

1908–39 EXCAVATION TRENCHES

Date of excavations and area	Publication	Summary of results
Bond		
1908, monks' cemetery	Bond 1908	Burial 0.91m below modern turf. Elderly male with head placed in a circular recess within rectangular stone & feet covered by stone slab laid slightly obliquely. Stone placed on edge thought to mark end of grave. Other disturbed skeletal remains noted.
1908, crossing area of church	Bond 1908	Remains of foundations & lias paving beneath post-fire crossing. 45 degree angle of paving led Bond to suggest it may belong to one of apsidal terminations of the pre-fire churches. Radford's excavations disproved this. May relate to crossing area, although no depths provided to compare this to floor levels established from Radford's north transept sections.
1908–9, east end of church	Bond 1915	Evidence for reredos wall behind altar with original trio of arches which Bond compared to Wells. Rectangular dais of high altar comprised clay platform surrounded by slight foundation wall for steps. Many fragments of black marble-like stone found in vicinity of high altar. One small fragment displayed part of arm in chain-mail & was suggested as being a relic from the tomb of Arthur.
	Bond 1908–9	Two surviving chapels at east end.
	Bond 1908	d) A 'first excavation trench' identified a robber trench interpreted as representing screen-wall between the central chapel & the chapel to the south. Western end had rounded termination thought to indicate the foundation of a pier or engaged column, which aligned with respond on south aisle wall. e) A 'second excavation trench' identified the north side of the central chapel.
	Bond 1908	Trial shaft excavated just to east of Edgar Chapel revealing building stone at depth of 10ft (3.05m) above a deep clay fill. This overlay a deposit of interlaced twigs or small stakes, blackened from soil, Also one or two rib bones thought to be human. The deposit overlay natural soil. Suggested as evidence of early occupation but that further investigation required.
	Bond 1908–9	Sacristy or small chantry at south-east corner of the Edgar Chapel.
	Bond 1915	Explorations at east end of Monington's choir indicated that last bay on the south had been occupied by a screen wall perhaps indicating sanctuary location.
	Bond 1915	Remains of a room or building found on external south side of choir where string & base-courses cut through. Foundations of structure indicated that it extended 2.74m from choir &, given narrowness of foundation, was probably late medieval.
	Bond 1908–9	Diagonal wall ran north-eastwards from east end of the Edgar Chapel, containing a square drainage channel covered by thin stone slabs. The robbed north wall was 0.91m wide & extended south-eastwards from east end of Edgar Chapel. The two converging walls supposedly formed a theoretical three-sided apse, although no trace of an eastern wall connected them & the drain within the south wall was recorded as continuing for a further 2.44m eastwards of the wall terminations. Bond's apse theory was not accepted & the SE-NW aligned remains are now accepted as a drain
1909, south transept	Bond 1910, 63	West wall of south transept established together with wall face.
1909, cloister	Bond 1910, 62	Paving slabs for north cloister walk & <i>in situ</i> bases of moulded piers of cloister (dated to Chinnock).
	Bond 1910, 63 & 69	Four stone water channels with some cover stones directly beneath level of latest cloister pavement. One channel exited into cloister garth on the north side of porch or small office found in the 6th bay from the north where a well was also identified.
	Bond 1910; Hollinrake & Hollinrake 2000	Stone-capped drain in south-east corner of cloister aligned approximately east-west & stone-lined drain heading south. East-west drain continued eastwards between chapter house & dormitory however the westward trajectory through the cloister garth was lost. An archaeological investigation in 2000 & 2007 located a water tank also shown on Bond's plan (Hollinrake & Hollinrake 2000).
	Bond 1910	Plan of chapter house mostly recovered including west entrance. Two phases found: late 12 th century & a 14 th century re-build comprising western half built by Monington, followed by eastern half built by Chinnock.
1909-1910,	Bond 1910	Plan of slype recovered.

