

## Church of St. Peter, Britford, Wilts.

Taylor's account of this church runs to a good two pages, but visible remains condense down to 2 side arches which originally led to their individual porticus, or side chapel. Having been 'reopened' in the restoration of 1873 and provided with small annexes into which they now open. Rickman saw these arches and dated them as Anglo-Saxon. Taylor puts a date of 800-950. Today there remains the fabric of the nave and parts of the east walls of the porticus embedded in the later transepts. The arches are comprised, in my opinion, in the greater part of reused Roman pieces of stone, stone 'tiles', and tiles, put together as if in some weird jigsaw. The base mouldings especially are pure Roman. I will post more information on these arches on another (text) page.

Seen working from top left and clockwise.

1. North archway.
2. East jamb of same; note that the vertical stones are in one piece, and this 'design' of grapes, or a vine, is found illustrated, albeit in more elaborate form, in Prof. Banister Fletcher's book "A History of Architecture" pg 67 illus. F. under the heading "Roman Ornament. 1."
3. Detail of Roman mouldings in pic 2. Note this stone has been shortened at the top, to 'fit' its new site, or perhaps the 2 vertical stones were one and are sawn in two?
4. South archway, which comprises a far higher Roman tile content than stone 'tile'.
5. A detail of impost of north arch and its make up.
6. Base of the west impost of the north archway, note the Roman mouldings, used like a skirting board. It is as if the builder has been presented with a pile of stone and asked to make 2 archways. Its not a bad job considering!

