

## THE ABBOT'S RANGE EXCAVATIONS OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY

### BACKGROUND

The 14th-century abbot's range was located to the south of the monks' cemetery and to the west of the medieval claustral range, with three earlier phases of activity identified in the same area. Remains associated with Abbot Dunstan (c 940-957) were recorded beneath the western side of the medieval cloister (see Cloister report). Interpreted as the eastern side of a possible Late Saxon cloister, the remains were traced for c 60m southwards beyond the medieval refectory, with two cross walls to the north of the refectory forming a room (Radford 1981, 124). No further cross walls were identified to the south of the refectory, indicating a room at least 4.5m long (ibid). Within the south side of the medieval abbot's hall the 1962 excavations disclosed part of an earlier range; stratigraphically these could only be dated as pre-14th century, although they closely resembled the masonry and mortar floors of the supposed east range and were tentatively identified as the south range (ibid). It is important to note that given the perceived importance of these buildings the flooring was left in situ (Radford 1968, 117). Walling of the same character was discovered during Wedlake's 1978-1979 excavations and interpreted as the west range of the same complex (Radford 1981, 124), with the outer wall approximately in-line with the west wall of the cemetery. The three supposed ranges measured between 6m and 8m wide and were thought to have surrounded a courtyard or garden measuring 55m by 36m, with the cemetery wall forming the north side (ibid,125). Radford assumed that there were covered walks providing a connection between the different buildings and the church (ibid). Despite the fragmentary nature of the evidence for the south and west ranges, which were only located at the base of exploratory trenches, the masonry was ascribed to a single building period (ibid).

The 1962 excavations indicated that the supposed Late Saxon south range had been destroyed by the 1184 fire (Radford 1968, 117). It was thought unlikely that 12th-century buildings would have occupied this location, therefore it was suggested that the earlier range had been retained for use as store rooms or offices (ibid). The 1963-1964 excavations identified a further range of poorly constructed 12th-century buildings between the later abbot's hall and the cemetery, probably forming part of the Outer Court destroyed in the 1184 fire (ibid, 236). Radford's excavations also revealed foundation trenches with a few remnants of masonry together with pavement bedding, indicating a building running west from the south-west corner of the cloister (Radford 1955, 23). The evidence suggested that this survived the fire of 1184 and was therefore identified as the 12th-century abbot's hall built by Abbot Henry de Blois (1126-1171). Wedlake's 1978-9 excavations identified further 12th-century remains and a thick layer of burnt debris attributed to the 1184 fire (Radford 1981, 124). John of Glastonbury described the 12th-century hall as 'a beautiful and spacious palace, an attractive outer gate of dressed stone, a great brewery and stables for many horses'. Radford's excavations identified a building above 'Dunstan's' south range which may have formed part of a 13th-century hall, but was virtually obliterated by the early 14th-century abbot's hall and later disturbances (Radford 1968, 236).

The early 14th-century abbot's hall was a rectangular block with a projection containing latrines at the north-east corner (ibid). Consecrated during the abbacy of Geoffrey Fromond (1303-1322), the south-west corner remains upstanding to a considerable height. The hall was entered by a porch at the western end of the south wall which is presumed to have been opposite another entrance on

the north side opening onto a cobbled courtyard between the hall and the cemetery (ibid). A further door in the centre of the west wall gave entry to what was thought to be a room leading to the abbot's kitchen (ibid). The great hall occupied two-thirds of the block while the eastern third was separated by a substantial wall forming a long apartment containing the Great Chamber and private apartments of the abbot over two or more storeys (ibid). According to John of Glastonbury, Abbot Breynton (1334-42) completed the great hall and started work on a private chapel, subsequently completed by Abbot Monington (1342-1374).

To the south of the abbot's hall was the abbot's garden which appears to have been a walled rectangular enclosure. Along the eastern side was a long narrow structure interpreted as the mid 14th-century abbot's lodgings. The lodging had a western aspect and extended north-south for 37m with a cobbled path along the west front. In 1653, Camden described the 'abbot's mansion', referring to spacious arched cellars indicative of an undercroft. Eyston in his 'Little Monument' states that part of the lodging was still standing when he first visited Glastonbury in 1712. Stukeley's eastern abbey aspect of 1723 (Glastonbury Antiquarian Society), prior to the demolition, shows a three-storey building with a gabled roof running east and west and a gallery on the upper floor.

A measurement of 147 feet (45m) is written against the building. The modern ground markings represent the southern end of the building and based on these measurements the northern end terminated between the monks' kitchen and the refectory. Stukeley's southern abbey aspect (Glastonbury Antiquarian Society) dated 17th August 1723, shows the lodging in ruins with fireplaces in the rear east wall and the front west wall virtually gone. An extension at the south end was thought to be the King's lodging built by Abbot Bere probably for the royal visit of 1497. This included a latrine arrangement in the south-east corner of the older part of the range which had been inserted or at least modified when the addition was made. The abbot's kitchen, the only surviving roofed structure belonging to the abbey, is located on the western side of the complex and is attributed to Abbot Sodbury (1322-1334) and was completed by Abbot Breynton (1334-1342). Extensive post-Dissolution and modern disturbance was recorded during the excavations, some of which has been attributed to Monmouth's documented 1685 encampment at the abbey (Radford 1968, 116).

