

## GLASTONBURY

Church 1951-64

1954 Lady Chapel N

1954 Edgar Chapel S

1955 NS 6

1955 QS3

1955 Q1

1955 Q2

1955 Q5/6

1955 Q5/6 (E)

1956 T1

1956 T2

## GLASTONBURY 1954

Section Trench N of the Lady Chapel.

NE face

Datum: 94.26

Length 40ft. Measurement for section from N angle of trench.

Trench designed to recover relation between 'pyramid' marking original E end of Lady Chapel and adjacent medieval levels. Pyramid is platform explored by Bond and trench has centre as S angle. Surface of platform 2ft below datum; it does not figure on section.

Natural clay nowhere reached.

Lowest stratum uncovered was disturbed clay with some soil and a few stones. Explored only between 15-19ft. and 29ft 6ins – 32ft. Excavation reached 5ft below datum and bottom not reached. Boring in each part of trench opened revealed no change for another 1ft. Work suspended as Bond warned of presence of graves at this level. Irregular surface at about 3ft below datum between 15-19ft and about 2ft6ins below datum between 29ft 6ins and 32ft. A trench-built rough wall crossed

the trench obliquely, running roughly on the same axis as Lady Chapel. It cut section at 21ft6ins high. (Only found as filling in was about to begin; too late for proper examination.)

Disturbed clay was capped by a layer of fine friable cultivated soil with some fragmented stone and mortar debris and a surface at about 1ft below datum. The layer was apparently consistent and continuous but was not excavated between 0-4ft and 21-26ft.

The soil layer was overlaid by an occupation level consisting of shallow bedded walls, pavements of stone and cobbles and broken up stonework. The level which was associated with sixteenth century stoneware has a consistent level about 1ft below datum, and carried irregular piles of debris from its disuse.

This ruined occupation level was covered by a modern bank of soil, clay and stones above which was the modern humus and turf. This layer was apparently in position at the time of Bond's excavation.

At 35ft on section all strats were cut through by a modern disturbance filled with soil, stones and debris, representing Bond's exploration of the platform structure. This curved across the trench on a line roughly concentric with the platform, but the sides appeared to have fallen in badly.

#### GLASTONBURY 1954

Trench N of Lady Chapel.

Datum: 94.26

Length 40ft by 4ft wide. Extension between 4ft and 8ft runs NE for 11ft.

Cut diagonally NW from centre of platform which carried pillar marking original E end of Lady Chapel. Centre of platform forms S angle of trench.

Measurements from SE end of trench.

Section on NE face so measurements reversed.

From 9ft where surface was about 1ft above datum ground rose gradually to 16ft where surface was about 3ft 6ins above datum, continuing about this level till NW of trench. This bank of stones, soil and debris was modern carrying the humus, on which the modern turf grew.

The modern disturbance representing Bond excavations round the platform cut the NE face at 5ft and the SW side at 8ft. It was an irregular circle round this platform and the sides had apparently caved in. Fill soil stones and debris.

At a consistent level about 1ft below datum was an occupation layer consisting of rough pavements, slight walls and cobbled areas associated with sixteenth century stoneware. It was covered with irregular heaps of debris from the layer and soil. It was not further explored.

This occupation layer lay on a stratus of friable soil with a small amount of fragmented stone and mortar. Between the modern disturbance and 13ft this layer was rather over 1ft in depth. Between 21ft and 25ft it was about 2ft deep. The base was in neither case clearly defined. Elsewhere the layer was not explored in depth, but it appeared to be a consistent feature and to represent a soil that had been cultivated. It may be equated with the late medieval garden of the Chaplains. The surface of the platform which had carried the pillar lay about 1ft below the top of this layer, implying that the uppermost courses, possibly of dressed stone, had been removed.

The stratus below this soil was explored only in two sondages between 8ft and 10ft 6ins and 21ft and 25ft, both carried down to 5ft below datum. Work was suspended at this level as Bond had suspended his excavation at a slightly lower depth, because of the presence of skeletons. It was not desired in 1954 to open up a part of the early cemetery which would not be properly explored. The lower stratum consisted of disturbed clay with some admixture of soil. There was no clear division between the upper soil and the lower clay; one shaded into the other and the level of demarcation is approximate only. But the contrast between 6ins above that noted and 6ins below was clear. The lower disturbed clay continued without change down to the base of the sondages and boring for a further 1ft in depth produced no evidence of significant change.

Within this stratum a trench-built wall crossed the trench obliquely on a line approximately parallel to the axis of the Lady Chapel. The north wall face cut the section on the NE side at about 18ft 6ins. The base of the wall lay at 5ft below datum and in places it stood two courses (1ft) high. It was rough built and appeared a foundation rather than a wall meant to be seen. The wall was only brought to light by the collapse of the side of the sondage at the end of the excavation and could not be fully explored.

Undisturbed clay was nowhere reached.

Section	Church	Trenches
Q2	1955	Q2
T2	1956	T2
N1	1959	
Q1	1955	Q1
T1	1956	
Q 5/6	1955	Q5/6
Q 5/6 (E)	1955	Q5/6 (E)
-	1955	QS3
-	1954	Edgar Chapel (S)

#### GLASTONBURY 1954

##### Edgar Chapel S

South for 25ft from 'Chapel' on S side of Edgar Chapel

Measurements from wall face

(Survey PDH (1954))

The whole surface had been removed by levelling and modern soil carrying the turf lay directly on the subsoil from which the old land surface had been removed.

The cutting suggested that a hollow in the marl had been filled by water borne deposits and that the hollow lay some feet north of the trench within the Edgar Chapel. No medieval deposit remained. Water appeared in bore holes at 109ft.

Subsequently a trench running north east for 48ft was opened uncovering the marl and alluvium at the base of the modern soil. Same conditions observed but no attempt to penetrate below modern soil.

Present surface at 112ft to 114ft is result of levelling to expose remains of foundations of Edgar Chapel.

(The levels show that the medieval remains in the Edgar Chapel at 106 or slightly below must have lain at the base of the hollow and that this was open in c.1100, but the silting shown in the south trenches is older indicating a wider channel).

#### GLASTONBURY 1955

Section Q2. North Face

Datum: 104.23

Length: 56ft. Measurements from NW corner of trench.

