

Appendix I

1. Previous Archaeological Research

It is not intended here to provide a full description of the archaeology of the Abbey, but simply to detail the significant research on which the proposed work will build. See fig. 1 for the conjectural reconstruction.

The extant buildings of the Abbey named in 1.2 above have been detailed in various reports by Blaylock (1998 & 2001), Govier (2017), Blaylock's condition survey of the Still House was in need of updating, and this work has recently been carried out, and a new report is currently in preparation. These studies outlined the surviving structures, the masonry and architectural elements, and attempted a phasing of the remains based on the visible data. Some elements of this phasing have been questioned and some substantiation is needed.

Archaeological excavations in the town have been limited, and there has been little work done within the Abbey Precinct. There were excavations by GH Radford (1914, 1929) in the Abbey Church and excavations by Exeter Archaeology (Stead 1999) in Bedford Square and the end of Plymouth Road. Further work was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in the same general area (Steinmetzer 2012).

2. Description of Survey Area

The area to be surveyed is as indicated on drawing J26.014 and covers the portion of the churchyard as well as part of Bedford Square, Bedford Place and Plymouth Road, all of which are inside the SCM.

The Churchyard was used for many years as a cemetery, and contains graves both within and above the remains of the Abbey Church. Since closure, the surface level of the churchyard has been raised by 0.8 - 1.5m, so that the graves, along with any structural decorations are now themselves well beneath ground level. To the west of the cloister, following the demolition of the abbey church other buildings, including a parsonage were built.

Beyond the churchyard, underneath the tarmac, there is landfill a little over 1.00 metre thick raising the road above medieval levels. Within the Square itself, there may be remains of an inn and tenements overlying the Abbey remains.

At Betsy Grimbal's Tower, there may be several earlier layers of metallised surfaces between the current cobbles and tarmac and a possible medieval trackway. The surface level here was also raised (between c.0.6m & 1.2m) in the 19th century.

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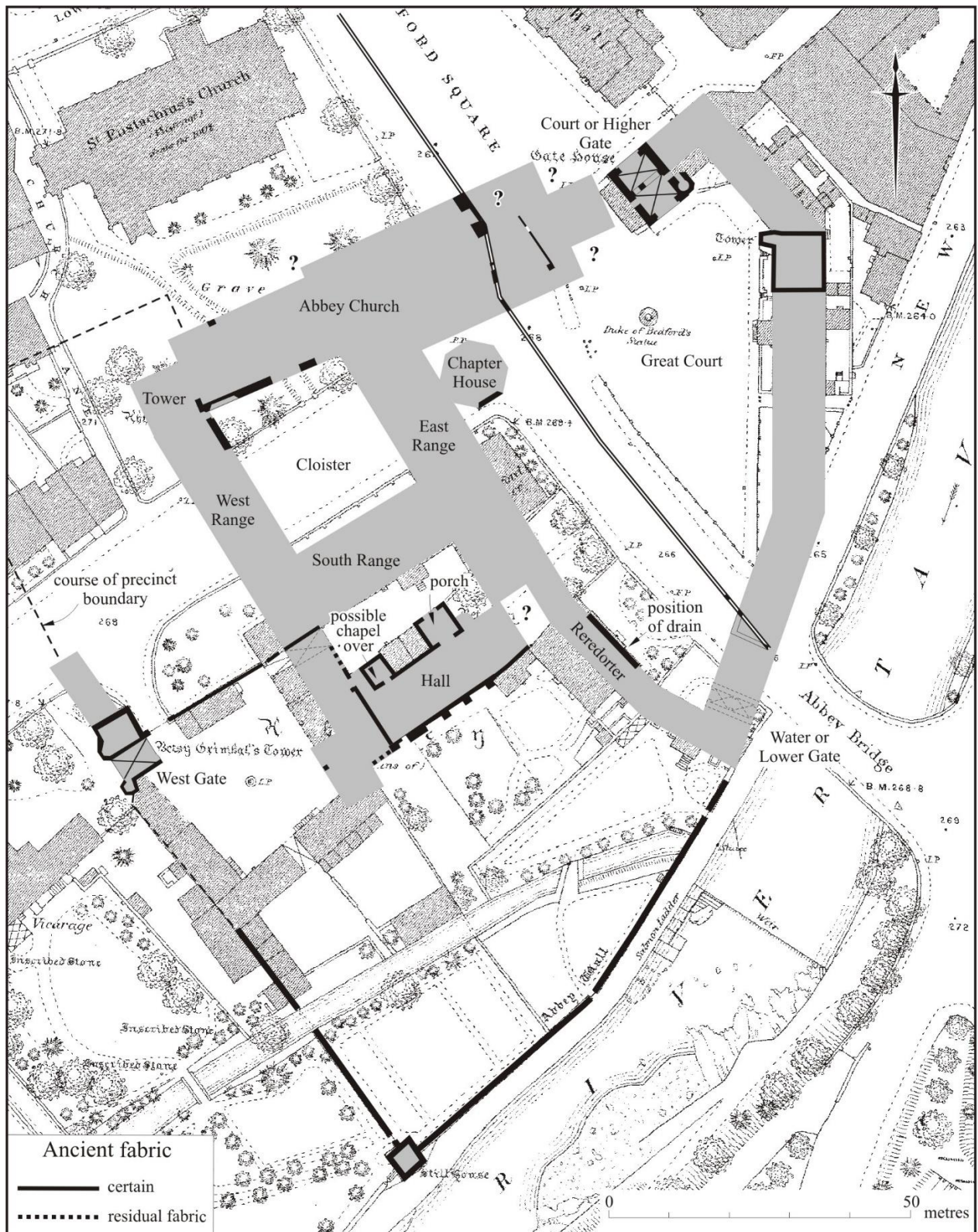


Fig. 4 Conjectural reconstruction of the main elements of the plan of Tavistock Abbey, superimposed on the OS 1:500 town plan of Tavistock, sheet CV.8.17, of 1885 (revised version of Blaylock 1998, fig. 3; and Stead and Blaylock forthcoming, fig. 11).

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