

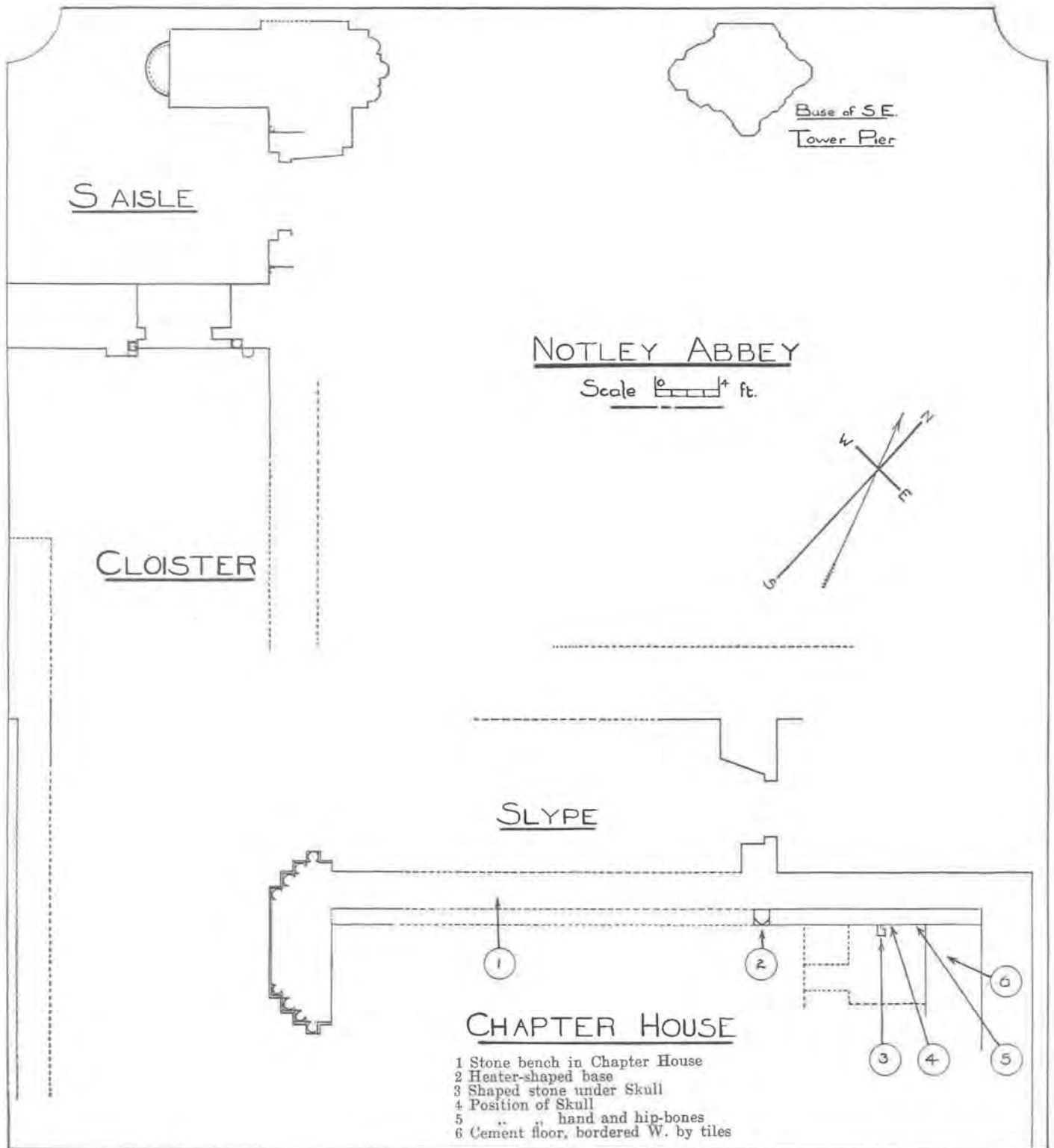
NOTES.

FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT NOTLEY
ABBAY

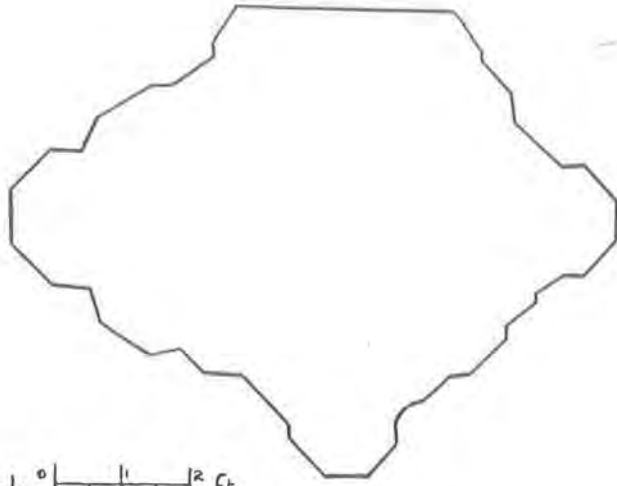
On resuming excavations in 1933 it was decided to investigate the Chapter House site which had been discovered in 1932. Following the east wall of the cloister the base of the jamb of the doorway leading to the Chapter House was uncovered (see plan). It was of four members with detached jamb-shafts of a hard, speckly black stone containing numerous small fossils; fragments only of these were found. The bases were typical Early English, and similar to those of the south jamb of the door leading to the slype, except for the greater depth of the second member. The south jamb had already been removed.

Attention was next directed to the north-east angle of the Chapter House building; here a layer of mortar was found approximately at the level of the cloister floor, but it did not spread continuously over the whole area. Westward of the east wall, and 3ft. 6ins. from it, a row of roof tiles was mortared into the floor level, while upon the wall flanking the other (that is, the north) side of this strip was a distinct mark showing that whitewash had been kept from it by some kind of dais, 3ft. 6ins. wide and 7 ins. above the mortared floor. To the west of the row of tiles the mortared layer disappears for seven feet, but the space between had been disturbed, and the evidence was obscure.

Under the stone bench in this corner (mentioned on p. 422 of the last issue of the *Records*), a remarkable interment was found. To the west of the row of tiles, and partly covered by the bench, was found a stone roughly worked with a hollow in which lay a skull. The rest of the skeleton seemed to be in place upon a layer of stones which included the corner of a rough slab 2 ins. thick; the bones of the hand,

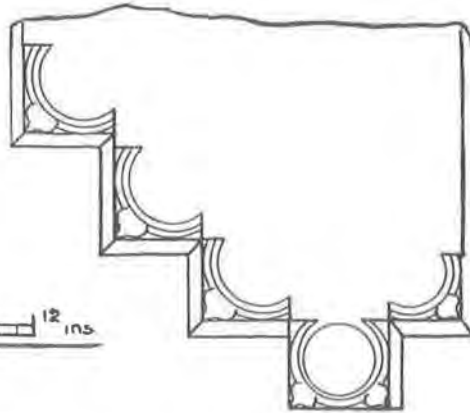


Drawn by C. T. Bounds



Scale $\frac{0}{1} \frac{1}{2}$ ft.

BASE OF S.E. TOWER PIER



Scale $\frac{0}{6}{12}$ ins.

CHAPTER HOUSE DOORWAY

BASE OF JAMB.

Drawn by C. T. Bounds

resting against the hip, were found under the tiles in the position indicated on the large plan (5). The easternmost part of the bench, if not the wall, had clearly been rebuilt for six feet; and the new ashlar facing finished against the older rubble construction of the bench to the west with a straight joint, in which was firmly mortared a tile similar to those found in the cloister. It was noticed, however, that although the bench and the wall behind it were distinct in the rubble portions, no trace was found in the rebuilt section of any wall-face above the bench. This may merely be the result of the wall-stump here being so near the surface of the ground; but on the whole it seems that if the bench continued along this section it was at least one course of masonry higher than to the west. The fact that there is no corresponding straight joint in the exterior face of the wall, however suggests that the rebuilding which took place may have been connected with the erection of some kind of monument over the burial, which is exactly beneath the ashlar facing. Upon the bench itself is the heater-shaped base, with pier of a similar section upon it, referred to in the last issue of the *Records* (p. 422)—see 2 on the large plan.

