

A500.

GA excavation 1928. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne

The excavation began in 1926 by Mr Theodore Fyfe, and continued by him in the following year at the west end of the great church, had for its object the discovery of the earlier churches that were thought to exist below the grass level of the present ruins. At a depth of 5ft 3in were found the remains of a stone paved floor, showing evident signs of burning, and having melted lead in its joints. The line of the west wall of the nave of the burnt building and the west and south walls of its south aisle wall were also revealed, being some feet to the east of the west wall of the present church. This could be no other than the church begun by Herlewin, and showed that it was completed, and roofed with lead up to its west end, at any rate before the fire, and perhaps a good many years earlier. The pavement was bedded on a layer of building rubbish some twelve inches deep, containing a number of pieces of painted plaster (white plaster painted red, and some signs of black) and below this the lines of walling appeared enclosing a space floored with a thick layer of plaster, bedded on small pieces of tuffa and lias, and rendered with a thin facing of lime mortar and pounded brick. This red plaster floor was clearly of the same character as that with which the excavations of St Augustine, Canterbury, the church of Reculver, and other Kentish sites, have made us familiar, and for which a C7 date can be confidently claimed. The walling with which it was obviously connected was thin, 2ft 4ins thick built in shallow courses of limestone. This floor which has been cut through by the west wall of the church, extended eastwards, as far as two responds, at which point there had been a step. East of these responds was a rectangular compartment, with walling set in purplish mortar, of different character from the responds, and the walls west of them. The western part of the area enclosed showed remains of a plaster floor like that already described, but having lost practically all its surface. Its eastern limits were quite irregular, but there was enough to show that the building to which it had belonged formed part of that to the west of the responds. Again, to the east was another rectangular compartment, with walling of greater depth than in the bay to the west, and set in different mortar. Within it was a smaller building of oblong plan, the floor of which at the east end was paved with two stone slabs (blue lias) and at the west sloped upwards towards a doorway, of which one base stone, with two iron dowels in it remained. The walls were thin, built with a fair face on both sides. The eastern half of these side walls had been cut away. The space between the side walls and those of the enclosing was carefully filled in with stone rubble, to form a bed for the paving. The side walls of the opening at the west joined and slightly overlapped the masonry of the east wall of the adjoining compartment. The remains appear to be those of a small burial chamber, approached by a flight of steps from the west, and sunk below the contemporary ground level, for which reason its east wall, and probably all its interior had been faced with stone slabs, to serve as damp proof courses. At first the building must have stood in the open with access from the east end of the church, as it then was, but when the eastern chamber was added it must have been levelled down, and filled in. At its west end, where the steps must have been, a large stone coffin, covered with rough stone slabs, nearly filled the passage. This was completely filled with the carefully arranged bones of no less than seventeen persons which have been thoroughly examined by Professor Fawcett of Bristol University whose report goes to show that the period during which they had been buried, before their removal to the coffin, had not been a very long one. These buildings lie between the lines of the sleeper walls which carried the main arcades of the Norman church and its successor. The walls themselves have practically disappeared, having been used as a quarry by seekers for building material, and their lines are marked by soil and building rubbish, contrasting with a clay filling with which the whole site of the Norman church

was covered when the present church was built after the fire. The construction of the sleeper wall has destroyed any evidence of Saxon building to the north and south, but in the western end of the nave are short lengths of walling of the same character as that enclosing the red plaster floor, proving the existence of aisles or side chambers belonging to the period in question. What then has been uncovered is the east end of a church with thin walls, and red plaster floors, which have been reconstructed at the east, and at a later period lengthened eastwards. If the thin walls and red floors are identified as the work of King Ina, AD708, they will suit the date very well, being slightly later than the similar work in Kent. Ina's church we know to have been built adjoining the wooden church, and to the east of the remains found, assuming them to represent the east end of King Ina's church, would give a total length of some 80ft for the whole buildings, and with the side walls discovered a width of 56ft. One would have expected an apsidal east end, but no definite traces of such a form were found. This east C8 church had its presbytery reconstructed at some time but no record to help us to decide the precise period. The further eastward extension may be assumed to be part of St Dunstan's work in which the church was lengthened, and widened, and another tower added to it in AD942. The natural place for this tower would be over the old presbytery but if, as we may suppose, St Dunstan's alterations included a central tower and transepts, which were by then a recognised scheme in English building, the high altar would be moved into the new presbytery, and before it in 1016 King Edmund Ironsides was buried. The stone coffin already mentioned might then be his, reused to contain bones gathered from the church when it was destroyed by Herlewin – but perhaps the preferable explanation is that the bones were collected at the time of St Dunstan's alterations. They had been carefully cleaned and arranged the skulls together at the west end, the long bones at the east end, and the small bones in the middle, and it may be supposed that they belonged to Saxon monks, possibly Abbots whose memory it was desired to keep in honour. Finally, it may be remarked that the story of the shooting down of the monks at the high altar in 1088 does not suit the plan of the Saxon church as at present revealed. It is, however, on the documentary evidence available, difficult to suppose that Turstin's church was far enough advanced to be the scene of the event. Perhaps future excavation further to the east may throw light on this matter. A number of pieces of painted wall plaster were found in the filling under the pavement of the burnt church. These must certainly have belonged to the Saxon church destroyed by Herlewin or his successor, and in one case a piece of plaster is still adhering to a walling stone. They are too fragmentary to be put together and nothing can be said of the designs, but some of the pieces show two layers of painting, and one piece is modelled in relief. Considering its history, Glastonbury has produced very few specimens of carved stonework of early date, but a few have been added recently. One of the channel stones of the drain crossing St Dunstan's presbytery, and presumably of Norman date, was cut from part of a cross shaft with good interlacing panels of C8 date; another stone has a band of fret patterns, and was probably of the same period: Two others had ? ornament, probably of the C10. The results of the seasons work have shown that the chance of recovering the early history of this ancient and famous monastery is greater than had been supposed. If work can be continued for the next few years we may be able to illustrate a period of monastic history which has left us no visible memorial. Some 6 or 8yds east of the east wall of these remains was discovered a large chamber for water with a central division in it, it was covered by slabs of blue lias stone, and contained several feet of water, but these have now been filled with soil. The excavation commenced on 18th May and concluded on 8th September 1928. The examination by Professor Fawcett of the bones contained in the stone coffin took place 4th Oct 1928.

