



PROPOSAL OF THE 2017 COMMUNITY DIG



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HYDE900

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1. Location of the site

The site proposed is a portion of each of the gardens of 14 and 15 King Alfred Terrace SO23 7DQ. The garden of no 14 (fig 1) has various features which will limit the dig location. No 15 (Fig 2) is down to grass apart from two trees on the E side of the garden.



Fig 1 Garden No 14 King Alfred Terrace looking N



Fig 2 Garden no 15 King Alfred Terrace looking S

The Winchester Museum plan (no reference) for the outline of the cloister area shows that both the inner and outer walls fall across both gardens. Fig 3 illustrates the location of the gardens on a detail of the plan. The area proposed has archaeology in the garden of no 14 which is listed under reference MWC6708 in the Winchester Historic Environment Record.



Fig 3 Detail from Winchester Museum's plan showing the location of King Alfred Terrace gardens

Record Type: Monument
Name: Hyde Abbey Church Cloisters
Grid Reference: SU 4826 3008
Map Sheet: SU43SE
Parish/Ward: WINCHESTER - ST BARTHOLOMEW
Other Statutes/Codes

- UAD Monument Number: 5266

Monument Type(s)

- [CLOISTER](#) (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)

Summary

The cloisters of Hyde Abbey lie to the south of the site of the Abbey church, beneath the gardens of properties in Alswitha Terrace, King Alfred Place and the gardens of King Alfred Terrace.

The footings of a wall, suggested as belonging to the inner north wall of the cloister, were seen in contractors trenches in September 2009.

MWC6708 in the Winchester Historic

Access to the gardens is via a passage adjacent to no 13 King Alfred Terrace, and is a right of way for access to the gardens of King Alfred Terrace (Fig 4 – photo, Fig 5 -plan)



Fig 4 Access to rear of King Alfred Terrace houses



Fig 5 Access to 14/15 King Alfred Terrace (blue) with recent finds location (red)

2. Brief background

The site lies within the precincts of the monastery of Hyde. Whilst there have been extensive excavations within the precinct, there have been only two records of in situ archaeology in the cloister area.

- 1) Unpublished document SWC5389 by Souterrain Archaeological Services. 2009. 8 Alswitha Terrace, King Alfred Place, Winchester
- 2) Report (in progress) on the 2016 Hyde900 Community Dig at 14 Alswitha Terrace. Its location is shown in Fig 6. Archaeology was found in one of the two test pits. This comprised the remains of a robbed out wall (Fig 7) running N S approximately 2 metres to the west of the east wall of the south transept of the abbey church or cloister building. The site of the dig is shown on the Winchester Museum map (Fig 7)

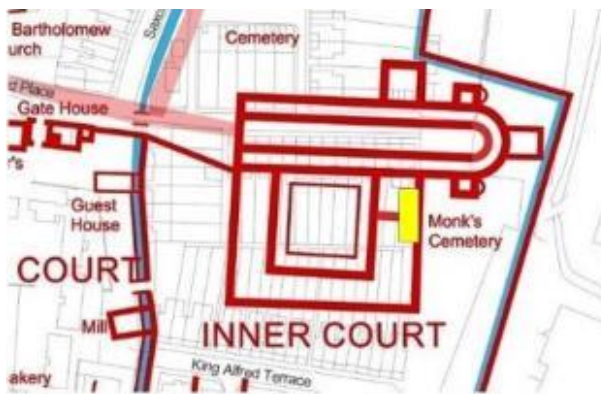


Fig 6 Location of garden used in 2016 Hyde900 Community Dig



Fig 7 Robbed out wall found in the 2016 dig at 14 Alswitha Terrace – looking E

The owner of no 14 King Alfred Terrace recently uncovered significant archaeology in the north end of his garden adjoining his garden shed. This comprised a partially robbed out wall, what is thought to be the mortar base of a medieval tile floor and two Caen stone plinths, one of which is shown in the photo (Fig 8). A diagram of the archaeology is shown in Fig 10. This is put in context in Fig 11 with the earlier discovery.



