

**GLA/SITE/3/26**

**Poyntz-Wright , Wall, Polmear**

**Glastonbury 1954**

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Trench in West Cloister running east. Beneath 2nd-3rd buttresses from SE corner. Section 36 (note: this trench definitely relates to section 36 which is in the SW corner of the cloister not the SE)

Level

Description

Contents

I

Topsoil [C:1200] 15" in depth

IIA

Clay [C:1201] extending 4'6" from E end

Sheet lead fragment

IIB

Rubbly soil ext.from clay

1 fragment of tiger ware 7'8" from E end.

1 piece window glass on destruction level 5'10" from E end.

Glazed 16th century tile in destruction level.

13th century pottery fragment. 13th or 14th century tile 6' from E.

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Level

Description

Contents

III

Soft mortar post-hole 11'2" from E end projecting 3½". C. 4" in diameter (c.10' from W end of trench to edge of mortar)

Plaster

IV (Belows IIB)

Soft soil extending 3'6" from W end

Rubbly – medium sized shards.

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Trench extended 12ft eastwards

Level

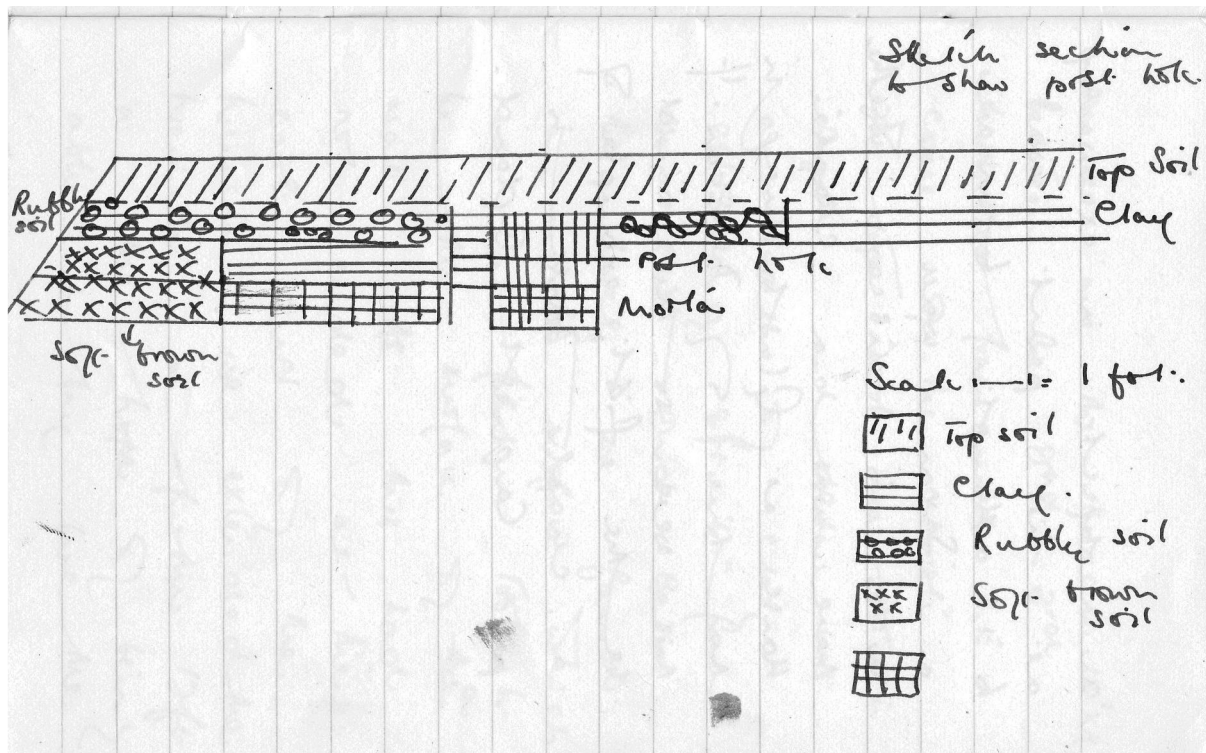
I

Top soil 15"

II

Loose mortar extending 6' from E wall

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Sketch section of CLW between 2nd & 3rd buttresses.

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An object in excavating at this point was to attempt to uncover a Saxon wall in order to discover whether there was a Chapter House at Glastonbury in the time of Dunstan. If this were so this would be the first example of a Chapter House in pre-Conquest England.

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We set out the trench 15' x 4' between the 2nd-3rd buttresses from the S.E corner of the cloister. The topsoil [C:1200] was 15" in depth and below was a level of clay [C:1201] extending 4ft 6" from the E end. Below this level we found a mortar surface which we at first took to be the surface of a wall. As this had not ended at the E end of the trench, we extended the trench a further 12' in the hope of being able to lay bare the...

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...surface of the wall. We discovered on excavating the trench extension, however, that the mortar was loose [C:1202] and probably represented the material burnt in the great fire of 1184 and deposited in this position to level the surface.

The clay [C:1201] which we discovered immediately below the topsoil extending 4'6" from the East end of the original trench had probably been used for a similar purpose to raise the previous level of...

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...the cloister.

In the rubble soil [C:1208] which extended westwards from the clay we found fragments of early 16th century ---- ware and 13th century potsherds which led us to suppose that this level might represent the destruction level of the reformation. The fact that we failed to discover any modern pottery in the level led us to abandon our earlier impression that this rubble might be the fill-in of a Bligh Bond trench.