GA excavation 1929. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Excavation commenced 6th May 1929. Concluded 21st September 1929.

The object of the excavations was to try and find if anything remained of the north and south aisles of the Saxon church foundations which had been discovered during the past two years. Work was started by removing the filling of the sleeper wall on the north side, and the clay filling which lay in the north aisle of the present church. In this clay filling we discovered two pieces of walling, in blue lias stone running north to south. A piece of early Norman carving was found in the sleeper wall filling.

A large cutting was then made on the north side of the Gallilee from the west nave wall to the east end of the Lady chapel. In this cutting was discovered a drain which, no doubt, took the rain water from the north west corner of the nave. A small area of plaster flooring was found in this cutting, and a rough foundation of tor burrs.

A cutting was then made on the south side of the Gallilee, and this extended westwards to the well in the crypt of the Lady Chapel. A small area of plaster flooring was again found in this cutting.

At the back of the well, towards the east, we dug to a depth of 12ft, and here we came upon the hard rock or marl clay, and the water was running in the natural joints of the rock. This was the only possible supply of water to the well from the east side. In the filling of this 12ft excavation we discovered, at depths of between 10 to 12ft, several pieces of timber. One piece had the appearance of being part of a plank about 1ft 6in wide, while another piece was sharply pointed, as if it might have been a pile. This was about 9ins x 6ins, and about 2ft long where it had been broken off. A further cutting was made alongside the site of the north wall of the nave, where the north porch joins the nave wall, and another cutting was made on the site of the south wall of the nave where the doorway leads to the west cloister walk. Small finds made during the season included:

North side of Gallilee:- Finely carved head of saint in white lias, and some mason's plum-bob.

South side of Gallilee:- Several pieces of carving in white lias, foliage and head of some grotesque animal or the devil in Bath stone.

Site of the Nave south wall:- A small pin of ivory. This pin was of very fine workmanship, and was about 2ins in length. The head of this pin took the form of a bird's head with its mouth open, holding a small ball between its beak. The top of the head was finely chased, and it is no doubt Saxon work .

The two large slabs of blue lias, which formed the floor of the crypt, or burial chamber, in St Dunstan's addition to King Ina's church were lifted on 12th July 1929 and were found to be laid on the natural clay. The clay was dug into about 1ft 6ins deep to prove that it was natural.

GA excavation 1930. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Season commenced 12th May and concluded 20th September 1930.

The object of the excavations was to try to find the remains, if any exist, of the Saxon cloisters on the south side of St Dunstan's and King Ina's Saxon church, and to discover the foundations of the two pyramids supposed to be opposite the second window of the Lady Chapel on the south side.

The excavation was commenced on the south west corner of the nave, and the whole of the remaining foundation of the south and west walls of the nave were uncovered. The width of the

south wall averaged 13ft. This being on the corner, it supports the theory of western towers or turrets to the Abbey. A trench was run alongside this foundation on its south side, about 6ft wide and 7ft deep. This trench continued from the south-west corner of the nave down to a point opposite the Lady Chapel doorway with extensions to the south and north opposite the second window of the Lady Chapel, both from the east and the west ends of the south side of the chapel. Nothing was found in the way of foundation in the whole of this trench, save for a few flat blue lias stones used probably for graves, of which quite a number were found intact laid in the clay, the bones being badly preserved owing to the wet clayey soil. Bones were found throughout the length of this trench, and at different levels. A stone coffin was found near the nave door to the west cloister walk. The average width of the trench was 10ft. At a point 60ft from the present south wall of the nave where the west cloister doorway was, in a westward direction we again extended with a trench running towards south and 10ft wide, and 60ft long, but nothing in the way of foundation was discovered. Burials were again found in this trench. Find:- 20 May. Late Saxon coin of silver, size of sixpence (No5.C.) of Edward the Confessor. 1042 – 1066 – minted at York by Ancetal
Ove. EDPAR.D RE
Rev. ARNCEL ON EOFER
Brit Mus Cat.320

Very little encaustic tile was found during the excavation.

17th July Sir C Peers president of the Society of Antiquaries, and The Very Rev E Horne F.S.A., with forty four members of the Society of Antiquaries visited the excavation.

GA excavation 1931. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Excavation commenced 18th May 1931.

