OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Milton Abbey, Milton Abbas, Dorset

on behalf of
Milton Abbey

Report No. 17-06

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OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

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Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between July and October 2016 during works at Milton Abbey, Milton Abbas, Dorset (ST 7982 0229). The work comprised the monitoring of works in the south transept and the construction works associated with new drainage around the abbey church.

The works inside the church revealed the extent of the Victorian disturbance, which in addition to removing the 18th century floor had also removed any surviving medieval floors and deposits to a depth of 0.5m. The external excavations revealed elements of the extensive medieval graveyard to the south of the unfinished nave and the medieval and post-medieval graveyard to the south of the choir. The trenching exposed elements of the north chancel chapel, as well as the heavily robbed-out remains of the Lady Chapel and south chancel chapel. Furthermore, excavations on the north side of the abbey church exposed a structure or building dating to the period after the dissolution. Finally, the foundations of the eastern most pier bases in the nave were also uncovered.

The finds recovered from the site contained a small quantity of 12th - 13th century coarsewares, and a single sherd dating to the late medieval period. In addition, a total of 13 architectural fragments, largely belonging to the later church and ancillary monastic ranges, were retrieved during the works. However, four architectural fragments belonging to the earlier church were identified. These included a limestone fragment with chevron decoration dating to the 12th century and two conjoining fragments from a Purbeck marble tomb cover dating to the 12th-13th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between June and October 2017 during works at Milton Abbey, Milton Abbas, Dorset (ST 7982 0229). The work was required under the grant of planning permission (2/2015/1347/FUL) for the replacement of the existing below-ground drainage on the south side and installation of new drainage around the east, north and west side of the Abbey; and the replacement of the floor in the south transept and the east end of the south aisle. The work was required by North Dorset District Council (NDDC), as advised by Historic England (HE) and the Dorset County Council Senior Archaeologist (DCCSA).

1.1 **The site**

The site (Fig. 1, pls. 1-4) lies to the northwest of the village of Milton Abbas at a height of c. 118m AOD. Milton Abbey is a former Benedictine monastery, which became the parish church of Saint Mary, Saint Sansom, and Saint Branwalader after the dissolution of the monasteries. The standing remains of the Abbey Church are Grade I Listed (LEN103551), and lie within a Grade II* Park and Garden (LEN1712). To the southeast of the church lies the site of the former medieval village (DO716).

1.2 **Geological background**

The site lies on a gentle west facing slope overlooking the Milborne brook. The geology of the area belongs to the Zig Zag Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period and gives rise to deposits of clay (BGS 2017). These rocks were formed in warm shallow 'Chalk' shelf seas with little sediment input from land. They often consist of a calcareous ooze of the microscopic remains of plankton, especially the disc shaped calcite plates or coccoliths that make up the spherical coccolithophores.

2. AIMS

The general aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks and to ensure the adequate investigation and recording of any significant archaeological features or deposits exposed, prior to their removal, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

More specific aims of the project were to clarify, if possible the date and extent of surviving archaeology, and use this to inform the nature of any future repairs and any conservation measures that might be needed to safeguard the historic fabric of the property. The information will also provide a baseline digital record against which any future changes or alteration to the management of the property may be measured and recorded. The resulting report will provide both a record of the underlying resource in the area and also inform the nature of future management measures and the interpretation of the wider site.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA (2016), submitted to and approved by HE and the DCCSA. This document is included as Appendix 1.

Hand excavation was undertaken by the contractors under archaeological control inside the south transept. Modern and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural

subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360º mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed; stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 **General background**

Milton Abbas is an ancient settlement located in gently rolling countryside northeast of Dorchester. A number of prehistoric funerary monuments, dating to the second millennium BC, are located in the surrounding landscape. [1] In addition, Iron Age or Romano-British field systems, settlements and trackways, extending from Great Hill to Winterborne Houghton, have been identified from aerial photograph. [2] Further extensive Iron Age or Romano-British field systems have been discovered to the southwest and southeast of the site. [3] The remains of Romano-British buildings and occupation debris were found at Bagber by C. Warne in 1841 and excavated by J. C. Mansel-Pleydell in 1896. Located about 3.5km south of Milton Abbey pottery and coins dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD were retrieved during the excavations. [4]

Little is known of the history and development of this area throughout the later Roman and early Saxon period. Following the foundation of the abbey in the 10th century the town of *Middletone* developed beside the Abbey and by the 11th century, was one of the largest settlements in central Dorset. [5] The town owed much to the Abbey, as well as to its natural location in the midst of rich farmland, holding a market and a fair throughout this period. As many as 104 taxpayers are listed in 1333, and 137 people signed the Protestation Returns of 1641–2. [6] The later urban pattern of the town is characterised by long, narrow burgage plots extending at right angles to the main streets. These were presumably laid out an early stage in the history and development of the town and betray a certain amount of planning. The burgage plots are clearly visible in the High Street, Newport Street, Broad Street and Back Street, while the plots in Fishway or Duck Street are different in character.

The town remained Abbey property following the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest [7] and until the time of Henry VIII, when it was alienated to

[1] L. V. Grinsell 1959 Dorset Barrows and RAF/CPE/UK/1934 3172-3 17.1.47.
[2] *RAF CPE/UK1974/4356 11.4.47*.
[3] CPE/UK1974/4358-9 11.4.47; RAF/CPE/UK/1934 1082-4 17.1.47 and RAF/CPE/UK/1974 4354-5.
[4] Hutchins I, 562; Dorset Procs. XIII (1892), 184; XVII (1896), 128-31.
[5] *D.B*. Vol. I, 78a.
[6] *Dorset Protestation Returns*, ed. E. A. Fry, 1912, 52.
[7] Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16.14.

the Crown, and subsequently sold with the abbey to Sir John Tregonwell. He converted the abbey church into the parish church and occupied the abbot's lodging as his own private house. The estate remained with Tregonwell's heirs until 1752 when it was bought by Joseph Damer, later Baron Milton and Earl of Dorchester. [8] The town was almost completely demolished by Damer between 1771 and 1790. The site was subsequently landscaped by Lancelot Brown and the inhabitants relocated to the purpose-built model village of Milton Abbas. Only a single cottage and the base of a presumed Market Cross survived this activity, although the remainder of the town survives as earthwork remains in the grounds to the southeast of the Abbey. [9]

4.2 **Milton Abbey**

The foundation of ecclesiastical buildings at '*Middletone*' was first documented in a 14th century copy of an Anglo Saxon charter which stated that King Æthelstan (AD924-939) founded a community of priests in the late 930s. [10] The cartulary recorded that King Æthelstan had a vision on the site of St. Catherine's Chapel, revealing his victory over King Olaf Guthfrithson. The Danes under Olaf were defeated at the battle of Brunanburh in 937AD suggesting a date for the foundation of the monastic community nearer the end of Athelstan's reign. The community was refounded as a Benedictine house in 964AD by King Edgar (AD959-975) during a period of monastic reform, with Cyneweard - who would later become Bishop of Wells - as the first abbot. [11]

By the late 11th century the abbey at '*Midletune*' was a wealthy foundation, with possessions assessed at over £90 in the Domesday survey of 1086, including lands at Cattistock, Ower, Osmington, Lyscombe, Winterbourne Whitechurch, Holworth, and Cerne [12] The church was also well supplied with relics, including the arm bones of St. Sampson of Dol, on whose feast day the vision of Æthelstan had occurred. [13]

The church was completely destroyed in a great fire in 1309. During the night, while the monks were at matins, the wooden steeple was struck by lightning, the fire spread to the roof and the whole church was consumed, along with the books, vessels, relics, the common seal of the monastery and all its records. Work on the new church started shortly after under Abbot Walter de Sydeling (1292 - 1315) and the new building was planned from the beginning on a splendid scale. The early 14th century fabric still provides the bulk of the building remains which now form the visible part of the monument, with the eastern chapels, the ambulatory, the aisled presbytery and part of the crossing all dating to the early 14th century. Another major period of building activity, including the rebuilding of the north and south transepts and the tower crossing, was undertaken during the tenure of Abbot William Middleton (1481–1525).

The monastery was surrendered in 1539 by Abbott John Bradley. The following year the estate was sold to Sir John Tregonwell (Fig. 2), one of the commissioners, for £1,000. Sir John occupied the abbot's house as his own private lodgings and converted the abbey into the parish church. The house and the abbey are shown for the first time on an engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck dated 1774 (Fig. 3). Reproduced from an engraving dated c.

[8] *RCHME 1970 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Dorset, Volume 3, Central*.
[9] *RCHME 1970 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Dorset, Volume 3, Central*.
[10] *Mills 2008*.
[11] *Mills 2008*.
[12] *Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16.14*.
[13] *RCHME 1970 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Dorset, Volume 3, Central*.

1733 the engraving provides the most detailed illustration of the abbey and converted monastic buildings at the time. It clearly shows the early house, converted from the partially demolished monastic ranges, but also the early west porch of the church, as well as the general lack of ornamentation on the choir and north choir aisle, and the top of the tower.

Little is known of Sir John Tregonwell's early background and origins. Born in Cornwall, he was educated at Oxford before practicing law in the Court of Admiralty. A privy councillor in 1532 he rose rapidly, enjoying the confidence of both the King and Thomas Cromwell. In May 1532, he took part in diplomatic negotiations in the Netherlands, and two years later signed the two treaties of peace with Scotland. The following year he became the principal judge or commissary-general of the Court of Admiralty. A trusted advisor of the King he served as proctor for Henry VIII in his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. He also took part in the proceedings against Sir Thomas More in 1535 and against Anne Boleyn the following year. [14]

In the subsequent reign he was favored by Queen Mary who admitted him to the Privy Council, while Queen Elizabeth made him a justice of the peace. He was finally knighted shortly before becoming M.P. for Scarborough in October 1553. [15] Following the death of his first wife he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Keilway of Rockbourne, Hampshire, and widow of Robert Martin of Athelhampton. Although his son Thomas died during his lifetime his grandson John Tregonwell inherited the estate following his death in 1565. Sir John's monument today stands in the north choir aisle.

Milton Abbey remained in the ownership of the Tregonwell family for the following century. Mary Tregonwell inherited the house and estate following the death of her father in 1680. After the death of her first husband, Francis Luttrell, she married Sir Jacob Bancks, nephew of the Swedish ambassador to the English court. Banks had entered the Royal Navy in 1681, seeing active service in the West Indies, and at the battle of Beachy Head in 1690 assumed command of his ship when the captain was wounded. He was promoted to captain the same year, and served inconspicuously in various commands throughout the war. Through his wife's connexion with the family of her first husband, the Luttrells of Dunster Castle, he became M.P. for Minehead in 1698. [16] Lady Bancks died of smallpox in 1704 and her monument today stands in the north choir aisle.

Jacob Bancks declined to stand for re-election after the accession of George I in 1714 and appears to have dabbled mildly in Jacobinism. In 1717, he was a leading suspect in the Swedish Plot. He was arrested and interrogated, but the authorities, having failed to find proof of his guilt, released him on £5,000 bail. [17] Following his death in 1724 the estate was inherited by his son Jacob, who began extensive rebuilding and renovation of the house. On his death in 1737 the estate passed to John Strachan, the son of a female cousin. There was however a fifteen-year dispute between rival claimants and the estate was finally sold in 1752 to Joseph Damer, later to become Lord Milton, then the Duke of Dorchester. [18]

Damer was a wealthy and ambitious man. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin in 1734-5 and became an MP for Weymouth inn 1741 at the relatively young age of 21. He

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[14] *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1509-1558, ed. S.T. Bindoff, 1982*.
[15] *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1509-1558, ed. S.T. Bindoff, 1982*.
[16] T*he History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1715-1754, ed. R. Sedgwick, 1970*.
[17] T*he History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1715-1754, ed. R. Sedgwick, 1970*.
[18] *Mills 2008*.

subsequently represented Bramber in Sussex from 1747 and Dorchester from 1754. Damer was created Baron Milton of Shrone Hill, Tipperary in 1753 and Baron Milton of Milton Abbey in 1762. [19]

Damer's influence on Milton Abbey was considerable. On buying the estate he set about to replace the decaying abbey buildings (Figs. 4-5) with a great house suited to its surroundings and his position and to embark on an ambitious project to reshape the surrounding valley. He initially hired the architect John Vardy (1718-1765). He had constructed Horse Guards in London, and built a London residence on Park Lane for Damer in 1751. After Damer became the first Earl of Dorchester and Viscount Milton in 1792, this mansion became The Dorchester. Although Vardy's mansion was replaced by an Italianate building during the mid-19th century, the name lives on in the famous Dorchester hotel. [20]

After Damer was created Baron Milton in 1762, he enlisted the great landscaper Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to design the grounds. Following the death of Vardy in 1765, he engaged the famed architect Sir William Chambers (1723-1796) to create an appropriate house in the Gothic style, much against Chambers' tastes. Following frequent quarrels with his client Chambers resigned, leaving the completion of the interior to James Wyatt (1746-1813), who also 'restored' the Abbey Church. [21] A late 18th or early 19th century print shows the new house and Milton Abbey after it was restored by James Wyatt in c. 1790. The print suggests that Wyatt was responsible for restoring the choir, crossing and transepts, as well as adding ornamental details to the exterior of the church. Wyatt's work included the parapets on the choir and north choir aisle, as well as the parapets and finials to the tower. The ornamental detail on the south side of the church, visible from the town and designed to impress pilgrims is, because of the quality of the masonry and the proportions of the pinnacles likely original medieval stonework (Parker *pers. comm*.). The 'restoration' work is mentioned in 1791 in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette "*Milton Abbey the seat of Lord Milton is undergoing a great improvement. Milton Abbey church and the chapel of St Catherine's are now restored to their primitive gothic beauty under the direction of Mr Wyatt; while Mr Lapidge the pupil and successor of the celebrated Capability Brown is creating a vast piece of water, disposing the grounds and forming a magnificent approach. When the whole is complete Milton abbey will be one of the most picturesque elegant and beautiful seats in the west of England*". [22]

Following the completion of the works the royal family visited twice in June and September 1789 "George III and Queen Charlotte accompanied by the princesses royal Augusta and Elizabeth visit Milton Abbey arriving at 12 o'clock and are greeted at the gates by Lord Milton and Miss Damer. After taking refreshments, the ladies take a carriage with the men on horseback going around the grounds viewing the surrounding countryside. The company returned about 4 o'clock to a sumptuous dinner worthy of the royal guests. Their majesties left at half past six arriving at Gloucester lodge at nine o'clock". [23] While the Prince of Wales visited in September 1796. [24]

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[19] *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1754-1790*, ed. L. Namier, J. Brooke., 1964.
[20] *Mills 2008*.
[21] *Mills 2008*.
[22] *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 16 June 1791*.
[23] *Dublin Evening Post - Tuesday 30 June 1789; Oxford Journal – Thursday June 25 and again Saturday 12 September 1789*.
[24] *Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal - Friday 02 September 1796*.