Fig 8 Photo showing archaeology found in N end of 14 King Alfred Terrace

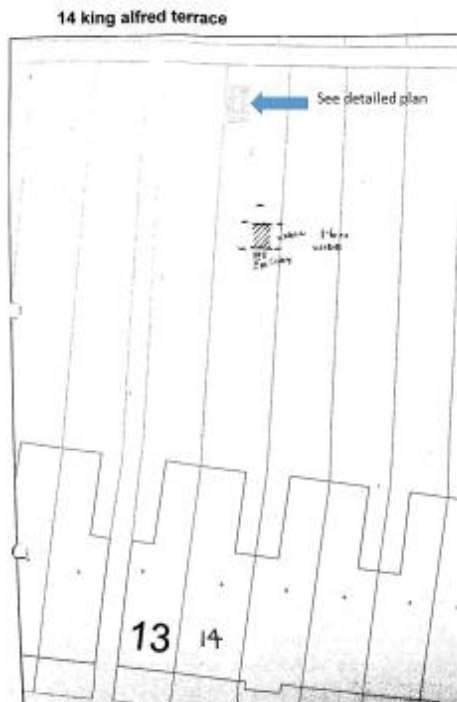


Fig 10 Location plan of archaeology found at 14 King Alfred Terrace

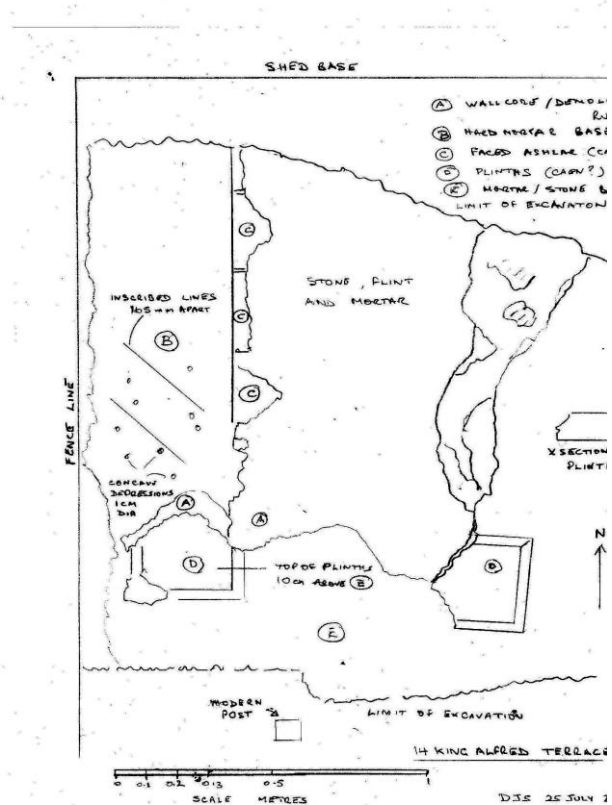


Fig 11 Plan (detail) of archaeology revealed N end of garden of 14 King Alfred Terrace

Like many householders in the area, the owner of no 14 has found many items of medieval origin arising from the occupation of the site and the demolition of the buildings at the time of the Dissolution. However, the finds in no 14 are of exceptional quality. Items included moulded Caen stone, probable Quarr stone and some very nice examples of Oolitic limestone more characteristic of Bath Stone (Fig 12) together with a rare fragment of decorative Purbeck green marble (Viviparous limestone) column (Fig 13). In addition, there are two examples of Caen stone mouldings containing mason's marks (Fig 14). A fuller description by Ross Lovett, until recently Head Mason and Conservator of Winchester Cathedral, of four of the stones is in Appendix 1



Fig 12 Fragments of moulded stone from 14 King Alfred Terrace



Fig 13 Fragments of Purbeck marble.



Fig 14 Examples of Caen stone mouldings containing mason's marks

No other stone from the Hyde Abbey site features, to our knowledge, mason's marks. Fragments of medieval (and later period) pottery have been found (Fig 15) together with several encaustic tile fragments (Fig 16)



Fig 15 Fragments of medieval and other period pottery



Fig 16 Fragments of medieval encaustic tiles

The owner of no 15 has also found an item of moulded stone (Fig 17). A limited probing exercise has been carried out on the garden. The location of the two probe lines is shown in Fig 18)



Fig 17 Moulded stone from 15 King Alfred Terrace

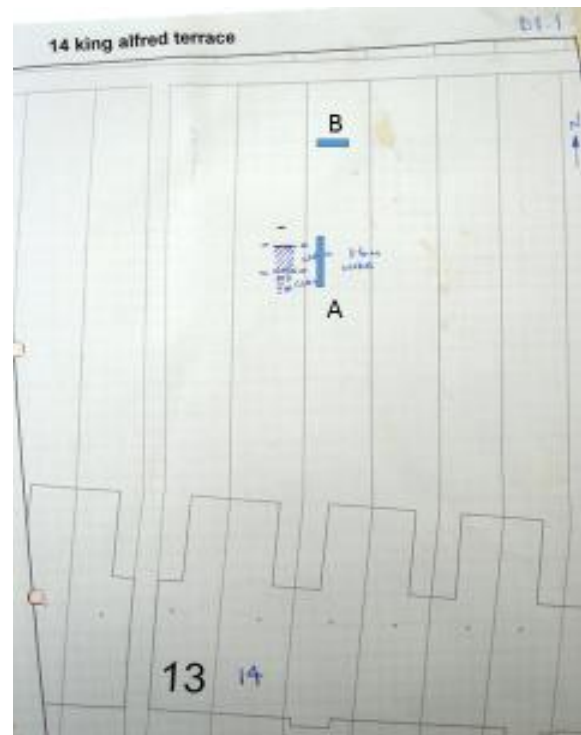


Fig 18 Location plan of probe lines 15 King Alfred Terrace

The depths at which a hard surface (mainly coarse sandy mortar between 1153 and 1273) was picked up on a N-S line is charted in Fig 19. A similar chart for the E-W line is shown in Fig 20. Mortar was observed at each point.