Object; to try and find the east end of the first Norman church which succeeded St Dunstan's Church. We know that the building begun by Abbott Turstin, 1082-1101, was pulled down by his successor, Abbot Herlewin, 1101-1120, who built a new Norman church – the dimensions of which are quite unknown, and that this church lasted until the fire of 1184 when it was entirely destroyed. We learn that a new church was begun at once, the ruins of which are those we now see. It was thought that the part of the Norman church that should be sought for first would be its apse or east end. Accordingly, a trench of an average depth of 5ft was driven up the centre, commencing at the foot of the slope west of the crossing, and continuing through the crossing, between the two great piers and continuously through the choir up to the foot of the high altar. This trench was 160ft in length. At one point, a few feet east of the north-east central pier, the depth was 13ft, before the undisturbed clay was reached. This appeared to be a deep ditch running north to south across the choir. No trace of Norman walling was found, but where the trench passed between the four great central piers that supported the central tower, the footings of these piers ran out some distance, as would be expected, except where they had been robbed since the destruction of the abbey. There was evidence of this destruction in all directions, and how far what remained of Norman walls may have been cleared out under this influence it is, of course, impossible to say. One feature of interest met with as the trench approached the high altar at once was what an immense amount of material was required for its construction. The ruins of the burnt out church were ready to hand, its foundations in some places probably in the way of the newer church, and so all that was left of Herlewin's buildings after the fire went into this pair of sleeper walls which have thus swallowed up nearly every

trace of the Norman church. Working in the opposite direction and cutting through the north transept produced no better results; a patch of rough stone pavement being all that came to light, and this seemed scarcely deep down enough to be of the Norman period. While the excavation of the Saxon church that stood at the west end of the present church was successful, and its plan has been laid bare, the search for the Norman church that succeeded to it has failed, and it is a matter of regret that what would have been such an interesting item in the story of the development of the buildings at Glastonbury, seems lost beyond recall. The excavations within the Abbey church itself have therefore now served their purpose, and may be considered to be finished.

Finds:- Fibula Roman C1, good condition bronze (No.6.B) Found in clay filling in nave.

- Buckle of bronze Roman (No.28) " " " " " "
- Pieces of true Samianware and other Roman pottery " " " " " "
- Two trade tokens.
- Encaustic tiles with one or two new designs.
- Some carving with gilt and blue colouring.
- Several pieces of bell metal from under where the central tower would have been (No.34.B)

GA excavation 1932. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Excavation commenced May 1932.

Object: To trace the extent of the Dormitory range of buildings. Trenches were dug running parallel with the outside line of the Dormitory wall, both on the east side, and west side. The object being to trace the walls, and to find the supporting outside buttresses, and any walls which may run at right angles with the Dormitory walls. The Dormitory walls were found to continue as far as the trenches were dug, and buttresses were found at regular intervals on either side of the Dormitory. A trench was also dug along the line of the east wall on the inside and a piece of cross walling was found, with the first course (plinth) of the corner respond of the vaulting. This would be the vaulting of the undercroft under the Dormitory. It appears that the Dormitory must be in two parts, the cross wall being the limit of the northern part, as the walls on the outside continue for some considerable distance southwards. On this cross wall being followed up across the Dormitory interior, we had the great luck to find the central respond of the vaulting complete with plinth and two courses of stone. On finding this respond a trench was dug through the centre of the Dormitory, north to south, to find further pillar bases, and two bases were found to the south of the earlier one complete with plinth. At the south end of this trench was found a square piece of masonry which may prove to be an outer buttress of the south Dormitory wall. This concluded the work for this season.

The small finds included:-

- A number of small pieces of twisted column. Norman Blue
- Several pieces of capitol's richly carved. " "
- One small piece of Saxon carving. Poulting stone
- A fine pillar capitol Norman. " "
- A large quantity of encaustic tile, including a number of the last known designs.

GA excavation 1933. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Excavation commenced 12th June and concluded 26th Aug 1933.

Object: to clear interior space of Dormitory, and to locate, if possible, the site of the Rere Dorter.

1st week:- Clearing down to floor level of Dormitory undercroft on west side. Respond complete with plinth and first course found, also small piece of Dormitory west wall. This suggests low slanting windows between the buttresses. Quantity of encaustic tile found.

2nd week:- Continued clearing Dormitory interior. Number of large pieces of ashlar found. Quantity of encaustic tile, including several new designs found, and a small brass bookbinders stamping tool.

3rd week:- Continued clearing Dormitory interior. Small cross wall found. Some encaustic tile found, and a small lead star which had been gilded. These stars were supposed to have been to decorate the vaulting.

4th week:- Continued clearing Dormitory interior. Three new pieces of encaustic tile found, and a candle snuffer of bronze. (No.86B).

5th week:- Continued clearing Dormitory interior. Several pieces of the last known tile designs were found, and a small ear scoop.

6th week:- Concluded interior space of Dormitory. Small piece of Dormitory south wall found below floor level. Part of bronze buckle found.

7th week:- Clearing south west corner of Dormitory. Discovered north wall of the Rere Dorter.

8th week:- Cleared south east corner of Dormitory. Discovered north drain with paving of the Rere Dorter

9th week:- Exposed east end of Dormitory wall. Cleared Rere Dorter drain to where it turns south west. Scabbard sheath end of bronze found

10th week:- Continued clearing Rere Dorter drains. Small bone handle of implement found in drain

11th week:- Continued clearing drains and walls of the Rere Dorter. Drain found to be turning south east.

Excavation concluded.

2nd season: 25th September 1933

Commenced by making cutting towards east of previous excavation. The object being to try and find if the Rear Dorter building extends beyond the eastern limit of the Dormitory and, if so, how far. A large drain was discovered arched running east to west. This drain was silted up and broken in at the point where opened. Another cutting was made to the west of the previous one, here the large drain was discovered with two exits and a piece of walling was found running north to south. One whole tile and some pottery were found in the cutting. This cutting was extended, and the junction of the drains with the Rere Dorter was found. Thus proving that the Rere Dorter does extend further eastwards than the Dormitory range. This second excavation was carried on for 2 weeks.

