

LITTLE FARINGDON PARISH CHURCH 1991

REPLACEMENT WOODEN FLOORING BENEATH THE PEWS (*Working Brief*)

Visited the church twice, initially after the decking in the nave and aisle had been lifted east of the south door (30/1/91) and again on the morning of 14 February following a telephone call from the builders (Pells).

The second visit revealed that the floor to the west of the south door had not only been lifted but entirely reboarded and finished. Several pieces of moulded oak, consistent with that from a medieval church screen had been discovered, reused as floor joists along with several short struts tenoned at each end.

None of the timbers bore any trace of colour (paint) and several appear to have been reused more than once with joints cut across moulded edges.

Six pieces of moulded timberwork were retained. These pieces were later drawn at the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The timbers were then returned to the church in the presence of the churchwarden, the Rt Hon The Lord de Mauley on 23 April 1991.

During the reflooring none of the surviving pre-Victorian floor make-up was disturbed. Victorian builder's waste and rotted wood was swept up from beneath the wooden decking, pea gravel laid and the new floor joists laid on free standing breeze blocks. No archaeology was visible to the builders beneath the floor west of the south door. There was no archaeology visible east of the south door either as sufficient overburden had been left in-situ to mask the foundation of the north arcade.

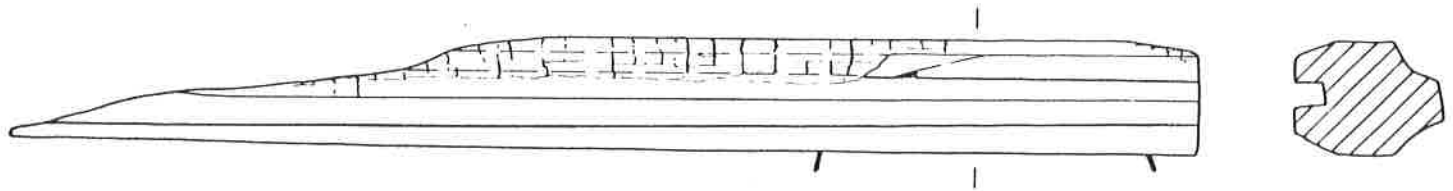
R A Chambers  
Oxford Archaeological Unit  
24 April 1991

## THE RETAINED TIMBERWORK

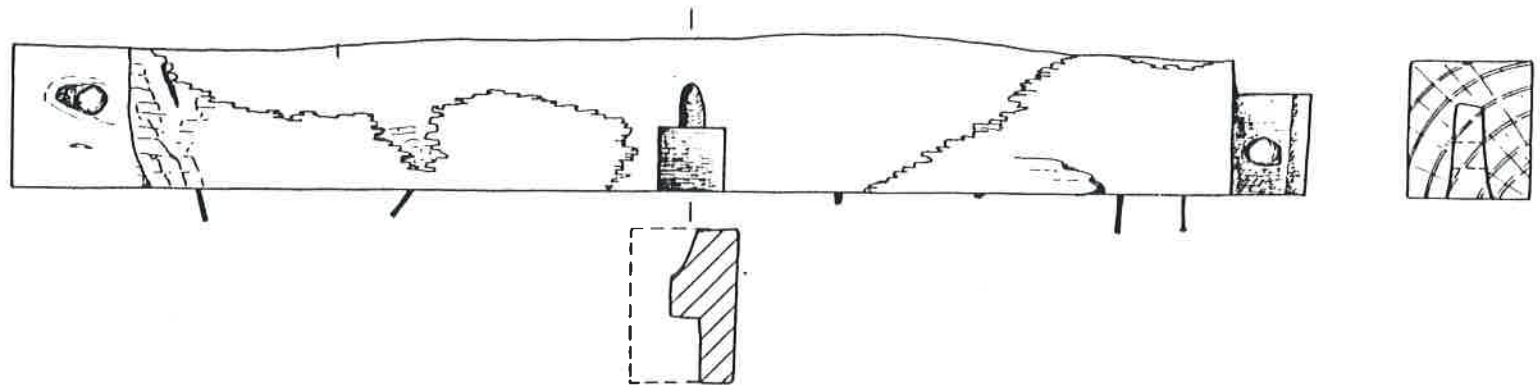
Six pieces of timber were retained, all were of oak and all six were drawn by Jane Robinson. All of the timbers are likely to have come from a medieval screen and rood loft, the latter suggested by the number of struts and fragments of struts tenoned at each end of which drawing no 2 represents the most complete example. If these struts each c 0.85m long supported the floor of a rood loft, the loft would have been less than 1m wide. It is highly likely that Little Faringdon Church possessed a rood screen surmounted by a narrow gallery (loft) which was dismantled at an unknown date and some of the timber re-used before being reused a second time as floor joists. Old nails suggest these timbers may have acted as floor joists twice over.

