

Site/GLA/3/32

J. Ralston

1955 & 1956

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1955

E-W cloister trench. Section 37

54ft among fallen masonry a piece of 15th century pot (yellow glaze).

49ft. Depth 2ft 2ins [C:2010] piece of tea cup.

46ft. Depth 1ft 10ins black clay layer [C:2010] – 1 piece C12 pot.

79ft. Depth 2ft 5ins [C:2007] 2 pieces of 16th & 17th century pot.

49ft 4ins. 2ft depth [C:2010] piece of C13 jug & piece of green window glass.

49ft 5ins. 2ft 1in [C:2010] depth pot C12 cooking.

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68ft-70ft. 2ft 6ins clay [C:2007] . 2 pieces C13 & C14 pot.

54ft piece of late pot, probably part of reformation rubble.

17ft 3ins depth 28ins pot C12.

Brown window glass.

18ft 6ins E-W cloister trench 29-31ins [C:2013] - removed large red stone.

16ft 31ins down [C:2022]– clay still contained C12th pot.

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E-W cloister trench. Area 8ins to east of set wall no pot below 2ft 1in.

E-W cloister trench. 2ft 8ins -2ft10ins. 15ft 10ins – 21ft 6ins contained a fair amount of tile, burned stone, slag and other material possibly connected with the kiln material.

Baulk between two kiln areas. Top stood at 29.5ins before removal. Baulk 13ft 6" - 15ft 6". 15ft 6ins 30.5" depth. Piece of slag.

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Baulk.

Pot at 2ft 9ins. Roofing nail & pot at 2ft 9.5ins.

13' from E. 3' deep. 1'1" from N face. 1 nail head

In kiln. Longitudinal baulk. 13ft 5ins from E of trench. Depth 35ins. Piece of material possible of floor of last kiln in-situ.

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Reduced level of section N-S @ 12'3" from E end of trench.

B.S	F.S	Rise	Fall	R. Level	Remarks
1.47				100.00	S. door to nave.
	4.42		2.95.	97.05	Datum of section

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14ft from E. 2ft down [C:2023]— top of set stones on edge curbing of Cloister bed.

18ins- 3ft from end – line of spalls builders rubbish C13th [C:2012].

12ft-16ft 3ft deep – furnace remains.

18ft-21ft 2-3ft depth – foundation of stone wall (robbed: [C:2013].

41-49ft 2ft 6 – foundation (similar) ?[C:2028].

55-56ft – set stones, probably curbing of bed [C:2026].

0-8ft – solid medieval foundation [C:2025].

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1956

CLI. Sections 49 & 51. Apparent end of mortar floor [C:3113] 34ft 6ins from E of trench. 1ft 5½ ins from surface. Piece of pot on this floor at 34ft from E.

CLI. 25-27ft at about 19-20ins among & just below spalls, several small bits of C12th pot.

CLI. E. 34ft depth 23ins in clay under spalls [C:3130]. Base of pot glazed both sides (Thetford ware???)

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28-32ft from E. Clay still containing spalls quantity of C12 cooking pot. 1 piece of glaze one side.

Small trench across at 29-30ft. 2ft-2ft 2ins [C:3116]. Spalls still present to 2ft 2in. Abundance of C12 cooking pot. 1 piece of ?Saxon pot.

Glass attaching to crucible, vitrious slag and increasing charcoal to 2ft 2ins. A certain amount of ?mortar? plastery material.

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39-55ft pot from section. Depth 1ft 9ins-2ft 1in.

Stones at 31ft 8ins-32ft 4ins. A number of traces of plaster at 1ft 9ins approx.

Midden at 33ft 6ins.

Depth explored 1ft 10ins – 2ft 2 contained mass of bones, shells, small stones, pot. Soil loose and black. Some charcoal and plaster. 1 scrap of slag.

Floor of trench 30-36ft about 2ft- shows mortar but also much burnt material but no pattern. A little pot.

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Pot in CL1. 26ft from E. Clay below spalls. Depth 2ft.

CL1 Ext 2.

12ft 8ins – 13ft 6ins from E 4ft 3ins from S. 1ft 11ins from surface. Large blue lias slab thought by Wainwright to be collapsed curbing stone (had out by Dr Harden). Window glass between disturbance & kiln frags at 18ins depth.

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CL1 Ex2

10-11ft from E.

Considerable quantity of kiln debris at 1ft 7ins.

NB. CL1

10ft 3ins-11ft 2" from E. First appeared 1ft 11ins dipped to 2ft 4ins. Basin of charcoal and other burnt material 1 stone and 1 tile towards centre. Seen in section 2ft 7ins from south of trench. Noticed in plan by Wainwright at 1ft 11ins. (Looks like the floor of a kiln at higher level, like that seen in section across last years kiln).

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CL1 Ext.

