

This picture file covers archways, doorways, windows and stairways.

1. **St. Mary Minster, Stow, Lincs**; the chancel arch from east (see the dedicated file on Stow for fuller information).
2. **St. Mary, Sompting, W. Sussex**; the tower arch from the nave.
3. **Church of All Saints, Brixworth, Northants**; the chancel arch and associated windows viewed from the west.
4. **Holy Trinity church, Great Paxton, Hunts**; remains of crossing;



on the left is the north transept arch, to the right remains (jambs) of the chancel archway and out of the picture is the archway to the south transept where only the jambs remain but not to their full height (the nave archway and associated walling has been totally removed). Of the Saxon tower there is now no trace above eave level. The north archway seen here (once leading to the north transept) is approx. 30 ft. to the crown and is very comparable in size to the crossing arches at Stow Minster (in fact within a few inches).



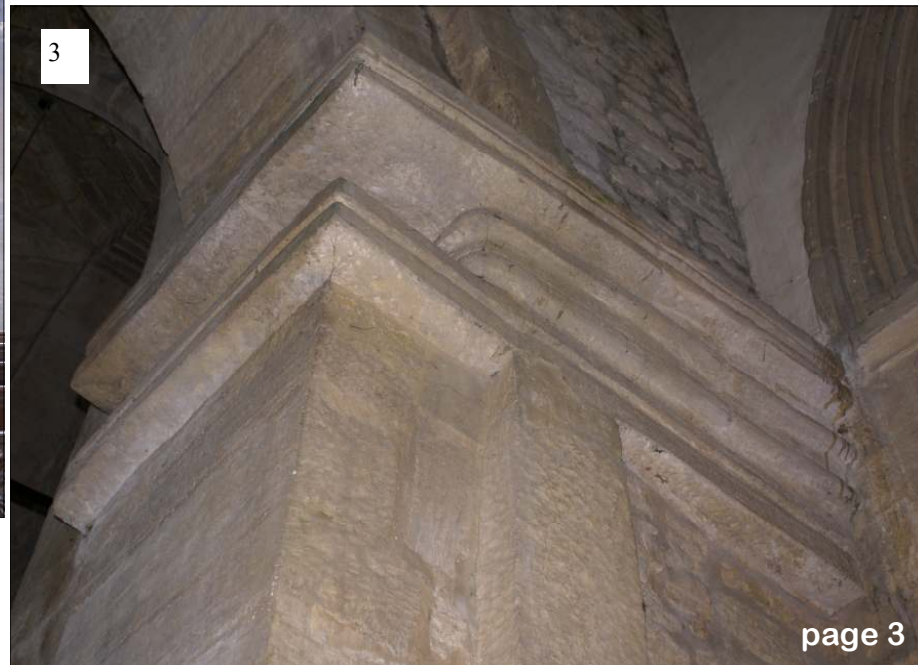
All Saints church, Wittering, Northants.

1. Chancel arch from west.
2. South impost and springing of arch, and showing 'outer pilaster in square section.
3. Chancel arch viewed from the chancel.



Church of St. John, Barnack, Cambridgeshire.

1. Tower archway showing curious 'sandwich' type construction of (north) impost.
2. The archway viewed from the nave.
3. As picture 1, but viewed from a different (lower) angle.

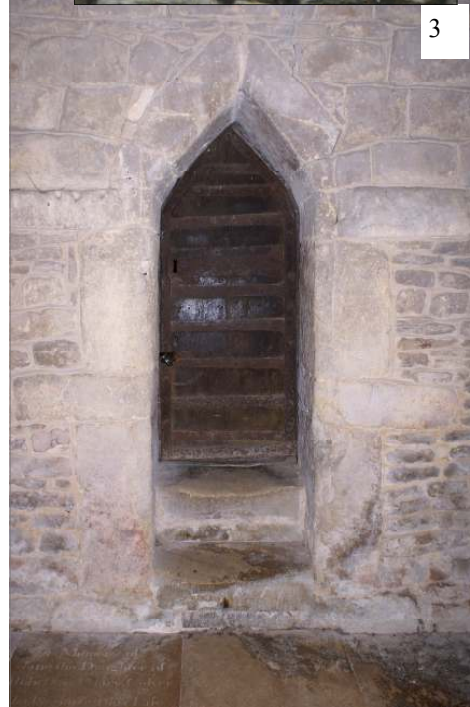


Church of St. Andrew, Brigstock, Northants.

