimensions derived from them. The claustral circuit and church of minor priories show co-ordinated

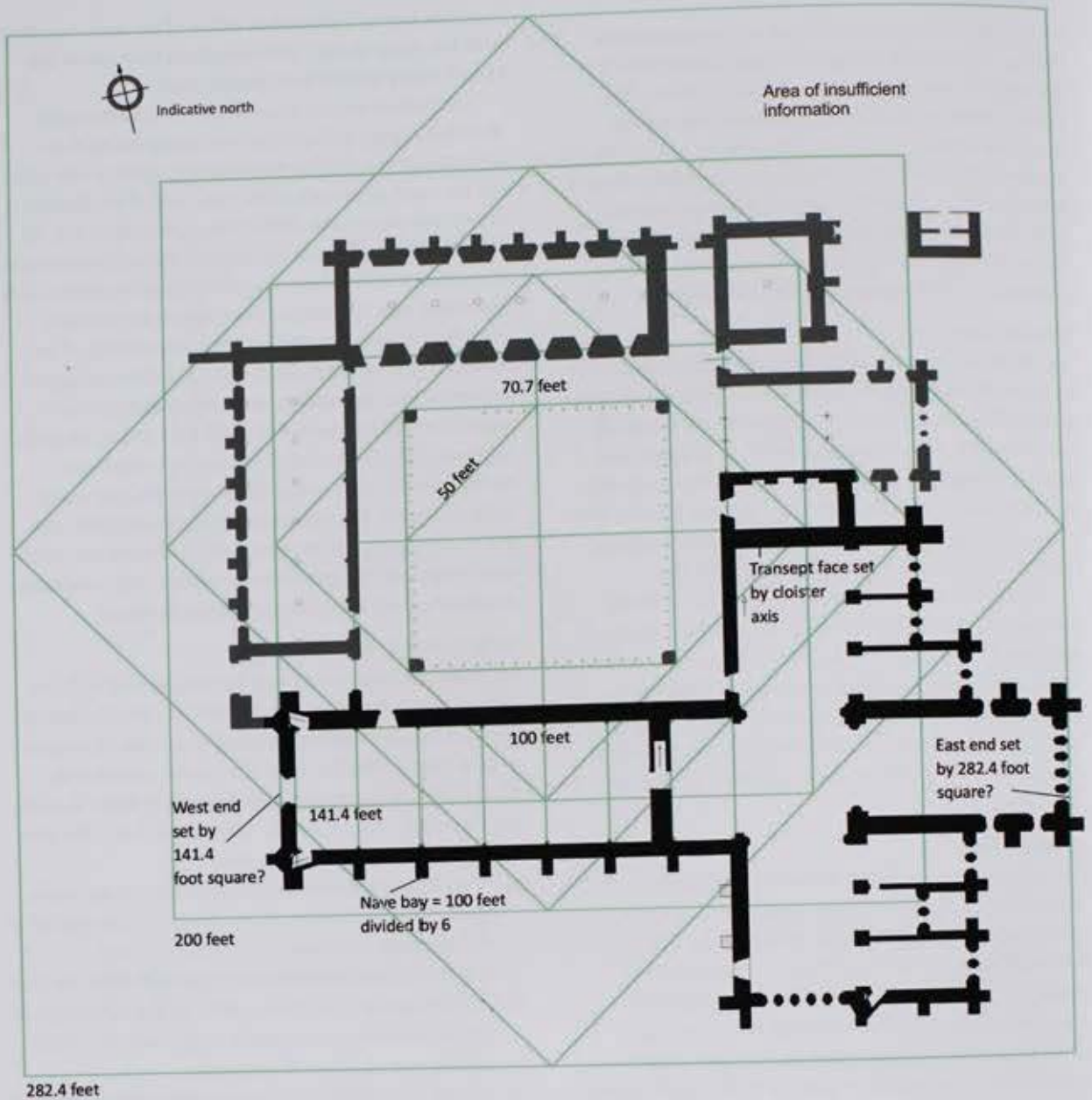


Fig 8.5 Laying out arrangements for Selborne Priory superimposed on a simplified plan

design rather more clearly than in larger and more complex houses with long building histories. The simplicity and quick construction of minor houses allows the design process to be recognised rather more easily in the greater houses, where such changes hinder such attempts.

The size groups recognised by Gallagher can now be explained as the by-product of a simple and logical process, enacted for the most part without any need for calculation. Priors the next size up from St Gregory's, could not directly employ either 100ft or 70ft 8½in in the cloister and its arcade. Instead, the 70ft 8½in was doubled to the 141ft 4¼in square used to set the outer limit of the claustral range. Mottisfont is of particular interest in showing how one 141ft 4¼in square could be used to determine most

of the planning parameters of a simple priory. The square corresponds to the wall midline in this case, but elsewhere the outer face seems to have been the favoured point of correspondence.

Subject to the correct establishment of the centre and orientation of the system, it is even possible to suggest how the lost superstructure ran. This was apparent at St Gregory's, where the nave and its piers are known only from truncated and highly irregular foundations. It is even possible to suggest the positions of lost wall faces or midlines when analysing excavated plans; at the risk of circular argument, this technique has provided plausible indications of the lost superstructure at Selborne.

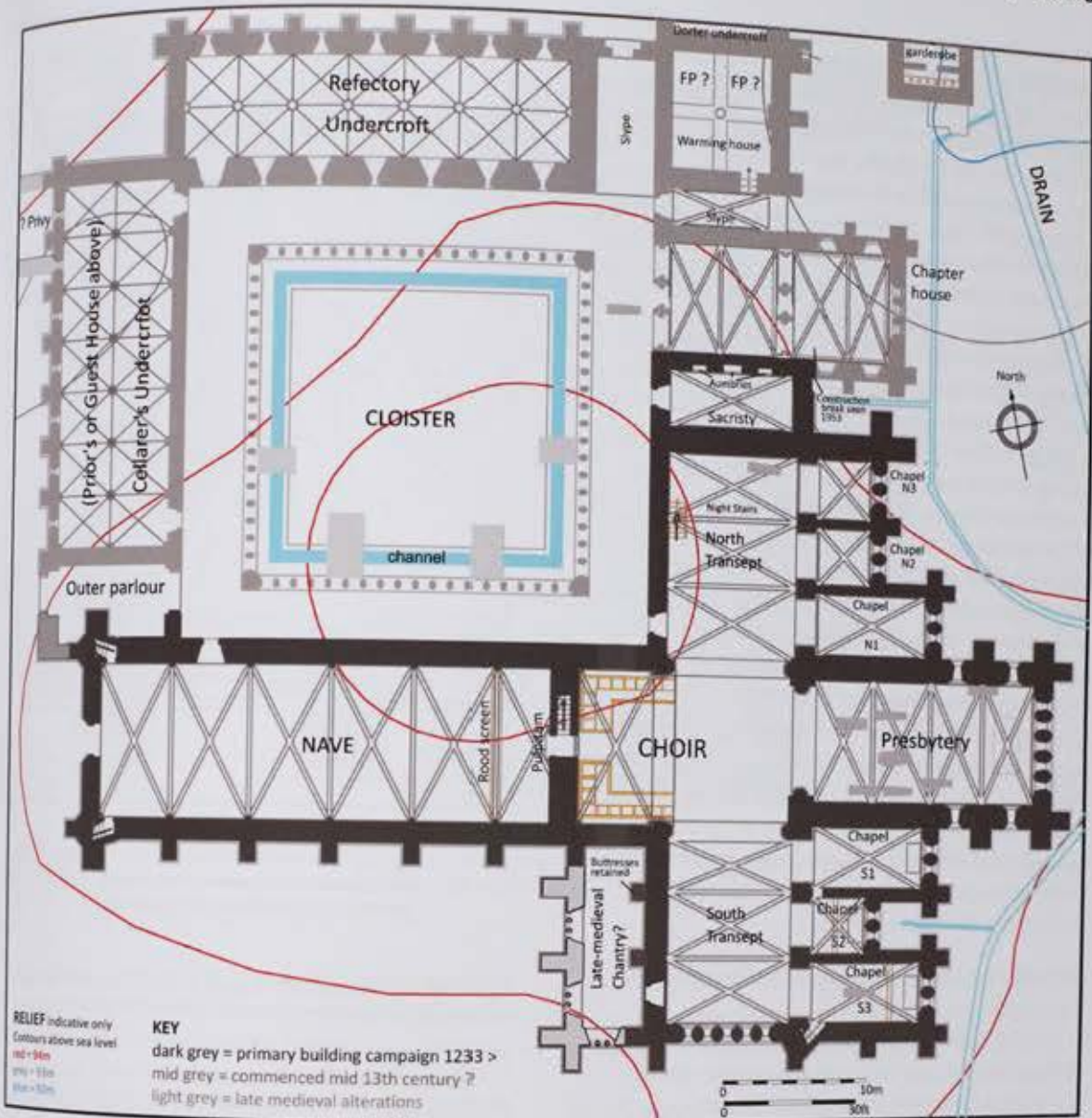


Fig 8.6 Restored plan of the church and cloister ranges in the 15th century

Selborne was an example of the most common size of foundation, suitable for magnates with purses of intermediate depth. The cloister follows a 100ft square, typically though not always used to set the outer margin of the cloister wall. The cloister walls could be placed inside or outside a notional 100ft square. Alternatively the square could mark the wall midlines; all three variants might be seen in one priory to vary the width of the cloister walks. The arcade was usually square in plan but, by placing the outer, middle, or inner margin of the sleeper wall at different points on the 70ft 8½in square, the builders could vary the size of the arcades. This too affected the width of the cloister walk. Many variations were made possible, despite the rigid underlying geometrical basis.

At Selborne, the cloister was made slightly longer north-south by varying the placement of the 100ft square

(on the north and south walks) to the walk wall face, or the wall midline. It is inappropriate to talk of size class in the royal peculiars of Waltham and St Andrews, although the Waltham Abbey cloister plan conforms to the system on a doubled-up scale. Conformity between arcade and cloister range size, normally impractical, was possible there. This is because it was undesirable for widths of individual cloister buildings to increase exponentially with the size of the cloister. In smaller houses, a 1:2 relationship between arcade and the outer wall face of the priory would have resulted in ranges that were too narrow. At Waltham, the west range neatly met the Norman north transept of the church, ensuring a harmonious relationship between old and new work. This is perhaps the best evidence to have emerged for the system as a site tool. Not only could long accurate measurements be created, but their relative position in

## Discussion

the plan was always known. Rotated squares were in effect acting like the control points of a modern construction grid. The St Andrews' plan hints at the transfer of rotated-square-derived dimensions to points in the plan where they were required. The utility is obvious because it would merely be necessary to measure the required offsets from the rotated-square ropes. These were, by implication, physically expressed with ropes and pegs, as shown in Gunzo's dream. At present, however, the identification of such a practice at St Andrews pushes the evidence too hard.

It remains to consider the origins of this system. Theobald's priory of St Gregory at Canterbury was founded c 1123; the system appears there in a fully developed form. The origins of the system are obscure, but the extremely regular plans of such near-contemporary Burgundian churches as Fontenay (1139) suggest a refined system was encouraged in the reformed monasticism of the Cistercians. That new and international order had much to gain from a clear-cut system easily communicated over great distances. It would have appealed to the rigorous tenets of St Bernard, who in his *Apologia* (1124) famously opposed freedom of imagination, be it the inventiveness of craftsmen or the arguments of scholastics. The rotated-square system was not used to hide sacred numbers in the plan. It was a work-a-day tool, providing a series of fixed station points on the site which served all the practical survey requirements of the builder. Anything smacking of 'hidden wisdom' or neo-Platonism would have been anathema to Bernard and his ilk.

### Reconstructing the superstructure of Selborne Priory (Fig 8.6 *passim*)

Selborne is typical of new late 12th- and early 13th-century Augustinian churches with projecting square-ended presbyteries and flanking rectilinear chapels. The provision of these chapels is usually explained as a special requirement of the canons, allowing them as ordained priests to celebrate mass. Guyut de Provens, a 13th-century monk, said of them that:

'The Augustine Rule is more courteous than that of Benedict. Among them one is well shod, well clothed, and well fed. They go out when they like, mix with the world, and talk at table' (Crossley 1935, 6).

This relaxed picture is borne out by the Observances for Barnwell Priory in Cambridge (ed Clark JW 1897). The social distinctions between the canons and the Benedictine orders, however, declined in the later medieval period.

The presbytery at Selborne was one of the few points that survived as superstructure (Fig 3.16). The width above the foundation was probably 7.92m or exactly 26ft; the location of burials precludes any choir stalls. The compartmentalisation of the vault can be predicted from the known positions of the south buttresses and the

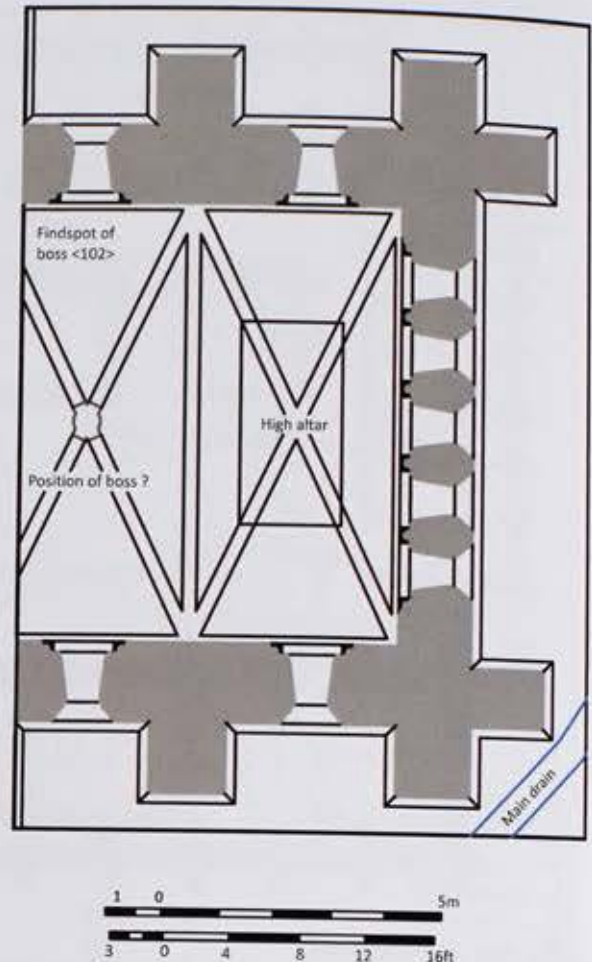
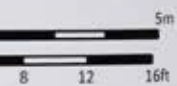
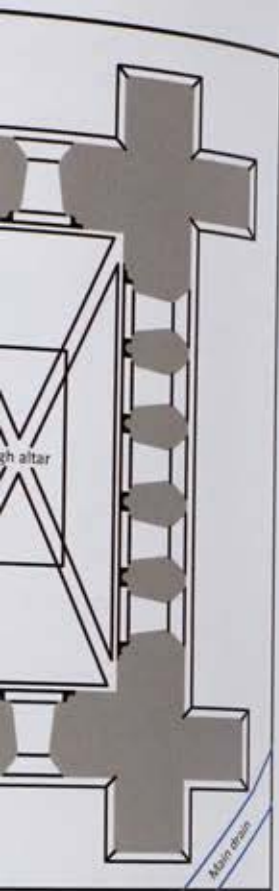


Fig 8.7 Reconstruction of presbytery vault compartment based on fragments and dimensions recorded during excavation

abutting wall of Chapel S1, which were relatively well-preserved. Four bays seems the best fit. The convergence angle of the surviving boss (c 51 degrees) is compatible with a bay of 3.76m (12ft 4in). However, a multiple of four such bays (15.04 m or 49ft 4in) falls well short of the excavated length of the presbytery. It is therefore necessary to assume the two western bays were wider (c 4.1m or 13ft 5in) so as to reach the east crossing arch. The boss therefore probably came from one of two eastern bays, as the sole surviving records of its excavation position seem to suggest (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273; plan).