1ft lengthwise trench. 14ft-17ft 6ins. Depth 3ft. Lot of medium sized mostly lias running across. 14ft 7ins from E 3ft 7ins depth – large lump of lias with glass adhering. Large area of charcoal with no kiln frags or pot. Could there have been a fire outside kiln as well as in.

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CL1

16' 3" from east. Blue lias slab 11.5" long and 5" wide and 2" deep. 3'4" underground.

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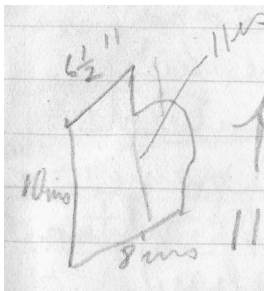
CL 1955. Section 37

Fragment of flint 19'8" from east face depth 3'6". In disturbed clay.
Piece of kiln material 19'9" from East face depth 3'6" in disturbed clay.
?Medieval tile? 20' from S face. Depth 3'6" in disturbed clay.

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CL1 Ext 2

(Stone) found lying flat. 11ins below top of curb. About 4 ins thick



Sketch of stone.

Aug 27th

Rain delayed play. Began with operation water pump. Started to dig at 11.30 – took out middle eastern section of kiln. Further rain and pumping meant afternoon started at 3.45. Kiln produced glass & 2 pieces of pot. Preserved/ reserved some of the charcoal. The charcoal seemed to be concentrated... (One piece of pot had 2 shiny black surfaces).

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...towards the bottom and outside the kiln itself. The clay outside the kiln produced many lumps of daub like substance. Pauline took down baulk . Mortar floor became like a cow yard. Mary Anne started to section ash pit. Yielded pot, but the piece I saw was stone.

Willie took down step along trench to chase mortar floor. Later he shovelled out hollow burnt depression in clay c. 40-44ft. This was the lower level of my so-called midden in which I had worked earlier...

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...on the east side of Dunstan's wall.

Stones appeared in CL2 are in line with stones thought to be kerb packing, but where kerb has turned possibly a "Dunstan" wall after all.

Aug 28th

Intermittent rain throughout morning. Drew central N-S section after lunch. Afternoon – Mary Ann & I removed rest of central section. Mortar layer continued under kiln to approx same place as in CL1.

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Mr Radford has decided that it is earlier than the kiln. It varies in thickness a great deal and appears in 1 or ?2 sections of kiln. Willie traced it down the trench CL1 where it rose 1ft in height. Mr Radford scraped the slush for possible post-holes (conclusion deferred till tomorrow). I drew E-W section in CL1 Ext 2. Mary Ann continued to take out ash pit when not helping me with kilns. Data for 3 sections of kilns to be fixed at 6ins intervals. These will be marked on drawing & correlated afterwards. Kiln continued to produce glass (as well as the usual). a) 1 piece bottle top. B) 2 pieces of brownish-yellow...

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...crucible, egg shell, bones and 5 water-worn pebbles duly bagged. Late I was digging into grey clay under flue end of kiln and came across another piece of red. It will appear in section (if ever drawn. How it got there I can't think. It is probably on the same level as the stone bottom revealed in last years section through kiln floor.

Just a thought

The red stuff is very thin on the top part of the slope. Could it have been thrown out to make a level rest for Dunstan's wall which lay across the middle of kiln. You will find a step here where structure thins as stones were laid level just inside kerb.

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Aug 29th

My opinion is that kiln structure began within half an inch of transverse N-S section. Red there became 2ins thick instead of thin red line.

Began this morning by checking natural along N longitudinal section. Found it at E end in spite of isolated kiln structure at low level which sat on top of it. I think there were two kilns here. It seemed to go red, black, red black although it was not sufficiently defined to show in section. When this part of the furnace was taken...

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...out apart from normal glass & one bit of pot, there was a) little bit of brown yellow; b) piece that looked like a snail (red stripe); c) thick piece of blue or green very deep colour; d) a piece of rim of ("internally glazed vessel"). In examining so called "natural" under mortar floor, I noticed it was an unnatural yellow – I picked up a bit with my trowel and found charcoal underneath. I was directed to leave it alone.

The N longitudinal section was then drawn. In the two eastern side sections removed before lunch as well as finishing transverse section. During ...

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...the afternoon the remaining parts of the kiln were removed and the entire surface of the mortar floor cleaned, possible post-holes marked with arrows. Willie dug a trench along N side of CL 1955 and found a lump of glass slag? below level of mortar, also the ? full of another sort of slag, not glass. Remains of ash pit was removed. The glass kiln is no more. Willie is O.C of mortar floor.

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CL1. Sections 49 & 51

Tiny fragments of glass (lost) found on stone in ?post-hole at edge of mortar floor 14ft 7ins from E. Depth 4ft 5ins.

