



**Kent Archaeological Society
Archive Box No.3 P.J.Tester FSA
Boxley Abbey**

Review of Contents

by
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September 22nd 2020

All Sketches and Photographs within this
review are Courtesy of Kent Archaeological
Society

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1 Introduction

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) are currently renovating the Grade II* listed St. Andrews Chapel close to the Boxley Abbey Precincts.

Boxley Abbey itself has also hosted SPAB working parties in 2019 and 2020 where the Abbey buildings have provided training opportunities for SPAB members and scholars. The entirety of the Abbey Inner Precinct is a Scheduled Monument to protect the site's archaeological resource.

P.J. Tester FSA (PJT) published a paper entitled "Excavations at Boxley Abbey" in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol. LXXXVIII (1973) describing the selective excavations that had been undertaken at Boxley Abbey during 1971 and 1972. The limited object of the excavations was to establish the general plan of the church and claustral buildings.

PJT's working notebooks and site photographs from the excavations have been archived by Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) and are held in the KAS library at Maidstone Museum.

2 Objectives

Mr. Graham Keevill, Archaeological Consultant working with the SPAB sought assistance in reviewing the PJT Archive located at the KAS library at Maidstone Museum.

The objective of the review is to assess the contents of the archive and copy and circulate information relating to the Boxley Abbey excavations undertaken by PJT and his team in 1971-72. The focus of the review has been to provide the working sketches and photographs in order to supplement the published record and possibly guide any future archaeological investigations.

The review has not provided supplementary information on the building materials section of the paper but focussed on the physical layout of the buildings.

All Sketches and Photographs copied and circulated within this report are courtesy of Kent Archaeological Society.

3 Methodology

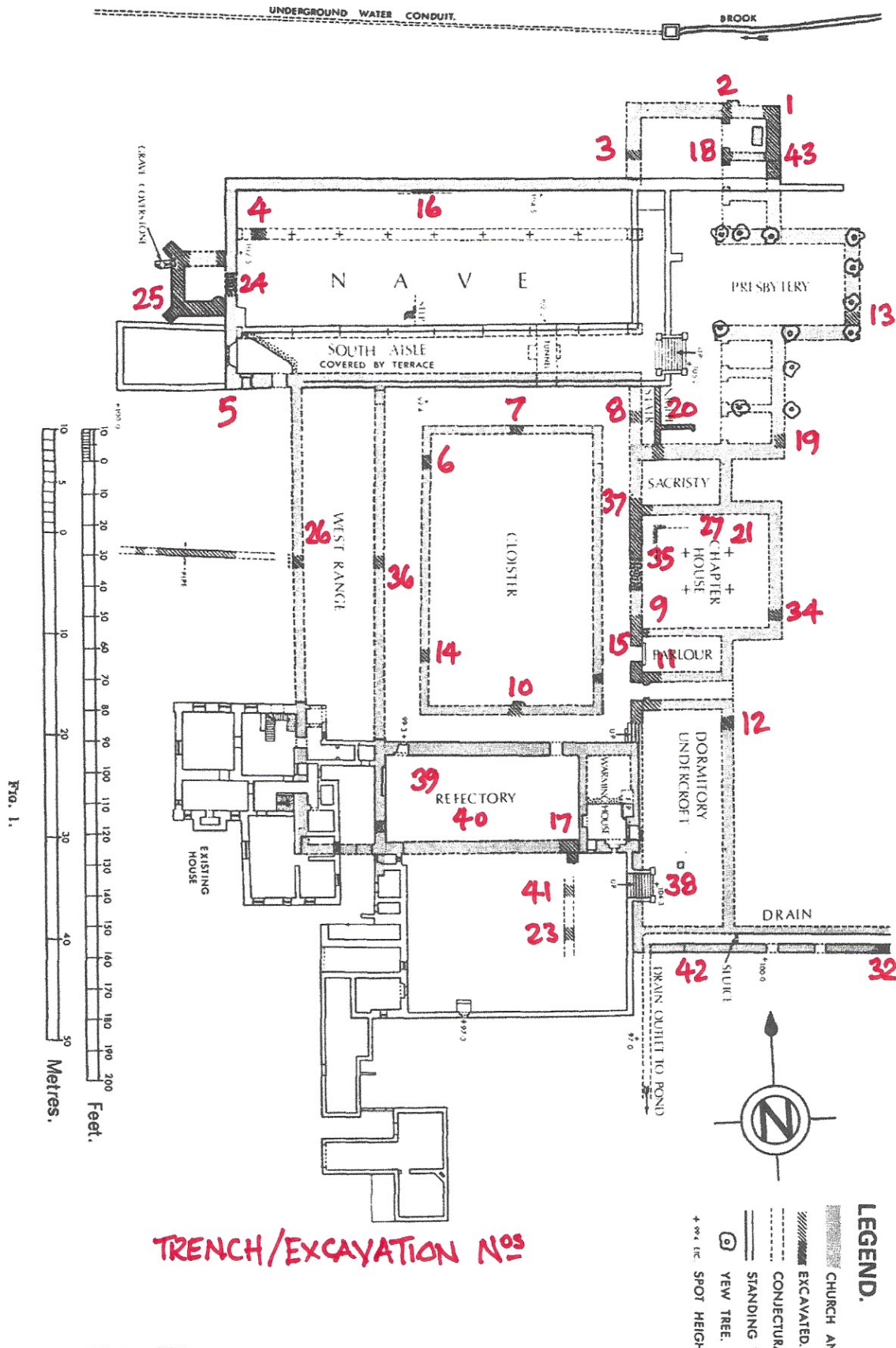
The archive contains the workbook compiled during the excavations, numerous titled and untitled photographs and various letters. The workbook comprises detailed sketches and notes of each trench and predictably provides more detail than the published record.

As noted above the excavations had a limited objective. However, the additional visibility of the more detailed work sketches provides more specific location information and “colour” which would allow accurate targeting of possible future archaeological investigations.

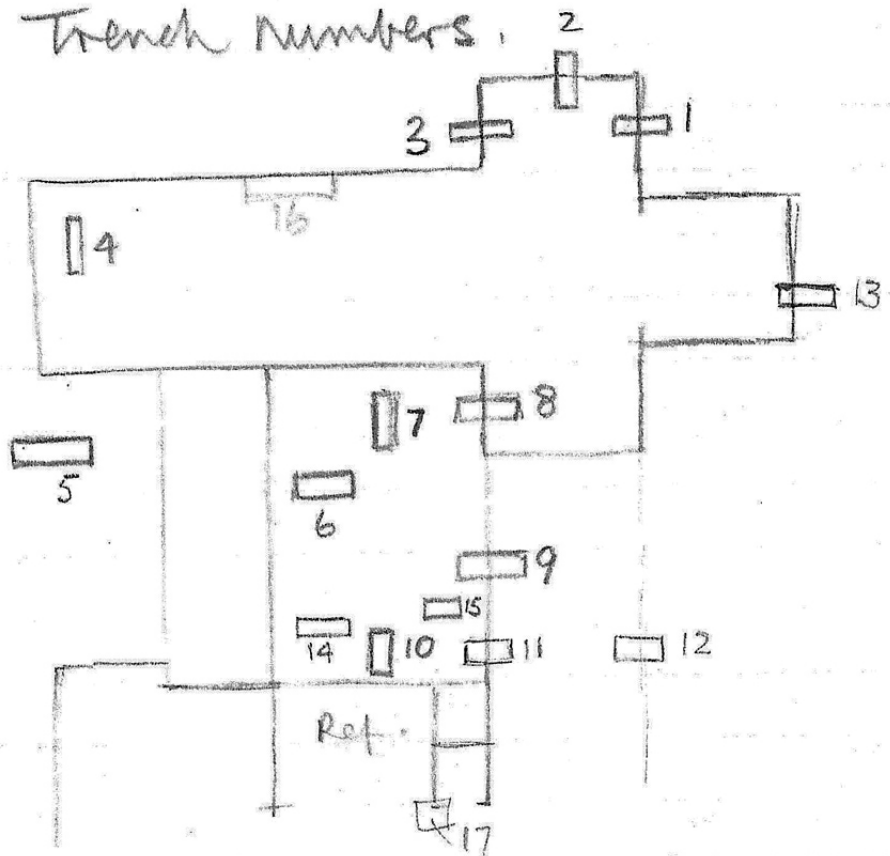
In order to facilitate the use of the archive information the approach of this review has been to duplicate sections of the original PJT paper and insert the relevant pages from the workbook and photographs alongside the specific area of the abbey buildings referenced. Whilst this is a somewhat blunt approach it should assist the reader in the assimilation of the information.

4 Layout Traced by Excavation/Trench Number

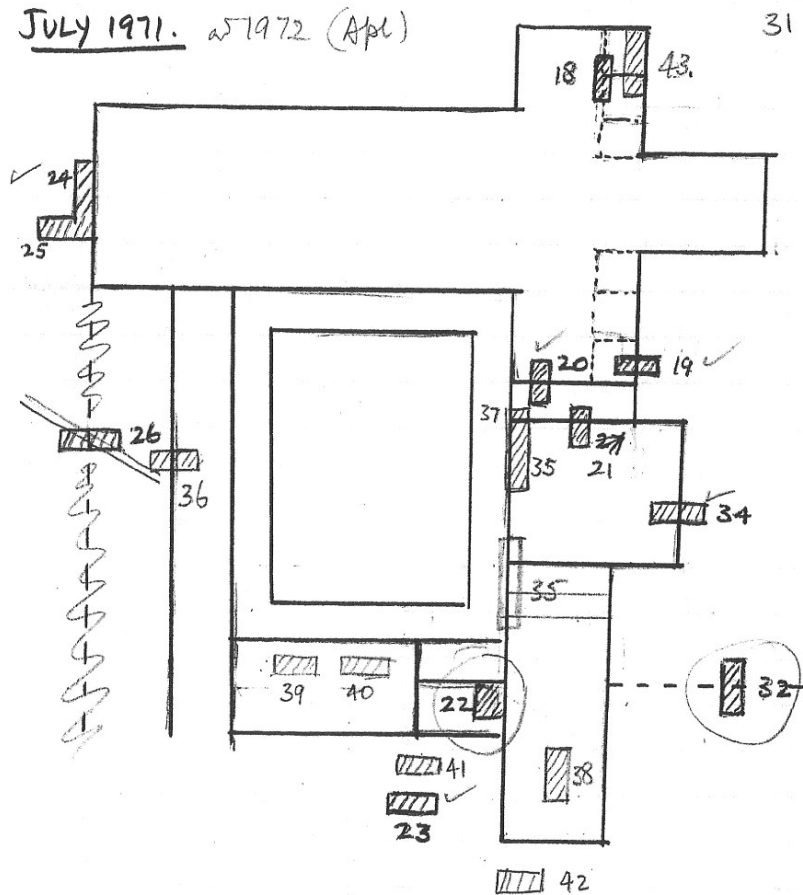
Trench numbers from the workbook annotated on the layout from PJT published paper shown below. It should be noted that trenches 22 and 32 were not dug and there are no notes or sketches for trenches 28-31 nor 33. In addition, it should be noted that the excavation on the south side of the nave referenced on page 10 was not given a trench number.



Trench Numbers.