Damer had married Lady Caroline Sackville, daughter of the 1st Duke of Dorset, in 1742. On Caroline's death in 1755, [25] Damer commissioned the Italian sculptor Agostino Carlini to create a magnificent tomb to her memory, which today stands in the north transept of the Abbey. Lord Damer died in 1798 and Milton Abbey remained in the family until 1852 when it was purchased by Baron Carl Joachim Hambro, a merchant banker from Denmark. He employed the architect George Gilbert Scott to renovate the then dilapidated church (Fig. 7). This involved extensive excavations inside the building (Figs. 8-9) and the construction of a new west porch. The 1st edition 1888 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 10) shows the site in great detail, including the abbey church, Milton House and ancillary buildings and yards to the east and northeast, and the landscaped grounds.

In 1932 the estate was divided up and sold. The Church was purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commission in 1933 and was subsequently passed over to the Diocese of Salisbury.

4.3 **Archaeological background**

Limited archaeological work has been undertaken at Milton Abbey to date. In the main this has consisted of excavations undertaken between 1955-57 by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England (RCHME). Although the results were never published in any detail the works recovered the plan of the ambulatory and eastern chapels and provided a detailed account of the structural development of the standing building (Fig. 11).

The Commissions conclusions, supported in a short article by Dr. E. A. Gee, were that although no original facework of the early church was retained when the current building was rebuilt in the early 14th century it is likely that the arcade walls of the present choir, together with the walls behind the reredos, are part of the Norman church. These were retained, the walls refaced and pierced with arches, and aisles and a clerestory added. Although work on the eastern side of the Abbey recovered the plan of the 14th century ambulatory and Lady Chapel it is likely that the early church did not extend that far east. Work by the commission on the western side of the abbey church identified elements of the northern nave wall and concluded that the majority of the nave had not been set out or built prior to the Dissolution. In addition, no elements of the Romanesque church were identified and it is certain that the early church did not extend that far. Finally, it is unclear if any work was undertaken by the RCHME on the north side of the church.

More recently a watching during the installation of new service trenches around the adjacent school building revealed a medieval wall foundation to the northeast (Steve Wallis *pers. comm.*).

5. RESULTS

5.1 **Introduction**

A watching brief was maintained during all groundworks in the south transept and outside the abbey church. This included the excavations for a new floor inside the south transept and the excavations of new drainage to the south, east, north and west of the church, as well as a new soakaway in the grounds to the west and southwest of the Abbey. Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 12-20.

[25] *Salisbury and Winchester Journal - Monday 3 April 1755.*

5.2. **The south transept** (Figs. 12-14, pls. 5-10)
Continuing damp in the south transept had lifted large sections of the 19th century flooring. The work involved the lifting of George Gilbert Scott's floor and the excavation of the underlying deposits to a depth of approximately 500mm below internal ground level. Prior to the works starting the floor pattern was recorded and as many tiles as possible salvaged from the original scheme. The underlying deposits consisted of a number of thin bedding layers for the 1865 floor. Below this was a 0.45m thick homogeneous deposit extending beyond the depth of the formation level. In addition to a large quantity of 18th-19th century cbm fragments 35 fragments of medieval floor-tile and the top of a possible medieval diamond shaped glass quarrie were recovered from this deposit. A further five plain diamond quarries, dating to the 16th-17th century, and a single glass fragment with a red painted petal from Wyatt's window scheme were also recovered. Finally, the work also uncovered a single sherd of 19th century English stoneware and two fragments of late 17th-18th century English green bottle glass.

The deposit has been interpreted as a make-up layer for Scott's floor. No evidence was found of Wyatt's floor, or indeed any medieval pavements, and it is likely that these were removed during the works undertaken in 1865. The two photographs taken during the 1865 work (Fig. 8-9) show extensive excavations inside the church.

The removal of this deposit exposed the top of the foundations and the remains of three possible stone lined graves along the eastern edge of the south transept. Interestingly there were few similarities between the foundations suggesting they relate to different phases of construction.

The foundation of the southeast tower pier (1006) consisted of Chilmark rubble and flint nodules bonded with very light yellowish white lime mortar. This was identical to the foundation of the northeast transept pier (1008), suggesting the two were built at the same time. However, the foundation of the east wall (1010) consisted of Chilmark rubble bonded with light to mid-orange yellow lime mortar. This was heavily truncated by at least three stone lined graves. Two graves (1025 and 1026) consisted of fragmentary remains while the third (1027) was uncovered in the southeast corner of the transept. Built of roughly squared chalk blocks the grave measured 2.25m long and 0.85m wide.

The southern (1014) and western (1016) foundations of the south transept were identical. Consisting largely of flint nodules with rare Chilmark rubble they were bonded with mid orange yellow lime mortar. Both foundations were largely intact, projecting approximately 0.4m beyond the line of the walls. The foundations of the southwest tower pier (1020) and the northwest transept pier (1018) were identical to these, suggesting that they are contemporary. The blocking of the south nave aisle opening was supported on the same foundations. However, following the construction of the new west porch the doorway was blocked in 1865. The small foundation (1023), 1.7m long and at least 0.3m wide, consisted of flint nodules and Chilmark rubble bonded with a light creamy white lime mortar.

5.3 **The south trench** (pls. 11-12)
The trench for the new drainage was excavated over a distance of approximately 30m along the south side of the abbey church. This area was likely to have been part of the monastic graveyard during the medieval period and continued to serve as the town graveyard until the late 18th century. Although located almost entirely within the trench of the existing drainage the work uncovered a generally uniform layer sequence of dark brown silty clay topsoil

overlying a mid-reddish brown silty clay soil and redeposited chalk. This contained occasional fragments of disarticulated human bone and has been interpreted as a charnel soil. No distinct grave cuts were identified during the works.

Close examination of the four buttress foundations exposed during the works revealed that unlike the buttresses on the north side, which had been underpinned sometime in the 18th or early 19th century, these all retained their original medieval foundations. Furthermore, no evidence for the south porch was uncovered during the work.

Surprisingly no pottery was recovered from the trenching on the south side of the abbey. However, a single architectural fragment, consisting of oolithic limestone with chevron decoration and dating to the late 12th-13th century, was recovered from the charnel soil immediately in front of the south door. The fragment likely belonged to the cloisters of the Romanesque church.

5.4 **The east trench** (Fig. 15, pls. 13-16)
Located at the eastern end of the church were the ambulatory and three chapels, with the middle or Lady chapel projecting. These were demolished sometime in the 16th century. Excavations in 1955-7 by the RCHME exposed parts of the walls defining the Lady chapel and the two chancel chapels. In addition, evidence of severe burning came to light during the excavations, extending eastwards from a point c. 11m from the present east wall of the church. Monitoring of the drainage trench to the east of Milton Abbey exposed surviving medieval deposits and structures truncated by extensive later and modern disturbance.

The earliest deposit identified consisted of light greyish brown silty clay buried subsoil (2001), located at a depth of 0.75m below current ground level. This was overlain by 0.14m thick a mid-greyish brown silty clay deposit (2002) with rare charcoal flecks. This has been interpreted as a buried topsoil. Both deposits were identified repeatedly throughout the trench where they had not been truncated by later activity.

Overlying this at the eastern end of the trench was a 0.02m thick mid purple silty clay deposit (2019) with frequent charcoal inclusions. Due to a lack of finds it is unclear if this deposit is associated with the fire of 1309. This deposit was overlain by a succession of three deposits provisionally interpreted as construction deposits. The lowest deposit consisted of a 0.05m thick mid-grey silty clay deposit (2020) containing frequent Chilmark and lime mortar fragments and which was overlain by a light grey silty clay deposit (2021) containing rare flint nodules, Chilmark and slate fragments. These deposits were sealed by a 0.04m thick layer of light yellow lime mortar (2022). This deposit may have been a bedding layer for a floor. This was overlain by a light grey silty clay deposit (2023) with frequent flint nodules and occasional Chilmark fragments, charcoal flecks and oyster shell. This deposit is likely to have accumulated following the dissolution.

Immediately to the north were the remains of the north wall (2014), buttress (2015) and foundation (2013) of the northern chancel chapel. These were cut into the underlying chalk to a depth of at least 1.4m below current ground level. The foundation (2013) consisted largely of flint nodules with the occasional Chilmark rubble bonded with light yellowish white lime mortar. The main north wall consisted of a rubble core, consisting of flint nodules with occasional Chilmark rubble bonded with light yellowish white lime mortar, and roughly squared Chilmark facework along the southern face. Sharing the same foundation were the remains of a buttress (2015). This consisted of two courses of masonry, containing roughly

squared blocks of Ham stone, Purbeck and Chilmark. Extending approximately 1.77m beyond the edge of the north wall the foundations extend for a further 0.58m suggesting that the buttress has been heavily robbed at the north end.

Extending over the remains of the foundations and the buttress was a mid-brownish grey silty clay deposit (2016) with frequent oyster shell, occasional flint nodules and rare flecks of charcoal. Similar to deposit (2023) this has been interpreted as a post-dissolution abandonment deposit. This was in turn overlain by two further post-dissolution demolition and/or abandonment deposits. The lower deposit was 0.08m thick and consisted of light to mid-yellowish white lime mortar with occasional flint nodules. The upper deposit was a 0.08-0.26m thick mid brownish grey silty clay deposit (2018) containing rare flint nodules, charcoal flecks, oyster shell and Chilmark fragments.

Truncating these features and deposits were the remains of extensive later disturbance (2027). Although no modern material was retrieved during the excavations it has been interpreted as the remains of the 1955-57 RCHME excavations.

Further north, separated by a later undated truncation (2048) and a number of modern service trenches was a series of seven extensive deposits. Lying directly above the buried topsoil (2002) was a 0.18m thick mid grey silty clay deposit (2003) containing frequent ham stone fragments and rare chalk fragments and charcoal flecks. This thin layer has been interpreted as construction debris and is overlain by a 0.06m thick mid to dark grey silty clay deposit (2004). This is likely to be a shallow formed soil. Overlying this was a 0.1m thick light cream white lime mortar deposit (2005) and interpreted as a general construction deposit. It is unclear if any structures or buildings were located between the abbot's hall and the abbey church. It is therefore entirely possible that this deposit may have been the bedding for a floor. This was in turn overlain by a 0.05m thick light grey silty clay deposit (2006) and interpreted as a layer of trample. This was overlain by another layer of light cream white lime mortar (2007). Measuring 0.07m thick this is either a thin layer of construction or demolition material or a successive floor bedding layer. This was overlain by a second layer of mid-yellow lime mortar (2008), identical to the mortar used in the construction of the north wall foundation. This deposit was c. 0.08m thick and contained small quantities of flint nodule, Ham stone and Chilmark fragments. This suggests that the deposit is likely a demolition deposit. These deposits were sealed by a 0.07m thick layer consisting of mid to dark grey silty clay deposit (2009) and containing rare flecks of charcoal and flint fragments. This deposit has been interpreted as a post-dissolution soil and was located immediately below the modern path.

At the southern end of the trench the excavation revealed a 0.1m thick light to mid-yellow lime mortar deposit (2024) lying directly over the buried topsoil (2002). This was in turn overlain by two deposits interpreted as construction deposits. The lower deposit was 0.27m thick and consisted of a mid-grey silty clay deposit (2025) containing rare flint and chalk fragments, while the upper layer (2026) was 0.07m thick and consisted of a mid-grey silty clay deposit with rare flecks of charcoal and flint and chalk fragments. These deposits were truncated along the south edge by robber trench (2027). This was 2.10m wide and at least 0.84m deep. The fill consisted of light to mid-yellow lime mortar with rare flint nodules. This was in turn truncated along its southern edge by a possible grave. Approximately 0.6m wide the northern edge of the burial had partially collapsed historically. The grave truncated a mid-grey silty clay deposit (2049) to the south. Containing frequent disarticulated human bone this deposit has been interpreted as a charnel soil.

To the north deposits (2024-2026) were truncated by an extensive charnel soil (2033-34 and 2039). Consisting of a mid-greyish brown silty clay it contained occasional ham stone rubble and rare flint and slate fragments, as well as rare charcoal flecks, oyster shell and human bone. These deposits were truncated by a 1.7m wide and at least 0.9m deep possible robber trench (2037). Its single fill (2038) contained rare flecks of charcoal, oyster shell and slate fragments. Although no building materials were recovered the interpretation is based on the location of the feature in relation to the projected position of the north wall of the south chancel chapel and the engaged column of the ambulatory wall. A further possible robber trench (2040) was exposed towards the northern end of the trench. Measuring 1.3m wide and at least 0.9m deep it contained a mid-grey silty clay deposit with rare cbm and flint fragments and charcoal flecks. The possible robbing was in line with the south wall of the north chancel chapel and the engaged column of the ambulatory wall.

Finally, the remains of a third robber trench (2042) were located towards the centre of the trench. This was 1.5m wide, extending to a depth of at least 0.9m. It contained mid to dark brownish grey silty clay fill (2043) with rare fragments of cbm, flecks of charcoal, Chilmark and flint fragments and occasional fragments of redeposited chalk. This possible robber trench was in line with an engaged column of the ambulatory wall and likely represents the location of one of two pier bases supporting the western end of the Lady chapel vaulted ceiling.

5.5 **The north trench** (Figs. 16-17, pls. 17-22)
The work on the north side of the abbey entailed the excavation of approximately 40m of drainage trenching. In addition, a small open-area was excavated to expose an existing 19th century culvert previously identified in the eastern trench. The area to the north of the abbey church was likely to contain the remains of monastic ranges, the sacristy, demolished in the 1730's, the remains of an arcade shown on a late 18th or early 19th century engraving, and the remains of a conservatory shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map.

The excavations for the new drainage trench on the north side were generally disappointing, uncovering the remains of a single large pit (2077). This measured c. 1.82m long and 0.32-0.69m deep. No finds were recovered from the single fill (2078), which consisted of mid-brown silty clay and redeposited chalk, and it is unclear what purpose this feature fulfilled.

The work failed to uncover any remains associated with the sacristy. Although the area immediately in front of the surviving wall had been disturbed by the 18th or early 19th century underpinning of the western sacristy wall no remains of the foundation or robber trench were identified. The remains of a later structure were exposed to the north and northeast of the sacristy. This consisted of the remains of two partially robbed walls. The southern wall consisted of a short length of masonry (2066), aligned NW-SE, and c. 0.85m wide and 0.5m high. The northeast face of the wall was flush, whereas the southwest face consisted of rough irregular rubble. The latter was butting-up against the natural chalk suggesting that it is unlikely that any facing stones have been robbed. A single perpendicular corner moulding dating to the 1ate medieval period was recovered from the wall. The larger wall remnant (2052) consisted of a solid curvilinear block of walling made of late 17th or 18th century brick and brick wasters with a short length of NE-SW aligned wall perpendicular to it. The latter consisted of Ham stone ashlar bonded with light greyish white lime mortar. A return for the wall was identified at the southwestern end. While a canopied structure is shown in this area on a late 18th or early 19th century engraving, it is likely on balance that this structure relates to a phase of remodelling of the early house sometime in the late 17th- 18th century.