The precise date of this wall has still to be determined. Meanwhile, one may conjecture that the gap in the mortared floor indicates the site of abbots' graves, and that the mark of a dais suggests a low platform for the abbot's chair; the significance of the heater-shaped corbel and pier remains obscure, but if another were to be discovered to the west it might represent one shaft of an arcade over the bench, and to this supposition we are almost driven by the abnormal thinness of the Chapter House wall.

In addition to the above, the inner wall of the cloister was found, and is marked by dotted lines on the large plan. The south-east pier of the transept has been covered again. A small plan shows its peculiar shape..

These results have an appearance of inconsequence, but taking into account the very disturbed character of the ground, and the limited time available for digging, must be considered fairly satisfactory.

XPHER HOHLER.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS

Two discoveries of some interest have recently been made in the south of the county, and form a useful addition to the Roman *vestigia* of Bucks.

When excavating for a new roadway in a field north of Narcott Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, a little west of Kirby's brickworks, a workman drove his pick through a small pot containing 40 silver and 12 copper coins, ranging in date from 54 A.D. to 161.

The particulars are as follows:—

	<i>Silver Denarii.</i>	<i>Copper.</i>
Nero (54-68)	1	
Vespasian (67-79)	1	
Domitian (82-96)	1	
Trajan (98-117)	13	6
Hadrian (117-138)	18	5
Antoninus Pius (138-161) } and Faustina (died 141) }	4	
Uncertain	2	1
	—	—
	40	12
	—	—

Their ultimate destination is uncertain, but the local secretary is keeping in touch with the present holders.

In the field immediately south of Wapsey's Wood, Hedgerley, Mr. C. E. Vulliamy made an important discovery which will be the subject of a full report later, after a thorough investigation has been made.

Preliminary digging was carried out under the direction of Mr. E. H. Jack, by kind permission of the owner of the land, Mr. Richmond Watson; the results of this work suggest that it was the site of a Roman pottery kiln for native ware. One possible kiln, a great variety of pottery, and rubbish pits have so far been found. A preliminary examination of the pottery

by Mr. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, seems to indicate that it ranges from the end of the first century until about the middle of the third; the supposition that the pieces were kiln debris was confirmed.

E.C.R.

SHORT EXCURSIONS

The appointment of local secretaries has justified itself by their arranging visits to various places; the attendance on all occasions was large, to the point of embarrassment occasionally. Amongst them were the following:—

1933. 29th July. Brill was visited, and Mr. Morley Davis explained the geological formations which can be traced in that district. Dr. Ainsworth Mitchell spoke at Brill Church, Boarstall Tower, and Dorton Spa.

9th Sept. Chalfont St. Giles Church was visited, and Mr. Clive Rouse spoke upon the mural paintings and other notable features. Afterwards Stonewell's Farm, Beaconsfield Church and the Old Rectory were visited.

21st Sept. Verulamium was visited, and members had the advantage of Mrs. Mortimer Wheeler's guidance to the Roman city. As excavations have now ceased, the opportunity of seeing them was greatly appreciated.

1934. 14th April. Hartwell House was visited, and the 17th and 18th century details of that house were explained by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Eyre, the owners.

21st April. Mr. Clive Rouse took a large party to Burnham Abbey; it was the first occasion that the Society had been there since it was restored to religious usage, and the defilement of its former occupation had been removed. Previously Hitcham Church, with its fine 14th century glass, was visited; and afterwards Dorney Church and Dorney Court, where Col. Palmer kindly welcomed the Society.