JULY 1971. w/1972 (Apl)



22 and 32 not dug.

5 Description of Remains in 1973

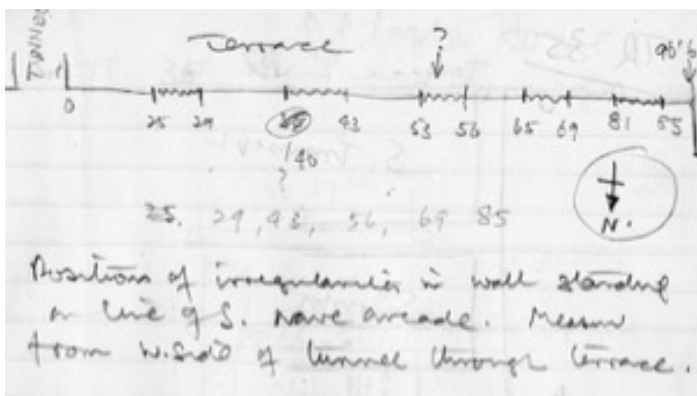
The following description of the remains has been duplicated from the PJT 1973 paper. Workbook sketches, notes and photographs from the Archive Box have been inserted within the text to associate the excavation activities with the published paper. Where original plate references remain please refer to the complete version of the original paper in Arch. Cant. 1973.

5.1 THE NAVE

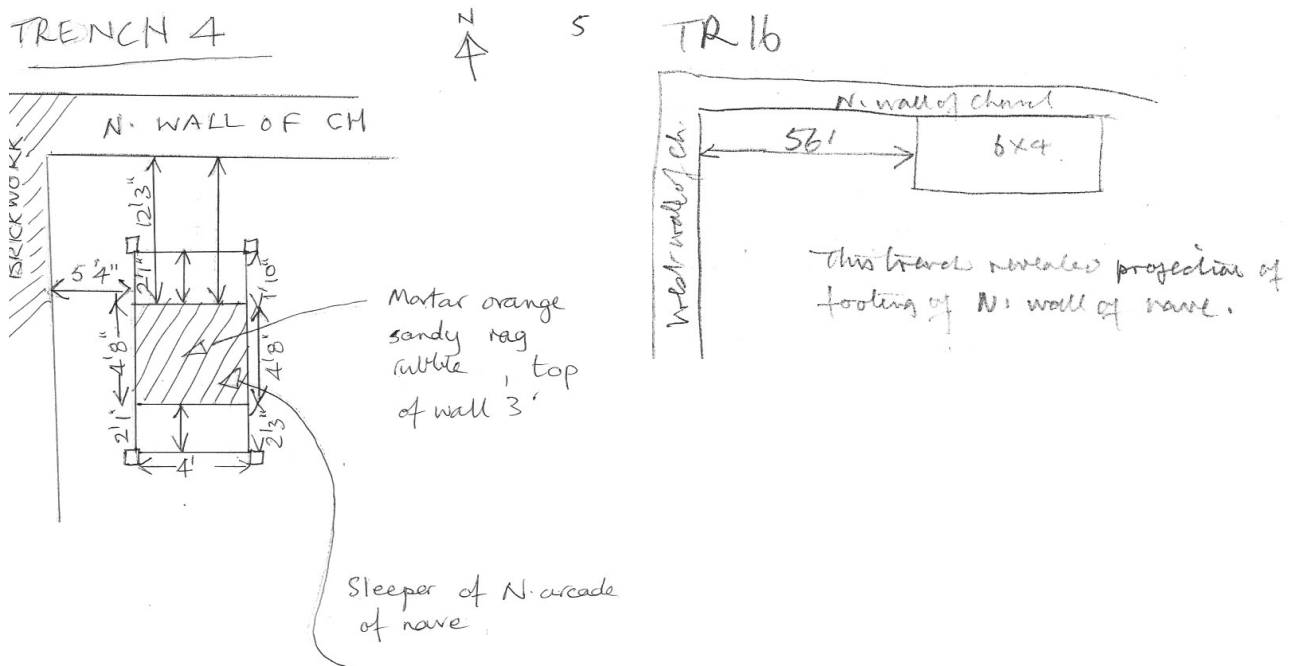
The outline of the nave of the mid-twelfth-century church is represented by standing walls, largely rebuilt or re-faced, on the north, west and south sides, now enclosing the remains of a derelict water-garden. The western part of the south wall is original and contains a round-headed doorway. This and the rectangular opening just west of it were unblocked by Payne, and subsequently a small area was enclosed to the north and roofed over to form a modern chapel. In the west wall the splayed jambs of a blocked medieval window are apparent.



The rectangular opening in the south wall shows little evidence of medieval origin and has jambs of much-weathered Tudor bricks. Payne is said to have found it blocked by numerous fragments of a late-medieval canopied tomb, now preserved. in the modern chapel. Here can be seen the angle of the western respond of the south arcade, built of chalk ashlar. The plain round-headed doorway referred to above is undoubtedly twelfth-century and formed the south-west entrance to the church. Further east, there is another round-arched opening, turned in brick, forming the entrance to a tunnel passing under the terrace covering the site of the south aisle and possessing no signs of marking a medieval entrance. Just east of it is a further brick arch, almost at ground level, possibly related to the drainage of the water-garden. The main entrance to the church from the cloister would have been in this south wall near its junction with the transept, but all trace of it has disappeared with modern re-facing.



After the Dissolution the whole of the south aisle was filled with rubble and soil to form a terrace, the south arcade being replaced by a stone retaining-wall. The north arcade has disappeared completely but an excavation at the west end of the nave revealed the sleeper wall on which it stood, as shown in the plan.



There is no clue as to the number of piers once separating the nave from its aisles but Elliston-Erwood's estimate of eight bays seems reasonable and has been followed in our reconstruction. Probably the piers were cylindrical for in our recent digging a large block of chalk was discovered with a curved face suggesting that it formed part of such a feature. The radius indicates that the pillars would have been no less than 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter. On the evidence of what obtained elsewhere in Cistercian churches of the mid-twelfth century, we may safely conjecture that the arches of the arcades were pointed and that above them was a clerestory of round-headed windows, with no triforium as this was out of keeping with the austere conventions of the Order. Vaulting over the main span of the nave is unlikely, though possibly the aisles were covered in the characteristic Cistercian manner with pointed barrel vaults set across each bay, as can still be seen at Fountains Abbey.

In the west wall slight indications were detected below ground level of the sides of the main doorway but robbing and reconstruction had removed all architectural details.

The western piers of the crossing lie under a modern garden wall and the terrace, and could not be examined. They may have supported a low central tower of only sufficient height to receive the abutment of the pitched roofs of the nave, presbytery and transepts, for anything more pretentious would have been in violation of the Cistercian ordinances of that time. A small excavation against the foot of the north wall showed that the medieval foundations project slightly from the inner face of the existing wall which stands upon them.

TILES ON NAVE FLOOR
(South Side)

37' 10" to tunnel

21' 0" width of terrace

11' 4"

chalk

5' 1"

2' 5"

2' 6"

3' 10"

Depth of chalk is less than surface 2' 1"

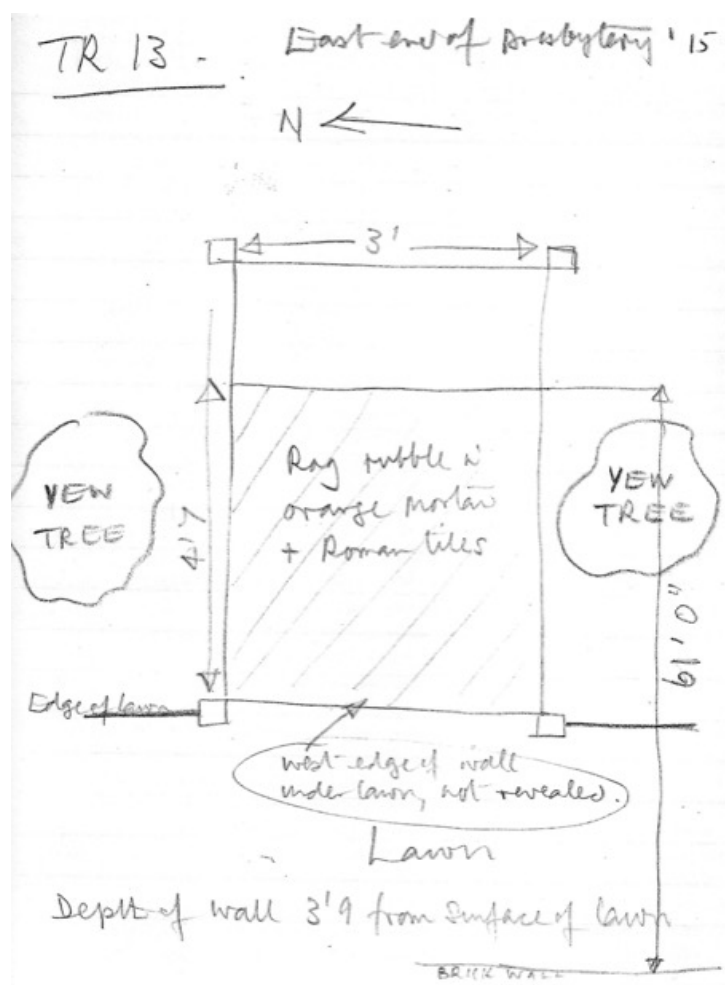
Triangular tiles on edge indicate rise of destroyed step covering the chalk bedding to the east.

Nave S. Side.

Reviewer's Note: No trench/excavation number was allocated to this position on the south side of the nave.

5.2 THE PRESBYTERY

Bordering three sides of the raised lawn now covering the area east of the nave are nine clipped yew-trees planted in times past to mark the foundations traced by Payne (Plate IA). They form the outline of a typical short square-ended eastern limb of the church, such as the Cistercians frequently constructed before the relaxation of their customs in the late-twelfth and thirteenth centuries. To verify the traditional significance of these trees, we excavated between two in the eastern alignment and found, at a depth of 3 ft. 9 in., a massive rubble foundation marking the eastern limit of the church. The presence of flower beds prevented us from confirming the north and south walls in similar manner.