Butting up against and partially overlying this were the remains of an E-W aligned brick wall. Consisting of five courses of mid-to-late 19th century brick and c. 0.34m wide this is likely the foundation of the conservatory shown in this location on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map.

Finally, close examination of the four buttress foundations exposed during the works revealed that unlike the buttresses on the south side, which retained their original medieval foundations, these had all been underpinned with brick. A good context for this might be Wyatt's restoration of the abbey church in the late 18th century.

5.4 **The west trench** (Figs. 19-20, pls. 23-27)
Prior to works starting on the drainage around the western side of the abbey it was agreed in consultation with the architects and the DCCSA that a single trench would be placed in the approximate position of the soakaway to undertake percolation testing and to assess the extent, date and range of archaeological survival. The trench was 6.5m long and 1.05m wide and located approximately 25m to the southwest of the church. The removal of a 0.15m deep mid to dark brown loamy clay topsoil exposed a distinct burial horizon (2049). This contained at least two articulated skeletons (SK2083 and SK2086) and the outline of a further two graves. The human remains exposed in the trench were in a poor state of preservation and left *in situ*. Two sherds of 12th-13th century pottery and a single sherd of late medieval pottery were retrieved from the charnel soil (2049).

Due to the inability to undertake the percolation testing it was decided to excavate a further trench in line with the south wall of the south transept and 20m due west. This provided further exposure of the charnel soil (2049). In the end, it was decided to excavate the soakaway in line with the southernmost down pipe. The excavation of the trench, 26m west of the church and just south of the line of the projected south nave wall, revealed further extensive charnel deposits (2049). In a final attempt it was therefore decided to bring the trench closer to the building. The work exposed a single grave, approximately 1.85m long, 0.68m wide and 0.15m deep, and containing a light grey silty clay fill with frequent chalk fragments. Excavation revealed no human remains and it is possible that these had entirely decayed.

It is evident from the excavations that an extensive graveyard extended along the entire south side of the nave. Although only a very small assemblage the absence of later pottery from the charnel soil suggests that the graveyard to the south of the unfinished nave is likely to have gone out of use by the 16th century, at a time, following the Dissolution, when the south side of the choir continued in use as the town graveyard.

Finally, monitoring of the drainage trench to the west of Milton Abbey exposed the foundations of the first pair of pier bases at the eastern end of the nave. The excavations cut through the southern tip of the northern pier base foundation (2093). This consisted of Chilmark rubble bonded with mid yellow lime mortar. The southern pier base (2106), consisting of Chilmark rubble bonded with mid yellow lime mortar, was approximately 2.3m long and 0.88m thick. Excavations in 1955-7 by the RCHME had exposed parts of the north nave wall but had failed to identify any other elements of the nave. The identification of the two pier base foundations suggests that the nave had been at least partially set out to the level of the first arcade by the time of the dissolution. No evidence was found of the southern nave wall.

6. THE FINDS

This is a remarkably small assemblage largely composed of medieval and post-medieval pottery, floor-tiles and window glass. In addition to the these a small number of architectural fragments were also recovered. The total quantities are summarised in Appendix 2.

6.1 **Medieval pottery**

The medieval pottery consisted of three sherds of local coarsewares dating from the late 12th-13th century and a single sherd of 15th-16th century Donyatt-type slip decorated jug. The former were all retrieved from the charnel soil (2049) in a small trial trench to the southwest of the abbey church, while the latter was recovered during the works in the south transept.

6.2 **Medieval window glass**

Two glass fragments with grozed edges and a single fragment from the top of a diamond shaped quarrie were retrieved during the works in the south transept.

6.3. **Medieval Floor-tiles**

by John Allan and Laurence Keen

The floor-tiles are of interest because they provide one of the few opportunities which has arisen so far to examine the range of tiles which might be employed in Milton Abbey. There is a surprising variety of sources: from Dorset and the Low Countries. A modest collection (about half a standard boxful), considering the large scale of the work, which entailed the removal of the floors of the south transept and the southern crossing aisle of this large church. In total three groups were identified:

Group 1: local tiles

14 fragments of the characteristic thin salmon pink earthenware tiles. All are probably late 13th-14th century. 135mm square, 25mm thick, pronounced bevel. One tile with yellow glaze and one tile with crude greeny-brown glaze, remainder no glaze seen on surfaces but formerly glazed since the top surfaces are reduced whilst sides and bases are oxidised. Most fragments are badly mixed and fired, some hematite inclusions. Five decorated, others all unglazed & undecorated. The backs are treated with scooped 'keys'.

1.1 Lattice pattern, identical to the published examples from Milton Abbey (Emden 1977, Fig. 139, No. 48).
1.2 Lattice pattern, identical to the published examples from Milton Abbey (Emden 1977, Fig. 139, No. 49).
1.3 Floral pattern with radiating arms, identical to the published examples from Milton Abbey (Emden 1977, Fig. 139, No. 29/30).
1.4 Floral pattern with radiating arms, identical to the published examples from Milton Abbey (Emden 1977, Fig. 139, No. 29/30).
1.5 Horse Archer, identical to the published examples from Milton Abbey (Emden 1977, Fig. 139, No. 181).

Group 2: redware tiles

A group of thin calcareous redware tiles with some flint inclusions and plain backs. 150mm square, 15mm thick, one half tile, one thin border tile 50mm across. One tile with crude greeny-brown brown glaze, remainder no glaze seen on surfaces but formerly glazed since

the top surfaces are reduced whilst sides and bases are oxidised. The edges are heavily bevelled. 3 fragments.

Group 3: Low Countries redware tiles
Sand tempered red ware tile, no full dimensions, thickness *c.* 27mm. Two frags noted, sand tempered redware tiles, one with green-brown glaze; plain back; late 15th-early 16th century; 2 fragments.

6.4. **The architectural fragments**
by John Allan, Brian and Moira Gittos

13 Architectural Fragments were recovered during the excavation and are described in detail below. The fragments were all of medieval date, with some sufficiently diagnostic to enable closer dating. All fragments have been returned to the abbey.

1. Portland stone, chamfered base of capital with shallow moulding

2. Oolithic limestone with chevron decoration, possibly part of the cloister, late 12th-13th Century (Fig. 21).

3. Oolithic limestone, either a roll or free-standing shaft, possibly part of the cloister late 12th-13th century.

4. Two fragments Purbeck marble, foliated cross tomb cover with broad border 12th-13th century.

5. Purbeck marble, domestic mortar with broad lugs and narrow supports, 12th-13th or possibly 16th century.

6. Oolithic limestone, top roll capital, 12th-13th century.

7. Beer stone, deck moulding, 14th century.

8. Fawn fine-grained limestone, corner moulding rising from square block with base moulding, battered, internal furnishing, possible chantry screen element, 14th-15th century.

9. Fawn fine-grained limestone, late perpendicular four centered curves with elaborate cusping, possible tomb fragment, late 15th-16th century.

10. Fawn fine-grained oolithic limestone.

11. Ham hill, corner moulding, perpendicular, 1ate medieval (Fig. 21).

12. Ham hill, roll moulding, late medieval.

In addition to these a dozen small dressed Ham stone slabs, including one trimmed connected roll moulding and a number of triangular fragments, were also recovered during the excavations in the south transept. These are the likely remains of stone dressing, indicating trimming or sawing of stone on site during the construction of the abbey church, at the dissolution or during 18th century repair work.

The Purbeck marble carved stone
by Brian and Moira Gittos

Introduction
Purbeck marble is a polishable Jurassic limestone found in south east Dorset, characterised by closely packed fossils of fresh-water snail shells (Viviparus carinifer), which makes it very distinctive and so, easily recognisable. It was exploited throughout the medieval period for its polishable properties, which give a marble-like finish, and used for a great variety of purposes. They range from major architectural elements, such as the massive nave piers at Westminster Abbey, to prestigious monuments like the effigy of King John in Worcester Cathedral. Later it became the favoured material in which monumental brasses were set. From the late 12th to the mid-14th century a large number of tapered memorial slabs were produced, mostly bearing crosses. They were designed to be the lids of coffins or laid as grave covers and some were supplied with coffins of the same material. Despite its prominent role fulfilling high status requirements, Purbeck marble also found a more utilitarian application as domestic mortars for the medieval kitchen. The three pieces of Purbeck marble found during the current work belong to both these categories, two are from the same coffin lid, and the third from a mortar. The remains of the coffin lid were found re-used as a drain cover next to the north wall of the Abbey and the mortar fragment was discovered just outside the east wall, i.e. on the site of the ambulatory. The two pieces of coffin lid fit together as shown in Fig. 1. Judging from the fresh breaks, this damage is likely to have occurred when it was being removed from its position covering the drain, before it was recognised as a piece of carved stone.

Coffin lid fragments
The larger piece has approximate overall dimensions of 39 x 44cm and is currently about 6.5 cm thick. However, Purbeck marble is strongly bedded so it appears to have split along a bedding plane, leading to some loss of thickness. Carved in low relief on the face, is most of the head of a cross and two sides retain parts of the hollow chamfered margin. These meet at the top right corner of the slab at less than 90E, confirming that the slab was tapered. In fact, with the smaller piece in place, it can be appreciated that the slab had quite a strong taper (see Fig. 22). All the edges are broken and a large patch of white mortar adheres to the underside, which is from its re-use for structural purposes. Only the cross itself seems to have been polished (including its voided centre), as worn tooling marks are visible over the whole of the surviving surface, including the chamfer. Despite the wear, a point chisel seems to have been used and the pattern of marks across the open areas is aligned with the axis of the slab. This changes to more of a fan pattern inside the rounded areas between the cross-head's terminals, showing how the carver has worked between them, to meet the edges at an angle. As is normal on Purbeck slabs, all of the relief edges have been worked to a slight chamfer rather than being square cut. On the edges of the slab, the direction of tooling is along the hollow chamfer. The smaller piece is approximately 23 x 19cm overall and is also about 6.5cm thick. As can be seen in Fig. 22 it is from the left side of the slab and it is valuable in providing a profile of the edge moulding, which includes the whole of the hollow chamfer and the vertical outer edge. Using the width of the hollow chamfer and the distance from the centre line (established from the cross head) to the top corner, the width of the slab at the head end can be estimated as about 59cm. This is consistent with what would be expected for a full-size coffin lid approaching 2m in length.

Between 1994 and 2003 the results of a country-wide survey of Purbeck marble coffin-shaped slabs were published in the Church Monuments Society *Newsletter*. [26] The Survey recorded more than 820 surviving slabs, mostly in counties bordering the English Channel and the North Sea, from Cornwall to Yorkshire. Many were fragmentary and only a small minority were still in situ. The principal features were categorised, including the form of cross head, shape of the base and the edge moulding (Fig. 22). On this basis, the Milton Abbey cross head is a type B although varied by a recessed (voided) centre. The Survey listed just over 100 slabs for the county of Dorset, including four in the abbey church at Milton Abbas. [27] Only six of the Dorset slabs were type B (Coombe Keynes; East Morden; Lytchett Matravers; Shillingstone; Wareham, Lady St. Mary, and Worth Matravers). None of these have voided centres and it is necessary to go further afield to find closer comparisons, such as Nether Wallop (Hampshire), Fig. 23, and Crediton (Devon), Fig. 23. Head types A and B seem to have been the first forms usually associated with single, rather than double, hollow chamfers. There is a dateable case of a type B head at Tewkesbury Abbey (Gloucestershire) which is rather an outlier as far as the distribution pattern is concerned. It covers the coffin of Abbot Alan (in office from 1186 until his death in May 1202) and carries the inscription 'ALANVS ABAT' (Fig. 24). [28] It was probably made around the time of his death. There are some differences between Abbot Alan's slab and the Milton Abbey slab. The cross head at Tewkesbury is smaller and does not extend so close to the edges of the slab. The hollow chamfer is steeper and there is a raised, square section, fillet edging the top surface and framing the cross. It is perhaps significant that the whole of Abbot Alan's slab is finely polished. The polishing of Purbeck marble was a key skill of the marblers and would greatly have added to the cost, so there is an implication that the Milton Abbey memorial many have been a less expensive product. Two further slabs with type B heads and voided centres are at Pamber Priory (Hampshire) and Rochester Cathedral (Kent). They both have decorative features which suggest they roughly contemporary with Abbot Alan's memorial, if not earlier. Perhaps the best that can be suggested for the Milton Abbey slab is that it probably dates from the time of Abbot Eustace who was in post from 1198 until c.1222. [29] When dealing with such a dislocated monument and in the absence of an indicator such as a symbol of occupation or status, it is difficult to suggest who it might have commemorated. Purbeck marble monuments at this date were the province of those with a high disposable income, such as the higher clergy or lay patrons. However, Milton Abbey's proximity to the source (Isle of Purbeck) means that it would have been comparatively less costly than in other parts of the country where higher transport costs would have played a part. It may have commemorated a senior member of the Abbey or an important benefactor. This discovery increases the total number of Purbeck marble coffin-shaped memorials known from the Abbey to five, all completely different.

Mortar fragment

The mortar fragment (Fig. 25) is substantial and comprises approximately half the base of the vessel with its foot ring and parts of three out of the four corner ribs. The base diameter is

[26] Badham, S., Gittos, B. & M. & Lankester, P., 'Survey of Purbeck Marble Coffin-Shaped Slabs', *Church Monuments Society Newsletter*, 16 parts, 10.1, (1994) - 19.2, (2003/4).

[27] They are all loose inside the church, two in each of the north and south transepts. They comprise the lower part of an incised figure slab of an ecclesiastic with a marginal inscription; a complete, plain, slightly coped slab with a central ridge and a single hollow chamfer; the centre section of a steeply coped slab with a double hollow chamfer and the shaft of a cross in relief, together with the lower part (in two pieces) of a slab bearing the shaft and three step calvary of a relief cross, which has a double hollow chamfer.

[28] Knowles, D., Brooke, C. & London, V. eds., *The Heads of Religious Houses England and Wales 940-1216*, Cambridge, 1972, 73.

[29] Ibid., 56.

c.18cm and the thickness of the base just over 5.5 cm. The carving of the sides is rough and wayward, with the height of the foot ring varying greatly, as does the width of the ribs and the angles where they meet the foot ring. The surface of the sides between the ribs is unfinished, being roughly faceted rather than smoothly curved. The blocking out was done as a series of flats which have not been blended into a smoothly rounded surface and retain coarse diagonal tooling (Fig. 25). By contrast, the interior has been carefully worked to a smooth, uniform, polish. This appears to have been achieved during manufacture rather than as a consequence of its use. The fragment suggests a very utilitarian vessel, carved rapidly with the external appearance of no great importance. Purbeck marble is usually associated with finely carved objects where its aesthetic qualities are exploited but in this case it was probably used for its density and durability. The smoothness of the working surface was clearly one factor while its hardness and wear resistance another. The density of Purbeck marble must also have been an advantage in giving weight to the vessel and hence stability. The thickness of the base demonstrates that weight was important.