GA excavation 1934. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Excavation commenced 14th May 1934.

The object of this year's work was to find the extent of the Rere Dorter building. Part of which was found last season. Work commenced by exposing what was left of the west end of the building. This showed a wall on the outside and inside of the two main drains of the building, these two drains converging into one large drain, and going through the west end wall. The next work was to follow up the drain and walls on the south side of the building. A considerable portion of the inside wall, and the flooring of the drain we found in situ. The outside wall on the south side had been robbed of its stone, but its line on the inside could be traced on the drain

floor, and on the outside by the sharp clay edges of the foundation trenches. This also showed the buttresses, 5 on either side of the building. It was found at the east end that the building was fed by two drains running side by side. It was also discovered that the interior space had been made up at the same time as the inside wall was built, and so forming a platform, as the building of this wall proceeded. This interior filling was almost entirely of clay, which appeared to have been rammed, and no doubt this continued up to the Dormitory level, and the floor was laid on this filling of clay. A small drain was found at the west end of the building which probably took the rain water from the roof.

Among the finds were:-

- A complete border tile with part of an inscription on it.

- A small piece of a very finely carved figure in blue lias. Norman work.

- A double pillar base of Purbeck marble.

- A small iron crowbar on the site of the south wall - no doubt used in the demolition of the building.

- Several small trade tokens, and a few pieces of C1 Roman pottery from the interior clay filling, showing the clay, as the clay filling found in the nave during the excavation these had been brought from a nearby Roman site of C1 A.D.

- Fibula (No.9 B),

- A buckle.

- Roman pottery of the date having been found during the nave excavation.

- A coin of Carausius, Radiate, and trimmed was found near the western mouth of the Rere Dorter (No 2.C).

This concluded the excavation of the Rere Dorter, and must be considered very satisfactory, a building of a unique plan being revealed.

GA excavation 1935. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Commenced 11th June 1935

Object:- to ascertain the dimensions of the Chapter House. Work was commenced at the point where the east Dormitory wall strikes the supposed south wall of the Chapter House. The line of this south wall was discovered and followed eastwards, and one buttress was found in this wall. Three separate pieces of masonry were found a few feet south of this wall. These appeared to be the foundations of additional supports to the Chapter House south wall. The south east corner of the Chapter House was found only to have a buttress on the east end. The clay edge of the outer side of the east wall of the Chapter House was next followed up, and a buttress was discovered on the north, east corner with a corresponding buttress on the north side of this corner. The corner here was cleared, and a line of walling was found to be running north to south. The line of the north wall was next followed up, and was found to have the one buttress as on the south wall, and in a corresponding position. Part of the interior space was cleared down to what appeared to be the clay level which appeared to be more or less the level of the flooring. A trench 3ft 6ins wide, and 38ft in length was dug eastwards from the centre of the east wall of the Chapter House, but nothing was discovered. A drain was discovered on the north east corner of the Chapter House, and a small chamber built of dressed Doulting stone was found just off the south east corner of this building. This, no doubt, was used for storing water, for building purposes. Very little in the way of small finds were discovered during the excavation.

GA excavation 1936. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

Owing to the lamented death of Mr Charles Clayton which took place on Friday, 28th February, the excavations at the Abbey were suspended for this year. The excavations of 1935 were temporarily levelled over during April 1936. A plan of the excavations was made before this was done.

GA excavation 1937. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

3rd May to 10th June

The object of the excavation was to trace, if possible, the site of the "Monk's Kitchen". This has always been assumed to be on the south side of the Refectory or Dining Hall. None of the few old drawings which exist give any clue as to where the "Monk's Kitchen" was situated. A start was made by digging a trial trench alongside a small piece of walling which is running south from the Refectory south wall near its junction with the Dormitory west wall. Upon this wall being followed up, it proved to be a retaining wall for a short slope or flight of steps to the Refectory undercroft. Further south this trench struck a further wall running south, and upon this being followed up it proved to be a small lean-to building against the west wall of the Dormitory range. A sketch section across this small building is shown. This is taken east to west.

It was then decided to dig an exploratory trench from the west wall of the Dormitory running west to the "Abbot's Kitchen". This trench struck several wall foundation trenches. A sketch plan of this trench is shown above.

The details of this trench from the Dormitory end are lead piping. This pipe is running northwest to southeast. A hard metalled surface which may have been a roadway or yard. On the surface of this yard were quantities of oyster shells. A little further west of this a cross trench was struck, but this has not yet been examined. The cross trenches numbered 1, 2 and 3 on the sketch plan were followed up both to the north and south and finally produced the accompanying plan. This consists of a roughly square building, probably facing south with its southeast and southwest corners rounded, and the foundations made heavier and wider. In these two corners undoubtedly stood the two large fireplaces, and strongly suggests this to be the "Monk's Kitchen". Within this large square was a smaller square, which most likely was a sleeper wall foundation to support the piers which would be necessary to support the wide span, and also to carry the floor of the large room or hall which would form the second storey of this building. That this building supported at least a second storey is shown by the very heavy foundations. It is not yet clear how this building was connected up with the adjoining Refectory, but this will, no doubt, be revealed when the intervening space is cleared. The western wall of this building appears to run through, and probably connects up with the Refectory. A small water channel constructed of cut doulting stone was found running up to this building on its east side, and a small rainwater drain was found running alongside the north wall of the building. A quantity of kitchen refuse consisting of fish bones, animal bones, oyster shells, etc. was found on the north side of the building. It would seem that the roof of this building consisted of slates, as numerous slates were found in the wall trenches. The cross trench marked '4' on the sketch plan was then followed up, and this was found to run north to the northwest corner of the Refectory, and southward. Its total length was about 147ft and this agrees with a measurement given in a rough sketch plan dated 17th August 1723, and is called the Abbot's Lodging. This has always been the assumed position of the Abbot's Lodging, and is most likely this building. The southern end of this wall appears to turn east, but time would not permit of this building being further followed up. This will, no doubt, be the object of next

