

ST. PATRICK'S CHAPEL, GLASONBURY ABBEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING 2008-9

SUMMARY

St. Patrick's Chapel formed part of an almshouse for ten poor women founded by Abbot Bere (1493-1525). Archaeological recording of the building in 2008-9 showed that its standing structure incorporates masonry from four different building phases dating from the late medieval period, the latest of which is likely to have been associated with Abbot Bere's foundation. Earlier, the building probably served a different function, perhaps forming part of a lodgings block or almonry.

STATUTORY PROTECTION

St. Patrick's Chapel (O.S. grid ref. ST 4938 7/71) is a Grade II listed building (IoE Number 265969) and forms part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Glastonbury Abbey (Number 33050). It also lies within the Glastonbury Conservation Area.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St. Patrick's Chapel formed part of an almshouse for ten poor women founded by Abbot Bere (1493-1525). A terrier compiled in Abbot Bere's time records property assigned by him for the support of the hospital (almshouse), and John Leland states that Abbot Bere 'made an Almose House in the north part of the Abbey for vij or x poor Wymen with a Chapel'. The women were provided with accommodation in a row of ten cottages built against the western end of the abbey's north precinct wall. The chapel and almshouses stood within a walled courtyard with a gateway on its south. The gateway still survives, though turned through 90 degrees in the early 19th century when the almshouses were rebuilt and access to them altered. The gateway has a Tudor four-centred arch with a coat of arms which formerly bore the date 1512, as shown in an illustration of 1847, but the date has since weathered away. A plan of the almshouses, chapel and walled courtyard was made by John Carter in 1784 (Fig. 26). Another plan was made in 1811, showing the proposed rebuilding of the almshouses and relocation of the gateway, which took place by 1817. The almshouses were acquired by the Trustees of the abbey in 1962 and demolished in 1963. The chapel has survived with little alteration from the late medieval period. It is the only roofed building at the abbey site still used as a place of worship. A service is held there once a week. At other times it is open to the public as part of the abbey's visitor amenities and for private prayer.

THE PROJECT

A scheme to refurbish the chapel was begun in October 2008 and completed in June 2009. The scheme included removing modern cementaceous pointing from external masonry facework and protecting external surfaces by applying a coat of weatherproof lime render. Internal plaster was replaced where this had either fallen into poor condition or had previously been repaired using cement. In addition, the interior was freshly decorated with painted designs following late medieval methods and style. The new designs incorporate motifs drawn from the life of St. Patrick as well as supplementary themes drawn from past and present-day Glastonbury.

A requirement of the scheme was to provide a detailed archaeological record of existing exposed stonework and an assessment of the chapel's structural history. A brief for the archaeological work was supplied by John Allan, Consultant Archaeologist to the Abbey Trust (reproduced here as Appendix 1). Subsequent to the works on the standing structure, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a shallow drainage trench alongside the chapel's south wall.

Measured Survey

The survey was hand-measured and comprised a plan (Fig. 1), a stone-by-stone drawing of each external elevation (Figs. 2-6), and records of architectural detail (Figs. 7-10). Geological stone types were identified, and constructional mortars described. The survey was carried out largely before building works began, so drawn elevations include the modern cementaceous mortar pointing which was later removed. Initially it was thought that most internal plaster would be left intact, so no provision was made to record internal masonry facework. During the building works, however, it was found that the plaster had deteriorated more than at first suspected, so a significant proportion of it was replaced. A rapid survey was therefore made of the exposed stonework, using the methods of corrected photography (Figs. 11-14).

The plan and elevation drawings were copied onto digital format and coloured to show archaeological phases (Figs. 15-24). A full photographic record was also made.

DESCRIPTION

Phase 1 Enclosure wall (13th/14th century)

The earliest standing masonry was erected as part of a boundary or enclosure wall extending southward from the medieval abbey's northern precinct wall (Fig. 15, enclosure wall). The wall cannot at present be dated closely, but it probably belongs in the 13th or 14th century.