The southern chapels were separated by thin walls with small doorways; one was found between S1 and S2. These chapels are perhaps the best known part of the church after open area excavation in 1971. Even evidence for liturgical arrangements survived (above Section 3). It has been suggested the chapels were open to each other through lateral arches (Glyn Coppack *pers comm*); although a thin wall was recorded at this point where superstructure survived. It is not known if this wall is original or not. These walls are therefore shown in the



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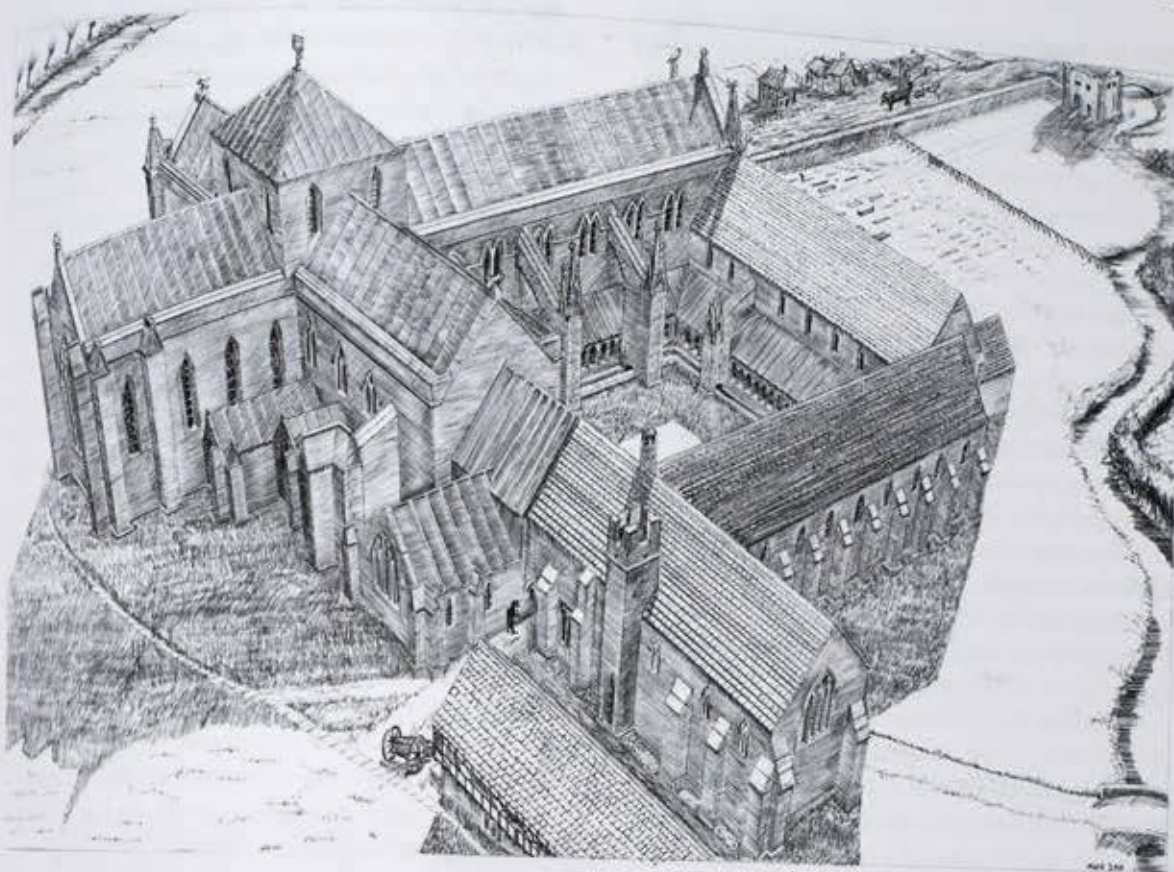


Fig 8.8 Suggested reconstruction of church (top) and claustral ranges in the 15th century, dormitory and canons' latrine at bottom. Church roofs shown as lead here and on the cover though repairs of 1467 refer to tiles (Mark Samuel)

reconstruction plans (Fig 8.6). The western entrances to the chapels were formed by an arcade resting on piers, probably square, set along the east wall of the transept arm. The long southernmost chapel (S3) departed from the usual *echelon* arrangement, but its northern counterpart (N3) was square. Regular and substantial buttressing indicates that the chapels had quadripartite vaults. It is likely that arrays of lancets on the model of the presbytery at Chetwode (Bucks) were employed; the architectural fragments include just such junctions between arrayed lancets. Enough survives of the robbed foundations of the northern chapels to show they were symmetrical to the southern chapels, the axis formed by the presbytery. Chapel N3 was however shorter than its southern counterpart. The transept arms were neither the same length, nor were they symmetrical to the presbytery. A major change in the design of the church, perhaps subsequent to the completion of the presbytery and the chapels, forced this asymmetry. Mistakes in excavation surveying cannot however be ruled out as a cause of this error.

The nave was apparently built c 1.95m (6ft 4in) wider than the presbytery and its axis was shifted c 0.63m (2ft) south of the presbytery axis. The north wall of the nave had already been set on the 100ft square cloister and there was no way to widen the nave except by shifting the south

wall further south. This major departure from symmetry must have presented various problems in the crossing construction. Given that the crossing had to be more or less square to support a tower or lantern, it would have had to be arranged in a compromise manner, the south-east crossing pier being markedly irregular in plan as shown in the reconstructed plan. The timber choir stalls must have reflected this awkwardness.

The surviving crossing sleeper walls were wider than the crossing bases. The west side of the crossing survives at Titchfield. Polygonal plinth responds framed the arches leading into the transept arms but plain reveals face the interior of the nave. This is an important clue that the choir extended to the west of the crossing, otherwise arch responds would have obstructed seating arrangements. The western crossing arch presumably sprang from corbels at Titchfield so that the choir stalls could be fitted against the nave walls in the eastern bay of the nave defined on the west by the *pulpitum*. The form of the *pulpitum* illustrated in Fig 8.6 is based on an example excavated in the 19th century at Repton, where it was integral with the church fabric (St John Hope 1884, 356). Whether similar arrangements existed at Selborne is unknown because the area was not excavated. The *pulpitum* would have incorporated a rood with a rood screen west of it. Choir

stalls are shown notionally, but not extending east into the crossing. If the evidence from Titchfield Abbey that no stone walls defined the crossing on its north and south sides is applicable, then there may have been timber screens with processional doors at Selborne.

Both transepts were presumably vaulted on the same lines as the presbytery, with their irregular plans requiring correspondingly irregular vaulting. The 1950s' excavators either did not find or did not recognise any trace of the night stair that might be expected in the north arm. Timber stairs may have run parallel to the west wall. The uncertainly-recorded threshold of a door into the cloister survived alongside the reset tiles of the cloister walk (Fig 4.26). The actual position of this door is reconstructed on the basis of architectural probability (Fig 8.6).

The south-east corner of the south transept arm survived to plinth level with a newel turret at this point; its door was in chapel S3. The published plan (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273; plan) implies rather than definitely indicates a simple buttress in the south-west angle.

The records of an 'extension' to the west side of the transept are largely lost. The published plan (*ibid*) indicates that only the southern part of the foundation for this heavily buttressed structure was encountered but there can be little doubt that the west wall was appended to one of the nave buttresses. The buttresses of this undated structure probably respected the bays of the earlier south transept. The compartmental division can be assumed as common to the three eastern chapels. The original west wall of the transept was probably retained. A door would have necessarily been introduced through the original west wall to permit circulation but this is wholly conjectural. The extension was probably a chantry chapel. Concealed flying buttresses may have transferred the thrust of the 13th-century vault to the new buttresses.

Relatively little information about the excavation of the nave exists. Heavy reliance must be placed on the theory proposed above. The south run of the 100ft (30.48m) square almost certainly marks the inner wall face of the nave. The nave was probably divided into six to provide a nave bay of 5.08m (16ft 8in or 200in) or about two more inches than a perch of 16ft 6ins). Similar principles of nave division may have been employed at Repton and Mottisfont. A notional 141ft 4½in (43.1m) square coincides with the recorded outer edge of the west front foundation. Adding one 16ft 8in (5.08m) bay at the west end of the nave makes a total of seven bays (1692in = 141ft). The nave internal length thereby falls conveniently short of the notional 141.4ft (43.1m) square, allowing room for the thickness of the west front. This possibility is employed to resolve this particularly knotty area of excavation. The excavated south buttress foundation needs only slight shifting to fit the suggested bay division of the nave. It is assumed here that the outer wall face *above* the plinth corresponded to the 141ft 4½in square (Fig. 8.5).

Comparison with Titchfield, where the nave was vaulted, indicates that the bays would have been marked by vault respond shafts, apparently absent from the presbytery. At Netley Abbey, the nave clerestory is fenestrated at a high level to clear the top of the cloister roof. The west end at Selborne probably resembled the Titchfield turreted west front with newel stairs opening off at the corners (front cover illustration). A single portal in the west front is at Titchfield. The limited excavated foundation evidence (1970–1) is consonant with a similar arrangement at Selborne.

#### The west range

The main evidence for the west range of the cloister comes from trial trenches of 1970–71. It was of conventional design with either the prior's lodging or a guest house over the cellarer's undercroft. There is some evidence for a building projecting out west at the north end of the range. This may be the sub-structure of the prior's privy (Glyn Coppack *pers comm.*).

The cloister was usually connected directly to the outside world by one or more slypes. Analogy with the known plan of the priory at Repton (Derbyshire) suggests that heavy loads and servants could bypass the church west portal by going between the west front and the south end of the cellarer's undercroft. At Selborne, a possibly barrel-vaulted passage must have encompassed the projecting north buttress of the turret, its awkwardness perhaps an indication of less-than-perfect planning, with the church completed in advance of the permanent claustral buildings. The outer parlour may have been situated here in its customary position, providing access to and from the cloister (Glyn Coppack, *pers comm.*).

The undercroft had a regular plan of seven bays separated by a row of columns (Fig 4.16). These probably supported a ribbed vault, hinted at by projecting responds. External buttresses provided support on the outer face of the range, being omitted on the east side where they would have blocked the cloister.

#### The north range

Limited trial trenching in this area in 1970 established the range's north-west and south-west angles, and the positions of the north, south and east walls; an *in situ* base was found near the east end. This showed the column diameter to be 0.284m (11in). The east wall and presumably the west wall had internal responds (Fig 4.11), but these were otherwise absent. In this respect, the range differed from the west range. A 1969 plan records a large north–south entrance 'found in 1960', leading into a passage to the cloister. The passage is here assumed to separate the range from structures to the east so the meeting with the cloister was open and the west side formed the end of the range. The entrance pointed towards the remnants of a bridge shown on the same plan. The

implication is that in medieval times the main approach to the priory was from the north. This raises a possibility that a gatehouse stood south of this bridge. Another, perhaps stronger, candidate for the main entrance and gatehouse is to the south-west of the claustral complex (Fig 8.8).

**The warming house**

The south end chamber of the north range was divided into four compartments by north-south and east-west arcades; these were supported by a single pillar at the centre. A doorway with three steps in the wall thickness ascended from the slype into the south-eastern compartment. The chamber was identified by the '...deposits of charcoal at floor level [which] suggest that it may be the warming house' (Wilson and Hurst 1970, 169). Such chambers were heated by a single large open fireplace. The heat of the flues would also have benefited the occupants of the dormitory above.

A large square foundation projected from the east wall. Two buttresses, differing in size, provided additional reinforcement for this wall. The square foundation

probably supported a newel stair to the dormitory. The likelihood is that the slype that separated the warming house and the chapter house was bridged to support the east wall of the dormitory at first-floor level. All these structures shared a common chamfered plinth, part of which survived at the time of excavation.

**The chapter house and sacristy**

This part of the priory has presented problems due to the ambiguous nature of the excavation records, but a synthesis of the evidence allied with comparative evidence allows plausible reconstruction.

Two notebook pages, NBk3, 79 and NBk26, 13, form the most important records of the chapter house because plan dimensions are given, including an all-important measurement of internal width at foundation level. This width of 22ft (6.706m) is similar to the author's measurements of superstructure at Titchfield Abbey. Moulding details show the two chapter houses to have been closely similar.

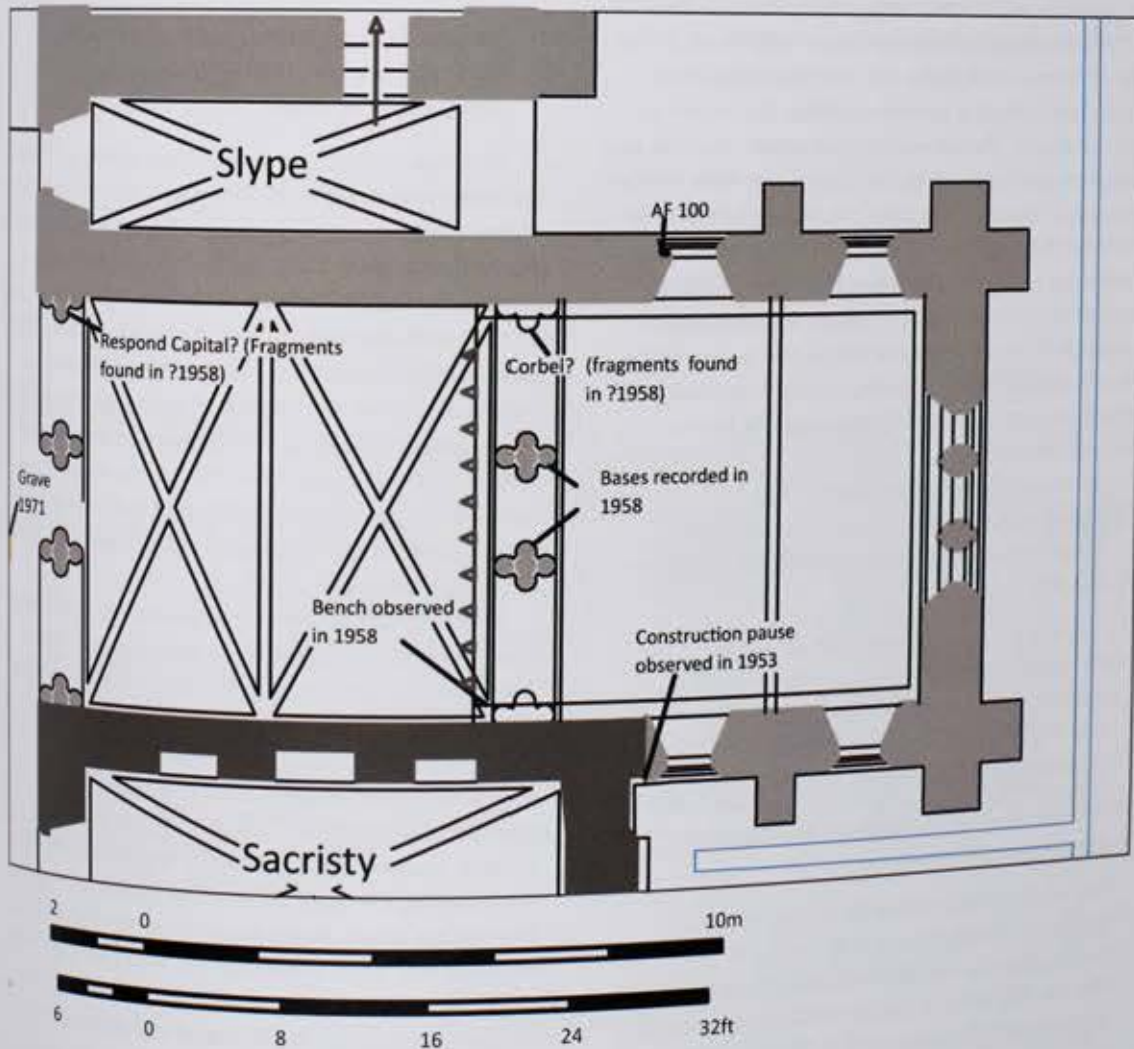


Fig 8.9 Conjectured reconstruction of chapter house vestibule ground plan showing vault and arcades