season's excavation. Very few finds were made during the course of the excavation. Encaustic tile was rather scarce, a quantity of late pottery was found, and among the smaller finds was:-

A Bristol farthing (No.212 C)

One or two tokens.

Some fragments of stained glass.

Appended are two old sketch plans of the monastic buildings. One is taken from "Warners Clastonbury" and the other is dated 17th Aug 1723.

GA excavation 1938. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

The excavation commenced on Monday 16th May and concluded on Saturday 23rd July.

The object of the excavation was an attempt to secure the plan of the Abbot's Lodging.

This building, according to the several plans and sketches which had been made during the C19 and C18, was about 147ft, or paces, in length and had a frontage facing westward. According to Warner this building had a ground plan like a capital E with the middle stroke missing. Work began by further examining the wall which was found last season running southward. This wall was thought to be the east or back wall of the Lodgings but this proved not be the case, and was, in fact, the west or front of the building. This wall at its southern end was found to turn eastwards for about 22ft. It then turned again northwards, and this connected up with the southwest corner of the "Monk's Kitchen" discovered last year, and is therefore the east or back wall of the Lodgings. This was a much smaller building than had been anticipated. Further excavation revealed a bay which had been added later to the front of the building, and further a cobbled path was discovered running along the frontage of the building, by the shape of this cobbling we were able to see where a step had been placed centrally in the frontage, and this possibly was the west entrance. Further cobbling was met with at the northwest end of the building, and walls of several different periods were met with at this end of the building, but time would not permit full investigation, and this will be done next season. The Abbot's garden wall was also located on the south side, and on the southwest corner. This was found to line up with the angle of walling which has been exposed for some time near the Abbot's Kitchen, and we can now plan the extent of the Abbot's garden.

Among the finds made were:-

A small lozenge shaped seal inscribed "MICHI CREDI" (No. 107 B). This was found outside the east wall of the Lodgings, and is an early C14 seal.

A silver penny.

Several Georgian coins.

A diamond shaped piece of lead with a fine design worked inside. (No 19 L) The centre still retaining its original red class.

A quantity of painted glass, a few pieces of which we were able to save. The greater part of it being decayed and rotten.

Several Nuremberg jettons.

Andrews of Wells' trade tokens were found on cobbling.

A piece of Spanish tile. Blue, brown and white. This was a border tile.

A large quantity of pottery of several periods. It is hoped to assemble some of this pottery during the winter months.

Large freestone blocks were pieces of the coping or battlements of the building.

GA excavation 1939. Directors Peers, Clapham and Horne.

The excavation commenced on Monday, 15th May and finished Saturday, 22nd July.

The object of the excavation this season was to complete the examination of the Abbot's Lodging, especially its northern end where it connects up with the Refectory and other adjoining buildings, and to follow up the several walls running westward from the Refectory, and west cloister walk. The excavation commenced by finally clearing and levelling down to what must have been the Abbot's Lodging ground floor level.

The area immediately west of the Monk's Kitchen and the Refectory was thoroughly examined. Here foundations of several periods were uncovered, foundations of three different periods were found alongside each other. Two small fragments of Roman Samian pottery were found alongside the earliest of these walls. A small piece of Saxon carving was found built into a nearby drain. Most of these earlier foundations probably form part of the earlier monastic buildings. The finding of a small sandstone water basin in an angle of these foundations, and a quantity of black Norman cooking pots, together with the remains of fish and animal bones suggest its being one of the kitchens connected with the earlier establishment. A quantity of green glazed C14 pottery was also recovered from this area.

The connection of the Abbots Lodging with the main monastic buildings at this point is not clear, but it would seem probable that the two large areas of foundations found at the west end of the Refectory by Mr Bligh Bond when he excavated this building carried a staircase, and passageway across its west end to the cloister walks and thence to the church. The four walls running westward from the cloister and Refectory were next followed up, and these after running some 38ft were found to connect up with a wall running north to south. A small lavatory or rere dorter was found built into the angle of two of these walls. A short passage running northwards was found beyond this wall. This passage was 16ft wide, and was bounded on its west side by a very heavy foundation. The northern and southern limits of this heavy foundation was located, and the northern angle was followed for some distance westward. This seemed to be the north east angle of a large building running westward, and there seems to have been a tower or staircase on this corner but further excavation will, no doubt, clear this up. An exploratory trench was next made about midway between this eastern cross wall and the surviving fragment of the Almonry. The south wall of this new building was again picked up in the trench, and on being lined up was found to be in line with the angle of the Almonry wall running eastwards. Thus it would seem that we have here a large building 112ft by 46ft approx. This being the inside measurements. There would also seem to be a passage from the Abbot's Lodging alongside the south side of this new building to the Abbot's Kitchen, but this, with the new building, must await further excavation.

