

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 39 January 1981

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

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WOOLHOPE CLUB
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No. 39 January 1981

EDITORIAL

The second half of last year's programme started off well, with a splendid barbecue at the home of Mary Thomas, and our thanks to her and the helpers for a very successful social event. The rest of the programme was completed, the visit to Buckton Mill at Leintwardine inspiring our members to make a practical contribution towards restoring the mill wheel – see programme 21st June 1981.

Some time ago members visiting archaeological sites allotted to them in the County were loaned OS maps belonging to the Archaeological Research Section to assist them. Would those members who still have them please return them to me. John Ward has been a conscientious visitor.

Mr Turner of the County Planning Department informs me that the Register of Herefordshire Treasures (list of important sites and buildings) is expected to be out early this year and we look forward to its publication.

The subscription to the Section has now been increased to £1.50 per annum to take account of rising costs, and members are asked to send it as soon as possible to the Treasurer, Mrs R Wride, No 64 Gorsty Lane, Hereford. Those who use Bankers Orders are asked to make the necessary adjustment.

We receive publications from kindred organisations such as the Gloucester and District Archaeological Society and the Monmouth Archaeological Society. These are deposited in the Woolhope Library for members wishing to read them.

Ron Shoesmith, the Director of Excavations, City of Hereford Archaeology Committee, has been responsible in conjunction with other organisations for producing two publications, a short one on the history of Castle Green and Hereford Castle, and one on Excavations at Castle Green, details of both appearing in this edition of the News.

Finally my thanks to all the contributors and a special thanks to Richard Kay, the Assistant Editor, whose help is invaluable.

C E Attfield

**WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB, ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION
PROGRAMME JANUARY-JUNE 1981**

Sunday 15 th February	Hom Green Area and Chapel Site	Meet 25 Alton Road, Ross-on-Wye 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Leader: Mrs R Skelton
Sunday 15 th March	Dilwyn Mill, Luntley Court and Shobdon	Meet Village Green, Dilwyn 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Leader: Mr R Kay
Sunday 26 th April	Deserted Medieval Village, Little Hyde	Meet New Inn, Newtown, on A4103 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Leader: Mrs R Skelton
Sunday 17 th May	Rowlestone and Walterstone Area	Meet Carpenters Arms, Walterstone 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Leader: Mary Thomas

Sunday 21 st June	Buckton Mill, Leintwardine. (Note: This will be a working day to assist in restoring the mill wheel, etc. – members should bring suitable clothing and Wellingtons.	Meet at the Mill 11.00 am and 2.00 pm Leaders: Mr Inett Homes and J Wride
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Note:

1. In case of bad weather contact the Leader or a Committee Member. List of Committee and telephone numbers is included in the News.
2. Guests are welcome.
3. Members are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear and to bring food and hot drinks.
4. Due to unforeseen circumstances the programme may have to be changed at short notice.

**CITY OF HEREFORD ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE
INTERIM REPORT ON THE SURVEY WORK AND FOUNDATION TRENCHES AT
LLANWARNE CHURCH, HEREFORDSHIRE DURING AUGUST-OCTOBER 1980**

A complete photographic survey, accurate plan and measured elevations and cross-sections of several parts of the building took place early in 1978, preceding consolidation works. These works were completed, apart from the north wall of the chancel which had a precarious lean outwards. Part of this wall collapsed in the winter of 1979-80 before any attempt to stabilize it could be undertaken.

The north wall of the chancel is in two parts, separated by a chamfer on the external face. To the east of the chamfer the wall consists of large blocks, reasonably coursed, but to the west, between the chamfer and the north chapel, the wall is of small, poorly-coursed rubble. Internally the wall is entirely of small rubble, poorly-coursed, which changes gradually to the east with a rather unconvincing break to a slightly better coursed wall near the eastern corner of the chancel. In the 1978 survey the western part of the wall was dated to the early 14th century and the eastern part, including the chamfer, to the 16th century. The repair work planned for 1980 was in two parts. It was decided to attempt to winch the eastern part of the wall back to a vertical line. This work required new concrete foundations to be inserted below the ground level. The second part of the work was to rebuild the western part of the wall, where the collapse had occurred, on new foundations.

Before any reconstruction work started, the Department of the Environment decided that a full archaeological survey of the walls should be prepared, that the remainder of the wall which had fallen should be removed to a suitable level by archaeologists and that any foundation trenches required should be archaeologically excavated. The initial survey, demolition and excavation works were directed by M G Boulton and the work was completed by R Shoemith.

The internal and external faces of the chancel wall were drawn to a scale of 1:20, some additions being made from the 1978 drawings.

As excavations progressed, these drawings were continued below the present ground level.

The western part of the wall was carefully dismantled to about 0.5m above the present ground level and mortar samples kept. Photographs were taken of all stages of the above works.

The Department of the Environment agreed that the necessary foundation trench excavations could be extended beyond the area required for structural purposes by not more

than 2m in any direction in order to obtain a coherent archaeological record. The presence of stone-lined graves and the shoring for the chancel wall made extensions impractical except for the internal area close to the eastern part of the north chapel arch where the foundation trench was extended into a small area.

The maximum depth excavated was 1.7m below the present ground level, at which point at least four mortar floor levels had been encountered, two of which had involved major reconstruction works. Finds were very limited and dating evidence poor, but the available evidence suggests that the earliest floor level found was probably of 13th century date. Further floor levels may remain buried but it was considered that these would not be disturbed during the reconstruction works and that they could not be properly examined in the limited area available. Layers of fine silt on top of two of the floor levels probably indicate flooding - samples have been taken for analysis.

One skeleton was completely removed - it was close to the eastern end of the chancel and was in very poor condition. A second stone-lined grave was examined to establish the date of deposition. The elaborate early 19th century coffin was left in situ.

A full-report will follow in due course.