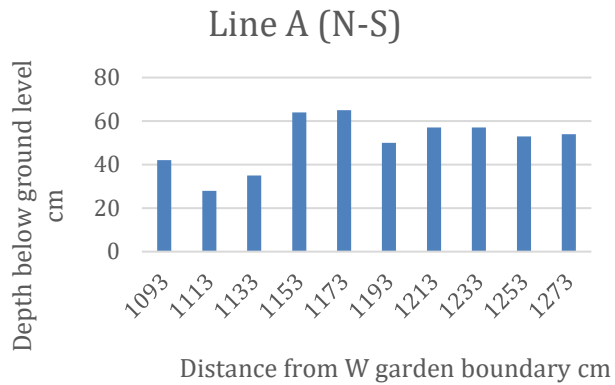


Fig 19 Depth below ground level line A from N end of garden no 15

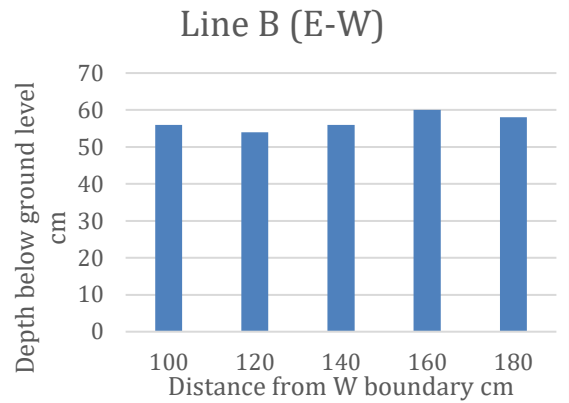


Fig 20 Depth below ground level line B from N end of garden no 15

3. The cloister area

It is almost certain that an abbey of the status of Hyde would have had most of the cloister buildings that are normally associated with a Benedictine monastery. Recent research into the letters and papers of Henry VIII has confirmed many such buildings existed at the time of sale to Richard Bethell in 1546. The listing in the chancery roll states these as “chaptre house, dormytery, frater, the convent hall, with the lodgings adjoining”.

Analysis of the known layouts of Benedictine monasteries show that there is a broadly similar design adopted for the buildings if the location allows. The Hyde site was on a virtually level site with no significant existing buildings, thus there seems no reason for it not to follow the usual pattern. This pattern seemed to continue over the ages. There is a plan which exists known as the Plan of Saint Gall (Fig 21) which isn't the actual layout of the monastery at St. Gall as the terrain wouldn't allow it. An inscription on the Plan states that it was a gift to the Abbot of St. Gall, Gozbertus (fl.816-837), who was responsible for having the monastery's church built in the 830s. It was based on a design made at two Carolingian reform synods held in 816 and 817 in Aachen intended to formalize Benedictine culture.