The wall is faced on its east side with coursed thin blocks of dressed lias and occasional Tor burr stones, the masonry being set in red/brown clay, hereafter referred to as 'earth' (Figs. 2 and 16). Its footings, by contrast, are made up predominantly of undressed Tor burr rubble (the footings are now visible, having been exposed by the excavation of a sunken pathway along the east side of the wall in the 18th century (Phase 5, below). A chamfered plinth course separates the dressed facework from the footings below, indicating the original ground level from which the wall was built up.

The west face of the wall is less well built, comprising largely lias and Tor burr rubble with some lias dressed blocks set in earth. Masonry coursing is far less apparent than on the east side (Figs. 3 and 17). There is a greater proportion of Tor burr stone in its lowest courses compared with those above, indicating that the footings on this side of the wall have been exposed by a reduction in ground level, as on the east side. There is no chamfered plinth. The poorer construction and absence of a plinth course indicates that this was the back of the wall, and that the better finished east side faced onto an enclosure extending toward the east rather than west.

Both sides of the wall have been extensively patched and re-pointed with cement in modern times.

At the south end of the east face, there is a panel of later medieval re-facing which probably covers over a scar left behind following the demolition of a buttress or eastward return of the wall (Fig. 16). It would seem unlikely that the wall was buttressed internally at only one point along its length, so the wall probably turned toward the east, either forming the southern limit of an enclosure, or a boundary dividing a larger enclosure into two.

Another feature dating from before the earliest phase of the standing building is a wall remnant exposed by excavation beneath the southeast corner of the chapel. Only a short length of the wall was uncovered and it is possible that more of it survives below ground further to the west. The wall is set at right angles to the enclosure wall and extends westward from its southern end, following a slightly different alignment from the present south wall of the chapel (Figs. 1, 15 and 25, wall remnant). The wall is built of lias stones. No mortar bonding was observable, but this may have been lost owing to the damp conditions below ground.

Phase 2 (15th century)

In Phase 2, a building was erected against the outer, west side of the enclosure wall. Phase 2 masonry includes the south wall and the east end of the north wall (Figs. 4, 5, 18, 19). Both walls are faced predominantly with coursed thin blocks of dressed lias set in earth, a few courses being thicker than the others. The north wall contains occasional inclusions of Tor burr and Doulling stones. Three of the Doulling stones in the latter wall infill original putlog holes set 1.6m above the level of the footings. Two further putlog holes set at about the same level were uncovered in the south wall during building works.

The south wall is faced almost to its east end, extending across the line of the earlier enclosure wall. This shows that either the Phase 1 enclosure wall turned eastward at this point, as suggested above, and that the south wall of the new building abutted its external corner, or that the enclosure wall also continued further southward and was broken through in order to insert a gateway next to the building. A gateway seems likely since the facing stops abruptly at a narrow vertical scar only 0.3m wide which may well formerly have housed jamb stones for a doorway.

The south wall of the building once continued further westward than at present. Part of its internal face is now encased within the masonry of the later medieval west gable wall (Phase 4, below). This shows that the Phase 2 building was initially longer; how much longer is uncertain.

The window and doorway in south wall are both Phase 2 features. Their construction is continuous with that of the wall face surrounding them, both externally and internally. The window has four lights with cusped cinquefoil heads typical of the 15th and early 16th centuries (Fig. 7; Plate 1). It was repaired in the 19th century when new mullions and jamb stones replaced original ones, and a new wooden lintel was inserted across its internal opening (Phase 6, below). The window contains fragments of medieval and early post-medieval painted glass which were probably salvaged from the original window during repair and re-set in their present positions (Plate 2). The doorway has a four-centred head with a double ogee moulding, also typical of the 15th century, though it could be a little later (Fig. 9; Plate 3). One of the doorway's jamb stones was repaired in the 19th or 20th century.