## Discussion

The notebooks record that an arcade and its foundation divided the building into two parts. The west foundation of the chapter house was recorded in 1970 trench 16 which cut across the east cloister walk, but no superstructure survived. This trench was not extended further east but it appears that the vestibule was slightly shorter than the chapter house. Two bases of a Purbeck marble arcade were photographed and otherwise recorded (Fig 4.3). Only the 'north' was *in situ*, the other being reassembled for photography. Clustered piers were used, with four planetary shafts surrounding a heavier central column. A part of one base was also photographed (SEL-AF-03-Sq 39E base: archive). A surviving lead 'collar 201' found in the chapter house on 19 July 1958 provides the diameter of the central column. Such leadwork would normally have been a prime target during demolition. Rarer still are the lozenge-shaped spacers snipped from sheet and positioned so as to provide the necessary clearance for the molten metal (Section 7.4 above). The entrance of the chapter house at Titchfield had Purbeck marble triple arcade supports that were apparently identical and parts of three lancet arches framing trefoils over the capitals survive.

Two respond capitals, subsequently lost, could be accurately measured from 1950s photographs [SEL57-AF-7.8, 9.10: archive]. They were presumably found in the chapter house rubble during the 1956 season and their design shows that they derive from either the central or entrance arcade. The sub-symmetrical arcade responds and bases were arranged so that their longer axes were parallel to the axis of the chapter house. The bell capitals were of conventional form with an angled fillet at the base of the overhanging curved lip. Capitals of this type exist in the presbytery of the contemporary abbey at Netley nearby (Sharpe 1846, *Small capital and bases*). The abacus of the Selborne capitals was presumably formed from a separate dressing (not seen). The bases were of simple two-roll form, as in the cloister.

A bench rested on the foundation. It had an overhanging seat about 1ft (0.31m) wide that can be clearly seen in the photographs (Fig 8.10). The excavators recorded that

'...the end stones of the seat at either end had been robbed. The centre portion of the seat was incised with a circle and a diameter line, with a small line marking the northernmost point on the circumference' (NBk 1, 9-10).

It is not clear whether the bench extended into the vestibule west of the arcade.

'The north [arcade] base is 3ft (0.91m) off the centre line: the south base is 4ft 2in (1.27m) off this line, and the four sections are not square with the axis. This will give the correct distance between the centres of the bases as 6ft (1.83m)' (NBk 3, 65). The 1958 plans corroborate this, and include the



Fig 8.10 Chapter house, arcade pillars and wall bench, facing south, 1958

distance from the centres to the outer wall as 8ft 6in (2.6m) and the length of the chapter room as 20ft 6in (6.25m) (NBk3, 79 and NBk26, 13).

All these snippets, once combined, permit a tolerably accurate reconstruction of the arcade. The respond shafts of the arcade would have respected the common springing line of the vestibule vault, but seem to have rested on corbels so as not to obstruct the bench. The incised circle on the bench directed the mason's plumb mark for the south respond corbel. The circle and mark showed the arcade centre line and position of the central column. This column and the flanking shafts stood free and the lost respond capitals demonstrate this unequivocally. No record survives of free-standing capitals, but their form can be reconstructed from the respond capital, which followed the same lines minus one shaft.

Comparison with other religious houses of this date allows a better appreciation of how the chapter house articulated with the remainder of the complex. Chapter houses were highly variable in plan, even when the same cloister dimensions were used. The differing demands and tastes of patrons were allowed freer rein than in, for example, the presbytery. The mid-13th century Bayham chapter house shows an off-centre dividing arcade with vault springers to carry the dormitory superstructure over the chapter house. Rigold pointed out that the vaulted vestibule was much lower than the vault over the chapter room to the east (1985, 11). As at Selborne the robust sleeper wall took the concentrated load of two piers.



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At Selborne the dormitory extended southwards: over the vestibule. The north wall of a chamber, probably a sacristy, divided the first floor to form a gable at the roof-line of the north transept arm, the narrower dormitory roof abutting it at a much lower level. A separate annex over the sacristy gave access to the head of the night stair. A roof scar at Netley Abbey demonstrates the differences in roof level to be expected at this point in the plan.

The three-arched chapter house entrance at Titchfield was a common arrangement. The alternative as found at the contemporary Netley Abbey was a central doorway flanked by single window openings with sills. However, at all three houses, the chapter house entrance was left open to the weather as was normal in this epoch.

It is possible that the arcade survived the closure of Selborne Priory. A putative blocking of the arcade may have masked the abutted structures, so that they survived the demolition of the chapter house. Something similar occurred at Titchfield at the chapter house entrance. Survival of the bases and their leadwork seems accidental; the arcade may have simply fallen with age due to the weight of the dormitory wall above. As a result, the usual thorough scavenging of lead and other materials did not occur.

### The cloister

Similar problems attend the reconstruction of the cloister as with the chapter house. The south walk was the best-preserved part, but many of the excavation records are lost. The 1970–71 trenches provide carefully sited and well-recorded glimpses of the other walks, but these areas were relatively poorly preserved compared with the south walk.

The records demonstrate that the cloister arcade sleeper wall width was a yard wide (0.9142m). A photograph of the west end of the south walk (SEL66-CL21.jpg) shows a rubble sleeper wall of the same thickness. It is likely that a capping of Purbeck marble slabs was removed by the despoilers. Solid blocks recorded near the east end of the south walk may, however, have been part of a door threshold through the arcade rather than this coping.

The measurements of the arcade are known from excavated evidence (see above). This allows the cloister garth area to be calculated as 388.9m<sup>2</sup> (4186 sq ft). The south walk was 10ft wide, apparently a yard narrower than the west and east walks. The north walk was 12ft wide. Each side of the arcade ran for 70ft 8½in. Eighteen arches probably occupied each walk, allowing for the corner responds (Fig 8.6). As at Netley, the roof would have been of simple lean-to design, with rafters carried on a wall plate resting on corbels projecting from the claustral ranges.



Fig 8.11 Suggested reconstruction of church (north side) in the 15th century with cut-away east (left) and west (right) claustral ranges, facing south (Mark Samuel)

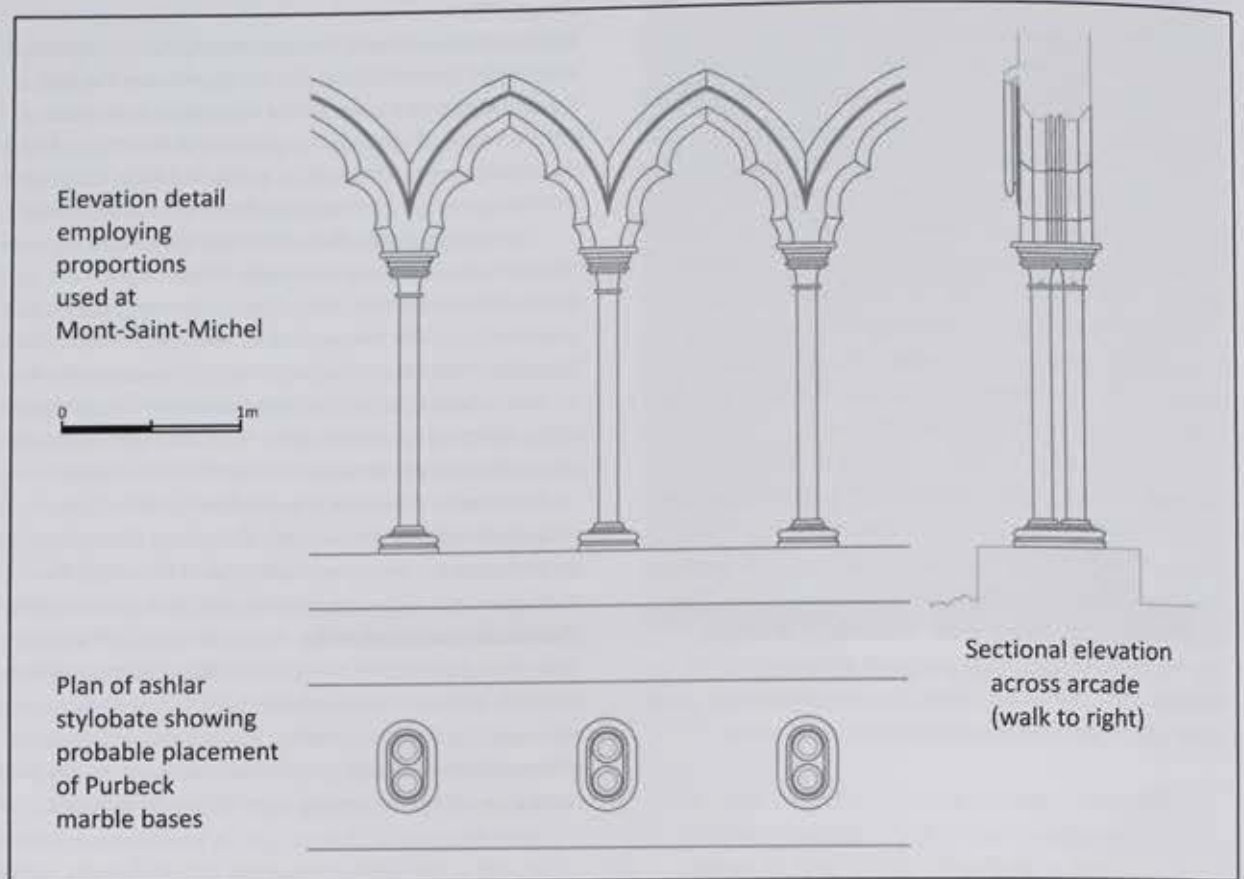


Fig 8.12 Reconstruction of cloister arcade based on excavated foundations, architectural fragments and comparative analysis

The greatly weathered nature of the arcade fragments and the absence of fragments identifiable as its replacement at Selborne suggests the cloister was indeed never replaced. Weak finances can be held to blame. Against these arguments must be set the 'thickening' applied against the garth side of the south arcade sleeper wall. Alternatively this 'thickening' may have supported a laver along the south arcade; although liturgically this would be highly unusual. Thickening was also recorded on the west side but not on the north-west angle or the north side where it might have been robbed out. It could be taken as evidence of cloister replacement. At Bayham Abbey, the cloister arcade was replaced in the later 15th century (Rigold 1985, 14) but replacement was carried *within* the earlier circuit. It would have to be argued that the *reverse* took place here.

At a late date, the north wall of the nave must have shown worrying signs of subsidence, perhaps caused by a high water table. Massive flying buttresses were built against the arcade. Four buttresses built in the garth respect the thickening rather than the earlier arcade; they bridged a stone gutter which ran inboard of the arcade wall, almost certainly forming a complete circuit. The thickening can alternatively be explained as the make-up for paving. The paved surface would deflect water into the gutter and away from the foundations of the cloister

arcade. The easternmost buttress may have blocked an earlier door through the arcade (see above) thus unwittingly preserving the threshold from despoilers.

The cloister was, at least towards the end, paved with reset tiles. The tiled cloister walk met a raised threshold into the transept. A lead pipe swept around the south-east angle of the arcade below the tiles and probably continued up the east walk. This may have served a laver on the entrance route to the choir, for washing before handling the service books, not previously seen in an Augustinian context (Glyn Coppack, *pers comm*) The published 1967 plan shows the pipe continuing far along the south walk and a complete circuit seems likely. No evidence has otherwise been found for the refectory laver but at Bayham it is on the south walk near the refectory itself.

Can the art-historical context of the arcade be amplified? It is necessary to look abroad for complete examples. The arcade spandrels at the contemporary (1230) Mont-Saint-Michel cloister were richly carved with a cycle of devotional images and ornament. No such evidence survives at Selborne, but, when new, the cloister would have been brightly polished so that the many colours of the Purbeck marble showed to perfection. The capitals and shafts at Mont-Saint-Michel are renewed but were originally cut from *calcaire lumachelle importé du Sussex* (Legros 2005,

70). Completed capitals and other marble elements were imported, greatly reducing transport costs. The arcade arches were worked on site from (local) Caen stone (*ibid*); this distinction in building stone also occurred at Selborne where the arches were cut from local *Malmstone*.

### 8.6 Dissolution, post-monastic use and demolition

The significance of dissolution at Selborne half a century before the Henrican destruction of the monasteries should not be overstressed because it was by no means an isolated case. Robinson observed that about a third of all abbeys or priories were in some way 'unsuccessful', including 54 Augustinian houses. Of these, 20 including Selborne were post-1200 foundations, and 12 were 15th-century dissolutions. Selborne enjoyed a life-span of 253 years along with 15 others in the band of 201–300 years (Robinson 1980, I, 87). There was a well-established precedent for early dissolution and transference of land and revenues to new colleges in Henry V's suppression of the alien priories in 1414. This 'active' factor, combined with 'passive' factors, mainly incompetent priors, debt and decay of buildings, could bring an end to a house. A passive factor might be inferred from the archaeological evidence of complicated water management arrangements for controlling and maintaining numerous sluices and hatches, requiring a relatively large and expert labour force that may not have been available by the mid-15th century (Christopher Taylor, *pers comm*).

In 19 cases before 1535 the land and properties of Augustinian houses were used as endowments for colleges (Robinson 1980, I, 74–108), albeit only one house for each college. Other categories of establishment were also used; Magdalen obtained six decayed religious houses including hospitals and two parish churches (Davis 1993, 146). In their own way, such actions were akin to those of the original founders, wishing to redeploy resources for devout and charitable purposes, though personal pride and a concern for the fate of an immortal soul must have been factors. In the case of Selborne, the dissolver William Waynflete (Fig 8.13) exhibited the same kind of drive as the founder Peter des Roches in achieving the opposite effect. His Magdalen College, founded in 1458, was insufficiently endowed, and the formal trigger for the acquisition of Selborne Priory was 'a petition of the president and scholars ... representing the insufficiency of their revenues for their maintenance' (Chandler 1811). Commentators have noted the care with which Selborne Priory was documented as a failed house, having only one canon in residence, the consequent neglect of observance of the rule, and the wrongful consumption of its goods for the profit of laymen. Despite this evidence, securing papal agreement was a protracted process, concluded with the issue of a Bull by Pope Innocent VIII on 6 June 1486, confirming the annexation of the priory to

Magdalen College; Waynflete himself died on 11 August the same year.