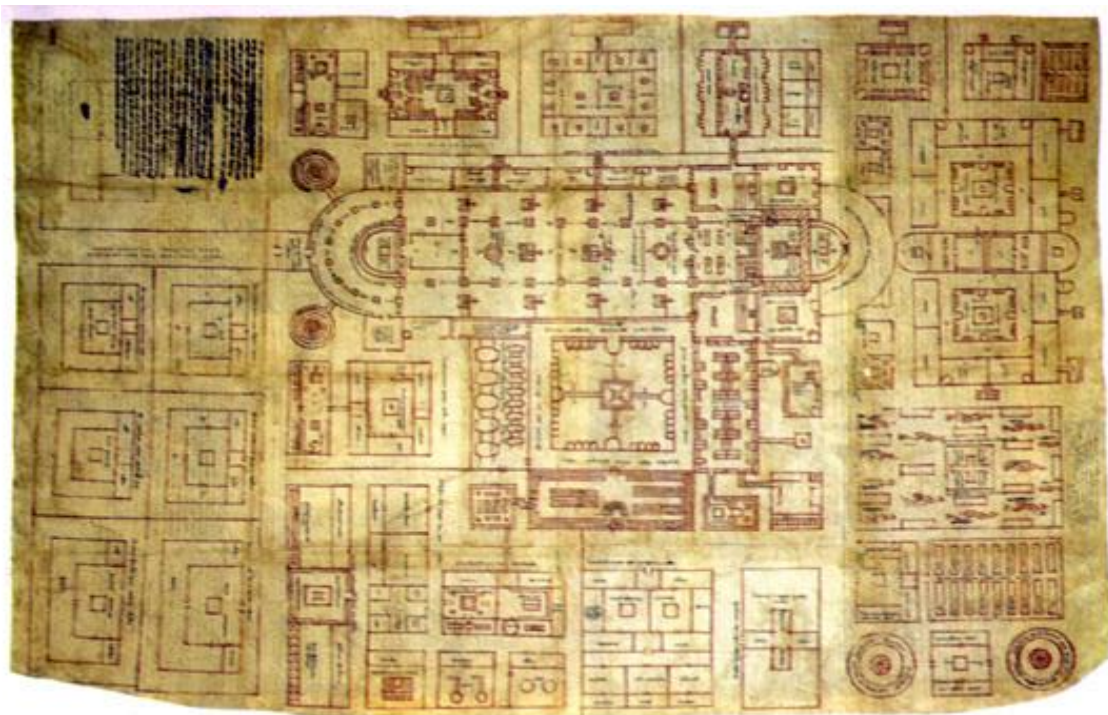


Fig 21 plan (original) of Saint Gall, France

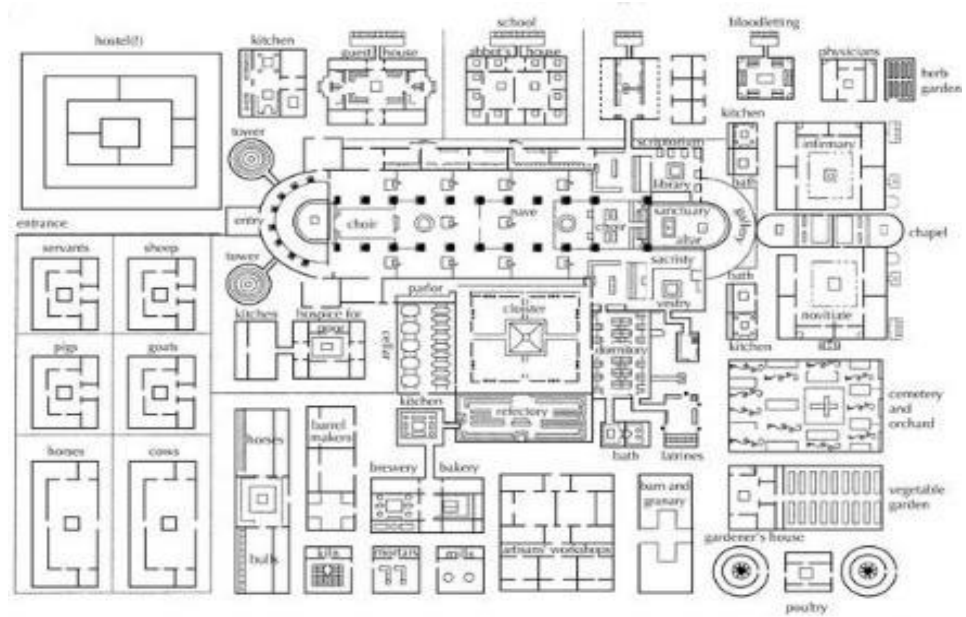


Fig 22 Interpretation of the Plan of Saint Gall

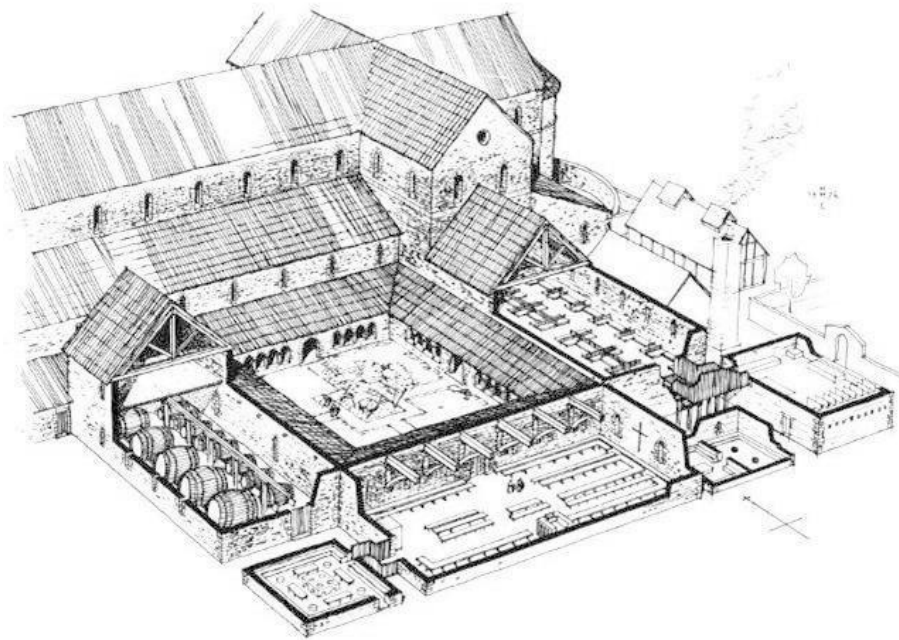


Fig 23 Interpretation of the Plan of Saint Gall

Nearby Reading Abbey (built 1121) may have had a similar layout to Hyde Abbey. Hyde was ready for occupation as the monks moved from the centre of Winchester in 1110. The layout for Reading (fig 24) shows a broadly similar pattern to other Benedictine abbeys. (Image courtesy of Reading Museum and Town Hall)

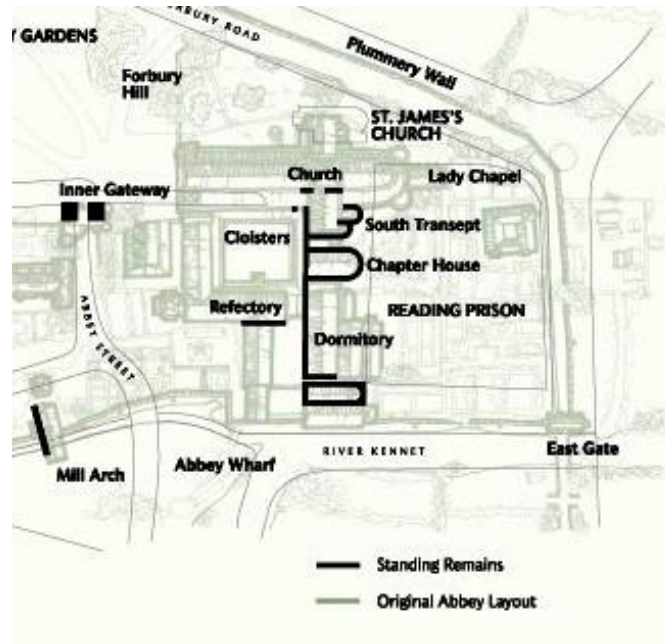


Fig 24 Plan of Reading Abbey buildings

An 18C map thought to be by Henry Hogben shows a stream branching from the mill stream going towards the cloister area. This map has been mapped onto the Winchester Museums plan of the Hyde Abbey by Dave Stewart, and shows the stream passing adjacent to the SW corner of the cloister (Fig 25)

