

Report 1999

BUSHMEAD PRIORY (St. Neots)

Window Glass.

Site Visit 12th February 1975

The stained/painted glass windows are on the first floor of the building. The glass itself is in comparatively good condition, having been re-leaded in Victorian times. However no attempt was made to piece similar pieces of glass together - and the whole appears as a "patchwork". Some damage has already led to the partial breaking of one of the panels (photograph 1) and the remaining lead is fragile, particularly where the lead joins the stonework.

Recommendations

As the Priory will require much rebuilding and reinforcing it is recommended that the four glass window panels (photographs 1-4) be removed as they stand at present and brought to the Laboratory. In the Laboratory cleaning and re-leading can be carried out. Obviously the voids thus left in the windows will have to have temporary glazing inserted to prevent further damage to the fabric of the building. When the Priory is restored the cleaned and re-leaded glass panels should be returned, but displayed in front of clear glass. I recommend that the windows as they at present stand be removed to the Laboratory as soon as possible. This should be co-ordinated so that Masons, Glazers and Laboratory Staff ~~are~~ are on site at the same time. Any great delay in the removal of these windows will without doubt lead to much more damage being caused.

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