November 1980

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW – NOTE BY THE EDITOR

It is fitting, following the article by Ron Shoesmith, to mention details of two publications published recently, and for which he is responsible as author.

The first is a delightful little book entitled "A short history of Castle Green and Hereford Castle". It runs to 31 pages, measures 5¾" x 8¼" and contains illustrations, plans and, photographs. Published by the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee and Hereford City Museum, it costs 75 pence and is available from the Museum or Ron Shoesmith at the offices of the Archaeology Committee above the Tourist Information Office, Shirehall, Hereford.

Chapters include The Castle Site, St Guthlac's Monastery and the City Cemetery, The Earliest Castle, The Norman Castle, Stephen and Matilda, The Royal Fortress, The Civil War and the Commonwealth, The Final Destruction, Buried Remains, a useful Chronological Table and list of References. All in all, well worth purchasing.

The second publication is Hereford City Excavations Volume I, Excavations at Castle Green by R Shoesmith, published by The Council for British Archaeology as Research Report No 36 in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee whose Chairman is Councillor W A Vowles. This measures 8¼" x 11¾" and contains 61 pages including plans, diagrams, photographs and drawings of finds. It costs £9.00, obtainable from the Museum and Ron's offices, and is the first volume of a three volume report which describes the archaeological work undertaken in the City between 1965 and 1976. Contributors include J Bayley, C A Keepax, D A Whitehead, with Professor P A Rahtz as Academic Adviser.

This work makes a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the pre-Conquest development of the town and its defenses, and deserves a place on the bookshelf of everyone interested in this subject.

HEREFORD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By David Whitehead

Following the introduction in 1978 of 'O' and 'A' level Archaeology at the Sixth Form College as companions for 'A' Level Ancient and Medieval History, an archaeological society was established to provide experience in fieldwork. The society meets on average once a month with fieldwork taking place on Saturdays between October and March. The Summer months are used for drawing and documentary work. Field meetings usually involve investigating and sketching a specific site as well as field walking, etc. The emphasis of the society is upon research rather than visiting well recorded ancient monuments.

DINEDOR

With the permission of Mr Cleland of Glebe Farm, the group made a sketch plan along the lines suggested by Aston and Rowley (1974), 38-45, of the irregularities in a field to the south of St Andrew's Church (533366) recorded as a DMV by Hickling in TWNFC (1969), 490. The earthworks cover an area of approximately 1.8 hectares and suggest that the settlement at Dinedor was once much more extensive, and that a complete unit of the village has disappeared. Across the road leading to Dinedor Cross several other house-platforms are visible in an orchard. In the past the plan of the village was obviously much more irregular, with the church acting as a focus rather than the present road junction 200 metres to the NE. The development of the village was restricted on the east by a small stream which emerges from a wet area next to the church. Here it is possible to detect the croft boundaries of the shrunken settlement and beyond the stream, running SW from the old school, an arcing bank defines the eastern edge of the meadow adjoining the stream and the beginning of the community's arable.

The 1840 Tithe Map shows a building called 'The Garrison' occupying the NW corner of the site adjoining the church, whilst the field itself is known as the 'Garrison Meadow'. At this date the property was attached to Hollow House Farm which, like the rest of Dinedor, was owned by Charles Bodenham of Rotherwas. Another small building which has also disappeared adjoined the lane in the field immediately to the east of Garrison Meadow. The name Garrison probably comes from the OE warian which originally meant 'store, gift or treasure' and may well have been applied to the well-watered meadow beyond the village crofts (Oxford Dict, I, 1117; Smith (1956), II, 246).

In 1740 Garrison Farm was one of the principal tenancies of the Bodenham estate; it included 84 acres of pasture, including Garrison Meadow, and 123 acres of arable. Part of this was in Holme Lacy parish but 63 acres of arable were scattered among five open fields - Kiln Field, On the Hill, Bauntley, West Field and Huntleys. Although the Garrison lands lay cheek by jowl with their neighbours, it is clear from the description that they were permanent, albeit unfenced, holdings, held in severalty and not interchangeable strips. In other words, there were open fields at Dinedor in 1740, but no formal system of management. The medieval arrangements were in an advanced state of disintegration. In the Garrison terrier reference is made to arable in 'Top Hill now enclosed in three pieces' and 'a new enclosed piece in Bauntley'. Moreover, a terrier of the same date for Torrs Farm shows that there were additional open fields at Dinedor called Hay.Croft Arable, Camp Arable and Main Croft Arable (HRO, AD2/III/7-8). The situation was no different a century earlier when a survey of an estate belonging to Edward Lane in 1635 describes a mixed bag of open field and enclosed holdings whilst the court rolls of the early 16th century show a similar picture (HRO, AD2/I/I, III/5).