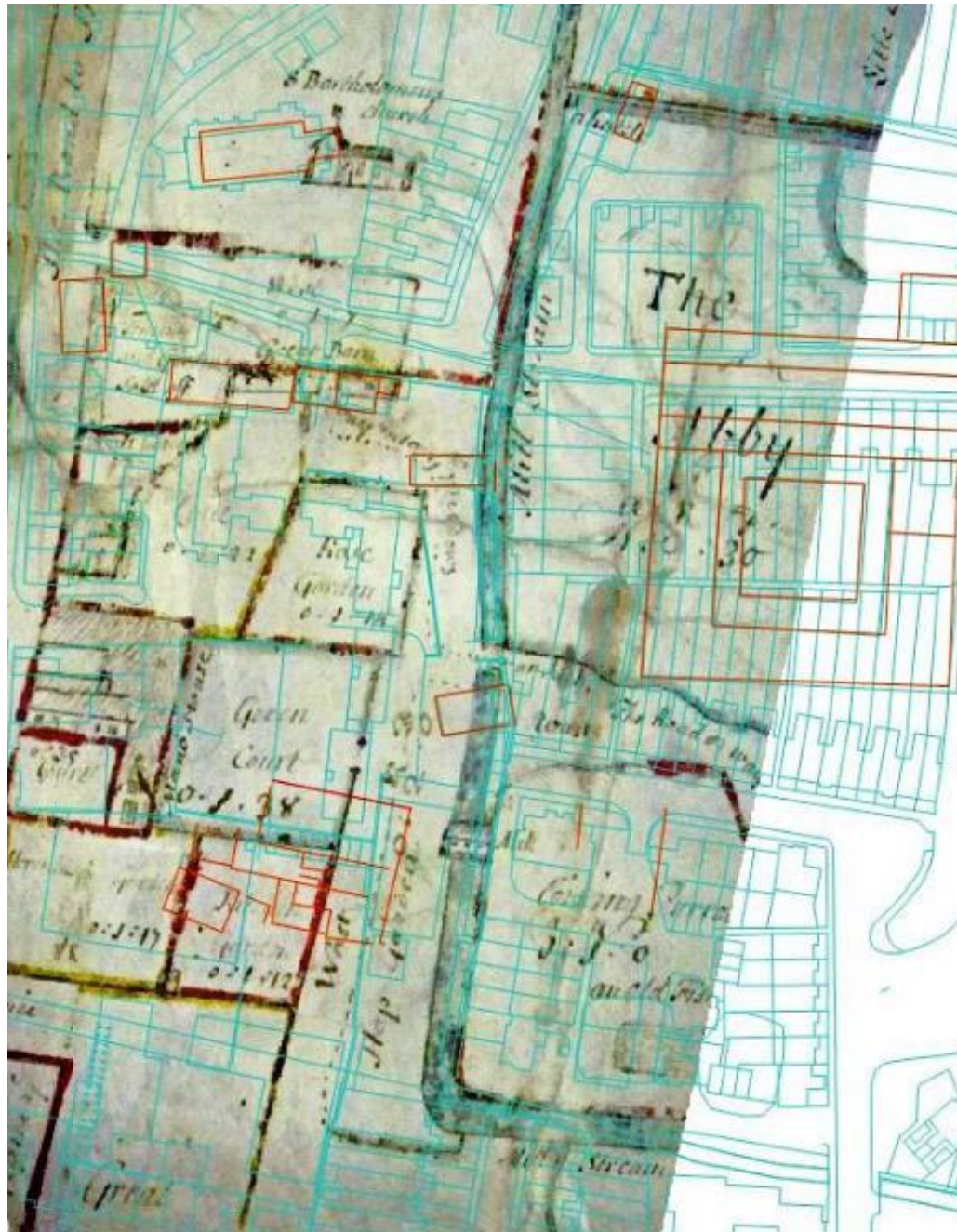


Fig 25 18 century plan of Hyde Abbey estate mapped onto Winchester Museum`s plan

4. Objectives

- To enable local inhabitants (primarily) of all ages from 6 upwards to experience taking part in an archaeological dig – each according to their age and abilities – under the watchful eye and guidance of experienced dig supervisors.
- To establish the dimensions of any continuation of the archaeology in no 14.
- To understand some of the functions (ie cloister, passages, building(s) etc) of any archaeology found.
- To explore whether there are further finds in the gardens which will shed more light on the architecture of the cloister area, the events during the abbey's lifetime and the life of its inhabitants.
- To understand the source and nature of building materials used on the site and the methodologies used in the building of the abbey.
- To understand how the building(s) in the area related to the abbey church building.
- To enable local people to gain a better understanding of the site and its history through participation in the dig and a public open day.
- To add to the knowledge of Winchester's heritage, leaving a publicly available written record and an archive of finds.

5. Methodologies/ Health and Safety

- Over July and August 2016 Hyde900 established the likelihood of the archaeology found in no 14 extending into the garden of no 15 by probing. So far as it was possible by this lo-tech approach the results indicated a continuation east. The area of the limited tests show archaeology of a similar type and located at a similar distance below ground, ie 50 to 80 cm. A site meeting with WARG, John Crook and Hyde900 will be held in September/October 2016 to decide the location and extent of any excavations.
- The area of the previous Hyde900 dig (14 Alswitha Terrace) was considered too limited to carry out any geophysical evaluation of the site. The applicability of the site for this approach will be checked, but it is likely that the same limitation will apply. In this case after establishing the positions of any likely services (electricity, gas etc) a further probing exercise will be carried out, and the locations of excavations decided.