Purbeck mortars were manufactured in Roman times and that is well documented. [30] They are commonly found on medieval sites but information is scattered throughout the archaeological literature, and a coherent typology appears to be lacking. Dunning identified four of the seven mortar pieces excavated from Northolt manor-house (Middlesex) as being of Purbeck marble. [31] They were found in contexts spanning c.1250 to c.1350 and Dunning comments, 'Between them the seven specimens illustrate the main shapes and varieties of detail that are met with on medieval stone mortars'. He published drawings of them but sadly all bar one were rim and body shards. The form of the Milton Abbey rim is unknown and Dunning's only base is from a mortar of quite a different design. Only the first of his group has faceted sides which he describes as 'eight-sided between the ribs' and dates to c. 1300. However, the ribs are shallower than the Milton Abbey piece, with lugs at the rim. A Purbeck marble mortar base from Chilton Trinity (Somerset) listed under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, has faceted spaces between the ribs akin to Milton Abbey. [32] Comparatively little seems to have been written about Purbeck marble mortars of the immediately post medieval period but an interesting example from Exeter has been described as late 16th century. It too has diagonal chisel-dressing on the exterior and a smooth interior. [33] It is, therefore, possible that the mortar post-dates the dissolution of the Abbey, in a period when rubbish may have accumulated in the eastern ambulatory before that part of the church was demolished. What is clear is that the vessel was intended for fine rather than coarse grinding, for which the polished interior would have been appropriate.

6.5 **Post-medieval pottery**

The post-medieval pottery consisted of a single sherd of late 18th-19th century English whiteware and four sherds of 18th-19th century Dorset red wares. All sherds were retrieved during the excavations in the south transept.

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[30] Palmer, J., 'Roman Purbeck Limestone Mortars', in *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, 135, (2014), 222-34.

[31] Dunning, G., 'Stone Mortars' in Hurst, J., 'The Kitchen Area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex', *Medieval Archaeology,* V, (1961), 279-84.

[32] Details and an illustration of the Chilton Trinity mortar can be found at https://finds.org.uk/database/record/id/124765 .

[33] Allan, J., *Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971-1980*, (Exeter, 1984), p. 294.

6.6 **Post-medieval glass**
Five fragments of plain diamond quarries, belonging to an earlier glazing scheme dating to the 16th-17th century, were retrieved during the works in the south transept. In addition, a single glass fragment with a painted floral decoration from Wyatt's late 18th century scheme was recovered in the south transept.

Finally, 2 fragments of late 17th-18th century English green bottle glass and 45 fragments of 19th-20th century glass were also retrieved during the works in the south transept.

7. DISCUSSION

The work has provided the first exposure of medieval and post-medieval activity including evidence for successive phases of foundations within the south transept, elements of the north chancel chapel and post-dissolution robbing, further elements of the eastern nave bay, remains of a post-dissolution building or structure north of the church and surviving elements of a 19th century conservatory. A number of deposits contained sufficient finds to allow them to be assigned within broad historical periods on the basis of dating evidence alone, and stratigraphic information has allowed for some phasing of features. Where such stratigraphic information and dating evidence is absent, some relative phasing has been attempted on the basis of similarities of alignment, nature and character of features or deposits and evidence derived from historic mapping.

7.1 **Medieval activity**
The work undertaken by the RCHME inside the church in the 1950's consisted entirely of analysis of the standing building fabric. This suggested that the lower elevation of the south transept was largely part of a single construction phase dating to the 14th century. However, the recent excavations have exposed three different foundations, suggesting that the south transept was instead built in three successive phases. The work indicates that the choir, south aisle wall and eastern half of the crossing were probably completed fairly rapidly after the fire of 1309. Within the excavation area the southwest crossing pier and south aisle wall shared identical foundations, suggesting that they were built at the same time.

The eastern wall of the transept was built next. The foundations were different to the crossing and south aisle foundations. Although heavily truncated by later burial activity this interpretation is supported by a clear building break running the full height of the eastern elevation. Finally, the south wall, west wall and western crossing were built probably sometime in the 15th century. It is unclear if this coincides with the work undertaken by abbot William Middleton on the north transept and the walkway and vaulting of the south transept.

The principal medieval features identified in the eastern trench were the remains of the north wall of the north chancel chapel. This consisted of the lower foundation, elements of the wall and the remains of a buttress. These were all contemporary, that is part of a single phase of construction. There was no evidence for the foundations of the earlier church or indeed evidence for an extensive layer of burning associated with the fire of 1309. To the south of the wall small areas of surviving medieval deposits were exposed. Consisting of successive layers of occupation deposits, including possible remains of sub-floor layers, these had been heavily truncated by later burial activity. To the north successive occupation deposits were interspersed with further possible sub-floor deposits and sealed by post-dissolution demolition deposits. In addition, the trenching exposed the heavily robbed-out remains of the

south wall of the abbey church and pier base foundations of the chancel chapels and Lady chapel.

To the west work undertaken by the RCHME between 1955-57 had identified a short section of the north aisle wall, suggesting that only a small part of the nave had been set out prior to the dissolution. The recent trenching exposed the remains of the easternmost pier bases, suggesting that at least part of the nave up to the first bay was set out and started prior to the dissolution.

Interestingly, although the wider site clearly contains extensive below-ground medieval survival, no evidence was uncovered for medieval deposits or structures on the north side of the church. This area had been highlighted at the start of the project as containing not only the remains of the sacristy but possibly the remnants of other monastic ranges. No evidence was found of either and it is possible that the area immediately to the north of the choir was not densely built up during the medieval period.

New evidence uncovered during work in the north choir aisle in December 2017 suggests that at least part of the church was built directly on top of the natural chalk bedrock. Elements of the north choir aisle wall and the north choir aisle arcade lacked foundations and it is therefore possible that the sacristy walls were similarly built directly on top of the chalk, having been completely robbed out during or following the dissolution.

7.2 **Post-medieval activity**

Evidence for post-medieval activity was confined to the south transept, and the east and north side of the abbey church. The recent work has revealed that the work undertaken by George Gilbert Scott in 1865 included extensive excavations inside the south transept. It is clear that this removed Wyatt's late 18th century floor, in addition to any surviving medieval pavements.

The earliest post-medieval features identified were four robber trenches on the eastern side of the abbey church. A good context for this activity might be the demolition of the eastern chapels sometime in the 16th century.

In the area to the north of the abbey church structural remains of a former building or structure have been identified. Although a canopied structure is shown in this area on a late 18th or early 19th century engraving, it is likely on balance that this structure relates to a phase of remodelling of the early house sometime in the late 17th- 18th century.

Finally, the foundation of the conservatory shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map were also uncovered.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of groundworks undertaken at Milton Abbey has provided the first detailed insight into the archaeological development of the site. Perhaps surprisingly no elements of the early church have been exposed. The excavation of the north wall foundations and the lack of burnt deposit would indicate that the later building was built on an entirely new site, away from the focus of the earlier church. The recent work has further built on the development of the standing building first advanced by the RCHME in the late 1950's. The RCHME report has suggested a largely 14th century date for the south transept, whereas the

excavations have identified three clear phases of medieval construction. To the north elements of a building or structure, dating to the period after the dissolution, have also been identified.

To the south and southwest of the church the results have been very consistent. An extensive graveyard covers the area to the south of the incomplete nave and the choir throughout the medieval period. The graveyard to the south of the choir continued in use until the late 18th century, when the new parish church was built at Milton Abbas.

9. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1343) pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-280718).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This watching brief was commissioned by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation on behalf of the Milton PCC and administered for the client by Marcus Chantrey (benjamin + beauchamp architects ltd). The project was managed for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Barry Hennessy and Marc Steinmetzer; the illustrations for the report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer. Thanks are hereby recorded to Lisa Edwards (SSHC), Olly Fooks (SSHC), Brian Larcher (Milton School), Helier Exon (Churchwarden) and all the staff at Milton Abbey and Milton School. The finds analysis was undertaken by Brian & Moira Gittos, Laurence Keen and John Allan, the petrological analysis was carried out by Dr Roger Taylor. Special thanks also to Keith Miller (Ancient Monuments Inspector Historic England South West) and Steve Wallis (DCCSA) who provided advice and support throughout the project.

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Fig. 1 Location of site.

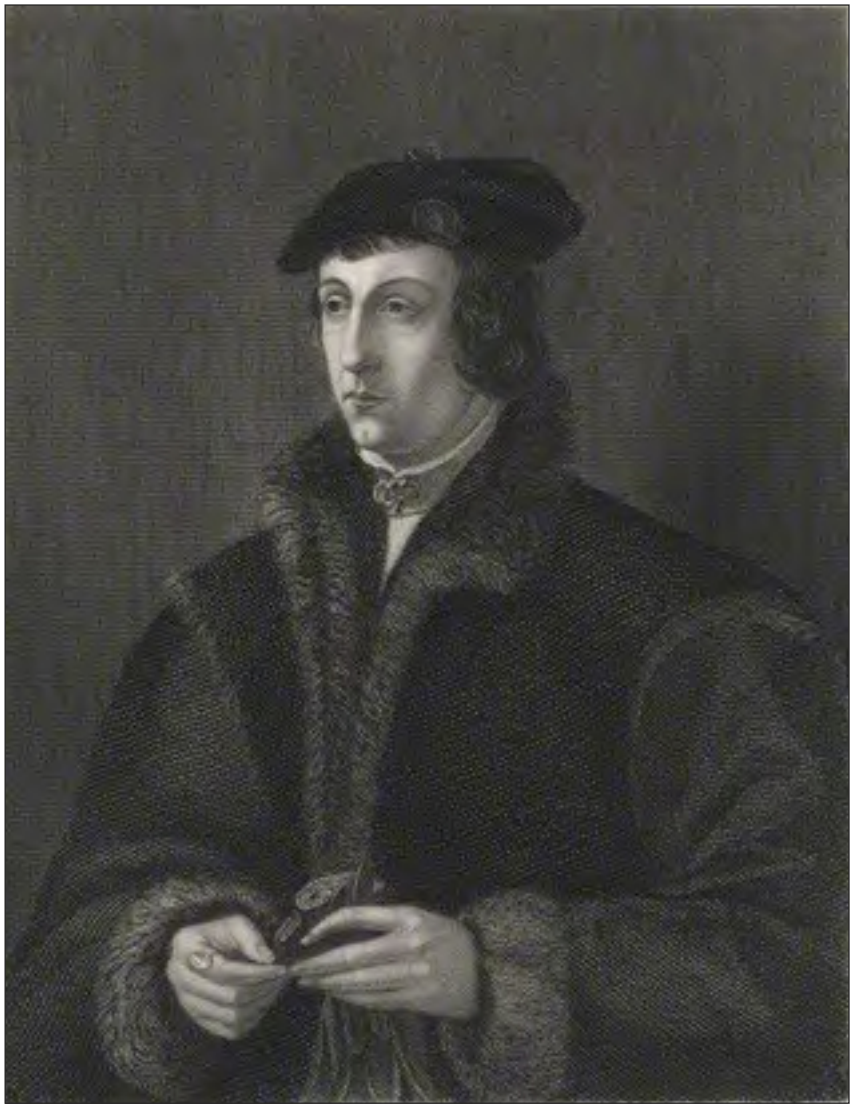


Fig. 2 Sir John Tregonwell (1498-1565)

Fig. 3 Detail from 1733 engraving showing Milton Abbey (right), the monastic ranges partially demolished and converted by Sir John Tregonwell (left), the Tithe barn (far left) and St Catherine's Chapel (background).

Fig. 4 Detail from an 18th century plan of the town of Milton showing the Abbey and converted monastic ranges to the north.

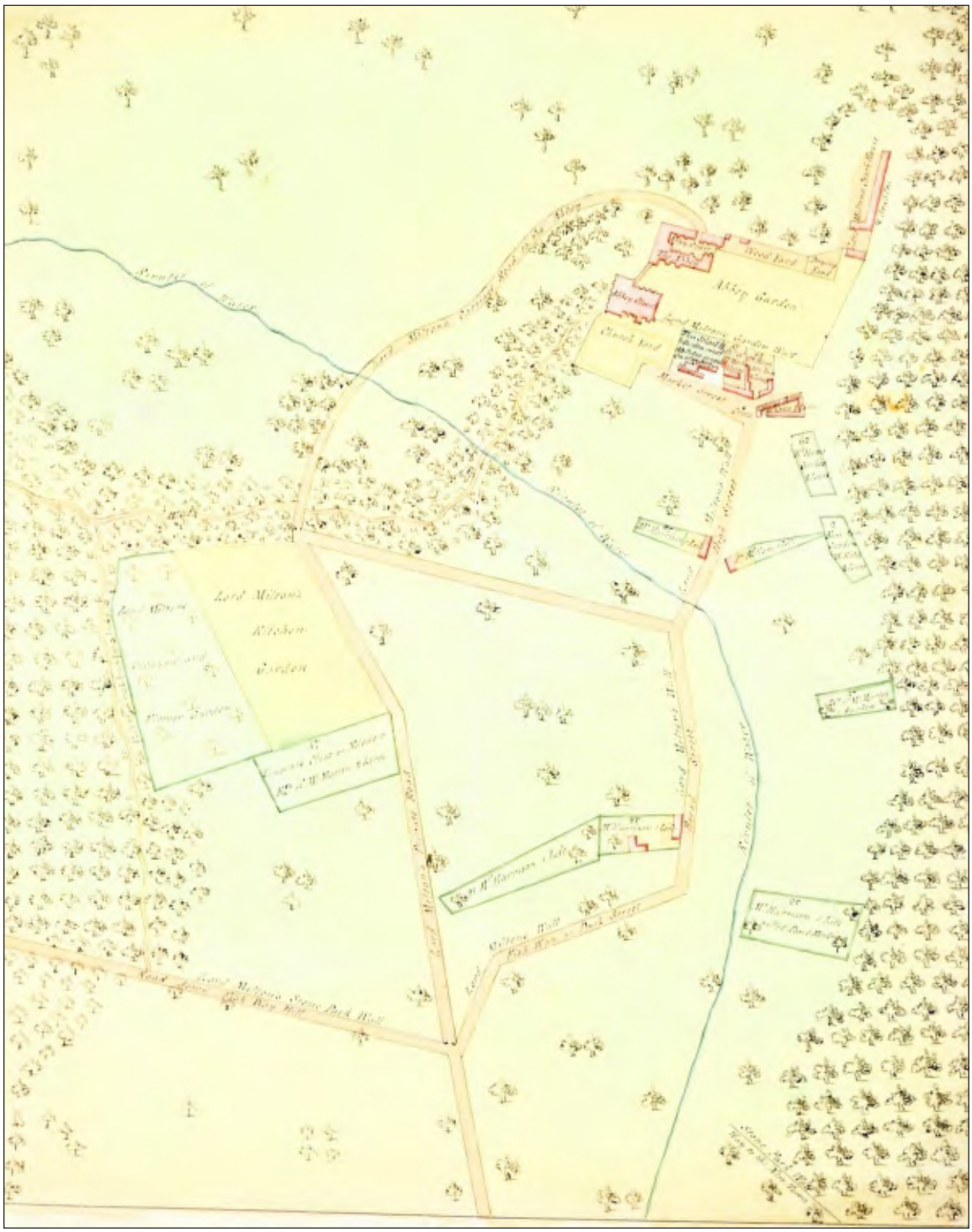


Fig. 5 Detail from an 18th century plan showing the Abbey and converted monastic ranges to the north.