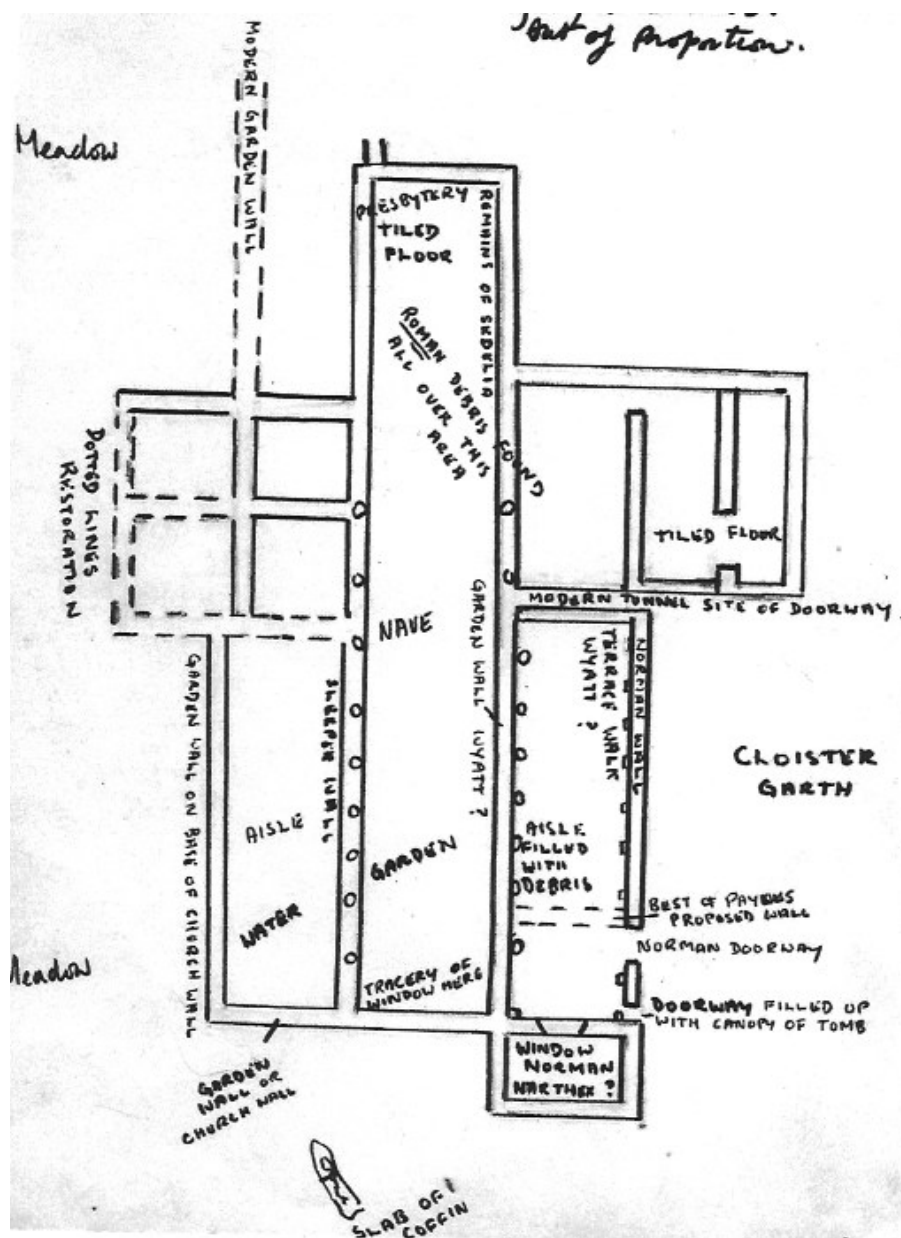
The very rough sketch-plan made by Hubert Bensted and referred to by Elliston-Erwood shows this presbytery and notes the presence of a tiled floor and remains of sedilia along the south wall. Nothing can be known about these features without more extensive excavation than the circumstances of our recent investigation would allow. Similarly, whether or not the presbytery was vaulted cannot be gauged without fuller examination of the deeply-buried remains.

Comment by G. Keevill:

The copy of the H. Bensted sketch shown below is extremely useful (and valuable), and deserves to be better known than it is.

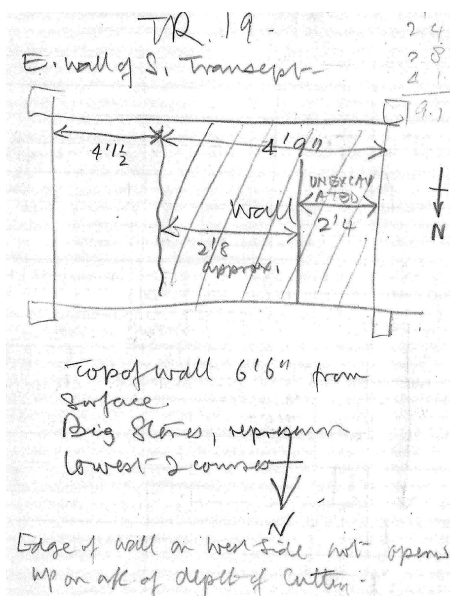
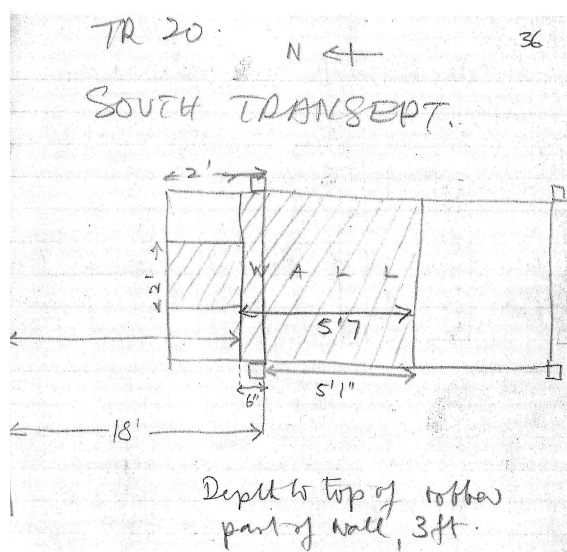
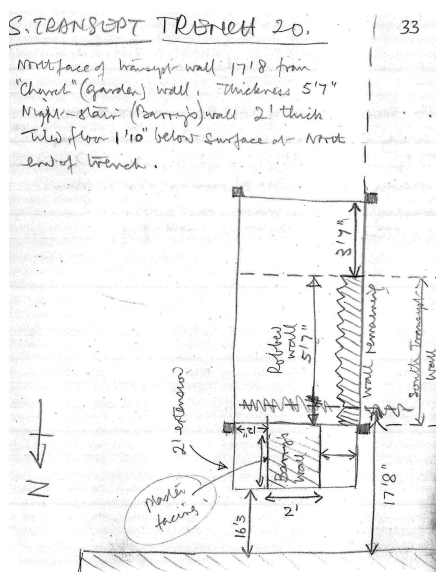
Reviewer's Note:

In PJT's notes there is a summary of correspondence referenced as Letters on British Archaeology to Geo Payne 1896-98, Volume 13. One of these is from H. Bensted to G. Payne dated 16/11/1897 where HB sends a "rough tracing" of the remains as far as exposed of Boxley Abbey Church (PJT noted that this must be the plan referred to by F.C. Elliston-Erwood in his 1953 article In Arch Cant) FCEE's article claims that only a photograph of this plan remains (presumably as included) and he found it difficult to believe that it was drawn by HB.



5.3 THE SOUTH TRANSEPT

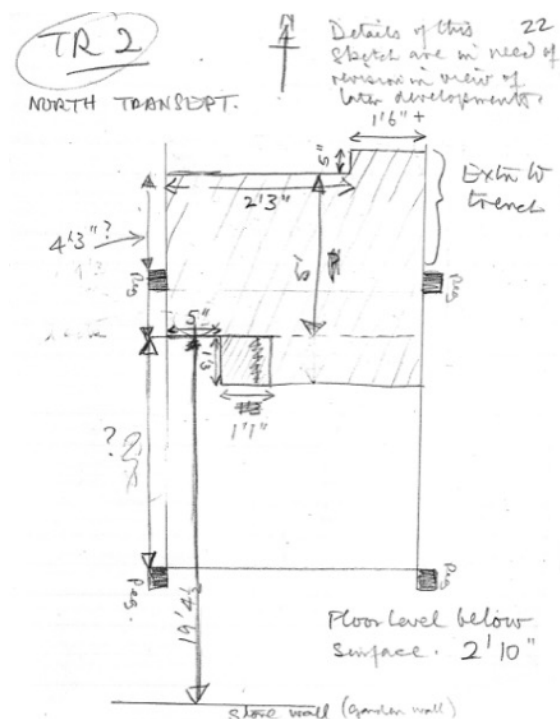
The outer walls were traced by trenching and the transept was found to extend further south than Elliston-Erwood conjectured. This indicates that there was space for three chapels opening from the east side rather than two. Payne evidently found traces of these for in a letter to him from Bensted (16th November, 1897) the writer compared Boxley to Kirkstall and observed: The transepts were divided as I understand you to say Boxley is for three altars each.'6 On the west side, some excavations conducted by Sir John Best-Shaw and Mr. B. J. Wilson in 1959 and 1966 uncovered, two thin walls, and these can now be interpreted as remains of the night stair by which the monks descended from the dormitory to the church for the night office. We re-excavated the southern end, and other details are taken from notes of the earlier excavations by Mr. L. R. A. Grove, who has kindly made his record available to us. The narrow space between the east-west wall and the end of the transept was observed by the earlier excavators to have been entered by a door at its east end. Apparently the stair was a secondary feature as the north-south wall did not bond into the transept and was constructed with lighter-coloured mortar than that of the main structure. Sir John informed us that a floor of plain tiles was encountered during the digging in this area. We also found many small glazed tiles from destroyed tile-mosaic floors.



Two of the yew trees planted to mark this transept are slightly misplaced on the east side. One further west stands significantly over the conjectural line of the wall separating two of the transept chapels

5.4 THE NORTH TRANSEPT

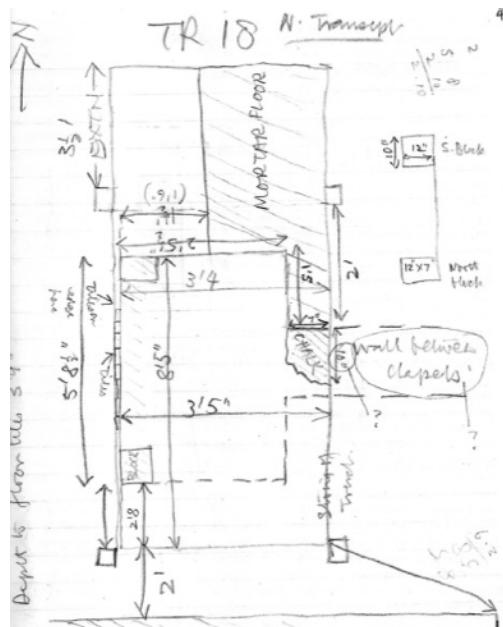
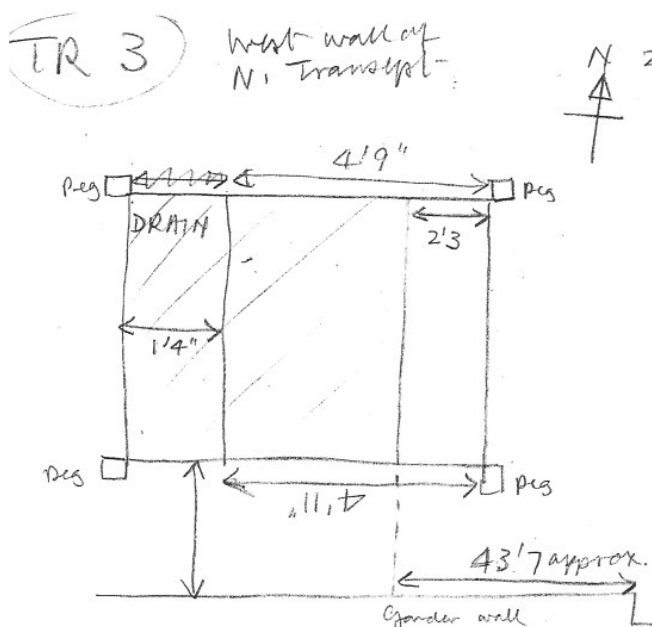
Much of its area lies in a field outside the garden, and by the courtesy of the farmer, Mr. J. Hamilton, we were able to engage in more extensive excavation here than elsewhere. As well as intercepting the three outer walls, two long cuttings were made north-south in the area of the northern chapel.