- The dig will be organised by Hyde900 who will arrange insurance cover for those taking part as in 2016. At that time, there was no lower age limit specified by the insurers for those taking part. In the event this changes a specific lower age limit for those taking part will be incorporated.
- The dig will be carried out in the same manner as the 2016 dig apart from the lessons learnt from that dig. The dig will be overseen as with the 2016 dig by David Ashby of the Archaeology Department of the University of Winchester, and supervision, recording and finds processing by WARG. All activities will be carried out with the aim of the maximum safe involvement of those volunteering to take part.
- There will be an on-line booking system for volunteers to take part in 2 hour sessions doing either excavating, sieving, finds processing and recording.
- The trenches will be hand-excavated. The depth of excavation will not be greater than 1m. The main method of excavation will be trowelling. All material will be sieved and the results recorded.
- At the end of the excavation, any areas determined to be fragile or of high interest will be covered in geotextile and back-filled by hand.
- Appropriate recording techniques will be used to record the site, placing key points and key finds within the national grid.
- The usual points register and records of small finds, soil samples and so on will be kept.
- The gardens are level and on private land. We see no risks additional to those that would apply on any level-site archaeology excavation.
- The number of participants including the site supervisors and excavators in the two gardens at any time will not exceed 10.
- All finds processing will be carried out off site in a marquee located within 50 metres of the site.
- WARG have agreed to hire to Hyde900 the required equipment for the duration of the dig.
- All participants sign up to the WARG safety policy when applying to join the excavation, furthermore all participants will be given a written copy of the safety policy and asked to re-affirm their understanding of the safety rules when signing in to the site each day. Verbal safety briefings will be given at the start of each session and trench supervisors are all experienced in safety aspects of site management. Training will be given in the use of tools for those unfamiliar with them.

6. Finds

- All finds will remain the property of the householders. Representative samples of those finds which householders do not wish to retain will be kept securely along with other finds of Hyde Abbey materials donated to Hyde900 by the public.
- From experience with no 14, Alswitha Terrace we do not anticipate a high level of finds other than ceramic building materials and non-local stone. A representative sample of will be kept, but the bulk will be returned to site.
- Finds will be processed off site in secure manner over the period of the dig.

7. Date of excavation and participants

The date of the dig is 27th April to 1st May 2017. The main digging will take place on 27 to 29 April. It may continue into April 30, which will be an open day. Backfilling and recording will take place on May 1st.

The participants will be Hyde900 members organising the event, with onsite supervision by experienced supervisors from WARG, together with members of the public volunteering as a result of publicity to Hyde900 and WARG members, and the local community.

As the cloister area of Hyde Abbey is largely unknown in archaeological terms (as is true apparently of many abbeys) and as the finds at no 14 are so significant, it is anticipated there will be good publicity potential in advance of the dig. Feedback from those participating in the 2016 dig (50% sample of the 37 taking part) showed a 90%+ satisfaction rating on 3 key criteria, and a 100% response in terms of wanting to take part in another dig within 6 to 12 months.

8. Appendix

8.1 Appendix 1 Stone finds at 14 King Alfred Terrace (Ross Lovett)

A description by Ross Lovett, until recently Head Mason and Conservator of Winchester Cathedral, of four of the stones from 14 King Alfred Terrace

1. *Purbeck Shaft*

A section of a “Purbeck Marble” shaft. These shafts were popular all over the country in the Early English period, so the piece probably dates from the 13th century. The use of this stone was almost always confined to internal elements of the building as the clay beds that are present within the stone would quickly erode if exposed to the elements.

Although not actually a real marble; this stone is able to take a high polish. Originally the shaft would have been waxed to enhance its deep blue/ grey colour.



2. *Quarr Stone column sub-base*

This piece is hewn from Quarr-stone from the Isle of Wight. It has a clear axed finish. Both the material and the tooling point towards the piece being from the Norman period. It seems most likely that this would have a sub-base for a column. A round column base would have been centred on top, narrowing with further mouldings into the column shaft. The size of the sub-base would indicate a fairly small column.



3. *Decorative Voussoir*

This stone is a part of a Voussoir. It is also made from Quarr Stone and finished with a small axe or booster chisel. Its mouldings and style are very much of the Norman period. The enrichment of which there is only a fragment remaining is unusual though. It appears to be a stylised floral motif and not one of the common Norman ornaments. It could be late Norman/ transitional period when ornament such ball flowers were starting to appear. The Voussoir is quite small and may have been from a richly decorated doorway.



4. Hexagonal shaft base

This piece is carved from Beer Stone and is finished with a fine toothed drag tool. The scale of the piece is fairly delicate and would again suggest internal work. The hexagonal form and the fine tooling indicates that it is from the later medieval period (maybe 14th century). The stone could have formed the base of a small internal shaft, perhaps part of a shrine or chantry chapel.



All four stones seem to point to the area being an internal part of the Abbey.

8.2 Appendix 2 Observations at 14 King Alfred Terrace by Winchester Museum Service (KAT 99)

On the 26th July 1999 Chris Prior of 14, King Alfred Terrace, Winchester brought in some finds that he had found while digging foundation trenches for a shed within his rear garden. The finds consisted of large fragments of dressed stonework, glazed floor tiles, and a sherd of c.16th stoneware. Later during the day, Steven Teague and Graham Scobie visited the site to inspect the foundation trenches. Below 0.3-0.4m of recent topsoil and turf, a deposit of rubble noted at the base of the trench. On close inspection (ie. dibbling by GS) this rubble was seen to overlay possible floor levels of mortar and clay at approx. 0.50m below the surface.