Fig. 6 Detail from a late 18th century engraving showing Milton Abbey after the restoration by James Wyatt (right), Milton Abbey House built for Joseph Damer (left), the new stable block (far left) and St Catherine's Chapel (background).

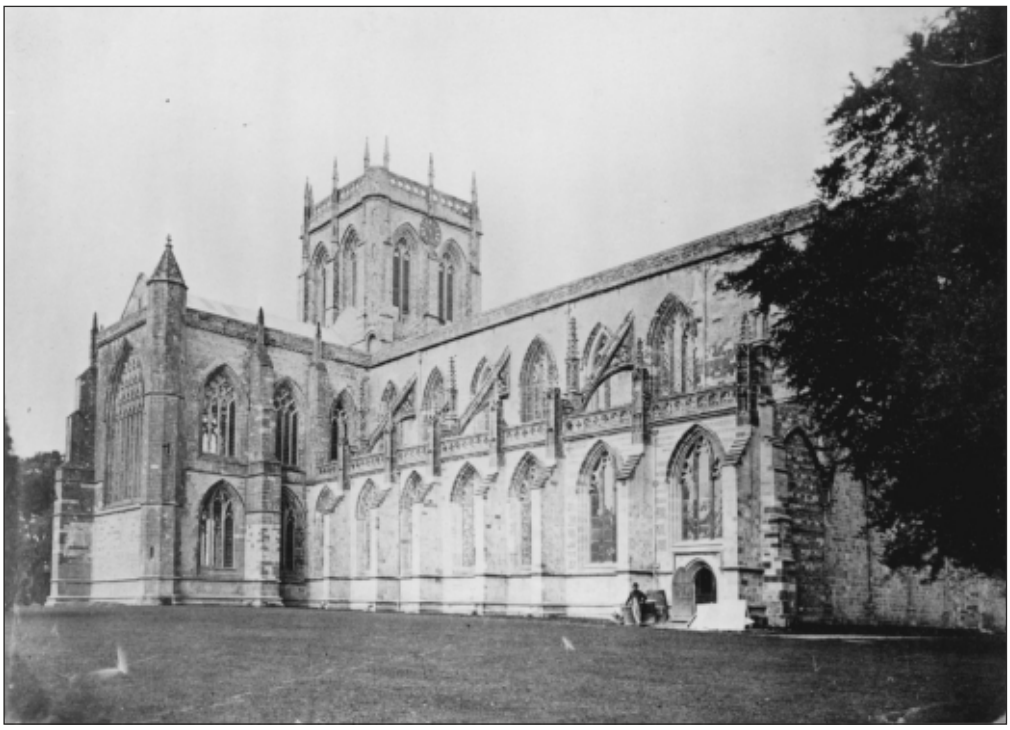


Fig. 7 Photograph of Milton Abbey taken in 1865 during George Gilbert Scott's restoration of the church. Looking northwest.

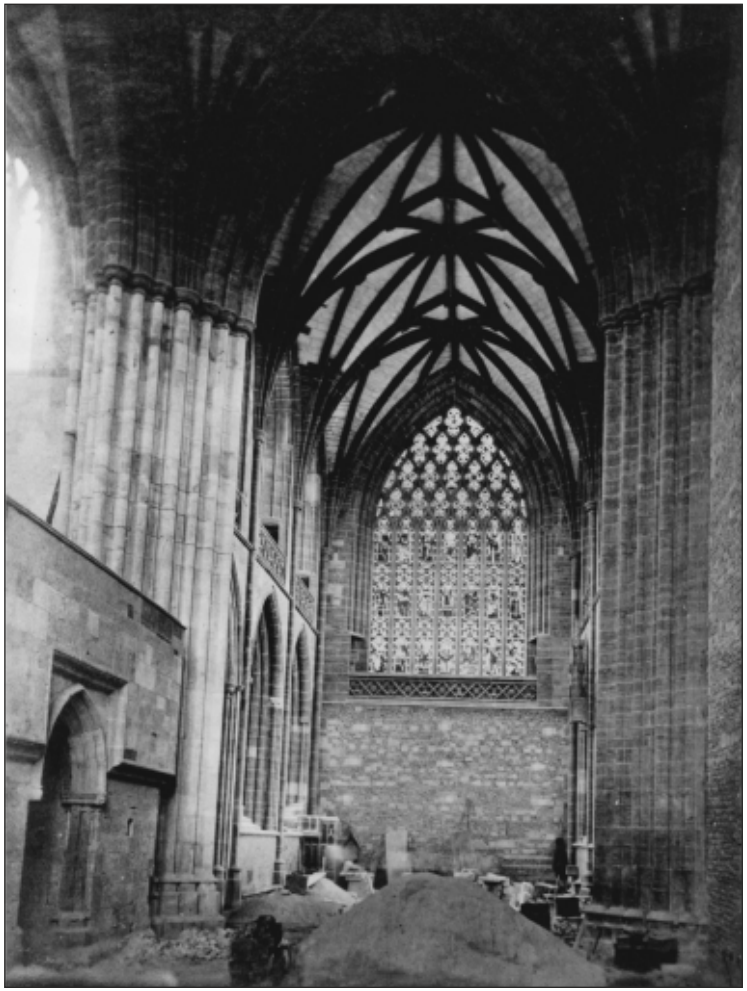


Fig. 8 Photograph of the crossing and south transept taken in 1865 during George Gilbert Scott's restoration of the church. Looking south.

Fig. 9 Photograph of the choir and chancel taken in 1865 during George Gilbert Scotts restoration of the church. Looking east.

Fig. 10 Detail from the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

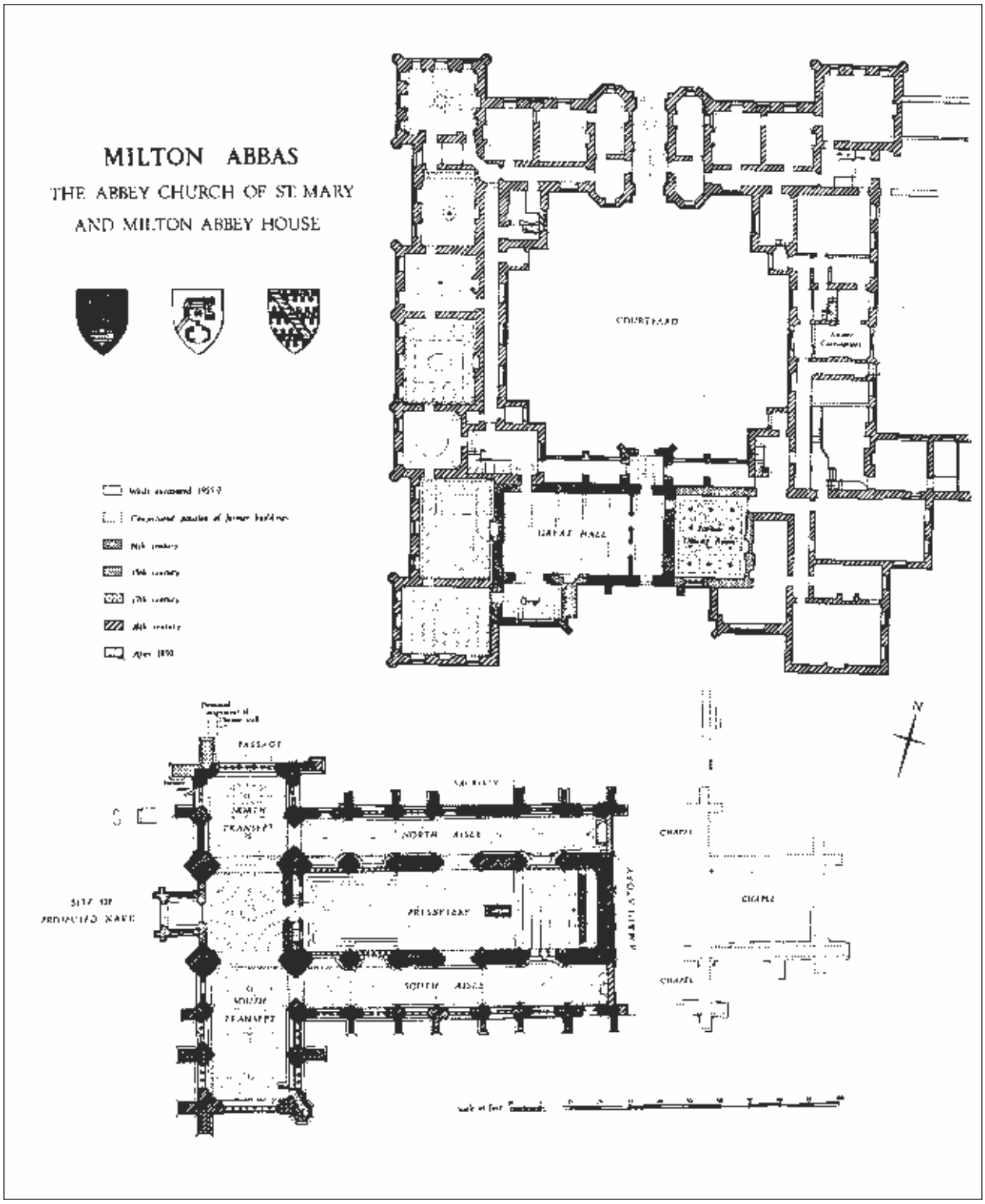


Fig. 11 Phased plan of Milton Abbey and Milton Abbey House by the RCHME showing results of the 1955-57 excavations.

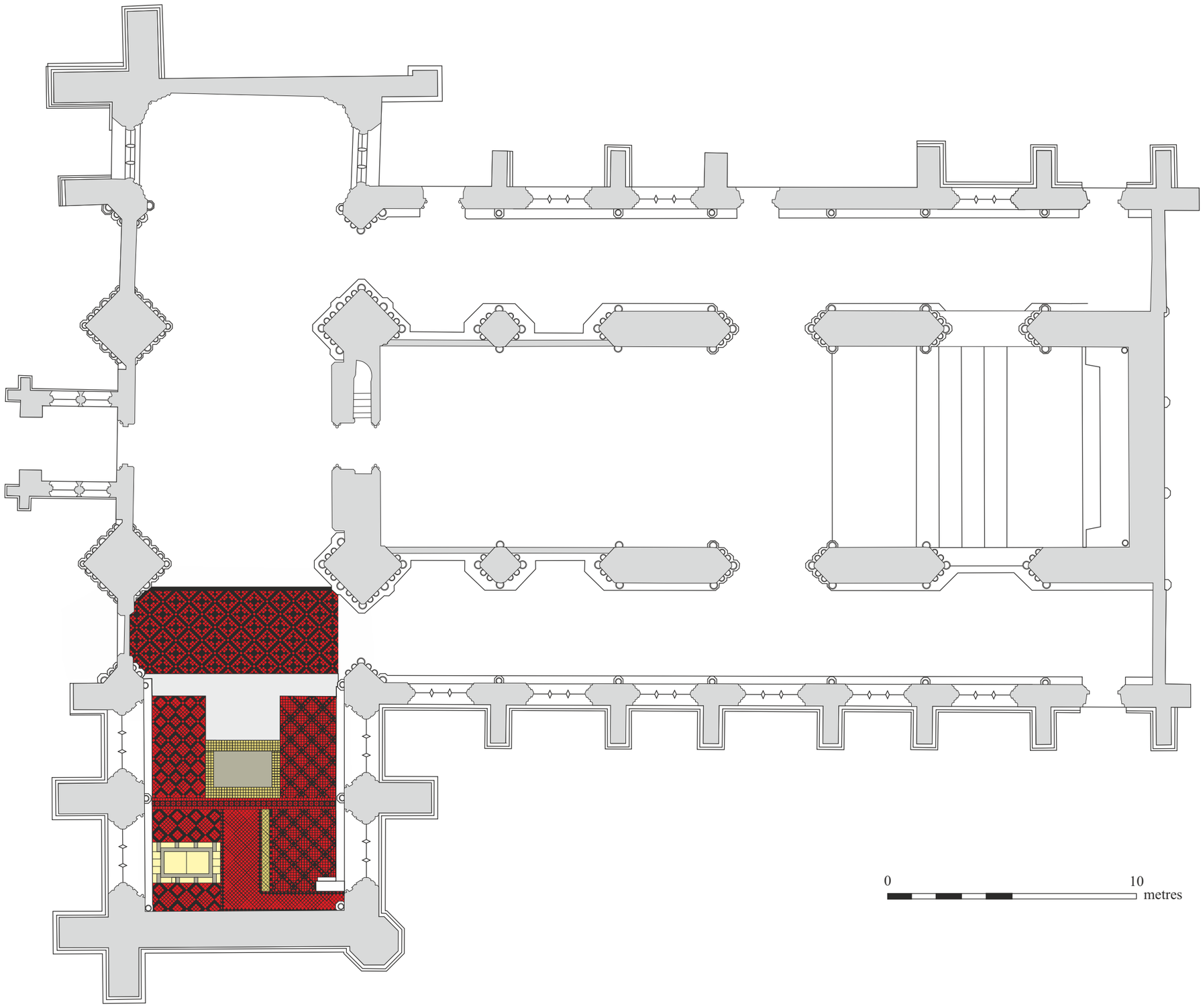


Fig. 12 Plan showing layout of the John Gilbert Scott flooring.