The dissolved priory was not immediately dismantled like many surrendered houses in the 1530s and 1540s. The site continued in religious use, presumably with a reduced number of surviving buildings, for another 65 years up to 1550. In the late 1480s, the Dean of Alton, Simon Hiltofte, had charge of the buildings and was described as chaplain; in May 1490 he made an inventory of the church goods remaining at the priory in his custody. It shows a full equipment of church service books, altar plate, vestments, and other ornaments (Appendix E below). Waynflete also ensured a continuation of religious activity; a priest would say masses for the souls of the priory's founders and benefactors, and also for the founders of Magdalen College, including himself.

The stages by which the priory buildings were dismantled are largely a matter for guesswork, though Mark Samuel suggests the chapter house was at some stage used as a temporary store for materials. The rubble fill of the chapter house suggests the vault may have been dropped by pulling out the south pier of the screen between the vestibule and chapter house proper and leaving the rest to gravity. The rubble could then be picked over at leisure, accounting for the amount of the vault that survived. The technique was typical of the late 1530s and 40s, suggesting the chapter house remained standing until then (Glyn Coppack *pers comm*).

There was no parochial use of the nave to keep it in worshipful purposes, and no local noble purchaser seeking to carve out a suitable mansion from the redundant complex; the need for expensive repairs was one reason for dissolution. Some systematic dismantling can be inferred from the remnant mortar seatings for decorated tile floors entirely removed from parts of the church, though when this was done is uncertain. Indeed, there is no clear evidence about which parts of the buildings were retained for the chantry, beyond the likelihood that they included one of the chapels. As might be expected, lead comes were separated from window glass as part of dismantling,



Fig 8.13 Head of effigy of William Waynflete, bishop of Winchester 1447–86, Winchester Cathedral (David Baker)

and the site records note finding deposits of glass without comes, some groups of comes, and some mixed groups.

Priory Farmhouse either incorporates the remains of a monastic structure, possibly a guesthouse or the prior's lodging, or was constructed shortly after the dissolution out of materials taken from redundant priory buildings. A detailed survey is needed to resolve the issue. Yates (2009, 195) draws attention to the description of the interior of a house in the 'State and estimate' document of 1462–63 (Magdalen 56/6), which he considers to have been the Prior's Lodge, or the living quarters of the canons. It had a hall, a chamber containing several beds and a well-stocked kitchen. There is no direct evidence linking this description with Priory Farmhouse, though its position south-west of the church may be suggestive. Whatever its origins, by 1526 it must be the house, together with two barns, a stable and a dovecote, on the south side of the old Priory, leased by Magdalen College to John Sharpe husbandman (Mag. Coll Reg. B. f. 43, and White Letter XXV).

In 1534 Magdalen College granted Nicholas Langerige MA, then vicar of neighbouring East Worldham:

'a chaplaincy ... in the late Priory of Selborne, for the term of forty years, if he live so long, to celebrate there for the souls of all the benefactors of the said Priory and College deceased; assigning to him an annual pension of £8 with two chambers on the north side of the said Chapel, with a kitchen and a stable for three horses and 'le orcheyerd'; and 26s annually to find a clerk to serve him at the altar'.

He was not to absent himself for more than two months in a year and then to find a substitute. He also had to act as superintendent of the woods and copses of Magdalen College in the parish (Macray 1891, 148). Visitation records show him present in Selborne in 1545 and 1548 (Yates 2009, 155). In 1550 when Magdalen College commuted those duties and the stipend into 'an annual pension of £10 for thirty years', reference was made to the two rooms and kitchen as 'where he now dwells', implying that these parts of the former priory were still standing (Macray 1891, 150).

The site seems to have been repeatedly robbed for stonework. There is no evidence for when the last standing structures were removed. The extent to which surrounding villages still retain buildings with reused priory stone is a study yet to be undertaken and would be challenging to bring to an unambiguous conclusion. The massive foundations found in the 20th-century excavations had a long history as a source of stone, if not for buildings then for making up road surfaces, as Gilbert White observed and Bowdler Sharpe repeated just over a century later. Coin finds up to the later 16th century (Section 7.3 above) are evidence for continuing robbing activity or post-dissolution farming.

## 8.7 Antiquarian interest

### Gilbert White (Fig 8.14)

What Gilbert White wrote in his *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* of 1789 has a wider historical scope and historiographical dimension (Baker 1993, Coppack 2006, 16–18). Of particular interest is the way he came to believe that a comprehensive history of the parish ought to include both nature and history. He spent some time perusing monastic documents in the archives at Magdalen College Oxford, helped by his friend and Fellow of the College, Dr Chandler, who was to complete a draft biography of its founder William Waynflete by February 1791. White's research delayed publication of a work eagerly awaited by his admirers. Prominent amongst them was Rev John Mulso, a long-time correspondent and friend from their days at Oriol College Oxford. On 21 September 1780 he wrote to White

'Pray does your Book come out this Winter? I really cannot hold out any longer. If You spoil the genuine Elegance & neat Simplicity of the original Design, by a Farrago of Antiquities, routed out of the Rusts & Crusts & Frusts of Time, I shall not esteem it so well as I once did; & so I tell You' (Holt-White ed 1907, letter 189).

The *Antiquities* has little to say about the remains of Selborne Priory because little was visible in the 1780s. Yet its silence was the crucial stimulus for the work reported here. The 26 letters take a broadly chronological approach, beginning with the Romans, and devoting two to the parish church. White turns to the priory in Letter VII, recounting its foundation and initial endowment. Letter XIV deals with the visitation by William of Wykeham in 1387, and itemises his injunctions. Letters XVI to XXIII describe at length the history of the priory in the 15th century with its problems of poverty, dilapidations and elections, culminating in dissolution. Letter XIX notes the power of sequestration issued against the Priory of Selborne in 1462 on account of 'notorious dilapidations, which threatened manifest ruin to the roofs, walls and edifices, of the said convent' (p290) and observes this seemed to have had some effect because the 1463–64 accounts include 'bills of repairs to a considerable amount' (p291). Letter XXI contains the only specific reference to architectural detail when describing the election of Peter Berne as prior in succession to Thomas Fairwise, quoting a reference in Waynflete's register to the upper and lower parts of the chapter house. This formal arrangement is consistent with excavation results showing a division by columns on a sleeper wall.

The last two letters are the most relevant for the archaeology and topography of the priory site. In Letter XXV White described it 'reduced as it were to the state of a chantry, without prior and without canons, and attended only by a priest, who was also a sort of bailiff or woodman ...'. He used the 1526 lease to John Sharp from the college to

describe the buildings then standing 'on the south side of the old Priory' and to draw attention to the names of fields surrounding the site.

Letter XXVI was the starting point for the excavators of the priory site, Dr Bowdler Sharpe in the early 1900s and the Revs Knapp and Scott in the 1950s. It discusses the decay and destruction of the priory buildings.

'No sooner did the Priory (perhaps much out of repair at the time) become an appendage



Fig 8.14 The only known drawings of Gilbert White (1720–1793) from life (British Library)

to the college, but it must at once have tended to swift decay. Magdalen College wanted now only two chambers for the chantry priest and his assistant; and therefore had no occasion for the hall, dormitory, and other spacious apartments belonging to so large a foundation. The roofs neglected, would soon become the possession of daws and owls; and being rotted and decayed by the weather, would fall in upon the floors; so that all parts must have hastened to speedy dilapidation and a scene of broken ruins. Three full centuries have now passed since the dissolution; a series of years that would craze the stoutest edifice ... nothing now remains but one piece of a wall of about ten feet long, and as many feet high, which was probably part of an outhouse. As early as the latter end of the reign of Hen VII we find that a farmhouse and two barns were built to the south of the Priory, and undoubtedly out of its materials. Avarice has again much contributed to the overthrow of this stately pile, as long as the tenants could make money of its stones or timbers (p313).

Had the Priory been only levelled to the surface of the ground, the discerning eye of an antiquary might have ascertained its *ichnography*, and some judicious hand might have developed its dimensions. But, besides other ravages, the very foundations have been torn up for the repair of the highways: so that the site of this convent is now become a rough rugged pasture-field ... (p314).

Architectural masonry was found in the form of a large Doric capital, worked in good taste; and the ... base of a pillar (that) seem to have belonged to massive columns and shew that the church of this convent was a large and costly edifice ... were found ... in the space which has always been supposed to have contained the south transept of the Priory church. Some fragments of large pilasters were also found at the same time. The diameter of the capital was two feet three inches and a half; and of the column, where it had stood on the base, eighteen inches and three quarters (p314). Two years ago some labourers digging again among the ruins found a rude thick vase or urn of soft stone, containing about two gallons in measure, on the verge of the brook, in the very spot where tradition has always pointed out as having been the site of the convent kitchen' (p314–15).

#### Robert Mudie

His *Hampshire* of 1838 noted that there have been some stone coffins found, and

'fragments of the old stained glass, vitrified on the surface by being buried in the ground; and the

## Discussion

farmer who now rents the ground has picked up as many of the red Venetian or Bologna tiles, once generally used for sacerdotal pavement, as to have made a substantial floor for the summerhouse in his garden' (Mudie 1838, ii, 88).

### Bowdler Sharpe and Gunther

Dr Richard Bowdler Sharpe was the earliest known archaeological investigator of the priory site, probably in 1901, though direct records do not appear to have survived (Fig 8.15). An eminent ornithologist and Assistant Keeper in charge of the Vertebrate section of the Zoological Department in the Natural History Museum, he prepared an edition of Gilbert White's *Natural History and Antiquities* (1900). His only relevant editorial footnote recorded that:

'Within the last twenty years the foundations of the old Priory have again been ransacked to find stones for road-mending. It is a great pity that there was no-one interested enough in the antiquities of the place to make some examination of the form the foundations took. Some idea of the shape of the building might have been gained, but if it was impossible to trace the remains of the Priory when Gilbert White wrote 150 years ago, it is ten times more impossible now' (ed Bowdler Sharpe 1900, vol ii, 310).

An energetic man, he was inspired to fieldwork himself; the academic circles within which he moved may well have



Fig 8.15 Dr Richard Bowdler Sharpe (Woodbury Company)

made him aware of the work of Sir William St John Hope on several monastic sites in the later 19th century (Coppack 2006, 24–25). A paper dated 18 May 1901 he wrote in support of a 'Pilgrimage to Selborne' by the White-Friars Club states:

'The present tenant of Priory Farm, Mr Henry Warner, was kind enough to respond to my enthusiasm for Gilbert White and Selborne, by giving me permission to dig into the old surroundings of the Priory. A chance discovery by his bailiff, Mr Haywood, of a big stone in the garden, led to an attempt at excavation ... the remnant of a wall of the ancient Priory which we have unearthed. To what portion of the buildings this wall belonged it is as yet impossible to conjecture, but my further excavations will be conducted under the auspices of Magdalen College Oxford.'

If Bowdler Sharpe left no surviving records, one of his critics did. Dr R T Gunther, Fellow of Magdalen College and a man deserving a study in his own right, was concerned about the antiquities of the College, mainly in Oxford itself, but also at Selborne. His papers (Magdalen College P233/2/MS2/1) include three informative documents.

An accurate sketch made on site in 1905 (Fig 8.16) shows:

- the south wall of the south transept with its distinctively trapezoid buttress rediscovered in the 1960s; this is labelled 'Sharpe's excavation 7 May 1901 in gardens of cottages facing S'
- the site of a 'Tomb', probably in the south end of the north transept
- the pencil (rather than ink) annotation of a 'burial ground', south of the nave 'old stones along the bottom of this wall' referring to reused priory ashlar in the farmyard wall laid across the south transept and its north chapel
- a pencil annotation of 'found' with a line drawn to another position roughly south-west of the church, but without further information
- 'Coles quarry', within the east compartment of the church, suggesting stone-robbing
- earthworks east of the priory site, described as 'Dam (anc)' and 'Artificial excavations'.

The second document is a single sheet with pencil drawings on both sides. One side shows a stone coffin, otherwise uncaptioned. This is presumably the 'Tomb' on the site sketch plan (above here and also Section 5) rather than the coffin listed as item 8 in his notes of 1905 (Appendix F) which was observed in the tenant farmer's garden some three years before Bowdler Sharpe's work. There are two views of the Tomb' coffin, with a cracked lid in place, and with the lid removed, though nothing is shown or written



Fig 8.16 Sketch by Dr RT Gunther in 1905 of Bowdler Sharpe's 1901 excavations (Magdalen College P233/2/MS2/1)

about any occupant. Above the main drawings are smaller ones showing 'two "headstones" in shed'. Drawings on the other side show several pieces of architectural stonework:

- a piece similar to, but not the same as, a chapter house respond capital found in 1957 but now lost (above Section 6, Fig 6.9)
- a three-element 'Capital of Purbeck marble', not known hitherto

- a 'fragment of Purbeck cap'
- at least eight ashlar blocks, one of which is labelled 'in Barn embedded in wall, and presumably the 'old stones ...' noted on the site sketch plan.

The third document (Appendix F) is a set of notes prepared for the College Antiquities Committee in 1905. These are printed here for the information they provide and for their historiographic interest in showing Gunther to be a man

## Discussion

at least abreast of his time and arguably in advance of it. His censure of 'ill planned diggings by enthusiasts among buried antiquities' is explicitly aimed at Bowdler Sharpe. His drawings of the coffin however suggest either that he may have been guilty of some such activities himself or, more charitably, Bowdler Sharpe had left the pieces of lid on site so that Gunther was able to reassemble it.

### 8.8 Conclusion: outstanding issues

This account has sought to extract useful information from the inherited site records of 1953–69 within the framework of what could be done in the time available during 1970–71. But unanswered questions remain, arising from work done and work not attempted.

There is a case for systematically reviewing the primary documentary sources and preparing a supplement to Macray (1891, 1894). Confusions about the documentation of the 1460s need to be resolved, though it seems unlikely that further specific information about the priory buildings would be found.

Outstanding issues from the excavations carried out include the form of the crossing, whether it is as irregular

as the evidence from piecemeal excavation suggests, the relationship of the canons' latrine block to the north end of the east range, and the nature of the small unit attached to the north-west corner of the west range found by the final trial trench dug in 1971.

Future work should examine the wider precinct as the context of the excavated cloister ranges. The precinct also needs a better understood landscape context, using the work of the 1960s as a starting point, and benefiting from subsequent research into monastic landscapes. This might help distinguish between monastic and post-monastic earthworks, showing what was adapted and what was new, and clarify the boundaries of the monastic precinct.

Comprehensive remote sensing survey within the precinct boundaries, perhaps including the use of lidar, should aim to locate the remaining main groups of buildings, including the main gatehouse, the *hospitium*, the infirmary range, and lesser outer court service structures generically referred to as 'outbuildings'. The limits of monastic graveyards around the west and presumably also east ends of the church could be defined.

