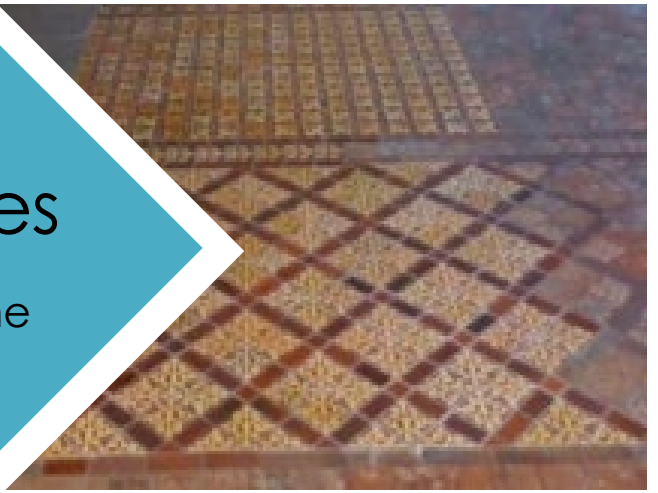


# Medieval Encaustic Floor Tiles

Hyde Abbey: It's a panel game



Tiles in the context of Hyde Abbey:  
Evidence from archaeological artefacts suggests encaustic floor tiles were widely used in Hyde Abbey. Unfortunately there are no documentary records of usage and no floors have been found in situ.

However the tile fragments that have been found give a good insight into the probable riches of Hyde Abbey and the likely use of these tiles to decorate the floors. Usage can be inferred from other ecclesiastical sites where pavements still exist, such as Winchester Cathedral.

Similar tile designs to those found at Hyde Abbey were also used throughout Hampshire and Dorset.

Tile usage and floor patterns in monasteries and churches: The floors of monastic houses like Hyde Abbey evolved over several centuries as fashions and technologies changed. The floors were constantly repaired or replaced due to wear and tear. We see evidence for this in the range of tiles recovered from Hyde Abbey.

Tile pavements were often arranged in panels, separated from one another by narrow borders, often of plain (black and yellow) glazed tiles. Within the border the tiles were laid in a number of ways, either as a single design or in groups of four, nine or sixteen tile patterns. Panels were generally long and narrow along the length of the room or corridor, but circular patterns were used in places like Clarendon Palace near Salisbury.

Tiles of Hyde Abbey



Kings face



Fleur-de-lys



Griffin



Lion head