This report covers the scope of the historic excavations within the abbot's range area, including research objectives where specified, preceding detailed analysis of Radford's and Wedlake's excavation records in relation to the earlier excavations. Evidence for the supposed Late Saxon range will be assessed. The archaeological evidence for the possible 12th- and 13th-century structures (some of which may relate to earlier halls) will be re-evaluated, including evidence for the 1184 fire. Details of the 14th-century hall will be presented, together with any archaeological evidence for episodes of re-building, enhancement, post-Dissolution destruction and occupation.

## **Historical Excavations**

### *Bligh Bond*

During his explorations of St Michael's Chapel, Bond recorded a wall on the eastern side of the chapel which terminated in a large building extending westwards from the southern end of the west cloister walk (1915, 136). A considerable number of glazed tiles were in the location (ibid.). This

structure was exposed more fully in the 1939 excavations and the remains recorded in 1951-2 (see below); Radford suggested this was the 12th-century abbot's hall constructed by Henry de Blois.

*Peers, Clapham and Horne*

The excavations of 1938 were directed towards recovering the plan of the abbot's lodging, although no drawings were ever published. The abbot's hall was largely explored and planned in 1938 and 1939. Wedlake reported that walls of three different periods were encountered between the monks' kitchen and the south-west corner of the refectory, with the earliest blue lias wall possibly associated with Dunstan's monastery or possibly the work of Henry of Blois. The stone-by-stone drawings planned in 1938-39 (A407 and A408) were reproduced on a Wedlake plan (A628) also showing Radford's excavations and the 1978-79 work. The wall connecting the monks' kitchen and the refectory was established as being contemporary with the kitchen.

According to Warner, the abbot's lodging had a ground plan in the form of a capital E with the middle stroke missing. The eastern wall of the lodging connected with the south-west corner of the monks' kitchen (see A on abbot's range plan) and the southern end (see B on abbot's range plan) aligned with the southern boundary wall of the abbot's garden (Peers et al 1938, 135). According to Wedlake, the east wall was located 6.71m from the west front (see C on abbot's range plan); the building seems at first to have been 38.1m long (see D on abbot's range plan) and was later extended to a total length of 44m (A628) (see B on abbot's range plan). This fits with the published observation that the west wall had been extended southward to meet the garden wall, and that a projection had been added at the south-west corner measuring c 6.1m square (ibid) (see E on abbot's range plan). Wedlake noted that the 1723 sketch showed two projections on the west of the building, however only the southern one was found (see F on abbot's range plan). At the north-west corner of the lodging there was a foundation with a rounded corner at its south-west end; Wedlake suggests this was probably the smaller tower or turret shown on the 1723 sketch (A628). Within the south-east corner of the building a circular tank was discovered measuring 1.22m in diameter (see G on abbot's range plan); this was the reredorter for the lodging flushed by a drain running beneath the floor from the north along the middle of the building (Peers et al 1938, 135). Grooves for a sluice gate were noted and the drain joined the main sewer of the monastic reredorter located to the east (ibid). A cobbled pavement 2.44m wide was recorded running along most of the western front of the building (see H on abbot's range plan), with a narrower area indicating the location of the front entrance (ibid) (see I on abbot's range plan).

To the north of the lodging, further cobbling and walls of several different periods were discovered, although these were not fully investigated, and the north-west and south-west corners of the abbot's garden were identified (ibid) (see J on abbot's range plan). Wedlake suggested that the substantial wall with several large windows shown on the 1723 sketch, running east from the south-east corner of the lodging, may have been the abbot's lodging or the King's refectory and the cloisters to another group of buildings not yet located on the south side of the garden wall. The only published finds comprised a 13th-century oval bronze seal (Credei Michi); a quantity of stained and painted glass fragments; a diamond-shaped ornamental lead grille with central roundel retaining red stained glass; a number of jettons; a penny of Edward II; a piece of glazed foreign tile described by Wedlake as a decorated Spanish border tile coloured white, blue and brown (see specialist report on the Spanish imported wares); and a large quantity of broken pottery (ibid). Wedlake states that

some of the pottery was subsequently reconstructed. In addition, there was a quantity of painted glass in very poor condition; several Nuremberg jettons and trade tokens found in the cobbled surface, including one of Andrews of Wells; and some Georgian coins. There were also some large pieces of stone from coping or battlements.

