



Hasketon, Suffolk

Ἰαρεκατῦν

Church of St Andrew

Church fabric

Grid ref TM 250 504

Date

Blocked round-head window in nave S wall with monolithic head and tall monolithic jambs, shallow rebate, perhaps for wooden shutter, series of small holes drilled in jambs and head within rebate, possibly fixing for same – insufficient evidence to justify Anglo-Saxon date.

Taylor

At the time when the plaster was taken off the flint walling of this church, some years ago, the jamb stones and semi-circular head of a small window built up into the rubble of the S wall of the nave 9' from the ground was found. The size of the blocked up light was 24" × 6". The remarkable feature of these three stones is that each of the jambs has four circular holes, ¼" in diameter, at about equal intervals apart, whilst there are two similar holes in the top stone. The Rector forwarded a drawing of these stones to the Rev. Dr Cox in 1910, who, on seeing it, was confident that they were of Saxon date, and that they had been re-newed in position in Norman times. The holes were found, as was anticipated, to slope considerably inwards, and are an inch deep: fragments of wood and bark were extracted from them. It was a Saxon fashion to insert sticks into such holes to form the basis of a kind of "wattle and daub" work for the construction of the inner splay of their small windows. This was the first noted and described by Mr. Ponting in connection with the church at Abury (*sic*. [maybe Avebury?]), Wiltshire, in 1882; the like method was detected by Dr Cox in a small window at the W end of Wansford Church, Northamptonshire, a few years later, when he found the remains of willow sticks in several of the small holes. It is highly interesting to find that Suffolk supplies another example. Herringbone masonry is common to both Saxon and early Norman periods, but in the case of Hasketon it is obvious that parts of the walling where the flints are arranged after this fashion are pre-Conquest.

Nikolaus Pevsner:

The Buildings of England – Suffolk: 1961