The north wall abuts the west side of the Phase 1 enclosure wall, and there is now a gap between the two where earth bonding material has fallen away. The facing of the wall extends down lower than that of the adjacent Phase 1 enclosure wall, the difference in level being some 0.5m. This shows that the north wall was built within a terrace cut from the natural westward slope of the ground in this part of the abbey, the terrace providing a level site for the building's construction (the facing of the south wall extends down to the same level). At the base of the north wall there are some projecting footings which are now visible above present ground level. The ground level must therefore have been reduced even further in post-medieval or modern times.

The west end of the north wall dates from a later phase (Phase 3, below). It seems unlikely that the Phase 2 north wall was rebuilt following structural collapse since there are no indications of weaknesses elsewhere in the building, and the junction between the Phase 2 and Phase 3 masonry is vertical and straight, extending from eaves level down into the wall's footings. This strongly suggests that the north wall originally turned northwards at this point, forming part of either a projecting feature or wing which was later taken down (Fig.15). The later wall would then have infilled the resulting breach in the north side of the building.

In addition to the south and north walls, at least some of the masonry forming the upper part of the east gable wall is likely to date from Phase 2, as illustrated in Fig. 16. The division between this and the Phase 1 masonry beneath is however difficult to delineate since the character of the facework and earth bonding is very similar. It would seem unlikely that the Phase 1 enclosure wall would have stood almost 4m high, so the uppermost courses are probably associated with the construction of the Phase 2 building's gable, which must have been built up from the top of the enclosure wall.

One internal feature dates from Phase 2. This is a small rectangular wall recess or cupboard which was built into the east end of the south wall close to the present altar (Figs. 12 and 22, recess). In medieval liturgical arrangements, there is usually such a cupboard, or aumbry, used to store sacred vessels, but this is set in the north wall whilst the south wall contains a piscina with a basin for rinsing vessels after use. The recess has no basin or drain, as would a piscina, so its original purpose is not clear.

It can be seen from the description above that the Phase 2 building did not follow the same simple rectangular plan as the present structure, and was longer. Its remains contain no architectural features which explicitly identify it as a chapel. The building may well have served another purpose and only later been converted to a chapel by Abbot Bere.

Phase 3 (late 15th century)

Phase 3 masonry is curiously crude by comparison with that used in preceding and subsequent medieval phases. Its lower part is made up almost entirely of undressed Tor burr rubble, whilst above, the facework comprises mostly thin lias blocks mixed with some Tor burr stones, all set in red/brown earth very similar to the bonding used in Phases 1 and 2 (Figs. 5 and 19). The uppermost masonry is the more carefully constructed, and the builders appear to have made some attempt to match the coursing of the Phase 2 wall to the east. Much the same pattern is evident in the construction of the wall's internal facework, although here, the vertical junction between the masonry of Phases 2 and 3 is more ragged, probably owing to the removal of quoin stones from the internal corner of the Phase 2 wing or projecting feature (Figs. 13 and 23) .

The present north doorway is incorporated into the Phase 3 wall (Plate 4). The doorway has the same four-centred head as the Phase 2 south doorway, and identical mouldings (Fig. 10). Originally, the two are likely to have formed a pair. It would seem likely that the doorway was salvaged from the demolished Phase 2 wing or projecting feature and re-set in the Phase 3 wall.

Phase 4 (early 16th century)

In Phase 4, the building was extensively refurbished. The new masonry incorporates numerous features which show that it subsequently served as a chapel. It seems very likely that it was this refurbishment, rather than the initial construction of the building, which was carried out in Abbot Bere's time. Phase 4 masonry comprises the present west gable wall and the ashlar facing at the west end of the north wall, plus alterations made to the east wall. The masonry is characterized by buff-coloured mortar bonding and the inclusion of large Douling ashlar stones.

The west wall is faced with dressed and coursed lias blocks with larger Douling ashlar quoins (Figs. 6 and 20). The gable end above eaves level is decoratively faced with alternating courses of lias and Douling ashlar. Set into this latter facework are three rectangular Bath stone panels carved with emblems of the medieval abbey - a central cross fleury above two roses (Plate 5). The Douling stone coping of the wall also originally dates from Phase 4, since the lowest coping stone on each side was fashioned from a large ashlar block set within the gable end wall face. The upper coping comprises individual capping stones. These might be original, but some or all could have been replaced when the coping was lifted and re-laid during later repairs to the roof.