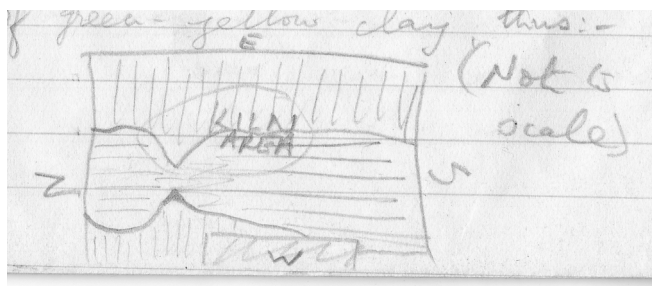
Pot under mortar floor 15ft 3ins from E. Depth 4ft 8ins. In envelope with piece of plaster.

Another piece of glass in same area not lost.

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Mortar floor & below

The mortar "floor" (which in fact was probably not at all level) extended from the edge of the kiln area (& also beneath the kiln for a few inches, to the East) & varied in thickness. In places it was about 2" thick, in some places it showed up as a scattering of mortar rather than a continuous layer. In plan: it seemed to be interrupted by two "spearheads" of green-yellow" clay, thus:



Sketch plan of glass furnace 1 & 2.

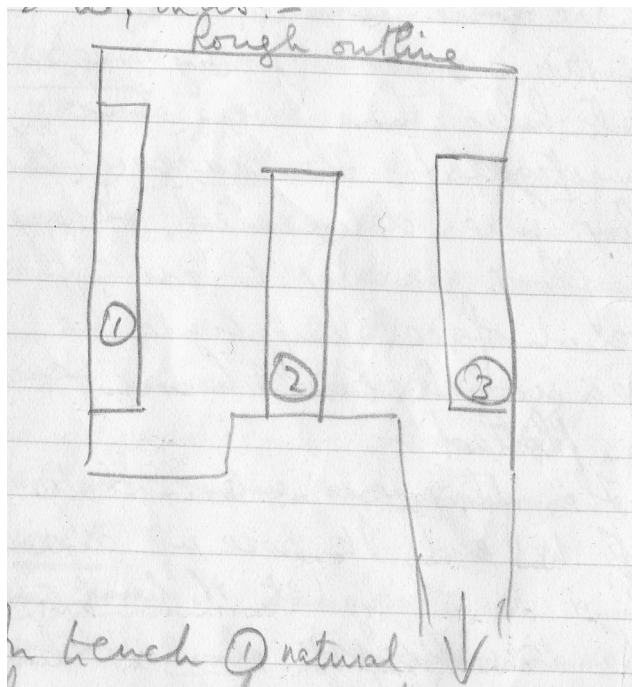
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Key to plan: mortar = horizontal lines. Baulk = diagonal lines. Clay = vertical lines (& kiln material). There were in the floor certain areas of clay suggesting post-holes. These were not investigated. The edges of the floor were delineated & where the floor ran-up to & into the trench face they could be seen in section as have been so plotted.

The floor was not level towards its west end. It rose-up about 2' & eventually it's W limit could be seen about 2' below the surface (these measurements noted in FJW's book). Pottery, glass & other material found in & above the floor were noted by Jean.

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Then, in three places the floor was pierced by trenches (1' wide) running E-W, thus:



Sketch plan of three E-W trenches cutting through mortar floor of glass furnace.

In trench 1 natural clay was shown at 4', though thin clay rose both to Extn W to about 3' thus indicating an area of disturbance below mortar floor about 1'...

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...deep & about 6' across. The natural clay was topped by a layer of red-brown material (mixed with clay) & this material was thought (CARR) to be disturbance from mortar layer above. At all points in this trench natural clay was revealed in plan.

Trench 2. The mortar floor covered an area of clay varying in colour from dark grey to green-yellow. At 5' from the baulk at the W end there was an area of yellow-brown granulated material (not unlike burnt mortar?) which extended below the bottom of the trench and was not investigated (?post-hole?). This trench also suggested that the mortar was laid on natural undisturbed clay...

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...though in places it seemed that there was again some disturbance from the level of the floor above. No pottery or other significant material was found under the mortar floor in this trench. Again, the natural clay sloped down from under the kiln area?

Trench 3. Natural clay was found beneath the mortar floor in most areas – though 14' from E end of trench at depth 4'6" there was a small amount of very dark clay in which were certain stones; between these stones in this layer was found a fragment of R-B pottery. Below the mortar layer were found two...

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...small pieces of "plaster" both of which were enveloped. This trench cut into the mortar floor as it sloped upwards to the west. In end section this trench showed that as the mortar layer sloped upward it became thicker (approx 6" thick when observed).

Later, the area between trenches 2 & 3 was forked over. One piece of RB pottery was discovered. Uncertain whether in or under mortar layer. The mortar layer when forked out was found to contain a number of medium size stones (2"-4" across).

Extra note:

19' from E end...

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...depth 3'10", there was a lump of black hard material (?slag?) which was about 5" thick & which seemed to run back into the side of trench 1 to the south or SSW; this was broken up & retained.

Aug 31st

Mr Radford confirmed my view as to where the second chamber began, and that the thin scatter of red on the upper part was merely either collapse or disturbed stuff thrown up.