## Appendix A: Excavation narrative

### 1 1953–1961 (Figs App A.1 and App A.2)

(Compartment names are the correct ones rather than initial misidentifications; in [square brackets] are the red notations on Fig App A 2)

The first trenches in 1953 on the west side of the priory field located but did not pursue what was much later recognised as the west range [1953 'structures']. Attention then switched to the east side, where the chapter house was initially misidentified as the choir [1953–59 'choir / Lady Chapel']. Work in 1953 and 1954 followed its west wall southwards, past the sacristy, down the east wall of the north transept as far as the north-east crossing pier, and then west to the north-west pier. Results from 1953 were presented as a single typed narrative in NBk 1, together with some illustrations. The only surviving record of work in 1954 is in press cuttings from the *Portsmouth Evening News* and the *Hampshire Telegraph*.

From 1955, field recording by Day Books used a **First Grid** of numbered squares with 10ft (3.05m) sides. Expansion of the initial work substantially cleared the interiors of chapter house, sacristy and north transept where Burial 1 was found. Finds in the south-east corner of the cloister included floor tiles in position and a lead pipe. In 1956 and 1957 the east end of the chapter house was further explored on the continuing assumption that it was the choir or presbytery. In search of the west end of the church, corresponding trenches were opened on the west side of the field; they found what was later recognised as the north-west corner of the cloister going across into the west range [1956–57 'W end nave'].

Notes for 1958 up to 11 August are missing. A **Second Grid** with numbered squares of 5ft (1.52m) was introduced, overlaying and initially worked in parallel with the first grid. Most efforts were concentrated upon the east and central parts of the chapter house where two sets of linked columns were found. Continuing failure to find the west end of the church prompted a trial trench, the [1958–59 'cross-section'], running north–south across the site and intended to cut across the east end of the nave of the church. It located what was later recognised as (from south to north) the north wall of the nave, the south cloister walk, the cloister garth including an enlarged buttress off the east walk, the north walk, the north range and beyond.

During 1959 there was further clearance in the chapter house and the north transept. It was suggested that the 'choir' was really the chapter house, as indeed it was, and that the real choir would be found further north. A trial trench found the north-east corner of the warming house,

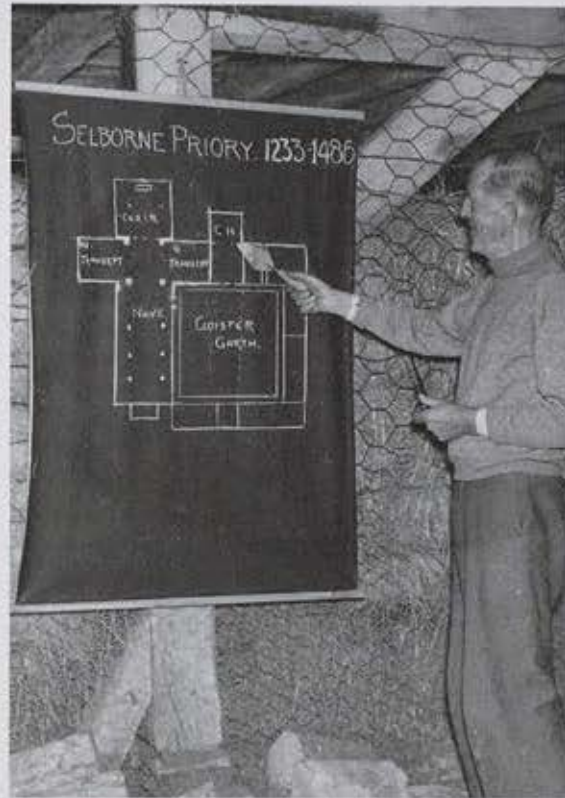


Fig App A.1 Rev George Knapp and original plan hypothesis of a northern church

provisionally misinterpreting it as the east wall of the south transept [1959 'S transept'].

Further discoveries in 1960 increased the stress on the interpretation of the plan. More of the east range was found north of the chapter house, though it was still thought to be the south transept. Footings at the east end of the north range were misidentified as the nave [1960 'nave']. Further north-east, just under the eastern boundary hedge, the east and south walls of the canons' latrine were misidentified as part of the choir. Much further south, also on the east side of the field, a substantial foundation of unknown function was discovered, later to be recognised as part of the north wall of the presbytery near to its north-east corner. Matters came to a head in 1961, when the latrine was shown to measure 21.95m x 4.27m (72ft x 14ft) and to be associated with a substantial drain on its east side. This ruled out provisional interpretation as a 'chapel of nine altars' and established its actual identity, prompted by realisation that the church must lie south, or uphill, from the claustral buildings.

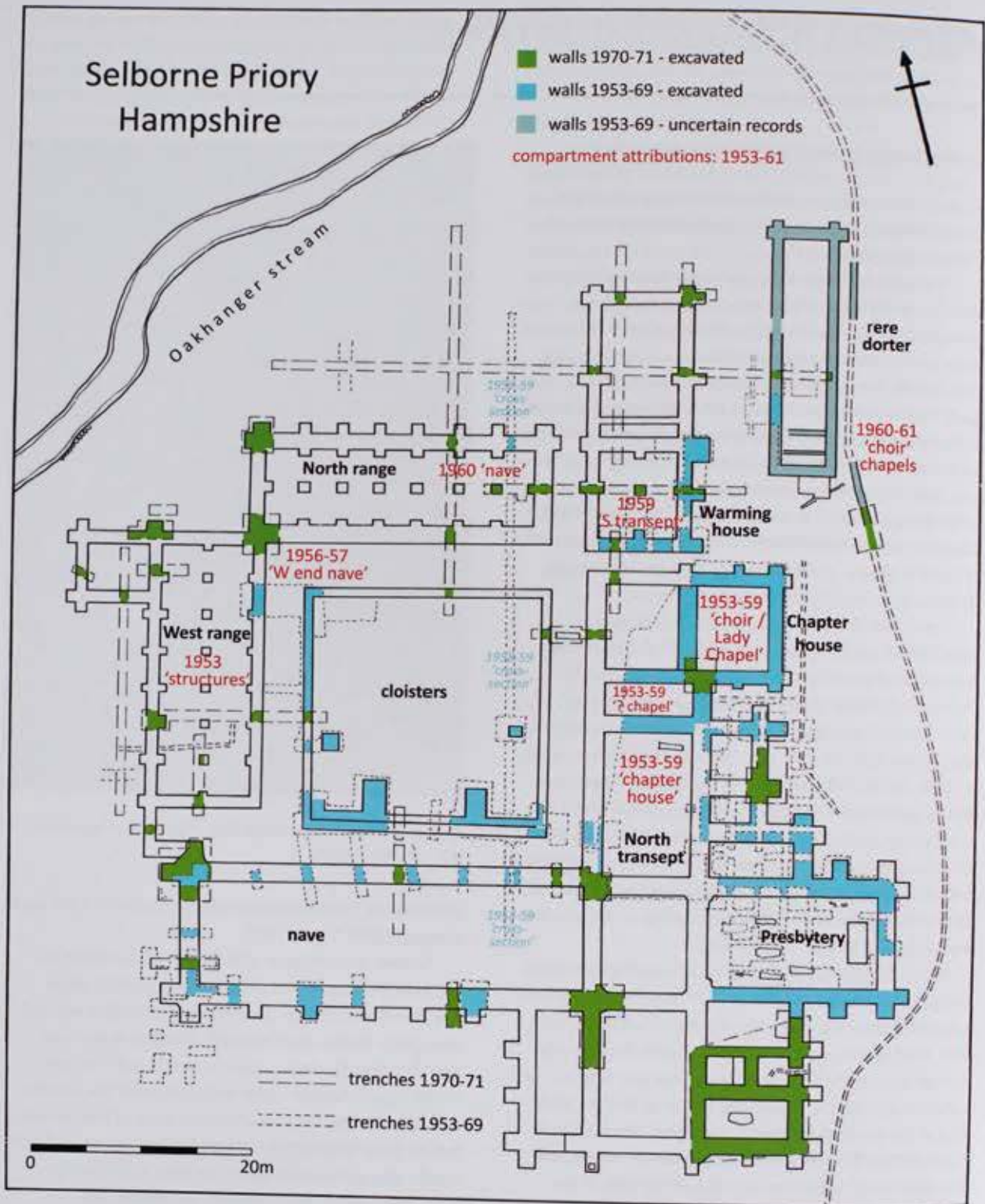


Fig App A.2 Changing attributions of compartments, 1953-61

The site archive has a file of correspondence about the interpretation of the plan.

- (a) In September 1959 P G M Dickinson commented in response to submission of a plan that

'if the parts uncovered are the chapter house, vestry and choir, then the proportions are very unusual.'

- (b) Shortly afterwards, Colonel Rivers-Moore of Hurley Priory suggested that the proposed Lady Chapel was in fact the chapter house, prompting an end-of-season trial trench further north, encountering substantial foundations.

- (c) Dickinson's reaction in a later letter at the end of that month was that this

'new reading of the plan is much more likely ... The new discoveries make the disposition of the parts already found fit into a normal monastic plan ... the priory church was much more likely to have been cruciform and I think you have yet to find it'.

In another letter of December in response to the 1959 Annual Report he commented on the burial found in 1953 and then identified as that of Prior Fairwise (d 1472) that

'I have never heard of a grave in a frater before. I suppose there can be no mistake. If this is so, does it indicate that at some early time the monastic buildings have been turned round? Or is the grave pre-monastic?'

- (d) The next letter, dated October 1961, from John Hurst, Inspector of Ancient Monuments in the Ministry of Works, followed a site visit. He wrote:

'I just cannot find any parallel for a projection out of the N side of a chancel like that. I really do think that the farmer may be right and that the church is under the farm buildings. In this case your projection would be the reredorter ... The so-called dorter could perhaps be the transept for I have always been worried about the burials there and your lack in the church itself. You just do not bury in the dorter ... I just do not see how you can make your present structure into a chancel'.

Apologising for suggesting 'a radical change' he offered a prophetic sketch of the ultimately correct plan on the back of his letter.

- (e) In March 1962 Dickinson commented on the two alternative plans then being considered; he felt 'sure the cloisters were on the north of the church' and that 'the building shewn as reredorter is correct'.

Observations from David Robinson (*pers comm* 2012) provide a footnote to this saga. At 95 Augustinian

sites it is certain that the cloister was south (63) and north (32); for a further 27 there are indications of south (18) and north (9). This proportion of northern cloisters is not insignificant and may involve factors other than the topography of water supplies which appears to have been determinative at Selborne.

## 2 1962–1969

Work in 1962 on the canons' latrine found a doorway and buttress in the west wall, which was followed to connect with the south wall. Five trial trenches on its east side traced the path of the main drain and identified a north-west turn. The north-east corner of the chapter house was exposed and the east part generally levelled. Within the modern barn on the south of the field, the west wall of the south transept was followed south and into the then existing orchard. There, a 19.81m (65ft) length of its south wall was uncovered together with buttresses opposite the east side of the crossing and on the south-west corner of the transept. A sleeper wall divided the two southernmost chapels at the east end of the transept. Floors and footings were found in the east arm of the church, together with Burial 2 in a stone coffin on the south side of the presbytery, referred to as the 'Unknown Lady'.

For 1963 detailed notebook records survive only from 27 April to 25 May. In the church the north-east crossing pier was rediscovered. The south-east crossing pier was partly excavated, and the south wall of the presbytery followed from it, the southern part as a robber trench. The foundation for the main altar was located. In the south transept the south side was fully uncovered together with another compartment to the west and the southern two chapels to the east. The main drain was further exposed outside the south-east corner of the south transept chapels, opposite the east end of the church and at its outfall into the stream.

Work in 1964 was mostly directed by Thelma Ellis-Jones. The north chapel within the south transept and its altar base were excavated. In the nave, a series of trial trenches cut across the north wall; the north-west corner and the west wall were located. Some of these trials were extended to cut across the south cloister walk and located a double footing on its north side. The main drain was traced from the field east of the hedge back to the site.

For 1965, notes up to 16 August are missing. In the presbytery the south wall was uncovered as far as the south-east buttress, the west part being a sleeper wall dividing the presbytery from the north chapel of the south transept. There was further work on the north wall of the presbytery. The south wall of the nave was located in trial trenches, and lead pipework was rediscovered at the junction of the south and east cloister walks. Exploration of the main drain came to an end.

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Notes for 1966 cover only 7 May to 1 June. The south cloister wall was followed west to its junction with the west walk wall and large buttresses were uncovered on each of them. The presbytery and the chapel in the transept immediately south were cleared to floor level, finding in the former Burial 3, a stone-built coffin with a male skeleton.

In 1967 the **Third Grid** with numbered squares of 2.44m (8ft) side was laid down over part of the field, and squares of 1.83m (6ft) side were excavated within it, at least initially. The Annual Report is the only written summary record. Attention was concentrated systematically upon the presbytery, taking down grid boxes to natural subsoil, entailing considerable re-excavation. The north-east corner of the presbytery and the altar base were exposed, and a further five burials found.

Notebooks for 1968 are missing up to July. Work moved north from the grid squares excavated in 1967. The north wall of the presbytery was re-excavated, as well as the chapel off the north transept immediately north. A further shorter chapel beyond and the possibility of a third, still further north, were inferred.

In 1969 a plan of the three north transept chapels was completed and drainage arrangements clarified. The south wall of the transept was re-examined and an altar base in the first chapel south re-exposed. North of the chapter house the warming house was located in the form of the south and east walls of a rectangular building, the latter wall having three external buttresses and the former a doorway with steps.

A final plan of work up to 1969 was prepared by Ian Russell, a surveyor involved with the project in its last few years, building upon earlier versions from the mid-1960s onwards. This showed as conjectural the west end of the church, the west range, the north range, the north part of the east range and a kitchen abutting the last two.

### 3 1970–1971

Work in 1970 and 1971 comprised five weeks in three main sessions. Its starting point was the plan published in *Medieval Archaeology* (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 273) and the summary plans inherited from Ian Russell. It employed linear trial trenches, confirmatory 'spot' excavations, and a sample re-excavation of a few pre-1970 trenches, including one large area, the south transept chapels, all located within its own set of baselines. Pressures at the end of the final season in 1971 are reflected in some incomplete records.

Work began at the points of greatest uncertainty, on the west and north sides of the claustral plan. The west (1970–1) and south (1970–19) walls of the nave were located, fixing the position of the south-west corner; 1970–6 excavated the north-west corner. The north wall was seen in 1970–12 midway along its length and in 1971–29 just short of the north-west crossing pier.

1970–2 cut across the undercroft of the west range, from its west wall to just inside the cloister garth. 1970–6 had shown that the north-west corner of the nave was not abutted by the west range, but that a robbed footing ran west from the north-west corner; 1970–10 found indications that it had turned to connect into the south-west corner of the west range. The south wall and a central pier were found in 1970–7. The north-east corner of the range and its apparent junction with the north range were seen in 1970–9; 1970–13 found the west wall near the north-west corner together with an internal abutment as part of arrangements in the undercroft. 1970–14, north of that corner, and 1970–18, over the north-west corner of the north range, confirmed that the space between the two ranges was open. A north-south mechanically excavated trial trench 1970–24 west of the range showed an absence of substantial structures except at the north end, where 1971–32 and 1971–33 found indications of an attached square building.

The position of the north range was clarified in 1970–3 which ran across it from the north side of the cloister garth and beyond its north wall. The east wall and central piers in the north range undercroft were seen in the west end of 1971–20, and the south-west and north-west corners in 1970–9 and 1970–18 respectively. The area north of the north range and west of the east range was covered by the north end of 1970–3 and the west end of 1971–25; neither located any substantial structures.