The interior of the west wall is less well faced than the exterior. It consists of undressed rubble with little evidence of coursing (Figs. 14 and 24). The wall retains its original plaster which is continuous and identical with the buff-coloured Phase 4 mortar. On the surface of the plaster there are traces of red, yellow and black paint from a polychrome design. There are vestiges of straight lines which once bordered two rectangular panels, but the painting within the panels is now too fragmentary to reconstruct anything from the original subject (Plate 6). The painting may have been defaced and/or painted over following the Reformation, like most medieval religious iconography in the country.

The west wall is continuous in construction with the external ashlar facing at the west end of the north wall, which must therefore also date from Phase 4. The masonry coursing of the two walls is continuous around the north-west corner and the mortar bonding is identical. The ashlar facing extends to the Phase 3 north doorway and rises vertically to eaves level (Figs. 5 and 19). Its construction appears to have disturbed part of the adjacent Phase 3 masonry just below eaves level which was rebuilt at this time using buff-colored mortar. The ashlar facing includes a stoup set at waist height next to the north door, as well as an incised letter S on a nearby stone.

At the south-east corner of the building, on the east face, there is a panel of re-facing comprising largely Douling ashlar stones bonded with the same Phase 4 buff-coloured mortar (Fig. 16). As mentioned earlier, this probably covers over a scar marking a former eastward return of the Phase 1 enclosure wall (Phase 1, above). The re-facing is likely to have taken place soon after the wall was taken down, so the Phase 4 refurbishment of the chapel

appears to have coincided with a re-planning of the enclosed area to its east. The re-facing includes a stone set at eaves level similar to those at the west end which additionally formed the lowest course of coping (above). Another such stone survives at the north-west corner within a smaller Phase 4 alteration at eaves level. The refurbishment of both gable ends of the building would strongly suggest that it was re-roofed at this time.

Another feature in the east wall which probably dates from this phase is a Bath stone panel displaying a shield carved with a cross flanked by two vessels (Plate 7). The panel is set in red/brown earth rather than mortar, but a vertical packing stone set between it and the Phase 4 re-facing at the south-east corner suggests that the panel was inserted at about the same time, perhaps as an afterthought. The two vessels have been interpreted either as beer jugs constituting a rebus of Abbot Bere, or phials of holy blood and sweat connected with the legend of Joseph of Arimathea, which Bere actively promoted. Close inspection of the vessel forms shows that these are markedly similar to table jugs of the later medieval period.

A further Bath stone panel survives within the internal facework of the east wall. This is set in Phase 4 buff-coloured mortar and was inserted into the surrounding earth-bonded Phase 1 masonry to the north of the altar (Figs. 11 and 21). The panel was originally decoratively carved in three dimensions, but its projecting elements were largely removed when the stone was dressed back to the plane of the wall at a later date, probably following the Reformation. It is not now possible to distinguish particular features, but a shallow outline remaining on its south side could be interpreted as the edge of some foliage (Plate 8). The panel was placed at the same height as the top of the altar table. Originally, it may well have displayed an image or motif associated with chapel's patron saint, St Patrick.

Two former features of the chapel shown in illustrations of the 18th and 19th century, almost certainly date from Phase 4. John Carter's illustrations of 1784 shows the southern boundary wall of the almshouse enclosure extending westward from the south-west corner of the chapel, and one of the illustrations published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1847 shows a buttress extending southwards from the same corner (Figs. 26 and 27). The wall and buttress were taken down in the 19th century. Their removal left behind scars in the Phase 4 masonry which were then patched over (Phase 6, below). The existence of the repaired scars strongly indicates that the two features were originally built into the corner at construction, and therefore belong in this phase, rather than having been built up against the building at a later date.