Trench 2, looking North

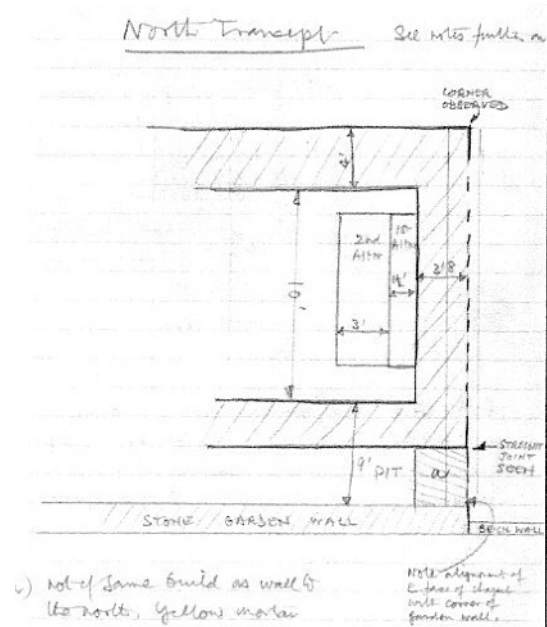
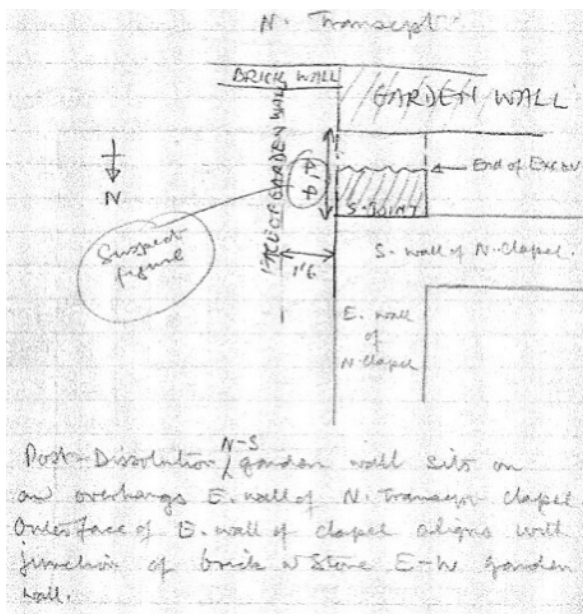


Trench 2, looking South

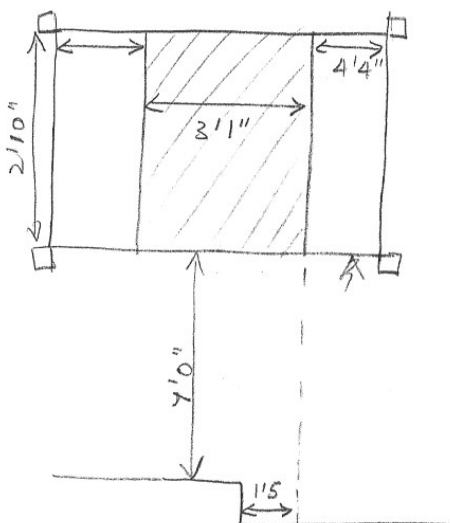


On the inside of the north wall there remained part of the chamfered plinth of a respond forming one side of the opening into the adjoining chapel. Further south was the base of the pier between the entrances to the north and central chapels. Against the west side of this pier there remained in situ a row of small rectangular floor-tiles, each 4 by 1 inches. (cf. Fig. 5, nos. 5 and 6), laid alternately yellow and dark green with the longer side against the wall, their depth from the

present surface being 3 ft. 9 in. In addition, two lozenge-shaped and three triangular tiles were set vertically against the base of the pier, evidently as part of a band continued originally across the riser of the step from the floor of the transept to the raised pavement of the chapels (Fig. 5, no. 1). Many other scattered floor-tiles of various shapes and sizes indicated the former existence of tile-mosaic pavements, as in the south transept. Fragments of mouldings and part of a chamfered hood-mould were recovered from the destruction debris (Fig. 4, nos. 1, 4 and 6).



TR 1.



Trench 1 followed by Trench 4

The base of the altar in the north chapel was uncovered, and it appeared that this had been reconstructed at one time, and the floor raised about 6 in. The first altar was 5 ft. 6 in. long and

backed against the east wall. Later it seems to have been rebuilt to stand 1 ft. 6 in. from the wall, its width (east-west) being 3 ft.

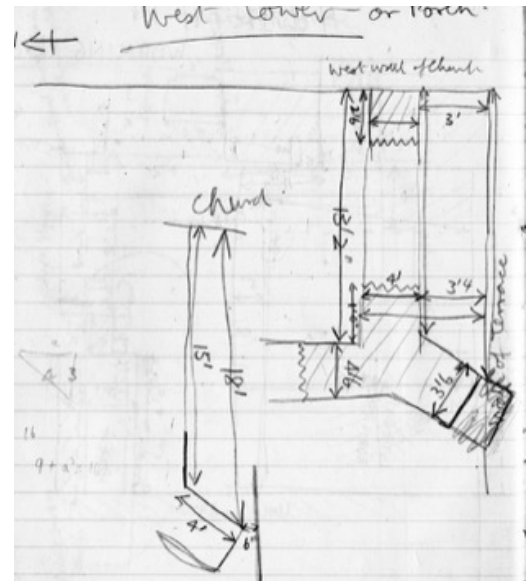
Originally the floor was laid on rammed chalk and had been raised by a layer of clay and chalk capped by a thin spread of mortar intended as a bedding for tiles. Both lateral walls of this chapel retained traces of plaster.

Apparently the east wall of the chapels was not of one build as there was a distinct straight-joint through the footings in continuation of the south face of the wall separating the north and central chapels, and the colour of the mortar was noticeably lighter in the southern section. Moreover, the floor-level in the north-east corner of the central chapel could not be observed due to an intrusive excavation of unknown age or purpose. Whatever the explanation of these anomalous features, there is good reason for assuming that the three chapels would have been conceived as part of a unitary plan despite a possible hiatus in their construction.

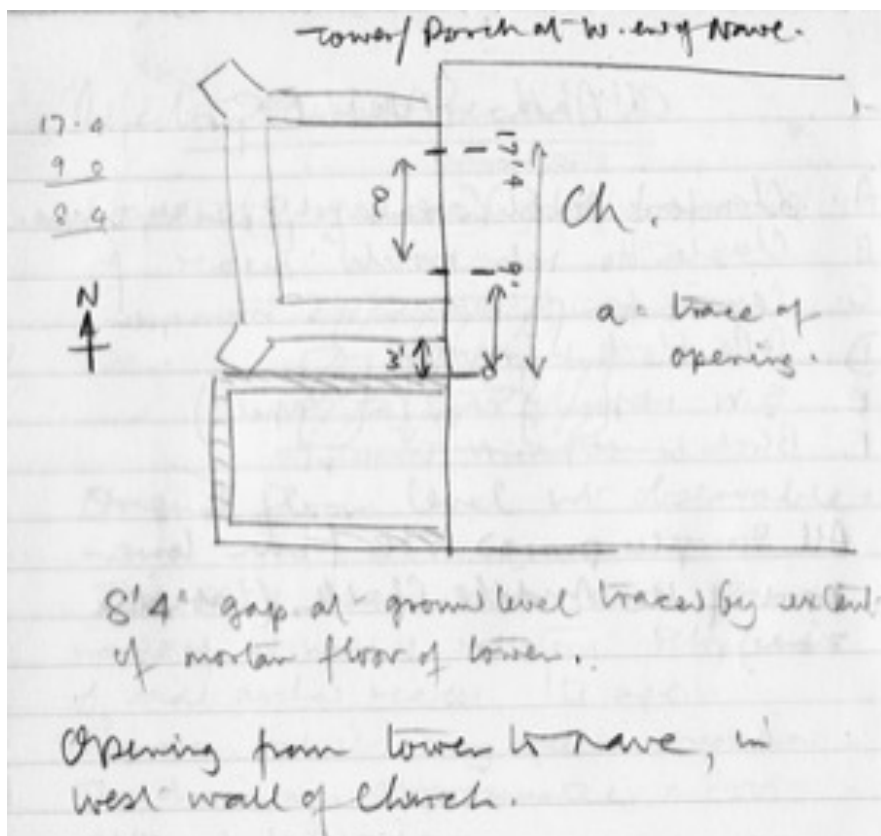
In each transept the chapels would most likely have been covered by separate pointed barrel vaults with pointed arches forming the entrances. This arrangement can still be seen at Fountains Abbey where the east end of each chapel was lighted by a pair of round-headed windows with a circular opening above. The piece of chamfered, hood- mould found in excavation may have come from a doorway in the north end of the transept, as indicated in the reconstructed plan, Fig. 7.

5.5 THE WEST TOWER OR PORCH

An unexpected result of excavating outside the west end of the church was the discovery of foundations of an attached structure with diagonal buttresses at its south-west and north-west corners.



This was clearly a late addition, probably built in the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, and forming either a porch or a tower. It is more probable that it was the latter although it is impossible to establish this with certainty. The footings seemed more substantial than required for a porch—even one with an upper storey. On plan it may appear disproportionately small for a tower, although its actual dimensions are no less than many of those attached to parish churches. It is known that a



