

**The Search for
WINCHESTER'S
Anglo-Saxon
MINSTERS**

Martin Biddle

with illustrations by
Simon Hayfield

**Oxford
2018**

All images © Winchester Excavations Committee



Winchester's earliest Anglo-Saxon church (later known as Old Minster) as it may have looked about 650, looking south-east.



The Anglo-Saxon Old Minster in its final form, completed 992–4, looking north-east, with the west front of New Minster, built 901–3, and its tower built in the 980s in the background.

In memory of
Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle
1941–2010



Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle was a Danish archaeologist who transformed approaches to archaeological excavation in England.

Joining the Winchester excavations as a student from the University of Aarhus in 1964 she introduced metric measurements and imposed new standards of rigour in excavation, stratigraphic recording and analysis, which were adopted throughout the work of the Winchester Excavations Committee. This technical brilliance provided the basis for her forthcoming posthumous publication on the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon minsters (Winchester Studies 4.i). The present book is a tribute to Birthe by Simon Hayfield, whom she selected as the principal illustrator of WS 4.i, and whom she trained in archaeological illustration.

Published by the Winchester Excavations Committee

© Winchester Excavations Committee 2018

The moral rights of the author and illustrator have been asserted

First edition published in 2018

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of the Winchester Excavations Committee, or as expressly permitted by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization

You must not circulate this work in any other form
and you must impose this same condition on an acquirer

All paintings and drawings are by Simon Hayfield unless otherwise stated.

Photographs by A. R. Smith (p. 10), R. C. Anderson (pp. 11, 15–16 (lower), 18, 22–23 (lower), 31 (upper left), 38, 48–9 (left), 65), M. Biddle (pp. 12, 16 (upper)), E. Cloutman (pp. 13, 68, 70), T. Slade (pp. 19, 23 (upper), 31 (bottom)), J. W. Fletcher (pp. 20–21, 25 (lower)), J. W. Hopkins III (p. 24), John Crook (p. 34), C. Chapman (p. 71), G. Worman (back cover).

All photographs and illustrations including those by Simon Hayfield are the copyright of the Winchester Excavations Committee unless otherwise stated.

Published in United Kingdom by Archaeopress Publishing
www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978 1 78491 857 6
ISBN e-pdf 978 1 78491 858 3

Typesetting in Garamond and Futura by Clare Chapman

Book design by Simon Hayfield and Clare Chapman

Editing by Clare Chapman and Katherine Barclay

Copy-editing by Robert Peberdy

Printed and bound in United Kingdom by
Berforts Ltd

Front cover images (clockwise from top left): The Anglo-Saxon Old Minster c.650; Old Minster with New Minster in the background c.992–4; excavation on the Cathedral Green 1969; Anglo-Saxon wall painting; and excavation of the chalk foundations of the north apse of Swithun's martyrion at Old Minster c.975

Contents

viii Acknowledgments

ix Preface

1 Introduction

2 Anglo-Saxon Winchester

10 Archaeological excavations and finds

32 Understanding the evidence

44 Evolution of Old Minster

60 Destruction of Old Minster

66 The Royal Quarter

70 Winchester Studies

74 Further Reading