Parallel to axis of quire and 34ft from S walk of aisle.

Natural soil is stiff yellow clay very little discoloured except on surface which is weathered and stained by roots. Turf and staining seldom penetrate more than 6ins; no trace of major disturbance by trees on line of section. Natural surface falls from E to W. Beyond 34ft surface removed to level site. Fall of natured measured over 55ft= 2ft4ins.

At the west end of the trench the natural soil in-situ was covered by a layer of clean, but discoloured clay. This extended as far as 21ft where the whole sequence was cut through by a wide robber trench. The layer began at 4ft and was interrupted between 10ft and 15ft 6ins. (On the south face the layer was continuous in these areas). The layer was covered by a similar but darker layer of clay, more disturbed and with a large admixture of soil. The two layers were barely distinguishable when dug but the line separating the two was regular and clearly distinguishable when the section had dried out. Above this layer was about 6ins of modern soil and turf dating from twentieth century layout of the church; its surface was level with the base of the surviving wall of the south aisle of the Quire.

The disturbance noted up to 4ins extended only a few inches into the trench. It continued below the bottom of the trench – here 9ins below the surface of the natural ground and was sealed by the modern soil. The fill appeared to be of soil and clay but too little was uncovered to warrant any conclusion.

The disturbance between 10ft and 15ft 6ins extended only a few inches into the trench. It was cut with straight sides a few inches into the natural surface. The filling of dark clayey soil was almost indistinguishable from the upper layer of clay. In certain lights a line could be discerned suggesting that the two were distinct and that the cavity had been filled before the second layer of clay was deposited and was sealed by it. But it remains possible that the cavity had been dug through both layers and was only sealed by the modern topsoil.

From 21ft to 31ft 6ins the whole western sequence was destroyed by a disturbance crossing the whole width of the trench. It cut at least 6ins into the natural surface and was not followed lower. It was sealed by the modern topsoil. The fill consisting of small stones, spalls and mortar with some soil and debris was homogenous without tip lines. It was characteristic of the refill after nineteenth century stone robbery.

To the west of this robbed foundation trench, between 16ft 4ins and 19ft 4ins was another robbed foundation penetrating only a short distance into the trench. It was cut into the lower layer of this clay make-up with regular sides and a flat bottom and was sealed by the make-up. The fill of stones, spalls, mortar and some clayey soil was similar to that already described; it had fewer and smaller stones, the mortar was a darker yellow and there was rather more soil.

Between 31ft 8ins and 40ft 3ins a further robbed foundation trench appeared. It extends 6ins into the natural clay, the surface level of which was missing. Total penetration is estimated at 1ft 3ins. On the inner (western) face a few stones remained in position – various kinds including lias but no Douling. They continued into the trench forming a rough circumference for the inner face of an apse. The rest of the fill small stones, spalls, mortar and soil, resembled that of the small cavity to the west, rather than the robbed foundation trench. The trench under discussion was sealed by the modern topsoil. To the E between 40ft 3ins and 42ft 3ins a shallow trench cut into the old soil had been refilled with clay and soil; its full width is unknown as a later disturbance truncated it at 42ft 3ins. To the west – between the apse and the large robbed foundation trench - a small stretch of natural surface, overlaid by a mix of clayey soil, remained in position.

Between 42ft 3ins and 52ft another large disturbance penetrated at least 1ft 3ins below natural ground level; it was not followed down. The fill of small stones, spalls and mortar without tip lines was identical with that of the trench between 21ft and 31ft 6ins. It was sealed by the modern turf.

From 52ft to 55ft natural clay remained in position with much of the natural turf removed, perhaps in the course of modern levelling.

Beyond 55ft a trench with fill of soil and debris showing tip lines belonged to the modern series of excavations.

GLASTONBURY 1955

Section Q5/6 W face

Datum:

Length: 22ft Measurements from wall face of S aisle behind bench

At right angles to aisle wall, in line with W end of Q1.

Natural soil is still yellow clay. The surface discolouration becomes darker and penetrates more deeply towards the S.

The foundation of the S wall of the church was trench built from 2ft 6ins below pavement: above that it was built free, a small trench having been cut into the natural clay. The facing was largely of limestone and projected slightly from the front of the bench.

Beyond 12ft 2ins the whole area consisted of a robbed foundation trench filled with a loose pack of mortar, small stones and rubbish. This was not followed below 3ft from turf.

Covering the natural surface was a layer of discoloured clay and soil. This dipped into the trench against the S wall and was clearly a levelling up after building had begun. A thick layer of mortar at the base of this layer at the old ground surface and extending from 9ft 6ins to 12ft 2ins was localised: it probably represented a floor for mixing mortar.

Between 7ft 2ins and 8ft 7ins a grave had been cut through the levelling layer into the natural clay. The burial had not been reached at the bottom of the trench 2ft 8ins below the pavement level of the thirteenth century. The filling at the base was of fine soil, covered with a pad of mortar 7ins thick and then 6ins of fine soil. On the line of the section the grave cut through a circular bowl shaped depression 3ft 6ins across and 1ft 6ins deep. This had been filled with stones, soil and rubbish: it was cut through the levelling layer into the natural clay.

GLASTONBURY 1955

TRENCH QS 6 E Extension

Running East from Q 6 – 10ft 6ins from wall face of aisle

Measurements from W face of Q 6

(Survey of Quire (1955) PDH)

Depths from medieval pavement level

Section (part only)

The trench started at 3ft and exposed side of robbed foundation on E side of Q 5/6.

Stripping of modern humus disclosed loose fill of stones etc of characteristic modern robber trench between 4ft and 12ft and again between 13ft 9ins and 21ft. Between was a patch of redeposited clay. To the east of the second foundation in bed of yellow mortar extended at 3ft when it was cut by a modern disturbance cutting into an earlier modern disturbance extending 2ft 6ins from s side of trench. The earlier disturbance may be equated with Hope's trench.

The mortar bed at E end was 6ins – 7ins thick of solid mortar lying on much discoloured natural clay in-situ with discolouration reaching to a depth of about 1ft 6ins from underside of mortar. Between the two foundations the discoloured and redeposited clay lay about 10ins thick on the old land surface with a slight lip on E face of W foundation. Discolouration on old land surface normal at about 6ins penetration.