In the much-excavated chapter house, 1970–4 examined the still partly visible junction of its south wall with the presumed north-east corner of the north transept, looking for evidence of any construction phases. 1970–17 cut across the west wall of the chapter house, and 1971–23 its north wall close to the north-west corner.

The positions of the cloister garth wall were established, on the west in the east end of 1970–2, on the south by 1970–11, on the east by 1970–16 and in the north by the south end of 1970–3. 1970–16 was extended east across the cloister walk as 1971–17, locating Burial 11 in a stone coffin with a lid.

1971–23 also cut across the slype north of the chapter house and the south wall of the warming house or inner parlour partly defined by the earlier work. The west and east walls of the south compartment were seen in the east half of 1971–20 and its north wall in the south end of 1971–22a. The west and east walls of the north compartment were seen in the east half of mechanically excavated 1971–25, while its north wall was established by 1971–22 and the north-east corner in 1971–27, 1971–30 and 1971–31. The relationship of the east range to the canons' latrine was checked by the extension of 1971–25 across it. The main drain was examined in 1970–5 by re-excavating a part-filled former trench, aiming to secure a record where both top capping and the interior were visible.

1971–26a and 1971–26, 28 defined the north-west and south-west corners of the crossing respectively. Recent work and detailed plans obviated the need for work in the presbytery. An area excavation on the south transept

chapels (1971–21) sought to collate earlier piecemeal work and seek evidence for phases of construction. The north transept chapels had been sampled at a junction of eastern walls (1970–8), covering Sqs 3/82 and 3/72.

## Appendix B: Grange Farm Selborne

In 1957 the Selborne Priory excavation team was called off-site to investigate the foundations of a building found by ploughing in a field between Grange Farm and Gracious Street. The Rev George Knapp recorded a medieval building about 9.45m (31ft) long and 6.4m (21ft) wide (Fig App B.1). The footings consisted of large stones laid in mortar, 0.69m (2ft 3in) wide and 150–230mm (6–9in) deep, on a rubble base 1.3m (4ft 3in) wide, lying on natural clay. The top of the foundations were about 0.46m (18in) below the present ground level of the field and the stone was the local Selborne rock; the foundations and the mortar used were very similar to those discovered during the priory excavations. He concluded that this evidence, together with associated finds of medieval pottery sherds and many oyster shells, pointed to the foundations being those of one of the buildings of the Priory Grange, possibly of the original Grange Farm itself.

A notable topsoil find was a Roman coin reported by the Heberden Coin room at the Ashmolean Museum as: Roman colony of Nemausus (Nimes); *Obverse* Head of Agrippa left wearing rostral crown Head of Augustus right bare, above IMP. Below DIVI F; *Reverse* Crocodile chained to palm tree COL:NEM. Minted c 20–10 BC. The rarity of such coins was noted and that find spots were usually in large towns.

Rev Knapp drew attention to the reference in Gilbert White's *Antiquities* (Letter XXVI, 315)

'The Priory of Selborne had possessed in this village a Grange, an usual appendage to manorial estates, where the fruits of their land were stowed and laid up for use at a time when men took the natural products of their estates in kind. The mansion of this spot is still called the Grange, and is the manor-house of the convent possessions in this place ... but it has long given place to a modern farmhouse. Magdalen College holds a Court Leet and Court Baron in the great wheat barn of the said Grange annually.'

He could also have noted Letter I of the *Antiquities* which (pp 239–40) describes quantities of Roman coins found around *Wolmer-pond*. The current location of the coin from Grange Farm is not known. The Victoria County History notes:

'Grange Farm at the corner of Gracious Street stands on the original site of Selborne Grange. In 1535 the farm of "one tenement called Selborne Grange", which had belonged to the Priory and Convent of Selborne, together with the rents from various tenancies belonging to the same, was entered at £15 4s. The old grange existed until about the end of the seventeenth century, when it was replaced by the modern farm buildings. It was the manor-house of the convent possessions in Selborne, and at the present day the court-baron and court-leet are held by Magdalen College twice yearly in the wheat barn belonging to Grange Farm. A luncheon and dinner are given at the farm, and the usual presentments made as to trespass and surrender of estates are recorded' (VCH 1908).

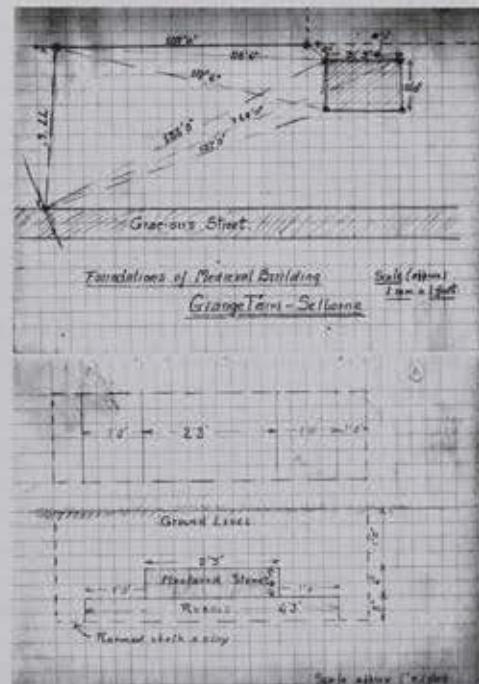


Fig App B.1 Foundations of medieval building, Grange Farm, Selborne (NBk2 p3)

## Appendix C: Cross Slabs / Coffin Lids at St Mary Selborne

Brian and Moira Gittos

The five coffin lids at the parish church (Fig App C.1–C.5) probably belong there, rather than having been transported from the priory. Two are of Purbeck marble and have no visible detail. They could therefore be of any date appropriate to such a slab (c 1200–c 1350). The other three slabs show features suggesting a date nearer to 1200 and are all likely to pre-date the priory foundation. They were probably therefore originally set up in the church.

There is no supporting evidence for local traditions that these coffin lids belonged to burials of Knights Templar, who had a preceptory at Sotherington in the east of the parish. It is impossible to identify individuals, let alone show that they had participated in crusading campaigns. The most that can be said is that they represent unknown, probably local, high-status people.

- A (Figs C.1, C.2) Upright against the east wall of the south aisle, the top half of a tapering Purbeck marble slab with a small, cross head in relief (Type B) and with a disc set within a hollowed centre (Badham *et al* 1994, 4, 5). A broad, shallow, double hollow chamfer with a beaded edge separates the two hollows. Probably c 1200.



Fig App C.1 Coffin lid A  
(photograph: Brian & Moira Gittos)

Fig App C.2 Coffin lid A cross  
(photograph: Brian & Moira Gittos)

- B (Figs C.3, C.4) Mounted upright against the east wall of the south aisle, a tapering limestone cross slab with the lower part missing and, therefore, no calvary. Slightly coped with an overall convex profile and low-relief cross. The cross head is a type of cross patée, with straight arms and expanded terminals which are pointed at their extremities but have rounded buds. A heart-shaped leaf is fitted into each armpit. Immediately below the cross head is a ring knop which passes both under and over the cross shaft, as if threaded on it. The authors are unaware of parallels for either heart-shaped leaves in this position or the

threaded ring knop. The cross head retains its inscribed setting out lines. The slab's surface is roughly tooled, with an overall longitudinal pattern but the cross head and the area immediately surrounding it have been smoothed. This may relate to the original finishing scheme. Probably early 13th century.



Fig App C.3 Coffin lid B Fig App C.4 Coffin lid B cross  
(photographs: Brian & Moira Gittos)

- C (Fig C.5) Upright against the north wall, in the north aisle, a tapering cross slab of Purbeck marble with relief cross and double hollow chamfer which has a beaded upper edge. The lower part is lost (no base or calvary). Cross head Type A with voided centre (Fig App C.5) (*ibid*). Circular knop. Poor condition, with the edges badly broken away and the cross partly eroded. First quarter 13th century.
- D (unillustrated) Set in the floor of the north transept, in the north-east corner, oriented east–west, a tapering Purbeck marble slab, broken across, plain (could be effaced). C 1200–c 1350.
- E (unillustrated) Churchyard, flush with the surface of the path, outside south porch, a tapering Purbeck marble slab, broken across, plain (could be effaced or reversed). C 1200–c 1350.



Fig App C.5 Coffin lid C cross (photograph: Brian & Moira Gittos)

## Appendix D: Skeletal Report on the Human Remains

### Harriet Jacklin

#### Introduction

The following report details the combined results of the skeletal analysis of seven inhumation burials excavated between 1953 and 1971 at Selborne Priory, Hampshire. All data can be found in the paper archive and all record and pathological photographs can be found on the CD forming part of that archive.

#### Methodology

The analysis of the inhumation burials included the assessment of age, sex and pathology. Cranial and post-cranial metrics, non-metric traits and stature were recorded where possible. Analyses include: Bass (1995), Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), Brothwell (1981). All fusion data within this report are based on Scheuer and Black (2000).

#### Notes on analysis

Seven skeletons were received for analysis although there was considerable confusion over the naming of skeletons, presumably due to the numerous excavations over the years. Some give a burial number, some just a feature number and some are additional unlabelled skeletons. They have therefore been catalogued (below) dependent on what was written on the boxes. Here are the details (with subsequent italicized revisions and reordering by the main author in order to correlate the numbering in this summary, the numbering below and the final numbering in Section 5 above).

- A skeleton found boxed with Burial 11 but not numbered so has been reclassified as Burial 11b, Trench 16 (Inhumed within a wooden coffin) *This is in fact Burial 2, 'the Unknown Lady' excavated from the presbytery in 1962.*
- 1 skeleton: Burial 8, 1970, trench 1 (13).
- 1 skeleton: Burial 9, 1970, Trench 6 (16).
- 1 skeleton: Burial 10, 1970, Trench 6 (16).
- 1 additional skeleton: located next to Burial 10, 1970 Trench 6 (16) but with no number was reclassified as Burial 10B, Trench 6.
- Burial 11, Trench 16 (inhumed within a stone coffin with a head niche)
- 1 skeleton: no burial number but apparently from (13), [8]. 1970 trench 1 was properly excavated and recorded but this burial is not mentioned. Its origins are therefore a mystery but it is assumed to be one from outside the west end of the church. It has been numbered as Burial 12.
- The additional co-mingled remains from Trench 6 (16) were also analysed.

#### The Inhumations

##### Burial 2 (Figs 5.5-5.8: 1962-63, the 'Unknown Lady')

Burial 2 was in a fair state of preservation with 75–100% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a female, aged 25–42½ years old. Estimation of sex was based on analysis of the left and right pelvis (the left and right sciatic notch, the right ventral arch and the right sub-pubic concavity). Measurements of the left and right femur head, width of the pelvic basin, size and robusticity were also considered. Estimation of age was based on epiphyseal fusion and analysis of the right pelvis (the pubic symphysis and auricular surface). Age-related changes were also considered. Information on the dentition of the individual was absent and therefore the age range could not be narrowed any further.

Metric and non-metric analysis was able to be undertaken due to the good condition and completeness of the skeleton. The female's platymeria index indicates the individual was platymeric, and the platycnemia index indicates the individual was eurycnemic. The stature of Burial 11b was calculated to be between 1.56m and 1.64m (5ft 1½in and 5ft 4½in). Further details of the metric and non-metric analysis recorded for Burial 2 can be found in the paper archive.

The individual had several pathological conditions. She suffered from a healed fracture affecting her right humeral head. Osteoarthritis was found to affect the adjacent joint surface (the right scapula's glenoid fossa); this is presumably a result of the fracture. The posterior surface of her right knee was affected by severe macroporosity and osteophyte lipping was found to affect the lower lumbar vertebrae (L3–5). No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

##### Burial 8 (1970 trench 1 (13))

Burial 8 was in a good state of preservation with 50–75% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a male, aged 25–30 years old. Estimation of sex was based on analysis of the left pelvis (the sciatic notch, ventral arch, subpubic concavity and the ischiopubic ridge). Measurements of the left femur head were also taken and size and robusticity were also considered. Estimation of age was based on epiphyseal fusion, analysis of the left and right pelvis (the pubic symphysis and auricular surface) and morphology of the left ribs. Age related changes were also considered. The stature of Burial 8 was calculated between 1.63m and 1.71m (5ft 4in and 5ft 7in). Further details of the metric analysis can be found in the paper archive.

The individual suffered from a number of pathological conditions, including three adjacent healed fractures affecting his left ribs. The fractures were caused by direct trauma and happened at the same time. Two healed fractures were found to affect his right hand (2nd medial phalanx; distal end and 1st medial phalanx distal end and 1st distal phalanx proximal end). The fractures were caused at the same time and during childhood when the epiphyses were fusing. As a result the 1st medial phalanx and distal phalanx were fused together. A further compression fracture was found to affect the posterior surface of the right patella. The individual's lower back was affected by Schmorl's nodes affecting T8's superior surface and L1's inferior surface. Osteophytosis was found to affect the 5th lumbar vertebra. This may have been a result of activity or trauma rather than age, as the individual was relatively young. No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

**Burial 9, 1970 Trench 6 (15)**

Burial 9 was found in a fair state of preservation with 25–50% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a possible male, aged 21–46 years old. Estimation of sex was based on analysis of the left pelvis (sciatic notch), measurements of the left femur (femoral head and mid-diaphysis circumference) and overall size and robusticity were also considered. More sex indicators were needed to confirm a definitive male identification. Estimation of age was based on epiphyseal fusion and analysis of the left pelvis (pubic symphysis and auricular surface). Age-related changes were also considered. Metric analysis indicates that Burial 9 was between 1.69m and 1.77m (5ft 6½in and 5ft 9½in) in height.

The individual suffered from a number of pathological conditions. The left hip socket (the acetabulum) was affected by severe osteomyelitis. Osteomyelitis is an inflammation of the medullary cavity of a bone, caused by pus-producing bacteria. Osteomyelitis can be classed as either 'acute', 'sub-acute' or 'chronic'. Osteomyelitis can be caused by direct infection through trauma, by direct extension from an adjacent soft tissue infection or by the haematogenous route from a remote septic focus. The focus of the disease seems to have been severe cloacae and the resulting infection was active at the time of death. The lower right leg (right tibia and fibula) were also affected by a badly healed spiral fracture which will have taken considerable time to heal. The fracture also caused a slight reduction in the length of the right leg, compared to the left, which may have resulted in a slight limp. Burial 9's left and right femurs were also affected by enthesophytes located at the soleal line and nutrient foramen. Enthesophytes is a response to stress on bones caused by possible occupational activity which on the muscles (or 'muscle pull') can directly influence the morphology of the bone at the insertion point of the muscle affected. The

left leg was far more affected than the right. This may be due to the additional pressure put on the left leg whilst the right was healing from the fracture, or merely that the left leg was used more often. Either way, it is clear that the fracture of the left leg and build up of enthesophytes occurred sometime before the osteomyelitic infection affecting his left pelvis. No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

**Burial 10a, 1970 Trench 6 (16)**

Burial 10 was in a fair state of preservation but with only 0–25% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a non-sexable adult aged 18+ years. It was not possible to determine sex due to the lack of sex indicators available for analysis. Estimation of age was based on epiphyseal fusion alone and as such only a broad age range could be given. Metric analysis indicates that Burial 10 (whether male or female) was between 1.74m and 1.83m (5ft 8½in and 6ft) in height.