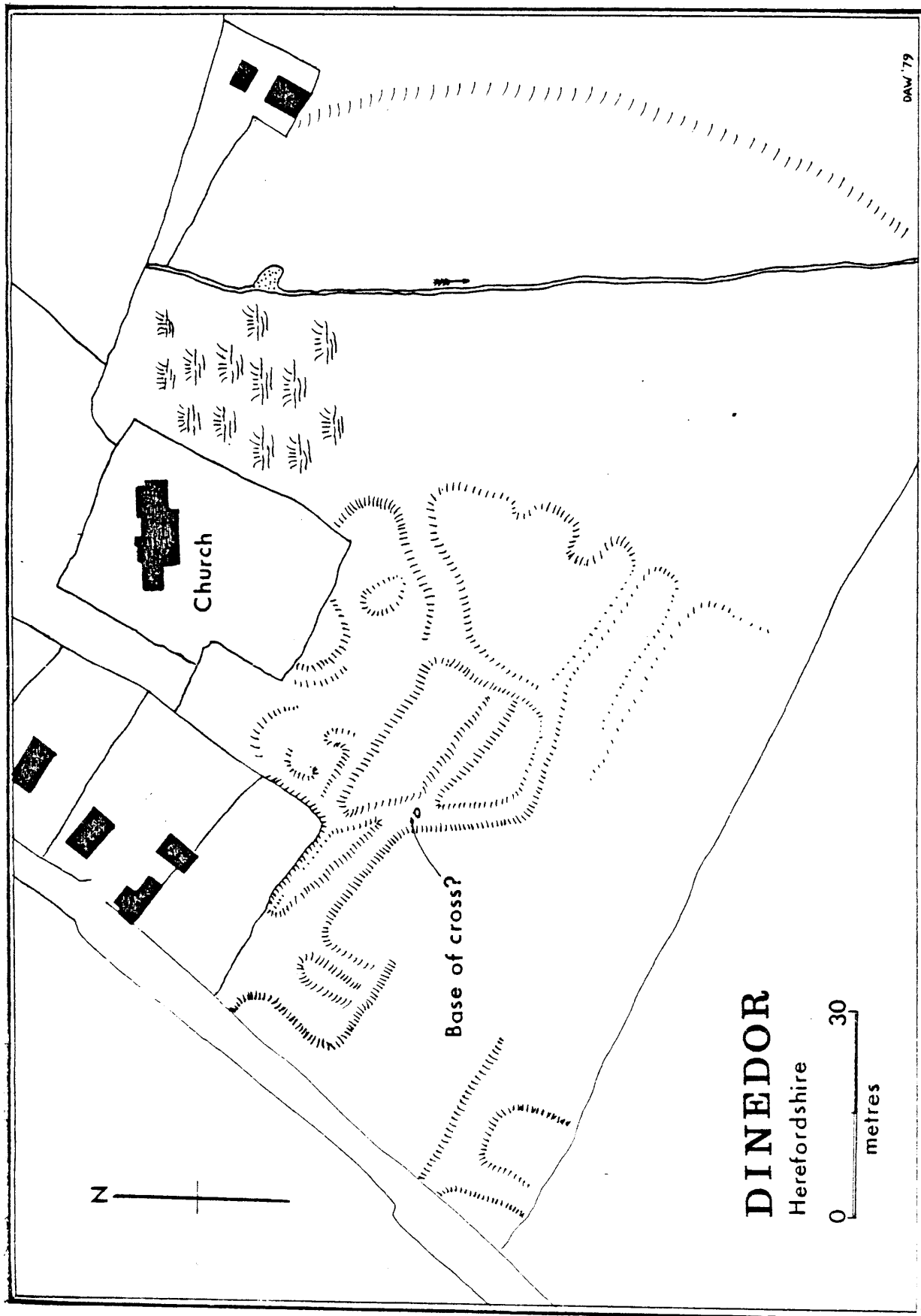
Clearly, Dinedor's field system had started decaying before the earliest documentary material becomes available; a situation which is met with elsewhere in Herefordshire (Gray (1915), 139-152). Without a plan, it is impossible to make any suggestions about their original character. The multiplicity of fields referred to in 1740 may represent the disintegrating fragments of three or four great fields. One of these was certainly Westfield where 12 selions, i.e. the basic unit of ploughing in arable fields, are mentioned in a grant of 1346 (Capes (1908), 223). Today it is generally assumed that open fields came into existence in the early Middle Ages when population growth exerted pressure upon the arable lands of a community (Thirsk (1964), 23). Open fields naturally tended to lead to the nucleation of a settlement whilst the passing away of the system had a reverse effect and led to dispersal. A series of strip lynchets, about 150-180 metres long following the contours on the eastern slopes of Dinedor Camp (526364), in a field called Wall Piece in 1840, were probably produced by similar forces (Taylor (1975), 88-92). The demise of Garrison Farm between 1840 and the earliest editions of the 6" OS map was the final stage in the disintegration of Dinedor before the bungalows reversed the process in the 20th century.

It seems that the total population of Dinedor remained fairly static throughout the period under consideration. In Domesday Book it was one of the most flourishing villis west of the Wye, with a population of 22 villeins, bordars and oxmen employing 14 plough-teams (VCH, Herefs, I, 327). The population was divided between two estates - Dinedor itself and Rotherwas. At the latter place there were 31 tenants in 1301 at the climax of population expansion in the Middle Ages (Cal Inq Postmortem, IV, 230). Unfortunately, in the Lay Subsidy of 1334 Dinedor is grouped with Holrne Lacy, Grafton, Bullinghope and Rotherwas but in 1377, 51 people are recorded paying the Poll Tax (Glassock (1975), 127; Hickling (1969), 490). This was after the collapse of the population between 1308 and 1362 which suggests that in the late 13th century the number of households may have been 70 (Hatcher (1978), 29, 58). In the Hearth Tax of 1664, 73 houses are referred to but 23 of these are exempt (Faraday (1972), 117) whilst in 1801 the population was 274 and had declined to 225 in 1901.

Although these figures are not strictly comparable it appears that Dinedor's population followed the national pattern, reaching a peak between c 1250-1350, declining in the late Middle Ages and rising again in the 16th and 17th centuries. The decline in population in the 14th century relaxed the pressure upon Dinedor's fields which led to the process of fragmentation by piecemeal enclosure and the crystallisation of holdings as described above. At this time too, Rotherwas was deserted, either deliberately or accidentally, thus enabling the Bodenhams to empark it in the early 16th century (Whitehead (1980), 11). When the population began to rise in the 16th and 17th centuries, new holdings were created in the marginal lands towards Dinedor Cross. A glance at the Tithe Map shows that this was where the village's population was concentrated in the mid-19th century. In the early Middle Ages the woodlands of Dinedor were annexed to the royal forest of Haywood, as the Domesday entry indicates, and although they were outside the forest by c 1300 it is unlikely that much colonisation took place here during the earlier phase of population expansion (Swinfield Reg, II, 373). But in the 16th and 17th centuries this was undoubtedly where the burgeoning community was absorbed – as the copious documentary material for the adjoining parishes of Much Birch and Aconbury indicates (HRO, C99/III/27). Among the 'squatters' occupying these marginal lands were, one would expect, the 25 exempt households referred to in the Hearth Tax. Thus, the predecessors of the cottages occupying the slopes of Dinedor Hill probably lived on the empty house platforms in the Garrison Meadow.