Western foundation followed to depth of 3ft 9ins the sides gradually narrowed and the width was only 7ft 6ins at lowest point reached with sides cut in light coloured natural clay.

In Eastern foundation masonry in-situ began to appear at 2ft 6ins. At 3ft 3ins was a solid foundation between 15ft and 19ft 6ins, the remaining surface was mostly of Tor Burrs, forming a layer rather over 1ft in thickness. The E face was exposed to a depth of 4ft 9ins showing that the Tor Burrs lay on a course of lias 6ins deep and set slightly back. The W face was only uncovered to a depth of 3ft 6ins, where it was trench built again the face of the clay.

No bottom to either modern disturbance was found at a depth of 3ft at which level work was discontinued. The later disturbance on the north side showed sloping tip lines, but none such were discovered in the older trench, ie Hope's.

GLASTONBURY 1955

Section Q6 (E Extn)

N Face

Datum 104.06

Length: 24ft 6ins. Measurements from NE corner (trench later extended E) 24ft 6ins = W side of Q5/6.

Parallel to and 10ft 6ins from wall of S aisle.

Undisturbed soil was a stiff yellow clay. Slope down of surface from E to W was noted but on stretches too short for measurements. The surface discolouration penetrated deeply to over 1ft.

Between 21ft and 14ft 6ins a robbed foundation trench filled with loosely packed stones, mortar and some soil was followed down to 101.00 and bottom was not reached. A similar robbed trench was located between 10ft 9ins and 3ft 6ins with a similar fill. At a depth of 101.70 a foundation in-situ extended from 9ft 6ins to 5ft; it was trench built in the undisturbed clay. The robbed lip was irregular, reaching 102.50 near the centre, no wall face survived above the clay surface.

Between the trenches a levelling course of red deposited clay and soil reached to a level of 104.30; this surface was cut away for modern topsoil and turf. To the east of the second trench the clay levelling course was replaced by a thick layer of soft yellow mortar.

A modern excavation trench with sloping tip lines started at 6ft. It was at 2ft or more below the old turf line. This trench extended many feet to the east, revealing masonry foundations not earlier than Abbot Monington's extension of the quire. No section was drawn.

#### GLASTONBURY 1955

Trench QS 5 with west extension (W) and east extension (E)

QS5 across centre of 3rd bay of S Aisle of Quire. 16ft 6ins x 4ft.

West Extension starts between 6ft 6ins and 10ft 6ins. 7ft x 4ft

East Extension in same line as west starts 3ft from edge of QS5. 5ft x 4ft

Measurements from wall face

(Survey of Quire (1955) PDH).

Depths given from medieval pavement level = base of plinth in-situ.

The thirteenth century bench remained in-situ in front of wall face with an extreme projection of 1ft 6ins on face of plinth. The turf rose some 2-4ins above the medieval pavement level.

At 2-3ins below plinth fugitive traces of the mortar bedding for the medieval floor appeared. The shallow level suggested tile rather than stone pavement. This bedding had been disturbed against wall for the insertion of modern underpinning and did not appear beyond 11ft 3ins. Apart from the irregular disturbance caused by modern underpinning which extended to a depth 1ft 6ins the trench as far as 11ft 3ins was filled with an homogenous layer of redeposited clay. Between 6ins and 1ft 2ins there was some admixture of mortar. The tip lines were more or less horizontal but not continuous. At 2ft 4ins the clay on the east side of the trench appeared more solid, possibly natural clay in-situ. This distinction gradually became clearer and at 3ft 6ins it was possible to define the clear line between light coloured natural clay in-situ and the darker fill of a trench (PDH plan more at this level). Loose stones and mortar began to appear in the fill of the trench below 2ft 4ins and became more frequent in the lower layers. Below 3ft 9ins a small area of masonry in-situ appeared near the west aisle of QS5. The excavation was not carried below 4ft 2ins at which level the bottom of the trench had not been reached.

From 11ft 3ins to the end of the trench the modern turf sealed a loose fill of small stones, spalls and mortar with a small amount of soil and rubbish. It included a small fragment of pottery, probably of c.1800. The fill was not followed below 3ft 6ins.

The foundation under the bench was original below 1ft 6ins. It included much lias, some probably reused. The irregular face projected up to 6ins in front of the plinth. Bottom was not reached at 4ft 2ins.

The West extension was dug to a depth of 3ft. The west side of the older foundation trench ran obliquely across the trench with an inclination to east of north, giving a width of between 7ft and 7ft 6ins. To the west the natural clay had been removed to a plain surface at 2ft 11ins on which the fill of redeposited clay rested. No trace of a floor level contemporary with the robbed foundation trench was visible in the small area exposed.

The East extension or trial pit showed the natural surface of the undisturbed clay at about 2ft 3ins; it sloped slightly up from west to east and was directly covered by a clay fill similar to that in the main trench.

GLASTONBURY 1955

Section Q1 North Face

Datum 104.24

Length. Measurements from NW corner of trench.

Parallel to axis of quire and 26ft from S wall of aisle.

Natural soil is a stiff yellow clay. From 7ft to 29ft 6ins the normal surface discolouration penetrated deeply into the clay so that clean unstained clay was not met with until a depth of 1ft 6ins or even more below the old turf line, indicating the presence of trees. The old surface sloped down from east to west. Fall of 1ft 8ins over 19ft 6ins.

From 0ft to 18ft the natural surface was covered with a levelling layer of discoloured clay. The layer was homogenous and was sealed as far as 13ft 3ins by a thick layer of mortar. This clay had been piled against a robbed foundation. It appeared again east of this foundation between 25ft 10ins and 29ft 6ins. On the line of the section its junction with the robbed foundation was destroyed by a modern disturbance, but it was probably the same deposit.

Between 17ft 10ins and 25ft was a foundation trench with a flat bottom at about 102.20. It was dug 1ft 3ins into the undisturbed clay. The masonry of the foundation had been entirely robbed. The lower part of the filling was of loosely packed stones, mortar, debris and some clay and earth, above it was of clay with some stones and mortar tightly packed. The filling was homogenous with no clear line between the two layers. The whole was capped with a thick mortar layer which had sunk into the trench.