The individual suffered from a number of pathological conditions. He/she suffered from periostitis affecting the right tibia. Periostitis is an inflammation of the bone membrane (periosteum) which can form part of a localised event (for example as a result of trauma) or as a secondary condition indicative of an underlying condition (such as an infectious disease). The condition was located at the mid- and distal diaphysis, especially affecting the anterior and medial aspect and the soleal line. The condition was active at time of death. The individual also showed signs of osteophytosis (early stage osteoarthritis) affecting his/her proximal epiphysis of the right fibula. No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

**Burial 10b, 1970 Trench 6 (16)**

Burial 10b was found in a fair state of preservation but with only 0–25% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a non-sexable adult aged 17+ years. It was not possible to determine sex due to the lack of sex indicators available for analysis. Estimation of age was based on epiphyseal fusion alone and as such only a broad age range could be given.

The individual suffered from a number of pathological conditions. He/she suffered from healed periostitis affecting the medial diaphysis of his left tibia and healed osteomyelitis affecting his/her right tibia's distal diaphysis. A healed cloacae was also present. No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

**Burial 11, Trench 16 (east cloister walk, 1971)**

Burial 11 was in a fair state of preservation with 75–100% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a female, aged 36–42 years old. Estimation of sex was based on analysis of the left and right pelvis (the sciatic notch, ventral arch, subpubic concavity and the ischiopubic ramus ridge), analysis of the cranium (the left and right supra-orbital ridge and the supra-orbital

Trench 6: The Co-mingled Remains from (16)					
Bone/s	Complete?	Fragments?	Side	Fusion	Additional Notes
2 ribs	No	Yes	Unsidied	–	All bones relating to same individual
1 fibula	No	No	Unsidied	Epiphyses unfused, size indicates infant/child	Age at death: between 2 and 6 years
1 femur	No	Yes	Left	Epiphyses unfused, size indicates infant/child	Age based on size and epiphyseal fusion*
1 femur	No	Yes	Right	Epiphyses unfused, size indicates infant/child	
1 tibia	No	Yes	Unsidied	–	
1 humerus	No	Yes	Left	–	All bones of adult size and may relate to the same individual
1 ulna	No	No	Left	Proximal epiphysis fully fused indicates 14+ years*	
1 radius	No	Yes	Left	Distal epiphysis fully fused indicates 13+ years*	
1 medial hand phalanx	Yes	No	Unsidied	Fully fused	
4+ ribs	No	Yes	Unsidied	–	Very fragmented, of adult size Belonging to the same individual
1 patella	Yes	No	Left	Fully fused	Adult sized
1 thoracic vertebra	No	No	–	Fully fused	Adult sized Severe lipping apparent
1 sacrum	No	No	–	Fully fused (S3–5)	Adult sized
1 tibia	No	No	Left	Proximal epiphysis fully fused indicates 17+ years*	Adult sized, same individual
1 fibula	Yes	No	Left	Proximal and distal epiphysis fully fused indicates 17+ years*	
1 pelvis	No	Yes	Left	Iliac fully fused indicating 17+ years*	Adult sized Sciatic notch indicating possible female**
1 pelvis	No	Yes	Left	Age-related changes visible	Adult sized Sciatic notch indicating possible male**
1 cranium	No	Reconstructed	–	Cranial sutures closed.	Adult sized. Left and right mastoid processes, left and right supra-orbital ridge, the supra-orbital margin and nuchal crest all indicate a possible female**

\*After Scheuer & Black (2000)    \*\*Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994)

Fig App D.1 Table of the co-mingled remains from 1970 trench 6

margin, the left and right mastoid process, the nuchal crest and cranial suture closure) and analysis of the mandible (the mental eminence). Measurements of the left and right femur head, left and right humeral head and the length of the left and right clavicle, size and robusticity were also considered. Estimation of age was based on dental eruption, dental attrition, avolar bone resorption,

epiphyseal fusion and analysis of the left and right pelvis (the pubic symphysis and auricular surface). Age-related changes were also considered.

Metric and non-metric analysis was able to be undertaken due to the good condition and completeness of the skeleton. Metric analysis of the cranium suggests that Burial 11 was broad/round headed (Brachyranic) with

a slender face (epto-prosopic). The individual's platymeric index indicates the individual was eurymeric, while the platycnemic index indicates the individual was eurycnemic and the robusticity index gives a measurement of 63. The stature of Burial 11 was calculated between 1.51m and 1.58m (4ft 11½in and 5ft 2in). Further details of the metric and non-metric analysis recorded for Burial 11 can be found in the paper archive. Burial 11 suffered from two dental cavities affecting the labial surface and the cemento-enamel junction of L man M3 (left mandible, 3rd molar) and severe calculus affecting the dentition of her right upper teeth. She also suffered from two abscesses located below R man P2 (right mandible, 2nd pre-molar) and left man C (left mandible, canine). Severe dark brown staining was also noted to affect R man P1, C, I2, I1 (right mandible, 1st pre-molar, canine, 2nd incisor and 1st incisor) and L man I2 (left mandible 2nd incisor). A number of dental hypoplasia lines affecting the dentition were observed indicating the female suffered a period of ill-health/biological stress during infancy, between the ages of 1½ and 3 years.

The individual suffered from a number of pathological conditions, including osteophytosis (early stage osteoarthritis) affecting her lower back (thoracic T4–10 and lumbar L3–4). Thoracic 3 and 4 were severely affected

and this may be related to the Schmorl's nodes which were present. Schmorl's nodes are a mild form of burst fractures, resulting from vertical compression that ruptures the intervertebral disc through the vertebral end plate, forcing the disc tissue into the vertebral body. They affected either the inferior or superior surfaces (sometimes both) of T6–T7, T9–T12 and L1 and L5. The surfaces of T8 and T9 were severely affected indicating the possibility of a disc herniation. Burial 11 also had a congenital condition known as bilateral lumbar sacralisation which is where the 5th lumbar vertebra is fused at birth to the sacrum (S1). No further pathological, congenital or metabolic changes were found.

#### Burial 12, 1970 Trench 1

Burial 12 was found in a fair state of preservation with 25–50% of the skeleton available for analysis. The individual was identified as a child, aged 6–10 years old. Due to the young age of the remains sex could not be identified. Estimation of age was based on dental eruption, dental morphology and epiphyseal fusion. A number of dental hypoplasia lines affecting the dentition were observed indicating the child suffered a period of ill-health/biological stress, between the ages of 2½ and 3½ years. No pathological, congenital or other metabolic changes were found.

## Appendix E: Liturgical contents: vestments, books, pictures, etc

Just as some excavated material has had to be reported *in absentia* from surviving records of it, so there is historical documentation for material presumably removed at the dissolution of either the priory in 1484 or the chantry in 1550. Macray (1891) printed three documents:

'Inventory of vestments and church goods delivered to Peter at Berne, sacrist, by Prior John Stepe', 5 October 1442 (p111)

'Another Inventory of Vestments and Church Goods delivered to the same by Prior John Stepe' which Macray dated to c 1445 (pp112–13)

'Inventory of goods remaining at Selborne Priory after its annexation to the College', 16 May 1490 (pp145–6)

Deirdre Le Faye translated them and her comparative tabulation is in the site archive; she published the 1442 inventory (Le Faye 1973, 63–64).

The 1442 and c 1445 inventories, with 372 and 345 items, are sufficiently similar to suggest that while one is

not a direct copy of the other, it was to hand when the second was compiled, or, as its title suggests, was compiled by the same person. The 1490 inventory of some 96 items correlates far less well, and quantities of material are absent; it presumably lists what the chantry needed or Magdalen College decided not to take.

In 1442 the major quantities of vestments were 16 copes, 17 chasubles and 3 for Quadragesima (Lent), 13 dalmatics, 24 each of amices, maniples and stoles, 27 albes with apparels and 5 albes without them for Quadragesima. Notes more thorough in 1445 than in 1442 suggest that these quantities of vestments and some other items were pious donations rather than what a depleted company of canons actually needed and regularly used: four copes are described as old and one dalmatic as worn out.

The several relics listed are described by Macray himself (1891, xi–xii), an Anglican clergyman writing in the historical tradition of Protestant attitudes towards late medieval monasticism.

'The ear of St. John, as entered in the table of 1442, is three years later the bone of the ear-finger (i.e. of the little finger) of St John Baptist, which seems to show some doubt alike as to its ownership and its anatomy. The ring of St. Hippolytus, bishop of Ostia in the first half of the third century, would scarcely have been looked for in an obscure priory in Hampshire in the fifteenth. But for the authenticity of the remainder of the relics the Sacrist could no doubt speak with a little more certainty; the ring of St. Edmund Rich of Canterbury, who was primate when the Priory was founded, and the chafing-dish and comb and a finger-joint of St. Richard of Chichester, who died twenty years after the foundation, were no doubt veritable relics of the persons whose names they bore. It is curious that the joint-bone (if that is the meaning of the unregistered word 'junctorium') of the latter would seem to have been acquired during the short interval between the two inventories of 1442 and 1445, since it is not mentioned in the first of these. There were also five relics undescribed, enclosed in a small cross'.

The 1490 inventory of 'the goods of the said abbey remaining in the custody of sir Simon Hiltote, chaplain of the same' as translated by Deirdre Le Faye merits republication (below) for the range of material covered and the detail provided. Notably, vestments have been reduced from 153 and 158 in the 1440s to 33 in 1490, but the latter has detail about colours of material and users, identifying some vestments for a deacon and sub-deacon, and 'one pair of white vestments, with which sir Simon celebrates'. None of the relics listed earlier appears on the 1490 list, so it might be supposed that they had gone to Magdalen, but the presence only in 1490 of 'three painted pictures for the altars' and 'four pictures for placing above the altar ... in a room under the custody of the said Simon' hints at selectiveness in the earlier inventories. This is surely confirmed by the absence of books from the 1440s' documents while 33 are listed in 1490, seven with specified titles in the church, 20 'according to canonical use ... in a room under the custody of the said Simon', and six with specified titles in another room. Notably, livestock are listed only in 1445, in the form of two cows, one sow, four hoggetts (young sheep) and four piglets.

#### Text

This indenture of the goods of the abbey of Selborne, made 16th day of May in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry VII [1490], testifies that these are the goods of the said abbey remaining in the custody of sir Simon Hiltote, chaplain of the same; viz:

In the church, two crosses, of which one is silver-gilt and the other copper-gilt  
one Missal, following volume, **Jesum Christum**

one Gradual, following volume, **Salvandas**  
another book, following volume, **non intellexit**  
one Ordinal, **gladio**, following volume  
one new roll of canonical masses, following volume,  
**Quoniam**  
one psalter, following volume, **O Deus Meus**  
another small book, following volume, **sapienciae**  
two chalices  
one cope of velvet, with orphreys of blue velvet with stars  
another cope of blood-red ['**blodio**'] silk with orphreys of  
little images  
another cope of silk of the aforesaid colour  
another cope, black with golden beasts, of silk  
another cope, black with white roses  
one pair of copes of yellow colour  
another cope of blood-red with blue birds  
another cope of blood-red with ostrich feathers  
two tunics for deacon and sub-deacon, of colour blood-red  
one dalmatic with birds, stars and fleurs-de-lys of gold  
one white dalmatic, with crowns in the middle  
another dalmatic with chequered crosses  
two tunics for deacon and subdeacon of ray [striped silk]  
another white tunic  
one old-fashioned dalmatic of baudekin [brocade]  
one pair of vestments of green colour, with white fleurs-de-lys interwoven  
another pair of vestments of green colour of plain silk, with  
a pair of vestments for subdeacon of the same colour  
two pairs of vestments for deacon and sub-deacon of plain  
ruby silk  
one tunic with its appurtenances for subdeacon, of white  
colour  
another white tunic with various colours in the middle  
another white tunic with its appurtenances, with silver  
birds in the middle  
one pair of vestments with fleurs-de-lys interwoven in  
white, net fashion  
one pair of vestments with golden beasts and birds, and  
the orphreys with little images  
one old pair of vestments of blood-red colour, with red and  
white roses and other flowers interwoven  
one albe without vestment  
another albe for the aforesaid tunic of white colour  
three painted pictures for the altars  
one pair of white vestments, with which sir Simon  
celebrates  
and another pair for daily use with borders of Alexandrian  
work [striped silk]  
four pictures for placing above the altar, and these are in a  
room under the custody of the said Simon  
twenty books according to canonical use  
two chests in the same room  
And in another room are these books: Acts of the Apostles  
with other contents, following volume, **Quid statis**;  
one Decretal, following volume, **puer**; Common Gloss

## Appendices

on the Evangelists, following volume, **in remissione**;  
Common Gloss on Job, following volume, **dicebat enim**;  
another book on law, following volume, **Quibus**; item,  
Magister Sententiarum, following volume **quod est  
dictum**

two silver pyxes with relics contained in them [boxes]  
one brazen vase for making Holy Water  
two small bells  
one small bell that was in the tower  
two latten candelabra  
one copper cross  
three paxbreds [a small plate of ivory, metal, or wood,  
with a representation of some religious subject on the  
face and a projecting handle on the back, formerly used

for conveying the Kiss of Peace [the mutual greeting of  
the faithful in the Eucharistic Liturgy], as a sign of their  
love and union. It was kissed by the celebrant and then  
by others who received it in turn]

two banners  
two chests in the vestry  
one chest in the room of the former Prior  
one censer

All these things remain in the hands of the said Simon to be  
delivered up whenever the lord may please. In testimony  
of which the said sir Simon has set his own hand to this  
inventory, by sign manual

S Hyltoft

## Appendix F: Notes on Selborne Priory by Dr R T Gunther, 1905

*Robert Theodore Gunther (1869–1940) was a historian of science, a zoologist and a pioneer of environmental conservation. Magdalen College, where he was a Fellow from 1892 to 1928, set up an Antiquities Committee in 1905, for which these transcribed notes were probably prepared.*

### Text

- 1 The architectural style of a few stone fragments which still remain is in favour of their having formed part of the original building commenced in 1232 by Peter de Rupibus in the year after his return from Palestine. [Foundation charter of Priory 1233]. There is nothing in the subsequent history of Selborne Priory which would indicate that any but the cheapest and most necessary repairs had ever been made.
- 2 Wykeham during the visitation of 1387 rebuked the prior and canons for various abuses and pointed out that the buildings which the *predecessorum industria sumptuose construxerat* had *enormes et notabiles defectus, reparatione necessaria indigentes*. Repairs were ordered, to be effected within six months.
- 3 On 8 Febr 1462, Waynflete as visitor of the Priory appointed John Hammond and others, sequestrators to exact & receive the profits & revenues of the Priory on account of notorious dilapidations which threatened manifest ruin to the roofs, walls and edifices of the said convent. [55lib 14 den were spent on the works]. The notorious abuses of no the doubt (sic) accounted for the fact that within two years as many as four people were chosen as prior and Bp Waynflete was no doubt much annoyed by their malpractices.
- 4 The President and Scholars of Magdalen College, not many years after their foundation, finding their income inadequate for the time (*quod fructus, redditus et proventus ... adeo tenues sunt, et exiles non sufficient his diebus*) petitioned their Founder to put them in possession of the estates belonging to the Priory of Selborne, then said to be a deserted convent without canons or prior. The commissary appointed decided in favour of the petitioners on 8 Augt 1485 & this decision was confirmed by Innocent VIII, 8 June 1486.
- 5 Magdalen College requiring but two chambers for a chantry priest, allowed the larger Priory buildings to fall and their stones to be used for other buildings and for mending the roads. As early as 1506 a farmhouse & two barns were built to the S of the Priory & prob. of its materials.
- 6 About 150 years ago, at the time of G. White, the only part standing was a piece of wall 10 feet high x 10 feet long, which was 'probably part of an outhouse'. 'The very foundations have been torn up for the repair of the highways: so that the site ... is now become a rough rugged pasture – field full of hillocks and pits, choaked with nettles ...'.
- 7 Circa 1780 ? 'The tenant was lately digging among the foundations ... his labourers discovered two large stones ... one ... a large Doric capital [2ft 3½in in diameter] worked in good taste; and the other the base of a pillar [of 18¼in diameter] both formed out of the soft freestone of this district. These ornaments, from their dimensions, seemed to have belonged to massive columns; and shew that the church ... was a large and costly edifice. They were found in ... supposed ... South

Transept of the Priory Church. Fragments of some large pilasters were also found.'