These deposits appear to be medieval in date and given their location, must derive from the dissolution of Hyde Abbey, more specifically the cloister area of the abbey church. During 2nd August 1999, a second visit recorded an east-west aligned wall 1.6m in width, probable of medieval date.

Archaeological finds from 14 King Alfred Terrace

Bag No.1

Architectural fragment of Quar Limestone from the Isle of Wight. Originally part of a frieze with “Dog Tooth” decoration typical of Early 12th century church architecture.

Bag No.2

Two fragments of architectural detail made from Caen Limestone (Normandy).
Fragment 1: Originally formed part of a frieze with a diamond pattern with a typical 12th century design.
Fragment 2: Moulded fragment which may have formed part of a screen or tomb structure in Hyde Abbey Church.

Bag No.3

Fragments of finely worked Tracery made from Caen Limestone (Normandy). Both of these fragments may have originally formed part of a screen or tomb structure in Hyde Abbey Church.

Bag No.4

Architectural fragment made from non-local stone with a mason’s mark on one surface.

Bag No.5

A collection of glazed Flemish floor tiles dating from the 14th- 16th century. These tiles probably formed a part of a later re-flooring within Hyde Abbey church.

Bag No.6

A collection of pegged and glazed roofing tiles dating from the 14th century onwards.

Bag No.7

One fragment of Roman brick or tile. This may have been re-used in the foundations of the Abbey church.

Bag No.8

One sherd of a stoneware bottle possibly manufactured in London during the 17th or 18th century and probably featuring decoration in the shape of a face.

Archaeological finds from 14 King Alfred Terrace

Decorated floor tiles

Three fragments of Early English type (13th century). Wooden stamp pressed decoration with slip fill in impressions (before firing of clay). Made at the bishop’s tile works at Bishopstoke, Hampshire. Griffin motif similar to that found in Winchester Cathedral. Replaced in the 14th century by Flemish tile-makers (see bag 5).

8.3 Appendix 3 Detailed site plan

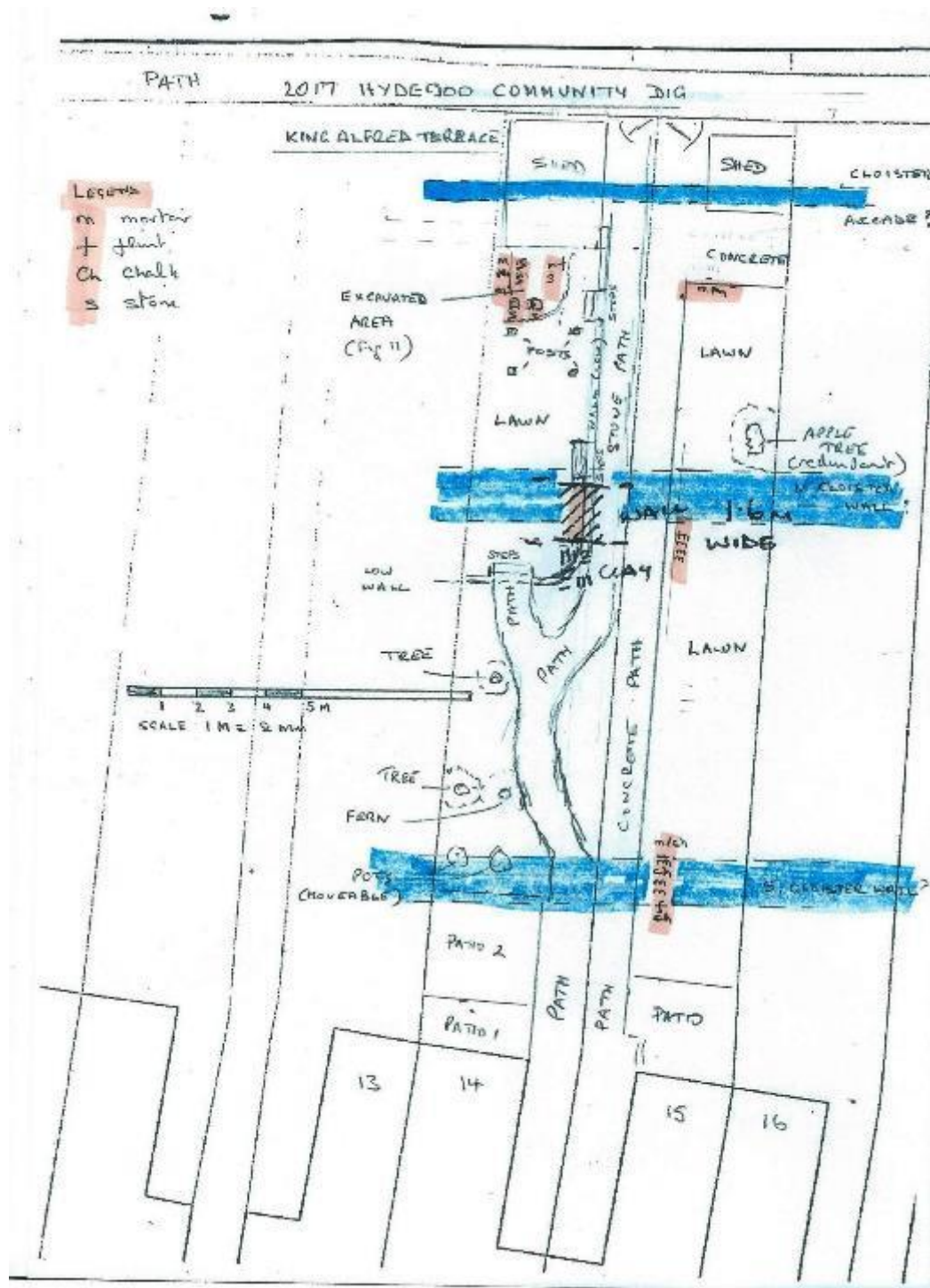
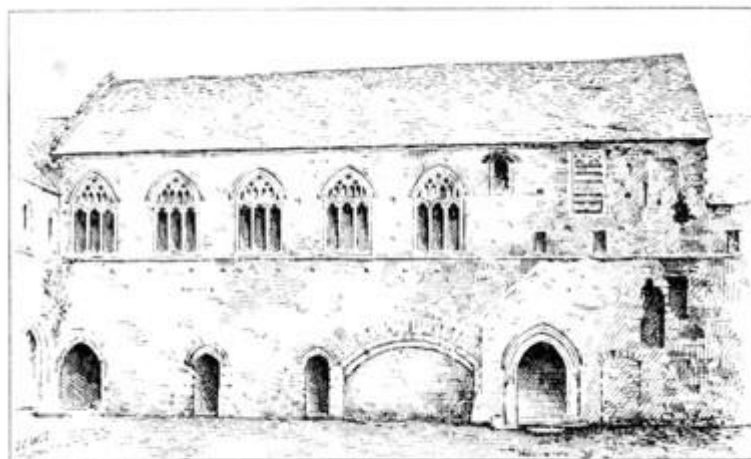