In the absence of a published report on the 1939 excavations of the abbot's hall, the following account is taken from Wedlake's unpublished account (A628). The eastern end of the hall was located and planned, together with the area where the hall joined the western end of the refectory. Foundations of several phases were encountered to the west of the refectory and monks' kitchen. Alongside the earliest of these walls, which were parallel to each other, two sherds of samian pottery were found lying on the natural clay and a small fragment of Saxon carved stone was also found built into a nearby stone drain. Wedlake suggests that this wall could have been part of Dunstan's monastery since the associated narrow, blue lias foundations were similar to those of the Saxon church excavated between 1926 and 1929. A small sandstone water-basin was found within an angle of these early foundations (see K on abbot's range plan) in association with a quantity of black medieval cooking pot and remains of fish and animal bones. This was thought to be suggestive of an earlier monastic kitchen still functioning during the abbacy of Henry de Blois. A quantity of green-glazed 13th- and 14th-century pottery was recovered from a higher level in the same area. The relationship of the abbot's lodging with the other monastic buildings at this point was not clear, but it would seem probable that the two large square foundations found by Bond at the west end of the refectory were also contemporary with Henry de Blois. It was suggested that they were made to accommodate stairways and a passage-way which crossed the west end of the refectory, providing access between the abbot's lodging and the cloister.

The four walls running west from the refectory were traced for about 11.58m where (three of the walls) connected with a substantial wall foundation running north-south. This cross-wall was 10.36m long and connected with a wall running west from the south-west corner of the refectory; Wedlake thought these walls formed a hall measuring 10.36m square which may have been part of the abbot's house or his chapel (see L on abbot's range plan). The internal bases for pilasters or columns on the south and west walls suggested that this chamber was vaulted, and that it probably had two central piers to support the vault. In the north-west corner of the room an entrance gave access to a second chamber which was 10.01m long and 4.88m wide (see M on abbot's range plan). A small closet was subsequently made in the south-west corner of this room, and at the same time the other chamber was partitioned by the construction of an east-west wall, forming on its north side a passage-way measuring 2.44m wide (see N on abbot's range plan). This chamber was probably used as a waiting area between the small room and the larger hall.

The east wall of the early 14th-century abbot's hall was 22.86m in length with an elaborate buttress or turret on the south-east corner (see O on abbot's range plan). The surviving piece of masonry near the abbot's kitchen, commonly known as the almonry, represents the south-west corner of the hall (see P on abbot's range plan). Measuring 3.05m wide with a flight of steps forming a passage-way within the width, the foundation at the south-east corner widens where the south wall was 4.27m wide for 13.41m of its length.

*Radford*

Although the abbot's hall was not part of the main objectives of Radford's excavations, a considerable area between the refectory and the abbot's hall, including the east end of the hall, had been left open since 1939 (A507). The remains were overgrown and deteriorating therefore required urgent attention. Although the plan inherited from the 1930s made little attempt to distinguish between phases, Radford was convinced that the walls discovered by Bond in the south-east corner of the cloister related to Dunstan's range. It was anticipated that further evidence of the Saxon cloister would be discovered during the 1951 and 1952 campaigns, which it was hoped would determine the layout of the Saxon monastery (A508). A rectangular open area was planned on the north side of the abbot's hall, two narrow trenches were recorded between the abbot's lodging and the refectory and a further rectangular area across the abbot's lodging and monks' kitchen. The spoil from the 1951 excavations was used to fill in the 1939 area to the level of the existing cloister (A508). A trench was also excavated in 1952 between the north-east corner of the abbot's hall and St Michael's Chapel, while in 1954 the St Michael's Chapel trench was extended southwards to the abbot's hall.

The abbot's hall was excavated from 1962-4 to search for evidence of any claustral buildings associated with Dunstan's monastery (A508) and to clarify details of the abbot's hall plan (Radford 1968, 114). In 1962, a 37m long trench was excavated from north-south across the eastern end of the great hall extending northwards into the courtyard to the north of the hall. In 1963-4 work continued in the courtyard and great hall, extending eastwards into the eastern chamber. Although the intention was to complete the work in 1963, poor weather and unexpected discoveries meant a further season was necessary (Radford 1968, 235). In 1963 trenches with numerous extensions were excavated eastwards from the 1962 trench, while in 1964 the whole area appears to have been opened-up with the aim of completing the work on what was initially interpreted as the west range of Dunstan's cloister (A508).

### *Wedlake*

In 1978-9 Wedlake carried out deep excavations across parts of the abbot's hall and adjacent areas. Radford noted that the principal objective of Wedlake's excavations was to complete the abbot's hall plan; at the request of the Department of the Environment the brief was to recover the plan of the buildings by the removal of post-medieval levels. The Discussion section of this report draws heavily upon Wedlake's unpublished account of these excavations (A628 pages 47-67), which had been written-up together with his earlier excavations on the abbot's lodging, the abbot's hall and the abbot's kitchen. In 1978 three interconnected trenches were excavated at the north-east corner of the great hall, plus one long east-west trench across the centre of the great hall and two trenches across the north wall of the eastern chamber. In 1979, a labyrinth of trenches was opened in the south-western area of the great hall and between the great hall and abbot's kitchen.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The Results section of this report provides a technical stratigraphic account based on the sections, plans, photographs, sketches and notes for each trench.. All contexts have been included on a stratigraphic matrix [M:473], however it was not possible to deduce relationships for all contexts. The individual sections, plans and the overall site plan (see pdf) should be referred to particularly during the Discussion section where the evidence from the trenches is synthesized. Stratified finds are included per context and unstratified finds are summarised per trench, although finds numbers

are only provided where there is no context (finds with contexts can be accessed through the context record).