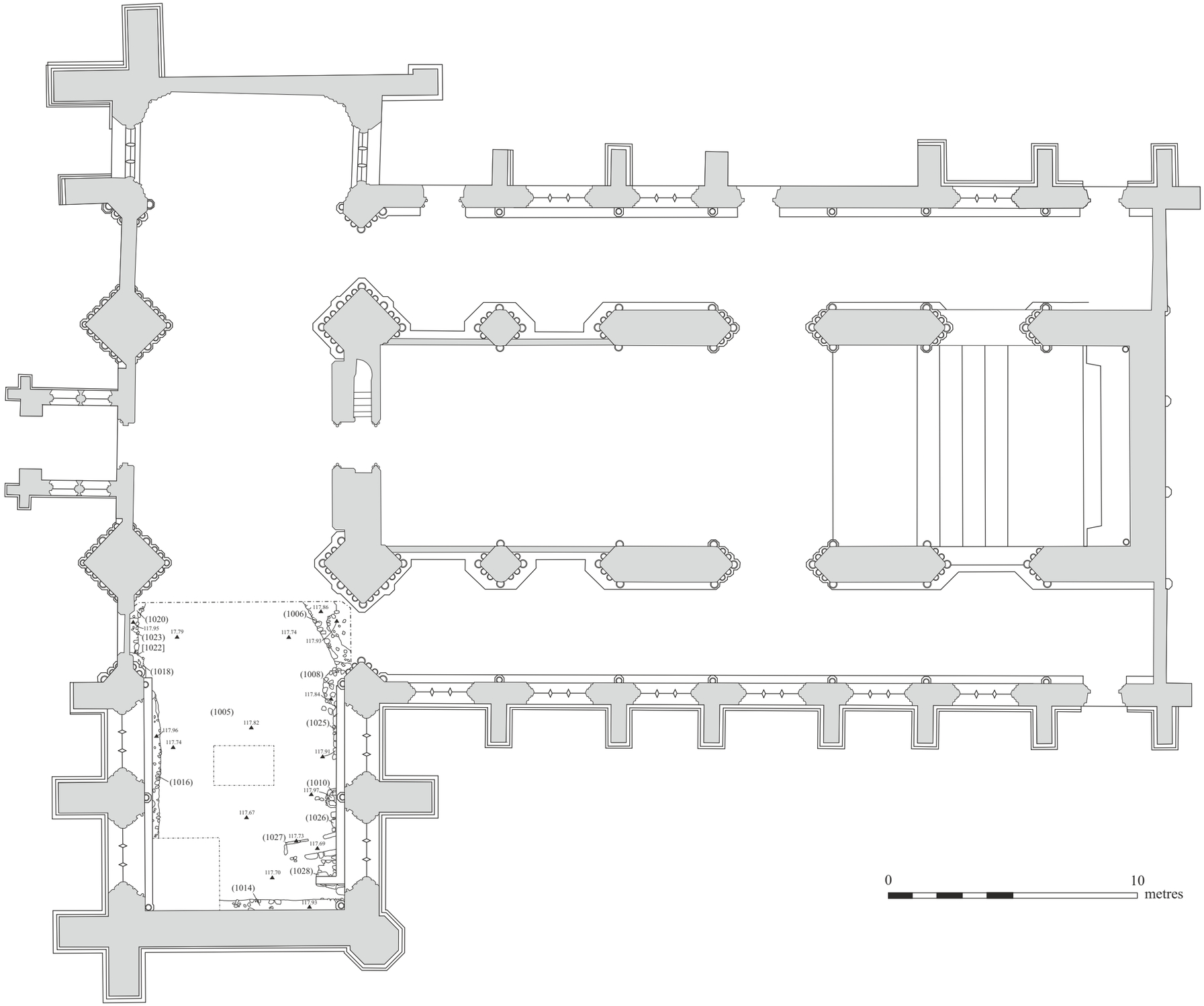


Fig. 13 Plan showing location of observations.

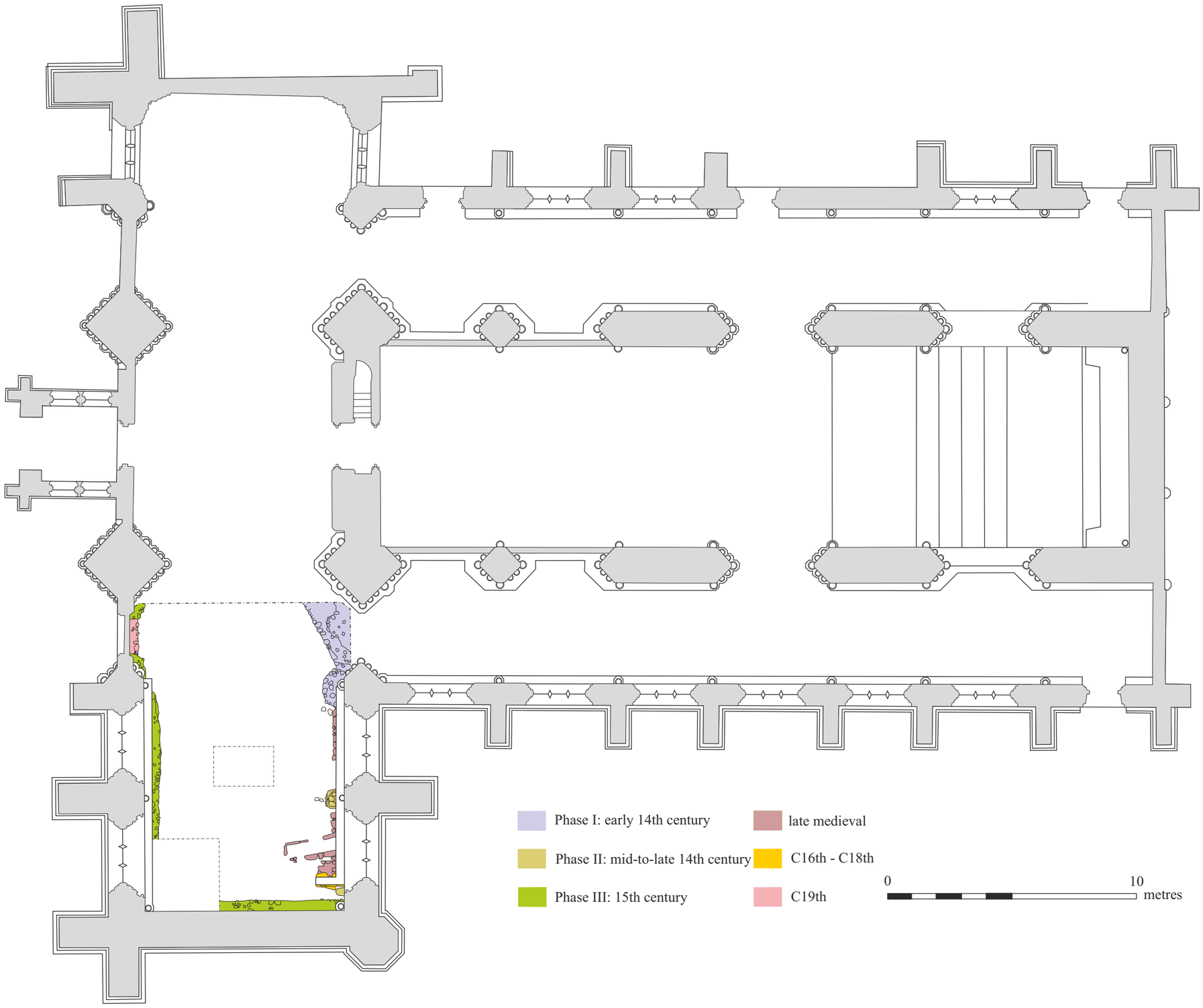


Fig. 14 Plan showing principal features identified and suggested phases of development.

Milton Abbey 2016
East Trench

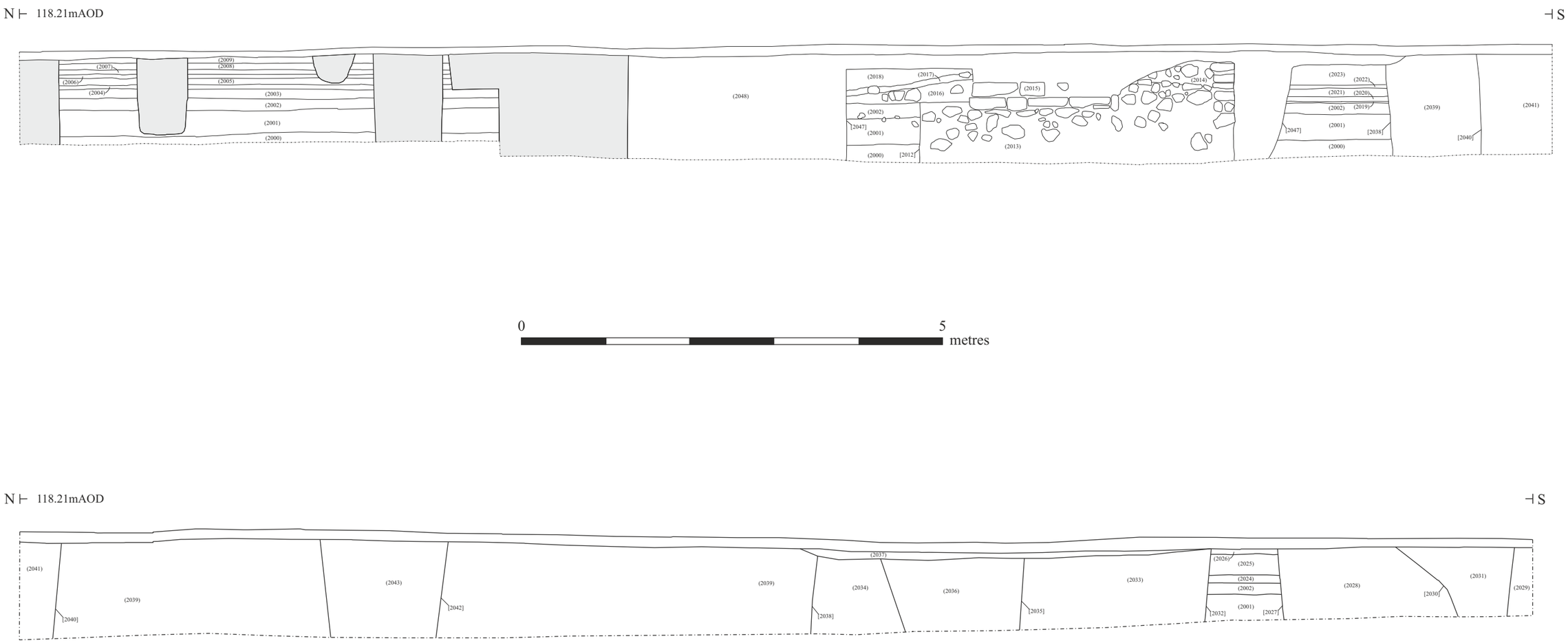


Fig. 15 Section through east trench.

Milton Abbey 2016
North Trench

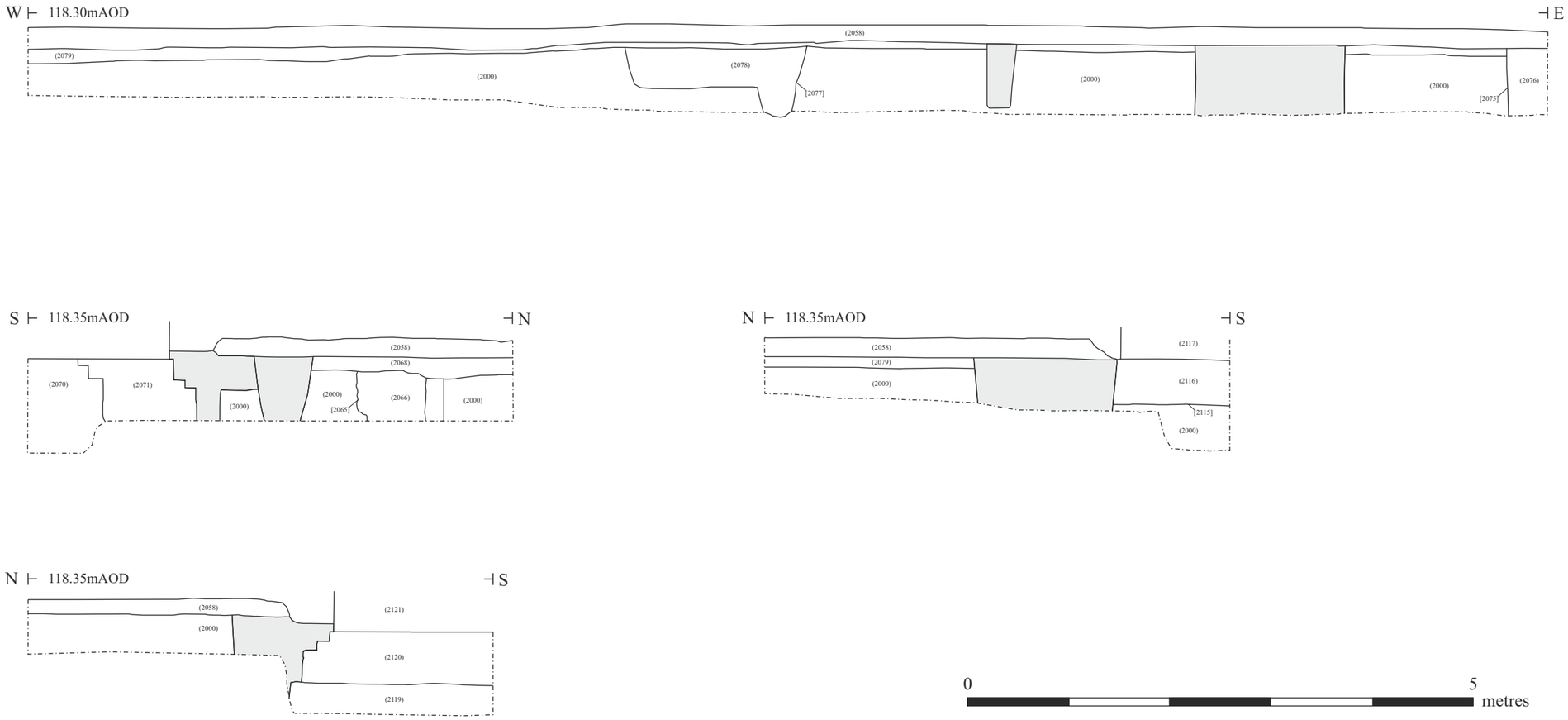


Fig. 15 Sections through north trench.