The present Purbeck stone floor of the chapel may well have been laid as part of the Phase 4 refurbishments, but could conceivably be later. The pattern of the flagstones shows a division of the chapel's internal arrangements into three parts: a raised altar platform or chancel at the east end; a central nave divided into two by a central passage or aisle; and a west end entered by the doorways to north and south (Figs. 1 and 15). The northern doorway was for the use of the women occupying the almshouses, whilst the southern doorway would have been for the officiating priest, since it was entered from outside the almshouse enclosure.

Phase 5 (18th century)

Phase 5 masonry dates from the 18th century, when the eastern boundary wall of the almshouse enclosure was heightened by 1m and a gateway inserted through its north end. The masonry is bonded with brown ash mortar and comprises areas of coursed lias stones interspersed with larger Doulling ashlar blocks which were probably salvaged from the abbey

ruins and re-used (Figs. 2, 3, 16, 17). The gateway has since been taken down and there is now a modern rustic archway set into the wall. Only the southern jamb of the earlier gateway survives. It is chamfered with run-outs at top and bottom.

The wall was also extensively repaired and underpinned at this time. The underpinning of its east side is doubtless associated with the creation of the present sunken area extending along this side of the wall. Here, the ground has been reduced by some 0.6m, so the wall's footings are exposed. It would seem likely that the ground level was lowered in order to form a level pathway leading into the abbey grounds from the north, where the precinct wall is broken through by an acutely pointed archway of probable late 18th-century date. A path is shown in this position on the tithe map of 1844 (Fig. 28).

The altar table inside the chapel was either refurbished or replaced in the late 18th century. The altar top is not a single stone slab, but made up of six stones laid side by side. The two largest stones are incised with the usual five crosses plus the initials W W and the date 1789 (Fig. 1).

Two late 18th- or early 19th-century features were exposed by the excavation of a drainage trench alongside the chapel's south wall in June 2009. These were a ceramic land drain, which formerly extended the length of the wall but which has since been largely broken up by gardening activity, and an associated mortared stone setting which probably once collected rainwater at the bottom of a downpipe from a gutter (Figs. 1 and 15).

Phase 6 (19th century)

A number of repairs and additions were made to the chapel during the 19th century. These include the replacement of the east window and gable wall above it (Figs. 8 and 16), repair of the south window (Fig. 7), and at roof ridge level, the addition of the present cross finial and bellcote (Figs. 16 and 20). Phase 6 masonry is bonded with hard gray ash mortar containing occasional coal fragments. The new east window and bellcote are built entirely of Douling stone. Repairs to the masonry elsewhere comprise a mixture of lias and Douling stone. As mentioned above, the Phase 4 enclosure wall and buttress extending from the south-west corner were demolished in the same period.

One of the earliest alterations was the removal of the enclosure wall extending westwards from the south-west corner. The wall was taken down and rebuilt further to the south sometime between 1821 and 1844, as shown by comparison of the tithe map and the plan made of the abbey grounds by H. B. Guy (Figs. 28 and 29). The buttress survived until at least 1847 when it was illustrated in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The bellcote was added in the mid or late 19th century. It replaced an earlier bell hung within a wooden case fixed to the west gable wall just above eaves level, as shown in another of the drawings published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1847 (Fig. 27).

It is not known precisely when in the 19th century the east window was replaced. The window is illustrated in one of the 1847 drawings much as it survives today, although the window head is shown more acutely pointed than at present and the window tracery lacks the existing short verticals above each of the four lights (Fig. 27; Plate 9). These minor differences may however be owing to artistic license in such a small scale drawing. Two put-log holes inserted into the masonry immediately beneath the window are likely to have held timbers

supporting a builders' platform associated with the window's replacement. The gable wall above the window was entirely rebuilt when the new east window was inserted.

The repair to the south window may date from the 19th century or possibly the early 20th century. Its three mullions and eastern jamb have been replaced, as has the present wooden lintel spanning the internal window opening. An area of 19th-century rebuilding above the window's exterior suggests that the window head was taken out during repair and then later restored to its original position. The western jamb of the south doorway has also undergone minor repair.

