

Trench CH I. 1957 Turf level above 9 ins. above section  
 Length 99 ft. by 4 ft. wide.. The W. side, laid out to provide a section ran along the median line of the Chapter House.

Measurements from the riser to the step of the C.H. door in E. walk of cloister.

Face of bench on E. side of cloister from which Bond took measurements, 1 ft. ~~5 ins.~~

Face of wall (from Bond's calculations 2 ft. 3 ins.)

The E. part of C.H. had been levelled to approximate late medieval pavement level after excavations of 1935. This level has now been extended to whole of C.H. and is referred to as modern turf for all depths.

Between 14 ft. and 53 ft. was a bank, now removed, consisting of stones, soil and debris, forming destruction layer of medieval buildings. Much disturbed in modern times, including trenches probably by Bond, penetrated in places below level of turf.

The W. wall of Chapter House lay at 2 ft. 3 ins. by Bond's measurements. A small fragment of facing of E. side was found at 10 ft. at contemporary ground level. The robbed foundation trench of the E. wall was cut between 79 ft. and 86 ft. with a few lias stones still in situ on E. side, not rising above 1 ft. below turf level. This gives an internal ~~total~~ measurement of about 70 ft. against the 75 ft. (25 virgas) recorded by William of Worcester.

The extension of CH 1 for 12 ft. beyond the E wall of the Chapter House brought to light no trace of any further building. The natural clay, generally with the darker surface layer still in position, sloped gradually upwards. It was covered with a deposit of various dumps of clay, on which the modern turf rested. All trace of a destruction layer had gone, probably when the area was levelled down for the modern layout.

Insert from p 1. →  
 Trench CH I was continued west across the east alley of the cloister as CLE 1. The foundation trench of the W wall of the Chapter House of Abbot Henry de Blois was found on the line of the section with its E face 1 ft. west of the later step (= 0 ft. of CH 1). The foundation trench of the E wall of the same date crossed CH 1 between 70 ft. and 76 ft. 6 ins. Stone in position was found ~~xxx~~ across the whole width of the foundation trench. The edges both of the trench and of the stonework were irregular near the surface and no attempt was made to clear it in depth. The length of the Chapter House of Henry de Blois was approximately 72 ft. From about 30 ft. (32 ft. on section) the mortar bedding for the destroyed pavement could be traced with few gaps as far as the E. wall where it overlapped the edge of the foundation by 1 ft., indicating the extent of the offset at floor level. The base of the mortar bedding was irregular; it had sagged in places. But a general level of 1 ft. below the modern turf may be restored. ~~At 27 ft. 3 ins. was evidence of a step with the mortar bedding to the W. having a base at 2 ft. 9 ins. below the modern turf. The steps should be postulated to fill the difference in height. The lower mortar bedding could be traced in part as 14 ft., where it was cut through by the later foundation trench of the W. wall. It shows continuously on the section, where the layer was exceptionally well preserved.~~

The main feature below the twelfth century mortar bedding was the vallum monasterii. The bank rested directly on the undisturbed surface of the natural clay. The tail at the rear of the bank crossed CH 1 at 32 ft. 6 ins. The continuous slope forming the front of the bank and the side of the ditch cut the natural surface at 51 ft. The outer lip of the ditch was at 70 ft. For some 10 ft. west of the bank the stratum below the mortar bedding was disturbed clay with a few

Trench CH 1 continued.

stones and some soil, representing the degradation of the bank during a period when there was little activity in the area. Beyond this a disturbance filled with clay, soil and debris extended as far as the later foundation trench, but did not appear in CLE 1 beyond this foundation. A sondage between 11 ft. and 13 ft. disclosed a flat bottom cut into the undisturbed clay at a depth of 4 ft. 6 ins. below the turf.

N. B. Except in cases where wall faces or other features in situ, e.g. steps are recorded the measurement of features such as foundation trenches is everywhere liable to a small margin of error. These features belonging to the Great Church were not cleared in depth and experience at Glastonbury shows that the edges of trenches and ~~foundations~~ foundations at a high level were liable to distortion by crumbling of the sides.