- 1 Moulded oak muntin, or rail with panel slot. Incomplete.
- 2 Oak strut with tenon at each end. Roughly squared timber. Overall length 0.85m.
- 3 Moulded oak muntin, or rail. Panel slot at one end. Incomplete.
- 4 Moulded oak muntin or rail with continuous panel slot and a tenon stub at one end. Overall length 2.10m.
- 5 Moulded oak muntin or rail with mortice slots and a tenon stub at surviving end. Incomplete.
- 6 A & B elevations of moulded oak muntin or rail with continuous panel slot. Probably cut by later jointing. Incomplete.

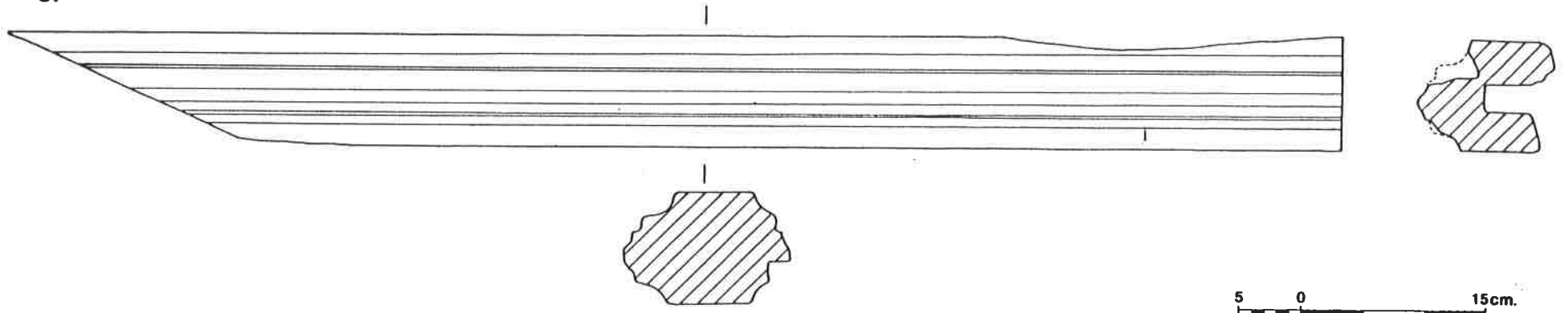
1.



2.

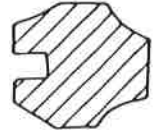
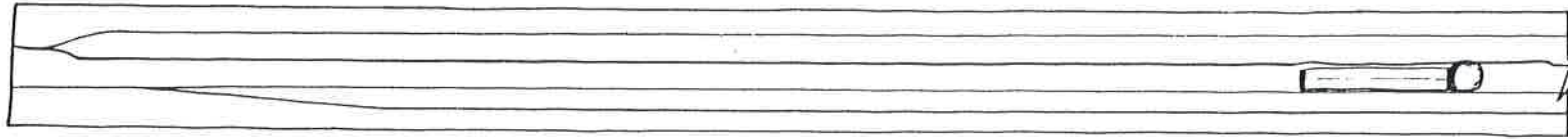


3.

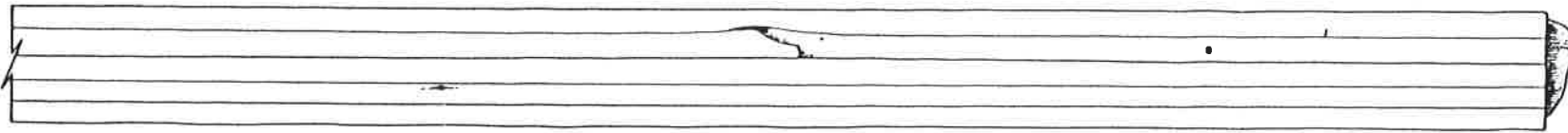


LITTLE FARINGDON CHURCH 1991  
 RE-USED TIMBERS FROM CHURCH FLOOR

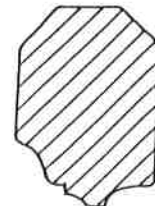
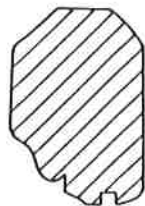
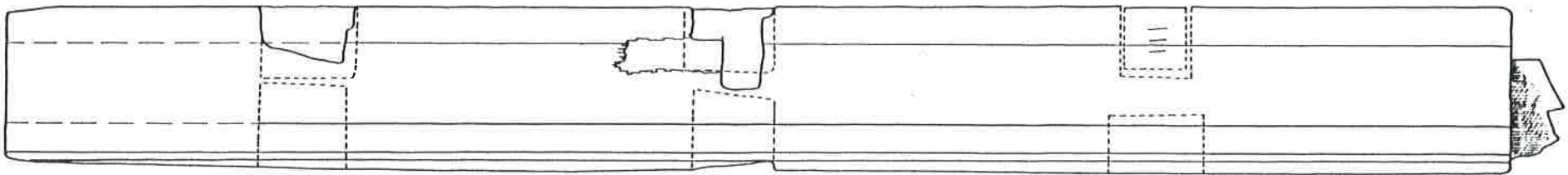
4i.