The official photographic record for this area includes two images, with numerous unofficial photographs, some of which have been linked to specific trenches; relevant photographs are incorporated within the Discussion. Eight trenches were recorded in section and as single multi-context plans while a further six trenches were recorded as single multi-context plans only. Details of these trenches appear in both Radford's and the volunteer site notebooks with sketches and in detailed trench write-ups. Some of the results of these excavations were summarised in Radford's 1955 and two 1968 published reports, while the 1981 interim report added further descriptions and interpretation. However, there is no mention of the 1964 trench in the publications.

Wedlake's write-up (A628) of his involvement in the Glastonbury Abbey excavations includes an account of his 1978-79 explorations in and around the abbot's hall, synthesizing the evidence from the earlier excavations. With the bulk of Wedlake's excavation records unavailable for study this account is the primary source for understanding this phase of archaeological work. The photographic record (comprising both monochrome and colour slides) indicate that some of the trenches were extended beyond what is represented in the plans. Of the five 1978 trenches four section drawings survive ('NW corner of abbot's hall', 'Cutting 1', 'Cutting 2' and 'Cutting 3') and five of the 1979 trenches were recorded in section ('Cutting 1', 'Cutting 1 Ext W', 'Cutting 2', 'Cutting 3' and 'Across west wall'). Two sections were also recorded across the reverberatory furnace in the south-west corner of the abbot's hall south porch in 1979. A further section appears to have been recorded across the eastern side of the 1979 'Cutting1' and 'Cutting 2'. Due to the lack of detail and the confused nature of Wedlake's archive, it is impossible to undertake thorough post-excavation analysis of the records therefore no further details are included within this section of the report. An account based on Wedlake's write-up is, however, presented within the Discussion section.

As far as possible, the interpretative element of these records have been removed, although original labels have been left on the drawings primarily to retain terms of reference between the drawings and the notes. The phased Discussion section provides a critical appraisal of the archaeology from a modern perspective incorporating new dating and spatial evidence from specialist finds reports, the recent geophysical survey (GSB Prospection) and the parchmark survey (Hollinrake & Hollinrake 1989). Together with a re-evaluation of both the original recorded and published interpretations, features have been attributed to the earliest possible phase. The Conclusion provides an overview of the archaeology, an assessment of the success of the historic excavations and suggestions for future areas of research.

## **RESULTS**

### ***1951, AH 1***

[L:1689] [E:30]. Across the southern area of the trench was the backfill [C:350] [C:352] [C:353] of the 1939 excavations [C:351]. This overlay a deep rubbish and debris layer [C:366]; across the centre of the trench and at the northern end of the trench was another deep debris layer [C:354]. This overlay a 'hard' rubble [C:378] layer, a debris layer with some in situ slabs [C:373] and a clay and mortar rubbish layer [C:380] above a soil layer [C:381]. Beneath the rubble layer [C:378] was an earth and debris layer [C:383] and beneath the other two deposits [C:373] [C:383] was the remains of a

bedding layer with small chips [C:374] above a thin soil layer [C:375]. Near the southern end of the trench, on the south side of a foundation [C:369], was a mortar bedding layer [C:362] with small stone chippings. This covered the a cover-stone [C:359] of a drain [C:360] which ran obliquely across the south-east corner of the trench.

Eight walls were recorded. The foundation at the northern end of the trench was constructed of Tor burrs [C:382], located to the north of a 'squared' wall [C:379] although the relationship between the two structures was not ascertained. The remains of a wall [C:377] were located c 1.52m to the south; this was recorded in section as a single stone at the intersection with AH 2. A Tor burr foundation [C:372] was located 1.22m to the south aligned east-west. Above this was a wall [C:371] with an offset on the south side. Another Tor burr foundation [C:370] with the remains of an ashlar face was located another 1.22m to the south and aligned east-west. A further 5.5m to the south was another east-west aligned foundation [C:369] with a deposit of debris [C:367] on the northern side. At the southern end of the trench was a foundation [C:357] with a possible offset on the south side and an offset on the north side. The foundation trench [C:384] was backfilled with burnt material [C:358], probably redeposited from the burnt layer [C:385] through which it cut. On the northern side of this foundation was a structure labelled in section as 'stones' [C:356]; the regularity of the shape of the 'stones', with what appears to be an offset, is indicative of a structure. A clay layer [C:376] [C:364] [C:368] [C:363] [C:361][C:355] underlay the archaeological deposits.

### ***1951, AH 2***

[L:1689] [E:7]. A robber trench [C:251] back-filled with soil [C:250] cut through a soil layer [C:252] at the eastern end of the trench and a deep soil and rubbish layer [C:253] to the west. A sondage showed a deeper area with rubble adjacent to a dirty soil and clay layer [C:254] above the (?natural) clay [C:255].