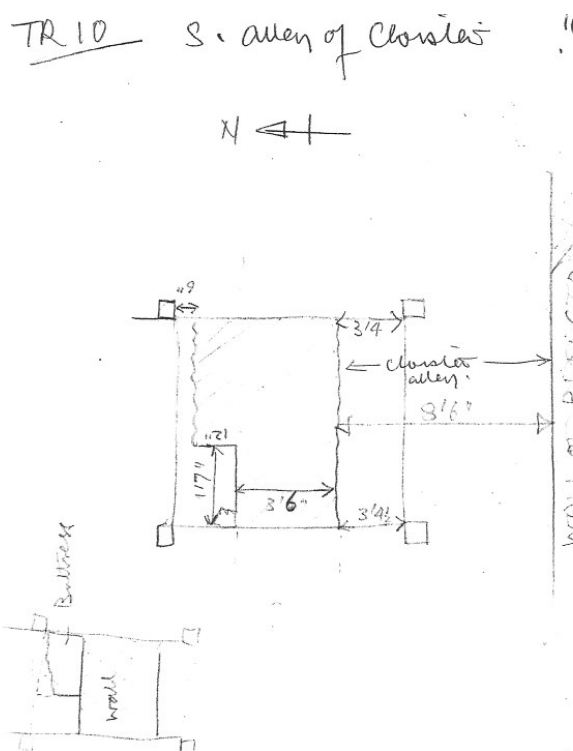
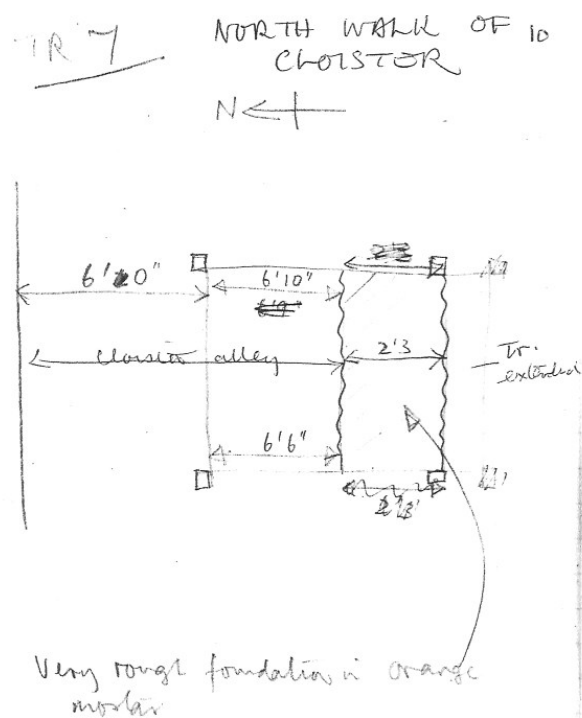
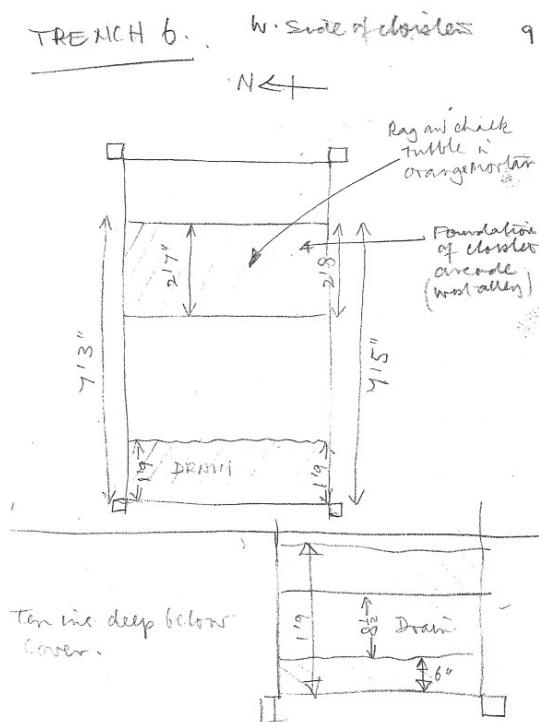
tower existed somewhere at Boxley Abbey for after the Dissolution the grant of the property to Sir Thomas Wyatt specifically mentions a 'steeple'. As previously stated, the early Cistercians were

forbidden towers and the crossings of their churches were not designed for this purpose. However, at the end of the Middle Ages towers were sometimes added in other positions, for example, on the west end at Furness and adjoining the north transept at Fountains. Whatever the height of the western feature at Boxley, it is most likely that it had an entrance in its west wall so that its ground storey provided a functional porch. No trace of this entrance was found as the walls had been destroyed to below cill level. In the later medieval period Boxley Abbey became a much frequented place of pilgrimage on account of the famous Rood of Grace, and it is reasonable to suppose that the west end of the church received, this addition in order to enhance the dignity of the entrance by which pilgrims approached the object of devotion.

5.6 THE CLOISTER

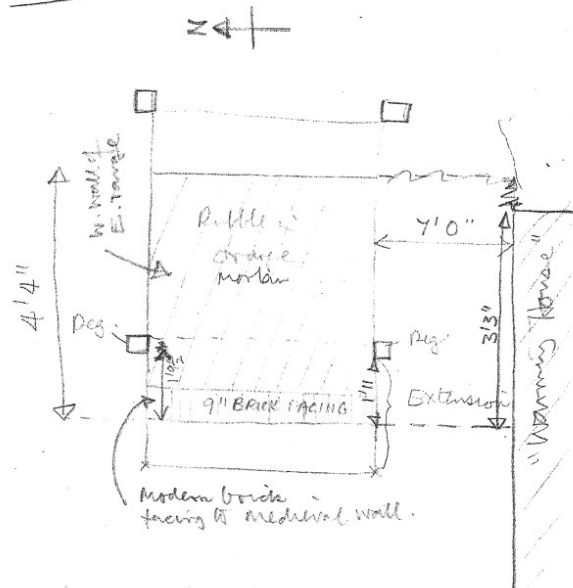
Excavation has shown that the north and west alleys were wider than those on the south and east and that the arcades rested on narrower footings. There is documentary evidence that rebuilding was put in hand in 1373 when the abbey employed a mason named Stephen Lomherst to demolish the old cloister and rebuild it, one alley at a time, but from the excavated remains it seems likely that only the north and west alleys were in fact reconstructed (Appendix II).

The enclosure is unusually narrow east-west and it is strange that advantage was not taken of the full length of the nave to site the western range in line with the end of the church, so providing a cloister area of more normal proportions.



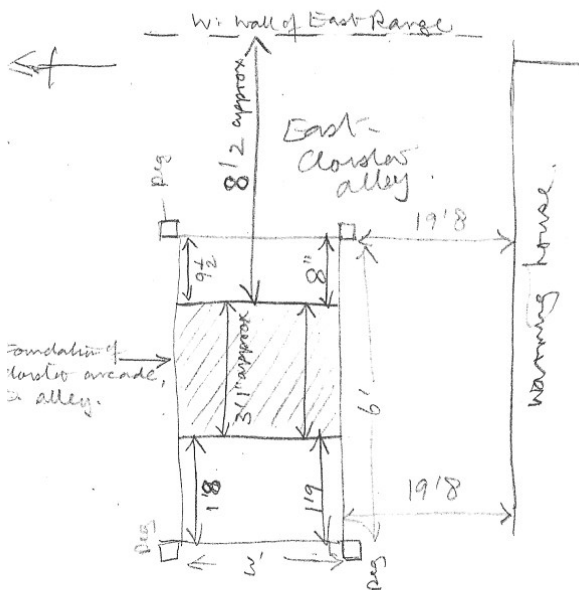
TR 11

13



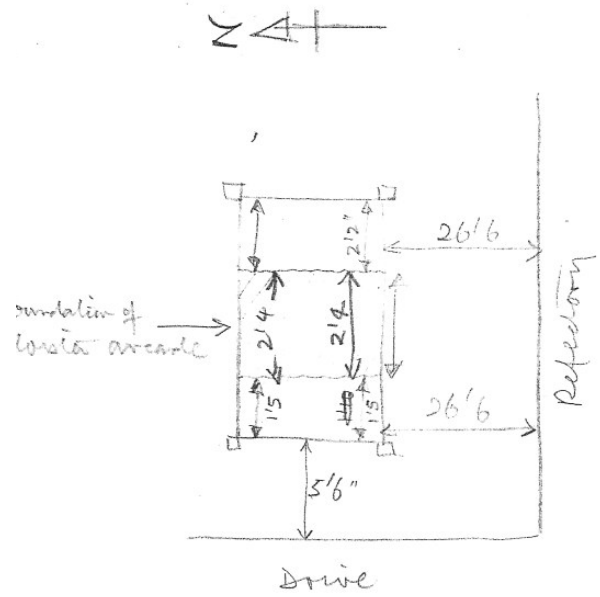
Fragment of green relief decorated floor tile.

TR 15

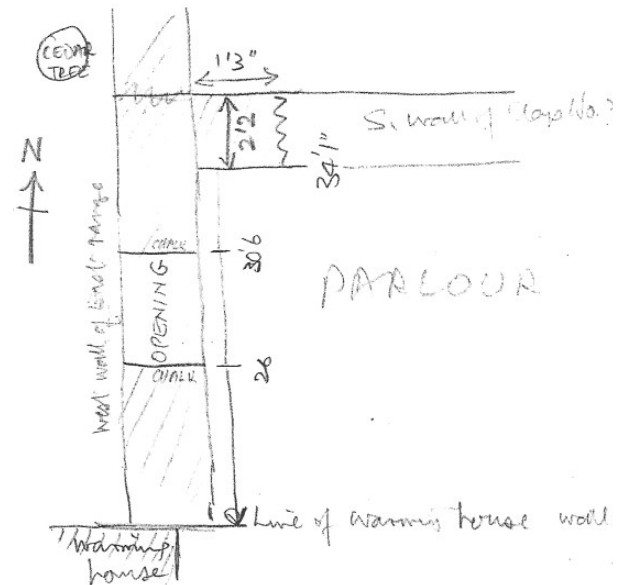


TR 14.

West alley of cloister 17



TR. 35 West wall of east range.

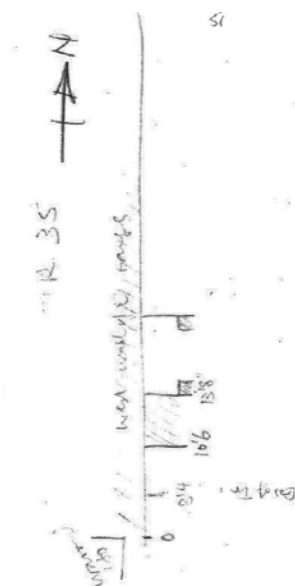
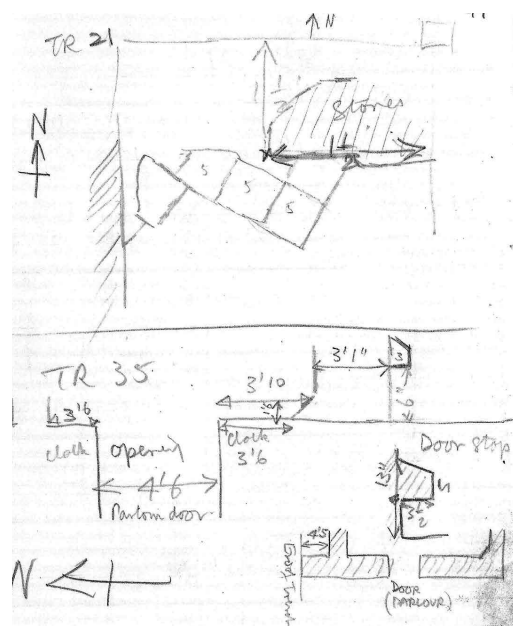
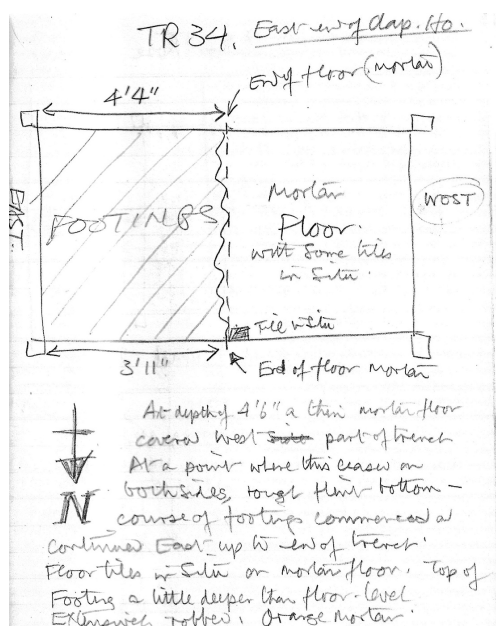