4ii.

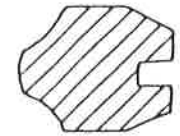
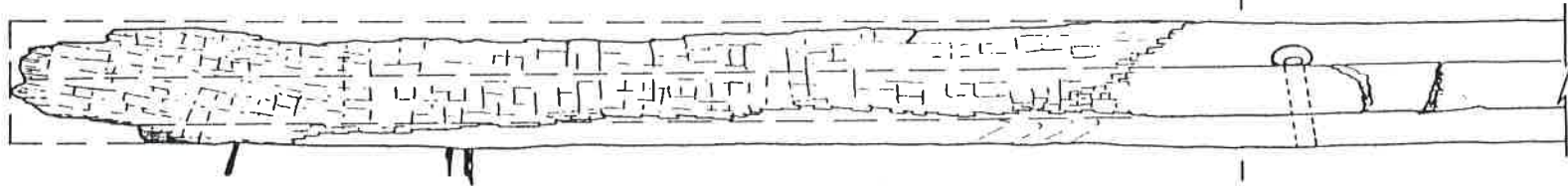


5.

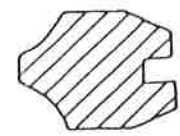
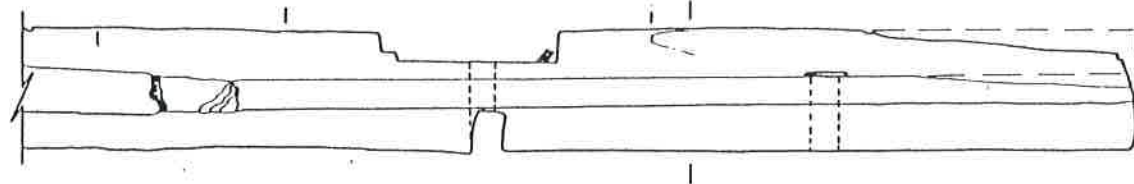
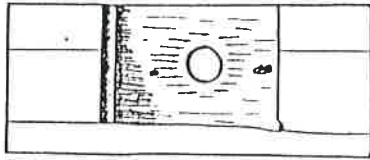


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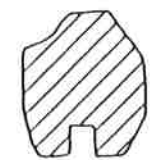
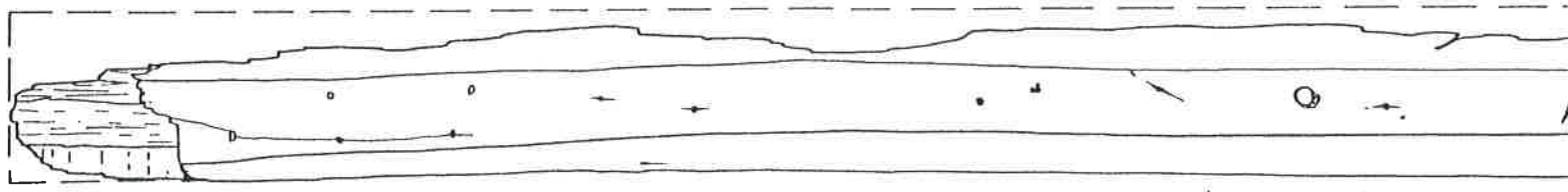
6Ai.



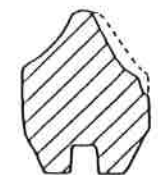
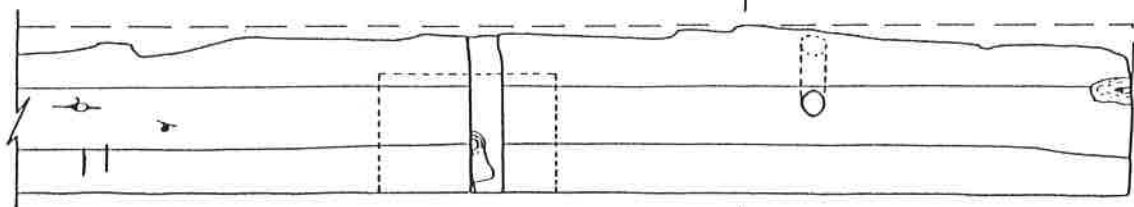
6Aii.



6Bi.



6Bii.



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