



ALNWICK U3A Architecture Group,
Thursday 23rd June 2022

Visit to Corbridge and Chipchase Castle



Provisional timetable:

9.30 am Depart from Alnwick (behind Playhouse then Homebase Bus Stop, Willowburn Avenue)
11.00 am - 2 pm Visit to Corbridge (and lunch)
2.30 pm - 4.30 pm Visit to Chipchase Castle
6.00 pm Arrive back in Alnwick



Chipchase Castle is essentially a combination of a large rectangular tower probably of the middle of the fourteenth century with a Jacobean house of 1621. However its history is a little more complicated. The first mention of the tower is not until 1415, but comparison with other towers in the area suggests it was built in the previous century. It has a ground floor with three storeys above. The attached house, which may have been built on the site of earlier buildings, is one of the finest examples of its time. Between 1734 and 1754, sash windows replaced mullioned windows, but in 1819 they were changed back to mullioned windows, probably by John Dobson. He added dummy Georgian windows to the tower to harmonise with the South-west front (left photo). The interior of the house was reorganised in the middle of the eighteenth century and most of its decoration is of this date.

Chipchase was in the barony of Prudhoe which was created by King Henry I and its first baron was Robert de Umframvill. The first recorded owner of Chipchase was Sir Peter de Insula, perhaps a relative of the Umframvills. His great grandson conveyed it to Sir William Heron of Ford Castle who married his sister. The Herons were to be the owners for the next 350 years. The estate was bought by George Allgood in 1727 and he sold it to John Reed of Bellingham in 1734. It was Reed who was responsible for the Georgian work and for the building of the chapel, a separate building, which stands close to the Jacobean front. He is buried in the Chapel. Financial problems led to the sale of the house to the Greys of Beckworth in 1826 and then, in 1862 to Hugh Taylor. His descendants still own the Castle.

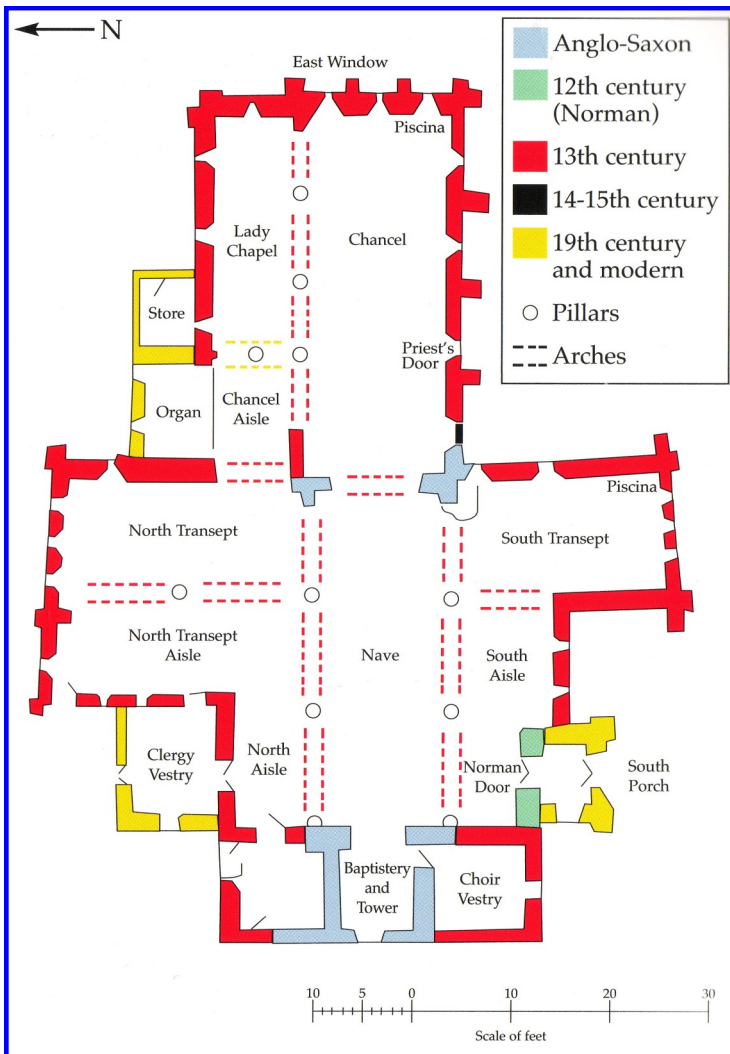
CONTACT DETAILS

Peter Carter email: panddcarter@btinternet.com
phone: 01665 605091
mobile: 07485 168982



Apart from the Church, the oldest buildings in **Corbridge** are in Main Street. Low Hall (above) was begun in the 13th century as a large rectangular block with a storied solar which was raised to a tower in the 15th century. It was remodelled in the next century and again in the following century when it acquired its large mullioned windows. Next to it, across the end of main street is an early 17th century house, Monksholme. It was restored in the 19th century. At the other end of Main Street is the large Angel Inn. It has a 17th century centre with Georgian and later additions. Opposite, Bridge Bank leads to the bridge that was completed in 1675. It is now the oldest bridge across the Tyne since it was the only one to survive the floods of 1771.

Corbridge has many other interesting buildings particularly around the Market Place and in both Hill Street and Middle Street. There are also interesting shops and a range of places to eat.



St Andrew's Church in Corbridge probably dates from before 786, when it was described as a monastery. The original Saxon church consisted of a nave with a square porch at the west and a similarly sized chancel at the east. The arch from the nave to the south (photo above) is thought to be Roman - brought in its entirety from the nearby Roman fort of Corstopitum. Later, in the 11th century, the tower was added over the porch. In the next century, a doorway was made in the south; this is the present main entrance.

As the plan shows, major extensions were made in the 13th century. In the 1220s the chancel was substantially lengthened and heightened. Some thirty years later, a north aisle was added to both the nave and chancel, then the south aisle was built. In the 1280s, the transepts were added and a few years later the north transept aisle.

The church was severely damaged in 1296 in a Scottish raid. That raid also destroyed most of the houses and the bridge. In around 1300, the Vicar's Pele and King's Oven, both in the churchyard, were built. There were more raids over the next 400 years and the church was described as in great decay in 1700. It wasn't fully restored until the nineteenth century.