The bellcote is built of Douling ashlar (Plate 10). The construction of the bellcote included rebuilding the uppermost courses of the gable wall beneath. The mouldings of the bellcote on its west side have been considerably eroded by weathering.

It would seem likely that the medieval roof was also replaced in this period, but the roof space was not accessible during the 2008/9 repairs, so it was not possible to observe whether this was indeed the case. The rebuilding of the entire gable wall above the east window and the addition of the bellcote at the west end suggest major works to the roof. In addition, observations made during the recent re-plastering of the interior show that the original plaster along all the wall tops has been replaced with hard grey ashy plaster very similar to the 19th-century ash mortar. Similarly, the present wooden cornice at ceiling level has been set against the wall tops using ash mortar, in places packed out with broken roofing tiles of 18th or 19th-century date, showing that it must be a recent feature rather than a medieval one.

Phase 7 (20th century)

A number of minor repairs were made in the 20th century, most using cementaceous mortar. The coping stones of the west gable have been lifted and re-laid. A number of stones in the gable wall immediately beneath the coping were re-set or replaced at the same time. The uppermost course of the south wall is also set in cementaceous mortar. These repairs probably date from 1976 when the custodian's report mentions repairs to the roof (Cox and Thorp 2004, 41). The same report mentions internal redecoration, so the cementaceous plaster which was removed from the lower parts of the interior during the works of 2008/9 probably date from this time.

A small area of masonry forming part of the internal western jamb of the north doorway has been replaced largely with modern industrial bricks (Fig. 23). Bricks were also used to pack a modern drain pipe set into the north end of the eastern boundary wall of the almshouse enclosure (Fig. 17). The whole of this latter wall has been extensively re-pointed with cement, and the present capping stones along its top are laid in cementaceous mortar. Small stones were used to pack areas where the earlier masonry has suffered weathering damage.

DISCUSSION

Phase 1 Enclosure wall and excavated wall remnant (13th/14th century)

The enclosure wall originally formed part of a boundary surrounding a yard or enclosure to the east of St. Patrick's chapel. It is known from documentary sources that there was an enclosure in this area by the early 13th century, and that a 'new' enclosure had been made by 1332 when it was assigned to the office of Sacrist, so that profits arising from it would pay

for an increase in the number of secular chaplains serving in Lady Chapel from two to six (Woods 1994, 27-8). The four new chaplains were granted a house 'newly built in the garden of the chaplains of the Galilee, next to the outside gate' (two Galilee chaplains had been instituted earlier). It is clear therefore that this part of the abbey contained enclosures and buildings associated with the chaplains of the Lady Chapel and Galilee, and that these changed over time. Humphrey Woods makes a number of suggestions regarding the development of the area in his report on excavations carried out in the vicinity between 1987 and 1993 (*ibid.*, 66-70).

The wall remnant excavated beneath the southeast corner of the chapel clearly pre-dates the standing building and is likely to date from about the same period as the enclosure wall. Its alignment differs from that of the standing building but corresponds closely with that of a linear feature excavated a little to the southwest by Humphrey Woods (Woods 1994 22; Trench F, feature 909). Woods tentatively interpreted the linear feature as the robbed-down remains of a wall footing, but his description of its construction as – 'set into a cobbled layer...the southern edge was defined by pitched stones'....the core of the structure was composed of flat-laid stones' – would suggest an alternative interpretation as a raised metalled pathway. The feature was not fully excavated but was more than 1m wide. It was flanked along its south side by a cobbled surface which evidently was continuous and contemporary in construction (*ibid.* Trench F, feature 910). The latter surface continued for a length of more than 8.5m in an E-W direction and retained indented wheel ruts indicating use as a trackway. By combining the evidence from Woods' excavations with that uncovered in 2009, it seems reasonable to propose that a cobbled track, flanked on the north by a raised pathway and wall, passed to the south of the area later occupied by St. Patrick's Chapel (Fig. 25). No dating evidence was retrieved from the 2009 excavation, but Woods' excavation produced a sherd of a green-glazed jug handle dating from the 13th or 14th century from the core of feature 909 (*ibid.* 22).