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ARS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1981

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr G Parker .
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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mrs R Wride
<u>Field Secretary:</u>	Mr J Wride
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Mrs R Richardson
	Mr G C Warren
	Mrs R Skelton
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr C E Attfield
<u>Assistant Editor:</u>	Mr R E Kay.

CITY OF HEREFORD ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE (With kind acknowledgements to Mr R Shoesmith)

DORE ABBEY, ABBEYDORE

Interim report on the survey of part of the surviving masonry of the south nave arcade during September 1980

The City of Hereford Archaeology Committee was commissioned by the Department of the Environment to make an archaeological survey of the surviving pier and arch of the southern nave arcade. The survey was in advance of major repair works which were required because of a recent fall of masonry which had been caused partly by the elements and partly by deep rooted shrubs.

The Abbey, for Cistercian monks, was founded about 1147 but none of the surviving masonry appears to be of that date. The building of the abbey was apparently continuous from about the middle of the 12th century until about 1200-1210. The RCHM suggest that at least two bays of the nave were begun about 1180. The abbey was suppressed in 1536 and in 1633, John, Viscount Scudamore restored the eastern arm and transepts for use as a parish church. A restoration was carried out between 1895 and 1904 under the direction of R W Paul who also excavated parts of the site.

The nave as finally completed was ten bays long. It has been entirely destroyed except for the East respond and first column of the North arcade, the East respond and first column of the South arcade with the arch between them.

The following description is taken from the RCHM.

"The East respond of the North arcade is semi-circular with a capital carved with slender interlacing leaves and moulded 'hold-water' base with spurs at the angles; the column is circular with a foliated and scalloped capital and a triple corbel of the same design with a foliage-knot below it on the North side; this corbel carried the former vault-ribs of the North aisle; the base is of the 'hold-water' type, but only the East side is now visible; above the East respond are the springers of the former arch and on the capital of the pillar are re-set a ring of stones, probably sections of vault-ribs.

The South-East respond is generally similar to the North East respond but differs in the capital, which is carved with conventional water-leaf foliage; the first column of the arcade is circular, with the capital carved with plain leaves with a similarly carved corbelled

projection on the South side for the vaulting of the aisle, and above it is a perished springing-stone of the aisle vault. The first arch of the South arcade is two-centred and of two moulded orders, with a moulded label towards the nave, and on the aisle side a perished moulding which presumably was the wall-rib of the aisle vaulting; the arch is rather distorted, and the pillar on the West side has been buttressed to resist the thrust of the arch; above the arch the wall is 'cut' on the rake and abuts against the transept wall; in this wall is a length of the original string-course below the clearstorey and three courses of the moulded East splay of one of the windows. In the South East angle of the nave is a perished corbel-capital, supporting the springing-stone of the former vault of the nave; it has perhaps been re-set at a lower level than it originally occupied.

The North Aisle (10 ft wide) has two or three feet of the original North wall left standing, and on it is a short length of moulded internal string-course. In the base of the wall are a few moulded stones of the East jamb of the former East processional doorway from the cloister and also one course of the outer order of the West jamb with the damaged 'hold-water' base of the shaft of an inner order. In the North East angle is a corbel capital for the former diagonal vaulting-rib; it has scrolled foliage and a square moulded abacus. A portion of thick walling further west is perhaps part of the outer wall of the aisle, and part of the excavated West wall is still exposed.

The South Aisle (11 ft wide) has a length of the foundations of the South wall exposed and a broken surface and inner angle .stones show where the South wall met the South transept; only a few of the stones of the wall do not project beyond the wall of the transept, but these include one on the outer face at the top which is apparently the beginning of a trefoiled corbel table or arcade. In the South East angle is a 13th century corbel-capital, and the springing-stones of the former moulded diagonal and wall ribs of the aisle-vaulting; these remaining worked stones suggest considerably later work than the arcades."

The survey comprised the following: A site plan showing the relationship of the two surviving columns to the existing West wall of the church and the disposition of known graves in the immediate area. Measured elevations of the North and South side of the single remaining bay showing each stone. A measured elevation of the present West wall of the church showing the relationship of the existing South arcade to the filled nave and aisle arches.