Fig A3 Site plan with detailed garden features and predicted walls (blue) together with results of the probing exercise (light red)

8.4 Appendix 4 The refectory (from *English Monastic Life*, by F.A. Gasquet)

"The refectory, sometimes called the *fratry* or *frater-house*, was the common hall for all conventual meals. Its situation in the plan for a monastic establishment was almost always as far removed from the church as possible, that is, it was on the opposite side of the cloister quadrangle and, according to the usual plan, in the southern walk of the cloister. The reason for this arrangement is obvious. It was to secure that the church and its precincts might be kept as free as possible from the annoyance caused by the noise and smells necessarily connected with the preparation and consumption of the meals.

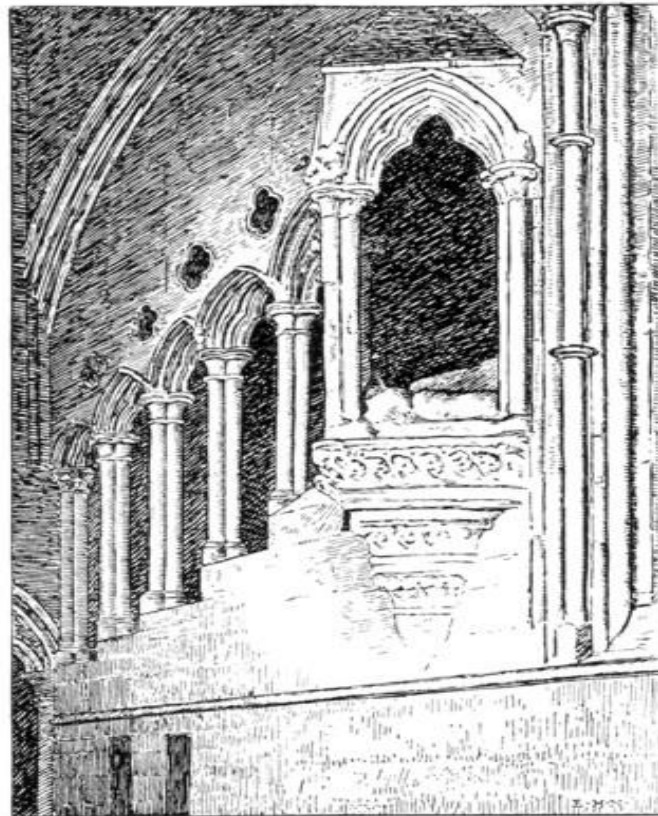
"As a rule, the walls of the hall would no doubt have been wainscotted. At one end, probably, great presses would have been placed to receive the plate and linen, with the salt-cellars (salt dispenser), cups and other ordinary requirements of the common meals. The floor of a monastic refectory was spread with hay or rushes, which covering was changed three or four times in a year; and the tables were ranged in single rows lengthways, with the benches for the monks upon the inside, where they sat with their backs to the panelled walls. At the east end, under some sacred figure, or painting of the crucifix, or of our Lord in glory, called the *Majestas*, was the *mensa major*, or high table for the superior. Above this the *Scylla* or small signal-bell was suspended. This was sounded by the president of the meal as a sign that the community might begin their refecton, and for the commencement of each of the new courses. The pulpit, or reading-desk, was, as a rule, placed upon the south side of the hall, and below it was usually placed the table for the novices, presided over by their master.



THE REFECTION, CLEEVE ABBEY

Fig A4 Image from *English Monastic Life* F.A.Gasquet, 1904

Image from English Monastic Life F.A.Gasquet, 1904



REFECTORY PULPIT, CHESTER

Fig A5 Image from *English Monastic Life* F.A.Gasquet, 1904