Phase 2 (15th century)

There is no clear evidence to suggest that the Phase 2 building served as a chapel. It could have been associated with the lodgings for secular chaplains or possibly an almonry. The original layout of the building is difficult to establish from the standing remains. The building once extended further to the west and north, perhaps forming part of a much larger range of buildings which were later reduced in size when Abbot Bere founded the almshouse with its chapel.

Phase 3 (late 15th century)

The rebuilding of the north wall's west end in Phase 3 shows that the Phase 2 structure underwent at least one alteration before the building reached its present form and size in the later medieval period. It is curious that the Phase 3 wall was built in such a crude manner, and difficult to understand why it was left standing and not replaced when the building was refurbished in Phase 4. Some explanation may be forthcoming if the adjacent area were to be investigated by excavation in the future.

Phase 4 (early 16th century)

The Phase 4 building incorporates many features identifying it as a chapel, including the cross built into each of the two gable walls and the stoup beside the north doorway. There is

also evidence to show that the almshouse enclosure within which the chapel and almshouses stood dates from this phase. The evidence therefore points strongly toward the Phase 4 refurbishment having been carried out by Abbot Bere when he founded the almshouse in the early 16th century. The use of Bath stone for carved ornament in this phase is of interest. Bath stone also occurs in the early 16th-century Edgar Chapel's east end, but is rare elsewhere at the abbey.

Phase 5 (18th century)

Phase 5 alterations affected the enclosure wall extending northwards from the chapel rather than the chapel itself. The heightening of the wall helped screen the almshouses from the private grounds to the east, and the insertion of a gateway at its northern end provided access to the High Street via the adjacent archway which had probably then only recently been opened through the north precinct wall.

Phase 6 (19th century)

Phase 6 comprises repairs, replacements and additions made in the course of the 19th and possibly early 20th century. Some of these may be contemporary in date, comprising 'campaigns' of repair or improvement, but not necessarily all. Documentary research in the future might possibly uncover written records relating to the almshouses and chapel which could throw light on precisely when each of the alterations was made.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological recording project of 2008-9 has shown that St. Patrick's Chapel has a longer and more complex structural history than might have been expected from surviving documentary sources. Certain aspects of its development are difficult to clarify from the standing remains alone. In particular, the layout and purpose of the earliest building which was later converted to a chapel has not yet been established. Questions which remain outstanding may well be resolved should an opportunity arise in the future to investigate the immediate environs of the chapel by excavation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 - THE BRIEF

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF ST PATRICK'S CHAPEL, GLASTONBURY ABBEY 2006

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Purpose of the document

The present document outlines the archaeological recording which will be required as a component of a proposed scheme to refurbish St Patrick's Chapel, Glastonbury. Its purpose is to first to furnish archaeological evidence capable of informing the scheme as it proceeds, and second to provide a long-term record of this building which can serve as a basic tool in its future management. The record should incorporate evidence which will be exposed temporarily or concealed by the scheme, but should also extend to the other surfaces of the building.

This document is intended as a basis on which an archaeological contractor could offer a price for archaeological recording but does not itself give any guidance to likely costs. It is intended to form part of the submission for all consents required for the scheme, including Scheduled Monument Consent.

1.2 Historical Background

St Patrick's chapel is the last remaining component of an almshouse for women built by Abbot Beere (1493-1525) in 1512. In the Middle Ages this was separated from the remainder of the precinct of the abbey by a high wall. The women's cells were rebuilt in the 19th century, acquired by the Trustees of the abbey in 1962 and demolished in 1963. By contrast, the chapel is believed to have survived the post-Reformation period as a roofed structure.

As the abbey's Conservation Plan points out, the chapel has significance as the abbey's only roofed place of worship, and as the most prominent demonstration of the abbey's medieval charitable activities, and has important surviving medieval features including fragmentary medieval stained glass and the remnants of a medieval altar.