A number of small jettons, tokens, and a few pieces of encaustic tile was found during the course of the excavation.

Copied from C. E. Claytons notes regarding excavation.

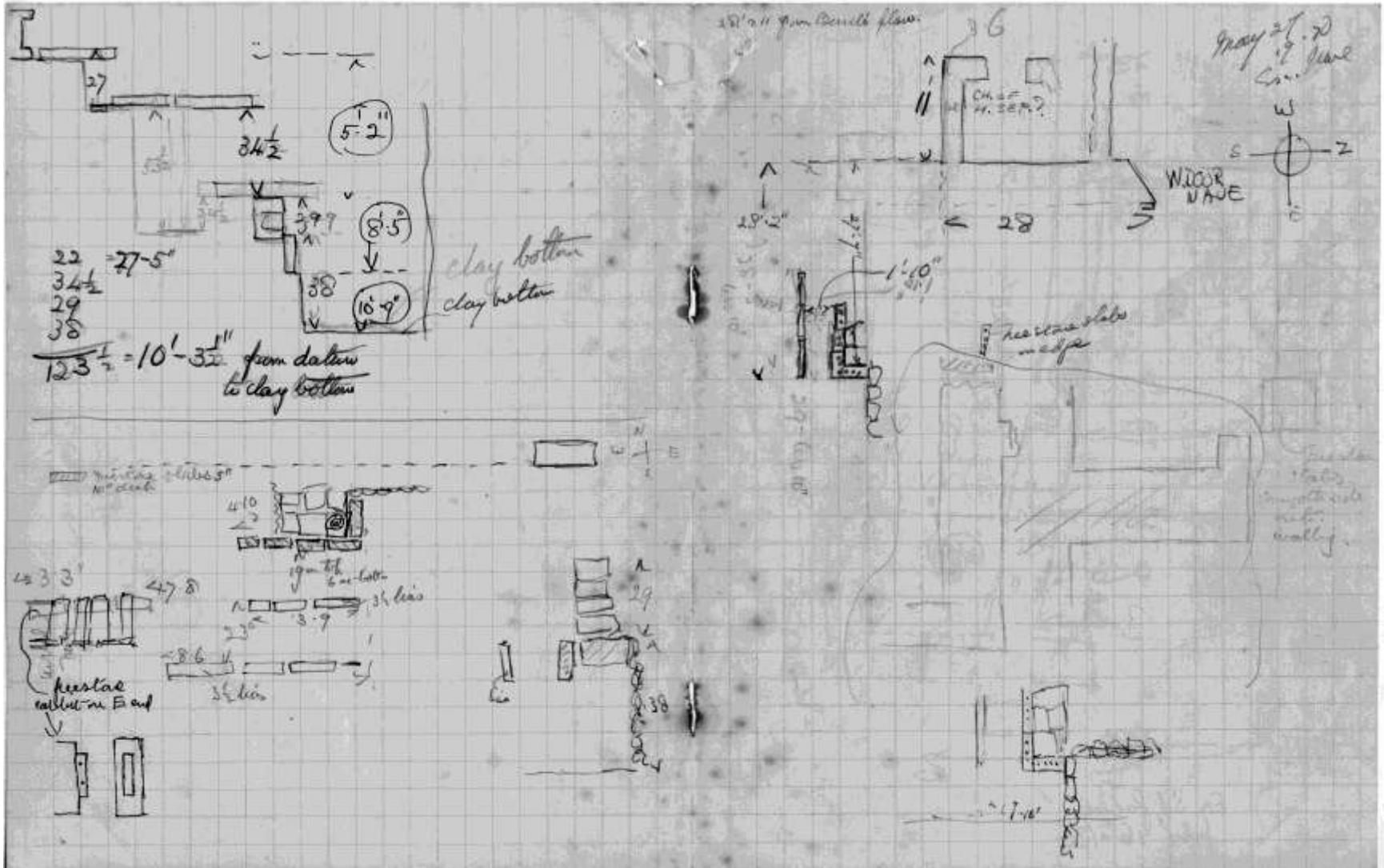
- A. A trench was cut outside (S) of the line of south wall of the nave from a point:-
30 west of the door leading to west walk of cloister and running east to a point
opposite the south door of Lady Chapel, and at a distance from it (L.C.) of 33ft.
- A. The southwest corner of the Nave was exposed side of excavation extended south