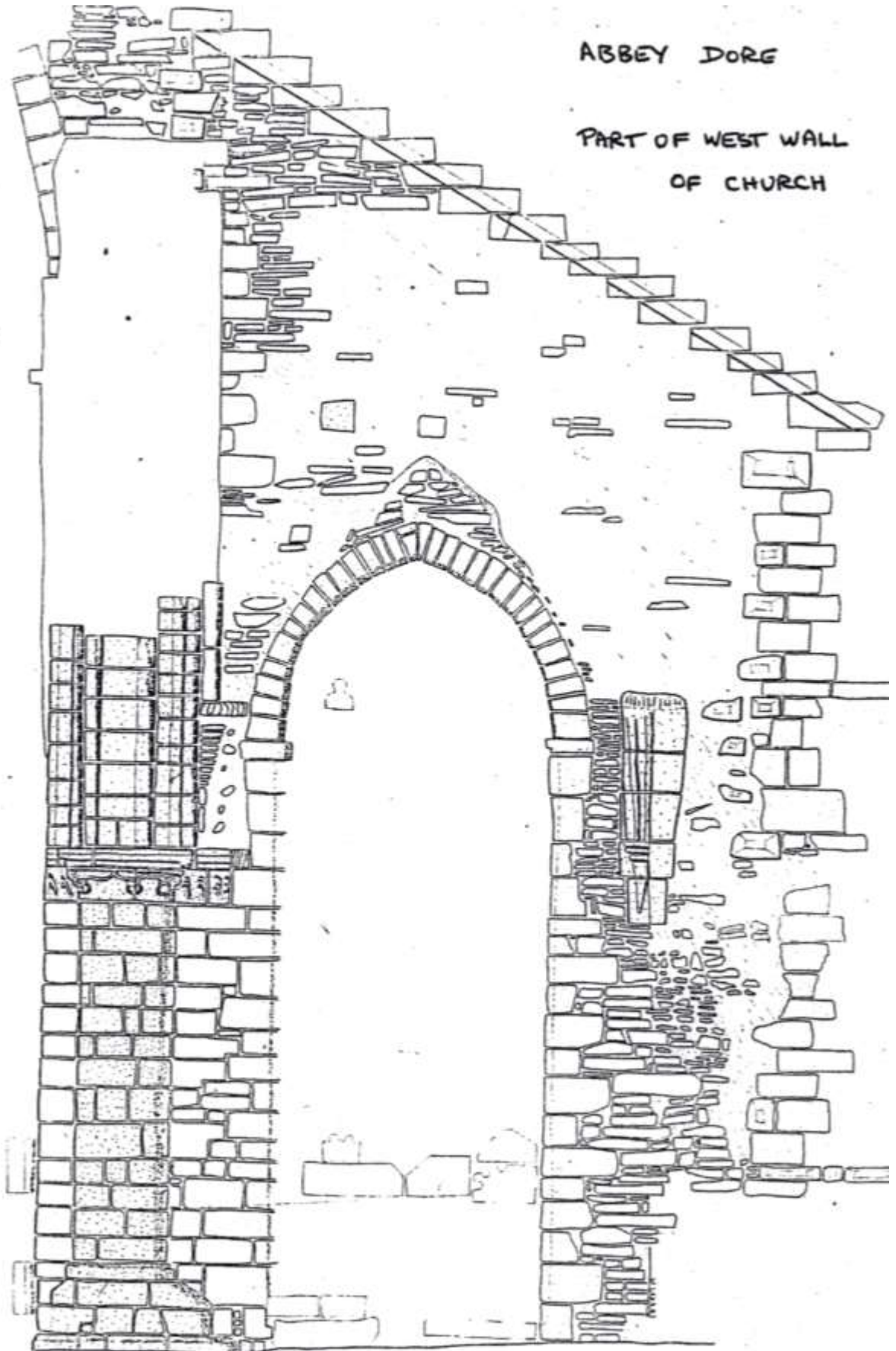
The survey has indicated the extent of the buttressing work and has raised some doubt about the positioning of the springing-stones for the aisle-vault. It has also indicated that the opening above the arch, of which fragments only remain, may not be a clearstorey but could have led directly from the nave into the upper part of the aisle.

A full report with photographs and completed drawings will follow in due course.