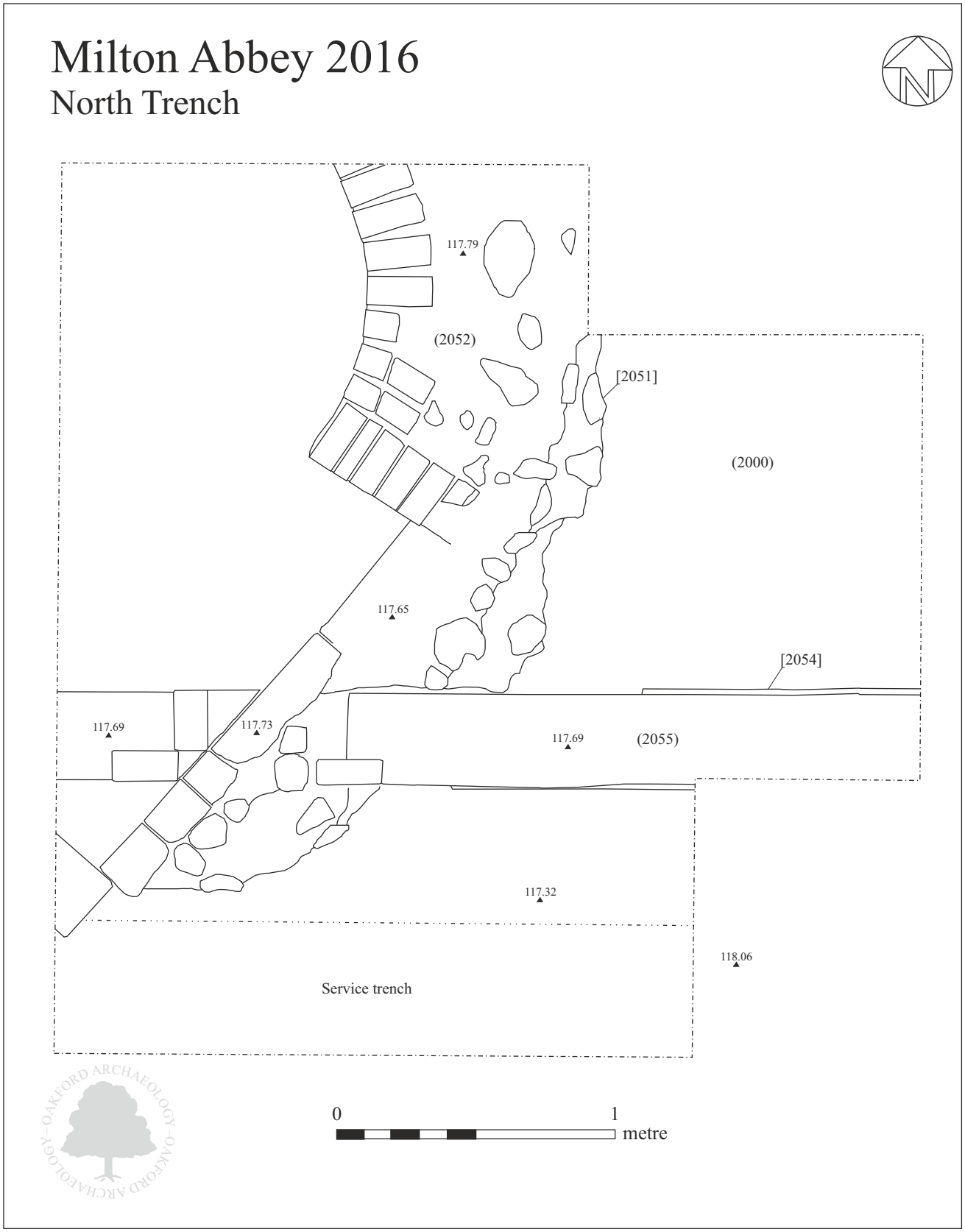
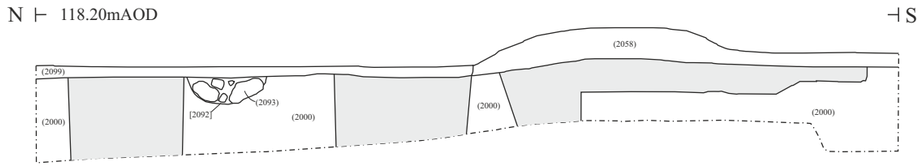
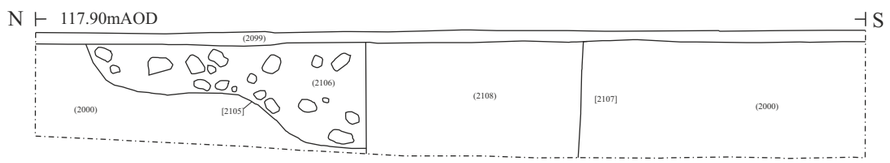
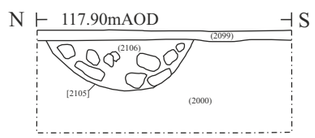


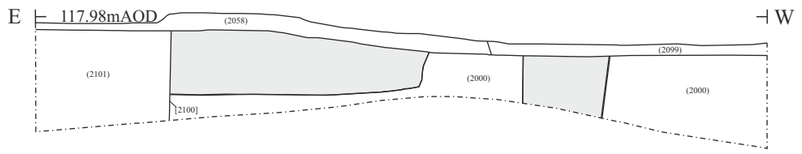
Fig. 17 Plan of north trench.

Milton Abbey 2016
West Trench









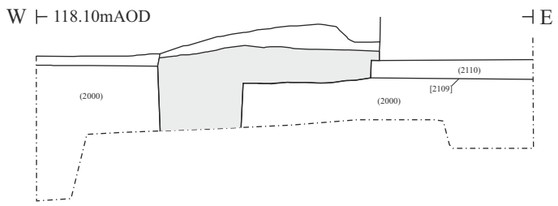


Fig. 18 Sections through west trench.

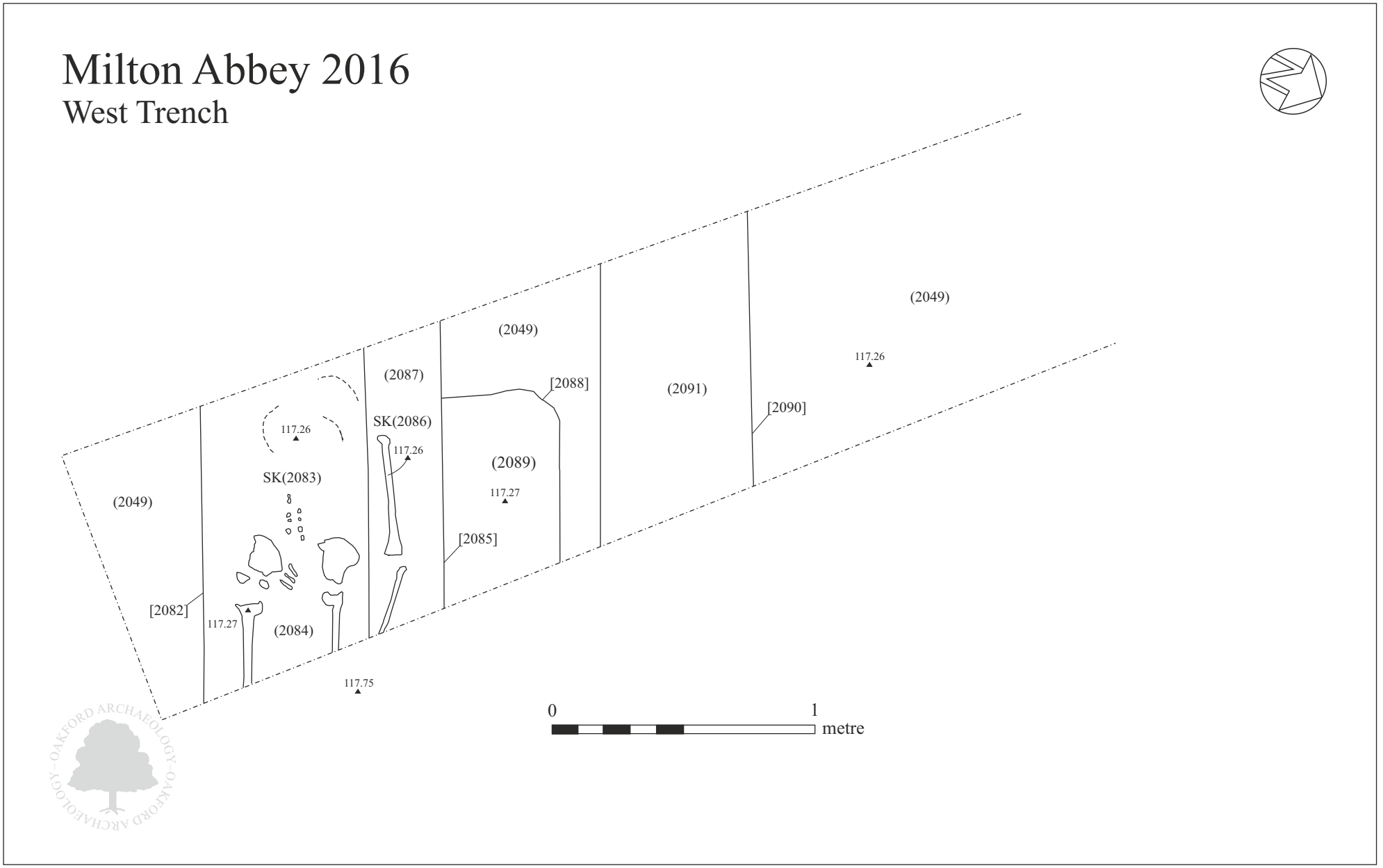


Fig. 19 Plan of soak-away trench to south of Milton Abbey.

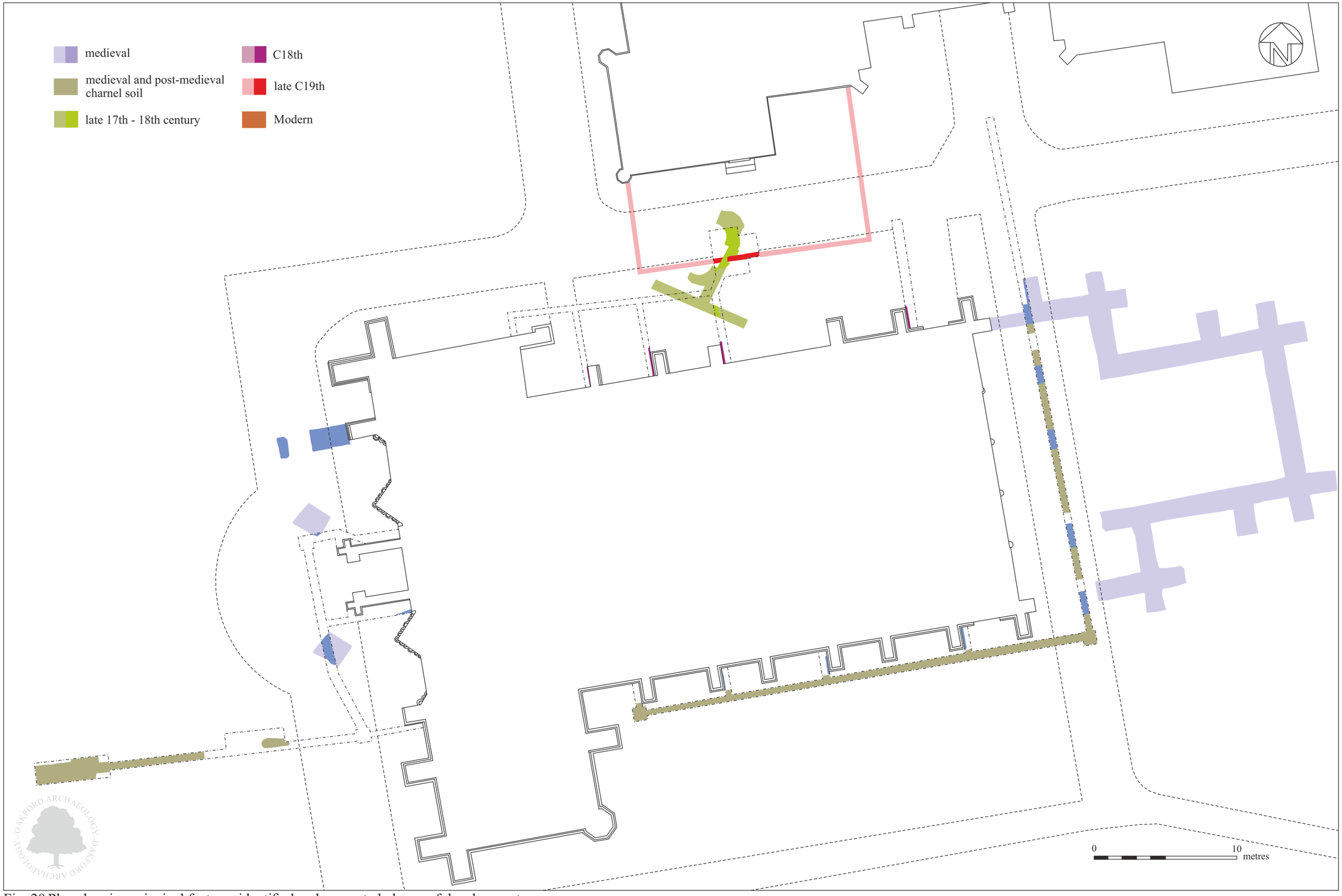


Fig. 20 Plan showing principal features identified and suggested phases of development.

Fig. 21 Oolithic limestone with chevron decoration (above) and Ham stone corner moulding (below).

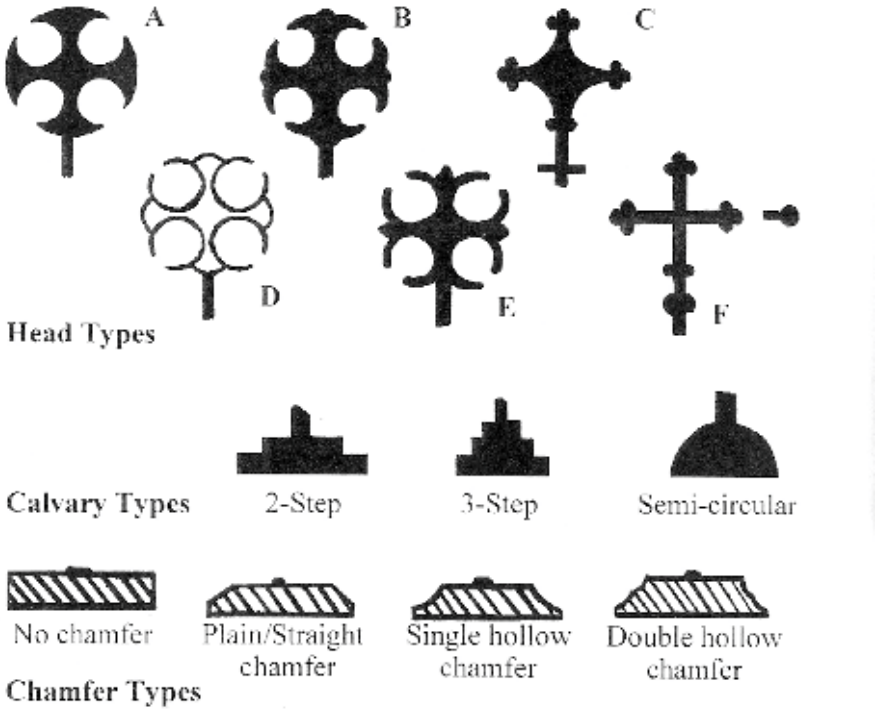


Fig. 22 Purbeck cross slab pieces reassembled (above) and Purbeck cross slab categories (below).