Insert at point indicated on p. 1.

down for the modern layout.] At 27 ft. 3 ins. was evidence of a step with the mortar bedding to the west having a base at 2 ft. 9 ins. below the modern turf. Two steps should be postulated to fill the difference in height. The lower mortar bedding could be traced in part as far as 14 ft, beyond which ~~xxx~~ it was cut through by the later foundation trench of the W. wall. It shows continuously on the section where the layer was exceptionally well preserved. On the south side of the trench at 23 ft. a further step related to the original pavement remained in position. It ran east to link up with the step crossing the trench at 27 ft. 3 ins. It lay parallel to the trench with its face 6 ins. out from the south side. The foundation of rubble on which this step was laid continued west ward for another 6 ft, giving a total length of 10 ft. 6 ins. An extension of the main trench 2 ft. wide between 15 ft. 6 ins and 27 ft. 6 ins. showed that the foundation was at least 2 ft. 6 ins. wide, implying two steps.

GLASTONBURY.

Trench CH. II. 1957.

7 ft. 6 ins. - 11 ft. 6 ins. from outer wall face of East Range  
11 ft. 6 ins. - 32 ft. 6 ins. N. of median line.

The eastern edge of the foundation trench of the west wall of range  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

ran along the trench 9 ft. from the outer wall face. The edge of the trench was regular, but the masonry had been entirely robbed, leaving a loose fill of rubble clay and soil. At 32 ft. 3 ins. an ashlar quoin in situ marked the SE. corner of the angle buttress of the transept at a depth of 1 ft. 9 ins. below the level of the paving of the cloister walk. The modern facing of the transept wall, which was not disturbed, crossed the trench at 32 ft. 6 ins. The xxxxxx foundation trench of the north wall of the Chapter House was found between 14 ft. 6 ins. and 23 ft. It was badly robbed with a loose fill of stones clay and soil.

From 26 ft. 3 ins. to 27 ft. 9 ins. a rough stone paved and stone lined drain ran from east to west; it had been removed above the foundation trench for the doorway. There was no evidence for the floor level of the slype, but the drain was at too high a level to be medieval.

No evidence for the floor level of the Chapter House.

Superficial strata forming a destruction layer, had been disturbed in modern times and have now been removed.

#

GLATTONBURY.

Trench CH. III. 1957.

Between 30 ft. and 34 ft. from outer wall face of East Range

From 6 ft. to 28 ft. south of median line.

Between 18 ft. and 22 ft. east extension 6 ft. long and west extension 19 ft 9 ins. long.

Between 14 ft. 6 ins. and 23 ft. 3 ins. foundation for south wall of Chapter House formed of Tor burrs set in fine orange yellow ~~mortar~~ rather soft mortar. On top of inner face was a further foundation of mixed stones set in a harder creamy white mortar. This survived for a width of 7 ft. 6 ins. with the south side disturbed.

Toe of early bank at 31 ft. with top of inner slope showing on section at north end of trench.

Chapter House pavement level disturbed by earlier excavations over most of trench and level nowhere measureable.

GLASTONBURY.

Trench CH. IV. 1957.

48 ft. - 52 ft. from outer wall face of East Range.

10 ft. 6 ins. - 27 ft. 6 ins. north of median line.

Trench lay entirely over fill of early ditch and probably the strata had been disturbed by subsidence.

Dark clay of natural surface found at base covered with redeposited dark clay with iron flecks - probably from foundation trench of transept wall.

Foundation trench for Chapter house wall dug through redeposited clay, which was already consolidated. Foundations, where remaining, largely of Tor burrs. Irregular buttress added on northwest corner - roughly 5 ft. projection by 3 ft. wide, but extends further west. Masonry of buttress set in yellow mortar.

No clear indication of floor of Chapter House at south end. From 11 ft. 5 ins. to 13 ft. 7 ins floor had been raised with slight outer retaining wall of Tor burrs to form a dais of which surface had been entirely destroyed.

GLASTONBURY.

Trench CH. VII. 1957.

65 ft. - 69 ft. from outer wall face of East Range.

9 ft. 6 ins. - 29 ft. 6 ins. south of median line.

No remains of paving or mortar bedding of either 12th or 13th ~~century~~ century found.

Foundation trench extending about 1 ft. into CH VII runs along east side of trench as far as 16 ft. 4 ins., where it is cut through by later foundation trench. Later trench crosses CH VII between 16 ft. 4 ins. and 24 ft. 10 ins.

Early foundation is largely of Tor burrs set in yellow mortar. Where robbed fill is of soil with small amount of mortar. Later foundation, where preserved, has some lias and is set in whiter mortar. Where robbed fill is of ~~xxxxxx~~ loose mortar, rubble and soil.

Darker surface of natural clayey reached on both side of late foundation, but bottom of trench not reached.

No attempt made to define edge of early ditch which should be about 2 ft. east of west edge of CH VII.