

Trench FF/I description

Phase 3

The earliest deposits are the levelling clays 5437/5227, which contained Roman pottery. This layer also contained part of an armadillo shell, a thin cu alloy strip and two hinges. A charcoaly clay layer 5433 covered these levelling clays.

Phase 4a/4b

Two layers then covered this clay layer; 5431 and 5432, these were mortar layers and were probably associated with the construction of the church. Walls 5391 and 5181 make up the northern extent of the atrium of the church. 5391 seemed initially to be thought of as Roman though later excavation showed it was in fact bonded to wall 5547 and therefore must be part of the original layout of the atrium of Abbott Joshua's church. It is most likely all part of wall 5181 though where the two would join was a big robber cut and lots of rubble meaning we are unable to determine the real relationship here.

Layer 5390 was a make-up layer above the mortar layers and was cut by three sub-circular cuts; 5398, 5394 and 5400, these were probably postholes perhaps associated with the building of the mausoleum walls. This make-up layer was also cut by 5426, filled by 5438 and 5415, for the construction of a small tower like structure 5250. Layer 5389 was a burnt deposit associated with the construction phases.

A second cut, 5434, was then made for the extension of this feature, creating the mausoleum to the west of it (wall 5435). A floor support 5356 was butted in against this wall. The rest of the mausoleum 5265 and 5266 was then built and the floors laid within it; mortar 5368 = 5357 = 5376 was the bedding for a tile floor; 5369 = 5354 = 5375. The mortar bedding was the same as 5220 outside the mausoleum.

Phase 5a

A second floor was laid within the mausoleum; 5350, with make-up layers 5353 and 5355 and for some reason the tomb was emptied and levelled. Layer 5349 may represent occupation at this time.

Phase 5c

Layer 5336 may represent the 881 attack on this north side. The sequence here is very similar to the sequence in Room C on the southern side. 5336 contained burnt timbers on a burnt clay layer, above this was a mixed layer of tiles, mortar and charcoal and a layer of fallen wall plaster, a result of abandonment and weather damage

probably. Above this was the fallen burnt roof 5310 which contained a small cu alloy strip and a horseshoe, though this may be a contamination from early machining. Above this layer was 5215, a layer of collapsed mortar, tiles, charcoal and plaster. This layer contained a small pottery vessel, an iron knife and an iron sword chape. Outside the mausoleum a series of tip layers built up after the 881 attack.

Phase 6 onwards

After the 881 attack there seems to only have been some minor activities happening in this area. 5183 and 5208 are two dump/levelling deposits filling in the area which were cut by two postholes; 5205 and 5207, and a robber trench 5224. These were probably associated with the 11thC reconstruction.

The area was then abandoned completely and layer 5188 along with two rubble layers 5182 and 5177 built-up covered finally by 5193 and 5176 topsoils.