Fig. 23 Nether Wallop, Hants. (above) and Crediton, Devon (below)

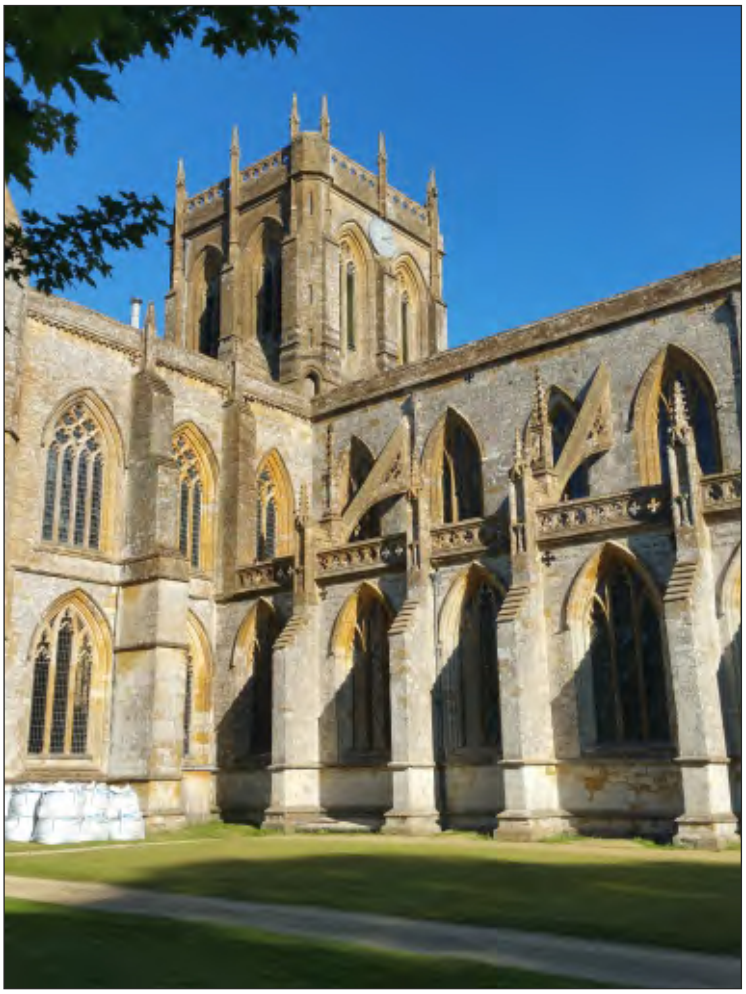
Fig. 24 Abbot Alan, Tewkesbury.

Fig. 25 Mortar fragment (above) and dressing and faceting (below).

Pl. 1 General view of transepts and crossing with tower above showing location of unfinished nave. Looking east.

Pl. 2 General view of north transept with crossing tower behind. Looking south.

Pl. 3 General view of east end showing location of demolished Lady Chapel. Looking southwest.



Pl. 4 General view of south transept, crossing with tower above and south choir wall. Looking northwest.

Pl. 5 General view of southeast crossing pier foundation (1006) and eastern transept pier foundation (1008). 0.5m and 1m scales. Looking southeast

Pl. 6 General view of building break in eastern elevation of south transept (white) and coinciding with change in foundations. 0.25m and 1m scales. Looking east.

Pl. 7 Close-up showing stone rubble and clay foundations (1010) of east elevation south transept. 0.25m and 0.5m scales. Looking east.

Pl. 8 Close-up showing flint and clay foundations (1016) of west elevation south transept. 0.25m and 0.5m scales. Looking west.

Pl. 9 General view of south transept showing flint and clay foundation (1014) of south elevation and stone lined grave (1027). 2m scales.

Pl. 10 General view of south nave aisle opening showing pier foundations (1018) and 1020) and foundation (1023) of door blocking (1024).

Pl. 11 Close-up of medieval foundation of buttress on south elevation. 0.25m and 0.5m scales. Looking east.

Pl. 12 Close-up of medieval foundation of buttress on south elevation. 0.5m and 1m scales. Looking west.

Pl. 13 General view of foundation (2013), main wall (2014) and buttress foundation (2015). 2m scale. Looking northeast.

Pl. 14 Close-up showing foundation (2013), main wall (2014) and buttress foundation (2015). 1m scale. Looking east.

Pl. 15 General view of extensive construction and/or demolition deposits (2003-2009). 1m scale. Looking west.

Pl. 16 General view of the robber trench [2040]. 1m scale. Looking east.

Pl. 17 Close-up of late 17th- 18th century wall (2052) and late 19th century conservatory wall (2055). 1m scales. Looking east.

Pl. 18 General view of late 17th- 18th century wall (2052) and late 19th century conservatory wall (2055). 1m scales. Looking east.

Pl. 19 General view of late16th-mid 18th century wall foundation (2066). 0.5m scale. Looking south.

Pl. 20 Close-up of late 16th-mid 18th century wall foundation (2066). 0.5m scale. Looking west.

Pl. 21 Close-up of post-medieval underpinning of buttress on north elevation. 1m scale. Looking east.

Pl. 22 Close-up of post-medieval brick underpinning of buttress on north elevation. 1m scale. Looking west.

Pl. 23 Close-up of northern nave pier foundation (2099). 0.5m scale. Looking north.

Pl. 24 General view of southern nave pier foundation (2106). 2m scale. Looking east.

Pl. 25 General view of skeletons (2084) and (2087). 0.25m scale. Looking west.

Pl. 26 General view of excavations on west side of Milton Abbey. Looking east.

Pl. 27 General view of shallow grave (2123). 1m scale. Looking north.

Appendix 1
Method statement

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for the Diocese of Salisbury to describe the methodology to be used during a programme of archaeological mitigation at Milton Abbey, Milton Abbas, Dorset (ST 7982 0229). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required under the grant of planning permission (2/2015/1347/FUL) for the installation of new drainage around the Abbey, replacement of the existing below-ground drainage on the south side of the Abbey and new floor in the south transept and the east end of the south aisle. The work is required by North Dorset District Council (NDDC), as advised by the Dorset County Council Senior Archaeologist (DCCSA).

1.2 Milton Abbey is a former Benedictine monastery, which became the parish church of Saint Mary, Saint Sansom, and Saint Branwalader after the dissolution of the monasteries. The standing remains of the Abbey Church are Grade I Listed (LEN103551), and lie within a Grade II* Park and Garden (LEN1712). To the southeast of the church lies the site of the former medieval village (DO716).

The foundation of ecclesiastical buildings at '*Middletone*' (Mills 2008) was first documented in a 14th century copy of an Anglo Saxon charter which stated that King Æthelstan (AD924-939) founded a community of priests in the 930s. The community was refounded as a Benedictine house in 964 by King Edgar (AD959-975) during a period of monastic reform, with Cyneweard - who would later become Bishop of Wells - as the first abbot (Pastscape 2015).

By the late 11th century the abbey at '*Midletune*' was a wealthy foundation, with possessions assessed at over £90 in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Thorn and Thorn 1983). It held large estates, including lands at Cattistock, Ower, Osmington, Lyscombe, Winterbourne Whitechurch, Holworth, and Cerne. The church was completely destroyed in a great fire in 1309. Work on the new church started shortly after and the eastern chapels (now destroyed), the aisled presbytery and the crossing all date to the early 14th century. The early fabric still provides the bulk of the building remains which now form the visible part of the monument

The monastery was surrendered in 1539 by Abbott John Bradley. The following year the estate was sold to Sir John Tregonwell, one of the commissioners, for £1,000. Sir John occupied the abbot's house (now a Grade I Listed Building) as his own private lodgings and made the abbey into the parish church. The estate remained with the Tregonwells until 1752; it was subsequently bought by Joseph Damer (later Baron Milton and then Earl of Dorchester), who in 1780 demolished the nearby village of Milton Abbas, to make room for a park designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The inhabitants were transferred to a new 'model' village about half a mile to the south-east.

At least two periods of restoration are evident within the building; these may be attributed to James Wyatt in the 1790s and Gilbert Scott in the 1860s. In 1852 Baron Hambro purchased the land and employed Gilbert Scott to renovate the then dilapidated church. The Church was purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commission in 1933 and was subsequently passed over to the Diocese of Salisbury.

2. AIMS

2.1 The principal aims of the programme of works are:

- To record the presence/absence, extent, date, nature and function of any archaeological deposits that may be exposed or physically affected by the proposed new works at the Abbey Church;
- To excavate, in advance of construction, in those areas considered to be most archaeologically sensitive;
- To monitor any sub-surface works elsewhere that have the potential to affect archaeological deposits;
- To use the information obtained to enhance the understanding of the Abbey Church and to assess the nature of the archaeological resource on the site
- To produce a technical report on the results in order to prepare a post-excavation assessment report and updated project design for analysis and publication.

3. METHOD

Guidance on the scope of work required under this condition was provided in a method statement provided by AC Archaeology (2015) and agreed with the DCCSA, Steve Wallis.

Liaison will be established with the client and their contractors prior to works commencing in order to advise on OA requirements in relation to the works outlined below. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological deposits.

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Groundworks

3.1 No advance archaeological evaluation of the areas to be affected by the works has been proposed, but if subsequently it is felt necessary by the client, or main contractor, to undertake exploratory investigations, then any trial pits will be excavated either by OA or under OA's supervision, in order to record any exposed deposits.

In all cases, it should be assumed that turf, topsoil and gravel removed during the works should be retained for re-use elsewhere on site.

In all cases, the use of a mini-digger, fitted with a toothless bucket, to remove overburden considered to be of no archaeological significance, can be assumed as an acceptable mean of working, but under constant supervision by the archaeology contractor.

3.2 ***New drains and soakaway around Abbey Church***

New drains will be inserted to carry surface water from the north side of the nave around to the southwest corner of the south transept. The dimensions of the drains trenches will be confirmed prior to commencement, but the trench will be approximately 0.5m wide and 1m deep. OA will excavate only sufficient depth to remove archaeological deposits, up to the maximum depth. Excavation below this depth would be exceptional and only on the instruction of the DCCSA. The soakaway will lie approximately 15m from the new manhole. The dimensions of the soakaway are to be confirmed. OA will remove all deposits above natural substratum at the soakaway location.

3.3 ***Replacement of the existing drainage on the south side of the Abbey Church***

The works are located almost entirely within the trench of the existing drainage and will be undertaken by the main contractor. All groundworks will be comprehensively monitored by OA.

3.4 ***The replacement of the floor in the south transept and the east end of the south aisle***

The entire area under the new floor will require a reduction by 300mm below the existing floor level. OA will excavate only sufficient depth to remove archaeological deposits, up to the maximum depth.

General project method

3.5 All machining will be carried out under direct archaeological control, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machining will proceed in spits, and will cease if archaeological deposits are exposed in order to allow those deposits to be investigated, excavated and recorded. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. If no such deposits are present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, or that sufficient natural subsoil has been exposed to indicate an absence of archaeological deposits, then, following consultation with the DCCSA, archaeological monitoring may be reduced or terminated in these areas.

3.6 All pre-1800 finds will be retained. The presence of later material will be noted, but examples will not be retained except where they are items of intrinsic interest, or their further examination is considered necessary for the interpretation of the site.

3.7 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.8 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1 (*UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds (*UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

3.9 Environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will then be determined at a meeting with the DCCSA and OA's environmental advisor. If environmental samples are retrieved, these would be processed by AEA using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.

3.10 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

3.11 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below).

3.12 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.

3.13 The DCCSA will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with the DCCSA, and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:

(i) standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10,1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;

(ii) colour digital photography;

(iii) survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;

(iv) labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the DCCSA on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed County HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER, and sent to the DCCSA within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed the results of the archaeological work will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the groundworks and the distribution of archaeological features;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate.

5.3 A .pdf version of the report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the DCCSA on completion of sitework. A copy of the .pdf version will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence,

site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with Milton Abbey. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to Dorset County Museum and if not required will be disposed of by OA

OA will notify the DCCSA upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of the material (finds) archive with Milton Abbey.

5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within six months of the completion of site work.

5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the "round up" section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.

5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, owing to their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCCSA, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the DCCSA. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

6. COPYRIGHT

6.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

7. PROJECT ORGANISATION

7.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief,* 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

7.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*).

Bibliography

Cox. P. 2015 Provision of new public facilities at Milton Abbas Church, Dorset. AC Archaeology WSI for archaeological mitigation and assessment.
Mills, A.D. 2008 Discover Dorset: Place Names.
RCHM (E) 1970 An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the county of Dorset, Volume 3: Central Dorset
Thorn, C. and Thorn, F. 1983 *Domesday Book: Dorset. Phillimore.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors
The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;
Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;
Building specialist: Richard Parker;
Illustrator: Sarnia Blackmore;
Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;
Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);
Environmental data: Vanessa Straker (English Heritage);
Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);
Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);
Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;
Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);
Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;
Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);
Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;
Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);
Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);
Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);
Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

Appendix 2:
Finds quantification

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
u/s			57	2 glass fragments with grozed edges poss. medieval; 1 fragment top of diamond shaped quarrie poss. medieval; 1 fragment floral decoration ?rose late 18th century; 5 plain diamond quarries 16th-17th century; 2 fragment English green bottle glass late 17th-18th century; 1 sherd English stoneware late 19th century; 45 glass fragments 19th-20th century.
u/s			6	1 fragment of Portland stone chamfered base of capital with shallow moulding; 1 fragment oolithic limestone with chevron decoration ?cloister late 12th-13th century; 1 fragment of oolithic limestone either roll or free-standing shaft ?cloister late 12th-13th century; 2 fragments of Purbeck marble foliated cross tomb cover with broad border 12th-13th century; 1 fragment Purbeck marble domestic mortar with broad lugs and narrow supports 12th-13th or possibly 16th century; 1 fragment of oolithic limestone top roll capital 12th-13th century; 1 fragment beer stone deck moulding 14th century; 1 fragment of corner moulding rising from square block with base moulding battered possible chantry screen element internal furnishing 14th-15th century; 1 fragment of late perpendicular four centered curves with elaborate cusping possible tomb fragment late 15th-16th century; 1 fragment of fine grained fawn oolithic limestone; 1 fragment of Ham hill corner moulding perpendicular 1ate medieval; 1 fragment of Ham hill roll moulding late medieval; 1 sherd Donyatt-type slip decorated jug 15th-16th century; 1 sherd of English whiteware late 18th-19th century; 4 sherds of Dorset red wares 18th-19th century.
2049		15th -16th century	3	1 sherd of sand-tempered hand-thrown jug or tripod pitcher with rouletted decoration late 12th-13th century c.f. Wareham; 1 sherd of calcareous ware 12th-13th century; 1 sherd of late medieval sand-tempered ware jug.