November 1980

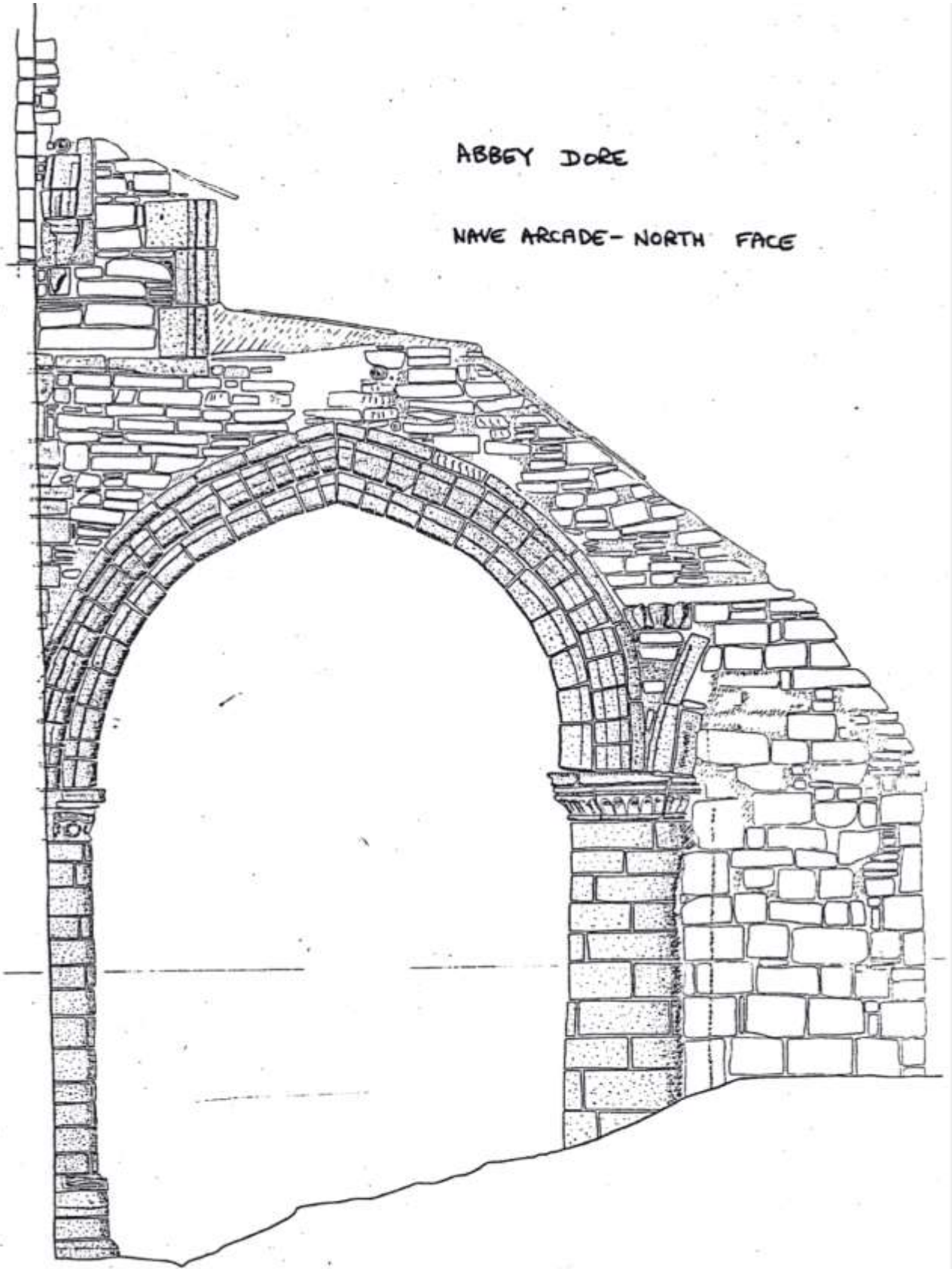
ABBAY DORG

PART OF WEST WALL
OF CHURCH



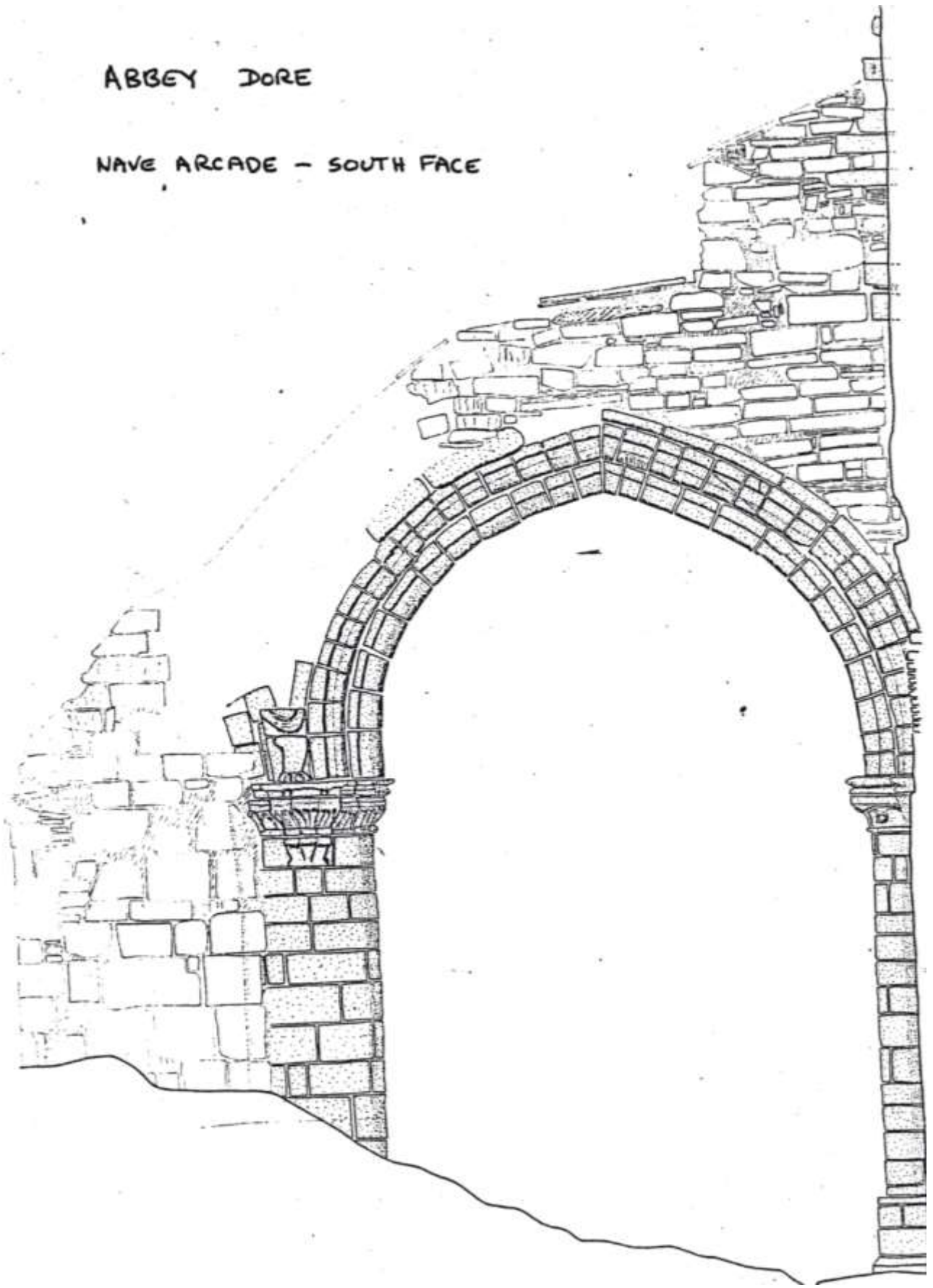
ABBAY DORE

NAVE ARCADE - NORTH FACE



ABBNEY DORE

NAVE ARCADE - SOUTH FACE



CITY OF HEREFORD ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE
(With kind acknowledgements to Mr R Shoesmith)

INTERIM REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF A TRENCH DUG FOR TELEPHONE CABLE DUCTS ALONG KING STREET, HEREFORD DURING OCTOBER 1980

A trench, some 2.4m deep, was dug along King Street from a point in Broad Street, on the edge of the cathedral close, to the junction with Bridge Street. The trench averaged 0.7m wide and was in the southern part of the highway. The total distance involved was about 110m and as the excavation progressed along King Street the trench was rapidly shored, the ducts were installed and the trench refilled with clean gravel. Opportunities to observe the excavations were limited by the speed of the operation and consisted solely of the examination of the faces of the trench after the shoring had been put in place. A measured sketch was prepared of a length of 16m of the south face of the trench.