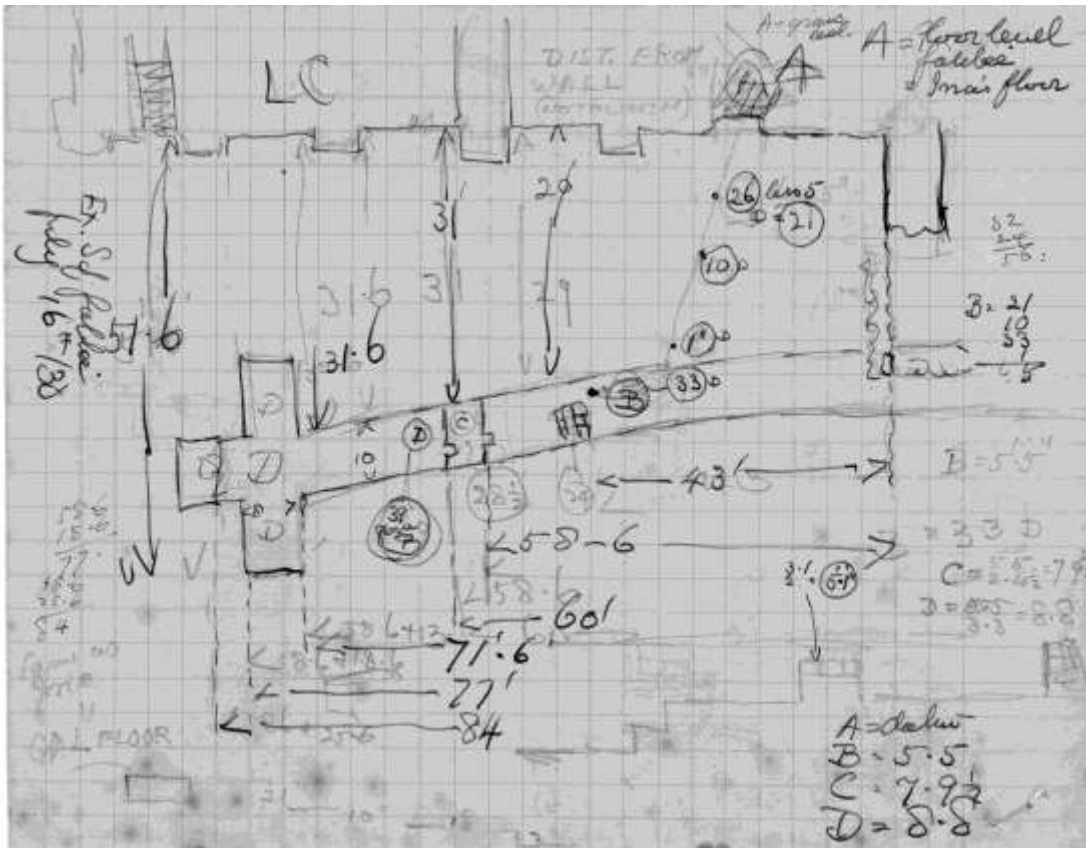
- of the south wall of the Nave, where no offset walls were found, and a trench was then cut 33 from Lady Chapel and Galilee; extending east to a point-opposite the south door of the L.C. where a cross trench was dug some 10ft north and south of the original trench.
- B. and deeper at east end about 6.6 below which burials were observed.
 - C. Well in the crypt on the south side there is a small stone conduit, just below surface level starting from the southeast corner and leading to the centre of the crypt passing through the west wall, where a branch joins it, turning south outside the west foundation, it then runs in an almost straight line to the north end of the A K field. The well is fed by a branch opposite the door leading to the well its level depending upon that of the water in the central channel.
 - D. Saxon pin was found in south wall foundation of Ine's church.
 - E. Roman fibula at east end of trench.
 - F. Part of foundation of southwest pier; and a few stones on line of sleeper wall, (depth of sleeper at west end of Nave 7ft at 7 bay only 4ft) eastward.

Glastonbury Abbey Excavations 1930-1

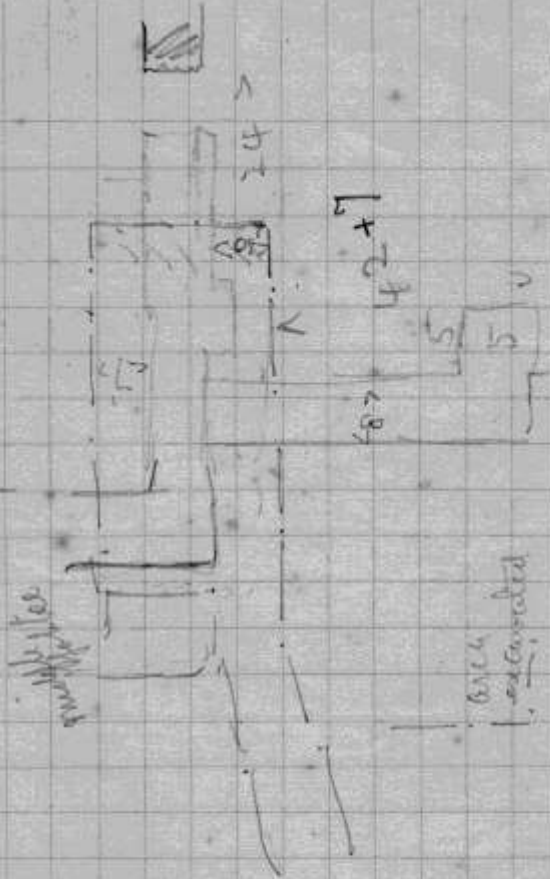
- A. The excavations of the previous year was extended south of the south wall of the Nave to its southeast corner, from that point a trench 6ft wide was dug running to the west to a point opposite the south door of the Lady Chapel, at the end of which a cross trench was dug 10ft north and south.
- B. Average about 5ft, deeper at east end 6ft to 7ft, at which depth a layer of burial was found.
 Along south wall of nave almost all the stone had been removed only a few of the lowest remaining.
 (Trench marked A on plan - nothing was found in this trench, and at a depth of 6ft burials were found, the ground at that depth was of clay and stones with numerous fragments of broken bones suggesting that the earliest burials had been covered with a layer of ground probably from the excavation of the crypt: (Peers).
- C. Well At the southeast corner of the crypt a small stream of water comes through the east wall and is led down the centre of the crypt in a stone channel opposite the well, there is a side branch leading to it, this would appear to be the principle, if not the only, source of supply, the stone channel is at a level slightly below the coping stone of the well, it picks up another water channel from the north just inside the west wall, passing through the foundation of the west wall, it inclines south just outside and then runs in a straight line to a point, in the Abbots Kitchen field opposite the north end of the railings, where it had been broken away, probably when the great enclosure wall was removed.
- D. Saxon pin found in foundation (S) of Ine's church.
- F. Part of foundation of southwest pier was uncovered and a few stones belonging to sleeper wall 6ft deep at west end of Nave, and about 4ft at 7th bay eastwards.