cloister		
1910, east range	Bond 1910	Within chapter house, 20.8m from the east cloister wall was a foundation projecting southwards from north wall by 0.61m, with remains of ashlar work above. Remnants of stone foundation to the east of this. At 23.67m from east cloister wall was a slight indication of a 2.44m wide cross wall, identified as the east wall of the first phase chapter house: reinterpreted in 1935 as the inner face of the later chapter house east wall.
	Bond 1910	Drain aligned east-west to south of chapter house & a watercourse located beneath dormitory vestibule; continued eastwards where it connected with a drain.
	Excavation Committee's report for 1914. Part i, 76–80	Masonry fragments adjacent to the drain described above were attributed to the infirmary, although the site has never been securely identified.
	Bond 1910	Identified north end of dormitory.
	Bond 1911, 74; pl 2; 82–3	Refectory. Uncovered well-preserved undercroft. Bond's detailed observations noted presence of reused 12 th -century stonework & a lead pipe in south-west corner. Bond suggested the thickness of the north-west corner indicated a tower possibly containing a flight of stairs connecting the vault & the refectory above.
	Bond 1911, 82	Refectory plan recovered. Traces of another building found on south side with evidence of an old kitchen midden with fragments of chicken-bones, egg-shells, pikes' bones & oyster shells indicating the presence of a kitchen midden.
1910, south transept	Bond 1910	West & south walls established. The foundations were noted as being 4.57m wide supporting a wall 3.96m wide, substantially thicker than the other walls recorded at the abbey. Bond suggested that the foundations may have been widened to include the breadth of the monks' night stairs from the dormitory.
1910–11, cloister & refectory	Bond 1911	Drain with remnants of stone capping running southwards along west cloister walk, continuing through north-west corner of the refectory where it met other drains shown in undercroft.
	Bond 1911, 83	Stone-capped drain shown running westwards from above in west cloister walk with further short diagonal drain. Plan appears to show further drain extending northwards against outer wall of west cloister walk.
	Bond 1911, 83	East-west foundation measuring c 6m long & 0.9m wide, with southern return at eastern end. Bond interpreted this as possible remains of a <i>lavatorium</i> which he thought was corroborated by the presence of a high-level water-drain. Re-interpreted by Radford as Saxon walls.
	Bond 1911, pl 2	Older foundations between 2nd & 3rd inner buttresses from south end of west cloister walk.
1911–, Chapel of St John the Baptist (otherwise known as St Dunstan's Chapel)	Bond 1913	Plan established from robbed foundations & <i>in situ</i> masonry. Aligned with <i>vetusta ecclesia</i> . Walls projected east & west by c 1.3m. In centre of west wall were two stones aligned east-west with c 0.1 grooves presumed to have held slabs forming side stones of an entrance. A wall extended northwards by 3–4m from approximate centre of chapel.
1913 or earlier, Lodgings of the Clerks of our Lady	Bond 1913 Woods 1994	Southern end of a c 12m wide building situated to north of St Dunstan's Chapel. South-west corner is extant, comprising interior of a 14 th -century vaulted undercroft with door jamb. Between the doorway & the north-west corner of the Lady Chapel the outline of a wall is indicated, captioned 'Site of boundary wall removed'. Northern end of this building excavated 1987–93 (Woods 1994). Interpreted as the 14 th -century living quarters of the chaplains of the Galilee. Thought to have been demolished by 1475 & replaced by new buildings for secular priests & clerks.
1911, North porch	Bond 1908 Bond 1919	Footprint of a possible 14 th century building west of the north porch, with a small angle buttress abutting the first buttress on the west side of the north porch. Incorporating window tracery dated to c 1280 in the foundations.
	Bond 1912	To the north of the first buttress of the north porch, the surviving masonry, including vaulting ribs, was mostly 14th century indicating an extension.
	Bond 1919	1911 found a few broken mouldings including a window-mullion dated to the 15th- or 16th-century.
1911, to west of north transept	Bond 1915	3.81m wide wall running north from east bay of north nave aisle for a distance of c 5.5m. Initially interpreted as evidence for western aisle; subsequently Bond thought he had found the Loretto Chapel site & reinterpreted the wall as a passage or short cloister leading from the nave to the Loretto chapel. West & north walls of north transept also established.

