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The purpose of the excavations that I carried out at Glastonbury was to establish the sequence of the remains and the plan of the buildings at the various stages of development. The definition of the plan of the ancient cemetery was necessarily a part of the research, but there was no intention of exploring the cemetery.

The earliest graves were located at a depth of about 1.20 m. on the south side of the Lady Chapel. They originally lay near the surface, but the level was made up to an extent of about 2 m. in the tenth century. A diagonal trench was cut to expose the edges of the slabs forming the graves. Only one or two of these were uncovered to make certain that they contained skeletons and these were correctly oriented. The skeletons were not fully cleared and were covered in again without disturbance. The only graves that were fully opened were those from which the bodies attributed to Arthur and Guinevere were removed in 1191. These were empty and contained dating material of 1191.

There had been a very few later burials in the cemetery, but these had entirely decayed.

The charnel under the altar of the chapel of St. Michael, representing the reburial of skeletons disturbed during the building operations of the thirteenth century was exposed and photographed, but the bones were not removed.

A number of burials were located within the church. Normally these lay at a depth which made it unnecessary to open them. The few that were removed because they lay over structures were reburied close to the point of discovery.

None of this material is therefore available for study. My own view is that the ancient cemetery should not be explored except on a far larger scale than was possible at the time of my work and only with the assistance of those skilled in such work. All I could let you have is copies of one or two plans of skeletons - mostly imperfect - before they were removed.

You will know of the summary report on these skeletal material found in the reused coffin under Dunstan's tower in 1928. (Proc. Somerset A & NH Soc. 74, 8-9). There was some difficulty about locating the full report and the material when I asked some years ago. I did not pursue the matter as my own excavations were not concerned with the

pre-Conquest churches. I shall now have to deal with these as part of a comprehensive report and am working on the structural side at the present moment. I thought that, if the full report were located it would be worth publishing as a part of my own report. But if you should prefer to use this and incorporate in your own publication there is no need for me to do more than give a reference to your published work. I can add to the earlier record that these bones came from an area disturbed by Dunstan's extension of the early church of Ini and that this extension lay within the bounds of the ancient cemetery. The early tomb chamber in which this sarcophagus was deposited was empty, as was the other that I discovered south of the Lady Chapel. The remains, doubtless regarded as saints, had been enshrined.

The only scientifically excavated material found in situ in its cemetery that is available from Galstonbury is the cemetery at Beckery, on which a report was published by the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society in 1974, and this would have thought serve as the best basis for your comparisons.

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A number of burials were located in the church. Normally these lay at a depth of 1.5m. The few that were removed because they lay over structures were repaired close to the point of discovery. None of this material is therefore available for study. My own view is that the ancient cemetery should not be explored except on a far larger scale than was possible at the time of my work and only with the assistance of those skilled in such work. All I could let you have is copies of one or two plans of skeletons - mostly imperfect - before they were removed.

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