Sketches from 1930's excavations within A500



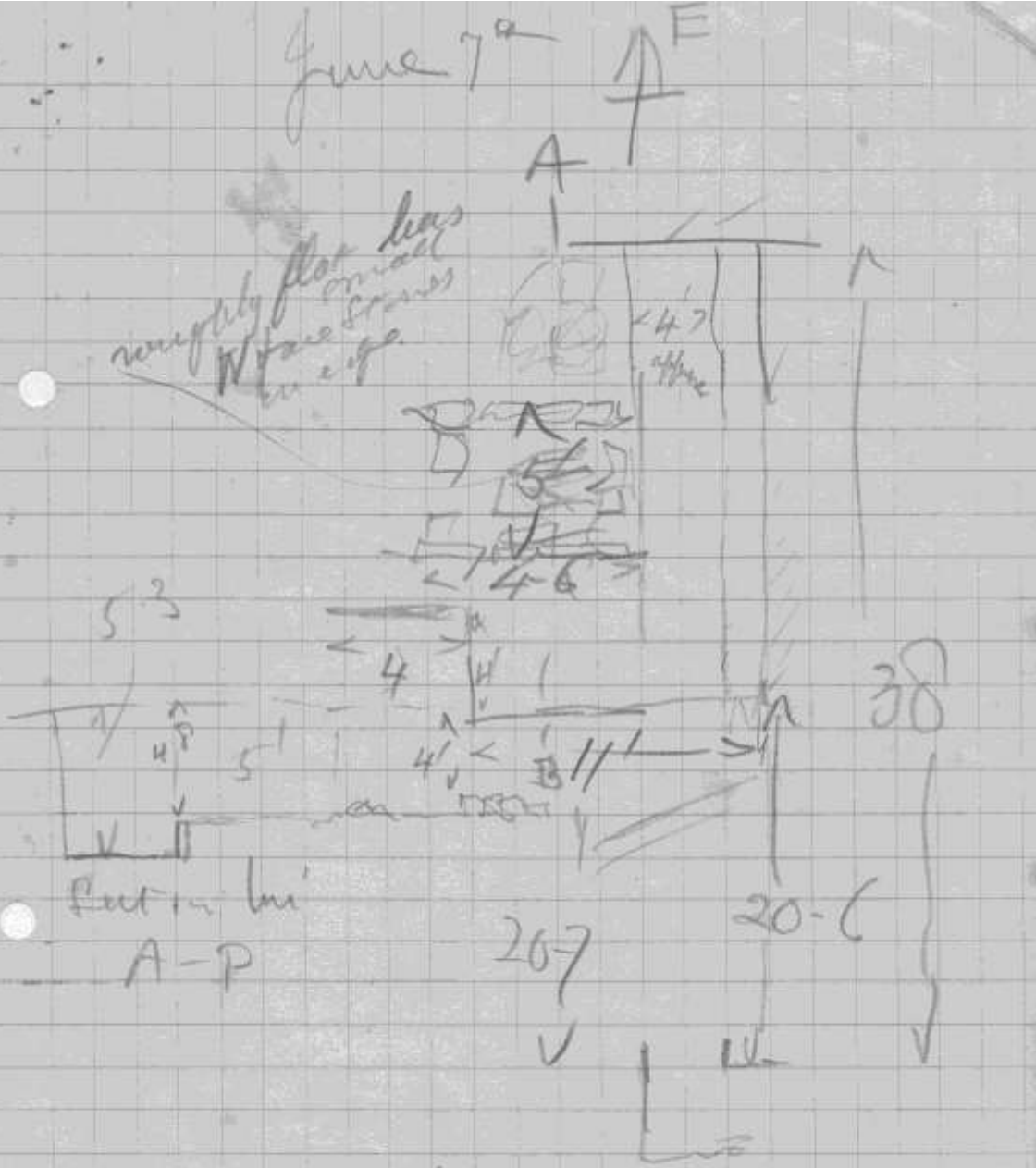


1930 Excavation
 South of Holy Chapel



June 7th E

roughly flat has
small
stone
in edge.



AG Wall

Robot's Garden wall?

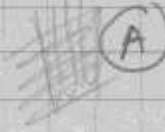
LEVELS JULY 29 WRIGHT E

DATUM
4.85

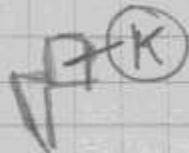
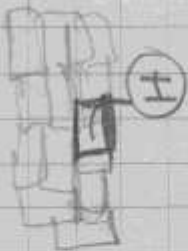
NAVE

EXCAV

- X = 6.9
- A = 5.6
- B = 5.3
- G = 5.13
- H = 5.65
- K = 6.19
- M = 9.1
- P = 4.5



DRAWN
IN
CLAY
CLOSE



- X = 11.75
- (A) = 10.44
- (B) = 10.18
- (G) = 9.98

- (H) = 10.5
- (K) = 10.94
- (M) = 13.83
- P = 9.34

P = total level
total level

E 2/10

Glastonbury Alley
1930 Excavations