Pre-1915, monks' cemetery	Bond 1915	St Michael's Chapel located. Eastern side recorded in plan; foundations of south wall constructed of Tor burrs; west return established. Some upstanding walling noted at the south-east corner; oyster shells recovered from this area. A lead pipe protected by stone capping ran approximately east from this point. Presence of extensive tree-roots prevented further exploration.
1919, to west of north transept	Bond 1919	1919 – excavations carried to a greater depth (1.52m), exposing a south-west angle of solid foundations with short buttress on southern face. East return traced for short distance & entire west wall foundation establishing an external width of 6.1m. Robber trench for north wall had masonry at base & was traced for 9.75m. Bond suggested that an 1817 picture by Coney of a wall with four windows might represent south wall of the Loretto Chapel.
1921, north transept	Bond 1926	Small rectangular area of <i>in situ</i> tiles & remains of rough foundation continuing as far as robbed pier opposite dividing wall between two east chapels. Bond suggested tiles marked threshold perhaps to a chantry chapel with foundation possibly indicating an interior screen wall. The tiles have been re-set beneath a hatch (see Chapter 8 The medieval floor tiles). Captain Bowen's notebook records that a second small area of a tiled floor was exposed in 1938 (A39).
1921, lay cemetery	Bond 1926	Substantial 1.52m wide foundation found running westwards for 9.14m from north-east corner of Lady Chapel, the eastern end resting on a series of projecting footings resembling a buttress. Truncated by 19 th -century steps for crypt. Aligned with church & not the Lady Chapel. Interpreted by Bond as a protective stone enclosure for the <i>vetusta ecclesia</i> & therefore pre-fire. Radford identifies it as a retaining wall for the lay cemetery (Woods 1994, 11–12) & the alignment suggests a post-1184 date.
	Bond 1926	Circular platform identified as St David's Pillar. Constructed of small stones set in poor mortar & measuring 2.29m in diameter, the soft material in the centre of the platform was excavated to a depth of c 1.22m & contained 14 th -century moulding fragments. Bond suggested that the platform was a late reconstruction of an earlier monument thought to represent one of the pyramids erected to mark eastward extension of <i>vetusta ecclesia</i> . Excavations suspended at depth of 1.52m due to many interments encountered.
1921, to south-west of nave	Bond 1926	A 'very old' square foundation of Tor burrs projected westwards below the 12th century foundation of the south-west nave tower. The results of the 1928 excavations meant these remains were re-interpreted as Saxon.
Fyfe		
1926, west end of nave	-	Two intact burials at western end of nave south aisle. Plan shows that one of these was removed in 1926 & the other was in a wooden coffin. The plan shows a stone coffin with a later burial above.
1926-1927, west end of nave	Fyfe 1926; Fyfe 1927	Excavations of Saxon churches & Norman nave (see chapter 4)
Peers, Clapham and Horne		
1928–29, west end of nave	Peers <i>et al</i> 1928, Peers <i>et al</i> 1929 Radford 1981	Excavations of Saxon churches & Norman nave (see chapter 4)
1931, choir	Peers <i>et al</i> 1931	A trench along central axis of the choir identified substantial ashlar-built tomb in between third piers from west; it was postulated that this might be the tomb of King Arthur & is identified as such to the present day.
1932–34, dormitory	Peers <i>et al</i> 1932, 109–10; Peers <i>et al</i> 1934, 32	Side wall followed S in 1932. Longitudinal trench along centre dormitory exposed bases/ robber trench of central pillars. Reuse of Norman stone noted in later walls, including a plain capital.
1933–34, reredorter	Peers <i>et al</i> 1933, 30; Peers <i>et al</i> 1934, 33–4	Large open sewer measuring 1.22m wide with high sloping sides made of stone slabs. In centre rectangular building measuring 24.38m by 12.19m externally. Lower level filled with solid clay within retaining wall. Floor of reredorter would have been located at same level as dormitory floor. Channels on either side of reredorter reunited to the west as a single stone-covered sewer intact for c 9.14m, subsequently passing near abbot's lodgings & abbot's kitchen.
1935, chapter house	Peers <i>et al</i> 1935, 258	Excavations of east end of chapter house (see chapter 5)

1937, refectory	Peers <i>et al</i> 1937	Earlier explorations in area south of refectory indicated presence of two walls located 3.05m apart running south from refectory undercroft for distance of 7.62m. In between was solid slope 1.83m wide leading up to ground level which appears to have been one of the entrances to undercroft. The easternmost excavation trench was extended 33.53m to S, but only discoveries comprised a small & apparently unimportant lean-to building abutting west side of dormitory at its southern end.
1937, Monks' kitchen	Peers <i>et al</i> 1937, 153–54	1937: E side of monks' kitchen thoroughly explored & traced to within 11m of the refectory. Identified an inner wall measuring 3m square; latter was situated beneath kitchen floor & was thought to have been sleeper for piers supporting a vaulted roof comparable to Ely.
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	Supposed east wall of abbot's lodging connecting with south-west corner of monk's kitchen (now refuted: see chapter 6)
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	South wall of extended abbot's lodging. Aligned with the southern boundary wall of the abbot's garden.
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	West wall of abbot's lodging (now refuted: see chapter 6)
1938	-	Original southern wall of abbot's lodging thought to indicate a building measuring 38.1m long
1938	-	South-east extension of abbot's lodging
1938	-	Western projection at south end of abbot's lodging (now refuted: see chapter 6)
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	A circular tank at southern end of abbot's lodging measuring 1.22m diameter. Grooves for a sluice gate were noted.
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	'Cobbling' measuring 2.44m wide running along most of the western front of the building (now refuted: see chapter 6)
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	Narrower area in cobbling indicating location of front entranceway into lodging (now refuted: see chapter 6)
1938	Peers <i>et al</i> 1938	North-west & south-west corners of the abbot's garden.
1939	-	Excavations in area to north of abbot's lodging and east of abbot's hall