### ***1954, Open Area West of St Michael's Chapel***

[L:1637]. Foundations correspond with the third buttress along the north wall of the abbot's hall from the east. A robbed wall ran through two sondages and was approximately aligned with a foundation in another sondage. A further robber trench and foundation were approximately aligned, c 2.4m to the west, and a further robber trench was planned c 1m to the east apparently showing the south-east corner of a building. A grave was located in the north-west corner of the trench, with a further grave to the east against the northern edge of the excavation cut by a later grave. A 'late disturbance' was planned in a short western extension to the open area.

### ***1951, West of Monks' Kitchen***

[L:1690]. The only record of this trench is an outline plan and a single official excavation photograph. This shows the west side of the monks' kitchen above an earlier wall, which in turn covered a still earlier wall extending westwards with associated paving. The caption for the published photograph states this is a 10th-century wall to the south of the refectory (Radford 1981, pl 24B).

### ***1951, West of Refectory***

[L:1690]. The only record of this trench is an outline plan, a single official excavation photograph of the west wall of the refectory and notes in see Site 2/1. The notes describe the west frater wall,

faced with Douling stone and retaining a chamfered plinth, cut into by the north wall [C:379] of the supposed early (ie Henry de Blois) abbot's hall with paving at ground level. A sketch [I:18528] also indicates that the wall [C:379] running westwards from the refectory is the north wall of the early abbot's hall. The relationships imply that the 12th-century refectory was built prior to the contemporary abbot's hall, which appears to be confirmed by a note stating that the under-bedding of the abbot's hall pavement was formed by the refectory foundations of which the upper part were lias slabs. Traces of the supposed 12th-century floor were discovered 0.15m below the supposed 14th-century floor and were covered by under-bedding for the latter.

### ***1952, North-East Corner of abbot's hall***

[L:1686] [E:32]. At the southern end of the section was a robber trench [C:451] with a loose fill [C:450] directly overlying the foundations [C:463] of the north-east corner of the abbot's hall. To the north, this cut through a layer of loose fill and rubbish with mortar and debris [C:452] which extended northwards. This layer measured c 0.91m deep in the area between the abbot's hall and St Michael's Chapel. A mortar and spalls layer [C:454] immediately north of the abbot's hall appears to have filled a feature [C:456] which cut through a deep layer of soil with some stones [C:457]. The deep soil layer [C:457] was cut by a 'late drain' [C:466] which appeared to have been aligned east-west. To the south was a further late stone-lined drain [C:467] recorded in plan running along the centre of the trench from north-south. The plan appears to show this drain extending southwards from an earlier stone-lined drain [C:461]. The latter entered the east side of the trench then turned towards the south and appeared to cross the site of the abbot's hall. The early drain [C:461] was left in situ while the later drain was removed in stretches. Both drains were at ground level and were covered by a layer [C:460] labelled as a 'hard floor' and 'mortary' although it was also labelled 'unexcavated'.

The foundation [C:463] at the southern end of the trench appeared to cut through natural clay [C:462] with only a few bone fragments in superficial layers. Finally, two stones [C:468] were recorded in plan to the north of the early drain [C:461] and labelled as 'late wall tiles'.

### ***1954, St Michael's Chapel (southern half)***

[L:1638] [E:28]. The modern topsoil [C:1301] sealed a deep demolition layer of soil and rubbish [C:1303]. At the southern end of the trench this covered a mortar rubble fill [C:1308] of a robber trench [C:1309]; the excavation notes state that foundations stones for the abbot's hall north wall remained in situ. The robber trench [C:1309] cut through a deep demolition layer [C:1310] containing a possible ewer handle dated 14th to 15th century, CBM (undateable) and twenty-four sherds of 14th- to 15th-century pottery. This layer contained two small deposits of mortar rubbish [C:1311] and overlay a thin layer of broken slates [C:1312] which Radford thought had fallen from a roof to the south. This overlay dark soil [C:1313] containing rubbish and pottery, although the latter was not retained. At the southern end of the trench this covered the mortar fill [C:1314] of the construction trench [C:1315] for the abbot's hall north wall, which had been largely truncated by the robber trench [C:1309]. The soil [C:1313] also covered a fragmented line of mortar [C:1316] located between the abbot's hall and St Michael's Chapel, which thickened towards the abbot's hall. This overlay a small deposit of re-deposited clay [C:1317], above a more extensive dark soil layer [C:1318] containing 6g of copper alloy slag, one sherd of Roman pottery (not reassessed), five sherds of 14th-



15th century pottery and one fragment of painted wall plaster. This covered the redeposited or natural clay [C:1319] at the base of the section.

### **1962, AHCT**

[L:1683] [E:71]. Radford's notebook states that the southern end of the trench (from c 26.82m) was so badly disturbed it had to be abandoned. The modern topsoil [C:5800] covered a humus layer [C:5001] at the north end of the trench, a hardcore layer [C:5802] and a line of stones [C:5803]. These all covered a deep and extensive layer of soil and stones [C:5805] containing a Romanesque blue lias capital [F:AF5804] and a sherd of pottery dated after 1250. This layer is shown filling a possible robber trench [C:5825] and probably continued as the soil layer [C:5808] at the northern end of the trench containing one sherd of Roman pottery and two sherds of pottery dated after 1250. The soil layers [C:5805] [C:5808] were separated by a possible robber trench [C:5807] backfilled with fine soil [C:5806] and sealed beneath the humus layer [C:5801]. The feature contained two sherds of pottery dated after 1250.