5.7 THE CHAPTER HOUSE

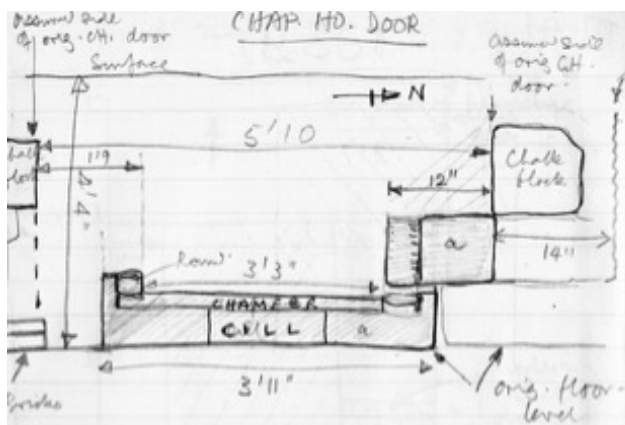
This was found to conform to the shape and proportions of a common type of Cistercian chapter house, vaulted in nine bays (3 by 3) and kept low to allow the dormitory to pass over. Only the four walls were located by trenching and the inner face of the west wall was searched for traces of the doorway. This was found to have been blocked by post-Dissolution masonry and revealed no original architectural features. At the base of the blocking, a chamfered cill occurred bearing indications of having related to an opening only 3 ft 3 in. wide with a roll moulding on the internal edge of each jamb. As this opening was too narrow to have formed the original chapter house entrance, it is assumed to have been a late possibly post-Dissolution insertion.

In the north-west corner were indications of footings interpreted as traces of a stone bench which would be expected to continue round the inside of the building, although evidence of it was lacking in our excavation at the east end. A few floor tiles were found in situ and several pieces of chalk mouldings occurred in the destruction debris. Some of these are sections of vaulting ribs of twelfth century character

(Fig. 4, no. 2).



West wall of Chapter House cill of opening covered by later blocking



a a Ragstone

The 5'10" gap would seem to be the original opening. The 3'11" cell must belong to a later narrower doorway inserted in the partly-blocked wider entrance (? in late M. Ages).

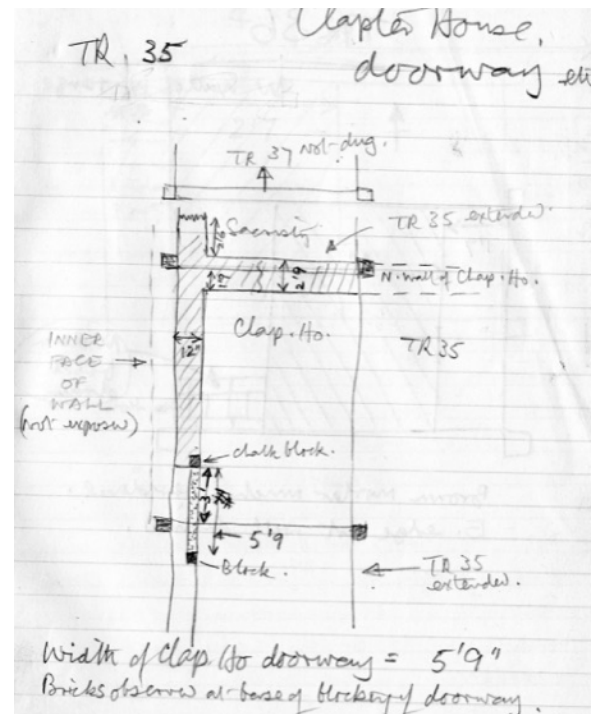
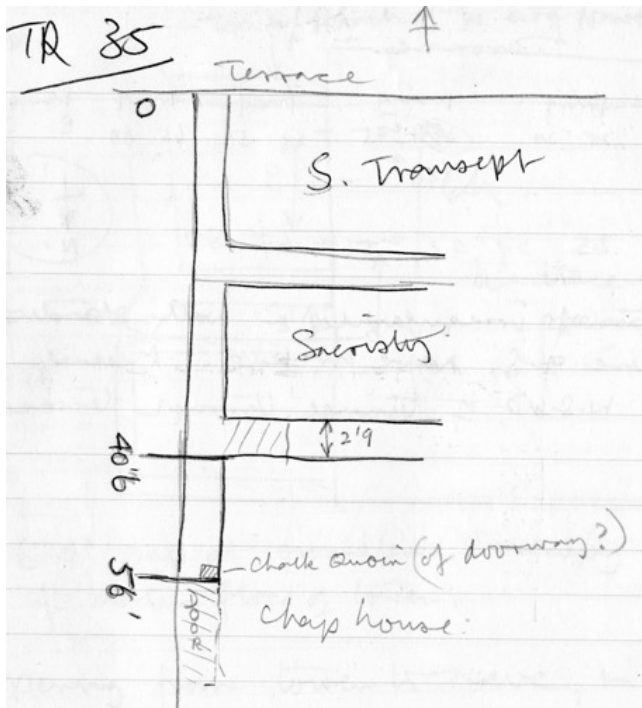
This might be actual side of orig opening rather than that 14" to South.

Notes on Chap House Doorway

The original doorway was probably 6'11" wide. In late middle ages a narrow doorway was substituted. The ragstone cell of this remains with chamfer and remains of round moulding on edge of jamb. Length of cell 3'11", internal opening 3'3"

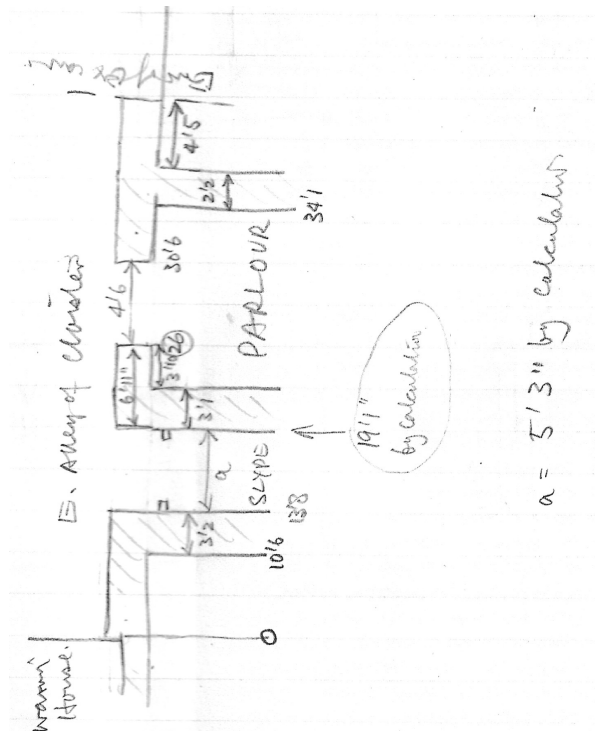
5.8 THE SACRISTY

The narrow space between the chapter house and the transept would normally have formed the sacristy. Frequently, it was divided so that the western half provided a library entered from the cloister, while the eastern part was used as a sacristy entered through a doorway in the end of the transept. Whether these arrangements obtained at Boxley cannot at present be determined.



5.9 THE PARLOUR

Remains of the lower part of the parlour entrance were found to be well preserved, the unraoulded jambs being of chalk, with a stone cill set in the floor immediately inside the opening. Probably there was also a doorway in the east end. A short length of the return wall on the south side was observed, sufficient to indicate the width of the apartment.



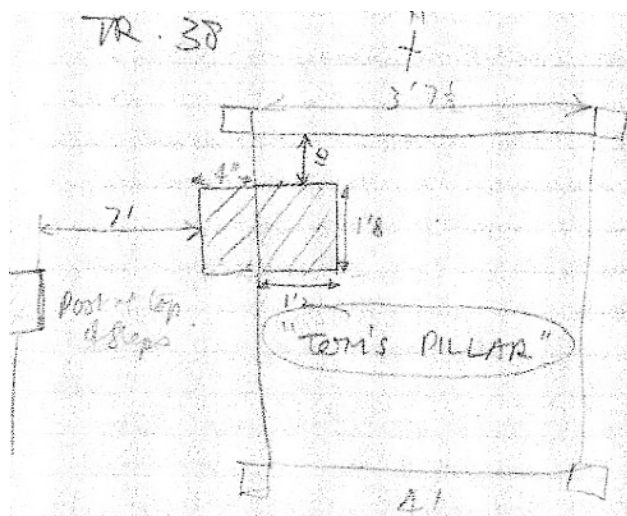
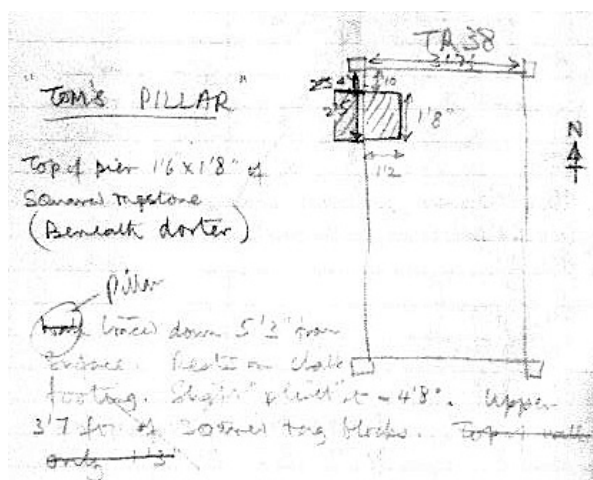
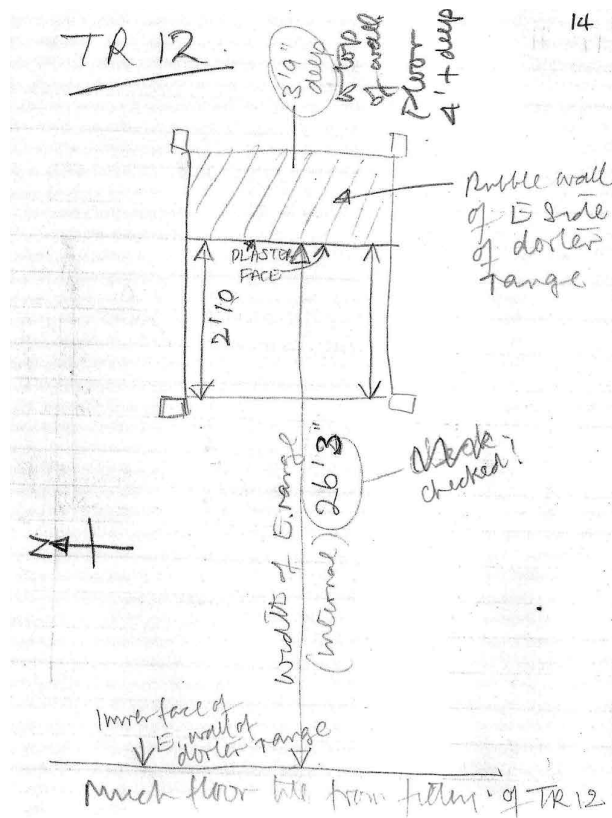
Entrance to Parlour

5.10 PASSAGE OR DAY STAIR

Next to the parlour (noted as slope above) was what appears to have been a narrow passage with indications of a door at its west end. A through passage in this position was a feature of many Cistercian plans, giving access from the cloister to the infirmary and other buildings to the east. Alternatively, it may originally have contained the day stair by which the monks ascended from the cloister to the dormitory.