1. Tower archway viewed from nave.
2. The detail of the pilaster on south side of that arch.
3. Doorway, triangular headed, leading from tower to stairway.

All Saints church, Hough-on-the-Hill, Lincs.

4. Saxon tower and W stairway turret.
5. View inside the turret, note the treads are formed quite separately from the newel (column), a distinctive Saxon method of stairway construction and NOT employed after the conquest. The nave of the church, incidentally, is of an earlier date than the tower.
6. Detail of monolithic window in stairway, the 2nd 'up' in photo 4.



Various features.

1. Reused Roman; tower archway at St. Andrews church, Corbridge, Northumberland (no doubt from nearby Corstopitum). Note the first set of stones (left and right) above the imposts are wrongly placed since they are not tapered, they belong below the imposts (obviously the numbering of the kit of Roman parts went wrong!). This gives the arch a curious stilted appearance. Dimensions 8ft 2in. wide and 16ft 3in. high. Note that the 'left hand' impost has been severely defaced.
2. North impost of arch, seen from inside the tower. The damage may have occurred during removal, or earlier; this arch is, after all, almost one thousand nine hundred years old!
3. West window in ground stage of tower, viewed internally.
4. St. Paul, Jarrow, Co. Durham. Triangular headed doorway in monastery buildings, in west wall (which runs north/south) and seen from W.



Doorways.

- 1. St.John the Baptist, Wivelsfield, E.Sussex (about 2 miles SSE of Haywards Heath). This Anglo-Saxon doorway now stands in the north wall of the north aisle of the nave which was built during a restoration and enlargement in 1869. H.Taylor says- *"This doorway has quite plain jambs, which are rebated for the hanging of the door. The imposts are chamfered, and the round head is of two orders, of which the inner is only slightly recessed, and both are carved with simple concentric mouldings on their vertical archivolt faces. On the inner order, the ornament consists of a half-round moulding between two of V-shape. The outer order has three concentric V-shaped mouldings."*
- 2. A closer view of the head of the doorway seen in 1. The red arrows pick out a "thicker" section of the mouldings of the inner order, and so you will appreciate that the mouldings do not repeat across the face as there is a distinct change of shape of this particular one moulding.
- 3. At St. Mary Magdalene, Bolney (W.Sussex, and some 5 miles west of Wivelsfield) there is a sister to the Wivelsfield doorway and which is set in the south wall of the nave and protected by a porch of possibly early Georgian date. Taylor thinks the archway may have been reset in this wall at some point. Certainly it has suffered from unsympathetic re-pointing but that seems to have been done at some time in the past forty years. The imposts are 'defaced' - shaved away to match the 45 degree chamfer that is carried down the jambs, and is likely to be a medieval reshaping possibly in the early 15th century.