At the northern end of the trench the soil layer [C:5808] covered a mortar line [C:5809] at a depth of c 0.7m and a mortar layer [C:5823] at a greater depth of c 1.3m shown in section at the base of the trench. The shallower mortar line [C:5809] covered a layer labelled as 'recent fill' [C:5810]. The finds comprised a twisted offcut of cut lead strip, one sherd of pottery dated after 950, seven sherds of pottery dated 1250-1500 and three tile fragments. To the south of the deeper mortar layer [C:5823], and at the base of the possible robber trench [C:5807], was a foundation [C:5824] aligned east-west and measuring 0.67m wide. Two stone samples were taken from this foundation; a blue lias fragment and a possible Dundry fragment. The north face of the trench also revealed traces of mortar, which may be a continuation of the mortar bedding layer [C:5823] in the east section.

To the south of the foundation [C:5824], the soil layer [C:5805] covered an extensive layer of mortar debris with bands of soil and a few stones [C:5811]. This also covered three sub-rounded stones [C:5828] recorded in section on the northern side of robber trench [C:5825] and described as remnants of stonework. Towards the centre of the section the excavation trench was extended to a depth of 1.83m; the base of this layer [C:5811] was not reached although a clay deposit [C:5821] on the northern side of the sondage indicates deep modern disturbance in this location. Finds from this layer [C:5811] comprised four sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450; one sherd dated after 1250; seven sherds of 15th to 16th-century pottery; five fragments of window glass; five very corroded fragments of a glass vessel; three fragments of very fragile medieval glass; five fragments of possible floor plaster; one fragment of fired clay; one fragment of painted wall plaster; four fragments of mortar; two possible Roman tile fragments; a copper alloy waster and a lead joggle. To the south of this layer was a layer of packed stone [C:5812] containing six fragments of window glass, two of which had red paint. This overlay a further layer of mortar debris [C:5813] with charcoal lenses and containing a fragment of tile, one sherd of pottery dated after 950 and five sherds dated 1250-1450. Beneath the debris layer was a single course of stones [C:5820] measuring 2.93m wide at the base of the trench; it is not known whether further courses existed.

At the northern end of the trench the mortar debris layer [C:5811] was thinner, covering another mortar bedding layer [C:5822] which appeared to abutt the southern face of the foundation [C:5824]. This contained a fragment of painted plaster, while six fragments of glass and seven fragments of plaster were recorded as coming from beneath this layer.

At the southern end of the section (although not the trench) the soil and stone layer [C:5805] covered mortar and debris [C:5815] containing one sherd of pottery dated after 1250; six sherds of pottery dated after 1500; one piece of window glass and one fragment of tile with traces of brown glaze. Beneath was a mortar layer [C:5816] (thought to be a floor) with the following finds embedded, within or directly overlying the floor; one sherd of pottery dated 1250-1450; one sherd of pottery dated after 1500; four sherds dated 1450-1580; a 16th- to 17th-century Nuremberg jetton; and fragments of earthenware tiles. This sealed a deep stone, soil and debris layer [C:5817] containing two sherds of pottery dated after 1250; five sherds dated 1250-1450; one sherd of pottery dated 1400-1599; and a fragment of a white lias column from (?) screenwork. The debris layer sealed the single course of a wall [C:5819] measuring 0.88m wide. A single course of a further wall [C:5827] was located at the same horizon c 10m to the north and measuring 0.76m wide. At its south edge was a black charcoal layer not shown in section, with a grey stony layer above it [C:5817]. In between the two walls was a layer of plaster [C:5818] beneath the debris layer [C:5817].

In plan, a path [C:5826] was recorded comprising a regular line of what appears to be blue lias slabs (see [I:18959]) extending from the southern end of the trench and running northwards before gradually turning into the west side of the section. The path appears to be beneath the topsoil.

Unstratified finds, or finds that could not be securely linked to a context, comprised one Roman pottery sherd [F:BF5865]; two sherds of pottery dated after 950 [F:BF5852]; thirty-four sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450 [F:BF5807] [F:BF5826] [F:BF5862]; eight sherds dated after 1250 [F:BF5822] [F:BF5828] [F:BF5829] [F:BF5833] [F:BF5836] [F:BF5853]; one sherd of pottery dated 1400-1500 [F:BF5832]; two sherds dated after 1500 [F:BF5854]; one fragment of tile dated 1250-1380 [F:BF5823] within a mortar bedding layer; two clay pipe heel fragments dated 1640-1670 [F:BF5825] and 1650-1680 [F:BF5841]; and four fragments of glazed ridge tile [F:BF5831] [F:BF5835] [F:BF5864].