5.11 THE DORMITORY UNDERCROFT

Trenches across the line of the east and west walls established the internal width of this part of the range as 26 ft. 3 in. No attempt was made to explore the interior apart from a small excavation towards the south end which located a square pier probably one of a line on the central axis of the undercroft and serving to support the floor of the dormitory above. The entrance may have been in the north end or on the site of the modern steps in the south-east corner of the cloister. In Cistercian monasteries this area under the dormitory was put to various uses: sometimes it provided accommodation for the novices and in other instances it appears to have been utilised as a workshop. On the upper floor, the dormitory itself would have extended over the full length of the range, passing above the chapter house up to the south transept.



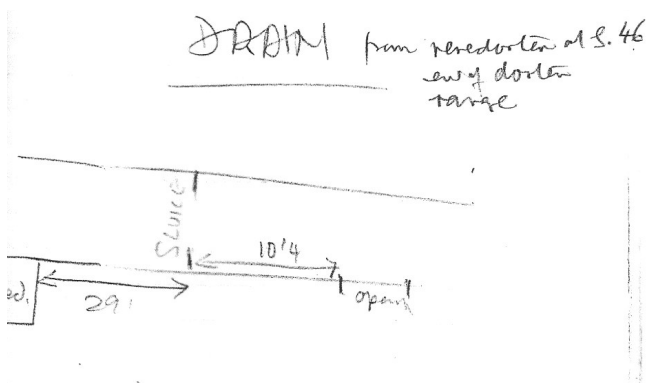
Trench 38, "Tom's Pillar"

5.12 THE REREDORTER AND DRAIN

The sanitary arrangements at Boxley seem to have been similar to those at Kirkstall and Valle Crucis where instead of the latrines being housed as usual in a building projecting at right-angles to the end of the dormitory, they were situated in the end of the east range itself with a drain passing beneath.¹² At Boxley the drain is well preserved, its course continuing some distance to the east where it is covered by a pointed barrel vault. Water was conducted from a source to the north, where rivulets still run in the fields, and made to flow westward through the vaulted drain. Immediately on the line of the east face of the dormitory range there is a constriction in the drain with vertical grooves on each side where a wooden sluice-gate held back the water before it passed beneath the latrines (Fig. 2). When the gate was raised from above, the water flowed with sudden force to scour the area under the privies, apparently escaping into a ditch running southward for about sixty yards into an existing pond. Surface indications of this ditch remain in the field between the pond and the Abbey. In the wall forming the south side of the drain are openings to provide access for the purpose of removing accumulated silt.

Reviewer Note:

Following site investigations by Kent Underground Research Group (KURG) in July 2020 an alternative postulation has been offered. This proposes that rather than the latrines being situated at the end of the east range of the dormitory, they are instead in a building projecting at right angles to the end of the dormitory, the reverse of the suggestion above. The sluice gate is at the downstream end of the reredorter. Hence, in a form a little like a communal form of a modern WC, latrine waste falls into a channel that is normally full of water. At intervals, the sluice gate is lifted and the backed-up water in the reredorter channel surges downstream taking the accumulated waste with it. (with thanks to Robert Hall, KURG)



Sluice Gate

5.13 THE REFECTORY

Most Cistercian plans indicate a refectory lying at right-angles to the south side of the cloister, though until the middle of the twelfth century this building occupied the Benedictine position opposite the church and parallel to it. Where the older plan had been adopted it was almost invariably altered in the late-twelfth or thirteenth centuries and Boxley appears to have been a notable exception in this respect. Neither a resistivity survey nor trenching in positions where a north-south refectory would have stood produced any positive indications.

The north wall is original, except for external re-facing, and retains two ancient doorways. The one to the west has a weathered chalk internal jamb on the west side with evidence of modern rebuilding opposite. Its two-centred doorcase (Plate IIA) is an insertion, probably fourteenth-century or later, and may even be the actual doorway made by Stephen Lomherst soon after 1373, replacing an older and larger entrance. To the east is a tall, featureless, round-headed opening, seemingly twelfth-century despite modern patching. Its position towards the 'high' end of the refectory is most unusual and its purpose is problematical. Two heraldic corbels set in its jambs appear to be fourteenth-century and have apparently been inserted in modern times, having been found elsewhere in the ruins.

Inside the west wall there occurs a wide but shallow round-arched recess, 8 ft. high and 9 ft 6 in. wide, its cull being 2 ft. above ground level or about 1 ft. more from the refectory floor (Plate IB). If it were situated in the cloister, it would be unhesitatingly accepted as the site of the lavatorium, where the monks washed their hands before and after meals. In the position it occupies, however, it would be unwise to assert that this was its function without strong supporting evidence. A small excavation below this recess disclosed a stone drain running north-south against the foot of the wall. Just to the south, a blocked doorway can be observed in this wall and most likely it communicated with the monastic kitchen.

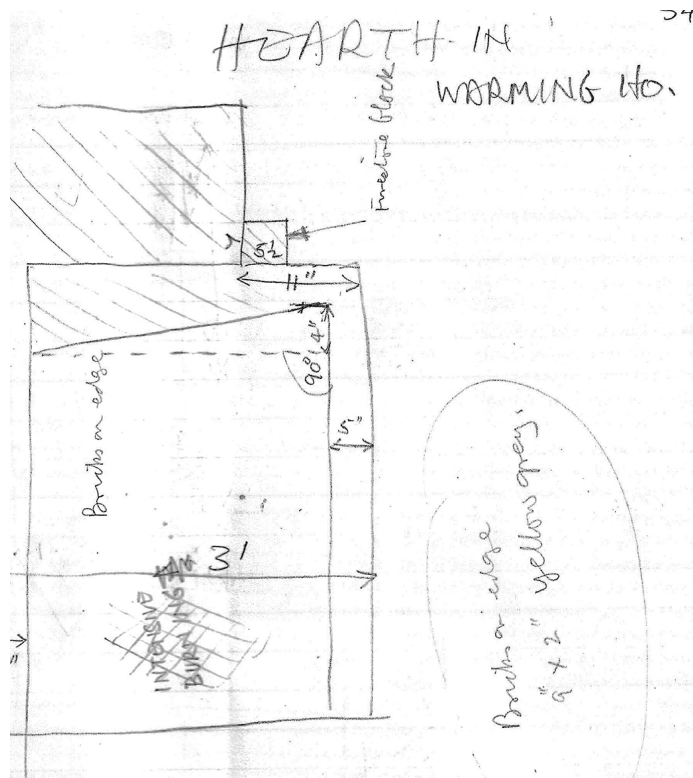
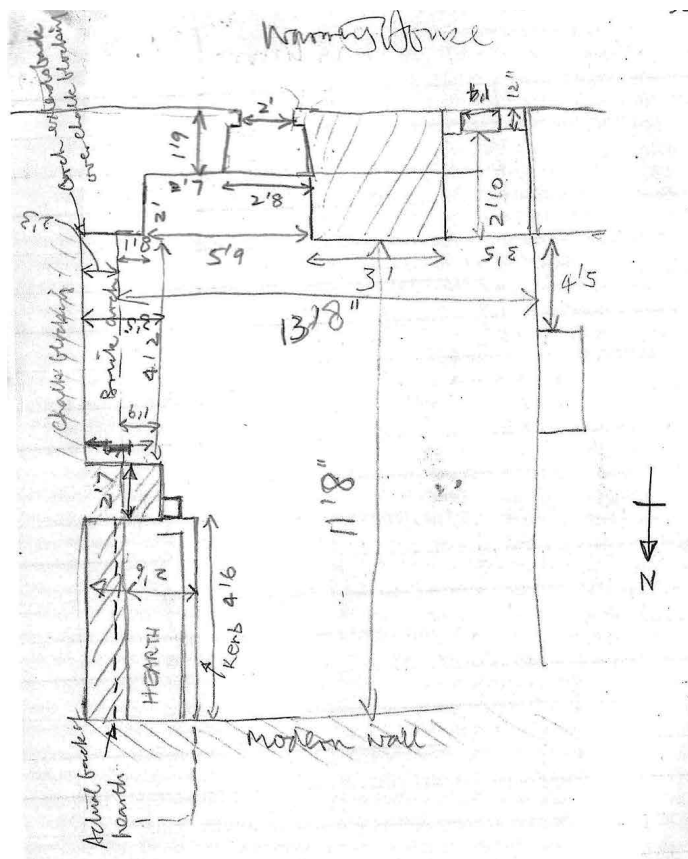
The course of a rubble wall lying north-south was encountered in two small excavations in the enclosed garden south of the refectory. It was too slight in construction to have formed the side of a refectory and neither its age nor purpose could be ascertained. Digging was very restricted in this area on account of the closely placed rose beds.

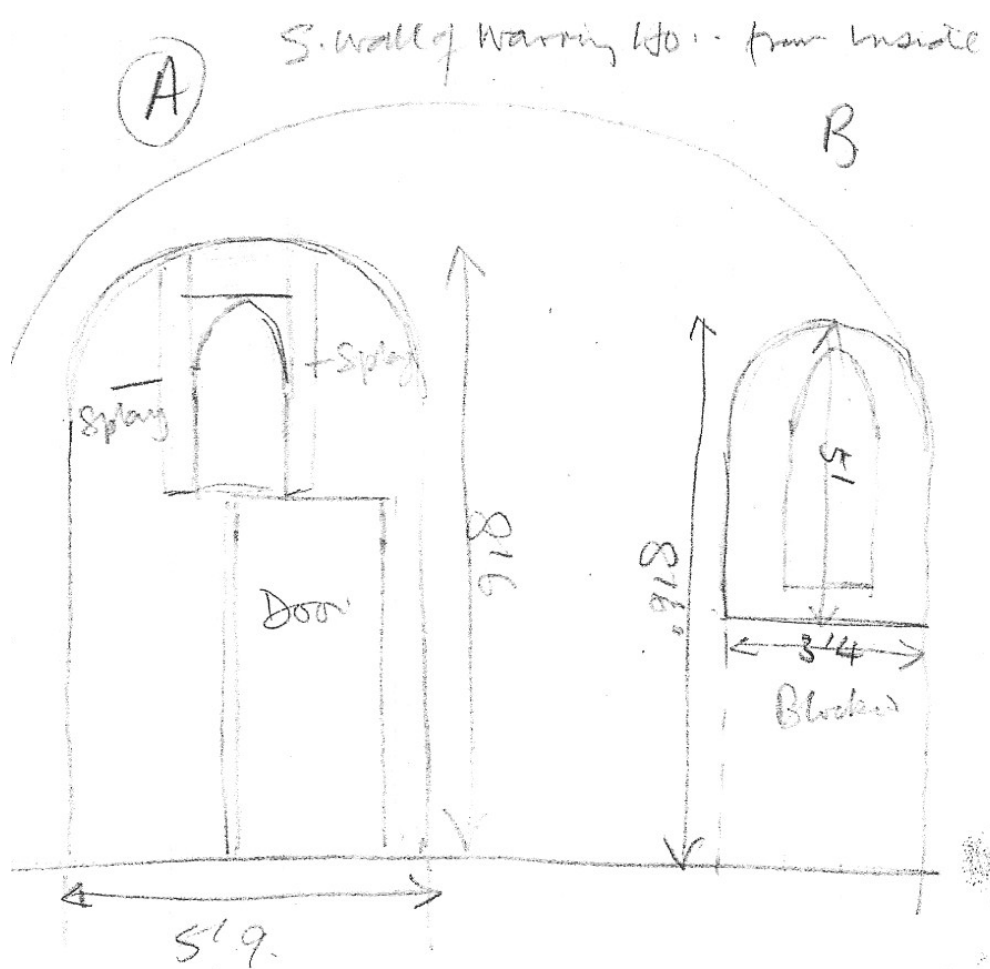
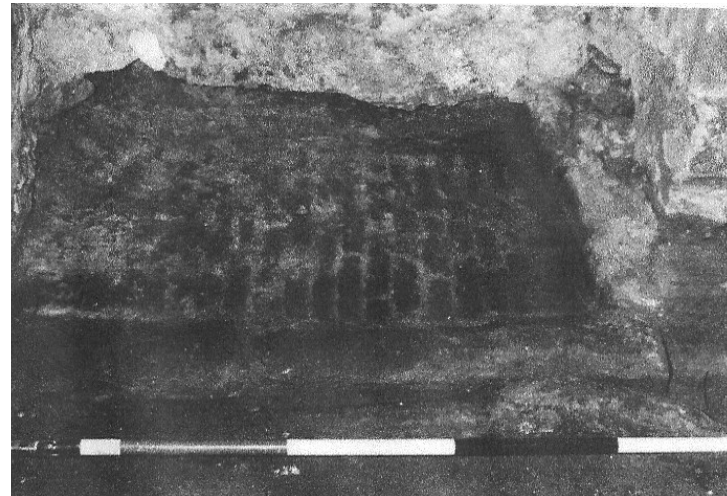