Circa 1787. Some labourers digging on the traditional site of the convent kitchen came on a 'rude thick vase or urn of soft stone, containing about two gallons in measure' [? a standard *measure*] between the monastery & its tenants.

A person living [in 1789] had been employed in digging for the leaden pipes which conveyed the water from Conduit Wood for a quarter of a mile to the Priory. 23d had been spent on repairing the conduit in 1462.

- 8 Within the last few years [circ. 1897] there were (lying about) in the Priory tenant's garden & exposed to the weather

A stone coffin

Sculptured details of Early English Architecture

Caps. of columns with clustered pillars

Base of do. (?)

Fragments of Purbeck Marble shafts.

Several 13th Century encaustic tiles, similar to a few now in Selborne Church

Plinth blocks of freestone etc

- 9 By the excavations of Dr B Sharpe, a foundation plinth running round a buttress and ... of ... was uncovered.

#### Practical Suggestions

The Priory Site extends over three areas now used as:

1 Field, 2 Farmhouse & Yard 3 Garden

It would therefore not be possible to display the entire course of the foundations without the destruction of a considerable proportion of farm property. But still there are bits of importance which might be exhibited at no very great expense.

- 1 The foundations in the field have been quarried so extensively for building & road material, that, without a further examination of the site, no suggestion can be made, except that the indications of the walls when found should be clearly and durably marked out; Perhaps by small stone piers at the angles of the buildings, and by the levelling of certain rubbish heaps.
- 2 The ancient foundations under the farmhouse & yard will probably have to be left alone for the present.
- 3 The wall in the garden [in a cabbage-bed] was uncovered by Dr B Sharpe in 190 . (*sic*) when I saw it. With tasteful treatment this part of the ruins might be

made an attractive feature in the garden. A grass walk ought to be laid down along this wall after it has been uncovered to the original level, perhaps for a couple of masonry courses below the plinth [which is still in situ or was before Dr Sharpe's operations]. The tenant's garden might be enlarged to compensate him for the subtraction of the necessary area of garden soil. The top of the wall would also have to be protected against frost etc either by cement or a strip of turf or by a special layer of stone laid as a coping.

All fragments of archaeological or architectural interest should be collected, housed and displayed. A suitable shelter would probably have to be built for this purpose.

Two points should be carefully borne in mind, for they are of vital importance.

- 1) It is better to leave the ruins alone than to hasten their destruction
  - 2) It is better to leave the ruins alone than to expose them as naked stone-heaps among the kitchen middens of the farm. Their environment should be made so tasteful as not to revolt the visitor.
- 1) Ill planned diggings by enthusiasts among buried antiquities have often destroyed all clues which might have enabled a future archaeologist to explain the site. So far as I know, no-one is a bit better for Dr Sharpe's (or his predecessors') excavations at the Priory, and the walls are certainly the worse. By such digging yokels are shown how & where they can obtain stone with the least trouble.

If the walls are to be uncovered for a second time, something should be done to cement the loose upper stones firmly in their places. If this be neglected, exposure to a winter's frost will do more damage than centuries of (burial) below ground.

- 2) The method of conservation should be simple and tasteful. The interest of the ruins is not so great as to outweigh the effect upon the mind which might be caused by many possible contrivances which might seem excellent to the agents or workmen employed by the College. The work should not therefore be put in hand without the assurance of planning and supervision by some person approved by the College.

## Appendix G: Guide to the Site Archive

The site records, surviving finds and working papers for the preparation of this report are deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service at Chilcomb House, Winchester, SO23 8RD. The site archive includes five categories of material:

- (a) original site records
- (b) finds
- (c) research papers and other records 1953–69
- (d) analytical, index and synthetic papers working towards publication 1971–2014
- (e) digital records of (a), (c) and (d), including images of (b), organized into eleven sections as the Digital Archive below.

(a), (b) and (c) exist in their original paper / physical form. (d) is in either paper form or digital or both. Some of (c) comprises copies of original material generated by Deirdre Le Faye in preparing her history of the priory (1973), deposited with the Hampshire County Record Office.

### A Digital archive

#### 1 Original site records

- 1.1 Site notebook scans  
Notebooks 1–27 (1970–71 are 22–25)
- 1.2 Site notebook transcriptions  
Entries from Notebooks 1–6 transcribed and sorted by compartment (author); 1953–69 notebooks typed up by compartments in the early 1970s (Deirdre Le Faye); 1970–71 notebooks typed up by trenches (author)
- 1.3 plans  
Site plans, parts or whole: 1957, 1958, 1961–69, 1970–71
- 1.4 sections  
1970 trench 3 E; 1970 trench 7 E; 1971 trench 23 E
- 1.5 Annual Reports  
Selborne Priory Excavation Committee 1953–71
- 1.6 Other 1953–69  
1964: letters T Ellis-Jones to Rev GEC Knapp; Coffins: drawings by Rev GEC Knapp; n.d. reconstruction of priory church from south

#### 2 Indexes to original site records

- 2.1 General indexes (see below)  
Catalogue of Excavations Records, and other files (Documentary Research and non Post-Excavation) [2010]; Index to digital files [2010]
- 2.2 Excavation indexes  
Spreadsheet correlating grid squares, locations and trench numbers; Index to notebook entries 1955–69

#### 2.3 Drawings indexes

Plans / Sections & Object drawings in Site Notebooks 1953–71; Large site drawings

#### 2.4 Finds indexes

Lists of small finds 1969 (Deirdre Le Faye); Card indexes 1970 architectural stonework, small finds; various lists 1971–2010; finds lists compiled 2010–12 prior to specialist reports; master tabulation prior to specialist reports 2012

#### 2.5 Photographic indexes

All photographs 1953–69, site photographs 1970–71

### 3 Site areas

#### 3.1 Site general

Notebook plans of parts of grids 2 and 3; notebook references to grids inaccuracies

- 3.2–3.16 Various site areas: 2 choir / presbytery, 3 crossing, 4 nave, 5 south transept, 6 north transept, 7 sacristy, 8 chapter house, 9 warming house, 10 canons' latrine, 11 north range, 12 west range, 13 cloister, 14 main drain, 15 environs, 16 several compartments. (Each contains a summary of site records and most contain copies of images)

### 4 Finds categories

- 4.1 Architectural stonework
- 4.2 sculpture
- 4.3 graffiti
- 4.4 window glass
- 4.5 lead cames
- 4.6 floor tiles
- 4.7 wall plaster
- 4.8 pottery
- 4.9 coins
- 4.10 vessel glass
- 4.11 registered finds
- 4.12 animal bones
- 4.13 coffins
- 4.14 human remains

### 5 Site publication drawings

location, landscape and overall plans; compartment plans; sections

### 6 Finds drawings

Small finds drawings by C Renow and D Blaxter

### 7 Photographic archive

- 7.1 aerials
- 7.2 site areas  
chapter house, presbytery, cloister, drains, environs, Grange Farm 1957, main drain, miscellaneous,

- unidentified, nave, range east & warming house, range north, range west, rere-dorter, stream, transept north, transept south
- 7.3 Priory farmhouse
- 7.4 Finds  
animal bone, arch frags, bone human, Chertsey Abbey burials, coins, general unsorted, geological samples, glass vessel, glass window, lead, lead comes, pottery, seals, small finds, tiles floor, tiles roof, wall plaster
- 7.5 People 1953–71
- 7.6 Titchfield and Winchester Cathedral
- 8 *Documentary (see Section 8 Discussion)*  
Bowdler Sharpe; Deirdre le Faye history; Gilbert White; Gilbert White Fellowship; Gunther; Macray; Magdalen documents (1462–63 estimate for repairs, 1463–64 account book, 1513–14 chapel repairs, 1677–78 Andrews survey); miscellaneous; Pipe Roll 1232; various academic source (Robinson, Vincent, Yates); Titchfield Abbey; Victoria County History.
- 9 Admin & correspondence
- 9.1 financial
- 9.2 grant applications
- 9.3 Priory Farm
- 9.4 miscellaneous
- 9.5 newspaper clippings
- 9.6 pottery
- 9.7 publication
- 10 Final edit drafts
- 11 Final monograph drafts
- B General indexes to original site records (2.1 above)**
- 1 Excavations Notebook 1: typed historical notes; notes on 1953 season; plan of site; account of grave and skeleton in N transept; notes on Priory mills; drawings of floor tile types; drawings of small finds and glass
- 2 Excavations Notebook 2: 1956 season daybook (at start of volume); 1955 season daybook on appropriate pages
- 3 Excavations Notebook 3: 1957 Grange Farm; lead jointing; wall on N of cloister; lead water pipe; 1958 lead jointing and marble column; marble bases; 1959 cross-section
- 4 Excavations Notebook 4: 1960–61 log book; 1959–61 Excavation Committee minutes; foundation found by Mr Lucas (NE buttress); resistivity survey; early work on E wall of rere-dorter and main drain
- 5 Excavations Notebook 5: 1961–63 Log Book; 1962–66 Excavation Committee minutes
- 6 Excavations Notebook 6: log book of excavations for 1964, 1965, 1966 (incomplete)
- 7 Excavations Notebook 7: 'Mainly Rere-Dorter Block'; comparative sketches: 'lay-out' with church on N and S of site; measurements of large buttress on S wall of S transept
- 8 Excavations Notebook 8: various plans and sketches; ? S transept chapel; grave slab
- 9 Excavations Notebook 9: drawings of coffins
- 10 Excavations Notebook 10: Field Book 1961 Chapel S1; sketch plans
- 11 Excavations Notebook 11: 1964 measurements, stone coffin in quire; Grid in S transept (in orchard); NE corner buttress, quire
- 12 Excavations Notebook 12: 1965 season, plans and sketches
- 13 Excavations Notebook 13: 1968 Squares 60, 369 rough notes and sketches; 1969: Squares 92, 468, 498 rough notes and sketches
- 14 Excavations Notebook 14: 1968 Squares 359, 350, 31 rough notes and sketches; 1969: Squares 91, 479 rough notes and sketches
- 15 Excavations Notebook 15: 1968 Squares 30, 32, 33, 40 rough notes and sketches; 1969: Squares 70, 63, 499 rough notes and sketches
- 16 Excavations Notebook 16: 1969 Squares 93, 469, 489, 466 rough notes and sketches
- 17 Excavations Notebook 17: 1969 Squares 459, 498 rough notes
- 18 Excavations Notebook 18: 1968, 1969: excavations log book: local team, from 19 Aug 1968; also 1969
- 19 Excavations Notebook 19: 1969 "Selborne Priory Local Excavation Team 1st September 1969 to 24th September 1969"
- 20 Excavations Notebook 20: 1969: Square 90 (one page only)
- 21 Excavations Notebook 21: 1968: Squares 110, 111, 90; 1969: Squares 83, 467, 477, 63, 73, 72 rough notes and sketches
- 22 Excavations Notebook 22: 1970: trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 21, 27 extn, 30, 31.
- 23 Excavations Notebook 23: 1970, 1971: trenches 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24
- 24 Excavations Notebook 24: 1970, 1971: trenches 4, location of 6 & 7, 26, 25, 28, 29, 32.
- 25 Excavations Notebook 25: 1970 small finds, architectural fragments
- 26 Excavations Notebook 26: 1956: notes on excavations W of church; 1960/61: notes on E wall at NE of site; notes and drawings of architectural fragments including material sent to the Curtis Museum in 1961; press cuttings
- 27 Excavations Notebook 27: sketches and measurements, mainly rere-dorter and main drain.

## Appendices

### C Other files (Documentary Research and non Post-Excavation)

\* = GECK file

\*\* = DLeF file *contains material relevant to post-excavation*

- File 1: Selborne Priory Research. Registers of the Bishops of Winchester\*. Correspondence: DLeF, GECK (mainly); Hants CRO typed copies and some xeroxs of published copies of extracts from Registers of various Bishops of Winchester
- File 2: The Revelation of Hurley Priory\*. An article in two instalments by Col C N Rivers-Moore dealing with clairvoyance and psychic encounters
- File 3: Selborne Priory Psychological Appearance The Sharpe Family\*. On cover: (a) "Embargoed until 1998 because some letters written in confidence (DBB Oct 1981)"; (b) "There is nothing of relevance to the excavations not noted elsewhere."
- File 4: Selborne Priory – Research. Extracts from various authorities\*. Xeroxes of extracts from five sources, Knowles, Dickenson etc
- File 5: Selborne Priory Research\*. Transcriptions of IPM, Chancery Warrants, Charter Rolls, Slater's 'Chapters of Augustinians', Calendar of Papal Letters (1198–1304)
- File 6: Selborne Priory Letters re Research D LeFaye and others\*. Letters 1967 and 1968
- File 7: St Eligius (St Eloy etc)\*. Letters, notes, photographs etc on this topic
- File 8: Selborne Priory Dowsing – the case of Mr Van Colle\*. Correspondence, copies of excavation interim reports
- File 9: Selborne Priory Research St Richard of Chichester and Prior John\*. Correspondence and research notes
- File 10: Selborne Priory Inventories of Goods and Property\* and Account Book 1463/64 (DLeF)\*\*. Research notes, xeroxed docs and printed transcriptions, correspondence etc
- File 11: Selborne Priory The Longspee Chantry & 'The Unknown Lady'\*. Correspondence, notes, draft popular article by George Beardmore, about the identity of the female burial before the altar in the quire
- File 12: Selborne Priory Medical and Surgical Research\*. Notes etc concerning 'the skeleton of the 'Unknown Lady' found in a stone coffin in the quire
- File 13: Press Cuttings\*. Good quantity of cuttings from local newspapers
- File 14: Deirdre LeFaye Research Papers\*\*. Priory personnel 1230–1499; three Inventories – translations and tabulation; small finds & arch frags – lists, correspondence, copies etc; correspondence and reports, Graves II & VI
- File 15: Deirdre LeFaye Research Papers\*\*. Annual Reports of SPEC & related memoranda; miscellaneous reports and press cuttings; medieval life generally; guide books: glossary of ecclesiastical terms etc
- File 16: Deirdre LeFaye Research Papers\*\*. Copies and translations of original documents NOT included in CSP; Selborne references; Copies and transcripts from Magdalen College Register A; St Richard de Wyche and the two Johns de Wich
- File 17: Selborne Priory Minutes of the Excavation Committee 196–1972
- File 18: Selborne Priory Copies of Annual Reports 1956–1972

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William Waynflete  
Bishop of Winchester 1447-1486  
He dissolved Selborne Priory in 1486  
His effigy in Winchester Cathedral  
(John Crook)



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