

Refectory in 1504 suggests that chairs and not benches were in use.⁵ A large 14th century jug, used for water, beer or milk, was excavated in the former mill-stream nearby.⁶

The hall must have been gloomy in the winter, and more light was admitted in the Tudor Period, when neatly plastered four-centred brick openings were inserted at a lower level along the south side, each to contain two-light windows. Improvements tended to be funded by the prior or by wealthy laymen. Henry Baret was one and in 1516 left a bequest for glazing and whitening both sides of the Refectory, presumably the last phase of the refurbishment.⁷ A concession appears to be a door (now blocked) in the east wall which gave direct access to the Warming Room after meals. This together with the whitewashed walls and the larger south-facing windows must have been most welcome in winter. Despite this, four years later the Chronicle noted that the Refectory roof was leaking; maintenance of the enormous buildings was a perpetual problem.

The Kitchen

The Chronicle of Butley Priory records the modernization of the Kitchen in 1518 when three hearths, two ovens and coppers were installed in a single room which received a new roof – all at the expense of the prior. In previous years he had spent 100 marks of his own money on repairs. Of typical medieval kitchen proportions, it was about 23 feet square, smaller than those found in major



*(left): Kitchen doorway with 16th century window opening and fireplace;
(right) Kitchen ceiling beams with boarded loft above; (below) south elevation during restoration of the roof. The door will have opened into a kitchen yard.*