### ***1963, AHCT (1962) E Extension 1***

[L:1684] [E:76]. The modern topsoil [C:6050] contained two lenses of rubble and soil [C:6051] and overlay a deep modern debris layer [C:6052] containing pottery, plaster, mortar, a lace tag, glazed and unglazed tile. A soil layer [C:6053], the surface of which was labelled as a late medieval surface, survived beneath the modern debris in the centre and at the western end of the trench. This overlay a lias spalls [C:6054] deposit at the western end of the trench and a rubble and plaster layer [C:6055] in the trench centre; this layer [C:6055] also underlay the lias spalls deposit and contained four fragments of glazed tile, four fragments of unglazed tile, ten fragments of pottery (some with green-glaze) (not re-dated), one fragment of moulded plaster and two fragments of glazed tile. The rubble and plaster [C:6055] covered a mortar layer [C:6056] at a depth of 0.76m beneath the modern turf containing a very fragmentary glass rim. In the centre of the trench the mortar covered a mortar debris layer [C:6057] containing fifteen sherds of pottery (not re-dated). A robber trench [C:6058] extended from the north face of the section by 0.49m. A further robber trench [C:6059] was recorded at the east end of the trench aligned north-south. This continued southwards before terminating near the southern end of the extension between E Extension 1 and E Extension 3. In section there is no differentiation between the modern demolition layer [C:6052] and the fill of these robber trenches, although the latter are described as containing fine soil with little debris.

Unstratified finds or finds that could not be securely linked to a context comprised one fragment of glazed tile [F:BF6009]; three tile fragments [F:BF6023]; seven pieces of tile [F:BF6035] three of which were decorated; sixteen pieces of glazed and unglazed pottery [F:BF6022] [F:BF6030] [F:BF6034] [F:BF6041] which have not been re-dated. In addition, a coin or token was recovered from the spoil heap [F:SF6001] although this is no longer identifiable in the assemblage.

***1963, AHCT (1962) E Extension 2 with South Cuttings 1 and 2; E Extension 5 and E Extension 7***

[L:1685] [E:75]. The modern topsoil [C:7000] covered a deep layer of soil and mortar [C:7001] in the western half of the trench. This sealed the loose fill [C:7002] of a narrow trench [C:7003] supposedly aligned north-south cutting through a soil layer [C:7004]. The latter covered an undulating rubble and soil layer [C:7006], containing a two pieces of architectural stone and a fragment of plaster, and a 'modern' layer [C:7005] containing two fragments of medieval glazed floor tile. This layer dominated the eastern half of the trench, overlying loose mortar and foundations [C:7015] with a terminus ante quem of 1550 provided by a single pottery sherd. The line of a supposedly 13th-century hearth and a 14th-century bedding level were clearly visible on the south section and annotated onto the layer [C:7005]. In plan the hearth measured 3.59m from east-west across the full width of the trench. It should be noted that the stratigraphy is not clear from the section, with the notes and lines (not all digitised) indicating further modern disturbance. The 'modern' layer [C:7005] contained a soil layer [C:7016] within a hollow, with both deposits cut by a possible robber trench [C:7017] [C:7018] aligned north-south. Further west, a further soil deposit [C:7007], with a terminus ante quem of 1550 provided by three sherds of pottery, lay within a hollow beneath the rubble and soil layer [C:7006]. This overlapped a layer of loose mortar [C:7008] above a layer of mortar bedding [C:7009] containing an iron nail; both deposits were seemingly disturbed by a deep deposit of loose stones and mortar [C:7010]. Beneath the mortar bedding [C:7009] was a layer of burnt mortar [C:7011] above a layer of soil, small stones and some mortar [C:7012] above ?natural clay [C:7014]. This soil layer [C:7012] was also recorded at the western end of the trench beneath the two mortar layers [C:7008] [C:7009]; containing six sherds of pottery, one fragment of wall plaster and four fragments of floor tile, the finds provide a terminus ante quem of 1280. At the western end of the trench the soil layer [C:7012] covered an unexcavated mortar bedding layer [C:7013] at a depth of c 1.37m below the topsoil.

Wall foundations [C:7021] are shown in plan crossing the trench from north-south, continuing southwards through E Extension 5 and terminating in East Cutting 2.

Within East Cutting 1, the southern extent of the hearth [C:7019] is outlined at the northern end of the trench. At the southern end of the trench is a foundation [C:7020] aligned east-west and labelled as the south wall of the abbot's hall. Seven fragments of glazed tile, one sherd of pottery dated to after 1250 and a cut and folded piece of lead sheet were recovered from beneath a mortar bedding layer, probably from soil layer [C:7012].

East Extension 7 was located within an area of disturbance therefore no features were recorded.