5.14 THE WARMING HOUSE

This identification of the area between the refectory and the east range has been confirmed by excavation resulting in the discovery of remains of a medieval fireplace against the east wall. Less than half the area of the original room is now accessible, the northern part being shut off by a modern stone wall. An entrance of uncertain age gives access to the southern section which is covered by a modern brick barrel vault. From the interior, the south wall is seen to have possessed two round-headed openings of twelfth-century character and in the west wall is a round-headed recess, like an aumbry, 3 ft. high, 3 ft. wide and 1 ft. 6 in. deep, of similar age. Digging on the east side disclosed the half-round stone kerb of the fireplace bordering a hearth of thin bricks set on edge. The full width of the fireplace could not be determined due to the wall sealing off the northern area. No doubt the fireplace possessed a hood supported by shafts on either side, and it is significant that part of a Purbeck marble base of late twelfth or early thirteenth century form was found in the digging close by (Fig. 4, 110. 3).

To the right of the fireplace an opening occurs suggesting a doorway into the east range. It is blocked by post-Dissolution chalk rubble on the east and across the west side the base of a thin wall was excavated, proving that this was not in fact a doorway but a deep recess once accessible from the dormitory undercroft. The floor of the recess was paved with square green and yellow tiles.

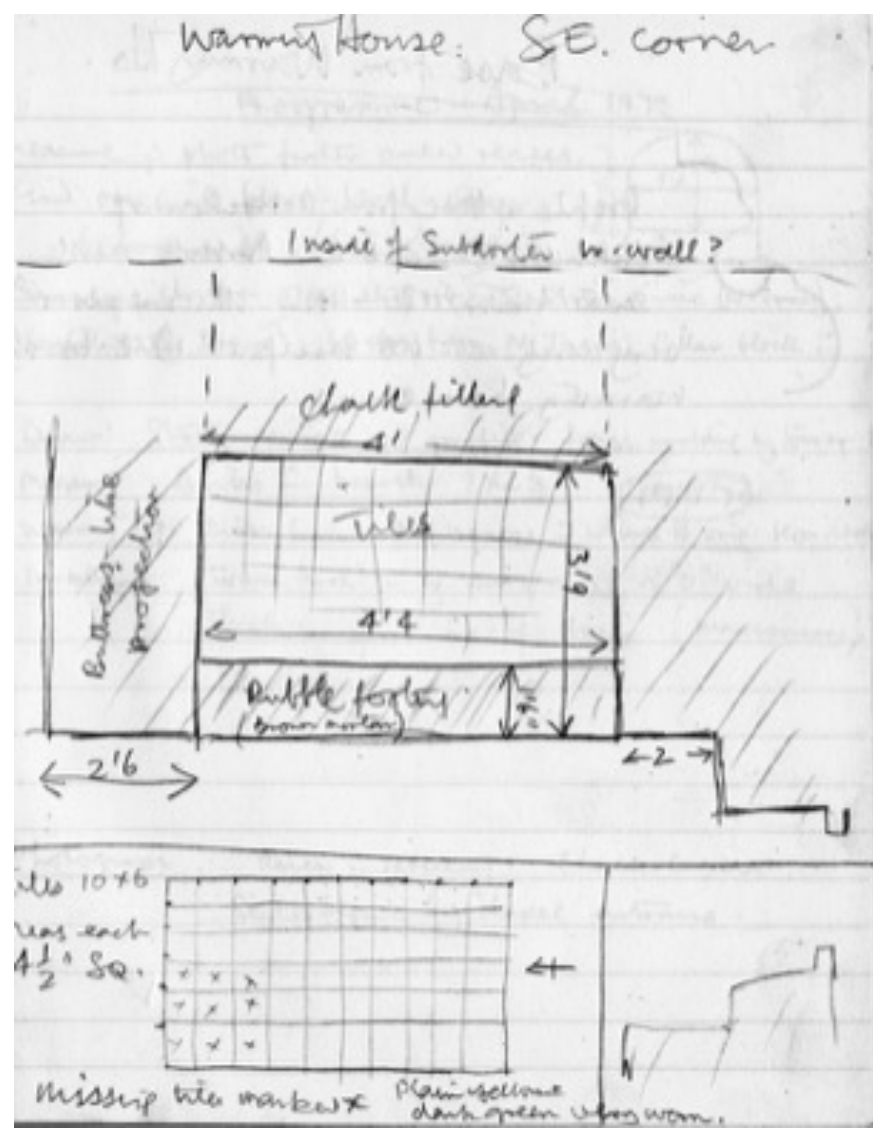




Warming House

lower part of B is blocked at later date.
 windows & door in both A & B are later
 insertions - the two pointed windows
 probably modern.

Barrel vault in modern bricks. Partitions
 in modern rubble work separate filled
 in half of room.



5.15 THE WEST RANGE

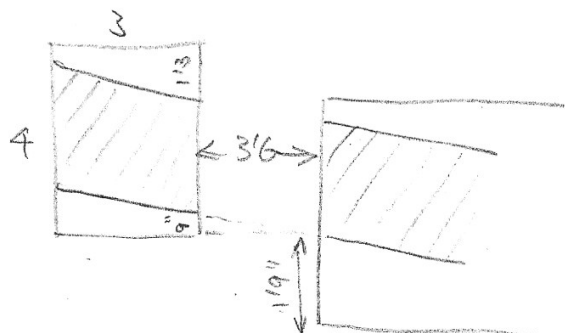
Two trenches excavated in the lawn confirmed the correctness of Elliston-Erwood's siting of this range. Along the west side was a gully bordered by rough unmortared blocks of stone, intended to catch water dripping from the eaves. Beyond this, little can be added to our knowledge of the lay brothers' quarters apart from what may be inferred from better preserved remains elsewhere. Their dormitory was on the first floor with their refectory beneath, part of the lower storey also containing an outer parlour communicating between the cloister and the court to the west. Possibly at Boxley the doorway at the north end, still to be traced by one jamb remaining against the south wall of the church, formed the entrance to the parlour. Entrance to the lay brothers' quire in the western part of the nave was gained through the existing round-headed doorway in the south aisle. The kitchen, serving both the monks' refectory and that of the lay brothers, could have been conveniently sited in the south end of this range.

Whether the range continued southward beyond the extent shown in our plan is uncertain. There was undoubtedly a cross-wall in the position indicated, as signs of an arched opening set in an east-west alignment appear inside the east wall. A plan of 1801 (Appendix III) indicates an extension to the south but this may have been a post-Dissolution addition as are many of the walls comprising the complex of outbuildings remaining in this area.

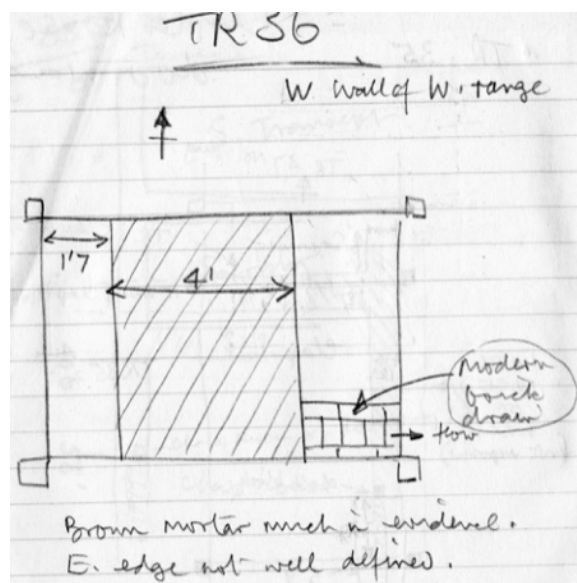
Within the present house there is a substantial section of medieval wall containing a two-centred arched doorway and formerly there were indications of three blocked lancet windows.

Between the house and the church the footings of a thin rubble wall were traced approximately at right-angles to the west range. It did not join that building and its age and purpose remain uncertain. Across it was a length of lead pipe most likely related to the former water supply of the post-Dissolution house.

TR 26 (West extension)



Free-standing wall (? farm wall)
running E-W west of west range



6 Summary and Conclusions

The contents of the archive box were comprehensive and generally identifiable with the descriptions in the published paper. The associations above are not a complete replication of every item in the box but cover most areas and are indicative of the level of detail available.

It must be recognised that the excavations were performed almost fifty years ago and the methodology of archaeological investigations has developed significantly during the intervening years not least with the advent of more readily available technology but also with more rigorous techniques to assess finds. The application of modern techniques to the remains located by Peter Tester would be a tantalising attraction to reactivate some of his investigations.

The transfer of pencil notes in a site workbook to a readable electronic format has been challenging and in some cases the results have bordered on being illegible. A balance had to be struck between the legibility and the size of the files created. The hope is that the scans within the review can be magnified and enhanced by the reader. However, there would be no substitute for visiting the library if specific areas of interest arise requiring a more comprehensive study.

Many thanks are due to Ruiha Smalley and Peter Titley for their great help in accessing and scanning the data in the library and for Stephen Clifton for enhancing the scans included in the review.

All copies of sketches and photos within this review are Courtesy of Kent Archaeological Society.

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