

GLA/SITE/3/20

Bailey

Glastonbury 1962

AHCT. Sections 72 & 73

Page 1

Aug 15th

- 1) Pot fragments 3'6" deep. 74'6" from N end of trench.
- 2) Clay pipe fragment. 3'8" deep. 111' feet from N end of trench.
- 3) Pot fragment. 3'10" deep. 109' from N end of trench.
- 4) Medieval glass piece. 2'5" deep. 80' N end of trench [F:SF5804].

Page 1 back

- 5) Pieces of 13th century green glaze pottery found 4'6" down in AHCT 90' from N end. Out of disturbance area in brown soil overlying grey fill(?) of foundation trench.
- 6) Several walls with mortar layers inbetween. Looks like earlier range of rooms than Abbot's Hall.
- 7) Pieces of pot fragments, 79' from N end of trench. 2'8" from W side and 2' from W side. 2'6" deep [F:BF5827].

Page 2

- 8) 3 pot fragments. 4'2" deep, 87'9" from N end. Found in thin pebbly layer below yellow clay layer. Overlies transverse grey clay band. Pebbly layer also appears to contain bone fragments. Signs of wall = S wall Abbot's Hall – mortar pieces. More pot fragments. E side in fill of trench 86'1" from N end.

Page 2 back

Piece medieval glass 83' from N end of trench 3'8" deep.

17th-18th century pottery also found with the glass in loose stone above mortar floor formerly supposed to be wall. Piece of paving stone pulled off yellow mortar floor [C:5816]. 85' from N end of trench 14th century? Probable indication of disturbance at level of supposed wall. Also piece of 13th century green glaze ware found in layer above. Piece medieval ridge tile...

Page 3

...found in yellow layer [C:5817] 83'6" from N end of trench. 3'10" deep.

Pieces of pot coming from deeper level in yellow layer (recorded) .

Pot fragment found in pebbly layer beneath yellow clay associated with fragments of bone.

4'6" deep. 87'2" from N end of trench.

Summary

AHCT. section of trench from S side of ?wall at 74'7" from N end of trench to large modern...

Page 3 back

...disturbance at 99' from N.

- a) a mortar floor extends [C:5816] from 74'7" S to approx 82 ft (gap at approx 77' made of the Doulling).
- b) from 77' to 82' approx. a large body of stone lay. This was at first supposed to be a wall. It now proves to be a mass of loose stone lying on the mortar floor mentioned in a).
- c) S of the 88' mark, the trench was taken down to a depth of 4'3" from here to the disturbance at 99' these was the following features:-
 - i) a yellow mortary clay layer which has produced pottery
 - ii) above this is a grey powdery layer
 - iii) at 95'8" the yellow layer shows a break (?? beginning of a foundation trench). At only 1' 4" from this point...

Page 4

...the yellow layer begins again. At this point it lies above a "pebbly" strip which has produced bones and pottery. From this point to the modern disturbance there is a grey band flecked with charcoal lying across the floor of the trench. I thought at first that it was a sleeper trench but it now appears more like re-deposited deep clay.

August 16th Rough notes

Yellow clay cut through but is now clear that the 'pebbly' layer ...

Page 4 back

...lies right across the floor of the trench. It contains quantities of bone and some ?13th / ?14th century pottery (recorded and logged 92'-96' from N end of trench and 4'6"- 4'11" deep). At a distance of 96'-98' from N end the "pebbly" layer overlies 3 stones that may be part of a wall or pavement.

N wall of Abbot's Hall.

A possible position for a robber trench is 78' from N end. Interruption in the clay band and signs of tip lines may indicate N side of wall robber trench.

N.B. 1.30pm - A medieval coin has appeared 80' from N end of trench in loose stony rubble formerly supposed to be wall [F:SF5803].

Page 5

x. 3pm. It is now proposed to abandon the part of the trench extending S from approx 88'. It is too badly disturbed to give the necessary evidence.

x. Section taken through half the trench to establish authenticity of wall [C:5819] and mortar floor [C:5818]. Pot frag discovered in the mortar floor at 79' from N and 2' 9" deep.

x. fragment of moulding well sunk in mortar floor 79ft from N & 2'10" deep.

x. Pot fragments well into mortar floor 78' from N. 2'10" deep [F:BF5815].

x. Small 18" square test hole ending at 78' from N end shows that floor is ...

Page 5 back

...5"-6" thick at this point. Below is layer of brown soil containing fragments of bone.

Notes for Monday

- 1) Remove mortar floor and explore level below
- 2) Take down trench on new clay (? floor level) discovered beneath disturbance formerly thought to be N wall of Abbot's Hall.

Summary

On the basis of the evidence so far produced it would be foolish to go down beyond 88' S.

- i) The presence of 13th -14th century pottery far below the expected level...

Page 6

...is in itself suspicious.

- ii) The stratigraphy indicates a massive disturbance.

Footnote.

In spite of the fact that we are far below the level expected for both Abbot's Hall and Dunstan, the levels recorded here are quite definite stratified layers e.g. yellow clay and pebbly layer. The latter, in particular, can be followed right through with a trowel, although it has, by necessity, been excavated with a big pick. This sequence may, of course, be merely the obvious consolidation of layers in a medieval rubbish pit overlaid by a post-reformation disturbance...

Page 6 back

...but for the sake of completeness I am recording it.

Page 7

20th August

Mortar "floor" [C:5816] from 71'N to 87'N trowelled through.

x. Pick and shovel work continued from 64' to beginning of mortar floor. Frag of green glazed ware and fragment of shaft (Purbeck not lias) found at depth of 3'8" and 66'6"

from N.

21st August

Still trowelling through mortar floor. Have taken this at 2 levels, an arbitrary distinction except for the fact that the mortar is looser and less stony at the upper level. From about 75' to 77' from N there is a more compacted mass of mortar and...

Page 7 back

...stone. This was at one time supposed to be a wall. At the upper level of the mass the stone (lias chippings, Tor burr etc.) the stones lie in a mixture of earth and mortar with a little bone * but at a lower level they are quite definitely surrounded by mortar. The latter has produced a fragment of orange tile with traces of light brown glaze (see envelope) at 76'4" N and 2'8" deep. Fragments of what may be the same tile [F:BF5859] have been found further N well embedded in the mortar floor (see envelope) at 74' N and 2'10" deep. ?? "wall" and "floor" ...

Page 8

...are contemporary.

*One small indeterminate pot fragment [F:BF5863] from this level (76'10" N and 2'8" deep) (see envelope).

4.45pm - A wall [C:5827] has now appeared between 69'8" and 66'9" from N [C:5827]. At its S edge is a black charcoal layer with a grey stony layer above it. The latter has produced a piece of 13th century green glazed pottery (see envelope). Also a piece of green glazed tile (see envelope).

x. Another foundation trench has appeared at 53' from N.

x. Traces of stonework [C:5828] from...

Back of page 8

...31'6" to 29'.

N.B. Can we stop back-filling from 88' from N baulk? We may still find traces of something. The slabs near the disturbance (96'-98') may be the corresponding wall to that newly found at 69' 8".

22nd August.

In spite of the "dog burial" below the 18th century garden wall and the massive post-reformation disturbance it may be possible to track the wall/ the hall from the tip lines.

x. Fragment of green-glazed pottery...

Page 9

...found well below mortar "floor" at 77' from N.

23rd August.

x. Foundation trench of N wall of 14th century hall has appeared.

x. Traces of a plaster floor [C:5818] associated with walls [C:5827] & [C:5818] suggests a set of rooms of 12thC - ? even pre-conquest date.