Between 29ft 6ins and 40ft a robbed foundation with a loose fill of stones, mortar and debris with some soil contained down below the bottom of the trench. Beyond 40ft a modern disturbance with sloping tip lines continued for a further ?ft to the east of the trench. (This is not shown on the section as it had removed up to 2ft of the upper strata of natural clay leaving only stone foundations shown on plan).

From 0ft to 10ft the base of the mortar bedding capping the redeposited clay lay at 103.75. At this point a stone set at the same level marked a rise in the base of the mortar to 103.95; this continued to 13ft 3ins when the mortar disappeared. Its base must have been above 104.25 here the bottom of the topsoil. At 17ft the mortar reappears sagging irregularly into the foundation trench to a maximum depth of 104. From 25ft 10in to 29ft 6in it reappears as a thin regular layer with a base at 104.25.

## GLASTONBURY 1955

### Trench Q1

Along eastern area between between 22ft and 26ft from S aisle wall. West End in line with W side of QS5.

### Measurements from West

(Survey of Quire (1955) PDH)

Depths from medieval pavement level of aisle (=modern turf).

Section (part only).

When modern turf and humus, about 6ins deep were stripped the loose fill of mortar and small stones of the sleeper wall robbing was seen running along the south side of the trench as far as 42ft. Its width averaged rather over 1ft with an irregular edge.

North of the disturbance for the sleeper wall mortar bedding for a pavement was found as a layer some 6ins thick extending from the west end of the trench to 10ft. Its base was 11ins-12ins down. From 10ft to 13ft 3ins the base was rather higher and the presence of small stones bedded east of 10ft suggested a step up. Another step up is suggested by the disappearance of the mortar bedding after 13ft 3ins. Between 15ft and 23ft 4ins, where it was cut through by a modern disturbance a similar mortar bed occurred sagging into a sinkage caused by an earlier filled in disturbance.

Beyond 40ft the whole trench had been excavated in modern times – the fill had sloping tip lines. The excavation went to a depth of about 5ft 3ins and was cut into solid natural clay. The earlier features preserved were a stone foundation rising to a depth of 4ft at maximum. The eastern edge was cut into the clay at 62ft 5in; its west side was about 5ft 6ins. The remains of masonry were overlaid by the characteristic fill of loose stone and mortar like that of the arcade sleeper. Above this fill and about 18ins down were the scanty remains of a stone water channel the west edge of which cut the S edge of the trench at 58ft and the S edge at 56ft. Further east the remains of stone foundation rising at most to 4ft, but on west edge in position at 71ft 9ins and in east edge (robbed) marked by a cut in the clay at 77ft 10ins.

Between 29ft 6ins and 40ft was a further modern disturbance, not marked by tip lines. It was carried down to 3ft 6ins below turf without reaching bottom. Within it was the remains of a foundation of lias stone. The fill was not very like that of the sleeper wall of the arcade but had no earlier tip lines; it is probably early nineteenth century robbery, but might be earlier; it is in the position assigned to the post-1184 gable. The fill cut through the mortar bed which is very thin here.

Between 23ft 4ins and 25ft 10ins a small modern disturbance reaching a depth of 3ft shows on section.

Between 0ft and 2ft 6ins a fill of mortar, rubble and discoloured showed particularly/patchily in section with a very irregular side. At 3ft 6ins it was becoming faint and a robbed foundation packed with rammed discoloured clay showed on the floor of the trench; it seems likely that the side of the foundation trench collapsed when the stone was robbed.

Below the mortar layer was a deposit of discoloured clay and soil – clay predominately – it ran unbroken from 2ft 6ins to 29ft 6ins except where cut by the modern disturbance. It is not clearly distinguishable from the fill at the west end or from a layer of earth and rubble between about 18ft and 25ft. These appear to be harder material needed to consolidate older foundation trenches and prevent sinkage of the new floor, a necessary precaution as the sag in the mortar bedding between 18ft and 24ft showed. This layer of clay and soil, with somewhat varying composition appeared under the mortar bedding in all trenches in this area.

This redeposited clay rested directly on the natural surface which sloped down from 2ft 2ins at 29ft 6ins to 4ft at 2ft 6ins, both measurements on undisturbed surface which only showed clearly when the face had dried out. In digging it was difficult to note the exact transition from redeposited clay and the discoloured surface of the natural. The latter was firmer and more consistent in character gradually becoming lighter. The discolouration was uneven varying at the west end between 2ins and 4ins and up to 8ins. It gradually became deeper towards the east. Below this discolouration the clay was firm, stiff and yellow in colour.

Between 17ft 10ins and 25ft a foundation trench crossed Q1 from the north face till it was cut by the robbed sleeper wall trench. It had a flat bottom at a depth of 5ft 3ins. The fill of stones and mortar was loosely packed until it merged into the more compact stones and soil corresponding to and continuous with the redeposited clay. The mortar was darker than that used in the post-1184 masonry.

When the pure clay was cleaned at a level of 5ft-5ft 2ins two pier bases robbed and filled with tightly packed discoloured clay were clear in plan. They had been noted at a higher level (see 0-2ft6ins and 17ft10ins-25ft) but no proper plan could be made till the discoloured surface of the natural clay had been removed.

## GLASTONBURY 1955

### Trench Q2

(Originally laid out as two trenches – Q2 –Q3 – but combined when modern soil removed).

Along eastern arm between 30ft and 34ft from S Aisle wall W end opposite 3rd vaulting shaft 56ft long.

Measurements from W end

(Survey of Quire (1955) PDH).

Depths from medieval pavement level of aisle (=modern turf)

### Section

No trace of mortar bedding from the medieval pavement remained. The modern humus and turf, of a depth of rather 6ins, lay directly on the clay make-up of the fill of robbed wall trenches.