King Street has a pronounced 'dip' between the cathedral and the northern end of Bridge Street, with the lowest point close to the junction with Aubrey Street. The 'dip', which is of the order of 1.2m, has been considered to reflect the line of the 'King's Ditch' first noted by Alfred Watkins (Woolhope Club Trans 1918-20 p 249-58) and examined by Heys and Norwood in 1958 (Woolhope Club Trans 1958-60 p 117-25). It was thought that the ditch may have separated the Bishop's fee from the King's fee or that it was an early defensive boundary for the city.

Excavations in the Bishop's Palace gardens in 1979 (interim report R Shoesmith) indicated that the area near the junction of the two tennis courts was marshland at least until the 15th century. A similar result was obtained by Heys and Norwood when they dug behind the Bridge Street Methodist Chapel in 1958.

The trench along King Street confirmed these earlier observations and demonstrated that the marshy area was at least 50m wide and that the total depth was greater than the 2.4m excavated. The lowest 0.7m consisted of a heavy, waterlogged, black silt which was covered by a series of large branches and small tree trunks laid at right angles to the line of King Street. The wood was still in a good state of preservation and is considered to represent the earliest road surface so far discovered in Hereford. It may date to the 10th century or earlier and should represent the earliest attempt to cross the marshy area to the west of the cathedral by a road. The surviving street plan of Hereford indicates that King Street, with its continuation of St Nicholas Street to the west, and possible continuation to the east at Castle Street, is one of the earliest roads in the city.

Above the timber roadway were layers of silt and several layers of large stone and gravel which apparently represent the further consolidation of the surface of the road across this marshy area throughout the historic period.

Scraps of leather shoes were found in the black silt layers, but apart from them there was no dateable material. Samples of the silts were taken together with examples of the timbers. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to obtain radiocarbon dating and possibly dendrochronological dating. The waterlogged silts may contain seeds and shells which could give an indication of the vegetation cover of the area before the road was laid.

November 1980

FLANESFORD PRIORY
By Mr R Kay

The object of the visit by the Archaeological Research Group to the Priory Farm was to examine the surviving remains of the Augustinian Priory, now incorporated into a barn and other outbuildings, with a view to the possibility of expanding the account of the remains as described in the RCAHM Inventory, Herefordshire, Volume I pp 78-79. With the recent partial demolition and reconstruction of farm buildings on the N side of the presumed site of the cloister it was hoped that the site of the priory church could have been ascertained. Unfortunately, our arrival on the site was too late by some years for any possible

examination of surviving Medieval material either above or below the then existing ground surface. The new farm buildings erected on a platform of concrete had effectively covered (and possibly destroyed) any vestige of the priory buildings on the N side of the cloister.

A fairly intensive examination of the farm buildings (but not of the present farmhouse itself) lends support to the RCAHM account that the only surviving building of pre-Suppression date existing above ground is the building which is sited on the S side of the cloister and which has a wing at its E end extending to the S. Not a vestige of worked masonry, in situ, built into later walls, or lying loose, could be found anywhere else on those parts of the site examined.

With the small amount of time that was available for members to inspect the remains, it was thought that for the present all that could be done was to reprint the excellent but all too brief architectural account and 1st floor plan of the remains as they appeared in 1930, at the time of the Inspector's visitation, and then add our comments. For clarity, a small scale block plan based on the Ordnance Survey of 1978 is also included.

The RCAHM account is as follows:-

"The priory of St John the Baptist was a small house of Canons regular of St Augustine, founded in 1346 by Sir Richard Talbot. The surviving building flanked the S side of the cloister and has a projecting S wing adjoining its E end; it is now used as a barn. The walls are of local sandstone rubble and ashlar with dressings of the same material, and the roofs are covered with tiles. The main building, formerly of two storeys, was probably the frater range, the frater being on the 1st floor. It has, however, several unusual features; such as the (exceptional) entrance at the W end of the fireplace, which make this attribution doubtful. That the cloister lay to the N of it is proved by the survival of the weathering and corbels of its roof; its extent is probably represented by the existing quadrangle of farm buildings.

The main building (76¼ feet x 24¾ feet) is of mid 14th C date and is now of one storey except at the E end where a framed partition and two floors of the 16th C have been inserted. The ground floor has in the E wall an original square headed window. In the N wall is a modern barn doorway and further in a small square headed window. The weathering of the cloister roof extends the whole length of the wall and below it are the corbels of its wall plate; at the E end is the broken junction of a wall formerly running N. In the S wall at the E end is a blocked doorway with a square head; there are remains of a second doorway further W, and two square headed windows of two lights; beyond these is the modern barn doorway. Near the W end of the wall is a single light square headed window. In the W wall is a doorway with a shouldered head. The first floor has in the E wall a window formerly of two cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a two-centred head with a moulded rear-arch; the mullion is missing. In the N wall near the E end are remains of a single-light window, and farther W a fireplace with moulded jambs and a broken stone hood resting on corbels of grouped shafts with capitals; the hearth rests on corbelling, beyond it are the remains of a 15th century window (inserted in place of an earlier light) of three trefoiled lights in a square head and a 14th century window of one cinquefoiled light. At the E end of the S wall is a doorway with a two centred head; further W is a range of four 14th century windows, each originally of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoiled tracery in a two centred head; all the mullions are missing and of the westernmost window only part of the head remains; between the two easternmost windows is a niche with a cinquefoiled head. In the W wall, now covered by a modern building, is a 14th C doorway with moulded jambs, two centred arch and label; flanking it are niches with cinquefoiled heads and moulded labels; beyond the niches and at a higher level are windows with two centred heads; partly blocked and partly cut away; above the doorway and niches are the corbels for a former roof. The 16th C roof of the E part of the building is of the queen-post type.

The S wing has two storeys. The ground floor has a doorway with a square head and above it are two doorways; these were contained in a narrow building running E, of which the start of the side remains. Further S is a blocked square headed window in the

lower storey. The S end has two square headed windows, the lower blocked. In the thickness of the W wall is a staircase entered by a doorway with a shouldered head at the ground floor level; the staircase is lit by two windows and a quatrefoiled opening.