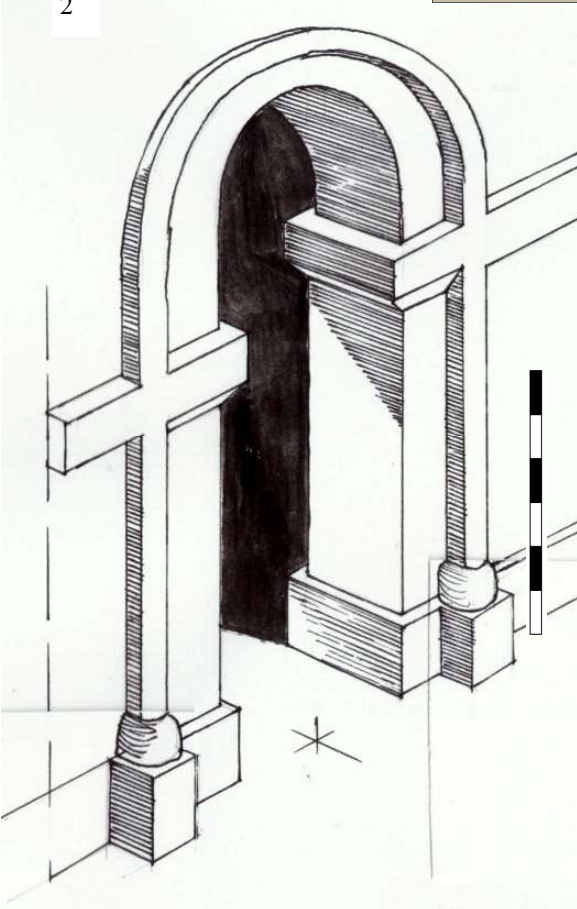
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- 4. The doorway seen from inside the nave.
- 5. A detail of the east impost showing the chamfer and the shallowness of the relationship of the two orders, a typical feature of Anglo-Saxon practice in arch construction. Taylor states - *"The inner order is recessed only 2 inches behind the outer, and the archivolt face of the arch is ornamented with seven shallow mouldings which are carried round the head in the form of circles concentric with the arch itself."*



Archways.

1. At Breamore St. Mary's (Hampshire) the arches under the tower, shown 'restored' and as the crossing may have looked in pre-conquest days. Looking east the chancel arch is centre, the left archway gave access to the north porticus and on the right is the one remaining arch (from the original five). From the form of the incised letters a date in the latter part of the reign of Ethelred II (978-1016) has been suggested. It may be that the lettering is an addition to the arches but at least this fixes the very latest date for their construction to the second decade of the 11th century. See the photo file on Breamore for further information.
2. The Anglo-Saxon archway at Sherborne Abbey which originally led to the westwerken. This drawing has been made, noting the remains of pilaster strips and hood mouldings on its west face, and shows how both faces probably would have appeared in 'as built' condition, with rectangular section hood-moulds and matching pilaster strips. The 're-styling' (perhaps in the 12th century) resulted in the hacking back of the pilaster strips and their stops and the hood-mould, together with shaving back the imposts. A tympanum was added. This defacing has totally destroyed the character of this archway, radically weakened its aesthetic strength and negated its classical impact. For scale the ranging rod is six feet.



Picture 3, text see next page.

Archways.

Previous page (7), picture 3, and this page. St. Botolphs church, Botolphs, near Old Shoreham, West Sussex. Situated near the west bank of the Shoreham River and where a bridge probably crossed the river in Roman times stands a church with nave, chancel and west tower, the nave and chancel probably dating to the first quarter of the 11th century. There are some side-alternate quoin stones remaining on the south side of the nave. The chancel arch has some similarities with the tower archway at nearby Sompting. The archway shown in picture 3 and below is simple in that it has a round-headed opening with plain square jambs, the arch being of through-stones having a soffit-roll worked on the inner faces of the voussoirs, this roll being carried down and springing from each corbel which is of conical shape and ornamented. These corbels are not dissimilar to those of the tower archway at Sompting, one might say a poor copy, and have, as one can only describe them, elongated 'scoops', as if made by pressing a date stone (set on the finer edge) into putty. They are arranged in geometric order and each sit between the two scoops above to give a kind of 'net' pattern to the whole.

Unfortunately the whole is whitewashed but flaking reveals a sandstone beneath. The two (unnumbered) pictures here show both the sweep of the arch and the other one of the corbels in closer detail. The interior of the church is suffering from ingress of water and is in a much poorer condition than I remember it some fifty years ago.