When the modern turf and humus were stripped a layer of clay mixed with soil was seen covering the whole trench from the west end to 21 ft. The layer was clearly the same as that seen by Hope at the west end of his long trench. Between 21ft and 31ft 6ins was a band of small stones and mortar with very little soil corresponding exactly with that in the robbed sleeper wall trench in QS5. It extended across the trench with rather irregular edges. The position opposite the fourth vaulting shaft in the wall of the S aisle identified it as the robbed foundation trench of the high gable of the thirteenth century. A current trench, also robbed at the north face at 32ft 6ins and 39ft 6ins and the south face at 31ft 6ins and 38ft. The fill was of small stones, spalls and mortar of a rather lighter cream colour, with some mixture of clay and soil giving it a darker appearance. It appeared to be cut by the foundation of the high gable but this could be the result of modern stone robbery. The space between the two robber trenches had a clay fill like that at the west end. Between 41ft 10ins and 51ft 4ins a fill identical with that of the thirteenth century high gable appeared on the north side. It covered most of the trench but was cut by a disturbance with an ill-defined edge on the south; in one place this disturbance extended as far as the north edge as a shallow depression. It probably marks the removal of the drain shown by Bond in this position. Discoloured clay filled the space between the two robber trenches and firmer clay, also discoloured, continued for three feet to the east, where it was cut by a modern disturbance. This may be identified as one of Bond's trench exploring the high altar of which no plan survives.

The clay at the west end was clearly redeposited as a make-up for the presbytery floor. It contained no artefacts. As the trench descended the clay became firmer with no soil and then became lighter and was seen to be the natural subsoil in-situ. The old ground surface could not be identified in digging but was clear in section when the sides of the trench dried. The natural surface sloped up irregularly from west to east with a fall of 3-4ins across the width of the trench. The surface of the natural clay was discoloured to a depth of 6-9ins occasionally deeper in patches. The same sequence appeared between the high gable and the curved foundation but the make-up was only 3-4ins deep under the modern humus. The upper layer of the make-up was darker than below as seen in section but no floor showed.

In the north-west corner of the trench a disturbance filled with clay and soil indistinguishable from the make-up was only noted when the faces of the natural clay were trimmed vertical for measurement. It reached 4ins along the north face and 6ins along the west face and was visible in plan on the floor of the trench at 2ft 10ins. Between 10ft and 15ft 6ins a disturbance extending irregularly between 4ins and 9ins from the north side of the trench was cut into the natural clay to a depth of 2ft 9ins from the modern turf. It was filled with a mixture of clay and soil with a few stones towards the bottom. It appeared to be sealed by the upper make-up but no clear line could be seen in section and the two fills were almost identical therefore uncertain. Between 16ft 4ins and 19ft a disturbance extending 9ins from the north side of the trench was cut down to a depth of 1ft 4ins from the turf. The lowest 6ins of the fill was of stones and mortar with more mortar at the top, the whole sealed by the upper layer of make-up.

The robbed foundation trench of the high gable was followed to a depth of 2ft 6ins in the west and 1ft 8ins on east, the edges cut cleanly into the clay while fill unchanged. In the robbed curved trench large stones set in a line of cream mortar began to appear at a depth of 1ft 4ins. The inner edge was well defined, but the stones petered out towards the outer edge where the cut in the clay was damaged. The stones were various but included no Douling; the foundation was trench built on the inner side. The outer edge was not followed below 2ft 3ins where the face of the clay became more regular with a slight projection as for a buttress on the north side. The robbed foundation between 42ft and 51ft was cleared to a depth of about 2ft, where the south edge showed about 6ins from the south side of the trench with a wall 4ft thick running south in a line with the east side of the foundation. To the west a trench filled with packed clay and earth was cut to a depth of 1ft 8ins from turf. It extended for 2ft when it was cut by the robbed curved foundation.

#### GLASTONBURY 1955

##### Trench QS 6

Across S Aisle of Quire from 40ft 6ins to 44ft 6ins east of fourth vaulting shaft.

Measurements from wall face

(Survey of Quire (1955) PDH)

Depths from medieval pavement level

##### Section

The trench included the ragged east end of the thirteenth century bench. For details see QS5.

Under the modern turf the west side of the trench as far as about 11ft 6ins the surface at about 3ins down shows as redeposited clay with considerable but irregular differences of colour. It was notably lighter at the north end. A narrow strip along the east side showed as a disturbance cut down from the modern surface.

At a slightly lower level part of a depression extending about 3ft from the west side between 5ft and 8ft was noted. The clay filling was darker and there was much mortar. North of the depression the natural surface at about 1ft covered with a thick layer of mortar with some admixture of soil – a mixing floor rather than a bedding. South of the depression, redeposited clay lay directly on the natural surface. The face of the wall foundation has modern underpinning but no disturbance could

be traced. From about 2ft3ins the face was original of limestone, built in a slight trench cut into the natural clay – about 2ft6ins wide and 1ft deep.

The bowl shaped depression to a maximum depth of 10ins into the natural clay. It was later cut through by a grave which extended 3ft into the grave. This was not explored below 2ft6ins. The filling was of soil and clay with a mortar bed 5/6ins thick with its surface at 1ft above which the fill of clay with some mortar had been tightly packed showing up against the looser fill of the depression when seen in section.

Beyond 11ft6ins the fill was loose of small stones and mortar with some soil and rubbish. Beyond 16ft it appeared somewhat disturbed – perhaps by a modern excavation but no side of a trench could be seen in section. This fill was continuous with the disturbed strip along the east side of the trench.

#### GLASTONBURY 1955

Trench NS6 with eastern extension

NS6 across centre of sixth leg of S Aisle of nave 16ft by 4ft

East Extension from 2ft 8ins to 11ft 2in for 5ft 6ins. 8ft 6in by 5ft 6ins

Measurements from face of trench

Plan by PDH

Depths from medieval pavement level of aisle = base of plinth Section PPW

The thirteenth century bench remained in-situ with an extreme projection of 1ft 6ins from wall face. The modern turf set on some 6ins of soil rose between 3ins-4ins above pavement level.

At extreme north end of trench a modern disturbance cut obliquely across trench (NW-SE) filled with rubble, soil and 2ft 6ins deep it cut through robber fill of sleeper.

Beyond 10ft a loose fill mainly of small stones and mortar marked the robbery of the sleeper wall of the arcade. It continued below a depth of 5ft to step at the south side at 3ft or so was irregular, probably formed at time of robbery.