The Fish pond lies to the SW of the house."

The remains of the priory buildings at the time of the RCAHM visit were described as being in a fairly good condition.

For some years the main part of the building and adjoining annexe to the W have been used as a store for bygone carts and implements with a view to forming an agricultural museum which unfortunately, owing to the unexpected demise of the owner, did not materialise. There has over the past couple of years been a marked deterioration in the fabric of the building, mainly due to serious neglect of the tiled roof covering which has led to the decay of many of the roofing timbers, floor and supporting joists in the S wing. Further delay in maintenance will shortly lead to a complete and expensive collapse of roof and floors at the E end of the building and further deterioration of the N wall below the 15th C window opening.

Although the farm buildings (recently rebuilt) to the N of the cloister site are in good order and in constant use, the present farmhouse to the E is untenanted and approaching a state of dereliction.

Members were impressed by the fine workmanship and architectural detail of mid 14th C date surviving in the fenestration of the "frater" building and in particular its doorways, flanking image niches, the fine hooded fireplace and deeply recessed cinquefoiled aumbry recess at the first floor level. Not described in the RCAHM account, there were noted the fine corbels of clustered shafts, high up at the apex of the internal face of the gable walls of the "frater" which must have supported the ridge beam of the original roof. It is felt that all these, and other details, should eventually be recorded for posterity with adequate measured drawings, should such records not already be held by the RCAHM or National Buildings Records. Enquiries in this direction are to be made.

It would seem from existing structural evidence that the two storeyed "frater" building and its S wing after the Suppression were preserved for use as a combined dwelling and barn. A partition, masonry below, timber framing above, was inserted across the E end of the "frater" and the W end, now with its floor removed, converted into a barn. The E end of the "frater" and adjoining S wing forming a not unpleasing dwelling house, with fireplaces inserted in its S gable wall. At some unspecified time, probably very late in the 18th C or early in the 19th C this dwelling was superseded by the building of the present farmhouse and the E end of the "frater" and the S wing then reverted to farm purposes, the floor being strengthened in places for part of the upper storey to be used as a granary and storeroom. The partial blocking of the Medieval stairs and the construction of external stone steps on the base of destroyed Medieval walls, a little to the E of the S wing, then occurred.

As stated by the RCAHM the "frater" building offers a number of peculiarities strange to the earlier and normal layout of such a room, in a priory of the Augustinian order. The "frater" was normally at ground level and entered from the cloister walk and not at the W end as at Flanesford. However, in later monastic houses, even amongst the stricter Cistercian Order, planning rules seem to have been relaxed and fraters on an upper floor are occasionally found (cp Cleve Abbey in Somerset - which also has a W entrance, but opening internally into other rooms of its S range).

The building at present sited at the W end of the frater is evidently not earlier than the early 19th C. It obscures the fine W front (or external gable) of this building. It seems fairly obvious that the two doorways in this front, the lower to the ground floor and the upper to the first floor were protected by a two-storied wooden porch, the upper door being reached by wooden steps. Corbels and further holes for the support of this structure remain. It would seem doubtful from the evidence of the continuous chamfered base course around the W end of the "frater" building and the lack of any visible bonding courses that there ever was a

range of buildings constructed on the W side of the cloister. There certainly is no trace of such above ground.

The present "yard" N of the "frater" building would certainly seem to occupy the site of the cloister and there is some stronger evidence than that on the W for an E range to have been constructed. The long narrow single storey building extending N from the E end of the N wall of the "frater" building is not older than the early 19th C and does not appear to overlie the Medieval range which seems to have been further to the E. Perhaps the E wall of the present building approximated to the line of the W wall of the demolished range.

Older farm buildings to the N of the cloister site have been mostly swept away for the construction of an immense steel framed unit. Those older buildings that do remain are of rubble construction and are dateable to the late 18th C at the earliest. They show no sign of any Medieval work or exhibit any dressed stones in their construction. It is here that the most probable site of the vanished church of the priory should be sought.

Unfortunately time and circumstances did not permit a very close inspection of the present farmhouse and its garden. Although probably of late 18th C origin, it almost certainly overlies former priory buildings, but without excavation etc their identification must remain hidden. In more conventional plans it could be the site for the Priors house, the Infirmary or the Guest House. Further to the S a rectangular building with a late 17th C doorway with an elliptical head is now a pottery and curio shop. Interior examination at the time of visit was not possible but there is nothing about the building, externally, to suggest anything earlier than the late 17th C or early 18th C. It may, of course, occupy the site of one of the priory outbuildings. The yard to the W of this building and to the S of the "frater" is bounded by walls of late date and probably marks the site of the outer "court" of the priory. There appear to be no certain traces of a precinct wall or banks, and present field boundaries seem to be unhelpful except possibly to the N and E of the farmhouse. An examination of a disturbed area adjoining the road would seem to suggest that there were three monastic fishponds, the lower of which has been incorporated into a later pond for the use of the farm.

In conclusion, it can be said that Flanesford Priory, although a small house and of late foundation, built when the first exuberance of Norman and early Medieval monastic life had long passed, nevertheless appears to have been a construction of more than usual architectural merit, whose detail is reflected by work of a similar date in the nearby castle. Viewing the remains, or apparent lack of them, one must question whether the priory was ever structurally completed in the manner of the surviving fragment. At the time of foundation, the economy of the priory would have dispensed to a large degree with the need for lay brothers and this would account for the apparent omission of a W range. Insufficient endowments may have resulted in the construction of a church and other buildings on a far humbler scale than envisaged by the founder.

It is unfortunate that our short visit was unable to throw light on the missing elements of the plans of the priory, but if this article is sufficient to awaken the interest of someone to make a further study and record of the existing remains, its purpose will have been achieved.