***1963, AHCT (1962) E Extension 3 with South Cuttings 1, 2 and 3***

[L:1684] [E:77]. The topsoil [C:7050] contained a lens of rubble and soil [C:7051] and overlay a deep soil and stone layer [C:7054] and the fill [C:7052] of a modern trench [C:7053]. The latter contained

five sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450 and three fragments of group seven tile dated c 1280-1380. In plan, the feature was on the northern side of the eastern end of the excavation trench. This cut through a deep layer of soil and stone [C:7054] beneath the topsoil [C:7050] containing one sherd of pottery dated after 1250, six sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450, one fragment of wall plaster and eight fragments of floor tile dated c 1280-1380. Underneath was a mortar debris layer [C:7055] above a soil and mortar debris layer [C:7056] containing five fragments of wall plaster, one fragment of roof tile and one sherd of pottery dated after 1250. It was thought that the 'ground level' was located in between the two mortar debris layers, represented by an irregular surface marked by occasional stones. Radford records this between 1.83m and 7.55m from the west and c 0.02m above the datum.

The lower mortar debris layer [C:7056] covered an irregular deposit of blue lias spalls [C:7057] with some decayed glass and three sherds of pottery dated after 1250 and five pottery sherds dated 1250-1400. The spalls are described by Radford as forming an irregular surface measuring 0.05-0.10m thick and overlying a dense layer of mortar debris [C:7058]. The finds securely linked to this layer comprise twenty-four sherds dated 1250-1450, six pottery sherds dated after 1250, three fragments of floor tile dated c 1280-1380 and one fragment of wall plaster. The spalls layer was also recorded in South Cutting 1.

Beneath the mortar debris [C:7058] was a layer of crushed ?slate [C:7059]; although this was not labelled in section, a thin line of debris was apparent above the mortar bedding [C:7060]. The underlying mortar bedding [C:7060] was seemingly present across the trench base and pressed into the surface was one fragment of window glass, one sherd of pottery dated after 1250, four sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450 and one fragment of tile. The excavation notes mention evidence of burning on the surface and recovery of two pieces of plaster, one with a number and one with a stripe. However, the underlying clay make-up [C:7061] contained eleven fragments of floor tile dated c 1280-1380, five sherds of pottery dated after 1250, seventeen sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450, a ridge tile, iron nail fragments and a piece of cut lead sheet. According to the contextual information for three fragments of floor tile dated c 1280-1380, the clay was underlain by a burnt debris layer [C:7062].

A mortar layer [C:7063] was recorded in all three South Cuttings. In Cutting 1 there was also an area of cobbling [C:7066] (see sketch [I:18771]) supposedly beneath a robber trench. This contained seven sherds of pottery dated 1250-1450, one sherd dated after 1250, a fragment of floor tile dated c 1280-1380, a fragment of window glass and an iron nail. The excavation notes describe the spalls [C:7057] overlying a layer of yellowish mortar rubble above the blue lias shales [C:7059]. In Cutting 2 the floor covered a robber trench [C:7065] [C:7067] containing fifteen fragments of ridge tile. A further layer of mortar [C:7064] was recorded in plan at the south end of Cutting 3.

Unstratified finds or finds that could not be attributed to a context are now detailed. Within the main trench these comprised two sherds of pottery [F:BF7082] dated after 1250; two sherds of pottery [F:BF7011] dated 1250-1450; nine pottery sherds of a 15th-century cup [F:BF7050]; eleven pottery sherds [F:BF7086] dated 1550-1750 within a disturbance; and one floor tile fragment [F:BF7080] dated 1280-1380.

In cutting 1 these comprised a blue lias base [F:AF7002] and ten floor tiles [F:BF7030] dated 1280-1380 from a destruction layer; one sherd of pottery [F:BF7023] dated after 1100 and ten sherds of

pottery [F:BF7010] [F:BF7021] dated 1250-1450 from beneath a mortar floor; fourteen sherds of pottery [F:F7013] dated 1300-1450 from a charcoal and clay layer; fourteen pottery sherds [F:BF7031] dated 1250-1450 in a clay and burn layer; two fragments of floor tile [F:BF7022] dated 1280-1380 above the yellow mortar floor; and five sherds dated 1250-1450 [F:BF7028] from beneath a red mortar floor. In addition were two sherds of pottery [F:BF7016] [F:BF7020] dated after 1250; thirteen sherds dated 1250-1450 [F:BF7024] [F:BF7026]; three fragments of roof tile [F:BF7025]; two floor tiles [F:BF7027] dated 1280-1380; two sherds dated 1250-1450 [F:BF7029]; and one fragment of a glass goblet [F:SF7055].

In cutting 2 these comprised one fragment of floor tile [F:BF7009] dated 1280-1380 in disturbed clay and rubble; fourteen sherds of pottery [F:BF7099] in disturbed clay; eight sherds of pottery [F:BF7014] dated 1250-1450 and two fragments of floor tile [F:BF7015] dated 1280-1380 in a disturbance; eighteen pottery sherds [F:BF7094] dated 1250-1450 and three fragments of tile [F:BF7095] (one with molten glass adhering) in a destruction layer; one sherd of pottery [F:BF7096] dated after 1250; sixteen sherds of pottery [F:BF7098] dated 1250-1450; one fragment of floor tile [F:BF7097]. Only one pottery sherd [F:BF7032] dated after 1250 was recovered from Cutting 3 within a disturbance.

#### ***1963, AHCT (1962) E Extension 4***

[L:1684]. Located across the south wall of the abbot's hall no features or finds were recorded for this trench.