Between robbed sleeper and plinth a layer of cream mortar about 1ft thick indicated a pavement of tiles. A fugitive layer of stone chippings some 6ins down may indicate an earlier stone pavement. Over most of the east side of the trench an irregular area of mortar showed disturbance.

The mortar lay on a clay fill. The upper part, to a depth of 2ft 9ins, showed a greater admixture of soil; the lower part of 5ft was lighter and more homogenous. But the two were not separated by even a working floor and represented two stages in a single level-up after aisle wall and sleeper were built. The east side again showed an irregular disturbance.

At a depth of 5ft a shallow bed of rather yellow mortar was reached, the bedding for a pavement with an indicated surface at about 95.25 OD. This was not removed.

The wall foundation went down in a series of small steps. At the base at old pavement level was an undressed ashlar possibly in-situ.

The disturbance on the east side of the trench proved to be two adjacent burials within wooden coffins, apparently contemporary. They were fully uncovered in the east extension. The graves were cut through the lower pavement bedding with a base at above 95. OD.

GLASTONBURY 1956

Section T1

North Face

Datum:103.78

Length: 96ft. Measurements from vertical face of chamfered plinth.

Along central axis of inner chapel of N side of Transept.

Natural soil was stiff yellow clay. [C:3741] The original surface was preserved only in short stretches near the centre of the section [C:3739]. It showed dark soil with discolouration penetrating several inches from surface. It sloped down from east to west.

A ditch [C:3756] with its lips at about 1ft and 25ft was located and largely cleared. The sloping sides showed considerable distortion owing to slips and later disturbance. Bottom was not reached at 93.00, a depth of some 9ft below the original ground surface. (The profile on the S face was better with the lips at about 2ft and 19ft). (Complete clearance was considered impractical as the sides of the trench were unstable and any movement might have endangered standing masonry: it seemed desirable to get a complete section away from standing masonry). The lowest fill [C:3755] uncovered was a soft dark silt – a gradual accumulation of vegetation wet or damp conditions. About 95.00 a patch of stones [C:3754] sloping down from W to E appeared in the section and extended irregularly into the trench. Some stones were large, but the appearance of setting in a circle could not be substantiated. But the vertical face of the clay cut into the east slope between 97.00 and 95.50 indicates the possibility of a well, which must have been wooden lined. (The stones could have been connected with the making or maintenance of this well. It was impossible to establish the relation between ditch and supposed well, but the whole area is sealed by a stone bedding of twelfth century [C:3752]). The silt [C:3753] covered the stone layer and could be followed as high as 98.00 on the W side. There was no trace of a bank on the W side of the ditch where later construction had removed the old surface. On the E side the bank would have been cut away by the thirteenth century wall.

The next stage of occupation is represented by a robbed foundation trench [C:3737] showing between 39ft and 51ft 6ins. The section line runs axially along the wall the south side of which could be seen running along the centre of the trench. At the east end was the spring of an apse, which was cut by another robbed foundation trench [C:3733] shown to belong to the twelfth century. The intersection does not show on the section, where the two trenches are separated by an area of natural clay. The older foundation trench is therefore earlier than Herelewin's church and the presence of an apse is cogent evidence that it belongs to the church begun by Turstin. The trench [C:3737] is cut only 6ins into the undisturbed clay [C:3741] but the section shows that the old hard surface [C:3739] was overlaid by a further 6in-8ins of clay or clay with soil [C:3717]. This was a consolidated natural deposit of which the surface was not found.

It is probable that the thin band of mortar [C:3716] running west from 51ft 6ins and picked up again between 60ft and 61ft, beyond an undug baulk, represents the bedding for the pavement of this church. It lies at about 102.75 1in/ft above the bottom of the foundation trench [C:3737]. To the east, at about the same level, between 22ft and 26ft 6ins a layer of stones and coarse mortar [C:3743] 4ins thick and also at about 102.75 seems to represent an outside path cut into the soil

[C:3741], probably to provide drainage from the upward slope to the north and east. The kerb at 22 represents the east edge but the west side is cut away by a thirteenth century foundation trench.

The fill [C:3736] of the robbed trench [C:3737] ascribed to Turstin's church consisted of tightly packed rubble, mostly small stones, mortar debris and mixed clay and soil.

Between 80ft and 84ft a foundation trench [C:3787], robbed and with a similar fill [C:3786], crossed the trench. The area had been cleared to a considerable depth in modern times; the refill showed tip lines [C:3701]. Only the bottom 9ins of the medieval fill [C:3786] remained; it was cut at 84ft by a thirteenth century foundation trench [C:3759].

Between 35ft and 37ft 6ins was a foundation trench [C:3761] which cut through the earlier apse [C:3739]. It was, in turn, cut away by a thirteenth century foundation [C:3707] trench on the east side. It had a flat bottom at about 101.75 cut about 1ft 3ins into the natural clay. At the base of the west side a few stones [C:3740] – lias and limestone – remained in-situ set in a soft yellow mortar. The rest of the fill [C:3732] consisted of small stones, clay, earth and much mortar; it was sealed with a mortar bedding identical with that of the thirteenth century [C:3710]. Between 6ft and 8ft was part of a similar foundation trench [C:3783] with a flat base at about 100.75. The east edge was set on a shelf cut into the east slope of the early ditch [C:3756]. The lost west side must have stood on the ditch filling [C:3753] which had been consolidated with a random fill of blocks of stone [C:3752]. The remaining masonry [C:3751], similar to that in the trench further west, had been exposed in a modern trench [C:3709] refilled with sloping tip lines [C:3708]. The foundation [C:3751] was contemporary with a fill of discoloured clay and earth [C:3750] which merged with the upper silt of the ditch and extended over both lips sealing the truncated path [C:3743] outside the earlier apse. A thin layer of stones, spalls and clay hardly packed extended east from the foundation trench for a width of 3ft., probably the base of a drainage channel outside the wall. A layer [C:3734] of stones, spalls, clay and some mortar ran from 37ft 6ins to 54ft 6ins and reappeared [C:3715] between 59ft 6ins and 60ft 6ins beyond the undug baulk; it was sealed by the mortar bedding [C:3710] ascribed to the thirteenth century. No pavement or pavement bedding associated with these robbed walls was recognised.