1.3 Building description

The chapel is a simple single-cell building with E and W gables, a N doorway, a high E window, a 16C Perp window on its S side. It retains its late medieval walls on its E, N and S sides, but the western wall was rebuilt by Caroe after 1909, incorporating early 16C sculpted panels. Its east window was replaced in the 19th or early 20th century. The interior is plastered throughout. A fuller description can be consulted through the Listed Building, description on the English Heritage, Images of England website.

1.4 Proposed Scheme

The proposed scheme entails the protection of the outer wall surfaces of the chapel by the application of a lime mortar render. The moulded stonework is to be cleaned, followed by the application of sheltercoat. The internal wall surfaces are to be investigated and areas of cement render, the sources of trapped damp, to be removed entirely. The new surfaces are to be replaced in lime mortar. A proposal has been made that underfloor heating should be provided.

1.5 Statutory protection

Since 1915 the building has formed part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Glastonbury Abbey (No. 33050). It is also a Grade 11 Listed building and falls within the Glastonbury Conservation Area.

2.0 WORKS REQUIRED TO FORM PARTS OF THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

Prior to the start of building works, a search should be carried out to draw together the relevant documentary and cartographic evidence relating to the chapel. This should include any documentary evidence relating to repairs by Caroe but should not entail searches of primary medieval documents relating to the foundation. The pictorial search should include a websearch including the Somerset County Council Timelines site, and consultation with Vicky Dawson regarding other readily accessible sources including the Somerset Studies Library in Taunton.

2.2 Sample patch tests for sequence of surface layer and any medieval painted schemes

It is at present unknown whether the chapel's internal wall surfaces preserve any evidence of painted schemes of any date. In order to provide information about the sequence of paint layers and the likelihood of the survival of medieval painted schemes, a series of patch tests should be carried out by a competent specialist, sampling a variety of locations on each wall. The specialist should analyse the samples and produce an illustrated report which should form part of the submission for grant aid. The procedures should follow those recommended by English Heritage and the Church of England in the following documents:

<http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/93296Eng Her.pdf>

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/article.php?tabnam=cssminidac&artid=67&pagetyp=mini>

2.3 Photographic record

Prior to any intervention [or after removal of any cementitious mortars if these are to be removed], a full photographic record of the building in

black-and-white [for permanent archive] and digital form [for short-term use] should be prepared. This should include all wall surfaces, sculpture and ancient window glass

3.0 WORKS TO B& CARRIED OUT AS THE REPAIR PROGRAMME PROCEEDS

3.1 Drawn Record

A series of elevation drawings of all four external and internal elevations should be prepared at the working scale of 1:20 with fixed datum heights. Stone-by-stone drawings should be prepared of each external face, identifying mortars and geology. Drawings of mouldings of architectural detail should be prepared at 1:1. The eastern internal elevation should be extended to form a section of the building. A version of the drawing should show the phasing of the structure. These drawings can be prepared by hand measurement or by photogrammetry but must be drawn up in digital form; the final record should be viewable in colour as a digital file. A floor plan at the same scale should also be prepared.

3.2. A written account of the building should describe its fabric and structural history.

4.0 REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

4.1 A full archival report presenting the records made, with a commentary and discussion, will initially be prepared for the client. A condensed version with selected illustrations, should be prepared. This should be capable of being published - either as a section of, or an appendix within, a volume presenting the archaeology of the abbey, or in the Somerset *Proceedings*. Copyright would be held jointly by the writer and the abbey.

4.2 A version of the report should be prepared as a pdf file which will be posted on the Glastonbury Abbey website when the site can accommodate it.

5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSIT

5. 1. An ordered site archive, including site notes, indexed negatives and prints of photographs, digital files on disk, will be deposited at the abbey by the contracting archaeologist upon completion of the project.

John Allan, Consultant Archaeologist,
Glastonbury Abbey,
27.7.2007