Between 66ft and 72ft 6ins was a further foundation trench [C:3712] cut into the natural clay [C:3741] and truncated on the east by a robbed thirteenth century foundation trench [C:3714]. The fill was similar to that first described but with no masonry remaining in-situ. The curved profile [C:3712] of the west side suggests a foundation built free and not trench built as in the other instances. The flat bottom lay at about 99.75 cut about 1ft 3ins into the undisturbed clay [C:3741], the surface of which was visible 6ft further east. At the base of the trench the filling sealed a post-hole [C:3720] 9ins deep and 1ft across with a filling of soil [C:3719].

Between 26ft 6ins and 34ft 6ins was a robbed foundation trench [C:3707] with a loose fill of stones, mortar and soil typical of nineteenth century stone robbing [C:3706]. Part of the loose fill [C:3732] of the twelfth century trench to the west had slid in at the time of this robbing. Similar robbed foundation trenches with the same fill were found between 60ft 6ins and 66ft [C:3713] and between 84ft 6ins and 95ft [C:3201]. All three trenches belonged to the great church of the thirteenth century, the first two as sleeper walls. Associated with these robbed trenches were extensive remains of a thin soft mortar bedding [C:3710] for the contemporary pavement.

A modern excavation trench [C:3701] [C:3702] starting at 80ft 6ins and its bottom at 98.50 not recorded by FBB. Had a general modern lowering of the surface beyond 65ft rendered the west end of the section less informative than could have been expected.

#### GLASTONBURY 1956

##### Trench T1. North Extension

Cut north along the west aisle of the transept across north wall. Started from between 74ft 10ins and 78ft 10ins from east wall of transept, on north side of T1. Total length 40ft 6ins. Only sections 0-15ft and 27-40ft 6ins dug.

Measurements from north side of T1. The surface had been lowered in this area, but depths are correlated to main transept level of pavement.

Between 0 – 15ft.

The surface had been lowered during the layout of the Abbey. Turf was about 3ft below the main pavement level of transept; it was set on modern soil, which rested on pared down surface of natural clay. Between 1ft 6ins and 5ft 2ins a robbed foundation trench running east and west crossed the trench. It was cut to a depth of 1ft into the clay with a flat bottom about 4ft below main pavement level. The fill was of soil and a small amount of rubble and stone. The position and the character of the fill exclude a date in the thirteenth century or later. The character of the fill resembles that of the early trenches in T1, which are cut by twelfth century foundations and are therefore ascribed to Thurstan's church. It fits on the tentative plan as part of the north wall of the transept.

Beyond this a modern rambling drain crossed the trench diagonally from NE to SW. It incorporated medieval stone fragments.

Between 27 and 40ft6ins

Between 28 and 36ft – on the line of the north wall of the transept but rather wider – a very deep excavation was cut into the clay with a modern (not tipped) fill. The bottom of this fill was not reached at a depth of 3ft. from the level of the transept pavement. The bank had been made up with some 3ft of modern soil at the end of the trench. The whole area has been much disturbed in modern times and contains inter alia much broken window glass, probably from a greenhouse or frames. No trace of the walling of the east end of the Loretto Chapel, as restored by Bond, remained. It is clear that the whole northeast corner including the end of the north wall shown as 'stone debris' lay within the northwest angle of the thirteenth century transept. Of which the wide foundation trench had been dug into the solid clay.

Note the exact position of the north wall of the transept in this trench must be checked against the survey.

#### GLASTONBURY 1956

##### Trench T2

In outer chapel of N end of transept between 10ft and 14ft from N Wall.

Measurements from vertical face of plinth at east end.

(Survey of Transept (1956) PDH)

Depths from modern turf

##### Section

On removal of modern turf and humus irregular traces of mortar bedding for pavement of great church were seen at a depth of 4-6ins between 2ft 6ins and 7ft6ins, between 21ft and 26ft and beyond 34ft: it was best preserved in the last stretch. The solid masonry of the altar foundation remained intact for a distance of 2ft 6ins in front of the wall, for the whole width of the trench.

Between 8ft and 17ft and between 26ft 6ins and 33ft were modern disturbances, the former showing on the north side of the trench only, with a step apparently in-situ projecting from the south face at 13ft.

In the northwest corner of the trench a grave starting at 34ft and projecting 2ft into the trench appeared immediately under the mortar bedding. It was filled with a packing of rubble which was cleared to a depth of 3ft 2ins from the turf. It was cut partly into natural clay, partly into an older robbed foundation trench with a fill of small stones, spalls, mortar and clay and a base 1ft 6ins below the turf. On the south side of the trench the robbed foundation reached from 37ft to 33ft 6ins where it was cut by the modern disturbance. It was sealed by the mortar bedding. The fill was of small stones and spalls and mortar into some clay and soil.

The disturbance between 26ft 6ins had a fill of small stones and mortar of the type normally associated with nineteenth century stone robbing. It was followed to a maximum depth of 3ft 2ins below turf.

The disturbance between 8ft and 17ft had a top fill of stones, soil clay and rubbish with prominent tip lines. On the east side this continued to a depth of 3ft below turf, the lowest level reached. On the west side below 1ft 6ins a more homogenous fill of small stones, spalls and mortar began to appear gradually spreading into the disturbance. The fill being unstable it was decided to abandon the clearance as there seemed no possibility of obtaining a satisfactory profile of the early ditch located in T1. The disturbance gave the impression of a modern excavation trench some 4-5ft wide cut north and south along a nineteenth century stone robber trench which had failed to stand on the west side of the modern trench.

Between 20ft and 24ft 3ins on N face was a robbed foundation trench with a flat bottom at 1ft 6ins below turf. The fill was of small stones, spalls and mortar with some soil and clay like that at west end of trench. The east face ran straight across the trench, the west side curved round to cut the S face at 25ft 2ins. Some stones remained in-situ on east side set in cream mortar. On west side the trench cut only 4ins into natural clay but the surface layers, not less than 6ins thick had been stripped. On the natural surface was redeposited clay carrying the mortar bedding of the late thirteenth century floor which partly sealed the robbed foundation trench. To the east a hard fill of spalls, mortar and some clay with its base level with the bottom of the foundation trench extended as far as 17ft when it was cut by the modern disturbance; the thirteenth century mortar bedding had been almost entirely removed in this area but it had clearly sealed the hard fill.

The edge of the ditch explored in T1 was noted at 4ft 3in – 5ft. It cut the bottom of the trench at 8ft where the modern disturbance began. The profile was badly disturbed. Near the north face and cut by it an irregular patch of stones roughly mortared probably represents the base for a scaffold pole or some constructional feature cut through the soft fill of the ditch to provide a firm bedding on the natural clay. It was covered by redeposited clay on which the mortar bedding rested.

An extension was cut north between 20ft and 26ft to uncover two stones set on edge seen when the face fell away (therefore not on section). This ran north and south measuring overall 5ft by 4ft with about 6ins between the two stones. They can never have carried a wall but may be the base of a feature connected with the north door.

## Section T2. North Face

Datum

Length: 39ft. Measurements from vertical face of chamfered plinth.

Along central axis of outer chapel of N side of Transept.

Natural soil was stiff yellow clay with original surface nowhere preserved.

Between 4ft 4ins and 7ft 9ins a slightly dished surface representing the side of a ditch and running N-S was cut into the clay. Truncated by a later trench at 7ft 9ins at depth -1ft 11ins.

Between 20ft 6ins and 25ft 1ins a foundation trench with vertical sides and a flat bottom at -7ins a few stones set in heavy yellow mortar remained in-situ on E edge. The filling above and beside these stones consisted of small stones, spalls and mortar with very little soil. A layer of mortar, proving the bedding for a lost pavement, sealed the western edge of the trench. Between 34ft and 30ft was a similar foundation trench, also sealed by the mortar bedding.

Outside the foundation between 16ft 9ins and 20ft 6ins a fill of stones mortar and spalls tightly packed filled a trench with its bottom at -7ins. It appeared to be a fill of hard core to provide drainage outside the wall against the face of which it had been set. Inside the foundation between 25ft 1in and 26ft 7ins a fill of earth covered the surface of the natural clay, which had been levelled at -4ins. Both fills were sealed by the mortar bedding.

Between 26ft 7ins and 34ft a trench loosely filled with small stones and mortar characteristic of nineteenth century stone robbing was cleared to a depth of -2ft. It had vertical sides.

Between 7ft 6ins and 16ft 9ins a further trench was also cleared to -2ft. The sides sloped slightly inwards. The fill was not homogenous but in layers sloping from west to east and included one thick layer of soil. The appearance was quite unlike the fill of nineteenth century robber trench and suggested a very modern dump. This largely overlay the line of the early ditch the slope of which

appeared to the east where the shallow upper layer of the ditch was packed with large stones covered by a shallow layer of spalls and clay which carried the mortar bedding of the lost pavement. The face of the altar with its face at 2ft 6ins remained in position with mortar still adhering to the upper surface of the stones. (A grave with a fill of loose rubble lying between 34ft 6in and 39ft has been projected into the section from the south face.)

## GLASTONBURY 1959

### Section N1 North Face

Datum 99.62

Length: 72ft. Measurements from NW corner of trench.

Parallel to axis of Nave and 21ft from S wall of aisle.

Natural at bottom of section was stiff yellow clay; it was nowhere discoloured and no old turf line was visible. The character of the clay suggests that the natural surface at W end was not lower than -2ft.

From 65ft 6ins to 69ft 6ins a foundation trench was cut into the natural clay. It was followed down to -3ft 7ins on the line of the section. The fill was rubble of comparatively small stones – not over 1ft long – set in soft yellow mortar; the material included lias and Tor burrs. The foundation was sealed by the mortar bedding.

Set directly on the surface of the natural clay and covering the foundation at the E end of the trench was a layer of soft brown mortar – the bedding for a pavement that had been removed. It varied between 2ins and 4ins thick. At the W end of the trench it was cut by a modern disturbance, but appeared in the east face of this disturbance in section. The level of the surface of the mortar bedding was -3ft 8ins. The space between 5ft and 13ft 6ins was not excavated to this level. From 13ft 6ins to 33ft 6ins it was continuous with a surface at -3ft 2ins, though a small space between 24ft 6ins and 26ft 9ins was not excavated. At 33ft 6ins the mortar bedding ended against the W face of a stone set on the clay. This formed part of a base extending to 34ft 9ins; the step set on this face had been removed. From 34ft 9ins to the end of the trench the bedding was continuous with a surface at -2ft 6ins. The space between 40ft 9ins and 46ft 3ins was not excavated to this level.

The pavement bedding was covered by a thick layer of clay. The material included a considerable admixture of soil so that the layer appeared much darker than the undisturbed clay in-situ, but very

little other material was found; it was free of builders rubbish and any trace of burning. The surface of the clay, slightly below datum, was somewhat irregular. It was covered by a layer of rubble – small stones with very little trace of mortar or builders debris. The two layers were separated by no occupation surface and seemed to have been laid down as part of a continuous process.

Over much of this section the rubble formed the base for a further bedding of mortar, soft and of a slightly pinkish tinge. From 24ft to 52ft the layer was 2ins-3ins thick and unbroken. At 52ft it stopped entirely, probably indicating a rise in level of the pavement. W of 24ft the layer was thinner and more fugitive but sufficient remained to show it had been continuous as far as 16ft. Beyond this point the bedding and much of the underlying rubble were replaced by recent fill. The mortar bedding was normally covered by a thin layer of small stones spalls and mortar, suggesting stone dressing on the surface after the pavement had been removed.

At the W end of the trench up to 5ft modern fill with tip lines reached down to slightly below the surface of the clay, indicating at this point the edge of the excavations of 1929. Immediately East a hole cut into the redeposited clay was filled with soil. It ran from 5ft to 7ft 3ins and was sealed by neither rubble nor upper mortar bedding.

A number of these records made during or at the end of each season in manuscript were on unsuitable paper, which had begun to deteriorate. These have been typed. The only corrections are literate. I have checked each typescript before destroying the original. Occasionally an additional note will be found: the date of addition in notes.

Signed: G B Raleigh Radford 30 vi 1989

